

THE OXFORD
DICTIONARY OF
FAMILY NAMES
IN BRITAIN
AND IRELAND

PATRICK HANKS
RICHARD COATES
PETER McCLURE

**The Oxford Dictionary of
Family Names in
Britain and Ireland**

VOLUME 1

Aaron–Cushing

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Contents

Volume 1: Aaron–Cushing

Editors and contributors	v
Introduction	ix
Glossary	lxiii
List of sources	lxxv
Counties, islands, and their abbreviations	cxix
THE OXFORD DICTIONARY OF FAMILY NAMES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND	1

Volume 2: Cushion–Joynson

THE OXFORD DICTIONARY OF FAMILY NAMES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND	649
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Volume 3: Joynt–Radclyffe

THE OXFORD DICTIONARY OF FAMILY NAMES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND	1425
---	------

Volume 4: Raddie–Zwart

THE OXFORD DICTIONARY OF FAMILY NAMES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND	2201
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Introduction

By Patrick Hanks, Richard Coates, and Peter McClure
with contributions by Harry Parkin

1. What is FaNBI?
2. What is a family name?
3. Origins and development of family names in England
4. Family names in Scotland
5. Family names in Ireland and Gaelic-speaking Scotland
6. Manx family names
7. Welsh family names
8. Cornish family names
9. Family names in the Channel Islands
10. Huguenot and Walloon family names in Britain and Ireland
11. Jewish family names in Britain and Ireland
12. Family names of recent immigrants in Britain and Ireland
13. Chinese family names in Britain
14. Family names from the Indian subcontinent
15. The Arabic and Muslim naming system
16. Iranian family names in Britain
17. Turkish family names in Britain
18. Greek family names in Britain
19. Family names from Africa
20. Family names from the West Indies
21. Previous and current research in family names
22. Multidisciplinary research

1. What is FaNBI?

The FaNBI project (Family Names in Britain and Ireland), based at the Bristol Centre for Linguistics at the University of the West of England in Bristol, is a major research project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council of Great Britain. The aim has been (and continues to be, for the research is ongoing) to research the origins of family names throughout Britain and Ireland, building on foundations laid by previous scholars but using new methods, new principles, and new resources. These previous scholars include in particular P. H. Reaney and R. M. Wilson, whose *Dictionary of English Surnames* was made available to the FaNBI project in digitized form by agreement with the publishers, Routledge and Oxford University Press. Other long-standing standard works regularly consulted included Black's *Surnames of Scotland*, MacLysaght's *Surnames of Ireland*, Woulfe's *Irish Names and Surnames*, *Welsh Surnames* by T. J. and Prys Morgan, and Kneen's *Personal Names of the Isle of Man*. The present work contains explanations of and evidence for the origins, history, and geographical distribution of over 46,000 family names that are found in Britain and Ireland, many of them never explained before.

1.1 Selection of entries

Family names in modern Britain and Ireland come from all over the world. Reaney, writing in the 1950s, felt able to ignore recent immigrant names and even most Jewish and Irish names in Britain. By contrast, one of FaNBI's policies has been to set impartial frequency thresholds for selection of entries. This dictionary

contains an entry for all—or almost all—family names that have more than 100 bearers in the 2011 UK census. The only exceptions are a few immigrant names that came in after 2000.

Of course, the focus of the dictionary is rightly and necessarily on long-established family names in Britain, some of which are very frequent and widely distributed, while others have only a few present-day bearers. Using data supplied by Professor Richard Webber of King's College, London, we were able to compare the frequency and distribution of each family name in 2011 with those in the 1881 census. A distinction was made between *established names*, which are well evidenced in the 1881 census, and *recent immigrant names*, which were not present in 1881 (or present only in very small numbers). Many recent immigrant names arrived after the Second World War and are now very frequent. They cannot be ignored.

In a few cases, for lack of sufficient diagnostic information, it has proved impossible to establish or even suggest an etymology for a name (established or recent). In such cases, if it passes the frequency criterion, the name is given a dictionary entry, a selection of evidence is presented, and the etymology is recorded as 'unexplained'. In other cases, an explanation is prefaced by 'perhaps' or 'possibly' when, after a careful weighing of the available evidence, it has proved impossible to reach a certain or even a probable conclusion. Thus, FaNBI's inclusion policy is impartial and multicultural. This has only been possible because, for explanations, we were able to draw on the contributions of the consultants listed on page v. Having said that, it must be reiterated that the focus of most entries is on the medieval origins and subsequent development of established names in Britain and Ireland. One of the many research aims has been to correct errors

in previous publications in the light of newly available evidence. FaNBI takes account of the relationship between family names and localities, in a way that was prefigured by H. B. Guppy's *Homes of Family Names in Great Britain*, published as long ago as 1890. Guppy took his data from Kelly's directories and of course did not have a computer; nevertheless, he was able to demonstrate the statistical tendency of family names to be associated with particular localities—a tendency that was, regrettably, sometimes overlooked by subsequent scholars.

Living in the days before there were computers, P. H. Reaney achieved an impressive collection of evidence for early bearers from documents in what was then the Public Record Office (now The National Archives). Using Reaney's collection as a foundation, researchers for FaNBI undertook analysis of large electronic data files, using techniques for the statistical analysis of 'big data' that were first developed in corpus-driven lexicography in the 1980s and 1990s. These large electronic data files included information extracted from sources such as parish registers and Nonconformist circuit records (published in the International Genealogical Index), tax records such as Carolyn Fenwick's painstakingly transcribed and digitized 14th-century Poll Tax Returns, and the Tudor Fiant in Ireland. A full list of the sources consulted is given on pages lxxv–cxvii.

1.2 Order of contents for entries

The information for each entry is presented in the following sequence: spelling of the name (main entry or variant); frequencies; main location(s) with which the name is most associated; one or more explanations; further information (if any); selected early bearers; references.

1.2.1 MAIN ENTRIES AND VARIANTS

Of the 46,000 or more entries, over half are variant spellings. Each entry in the dictionary is either a main entry or a variant cross-referenced to a main entry. For some names, for example **Caldicott**¹, more than twenty different spellings are still current, not to mention obsolete and rare historical variants. FaNBI's policy is to choose one of these forms as the main point of explanation and to generate cross-reference entries to it from all the variants that are still current. In addition, many obsolete spellings can be found among the lists of early bearers. Generally, the spelling chosen as the main entry is the most frequent modern form, although in some cases preference has been given to an etymologically more transparent form, especially where this facilitates understanding of the variants and their development. In addition to receiving a cross-reference entry in the dictionary, each modern variant is listed at the main entry. Where there are several variants, they are arranged in groups; the order of variants (or groups of variants) is often suggestive of the processes that have affected development and differentiation of the

various spellings. Thus, the lists of variants can tell an etymological story (or several such stories).

1.2.2 FREQUENCIES

Every entry gives the frequency of that spelling of the name in the censuses of Great Britain in 1881 and 2011. For Ireland, equivalent frequency data is also given, insofar as it was available at the time of compilation.

1.2.3 MAIN LOCATIONS

The geographical distribution of a family name in the late 19th century provides an essential starting point for tracing its origin. If the name was current in 1881, the FaNBI entry gives its main location in Britain at that date, based on Archer's *British 19th Century Surname Atlas*, and (where relevant) in Ireland in 1847–64, based on the frequency of locations in Griffith's *Valuation*. The intention is not to give a full description of where the name occurred at those dates but only to indicate in which counties or regions the name was most common. For a list of counties and the abbreviations used for them in this dictionary, see page cxix. Regional terms include *East Anglia* (Norfolk, Suffolk, and sometimes Cambridgeshire and Essex as well), *London* (i.e. the London area, which includes those parts of Middlesex, Essex, Kent, and Surrey that later became Greater London), and *Glasgow* (the region embracing north Lanarkshire, north Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, and part of Dunbartonshire). The summary of locations is only a rough guide, especially so for the many names that have a complicated pattern of primary distribution.

1.2.4 EXPLANATIONS

Every explanation is introduced by an indication of the social group (by language, culture, or religious affiliation) within which the name apparently originated or mainly developed (e.g. Norman, English, Irish, Huguenot, Jewish, Muslim, etc.). This is followed by a categorization of the name by type (see section 3.3 below). The main exception is Irish Gaelic family names which, since they are almost always derived from personal names, are to be understood as relationship names without the need to say so. In the etymological part of the explanations every effort is made to give a clear sense of what the name may originally have meant, together with an etymological form in the language in which the name was coined. Where an etymological form is preceded by an asterisk (*), it indicates that the form given is not on record but has been reconstructed from what is known about the language and its patterns of word and name formation. Such reconstructions are based on comparisons with existing and recorded historical forms, in accordance with the principle that language change normally follows regular patterns. Many family names have more than one origin. In FaNBI such names are explained in two or more numbered categories, each with its own explanation.

Certainty in explanations is not always possible. In some cases, FaNBI's explanations are to be seen as probable or reasonably possible, rather than certain. This is because the source data is highly volatile. Etymologies have to be based on the earliest known spellings of a name, but early name-forms are often formally

¹ In this introduction and in the glossary (on page lxiii), references to names that have entries in the dictionary are printed in boldface type. A few other names are mentioned to illustrate historical, philological, and other points, even though they do not have dictionary entries. These are printed in italics.

ambiguous and rarely occur in contexts that define their meaning. Linking early name spellings, for which a convincing etymology can be suggested, to modern family-name spellings is usually a matter of informed guesswork, based where possible on a coherent historical sequence of linguistic evidence and a plausible geographical relationship between early and later recorded names. Our current knowledge of family history and of the early vocabulary and other circumstances that lie behind modern family names has many gaps, some of which may be gradually filled by further research, although this is dependent on the discovery of records that can supply the missing information, and many crucial records have survived only in fragments or not at all.

1.2.5 FURTHER INFORMATION

Occasionally a FaNBI entry includes some additional information, for example about the history of the name or about a particular family that bears it, or the reason for doubting an explanation that appeared in earlier dictionaries.

1.2.6 EARLY BEARERS

Justification for each etymology and its relation to the modern family name-form is provided by a list of early bearers, with dates, sources, and geographical locations (when known), broadly in chronological sequence. For a list of sources and their abbreviations see page lxxv. Where the evidence of early bearers belongs equally plausibly with two or more explanations, all the selected early bearers are grouped together in a single category and small roman numerals are used for the different explanations. Conversely, if there is only a single explanation for the origin of a name that is widespread, it has sometimes seemed desirable to separate the early bearers according to geographical criteria, typically defined by the different countries or territories where the name is recorded (for example, Scotland, England, Ireland, Isle of Man) and sometimes by English regions (for example, SW England, E Anglia, W Midlands). Selection of early bearers in the medieval period is sometimes influenced by linguistic considerations, to support the etymological case, even if the geographical location is not relevant to the modern family name, but post-medieval bearers have been chosen whenever possible to reflect the modern history and geographical distribution of the name.

1.2.7 REFERENCES

Some entries conclude with references to sources of information (published or unpublished) that are more specific than the general List of Sources on pages lxxv–cxvii. Such references typically provide information about only one name or about the association between a particular family name and a county or location.

1.3 Philology and genealogy

FaNBI, then, is an etymological dictionary of family names, bringing together explanations of origins with carefully selected evidence of early bearers and other historical and linguistic facts, setting all this in the context of the geographical and historical distribution of each family name. It is primarily a philological

work, not a genealogical index or a guide to family histories. However, since the history of every family name is embedded within the histories of the families that bore it, there is everything to be gained from combining philological and genealogical information in the search for a name's origin. Two central problems for the family-name historian are that families have moved about over time and that the pronunciation and spelling of their names have often been highly variable. An understanding of historical linguistic variation is essential for tracing the history of a family name back to its origins, for which a sequence of dated, appropriately located name-forms is vital. Similarly, information about family history, especially a family's movements within and beyond its original neighbourhood, can be crucial in establishing the true origin of many family names.

Unfortunately the histories of most families have yet to be researched in any depth, but a number of entries in FaNBI have benefited from information supplied by genealogists and by local and family-name historians, in particular members of the Guild of One-Name Studies and Dr George Redmonds, who kindly made his *Dictionary of Yorkshire Surnames* available to the editors of FaNBI prior to its publication in 2015. John and Sheila Rowlands' *Surnames of Wales* and Edgar Tooth's *Distinctive Surnames of North Staffordshire* (2000, 2002, 2004, and 2010) have also proved invaluable, as has the English Surnames Series, whose volumes have surveyed surname development in East Anglia, the West Riding of Yorkshire, Oxfordshire, Lancashire, Sussex, Devon, Leicestershire, and Rutland. Other useful information about the geographical and linguistic history of individual names has been extracted not only from printed sources but also from unpublished sources. These include medieval and post-medieval Lay Subsidy Rolls, Court Rolls, editions of wills (all periods), and Hearth Tax Returns, and now also several online sources such as the University of Iowa's Calendar of Patent Rolls, the National Archives' Discovery website, and British History Online. Extensive use has been made of the vast *International Genealogical Index* (IGI), mostly in its pre-2012 online format, from which 193 million British and Irish entries were kindly made available in electronic form by FamilySearch International. From this a carefully vetted selection of early bearers was made, following cross-checking of samples against information from parish registers. Since 2012 the IGI has been split into two collections, of which the Community Indexed IGI, based on primary records, has supplied FaNBI with further data.

A central aim of the researchers has therefore been to create a reference work that will be of value to genealogists as well as to linguistic and social historians and members of the public in general. For many family names, genealogical studies, working backwards from the present day, run into the sand when they get back to the 17th or (at best) 16th century. Even the most fortunate genealogies struggle to establish factual information earlier than 1536, the date of the earliest parish registers. In addition to explaining linguistic and historical facts, in entry after entry FaNBI provides a link between the earliest available genealogical records for a name and a probable origin, which in most cases took place several centuries earlier.

2. What is a family name?

In modern English the terms *family name* and *surname* are used interchangeably. However, the two terms have quite different origins. The term *surname* originally denoted an additional name—that is, one used in addition to an individual's given name, with no implication that it was hereditary. Across medieval Europe a surname was at first often no more than a *byname*, an ad-hoc sobriquet that was descriptively true of the individual to whom it was given. The same person might be known by several such bynames, the main function of which was to differentiate between two or more individuals who bore the same given name, by referring to their parentage, the place where they lived or came from, their occupation or status, or something notable about their appearance, behaviour, or activities. These various types of byname or surname and their subsequent development into hereditary family names are more fully discussed in section 3 below. The term *family name* is a more modern coinage. It draws attention to the fact that the origins of modern hereditary surnames lie as much in the history of the families that bore them as in the history of the languages in which they were coined and developed.

Throughout the English-speaking world, most of Europe, and much of the rest of the world, human beings are now usually known and identified by a pair of names: a personal name or given name, which is bestowed on the individual at birth, and a family name, which is normally inherited from the father (although in some cases nowadays the mother's family name may be chosen). These two names together constitute the *binomial system* of naming. Of course, an individual may have more than one given name, while double- and even triple-barrelled family names are not unknown. However, the basic principle of the binomial naming system is not affected by the number of items in each category.

This system contrasts with the *patronymic system* and the *Arabic system*. In the patronymic system an individual is known by a given name plus a reference to the person's father, and sometimes the father's father and so on, generation by generation, an ancestor name-chain which may be shared vertically and laterally with others of the group, with a new name tacked on by each new generation. In early medieval times some version of the patronymic system was the norm throughout much of Europe, including Britain and Ireland, and it is still current in Iceland, where *Anna Magnúsdóttir* ('Anna daughter of Magnus') would be a literal description of her patronymic relationship, not an ancestral label. In Wales, the patronymic system survived into the 19th century, when it became more usual for a patronymic such as **Jones** or **Bevan** to become a fixed hereditary name. In Ireland, however, naming was already developing in the 10th century into a system in which inheritable family names were created by reducing ancestor name-chains to the name of one particular ancestor. In England and Scotland it gave way during the late medieval period to the system of binomial surnaming that is now normal in most of the Western world, in which patronymics such as **Williamson** constitute only one of several types of hereditary family name.

The Arabic (and Muslim) naming system is a complex one, in which a given name is followed by a sequence of additional names,

usually starting with a patronymic, followed by other names drawn from the person's parentage, lineage, place of origin, or an attribute. Details are given in section 15 below. Traditionally there is no family name in the European sense, but some Muslim countries, for example Turkey and Egypt, now require one by law. In the English-speaking world Arabic or Muslim names are sometimes arbitrarily adapted to the binomial system, sometimes with bizarre effects, as when the Urdu feminine honorific *Begum* (approximately equivalent to English *Mrs*) is treated as if it were an inheritable family name.

2.1 Monogenetic and polygenetic family names

It is a fascinating question whether a family name derives from several eponymous ancestors or from a single one. The terms *polygenetic* and *monogenetic* are used to distinguish the two types, but this should not be taken to mean that all members of the same family are necessarily genetically related, which DNA research has shown to be incorrect. With regard to family-name history, therefore, *polygenetic names* are those with multiple family origins, and *monogenetic names* are those with single family origins, whether or not any or all of the modern bearers of the names are genetically descended from a particular eponymous ancestor.

It has long been thought that most British family names are polygenetic. It is obviously true of **Smith**, which is the most widespread and numerous British family name. There were over 400,000 bearers in the 1881 census, most of whom will have descended directly from one or other of the several thousand unrelated medieval heads-of-family surnamed *Smith* that are recorded right across late medieval Britain. The same is undoubtedly true of other family names whose modern bearers run into the many thousands and for which there are large numbers of medieval forebears on record. **Brown** (ranked fourth in frequency in the 1881 census) had nearly 200,000, **Wilson** and **Evans** (ranked seventh and eighth) had over 130,000 each, and **Hall** (ranked nineteenth) had nearly 80,000.

Surprisingly, however, there are comparatively few family names with such large numbers of bearers. In the online transcripts of the 1881 census data, there are over 250,000 different family names, including, in many cases, different spellings of what was once the same name. Yet very common family names form only a tiny percentage of the total number. In fact, fewer than 500 family names each had more than 10,000 bearers. Fewer than 1,000 family names had more than 5,000 bearers, and only around 20,000 had more than 100 bearers each. This means that more than 200,000 family names had fewer than 100 bearers, belonging to an even smaller number of families. At first sight, these are startling figures and, although some names with very small numbers of bearers are known to be ghost names produced by mistaken transcriptions, most family names recorded with at least ten bearers in 1881 are genuine. One of the reasons why low-frequency names predominate is that they are often variant pronunciations or spellings of other names, but even when the figures for all the variants are added together, the gross numbers of bearers usually remain quite low. In *Surnames, DNA, and Family History*,

Redmonds, King, and Hey observe that ‘paradoxically it was, and still is, very common to possess an uncommon surname’, and this itself points to the possibility that a substantial proportion of surviving family names in Britain derive not from the identical names of several progenitors but from the name of a single individual. If so, these names will be monogenetic.

The likelihood of a monogenetic origin for many family names is emphasized by the way in which so many of them in the 1881 census, as mapped by Steve Archer, can be seen clustering in the district, county, or region where the name is known to have originated. For example, **Meatyrd** (with 210 bearers in 1881) clustered in and around Shaftesbury in Dorset in 1881, and **Meacher** (205 bearers) around Southampton in Hampshire. These were almost certainly variant pronunciations of the same name, which can be traced back through the centuries in the records of Dorset, Hampshire, Wiltshire, and Berkshire to a Richard *Metiarewe* (apparently a compound of Middle English *meten* ‘to repay’ + *yarewe* ‘promptly’), who in 1327 was assessed for taxation in Stour Provost (Dorset). It is a remarkable coincidence that an Anne *Metyard* is recorded by IGI in Stour Provost as late as 1732. It is both the rarity and the locational uniqueness of the medieval name (Middle English *Metiarewe* has not been noted anywhere else than in Stour Provost) that gives one the confidence that this name goes back to a single individual.

However, in cases where the Middle English name was more common than that or where more than one Middle English etymon lies behind the modern name, the degree of frequency of the modern name combined with a marked geographical clustering is not always a safe guide to either a polygenetic or monogenetic origin. Even common polygenetic family names can cluster in a geographically specific pattern. This is especially true of the many Welsh family names that were derived from common Welsh and English personal names. The vast majority of families named **Jones** (the second most common British family name) occurred in Wales and the neighbouring English counties in 1881, even though it was also widespread in smaller numbers right across England and southern Scotland. Sometimes polygenetic names derive from a dialectally restricted word. **Tucker**, which comes from the south-western dialect term for a fuller of cloth, has well over 16,000 bearers in the 1881 census. Because of family migration, it was widespread in low numbers in most British counties in 1881 and appeared in high numbers in the London area. It was most heavily concentrated in its homeland of south-west England (especially Devon), where families with this name are descended from any of the many unrelated men called *To(u)kere* who are found in the medieval records of Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, and Hampshire.

On the other hand, the numerous Lancashire and West Riding family name **Butterworth** is almost certainly monogenetic, i.e. it has a single family origin. It had over 10,000 bearers in 1881, most of them in Rochdale parish, where the township of Butterworth is situated. It is also fairly common in adjacent parishes in east Lancashire and the West Riding. Whether all of these descended from the earliest known Lancashire bearer, Roger *de Butterword*, recorded in the 13th-century Whalley Abbey Coucher Book, cannot

be proved with absolute certainty. Probably, it will be possible to get a better idea of the number of present-day bearers of this name who are genealogically related as the volume of DNA evidence increases.

In the same township is a hamlet called Clegg. Although the family name **Clegg**, with over 10,000 bearers in 1881, has alternative origins that probably account for its presence in small numbers in Scotland and in southern England, over 8,000 of them were located in the same restricted area as *Butterworth*, centred on Rochdale. According to McKinley’s *Surnames of Lancashire* a Hugh de Clegg was recorded as a landowner there in the early 13th century, and it may be that most of the modern families with this name in Lancashire and the West Riding descend from this man, although genealogical evidence to prove this is lacking. Highly prolific monogenetic names such as *Butterworth* and *Clegg* are a particular feature of that area of north-west England. The reason for this is not known.

A major problem in identifying monogenetic names arises from the fact that many family names of different etymologies have come to be pronounced or spelled like each other, increasingly so between 1450 and the present day. Names in the 1881 census that have more than one distributional epicentre may sometimes be the same name originating in different families in separate places. However, most such cases are due to early migration, while others are names of different etymologies that, through accidents of linguistic change, have become indistinguishable from each other; these are known as homonyms. Even if the main form of a name remains distinctive, its variants can be homonymous with other names or their variants. When the distributions of homonymous names overlap, it can be challenging to disentangle the different threads (the early bearers) that link particular examples of the modern name to their correct family and etymological origin. For example, in the early-bearer data for the Staffordshire and Leicestershire name **Sherrard** and its many variants (*Sherrat(t)*, *Sherrit(t)*, *Shar(r)at(t)*, and so on) it is often impossible to distinguish between examples that are derived from the Middle English nickname *Shirard* (probably denoting someone with fair hair) and examples that are variant pronunciations of three other names: **Sherwood** (from Sherwood Forest or some other locality named in Old English as *scīr wudu* ‘bright wood’), **Skerritt** (a nickname from Middle English *skirwhit(e)* ‘skirret, water parsnip’), and **Scarratt** (a Staffordshire name of uncertain etymology), all of which coincide in one spelling or another with variant spellings of *Sherrard* in the same or nearby parishes. *Sherwood* itself may also sometimes be a hypercorrect pronunciation of *Sherrard*.

Ambiguities like these can only be resolved, if at all, through more detailed documentary research at a local level, aided by further increases in the volume of DNA data from modern family-name bearers. The fact that *Sherrard* and its dozen or more spelling variants in the Staffordshire and Leicestershire area have low numbers of bearers in 1881, mostly below 100, is a warning that low frequency, combined with geographical clustering, is not always a sign of a single family origin. Indeed, the complexity of much family-name history and the limitations of current genealogical and etymological knowledge make it necessary that for the vast

majority of family names the role of FaNBI is simply to record a relevant sample of the available evidence and to set out the etymological options, rather than to attempt to provide individual family histories.

2.2 Family names and genetics

Since the turn of the millennium, a number of studies have been conducted which evaluate the usefulness of DNA evidence in the study of family-name origins and genealogy, notably Sykes and Irven (2000), Jobling (2001), Bowden and others (2008), and King and Jobling (2009). Redmonds, King, and Hey (2011: 156) observe that ‘just as a father passes on his surname to all his children, so he passes on his Y chromosome type to all his male children,’ and they then pass the same Y chromosome type to their male children, and so on. By comparing the Y-chromosomal DNA of different people with the same family name (including philologically proven variants of it), it is possible to show that a particular family name is monogenetic. But it should be clear that whilst the technique is potentially valuable in establishing kinship, or indeed in disproving it, its evidential value in other onomastic respects is diminished by the accidents of social convention and reproduction.

It is legally permissible for a person over 16 to change his or her family name in any way that the bearer chooses, provided only that no criminal purpose is intended. No doubt this has often been done without the fig leaf of the deed poll that may be obtained to give such changes legal force. Specific examples of family-name discontinuity may be mentioned, none of them in any way unique. It has always been possible for a man to adopt the family name of his wife instead of his own, often with status or fortune in mind. In the early 19th century, Davies Giddy, MP for Cornwall before the 1832 Reform Act, adopted his wife’s family name, **Gilbert**, in order to acquire land in Sussex, the inheritance of which had been made conditional on the perpetuation of the Gilbert family name. There are many historical examples of aristocrats without male bodily heirs settling their titles and fortunes on a younger relative on condition of the preservation of the accompanying family name; another case is that of William Russell being made heir of Ralph **Gorges** in 1331 on such a condition. This was a practice that became increasingly common among aristocratic and gentry families in the 14th century (Wells-Furby, 2015). One reason why ‘marrying beneath oneself’ was frowned on was that, in the case of a man, it was viewed as debasing the currency of a name shared with other family members. A father has not always passed on his family name to his illegitimate children—a woman may be unwilling to disclose the father’s name. In Coventry in the 1460s, Margaret **Glover** declined to reveal the name of her first baby’s father; later, she failed to identify her second child’s father on the grounds that ‘so many men had known her’ (Kettle, 1995: 27–8). Presumably the children were known as **Glover**. The topographer William Worcestre (1415–c.1480/85), also known as William Botoner, was the son of William Worcestre senior and Elizabeth Botoner, but he referred to himself as *W. Botoner dictus Worcetree* [sic]. There is no suggestion that William was illegitimate; his father is described as his [William junior’s] maternal grandmother’s son-in-law in 1402, so was evidently married to Elizabeth by then, thirteen years before

William junior’s birth. So the topographer chose to be called by his maternal family name, even if posterity has decided otherwise. The Romans had a relevant saying, based on the obstetrics of the day: *Mater certa, pater semper incertus*, ‘the mother can be known for certain, the father is always open to doubt’. The incidents of Gilbert, Gorges, Glover, and Botoner alias Worcestre, widely separated in time, illustrate that family names cannot always be taken as reliable proxies for chromosomes.

While it is possible to be surer about paternity these days thanks to genetic advances, the potential for doubt about equating the family name with the Y chromosome is still there. However, successes must be acknowledged; one of the best-known works that shows the value of DNA evidence in family-name research is Sykes and Irven (2000), which found that the English family name **Sykes** is most probably monogenetic, even though previous work had predicted it to be polygenetic. Using similar techniques, Y-chromosome and family-name comparison could be used to prove or disprove a proposed connection between two family names of different form which are suspected of having a common linguistic origin, and therefore could complement the study of family-name etymologies.

2.3 Statistics of population and family names

Family names are much less stable than place-names. Over time, a family name may be borne by hundreds of thousands or even millions of individuals. These individuals move around, have offspring, change their names, and die. Named places do none of these things—at any rate, not on a significant scale. A family name may change its form many times in the course of its history. For these and other reasons, the student of family names would be well advised to at least be aware of the statistics of population and to be wary of ‘obvious’ assumptions and the natural human craving for grandeur and for certainty. Some questions that typically arise with regard to the study of family names include the following:

- What is the likelihood that a person living today is a descendant of someone with the same or a similar name who lived in the 11th or 14th century?
- How many family names are there in Britain?
- How many family names are there with only one bearer?
- What is the association between any one family name and a particular town, county, or other locality?
- If such a relationship between a family name and a locality can be shown to exist—for example, by using the 1881 census data in Archer’s *British Surname Atlas*—how stable is it, over time?
- Does such a relationship mean that the locality is necessarily the one where the family name originated?
- Are rare names likely to be genuine, or are they more likely to be transcription errors?
- How can we establish whether any particular family name is a variant of some other name?
- If I meet someone with the same family name as me, how likely is it that we are related, and how closely?
- Many family names found in medieval records are not found today. How plausible is it that they have simply died out?

The standard work on the changing population of England is Wrigley and Schofield (1989). This sets an important part of the context within which research into family names can be undertaken.

Computational analysis of the 1881 census shows some facts that may at first sight seem surprising. In the first place, that census contains over 400,000 family names—far more than anyone might have predicted. But then nearly 200,000 of these (i.e. almost half) occur only once. It remains to be established how many of these ‘singletons’ are due to transcription errors and other mistakes, and how many are genuine family names. A lot more of the infrequent names may be genuine than is commonly assumed. How many of these rare names recur in other census data? No one has yet undertaken such a study. More attention needs to be paid in future to the size and shape of the family-name population in Britain. A useful website for people interested in such matters is Surname Studies at <http://surnamestudies.org.uk/statistics/local.htm>.

Two other sources will help to set the context, especially if such a study is to be related to the study of DNA inheritance and genetics. The first explains the characteristic shape of a population, whether this be the population of a particular county or a whole country. The second makes predictions about the likely fate of a family name over time. These sources are Zipf (1932, 1949), and Sturges and Haggett (1987).

It is obvious that a few names such as **Smith**, **Brown**, and **Williams** are very common. It is perhaps less obvious that many names are very rare indeed, and many of these are long-established family names, not those of isolated recent immigrants. It is all too easy to dismiss rare traditional family names as errors or oddities, produced in some cases by errors of transcription or by deliberate alteration by their bearers. But in fact there are well-known statistical tendencies that govern both the distribution of family names within a population and their gradual decline. These tendencies will help us to understand the genuine rarity of certain traditional names and the phenomenon of surname death.

Zipf’s law explains the characteristic shape of a population. Zipf’s primary interest was in word frequency. He observed that, in any large, naturally occurring population of entities (e.g. words in a collection of texts), a very small number of items are very frequent, while at the other end of the scale there are a very large number of items that are very infrequent, in many cases with only one occurrence of each. Moreover, Zipf hypothesized that these phenomena are governed by a principle of collective human behaviour, which he called ‘the principle of least effort’. There are two aspects to this principle. On the one hand there is a tendency, governed by ‘forces of unification’ for the most frequent words or names to become more and more common. On the other hand there is a tendency governed by ‘forces of differentiation’ for rare items to become rare and for some of them to die out. Furthermore, Zipf predicted that, if these items (words or names in a naturally occurring population) are arranged in frequency order, there will be a harmonic progression such that an item at rank 2 will occur with a frequency of one half of the item at rank 1; an item at rank 3 will occur with a frequency of one third of the item at rank 1, and so on down the rank scale. At the bottom of the rank scale, the model predicts a large number of items with only one or two

occurrences. Do the facts concerning the distribution of family names in Britain conform to Zipf’s prediction?

Of course, ‘Zipf’s law’ is an abstract idealization. If one compares it with the reality of family names in the 1881 British census data, there is not a perfect harmonic progression, but something close to the predicted pattern can be observed. If we take the most frequent names in groups of five, we see that the top five have a combined frequency of 1,362,520. The next five have a frequency of 655,594 (48 per cent of the top five). The next five have a frequency of 487,334 (36 per cent of the top five). This progression is encouragingly close to Zipf’s prediction. At the level of individual names, the pattern is less striking among the top six, but a tendency answering to the spirit of the prediction can be seen:

- **Smith** has a frequency of 421,701 in Archer’s *British Surname Atlas*
- **Jones** has a frequency of 338,369 in Archer, about 80% of the frequency of **Smith**
- **Williams** has a frequency of 214,437, about 50% of the frequency of **Smith**
- **Brown** has a frequency of 196,909, about 45% of the frequency of **Smith**
- **Taylor** has a frequency of 191,104, about 45% of the frequency of **Smith**
- **Davies** has a frequency of 152,154, about 35% of the frequency of **Smith**.

The forces of diversification can be illustrated by names such as **Axbey**, **Wheybrew**, and **Yarbrough**, which have arisen as variants of **Ashby**, **Whybrow**, and **Yarborough**.

A similar theme was developed by Sturges and Haggett (1987). Using a mathematical model (rather than observed data), they showed that, while today’s stock of family names may be fairly stable, this was probably not the case in the past. Their model made a prediction that approximately 60 per cent of family names would have died out between 1350 and 1987 (assuming that twenty-three generations elapsed in that period). This is an astonishingly high figure; it remains to be empirically verified. However, at the very least, the model of Sturges and Haggett usefully reminds us that many family names do indeed die out over time.

The phenomenon of surname death also goes some way towards explaining some of the differences between the selection of entries in Reaney’s dictionary and those in the present work. Names that are recorded in Reaney but that can no longer be found include *Edicker*, *Edmay*, *Feverel*, *Morehen*, *Pleader*, *Portrait*, *Pritwell*, *Templecombe*, and *Trentmars*. By the same tendency, the names **Avner**, **Hudlin**, **Newcastle**, **Quatermass**, and **Whittred** were formerly more common but by 1881 they each had been reduced to single-figure populations.

Sturges and Haggett also hypothesized that even more family names would have been lost had there been a lower rate of population growth, but the growth in population, along with the earlier rate of extinction of family names, has meant that there are now more people and fewer surnames, so it is relatively rare for a surname to die out today. The rate of surname death seems to be in decline. A complication results from the fact that the figures for

some family names have been boosted in recent years by re-immigration, especially from English-speaking regions such as the West Indies.

Andrew Millard (<https://community.dur.ac.uk/a.r.millard/genealogy/EdwardIIIDescent.php>) investigated whether it is possible to estimate the number of present-day English descendants of King Edward III, who lived from 1312 to 1377. Millard concluded that there is an extremely high probability that every single present-day person with English ancestry descends (by one line or another) from Edward III. There are also many millions more such descendants living in Ireland, the USA, former British colonies, and elsewhere. One hundred million living descendants of this king is, according to Millard, a conservative estimate. There is, of course, nothing special about King Edward III as an ancestor, other than the fact that he is known to have married and had offspring, so he was not himself the end of his line. The same question could be asked about any other medieval ancestor, and would reach a similar conclusion. The simple fact is that, if we ask questions like ‘Who were our 14th-century ancestors?’, a simple statistical calculation, making standard assumptions about the number of male marrying offspring in each generation, drives us to the conclusion that, in a stable population after twenty or thirty generations, everyone is related to everyone else.

On the other hand, direct patrilineal ancestry through primogeniture, a focus of traditional genealogical studies, is extremely rare, almost to non-existence. Direct male lines die out sooner or later—in many cases after only a generation or two. It may indeed be the case that each one of us is descended, by some tangled path of heredity, from King Edward III (or for that matter from any other 14th-century grandee, or from William the Conqueror 300 years earlier), but the line of descent is almost never direct. It is further complicated by phenomena such as the birth of children outside marriage and the practice, formerly more common than now, of bringing up another’s child as one’s own—a fact that, quite often, came eventually to be forgotten. Even the Berkeley family—owners and inhabitants of Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire since the 12th century, who were meticulously documented in all their activities—have not achieved their continuity of possession through direct male primogenitary inheritance.

The basic point here is that the relationship between family names and genealogy is very far from straightforward. An alternative perspective—arguably a truer perspective—will start with a comparative survey of the population as a whole at selected points in time, taking account in particular of changes in both the frequency and the geographical distribution of each family name.

3. Origins and development of family names in England

The primary focus of FaNBI is on established family names in England, Scotland, Ireland, the Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands. Approximately 14,000 main entries have an English or Norman French origin, about 2,000 are Scottish (from either Scots or Scottish Gaelic), about 2,000 are Irish, while just under 300 have a Welsh etymology and about 200 are classified as Cornish. In the

main sections that follow, the history and characteristics of each of these sources are discussed, followed by sections discussing the origins of family names from outside Britain and Ireland and other features of the work.

3.1 The beginnings of family names in England

The language in which the oldest family names in England originated was not English but Norman French. After 1066, when William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, seized the monarchy in England, many of his retainers were granted lands and honours in England. These Norman barons and their followers were increasingly identified not only by a given name, but also by a surname (whether hereditary or not) taken from a nickname (for example **Gernon**, from Old French *germon* ‘moustache’); from an occupation or high office of state (for example **Marshall**, from Old French *mareschal* ‘officer in charge of a noble household’); from an ancestor’s given name (for example **Bertram**, from the Old French personal name *Bertran(t)*); or most commonly from a place where the family held lands, either in northern France (for example **Percy**, from one of several places so named in Normandy) or in England (for example **Clare**, from the family’s estate at Clare in Suffolk). In the 12th century this practice of surnaming gradually spread, with modifications, throughout the upper levels of feudal tenantry, and also to merchants and traders in the larger towns. By the end of the 13th century, in most of England it had become normal practice in most rural communities at all social levels, though not so regularly in northern counties until the middle of the 14th century. These surnames were at first frequently no more than bynames, even among Normans. Only gradually did they come to be stable, being passed down from one generation to the next. Before describing the development of hereditary family names, it will be useful to say something about the language and culture of early English surnames and then to give a fuller account of the different types or categories that are mentioned in the dictionary entries.

3.2 Linguistic and cultural origins of English names

Early English surnames are mostly derived from (Anglo-)Norman French and Middle English words and names (place-names and personal names). Some of the earliest hereditary names were coined in exclusively Anglo-Norman social contexts, reflecting the northern French language and culture of the new masters of England following the Norman Conquest. Old French words like *maloret* ‘unlucky’ or phrases like *bote torte* ‘twisted boot’, the sources of modern **Mallory** and **Bultitude**, never entered Middle English vocabulary, and some Norman personal names like *Anketin* may never have been used beyond the 12th-century Anglo-Norman families that adopted it as their surname (see **Antin**). However, large numbers of French personal names and words were adopted into English usage, so that by the time of the main period of English surname coinage (13th to 14th centuries) native English people were frequently naming each other with Old French personal names, as in **Richard** and **Isabel**, and with words of French origin, as in **Spicer**, **Chamberlain**, **Mantelle**, and **Hardy**.

At the same time, surnames were being created from the stock of native English personal names and words (for example, **Edgar**, **Baker**, **Marsh**, and **Long**). These included borrowings into late Old English from the Old Scandinavian languages used by Viking settlers in northern and eastern England, hence surnames such as **Tolley** (from the personal name *Tóli*), **Kirk** ('church'), and **Grave** ('steward').

It is useful to be aware that Norman French had two dialects. In northern Normandy the dialect was the conservative Old French of Picardy and is sometimes referred to as Normanno-Picard in dictionary entries. In southern Normandy it was that of the more 'advanced' Old French of the region around Paris, referred to as Parisian or Central French, in which for example initial /k/, when followed by /a/, was altered to /tʃ/, and initial /w/ was altered to /gw/, later simplified to /g/. The currency of both pronunciations in the Norman speech of post-Conquest England led to the development in English of word doublets like *cattle* and *chattel*, and *warden* and *guardian* (although with some semantic differentiation), and to the development of surname doublets like **Campion** and **Champion**, and **Willman** and **Gillman**.

Middle English had many dialects, some of whose differences survive in modern family names. Dialect vocabulary is reflected, for example, in **Lister** and **Kirk** in northern England but **Dyer** and **Church** in southern England, and **Tucker** in south-west England but **Fuller** in south-east England. Dialect pronunciation has produced **Fenn** in East Anglia and other parts of south-east England, but **Venn** in south-west England; **Hull** in the West Midlands but **Hill** in north and east England and **Hell** in south-east England and East Anglia; **R(h)odes** in the West Riding of Yorkshire and in most of Lancashire but **Royds** in south-east Lancashire.

3.3 The typology of English family names

English family names fall into one or more of several types. These are useful (but sometimes rough and ready) ways of grouping names that share a similar linguistic form or have a broadly similar semantic content. Not all names fit neatly into a single category; e.g. *atte Mill* 'at the mill' is locative in linguistic form but since in practice it is synonymous with 'mill worker' it is both locative and occupational in its meaning.

3.3.1 LOCATIVE NAMES

3.3.1.1 *Toponymic names*

Locative names are by far the most numerous type of family name, of which *toponymics* (family names based on place-names) are the largest subgroup. At the highest levels of medieval society they usually identified the principal estate held by the name bearer, whether in Normandy (up until 1204, when King John was forced to cede Normandy to France) or in England. For example, the **Glanville** family took its name from Glanville in Calvados, and the Norman family known as *de Tosny* (from its estate in Tosny in Eure) was alternatively known as *de Stafford*, from the county town of Staffordshire, where the family was a major landowner in the 12th century. This family, however, left no male heirs, and the modern families called **Stafford** are unlikely to be of Norman origin. Landowners often acquired additional properties through

marriage, through inheritance, as a reward for services to their overlords, or through purchase, with the result that their toponymic surnames became associated with entirely different places from where they originated. In the 13th and 14th centuries the powerful noble Lincolnshire family named **Tattersall** (from a place of this name in Lincolnshire) had manors and other properties in the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, and probably also in Leicestershire, the West Riding, and Lancashire, since this name also appears in those counties in the late 14th-century Poll Tax Returns. In the 1881 Census it is mainly found in Lancashire and the West Riding, with only a tiny representation in Lincolnshire and other counties.

The geographical mobility of medieval families slightly lower down the social scale can similarly be explained by marriage, inheritance, patronal gift, and purchase, but also by commerce. Merchants who set up business in various towns were commonly known by a toponymic derived from one or more of the towns in England or in other countries in which they had property. Major foreign commercial centres such as Bruges in Flanders, Cologne in Germany, and Amiens in Picardy are probably sources of at least some of our modern families named **Bridges**, **Cullen**, and **Amias**. An early 14th-century mayor of Nottingham, a wealthy merchant and shipowner, was sometimes named as William *de Mekesburgh* (from the market town of Mexborough in the West Riding, about forty miles from Nottingham) and more often as William *de Amyas* (from Amiens in Picardy, the centre of the woad trade). His son John's will (executed before 1324) listed possessions including three-and-a-half barrels of woad (for dyeing cloth), two woad vats, five wool skins, and a large chest full of cloth. By 1327 William de Amyas had acquired the manor of Watnall Chaworth (six miles from Nottingham), where he could escape the town's cramped, crowded streets and the noxious chemicals and smells that went with the town's cloth-making and dyeing industries, not to mention tanning, animal slaughtering, and other noisome occupations. This is typical of the way in which toponymic family names spread from place to place, and it explains why so many of the names of major English towns, like Leicester, Winchester, and York, appear as family names in villages and in other towns, often far from where they originated.

Most toponymic family names, however, originated from the thousands of ordinary villages and hamlets from which men of free birth migrated to the nearest town to get a job in some trade or other. Others were derived from villages or hamlets where they were given or bought for themselves a new or additional home. Distances between the new homestead and the old were mostly within ten to twenty miles. Men of unfree birth (villeins or bondmen) rarely had a toponymic surname, for they were usually unable to change where they lived, unless moved to a different manor by their lord. It was only after the feudal system broke down, following outbreaks of the Black Death from 1349 onwards, that men of historically unfree families were generally able to migrate to find work. By this time, hereditary family names were the norm in much of the country, except in northern England, where toponymic family names were still being freshly coined as late as the 15th century, especially in large towns like York. It probably explains why this type of family name is more dominant in northern England than in any other part of the country.

Medieval toponymic surnames took a number of different linguistic forms, the commonest of which placed a preposition before the place-name. The primary language of record was Latin, so most of these surnames were written down as Latin *de* 'of' + a vernacular form of the place-name, often with a superscript suspension sign (printed as an apostrophe,) to stand for an unspecified Latin ending. Henrico *de Gayton*' (1220–1) is an example; see **Gayton**. This clerical convention went into decline in the second half of the 14th century, when the preposition was increasingly dropped. This may have been a spoken usage in Middle English long before it was reflected in written usage, but in Anglo-Norman French speech (which until the 15th century was the preferred language of the aristocracy and upper gentry) it is clear that a preposition was commonly used, because in some Anglo-Norman family names the preposition became fused with the place-name, as happened, for example, in the case of **Dando** (from Aunou-le-Faucon in Orne) and **Devereux** (from Évreux in Eure).

3.3.1.2 *Ethnic and regional names*

A smaller number of locative family names are based on a noun or adjective denoting a person from a particular country, region, or town. When they denote a man's country of origin, as in **Allmand** ('German'), **Brabazon** ('man from Brabant'), **English**, **French**, **Fleming**, **Irish**, **Pickard** ('man from Picardy'), **Scott**, and **Wallis** ('man from Wales'), they are called *ethnic names*, as are some of the equivalent toponymic forms **Allman**, **Brabin**, **Burgoyne**, **England**, **France**, **Flanders**, **Ireland**, and **Scotland**, although **Wales** sets a false trail, as this particular name is in most if not all cases from the place so named near Sheffield in Yorkshire. Others, such as **Angwin** ('man from Anjou'), **Burgoyne** (Old French *Burginon* 'man from Burgundy'), **Devenish** ('man from Devon'), **Surridge** (Anglo-Norman French *surreis* 'man from the south'), and **Western** ('man from the west'), may be termed *regional names*. However, the distinction between an ethnic name and a regional one is not always easy to make.

3.3.1.3 *Topographic names*

Unlike toponymic, ethnic, and regional surnames, *topographic surnames* in the medieval period were largely the preserve of those who belonged to the lower social orders, such as minor free tenants and unfree tenants such as villeins and cottars (cottagers who performed particular duties for their lord of the manor). The names are drawn, not from (often unintelligible) place-names, but from common vocabulary items referring to local features of the landscape and townscape at or near which the owner of the name lived, as in **Ash**, **Brook**, **Field**, **Green**, **Hall**, **Hill**, **Kirk**, **Marsh**, **Mill**, **Pound**, **Style**, **Townsend**, and **Wood**. Some of these names, for example **Hall**, **Mill**, and **Pound**, do double duty, being both locative and occupational names, denoting men who worked at the lord's hall, or at a mill, or at an animal pound where stray livestock were put.

The distinction between toponymic and topographic family names is a useful one in lowland England, where an agrarian economy predominated. Here most people lived in nucleated villages, whose settlement names were usually ancient and

therefore partly or wholly obscure in meaning to their late medieval inhabitants. Topographic names in such localities were meaningful locative phrases, being drawn from contemporary vocabulary items. There were, however, some settlement names that were identical to Middle English topographic terms, and here the distinction breaks down. **Wick** is a typical example: it has both a topographic origin in most regions of England (commonly denoting a dairy farm) and a toponymic origin, especially in south-west England, where there are numerous villages so called. This ambiguity is especially apparent in upland regions or areas of heathland, where the main economy was a pastoral one (breeding livestock), and the settlements were often of a dispersed kind, consisting of individual farmsteads, often named from a commonplace Middle English topographic term. This is why there are so many places in Devon called **Ford** and **Co(o)mbe**, for example, and why the derived family names **Ford** and **Coombe** are heavily concentrated in Devon and neighbouring counties. In such regions it is often impossible to draw a distinction between topographic and toponymic names.

Topographic family names originated in several different linguistic forms, which have consequences for the spellings of their modern descendants. The most usual formation was with a preposition and definite article, mostly Middle English *atte* 'at the', which also sometimes appears as *atter* and *atten* (respectively with female and masculine or neuter grammatical inflections) when the topographical term begins with a vowel. Typical examples are *atte Grene* 'at the green', *atten aldreth* 'at the alder grove', and *atter oke* 'at the oak tree'. Other prepositions include *by*, *in*, *over*, and *under*. In most cases the preposition and article were eventually dropped from the name, usually by the early 15th century, but sometimes the preposition survives in the modern name, fused to the topographic term, as in **Atwood**, **Bywater**, and **Underhill**. Sometimes, through misdivision of the Middle English elements, the final consonant of the preposition or the article remains before a following vowel, as in **Tash**, **Nash**, and **Rash** from *atte Ash*, *atten Ashe*, and *atter Ashe* 'at the ash tree'.

There are a number of topographic family names that allude to points of the compass. In the East Riding of Yorkshire **Suddaby** derives from a Middle English adverbial phrase *suth i(n) by* (Old Scandinavian *sudr í bý*) 'south in the village', for someone who lived at the south end of a settlement. **Westoby** ('west in the village'), and **Easterby** and **Oxtoby** (both 'east in the village') originated in the same way in the same county. Some examples of the family name **Beeston** probably derive from a Middle English topographic phrase **byesteton* (Old English *bī ēastan tūne*) '(land or settlement) to the east of the village'. The family names **Easton**, **Weston**, **Norton**, and **Sutton** partly derive from this type of expression, but without the preposition.

Mention must also be made of sign names. Middle English surnames like *atte Swan* and *atte Belle* were probably borne by innkeepers whose taverns bore a swan or a bell as the inn sign, and these are duly cited in the entries for **Swan** and **Bell**. There is as yet no evidence that any of these gave rise to a hereditary family name, but the possibility remains open.

Anglo-Norman French was a spoken language among the English gentry for much of the late medieval period, and like Latin

it was also a written language for professional clerks. In the written record of people's names it is common to find Anglo-Norman French prepositions and articles replacing English ones, as in *de la Grene* and *del Wode*. Partly or fully latinized equivalents, like *ad grenam* 'at the green', are also common, as are hybrid forms like *ad le Grene* and *super le Grene*. Generally speaking these clerical translations do not survive as family names, with the possible exception of a few names where the French grammatical elements appear to have become fused to the main part of the name. We seem to see this in names like **Delafield**, **Dellaway**, and **Delbridge**, but more research is needed to discover whether these are genuine topographic hybrids or whether they are quite different names that have been altered by folk etymology to look like *de l(a)* + an English topographic word. **Dallimore** (*Delamer*, *Delamere*), however, is undoubtedly toponymic, from one or more places in Normandy called La Mare.

A relatively small group of names take the form of a topographic noun with a suffix denoting 'person (who lives there)', either *-man*, *-er*, or *-ing*. Names in *-er* and *-man*, like **Hiller** and **Hillman** ('dweller on the hill'), are often interchangeable and mostly occur in south-east England, especially Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex, and Kent. Names in *-ing* are particular to Devon, where names like **Brooking** ('dweller by the brook') and **Thorning** ('dweller by the thorn') were still mainly located in 1881.

3.3.2 RELATIONSHIP NAMES

This is the second largest category of English family names. A handful of them are formed from a single word for a particular relation, such as **Cousin** and **Eames** (Middle English *eme* 'uncle'), **Nephew** and **Neave** (both 'nephew'), **Mowe** and **Muff** (both from Middle English *mogh* 'son-in-law'). Occasionally these are qualified by a personal name (e.g. *Wilcokescosin* 'Wilcock's cousin') but these compounds rarely survive as hereditary names, except for a handful of names formed with *-mogh*, such as **Watmough** ('Walter's son-in-law'). The vast majority of relationship names contain the personal name or given name of a father, mother, or some other family member, or very occasionally a father's or master's surname. Family names derived from the father's given name (patronymics) are in the great majority, while those from the mother's name (metronymics) are common but less frequent, typically being derived from the given name of a woman who had been widowed and who outlived her husband for a substantial period of time—long enough to become an established figure in a neighbourhood.

During the period when surnames were being coined and becoming hereditary family names (roughly the 12th to the 15th centuries) profound changes were occurring in the English personal name stock. Until the beginning of the 13th century there were in fact two name stocks, one Anglo-Norman and the other English. In the decades just before 1200, the once extensive native English (Anglo-Saxon) stock was in such severe decline that by about 1230 it had almost completely disappeared as a source for naming children, being replaced by a much smaller name stock mostly drawn from the Anglo-Norman one. Where once an English boy might be christened *Cutbold* (Old English *Cūðbeald*)

or an English girl *Seburgh* (Old English *Sæburg*), they would now be more likely christened with a Norman name such as *Robert* or *Margaret*. As it happened, hereditary surnaming among ordinary English folk began to grow during the 13th century, just in time for the last one or two generations of adults bearing Anglo-Saxon personal names to be the fathers and mothers referred to in many of our modern English family names. Thus from *Cutbold* and *Seburgh* we get the family names **Cobbold** and **Seabury**. Of the very few Anglo-Saxon personal names that remained in continued use until the end of the medieval period, Old English *Ēadmund* and *Ēadgýð* are still well known as the given names *Edmund* and *Edith*. A slightly larger group were still in occasional use as given names throughout the 14th century, especially the female names *Aldith* and *Godith*, which are sources of the family names **Allday** and **Goodey**.

3.3.2.1 Old English personal names

The Anglo-Saxon personal name stock was broadly of two types. Men and women of higher social status usually possessed a dithematic name (a name composed of two elements or 'themes'). Some of these compound names may originally have been coined as meaningful phrases, such as *Gōdwine* ('good friend', see **Goodwin**), but many others, like *Wulffrið* ('wolf' + 'peace', see **Woolfrey**) are arbitrary compounds with no semantic connection. The other type was monothematic (i.e. composed of only one linguistic element). Some, like *Dodda* (see **Dodd**) and *Pymma* (see **Pym**), are of uncertain etymology, but others derive either from a known Old English word, such as *snel* 'swift, bold' (one source of **Snell**) or from a shortened form of a dithematic name, as is the case with **Þēoda* (see **Theed**), short for a name like *Þēodbeorht* (see **Thebridge**). Pet forms of Old English names sometimes have a hypocoristic *-k-* suffix, such as *-uc* (see section 3.3.2.4); for example, **Baddock** is from *Baduca*, a pet form of a name such as *Beaduric* (see **Betteridge**). Many more, like **Balding** and **Snelling**, have a (hypocoristic?) suffix *-ing*, while others are extended by Old English *-mann*, as in **Edman**. Women's names beginning in Old English *Ēad-*, *Eald-*, and *Gōd-* are often found in Middle English pet forms with the suffix *-us*, hence the family names **Edis**, **Aldous**, and **Goodes**.

3.3.2.2 Old Scandinavian personal names

Scandinavian personal names were added to the Anglo-Saxon name stock by Viking settlers in the late 9th to the 11th centuries, mainly in northern and eastern England. They have similar patterns of linguistic formation to the Old English ones. Typical dithematic names are *Arnketil* (a male name composed of the elements *rn* 'eagle' + *ketill* 'kettle, cauldron', source of the family name **Arkell**) and *Gunnhildr* (a female name composed of the elements **gunthi-* + *hildr*, both of which mean 'battle', source of the family name **Gunnell**). There are numerous monothematic names such as **Gammell** (from *gamall* 'old') and **Orm** (from *ormr* 'snake'). Pet forms include *Tófi* and *Tóki* (probably short forms of *Þórfinnr* and *Þórketil*), which survive in the family names **Tovey** and **Tooke**. As the Viking settlers integrated with the English, their names were adapted to English phonetic and grammatical

practices. So, for example, **Thurstan** is from Old Scandinavian *Þórsteinn*, anglicized as Old English *Þurstān*. New hybrid names were also created, combining name elements from both languages, as in **Ketteridge**, which is from Anglo-Scandinavian **Cytelric*. Norwegian Vikings who settled in Ireland picked up some Irish personal names, which they brought with them to north-west England. Among these was Old Irish *Colmán*, the main source of the modern family name **Coleman**.

3.3.2.3 Anglo-Norman French personal names

The Anglo-Norman name stock was more varied in origin than the Anglo-Saxon one, reflecting the history of Normandy and its neighbouring territories as well as Norman settlement in England, Scotland, and Ireland. Before its own Norman conquest, north-west France had been occupied by Celts, ruled by Romans (who introduced as the spoken language a form of Late Latin, known as *Romance*), and then conquered by German-speaking Franks (hence the name *France*). The Franks adopted Romance as their own language and called it French, but they kept much of their Continental Germanic personal name stock, and this was freely borrowed by the Norsemen (or Normans) who founded the dukedom of Normandy in the 10th century. By far the majority of the Normans who came to England bore Frankish personal names modified by French grammar and pronunciation, reflecting either the Picard dialect in the northern part of Normandy or the Parisian dialect in southern Normandy. As with all Germanic names, the majority of them were dithematic, some of them becoming particularly common in England, first among the Anglo-Normans and then generally among the population of England and Scotland as a whole. Of these, **Henry**, **Robert**, **Walter**, **William**, and the female name **Allis** (*Alice*) are still familiar to us as modern given names, as is *Maud*, whose variable pronunciation in Anglo-Norman French and Middle English produced the family names **Malt** and **Moult**. Many personal names of this type fell out of general use before the end of the 13th century but are preserved in family names such as **Everard** and **Savory**. Continental Germanic monothematic names were also common among the Normans, some of them simply short forms of dithematic names such as Normanno-Picard **Wass** and its Parisian dialect equivalent **Gaze**. Others were derived from Germanic vocabulary words, such as *Franco*, ‘the Frank’ or ‘the free’, one source of the modern family name **Frank**. These short forms sometimes have an Old French grammatical inflection, as in **Bacon**, from Old French *Bacun*, the oblique form of Continental Germanic *Bacco* (a personal name of uncertain etymology).

Another important source of Anglo-Norman French personal names was Christian literature and legend. Scriptural names included *Adam*, *Andrew*, *James*, *John*, *Mary*, *Matthew*, *Peter*, *Philip*, *Simon*, and *Thomas*. Some of these have Hebrew or Aramaic etymologies, others have Greek ones. Most of them were transmitted via Greek to the Latin Vulgate Bible, and it was from the Latin forms that Old French developed its own pronunciations. *Matthew*, for example, sometimes appears in Old French as *Mahieu*, which is the source of the English family name **Mayhew**, and the regular Old French forms of *Peter* (*Per* and *Peres*) have

given us **Pear** and **Pearce**. Surprisingly perhaps, *Mary* was not one of the most frequent given names in post-Conquest England; like *Anne*, the name of the mother of St Mary, it only became truly popular during the 15th and 16th centuries.

Considerably more popular than *Mary* were the names of several early Christian female saints, whose cults exercised a major influence on the French and Norman personal name stock. Examples include *Margaret*, *Catharine*, *Cecily*, and *Agnes*. From their Anglo-Norman French forms we get the family names **Marritt**, **Catlin**, **Sisley**, and **Annis**. The names of some male saints from Christian legend also became widely popular in France and elsewhere in Europe, including **Lawrence** and **Nicholas**. A number of male saints’ names, Biblical and non-Biblical, were used for women as well. Consequently it is difficult to distinguish the gender of the Middle English forms of **Dennis**, **John**, and **Julian** unless the scribe has latinized them, giving them gender-specific inflections (e.g. nominative *Dionysia*, *Johanna*, and *Juliana* for the female names).

Names of Greek, Latin, or Romance origin, but not associated with the name of a saint, include **Alexander**, the name of the Macedonian conqueror, Alexander the Great, whose exploits were made famous throughout medieval Europe in the Alexander romances. Another is Old French *Nihel*, *Niel*, from Latin *Nigellus*, a derivative of *niger* ‘black(-haired)’. It was much favoured among Normans at the time of the Conquest and thereafter, and is a principal source of the family name **Neal**. There is no evidence for the traditional view that Norman French *Niel* is from Old Scandinavian *Njáll*, a borrowing of the Irish name *Niall* (see **Neill**) by Vikings during their time in Ireland. However, in later centuries, as the pronunciation became homophonous, the two names became inextricably interwoven. Several personal names like *Nigellus* have been coined from general-vocabulary words and may have originated as nicknames. Old French has many such names, including *Durant* ‘enduring, steadfast’, hence **Durrand**, and *R(o)ussel*, a diminutive of *rous* ‘red(-haired)’, hence **Russell**.

Among those who helped William Duke of Normandy conquer England in and after 1066 were high-ranking Bretons. Their names are found mostly in eastern England, where William gave extensive lands to Breton military leaders, and they gave rise to family names such as **Harvey**, **Jeckell**, **Wiggin**, and **Wymark**. The only ones in general use today are *Alan* (see **Allen**) and *Brian* (see **Bryant**), although the popularity of *Brian* as a given name in modern Britain and Ireland is mainly due to the popularity of the native Irish name (of Celtic origin and probably cognate with the Breton one).

The Norman ruling classes, who were descended from Danish Vikings, did not entirely abandon their Old Scandinavian personal names, adapting at least some of them to Old French pronunciation and sometimes to Frankish and Romance name formations, including hypocoristic or pet forms. Thus Old Scandinavian *Ásketil* became *Anschetil* in Normandy, influenced by Continental Germanic **Ans-* (‘god’). This was then altered to *Ansketin*, as though *-il* was a diminutive suffix and could be substituted by the Old French diminutive *-in*. The reduced forms *Anketin* and *Asketin* were subsequently brought by the Normans to England, where they were further reduced to **Antin** and **Askin**.

A number of Old Scandinavian dithematic names began with *Thór* (the name of the god of thunder). In Old French speech this was pronounced with initial /t/, so the Norman French form of *Bóraldr* appears in early English records as *Turolde*, alongside *Thorald* (the usual form among Danish Vikings in Anglo-Saxon England), hence the modern family names *Torode*, *Turrell*, and *Thorold*.

The Old English, Old Scandinavian, and Continental Germanic names formed distinctive name stocks, but as they are all Germanic in origin they naturally share a number of related or cognate names, especially of the dithematic type. Consequently it is not always possible to tell in which of these name stocks a particular Middle English name-form originated. *Osborne*, for example, could be from late Old English or Continental Germanic *Ōsbern*. The problem is exacerbated by simplifications in pronunciation, which led to the merging in early Middle English of what were once distinct Old English names. *Algar*, for example, may represent several Old English names as well as a Continental Germanic one. Occasionally there is further confusion with names of other name stocks. *Simon* and its common variant *Simmond* mostly represent the Biblical New Testament name *Simon*, but it is impossible to distinguish it from Middle English forms of Old Scandinavian *Sigmundr* and the cognate Continental Germanic *Sigmund*.

3.3.2.4 *Pet forms of Norman French and Middle English personal names*

From the late 13th century pet forms were commonplace among the lower social classes but rare among the gentry. They usually involved a reduction of the full name to its main stressed syllable, yielding family names such as *Cole*, *Duke*, *Judd*, *Law*, *Phipp*, *Sim*, and *Watt* (for *Nicholas*, *Marmaduke*, *Jordan*, *Lawrence*, *Philip*, *Simon*, and *Walter*). A peculiar feature of Middle English pet forms is the creation of rhyming short forms, such as *Dick*, *Hich*, and *Hick* for *Rick* and *Rich* (*Richard*); *Dobb* and *Hobb* for *Robb* (*Robert*); *Daw* and *Haw* for *Raw* (*Ralph*); *Dodge* and *Hodge* for *Rodge* (*Roger*). Similar in effect is the addition of a prosthetic consonant to a name beginning with a vowel, such as *Nell* (for *Ellis*) and *Bibb* and *Tibb* (for *Isabel*).

To these short forms were added a variety of diminutive suffixes with a hypocoristic function. Most of them were of Old French origin, including single diminutives like *-in* (sometimes reduced to *-y*), *-on*, *-un*, *-el*, *-et*, and *-ot*, and double diminutives like *-elet*, *-elot*, *-elin*, *-inet*, and *-inot*. Given that the Middle English personal-name stock itself was largely borrowed from the French one, it is likely that many of the pet forms coined in this way were introduced to Britain, ready-made, by the Normans. Common examples are *Addy* and *Adnitt* (from Middle English *Ady*, *Adinet*, and *Adinot*, pet forms of *Adam*), *Allott* (for *Alice*), *Collin* (for *Nicholas*), *Hewett* and *Hewlett* (for Old French *Hue*, i.e. *Hugh*), *Marion* and *Marriott* (for *Mary* and *Margery*), *Parlet* and *Perrin* (for *Per*, i.e. *Peter*), *Robin* (for *Robert*), and *Tomlin* (for *Thomas*).

The two most popular hypocoristic suffixes, *-kin* and *-cok*, were linguistically not French, however. Low German and Middle Dutch *-kin* was brought to England in the wake of the Norman Conquest by Flemish and Picard merchants and weavers, and it soon became the most popular hypocoristic suffix for common given names. Of

the innumerable examples in this dictionary, *Atkin* (*Adam*), *Larkin* (*Lawrence*), *Parkin* (*Peter*), *Simpkin* (*Simon*), and *Watkin* (*Walter*) are typical. The native English suffix *-cock* is a double diminutive formed with *-k-* + the hypocoristic suffix *-oc*. It has nothing to do with the word *cock* 'male bird' or the spurious word *cok*, which Reaney supposed to have existed in Middle English with the sense 'boy'. It became almost as popular a suffix as *-kin* and is preserved in many family names such as *Adcock* (from *Adam*), *Simcock*, and *Wilcock*. These *-k* suffixes were often reduced to *-ke* in Middle English, from which we get family names such as *Wilke*, a reduced form of *Wilcock* or *Wilkin*. *Jack*, the commonest English pet form of *John*, is similarly formed but is not an English coinage; it was borrowed from the Flemings and Picards, in whose usage *Jakke* was a denasalized pronunciation of *Janke*, a reduced form of *Jankin*.

Finally, there are some rare Middle English hypocoristic suffixes such as *-cus*, which survives in *Edgoose* (from Middle English *Edecus*, a pet form of *Edith*), and *-man*, found in *Hickman* (for *Richard*), *Human* (for *Hugh*), and *Pateman* (for *Patrick*), and which may be Continental Germanic *-man*, brought to England by Flemings, or Old English *-mann*.

3.3.2.5 *Names ending in -s and -son*

Relationship names containing the given name of a father or mother occur in three different grammatical forms, sometimes with no suffix, sometimes with the suffix *-s*, and sometimes with the suffix *-son*. All three can be found more or less anywhere in late medieval England, but in different proportions in different parts of the country and at different social levels. The early history of these three types is somewhat obscured by clerical practice, which tended to render relationship names in a standard Latin formula, in which *filius* 'son' or *filia* 'daughter' was prefixed to the given name, itself often latinized. It was not until the late 14th century that this practice was fully abandoned, and because it was applied indiscriminately to names of all three grammatical types, it is not always clear which of the types to attribute these early latinized forms to.

Those with no suffix are the earliest type of relationship name to have become hereditary. It is therefore the usual source of family names derived from the Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman names that had disappeared as given names by the end of the 13th century or shortly thereafter. Those of Old English derivation include *Edgar*, *Manning*, and *Woolsey*. Old Scandinavian and Anglo-Scandinavian names are responsible for *Dolphin*, *Gunn*, and *Tolley*. Continental Germanic names lie behind *Ledgard* and *Major*. None of these examples occur with *-son* or a genitival *-s*. In the later period (1250–1400) suffixless names also arose from popular given names, such as *Ibbott*, *Jack*, *Thomas*, and *Watkin*. Many are found in the Midlands and north England, but they are more common in south England (not to mention Wales, where such names are a modern formation).

Relationship names with genitival *-s* (usually elliptical for *-s + son*) became widespread in England from the late 13th century onwards, as ordinary folk began to acquire surnames, and to a considerable extent they supplanted the suffixless type. They were

especially common in south and south-west England and the West Midlands, where they still predominate, as can be seen in the modern distributions of names like **Hodges**, **Roberts**, and **Wilkins**. In the West Midland dialect of Middle English an alternative genitive singular *-en* was sometimes used, though it has rarely survived in modern surnames; **Timmin** (beside **Timms**) is possibly one of them.

Names with final *-son*, for example **Dixon**, **Jackson**, and **Williamson**, are massively concentrated in the north of England. Here we also find a small number of names based on a common occupational term or surname (such as **Clarkson**, **Cookson**, and **Smithson**). There are also a very few *-son* names based on a locative family name, for example **Clappison**, from the West Yorkshire name **Clapham** + *-son*. English family names in *-son* are usually quite late in formation (mid- to late 14th century and early 15th century) and were borne almost exclusively by the lower class of minor free tenants and unfree tenants.

The equivalent Anglo-Norman French *fil* or *fitz* 'son', prefixed to a personal name, has a different history. It is occasionally found in documents of the 12th century and later, and it may often have been used as a purely written convention by clerks for a name that did not actually have a prefix. In spoken usage it belonged exclusively, however, to the Anglo-Norman gentry and aristocracy, and there are a few surviving family names in which *Fitz* has become fused to the personal name, such as **FitzAlan** and **Fitzwilliam**.

3.3.3 OCCUPATIONAL NAMES

This is the third largest category and it reflects the huge growth in urban economic activity from the late 12th century onwards. It led to the rise of great cities and boroughs like London, Bristol, Chester, York, and Norwich, and to the development of hundreds of market towns serving the needs of rural communities. The wealthiest of the town burgesses traded in exports and imports of commodities like wool, cloth, spices, and wine. From these come family names such as **Draper**, **Marchant** ('merchant'), **Mercer** ('dealer in costly textiles like silk and velvet'), **Spicer**, and **Vinter** ('wine merchant'). The cloth trade was particularly complex and extensive. Wool had to be carded (hence **Carder**), spun (hence **Spinner**), and the threads woven into cloth by men and women named **Webb**, **Webber**, **Webster**, or **Weaver**. The raw cloth had to be cleansed (**Fuller**, **Walker**, and **Tucker** represent this trade) and dyed (from which come the surnames **Dyer**, **Lister**, **Wader**, and **Wadman**, the last two denoting either a dealer in the blue dye called woad or a dyer who used woad).

Such specializing can similarly be found for all the main trades that provided clothing, headgear, footwear, housewares (earthen and metal pots, pans, buckets, ladles, cups, and bowls), food, drink, weaponry (bows, arrows, swords, knives, armour), horse gear (saddles, harnesses), buildings, and vehicles, to mention a few. Large numbers of surnames from these trades will be found in the dictionary, too many to cite here, but some of them can be illustrated by looking at the variety of linguistic forms that occur in the medieval records. The language of post-Conquest towns was mainly English but partly Anglo-Norman French. Some towns even had two boroughs, an English one and a French one, with

separate markets. Even when the boroughs merged, French remained an important language of commerce for the burgesses and for the lawyers and clerks who provided them with legal services. In this way many French words for goods and services, and for those who earned their living from them, entered English speech. **Marchant** is from Old French *merchaunt*, but its equivalent native English word survives in the name **Chapman**. One origin of **Seller** is Old French *sel(i)er* 'saddler', but it is not as common as the equivalent English **Sadler** 'maker of saddles'. English **Arrowsmith**, **Flesher** ('dealer in flesh'), **Glover**, **Smith**, **Hellier** ('roofer'), and **Wright** ('joiner') are synonymous with French-derived **Fletcher**, **Butcher**, **Ganter**, **Feaver**, **Tyler**, and **Carpenter**. As can be seen even from this small selection, many of the French and native English occupational terms that lie behind modern surnames have not survived as Modern English words, even where the occupation itself has survived.

Occupational names usually take one of the following forms. Some are self-explanatory compounds, like **Cartwright** and **Ironmonger**. Others are compounds with *-man*, for example **Palfreyman** 'man responsible for the palfreys or riding horses, a groom' and **Cheeseman** 'maker or seller of cheese'. Such formations are distinct from those formed with *-man* in the sense 'servant', as in **Priestman** ('servant of the priest') and **Fentiman** ('servant of a man surnamed *Fenton*').

By far the most common occupational names are those in which the suffixes *-(i)er* (of either English or French origin) or *-our* (Old French) have been added to a word denoting an object or an activity: **Chandler** ('seller of candles'), **Fewster** ('maker of saddle trees'), **Furber** ('polisher of armour'), **Hatter**, **Salter** ('salt-merchant'), **Skipper** ('maker of skips or baskets'), **Soper** ('soap maker'), **Sumner** ('court official who issued summonses'), **Tanner**, **Taylor**, and **Turner** are a few of the hundreds of such names. A small number have a doublet in *-ster*, such as **Baxter**, **Brewster**, **Dexter**, and **Webster**. This Old English suffix originally denoted a female (baker, brewer, dyer, or weaver, in these instances) but by the time hereditary surnames were formed from these names the distinction of gender was no longer present.

Rural communities and households of the gentry generated some occupations that are recalled in modern surnames. Specialist crafts that every village or manor needed were notably those of the **Smith** and the **Miller**. Agricultural occupations included those of the **Hurd** ('herdsman'), **Shepherd**, **Coward** ('cowherd'), **Hoggard** ('pig keeper' or 'one who looks after young sheep'), **Hayward** ('man employed to look after the hedges and fences that kept livestock out (or in)'), and **Pinder** ('man in charge of the village pound for stray animals'), as well as those from seasonal occupations, such as **Plowman** and **Thresher**. Some lords of the manor would require a **Parker** (to look after the deer park), a **Forrester**, a **Woodward**, a **Hunter**, and a **Fowler** ('bird catcher'). The **Granger** was a farm bailiff (especially on monastic granges), while the **Reeve** was an unfree tenant who collected the lord's rents and summoned offenders to the lord's court. In a wealthy man's house, in a village or town, might be a **Clark**, a **Spencer** ('household steward'), a **Page**, and perhaps some minstrels or entertainers named **Crowther** ('fiddler'), **Harper**, or **Piper**. In the kitchen might be a **Cook**, and serving the local churches might be a **Sexton** and a **Chaplin**.

Servants and apprentices sometimes had a defining surname such as **Sargent**, **Nave** (Middle English *knave*), and **Prentice** (short for Old French *apprentis*), or they bore an elliptical surname such as **Parsons** (short for Middle English *Personesseriaunt* ‘parson’s servant’).

3.3.4 STATUS NAMES

Status names are sometimes treated as a subgroup of occupational names, although strictly speaking they do not denote the means of earning a living but rather the social rank of a man, as in the case of **Bond** (‘unfree tenant’), **Freeman**, **Franklin** (both ‘free tenant’ or ‘of free but not noble birth’), and **Burgess** (‘freeman of a borough’). Surnames such as **Knight** and **Lord** may belong here, too, but it is uncertain how far they are to be understood literally and how far they may be interpreted as nicknames. At the highest levels of society were honorary offices like **Butler** and **Marshall**, but lower down the social scale *Marshall* was a name for a farrier.

3.3.5 NICKNAMES

Nicknames are in many cases the most challenging names to explain. There are innumerable varieties, formally and semantically, and because the contexts and situations that gave rise to them in individual cases were almost never recorded, there is more uncertainty about their original meanings than any other category of surname. Even the classification of a surname as ‘nickname’ is at times a shot in the dark, for want of another explanation. The category is also blurred at the edges, overlapping formally and semantically with other categories. The least that a dictionary such as FaNBI can do is to try and identify the word from which the name is most probably derived and not to offer hostages to fortune by over-interpretation of the possible semantic implications.

At the core of this set of names are nicknames alluding to physical attributes or personality traits. Some are from Old French, many originating in Norman families, such as **Bassett** (a diminutive form of *bas* ‘short in stature’), **Blunt** (‘fair-haired’), **Gernon** (‘moustache’), **Grant** (‘tall in stature’), and **Hussey** (‘booted’). The majority are Middle English coinages (of English, Scandinavian, or French etymology), such as **Armstrong**, **Beard**, **Bragg** (‘brisk, lively’), **Broad**, **Brown**, **Crisp** (‘curly-haired’), **Crookshank** (‘crooked leg’), **Curtis** (‘courtly, refined’), **Geake** (‘fool, simpleton’), **Glew** (‘wise, clever’), **Jolliffe** (‘cheerful, lively’), **Lemmon** (‘lover, sweetheart’), **Longbone**, **Proud**, **Redhead**, **Quant** (‘wise, skilful, cunning’), **Sharp**, **Small**, **Tait** (‘merry, lively’), **Thynne**, **Toogood**, **Wild**, **Wise**, and **Witty**. The exact sense of some names of this type can be elusive. **Legg** and **Foot** may allude to someone with a bad leg or foot but there are other possibilities, such as a reference to long or short legs or to large feet.

Complimentary and uncomplimentary names look straightforward enough, but it would be a mistake to take them only at face value. **Goodfellow** is literally ‘good fellow’ but the phrase was sometimes used in Middle English to denote a rascal. Nicknames then, as now, could be meant ironically, and disparaging ones are often given in good-natured jest, so it should not be assumed that the bearers of surnames like **Peabody**

(‘peacock body’), **Mockler** (Old French *mal clerc* ‘bad clerk’), **Mussard** (‘absent-minded, stupid’), or **Thewlis** (‘lacking in moral fibre, immoral’) always deserved the disapproval implied by their sobriquets. The very fact that such names became hereditary suggests that the families that bore them took little or no offence. This caveat applies equally to nicknames that may seem obscene to modern sensibilities, like **Ballock** (‘testicle’) and **Liquorish** (Middle English *likerous* ‘lecherous’). Names like **Shacklady** and **Tiplady** (‘knock lady’) are probably from phrases denoting the sexual act, as indeed may be **Waghorn**, **Wagstaff**, and **Shakespeare**, although definite evidence that *horn*, *staff*, and *spear* could denote ‘penis’ in Middle English has yet to be found. There may have been something disreputable about *Shakespeare*, nevertheless. A certain Hugh Shakespeare, before being admitted as a fellow of Merton College, Oxford, in 1487, was required to change his surname (to *Sawnder*) ‘because it is of ill repute’. A possible alternative explanation in this case is that the name may have been given to a professional soldier, referring perhaps to the brandishing of arms before battle. Most probably **Waghorn** was synonymous with **Hornblower** (a medieval term for the town watchman), while **Wagpole** and **Wagstaff** could have been names for a beadle or some other civic or manorial officer who shook his staff of office in token of his authority. Names with this linguistic construction (verb + noun) may often have had occupational connotations, as **Catchpole** (Old French *cache pol* ‘chase fowl’) certainly did, as it was used in Middle English as a mocking term for a debt collector. **Threadgold** was presumably given to an embroiderer. **Turnbull** may have been a name for a bull-herd or cattle drover, **Culpepper** for a spicer, and no doubt **Trussler** (Old French *trusse loue* ‘bind wolf’) was a name for a wolf hunter. **Makepeace** could have been given to a professional arbitrator, one who helped to settle disputes without going to the law, but it could just as well have been given in irony to a troublemaker.

Not all phrasal nicknames are formed with verb + noun. **Doolittle**, **Golightly**, **Sturtivant** (‘leap forward’), and **Waddilove** (‘wade or go deeply in love’) consist of a verb + adverb or prepositional phrase, and there are a number of names derived from expressions of speech like Old French *bel sire* ‘fair sir’, a term of address, and Old French *bel ch(i)ere*, which had various senses, including ‘good cheer’, perhaps also a greeting or farewell. Both are sources of **Belcher**. Blessings and oaths are preserved in **Debney** (Old French *dieu (le) benie* ‘God bless him’), **Godsave** (Middle English (*on*) *Godes half* ‘for God’s sake’), **Mothersill** (Middle English (*bi min*) *moderes soule* ‘by my mother’s soul’), and **Pardoe** (Old French *par dieu* ‘by God’).

From a semantic point of view most nicknames fall into one of three types, the literal, the metaphoric, and the metonymic. Most of the names discussed so far had a literal application, unless used ironically. Some that look superficially like surnames of occupation, office, or status are clearly not so and must be figures of speech. **Abbot**, **Bishop**, **Cardinal**, **Monk**, **Pope**, **Priest**, and **Prior** are all recorded as names of laypeople. **Nunn** is a man’s surname. Serfs are called **King**, **Lord**, **Sheriff**, and **Squire**. No evidence has been found to support the notion that men so named were

employed by or were tenants of an abbot or the king, and so forth. Perhaps these names were metaphoric, implying that their original bearers looked or behaved like an ecclesiastical or secular dignitary and were therefore haughty or hypocritical. Alternatively, the names may have been metonymic, acquired from playing these roles in a local pageant, game, or ritual. The Boy Bishop, the Abbot or Lord of Misrule, the King of the May, the King of the Bean, and the Lord of the Harvest were all central roles in medieval seasonal ceremonies.

Metaphorical use of words for animals, birds, and fish is abundant, but it is often difficult to be sure what characteristic of the creature is being alluded to. It is reasonable to infer that **Crane** denoted someone with long legs, and from Middle English and later vocabulary uses we know that simpletons were called by the bird name **Woodcock** and by the fish name **Chubb**, and that **Gudgeon** (denoting the fish) was also used as a word for a lazy person. Chaucer's description of the summoner in the *Canterbury Tales* as 'hot he was and lecherous as a sparrow' draws on a popular belief about sparrows that presumably lies behind at least some coinages of the surname **Sparrow**. However, **Fox** could imply either of the two characteristics traditionally associated with the animal: red hair and cunning. The magpie (Middle English *pie*) is a notorious scavenger and stealer, has a loud cackling voice and bright black-and-white plumage. Which of these gave rise to the surname **Pye** one can only guess. Other bird names, of unclear significance, include **Coe** ('jackdaw'), **Finch**, **Kite**, **Laverack** or **Lark**, **Nightingale**, **Partridge**, **Peacock**, **Speight** ('woodpecker'), **Starling**, **Wildgoose**, and **Wren**. Other fish names are **Pike** and **Trout**. Animal names include **Bull**, **Coney** ('rabbit'), and **Stott** ('bullock'), perhaps applied to men who were strongly built or headstrong. **Goate**, **Ramm**, and **Stagg** may sometimes have been given to supposedly lecherous men. **Hare**, **Hart**, and **Mouse** may have denoted a timorous person, or perhaps a fast runner.

Metonymic names are the most enigmatic. The relationship they bear to their eponymous bearers is not through a perceived resemblance (as with metaphoric names) but by a contextual connection—an idea, object, or event with which the person was associated, whether habitually or on a single occasion, as already suggested for names like **Bishop** and **King**. The surname **Bull** may have been one of these, if given to someone who looked after the bull(s) rather than someone who resembled one. Unfortunately the contexts that might have explained the origination of a nickname have almost never survived. Occasionally a variation in the name-form gives a clue, if not the entire answer. Ranulf *Flambard* (d. 1128), bishop of Durham, was also known as Ranulf *Passeflambard* 'pass the torch', an allusion apparently to Ranulf's role as a royal advocate, but what figurative sense 'passing the torch' might carry here is uncertain. In theory the nickname **Crown** might have been given to someone who wore or made crowns (garlands or chaplets) or to someone with a physically distinctive head. In one instance, however, it was borne by several members of a 13th-century Nottinghamshire family otherwise known as *Madythecroune* ('mad in the head'). One could not expect to have anticipated this explanation, or reliably offer it, without the evidence of the fuller form of the name, and it may yet not be the right explanation for any of the modern examples.

The explanations of many single-word surnames probably lie in similarly unstated or elided linguistic items (especially verb phrases), whose absence leaves us guessing as to the name's meaning. Many metonymic names derive from abstract nouns. It is quite possible that **Peace** was sometimes elliptical for *Makepeace*, but there is no way of knowing whether it named someone who practised the virtue or merely wished for it. Nor do we know whether **Barrett** (Old French *barat* 'strife') belonged to someone who caused trouble or tried to prevent it, or **Comfort** to someone who gave it or sought it.

This lack of clarity is especially common in the numerous nicknames that derive from nouns for products, such as food, clothing, tools, and containers. P. H. Reaney was convinced that all such names were occupational names, not nicknames; in his view they were metonyms for, and therefore synonymous with, the usual nouns for a maker or seller of such goods. **Cheese**, therefore, was metonymic for *Cheeser* 'cheese maker'. However, all the name tells us is that the man was associated with cheese; he may have made it or he may have liked it as a food, or both. The point comes into sharper focus with names like **Blade**, **Hood**, **Lace**, and **Mantell**, where there is a high probability that they were nicknames given to men who wore or used those items, whether or not in some cases they also made or sold them. All such names are categorized as nicknames in FaNBI entries.

3.4 The development of hereditary family names in England

The earliest hereditary family names in England are recorded in some Norman families in the late 11th century, for example **Bigot** and **Giffard**. By the middle of the 15th century almost every person had one. But family-name development was a slow process and a complex one, varying by social class and by region.

During the 12th and 13th centuries non-hereditary surnaming (or descriptive bynaming) spread down through the social classes, first to the lower gentry and town burgesses, then to well-off free tenants, and finally to small free tenants and the unfree peasantry. By the middle of the 14th century almost everyone who was not a pauper had a byname or 'surname' of some sort, however impermanent. The growth of hereditary surnaming took longer. By about 1250 most of the powerful land-owning families used a hereditary surname, mostly toponymics from their estates in England or their former estates in Normandy. This was true also of many of the lower gentry in the south, the Midlands, and East Anglia, and by 1300 they all had one, as did a significant proportion of free tenants. Practice in the towns and boroughs was more mixed, with hereditary and non-hereditary naming co-existing in the late 14th century in southern England and the Midlands and well into the 15th century in northern towns like York.

Indeed, the last region to have more or less universal hereditary naming was northern England, where it was the mid-15th century before it was the general practice. In York and in parts of Lancashire there were still a few people without one in the 16th century. In the Midlands and southern England probably the majority of all families except the poorest had at least one hereditary name by about 1350, though not necessarily a fixed one.

The picture is complicated by the fact that individuals or families could have alternative surnames or aliases, any, all, or none of which could be passed from a father to his sons. Mention was made earlier of the 14th-century Nottingham merchant William *de Mekesburgh*, who was also known as *de Amyas*. In around 1300 the Londoner Denis *de Grauntebrigge* ('of Cambridge') was also known as Denis *le Orfevere* ('the goldsmith'). Another London goldsmith of that time is recorded in one document as William *Everard called de York* and in another as William *de York called Everard*. This kind of flexible surnaming diminished only towards the end of the 14th century, and it could affect hereditary names as well as non-hereditary ones

The exact form that a man's surname took could also vary. A juror of Tuxford in Nottinghamshire, who served on a number of inquisitions just after 1350, is surnamed *Wilkynsone*, *Wilkesone*, and *Willson*. This kind of linguistic variation was particularly common in Yorkshire and Lancashire, where ad hoc, non-hereditary relationship bynames were current well into the 15th century. However, similar variability can also be found in hereditary names, even in south England as late as the 16th century. One Woking (Surrey) family is regularly called both **Waterer** and **Attwater** in manorial records of 1547 to 1550. The main reason for this instability is that many inherited surnames still meant what they said as late as the 15th century and beyond. Over many generations successive sons could inherit the same family property in a particular town, village, or locality after which they were named. They could pursue the father's occupation from which the family name derived, and if they bore a relationship surname, it was not uncommonly derived from a personal name that was still in use as a given name in the family. Relationship names derived from Anglo-Saxon and Norman personal names that were no longer in general use by about 1250 to 1300 are a different matter; surnames from these must already have become fixed by the end of the 13th century. Hereditary surnames from nicknames are another exception, thanks to the unpredictability of genetic inheritance.

The modern sense of a hereditary family name (that it does not denote any characteristic of its current owners, and may have no intelligible meaning at all) only became usual towards the end of the 15th century, when the coining of new surnames had become a rarity in most of England, new pronunciation of names was beginning to change them out of all recognition, and migration took families away from their roots.

3.5 The evolution of modern variants²

Many modern family names retain a recognizable connection with the source term (e.g. **Carter**, **Heath**, **Johnson**, **Norton**, **Redhead**), although in the case of nicknames the sense of the source word has sometimes altered, as it has in **Daft** (Middle English 'meek, humble') and **Pretty** (Middle English 'crafty, cunning'). Others, however, have changed in pronunciation or appearance in ways

that disguise their original identity. Some are at first sight baffling (like **Budgen**, a locative name from Bodiam in Sussex); some look intelligible but make no sense (like **Ashplant**, a relationship name from the medieval personal name *Absolon*); others look like a well-known name but are derived from something quite different (like **Bridgett**, a locative name from **Bridgwood**, Staffs).

The processes that brought about such transformations generally began in the late 15th century or later. They are a direct consequence of hereditary naming coinciding with a long period of linguistic variability and change, which led not only to the differences that now exist between Middle English and Modern English but also to a host of variable, informal pronunciations, unregulated by any need to make contextually relevant lexical sense. These changing pronunciations were recorded by clerks and family members in many different, roughly phonetic spellings, some of which retained an intelligible relationship with the original name, while others did not. Names that had lost connection with their origin could be misheard and miswritten in the records, and were often assimilated to more familiar names or reshaped through hypercorrection and folk etymology to fit better known name-patterns or word-forms.

For many families it was not until the advent of universal literacy in the 20th century that one spelling rather than another became fixed for their name in their locality. The now universal practice of fixed surname spellings is a very recent phenomenon and can give the false impression that all surnames have long possessed historically stable identities as defined and differentiated by their current spellings. This impression is reinforced by the fact that literacy and fixed spellings have almost eliminated variation in surname pronunciation, except in the case of spelling pronunciations, where a name is known through its written rather than its local oral form and the spelling allows alternative pronunciations (as in the surname of the author, J. K. Rowling). Current spellings provide the head forms in modern surname dictionaries, but we cannot expect to make good sense of them if it is not recognized that they are frequently the arbitrary outcome of a long period of oral and orthographic variability, in which onomastic ambiguity and obscurity have proliferated.

Many surnames, therefore, require special attention to the sequence and range of their post-medieval spellings, linked over time, by place, and by family. Different names have often merged, sometimes as a result of general sound changes (as in **Wray** and **Ray**; **Grave**, **Greave**, and **Grieve**), and sometimes because final unstressed syllables were confused and mistaken for each other (as in **Bramwell** and **Bramhall**, **Woodiwiss** and **Woodhouse**). In some names the final syllable underwent a remarkable number of transformations, as did **Tattersall** (from the Lincolnshire place-name Tattershall), which, when it migrated northward and westward into Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Derbyshire, evolved into *Tatterstall*, *Tattersdale*, *Tattershaw*, *Tatterson*, *Tatterton*, *Tattersley*, and *Tattersfield*.

3.5.1 POST-MEDIEVAL EXCRESCENT -S

A very common feature in the evolution of family-name variants is the addition of a final excrescent -s to family names that originated without one. This is evident in names such as **Mills** and **Styles**,

² Parts of this section and the following one have been excerpted, with minor modifications, from Peter McClure (2014). The article also sets out some of the techniques that have been used in FaNBI in researching the origins of English surnames.

which do not go back to an original Middle English plural form, but are late variants of **Mill** and **Style**. This excrescent *-s* is a common feature of topographic surnames but it is found to some degree in all types of surname. In relationship names the final *-s* frequently represents an original genitive, but Middle English names with genitival *-s* often alternated with forms without it (e.g. *Wilkins* and *Wilkin*), and perhaps it was analogy with this practice that led to names of other types being given an unhistorical *-s* in the modern period.

3.6 The geography of English family names

The ability to map modern family names using electronic databases is one of the most important advances in recent English family-name research, leading to vastly improved accuracy in explaining names and identifying name variants. It has confirmed beyond doubt that the majority of English family names have moved relatively short distances over the centuries, in some cases staying remarkably close to their places of origin. Every county still has its own distinctive set of family names, many going back to the medieval period. The reason for this lies in the complex but coherent social networks of local life that endured down the generations, ensuring family stability and influencing the range and frequency of migration. David Hey writes of ‘surname neighbourhoods’, within which the most distinctive local family names moved around over many generations; they were ‘usually no more than ten or twenty miles in radius and were bounded by the nearest market towns’ (Hey 2000: 107). These core families generally stayed in the area over many generations. If they moved further away it was usually by a succession of short-distance migrations over several generations within the same region. Movement southwards from Norfolk into Suffolk and south-east Essex can be seen, for example, in the history of **Fosdyke** (and its variants) and **Gooch** (and variants), while there are names like **Cramphorn** (and variants) that originated in east Hertfordshire, spread into west Essex, and then migrated eastwards as far as the Suffolk border, if not beyond. Hey (2000: 109–11) has shown how surnames of north Staffordshire in the Hearth Tax Returns of the 1660s and 1670s reveal a significant influx of families from Cheshire and Lancashire, more so than migration from neighbouring counties to the east and south of the county.

These patterns of movement, predominantly local in nature, seem to have been only marginally affected by the Industrial Revolution. This is not to deny that some English surnames migrated long distances. Yorkshire names such as **Wilberforce**, though still most common in that county, have been recorded in 16th-century Sussex, and the Devon name **Tapson** (a locative name from Topsham in Devon) is found in 18th-century London and Essex. London has exerted an exceptional pull on migrants from all over England and beyond from medieval times to the modern day (see, for example, Ekwall 1956).

4. Family names in Scotland

Scottish names are linked with those of adjacent ethnicities and cultures in complex ways. Some family names of English

etymology—and even Anglo-Norman, as in the case of **Sinclair**—are distinctively Scottish. There is also quite a lot of overlap between the family names of Scotland and the family names of England—**Wilson** and **Walker**, for example, are characteristic of both northern England and Scotland, while **Smith** is as common in Aberdeenshire as in Kent. In western Scotland, there is overlap between Scottish and Irish clan names. **Kennedy** is one of many names that are well established on both sides of the Irish Sea. Other names of Gaelic etymology have different conventional anglicized spellings in Scotland and Ireland, for example **Docherty** and **Doherty**. In the Highlands and Islands, there was language contact between Norse and Gaelic, with the result, *inter alia*, that there are Gaelic given names with Norse etymons and vice versa. An example is **Sorley** (Gaelic *Somhairle*), which is from the Old Norse personal name *Sumarliðr* ‘summer warrior’, which in turn was altered by folk etymology in English-language contexts into the family names **Summerlad** and **Summerland**. The clan name **McLeod** (Gaelic *Mac Leòid*) is based on a Norse byname, *Ljótr* ‘ugly’. Also, it is not widely known that a P-Celtic (Brittonic) language similar to Welsh was spoken in parts of west central Scotland until about the 14th century. The compiler of a dictionary of Scottish family names, therefore, must have competence in Gaelic, Old Scandinavian, and Welsh, as well as in Anglo-Norman French, Middle English, and, of course, Scots.

The standard work on Scottish surnames is by George Fraser Black (1866–1948). Published in 1946, this was the product of a 40-year-long survey of Scottish historical documents, from which names were assiduously collected by the author, a Scottish American in the service of the New York Public Library. This institution published Black’s dictionary when publication in Britain proved to be impossible due to the war and other difficulties. Black provides an often colourful assortment of historical citations. He tells us, for example, at the entry for the obsolete name *Blackbody* that there was ‘a prisoner named Blackbodie in Edinburgh Castle, 1687’, and at **Ratter** that ‘Master Malcolm Rotter, natural son of Sir Andrew Rotar, vicar of Halkirk, was legitimated in 1538.’ A great benefit is that he gives a wealth of detailed source information. Black is particularly informative about the origin of Scottish habitational surnames from baronies and other place-names. His primary aim was historical, not etymological; etymologies are not always given, and when they are, they sometimes contain errors.

Two much smaller works on Scottish surnames which should be mentioned are Dorward (1978), which contains substantial discursive entries, and the specialist study of Shetland surnames by Beattie (2002).

4.1 Family names in Scots-speaking Scotland

The development of hereditary surnames in Scotland was not uniform, with Scots-speaking areas and Gaelic-speaking areas adopting family names at different periods and rates. Hereditary surnames first occurred in Scots-speaking regions at a similar time to their initial use in England, ‘introduced into Scotland through the Normans’ (Black 1946: xiii), with wealthy landholders settling

in the country soon after the Norman Conquest, usually with names of toponymic origin. Following this, however, the ‘spread of surnames in Scotland seems to have been slow’ (McKinley 1990: 45). While most landholders seem to have ‘acquired surnames . . . by about 1300’ (McKinley 1990: 45), it seems that ‘the general spread of hereditary surnames was not complete in the Scots-speaking regions until at least the 16th century’ (McKinley 1990: 46). It is not clear what McKinley means by ‘the general spread of hereditary surnames’, but if we take it to mean the adoption of family names by the majority of the Scots-speaking population of Scotland, then the establishment of family names in the country occurred later than in England. A small number of non-hereditary names persisted in remote areas, even as late as the 19th century, as seen in this very late example noted by Black (1946: xxv): ‘Gideon Manson . . . died in Foula [Shetland] in March, 1930. His father’s name was James Manson (Magnus’s son) and his grandfather was called Magnus Robertson.’

The family names of Scots-speaking Scotland can be classified under any of the main types of name also identifiable in England (see section 3.3), suggesting that the same system of naming was in general use in both countries. Accordingly, we find relationship names and locative names aplenty, and occupational names, some of which do not coincide with and are not variants of traditional surnames found also in England (**Cadger, Doctor, Mutter** (2), **Phimister**). However, it is noteworthy that some occupational names, with their variants, overlap with what is found in the north of England but not the south (**Coulthard, Runciman, Stoddart**). As regards nicknames, Black (1946: xxix) notes that ‘contrary to the common view I have found few of our [Scottish] surnames to be derived from nicknames.’ That opinion needs some qualification in the light of, for example, **Cruikshank, Meikle, and Swankie**.

A notable fact is that some English surnames migrated to Scotland as early as the Middle Ages. A seminal moment for this migration was the normanization of the Scottish bureaucracy by King David I in the early 12th century. David had been brought up at the English court and married the English Countess of Huntingdon. When he unexpectedly succeeded to the throne of Scotland after the deaths of his three elder brothers, he took his retainers north with him and set about restructuring the administration of Scotland, opening the way for a long process of northward migration by ambitious Norman barons, knights, and fortune-seekers with English and Norman French family names. Some of these are recognizable as variants of English place-names (**Barclay, Laidlaw, Lindsay, Ramsay**), and some surnames of Norman French origin are shared with the English aristocracy and gentry (**Bruce, Mowbray, Napier, Wallace**). Of course, more generally, since Modern Scots and Modern English both descend from Middle English, it must be recognized that some surnames are found in both countries, differentiated only by the spelling conventions in force at various periods in both languages or by dialect details (**Broun/Brown, Millar/Miller, Stewart/Steward**) or not differentiated at all.

Many family names of Scots or English structure and appearance are late anglicizations of traditional Gaelic names of relationship in *mac* ‘son’ (see section 5.3), with *-son* appearing suffixed to given names of Gaelic origin (**Ferguson, Finlayson, Gilkison**).

5. Family names in Ireland and Gaelic-speaking Scotland³

5.1 The background of Gaelic

The Gaelic language has been spoken in Ireland, where it is now normally known as Irish, from at least the early centuries of the first millennium AD and probably longer. It remains a native language in Ireland, but its use in everyday life is now generally confined to areas along the western seaboard of the country, within districts collectively known as *Gaeltachtaí*. Despite this retrenchment, it remains an important language of educated culture and national symbolism over the whole island. Scottish Gaelic does not go back so far as a language of Scotland. It was brought by settlers from Ireland, starting in the west of the country in the 4th to 5th centuries AD, reinforced by Christian missions in the 6th century, spreading by the 12th century over most of modern Scotland except the far north-east and the far south-east, and progressively losing ground to Scots and English in modern times.

5.2 Gaelic in Ireland and Scotland

A shared tribe- or clan-based culture and a common literary language still united Gaelic Ireland and Scotland before the Plantations of the 17th century (the settlement of English and Scottish people in Ireland as a matter of government policy formed in Britain). Mutual comprehension of established surnames would not have been difficult in the earlier period. Many similarities can be discerned between the Gaelic names of Ireland and Scotland, and attempting to differentiate between the two often opens the risk of a false distinction. It is the anglicization of Gaelic names which is the key issue in this dictionary, in which all the head forms are given in their most familiar anglicized spellings. Both the phonology and the spelling conventions of both branches of the Gaelic language are very different from those of English, which is one of the underlying reasons why most surnames came to be greatly altered during more than three centuries of English rule in Ireland and during the four centuries since the Union of the Crowns of Scotland and England in 1603.

There is considerable variation in the anglicized surnames of both countries, due in part to local spelling norms (for example the voiceless velar fricative /x/ is spelt *ch* in Scots but *gh* in Irish English), and due also to anglicization at different dates. In the older language an ancestor name beginning with a consonant and following *Ó* or *Mac* normally had its initial consonant unchanged. However, in the 17th century a new grammatically-based process developed by which the initial consonant of proper names was changed in the possessive (‘genitive’) case. This process of *lenition* (an extended usage of a much earlier phenomenon) in most cases involves the replacement of a plosive consonant by a related fricative, and is indicated in Gaelic spelling by adding the letter *h* after the relevant consonant. The operation of this change could result in different anglicizations of the same surname; thus *Mac Domhnaill* might be anglicized **McDonnell** in Ireland or

³ This section is based on contributions by Kay Muhr and Liam Ó hAisibéil.

McDonald in Scotland, while the later lenited form *Mac Dhomhnaill* was anglicized as **McConnell** or even **McGonnell** because the sound represented by *dh* was either not perceived or not recognized by those responsible for recording the name. Other surnames with similar variants are **McDonagh** and **McConaghy** (from *Mac D[h]onchadha*) and **McDowell** and **McCool** (from *Mac D[h]ubhghaill*).

The great range of spelling variation due to such grammatically triggered pronunciation variation can be illustrated by the cognate set **McConnachie**, **Maconochie**, **McConaghy**, **McConkey**, similar forms lacking *Mc-*, and **McDonough** and **Donahue** (with several other variants of each of the cited forms). A rarer source of variation is accent or dialect difference within the Gaelic continuum; it can be illustrated by Irish **McAteer** versus Scottish **McIntyre**, both representing *Mac an tSaoir* ‘son of the craftsman’; the latter also exhibits English/Scots diphthongization of the vowel in the final syllable.

Many distinctive family names of Gaelic origin are associated with particular regions, for example **McAughtrie** and **McCracken** with Galloway in the extreme south-west of Scotland, where an ill-recorded dialect of Gaelic was spoken between, very approximately, 1100 or earlier and 1700; and many are associated with particular Highland clans, each with its own traditional territory.

5.3 Gaelic genealogy and characteristic name-types

Genealogy was an important cultural element in Gaelic society, and individuals, as members of the same family, were generally identified and distinguished by their pedigree and their population group. Lengthy pedigrees were still being deployed in writing to identify individuals as late as the Fiant of the Elizabethan period. Individuals in rural Gaeldom may still be distinguished locally by their father’s or mother’s given name. Identification by patronymics (and extended genealogy) developed out of, and for long co-existed with, this system—*Kitty Pheadair Eoghain Ruaidh* ‘Red-haired Eoghan’s Peter’s Kitty’ appeared in a Donegal local newspaper as recently as 2015. Hereditary relationship names were formed in Ireland, but not in Scotland, in the late first millennium with *Ó* ‘grandson, descendant (of)’, and in both Ireland and Scotland from early in the second millennium with *Mac* ‘son (of)’ (Ó Murchadha 1999) (both types are loosely referred to as *patronymics* below). Whilst it can be difficult to date the transition from patronymic to inherited surname, the earliest true surname seems to have been *Ó Cléirigh* ‘grandson of Cléireach’, mentioned in AD 980 in the *Annals of Ulster*, and this genealogical type became the overwhelmingly dominant type of surname. It will be seen that Gaelic surnames were well established at a relatively early date as compared with England, Scotland, and Wales; Woulfe (1923: 15) claims that ‘Irish surnames came into use gradually from about the middle of the 10th to the end of the 13th century,’ and that that places them among the earliest surnames in Europe. Surnames which were originally formed in these ways can be exemplified by *Ó Conaill* ‘grandson or descendant of Conall’ and *Mac Cárthaigh* ‘son of Cárthach’, and these yield the modern anglicized forms

O’Connell and **McCarthy**, along with several variants.

Patronymics were overwhelmingly based on given names, but also, less frequently, formed on the basis of occupational terms, as in the case of Scottish *Mac a’ Ghobhainn*, Irish *Mac an Ghabhann* ‘son of the smith’, yielding **McGowan** and a range of other anglicized variants, the most frequent of which are recorded in this dictionary.

Names in pedigrees using *Ó* and *Mac* + the full extensive range of Gaelic given names were preceded by the emergence of structurally similar given names in *maol* ‘follower, servant, devotee (especially of a religious figure)’. These given names came to be included in surnames of patronymic origin, but only those using the *Ó* formula, for example *Ó Maoilbhréanainn* (modern **Mulrennan**) from St Brendan. During the initial phase of the surname period, *giolla* came to be used in a similar way to *maol*, and hence in surnames using the *Mac* formula, such as *Mac Giolla Mhártain* (modern **Gilmartin** or **Martin**) from St Martin (MacLysaght 1985: ix; information from Kay Muhr). Some such surnames appear to derive from occupations or statuses, such as *Mac Giolla Easpaig* ‘son of the servant of the bishop’, but it is more likely that *Giolla Easpaig* and the like were used as complex given names of the type just mentioned. The same applies in the case of apparent embedded nicknames such as that in *Mac Dubhghaill* ‘son of *Dubhghall*’, a close compound meaning ‘dark stranger’, but probably used as a given name rather than a description. These two surnames exist today, respectively as **Gillespie** (which is sometimes shortened to **Espie**, especially in America) and **McDowell** (elsewhere **McDougal**).

Perhaps as a result of the use of words for personal characteristics in given names, as in the case of *Dubhghall* ‘dark stranger’, some apparent Gaelic nickname-based surnames were formed, either from the loss of a patronymic prefix or the coining of a new name, seen for example in the modern surnames **Bane** or **Bain**, sometimes from *bán, bàn* ‘white(-haired)’, perhaps a reduction of a given name such as *Giolla Bán*, and **Ogg**, sometimes from Scottish Gaelic *óg* ‘(the) young(er)’; such names are quite rare.

This does not, however, appear to be the main reason for the later reduction in the number of names with patronymic prefixes in Ireland, which ‘were very widely dropped during the period of submergence of Catholic and Gaelic Ireland which began in the early 17th century’ (MacLysaght 1985: x), when English influence in Ireland greatly increased. The intention to submerge native culture was the result of deliberate policy; in 1465 the Irish parliament in Dublin passed an Act to compel every Irishman living in the Anglo-Norman counties of Dublin, Meath, Louth, and Kildare to ‘take to him an English surname of one towne, as Sutton, Chester, Trym, Skryne, Corke, Kinsale; or colour, as white, blacke, browne; or art or science, as smith or carpenter; or office, as cooke, butler’ (Woulfe 1923: xxxi, quoting Edward IV, *Statutes at Large, Ireland*, vol. I: 29). This seems to have had little effect a century later, but in the longer term the assault on, or attrition of, Irish naming norms was more effective. The wider context of this assault involved the 17th-century Plantation of non-speakers of Irish mentioned above, and the proscription of the language, whether because it was viewed as a hindrance to

‘civilization’ or as a symbol of rebellious or ‘Popish’ intentions. This occurred with different degrees of severity in Ireland and Scotland, but especially in Ireland, starting with the anti-Catholic Penal Laws of 1695: teaching Irish, teaching in it, or even speaking it were made a punishable offence, which had a baleful effect on the way surnames were recorded and transmitted.

During the process of modification of Irish names, *Ó* was more frequently dropped than *Mac*, the discrepancy perhaps being due to the fact that Scottish settlers during the Plantation period might also have surnames in *Mc*-, providing evidence that being called *Mc*- did not necessarily indicate a potential ‘Irish rebel’.

Anglicization might involve not only removal of such traditional genealogical indications, but also transliteration or rather ‘phonetic’ spelling based on English norms (*Sullivan* for *Ó Súilleabháin*), adopting an English surname with a roughly similar sound to the Gaelic (*Bartlett* for (*Mac*) *Pharthaláin*), and translation of the meaning or supposed meaning, e.g. Irish *Mac an Ghabhann*, Scottish *Mac a’ Ghobhainn* sometimes anglicized to *Smith*, and Irish *Ó Fuaraisce* anglicized to *Waters* on the basis of the (false) belief that the word *uisce* ‘water’ appears in it. The development of Irish surnames into their modern forms was often complex, moving through a number of stages illustrating different processes, and sometimes resulting in more than one name, as MacLysaght (1985: xii) shows in his discussion of *Abraham* as an Irish surname:

Of course that is Jewish elsewhere, but in Ireland it is the modern corrupt or distorted form of an ancient Gaelic surname, *Mac an Bhreitheamhan* (son of the judge). It was first anglicized *MacEbrehowne*, etc. which was shortened to *MacEbrehan* and *MacAbrehan*, later *MacAbraham* and so to *Abraham*. Other anglicized forms of this name are *Breheny* and *Judge*.

The patronymic prefixes *Mac* and *Ó* later re-emerged strongly in Irish surnames. MacLysaght (1985: x) suggests this began in the late 19th century as a result of a ‘revival of national consciousness’, comparable with that seen in Wales, as shown in the steady increase of people adopting the *O’* in the name *O’Sullivan* from 1866 to 1944. (The use of the apostrophe has no linguistic purpose, is relatively recent, and was heavily criticized, though still is generally adopted.) Similarly, Yurdan (1990: 3) notes that ‘during the renaissance of interest in things Irish during the period 1930–60, the ‘O’s and ‘Macs’ were reinstated to their former positions.’ Many Irish people, not necessarily native Irish speakers, now use authentic Irish-language spellings of their originally patronymic surnames, replacing anglicizations, for example *Ó Súilleabháin* (male bearers) and *Ní* (‘daughter [of]’) *Shúilleabháin* (female bearers) for *O’Sullivan* and *Mac Diarmada* (male) and *Nic Dhiarmada* (female) for *McDermott*.

Scottish Gaelic surnames in other categories are found, but these are of uncertain age and sometimes potentially misleading. We find, for example, *Moggach* as a nickname from *mùgach* ‘surly’, and the occupational surname *Clacher*, apparently from *clachaire* ‘stonemason’, which may well, however, be a reduced form of the patronymic *Mac a’ Chlachaire* ‘son of the stonemason’.

There are also toponymic surnames in Ireland, but these are not usually Irish in origin; they ‘have been adopted from [the names of]

estates held by the Anglo-Norman nobility in both Ireland and mainland Britain’ (Yurdan 1990: 2). This category is represented, for example, by *Clare* and *Pembroke* in England and Wales respectively; Nicholas *de Trym*, recorded in 1336 in Downpatrick (County Down), has a toponymic surname clearly derived from an Irish place (Trim, County Meath), but this surname and others like it, with rare exceptions such as *Dromgoole*, seem not to have survived in Ireland.

5.4 Literature on Gaelic names

Irish genealogies, written down both before and after the adoption of surnames, record the personal names of thousands of individuals. Some of the earliest manuscripts containing genealogical material were edited and indexed by Michael O’Brien (1962, with an introduction in 1976), who published further notes on the forms of personal names and their linguistic elements. A 17th-century collection, *The Great Book of Irish Genealogies*, has been edited in several volumes by Nollaig Ó Muraile (2003). Patrick Woulfe’s pioneering study of Irish surnames (Woulfe 1923) also attempted to give the meaning of the given names from which they are derived. Part I gives the Irish Gaelic form of English and anglicized names, e.g. Kevin – *Caoimhghín*; *Hickey* – *Ó hÍceadha* or *Ó hÍcidhe*. Part II gives etymological and historical explanations (in English) of Irish given names and surnames. Building on Woulfe’s efforts, the historian Edward MacLysaght (1887–1986), who among many other official duties served as Chief Herald for the Irish Office of Arms, published a series of books on Irish families, culminating in a succinct but authoritative dictionary of surnames (MacLysaght 1957, 1985), whose modest dimensions belie its coverage and importance. However, neither Woulfe’s nor MacLysaght’s dictionary includes examples of early bearers illustrating the development of Irish family names.

MacLysaght’s dictionary has entries for more than 4,000 family names, covering all the most important and frequent Irish surnames. These are of Gaelic, Norman, and sometimes English or Welsh etymology. de Bhulbh (1997) contains an updated name-list in both Irish and English, with locations, modern Irish spellings, and cross-reference to MacLysaght’s publications.

MacLysaght’s work in Irish etymology was later supplemented by two leading Irish scholars: Tomás de Bhaldraithe, responsible for the Irish entries in Hanks and Hodges (1988), and Kay Muhr, likewise in Hanks (2003a). Even when the etymological information is basically the same as in MacLysaght’s dictionary, these more recent works give explanations in less specialized language. The best currently available general book on Irish given names and their etymologies is Ó Corráin and Maguire (1981), although it covers only a small fraction of Irish given names.

Other works on Irish family names should be mentioned here: Bell (1988) is a very readable work, which explains the history of some Ulster families as well as the etymology of their names; and especially Mitchell (1992 on the surnames of Derry, and 2010 on those of north-west Ireland more widely).

6. Manx family names

In the 5th century the Isle of Man was settled by Gaelic-speaking people from Ireland, and although the island was subsequently ruled by Norwegian Vikings from the 9th century, by Scottish kings from the 13th century, and by English overlords from the 14th century, the core body of indigenous Manx surnames is fundamentally Gaelic and Irish in character (see section 5). This took the form of a patronymic system in which a grandfather's given name was prefixed with *Ó* or a father's given name with *Mac*. Most of the given names in surviving surnames are Gaelic (specifically in Manx, a dialect of Old Irish), but some are Old Scandinavian, arising from the intermarriage of Vikings (based in Dublin) with Irish and Manx, and some are Norman French, following the Norman invasion of Ireland in the 12th century. The Viking and Norman names were adapted to Manx dialect.

Some surnames of this type were already becoming hereditary by the end of the 10th century. By the 16th century most of those with *Ó* had lost the prefix and names with *Mac* were increasingly reduced to the final consonant of *Mac* + the given name, giving rise to a number of uniquely Manx surnames like **Kermode** (Manx *Mac Dhiarmada* 'son of Diarmaid') and **Quirk** (Manx *Mac Cuirc*, 'son of *Corc*'), where the personal names are Gaelic. Viking personal names are found in **Casement** (Manx *Mac Asmund* 'son of Asmund', from the Old Scandinavian personal name *Ásmundr*) and **Corkill** (Manx *Mac Thorcaill* 'son of *Thorkell*', from the Old Scandinavian personal name *Porketill*). Norman French personal names occur in **Clucas** (Manx *Mac Lugaish* 'son of Lucas', from the scriptural name *Luke*), and **Crebbin** (Manx *Mac Robyn* 'son of Robin', a pet form of Old French *Robert*). The Normanno-Manx surnames were sometimes translations into Manx of Norman surnames beginning in Old French *Fitz* 'son'. For example, **Cubbon** (Manx *Mac Giobuin* 'son of Gibbon', a pet form of Old French *Gilbert*) represents Norman French **Fitzgibbon**. In a small number of cases the name is based on an occupational term rather than a given name, as in **Teare** (Manx *Mac y Teyir* 'son of the craftsman'). In this instance, as in many others, *Mac* has been dropped altogether.

Some family names with a long history in Man are of a non-Gaelic formation, and descend from late medieval and post-medieval immigrants, especially from England. In 1405 John Stanley, a Lancashire magnate, was granted the Kingdom (or Lordship) of Man by Henry IV, and it was partly through the patronage of his descendants (the Earls of Derby) that the Isle of Man was further peopled by families from north-west England, mostly with English locative surnames. Examples include **Seddon**, which is first recorded on Man in 1580 and was still there in the 1881 Census, but most of the English locative surnames on the island in 1881 first appeared there in the late 18th and 19th centuries. There was at that time an even greater flow of Manxmen to north-west England. In Archer's mapping of 1881 Census surnames, Manx names like **Quirk** and **Quayle** have a secondary epicentre in and around Liverpool, and outliers in the coal, iron, and steel ports of Whitehaven (Cumberland) and Barrow-in-Furness (Lancashire).

7. Welsh family names

In 2011, Wales had a population of just over three million, 562,000 of whom declared themselves able to speak Welsh, the Brittonic Celtic language descended from that of the inhabitants of Britain in the pre-Roman Iron Age. Some 780 current family names have a modern distribution with a strong component in Wales. Most of them are relationship names that became fixed family names only in the 18th or 19th century, drawing for the most part on male given names that were current at that time in Wales. That stock of given names included some native Welsh names (like **Morgan** and **Rees**, an anglicized form of *Rhys*), but it was dominated by a large number of common names first introduced to Wales by the Normans and which later became hugely popular in both Wales and neighbouring England (**William**, **Richard**, **John**, **Thomas**, and so on). In addition, the 18th- and 19th-century name stock included many Old Testament names, reflecting the desire of Puritans and later Nonconformist Protestants to identify themselves as God's chosen people, the 'New Israel'. In south Wales and to a lesser extent in north Wales, this gave rise to surnames like **Enoch**, **Israel**, **Jeremiah**, **Mordecai**, **Samuel**, and **Zacharias**. Although they look Jewish (and sometimes are so in centres of Jewish immigration in Britain), in Wales they are Nonconformist family names, especially those of Baptists and Independents (Rowlands and Rowlands 1996: 167).

The pattern of development of hereditary surnames in Wales was thus very different from the English pattern discussed in section 3.4. Norman lords acquired land in Wales soon after the Conquest, but neither their use of surnames, nor that by subsequent English settlers, had much impact on local usage (McKinley 1990: 41). As late as 1500, hereditary family names were rare in Wales, with the Welsh patronymic system being by far the most common method of differentiating individuals. This involved attaching the given name of (normally) the father to a person's own given name. It used Welsh *mab* 'son' to create names of the form 'X *mab* Y'. The word *mab* was expressed, for grammatical reasons, in the lenited form *fab*, pronounced [vab], which was subsequently reduced to *ab* in names. *Ab* is the usual form before names with initial vowels, and *ap* before those with initial consonants, resulting in 'Madog *ab* Owain' but 'Madog *ap* Rhydderch', although a minority of recorded names do not conform to this phonological rule. This patronymic method was still current among Welsh speakers in the 18th and 19th centuries, when fixed family names were being adopted at all social levels, so alongside the English type of family name such as **Edwards** can be found wholly Welsh surnames like **Bevan**, from *ap Iefan* 'son of *Evan*', and **Prothero**, from *ap Rhydderch* 'son of *Rhydderch*'. Non-Welsh given names could be treated in the same way among Welsh speakers, and we find both *ap Humphrey* (giving modern **Pumfrey** and variants), and also, based on a form where /h/ was not pronounced, *ab Umphrey* (modern **Boumphrey** and variants).

The late development of fixed family names in Wales needs to be borne in mind when interpreting the recorded evidence for Welsh surnames. It is unlikely that medieval names using the formula with (*m*)*ab* were ever hereditary, because they were descriptive

names (bynames) directly identifying the father of the bearer. Not until the mid-16th century did ‘the change to settled surnames begin to filter through different levels of society’ (Rowlands and Rowlands 1996: 25), and it was a slow process that did not reach most ordinary families for another two centuries. The use of English expanded through Wales in the wake of its incorporation into the administrative structures of England by the Laws in Wales Acts of 1535 and 1542. A consequence of this was the widespread abandonment in official records of the Welsh patronymic formula and its replacement by an English type of surname (frequently not hereditary until the 19th century) based either on given names that were themselves of an English structure and based on English renderings of Welsh given names (such as **Maddock** and **Owen**) or on given names in use in England and Wales, whatever their origin (**William**, **Humphrey**, **Enoch**, etc.). The predominant formula was the use of the given name with a suffixed, originally but no longer patronymic, *-s*. **Jones** (from *John*) and **Williams** are typically (but not exclusively) Welsh, and are—or were—especially prevalent in counties near the English border, as well as in English border counties such as Herefordshire and Shropshire. The vast majority of such names are derived from male names, but female ones are evidenced by **Ankrett** from *Angharad* and **Wantling** from *Gwenllian*. Occasionally, family names are found based on given names in their Welsh forms, as with *Gruffydd* for **Griffith** and *Tomos* for **Thomas**. Pet forms of native Welsh given names occasionally appear in surnames; **Beddow** is apparently a pet form of *Mareddud*, anglicized as **Meredith**.

The English family naming system did not entirely supplant the native one; we find **Howells** (from Welsh *Hywel* + *-s*) co-existing with **Powell**, an anglicized form of the originally patronymic *ap Hywel*, but used as a true inherited surname in the English fashion. Sometimes the Welsh given name itself survives as a family name without suffixation, as with **Cadwallader**, **Craddock**, and **Llewellyn**.

The original patronymic system appears to have been retained in parallel in some more remote areas, with names in *ap* occurring as late as the 18th century ‘in upland Glamorgan parishes and in western Monmouthshire’ (Rowlands and Rowlands 1996: 25–6) and also in north and west Wales. Some people of Welsh heritage today bear true family names of the type ‘X *ap* Y’, but many, if not most, of these seem to have arisen as a modern patriotic expression of pride in ancestry and of the national historical awareness which also generated efforts to halt the decline of Welsh speaking (Rowlands and Rowlands 1996: 34).

Welsh family names other than relationship names are almost unknown. Locative family names can occasionally be found (examples are **Conway**, **Kenefick**, and **Laugharne**; others, found outside Wales, such as *Neath*, may be extinct). Nicknames are rare: **Landeg**, a lenited form of *glandeg* ‘handsome’ where not from a place-name *Llandeg*, and **Pingree** from *pengrych* ‘curly-headed’; however, **Vaughan**, from a lenited form of *bychan* ‘small’, is much more common, as is **Gough**, from a lenited form of *coch* ‘red(-haired)’. No convincing example of an occupational family name deriving from Welsh has been found. One might have expected names based on *gof* ‘smith’ or *bugail* ‘shepherd’, but since such concepts used in names would mainly have been recorded

within the English administrative system, the Welsh terms are absent from family names.

Analysis of the Welsh names in this dictionary has been greatly aided by the work of Morgan and Morgan (1985) and Rowlands and Rowlands (1996, second edition 2013). The latter is not only a very useful and reliable guide to the history of Welsh surnaming practices but contains a dictionary of characteristically Welsh surnames with interpretations supported by sound biographical and genealogical evidence and distributional maps.

8. Cornish family names

In the 2011 census the total population of the county of Cornwall was 532,300. Many of these people are comparatively recent incomers from elsewhere in Britain. The indigenous language of the county was Cornish, a Brittonic language closely related to Welsh and Breton. The Cornish language died out in the 18th century, but in the 20th century strenuous efforts with nationalist overtones began to be made to revive it, and in the 2011 census 557 people claimed Cornish as their main language. This dictionary contains approximately 200 main entries that are classified as Cornish, with a similar number of variant spellings. The category ‘Cornish’ here denotes family names that have an etymology in the Cornish language, together with a smaller number that are derived from place-names that are unique to Cornwall, whether of Cornish-language origin or not. These Cornish-language family names are found mainly in west Cornwall, for east Cornwall has been English-speaking since 1300 or earlier.

Most family names classified as Cornish do not appear in the documentary record till after 1500 or so. The great majority derive from place-names in Cornwall, most often the names of farms or hamlets. Many such place-names occur more than once, and it can be a difficult matter to allocate a family name to a place even where the etymology of the name is known and the places successfully identified. Even where a family name and a place can be linked, many place-names still defy reliable interpretation. Occasional names in other categories may be found: relational names (**Clemo**, **Edyvean**, **Varcoe**), occupational names (**Angove**, **Tyack**), and nicknames (**Angwyn**, **Annear**). The latter two categories are notably rare.

Such progress as has been made in identifying the origins of Cornish family names is due to G. Pawley White’s *Handbook of Cornish surnames* (second edition 1981) and to O. J. Padel’s painstaking work as a consultant for this dictionary and previously for Hanks and Hodges (1988). Padel’s work (1985) on Cornish place-names has also proved highly valuable, as have works on family names by Deacon and others (2004) and Fox and Padel (2000).

9. Family names in the Channel Islands

The Channel Islands consist of a group of islands and islets in the Gulf of Saint Malo. They are organized into two bailiwicks, or territories, which are named after the two largest islands, Jersey and Guernsey. They are not formally part of the United Kingdom,

but are governed by the British monarch under the title of the Duke of Normandy, a relic of the situation prior to 1204, when the islands did indeed form part of the Duchy of Normandy, the rest of which was absorbed by the kingdom of France in that year.

The native everyday language of the islands until the mid-20th century was the Norman dialect of French, referred to in this dictionary as *Channel Islands French*. English speakers began to immigrate in numbers in the later 19th century, and the dialect was progressively lost during the 20th century, the evacuation of children to England during the German occupation (1940–5) being a decisive factor. Very few native speakers now remain, the exact number being disputed but indisputably a very small number—a few hundred elderly people on each main island. The native family names of the islands are, however, all formations in Channel Islands French dialect, which never had a standard form. Some are more characteristic of one bailiwick than the other (**Falla** and **Ferbrache** are typical of Guernsey; **Huart** and **Queree** of Jersey), and some differ dialectally from island to island or even from parish to parish, e.g. **Le Mesurier** (typically in Guernsey) versus **Le Masurier** (typically in Jersey, especially the south-western parishes). The dialectal names are often recorded in a form influenced by standard French, which was the formal administrative language of the islands until relatively recently. Thus, **Le Masurier** represents a partially Frenchified form of what could be rendered *Lé Masuth(i)eux*.

10. Huguenot and Walloon family names in Britain and Ireland

Some 500 entries in this dictionary are classified as Huguenot. These are family names of French origin that were brought to England by Protestant refugees in the 16th and 17th centuries. In this section of the introduction, we first discuss the origin and meaning of the term *Huguenot*, then the circumstances that caused the Huguenots to flee to England and elsewhere. We go on to summarize the related phenomenon of emigration from Wallonia (what is now southern Belgium) in the Spanish Netherlands. In some places in England, Huguenots and Protestant Walloons shared the same churches for worship and evidently regarded themselves as part of the same community.

The word *Huguenot* is widely believed to be an altered form of the Swiss German term *Eidgenosse*, meaning ‘confederate’, literally ‘oath fellow’, i.e. a member of a group who had sworn an oath of fellowship. *Eidgenosse* is recorded in German-speaking Switzerland as early as the 14th century, when it was used to denote the leaders of the confederacy that was to become Switzerland (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eidgenossenschaft>). The term *Huguenot* is first recorded (in the form *ayguenot*) in the Registers of the Geneva City Council in 1526. It is sometimes asserted that the spelling beginning with *Hugue-* is a punning reference to Besançon *Hugues* (1487–1532), a citizen of Geneva who was a leader of the rebellion against the House of Savoy in 1525–6, an event that paved the way for Geneva to join the Swiss Confederation. However, like many other hypotheses about the etymology of the term, it is convoluted and not fully convincing: Hugues was scarcely a thoroughgoing Protestant, and in his later years he may even have plotted a

Catholic restoration to the Geneva bishopric. If his name is truly involved, it must be because of his anti-Savoy political activities, not his religious views, and the term must originally have amounted to ‘rebel’. In the course of the 16th century the term came to denote the followers of the radical French theologian Jean Calvin (1509–64), who was based in Geneva.

Calvin was one of several influential Protestant reformers who broke with Rome over theological and moral issues. In 1541 the city council in Geneva invited him to establish a ministry there. Calvinism spread rapidly, especially in southern and central France. It is estimated that by 1562 there were over two million Huguenots. In that year, the first of several massacres of Huguenots took place in the small town of Wassy in central France. This led to a period of communal violence and persecution of Protestants, which continued until 1598. Then, King Henry IV of France, seeking to unify his nation, granted major concessions to Protestants, bringing an end (for a time) to the worst of the strife. This was done in a royal proclamation known as the Edict of Nantes, which, among other things, granted freedom of conscience and civil rights to Protestants. However, hostilities between Catholics and Huguenots continued to simmer, both overtly and beneath the surface. Huguenots in La Rochelle even began to conduct their own foreign policy, in defiance of the king. The Protestants did not endear themselves to their fellow countrymen by their constant insistence on doctrinal righteousness and the evils of the Church of Rome, while innumerable provocations were committed by both sides. In 1661 300 Huguenot families were expelled from La Rochelle; many of them fled to England. Matters came to a head in 1685, when Louis XIV, the ‘Sun King’, revoked the Edict of Nantes. It now became illegal to hold a Protestant religious service anywhere in France and legal to hunt down and kill Protestants and their families if they persisted in a refusal to convert to Roman Catholicism. As a result, hundreds of thousands of French Huguenots fled from their homes, not only to England but also to Protestant realms all over Europe and, in some cases, thence to colonial North America. Other Huguenot families went to the newly independent Netherlands, which had finally shaken off Spanish rule, and from there some of them—Dutch-speaking families bearing French family names such as **Du Plessis** and **De Villiers**—went on to found dynasties in South Africa. Others made their way to Scandinavia or to Protestant principalities in Germany and the Palatinate. The British authorities encouraged Huguenot settlement in Ireland, partly (at least) with a view to offsetting Roman Catholic influence. According to a report published in 1688, three years after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, over 13,000 French refugees had already settled in London, many of them in Spitalfields and adjoining areas of the East End. Among them were skilled weavers from Lyons and Tours, and the area rapidly became a thriving centre of silk weaving. An overview of Huguenot settlements in Britain and Ireland can be found in chapter 2 of Robin Gwynn’s book *Huguenot Heritage*.

A related and slightly earlier source of French family names in England was the migration of Protestant refugees in the 16th and 17th centuries from the region known as Wallonia. In the 16th century, the territory that now comprises the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and some adjacent parts of France and

Germany was ruled by Catholic Spain as ‘a united and indivisible Habsburg dominion’. In 1579 the United Provinces in the northern part of the Spanish Netherlands declared independence, which led to an eighty-year war, culminating in the establishment of the Netherlands as a modern (largely Protestant) state.

Spanish rule was harsh and intolerant. There was no room for freedom of conscience. Nevertheless, Protestantism (at first Lutheran, but subsequently Calvinist) became increasingly widespread, especially among French-speaking inhabitants of Wallonia (the southern part of the region). In 1567 oppression by the Catholic (Spanish) authorities triggered the first wave of migration from Wallonia to England. The refugees built churches in several places, including London, Canterbury, Norwich, and Bristol. There were Walloons (designated as ‘strangers’) in Canterbury at least as early as 1581, and records of the Canterbury Walloon church show that by 1634 it had a congregation of some 900 members. When Huguenot refugees arrived in such places they were able to join an already existing Walloon church. (Walloon family names can rarely be distinguished from other French names; for this, genealogical research is needed.)

The Dutch settlers of New Netherland in North America (especially in the Hudson Valley) included many Huguenot families. The colonial authorities in British North America also encouraged settlement by Huguenots and other Protestant groups, while discouraging Roman Catholics.

Several Huguenot names in Britain and Ireland, for example *Laval* and *Morel*, are duplicates of French polygenetic family names that had already been brought to England from France by the Normans several centuries earlier. Some of these names had persisted in England but others died out between the 12th and 16th centuries and were reintroduced by the Huguenots and Walloons. Others, however, are quite distinct from Norman and other French family names. To a greater or lesser extent, many Huguenot family names in England, such as *Garrick* (from French *garrique* ‘grove of holm oaks’), have undergone a process of anglicization; others, such as *Gautier* (from a personal name, equivalent of English and German *Walter*), retain their original French spelling, while there are those like *Prevost* and *Prevo* that are found in both French and anglicized forms.

The main sources of information about early bearers of Huguenot and Walloon names in England are the records of Huguenot and Walloon churches. Two societies, the Huguenot Society in London and the National Huguenot Society in San Antonio, Texas, collect and disseminate information about Huguenot ancestors.

11. Jewish family names in Britain and Ireland⁴

According to the 2011 census, there were in that year 263,346 people in Britain who classified themselves as Jewish. FaNBI records and

explains over 1,000 Jewish family names. Clearly, many Jewish family names in Britain are polygenetic, that is, they originated in several different families independently. In this section of the introduction, we briefly summarize the history of Jews and Judaism in Britain, and then go on to discuss the typology of Jewish family names.

11.1 Ashkenazim and Sephardim

Historically, two main groups of English Jews must be recognized: Sephardim, whose ancestral roots lie in the Iberian Peninsula and countries around the Mediterranean from North Africa to Turkey, some of whom have appeared in England at several points from medieval times onwards; and Ashkenazim, most of whom came to Britain in the 19th and 20th centuries from central and eastern Europe.

The word *Sephardim* is from Hebrew *Sepharad*, the name of a country mentioned once in the Bible:

The exiles from Jerusalem who are in Sepharad will possess the cities of the south [generally taken as a reference to the Negev desert in modern Israel, though other suggestions have been made]. (Obadiah 1:20)

For some reason, the land of Sepharad was identified in Jewish folklore with Spain.

Ashkenaz is the name of a descendant of Noah (Genesis 10:3), but the origin of the modern sense seems to be a reference to the Book of Jeremiah (51:27):

Set ye up a standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against her [i.e. Babylon], call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashchenaz; appoint a captain against her; cause the horses to come up as rough caterpillars.

Oriental Jews, coming mainly from Arabic-speaking countries such as Iraq (notably Baghdad) are sometimes classified separately as Mizrachi, from the Hebrew word *mizrach* ‘east’, although sometimes regarded as a subgroup of Sephardim. Examples of oriental Jewish family names in England are *Habib*, *Haddad*, *Hasson*, *Saatchi*, and *Sassoon*. A few names of Turkish origin were acquired by Jews in the Ottoman Empire: *Aslan* ‘lion’ (also found as a Jewish male given name), *Hanci* ‘innkeeper’, *Karakas* ‘having black eyebrows’, *Kucuk* ‘small’, though names in this category are more typical of Turkish communities, especially Turkish Cypriots.

11.2 Jewish languages in Europe

For at least three millennia Jews have written (and spoken for liturgical purposes) their ancient traditional Semitic language, Biblical Hebrew. Modern Hebrew is a 20th-century Israeli reconstruction of this language, adapted to modern conditions. In their diaspora over two millennia, Jews adopted the languages of the communities among whom they lived. Sephardim in Iberia adopted Castilian, Catalan, and Portuguese, creating from Castilian Spanish a recognizably distinct Jewish dialect called *Ladino* or *Judeo-Spanish*. After the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in the late 15th century, this dialect found a later home in the Ottoman Empire and, in modern times, present-day Israel. It has had no official status in any country in medieval or modern times.

⁴ This section has benefited from discussions with David Jacobs, Mark Nicholls, and Daniel Morgan Thomas, and a contribution to the *Dictionary of American Family Names* (Hanks 2003a) by Alexander Beider.

Ashkenazim in Germany adopted Middle High German, from which eventually emerged an equally distinct Jewish dialect called *Yiddish*. Yiddish spread throughout those areas of eastern Europe where Jewish populations had migrated, and was locally influenced by the other languages of the region, for example Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, Lithuanian, and Hungarian, resulting in a dialectologically rich and complex pattern (Katz 1988). It should be noted that there is little evidence in Britain and Ireland for the rendering of German Jewish names in a transliterated-Yiddish or phonetic fashion, such as can be seen in America in cases like *Vaynberg* for **Weinberg**. Such names are almost always recorded in the bureaucratic Standard German fashion.

11.3 History of Jews in England, Scotland, and Ireland

11.3.1 FROM EXPULSION TO EMANCIPATION

Jewish families first came to England shortly after the Norman Conquest. However, in 1290 King Edward I expelled the Jews, and they were not officially allowed to reside in England until 1656. For this and other reasons, medieval Jewry is not strictly relevant to the history of Jewish names in Britain. Nevertheless, a brief historical summary may be of interest and shed some light on the later history of the Jewish community.

William the Conqueror brought Jewish financiers from Rouen to help him collect taxes and run the economy of feudal England. For about 200 years, Jews in England lived in relative peace and prosperity, despite some unusual constraints such as being regarded as the personal property of the king. Throughout this period, successive kings who ran short of money resorted (among other stratagems) to taxing Jews arbitrarily. There is evidence in this period of Jewish urban communities with their own rabbis, courts, and educational system. The chief rabbi, based in London, was designated as a ‘presbyter’ and in this office served not only as a spiritual guide within his own community but also from time to time as an adviser to the king.

Many English Jews in those days and subsequently were financiers on a large or small scale (i.e. moneylenders), for the simple reason that Christians were strictly forbidden by the Church to lend money for interest, which was regarded as sinful. This did not stop Christians borrowing money from Jews, however, nor did it stop them becoming resentful over being required to pay back with interest the money that they had borrowed. Resentment in turn led to racial intolerance and fantasies and rumours about Jews and Jewish practices. A classic example is the lurid and implausible horror story told in *The Canterbury Tales* by the prioress, a story that had been in circulation in various forms for over a hundred years by the time Chaucer got hold of it. Little High of Lincoln, a nine-year-old boy, was rumoured to have been murdered by Jews and his body thrown down a well. This was only one of many ‘blood libels’, lurid fictions blaming Jews for all sorts of gruesome (and fictitious) deeds. These ‘blood libels’ have always been hard to prove false, partly because negative evidence is always hard to find and partly because anti-Semites throughout the ages have always been willing to believe them regardless of the absence of any credible evidence.

Ignorance and persecution continued to rise, while successive kings imposed arbitrary and (often) financially crippling taxes on Jews. The intercommunal situation continued to deteriorate until, in 1275, King Edward I issued the ‘Statute of the Jewry’, banning the practice of usury altogether. In the words of Joseph Jacobs (1906: 166), former president of the Jewish Historical Society, ‘By depriving the Jews of a resort to usury, Edward was practically preventing them from earning a living at all’. Moneylending continued unabated *sub rosa* until, in a further piece of self-destructive legislation, Edward had the Jews expelled from England in 1290. It is estimated that between 4,000 and 16,000 Jews were expelled. They went to countries such as Poland, where the rights of Jews were protected by law, and to various cities of central Europe where Jewish communities were already established.

In the middle of the 17th century, a small delegation of Sephardic Jews, including Rabbi Menasseh ben Israel (1604–57), came to London from Amsterdam and, with the support of some Puritan parliamentarians and clergymen, petitioned Parliament for the repeal of Edward I’s expulsion order. The plea was successful and in 1656 Jews were once again officially allowed to reside in England, although in fact a small number of Jewish families were probably already living there unofficially under the guise of Spanish or Dutch nationality.

Among the first families to take advantage of the new situation in Britain were a number of Marranos (Jews from Portugal and Spain who had suffered from the attentions of the Inquisition and been forcibly converted to Christianity), who brought their family names with them. Sephardim, unlike the Ashkenazim of further north (central and eastern Europe), were already using hereditary family names, like non-Jews in the relevant countries.

Jews had been expelled from Spain in 1492, while others were forcibly converted to Christianity and allowed to stay; many of these families continued to observe Jewish rites secretly. Many fled from their homes in mainland Spain to North Africa, the Ottoman Empire, and elsewhere. Others went to Spanish and Portuguese offshore territories, including Madeira, in the hope of escaping the notice of the Inquisition. Many Jewish families went to Portugal, where they enjoyed a brief respite before being officially classed as slaves and having their wealth appropriated by the Catholic authorities. Despite this, many of these families stayed in Portugal, no doubt because they had nowhere else to go or no means of getting there. This explains why many Sephardic families in Britain bear Portuguese names such as **Carvalho**, **Da Costa**, **Da Silva**, and **Peixoto**. The Marranos were among the earliest members of the Jewish diaspora communities to adopt hereditary family names, often taking the name of the city or village from which they had come, for example **Belmonte**, **Fonseca**, and **Mendoza**. Others bore traditional Jewish patronymic family names, sometimes anglicized, for example **Isaacs** and **Israel**.

In 17th-century London the immigrant Marranos established a highly successful community of bankers and merchants, which continued to thrive into the 18th century and beyond, paving the way for the successful integration into 19th-century English society of Ashkenazic bankers and businessmen. The Bevis Marks Synagogue in the City of London, an important repository of Jewish historical records, was built in 1702. Sephardic Jews also

came to other cities in England in the 17th and 18th centuries, while it is at about this time, too, that the earliest reliable records are found of Jewish families in Scotland.

In Ireland, Jewish families are first recorded in 1496, when a group of Marrano exiles settled on the south coast. A descendant of one of them, William Annyas, was elected as mayor of Youghal in County Cork in 1555, and his son Francis succeeded him, being elected three times, in 1569, 1576, and 1581. Ireland's first synagogue was founded in 1660, near Dublin Castle. In 1746 a bill was introduced in the Irish House of Commons 'for naturalizing persons professing the Jewish religion in Ireland'.

Ashkenazic immigrants to Britain from central Europe started arriving in significant numbers somewhat later. Jewish families in central Europe experienced extremes of wealth and poverty, success and deprivation. Some of them came to England to pursue their business interests; many others came as impoverished refugees. Some exceptionally rich and gifted Jewish individuals came to England from central Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries. Among them was Nathan Mayer **Rothschild** (1777–1836), one of five sons of Meyer Amschel Rothschild (1744–1812), a Jewish banker and businessman in Frankfurt am Main. The five Rothschild sons established an international banking empire with centres in Frankfurt, Paris, London, Vienna, and Naples. Jews played an important part not only in the financial and business world but also in the political life of Britain from the 18th century, but they were discriminated against. Nathan's son Lionel was the first Jew elected to Parliament; he won an election in 1847. However, he was not able to attend Parliament as an elected member until 1858, when after much debate in the House of Lords and after winning two further elections for the same seat (the City of London), he was finally allowed to take his seat, substituting in his oath of office the phrase 'so help me Jehovah' for words that required MPs to swear an oath 'upon the true faith of a Christian'. A few years earlier, in 1835, David **Salomons** (1797–1873), the son of a rich Jewish businessman, had been elected as Sheriff of the City of London. Like Lionel de Rothschild, Salomons had to wage a battle against the specifically Christian wording of the oath of office, but in his case the wording was changed within a year and he was able to take up his post. Subsequently Salomons was elected as an alderman of the City of London and a similar battle over the oath of office ensued, which he likewise eventually won. In 1851 he stood for Parliament and was elected MP for Greenwich, but, like Rothschild, he was not able to take his seat until 1858. (In 1855, while his status as an MP was being disputed, he was elected Lord Mayor of London.)

Other influential British Jews of this period include the wealthy banker and philanthropist Sir Moses Haim **Montefiore** (1784–1885), who was of Italian origin. His nephew Joseph Sebag-Montefiore (1822–1903) established an important dynasty in England. At the top end of the social scale, then, the history of Judaism in Britain in the 19th century is one of a battle for emancipation, ultimately successful, resulting in integration of at least the rich and powerful Jewish families into the upper echelons of British society.

During the famine years in Ireland, between 1840 and 1852, rich British Jewish families such as the Rothschilds contributed with notable generosity to famine-relief schemes, while many rich landowners in the Protestant ascendancy failed to do so. Daniel

O'Connell commented in 1846: 'Ireland . . . is the only country that I know of unsullied by any one act of persecution of the Jews.'

11.3.2 JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO BRITAIN AND IRELAND IN THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES

The Jewish population of Britain and Ireland was greatly increased during the 19th century by large numbers of Ashkenazic refugees from central and eastern Europe, many of them fleeing from anti-Semitic persecution. It is these immigrants and their descendants whose names constitute the majority of the Jewish surnames in this dictionary.

In 1787 the Austrian emperor Joseph II had issued a decree requiring Jews to adopt family names of German etymology, replacing (or rather, in addition to) the patronymic and metronymic system that was in use in Jewish communities prior to that date. Prussia did the same shortly afterwards. Other German states and principalities passed similar laws during the first half of the 19th century. A French law of 1808 required all subjects of the French empire west of the Rhine to register a surname. In the 19th century, family names were imposed on Jewish families in the Russian Empire and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

Jewish immigration from central and eastern Europe continued, increasing steadily until the First World War. By a cruel irony, the family names that had been imposed on an often reluctant Jewish populace in German-speaking states in the 19th century led to mob violence against Jewish shopkeepers in London and elsewhere, due to the ignorant suspicion that anyone with a German-sounding surname must be an enemy alien. Equally ironic is the fact that during the Second World War refugees from Nazi persecution in Germany who had managed to get to England were interned as 'enemy aliens'. Overcoming innumerable bureaucratic and other obstacles, many thousands of European Jews made it to a new life in the British Isles.

11.4 Typology of Jewish family names

11.4.1 JEWISH RELATIONSHIP NAMES

Many Jewish family names, both Ashkenazic and Sephardic, are derived from the given names of Biblical personages. The picture in countries such as England is slightly confused because such names were also adopted among certain groups of Gentiles, especially Puritans and other Low-Church Christians, who wanted to share the distinction of being God's chosen people. An example is the typically Welsh use of certain Old Testament names (see section 7). As a result, several clusters of personal names in Yiddish, English, and other European languages, not to mention Arabic and other oriental languages, are based on Biblical personal names such as *Abraham* and his successors *Isaac* and *Jacob* (the latter also being known as *Israel*).

Equally important as sources of Jewish family names are later Biblical figures such as Joseph, Moses, David, and Solomon. *Moses* was exceptionally common as a personal name, given the role of the historical Moses in the founding of the Jewish kingdom, with forms ranging from Yiddish *Moishe* to Arabic *Musa*. Ashkenazic families coming to Britain sometimes kept

Moses, but more often they adopted as an equivalent any of a variety of existing English family names beginning with *M*-, including **Morris** and **Montague**.

The Biblical stories of King David and his son Solomon captured the imagination of generations of Jews and Gentiles (including Muslims) in Britain, Europe, the Middle East, and further afield. In all of these regions, derivatives of *David* and *Solomon* are found as both given names and family names. In central and eastern Europe *David* is regarded as a characteristically Jewish given name, but in Britain it is equally non-Jewish, not least because of the influence of Welsh saints and Scottish kings who bore the name *David*. The well-established British Gentile family names **Davis** and **Davidson** are also found in Britain as Jewish names; they were sometimes adopted for eastern European equivalents such as *Davidoff*.

In the Jewish European communities of the 18th and 19th centuries, when surnames were made compulsory, many personal names came to be used as family names. These personal names were of both Hebrew and Yiddish origin. **Lieberman** and **Lipman** are typically Yiddish family names derived from a male personal name, widespread in the Yiddish communities of central Europe, with the meaning ‘dear man’; *Lieberman* has a masculine adjective inflection, *Lipman* does not. Other such names deriving from male given names or nicknames include **Grossman** ‘big man’ and *Gutfreund* ‘good friend’.

Judaism is in large part a matriarchal society, with the result that many Jewish family names have a metronymic origin. **Balcan** and **Balkin**, for example, are Ashkenazic family names from a pet form of the Yiddish word *beyle* ‘beautiful’, which was widely used in Jewish communities as a female given name. **Kalman** (2) and **Rivlin** belong here too.

Until the end of the 18th century, most Ashkenazic Jews did not have hereditary family names. In Hebrew documents, individuals were generally known by a given name and that of their father: *X ben Y* ‘X, son of Y’ or *X bat Y* ‘X, daughter of Y’. This pattern was not uniquely Ashkenazic: for more than 2,000 years, it was traditional for Jews of all origins. In German documents, the usual pattern was *X Y*, meaning ‘X, son of Y’; examples are **Simon Abraham** ‘Simon, the son of Abraham’, **Marcus Nathan**, and **Moses Israel**.

In Christian sources, Jews living in Poland were generally referred to either by their given name or by their given name plus a patronymic formed by adding the Polish suffix *-owicz* (germanized as *-owitz*) to the given name or status of the father (e.g. *Lewkowicz* ‘son of Lev or Levi’, *Rabinowitz* ‘son of the rabbi’).

11.4.2 JEWISH LOCATIVE NAMES

From the Middle Ages to the Holocaust, despite frequent outbursts of ignorance and racial hatred, massacres, expulsions, and pogroms, Jewish communities were able to establish themselves throughout central Europe. Jewish communities in places like Heilbronn, Maribor, and Speyer gave rise to family names such as **Halpern**, **Morpurgo**, and **Spier/Shapiro**. Those found in Britain include also **Berlin** (which may have alternative origins), **Ginsberg**, and **Horowitz**. Jewish locative family names also included the suffixal type exemplified by **Bamberger**, **Hamburger**,

Oppenheimer, and **Posner**. Apparent members of this locative class, such as **Blumberg**, **Friedland**, and **Sternberg**, all of which exist as place-names in Germany, in some cases as the names of several different places, may sometimes really be ornamental names (see section 11.4.3). It is, however, invidious to single out particular Jewish settlements. Almost every major city in Europe had its Jewish quarter. Some, for example the Jewish quarter in Prague, were extremely prosperous and cultured. Other Jewish families came from less wealthy ghettos in German- and Polish-speaking cities or from *shtetlech* (singular *shtetl*), which were small provincial market towns with a predominantly Jewish population. People from the ghettos sometimes adopted as a family name the name of the city in which the ghetto was found, and a *shtetl* too would occasionally yield a family name (examples are **Rudin**, **Modlin**, and **Karlin**). However, for the most part locative family names of this type bypassed Britain and Ireland and went straight to the United States, where they are found in large numbers. Many of these Eastern Ashkenazic family names have been collected in Alexander Beider’s great *Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire* and its companion volume, *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland*.

Another important category of Jewish locative family names is typical of Frankfurt am Main and western German cities in general. This consists of family names derived from house signs: **Haas** ‘hare’, **Rothschild** ‘red shield’, **Schiff** ‘ship’, and **Strauss** ‘ostrich’. Not all of these are exclusively or even typically Jewish, however.

Jewish family names ending in *-ski* are normally locative, of eastern Slavic etymology, for the most part originally Polish. The *-ski* ending was added to a place-name to form a locative family name. Its function was very similar to that of the French preposition *de*. The oldest Polish *-ski* names typically denoted aristocratic status (rather like *de* + place-name in France and England), but the suffix came to be more widely used. When Jewish surnames in Poland became compulsory, many people adopted locative family names ending in *-ski*, such as **Gorski**, **Baranowski**, and **Jablonski**, and also created relationship names of similar structure, such as **Abramowski** and **Jakubowski**. However, in the UK *-ski* names are now more in evidence due to late 20th- and early 21st-century Polish immigration.

11.4.3 ORNAMENTAL NAMES, HANDOUT NAMES, AND OTHER KINDS OF NICKNAME

A 19th-century Jewish joke tells of a husband coming home from the registry office and saying to his wife, ‘Well, my dear, we have a new surname—Schweiss.’ ‘Schweiss?’ she exclaims. ‘We don’t want a horrible name like *Schweiss*! Why didn’t you pay a little bribe to the registrar to get us a nice name?’ ‘Ha! A bribe!’ responds the husband. ‘You don’t know what it’s like up there. Why, the w alone cost me 500 florins.’ To get the joke, you have to know that in German *Schweiss* means ‘sweat’ but *Scheiss(e)* means ‘shit’.

Such is the persistent legend about the compulsory imposition of family names in 19th-century Europe. In reality, however, imposition of family names with offensive overtones seems to have been rare—or at any rate, rarely documented. No such names with offensive overtones have reached the Jewish communities of

Britain and Ireland. It is far more common to find offensive nicknames in the medieval Christian communities of central Europe. By contrast, the most numerous category of Ashkenazic family names of nickname origin embodies words taken from the German lexicon that were not necessarily related to the personal characteristics of their first bearers but were selected because they had either neutral or positive connotations. Such names may have been handed out arbitrarily by officials rather than chosen for any perceived appropriateness. Equally, they could have been selected by the bearers themselves as ornamental coinages and registered without objection. Among these are words denoting flora and fauna, metals and stones, natural phenomena, food and household utensils, words associated with the calendar (days of the week, months), and coins. Various terms have been used in onomastic studies to designate these names: *arbitrary*, *ornamental*, *handout*, and *artificial*. The first is a poor term, since even if no relationship exists between a name and the characteristics of its bearer, the name is unlikely to have been the result of a completely random decision; we may assume that some motivation normally prompted its adoption. The second term, *ornamental*, is better. Indeed, many names of this group are distinguished by words that have positive associations. However, it must be admitted that is not always the case. In some names, the meaning is at best neutral (see further below), and occasionally unflattering (*Ochsenkopf* ‘ox-head’ is on record, though not in Britain, but in any case there is no more reason to regard this as truly offensive than Gentile English names such as **Bulled** and **Sheepshanks**). Where the name is known with certainty or near certainty to have been bestowed by officialdom, *handout* is appropriate. *Artificial* usefully points to the occasional unstructured putting together of two words specifically to form a surname, perhaps just because of their separate positive associations (as in the case of *Goldwasser*, anglicized as **Goldwater**), though this appears rare; names that might belong here, such as **Feingold** ‘fine gold’ and *Gluckstein* ‘fortune stone’, can be readily understood as, or as if, true compounds. Examples of ornamental or handout names in this dictionary, sometimes anglicized, include names on a scale of desirability running from **Goldblatt** ‘gold leaf’ to the equivocal **Sackwild**, which apparently means either ‘game bird’ or ‘venison in a bag’.

Other Jewish examples that are normally ornamental or handout names denote features of the landscape, for example **Berg** ‘mountain’ and **Feld** ‘field’, or precious things, such as **Gold** and **Stein** ‘(precious) stone’, and compounds including these elements, such as **Goldstein** ‘gold stone’ and **Sternberg** ‘star hill’, some of which duplicate actual place-names or are formed in such a way as to suggest place-names. As Jewish names, these can only rarely denote people who actually lived by a mountain or field, because European Jewish people at the time of surname registration were typically urban.

As well as using landscape terms, Ashkenazic family names derived from nicknames typically fall into one of the following categories (with examples from German or Yiddish):

- terms denoting precious metals and gems, e.g. **Gold** ‘gold’, **Silber** ‘silver’; some of these nicknames may refer to the bearer’s occupation;

- adjectives denoting beauty, e.g. **Fein** ‘fine, excellent’, **Schön** ‘beautiful’;
- terms denoting personal characteristics, e.g. **Klein** ‘small’, **Reich** ‘rich’, **Ernst** ‘serious’;
- adjectives denoting colours, e.g. **Braun (Bron)** ‘brown’, **Roth** ‘red’, **Schwarz** ‘black’, **Weiss** ‘white’;
- terms for fruit and flowers, e.g. **Apfel** ‘apple’, **Blum** ‘flower’, **Mandel** ‘almond’; or the trees producing them, e.g. *Mandelbaum*;
- terms for food products, e.g. **Korn** ‘grain’, **Zucker** ‘sugar’, **Salz** ‘salt’;
- words relating to the heavens, e.g. **Himmel** ‘heaven, sky’, **Stern** ‘star’;
- words for minerals, e.g. **Eisen** ‘iron’, **Kupfer** ‘copper’.

Some Jewish descriptive names are formed in Polish, for example *Kania* ‘kite’, *Maślanka* ‘buttermilk’, and *Rogala* ‘roe deer’ or ‘croissant’. All these names may also be non-Jewish.

11.4.4 JEWISH OCCUPATIONAL NAMES

Occupational names adopted by Jews in northern Europe are by and large indistinguishable from those used by German speakers, for example **Metzger** ‘butcher’, **Schneider** ‘tailor’, and **Schreiber** ‘scribe’.

11.4.5 JEWISH RELIGIOUS STATUS NAMES

In Hebrew sources from all European countries we often find additional names that indicate either descent from the Jewish priestly caste (Kohanim) or Levite origin. Among the expressions that label the Kohanim (that is, the descendants of the Biblical Aaron, brother of Moses), most common are *ha-Kohen* and the acronym *KTz*, which is an abbreviation for *Kohen Tzedek* ‘priest of righteousness’.

Levite origin (corresponding to descendants of the Biblical Levi, one of Jacob’s sons) is conveyed by such Hebrew expressions as *ha-Levi* (Levite) as well as the acronym *SGL*, the abbreviation of *SeGan Leviya* ‘associate of the Levitic order’. When Jews were obliged to adopt surnames, these origins were bases for the very common surnames **Kohn (Cohen)**, **Kahn**, **Kogan**, and **Kagan** (the two last forms are typically Russian, since that language has no /h/ and no symbol for it, and regularly replaces it with the letter g). Levite origin is often expressed by the names **Levi**, **Levy**, **Loewy**, **Lev**, and **Levine**; the latter two are typical of the Russian Empire. The abbreviations *KTz* and *SGL* gave rise to the common surnames **Katz** and **Segal** respectively. **Richter**, German for ‘judge’, is found in the sense ‘rabbinic judge’.

11.5 Jewish names in eastern Europe and beyond the sphere of German influence

In the areas that were annexed by the Russian Empire when independent Poland was dismembered between 1772 and 1795—roughly corresponding to modern Belarus, most of Ukraine, and Lithuania—the situation was different. In that region, also called the Pale of Settlement, the law requiring Jews to acquire family names was promulgated in 1804. During the four following

decades, all Jews received surnames, either chosen voluntarily or imposed by religious or secular authorities. The authorities of the Jewish community (Kahal) were responsible for implementing the surnaming process in Russia, so Russian Jews assumed family names within their own communities. Since there were no regulations concerning the selection of surnames, it seems quite possible that many surnames were chosen by those who bore them. There are many examples, however, in which this appears not to be the case. Instead there was an obvious methodology for constructing a series of surnames. For instance, in several districts of eastern Belarus about a third of the surnames were metonymics ending in the suffix *-in*. In northern Ukraine about half of all Jewish inhabitants had surnames that ended in *-man*. Most likely, these names were invented by the Kahal authorities, who used the same patterns in order to create many names during a short period.

The adoption of surnames within a Jewish community reflected linguistic differences. Numerous appellations were created in Yiddish, the language spoken by Jews within the Pale of Settlement. There were important regional peculiarities, but there was no single region in which standard Yiddish, the Yiddish of dictionaries and vocabularies, was spoken. The two principal dialects of Yiddish used by Jews in the Russian Empire were South-Eastern Yiddish (SEY, also called Ukrainian Yiddish) and North-Eastern Yiddish (NEY, also called Lithuanian Yiddish). Variation in pronunciation and spelling represented differences between the dialects. To /u/, /o/, and /ey/ of NEY corresponded /i/, /u/, and /oy/ in SEY, respectively. Thus, the surnames *Kuperman*, *Nodel*, and *Reytman* could be found in NEY territory, while *Kiperman*, *Nudel*, and *Roytman* were from the SEY region; these can be compared with the German *Kupfermann*, *Nadel*, and *Rotmann*. The territories in which these differences are found are difficult to specify precisely, especially since the Holocaust, but in reference to these vowel alternations the area where the NEY vowels were used corresponds roughly to Lithuania and Belarus, while the SEY vowels were found in Ukraine and Bessarabia (now Moldova). Few such typically eastern Yiddish forms appear in Britain, but they are frequent in America.

Hebrew was also used to create surnames, though not so frequently as German/Yiddish or Polish; compare, for instance, German *Schneider*, *Kravitz* from Polish *krawiec* (frequent in America), and the less familiar Hebrew-derived *Chait* or *Chiat*, all meaning ‘tailor’. As noted above, religious offices have given rise to such Hebrew names as *Cohen* (and its German- or Polish-mediated equivalent *Kaplan*), *Kantor*, and *Rabin* (2).

11.6 Jewish names in Italy

Jews from Italy are of varied ancestry. Those from the northern part of the country mainly descended from Ashkenazic Jews who migrated to that area in the 13th century. Several common Italian Jewish names, such as *Ottolenghi* ‘from the town of Ettlingen’, allude to this origin, as does the name *Tedesco* ‘German’. Many Sephardic Jews came to Italy during the 15th and 16th centuries, directly or indirectly, from Spain. Finally, a group of local Jews had their roots in the Italian Peninsula from time immemorial. They

may have come directly from Palestine during the earliest stages of the diaspora, and just stayed. The time eventually came when they, too, were obliged to take hereditary family names. Generally, they took locative surnames based on the names of the places where they lived. Accordingly, numerous names of Italian Jews are toponymic and not readily distinguishable from those of people of Italian ancestry: *Montefiore* (which we have already mentioned), *Ascoli*, and *Volterra*.

11.7 Israeli Jewish names

Almost all Jewish names in Britain and Ireland are of the traditional European types discussed so far. In Israel, however, some new patterns have emerged. Israeli Jews have not only standard Ashkenazic and Sephardic names but have also often created names in their country of origin during the 20th century. All these names are Hebrew, but few are in evidence through Jewish migration since the foundation of Israel. A few, such as *Baruch*, *David*, and *Ovadia* were given names already in use among the Ashkenazim or the Sephardim; others are truly novel, from a Western perspective. Several categories of new names are patronymic. The first category coincides with, or overlaps, that of traditional given names: *Yaakov*, *Yosef*. The second is constructed after the traditional patronymic pattern *Ben (son of) X*; examples are *Ben Abraham*, *Ben David*, *Ben Simon*. The third involves adding the Hebrew possessive suffix *-i* to a masculine given name: for example, *Aharoni*, *Shimoni*, *Yitz(c)haki*. Numerous other names are artificial, often obtained by taking words (common nouns, adjectives, place-names, personal names) from the Bible. *Sharon* is among the few examples occurring in significant numbers in Britain. These new names replaced previous names assigned in the diaspora. In some cases, the old European names were Hebraized, replaced either with a Hebrew name that sounded like the old name or with the direct Hebrew translation of the old name.

12. Family names of recent immigrants in Britain and Ireland

As already mentioned, in this dictionary we distinguish between established names, which are well evidenced in the 1881 census, and recent immigrant names, which were not present in 1881 or were present only in very small numbers. Most of the recent immigrant names in this dictionary have only had a significant frequency in Britain since 1945.

It might be said that all the inhabitants of Britain are descendants of immigrants with the exception of the relatively few whose ancestors were the aboriginal Brittonic-speaking peoples (Welsh, Cornish, and Pictish), who constitute only a comparatively small percentage of the present-day population. The ethnography of Ireland is a different matter; the majority of the population outside Ulster could probably trace descent from Gaelic-speaking people who were already in Ireland early in the first millennium; see section 5. Taking this long view, the first questions that remain for the student of family names—unanswerable ones in many cases—are: when did the relevant group of ancestors arrive in Britain,

and where did they come from? Were they Anglo-Saxons in the 5th and 6th centuries, coming in from what is now Denmark and north-west Germany, taking advantage of the collapse of the imperial Roman administration that had prevailed in Britain for some 400 years until the traditionally acknowledged date of AD 410? Or were they Scandinavians (including Vikings), who arrived in the 8th to 10th centuries? Or were they perhaps descendants of the Norman and Breton courtiers and followers of William the Conqueror, whose family names, such as **Blunt**, **Daubney**, **Neville**, and **Jeckell**, still carry a certain prestige among their bearers if they know them to be Norman (or of later Continental courtiers of kings from William II to Henry III, such as **Vallance**, **Spencer**, **Peto**)? Since 1066, through nearly ten centuries during which family names first became established and then underwent many vicissitudes, there has been a steady trickle, rising occasionally to a cascade, of immigrants from various other parts of the world, bringing their family names with them, or names that have been appropriated as inherited family names. There was a regular and steady exchange of population between Britain and the Low Countries (what are now the Netherlands and Belgium), ranging in social status from the many medieval families of Flemish weavers (**Clutterbuck**, **Dipper**, **Gorick**) and others, somewhat later, who were apparently water engineers (e.g. **Vamplew**), to the high-powered administrators who accompanied the Dutch stadtholder William of Orange, who in 1688 was invited to share the monarchy of England, as King William III, with his English wife Mary II. William brought with him from the Netherlands a small group of supporters and advisers bearing Dutch names such as **Bentinck** and **Keppel**, which, in the course of time, duly became established as English family names.

For hundreds of years, migration from one part of Europe to another was not particularly unusual, occurring sometimes for economic or cultural reasons, sometimes to escape persecution. Usually the numbers of migrants were quite small. In early modern times, some men of Iberian extraction who founded families in England are recorded in Tudor documents, including people of Portuguese ultimate origin, arriving via what became British India (see **Nunes** (2), **Lopes**). Others came to work in developing industries from countries where particular expertise existed, such as miners and metalworkers from Germany (e.g. **Carlson**, **Senogles**). Victorian England experienced some immigration from Scandinavia and much more from eastern Europe. It is only in the last few decades that it has become fashionable or politically expedient for governments to try, with more or less limited success, to impose controls on immigration. Earlier sections of this introduction have singled out as separate topics the history in Britain of French Huguenot and Jewish family names, representing major immigrant groups of different periods, the former from the late 16th century onwards, the latter mainly from the late 19th and again in the 20th century.

Since the end of the Second World War, immigration to Britain has increased substantially from all over the world, especially from countries that were formerly part of the British Empire and, more recently, from continental Europe. As a result, we now live in a multicultural, multi-ethnic society, as illustrated by figures from the 2011 census on the main languages of UK residents. For

example, approximately 546,000 people identified their main language as Polish; 322,000 as Cantonese or some other form of Chinese; 273,000 as Punjabi; 190,000 as Yoruba; 159,000 as Arabic; 147,000 as French; and 99,000 as Turkish. FaNBI has done its best to take account of such facts, while not forgetting that the primary function of this work is to explain the established names of Britain and Ireland.

13. Chinese family names in Britain⁵

Chinese immigration into the UK began in the early 1800s, and this originally very small population increased slowly but steadily until the mid-20th century: 1,200 persons of Chinese origin were counted in the census of 1921, mainly in port cities such as London and Liverpool, and 12,523 in 1951. This was the prelude to exponential growth in the latter part of the century, with numbers reaching 154,363 in 1981, the year in which UK legislation deprived citizens of the British overseas territory of Hong Kong of the automatic right of abode in the UK. The increase was driven firstly by emigration from the New Territories of Hong Kong and augmented latterly also by emigration of Chinese residents from the territories of the future Malaysia and Singapore, themselves formerly part of the British Empire.

Just over 300 family names in Britain today are borne by many individual people of Chinese origin (in the broadest sense). There are almost no surnames in common use in China today that did not give rise to a British family name, partly due to the small number of frequent family names in China itself and the large number of immigrants. Most of them are from southern China, particularly from the Cantonese- and Hakka-speaking regions (e.g. the present-day Guangdong province and especially Hong Kong, hence the importance of Cantonese forms), but some come from other regions, e.g. Putonghua- (Mandarin-)speaking northern and south-western China, and the Min-dialect-speaking regions of south-eastern China and Taiwan. Some family names arrived with immigrants from Malaysia and Singapore, and other regions of the Chinese diaspora.

13.1 A brief history of Chinese surnames

It used to be claimed that the surname system was created by Fu Xi (a legendary emperor from before the Xia dynasty (2070–1600 BC), according to early history books), but this claim is never substantiated. Now it is believed, on the basis of archaeological findings, that surnames existed before the Shang dynasty (1600–1046 BC). For example, as revealed by the records from oracle bone scripts and bronze inscriptions, at least eight major surnames, known as the ‘Eight Great Surnames of Antiquity’, existed at that time.

Prior to the Warring States period (475–221 BC), hereditary family names were borne only by aristocratic families. Ordinary people did not have family names. There were two types of family names in use during these early periods, known as *xing* (姓), or ‘clan names’, and *shi* (氏), or ‘lineage names’. *Xing* were names of

⁵ This section is based on a contribution by Horace Chen.

Table of Chinese dynasties

三皇時代 Period of the Three Sovereigns (unverified)	伏羲 Fu Xi	about 2852–2697 BC
	女媧 Nüwa	
	神農 Shen Nong	
五帝時代 Period of the Five Legendary Rulers (unverified)	黃帝Huang Di (Yellow Emperor)	about 2697–2184 BC
	顓頊 Zhuan Xu	
	帝嚳 Di Ku (Emperor Ku)	
	堯Yao (Emperor Yao)	
	舜 Shun (Emperor Shun)	
夏 Xia dynasty		2070–1600 BC
商 Shang dynasty		1600–1046 BC
西周 Western Zhou dynasty		1046–771 BC
東周 Eastern Zhou dynasty 770–256 BC	春秋 Spring and Autumn period	770–476 BC
	戰國 Warring States period	475–221 BC
秦 Qin dynasty		221–206 BC
漢 Han dynasty 206 BC–AD 220	西漢 Western Han	206 BC–AD 25
	東漢 Eastern Han	AD 25–220
三國 Three Kingdoms period		AD 220–80
晉 Jin dynasty AD 265–420	西晉 Western Jin	AD 265–317
	東晉 Eastern Jin	AD 317–420
南北朝 Southern and Northern dynasties AD 386 (or 420)–589	南朝 Southern dynasties	宋 Song AD 420–79
		齊 Qi AD 479–502
		梁 Liang AD 502–57
		陳 Chen AD 557–89
	北朝 Northern dynasties	北魏 Northern Wei AD 386–534
		東魏 Eastern Wei AD 534–50
		北齊 Northern Qi AD 550–77
		西魏 Western Wei AD 535–56
		北周 Northern Zhou AD 557–81
隋 Sui dynasty		AD 581–618
唐 Tang dynasty		AD 618–907
五代十國 Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms AD 907–79	五代 Five Dynasties	AD 907–60
	十國 Ten Kingdoms	AD 902–79
宋 Song dynasty AD 960–1279	北宋 Northern Song	AD 960–1127
	南宋 Southern Song	AD 1127–1279
遼 Liao dynasty (Qidan, or Khitan)		AD 907–1125
金 Jin dynasty (Nüzhenm or Jurchen)		AD 1115–1234
西夏 Xixia dynasty (Dangxiang, or Tangut)		AD 1038–1227
元 Yuan dynasty (Menggu, or Mongol)		AD 1206–1368
明 Ming dynasty		AD 1368–1644
清 Qing dynasty (Manzhou, or Manchu)		AD 1616–1911

noble clans and are believed to have originated from matriarchal societies in prehistoric times; perhaps they once represented maternal lineages. By contrast, shi emerged in the later patriarchal societies and were used to identify different branches of clans; bearing a shi gradually became a symbol of prestige. Up to the Western Zhou dynasty (1046–771 BC), xing were used only to address females, while shi were used for males.

Later, shi became more predominant than xing. The number of shi rose significantly during the Western Zhou dynasty and the Spring and Autumn period (770–476 BC). Most present-day Chinese surnames trace their origin back to these periods, when Chinese society was feudal. The king or emperor governed all the lands in the country, but at the same time he granted royal-family members and favoured officials various landholdings or fiefdoms, some of which later became different states in their own right. In many cases, the inhabitants of these fiefdoms adopted the names of their feudal territory as a symbol of their lineage, and this contributed to the remarkable increase of shi in these periods.

Constant wars between different states in ancient China eventually led to the demise of the noble clans. At the start of the Spring and Autumn period, there were about 170 states. Gradually, smaller states came to be annexed by more powerful states. By the end of the Warring States period, only seven major states remained. Eventually, the state of Qin, led by the emperor Qin Shi Huang (259–210 BC), annihilated the other six states and united the nation in 221 BC. After that, surnames were gradually acquired by all classes. The distinction between xing and shi became less clear, and the two terms were eventually fused into a compound word with the general meaning ‘family name’.

13.2 Typology of Chinese family names

When compared with the five commonly recognized types of European family names (relationship names, occupational names, status names, locative names, nicknames), Chinese surnames can be grouped into similar recognizable types, with some important differences:

- Relationship names: often from the given name, style name (a name bestowed upon a person on reaching adulthood, in addition to their given name, traditional in a number of East Asian countries), or posthumous title of a historical official or important person. In contrast to European relationship names (notably patronymics), which can commemorate an ancestor of any social level, Chinese relationship names seem to commemorate only important people, particularly members of royal families and higher officials.
- Occupational names: as in Europe, some Chinese family names originated from people’s occupations or official posts. For instance, the surname **Szeto** (司徒) was the title of an official post in charge of national security and military affairs. **Bu** (卜) ‘divination’ named astrologers or fortune tellers who performed divination.
- Status names: a small number of Chinese family names come from the original bearer’s status (as distinct from his occupation). The most notable example is **Wang** (王),

meaning ‘royal’, which was used in memory of the royal status of the bearer’s ancestors. Others derive from the rank or noble title of a bearer’s ancestors, such as **Hou** (‘marquis’).

- Locative names: Chinese family names of this type can be derived from buildings, rivers, or postal stations near the residence of the bearer’s ancestors, or from villages, towns, fiefs, or states. Most Chinese locative names derive from larger political units such as fiefs and estates. Some were adopted to commemorate the name of an ancient state—in some cases a state that had been invaded and destroyed by a more powerful state, so only the family name survives as a record of the state that once existed. Other locative names were from the name of a fief granted to an important official, whose descendants inherited the name of the fief as a family name. This was a rather common practice, particularly during the Western Zhou dynasty (1046–771 BC) and the Spring and Autumn period (770–476 BC).
- Nicknames: there are no Chinese family names that can properly be classified as being derived from nicknames, but educated Chinese adults in ancient China had, in addition to their given name, what is commonly referred to as a style name (an additional name bestowed on an individual on reaching adulthood), which was a major source of Chinese family names.
- Family names were sometimes also created or acquired in ways other than those mentioned above. Some family names were adopted as a replacement of a previous name. There were many reasons for this. Sometimes a family name had to be changed because it happened to be part of the given name or the title of a new emperor; it was taboo in ancient China to bear a name that was identical to any part of the emperor’s name, so any family unfortunate enough to bear such a name had to adopt a new one. Other people would have a new family name bestowed on them by the emperor as a mark of favour, in recognition of services rendered, or in some cases as a punishment. As in many other cultures, some people changed their family name to escape from a feud or from persecution. Other family names emerged in variant forms through mispronunciation, mistranscription, or simplification.
- Newly adopted family names did not always fall into one of the above categories. Some people who had to change their name, for one reason or another, replaced their original (written) family name with another Chinese character that had the same or a similar pronunciation, logography, or meaning, in this way creating a new surname.

13.3 Chinese population movement

The Han Chinese, originally residing in north China, spread into southern China at different periods of Chinese history, as a result of wars, uprisings, coups, and, in particular, the continuous invasions of northern China by nomadic ethnic groups such as Huns, Mongols, Jurchens (also known as Manchus), Khitans, Tangutians, and the Xianbei ethnic groups. The southward migration of the Han Chinese had a major impact on the original

inhabitants of southern China, who in the course of time came to be assimilated by the Han. Some nomadic ethnic groups, attracted by the prosperity of Han culture, adopted cultural practices (including names) from the Han Chinese. These factors were among many that contributed to an increase in the number of people bearing Han Chinese family names.

In addition to migration within China, people from southern China also emigrated to other parts of the world. From the 17th century onwards, driven by famine, war, and other factors, many people from what is now Guangdong province, parts of Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, Hainan province, Fujian province, and Taiwan emigrated to other parts of South East Asia (e.g. to Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines). Some of the descendants of these Chinese emigrants in South East Asia later migrated to other areas in the world, including Britain and Ireland. The number of Chinese emigrants to Europe and North America increased significantly in the 19th century, especially after the First Anglo-Chinese War, also known as the First Opium War, of 1839–42. In the 20th century, a large number of people came to Britain from Hong Kong, which was a British colony from 1898 to 1997. The majority of people in Britain bearing a Chinese family name come from Hong Kong.

13.4 Chinese dialects and their romanization

There are several ‘dialects’ of Chinese. Though scholars have divergent opinions on the classifications of those dialects, and though it might be preferable to describe some of them as distinct languages, it is traditionally asserted that there are seven major groups: Mandarin, Yue, Wu, Min, Hakka, Xiang, and Gan. Among these, three groups of dialects constitute the main sources of the family names of Chinese origin in the UK: Yue dialects (including standard Cantonese, primarily spoken in Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Macao, and neighbouring areas, and Taishanese, spoken in Taishan and its surrounding areas in southern Guangdong province); Mandarin (also known as Putonghua or Guoyu, the standard language in dominant use nationwide today); and Southern Min dialects (including Teochew, spoken in eastern Guangdong province, and Hokkien/Taiwanese, spoken mainly in Fujian province and Taiwan). In general, because of substantial differences in pronunciation, the various Chinese ‘dialects’ are mutually unintelligible. However, thanks to the unification of the Chinese writing system during the reign of the emperor Qin Shi Huang (259–210 BC), the Chinese have a uniform writing system, which makes communication between speakers of different dialects possible.

The Chinese writing system is logographic, not alphabetical; that is, the symbols generally represent word meanings directly, rather than the phonemes (distinctive units of pronunciation) of those words. Transliteration of characters representing family names into Roman alphabetic characters is a particular problem. There are two main transliteration systems: Wade-Giles and pinyin. Wade-Giles is now more or less obsolete, but was widely used up to the end of the 20th century. Pinyin is the modern standard. However, it should be noted that the pinyin systems used in mainland China and Taiwan are different in certain details. The

pinyin system used in Taiwan was originally based on the Wade-Giles system and revised several times in the 20th century. In contrast, the pinyin system in mainland China was promoted after the establishment of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, and kept in constant use and eventually accepted as the standard norm for the transliteration of Chinese characters. That is why the name of the former Chinese leader *Mao Tse-Tung* (based on Wade-Giles) is now conventionally written as *Mao Zedong*. However, this standard and official transliteration system is almost completely irrelevant to the romanization of family names. The application of different systems has resulted in numerous different forms of what are etymologically the same Chinese family names. Moreover, early Chinese emigrants came from different Chinese dialect regions, and these emigrants tried to transliterate their surnames based on their dialectal pronunciations. It should be noted that the same Chinese written character may be pronounced in remarkably different ways in different Chinese dialects, which has led to great complexities in the attempts to romanize Chinese names. For example, the surname 黃 (literally ‘yellow’) is pronounced as **Wong** in Cantonese, **Huang** in Mandarin, **Ng** in Teochew, and **Wee** or **Ooi** in Hokkien/Taiwanese. All have given rise to what in a UK context may be considered distinct family names. To further complicate the picture, some Chinese emigrants adopted non-standard romanized forms, for example by making use of the potential of some English (and distinctly non-Chinese) spelling rules in transliterating their family names. For example, some transliterated /u/ as *oo* rather than as *u*. That is why what is etymologically the same Chinese family name may take a range of different forms in this dictionary.

13.5 Multiple origins of Chinese family names in the form used in the West

Many Chinese family names in the West have multiple origins, for a range of different reasons. Firstly, within the same dialect, two or more distinct Chinese characters which are pronounced in ways that sound different to a Chinese speaker, for example because of differences in tone, may be written in English using the same Roman-alphabet spelling. Sometimes, Chinese characters also share the same pronunciation, leading to the use of the same romanized spelling. Secondly, distinct Chinese family names which share a similar pronunciation in different dialects, for example the surname 吳 in Cantonese and the surname 黃 in Teochew, may receive the same romanization; in this case, both are romanized as **Ng**. To complicate matters still further, the People’s Republic of China has adopted an official simplified system for writing Chinese characters, but Hong Kong, Taiwan, and other places still use the traditional symbols. In this work, we also use the traditional symbols.

13.6 Records of Chinese family names

The creation of the Chinese writing system can be traced back at least to the Shang dynasty (1600–1046 BC), and many Chinese surnames were documented in very early books which are the major reference works for scholars studying surname origins. The

earliest known historical book on the origins of Chinese surnames is *Shi Ben* (世本, 'The Generational Origins'), written in the Warring States period (475–221 BC). Other important historical books on the origins of Chinese family names include *Yuan He Xing Zuan* (元和姓纂), *Xing Shi Kao Lue* (姓氏考略), *Tong Zhi - Shi Zu Lue* (通志•氏族略), *Xing Yuan* (姓源), and *Xing Xi* (姓觿). However, some of the records of persons in these books may be legendary, and some scholars are sceptical about them, particularly those concerning figures prior to the Xia dynasty (2070–1600 BC), such as the legendary king Huang Di (traditional dates 2697–2599 BC), also known as the Yellow Emperor. While it is difficult to find any archaeological support for these records, FaNBI still makes use of them in order to present as complete a picture as possible, consistent with the available historical evidence, of the origins of Chinese surnames. Many Chinese family names in common use today were listed in a very well-known ancient book called *Bai Jia Xing* ('Hundreds of Chinese surnames'), written during the Northern Song dynasty (AD 960–1127).

13.7 Previous work on Chinese family names

As mentioned above, there have been many historical works on the origins of Chinese family names, and a number of more recent publications concerning their origins have also emerged. Some of them offer only stories, legends, and anecdotes, and have no references. The most comprehensive publication in mainland China so far is the fruit of a major project, *Zhong Guo Xin Shi Da Ci Dian* (中國姓氏大辭典) (*The Comprehensive Dictionary of Surnames in China*) compiled by Yuan Yida (袁義達) and Qiu Jiaru (邱家儒). It assembles and explains 23,813 surnames recorded in Chinese historical sources, archaeological findings, and censuses, including not only Han Chinese surnames but also many from the fifty-five minority ethnic groups in China. Unlike in a conventional dictionary of Chinese family names, the authors provide the corresponding English spelling forms for each family name used by overseas Chinese, though they do not specify the dialectal origins of each English spelling form. The information about historical origins for each family name can be traced with precision to references listed at the end of the dictionary. Another recent comprehensive publication is *Zhong Hua Xing Shi Yuan Liu Da Ci Dian* (中華姓氏源流大辭典) (*China Surnames Origins Dictionary*), based on the 30-year research of Xu Tiesheng (徐鐵生), who documented 31,683 surnames (including those from minority ethnic groups) and their origins and detailed geographical distributions in modern China. Information on the origins of the Chinese family names in this dictionary can be found especially in *Zhong Guo Xin Shi Da Ci Dian*, and in *Zhong Guo Xing Shi Ci Dian* (中國姓氏辭典) (*Dictionary of Chinese Surnames*) compiled by Wang Zonghu (汪宗虎) and Chen Mingyuan (陳明遠). A number of other excellent works on the origin of Chinese surnames are listed in Sheau-yueh J. Chao's *In Search of Your Asian Roots: Genealogical Research on Chinese Surnames*.

It should be noted that many family names stated in this dictionary to be Korean or Vietnamese are ultimately of Chinese origin, and this is explained in individual entries wherever possible.

14. Family names from the Indian subcontinent⁶

By far the richest source of family-name diversity in Britain (and to some extent Ireland) since the Second World War has been the Indian subcontinent. This includes the present-day countries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, but until 1947 all these countries were part of British India, within the British Empire. The rulers of the Empire in the 19th and early 20th century took the view, which may now seem somewhat naive, that any citizen of the Empire had a right to live anywhere in the world that was a territory of the Empire, including its original homeland in Britain. Following the achievement in 1947 of independence by India and Pakistan (the latter a Muslim single entity on independence, with West and East separated by the vast bulk of India), there were substantial movements of population in the subcontinent, accompanied by great communal violence, and the mainly Muslim state of Jammu and Kashmir was left partitioned and in 2016 still remains a matter of friction and dispute between India and Pakistan. Many Muslims abandoned their ancestral homes in order to make their way to the new state of Pakistan, while many Hindus travelled in the opposite direction. In these troubled circumstances, a substantial flow of migrants left the region altogether and made their way to start a new life in Britain, Australia, Canada, and other former Empire countries. Economic hardships as well as political upheavals encouraged a continuation of this process of migration in subsequent decades. Any account of the approximately 1,300 family names from the subcontinent in Britain in the 21st century must therefore make some attempt to reflect the great cultural and linguistic diversity of the Indian diaspora, in the broadest sense.

14.1 Linguistic preliminaries concerning family names in India

The greatest number of Indian family names are derived from Sanskrit, the ancient language that occupies a position in India similar to that of Latin in Europe; that is, they are either derived from modern forms of the ancient Indo-Aryan language of which Sanskrit is the literary variant, such as Hindi or Bengali, or from modern forms of the Sanskrit names themselves. Even in southern India where Dravidian languages are spoken, Sanskrit surnames are quite common. They are usually adopted with minimal alteration to suit the phonological patterns of the languages of the region, such as Telugu or Tamil. More extensive alteration is found only in a few cases, such as **Khat**ri (from a vernacular form of Sanskrit *kshatriya*). Many of the names in the Dravidian language area, such as **Naidoo**, are of Indo-Aryan origin, and only any inflectional endings which may appear as part of the name are likely to be Dravidian. Names of Dravidian origin (such as **Chetty**, **Menon**, **Pillai**, and **Reddy**) are quite few in number.

Perso-Arabic surnames, i.e. Arabic names that have been adapted from the usage of Persian (Farsi) speakers, are the norm among Indian Muslims, but even among Hindus and other non-

⁶ This section is based on a contribution by Rocky Miranda.

Muslim Indians a good number are found: from Arabic, for example, we find **Dewan**, **Majmudar**, **Malik**, and **Shroff**; and from Farsi **Doshi**, **Sarkar**, and **Sood**. A few occupational family names, as noted below, have come from English. An example of an Indian family name that has been adapted from Portuguese is **Mistry**, from *mestre* ‘master, expert’.

14.2 The languages of the subcontinent

According to some authorities, several hundred languages are spoken in the subcontinent. They and their various dialects have differing degrees of mutual comprehensibility. For some purposes a language such as Bihari or Rajasthani may be regarded as a separate language in its own right, while for other purposes it may be classified as a dialect of Hindi. These languages and dialects, however one chooses to classify them, have contributed in different proportions to the stock of family names in Britain.

The Indian constitution recognizes just 23 ‘national’ languages, while the Ethnologue (<http://www.ethnologue.com/country/IN>) identifies no fewer than 447 living languages in India alone, 63 of them classified as ‘institutional’. Almost all the languages of India fall into one of two quite separate, unrelated language families. Indo-Aryan languages are spoken in the northern states, the main ones being Hindi, Urdu (in effect a Muslim form of Hindi), Bengali, Panjabi, Marathi, and Gujarati, while in the south of India Dravidian languages (notably Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Telugu) predominate. Despite these linguistic differences, many family names are widespread in both the southern and northern states of India, sharing a common origin, in many cases going back to Sanskrit (an Indo-European language), and in some cases embodying references to Hindu deities and ancient beliefs.

The northern states can be subdivided into the north-central region, where the principal states are Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh; the north-east, with the principal states of Assam, Bengal, and Orissa; the west, which includes Goa, Gujarat, and Maharashtra; and two states outside these groups—the single state known as Jammu and Kashmir, and the Panjab. The official language of the north-central states, and one of the two official languages of India as a whole, is Hindi. (The other is, de facto, English, with legal provision for it to be phased out eventually, though with little sign of this happening.) The official languages of the other states mentioned here are Assamese (Assam), Bengali (Bengal), Oriya (Orissa), Konkani (Goa), Gujarati (Gujarat), Marathi (Maharashtra), Kashmiri (Jammu and Kashmir), and Panjabi (Panjab), among which the most prolific providers of names in Britain are Bengali (especially the Sylheti dialect), Gujarati, and Panjabi (especially the Mirpuri dialect). Among other Indo-Aryan languages, Nepali occasionally appears in this work; it is also among the official languages of India because significant numbers of its speakers live there. The southern states are Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. The official languages in these states are Telugu (Andhra Pradesh), Kannada (Karnataka), Malayalam (Kerala), and Tamil (Tamil Nadu). Other Indian states have been omitted here because no family names included in this work are exclusively associated with them. Some names are confined to a single linguistic region, but others are found in more than one.

The language situation in Pakistan is of similar complexity. The official language is Urdu (which is also an official language of India, which—it should not be forgotten—is a pluralistic society with a sizeable Muslim population). Only about 8 per cent of the population of Pakistan actually use Urdu in everyday life. Urdu is closely related to Hindi (the two spoken languages are mutually comprehensible) but, unlike Hindi, it is written in Arabic script. Far more commonly spoken are regional languages such as Panjabi, Kashmiri, and Pashto.

In Sri Lanka the predominant language is Sinhalese, an Indo-Aryan language related to Hindi. Sri Lanka has a minority Tamil population, speaking a Dravidian language. Although there is (or rather, has been) bitter feuding in Sri Lanka between Tamils and Sinhalese, many of them share names of Sanskrit etymology, with few modern-language features distinguishing the names of the different populations.

14.3 Variation in names from the subcontinent

Many Indian names have variant forms. For the most part, they are spelling variants: **Bhandari/Bhanderi**, **Bhat/Bhatt**, **Chakrabarti/Chakraborty**, **Chowdhury** with many variants, **Das/Dass**, **Rooprai/Ruprai**, and so on. Some have what are, in an English context at least, phonetic variants as well: **Sachdev/Sachdeva**, **Sankar/Shankar**, **Seth/Sheth**. Some names have (partially) anglicized variants, such as **Bose** for **Basu** and **Ghose** for **Ghosh**. In some cases, anglicization affects only the spelling, as in **Sircar** for **Sarkar**. Some names have sanskritized variants, analogous to the earlier European practice of latinizing names (as with, for example, *Carolus Linnaeus* adapting the form of Swedish *Carl Linné*, or, by translation, *Agricola* for German *Bauer*): **Bandopadhyay** occurs for **Banerjee**, **Chattopadhyay** for **Chatterjee**, and **Dwivedi** for **Dube**. **Bajaj** and **Shroff**, names ultimately of Arabic origin, have variants **Bazaz** and **Saraf** that are closer to their Arabic pronunciation.

Cognate names with different spelling and pronunciation occurring in entirely different communities are generally not treated as variants, because the form itself is an indicator of cultural affiliation. For example, the names **Seth**, **Sethi**, and **Shetty**, which go back to the vernacular forms of the same Sanskrit source, *śresthī* ‘head of a mercantile or other guild’, are listed separately because they differ with respect both to spelling, pronunciation, and to the social groups in which they occur.

14.4 Language, culture, and religion in the subcontinent

Whilst distinctions of historical linguistic classification shed some light on the family names among immigrants from the subcontinent, a far more important factor is religious affiliation. The principal religions of the subcontinent that are represented among names of immigrants to Britain and Ireland are Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism (practised by Parsis), and Islam. Hindu and Muslim names far outnumber the contributions of the others to the name-stock. Hinduism is the majority religion in India and Nepal. It is also practised by significant minorities in Bangladesh, Bali (Indonesia), and, through the immigration of indentured labourers of Indian origin

under the British Empire, in Fiji, Guyana, and certain islands of the West Indies such as Trinidad, and by about half the population of Mauritius. Names and naming practices reflecting Hindu religious beliefs are cultivated throughout India, with adherents who are speakers of both Indo-Aryan and Dravidian languages. Jainism and Sikhism are more or less restricted to India and Pakistan. Parsis are Indian by definition, representing a community who left Persia because of persecution by Muslim rulers. Buddhism is practised in Sri Lanka and is, or has been, also a widespread religion in the Far East, especially in Mongolia, China, and most countries of South East Asia. With the exception of Hinduism, none of these religions have given rise to large numbers of distinctive family names in Britain. Things are very different with Islam. Islam is the state religion of both Pakistan and Bangladesh, but there are also many Muslims in India. It is, of course, also the dominant religion of much of the Middle East, North Africa, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Because the two major religions in particular are practised by speakers of a range of languages, and because their names and naming practices are determined by religious considerations rather than by linguistic ones, it makes more sense to identify and discuss family names of immigrants from the subcontinent in terms of religious affiliation rather than language.

14.4.1 HINDUISM

14.4.1.1 *Hindu castes and names*

In discussing Hindu names, we need to refer to social groups or communities called castes or *jatis*. These are usually endogamous groups (in which people marry only other members of their own group) that are associated with specific occupations. There are numerous such communities in modern India that are supposed to be affiliated with one of four broad social divisions called *varnas*, which have come down from ancient times: the Brahman or priestly class, the Kshatriya or warriors, the Vaishya or merchants, and the Shudra or cultivators and craftspeople. In the case of Brahman names, the *jati* is usually not identified in this work. In the case of non-Brahman names, however, only the *jati* is mentioned, because the *varna* affiliation of several of these *jatis* is disputed.

The many important non-Brahman communities mentioned in this work include the Ahirs, Baniyas, Kayasths, and Rajputs of northern India; the Aroras (see **Arora**), Jats, Khatri (see **Khatri**), and Soods (see **Sood**) of the Panjab; the Bhatias of the Panjab and Gujarat (see **Bhatia**); the Vanias of Gujarat; the Baidyas (see **Vaidya**) and the Baishyas of Bengal; the Bunts of Karnataka; the Nayars (see **Nayar**) of Kerala; and the Reddis (see **Reddy**) of Andhra Pradesh. The Rajputs are a prominent community of the Kshatriya *varna*. Several other communities (such as the Aroras, the Bhatias, the Khatri, the Soods, and several groups of Baniyas) also claim Kshatriya origin.

The Baniyas of northern India, the Vanias of Gujarat, the Aroras, Khatri, and Soods of the Panjab, and the Bhatias of Gujarat and the Panjab are mercantile communities. The Kayasths rose to prominence in medieval India as clerks and accountants and so are

often referred to as the writers' caste. The traditional occupations of the other communities are agriculture or miscellaneous trades. The Baniyas of northern India are really a cluster of several communities, of which the Agarwal Baniyas, Oswal Baniyas, and Porwal Baniyas are mentioned separately in connection with certain family names.

Not every Hindu surname can be linked with a special community. Some are common to several *jatis* or *varnas* (for example, **Naik** and **Prabhu**), and some names have no special association with any community (for example, **Kumar**). In a number of cases, information on the community associated with the name was not available.

14.4.1.2 *Origins of Indian names within the northern tradition*

Full names from ancient India, as found in Sanskrit literature from the first millennium BC to the first millennium AD, typically consist of a single word, either a simple word or a compound word in which the final element often indicates the *varna*. Some common final elements in such names are *-dāsa* 'servant', *-datta* 'gift', *-deva* 'god', *-gupta* 'secret', *-śarmā* 'joy', *-sena* 'army, armament', *-sinha* 'lion; eminent person', and *-varna* 'protection'. Sanskrit dictionaries indicate that *-deva* or *-śarmā* is the final element in the names of Brahmins, as *-varma* is for Kshatriyas, *-gupta* or *-datta* is for Vaishyas, and *-dāsa* is for Shudras. However, many ancient as well as modern Indian names can be found that contradict this classification. For instance, there are people whose name ends in *-datta* who are not Vaishyas, and there are those whose name ends in *-dāsa* who are not Shudras. These bound elements also have regularly evolved, in the languages descended from Sanskrit, as separate family names that are among the most common in modern India (see **Das**, **Datta**, **Deo**, **Gupta**, **Sharma**, **Sen**, **Singh** or its variant **Sinha**, and **Varma**).

Later on, many other names evolved similarly: for example, **Chand** from Sanskrit *chandra* 'pleasant, moon'; **Kumar** from Sanskrit *kumāra* 'son'; **Lal** from Hindi *lāl* 'darling', also 'red', from Sanskrit *lāla* 'cajoling'; **Prasad** from Sanskrit *prasāda* 'gift'; and **Raj** from Sanskrit *rājā* 'king'. Some of them occur as independent given names as well, but they all occur as the final elements of compound given names and sometimes as separate family names. Having had no family names previously, or having shed the previous family name for some reason, the bearers of these compound given names split those names to create new family names out of the separate elements. Most of the split family names of this second category are not associated with a specific caste or community.

The name of a clan or some similar subgroup of the community to which the bearer belongs is used as a family name quite frequently. Here are some examples:

Arora clan names: **Ahuja**, **Batra**, **Chawla**, **Dua**, **Gulati**, **Khurana**, **Narang**, and **Sachdev**.

Agarwal Bania clan names: **Bansal**, **Goel**, **Mittal**, and **Singhal**.

Jat tribal names: **Brar**, **Dhaliwal**, **Dhillon**, **Grewal**, **Johal**, **Khera**, and **Sidhu**.

Kayasth subgroup names: *Bhatnagar*, *Saxena*, and *Srivastava*.
 Panjabi Khatri clan names: *Anand*, *Bahl*, *Chadha*, *Kapoor*,
Malhotra, *Sehgal*, and *Vohra*.
 Konkanasth Brahman clan name: *Deo*.
 Maratha clan names: *Lad* and *Sawant*.
 Rajput clan names: *Bhatti*, *Chauhan*, *Parmar*, *Rathod*, and
Solanki.
 Reddi clan name: *Bandi*.
 Clan names in a subgroup of Saraswat Brahmins of the Panjab:
Bali.

The name of the community itself is adopted by some as a family name. Examples are:

Aggarwal, *Arora*, *Bhatia*, *Iyer*, *Khatri*, *Reddy*, and *Sood*.

Some Indian family names come from names or nicknames of ancestors:

Bhargava ‘descendant of Bhrigu’; *Bhatti*, ancestor of a Rajput clan; *Lakhani* ‘descendant of *Lakh*(man)’.

In a few cases, the ancestors are mythical. Some of the family names have overt patronymic suffixes, such as *-jā* and *-ānī*. Some of these family names are from clan names, but these in turn go back to the name or nickname of the founder of the clan. Examples are *Anand* and *Bedi*, ancestors of Khatri clans.

Other Indian family names have evolved from ancestral place-names, especially in certain parts of India such as Maharashtra and Goa; for example:

Aggarwal ‘from Agar or Agroha’, *Ahluwalia* ‘from Ahlu’, *Irani* ‘from Iran’, *Lad* ‘from southern Gujarat’, and *Mathur* ‘from Mathura’.

Many names can be traced back to occupations or offices held by the ancestors of the name bearers; for example:

Bajaj ‘clothier’, *Dalal* ‘broker’, *Majmudar* ‘record-keeper’,
Pathak ‘teacher’, *Shah* ‘merchant’, and *Vaidya* ‘physician’.
 Among Parsis (see 14.4.5 below), one also finds occupational surnames from English.

Some people were awarded titles by native or foreign rulers, by the community, or by themselves. Some titles are simply honorific terms of address that have come down as surnames. Names meaning ‘king’, ‘chief’, ‘headman’, ‘lord’, ‘leader’, ‘eminent person’, ‘great one’, ‘honourable one’, and so on are particularly common; for instance:

Bhatt ‘lord’, *Chakraborty* ‘emperor’, *Chowdhury* ‘chief’, *Nair* ‘leader’, *Sarkar* ‘lord’, and *Shetty* ‘chief’.

It should also be noted that although some names such as *Patel* and *Reddy* ‘village headman’ go back to an actual office, they are commonly used as respectful terms of address even if the addressee is neither a village headman nor the descendant of one. Names meaning ‘scholar’, ‘expert’, ‘teacher’, and so on are also quite common: *Acharya* ‘preceptor’, *Bhattacharya* ‘learned preceptor’, *Jani* ‘learned one’, and *Upadhyay* ‘teacher’.

In many parts of India, men are respectfully addressed as ‘father’ or ‘brother’ and women as ‘mother’ or ‘sister’. These terms are then regularly attached to personal names, as in the case of Gujarati *bhai* ‘brother’, *ben* ‘sister’; Kannada *appa* ‘father’, *aṇṇa* ‘older brother’, *amma* ‘mother’, *akka* ‘older sister’; Marathi *dada* ‘older brother’, *bai* ‘older sister’; and *bābū* ‘father’ in several Indo-European languages of the Indic group. Occasionally, such attachments have evolved as separate family names. Thus, for example, Gujarati women who use no surname sometimes give *Ben* as their ‘last name’. This cannot be considered a true family name because it is not passed on from one generation to another. However, *Babu* and *Dada* have become inherited family names. Although the Tamil family names *Iyer* and *Iyengar* evolved from names of communities, they go back to a term of address, Dravidian *ayya* ‘father, lord’.

Some Hindu family names are epithets of Hindu gods: *Kumar*, an epithet of Kartikeya, son of the god Shiva; *Lal*, an epithet of the god Krishna; *Narayan*, of the god Vishnu; *Ram*, an incarnation of Vishnu; and *Basu*, an epithet of Shiva and also of several other gods. These usually go back to ancestral personal names, since epithets of deities are commonly used for personal names. Because many personal names from southern India have been taken as family names in Britain, family names that are epithets of deities are very common among immigrants from that region.

Some names denoting animals or plants seem to have totemic significance. Examples include *Apte* from *aptā* ‘the plant *Bauhinia tomentosa*’ and *More* from *mor* ‘peacock’.

14.4.1.3 *Origins of Indian names within the southern tradition*

In southern India, the last of a person’s names in the normal order of citation is usually not a family name but the personal name of the individual. The first name may be an ancestral personal name, an ancestral place name, or the father’s personal name. In some cases, the father’s personal name appears as the middle name. Many people have no middle name and use only the father’s personal name (patronymic) as the first name; that is, they have no inherited family name.

People originating from southern India who live abroad may reorder their names in line with local (e.g. British) tradition, writing the personal name first and the Indian ‘first name’, as just defined, last. Those who have come to use the father’s personal name as the last name use it as their children’s last name as well, thus converting it into a true surname. As a result, many personal names of southern India—such as *Krishna*, *Krishnan*, *Narayanan*, *Raghavan*, *Raja*, *Rajan*, *Srinivasan*, and the European *Joseph*, *Matthew*, and *Philip*—have become family names.

Some people with the southern Indian pattern of family-name placement have come to use an additional surname that is placed in the final position. In such cases, the surname placed initially is usually an ancestral personal name (as specified above) or an ancestral place name, whereas the surname placed finally is a title or a name that indicates community or clan. For example, Telugu-speaking people from Andhra Pradesh with common surnames like *Naidoo* and *Reddy*, or Konkani-speaking people

from Karnataka with surnames like *Kamath*, *Pai*, and *Shenoy* often have another surname, placed initially, that refers to their ancestral place.

14.4.2 JAINISM

Jainism is one of the most ancient religions of India. Its origins are lost in Indian prehistory. The religion had its heyday in India in the 6th century BC, but it is still adhered to by at least six million people, mainly in northern India. It is estimated that there are about 25,000 Jains in modern Britain. Most of their family names, such as **Gupta** and **Parekh**, are identical to Hindu names (especially those of the Vania, Bania, and Lohana jatis), but a few are distinctively or predominantly Jain, for example **Sanghvi** and the so far unexplained name **Gala**.

14.4.3 SIKHISM

Sikhs, in addition to their given name, use either a surname or a so-called *khalsa* name, or both; and if both, then in the order *khalsa* name + surname, e.g. *Samdip Singh Atwal*. The *khalsa* name is the name adopted on religious initiation, and traditionally this has always been **Singh** (the usual spelling in Britain; etymologically ‘lion’, with the transferred sense ‘hero’) for a man, and **Kaur** (etymologically ‘princess’) for a woman. Sikh women do not change their surname on marriage. Many British Sikhs have adopted the *khalsa* names (especially, of course, the male *Singh*) as inheritable surnames, though both are found also among Hindus (Kshatriyas). The traditional surname may be an inherited family name or a clan or caste name. Only about 200 Sikh family names in Britain are not also found in the Hindu community; these include **Atwal**, **Chahal**, and **Johal**, which are all Jat clan names. Sikh surnames are all either demonstrably formed in Panjabi, or, especially if clan names, have not received a satisfactory etymological explanation.

14.4.4 BUDDHISM

Few family names represented in Britain can be shown to be exclusively Buddhist; these, however, include **Ratnayake** and **Seneviratne** (Sinhalese; from Sri Lanka) and **Ladak** (derived from the Tibetan regional name *Ladakh*; from Kashmir).

14.4.5 PARSI

Distinctively Parsi surnames in Britain are few. Most of these are of Gujarati origin and shared with Hindus (**Mehta**, **Modi**, **Shroff**), and many of these also with Jains; some are shared but of unknown origin (**Bulsara**, **Gara**); but some which are truly exclusive to Parsis are formed in English (**Contractor**, **Engineer**). The majority of the Parsi names whose origin is known, in whatever language, are occupational or status names.

14.4.6 ISLAM

There are approximately 2.7 million Muslims in Britain, of whom approximately 1.7 million have their ancestral roots in Pakistan or Bangladesh. Many of the former are from the Mirpur region of Pakistani Kashmir, where the dominant language is the Mirpuri

dialect of Panjabi, and most of the latter are from the Sylhet region, where the Sylheti dialect of Bengali predominates. Most Muslims have names formulated in the classical form of Arabic, though some dialectal forms can be found. Accordingly, many Pakistani and Bangladeshi family names are indistinguishable from other Muslim names adopted from the Arabic naming system. Some family names in Britain may be regarded as typically Bangladeshi, for example **Lalani**, **Miah**, and **Chaudhari**. Significantly, none of these derive from Arabic; all are from Urdu or Bengali. In this introduction, the Muslim naming system and its Arabic foundation are treated as a matter independent of the subcontinent (see section 15).

14.4.7 IMPORTED SURNAMES IN INDIA

As outlined above, Indian family names are found among both Hindus and other religious groups: Christian, Jain, Muslim, Parsi, and Sikh. In many regions of India Jain, Parsi, and Sikh family names are often indistinguishable from Hindu family names. Many Christians, however, have European family names, especially in southern India. Christians whose ancestors were converted by the Portuguese have Portuguese family names, which are believed to have come from the godfathers of the initial converts. Anglo-Indian Christians usually have British family names. Some Jains have what appear to be English family names (e.g. **Engineer**), which were created as family names in India and are therefore culturally Indian rather than imports. Christians of southern India, like other people in the south, often use no family names but place their father's personal names before their own personal names. Some use the father's name as their last name, which in the English-speaking world may come to be used as an inheritable family name.

15. The Arabic and Muslim naming system

Classical Arabic is the language of the Qur'an, the sacred book of Islam, and many millions of Arabic speakers are Muslims by religion. But, in addition, sizeable minorities of people can be found in most Arabic-speaking countries who are not Muslims. Precise figures are impossible to obtain, but it is estimated that at least 35 per cent of the population of Lebanon, 10 per cent of Syrians, 8 per cent of Jordanians, 10 per cent of Egyptians, 8 per cent of Palestinians, and 3 per cent of Iraqis are—or rather, *were*—members of one or other of the Christian sects of the region, before the recent flights, expulsions, and massacres in Iraq and Syria in particular. Altogether, up to 2010, approximately 5 per cent of Arabic speakers were Christians, while a further 2 per cent represented an indigenous Jewish population (some of whom came as refugees to the English-speaking world, establishing an additional thread in the family-name inventories of Britain, America, and elsewhere). Among people who have emigrated from the Middle East, there are many Druze and Christian Arabs, particularly from the Levant (Syria and Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine). Christians have also come in large numbers from Iraq and Egypt. Jews from the Arab world have also uprooted themselves, or been uprooted, and settled abroad.

The other side of the coin is that Islam is a world religion. Therefore, in addition to being the faith of many Arabic speakers, it is also that of millions of people whose native language is not Arabic. All of this affects the choice and usage of names. Clearly, it would be an error to assume that everyone bearing an Arabic name must be a Muslim. Arabic names are borne also by Christians, Druze, and Jews, and by some people of other faiths such as Yazidis. Conversely, it would be equally erroneous to assume that a person whose name has clear Muslim connotations is necessarily an Arabic speaker. Muslims, even those who are not native Arabic speakers, regard it as a religious duty to learn classical Arabic so that they can understand the meaning of their daily prayers and read the Qur'an in the original. Furthermore, they generally choose names that have positive connotations in Islam, typically Arabic names based on attributes of Allah or on the names borne by the Prophet Muhammad, his family, his associates, and his successors. For this reason, a Muslim personal name is not always a good indicator of the national or ethnic origins of its bearer. For example, the name of a person called *Abdulaziz* ('*Abd al-'Azīz* 'servant of the Mighty') tells us that he is almost certainly of Muslim faith, but his name gives no clue as to whether he or his forebears come from an Arabic-speaking country, from the Indian subcontinent, or elsewhere. Pronunciation differences that may be heard in the spoken form of a name, and which may serve for regional or national identification, are not often reflected in its written forms.

The policy of FaNBI is that, if a name is used by Christian and other non-Muslim Arabic speakers, the label *Arabic* is used. On the other hand, if a name is used by non-Arabic speakers as well as Arabic speakers, the label *Muslim* is used. It must be admitted, however, that there are many cases where the evidence is inconclusive; in such cases, we have made a judgement based on the balance of probability. Given names (*asmā'*) such as *Fadi* 'redeemer', *Isa* 'Jesus', *Hanna* 'John', and *Boutros* 'Peter' are preferred by Christian Arabs, although even here there may be no clear-cut distinctions. For example, one might assume that *Musa* 'Moses' and *Ibrahim* 'Abraham' are Jewish names, but this would be wrong, for in fact these names are also popular among Muslims, Christians, and Druze. *Isa* is clearly a Christian name, but it is also used by Muslims, for Jesus is also regarded as a prophet in Islam. The complexity of these issues, which require much more detailed exposition, lie outside the scope of the present work; they can only be touched on here.

There are slightly different traditions of naming within Islam, mainly due to the division between the two main branches, Sunni and Shia. About 90 per cent of Muslims are Sunnis (from Arabic *Ahl as-Sunnah* 'people of the tradition', i.e. those with traditional understanding of Muhammad's teachings recorded outside the Qur'an). This branch, which defines itself as orthodox, dominates in the western Muslim lands, in particular the Arabian peninsula, Egypt, Turkey, and Algeria. The Shia (*Shī'ah*, originally *Shī'atu 'Alī* 'the partisans of Ali, the fourth "rightly guided" khalif') predominate in Iran and Azerbaijan and constitute substantial minorities in India, Yemen, Iraq, Syria, and elsewhere. Differences in selection of given names reflect the fact that the sectarian

division hinges on the accession of a khalif (Arabic *khalifah* 'successor [of Muhammad]') in the 7th century. Sunnis insisted on an elected khalif, while Shia insisted on a family member of the Prophet, namely his son-in-law Ali. Accordingly, for example, *Omar* and *Abu Bakr* are typically names of Sunnis, whilst *Ali* and *Hassan* are typically Shia. Other surnames may be characteristic of one or the other branch through historical accident; in Iraq, for example, where both branches are represented, *Pachachi* tends to be a Sunni name, whilst *Chalabi* tends to be Shia.

15.1 The Arabic language

Arabic is sixth on the list of most widely spoken native languages in the world; it is the principal language of eighteen countries, with a combined population of almost 200 million. Arabic became an official language of the United Nations and some of its organs and committees in stages between 1973 and 1982. Historically speaking, it is a Semitic language, related to Hebrew, Amharic, Berber, and certain other languages of North Africa and the Middle East. Arabic words are composed of two elements: the consonantal root and the vowel pattern. The root typically consists of three consonants, giving the underlying basic meaning of the word; the pattern consists of vowels inserted between and around the consonants, giving a specific lexical meaning and grammatical form to the word in particular contexts. Thus the root *s-l-m* has the underlying meaning 'peace'. With differing vowel patterns, *salām* means 'peace and security' or 'safety'; *salīm* means 'secure, perfect, faultless'; *aslām* means 'more, most perfect'; *islām* is 'submission (specifically, to the will of God)'; *muslim* denotes an adherent of Islam. These different patterns are often reflected in the variety of Arabic names that may be based on the same root.

15.2 The Arabic naming system

Naming conventions in the Arabic-speaking Muslim world are not as cut and dried as they are in the West. All Arab children receive a given name. Their second name comes from the first name of their father. The complexity begins with the third element of the name, which may span five or more elements, as described below, as in the case of the royal known in the West fully as *Abdulaziz ibn Abdul Rahman ibn Faisal ibn Turki ibn Abdullah ibn Muhammad Al-Saud* (locally more often '*Abd al-'Azīz ibn 'Abd ar-Raḥman 'Āl Sa'ūd*'). For many Arabs, the given name of the paternal grandfather is taken as an individual's third name, and it often serves as the surname. As an example, if parents name a child *Jamila*, and the father's first name is '*Ali*', and the paternal grandfather's first name is *Husayn*, then the full name which might appear on official documents is *Jamila 'Ali Husayn*. Other Arabs, however, embrace the concept of an inherited family surname. In this system, the child might be named *Jamila 'Ali al-Maṣrī*, where *al-Maṣrī* 'the Egyptian' is in effect a family name.

The entries for Muslim and Arabic names in this dictionary represent adaptations of different parts of standard Arabic names, as described below, insofar as a family name is a conventional and bureaucratic requirement. Any one or more of

the five standard elements of a traditional Arabic name may be pressed into service as a modern family name among immigrants from the Arabic-speaking world: the *kunya*, *ism*, *nasab*, *nisba*, and *laqab*. Those chosen in this way tend eventually to acquire hereditary status.

Standard Arabic personal names consist of up to five elements. A person might be known by any one of these elements or by combinations of them. The five elements (in the order in which they are used if they are combined) are as follows:

- **kunya:** the *kunya* is a kind of nickname, formed with *abū* ‘father of’ or *umm* ‘mother of’. So, for example, the Prophet Muhammad was known by the *kunya* *Abū Qasem* ‘father of Qasem’, and *Qasem* was indeed the name of his son. But a *kunya* could be and often was conventionalized: a childless person or a newborn child could be given a *kunya*. The Prophet’s wife Ayesha was known by the *kunya* *Umm ‘Abdullah* ‘mother of Abdullah’, although she was in fact childless. In Iran, a *kunya* is often metaphorical or aspirational rather than literal, as in the *kunya* *Abū-l Fad* ‘father of bounty’ (i.e. endowed with bounty). In the Indian subcontinent the *kunya* is used only informally and literally within the family circle, with reference to an actually extant child.
- **ism:** the *ism* is an individual’s personal name or given name. *Asmā*’ (the plural of *ism*) are taken freely from vocabulary words in Arabic, and may be nouns, verbs, or adjectives (including both base forms such as *Ḥamid* ‘praised or praiseworthy’ and comparative/superlative forms such as *Aḥmad* ‘more/most praised’). An *ism* may be used with or without the definite article *al-*. Abstract nouns are common (e.g. *Naṣr* ‘victory’, *Tawfiq* ‘success, prosperity’, *Iqbal* ‘good fortune’), while words denoting features of the natural world (e.g. *Suḥa* ‘star’) are also popular. *Asmā*’ deriving from inflected verbs include *Yazīd* ‘he increases’ and *Ya’ish* ‘he lives’. Among Muslims, an *ism* may be chosen with reference to a noted figure in Muslim history: *Muḥammad*, the name of the messenger of Allah to whom the Qur’an was revealed, remains the most popular choice among Muslim parents for a baby boy, while *Fatima*, the name of Muhammad’s favourite daughter, is a popular choice for girls. Important sources of Muslim *asmā*’ are the ninety-nine attributes of Allah (sometimes called ‘names’) mentioned in the Qur’an and the Hadith, the record of sayings attributed to Muhammad. According to Islamic belief, the relationship between humans and their creator is that of servants to their master. Many Muslims bear a name denoting a servant of one of the attributes of Allah, such as *‘Abd al-Qādir* ‘servant of the Capable’ or *‘Abd al-Karīm* ‘servant of the Generous’. The Hadith says: ‘The best names in the sight of God are *‘Abdullah* “servant of God” and *‘Abd ar-Rahman* “servant of the Merciful”.’
- **nasab:** the *nasab* is a patronymic (e.g. *ibn Sa’ūd*, *ibn al-Khattāb*), expressing the relationship of a son (*ibn*) or daughter (*bint*) usually to his or her father, but sometimes to a more distant forebear. Thus, occasionally a *nasab* could be hereditary for some generations, especially in the case of descendants of a famous forebear. In some cases, a person’s

nasab is metronymic, especially if the mother was remarkable in some way. Generally, the reference of the *nasab* is to the father’s *ism*, but sometimes it may be to his *kunya* (e.g. *‘Ali ibn Abū Ṭālib*, literally ‘Ali the son of the father of Talib’), or to his *laqab* (see below) (e.g. *Muhammad ibn as-Siddiq* ‘Muhammad, son of [the man known as] the Righteous’, *Dima bint az-Zayyat* ‘Dima, daughter of the oil merchant’; the name *al-Khattab* above is derived from a nickname, ‘the sermon, the narration from a book’). The *nasab* could also be iterated (e.g. *Salamah ibn ‘Amr ibn al-Akwa* ‘Salamah son of ‘Amr, son of al-Akwa’) in the manner found in other cultures with a tradition of lengthy oral genealogies, such as the Irish (see section 5).

- **nisba:** the *nisba* is a locative name, generally from the name of the person’s birthplace, residence, or place where the family originated (e.g. *al-Hashimi*, *al-Qurayshi*).
- **laqab:** the *laqab* is a distinguishing nickname, which may refer to a physical characteristic (e.g. *al-Aswad* ‘the Black’, *al-Aṣamm* ‘the Deaf’). Names of animals and birds of prey are common (e.g. *al-Asad* and *al-Haydar*, both meaning ‘the Lion’, *al-Fand* ‘the Cheetah’, *al-Uqāb* ‘the Eagle’); such words can also be used as an *ism*. A *laqab* may also be an anecdotal nickname; according to Schimmel (1989), a Moroccan politician who habitually interrupted people with the phrase *jīj kelmat* ‘just a couple of words’ received this expression as his *laqab*. The *laqab* could also be an honorific or complimentary epithet (e.g. *al-Hajji* ‘the person who has performed the *hajj* (pilgrimage to Mecca)’; *an-Nasif* ‘the Just, the Fair-minded’; *as-Siddiq* ‘the Truthful’). Another kind of *laqab* is an occupational term (e.g. *al-Khayyat* ‘the Tailor’, *al-Haddad* ‘the Smith’, *al-Khayyām* ‘the Tentmaker’).

The elements of this naming system are used, with variations, throughout the Arabic-speaking world and in other Muslim countries. The different elements are used in different social contexts, and conventions vary from country to country. For example, in Arab countries, the *kunya* may be used among a wide circle of friends and may be the standard form of address for an individual by friends, whereas in the Indian subcontinent it is used informally only in family circles, and does not count as part of a family name. The *ism* is used only among family and intimates, and it is generally a breach of etiquette for an outsider to address a person by his or her *ism* alone. Famous people are known to history by more or less arbitrary combinations of the *ism* with the *kunya*, *nasab*, *nisba*, and/or *laqab*. Name elements including the phrases *ud-Dīn* ‘of the Faith’, *ad-Dawla* ‘of the State’, *al-Islām* ‘of Islam’, and *al-Mulk* ‘of the Kingdom’ are examples of a specific type of honorific, used almost exclusively by sultans, *qazis*, and others of high rank.

In some Muslim countries, legislation was passed in the 20th century to make family names a legal requirement. The best-known example is Turkey (see section 17), where family names were required by a law passed in 1934. In Egypt, a similar law was enacted as recently as 1970. Developments in Egypt are too recent to have had a major effect on family names among immigrant populations.

15.3 Arabic and its relations with other languages of the Muslim world

As mentioned above, Arabic is not the only language of the Muslim world, though it has had a profound influence on the naming practices of other Muslim communities. From its origin in the Arabian Peninsula in the 7th century AD, Islam proselytized and spread rapidly. To the west, it spread along the southern shores of the Mediterranean. In the countries of north-west Africa, Arabic found itself in competition with Berber and French. Arabic names are found in combination with French given names among people from Algeria and Morocco, as well as Lebanon and Syria, all former French colonies or protectorates.

Islam crossed the Sahara Desert and became the established religion of the Hausa people in northern Nigeria and of certain other peoples whose homelands cross modern political borders in West Africa, such as the Fulani and Wolof. It also spread down the coast of East Africa, especially in Somalia, having considerable influence culturally in coastal cities such as Zanzibar and Mombasa and linguistically on the development of (Ki)swahili.

To the east, Islam spread to Persia (Iran) in AD 642 (only ten years after the Prophet's death). From there it continued to spread rapidly northward through the Caucasus and across central Asia, and eastward to the Indian subcontinent. In the 16th century, the Mughal Empire was established in India, with Islam as its main religion. Some of the princely states of India had already adopted Islam as their main religion, while others remained Hindu. In 1947, India was partitioned and the new Islamic state of Pakistan was created. The main and official language of Pakistan is Urdu, an Indic language with a strong admixture of both Arabic and Persian vocabulary. Other languages of Pakistan include Pashto (also spoken in Afghanistan), Panjabi, Baluchi, and Sindhi. In 1972, the new state of Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) was formed. Here the language is Bengali. However, in both Pakistan and Bangladesh, and indeed elsewhere in the Indian subcontinent, Muslim personal names are characteristically Arabic in style, but with many Persian elements. Further east still, Islam is the main religion in Malaysia and Indonesia, and there are even Muslim communities in western China. But these have had no discernible distinctive effect (we find Malay or Indonesian **Bobat** and **Lambat**, neither of Arabic origin) on family names in Britain and Ireland.

From the 8th to the 13th centuries, much of Spain was a Muslim country, under the rule of Moors, who originally entered Europe from North Africa. This was a period noted for its cultural and scientific achievements and for its religious tolerance. Although the Moors were driven from Spain in the 13th to 15th centuries, Arabic left substantial traces on Spanish vocabulary (about 8 per cent is of Arabic origin, e.g. *alguacil* 'bailiff', *naranja* 'orange'), place-names (*Gibraltar*, *Jaén*), and surnames (*Almunia*, *Medina*).

In Europe, Albania and Bosnia are still home to substantial indigenous Muslim communities, a legacy of the days when the Ottoman Empire extended westward over Greece and much of the Balkans. The family name of the first president of independent Bosnia and Herzegovina, Alija *Izetbegović*, is a good example of the interculturalization of naming: it contains the Arabic personal

name derived from *izzat* 'honour, respect' in a turkicized form, the traditional Ottoman Turkish honorific *bey* (Old Turkic *beg*), and the Serbo-Croatian patronymic suffix *-(o)vić* 'son of'.

16. Iranian family names in Britain

There are estimated to be about 83,000 people of Iranian extraction in Britain, most of whom are members of families that arrived as refugees from the revolution of 1979. Iran (otherwise known as Persia) did not use inheritable surnames at all before 1919, when they were introduced by law, in the same westernizing spirit as developments in Turkey at about the same time (see section 17). The practice was extended during the reign of Reza Shah (1925–41). Under the influence of Islam, since the adoption of surnames, *Ahmadi*, which is Arabic in form and Muslim in import, has become the most frequent surname, and others of Arabic origin exist in persianized form, e.g. *Sadeghi* from *Siddiqi*.

Iranian surnames are often distinctive for, although Iran is a traditionally Muslim country, its language, Persian (widely known as Farsi), is an Indo-European language unrelated to Arabic. It is related to Sanskrit and the modern languages of Pakistan and northern India. It is written using Arabic script and has absorbed many Arabic words. Both historically and in modern times, Persian has been the most influential language in the Muslim world after Arabic. When Islam arrived in Persia within ten years of Muhammad's death in AD 632, it brought with it the Arabic naming system, and many names themselves were formed in Arabic. Since the Islamic conquest, some names in Iran have been borrowed from Arabic, although most are of Persian language origin. Many of the latter come from Ferdowsi's book *Shahnameh* ('The Epic of Kings'), dating from the 10th century and considered to be the masterpiece of Persian literature. Approximately 10 to 15 per cent of all Persian given names are taken from characters mentioned in *Shahnameh*, for example **Farhad**, **Javed**, and **Rustom**, which are now found as surnames in Britain (*Farhad* in its Turkish form *Farhat*), while some surnames are derived by suffixation from the names of such characters, e.g. *Bahrami*, *Yazdani*. These are now finding their way into surnames of patronymic origin.

In some cases specifically Persian forms of Arabic names adopted early in the history of Islam have subsequently spread, for example **Afzal** (Arabic form: *Afdal*) 'best' or 'learned', **Fazel** (Arabic form *Faḥḥil*) 'favour' or 'grace', **Reza** (Arabic form *Riḍā*) 'contentment, satisfaction', no doubt in part owing to the fame throughout the Muslim world of individuals bearing these names, such as the 12th-century grand vizier Afzal Shahanshah. These can also now find their way into the store of Iranian surnames of patronymic origin.

Just as in the traditional Arabic naming system (see section 15.2) any vocabulary word (in theory) could be adopted as a personal name (*ism*), so now Muslims throughout the world (but especially in Persia and India, and the modern countries of Pakistan and Bangladesh) were able to choose not only from Arabic but also from Persian words for their names. Names of Persian etymology were added to the standard inventory of Muslim names, for example **Akhtar** (from *akhtar* 'star, fortune, good luck'), **Azad**

(from *āzād* ‘freedom’), **Firdous** (from *firdaws* ‘paradise’), **Jahangir** (from *jahangir* ‘world conqueror’), **Javed** (from *jāved* ‘eternal’), **Khurshid** (from *khūrshīd* ‘sun’), **Nariman** (‘light’ + ‘faith’), **Parveen** (from *parvīn* ‘the Pleiades [star cluster]’), and **Shahzad** (from *shāhzāda* ‘prince’). **Bostan** is a female name from *bustān* ‘garden’. Surnames that appear to enshrine ordinary words of Persian will generally have been in previous use as given names. Names of Persian origin spread because of the religious and political sway and the cultural dominance of Persian dynasties beyond Persia. In their modern form, therefore, such names are not necessarily those of Iranians but may have been adopted by other Muslims, especially in Mughal India (see section 15.3). They may accordingly find their way into patronymics and thence into surnames of relationship. Specifically Farsi patronymics are formed using the suffix *-zadeh* ‘son of’, as in **Alizadeh**.

Family names that have origins other than in patronymics are relatively rare. They include tribal names (e.g. *Jamshidi*); locative names (adjectival forms of the name of their place of origin, e.g. **Bukhari**, **Irani**, **Taheri**, and **Tehrani**, whether this place was in Persia or elsewhere, e.g. one of the areas of central Asia speaking a related Indo-Iranian language such as Tajik); occupational or status names (e.g. *Arbab* ‘landlord’); and nicknames (e.g. *Rouhani* ‘spiritual’, *Taghvaei* ‘virtue’).

17. Turkish family names in Britain

It is estimated that approximately 500,000 people in modern Britain are of Turkish origin. Of these around 300,000 come from Cyprus. Almost all these families arrived in Britain during the 20th century, especially after 1945. Immigration from Cyprus was facilitated by the fact that Cyprus was part of the British Empire, in various administrative guises, from 1878 to 1960, and accelerated by the ethnic strife on that island between Greek and Turkish speakers during the second half of the 20th century. These Turkish immigrants had Turkish-language names. But until 1934 there were no Turkish family names as such (i.e. there were no hereditary family names used in addition to given names).

Turkey’s predecessor state, the Ottoman Empire, lasted for 623 years, from 1299 to 1922. From its foundation in central Anatolia, it expanded rapidly. In 1453 Sultan Mehmet II seized the Greek city of Constantinople (Byzantium) and established in its place the Islamic, Turkish city of Istanbul, which was to serve as the Ottoman capital for 470 years. By 1683 the Ottoman Empire extended over most of south-eastern Europe, including Greece and the Balkans, and stretched from Baghdad in the east to Algiers in the west. These facts had an important impact on personal names and naming practices in these regions. They explain, for example, why many present-day family names in Bosnia (e.g. *Begović*) and Albania (e.g. *Ahmeti*) have a Turkish etymology. The religion of the Ottoman Empire was Islam, but its official and administrative language was Turkish rather than Arabic. It should be noted in passing that by today’s standards there was remarkable tolerance of other religions, notably Judaism and Christianity, in the Ottoman Empire.

Given Turkey’s Islamic history, it is not surprising that the traditional naming system in Turkish is somewhat similar to the Arabic naming system (see section 15.2), though with fewer

complications. Turks have one or more given name (*isim*, a Turkish form of Arabic *ism*, or *ad*, a traditional Turkic word of pre-Islamic origin), and a family name (*soyadı*). Many Turkish given names are derived from Arabic and are associated with Islam. Others are much older, and many of these are shared with other Turkic languages such as Azerbaijani. Just as in European languages, many Turkish family names are derived from such given names, while others are taken from place-names or vocabulary words. Family names with a Turkic etymology can in many cases be associated with pre-Islamic legends and mythology.

The very recent origins of family names in modern Turkey mean that people seeking information about a Turkish family name in Britain must look back to the usage of Turkish and Arabic words and names in the Ottoman Empire. An individual was known primarily by his given name. This was often used in combination with an honorific or a descriptor with honorific overtones, such as the male title of respect *bey* ‘official’ (female *Begüm*, originally for a *bey*’s wife; e.g. *Mehmet bey*) or *uzun* ‘tall’ (e.g. *Uzun Hasan* ‘Hasan the tall’), or an adjectival or genitival modifier denoting his place of birth (e.g. *Ankaralı Kemal* ‘Kemal from Ankara’ or *Köşelerin* ‘of/ from the corners’), or an additional birth name without a patronymic suffix (e.g. *Ahmet Riza*), or a patronymic (e.g. *Hasanoğlu Yusuf* ‘Yusuf son of Hasan’). Such descriptive epithets form the basis of the family-name system introduced in 1934.

The law enacted by the reformer and first president of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881–1934), one of whose goals was to europeanize Turkey, stipulated that all Turkish citizens must adopt an inheritable family name. Atatürk’s own surname, which means ‘father of the Turks’, was bestowed on him that year by act of the Turkish parliament, while being forbidden to all other Turkish citizens. This law had at least two noticeable effects. In the first place, the range of sources from which family names could be taken was very wide, possibly even wider than the range of possibilities in Ottoman times, including not only traditional Turkish given names but also place-names, features of the landscape, and almost any word from the general vocabulary of the Turkish language, and including some assertive and assertively nationalistic creations. They include *Gül* ‘rose’ (see **Gul**), **Kaya** ‘stone’, *Akçura* ‘crescent’ (an Islamic symbol), *Erdoğan* ‘[one] who is born a brave man, a soldier or warrior’ (see **Erdoğan**), *Demirel* ‘iron hand’, *Öztürk* ‘genuine Turk’ (see **Ozturk**), and *Özil* ‘genuine land’. As a result, there are now a very large number of rather rare and recent family names in Turkey, many of them used only by one family. Current examples of the usual categories of family names are *Hikmet*, from the male given name of the same form, and *Kerimoğlu* with a patronymic suffix (relationship names), *Tüfekçi* ‘gunsmith’ (occupational name), *Karatay* (locative name from a town in Konya province), and *Küçük* ‘little’ (nickname). The last category was, as examples above indicate, widely exploited in the reforms of the 1930s. The second noticeable effect was that, although family names were acquired by all Turks, these surnames are rarely used outside official and legal contexts. The usual way of addressing or referring to a man continued and continues to be use of the honorific term *bey* after the given name, as for example *Mehmet bey*.

Turkish Cypriots, who were never formally subject to Atatürk's reforms, tend to bear the traditional type of family name of patronymic origin derived from Turkish or Arabic (Muslim) given names or the same but with the suffix *-oğlu*. Others have what are originally locative bynames, for example *Karpazlı*, denoting someone from the Karpasia peninsula in north-eastern Cyprus.

There is no authoritative dictionary of Turkish family names, and the best available information is contained in *Dictionary of American Family Names* (Hanks 2003a). Most are transparent, as would be expected in a situation where most surnames were created and adopted less than a century ago.

18. Greek family names in Britain⁷

Many names of Greek origin are found in Britain today, mostly as a result of the immigration of Greek-speaking Cypriots in the latter half of the 20th century, especially after the independence of Cyprus from the British Empire in 1960, and again after the invasion by Turkey in 1974. There was also immigration of Turkish Cypriots in the 1950s and 1960s following intercommunal violence, but overall Greek immigration was on a larger scale. There are some 80,000 people of Cypriot origin in the United Kingdom at present. It is hard to disentangle how many of these are of Greek descent, and how many of Turkish, Armenian, or Maronite background. In the 2001 census, there were about twice as many Cypriots all told as people originating from Greece.

Given the fairly large number of non-Cypriot Greeks in the United Kingdom, the entire background of Greek surnaming is presented here, despite the relatively limited range of types found in Cypriot names (largely old genitive formations in *-ou*, e.g. *Petrou*, *Theodoulou*); all the other linguistic types are represented to a certain degree as a result of the lesser flow of Greek speakers from the mainland of Greece and the islands, and it is desirable to set the Cypriot names in their historical and linguistic context.

In antiquity, free male Greeks were identified by a proper name, a patronymic, and sometimes by their tribe or native region. A free married woman was identified by the name of her husband rather than that of her father. For example, an Athenian man might be identified as Sokrates the son of Sophroniskos of the deme (district) of Alopeke, or an Athenian woman as Alkimache wife of Kallimakhos of Anagyrus. The Roman practice of taking cognomens and surnames (*nomina*) did not catch on among Greek speakers during classical times.

Hereditary family names as we understand them today became common in Byzantium in the 10th century AD, slightly earlier than in most other parts of Europe but contemporarily with such names in Ireland. Initially, surnames were predominantly derived from places of habitation, nicknames, or occupations. Thus, the imperial family of the Komnenoi took its name from the city of Komne in Asia Minor, and that of the Laskares from a Persian word for 'warrior', ultimately of Arabic origin. The surname of the Palaiologoi is derived from the words *palaios* 'old' and *-logos*

'collector', and it probably meant not 'antiquarian' but 'garbage collector', although the first Palaiologos we know of was already governor of Thessalonika. This Palaiologos (the father of Emperor Michael VIII, reigned 1259–82) had a triple surname typical of nobles of his time eager to establish their aristocratic credentials: Andronikos Dukas Komnenos Palaiologos. Commoners made do with single family names. Among Byzantine intellectuals, Michael Psellos's surname means 'stutterer', while Demetrios Kydones's surname means 'quince'.

18.1 Christianity and Greek naming

In the first millennium AD, the Greek language was intimately connected with the rise of Christianity. Greek is the original language of the New Testament, and the Greek forms of names such as *Peter*, *Paul*, *Mark*, *Matthew*, *Luke*, *John*, and *Mary* have had far-reaching influence on naming practices throughout Europe and elsewhere: thousands of European family names are derived from the Greek forms of these seven personal names.

In many Christian cultures, it was obligatory to select the name of a newborn child from a fairly small inventory of saints' names approved by the Church; these later became the foundation for a vast array of European patronymic surnames. Although some saints' names demonstrate continuity with the pagan past (e.g., *Isidore* 'gift of Isis', or *Theresa* 'hunting', originally associated with the goddess Artemis), most of them break with the past, some being Semitic in origin, some allusions to Christian history and legend (*Christopher*), or in some cases novel coinages (*Spyridon*). Differences among saints' cults account for the greater frequency in the Orthodox domain—Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Russia—of family names based on Greek *Demetrios*, *Theodoros*, *Konstantinos*, *Athanasios*, *Vasilios* (Basil), and so on, as well as Orthodox-specific cultic names such as *Stavros* from the Holy Cross, or *Panagiotis* from an epithet of the Virgin Mary meaning 'all-holy'. In Greece itself, accordingly, these religious names are the foundation for a large number of family names.

18.2 The rise of Greek patronymics

The major change in Greek family names since Byzantine times has been a massive infusion of patronymic surnames. Many of these originated as late as the 19th century. In fact, patronymic suffixes were widely added to family names of other origins, especially in the case of suffixes that were strongly associated with a particular region. It is often possible to tell from the patronymic suffix of a family name which region of Greece someone's male lineage is most likely to be from. There are two reasons for this. The first is that patronymic suffixes are usually diminutives, and these vary from dialect to dialect. The second is that patronymic suffixes were always subject to fashion and peer pressure, particularly after this was reinforced by the standardizing influence of universal education. For example, the archaic patronymic suffix *-idis* was adopted by Black Sea Greeks on resettling in Greece, ostensibly to replace the Turkish-sounding surnames some of them had; however, it was adopted even by Black Sea Greeks whose surnames did not end in a suffix derived from Turkish *-oğlu*, and

⁷ This section is based on contributions to the *Dictionary of American Family Names* (Hanks 2003a) by Nick Nicholas.

often by those whose surnames had no Turkish component at all. Perhaps the most extreme example is that of Crete, where the patronymic suffix *-akis* is found in the surnames of up to 95 per cent of the population in some districts. Before the 19th century, this suffix was unknown in Crete, where typical surnames were Italian, nickname-based, or occupational, or used other patronymic suffixes. The ending *-akis* swept through Crete uniformly, forming *Linardakis* from *Linardos* ‘Leonard’, *Lykakis* from *Lykos* ‘wolf’, and *Mastorakis* from *Mastoras* ‘craftsman’. This pervasive change in naming practices was accelerated by the fact that education in the Greek language became widely available in the early 19th century. Family-name changes were often the prerogative of the child’s schoolmaster, rather than of the parents. Similar distinctive regional suffixes are *-idis/-adis* (Asia Minor), *-antis* (Black Sea), *-atos* (Cephalonia, Ithaca), *-eas*, *-akos* (Mani), *-elis* (Lesbos), *-oudis* (Macedonia, Thrace, Aegean Islands), *-ousis* (Chios), *-oglou* (Asia Minor), *-opoulos* (Peloponnese), and genitive or possessive forms (typically *-ou*, as in Cyprus). The last of these remains the form which is most prominent in Greek family names found in England.

18.3 Greek names from other languages

The various ethnicities that have contributed to the present-day population of Greece have had a considerable effect on the development of modern Greek family names. An extensive presence of Italian family names resulted from the long rule of parts of the Greek-speaking world by Venetians, from the 13th to the 17th or 18th century. The Venetian domain included Crete, much of the Aegean (the remainder being held by other Italian states), the Ionian Islands, and coastal cities in the Peloponnese. Common Greek family names of Italian origin include *Typaldos*, *Zevgolis*, *Vitalis*, *Dandolos*, and *Negrepontis*.

The Turkish contribution to Greek family names is extensive, especially in providing vocabulary words on which surnames were based. Ottoman Turkish, with its significant Arabic and Persian components, had a serious impact on the vocabulary of Greek in general, once Greek-speaking lands passed from the Byzantine Empire or the Italian maritime states to the Ottoman Empire; this transfer took place from the 14th to the 17th century and remained in effect until the 19th to early 20th centuries. In effect, the Ottoman Empire became the successor state to Byzantium, governing not only the bulk of the Greek-speaking world (including the western and northern coasts of Asia Minor), but also the rest of the Balkans. Greek family names from Turkish vocabulary words are often occupational, e.g. *Kavafis* ‘cobbler’, *Kazandzis/Kazantzakis* ‘cauldron-maker’, or nicknames, formed with the productive prefixes *Kara-* ‘black, dark, moody’, *Deli-* ‘crazy’, and *Hatzi-* ‘pilgrim’.

Other non-Greek contributions to Greek family names come from three populations who have a long history of cohabitation with ethnic Greeks. There is a slight presence of Slavic family names among Greeks, particularly in Greek Macedonia. The main contributions from ethnic minorities come from the Arvanites and the Vlachs. The Arvanites are descendants of Albanians who

settled in central Greece from the 14th century onwards. The Vlachs or Aromanians are a traditionally nomadic people living throughout the southern Balkans and speaking a language related to Romanian (see *Vlachos*). Both populations have been assimilated in language and ethnic consciousness to Greece, but in many cases they retain their non-Hellenic family names.

18.4 The formation of modern Greek family names

There has long been extensive pressure in Greece for people to hellenize their names (put them into a Greek form) in order to conform to the Greek ideal of nation-building; this pressure was strongly felt in particular by refugees from Asia Minor, who hellenized their family names even when they were not conspicuously Turkish-sounding, as mentioned above. Hellenization as a conscious strategy also means that the morphology of Greek family names—the components and the way they are combined—is almost always archaic, since that is the form recorded by Greek state institutions, which were long opposed to the use of the modern vernacular (Dhimotiki), advocating instead the use of Katharevousa, an artificial language modelled on classical Greek. For example, surnames based on *Giorgios* usually have forms such as *Georgiou*, although that is the archaic genitive, and the modern proper name has the genitive form *Giorgou*. The same holds for *Ioannou* versus *Gianni* (pronounced *Yanni*), and *Dimitriou* versus *Dimitri*.

Another distinctive feature of Greek family names, which contributes to their legendary length, is the fact that compounding is a highly productive process in this language. This can take several forms. In colloquial use, a man’s surname frequently was prefixed to his proper name in order to distinguish him from other bearers of the same name; for example, *Raptomanolis* ‘Emmanuel (Manolis) son of *Raptis* (tailor)’. This compound name could in turn give rise to a patronymic (*Raptomanolakis*). Alternatively, people might be distinguished by adding descriptive prefixes to their family names. The most frequent of these are the status indicators *papa-*, indicating a priest (priests being allowed to marry and have offspring in the Greek Orthodox Church), and *hatzi-*, indicating one who had made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. A third common prefix is the Turkish pejorative *kara-* ‘black’, hence ‘moody’ or ‘dark’. (See the entries for *Papas*, *Hatzis*, and *Karas*.) Thus, although a ten-syllable surname such as *Papahatzidimitrakopoulos* is a humorous exaggeration, it is not all that far from what actually occurs, and it is easily analysed: ‘son of Father *Little Dimitris*, a pilgrim (understood from the dialect form *as*) from the Peloponnese’.

19. Family names from Africa

Since the Second World War, and especially since 1972, immigration from Africa of people whose names are not of European origin has increased massively, especially, but not exclusively, from countries of the former British Empire. The first very large wave was the result of the expulsion of the middle class of Indian, mainly Gujarati, origin from Uganda by the dictator Idi Amin Dada. Since then immigration has proceeded at varying rates

depending on political and economic circumstances, especially from Nigeria and Ghana. Immigrant Nigerians are mainly of Yoruba origin, and Ghanaians from any of several groupings of the Akan-speaking people (e.g. Fante and Twi). These are the two largest African groupings in Britain, though some southern African names also feature, formed in such languages as Chicheŵa (from Malawi) and Zulu (from South Africa), and of course Afrikaans, the South African offspring of Dutch. Prominent among the last of these are the surnames **du Plessis** and **de Villiers**, which are formally French, and are the family names of originally Huguenot families which found their way to what became Cape Colony around 1700.

It is worth bearing in mind that migration within the European Union often brings to Britain persons of African heritage whose ancestors were colonized by other European powers such as France and Portugal; accordingly, names formed in such languages as Fula and Mandinka (spoken across a large tract of West African countries) are found in Britain in increasingly large numbers, many strongly enough to feature in any future editions of this dictionary. Colonial boundaries were no respecters of indigenous ethnic or linguistic boundaries, and as a result some names common over much of West Africa and already strongly represented in Britain may appear in either French- or English-mediated spelling, for example **Cissé** versus **Ceesay**, **Sissay**. Such names may be categorized simply as ‘West African’ in this dictionary where no precise ethnic affiliation can be determined.

20. Family names from the West Indies

There are large and thriving West Indian communities in many cities in Britain. However, among those people of African extraction the vast majority of family names are of English origin (**Brathwaite**, **Collymore**, **Nurse**, **Walcott**) or Scottish (**Campbell**, **McLean**), being derived from the family names of colonial plantation owners and attached to slaves from their masters. The ‘washback’ of such names into the UK has markedly increased the frequency of certain names which were or had become rather uncommon in the UK (**Defoe**, **Sobers**). Occasional other immigrant family names are Portuguese (**Fernandes**) or French (**de Caires**), reminding us of wider European colonialism in the Caribbean. Recent research (‘Legacies of British Slave-ownership’, <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/>) has revealed and publicized the names of the many Britons who benefited financially from the abolition of slavery in 1833, which offers a useful way into discovering the names of earlier slave owners and the location of their plantations, and hence to discovering where slave ancestors of modern bearers of these family names lived, suffered, and died—and acquired their new, perhaps often unwelcome, surnames which they may initially have regarded as badges of ownership rather than as truly their own names. However, it is surely a hopeless task to try and do on any large, systematic scale what Alex Haley did in *Roots* (1976), namely recover the original (West) African names of the ancestors who were taken into slavery and transported across the Atlantic. A few such candidate family names are known, such as **Cuffy**, of Akan origin (*Kofi*), possibly adopted by the historically-minded

rather than inherited; this name is found in the West Indies but not yet in any numbers in the UK (although it also exists in the UK derived from different sources).

Some West Indian family names duplicate or partly duplicate those which have arrived in the UK from the Indian subcontinent (**Ali**, **Narine/Narayan**, **Ragoonath/Ragunathan**), while others suggest that Indian immigration into the UK was mainly from areas which differed linguistically from those supplying immigrants to the West Indies. Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago in particular have some interesting names originating as altered forms of names deriving from Indian languages (e.g. **Ramkissoon**, originating as a variant of **Ramakrishnan**).

21. Previous and current research in family names

Compared with other fields of onomastics, such as the study of place-names, family-name research has received relatively little scholarly attention in Britain. While a number of dictionaries have been compiled (see section 1), extensive works on the general history of family names, including their development, distribution, and specific regional characteristics, are comparatively few. This is not to say, however, that the subject is new. The first known account of the history of British family names appears in *Remaines of a Greater Worke, Concerning Britaine* (1605) by the schoolmaster, historian, and genealogist William Camden (1551–1623). This pioneering discussion was unfortunately brief, consisting of just one out of twenty-four chapters, alongside another on given names, but Camden made some telling observations, and it provided the foundations for future study. He tells us: ‘The French and we termed them *Surnames*, not because they are the name of the Sire, or the father, but because they are super-added to Christian names’, and he presents a typology of surnames, with plentiful examples. Most of Camden’s remarks are in discursive prose, but pages 98–103 of his first edition (1605) contain a list of about 240 English locative family names, many of them without explanation. Others are briefly glossed, e.g.:

GARTH, A yarde.
GILL, a small water.
GLIN, *Welsh*, a dale.

Camden did not attempt to compile a full-scale dictionary of family names, and even had he wished to do so, he did not have the resources necessary for such a task. Altogether, he discusses no more than 1,000 surnames, fewer than one twentieth of the total number in existence in his day. He is at his best on aristocratic family names of Norman origin, as befitted a man who later became a senior figure in English heraldry, occupying the post of Clarenceux King of Arms. Already in Tudor times the claim to be descended in the male line ‘from someone who came over with the Conqueror’ was believed (at least by the claimants) to confer social distinction, an opinion which can still be found in 2016. Camden says:

The most antient [surnames], and of best accompt, have been locall, deduced from places in Normandy and the countries confining, being

either the patronomial possessions or native places of such as served the Conquerour, or came in after out of Normandy, as *Aulbeny*, or *Mortimer*, *Warren*, *Aubigny*, *Percy*, *Gournay*, *Devreux*, *Tankervil*, *Saint-Lo*, *Argenton*, *Marmion*, *Sint Maure*, *Bracy*, *Maigny*, *Nevill*, *Ferrers*, *Harrecourt*, *Baskerville*, *Mo[n]taigne*, *Tracy*, *Buefoe*, *Valoyns*, *Cayley*, *Lucy*, *Montfort*, *Bonville*, *Bovil*, *Auranch*, &c.

(Camden 1605: 95–6).

Camden was the first of many to point out the extensive influence of folk etymology on surnames. He mentions, for example:

-vil, which is corruptly turned by some into *Feld*, as in *Baskerfield*, *Somerfeld*, *Dangerfeld*, *Trublefeld*, . . . and in others into *Well*, as *Boswell* for *Bossevil*, . . . *Freshwell* for *Freschevil*.

(Camden 1605: 95–6).

In this respect we can recall Thomas Hardy's heroine Tess Durbeyfield, who was 'of the d'Urbervilles'.

21.1 Victorian family-name dictionaries

Between Camden and the Victorians, no names dictionaries were compiled. Such work as was published was carried out by genealogists investigating the pedigrees of peers, baronets, and landed gentry in works such as Debrett (1802 *et seq.*) and Burke (1826 *et seq.*). New editions of these works have been produced more or less annually ever since. Both publishers now offer a professional ancestry research service. Part of the work of 20th-century editors of these volumes consisted in expunging the myths and flights of fancy of earlier editions, which had led Oscar Wilde to dub one of them 'the finest thing the English have ever done in fiction'.

Probably the first to provide a comprehensive history of specifically English family names was Mark Antony Lower (1849), who outlined the chronology of hereditary surname adoption and organized names in a number of categories, though these were different from those which are generally used today. However, the most important of these Victorian histories was by Charles Wareing Bardsley (1843–98), vicar of Ulverston (Lancashire), who devoted almost all of his spare time from the mid-1860s until his death to the study of English family names. In 1875 he published a study of their origins, the index to which contains over 4,000 names; it is thus virtually a concise dictionary of family names in its own right. It went through five editions before it was superseded by his dictionary, published posthumously (Bardsley 1901). This contains over 11,000 main entries coupled with more than 800 variant spellings. Bardsley appears to have been the first to categorize names using a typology broadly similar to that used in current research (including this dictionary), classifying them under one of the following five types: 'baptismal or personal names', 'local surnames', 'official surnames', 'occupative surnames', or 'sobriquet surnames or nicknames'.

Bardsley's work was the first serious attempt to provide an inventory of modern English family names, their history, and origins, using a defensible methodology. He introduced historical principles to English family-names lexicography, linking modern names, as far as he could with the knowledge of historical linguistics at his disposal, to the names mentioned in old records. He cited early evidence for each name where it was available to

him, collecting names from documents such as Hundred Rolls and Poll Tax returns, as well as contemporary Post Office directories, a methodology which has become the norm and which is used in the present dictionary. His scholarship was on occasions defective, even by the standards of his own day, and for many names his conclusions have been superseded by subsequent research. He indulged in digressions that were not always relevant, and he overlooked some important connections; for example, he missed the Welsh origin of the Cecil family and therefore got the etymology of the name wrong. But he got many things right, and he adopted the honest strategy of recording common family names with a question mark in place of an explanation where the origin was unknown to him—for example, at **Womack**, a name for which a tentative explanation is offered for the first time in this dictionary—rather than pretending that such names do not exist. Despite its imperfections, it does not deserve the ungracious dismissal of it by Löfvenberg (1942), where it is lumped together with lesser 'more or less dilettante' works. Even now, over a century after it was published, it is still a primary source of reference, which can be consulted (with appropriate caution) in conjunction with the more recent dictionaries of Reaney (1958), Reaney and Wilson (1991), Hanks and Hodges (1988), and Hanks (2003a).

Bardsley is also sound on the possible linguistic effects of migration (1901: 3–4). Building on Camden's observations about folk etymology nearly 300 years previously, he says that one of the greatest difficulties in solving the origin of our family names comes under 'the law of imitation'. The parentage being forgotten, people naturally began to pronounce their names in a way that accorded with the local dialect of the area to which they had moved, especially if it seemed to convey a meaning. The institution of Parish Registers in 1538 by Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's Vicar General, required the parson of each parish to record baptisms, marriages, and burials, with the names of the individuals concerned. At first, some parsons (or their clerks) were more conscientious in doing this than others, but by 1558, the first year of the reign of Elizabeth I, most parishes conformed to the order. According to Bardsley, this led to 'the pitfall into which so many stumble. Hence in co. Somerset, Greedy for Gredhay, Rainbird for Reynebaud, Trott for Troyt, Bacchus for Bakehouse, Toogood or Doogood for Thurgod, Goodyear for Goodier, Gospell for Gosbell, Physick for Fishwick, Potiphar for Pettifer, Pitchfork (co. Linc[s].) for Pitchforth (i.e. Pickford), Roylance for Rylands, Gudgeon for Goodson (cf. the pronunciation Hodgson for Hodgson in the North), Twentyman for Twinterman, Sisterson for Sissotson (Cecilia), Rayment for Raymond, Garment for Garmond, Forty for the old "de la Fortheye" of co. Oxford (which still exists as Forty in the city), and a host of others.'

Bardsley's entry for **Hickford** shows the style of his work:

Hickford.—Local, 'of Hickford', some spot in co. Salop. Sir Robert Atkyns, in his *Ancient and Present State of Gloucestershire*, says (p. 109) that 'the Higfords were of an ancient family in co. Salop, originally styled Hugford.' About the reign of James I the surname was turned into Higford: this of course has now become Hickford.

The explanation, as in other entries, is supported by a brief mention of medieval evidence. Bardsley did not, of course, have the

benefit of the volumes of the English Place-Name Society or of the Ordnance Survey Gazetteer, both essential tools for the modern student of English habitational family names. If he had, he would have noted that there is a place called Higford in Stockton parish, Shropshire, and that his observations on the family name are supported by early references to the place, which are mostly spelled *Hug-*, pointing to derivation from an Old English personal name **Hugga*. This confirmation by subsequent scholarship of Bardsley's endeavour to identify the origin of an obscure habitational family name, with the limited resources at his disposal, is by no means an isolated example.

21.2 Study of the geographical distribution of family names

A different approach to the study of family-name history was introduced by Guppy (1890). This work was the first to show that there is often an enduring statistical connection between a family name's present-day distribution and its place of origin. Such information must have been of great help to Victorian genealogists who were once uncertain of which parish or county records to consult when searching for a certain family's ancestors, while it could also aid those interested in surname history generally, particularly when searching for the previously unidentified origin of a locative name. Guppy's methodology is a model for an important strand of family-name study in an age in which computational analysis of large databases is possible. He took as a sample about 5,000 names of farmers listed in Kelly's directories, believing that farmers represented a particularly stable segment of the population, and he showed that many family names have a statistically significant association with particular counties. Thus, he found **Gulliver** with a frequency of 20 per 10,000 of population in Northamptonshire (but nowhere else), **Guppy** with 7 per 10,000 in Dorset, **Hanks** with 14 per 10,000 in Gloucestershire, and **Pascoe** with 40 per 10,000 in Cornwall. He also included some historical and genealogical data in the way that had become traditional from Camden to Bardsley, for example:

PASCOE is an old and distinguished Penzance name. Erasmus Pascoe of Trevassick, Phillack, was sheriff of the county in 1720 . . . William Pascoe was mayor of Truro in 1758, and Thomas Pascoe was on the Commission of the Peace for the county in 1803. William Pascoe, of this county, contributed £25 to the National Defence Fund at the time of the expected invasion of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

Guppy's approach was an important precursor to the more recent geographical analysis of family-name distribution, for example using Archer's *British 19th Century Surname Atlas*, which has forced us in this dictionary to revise the most likely origins of some family names, as well as our understanding, foreshadowed by Bardsley's work, of how migration has affected surname distribution patterns.

21.3 Twentieth-century scholarship

Two of the better known, more recent introductions to family-name history are those by Reaney (1967) and McKinley (1990),

which offer a philologist's and a historian's perspective respectively. They remain invaluable works in the field, but as a result of their intention to provide a national survey of family-name history (and not of the history of the present-day stock of family names), they do not address the often regionally specific patterns of family-name development and distribution which McKinley himself identifies:

It is impossible to examine the surnames present in several counties, from different parts of England, without being struck by the very sizable differences which existed in the Middle Ages, and which in large measure persisted into later periods, between the different English regions.

21.3.1 THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH FAMILY-NAME STUDIES IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Ernest Weekley (1865–1954) was Professor of Modern Languages at Nottingham University and the compiler of a range of practical English dictionaries for the publisher Collins. He also wrote popular books on names, including one on family names (Weekley 1916). He planned a dictionary of surnames and is sometimes spoken of as if he had compiled one, but he did not. His short but readable survey was a popular reference source in the first half of the 20th century, but was superseded by the work of Reaney (1967). The Hallward Library at the University of Nottingham contains an edition of Bardsley (1901) annotated by Weekley, along with unpublished notes by him on family-name etymologies.

Ewen (1938) is also a historical guide to English family names, rather than a dictionary. Many of the names in it are discussed reliably and informatively. Like Bardsley (1875), it contains an extensive index of the names discussed in the text. Ewen consulted a selection of medieval records (charters, court records, tax returns, and other documents) to collect evidence, though not as systematically as subsequent scholars, including Reaney and the present editors, would have wished.

21.3.2 SWEDISH SCHOLARSHIP IN THE MID-20TH CENTURY

From the 1930s to the 1950s, several doctoral theses on Old and Middle English surnames were published in Sweden, characterized by rigorous systematicity in the examination of medieval data. Two of the most important of these are Fransson (1935) and Löfvenberg (1942). Both authors were students of the most prominent Swedish scholar of Old and Middle English onomastics, Eilert Ekwall, who himself wrote studies of surnames and personal names in medieval London (1945, 1947). The scholarship of Fransson and Löfvenberg is impeccable, but their scope is limited by the constraints of their dissertation word-limit: their books each have entries for only just over 700 medieval surnames, and not all the names they studied have survived into the modern period. Fransson made some attempt to link the surnames that he found in medieval records to modern lexical items where possible and in some entries commented on the geographical distribution of the surname, but Löfvenberg did not. Both saw their task as excerpting and organizing the medieval material, and therefore as accounting for medieval surnames rather than explaining modern family names. Fransson's book contains an alphabetical index of names and the microstructure of each entry is dictionary-like. However, the

macrostructure is not that of a dictionary. The entries are arranged not in alphabetical order but in chapters dealing with particular sets of occupations, such as: 1. Dealers and traders; 7. Masonry and roofing workers; 9. Physicians and barbers. Fransson collected evidence from only ten English counties and ignored occupational surnames that did not fall into his nine categories, so, for example, there are no entries for terms of office such as *Reeve* and *Sheriff* (see *Sherriff*). Thuresson (1950) supplemented Fransson's work with a study of a further 850 occupational terms. Neither Fransson nor Thuresson approach the vexed question of so-called metonymic occupational names (e.g. *Cloke* for a cloak seller); see section 3.3.5. Löfvenberg (1942) was also of restricted scope, dealing with 'only local surnames consisting of an English or a French preposition followed by a noun (or place-name) preceded by the definite article [in Middle English documents]'. Like Fransson, he makes some attempt to connect the medieval evidence forward to modern family names, realizing the scope for improvement over previous work. He comments:

The value of an investigation of Middle English local surnames is manifold. Apart from giving a great deal of information about the life, conditions and customs of people in the Middle Ages, local surnames—like other surnames—are of great value for linguistic study. . . . In this thesis there are Middle English forms for such modern English surnames as Apps, Arlett, Barnett, Bay, Beer(e), Bear(e), Burchett, Bye, Denn(e), Fanne, Forty, Foss(e), Frith, Hale, Ham, Hazlitt, Heal(e) . . . [all of them misinterpreted by Bardsley in his dictionary].

Other important works on surnames by Swedish scholars are Sundby (1963) and Jönsjö (1979). Much like the work of the Swedish scholars already mentioned, Sundby's study is rooted in the medieval period and does little to show the reader how Middle English dialects have contributed to the modern forms of family names. He used the surnames of people recorded in a number of documents to investigate the Middle English dialect of Worcestershire, and in doing so he exemplified the value of surnames as evidence for linguistic variation in Middle English. By dividing his documentary materials into periods of fifty years, he was also able to show how the language changed over time. Jönsjö's study is another useful collection of medieval evidence, with etymological explanations of surnames derived from nicknames. The names are arranged in alphabetical order, but only their medieval forms are used, and so it can be difficult to connect these medieval names with their modern equivalents. Despite their restricted scope, all of these works are of importance to the field of family-name study and show how the systematic analysis of surname data can offer insights about the language more broadly.

21.3.3 P. H. REANEY

During and after the Second World War, a respected English place-name scholar introduced new standards of documentary and philological rigour to family-name studies by forging more defensible links between the early evidence and family names attested in modern times. While fire-watching in London during the Blitz, P. H. Reaney (1890–1968), schoolmaster and author of the English Place-Name Society (EPNS) volumes *The Place-Names of*

Essex (1935) and *The Place-Names of Cambridgeshire* (1943), systematically collected evidence for surnames from printed versions of medieval records and arranged them under what he assumed were their modern forms. This work contributed to his *Dictionary of British Surnames*, first published in 1958 (third edition, Reaney and Wilson 1991).

On his death, Reaney left his papers to the University of Sheffield. In 1976 and again in 1991 R. M. Wilson, Professor of English at Sheffield, published revised editions of Reaney's dictionary, including some 4,700 additional entries, mostly for family names derived from place-names which Reaney had been forced to omit from his original edition for reasons of space. In total, the third edition of the dictionary contains over 16,000 entries. Its focus is on citations of names from Subsidy Rolls, Pipe Rolls, Feet of Fines, Assize Rolls, and other national and local manuscript sources (including published editions). References to these are given in an extremely abbreviated form. Explanations are sometimes terse to the point of being incomprehensible, and the connections between medieval forms and modern family names are quite speculative. The entry for **Hanke**, **Hanks** shows both the strengths and the weaknesses of Reaney's approach:

Hanke, Hanks: *Anke* Hy 2 DC (L); *Hanke* 12th ib.; *Anke* de Ankinton' 1194 P (L); *Hank'* carpentarius 1280 Oseney (O); Roger *Hanke* 1275 RH (NF); Ralph *Hancks* 1642 PrGR. *Hank* is usually regarded as a Flemish pet-form of *John*. The early examples above are undoubtedly of Scandinavian origin, from ON *Anki*, a diminutive of some name in *Arn-*.

Like most entries in Reaney's great dictionary, this contains a selection of medieval and other early evidence—an astonishing achievement in the days before computers. However, it cannot be read without constant reference to the list of abbreviations in the front matter. Moreover, *Hanke* and *Hanks* are almost certainly unrelated names, formed in different parts of the country from different etymons, so the final sentence, though true, merely underlines the irrelevance of *Anke* and *Hanke* to the modern family name **Hanks**. Thirdly, as Guppy had already shown half a century earlier, *Hanks* is and always has been associated with Gloucestershire and the adjacent county of Wiltshire, a region where there was no Scandinavian settlement. The mention of *Hank' carpentarius* in Oseney (near Oxford) in 1280 is in the right general area at the right time: it could perhaps be relevant to the family name *Hanks*. The most likely etymology of this is not Scandinavian but from *Han*, a pet form of *Jehan* (*John*)—possibly brought to the south Midlands by Flemish weavers. The family name is formed according to a pattern found also in **Danks**, **Hinks**, **Wilks**, **Jenks**, and other south Midlands surnames. Ralph Hancks, in Preston (Lancashire) in 1642, is most plausibly explained as a migrant (or descendant of a migrant) from Gloucestershire, even though no biographical details have yet been found to confirm or disconfirm this supposition.

21.3.4 COTTLE AND TITFORD

The first edition (1967) of Basil Cottle's *Penguin Dictionary of Surnames* contains 8,000 entries, expanded in the second edition (1978) to 12,000. The coverage is, however, somewhat idiosyncratic:

many common names are missing. The entries are as academically reliable as could reasonably be expected given the resources available at the time, though many can now be shown to be wrong. They are brief and clear to the expert, but dense to the point of obscurity to the general user. With few exceptions, the explanations are preceded by one of four letters indicating the typology of the provenance: F (= first name), L (= local name), (O = occupational name), or N (= nickname). Etymons are generally implied, rather than stated; for example, *Isgar* is explained as ‘F “iron spear” OE’. The alert reader can easily discover that it is a relationship name deriving from a given name (F, ‘first name’), and that it is of Old English origin (OE), but the Old English words for ‘iron’ and ‘spear’ are not stated, and an unwary reader might conclude that the family name is of Old English origin, which it is not; it is the given name on which it is based that is of Old English origin, and that consists of the words for ‘iron’ and ‘spear’ with no necessary implication that the amalgamated concept ‘iron spear’ is intended. Explanations are not supported by citations from medieval documents, but the dictionary was a paperback for popular consumption, already running to over 440 pages in the second edition, so Cottle’s decision can be seen as defensible. On the positive side, geographical distribution is often noted, with occasional references to Guppy’s work.

John Titford’s *Penguin Dictionary of British Surnames* (2009), which is a revision of Cottle’s work, makes good use of modern distributional information to correct a number of errors, especially in the explanation of family names from place-names. He also draws on some of Redmonds’ discoveries (about **Ovenden** and the rarer name *Woffindale*, for example) and on family-history research by members of the Guild of One-Name Studies. As a family historian himself, Titford contributes a perceptive introductory essay to his dictionary on the nature of modern family-name development and its research implications. He omits family names that do not have significant frequency in modern times (about 2,000 are lost as compared with Cottle’s second edition), and the dictionary deals with only around 10,000 names, fewer than half of those in Reaney and Wilson and fewer than a quarter of those in the present volume. Some of his explanations repeat erroneous or inadequate explanations from Cottle and from Reaney and Wilson, including several, such as **Maud**, **Moxon**, and **Stringfellow**, that had already been corrected in Redmonds (1997). Like all previous family-name lexicographers, if Titford cannot explain the origin of a name, he simply omits it. This contrasts with the present work, where names whose origin cannot be explained, despite the best efforts of the whole team, are recorded with statements about their frequency and distribution and (usually) a selection of such evidence as there is and (sometimes) a summary of plausible hypotheses.

21.3.5 THE ENGLISH SURNAMES SERIES AND OTHER COUNTY AND REGIONAL FAMILY-NAME SURVEYS

The English Surnames Series (ESS), the fruit of a project begun in 1965 at the University of Leicester under McKinley’s editorship, set out to investigate the history of family names at the county level, in order to improve our understanding of regionally specific patterns

such as name-type distribution and hereditary family-name development. Unfortunately, only seven volumes were published (Redmonds 1973, McKinley 1975, 1977, 1981, 1988, Postles 1995, 1998), but the regional characteristics that were identified did much to show the value of localized name study and its contribution to local history research. Cecily Clark recognized the importance of this approach, noting that the works of the ESS

... never lose sight of the special nature of naming, as distinct from common vocabulary, and so proceed consistently in terms of social status, of domicile and landholding, of migration-patterns, of economic activity, or gender and familial relationships, of types of milieu, and of ramification of individual clans (Clark 1995: 384).

However, it is not necessarily the case that this county-based research is suitable for investigating regional family-name patterns. Postles (1995: 4), in his ESS volume for Devon, concedes that counties can never be regional societies, while Redmonds (2004: xiv), from his Yorkshire vantage point, comments that ‘many of the counties are made up of several distinct regions, and these can be linked to marked differences in their topography, history and language.’ Future family-name research could, then, benefit from focusing on socially, topographically, culturally, and linguistically distinct regions, perhaps investigating particularly localized patterns of development, much as Hey (2000: xi) has suggested:

The research that will forward our understanding of how surnames arose and spread will need to be focused on particular parts of the country, looking at how groups of names were formed at different times in particular local communities.

An example of such a beginning is Harry Parkin’s University of the West of England dissertation on Cotswold surnames (Parkin 2014).

21.3.6 HANKS AND HODGES

Hanks and Hodges (1988) is both an explanatory inventory of modern British and Irish surnames and a comparative survey of European family names. It contains explanations for several hundred English, Scottish, Irish, Welsh, and Cornish family names not mentioned by Reaney and Wilson, together with a very large number of European cognates. Altogether, this dictionary explains nearly 70,000 family names, nested etymologically under 7,000 main entries. It met with a mixed reception in Britain, but was warmly welcomed in America, where most family names are of non-English origin. Scholars in the British Isles complained about the absence of medieval evidence supporting the explanations. Making good this deficiency was part of the motivation for undertaking the research on which FaNBI is based.

Encouraged by the favourable reception of this work in America, Hanks went on to compile a much larger *Dictionary of American Family Names* (Hanks 2003a), an even more ambitious but much better focused work, in three volumes, whose entry list is based on computational analysis of the names of over 88 million American telephone subscribers. There is an entry for every name borne by more than 100 telephone subscribers, as well as for many rarer names, such as *Stuyvesant*, insofar as the latter are of historical or etymological importance. There are over 70,000 entries altogether. The explanations are the work not of Hanks alone but of thirty of

the world's leading surname experts. The 'nesting' arrangement of Hanks and Hodges was abandoned. Instead, every family name (even spelling variants) receives an entry in its own right. There are genealogical notes on early American bearers for many entries, especially in cases where the form of a European name was substantially changed in 17th- and 18th-century America, a process discussed in Hanks (2003b). A sample entry is:

Billington (1345) English: habitation name from any of three places called Billington, in Lancashire, Staffordshire, and Bedfordshire. The first of these is first recorded in 1196 as *Billinduna* 'sword-shaped hill'; the second is in Domesday Book as *Belintone* 'settlement (Old English *tūn*) of Billa', the one in Bedfordshire is recorded in 1196 as *Billendon*, from an Old English personal name *Billa* + *dūn* 'hill'. The place in Lancashire is the most likely source of the surname.

FOREBEARS John Billington (1580–1630), from Spalding, Lincolnshire, was a passenger on the *Mayflower* in 1620 and an early settler in Plymouth Colony. Governor Bradford called him 'the profanest' of the settlers; eventually he was hanged for murder. His son Francis married and had children.

22. Multidisciplinary research

While the county-level approach of the ESS may not be entirely appropriate for localized family-name research, that is not to say that its findings are without value. The ESS's consideration of many historical factors, such as cultural, linguistic, and social history, emphasized and encouraged a multidisciplinary approach to family-name study, rather than the predominantly linguistic focus of past works, such as Reaney's (1967). More recent research has tended to adopt multidisciplinary techniques, investigating the etymology and forms of names alongside distributional, genetic, biographical, prosopographical, and other complementary historical factors, in order to achieve a greater level of understanding about their origins and development. The potential role of DNA evidence in onomastic research has been discussed above. Redmonds, King, and Hey (2011) have clearly shown the benefits of such a multidisciplinary approach, particularly in an analysis of prosopographical and distribution evidence, where they consider a wide range of historical sources to determine the origin of the previously enigmatic family name **Tordoff**. The 1881 distribution shows this family name was concentrated in the West Riding of Yorkshire, encouraging the researcher to search local records from around this area of England to find the origin of the name. However, the Dumfriesshire origin of the name led Redmonds, King, and Hey (2011: 99) to the conclusion that the family name *Tordoff* 'derives from a locality known as Tordoff Point on the Scottish side of the Solway Firth.' Without the prosopographical evidence, this origin may not have been so easily found or so confidently asserted.

Redmonds (1997) has also shown the advantages of considering a wide range of historical sources in determining a family name's etymology, particularly in his analysis of alias names. With a purely philological approach, a family name's origin can be identified through the comparison of similar name-forms. However, where a name has been altered by scribal influence to such an extent that its

form is no longer etymologically transparent, linguistic comparison is of little help, and a different approach is required. Redmonds' investigation of a large number of sources allowed him to discover and analyse cases where a person is recorded with two or more names connected by the Latin word *alias*, literally 'otherwise', which in some cases suggest an etymological connection between two family names which might not appear to be related judging by their form alone. One such example is the case of Simon *Woodhouse alias Wydis* from Thornton le Moor in 1611 (Redmonds 1997: 125; see the examples and discussion in the entries for **Woodhouse** and **Woodiwiss** in this dictionary).

The multidisciplinary approach has not just involved the application of wider historical knowledge and DNA evidence to family-name study but the use of family-name data in other historical studies. McClure (1979) used toponymic surname data to investigate rural and urban patterns of medieval migration, and the value of this methodology led to its use in further migration studies (see Penn 1983, Rosser 1989, Kowaleski 1995). Researchers in the fields of demography, population, and geographical information science have made use of family-name evidence (Schürer 2002, 2004, Longley and others 2005), while lexicographical research using family-name evidence has also been carried out (see, for example, Mawer 1930, McClure 2010a, 2010b, and the Swedish works, mainly by scholars at Lund University, such as Fransson (1935), Löfvenberg (1942), Thuresson (1950), and Jönsjö (1979), mentioned above, which provided antedatings, accepted into the *Oxford English Dictionary*, for a large number of words of English vocabulary).

Outside the ESS series, and published since its suspension, an excellent county (or rather sub-county) survey of family names is the three-volume work on names characteristic of North Staffordshire by Edgar Tooth (2000, 2002, 2004, 2010). Finally, a major new county dictionary is Redmonds (2015). This massive work provides a model for an approach that, if replicated in every district of Britain, would greatly advance our knowledge of family names and their history and contribute significantly to a reliable and comprehensive dictionary. The editors of FaNBI acknowledge with gratitude the fact that George Redmonds made a draft of his work available to the project before it was published, and many of the Yorkshire entries have been substantially improved as a result.

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Glossary

ablative A grammatical term for the case form of nouns and adjectives in inflected languages, the main function of which is to indicate movement away from an object.

accusative A grammatical term for the case form of nouns and adjectives in inflected languages, the main function of which is to identify the direct object of a verb.

affricate A speech sound such as /pf/ or /tʃ/ (the latter being usually spelled *-ch-* or *-tch* in English), consisting of a plosive immediately followed by a fricative at the same position of articulation.

Afro-Asiatic Denoting or belonging to a family of languages spoken in North Africa, the Middle East, and the Horn of Africa, including Semitic languages (notably Arabic and Hebrew), Berber, Hausa, and Somali.

agent derivative A noun denoting a person or thing that performs an action related to a verb or other word from which it derives, for example *baker* for someone who bakes.

Akan The principal language of the Akan people of Ghana, dialects of which are *Akuapim* and *Asante* (together known as *Twi*), and *Fante*.

altered form A family name whose form has changed in a linguistically irregular fashion, often by folk etymology, such as *Ambridge* from *Ambrose*.

alveolar A speech sound such as English /t/ or /d/, made by pressing part of the tongue against the alveolar ridge (the firm ridge immediately behind the upper teeth).

Amharic The language of Ethiopia, a Semitic language related to Arabic and Hebrew. It has its own distinctive writing system.

anglicize To alter the form of a word or name so that it conforms more naturally to the rules of English spelling or pronunciation, such as **Bloom** for German and Jewish **Blum** (from German *Blume*, Yiddish *blum* ‘flower’), or **Delaney** for Irish Ó Dubhshláine.

Anglo-Latin The Medieval Latin language as used in England, which contained many latinizations of English words, for example *murderatio* ‘murder’.

Anglo-Norman (also called **Anglo-Norman French**) A variety of Norman French spoken and written in medieval England following the Norman Conquest in 1066. The people who settled in England after the Conquest and who spoke this language included not only Normans but also their followers from Brittany, Flanders, and Picardy. Between the 11th and the 14th century in England, it was the language of the aristocracy, the

administration, and the law courts. Many family names in England are of Anglo-Norman origin.

Anglo-Scandinavian A variety of the Scandinavian language (Old Norse) spoken in northern and eastern parts of England following Scandinavian settlement in and around the 9th and 10th centuries. It gave rise to some new English place-names (see the family name **Ireton**) and to some new Old Scandinavian personal names (see **Annand**), as well as to some hybrid personal names combining Scandinavian and English elements (see **Ketteridge**), and to anglicized forms of original Scandinavian personal names (see **Thurstan**).

antonym A word that has the opposite meaning to the one under consideration. For example, the family name **Smallbone** evidently originated as a nickname that was an antonym of **Longbone**.

aphetic Denoting or pertaining to the loss of an unstressed vowel at the beginning of a word or name, for example **Prentice** from *apprentice*.

apotropaic name A name given in the belief that it would ward off evil spirits or avert bad luck. The Ashkenazic Jewish male given name *Altman*, literally ‘old man’, is believed to have been bestowed on children as an apotropaic name, intended to ward off the Angel of Death and ensure that the bearer would live to be an old man.

Arabic A Semitic language spoken in the Arabian Peninsula, North Africa, Iraq, and elsewhere, with many different dialects. Classical written Arabic is the language of the Muslim holy scripture, the Qur’an, and of the Hadith.

Aramaic A Semitic language closely related to Hebrew and Arabic. It was the language spoken by Jesus of Nazareth and is the language of the Jewish collection of rabbinic writings called the Talmud.

Ashkenazic Denoting the Jews of central and eastern Europe, who spoke Yiddish, a specifically Jewish language derived from German.

aspiration An audible exhalation of breath, as occurs in English in the pronunciation of initial accented /p/, /t/, and /k/.

assimilation A process resulting from the influence of one speech sound, word, or name on another, resulting in both sounds, words, or names becoming similar or identical. For example, Middle English *Pernel* (now **Parnell**) has become **Pennell** (through assimilation of /rn/ to /nn/, and Scottish **Pollock** has been altered in Ireland to **Pogue** through assimilation to the Irish word *póg* ‘kiss’.

augmentative With reference in particular to Italian names, denoting alteration of a basic name form through the addition of a suffix implying large size, for example **Nardone** as a variant of the personal name **Nardo**.

Austronesian A major group of languages in South East Asia and the Pacific islands, including the Malayo-Polynesian languages (Cambodian, Indonesian, Malay, and Vietnamese), and Taiwanese.

bachelor In the feudal system, a young knight who was too young or too poor to have his own following of vassals.

back-formation The creation of a word from an existing word by removing part of it on the false assumption that it is a derivative of the new formation; for example, creation of the verb *edit* from the Latin noun *editor*, which literally means ‘one who gives something out’, from *e(x)* ‘out’ + *datum* ‘given’. One source of the family name **Hew** is the Middle English word *hewe* ‘domestic, servant’, which is a back-formation from the Middle English plural form *hewen* ‘members of a household, domestics’.

Bantu A large sub-group of the Niger-Congo language family, spoken in central and southern Africa, including Ndebele, Shona, and Zulu.

Basque A language and people of the Spanish and French Pyrenees. The Basque language has no known relationship to any other language.

Bengali An Indo-Aryan language spoken by the people of Bangladesh and the Indian states of West Bengal, Assam, and Tripura.

Berber An Afro-Asiatic language spoken in North Africa.

bilabial A consonantal speech sound such as /b/ or /p/, involving closure of the lips to block the flow of air.

binomial system The system of names identifying individual people that is now used in most parts of the world, including Britain and Ireland. Each name in the binomial system consists of two parts: one or more forenames, given to an individual at or soon after birth, and a surname or family name, which in most traditions is normally inherited from the individual’s father.

bowdlerize To remove morphemes, words, phrases, or paragraphs from (a name, word, or text) on the grounds that they are considered obscene, in family names typically having the result that the historical formation of the name was obscured. In the Victorian era, many names ending in *-cock* were altered to *-cott* under the influence of bowdlerization.

Breton A Celtic language closely related to Cornish, which was taken to Brittany by migrants from south-west Britain in the 5th century; also the term for a native of Brittany.

British With reference to a historical language, an earlier stage of the Brittonic language, contemporary with the use of Latin in Roman Britain.

Brittonic (also **Brythonic**) The Celtic language (or group of languages) spoken by the ancient Britons in pre-Roman and Roman times, of which modern Welsh is the main present-day descendant.

broad consonant In Gaelic languages, a consonant that is velar or has become velarized.

Bulgarian The southern Slavic language spoken in Bulgaria.

byname Originally an alternative or subsidiary name; now usually a non-hereditary *surname*; also another name (such as a nickname) in transferred use as a personal name.

Cambodian An Austronesian language (also known as Khmer) spoken in Cambodia.

Cantonese A dialect of the Chinese language spoken in Hong Kong and southern China. The majority of British family names of Chinese origin are from the Cantonese dialect.

Castilian See *Spanish*.

Catalan The Romance language spoken in Catalonia and Andorra, where it has official status. It is closely related to Occitan, the vernacular language of southern France, as well as to Spanish.

Celtic A group of languages of major historical importance, constituting a branch of the Indo-European language family. There are two main groups of Celtic languages in the British Isles: Goidelic (also known as Q-Celtic), which consists of Irish, Scottish Gaelic, and Manx; and Brittonic (also known as P-Celtic), which consists of Welsh, Cornish, and Cumbric. With the exception of Welsh, Celtic languages are now rare or endangered, although Irish is a compulsory subject in schools in Ireland and valiant attempts are also being made to preserve Scottish Gaelic and revive Manx and Cornish. Irish in particular, among Celtic languages, has yielded a large number of family names. See also *Breton*.

Central French A variety of Old French that was current in central France and southern Normandy in medieval times, and from which the standard modern French language is derived.

Chinese: The language of China, the largest member of the Sino-Tibetan language family. Standard Chinese is the Mandarin dialect of northern China, but the majority of family names of Chinese origin in Britain come from the Cantonese dialect spoken in Hong Kong. Other important dialects include Hokkien (spoken in Fujian province) and Teochew (spoken in eastern Guangdong province), both of which have spread widely throughout East Asia due to emigration. Chinese is written in an ideographic writing system, in which symbols represent concepts rather than sounds.

clan A group of people, smaller than a nation, usually consisting of people who claim descent from a common ancestor.

cognates Two or more words or names that derive from the same source due to regular processes of historical change in different but related languages. For example, the Continental Germanic personal name *Baldric*, which lies behind the English family name **Baldry**, is a cognate of the Old English name **Bealdric*, which is the origin of the English family name **Baldrige**.

Continental Germanic A branch of the West Germanic language that was spoken on the continent of Europe in the first millennium AD. Old English constituted a different branch. A

- typical Continental Germanic personal name was *Rodbert*, which was adopted by speakers of Norman French and brought to England as **Robert**. Dialects of Continental Germanic are High German, Low German, and Dutch.
- Cornish** A Celtic language that was spoken in Cornwall until the 18th century and is now being revived by enthusiasts.
- Croatian** A southern Slavic language spoken in Croatia and Herzegovina. It is mutually comprehensible with Serbian, but (unlike Serbian) is written in the Roman alphabet.
- Cumbric** An early medieval Brittonic language that was spoken in parts of northern England and southern Scotland up to the 14th century.
- Czech** A Western Slavic language spoken in the Czech Republic. It is closely related to Slovak and more distantly related to Polish.
- dative** A grammatical term for the case form of nouns and adjectives in inflected languages, the main functions of which are, often following a preposition, to identify location and to express the indirect object of a verb.
- day-name** A personal name based on the word for one of the days of the week, typically found in the Akan language of Ghana, for example *Cudjoe* 'Monday'.
- de-aspiration** Loss of breathiness in the articulation of an aspirated consonant (see *aspiration*); in FaNBI it is used also to refer to the loss of initial /h/, as in **Enderson** for **Henderson**.
- denasalization** Pronunciation of a word or name without the nasal quality normally found in the source name or word. See *nasal*.
- dental** A speech sound made when the tongue is in contact with the teeth, for example English *th*, which represents both /θ/ (unvoiced) and /ð/ (voiced).
- depalatalization** The process of a sound ceasing to be palatal by the movement of the tongue away from the hard palate, as when initial /j/ in *Sharples* is depalatalized to /s/ in *Surplice*.
- Devanagari** The traditional syllabic script used for writing Sanskrit, Hindi, and other languages of northern India.
- devoicing** A process whereby a speech sound that is normally voiced becomes voiceless or less voiced, as in **Clendenning** for **Glendinning**.
- dialect** A version of a language that is peculiar to a particular geographical area or social group.
- diminutive suffix** A suffix that generally means 'little', with respect to size or importance. It is commonly added to personal names, to create a hypocoristic or pet form, as in the case of the English family name **Willett**, a pet form of **Will**.
- diphthong** A speech sound formed by the combination of two vowel sounds within a single syllable, as in the words *cow* and *time*.
- dissimilation** A process involving the influence of one speech sound on another, resulting in the sounds becoming different, as in **Dunbavin** for **Dunbabin**, or in the elimination of one of a pair of identical sounds, as in **Gilliland** for **Gilliland**.
- disyllabic** Consisting of two syllables.
- dithematic** Consisting of two etymological elements. For example, Old English *Ælfrēd* (**Alfred**) is a dithematic personal name composed of the elements *ælf* 'elf' + *rēd* 'counsel'. *Wilhelm* (**William**) is a Continental Germanic dithematic personal name composed of the elements *will* 'will' + *helm* 'helmet or protection'.
- Dravidian** A family of languages of southern India. Major Dravidian languages are Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada.
- Druze** An Arabic-speaking people of the Near East (especially Syria and Lebanon), who have their own distinctive and ancient religion, which is based partly on the Hebrew Bible and partly on ancient Greek philosophy, with an admixture of some unique beliefs and holy books.
- Dutch** A West Germanic language spoken in the Netherlands and Flanders. It is related to English and German.
- early bearer** In this dictionary, any of the individuals whose names are found in old records, who may be mentioned in an entry as evidence of the origin, development, or geographical distribution of a family name.
- Early Modern English** The English language from the late 15th century to about 1700.
- epicentre** The geographical point of origin of a family name, from which it gradually spreads outwards in many different directions.
- established name** A family name that is present in Britain at the present day and was also comparatively frequent here up to and including the 19th century. Compare *recent immigrant name*.
- ethnic name** A family name that denotes a person's race or country of origin, for example **French**, **Walsh**.
- etymology** The origin and historical development of a word or name; also the study of word or name origins.
- etymon** A word, phrase, or morpheme from which a later word or a name is derived. In this dictionary, etymons are italicized.
- excrement** Denoting a non-etymological sound or letter that has been added arbitrarily to the end of a name, for example the excrement *-d* in **Hammond**, from the Old French personal name *Hamon*, and the excrement *-s* that was commonly added to established family names after the medieval period, as in names like **Rooms** and **Castles**. Compare *inorganic*, *intrusive*, *prosthetic*.
- explanation** As part of an entry in this dictionary, an account of the etymology and origin of a family name. There can be one or more explanations within a sense. Where a sense has more than one explanation, each explanation is numbered using Roman numerals.
- family name** A hereditary name, normally inherited by an individual from his or her father; also, in certain traditional British and Irish families, adopted by a woman from her husband on marriage.

Faroese The language of the Faroe Islands, a form of Old Scandinavian.

feudal system A hierarchical social structure, introduced to England by the Normans, in which land was held in exchange for service or labour, from the king down to the lowest peasant.

Filipino See *Tagalog*.

Flemish Denoting a person (a *Fleming*), a place, or a linguistic item that is characteristic of Flanders, a historical Dutch-speaking region in what is now divided among northern Belgium, the north-west corner of France, and the extreme south-western Netherlands.

folk etymology Alteration of the form of a word or name to make it conform to a word or words already in the language but which are not related to the name in question, such as **Surplice** and **Surplus** as variants of **Sharples**.

forename See *given name*.

franklin In medieval Britain, a free landowner who was not of noble birth.

freeman In medieval Britain, a man who was not a slave or a serf, nor a member of the gentry, and was not in the service of a lord.

French The official language of France, also one of the official languages of Belgium and Switzerland, and certain other countries that were formerly colonies of France. A member of the Romance group of Indo-European languages, French is also known as *langue d'oïl* in contradistinction to *langue d'oc*, the language native to southern France (see *Occitan* and compare *Old French*).

Frenchified Denoting or pertaining to a word or name whose form has been altered so that it appears to be French. For example, **Cantillon** is a Frenchified form of the Irish family name **Ó Caindealbháin**, the usual anglicized form of which is **Quinlan**.

fricative A speech sound such as /f/ or /v/, made by forcing air through a narrow opening between vocal organs.

Frisian A West Germanic language spoken in the northern Netherlands and adjacent parts of Germany. It is closely related to Old English.

fronting A process in the development of a language whereby a speech sound is articulated with the tongue further forward in the mouth.

Fula (also known as **Fulani**) A language of the Niger-Congo language family spoken in west and central Africa.

further information In this dictionary, information in an entry that is not an integral part of the explanation of its etymological origin.

fused preposition In family names, a preposition that is joined to the name that it precedes. For example, *de + Anvers* 'from Anvers' was fused and became *Danvers*.

Gaelic Either of the two closely related Celtic languages spoken in Ireland and western Scotland. For the Gaelic language of Ireland, the term *Irish* is now normally used, as distinct from Scottish Gaelic.

gaelicize To change the form of a word or name so that it conforms to the usual forms of Irish or Scottish Gaelic. Many Irish names reverted to their historical Gaelic forms during the 20th century. Both then and during the Middle Ages some non-Gaelic names were gaelicized, for example the Norman family name **Wolf** or **Woulfe** was gaelicized as *de Bhulbh*.

Galician The vernacular language of north-west Spain, closely related to both Spanish and Portuguese.

genealogy A line of descent traced from an ancestor; the study of lines of descent.

generic When referring to a place-name element, a non-specific or classifying word used in a name that is composed of two or more etymological elements. The generic is usually the final element in English place-names, for example *-ton* 'village, estate'.

genitive A grammatical term for the case form of nouns and adjectives in inflected languages, the main function of which is to indicate possession or association.

Germanic An ancient Indo-European language spoken in Roman times in north and central Europe; also used as a collective term for the family of languages derived from this, including German, Dutch, Frisian, English, and the Scandinavian languages. Historically, ancient Germanic bears much the same relationship to the modern languages as Latin does to modern Italian, Spanish, French, etc. However, very few records of ancient Germanic survive, so scholars from the 19th century onwards have devoted much attention and ingenuity to reconstructing its vocabulary and grammar, based on the principle that language change is normally regular.

Ghanaian Denoting or pertaining to the country of Ghana in West Africa; also used as a general term for the Afro-Asiatic languages spoken in Ghana, especially *Akan* and *Twi*.

ghetto A part of a town or city inhabited by a minority ethnic group, originally applied to the Jewish quarter of many central European cities.

given name In the binomial naming system that is now standard in Britain and the rest of Europe, a name given to a person at or soon after birth, in contrast to the *family name* or *surname*, which (traditionally) is usually inherited from the father.

glide A sound inserted to ease a phonetically difficult transition from one to another, for example the *-d-* in **Hendry** from **Henry**. Glides are sometimes referred to as *intrusive*.

gloss A translation or explanation of a word. In this dictionary, glosses are printed within single quotation marks.

Goidelic The group of Celtic languages that consists of Irish, Scottish Gaelic, and Manx. Compare *Brittonic*.

grange In medieval Britain, an outlying farm or group of buildings, usually belonging to a religious establishment or feudal lord, where agricultural produce was stored.

Great Vowel Shift A change in pronunciation of the long vowels of the English language, which took place, for the most part, between the 15th and 17th centuries, i.e. the late Middle and Early Modern English periods. The vowels were raised (see *raising*) or

became *diphthongs*. Thus the word *name*, pronounced /na:mə/ in late Middle English, has become /neim/ in Modern English. Similarly *seaman* /sɛ:mən/ became /seimən/ and then /si:mən/; *field* /fe:ld/ has become /fi:ld/; *Simon* /si:mən/ has become /saimən/; *road* /rɔ:d/ has become /rəud/; *goose* /go:s/ has become /gu:s/; and *house* /hu:s/ has become /haus/.

Greek A branch of the Indo-European family of languages, formerly spoken widely in the countries around the Mediterranean, and especially in the places that are now Greece, Cyprus, southern Italy, Albania, parts of Asia Minor, and the southern Balkans. Greek is the language of the New Testament, from which many Christian given names have been taken and adapted to vernacular forms in other languages, including English.

Gujarati An Indo-Aryan language closely related to Hindi, spoken in the Indian state of Gujarat.

Hadith In Islam, a collection of reported sayings uttered by the Prophet Muhammad.

handout name A type of surname given to European Jews. Handout names were chosen by an administrative functionary and bestowed on a person who did not have a surname but was required to have one by law. Jewish names such as **Berlin**, **Engel**, **Feinberg**, and **Goldfuss** (anglicized as **Goldfoot**) are likely examples. A handout name may be identical to an *ornamental name*.

Hausa An Afro-Asiatic language of the Hausa people, spoken in northern Nigeria and southern Niger.

Hebrew An ancient Semitic language (closely related to Aramaic); the liturgical language of the Jewish people. As a spoken language it had already declined in use among the Jews by the time of the Roman Empire, but was revived in the 19th century. It is the principal etymological language of Old Testament personal names.

High German The standard literary language of Germany and Austria, also spoken in Switzerland and elsewhere. Compare *Low German*.

Hindi An Indo-Aryan language spoken throughout northern India, derived from Sanskrit; it is an official language of India and is normally written in Devanagari script. Hindi and Urdu are mutually comprehensible.

Hispanic The group of languages including Castilian Spanish, Catalan, and Galician, which are spoken in Spain, much of South and Central America, the Philippines, and many other parts of the world. The term generally excludes Portuguese, for geopolitical reasons (because Portuguese is the national language of Portugal and Brazil), but is sometimes used to include Basque, even though the Basque language is not related to Spanish. By the same token, local languages in Spanish-speaking regions, such as Tagalog (a language of the Philippines), are sometimes included within the scope of the term *Hispanic*.

Hokkien A dialect or group of dialects of Chinese spoken in south-east China, especially in Fujian province, from where it spread widely throughout South East Asia, especially to Malaysia and Singapore. See also *Teochew*.

homonyms Two or more words or names that share the same form but which have a different etymology, such as the family name **Penn**, which may be from British **penn* 'head' or Old English *penn* 'enclosure, fold', or from the Middle English female personal name *Penne*, probably a pet form of *Pernel* (Latin *Petronilla*).

homophones Two or more words or names that are pronounced identically but have different meanings and may also have different spellings, such as **Cawley** and **Corley**.

house name A type of locative name that refers to a distinctive sign attached to a house or inn before the days of house numbers and general literacy. House names such as **Rothschild** 'red shield' were characteristic of cities in central Europe such as Frankfurt am Main during the period of surname formation.

Huguenot A French Protestant of the 16th and 17th centuries. The Huguenots were persecuted by the Catholic authorities in France and many thousands of them fled as refugees to England, the Netherlands, Scandinavia, and the Protestant principalities and states in Germany.

hundred A historical English administrative unit, a subdivision of a county.

Hungarian The language of Hungary; one of the Uralic languages, which include Finnish and Estonian.

hypercorrection A change in the form of a word or name in conformity with some supposed norm, as for example when a northern English speaker pronounces *put* to rhyme with the southern pronunciation of *cut*, in the false belief that this is somehow more 'correct' than the usual pronunciation rhyming with *foot*.

hypocoristic Denoting an affectionate *pet form* of a name.

Igbo The language of the Igbo people of south-eastern Nigeria; a member of the Niger-Congo language family.

immigrant name See *recent immigrant name*.

Indo-Aryan A language family of the Indian subcontinent and Iran, a major branch of the Indo-European family, comprising in particular Sanskrit and Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, and other languages of northern India, as well as Persian (Farsi) and Sinhalese.

Indo-European A family of languages comprising almost all the languages of Europe (including English) and northern India, as well as certain other places. Exceptions (non-Indo-European languages) in Europe are Hungarian, Finnish, Estonian, Basque, and Turkish.

Indonesian The official language of Indonesia, closely related to Malay.

inflection Modification of the form of a word, typically the ending, to express a grammatical function.

inn name See *house name*.

inorganic Denoting a sound that does not belong to the original form of a word or name and which has been added later, often for ease of pronunciation or by analogy with other words or names. Inorganic sounds may be *prosthetic*, *intrusive*, or *excrement*.

intervocalic Of a consonant, occurring between two vowels.

intrusive Denoting a sound or syllable that has been inserted between other sounds or syllables, such as the *-t-* in **Alliston**, a variant of **Allison**.

Irish (Gaelic) The native Celtic language of Ireland.

ism (plural *asmā*) An Arabic personal name or given name such as *Ḥamid* ‘praised or praiseworthy’. *Asmā* taken from Arabic vocabulary words are often used with the definite article *al-*. *Muhammad*, the name of the Prophet, is the most popular *ism* in Islam, with many variant spellings in the Roman alphabet. According to the Hadith, Muhammad himself remarked, ‘The best names [*asmā*] in the sight of God are ‘*Abdullah* [“servant of Allah”] and ‘*Abd ar-Rahman* [“servant of the Merciful”].’

Italian The official language of Italy, a derivative of Latin. It has a wide variety of local dialects.

Italic In historical linguistics, a group of languages spoken in Italy, constituting a branch of the Indo-European family. The surviving Italic languages are Latin and Italian.

Judesmo (also known as **Ladino**) A Jewish form of Old Spanish, which died out in Spain but, following expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492, survived in the Ottoman Empire until at least the 20th century. Traces of the language can still be heard in Istanbul, Thessalonica, and Israel.

Kashmiri The Indo-Aryan language spoken in Jammu and Kashmir.

khalsa name Among Sikhs, the name *Singh* ‘lion’ (for men) or *Kaur* ‘princess’ (for women), adopted during the *khalsa* ceremony, marking the end of adolescence and initiation into the Sikh community.

Khmer See *Cambodian*.

knight In medieval Europe, a male attendant or retainer, especially one who held land on condition that he served his feudal superior (typically, the king) as a mounted soldier.

Korean The official language of North and South Korea.

kunya A type of nickname used in some Arabic-speaking countries, formed with *abū* ‘father of’ or *umm* ‘mother of’. The Prophet Muhammad was known by his *kunya* *Abū Qasem* ‘father of Qasem’, and *Qasem* was indeed the name of his son. However, a *kunya* could be and often was conventionalized: a childless person or a newborn child could be given a *kunya*. The Prophet’s wife Ayesha was known by the *kunya* *Umm ‘Abdullah* ‘mother of Abdullah’, although she was in fact childless. In Iran, a *kunya* is often metaphorical or aspirational rather than literal, for example *Abū-l Fad* ‘father of bounty’ (i.e. endowed with bounty). In the Indian subcontinent, the *kunya* is used only informally and literally within the family circle, with reference to an actually extant child.

labio-dental A speech sound made when one lip (usually the lower lip) is in contact with the teeth, such as /f/ and /v/.

Ladino See *Judesmo*.

langue d’oc The vernacular language of southern France. See *Occitan* and compare *langue d’oïl*: ‘oc’ and ‘oïl’ are the southern and northern forms respectively of the word for ‘yes’.

langue d’oïl The standard French language as spoken in north central France. Compare *langue d’oc*.

laqab: In Arabic, a type of distinguishing nickname, for example *al-Aswad* ‘the Black’, *al-Asad* ‘the Lion’, *al-Hajji* ‘the person who has made the pilgrimage to Mecca’.

Latin The language of ancient Rome, a member of the Indo-European language family. Through its use as the official written and spoken language of the Roman Empire, vernacular forms of Latin (generally known as *Vulgar Latin*) arose in different places, giving rise to the modern Romance languages (principally Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Romanian). The written form of *Late Latin* became the language of the western Christian Church from the 3rd century onwards, and was the language of St Jerome’s translation of the Vulgate Bible. Medieval Latin was widely used in western Europe as the language of ecclesiastical and secular administration from the 9th century onwards.

latinize To change the form of a word or name so that it conforms to the usual forms of words in the Latin language, as when English **Smith** and German **Schmidt** are translated as Latin **Faber** or the Middle English female personal name *Tibot* is recorded as *Tibota* in Medieval Latin documents.

Latvian The language of Latvia, a member of the Balto-Slavic branch of the Indo-European family, closely related to Lithuanian.

lengthening A phonetic development whereby pronunciation of a vowel changes so that it is perceived as longer in duration, as in the family name **Arthurton**, a variant spelling of **Atherton** that reflects a lengthening of /æ/ to /a:/ in the Norfolk dialect. (Compare northern and southern English pronunciations of *path*.)

lenition In Celtic languages, a change in the articulation of a consonant in certain grammatical contexts, often preserving the place of articulation but changing the manner (e.g. a stop being altered to the corresponding fricative in Irish and Welsh, or a voiceless consonant becoming voiced in Welsh). For example, the Irish family name **Mac Páidín** (**McPadden**) alternates with the lenited form **Mac Pháidín** (**McFadden**). The process of lenition has resulted in a complete change in the phonetic value of some consonants; indeed, Irish initial *F-* may be lost completely due to lenition after *Ó* or *Mac*, so that **Flynn** alternates with **Lynn**. In Welsh, the relationship between pairs of names such as **Baughan** and **Vaughan** is explained by the fricative type of lenition; the relationship between the Welsh family name **Dew** and the Welsh word *tew* ‘stout’ illustrates the voicing type of lenition. See *mutation*.

Levant, the A traditional name for a vaguely defined geographical area consisting of the countries bordering on the eastern Mediterranean, including Lebanon, Syria, Cyprus, and sometimes also Turkey, Greece, and Egypt.

- liquid** With reference to a speech sound, a consonant produced by allowing the air stream to flow relatively freely around the obstruction formed by the tongue, for example the sounds represented by the letters *l* and *r*.
- Lithuanian** The language of Lithuania, a member of the Balto-Slavic branch of the Indo-European family, closely related to Latvian.
- locative name** A family name derived from a location, whether *toponymic* or *topographic*.
- long vowel** A vowel whose pronunciation is perceived as having a relatively long duration; for example, in standard British English pronunciation, the vowel in *food* is perceived as long, compared with the vowel in *good*. In actual fact, perception of vowel length is often due to stress as well as (or instead of) duration.
- lord** Someone of superior rank, a master, especially a feudal lord with ownership or possession of a manor.
- lowering** With reference to a speech sound, the process of pronouncing a vowel with the tongue further from the roof of the mouth than previously; for example, in late Middle English *e* is frequently lowered to *a* before *r*, giving rise to spellings like *Clark* for Middle English *clerk*.
- Low German** Any of the large group of non-standard German dialects spoken in northern Germany, closely related to Dutch. Compare *High German*.
- Macedonian** A southern Slavic language spoken in Macedonia. It is closely related to Bulgarian, with a substantial component borrowed from Serbian.
- Malay** An Austronesian language that is the official language of Malaysia and Brunei, also spoken in Singapore. It is closely related to Bahasa Indonesia, the language of Indonesia.
- Malayalam** A Dravidian language spoken mainly in the south-west Indian state of Kerala.
- Mandarin** The standard dialect of Chinese, the official language of both mainland China and Taiwan.
- manor** In medieval Britain, a territorial unit consisting of all lands belonging to or under the jurisdiction of a feudal lord.
- Manx** The Celtic language formerly spoken in the Isle of Man, closely related to Irish and Scottish Gaelic.
- Marathi** An Indo-Aryan language, closely related to Hindi, spoken by the people of the Indian state of Maharashtra.
- Marrano** In the 16th and 17th centuries, a Jew in Spain or Portugal who had been forcibly converted to Christianity but continued to practise Judaism in secret. The first Jewish families to come to Britain and Ireland in the 17th century, when Judaism was once again officially allowed, were Marranos.
- medial** Denoting or pertaining to a speech sound, a written letter, or a syllable within a word or name that is in a position other than initial or final.
- medieval** Of or pertaining to the Middle Ages.
- Medieval Latin** The form of the Latin language spoken and written during the medieval period from the 9th century onwards.
- metanalysis** The formation of a new word or name through the shifting of a word boundary. For example, *atten Ashe* 'at the ash tree' became *atte Nashe*, resulting in the family name **Nash**.
- metaphor** A figure of speech in which a word for an object, idea, or event is applied to a thing or person through a perceived resemblance, for example **Flint** as a nickname for someone who was as hard as flint.
- metathesis** A change in the normal sequence of speech sounds within a word or name, usually a reversal of a pair, for example **Brittles** for **Birtles**.
- metonymy** A figure of speech in which a word, phrase, or name denoting an object, idea, or event is transferred to another, either because the former is a property of the latter, or because the former is associated in some non-metaphorical way with the latter. Family-name examples include **Sword** for a swordsman or sword-maker, **Vigar** for someone who possessed vigour, and **Yule** for someone born at Yuletide.
- metronymic** Derived from or relating to the personal name of a mother.
- Middle Ages** A historical period generally taken as lasting from the 5th to the 15th centuries.
- Middle Dutch** The Dutch language from about 1100 to about 1500.
- Middle English** The English language from about 1150 to about 1450.
- Middle French** The French language from about 1300 to about 1600.
- Middle High German** The German language of southern and central Germany, from the 12th century to about 1500.
- Middle Irish** The Irish language from the 10th to the 12th century.
- Middle Low German** The cluster of German dialects spoken in northern Germany between the 12th century and about 1500. They were more closely related to Dutch than to Middle High German.
- Middle Welsh** The Welsh language from about 1150 to the late 14th century.
- Mizrahi** From Hebrew (literally 'Eastern'), denoting or belonging to Jews from the Middle East, typically Baghdad.
- Mongolian** The official language of Mongolia, whose standard form is known as *Khalkha*.
- monogenetic** Denoting a family name that had a unique origin in a single place, being borne by just one family or person when it first came into use.
- monothematic** Denoting or pertaining to a personal name made up of a single element, either from a single, meaningful word, or a shortened form of a dithematic name. See, for example, **Dodd** and **Bright** (ii).
- morpheme** A morphological (structural) unit within a word that cannot be further divided into smaller units.
- morphology** The structure or form of words; also, the study of such structures.

mutation With reference to Celtic languages, sound change involving alternation of consonants in certain grammatical contexts at the beginning of words, names, or name elements. In Welsh and Cornish names it takes the form of ‘soft mutation’ or *lenition*. Thus /t/ mutated to /d/ in Welsh *Dew* from *tew* ‘stout’ and /k/ to /g/ in Cornish *Tregear*, from *tre* ‘farm’ (+ *an* ‘the’) + *ker* ‘fort’ (‘farm by the fort’).

nasab In Arabic, a patronymic formed with *ibn* ‘son of’ or *bint* ‘daughter of’, for example Faisal *ibn Sa’ūd* ‘Faisal, son of Sa’ūd’, *Muhammad ibn as-Siddiq* ‘Muhammad, son of the Righteous’, *Mish’aal bint Fahd* ‘Misha’al, daughter of Fahd’, *Dima bint az-Zayyat* ‘Dima, daughter of the oil merchant’. An individual (especially a man) may be known by more than one *nasab*, tracing his or her lineage over several generations.

nasal A speech sound made by expelling air through the nose. In English it describes the consonants /m/, /n/, and /ŋ/ (spelled *ng*). When a nasal sound ceases to be pronounced the process is referred to as *denasalization*, as in the loss of /n/ in Middle Dutch *Janke*, which gave rise to *Jakke* as a pet form of *John*.

Ndebele A Bantu language closely related to Zulu, spoken by the Matabele people of Zimbabwe.

nickname An additional name for a person (which may become a hereditary family name), derived from a behavioural or physical characteristic of the bearer or from an object, idea, or event with which the person was associated.

Niger-Congo The family of African languages that includes almost all sub-Saharan languages, including the Bantu languages and the more distantly related languages of West Africa.

nisba In Arabic, a locative surname, generally denoting a person’s birthplace or residence, or the place where the family originated (e.g. *al-Tikriti* ‘the person from Tikrit’).

nominative A grammatical term for the case form of nouns and adjectives in inflected languages, the main function of which is to identify the subject of a sentence.

Norman In medieval contexts, the northern variety of the Old French language spoken by the inhabitants of Normandy; also, a speaker of this language, one of the people of Scandinavian origin who settled in Normandy from about AD 912 and who conquered England in 1066. Compare *Anglo-Norman*.

Normanno-Picard Denoting or pertaining to the shared characteristics of the dialects of northern Normandy and Picardy.

oblique As a grammatical term, denoting any of the case forms of nouns and adjectives other than the nominative or vocative in languages such as Latin and Old English. In some dictionaries the French term *cas-régime* is used in contrast with *cas-sujet* (the subject case or nominative case).

Occitan A Romance language known in French as *langue d’oc*, spoken in southern France, including Provençal. Medieval Occitan was very different from the standard Old French language of northern and central France; it was more closely related to Catalan.

occupational name A type of family name denoting someone who worked in a particular trade or occupation.

Old Danish The Danish form of *Old Scandinavian*.

Old English The West Germanic language of the Anglo-Saxons, spoken in Britain from about the mid-5th century AD up to about 1150.

Old French The French language spoken in northern France from the middle of the 9th century to about 1300. Its principal dialects were *Central French* (also called Parisian French) and *Normanno-Picard*. Both dialects were spoken in different parts of Normandy. In Middle English borrowings from Old French, **Gillam** (French *Guillaume*) and **Chaplain** are Central French and **William** and **Caplin** are Normanno-Picard. For the language of medieval southern France, see *Occitan*.

Old High German The German language of southern and central Germany up to the 12th century.

Old Icelandic The form of Old Scandinavian spoken and written in medieval Iceland.

Old Irish The Celtic language spoken in Ireland up to the 9th century. Old Irish is the ancestor not only of Irish but also of Scottish Gaelic and Manx.

Old Low German The group of Germanic dialects spoken in northern Germany up to the 12th century. Old Low German was the source of modern Dutch as well as modern Low German.

Old Norse See *Old Scandinavian*.

Old Picard The dialect of Old French spoken in Picardy, a historical region of France lying south of Flanders, east of Normandy, and north of Paris.

Old Scandinavian The North Germanic language spoken and written in medieval Scandinavia, Iceland, and other parts of northern Europe, from which the modern Scandinavian languages are derived. It is also commonly known as *Old Norse*, of which West Norse comprises the medieval dialects of Old Icelandic, Old Norwegian, and Faroese, and East Norse the medieval dialects of Old Danish and Old Swedish.

Old Swedish The Swedish form of Old Scandinavian.

Old Welsh The Welsh language from about 800 to 1150.

omen name A name given or adopted in the hope that its meaning will be reflected in the bearer’s future. An example is the Jewish name **Reich**, from German *reich* ‘rich’, bestowed or adopted in the hope that the bearer will become wealthy.

onomastics The study of names, including family names, given names, business names, nicknames, and place-names.

organic Denoting a sound that belongs to the original or etymological form of a word or name. Compare *inorganic*.

ornamental name A family name chosen by its bearer in adult life or, in some cases, imposed by a legal authority, rather than evolving naturally. Ornamental names are typically Jewish; others are found in Swedish. Some ornamental names are drawn from vocabulary words, for example the Jewish name **Appel** from the German word *appel* or Yiddish *epl* ‘apple’. Others are

- composed of two unconnected elements arbitrarily combined, such as Swedish **Blomberg**, from *blom* 'flower' + *berg* 'mountain, hill'. Compare *handout name*.
- orthography** Correct or accepted spelling; the conventional spelling system of a language.
- pageant name** A name taken from a character in a medieval play or tableau.
- palatal** A speech sound made when the front of the tongue is against or approaches the hard palate.
- palatalization** The process of a sound becoming palatal by movement of the tongue towards the hard palate. Thus /s/ in **Silcock** is palatalized to /ʃ/ in **Shillcok**, and /k/ in **Black** is palatalized to /tʃ/ in **Blatch**.
- Panjabi** An Indo-European language spoken in the Panjab region of Pakistan (where it is the most common first language) and of India.
- Parisian French** See *Central French*.
- Parsi** An Indian form of *Persian*, a term denoting the people and their language. Parsis were Zoroastrians who had migrated to India (especially to Gujarat and Sindh) by the 10th century AD.
- patronymic** Derived from or relating to the father or the name of the father.
- Persian** An Indo-European language spoken in Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan; also known as *Farsi*.
- personal name** Another term for a *given name*, sometimes referred to as a *first name* or *Christian name* in British and Irish contexts.
- pet form** An affectionate or a familiar variant of a personal name, usually formed by reducing the full form of the name (as in **Robb** for **Robert**, **Bartle** for **Bartholomew**, **Bell** for **Isabel**), sometimes with altered pronunciation (as in **Magg** for **Margaret** and **Hodge** for **Roger**), and frequently with the addition of a diminutive or hypocoristic suffix (as in **Robin** and **Hodgkin**).
- philology** The study of the history and development of languages, including their syntax, lexis, morphology, and phonology.
- phoneme** A speech sound that is meaningfully distinct in a particular language, such as /p/ and /b/ in English, by which *pin* and *bin* are meaningfully distinguished.
- phonetics** The study of the sounds of speech.
- phonology** The study of the sounds of speech as they occur to make meaningful distinctions in a particular language.
- Pictish** A branch of the Brittonic language spoken by the Picts, a people who inhabited northern and eastern Scotland in the early Middle Ages. The Pictish language is known from place-name and other evidence to have existed, but no records of it survive.
- plosive** A speech sound made when airflow is stopped using the lips, teeth, or palate, and is then suddenly released. In most European languages plosives include the velar sounds /k/ and /g/, alveolar /t/ and /d/, and bilabial /p/ and /b/.
- pogrom** An organized massacre of a particular ethnic group, especially one conducted against Jews in the 19th and 20th centuries in Russia or Poland.
- Polish** The official language of Poland, a member of the western Slavic branch of Indo-European languages.
- polygenetic** Denoting a type of family name that has multiple family origins, borne by multiple unrelated people at the time of surname formation.
- Portuguese** The Romance language of Portugal and Brazil, closely related to Spanish.
- post-medieval** Denoting or pertaining to the period of time following the Middle Ages, i.e. from the mid-15th century onwards.
- prosopography** The study of a collective biography; a collection of studies on the lives of individual people, focusing on the relationships between people who were from a particular place or period.
- prosthetic** Denoting or pertaining to the addition of an inorganic speech sound or syllable to the beginning of a word or name, for example the *H-* in **Haddison**, a variant of **Addison**, is prosthetic, as is the *Y-* in **Yearley**, a variant of **Earley**.
- Proto-Welsh** The *Welsh* language from about 550 to 800.
- Provençal** The dialect of *Occitan* spoken in Provence, in south-eastern France.
- qazi** An Islamic judge.
- raising** Referring to a vowel, the process of pronouncing a vowel with the tongue closer to the roof of the mouth than previously, as in the raising of /e/ to /i/ when Middle English *englisch* becomes pronounced /ɪŋɡlɪʃ/, as in the modern pronunciation of *English*.
- recent immigrant name** In the context of this dictionary, a name that first arrived in Britain or greatly increased in frequency here since the Second World War.
- reduced form** A word or name from which a sound, syllable, letter, or sequence of letters has been lost, typically for ease of pronunciation; a shortened form.
- reeve** A medieval local official who was responsible for the administration of a manor or district.
- regional name** A type of family name denoting a person from a particular region or district, as distinct from a specific town or country.
- relationship name** A type of family name derived from a personal name (typically that of the father) or denoting any kind of relationship with another person, for example the family name **Eames**, which is from Middle English *eme* 'uncle'.
- Romanian** The language of Romania and Moldova, a Romance language derived from Latin.
- Romance** A group of Indo-European languages derived from Vulgar Latin, including French, Catalan, Occitan, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Romanian.
- rounding** When referring to a vowel, a sound produced when the lips assume a more rounded shape, as in West Midlands Middle English dialect *mon* for *man*.
- Russian** The eastern Slavic language that is the official language of Russia, also spoken in Belarus and Ukraine.

Sanskrit An ancient language of India belonging to the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European family. The Hindu scriptures and classical Indian epic poems are written in this language. Sanskrit is closely related to the language from which the major modern languages of northern India (including Hindi, Bengali, Panjabi, and Gujarati) are derived.

Scots The traditional language of central Lowland Scotland, a close relative of English. There are many local dialects of Scots and there is no general agreement on a standard form.

Scottish Gaelic See *Gaelic*.

semantic Of or relating to meaning in language.

Semitic The name of a group of Afro-Asian languages that are found in North Africa, the Horn of Africa, and western Asia. Its best known members are *Arabic*, *Hebrew*, and *Aramaic*.

sense In this dictionary, a category based on the relationship between a family name and the lexical item or items from which it is derived. Each sense has at least one explanation, usually supported by a selection of early bearers. An entry in this dictionary may have more than one sense.

Sephardic Denoting the Jews of Spain and Portugal, who lived in the Iberian Peninsula from Roman times and before. In the Middle Ages they spoke *Judesmo*.

Serbian A southern Slavic language spoken in Serbia and parts of Bosnia, written in the Cyrillic alphabet. Spoken Serbian is mutually comprehensible with Croatian.

serf A feudal labourer or villein who, in return for tenure of land, was required to work on his lord's estate.

Shia The branch of Islam that believes that the Prophet Muhammad's rightful successor as khalif was his son-in-law and cousin Ali ibn Abu Talib; adherents are called *Shiite Muslims*.

Shona A Bantu language mostly spoken in Zimbabwe.

short When referring to a speech sound, characterizing a vowel sound with relatively short duration; for example, the vowel in *good* (short) compared with *food* (long).

shortened form A word or name from which a sound, syllable, letter, or combination of letters has been lost, often for ease of pronunciation; a type of *reduced form*.

shortening The process by which a vowel becomes short.

shtetl (plural **shtetlech**) Any of the many Jewish settlements in rural areas of eastern Europe, especially in the 18th and 19th centuries. Shtetlech were noted for their distinctive and robust Jewish culture, but in the 19th century they began to disappear due to pogroms, other forms of persecution, and poverty, all of which drove the inhabitants to migrate to ghettos in larger cities or to flee abroad, many of them to Britain and the USA. The last surviving shtetlech were eliminated by the Nazis (in some cases by the Soviets) during the Holocaust in the 1940s. The word *shtetl* is a diminutive of Yiddish *shtot* 'town' (German *Stadt*).

sibilant A fricative speech sound with a hissing effect, for example /s/, /z/, and /ʃ/.

Sindhi An Indo-Aryan language spoken by the people of the Sindh region of Pakistan.

Sinhalese An Indo-Aryan language spoken by the Sinhalese people in Sri Lanka.

Sino-Tibetan A major family of Asian languages including Chinese, Burmese, and Tibetan.

Slavic (or Slavonic) Denoting or belonging to a group of Indo-European languages with three sub-branches: *Eastern Slavic* (Russian, Belarusian, and Ukrainian); *Western Slavic* (Polish, Czech, Slovak, and Sorbian); and *Southern Slavic* (Slovenian, Serbian, Croatian, Macedonian, and Bulgarian).

slender consonant In the Gaelic languages, a consonant that is palatal or has become palatalized. Compare *broad consonant*.

Slovak The Western Slavic language spoken in Slovakia. It is mutually comprehensible with Czech.

Slovenian The Southern Slavic language spoken in Slovenia.

Sorbian A Western Slavic language, now rare, spoken in eastern Germany in a rural area between Berlin, Dresden, and the Polish border. Sorbian is closely related to Polish and Czech. Many German family names are of Sorbian etymology.

Spanish The official language of Spain, also widely spoken in South and Central America, the Philippines, and elsewhere. It belongs to the Romance branch of the Indo-European family of languages, and is also known as *Castilian*. Compare *Catalan*.

specific When referring to a place-name element, a word used as part of a compound place-name to identify the particular place in question, often by qualifying the *generic* in some way.

squire In the feudal system, a young nobleman whose status was that of an attendant to a knight.

status name A type of family name derived from a term that denotes a person's social status, for example **Squire** and **Franklin**.

style name A name bestowed upon a person at adulthood, in addition to their given name. This type of name is characteristic of a number of East Asian countries, in particular China, and was traditionally given to a man on his 20th birthday as a mark of respect.

Sunni The branch of Islam that believes that the Prophet Muhammad's first rightful khalif was his father-in-law Abu Bakr. Compare *Shia*.

surname Another term for a *family name*; a name that is used in addition to a given name. A surname can be non-hereditary, also referred to as a *byname*, or hereditary, in which case it is also referred to as a *family name*.

synonym A word that has the same meaning as the one under consideration.

Tagalog An Austronesian language spoken in the Philippines, where it is the national language, whose standard form is also known as *Filipino*.

Taiwanese A native language of Taiwan, a member of the Austronesian language family; in modern times it has largely been superseded in Taiwan by Mandarin Chinese.

Tamil A Dravidian language spoken in south-east India and north-east Sri Lanka.

- Telugu** A Dravidian language spoken in central-east India (e.g. in Andhra Pradesh).
- Teochew** A dialect or group of dialects of Chinese spoken in south-east China, especially in eastern Guangdong province, from where it spread widely throughout South East Asia, especially to Malaysia and Singapore. See also *Hokkien*.
- Tibetan** A language of the Sino-Tibetan family spoken in Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, and adjacent regions of India, Pakistan, and China.
- topographic** Denoting or pertaining to the physical features of a geographical area.
- toponymic** Denoting or pertaining to the names of towns, villages, and other places.
- Turkic** A group of languages of north-east and west Asia, north-west China, and parts of eastern Europe.
- Turkish** The language of Turkey, the most commonly spoken Turkic language.
- Twí** A dialect of the *Akan* language of Ghana.
- Ukrainian** An eastern Slavic language, spoken in Ukraine. It is closely related to Russian.
- unrounding** Referring to pronunciation of a vowel, the production of a speech sound when the lips assume a less rounded shape.
- unvoiced** See *voiceless*.
- unvoicing** See *devoicing*.
- Urdu** An Indo-Aryan language spoken in Pakistan, where it is the official language, and by Muslims in India. It is normally written in Arabic script. Hindi and Urdu are mutually comprehensible.
- variant** A family name that has the same etymological origin as another family name, but that has a different form.
- vassal** A person who holds land on conditions of allegiance and homage to a superior.
- velar** A speech sound made when the back of the tongue is against the soft palate, such as /k/ and /g/.
- villein** A feudal customary tenant or serf who is tied to the land through owing services of labour to a lord or manor.
- vocalization** A consonant becoming more vowel-like, such as /l/ becoming /u/ in *Maud* for *Mald*.
- voiced** A sound produced while the vocal folds are vibrating.
- voiceless** A sound produced without vibration of the vocal folds.
- voicing** The process by which a voiceless sound becomes voiced.
- Vulgar Latin** Any of the vernacular forms of Latin in different localities from which the Romance languages developed, such as Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Romanian.
- Vulgate** The standard medieval text of the Bible, translated into Latin from Greek and Hebrew in the late 4th century by St Jerome.
- Walloon** A person from Wallonia, the predominantly French-speaking region of southern Belgium. The term is often used to denote Protestants who emigrated from southern parts of the Spanish Netherlands in the 16th and 17th centuries to escape persecution by Roman Catholic authorities.
- wapentake** A historical English administrative unit; a subdivision of a county. This word is of Scandinavian origin, and only occurs in counties where levels of Scandinavian settlement had been relatively high.
- Welsh** The traditional language of Wales, the leading member of the Brittonic group of Celtic languages. In Roman times, the precursor of Welsh was spoken throughout Britain.
- Wendish** Another name for *Sorbian*.
- Yiddish** The Ashkenazic Jewish dialect of German, spoken in central Europe since the 9th century.
- Yoruba** A major language spoken in West Africa, especially Nigeria, belonging to the *Niger-Congo* group of languages.
- Zulu** The language of the Zulu people of South Africa, a member of the Bantu family of languages.

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Pleas	Stenton, D. M., ed. (1934), <i>Rolls of the Justices in Eyre, being the Rolls of Pleas and Assizes for Lincolnshire, 1218–19, and Worcestershire, 1221</i> , Selden Society 53; D. M. Stenton, ed. (1937), <i>Rolls of the Justices in Eyre, being the Rolls of Pleas and Assizes for Yorkshire in 3 Henry III, 1218–19</i> , Selden Society 56; D. M. Stenton, ed. (1940), <i>Rolls of the Justices in Eyre, being the Rolls of Pleas and Assizes for Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire, 1221, 1222</i> , Selden Society 59; D. M. Stenton, ed. (1952–3), <i>Pleas before the King or his Justices, 1198–1202</i> , 2 volumes, Selden Society 67–8; D. M. Stenton, ed. (1966–7), <i>Pleas before the King or his Justices, 1198–1212</i> , Selden Society 83–4.	Privy Seal of Scotland Register	<i>Registrum Secreti Sigilli Regum Scotorum: the Register of the Privy Seal of Scotland</i> , Volumes 1–2 (1488–1542), Edinburgh (1908–21).
Pleas of the Bench	<i>Placito de Banco, 1327–8</i> , TNA Lists and Indexes Number 32, The National Archives.	PROB 11	Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills (PROB 11), 1384–1858, in The National Archives (Kew), online catalogue.
Pluscardyn History	Macphail, S. R. (1881), <i>History of the Religious House of Pluscardyn</i> , Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.	Probate Index	TNA Probate Index.
Poll Tax	Fenwick, C. C., ed. (1998–2005), <i>The Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381</i> , 3 volumes, Records of Social and Economic History New Series 27, 29, 37, Oxford: British Academy. See also Cornwall Hearth and Poll Taxes, Salisbury Clerical Poll Taxes, Suffolk Poll Tax, and Yorks Poll Tax.	Promptorium Parvulorum	Way, A., ed. (1843–65), <i>Promptorium Parvulorum Sive Clericorum, Lexicon Anglo-Latinum Princeps [c.1440]</i> , 3 volumes, Camden Society 25, 54, 89, London.
Poltalloch Writs	'Poltalloch writs', in <i>The Genealogist</i> , New Series 38, London (1922), pp. 71–7, 135–45, 183–92.	Protestation Returns	Protestation Returns. See subentries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protestation Returns, Devon Protestation Returns for Devon (from a transcription by A. J. Howard). • Protestation Returns, West Sussex Rice, R. G., ed. (1906), <i>West Sussex Protestation Returns, 1641–1642</i>, Sussex Record Society 5, Lewes. • Protestation Returns, Yorks Protestation Returns for Yorkshire.
Polychronicon	Babington, C., and J. R. Lumby, eds (1865–6), <i>Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden Monachi Cestrensis</i> , 9 volumes, London: Longman, Green.	Protocol Book Anderson	Hamilton-Grierson, P. J., ed. (1914), 'The Protocol Book (1541–1550) of Herbert Anderson, Notary in Dumfries', in <i>Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society Transactions</i> , Third Series 2, pp. 176–224.
POMS	People of Medieval Scotland database, online at http://db.poms.ac.uk .	Protocol Book Corbet	Anderson, J., and W. Angus, eds (1911), <i>Protocol Book of Sir William Corbet, 1529–1555</i> , Scottish Record Society Old Series 39, Edinburgh.
Pontefract Chartulary	Holmes, R., ed. (1899–1902), <i>The Chartulary of Saint John of Pontefract</i> , 2 volumes, Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series 25, 30.	Protocol Book Gaw	Anderson, J., and W. Angus, eds (1910), <i>Protocol Book of Sir Alexander Gaw, 1540–1558</i> , Scottish Record Society Old Series 37, Edinburgh.
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- Suffolk Record Office (Bury)** Suffolk Record Office (Bury St Edmunds Branch), 77 Raingate Street, Bury St Edmunds (online abstracts).
- Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich)** Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich Branch), Gatacre Road, Ipswich (online abstracts).
- Suffolk Release** Suffolk Release, MS HD 1538/283/4, Suffolk Record Office.

Suffolk Title Deed	Title Deed, MS 449/2/397, Suffolk Record Office.	Taymouth Black Book	Innes, C., ed. (1855), <i>The Black Book of Taymouth, with other papers from the Breadalbane Charter Room</i> , Bannatyne Club 100, Edinburgh.
Supplement to Irish Families	MacLysaght, E. (1964), <i>Supplement to Irish Families</i> , Dublin: Helicon Ltd.	Templars Records	Lees, B. A., ed. (1935), <i>Records of the Templars in England in the Twelfth Century: The Inquest of 1185 with Illustrative Charters and Documents</i> , Records of the Social and Economic History of England and Wales 9, London: British Academy.
Surnames of Derry	Mitchell, B. (1992), <i>The Surnames of Derry</i> , Derry: Genealogy Centre Press.	Tengvik	Tengvik, G. (1938), <i>Old English Bynames</i> , Uppsala: Almqvist & Wiksell.
Surnames of Devon	Postles, D. (1995), <i>The Surnames of Devon</i> , English Surnames Series 6, Oxford: Leopard's Head Press.	Thanage of Fermartyn	Temple, W. (1894), <i>The Thanage of Fermartyn, including the district commonly called Formartine</i> , Aberdeen: D. Wyllie & Son.
Surnames of Lancs	McKinley, R. A. (1981), <i>The Surnames of Lancashire</i> , English Surnames Series 4, London: Leopard's Head Press.	The Aberdonians	Fraser, G. M. (1914), <i>The Aberdonians and Other Lowland Scots</i> , Aberdeen: W. Smith & Sons.
Surnames of Leics and Rutland	Postles, D. (1998), <i>The Surnames of Leicestershire and Rutland</i> , English Surnames Series 7, Oxford: Leopard's Head Press.	The Church in London	McHardy, A. K. (1977), <i>The Church in London, 1375–1392</i> , London Record Society 13.
Surnames of Oxon	McKinley, R. A. (1977), <i>The Surnames of Oxfordshire</i> , English Surnames Series 3, London: Leopard's Head Press.	The Clan Donald	Macdonald, A., and A. Macdonald (1896–1904), <i>The Clan Donald</i> , 3 volumes, Inverness: Northern Counties Publishing Co.
Surnames of Sussex	McKinley, R. A. (1988), <i>The Surnames of Sussex</i> , English Surnames Series 5, Oxford: Leopard's Head Press.	The Comyns	Young, A. (1997), <i>Robert the Bruce's Rivals: The Comyns, 1212–1314</i> , East Linton: Tuckwell Press.
Surnames of Wales	Rowlands, J., and S. Rowlands (1998), <i>The Surnames of Wales</i> , Birmingham: Federation of Family History Societies.	The East Anglian	<i>The East Anglian</i> , 17 volumes (1858–1910).
Surrey History Centre	Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking (online abstracts).	The Essex Review	<i>The Essex Review</i> (1892–1957).
Survey of Middle English Dialects	Kristensson, G. (1967–2002), <i>A Survey of Middle English Dialects 1290–1350</i> , 5 volumes, Lund: Lund University Press.	The Giffards	Wrottesley, G., ed. (1902), 'The Giffards, from the Conquest to the Present Time', <i>Collections for a History of Staffordshire edited by The William Salt Archaeological Society</i> , New Series 5, pp. 1–232.
Survey of Wye	Muhlfeld, H. E., ed. (1933), <i>A Survey of the Manor of Wye</i> , New York: Columbia University Press.	Theiner, Monumenta	Theiner, A., ed. (1864), <i>Vetera Monumenta Hibernorum et Scotorum Historiam Illustrantia quae ex Vaticani, Neapolis ac Florentinae Tabulariis</i> , 1216–1547, Rome.
Sussex Archaeological Collections	<i>Sussex Archaeological Collections</i> (in progress, 1848–).	The Lennox	Fraser, W. (1874), <i>The Lennox</i> , 2 volumes, Edinburgh: T. & A. Constable.
Sussex Custumals (Canterbury)	Redwood, B. C., and A. E. Wilson, eds (1958), <i>Custumals of the Sussex Manors of the Archbishop of Canterbury</i> , Sussex Record Society 57, Lewes.	The Scotch-Irish	Hanna, C. A. (1902), <i>The Scotch-Irish; or, The Scot in North Britain, North Ireland, and North America</i> , 2 volumes, New York.
Sussex Custumals (Chichester)	Peckham, W. D., ed. (1925), <i>Thirteen Custumals of the Sussex Manors of the Bishop of Chichester</i> , Sussex Record Society 31, Lewes.	These Names of Ours	Dellquest, A. W. (1938), <i>These Names of Ours: A Book of Surnames</i> , New York: T. Y. Crowell.
Sussex Wills	Godfrey, W. H., ed. (1935–41), <i>Transcripts of Sussex Wills</i> , 4 volumes, Sussex Record Society 41, 42, 43, 45, Lewes.	Thoresby Society	Publications of the Thoresby Society, Leeds.
Sutton alias Dudley Family	Grazebrook, H. S. (1889), 'An account of the younger branches of the family of Sutton alias Dudley', <i>Collections for a History of Staffordshire edited by The William Salt Archaeological Society</i> , First Series 10, Part 2, pp. 1–165.	Thoroton, Notts	Thoroton, R. (1677), <i>Antiquities of Nottinghamshire</i> , republished with additions by J. Throsby as <i>Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire</i> , 3 volumes (1797).
Swaledale Wills	Berry, E. K., ed. (1998), <i>Swaledale Wills and Inventories, 1522–1600</i> , Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series 152, Leeds.	Thuresson	Thuresson, B. (1950), <i>Middle English Occupational Terms</i> , Lund: C.W.K. Gleerup.
Swintons of that Ilk	Swinton, A. C. (1883), <i>The Swintons of that Ilk and their Cadets</i> , Edinburgh: T. & A. Constable.	Thurgarton Cartulary	Foulds, T., ed. (1994), <i>The Thurgarton Cartulary</i> , Stamford: P. Watkins.
Synod of Fife Records	Baxter, C., ed. (1837), <i>Ecclesiastical Records: Selections from the Minutes of the Synod of Fife, 1611–1687</i> , Abbotsford Club 8, Edinburgh.	Tibón	Tibón, G. (1988), <i>Diccionario etimológico comparado de los apellidos españoles, hispanoamericanos y filipinos</i> , Mexico: Editorial Diana.
Taunton and Bradford Customs	Hunt, T. J. (1962), <i>The Medieval Customs of the Manors of Taunton and Bradford on Tone</i> , Somerset Record Society 66.	Tighernach Annals	Stokes, W., ed. (1895–97), 'The annals of Tighernach', in <i>Revue Celtique</i> 16–18, Paris.
Tavistock Records	Worth, R. N., ed. (1887), <i>Calendar of the Tavistock Parish Records</i> , Plymouth: William Brendon and Son.	Titford	Titford, J. (2009), <i>Penguin Dictionary of British Surnames</i> , London: Penguin Books.
		TNA	The National Archives (Kew, England), online catalogue at http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ ; formerly known as the Public Record Office.

Tooth	Tooth, E. (2000–10), <i>The Distinctive Surnames of North Staffordshire</i> , 4 volumes, Leek: Churnet Valley Books.	VCH	Victoria County History, Red Book series. See www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/publications-projects/redbooks .
Torphichen Records	Macleod, J., ed. (1911), <i>Register of Baptisms, Proclamations, Marriages, and Mortcloth Dues contained in Kirk-Session Records of the Parish of Torphichen, 1673–1714</i> , Scottish Record Society Old Series 40, Edinburgh.	Vocabulary of English Place-Names	Parsons, D., T. Styles, and C. A. Hough (1997), <i>The Vocabulary of English Place-Names (Á–Box)</i> , Nottingham: Centre for English Name-Studies; D. N. Parsons and T. Styles (2000), <i>The Vocabulary of English Place-Names (Brace–Caester)</i> , Nottingham: Centre for English Name-Studies; D. N. Parsons (2004), <i>The Vocabulary of English Place-Names (Ceafor–Cock-pit)</i> , Nottingham: English Place-Name Society.
Totnes Gild Rolls	Totnes merchant gild rolls cited in ‘Introduction’ to A. M. Erskine, ed. (1969), <i>The Devonshire Lay Subsidy of 1332</i> , Devon and Cornwall Record Society 14, p. xvii.	Wadmores of London	Laing, J. G. (1953), <i>The Wadmores of London</i> , London.
Town Book of Lewes	Salzman, L. F., ed. (1947), <i>The Town Book of Lewes, 1542–1701</i> , Sussex Record Society 48, Lewes; V. Smith, ed. (1973), <i>The Town Book of Lewes, 1702–1837</i> , Sussex Record Society 69, Lewes.	Wakefield Court Rolls	Baildon, W. P., J. Lister, and J. W. Walker, eds (1901–45), <i>Court Rolls of the Manor of Wakefield</i> , 5 volumes, Yorkshire Archaeological Society 29, 36, 57, 78, 109; C. M. Fraser et al., eds (1977–), <i>Court Rolls of the Manor of Wakefield</i> , 14 volumes so far, Yorkshire Archaeological Society Wakefield Court Rolls Series; unpublished court rolls held by the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Clarendon, Leeds.
Treasurer Accounts	<i>Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer: Compota Thesauriorum Regum Scotorum, 1473–1566</i> , 11 volumes, Edinburgh: H.M. General Register House (1877–1916).	Walsham le Willows Court Rolls	Lock, R. (1998), <i>The Court Rolls of Walsham le Willows 1303–50</i> , Suffolk Record Society 41, Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer.
Trentham Chartulary	Parker, F. (1890), ‘A chartulary of the Augustine Priory of Trentham’, <i>Collections for a History of Staffordshire edited by The William Salt Archaeological Society</i> , First Series 11, pp. 295–336.	Walsingham Cartulary	The Cartulary of Walsingham Priory (Norfolk), MS Cotton Nero E. vii, British Library.
Tudor Rutland	Cornwall, J., ed. (1980), <i>Tudor Rutland: The County Community under Henry VIII: The Military Survey, 1522, and Lay Subsidy, 1524–5, for Rutland</i> , Rutland Record Series 1, Oakham: Rutland Record Society.	Waltham Abbey Charters	Ransford, R., ed. (1989), <i>The Early Charters of the Augustinian Canons of Waltham Abbey, Essex, 1062–1230</i> , Studies in the History of Medieval Religion 2, Woodbridge: Boydell Press.
Tutbury Cartulary	Saltman, A., ed. (1962), <i>The Cartulary of Tutbury Priory, Staffordshire Record Society (Collections for a History of Staffordshire)</i> Fourth Series 4 and Historical Manuscripts Commission Joint Publication 2, London: HMSO.	Walthamstow Wills	Fry, G. S., ed. (1921), <i>Abstracts of Wills Relating to Walthamstow</i> , Walthamstow Antiquarian Society.
UK Jewish Directory	Harfield, E., ed. (1893), <i>A Commercial Directory of the Jews of the United Kingdom</i> , London: Hewlett & Pierce.	War Book of Turriff	Robertson, J. M., ed. (1926), <i>The War Book of Turriff and Twelve Miles Round</i> , Turriff.
Ulster Surnames	Bell, R. (1988), <i>The Book of Ulster Surnames</i> , Belfast: Blackstaff Press.	Wardlaw Manuscript	MacKay, W., ed. (1905), <i>Chronicles of the Frasers: The Wardlaw Manuscript, Entitled ‘Polichronicon seu policratica temporum, or, The true genealogy of the Frasers’, 916–1674, by Master James Fraser</i> , Scottish History Society First Series 47, Edinburgh.
United Synagogue Members	List of Members of the United Synagogue, unpublished.	Warrington Library	Warrington Library, Museum and Archive Service, Museum Street, Cultural Quarter, Warrington, Cheshire.
Universal Dictionary	Wyld, H. (1934), <i>Universal Dictionary of the English Language</i> , London: Routledge.	Warwick Saint Mary Cartulary	Fonge, C., ed. (2004), <i>The Cartulary of Saint Mary’s Collegiate Church, Warwick</i> , Studies in the History of Medieval Religion 23, Woodbridge: Boydell Press.
Upper Coquetdale	Dixon, D. D. (1903), <i>Upper Coquetdale, Northumberland: Its History, Traditions, Folk-Lore and Scenery</i> , Newcastle upon Tyne: R. Redpath. Includes an extract from the Northumberland musters of 1538 (pp. 170–3).	Warwicks Hundred Rolls	John, T., ed. (1992), <i>The Warwickshire Hundred Rolls of 1279–80: Stoneleigh and Kineton Hundreds</i> , Records of Social and Economic History New Series 19, Oxford: British Academy.
Urie Court Book	Barron, D. G., ed. (1892), <i>The Court Book of the Barony of Urie in Kincardineshire, 1604–1747</i> , Scottish History Society First Series 12, Edinburgh.	Warwicks Record Office	Warwickshire County Record Office, Priory Park, Cape Road, Warwick (online abstracts).
Urquhart and Glenmoriston	MacKay, W. (1914), <i>Urquhart and Glenmoriston: Olden Times in a Highland Parish</i> , 2nd edition, Inverness: Northern Counties Newspaper and Printing and Publishing Company.	Watson, Celtic Place-Names	Watson, W. J. (1926), <i>The History of the Celtic Place-Names of Scotland</i> , Edinburgh: W. Blackwood & Sons.
Vale Priory Rolls	Vale Priory Rolls, copy in The Greffe, Royal Court House, Saint Peter Port, Guernsey.	Watson, Dumfries and Galloway	Watson, W. J. (1924), <i>The Celts (British and Gael) in Dumfries and Galloway</i> , Dumfries.
Vale Royal Abbey Ledger Book	Brownbill, J., ed. (1914), <i>The Ledger-Book of Vale Royal Abbey</i> , Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society 68.	Watson, Personal Names	Watson, W. J. (1925), <i>Personal Names: The Influence of the Saints</i> , Inverness.
Valor Ecclesiasticus	<i>Valor Ecclesiasticus Temp. Henr. VIII [1535], Auctoritate Regia Institutus</i> , 5 volumes (1810–25).		

Watts, Dictionary	Watts, V. (2004), <i>The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names</i> , Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.	Wheatley Court Rolls	Wheatley Court Rolls, MS SC2/196/96, The National Archives.
Wedderburne Compt Buik	Millar, A. H., ed. (1898), <i>The Compt Buik of David Wedderburne, Merchant of Dundee, 1587–1630, together with the shipping lists of Dundee, 1580–1618</i> , Scottish History Society First Series 28, Edinburgh.	Whitby Chartulary	Atkinson, J. C., ed. (1879–81), <i>Cartularium Abbatiae de Whiteby ordinis S. Benedicti</i> , 2 volumes, Surtees Society 69, 72.
Weekley	Weekley, E. (1916), <i>Surnames</i> , London: J. Murray.	White Book of Peterborough	Raban, S., ed. (2001), <i>The White Book of Peterborough: The Registers of Abbot William of Woodford, 1295–99, and Abbot Godfrey of Crowland, 1299–1321</i> , Northamptonshire Record Society 41, Northampton.
Weekly Scotsman	<i>Weekly Scotsman</i> . An Edinburgh newspaper.	Whitelock	Whitelock, D. (1940), ‘Scandinavian personal names in the Liber Vitae of Thorney Abbey’, <i>Saga-Book of the Viking Society</i> 12, pp. 127–53.
Welbeck Cartulary	The Cartulary of Welbeck Abbey (Notts), MS Harley 3640, British Library.	Wigan Archives	Wigan Archives Service, Leigh Town Hall, Civic Square, Leigh (online abstracts).
Welsh Genealogies	Bartrum, P. C. (1974–), <i>Welsh Genealogies, AD 300–1400</i> , with supplements, Aberystwyth, National Library of Wales; P. C. Bartrum (1983), <i>Welsh Genealogies, AD 1400–1500</i> , Aberystwyth, National Library of Wales.	Wigtownshire and Minnigaff	Scot, W., ed. (1916), <i>Parish Lists of Wigtownshire and Minnigaff, 1684</i> , Edinburgh.
Welsh Subsidy Roll	Jones, F. (1948–50), ‘The subsidy of 1292’, <i>Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies</i> 13, pp. 210–30.	Wigtown Testaments	Grant, F. J., ed. (1904), <i>The Commissariat Record of Wigtown: Register of Testaments, 1700–1800</i> , Scottish Record Society Old Series 23, Edinburgh.
Werrington Court Rolls	Werrington Court Rolls, Bedford MSS, Devon Record Office.	William I (Scotland) Charters	Barrow, G. W. S., with W. W. Scott, eds (1971), <i>The Acts of William I, King of Scots, 1165–1214</i> , Regesta Regum Scottorum 2, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
West Aberdeens Place-Names	Macdonald, J. [edited by C. E. Troup] (1899), <i>Place Names of West Aberdeenshire</i> , New Spalding Club 21, Aberdeen.	Wilts and Swindon Archives	Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham (online abstracts).
West Dereham Cartulary	The Cartulary of West Dereham Abbey (Norfolk), MS Add. 46353, British Library.	Wilts Court Rolls	Latham, R. E., and C. A. F. Meekings (1956), ‘The veredictum of Chippenham hundred, 1281’, in N. J. Williams, ed., <i>Collectanea</i> , Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Records Branch 12, Devizes; R. B. Pugh, ed. (1970), <i>Court Rolls of the Wiltshire Manors of Adam de Stratton</i> , Wiltshire Record Society 24, Devizes.
West Devon Record Office	Plymouth and West Devon Record Office, Unit 3, Clare Place, Coxside, Plymouth (Access to Archives online abstracts).	Winchester Compotus	Kitchin, G. W., ed. (1892), <i>Compotus Rolls of the Obedientiaries of Saint Swithun’s Priory, Winchester</i> , London: Simpkin.
Westminster Abbey Charters	Mason, E., ed. (1988), <i>Westminster Abbey Charters 1066–c.1214</i> , London: London Record Society 25.	Winchester Pipe Roll	Holt, N. R. (ed.), <i>The Pipe Roll of the Bishopric of Winchester, 1210–11</i> , Manchester 1964; M. Page (ed.), <i>The Pipe Roll of the Bishopric of Winchester, 1301–2</i> , Winchester: Hampshire County Council, 1996.
Westminster Abbey Documents	Harvey, B. F., ed. (1965), <i>Documents illustrating the rule of Walter de Wenlok, Abbot of Westminster, 1283–1307</i> , Camden Society Fourth Series 2, London: Royal Historical Society.	Winchester Surveys	Keene, D. J., ed. (1976), ‘Thirteenth-century surveys of Winchester’, in M. Biddle, ed., <i>Winchester in the Early Middle Ages</i> , Winchester Studies 1, Oxford, pp. 509–19.
Westminster Abbey Muniments	Westminster Abbey Muniments.	Winton Domesday	Barlow, F., ed. (1976), ‘The Winton Domesday’, in M. Biddle, ed., <i>Winchester in the Early Middle Ages</i> , Winchester Studies 1, Oxford, pp. 1–141.
West Sussex Land Tax	Readman, A., L. Falconer, R. Ritchie, and P. Wilkinson, eds (2000), <i>West Sussex Land Tax 1785</i> , Sussex Record Society 82, Lewes.	Withycombe	Withycombe, E. G. (1977), <i>The Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names</i> , 3rd edition, Oxford: Clarendon Press.
West Sussex Record Office	West Sussex Record Office, Sherburne House, 3 Orchard Street, Chichester (Access to Archives online abstracts).	Wodrow Miscellany	‘Register of Ministers and Readers in the Kirk of Scotland . . . 1574’, in <i>Wodrow Society Miscellany, Volume 1</i> , pp. 319–96 (1844).
West Yorks Archives (Bradford)	West Yorkshire Archive Service, Bradford Central Library, Prince’s Way, Bradford (Access to Archives online abstracts).	Woking Deed (Surrey)	Woking Deed, MS 1/1/101, Surrey County Record Office.
West Yorks Archives (Leeds)	West Yorkshire Archive Service, 2 Chapeltown Road, Sheepscar, Leeds (Access to Archives online abstracts).	Woking Rental (Surrey)	Woking Rental, MS LR 2/190 f. 160, The National Archives.
West Yorks Deeds	Robertshaw, W., ed. (1931–6), <i>West Yorkshire Deeds</i> , Bradford Historical and Antiquarian Society Local Record Series 2, in 3 parts, Bradford.	Woking Will (Surrey)	Woking Will, MS X/DW/PA/7/3 f. 179, Greater London Record Office.
Wetherhal Register	Prescott, J. E., ed. (1897), <i>The Register of the Priory of Wetherhal</i> , Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Record or Chartulary Series 1.		
Whalley Abbey Coucher Book	Hulton, W. A., ed. (1847–9), <i>The Coucher Book or Chartulary of Whalley Abbey</i> , 4 volumes, Chetham Society 10–11, 16, 20.		

Worcester Cartulary	Darlington, R. R., ed. (1968), <i>The Cartulary of Worcester Cathedral Priory (Register I)</i> , Pipe Roll Society 76 (New Series 38), London.	Yorks Charters	Farrer, W., ed. (1914–16), <i>Early Yorkshire Charters, Being a Collection of Documents Anterior to the Thirteenth Century Made from the Public Records, Monastic Chartularies, Roger Dodsworth's Manuscripts, and Other Available Sources</i> , 2 volumes, Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series, Extra Series; C. T. Clay, ed. (1935–65), <i>Early Yorkshire Charters, Based on the Manuscripts of the Late William Farrer</i> , 10 volumes, Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series, Extra Series 1–10.
Worcester Charters	Bloom, J. H., ed. (1909), <i>Original Charters Relating to the City of Worcester, in Possession of the Dean and Chapter, and by them Preserved in the Cathedral Library</i> , Oxford: The Worcestershire Historical Society.	Yorks Deeds	Brown, W., C. T. Clay, M. J. Hebditch, and J. M. Stanley Price, eds (1909–55), <i>Yorkshire Deeds</i> , 10 volumes, Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series 39, 50, 63, 65, 69, 76, 83, 102, 111, 120.
Worcester Red Book	Hollings, M., ed. (1934–50), <i>The Red Book of Worcester, Containing Surveys of the Bishop's Manors and Other Records, Chiefly of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries</i> , 4 volumes, Worcestershire Historical Society.	Yorkshire Archaeological Journal	<i>Yorkshire Archaeological Journal</i> (in progress, 1869–).
Worcester Visitation	Phillimore, W. P. W., ed. (1888), <i>The Visitation of the County of Worcester made in the Year 1569</i> , London: Ye Wardovr.	Yorks Inquisitions and Wills	Collins, F., ed. (1885), <i>A Catalogue of the Inquisitions Post Mortem for the County of York, for the Reigns of James I and Charles I, in the Courts of Chancery, and of Wards and Liveries, and a Catalogue of the Yorkshire Wills at Somerset House, for the Years 1649 to 1660</i> , Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series 1.
Worcs Charter Bounds	Hooke, D. (1990), <i>Worcestershire Anglo-Saxon Charter Bounds</i> , Woodbridge: Boydell.	Yorks Miscellanea	Hudson, A. V., et al. (1929), <i>Miscellanea Vol. II</i> , Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series 74.
Worcs Inquisitions	Amphlett, J., ed. (1899), <i>Lay Subsidy Roll, AD 1332–3, and Nonarum Inquisitiones, 1340, for the County of Worcester</i> , Worcestershire Historical Society.	Yorks Poll Tax	'Rolls of the collectors in the West-Riding of the lay subsidy (poll tax), 2 Richard II', <i>Yorkshire Archaeological Journal</i> 5, pp. 1–51, 241–66, 417–32; 6, pp. 1–44, 129–71, 287–342; 7, pp. 6–31, 145–86 (1879–82); 'Assessment roll of the poll tax for Howdenshire, etc., 2 Richard II (1379)', <i>Yorkshire Archaeological Journal</i> 9, pp. 129–62 (1886); E. Lloyd (1909), 'Poll Tax Returns for the East Riding, 4 Ric. II', <i>Yorkshire Archaeological Journal</i> 20, pp. 318–52; J. C. Cox, 'A Poll-Tax Roll of the East Riding, with some account of the Peasant Revolt of 1381', <i>East Riding Antiquarian Society</i> 30 (1909), pp. 1–70.
Worcs Middle English Dialect	Sundby, B. (1963), <i>Studies in the Middle English Dialect Material of Worcestershire Records</i> , Bergen/Oslo and New York: Norwegian University Press and Humanities Press.	Yorks Survey	Skaife, R. H., ed. (1867), <i>The Survey of the County of York, taken by John de Kirkby, commonly called Kirkby's Inquest; also Inquisitions of Knights' Fees, the Nomina Villarum for Yorkshire, and an appendix of illustrative documents</i> , Surtees Society 49.
Worcs Record Office	Worcestershire Record Office, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester (online abstracts).	Yorks Title Deeds	Yorkshire Archaeological Society Title Deeds, MSS MD 335/46.
Woulfe, Irish Names and Surnames	Woulfe, P. (1923), <i>Sloinnnte Gaedheal is Gall: Irish Names and Surnames</i> , Dublin: M. H. Gill and Son; reprinted 2007; Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company.	Yorks Wills	Raine, J., J. Raine, and J. W. Clay, eds. (1836–1902), <i>Testamenta Eboracensia: a Selection of Wills from the Registry at York (1300–1551)</i> , 6 volumes, Surtees Society 4, 30, 45, 53, 79, 106.
WR Yorks Quarter Sessions	Quarter Sessions Records of the West Riding of Yorkshire, West Riding Archive Service, Wakefield.	York Visitations	Thompson, A. H., ed. (1916), 'Documents relating to diocesan and provincial visitations from the registers of Henry Bowet, Lord Archbishop of York, 1407–1423, and John Kempe, Cardinal-Priest of Santa Balbina, Lord Archbishop of York, 1425–1452', in <i>Miscellanea, Volume 2</i> , Surtees Society 127, pp. 131–302.
WR Yorks Surnames	Redmonds, G. (1973), <i>English Surname Series: 1. Yorkshire West Riding</i> , Chichester: Phillimore.	Ystrad Marchell Charters	Thomas, G. C. G., ed. (1997), <i>The Charters of the Abbey of Ystrad Marchell</i> , Aberystwyth: National Library of Wales.
Wykeham's Register	Kirby, T. F., ed. (1896–9), <i>Wykeham's Register</i> , 2 volumes, London and Winchester: Hampshire Record Society.		
Wyntoun Chronicle	Amours, F. J., ed. (1903–8), <i>The Original Chronicle of Andrew of Wyntoun</i> , 6 volumes, Edinburgh: Scottish Text Society.		
Yester House Writs	Harvey, C. C. H., and J. McLeod, eds (1930), <i>Calendar of Writs Preserved at Yester House, 1166–1625</i> , Scottish Record Society Old Series 55, Edinburgh.		
York Freeman's Register	Collins, F., ed. (1897–9), <i>Register of the Freeman of the City of York, from the City Records (1272–1759)</i> , 2 volumes, Surtees Society 96, 102.		
York Guild Register	Skaife, R. H., ed. (1872), <i>Register of the Guild of Corpus Christi in the City of York, with an appendix of illustrative documents, containing some account of the Hospital of Saint Thomas of Canterbury, without Micklegate-Bar in the suburbs of the city</i> , Surtees Society 57.		
York Memorandum Book	Sellers, M., ed. (1912–15), <i>York Memorandum Book</i> , 2 volumes, Surtees Society 120, 125.		
York Registry Wills	Collins, F., et al., eds (1889–1934), <i>Index of Wills in the York Registry, 1389–1688</i> , 14 volumes, Yorkshire Archaeological Record Series 6, 11, 14, 19, 22, 24, 26, 28, 32, 35, 49, 60, 68, 89.		

Counties, islands, and their abbreviations

The county names used in this dictionary relate to the counties as they existed prior to the county reorganization of 1974.

Great Britain

Aberdeens	Aberdeenshire	Herefs	Herefordshire
Alderney		Herts	Hertfordshire
Anglesey		Hunts	Huntingdonshire
Angus		Inverness	Inverness-shire
Argyll		IoM	Isle of Man
Ayrs	Ayrshire	IoW	Isle of Wight
Banffs	Banffshire	Jersey	the Bailiwick of Jersey
Beds	Bedfordshire	Kent	
Berks	Berkshire	Kincardines	Kincardineshire
Berwicks	Berwickshire	Kinross	Kinross-shire
Brecknocks	Brecknockshire	Kirkcudbrights	Kirkcudbrightshire
Bucks	Buckinghamshire	Lanarks	Lanarkshire
Bute		Lancs	Lancashire
Caernarvons	Caernarvonshire	Leics	Leicestershire
Caithness		Lincs	Lincolnshire
Cambs	Cambridgeshire	Merioneths	Merionethshire
Cardigans	Cardiganshire	Middx	Middlesex
Carmarthens	Carmarthenshire	Midlothian	
Cheshire		Monmouths	Monmouthshire
Cornwall		Montgomerys	Montgomeryshire
Cumb	Cumberland	Morays	Morayshire
Denbighs	Denbighshire	Nairns	Nairnshire
Derbys	Derbyshire	Norfolk	
Devon		Northants	Northamptonshire
Dorset		Northumb	Northumberland
Dumfriess	Dumfriesshire	Notts	Nottinghamshire
Dunbartons	Dunbartonshire	NR Yorks	North Riding of Yorkshire
Durham		Orkney	
E Lothian	East Lothian	Oxon	Oxfordshire
ER Yorks	East Riding of Yorkshire	Peebles	Peebleshire
Essex		Pembrokes	Pembrokeshire
Fife		Perths	Perthshire
Flints	Flintshire	Radnors	Radnorshire
Glamorgan		Renfrews	Renfrewshire
Gloucs	Gloucestershire	Ross and Cromarty	
Guernsey	the Bailiwick of Guernsey	Roxburghs	Roxburghshire
Hants	Hampshire	Rutland	
		Selkirks	Selkirkshire

Shetland		Warwicks	Warwickshire
Shrops	Shropshire	Westm	Westmorland
Somerset		Wigtowns	Wigtownshire
Staffs	Staffordshire	Wilts	Wiltshire
Stirlings	Stirlingshire	W Lothian	West Lothian
Suffolk		Worcs	Worcestershire
Surrey		WR Yorks	West Riding of Yorkshire
Sussex			
Sutherland			

Ireland (including Northern Ireland)

Antrim	Down	Leitrim	Roscommon
Armagh	Dublin	Limerick	Sligo
Carlow	Fermanagh	Longford	Tipperary
Cavan	Galway	Louth	Tyrone
Clare	Kerry	Mayo	Waterford
Cork	Kildare	Meath	Westmeath
Derry	Kilkenny	Monaghan	Wexford
Donegal	Laois	Offaly	Wicklow

Aaron

Variants: **Aron, Arran, Aarons**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 722, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 467
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in England and Wales: esp. WR Yorks

1 English, Welsh: relationship name patronymic from the Old Testament personal name, Hebrew *Aharon*, latinized as *Aaron*, which is of uncertain, perhaps Egyptian, origin. It occurs as a Jewish personal name in 12th- and 13th-century England. However, the Jews were expelled from England in 1290 and were not officially allowed to return until 1656, so they cannot have been a source for this as a British surname. It comes from the occasional adoption of *Aaron* as a Christian personal name, especially in the 12th century among senior clergy, who venerated Aaron, brother of Moses, as the first high priest of the Israelites. It could also have been used by high-ranking laity. The Normans brought the personal name to England, where it appears occasionally in 12th-century records and then disappears until its revival after the Reformation. In South Wales, where fixed surnames developed later than in England, it was coined independently after the medieval period, reflecting the enthusiasm for Old Testament given names among Nonconformists.

Early bearers: given names: Aaron (probably a cleric), 1095–1112 in *Durham Liber Vitae*. surnames, England: Robert Aaron, 1185 in *Eynsham Cartulary* (Oxon); John Aaron, 1259 in *Forest Pleas* (Northants); John Aaron, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Shrops); William Aaron, 1628 in *IGI* (Ashby Folville, Leics); John Aaron, 1633 in *IGI* (Much Wenlock, Shrops); John Aaron, 1642 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Agnes Aaron, 1678 in *IGI* (Colne, Lancs); Henry Arron, 1701, Henry Aaron, 1702 in *IGI* (Ketteringham, Norfolk); Abraham Aaron, 1713 in *IGI* (Ashburton, Devon); Richard Aaron, 1766 in *IGI* (Castleford, WR Yorks).

Wales: Robert Aaron, 1727 in *IGI* (Glasbury, Breckknocks); John Aaron, 1736 in *IGI* (Llangendeirne).

2 Jewish (Ashkenazic): relationship name patronymic from the Old Testament personal name. **Early bearers:** Uziel Aarons, 1804, Hannah Aaron, 1820 in *Great and Hambro Synagogue Births*; Barnet Aaron, clothier, in *Census 1851* (Tower Hamlets, Middx); Julius Aarons, born in Prussia, in *Census 1881* (London); Emanuel Aaron, born in Poland, in *Census 1881* (London); Abraham Aaron, born in Prussia, in *Census 1881* (Lancs); Israel Aaron, general dealer, born in Germany, in *Census 1901* (Blackburn, Lancs).

Aarons

- **Current frequencies:** GB 340, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 163
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks; London
- Jewish, English: see **Aaron**.

Aaronson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 71, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 52
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

Jewish: relationship name patronymic from **Aaron**. **Early bearers:** Lewis Aaronson, artist, in *Census 1851* (Liverpool, Lancs); Nathan Aaronson, furniture dealer, born in Russia, in *Census 1861* (Wolverhampton, Staffs); Hyman Aaronson, hosier, born in Holland, in *Census 1881* (Chelsea, Middx); Lazarus Aaronson, tailor, born in Russia, in *Census 1901* (Whitechapel, Middx).

Abasi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 37, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Arabic, Muslim: see **Abbasi**.

Abassi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 33, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim: see **Abbasi**.

Abate

- **Current frequencies:** GB 84, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2

Italian: nickname, occupational name, relationship name from Italian *abate* 'priest' (from Late Latin *abbas*, genitive *abbatis*), perhaps given to someone who behaved in a priest-like manner, or to a priest's servant, or to the illegitimate son of a priest. **Early bearers:** Carlo Abate, born in Switzerland, in *Census 1881* (Paddington, Middx); Pietro Abate, born in Turin, Italy, in *Census 1881* (Westminster, Middx); Francesco Abate, born in Italy, in *Census 1891* (Marylebone, Middx); Luigi Abate, born in Italy, in *Census 1911* (Kent).

Abb

- **GB frequency 1881:** 4
 - **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks
- English: see **Abbe**.

Abba

- **Current frequencies:** GB 195, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 82
- **Main GB location 1881:** N England: esp. Westm and Lancs; ER Yorks

English: variant of **Abbey**, reflecting a common post-medieval northern pronunciation.

Early bearers: Margaret Abba, 1613 in *IGI* (Kendal, Westm); Joseph Abba, 1654 in *IGI* (Sherburn in Elmet, WR Yorks); William Abba alias Abbey, 1713 in *Cause Papers, York* (Little Ouseburn, WR Yorks); John Abbah, 1759 in *IGI* (Escrick, ER Yorks); William Abbey or Abba, 1797 in *IGI* (Hambleton, WR Yorks). **References:** *Redmonds, Surnames and Genealogy*, p. 215.

Abbas

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3593, Ireland 21
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2

Muslim: relationship name from the Arabic personal name 'Abbās, from an Arabic word meaning 'stern, austere'.

Further information: 'Abbās was the name of an uncle (died 652) of the Prophet Muhammad, the ancestor of the Abbasid dynasty (see **Abbasi**).

Abbasi

Variants: **Abasi, Abassi**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1079, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Arabic, Muslim (Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia): relationship name from Arabic, meaning 'of the family of Abbas'.

Abbatt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 103, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 72
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs, WR Yorks, and Westm

English: see **Abbott**.

Abbey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 21
- **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks

English: see **Abbey**.

Abbe

Variants: **Abb, Abbs**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4
- **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks

English: (i) relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Abbe*, often a pet form of the female personal name **Aubrey** but sometimes perhaps a pet form of a male name beginning in *Ab-*. See **Abson**, and compare **Abnett, Aubrey, Abel, Abraham, Absalom**. (ii) some of the medieval bearers of this name may belong under **Abbey** (2). **Early bearers:** Ralph Abbe, 1200 in *Feet of Fines* (Oxon); Walter Abbe, 1249 in *Assize Rolls* (Wilts); John Abbe, 1327, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); William Abb, 1654 in *IGI* (Blofield, Norfolk); James Abb in *Census 1881* (Runton, Norfolk).

Abberley

Variants: **Abley**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 301, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 248
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs

English: locative name from Abberley (Worcs), which is recorded as *Edboldelega* in 1086, *Abbodeley* in 1327, and *Abburley* in 1478. The place-name derives from the Old English personal name *Eadbald* + *lēah* 'open woodland'.

Early bearers: Richard de Abbodeleye, 1324 in *Patent Rolls* (Gloucs); John de Abbodeleye, 1328 in *Registrum Thome de Charlton*; Christopher Aberley, 1582 in *IGI* (Stowe, Staffs); Johannes Aborley, 1589 in *IGI* (Rugeley, Staffs); Margery Abberly, 1626 in *IGI* (Madresfield, Worcs); Elizabetham Abberly, 1662 in

Abberton

IGI (Leigh, Staffs); John Abley, 1762 in *IGI* (Clun, Shrops); Anna Maria Abley, 1833 in *IGI* (Kidderminster, Worcs).

References: *Place-Names of Worcs*, pp. 23–4.

Abberton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 44, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 16
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: variant of **Appleton**.

Early bearers: Henry Apperton, 1614, Mary Ann Appleton, 1833 in *IGI* (Sheffield, WR Yorks); James Apperton, 1703, Sarah Appleton, 1705 in *IGI* (Newchurch Kenyon, Lancs).

Abness

Variants: **Abbiss**, **Abbis**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 30, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 17
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Beds

English: probably a variant of **Abbs**, the spelling of which has been altered by folk etymology to coincide with the vocabulary word *abbess*. See also **Abbe**.

Early bearers: John Abness, 1724, Dinah Abiss, 1736 in *IGI* (Eaton Socon, Beds); John Booth Abiss, 1795 in *IGI* (Dudley, Staffs).

Abbett

- **Current frequencies:** GB 33, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 49
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

English: see **Abbott**.

Abbey

Variants: **Abby**, **Abbey**, **Abbie**, **Abba**, **Abbe**, **Labey**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1707, Ireland 149
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1096
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England: esp. Yorks
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Carlow

1 English: locative name, occupational name for someone who lived or worked at an abbey, from Anglo-Norman French, Middle English *abbaye* ‘abbey, monastery, a community of monks under an abbot or a community of nuns under an abbess’ (Anglo-Norman French *abbaie*, Latin *abbatia*, compare **Abdy**). Some of the early bearers without a preposition may belong under (2).

Early bearers: John de Abbattia, 1190 in *Pipe Rolls* (London, Middlesex); William del Abbay, 1283 in *York Freeman’s Register* (York); Adam dil Abbeye, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Richard Abbay, 1608 in *IGI* (Askham Bryan, WR Yorks); Thomas Abbi, 1648 in *IGI* (Wakefield, WR Yorks); Benjamin Abby, 1687 in *IGI* (Haversham, Bucks); Jonathan Abbey, 1768 in *IGI* (Bolton Percy, WR Yorks).

2 Norman, English: nickname from Anglo-Norman French *abé*, *abbé* ‘priest’, preceded in the earliest forms by the French definite article *l(e)*; compare **Labey**. The late Middle English form of the surname was *Abby*, converging with *Abbey* (1). Compare Scottish **Abbie**.

Early bearers: Ralph le Abe, about 1150–66 in *Yorks Charters*; Geoffrey Labbe, 1154–89 in *Danelaw Documents* (Leics); Ralph le Abbe, 1177 in *Pipe Rolls* (London); Robert Labbe, 1208 in *Pipe Rolls* (Herts); William le Abbe, 1220 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Devon); Walter le Abbe, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts*; Roger Abby, 1364 in *London Pleas* (Essex); Ricd

Abbey, 1569 in *IGI* (Whixley, WR Yorks); Sara Abbey, 1583 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Margrett Abbey, 1593 in *IGI* (Nettleton, Lincs); Elen Abbey, 1596 in *IGI* (Walton on the Hill, Lancs); Margaret Abbey, 1602 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent).

Abbie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 34, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 26
- **Main GB location 1881:** Fife

Scottish: Scottish spelling of **Abbey**.

Early bearers: Simon del Abbeye, merchant, 1370 in *Scotland Calendar*; Arthur Abbay, shipmaster of Crail, 1613 in *Wedderburne Compt Buik*, probably father of John Abay, skipper of Crail, 1635 in *Wedderburne Compt Buik*; William Abbie, in *Census 1881* (Fife).

Abbinett

- **GB frequency 1881:** 47
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants; Lancs

English: see **Abnett**.

Abbis

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 50
- **Main GB location 1881:** Beds

English: see **Abness**.

Abbishaw

- **Current frequencies:** GB 24, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 34
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: variant of **Habbershaw**, see **Habergham**.

Abbiss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 392, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 179
- **Main GB location 1881:** Herts and Beds; Staffs

English: see **Abness**.

Abbitt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 73, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 37
- **Main GB location 1881:** London, Essex, and Suffolk

English: see **Abbott**.

Abbott

- **Current frequencies:** GB 380, Ireland 31
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1406
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Angus; Lancs and WR Yorks
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** scattered

1 English, Scottish: see **Abbott**.

2 Scottish: anglicization of Gaelic **McNab** ‘son of the abbot’.

Abbots

- **Current frequencies:** GB 74, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 164
- **Main GB location 1881:** Shrops and Staffs

English: see **Abbotts**.

Abbott

Variants: **Abbot**, **Abbatt**, **Abbett**, **Abbitt**, **Labbett**, **Abbotts**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17411, Ireland 473
- **GB frequency 1881:** 13000

- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Lancs and WR Yorks

- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread

English: nickname from Middle English *abbod*, *abbot*, *abbat*, ‘abbot’, presumably given to a lay person who behaved like one. There is no evidence that men with this surname were servants of abbots, though it remains a theoretical possibility. Compare **Monk**, **Prior**.

Early bearers: England Walter Abbot, 12th cent. in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Walter Abat, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Peter le Abbot, 1237 in *Hornchurch Priory Kalendar* (Essex); Ralph Abbod, 1272 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Thoma Abbot, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Kent); Matill’ le Abbot, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lancs); Johis Abott, 1541 in *IGI* (Ugborough, Devon); Isabella Abbott, 1558 in *IGI* (Featherstone, WR Yorks); Johan Abbott, 1560 in *IGI* (Brindle, Lancs); Edward Abott, 1567 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs). Scotland Alexander Abbot, about 1290 in *Glasgow Register* (Glasgow); Sir John Abbot, dean of Fife and Fotherif, 1306 in *Scotland Calendar*; Alexander Abbot, Leith 1548 in *Midlothian Charters*; Alexander Abbot, Dumfries, 1570 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register*.

Abbotts

Variants: **Abbots**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 838, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 457
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs, Warwicks, and Shrops

1 English: locative name, occupational name from Middle English (*atte*, *of the*) *abbotes* ‘(at the, of the) abbot’s (house or quarters)’, a name for someone who lived or worked there, presumably a servant. For the type, compare **Maidens**, **Masters**, **Monks**, **Parsons**. The post-medieval bearers below may belong to sense (2).

Early bearers: Ralph Atte Abbotes, clerk imprisoned at Newark on Trent, 1330 in *History of Newark* (Notts); Alis of the Abbotes, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Warwicks); Johanne at Abbotes, 1379, Walterus atte Abbotes, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Leics); Henry atte Abbotes, 1380 in *Feet of Fines* (Pickwell, Leics); Ane Abbotes, 1616 in *IGI* (Stratford upon Avon, Warwicks); John Abatts, 1628 in *IGI* (Walsall, Staffs); William Abbots, 1770 in *IGI* (Market Drayton, Shrops).

2 English: variant of **Abbott** with post-medieval *ex*rescent -s.

Abbs

Variants: **Abness**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 631, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 527
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: variant of **Abbe** with genitival or *ex*rescent -s.

Early bearers: Thomas Abbes, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Burnham Westgate, Norfolk); Jamys Abbys, Richard Abes, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Dorothy Abbes, 1548 in *IGI* (Nayland, Suffolk); Thomas Abbes, 1561 in *IGI* (Hadleigh, Suffolk); William Abbes, 1568 in *IGI* (Horse, Norfolk); John Abness, 1724 in *IGI* (Eaton Socon, Beds).

Abby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 44, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 119

- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in England: esp. WR Yorks; London
- English: see **Abbey**.

Abdalla

- **Current frequencies:** GB 752, Ireland 14
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Arabic, Muslim: see **Abdullah**.

Abdallah

- **Current frequencies:** GB 388, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 4
- Arabic, Muslim: see **Abdullah**.

Abdey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 31, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 32
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- English: see **Abdy**.

Abdi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2260, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Muslim (Iran, Somalia): variant of **Abdo**.

Abdie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 23, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- English: see **Abdy**.

Abdin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 147, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Arabic, Muslim: see **Abedin**.

Abdo

Variants: **Abdi**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 261, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Muslim: nickname from Arabic *‘abduh* ‘his servant’, i.e. ‘Allah’s servant’. *Abduh* is one of the epithets of the Prophet Muhammad.

Abdon

- **GB frequency 1881:** 14
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb; Surrey
- English: possibly a variant of **Ebden**.
- Further information:** There is a place called Abdon in Shrops, which gave rise to an early medieval byname (e.g. [. . . de] *Abeton*’, about 1200 in *Place-Names of Shrops*), but post-medieval bearers are not found in that county.
- Early bearers:** Alicia Abdon, 1577 in *IGI* (Alford, Lincs); Henry Abden, 1587 in *IGI* (Broadway, Worcs); Catherine Abden, 1688 in *IGI* (Whitwell, Derbys); William Abdon, 1700 in *IGI* (Durham, Durham).
- References:** *Place-Names of Shrops* 1, p. 1.

Abdul

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1503, Ireland 11
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- Muslim: from an Arabic personal name based on *‘abdu* ‘servant of the . . .’. In Arabic personal names, *Abdul* is normally the first element of a compound name, the second part of which frequently refers to one of the attributes of Allah mentioned in the Qur’an or the Hadith, for example *‘Abdul-‘azīz* ‘servant of the Powerful’, *‘Abdul-ḥakīm* ‘servant of

the Wise’, *‘Abdul-qādir* ‘servant of the Capable’. Traditionally, these attribute names are 99 in number, and are known as the ‘most beautiful names’ (*al-asmā’ al-ḥusnā*).

Abdulla

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1136, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- Arabic, Muslim: see **Abdullah**.

Abdullah

Variants: **Abdulla**, **Abdalla**, **Abdallah**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2516, Ireland 19
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

Arabic, Muslim: from the Arabic personal name *Abdullah* (Arabic *‘abd Allāh* ‘servant of God’). **Further information:** This was the name of the father of the Prophet Muhammad, who died before Muhammad was born.

Abdullahi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 700, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Arabic, Muslim: Arabic name meaning ‘of the family of **Abdullah**’.

Abdy

Variants: **Abdie**, **Abdey**, **Adby**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 269, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 111
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Notts; Hants

English: locative name from Middle English *abbodie* ‘an estate belonging to an abbey’ (Anglo-Norman French *abbedi* ‘abbacy, property or jurisdiction of an abbot’, Latin *abbatia*, compare **Abbey**). The Yorks surname derives from Abdy in Brampton Bierlow (WR Yorks), which is recorded as *Abbedi* in about 1260, *Abdye* in 1345. The 13th-century charter states that the land in *Abbedi* was held of the monks of Monk Bretton Priory.

Early bearers: Robert son of William de Abbedi, about 1260 in *Monk Bretton Cartularies* (Brampton Bierlow, WR Yorks); Robertus del Abdy, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Brampton Bierlow, WR Yorks); Robert del Abdy, 1409 in *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 6 (Brampton Bierlow, WR Yorks); Roger Abdy, 1565 in *IGI* (Saint Mary le Bow, London); Francis Abdy, 1600 in *Sheffield Surnames* (WR Yorks); Richardi Abdy, 1672 in *IGI* (Sheffield, WR Yorks).

References: *Redmonds, Surnames and Genealogy*, pp. 33–4; *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 1, p. 107.

A’Bear

- **Current frequencies:** GB 21, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- English: see **Abear**.

Abear

Variants: **A’Bear**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 33, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 34
- **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon and Berks

English: (i) locative name from Middle English *atte bere* ‘at the woodland swine-pasture’ (Old English *bær*). Compare Walter de la Bere, 1263 in *Place-Names of Surrey* (Beare Green in Capel, Surrey). (ii) locative name from Middle English *atte bere* ‘at the grove’ (Old English *bearu*). Compare **Beer** (1).

Early bearers: John atte Bere, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Surrey); John Abere, 1517 in *Canterbury Wills* (*Probate*) (Kent); Paul Abeare, 1605 in *Assize Rolls* (Sussex); Francis Abear, 1737 in *IGI* (Hurst, Berks).

References: *Place-Names of Surrey*, p. 267.

Abed

- **Current frequencies:** GB 228, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Muslim: see **Abid**.

Abedin

Variants: **Abdin**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 286, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic *‘ābidīn* ‘worshippers’, and often from the compound *zayn-ul-‘ābidīn* ‘ornament of the worshippers’.

Abel

Variants: **Abele**, **Abell**, **Able**, **Ables**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2761, Ireland 26
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1891
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Aberdeens; Norfolk; London
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Limerick
- English, Scottish: relationship name from the Middle English and Older Scots personal name *Abel*, a latinized form of Hebrew *Hebel* (of uncertain etymology). It was taken from the Old Testament story of the shepherd Abel, younger son of Adam and Eve, who was murdered by his jealous brother Cain (Genesis 4: 2–16, 25). As a given name among Christians it was used in continental Europe from the sixth century. After the Norman Conquest it was introduced to England and Scotland, where it had a brief currency in the 12th and 13th centuries before being revived in England after the Reformation.
- Early bearers:** given names: Abellus, 1154–89 in *Danelaw Documents* (Leics); Abel de Etton’, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Warwicks).
- surnames, England: William Abel, 1197 in *Pipe Rolls* (Essex); William Abel de Lokyngtona, 1297 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lockington, ER Yorks); Thomas Abelle, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Haxby, NR Yorks); John Abel, son of Abel Aurifaber (goldsmith), 1310 in *London Letter Books D*; Robert Abel, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Barnstaple, Devon); Johannes Abell’, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Birdbrook, Essex); Johannes Abel, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Shustoke, Warwicks); Robertus Abel, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Ashford, Derbys); Johannes Abel, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Canterbury, Kent); Willelmus Abel, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Groby, Leics); John. Abell, 1538 in *IGI* (Coleshill, Warwicks); Elizabeth Abell, 1539 in *IGI* (Parkham, Devon); Alys Abele, 1562 in *IGI* (Tilton on the Hill, Leics); Walter Able, 1575 in *IGI* (Axminster, Devon); Wilmi Abell, 1583 in *IGI* (Derby, Derbys); Thomas Able, 1598 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Mary Abel, 1607 in *IGI* (Lewes, Sussex); Thomas Abell, 1609 in *IGI* (Saint Nicholas Cole Abbey, London); Cicelie Abel, 1622 in *IGI* (Northbourne, Kent); Richard Abel, 1630 in *IGI* (Itteringham, Norfolk); John Abell, 1675 in *IGI* (Wakefield, WR Yorks); Mary Abele, 1739 in *IGI* (Drax, WR Yorks).
- surnames, Scotland: Nicholas Abel, master mariner, 1388 in *Scotland Calendar*; Thomas Abell, burgess of Edinburgh, 1413 in *Newbattle Register* (Edinburgh); Elspet Abel, 1628 in *IGI* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens); Marion Able, 1625 in *IGI* (Lasswade, Midlothian).

Abela

- **Current frequencies:** GB 338, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4

Italian, Maltese: locative name most probably from Avella in Campania, Italy (*Abella* in Latin), though other origins are possible.

Early bearers: Guiseppe Abela, born in Malta, in *Census 1881* (Royal Navy).

References: *Cassar*.

Abele

- **Current frequencies:** GB 46, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 16
- **Main GB location 1881:** Leics, WR Yorks
- 1 English: see **Abel**.

2 German: relationship name perhaps from the Biblical personal name **Abel** or a pet form of the personal name *Albrecht* (see **Albert**).

Early bearers: Henry Abele, cabinet maker journeyman, born in Germany, in *Census 1861* (Saint Pancras, London); Meta Abele, born in Hanover, in *Census 1881* (Hammersmith, London).

Abeles

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Jewish (Ashkenazic): relationship name from *Abele*, a pet form of the Yiddish personal name *Abe* (a short form of **Abraham**) + Yiddish genitival -s.

Further information: No evidence has been found to support Reaney's explanation that is a variant of the English surname **Abel**.

Early bearers: Richard Abeles, Austrian subject, and Oscar Abeles, naturalized British subject, both sons of Michael Abeles, meerscham manufacturer, born in Austria, naturalized British subject, in *Census 1901* (Stoke Newington, London).

References: *DAFN*.

Abell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 831, Ireland 18
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 923
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England: esp. Leics
- English: see **Abel**.

Abelson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 27, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 20
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham; Glamorgan
- English: see **Ableson**.

Abercrombie

Variants: **Abercromby**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 819, Ireland 11
- **GB frequency 1881:** 527
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Fermanagh and Leitrim

Scottish: locative name from Abercrombie alias Crombie in Torryburn (Fife), which is recorded as *Abercumbin*, *Abercumbi* in the 12th century, *Abercumbin*, *Abercromby* in the 13th century. The place-name derives from Pictish **aber* 'confluence, mouth' + a river-name **Cromb* (probably a Gaelic adaption of a Pictish term of similar meaning to Gaelic *crom*, Welsh *crwm* 'bent, bent one'), with the addition of a locative suffix -in, i.e. 'place at the mouth of the river *Cromb*'.

Further information: The family bearing this name were descended from royal cooks of the kings of Scots and were originally known as Cook of Abercrombie; their collateral branch were known as the Cooks of Balcaskie.

Early bearers: R. de Abercrombin, monk of Dunfermline Abbey, probably 1230s in *Dunfermline Register*; John Cook de Abircrumby and Richard Cook de Abercromby, 1260 in *Saint Andrews Charters*; Hugh de Abercromby, 1284 in *Saint Andrews Charters*; William de Abercromby, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar*; William de Haberchrumbi, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar*; John de Abercromby, 1305 in *Scotland Calendar* (all Fife); Alexander Abercrombie, 1603 in *IGI* (Dunfermline, Fife); Issoble Abercromby, 1644 in *IGI* (Dysart, Fife); Catrin Abercrommie, 1664 in *IGI* (Alloa, Clackmannans); James Abercromby, 1685 in *IGI* (Airth, Stirlings).

References: *Place-Names of Fife* 1, pp. 545–8.

Abercromby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 113, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 187
- **Main GB location 1881:** Stirlings

Scottish: see **Abercrombie**.

Aberdeen

Variants: **Aberdein**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 193, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 121
- **Main GB location 1881:** E Scotland

Scottish: locative name from the city of Aberdeen (Aberdeens), which is recorded as *Aberdon* in about 1186, *Aberden* in about 1214. The place-name, referring to Old Aberdeen to the north of (New) Aberdeen, derives from Pictish **aber* 'confluence, mouth' + the river-name Don (named after the Celtic goddess *Devona*).

Early bearers: Nicholas de Aberden, burgess of Dundee, 1209–25 in *Arbroath Register* (Dundee); Hugh and Ralph de Abyrden, Robert de Aberden, monks of Kinloss Abbey, 1229 in *Moray Register* (Morays); Andrew de Aberdene, 1243 in *Lindores Chartulary* (Aberdeens); Thomas de Abeirden, 1273 in *Paisley Register* (Glasgow); Michael de Abirden, 1290 in *Kelso Register* (Berwick); John of Aberdeen, merchant, 1291 in *Scotland Calendar* (Berwick); John de Abirdene, 1399 in *Midlothian Charters* (Pencaitland, E Lothian); Helen Aberdein, 1633 in *Spalding Club Miscellany* (Belhelvie, Aberdeens); Isobell Aberdeen, 1691 in *IGI* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens). **References:** *Mills, Dictionary*, p. 1; *Names of Towns and Cities*, pp. 35–6.

Aberdein

- **Current frequencies:** GB 122, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 141
 - **Main GB location 1881:** NE Scotland
- Scottish: see **Aberdeen**.

Abernathy

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 31
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham; Stirling

Scottish: see **Abernethy**.

Further information: This spelling of the name is more common in the USA than Scotland.

Abernethy

Variants: **Abernathy**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1033, Ireland 258
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 691
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Shetland; NE Scotland
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down; also Tyrone
- Scottish: locative name from Abernethy (Perths), which is recorded as *Aburnethige* in about 970. The place-name derives from Pictish **aber* 'confluence, mouth' + the river-name Nethy (Pictish **nectona* 'pure', used as the named of a water god). The reference is to the Nethy Burn's confluence with the River Tay.

Further information: Cadet branch of MacDuff earls of Fife.

Early bearers: Laurence son of Orm de Abirnethy, 1189–95 in *Arbroath Register* (Perths); Patrick de Abbirnthin, 1232–82 in *Scottish History Society Miscellany* 8 (Fife); Hugh de Abernyth, 1270 in *Coldstream Chartulary* (Berwicks); Alexander de Abirnethy, 1301–16 in *Coupar Angus Charters* (Angus); John of Abrenethy, 1399 in *Scotland Calendar*; Barbara Abernethie, 1632 in *IGI* (Duddingston, Midlothian). **References:** *Mills, Dictionary*, p. 2.

Abershaw

- **GB frequency 1881:** 9
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: variant of **Habbershaw**, see **Habergham**.

Abery

Variants: **Abrey**, **Abra**, **Aburrow**, **Aubrey**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 341, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 210
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Berks and Wilts; also Kent
- 1 English: locative name from Avebury (Wilts), which is recorded as *Aveberia* in 1196, *Avenebyr* in 1268, *Abury* in 1386, *Aubury* in 1494, *Abery* in 1535, and *Awbery alias Avebury* in 1689. The place-name derives from Old English *burh* 'stronghold, fortified place', with an uncertain first element, possibly the Old English personal name *Afa* (genitive *Afan*).
- Early bearers:** John de Auebury, 1315 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Wilts); Robert de Avebury, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cirencester, Gloucs); John Avebury, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ampney Crucis, Gloucs); Jam' de Avebury, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Avebury, Wilts); William de Avebury, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Chittoe, Wilts); Peter de Avebury, 1333, Thomas de Havenebere, 1338 in *Feet of Fines* (Wilts); Johanne Aburi, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Ampney, Gloucs); John Abery, 1563 in *IGI* (Kingsclere, Hants); William Abree, 1599 in *IGI* (Trowbridge, Wilts); Richard Abry, 1655 in *IGI* (Chieveley, Berks). **References:** *Place-Names of Wilts*, pp. 293–4.

2 English: variant of **Aubrey**. Some of the examples below may alternatively belong under (3).

Early bearers: John Aberye, 1563, John Aubry, 1594 in *IGI* (Icklingham, Suffolk); Marie Aberie, 1609, Titus Aabery, 1637, James Abree, 1674 in *IGI* (Norwich); George Abra, 1823 in *IGI* (Kings Lynn, Norfolk); Edmundus Abrye, 1607 in *IGI* (Balsham, Cambs); Margareta Abree, 1608 in *IGI* (Dullingham, Cambs); Thomas Abrey, 1872 in *IGI* (Melbourn, Cambs); Thomas Abrye, 1591 in *IGI* (Milton Bryant, Beds); Ann Aberrie, 1612, Thomas Abrey, 1652 in *IGI* (Luton, Beds); Philip Aberie, 1612 in *IGI* (Potton, Beds).

3 English: variant of **Albury**. The 1579 example below may alternatively belong to (2).

Further information: Aldborough Hatch (along with Aberly House) in Ilford (Essex), which is on record as *Albrorhhatchcrosse* in 1456 and *Al(d)borough Hacche* in 1486–1546, must surely be associated with Johanne Albourgh, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Barking, Essex), but it seems more likely that the place-name derives from the surname than vice versa.

Early bearers: Johanne Albourgh, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Barking, Essex); Stephen Alborgh, 1456 in *The Essex Review* 72 (Essex); Johanna Aubrey, 1579 in *IGI* (Theydon Garnon, Essex); Elizabeth Abree, 1598 in *IGI* (Belchamp Walter, Essex); John Abrie, 1615 in *IGI* (Little Yeldham, Essex); Nathaniel Alborie, 1624, Thomas Albery, 1637, Nathaniel Abury, 1686 in *IGI* (Good Easter, Essex); John Aberry, 1662 in *Hearth Tax* (Essex); Samuel Abery, 1767 in *IGI* (Chelmsford, Essex); James Abrey, in *Census 1881* (Essex, Suffolk).
References: *Place-Names of Essex*, p. 98.

Abethell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 14
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent
- Welsh: see **Bithell**.

Abey

Variants: **Aby**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 119, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 138
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: locative name from Aby (Lincs), which is recorded as *Abi* in 1086, *Aby* in 1212. The place-name derives from Old Scandinavian *á* 'river, stream' + *bý* 'settlement, village'.

Early bearers: Ricardi de Aby, 1381, Iohannes Aby, 1395 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs); John Aby, chaplain, 1499 in *Early Lincoln Wills* (Swineshead, Lincs); Richard Abey, 1509–47 in *TNA* (Wintringham, Lincs); Thomas Aby, 1518–1529 in *Chancery Proceedings* (Tattershall, Lincs); Katherin Aby, 1576, Richard Abey, 1672 in *IGI* (Winterton, Lincs); Georg Aby, 1578 in *IGI* (Barton upon Humber, Lincs).

References: *Lincs Place-Names*, p. 1.

Abid

Variants: **Abed**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 758, Ireland 8
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Arabic, Muslim: from a personal name based either on Arabic *‘abd* 'servant', or the related word *‘abid* 'worshipper'. Compare **Abdo**.

Abinger

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 17
- **Main GB location 1881:** SE England

English: locative name from Abinger (Surrey), which is recorded as *Abbingeworth* in 1225 and *Abbyngere* in 1558. The place-name probably means 'enclosure of the people of a man called Abba', from the Old English personal name *Abba* + the group-name suffix *-ingas* (genitive *-inga-*) + *word* 'enclosure, curtilage'.

Early bearers: Gilbert de Abingeworth', 1208 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Surrey); Gilberto de Abbingworth, sheriff of Surrey, 1226 in *Patent Rolls* (Surrey); Joldwynus de Abingewurth', 1235 in *Assize Rolls* (Surrey); James de Abingeworth, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John Abinger, 1703 in *Parish Registers* (Lingfield, Surrey).

References: *Place-Names of Surrey*, p. 259; *Mills, Dictionary*, p. 2.

Abington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 23, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 33
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hunts

English: locative name from Abington (Northants), Abington Pigotts (Cambs), or Great and Little Abington (Cambs), all of which are recorded as *Abintone* in 1086 and as *Abyngton* in the 13th century. The place-name in each case means 'farmstead associated with a man called Abba', from the Old English personal name *Abba* + the connective particle *-ing-* + *tūn* 'farmstead, estate'.

Early bearers: Fulcho de Abinton, 1194 in *Pipe Rolls* (Northants); Acelina de Abington, 1202–3, William de Abington, 1271–2 in *Feet of Fines* (Cambs); William de Abbinton, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Thomas de Abigton, William de Abynton, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Walt. de Abington, 1314–15 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cambridge, Cambs); Marg. de Abyngtone, Margar' de Abyton, 1349 in *Cambridge Gild Records* (Cambs); Richardus Abyndon, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Northants); Johane Abington, 1560 in *IGI* (Madingley, Cambs).

References: *Place-Names of Northants*, p. 132; *Place-Names of Cambs*, pp. 51–2, 99.

Abiodun

- **Current frequencies:** GB 283, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Abíṣṣúdún* (Yoruba *a-bí (s)ṣúdún* '(child) born during a festival period').

References: *Oduyoye*, p. 38.

Abiola

- **Current frequencies:** GB 261, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Abíólá* (Yoruba *a-bí olá* '(child) born into wealth or nobility').

Able

- **Current frequencies:** GB 224, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 557
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England: esp. Norfolk

English: see **Abel**.

Ables

- **GB frequency 1881:** 10
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Aberdeens

English: variant of **Able** (see **Abel**) with post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Further information: This form of the name is rare in Britain but is more numerous in the USA.

Early bearers: John Able, 1781, Robert Ables, 1786 in *IGI* (Derby, Derbys); William Ables, in *Census 1881* (Whitechapel, Middx); Elizabeth Abele, William Ables, in *Census 1881* (Old Machar, Aberdeens).

Ableson

Variants: **Abelson**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 60, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 51
- **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name **Abel** + *son*. The intrusive *-t-* in *Ableston(e)* shows post-medieval confusion between names in *-son* and names in *-ston(e)*. Compare the locative name **Sibson**, from an earlier *Sibston*.

Early bearers: Richard Abelson, 1623 in *Bardsley*; Jeffrey Abelson, 1662 in *IGI* (Cambridge, Cambs); Susan Ableston, about 1646 in *IGI* (Harrold, Beds); William Ablestone, 1693 in *IGI* (Cambridge, Cambs).

Ablett

Variants: **Ablott, Ablitt**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1172, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 628
- **Main GB location 1881:** E Anglia: esp. Suffolk; also Yorks and Lancs

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English (mainly female) personal name *Abelot*, a double diminutive of the personal name **Abbe**, a pet form of **Aubrey**.

Early bearers: given names: Abelota loue, 1277 in *Cotton Claudius C xi* (Suffolk); Abelot, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Abelota Proo, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Sompting, Sussex).

surnames: William Abelot, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); William Abelot, 1318 in *Patent Rolls* (Pocklington, ER Yorks); William Abelot, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Swineshead, Lincs); William Ablot, 1335 in *York Freeman's Register*; Is' Abelot, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Whinburgh, Norfolk); Robertus Abelote, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lindfield Archbishop, Sussex); Ricd. Ablett, 1549 in *IGI* (Sproughton, Suffolk); John Ablett, 1613 in *IGI* (Great Stukeley, Hunts); Robert Ablott, 1635 in *IGI* (Willingham, Cambs); Thomas Ablott, 1761 in *IGI* (Mendlesham, Suffolk); Thomas Ablett, 1763 in *IGI* (Sculcoates, ER Yorks); Henry Ablitt, 1773, William Abblitt, 1806 in *IGI* (Burgh, Suffolk).

2 English: perhaps also a reduced form of **Ablewhite** (see **Applewhaite** and **Hepplethwaite**) or confused with it.

Ablewhite

- **Current frequencies:** GB 218, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 101
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

1 English: usually a variant of **Hebblethwaite**.

2 English: occasionally a variant of **Applewhaite**.

Abley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 357, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 182
- **Main GB location 1881:** Shrops, Staffs, and Radnors

English: see **Abberley**.

Ablitt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 432, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 240
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk

English: see **Ablett**.

Ablott

- **Current frequencies:** GB 118, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 33
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: see **Ablett**.

Abner

- GB frequency 1881:** 11
- Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; also Guernsey

English: relationship name from the Biblical personal name *Abner*, meaning in Hebrew ‘father of (or is) light’.

Further information: In the First and Second Books of Samuel, Abner is Saul’s uncle and the commander of his army, who is eventually cut down by Joab (II Samuel 3:12–39). As a surname, this is rare in Britain, probably of 17th-century origin. It is more common in the USA.

Early bearers: Paul Abner, 1629 in *IGI* (Leicester).

Abnett

Variants: **Abbinett**

- Current frequencies:** GB 202, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 140
- Main GB location 1881:** Kent; also Staffs

English: relationship name from a diminutive, **Abbenot*, of the Middle English personal name **Abbe** (which is often a pet form of the female name **Aubrey** but sometimes perhaps a pet form of the rare male names **Abel**, **Abraham**, and **Absalom**).

Early bearers: Agneta Abnett, 1546 in *IGI* (Audley, Staffs); Elena Abnet, 1550 in *IGI* (Betley, Staffs); Elnor Abynott, 1600, Mary Abynet, 1617 in *IGI* (Catherington, Hants); Thomas Abinot, 1623 in *IGI* (Blendworth, Hants); Robert Abbinet, 1737, Mary Abonet, 1749 in *IGI* (Boxley, Kent); Sara Abnett, 1776 in *IGI* (Maidstone, Kent); Mary Abnett, 1797 in *IGI* (Shipbourne, Kent).

Abney

- GB frequency 1881:** 11
- Main GB location 1881:** Derbys

English: locative name from Abney (Derbys), which is recorded as *Abbeneia* in 1200, *Abneye* in the 15th century. The place-name means ‘Abba’s island’, from the Old English personal name *Abba* (genitive *Abban*) + *ēg* ‘island’ (perhaps here in the sense ‘patch of good land’).

Further information: The surname is now much more common in the USA than in England.

Early bearers: Roger de Abbeneye, 1272–1307 in *Derbys Charters* (Derbys); Willelmus Abenay, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Sheffield, WR Yorks); Robertus de Abbonay, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Castleton, Derbys); Johannes de Abbonay, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Eyam, Derbys); Thomas Abney, 1481 in *Feet of Fines* (WR Yorks); George Abney, 1535 in *Feet of Fines* (Derbys); Alice Abney, 1561 in *IGI* (Dronfield, Derbys).

References: *Place-Names of Derbys*, p. 25; *Watts, Dictionary*, p. 2.

Aboagye

- Current frequencies:** GB 319, Ireland 2
- GB frequency 1881:** 0

Ghanaian: unexplained.

Aborn

- GB frequency 1881:** 11
- Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: see **Aburn**.

Further information: This name has died out in Britain but continues to thrive in the USA.

Abra

- Current frequencies:** GB 49, Ireland 0

- GB frequency 1881:** 52
- Main GB location 1881:** E Anglia

English: variant of **Abery**.

Abrahall

- Current frequencies:** GB 121, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 59
- Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks and Herefs

English: locative name from Aberhall in Hentland (Herefs), which is recorded as *Aberhale* in 1334. The place-name may mean ‘Eadburh’s nook’, from the Old English female personal name *Ēadburh* (genitive *Ēadburge*) + *halh* ‘nook, corner’, though the first element is uncertain.

Early bearers: Philippus de Alberhal’, 1256 in *Shrops Eyre Roll* (Herefs); [. . . de] Abrahale, 1296 in *Herefs Place-Names* (Herefs); David de Abberhale, 1297 in *Close Rolls* (Llandinabo, Herefs); John Aburhale, 1412 in *Feet of Fines* (Herefs); Richard Abrahale, 1415, Richard Aburhale, 1424, Thomas Abrahall, 1564, John Abrahill, 1598 in *Gloucs Archives* (Herefs); William Habrall, 1539, William Abrehale, 1542 in *Muster Rolls* (Canon Frome, Herefs); Thomas Abrall, 1547 in *Herefs Chantry Valuations* (Michaelchurch near Ross, Herefs); John Abrehale, 1557 in *Ancient Deeds* 5 (Herefs); Mabyll Abrahall, 1572 in *IGI* (Little Birch, Herefs); Sibilla Abrahale, 1603, Constantia Aberhale, 1605 in *IGI* (Tretire, Herefs); Dorothea Abrall, 1613, Ann Abrill, 1641 in *IGI* (Worcester, Worcs); John Abrall, 1645 in *IGI* (Colwall, Herefs); Guy Abrahall, John Abrall, Wm Abrell, 1663 in *Hereford Militia Assessments* (Herefs); Frederick Abrahall, 1831 in *IGI* (Aston, Warwicks).

References: *Herefs Place-Names*, p. 99.

Abraham

Variants: **Abram**, **Abrahams**, **Braham**

- Current frequencies:** GB 5269, Ireland 355
- GB frequency 1881:** 2868
- Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Lancs; Glamorgan; Hants
- Main Irish location 1847–64:** Armagh

1 English: relationship name from the Old Testament personal name *Abraham*. Middle English *Habraham*, *Abraam*, and *Abram* are French forms introduced after the Norman Conquest. For the etymology of this name, see (3).

Further information: *Abraham* occurs occasionally as a Christian name from the 5th century on the Continent, but not in England until Domesday Book (1086, the name of a priest). It was a rare personal name in pre-Reformation England, so it probably owes its occurrence as a surname in Cornwall and in the south and east midlands to single progenitors. Yorks examples of the surname, like those in Lancs, may alternatively belong under (2) below. Variation of the surname form by addition of excrement -s is post-medieval and occurs frequently in the midlands.

Early bearers: given names: Abraham de Strattuna, 1170–5 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Abraham le Tynnere of Cornewaille, 1357 in *Black Prince’s Register* (Bodmin, Cornwall); Abraham Tanner’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Northwood, Hants); Abraham Fletcher, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Deddington with members, Oxon); Abraham de Bilburgh’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Bilbrough, WR Yorks); Abraham filius Ade, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Giggleswick, WR Yorks).

surnames: John Abraham, 1193 in *Pipe Rolls* (Northants); Robert Abram, 1252 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Hunts); Elkoc Habraham of Shipley, 1297, Henry Abraham, Abraam, 1308 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (WR Yorks); John Abraham, 1379 in *Yorks Poll Tax* (Cottingham, ER Yorks); Philipe Abraham, 1570 in *IGI* (Bodmin, Cornwall); John Abram, 1664, John Abrahams, 1691, John Abraham, 1709 in *IGI* (Harrold, Beds); Ann Abrahams, 1703–4 in *IGI* (Sutton, Beds); William Abrams, 1801 in *IGI* (Pertenhall, Beds); William Abraham, 1792, Henry Abram, 1844, Robert Abrams, 1862 in *IGI* (Kimbolton, Hunts).

2 English: see **Abram**.

3 Jewish (Ashkenazic): relationship name from the Old Testament personal name *Abraham*, *Abram*, sometimes with genitival -s. The patriarch was called *Abram*, conventionally understood as ‘father of height’, until given his new name at age 99 by God, said to mean ‘a father of many nations’ (Genesis 17:5). See also **Abrahamson**.

Early bearers: Jacob Asmisfurt Abraham, 1780 *Great and Hambro Synagogue Births* (London); Barnet Abram, born in Prussia, in *Census 1871* (Manchester, Lancs); Alexander Abrahams, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (London); Simon Abraham, born in Russia, in *Census 1881* (Manchester, Lancs); Samuel Abrahams, born in Russia, in *Census 1881* (Manchester, Lancs); Julius Abrahams, born in Poland, in *Census 1881* (Whitechapel, Middx); Moses Abraham, born in Poland, in *Census 1881* (Saint George in the East, Middx); Salman Abrams, born in Russia, in *Census 1881* (Hackney, Middx).

4 Irish: from **Mac an Bhreitheamhan** ‘son of the judge’, see **Breheny**, compare **McBroom**.

Abrahams

- Current frequencies:** GB 3017, Ireland 12
- GB frequency 1881:** 2196
- Main GB location 1881:** London; Lancs

English, Jewish: variant of **Abraham** with genitival or post-medieval excrement -s.

Abrahamson

Variants: **Abramson**

- Current frequencies:** GB 83, Ireland 16
- GB frequency 1881:** 69
- Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Glamorgan

Jewish (Ashkenazic): relationship name from the Old Testament name **Abraham** + *son*. *Abrahamson* is the Yiddish form. Compare **Abraham**, **Abrahams**, **Abrams**.

Further information: This name is also found in S Wales, where it may be from *Abraham* as a Nonconformist given name.

Early bearers: Gottlieb Abrahamson, student, born in Russia, in *Census 1861* (Stepney, Middx); Jacob Abrahamson, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (London); David Abrahamson, rabbi, born in Russia, in *Census 1881* (Manchester, Lancs); Solomon Abrahamson, born in Poland, in *Census 1881* (York); Golda Abrahamson, born in Russia, in *Census 1901* (Whitechapel, Middx); David Abramson, born in Russia, in *Census 1911* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb).

Abrahart

Variants: **Abrehart**

- Current frequencies:** GB 162, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 75

- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys and Leics; Middx, Herts, and Essex

Most likely an adaptation of German *Eberhar(d)t*, for which see **Ebert**, with the dominant form influenced by the Biblical *Abraham*.

Early bearers: Christopher Aberhart, 1712, Richard Abreart, 1750, Richard Abrehart, 1782, Susanna Abrahart, 1785 in *IGI* (London); John Gerhard Eberhard, 1729 in *IGI* (Saint Martin in the Fields, Middx); Daniel Eberhard, 1778 in *IGI* (Saint Michael Queenhithe, London).

Abram

Variants: Abraham, Adburgham, Abrams

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1393, Ireland 69
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1073
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Westm, Lancs, and Cheshire
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Donegal
- 1 English: locative name from Abram (Lancs), which is recorded as *Adburgham* in the 12th century, *Abraham* in 1372, and *Abram* in 1461. The place-name means ‘Eadburh’s homestead’, from the Old English female personal name *Ēadburh* (genitive *Ēadburge*) + *hām* ‘homestead, village’. The initial *A*-has always been pronounced short, as in the word *abbey*.

Early bearers: John de Adburgham, 1246 in *Feet of Fines* (Abram, Lancs); John de Abburgham, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Matthew de Adburgham, 1322, Gilbert de Adburgham, 1405–6 in *Feet of Fines* (Lancs); John Abraham, 1481 in *Feet of Fines* (Abram, Lancs); John Abraham, 1576, George Abarram, 1645 in *IGI* (Kirkham, Lancs); Robert Abram, 1751 in *IGI* (North Meols, Lancs); Betty Abraham, 1828 in *IGI* (Ashton under Lyne, Lancs).

References: *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 102.

2 English, Jewish: see **Abraham**.

Abrams

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1074, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 681
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx

English, Jewish: variant of **Abram** with genitival or post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Early bearers: John Abrams, 1616 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Susanna Abrams, 1643 in *IGI* (Hellingly, Sussex); Eliz. Abrams, 1682 in *IGI* (Lynsted, Kent); Mary Abrams, 1690 in *IGI* (Frodsham, Cheshire); John Abrams, 1696 in *IGI* (Colyton, Devon).

Abramson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 128, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

Jewish (Ashkenazic): see **Abrahamson**.

Abrehart

- **Current frequencies:** GB 128, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 26
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

See **Abrahart**.

Abreu

- **Current frequencies:** GB 492, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Portuguese: locative name from a place called Abreu in Minho province, Portugal.

Further information: In some cases this name was brought to Britain via Goa and other former Portuguese colonies.

Abrey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 456, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 284
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex and Suffolk
- English: see **Abery**.

Abrol

- **Current frequencies:** GB 104, Ireland 9
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (Panjab): nickname, Hindu (Khatri) and Sikh, based on the name of a Khatri clan.

Absalom

Variants: Absolom, Absolon, Asplen, Asplin, Asplan, Aspland, Ashplant

- **Current frequencies:** GB 536, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 356
- **Main GB location 1881:** Pembrokes and S Wales; S England; Northumb

English: relationship name from the Old Testament Hebrew personal name *Abshalom* (Tiberian ‘*Abšālôm* ‘father of peace’; latinized as *Absalom*), with medieval vernacular forms *Absolon*, *Aspelon*, and *Aspelon* in Middle English and Old French. **Further information:** This was occasionally used as a given name from the 9th century onwards on the continent, from where it was introduced to England after the Norman Conquest. During the 17th century, through the influence of the King James Bible, *Absalom* became the standard vernacular form of the given name.

Early bearers: given names: Absolon filius Apsolon, 1199 in *Feet of Fines* (Cambs); Aspelon, 1252 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Hunts); Aspelun, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Harome, NR Yorks); Asplano Darnel, 1327, Aspolono Darnel, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Holywell cum Needingworth, Hunts).

surnames, England: Stephen Abselon, 1208 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Oxon); John Asplon, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Hunts); Thomas Absolon, Aspelon, 1281, 1297 in *London Letter Books B*; Johanne filio Asplom, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cawton in Gilling, NR Yorks); John and Robert Asplon, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Holywell cum Needingworth, Hunts); John Aspelond, 1371 in *Feet of Fines* (Beds); Johan Aspelyan, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Netherton, Northumb); Johannes Aspelon, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Great Dunmow, Essex); Nicholaus Absolon, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Cholsey, Berks); Agnes Absolon, 1542 in *IGI* (Cholsey, Berks); Richard Aspland, 1560, John Aspland, 1681 in *IGI* (Downham, Cambs); Leonard Asplan, 1571 in *IGI* (Freckenham, Suffolk); Francis Aspland, 1573 in *IGI* (Milton Ernest, Beds); Anne Asplen, 1575 in *IGI* (Much Cowarne, Herefs); Ann Asplin, 1592 in *IGI* (Alcester, Warwicks); Joane Asplin, 1615 in *IGI* (Ipsley, Worcs); Henrie Asplin, 1621 in *IGI* (Littleport, Cambs); Henry Absolon, 1638 in *IGI* (Sandford on Thames, Oxon); John Absolom, 1648 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Elizabetha Absalom, 1688 in *IGI* (Westhall, Suffolk); John Absalom, 1700 in *IGI* (Longcot, Berks); Robt. Absolon, 1640, Rebecca Absolom, 1706 in *IGI* (Saint Giles Cripplegate, London); Humphrey Absolam, 1736 in *IGI* (Eaton Hastings, Berks); James Absalom, 1789 in *IGI* (Earsdon, Northumb); Ann Absolum, 1795 in *IGI* (Shrivenham, Berks).

surnames, Wales: John Absolom, 1725 in *IGI* (Henllys, Monmouths); Henry Absalom, 1739 in *IGI* (Mynyddislwyn, Monmouths).

Abshir

- **Current frequencies:** GB 34, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- English: see **Upsher**.

Abshire

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- English: see **Upsher**. **Further information:** This form of the name is rare in Britain but more numerous in the USA.

Absolom

- **Current frequencies:** GB 258, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 237
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Pembrokes and S Wales; S England
- English: see **Absalom**.

Absolon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 113, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 79
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Berks; Norfolk; Perth
- English: see **Absalom**.

Abson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 524, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 343
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name **Abbe** + *-son*. *Abbe* was a pet form of the female personal name **Aubrey**, latinized as *Albreda*. Redmonds notes that in 1373 a lady called Aubrey Driffeld held land in Swinton (WR Yorks), where the surname *Abson* is first recorded in 1379, and from where it later ramified in southern WR Yorks.

Further information: Middle English **Abbe** may also have been a pet form of the relatively rare male names **Abel**, **Abraham**, and **Absalom**, but there is no evidence for them in the Swinton area. Derivation as a locative name from Abson (Gloucs) is unlikely in view of the medieval and modern distributions, which are centred in WR Yorks between Rotherham and Wakefield.

Early bearers: given names: Abbe wife of Henry Lotefyn, 1287 in *Sherwood Forest Eyre*.

surnames: Roger son of Abbe, 1297 in *Gringley Extent*, identical with Roger filio Albrede, 1272–1307 in *Gringley Rental* (Gringley on the Hill, Notts); Willelmus Abson, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Swinton, WR Yorks); Richard Abson, 1585 in *IGI* (Barnburgh, WR Yorks); William Abson, 1595 in *Sheffield Jackson Catalogue* (WR Yorks); George Abson, 1601 in *IGI* (Bolton on Dearne, WR Yorks); William Abson, 1717 in *IGI* (Wakefield, WR Yorks).

References: McClure, *Hypocoristic forms*, pp. 115–16; Redmonds, *Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Abu

- **Current frequencies:** GB 339, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Arabic, Muslim: from the Arabic word *abū* ‘father’. **Further information:** In Muslim names this word is used to form the ‘kunya’ (name meaning ‘father of’) in combination with the name of a man’s child, usually

his first-born son. Thus, a man might be addressed as *Abū Ḥasān* ‘father of Hasan’ rather than by his own personal name. In traditional Muslim society, a man is generally known and addressed by his kunya, rather than by his *ism* (his personal name), use of which outside the family can seem unduly familiar.

Abubakar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 404, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim: from the Arabic personal name *Abū-Bakr* ‘father of *Bakr*’, a personal name meaning ‘young camel’.

Further information: Abu Bakr was the name of the first of the ‘rightly guided’ khalifs (lived 573–634; ruled 632–634). He was the father-in-law, staunch supporter of Muhammad, and principal military leader during the early years of Islam. This is therefore a popular given name among Muslims. The second *-a-* in *-bakar* often indicates an origin in a non-Arabic speaking part of the Muslim world, e.g. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, former prime minister of Nigeria.

Aburn

Variants: Aborn

- **Current frequencies:** GB 51, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 16
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

English: locative name from Middle English *atte borne*, *atte burne* ‘at the stream’ (Old English *burna*). Compare **Bourne** and **Burn**.

Early bearers: Robert Abourne, 1379 in *London Letter Books* G (London); Jamys A Bourne, 1467 in *Archaeologia Cantiana* 9 (Kent); Thomas Aburne, 1558 in *PROB 11* (Eydon, Northants); Mgt Aborn, 1565 in *Parish Registers* (Sutton, Cambs); John Aburne, 1572 in *Feet of Fines* (Hunts); Ellen Abourn, 1587 in *IGI* (Hastings, Sussex); Robert Aborne, 1605, Margaret Abourne, 1616 in *IGI* (Horsted Keynes, Sussex); William Abourne, 1619 in *IGI* (Sutton, Beds); Agneta Aborne, 1622 in *IGI* (Stevenage, Herts); Hugh Aborn, 1636 in *IGI* (Stotfold, Beds); Matt Aborn, 1741 in *IGI* (Lydney, Gloucs); Rachel Aborn, 1823 in *IGI* (Marston Bigot, Somersset).

Aburrow

- **Current frequencies:** GB 148, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 116
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants

English: variant of **Abery** (1), from a local pronunciation of Avebury (Wilts). Compare **Aubrey** (3).

Early bearers: Thomas Aburrow, 1717 in *IGI* (Froxfield, Hants); William Aburrow, 1770 in *IGI* (North Hayling, Hants).

Aby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 45, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 6
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: see **Abey**.

Acaster

Variants: Akister, Akester, Akaster

- **Current frequencies:** GB 349, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 215
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: locative name from Acaster Selby or Acaster Malbis (both WR Yorks), which are recorded as *Acastre* in 1086. The place-names mean ‘Roman fort on the river’, from Old Scandinavian *á* ‘river, stream’ (probably replacing Old English *ēa* ‘river’) + Old English *cæster* ‘Roman fortification’.

Early bearers: Ragenild de Acastr’, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); John de Acastre, 1344 in *Feet of Fines* (Yorks); Robertus de Acastr’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Wombwell, WR Yorks); Nicholao de Acaster, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Barlby, ER Yorks); Thomas Akester, 1593 in *IGI* (Normanton, WR Yorks); Phillip Acaster, 1599 in *IGI* (Cawood, WR Yorks); Seth Acaster, 1615 in *IGI* (Dunnington, ER Yorks); Margaret Akester, 1774 in *IGI* (Bubwith, ER Yorks); James Akister, 1762 in *IGI* (Kendal, Westm).

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 4, pp. 216–17, 218.

Ace

Variants: Aze, Hayes, Hase

- **Current frequencies:** GB 358, Ireland 12
- **GB frequency 1881:** 254
- **Main GB location 1881:** Glamorgan

Norman, English: (i) relationship name from Old French *Ace*, *Asse*, *Asce*, all forms of the Continental Germanic male personal name *Az(z)o*, *Atso*, *Adso*, or possibly *Aza* (female). These were pet forms of Continental Germanic compound names formed with *Adal-* ‘noble’, such as *Adalbert* (later *Albert*) and *Adalheidis* (later *Alice*). The middle consonant could be voiced or unvoiced, and the voiced form may have become identified with *Aze*, *Hayes*, *Hase* from other origins. (ii) variant of **Hayes**.

Further information: The heavy modern concentration in Glamorgan reflects migration from Devon (see **Aze**).

Early bearers: given names: Azo, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Adzo, 12th cent. in *Forssner* (Lincs); Asce Halvecniht, 1213 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Hants).

surnames, England: Benedict Ace, 1230 in *Close Rolls* (Hants); John Ace, 1246–89 in *History of Saint Barts Hospital* (London); Geoffrey Aze, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John Ace, 1337, William Ace, 1523 in *Gloucs Archives*.

surnames, Wales: John Ace, 1614, William Ase, 1619 in *IGI* (Penard, Glamorgan); Cherity Ase, 1642 in *IGI* (Swansea, Glamorgan); Thomas Ace, 1671 in *IGI* (Llanrhidian, Glamorgan); John Ace, 1681 in *National Library of Wales* (Oxwich, Glamorgan).

References: *Rowlands, Surnames of Wales*, p. 70.

Acey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 154, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 89
- **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks

English: relationship name perhaps from a Middle English personal name **Asy*, **Acy*. This would be either from late Old English **Æsi*, a reduced form of Old English *Æðelsige* (from *æðel* ‘noble’ + *sige* ‘victory’), via an intermediate form **Æðesi*; or from the Old Scandinavian personal name *Ási* (a derivative of *áss* ‘(heathen) god’), which is recorded as *Ase* in 12th-century Lincs.

Early bearers: given names: Asi, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Brodsworth and Pickburn, WR Yorks).

surnames: Roger Acy, 1360 in *Patent Rolls* (Seaton and Wassand, ER Yorks); Bryan Acye, 1558, Anna Acey, 1588 in *IGI* (Kirk Ella, ER Yorks); Andrew Aseye, 1594 in *IGI* (Berks); Richard Acye, 1605 in *Place-*

Names of ER Yorks (ER Yorks), p. 41; Richard Acy, 1664 in *Hearth Tax* (Gravesend, Kent); Will. Acey, 1665 in *Parish Registers* (Skelton near Howden, ER Yorks).

References: *Feilitzen*, pp. 103–16, §111, (3) and (4), and §133; *Fellows Jensen, Scand. Personal Names*, p. 24; *Insley, Scand. Personal Names*, pp. 46–8.

Acford

Variants: Ackford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 76, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 36
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: locative name from Oakford (Devon), which is recorded as *Acford* in 1238, *Okeford* in 1249. The place-name derives from Old English *āc* ‘oak, oak-tree’ + *feld* ‘open land, field’.

Early bearers: Roger de Acford, 1166 in *Red Book of the Exchequer* (Devon); Richard de Acforde, 1238 in *Devon Eyre* (Devon); Richard Okford, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Dawlish, Devon); Joan Ackforde, 1582 in *IGI* (Plymouth, Devon); Margaret Ackforde, 1608 in *IGI* (Ermington, Devon); Joan Ackford, 1708 in *IGI* (Hatherleigh, Devon).

References: *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 387.

Achampong

- **Current frequencies:** GB 71, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Ghanaian: see **Acheampong**.

Achard

Variants: Ackert

- **Current frequencies:** GB 31, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey

Norman, English: see **Hatchard**.

Acharya

- **Current frequencies:** GB 607, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian: nickname, Hindu (Brahman), from the Sanskrit epithet *āchārya* ‘spiritual guide, learned man’.

Acheampong

Variants: Achampong, Achempong, Akyeampong

- **Current frequencies:** GB 749, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Ghanaian: ethnic name from *Akyampon*, an Akan patrilineal clan name.

References: Agyekum, Kofi (2006) The sociolinguistic of Akan personal names. *Nordic Journal of African Studies* 15.2, 206–235, at 216.

Achempong

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Ghanaian: see **Acheampong**.

Acheson

Variants: Atcheson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 377, Ireland 508
- **GB frequency 1881:** 67
- **Main GB location 1881:** IoM; Lancs and Cheshire
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Ulster: esp. Fermanagh

Scottish, English: relationship name; see **Aitchison**. This spelling of the name was formerly common in Scotland; it is now the usual spelling in Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man.

Further information: *Acheson* is the surname of an Ulster family established in Armagh in about 1611 by Sir Archibald Acheson of Haddington, Scotland. The family has held a baronetcy in Scotland since 1628 and holds the title of Earl of Gosford in the Irish Peerage (created 1806).

Achilleos

- **Current frequencies:** GB 160, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Greek (typically Cypriot): relationship name from the genitive case of the Greek personal name *Akhilleus*, latinized and anglicized as *Achilles*. This is probably of pre-Greek origin, though conventionally understood as Greek *ákhos* 'grief' + *laós* 'people'.

Achurch

- **Current frequencies:** GB 69, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 98
- **Main GB location 1881:** Leics; Hunts

English: locative name from Achurch in Thorpe Achurch (Northants), which is recorded as *Asechirce* in 1086, *Achirche* in the 12th century, and *Aschyrche* in the 13th century. The place-name derives from Old English *cirice* 'church', probably with a personal name as the first element, either an unrecorded Old English **Asa* or the well-recorded Old Scandinavian *Ási* (male) or *Ása* (female).

Early bearers: John de Achurch, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Titchmarsh, Northants); John Achirch, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Elton, Hunts); J[ohn] de Achirch, 1341–2 in *Peterborough Cartulary* (Peterborough, Northants); John Achurche, 1381 in *Feet of Fines* (Weston Underwood, Bucks); Thomas Achurche, 1545 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Rushden, Northants); Willm. Achurch, 1565 in *IGI* (Stanwick, Northants); Frances Achurch, 1604 in *IGI* (Burton Latimer, Northants); Mary Achurch, 1679 in *IGI* (Alconbury Weston, Hunts); Martha Achurch, 1798 in *IGI* (Barrow upon Soar, Leics).

References: *Place-Names of Northants*, p. 219.

Ackary

Variants: Ackery, Acree

- **Current frequencies:** GB 48, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 27
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey and Middx

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Acharias*, *Achary*, a variant of the Biblical name *Zacharias*.

Further information: Roger son of Zacharias de Burdun (1217 in *Durham Priory Fees*) is also referred to there as Rogerus filius Acharisiae, Akariae, Acris, Akaris in about 1200.

Early bearers: given names: Acharias, Accarisius filius Copsi, 1155, 1100–35 in *Durham Priory Fees*; Achari, 1100–35 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Hunts). surnames: Robert Akari, 1199 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Hunts); Phillipe Akerye, 1548 in *IGI* (London); Francys Acree, 1610 in *IGI* (Fulletby, Lincs); John Akery, 1714 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Mary Akery, 1733 in *IGI* (Dinder, Somerset).

Ackenson

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: relationship name see **Atkinson**.

Early bearers: Roger Ackenson, 1641 in *IGI* (Ilkeston, Derbys).

Acker

Variants: Acre, Aker, Akker, Akers

- **Current frequencies:** GB 67, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 100
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex; Lancs

1 English: locative name from Castle Acre, South Acre, and West Acre (Norfolk), recorded as *Acra*, *Acre* in 1086 and *Accara* in 1121. The place-name derives from Old English *æcer* 'plot of arable land'. **Early bearers:** Roger de Acre, 1201 in *Pleas* (Norfolk); Godefridum del Acr', 1209 in *Feet of Fines* (Norfolk); Drugo del Acre, 1250–1 in *Feet of Fines* (Castle Acre, Norfolk); Andrew de Acre, 1289, Bartholomew de Acre, merchant, 1290 in *Norwich Deeds* (Norfolk); Richard Acre, mercer, 1301–2 in *Lynn Freeman* (Norfolk); John Acre, nephew of Andrew de Acre, 1322–3, William Acre of West Acre, 1348–50 in *Norwich Freeman* (Norfolk); Johannes de Acre, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (East Bradenham, Norfolk); Simon de Acr', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Houghton, Norfolk); John Acre, 1488 in *Feet of Fines* (Norfolk and Cambs); Joseph Acre, 1705 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk).

References: *Ekwall*, *DEPN*, p. 2.

2 English: locative name from Middle English *aker*, *acre* 'plot of arable land, acre' (Old English *æcer*). Compare **Akers** for the plural usage. Some of the bearers cited here may belong to (1).

Early bearers: William del Acr', 1214 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Sussex); William de Acre, 1281 in *London Letter Books A* (London); Willelmo dil Acre, Willelmo de Lacre, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Great Sampford, Essex); Johanne de Aker', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Welton, ER Yorks); [. . .] dil Acre, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Whiston, Lancs); Willelmo de Acre', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Kingston Lisle, Berks); Saierus Acre, 1425 in *Feet of Fines* (Kent); Nicholas Acker, 1565 in *IGI* (Dronfield, Derbys); Margery Acker, 1583 in *IGI* (Purton, Wilts); Elizabeth Acre, 1632 in *IGI* (Farnham, Surrey); Henry Aker, 1646 in *IGI* (Bampton, Oxon); Hinrey Aker, 1681 in *IGI* (Thornton le Moors, Cheshire); Ellin Acker, 1696 in *IGI* (Wigan, Lancs); William Acker, 1722 in *IGI* (Boxgrove, Sussex).

References: *Vocabulary of English Place-Names*, at *æcer*.

Ackerley

Variants: Acornley, Aconley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 815, Ireland 10
- **GB frequency 1881:** 435
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire and Lancs

English: locative name from Acornley in Foulridge (Lancs), which is recorded as *Akerlandeleye* in 1259, *Acrondley* in 1608. The place-name derives from Middle English *aker-land* 'ploughed land, arable land' + *ley* 'glade, open ground'.

Early bearers: Roger Accranlee, 1541 in *Clitheroe Honour Court Rolls* (Colne, Lancs); John Acreley, 1574 in *IGI* (Keighley, WR Yorks); Roger Ackerley, 1575 in *IGI* (Tarvin, Cheshire); Ellen Acornley, 1600, Lawrence Ackronley, 1636, Thomas Ackornley, 1645 in *IGI* (Colne, Lancs); Georgius Achornley, 1603 in *IGI* (Gisburn, WR Yorks); Thomas Ackornley, 1605 in *IGI* (Barnoldswick, WR Yorks); Anna Ackerley, 1608, Maria Akerley, 1631 in *IGI* (Runcorn, Cheshire); Margery Ackerley, 1632 in *IGI* (Frodsham, Cheshire); Richard Ackronley, 1653 in *IGI* (Clitheroe, Lancs); Lucy Ackornley, 1656 in *IGI* (Blackburn, Lancs); Francis Acronldy, 1663 in *Clitheroe Honour Court Rolls* (Marsden, Lancs); Elizabeth Akerley, 1670, Mary Accornley, 1675 in *IGI* (Burnley, Lancs).

References: *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 88.

Ackerman

Variants: Ackerman, Acreman, Acraman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1069, Ireland 26
- **GB frequency 1881:** 506
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset

1 English: occupational name, status name from Middle English *acreman* 'cultivator of the soil, ploughman' (Old English *æcermann*).

Further information: Typically, an ackerman was a bond tenant of a manor holding half a virgate of arable land, for which he paid by serving as a ploughman. **Early bearers:** William Acreman, 1100–35 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Hunts); Robert le Ackerman, 1233 in *Hornchurch Priory Kalendar* (Essex); Anna Ackerman, 1568 in *IGI* (London); Henry Ackerman, 1615 in *IGI* (Stratton, Dorset); William Acerman, 1626 in *IGI* (Chardstock, Dorset); John Ackarman, 1678 in *IGI* (Allington, Dorset).

2 German: anglicization of German **Ackermann**

Ackermann

Variants: Ackerman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 94, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 19

German: occupational name from Middle High German *ackerman* 'ploughman, peasant'. The German term did not have the same denotation of status in the feudal system as its English counterpart (see **Ackerman**).

Early bearers: Rudolph Ackermann, 1793 in *IGI* (London); Carl Ackermann, born in Stettin, Germany, in *Census 1881* (Lancs).

Ackers

- **Current frequencies:** GB 782, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 530
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England and Wales: esp. Lancs

English: see **Akers**.

Ackert

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Norman, English: see **Achard**.

Further information: This spelling of the name has died out in Britain but continues to thrive in the USA.

Ackery

- **Current frequencies:** GB 47, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 57
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs; Surrey

English: see **Ackary**.

Acket

Variants: Acketts

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: see **Hackett**.

Acketts

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3

English: variant of **Acket** (see **Hackett**), with post-medieval excrement -s.

Ackford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 70, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 69
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: see **Acford**.

Ackhurst

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 64
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent and Sussex
- English: see **Akehurst**.

Acklam**Variants:** Ackland

- **Current frequencies:** GB 232, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 101
 - **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks
- English: locative name from either Acklam (ER Yorks) or West Acklam (NR Yorks), both of which are recorded as *Aclun* in 1086, *Acclum* in the 12th century. The etymology of the place-names is uncertain. They possibly contain Old Scandinavian **ak(k)ul*- ‘ankle’ (used in Norwegian place-names with the sense ‘slope’) in the dative plural form **ak(k)lum*, i.e. ‘(place) at the slopes’. Alternatively, they may derive from an Old English **āc-lēah* ‘oak wood, oak-tree clearing’ in the dative plural form **āc-lēum*, i.e. ‘(place) at the oak-tree clearings’.
- Early bearers:** William de Acclum, 1185 in *Templars Records* (Yorks); Johannem de Acclum, 1269 in *Assize Rolls* (Northumb); Walto de Acclom, Rogero Acclm, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Kingerby, Lincs); Robert de Acclom, 1334 in *London Letter Books E* (London); Geoffrey Acclum, 1341 in *Lincs Royal Inquest* (Lincs); Robertus de Acclom, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Pickering, NR Yorks); Galfrido de Acclom, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (York); Robert Aklam, 1534 in *York Freeman’s Register*; Mary Aclam, 1568 in *IGI* (Hackness, NR Yorks); Robertus Aclam, 1589, Thomas Acklam, 1707 in *IGI* (Brandesburton, ER Yorks); Wil. Aclam, 1600 in *IGI* (Whitby, NR Yorks); James Aclam, 1645, Philip Acklam, 1721 in *IGI* (York); Alice Acklam, 1665 in *IGI* (Scarborough, NR Yorks).
- References:** *Place-Names of ER Yorks*, p. 147–8; *Place-Names of NR Yorks*, p. 162; *Ekwall, DEPN*, p. 2; *Watts, Dictionary*, p. 2.

Ackland**Variants:** Acland, Agland

- **Current frequencies:** GB 972, Ireland 13
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 985
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Tipperary
- 1 English: locative name from Acland Barton in Landkey (Devon), which is recorded as *Akelane* in 1299. The place-name means ‘Acca’s lane’, from the Old English personal name *Acca* + *lane* ‘lane’.
- Early bearers:** William de Ackelane, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Devon); Thomas de Ackelane, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Barnstaple, Devon); Balwin de Akkelane, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (South Molton Hundred, Devon); Adam Akkelane, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Bishops Tawton, Devon); Baldwin Aclane, 1492–3, John Ackelane, 1539–40, Anthony Acland, 1567–7 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Devon); Jn. Aclond, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Landkey, Devon); Grace Acklande, 1616 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); William Acland, 1662 in *IGI* (Hemyock, Devon).
- References:** *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 342.
- 2 English: in the N Midlands perhaps a variant of **Acklam**.
- Early bearers:** Elizabeth Akeland, 1675 in *IGI* (North Clifton, Notts).

Ackley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 79, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 70
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in England: esp. Cumb, Lancs, and Cheshire
- 1 English: locative name from Aycliffe (Durham), which is recorded as *Aicle alias Aicliffe* in 1632. The medieval record shows two distinct types: on the one hand there are forms such as *Acleia* in the 12th century, *Aykley* in 1555, which suggest that the place-name derives from Old English *āc* ‘oak, oak-tree’ + *lēah* ‘open woodland’, while on the other hand there are forms such as *Aclyff* in 1361, *Aykliffe* in 1581, which point rather to Old English *āc* + *clif* ‘cliff, bank’. It is uncertain whether two originally separate names (perhaps referring to Great Aycliffe and School Aycliffe respectively) have merged, or one type is a later development of the other. There may be a pre-Conquest reference to Aycliffe in the form *Aclea* in 782, and on balance it seems best to take this as the basis for the etymology and surmise that *-clif* arose as a hypercorrect variant, with *f* representing a dialect pronunciation of final *h*. However, matters are further complicated by the relatively early spelling *Heaclif* in 1109, in which the first element seems to be Old English *hēah* ‘high’.
- Early bearers:** forms with final *-y* [. . . de] *Acley*, about 1220 in *Durham Place-Names* (Durham); Luciana de *Acley*, 1296 in *Durham Halmote Rolls* (Aycliffe, Durham); Mary Acolay, 1691 in *IGI* (Bishop Wearmouth, Durham); Edmund Ackouley, 1724 in *IGI* (Whalley, Lancs); Ann Ackley, 1760 in *IGI* (Crosthwaite, Cumb); John Akely, 1762, George Aikley, 1764 in *IGI* (Houghton le Spring, Durham). forms with final *-f* John de Aclyf, 1371, Andrew de Aclyf, 1392 in *Patent Rolls* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Mary Acliff, 1789 in *IGI* (Northleach, Gloucs); Hannah Acliff, 1798 in *IGI* (Houghton le Spring, Durham).
- References:** *Durham Place-Names*, p. 3; *Place-Names of Northumb and Durham*, p. 8; *Mills, Dictionary*, p. 26; *Ekwall, DEPN*, p. 20; *Watts, Dictionary*, pp. 28–9.
- 2 English: variant of **Arkley**.

Acklin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 9
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: variant of **Hackling** with loss of initial *H*-. **Further information:** This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Ackling

- **Current frequencies:** GB 68, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 64
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Berks and Wilts
- English: variant of **Hackling** with loss of initial *H*-.

Ackred

- **Current frequencies:** GB 67, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 29
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: see **Ackroyd**.

Ackrell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 66, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 52
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Devon
- English: see **Ackrill**.

Early bearers: Peter Ackerell, 1734 in *IGI* (Stoke Gabriel, Devon).

Ackrill**Variants:** Ackrell, Akrill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 387, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 215
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs; Warwicks; Berks
- English: relationship name, variant of **Arkell** with *-r*-metathesized.
- Early bearers:** Ellen Acrill, 1568, Anne Acrell, 1583 in *IGI* (South Kelsey, Lincs); John Ackrill, son of John and Mary Ackrill, 1682, Mary Arkill, daughter of John and Mary Arkill, 1689 in *IGI* (Middle Rasen Topholme, Lincs); Jane Arkill, 1739, Mary Acrill, 1750 in *IGI* (Grimsby, Lincs).

Ackroyd**Variants:** Akroyd, Acroyd, Aykroyd, Akeroyd, Ecroyd, Akred, Ackred, Acord

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2425, Ireland 8
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 2798
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: locative name from Akroyd in Wadsworth (WR Yorks), which is recorded as *Aycrode* in the 13th century and *Aykeroide* in 1439. The place-name derives from northern Middle English *ake* ‘oak, oak-tree’ (Old English *āc*, Old Scandinavian *eik*) + *rode*, *royd* ‘clearing’ (Old English **rodu*).
- Early bearers:** John de Aykroide, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Wadsworth, WR Yorks); Jeffray Acrode, 1543, Richard Aykrod, 1563 in *IGI* (Dewsbury, WR Yorks); Agnes Aykerod, 1547 in *IGI* (Midgley by Halifax, WR Yorks); Hugo Aikroide, 1612, Henry Ackroyd, 1645, Henry Akeroyd, 1648, Christopher Acred, 1721 in *York Freeman’s Register*; John Ecroyd, 1678 in *IGI* (Marsden, Lancs).
- References:** *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 3, p. 199; *WR Yorks Surnames*, p. 202.

Ackworth**Variants:** Acworth, Hackworth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 36, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 53
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks; Kent
- English: locative name from Ackworth (WR Yorks), which is recorded as *Aceurde* in 1086, *Akeworth* in 1201, and *Akworth* in the 14th century. The place-name means ‘Acca’s enclosure’, from the Old English personal name *Acca* + *word* ‘enclosure, curtilage’.
- Early bearers:** Thomas de Akewrth, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Adam de Ackeworth, 1340 in *Patent Rolls* (Pontefract, WR Yorks); Willelmus de Acworth, Willelmus Acworth, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Pontefract, WR Yorks); Adam de Ackeworth, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Frickley, WR Yorks); William Acworth, 1416 in *Feet of Fines* (Beds); William Akworth, 1421 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Notts); Elizabeth Akworthe, 1562 in *IGI* (Rauceby, Lincs); Elizabeth Acworth, 1577 in *IGI* (West Peckham, Kent); Susan Acworth, 1589 in *IGI* (Hernhill, Kent); Richard Ackworth, 1596 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent).
- References:** *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 2, pp. 93–4; *Ekwall, DEPN*, p. 2; *Watts, Dictionary*, p. 2.

Acland

- **Current frequencies:** GB 272, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 182

- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon
- English: see **Ackland**.

Acock

Variants: **Acocks, Aycock**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 219, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 238
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey and Kent; Gloucs
- English: variant of **Adecock** with loss of *d*. Compare **Acott**.

Early bearers: Johannes Akok', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Woolley, WR Yorks); Catherine Acocke, 1561 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs); Kateryne Acocke, 1568 in *IGI* (Brumstead, Norfolk); Willm Acocke, 1571 in *IGI* (Sheldon, Warwicks); James Acock, 1605 in *IGI* (Milton by Gravesend, Kent); Thomas Acocke, 1625 in *IGI* (Limpsfield, Surrey); Sarah Acoke, 1641 in *IGI* (North Nibley, Gloucs).

Acocks

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 80
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey; Gloucs; Shrops; WR Yorks

English: variant of **Acock** with genitival or post-medieval excrement -s.

Early bearers: Ann Acox, 1634 in *IGI* (Chichester, Sussex); Johannes Acoxe, 1651, Robart Acocks, 1653, Edward Acockes, 1659 in *IGI* (Stretton on Fosse, Gloucs); Wm Acocks, 1729 in *IGI* (Stow on the Wold, Gloucs).

Acomb

Variants: **Akam, Acum**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 76, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 170
- **Main GB location 1881:** N England: esp. WR Yorks

1 English: locative name from any of several places so named, such as Acomb (WR Yorks), which is recorded as *Acum* in 1086, Acomb in Malton (NR Yorks), recorded as *Acum* in 1222, Acomb in Saint John Lee (Northumb), recorded as *Acum* in 1296, and Acomb in Bywell Saint Peter (also Northumb), recorded as *Akum* in 1268. These place-names all derive from Old English (*æt þæm*) *ācum* '(at the) oaks' (the dative plural form of *āc* 'oak-tree'), and in each case a final -b has been added in the later medieval or early modern period in imitation of names containing Old English *cumb* 'valley'.

Early bearers: Philip de Akum, 1210 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Thomas de Akum, 1256 in *Assize Rolls* (Throckley, Northumb); Walter de Akum, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Broomley, Northumb); Peter de Acom, 1325 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (WR Yorks); Johannes de Acum, 1377, Johannes de Acom', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Acomb with Holgate, WR Yorks); John de Akum, clerk, 1385 in *Feet of Fines* (Etton, ER Yorks); James Acom, 1595 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); Raphe Acome, 1604 in *IGI* (Lincoln, Lincs); Henry Acom, 1622 in *IGI* (Holy Trinity Micklegate, York); An Acome, 1667 in *IGI* (Long Marston, ER Yorks); Philip Acomb, 1706 in *IGI* (Healaugh, WR Yorks); John Acombe, 1710 in *IGI* (Acomb, WR Yorks); Eliz Acome, 1775 in *IGI* (Ponteland, Northumb); Jane Acum, 1787 in *IGI* (Kingston upon Hull, ER Yorks). **References:** *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 4, p. 228; *Place-Names of NR Yorks*, p. 44; *Place-Names of Northumb and Durham*, p. 1; *Watts, Dictionary*, p. 2.

2 English: locative name in S England perhaps occasionally from Middle English *atte combe* 'at the valley' (Old English *æt þæm cumbē*). Compare **Coombe** (1).

Early bearers: Edmund a Combe, 1478–9 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Kent); Thomas a Combe, 1507 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Challock, Kent); John Combe or a'come, 1509 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Appledore, Kent); John A Combe, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Frances Acomb, 1693 in *IGI* (Fishbourne, Sussex); Samuel Acomb, 1696 in *IGI* (Walton on Thames, Surrey).

Aconley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 93, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 52
- **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks

English: unexplained. Perhaps a variant of **Ackerley**.

Early bearers: Sarah Aconley, 1768, Jane Ackenley, 1775 in *IGI* (Lastingham, NR Yorks); Lawrence Aconley, 1817 in *IGI* (Kirkbymoorside, NR Yorks).

Acord

- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

English: variant of **Ackroyd** with metathesis in the second syllable.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Early bearers: Mercye Acord, 1614 in *IGI* (Dewsbury, WR Yorks).

Acornley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 77, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 20
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: see **Ackerley**.

Acors

- **Current frequencies:** GB 47, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent; Anglesey

English: see **Akers**.

Acott

Variants: **Acutt**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 574, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 321
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

English: variant of **Adcock** with loss of -d- (compare **Acock**) and bowdlerization of -cock to -cott (compare **Alcott**, **Bowcott**, **Hitchcott**, **Jeffcott**).

Early bearers: Mary Acot, 1778 in *IGI* (Horsmonden, Kent); Frances Acott, 1796 in *IGI* (Brenchley, Kent).

A'Court

- **Current frequencies:** GB 141, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 89
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset

English: see **Acourt**.

Acourt

Variants: **A'Court**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 143, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 97
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in England: esp. London; Gloucs

English: locative name, occupational name from Middle English *atte courte* 'at the large house',

denoting someone who lived near or worked in a manor house or castle. Compare **Court** (1).

Early bearers: Richard atte Curt, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Nicholas atte Courte, 1349 in *Somerset Archives* (Batheaston, Somerset); Henry atte Corte, 1356–7 in *Gloucs Archives* (Newland, Gloucs); William atte Court, 1402 in *Feet of Fines* (Lynsted, Kent); John a Coort, 1495, George a Courte, 1498 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Waltham, Kent); Mathew at Curte, 1525 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Otham, Kent); Arnold a Corte, 1550 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Brabourne, Kent); Elizabeth Acorte, 1563 in *IGI* (Elmsted, Kent); Elizabeth Acorte, 1564 in *IGI* (Newland, Gloucs); Nycolas Acourte, 1564 in *IGI* (Upottery, Devon); Johannam Acourt, 1564 in *IGI* (Kingsdon, Somerset); Joan Acourt, 1582 in *Assize Rolls* (Kemsing, Kent); Henry Acourte, 1602 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Luke Acourt, 1602 in *IGI* (Winfrith Newburgh, Dorset); Margerie A'Court, 1623 in *National Burial Index* (Saint Thomas a Becket, South Cadbury, Somerset); Thomas A Courte, 1636 in *PROB 11* (Frome Selwood, Somerset).

Acquah

- **Current frequencies:** GB 368, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Ghanaian (Akan): from the Twi female day-name *Akúú* 'Wednesday'.

Acraman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 100, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 23
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon; London

English: see **Ackerman**.

Acree

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants

English: see **Acker**.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Acree

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: see **Ackary**.

Further information: This form of the name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Aceman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 301, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 126
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset

English: see **Ackerman**.

Acres

- **Current frequencies:** GB 523, Ireland 29
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 329
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Herts
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Tipperary and Offaly
- English: see **Akers**.

Acroyd

- **GB frequency 1881:** 51
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and WR Yorks
- English: see **Ackroyd**.

Acton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2530, Ireland 278
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1730

- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cheshire
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Mayo and Galway

English, Irish: locative name from any of the numerous places so named in England, notably those in Shropshire. Acton in Lydbury, Acton Burnell and Acton Pigott, Boreatton in Baschurch, Shotatton in Ruyton of the Eleven Towns, Acton Reynald, Acton Round, and Acton Scott (all Shrops) are each recorded as *Acton* in medieval records. Examples in other counties include Acton Bridge, Acton by Nantwich, and Acton Grange (all Cheshire), Acton (Denbighs), Acton Turville (Gloucs), Acton Beauchamp (Herefs), Acton (Middx), Acton and Old Felton (Northumb), Acton Trussell (Staffs), and Acton (Suffolk). All of these place-names derive from Old English *āc* 'oak, oak-tree' + *tūn* 'settlement, estate'. **Further information:** The Worcs Actons had their seat at Wolverton Hall near Pershore from the 16th century onwards. They are descended from Sir Roger Acton, captain of Ludlow Castle, who was executed for treason in 1414. In Ireland the surname has been established in Connacht since the 17th century. The historian Lord Acton (1834–1902) came of a Roman Catholic Shrops family first recorded with William de Acton in the reign of Edward III (1327–77). A branch of the latter family in Italy was established there founded by the brothers Joseph Acton (1737–1830) and John Francis Acton (1736–1811), both of whom served the King of Naples. **Early bearers:** England Hugh de Acton', 1194 in *Pipe Rolls* (Shrops); Warin de Aketon, 1202–3 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Ingelard' de Acton', 1256 in *Shrops Eyre Roll* (Wenlock, Shrops); Reginaldi de Acton', 1256 in *Shrops Eyre Roll* (Shrops); John de Acton, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Richard Acton, 1421–2 in *Feet of Fines* (Warwicks); Thomas Acton, 1514 in *PROB 11* (Longnor, Shrops); Thomas Acton, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Acton Scott, Shrops); Cristionn Acton, 1541 in *IGI* (Nantwich, Cheshire); John Acton, 1566 in *IGI* (Eccles, Lancs). Ireland John Acton, soldier, 1553 in *Fiants Edward* §1207 (Dublin, Dublin); William Acton, 1736 in *IGI* (Birr, Offaly); William Ackton, 1703 in *IGI* (Limerick, Limerick). **References:** *Place-Names of Shrops* 1, pp. 1–6.

Acum

- **Current frequencies:** GB 50, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 21
 - **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks
- English: see **Acomb**.

Acutt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 103, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 59
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Staffs; Dorset; Aberdeens
- English: probably an altered form of **Acott**. **Early bearers:** England John Acutt, 1793 in *IGI* (Hazelbury Bryan, Dorset); Henry Acutt, 1837 in *IGI* (Burton upon Trent, staffs). Scotland George Acutt, 1828 in *IGI* (Fintray, Aberdeens).

Acworth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 66, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 44
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent
- English: see **Ackworth**.

Adair

Variants: **Dair**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2135, Ireland 1355
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 918
 - **Main GB location 1881:** SW Scotland and NW England
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Ulster: esp. Down and Antrim
- Scottish, N Irish: relationship name from the personal name *Adair*, also spelled *Edyear*, a form of **Edgar**. **Early bearers:** Scotland Christian Adair (Adare), widow, 1480–87 in *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland* (Kilhilt, formerly Kinhilt, Wigtowns); Sir Robert Adair, 1629 in *Retours, Scotland* (Kilhilt, formerly Kinhilt, Wigtowns).

Adam

Variants: **Adem, Adams**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 7207, Ireland 65
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 5115
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Scotland: esp. Lanarks; Aberdeens and Angus
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim
- English: relationship name from the Old Testament (Hebrew) personal name *Adam*, conventionally interpreted as 'man, human', and associated with a root meaning 'red, fair'. It has been widely used as a Christian name in western Europe. See also **Adams, Adamson, McAdam, McCadden, Badham**. Pet forms of *Adam* survive in **Adcock, Addy, Adnett**, and **Atkin**. **Early bearers:** given names: Adam filius Huberti, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Kent); Adam Warenarius, 1146–53 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Adam, sub-prior of Melrose Abbey, later abbot of Coupar Angus, 1189 in *Heads of Houses in Scotland*, 43. surnames, England: Alianor Adam, 1281 in *Assize Rolls* (Cheshire); Will'o Adam, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Barnby in the Willows, Notts); Thomas Adam, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Northants); John Adam, 1496 in *PROB 11* (Stanwell, Middx); William Adam, 1543 in *PROB 11* (Saint Stephen Walbrook, City of London). surnames, Scotland: Andrew Adam, 1423–37 in *Acts of Parliaments of Scotland*; David Adam, 1564 in *IGI* (Monifieth, Angus); Elizabeth Adem, 1668 in *IGI* (Dundee, Angus); James Adam, 1737 in *IGI* (Arbuthnott, Kincardines); Isabell Adams, 1750 in *IGI* (Kilconquhar, Fife).

Adames

- **Current frequencies:** GB 56, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 151
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
- English: see **Adams**.

Adamo

- **Current frequencies:** GB 137, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Italian: relationship name from the personal name *Adamo*, Italian form of **Adam**.

Adamou

- **Current frequencies:** GB 289, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Greek (typically Cypriot): relationship name from an old genitive case of the Greek personal name *Adamos*, Greek form of **Adam**.

Adams

Variants: **Addams, Adames**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 61349, Ireland 2957
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 43752
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Ulster
- English, Scottish: (i) variant of **Adam** with genitival or post-medieval excrescent *-s*. See also **Odams**. (ii) in Ireland and Gaelic-speaking parts of Scotland, *Adams* was often adopted for **McAdam**. **Early bearers:** England William Adames, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Nicholaus Adames, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Ford manor, Shrops); Johes Adams, 1581 in *IGI* (Allesley, Warwicks); Thomas Adams, 1593 in *IGI* (Bilsington, Kent); John Adams, 1604 in *IGI* (Clayton, Lancs); John Adames, 1617 in *PROB 11* (East Allington, Devon); Thomas Adams, 1621 in *IGI* (Alderminster, Worcs); Stephen Addams, 1638 in *Town Book of Lewes* (Sussex). Scotland James Adams, 1687 in *IGI* (Aberdeen). Ireland Robert Adams, gent., 1542 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §282 (Cnocke, Louth); Robert Addams, gent., 1566 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §978 (Ballibrytten, King's county [Offaly]); Robert Adams, 1575 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2640 (Portlester, Meath); Edward Adame, controller of wine duty, 1570 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1574 (Galway).

Adamson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 9901, Ireland 608
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 7912
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland and N England
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down; Westmeath
- English, Scottish: relationship name from the Old Testament (Hebrew) personal name **Adam** + Middle English *son*, meaning 'son of Adam'. **Early bearers:** Scotland John Adamstone, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Berwicks); Colin Adamson, provost, 1349 in *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland* (Aberdeen); Cuthbert Adamson, notary, 1587 in *Poltalloch Writs* (Lanarks). England Richard Adamessone, 13th cent. in *Ancient Deeds* i (Norfolk); John Adamstone, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Derbys); Willelmus Adamesson', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Norfolk); Johannes Adammessone, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Shrops); John Adamson, 1577 in *PROB 11* (West Walton, Norfolk).

Adamthwaite

- **Current frequencies:** GB 99, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 118
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks, Westm, Lancs, and Durham
- English: locative name from Adamthwaite in Ravenstonedale (Westm), which is recorded as *Adamthwat* in 1585. The place-name derives from the Middle English personal name *Adam* + *thwait* 'clearing' (Old Scandinavian *þveit*). **Early bearers:** Roland Adamthwayte, 1461 in *Oxford University Register*; Margerett Adamthwat, 1573, Sybell Adamtwait, 1591 in *IGI* (Ravenstonedale, Westm); Wm. Adamthwaite, 1589 in *IGI* (York); Marjory Adamwhit, 1675 in *IGI* (Gainford, Durham). **References:** *Place-Names of Westm* 2, pp. 33–4; information from Sue Mastel (Guild of One-Name Studies).

Adan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 569, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 15
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Aberdeens
- Spanish: relationship name from the personal name *Adán*, equivalent of English **Adam**.

Adatia

- **Current frequencies:** GB 167, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Indian (Gujarat): Hindu (Lohana) and Muslim name, of unexplained origin.

Adaway

- **Current frequencies:** GB 209, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 88
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Bucks
- English: variant of **Hathaway**, with loss of initial *H*.

Aday

- **GB frequency 1881:** 9
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Adey**.
Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Adburgham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- English: see **Abram**. This form appears to be a 20th-century reintroduction (as a surname) of the historic form of the place-name.

Adby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 131, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 71
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Berks and Bucks
- English: metathesized variant of **Abdy**.
Further information: For this as a Berks name, compare William Abdy, 1583 in *IGI* (Shellingford).
Early bearers: Maud Adby, 1589 in *IGI* (Shellingford, Berks); John Adby, 1732 in *IGI* (Wath upon Dearne, WR Yorks); James Adby, 1794 in *IGI* (Aldworth, Berks).

Adcock

- Variants: **Hadcock**, **Adcock**, **Acocok**, **Acott**, **Eacock**, **Adcocks**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 3334, Ireland 35
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 2932
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Midlands; also Norfolk
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin
- English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Adecoc*, a pet form of **Adam**.
Early bearers: given names: *Adecok* Kay, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs).
surnames: Richard Hadeccoc, 1226 in *Leicester Freeman Register*; Robert Adekok, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); John Atkoc, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); John Adecoke, 1354 in *Birmingham Archives* (Castle Bromwich, Warwicks); Hugo Addecok, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Little Stretton, Leics); Joanne Adcock, 1580 in *IGI* (Lenham, Kent); Thomas Adcock, 1623 in *PROB 11* (Nether Whitacre, Warwicks); Thomas Adcock, 1654 in *IGI* (Painswick, Gloucs).

Adcocks

- **Current frequencies:** GB 18, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 5

- **Main GB location 1881:** Herefs
- English: variant of **Adcock** with genitival or post-medieval excrescent *-s*.
Early bearers: Thomas Adcocks or Adcokes, 1569 in *PROB 11* (Biggleswade, Beds); Luke Adcocks, 1583 in *IGI* (Saint John Bedwardine, Worcs); William Adcocks, 1690 in *IGI* (Stow on the Wold, Gloucs).

Adcock

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 6
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham
- English: see **Adcock**.

Adercroft

- **Current frequencies:** GB 71, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 118
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: variant of **Aldercroft** with vocalization and loss of */l/*.

Addai

- **Current frequencies:** GB 257, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Ghanaian: nickname from the Gã day-name *adai* ‘Monday’, or Akan (Twi or related dialect) *adae* ‘festival day, calendar point recurring every 43 days’.

Addams

- **Current frequencies:** GB 82, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 98
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in England; esp. London; Devon
- English: see **Adams**.

Addelsee

- **Current frequencies:** GB 31, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 26
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs
- English: see **Addlesee**.

Addenbrook

- **Current frequencies:** GB 23, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 92
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs, Warwicks, and Worcs
- English: see **Addenbrooke**.

Addenbrooke

- Variants: **Addenbrook**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 101, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 62
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs
- English: locative name from an unidentified or lost place called *Addenbrook*, apparently on or near the border of Staffs and Worcs. The place-name derives from Old English *brōc* ‘stream’, with an uncertain first element.
Early bearers: Henry de Adenbrok, 1255 in *Hundred Rolls* (Staffs); Richard de Adynbrok, 1271–2 in *Assize Rolls* (Rowley Regis, Staffs); Richard de Adnebrok, 1276 in *Lyttelton Charters* (Frankley, Worcs); Richard de Adenesbrok, 1285–6 in *Staffs Forest Pleas* (Kinver Forest, Staffs); William de Adenbrok, 1367 in *Lyttelton Charters* (Halesowen, Worcs); John de Adenbrok, 1371 in *Lyttelton Charters* (Rowley Regis, Staffs); Joyse Adinbrooke, 1548 in *IGI* (Rowley Regis,

Staffs); Joan Adonbroke, 1550, Thomas Addenbroke, 1556, John Adenbrocke, 1583 in *IGI* (Dudley, Worcs); Johes Addenbrocke, 1574 in *IGI* (Tanworth in Arden, Warwicks); Leonard Addenbroke, 1579 in *IGI* (Kinver, Staffs); Jeremie Ardenbrooke, 1630 in *PROB 11* (London).

Adderley

- Variants: **Adderly**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 870, Ireland 69
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 499
 - **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Staffs
- English: locative name from Adderley (Shrops), which is recorded as *Eldredelei* in 1086 and *Adredelegh* in 1272. The place-name derives from an Old English female personal name with *-prȳð* as its second theme (*Ealdprȳð*, *Ælſprȳð*, or *Æðelprȳð*) + *lēah* ‘open woodland’.
Early bearers: Henry de Adrideleye, about 1230 in *Salt Manuscripts* (Staffs); Ade de Addradel’, 1256 in *Shrops Eyre Roll* (Adderley, Shrops); William Aderley, 1386, William Adderleye, 1390, William de Adderley, 1397 in *Patent Rolls* (Derbys); William Addurley, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Shawbury, Shrops); Agnes Adderley, 1564 in *IGI* (Worfield, Shrops); Elizabeth Adderley, 1579 in *IGI* (Kingsley, Staffs).
References: *Place-Names of Shrops* 1, pp. 7, 10; 5, p. 120.

Adderly

- **GB frequency 1881:** 54
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Leics; Cheshire, Lancs, and WR Yorks
- English: see **Adderley**.

Adderson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 78, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 134
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- 1 English: see **Addison**.
2 English: see **Alderson**.
3 English: see **Etherson**.

Adderton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 31, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 22
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Notts and Warwicks
- 1 English: chiefly a variant of **Atterton**.
2 English: occasionally a variant of **Atherton**.
3 English: occasionally a variant of **Etherton**.

Addey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 149, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 160
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks
- English: see **Addy**.

Addicott

- **Current frequencies:** GB 475, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 412
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset and Devon
- English: probably a variant of **Addiscott**.
Early bearers: John Addicott, 1616 in *IGI* (West Hatch, Somerset); Richaard Addicott, 1649 in *IGI* (Huntsham, Devon); Henrye Addicott, 1663 in *IGI* (Saint Buryan, Cornwall).

Addie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 259, Ireland 25
- **GB frequency 1881:** 333

Addinall

- **Main GB location 1881:** Glasgow
- Scottish: relationship name from the Older Scots personal name *Addie*, a pet form of **Adam**.
- Early bearers:** David Aidye, 1591, Salomon Aedie, 1607, burgesses, in *New Spalding Miscellany* (Aberdeen); William Aidy, 1644 in *New Spalding Miscellany* (Aberdeen); James Adie, 1596 in *Scottish Arms* (Perth).

Addinall

- **Current frequencies:** GB 301, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 53
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: relationship name from a double diminutive of a pet form of the personal name *Adam*.
- Further information:** *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*, suggests that the Yorks family was originally known as *Adinet*, a more common double diminutive of Adam, and that the change to *Adinell* occurred in the 16th and 17th centuries. He also notes confusion with the surname **Arundel**, citing William Arundel alias Addinal, 1744 (York).
- Early bearers:** Rychard Adenell, 1605 in *IGI* (Warlbarton, Sussex); Henry Addenell, 1620 in *IGI* (Bilton in Ainsty, WR York); John Addenelt, 1625 in *IGI* (Bilton in Ainsty, WR Yorks); John Addinall, 1644 in *IGI* (Sutton upon Derwent, ER Yorks).

Addington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 248, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 213
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Beds, Northants, and Herts
- English: locative name from one or more of several places so called, such as Great and Little Addington (Northants), Addington (Bucks), Addington (Surrey), and perhaps Addington (Kent), all of which are recorded as *Edintone* and *Adinton* in medieval documents. The place-names mean 'farmstead associated with a man called Eadda or Æddi', from an Old English personal name *Eadda* or *Æddi* + the connective particle *-ing-* + *tūn* 'farmstead, estate'.
- Further information:** The family of Henry Addington, 1st Lord Sidmouth, prime minister of Great Britain in 1801–4, has traced its genealogy back to Potterspurty in Northants in the 14th century.
- Early bearers:** William de Adinton, 1176 in *Pipe Rolls* (Bucks); Hugh de Adinton, 1202 in *Assize Rolls* (Northants); Gilbert de Adintun, 1226 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Surrey); Johannis de Adington, 1301 in *White Book of Peterborough* (Northants); Johanna de Adyngtone, 1309 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Shelton, Beds); Ricardo Adyngton, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Oxon); Roger Addington, 1558 in *IGI* (Reading, Berks); Elizab. Addington, 1576 in *IGI* (Maxey, Northants); Mathylile Addington, 1600 in *IGI* (Newton Longville, Bucks); William Addington, 1600 in *IGI* (Wootton, Beds); Luke Adington, 1655 in *IGI* (Melchbourne, Beds).
- References:** *Place-Names of Northants*, p. 177; *Place-Names of Bucks*, pp. 51–2; *Place-Names of Surrey*, pp. 39–40; *Kent Place-Names*, p. 144.

Addis

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1525, Ireland 172
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1022

- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs; Surrey; W Midlands; Wales
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim
- English: relationship name variant of the Middle English personal names **Addy** or **Ade**, both pet forms of **Adam**, with genitival *-s* and denoting 'Addy's or Ade's son, relative, or servant'.
- Early bearers:** John Adies, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Willelmus Addes, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Thornton, WR Yorks); Isabell Adis, 1562 in *IGI* (Westbury on Trym, Gloucs); Joan Addis, 1587 in *PROB 11* (Pauntley, Gloucs); John Addis, 1590 in *IGI* (Canon Frome, Herefs); William Addiss, 1695 in *IGI* (Hanley Castle, Worcs); Thomas Adis, 1738 in *IGI* (Betws y Crwyn, Shrops); John Addiss, 1772 in *IGI* (Sedgley, Staffs).

Addison

- Variants:** **Adderson**, **Haddison**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 6452, Ireland 46
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 4129
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England and Scotland: esp. Lancs
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim
- 1 English, Scottish: relationship name from the Middle English personal names **Ade** and **Addy**, pet forms of **Adam**, + *son*.
- Early bearers:** England John Addisone, 1308 in *Patent Rolls* (Yorks); Willelmo Addyson, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Orton, Westm); Robert Addeson, 1498 in *York Guild Register*; Margreat Adison, 1544 in *IGI* (Cambridge, Cambs); Robart Adison, 1585 in *IGI* (Leake, Lincs); Richard Addison, 1600 in *PROB 11* (Michelmersh, Hants).
- Scotland William Adison, rector, 1370 in *Paisley Register* (Luss, Dunbartons); Robert Adyson, vicar, 1415 in *Ayr Charters* (Colmonell, Ayr); Sir William Adesoun, vicar, 1436 in *Peebles Charters* (Linton, Peebles); Duncan Adeson, 1449 in *Glasgow Register* (Stirling); Andrew Edisoun, 1580 in *Midlothian Charters* (Spittelmyle); Laurence Adiesone, 1611 in *Dunfermline Register* (Pennielandis); William Adison, 1665 in *IGI* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens); James Adison, 1691 in *IGI* (Dunfermline, Fife); Alexander Addison, 1694 in *IGI* (Benholm, Kincardines).
- 2 English: occasionally perhaps a variant of **Alderson**, via the intermediate forms *Auderson* and *Aderson*, the same change of vowel seen in **Dakin** for **Dawkin**. The name has been merged with *Addison* and *Addinson*.

Addlesee

- Variants:** **Addelsee**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 181, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 65
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs; also Notts
- English: variant of **Haddelsey** with loss of initial *H-*.

Addlestone

- Variants:** **Edleston**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 24, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 3
- 1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Athelstan*, itself from Old English *Æðelstān*, composed of the elements *æðel* 'noble' + *stān* 'stone'. Compare **Alston**, **Aston**, **Edleston**.
- Early bearers:** William Athelston, about 1198 in *History of Saint Barts Hospital* (London); Geoffrey Athelstan, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs); Thomas Addlestone, 1654 in *IGI* (Kings Lynn, Norfolk); James Addlestone,

1682 in *IGI* (Hackney, Middx); William Henry Addlestone, 1854 in *IGI* (Blackburn, Lancs).

2 English: see **Edleston**.

Addleton

- Variants:** **Haddleton**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 73, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 49
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs, Staffs, and Leics
- English: locative name possibly, like the surname **Adlington**, from one of the places called Adlington. Sarah Ann Addleton, birth recorded 1882 in Dudley (Staffs), appears to be the same as Annie Smith formerly Haddleton, born Cradley Heath (*Census 1901*), and Sarah Ann Smith, formerly Addlington, child's birth recorded 1904.
- Early bearers:** Sarah Addleton, 1677 in *IGI* (Uttoxeter, Staffs); George Haddleton, 1737 in *IGI* (Kingswinford, Staffs); Thos Addleton, 1772, John Haddleton, 1785 in *IGI* (Dudley, Staffs); Elijah Addleton, 1802 in *IGI* (Cradley, Worcs).
- References:** <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/ENG-BLACK-COUNTRY/2008-11/1225862168> (2008 posting).

Addley

- Variants:** **Adley**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 191, Ireland 43
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 86
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent
- English: (i) probably a variant of **Hadlow** with loss of initial *H-* and modification of the unstressed syllable. (ii) another, less likely, possibility is that it is a variant of **Hadley**.
- Early bearers:** Rabage Adley, 1588 in *IGI* (Milton by Gravesend, Kent); Edward Adley, 1647, John Adlow, 1688 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Francis Adlow, 1664 in *Hearth Tax* (Frinted, Kent); Thomas Adly, 1664 in *Hearth Tax* (Shoreham, Kent); Mary Ann Adlow, 1768 in *IGI* (Sandwich, Kent).

Addo

- **Current frequencies:** GB 814, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Ghanaian: probably for *Ado*, an Akan patrilineal clan name.
- References:** Agyekum, Kofi (2006) The sociolinguistic of Akan personal names. *Nordic Journal of African Studies* 15.2, 206–235, at 216.

Adds

- **Current frequencies:** GB 49, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 39
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey and Kent
- English: see **Ades**.

Addy

- Variants:** **Addey**, **Haddy**, **Hady**, **Addis**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 1752, Ireland 15
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1275
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Meath and Cavan; Armagh
- 1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Addy*, a pet form of **Adam**.
- Early bearers:** given names: Addy, 1290 in *Assize Rolls* (Cheshire); Addy de Beuerlay, 1297 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks).

surnames: Richard Addy, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wykeham, NR Yorks); Ricardus Addy, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Cudworth, WR Yorks); John Addy born 1567, father of Thomas Addy born 1606, in *IGI* (Wath, Yorks); John Addey, 1606 in *PROB 11* (Deptford, Kent); William Addy, 1693 in *IGI* (Barnsley, WR Yorks).

2 Irish, Manx: relationship name from a reduced form of *Mac Ádaidh* 'son of *Ádadh*', Gaelic form of the personal name **Adam**.

References: *Kneen*.

Addyman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 260, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 203

- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Adiman* or *Ademan*, which could be a pet form of *Adam* (see **Addy**) + the hypocoristic suffix *-man* but is more likely a variant of Middle English *Edeman*, *Ediman*; see **Edman**. **Early bearers:** given names: Adiman, 1204 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks).

surnames: Wm. Addyman, 1643 in *IGI* (Saint Michael Spurriergate, York); Peter Addiman, 1678, Sarah Addiman, 1765 in *IGI* (Aberford, WR Yorks); Sayray Ademan, 1748, Elizabeth Addiman, 1754 in *IGI* (Skelbrooke, WR Yorks).

References: *McClure, Jack I*, p. 112.

2 English: occupational name, status name from the Middle English personal name **Adam** + *man*, probably signifying 'servant of a man named Adam'. The name has probably been absorbed by (1) or by **Adman**.

Early bearers: Thomas Adamman, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Wansford, ER Yorks); Robertus Adamman, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Sutton (Grange) with Welham, ER Yorks); John Adamman, 1402 in *Yorks Wills* (Sutton in Holderness, ER Yorks).

References: *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Ade

Variants: **Ades**, **Addis**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 157, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 122
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Kilkenny

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Ade*, a pet form of *Adam*.

Early bearers: Thomas Ade, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Willelmus Ade, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Darrington, WR Yorks); Richard Ade, 1499 in *PROB 11* (Iden, Sussex); Richard Ade, 1600 in *IGI* (Rottingdean, Sussex); Henry Adis, 1610 in *IGI* (Kirdford, Sussex); Richard Ades, 1665 in *IGI* (Iford, Sussex).

Adeane

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 22
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

English: variant of **Dean**, from Middle English *a(tte) dene* 'at the wooded valley'.

Early bearers: John Adene, 1484 in *Rochester Wills*; Richard Adeane, 1510 in *PROB 11* (Salisbury, Wilts); Thomas a Dene, 1516 in *Kent Wills*; Thomas Deane alias Adeane, 1637 in *PROB 11* (Bristol, Gloucs).

Adebanjo

- **Current frequencies:** GB 247, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adébanjò* (Yoruba *adé bá mi jò* 'the crown or royal lineage suits me').

References: *Oduyoye*, p. 48.

Adebayo

- **Current frequencies:** GB 955, Ireland 26
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adébáyò* (Yoruba *adé bá ayò* 'the crown or royal lineage found joy [i.e. on arriving in the family]').

Adebiyi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 357, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from a personal name *Adébíyí* (Yoruba *adé bí èyí* 'the crown or royal lineage gave birth to this (child)').

Adebowale

- **Current frequencies:** GB 215, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adébòwálé* (Yoruba *adé bò wá (sí) ilé* 'the crown has come home again').

Adedéji

- **Current frequencies:** GB 397, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adédèjì* (Yoruba *adé dì èjì* 'the crown has become two', 'we have a second crown').

References: *Oduyoye*, p. 81.

Adegbite

- **Current frequencies:** GB 226, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adégbìtẹ̀* (Yoruba *adé gba itẹ̀* 'the crown fills the throne').

References: *Oduyoye*, p. 80.

Adegoke

- **Current frequencies:** GB 286, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adégòkẹ̀* (Yoruba *adé gun òkẹ̀* 'the crown gained advancement').

Adekoya

- **Current frequencies:** GB 415, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adékòyà* (from *adé kọ iyà* 'the crown is above insults' or 'the crown rejects or turns away oppression').

References: *Oduyoye*, p. 80.

Adekunle

- **Current frequencies:** GB 370, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adékúnlẹ̀* (from *adé kún ilẹ̀* 'the crown fills the house', 'crowns are many in the

house', with 'crown' understood as a metaphor for 'child').

References: Adeboye Babalola and Olugboyega Alaba, *A Dictionary of Yoruba Personal Names*, Lagos: West African Book Publishers.

Adeleke

- **Current frequencies:** GB 327, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adélékẹ̀* (Yoruba *adé l'ẹ̀kẹ̀* 'the crown gains the upper hand, triumphs').

References: *Oduyoye*, p. 17.

Adeleye

- **Current frequencies:** GB 370, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adéléyẹ̀* (Yoruba *adé l'ẹ̀yẹ̀* 'the crown possesses honour').

Adeline

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Norman, English: relationship name from the Old French female personal name *Adaline*, a pet form of Continental Germanic names in *Adal-* (from *adal* 'noble'), such as *Adelhaidis*, which became *Adalaide* and *Alice*. Compare **Edlin**.

Further information: The seal of Adaleide, wife of William Peverel (1107–13 in *Northants Charters*), bears the legend *Signvm adeline*.

Early bearers: given names: Adelina jocularitrix, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Hants); Willelmum filium Adeline, 1232 in *Patent Rolls* (Long Melford, Suffolk).

surnames: William Adeline, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Susanna Adeline, 1589 in *IGI* (Almondbury, WR Yorks); Michel Adeline, 1722 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx).

Adem

- **Current frequencies:** GB 181, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3
- **Main GB location 1881:** Glasgow

Turkish: relationship name from the personal name *Adem*, from Arabic, of the same ultimate origin as **Adam**.

Aden

- **Current frequencies:** GB 588, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 68
- **Main GB location 1881:** Aberdeens; Lancs and Cheshire

Scottish: locative name from Aden in Old Deer (Aberdeens).

Early bearers: Scotland Alexander Aden, 1660 in *IGI* (Longside, Aberdeens); James Aden, 1666 in *IGI* (Old Machar, Aberdeens); William Adan, 1673 in *IGI* (Peterhead, Aberdeens); Andrew Aden, weaver, 1683 in *Old Aberdeen Records* 1, p. 240 (Aberdeens); Jean Adin, 1695 in *IGI* (Lonmay, Aberdeens); John Adin, 1721 in *IGI* (Strichen, Aberdeens). England John Aden, 1697, Matthew Adin, 1703 in *IGI* (Pentrich, Derbys).

References: S. Taylor (2008), 'The toponymic landscape of the Gaelic Notes in the *Book of Deer*', in K. Forsyth, ed., *Studies on the Book of Deer*, Dublin, pp. 275–308.

Adeniji

- **Current frequencies:** GB 365, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adéníjì* (Yoruba *adé ní ìjì* ‘the crown has much shade’, i.e. there is more than enough shade for the new child to find it congenial).

Adeniran

- **Current frequencies:** GB 312, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adéníran* (Yoruba *adé ní iran* ‘the crown has a pedigree’, i.e. runs in certain lineages but not others).

References: *Oduyoye*, p. 80.

Adeniyi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 437, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adéníyì* (Yoruba *adé ní iyì* ‘the crown has dignity’).

References: *Oduyoye*, p. 81.

Adeosun

- **Current frequencies:** GB 218, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian: relationship name from the personal name *Adéòṣun*, from Yoruba *adé Ọṣun* ‘the crown of (i.e. given to me by the goddess-river) Ọṣun’.

Adeoye

- **Current frequencies:** GB 337, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adéoyè*, from Yoruba *adé oyè* literally ‘the crown of chieftancy’, understood to mean ‘the crown (child) given to me to celebrate my acquired chieftaincy title’.

Ades

Variants: **Adds**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 148, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 100
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex and Kent

English: variant of **Ade** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Early bearers: Johannes Ads, 1379 *Poll Tax* (Irthlingborough, Northants); Thomas Ades, 1540 in *PROB 11* (Warton, Herefs).

Adesanya

- **Current frequencies:** GB 563, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adésànyà*, from Yoruba *adé san iyà* ‘the crown avenges my suffering’.

Adesina

- **Current frequencies:** GB 465, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adésìnà* (Yoruba *adé sí ònà* ‘the crown opens the way’), often given to a child awaited for a long time and understood to mean ‘(the child) opens the mother’s womb for more children’.

Adetunji

- **Current frequencies:** GB 229, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adétúnjì*, from Yoruba *adé tún jì* ‘the crown awakes again’, understood to mean that the namer’s family’s claim to the crown has revived.

Adewale

- **Current frequencies:** GB 370, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adéwálé* (Yoruba *adé wá ilé* ‘the crown has come home’).

Adewole

- **Current frequencies:** GB 251, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from a personal name *Adéwólé* (Yoruba *adé wọ ilé* ‘the crown has entered the house (family)’).

Adey

Variants: **Adye**, **Ady**, **Adie**, **Aday**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1242, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 962
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England: esp. Staffs

English: relationship name from a pet form of the personal name **Adam** (compare **Addy**, to which some of the bearers below may belong).

Early bearers: Thomas Ady, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Ricardo Ady, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Kent); William Adey, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Robertus Adey, 1567 in *IGI* (Compton Bassett, Wilts); Nicholas Adey, 1611 in *IGI* (Rugeley, Staffs).

Adeyemi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1180, Ireland 16
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Adéyemí* (Yoruba *adé yẹ mí* ‘the crown suits me’, traditionally understood to mean ‘(the child) arrives to suit me’).

Adeyemo

- **Current frequencies:** GB 385, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): from the personal name *Adéyemọ* (Yoruba *adé yẹ ọmọ* ‘the crown befits the (this) child’).

Adgar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 31, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 8
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lanarks; Essex

English: see **Edgar**.

Adger

- **Current frequencies:** GB 93, Ireland 31
- **GB frequency 1881:** 39
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dunbartons and Lanarks; Durham; Essex

English: variant of **Edgar**.

Adie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 710, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 643

- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland; also Staffs and Durham

English: see **Adey**.

Adigun

- **Current frequencies:** GB 273, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from a personal name *Àdìgún* (Yoruba *à dì gún*, literally ‘bound upright’, understood as meaning ‘well-planned and consequently successful’). The element *à* forms abstract nouns from verb phrases.

Further information: This name is an *oríkì* or additional praise-name or circumstance-name, a type readily given as a personal name.

Adjei

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1021, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Ghanaian: unexplained. Said to be a Kwa name bestowed on first-born sons.

Adkin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 749, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 628

- **Main GB location 1881:** E Midlands

English: see **Atkin**.

Adkins

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2261, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1910

- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in S and central England

English: see **Atkins**.

Early bearers: Thomas Adkins, 1624 in *IGI* (Southill, Beds); James Adkins, 1624 in *IGI* (Chedgrave, Norfolk); Robt. Adkins, 1628 in *IGI* (Wendover, Bucks); Thomas Adkins, 1632 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Thomas Adkins, 1633 in *IGI* (Stow in Lindsey, Lincs); Wm. Adkins, 1641 in *IGI* (Stafford, Staffs).

Adkinson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 101, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 166

- **Main GB location 1881:** Leics; Cheshire and Lancs

English: see **Atkinson**.

Adlam

Variants: **Adlem**, **Odlum**, **Adlum**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1089, Ireland 4

- **GB frequency 1881:** 772
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts

Norman, English: relationship name from the Middle English male given name *Adelm*, via Norman French from the Continental Germanic name *Adalhelm*, *Adelelm*, composed of the elements **adal* ‘noble’ + **helm* ‘helmet, protection’.

Further information: The corresponding Old English name *Ædelhelm* became reduced to *Ædelm* in late Old English and is represented by Ailm, 1086 in *Domesday Book*, so it is unlikely to be the source of the surname *Adlam*. See *Feilitzen*, pp. 78–9, 184. **Early bearers:** given names: Adelelmus, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Kent).

surnames: Walterus filius Adelam, 1191 in *Pipe Rolls* (Shrops); Robertus Adelelmus, 1130 in *Pipe Rolls* (Essex); Roger Adalem, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); John Adelam or Adlam, 1492 in *PROB 11* (Devizes,

Wilts); Edward Adlam, 1610 in *PROB 11* (Longbridge Deverill, Wilts).

Adlard

- **Current frequencies:** GB 321, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 298
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: see **Allard**.

Early bearers: John and Robert Athelard, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Whaplode, Lincs); Simon Athelard, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Whaplode, Lincs); John Athelarde, 1405 in *Feet of Fines* (Fosdyke, Lincs); Johanna Adlerd, 1562 in *IGI* (Stewton, Lincs); Rychard Adlard, 1601 in *IGI* (Halham, Lincs); Ann Adlard, 1728 in *IGI* (Horncastle, Lincs).

Adlem

- **Current frequencies:** GB 286, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 115
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset

Norman, English: see **Adlam**.

Adler

- **Current frequencies:** GB 657, Ireland 14
- **GB frequency 1881:** 177
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in England and S Wales: esp. Warwicks

1 English: probably a variant of **Adlard** (see **Allard**) with loss of final *-d*. Compare Anne Adler, 1606, Marye Adlard, 1609 in *IGI* (Theddlethorpe Saint Helen, Lincs).

Early bearers: Elizabeth Adlar, 1542 in *IGI* (London); Thomas Adler, 1555 in *IGI* (Great Gransden, Hunts); Richard Adler, 1566 in *IGI* (Aston Flamville, Leics); William Adler, 1574 in *IGI* (Brinklow, Warwicks); John Addeler, 1591 in *IGI* (Hatcliffe, Lincs).

2 German, Jewish (Ashkenazic): relationship name from the German personal name *Adler*, which is based on the word *adler* 'eagle'.

Further information: Nathan Marcus Adler (born in Hanover, 1803) was British chief rabbi 1845–90, and was succeeded by his son Herman, 1890–1906.

Early bearers: Stolbarg Adler, 1754, Magnus Adler, 1780 in *IGI* (Dover, Kent); Isidore Adler, born in Lubeck, Germany, in *Census 1861* (Whitechapel, Middx); Abraham Adler, tailor's cutter, born in Poland, in *Census 1871* (Whitechapel, Middx); Herman Adler, minister of the Bayswater synagogue, born in Hanover, in *Census 1871* (Kensington, Middx); Carl August Adler, 1872 in *IGI* (Battersea, Surrey).

Adley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 176, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 227
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Galway

English: see **Addley**.

Adlington

Variants: **Hadlington**, **Allington**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1015, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 483
- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys and Notts

English: (i) locative name from Adlington (Lancs), which is recorded as *Edeluinton* in the 12th century, *Adelventon* in 1202, and *Adlington* in 1288, or from Adlington (Cheshire), which is recorded as *Eduluintune* in 1086 and *Adelinton*, *Adelinton* in

the 13th century. The place-names mean 'farmstead associated with a man called Ēadwulf', from the Old English personal name *Ēadwulf* + the connective particle *-ing-* + *tūn* 'farmstead, estate'. (ii) see **Allington**.

Early bearers: Hugh de Athelington, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); [. . . de] Adelington, 1287 in *Place-Names of Cheshire* (Cheshire); Thomas de Adelyngton, 1310, Thomas de Adlinton, 1324 in *Lancs Inquests* (Lancs); Hugh Adlington, 1563 in *IGI* (Standish, Lancs); Izabell Addlington, 1575, Dorothy Adlington, 1582 in *IGI* (Derby, Derbys).

References: *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 128; *Place-Names of Cheshire* 1, p. 181.

Adlum

- **Current frequencies:** GB 27, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 64
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset

English: see **Adlam**.

Adman

Variants: **Adnam**, **Hadman**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 9
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent; Durham

English: see **Edman**. The name was also interchangeable with **Addyman**.

Early bearers: Henricus Adman, 1341 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Johannes Addeman, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Thornton, WR Yorks); William Adman, 1664 in *York Freeman's Register*; Sayray Ademan, 1748, Elizabeth Addiman, 1754 in *IGI* (Skelbrooke, WR Yorks).

Admans

- **Current frequencies:** GB 111, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 45
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

English: see **Edmans**.

Adnam

Variants: **Adnams**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 23
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants

English: (i) metathesized form of **Adman**, frequently occurring with post-medieval excrement *-s*. (ii) alternatively perhaps a variant of **Hadingham**, from the Bucks place-name Haddenham.

Early bearers: Jone Adnams, 1540 in *IGI* (Bucklebury, Berks); Elizabetha Adnams, 1607, Henricus Adnam, 1622, Mary Adnums, 1696, in *IGI* (Chieveley, Berks); Annis Adnams, 1625 in *IGI* (Whitchurch, Oxon); Robert Adnam, 1736 in *IGI* (Winchester, Hants).

Adnams

- **Current frequencies:** GB 136, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 166
- **Main GB location 1881:** Berks

English: variant of **Adnam** with post-medieval excrement *-s*.

Adnan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 371, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Arabic, Muslim (Pakistan, UAE, Malaysia, Turkey): from the traditional Arabic personal name *ʿAdnān*, predating Islam.

Adnett

- **Current frequencies:** GB 143, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 53
 - **Main GB location 1881:** E Midlands
- Norman, English: see **Adnitt**.

Adney

- **Current frequencies:** GB 35, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 93
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in England and Wales: esp. Middx; Shrops

English: locative name from Adney in Edgmond (Shrops), which is recorded as *Eduney* in 1212, *Edeweny* in 1292, and *Addeney* in 1327. The place-name means 'Ēadwynn's island' from an Old English female personal name *Ēadwynn* (genitive *Ēadwynne*) + *ēg* 'island'.

Early bearers: England Benedictus de Adney, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Edgmond, Shrops); Johannes Adney, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Hodnet, Shrops); Richard Adney, 1499 in *PROB 11* (Worcester, Worcs); Andrew Adney, 1581 in *IGI* (Moreton Corbet, Shrops); Frauncis Adney, 1592 in *IGI* (High Ercall, Shrops). Wales Elizabeth Adney, 1794 in *IGI* (Builth, Brecknocks).

References: *Ekwall, DEPN*, p. 3 (as *Adney*).

Adnitt

Variants: **Adnett**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 220, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 220
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northants

Norman, English: relationship name from the Old French personal names *Adenet* or *Adenot*, diminutives of **Adam**. Adam de Bidyk (1286 in *Reaney, Dictionary*) is also called Adinet (1276 in *Fine Rolls*).

Early bearers: given names: Adenet le Wyder, 1293 in *Fransson* (Norfolk); Adinet del Forest, 1379 in *Yorks Poll Tax*.

surnames: Richard Adynet, sub-bailiff of Lincoln, 1341 in *Lincs Royal Inquest* (Lincs); Robert Adynet, 1366 in *Ancient Deeds* ii (Leics); Willelmo Adenet, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Berks); Robert Adinot, 1428 in *Feudal Aids* (Surrey); Roger Adnett, 1559 in *PROB 11* (Coventry, Warwicks); John Adnet, 1664 in *IGI* (Badby, Northants).

Adrain

- **Current frequencies:** GB 85, Ireland 74
- **GB frequency 1881:** 20
- **Main GB location 1881:** Glasgow
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim

English, Irish: altered form of **Adrian**, common in Ireland.

Early bearers: Robert Adrain, 1775 in *IGI* (Carrickfergus, Antrim); Jane Adrain, 1778 in *IGI* (Arncastle, Antrim).

Adrian

Variants: **Adrien**, **Adrain**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 261, Ireland 10
- **GB frequency 1881:** 83
- **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks; Lincs

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Adrian* (Old French *Adrien*, from Latin *Adrianus*, *Hadrianus*, 'from Hadria', i.e. Atri, a town in Abruzzo, modern Italy).

Further information: *Hadrianus* was the name of one of the most effective of all Roman emperors (lived

Adrien

76–138; ruled 117–138). It was also the name taken by several popes, including Nicholas Brakespear, the only English pope (d. 1159), and was the name of several saints.

Early bearers: given names: Adrianus janitor, 1186–1210 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk); Adrianu' Fortescu, 1502 in *Feet of Fines* (Kent). surnames: Walter Adran', Adrian, about 1232 in *Clerkenwell Cartulary* (London); Simon Adryane, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Louth, Lincs); John Adrian, 1567 in *IGI* (Bideford, Devon); John Adrian, 1580 in *IGI* (Sheldon, Warwicks).

Adrien

- **Current frequencies:** GB 71, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

English, Huguenot: see **Adrian**. This is the usual French spelling of the name.

Early bearers: English Ralph Adrien, 1277 in *London Letter Books A*; Joane Adrien, 1578 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph's, London).

Huguenot Marie Anne Adrien, 1701 in *IGI* (Le Temple (Huguenot Church), Soho, London); Jean Adrien, 1723 in *IGI* (Glasshouse Street Huguenot Church, London).

Adsett

- **Current frequencies:** GB 281, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 108
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex

English: see **Adshead**.

Adsetts

- **Current frequencies:** GB 44, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 47
- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys and WR Yorks

English: variant of **Adshead** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Early bearers: Robert Adsets, 1633 in *IGI* (Clowne, Derbys); William Adsets, 1683 in *IGI* (Hook, WR Yorks).

Adshead

Variants: Adsett, Adsetts

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1366, Ireland 8
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1302
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire

English: locative name from Adshead Green in Over Alderley (Cheshire). The medieval bearers cited below constitute the earliest evidence for the place-name. The second element is clearly Middle English *heved*, *hed* 'head, headland, hill' (Old English *hēafod*), but the first is uncertain.

Early bearers: [...] Addeshed, 1337, [...] Addresheued, 1361 in *Place-Names of Cheshire* (Cheshire); John Adsedd, 1453 in *Cheshire Record Office* (Bolington by Macclesfield, Cheshire); John de Addeshed, 1472, Oliver Addeshed, 1551 in *Cheshire Record Office* (Pott Shrigley, Cheshire); John Addeshed, 1498 in *Cheshire Record Office* (Torkington, Cheshire); Margerie Adsheade, 1561 in *IGI* (Gawsworth, Cheshire); Thomas Adshed, 1565, Margery Adesheade, 1570, Ellen Adshette, 1571, Edmund Adshedde, 1576 in *IGI* (Prestbury, Cheshire); Thomas Adshed, 1584, John Adset, 1607 in *IGI* (Fittleworth, Sussex); Jane Adshead, 1587 in *IGI* (Stockport, Cheshire); Ellen Adsett, 1625 in *IGI* (Clowne, Derbys); Margaret Adshead, 1661 in *IGI* (Chapel en le Frith, Derbys).

References: *Place-Names of Cheshire* 1, p. 100.

Adsley

Variants: Hadsley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 62, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 59
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

English: unexplained; perhaps a locative name from a lost or unidentified place called *Adsley* or *Hadsley*. If so, the second element of the place-name would appear to be Middle English *ley* 'woodland clearing, glade' (Old English *lēah* 'open woodland').

Early bearers: Thomas Haddysley, 1488 in *Kent Wills* (Headcorn, Kent); Willyam Adsley, 1646 in *IGI* (Rochester, Kent); Anthony Adsley, 1664 in *Hearth Tax* (Chatham, Kent); Anna Adsley, 1672 in *IGI* (Hoo Saint Werburgh, Kent); John Hadsley, 1746 in *IGI* (Deptford, Kent).

Adu

- **Current frequencies:** GB 625, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name derived from a personal name *Adú* of nickname origin, from Yoruba *a dú*, literally 'that has a very dark complexion'.

Advani

- **Current frequencies:** GB 131, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian, Pakistani (Sind): relationship name; Hindu, from *Adu* (presumably the personal name of an ancestor, which is unexplained) + *-ani*, an adjectival suffix in several Indic languages denoting derivation from (i.e. 'descendant of').

Further information: This name is found amongst people from Sind, Pakistan, who have migrated to India as well as to Britain.

Adwick

Variants: Hadwick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 56, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 65
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Notts

English: locative name from Adwick le Street or Adwick upon Dearne (both WR Yorks, about five miles apart), each of which is recorded as *Adeuic* in 1086, *Addewyk*, *Adewyk*, and *Athewyk* in the 13th century. The place-names probably both mean 'Adda's specialized farm', from the Old English personal name *Adda* + *wīc* 'specialized or outlying farm, dairy farm'.

Early bearers: [...] de] Adwic, 1166 in *Place-Names of WR Yorks* (Yorks); Gilbert de Athwik, 1340, Robert de Addewyke, 15th cent. in *Sheffield Jackson Catalogue* (WR Yorks); Robertus de Addewyk', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Rotherham, WR Yorks); Willelmus de Adwike, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Marr, WR Yorks); Johannes Adwyce, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Wath upon Dearne, WR Yorks); Thoma de Adwyk, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (York); John Adwyke, 1506 in *Feet of Fines* (Ospringe, Kent); Gregory Adwick, 1574 in *IGI* (Featherstone, WR Yorks).

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 1, pp. 68–9, 79–80.

Adwin

- **GB frequency 1881:** 7
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: variant of **Hadwin**.

Ady

- **Current frequencies:** GB 50, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 56
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey; Gloucs and Worcs
- English: see **Adey**.

Adye

- **Current frequencies:** GB 57, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 83
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts

English: see **Adey**.

Aers

- **Current frequencies:** GB 26, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 5

English: see **Ayres**.

Affleck

Variants: Afflick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 851, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 689
- **Main GB location 1881:** S Scotland

Scottish: locative name from Affleck (Lanarks), Affleck (Angus), or Auchinleck (Ayr). The place-names contain Gaelic *achadh* 'field' in its anglicized form *Auchen-*, *Auchin-*.

Early bearers: Richard of Auchinlec, 1263 in *Scotland Calendar* (Lanarks); Nicholas of Haghenlek, 1292 in *Scotland Calendar*; Patrick de Aghleke, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Lanarks); Patrick de Achenlek, 1303 in *Scotland Calendar* (Lanark); John of Aghelek, 1306 in *History of the Lindsays* (Angus); Adam de Aghynlek, 1370 in *Kelso Register* (Lanarks); Thomas of Awqwhynleke, 1436 in *Origines Parochiales* (Peebles); Adam Auchinlek, 1451 in *Scotland Calendar*; John Athlyk, burgess, 1499 in *Cawdor Book* (Inverness); Alexander Affleck, 1515 in *IGI* (Edinburgh); Robert Auchinlecke, 1644 in *IGI* (Leith, Midlothian); James Affleck, 1720 in *IGI* (Fife); Wm. Afleck, 1793 in *IGI* (Gateshead, Durham); Elizabeth Affleck, 1806 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs).

References: *Scottish Place-Names*, p. 125.

Afflick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 137, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 102
- **Main GB location 1881:** Selkirks

Scottish: see **Affleck**.

Further information: The surname in this spelling is frequent in Jamaica.

Afford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 231, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 191
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northants and Hunts

English: locative name from Middle English *atte forde*, a *forde* 'at the ford' (Old English *ford* 'ford, river crossing'). Compare **Ford**.

Early bearers: Geoffrey atte Forde, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Johannes atte Ford, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Yarnton, Oxon); Thomas atte Ford, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Frithelstock, Devon); Alano Atteforde, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Canterbury, Kent); Thomas a Forde, 1500, Thomas Ford, 1508 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Marden, Kent); Stephen at Ford, 1524 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Mersham, Kent); Edward a Forde, 1539, Herbert Forde, 1552–3 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Sellindge, Kent); Thomas Afford, 1561 in *IGI* (Bromley, Kent); John Afford, 1584 in *IGI* (Lewes,

Sussex); Elizabeth Afford, 1700 in *IGI* (Doddington, Cambs); Thomas Afford, 1705 in *IGI* (Hartford, Hunts).

Afolabi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 540, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from a personal name *Afolábí* (Yoruba *a f'ólá bí* 'one who is born to honour, nobility').

References: *Oduyoye*, p. 84.

Afonso

- **Current frequencies:** GB 432, Ireland 11
- **GB frequency 1881:**

Portuguese: relationship name from the personal name *A(l)fonso*, Visigothic *Adelfonsus*, composed of the elements *hathu* 'war' or *adal* 'noble' + *funs* 'ready'. Compare *Alfonso*.

Further information: This is probably one of the names of Portuguese origin that were brought to Britain by people from Goa and other former Portuguese colonies on the W coast of India.

Afriye

- **Current frequencies:** GB 320, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Ghanaian: circumstance name from Akan *Afriye*, literally 'has appeared well', i.e. 'he has appeared at the right time, at a time of prosperity'.

References: Agyekum, Kofi (2006) The sociolinguistic of Akan personal names. *Nordic Journal of African Studies* 15.2, page 220.

Afsar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 652, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Iranian: see *Afshar*.

Afshar

Variants: *Afsar*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 186, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Iranian: ethnic name from the name of a Turkic tribe scattered throughout Iran, whose name is derived from Persian *feshar* 'pressure'.

Aftab

- **Current frequencies:** GB 540, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Iranian, Muslim: from a personal name based on Persian *āftāb* 'sun, sunshine'.

Afton

- **GB frequency 1881:** 9
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

English: locative name from Affeton Barton in East Worlington or Afton in Berry Pomeroy (both Devon), which are both recorded as *Affeton* in the 13th century. The place-names mean 'Æffa's farmstead', from the Old English personal name *Æffa* + *tūn* 'farmstead, estate'.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Early bearers: Richard de Afton, 1267, Richard de Affton, 1270, Richard de Affeton, 1286 in *Patent Rolls*; John de Affatone, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Fremington, Devon); John de Affeton, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Affeton in East Worlington, Devon); Thomas de

Afton, 1346 in *Patent Rolls* (Evesham, Worcs); Richard de Affeton, 1350, Thomas Affeton, 1381 in *Patent Rolls* (Devon); Joel de Affeton, 1370 in *Feet of Fines* (West Worlington, Devon); Robert Afton, 1401 in *Patent Rolls* (Sparkford, Somerset); Beatrice Afton, 1562 in *IGI* (Chiselborough, Somerset); Anne Afton, 1682 in *IGI* (Mathon, Worcs).

References: *Place-Names of Devon*, pp. 402, 505.

Afzal

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3436, Ireland 9
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Arabic, Persian, Muslim (Persian, India): from Arabic *afḍal* or its Persian derivative *afzal* 'better', often used as an epithet for a learned man.

Agace

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 14
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

English: see *Agass*.

Agan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 32, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 67
- **Main GB location 1881:** N England: esp. Northumb

Irish: from Ó hAodhagáin, see *Egan*.

Agar

Variants: *Agard, Agars, Eager, Haggard, Haggar, Hagar, Hagger, Hager*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1650, Ireland 116
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1153
- **Main GB location 1881:** N England: esp. NR Yorks; also Leics; London
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Carlow and Kilkenny; Down

English: variant of *Algar, Augar*, or *Edgar*.

Early bearers: Johannes Aggare, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Cranford, Middx); William Agar, 1518–29 in *Chancery Proceedings* (York); William Agar, 1521 in *York Freeman's Register*; Richardus Agar, 1579 in *IGI* (Marske in Cleveland, NR Yorks); Alexander Agar, 1557 in *IGI* (Saint James Garlickhithe, London); Walter Agar of London, 1589–92 in *TNA* (London).

Agard

- **Current frequencies:** GB 122, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 22
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Middx; Derbys and Notts

English: (i) variant of *Agar* with excrement -*d*. (ii) alternatively a variant of *Haggard* with loss of initial *H*.

Early bearers: Arthur Agar, 1540 in *IGI* (Foston, Derbys); William Agard, 1610 in *PROB 11* (Foston, Derbys); George Agard, 1561 in *IGI* (Staffs); John Agard, 1596 in *IGI* (London).

Agars

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 50
- **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks, ER Yorks

English: variant of *Agar* with post-medieval excrement -*s*.

Agarwal

- **Current frequencies:** GB 779, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Hindu and Jain): see *Aggarwal*.

Agarwala

- **Current frequencies:** GB 51, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Hindu and Jain): see *Aggarwal*.

Agas

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 18
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

English: see *Agass*.

Agass

Variants: *Aggas, Agas, Aggiss, Agus, Aggus, Aguss, Agace, Haggis, Haggas*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 141, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 40
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English and Old French female personal name *Agace*, vernacular form of the Greek female personal name *Agathá*, based on the adjective *agathós* 'good'. Some of the following post-medieval bearers may alternatively belong with (2).

Early bearers: Robertus filius Agacie, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Roger Agace, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Robert Agaz, 1341 in *Lincs Royal Inquest* (Lincs); Robertus Agas, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Bridgham, Norfolk); Emma Hagase, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Arncliffe, WR Yorks); Thomas Agas, 1480 in *Ancient Deeds* 3 (Sussex); Isabella Agges, 1539 in *IGI* (Oxborough, Norfolk); Michael Agas, 1566 in *PROB 11* (City of London); Elizabeth Agas, 1577 in *IGI* (Earsham, Norfolk); Maria Hagas, 1577 in *IGI* (Boxley, Kent); William Hagas, 1578 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Thomas Agges, 1583 in *IGI* (Semer, Suffolk); Margareta Haggis, 1600 in *IGI* (Eaton Socon, Beds); Thomas Haggis, 1602 in *IGI* (Cheshunt, Herts); Thos. Haggis, 1618 in *IGI* (Ipswich, Suffolk); Richard Haggis, 1623, Edward Haggis, 1627, in *IGI* (Bottisham, Cambs); Willm. Haggis, 1623 in *IGI* (Caldecote, Herts); Matthew Agess, Thomas Aggis, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk).

2 English: see *Haggis*.

Agate

Variants: *Agates*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 456, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 498
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex and Surrey

1 English: locative name from Middle English *atte gate*, a *gate* 'at the gate' (Old English *geat*, dative plural *gatum*). Compare *Gate* (2).

Early bearers: Gilbert atte Gate, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); John a gate, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John atte Gate, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Robert atte Gate, 1357 in *Feet of Fines* (Brading, IoW); Thomas Agat', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (North Walsham, Norfolk); Thomas atte Gate, 1379 in *Yorks Poll Tax* (Yorks); Robertus atte Gate, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Bramley, Surrey); John atte Gate, 1403 in *Feet of Fines* (Canterbury, Kent); Thomas a Gate, 1501, Thomas Gate, 1540 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Lydd, Kent); Parnell Gate, 1508–9, John a Gate, 1513 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Barham, Kent); Thomas Agate, 1576 in *IGI* (Cowfold, Sussex); Francis Agate, 1580 in *Assize Rolls* (Surrey); John Agate, 1613 in *Assize Rolls* (Sussex); Thomas Agate, 1632 in *PROB 11* (Warnham, Sussex); Keziah Agate, 1716 in *IGI* (Nuthurst, Sussex).

Agates

2 Indian (Maharashtra): nickname Hindu (Brahman), based on Marathi *agte* 'live coal'. It is pronounced *ag-tay*.

Agates

- **Current frequencies:** GB 52, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
- **Main GB location 1881:** SE England

English: variant of **Agate**, with post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Early bearers: John Agates, 1583 in *IGI* (Balcombe, Sussex); Thoma Agates, 1587 in *IGI* (Cowfold, Sussex); Jonne Agates, 1596 in *IGI* (Seasalter, Kent).

Agathangelou

- **Current frequencies:** GB 110, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Greek (typically Cypriot): relationship name from an old genitive case of the Greek personal name *Agathangelos*, composed of the words *agathós* 'good' + *ángelos* 'messenger, angel'.

Agboola

- **Current frequencies:** GB 291, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Agboolá* (Yoruba *agbo olá* 'noble (family) circle').

References: *Oduyoye*, p. 12.

Age

- **Current frequencies:** GB 18, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 17
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall; Kent

English: of uncertain origin. In some cases it seems to be of Scottish origin.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is more numerous in the USA.

Early bearers: Edward Age, 1592 in *IGI* (Beaumont, Essex); Thomas Age, 1631 in *IGI* (Leeds, WR Yorks); John Age, 1797 in *IGI* (Tweedmouth, Northumb).

Agee

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2

Huguenot: (i) altered form of French *Desage*, a variant of *Desages*, locative name from Les Ages, the name of several places in various parts of France. (ii) altered form of the French personal name *Agé*, a variant of *Ager*, from Germanic *Adgari*, composed of the elements *adal* 'noble' + *gari* 'spear'.

Further information: This name is common in the USA, to which it was taken in 1690 by Mathieu Isaac Agee (c.1670–1761), a French Huguenot in the service of William of Orange.

References: <http://www.geni.com/projects/The-Agee-Family-in-America>.

Agent

- **Current frequencies:** GB 85, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 105
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey, Middx, Kent, and Sussex

English: variant of **Argent** with loss of *-r*.

Early bearers: Elizabeth Agent, 1694, Joseph Agent, 1715 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); James Agent, 1760, William Agent, 1762 in *IGI* (Caterham, Surrey); Jane

Argent, 1764, Elizabeth Agent, 1796 in *IGI* (Warlingham, Surrey).

Ager

Variants: **Eager**, **Agers**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1648, Ireland 11
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1151
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk and Essex; Northants

English: (i) if pronounced with a hard *g*, then a variant of either **Algar** or **Adger** (see **Edgar**), with loss of /d/ in the consonant cluster. Compare **Agar** and **Eager**. (ii) if pronounced with a soft *g*, then a variant of **Alger** (i).

Early bearers: Jhon Agar, 1562 in *IGI* (Bramfield, Suffolk); Clement Ager, 1598 in *IGI* (Bradfield Combust, Suffolk); Anne Agar, 1624, Nathaniel Ager, 1627 in *IGI* (Lavenham, Suffolk); Thos. Ager, 1628 in *IGI* (Bulmer, Essex); Nathaniel Ajer, 1731 in *IGI* (Creething All Saints, Suffolk).

Agers

- **GB frequency 1881:** 34
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx and Surrey; Lancs and WR Yorks

English: variant of **Ager** with post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Early bearers: Susan Agers, 1590 in *IGI* (Stock Harward, Essex); John Agers, 1596 in *IGI* (Kirklington, Notts).

Agg

Variants: **Egg**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 336, Ireland 14
- **GB frequency 1881:** 273
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

1 English: relationship name perhaps from the Middle English personal name *Agg(e)*, *Hagg(e)* (Old Scandinavian *Aggi*, of uncertain origin), although this is more usually found in N and E England in counties settled by Vikings; see **Hagg**. Some of the bearers cited here may belong to (2).

Early bearers: Henry Hagge, Henry Agge, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Somerset); Michael Hag', 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Stokenham, Devon); Vincent Hag, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Totnes, Devon); Julian' Hagge, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Dartmouth, Devon); Ursula Agg, 1578 in *IGI* (Cirencester, Gloucs); Anne Agge, 1588 in *IGI* (Winchcomb, Gloucs); Margaret Agg, 1598 in *IGI* (Castlemorton, Worcs); Henry Agg, 1603 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Elizabeth Hagge, 1614 in *IGI* (Bucklebury, Berks); John Agg, 1661 in *IGI* (Saint Bartholomew the Less, London); John Agge, 1674 in *IGI* (Bagendon, Gloucs); Priscilla Agg, 1696 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx); James Agg, 1699 in *IGI* (Coln Saint Dennis, Gloucs); Ann Agg, 1735 in *IGI* (Kintbury, Berks); Jaen Hagg, 1749, Thomas Agg, 1808 in *IGI* (Calne, Wilts); Mary Hagg, 1790 in *IGI* (Inkpen, Berks).

2 English: locative name of uncertain origin. Middle English *hagg* (Old Scandinavian *hogg*) 'woodland set aside for cutting' seems unlikely in SW England, for the term is recorded only in northern counties (see **Hagg**). Old English *haga* 'hedge, enclosure' normally becomes Middle English *haw* not *hag*, and Old English **hagga* 'haw, fruit of the hawthorn' is unlikely to form a simplex place-name or locative

surname, though it might lie behind Hag Hill in Great Hinton (Wilts), recorded as *Hagg Hill*, 1625 in *Place-Names of Wilts*, p. 142. The loss of initial *H-* in *Agg* for *Hagg* is commonplace in SW dialects.

Early bearers: Johanne atte Hag, Ricardo atte Hag, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Ramsbury, Wilts).

Aggar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 50, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 18

English: see **Agger**.

Aggarwal

Variants: **Agarwal**, **Agarwala**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 961, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Hindu and Jain): locative name denoting a person from either Agroha (Haryana) or Agar (Madhya Pradesh), with the addition of the suffix *-wāl* 'belonging to' (equivalent to *-er* in English, as in Londoner).

Aggas

- **Current frequencies:** GB 90, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 72
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk

English: see **Agass**.

Agger

Variants: **Agard**, **Aggar**, **Hagger**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 143, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 77
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs; Norfolk

1 English: variant of **Algar**, as suggested by the alternative spellings *Auger* and *Agar*.

Early bearers: Staffs John Auger, 1645 in *IGI* (Wolstanton, Staffs); Owen Agar, 1828 in *IGI* (Cheddleton, Staffs); James Agger, 1847 in *IGI* (West Bromwich, Staffs).

Norfolk Willms Agar, 1608, Ann Agger, 1628, Thomas Augar, 1633 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Sarah Agger, 1621, John Augur, 1623 in *IGI* (Heigham, Norfolk).

2 English: sometimes perhaps a variant of **Haggard**.

Early bearers: Henricus Agard, 1583 in *IGI* (Tatenhill, Staffs).

3 English: perhaps sometimes a variant of **Hagger**.

Agget

- **GB frequency 1881:** 3
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: see **Aggett**.

Aggett

Variants: **Agget**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 476, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 346
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: relationship name from a medieval pet form of the female personal names **Agnes** (see also **Annis**) or **Agace** (in modern times replaced by the original Greek form *Agatha*, from *agathós* 'good'; see **Agass**).

Early bearers: Gilbert Agote, 1301 in *Parliament Rolls* (Essex); Thomas Agot', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Wales, WR Yorks); Richard Agget, 1615 in *IGI* (Exminster, Devon); Simon Aggett, 1633 in *IGI* (Newton Saint Cyres, Devon); Edward Aggott, 1795 in *IGI* (South Molton, Devon).

Aggiss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 38, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 45
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk
- English: see **Agass**.

Aggrey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 180, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Ghanaian: nickname from Akan *aggrei*, perhaps related to Gã *agei* ‘firstborn’.

Aggus

- **Current frequencies:** GB 59, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 31
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk and Essex
- English: see **Agass**.

Agha

- **Current frequencies:** GB 385, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Muslim, Turkish: status name from Turkish *ağa* ‘leader, ruler’ (europeanized as *agha*), also used as a term for an Ottoman military rank.
Further information: *Aga Khan* is the title of the leader of the Ismaili sect of Shiite Muslims.

Agius

- **Current frequencies:** GB 618, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 5
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Monmouths
- Maltese: (i) nickname probably from a latinization of Greek *agios* (classical Greek *hagios*) ‘saintly, holy’, denoting a virtuous person. (ii) relationship name, nickname from the Arabic *‘adjūz* ‘old man’, used as a personal name.
Early bearers: Melita Schiaffma Agius, 1874 in *IGI* (Swansea, Glamorgan); George Agius, born in Malta, in *Census 1881* (Monmouth, Monmouths); Antonio Agius, born in Valletta, Malta, in *Census 1881* (Devon).
References: *Cassar*.

Agland

- **Current frequencies:** GB 48, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 101
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon
- English: (i) see **Ackland**. (ii) see **Hackland**.

Agnes

- Variants:** **Agness**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 62, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 59
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in England: esp. ER Yorks
- English: relationship name from the Old French and Middle English female personal name *Agnes*, which is a derivative of Greek *agnos* ‘pure, chaste’. See also **Anne** (2), **Annis**.
Early bearers: given names: Agnes de Papewurda, 1160 in *Pipe Rolls* (Cambs).
surnames: Hugo Agneis, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs); Robert Agnes, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); Johannes Agnes, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Sussex); Thomas Agnes, 1564 in *IGI* (Ware, Herts); Thomas Agnis alias Smith, 1618 in *PROB 11* (Great Sampford, Essex); Thos. Agness, 1778 in *IGI* (Colchester, Essex).

Agness

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 19
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- English: see **Agnes**.

Agnew

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3361, Ireland 1804
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1651
 - **Main GB location 1881:** SW Scotland; NW England
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Ulster: esp. Antrim
- 1 Norman, Scottish, English: locative name from Agneaux (Manche), which is recorded as *Agnels* in about 1135, *Agneax* in about 1210. The place-name apparently derives from Latin *agnellus* ‘little lamb’, Old French *agneau*, *agnelle* ‘lamb’ (Anglo-Norman French *aignel*, *aignau*), possibly denoting a sheep farm. For a similar toponymic application of an animal name compare the place-names Vieilles (Eure), from Latin *vitula*, Old French *veitle*, *veile* ‘heifer’. Some post-medieval examples cited here are likely to belong under (2).

Further information: A family called Agnew was granted the hereditary post of sheriff of Galloway by King David II.

Early bearers: England Mabel de Aignaus, Mabel de Agniws, 1208–9 in *Pleas*; Robert de Ayneaus, 1227 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Suffolk); Robert de Aygnel, 1249 in *Assize Rolls* (Wilts); Thomas de Aygneus, 1282 in *Patent Rolls* (Bucks); Thomas de Aigneux, 1322 in *Patent Rolls* (Northants); Andrew Agnew, 1701 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Margt. Agnew, 1709 in *IGI* (Carlisle, Cumb); Alexander Agneeu, 1709 in *IGI* (Gateshead, Durham); Ann Agnew, 1730 in *IGI* (Saint Giles Cripplegate, London); James Agnew, 1735 in *IGI* (Saint Martin Coney Street, York); Thos Agnew, 1741 in *IGI* (Marlborough, Wilts); Jn. Agneau, 1744 in *IGI* (Amphill, Beds). Scotland Charls Agnew, 1652 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Patrick Agnew, 1655 in *IGI* (Cupar, Fife); Marie Agnew, 1659 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks); John Agneaw, 1753 in *IGI* (Eccles, Berwicks).
References: *Noms de la Manche*, p. 65; *Noms de l'Eure*, p. 208.

2 Norman, English: nickname from Anglo-Norman French *aignel*, *aignau* ‘lamb’ (Old French *agneau*, *agnelle*).

Early bearers: Thomas Agnel, 1201–12 in *Red Book of the Exchequer* (Suffolk); Susanna Agniel, 1206 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Bucks); Lawrence Agnel, 1254, John Agnel, 1284 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Wilts); Nicholao Agnel, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Faulston, Wilts).

3 Irish: from Ó Gnímh, ‘descendant of Gníomh’, a byname meaning ‘activity’.

Early bearers: Thom mcDonell O’Gnyw, 1601 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6499; Ferflaha Ogneiffe and Bernard oge Ogneife, 1602 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6734 (Antrim).

Agombar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 205, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 96
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

Huguenot: relationship name from *Agombart*, an elliptical derivative of *fi ls à Gombert* ‘son of Gombert’, from the Continental Germanic personal name *Gundberht*, composed of the elements *gund* ‘war’ + *beraht* ‘bright’.

Early bearers: Abraham Agombar, 1701, Jacques Agombar, 1731, Guillaume Agombard, 1740 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street, London); Isaac Agombar, 1754 in *IGI* (Bethnal Green, Middx); Samuel Aggembaw, 1802 in *IGI* (Shoreditch, Middx); George Agambar, born in Stepney, Middx, in *Census 1881* (Beckenham, Kent).

References: *Morlet, Dictionnaire*.

Agostini

- **Current frequencies:** GB 123, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 6
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx
- Italian: relationship name based on the personal name *Agostino*, a pet form of *Agosto*, itself from Latin *Augustus*, from the adjective *augustus* ‘consecrated; majestic’, best known as the name of the first Roman emperor.

Agrawal

- **Current frequencies:** GB 530, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (Hindu and Jain): see **Aggarwal**.

Aguiar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 220, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Portuguese: locative name from any of several places in Portugal or Galicia so named, from Latin *aquilare* ‘haunt of eagles’ (a derivative of *aquila* ‘eagle’). Compare **Aguilar**.
Further information: This is probably one of the many names of Portuguese origin that were brought to Britain by people from Goa and other former Portuguese colonies on the W coast of India.
Early bearers: Naziezo Joze Arenjo Miranda Aguiar, 1830 in *IGI* (Saint Pancras, Middx); Lawrence D’Aguiar, born in Calcutta, India, in *Census 1881* (Westminster, Middx).

Aguilar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 296, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 9
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- Spanish and Portuguese: locative name from any of numerous places so named, such as Aguilar de Campóo in Palencia and Aguilar de la Frontera in Córdoba. The place-names mean ‘haunt of eagles’, from Latin *aquilare* (a derivative of *aquila* ‘eagle’). Compare **Aguiar**.
Early bearers: Jose Aguilar, born in Canary, in *Census 1881* (WR Yorks).

Aguillon

- **GB frequency 1881:**
- Norman, French: nickname from Old French *aiguillon* ‘goad’, perhaps in the sense ‘warrior’ (Latin *aculeius*). See *Tengvik*, p. 372.
Early bearers: Adelard aculeus, 1148 in *Winton Domesday* (Hants); Geoffrey Ageilun, about 1150 in *Danelaw Documents*; Roger Aguillon, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); William Aglyon, 1361 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Richard Aglon, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Devon).

Agus

- **Current frequencies:** GB 116, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 104
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk and Suffolk
- English: see **Agass**.

Aguss

- GB frequency 1881: 4
 - Main GB location 1881: London
- English: see **Agass**.

Agutter

Variants: **Gutter**

- Current frequencies: GB 172, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881: 144
 - Main GB location 1881: Northants and Beds
- English: locative name from Middle English *goter* ‘small channel or watercourse’ (Old French *goutiere*). *Agutter* preserves a reduced and fused form of the prepositional phrase *atte* ‘at the’, where *Gutter* does not.
- Early bearers:** Thomas de la Gotere, 1275 in *Kristensson, French*; William atte Gotere, 1316 in *Assize Rolls* (Northants); Andrew de la gotere, 1327 in *Kristensson, French*; Adam atte Goter, 1339 in *Assize Rolls* (Staffs); Johannes atte Gotere, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (High Wycombe, Bucks); Henricus atte Goter, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Wollaston, Northants); Margeria Attegutere, 1381 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); Jonathan Agutter, 1713 in *IGI* (Wymington, Beds).

Agyei

- Current frequencies: GB 363, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881: o
- Ghanaian: relationship name from Gã *agyei* ‘firstborn’. It is also an Akan patrilineal clan name.

Agyemang

- Current frequencies: GB 658, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881: o
- Ghanaian: nickname from a general Akan male given name *Agyeman*, said to mean ‘saviour of the nation’. It is also a *mmrane* (traditional by-name, sometimes rendered into English as *accolade name*) of people surnamed **Prempeh**.
- References:** Agyekum, Kofi (2006) The sociolinguistic of Akan personal names. *Nordic Journal of African Studies* 15.2, 206–235, at 218 and 223.

Ahad

- Current frequencies: GB 681, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881: o
- Muslim (Pakistan, India, Bangladesh): from Arabic *ahad* ‘one’, as in the compound ‘*Abdul-ahad*’ ‘servant of the One [i.e. Allah]’.

Ahamed

- Current frequencies: GB 321, Ireland 2
 - GB frequency 1881: o
- Muslim, Indian: of uncertain origin; possibly a variant of **Ahmad**.

Ahearn

- Current frequencies: GB 274, Ireland 91
 - GB frequency 1881: 125
 - Main GB location 1881: Lancs; London
 - Main Irish location 1847–64: Cork, Waterford, and Tipperary
- Irish: from Ó hEachthighearna, see **Ahern**.

Ahearne

- Current frequencies: GB 373, Ireland 4
 - GB frequency 1881: 25
 - Main GB location 1881: Jersey; Warwicks
 - Main Irish location 1847–64: Cork and Waterford
- Irish: from Ó hEachthighearna, see **Ahern**.

Ahern

Variants: **Aherne, Ahearn, Ahearne, Hearne**

- Current frequencies: GB 1404, Ireland 2718
 - GB frequency 1881: 303
 - Main GB location 1881: London; Lancs; Glamorgan
 - Main Irish location 1847–64: widespread: esp. Cork
- Irish: from Ó hEachthighearna ‘descendant of *Eachthighearna*’, a personal name from *each* ‘horse’ + *tighearna* ‘lord’, i.e. ‘lord of horses’.
- Early bearers:** Ireland Thomas Y Agheren, horseman, 1567 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1095 (Mogelly, Cork); Maurice macle mcDermodie oige I Ahirine, physician, 1567 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1078 (Comeraghe, Waterford); John mcMorish O’Haghierin, 1575 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2584 (Old Castelton, Cork); Conoghor keagh O Agheherin, husbandman, 1576 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2779 (Waterford); Donogh O’Herney, 1576 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2746 (Parke, Cork); Henry Hearne, 1582 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §3973; Morish O’Hearne, yeoman, 1602 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6624 (Aughman).
- England William Ahern, 1760 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs); William Ahearn, 1773 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Daniel Ahearne, 1839 in *IGI* (Clifton, Gloucs); John Aherne, 1842 in *IGI* (Whitechapel, Middx).

Aherne

Variants: **Hearne**

- Current frequencies: GB 919, Ireland 1480
 - GB frequency 1881: 62
 - Main GB location 1881: Glamorgan
 - Main Irish location 1847–64: Cork; also Limerick
- Irish: from Ó hEachthighearna, see **Ahern**.

Ahier

Variants: **Ahir**

- Current frequencies: GB 63, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881: 304
 - Main GB location 1881: Jersey
- French: from Continental Germanic *Agihar*, formed of **ag-*, of uncertain origin, + **hari-*, **heri-* ‘army’.
- Early bearers:** John Ahier, in *Census 1841* (Channel Islands).

Ahir

Variants: **Ahier**

- Current frequencies: GB 227, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881: o
- Indian: ethnic name from *Ahir*, the name of an ethnic group with strong ties to the Yadav community.

Ahluwalia

- Current frequencies: GB 818, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: o

Indian (Sikh): locative name denoting ‘person from Ahlu’, from the place-name *Ahlu* + *-wālīā*, a Panjabi adjectival suffix.

Ahmad

Variants: **Ahamed, Ahmet**

- Current frequencies: GB 10030, Ireland 60
 - GB frequency 1881: 1
- Muslim: see **Ahmed**.

Ahmadi

- Current frequencies: GB 883, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: o

Arabic, Muslim: Arabic name meaning ‘descended from or associated with someone called **Ahmad**’.

Ahmed

Variants: **Ahmad, Ahmet**

- Current frequencies: GB 54477, Ireland 208
- GB frequency 1881: 6

Muslim (widespread throughout the Muslim world): from the Arabic personal name *Aḥmad* ‘the most praised’, an epithet of the prophet Muhammad, from the same Arabic root as the name *Muhammad*.

Ahmet

- Current frequencies: GB 1312, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881: o
- Muslim, Turkish: the normal Turkish form of **Ahmed**.

Ahn

- Current frequencies: GB 125, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: 2

Korean: (안, **Ahn**; Chinese character 安, meaning ‘peace’) borne by descendants of Yee Wōn (李 瑗), who migrated from Tang China to the Shilla Kingdom in AD 807. Yi had three sons who helped the Shilla king Kyōngmun repel Japanese invaders. As a token of royal appreciation, these three sons were granted the surname An (安) and enfeoffed with land. Their descendants formed six distinct clans.

Ahrens

- Current frequencies: GB 165, Ireland 2
- GB frequency 1881: 62
- Main GB location 1881: Middx

1 N German, Dutch: relationship name patronymic from the male given name *Arend*, which is derived from *arn* ‘eagle’. Compare **Arnold**.

Early bearers: Joanna Sabina *Ahrens*, 1765 in *IGI* (Saint Martin in the Fields, Middx); Meinolph *Ahrens*, 1781 in *IGI* (Kirkharle, Northumb); Claus *Ahrens*, 1813 in *IGI* (Saint Katherine by the Tower, London); Ann *Ahrens*, daughter of Henericks *Ahrens*, 1815 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Diederich *Ahrens*, born in Germany, in *Census 1861* (Clerkenwell, Middx); Nicolaus *Census 1881*, born in Hanover, Germany, in *Census 1881* (Middx); Adolph *Ahrens*, born in Germany, in *Census 1891* (Chorlton cum Hardy, Lancs); Fritz *Ahrens*, born in Germany, in *Census 1901* (Liverpool, Lancs).

2 Jewish (Ashkenazic): assimilation of the Jewish patronymic *Aarons* to the North German and Dutch name.

Early bearers: Isidor Ahrens, in *Census 1861* (Yorks); Isodor Ahrens, born in Hamburg, Germany, in *Census 1881* (Chorlton on Medlock, Lancs).

Ahsan

- Current frequencies: GB 554, Ireland 5
- GB frequency 1881: o

Muslim (Pakistan, Bangladesh): from a personal name based on Arabic *aḥsan*, superlative form of *ḥasan* ‘good’.

Ahuja

- Current frequencies: GB 365, Ireland 1
- GB frequency 1881: o

Indian: relationship name from Hindu (Arora, Jat) and Sikh, denoting ‘descendant of *Ahu*’.

Aicheson

- GB frequency 1881: 2
- Scottish, English: see **Aitchison**.

Aicken

- Current frequencies: GB 54, Ireland 187
- GB frequency 1881: 10
- Main Irish location 1847–64: Antrim and Down
- N Irish: see **Aitken**.

Aickin

- Current frequencies: GB 13, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 15
- Main GB location 1881: Lancs
- English: see **Aitken**.

Aidoo

- Current frequencies: GB 303, Ireland 1
- GB frequency 1881: 0
- Ghanaian: unexplained; a Fante name.

Aiello

- Current frequencies: GB 127, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 0
- Italian: locative name from any of several places in southern Italy called Aiello.

Aiers

- Current frequencies: GB 26, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 15
- Main GB location 1881: Warwicks
- English: see **Ayres**.

Aiken

- Current frequencies: GB 858, Ireland 529
- GB frequency 1881: 480
- Main GB location 1881: Aberdeens
- Main Irish location 1847–64: Ulster: esp. Tyrone, Antrim, and Derry
- Scottish, Irish: see **Aitken**.

Aikenhead

- Current frequencies: GB 117, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 128
- Main GB location 1881: Kincardines and Angus; Lanarks; Durham
- Scottish: see **Aitkenhead**.

Aikens

- Current frequencies: GB 93, Ireland 6
- GB frequency 1881: 32
- Main GB location 1881: Durham; Cambs
- English: see **Atkins**.

Aikin

- Current frequencies: GB 58, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 112
- Main GB location 1881: Lancs
- English: see **Aitken**.

Aikins

- Current frequencies: GB 103, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 19
- Main GB location 1881: scattered
- English: see **Atkins**.

Aikman

- Current frequencies: GB 570, Ireland 2

- GB frequency 1881: 618
- Main GB location 1881: Midlothian and Lanarks
- Scottish: relationship name from an Older Scots personal name, *Akeman* (Old English **Ācmann*, composed of elements meaning ‘oak’ + ‘man’). This surname is thriving in Scotland, but the English equivalent, *Akeman*, has virtually died out.
- Early bearers:** Scotland Alisaundre Akeman, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Lanarks); John Hekman, 1400 in *Scottish Arms* (Montrose); Robert Aikman, 1564 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); George Aikmane, 1617 in *IGI* (Leith, Midlothian); John Aikman, 1670 in *IGI* (Arbroath, Angus); James Aikman, 1716 in *IGI* (Lanark, Lanarks).
- England Heruey filius Akeman, 1188 in *Pipe Rolls* (Gloucs); Henry filius Akemon, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); William Akemon, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Adam Akeman, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (South Lynn, Norfolk); Andryan Akeman, 1588 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); John Aikman, 1683 in *IGI* (Saint Martin in the Fields, Middx); John Akeman, 1731 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb).

Ailes

- Current frequencies: GB 46, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 38
- Main GB location 1881: S England; also Lancs
- English: see **Ayles**.

Ailey

- Current frequencies: GB 32, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 23
- Main GB location 1881: Middx and Essex
- English: see **Ayley**.
- Further information:** This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Ailward

- Current frequencies: GB 33, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 25
- Main GB location 1881: Bucks and Oxon
- English: see **Aylward**.

Aimer

- Current frequencies: GB 52, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 60
- Main GB location 1881: Angus
- Scottish: see **Aymer**.

Aimers

- Current frequencies: GB 43, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 54
- Main GB location 1881: Angus
- Scottish: variant of **Aymer** with genitival or post-medieval excrescent -s.

Aimson

- Current frequencies: GB 138, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 10
- English: altered form of **Amison**.

Aina

- Current frequencies: GB 378, Ireland 5
- GB frequency 1881: 0
- Nigerian (Yoruba): nickname from the Yoruba *àmùtòrunwá* or circumstance name *Àiná*, traditionally given to a child born with the umbilical cord round the neck, though originally to a female only.
- References:** *Oduyoye*, p. 85–6.

Aindow**Variants: Aindow**

- Current frequencies: GB 387, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 176
- Main GB location 1881: Lancs
- English: relationship name probably from an Old Scandinavian personal name **Einúlfr*, via a form **Eindulfr*, composed of the elements *einn* ‘one, single’ + *úlfr* ‘wolf’, or perhaps meaning simply ‘lone wolf’.
- Further information:** The surname is closely associated with the Liverpool area, and the suggested personal name in its original form appears as the first element of the surname recorded in the 12th century as *de Aynulvisdale*, as *de Haynuldisdal* in 1246, and as *de Aynaltesdale*, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Formby, Lancs), representing the manor of Ainsdale in Formby.
- Early bearers:** Ellen Andowe, 1613 in *IGI* (Mellingby Maghull, Lancs); Katherin Ayndowe, 1636, Ann Andoe, 1692 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs); John Ainedoe, 1654 in *IGI* (Walton on the Hill, Lancs); Anne Endowe, 1656, Thomas Ayndoe, 1667, Ann Andow, 1796 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs); Richard Aindoe, 1660, 1762, Thomas Andow, 1672, 1812 in *IGI* (North Meols, Lancs); Gilbert Aindoe, 1663, Henery Ando, 1697, Catherine Endow, 1790, William Aindow, 1836 in *IGI* (Formby, Lancs).
- References:** *Surnames of Lancs*, p. 19.

Ainge

- Current frequencies: GB 633, Ireland 5
- GB frequency 1881: 408
- Main GB location 1881: Midlands; London
- English: reduced form of **Ainger**.

Ainger**Variants: Anger, Angier, Aunger, Ainge, Angers, Aungiers**

- Current frequencies: GB 462, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 343
- Main GB location 1881: E Anglia: esp. Essex
- 1 Norman, English: relationship name from the Old French and Middle English personal name *Aunger*, *Anger*, which is either from *An(s)ger*, a Norman French form of Old Scandinavian *Asgeirr* (composed of the elements *áss* ‘(pagan) god’ + *geirr* ‘spear’), or a derivative of Old French *Ang(i)er*, from the cognate Continental Germanic personal name *Ansgar*.
- Compare **Anker**, which is from an alternative form of *Ansgar*.
- Early bearers:** given names: Ansgarus, Ansgar, Angarus, Angerus, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Angerus de Middleton, 1191 in *Pipe Rolls* (Suffolk); Aunger the Pheliper, 1277 in *London Letter Books A* (London).
- surnames: Lefuine Anger, about 1095 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents* (Suffolk); Willelmus Angeri, 1197 in *Pipe Rolls* (Warwicks); John Aunger, John Anger, 1279–80 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); William Aunger, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ampney Crucis, Gloucs); Gilbert Aunger, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Buckland Monachorum, Devon); Willelmus Aunger, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Reedness, WR Yorks); Willelmus Aunger, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (South Creak, Norfolk); Johannes Anger, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Newton, Warwicks); Nicholaus Aunger, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Lamarsh, Essex); Johannes Anger, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Sheriff Hales, Staffs); William Aunger, 1455 in *Feet of Fines* (Lincs); John Aunger, 1539 in *IGI* (Lezant, Cornwall); John Anger, 1540, Mary Aunger, 1577 in *IGI* (Northam, Devon); Elizabeth Anger, 1542, Alice Aunger, 1551 in

IGI (Conington, Cambs); Wyllyam Anger, 1542 in *IGI* (East Hanningfield, Essex); Harry Aunger, 1570, Charles Angier, 1586 in *IGI* (Saint Minver, Cornwall); George Anger, 1570, George Ainger, 1577 in *IGI* (Saint Olave Hart Street, London); Georgij Ange, 1565, Androw Ainge, 1576, Frauncisca Ainger, 1633 in *IGI* (Stratford upon Avon, Warwicks); Steven Aunger, 1589, Mathew Angier, 1633 in *IGI* (Raydon, Suffolk); John Ainge, 1607 in *IGI* (Saint Helen Bishopsgate, London); Wyllm. Angier, 1616 in *IGI* (Comberton, Cambs); Thomas Angier, 1638 in *IGI* (Chipping Ongar, Essex); John Ainger, 1682 in *IGI* (Bourn, Cambs); Peter Ainger, 1688 in *IGI* (Ipswich, Suffolk). 2 Norman, English: occasionally perhaps a reduced form of **Aungiers**, but the early bearers may equally well belong with (1).

Early bearers: Johannes Aungier, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Salisbury, Wilts); John Ainger, 1541, John Anger, 1546, Joane Angier, 1620 in *IGI* (Wantage, Berks); Thomas Anger, 1603 in *IGI* (Terrington, NR Yorks).

Ainley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1127, Ireland 20
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1186
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: locative name from Ainleys in Elland (WR Yorks), which is recorded as *Auundeieia*, *Aghenlay* in the 12th century, *Auuindeley* in 1349, and *Ayneley Grange* in 1497. The place-name derives from Old English *lēah* ‘open woodland’ with an uncertain first element, perhaps an Old Scandinavian personal name **Qgundr* (earlier **Aguvindr*) or **Auðundr* (earlier **Auðvindr*).

Early bearers: William de Avenley, 1297 in *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames* (Rastrick, WR Yorks); Johannes de Anley, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Elland, WR Yorks); Thomas Anelay, 1443 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (Rastrick, WR Yorks); Johana Aynley, 1544 in *IGI* (Kirkburton, WR Yorks); Richard Aynlay, 1548 in *York Freeman's Register* (York); Robertus Aynelaye, 1558 in *IGI* (Almondbury, WR Yorks); Margareta Anelay, 1564, Maria Ainlay, 1596 in *IGI* (Elland, WR Yorks); Johes. Anelay, 1599 in *IGI* (Almondbury, WR Yorks).

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 3, pp. 43–4; *WR Yorks Surnames*, p. 202.

Ainsbury

- **Current frequencies:** GB 148, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 76
- **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs

English: see **Hanbury**.

Ainscough

Variants: **Ainscow**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1326, Ireland 56
- **GB frequency 1881:** 806
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: (i) locative name apparently from a lost or unidentified place called *Ainscough* or similar, probably in Lancs. If so, the place-name would have Old Scandinavian *skógr* ‘wood’ as its second element. (ii) alternatively, a variant of **Askew** (compare **Ayscough**) with intrusive *-n-*.

Early bearers: Agnes Aynscowe, 1559 in *IGI* (Chorley, Lancs); Margaret Aynscow, Robert Ainscow, John Aynscough, 1567 in *Wigan Archives* (Ince in Makerfield, Lancs); James Aynscough, 1600 in *IGI* (Brindle, Lancs); Henrici Ainscough, 1625 in *IGI*

(Preston, Lancs); An Ainscow, 1633 in *IGI* (Wigan, Lancs); John Ainscough, 1716 in *IGI* (Blackrod, Lancs).

Ainscow

- **Current frequencies:** GB 298, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 353
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: see **Ainscough**.

Ainsley

Variants: **Aynsley**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1248, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 838
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham and Northumb

1 English: locative name from Annesley (Notts), which is recorded as *Aneslei* in 1086, *Anseleia* in about 1190, *Annesleg* in 1218, and *Ansley* in 1590. The place-name derives from Old English *lēah* ‘open woodland’ with an uncertain first element, perhaps an Old English personal name **Ān* (genitive **Ānes*) or **Ann* (genitive **Annes*). Some of the bearers cited here may belong to (2). Compare Scottish **Ainslie**.

Early bearers: Thoma de Anesley, clerk, about 1240, Rogero de Anyslegh, 1240–58, Sire Johan de Annesley, 1330, Hugoni de Annesleye, 1383 in *Nottingham Borough Records* (Notts); Ada de Anslay, 1241, Reginaldo de Annesleya, about 1220–65 in *Thurgarton Cartulary* (Notts); Ralph de Anesleye, 1271 in *Patent Rolls* (Notts); Hugh de Annesley, 1390 in *Patent Rolls* (Notts); Hugh Aynsley, esquire, 1468 in *Feet of Fines* (Northants); William Aynsley, 1546 in *IGI* (Egglecliffe, Durham); Bryan Annesley, 1604 in *PROB 11* (Lee, Kent); Christopher Ainsley, 1651 in *IGI* (Staindrop, Durham); Adam Aynesley, 1652 in *Parish Registers* (Rothwell, WR Yorks); William Ainesley, 1739 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb).

References: *Place-Names of Notts*, p. 112; *Ekwall, DEPN*, p. 10; *Watts, Dictionary*, p. 14; *Mills, Dictionary*, p. 14. 2 English: locative name from Ansley (Warwicks), which is recorded as *Aneslea* in 1174, *Anesteleye* in 1235, *Anstlee* in 1332, and *Ansley* in 1426. The place-name derives from Old English *lēah* ‘open woodland’ with an uncertain first element, perhaps Old English *ānsetl* ‘hermitage, solitary building’.

Early bearers: William de Anesleye, 1247 in *Medieval Coventry* (Warwicks); Robert Ansle, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Bilton, Warwicks).

References: *Place-Names of Warwicks*, pp. 75–6; *Vocabulary of English Place-Names*, at *ānsetl*.

Ainslie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1136, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 790
- **Main GB location 1881:** SE Scotland

English, Scottish: locative name brought to Scotland from Annesley (Notts) or, less probably, Ansley (Warwicks). See **Ainsley**.

Further information: The family first appears in Scotland attached to the church establishment of Glasgow during the episcopate of Walter of Saint Albans (1208–32). William of Ainslie was a steward and clerk of Bishop Walter. The first lay member of the family in Scotland was one Aymer of Ainslie, a knight, in the 1240s, and a John of Ainslie apparently held land at Crossford, Lanarks, in the 1290s; however, the family seem to have mainly been active in Roxburghs and Fife in the Middle Ages.

Early bearers: Scotland William de Anslee, canon, 1218–21 in *Paisley Register* (Glasgow); Thomas de Aneslei, 1221 in *Glasgow Register*; Sir Aymer de Aynesley, knight, 1249 in *Acts of Parliaments of Scotland*; John de Anesley, knight, c.1290 in *Family of Wemyss* (Fife); John son of John of Anesleye, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Roxburghs); Adam de Aynesleye, 1357 in *Scotland Calendar* (Roxburgh, Roxburghs); William de Aynesley, 1377 in *Great Seal of Scotland* (Dolfynston, Roxburghs); Meg Ainslie, 1599 in *IGI* (Kelso, Roxburghs); Johne Ainslie, 1600 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Mathow Ainslie, 1643 in *IGI* (Ormiston, E Lothian); Daniel Ainslie, 1715 in *IGI* (Selkirk, Selkirk).

Ainson

- **GB frequency 1881:** 24
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; also Durham
- English: variant of **Hainson** with loss of initial *H-*.

Ainsworth

Variants: **Aynsworth**, **Hainsworth**, **Answoth**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 6256, Ireland 110
- **GB frequency 1881:** 5924
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs, WR Yorks, and Cheshire

1 English: locative name from Ainsworth (Lancs), which is recorded as *Haineswrthe* in about 1200 and *Aynsworth* in 1292. The place-name means ‘Ægen’s enclosure’, from an Old English personal name **Ægen* (genitive **Ægenes*) + *word* ‘enclosure, curtilage’.

Early bearers: John de Ainesworth, 1281, John de Aynsworth, 1285 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Roger de Hayneswrth, 1293 in *Northumb Eyre Roll* (Northumb); Will’o de Aynsworth’, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lostock with Rumworth, Lancs); Elia de Aynsworth’, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Middleton by Oldham, Lancs); John de Aynsworth, 1401 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Alice Aynsworth, 1564 in *IGI* (Church Minshall, Cheshire); George Ainsworth, 1569 in *IGI* (Winwick, Lancs); Henry Ainswoorth or Ainsworth, 1600 in *PROB 11* (London); Thomae Ainsworth, 1635 in *IGI* (Heswall, Cheshire).

References: *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 53.

2 English: In WR Yorks the name was a variant of or confused with **Hainsworth**.

Early bearers: Thomas Hainsworth, 1663, Mary Ainsworth, 1668 in *IGI* (Leeds, WR Yorks).

Air

- **Current frequencies:** GB 183, Ireland 7
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 181
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Angus; Northumb
- Scottish: see **Ayr**.

Aird

Variants: **Ard**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1694, Ireland 32
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1558
- **Main GB location 1881:** Glasgow; Ross and Cromarty
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down

Scottish: (i) locative name from the medieval lordship of The Aird (Inverness). (ii) locative name from Aird Farm near Hurlford (Ayr).

Early bearers: Christian de Lard, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Dunbar); John son of Christian de le Ard, 1314–25 in *Beaully Priory Charters* (Kilmorack,

Inverness); John son of Hugh de Ard, 1361 in *Moray Register* (Inverness); Nicol Ard, William Ard, 1526 in *Privy Seal of Scotland Register* (Ayr); Donald Ard, 1536 in *Privy Seal of Scotland Register*; Christian Aird, 1617 in *IGI* (Edinburgh); Isobel Aird, 1685 in *IGI* (Loudoun, Ayr); William Aird of Neitherburntschellis, 1687 in *Retours, Scotland* (Ayr).

Airdrie

Variants: Ardrey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 99, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 65
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wigtowns

Scottish: locative name from Airdrie (Lanarks), which is recorded thus in 1584, or from any of the farms so named in Kirkcudbrights, Fife, and Nairn. The place-names mean 'high slope', from Gaelic *ard* + *ruigh*.

Early bearers: Mary Airdrie, 1791 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks); John Airdrie, 1798 in *IGI* (Kirkmaiden by Drummore, Wigtowns); David Airdrie, 1797 in *IGI* (Stoneykirk, Wigtowns); David Airdrie, 1857 in *IGI* (Cupar, Fife).

References: *Mills, Dictionary*, p. 6; *Names of Towns and Cities*, pp. 37–8.

Aires

- **Current frequencies:** GB 51, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 64
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Warwicks
- English: see **Ayres**.

Airey

Variants: Ayrey, Airy, Ary, Arey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2579, Ireland 41
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2249
- **Main GB location 1881:** N England: esp. Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Galway

English: locative name from Aira Beck alias Airy Beck, which runs through the parishes of Matterdale and Watermillock and into Ullswater at Aira Point (Cumb). The river-name is recorded as *Ayrauhe beke* in about 1250, *riuulum de Ayra* in 1292, *Ayragh* in 1316, and *Arey* in 1582. It derives from Old Scandinavian *eyrr* 'gravel bank' + *á* 'river, stream'.

Further information: The surname appears in the place-names Airy's Bridge in Borrowdale (*Place-Names of Cumb*, p. 352) and Airygirl Lane in Great Strickland (*Place-Names of Westm* ii, p. 150). From 1508 to 1774 the surname was usually spelt *Airy*, with variants *Ayraie*, *Ayree*, *Arye*, and *Aery*, and occasionally *Eyree*, *Eyree*.

Early bearers: Robert de Hayra, 1301 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Lancs and Westm); [... de] Ayraw, 1301 in *Place-Names of Cumb* (Cumb); Robert de Ayrawe, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Threlkeld, Cumb); Anne Airey, 1558 in *IGI* (Kendal, Westm); Christopher Airaie, 1603, Jane Araye, 1634 in *Place-Names of Cumb* (Cumb); John Ary, 1617, Christopher Airy, 1647 in *York Freeman's Register* (York); James Airey, 1677 in *IGI* (Dacre, Cumb); Margaret Airey, 1677 in *IGI* (Clitheroe, Lancs); Christopher Aira, 1690 in *IGI* (Wigton, Cumb).

References: *Place-Names of Cumb*, pp. 3, 254.

Airley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 68, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 97
 - **Main GB location 1881:** N England and S Scotland
- Scottish, English: see **Airlie**.

Airlie

Variants: Airley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 405, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 124
- **Main GB location 1881:** Scotland: esp. Lanarks, Midlothian, and Angus

Scottish: locative name from Airlie (Angus).

Early bearers: Jannet Airlie, 1811 in *IGI* (Girvan, Ayr); Margaret Airley, 1815 in *IGI* (Eastwood, Renfrews); Letitia Airlie, 1850 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks); Ann Airlie, 1852 in *IGI* (Cupar, Fife).

Airs

- **Current frequencies:** GB 151, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 132
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants

English: see **Ayres**.

Airth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 174, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 186
- **Main GB location 1881:** Angus and Kincardines

Scottish: locative name from Airth (Stirlings).

Early bearers: Richard de Erthe, 1221–6 in *Glasgow Register* (Lanarks); William de Arthe, 1240–87 in *Cambuskenneth Register* (Stirlings); Bernard de Erth, 1253–5 in *Saint Andrews Charters* (Fife); William of Erth, 1296–1300 in *Laing Charters*; Thomas de Arth, 1331 in *Acts of Parliaments of Scotland*; Bessie Airth, 1609 in *IGI* (Monifieth, Angus); Beatrix Airth, 1616 in *IGI* (Aberdeen); George Airth, 1649 in *IGI* (Dairsie, Fife).

Airton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 98, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 150
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Ayrton**.

Airy

- **Current frequencies:** GB 33, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 99
 - **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks; Suffolk
- English: see **Airey**.

Aisbett

- **Current frequencies:** GB 44, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 38
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham

English: see **Aisbitt**.

Aisbitt

Variants: Aisbett

- **Current frequencies:** GB 202, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 72
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb and Durham

English: variant of **Archibald**. Compare **Archbutt**.

Early bearers: Robartt Arsbutt, 1619, Seath Arsbut, 1662 in *IGI* (York); Thomas Arsbitt, 1680 in *IGI* (Bamburgh, Northumb); Robert Aisbit, 1689, Elizabeth Aisbet, 1707, Rebecca Aisbith, 1747 in *IGI* (Gateshead, Durham); William Arsbitt, 1704 in *TNA* (South Shields, Durham); James Asbeth, 1727 in *IGI* (Chester le Street, Durham); Mary Airesbitt, 1736 in *IGI* (Woodhorn, Northumb); Thomas Esbutt, 1740 in *IGI* (Stokesley, NR Yorks); Isabel Eazbit, 1751 in *IGI* (Hexham, Northumb); Sarah Aisbeth, 1755 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Jane Esbitt, 1755 in *IGI* (Kingston upon Hull, ER Yorks); John Aisbith, 1768 in *IGI* (Ponteland, Northumb).

Aish

- **Current frequencies:** GB 95, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 114
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset and Dorset
- English: see **Ash**.

Aishford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 6

English: see **Ashford**.

Aislabe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 53, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 20
- **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks, ER Yorks, and Notts

English: from either of two places called Aislaby (Durham, NR Yorks).

Early bearers: surnames: Henry de Aslaby, 1379 in *Yorks Poll Tax*; William Aslakeby or Aislaby, 1572 in *Bardsley*.

Aisthorpe

Variants: Aistrop

- **Current frequencies:** GB 270, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 74
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: locative name from Aisthorpe (Lincs), which is recorded as *Estorp* in 1086, *Asthorp* in 1278, and *Aystorp* in 1426. The place-name derives from Old English *ēast* 'east' + Old Scandinavian or Old English *þorp* 'secondary settlement, outlying farmstead'.

Early bearers: [... de] Estorp, 1200 in *Place-Names of Lincs* (Lincs); Ricardo de Astorp', 1258–62 in *Registrum Antiquissimum* (Lincs); John de Asthorp, 1311 in *Close Rolls* (North Kelsey, Lincs); Nicholaus de Asthorp, 1346 in *Feudal Aids* (Coningsby, Lincs); Thomas de Estthorp', 1361 in *Feet of Fines* (Great Steeping, Lincs); William Aystorp', 1370 in *Feet of Fines* (Devon); Thomas Astorp', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Lincs); Thome de Asthorp', 1383 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs); Henry Aistrophe, 1598 in *IGI* (Ingham, Lincs); Johis Astrop, 1601, Johes Aistrop, 1603 in *IGI* (Hemswell, Lincs); Willm. Astropp, 1632 in *IGI* (Sturton le Steeple, Notts); Symon Asthorp, 1690, Simon Astrop, 1702 in *IGI* (Goltho with Bullington, Lincs); John Aisthorpe, 1737 in *IGI* (Scotton, Lincs); Anne Astrop, 1826 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb).

References: *Place-Names of Lincs* 7, p. 2.

Aiston

- **Current frequencies:** GB 283, Ireland 6
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 152
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb and Durham
- English: unexplained.

Early bearers: Catherine Aiston, 1588 in *IGI* (Whickham, Durham); Robert Haiston, 1636 in *IGI* (Gateshead, Durham); Gulielmus Aiston, 1683 in *IGI* (Hexham, Northumb).

Aistrop

- **Current frequencies:** GB 149, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 62
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs and ER Yorks
- English: see **Aisthorpe**.

Aitcheson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 201, Ireland 49
- **GB frequency 1881:** 289
- **Main GB location 1881:** central Scotland
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim

Scottish: see **Aitchison**.

Aitchison

Variants: Acheson, Atcheson, Aitcheson, Aitcheson, Aicheson, Atchinson, Atchison

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3409, Ireland 18
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 2099
 - **Main GB location 1881:** S Scotland and Northumb
- Scottish, English: relationship name, Scottish and N English form of **Atkinson**, recorded in Scotland as *Atzinson*, 1475, *Achesoun*, 1497, *Atyesoun*, 1540, and *Aicheson*, 1590 (*Black*) and in Cumb as *Attchison*, 1596 (*Cumb and Westm Transactions* viii). The *z*, representing the Old English letter *ȝ*, was pronounced *y* and *Atyeson* became *Acheson* in the same way as the colloquial ‘got you’ became ‘gotcha’. **Early bearers:** John Aichinson, 1571 in *IGI* (Greatham, Durham); Archibald Acheson, 1579 in *IGI* (Edinburgh); Agneta Atcheson, 1584 in *IGI* (Morpeth, Northumb); Marc Aichesone, 1590 in *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland* (E Lothian); Janet Aicheson, 1631 in *IGI* (Liberton, Midlothian); James Achisone, 1676 in *Retours, Scotland* (Dumfriess).

Aitken

Variants: Aitkin, Aiken, Aikin, Aicken, Aickin, Akin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10092, Ireland 108
- **GB frequency 1881:** 7814
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim

Scottish: nickname; Scottish form of **Atkin**, a pet form of the personal name *Adam*.

Early bearers: given names: Atkyn de Barr, 1340 in *Ayr Friars Charters* (Ayr); Aitkane of Dunsleson, 1482 in Fraser, *The Lennox*.

surnames, Scotland: Andrew Atkin, 1469 in *Aberdeen Council Register* (Aberdeen); William Ackin, 1476 in *Brechin Register* (Brechin, Angus); Robert Aykkyne, burgess, 1539 in *New Spalding Miscellany* (Aberdeen); James Aitkine, 1685 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Darnchester, Berwicks).

surnames, England: Robert Aitkins, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk).

Aitkenhead

Variants: Aikenhead, Akenhead

- **Current frequencies:** GB 519, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 355
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lanarks

Scottish: locative name from Aitkenhead in Lanarks. **Early bearers:** Gilbert de Lakenheued, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Lanarks); Convallus de Akinhead, 1372 in *Lennox Cartulary* (Auchmar, Stirlings); William de Akynheued, bailie, 1376 in *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland* (Rutherglen, Lanarks); William de Akinhede, notary, 1444 in *Irvine Muniments* (Irvine, Ayr); Patrick Aikenhead, 1612, Margaret Aitkenhead, 1668 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks); Petri Akenhead, 1675 in *IGI* (Saint John Lee, Northumb); Robert Akinhead, 1738 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb).

Aitkens

- **Current frequencies:** GB 50, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 63

- **Main GB location 1881:** Lanarks, Wigtowns
- Scottish: see **Atkins**.

Aitkin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 149, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 513
- **Main GB location 1881:** N England and S Scotland: esp. Lancs

English, Scottish: see **Aitken**.

Aitkins

- **Current frequencies:** GB 74, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 75
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lanarks; Sutherland
- Scottish: see **Atkins**.

Aiton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 256, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 191
 - **Main GB location 1881:** central Scotland
- Scottish: see **Ayton**.

Aizlewood

- **Current frequencies:** GB 120, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 67
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Hazelwood**.

Ajaib

- **Current frequencies:** GB 327, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (Panjab): from a male given name of the same form, used by Sikhs but not exclusively.

Ajala

- **Current frequencies:** GB 302, Ireland 5
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Nigerian (Yoruba): from *Àjàlà*, a Yoruba *oríkì* or praise-name used as a personal or pet-name, understood as ‘(child) who shall fight and wear down his opponent’. The element *à* forms abstract nouns from verb phrases.

Ajayi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1460, Ireland 8
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Nigerian (Yoruba): from the personal name *Àjàyí*, a Yoruba *àmúṭòrunwá* or circumstance name, traditionally given to a child born with the face turned downwards.

Ajaz

- **Current frequencies:** GB 259, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Muslim (Pakistan, India): probably from a personal name based on Arabic *ʾíjāz* ‘miracle’.
- References:** *Ahmed*.

Ajibade

- **Current frequencies:** GB 263, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Nigerian (Yoruba): from the personal name *Ajibádé* (Yoruba *a jí bá adé* ‘(one) who awakes to find a crown (in the family)’).

Ajimal

- **Current frequencies:** GB 118, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Panjab): Hindu (Khatri) and Sikh, based on the name of a Khatri clan.

Ajmal

- **Current frequencies:** GB 391, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim (Pakistan, India): from a personal name based on Arabic *ajmal* ‘fairest, most beautiful’.

Ajose

- **Current frequencies:** GB 122, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): from the given name *Ajósè*, from Yoruba *a-já-òsè* ‘(who) came forth on a day of worship’.

Akam

- **Current frequencies:** GB 163, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 104
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Acomb**.

Akande

- **Current frequencies:** GB 453, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): nickname from a Yoruba personal name *Àkándé*, deriving from a male *oríkì* or pet-name meaning ‘(who) arrives/arrived in his turn’. The element *à* forms abstract nouns from verb phrases.

Akaster

- **GB frequency 1881:** 28
 - **Main GB location 1881:** ER York; Devon; Hants
- English: see **Acaster**.

Akbar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2091, Ireland 13
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Muslim (Indonesia, Pakistan, India): from a personal name based on Arabic *akbar* ‘greatest’, superlative from *kabīr* ‘great’.
- Further information:** The Mughal emperor known in English as Akbar the Great (Jalāl ud-Dīn Akbar; 1542–1605) extended his rule from a base in Panjab to cover most of the Indian subcontinent by the time of his death. His rule was notable for religious tolerance and the integration of Hindus and Muslims in positions of power.

Ake

- **Current frequencies:** GB 86, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 46
 - **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks and NR Yorks
- 1 English: locative name from Aike in Lockington (ER Yorks), which is recorded as *Ach* in 1086, *Ake* in 1150–60, and *Ayk* in 1285. The place-name derives from Middle English *ake* ‘oak-tree’ (Old English *āc*, Old Scandinavian *eik*).
- Early bearers:** Willelmo de Ake, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lund, ER Yorks); Rogerum de Aike, 1305 in *Beverley Chapter Act Book* (Lockington, ER Yorks); Johannes de Ake, clerk, 1310 in *Beverley Chapter Act Book* (ER Yorks); William del Ake, 1364, John de Ake, 1384 in *York Freeman’s Register* (York); Gulielmi Ake, 1616 in *IGI* (Nunkeeling, ER Yorks); Henerie Ake, 1653 in *IGI* (Nunkeeling, ER Yorks).
- References:** *Place-Names of ER Yorks*, p. 160.

2 English: locative name from Middle English *ake* 'oak-tree' (Old English *āc*).

Early bearers: William de Ake, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); William Ake, 1721 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Richard Ake, 1736 in *IGI* (Saint Thomas by Launceston, Cornwall); John Ake, 1739 in *IGI* (Worcester, Worcs).

Aked

Variants: Akitt, Akid

- **Current frequencies:** GB 187, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 300
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: locative name from Aikhead in Woodside Quarter (Cumb), which is recorded as *Aykehevid* in 1270, *Aykehede* in 1519, and *Ackett* in 1581. The place-name means 'oak headland', from Middle English *ake* 'oak, oak-tree' (Old English *āc*, Old Scandinavian *eik*) + *heved*, *hed* 'head, headland, hill' (Old English *hēafod*).

Early bearers: Richard de Aykeheved, 1280 in *Rievaulx Cartulary* (Yorks); William de Aykeheved, 1318 in *Patent Rolls* (Blindcrake, Cumb); Johannes del Akhed, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lonsdale wapentake, Lancs); Johannes de Aykeheued', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Thornton in Lonsdale, WR Yorks); John Akid, 1562 in *IGI* (Aberford, WR Yorks); William Akett, 1597 in *IGI* (Etton, ER Yorks); Ellin Aked, 1605 in *IGI* (Ryther, WR Yorks); Mary Akid, 1631 in *Parish Registers* (Aberford, WR Yorks); Samuel Aked, constable of Lotherton cum Aberford, 1678 in *TNA* (WR Yorks); Susan Akid, 1689 in *IGI* (Norton, Derbys); John Ackid, 1710 in *IGI* (Sheffield, WR Yorks); Esther Aikett, 1720 in *IGI* (Penrith, Cumb); Lettice Akehede, 1777 in *IGI* (Greystoke, Cumb).

References: *Place-Names of Cumb*, p. 333.

Akehurst

Variants: Akhurst, Ackhurst

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1060, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 783
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex; also Kent

1 English: locative name from Akehurst Farm in Hellingly (Sussex), which is recorded as *Akehurst* in 1591. The place-name derives from Old English *āc* 'oak, oak-tree' + *hyrst* 'wooded hill'. Some of the post-medieval bearers cited here may belong to (2) or (3).

Early bearers: Henry de Akehurst, Henry de Okeherst, 1318 in *Court Rolls* (Sussex); John Akeherste, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John Akehurst, 1557 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (High Halden, Kent); John Akehurst, 1587, Sara Akerst, 1608 in *IGI* (Heathfield, Sussex); Thomas Akehurst, 1591 in *Assize Rolls* (Hellingly, Sussex); Edward Akeherst, 1634 in *Cranbrook Wills* (Kent); Dorothy Akhurst, 1644 in *IGI* (Lamberhurst, Kent).

References: *Place-Names of Sussex*, p. 439; *Hey, Family Names*, pp. 152, 193, 196.

2 English: locative name perhaps also from Okehurst in Billingshurst (Sussex), which is recorded as *Okehurst* in 1578 (*West Sussex Record Office*), though there is no clear evidence for forms with initial A-. The place-name has the same etymology as Akehurst Farm in (1).

Early bearers: Robert de Okehurst, 1279 in *Place-Names of Sussex* (Sussex); Johanne de Okhurst, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Stopham and Barlavington, Sussex); John de Ochurst, 1306 in *West Sussex Record Office*

(Billingshurst, Sussex); Rico de Ochurst, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wisborough Green, Sussex).

References: *Place-Names of Sussex*, p. 150.

3 English: locative name in NE Kent perhaps also from Akhurst Farm in Sheldwich (Kent). The 16th-century bearer John' of Akers, cited below, constitutes the earliest apparent evidence for the place-name. The etymology of Akhurst Farm is uncertain, and it is quite possible that it takes its name from a surname. If so, the bearers cited here may all belong to (1), or may represent a development of **Akers**.

Early bearers: John' of Akers, 1522 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Faversham hundred, Kent); Thomas Ackers, 1662 in *Hearth Tax* (Faversham, Kent); William Acurst, 1664 in *Hearth Tax* (Milton Regis, Kent); Alexander Akehurst, 1670 in *IGI* (Norton, Kent); Mary Akhurst, 1763 in *IGI* (Badlesmere, Kent); James Akhurst, 1792 in *IGI* (Sheldwich, Kent).

References: *Kentish Place-Names*, p. 347.

Aken

- **Current frequencies:** GB 40, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 34
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

English: see **Akin**.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Akenhead

- **Current frequencies:** GB 61, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 101
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb and Durham
- Scottish: see **Aitkenhead**.

Aker

- **Current frequencies:** GB 22, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

English: see **Acker**.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Akerman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 724, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 434
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in S England
- English: see **Ackerman**.

Akeroyd

- **Current frequencies:** GB 333, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 366
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Ackroyd**.

Akers

Variants: Ackers, Acres, Acors

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2022, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1448
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England

English: (i) locative name from Middle English *akeres*, *acres* 'plots of arable land', the plural form of *aker*, *acre*. Compare **Acker** (2). (ii) variant of **Acker** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Further information: In SE England there may have been some confusion with **Akehurst**.

Early bearers: Adam de Acres, 1346 in *London Letter Books F* (London); Rogerus Acres, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Upper Poppleton, WR Yorks); Henricus dil Accres,

1381 in *Poll Tax* (Liverpool, Lancs); Ricardus dil Acres, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (West Derby, Lancs); John Acres, shearmen, 1468–9, Robert Acres, worsted weaver, 1519–20 in *Norwich Freeman* (Norfolk); Agnes Akers, 1535 in *IGI* (Tydd Saint Mary, Lincs); Henry Acres, 1545 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Sandwich, Kent); Thomas Akars, 1545 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Bethersden, Kent); Bartholomeus Akers, 1548 in *IGI* (Thorpe Market, Norfolk); Margaret Akers, 1561 in *IGI* (Bramfield, Herts); Mary Akers, 1561 in *IGI* (Shillington, Beds); Elizabeth Acers, 1562 in *IGI* (Bampton, Oxon); Richard Akers, 1596 in *Cranbrook Wills* (Kent).

Akester

- **Current frequencies:** GB 232, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 102
- **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks

English: see **Acaster**.

Akhtar

Variants: Akhter, Akthar, Akther, Aktar, Akter

- **Current frequencies:** GB 22606, Ireland 27
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim (Pakistan, India): from the Persian personal name *Akhtar* 'star, good luck'.

Further information: In Arabic *Akhtar* is sometimes used in combination with other words to form a personal name, for example *Akhtar-ud-Din* 'star of religion (i.e. Islam)'.

Akhter

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1860, Ireland 8
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim: see **Akhtar**.

Akhurst

- **Current frequencies:** GB 384, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 311
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

English: see **Akehurst**.

Akid

- **Current frequencies:** GB 103, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 25
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts

English: see **Aked**.

References: *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Akin

Variants: Aken

- **Current frequencies:** GB 260, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 64
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex; Derbys and Lancs; Durham

English: variant of **Atkin** or **Aitken**.

Akinola

- **Current frequencies:** GB 432, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): from a personal name *Akinolá* (Yoruba *akin ní òlá* 'valour possesses dignity or honour'). *Akin* may be understood as personified, so: 'hero, head of family'.

Akins

- **Current frequencies:** GB 245, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 77

Akintola

- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Cambs and ER Yorks
- English: see **Atkins**.

Akintola

- **Current frequencies:** GB 198, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Nigerian (Yoruba): from a personal name *Akíntólá* (Yoruba *akin tó ọlá* ‘valour is sufficient for honour’).
References: Oduyoye, p. 74.

Akintoye

- **Current frequencies:** GB 138, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Nigerian (Yoruba): from the personal name *Akintóyè* (Yoruba *akin tó oyè* ‘valour is enough for an honour (a chiefly title)’).

Akintunde

- **Current frequencies:** GB 179, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Nigerian (Yoruba): from the personal name *Akintúndé* (Yoruba *akin tún dé* ‘valour has returned’).

Akinyemi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 382, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Nigerian (Yoruba): from the personal name *Akínyémí* (Yoruba *akin yẹ mí* ‘valour suits me’).

Akister

- **Current frequencies:** GB 135, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 78
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Westm
- English: see **Acaster**.

Akitt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 53, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 57
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cumb; ER Yorks
- English: see **Aked**.

Akker

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 8
- Dutch, English: see **Acker**. This name is found from about 1800 exclusively in Radwinter (Essex). It appears to be the Dutch cognate of the name forming the base of *Acker*.

Akram

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3944, Ireland 10
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Muslim (Pakistan): from a personal name based on Arabic *akram* ‘most generous’, superlative form of *karīm* ‘generous, bountiful’.

Akred

- **Current frequencies:** GB 66, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 47
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- English: see **Ackroyd**.

Akrigg

- **Current frequencies:** GB 248, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 86
- **Main GB location 1881:** Westm, Yorks, and Lancs

English: locative name from Aikrigg in Kendal (Westm), which is recorded as *Aykeridge* in 1568 and *Akerigg* *alias* *Aikrigg* in 1628. The place-name derives from Middle English *ake* ‘oak, oak-tree’ (Old English *āc*, Old Scandinavian *eik*) + *rigge* ‘ridge’ (Old English *hrycg*, Old Scandinavian *hryggr*).
Early bearers: Robert Aikrigg, 1558, Mabbell Aykridge, 1559, Margrett Ackrig, 1594, Thomas Aykeridge, 1597 in *IGI* (Kendal, Westm); Elenor Acryg, 1560 in *IGI* (Stainton in Cleveland, NR Yorks); Lucia Acrige, 1578 in *IGI* (Bedale, NR Yorks); Thomas Aickrigge, 1581 in *IGI* (Crosby Ravensworth, Westm); Anne Aikrigge, 1611, Samuel Akrigg, 1742 in *IGI* (Sedbergh, WR Yorks); Sarah Stewardson *alias* Aykridge, about 1722 in *Lancs Record Office* (Lancs and Westm).
References: *Place-Names of Westm* 1, p. 119.

Akrill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 201, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 94
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs
- English: see **Ackrill**.

Akroyd

- **Current frequencies:** GB 423, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 558
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Ackroyd**.

Aktar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 918, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Muslim: see **Akhtar**.

Akter

- **Current frequencies:** GB 578, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Muslim: see **Akhtar**.

Akthar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 967, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Muslim: see **Akhtar**.

Akther

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1121, Ireland 5
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Muslim: see **Akhtar**.

Akyeampong

- **Current frequencies:** GB 85, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Ghanaian: see **Acheampong**.

Alabaster

- Variants:** **Larbalestier**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 361, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 198
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex and Norfolk
- English: altered form (by folk etymology) of **Arblaster**.

Alabi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 586, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Nigerian (Yoruba): an *oríkì* or pet-name from Yoruba *à là bí* ‘born speedily’, where *à* is an element forming abstract nouns from verb phrases.

Alabone

- **GB frequency 1881:** 27
 - **Main GB location 1881:** IoW; Sussex
- English: see **Alban**.

Alain

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- English: see **Allen**.

Alais

- **Current frequencies:** GB 19, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 20
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- English: see **Allis**.

Alam

- Variants:** **Allam, Allum, Allom, Alom**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 4011, Ireland 27
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 4
- Muslim (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan): from a personal name based on Arabic ‘*alam*’ ‘emblem, banner’, hence an epithet for a distinguished man. ‘*Alam-al-Huda*’ (‘banner of guidance’) is an honorific title of the Prophet Muhammad.

Alan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 422, Ireland 22
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 64
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London; Lancs; SW Scotland
- English: see **Allan**.

Aland

- Variants:** **Alland**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 88, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 60
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts and Gloucs; London
- 1 English: (i) locative name from Middle English *atte lande* ‘dweller at the glade or pasture’ (Old French *laund*), if Gerard Attelaunde, 1281 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Gloucs), is relevant. (ii) otherwise, either a variant of **Allen** with excrescent *-d* or a variant of **Oldland**.

Early bearers: Hugo Alent, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Tewkesbury, Gloucs); Thomas Alonde, 1545 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wilts); Anne Aland, 1577 in *IGI* (Bromham, Wilts); Stephen Aland, 1686 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs).

2 English: locative name from Alland in Minster in Thanet (Kent), which is recorded as *Aldelande* in 1226. The place-name derives from Middle English *ald* ‘old’ + *land* ‘land’ (Old English *eald*, *land*). Compare **Oldland**.

Early bearers: Danyel de Aldelonde, 1327, Hamon de Aldelonde, 1334 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ringslow hundred, Kent); William Alland, 1493 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Margate, Kent); Stephen Alond, 1497, Robert Aland, 1504 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Minster in Thanet, Kent); Agnes Aland, 1538 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Queenborough, Kent).
References: *Kent Place-Names*, p. 596.

3 English: (i) locative name perhaps from a lost or unidentified place in Yorks, with a name containing Middle English *land* ‘land’. (ii) alternatively, a variant of **Elland**.

Early bearers: Robert de Allandes, 1335 in *York Freeman’s Register* (York); Thomas Aland’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Ravenfield, WR Yorks); Willelmus Aland’, 1379

in *Poll Tax* (Adlingfleet, WR Yorks); Dorethe Aland, 1553 in *IGI* (Rothwell, WR Yorks); William Alland, 1575 in *IGI* (Holme upon Spalding Moor, ER Yorks); John Alland, 1813 in *IGI* (Doncaster, WR Yorks).

Alao

- **Current frequencies:** GB 223, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- 2 Nigerian: unexplained.
- 1 Portuguese: relationship name from the personal name *Alão*, the Portuguese equivalent of *Alan*.

Alavi

Variants: *Alvi*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 176, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Iranian, Muslim (Pakistan): from Persian ‘*Alawi*’, adjective from the Arabic personal name ‘*Alī*’, see *Ali*.

Alaway

- **Current frequencies:** GB 16, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 15
- **Main GB location 1881:** Monmouth
- English: see *Allaway*.

Alban

Variants: *Albon*, *Allbon*, *Albin*, *Albone*, *Aubon*, *Allibon*, *Alliban*, *Allibone*, *Allebone*, *Alabone*, *Alibone*, *Allbone*, *Allebon*, *Elbourn*, *Allaban*, *Alliband*, *Hallibone*, *Hollebon*, *Allbones*, *Albans*, *Albones*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 157, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 79
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. SW Wales; Hunts; Lancs

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Alban*, *Al(i)bon*, Anglo-Norman French *Auban*, themselves from Latin *Albanus*, a suffixed derivative of *albus* ‘white’. *Alban* and *Albon* were interchangeable as Middle English personal names. See also *Albin*.

Further information: The medieval surname forms are comparable with the different pronunciations of the town name Saint Albans (Herts), recorded in English as (*Sancte*) *Albanes stow*, 1007 and *Seynt Albones*, 1421, and in Anglo-Norman French as *la ville de Seint Auban*, 1308–27 in *Place-Names of Herts*. According to legend, *Alban* was the name of the first British Christian martyr (3rd century). The town grew around the Anglo-Saxon abbey that housed Saint Alban’s shrine, the supposed place of his execution, next to the Romano-British town of Verulamium.

Early bearers: given names: Albanus filius Willelmi, 1212 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Yorks). surnames: Walter Alban, 1250 in *Book of Fees* (Bucks); Adam Albon, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Hugh Alybon, 1297 in *King’s Bench Pleas* (Derbys); William Albon, Albone, 1376 in *London Letter Books G* (London); William Alybone, 1397 in *York Freeman’s Register* (York); Dorothy Alban, 1541, Ela Albon, 1546, John Abbon, 1672, John Abon, 1683, Philippa Aubon, 1784 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Thomas Albone, 1542 in *IGI* (Southill, Beds); Roger Alben, 1580 in *IGI* (Kirtton in Holland, Lincs); Elizabeth Alban, 1608 in *IGI* (Burwash, Sussex); James Alban, 1610 in *IGI* (Woodhorn, Northumb); John Abon, 1614 in *IGI* (Barnet, Herts); John Alban, 1641 in *IGI* (Saint Giles Cripplegate, London); Tho. Alban, 1666 in *IGI*

(Shepreth, Cambs); Henricus Allebone, 1677 in *IGI* (Halford, Warwicks); John Alben, 1767, David Roberts Alban, 1793 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs).

Albanese

- **Current frequencies:** GB 186, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- Italian: ethnic name from Italian *albanese* ‘Albanian’.

Further information: Historically, there were several Albanian settlements in Italy, mainly in Abruzzo, Apulia, Campania, and Sicily.

Albans

- **Current frequencies:** GB 145, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 46
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs; also WR Yorks; Norfolk

English: variant of *Alban* with genitival or post-medieval excrescent -s.

Early bearers: Willelmus Albanes, cissor, 1379 in *Yorks Poll Tax* (Askwith, WR Yorks); Christyan Albon, 1541 in *IGI* (Paston, Norfolk); Ann Albon, 1542, Mary Albon, 1635 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Anna Albone, 1566 in *IGI* (Thorpe Market, Norfolk); Peter Albones, 1596 in *IGI* (Ripon, WR Yorks); Abraham Albans, 1634 in *IGI* (Baumber, Lincs).

Albany

Variants: *Obeney*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 60, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 66
- **Main GB location 1881:** Herts and Middx

English: variant of *Daubney* without the fused preposition *d(e)*.

Early bearers: Roberto Albon’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Weston Turville, Bucks); Judithe Albany, 1563 in *IGI* (Allhallows, Bread Street, London); William Albenye, 1567 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph without Aldgate, London); Edward Albonie, 1652 in *IGI* (Slitton with Silsoe, Beds); William Albony, 1692 in *IGI* (Ware, Herts).

Alberry

- **Current frequencies:** GB 62, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 76
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex; Derbys
- English: variant of either *Albury* or *Aubrey*.

Albert

Variants: *Aubert*, *Alberts*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1167, Ireland 25
- **GB frequency 1881:** 462
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Lancs; Worcs and Warwicks
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cavan

1 English: relationship name from the Old French and Middle English personal name *Albert*, *Aubert*, from Continental Germanic *Adalbert*, composed of the elements *adal* ‘noble’ + *beraht* ‘bright’. The Old English cognate, *Æðelbeorht*, occurs in *Domesday Book* as *Ailbertus*, *Ailbriht*, and once as *Albrict*. The Ailbertus of 1066 in *Ely Inquisition* (Cambs) appears in *Domesday Book* as Albertus; thus *Albert* may in some cases be identical with *Albright*. Some of the following post-medieval bearers may alternatively belong with (2).

Early bearers: given names: Albertus, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Beds).

surnames: Philippus filius Alberti, Auberti, 1211 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Dorset); Robert Alberd, Albert, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Warwicks); Isabella Aubert, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Ricardus Alberd, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Northants); Martinus Albert, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Norfolk); Thomas Albert, 1548 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Robert Albert, 1579 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); Joseph Albert, 1702, Frances Aubert, 1710 in *IGI* (Knowle, Warwicks); Sarah Albert, 1729 in *IGI* (Worcester, Worcs); William Aubert, 1778 in *IGI* (Hampton Lovett, Worcs); James Albert, 1782 in *IGI* (Ashton under Lyne, Lancs).

2 German, French: relationship name from continental equivalents of the personal name in (1). **Early bearers:** George Albert, born in Germany, in *Census 1851* (Manchester, Lancs); Charles Albert, born in France, in *Census 1851* (Newington, Surrey).

Alberts

- **Current frequencies:** GB 278, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 21

English: variant of *Albert* with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Early bearers: William Alberts, 1604 in *Parish Registers* (Dutch Church, Austin Friars, London); Richard Alberts, 1690 in *IGI* (London); Nancy Alberts, 1782 in *IGI* (Tardebigge, Warwicks).

Albertson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 22
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham; London

English: relationship name perhaps from the Middle English personal name *Albert* + *-son*, but the distribution suggests continental origin involving cognate elements.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Early bearers: Wyllyam Albertson, 1596, Albert Albertson, 1625 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); Allan Albertson, 1612 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Susanna Albertson, 1639 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx).

Albery

- **Current frequencies:** GB 275, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 221
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
- English: variant of either *Albury* or *Aubrey*.

Albeson

- **GB frequency 1881:** 43
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: see *Albinson*.

Albin

Variants: *Aubin*, *Obin*, *Elbourn*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 171, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 96
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Dorset; London; Lancs; Lanarks
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Armagh

English: (i) generally, this is a variant of *Alban*. (ii) relationship name; in some cases it is from the Middle English and Old French personal name *Albin*, Latin *Albinus*, but this has mostly been absorbed into *Alban*, *Albon*, see *Alban*. *Albin* had alternative Anglo-Norman French forms *Aubin* and *Obin*, which have survived as modern surnames.

Albinson

Further information: It is sometimes mistakenly supposed that Middle English *Albin* could have been a nickname for a person of white hair or complexion, but this confuses the etymology of the personal name with that of the surname. Latin *Albinus*, an ancient Roman cognomen, was a diminutive of *albus* ‘white’, and may originally have been used of someone with fair skin or fair hair, but in its later use as an Old French personal name there is no evidence that it retained any such semantic content. Nor was there an Old French word **albin*, **aubin* ‘white’ from which an Anglo-Norman French or Middle English nickname could have been derived.

Early bearers: given names: Albinus, 1148–53 in Bury (Suffolk), 1154–89 in *Gilbertine Charters* (Lincs); Obin Kinel, 1202 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs).

surnames: Roger Albin, 1194 in *Pipe Rolls* (Worcs); Gilbert Aubin, 1210 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Norfolk); John Obin, James Aubyn, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Ales Albin, 1576 in *IGI* (London); Edward Albin, 1611 in *IGI* (Bruton, Somerset); Agnes Albyn, 1612, William Albone, 1730 in *IGI* (Chester le Street, Durham); William Allbin, 1624 in *IGI* (Ribchester, Lincs); John Albyn, 1648 in *IGI* (Goosnargh, Lincs).

Albinson

Variants: Albeson, Albiston, Olbison, Orbison

- **Current frequencies:** GB 162, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 179
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire

English: relationship name ‘son of **Albin**’.

Early bearers: John Albinson, 1609 in *IGI* (West Keal, Lincs); Sarah Orbison, 1662 in *IGI* (Witton, Cheshire); Alice Albinson, 1663 in *IGI* (Marton, Cheshire); Rodger Albinson, 1682, Mary Orbison, 1690 in *IGI* (Knutsford, Cheshire); Samll. Orbison, 1705 in *IGI* (Wilmslow, Cheshire); Thomas Orbison, 1720, Betty Olbeson, 1730, Martha Albeson, 1745 in *IGI* (Denton, Lincs); Esther Olbison, 1730 in *IGI* (Gawsworth, Cheshire); Joseph Albison, 1734, Samuel Albeson, 1738, Mary Olbison, 1755 in *IGI* (Manchester, Lincs); Adam Albison, 1739 in *IGI* (Goostrey, Cheshire); Sarah Orbeson, 1768 in *IGI* (Stockport, Cheshire).

Albiston

- **Current frequencies:** GB 370, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 246
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire and Lincs

English: (i) variant of **Albinson**, altered (with intrusive *t*) as if derived from a place-name. Compare **Alliston**. (ii) possibly a variant of **Osbaldeston**, from Osbaldeston (Lincs), which has a local pronunciation [ˈɔːbɪstn].

Early bearers: Issabell Orbiston, 1694 in *IGI* (Poulton le Fylde); Susanna Olbiston, 1697, Sarah Albiston, 1714 in *IGI* (Prestbury); Samuel Albiston, 1710 in *IGI* (Stockport); Joseph Albiston, 1712 in *IGI* (Congleton); Thos. Orbiston, 1721 in *IGI* (Wilmslow); Hannah Olbiston, 1841 in *IGI* (Manchester).

References: *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 70.

Albon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 773, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 273
- **Main GB location 1881:** Beds; Suffolk

English: see **Alban**.

Albone

Variants: Albones

- **Current frequencies:** GB 480, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 57
- **Main GB location 1881:** Beds

English: see **Alban**.

Albones

- **Current frequencies:** GB 28, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 36
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: variant of **Albone** (see **Alban**) with genitival or post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Alborn

Variants: Alborne

- **Current frequencies:** GB 30, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 48
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: locative name from Aubourn (Lincs), which is recorded as *Aburne* in 1086, *Alburne* in 1160–76, and *Auburn* in 1212.

Early bearers: John Aubourn, 1327 in *Patent Rolls* (Yorks); Margaret Auborne, 1562 in *IGI* (Lenton, Lincs); Thomas Awborne, 1562, Willm Awburne, 1563 in *IGI* (Holbeach, Lincs); Robert Alburne, 1578 in *IGI* (Salmonby, Lincs); George Aulborn, 1722 in *IGI* (Winceby, Lincs).

References: *Lincs Place-Names*, p. 6.

Alborne

- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

English: see **Alborn**.

Alborough

Variants: Albrow, Aldborough, Albro

- **Current frequencies:** GB 212, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 122
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

1 English: locative name usually from Aldborough (Norfolk).

Early bearers: Humphrey de Aldeburgh’, 1379 in *Feet of Fines* (Rand, Lincs); John Alburgh’, 1466 in *Feet of Fines* (Crayford, Kent); Margaret Alborowe, 1562 in *IGI* (Swannington, Norfolk); Edmond Alborowe, 1563 in *Parish Registers* (Hedenham, Norfolk); Martha Alborow, 1577 in *IGI* (Stokesby, Norfolk); Thomas Alborow, 1577 in *IGI* (Flixton by Bungay, Suffolk); Robt Alborow, 1598 in *IGI* (Caistor Saint Edmund, Norfolk); Ann Albrow, 1654 in *IGI* (Covehithe, Suffolk); Anne Aldborough, 1656 in *IGI* (Blofield, Norfolk); Mary Albrow, 1689 in *IGI* (London); Joh. Albrow, 1723 in *IGI* (South Cove, Suffolk).

2 English: locative name occasionally from Aldborough (WR Yorks).

Early bearers: Ursula Aldborough, 1547 in *IGI* (Aldborough, WR Yorks); William Aldborough, 1734 in *IGI* (Leeds, WR Yorks).

Albrecht

- **Current frequencies:** GB 285, Ireland 10
- **GB frequency 1881:** 92
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

German: relationship name from the German personal name *Albrecht*, which has the same etymology as English **Albert**.

Early bearers: Frederick William Albrecht, 1781 in *IGI* (Saint Martins in the Fields, Westminster, London).

Albright

Variants: Allbright

- **Current frequencies:** GB 79, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 112
- **Main GB location 1881:** Berks and central England

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Albriht*, Old English *Æðelbriht*, a metathesized form of *Æðelbeorht*. See also **Albert**.

Early bearers: given names: Ailbricd, about 1160 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Ailbriht, 1202 in *Feet of Fines* (Cams).

surnames: Alexander filius Ailbriht, 1205 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Surrey); William Albrich’, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Eusebius Ailbrit, Ailbric, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Hunts); Herriesservant Albryght (‘servant of Harry Albryght’), 1378 in *Patent Rolls* (Beds); Thomas Albright, 1577 in *IGI* (Saint Giles Cripplegate, London); Henry Albright, 1578 in *IGI* (Saint Mary Magdalen Old Fish Street, London); Richard Albright, 1582 in *IGI* (Dunstable, Beds); John Albright, 1590 in *IGI* (Chester, Cheshire); Ann Albright, 1591 in *IGI* (Ebrington, Gloucs).

Albrighton

Variants: Allbrighton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 418, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 125
- **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks

English: locative name from Albrighton in Shropshire.

Early bearers: Frauncis Albrighton, 1572 in *IGI* (Houghton, Staffs); Edward Albrighton, 1591 in *IGI* (Stafford); James Albritton, 1658 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph without Aldersgate, London).

Albro

- **GB frequency 1881:** 3
- English: see **Alborough**.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Albrow

- **Current frequencies:** GB 346, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 86
- **Main GB location 1881:** E Anglia

English: see **Alborough**.

Albury

Variants: Allbury, Albery, Alberry, Allberry, Allberrey, Alsbury, Abery

- **Current frequencies:** GB 196, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 229
- **Main GB location 1881:** Berks, Hants, and Surrey

1 English: locative name from one or other of various places called Albury (Herts, Oxon, Surrey).

Early bearers: David de Aldebury, 1278 in *Hundred Rolls* (Shrops); Stephen de Aldebury, 1278 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); William Albury, 1683 in *Bardsley*.

2 English: see **Aubrey**.

Albutt

Variants: Allbutt, Allbut

- **Current frequencies:** GB 444, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 250
- **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs

English: relationship name from the Old French and Middle English personal name *Albot*, from Continental Germanic *Adalbodo*, composed of the elements *adal* ‘noble’ and *bodo* ‘messenger’.

Early bearers: given names: Albodo, 1114–20 in *Ramsey Cartulary*; Ailbodus, about 1155 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs).

surnames: John Albot, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Devon); Symon Albod, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Thomas Albutt, 1627 in *IGI* (Stoke Prior, Worcs); Henry Albutt, 1665 in *IGI* (Stoke Prior, Worcs); John Albutt, 1683 in *IGI* (Coughton, Warwicks); Barnaby Albutt, 1728 in *IGI* (Saint Giles Cripplegate, London); Hannah Albutt, 1753 in *IGI* (Stafford, Staffs).

Alchin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 115, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 136
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent and Surrey

English: see **Allchin**.

Alchorn

- **Current frequencies:** GB 18, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2

English, Scottish: see **Alcorn**.

Alchorne

- **GB frequency 1881:** 4
- English, Scottish: see **Alcorn**.

Alcock

Variants: **Allcock**, **Alecock**, **Aucock**, **Awcock**, **Alcoe**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 5242, Ireland 175
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4294
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England; also Scotland (Aberdeens and Kincardines)
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Wexford; Waterford

English, Scottish: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Alcok*, a pet form of any of the many medieval personal names beginning with *Al-*.

Early bearers: given names: Alekoc, 1204 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Notts); Alecoc, 1204 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Awcok de Leuer, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Alkok, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cumb).

surnames: Alexander Alecoc, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); William Alkok 1281 in *Aberdeen Register* (Aberdeen); John Alekok, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John Auecoc, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Walter Alcoc, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cumb); John Alcoc, 1411 in *Feet of Fines* (Notts); Edward Alcoc, 1501 in *Kent Wills* (West Farleigh); Thomas Alcock, Thomas Awcock, 1597–8 in *Buckhurst Terrier* (Sussex).

Alcoe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 22, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 4
- English: probably a bowdlerized variant of **Alcock**. Compare the pronunciation *Coeburn* for *Cockburn* (see **Cobourne**) and *Coeshot* for *Cockshott*.

Early bearers: Thomas Alco, 1775 in *IGI* (Moreton Jeffries, Herefs).

Alcorn

Variants: **Allcorn**, **Alchorn**, **Alchorne**, **Allchorn**, **Allchorne**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 460, Ireland 310
- **GB frequency 1881:** 232
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Donegal, Derry, and Tyrone

Scottish: see **Allchin**; see also **Oldcorn**. The name in this form was taken from Sussex to Scotland and established there in or before the mid-15th century. It was sometimes altered to *Auldcorn*. From Scotland it was taken to Ireland (Donegal) and thence to North America.

Early bearers: John Awldcorn, 1446, Adam Aldcorn, 1448 in *Cupar-Angus Rental Book* (Perths); Robert Aldcorne, 1476 in *Stirling Burgh Records* (Stirlings); Walter Auldcorne, burgess, 1591 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Elgin); Margaret Aldcorne, 1611 in *IGI* (Kelso, Roxburghs); Robert Aldcorn, 1630, Gilbert Alcorne, 1648 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks).

Alcott

Variants: **Allcott**, **Allocoat**, **Allcutt**, **Aucutt**, **Aucott**, **Hawkett**, **Aukett**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 165, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 96
- **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks; Herefs; Hants and Sussex

English: locative name from any of a large number of places named in Old English as ‘the old cottage’ (Old English *eald* + *cot(e)*). Often, no doubt, adopted as a bowdlerized version of *Alcock*.

Early bearers: Philip de Allecote, 1255 in *Hundred Rolls* (Shrops); Thomas de Aldecote, de Alecote, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); John Alcote, 1400 in *Feet of Fines* (Strood, Kent); Master Alcott, 1567 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent).

Aldcroft

- **Current frequencies:** GB 141, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 101
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire; Northumb and Durham

English: variant of **Aldcroft** with loss of *-d-*.

Aldam

Variants: **Aldham**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 162, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 134
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs and WR Yorks

English: locative name from either of two places called Aldham (Essex, Suffolk). See also **Oldham**.

Early bearers: Oslac de Haldham, about 1095 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents*; Adam de Aldeham, 1206 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Surrey); Isaac Aldham, William Aldum, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk).

Alday

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 15
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: see **Allday**.

Aldbrough

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 23
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk and Suffolk

English: see **Albrough**.

Aldcorn

- **GB frequency 1881:** 7
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Roxburghs
- Scottish: see **Oldcorn**.

Aldcroft

Variants: **Allcroft**, **Alcroft**, **Adcroft**, **Hadercroft**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 379, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 399
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire and Lancs

English: locative name from the lost place *Aldcroft* in Dunham Massey (Cheshire), last on record as a place-name in 1665.

Early bearers: [. . . de] Aldecroft, 1260, [. . .] Aldecrofte, 1467 in *Place-Names of Cheshire* (Cheshire); Alyce Aldcroft, 1568 in *IGI* (Wilmslow, Cheshire); John Aldcrofte, 1575, George Aldecroft, 1630 in *IGI* (Northenden, Cheshire); Harry Audcroft, 1584 in *IGI* (Frodsham, Cheshire); Robte Auldcroft, 1592 in *IGI* (Stockport, Cheshire); John Auldcrofte, 1595 in *IGI* (Mobberley, Cheshire); Elizabeth Aldcrofte, 1597 in *IGI* (Knutsford, Cheshire); Ellice Audcrofte, 1608, Samuel Aldcrofte, 1610, Ellice Allcrofte, 1632 in *IGI* (Leigh, Lancs); Thomas Adcroft, 1613 in *IGI* (Warrington, Lancs); Israel Aldcroft, 1618, Thomas Adcroft, 1623 in *IGI* (Middleton by Oldham, Lancs); Margreta Aldcrofte, 1641 in *IGI* (Deane by Bolton, Lancs).

References: *Place-Names of Cheshire*, v. 2, p. 20; *Hey, Family Names*, p. 153.

Alden

Variants: **Allden**, **Aldin**, **Auden**, **Audin**, **Olden**, **Yalden**, **Haldin**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1379, Ireland 11
- **GB frequency 1881:** 764
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk; also Middx, Gloucs, and Surrey

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Aldwin*, *Aldin*, representing either Old English *Ealdwine* (from *eald* ‘old’, *ædel* ‘noble’, or *ælf* ‘elf’, + *wine* ‘friend’) with loss of *-w-* or Middle English *Alwin* with an intrusive *-d-*.

Further information: For the range of possible first elements, compare **Aldred**.

Early bearers: given names: Alduin, Elduinus, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Aldwinus de Vivario, 1207 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Essex).

surnames: Ælfwine Aldine, about 1095 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents* (Suffolk); Walter filius Heldewin, 1191 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); Osegod Aldwini, 1195, Osgotus Aldwinus, 1196 in *Pipe Rolls* (Berks); Reginald Aldyne, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Norfolk); Cristina Aldwyne, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Rogero Aldwyne, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sompting, Sussex); William Aldwen, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cambs); Petrus Aldewyn, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Horsham Saint Faith with Newton Saint Faith, Norfolk); John Alden, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); William Alden, 1565 in *IGI* (Bildeston, Suffolk); John Alden, 1567 in *IGI* (Egham, Surrey); John Alden, 1578 in *IGI* (Saint Margaret Lothbury, London); Willielmi Aldwin, 1579 in *IGI* (Egham, Surrey); Thoms. Alden, 1579 in *IGI* (Ampney Crucis, Gloucs); Roberte Aldwin, 1587 in *IGI* (Rickmansworth, Herts).

2 English: relationship name from the Anglo-Scandinavian personal name *Healfdene*, see **Haldane**.

Early bearers: given names: Aldanus, Alden(e), 1086 in *Domesday Book*.

surnames: Gamel filius Alden, 1196 in *Pipe Rolls* (Westm); Walterus filius Aldan, Aldein, Haldein, 1218–19 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs); Alexander Aldeyn, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); Thomas Alden, 1551 in

Alder

IGI (Chesham, Bucks); Bartholmewe Alden, 1561 in *IGI* (Banbury, Oxon); Edward Alden, 1566 in *IGI* (Kings Langley, Herts).

Alder

Variants: **Allder, Older, Halder, Nalder, Alders**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2814, Ireland 31
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2128
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin

English: locative name for someone who lived by an alder or alders, Middle English *al(d)re, alder*.

Early bearers: Ralph de Alre, 1221 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Berks); John atte Alre, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); Richard atten Alre, 1332 in *Löfvenberg* (Somerset); Willm Alder, 1549 in *IGI* (Bampton, Oxon); Thomas Older, 1561 in *IGI* (Ferring, Sussex); Richerd Alder, 1616 in *IGI* (Rye, Sussex).

Alderdice

- **Current frequencies:** GB 169, Ireland 87
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 58
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cheshire
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim and Armagh
- Scottish, English: see **Allardyce**.

Alderley

Variants: **Aldersley**

- **GB frequency 1881:** 40
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cheshire
- 1 English: locative name from Alderley (Cheshire), which is recorded as *Aldredelie* in 1086, *Aldridelegh* in 1290.
- Early bearers:** [... de] Aldridley, 1274, [... de] Aldrudeleg', 1285, [... de] Aldireleg', 1288, [... de] Aldreleigh, 1313, [... de] Aldurleg, 1323 in *Place-Names of Cheshire* (Cheshire); William Alderley, 1698 in *IGI* (Stretford, Lancs); John Alderley, 1706 in *IGI* (Wybunbury, Cheshire); Samuel Alderlay, 1714 in *IGI* (Wigan, Lancs); Thos Alderley, 1743 in *IGI* (Northenden, Cheshire).

References: *Place-Names of Cheshire*, vol. 1, pp. 94–5, 99–100.

2 English: occasionally perhaps a variant of **Aldersley**, but the relationship may be the other way round.

Alderman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1663, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1158
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Bucks and Northants, Hants and Surrey

English: status name from Middle English *alderman* (Old English *ealdormann*). Before the Conquest this term denoted a high official with authority over a district; by the 12th century it had come to denote a member of the governing body of a city or borough or the governor of a craft guild.

Early bearers: Adam le alderman, 12th cent. in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); John Alderman, 1175 in *Pipe Rolls* (Sussex); Rychard Alderman, 1562 in *IGI* (Rushton, Northants); Thome Alderman, 1563 in *IGI* (Scopwick, Lincs); Nicholas Alderman, 1584 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); John Alderman, 1587 in *IGI* (Ipswich, Suffolk); Elizabeth Alderman, 1599 in *IGI* (Axbridge, Somerset).

Alders

- **Current frequencies:** GB 133, Ireland 0

- **GB frequency 1881:** 85
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Durham
- English: variant of **Alder**, with either plural *-s* or post-medieval *excrement -s*.
- Early bearers:** Alexander Aldres, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Warwick); Willm Alders, 1577 in *IGI* (Great Waldingfield, Suffolk); Willia Alders, 1582 in *IGI* (Great Waldingfield, Suffolk); Ruth Alders, 1608 in *IGI* (Clerkenwell, Middx); Roger Alders, 1617 in *IGI* (Saint Olave, York); John Alders, 1635 in *IGI* (Coveney, Cambs).

Alderslade

- **Current frequencies:** GB 136, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 90
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Hants, IoW, and Sussex
- English: locative name from an unidentified place, probably in eastern Hants, with a name derived from Old English *alor* 'alder-tree' + *slæd* 'valley'.
- Early bearers:** Mary Alderslade, 1551 in *IGI* (Bentley, Hants); Denis Alderslade, 1563 in *IGI* (Lodsworth, Sussex); Rychard Alderslad, 1573 in *IGI* (Headley, Hants); John Alderslate, 1576 in *IGI* (Farnham, Surrey); Lawrence Alderslade, 1620 in *IGI* (Alton, Hants); Elisabeth Alderslade, 1634 in *IGI* (Rogate, Sussex); Anne Olderslade, 1734 in *IGI* (Winchester, Hants).

Aldersley

Variants: **Alderley**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 236, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 285
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Lancs
- 1 English: locative name possibly, in the form *Alderleys*, from a lost medieval settlement in Allerton near Bradford (WR Yorks) later recorded as *Aldersley* with a transitional form seen in 1545, and perhaps first found in the compound name *Aldeleysike* in 1292. It is not always distinguishable from **Alderley** in (2).

Further information: The connection with the place mentioned is uncertain. It may also be confounded with another **Alderley** associated with Almondbury (WR Yorks), recorded in the names of Robert de Aldonley, 1286 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (Rastrick, WR Yorks); Thomas de Aldeneley, Alan de Aldelay, 1307, Alice de Aldo(u)nlay, 1352 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (WR Yorks).

Early bearers: John de Aldoleghs, 1354 in *Court Rolls* (Bradford, WR Yorks); William Alderleys, 1488 in *York Registry Wills* (Bradford, WR Yorks); John Aldersles, 1545 in *Thoresby Society* 11 (Allerton, WR Yorks); Alicia Alderslay, 1562, Edward Alderslaye, 1581 in *IGI* (Halifax, WR Yorks); Dyonisius Aldersley, 1577 in *IGI* (Giggleswick, WR Yorks); [...] Alderley, 1584 in *WR Yorks Surnames* (WR Yorks); William Aldersley, 1586 in *IGI* (Kildwick, WR Yorks); Maria Alderslay, 1603 in *IGI* (Almondbury, WR Yorks); William Aldersley, 1607 in *IGI* (Burnley, Lancs); Thomas Aldersley, 1638 in *IGI* (Colne, Lancs).

References: *WR Yorks Surnames*, pp. 167–8, 173–5, 177, 180, 182, 225, 230; *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 3, p. 247.

2 English: occasionally perhaps a variant of **Alderley**, but the relationship may be the other way round.

Early bearers: Elizabeth Alderley, 1711, Elen Aldersley, 1723 in *IGI* (Stretford, Lancs).

Alderson

Variants: **Autherson, Adderson, Addison**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 5382, Ireland 11
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4153
- **Main GB location 1881:** N England: esp. Durham, WR Yorks, and NR Yorks

English: relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Aldus* (see **Aldous**) + *-son*.

Alderson has sometimes become *Auderson*, then *Autherson*, and occasionally *Aderson*, which may have become merged with **Addison**.

Further information: In early Modern English, the consonant /r/ was sometimes vocalized in unstressed syllables and absorbed into the preceding vowel. This led to the occasional use of *-er-* as an alternative spelling of *-u-* or *-e-* in unstressed syllables.

Early bearers: Willemo filio Aldus, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wilton cum West Coatham, NR Yorks); Robertus Alduson', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Todwick, WR Yorks); Franciscus Awderson, 1559, George Auderson, 1683 in *IGI* (Stainton in Cleveland, NR Yorks); Ralph Alderson, 1572 in *IGI* (Cowthorpe, WR Yorks); Bartle Auderson, 1585 in *IGI* (Thirsk, NR Yorks); Alice Awderson, 1595, Ann Autherson, 1737 in *IGI* (Sculcoates, ER Yorks); Elizabeth Awderson, 1601, Robert Alderson, 1642, Sarah Autherson, 1663 in *IGI* (York); Elizabeth Alderson, 1667, Thomas Aderson, 1829 in *IGI* (Romaldkirk, NR Yorks); Elezebeth Autherson, 1676, John Autherson, 1720, 1819 in *IGI* (Warter, ER Yorks); Hester Alderson, 1694, Elis. Alderson, 1788 in *IGI* (Gateshead, Durham); James Alderson, 1742 in *IGI* (Muker, NR Yorks).

Alderton

Variants: **Allerton**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1686, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1331
- **Main GB location 1881:** E Anglia; Sussex; Durham and Northumb.

English: locative name from any of various places called Alderton (Suffolk, Essex, Northants, Gloucs, Wilts), Aldrington (Sussex), Allerton (Lancs, WR Yorks), or Ollerton (Cheshire, Notts). See also **Allerton, Ollerton**.

Early bearers: Alexander de Alreton', 1191 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); John de Aldrinton', 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Worcs); Richard Alderton, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Nicho Alderton, 1560 in *IGI* (Petworth, Sussex); George Alderton, 1577 in *IGI* (Ipswich, Suffolk); Mary Alderton, 1621 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); James Alderton, 1755 in *IGI* (Little Welnetham, Suffolk).

Alderwick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 105, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 62
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs; also WR Yorks

English: apparently from an unidentified place named with Old English *alor* 'alder' + Old English *wic* 'specialized or outlying farm'. However, no medieval bearers have been found to support this, and it is more likely that *Alderwick* is an altered form of another Wilts name, probably *Aldericke*. Compare John Aldericke, 1670, John Alderwick, 1679, John Aldric, 1712 in *IGI* (Broughton Gifford, Wilts), where the spelling *-wick* appears to be a hypercorrection, mistakenly assuming *-ick* to be a vulgar pronunciation of *-wick*. *Ald(e)ric(k)* (see **Aldrick**) is a variant of **Aldridge**.

Early bearers: Jane Alderwicke, 1616 in *IGI* (Holt, Wilts); George Alderwicke, 1669 in *IGI* (Great Chalfield, Wilts); John Alderwick, 1679 in *IGI* (Broughton Gifford, Wilts); Edw. Alderwick, 1744 in *IGI* (Wotton under Edge, Gloucs); Mary Alderwick, 1754 in *IGI* (Bath, Somerset); Thomas Alderwick, 1821 in *IGI* (Thirsk, NR Yorks); George Olderwick, 1832 in *IGI* (Leonard Stanley, Gloucs).

Alldgate

- **Current frequencies:** GB 57, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 62
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Leics; Devon

English: see **Algate**.

Aldham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 84, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 123
- **Main GB location 1881:** E Anglia

English: see **Aldam**.

Aldhous

- **Current frequencies:** GB 58, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 57
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs; Worcs

English: see **Aldous**.

Aldhouse

- **Current frequencies:** GB 97, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 87
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs

English: variant of **Aldous**, altered by folk etymology by association with the word *house*.

Aldin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 45, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 47
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey and Middx; Gloucs
- English: see **Alden**.

Aldington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 172, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 205
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs and Warwicks
- English: locative name from Aldington (Worcs), which is recorded as *Aldintona* in 1086 and *Aldington* in 1227, and perhaps also from Aldington (Kent), which is recorded as *Ealdintune* in about 1090 and *Aldyngtone* in 1253–4. The place-names probably both mean ‘farmstead associated with a man called Ealda’, from the Old English personal name *Ealda* + the connective particle *-ing-* + *tūn* ‘farmstead, estate’.

Further information: There may have been some confusion with **Allington** or **Adlington**.

Early bearers: Richard de Aldington?, 1204 in *Pipe Rolls* (Wilts); Stephen de Audington, 1242 in *Feet of Fines* (Kent); Willielmo de Aldinton, about 1280, Ricardo de Aldinton, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Bretforton, Worcs); Robert Aldintone, 1334 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ruxley hundred, Kent); Agnes Aldington, 1560 in *IGI* (Chichester, Sussex); Eliz Aldington, 1565 in *IGI* (Offenham, Worcs); William Aldington, 1613 in *IGI* (Saint Giles Cripplegate, London); Margry Aldington, 1633 in *IGI* (Bitton, Gloucs); William Aldington, 1642 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx).

References: *Place-Names of Worcs*, p. 260; *Kent Place-Names*, p. 463.

Aldis

- **Current frequencies:** GB 656, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 559
- **Main GB location 1881:** E Anglia

English: see **Aldous**.

Further information: Black offers a Scottish origin for this (a toponymic from Auldhouse in Eastwood, Renfrews), but there is no evidence that the modern surname has any connection with Scotland.

Aldiss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 49, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 42
- **Main GB location 1881:** E Anglia

English: see **Aldous**.

Aldon

Variants: **Aldons**

- **GB frequency 1881:** 40
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham; also scattered in SE England

English: locative name from Aldon in Addington (Kent) or, less likely, from Aldon (Shrops) or Aldon (Somerset).

Further information: Aldon (Kent) is from the Old English personal name *Al(l)ā + dūn* ‘hill’, whereas Aldon (Shrops) is from Old English *æwylm* ‘spring, source’ + *dūn*.

Early bearers: Euota de Aldone, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Thomas de Aledon, 1321 in *London Letter Books F*; Thomas de Aldon, knight, 1367 in *Patent Rolls* (Kent); William Aldons, 1641 in *IGI* (Earlham, Norfolk); Edmund Aldon, 1684 in *IGI* (Hingham, Norfolk).

Aldons

- **Current frequencies:** GB 16, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 109
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Suffolk, Essex, and Herts

English: see **Aldon**.

Aldous

Variants: **Aldis, Alldis, Aldiss, Aldus, Aldhous, Aldhouse, Audas, Audiss, Audus, Awdas, Oldis, Ollis**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1807, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1211
- **Main GB location 1881:** E Anglia

English: relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Aldus*, a pet form of any of several names beginning with *Ald-* (Old English *Eald-*) such as *Aldith* (see **Allday**) and *Aldred* or *Aldrith* (see **Awdry**). It was particularly common in Yorks, the NE Midlands, and E Anglia in the 13th century.

Further information: A genealogy has been traced to William Aldous (d. 1528) of Fressingfield, Suffolk. The name is first recorded in Fressingfield in 1327. It is also recorded as the name of the rector of Wrenningham, Norfolk, in 1393.

Early bearers: given names: Aldus sister of Henry Paste, about 1180–90 in *Northern Danelaw Free Peasantry* (Blyth, Notts); Aldusa filia Cristine, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Alduse wife of Ranulph, 1298 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Gamston, Notts); Aldus, a woman of North Stainley, 1349 in *Charter Rolls* (WR Yorks).

surnames, E Anglia and Lincs: Willelmus filius Aldus, 1202 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs); Peter Aldus, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Peter Aldous, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Robert Aldhous and William Aldowes, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Thomas Audus, 1554 in *IGI* (Eppworth, Lincs); Ann Aldis, 1561 in *IGI* (Linstead Parva, Suffolk); Thomas Aldous, 1573 in *IGI* (Wingfield, Suffolk); Anne Aldus, 1612 in *IGI* (Amcotts, Lincs); Goody Aldis, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk); John Aldhouse, 1675 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk).

surnames, N England: Radulfus filius Alduse, 1168 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Roberto Aldus, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Carlton Husthwaite, NR Yorks); Jul’ Aldus, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Asselby, ER Yorks); Rogero Aldus, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Knedlington, ER Yorks); Johannes Aldus, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Heck, WR Yorks); Willelmo Aldus, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Howden, ER Yorks); Robti. Audus, 1595 in *IGI* (Hackness, NR Yorks); Francis Aldhowse, 1647 in *Sheffield Jackson Catalogue* (WR Yorks); David Awdas, 1659 in *IGI* (Howden, ER Yorks); Henry Audus, 1690 in *IGI* (Stockton on Tees, Durham).

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks*, V, 45.

Aldread

- **Current frequencies:** GB 37, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 22
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Derby and Notts
- English: see **Aldred**.

Aldred

Variants: **Allred, Alldread, Alred, Allred, Allured, Aldread, Aldritt, Audritt, Eldred, Eldrid, Eildred, Eldrett, Alldritt**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3495, Ireland 8
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 2562
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; also E Anglia
- 1 English relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Al(d)red* or *El(d)red*, an overlap or merger of three Old English names, *Ealdræd* (or *Aldræd*), *Æðelræd*, and *Ælfræd*. Old English *Ealdræd* and its variant *Aldræd* regularly appear in Middle English as either *Eldred* or *Aldred*, depending on dialect. These names originate in *eald* ‘old’, *æðel* ‘noble’, or *ælf* ‘elf’, respectively, + *ræd* ‘counsel’. The pronunciation of Old English *Æðelræd* was often shortened, occurring in Middle English as *Ailred*, *Eilred*, *Alred*, and *Elred*. Subsequently a transitional consonant *-d-* was inserted between the *l* and the *r*, resulting in *A(i)ldred* and *E(i)ldred*. Middle English forms of Old English *Ælfræd* sometimes lost the medial *-f-*, becoming *Alred* or *Elred*, and then *Aldred*, *Eldred*. All three personal names were largely obsolete by the end of the 13th century. Initial *Ald-* has sometimes altered to *Aud-* (a 15th-century change), and final *-red* to *-ret(t)* or *-rit(t)*.

Early bearers: given names: Ældred, Ældret, Aldret, Eldred, Eldret, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Aldret de Windegate, about 1145–65 in *Hatton’s Book of Seals* (Northumb); Eldredus, 1161–77 in *Ramsey Abbey Court Rolls* (Herts); Alret, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Kent); Eilredus de Mannest’, 1198 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Kent); Alredus de Wicham, 1206 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Kent).

surnames: Robert Alred, 1198 in *Pipe Rolls* (Kent); Godardus filius Ailred’, 1205 in *Pipe Rolls* (London); Roger Aldredus, 1207 in *Pipe Rolls* (Devon); Golding Aldred, before 1224 in *Clerkenwell Cartulary* (Middx);

William Aldret, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Walter Ailred, Martin Alred, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Hunts); Thomas Aylred, 1283 in *Ipswich Tax Roll* (Suffolk); William Eyldred, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Henry Alred, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Henry Aldred, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Norfolk); Maud Aildred, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Essex); Johannes Aulderede, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Cumb); Edmundus Elred, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Wereham, Norfolk); Johannes Alderyd, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Harleston, Suffolk); Robertus Aldreth', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Givendale, WR Yorks); John Aldred, 1562 in *IGI* (Heveningham, Suffolk); Rychard Aldred, 1567 in *IGI* (Fowlmere, Cambs); Edmund Aldred, 1574 in *IGI* (Great Bentley, Essex); Mary Aldred, 1585 in *IGI* (Attleborough, Norfolk); Alice Aldred, 1626 in *IGI* (Leigh, Lancs).

References: *Seltén, Anglo-Saxon Heritage*.

2 English: variant of **Awdry** (2).

Aldredge

- **GB frequency 1881:** 51
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

English: see **Aldridge**.

Further information: This form of the name is rare in Britain but more numerous in the USA.

Aldren

- **Current frequencies:** GB 86, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 80
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Westm
- English: locative name from Middle English *aldren* 'at the alders' (Old English *alor* 'alder', dative plural *alrum*).

Early bearers: Thomas in the Aldren, Henry in the Alren, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); Robart Oldren, 1565 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx); Suzana Aldren, 1582 in *IGI* (Kings Stanley, Gloucs); Edward Oldrin, 1718 in *IGI* (Fressingfield, Suffolk); Elisabeth Aldran, 1719 in *IGI* (Cartmel, Lancs); Susannah Oldring, 1721 in *IGI* (Kelsale, Suffolk); Thomas Aldren, 1772 in *IGI* (Lancaster, Lancs); Richard Oldring, 1777, John Oldrin, 1781, Hannah Aldrin, 1838 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); John Oldrin, 1786, Maria Aldren, 1797, John Oldren, 1798 in *IGI* (Wissett, Suffolk); John Aldren, 1788 in *IGI* (Burton in Kendal, Westm).

Aldrich

- **Current frequencies:** GB 685, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 478
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk and Norfolk
- English: see **Aldridge**.

Aldrick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 21, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 55
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Aldridge**.

Aldridge

Variants: **Aldrich**, **Alldridge**, **Aldrige**, **Aldridge**, **Aldredge**, **Allderidge**, **Arlidge**, **Eldridge**, **Oldridge**, **Holdridge**, **Woldridge**, **Aldrick**, **Alldrick**, **Alldritt**, **Audritt**, **Eldrett**, **Allwright**, **Allright**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 8529, Ireland 112
- **GB frequency 1881:** 5717
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. London and Herts

- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Offaly, Kildare, and Dublin

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal names *Alrich* or *Elrich* and *Aldrich* or *Eldrich*, representing any one of three Old English personal names, *Æðelric*, *Ælfric*, and *Ealdric*, formed respectively from *æðel* 'noble', *ælf* 'elf, sprite', and *eald* 'old, honoured' + **ric* 'ruler'. *Al(d)-* can develop to *Ol(d)-*, especially in Devon and Yorks. In Middle English, *-rich* was sometimes altered to *-riht* and *-rit*, leading to the modern forms **Allwright** and **Alldritt**. In post-medieval pronunciation *-rich* has commonly developed to *-ridge*. Less often the final syllable appears as *-ric(k)*. See also **Etheridge**, which is also from *Æðelric* but shows an early loss of *-l*.

Further information: The history of these Old English personal names and their derived surnames is complicated by a great deal of variation in their Old and Middle English forms, with confusion between the different names. The commonest Old English source name was *Æðelric*, which appears distinctively in Middle English as *Aylrich* and *Eylrich*, but also very frequently as *Alrich*, *Elrich*, *Aldrich*, and *Eldrich*. Similarly, while Old English *Ælfric* frequently appears distinctively as Middle English *Alfrich* and *Elfrich*, the *-f-* was often subsequently lost, giving rise to *Alrich* and *Elrich*, which in turn became *Aldrich* and *Eldrich* through the development of a transitional consonant *-d-* between *l* and *r*. The rare Old English name *Ealdric* (a West Saxon and Kentish form) will have given rise to both *Eldrich* and *Aldrich* in southern Middle English. Old English **Aldric*, the equivalent Anglian dialect form, is not on record but would have appeared as Middle English *Aldrich* in the midlands and north. The final consonant of Old English *-ric* had two pronunciations, /tʃ/ and /k/, reflected in the Middle English spellings *-rich* and *-ric(k)*.

Early bearers: given names: Adelric, Aelricus, Alricus, Alrich, Elric, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Ældricus (also Ailricus) de Burc, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Suffolk); Elricus filius Leppe 1154–89 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Ailricus or Elricus Strut, 1186–8 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Kalendar* (Suffolk); Aldrich (also Ailrich), 1220 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Surrey); Ailrich Carpenter', 1228 in *Assize Rolls* (Suffolk).

given names with *-f-*: Ælfric, Alfric, Aluric, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Eluricus prepositus de Norwycō (reeve of Norwich), 1101–25 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk); Aluricus filius Turkilli, 1186–88 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Kalendar* (Suffolk); Eluerich Pecke, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Norfolk).

surnames, S and E Midlands: Roger Elrich, 1279 in *Barnwell Memorandum Book* (Cambs); Robert Aylrich (also Alrych), 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Hunts); Robert Alriche, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cambs); Amicia Alric, 1346 in *Feet of Fines* (Cambs); Johannes Elrich', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Lincoln, Lincs); Willm. Alderidge, 1576 in *IGI* (Braughing, Herts); Henry Aldrige, 1587 in *IGI* (Huntingdon, Hunts); John Elridg, 1601 in *IGI* (Weston, Lincs); Robert Aldrig, 1617 in *IGI* (Harston, Cambs); Wm Eldridge, 1620 in *IGI* (Tring, Herts); John Aldredge, 1644 in *IGI* (Berkhampstead, Herts); Sarah Eldricke, 1671 in *IGI* (Navenby, Lincs); Mary Eldridg, 1696, Rachel Elldrige, 1797 in *IGI* (Hemel Hempstead, Herts).

surnames, S and SW England: William Ailric, Ricardus Alurici, 1209 in *Pipe Rolls* (Wilts); William Alfric, 1212 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Berks); William Alfrich, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John Alfryg, 1327 in *Subsidy*

Rolls (Somerset); William Eldrich, 1336 in *Ancient Deeds* (Surrey); Rogerus Alfrich', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Fisherton de la Mere, Wilts); Rogerus Alfrich', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Freshwater, Hants); Johannes Alryche, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Butts Ash, Hants); Robertus Alfrych', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (East Harting, Sussex); Johannes Elrych, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Shere, Surrey); Elyanor Aldressh, 1513 in *Kent Wills* (Ditton, Kent); John Aldridge, 1555 in *IGI* (Eling, Hants); Marie Allridge, 1570 in *IGI* (Woodchester, Gloucs); Alice Aldridge, John Eldridge, 1586 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ringwood, Hants); Edward Eldridge, 1586 in *IGI* (Cholsey, Berks); Thomas Aldridge, 1595 in *IGI* (Bishops Cannings, Wilts); Humfry Allldridge, 1599 in *IGI* (Somerton, Somerset); Mary Aldridge, 1624 in *IGI* (Stroud, Gloucs); William Allridge, 1624 in *IGI* (Gnosall, Staffs); John Aldridge, 1628 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); George Aldrick, 1637 in *IGI* (Putney, Surrey); Henry Eldridge, 1643 in *IGI* (Tewkesbury, Gloucs); Gabriel Aldridge, 1681 in *IGI* (Great Shefford, Berks); George Aldrick, 1772 in *IGI* (Broughton Gifford, Wilts).

surnames, E Anglia: Hugo Ælurici filius, about 1095 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents* (Suffolk), perhaps identical with Hugo filius Alrici, alias Hugo filius Ælrici, 1134–40, Hugo filius Elurici, 1153–68 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk); Rob' filius Alrici de Doehing, 1165 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk), identical with Rob' filius Alrici, 1165 in *Curia Regis Rolls*; Conanus filius Elrichi or filius Eylrici, 1223 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Norfolk, Suffolk); Thomas Aldric, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Norfolk); Robert Alfrech, 1321 in *Feet of Fines* (Suffolk); Adam Aylrich, Johannes Alrich, Seman Olrich, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Johannes Eluerich, 1327, Willelmus Aluerich, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Norfolk); Johannes Aldrich, Willemus Elderich, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Norfolk); Johannes Ailrich, 1341 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Johannes Alfrich', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Bradfield, Essex); Johannes Aldrych', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Earsham, Norfolk); Peter Oldryk, 1527 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); John Aldrich, 1568 in *IGI* (Rumburgh, Suffolk); James Aldridge, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk).

surnames, W Midlands: Henry Aldric, Geoffrey Aldrich, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Willelmus Alryche, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Astley, Warwicks); Thomas Alldridg, 1629, George Aldridge, 1811 in *IGI* (Broadway, Worcs); Abraham Alldridge, 1629, Rob. Owlddrig, 1713 in *IGI* (Birmingham, Warwicks). surnames, N England: Ambrose Aldrige, 1599, Anne Oldridge, 1623, Thomas Oldridge, 1712, Ann Aldridge, 1824, in *IGI* (Leeds, WR Yorks); Grace Aldridge, 1643, Jane Oldrige, 1696 in *IGI* (York); Richard Ouldrige, 1660 in *IGI* (Sandal Magna, WR Yorks); James Aldrich, 1660 in *IGI* (Ashton under Lyne, Lancs).

References: *Seltén, Anglo-Saxon Heritage*, pp. 18 and 32.

2 English: locative name from Aldridge (Staffs), Aldridge Grove in Hampden (Bucks) (recorded in a byname as *Eldridge*, 1227 in *Place-Names of Bucks*), or from a similarly named unidentified place in or near Worcester (perhaps Tiltridge in Upton upon Severn). The 1623 form may alternatively belong under (1) above, and some of the W Midlands examples under (1) may belong here.

Early bearers: W Midlands Drogo de Alrewic, 1201 in *Pipe Rolls* (Staffs); Nicholas de Alrewich, 1262, Nicholas de Alrewiz, 1286 in *Staffs Forest Pleas* (Staffs); Hugo Elrugge, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Valentine Alldredge, 1607 in *IGI* (Little Comberton, Worcs);

John Aldriche, 1623 in *IGI* (Pattingham, Staffs); Joan Aldridge, 1646 in *IGI* (Wolverhampton, Staffs).
References: *Place-Names of Bucks*, p. 151; *Place-Names of Worcs*, p. 174.

Aldrige

- **Current frequencies:** GB 21, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 142
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Aldridge**.

Aldritt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 60
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs
- English: see **Alldritt**.

Aldsworth

Variants: Allsworth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 49, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 21
- **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon and Berks

English: a variant of **Aldworth**, probably influenced by the place-name Aldsworth in adjacent Gloucs (which seems not to have given rise to a surname), though it is possible that the *s* reflects a variant noted occasionally among the early forms of Aldworth (Berks), such as *Aldesworth* in 1281.

Early bearers: Jane Aldsworth, 1569 in *IGI* (London); Zachary Allworth, 1592 in *IGI* (Steeple Ashton, Wilts); Marie Aldworth, 1628, Bartholomew Alworth, 1674 in *IGI* (Drayton, Berks); John Alsworth, 1637 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph without Aldgate, London); Bridget Aldsworth, 1659 in *IGI* (North Nibley, Gloucs); William Allsworth, 1717 in *IGI* (Newport, Shrops); Thomas Aldworth, 1669, Thom Aldworth, 1727, Thoms. Allworth, 1736 in *IGI* (Marcham, Berks); Richard Aldsworth, 1754 in *IGI* (Bray, Berks); Mary Aldsworth, 1756 in *IGI* (Stanton Harcourt, Oxon).

References: *Place-Names of Berks*, p. 495.

Aldus

Variants: Allidus, Ollis

- **Current frequencies:** GB 157, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 57
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham

English: see **Aldous**.

Aldwinckle

Variants: Aldwinkle, Allwinkle

- **Current frequencies:** GB 277, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 147
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northants, Leics, and Rutland

English: locative name from Aldwincle (Northants).

Early bearers: Henry de Audewincle, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Northants); John de Aldewyncle, 1384 in *Feet of Fines* (Aldwincle, Northants); William Aldewynkyl, 1386 in *Ancient Deeds i* (Northants); William Aldewyncle, 1434 in *Feet of Fines* (Thrapston, Northants); William Aldewyncle, 1468 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Notts); Thomas Alwincle, 1560 in *IGI* (Peterborough, Northants); Anna Aldwincle, 1577 in *IGI* (Uppingham, Rutland); Frances Allwinkle, 1644 in *IGI* (Brighthurst, Leics).

Aldwinkle

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13, Ireland o

- **GB frequency 1881:** 37
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northants and Leics
- English: see **Aldwinckle**.

Aldworth

Variants: Aldsworth, Allsworth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 487, Ireland 12
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 213
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Berks
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork and Kerry
- English: locative name from Aldworth (Berks).
Early bearers: John Aldeworthe, 1443 in *Hants Record Office* (Wantage, Berks); Thomas Aldworth, 1538 in *IGI* (Reading, Berks); Robert Aldworth, 1540 in *IGI* (Wantage, Berks); John Aldwoorth, 1543 in *IGI* (Sutton Courtenay, Berks).

References: *Place-Names of Berks*, p. 495.

Ale

Variants: Alle

- **Current frequencies:** GB 185, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 8
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Herts; Lancs
- 1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Ale*, a short form of names beginning with *Al-*, such as *Alice*, *Alison*, *Alan*, and *Alexander*. The 1204 name has the feminine Latin ending *-a* for Middle English *-e*. Compare **Alley**.
Early bearers: given names: Ala de Bedingh', 1204 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Sussex).
 surnames: Nicholas filius Ale, 1218 in *Pipe Rolls* (Staffs); John Ale, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Jone Ale, 1554, Samewell Ale, 1678 in *IGI* (Flamstead, Herts); Jane Ale, 1605 in *IGI* (Cockerham, Lancs).

2 English: variant of **Hale** with loss of *H-*.

Aleck

- **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- English: see **Allick**.

Alecock

- **Current frequencies:** GB 114, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 26
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk

English: see **Alcock**.

A'Lee

- **Current frequencies:** GB 70, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** o

English: locative name variant of Middle English *atte Leye* '(dweller) at the clearing' (Old English *lēah* 'open woodland'). Compare **Attley**.

Early bearers: John Ale, 1521 in *York Freeman's Register* (York); John a Laye, John a Lye, Thomas a Lee, Thomas Aley, William at Lee, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John a Lyghe, 1544 in *Muster Rolls* (Surrey).

Alefounder

- **Current frequencies:** GB 61, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 48
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex

English: occupational name for an inspector of ale, one appointed by the Court Leet to examine ale as it was poured out (Latin *fundere* 'to pour out').

Early bearers: Walter le Alefondere, 1275 in *Close Rolls*; John Alefondere, 1381 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Widow Alefounder, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk).

Aleman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 22, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- English: see **Allman**.

Alen

- **Current frequencies:** GB 76, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 95
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex
- English: see **Allen**.

Alesbrook

- **Current frequencies:** GB 83, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 29
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Leics and Derbys
- English: see **Allsebrook**.

Alesbury

- **Current frequencies:** GB 63, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 30
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham; Middx; Staffs; Glamorgan
- English: see **Aylesbury**.

Alex

- **Current frequencies:** GB 292, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 8

Jewish (Ashkenazic): short form of **Alexander**.
Early bearers: Isaiah Alex, dentist, 1827 in *Gloucs Hebrew Community*; Solomon Alex, dentist, born in 'foreign parts', in *Census 1841* (Finsbury, Middx); Ephraim Alex, dentist, in *Census 1861* (Blackfriars, London); Montague Alex, surgeon dentist, born in London, in *Census 1871* (Cheltenham, Gloucs); Angel Alex, born in Poland, in *Census 1891* (Salford, Lancs); Barnett Alex, cap maker, born in Manchester, in *Census 1911* (Manchester, Lancs).

Alexander

Variants: Alexandra, Alexandre, Elsender

- **Current frequencies:** GB 24132, Ireland 1515
- **GB frequency 1881:** 15742
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. in Scotland
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Antrim; Tyrone

1 Scottish, English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Alexander*, itself from Greek *Aléxandros*, a compound of the stem of the verb *aléxein* 'to ward off, defend', and the genitive stem *andr-* of the noun *anēr* 'man'.

Further information: *Alexander* was very popular as a given name in England and Scotland after the Norman Conquest, in part no doubt due to the immense popularity of medieval Alexander romances, which are found in Old French, Latin, and Middle English, as well as other European languages.

Early bearers: Thomas Alexander, 1283 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Willelmus Alexsaunders, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Haldenby, WR Yorks); Johannes Alisundr', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Shropham hundred, Norfolk); Willelmus Alexand', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Newbold, Leics); Johanne Alisundre, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Little Wittenham, Berks); Thomas Elsender, 1771 in *IGI* (Gateshead, Durham).

2 Scottish, Irish: in Scotland and Ireland, this is often the English name, but was also often adopted for the Gaelic equivalent, see **McAllister**.

Early bearers: Ireland Terence McDon moill myc Alexander, gent., 1551 in *Fiants Edward* §810 (the

Alexandra

north parts); George Alexander 1584 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §4420; Doryne nyne Alexander, spinster, 1602 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6699.

Scotland William Alexander, 1435 in *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland* (Edinburgh); Robert Alexander, 1438 in *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland* (Aberdeens).

3 Jewish (Ashkenazic): from the personal name or possibly a reduction of the Eastern Ashkenazic patronymic forms **Aleksandrovich**, **Alexandrowicz**.

Early bearers: Raphael Alexander, 1774 in *Great and Hambro Synagogue Births* (London); Abraham Alexander, 1776 in *Jews of SW England*; Alexander Alexander, optician, 1826 in *Gloucs Hebrew Community*; Israel Alexander, born in Newington, in *Census 1851* (Saint Luke, Middx); Hyman Alexander, tailor, born in Poland, in *Census 1871* (Whitechapel, Middx); Harris Alexander, boot finisher, born in Poland, in *Census 1881* (Whitechapel, Middx); Benjamin Alexander, picture frame maker, born in Russia, in *Census 1881* (Manchester, Lancs); Solomon Alexander, trimming merchant, born in Russia, in *Census 1891* (Islington, Middx).

Alexandra

- **Current frequencies:** GB 177, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 162
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx, Surrey; Durham; Lancs

English: variant of **Alexander**, apparently from the feminine form of the personal name.

Alexandre

- **Current frequencies:** GB 193, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 154

Huguenot: French form of **Alexander**.

Early bearers: Guillaume Alexandre, 1722 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street French Huguenot Church, London); Marie Alexandre, 1737 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street French Huguenot Church, London); Marie Anne Alexandre, 1773 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx).

Alexandrou

- **Current frequencies:** GB 387, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Greek (typically Cypriot): relationship name from an old genitive case of the Greek personal name *Alexandros*, see **Alexander**.

Alexis

- **Current frequencies:** GB 443, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

French: relationship name, patronymic from the personal name *Alexis*, ultimately from Greek *aléxios* 'helping, defending'. In Britain the history of this surname is unclear: it was present among French immigrants in the 19th century, but is now also frequent among West Indians, possibly via formerly French possessions in the Caribbean.

Early bearers: Fanny Alexis, 1797, Sarah Alexis, 1803 in *IGI* (Southwark, Surrey); Nicola Alexis, in *Census 1861* (Westminster, Middx); Henry Alexis, in *Census 1871* (Lambeth, Surrey); Alice Alexis, *Census 1881* (London); Cheron Alexis, born in France, in *Census 1891* (Saint Sampson, Guernsey).

Aley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 244, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 165

- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex

1 English: locative name perhaps from Aley Green in Caddington (Beds, earlier Herts), but that name may be, inversely, from the surname.

Early bearers: Mabilla Aley, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Flixton, Suffolk); Sisley Aley, 1540 in *IGI* (Berkhamsted, Herts); Thomas Ale, 1592 in *Place-Names of Herts* (Caddington); John Aily, 1615 in *IGI* (Sawbridgeworth, Herts); Robertus Aley, 1640 in *IGI* (Barrow on Humber, Lincs); Frances Ailey, 1700 in *IGI* (Bishops Stortford, Herts); Mary Aley, 1728 in *IGI* (Epping, Essex).

2 English: relationship name perhaps from the Middle English female personal name *Ayleve* (from an Old English personal name such as *Æðelgifu*, composed of the elements *æðel* 'noble' + *gifu* 'gift'), with loss of the final consonant; compare **Ayliff**.

Alfano

- **Current frequencies:** GB 118, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Italian: locative name from Alfano in Salerno province, Campania.

Alfille

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: relationship name from the Middle English female given name *Alfild* (Old English *Ælfhild*, composed of the elements *ælf* 'elf, sprite' + *hild* 'battle').

Early bearers: given names, Channel Islands: Alfilda, 1201 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Sussex).

surnames: John Alfild, 1309 in *Essex Archaeological Transactions* 23; Thomas Alfild, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Essex); Edward Alfeild, 1619 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Mary Alfield, 1761 in *IGI* (Worth, Sussex).

Alflat

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 21

- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Alflatt**.

Alflatt

Variants: **Alflatt**, **Alflat**, **Elfleet**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 73, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 34
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Alfred*, which represents two Old English names that have fallen together:

Ælflræd, from *ælf* 'elf, sprite' + *flræd* 'beauty', and *Æðelflæd*, from *æðel* 'noble' + *flæd*. The latter is also found as *Ædelflete* in *Domesday Book*, which is certainly the source of the medieval surname *Ailflet*.

Early bearers: given names: Elfled, 1222 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Suffolk).

surnames: Adam Ailflet, 1221 in *Cotton Tiberius B ii* (Suffolk); Thomas Alfled, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Edmundus Elfled, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Honing, Norfolk); Robert Alflat or Alflatt, 1579 in *PROB 11* (Bristol, Gloucs); Frances Alflatt, 1832 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Louisa Alflatt, 1839 in *IGI* (Tottenham, Norfolk).

Alfonso

Variants: **Alonso**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 211, Ireland 5

- **GB frequency 1881:** 3

Spanish, Italian: relationship name from the personal name *Alfonso*, itself from (Latinized) Visigothic *Adelfonsus*, from elements meaning 'noble' + 'ready'. Compare Portuguese **Afonso**.

Alford

Variants: **Allford**, **Halford**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3368, Ireland 144
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2533
- **Main GB location 1881:** S and W England: esp. Devon
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Kildare, Wicklow, and Dublin

1 English: locative name mainly from Alford in Somerset and (in the W Midlands) Aldford in Cheshire; occasionally from Alford in Lincs.

Early bearers: England Alan de Alforde 1154–89 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Robert de Auford, 1202 in *Feet of Fines* (Lincs); Thomas de Aldeford, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Thos Alford, 1561 in *IGI* (Freiston, Lincs); John Awford, 1562 in *IGI* (Moulton, Lincs); George Alford, 1562 in *IGI* (Roborough by Torrington, Devon); William Alford, 1564 in *IGI* (Mere, Wilts); Elizabeth Alford, 1570, William Awford, 1624 in *IGI* (Worcester, Worcs); Sibill Allford, 1590 in *IGI* (Upton upon Severn, Worcs); Henry Allford, 1608 in *IGI* (Coates, Gloucs); Henry Alforde, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Devon); Issilla Alford, 1659 in *IGI* (Wick Saint Lawrence, Somerset); John Alford, 1640, Samuell Awford, 1662, Robert Auford, 1684 in *IGI* (Pinchbeck, Lincs); Tho. Alford, 1706 in *IGI* (Frodsham, Cheshire).

Ireland Lancelot Alford, gent., 1561 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §367.

2 English: variant of **Halford** (or vice versa). Compare Francis Alford, 1694, James Halford, 1781 in *IGI* (Kenton, Devon); John Alford, 1715, Alfred Halford, 1897 in *IGI* (Frodsham, Cheshire); Elizabeth Alford, 1724, Ricd Halford, 1747 in *IGI* (Broadclyst, Devon); Joseph Alford, 1727, Jenny Halford, 1775 in *IGI* (Saint Endellion, Cornwall).

Alfred

Variants: **Alfreds**, **Allured**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 433, Ireland 50
- **GB frequency 1881:** 126
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Lancs, Durham, Middx, Surrey, Cornwall

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Alfred*, *Elfred*, itself from Old English *Ælfræd*, composed of the elements *ælf* 'elf, sprite' + *ræd* 'counsel'. Compare **Alfrey**, and also **Avery**, from an Anglo-Norman French version of the same name. The name has also contributed to **Aldred**.

Early bearers: given names: Alured, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Elfredus pelliparius 1154–89 *Gilbertine Charters* (Lincs); Alfredus Folkeredus, 1204 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Surrey); Alfridus Cornwale, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Oxon); Aufrid Mauncer, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Suffolk).

surnames: Alexander filius Alvredi, 1206 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Norfolk); Walter Alured, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Thomas Alfred, 1294 in *Ramsey Abbey Court Rolls* (Beds); Richard Alfred, 1423 in *Patent Rolls* (Maldon, Essex); Henry Alfred, 1619 in *IGI* (Wokingham, Berks); Jonathan Alfred, 1674 in *IGI* (Cranbrook, Kent); Mary Alfred, 1702 in *IGI* (Swanage, Dorset); John Alfred, 1763 in *IGI*

(Birmingham, Warwicks); Robt Alfred, 1771 in *IGI* (Woodbury, Devon).

Alfreds

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 12
- English: variant of **Alfred** with post-medieval excrement -s.

Alfrey

Variants: Allfrey, Allfree, Alfry, Elvery

- **Current frequencies:** GB 134, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 59
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: (i) relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Alfrith*, *Alfrey*, *Alfray*, derived from either the Old English male name *Æðelfrīð*, the Old English female name **Æðelfrīð*, or the Continental Germanic male name *Adalfrith*, both with the same etymology, composed of elements meaning 'noble' and 'peace'. *Aufrey* and latinized *Aufrius* show the influence of Anglo-Norman vocalization of /l/ before a consonant. (ii) relationship name from Middle English *Alfred*, Old English *Ælfræd*, which may also have developed to *Alfrey* on the analogy of names in -frīð. Compare **Alfred**, **Avery**.

Early bearers: given names: Elfridus, Egelfride, 1086 in *Domesday Book*.
 surnames: Ricardus filius Aufridi, 1212 in *Book of Fees* (Lincs); Richard Aufrey, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Worcs), 1277 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Northants); John Aufred, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Hunts); Robert Alfray, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Gilbert Alfrey, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); John Alfreth, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Essex); Adam Alfrid, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); William Alfred, Alfreth, Alfride, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Essex); Edward Alfrey, 1577 in *IGI* (East Grinstead, Sussex); Willm Alfrey, 1582 in *IGI* (East Grinstead, Sussex); Anne Alfrey, 1593 in *IGI* (Scole, Norfolk); Katheryn Alfrey, 1616 in *IGI* (Wotton, Surrey); Willia Alfrey, 1640 in *IGI* (Little Woolstone, Bucks).

Alfry

- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs; Surrey
- English: see **Alfrey**.

Algar

Variants: Allgar, Alger, Agar, Agard, Ager, Agger, Augar, Auger, Augur, Elgar, Elger

- **Current frequencies:** GB 934, Ireland 21
- **GB frequency 1881:** 753
- **Main GB location 1881:** E Anglia; Devon

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Algar*, usually representing either Old English *Ælfgār* or *Ædelgār* (becoming *Ailgar*, *Eylgar*), composed of the elements *ælf* 'elf, sprite' and *ædel* 'noble', + *gār* 'spear', respectively, or perhaps occasionally the rare *Ealdgār*, with *eald* 'old'. *Agar* reflects the frequent loss of /l/ in Old English *Ædel*.

Early bearers: given names: Alfgarus, Elgar, Ælgar, Algar, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Ealgarus, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Algar, about 1095 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents* (Suffolk); Ailgarus filius Lucie, 1151–3 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Ailgarus, Agare, abbot of Faversham, 1193–9, 1200–4 in *Saint Gregory Cartulary*

(Kent); Algarus Dalling, 1210 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Cambs); Eylgar de Berwe, 1273 in *Hundred Rolls* (Sussex); Elgarus, Ailgarus King, about 1232 in *Clerkenwell Cartulary* (Kent).
 surnames: William Algar, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Worcs); Thomas Algor, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Robti. Algar, 1544 in *IGI* (Sutterton, Lincs); Mary Algar, 1546 in *IGI* (Spexhall, Suffolk); Annam Algar, 1562 in *IGI* (Wedmore, Somerset); Joheus Algar, 1583 in *IGI* (Sandbach, Cheshire); Suson Algar, 1603 in *IGI* (Yealmpton, Devon).
 2 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Alger*, Old Scandinavian *Alfgeirr*, *Alger*. *Auger*, if pronounced with a hard g, shows Anglo-Norman French vocalization of /l/ before a consonant, but with a soft g it belongs with **Alger**.
Early bearers: given names: Alferus, Ælger, Algerus, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Lincs, Norfolk, Suffolk); Ælger de Brademere, Alger, about 1095 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents* (Suffolk); Algerus faber, 1150 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs).
 surnames: Simon Alger, 1221 in *Cotton Tiberius B ii* (Suffolk); Thomas Alger, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts* (Yorks).

Algate

Variants: Aldgate

- **Current frequencies:** GB 82, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 101
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon
- English: locative name from a lost *Aldegat(e)* in Beverley or *Ald(e)gat(e)* in Hull (ER Yorks); or presumably from Aldgate in London, which is recorded as *Alegate* from 1108 onwards, with the intrusive -d- appearing in the 17th century.
Early bearers: Edricus de Alegat', 1219 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Middx); Maud de Alegate, 1252, Ralph de Alegate, 1288 in *Patent Rolls* (London); Robert de Algate, 1353 in *Patent Rolls* (Beverley, ER Yorks); Alicia Haldegate, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Carlton, WR Yorks); Nicolas Algate, 1576 in *IGI* (Crediton, Devon); Mathew Allgate, 1582 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); Marie Algat, 1667 in *IGI* (Plympton Saint Mary, Devon); Joseph Aldgate, 1780 in *IGI* (South Huish, Devon).
References: Ekwall, *London Street-Names*, pp. 90–91; *Place-Names of ER Yorks*.

Algeo

Variants: Algie, Alger

- **Current frequencies:** GB 95, Ireland 15
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 8
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Lancs
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Donegal and Leitrim
- Scottish: nickname; the early spellings *Awldioy*, *Aldjeo*, *Aldjo*, and *Aldgeo* suggest a term of affection from Scots *auld* 'old' + *joy*, *jo*, *joe* 'joy, sweetheart, darling, lover' (Old French *joi* Middle English *joi*, *jo*, which can also signify 'good fortune' and 'mirth, music, laughter, jesting'). Alternatively, if the -d- is intrusive, *Algeo* may be from a phrase 'all joy, all good fortune', used as a farewell. The -ge- in *Algeo* is another spelling of j, the additional -e- indicating that the g is soft.
Further information: The name has been traced back genealogically to Peter Algeo, a burgess of Paisley in 1550, whose family is associated with the estate of Inchinnan near Paisley. A history of Renfrew, cited by Black, affirms that the family was 'of Italian

origin, the first of them having come from Rome in the suite of one of the abbots of Paisley.' However, this is mere speculation; the name is not Italian.
Early bearers: Scotland William Awldioy, 1518 in *Edinburgh Burgh Records* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Peter Algeo, burgess, 1550 in *Protocol Books Glasgow* (Paisley, Renfrews); John Algeo, burgess, 1603 in *Laing Charters* (Paisley), Peter Aldjeo, advocate, 1628 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Paisley); Thomas Aldgeo, 1628 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Paisley); Peter Algeo, 1610 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Williame Algeo, 1610, John Aldjo, 1626, John Algeo, 1733 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks); Margrat Aljo, 1644 in *IGI* (Falkirk, Stirlings); John Algeo, 1675, Janet Aljoe, 1725 in *IGI* (Renfrew, Renfrews); Alexander Algeo, 1718 in *IGI* (Paisley, Renfrews); Katharine Aljo, 1728 in *IGI* (Falkland, Fife); David Aljioy, 1830 in *IGI* (Port Glasgow, Renfrews).
 England Mathew Algeo, 1653 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); John Algeo, 1734 in *IGI* (Peover, Cheshire); Robert Algeo, 1829 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); John Algeo, 1875 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs).

Alger

Variants: Auger, Ager, Algie, Algar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 702, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 677
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England
- 1 English: (i) relationship name; pronounced with a soft g (/dʒ/), this is from the Middle English personal name *Alger*, representing Old French *Alg(i)er*, *Aug(i)er*, Continental Germanic *Adalgari*, composed of the elements *adal 'noble' + *gāri 'spear'. The development to *Ager* is a late Middle English change from /au/ to /a:/ then /ei/. Compare **Dawkin** and **Dakin**. (ii) pronounced with a hard g (/g/), it is usually a variant of **Algar**, but it might also be a rare variant of Middle English *Alker* (see **Auker**), from Old English *Ealhhere* (*ealh* 'shrine, temple' + *here* 'army'), with an Anglo-Norman French pronunciation of /k/ as /g/, as evidenced in *Alcher*, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Devon), alias *Algerus*, *Algherus*, 1086 in *Exeter Domesday Book*.
Early bearers: Walter Alger, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Henry Auger, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Hunts); Willemus filius Auger, 1346 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); William Awger, 1498 in *York Freeman's Register*.
 2 English, Scottish: in Scotland *Alger* may alternatively be a variant of **Algeo**.

Algie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 203, Ireland 61
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 205
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Glasgow
- Scottish: possibly an altered form of **Algeo**, a noted Paisley name, or of **Alger**, recorded in Paisley (Samuel Alger, 1786 in *IGI*) and in Glasgow (Robt. Alger, 1747, in *IGI*).
Early bearers: James Algie, 1685, William Algie, 1819 in *IGI* (Paisley, Renfrews); Robert Algie, 1730 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks); David Algie, 1745 in *IGI* (Inchinnan, Renfrews).

Ali

Variants: Allii, Aly

- **Current frequencies:** GB 57253, Ireland 190
- **GB frequency 1881:** 16

Arabic, Muslim (widespread throughout the Muslim world: (i) usually from the widespread Arabic personal name *‘Alī*, which is from an Arabic word meaning ‘high, lofty’. (ii) it may sometimes be from the personal name *‘Abd-al-‘Alī*, ‘servant of the All-High’, ‘the All-High’ being an attribute of Allah. **Further information:** ‘Alī ibn Abī Tālib (c. 600–661), the cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad, was the fourth and last of the ‘rightly guided’ khalifs (ruled 656–61) and the first imam of the Shiite Muslims. His assassination marked the beginning of the division between Shiite and Sunni Muslims.

Alibhai

- **Current frequencies:** GB 293, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Indian (Gujarat): from the Arabic personal name *‘Alī* (see **Ali**) + Gujarati *bhai* ‘brother’.

Alibone

- **Current frequencies:** GB 80, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 54
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northants; Wales
- English: see **Alban**.

Aliffe

- **GB frequency 1881:** 25
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- English: see **Ayliffe**.

Alim

- **Current frequencies:** GB 336, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Muslim: from an Arabic personal name *‘alim* meaning ‘wise, scholar’, from the root *‘-l-m*, ‘to know’. *‘alim*, ‘All-knowing’, is also one of the attributes of Allah; hence the personal name Abdul-Alim, from Arabic *‘abd-ul-‘alim*, ‘servant of the All-knowing’.

Alin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 47, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 8
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- English: see **Ayling**.

Aling

- **Current frequencies:** GB 57, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 21
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey; Dorset
- English: see **Ayling**.

Alington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 36
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Allington**.

Alis

- **Current frequencies:** GB 24, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- English: see **Allis**.

Alison

Variants: **Ellison**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 529, Ireland 14
- **GB frequency 1881:** 534
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. in Scotland
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Tyrone

Scottish: see **Allison**.

Alister

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 23
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 20
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Glasgow
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim and Down
- Scottish: see **Allister**.
Further information: Reaney’s derivation of this name from Alcester in Worcs is implausible.

Alker

- **Current frequencies:** GB 663, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 552
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: locative name from Altcar (Lancs).
Further information: see **Auker** for a possible alternative source of *Alker*, but there is no evidence that this gave rise to the Lancs name.
Early bearers: William de Altekar, 1341 in *London Letter Books F*; William Alker, 1630 in *Bardsley* (Burscough, Lancs).

Alkin

Variants: **Allkins**, **Alkins**, **Aukin**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 41, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 84
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. in the Midlands and NR Yorks

English: relationship name from *Al* (a short form of a personal name such as *Allan* or *Alexander*) + the diminutive suffix *-kin*. Compare **Alcock**.
Early bearers: given names: Alkin the Jonge, 1296 in *Assize Rolls* (Cheshire).
surnames: John Alkyn, 1307 in *Parliamentary Writs* (Herefs); Jacobi Aukin, 1710 in *IGI* (Stafford, Staffs).

Alkins

- **Current frequencies:** GB 75, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 109
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs; also Kent
- English: variant of **Alkin**, with genitival or post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

All

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 17
- **Main GB location 1881:** Flints

English: see **Alle**.
Further information: This name is rare in Britain but more numerous in the USA.

Allaban

- **GB frequency 1881:** 4
- English: see **Alban**.

Allaby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 42, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 58
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire and Lancs
- English: see **Allenby**.

Allain

- **Current frequencies:** GB 129, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 26
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Allen**.

Allaker

- **Current frequencies:** GB 148, Ireland o

- **GB frequency 1881:** 32
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex
- English: see **Ellerker**.

Allam

Variants: **Allams**, **Allom**, **Allum**, **Hallam**, **Hallum**, **Hallums**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 736, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 368
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Oxon and Berks; also Lincs; also Lancs

1 English: (i) locative name possibly from Alham in Somerset or a de-aspirated variant of **Hallam**. (ii) relationship name; post-medieval examples may alternatively represent a variant of **Allen**.
Early bearers: Richard Alum, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Leics); Robert Alome, 1379 in *London Letter Books H*; Thomas Alom, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Richard Alum, 1602 in *IGI* (Mells, Somerset); William Allem, 1611 in *IGI* (Bruton, Somerset).
2 Muslim: see **Alam**.

Allamand

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 4
- English: see **Allmand**.

Allamby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 65, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 11
- English: see **Allenby**.

Allams

- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: variant of **Allam** with genitival or post-medieval excrescent *-s*. The Stotfold example, *Allums*, is probably a variant of a surname that otherwise appears as *Allam* in 17th-century Beds.
Early bearers: Garot Alloms, 1578 in *IGI* (London); Tone Allams, 1586 in *IGI* (Canterbury); Jo[hn] Allams, 1643 in *IGI* (Market Deeping, Lincs); Ursula Allums, 1686 in *IGI* (Stotfold, Beds).

Allan

Variants: **Alan**, **Allanach**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 23849, Ireland 239
- **GB frequency 1881:** 18651
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland and N England: esp. Aberdeens
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Armagh; Longford, Cavan, and Meath

English: the usual Scottish spelling of **Allen**.

Allanach

- **Current frequencies:** GB 89, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 30
- **Main GB location 1881:** Aberdeens and Scottish Highlands

Scottish Gaelic: from **Aileanach**, a collective patronymic form of the personal name represented by **Allan**.
Early bearers: surnames: Finla Allenoach, 1588 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Innernet, Aberdeens); William Allanache, 1617 in *Aberdeens Court Records*; Alexander Allanach, 1674 in *IGI* (Strathdon, Aberdeens); Alister Alnach, 1682 in *Invercauld Records* (Ledmacoy, Aberdeens).

Allanby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 32, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 77
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Allenby**.

Alland

- **Current frequencies:** GB 51, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 57
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts; London
- English: see **Aland**.

Allander

- **GB frequency 1881:** 58
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lanarks, W Lothian; W Midlands

Scottish, English: see **Allender**.

Allans

- **GB frequency 1881:** 6
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- English: relationship name see **Allens**.

Allanson

Variants: **Allenson**, **Allinson**, **Allison**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 745, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 587
- **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks and Lancs

Scottish: relationship name from the Old French and Middle English personal name *Alain* or *Alan* (see **Allen**) + the patronymic ending *-son*.

Early bearers: England Henry Aleynson, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Warwicks); Johannes Alaynson', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Cumb); Nicholas Aleynesson, 1383 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); John Alanson, 1395 in *Whitby Chartulary* (Yorks); Thomas Alynson, 1401 in *Ancient Deeds i* (Derbys); Rytcherd Allenson, 1541 in *IGI* (Grimsby, Lincs); Syraché Allanson, 1544 in *IGI* (Lincoln, Lincs); Richard Alinson, 1552 in *IGI* (Metheringham, Lincs); Richard Allanson, 1571 in *IGI* (Auckland Saint Andrew, Durham); Christopher Allanson, 1579 in *IGI* (Middleton in Teesdale, Durham); Thomas Alinson, 1583 in *IGI* (Crayke, NR Yorks).

Scotland William Aleynsson, 1375 in *Scotland Calendar*; Robert Alanson, 1447 in *Scotland Calendar*; Catherine Alanesoun, 1459 in *Glasgow Register* (Edinburgh); Bartholomew Alansoun, 1489 in Fraser, *The Lennox* (Dumbarton).

Allard

Variants: **Allars**, **Allart**, **Allatt**, **Allett**, **Adlard**, **Adler**, **Aylard**, **Ellard**, **Ellerd**, **Ellert**, **Hallard**, **Hallett**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1515, Ireland 31
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1052
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk; London and Kent; also Worcs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Westmeath

English: relationship name from a Middle English personal name, *Alard*, *Aylard*, *Adelard*, or *Elard*. This may sometimes be of native English origin, from Old English *Æðelheard*, composed of the elements *æðel* 'noble' + *heard* 'hard, bold', which would normally have developed to *Aylard*, *Alard*, and *Elard*. Alternatively it may be of continental origin, from Continental Germanic *Adelard*, which developed in Old French to *A(a)lard*, and in Middle Dutch to *Adelaert* and *Alaert*. The continental names were used in post-Conquest England by

Normans and Flemings. *Alard* was sometimes confused with another Continental Germanic name, *Agilard*, Old French and Middle Dutch *Ailard*. *Alard* the Fleming, 1198 in *Pipe Rolls*, is also called *Ayllard*, 1193 in *Charter Rolls*, and *Adthelard*, 1189–99 (1279) in *Hundred Rolls*. *Alard* de Cotebyn of Zeeland, 1311 in *Patent Rolls*, was another Fleming. Middle English *Aylard*, *Elard*, and *Ellard* are usually from the English name, and *Adelard* from the continental name, but *Alard* and *Athelard* could be from either. Later development of *-ard* to *-ett* and *-att* in surnames means that these personal names may also lie behind some examples of **Aylett**, **Allatt**, and **Hallett**.

Early bearers: given names: Ailardus, Ælard, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Devon, Sussex); Adelardus Hornewitesinne, 1125 in *London Letter Books C*; Aeilardus, 1143–7 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Halardus de Weres, before 1150, in *Danelaw Documents*; Elard de Beisebi, 1161 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); Aalardus de Middilton', 1179 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk/Suffolk); Aelardus Iserman, merchant of Holland, 1230 in *Close Rolls*; Eilardus, 1250 in *Assize Rolls* (Norfolk); Athelard de Graveni, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Suffolk).

surnames: Walterus filius Eilardi, 1205 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Wilts); Roger Aillard, 1205 in *Pipe Rolls* (Gloucs); Richard Alard', 1209 in *Pipe Rolls* (Gloucs); Rogerus filius Alardi, Adelard', Athelardi, 1212, 1242 in *Book of Fees* (Lincs); Nicholas Adelard, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Stephen Eyllard, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Nicholas Adelard, 1307 in *Patent Rolls* (Sussex); Richard Athelard, John Allerd, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cambs); William Athelard, John Adhelard, 1327, John Allard, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John Athelard', 1368 in *Feet of Fines* (Bucks); Johanna Allard, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Canterbury, Kent); Thomas Athelard, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Fakenham with Thorpland, Norfolk); John Aylard, 1465 in *Kent Wills* (Kent).

Allardice

- **Current frequencies:** GB 412, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 384
- **Main GB location 1881:** Scotland

Scottish: see **Allardyce**.

Allardyce

Variants: **Allardice**, **Alderdice**, **Allerdyce**, **Ardis**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 582, Ireland 15
- **GB frequency 1881:** 290
- **Main GB location 1881:** Scotland (Aberdeens)

Scottish: locative name from Allardice in Arbutnott (Kincardines).

Early bearers: Alexander de Allyrdas, 1282–96 in *Aberdeen Register* (Glack, Aberdeens); Alisaundre de Allerdashe, Walter de Allerdas, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Kincardines); John de Allirdas, 1364 in *Brechin Register* (Brechin, Angus); Thomas de Allirdas, 1370 in *Great Seal of Scotland* (Lytilbarres, Kincardines); David de Allyrdas, 1413 in *Great Seal of Scotland* (Crail, Fife); James Alirides, 1491 in *Glasgow Register* (Tarbolton, Ayr); Annas Allerdyce, 1638 in *IGI* (Scone, Perth); Helen Allardyce, 1642 in *IGI* (Arbutnott).

Allars

- **Current frequencies:** GB 54, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 30

- **Main GB location 1881:** London

English: relationship name variant of **Allard** with post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Allart

- **Current frequencies:** GB 37, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 19
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks
- English: see **Allard**.

Allason

- **Current frequencies:** GB 24, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 43
- **Main GB location 1881:** Argyll; Cumb and Durham

Scottish, N English: relationship name in Scotland, a patronymic from the personal name *Allan*; compare **Allanson**. There has been some confusion with **Allison**: forms such as Dunkan Alleson, 1587 in *IGI* (Dysart, Fife), are ambiguous.

Early bearers: George Allason, 1588 in *IGI* (Cotherstone, NR Yorks); Henry Alason, 1592 in *IGI* (Stainton le Street, Durham); Gawine Allason, 1593 in *IGI* (Crosthwaite, Cumb); Katherinein Allassoun, 1610 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks); Andro Allasoun, 1623 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks); Elspt. Allason, 1633 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks); Thos. Allason Or Allison, 1714 in *IGI* (Gainford, Durham).

Allatson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 31, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: see **Alletson**.

Allatt

Variants: **Hallett**, **Hallatt**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 368, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 341
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

1 English: see **Allott**.

2 English: see **Allard**.

Allaway

Variants: **Alloway**, **Alleway**, **Alaway**, **Alway**, **Allway**, **Ellaway**, **Elloway**, **Hallaway**, **Halloway**, **Hallway**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 993, Ireland 17
- **GB frequency 1881:** 536
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. S Midlands

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Alwi*, *Elwi*, representing either Old English *Ælfwig* or Old English *Æðelwig* (which is also found as Middle English *Athelwy* and *Ailwy*). *Ælfwig* is from Old English *ælf* 'elf, sprite' + *wig* 'battle', and *Æðelwig* is from *æðel* 'noble' + *wig*. See also **Alvey**.

Early bearers: given names: Ailwi, Aluii, Æluui, Eluui 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Ailwi Ketel, 1186–8 in *Seltén, Anglo-Saxon Heritage* (Bury Saint Edmunds, Suffolk). surnames: Willelmus filius Alewi, 1185 in *Pipe Rolls* (Bucks); Godfrey Ailwi, 1188 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Calendar* (Suffolk); Rogerus filius Elwi, about 1200 in *Seltén, Anglo-Saxon Heritage* (Suffolk); Roger Alewy, 1200 in *Pipe Rolls* (Middx), 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Worcs); Willelmus filius Ailwi, 1206 in *Pipe Rolls* (Northants); Henry Alwi, 1221 in *Cotton Tiberius B ii* (Suffolk); Richard Alawy, Halewy, 1260, 1264 in *Eynsham Cartulary*; Willelmus Helwy, 1275 in *Hundred*

Rolls (Norfolk); William Halawey, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Hunts); Peter Athelwy, 1302 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Stephanus Elewy, 1314 in *Seltén, Anglo-Saxon Heritage* (Suffolk); John Allaway, 1613 in *IGI* (Macclesfield, Cheshire); Henry Halloway, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk).

2 English: relationship name the Middle English personal name *Alwy* was probably sometimes confused with another Middle English personal name, *Aldwi*, Old English *Ealdwīg*. This survived for a time as the now extinct surname *Aldwy*, though this may alternatively have been a variant of *Alwy* in (1) with intrusive *-d-*.

Early bearers given names: Aldui, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Somerset);

surnames: Geoffrey Aldwi, 1221 in *Cotton Tiberius B ii* (Suffolk); William Aldwy, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); Thomas Allaway, 1619 in *IGI* (Wokingham, Berks); Robert Allaway, 1633 in *IGI* (Hayes, Kent); Hesther Allaway, 1643 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Obadia Allaway, 1649 in *IGI* (Iver, Bucks).

Allberrey

- GB frequency 1881:** 7

English: variant of either **Albury** or **Aubrey**.

Allberry

- Current frequencies:** GB 73, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 56
- Main GB location 1881:** Dorset

English: variant of either **Albury** or **Aubrey**.

Allbon

- Current frequencies:** GB 24, Ireland 2
- GB frequency 1881:** 40
- Main GB location 1881:** London

English: see **Alban**.

Allbone

Variants: **Allbones**

- GB frequency 1881:** 8

English: see **Alban**.

Allbones

- Current frequencies:** GB 115, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 76
- Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: variant of **Allbone** (see **Alban**), with genitival or post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Early bearers: Alitia Albon, 1566 in *IGI* (Lenton, Lincs); William Allbones, 1672 in *IGI* (Huttoft, Lincs).

Allbright

- Current frequencies:** GB 136, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 138
- Main GB location 1881:** Northants and Warwicks

English: see **Albright**.

Allbrighton

- Current frequencies:** GB 74, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 47
- Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks

English: see **Albrighton**.

Allbrook

Variants: **Allbrooke**

- Current frequencies:** GB 64, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 67
- Main GB location 1881:** London; Lincs

English: locative name from Arbrook Farm in Thames Ditton (Surrey), which is recorded as *alorbroc* in 1005, *Alrebrok* in 1263, *Albroke* in 1548.

Early bearers: [. . . de] Alderbrok, 1332 *Subsidy Rolls* (Surrey); Thome Albroke, 1544, Denyse Allbroke, 1546, John Albroke, 1587 in *IGI* (Kingston upon Thames, Surrey); Anthonius Albroke, 1564 in *IGI* (Boston, Lincs); Johan Allbrooke, 1568 in *IGI* (Effingham, Surrey); Katherine Albroke, 1579 in *IGI* (Merstham, Surrey); Henry Albroke, 1587 in *IGI* (Corsham, Wilts); Thomas Albroke, 1622 in *Assize Rolls* (Surrey).

References: *Place-Names of Surrey*, p. 91.

Allbrooke

- Current frequencies:** GB 19, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 19
- Main GB location 1881:** Staffs

English: see **Allbrook**.

Allbury

- Current frequencies:** GB 57, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 30
- Main GB location 1881:** Surrey; Beds

English: see **Albury**.

Allbut

- Current frequencies:** GB 69, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 87
- Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands

English: see **Albutt**.

Allbutt

- Current frequencies:** GB 198, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 204
- Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands

English: see **Albutt**.

Allcard

- Current frequencies:** GB 45, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 78
- Main GB location 1881:** Derbys

English: locative name possibly a variant of the rare name *Alcar(r)*, from Altcar, Lincs.

Early bearers: William Alcard, 1748 in *IGI* (Sheldon, Derbys); William Allcard, 1753 in *IGI* (Sheldon, Derbys); Elizabeth Alcord, 1754 in *IGI* (Walsall Wood, Staffs); Mary Allcart, 1814 in *IGI* (Cheadle, Cheshire); George Allcarr, 1889 in *IGI* (Ecclesfield, WR Yorks).

Allchin

Variants: **Alchin**, **Allchorne**, **Allhorn**, **Alcorn**, **Allcorn**, **Orchin**

- Current frequencies:** GB 394, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 407
- Main GB location 1881:** Kent

English: locative name from a lost place called *Alchhorn* in Buxted (Sussex), recorded as *Alsihorne* in 1086, *Alchehorne* in 1412, *Alchin* in 1592. See also **Alcorn**.

Early bearers: John de Alcheshorn, Adam de Alcheshorn, 1296, John Alchorn, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John Alchon, 1420 in *London Letter Books I*; John Alchorn, 1471 in *Kent Wills* (Lydd, Kent); Henricus Alchon, 1542 in *IGI* (Birchington, Kent); Jone Alchin, 1548 in *IGI* (Offham, Kent); Alex. Aulchen, 1591, Isaac Allcorne, 1634 in *Cranbrook Wills* (Cranbrook, Kent); Thomas Alchorne, 1632 in *Town*

Book of Lewes (Sussex); Phillip Allshorn, 1776 in *IGI* (Penshurst, Kent).

References: *Place-Names of Sussex*, p. 390.

Allchorn

- Current frequencies:** GB 67, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 21
- Main GB location 1881:** Sussex and Kent

English: see **Alcorn** and **Allchin**.

Allchorne

- Current frequencies:** GB 110, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 13
- Main GB location 1881:** Sussex and Kent

English: see **Alcorn** and **Allchin**.

Allchurch

Variants: **Hallchurch**

- Current frequencies:** GB 313, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 265
- Main GB location 1881:** Worcs

English: locative name from Alvechurch (Worcs), which is recorded as *Ælfðe cyrce* in the 11th century, *Alvechirche* in 1275, and *Allchurch* in the 16th century.

Further information: The variant with *H-* arose in Brierley Hill (Staffs) in about 1826 and for a while alternated with *Allchurch*.

Early bearers: Emma de Alvechurch, 1237 in *VCH* (Blackgrave manor, King's Norton, Worcs); Magistro Johanne de Alvechirche, Archdeacon of Suffolk, 1255–65 in *Blickling Manuscripts*; Rico de Alvechyrche, 1337 in facsimile of Worcester Cathedral Muniments at www.hallchurch.com (Worcs); Robert Aulchurch, 1539 in *IGI* (Rowley Regis, Staffs); Ric. Allchurch, 1541, Thomas Aulchurche, 1599 in *IGI* (Dudley, Worcs); Alice Alchurche, 1561 in *IGI* (Halesowen, Worcs); Margery Allchurch, 1575 in *IGI* (Upton upon Severn, Worcs); Richard Alvchurch, 1707 in *IGI* (Arrow, Warwicks); Mary Alvechurch, 1738 in *IGI* (Hanbury, Worcs); Samuel Hallchurch, 1836 in *IGI* (Brierley Hill, Staffs).

References: *Place-Names of Worcs*, pp. 332–3. For the family history, see www.hallchurch.com.

Allcoat

- Current frequencies:** GB 113, Ireland 2
- GB frequency 1881:** 24
- Main GB location 1881:** Midlands

English: see **Alcott**.

Allcock

- Current frequencies:** GB 3318, Ireland 7
- GB frequency 1881:** 3230
- Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England

English: see **Alcock**.

Allcorn

- Current frequencies:** GB 349, Ireland 13
- GB frequency 1881:** 288
- Main GB location 1881:** Sussex and Kent

English: see **Alcorn** and **Allchin**.

Allcott

- Current frequencies:** GB 290, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 196
- Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks and Worcs

English: see **Alcott**.

Allcroft

- **Current frequencies:** GB 240, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 227
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. WR Yorks and Lancs

English: variant of **Aldcroft** with loss of *-d-*.

Allcutt

- **GB frequency 1881:** 20
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks
- English: see **Alcott**.

Allday

Variants: **Alday**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 377, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 394
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in England: esp. Warwicks; also Norfolk, Lancs

1 English: relationship name in most cases probably from the Middle English female personal name *Ald(i)eth*, *Aldith*, itself from Old English *Ealdgȳð*, composed of the elements *eald* 'old' + *gȳth* 'battle'. The change in Middle English to *Aldy*, then *Alday*, is paralleled in other names ending in *-ith*; compare **Alfrey**.

Early bearers: given names: Ældiet, Ældit, Aldgid, Aldid, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Aldeth Fin, 1190 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Kalendar* (Suffolk); Alditha de Pelham, 1212 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Herts); Aldyt Curteys, 1283 in *Seltén, Anglo-Saxon Heritage* (Suffolk); Alditha Ricke, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk).

surnames: Nicholas Alday, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Essex); John Aldaye, 1455 in *Archaeologia Cantiana* 34; John and William Aldeth, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Thomas Aldy, 1534 in *Archaeologia Cantiana* 37.

2 English: relationship name alternatively, perhaps, either from the rare Old English personal name **Æðeldæg* or (via Norman French) from one of two Continental Germanic names, *Aildag* and *Adaldag*. The currency of any of these names in post-Conquest England is uncertain, apart from the one ambiguous example (below) in *Domesday Book*. **Early bearers:** given names: Aildeig, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Norfolk).

Alden

- **Current frequencies:** GB 205, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 184
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx, Surrey, and Hants; also W Midlands

English: see **Alden**.

Alder

- **Current frequencies:** GB 239, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 144
- **Main GB location 1881:** S England: esp. Middx, Bucks, Berks, Surrey, and Kent

English: see **Alder**.

Alderidge

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- English: see **Aldridge**.

Alldis

- **Current frequencies:** GB 281, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 168
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk; Surrey; Cheshire

English: see **Aldous**.

Alldread

- **Current frequencies:** GB 136, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 54
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys and Notts
- English: see **Aldred**.

Aldred

- **Current frequencies:** GB 211, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 194
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys and Notts
- English: see **Aldred**.

Aldrett

- **Current frequencies:** GB 19, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 21
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs
- English: see **Aldritt**.

Aldrirk

- **Current frequencies:** GB 104, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 2
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Hants
- English: see **Aldridge**.

Aldridge

- **Current frequencies:** GB 242, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 317
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and Warwicks; Surrey
- English: see **Aldridge**.

Aldritt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 10
- English: see **Aldritt**.

Aldritt

Variants: **Aldritt**, **Audritt**, **Eldrett**, **Alldrett**, **Alldrit**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 259, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 123
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and Warwicks

English: (i) variant of **Aldred**, which often occurs in Middle English as *Aldret* and *Eldret*. (ii) variant of **Aldridge**.

Further information: Although theoretically possible, there seems to be no evidence to support Reaney's explanation of the modern surname as locative, from Middle English *aldret* 'alder grove', for which see **Arlott** and **Naldrett**.

Early bearers: William Alldritt, 1703 in *IGI* (London); Joseph Alldritt, 1733 in *IGI* (Yoxall, Staffs); Edmund Aldrit, 1780 in *IGI* (Hamstall Ridware, Staffs); Sarah Alldritt, 1785 in *IGI* (Birmingham, Warwicks).

Aldus

- **Current frequencies:** GB 14, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 6
- English: see **Aldus**.

Alle

Variants: **All**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 24, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4

English: (i) relationship name perhaps from an unrecorded Middle English personal name **Alle*, which may be a variant of Middle English *Ale* and *Ally*; see **Ale**, **Alley**. (ii) alternatively post-medieval

examples may be a variant of **Hall**, **Halle**, with loss of initial *H-*.

Early bearers: Thomas Alle, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Old Stratford with members, Warwicks); Thomas Alle, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Thurnscoe, WR Yorks); Thomas Alle, 1560 in *IGI* (Cranbrook, Kent); Ane Alle, 1603 in *IGI* (Newton by Castle Acre, Norfolk); Elisabeth Alle, 1634 in *IGI* (Nursling, Hants); Stephen All, 1695 in *IGI* (Basildon, Berks).

Allebon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 20
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs
- English: see **Alban**.

Allebone

- **Current frequencies:** GB 108, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 54
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northants, Hunts, Cambs
- English: see **Alban**.

Allee

- **Current frequencies:** GB 47, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 113
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Hants; Essex
- English: see **Alley**.

Alleeson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 35, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- ∴ see **Allison**.

Allely

Variants: **Lilly**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 55, Ireland 36
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 22
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Monaghan
- Irish: possibly a reduced form of **Mac Ailghile**, which Woulfe described as 'a branch of the Maguires' in Fermanagh, also shortened as **Callaly** and **Lilly**.

Early bearers: Ireland Patrick McAlylly, footman, 1571 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1726 (Moynaltie, Meath); George Allely, 1796 in *Flaxgrowers Ireland* (Aghabog, Monaghan); James Cally, 1796 in *Flaxgrowers Ireland* (Tibohine, Roscommon).

England William Allely, 1827 in *IGI* (Birmingham, Warwicks); William Allely, born in Ireland, in *Census 1841* (Birmingham, Warwicks); William Allely, born in Ireland, in *Census 1871* (Liverpool, Lancs).

Alleman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 4
- English: see **Allman**.

Allembly

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 3
- English: see **Allenby**.

Allen

Variants: **Allan**, **Alan**, **Alen**, **Allin**, **Allon**, **Alain**, **Allain**, **Alleyn**, **Alleyn**, **Allyn**, **Alling**, **Allam**, **Hallan**, **Hallen**, **Aland**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 82790, Ireland 6263

- **GB frequency 1881:** 55708
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England and Wales: esp. London; Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Ulster; also Cork

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English, Old French personal name *Alain*, *Alein* (Old Breton *Alan*, of uncertain origin), the name of a Welsh and Breton saint, which was popular among the Bretons who came over from Normandy with William the Conqueror, particularly in Lincs. **Further information:** Walter fitz Alan (d. 1177), of Breton descent, first Scottish royal steward, and his son Alan (d. 1204), originators of the Stewart dynasty, were among the first to bear the name in Scotland. The popularity of this name in Scotland is mainly due to this family, with the given name giving rise to the patronymic and thus the surname Alan.

Early bearers: given names, England: Alanus, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Suffolk); Alanus, about 1150 in *Danelaw Documents* (Leics); Alain, 1183 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs).

surnames, England: Geoffrey Alein, 1234 in *Feet of Fines* (Cambs); Roger Alain, about 1246 in *Calverley Charters* (Yorks); Adam Aleyn, 1249 in *Assize Rolls* (Wilts); John Alayn, 1249–50 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Wilts); William Alayn, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Malmesbury, Wilts); John Aleyn, 1371 in *Feet of Fines* (Gloucs); Johanne Aleyn, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Kent); Richard Alen, 1544, Matthias Allyn, 1593 in *Feet of Fines* (Hunts); Elizabeth Allenn, 1589 in *IGI* (Goldington, Beds).

Ireland John Alen, 1535 in *Fiants Henry* §41; John Alen, 1549 in *Fiants Edward* §445 (Alenscorte by the Newebridge, Kildare); Thomas Alen, Clerk of the Hanaper, 1560 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §223; Giles Allen, 1565 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §727 (Dublin); Cormac oge Allen of the Graunge, 1566 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §935; George Allyn, 1582 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §3998.

given names, Scotland Alan son of Waltheof of Allerdale, 1139 in *History of North Durham* (Edrom, Berwicks); Alan son of Walter, royal steward, 1202–4 in *Paisley Register* (Paisley, Renfrews).

surnames, Scotland: John fiz Aleyn, burgess, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Montrose, Angus); Loughlan le fiz Aleyn, 1301 in *Scotland Calendar* (Argyll); Duncan Allowne, burgess, 1446 in *New Spalding Miscellany* (Aberdeen); Thomas Ailen, 1641 in *Melrose Records* (Jedburgh, Roxburghs).

2 English: relationship name occasionally perhaps from the rare Middle English personal name *Aline* (Old French *Adaline*, *Aaline*), a pet form of Continental Germanic names in *Adal-*, especially *Adalheidis*, which became Old French *Adalaide* and *Alice*. Compare **Adeline**.

Early bearers: given names: Adhelina, 1138 in *Aelina de Rodlos*, 1160–5 in *Northants Charters* (Lincs); Aalina, 1154–89 in *Danelaw Documents* (Notts); Alina, 1211 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Middx); Alina del Hele, 1248 in *Manorial Select Pleas* (Northants).

surnames: Richard Alyne, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs).

3 Scottish Gaelic: locative name common from 1139 in Scotland, where it may also derive from Gaelic *Ailéne*, *Ailín*, from *ail* 'rock'.

Allenby

Variants: **Allonby**, **Allanby**, **Allamby**, **Allemby**, **Allaby**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 754, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 424

- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs and Yorks
- English: locative name from Allonby (Cumb), recorded as *Alayneby* in 1262, *Alanby* in 1306, and *Allonby* in 1576.

Early bearers: Adam de Aleynby, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cumb); John Alomby, 1522 in *York Freeman's Register*; Gregory Allanbye, 1586 in *IGI* (Goxhill, Lincs).

Allenden

- **Current frequencies:** GB 86, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 36
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- English: variant of **Allington**.

Allender

Variants: **Allander**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 276, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 210
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: nickname possibly from a Middle English **alendere* 'arriver, newcomer' (*alenden* 'to arrive'). Compare Willelmus Aland', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Adlingfleet, WR Yorks), and Johannes Alannda, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (North Tuddenham, Norfolk), which may represent this name; also **Newcomen**.

Early bearers: John Allender, 1679 in *IGI* (Darfield, WR Yorks); Robert Alender, 1681 in *IGI* (North Elmham, Norfolk); Wm Allender, 1711 in *IGI* (Alvington, Gloucs); John Alinder, 1740 in *IGI* (Thurnscoe, WR Yorks); Wm. Allender, 1752 in *IGI* (Tittleshall, Norfolk).

Allenson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 34, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 68
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: see **Allanson**.

Allerdyce

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 21
- **Main GB location 1881:** Scotland (Ayr, Angus)

Scottish: see **Allardyce**.

Allerston

- **Current frequencies:** GB 197, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 77
- **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks and ER Yorks

English: locative name from Allerston (NR Yorks). **Early bearers:** John de Aluerstan', 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Adam de Allerstan, 1349 in *York Freeman's Register*; John Ullison, 1737 in *IGI* (Keyingham, ER Yorks); Mary Alertson, 1672 in *Hearth Tax* (Yorks); Job Ulliston, 1800 in *IGI* (Welwick, ER Yorks).

Allerton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 859, Ireland 14
- **GB frequency 1881:** 685
- **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks; Suffolk: Staffs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Leitrim

1 English: locative name from any of a number of places called Allerton in WR Yorks (several), Lancs, and Somerset, or from Alderton (Suffolk), or from one of the places called Ollerton (Lancs, Cheshire, Notts), all of which have Middle English forms in *Al-*. **Early bearers:** Richard de Aluer-ton', 1193 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); William de Allerton', 1312 in *Feet of Fines* (Yorks); Ricardus de Allerton', 1377 in *Poll Tax*

(Rothwell and Carlton, WR Yorks); Thomas de Allerton', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Boroughbridge, WR Yorks); Willelmus de Allerton', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Haworth, WR Yorks); Agn' de Allerton', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Keighley, WR Yorks); John Allerton, 1416–17 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Notts, Yorks); Jane Allerton, 1564 in *IGI* (Stafford, Staffs); Margery Allerton, 1582 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs); Richarde Allerton, 1597 in *IGI* (Bingley, WR Yorks); Thomas Allerton, 1603 in *IGI* (Chester, Cheshire); Joseph Allerton, 1634 in *IGI* (Thornton le Moors, Cheshire); John Allerton, 1774 in *IGI* (Aldridge, Staffs).

2 English: the Suffolk name is probably a variant of **Alderton**.

Early bearers: Chris. Alderton, 1684, Sarah Allerton, 1795 in *IGI* (Horringer, Suffolk); John Allerton, 1733, Ann Alderton, 1750 in *IGI* (Sudbury, Suffolk); Jacob and Mary Alderton, 1817, Allerton, 1819 in *Parish Registers* (Little Welnetham, Suffolk).

Allery

Variants: **Ellery**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 141, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 72
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

1 English: locative name possibly from an unidentified Devon place, inferred from the 1332 surname. The post-medieval name may alternatively belong with (2).

Early bearers: Robert Alverchay or Alverehay, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Uffculme, Devon); Richard Allorhe, 1584, Joane Allerie, 1666, William Allery, 1670, Mary Alery, 1690, Elias Eallery, 1769 in *IGI* (Stoke in Teignhead, Devon); Elizabeth Ellery, 1744 in *IGI* (Uffculme, Devon).

2 English: relationship name perhaps a variant of **Ellery**, see **Hillary**. There may have been a Middle English form *Alary* or *Allory*, encouraged perhaps by the common alternation between *Eyl-* and *Al-* in Middle English forms of names like **Aylmer** and **Aylett**.

Early bearers: Reginaldus Allorye, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Norfolk); Thos. Allory, 1572 in *IGI* (Hackney, London and Middx); Johnes Allery, 1586 in *IGI* (Burton upon Trent, Staffs); Joane Ellery, 1618 in *IGI* (Wells next the Sea, Norfolk); Martin Ellery, 1632 in *IGI* (Saint Bartholomew the Less, London, London and Middx).

Alles

- **Current frequencies:** GB 55, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 24
- **Main GB location 1881:** Guernsey

English: see **Allis**.

Alleston

- **Current frequencies:** GB 59, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 50
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk and Essex

English: see **Alliston**.

Alletson

Variants: **Allatson**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 102, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 125
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

English: relationship name meaning 'son of **Allott**' or, in some cases perhaps, 'son of **Aylett**'.

Early bearers: Adam Allotesone, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); Agnes Aletson, 1516 in *York Guild Register*.

Allett

- **Current frequencies:** GB 98, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 192
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs
- 1 English: see **Aylett**.
2 English: see **Allard**.
3 English: see **Allott**.

Alleway

- **Current frequencies:** GB 83, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 77
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon and Beds
- English: see **Allaway**.

Alley

Variants: Ally, Allee, Alle

- **Current frequencies:** GB 382, Ireland 38
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 391
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Wilts
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin: Laois
- English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Ally*, which may be a pet form of *Alexander*, *Alan*, *Alice*, or *Alison*, or a survival of Old Danish *Alli*, Old Swedish *Alle*, found as *Alli* in *Domesday Book* in Beds, Bucks, Northants, and Staffs. **Early bearers:** Johannes filius Alli, 1205 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Norfolk); Alice Ally, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Walter Alleye, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); Hugo son of Ally, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cumb); Richard Ally, 1352 in *York Freeman's Register*; Johannes Ally, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Badsworth, WR Yorks); Johannes Ally, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Fimber, ER Yorks); Johannes Ally, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Mildenhall, Suffolk); Zakarie Alley, 1551 in *IGI* (Berkhamsted, Herts); Hewgh Alley, 1556 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); James Alley, 1568 in *IGI* (Coventry, Warwicks); Marie Alley, 1585 in *IGI* (Waddesdon, Bucks).

Alleyn

- **Current frequencies:** GB 28, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 8
- English: see **Allen**.

Alleynes

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1111, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 84
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London; Devon; Gloucs
- English: variant of **Allen**.
Further information: This is an old-fashioned spelling preserved in some families. The surname in this spelling is also frequent in Barbados, and in Trinidad and Tobago.

Allez

- **Current frequencies:** GB 22, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 104
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Guernsey
- Channel Islands: a Norman French variant of **Allis**. Compare **Allix**.

Allflatt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 25
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- English: see **Allfatt**.

Allford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 372, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 201
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs; Lancs
- English: see **Alford**.

Allfree

- **Current frequencies:** GB 89, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 26
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent and Sussex; Derbys
- English: see **Alfrey**.

Allfrey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 162, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 156
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
- English: see **Alfrey**.

Allgar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 20
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk
- English: see **Algar**.

Allgood

Variants: Augood

- **Current frequencies:** GB 363, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 235
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs
- English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Algot*. This may represent Old Danish, Old Swedish *Algut*, *Algut* (as is likely in the 1086 Notts example) but the name is not otherwise recorded in those parts of England settled by Danes and Swedes before the Conquest. Alternatively it represents Continental Germanic *Adalgot*, *Algot*, Middle Dutch *Aelgoet*, which may have been used by Flemings in post-Conquest England. This is from **adal-* ‘noble’ + a development of the stem of the Germanic tribal name **Gaut-*. **Early bearers:** given names: Algod, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Notts); Algotus de Banneberi, 1178 in *Pipe Rolls* (Oxon). surnames: Iordanus filius Algodi, about 1174 in *Clerkenwell Cartulary* (London); Philip Halgot, 1190 in *Oseney Cartulary* (Oxon); Ralph Alegod, Halgot, Halegod, 1200 in *Oseney Cartulary* (Oxon); Thomas Algod, 1225 in *Patent Rolls*; Joh. Algode of Mansfield, 1287 in *Sherwood Forest Eyre* (Notts); Ric. Allegot’, 1309 in *Nottingham Borough Court Rolls* (Notts); Robert Algoood, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Thomas Algoood’, 1367 in *Feet of Fines* (Herts); Richard Algode, 1479 in *Kent Wills* (Kent).

Allgrove

- **Current frequencies:** GB 66, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 38
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey and Middx
- English: unexplained, possibly a variant of **Waldegrave**. **Early bearers:** Mary Hallgrove, 1710, John Halgrove, 1779, Hanry Allgrave, 1780, Mary Allgrove, 1799 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Reb. Allgrove, 1830 in *IGI* (Stoke next Guildford, Surrey); John Algrove, 1833 in *IGI* (Pyrford, Surrey).

Alli

- **Current frequencies:** GB 650, Ireland 5
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 20
- Muslim: see **Ali**.

Alliban

- **Current frequencies:** GB 18, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 27
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks; Norfolk
- English: see **Alban**.

Alliband

- **Current frequencies:** GB 62, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 38
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks
- English: see **Alban**.

Allibon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 46, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 32
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks
- English: see **Alban**.

Allibone

- **Current frequencies:** GB 316, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 286
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks and Northants
- English: see **Alban**.

Allick

Variants: Aleck

- **Current frequencies:** GB 87, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 34
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; NR Yorks; Northants
- English: of uncertain origin, perhaps a short form of **Alexander**. **Early bearers:** Catherine Alec, 1541 in *IGI* (Castor, Northants); Margaret Ellix, 1576 in *IGI* (Ecton, Northants).

Allies

- **Current frequencies:** GB 136, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 71
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs and Herefs
- English: see **Allis**.

Alliker

- **Current frequencies:** GB 31, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 27
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex and Middx
- English: see **Ellerker**.

Allimant

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- English: see **Allmand**.

Allin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 696, Ireland 7
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 675
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon
- English: variant of **Allen**.

Alling

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 8
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon
- 1 English: see **Halling**.
2 English: it may also be a variant of **Allen**.
Further information: This name is more common in the USA than Britain.

Allingham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 517, Ireland 29
- **GB frequency 1881:** 435
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Surrey and Kent; also Dorset
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Donegal, Fermanagh, and Leitrim

English: locative name seemingly from the minor place-name The Allingham in Merstham (Surrey), though no early forms have been noted.

Early bearers: Robert Alyngam, 1548, Siluester Allingham, 1581 in *IGI* (Merstham, Surrey); Joan Alyngam, 1549 in *IGI* (Bletchingley, Surrey); Jn Allingham, 1556, Mercy Alyngam, 1566 in *IGI* (Tonbridge, Kent); Elsebeth Alingham, 1565 in *IGI* (Nutfield, Surrey); Johana Alingam, 1568 in *IGI* (Albury, Surrey); Mgt Allingham, 1568 in *IGI* (Buckland, Surrey); Nicholas Allingham, 1568 in *IGI* (Rusper, Sussex); Christopher Allynggam, 1569 in *IGI* (West Peckham, Kent); An Alyngam, 1570 in *IGI* (Hadlow, Kent); Joan Allingame, 1579 in *IGI* (Meopham, Kent); Alice Allingham, 1725 in *IGI* (Puddletown, Dorset).

References: *EPNS Journal*, vol. 3, p. 25.

Allington

Variants: Alington, Allenden, Adlington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 838, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 509
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England

English: (i) see **Adlington**. (ii) locative name from Allington (Lincs), which is recorded as *Adelingetone* in 1086, *Athelinton* in 1202, and *Athelynton* in 1351, Allington (Dorset), which is recorded as *Adelingtone* in 1086, *Alingeton* in 1206, and *Athelington* in 1227, or Allington by Devizes (Wilts), which is recorded as *Adelingtone* in 1086, *Alingeton* in 1196, and *Athelinetona* in 1242. The place-names probably mean ‘farmstead of the princes’, from Old English *ædeling* ‘prince, nobleman’ (genitive plural *ædelinga*) + *tūn* ‘farmstead, estate’. (iii) locative name from Allington (Kent), which is recorded as *Elentun* in 1086 and *Alintona* in 1175, or East Allington (Devon), which is recorded as *Alintone* in 1086, *Alingeton* in 1219, and *Allyngthon* in 1242. The place-names probably mean ‘farmstead associated with a man called Ælla or Ælle’, from the Old English personal name *Ælla*, *Ælle* + the connective particle *-ing-* + *tūn* ‘farmstead, estate’.

Further information: Allington by Amesbury (Wilts) is recorded as *Aldintona* in 1178, *Aldyngton* in 1426, and *Aldington otherwise Allington* in 1769, and Allington in South Stoneham (Hants) is recorded as *Ellatune* in 1086, *Aldintone* in 1186, and *Aldyngton alias Alyngton* in 1445. The place-names probably mean ‘farmstead associated with a man called Ealda’, from the Old English personal name *Ealda* + the connective particle *-ing-* + *tūn* ‘farmstead, estate’. In both cases the appearance of forms without *-d-* is relatively late, and they seem unlikely to have contributed to the surname *Allington*. There is no evidence to suggest that they contributed to **Aldington** either, though the possibility should be allowed.

Early bearers: N England, Midlands, and E Anglia William de Alinton, 1192 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Richard de Adligton, 1274 in *Hundred Rolls* (Lincs); Henry de Alyngton, 1341 in *Lincs Royal Inquest* (Lincs); William Alyngton, 1479 in *Paston Letters*; Richard Allington,

1571 in *IGI* (Bury Saint Edmunds, Suffolk); Elisabeth Allington, 1588 in *IGI* (Healing, Lincs); Gyles Allington, 1602 in *IGI* (Horseheath, Cambs); Mittigation Allington, 1677, Moses Allenton, 1692 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); John Allendon, 1783 in *IGI* (Great Massingham, Norfolk); Charlotte Allenden, 1814 in *IGI* (North Tuddenham, Norfolk). S England Hawisia de Athelington, 1227 in *Feet of Fines* (Allington, Dorset); Peter de Alington, 1235 in *Book of Fees* (Wilts); [. . .] de Alinton, 1254 in *Kent Place-Names* (Kent); [. . . de] Adlington, 1273, [. . . de] Athelington, 1294 in *Place-Names of Dorset* (Dorset); Lady Anicia de Alyntone, 1334 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Larkfield hundred, Kent); William de Athelyngton, 1375, William Adlington, 1382 in *Feet of Fines* (Hants); Richard Allington, 1584 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Marie Allington, 1636 in *IGI* (Bromley, Kent). **References:** *Lincs Place-Names*, p. 2; *Place-Names of Dorset* 4, p. 468; *Place-Names of Wilts*, pp. 311, 358; *Kent Place-Names*, p. 144; *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 313; *Hampshire Place-Names*, p. 21; Gover, *Hants Place-Names*, p. 42; Mills, *Dictionary*, pp. 9–10.

Allinson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2124, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1295
- **Main GB location 1881:** N England

English: see **Allanson**.

Alliott

- **Current frequencies:** GB 50, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 28
- **Main GB location 1881:** Herts

English: see **Aylett**.

Allis

Variants: Alliss, Alis, Allies, Alais, Allish, Hallis, Allix, Allez, Alles

- **Current frequencies:** GB 204, Ireland 45
- **GB frequency 1881:** 199
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Lincs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Tipperary

English: relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Alis*, *Alice*, Old French *Adeliz*, *Ahelis*, *Aalis*, *Aliz*, a contracted form of Continental Germanic *Adalhaidis*, composed of elements *adal* ‘noble’ + *haidis* ‘rank, worth’. *Alice* was one of the most popular names in both England and Scotland from the 13th century until the end of the medieval period. Pet forms survive in **Alcock**, **Alin**, and **Allott**. **Early bearers:** given names: Adeliz de Raimes 1154–89 in *Danelaw Documents* (Northants); Aliz Martel in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Ahelis, Ahelissa, 1188 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Kalendar* (Suffolk); Alicia filia Engrami, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Atheleisia, Alesia, Aeles (identical), 1219–20 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Norfolk).

surnames: Willelmus filius Alis, 1214 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Beds); Roger Alys, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Warwicks); William Aliz, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts*; Johannes Halys, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (High Easter, Essex); Thomas Alys, 1452 in *Feet of Fines* (Saint Albans, Herts); Mary Allis, 1583 in *Parish Registers* (Much Hadham, Herts).

Allish

- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

English: see **Allis**.

Allison

Variants: Alison, Alleeson, Hallison, Ellison, Alliston

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12620, Ireland 361
- **GB frequency 1881:** 8481
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. in SW Scotland and N England
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Donegal, Antrim, and Derry

1 Scottish, English: relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Alice*, *Alis*, *Aleis* (see **Allis**) + *-son*.

Early bearers: Patrick Alissone, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Berwicks); John Aliceson, 1324 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (Yorks); William Aleissone, 1381 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); Thomas Allison, 1539 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Mary Allison, 1554 in *IGI* (Saint Lawrence Pountney, London); Steeven Allison, 1560 in *IGI* (Winchester, Hants); Ann Allison, 1565 in *IGI* (Moulton, Northants); Joan Allison, 1565 in *IGI* (Saint Martin in the Fields, Middx).

2 English, Scottish: relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Alison*, a common pet form of *Alice*. Compare **Ellison**.

Early bearers: William Alisun, about 1248 in *Bec Abbey Documents* (Bucks); John Allison, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cumb).

3 Scottish: in some cases, a late variant of **Allanson**.

4 Scottish: see **Callison**.

Alliss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 86, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 50
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: see **Allis**.

Allister

Variants: Alister

- **Current frequencies:** GB 211, Ireland 85
- **GB frequency 1881:** 120
- **Main GB location 1881:** Fife
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Armagh, Antrim, and Monaghan

Scottish: variant of **McAllister**.

Alliston

Variants: Allistone, Alleston

- **Current frequencies:** GB 363, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 269
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Essex

English: variant of **Allison**, altered (with intrusive *t*) as if derived from a place-name. Compare **Albiston**.

Early bearers: John Alliston, 1537 in *IGI* (Castle Hedingham, Essex); Roberte Allestone, 1565, Catherine Allistone, 1575, Wilym Alleston, 1609 in *IGI* (Colchester, Essex); John Alliston, 1573 in *IGI* (Sudbury, Suffolk); Prudence Alliston, 1585 in *IGI* (Hadleigh, Suffolk).

Allistone

- **Current frequencies:** GB 65, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 69
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx

English: see **Alliston**.

Allitt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 323, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 186
- **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon

English: see **Aylett**.

Allix

- **Current frequencies:** GB 82, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 57
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

Huguenot: a French variant of **Allis**.

Early bearers: Peter Allix, born Alençon 1641, died London 1717, was minister of the Church of Charenton near Paris. On the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, he fled to England, became minister of the Temple of the French hospital in Spitalfields, and was later canon and treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral (*Smiles*, p. 259).

Allkins

- **Current frequencies:** GB 181, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 101
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands and Herefs

English: variant of **Alkin** with genitival or post-medieval excrescent -s.

Early bearers: Henry Alkins, 1576 in *IGI* (Hundridge, Bucks); Richard Alkins, 1583 in *IGI* (Ketton, Rutland).

Allman

Variants: **Alman**, **Almon**, **Allmen**, **Alleman**, **Aleman**, **Almond**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2321, Ireland 147
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1406
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire and Lancs
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork and Kerry
- 1 English: ethnic name from Old French *aleman(d)* ‘German’. Compare **Allmand**, which enshrines the variant with final -d.

Further information: *Alemaun(d)* or *alemain* was the term generally used in Middle English to denote a speaker of German or Dutch; it survived as *Almain* until the 17th century, when it came to be replaced by *German*. At this period, too, the modern distinction between *Dutch* and *German* began to be made systematically. Compare **Dutch**.

Early bearers: John Aleman, 1199 in *Memoranda Roll* (Northumb); Walter le Aleman, 1200 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Yorks); Roger Alemon, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Robert Alman, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cambs); John Almayn, 1483 in *Kent Wills* (Kent).

2 English: locative name meaning ‘from Germany’, which was called *Almeyne* in the 14th century.

Early bearers: Thomas de Alemayne, 1320 in *London Letter Books E*; Inglebright de Alman, 1332 in *York Freeman’s Register*; John Allman, 1541 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Jana Allman, 1561 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Robart Allman, 1565 in *IGI* (High Toynton, Lincs); Mary Allman, 1576 in *IGI* (Bury Saint Edmunds, Suffolk); John Allman, 1587 in *IGI* (Cambridge, Cambs).

3 English: relationship name the examples below suggest that this is from a personal name, perhaps the Old French word *aleman* ‘German’ used as a personal name.

Early bearers: Alemannus 1101–25, 1125 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk); Henricus filius Aleman, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks).

4 English: variant of **Oldman**.

Allmand

Variants: **Almand**, **Almond**, **Allmond**, **Allamand**, **Allimant**, **Alment**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 51, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 41

- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs; Shrops and Denbigh

English: ethnic name from Old French *alemaund* ‘German’. See also **Allman**, with which it may sometimes have merged.

Early bearers: Terricus le Alemaund, 1276 in *Hundred Rolls* (Bucks); John le Alemaund, 1284 in *London Letter Books A*; Hanekin Almond and John de Almann, valets of the countess of Surrey, 1358 in *Bardsley*; Grace Allmand, 1629 in *IGI* (Wigan, Lancs); John Allmand, 1639 in *IGI* (Layston, Herts); Will Allmand, 1679 in *IGI* (Morton by Bourne, Lincs); William Allmand, 1685 in *IGI* (Saint Giles Cripplegate, London); Annae Allmand, 1697 in *IGI* (Ashley, Staffs).

Allmark

Variants: **Almack**, **Awmack**, **Hallmark**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 730, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 297
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and Cheshire

English: nickname from Middle English *halfmark* ‘half a mark’ (a unit of money).

Early bearers: Robert Alfmarck, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Hunts); Adam Halfmark, 1296 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (Yorks); Emma Halmark, 1324 in *Lancs Court Rolls*; Johannes Halfmark, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Tickhill, WR Yorks); John Awmack, 1722 in *Yorks Wills*.

Allmen

- **GB frequency 1881:** o
- English: see **Allman**.

Allmond

- **Current frequencies:** GB 182, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 75
- **Main GB location 1881:** Shrops

English: see **Allmand**.

Allnatt

Variants: **Alner**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 68, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 96
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon, Berks, and Hants
- English: see **Allnutt**.

Allner

- **Current frequencies:** GB 61, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 35
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset

English: see **Allnutt**.

Allnutt

Variants: **Allnatt**, **Allner**, **Elnaugh**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 371, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 324
- **Main GB location 1881:** SE England

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Alnot* (chiefly, if not solely, derived from the Old English name *Æðelnōð*, formed from *æðel* ‘noble’ + **nōð* ‘daring, bold’). Compare **Woolner** for the various developments of the final syllable. The *Domesday Book* forms may represent *Æðelnōð*, or alternatively Old English *Ælfnōð* (formed from *ælf* ‘elf, sprite’ + **nōð*), **Ealdnōð* (formed from *eald* ‘old, eminent’ + **nōð*), or **Ealhnōð* (formed from *ealh* ‘shrine, temple’ + **nōð*). **Early bearers:** given names: *Ælnod*, *Alnoth*, *Alnot*, *Alnod*, *Elnoc*, *Elnod*, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; *Alnodus* (*Ailnōð*) ingeniator, 1177 in *Pipe Rolls* (Middx);

Alnotus Papillun, 1197 in *Feet of Fines* (Northants); *Ailnothus Peni*, 1204 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Surrey). surnames: William Aylnoth, Alnoth, 13th century in *Lewes Chartulary* (Norfolk); Gilbert Elnod, 1312 in *Feet of Fines* (Kent); Richard Eynloth, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Johannes Aylnot, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Barrow, Suffolk); Thomas Alnowe, 1427 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); William Aylnoth, 1505 in *PROB 11* (Coggeshall, Essex); Lawrence Allnett, 1594 in *PROB 11* (Thame, Oxon); Annis Allnut, 1607 in *IGI* (Iver, Bucks); Zacharie Allnutt or Alnutt, 1639 in *PROB 11* (Ibstone, Bucks).

Allom

- **Current frequencies:** GB 41, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 28
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs; Berks

1 English: see **Allam**.

2 Muslim: see **Alam**.

Allon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 279, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 186
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb and Durham; ER Yorks

English: variant of **Allan**, see **Allen**.

Allonby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 284, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 180
- **Main GB location 1881:** Westm

English: see **Allenby**.

Allotey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 211, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Ghanaian: unexplained.

Allott

Variants: **Allatt**, **Allett**, **Allt**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1529, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1076
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Alot* (Old French *Aalot*), a pet form of *Alice*, see **Allis**.

Early bearers: given names: *Alote*, about 1191 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Kalendar* (Suffolk).

surnames: Adam filius Alot, 1203 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); William Allot, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Walter Alote, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Willelmus Alot, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Hamilton, Leics); Johannes Alot, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Shelley, WR Yorks); Stephanus Alot, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Sheffield, WR Yorks); Nutius Allott, 1552 in *IGI* (Melton Mowbray, Leics); Williamus Allott, 1563 in *IGI* (Fishlake, WR Yorks); Peter Allot, 1572 in *IGI* (Great Budworth, Cheshire); Francis Allet, 1577 in *IGI* (Patttingham, Staffs); Thomas Allot, 1605 in *IGI* (Barnsley, WR Yorks); William Allett, 1602, John Allott, 1636 in *IGI* (Birstall, Leics); Jeffery Allet, 1611 in *IGI* (Cambridge, Cambs); William Allott, 1614 in *IGI* (Adel, WR Yorks); Thomas Allott, 1659 in *IGI* (Cannock, Staffs).

Alloway

- **Current frequencies:** GB 258, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 237
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in S England
- English: see **Allaway**.

Allpass

- **GB frequency 1881:** 29
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs; Lancs
- English: see **Alpass**.

Allport**Variants:** **Alport**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1443, Ireland 12
- **GB frequency 1881:** 711
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork

English: locative name for someone who lived at the old town or market, from Middle English *olde* ‘old’ + *port* ‘town, market’, or at a place so named such as Alport in Youghall (Derbys) or Church Stoke (Montgomerys).

Early bearers: John Alport, 1559 in *IGI* (Cheswardine, Shrops); Eliz. Alport, 1603 in *IGI* (Tamworth, Staffs); Ann Allport, 1616 in *IGI* (Birmingham, Warwicks); Morris Allport, 1643 in *IGI* (Dudley, Staffs).

Allpress

- **Current frequencies:** GB 275, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 237
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hunts and Cambs

English: nickname from Middle English *old(e)* ‘old’ + *prest* ‘priest’.

Early bearers: given names: Ældeprest, 1189 in *Pipe Rolls* (Cornwall); Aldeprest, 1194 in *Pipe Rolls* (Cornwall). surnames: Thomas Alprest, 1278 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Henrie Allpresse, 1612, Myles Alpress, 1619, John Allpress, 1647 in *IGI* (Fenstanton, Hunts).

Allred**Variants:** **Allured**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 148, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 54
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: see **Aldred**.

Allright

- **Current frequencies:** GB 82, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 102
- **Main GB location 1881:** SE England

English: see **Allwright**.

Alls

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 19
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs; Peebles

English: see **Halls**.

Further information: This form of the name is more common in the USA than in Britain.

Allsebrook**Variants:** **Allsobrook**, **Alesbrook**, **Alsebrook**, **Allseybrook**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 261, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 107
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts and Derbys

English: unexplained; apparently from an unlocated place called **Old Seabrook* (compare Seabrook (Bucks)), or ‘Alsi’s brook’ (from a male personal name descended from Old English *Ælfsige*).

Early bearers: Joanna Alsebrooke, 1564 in *IGI* (Ashbourne, Derbys); James Alsebrook, 1588 in *IGI* (Mansfield, Notts); Dorothea Alsebrooke, 1589 in *IGI* (Selston, Notts); Edward Allsebrooke, 1589 in *IGI* (Workson, Notts); John Awsibrooke, 1597 in *IGI*

(Church Broughton, Derbys); Elizabeth Allsebrooke, 1600 in *IGI* (South Wingfield, Derbys); Robt Alsibrock, 1600 in *IGI* (Beeston, Notts); Radulfus Alsibroke, 1601 in *IGI* (Duffield, Derbys); Joane Awlsebrooke, 1602 in *IGI* (Leicester, Leics); Jervis Awsebrooke, 1604, Alice Allesbrook, 1625 in *IGI* (Nottingham, Notts); An Alsebrooke, 1608, Elizabeth Alsabrook, 1638 in *IGI* (Loughborough, Leics); Richard Alsebrook, 1608 in *IGI* (Derby, Derbys); Richard Awsibrooke, 1614 in *Lambeth Palace Library* (Walworth, Surrey); Robert Alesbrook, 1617 in *IGI* (Pleasley, Derbys); Joseph Aulsebrook, 1688 in *IGI* (Rolleston, Notts); Anne Alizbrooke, 1714 in *IGI* (Chellaston, Derbys).

Allsep

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: see **Allsopp**.

Allseybrook

- **Current frequencies:** GB 31, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 11
- **Main GB location 1881:** Leics

English: see **Allsebrook**.

Allsobrook

- **Current frequencies:** GB 130, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 41
- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys

English: see **Allsebrook**.

Allsop

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3504, Ireland 22
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3067
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Derbys

English: see **Allsopp**.

Allsopp**Variants:** **Allsop**, **Alsop**, **Alsopp**, **Allsup**, **Allsep**, **Elsip**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3668, Ireland 69
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1226
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Derbys and Staffs

English: locative name from Alsop en le Dale (Derbys). **Early bearers:** Gamel de Haleshoppe, 1175 in *Pipe Rolls* (Derbys); Ranulfo de Alleshope, Henrico de Alsoppe, 1242 in *Burton Chartulary* (Huntington, Staffs); Philip Alsoppe, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); John de Alsop, 1302 in *Patent Rolls*; Henrico de Alesop, 1316–17 in *Burton Chartulary* (Bentley, Staffs); Thomas Alsop, 1327 in *Patent Rolls* (Derbys); Alice Alsoppe, 1597 in *IGI* (Church Broughton, Derbys).

Allston

- **Current frequencies:** GB 76, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 64
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex

English: see **Alston**.

Allsup

- **Current frequencies:** GB 142, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 73
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Denbigh; Essex

English: see **Allsopp**.

Allsworth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 284, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 138

- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent; Oxon
- English: variant of **Aldworth**.

Allt**Variants:** **Alt**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 129, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 87
- **Main GB location 1881:** Midlands; Cambs

English: possibly a reduced form of **Allott**.

Early bearers: Edward Alt, 1548 in *IGI* (Dalbury, Derbys); Isable Alte, 1560 in *IGI* (Lockington, Leics); Thomas Allt, 1572 in *IGI* (Burton upon Trent, Staffs); Wm. Allt, 1594 in *IGI* (Castle Donington, Leics); Edmund Alt, 1627 in *IGI* (Shepshed, Leics); Mary Allt, 1629 in *IGI* (Nottingham, Notts).

Allthorpe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 46
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk; Northants

English: see **Allthorpe**.

Alltoft

- **Current frequencies:** GB 44, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 38
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: see **Alltoft**.

Allton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 288, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 101
- **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks and Derbys

1 English: see **Alton**.

2 English: see **Olton**.

Alltree

- **Current frequencies:** GB 95, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 44
- **Main GB location 1881:** Shrops and Lancs

English: see **Alltree**.

Allum

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2213, Ireland 15
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1131
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. in S England

1 English: see **Allam**.

2 Muslim: see **Alam**.

Allured

- **Current frequencies:** GB 45, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 38
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Norfolk, Northants, Lancs, Hunts

English: relationship name a variant either of **Allred** (see **Aldred**) with an intrusive vowel, or of **Alfred** in which the medial /f/ or /v/ has been vocalized instead of being lost, as it is in *Allred*.

Further information: There is no evidence to support Reaney’s explanation that it is a ‘curious’ survival of *Aluredus*, a Latinized form of Middle English *Alfred*, where the letter *u* represents the usual Latin spelling of /v/, the voiced form of /f/.

Early bearers: Reignall Alred, 1591, Richard Alered, 1646, James Allored, 1665, Catherine Allured, 1769, Elizabeth Allred, 1797 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); John Allured, 1791, James Fair Alred, 1805 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk).

Allvey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 28, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 21
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Hants; Durham
- English: see **Alvey**.

Allward

Variants: **Alward, Elward**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 127, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 63
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset and Devon
- English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Alward*, *Elward*, a reduced form of several Old English male given names, such as *Ælfweard* (Middle English *Alfward*), *Ealdweard*, and (especially in Devon) *Ædelweard*, which survives as Middle English **Aylward**, *Alward*, and probably *Elward*. By the 12th century these names, from *ælf* ‘elf, sprite’ and *ædel* ‘noble’ + *weard* ‘ward, guardian’, were often confused. *Ailwardus* grossus and *Ælward* judex occur also as *Alfward* and *Ailward* respectively (about 1116 in *Ekwall, ELPN*). See also **Avard**. **Early bearers:** given names: Aluardus, Alfwardus pistor 1182–6, 1200–11 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents* (Suffolk); Alwardus de Wottone, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Hants); Aluardus Tanner, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Berks). surnames: Willelmus filius Eluard, filius *Ælfwardi*, 1191, 1192 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Robert Elward, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Suffolk); Gilbert Allward, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); William Ailward, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Kingskerswell, Devon); Robertus Alward, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Devon); Johannes Aldeward, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Good Easter, Essex); Henry Allward, 1590 in *IGI* (Stoke in Teignhead, Devon).

Allway

- **Current frequencies:** GB 61, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 86
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs
- English: see **Allaway**.

Allwinkle

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 15
 - **Main GB location 1881:** E London
- English: see **Aldwinkle**.

Allwood

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1559, Ireland 5
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1204
 - **Main GB location 1881:** N Midlands: esp. Notts; also Warwicks; London
- English: see **Elwood**.

Allwork

- **Current frequencies:** GB 121, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 166
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent, Surrey, and Sussex
- English: locative name possibly from either of two places called Aldwark (Derbys, NR Yorks), or Aldwarke in Dalton near Rotherham (WR Yorks), although the distribution is mainly in Kent and Sussex. **Early bearers:** Robert de Aldwerck, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Lincs); Thomas d(e) Aaldewark, Robertus de Haldwark senior, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Tickhill, WR Yorks); Edmund Alwoorke, 1583 in *IGI* (Folkington, Sussex); Robert Alworke, 1585 in *IGI* (Alciston, Sussex); Robert Alworke, yeoman, 1604, Agnes

Alwoorke, 1605, William Alwark, 1608 in *Assize Rolls* (Sussex); Elisabeth Alworke, 1607 in *IGI* (West Firle, Sussex); John Alwork, 1615 in *IGI* (Ripe, Sussex); Jas Allwork, 1785 in *IGI* (Tonbridge, Kent); William Allwork, 1803 in *IGI* (Southwark, Surrey).

Allwright

Variants: **Allright**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 556, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 359
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx, Berks, Surrey, and Kent

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Ailrich*, *Al(d)rich*, common forms of Old English *Æðelric*. See **Aldridge**. The pronunciation of final *-rich* has been assimilated to the Middle English word *riht*, *richt*, *right* ‘right’, and sometimes re-interpreted from the late 17th century onwards as *-wright*. Compare **Aldritt**.

Early bearers: William Ailricht, 1250 in *Book of Fees* (Beds); William Ailriht, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Radulphus Alryght, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Shaugh Prior, Devon); Agn’ Alryght, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Eardisland, Herefs); Roger Alright, 1457 in *London Letter Books K*; Margaret Allryght, 1592, Tho. Allwright, 1676 in *IGI* (Hurst, Berks); Grisill Allright, 1674 in *IGI* (Bromley, Kent); Thomas Alwright, 1696 in *IGI* (Stepney, London and Middx); Elizabeth Alwright, 1697 in *IGI* (Epsom, Surrey); Elizabeth Aldwright, 1720 in *Bardsley* (London).

Ally

- **Current frequencies:** GB 377, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 29
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Alley**.

Allyn

- **GB frequency 1881:** 2
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: see **Allen**.

Almack

- **Current frequencies:** GB 47, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 51
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks
- English: see **Allmark**.

Alman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 147, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 132
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire
- 1 English: see **Allman**.
2 Jewish (Ashkenazic): from Hebrew *alman* ‘widower’.
Early bearers: Moses Alman, auctioneer, 1783, Lazarus Alman, accountant, 1850 in *Bristol Jews*; Jacob Moses Alman, commission agent., in *Census 1851* (Bristol); Elliot Alman, tailor, born in Russia, Rachel Alman, tailoress, born in Poland, in *Census 1891* (Whitechapel, Middx); Isaac Alman, cap maker, born in Russia, in *Census 1901* (Whitechapel, Middx); Solomon Alman, tailor, born in Germany, in *Census 1901* (Manchester, Lancs); Isadore Alman, born in Russia, in *Census 1911* (Edmonton, Middx).

Almand

- **Current frequencies:** GB 49, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 27

- **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks and Lancs
- English: see **Allmand**.

Almeida

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1169, Ireland 14
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 19
- Portuguese, Spanish: locative name from any of several places so called in Portugal or from Almeida in Zamora province, Spain. These are all named from Arabic *al-madīna* ‘the city’.
Further information: This family name is also well established in western India, where it was taken by Portuguese colonists.

Alment

- **GB frequency 1881:** 4
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex
- English: see **Allmand**.

Almey

Variants: **Almy**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 186, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 118
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Leics
- Norman, English: relationship name perhaps from the Old French personal name **Almay*, Latin *Almedius*, of uncertain origin. The Latin form of the name is recorded in France in the early 9th century, but its rarity there and its absence from post-Conquest English records make it an uncertain source of the English surname.
Early bearers: Willelmo Almay, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Claybrooke, Leics); William Aullmy, 1622 in *IGI* (Dunton Bassett, Leics); Benjamin Almey, 1688, James Almey, 1809 in *IGI* (Broughton Astley, Leics); Robert Almy, 1686 in *IGI* (Leicester, Leics).
References: *Morlet, Noms de Personne*, 2, p. 17.

Almon

- **GB frequency 1881:** 18
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs
- English: see **Allman**.

Almond

- **Current frequencies:** GB 4223, Ireland 41
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3687
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Almund*, in which Old English *Æðelmund* (*æðel* ‘noble’ + *mund* ‘protection’) and *Ealhmund* (*ealh* ‘shrine, temple’ + *mund*) have coalesced.

Early bearers: given names: *Ælmund*, *Almund*, *Æilmundus*, *Ailmundus*, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; *Alward* filius *Elmund*, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Shrops); *Eilmund* *Sperie*, 1224 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Essex).
surnames: Thomas Ailmun, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Robert Almond, 1542 in *IGI* (Kirkham, Lancs); Thomas Awmond, 1562 in *York Freeman’s Register*; Laurence Almond, 1564 in *Lancs Wills*; Robert and Thomas Almond, 1585 in *IGI* (Wigan, Lancs); Jana Almond, 1604 in *IGI* (Truro, Cornwall); Thomas Almond, 1670 in *IGI* (Toot Baldon, Oxon); Alexander Almond, 1671 in *IGI* (Tattenhall, Cheshire); David Almond, 1671 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph without Aldgate, London); Elizabeth Almond, 1671 in *IGI* (Kelsale, Suffolk); John Almond, 1724 in *IGI*

(Sunderland, Durham); Jonathan Almond, 1724 in *IGI* (Wybunbury, Cheshire).
 2 English: ethnic name see **Allman**.
 3 English: ethnic name see **Allmand**.

Almy

- **Current frequencies:** GB 44, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 20
 - **Main GB location 1881:** IoW; Sussex
- English: see **Almey**.

Alner

- **Current frequencies:** GB 198, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 127
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset
- 1 English: occupational name meaning ‘one who checks measurements of cloth’, from Middle English *alner*, *alnard*, derivative of Old French *aune* ‘ell’ from a derivative of French *aune* ‘ell’.
Early bearers: Roger Alnard, 1317 in *London Letter Books D*; John Alnard, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John Alner, 1589 in *IGI* (Ringwood, Hants); Edward Alner, 1643 in *IGI* (Sturminster Marshall, Dorset); John Alner, 1672 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); William Alner, 1688 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); William Alner, 1720 in *IGI* (Potterne, Wilts).
 2 English: see **Allnatt**.

Alnwick

- Variants: **Annick**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 48, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 32
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham
- English: locative name from Alnwick (Northumb).
Early bearers: John de Alnewyc’, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Notts); Adam de Alnewyk, 1345, Robert de Alnewyk, 1388 in *Patent Rolls* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); John de Alnewyk’, 1385 in *Feet of Fines* (ER Yorks); William Alnewyk’, 1426 in *Feet of Fines* (Lincs); John Alnwick, 1690 in *IGI* (Gateshead, Durham).

Alom

- **Current frequencies:** GB 631, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Indian: variant of **Alam**.

Alonso

- Variants: **Alonzo**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 326, Ireland 18
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- Spanish: relationship name from the personal name *Alonso*, a variant of **Alfonso**.

Alonzo

- **Current frequencies:** GB 66, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Spanish: see **Alonso**.

Alp

- Variants: **Alpe**, **Alps**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 176, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 130
 - **Main GB location 1881:** E Anglia; London
- English: nickname from Middle English *alp(e)* ‘bullfinch’.
Early bearers: Eadmund Alp, 1266–7 in *TNA* (Ipswich, Suffolk); Matilda Alpe, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Norfolk); Edward Alpe, 1314–15 in *TNA* (Alesford,

Essex); Thomas le Alpe, 1333 in *Patent Rolls* (Lancs); Thomas Willeston le Alp, 1362 in *Patent Rolls*; Johannes Alpe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Thurgarton, Norfolk); Robertus Alpe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (East Dereham, Norfolk); Joane Alpe, 1559 in *IGI* (Little Massingham, Norfolk); Edward Alpe, 1613 in *IGI* (Burgate, Suffolk).
References: Alpe One-Name Study at http://one-name.org/name_profile/alpe/.

Alpass

- Variants: **Allpass**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 40
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs
- English: nickname from Middle English *all* ‘all’ + *peis*, *pes* ‘peace’, perhaps to be interpreted as ‘completely peaceable’ or ‘completely silent’.
Early bearers: Ada Alpes, before 1250 in *Gloucs Archives* (Alveston, Gloucs); Wm Alpes, about 1270 in *Gloucester Abbey Deeds* (Northleach, Gloucs); John Alpays, William Alpays, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Northleach, Gloucs); Johannes Alpes, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Alveston, Gloucs); John Alpas, 1584 in *IGI* (Thornbury, Gloucs); Hannah Allpas, 1697, Sarah Alpas, 1720 in *IGI* (Wickwar, Gloucs); Judith Alpass, 1732 in *IGI* (Berkeley, Gloucs); Betty Alpus, 1739 in *IGI* (Cromhall, Gloucs).

Alpe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 108, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 109
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- English: see **Alp**.

Alphonse

- **Current frequencies:** GB 161, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 5
- French: relationship name from the personal name *Alphonse*, a classicized spelling of Spanish **Alfonso**, widely adopted as a given name and surname in France and thence in the French West Indies.

Alpin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 116, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 83
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Yorks
- Scottish Gaelic: from **Mac Ailpein**, see **McAlpine**.

Alpine

- **Current frequencies:** GB 40, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 57
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Ayr; Lancs
- Scottish Gaelic: from Scottish Gaelic **Mac Ailpein** or Irish **Mac Ailpín**; see **McAlpine**.

Alport

- **Current frequencies:** GB 26, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 97
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and Warwicks
- English: see **Allport**.

Alps

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 39
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex
- English: variant of **Alp** with post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Early bearers: Issabell Alps, 1605 in *IGI* (Thornbury, Gloucs); Mathia Alps, 1610 in *IGI* (Litcham, Norfolk); Jacob Alpes, 1663 in *IGI* (Acomb, Yorks); James Alpes, 1664 in *York Freeman’s Register*.

Alred

- **Current frequencies:** GB 66, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 54
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Aldred**.

Alridge

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 11
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Sussex
- English: see **Aldridge**.

Alsburry

- **Current frequencies:** GB 69, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 33
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset; Derbys
- English: variant of either **Albury** or **Aubrey** with intrusive *-s-*. Compare Anne *Albury*, 1691 in *IGI* (Cadbury, Somerset), and Jane *Alberry*, 1879 in *IGI* (Clowne, Derbys).
Early bearers: Francis Alsburry, 1765 in *IGI* (Corston, Somerset); Sarah Alsburry, 1865 in *IGI* (Derby, Derbys).

Alsebrook

- **GB frequency 1881:** 42
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Leics and Derbys
- English: see **Allsebrook**.

Alsford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 224, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 197
 - **Main GB location 1881:** SE England
- English: locative name from Alresford (Hants), which is recorded as *Alresford* in 1167, *Allesford* in 1408.
Early bearers: Richard de Alresford, 1316, John Allesford, 1442 in *Patent Rolls* (Hants); John de Alresford, John de Allesford, 1347 in *Patent Rolls* (Sussex); Peter Alresford’, 1398 in *Feet of Fines* (Alresford, Hants); Nova Alsford, 1555 in *IGI* (Priors Dean, Hants); Margaret Allesford, 1620 in *IGI* (London); Joseph Alsford, 1667 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Hannah Allsford, 1679 in *IGI* (Salisbury, Wilts); Thomas Alsford, 1701 in *IGI* (Pagham, Sussex); Ann Allsford, 1723 in *IGI* (Godalming, Surrey).
References: *Hampshire Place-Names*, p. 21.

Alsop

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1490, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1333
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England
- English: see **Allsopp**.

Alsopp

- **Current frequencies:** GB 40, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 206
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. in central England
- English: see **Allsopp**.

Alstead

- **Current frequencies:** GB 82, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 75
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: see **Halstead**.

Alston

Variants: **Aston, Alstone, Allston**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1723, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1945

- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. S Scotland; Lancs; Essex and Suffolk

- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down

1 English, Scottish: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Alstan*, which in some cases at least is Old English *Ædelstān*, found in *Domesday Book* as *Alestan* (see **Addlestone**). The *Domesday Book* form *Alstan* may also be derived from Old English *Ælfstān* ‘elf’ + ‘stone’, **Ealdstān* ‘old’ + ‘stone’ or *Ealhstān* ‘temple’ + ‘stone’, all of which may have contributed to these surnames: compare Thomas son of Aldeston, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cumb), Richard Aldston, 1185 in *Templars Records* (Herts). See also **Elston**.

Early bearers: Ælfuine filius Ælstani, about 1095 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents* (Suffolk); Hugo filius Alstani, 1209 in *Pipe Rolls* (Leics); Henry Alston, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); William Alstan, 1283 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Agn’ Alstone, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Oxon).

2 English, Scottish: locative name from one or more of the many places so called, such as Alston (Lancs), which is recorded as *Alston* in 1226, Alston (Cumb), recorded as *Aldenestoun* in about 1208, Alstone in Bradley (Staffs), recorded as *Aluredeston* in 1195, Alston Sutton (Somerset), which is *Alnodestuna* in 1086, Alston in Holberton (Devon), Alstone (Gloucs), and Halston (Shrops). The surname in Scotland is most likely to derive from the place in Cumb.

Early bearers: England Richard de Aluredeston’, 1194 in *Pipe Rolls* (Staffs); William de Alsiston’, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Worcs); John de Alnethestan, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Devon); Roger de Alleston, Uthred de Halueston, Richard de Halfiston, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); [. . . de] Alston’, 1255–6, Roger de Alleston, 1272 in *Assize Rolls* (Pontesbury, Shrops); Richard de Alston’, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); [. . . de] Haldeston, 1279 in *Place-Names of Cumb* (Cumb). Scotland James Auldston, 1667 in *Hamilton Testaments* (Ravenscraig, Lanarks); Dr Alstoun, 1684 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Eastend, Lanarks); James Alstowne, 1687, in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); John Alston, 1754 in *Brechin Testaments* (Montrose, Angus).

References: *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 145; *Place-Names of Cumb*, pp. 171–3; *Staffs Place-Names*, p. 84; *Ekwall, DEPN*.

Alstone

- **GB frequency 1881:** 18
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex

English: see **Alston**.

Alt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 39, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 55
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Leics

1 English: in the E Midlands, a variant of **Allt**.
2 German: from German *alt* ‘old’. In some cases perhaps Jewish, from Yiddish *alt*, although evidence of Jewish bearers in Britain is lacking.

Early bearers: Caroline Sophia Alt, 1776 in *IGI* (Saint Martin in the Fields, Middx); Jacob Alt, born in Frankfurt, in *Census 1861* (Liverpool, Lancs); Carl

Alt, hairdresser, born in Austria, in *Census 1891* (Saint George in the East, Middx); Max Alt, born in Prussia, in *Census 1901* (Richmond, Surrey); Werner Alt, born in Potsdam, Germany, in *Census 1911* (IoW).

Altaf

- **Current frequencies:** GB 766, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Arabic, Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic *alṭaf*, superlative form of *latīf*, ‘kindly’.

Altham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 318, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 373
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: locative name from Altham (Lancs), recorded as *Elvetham* in about 1150, *Aluetham* in 1308.

Early bearers: Adam de Eluetham, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Symon de Aluetham, 1304 in *Whalley Abbey Coucher Book* (Lancs); John de Alvetham, 1345 in *Patent Rolls* (Lancs); John Altham, 1372 in *Lancs Pleas* (Lancs); Elizabeth Altham, 1594 in *IGI* (Clitheroe, Lancs).

Althorpe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 52, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 57
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northants

English: see **Althorpe**.

Althorpe

Variants: **Althorpe, Allthorpe**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 120, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 40
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northants

English: locative name from Althorpe (Lincs) or Althorp (Northants).

Early bearers: Gimpe de Aletorp’, 1179 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); Wyllyam Althorpe, 1545 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Faxton, Northants); Anna Althorpe, 1629 in *IGI* (Garvestone, Norfolk).

Altman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 241, Ireland 21
- **GB frequency 1881:** 65
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx

German, Jewish (Ashkenazic): nickname from German *Altman* or Yiddish *altman*, Middle High German *altman*, literally ‘old man’, used to denote the older of two bearers of the same personal name or (especially among Jews) as a personal name.

Early bearers: Cecilia Altman, 1754 in *IGI* (Maidstone, Kent); Catherine Altman, 1780 in *IGI* (Clapham, WR Yorks); Barnet Altman, cap maker, born in Breslau, in *Census 1871* (Spitalfields, Middx); Harris Altman, master glazier, born in Poland, in *Census 1871* (Gloucester, Gloucs); Harry Altman, born in Poland, in *Census 1881* (Great Grimsby, Lincs); Solomon L. Altman, born in Poland, in *Census 1881* (Mile End Old Town, Middx); Lewis Altman, born in Poland, in *Census 1881* (Bingley, WR Yorks); Eleazar Altman, 1864 in *IGI* (Dublin).

Altoft

Variants: **Alltoft**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 342, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 151

- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: locative name from Altofts (WR Yorks).

Early bearers: Robert de Altoftes, 1266 in *Patent Rolls* (York); Walto de Altoft, Eudone de Altoft’, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lincs); John de Altoftes, 1337 in *Patent Rolls* (Reedness, WR Yorks); Johannes de Eltoft’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Thorner, WR Yorks); Edward Altoft, 1574 in *IGI* (Leeds, WR Yorks); Sarah Alltoft, 1722 in *IGI* (Bottesford, Lincs).

Alton

Variants: **Allton, Aulton, Auton**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1225, Ireland 29
- **GB frequency 1881:** 810
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Derbys; NR Yorks and Durham
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Kerry and Limerick

1 English: locative name from Alton in Ashover or perhaps Alton in Idridgehay (both in Derbys).

Early bearers: Peter de Alton, 1325 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Notts); [. . . de] Alton(e), 1328 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ashover, Derbys); [. . . de] Alton(e), 1330 in *Place-Names of Derbys* (Ashover, Derbys); Thomas Alton, 1508 in *Coroners’ Rolls* (Notts); James Alton, 1585 in *IGI* (Kirk Ireton, Derbys); Isabella Alton, 1598 in *IGI* (Duffield, Derbys).

References: *Place-Names of Derbys*, pp. 191, 578.

2 English: locative name possibly from Auton Stile in Durham Saint Oswalds (Durham), which is recorded as *altone* in about 1200.

Early bearers: My. Alton, 1715 in *IGI* (Muker, NR Yorks); Isabella Alton, 1775 in *IGI* (South Shields, Durham).

References: *Durham Place-Names*, p. 2.

3 English: locative name from any of numerous other places in England named Alton or similar.

Early bearers: Simon de Altun, about 1141–54 in *Registrum Antiquissimum* (Lincs); John de Alton’, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs); Nicholaus de Aulton’, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Surrey); Christopher Alton, 1568 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph without Aldgate, London); Awdry Alton, 1583 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Gualteri Alton, 1598 in *IGI* (Hoo Saint Werburgh, Kent); Wm. Alton, 1612 in *IGI* (Leeds, WR Yorks).

4 English: variant of **Olton**.

Altree

Variants: **Alltree**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 131, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 84
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs, Shrops, and Warwicks

English: (i) variant of **Hawtrey**. (ii) alternatively, perhaps a variant of **Awdry** (2).

Early bearers: Stephen Altry, 1657 in *IGI* (Stratford upon Avon, Warwicks); William Altree, 1662, John Alltre, 1701 in *IGI* (Weston under Lizard, Staffs); John Altree, 1700 in *IGI* (Shifnal, Shrops); Thomas Alltree, 1700, Elisabeth Altry, 1737 in *IGI* (Shawbury, Shrops).

Altringham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 68, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 20
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham and Cumb
- English: locative name probably from Altrincham (Cheshire), but evidence is missing to link the medieval early bearer with the 18th-century name.

Early bearers: [. . . de] Altryncheham, 1326 in *Close Rolls* (Cheshire); William Altringham, 1774 in *IGI* (Rotherham, WR Yorks); Elizabeth Altringham, 1786 in *IGI* (Maryport, Cumb).

References: *Place-Names of Cheshire* 2, p. 7.

Alty

- **Current frequencies:** GB 707, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 549
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: see **Auty**. With the following early bearers compare Henry *Oatye*, 1633 in *IGI* (Rufford, Lancs) and see **Oatey**.

Early bearers: Henery Alty, 1696, Henery Altye, 1703, Richard Altie, 1713 in *IGI* (Rufford, Lancs).

Aluko

- **Current frequencies:** GB 216, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Nigerian (Yoruba): nickname from Yoruba *àlùkò* ‘woodcock’. It is locally said to be a name adopted by Ìjèṣà textile hawkers to deflect the curses of their debtors.

Alvares

Variants: **Alvarez**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 116, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** o

Portuguese, Jewish (Sephardic): relationship name from a patronymic form of the personal name *Álvaro*, which is of Visigothic origin, perhaps from the Germanic roots **ald* ‘old’ or **all* ‘all’, + **wara* ‘care; defence’.

Early bearers: Jewish: Jacob Jesserun Alvares, merchant, 1677 in *Bevis Marks Records* (Houndsditch, London); Aaron Alvares, general dealer, Abraham Alvares, pen cutter, in *Census 1841* (Whitechapel, Middx); Aaron Alvares, superintendent of the Spanish synagogue, born in Holland, in *Census 1911* (Paddington, Middx).

Other: Antonio Alvares, engineer, born in Liverpool, in *Census 1891* (Liverpool, Lancs).

Alvarez

- **Current frequencies:** GB 923, Ireland 17
- **GB frequency 1881:** 31
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx

Spanish, Jewish (Sephardic): (i) from a patronymic form of the personal name *Álvaro*, which is of Germanic (Visigothic) origin. (ii) in some cases this may be an altered spelling of the Portuguese cognate **Alvares**.

Early bearers: Spanish Antonio Alvarez, 1837 in *IGI* (Cumbernauld, Dunbartons); Ramon Alvarez, tobacconist, born in ‘foreign parts’, in *Census 1841* (Westminster, Middx); Joseph Alvarez, commercial clerk, born in Spain, in *Census 1871* (Saint George in the East, Middx); Antonio Alvarez, butler, born in Spain, in *Census 1911* (Kensington, Middx); Jose Alvarez, labourer, born in Spain, in *Census 1911* (West Derby, Lancs).

Jewish Aaron Alvarez, 1685 in *IGI* (Saint James Duke’s Place, London); David Alvarez, artist, born in ‘foreign parts’, in *Census 1841* (Bethnal Green, Middx); Ysidoro Alvarez, outfitter, born in Spain, in *Census 1861* (Liverpool, Lancs); Abraham, Aaron, and Isaac Alvarez, rag merchants, in *Census 1861* (Aldgate, London); Moses Alvarez, in *Census 1861* (Whitechapel, Middx); Asher Alvarez, tailor, in

Census 1901 (Islington, Middx); Barnett Alvarez, merchant tailor, in *Census 1911* (Mile End Old Town, Middx).

Alves

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1457, Ireland 17
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 159
 - **Main GB location 1881:** NE Scotland
- 1 Scottish: locative name from Alves (Morays), pronounced /a:vz/.
Early bearers: William de Alveys, 1262 in *Acts of Parliaments of Scotland* (Inverness); Patrick de Aluays, 1360, Malcolm de Alues, dean of Caithness, 1363 in *Moray Register*; Alexander Alves, burgess, 1406 in *New Spalding Miscellany* (Aberdeen); Jaimes Alves, 1654 in *IGI* (Urquhart, Morays).
- 2 Portuguese: relationship name from the personal name *Alves*, a Portuguese variant of **Alvares**.
Early bearers: Francis *Alves*, born in Portugal, in *Census 1871* (Whitechapel, Middx).

Alveston

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 7
- English: locative name from any of four places called Alvaston (Cheshire, Derbys) or Alveston (Gloucs, Warwicks).
Early bearers: Philip de Alverstayn, 1276 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Yorks); Nancy Alveston, 1783 in *IGI* (Worcester, Worcs); John Alveston, 1800 in *IGI* (Nottingham, Notts).
References: *Place-Names of Warwicks*, pp. 231–2; *Mills, Dictionary*, p. 12.

Alvey

Variants: **Allvey, Alvy, Alves, Alvis**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 653, Ireland 26
- **GB frequency 1881:** 511
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts

English: relationship name either from the Middle English male personal name *Alfivy*, itself from Old English *Ælfwīg*, composed of the elements *ælf* ‘elf, sprite’ + *wīg* ‘battle’; or from the female name *Alvy*, itself from Old English *Ælfgifu*, composed of *ælf* + *gifu* ‘gift’; or from a reduced form of the male name *Alvin* (see **Elvin**). See also **Allaway** and **Elvey**.

Early bearers: given names: Godric filius *Ælfuuii*, about 1095 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents* (Suffolk); Alfwy, 1212 in *Book of Fees* (Berks).
surnames: Swein and William Alvi, 1212 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Oxon); Thomas Alfy, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Simon Elphey, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Devon); Adam Alfwy, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John and Agnes Aluy, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Edward Eluy, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); William Alvy, 1454 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Arnold, Notts); Ane Alvey, 1606, Richard Alvey, 1713, William Alvey, 1820 in *IGI* (Arnold, Notts); Issabell Alvey, 1564, Mary Alvey, 1708, Henry Alvey, 1811 in *IGI* (Lowdham, Notts).

Alvi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 315, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Muslim (Pakistan): variant of **Alavi**.

Alvin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 92, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 68

- **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks
- English: see **Elvin**.

Alvis

- **Current frequencies:** GB 332, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 178
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

English: variant of **Alvey** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Early bearers: England James Alvis, 1661 in *IGI* (Bury Saint Edmunds, Suffolk); Anne Alvis, 1675 in *IGI* (Bury Saint Edmunds, Suffolk); Peter Alvis, 1676 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Mary Alvis, 1698 in *IGI* (Gosport, Hants); John Alvis, 1797 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs).
Scotland Barbara Alvis, 1633 in *IGI* (Annan, Dumfriess); David Alvis, 1670 in *IGI* (Leuchars, Fife); Charles Alvis, 1677 in *IGI* (Edinburgh).

Alvy

- **Current frequencies:** GB 28, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 14
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts

English: see **Alvey**.

Alward

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 71
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset and Devon; Shrops

English: see **Allward**.

Alway

- **Current frequencies:** GB 412, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 343
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs
- English: see **Allaway**.

Alwen

- **Current frequencies:** GB 18, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 38
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent and Sussex
- English: see **Alwin**.

Alwin

Variants: **Alwyn, Alwen, Elwin, Elwyn**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 48, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 41
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Alwin*, *Elwin*, representing several Old English names: *Ealdwine*, *Æðelwine*, *Ealhwine*, and *Ælfwine*. These names are composed respectively of *eald* ‘old’, *æðel* ‘noble’, *ealh* ‘temple’ and *ælf* ‘elf, sprite’, + *wine* ‘friend’. See also **Alden**, **Aylwin**, **Elvin**.

Further information: Old English *Æðelwine* (or *Ailwine*) and *Ælfwine* were confused with each other. *Ælfwin* Finche is probably identical with Ailwinus, Alwinus Finch (1168, 1173). Alfwinus filius Leofstani is probably identical with Ailwin son of Leofstan (*Ekwall, ELPN*, p. 12), and compare Robertus filius Ailwini, alias Ailfwini, 1214 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Northants).

Early bearers: given names: *Æluuin*, *Aluuin*(e), *Eluuin* (e), 1086 in *Domesday Book*; *Æluuin*, *Alfuuius*, *Aluuius*, *Eluuin*, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; *Goduine* *Ælfuini* filius, about 1095 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents* (Suffolk); *Elwine* *Ecses*, 1101–7, *Ælwine* presbiter, 1127–34 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register*

(Norfolk); Elfwinus de Bekeringe, 1165 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Alwinus Blundus, 1207 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Sussex).

surnames: Normannus filius Aldwini, identical with Normannus filius Alwini, 1202 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Surrey); Robertus filius Ailwini, Alwini, 1213–14 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Essex); John Allewin, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Thomas Alwine, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Geoffrey Elwyne, 1274 in *Hundred Rolls* (Norfolk); William Helewyn, Thomas Alwyn, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Jhon Alwin, 1566 in *IGI* (Chalton, Hants); Jone Alwin, 1603 in *IGI* (Birdham, Sussex); Thon Alwin, 1732 in *IGI* (Bexley, Kent).
References: *Seltén, Anglo-Saxon Heritage*, 2, p. 77.

Alwood

- **Current frequencies:** GB 19, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 94
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Warwicks; Notts
English: see **Elwood**.

Alwyn

- **Current frequencies:** GB 31, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
English: see **Alwin**.

Ali

- **Current frequencies:** GB 168, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4
Arabic, Muslim: see **Ali**.

Alyas

- **Current frequencies:** GB 226, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
Muslim: see **Ilyas**.

Amable

Variants: **Anable, Annable, Hannibal, Honniball, Hunnable, Hunneyball, Hunneybell, Hunnibal, Hunnibell, Mable**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

Norman, English: relationship name from the Old French and Middle English female personal name *Amabil, Amabel*, Latin *Amabilis*, from Latin *amabilis* 'lovable'. The Normans frequently made use of the Old French short form *Mabile* or *Mabel* (see further under **Mable**) and, by dissimilation of *m* to *n*, developed a new form, *Anabel*, which gave rise to surnames such as **Annable, Hannibal, Honeyball, and Hunnable**. See also **Bill** (1) and **Bilson**.

Early bearers: given names: Amabilis, about 1150–60 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Amable de Creuequer 1154–89 *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Amabilia, predicta Mabilia, 1185 in *Rotuli de Dominabus* (Essex); Amabilis, 1197 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Amabilla (Amable), Mabillia (Amabilis), 1200 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Derbys); Anabel de Nostrefeld, 1204 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Annabel, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Anabilia, 1284 in *Feet of Fines* (Hunts); Anabilla, 1305 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Anabella, about 1308 in *Calverley Charters* (Yorks); Anabel, 1312, identical with Amabel, 1313 in *Assize Rolls* (Staffs); Anabul, 1379 in *Yorks Poll Tax* (Yorks).

surnames: Walterus Amabilis, 1166 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Robert Anable, 1259 in *Alrewas Court Rolls* (Staffs); John Amable, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Richard Amable, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); John

Anable, 1282 in *Patent Rolls* (Gloucs); Henry son of Amabilla, 1256–7 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Leverton, Notts); Adam filius Anabile, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lound, Notts); Roger, George Anabull(e), 1499, 1539 in *Derbys Charters* (Derbys); William Anible, 1643 in *IGI* (Duffield, Derbys); Richd. Annibal, 1718 in *IGI* (Kegworth, Leics); John Annabel, 1691 in *IGI* (Annesely, Notts); Benjamin Annable, 1791 in *IGI* (Belper, Derbys).

Amadi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 370, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Igbo): from a personal name *Amadi* (Igbo *amadi* 'free-born'), originally the name of an Igbo traditional minor deity.

Aman

Variants: **Amann, Amans**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 192, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 26
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs, Flint

1 Norman, English: see **Amand**.

2 Afghan and Indian (Muslim, Sikh): unexplained. It could be a variant of Arabic **Amin**.

3 There seem to be other origins, too, whose provenance has not yet been identified.

Further information: Forenames from *BMD* (in addition to English, Muslim, and Sikh ones) include Neminiglida (spouse Pigos), Nighat, Fathi, Rosmiah, Sehra, Lauro, Orhan, Houria, Gudny, Nadia, Zam Zam, Raof, Nkaru (spouse Ibgokwe), and Motane.

Amand

Variants: **Ament, Amans, Aman**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 31
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Lancs and WR Yorks

Norman, English: relationship name from the Old French personal name *Amand, Amant*, Latin *amandus* 'suitable to be loved', the name of a 5th-century bishop of Bordeaux and of four saints. It was also used as a female given name.

Early bearers: given names: Magister Amandus, 1199 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Leics); Amanda filia Johannis, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Warwicks); Amanus de Preston', 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Shrops).

surnames: Richard Amand, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Robert Amant, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Henrie Amand, 1637 in *IGI* (Wilburton, Cambs); James Amand, 1667 in *IGI* (South Ronaldsay, Orkney); Simon Ament, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk); Samuel Amand, 1713 in *IGI* (Bramfield, Suffolk); Joseph Amand, 1743 in *IGI* (Icklesham, Sussex); Sarah Amand, 1748 in *IGI* (Berkhamsted, Herts).

Amankwah

- **Current frequencies:** GB 270, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Ghanaian: from Akan (Twi or a related dialect) *aman* 'nations' + *kwa* 'free'.

Further information: The *-h* after final *-a* in Ghanaian names like this is a characteristic anglicization.

Amann

- **Current frequencies:** GB 60, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2

1 German: see **Ammann**.

2 See also **Aman**.

Amans

- **Current frequencies:** GB 43, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 38
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset

1 English: variant of **Aman** with post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

2 Norman, English: see **Amand**.

Amar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 321, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 9
- **Main GB location 1881:** Shrops; Anglesey

1 Indian (Panjab): Sikh, the name of a Jat clan.

2 English: see **Aymer**. As an English name, this is extremely rare and may indeed have died out.

Early bearers: John Amar, 1700 in *IGI* (Bromham, Wilts); Conrad Christopher Amar, 1786 in *IGI* (Spitalfields, Middx); Kitty Amar, 1806 in *IGI* (Kenwyn, Cornwall); Mary Ann Amar, 1817 in *IGI* (Whitechapel, Middx); Charles Amar, 1839 in *IGI* (Lewisham, Kent); Albert Amar, 1878 in *IGI* (Lambeth, Surrey).

Amass

- **Current frequencies:** GB 116, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 49
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk

Norman, English: see **Ames**.

Amato

- **Current frequencies:** GB 508, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 23

Italian: from a medieval personal name, *Amato*, Latin *Amatus* 'beloved', i.e. by God.

Amatt

Variants: **Amott**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 150, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 84
- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys

English: relationship name from the medieval female personal name *Amot*, a derivative of a shortened form of *Amie* + the diminutive suffix *-ot*. Compare **Amiet, Ames, Amey**.

Early bearers: given names: Amotta Smalcharr', Amota le Corker, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Lancs).

surnames: Jud' Amot', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Ashford, Derbys); Thomas Amot, 1387 in *Patent Rolls* (Middleton, Derbys); Thomas Amote, 1388 in *Derbys Charters* (Middleton, Derbys); Jacobus Amot, 1567, Maria Amat, 1590, Johannes Amatt, 1592 in *IGI* (Crich, Derbys); James Amett, 1599 in *IGI* (Denby, Derbys).

Amber

Variants: **Ambers**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 186, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 92
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts; London; WR Yorks

Norman, English: perhaps a reduced form of **Ambery**, which is a variant of **Amery**. For the intrusive *-b-* compare **Embury** and **Amberston**.

Further information: The first record may be a variant of this name with an ornamental initial *H-*, but possibly not.

Early bearers: Robertus Hamber, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Moulton, Lincs); Agnes Aumber, 1594 in *IGI*

(Thorne, WR Yorks); William Amber, 1596 in *IGI* (Kirton, Lincs); Ann Amber, 1613 in *IGI* (Snaith, WR Yorks); John Amber, 1629, George Amber, 1722 in *IGI* (Bradford, WR Yorks); James Amber, 1632, Elizabeth Ambers, 1665 in *IGI* (Chesterton, Cambs); Rich. Amber, 1664, Nicholas Ambers, 1684 in *IGI* (Swineshead, Lincs); William Amber, 1752, Alfred Amber, 1838 in *IGI* (All Cannings, Wilts); John Amber, 1795 in *IGI* (Halifax, WR Yorks).

Amberley

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: locative name from Amberley (Sussex), which is recorded as *Ambrelie* in 1086 and *Aumberly* in 1279, Amberley in Marden (Herefs), which is recorded as *Amburle* in 1086 and *Ambrelegh* in 1316, or Amberley in Minchinhampton (Gloucs), which is recorded as *Amberley* and *Omerleia* in the 13th century. All three place-names probably derive from the Old English bird-name *amer* ‘bunting’ + *lēah* ‘open woodland’.

Early bearers: Ralph de Ambree, 1207 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Sussex); William de Amberleg, 1225 in *Place-Names of Wilts*, p. 209 (Wilts); Robert de Amberlye, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Ricardus Amyrley, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Bristol, Gloucs); Elizabeth Amberley, 1612 in *IGI* (Eaton Bishop, Herefs); William Amberley, 1612 in *IGI* (Chester, Cheshire); Sarah Amberley, 1710 in *IGI* (Sidlesham, Sussex). **References:** *Place-Names of Sussex*, pp. 146–7; *Herefs Place-Names*, p. 143; *Place-Names of Gloucs* 1, pp. 95–6; *Vocabulary of English Place-Names* at *amer*; *EPNS Journal* 28, pp. 5–31.

Ambers

- **GB frequency 1881:** 6
- **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks

Norman, English: variant of **Amber** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Further information: This form of the name is rare in Britain but more numerous in the USA.

Early bearers: John Ambers, 1562 in *IGI* (Coventry, Warwicks); William Umbers, 1739 in *IGI* (Lillington, Warwicks); Jane Ambers, 1748 in *IGI* (Ashow, Warwicks).

Amberson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3, Ireland 8
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3

English: variant of **Emmerson** with intrusive -b-.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but more numerous in the USA.

Early bearers: Robert Amberson, 1647 in *IGI* (Saint Bartholomew the Less, London).

Ambery

- **Current frequencies:** GB 70, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 58
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cheshire
- English: see **Amery** and **Embery**.

Early bearers: Johannes Hambrey, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Salford Priors, Warwicks); Thomas Ambrey, 1597 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Elizabeth Ambrie, 1665 in *IGI* (Frodsham, Cheshire); Mary Ambree, 1674 in *IGI* (Chester, Cheshire); Katherine Ambury, 1677 in *IGI* (Keyworth, Notts); Mary Ambury, 1704 in *IGI* (English Bicknor, Gloucs); Anna Ambrey, 1723 in *IGI* (English Bicknor, Gloucs); Isaac Ambrey, 1779 in *IGI*

(Stockport, Cheshire); Thomas Ambrey, 1779 in *IGI* (Manchester, Lancs).

Ambler

Variants: **Ombler**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2383, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2614
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

1 Norman, English: occupational name from Middle English **amayler*, **amelour* (Old French *esmaillleur*) ‘enameller’, with intrusive *b* to give **a(u)mbelour*. This seems likely to be the main source, but some of the following early bearers may alternatively belong with (2) or (3).

Further information: William Ambler was mayor of Doncaster in 1717.

Early bearers: Thomas le Amblur, 1276 in *Hundred Rolls* (Lincs); William le Amayler, 1303 in *London Court Rolls*; Nicholas le Aumbleour, 1307 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (WR Yorks); Simon le Amelour, 1344 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Robert Ambeler, 1375 in *London Pleas*; Thoma Ambeler, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Saint Saviour, York, Yorks); Willelmo Ambler, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Herefs); Willelmus Ameler, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Walton, Somerset); Alexander Ambler, 1474 in *York Freeman’s Register*; Jhon Ambler, 1552 in *IGI* (Chaddesley Corbett, Worcs); Thoms. Ambler, 1562 in *IGI* (Keighley, WR Yorks); Alicia Ambler, 1564 in *IGI* (Richards Castle, Herefs); Leonard Ambler, 1584 in *IGI* (Leeds, WR Yorks).

2 English: nickname perhaps a derivative of Middle English *amblen* ‘to amble’. The name might have been given to one with an ambling gait, possibly even a facetious nickname for a walker or fuller, as suggested by John Ambeler, walker, 1440 in *York Freeman’s Register*. The verb is also recorded from the 14th century onward in the sense ‘to ride an ambling horse’, so *Ambler* might have denoted someone who rode such a horse, though because of its gentle pace it was generally preferred by women.

3 English: perhaps a reduced form of an unrecorded Middle English **amblerer* ‘dealer in ambles or saddle horses’.

Amblin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 56, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 35
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

English: see **Embling**.

Ambridge

- **Current frequencies:** GB 475, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 322
- **Main GB location 1881:** SE England: esp. Middx, Beds, and Bucks

English: a post-medieval altered form of **Ambrose**.

Early bearers: James Ambridge, 1591 in *IGI* (Aspley Guise, Beds); William Ambridge, 1631 in *IGI* (Padbury, Bucks); Mary Ambrige, 1705 in *IGI* (Saint Albans, Herts).

Ambrose

Variants: **Ambrus**, **Ambridge**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3976, Ireland 325
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2610
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. E Anglia, Middx, and Kent; also Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Limerick and Cork

1 English, Scottish: relationship name from the personal name *Ambrose*, French *Ambroise*, itself from Latin *Ambrosius*, and ultimately from Greek *ambrósios* ‘divine, immortal’.

Early bearers: given names: Ambrosius, 1168–75 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk).

surnames, England: Henry Ambreis, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); William Ambroys, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Thomas Ambrose, 1486 in *Feet of Fines* (Elmsted, Kent); William Ambrose, 1559 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs); Ellen Ambrose, 1562 in *IGI* (Kersey, Suffolk); Wyllm. Ambrus, 1579 in *IGI* (Garstang, Lancs); Ane Ambroos, 1607 in *IGI* (Downham, Cambs); Mathew Ambrus, 1696 in *IGI* (Hernhill, Kent); Jane Ambrus, 1699 in *IGI* (Camborne, Cornwall).

surnames, Scotland: William Ambrosii, burgess, 1488 in *Glasgow Saint Mary Liber* (Glasgow); Alexander Ambrose, 1499 in *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*; Alexander Ambroise, minister, 1609 in *Criminal Trials in Scotland* (Newbattle, Midlothian).

2 Irish: from **Mac Ambróis** ‘son of Ambrose’; a West Munster name, which has also been anglicized as **McCambridge**.

Early bearers: Wm Ambrose, 1601 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6498 (Annagh).

Ambrus

- **Current frequencies:** GB 49, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: see **Ambrose**.

Ameen

- **Current frequencies:** GB 317, Ireland 10
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

Muslim: see **Amin**.

Ament

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 7

Norman, English: see **Amand**.

Amer

- **Current frequencies:** GB 818, Ireland 8
- **GB frequency 1881:** 294
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. London; Gloucs

English: probably a variant of **Aymer**.

Early bearers: Thomas Amer, 1575 in *PROB 11* (Marden, Wilts); John Amer, 1618 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx).

Amery

Variants: **Amory**, **Ambery**, **Amber**, **Emery**, **Emary**, **Emberry**, **Embrey**, **Embery**, **Embury**, **Embr**, **Emburey**, **Embura**, **Emory**, **Emerick**, **Imrie**, **Imray**, **Imery**, **Imbrey**, **Imbery**, **Hemery**, **Hembrey**, **Hembury**, **Hembury**, **Hembra**, **Hembrough**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 453, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 575
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon; London

Norman, English: (i) relationship name usually from the Middle English personal name *Amery*, *Emery*, Old French *Amauri*, *Emaurri*, itself from Continental Germanic *Amalric*, composed of the elements *Amal*, a dynastic name among the Goths, + *ric* ‘realm, power’. (ii) relationship name occasionally from the Middle English, Old French personal name *Aimery*, Continental Germanic *Haimeric*, from *haim* ‘home’+ *ric* ‘realm, power’.

Early bearers: given names for (i) Amalricus, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Robertus filius Amalrici, Almarici, Aumarici, 1207–14 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Notts); Amauricus, Amarius, Ailmarus, Almarus, Aumaricus, Almaricus de Sancto Amando, 1221 in *Curia Regis Rolls*; Emeric Orcherd, 1241 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Emery de Roche Chaward, 1269 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Almorius de Moston, 1269 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Emory de Moston, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Moston, Shrops).
 given names for (ii) Ymerus filius Reineri, about 1160 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Haimeri, 1170 in *Pipe Rolls* (Staffs); Haimericus filius Gidhe, about 1190–5 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Eimericus uinitor 1191, in *Pipe Rolls* (Warwicks); Hemericus, Eymericus, Heimericus Buche, 1222 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Dorset); Aymery de Rupe Caward, 1278 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset).
 surnames: Roger Hemeri, before 1182 in *Clerkenwell Cartulary* (Essex); Robert Amalri, 1207 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Oxon); Richard Aumauri, 1221 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Dorset); Robert Emery, 1223 in *Patent Rolls* (Leics); Robert Heymeri, 1240 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Cambs); Simon Amarik, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); William Emeric, 1276 in *London Letter Books A*; Robert Amary, Amory, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Bucks); Roberto Hemory, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Belgrave, Leics); Maud Hemerye, 1409 in *Feet of Fines* (Notts); Thomas Amery, 1560 in *Parish Registers* (Aldenharn, Herts).

Ames

Variants: Amess, Amiss, Amis, Amys, Amies, Amass, Amos

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3003, Ireland 23
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2025
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread

Norman, English: relationship name from the Old French personal name *Amis* or from the feminine form, *Amice*. The Old French word *amis*, *Ami* is from Latin *amicus* 'friend', which was used in Late Latin as a term for a man of the lower classes, in particular a slave. There were also derivatives of this as personal names, in particular *Amicius* (m.) and *Amicia* (f.). Both were in use as personal names in England and may have contributed to the surname. See also **Amey**, **Amos**, **Amias**, **Amiet**, **Amison**.

Early bearers: given names: Amisius, 1200 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Devon) and 1213 (Surrey); Amisius de Hospitali, 1211 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Herts); Amicia, 1189 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs), 1207 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Essex), 1210 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Warwicks).

surnames: Robert Amis, 1221 in *Cotton Tiberius B ii* (Suffolk); Joan Amice, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); John Amize, Amys, 1309–10 in *London Letter Books D*; Thomas Amys, 1455 in *Feet of Fines* (Leics); Gregory Amys or Amisse, 1525 in *Oxford University Register*; Thomas Amyes, 1565 in *IGI* (Dallinghoo, Suffolk); Marye Aymes, 1607 in *IGI* (Hooe, Sussex); Rachel Aimes, 1608 in *IGI* (Cheshunt, Herts); Thoms Amyes, 1619, Willia Ames, 1653 in *IGI* (Old Swinford, Worcs); Gertrude Aymes, 1621, Giles Ames, 1623 in *IGI* (Shapwick, Somerset); William Ames, 1627, Mary Aimes, 1664 in *IGI* (Lavenham, Suffolk); Edward Aymes, 1644, Mary Ames, 1650 in *IGI* (Cottenham, Cambs); John Amas, 1669 in *IGI* (Butlers Marston, Warwicks); Marry Amas, 1677 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Richard Amas, 1711 in *IGI* (Molash, Kent).

Amesbury

- **Current frequencies:** GB 357, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 186
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset and Gloucs

English: locative name from Amesbury (Wilts), which is recorded as *Ambresberie* in 1086, *Aumbresberia* in 1231, and *Amysbury* in 1524. The place-name derives from Old English *burh* 'fortified place' (dative *byrig*) with an uncertain first element, probably either the Old English bird-name *amer* 'bunting' (genitive singular *amres*, **ambres*) or an Old English personal name **Ambri* (genitive **Ambres*).

Early bearers: Aylmer de Ambresbury, 1227 in *Feet of Fines* (Amesbury, Wilts); Henry de Aumbresbury, 1321 in *Feet of Fines* (Wilts); John de Ambresburi, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Figheldean, Wilts); Johannes Ambresbury, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Salisbury, Wilts); John Ambresbury, canon, 1382 in *Edington Cartulary* (Wilts); Robert Aumesbury, citizen and carpenter, 1438 in *London Wills* (Saint Benet Fink, London); Willimi Amesbury, 1585, Henry Amsbury, 1630 in *IGI* (Westbury, Wilts); William Amesbury, 1652, Richardi Amsbury, 1715 in *IGI* (Wedmore, Somerset); Mariam Amesberry, 1714 in *IGI* (North Bradley, Wilts); Richard Amsbury, 1797 in *IGI* (Siston, Gloucs).
References: *Place-Names of Wilts*, pp. 358–9; *Watts, Dictionary*, p. 13; *Vocabulary of English Place-Names at amer*; *EPNS Journal* 28, pp. 5–31.

Amess

- **Current frequencies:** GB 353, Ireland 6
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 129
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Norfolk, Worcs, Durham, Perth, and Fife
- Norman, English: see **Ames**.

Amey

Variants: Lamey, Amy

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1132, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 831
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Essex, Dorset, and Hants

1 Norman, English: nickname from Old French (*l'*)*ami* '(the) friend'.

Early bearers: William Amy, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); William Lamy, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (London); William le Amy, 1282 in *London Letter Books A*; Annes Amey, 1556 in *IGI* (Ockley, Surrey); William Amey, 1562 in *IGI* (Papworth Saint Agnes, Cambs); Mathewe Amey, 1584 in *IGI* (Lynsted, Kent); Alic Amey, 1602 in *IGI* (Westbourne, Sussex); An Amey, 1605 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon).

2 Norman, English: relationship name from the Old French personal name *Amé*, from Latin *amatus* 'beloved'.

Early bearers: William Ame, 1248 in *Assize Rolls* (Essex).
 3 Norman, English: relationship name it may also be a patronymic from the masculine personal name *Ami*, oblique case form of *Amis*. Compare **Ames**.

Early bearers: Rogerus filius Ami, about 1250 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Norfolk).

4 English: relationship name from the female personal name *Amia*, Latin form of Old French *Amée*, the feminine of *Amé* (see (2) above).

Early bearers: given names: Amia cameraria, 1193 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs).
 surnames: Martinus filius Amye, 1297 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks).

Amherst

Variants: Amhurst

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

English: locative name from Amhurst in Pembury (Kent), which is recorded as *Hemhurst* in 1250. The place probably derives its name from Old English *hemm* 'hem, border, boundary' + *hyrst* 'wooded hill'.
Early bearers: Walt's de Emherst, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Washlingstone hundred, Kent); [. . .] de Hemherst, 1347, [. . .] Hammherst, 1348 in *Kent Place-Names* (Kent); Thomas Amherst, 1489 in *Kent Place-Names* (Pembury, Kent); James Amhurst, 1604 in *IGI* (Lamberhurst, Kent); Katherine Amherst, 1614 in *IGI* (Headcorn, Kent); John Amherst, 1620 in *IGI* (Horsmonden, Kent); Thomas Amherst, 1629 in *IGI* (East Sutton, Kent).

References: *Kent Place-Names*, p. 186.

Amhurst

- **GB frequency 1881:** 6
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent
- English: see **Amherst**.

Amias

- **Current frequencies:** GB 24, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 6
- **Main GB location 1881:** Shrops

Norman, English: locative name from the French city of Amiens (Somme), which is recorded as *Samarobriua Ambianorum* in classical sources. *Samarobriua* is a Celtic place-name meaning 'the bridge over the river Somme', while the affix *Ambianorum* means 'of the Ambiani'. *Ambiāni* is an ethnic name deriving from Celtic *ambi(o)-* 'around', probably meaning 'those on both sides (of the Somme)' or possibly 'the people of the world'. The affix has replaced the place-name which it once qualified, and it is the ablative form *Ambiānis* of this ethnic name which is the source of the current place-name Amiens. For the development of the surname in England, compare 'merchants of *Amias*', 1326 in *London Letter Books E* (London).

Further information: In the 16th century the surname became confused with **Ames**. Thomas Amyas (1521) of Wethersfield in Essex was, no doubt, of the same family as Robert Amys, Amyse, Amyce, Ameys (1462–78 in *The Essex Review* 61).

Early bearers: Richard Amias, 1185 in *Templars Records* (Warwicks); Willard de Amiens, 1193 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Roger de Amias, 1276 in *London Letter Books A* (London); Johanne Amyas, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Upper Beeding, Sussex); Robert de Amyas, 1310 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Worcs); Johne de Amyas, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Arundel, Sussex); John de Amyas, 1391, John Amyas, 1407 in *Feet of Fines* (Shitlington, WR Yorks); Tho. Amias, 1560 in *IGI* (Worcester, Worcs); Barbara Amias, 1563 in *IGI* (Leaveland, Kent); Bartholomew Amias, 1567 in *Robertsbridge Survey* (Sussex); Richard Amias, 1593 in *IGI* (Oldbury, Shrops); Johes Amias, 1688 in *IGI* (Much Wenlock, Shrops).

References: *Continental Celtic Place-Names*, pp. 46, 194; *Noms de Lieux de la France*, p. 65.

Amiel

- **Current frequencies:** GB 34, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 19

- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

Norman, English: relationship name from an Old French personal name, a pet form of *Ami* or *Amia* (see **Ames**, **Amey**). Compare **Amiet**.

Early bearers: given names: Amiel de Honesdon, 1349 in *London Husting Wills*.

surnames: Alicia Amyel, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Joan Amyel (daughter of Amiel de Honesdon), 1349 in *London Husting Wills*; Marieanne Amiel, 1697 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Peter Amiel, 1783 in *IGI* (Chelsfield, Kent); Henry Court Amiel, 1792 in *IGI* (Lambeth, Surrey); Margaret Grant Amiel, 1795 in *IGI* (Rickmansworth, Herts); John Amiel, 1823 in *IGI* (Sidestrand, Norfolk).

Amies

- **Current frequencies:** GB 604, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 493
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Norfolk and Shrops

Norman, English: see **Ames**.

Amiet

Variants: Amiot, Amyot

- **Current frequencies:** GB 14, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: relationship name from the medieval personal name *Amiot*, a derivative of *Ami(e)* + the diminutive suffix *-ot*. Compare **Ames**, **Amey**. **Early bearers:** given names: Amiot de Wudestoch', 1191 in *Pipe Rolls* (Berks), is identical with Amisius filius Amisii de Wodestoke, 1250 in *Eynsham Cartulary* (Oxon), a clear case of the pet form of the masculine name Amis or Ami.

surnames: William Amiot, 1195 in *Pipe Rolls* (Gloucs), 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); Stephen Amyot, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Thomas Amiet, 1617 in *IGI* (Melksham, Wilts); Susannah Amiet, 1698 in *IGI* (Totnes, Devon); Henry Amiet, 1761 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx).

Amin

Variants: Ameen, Aman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 6105, Ireland 45
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2

Arabic, Muslim: from an Arabic personal name based on *amin* 'trustworthy, faithful, honest'. **Further information:** *Al-Amin* 'the trustworthy' is an honorific title of the Prophet Muhammad. The term is used in combination with other words to form compound names: for example, *Ruh-ul-Amin* 'faithful spirit' is an epithet of the Angel Gabriel mentioned in the Qur'an (26:193). *Al-Amin* (787–813) was the name of the sixth Abbasid khalif of Baghdad. *Amin* is also the normal Arabic word for 'secretary', and in India, the name came to be used as a term denoting a government official concerned with investigation of land claims and revenue claims, collection of revenue, and land surveying.

Amini

- **Current frequencies:** GB 353, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim: Arabic name meaning 'of the family of *Amin*'.

Amiot

- **GB frequency 1881:** 10
- English: see **Amiet**.

Amir

- **Current frequencies:** GB 744, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

Muslim: (i) from a personal name based on Arabic *amir* 'prince, commander, master'. (ii) see **Aamir**. **Further information:** *Amir-ul-Mu'minin* 'commander of the faithful' was a title of Muslim khalifs and other rulers.

Amiri

- **Current frequencies:** GB 348, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Arabic, Iranian, Muslim: from an Arabic name meaning 'of the family of someone called *Amir*'.

Amis

- **Current frequencies:** GB 571, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 377
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

Norman, English: see **Ames**.

Amison

Variants: Amson, Aimson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 396, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 160
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs

English: relationship name meaning 'son of *Amice* or *Ami*'. See **Ames**, **Amey**.

Early bearers: John Amyson, 1358 in *Statutes of Labourers* (Northants); John Amysson, 1384 in *Close Rolls*; Matthew Amson, 1568 in *Bardsley*.

Amiss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 199, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 194
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

Norman, English: see **Ames**.

Amjad

- **Current frequencies:** GB 712, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

Arabic, Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic *amjad*, superlative form of *majid*, 'honourable', 'glorious'.

Amlani

- **Current frequencies:** GB 213, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Gujarat): Hindu (Lohana), from *Aml-* (a reduction of an ancestral name) + the adjectival suffix *-ani* denoting derivation from (i.e. 'descendant of'). **Further information:** This name is also found among people from Sind, Pakistan, who have migrated into India.

Amlot

- **Current frequencies:** GB 40, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2

Norman, English: relationship name from the Old French personal name *Amelot*, *Emelot*, a hypocoristic of *Ameline*. Compare **Embling**.

Early bearers: given names: Emelot Minne, 12th cent. in *Northants Charters*.

surnames: Ricardus filius Amelot, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Devon); Robert Emelot, 1183 in *Pipe Rolls* (London); Nicholas Amelot, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Wilts); William Richard Amlot, 1862 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs); Ann Amlot, 1864 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs);

Herbert Amlot, 1887 in *IGI* (Liscard, Cheshire); Jane Amlot, 1898 in *IGI* (Deptford, Kent).

Ammann

Variants: Amann

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

South German, Swiss German: status name, occupational name from German *Amtmann* 'official', dialect *Ammann* (Middle High German *ambet man*, literally 'retinue man, retainer'). In the later Middle Ages, this term came to denote various kinds of administrator, including a tax farmer.

Ammon

Variants: Amond, Amon, Ammonds, Ammons

- **Current frequencies:** GB 118, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Agemund*, itself from Old Scandinavian *Ogmundr*, *Aghmund*, composed of the elements **a3a-* of uncertain meaning + *mund-* 'hand', 'bride-price'.

Early bearers: given names: Agemund, Aghemundus, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Hagemundus, about 1150, Agmundus de Gutario, 12th cent., Amund de Cotes 1154–89 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs). surnames: Alexander and Ralph Aghemond, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Margeria Awomond, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); Henry Amond, 1380 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Helyne Ammon, 1563 in *IGI* (Mistley, Essex); Ric. Ammon, 1574 in *IGI* (Chester, Cheshire); Richard Ammon, 1580 in *IGI* (Fletching, Sussex); Bartle Ammon, 1593 in *IGI* (Thirsk, NR Yorks); William Ammon, 1608 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); James Amon and Charles Amons, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk).

References: *Insley*, p. 14.

Ammonds

- **Current frequencies:** GB 24, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 21
- **Main GB location 1881:** Brecknocks

English: variant of **Ammon** with genitival or post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Ammons

- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

English: variant of **Ammon** with genitival or post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Amner

- **Current frequencies:** GB 177, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 87
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

1 English: locative name from Anmer (Norfolk), which is recorded as *Anemere* in 1086 and *Anedemere* in 1291. The place-name derives from Old English *aened* 'duck' + *mere* 'pond, pool'. **Further information:** The surname *Anmer*, without metathesis of *-nm-* to *-mn-*, survives in small numbers in Suffolk in 1881.

Early bearers: William de Anemere, 1195–6, William de Anamara, 1209 in *Feet of Fines* (Norfolk); William de Anemere, 1228–9 in *Feet of Fines* (Suffolk); Reginald de Anemere, citizen of London, 1287 in *TNA*

(London); Geoffrey de Anemere, 1288 in *Norfolk Record Office* (Anmer, Norfolk); William de Anemere, 1294 in *Patent Rolls* (Norfolk); John de Annemere, servant of the parson of Hardingham, 1332 in *TNA* (Norfolk); John de Anemere, 1371 in *Norfolk Record Office* (West Newton, Norfolk); Margarete Amner, 1571 in *IGI* (Horningtoft, Norfolk); Edmund Amner, 1588 in *IGI* (Naughton, Suffolk); Doraty Amner, 1610, Robt. Amnor, 1788 in *IGI* (Soham, Cambs).

References: *Ekwall*, *DEPN*, p. 10.

2 English: possibly a variant of **Aumonier**.

Amoah

- **Current frequencies:** GB 580, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Ghanaian: apparently from Akan (Twi or a related dialect) *amoa* 'hole, pit, trench'.

Further information: The *h* after final *a* in Ghanaian names like this is a characteristic anglicization.

Amoako

- **Current frequencies:** GB 297, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Ghanaian: unexplained.

Amon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 120, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 130
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex and Kent

English: see **Ammon**.

Amond

- **Current frequencies:** GB 49, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 23
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: see **Ammon**.

Amoore

- **Current frequencies:** GB 24, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 69
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex

1 English: see **Atmore**.

2 English: see **Amor**.

Amor

Variants: **Amour**, **Amoore**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1410, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 715
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts

1 Norman, English: nickname from Old French *amo(u)r* 'love' (Latin *amor*). Some bearers may belong with (2).

Early bearers: Adam Amour, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Matilda Amour, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Ogbourne Saint George, Wilts); Agnes Amore, 1583 in *IGI* (Wilmington, Sussex); Thomas Amore, 1590 in *PROB 11* (Othery, Somerset); John Amor, 1592 in *IGI* (Bishops Cannings, Wilts); Joane Amor, 1634 in *IGI* (Compton near Newbury, Berks); Arthur Amor, 1713, John Amore, 1734 in *IGI* (Chippenham, Wilts).
2 English: nickname from the Middle English bird-name **amor* 'bunting' (Old English *amer*), known as a dialect term in Wilts.

Amori

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Italian: relationship name from the medieval personal name *Amore*, literally 'love', sometimes

bestowed on a foundling or 'love-child' born out of wedlock.

References: *De Felice*.

Amory

Variants: **Amori**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 98, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 118
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb; Somerset and Devon; also Cambs

Norman, English: (i) see **Amery**. (ii) see **Damary**.

Early bearers: Thoms Amory, 1566 in *IGI* (Swinderby, Lincs); Michael Amori, 1637 in *IGI* (Belton in Axholme, Lincs); William Amory, 1622 in *IGI* (Bishops Nympton, Devon); Sara Amory, 1655 in *IGI* (Thorney, Cambs); John Amory, 1704 in *IGI* (Nettlecombe, Somerset); Mary Amory, 1733 in *IGI* (Woodhorn, Northumb).

Amos

Variants: **Amoss**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 6966, Ireland 39
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4912
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Kent; Gloucs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Fermanagh and Tyrone

English, Scottish: (i) relationship name post-medieval variant of **Ames**, possibly arising through association with (ii). (ii) relationship name, a post-Reformation patronymic from the Old Testament Biblical name *Amos*, which was used as a personal name among Nonconformists and may have given rise to some late surnames. *Amos* is of unknown origin, but traditionally allocated the meaning 'carried by God'.

Early bearers: Agnes Amos, 1564 in *IGI* (Bruton, Somerset); Edward Amos, 1584 in *IGI* (Whickham, Durham); Caleb Amos, 1684 in *IGI* (Hawkesbury, Gloucs).

Amoss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 97, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 57
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. E Anglia; Middx; WR Yorks; Cheshire

English: see **Amos**.

Amott

- **Current frequencies:** GB 136, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 52
- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys

English: see **Amatt**.

Amour

- **Current frequencies:** GB 181, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 94
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire and Shrops
- English: see **Amor**.

Amphlet

- **GB frequency 1881:** 38
- **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks, Worcs, and Staffs

English: see **Amphlett**.

Amphlett

Variants: **Amphlet**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 803, Ireland 12
- **GB frequency 1881:** 386

- **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs

English: (i) relationship name perhaps from a rare Middle English female personal name *Amfelot(e)*. Locative name: (ii) possibly from Ambleteuse (Pas-de-Calais), which is recorded as *Amflea* in the 8th century, *Ambletouve* in 1121, *Ambletue* in 1208, and *Ampleteu* in 1305. If so, the surname must derive from the earlier form of the place-name (*Amflea*), which has Germanic **fleuta-* 'stream' as the generic element, rather than the later form (*Ambletouve*, *Ampleteu*, etc.) in which *Amflea* qualifies Old High German *ouwa* 'island, river-meadow'. However, the lack of the preposition *de* 'of' in the 14th-century forms of the surname argues against a locative origin.

Further information: *Hanks and Hodges* (at *Fleet*) suggest that this is a locative name derived from the Middle English preposition *an* 'on' fused to the place-name *Fleet* (from Old English *fleot*, Middle English *flete* 'estuary, stream'), with reference to Holt Fleet in Ombersley (Worcs). This seems an unlikely origin. Some pre-Conquest locative bynames were indeed formed with the preposition 'on' (see *Tengvik*, pp. 121–3, for examples in documents ranging from the 10th to early 12th centuries), but there is very little 14th-century evidence for this formation apart from occasional use of the prepositional phrase 'on the', such as Robertus on the Grene, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Sibthorpe, Notts), and Rogerus on the Hil', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Prestwold, Leics). No secure instance has been found of the survival of 'on', fused or otherwise, in an English surname. The form *an* rather than *on* would, in any case, be surprising in the dialect of Worcs in the Middle English period. When the locative surname **Fleet** is recorded with prepositions in the 14th century, it is either *de* 'of' or *atte* 'at, at the' which are used, e.g. Thomas de Flete, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Holbeach, Lincs), and Nicholas atte Flete, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Wokefield, Berks).

Early bearers: given names: Amfelota, wife of William Maunser, 1386 in *Patent Rolls* (Hadleigh, Suffolk). surnames: Agnes Anflete, 1373 in *Hanks and Hodges* (Ombersley, Worcs); John Amflot, 1398 in *Patent Rolls* (Burton upon Trent, Staffs); Anne Amflett, 1560, Willm. Anflett, 1575, Margeret Anflett, 1576, Arthure Amflett, 1592, Elizabeth Anphlett, 1783, Ann Amphlott, 1815 in *IGI* (Worcester, Worcs); Phillip Amflet, 1571 in *IGI* (Claines, Worcs); Valentinus Amphlet, 1574 in *IGI* (Ombersley, Worcs); Robert Amplett, 1584 in *Norfolk Record Office* (Kings Lynn, Norfolk); Elizabeth Amphlett, 1641 in *IGI* (Newport, Shrops); Tho. Anflett, 1642 in *IGI* (Hartlebury, Worcs); William Amphlett, 1719 in *IGI* (Almeley, Herefs).

References: *Dauzat and Rostaing*, p. 14; *Leningrad Manuscript of Bede*, p. 78; *Löfvenberg*, pp. xxx–xxxi.

Ampleford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 104, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 46
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: locative name from Ampleforth (NR Yorks), which is recorded as *Ampreforde* in 1086, *Ampelford* in 1247. The place-name derives from Old English *ampre* 'dock, sorrel' + *ford* 'ford'.

Early bearers: Geoffrey de Ampelford, 1254 in *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames* (Coxwold, NR Yorks); Willelmo de Ampelford', 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cold Kirby, NR Yorks); Ricardus de

Ampelford, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (York); Adam de Ampleforth, 1349 in *TNA* (Cambs); Alicia de Ampilford', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Little Ribston, WR Yorks); Johannes Ampleforth', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Horstead, Norfolk); Roberto de Ampilford, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (York); William Ampulford, 1392–4 in *Norwich Freeman* (Norfolk); John Ampulford, 1436 in *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames* (York); Richard Ampleforde, 1558 in *TNA* (WR Yorks); Sara Ampleford, 1572 in Boyd's Marriage Index (Saint Olave, Hart Street, London); John Ampleford, 1618 in *IGI* (Boston, Lincs); Mary Ampleford, 1654 in *IGI* (Kings Lynn, Norfolk).

References: *Place-Names of NR Yorks*, p. 56.

Amponsah

- **Current frequencies:** GB 482, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Ghanaian: of uncertain etymology, but probably containing Twi *ampom* 'sceptre'. The *-h* after final *-a* in Ghanaian names like this is a characteristic anglicization.

Amps

- **Current frequencies:** GB 149, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 101
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Hunts and Cambs
- English: variant of **Hamps** with loss of initial *H*.
Early bearers: Henry Amps, 1587 in *IGI* (Kempston, Beds); Mary Amps, 1628 in *IGI* (Luton, Beds).

Amsden

Variants: **Emsden**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 77, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 75
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Herts and Middx
- English: locative name from Ambrosden (Oxon), which is recorded as *Ambresdone* in 1086, *Ambresden* in 1194, and *Aumbresden* in 1304. The place-name derives from Old English *dūn* 'hill' with an uncertain first element, probably either the Old English bird-name *amer* 'bunting' (genitive singular *ambres*, **ambres*) or an Old English personal name **Ambri* (genitive **Ambres*).
Early bearers: [... de] Ambrosdon', 1185–9 in *Place-Names of Oxon* (Oxon); William Aumbresdon, chaplain, 1348 in *Patent Rolls* (Oxon); Richard de Ambresdene, 1373, Richard Aumbresdene, 1381 in *Wykeham's Register* (Surrey); Ralphe Amsden, 1547 in *IGI* (Wing, Bucks); John Amsden, 1562 in *IGI* (Woburn, Beds); Elizabeth Amsdon, 1582 in *IGI* (Stewkley, Bucks); Thomas Ambsdon, 1766 in *IGI* (Chieveley, Berks).

References: *Place-Names of Oxon*, p. 161; *Vocabulary of English Place-Names at amer*; *EPNS Journal* 28, pp. 5–31 (see p. 28, note 22, for the 1086 form).

Amson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 94, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 135
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire
- English: see **Amison**.

Amy

- **Current frequencies:** GB 182, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 510
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- Norman, English: see **Amey**.

Amyot

- **GB frequency 1881:** 8
- English: see **Amiet**.
Further information: This form of the name has died out in Britain but continues to thrive in the USA.

Amys

- **Current frequencies:** GB 71, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 50
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- Norman, English: see **Ames**.

Anable

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 49
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs; Derbys
- English: see **Amable**.

Anand

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1094, Ireland 26
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- 1 Indian: from a male personal name derived from Sanskrit *ananda* 'joy'.
Further information: It is found as a surname in Panjab, and is also the name of a Khatri clan. In South India it is used only as a given name.
2 Scandinavian, English: see **Annand**.

Anastasi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 266, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- S Italian: relationship name based on the personal name *Anastasio*, from Latin *Anastasius*, itself from Greek *anastasis* 'resurrection', with reference to the resurrection of Christ. See also **Anastasiou**.

Anastasiou

- **Current frequencies:** GB 323, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Greek (typically Cypriot): relationship name from an old genitive case of the Greek personal name *Anastasios*, which is from an adjective based on Greek *anastasis* 'resurrection'. This was widely chosen as a personal name among the early Christians on account of its religious symbolism. Compare English **Anstis**.

Ancell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 385, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 240
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Hants; Lancs; Cornwall
- English: see **Ansell**.

Anchor

- **Current frequencies:** GB 108, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 93
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Hunts and Cambs; Hants
- Norman, English: see **Anker**.

Anchor

- **Current frequencies:** GB 44, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 3
- English: variant of *Anchor* (see **Anker**), with genitival or post-medieval excrescent *-s*.
Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is more numerous in the USA.

Ancient

- **Current frequencies:** GB 30, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 22
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs
- English: status name for a military standard bearer, from early modern English *ancient* 'standard, flag', an altered form of *ensign*.
Early bearers: Esabella Anchant or Anthant, 1597 in *IGI* (Boston, Lincs); Elizabeth Ancient, 1613 in *IGI* (Boston, Lincs); Amey Ansient, 1654 in *IGI* (Norwich); Georg Ancient, 1661 in *IGI* (Little Steeping, Lincs).

Ancill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 111, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 42
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs, Gloucs, and Staffs
- English: see **Ansell**.

Ancilff

- **Current frequencies:** GB 131, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 80
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Notts and Lincs
- English: a form of **Antcliff** without the intrusive *-t-*.

Ancilffe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 106, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 61
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs and Notts
- English: a form of **Antcliff** without the intrusive *-t-*.

Ancock

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 134
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex, Surrey, and Kent
- English: see **Hancock**.

Ancrum

- **Current frequencies:** GB 70, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 104
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Midlothian; Durham; also Somerset and Gloucs
- Scottish: locative name from Ancrum, Roxburghs, earlier *Alncromb* 'bend in the river Ale', a name of Brittonic origin; compare Welsh *crwm* 'bent, curved'.
Early bearers: Richard of Alnecrum, 1226–7 in *Glasgow Register* (Glasgow); John de Alnecrumb, 1252 in *Melrose Register* (Roxburghs); John de Allynecrom, burgess, c.1362 in *Laing Charters* (Edinburgh); William de Alyncrome, abbot, about 1411 in *Annals of Teviotdale* (Kelso, Roxburghs); Elspeth Ancrum, 1684 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Crailing, Roxburghs).
References: *Scottish Place-Names*, pp. 221, 239–40.

Anders

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1102, Ireland 30
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 543
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: see **Andrews**.

Early bearers: John Anders, 1592 in *IGI* (London); Robert Anders, 1606 in *IGI* (Fernhurst, Surrey).

Andersen

- **Current frequencies:** GB 922, Ireland 14
- **GB frequency 1881:** 167
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Scotland

1 Scottish: variant spelling of **Anderson**.

Early bearers: Scotland Adam Andersen, 1650 in *IGI* (Dunfermline, Fife); Alexander Andersen, 1651 in *IGI* (Leuchars, Midlothian).

England James Andersen, 1756 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Ellen Andersen, 1821 in *IGI* (Overton, Hants).

2 Norwegian and Danish: see **Anderson**.

Early bearers: Jens Andersen, born in Denmark, in *Census 1881* (Cornwall); Olaf Emil Andersen, born in Norway, in *Census 1881* (Durham).

Anderson

Variants: Andersen, Andersson, Andreson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 84341, Ireland 5640
- **GB frequency 1881:** 58703
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. in Scotland and N England
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Ulster

Scottish, English: relationship name from **Andrew** + *-son*.

Early bearers: Scotland Henry Androsoun, about 1443 in *Cupar-Angus Rental Book*; John Andrewson, 1444 in *Cupar-Angus Rental Book*; Robert Andrewson, Androsoun, 1455, 1482 in *York Guild Register*; Thomas Anderson, 1471 in *York Freeman's Register*.

England Henry Anderson, 1540 in *IGI* (Cambridge, Cambs); Margaret Anderson, 1541 in *IGI* (Durham, Durham); Edward Anderson, 1542 in *IGI* (Thuxton, Norfolk); George Anderson, 1544 in *IGI* (Merstham, Surrey); Wylliam Anderson, 1544 in *IGI* (Rye, Sussex); Cisly Anderson, 1545 in *IGI* (Cambridge, Cambs); Bartholomei Anderson, 1554 in *IGI* (Howden, ER Yorks); Robert Annerson, 1739 in *IGI* (Sunderland, Durham).

Andersson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 518, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 56
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. in Scotland and NE England

Scottish, English: Swedish cognate of **Anderson**.

Early bearers: Anders Andersson, born in Gothenburg, Sweden, in *Census 1881* (Middx); Olaf Victor Andersson, born in Lysekilt, Sweden, in *Census 1881* (Durham).

Anderton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3842, Ireland 46
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3553
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and WR Yorks; Warwicks

English: locative name from any of three places named Anderton in Lancs, Cheshire, and Devon.

Early bearers: William de Anderton, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Margareta de Andirton', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Windle, Lancs); Robert of Anderton, 1401 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Thurstan de Andyrton', Edmund de Anderton, 1417 in *Feet of Fines* (Westm); Konrad Anderton, 1526 in *IGI* (Macclesfield, Cheshire); Alice Anderton, 1560 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs); Willmi Anderton, 1562 in *IGI* (Hinckley, Leics); John Anderton, 1564 in *IGI* (Rossington, WR Yorks); Johannes Anderton, 1571 in *IGI* (Buckland Monachorum, Devon); Jhon Anderton, 1574 in *IGI* (Solihull, Warwicks).

References: *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 128; *Place-Names of Cheshire 2*, p. 95.

Andison

- **Current frequencies:** GB 64, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 84
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Scottish Borders
- Scottish: relationship name from *Andy*, a pet form of **Andrew**, + the patronymic *-son*.

Early bearers: Geoffrey Andisone, 1376 in *Morton Register, Scotland* (Fife); Jhone Andison, 1604 in *IGI* (Mid Calder, Midlothian); James Andison, 1619 in *IGI* (Linlithgow, W Lothian); Isobell Andison, 1644 in *IGI* (Hawick, Roxburghs); Jane Andison, 1681 in *IGI* (Stobo, Peebles); Androw Andison, 1693 in *IGI* (Yarrow, Selkirks).

Andow

- **Current frequencies:** GB 199, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 116
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset

1 Norman, English: in S England, especially Somerset and Devon, a variant of **Dando** without the prepositional *D-*.

Early bearers: Mary Endow, 1559 in *IGI* (Benenden, Kent); Nicolaus Anddow, 1561 in *IGI* (Crediton, Devon); John Ando, 1715 in *IGI* (Axmouth, Devon); John Ando, 1784 in *IGI* (Bath, Somerset); Solomon Andow, 1810 in *IGI* (Wedmore, Somerset).

2 English: variant of the Lancs name **Aindow**.

Early bearers: John Andow, 1672 in *IGI* (North Meols, Lancs); Henry Andow, 1741 in *IGI* (Formby, Lancs); Thos. Andow, 1789 in *IGI* (Southport, Lancs).

Andrade

- **Current frequencies:** GB 829, Ireland 22
- **GB frequency 1881:** 48

Portuguese and Galician: locative name from any of the many places in Portugal and Galicia called Andrade.

Further information: This is one of the many Portuguese names that may have reached Britain via Goa and the other former Portuguese colonies in W India, as well as directly from Portugal.

Early bearers: August Andrade, 1571 in *IGI* (London); Manuel Andrade, 1763 in *IGI* (London).

Andree

Variants: Andree, Andrey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 594, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 84
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Sussex

1 Huguenot, French, German: relationship name from Old French *André* or German *Andree*, vernacular forms of the New Testament personal name *Andreas*; see **Andrew**.

Early bearers: Marie Andre, 1693 in *IGI* (Saint Jean, Spitalfields, Middx); Jacques Andre, 1702 in *IGI* (French Huguenot church, London); Jean Andre, 1710 in *IGI* (Crispin Street French Huguenot church, Spitalfields, London); Pierre Andre, 1736 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street French Huguenot Church, London); John Andree, 1748 in *IGI* (Saint Peter le Poer, London); Anne Andre, 1754 in *IGI* (Savoye de Spring Gardens and Des Grecs, Westminster, Middx).

2 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Andre*, *Andree* (Old French *André*), interchangeable with Middle English *Andreu*; see **Andrew**. This surname may have died out.

Early bearers: Josep Andree, 1229 in *Close Rolls*; Geoffrey Andre, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs);

Guide Andre, 1569 in *IGI* (Irnham, Lincs); Harri Andre, 1572 in *IGI* (Barham, Kent); Jhon Andre, 1591 in *IGI* (East Dean near Chichester, Sussex); Thomas Andre, 1593 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Cuttbard Andree, 1598 in *IGI* (Maltby le March, Lincs); Elizabeth Andree, 1598 in *IGI* (Rodmersham, Kent); Jane Andrey, 1668 in *IGI* (Bedale, NR Yorks).

Andrea

- **Current frequencies:** GB 273, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 14

Italian: relationship name from the personal name *Andrea*, Greek *Andreas* (see **Andrew**).

Early bearers: Mosso Nicoto Andrea, born in Savona, Italy, in *Census 1881* (Glamorgan); Amello Andrea, born in Italy, in *Census 1881* (Middx).

Andreas

- **Current frequencies:** GB 216, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 42
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Warwicks

English, German: relationship name from the personal name *Andreas*; see **Andrew**. This is the learned (New Testament Greek) form of **Andrew**; it gave rise to surnames in English and German, alongside surnames derived from vernacular forms of the given name in most European languages.

Early bearers: surnames, English: Anna Andreas, 1573 in *IGI* (Narborough, Norfolk); Rom. Andreas, 1577 in *IGI* (Hedenham, Norfolk); Hamlyn Andreas, 1589 in *IGI* (Buckland Monachorum, Devon).

German Gertrude Andreas, born in Germany, in *Census 1871* (Whitechapel, London); John Andreas, born in Gusmer, Prussia, in *Census 1871* (Acton, Middx); Adam Andreas, born in Prussia, in *Census 1881* (London).

Andree

- **Current frequencies:** GB 68, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

French: see **Andre**.

Andreou

- **Current frequencies:** GB 687, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Greek (typically Cypriot): relationship name from an old genitive case of the Greek personal name *Andreas*; compare **Andrew**.

Andres

- **Current frequencies:** GB 195, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 41
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

English: see **Andrews**.

Early bearers: John Andres, 1326 in *London Pleas*; Alexander Address, 1561 in *IGI* (Hackney, London); Dorathie Andriss, 1593 in *IGI* (Aldgate, London).

Andreson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 31, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

English: see **Anderson**.

Address

- **Current frequencies:** GB 134, Ireland 5
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 107
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset; Sussex; Lincs
- English: see **Andrews**.

Early bearers: Alexander Address, 1561 in *IGI* (Hackney, Middx); John Address, 1639 in *IGI* (Witney, Oxon); Elizabeth Address, 1747 in *IGI* (Morden, Dorset).

Andrew

Variants: **Andrews**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 9839, Ireland 119
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 9426
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Ulster: esp. Down English, Scottish: relationship name from the Middle English and Older Scots personal name *Andreu*, *Andrew*, *Androu*, a post-Conquest borrowing of Old French *Andrieu*. The name is from the New Testament, where it appears as Greek *Andreas*, derived from *andreios* 'manly'. It was latinized as *Andreas* (genitive *Andree*) and as *Andr(a)eus*, from which the French form *Andrieu* developed, and it became popular through the cult of Saint Andrew, the first disciple of Jesus, and patron saint of Scotland and of fishermen. See also **Andreas**, **Andrews**, **McAndrew**, **Tann**, **Tancock**, **Tandy**, **Dand**.
- Early bearers:** given names: Andreas, 1086 in *Domesday Book*, after 1242 in *Arbroath Register* (Elgin, Morays); Andreas filius Hugonis, 1147–53 in *Danelaw Documents* (Notts); Andreas Adam, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Brede Leap, Derbys); Andreus Best, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Draycot Foliat, Wilts); Andrew Porter, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Scraptoft, Leics).
- surnames, England: William Andreu, 1237 in *Book of Fees* (Bucks); Richard Andrew, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Alexandre Andrew, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Canterbury, Kent); Johannes filius Andree, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Cresswell, Northumb); Willelmus Andrew, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Essex); Thomas Andreu, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Moulton, Suffolk); Melior Andrew, 1538 in *IGI* (East Knoyle, Wilts); Richard Andrew, 1540 in *IGI* (Stone, Bucks); Robert Andrew, 1541 in *IGI* (Epworth, Lincs); Edwardus Andrew, 1543 in *IGI* (Stevenage, Herts); Thomas Andrew, 1543 in *IGI* (Shorne, Kent).
- surnames, Scotland: William Andro, 1399 in *Edinburgh Guildry* (Aberdeen); Alexander Andro, 1605 in *Retours*, *Scotland* (Glasgow, Lanarks); Margaret Andrew, 1665 in *IGI* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens); Isob. Andrew, 1685 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks).

Andrewartha

- **Current frequencies:** GB 226, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 115
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall
- Cornish: locative name from Trewartha in Saint Agnes (Cornwall).
- Early bearers:** John Andrewartha, 1632 in *IGI* (Gwithian, Cornwall).
- References:** *Cornish Place-Name Elements*, pp. 5–7, 115, 317.

Andrewes

- **Current frequencies:** GB 98, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 45
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Suffolk
- English: see **Andrews**.

Andrews

- Variants:** **Andrewes**, **Andrus**, **Andress**, **Anders**, **Andres**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 40898, Ireland 1923
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 28405

- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. in S England
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Antrim and Down; Dublin
- 1 English: variant of **Andrew** with genitival or post-medieval excrement -s.
- Early bearers:** Moricius Andrewys, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); John Andrus, 1510 in *Norwich Wills*; Humfrey Andros, 1552 in *York Freeman's Register*; Anthony Androwes, 1543 in *Feet of Fines* (Hunts).
- 2 Irish, Scottish Gaelic: anglicized form of Scottish Gaelic **Mac Aindreis** or Irish **Mac Aindriú**, see **McAndrew**.

Andrewy

- **GB frequency 1881:** 3
- English: see **Andre**.

Andrus

- **Current frequencies:** GB 43, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 30
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent
- English: see **Andrews**.

Andy

- **Current frequencies:** GB 68, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 20
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Warwicks; Sussex
- English: relationship name from a pet form of the personal names **Andrew** or **Andreas**.

Anfield

- **Current frequencies:** GB 124, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 93
 - **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks
- English: locative name from Anfield (Lancs).
- Early bearers:** Barnabie Anfield, 1573 in *IGI* (Colchester, Essex); Alicia Andfeild, 1596 in *IGI* (Wensley, Yorks); Elizabeth Anfieldes, 1639 in *IGI* (Eccles, Lancs); Jane Anfield, 1722 in *IGI* (Kingston upon Hull, Yorks); James Bickerton Annfield, 1753 in *IGI* (Manchester, Lancs); Elizabeth Anfield, 1787 in *IGI* (Cottingham, Yorks).
- References:** *Watts, Dictionary*, p. 14.

Anforth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 75, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 28
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: probably a variant of **Hanford**; see **Handford**.
- Early bearers:** Richard de Aneford', 1222 in *Assize Rolls* (Warwicks); John de Aneford, 1278 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Gloucs); William Anforth, 1781 in *IGI* (Rothwell, WR Yorks); Saml. Anforth, 1808 in *IGI* (East Ardsley, WR Yorks); John Anforth, 1813 in *IGI* (Little Marsden, Lancs).

Ang

- **Current frequencies:** GB 299, Ireland 9
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- 1 Chinese: Teochew, Hokkien or Taiwanese form of the Chinese surname 洪, see **Hong** (1). This pronunciation is found in eastern Guangdong, Fujian and Taiwan, from where some people migrated to Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and other parts of SE Asia.

- 2 Chinese: non-standard romanization of the Chinese surname 翁, see **Yung** (1).
- 3 Chinese: non-standard romanization of the Chinese surnames 王 and 汪, possibly based on their Hokkien or Taiwanese pronunciation, see **Wong** (1) and (2).
- 4 Chinese: non-standard romanization of the Chinese surnames 吳 and 伍, see **Wu** (1) and (2).

Angear

- **Current frequencies:** GB 72, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 50
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall
- Cornish: locative name from any of several places in western Cornwall named as *an ger* 'the fort'.
- Further information:** Reaney's derivation of this as a variant of **Anger** is incorrect.
- Early bearers:** Phillip Angear, 1670 in *IGI* (Camborne, Cornwall).
- References:** *Cornish Place-Name Elements*, pp. 5–7, 50–4, 243.

Angel

Variants: **Angell**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1931, Ireland 24
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1267
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. in SW England
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Waterford; Mayo
- Norman, English: nickname from Old French *angele* (from Latin *angelus*, Greek *angelos* 'messenger, angel').
- Further information:** This might also have been used as a personal name in England, as it was in Italy, but medieval English examples of it as a personal name have not been found.
- Early bearers:** Warinus Angelus, 1193 in *Pipe Rolls* (Kent); Ralph Angel, 1221 in *Cotton Tiberius B ii* (Suffolk); John Aungell', 1397 in *Feet of Fines* (Boston, Lincs); William Angell, 1539 in *Parish Registers* (Saints Mary and Eanswythe, Folkstone, Kent); Sebastian Angel, 1605 in *IGI* (Leigh, Gloucs); Elcebethe Angill, 1603 in *IGI* (Bedford, Beds); Samuell Angell, 1705, Thomas Angill, 1737, Samuel Angle, 1765 in *IGI* (Hilpertown, Wilts); John Angel, 1740, William Angil, 1743, Robert Angill, 1747 in *IGI* (Calne, Wilts).

Angela

- **Current frequencies:** GB 77, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- Italian: variant (feminine form) of **Angelo**.

Angeli

- **Current frequencies:** GB 162, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Italian: relationship name based on the personal name **Angelo**.

Angell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2434, Ireland 8
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1155
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Wilts
- Norman, English: see **Angel**.

Angelo

Variants: **Angeli**, **Angela**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 162, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 48

1 Italian: relationship name from the personal name *Angelo*, from *angelo* ‘angel’ (compare **Angel**).

Early bearers: Francesco S. Angelo, born in Italy, in *Census 1881* (Lancs).

2 Italian: see **Dangelo**.

Anger

Variants: **Aunger**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 147, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 141
- **Main GB location 1881:** Berks and Wilts; London and Essex; Norfolk

1 English: see **Ainger** (1) for the name in London, Essex, and Norfolk, and (2) for the name in Berks and Wilts.

2 German: locative name from Middle High German *anger* ‘meadow, village green’. The 19th-century examples below may alternatively belong with (1).

Early bearers: Frantz Arnold Friederich Anger, 1771, Wilhelmina Anger, 1778 in *IGI* (Gateshead, Durham); Ann Anger, 1803 in *IGI* (Barnard Castle, Durham); John Anger, 1872 in *IGI* (Durham, Durham).

Angers

- **Current frequencies:** GB 18, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 21

Norman, English: see **Aungiers**.

Angier

- **Current frequencies:** GB 149, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 123
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex

English: see **Ainger**.

Angland

- **Current frequencies:** GB 45, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork

Irish: see **England**. This spelling of the name is found mainly in Ireland. Woulfe explains it as being from Anglo-Norman French *de Englonde*, Latin *de Angli*, i.e. ‘from England’. It has been Gaelicized as **Aingleand** and **Aingleont**.

Early bearers: Ireland Thomas Englant, gent., 1585 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §4623 (Englanstone, Limerick); Patrick England, 1586 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §4935 (Lestowell, Kerry); William oge England, labourer, 1587 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §5069 (Ballivockoge, Limerick); Thomas Anglante and Ellen Anglant, 1600 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6407 (Blarney, Cork); Oliver England, gent., 1601 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6464 (Englandston, Limerick); Maurice Angland, 1834 in *IGI* (Boherbue, Cork).

England Johann Angland, 1660 in *IGI* (Ottery Saint Mary, Devon); Mary Angland, 1712 in *IGI* (Heptonstall, Yorks).

Angle

Variants: **Angles**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 92, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 189
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs and Somerset

English: locative name for someone who lived in a ‘nook’, Middle English, Old French *angle*. Compare **Nangle**.

Early bearers: William del Angle, 1208 in *Pipe Rolls* (Gloucs); Richard in the Angle, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Alexander Angle, 1565 in *IGI* (Stoke

Hammond, Bucks); John Angle, 1567 in *IGI* (Corsham, Wilts); Elizabeth Angle, 1574 in *IGI* (Melton Ross, Lincs); William Angle, 1604 in *IGI* (Wootton Saint Lawrence, Hants); Alexander Angle, 1606 in *IGI* (Leighton Buzzard, Beds); Mary Angle, 1737, Susanna Angill, 1740 in *IGI* (Corsham, Wilts).

References: *Vocabulary of English Place-Names*, at *angle*.

Angles

- **Current frequencies:** GB 79, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 154
- **Main GB location 1881:** Fife; Durham; Lancs Scottish, English: see **English, Inglis**.

Anglesea

- **Current frequencies:** GB 137, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 58
- **Main GB location 1881:** N Wales

Welsh: see **Anglesey**.

Angless

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 32
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk; WR Yorks

English: see **English**.

Anglej

- **GB frequency 1881:** 29
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cumb and Northumb; Hants; Middx

English: ethnic name anglicized form of French *Anglais* ‘English(man)’.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Early bearers: Henry Anglej, 1679 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Samuel Anglej, 1717 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk).

Anglim

- **Current frequencies:** GB 85, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- **Main GB location 1881:** Perth
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Limerick and Clare

Irish: see **Anglin**.

Anglin

Variants: **Anglim**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 325, Ireland 43
- **GB frequency 1881:** 55
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; London
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork

Irish: from Ó hAngluinn ‘descendant of Anglonn’, a personal name from *anglonn* ‘champion’.

Early bearers: John anglound fitz William, 1573 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2269; Fynyn mcDermody O Hanglin and Margaret ny Dermody O Hanglyn, 1585 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §4619 (Cork); Grany ny Anglyn 1601 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6465.

Anglish

- **Current frequencies:** GB 21, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 25
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

English: see **Angliss**.

Angliss

Variants: **Anglish, Angless**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 244, Ireland 0

- **GB frequency 1881:** 142

• **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. London French, English: ethnic name from French *anglais* ‘Englishman’. Compare **English** and **Inglis**.

Early bearers: Nicolaus Angleis, about 1200 in *Saint Paul’s Cathedral Charters* (London); Bryant Anglis, 1680 in *IGI* (Basingstoke, Hants); Joseph Angliss, 1767 in *IGI* (Tadley, Hants); William Angliss, 1767 in *IGI* (Heckfield, Hants); Jas Angliss, 1779 in *IGI* (Coventry, Warwicks); Elizabeth Angliss, 1817 in *IGI* (Lambeth, Surrey); James Angliss, 1824 in *IGI* (Mansfield, Notts).

Angold

- **Current frequencies:** GB 72, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 88
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Norfolk

English: variant of **Angood**, with a change of *-god* to *-gold*.

Early bearers: Alice Angold, 1326 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (Yorks); Willelmus Angold, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Little Thetford, Cambs); Stephyn Angold, 1568 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk).

Angood

Variants: **Angold**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 97, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 71
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs; London

Norman, English: relationship name from the Norman French personal name *An(s)got*, a form of Old Scandinavian *Ásgautr*, *Asgot*, influenced by the Continental Germanic cognate *Ansgod*; both are derived from Germanic roots **ans-* ‘(pagan) god’ + **Gaut-* a tribal name, influenced in the latter case by *god*. The *-s-* is lost through simplification of the consonant cluster.

Early bearers: given names: Asgot, Ansgot, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Angothus clericus, about 1166 in *Danelaw Documents* (Leics).

surnames: Matilda Angot, 1198 in *Feet of Fines* (Norfolk); Galfridus filius Angod’, Angot, 1208 in *Book of Fees*, 1212 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Bucks), identical with Galfridus Angod, 1235 in *Book of Fees* (Bucks); Chataris Angood, 1543 in *IGI* (Toft, Cambs).

Angove

- **Current frequencies:** GB 528, Ireland 11
- **GB frequency 1881:** 373
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall

Cornish: occupational name from Cornish *an* ‘the’ + *gof* ‘smith’.

Early bearers: George Angove, 1591 in *Cornwall and Devon Wills*.

Angrave

Variants: **Angrove**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 171, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 194
- **Main GB location 1881:** Leics

English: unexplained. It may be for Angrave Farm in Malmesbury (Wilts).

Early bearers: Dionise Angraue, 1575 in *IGI* (Husbands Bosworth, Leics); Thomas Angrave, 1610 in *IGI* (Willoughby Waterless, Leics); Dennis Angrave, 1624 in *IGI* (Leicester, Leics); Elizabeth Angraue, 1625 in *IGI* (Peatling Magna, Leics); Dionisius Angrave, 1710 in *IGI* (Gilmorton, Leics); Mary Hangrave, 1796 in *IGI* (Thurmaston, Leics).

Angrove

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 11
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Leics
- English: see **Angrave**.

Anguish

- **Current frequencies:** GB 68, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 75
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

Scottish, English: relationship name from an English mishearing of the Scottish Gaelic personal name *Aonghus*, see **Angus**. See **McAninch**.

Early bearers: Margaret Anguisshe, 1530, Erl of Anguyshe, 1563 in *Bardsley*; John Anguishe, 1569 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk).

Angus

Variants: **McAngus**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 5082, Ireland 150
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4231
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland

1 Scottish: locative name from the county and earldom of Angus in Scotland.

Early bearers: Serlo de Anegus, 1229 in *Moray Register* (Kinloss, Morays); Duncan de Anegus, 1272 in *Douglas Book* (Angus); Eva de Anegos, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Berwick upon Tweed, Northumb); Edward de Anegous, 1305 in *Scotland Calendar* (Stirling); Michael of Angous, 1358 in *Scotland Calendar* (Berwick); Andrew Anguis, 1573 in *Midlothian Charters* (Edinburgh, Midlothian).

References: *Mills, Dictionary*, p. 14; *Place-Names of Scotland*, p. 83.

2 Scottish Gaelic: from the personal name *Aonghus*. Compare **McGuinness**, **McInnes**, **McCance**.

Angwin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 169, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 233
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall

1 Cornish: nickname from the definite article *an* ‘the’ + *gwynn* ‘white (pale, grey, or blond)’.

Early bearers: Thomasyn Angwin, 1636 in *IGI* (Gulval, Cornwall).

2 Norman, English: regional name ‘the Angevin’, i.e. the man from Anjou.

Early bearers: William Angeuin, 1150 in *Oseney Cartulary* (Oxon); Reginald Langeuin, 1194 in *Pipe Rolls* (Kent); Godfrey Aungewin, 1247 in *Assize Rolls* (Staffs); Simon Aungevyn, 1411, Simon Angewyn, 1414 in *Feet of Fines* (Herts); Bernard Aungewyn, 1453 in *Feet of Fines* (Lincs).

Animashaun

- **Current frequencies:** GB 288, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** o

Nigerian (Yoruba): from an *oríkì* or pet-name *Animáshahun* used as a personal name (Yoruba *a ní má šé ahun* ‘having riches but not miserly’).

Anjum

- **Current frequencies:** GB 802, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** o

Indian, Muslim: from a female personal name based on Arabic *anjum* ‘stars’, plural of *najm*, ‘star’.

Anker

Variants: **Anchor**, **Ankier**, **Ankers**, **Anchors**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 397, Ireland o

- **GB frequency 1881:** 258
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs; also Warwicks
- Norman, English: relationship name from the Old Norman French personal name *Anker*, Old French *Anchier*. Its source is Continental Germanic *Anskari*, a variant of *Ansgari*, which gave rise to Old French *Ang(i)er* and the surname **Ainger**.

Further information: The personal name was favoured in the Frecheville family of Derbys and Notts; see *Redmonds, Christian Names*, pp. 66–7, 75.

Early bearers: given names: Anker de Fressenvill, 1208 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Northants); Ankerus de Freschenvill, 1268–9 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Bunny, Notts); Anker Fabian, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Bunny, Notts); Anker Frecheville, Anker de Brimynghon, 1390 in *Sheffield Jackson Catalogue*. surnames: Willelmus Anker, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Barnsley, Hants); Johannes Anker, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Baslow, Derbys); Alice Anker, 1395 in *Nottingham Borough Records*; Robert Anker, 1457 in *Feet of Fines* (Hants); Robert Anker, 1659 in *IGI* (Whittlesey, Cambs); John Anchors, 1678 in *IGI* (London).

Ankers

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1322, Ireland 40
- **GB frequency 1881:** 747
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire and Lancs

English: variant of **Anker** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Early bearers: Anne Ankers, 1601 in *IGI* (Knutsford, Cheshire).

Anketell

Variants: **Anquetil**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 24, Ireland 27
- **GB frequency 1881:** 14
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Monaghan

Norman, English: relationship name from the Anglo-Norman French personal name *An(s)ketill*, a Norman form of Old Scandinavian *Ásketill* influenced by Continental Germanic names in *Ans-*. The Scandinavian name is from *ás* ‘(pagan) god’ + *ketill* ‘kettle, cauldron’. Compare **Antell**, **Askell**, **Axtell**, **Ashkettle**, and **Uncle**, all from other variants of the same personal name.

Further information: For this as a Wilts surname, compare Simon Anketyn, 1249 in *Assize Rolls* (Wilts). *Anketyn* is an Anglo-Norman pet form of *Anketill*, and was freely interchangeable with it. See **Antin**, which is a contracted form of *Anketin*. Also compare Elyas filius Ankil, 1210 in *Pipe Rolls* (Somerset), where *Ankil* is a contracted form of *Anketill*. As a surname *Ankill* occurs twice in the 1881 census (Warwicks and WR Yorks) but is now extinct.

Early bearers: given names: Anketillus, about 1155 in *Danelaw Documents* (Leics), 1207 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Lincs).

surnames: Geoffrey Anketil, 1209 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Willelmo Anketil, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Shaftesbury, Dorset); Thoma Anketill, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Milford, Wilts).

Ankier

- **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Norman, English: see **Anker**.

Ankin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 82, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 32

- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

1 English: see **Hankin**.

2 English: see **Annakin**.

Ankrah

- **Current frequencies:** GB 301, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** o

Ghanaian: unexplained. The -h after final -a in Ghanaian names like this is a characteristic anglicization.

Ankrett

- **Current frequencies:** GB 94, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 75
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs

Welsh: relationship name from the Welsh female name *Angharad*, from *an* an intensive prefix + *carad* ‘dear, beloved’ (more usually found as *cariad*), recorded in Wales as early as 877.

Early bearers: given names: Angharad, 1207 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Herefs); Angaret, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Ankaret, 1322 in *Ancient Deeds* vi (Cheshire). surnames: Gylbart Ancret, 1580 in *Bedwardine Churchwardens’ Accounts* (Worcs).

Anley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 93, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 104
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; S Wales

1 English: locative name from Anley, a Domesday manor in Settle (WR Yorks).

Early bearers: Johannes de Anlay, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Elland, WR Yorks); Elizabeth Anley, 1563 in *IGI* (Warminster, Wilts); Brigitt Anley, 1594 in *IGI* (Fishlake, WR Yorks); Wilmi Anneley, 1596 in *IGI* (Derby, Derbys); Richard Anneley, 1605 in *IGI* (Bishops Itchington, Warwicks); Anne Anley, 1610 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph without Aldgate, London); Jn Annely, 1724 in *IGI* (Clifton, Gloucs).

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 3, p. 99; 6, p. 151; *Vocabulary of English Place-Names*, at *án*.

2 Huguenot: occasionally perhaps an anglicization of a French surname such as *Agnelet*.

Early bearers: Jean Anley, 1669 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street French Huguenot Church, London).

Ann

- **Current frequencies:** GB 316, Ireland 8
- **GB frequency 1881:** 122
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

English, Irish: see **Anne**.

Annable

Variants: **Annible**, **Hannibal**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 595, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 241
- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys

English: (i) variant of **Amable**. (ii) locative name in some cases possibly also from Amble (Northumb), recorded as *Amble* from 1203 onwards but also as *Anebelle* in 1292 and *Anebill* in 1347: see *Place-Names of Northumb and Durham*.

Early bearers: Henry de Anebelle, 1256 in *Assize Rolls* (Northumb); John Annable, 1559 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); Ellin Annable, 1565 in *IGI* (Impington, Cambs); John Annable, 1590 in *IGI* (Ashby by Partney, Lincs); Edward Annable, 1605 in *IGI* (Saint Mary Woolnoth, London); John Annable,

1618 in *IGI* (Ipswich, Suffolk); Robert Annable, 1660 in *IGI* (Kirk Ireton, Derbys).

References: *Place-Names of Northumb and Durham*, p. 5; *Ekwall, DEPN*, p. 9; *Watts, Dictionary*, p. 12; *Mills, Dictionary*, p. 12; *Vocabulary of English Place-Names*, at *bile*.

Annadale

- GB frequency 1881: 10
 - Main GB location 1881: Dunbartons
- Scottish: see **Annandale**.

Annakin

Variants: Annikin, Ankin

- Current frequencies: GB 159, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 84
- Main GB location 1881: WR Yorks

English: (i) relationship name from the Middle English female personal name **Annikin*, a plausible but unrecorded pet form of *Anis* (compare **Agnes**, **Annis**). (ii) relationship name perhaps a variant of **Hankin** with loss of initial *H-* and insertion of the link vowel *-i-* or *-a-*.

Further information: There is no evidence to support Reaney's derivation as a contracted form of the Anglo-Norman French personal name *Anketin* (see **Antin**).

Early bearers: Agnita Annikin, 1584 in *IGI* (Coxwold, NR Yorks); Dorothy Annikin, 1598 in *IGI* (Barton upon Humber, Lincs); Elizabeth Annikin, 1608, William Annikin, 1791 in *IGI* (Coppgrove, WR Yorks); Sara Anakin, 1632 in *IGI* (Teversham, Cambs); William Anakin, 1664 in *IGI* (Farnham, WR Yorks).

Annal

- Current frequencies: GB 210, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 198
- Main GB location 1881: WR Yorks; Angus; Caithness

1 English: perhaps a variant of the Welsh surname **Anwyl** (compare **Anwell**) or possibly of the obsolete English surname **Ennal** (see **Ennals**).

Early bearers: Mary Annell, 1581 in *IGI* (Chichester, Sussex); Richard Annell, 1586 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Tichborne and Cheriton, Hants); Robert Annell, 1610 in *IGI* (East Stratton, Hants); Thomas Annall, 1616 in *IGI* (Birmingham, Warwicks); Mary Annal, 1741 in *IGI* (Warblington, Hants); William Annall, 1763 in *IGI* (Well, NR Yorks); John Annall, 1774 in *IGI* (Deal, Kent); John Annel, 1778 in *IGI* (Bishops Sutton, Hants).

2 Scottish: unexplained.

Early bearers: James Annall, 1628, Andrew Annell, 1629, and William Annal, 1695 in *IGI* (Saint Andrews and Saint Leonards, Fife).

Annan

- Current frequencies: GB 748, Ireland 12
- GB frequency 1881: 419
- Main GB location 1881: Scotland (esp. Lanarks); also Northumb

Scottish: locative name from Annan (Dumfriess). Compare **Annandale**.

Early bearers: Scotland William de Anand, 1249 in *Annandale Family Book* (Ecclefechan, Dumfriess); John de Anand, 1256 in *Midlothian Charters* (Anrum, Roxburghs); Adam de Anand, 1255–71 in *Saint Andrews Charters* (Saint Andrews, Fife); William de Anaund, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Angus); Walter

Danande, 1304 in *Scotland Calendar* (Dumfriess); Bessie Annand, 1584 in *IGI* (Monifieth, Angus); Andrew Annand, 1609 in *IGI* (Elgin, Morays). England George Annan, 1723 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb).

References: *Mills, Dictionary*, p. 14; *Place-Names of Scotland*, p. 83; *Names of Towns and Cities*, pp. 39–40.

Annand

Variants: Anand, Hannant

- Current frequencies: GB 412, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 371
- Main GB location 1881: Aberdeens

Scandinavian, English: relationship name from the Anglo-Scandinavian personal name *Anand*, *Anund*, of uncertain etymology.

Early bearers: given names: Anundus, Anunt dacus, Anand, Anant, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Suffolk, Essex, Norfolk); Anund, 1101–7 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk).

surnames: Godefridus filius Anandi, 1182 in *Pipe Rolls* (Suffolk); Roger Anant, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Norfolk); William Annand, 1520 in *PROB 11*; Thomas Annand, 1581 in *IGI* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens); Alexr. Anand, 1639 in *IGI* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens).

References: *Insley*, pp. 15–17.

Annandale

Variants: Annadale

- Current frequencies: GB 260, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 168
- Main GB location 1881: Kincardines and Angus

Scottish: locative name from the district of Annandale (Dumfriess). Compare **Annan**.

Early bearers: Elspet Anandell, 1657 in *Brechin Testaments* (Brechin, Angus); John Anandale, 1686 in *IGI* (Arbroath, Angus); James Anendale, 1689 in *IGI* (Edzell, Angus); David Annandale, 1687 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Elspet Annandale, 1694 in *IGI* (Fordoun, Kincardines).

References: *Mills, Dictionary*, p. 14, at *Annan*; *Place-Names of Scotland*, p. 83.

Annas

- Current frequencies: GB 11, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 6

Norman, English: see **Annis**.

Anne

Variants: Ann

- Current frequencies: GB 264, Ireland 14
- GB frequency 1881: 12
- Main GB location 1881: Lancs

1 English: locative name from the village of Ann (Hants). Some of the post-medieval bearers may alternatively belong under (2).

Further information: Sir William de Anne was constable of Tickhill Castle in Yorks in 1315.

Early bearers: Ralph de Anne, 1200 in *Pipe Rolls* (Hants); Richard de Anne, 1280 in *New Forest Documents* (Hants); William Anne, 1451 in *PROB 11* (North Aston, Oxon); William Anne, 1557 in *PROB 11* (Aylesbury, Bucks); James Anne, 1629, Isaac Ann, 1749 in *IGI* (Henbury, Gloucs); John Anne, 1662 in *IGI* (Highworth, Wilts).

References: *Hampshire Place-Names*, p. 19; *Gover, Hants Place-Names*, p. 162.

2 English: relationship name possibly from the Middle English female personal name *Ann(e)*, which

is a pet form of *Agnes* (Middle English *Annes*), or the Biblical name *Ann*. Compare **Agnes** and **Annis**.

3 Indian (Andhra Pradesh): pronounced as two syllables, unexplained.

Annear

- Current frequencies: GB 274, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 277
- Main GB location 1881: Cornwall

Cornish: nickname from Cornish *an hir* 'the tall'.

Early bearers: Mary Annear, 1665, Henery Annear, 1667, and William Anear, 1693, all in *IGI* (Probus, Cornwall).

Annells

- Current frequencies: GB 101, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 59
- Main GB location 1881: Hants

English: see **Annals**.

Annesley

- Current frequencies: GB 197, Ireland 76
- GB frequency 1881: 111
- Main GB location 1881: Middx, Kent
- Main Irish location 1847–64: Armagh and Antrim; Wicklow

English: see **Ansley**.

Anness

- Current frequencies: GB 160, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 102
- Main GB location 1881: Norfolk

Norman, English: see **Annis**.

Annett

Variants: Annette, Annetts

- Current frequencies: GB 491, Ireland 477
- GB frequency 1881: 270
- Main GB location 1881: scattered: esp. Hants and Surrey
- Main Irish location 1847–64: Down and Armagh

English: relationship name from the female personal name *Annot*, a pet name composed of *Ann*, itself a short form of *Annes* (Agnes), + the diminutive suffixes *-ot*.

Early bearers: given names: Annote Resthanbe, 1297 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (Yorks).

surnames: Thomas filius Anot, 1357 in *Sheffield Manorial Records*; Robert Anot, 1275 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (Yorks); John Annot, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cambs); John Annette, 1548 in *IGI* (Fifield, Hants); Elizabeth Annette, 1575 in *IGI* (Norwich); Agnes Annet, 1577 in *IGI* (Whitechapel, Middx); Antony Annot, 1667 in *IGI* (Melton Mowbray, Leics); Richard Annett, 1692, William Annat, 1725 in *IGI* (Beaconsfield, Bucks); William Annet, 1704, Mark Annat, 1719 in *IGI* (Widdrington, Northumb).

Annette

- Current frequencies: GB 156, Ireland 37
- GB frequency 1881: 21
- Main GB location 1881: Lancs and Cheshire
- Main Irish location 1847–64: Down

English: variant of **Annett**, by false association with the female personal name *Annette*.

Annetts

- Current frequencies: GB 760, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 408

Annible

- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts, Berks, and Hants
- English: variant of **Annett** with genitival or post-medieval excrement -s.
- Early bearers:** Charls Annets, 1665 in *IGI* (Collingbourne Kingston, Wilts); John Annetts, 1667, Moses Annets, 1674 in *IGI* (Collingbourne Ducis, Wilts).

Annible

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 18
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Notts
- English: see **Annable**.

Annick

- **GB frequency 1881:** o
- English: see **Alnwick**.

Annikin

- **GB frequency 1881:** 21
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Annakin**.

Anning

Variants: **Hanning**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 646, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 509
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon
- English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Anning*, from Old English *Anna* (a male name) + the hypocoristic suffix -*ing*. The surname *Anni* or *Any* appears in the Sussex and Dorset *Subsidy Rolls* (1327, 1332), which may testify to the continuing existence in Middle English times of the name suggested as the base-form, or a derivative of it.
- Further information:** Some early forms show prosthetic *H-*, and *Hanning* survives to the present day.
- Early bearers:** John Hannyng, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Twynning, Gloucs); John Annyng, 1327, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Petworth, Sussex); Nicholas Hanning, 1548 in *IGI* (Frant, Sussex); Thomas Hanninge, 1561 in *IGI* (North Petherton, Somerset); Henry Anning, 1574 in *IGI* (Dalwood, Devon); Hary Anning, 1582, Robarte Annynge, 1596, James Anninge, 1597 in *IGI* (Kilminster, Devon); Nicholas Hanning, 1683 in *IGI* (Totnes, Devon).

Annis

Variants: **Anniss, Anness, Annas, Anns, Hannis**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 836, Ireland 6
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 474
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England
- Norman, English: relationship name from the Old French female personal name *Anes*, a vernacular form of **Agnes**.
- Early bearers:** given names: Annes, 1170–6 in *Yorks Charters*; Agnes, Anneis (identical), 1154–89 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Annas de Preston, 1194 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lancs).
- surnames: Adam Anice, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); John Anneys, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Ollyver Annis, 1556 in *IGI* (Saint Michael Bassishaw, London); George Annis, 1582 in *IGI* (Shrewsbury, Shrops); Richard Annis, 1592 in *IGI* (Monks Risborough, Bucks); Elizei Annis, 1599 in *IGI* (Aldingbourne, Sussex); Andrew Annis, 1600 in *IGI* (Selling, Kent).

Annison

- **Current frequencies:** GB 409, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 270
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk; Durham
- 1 English: relationship name from the female personal name *Annis* (see **Agnes**) + *son*.
- Early bearers:** William Anyssone, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); Dorothea Annison, 1560 in *IGI* (Horstead, Norfolk); Rowland Annison, 1605 in *IGI* (Bishopwearmouth, Durham); Mercie Annison, 1616 in *IGI* (Bulmer, NR Yorks); John Annison, 1640 in *IGI* (Swineshead, Lincs); Robt. Annison, 1650 in *IGI* (Chester, Cheshire).
- 2 English: relationship name from the female personal name **Annett** + *son*.
- Early bearers:** Roger Annotson, 1430 in *Durham Priory Fees*; Thomas Annetson, 1547 in *York Freeman's Register*.

Anniss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 162, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 127
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon; Suffolk
- Norman, English: see **Annis**.

Anns

- **Current frequencies:** GB 139, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 79
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Berks and London
- English: (i) relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Ann* with post-medieval genitival or excrement -s. (ii) alternatively, a variant of **Annis**.
- Early bearers:** Elisabeth Annes, 1543 in *IGI* (Barney, Norfolk); John Annes, 1570 in *IGI* (Bideford, Devon); Peter Anns, 1580 in *IGI* (Otham, Kent); Dorothy Anns, 1680 in *IGI* (Little Coxwell, Berks); John Anns, 1628 in *IGI* (Minchinhampton, Gloucs).

Anquetil

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 24
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

Norman, English: a modern Norman French spelling of the name giving rise to **Anketell**.

Ansah

- **Current frequencies:** GB 645, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Ghanaian: unexplained. The -*h* after final -*a* in Ghanaian names like this is a characteristic anglicization.

Ansar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 285, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 7
- Arabic, Muslim: from the Arabic noun *anṣār* ‘supporters’, plural of *nāṣir* ‘friend, supporter’, and is a term traditionally used to denote the people of Medina who supported the Prophet Muhammad after the Hijra in AD 622.

Ansari

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1297, Ireland 6
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Muslim: from the Arabic personal name *Anṣārī* ‘one who traces his lineage to one of the Anṣār’.

Ansbro

- **Current frequencies:** GB 257, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 26
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and WR Yorks
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Mayo
- 1 English: see **Hanbury**.
- 2 Irish: adopted for Ó hAinmhire, see **Hennebry**.

Anscomb

- **Current frequencies:** GB 272, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 109
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey, Kent, and Sussex
- English: see **Hanscombe**.

Anscombe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 805, Ireland 5
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 635
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex, Surrey, and Kent
- English: see **Hanscombe**.

Ansdell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 103, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 102
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; ER Yorks

English: locative name from Ainsdale in Formby (Lancs).

Early bearers: Hugh de Aynolvestdale, 1361 in *Feet of Fines* (Liverpool, Lancs); Willelmo de Aynaltesdale, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Formby, Lancs); William Aynesdale, 1559 in *IGI* (Chester, Cheshire); Robert Ansdell, 1633 in *IGI* (Wallasey, Cheshire); Martha Ansdell, 1716 in *IGI* (Warrington, Lancs).

References: *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 125.

Ansel

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 43
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx, Surrey, Sussex, Herts, and Cambs; Staffs

English: see **Ansell**.

Further information: This is rare spelling in Britain but is more numerous in the USA.

Ansell

Variants: **Ansel, Ancell, Ancill, Ansil, Hancell, Hansell, Hansel, Encell, Ensell, Anselm**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 4901, Ireland 50
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3249
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx, Surrey, Kent, Sussex, and Hants; also Beds and Herts; also Warwicks and Staffs

English: relationship name from the Middle English and Old French personal name *Anselm* or *Ansel*, sometimes *Hansel* with prosthetic *H-*. It is a French form of Continental Germanic *Ans(e)helm*, composed of the elements **ans-* ‘(pagan) god’ and **helm* ‘helmet’. Compare Anselmo filio Anselmi with Roberto Aunsell’ both recorded in the 1379 *Poll Tax* for Somercotes, Lincs.

Early bearers: given names: Anselmus, Ansellus de Ixew[o]rth’, 1182–1211 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Calendar* (Suffolk), 1208 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Norfolk); Ansel, Anselmus Candau’, 1161 in *Pipe Rolls* (Essex); Ancelmus de Montegni, 1166–89 in *Bec Abbey Documents*; Anselmus de Shelton’, Aunsell’ de Sheldon’, Ansellus de Seldon’, 1221–2 in *Assize Rolls* (Warwicks); Ancell, Anselm de Gornay, 1269 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Aunsel le Furbur, 1296 in

London Letter Books A, Anselm forbisor, 1300 in *London Letter Books B*.
 surnames: Petrus Anselmus, 1192 in *Pipe Rolls* (Sussex); Roger Aunsel, 1271 in *Assize Rolls* (Staffs); William Ansel, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); John Auncel, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Thomas Ancel, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (South Creak, Norfolk); Johannes Auncell', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Surrey); William Hansell, 1495 in *York Freeman's Register*; Johannes Auncel, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Boxley, Kent); Waltero Aunsel, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Eaton Socon, Beds); Johannes Aunsel, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Braintree, Essex); Thomas Auncel, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (West Bradenham, Norfolk); Willelmo Auncel, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Mowsley, Leics); Thomas Auncell', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Barby and Onley, Northants); Willelmus Auncell', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Walton, Sussex); Alicia Ancell' and Gilbertus Ansell', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Brinklow, Warwicks); Matill' Aunsel, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Mildenhall, Suffolk); Johannes Auncell', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Southwark, Surrey).

Anselm

- **Current frequencies:** GB 60, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

Norman, English: (i) relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Anselm* (Continental Germanic *Anshelm*, formed from **ans-* 'pagan' god' + **helm* 'protection, helmet'), which was introduced to England by the Normans and was also reintroduced in recent times through immigration from French-speaking countries. (ii) in some cases, this may be a reformation of **Ansell**, which has the same origin, to conform with the famous saint's name.

Further information: The personal name was taken to France and England by Saint Anselm (c.1033–1109), known as the Father of Scholasticism. He was born in Aosta, Italy, joined the Benedictine order at Bec in Normandy, France, and in 1093 became archbishop of Canterbury, England. The family name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Early bearers: Gregorij Anselm, 1547 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Edward Anselme, 1563 in *IGI* (Mersham, Kent); Naomi Anselm, 1586 in *IGI* (Kingston upon Thames, Surrey). Note also Willelmo filio Anselmi, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Somercoates, Lincs).

Ansill

- **GB frequency 1881:** 36
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs
- English: see **Ansell**.

Ansley

Variants: Hansley, Handsley, Annesley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 271, Ireland 20
- **GB frequency 1881:** 293
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

1 English: locative name from Annesley (Notts), which is recorded as *Aneslei* in 1086 and *Annesleia* in 1194, or from Ansley (Warwicks), which is *Anesteleye* in 1235, *Anstley* in 1327. Compare **Ainslie**. **Early bearers:** Reginald de Aneslega, 1176 in *Pipe Rolls* (Notts); Henry de Anesley, 1290 in *King's Bench Cases* (London); John de Ansley, 1377 in *Feet of Fines* (Hodssock, Notts); Hugh Anseley, 1401 in *Patent Rolls* (Dunham, Notts); John Annesley, 1404 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Yorks); Thomas Anseley, 1569, Maude Anstley, 1571 in *IGI* (Tamworth, Staffs); Edmundi Anseley, 1580 in *IGI* (Barton on the Heath,

Warwicks); Anne Anceley, 1612 in *IGI* (Hampton in Arden, Warwicks).

2 English: variant of **Anslow**.

Anslow

Variants: Ansley, Hanslow, Enslow

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1212, Ireland 24
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 772
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and Shrops
- English: locative name from Anslow (Staffs), which is recorded as *Ansythlege* in 1012, *Aunsedeleye* in 1297, and *Anseley* in 1546.
- Early bearers:** Joan Anslow, 1564 in *IGI* (Aston Botterell, Shrops); Rowland Anslow, 1582 in *IGI* (Bridgnorth, Shrops); John Ansloe, 1610 in *IGI* (Stowe, Staffs); Mary Anslow, 1622 in *IGI* (Gnosall, Staffs); Timothy Anslow, 1642 in *IGI* (Penkridge, Staffs).

References: *Staffs Place-Names*, p. 87; *Watts, Dictionary*, p. 15.

Anson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1575, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1108
- **Main GB location 1881:** N England: esp. Yorks and Lancs; W Midlands: esp. Staffs

English: relationship name variant of **Hanson** with loss of initial *H-*.

Early bearers: John Anson, 1401 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Henry Anson, 1461 in *York Freeman's Register*.

Anstead

Variants: Ansted, Hanstead, Hansted

- **Current frequencies:** GB 201, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 164
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx, Surrey, Kent, and Bucks

English: locative name from Hanstead's House in Saint Albans (Herts), which is recorded as *Heanhamstede* in 793, *Henhamstude* in the 13th century, and *Hanamstedes* in 1505.

Early bearers: [... de] Hanhamsted, 1294, [... de] Hannampstude, 1307 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Herts); [... de] Hanhamsted, 1342 in *Assize Rolls* (Herts); William de Hanamsted, 1343 in *Close Rolls* (London); Thomas de Hanampstede, 1369 in *London Husting Wills* (London); Thomas Hanhamsted, 1374 in *Aldgate Cartulary* (London); Ane Anstede, 1559 in *IGI* (London); John Ansted, 1577 in *IGI* (Flamstead, Herts); Thomas Ansted, 1582 in *IGI* (Croydon, Surrey); Nicholas Hansted, 1584 in *IGI* (Edmonton, Middx); Mary Anstead, 1631 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Mary Ansted, 1647 in *IGI* (Eton, Bucks); Joane Anstead, 1676 in *IGI* (Godstone, Surrey); Jane Anstead, 1676 in *IGI* (Newport Pagnell, Bucks); Thomas Hanstead, 1697, Charles Anstid, 1729 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx).

References: *Place-Names of Herts*, p. 97.

Ansted

- **Current frequencies:** GB 22, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 58
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx
- English: see **Anstead**.

Anstee

- **Current frequencies:** GB 807, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 288

- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in S England: esp. Beds

English: see **Anstey**.

Anstey

Variants: Anstie, Anstee, Ansty, Hancey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1356, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 855
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in S England: esp. Devon and Gloucs

English: locative name for one who lived by a path (Middle English *anesty*, Old English *ānstig*) or any of several places named from the same word, such as Anstey (Devon, Dorset, Hants, Herts, Leics, Wilts) or Ansty (Warwicks).

Early bearers: Richard de Anesti, 1164 in *Pipe Rolls* (Essex); Adam de Ansty, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Ansty, Wilts); Willelmus Hansty, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Dulverton, Somerset); Johanne Ansty, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Langford, Beds); Willelmus Ansty, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Bowcombe, Hants); Johanne Ansty, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Stoughton, Leics); Johannes atte Anesty, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Cuckfield, Sussex); Willelmus Ansty, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Pailton, Warwicks); Johannes Ansty, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Holbeach, Lincs); Willm Anstie, 1559 in *IGI* (Dulverton, Somerset); Michael Anstey, 1579 in *IGI* (Lullingstone, Kent); John Anstey, 1583 in *IGI* (Caddington, Beds); Jane Anstie, 1601 in *IGI* (Cuckfield, Sussex); Thomas Anstie, 1629 in *IGI* (West Anstey, Devon); Edward Anstie, 1623 in *IGI* (Melton Mowbray, Leics); Joseph Anstey, 1685 in *IGI* (Newland, Gloucs).

References: *Landscape of Place-Names*, pp. 66–7; *Place-Names of Devon*, pp. 335–6; *Place-Names of Wilts*, p. 183; *Place-Names of Herts*, p. 170; *Place-Names of Sussex*, pp. 261–2; *Leics and Rutland Place-Names*, p. 3; *Hampshire Place-Names*, p. 24; *Gover, Hants Place-Names*, p. 96; *Place-Names of Dorset* 3, p. 209; *Place-Names of Warwicks*, p. 96; *Place-Names of Surrey*, p. 270; *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 4, p. 235; *Place-Names of Worcs*, p. 43.

Anstice

- **Current frequencies:** GB 180, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 120
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset, Gloucs, and Monmouth

English: see **Anstis**.

Anstie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 47, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 77
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts and Dorset
- English: see **Anstey**.

Anstis

Variants: Anstiss, Anstice

- **Current frequencies:** GB 271, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 98
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Cornwall
- English: relationship name from a French-mediated form of the female personal name *Anastasia*. The masculine form *Anastasius* also existed and may have given rise to a patronymic. Both personal names are from adjectival forms of Greek *anastasis* 'resurrection'.

Early bearers: given names: Anastasius de Schirbec, 1188 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); Anastasia, 1221 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Herts); Anstice, 1602 in *Bardsley*.

surnames: Osegod and William Anastasie, 1222 in *Feet of Fines* (Bucks); Ralph Anstayse, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); John Anstays, 1393 in *Patent Rolls* (Somerset); Barbara Anstis, 1583 in *IGI* (Black Torrington, Devon).

Anstiss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 209, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 128
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall; Bucks
- English: see **Anstis**.

Anstruther

- **Current frequencies:** GB 68, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 56
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Stirlings, Fife
- Scottish: locative name from the lands of Anstruther (Fife).
- Early bearers:** Geoffrey de Einstrother, 1214 in *Saint Andrews Charters* (Airdrie, Fife); Henry de Ainstrother, 1215–25 in *Saint Andrews Charters* (Balmerino, Fife); William de Heynstrother alias de Aynstrother, 1287 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Tynedale, Northumb); Henry de Anstrother, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Fife); Christina, widow of Andrew of Aynstrother, 1336 in *Scone Charters*.
- References:** *Place-Names of Fife* 3, pp. 58–62.

Ansty

- **Current frequencies:** GB 70, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 123
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in SW and central England
- English: see **Anstey**.

Answorth

- **GB frequency 1881:** 44
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Somerset and Glamorgan; Middx
- 1 English: variant of the Lancs name **Ainsworth**, as illustrated by Adami Answorth, 1573, Thomas Ainsworth, 1603 in *IGI* (Bolton, Lancs). The name probably migrated to the London area and to SW England. With the early bearers cited below compare Samuel Ainsworth, 1714 in *IGI* (Hemel Hempstead, Herts); Nathaniel Ainsworth, 1739 in *IGI* (Yatton, Somerset); Ann Ainsworth, 1792 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs).
- Early bearers:** Alice Answorth, 1592, Dorothy Answorth, 1673 in *IGI* (Garstang, Lancs); Peter Answorth, 1616 in *IGI* (Datchworth, Herts); Charles Answorth, 1674 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Amos Answorth, 1677, Geo. Aynsworth, 1691 in *IGI* (Saint Giles Cripplegate, London); Edwd. Ainsworth, Elizabeth Aynsworth, Elizab. Answorth, 1732 in *IGI* (Fleet Prison, London); Catharin Answorth, 1753 in *IGI* (Bolton, Lancs); Charles Answorth, 1852 in *IGI* (Charlcombe, Somerset).
- 2 English: variant of the WR Yorks name **Hainsworth**, though some of the following early bearers could alternatively belong with (1).
- Early bearers:** Doriti Answorth, 1574 in *IGI* (Halifax, WR Yorks); Jane Ainsworth, 1673, Mary Answorth, 1676 in *IGI* (Throapham, WR Yorks); Benjamin Answorth, 1800 in *IGI* (Dewsbury, WR Yorks).

Antcliff

Variants: Antcliffe, Antliff, Ancliffe, Ancliff, Hanccliff

- **Current frequencies:** GB 445, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 152
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Notts
- English: locative name from Arncliffe (WR Yorks), with loss of *-r-* and, at a later stage, an intrusive *-t-*, or (less probably) from Arnecliff in Egton or Ingleby Arncliffe (both NR Yorks).
- Early bearers:** Thomas de Arnecliv', 1207 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Yorks); Thomas Arnecliff, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Yorks); Elizabeth Hanccliff, 1571, Ane Ancliff, 1576 in *IGI* (Worksop, Notts); Katherine Ancliffe, 1572 in *IGI* (Evertton, Notts); Mary Antliff, 1627 in *IGI* (Headdon, Notts); Jane Antcliffe, 1661 in *IGI* (Sturton le Steeple, Notts); Hellen Anclif, 1705, Robt Antcliff, 1710 in *IGI* (Bolsover, Derbys).
- References:** *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 6, pp. 48, 113; *Place-Names of NR Yorks*, pp. 129, 178; *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Antcliffe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 380, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 152
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks, Notts, and Derbys
- English: see **Antcliff**.

Antell

- Variants:** Antill
- **Current frequencies:** GB 326, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 165
 - **Main GB location 1881:** SW England: esp. Dorset and Devon
- 1 Norman, English: relationship name from the Anglo-Norman French personal name *Antil*, a contracted form of *Anketil*, a common Norman variant of Old Scandinavian *Ásketill*. See **Anketell**.
- Early bearers:** SW England John Antill, 1571 in *IGI* (Piddleshinton, Dorset); Marie Antyll, 1588 in *IGI* (Brixham, Devon); John Antill, 1598 in *IGI* (Plymouth, Devon); John Anthill, 1627, John Antill, 1740, Angelina Antill, 1835 in *IGI* (Horsley, Gloucs); John Antell, 1742, Joseph Antell, 1836 in *IGI* (Cerne Abbas, Dorset); Thomas Antell, 1777 in *IGI* (Hinton Saint Mary, Dorset).
- 2 English: in the Midlands, a variant of **Antill**.

Anthistle

- **Current frequencies:** GB 49, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 25
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon
- English: variant of **Entwistle**.

Anthoney

- **Current frequencies:** GB 188, Ireland 11
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 112
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. S Wales (Carmarthens; Monmouths); also Dorset
- English: see **Anthony**.

Anthonies

- **Current frequencies:** GB 24, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 5
- English: relationship name variant of **Anthony** with genitival or post-medieval excrescent *-s*.
- Early bearers:** Anthony Anthonis, 1569 *IGI* (London); Ann Anthoneys, 1630, Thomas Anthonies, 1706 in *IGI* (Astby, Worcs); Ananias Antoniss, 1745 in *IGI* (Ombersley, Worcs).

Anthony

Variants: Antony, Anthoney, Antoney, Antoine, Anthonies

- **Current frequencies:** GB 6749, Ireland 273
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3460
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Waterford; also Kildare; Tyrone

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Antony*, French *Antoine*, from Latin *Antonius*, the name of a *gens* or noble family, of unknown, perhaps Etruscan, origin. Spellings with *-h-*, which first appear in English in the 16th century and in French (as *Anthoine*) at about the same time, are due to the false belief that the name derives from Greek *anthos* 'flower'.

Further information: The popularity of the personal name throughout Christendom is largely due to the cult of the Egyptian hermit Saint Anthony (AD 251–356), who in his old age gathered a community of hermits around him in the Sinai Desert and for that reason is regarded by some as the founder of Christian monasticism. It was further increased by the fame of Saint Anthony of Padua (1195–1231), who long enjoyed a great popular cult and who is believed to help people find lost things.

Early bearers: given names: Antonius, 1100–35 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Hunts), 1149 in *Northants Charters* (Northants), 1214 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Devon). surnames: John and Richard Antoyne, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); William Antony, 1306 in *Feet of Fines* (Suffolk); Agnes Anthony, 1548 in *IGI* (Chesham, Bucks); Alexander Anthony, 1565 in *IGI* (Stamford, Lincs); John Anthoney, 1581 in *IGI* (Romsey, Hants); John Anthony, 1634 in *DAFN* (Hampstead, Middx).

Antill

- Variants:** Antell
- **Current frequencies:** GB 555, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 384
 - **Main GB location 1881:** N Midlands: esp. Leics; also Surrey and Gloucs
- 1 English: locative name from Ampthill (Beds), recorded as *Aunthille*, about 1230, *Anthill*, *Antyll*, 1528, 1530, 1675 in *Place-Names of Beds and Hunts*.
- Early bearers:** Harry Anthill, 1569 in *IGI* (Westminster, London and Middx); Joan Ampthill, 1575, Thomas Ampthill, 1744 in *IGI* (Millbrook, Beds); Jn Antill, 1575 in *IGI* (Toddington, Beds); John Antill, 1589 in *IGI* (Quorndon, Leics); John Antill, 1632 in *IGI* (Sutton Bonington, Notts); John Antill, 1641 in *IGI* (Richmond, Surrey); Ann Auntill, 1674 in *IGI* (Kegworth, Leics); Joseph Anthil, 1748 in *IGI* (Bedford, Beds); Joseph Antill, 1763 in *IGI* (Rothley, Leics).
- References:** *Place-Names of Beds and Hunts*, pp. 67–8.
- 2 English: for the Gloucs name, see **Antell**.

Antin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 26, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 4
- Norman, English: relationship name from *Antin*, a contracted form of the Anglo-Norman French personal name *Anketin*, a pet form of *Anketill*, which was a common Norman version of Old Scandinavian *Ásketill*. See **Anketell**. *Hancctet* de Lud 1154–89 *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs) is also called *Asketillus*.

Early bearers: given names: Hanchetin de paruo Stepinge 1154–89 *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Anketin, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks).

surnames: Roger Anketin, 1209 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Simon Anketyn, 1249 in *Assize Rolls* (Wilts); Mary Antin, 1627 in *IGI* (Thurgarton, Notts); William Antin, 1678 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Anthony Antin, 1756 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx).

Antingham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 31, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 33
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: locative name from Antingham (Norfolk).

Early bearers: Walter de Antingham, 1301 in *Patent Rolls* (Norfolk); Roger de Antingham, 1316 in *Patent Rolls* (Alderford, Norfolk); Johe Antyngham, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Brinkhill, Lincs); John Antingham, 1599 in *IGI* (South Creake, Norfolk).

References: *Place-Names of Norfolk* 3, p. 3.

Antley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 84, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 40
- **Main GB location 1881:** Shrops; Lancs; Warwicks

1 English: locative name from Antley (Lancs).

References: *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 90.

2 English: in some instances possibly a variant of **Antill**, assimilated to the common English surname ending *-ley*.

Antliff

- **Current frequencies:** GB 94, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 72
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts and Derbys

English: a form of **Antcliff** with loss of *-c-*.

Antoine

- **Current frequencies:** GB 507, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 41
- **Main GB location 1881:** Channel Islands; Surrey, Hants

French: relationship name from the personal name *Antoine*, French form of **Anthony**.

Early bearers: John Antoine, 1571 in *IGI* (Saint Albans, Herts); Jacques Antoine, 1642 in *IGI* (Grouville, Jersey, Channel Islands); James Antoine, 1794 in *IGI* (Margate, Kent); John Antoine, 1795 in *IGI* (Portsea, Hants).

Anton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 539, Ireland 19
- **GB frequency 1881:** 268
- **Main GB location 1881:** Angus, Perth, and Aberdeens; Lancs and NR Yorks

Scottish, English: relationship name from the personal name *Anton*, a vernacular form of Latin *Antonius* (see **Anthony**).

Early bearers: Scotland Patrick Anton, 1656 in *IGI* (Errol, Perth); George Anton, 1678 in *IGI* (Banff, Banffs); William Anton, 1761 in *IGI* (Tranent, E Lothian); Thomas Anton, 1826 in *IGI* (Old Machar, Aberdeens).

England Johannes Anton', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Pentlow, Essex); Willelmo Anton', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Muckton, Lincs); Ricardus Anton, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Denford, Northants); Robertus Anton, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Pentlow, Essex); Johannes Anton, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Foxearth, Essex); Anne Anton, 1555 in *IGI* (Stratfield

Saye, Hants); Benett Anton, 1575 in *IGI* (Halton Hologate, Lincs); Thomas Anton, 1626 in *IGI* (Kedleston, Derbys); Richard Anton, 1701 in *IGI* (Patrick Brompton, NR Yorks); James Anton, 1809 in *IGI* (Chorley, Lancs).

Antonelli

- **Current frequencies:** GB 145, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 9

Italian: relationship name based on the personal name *Antonello*, a diminutive of *Antonio* (see **Anthony**).

Antoney

- **Current frequencies:** GB 22, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 20
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Pembrokes; WR Yorks

English: see **Anthony**.

Antoni

- **Current frequencies:** GB 171, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 8

1 Italian: relationship name based on the personal name *Antonio* (see **Anthony**).

Early bearers: Antonio Antoni, 1774 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Gulielmus Antoni, 1803 in *IGI* (Bristol); Gamba Antoni, born in Italy, in *Census* 1871 (London); Bertoni Antoni, born in Italy, in *Census* 1881 (Carlisle, Cumb).

2 German, Dutch: relationship name humanist name from the genitive case of the Latin personal name *Antonius* (see **Anthony**).

Early bearers: Karl Antoni, born in Germany, in *Census* 1891 (Lancs).

3 Greek: relationship name shortened form of **Antonis**, **Antoniadis**, or **Antonidakis**, all from the personal name *Antonios*.

Early bearers: Demetre Antoni, born in Greece, in *Census* 1891 (Monmouths).

Antoniades

- **Current frequencies:** GB 231, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Greek: relationship name patronymic from the personal name *Antōnios* (Greek form of Latin *Antonius*; see **Anthony**) + *-ades*, a variant of the classical patronymic suffix *-ides*, which was revived by Greeks from Asia Minor in particular.

Early bearers: Zanko Antoniades, 1851 in *BMD* (Wandsworth, London); Lenophan Antoniades, born in Asia Minor, in *Census* 1891 (Moss Side, Lancs); Lambro Antoniades, 1917 in *BMD* (Salford, Lancs).

Antoniazzi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 125, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 9

Italian: relationship name from a pejorative form of the given name *Antonio* (see **Anthony**).

Antonio

- **Current frequencies:** GB 706, Ireland 11
- **GB frequency 1881:** 65

Italian, Portuguese, Spanish: from the personal name *Antonio* (see **Anthony**).

Further information: As a Portuguese family name, this was probably brought to Britain, at least in part, via Goa and other former Portuguese colonies.

Early bearers: Portuguese, Indian Francis, son of Francisco Antonio, 1715 in *IGI* (Falmouth, Cornwall); Jeauquin [Joaquin] Antonio, 1799 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs); Luis Antonio, born in India, in *Census* 1881 (Royal Navy).

Italian Rolando Antonio, born in Italy, in *Census* 1881 (Shadwell, Middx).

Antoniou

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1256, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

Greek (typically Cypriot): relationship name from an old genitive case of the personal name *Antōnis*, see **Anthony**.

Antony

- **Current frequencies:** GB 636, Ireland 22
- **GB frequency 1881:** 108
- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys; Glamorgan; Hants
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Meath

English: see **Anthony**.

Antram

Variants: **Antrum**, **Antrim**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 77, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 51
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants; also Lancs

Unexplained. Its occurrence in 16th-century Cornwall suggests a possible relationship with the now extinct surname *Antron*, attested in the following examples: (heir of) Antron, 1509, (heir of) Richard Antron, 1571 in *Cornish Lands* (Nancetrisack, in Sithney, Cornwall); James Antron, 1670 in *IGI* (Mabe, Cornwall); Johannis. Antrum, 1700 in *IGI* (Saint Ewe, Cornwall). However, *Antron* is also obscure.

Further information: Derivation from Antrim (N Ireland) is extremely unlikely. Irish place-names have not usually given rise to modern surnames. **Devlin** is perhaps occasionally from Dublin but if so, it is untypical.

Early bearers: Edward Antrum, 1565, William Antrome, 1616, Ann Antram, 1623 in *IGI* (Salisbury, Wilts); Alson Antrum, 1566, John Antram, 1571 in *IGI* (Saint Neot, Cornwall); Simon Antrum, 1626, Simon Antrum, 1637, Francis Antram, 1657 in *IGI* (Southwick, Hants); David Antrim, 1682, Mary Antrum, 1746 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Thomas Antram, 1687 in *IGI* (Esher, Surrey); Robert Antrim, 1695 in *IGI* (Rockbourne, Hants); Samuel Antrim, 1719 in *IGI* (Marrow, Surrey); Carolina Antrim, 1720 in *IGI* (Falmouth, Cornwall); John Antrum, 1750 in *IGI* (Hollingbourne, Kent); Thomas Antrim, 1803, Matilda Antrum, 1807 in *IGI* (Wandsworth, Surrey).

Antrim

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 42
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx and Surrey

See **Antram**.

Antrobus

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1136, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 597
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire

English: locative name from Antrobus in Higher Whitley, Cheshire.

Early bearers: Richard Antribussh, 1380–1 in *Salisbury Clerical Poll Taxes*; John Anterbus, 1574 in *IGI* (Frodsham, Cheshire); Henerie Antrobus, 1600 in *IGI* (Wilmslow, Cheshire).

References: *Place-Names of Cheshire* 2, pp. 127–8; *Watts, Dictionary*, p. 15.

Antrum

- **Current frequencies:** GB 28, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 18
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent; WR Yorks

See **Antram**.

Antunes

- **Current frequencies:** GB 332, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Portuguese: relationship name patronymic from the personal name *Antonio*, a vernacular form of *Antonius* (see **Anthony**).

Early bearers: Manoel Antunes, 1775 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Manuel Joseph Antunes, 1799 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs).

Antwhistle

- **Current frequencies:** GB 23, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 16
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northants and NR Yorks
- English: variant of **Entwistle**.

Antwi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 627, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Ghanaian: nickname said to mean ‘independent’, ‘fearless’, presumably in Akan.

Anwar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 4049, Ireland 24
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Arabic, Muslim: (i) from a personal name based on Arabic *anwar* ‘brighter’, an elative adjective derived from *nur* ‘light’. (ii) with a long *a*, *Anwār* is the plural of *nūr* (see **Noor**) and means ‘rays (of light)’.

Anwell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 39
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; London

Welsh: see **Anwyl**.

Early bearers: Lewes Anwill, 1605 in *PROB 11* (Llanfrothen, Merionethshire); Willm. Anwell, 1629 in *IGI* (Ashford, Kent); Owen Anwell, 1701 in *IGI* (Shrewsbury, Shrops); Catherine Anwell, 1722 in *IGI* (Chester, Cheshire); Thomas Anwell, 1737 in *IGI* (Albourne, Sussex).

Anwyl

Variants: **Anwyll**, **Anwell**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 147, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 176
- **Main GB location 1881:** N Wales

Welsh: relationship name, nickname from a Welsh personal name based on Welsh *annwyl* ‘dear, beloved’. In N Wales it probably had the additional sense of ‘favourite child’.

Further information: Lewis ap Robert of Park, Llanfrothen, Merioneth, d. 1605, is said to have been the first of his family to adopt Anwyl as a hereditary surname; his son was Lewis Anwill, 1612 in *Oxford University Register*. See *Morris, Welsh Surnames* p. 118.

Early bearers: Jevan Annwyl, 1391 in *Chirkland Extent*.
References: *Morgan and Morgan, Rowlands, Surnames of Wales*.

Anwyll

- **Current frequencies:** GB 35, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 13
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham; Flint
- Welsh: see **Anwyl**.

Anyan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 56, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 54
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

Welsh: see **Ennion** and compare **Anyon**.

Early bearers: Willm Anyan, 1704 in *IGI* (Scawby, Lincs); Elizabeth Anyan, 1731 in *IGI* (Burton upon Stather, Lincs).

Anyanwu

- **Current frequencies:** GB 301, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Igbo): from Igbo *anyanwū* ‘sun’.

References: <http://www.igboguide.org/vocabulary.pdf>

Anyon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 263, Ireland 9
- **GB frequency 1881:** 163
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cheshire

Welsh: see **Ennion**.

Early bearers: Richard Anyon, 1512 in *Ancient Deeds* iii (Cheshire); Katherin Anyon, 1562 in *IGI* (Heswall, Cheshire); Ellin Anyan, 1627 in *IGI* (Wallasey, Cheshire); Richard Anyon, 1599 in *IGI* (Bispham with Norbreck, Lancs).

Ao

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Chinese: Mandarin form of the Chinese surname 敖, see **Au** (1).

Apicella

- **Current frequencies:** GB 197, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Southern Italian: nickname, occupational name from a diminutive of *apa* ‘bee’, possibly given to an industrious person or perhaps to a beekeeper.

Apley

- **GB frequency 1881:** 14
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

English: see **Appley**.

Further information: This form of the name has almost died out in Britain but continues to thrive in the USA.

Aplin

Variants: **Applin**, **Apling**, **Appling**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1185, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 821
- **Main GB location 1881:** SW England

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Abelin*, a pet form of **Abel**.

Early bearers: Thomas Abelyn, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Kent); John Applin, 1547 in *York Freeman’s Register*; William Appling, 1622 in *IGI* (Bere Regis, Dorset); Marie Ablin, 1685 in *IGI* (Thorpe le Soken, Essex); John Apling, 1719 in *IGI* (Buxhall, Suffolk).

Apling

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 14

English: see **Aplin**.

Further information: This spelling of the name is rare in Britain but is more numerous in the USA.

Apostolou

- **Current frequencies:** GB 156, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

Greek (typically Cypriot): relationship name from an old genitive case of the personal name *Apostolos* which means ‘apostle (of Christ)’.

Appadoo

- **Current frequencies:** GB 202, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian: Hindu, of Telugu origin, from *appa* ‘father’ and the singular suffix *-ḍu*. It is also found in the Caribbean.

Appel

Variants: **Apple**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 132, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 21
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx

Jewish (Ashkenazic), German: (i) ornamental name Jewish, from German *appel* or Yiddish *epl* ‘apple’.

(ii) relationship name from a pet form of the German personal name *Apprecht*, a variant of *Albrecht* (the standard German form of **Albert**) found especially in Thuringia and Franconia.

Early bearers: Randolf Appel, born in Silesia, in *Census 1851* (Westminster, Middx); Hyman Appel, born in Austria, in *Census 1871* (Whitechapel, Middx); Herman Apel, musician, born in Germany, in *Census 1871* (Hastings, Sussex); Louis Apel, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (West Derby, Lancs); Michael Apel, born in Poland, in *Census 1881* (Liverpool, Lancs); Isaac Appel, born in Poland, in *Census 1881* (Liverpool, Lancs); Adolf Appell, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Stoke Newington, Middx); Abraham Appel, born in Russia, in *Census 1891* (Whitechapel, Middx); Heinrich Appel, born in Hessen, in *Census 1891* (Saint George in the East, Middx).

Appelbe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 42, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
- **Main GB location 1881:** Leics

English: see **Appleby**.

Appelbee

- **Current frequencies:** GB 37, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 67
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in England

English: see **Appleby**.

Appelby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 122
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. London; also Staffs

English: see **Appleby**.

Apperley

Variants: **Apperly**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 584, Ireland 7

- **GB frequency 1881:** 335
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs and Herefs

1 English: locative name from Apperley in Deerhurst (Gloucs), which is recorded as *Apperleg* in 1212 and *Appurleie* in 1304. The place-name derives from Old English *apuldor* ‘apple-tree’ + *lēah* ‘open woodland’.

Further information: There has probably been some confusion with **Appley**. William Appelle, son of John Appelle, 1651 in *IGI* (Stonehouse, Gloucs), is perhaps related to William Apperly, son of John Apperly, 1688 in *IGI* (Stonehouse, Gloucs).

Early bearers: Richard de Apperlee, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Gloucs); Thomas de Apperleye, about 1280 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Richard de Apperleye, 1305 in *Feet of Fines* (Gloucs); Robert de Apperleye, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Deerhurst, Gloucs); Simon de Appurley, 1336, Simon Apperleygh, burgess of Bristol, 1337 in *Hospital of Saint Mark Bristol Cartulary* (Gloucs); Margaret de Appurleye, 1338 in *Feet of Fines* (Worcs); Walter Appurlee, 1372 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Gloucs); Johannes Appurleye, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Postlip in Winchcomb, Gloucs); John Appurleye, 1382 in *Feet of Fines* (Herefs); Alice Appurleye, 1384–6 in *Assize Rolls* (Taynton, Gloucs); Adam Appurleye, 1404 in *Feet of Fines* (Gloucs and Worcs); Thomas Apperley, 1562 in *IGI* (Much Marcle, Herefs); John Apperley, 1608 in *IGI* (Dymock, Gloucs); William Apperly, 1622 in *IGI* (Madresfield, Worcs).

References: *Place-Names of Gloucs* 2, pp. 78–9.

2 English: locative name possibly also from Apperley Bridge in Eccleshill (WR Yorks), which is recorded as *Apperley* in 1279 and *Appeltrelaybrig* in 1330, or from Apperley Dene (Northumb), recorded as *Appeltreley* in 1261, but evidence for the surname in N England is wanting. The place-names derive from Old English *æppel-trēow* ‘apple-tree’ + *lēah* ‘open woodland’.

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 3, 259; *Place-Names of Northumb and Durham*, p. 6.

Apperly

- **Current frequencies:** GB 48, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 102
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs, Herefs, and Radnors

English: see **Apperley**.

Appiah

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1180, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

Ghanaian: unexplained. The *-h* after final *-a* in names like this is a characteristic anglicization.

Apple

- **Current frequencies:** GB 61, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 43
- **Main GB location 1881:** IoW; Middx; Warwicks

Jewish: anglicized spelling of **Appel**.

Early bearers: Harris Apple, furrier, born in Germany, in *Census 1851* (Kingston upon Hull, ER Yorks); John Apple (re-spelling of Appel), tailor, naturalized British subject, born in Bavaria, in *Census 1881* (Carisbrooke, IoW); Colman Apple, tailor, born in Poland, in *Census 1881* (Whitechapel, London); Jacob Apple, street musician, born in New Bavaria, Germany, in *Census 1881* (Birmingham, Warwicks);

Abraham Apple, born in Russia, in *Census 1911* (Mile End New Town, London).

Applebe

- **GB frequency 1881:** 19
- **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks

English: see **Appleby**.

Applebee

- **Current frequencies:** GB 192, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 200
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

English: see **Appleby**.

Applebey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 22, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 35
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset

English: see **Appleby**.

Appleby

Variants: **Applebee**, **Applebey**, **Appelbee**, **Appelbe**, **Applebe**, **Appelby**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 7471, Ireland 106
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4846
- **Main GB location 1881:** NE England: esp. Durham
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Roscommon; Wicklow; Cork

English: locative name from Eppeby (NR Yorks), which is recorded as *Aplebi* in 1086, Appleby Magna (Leics, formerly partly in Derbys), recorded as *Æpplby* in about 1004, Appleby (Lincs), recorded as *Aplebi* in 1086, or Appleby (Westm), recorded as *Aplebi* in 1130. The place-names derive from Old English *æppel* ‘apple’ + Old Scandinavian *bý* ‘farmstead, settlement’.

Early bearers: Vlf de Appelbi, 1163 in *Pipe Rolls*; Hugh de Apelby, 1204 in *Pleas* (Yorks); Edmund de Appelby, 1331 in *Feet of Fines* (Leics and Derbys); Robert de Appelby, 1341 in *Lincs Royal Inquest* (Lincs); Thomas Appelby, 1366 in *Assize Rolls* (London); Adam de Appilby, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Cumb); Robert Appleby, 1556 in *IGI* (Howden, ER Yorks); Laurence Appleby, 1562 in *IGI* (Downham, Cambs); James Appleby, 1563 in *IGI* (Lanchester, Durham); John Appleby, 1570 in *IGI* (Dartford, Kent).

References: *Place-Names of NR Yorks*, p. 298; *Place-Names of Leics* 6, pp. 7–8; *Place-Names of Derbys*, pp. 622–3; *Place-Names of Lincs* 6, pp. 11–12; *Place-Names of Westm* 2, p. 91; *Ekwall*, *DEPN*, p. 11.

Appleford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 273, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 326
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in S England

English: locative name from either of two places called Appleford (Berks, IoW).

Further information: Wilson (in *Reaney and Wilson*) suggests Appleford in Godshill (IoW) as an alternative source. This place-name, which is recorded as *Apeldoreforde* in 1291, *Appuldurforde* in 1471, and *Apleford* in 1559, derives from Old English *apuldor* ‘apple-tree’ + *ford* ‘ford, river crossing’. No evidence has been found to indicate that it gave rise to a surname.

Early bearers: John de Appelford, 1206 in *Curia Regis Rolls*; William de Appelford, 1247 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); William de Appelford, 1285 in *Feet of Fines* (Oxon); Johanne Apulford, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Oxon);

Richard Appleford, 1562 in *IGI* (Froxfield, Wilts); Elizabeth Appleford, 1567 in *IGI* (Froxfield, Wilts); Barbara Appleford, 1581 in *IGI* (Kelvedon near Colchester, Essex); Richard Appleford, 1581 in *IGI* (Leighton Buzzard, Beds); Katherine Appleford, 1593 in *IGI* (East Hendred, Berks).

References: *Place-Names of Berks*, pp. 400–1; *Kökeritz*, *IoW*, pp. 140–1; *IoW Place-Names*, p. 22.

Applegarth

Variants: **Applegath**, **Applegate**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 291, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 199
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham

English, Scottish: locative name from Middle English *appel-garth* ‘orchard, apple orchard’ (Old Scandinavian *apaldrgrarðr*) or from one or more of the places in N England and Scotland called Applegarth, such as Applegarth in Marske by Richmond (NR Yorks), Applegarth Lane in Bainton (ER Yorks), Applegarth in Holme Abbey (Cumb), Applegarth in Middleton (Westm), and Applegarth (Dumfriess).

Early bearers: England William de Apelgart, about 1115 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents* (Suffolk); Robert Applegarth, 1279 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Yorks); Richard del Appelgarthe, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts* (Yorks); Robert de Appilgarth, 1338 in *Patent Rolls* (Selby, WR Yorks); Johanne Applegarth, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Hemingbrough, ER Yorks); Thomas Appulgarth, 1419–20 in *Feet of Fines* (NR Yorks); Agnes Applegarth, 1538, Johan Applegarth, 1541 in *IGI* (Kirkby Lonsdale, Westm); Margret Aplegarthe, 1564 in *IGI* (Croxtton, Lincs); Laurence Applegate, 1565, Marget Appyllgate, 1566 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Robt. Apelgat, 1569 in *IGI* (Cley next the Sea, Norfolk); William Aplegate, 1578 in *IGI* (Burbage, Wilts); Cordell Appelgarthe, 1579, Frances Appulgate, 1586 in *IGI* (Ropley, Hants); William Applegard, 1585 in *IGI* (Bratton, Wilts); Isabella Applegarth, 1635 in *IGI* (Darlington, Durham); John Applegath, 1662 in *IGI* (Goulceby, Lincs); Thomas Applegarth, 1670 in *IGI* (Well, NR Yorks).

Scotland William Apilgarth, about 1190 in *Cambuskenneth Register* (Dunipace, Stirlings); Richard of Aplegarth, 1340 in *Scotland Calendar* (Roxburgh, Roxburghs).

References: *Place-Names of NR Yorks*, p. 293; *Place-Names of ER Yorks*, p. 165; *Place-Names of Cumb*, p. 290; *Place-Names of Westm* 1, p. 54.

Applegate

- **Current frequencies:** GB 873, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 551
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk; Wilts and Somerset

English: variant of **Applegarth**.

Applegath

- **Current frequencies:** GB 14, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

English: see **Applegarth**.

Appleton

Variants: **Abberton**, **Napleton**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 6474, Ireland 35
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4690

Applewhaite

• **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Lancs, NR Yorks, and Durham; Kent
English: locative name from any of the many places called Appleton (several in NR Yorks; also WR Yorks, Lancs, Cheshire, Berks, Kent, and elsewhere), or Napleton in Kempsey (Worcs). These places were named in Old English as ‘the enclosure (*tūn*) where apple trees grow (i.e. an orchard)’.
Further information: Apples were particularly important in the Middle Ages as a food for survival through the winter.

Early bearers: Hemeri de Lepeltone, about 1182 in *Worcester Red Book* (Worcs); Tomas de Appleton’, 1196 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Thomas ate Napeltone, ate Apiltone, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Geoffrey de Appelton’, 1364 in *Feet of Fines* (Edlington, Lincs); Roger Appelton’, 1460 in *Feet of Fines* (Nursted, Kent); Thomas Apilton’, 1507 in *Feet of Fines* (West Tofts, Norfolk); Roger Appulton, 1529 in *Kent Wills* (Dartford, Kent); Ellen Appleton, 1538 in *IGI* (Farnworth near Prescott, Lancs); Henrie Appelton, 1551 in *IGI* (Farnworth near Prescott, Lancs); Thomas Napleton, 1568 in *IGI* (Harty, Kent); John Appleton, 1579 in *IGI* (Cockfield, Durham); Willmi Appleton, 1602 in *IGI* (Brompton by Northallerton, NR Yorks); John Napleton, 1732 in *IGI* (Pembroke, Herefs); Thomas Appelton, 1738 in *IGI* (Shinfield, Berks).
References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 4, pp. 219–20; *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 106; *Place-Names of Cheshire* 2, p. 96; *Place-Names of NR Yorks*, pp. 46, 59–60, 174, 241–2; *Place-Names of Cumb*, p. 272; *Kent Place-Names*, pp. 521, 585; *Place-Names of Berks*, pp. 401–2; *Feet of Fines (Apelton, 1218–19 in Norfolk)*; *Place-Names of Essex*, p. 180; *Place-Names of Worcs*, p. 146; *Ekwall, DEPN*, p. 11; *Vocabulary of English Place-Names*, at *æppel-tūn*; *East Anglian Bynames*, p. 24.

Applewhaite

Variants: Applewhite, Ablewhite, Ablett
• **Current frequencies:** GB 75, Ireland 0
• **GB frequency 1881:** 5
• **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: locative name from a lost place called *Applethwaite* in Suffolk.

Early bearers: Stephen Appeltheit, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); John Epulweyte, 1481 in *Suffolk Archaeology Proceedings* xii; Robert Apylweyte, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Margaret Ablewhite, 1605 in *IGI* (Southwold, Suffolk); John Abelwhite, 1624 in *IGI* (Terling, Essex); John Applewhite, 1635 in *IGI* (Southolt, Suffolk); John Applewhaite, 1640, George Applewhite, 1672 in *IGI* (Dennington, Suffolk); Esther Applewhite, 1764 in *IGI* (Needham, Norfolk); Sarah Applewhait, 1678, Henry Ablewhite, 1797 in *Parish Registers* (Suffolk).

References: *Place-Names of Westm* 1, p. 194.

Applewhite

• **Current frequencies:** GB 183, Ireland 0
• **GB frequency 1881:** 135
• **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs
1 English: usually a variant of **Hebblethwaite**.
2 English: occasionally a variant of **Applewhaite**.

Appley

Variants: Apley
• **Current frequencies:** GB 35, Ireland 0
• **GB frequency 1881:** 25
• **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Lancs

English: locative name from one or more of numerous places so called, such as Apley in Hadley (Shrops), which is recorded as *Appeley* in the 14th century, Apley Park in Stockton (also Shrops), recorded as *Appeley* in 1448–9, Appley in Chicksands (Beds), recorded as *Appeleia* in about 1150, Appley in Stawley (Somerset), recorded as *Appelegh* in 1346, Apley (Lincs), recorded as *Apelei* in 1086, Appley Bridge in Wrightington (Lancs), recorded as *Appeleye* in the 13th century, Apleyhead in Elkesley (Notts), recorded as *Apelia* in 1161, Appley in Saint Helens (IoW), recorded as *Appeley* in 1219, and the lost *Appley* in Sandown (also IoW), recorded as *Appeleghe* in 1287–90. The place-names all derive from Old English *æppel* ‘apple’ + *lēah* ‘open woodland’. There has probably been some confusion with **Apperley**, perhaps from an early date, as seems to be the case with Nicholas de Apperlegh, 1256–7 in *Feet of Fines* (connected with land in Bedminster, Somerset), Nicholas de Appleye, 1268, Nicholas de Apperleg, Nicholas de Appeleg’, 1269 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset).

Early bearers: [. . . de] Epeleia, about 1173, [. . . de] Appeleg’, 1228 in *Place-Names of Shrops* (Shrops); Roger de Appelea, 1190 in *Pipe Rolls* (Hants); [. . . de] Appele, 1276 in *Place-Names of Beds and Hunts* (Beds); Adam de Appelegh, Adam de Appele, 1316–17 in *Feet of Fines* (Kittisford, Somerset); Alexander Appelee, 1355–9 in *Assize Rolls* (Beds); Jhon Appley, 1546 in *IGI* (Grimsby, Lincs); John Aply, 1555 in *IGI* (Barnstaple, Devon); Thomas Appley, 1590 in *IGI* (Much Marcle, Herefs); Sicill Appley, 1596 in *IGI* (Llanbadoc, Monmouths); John Appley, 1605 in *IGI* (Cockerham, Lancs); Judith Appley, 1633 in *IGI* (Ely, Cambs); William Apply, 1653 in *IGI* (Barnard Castle, Durham); George Apeley, 1692 in *IGI* (Newport, Shrops); Henry Appley, 1708 in *IGI* (Throapham, WR Yorks); John Appley, 1763 in *IGI* (Potton, Beds); Robt. Appley, 1768 in *IGI* (Nottingham, Notts).
References: *Place-Names of Shrops* 3, p. 16; 6, p. 56; *Place-Names of Beds and Hunts*, p. 169; *Somerset Archives*, feoffment DD-SF-1447; *Lincs Place-Names*, p. 3; *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 130; *Place-Names of Notts*, p. 78; *IoW Place-Names*, p. 23; *Kökeritz, IoW*, pp. 196, 203.

Appleyard

• **Current frequencies:** GB 2843, Ireland 21
• **GB frequency 1881:** 2735
• **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks and Lincs
• **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin; Louth
English: locative name from Appleyard (WR Yorks) or from residence near an orchard.
Early bearers: Elias del Apelyerd, 1275, John del Apelyard, 1315 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (Yorks); Johis Appleyard, 1562 in *IGI* (Dunston, Norfolk); Roger Appleyard, 1563 in *IGI* (Happisburgh, Norfolk); John Appleyard, 1564 in *IGI* (Batley, WR Yorks); Jhames Appleyard, 1570 in *IGI* (Ulceby by Barton, Lincs); Katherin Appleyard, 1575 in *IGI* (Lurgashall, Sussex).
References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 1, pp. 88, 341.

Applin

• **Current frequencies:** GB 360, Ireland 0
• **GB frequency 1881:** 317
• **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset
English: see **Aplin**.

Appling

• **GB frequency 1881:** 11

• **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: see **Aplin**.

Further information: This form of the name has died out in Britain but continues to thrive in the USA.

Apps

Variants: Aps, Happs, Epps, Asp, Hesp
• **Current frequencies:** GB 1717, Ireland 3
• **GB frequency 1881:** 1346
• **Main GB location 1881:** Kent and Sussex

English: locative name for someone who lived by an aspen (*Populus tremula*), Middle English (*h*)ap^{se}, (*h*)aspe (Old English *æpse*, *æspe*).

Early bearers: John de Apse, 1214 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Surrey); Robert atte Hespse, 1296, Robert atte Apse, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Thomas Atter Apse, 1326 in *Patent Rolls* (Leics); Joane Apse, 1561 in *IGI* (Frant, Sussex); Peter Apps, 1575 in *IGI* (Hastingleigh, Kent); Joan Apse, 1588 in *IGI* (Barham, Kent).
References: *Hey, Family Names*, pp. 193, 199; *Place-Names of Surrey*, p. 96; *Kökeritz, IoW*, p. 168; *IoW Place-Names*, p. 23; *Place-Names of Warwicks*, p. 259; *Vocabulary of English Place-Names*, at *æspe*; *Löfvenberg*, p. 3.

April

Variants: Aprile
• **Current frequencies:** GB 30, Ireland 1
• **GB frequency 1881:** 2
• **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
1 Italian, Dutch, German: nickname anglicization of Italian or Dutch **Aprile** or German **April**(l), derived from the name of the month.

Early bearers: Joseph Aprille, silversmith, born in foreign parts, in *Census 1841* (Ballington, Essex); Henry April, born in Charlestown, America, in *Census 1881* (Liverpool, Lancs); Maria April, born in Paarl, South Africa, in *Census 1891* (Abercorn, W Lothian).

2 English: nickname from Middle English *April*, the name of the month. Compare **Averill**. There is no evidence for the use of *April* as a given name before the 19th century. It is unknown if the medieval surname survived into modern times.

Early bearers: Robert Aprill’, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Harwood, in Hackness, NR Yorks).

Aprile

• **Current frequencies:** GB 36, Ireland 20
• **GB frequency 1881:** 18
• **Main GB location 1881:** Essex
English: see **April**.

Aps

• **Current frequencies:** GB 16, Ireland 0
• **GB frequency 1881:** 0
English: see **Apps**.

Apsee

• **Current frequencies:** GB 39, Ireland 0
• **GB frequency 1881:** 11
• **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset
English: see **Apsey**.

Apsey

Variants: Apsee
• **Current frequencies:** GB 218, Ireland 0
• **GB frequency 1881:** 244

• **Main GB location 1881:** S England: esp. Somerset, Dorset, Hants, Surrey, and Berks
 English: unexplained, but perhaps a variant of **Apps**; compare Robert *Apps*, 1587 in *IGI* (East Coker, Somerset).
Early bearers: Amos Apsey, 1603 in *IGI* (Nettlecombe, Somerset); Joane Apsey, 1613 in *IGI* (West Coker, Somerset); Thomas Apsie, 1635 in *IGI* (East Coker, Somerset).

Apsley

Variants: **Aspley, Espley**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 86, Ireland 41
- **GB frequency 1881:** 39
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Gloucs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim

1 English, Irish: variant of **Aspley**. This metathesized form of the name has been established in Ireland since the 16th century.

Early bearers: Ireland William Apseley, sheriff of the county, 1576 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2758 (county Lymerick); Michael Apsley, clerk of the crown, 1585 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §4605 (province of Munster).

2 English: see **Epsley**.

Apted

Variants: **Hapted**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 159, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 274
- **Main GB location 1881:** SE England

Norman, English: locative name from Aptot in Bonneville-Aptot (Eure), which is recorded as *Apletot* in 1070–82. The place-name derives from Old Scandinavian *topt* ‘plot, curtilage, messuage’, with an uncertain first element.

Early bearers: Rogero de Apetot, 1256–8 in *Rufford Charters* (Notts); Willo Apetot, 1296, Walto Apetot, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ringmer, Sussex); Robert de Apetot, 1310 in *Notts Archives* (Derbys); Geoffrey de Apetot, 1331 in *Patent Rolls* (Worcs); John Aptot, 1605 in *IGI* (Ringmer, Sussex); Nicholas Aptote, 1621 in *IGI* (Lewes, Sussex).

References: *Noms de l'Eure*, p. 54; *Dauzat and Rostaing*, p. 22 (as *Appetot*).

Apter

- **Current frequencies:** GB 123, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 54
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk; Lancs; Devon
- English: locative name from Aptor in Marlton (Devon).

Early bearers: . . . Uppetorre, 1254 in unpublished subsidy rolls, and . . . Apator, Apetor, 1443 in unpublished court rolls, *Place-Names of Devon*; James Apter, 1558 in *IGI* (Ilsington, Devon); Elizabeth Aptor, 1568 in *IGI* (South Tawton, Devon); Elizabeth Apter, 1601 in *IGI* (South Tawton, Devon).

References: *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 516.

Apthorp

- **Current frequencies:** GB 44, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 42
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hunts

English: see **Apthorpe**.

Apthorpe

Variants: **Apthorp**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 101, Ireland 0

• **GB frequency 1881:** 134
 • **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs and Hunts
 English: locative name from Apethorpe (Northants).
Early bearers: Thomas de Abetrop, 1180 in *Pipe Rolls* (Northants), 1197–8 in *Luffield Charters* (Northants); Juetta de Abethorpe, 1201 in *Curia Regis Rolls*; Robert de Apethorpe, 1341 in *Lincs Royal Inquest* (Stamford, Lincs); Elizab. Apthorpe, 1573 in *IGI* (Whitgift, WR Yorks); Jn. Apthorpe, 1608 in *IGI* (Wilden, Beds); Edward Apthorpe, 1619 in *IGI* (Gamlingay, Cambs); Anne Apthorpe, 1626 in *IGI* (Saint Benet Pauls Wharf, London); Thoms. Apthorpe, 1630 in *IGI* (Howden, ER Yorks).
References: *Place-Names of Northants*, p. 198.

Apton

Variants: **Epton**

- **GB frequency 1881:** 10
- English: locative name from Apton Hall in Canewdon (Essex).

Early bearers: William de Appelton alias de Appetone, 1268 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Essex); John de Appetton, 1279 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Faith Apton, 1620 in *IGI* (Amphthill, Beds); Rob. Apton, 1624 in *IGI* (Amphthill, Beds); Thomas Apton, 1632 in *IGI* (Chester, Cheshire); Richard Apton, 1678 in *IGI* (Limpsfield, Surrey); Ann Apton, 1814 in *IGI* (Cranbrook, Kent).

Aquilina

- **Current frequencies:** GB 381, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Italian, Maltese: (i) nickname from a diminutive of *aquila* ‘eagle’ (rarely if ever used as a male personal name). (ii) relationship name from the female personal name *Aquilina*.

Aquino

- **Current frequencies:** GB 270, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Spanish, Portuguese, Italian: (i) relationship name from a personal name bestowed in honour of the Christian theologian Saint Thomas Aquinas (*Tommaso d'Aquino* in Italian). (ii) locative name; as an Italian family name, it may be from Aquino, the place where the theologian was born.

Early bearers: Juan Aquino, 1711 in *IGI* (Kirk Merrington, Durham); Pedro De Aquino, 1814 in *IGI*/Jose Aquino, 1849 in *IGI* (Redmarshall, Durham).

Ara

- **Current frequencies:** GB 235, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

Iranian, Muslim (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan): from the Persian female personal name *ārā*, from a word meaning ‘adorning’.

Arabin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3

English: see **Harrowven**.

Arain

- **Current frequencies:** GB 196, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

1 Perhaps a local variant of **Aaron**.

2 Muslim: from the name of a tribe found mainly in Panjab and Sindh, modern Pakistan.

Early bearers: Moses Arain, 1860 in *IGI*, Hephzibah Arain, 1867 in *IGI* (Ibstock, Leics).

Aram

Variants: **Arram, Arum**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 369, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 202
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts

English: locative name from Arram in Leconfield (ER Yorks) or from Averham (Notts), recorded as *Aram* in 1280.

Early bearers: Henry Arowme, 1456 in *York Freeman's Register*; Robert Arwome, 1500 in *York Freeman's Register*; Robert Aram, 1649 in *Parish Registers* (Rothwell, WR Yorks).

References: *Place-Names of Notts*, p. 181; R. Coates (2007), ‘The genealogy of *eagre* “tidal surge in the river Trent”’, *English Language and Linguistics* 11 (3), 507–23.

Araujo

- **Current frequencies:** GB 494, Ireland 14
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Portuguese and Galician: locative name from any of various places in Portugal and Galicia called Araújo.

Early bearers: Luis Gonzaga Araujo, 1822 in *IGI* (Chalgrave, Beds); Jose Araujo, 1878 in *IGI* (Milton Bryant, Beds); Ynacio Araujo, 1883 in *IGI* (Oakley, Beds).

Arben

- **Current frequencies:** GB 24, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 32
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk

English: see **Arbon**.

Arber

- **Current frequencies:** GB 391, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 255
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs

English: see **Harber**.

Arberry

- **Current frequencies:** GB 68, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 47
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

English: see **Arbery**.

Arbery

Variants: **Arbury, Arberry**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 118, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 84
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset

English: locative name from one of many places named from Old English *eorð-burh* ‘earthwork’, such as *Arbury* (Cambs, Lancs, Northants, Warwicks), or *Arbury Banks* in Ashwell (Herts), or from a place describable using this term. Compare **Yarborough**, which has the same ultimate origin. The predominant modern south-western distribution suggests an additional source in a local place-name, perhaps Harrowbeer in Buckland Monachorum (Devon), but this is uncertain.

Early bearers: Henry Erburgh, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Marye Arborowe, 1605 in *IGI* (Fenstanton, Hunts); Henry Arbury, 1606 in *IGI* (Kingston upon Thames, Surrey); Miles Arborough, 1632 in *IGI* (Haddenham, Cambs); Wm Arbrey, 1684 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); William Arbery, 1747 in *IGI*

Arbin

(Upottery, Devon); Jane Arbery, 1768 in *IGI* (Abbots Ripton, Hunts).

References: *Place-Names of Warwicks*, pp. 79–80, 289; *Place-Names of Cambs*, p. 148; *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 98; *Place-Names of Herts*, p. 153; *Place-Names of Northants*, pp. 13, 37.

Arbin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 45
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk
- English: see **Arbon**.

Arblaster

Variants: Ballaster, Larbalestier, Ballester, Alabaster

- **Current frequencies:** GB 330, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 190
 - **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands
- Norman, English: occupational name from Anglo-Norman French *alblaster*, *arblaster*, Old French *arblestier*, *arbelestier* ‘soldier armed with a crossbow, an arbalest’.

Further information: Robertus Arbalistarius, Balistarius (1086 in *Domesday Book*) and his son Odo albalistarius (about 1140 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register*) held their land of the king by serjeanty of performing the duties of *arbalistarius*. Others of the same surname held their land by serving at Wallingford Castle with an arbalest, by guarding Exeter gaol, or by providing two arbalests. As London *arblasters* are stated to have had apprentices, the surname may also mean ‘maker of cross-bows’.

Early bearers: Geoffrey Arbalister, 1198 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Essex); Richard le Arbelaster, 1198 in *Pipe Rolls* (Rutland); Ralph Alebaster, about 1200 in *Hornchurch Priory Kalendar* (Essex); Peter le Arblaster, 1278 in *Feet of Fines* (Suffolk); Frances Arblaster, 1663 in *IGI* (Lichfield, Staffs); Edmund Arblaster, 1699 in *IGI* (Longdon, Staffs); Edmund Arblaster, 1845 in *IGI* (Birmingham, Warwicks); George Arblaster, 1846 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Charles James Arblaster, 1852 in *IGI* (Shrewsbury, Shrops).

Arbon

Variants: Arben, Arbin, Arborn

- **Current frequencies:** GB 619, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 299
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Arbern* (Old Scandinavian *Arnbiörn*, *Arnbiörn*), composed of the elements *arn-* the inflected stem of *qrn* ‘eagle’ and *biörn* ‘bear’.

Early bearers: given names: Erneber, Ernebernus, Gernebern, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Yorks, Lincs, Derbys); Arbernus, 1190–5 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs).

surnames: Roger Arborn, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); William Arbon, 1329 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Northants); Sarah Arbon, 1768 in *IGI* (Rickingham, Suffolk); Sarah Arbourn, 1777 in *IGI* (Wickham Skeith, Suffolk).

Arborn

- **GB frequency 1881:** 21
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs
- English: see **Arbon**.

Arbour

- **Current frequencies:** GB 35, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 27
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- English: see **Harber**.

Arbuckle

Variants: Hornbuckle

- **Current frequencies:** GB 681, Ireland 194
- **GB frequency 1881:** 637
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Ulster: esp. Tyrone; Antrim

Scottish: locative name from Arbuckle (Lanarks).

Early bearers: John Arnbukle, 1499 in *Protocol Book Simon* (Irvine, Ayr); Elizabeth Arbucle, 1624 in *Lanark Testaments* (Carluke, Lanarks); Margaret Arbuckle, 1630 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); James Arbuckle, 1677 in *IGI* (Blantyre, Lanarks); Jonet Arbuckle, 1678 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks).
References: *Black*; *Place-Names of Scotland*, p. 84.

Arbury

- **Current frequencies:** GB 55, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 49
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: see **Arbery**.

Arbuthnot

Variants: Arbuthnott

- **Current frequencies:** GB 176, Ireland 163
- **GB frequency 1881:** 165
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Lanarks and Midlothian
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down

Scottish, N Irish: locative name from Arbuthnott (Kincardines).

Early bearers: Scotland Duncan Aberbuthenoth, 1206 in *Spalding Club Miscellany* (Arbuthnott, Kincardines); Alwin de Aberbutennauth, 1212–29 in *Saint Andrews Charters* (Saint Andrews, Fife); Philip de Abirbuthnot, 1366 in *Great Seal of Scotland* (Aberdeens); Robert Arbuthnot, 1451 in *Great Seal of Scotland* (Kincardines); John Arbuthnet, 1617 in *IGI* (Aberdeens); Robert Arbuthnott, 1620 in *IGI* (Catterline, Kincardines).

References: *Watson*, *Celtic Place-Names*, p. 446; *Place-Names of Scotland*, p. 84.

Arbuthnott

- **Current frequencies:** GB 189, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 111
- **Main GB location 1881:** Angus and Kincardines
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Mayo

Scottish: see **Arbuthnot**.

Arcari

- **Current frequencies:** GB 154, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4

Italian: (i) occupational name based on the occupational term *arcaro* ‘bow maker’.

(ii) occupational name based on the homonym *arcaro* (Latin *arcarius*), denoting the treasurer of a city, guild, or other institution.

Arch

Variants: Arches

- **Current frequencies:** GB 514, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 549

- **Main GB location 1881:** Midlands: esp. Warwicks, Staffs, Northants, Cambs

1 English: locative name from Middle English, Old French *arche* ‘arch’ (i.e. of a bridge). The name may sometimes refer to Arques in Normandy, so some of the following bearers probably belong with (2).

Early bearers: Nicholas Arche, 13th cent. in *Canterbury Cathedral Archives* (Newington, Surrey); Thomas Arche, 1341 in *Shakespeare Centre* (Coventry, Warwicks); John Arche, 1347 in *Berkeley Castle Muniments* (Grundisburgh, Suffolk); Johannes Harche, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Ryhill, WR Yorks); Robert Arche, 1415 in *Feet of Fines* (Wrawby, Lincs); Richard Arche, 1476 in *Feet of Fines* (Gillingham, Kent); Agnes Arch, 1544 in *IGI* (Bromyard, Herefs); Elyzabth Arch, 1556 in *IGI* (Chaddesley Corbett, Worcs); Amos Arch, 1582 in *IGI* (Marholm, Northants); Walter Arch, 1602 in *IGI* (Hampden in Arden, Warwicks).

References: *Hey*, *Family Names*, p. 160.

2 Norman, English: reduced form of **Arches**.

Archambault

- **GB frequency 1881:** o
- See **Archibald**, but probably a reintroduced French name.

Archard

- **Current frequencies:** GB 354, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 301
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts

English: see **Orchard**.

Early bearers: Annes Archard, 1545 in *IGI* (Redmarley D’Abitot, Gloucs); Thomas Archerd, 1551 in *IGI* (Padbury, Bucks); Helena Archarde, 1562 in *IGI* (Wedmore, Somerset); Joanna Archard, 1568 in *IGI* (Devizes, Wilts); Margery Archard, 1569 in *IGI* (Bromham, Wilts); Nicholas Archord, 1596 in *IGI* (Stretton on Fosse, Warwicks).

Archbald

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 83
- **Main GB location 1881:** Selkirks

Scottish: see **Archibald**.

Archbell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 29, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 44
- **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks

English: see **Archibald**.

Archbold

Variants: Aspell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 954, Ireland 314
- **GB frequency 1881:** 708
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin and Kildare: Derry

English, Irish: see **Archibald**. The spelling *Archbold* is especially common in Ireland, where it was gaelicized from an early date as *Áirseabóid*. See also **Aspell**.

Early bearers: England Robert Archpoole, 1523 in *Rochester Wills* (Kent); Edward Archepoll, Archepole, 1591, 1595 in *Bedwardine Churchwardens’ Accounts* (Worcs); Nicholas Archepoll, Archebold, 1591, 1593 in *Bedwardine Churchwardens’ Accounts* (Worcs).

Ireland James Archbolde, 1550 in *Fiants Edward* §472 (Glasmokrey, Dublin); Simon mcJames mcSimon moyle Archbold, 1577 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §655.

Archbould

- **Current frequencies:** GB 32, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 26
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk; WR Yorks and Lancs

English: see **Archibald**.

Archbutt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 19, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 25
- **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks and Derbys; Surrey

English: variant of **Archibald**. Compare **Aisbitt**.

Archdale

Variants: Archdall

- **Current frequencies:** GB 169, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 136
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English, Irish: origin unexplained.

Further information: The Archdale family in Ireland had moved to East Anglia from Staffs before being granted Castle Archdale in Fermanagh in 1612. Mervyn Archdall, 1723–1791, wrote *Monasticon hibernicum, or, A history of the abbeys, priories, and other religious houses in Ireland* (Dublin, 1786).

Early bearers, England: Katherina Archdale, 1561 in *IGI* (Sheffield, WR Yorks); Hugh Archdale, 1571 in *IGI* (Rotherham, WR Yorks).

Ireland John Archdale, 1612 in *Irish Patent Rolls* 233b (Fermanagh).

Archdall

- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
- English, Irish: see **Archdale**.

Archdeacon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 96, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 109
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork

English: status name from Middle English *ercedeken* ‘chief deacon, chief attendant on a bishop’ (Old English *ercediacon*, Old French *arc(h)ediacne*).

Early bearers: Walter le Ercedekene, le Ercedeiakene, le Archedekene, 1268–71 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Ad. Ercedekene, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Suffolk); Thom. le Arsdekene, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Herts); Roger le Arcedekne, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts*; Tomasin Archdeacon, 1604 in *IGI* (Modbury, Devon).

Archer

Variants: Larcher, Harshaw

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15876, Ireland 634
- **GB frequency 1881:** 12335
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down; Dublin; Kilkenny

Norman, English: occupational name from Middle English *archere*, Anglo-Norman French *archer*, Old French *archier* ‘bowman’.

Early bearers: England Edward Archier, 1166 in *Pipe Rolls* (Hants); Robert Larchier, 1166 in *Pipe Rolls* (Wilts); Hugh le Archer, 1199 in *Feet of Fines* (Cambs);

William le Archer, 1214 in *Feet of Fines* (Bentley, Hants); Willelmus Archer, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Cumb); John Archier, 1403 in *Feet of Fines* (Stoke) Hammond, Bucks.

Ireland Walter Archer, recorder of Kilkenny, 1564 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §666 (Kilkenny); Peter fitz Walter Archer, 1574 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2424 (Kilkenny); Walter and Peirs Archer gents, 1602 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6583 (Archerstoune).

Arches

Variants: Arch

- **GB frequency 1881:** 11
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk

1 Norman, English: locative name from any of various places in France called Arques (Eure, Pas-de-Calais, Seine-Maritime). The name was sometimes reduced to **Arch**.

Further information: After the Norman Conquest a family with this name, from Arques in Normandy, held various manors in WR Yorks (including Thorp Arch) and in Lincs; William de Arques was lord of Folkestone (Kent) in 1086. See *Domesday Descendants*, pp. 287–8; *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 4, pp. 244–5.

Early bearers: Peter de Arches, about 1190 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Alan de Archis, 1211 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Yorks); William de Arches, 1242 in *Feet of Fines* (Eynsford, Kent); John Arches, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Nicholas Arches, 1607 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Hen. Arches, 1652 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); John Arches, 1730 in *IGI* (Newmarket, Suffolk).

References: *Dauzat and Rostaing*, p. 24; *Noms de l'Eure*, p. 160; *Noms de Lieux Celtiques*, p. 60.

2 English: variant of **Arch** with post-medieval excrement -s.

Archibald

Variants: Archibold, Archambault, Archbold, Archbould, Archbald, Archbell, Archbutt, Aisbitt, Ashbolt, Ashpole, Aspell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3506, Ireland 253
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2584
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. in Scotland

• **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim and Derry Norman, Scottish, English: relationship name from the Old French personal name *Archamboult*, from Continental Germanic *Ercanbald*, found in *Domesday Book* (1086) as *Erchenbaldus*, *Arcebnaldus*, and *Arcebaldus*. The Germanic name is from **erkan-* ‘genuine’ + **bald-* ‘brave, bold’.

Early bearers: given names: Archembold Wiverun, 1130 in *Pipe Rolls*.

surnames, England: Robert Archenbold, 1210 in *Pipe Rolls* (Gloucs); William Erchebaud, 1239 in *Feet of Fines* (Suffolk); Thomas Herchebaud, 1302 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); Agnes Archebald, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Senycle Archebaud, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Northants); Edmondnd Archbole, 1587 in *IGI* (Hitchin, Herts); Seath Archbutt, 1616 in *York Freeman's Register* (York); Andrew Archbit, 1713 in *IGI* (Hartburn, Northumb); Hannah Archbell, 1717 in *IGI* (Healaugh, WR Yorks).

surnames, Scotland: Robert Archebalde, 1390 in *Great Seal of Scotland* (Roxburghs); John Archibald, 1545 in *Laing Charters* (Saint Andrews, Fife); Johnne Archibald, 1631 in *IGI* (Aberdeen); William Archbad,

1658 in *IGI* (Linlithgow, W Lothian); Christan Archbit, 1747 in *IGI* (Ratray, Perth).
 surnames, Ireland: Alexander Archebold, 1598 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6232 (Dublin); Nich. and Theobald Archebolde and Wm. Archbold, 1599 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6338 (Powerscorte, Dublin); Rich. Archbold, gent., 1600 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6442 (Drom, Tipperary); Nich. Archbold mcSymon moyle, and Rich. Archbold mcGillpatrick, yeomen, 1601 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6517 (Carrickmayne).

Archibold

- **Current frequencies:** GB 65, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 56
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb

English: see **Archibald**.

Archie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 28, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 48
- **Main GB location 1881:** Aberdeens

Scottish: relationship name from a diminutive of the personal name **Archibald**.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Arculus

- **Current frequencies:** GB 61, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 63
- **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks

English: variant of **Argles**; compare **Arkless** and **Hercules**.

Early bearers: Rich. Hercules, 1696 in *IGI* (Ipsley, Warwicks); Thomas Arkellas, 1700 in *IGI* (Wootton Wawen, Warwicks); John Hercules, 1709 in *IGI* (Morton Baggott, Warwicks); Tho. Arculus, 1742, Edward Draper Arculus, 1812 in *IGI* (Claverdon, Warwicks); William Harcules, 1817, Thomas Arculus, 1834 in *IGI* (Coventry, Warwicks).

Arcus

- **Current frequencies:** GB 76, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 98
- **Main GB location 1881:** Midlothian

Scottish: see **Harcus**.

Ard

- **Current frequencies:** GB 48, Ireland 22
- **GB frequency 1881:** 22
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

English: variant of Scottish **Aird**.

Further information: This spelling of the name is found in England and the USA rather than in Scotland.

Arden

Variants: Ardin, Arding, Harden, Ardern

- **Current frequencies:** GB 905, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 717
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Lincs; Lancs and Cheshire

English: locative name from any of various places called Arden (Warwicks, Cheshire, NR Yorks).

Further information: A family called *Arden* owned the estate of Longcroft near Yoxall (Staffs) from 1569 to the end of the 19th century. They claim descent from Ælfwine, sheriff of Warwicks in the mid-11th century, whose son, Thurkill de Warwick, was also known as Thurkill de Arden.

Ardern

Early bearers: Turkill de Eardene, about 1080 in *Tengvik*; Adam de Arden, 1268 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Ranulph de Ardene, 1318–19 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Thomae Arden, 1547 in *IGI* (Highworth, Wilts); Johes Arden, 1562 in *IGI* (Severn Stoke, Worcs); Arthur Arden, 1564 in *IGI* (Alveley, Shrops); Mary Arden, 1564 in *IGI* (Stratford upon Avon, Warwicks); Agnes Arden, 1565 in *IGI* (Hastings, Sussex).

References: *Place-Names of Warwicks*, pp. 11–12; *Vocabulary of English Place-Names*, at *ardwo-; *Place-Names of NR Yorks*, p. 202; *Ekwall, DEPN*, p. 12.

Ardern

Variants: **Arderne**, **Ardron**, **Hardern**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 518, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 632
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire

English: locative name variant of **Arden**. Arden in Cheshire is recorded as *Arderne* in 1260, and Arden in Warwicks is recorded as *Arderne* in 1200.

Early bearers: William de Arderne, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs); Walkeline de Arderne, 1254–6 in *Hundred Rolls* (Staffs); John de Arderne, 1271 in *Staffs Forest Pleas* (Staffs); Thomas de Arderne, 1301 in *Feet of Fines* (Yorks); John de Ardern', 1368 in *Feet of Fines* (Bucks); William de Arderne, 1372–3 in *Feet of Fines* (Warwicks); William Ardern', 1400 in *Feet of Fines* (Kent).

Arderne

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: see **Ardern**.

Ardiff

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Kildare

Irish: probably an altered anglicized form of *de Carduibh*, see **Cardiff**.

Ardill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 55, Ireland 32
- **GB frequency 1881:** 31
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin; Tipperary and Offaly

Irish: from Mac Árdghail, see **McArdle**.

Ardin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 54, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 45
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: see **Arden**.

Arding

- **Current frequencies:** GB 60, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 84
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Berks and London
- 1 English: see **Harding**.
2 English: see **Arden**.

Ardis

- **Current frequencies:** GB 90, Ireland 92
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 20
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim and Armagh
- Scottish: reduced form of **Allardyce**.

Early bearers: Scotland Andrew Ardes, 1598 in *New Spalding Miscellany* (Aberdeen); John Ardess, messenger, 1603 in *Brechin Register* (Brechin, Angus); George Ardeese, 1640 in *Black* (Kilconquhar, Fife); George Ardes, 1664 in *IGI* (Kinneff and Catterline, Kincardines).

England Robert Ardis, 1853 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs).

References: *Black*, at *Allardyce* and *Ardes*.

Ardizzone

- **Current frequencies:** GB 22, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Italian (Sicilian): from a medieval personal name of Germanic origin, from *Ardizon*, the oblique stem of *Ardizo*, a pet form of any of several personal names formed with the element *ard-* 'hard, tough, bold'. Compare English **Hardy**.

Ardley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 418, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 323
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex

English: locative name from Ardleigh (Essex), Ardeley (Herts), or Ardley (Oxon).

Early bearers: John de Ardeleye, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); John Ardeleigh, 1417 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex).

References: *Place-Names of Essex*, p. 326; *Ekwall, DEPN*, p. 12; *Watts, Dictionary*, p. 17.

Ardren

- **Current frequencies:** GB 34, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 14
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Ardron**.

Ardrey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 103, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 55
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

Scottish: variant of Scottish **Airdrie**.

Ardron

Variants: **Ardren**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 465, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 213
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: metathesized variant of **Ardern**.

Early bearers: William Ardrone, 1543 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); Katherine Ardrone, 1550, Richard Ardrone, 1633, Katherine Ardran, 1636 in *IGI* (Rotherham, WR Yorks); Jana Ardrone, 1576 in *IGI* (Eccles, Lancs); John Ardrone, 1592, John Ardrone, 1610 in *IGI* (Prestbury, Cheshire); Elizabeth Ardrone, 1592 in *IGI* (Stainby, Lincs); Roger Ardrone, 1599 in *IGI* (Thorpe Salvin, WR Yorks); Willm Ardran, 1611, Anne Ardrone, 1614 in *IGI* (Wragby, WR Yorks).

Arey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 41, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 61
- **Main GB location 1881:** York

English: see **Airey**.

Arfan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 213, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim: relationship name from an Arabic personal name based on *'arfān* 'gratitude'.

Argall

- **Current frequencies:** GB 46, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 93

- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall

Cornish: locative name from Argal in Budock (Cornwall).

Further information: Thomas Argall (d. 1563), administrator, born in Lambeth (Surrey), John Argall (d. 1606), clergyman, born in London, and Sir Samuel Argall (d. 1626), colonial governor, baptized in East Peckham (Kent), were all of Cornish ancestry (*DNB*).

Early bearers: John Argall, 1493–1500 in *TNA* (Cornwall); Ermine Argall, 1521 in *PROB 11* (Lambeth, Surrey); John Argall, 1522 in *Cornwall Military Survey* (Helston, Cornwall); Florence Orgall, 1552 in *IGI* (Camborne, Cornwall); Thomas Argall, 1578 in *IGI* (Madron, Cornwall); Richard Argall, 1589 in *PROB 11* (East Sutton, Kent).

References: *Cornish Place-Name Elements*, p. 11.

Information from Ian H. A. Argall (Guild of One-Name Studies).

Argent

Variants: **Largent**, **Agent**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1803, Ireland 9
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1418
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex and Suffolk

English: nickname from Old French *argent* 'silver', probably denoting someone with silvery-white hair.

Early bearers: Geoffrey Argent, 1180 in *Pipe Rolls* (Northants); Robertus Argent, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Norfolk); Edye Argent, 1589 in *IGI* (Little Yeldham, Essex).

Argill

- **GB frequency 1881:** 29
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Notts, Derbys, and Leics
- English: see **Argyle**.

Argles

Variants: **Arkless**, **Arculus**, **Hercules**, **Orgles**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 92, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 51
- **Main GB location 1881:** SE England

English: nickname from Middle English *orguillous*, *erguleis*, Old French *orgoillos*, *orguilleus*, *ergoillose* 'proud, arrogant' (in manner or dress). Post-medieval *Arg(i)les* is regularly developed from Middle English *erguleys* and was probably interchangeable with *Orgles* from *orguillous*.

Compare **Orgill** and **Argyle**.

Early bearers: Johannes Erguleys, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); Alse Orgles, 1575 in *IGI* (Warbleton, Sussex); Isbell Argles, 1591 in *IGI* (Mareham on the Hill, Lincs); Godle Argles, 1598 in *IGI* (Tonbridge, Kent); Alice Argiles, 1693 in *IGI* (Ticehurst, Sussex); Fanny Argles, 1738 in *IGI* (Aylesbury, Bucks).

Argo

- **Current frequencies:** GB 184, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 154
- **Main GB location 1881:** Aberdeens

Scottish: unexplained.

Early bearers: David Ergo, 1612 in *Black* (Creichie, Aberdeens); Willeame Ergo, 1631 in *IGI* (Belhelvie, Aberdeens); Jannett Ergoe, 1650 in *IGI* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens); Isobell Argoe, 1703 in *IGI* (Edinburgh,

Midlothian); Jas. Eggo, 1787 in *IGI* (Glenmuick, Aberdeens).

Argue

- **Current frequencies:** GB 98, Ireland 17
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 14
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cavan
- Irish: from Mac Giolla Fhearga, see **McIlhargey**.
Early bearers: Henry Argue, 1796 in *Flaxgrowers Ireland* (Carrigallen, Leitrim); Francis Argue, 1796 in *Flaxgrowers Ireland* (St Mary's, Fermanagh).

Argyle

Variants: **Argill**, **Arkle**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 832, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 501
- **Main GB location 1881:** N Midlands: esp. Leics

1 English: nickname from Middle English **erguil(e)*, a variant of Middle English *orguil(e)*, Old French *orguel* 'pride, arrogance', hence the variation of *Argill* and *Argile* with **Orgill**. For the change in the initial vowel see **Argles**.
Early bearers: Thomas Argill, 1541 in *IGI* (Ruardean, Gloucs); Joane Argell, 1571 in *IGI* (Longford, Derbys); Alice Hargill, 1582, Sarah Hargill, 1662, Stephen Argill, 1760 in *IGI* (Leeds, WR Yorks); John Argill, 1604 in *IGI* (Baston, Lincs); Janam Argile, 1632 in *IGI* (Leicester, Leics); Richard Orgill, 1637, Thomas Argyle, 1668 in *IGI* (Duffield, Derbys); Mary Argill, 1655, Elizabeth Orgall, 1678, Henry Orgill, 1683, in *IGI* (Breedon on the Hill, Leics); Ralph Argill, 1666, Hanah Orgill, 1681 in *IGI* (Ashby de la Zouch, Leics); Richard Argile, 1661 in *IGI* (Duffield, Derbys); Samuel Orgill, 1669, Henry Argyle, 1688 in *IGI* (Stapenhill, Derbys); Eliz. Arguile, 1738 in *IGI* (Barwell, Leics).
 2 English: alternatively, perhaps, a variant of **Arkell**, with voicing of *k* to *g*. Compare **Arkless**.
Further information: No evidence has been found to support the idea that this is a locative surname from Argyll, the county of southwestern Scotland, though folk etymology to this effect may be partly responsible for the modern spelling of the surname.

Argyrou

- **Current frequencies:** GB 108, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Greek (typically Cypriot): relationship name from an old genitive case of the Greek personal name *Argyros*, from a word meaning 'silver'.

Arias

- **Current frequencies:** GB 176, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 5
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- Spanish, Jewish (Sephardic): relationship name from the personal name *Arias*, which was popular in medieval Spain and was also adopted as a Sephardic Jewish name. It is of uncertain, perhaps Germanic, origin. It was brought to London in the 17th century, and has been re-imported many times since.
Early bearers: Diego Rodrigues Arias, 1651 in *Hyamson, Sephardim of England*; John Arias, 1678 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Joab Arias, 1688 in *IGI* (Covent Garden, Middx); Aaron Arias, 1709 in *Bevis Marks Records* (London); Francisco Arias, born in Spain, in *Census 1861* (Westminster, Middx); Antonio Arias, born in Middx, in *Census 1881* (Brighton, Sussex); Anselm Arias, tailor, born in Spain, in *Census 1881*

(Liverpool, Lancs); Harmodio Arias, born in Panama, in *Census 1911* (Saint Giles, Middx).
References: Hyamson, Albert M. (1951), *The Sephardim of England: a history of the Spanish and Portuguese Jewish community, 1492–1951*, Methuen.

Aries

- **Current frequencies:** GB 219, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 88
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon; London
- English: see **Aris**.

Arif

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2820, Ireland 14
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Arabic, Muslim: from a personal name based on the Arabic adjective *ʿarif* 'learned'; alternatively from Arabic *ʿarif*, from the same root and of similar meaning.

Aris

Variants: **Ariss**, **Arris**, **Aries**, **Arras**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 779, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 407
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread

1 Norman, English: locative name from Arras (France).
Early bearers: Simon de Araz, 1202 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); Robert de Arras, 1281 in *London Letter Books A*; Joshua Aris, 1598 in *IGI* (Woburn, Beds); Robert Aris, 1619 in *IGI* (Fletton, Hunts); Phillip Aris, 1621 in *IGI* (Stow on the Wold, Gloucs); William Aris, 1621 in *IGI* (Bolton, Cumb); Nicolas Aris, 1628 in *IGI* (Water Stratford, Bucks).
References: *Noms de Lieux de la France*, p. 80; *Continental Celtic Place-Names*, p. 60.
 2 English: locative name from Arras (ER Yorks).
Early bearers: Hugo de Erghes, 1347 in *York Freeman's Register*; John Aras, 1421 in *York Freeman's Register*.
References: *Place-Names of ER Yorks*, pp. 169–70, 230; *Vocabulary of English Place-Names*, at **dergi*.

Ariss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 251, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 175
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon and Warwicks
- English: see **Aris**.

Arjan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 123, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (Gujarat): Hindu (Lohana), from Sanskrit *arjuna* 'white'.
Further information: This is also the name of an Indian legendary hero from the epic Mahabharata.

Arkcoll

- **GB frequency 1881:** 34
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs; Lancs
- English: see **Arkell**.

Arkell

Variants: **Arkill**, **Arkle**, **Arkecoll**, **Ackrill**, **Argyle**, **Harkell**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 847, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 635
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

1 Norman, English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Arkill*, *Arketil*, itself

from Old Scandinavian *Arnketil*, *Arkil*, composed of the elements *arn-*, the inflected stem of *qrn* 'eagle', + *ketill* 'kettle, cauldron'. The 11th- and 12th-century forms in *Arch-* show the Anglo-Norman French convention of spelling /k/ as *-ch-*. *Arkill* is mostly recorded in the old Danelaw counties of eastern and northern England, and the surname has probably survived there in the Lincs name *Ackrill*, where the *r* has been metathesized. The prevalence of the surname *Arkell* in Gloucs is therefore unexpected, but a man called *Archetel* held land of the king in Herefordshire and Shropshire before 1066, and as the name was also used in Normandy there could have been Normans with this name in post-Conquest Gloucs. *Arkayl* (1327), the earliest surname form there, seems to show a rare reduction of *-ketil* to *-keil* instead of the more usual *-kel*.

Early bearers: given names: Arnketel, 1019 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Norfolk); Archetel, Archel, Archil, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Cheshire, Herefs, Leics, Shrops, Suffolk, Warwicks, Yorks); Archil de Corebr', 1159 in *Pipe Rolls* (Northumb).
 surnames: Robertus filius Arkell', 1218–19 in *Pleas* (Yorks); Richard Arkill, 1256 in *Assize Rolls* (Northumb); Roger Arketyl, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Hunts); William Harkill, Arkel, 1316, 1331 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (Yorks); Agnes Arkayl, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Twynning, Gloucs); John and Thomas Arkell of Twenynng, 1346 in *Patent Rolls* (Twynning, Gloucs); Joh'e Arkell, 1375 in *Mansfield Rentals* (Notts); Willelmo Harkul, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Normanton Turville, Leics); Johannes Arkel, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Twynning, Gloucs); John Arcle, 1455 in *York Freeman's Register*; Robert Arkell, 1624, John Arkell, 1738 in *IGI* (Gloucester, Gloucs); John Arkwell, 1729 in *IGI* (Miserden, Gloucs).

2 English: locative name an alternative source for the post-medieval name in Gloucs is High Ercall or Child's Ercall (Shrops), pronounced *Arcall*, and recorded as *Arkelawe*, 1200, *Erkehale*, 1255–6, *Arkall'*, 1390, *Arroll*, 1535, *Archaul*, about 1540, *Archall*, 1703 in *Place-Names of Shrops*. In spellings like *Archall* and *Archill* it is uncertain whether *-ch-* represents /tʃ/, as in the word *archer*, or /kh/, as implied in the place-name spelling *Erkehale* and the surname spelling *Arkhill*. Some of the following post-medieval bearers may otherwise belong with (1).

Early bearers: Willelmus de Arkelawe, Anora de Ercalewe, 1256 in *Shrops Eyre Roll* (Shrops); Simon de Ercalewe, 1306 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Shrewsbury, Shrops); Daniell Archoll, 1608 in *IGI* (Horsley, Gloucs); Mary Archill, 1611, Thomas Arkill, 1627 in *IGI* (Sherborne, Gloucs); Elizabeth Archill, 1646 in *IGI* (Bridgnorth, Shrops); John Arcle, 1687, Mary Archill, 1697, Thomas Arkhill, 1706, John Arkill, 1760 in *IGI* (Northleach, Gloucs); Thomas Archol, 1751, Hannah Arkil, 1754 in *IGI* (Ampney Saint Mary, Gloucs).
References: *Place-Names of Shrops* 1, pp. 124–7.
 3 English: see **Arkle**.

Arkill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 19, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 40
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs; London
- English: see **Arkell**.

Arkins

- **Current frequencies:** GB 32, Ireland 29
- **GB frequency 1881:** 8

- Main GB location 1881: WR Yorks
 - Main Irish location 1847–64: scattered
- Irish: from Ó hEarcáin, see **Harkin**.

Arkinstall

- Current frequencies: GB 211, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 271
 - Main GB location 1881: Staffs and Shrops
- English: see **Artingstall**.

Arklay

- Current frequencies: GB 17, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 27
 - Main GB location 1881: Angus
- Scottish: see **Arkley**.

Arkle

Variants: **Arkell**

- Current frequencies: GB 564, Ireland 3
 - GB frequency 1881: 406
 - Main GB location 1881: Northumb
- English: (i) see **Arkell**. (ii) see **Argyle**. (iii) see **Arkley**.
Early bearers: Eliz. Arkle, 1548, Isabell Hargill, 1606, Henry Argill, 1621 in *IGI* (Howden, ER Yorks); Allezon Arkle, 1575, Edward Arkle, 1686 in *IGI* (South Cave, ER Yorks); Barbara Arkle, 1600 in *IGI* (Brancepeth, Durham); Also Arkle, 1609, Robert Arkle, 1715 in *IGI* (Tynemouth, Northumb); Robert Arkle, 1624 in *IGI* (Earsdon, Northumb); Wm. Ayrkle, 1645 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Hugh Arkle, 1644 in *IGI* (Gateshead, Durham); John Argell, 1728, Ann Arkell, 1776 in *IGI* (Chester le Street, Durham); William Arkeld, 1735, William Arkle, 1812 in *IGI* (Bywell Saint Peter, Northumb); Peter Argyle, 1793 in *IGI* (Longbenton, Northumb).

Arkless

- Current frequencies: GB 370, Ireland 1
 - GB frequency 1881: 283
 - Main GB location 1881: Durham, Northumb
- English: (i) perhaps a variant of **Argles** with unvoicing of the /g/ to /k/. (ii) alternatively a variant of **Arkley**, either with post-medieval excrescent -s or with -les(s) substituted for -ley on the analogy of **Topliss** for **Topliff**, alias **Topley**. Also compare **Ackley**, with which **Arkley** was confused.
Further information: The name has nothing to do with the personal name *Hercules* (see **Hercules**).
Early bearers: Issabel Arcles, 1594 in *IGI* (Earsdon, Northumb); Edward Arkelas, 1687, Isabel Arcles, 1748, Edward Arkless, 1865 in *IGI* (Whickham, Durham); Martin Arklass, 1750 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb).

Arkley

Variants: **Arklay**, **Arkle**, **Arkless**, **Ackley**

- Current frequencies: GB 606, Ireland 1
 - GB frequency 1881: 316
 - Main GB location 1881: Northumb and Durham;
- also Angus

N English: of uncertain origin. In Northumb and Durham (for example in Earsdon, Bywell, Newcastle, Gateshead), *Arkley* coincides with **Arkle**. The two names may have been confused or perhaps one is an altered form of the other.
Further information: theoretically it might be a locative name from Arclid (Cheshire), once recorded as

Arkley, 1690 in *Place-Names of Cheshire*, I, 265. The surname is not from Arkley (Herts), which is a parish of late 19th-century creation, the name being derived from a field name in High Barnet. If it is locative in origin, it is more likely to be from an unidentified place-name in NE England or E Scotland.

Early bearers: England Isabella Arkley, 1586 in *IGI* (Norton, Durham); Robert Arkley, 1603, William Arklay, 1737, Thomas Arkley, 1812 in *IGI* (Houghton le Spring, Durham); Alice Arcklay, 1638 in *IGI* (Gateshead, Durham); Margret Arkley, 1664 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Margaret Akly, 1697, daughter of Gawen Akly, 1697, Robert Arkley, son of Gawin Arkley, 1702 in *IGI* (Pittington, Durham); Thomas Arkley, 1713 in *IGI* (Earsdon, Northumb); Jane Arkley, 1818 in *IGI* (Bywell Saint Peter, Northumb).
 Scotland John Arklay, 1580 in *IGI* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens); James Arclay, burgess, 1595 in *New Spalding Miscellany* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens); Thomas Arclay, 1681 in *IGI* (Dundee, Angus); Andrew Arklay, 1686 in *IGI* (Lundie and Fowlis, Angus); William Arkley, 1688 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Isabel Arklie, 1748 in *IGI* (Leith, Midlothian).

Arksey

- Current frequencies: GB 170, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 75
 - Main GB location 1881: ER Yorks
- English: locative name from Arksey (WR Yorks).
Early bearers: Walter de Archeseia 1154–89 *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Walter de Arkesay, 1297 in *Assize Rolls* (Northumb); Adam de Arkesay, 1383 in *York Freeman's Register*; Catherina Arksey, 1563 in *IGI* (Howden, ER Yorks); Thomae Arksey, 1566 in *IGI* (Howden, ER Yorks); Thomas Arksey, 1877 in *IGI* (Great Heaton, Lancs); William Arksey, 1897 in *IGI* (Swinton, WR Yorks); Ada Blanche Arksey, 1898 in *IGI* (Shoreditch, Middx).
References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 1, p. 24; *Ekwall*, *DEPN*, p. 12; *Watts, Dictionary*, p. 17; *Landscape of Place-Names*, p. 43.

Arkwright

Variants: **Hartwright**, **Hartrick**, **Hatrick**, **Hatrick**

- Current frequencies: GB 654, Ireland 4
 - GB frequency 1881: 703
 - Main GB location 1881: Lancs and Westm
- English: occupational name from Middle English *ark wright* 'maker of chests, boxes, etc.' (Old English *arc* 'chest' + *wyrhta* 'wright, joiner').
Early bearers: Gilbert de [sic] Arkewright, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); John de [sic] Arcwryt, 1216–72 in *Derbys Charters*; Thomas the Arkewrytte, 1286 in *Assize Rolls* (Cheshire); George Arkewright, 1450 in *York Freeman's Register*; William Hartwright, 1494 in *York Guild Register*; George Arthwright, 1582 in *Preston Guild Rolls*; Thomas Artwright, 1649, Alice Arthricke, 1670, Christopher Arkrick, 1673 in *Lancs Wills*.

Arlet

- GB frequency 1881: 22
 - Main GB location 1881: Surrey
- English: see **Arlett**.

Arlett

Variants: **Arlet**, **Yarlett**, **Arlott**

- Current frequencies: GB 135, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 187
 - Main GB location 1881: Surrey and Middx
- 1 English: locative name from Middle English *alrett*, *elrett*, 'alder grove', a derivative of Old English *alor* 'alder'. *Arlette* and *erlette* show metathesis of *r* and *l*, and *Aldratte* has a consonant glide -d- between *l* and *r*. See also **Naldrett**.
Early bearers: Philip atte Arlette, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Robert atte Aldratte, 1327, John atte Alrette, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Jane Arlett, 1582 in *IGI* (Sidlesham). Thomas Arlet, 1566 in *IGI* (Thatcham, Berks); John Arlat, 1598 in *IGI* (Andover, Hants).
References: *Vocabulary of English Place-Names*, at *alret; *Löfvenberg*, pp. 1–2.
 2 English: see **Arlott**.

Arley

- GB frequency 1881: 12
 - Main GB location 1881: scattered
- 1 English: locative name from any of three places called Arley (Cheshire, Lancs, Worcs), or Areley Kings (Worcs).
Early bearers: William de Arle, 1275, Thomas de Arleye, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Mary Arley, 1643 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs).
References: *Place-Names of Warwicks*, pp. 123–4; *Place-Names of Worcs*, pp. 29–30; *Place-Names of Cheshire* 2, pp. 101–2.
 2 English: locative name from Arley (Staffs), recorded as *Erlide* in 1221.
Early bearers: Thomas de Erlyde, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); Ricardo de Arleye, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Pipe Green with members, Staffs); Joseph Arley, 1781 in *IGI* (Pattingham, Staffs).
References: *Lancs Place-Names*, pp. 45, 74.

Arlidge

- Current frequencies: GB 91, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 123
 - Main GB location 1881: Middx; Warwicks and Northants
- English: variant of **Aldridge**.
Early bearers: Johanna Arledge, 1590 in *IGI* (Harbury, Warwicks); William Arlidge, 1620 in *IGI* (Thorpe Mandeville, Northants); Thomas Arledge, 1745, John Alldrige, 1757 in *IGI* (Kenilworth, Warwicks); William Arlidge, 1791, John Aldrige, 1819 in *IGI* (Crick, Northants).

Arling

- Current frequencies: GB 36, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 9
 - Main GB location 1881: Cambs
- 1 English: see **Harling**.
 2 Norman, English: see **Harlin** (2) and **Urlwin**.

Arlington

- Current frequencies: GB 76, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 73
 - Main GB location 1881: Sussex; Middx; Lancs
- English: locative name from any of three places called Arlington (Sussex, Gloucs, Devon), or possibly Harlington in WR Yorks.
Further information: Two other places named Arlington, in Gloucs and Devon, are suggested as possible sources of the surname by Wilson (*Reaney and*

Wilson), but in each case the place-name has undergone relatively late metathesis of *Alr-* to *Arl-*, and no evidence has been found to connect either of them with any medieval surname forms. Arlington in Bibury (Gloucs) is recorded as *Ælfredincgtune* in 1004, *Alfrinton* in 1296, *Alrington* in the 14th century, and *Arlington* in 1584, while Arlington (Devon) is recorded as *Alferdintona* in 1086, *Alfrintone* in 1258–62, *Alrington* in 1284, and *Arlyngton* in 1550.

Early bearers: Aelic' de Erlynton, 1296, John de Erlington, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Middleton half hundred, Sussex); Thomas de Herlyngton', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Barnburgh, WR Yorks); Richard Arlington, 1565 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Henrie Arlington, 1621 in *IGI* (Snaith, WR Yorks).

References: *Place-Names of Sussex*, p. 408; *Place-Names of Gloucs* 1, p. 27; *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 56.

Arliiss

Variants: Losh

- **Current frequencies:** GB 138, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 117
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: locative name from Newton Arlosh in Holme East Waver (Cumb), which is *Arlosk* in 1185, *Arlossh* in 1379. In Cumb a shortened form, with loss of the first syllable, developed as **Losh** and supplanted the full form: thus John Arlosh alias Losh, 1636 in *Carlisle Wills* (ed. Dench). However, the full form survived farther afield, being well recorded in the 16th century in Yorks and Lincs.

Further information: Reaney explains Arliiss as a nickname from Old English *ĕare* + *lēas* 'ear-less', citing Henry Earles, 1295 in *Barnwell Memorandum Book* (Cambs), but the evident development of *Arliiss* from an earlier *Arlish*, in turn from *Arlush*, precludes such an explanation.

Early bearers: John de Arlosk, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wigton, Cumb); William de Arlossche, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Newton Reigny, Cumb); Robert de Arlosshe, 1418 in *Patent Rolls* (Arthuret, Cumb); Elizabetha Arelush, 1550, Nicholaus Airlushe, Xpoferus Airelush, 1553, Thoms. Arlush, 1555 in *IGI* (Howden, ER Yorks); Richdus. Arlushe, 1566 in *IGI* (Whitgift, WR Yorks); Isabell Arlish, 1577 in *IGI* (North Thorseby, Lincs); Laurence Arlishe, 1585 in *IGI* (North Cotes, Lincs); John Arlis, 1593 in *IGI* (Fotherby, Lincs); Willm Arlishe, 1594, Thomas Arlish, 1614, Frances Arlush, 1643 in *IGI* (Laceby, Lincs); Richard Arlushe, 1607 in *IGI* (Crowle, Lincs); Willim Arlishe, 1607 in *IGI* (Thoresway, Lincs); Alice Arlush, 1638 in *IGI* (Snaith, WR Yorks).

References: *Place-Names of Cumb*, p. 291.

Arlott

Variants: Arlotte, Arlett

- **Current frequencies:** GB 185, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 107
- **Main GB location 1881:** Berks and Hants

1 English: (i) nickname from Old French *herlot*, *harlot*, *arlot* 'rascal, scoundrel, vagrant', hence Middle English *harlot*, *harlet*, *herlot* 'vagabond, beggar, idle rogue'. It was used by Chaucer both as a term of derision ('ye false harlot') and also ironically for a good fellow ('he was a gentil harlot and a kynde'). In the 14th century it came to denote also an itinerant jester, buffoon, or juggler, also a male servant, attendant, or menial. The sense 'female prostitute' is not recorded before the 15th century, so Muriel Arlot and Matilda le Harlot probably bear

their husbands' surnames. (ii) relationship name possibly from the Old French personal name *Arlot*, a pet form of *Arlaud*, a French version of the Continental Germanic personal name *Arwald* (of which the second element is **wald-* 'rule'). However, there is no certain evidence that this personal name was ever used in medieval England.

Early bearers: Alexander Arhlot, 12th cent., Ricardus Arlot, 1155–85 in *Durham Liber Vitae*; Geoffrey Herlot, 1193 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Ralph le Harlot, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Johannes Harlot, 1250 in *Book of Fees*; Adam Herlot, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls*; John le Harlet, 1276, Muriel Arlot, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Bernard Herlot, 1293 in *London Letter Books A*; Matilda le Harlot, 1292, Laurence Harlot, 1304 in *Patent Rolls*; Johannes Harlot, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Iwerne Courtney, Dorset); Robert Harlott, 1586 in *Parish Registers* (Goudhurst, Kent); Joan Arlot, 1612 in *Parish Registers* (Saint Mary Bourne, Hants).
2 English: see **Arlett**.

Arlotte

- **Current frequencies:** GB 62, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middlesex; Gloucs

English: see **Arlott**.

Arlow

- **Current frequencies:** GB 192, Ireland 57
- **GB frequency 1881:** 62
- **Main GB location 1881:** Glasgow; Pembrokes
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down

English, Irish: see **Harlow**.

Arm

- **Current frequencies:** GB 60, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 53
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and Warwicks; Hants
- English: see **Harm**.

Armah

- **Current frequencies:** GB 198, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2

Ghanaian: unexplained, of Akan origin. The *-h* after final *-a* in names like this is a characteristic anglicization.

Arman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 178, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 141
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts

Norman, English: see **Harman**.

Armatage

- **Current frequencies:** GB 104, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 220
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Armitage**.

Armatys

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: see **Armitage**.

Early bearers: Lucy Anna Armatys, 1862 in *IGI* (Tamworth, Staffs).

Arme

- **Current frequencies:** GB 86, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 30
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts; W Midlands

English: see **Harm**.

Armer

Variants: **Armor**, **Larmour**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 693, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 371
- **Main GB location 1881:** Westm and Lancs

English: see **Armour**.

Armes

Variants: **Arms**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 858, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 453
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: possibly a variant of **Harm**, with post-medieval excrescent *-s* and loss of initial *H-*.

Armett

- **Current frequencies:** GB 77, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 77
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: see **Armitt**.

Armfield

Variants: **Arnfield**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 261, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 412
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire

English: locative name from Arnfield in Tintwistle (Cheshire; now Derbys), with assimilation of [n] to the following labial [f] (cf. *Armfield* for the place in 1717). This is an unusual case because the 14th-century place-name itself contains an earlier surname *Arneway*, recorded in Chester in the 13th century.

Early bearers: Tho. Armfield, 1623 in *IGI* (Sheffield, WR Yorks); Thomas Arnfeld, 1656 in *IGI* (Glossop, Derbys); George Armfield, 1673 in *IGI* (Chelmsorton, Derbys); Hannah Arnfield, 1692 in *IGI* (Chelmsorton, Derbys); Ann Armfield, 1697 in *IGI* (Oldham, Lancs); Robt. Arnfield, 1705 in *IGI* (Prestbury, Cheshire).

References: *Place-Names of Cheshire* 1, p. 321.

Armiger

Variants: **Arminger**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 366
- **GB frequency 1881:** 78
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: variant of **Ironmonger**, Middle English *ernmonger* becoming *Armi(n)ger*.

Early bearers: John Arminger, 1633, Phillupp Armiger, 1643 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Thomas Arminger, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk).

Armin

Variants: **Ermen**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 142, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 62
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham and NR Yorks

1 Norman, English: relationship name from *Ermin*, a pet form of any of several Norman names in *Ermen-*, *Ermin-*, which derive from Continental Germanic **erman-* 'powerful', for example *Ermenald*, *Ermingaud*. Some of the early bearers below may belong at 2.

Early bearers: given names: Ermyn Donetoun, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cambs).

surnames: Hervicus Ermin, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); Thomas Armyn, 1481 in *York Freemen's Register*; Jaine Armin, 1574 in *IGI* (Leake, NR Yorks).
2 English: locative name from Airmyn (WR Yorks).

Early bearers: Ricardus de Ayrmyn, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Glass Houghton, WR Yorks); Willelmo de Ayremyn, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Howden, ER Yorks); Richard Armin, 1708 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Johannis Armin, 1719 in *IGI* (Almondbury, WR Yorks); Thomas Armin, 1737 in *IGI* (Beverley, ER Yorks); Judith Armin, 1770 in *IGI* (Wells next the Sea, Norfolk).

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 2, p. 13; 7, pp. 118–20; *Watts, Dictionary*, p. 5.

Arminger

- GB frequency 1881:** 30
- English: see **Armiger**.

Arminson

- GB frequency 1881:** 38
- Main GB location 1881:** Yorks
- English: see **Armson**.

Armishaw

Variants: **Armshaw**, **Halmshaw**

- Current frequencies:** GB 231, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 133
- Main GB location 1881:** Staffs

English: (i) locative name, origin uncertain; perhaps from a lost place-name in Staffs, recorded as *Ametsawe*, 1275 in *Trentham Chartulary*. (ii) locative name, alternatively perhaps from a lost place in Cheshire; see **Ormesher**.

Early bearers: Thomas Armishaw, 1616 in *IGI* (Ellastone, Staffs); Thomas Armishew, 1653 in *IGI* (Lymm, Cheshire); John Armshaw, 1697 in *IGI* (Tamworth, Staffs).

References: *Tooth* 1, pp. 40–1; *Staffs Place-Names*, p. 85.

Armison

- GB frequency 1881:** 53
- Main GB location 1881:** N England
- English: see **Armson**.

Armistead

Variants: **Armstead**, **Armitstead**

- Current frequencies:** GB 437, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 558
- Main GB location 1881:** NW England and SW Scotland

English: locative name from Armistead, a farmstead in Giggleswick (WR Yorks), named with Middle English *ermite* ‘hermit’ + *stede* ‘place’, or from some other minor place similarly named.

Early bearers: Laurence del Armetsted, 1379 in *Yorks Poll Tax*; William Armistead, 1642 in *Preston Guild Rolls*.

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 6, p. 144.

Armit

- Current frequencies:** GB 489, Ireland 8
- GB frequency 1881:** 245
- Main GB location 1881:** Fife, Lanarks
- Scottish: see **Armitt**.

Armitage

Variants: **Armytage**, **Armatage**, **Armatys**

- Current frequencies:** GB 7962, Ireland 201
- GB frequency 1881:** 7620
- Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- Main Irish location 1847–64:** Tipperary; also Offaly

English: locative name see **Hermitage**. The WR Yorks name is from a hermitage in South Crosland, close to Armitage Bridge (WR Yorks). *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames* notes that the hermitage was built on land granted in a 13th-century charter to the Knights Templar, and that the first known bearer of the surname was Adam del Hermitage of Crosland (1340).

Early bearers: John de Armitage, 1423 in *Sheffield Jackson Catalogue* (Yorks); William Armitage, 1543 in *IGI* (Aberford, WR Yorks); Johanis Armytage, 1554 in *IGI* (Kirkburton, WR Yorks); Johna Armitage, 1574 in *IGI* (Chesterfield, Derbys); Hugh Armitage, 1580 in *IGI* (Manchester, Lancs).

Armitstead

- Current frequencies:** GB 199, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 132
- Main GB location 1881:** Westm
- English: see **Armistead**.

Armitt

Variants: **Armit**, **Armett**

- Current frequencies:** GB 711, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 294
- Main GB location 1881:** Lancs, Cheshire, Staffs, Warwicks

English, Scottish: nickname from Middle English (*h*)*ermite* ‘hermit’, Old French (*h*)*ermite*.

Early bearers: England William lermite, 1196 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); William le Heremit, 1208 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Yorks); Andrew Ermitte, 1255 in *Ramsey Abbey Court Rolls* (Hunts); Hugh Hermyt, priest, 1363 in *Patent Rolls* (Westminster, Middx); Ricardus Hermet, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Holme upon Spalding Moor, ER Yorks); William Hermyte, chaplain, 1384 in *Feet of Fines*; Thomas Harmyt, 1526 in *Rochester Wills*; John Harmet, 1549 in *York Guild Register*; Christopher Armet, 1575 in *IGI* (Dacre, Cumb); Robert Armett, 1591 in *IGI* (Flamborough, ER Yorks); Jacobi Armitt, 1592 in *IGI* (Swinstead, Lincs); John Armit, 1593 in *IGI* (Howden, ER Yorks); Jane Armet, 1600 in *IGI* (Macclesfield, Cheshire).

Scotland John Armit, 1669 in *IGI* (Kilconquhar, Fife); Helin Armet, 1670, James Armitt, 1690 in *IGI* (Saint Andrews and Saint Leonards, Fife); John Armett, 1711 in *IGI* (Ceres, Fife).

Armon

- Current frequencies:** GB 67, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 52
- Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Suffolk; Hunts
- English: see **Armond**.

Further information: This surname is found in Germany and the USA as a Huguenot name.

Armond

Variants: **Armon**

- Current frequencies:** GB 70, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 37
- Main GB location 1881:** Beds

English: relationship name possibly a respelling of French **Armand**, from the personal name *Arman(d)* or *Harman(d)*, which is of Continental Germanic origin, composed of the elements *hard-* ‘bold, hardy’ + *man* ‘man’, with excrescent *-d*.

Early bearers: John Armon, 1562 in *IGI* (Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk); Elizabeth Armond, 1577 in *IGI* (Dacre, Cumb); Gregorie Armond, 1603 in *IGI* (Stoke

By Nayland, Suffolk); Gabriel Armond, 1615 in *IGI* (Wootton Bassett, Wilts); Robert Armon, 1639 in *IGI* (Ipswich, Suffolk, Suffolk); Thomas Armon, 1671 in *IGI* (Wootton Bassett, Wilts); Mary Armond, 1805 in *IGI* (Potton, Beds); Richard Armon, 1811 in *IGI* (Chisledon, Wilts).

Armor

- Current frequencies:** GB 56, Ireland 1
- GB frequency 1881:** 43
- Main GB location 1881:** N Wales; Essex
- English: see **Armer**.

Armour

Variants: **Armor**, **Larmour**, **Larmer**, **Larmor**, **Armer**

- Current frequencies:** GB 2106, Ireland 289
- GB frequency 1881:** 1846
- Main GB location 1881:** SW Scotland
- Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim; also Down
- Norman, Scottish, English: occupational name from Anglo-Norman French *armurer*, Old French *armurier* ‘armourer, maker of arms’.

Early bearers: England Gwydo le Armerer, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); Simon Larmourer, 1334 in *London Letter Books E*; Henrico Armorer, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Kent); Laurencius Armerer, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Surrey); William Armorer, 1414 in *Feet of Fines* (Gilston, Herts).

Scotland Simon le Armurer, 1305 in *Scotland Calendar* (Stirling, Stirlings); Symon Armour, bailie, 1329 in *Scotland Calendar* (Peebles); Symon Armourer, bailie, 1361 in *Scotland Calendar* (Forfar, Angus); Robert Armorer, bailie, 1490 in *Glasgow Register* (Lanark, Lanarks); John Ermar, burgess, 1506 in *Dunkeld Rentale* (Perth, Perths); Marion Earmour, 1661 in *Lanark Testaments* (Douglas, Lanarks).

Arms

- Current frequencies:** GB 273, Ireland 1
- GB frequency 1881:** 94
- Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Armes**.

Armsby

- Current frequencies:** GB 180, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 83
- Main GB location 1881:** E Anglia; London

English: possibly a variant of **Ormsby**, with unrounding of the initial vowel.

Early bearers: Thomas Armsby, 1611 in *IGI* (Gedney, Lincs); Joanna Armsby, 1674 in *IGI* (Morton by Bourne, Lincs).

Armsden

Variants: **Armston**

- Current frequencies:** GB 119, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 12
- Main GB location 1881:** Beds

English: locative name from Armston in Polebrook (Northants).

Early bearers: Henrie Armston, 1559 in *IGI* (Thornton, Leics); Anne Armstone, 1564 in *IGI* (Thornton, Leics); John Armestone or Armeston, 1617 in *PROB 11* (London); Sarah Armsden, 1677 in *IGI* (Salford, Beds); John Armsdun, 1685 in *IGI* (Totternhoe, Beds); Edward Armsdon, 1754 in *IGI* (Wavendon, Bucks).

References: *Place-Names of Northants*, p. 209; *Ekwall, DEPN*, p. 13.

Armshaw

- **Current frequencies:** GB 50, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 40
 - **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands; WR Yorks
- English: see **Armishaw**.

Armson

Variants: **Armison**, **Arminson**, **Harmison**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 422, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 270
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Midlands and Lancs
- English: relationship name from the male personal name **Armin** + *-son*.
- Early bearers:** Robert Armison, 1669 in *York Freeman's Register*; Mary Armson, 1749 in *Bardsley*.

Armstead

- **Current frequencies:** GB 384, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 470
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and WR Yorks
- English: see **Armistead**.

Armston

- **Current frequencies:** GB 77, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 54
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Leics
- English: see **Armsden**.

Armstong

- **Current frequencies:** GB 50, Ireland 9
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 40
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Armstrong**.

Armstrong

Variants: **Armstong**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 36441, Ireland 5088
- **GB frequency 1881:** 22705
- **Main GB location 1881:** N England and S Scotland
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Ulster: esp. Fermanagh

1 Scottish, English: nickname from Middle English *arm* + *strang*, i.e. ‘strong in the arm’.

Early bearers: Adam Arm(e)strang, 1250 in *Scotland Calendar* (Cumb); William Arm(e)strang, 1279 in *Assize Rolls* (Northumb); John Armestraunge, 1341 in *Lincs Royal Inquest* (Lincs); Alexander Armystrang, 1398 in *Scotland Calendar* (Gretna, Dumfriess); Elizabeth Armstrong, 1560 in *IGI* (Saint Dionis Backchurch, London); Robert Armstrong, 1576 in *IGI* (Jarrow, Durham); Jeane Armstrong, 1616 in *IGI* (Kelso, Roxburghs).

2 Irish: in Ulster, this name has also been adopted for Irish *Ó Labhradha Tréan* ‘strong O’Lavery’ (see **Lavery**) and *Mac Thréinfhir* ‘son of the strong man’ (see **Traynor**).

Armsworth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 77, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 82
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middlesex, Surrey, and Hants
- English: see **Harmsworth**.

Armytage

- **Current frequencies:** GB 110, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 132
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks, Lancs, Derbys
- English: see **Armitage**.

Arnald

- **GB frequency 1881:** 7
- English: see **Arnold**.

Arnall

- **Current frequencies:** GB 204, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 229
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: Cornwall and Devon; Warwicks; Lancs
- English: see **Arnold**.

Arnason

- **GB frequency 1881:** o
- English: see **Arnison**.

Arnatt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 43, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 65
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon
- 1 English: see **Arnett**.
- 2 English: see **Arnold**.

Arnaud

Variants: **Arno**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 123, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 13
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- Huguenot: from the French personal name *Arnaud*, equivalent of **Arnold**. This is found as a Huguenot name in London from the 17th century onwards.
- Early bearers:** Anne Arnaud, 1676, 1696 in *IGI* (Huguenot Church, Threadneedle Street, London).

Arndell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 53, Ireland 6
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- English: see **Arundel**.

Arndt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 146, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 7
- German: from a personal name of Germanic origin, equivalent to English **Arnold**. This name is also found in Denmark and Sweden.

Arneil

- **Current frequencies:** GB 143, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 130
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lanarks; Renfrews
- Scottish: locative name from Ardneil, West Kilbride (Ayr).
- Early bearers:** Lillias Arneil, 1643 in *IGI* (Kilsyth, Stirlings); Heillien Arneil, 1645 in *IGI* (Kilmarnock, Ayr); Agnes Arneil, 1662 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); John Arneil, 1686 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks); Jonet Ardneil, 1687 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks); Mary Arneil, 1715 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks); John Ardneil, 1727 in *IGI* (Eaglesham, Renfrews); Alexander Ardneil, 1728 in *IGI* (Eaglesham, Renfrews); Agnes Arnel, 1781 in *IGI* (Eaglesham, Renfrews).

Arnell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 787, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 376
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Sussex and Hants
- English: see **Arnold**.

Arness

- **GB frequency 1881:** 6
- English: see **Harness**.
- Further information:** This form is rare in Britain but is more numerous in the USA.

Arnett

Variants: **Arnott**, **Arnatt**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 817, Ireland 10
- **GB frequency 1881:** 555
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down

1 English: relationship name from the personal name *Arnet*, a Middle English form of Old English *Earnġeat* (male), from *earn* ‘eagle’ + *Gġeat* a tribal name, or of *Earnġyð* (female), where the second element is *ġyð* ‘war’.

Early bearers: given names: Ernet, Ernet, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Ærnyeth Hachchebuters, 1185 in *Pipe Rolls* (Gloucs); Arnet le Mercer, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon).

surnames: John, Lecia Arnet, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Camsb); James Arnett, 1571 in *IGI* (Kirkleatham, NR Yorks); Richardus Arnett, 1580 in *IGI* (Ombersley, Worcs); Henry Arnett, 1585 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); Edw. Arnett, 1590 in *IGI* (Walton on the Hill, Lancs); Jana Arnett, 1597 in *IGI* (Froxfield, Hants); Thomas Arnitt, 1627 in *IGI* (Bedale, NR Yorks); John Arnett, 1726, Jno. Arnitt, 1753 in *IGI* (Corley, Warwicks); Wm. Arnitt, 1759 in *IGI* (Macclesfield, Cheshire).

2 English: there may also have been some confusion with variants of **Arnold**.

Arney

Variants: **Earney**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 265, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 258
- **Main GB location 1881:** S England: esp. Somerset and Hants

English: (i) locative name of uncertain origin: possibly irregularly derived from Arne (Dorset). (ii) alternatively, perhaps, a variant of sense (2) of **Harness**, with loss of initial /h/ and hypercorrect removal of a supposedly excrescent final -s.

Early bearers: Willelmus Arnye, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Dinnington, WR Yorks); John Arney, 1541 in *PROB 11* (Goldcliff, Monmouths); Georgius Arney, 1607 in *IGI* (Wedmore, Somerset); Alse Arney, 1612 in *IGI* (Sturminster Marshall, Dorset); Eliza: Arnee, 1718 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs).

Arnfield

- **Current frequencies:** GB 234, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 246
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys, Cheshire, Lancs
- English: variant of **Armfield**.

Arnhold

- **GB frequency 1881:** o
- English: see **Arnold**.
- Early bearers:** Eliz. Arnhold, 1685 in *IGI* (Monk Frystone, Yorks); Sarah Arnhold, 1716 in *IGI* (Stoke D’Abernon, Surrey).

Arnison

Variants: **Arnason**, **Arnson**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 206, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 183

Arno

- **Main GB location 1881:** Cumb; Durham
- English: relationship name from **Arnold** + *-son*.
Early bearers: William Arnaldson, 1460 in *York Freeman's Register*; Matthew Arnison, 1680 in *York Freeman's Register*.

Arno

- **Current frequencies:** GB 109, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 71
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- Huguenot: see **Arnaud**, **Arnold**. This is, at least to a large extent, a Huguenot name.
Early bearers: Catherine Arno, 1696 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street Huguenot Church, London); John Arnot, 1709 in *IGI* (Dartmouth, Devon); Pierre Arno, 1732 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street Huguenot Church, London); William Arnot, 1749 in *IGI* (Chester).

Arnold

- Variants: **Arnould**, **Arnald**, **Arnhold**, **Arnall**, **Arnull**, **Arnoll**, **Arnell**, **Arnott**, **Arnatt**, **Arno**, **Yarnold**, **Yarnell**, **Yarnall**, **Harnott**, **Harnett**, **Harnell**, **Hornett**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 22777, Ireland 692
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 15744
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down; Leitrim; Dublin and Meath; Tyrone
- 1 Norman, English, Scottish: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Arnold*, Old French *Arnaut*, *Ernaut*, *Hernaut*, itself from Continental Germanic *Arnwald*, composed of the elements **arn* ‘eagle’ + **wald* ‘power, rule’. **Arnaud** is the modern French form of this name, re-introduced to Britain in the 17th century as a Huguenot name.
Early bearers: given names: Ernold 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Arnoldus, Hernaldus de Bolonia, 1212 in *Red Book of the Exchequer*.
surnames: Rogerus filius Ernaldi, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Puntius Arnaldi, 1196 in *Pipe Rolls* (Devon); William Arnold, 1277 in *Feet of Fines* (Suffolk); John Arnoud, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Henricus Ernold, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Chipping Norton, Oxon); Willelmo Ernold, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Claybrooke, Leics); Robertus Harnald, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Feltwell, Norfolk); Walterus Harnold, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Hambledon, Surrey); John Arnald’, 1402 in *Feet of Fines* (Burton upon Stather, Lincs); Godelye Arnould, 1553 in *Parish Registers* (Staplehurst, Kent); Johannis Yarnald, 1686 in *Parish Registers* (Abergavenny, Monmouths); John Arnel, 1691 in *IGI* (Edgeworth, Gloucs).
2 English: locative name from either of two places called Arnold (in Notts and ER Yorks).
Early bearers: Richard de Ærnhale, 1191 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Roger de Arnhal’, 1212 in *Book of Fees* (Notts); Richard Arnall’ of Arnall’, 1457 in *Feet of Fines* (Arnold, Notts).
References: *Place-Names of Notts*, p. 113; *Place-Names of ER Yorks*, p. 50.
3 English: see also **Arnott**.

Arnoll

- **GB frequency 1881:** 51
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Arnold**.

Arnot

- **Current frequencies:** GB 432, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 922
 - **Main GB location 1881:** central Scotland
- Scottish: see **Arnott**.

Arnott

- Variants: **Arnot**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 3357, Ireland 75
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 2505
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. in central Scotland and N England
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down and Antrim; Monaghan
- 1 Scottish: locative name from Arnot in Portmoak (Kinross).
Early bearers: Michael de Arnoth, 1284 in *Saint Andrews Charters* (Markinch, Fife); David Arnot, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Fife); John de Arnot, 1417 in *Irvine Muniments* (Irvine, Ayr).
References: *Place-Names of Scotland*, p. 88.
2 Scottish, English: relationship name variant of **Arnold**.
3 English: relationship name variant of **Arnett**.

Arnould

- **Current frequencies:** GB 109, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 65
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London; Edinburgh
- English, Scottish: see **Arnold**.

Arnsby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 45, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 132
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northants and Leics
- English: locative name from Arnesby (Leics).
Early bearers: Thomas Arnesby, 1571 in *IGI* (Cold Ashby, Northants); Robert Arnesby, 1578 in *IGI* (Cold Ashby, Northants); Richard Arnesby, 1620 in *IGI* (Cold Ashby, Northants); Thomas Arnesby, 1691 in *IGI* (Theddingworth, Leics).
References: *Place-Names of Leics* 5, p. 4.

Arnson

- **GB frequency 1881:** 9
- English: see **Arnison**.
Further information: This form of the name has died out in Britain but continues to thrive in the USA.

Arnull

- **Current frequencies:** GB 88, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 48
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk, Cambs, Northants
- English: see **Arnold**.

Aron

- **Current frequencies:** GB 152, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 62
 - **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks; Ayr; also Middx
- English, Scottish: see **Aaron**.
Early bearers: England Edward Aron, 1641 in *IGI* (Holy Trinity in the Minorities, London); Suzan Aron, 1644 in *IGI* (Manchester, Lancs); John Aron, 1654 in *IGI* (Stoke on Trent, Staffs); Anne Aron, 1669 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Mary Aron, 1669 in *IGI* (Rochdale, Lancs); James Aron, 1733 in *IGI* (Snaith, WR Yorks).

Scotland Alexr. Aron, 1599 in *IGI* (Dunbarney, Perth); James Aron, 1747 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks).

Arondel

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- English: see **Arundel**.

Arora

- Variants: **Aurora**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 1626, Ireland 9
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian: Hindu and Sikh, based on the name of a mercantile community of the Panjab, which is derived from the place-name *Aror* (now Rohri, in Sind, Pakistan).
Further information: The Aroras are believed by some to be related to another prominent mercantile community of the Panjab, the Khattris.
References:

Arpin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 14, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 7
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- English: see **Harpin**.

Arpino

- **Current frequencies:** GB 193, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Italian: locative name from Arpino in Frosinone province, Lazio.

Arram

- **Current frequencies:** GB 28, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 7
- English: see **Aram**.

Arran

- **Current frequencies:** GB 175, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 67
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks; Pemsb
- 1 English: variant of **Arrand**.
2 English: from the Middle English Biblical male personal name *Arran*, a variant of **Aaron**.

Arrand

- Variants: **Arran**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 260, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 145
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs and WR Yorks
- 1 English: nickname from Middle English *erraunt* ‘arrant’ (i.e. ‘straying or notorious’) or from the present participle *errende* of the verb *erren* ‘to go astray’.
Early bearers: Johannes Arant, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Acaster Selby, WR Yorks); Elizabeth Aram, 1540 in *IGI* (Westbury on Severn, Gloucs); Elizabeth Arran, 1588 in *IGI* (Saint Bride Fleet Street, London); Elizabeth Arram, 1590 in *IGI* (Awre with Blakeney, Gloucs); Janne Aaron, 1600 in *IGI* (Oswestry, Shrops); Robert Aram, 1654 in *IGI* (Rothwell, WR Yorks); Maria Arrand, 1665 in *IGI* (Kippax, WR Yorks); Johannes Arran, 1687 in *IGI* (Thorney, Cambs); Anne Arran, 1705 in *IGI* (Rothwell, WR Yorks); Richard Arrand, 1710 in *IGI* (Rothwell, WR Yorks); Michael Aran, 1717 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx); Richard Arrand, 1791, Richard Arron, 1794 in *IGI* (Patrington, ER Yorks).
2 English: (i) locative name possibly from one of two small places in ER Yorks called *Arram*, in Atwick and Leconfield. (ii) alternatively, perhaps,

from another Yorks place-name, of uncertain identity. An example is the late-recorded *Arant Haw* in Sedbergh.

Arrandale

- **Current frequencies:** GB 138, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 118
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: see **Arundel**.

Arras

Variants: **Arres**

- **GB frequency 1881:** 17
- **Main GB location 1881:** NW Scotland

1 Scottish: locative name most probably from Airhouse in Channelkirk (Berwicks), recorded as *Aras* in 1655 and as *Arreis* 1630.

Early bearers: John de Aroz, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Dumfriess); Adam de Airwis, 1328 in *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*; Adam de la Arus, 1333 in *Scone Charters*; John Arres, 1525 in *Newbattle Register* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); John Arras, 1793 in *IGI* (Ancrum, Roxburghs).

2 English: see **Aris**.

Arrell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 35, Ireland 95
- **GB frequency 1881:** 22
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Derry

1 Irish: from Ó hEarghail, see **Harrell**.

2 English: relationship name perhaps from an unrecorded Middle English personal name **Eryl*, a derivative of Old English *Eofofwulf*, composed of the elements *eofo* 'boar' + *wulf* 'wolf'.

Early bearers: Roger Euerolf, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); William Eryll, 1545 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wilts); Kathrine Arroll, 1586 in *IGI* (Saint Lawrence Pountney, London); John Arrell, 1681 in *IGI* (Mansfield, Notts); Mary Arrell, 1727 in *IGI* (Up Marden, Sussex); Maria Arrell, 1818 in *IGI* (Little Glemham, Suffolk).

Arres

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 39
- **Main GB location 1881:** Scottish Borders

Scottish: see **Arras**.

Arridge

- **Current frequencies:** GB 27, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 21
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. York

1 English: locative name from Middle English *atte rigge* 'dweller by the ridge'. Compare **Ridge**.

Early bearers: William a Rygge, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Thomas Arridge, 1677 in *IGI* (Hagbourne, Berks).

2 English: see **Harridge**.

3 English: see **Erridge**.

Arrigan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Irish: from Ó hArragáin, see **Harrigan**.

Arrington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 16, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 19

- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham

English: see **Harrington**.

Arris

- **Current frequencies:** GB 92, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 58
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb

English: see **Aris**.

Arrol

Variants: **Arroll, Errol**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 154, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 133
- **Main GB location 1881:** central Scotland

Scottish: locative name primarily a Lennox name, this is more likely to be an anglicization of the Gaelic personal name *Fearghal* (and thus related to Irish **Farrell**) than to come from the place-name Errol in Perth.

Early bearers: John Arrell, 1556 in *Laing Charters*, Duncan Errole, minister, 1590 in *Scott, Fasti* (Luss, Dunbartons), Thomas Errole, 1592 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Ardvorlich, Dunbartons); Thomas Arroll, 1614 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Arrochybeg, Stirlings); Christen Arrell, 1565 in *IGI* (Buchanan, Stirlings); Adam Arrell, 1635 in *IGI* (Edinburgh); Elizabeth Arrol, 1691 in *IGI* (Glasgow).

Arroll

- **Current frequencies:** GB 21, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 67
- **Main GB location 1881:** Glasgow

Scottish: see **Arrol**.

Arrow

- **Current frequencies:** GB 226, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 173
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Warwicks

English: (i) locative name from Arrow (Warwicks) or Arrowe (Cheshire). (ii) locative name perhaps sometimes from Harrow on the Hill (Middx), and therefore a variant of **Harrow**.

Early bearers: William de Arewe, 1204 in *Pipe Rolls* (Gloucs); William Arwe, 1310 in *London Letter Books D* (London); Raff Arrow, 1542 in *Parish Registers* (Staplehurst, Kent); Richeard Arrow, 1591 in *IGI* (Boldon, Durham); Joane Arrow, 1624 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx).

References: *Place-Names of Warwicks*, pp. 1–2, 195; *English River-Names*, pp. 16–17; *Watts, Dictionary*, pp. 18–19; *Place-Names of Cheshire* 4, pp. 261–2; *Vocabulary of English Place-Names*, at **érgi*.

Arrowsmith

Variants: **Harrowsmith**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3681, Ireland 35
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2322
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Lancs and Welsh Marches

English: occupational name for a maker of arrows, especially iron arrow heads, from Middle English *arwe* 'arrow' + *smith*.

Early bearers: Roger le Aruesmuth, 1278 in *Assize Rolls* (Staffs); William le Arwesmyth, 1324 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Richard Arsmith, 1558–1603 in *Bardsley*.

Arrundale

- **Current frequencies:** GB 53, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 77

- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: see **Arundel**.

Arscott

Variants: **Ascott, Haskett**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 766, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 614
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Somerset; also Glamorgan

1 English: locative name from either of two places in Devon called Arscott. One is in the parish of Holsworthy, recorded as *Essecote* in 1238, *Arscott* in 1563. The other is in the parish of Ashwater, recorded as *Ayshcote* in 1330. The variation between *Arscott* and *Ascott* arose through loss of /r/ before /s/ and implies a common pronunciation /a:skɒt/.

Early bearers: William de Hassecote, 1201 in *Pleas* (Cornwall); John de Ayshcote, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Holsworthy, Devon); Henry de Arscote, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ashwater, Devon); Robert Aysschecote, John Arscote, 1397, William Ayshcote, 1477 in *Feet of Fines* (Holsworthy, Devon); Richard and William Ascott, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Bylston, Devon); Hercules Arscott, 1562 in *IGI* (Ashwater, Devon); Roseders Arscott, 1625 in *IGI* (Mawgan in Pydar, Cornwall); Frances Arscott, 1628 in *IGI* (Stogumber, Somerset); Thomas Arscott, 1768 in *IGI* (Wellington, Somerset); Joseph Ascott, 1773, Mary Arscott, 1804, Mary Ascott, 1823 in *IGI* (Halberton, Devon).

References: *Place-Names of Devon*, pp. 127, 147; *Hey, Family Names*, p. 150.

2 English: variant of **Addiscott** (1). The post-medieval surname is difficult to distinguish from (1) without locational or genealogical evidence, and some of the early bearers in (1) may belong here.

3 English: locative name from Arscott (Shrops), which might account for the rare family name recorded in the 1881 census in Shrops, but there is a lack of historical evidence to show continuity.

Early bearers: William de Ardescote, 1255 in *Hundred Rolls* (Shrops).

References: *Place-Names of Shrops* 2, p. 29.

Arshad

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2562, Ireland 12
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic *arshad* 'most reasonable, most rightly guided', superlative form of **Rashid**.

Arslan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 572, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Turkish: see **Aslan**.

Arstall

- **Current frequencies:** GB 154, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 160
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cheshire

English: see **Artingstall**.

Art

- **Current frequencies:** GB 46, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 8
- **Main GB location 1881:** Glasgow

Irish: reduced form of **McCart** (**Mac Airt**).

References: This form of the name is rare in Britain but more common in the USA.

Arter

- **Current frequencies:** GB 369, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 338
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in Wales and S England: esp. Cardigan; Norfolk; Kent
- English, Welsh: see **Arthur**.

Arterton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 76, Ireland 13
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 40
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk and Suffolk
- English: see **Arthurton**.

Arthars

- **GB frequency 1881:** 16
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and Warwicks
- English: see **Arthurs**.

Arther

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 109
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in England and Scotland
- English: see **Arthur**.

Artherton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 50, Ireland 11
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 68
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- English: see **Arthurton**.

Arthey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 148, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 70
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex and Suffolk
- English: see **Earthy**.

Arthington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 68, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 60
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks and Lancs
- English: locative name from Arthington (WR Yorks), recorded as *Ardinton(a)* in 1086 and *Ardington(e)* in the 12th to 14th centuries. The place is named in Old English as ‘the estate associated with a man called *Earda’.
- Early bearers:** Peter, Serlo de Ardington’, 1175–94 in *Yorks Charters* (Yorks); William de Arthyngton, 1283 in *York Freeman’s Register* (York); Robert Arthington, 1459 in *Kirkstall Abbey Rent Roll* (WR Yorks).
- References:** *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 4, p. 193.

Arthur

- Variants:** **Arthurs**, **Arter**, **Arther**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 7753, Ireland 535
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 6499
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Cornwall; Lanarks; Glamorgan
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Ulster
- 1 English, Welsh, Cornish, Scottish: relationship name from the ancient Celtic male given name *Arthur*, whose origin is much disputed but which may be derived from the Latin given name *Artorius*, itself of uncertain origin. Compare Irish and Scottish **McCart**, **McCartan**, and **McCarter**.

- Further information:** The popularity of the given name has been largely due to the huge volume of medieval stories about the mythical British king.
- Early bearers:** given names: Artur(us), 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Essex and Worcs); Erturus, 1130 in *Pipe Rolls* (Hants); Artur(us), 1147–51 in *Glasgow Register*; Ærturus, 1192 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks).
- surnames, Scotland: Thomas Harthawr, 1511 in *Panmure Register* (Angus); John Airtheor, 1678 in *Home of Wedderburn Manuscripts* (Duns, Berwicks); Isbell Arthur, 1563 in *IGI* (Monifieth, Angus); Robert Arthur, 1597 in *IGI* (Falkirk, Stirlings); Robert Arthure, 1622 in *IGI* (Glasgow); Elizabeth Arthour, 1619 in *IGI* (Cambuslang, Lanarks).
- surnames, England: Geoffrey Artur, 1135 in *Oseney Cartulary* (Oxon); Henricus filius Arturi, 1187 in *Pipe Rolls* (Cumb); Normannus filius Arcturi, 1196 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Robertus Arcturi, 1197 in *Pipe Rolls* (Herefs); Henricus Artur, 1212 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Cumb); Adam Arthur, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Johannes Artor, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Cornwall); William Artour, 1412 in *Feet of Fines* (Devon); Richard Arthur, 1538 in *IGI* (Rye, Sussex); William Aurthur, 1623 in *IGI* (Moretonhampstead, Devon); Ane Aurther, 1732 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs).
- 2 Irish, Scottish Gaelic: relationship name reduced form of **McArthur**.
- Early bearers:** Ireland Thomas Arthur, recorder, 1564 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §666 (Limerick); Richard Arthur, precentor of Limerick cathedral, 1583 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §4186.

Arthurs

- Variants:** **Arthars**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 1095, Ireland 322
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 454
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Devon
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim and Fermanagh
- English, Irish: variant of **Arthur** with genitival or post-medieval excrescent -s.
- Early bearers:** Rich Arthurs, 1612 in *IGI* (Great Rissington, Gloucs); William Arthurs, 1640 in *IGI* (Newton Ferrers, Devon); Frances Arthurs, 1720, Mary Authers, 1720 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Margaret Authers, 1723 in *IGI* (Chulmleigh, Devon); Mary Arthars, 1741 in *IGI* (Gayton, Staffs).

Arthurton

- Variants:** **Artherton**, **Arterton**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 183, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 110
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- English: variant of the E Anglian name **Atherton**, with lengthening of the initial vowel reflected in the spelling *Ar-*.

Arthy

- **Current frequencies:** GB 69, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 108
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex
- English: locative name variant of **Earthy**.

Artingstall

- Variants:** **Arkinstall**, **Arstall**, **Astall**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 225, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 186
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cheshire

- English: locative name from a lost place in Timperley (Cheshire) recorded as *Alretunstall* in 1199–1216.
- Early bearers:** [. . .] Artunstall, [. . .] Artonstall, [. . .] Ardonstall, 1354–85 in *Place-Names of Cheshire* (Timperley, Cheshire); John Arkinstall, 1571 in *IGI* (Strood, Kent); Elizabeth Artonstall, 1578 in *IGI* (Prestbury, Cheshire); John Arkenstall, 1593 in *IGI* (Cheswardine, Shrops); Jeffry Artenstall, 1610 in *IGI* (Wilmslow, Cheshire); Matilda Artenstall, 1615 in *IGI* (Ashton upn Mersey, Cheshire); John Artinstall, 1642 in *IGI* (Lymm, Cheshire); Elizabeth Arstall alias Artonstall, 1662 in *Chester Marriage Licences* 5 (Bowdon, Cheshire).
- References:** *Place-Names of Cheshire* 2, p. 31.

Artis

- Variants:** **Artiss**, **Artus**, **Artist**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 234, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 229
 - **Main GB location 1881:** E Anglia
- English: locative name from the region of Artois in N France.
- Early bearers:** William Artoys, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); John Artes, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Thomas Arteis, 1568 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Joseph Artis, 1614, Joseph Artes, 1622 in *IGI* (Redisham, Suffolk); Robert Artis, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk); Abraham Artus, 1724 in *York Freeman’s Register*.
- References:** *Noms de Lieux de la France*, p. 81.

Artiss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 80, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 34
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Worcs
- English: see **Artis**.

Artist

- **Current frequencies:** GB 62, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 26
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk
- English: alteration, by folk etymology, of **Artis**.

Artley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 182, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 47
 - **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks
- English: variant of **Hartley** with loss of initial *H-*.

Arton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 80, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 103
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Lancs
- 2 Irish: from **Mac Artáin**, see **McCartan**.
- 1 English: see **Ayrton**.
- Early bearers:** Thomas Arton, 1562 in *IGI* (Elland, WR Yorks); William Arton, 1565 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs).

Artus

- **Current frequencies:** GB 222, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 121
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs
- English: see **Artis**.

Arum

- **GB frequency 1881:** o
- English: see **Aram**.

Arumugam

- **Current frequencies:** GB 285, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian, Sri Lankan (Tamil): Hindu, from Tamil *āru* ‘six’ + *mugam* ‘face’ (Sanskrit *mukha*), i.e. ‘having six faces’, an epithet of the god Kartikeya, and synonymous with *Shanmuga* (see *Shanmuganathan*).

Arundale

- **Current frequencies:** GB 331, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 282
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks and Lancs
- English: see *Arundel*.

Arundel

Variants: *Arundell*, *Arundale*, *Arrundale*, *Arrandale*, *Arndell*, *Arondel*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 848, Ireland 72
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 592
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks; E Lothian
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork
- Norman, English: (i) nickname from Old French *arondel* ‘little swallow’. The earliest bearer of the name, Roger Arundel, a Domesday tenant-in-chief, has left his name in Sampford Arundel (Somerset), which he held in 1086. His byname cannot derive from the Sussex place-name but must be from the Old French word. The Norman family of which he was a principal member held lands in Somerset, Yorks, and elsewhere. They later introduced a *de* into their name, falsely suggesting a place-name origin. In northern England, folk etymology further led to variant spellings in *-dale*. (ii) locative name from Arundel, Sussex (recorded as *Harundel* in *Domesday Book*, as *Arundell* in 1087, and as *Arndle* in 1788). The traditional local pronunciation is *Arndell*. The place-name is derived from Old English *hār(h)ūne* ‘horehound’ + *dell* ‘valley’; the river name Arun is a back-formation. The history of this problematic name is further complicated by the fact that the place-name Arundel early lost its initial *H*, while the nickname in (i) equally early acquired an inorganic initial *H*.

Further information: *Redmonds, Surnames and Genealogy*, p. 209, notes confusion with the surname **Addinall**, citing William Arundel alias Addinal, 1744 (York). **Early bearers:** Rogerius Arundel, Harundel, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Dorset, Somerset); Robert Arundel, 1130 in *Pipe Rolls* (Dorset); Roger de Arundelle, 1148 in *Eynsham Cartulary* (Oxon); Osbert Arundel, Harundel, 1154 in *Rievaulx Cartulary* (Yorks); Roger Arundel, 1159 in *Pipe Rolls* (Somerset); Thomas Arundel (de Arundel), 1178 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); John de Arundel, about 1198 in *History of Saint Barts Hospital* (London); Roger Arundel (de Arundel), 1204 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Nicholas (de) Arundel, 1225, Roger de Arundel, 1268 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Robert Arundel, Robert de Arundell, 1327, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Johannes de Arundell, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Campsall, WR Yorks); Adam de Arundel, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Sambrook, Shrops); Walter Arundle, 1576 in *IGI* (Bodmin, Cornwall); Richard Arrandell, Arrendale, 1631, 1638 in *Parish Registers* (Rothwell, WR Yorks); Sarah Arundle, 1785 in *IGI* (Doncaster, WR Yorks). **References:** *Place-Names of Sussex*, pp. 136–7.

Arundell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 445, Ireland 10
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 361
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. London; Yorks; Devon; Gloucs
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork
- English: see *Arundel*.

Arvin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 14, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 4
- Scottish or English: probably a variant of *Irvine*. **Further information:** Although rare in Britain, this name is thriving in the USA.

Ary

- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- English: see *Airey*.

Arya

- **Current frequencies:** GB 291, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian: Hindu, based on Sanskrit *ārya* ‘honorable man’ or ‘man of the Aryan race’. **Further information:** In the Panjab this is the name of a Jat clan.

Aryee

- **Current frequencies:** GB 208, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Ghanaian: unexplained.

Asad

- **Current frequencies:** GB 386, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- 1 Arabic, Muslim: from an Arabic personal name, *as’ad* ‘happiest, luckiest’, superlative of *sa’id* ‘lucky, happy’. Compare *Said*.
2 Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic *asad* ‘lion’.

Asaf

- **Current frequencies:** GB 87, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Iranian: from Persian *asaf* ‘sad, sorrowful’.

Asamoah

- **Current frequencies:** GB 632, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Ghanaian: unexplained. The *-h* after final *-a* in names like this is a characteristic anglicization.

Asante

- **Current frequencies:** GB 971, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Ghanaian: ethnic name denoting a member of the Asante people of Ghana, West Africa.

Asare

- **Current frequencies:** GB 850, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Ghanaian: from an Akan patrilineal clan name. **References:** Agyekum, Kofi (2006) The sociolinguistic of Akan personal names. *Nordic Journal of African Studies* 15.2, 206–235, at 216.

Asberry

- **GB frequency 1881:** 30
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northants; WR Yorks
- English: (i) variant of *Astbury* with loss of *-t-*. (ii) see *Ashbury*. **Further information:** This spelling of the name is now rare in Britain but still found in the USA.

Asbery

- **Current frequencies:** GB 105, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 57
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks; Northants
- 1 English: variant of *Astbury* with loss of *-t-*.
2 English: see *Ashbury*.

Asbridge

- **Current frequencies:** GB 224, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 109
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cumb; also Lancs
- English: see *Ashbridge*.

Asbury

- **Current frequencies:** GB 809, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 695
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs, Warwicks, and Derbys
- 1 English: see *Ashbury*.
2 English: see *Astbury*.

Asby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 66, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 46
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs, Herts, and Essex
- English: see *Ashby*.

Asch

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- 1 German: (i) relationship name from a Middle Low German personal name, *Asc*, originally from a word meaning ‘spearman’. (ii) locative name from any of several places (in Bavaria, Württemberg) called *Asch*. **Early bearers:** Bertrand Asch, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Middx); Robert Asch, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Bloomsbury, Middx); George Asch, carpenter and teacher of music, born in Berlitz, Prussia, in *Census 1891* (Kensington, Middx). **References:** *Brechenmacher*.
2 Jewish (Ashkenazic): handout name or ornamental adoption of the German name. **Early bearers:** Joseph Ash, clothier, born in Poland, in *Census 1871* (Birmingham, Warwicks); Salomon Asch, born in Poland, in *Census 1871* (London).

Ascham

- **GB frequency 1881:** 5
- English: see *Askham*.

Ascher

Variants: *Asscher*, *Asher*, *Usher*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 22, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 6
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx
- 1 German: (i) locative name from any of numerous places named Aschau or Ascha(ch), or topographic for a ‘dweller by the ash tree’, from an agent derivative of Middle High German *asch* ‘ash tree’.

(ii) occupational name from *Äscher*, a term denoting an ash burner, someone who prepared ash from wood fires for use in glassworks and soapworks, from Middle High German *escher*, an agent derivative of Middle High German *asche*, *esche* 'ashes'. Compare the English surname **Ashburner**. **Early bearers**: Henrick Ascher, sugar baker, born in Prussia, in *Census 1861* (Saint George in the East, Middx); Hermann Ascher, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Middx).

References: *Brechenmacher*.

2 Jewish (Ashkenazic): handout name or ornamental adoption of the German family name. **Further information**: In Middle English, this was found as a surname, a variant of **Asser**. However, there only six bearers in the 1881 Census, all of whom are of German or Jewish ancestry, so it seems likely that the name died out in England and then was reintroduced from the Continent.

Early bearers: Benjamin Ascher, born in Germany, in *Census 1861* (Whitechapel, Middx); Moses Ascher, born in London, in *Census 1881* (Middx); Eli Ascher, dried fruit merchant, born in Turkey, in *Census 1901* (Wandsworth, Surrey).

Ascombe

- **GB frequency 1881**: 2
- English: see **Ashcombe**.

Ascot

- **Current frequencies**: GB 16, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881**: 21
- **Main GB location 1881**: Surrey
- English: see **Ascott**.

Ascott

Variants: **Ascot**, **Haskett**

- **Current frequencies**: GB 388, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881**: 206
- **Main GB location 1881**: Devon and Somerset; also London

1 English: locative name from any of several places called Ascott or Ascot, for example in Bucks, Berks, Oxon.

Early bearers: Richard de Askote, 1375 in *London Letter Books H*; Ann Ascot, 1587 in *IGI* (Chalfont Saint Giles, Bucks); John Ascott, 1718 in *IGI* (Clewer, Berks).

2 English: locative name variant of **Arscott**, a Devon name pronounced /'ɑːskot/.

References: *Place-Names of Oxon*, pp. 154, 335–6; *Place-Names of Berks*, pp. 88–9; *Place-Names of Bucks*, p. 87.

Ascough

- **Current frequencies**: GB 267, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881**: 336
- **Main GB location 1881**: N England: esp. Yorks
- English: see **Askew**.

Ascroft

- **Current frequencies**: GB 454, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881**: 428
- **Main GB location 1881**: Lancs
- English: see **Ashcroft**.

Aseltine

- **Current frequencies**: GB 10, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881**: 0
- English: see **Hazeldine**.

Further information: This form of the name is rare in Britain but quite common in the USA.

Asghar

- **Current frequencies**: GB 2251, Ireland 14
- **GB frequency 1881**: 0

Arabic, Muslim: from a distinguishing epithet from Arabic *asghar* 'younger, smaller', comparative of *saghir* 'young', 'small'.

Ash

Variants: **Aish**, **Esh**, **Esse**, **Ashe**, **Hess**

- **Current frequencies**: GB 6132, Ireland 41
- **GB frequency 1881**: 4918
- **Main GB location 1881**: widespread in England: esp. London; Devon; Staffs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64**: Kerry

English: locative name from Middle English *ash(e)*, *asse* 'ash tree' (Old English *æsc*). The surname could be from one or more of the many places called Ash, or it may be topographic for someone who lived by an ash tree. See also **Dash**, **Nash**, **Rash**, **Tash**.

Early bearers: Richard del Eshe, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Worcs); Baldwinus de Esse, 1228 in *Patent Rolls* (Devon); Roger ate Assh, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Duncton, Sussex); Willelmus Asche, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Hardwick, Lincs); Alicia atte Hesche, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Banham, Norfolk); Eva de Aysh', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Ash, Dorset); Robertus del Asch', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Campsall, WR Yorks); Willelmo Ash, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Colwall, Herefs); Agn' atte Assch', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Stapleton, Leics); Johannes de Assch', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Prees, Shrops); Giles de Esse, 1387 in *Feet of Fines* (Cloveley, Devon); Reynold Ayssh', 1474 in *Feet of Fines* (Plumstead, Kent); Thomas Ash, 1559 in *IGI* (Martock, Somerset).

Ashall

- **Current frequencies**: GB 718, Ireland 8
- **GB frequency 1881**: 424
- **Main GB location 1881**: Lancs

English: locative name from Esholt in Guiseley (WR Yorks) or from a similarly named lost place in Lancs.

Early bearers: William de Esheholt, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Warmley, WR Yorks); Thomas Eshall, 1566 in *Redmonds, Surnames and Genealogy*, p. 216; George Ashall, 1566 in *IGI* (Chorley, Lancs); John Ashall, 1579 in *IGI* (Acton Burnell, Shrops); John Eshold, Eshald, Eshall, Ashall, 1681–5 in *Parish Registers* (Keighley, WR Yorks); Catherinae Ashal, 1702 in *IGI* (Much Wenlock, Shrops).

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 4, pp. 144–5; *Ekwall, DEPN*, p. 169; *Redmonds, Surnames and Genealogy*, p. 216.

Ashard

- **Current frequencies**: GB 85, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881**: 69
- **Main GB location 1881**: Essex

English: see **Hatchard**.

Ashbee

- **Current frequencies**: GB 283, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881**: 277
- **Main GB location 1881**: Kent

English: see **Ashby**.

Ashberry

Variants: **Ashbery**

- **Current frequencies**: GB 110, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881**: 50
- **Main GB location 1881**: WR Yorks

1 English: see **Astbury**. Redmonds notes that there is no evidence for the survival of the Middle English surname *Asshebury* or *Ashebury* in 15th-century Sheffield or nearby places, and since the post-medieval name there shares its spellings with variants of *Astbury*, this is the more likely source.

Further information: The location of the medieval WR Yorks surname is in the Dearne valley, close to Sheffield. Its origin is uncertain. The Devon, Berks, and Worcs places proposed for **Ashbury** are not obvious sources; nor is Wilson's suggestion of Ashberry Hill in Old Byland (NR Yorks), which was not the name of a settlement and is unlikely to have given rise to a surname.

References: *Place-Names of NR Yorks*, p. 197; *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

2 English: locative name alternatively, possibly from Middle English *Asshebury* or *Ashebury* as an (unrecorded) inversion of *Buryasshe*, a Middle English form of Borrowwash (Derbys). The examples may alternatively belong under (1).

Early bearers: Thomas de Asseberi, 1312 in *Monk Bretton Cartularies* (Hickleton, WR Yorks); Thomas de Asshebury, 1349 in *Feet of Fines* (Adwick upon Dearne and Swinton, WR Yorks); Robertus Ashebury, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Barnburgh, WR Yorks); Elizabeth Ashburie, 1566, Elizabetha Asbury, 1607, Nath. Aspberry, 1716, Geo. Asbery, 1759, Nath. Aspberry, 1716 in *IGI* (Sheffield, WR Yorks); Bartholomew Ashbery, 1778, Philip Ashberry, 1782 in *IGI* (Sheffield, WR Yorks).

Ashbery

- **Current frequencies**: GB 46, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881**: 8
- **Main GB location 1881**: Worcs

1 English: see **Ashbury**.

2 English: see **Astbury**.

Ashbey

- **Current frequencies**: GB 43, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881**: 78
- **Main GB location 1881**: scattered

English: see **Ashby**.

Ashbolt

- **Current frequencies**: GB 159, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881**: 76
- **Main GB location 1881**: scattered: esp. Hunts; London; Hants

English: variant of **Archibald**, via some intermediate step such as *Archbolt*, *Ashbole*, or *Ashbold*. However, the first of these is not recorded (though its existence can be presupposed by **Archbutt**), whilst the second and third are recorded only long after the medieval period.

Early bearers: Alice Ashbolt, 1612 in *IGI* (Stotfold, Beds); William Ashbolt, 1624 in *IGI* (Haynes, Beds); Richard Ashbold, 1640 in *IGI* (Malpas, Cheshire); Rebecca Ashbult, 1715 in *IGI* (Bluntisham cum Earith, Hunts); Jno. Ashbole, 1728 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs).

Ashborn

- **Current frequencies**: GB 26, Ireland 0

- **GB frequency 1881:** 15
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks
- English: see **Ashbourne**.

Ashbourn

- **Current frequencies:** GB 18, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 38
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks, Leics, Lincs
- English: see **Ashbourne**.

Ashbourne

Variants: Ashburn, Ashbourn, Ashborn

- **Current frequencies:** GB 206, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 121
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: Warwicks and Staffs; Lancs; London

English: locative name from Ashbourne (Derbys).

Early bearers: Andrew de Asseburne, 1285–6 in *Staffs Forest Pleas* (Tettenhall, Staffs); Robert de Asshebourne, 1311 in *London Letter Books D*; John de Ascheburn, 1349 in *York Freeman's Register*; Margeria de Essheburn, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Saint Saviourgate, Yorks); John Asshebourne, 1428 in *Feet of Fines* (Herts); Henry Assheburn, 1469 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Thomas Assheburn, 1490 in *Feet of Fines* (Hants); John Assheburn, 1501 in *Feet of Fines* (Northants); Edward Ashburne, 1539 in *IGI* (Whittington, Lancs); Anna Ashborne, 1541 in *IGI* (Beeley, Derbys); Edward Ashborne, 1579 in *IGI* (Coventry, Warwicks); Cecelie Ashburne, 1580 in *IGI* (Kirk Ireton, Derbys); Susan Ashborne, 1600 in *IGI* (Lichfield, Staffs).

References: *Place-Names of Derbys*, p. 341.

Ashbridge

Variants: Asbridge

- **Current frequencies:** GB 456, Ireland 34
- **GB frequency 1881:** 236
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cumb; also Durham and Yorks

English: locative name from a much altered variant of the place-name Askrigg (NR Yorks).

Early bearers: Johanne de Askerigge, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Richmond, NR Yorks); Henry de Askerig, 1329 in *Papal Letters*, vol. 2 (Gisburn, WR Yorks); Anne Asbricke, 1549 in *IGI* (York); John Asbrigg, 1577 in *Cumbria Record Office (Carlisle)* (Bromfield, Cumb); Robtus Asbrigg, 1587 in *IGI* (Bridekirk, Cumb); Nicholas Asbrige, 1597 in *IGI* (Dacre, Cumb); Elisabethe Asbridge, 1608 in *IGI* (Crosthwaite, Cumb); Ann Assbridg, 1685 in *IGI* (Bromfield, Cumb); Blan Askridge, 1699 in *IGI* (Whitehaven, Cumb); Joseph Askbridge, 1723 in *IGI* (Bolton); Thomas Askrigge, 1572 in *IGI* (Kendal, Westm); Ann Askrigg, 1603 in *IGI* (Darlington, Durham); Thomas Asbrigge, 1627 in *IGI* (Lowther, Westm); Mabel Askrigg, 1691 in *IGI* (Crosthwaite cum Lyth, Westm). **References:** *Place-Names of NR Yorks*, p. 261; *Mills, Dictionary*, p. 22; *Watts, Dictionary*, p. 23.

Ashbrook

Variants: Ashbrooke

- **Current frequencies:** GB 548, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 274
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire, Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Offaly

English: locative name from any of the places called *Ashbrook*, e.g. in Marston Mortaine (Beds) and in Ampney Saint Mary (Gloucs), or a minor place with

a similar name elsewhere, most likely one named from Ash Brook (Cheshire), which is on record since the 13th cent.

Early bearers: William de Assebroc, 1190 in *Pipe Rolls* (Essex/Herts); Hugh de Aschbroc, 1218 in *Pipe Rolls* (Leics/Warwicks); John de Asshebrok, 1353–4 in *Feet of Fines* (Surrey); Gregory Ashbrook, 1601 in *IGI* (Hereford, Herefs); Johis. Ashbrook, 1609 in *IGI* (Farnworth near Prescott, Lancs); Mary Ashbrook, 1617 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Elliz Ashbrook, 1669 in *IGI* (Chester, Cheshire); Anne Ashbrook, 1699 in *IGI* (Christchurch, London).

References: *Place-Names of Cheshire* 1, p. 14; 3, p. 156; *Place-Names of Beds and Hunts*, p. 79; *Place-Names of Surrey*, p. 268.

Ashbrooke

- **Current frequencies:** GB 52, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 41
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire, Staffs, Lancs
- English: see **Ashbrook**.

Ashburn

- **Current frequencies:** GB 276, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 235
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in N England; esp. Cumb

English: see **Ashbourne**.

Ashburner

- **Current frequencies:** GB 401, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 422
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Cumb

English: occupational name denoting someone who burned wood in order to obtain lye or potash from the ashes, for use in a variety of manufacturing applications, including bleaching cloth, making glass, and making soap.

Early bearers: Robert, William le Askebrenner, 1278 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs), 1308 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (Yorks); Robert Askbrinner, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cumb); Thomas Asborner, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Edward Ascheburner, 1532 in *York Freeman's Register*.

Ashbury

Variants: Asbury, Ashbery, Asbery, Asberry, Asprey, Hasbury, Aspray

- **Current frequencies:** GB 64, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 183
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs, WR Yorks, and Notts; Worcs, Warwicks, and Staffs

1 English: (i) locative name from Ashborough in Bromsgrove (Worcs) or Ashbury (Devon), often with the common confusion between *-bury* and *-ber(r)y* in the second element. (ii) locative name perhaps from Ashbury (Berks), but there is insufficient evidence to be sure that the 19th-century surname derives from the Berks place.

Early bearers: William de Asseberia, 1190 in *Pipe Rolls* (Berks); Godfrey de Asseberge, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Worcs); Alice de Ayshbury, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ashbury, Devon); Lawrence Ayshbury, 1374 in *Feet of Fines* (Colyton, Devon); John Asbury, 1559, Thomas Asberye, 1566, Richard Aspry, 1613, Jo. Ashbury, 1657 in *IGI* (Pershore, Worcs); Humfry Asberry, 1609 in *PROB 11* (Baxterley, Warwicks); William Assbry, 1585 in *IGI* (Kenn, Devon); Nicholas Asberrie, 1621 in *IGI* (Upton, Berks); John Ashberry,

1632 in *IGI* (Alwington, Devon); Ann Asbury, 1737 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); Catherine Ashbury, 1807 in *IGI* (Stoke Damerel, Devon); Henry Hughes Ashbury, 1810 in *IGI* (Greenham, Berks).

2 English: see **Astbury**.

References: *Place-Names of Worcs*, p. 337.

Ashby

Variants: Ashbey, Ashbee, Asby, Axbey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 6729, Ireland 64
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4886
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread throughout England

English: locative name from one or other of the many places of this name, or from possibly either of two places called Asby (Cumb, Westm).

Early bearers: Peter de Asseby, 1196–1200 in *Dryburgh Register* (Roxburghs); Robert de Aschebi, 1200 in *Pleas* (Norfolk); Alexander de Assheby, 1309–10 in *Feet of Fines* (Warwicks); Richard Assheby, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Willelmus de Esseby, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (East Harlsey, NR Yorks); Thoma Haschby, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Baggrave, Leics); William Assheby, 1478 in *Feet of Fines* (Leics); William Ashbee, 1633, Eashbee, 1637, Eshbee, 1639, in *Leics Transactions* xxiii.

Ashcombe

Variants: Ascombe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 30
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Oxon and Gloucs

English: locative name from Ashcombe (Devon).

Early bearers: John de Asshcomb, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); Robert Ascombe, 1376 in *London Letter Books H*; Thomas Aishecombe, 1641 in *Somerset Petition*.

References: *Place-Names of Devon*, pp. 282, 486.

Ashcroft

Variants: Ascroft

- **Current frequencies:** GB 6302, Ireland 51
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4002
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Armagh

English: locative name from Agecroft in Pendlebury (Lancs), which is recorded as *Achecroft* in 1394, *Agecroft* in about 1540, *Edgecroft* in 1577.

Early bearers: Margar' de Ascroft, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Norfolk); Elizabeth Ascrofte, 1559, Ellen Asscrofte, 1570 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs); Gilbert Ascroft, 1580 in *IGI* (Wigan, Lancs); Humphrey Agecroft, 1602 in *IGI* (Wilmslow, Cheshire); Katherine Agecroft, 1615 in *IGI* (Stockport, Cheshire); Alice Ashcroft, 1637 in *IGI* (Walton on the Hill, Lancs); Richard Edgecroft, 1705 in *IGI* (Prestbury, Cheshire); Ann Etchcroft, 1858 in *IGI* (Madeley, Shrops).

References: *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 42.

Ashdon

- **GB frequency 1881:** 16
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks; London

1 English: see **Ashton**.

2 English: see **Ashdown**.

Ashdown

Variants: Ashdowne, Ashdon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2155, Ireland 11

- **GB frequency 1881:** 1696
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent, Sussex, London
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Galway
- 1 English: locative name from Ashdown Forest (Sussex).
Early bearers: John de Asshesdoune, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Johanne Eschedune, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Kent); Richard Ashdowne, 1540 in *IGI* (Robertsbridge, Sussex); Wm. Ashedowne, 1551 in *Kent Wills* (Leigh, Kent); Dorathie Ashdowne, 1563 in *IGI* (West Peckham, Kent); Margaret Asshdowne, 1566 in *IGI* (Westerham, Kent); Isaac Ashdowne, 1597 in *Cranbrook Wills* (Cranbrook, Kent); Thomas Ashdown, 1740, James Ashden, 1799 in *IGI* (Ewhurst, Sussex).
References: Hey, *Family Names*, pp. 146–7, 193, 202; *Place-Names of Sussex*, p. 2; Mills, *Dictionary*, p. 20; Watts, *Dictionary*, p. 20.
 2 English: locative name perhaps occasionally from Ashdown in Lenham (Kent), which is *Esheden* in 1240, *Assheden* in 1346.
Early bearers: Rob's de Asshedene, Alex' de Esden', 1254 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Turstanus de Esdenne, 13th cent. in *Black Book of Canterbury* (Kent); Marye Asheden, 1586 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Jane Ashdown, 1614 in *IGI* (Lenham, Kent).
References: Hey, *Family Names*, pp. 146–7, 193, 202; *Kent Place-Names*, pp. 223–4.

Ashdowne

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 35
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
- English: see **Ashdown**.

Ashe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 859, Ireland 802
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 280
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Lancs; Wilts
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Kerry and Cork; Dublin; Galway
- Irish, English: variant (the usual spelling in Ireland) of **Ash**.
Early bearers: Laurence Ashe, yeoman, 1560–1 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §344 (Kildare); John Ashe, gent. (of the office of keeping the buildings and clock in the castle of Dublin), 1596–7 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6053.

Ashelford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 115, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 95
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Glamorgan; Surrey; Devon
- English: locative name from Ashelford in East Down (Devon), recorded as *Assele(s)worth* in the 13th century, with replacement of *-worth* by the more familiar *-ford*.
Early bearers: [. . .] Asscheleswurth, Asseneswurth, 1244 in *Assize Rolls* (Devon); Mary Ashelford, 1546 in *IGI* (Uffculme, Devon); William Ashelforde, 1580 in *IGI* (Cruwys Morchard, Devon); Leonard Ashelford, 1642 in *PROB 11* (Uffculme, Devon).
References: *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 37

Ashen

- **Current frequencies:** GB 77, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 56

- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk
- English: locative name from Ashen (Essex), Ashton near Roade (Northants), or any other place named in Middle English as (*atten*) *asshen* ' (at the) ash-trees'. Compare Sara *Nashen*, 1599 in *IGI* (North Petherton, Somerset). A name of this type might lose the plural marker *-en* and become identical with **Ash**.
Early bearers: Willelmus Asshem', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Northampton, Northants); Robert Ashen, 1562 in *IGI* (Burton Latimer, Northants); Edmund Ashen, 1578 in *IGI* (Gnosall, Staffs); Edward Ashen, 1594 in *IGI* (Wingham, Kent); Valentine Asshen, 1615 in *IGI* (Wingham, Kent); Henry Ashen, 1745 in *IGI* (Sudbury, Suffolk); John Ashen, 1777, Robert Ashon, 1787 in *IGI* (Cavenham, Suffolk).
References: *Place-Names of Essex*, pp. 406–7; *Place-Names of Northants*, p. 96.

Ashenden

Variants: Ashington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 405, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 265
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent
- English: locative name from Ashenden in Tenterden (Kent), which is recorded as *Esserinden* in 1278.
Early bearers: Jacobus de Asshrendenne, 1313–14 in *Kent Eyre* (Tenterden hundred, Kent); John de Asshendene, 1342 in *Assize Rolls* (London); [. . .] de Eseryndenn', 1347, [. . .] de Essherindenn', 1348 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Kent); Agnes Asshenden, 1538 in *IGI* (Biddenden, Kent); Joan Ashenden, 1544 in *IGI* (Sandwich, Kent); Elizabeth Ashenden, 1560 in *IGI* (Benenden, Kent); Katherine Ashenden, 1574 in *IGI* (Tenterden, Kent).
References: Hey, *Family Names*, p. 150; *Kentish Place-Names*, p. 174.

Ashenford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 50, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 31
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs
- English: see **Ashford**.

Ashenhurst

- **Current frequencies:** GB 56, Ireland 34
- **GB frequency 1881:** 38
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Lancs and WR Yorks

English: see **Ashurst**.

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 3, p. 179; 6, p. 207.

Asher

Variants: Esser

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1738, Ireland 13
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1250
 - **Main GB location 1881:** E Midlands: esp. Lincs; Morays; also Hants and Wilts
- 1 English: (i) locative name 'dweller by the ash tree', from a derivative of Middle English *asche* 'ash tree' (Old English *æsc*). Locative names in *-er* from topographical terms are mostly found in S England and rarely or not at all further north. (ii) relationship name possibly from the Middle English personal name *Ascher*, a post-Conquest survival of the rare Old English personal name *Æschere*, composed of the elements *æsc* 'ash-tree, spear' + *here* 'army'. (iii) possibly a variant of **Asser** with palatalization of /s/. (iv) occasionally perhaps a late variant of **Usher**;

note Levi *Asher Or Usher*, 1890 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs).

Early bearers: given names: Ascherus, 1143–7 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs).

surnames, England: Ricardus Ascher, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Attingham, Oxon); Johanna Aser, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Whaplode, Lincs); Johannes Haschere, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Toppesfield, Essex); John Asher, 1549 in *IGI* (Bermondsey, Surrey); Thomas Asher, 1576 in *IGI* (Long Bennington, Lincs); Elyzabeth Asher, 1592 in *IGI* (East Tytherley, Hants); Thomas Aisher, 1641 in *Somerset Petition*; Ralph Asher, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk); William Aisher, 1744 in *IGI* (Eldersfield, Worcs).

surnames, Scotland: Jannet Asher, 1657 in *IGI* (Alves, Morays); Alexr. Asher, 1676 in *IGI* (Alves, Morays); Ann Assher, 1785 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks).

2 Jewish (Ashkenazic): from the Hebrew personal name *Asher* 'blessed'.

Early bearers: George Asher, born in Russia, in *Census 1881* (Bishopwearmouth, Durham).

3 German, Jewish (Ashkenazic): see **Ascher**.

Ashfaq

- **Current frequencies:** GB 636, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Arabic, Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic *ashfaq*, superlative form of *shafiq* 'compassionate', the origin of **Shaffiq**.

Ashfield

Variants: Dashfield

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1217, Ireland 90
- **GB frequency 1881:** 560
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. in England
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Tyrone

English: locative name from either of two places called Ashfield (Shrops, Suffolk).

Early bearers: Sparhauoc de Æsefelde, about 1095 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents* (Suffolk); Robert de Asshefeld, 1375 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); ather Robt. Ashfield, 1576 in *IGI* (Chesham, Bucks); Ricd.

Ashfield, 1596 in *IGI* (Burstall, Suffolk); Ferdinando Ashfield, 1612 in *IGI* (Barcheston, Warwicks); John Ashfield, 1616 in *IGI* (Authorpe, Lincs).

References: *Ekwall, DEP*, p. 15; *Place-Names of Shrops* 3, p. 138; *Place-Names of Notts*, p. 12.

Ashfold

- **Current frequencies:** GB 26, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 33
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx and Bucks

English: locative name from Ashfold in Slaughtam (Sussex).

Early bearers: Richard de Asshefold, 1305 in *Feet of Fines* (Sussex); Anne Ashfold, 1564 in *IGI* (Wivelsfield, Sussex).

References: *Place-Names of Sussex*, p. 278.

Ashford

Variants: Ashforth, Ayshford, Aishford, Ashenford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 4167, Ireland 51
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2954
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Warwicks; Somerset and Devon; Middx
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin

English: locative name from any of several places called Ashford (Devon, Derby, Shrops) or Ayshford (Devon).

Early bearers: Reginald de Asford', 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Shrops); Nicholas Ashford, 1542 in *IGI* (North Molton, Devon); Thos. Ashford, 1550 in *IGI* (Alstonefield, Staffs); Margaret Ashford, 1562 in *IGI* (Portishead, Somerset); Edward Ashford, 1584 in *IGI* (Henbury, Gloucs); John Ashford, 1585 in *IGI* (Street, Sussex).

Ashforth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 506, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 520
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Ashford**.

Ashhurst

- **GB frequency 1881:** 59
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cheshire
- English: see **Ashurst**.

Ashington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 211, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 72
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. WR Yorks; London

English: (i) locative name from any of various places called *Ashington* (especially Lincs, Sussex), or *Ashingdon* (Essex). (ii) possibly a variant of **Ashenden** in Kent contexts; note Robt. *Ashinden*, 1730 in *IGI* (Deal, Kent).

Early bearers: Johannes Asschindon', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Steeple Bumpstead, Essex); Alexand Ashington, 1599 in *IGI* (Newton on Trent, Lincs); Elizabeth Ashington, 1747 in *IGI* (Deal, Kent); James Ashington, 1748 in *IGI* (Saint Michael Spurriergate, York).

Ashiq

- **Current frequencies:** GB 299, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Arabic, Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic *'āshiq* 'adorer', the Prophet Muhammad or his son-in-law 'Alī (Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib), the fourth 'Rightly Guided' caliph, being understood as the object of adoration.

Ashken

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: see **Askin**.

Ashkettle

- **Current frequencies:** GB 42, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 5
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Asketill* (Old Scandinavian *Ásketill*). Compare **Axtell**, **Askell**, and **Anketell**, all from other versions of the same personal name. *Ash-* is a post-medieval dialectal development. *Ashkettle* was once common in Suffolk, but is absent there in the 1881 census, apart from the now extinct variant *Ashkittle*.

Early bearers: given names: Asketillus de Kedham, 1101–25 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk); Aschetillus Bardel, 1158 in *Pipe Rolls* (Essex).

surnames: Robert Asketill', 1200 in *Pipe Rolls* (Hants); Alexander Asketell', 1205 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Norfolk); Gilbert Asketil, 1288 in *Patent Rolls* (Briston, Norfolk); Thomas Hasketyl, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Briston, Norfolk); William Askyttle, 1576 in *IGI* (Kelsale, Suffolk); Daniel Ashkittle, 1713 in *IGI* (Rumburgh, Suffolk); Sarah Ashkettle, 1785 in *IGI* (Woodbridge); Wm. Ashkettle, 1631 in *IGI* (Whitechapel in Stepney, Middx).

References: *Insley, Scand. Personal Names*, pp. 48–60.

Ashland

- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: variant of **Ashling**.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but thriving in the USA.

Ashlee

- **Current frequencies:** GB 118, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 46
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent, Surrey

English: see **Ashley**.

Ashleigh

- **Current frequencies:** GB 66, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

English: variant spelling of **Ashley**.

Ashley

Variants: **Ashleigh**, **Ashlee**, **Ashly**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 7569, Ireland 38
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4968
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin

English: locative name from any of several places in different parts of England of this name, named in Old English with *æsc* 'ash tree' + *lēah* 'open woodland'.

Early bearers: Walter de Esselega, 1162 in *Pipe Rolls* (Gloucs); Robert de Ashley, 1281 in *Court Rolls* (Wilts); Robertus Esshlay, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Norton, WR Yorks); Thomas Assheley, 1401 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Richard Ashley, 1541 in *IGI* (Persore, Worcs); William Ashley, 1541 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Margaret Ashley, 1551 in *IGI* (North Elmham, Norfolk); Thomas Ashley, 1553 in *IGI* (Harrietsham, Kent); Wyllm Ashley, 1554 in *IGI* (Enfield, Middx); Annie Ashley, 1558 in *IGI* (Persore, Worcs); Nycholes Ashley, 1560 in *IGI* (Sprotbrough, WR Yorks); Robert Ashley, 1560 in *IGI* (Great Budworth, Cheshire); John Ashly, 1565 in *IGI* (Totnes, Devon); Drew Ashlee, 1575 in *IGI* (Saint Mary the Virgin Aldermanbury, London); Ales Ashley, 1576, Elizabeth Asley, 1580 in *IGI* (Weeford, Staffs).

Ashlin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 74, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 99
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Lincs; London

English: see **Aslin**.

Ashling

Variants: **Ashland**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 82, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 139
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs; Lincs and Notts
- English: see **Aslin**.

Ashlock

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: see **Haslock**.

Further information: This form of the name has died out in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Ashly

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 110
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in England: esp. London; Beds; Staffs

English: see **Ashley**.

Ashmall

- **Current frequencies:** GB 45, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 41
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs, Warwicks
- English: see **Ashmole**.

Ashman

Variants: **Asman**, **Ashment**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3300, Ireland 32
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1938
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England and Wales

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Asman*, *Ashman* (Old English *Æscmann*), which perhaps originated as a byname from Old English *æscmann* 'shipman, sailor'.

Early bearers: given names: Assemanus, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Suffolk); Asseman, Asman, 13th cent. in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Hunts). surnames: Robert Asheman, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Suffolk); Roger Asman, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); John Esssheman, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Robert Assheman, 1328, William Assheman, 1341 in *Patent Rolls* (Norfolk); Johannes Essman, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Skirpenbeck and Thoraby, ER Yorks); Johannes Asscheman, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Essex); Susann Ashman, 1552 in *IGI* (Colchester, Essex); John Ashman, 1560 in *IGI* (Malborough, Devon); William Ashman, 1564 in *IGI* (Willingham by Saint Ives, Cambs); John Ashman, 1566 in *IGI* (Pilton, Somerset); Thomas Ashman, 1569 in *IGI* (Trowbridge, Wilts).

Ashmead

Variants: **Ashmeade**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 274, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 230
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

English: locative name from Ashmead Green in Cam or Ashmeads Mill in Chalford (both Gloucs).

Early bearers: [. . . de] Assemade, 1287 in *Place-Names of Gloucs* (Gloucs); Nicholas Ashmead, 1565 in *IGI* (Upleadon, Gloucs); John Ashmead, 1568 in *IGI* (Cheltenham, Gloucs); John Ashmead, 1582 in *IGI* (Dymock, Gloucs).

References: *Place-Names of Gloucs* 1, p. 127; 2, p. 216.

Ashmeade

- **Current frequencies:** GB 39, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 17
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

English: see **Ashmead**.

Ashment

- **Current frequencies:** GB 28, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 40

- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset

English: variant of **Ashman** with excrescent *-t*. This final *-t*, along with a change in the unstressed vowel from *-a-* to *-e-*, seems to be a post-medieval development found in a good number of surnames where *-man* becomes *-ment*. Compare **Bridgement**, **Dayment**, **Hardiment**, **Maidment**, **Marchment**, **Moment**, **Overment**, and **Parfremment**.

Early bearers: Thompson Ashmond, 1658, John Ashment, 1725 in *IGI* (Crewkerne, Somerset); Edward Ashmant, 1745 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon).

Ashmere

- **GB frequency 1881:** 4
- English: see **Ashmore**.

Ashmole

Variants: **Ashmall**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 114, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 144
- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys and Staffs

1 English: an unexplained name associated with the Isle of Axholme (Lincs), which becomes equated or confused with one of its own variants in the Midlands in the 19th cent., as in Elias William Ashmole Ashmall, 1894 in *IGI* (Hartshill by Stoke on Trent, Staffs). In Staffs, perhaps influenced by the local surname **Ashmore**, from the place in Wednesfield.

Further information: McKinley in *Surnames of Lancs*, pp. 112, 392, implies that the similar name *Asmall* is always a variant of **Aspinall**.

Early bearers: Johannes Ashmall, 1552 in *IGI* (Amcotts, Lincs); Thomas Ashmole, 1575 in *IGI* (Lichfield, Staffs); Gulielmi Ashmall, 1588 in *IGI* (Belton in Axholme, Lincs); Alice Ashmole, 1613 in *IGI* (Tamworth, Staffs); Humphrey Ashmale, 1679 in *IGI* (Lapworth, Warwicks); Henry Ashmole, 1686 in *IGI* (Epworth, Lincs).

2 English: see **Ashmore**.

Ashmoor

- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham
- English: see **Ashmore**.

Ashmoore

- **GB frequency 1881:** 9
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Ashmore**.

Ashmore

Variants: **Ashmoor**, **Ashmoore**, **Ashmere**, **Ashmole**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3384, Ireland 225
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2231
- **Main GB location 1881:** N and W Midlands
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Carlow

English: locative name from one or more of the places called *Ashmore*, in Wednesfield (Staffs), Dorset, or Bucks, or a similar lost one. The place in Staffs is also found in the name of Johanne de Asshmerbroke, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Stafford, Staffs).

Further information: This English name is also common in Ireland.

Early bearers: Elias de Asmere, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Elias de Ashmer, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); William Asschmere, 1349 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Wilts); John Ashmore, 1574 in *IGI* (Lichfield, Staffs); Joane Ashmore, 1578 in *IGI*

(Aylesbury, Bucks); Charles Ashmoor, 1610 in *IGI* (Repton, Derbys); Elizabeth Ashmere, 1744 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk).

References: *Staffs Place-Names*, p. 93; *Place-Names of Dorset* 2, p. 201; *Place-Names of Wilts*, p. 341.

Ashplant

- **Current frequencies:** GB 96, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 148
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: variant (by folk etymology) of **Absalom**.

Early bearers: Will Ashplant, 1704 in *IGI* (Chulmleigh, Devon).

Ashpole

Variants: **Ashpool**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 246, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 111
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: London; Beds, Hunts; NR Yorks

English: much altered variant of **Archibald**.

Early bearers: Mary Ashpole, 1640 in *IGI* (Bedford, Beds).

Ashpool

- **Current frequencies:** GB 80, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 49
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Bucks, Beds, Northants; also NR Yorks

English: see **Ashpole**.

Ashraf

- **Current frequencies:** GB 4337, Ireland 20
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim: from an Arabic personal name, *Ashraf*, meaning ‘most honourable’ or ‘most distinguished’, a superlative based on **Sharif**.

Ashton

Variants: **Ashdon**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17288, Ireland 144
- **GB frequency 1881:** 14529
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England and Wales: esp. Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Offaly

English: locative name from any of the many places of this name (Cheshire, Northants, Wilts, Somerset, Herefs, Sussex, and elsewhere). Most of them are named in Old English with *æsc* ‘ash tree’ + *tūn* ‘settlement’. Others have been assimilated to this from different sources. The one in Northants is (*æt þæm*) *æscum* ‘(at the) ash trees’. The one in Devon is ‘the settlement (*tūn*) of *Æschere*’, while the one in Herts is ‘the settlement of *Ælli*’. See also **Aston**.

Early bearers: England John de Essheton, 1306 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Yorks); John de Ashtone, 1323, 1326 in *Coroners’ Rolls* (Northants); Thomas de Esseton, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Flasby, WR Yorks); Thomas Assheton, 1431 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Anne Assheton, 1542 in *IGI* (Middleton by Oldham, Lancs); Johanes Ashton, 1606, Margaret Ashton, 1789, Thomas Ashten, 1790, Thomas Ashden, 1791 in *IGI* (Blackburn, Lancs).

Scotland Roger Aschtoun, 1585 in *Origines Parochiales* (Ross); Henrie Ashton, 1658 in *IGI* (Anstruther, Fife); Sebastian Ashton, burgess, 1688 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Linlithgow).

Ashurst

Variants: **Ashhurst**, **Ashenhurst**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1633, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1060
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: locative name from Ashurst in Upholland (Lancs). There are places called Ashurst in Sussex, Surrey, Kent, and elsewhere, and early bearers are found in those counties, but the distribution shows that the modern surname is in most or all cases from Ashurst Beacon and Ashurst Hall, near Wigan.

Early bearers: Richard de Aschehyrst, 1285 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Richard de Asshurst, 1323 in *Lancs Inquests* (Lancs); Will’ de Asshhurst, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lancs); Edmund Asshurst, 1525 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Notts); Harvey Asshorst, 1558, Edward Asshirst, 1572 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs); Jane Ashurst, 1666 in *IGI* (Upholland, Lancs).

References: *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 105; *Hey, Family Names*, pp. 193, 203.

Ashwell

Variants: **Haxell**, **Hackshall**, **Axell**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1141, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 893
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England

English: locative name from any of several places called *Ashwell* (Essex, Herts, Rutland, Somerset, Devon).

Early bearers: Ernulf de Assewell, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Beds); Roger de Asshewell, 1331 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Johanne Asshewell, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Oxon); Richard Asshewell, 1391 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Gloucs); Alice Ashwell, 1551 in *IGI* (Alvechurch, Worcs); Dorothe Ashwell, 1560 in *IGI* (Alvechurch, Worcs); William Ashwell, 1560 in *IGI* (Bassingbourn, Cambs); Joanna Ashwell, 1561 in *IGI* (Fyfield, Essex); John Ashwell, 1562 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk).

Ashwin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 319, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 240
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs and Worcs

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Ashwyn*, itself from Old English *Æscwine*, composed of the elements *æsc* ‘ash-tree, spear’ + *wine* ‘friend’.

Further information: *Æscwine* was the name of an early king of Wessex (674–6).

Early bearers: William Ashwyne, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Surrey); Willm. Ashwin, 1563 in *IGI* (Bretforton, Worcs); John. Ashwin, 1576 in *IGI* (Bretforton, Worcs); Jane Ashwin, 1611 in *IGI* (Horsham, Sussex); Thomas Ashwin, 1621 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Richard Ashwin, 1649 in *IGI* (Corringham, Lincs).

Ashwood

Variants: **Dashwood**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 661, Ireland 43
- **GB frequency 1881:** 379
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England (esp. Shrops, Staffs, and London); also Scotland
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down

English, Scottish: locative name from any of various places named as ‘the ash wood’, for example Ashwood in Kinver Forest (Staffs), Ashwood Dale in Fairfield (Derbys), and Ashwood Farm in Ashton (Northants).

Early bearers: England Olyvero de Asshewode, Will’o Asshewode, 1332–3 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); Richard Ashewood, 1566 in *IGI* (Waters Upton, Shrops);

Hughe Ashwoode, 1568 in *IGI* (Astley Abbots, Shrops); Nicholas Ashewood, 1588 in *IGI* (Somersham, Hunts); Anthony Ashwood, 1595 in *IGI* (Ilchester, Somerset); William Ashwood, 1665 in *IGI* (Penkridge, Staffs).
Scotland Mary Ashwood, 1799 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian).

Ashworth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 9072, Ireland 39
- **GB frequency 1881:** 11940
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Galway; Wicklow

English: locative name from Ashworth (Lancs).
Early bearers: [...] de Esworde, about 1200 in *Lancs Place-Names*; Richard de Ascheworth, 1285 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Edmund de Assheworth, 1585 in *IGI* (Rochdale, Lancs); Katherine Ashworth, 1586 in *IGI* (Manchester, Lancs); Annes Ashworth, 1606, Elizabeth Asworth, 1627 in *IGI* (Newchurch in Rossendale, Lancs); Elizabetha Ashworth, 1696, Mary Asworth, 1744 in *IGI* (Moulton, Lincs).
References: *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 54.

Asiedu

- **Current frequencies:** GB 372, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Ghanaian: unexplained.

Asif

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1568, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim, Indian subcontinent: unexplained; possibly, whether directly or indirectly, from the Arabic root /ʔ-s-f/ with a meaning range including ‘forgiving’.
References: *Ahmed*.

Asim

- **Current frequencies:** GB 360, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Arabic, Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic ‘*āsim*, ‘guardian, protector’.

Ask

- **GB frequency 1881:** 39
- **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks

English: see **Aske**.

Askam

- **Current frequencies:** GB 94, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 94
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Askham**.

Aske

Variants: **Ask**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 73, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 44
- **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks; also Staffs

English: locative name from Aske (NR Yorks), or ‘dweller by the ash-tree’, Middle English *ask* (Old Scandinavian *askr*).
Early bearers: Roger de Ask, 1208 in *Feet of Fines* (Yorks); Roger del Ask, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Oxon); John de Ask, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); Johannes de Lask, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Kingston upon Hull, ER Yorks); Tho Aske, 1548 in *IGI* (Pillerton Hersey, Warwicks); Dorcas Aske, 1569 in *IGI* (Saint Peter Westcheap, London); Anna Aske, 1570 in *IGI*

(Ryther, WR Yorks); Beatrice Aske, 1570 in *IGI* (Brough, Westm); David Aske, 1591 in *IGI* (Ilfracombe, Devon).
References: *Place-Names of NR Yorks*, p. 286.

Askell

Variants: **Askill, Axcell, Axell, Eskell, Haskell, Haskel, Haxell**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 81, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 61
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb

1 Norman, English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Askell*, Old Scandinavian *Áskell*, a shortened form of *Ásketill* (see **Ashkettle** and **Axtell**). The personal name was also popular among the Normans, sometimes in the form *Anskell* (with Continental Germanic *Ans-* substituted for *As-*), which largely explains why the name occurs in post-Conquest England in counties not settled by Vikings. Its appearance as a surname is often disguised by altered pronunciations. Metathesis of /sk/ to /ks/, spelled -x-, has given rise to **Axcell** and **Axtell**, while the addition of a prosthetic H- has produced **Haskell** and **Haxell**. The Normans frequently used the name in Frankish forms; see **Anketell**, **Askin**, **Haskin**, **Antin**, **Hastie**, **Astin**, and **Astill**. For the name in the Isle of Man see **Castell**.
Further information: Norman forms of the personal name were freely interchangeable. In the *Whitby Chartulary*, Aschetillus de Houkesgard (about 1155) is also called Aschetinus (about 1145), *Astillus* (about 1170), and Astinus (12th century). In *Danelaw Documents* (Leics), in the late 12th century, Anketinus persona de Prestwalda appears also as Asketinus filius Hugonis de Prestewalda and as Anketillus de Prestwalda. Compare also Aschetillus, Ancatillus, Anquetillus Malore (i), 1154–89 in *Danelaw Documents* (Leics).
Early bearers: given names: Aschil, Anschil, 1086 in *Domesday Book*. surnames: Robertus filius Askel, 1180 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Alanus filius Askil, 1186–1211 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Kalendar* (Norfolk); Thomas Askil, about 1248 in *Bec Abbey Documents* (Oxon); Margaret Askell, 1682, John Aiskell, 1683, Thomas Askell, 1763 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb).
2 Scottish Gaelic: reduced form of **McAskill**, which is based on the same Scandinavian personal name as in (1).

Askem

- **Current frequencies:** GB 87, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4

English: see **Askham**.

Asker

- **Current frequencies:** GB 379, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 189
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name **Asker* (Old Scandinavian *Ásgeirr*, formed from the elements *áss* ‘god’ + *geirr* ‘spear’).
Early bearers: Robertus Asker, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Althorpe and Keadby, Lincs); Robert Asker, constable, 1594–5 in *Cheshire Record Office*; Edward Asker of Lincolns Inn co Middx, 1623–4 in *Notts Archives*; Mary Asker, 1730 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); William Asker, 1740 in *IGI* (Fleet, Lincs); Samuel

Asker, 1764 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); William Ascar, 1797 in *IGI* (Litcham, Norfolk).

Askew

Variants: **Ayscough, Ascough, Askey, Haskow, Haskew, Eskew, Ainscough**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 4834, Ireland 25
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3269
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in N and E England: esp. Lancs, WR Yorks, and Durham

English: locative name probably from Aiskew (NR Yorks), or possibly from another minor place in northern England likewise named as ‘oak wood’ (Old Scandinavian *eikiskógr*), such as Aiskew in Marrick (NR Yorks) or the lost *Aykescof* in Preese (Lancs).
Further information: Sir Hugh Askew received the lands of the convent of Seaton during the dissolution of the monasteries in 1542.
Early bearers: Will’s de Aykescogh’, 1366 in *Ormskirk Stipend* (Ormskirk, Lancs); Robert Ascowe, 1390 in *London Letter Books H* (London); John de Ayscogh’, John Ayscogh’, 1407 in *Feet of Fines* (NR Yorks); John Ayscow, 1408 in *Patent Rolls*; Robert Ayscogh, 1439 in *Patent Rolls* (Richmond, NR Yorks); John Ayscogh’, 1444 in *Feet of Fines* (Notts); William Ayscough, justice, 1446 in *Feet of Fines* (Lancs); John Ayscough’, 1480 in *Feet of Fines* (Saltfleetby, Lincs); Simon Ascogh, 1488, Richard Askoo, 1533, William Ayscough, 1675 in *York Freeman’s Register* (York); John Ascow, William Askew, 1488 in *York Guild Register* (York); James Askew, 1551 in *IGI* (Ulverston, Lancs).
References: *Place-Names of NR Yorks*, pp. 236, 294; *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 252.

Askey

Variants: **Askie, Haskey**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 925, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 705
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs; also WR Yorks

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Aski*, from Old Scandinavian *Aski*, derived from *aski* ‘ash-tree’.
Early bearers: given names: Aschi Wara, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Herts); Asci, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Shrops); Aschi, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Warwicks). surnames: Amy Askie, 1618 in *Bardsley*; John Ashkey, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk); Elizab. Askey, 1689 in *IGI* (Cheadle, Staffs).
2 English: it may also be a variant of **Askew**.

Askham

Variants: **Ascham, Askem, Askam**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 900, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 573
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: locative name from any of three places called Askham (WR Yorks, Notts, Westm).
Early bearers: Conan de Ascham, 1201 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Richard de Ascum, 1204 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); John de Askham, 1290 in *York Freeman’s Register*; Thomas de Askam, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Firbeck, WR Yorks); Sarah Askham, 1598 in *IGI* (Berwick upon Tweed, Northumb); Edmundi Askham, 1613 in *IGI* (Ledsham, WR Yorks); Thomas Askham, 1620 in *IGI* (Boston, Lincs); Mary Askham, 1690 in *IGI* (South Lynn, Norfolk); John Askham, 1701 in *IGI* (Saint Sampson, York).

Askie

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 4, pp. 233–4; *Place-Names of Notts*, p. 44; *Place-Names of Westm* 2, p. 200.

Askie

- **GB frequency 1881:** 25
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lanarks; Middx and Surrey

1 Scottish: reduced form of **McAskie**.

2 English: see **Askey**.

Askill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 53, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 25
- **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks

English: see **Askell**.

Askin

Variants: **Ashken**, **Askins**, **Haskin**, **Haskins**, **Hasking**, **Haskings**, **Hoskins**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 322, Ireland 118
- **GB frequency 1881:** 248
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks, Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down and Antrim

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Askin*, a contracted form of the Norman personal name *Asketin*, a pet form of Old Scandinavian *Ásketill*. See **Ashkettle**, **Axtell**, **Askell**, and compare **Astin**.

Early bearers: given names: Asketinus filius Od, 1163 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs).

surnames: John Asketyn, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); John Haskyn, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Edouardus Askin, 1565, Hugonis Asken, 1573 in *IGI* (Stewton, Lincs); John Askin, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk).

2 English, Irish: variant of **Heskin**.

3 English: variant of **Haskayne**.

Askins

Variants: **Haskins**, **Haskings**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 296, Ireland 54
- **GB frequency 1881:** 90
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Cumb
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin; Wexford

English: variant of **Askin** with post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Askwith

- **Current frequencies:** GB 332, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 254
- **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks and Durham

English: see **Asquith**.

Aslam

- **Current frequencies:** GB 5648, Ireland 18
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

1 Arabic, Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic *aslam* ‘safer, better’.

2 English: variant of **Haslam** with loss of initial *H-*.

Aslan

Variants: **Arslan**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 588, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4

Turkish: from the personal name *Aslan*, based on a Turkish word meaning ‘lion’.

Further information: This is also found as an Iranian and a Sephardic Jewish name.

Early bearers: John G. Aslan, merchant, Mediterranean, born in Greece, in *Census 1861* (Salford, Lancs).

Aslen

- **GB frequency 1881:** 4

English: see **Aslin**.

Aslet

- **Current frequencies:** GB 42, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 37
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants

English: see **Aslett**.

Aslett

Variants: **Aslet**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 640, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 445
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants

Norman, English: relationship name from the Old French male personal name *Ascelot*, from a pet form of Continental Germanic *Azo* + the double diminutive Old French suffix *-elot*. See **Ace**. There was also a feminine form, e.g. *Acelota*, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Essex).

Early bearers: given names: Aslot del Mylnes, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Leics); Aslot’ West, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Sussex). surnames: Rogerus filius Aselot’, 1189–99 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Lincs); Johannes filius Ascelot, 1221 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Oxon); Hugh Asselote, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); William Asselot, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Jana Aslet, 1564 in *IGI* (Selborne, Hants).

Aslin

Variants: **Astling**, **Ashling**, **Ashlin**, **Asling**, **Aslen**, **Eastling**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 153, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 186
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. London; Herts; also Notts and WR Yorks

English: relationship name from the Middle English male personal name *Asselyn*, Old French *Acelin*, *Ascelin*, from Continental Germanic *Azilin*, a double diminutive of *Azo*. Compare **Aslet**. There was also a feminine form, *A(s)celine*.

Early bearers: given names: Ascelinus de Wudecroft, 1162 in *Pipe Rolls* (Northants); Acelina de Stanfelde, 1195 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Ascelina, 1214 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Middx); Assellina Rolf, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Northants); Ascelin’ Hadde, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Leics). surnames: Walterus filius Acelini, Ascelini, 1206 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Northants); Henricus Ascelinus, 1204 in *Pipe Rolls* (Wilts); Nicholaus Asceline, 1255 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Hunts); Richard Asselyn, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Bucks); Henry Asshelyn, 1374 in *London Letter Books G*; Willelmus Eselyn, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Burton Hastings and Shelford, Warwicks); Thomas Aslen, 1560 in *IGI* (Southwell, Notts).

Asling

- **Current frequencies:** GB 153, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 110
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Aslin**.

Asmal

- **Current frequencies:** GB 125, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim: unexplained.

Asman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 96, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 105
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks;

English: see **Ashman**.

Asp

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

English: variant of **Apps**.

Aspden

Variants: **Astin**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1027, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1318
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs, WR Yorks

English: locative name from Aspden (alias Aspen) in Oswaldtwistle (Lancs), which is recorded as *Aspdene* in 1200–8. The surname was certainly confused with **Ashton** and **Austin**, and probably with **Aston** and *Astin* (common surnames in Lancs, e.g. in Burnley, where *Aspden* occurs). It seems to be the source of the Calderdale surname *Astin*.

Early bearers: Roger de Haspeden, 1246, Adam de Aspeden, 1284 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Roger de Aspeden, 1329 in *Lancs Inquests* (Lancs); William Aspeden, 1520 in *Halifax Wills* (WR Yorks); Ralph Aspeden, alias Ascheden, alias Ashton, 1565–9 in *Parish Registers* (Warley in Halifax, WR Yorks); Peter Aspden, alias Asdene, 1570–4 in *Parish Registers* (Skircoat in Halifax, WR Yorks); Margaret Aspden, 1586, Jane Aspden, 1650, Benjamin Aspden, 1879 in *IGI* (Burnley, Lancs); Thomas Asden, 1615, John Asdin, 1845 in *IGI* (Blackburn, Lancs); John Austen, 1639 in *Parish Registers* (Heptonstall, WR Yorks); William Asden, 1640 in *Parish Registers* (Langfield in Heptonstall, WR Yorks); Joseph Aspden, 1710 in *IGI* (Leeds, WR Yorks); Jonas Austin otherwise Asdin, 1768 in *WR Yorks Quarter Sessions* (Halifax, WR Yorks).

References: *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 91; *Redmonds, Surnames and Genealogy*, p. 216.

Aspel

- **Current frequencies:** GB 67, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 6
- **Main GB location 1881:** IoM
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Wexford

English, Irish: see **Aspell**.

Aspell

Variants: **Aspel**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 176, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 73
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; also Leics
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Wexford and Westmeath

1 English: locative name from Aspall (Lancs), which is recorded as *Aspul* in 1212, *Asphull* in 1332.

Early bearers: John de Haspull, John de Aspyll, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); John Hasphull, 1376 in *Patent Rolls*; Johannes Hespell’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Drax, WR Yorks); Thomas Aspall, 1410 in *Patent Rolls* (Sudbury, Suffolk); Richard Aspall, 1583, Anne Aspul, 1670 in *IGI* (Wigan, Lancs); Mary Asphull, 1705 in *IGI* (Leigh, Lancs).

2 Irish: in Ireland, this is usually the English name imported, but according to MacLysaght it is also an

east Leinster variant of **Archbold** (see **Archibald** and compare **Ashpole**).

Early bearers: James Aspolde, gent., 1566 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §893 (Glasmoke, Dublin); Moile Asbold, gent., 1566 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §984 (Ballynahyn); William Aspoll, 1567 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1158 (Killenparke, Wicklow); Nicholas moore Ashpoll, 1598 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6200 (Cornelscourte, Dublin).

Aspen

Variants: **Aspin**, **Espin**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 73, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 92
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: locative name denoting someone living by an aspen tree, Middle English *aspe*.

Aspery

- **Current frequencies:** GB 136, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 62
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs; Durham and NR Yorks; Lancs

English: variant of **Astbury** with loss of *-t-* and unvoicing of *-b-* to *-p-*.

Aspey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 723, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 386
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim

English: nickname from Middle English *aspie*, *espie* (Old French *espie*) ‘stealthy watcher, scout, spy’.

Early bearers: Margeria Aspie, 1645 in *IGI* (Great Budworth, Cheshire); Thomas Aspey, 1670 in *IGI* (Worcester, Worcs); Joseph Welch Aspy, 1697 in *IGI* (Worcester, Worcs); Elizabeth Aspey, 1729 in *IGI* (Runcorn, Cheshire); Mary Aspey, 1770 in *IGI* (Warrington, Lancs).

Aspin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1214, Ireland 18
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1204
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: locative name see **Aspen**.

Early bearers: Elizabeth Aspin, 1591 in *IGI* (Bassingham, Lincs); John Aspin, 1638, John Espin, 1643 in *IGI* (Corby, Lincs); Mathew Espin, 1661 in *IGI* (Melton Mowbray, Leics); Tho. Espinn, 1728 in *IGI* (Nettleham, Lincs).

Aspinall

- **Current frequencies:** GB 44, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 116
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and WR Yorks
- English: see **Aspinall**.

Aspinall

Variants: **Aspinwall**, **Aspinal**, **Aspinell**, **Haspineall**, **Aspindale**, **Aspnall**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 4546, Ireland 17
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4121
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and WR Yorks

English: locative name from Aspinwall in Ormskirk (Lancs).

Further information: This name has a very large number of historic variants. Note that the similar but rare surname *Ashmenall* is a distinct locative name from Ashmanhaugh (Norfolk).

Early bearers: Henry de Aspenewell, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Adam of Aspenwelle, about 1275 in *Lancs Record Office*; Christopher Aspinall, 1540 in *IGI* (Whalley, Lancs); Thomas Asmoll, 1541 in *IGI* (Aughton by Ormskirk, Lancs); Alice Asmall, 1558 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs); Anne Aspinwall, 1563 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs); Thomas Assmall, 1572 in *IGI* (Farnworth near Prescott, Lancs); Miles Haspinall, 1578 in *Yorks Wills*; Marget Aspenall, 1580 in *IGI* (Garstang, Lancs); Thomas Aspenwall, 1595 in *IGI* (Warrington, Lancs); Edmond Aspenall, 1599 in *York Freeman’s Register*; William Aspnall, 1615 in *IGI* (Deane by Bolton, Lancs); Henry Asmnnall, 1638 in *IGI* (Wigan, Lancs); Hannah Aspinell, 1708 in *IGI* (Manchester, Lancs); John Aspidale, 1744 in *IGI* (Chipping, Lancs).

References: *Surnames of Lancs*, pp. 111–14.

Aspidale

- **Current frequencies:** GB 18, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 6
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Worcs
- English: variant of **Aspinall**.

Aspinell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 39, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 34
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey

English: see **Aspinall**.

Aspinwall

- **Current frequencies:** GB 325, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 298
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: see **Aspinall**.

Asplan

- **GB frequency 1881:** 3
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs; Monmouths
- English: see **Absalom**.

Aspland

- **Current frequencies:** GB 376, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 295
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs

English: see **Absalom**.

Asplen

- **Current frequencies:** GB 91, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 68
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs
- English: see **Absalom**.

Aspley

Variants: **Apsley**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 225, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 85
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and Warwicks; Beds; Herts

1 English: locative name from Aspley in Brewwood or Aspley in Eccleshall (both Staffs), or from Aspley Heath in Tanworth in Arden or, perhaps, the lost *Aspley* in Wixford (both Warwicks).

Early bearers: [. . . de] Asplea, 1180 in *Pipe Rolls* (Warwicks); Walter de Aspeleye, 1334, Thomas Aspeleye, 1373 in *Warwicks Record Office* (Warwick, Warwicks); Nicholas de Aspeley, 1407 in *Staffs Archives* (Stafford, Staffs); Sarah Aspley, 1559 in *IGI* (Stafford, Staffs); Elnor Aspley, 1575 in *IGI* (Castle

Church, Staffs); John Aspleye, 1582 in *IGI* (Brewwood, Staffs); Anna Aspley, 1582 in *IGI* (Tanworth in Arden, Warwicks); Susanna Aspley, 1585 in *IGI* (Walsall, Staffs); John Aspley, 1594 in *IGI* (Penkridge, Staffs); Jane Aspley, 1639 in *IGI* (Alcester, Warwicks).

References: *Place-Names of Staffs*, vol. 1, p. 36; *Staffs Place-Names*, p. 94; *Place-Names of Warwicks*, pp. 292, 228.

2 English: locative name from Apsley End in Kings Langley (Herts).

Early bearers: John de Aspele, 1357 in *Place-Names of Herts* (Kings Langley, Herts); Thomas Apsley, 1595 in *IGI* (Watford, Herts); Henry Apsley, 1598 in *IGI* (Sarratt, Herts).

References: *Place-Names of Herts*, p. 45.

3 English: locative name from Aspley Guise (Beds) or, possibly, from Apsley End in Shillington (also Beds).

Early bearers: Thoma Aspele, 1309, Willo de Aspele, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Bromham with Biddenham, Beds); Richero de Aspele, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Kempston, Beds); Jn Aspley, 1561 in *IGI* (Toddington, Beds); John Aspley, 1733 in *IGI* (Stevington, Beds).

References: *Place-Names of Beds and Hunts*, pp. 113, 174.

4 English: locative name perhaps occasionally from another of the many places called Apsley or Aspley (the metathesis operates in both directions), such as Apsley Farm in Thakeham (Sussex), Apsley in Ellesborough (Bucks), and Aspley Hall in Radford (Notts).

Early bearers: [. . . de] Asple, about 1175 in *Place-Names of Notts* (Notts); Simon de Apsele, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts*; Stephen de Apsele, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John de Apsele, 1379 in *Feet of Fines* (Ellesborough, Bucks); John Apsele, 1467 in *West Sussex Record Office* (Thakeham, Sussex); Ane Apslay, 1557 in *IGI* (Horsham, Sussex).

References: *Place-Names of Sussex*, p. 181; *Place-Names of Bucks*, p. 149; *Place-Names of Notts*, p. 150.

Asplin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 327, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 212
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs

English: see **Absalom**.

Aspnall

- **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- English: see **Aspinall**.

Aspray

- **Current frequencies:** GB 89, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 51
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Bucks and Middx

1 English: variant of **Astbury** with loss of *-t-* and unvoicing of *-b-* to *-p-*.

2 English: variant of **Ashbury** with unvoicing of *-b-* to *-p-*.

Asprey

Variants: **Haspery**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 434, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 267
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Staffs; Surrey

1 English: variant of **Astbury** with loss of *-t-* and unvoicing of *-b-* to *-p-*.

Asquith

Further information: The S Lincs examples of *Asprey* may be associated with the Northants families named *Asbery*.

2 English: variant of **Ashbury** with unvoicing of *-b-* to *-p-*.

Asquith

Variants: Askwith

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2178, Ireland 23
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1752
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: locative name from Askwith (WR Yorks).

Early bearers: Ulf de Askwith', 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Adam de Askequid, 1297 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); Robert de Askewith, 1349 in *Patent Rolls* (Yorks); John Askewyth, 1398 in *Patent Rolls* (London); Jennett Asquyth, 1561 in *IGI* (York).

References *Redmonds, Surnames and Genealogy*, pp. 184–9.

Assan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 65, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- Ghanaian: unexplained.

Asscher

- **GB frequency 1881:** 6
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey
- Jewish: see **Ascher**.

Early bearers: Emanuel Asscher, born in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in *Census 1881* (Saint Ives, Cornwall); Edward Asscher, born in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, in *Census 1881* (Battersea, Surrey).

Asser

Variants: Asher

- **Current frequencies:** GB 120, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 142
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx, Surrey, and Kent
- English, Norman: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Asser*, *Atser* (Old Scandinavian *Qzurr*, *Azur*, probably from Common Scandinavian **AntswaruR* 'answerer'), also in use among Normans in Normandy, which may explain its occurrence in post-Conquest England outside the former Danelaw counties.

Early bearers: given names: Atsere, 1059–62, Azor presbiter, about 1090–1100, Acerum, 1198 in *Insley, Scand. Personal Names* (Norfolk). surnames: Outi filius Azer, Ulf filius Azor, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Lincs, Northants); Alvredus filius Asceur', 1200 in *Insley, Scand. Personal Names* (Norfolk); John Asser, Richard Aseyr, 1249 in *Assize Rolls* (Wilts); John Asser, 1331 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Hunts); John Asser, 1412 in *Feet of Fines* (Northants); Simon Assere, 1424 in *Feet of Fines* (Herts); Henry Aser, 1555 in *IGI* (Enfield, Middx).

References: *Fellows Jensen, Scand. Personal Names*, pp. 36–7; *Insley, Scand. Personal Names*, pp. 89–92.

Assi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 342, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (Panjab): Hindu (Khatri) and Sikh, based on the name of a Khatri clan.

Assinder

Variants: Assiter

- **Current frequencies:** GB 103, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 113
- **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks

Portuguese: occupational name perhaps an anglicized form of Portuguese *azeiteiro* 'olive-oil producer or vendor'. This is not inconsistent with its earliest appearance in the London area (though it subsequently flourishes in Kent). The form *Assinder* has epenthesis of *-n-* in a medial unstressed syllable, as in *nightingale* and *messenger*.

Early bearers: Edward Asseter, 1626 in *IGI* (Harrow on the Hill, Middx); William Assiter, 1638 in *IGI* (Harrow on the Hill, Middx); Elizabeth Assitor, 1634 in *IGI* (Bramshall, Staffs); Francis Awsiter, 1683 in *IGI* (Saint Giles Cripplegate, London); Edmond Osseter, 1709 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Sarah Ossender, 1714 in *IGI* (Coleshill, Warwicks); John Osseter, 1720 in *IGI* (Rowington, Warwicks); Tho. Assiter, 1730 in *IGI* (Ightham, Kent); Sarah Assinder, 1779 in *IGI* (Birmingham, Warwicks).

Assiter

- **Current frequencies:** GB 29, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 49
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent, Surrey

English: see **Assinder**.

Asson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 164, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 60
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs

English: variant of **Aston** with loss of *-t-*.

Early bearers: Edward Asson, 1554, Ann Aston, 1672 in *IGI* (Chaddesley Corbett, Worcs); Henry Asson, 1620, Thomas Aston, 1692 in *IGI* (Walsall, Staffs).

Astall

Variants: Astle, Astil

- **Current frequencies:** GB 123, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 81
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cheshire

1 English: locative name variant of **Astle**, which the modern distribution suggests is most probably from Astle (Cheshire), or a variant of the Cheshire surname **Artingstall** (compare **Arstall**).

2 English: locative name from Asthall (Oxon).

Early bearers: Walter de Astalle, de Estalle, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); Elizabeth Astell, 1629 in *IGI* (Oxford, Oxon); Dianah Astell, 1645, Edward Astell, 1752, Maria Astell, 1832 in *IGI* (Claydon, Oxon).

3 English: see **Astill**.

Astbury

Variants: Ashbury, Ashbery, Ashberry, Asbury, Hasbury, Asbery, Asberry, Aspery, Asprey, Aspray, Hasprey, Haspray

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2094, Ireland 30
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1401
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and Cheshire
- English: locative name from Astbury (Cheshire), also recorded as *Ashebury* in 1510, *Asbury* in 1544, and *Asbery* in 1585; see *Place-Names of Cheshire* 2, p. 286. As a surname it also appears with final *-berry*, which with unvoicing of *-b-* becomes *Asprey*, etc., and with prosthetic initial *H-* becomes *Hasprey*. Some examples of the name may belong under **Ashberry** or **Ashbury**.

Early bearers: William de Estebury, about 1280 in *Cheshire Record Office* (Church Lawton, Cheshire); William de Astbury, 1287 in *Assize Rolls* (Cheshire); Ranulph de Astebury, about 1313 in *Cheshire Record Office* (Rode Heath, Cheshire); Henry de Astebury,

1343 in *Salt Manuscripts* (Ilam, Staffs); John de Astebury, 1348 in *Staffs Archives* (Buglawton, Cheshire); Marie Astburie, 1565, William Asburie, 1567 in *IGI* (Trentham, Staffs); Hugh Asbery, 1572 in *IGI* (Aston, Warwicks); Johne Aspray, 1591 in *IGI* (Witham on the Hill, Lincs); Anthonie Asprey, 1608 in *IGI* (Uffington, Lincs); Joyes Asburie, 1628, Joseph Asprey, 1759 in *IGI* (Prescot, Lancs); Thomas Ashberrie, 1646 in *PROB 11* (Ashley, Cheshire); Thomas Hasbery, 1683 in *IGI* (Ancaster, Lincs); Sarah Asbry, 1705 in *IGI* (Caverswall, Staffs); William Astbury, 1714 in *IGI* (Wybunbury, Cheshire); John Hasbury, 1725 in *IGI* (Longdon, Staffs); Joseph Astbury, 1726, Jos. Asberry, 1756, Sarah Aspray, 1792 in *IGI* (Kettering, Northants); Mary Astbury, 1751, George Ashbury, 1787, John Asbury, 1824, Martha Aspery, 1849 in *IGI* (Manchester, Lancs); Martha Asprey, 1764 in *IGI* (Walsall, Staffs); Ann Hasprey, 1783, Elizabeth Aspry, 1816, Emma Astbury, 1820 in *IGI* (Tarvin, Cheshire).

Astell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 273, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 271
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Warwicks
- English: variant of **Astle** or **Astill**.

Asten

- **Current frequencies:** GB 48, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 137
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

1 English: see **Aston**.

2 English: see **Astin**.

Aster

- **Current frequencies:** GB 18, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 72
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London; ER Yorks
- English: see **Easter** (2).

Astill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 26
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts and Leics

1 English: see **Astill**.

2 English: see **Astall**.

Astill

Variants: Astil, Astell, Astle, Astall, Hasdell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 912, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 466
- **Main GB location 1881:** Leics and Notts; also Warwicks

1 English: locative name variant of **Astle**.

Early bearers: Francis Astill, 1647 in *IGI* (Nottingham, Notts).

2 Norman, English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Astill*, a contraction of Norman French *Ansketill* (Old Scandinavian *Ásketill*, with Continental Germanic *Ans-* substituted for *As-*). See **Askell**.

Early bearers: given names: Astillus, 1202 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs).

surnames: William Astil, 1227 in *Assize Rolls* (Beds); Robert Astel, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Hugo Astyl pro Asketyl, 1272–1307 in *Battle Abbey Customals* (Sussex); Richard Astill, 1539 in *IGI* (Cley next the Sea, Norfolk); Agnes Astill, 1564 in *IGI* (Saint Mary at Hill, London); Andrew Astill, 1569 in

IGI (Lockington, Leics); John Astill, 1578 in *IGI* (Cheddington, Bucks); Thomas Astill, 1584 in *IGI* (East Lockinge, Berks).

Astin

Variants: Astins, Asten

- **Current frequencies:** GB 647, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 869
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs, WR Yorks

1 English: see **Aspden**, and compare **Aston** and **Austin**, all four surnames having become inextricably confused with one another.

References: *Redmonds, Surnames and Genealogy*, p. 216.

2 Norman, English: relationship name from the Anglo-Norman French personal name *Astin*, a contracted form of *Asketin*, a pet form of Old Norman French *Ansketill*, ultimately from Old Scandinavian *Ásketill*. See **Anketell** and compare **Askin**.

Early bearers: given names: Hastinus caretarius, 1223 in *Patent Rolls* (Yorks).

surnames: Robertus filius Astin, 1219, Hugh Astyn, 1297 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); John Astin, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Devon); William Hastin, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Thomas Astine, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cumb); Roger Astyn, 1379 in *Feet of Fines* (Lincs); William Astyn, 1427 in *Feet of Fines* (Kent); Elizabeth Astin, 1594 in *IGI* (Long Ashton, Somerset).

Astington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 78
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cheshire; also Surrey

English: from a place described by Old English phrase *ēast in tūne* 'east in the village', or from a place named with this expression, for example minor places in Gloucs, Worcs, Dorset, and Devon. Compare **Norrington**, **Sinton**, **Easterby**.

Further information: The present name is of northern origin and distribution.

Early bearers: Johannes Estinton', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Acton, Northumb); Waltero de Estyngton', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Sibson, Leics); Isaiah Astington, 1741 in *IGI* (Prestwich, Lancs); Sarah Astington, 1754 in *IGI* (Saint Michael Spurriergate, York); James Astington, 1766 in *IGI* (Coppenhall, Cheshire).

Astins

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 34
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx and Essex; Staffs

English: variant of **Astin** with post-medieval excrement -s.

Astle

Variants: Astill, Astall, Astell, Astles, Hasdell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1356, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 974
- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys, Cheshire, Staffs

1 English: locative name in most cases, from Astle in Chelford (Cheshire), or occasionally from residence on an 'east hill' (Middle English *ast + hill* or *hull*), i.e. a hill to the east of a settlement. Some of the post-medieval bearers may belong under any of the other senses.

Early bearers: Simon de Astell, about 1225 in *Lichfield Muniments* (Staffs); [... de] Ast(e)hull, about 1300, [... de] Astell(e), 1357 in *Place-Names of Cheshire*

(Cheshire); Richard de Asthul (Astell), 1349 in *York Freeman's Register*; Edward Astle, 1541 in *IGI* (Church Broughton, Derbys); Margt. Astell, 1558, John Astle, 1564 in *IGI* (Wilmslow, Cheshire); Margaret Astle, 1565 in *IGI* (Cley next the Sea, Norfolk); Thomas Astle, 1578 in *IGI* (Hanbury, Staffs); Geffraye Astle, 1589 in *IGI* (Brindle, Lancs).

2 English: locative name perhaps also from Astwell (Northants).

Early bearers: Edward Astell, 1561, Roger Astill, 1564 in *IGI* (Cold Ashby, Northants); Jasper Astwell 1566, in *IGI* (Rearsby, Leics).

3 English: locative name from Asthall (Oxon); see **Astall** (2).

4 English: see **Astall**.

5 English: relationship name possibly also from the Middle English personal name **Astwulf* (Old English **Ēastwulf*, composed of the elements *ēast* 'east' + *wulf* 'wolf').

Early bearers: Willelmus Astolf, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Burrough on the Hill, Leics); Matilda Astolf, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Witley, Surrey).

Astles

- **Current frequencies:** GB 395, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 246
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire; also Staffs and Lancs

English: variant of **Astle** with post-medieval excrement -s.

Astley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2421, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1973
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Staffs and Warwicks; N Wales

English: locative name from any of several places in England called Astley (Lancs, Shrops, Warwicks, Worcs, WR Yorks), named in Old English with *ēast* 'east' + *lēah* 'woodland clearing'.

Early bearers: Gerard de Astele, 1202 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); James de Astlye, 1300 in *Assize Rolls* (Staffs); Thomas Asteley, 1377 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Gloucs); Ales Astley, 1557 in *IGI* (Rowley Regis, Staffs); John Astley, 1558 in *IGI* (Chorley, Lancs); Gwen Astley, 1563 in *IGI* (Marbury, Cheshire); Johis. Astley, 1563 in *IGI* (Melton Mowbray, Leics); Peter Astley, 1569 in *IGI* (Halifax, WR Yorks).

Astling

- **Current frequencies:** GB 16, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 71
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks, Notts, Lincs; also Bucks

English: see **Aslin**.

Astman

- **GB frequency 1881:** 21
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

English: see **Eastman**.

Aston

Variants: Astin, Asten, Asson, Ashton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 7117, Ireland 193
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4922
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Staffs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Ulster and Leinster: esp. Armagh; Westmeath

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Ad(e)stan*, which is usually from Old English *Æðelstān* (see **Alston**). Robertus filius Adestani and Walterus filius Alstan, 1206 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Suffolk), both mentioned in the same document relating to the same parish, were probably both sons of *Æðelstan*. It may, however, be from the much rarer Old English name *Ēadstān* (from *ēad* 'prosperity' + *stān* 'stone'). The forms found in Domesday Book, *Æstanus* and *Estan*, may represent either of the Old English names.

Early bearers: given names: Asthone de Sancto Luca, about 1140 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Astanus de Hune, 1190 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Adelstanus, 1195 in *Pipe Rolls* (Kent).

surnames: Tomas filius Adestan, 1187 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Hugo filius Athelstan, Adelstan', 1218, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs); Lewin Adstan, 1221 in *Cotton Tiberius B ii* (Norfolk); Herbertus filius Edelstani, 1240 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Norfolk); Thomas Astan, 1276 in *Hundred Rolls* (Lincs); Agnes Aston, 1540 in *IGI* (Burton upon Trent, Staffs); Anne Aston, 1546 in *IGI* (Rotherham, WR Yorks); Johannis Aston, 1546 in *IGI* (Bromyard, Herefs); Roger Aston, 1546 in *IGI* (Bishops Tachbrook, Warwicks); Thomas Aston, 1550 in *IGI* (Chislet, Kent).

2 English: locative name from any of the numerous places in England named Aston, probably chiefly the one in Warwicks. See also **Ashton**.

Early bearers: Richard de Aston', 1206 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Gloucs); Roger de Aston, 1355 in *Patent Rolls* (Staffs); William de Aston', 1359 in *Feet of Fines* (Shrops); Nicholas Aston', 1376 in *Feet of Fines* (Herts); Robert Aston, 1379 in *Patent Rolls* (Gloucs); Hugh de Aston', 1384 in *Feet of Fines* (Herefs).

3 English: locative name from Middle English *atte stone* '(dweller) by the stone'. Compare such names as **Amoore**, **Agate**, **Avann**.

Early bearers: William Stone, 1494, William Astone, 1500 in *Cinque Ports Books*; Thomas A Stone, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Thomas A Stone, John a stone, 1569 in *Muster Rolls* (Surrey).

Astor

- **Current frequencies:** GB 114, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 15
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs

English: relationship name variant of **Easter** (2).

Astridge

- **Current frequencies:** GB 180, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 159
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants and IoW

English: of uncertain origin; perhaps a variant of **Ostridge**, which may be related to Old French *ostricier* 'keeper of goshawks' (from *ostur* '(gos) hawk'). The goshawk word has cognates in other Romance languages with *a-*, e.g. Spanish *azor*. **Further information:** The early spellings tell against derivation from minor places called *Eastridge* in Sussex and Wilts.

Early bearers: William Actrich, about 1257, William Attrich, Walter Haystrich, Walter Attrich, 1276, Geoffrey Astrich, 1280, Walter Aztrich, 1299, William Astrich, William Aztrich, 1300, Adam Astrych', 1330 in *New Forest Documents* (New Forest, Hants); Richard Atrich, 1280 in *New Forest Documents* (Ellingham, Hants); Johis Astridge, 1690 in *IGI* (Kingsclere, Hants).

Astwood

- **Current frequencies:** GB 137, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 92
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks; also Derbys
- English: see **Eastwood**.

Aswat

- **Current frequencies:** GB 230, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic *aswad*, 'black, dark'.
- Further information:** The *-t* ending suggests origin in non-Arabic-speaking Muslim areas.

Attack

- Variants:** **Attack**, **Attock**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 630, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 433
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: variant of **Eatough**. This name was brought into the West Riding from Lancs, the earliest example being Atowght, recorded in Crofton, 1545 in Redmonds (1997).
- Further information:** There is no evidence to support Reaney's derivation of this surname from Middle English *atte ak* or *atte ok* 'dweller by the oak'.
- Early bearers:** Richard Aitocke, 1571 in *IGI* (Whalley, Lancs); Ann Attock, 1600 in *IGI* (Brindle, Lancs); George Atocke, 1643, Rowland Attack, 1655 in *IGI* (Crofton, WR Yorks); John Attock, 1658 in *IGI* (Bury, Lancs); John Attock, 1711, Judith Attack, 1742 in *IGI* (Sandal Magna, WR Yorks).
- References:** *Redmonds*, *Surnames and Genealogy*.

Atcha

- **Current frequencies:** GB 367, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Muslim: of uncertain origin, perhaps Aramaic.
- Further information:** This name is found in India, particularly in the Surat district.

Atcheson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 104, Ireland 193
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 91
 - **Main GB location 1881:** IoM; Lanarks and Renfrews; Northumb; Cambs.
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Armagh
- Scottish, English: see **Acheson**, **Aitchison**.

Atchinson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 132, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 147
 - **Main GB location 1881:** N England: esp. Northumb and Lincs
- English: see **Aitchison**.

Atchison

- **Current frequencies:** GB 222, Ireland 63
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 361
 - **Main GB location 1881:** S and central Scotland, Northumb, and Durham
- Scottish, English: see **Aitchison**.

Atchley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 21, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 32
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Gloucs
- English: locative name from Atchley in Shrops.

Further information: This name is now rare in Britain but is more numerous in the USA.

Atcliffe

- **GB frequency 1881:** 2
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cumb
- English: locative name variant of **Cliff**, Middle English *atte cliffe* with fused preposition.
- Early bearers:** William Attclyff, 1470 in *Paston Letters* (Norfolk); George Atclyff, 1496 in *London Letter Books L*.

Atfield

- **Current frequencies:** GB 130, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 174
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey
- English: see **Attfield**.

Atha

- **Current frequencies:** GB 317, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 257
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Athey**.

Athanasiou

- **Current frequencies:** GB 159, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Greek (typically Cypriot): relationship name from the old genitive case of the Greek male personal name *Athanasios*, from the adjective meaning 'immortal'.

Athay

- **Current frequencies:** GB 124, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset
- English: see **Athey**.

Ather

- **Current frequencies:** GB 134, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 45
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham
- English: of uncertain origin; perhaps from the place-name *Arthuret* (Cumb).
- Further information:** There are traces of a similar but earlier name in Lincs: Katherine Arthera 1564, Margerit Arthra, 1566 in *IGI* (Langton by Spilsby); Thomas Artherrowe, 1573 in *IGI* (Fulstow, Lincs); Robart Arthrey, 1575 in *IGI* (Halton Holegate); Anne Arthrey, 1585 in *IGI* (Willoughby). Whether this is the origin of the Durham surname is not clear.
- Early bearers:** Jane Arthura, 1672, Maria Athurah, 1677 in *IGI* (Sedgefield, Durham); Anne Ather, 1675 in *IGI* (Witton Gilbert, Durham); Mary Ather, 1681, Ann Athray, 1745 in *IGI* (Ryton, Durham); Sarah Athar, 1712 in *IGI* (Kirk Merrington, Durham); Ralph Athurah, 1718 in *IGI* (Lanchester, Durham); Matt. Ather, 1738, Henry Athera, 1758 in *IGI* (Chester le Street, Durham); Mary Athera, 1746 in *IGI* (Whickham, Durham); John Arthra, 1755 in *IGI* (Newburn, Northumb).

Atherden

- **Current frequencies:** GB 88, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 55
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent and Sussex
- English: variant of **Etherton**.
- Further information:** Reaney's derivation from Middle English *at ther dene* 'dweller in the valley' (Old

English *æt þære dene*) is etymologically justified by William ater Dene, Peter in ther Dene, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex), but post-medieval *Atherden* is not found before the 18th century and seems to belong to the *Etherton* cluster, along with *Etherden* and *Atherton*.

Early bearers: Francis Atherden, 1736 in *IGI* (Dover, Kent); Henry Etherton, 1780, Emily Jane Atherden, 1865 in *IGI* (Newhaven, Sussex).

Atherfold

- **Current frequencies:** GB 85, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 58
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex; also Durham
- English: locative name from Middle English *at ther folde* 'dweller or worker' at the fold (in the sense, pen for farm animals).
- Early bearers:** John atte Fold, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); William Atherfold, 1711 in *IGI* (Chiddington, Kent); Thomas Atherfold, 1756 in *IGI* (Hartfield, Sussex).

Atherley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 312, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 210
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in N central England: esp. Notts, Derbys, and Staffs
- 1 English: locative name from Middle English *at the(r) lee* 'dweller' at the woodland clearing' (Old English *æt þære lēage*). Compare **Attley**.
- Early bearers:** Alfeg' and Richard ater Legh, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Hellingly, Sussex); John Atherlee, 1419 in *London Letter Books I*; Agnet Atherley, 1577 in *IGI* (Lapley, Staffs); Jane Atherley, 1580 in *IGI* (Stoughton, Leics); An Atherly, 1630 in *IGI* (Alvaston, Derbys); Elizabeth Atherly, 1650 in *IGI* (Penn, Staffs); Mary Atherlye, 1666 in *IGI* (Derby, Derbys).
- 2 English: variant of **Hatherley** with loss of initial *H-*. Some of the post-medieval bearers listed in (1) may alternatively belong here.

Athersmith

- **Current frequencies:** GB 262, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 62
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs; also Lancs
- English: (i) locative name from Middle English *at the(r) smythie*, denoting someone who lived (and presumably worked) at a smithy (Old English *smipþe*). (ii) locative name possibly also from Middle English *at ther smethe* 'dweller at the smooth, level place' (Old English *smēðe*).
- Early bearers:** John atter Smythe, 1330 in *Place-Names of Devon* p. 386; Henry Athersmith, 1644 in *IGI* (Badsey, Worcs); John Athersmith, 1689 in *IGI* (Saint Bride Fleet Street, London); John Athersmith, 1724 in *IGI* (Walsall, Staffs); John Athersmith, 1816 in *IGI* (Leigh, Lancs); Thomas Athersmith, 1820 in *IGI* (Ashby de la Zouch, Leics).

Atherstone

- **Current frequencies:** GB 21, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 37
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Leics
- English: locative name from Atherstone (Warwicks).
- Early bearers:** Adam de Atherston', 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Johanne de Atherston', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Thurmaston, Leics); Richarde Atherstone, 1609 in *IGI* (Mancetter, Warwicks); Richarde Atherstone,

1611 in *IGI* (Mancetter, Warwicks); Ann Atherstone, 1731 in *IGI* (Higham on the Hill, Leics); Alice Atherstone, 1742 in *IGI* (Farcet, Hunts); William Atherstone, 1767 in *IGI* (Nottingham, Notts).

Athersuch

Variants: Athersych

- **Current frequencies:** GB 48, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 30
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks and Gloucs
- English: locative name from Hathersage (Derbys), recorded in the 14th century as *Athersegge*, *Athersygg*. **Further information:** Reaney and Wilson incorrectly associate the name with the Sheffield area. **Early bearers:** Rainold Athersech, 1584 in *IGI* (Alcester, Warwicks); John. Athersych, 1588 in *IGI* (Bretforton, Worcs); Thoms Athersitche, 1607 in *IGI* (Old Swinford, Worcs); Willm. Athersich, 1610 in *IGI* (Bromsgrove, Worcs); Gilbert Athersuch, 1631 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Francis Hathersich, 1690 in *IGI* (Uttoxeter, Staffs); Mary Athersuch, 1739 in *IGI* (Allensmore, Herefs); William Athersych, 1783, William Athersuch, 1808 in *IGI* (Foleshill, Warwicks).

Athersych

- **Current frequencies:** GB 31, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 14
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks
- English: see **Athersuch**.

Atherton

Variants: Adderton, Atterton, Arthurton, Etherton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 8133, Ireland 36
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 5370
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cheshire
- 1 English: locative name from Atherton (Lancs), which is recorded as *Aderton* in 1212, *Atherton* in 1322. **Early bearers:** Henry de Athertone, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lancs); William de Atherton, 1384 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Lancs); Humphrey Addertone alias Athurton, 1470 in *Combermere Book* (Cheshire); William Aderton, 1567, Jaine Adtherton, 1632 in *IGI* (Childwall, Lancs); Edmund Atherton, 1609 in *IGI* (Disley, Cheshire). **References:** *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 102. 2 English: locative name from Hatherton (Staffs). **Early bearers:** Margaret Hatherton, 1592, Thomas Atherton, 1714, Charles John Atherton, 1823 in *IGI* (Lichfield, Staffs); Joseph Hatherton, 1676, William Atherton, 1698 in *IGI* (Walsall, Staffs). 3 English: locative name in E Anglia it is perhaps from Middle English *at ther doune* '(dweller) on the hill' (Old English *æt þære dūne*). Through confusion of *-don* and *-ton*, *Attherdoune* was altered to *Atherton*, *Adderton*, *Atterton*, and with lengthening of the initial vowel (and influenced by folk etymology), to *Arthurton*, *Artherton*, and *Arterton*, now the main forms of the name in Norfolk. **Early bearers:** William Atherdonne (for Atherdoune), Ruben Atherton, 1568 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Nathaniel Atterton, 1579 in *IGI* (Lavenham, Suffolk); Elizabetheth Atherton, 1580 in *IGI* (Woodbridge, Suffolk); Thomas Atherton, 1619 in *IGI* (Wood Rising, Norfolk); Isabell Atterton, 1621, Rob. Atherton, 1683, Sarah Arthurton, 1694, William Arterton, 1719 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Widow Atherton, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk). 4 English: see **Etherton**. 5 English: see **Atterton**.

Athey

Variants: Athy, Atty, Atha, Athay

- **Current frequencies:** GB 579, Ireland 9
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 351
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham and Northumb; WR Yorks
- English: locative name from Middle English *atte hey* '(dweller) at the enclosure' (Old English *(ge)hæg*). **Early bearers:** Simon ate Heghe, about 1270 in *East Sussex Record Office* (Sussex); Lecia Atehey, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Christina Atteheg, 1290 in *London Met Archives* (Middx); Geoffrey Atteheg, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Derbys); Richard atte Heg', 1411 in *Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich)* (Bentley, Suffolk); Catherine Athee, 1551, Ales Athey, 1582 in *IGI* (Durham, Durham); Thoma Athaye, 1565 in *IGI* (Hareby, Lincs); Margaret Athye, 1586 in *IGI* (Chester le Street, Durham); Joseph Athay, 1629 in *Parish Registers* (Herts); William Athay, 1638 in *IGI* (Maidstone, Kent); Henry Athay, 1668 in Boyd's Misc. Transcription (Bristol, Gloucs); Richard Atthey, 1744 in *IGI* (Sprotbrough, WR Yorks); James Atthey, 1780 in *IGI* (Newburn, Northumb).

Athill

Variants: Atthill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 75, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 74
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx

English: locative name from Middle English *atte hill* '(dweller) at the hill' (Old English *hyll*). **Early bearers:** Richard Athill, 1255 in *Hundred Rolls* (Shrops); Ralph atte Helle, 1319 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Essex); Thoma Attehulle, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Kent); Thomas At Hill, 1524 in *Kent Wills* (Kent).

Athol

Variants: Atholl

- **Current frequencies:** GB 14, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2

1 Scottish: locative name from the province and earldom of *Atholl* in Perthshire. **Further information:** Adam de Athetle rendered homage at Perth in 1291. **Early bearers:** Macbeth de Atholia, prisoner, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar*; Donald de Athol, messenger, 1311 in *Scotland Calendar* (Berwick, Berwicks); Gilbert Atholl, 1592 in *Aberdeen Council Register*; Thomas Athoill, burgess, 1606 in *New Spalding Miscellany* (both Aberdeen, Aberdeens); Grizell Atholl, 1685 in *IGI* (Wemyss, Fife); John Athol, 1797 in *IGI* (Stranraer, Wigtowns). 2 English: locative name possibly also from Middle English *atte hole* '(dweller) in the hollow', Old English *holh*. **Early bearers:** Robert atte Hole, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Thomas Athol, 1841 in *IGI* (Hulme, Lancs).

Atholl

- **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- Scottish, English: see **Athol**.

Athorn

Variants: Athorne

- **Current frequencies:** GB 143, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 92
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

1 English: locative name from Middle English *atte horne* '(dweller) at the spit of land', Old English *horn*.

Early bearers: William atte Horne, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Henrie Athorn, 1602 in *IGI* (Boughton under Blean, Kent); William Athorn, 1671 in *IGI* (Godalming, Surrey); Elizabeth Athorn, 1722 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx); John Athorn, 1767 in *IGI* (Manchester, Lancs); Mary Athorn, 1768 in *IGI* (Dewsbury, WR Yorks). 2 English: locative name from Middle English *atte thorne* '(dweller) at the thorn bush' (Old English *þorn*). **Early bearers:** Emma Attethorn', 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts*.

Athorne

- **Current frequencies:** GB 45, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 42
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Athorn**.

Athowe

- **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- English: see **Attoe**.

Athwal

- **Current frequencies:** GB 765, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Indian: see **Atwal**.

Athy

- **GB frequency 1881:** 16
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham; Suffolk
- English: see **Athey**.

Atick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 27, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 14
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Atwick**.

Atkar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 133, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat clan.

Atkey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 90, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 99
 - **Main GB location 1881:** IoW
- English: locative name from Middle English *atte key* '(dweller or worker) at the quay'. Compare **Kay**. **Early bearers:** William atte Keye, 1370 in *London Pleas*; Richerd Atkey, 1579 in *IGI* (Ilfracombe, Devon); William Atkey, 1724 in *IGI* (Shalfleet, IoW).

Atkin

Variants: Adkin, Etkin, Eakin, Aitken, Akin, Atkins

- **Current frequencies:** GB 5262, Ireland 15
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 3989
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England: esp. N Midlands
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Wexford; Cork
- English: relationship name from a pet form of *Adam*, composed of *Ade* + the suffix *-kin*.

Atkins

Early bearers: given names: Adekin filius Turst', 1191 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Adkyn Cheperd, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Rutland).

surnames: John Adekyn, 1296 in *Crowland Abbey Estates* (Cambs); Willelmus Addekyn', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Warwicks); Amicia Atkyn', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Leics); William Atkyn, 1441 in *Sheffield Manorial Records* (WR Yorks); Jane Atkin, 1579 in *IGI* (Laxton, Notts); Ruthe Atken, 1596, George Atkin, 1626 in *IGI* (Hothfield, Kent).

Atkins

Variants: Attkins, Adkins, Hadkins, Akins, Aikens, Aikins, Aitkens, Aitkins, Atkiss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15791, Ireland 240
- **GB frequency 1881:** 11134
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England: esp. in S England
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork

English: variant of **Atkin** with genitival or post-medieval excrescent -s.

Early bearers: William Atkyns, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); John Adekynes, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Warwicks); John Adekynes, 1377 in *Patent Rolls* (Essex); Johannes Addekyns, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Norfolk); Willelmus Adkyns, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Gloucs); Walter Atkyns, 1424 in *Patent Rolls* (Worcs); Johnn Atkins, 1542 in *IGI* (Pitminster, Somerset); Bridget Atkins, 1544 in *IGI* (Sandy, Beds); Abell Atkins, 1547 in *IGI* (South Creak, Norfolk); Harry Atkins, 1554 in *IGI* (Derby, Derbys); Edward Atkins, 1556 in *IGI* (Worcester, Worcs); John Atkins, 1561 in *IGI* (Elford, Staffs); Henrie Atkins, 1571 in *IGI* (Bubbenhall, Warwicks).

Atkinson

Variants: Adkinson, Ackenson, Atkison, Aitchison

- **Current frequencies:** GB 37305, Ireland 1066
- **GB frequency 1881:** 29121
- **Main GB location 1881:** N England
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Armagh

N English; Scottish: relationship name patronymic from the personal names *Atkin* or *Adkin*, pet forms of *Adam*.

Early bearers: England Robert Adkynsone, 1371 in *Patent Rolls* (Acton, Northumb); William Adkynson, 1373 in *Patent Rolls* (Cumb); Johanne Adkynesone, Thoma Adkynneson, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Leics); John Adkynsone, 1381 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); Robertus Atkynson', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Lancs); Robert Atkynson', 1398 in *Feet of Fines* (WR Yorks); John Atkinson, 1402 in *Feudal Aids* (Westm); William Atkynson', 1500 in *Feet of Fines* (Kent); Mgy Attkinson, 1543 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Catheran Attkinson, 1563 in *IGI* (Chipping, Lancs); Wyllam Ackenson, 1598 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Ralph Akinson, 1673 in *IGI* (Elsham, Lincs); Marmaduke Akinson, 1741 in *IGI* (Tynemouth, Northumb). Scotland John Atkynsoun, 1387 in *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland* (North Berwick, E Lothian); William Atkinson, 1408 in *Scotland Calendar*; William Atkynson, 1436 in *Aberdeen Register* (Aberdeen); John Atzinson, vicar, 1475 in *Kelso Register* (Morton, Dumfries); Patrick Atzensone, 1479 in *Home of Wedderburn Manuscripts* (Glasgow, Lanarks); George Aczinson, 1490 in *Lanark Records* (Lanarks); William Ackynson, juror, 1501 in *Antiquaries of Scotland*; Edward Aitkenson, 1785 in *IGI* (Edinburgh,

Midlothian); Janet Aitkenson, 1792 in *IGI* (Govan, Lanarks).

Atkison

- **GB frequency 1881:** 11
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cumb

N English: variant of **Atkinson** with loss of -n-.

Further information: This form of the name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Early bearers: Grace Atkison, 1607 in *IGI* (Birstall, WR Yorks); John Atkison, 1652 in *IGI* (Millom, Cumb).

Atkiss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 101, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 46
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs

English: variant of **Atkins**. Compare *Hodgkiss* as a variant of *Hodgkins*. It appears to have been sometimes confused with *Etkiss*, a reduced form of **Edkins** or a development of of *Edcus* (see **Edgoose**). **Early bearers:** John Atkys, 1559 in *IGI* (Much Wenlock, Shrops); John Etkes, 1572 in *IGI* (Halesowen, Worcs); Anne Etkis, 1583 in *IGI* (Kidderminster, Worcs); Wm Atkis, 1600 in *IGI* (Longnor, Shrops); Willm. Atkes, 1566, Willyam Etkis, 1613, John Etkes, 1647, William Atkis, 1655 in *IGI* (Dudley, Staffs); Wm Atkis, 1600, Rich. Atkiss, 1692 in *IGI* (Condover, Shrops); Sara Atkiss, 1718 in *IGI* (Lapley, Staffs).

Atlay

- **Current frequencies:** GB 40, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 67
- **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks; also Herefs

English: see **Attley**.

Atlee

- **Current frequencies:** GB 100, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 141
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Cambs

English: see **Attley**.

Atley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 105, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 139
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham and Yorks; also Surrey

English: see **Attley**.

Atmeare

- **GB frequency 1881:** 7
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex

English: see **Attmere**.

Atmer

- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

English: see **Attmere**.

Atmore

Variants: Amooore

- **Current frequencies:** GB 122, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 93
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: locative name from Middle English *atte more* 'dweller at the moor, marsh, or fen' (Old English *æt þām mōre*). Compare **Moore**.

Early bearers: Jordan Attemore, 1276 in *London Letter Books A*; Thomas atte More, Simon atte Moure, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Robert atte More, 1371, Henry at More, 1468 in *Feet of Fines* (Hants); Walter

atte More, 1374 in *Feet of Fines* (Devon); John ate More, 1381 in *Norfolk Record Office* (Wimbotsham, Norfolk); William A moore, 1479 in *Suffolk Archaeology Proceedings* xii; Joan Amore, 1561 in *IGI* (Ditchling, Sussex); Ales Amooore, 1572 in *IGI* (Horsham, Sussex); Willm Attmore, 1604 in *IGI* (Leigh with Bransford, Worcs); Sara Atmore, 1654 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Mathusalem Attmore, 1723 in *IGI* (Kings Lynn, Norfolk).

Aton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 14
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire and Lancs

English: see **Atton**.

Further information: This spelling of the name is rare in Britain but more numerous in the USA.

Atrill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 80, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 39
- **Main GB location 1881:** IoW and Hants; also Cornwall; Derbys

English: see **Attrill**.

Atta

- **Current frequencies:** GB 283, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Arabic, Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic 'atā 'gift' or its compound 'atā-ullāh 'gift of Allah'.

Attack

- **Current frequencies:** GB 42, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 62
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Attack**.

Attale

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: variant of **Hale** with fused preposition and definite article.

Early bearers: Robert Attehal', 1212 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Lincs); William atte Hale, 1235 in *Assize Rolls* (Essex).

Attard

- **Current frequencies:** GB 569, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3

Maltese: relationship name a variant of the medieval Italian personal name *Attardo*, which has been claimed to be of Germanic origin.

Further information: Compare Laura Attardo, born in Valetta, Malta, in *Census 1911* (London).

Early bearers: Joseph Attard, born in Malta, in *Census 1881* (Royal Navy); Carucalo Attard, born in Malta, in *Census 1881* (Royal Navy).

References: *Cassar*.

Attaway

- **Current frequencies:** GB 115, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 83
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

English: (i) variant of **Ottaway** with unrounding of the initial vowel. Compare Repentance Ottaway, 1622, Henry Attaway, 1629 in *IGI* (Mersham, Kent); John Attaway, 1710, Mary Ottaway, 1732 in *IGI* (Kingston upon Thames, Surrey); Elizabeth Ottaway, 1744, James Attaway, 1840 in *IGI*

(Chobham, Surrey). (ii) some examples may alternatively be variants of **Way** (Middle English *atte Way*) with fused preposition. This phrase also gave rise to minor place-names, e.g. Atway (Devon) and Way (in Thorverton, Devon), recorded in 1306 as *Atteweie*.

Early bearers: Elizabeth Attaway, 1617 in *IGI* (Godmersham, Kent); Mgeri Attaway, 1620 in *IGI* (Petworth, Sussex); James Attaway, 1645 in *IGI* (Saint Giles Cripplegate, London); Joseph Attaway, 1647 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Anne Attaway, 1658 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx).

References: *Place-Names of Devon*, pp. 573, 468.

Attawell

- GB frequency 1881: 16
 - Main GB location 1881: Berks
- English: see **Attwell**.

Attebery

- Current frequencies: GB 10, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: o

English: see **Atterbury**.

Further information: This spelling of the name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Attenborough

Variants: **Attenborrow**, **Attenburrow**, **Attenbrough**

- Current frequencies: GB 800, Ireland 1
- GB frequency 1881: 619
- Main GB location 1881: Notts and Derbys

English: locative name from Attenborough (Notts), recorded as *Adinburg*, *Adinburcha* in the 12th century, *Addenbroug* in 1305. See also **Edinborough**. **Early bearers:** Roberto de Adinburks, 1255 in *Nottingham Borough Records*; Willelmi de Addinbur, 1302 in *Feudal Aids* (Broxtow wapentake, Notts); Joh' de Addingburgh', probably identical with Joh' le Baker de Addingburgh', 1352 in *Nottingham Borough Court Rolls* (Notts); Elizabeth Adenborow, 1580 in *IGI* (Oxton, Notts); Frances Attenborrow, 1587 in *IGI* (Clifton, Notts); Alice Attenborow, 1598 in *IGI* (Allestree, Derbys); Willmus Adenborowe, 1601, Ann Attenborow, 1603, Georgius Adenborough, 1629 in *IGI* (Attenborough, Notts); James Attinborrow, 1618, Jervais Attenbury, 1758 in *IGI* (Nottingham, Notts).

References: *Place-Names of Notts*, pp. 142–3.

Attenborrow

- Current frequencies: GB 103, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: 31
- Main GB location 1881: Notts

English: see **Attenborough**.

Attenbrough

- GB frequency 1881: 19
 - Main GB location 1881: Leics and Notts
- English: see **Attenborough**.

Attenburrow

- Current frequencies: GB 26, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: 14
- Main GB location 1881: Leics

English: see **Attenborough**.

Atter

- Current frequencies: GB 458, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: 159

- Main GB location 1881: Lincs

English: nickname from Middle English *atter* 'poison, venom; gall, bitterness' (Old English *ātor*). **Early bearers:** Edguinus atre, 1111, Edwin Atter, about 1130 in *Ekwall*, *ELPN* (London); John Attar, 1606 in *IGI* (Quadring, Lincs); Thomas Atter, 1614 in *IGI* (Wigtoft, Lincs).

Atterbury

Variants: **Attebery**

- Current frequencies: GB 584, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: 288
- Main GB location 1881: scattered: esp. Derbys

1 English: locative name from Atterbury in Milton Keynes (Bucks).

Early bearers: Elizabeth Atterbury, 1560 in *IGI* (Chicheley, Bucks); Lewis Atterbury, 1560 in *IGI* (Great Houghton, Northants); Phillip Atterburie, 1586 in *IGI* (Saint Stephen Coleman Street, London); Amphillis Atterbury, 1594 in *IGI* (Newport Pagnell, Bucks); Robert Atterbery, 1600 in *IGI* (Cranfield, Beds); William Atterbury, 1683 in *IGI* (Longford, Derbys).

2 English: locative name denoting someone who lived or worked '(at the) manor house', Middle English *atte(r) buri* (Old English *æt þære byrig*). Compare **Berry**.

Early bearers: John Ateburi, 1279 in *Oxford University Register*; Hugh ate Bery, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cambs); William ate Bery, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Reginaldus Atebour', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Good Easter, Essex); John Atterbury, 1610 in *IGI* (Bletchley, Bucks); John Atterbury, 1610 in *IGI* (Hornton, Oxon); William Atterbury, 1636 in *IGI* (Hackney, Middx); William Atterbury, 1636 in *IGI* (Saint Andrew Undershaft, London); Richard Atterbury, 1648 in *IGI* (Stanford Rivers, Essex).

Atteridge

- Current frequencies: GB 27, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: 25
- Main GB location 1881: Essex

1 English: see **Attridge**.

2 English: see **Etheridge**.

Atterton

Variants: **Adderton**, **Atherton**

- Current frequencies: GB 196, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: 129
- Main GB location 1881: scattered

1 English: locative name from Atterton in Witherley (Leics), which is recorded as *Aterton* in 1205.

Early bearers: Hugh de Atterton, 1330 in *Patent Rolls* (Edwinstowe, Notts); John de Atterton, 1358 in *Patent Rolls* (Measham, Derbys); Robert Atturton', 1467 in *Feet of Fines* (Coventry, Warwicks); William Atterton, 1476–7 in *Feet of Fines* (Warwicks); Jorge Adderton, 1567, Joys Atterton, 1573 in *IGI* (Newbold Verdon, Leics); Robart Attorton, 1579 in *IGI* (Braunstone, Leics); Marmaduke Atterton, 1585 in *IGI* (Hinckley, Leics); Jane Aderton, 1720 in *IGI* (Radford Semele, Warwicks).

References: *Leics and Rutland Place-Names*, p. 5.

2 English: possibly an occasional variant of **Atton** (2), from Middle English *atte toun* '(dweller) at the settlement'.

3 English: see **Etherton**.

4 English: see **Atherton**.

Atterwill

- Current frequencies: GB 28, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: 11
- Main GB location 1881: Middx

English: see **Attwell**.

Attew

- Current frequencies: GB 155, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: 57
- Main GB location 1881: Norfolk

English: locative name see **Attoe**.

Attewell

- Current frequencies: GB 604, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: 472
- Main GB location 1881: Notts; also Berks

English: see **Attwell**.

Attewill

- Current frequencies: GB 18, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: 12
- Main GB location 1881: London

English: see **Attwell**.

Attfield

Variants: **Atfield**

- Current frequencies: GB 769, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: 456
- Main GB location 1881: Surrey

English: locative name from Middle English *atte feld* '(dweller) by the area of open, treeless land' (Old English *feld*).

Early bearers: Stephen Attefeld, 1262 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Elizabeth Attfield, 1705 in *IGI* (Worplesdon, Surrey); John Attfield, 1705 in *IGI* (Worplesdon, Surrey); Elizebeth Attfield, 1725 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); John Attfield, 1728 in *IGI* (Portsea, Hants); Caroline Attfield, 1775 in *IGI* (Barkham, Berks).

Atthill

- Current frequencies: GB 13, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: 33
- Main GB location 1881: London; also Dorset

English: see **Athill**.

Atthow

- GB frequency 1881: 19
 - Main GB location 1881: Norfolk
- English: see **Atthowe**.

Atthowe

Variants: **Atthow**

- Current frequencies: GB 21, Ireland o
- GB frequency 1881: 2
- Main GB location 1881: Norfolk

English: see **Attoe**.

Attia

- Current frequencies: GB 185, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881: 1
- Arabic, Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic *'aṭiyāh* 'gift, present'.

Attick

- GB frequency 1881: 1
- English: see **Atwick**.

Attkins

- Current frequencies: GB 34, Ireland o

Attle

- **GB frequency 1881:** 119
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in England: esp. Middx
- English: see **Atkins**.

Attlee

- **Current frequencies:** GB 113, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 72
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London; Suffolk; Durham
- English: see **Attley**.

Attlee

- **Current frequencies:** GB 57, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 60
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- English: see **Attley**.

Attley

- Variants: **Attlee, Atlee, Attle, Atley, Atlay**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 170, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 79
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London; Northants; Durham

English: locative name from Middle English *at the(r) lee* ‘(dweller) at the woodland clearing’ (Old English *æt þære læge*). Compare **Atherley**.
Early bearers: Robert Atte lee, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); John Attele, 1276 in *Hundred Rolls* (Berks); William atte Leye, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Thomas Attlee, 1327 in *Pinchbeck Register* (Suffolk); Ric. at Leghe, 1567 in *Robertsbridge Survey* (Sussex).

Attmere

- Variants: **Atmer, Atmeare**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 43, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- English: (i) locative name from Middle English *atte mere* ‘(dweller) at the pond, lake, or pool’ (Old English *æt þām mere*). (ii) locative name from Middle English *atte meare* ‘(dweller) at the boundary’ (Old English *æt þām (ge)mære*).
Early bearers: Cecil’ Atemer’, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cams); John Atmer, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Edmund Attmear, 1568 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk).

Atto

- **GB frequency 1881:** 16
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Berks; also Norfolk
- 1 English: see **Attoe**.
2 English: see **Hatto**.
3 English: see **Eatough**.

Attock

- **GB frequency 1881:** 5
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: see **Attack**.

Attoe

- Variants: **Atthowe, Athowe, Atto, Attew, Hatto**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 160, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 80
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- English: locative name from Middle English *atte howe*, *atte ho3e*, denoting either someone who lived by a mound (Old Scandinavian *haugr*) or someone who lived by a spur or promontory (Old English *hōh*, dative *hōge*). Compare **Howe**.
Early bearers: William atte Howe, 1367 in *Norfolk Record Office* (Wicklewood, Norfolk); Thomas

Athow, 1605 in *IGI* (Little Plumstead, Norfolk); Frances Atto, William Attoe, 1691 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Francis Attew, 1777 in *IGI* (Trunch, Norfolk); Robert Attow, 1782 in *IGI* (Stoke Holy Cross, Norfolk); Mary Attu, 1839 in *IGI* (Shingham, Norfolk).

Attom

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- English: locative name from Middle English *atte hamme* ‘(dweller) by the water meadow or enclosure’ (Old English *hamm*, which has numerous related senses). Compare **Ham**.
Early bearers: Walterus atte Hamme, 1327 in *MED*.

Atton

- Variants: **Hatton, Atterton, Aton**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 275, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 128
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Rutland and Leics; also WR Yorks
- 1 English: variant of **Hatton**, with loss of initial *H*.
Early bearers: Gilberto de Atton, 1225 in *Patent Rolls* (Yorks); Alan de Atton, 1310 in *Patent Rolls* (Derbys/Staffs); Robert Atton, 1319 in *Patent Rolls* (Northants); William Atton, 1362 in *Patent Rolls* (Thirsk, NR Yorks); William de Atton, 1363 in *Patent Rolls* (Northumb); Hugh de Atton’, 1395 in *Feet of Fines* (Shrewsbury, Shrops); Annis Atton, 1548, Alce Attun, 1555 in *IGI* (Beeby, Leics); Magdalen Atton, 1561 in *IGI* (Seaton, Rutland); Margery Atton, 1617, Sarah Attun, 1632 in *IGI* (Uppingham, Rutland); An Attone, 1664 in *IGI* (Leicester, Leics).
2 English: locative name from Middle English *atte toun* ‘(dweller) at the settlement’ (Old English *æt þām tūn(e)*). Compare **Town**.
Early bearers: William atte Toune, imprisoned at Stafford, 1285 in *Patent Rolls* (Staffs); Henr’ ate Toune, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); William atte Townen’, 1493 in *Feet of Fines* (Stone, Bucks).

Attree

- **Current frequencies:** GB 508, Ireland 16
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 333
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex, Surrey, and Kent
- 1 English: (i) locative name for someone who lived by a stream, Middle English *atter ea* (Old English *ēa*). (ii) locative name for someone who lived on low-lying land (Old English *ēg*). Compare **Rea**. (iii) locative name for someone who lived by a prominent tree, Middle English *tre* ‘tree’ (Old English *trēo*), John A”Tree, 1558 in *Sussex Wills*. See **Tree**.
Early bearers: Thomas Attere, 1272 in *Place-Names of Cambs* 15; Walter at Reghe, 1287 in *Place-Names of Surrey* 330; Thomas Atry, 1320 in *Feet of Fines* (Hunts); Matthew atte Ry, 1389 in *Place-Names of Essex* 387; Richard Atre, 1545 in *Sussex Wills*.
2 English: locative name from Middle English *atter hegh* ‘dweller by the enclosure’ (Old English *(ge)hæg*).
Early bearers: Simon ater Hegh, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Thomas Attree, 1562 in *IGI* (Wivelsfield, Sussex); James Attree, 1704 in *IGI* (Cowden, Kent); John Attree, 1723 in *IGI* (Saint Sepulchre, London); Sarah Attree, 1757 in *IGI* (Godstone, Surrey); John Attree, 1765 in *IGI* (Birmingham, Warwicks).
3 English: see **Hawtre**.

Attreed

- **Current frequencies:** GB 93, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 23
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex; Lancs
- English: locative name from Middle English *atte read* ‘(dweller) at a clearing in a wood’. See **Read**.
Early bearers: Robert atte Reed, about 1295 in *Löfvenberg* (Sussex); William at Rede, 1567 in *Robertsbridge Survey* (Sussex).

Attrell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 156, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 39
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx, Surrey, Sussex, Hants, and IoW
- English: see **Attrill**.

Attride

- Variants: **Attriede**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 73, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 12
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey
- English: locative name from the Middle English phrase *atte ride, rede, rude* ‘at the clearing’. See **Ride**.
Early bearers: Julian atte Rede, John ater Rede, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Richard ate Rude, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts*; William ate Ryde, 1309 in *Patent Rolls*; Thomas atte Red, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John atte Ruyde, 1436, Henry at Ryde, 1524 in *Place-Names of Surrey* (Ewhurst).

Attridge

- Variants: **Atteridge**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 765, Ireland 60
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 440
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork
- 2 English, Irish: variant of **Etheridge**.
Early bearers: England Thoms. Attridge, 1571, John Attridge, 1576 in *IGI* (Epping, Essex).
Ireland Brien Eterrup, 1590 in *Fiants Elizabeth* \$5452 (Mayo); William Atteridge, 1853 in *Griffith’s Valuation* (Lissacaha, Cork); Sarah Attridge, 1853 in *Griffith’s Valuation* (Lowertown, Cork).
1 English: locative name from Middle English *atte rygge* ‘(dweller) at the ridge’ (Old English *æt þām hrycge*). See *Löfvenberg*, p. 173. Compare **Ridge**.
Further information: The name was taken in the 16th century to Ireland, where it is common in county Cork.
Early bearers: Edith atte Rigge, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); John atte Rygge, 1333 in *Place-Names of Devon* 567; Ellin Atrige, 1588 in *IGI* (Wonersh, Surrey); Thomas Atridge, 1608 in *IGI* (Aythorpe Roding, Essex); Sarah Atteridge, 1630 in *IGI* (Terling, Essex).

Attrill

- Variants: **Atrill, Attrell, Hatherall**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 791, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 541
 - **Main GB location 1881:** IoW
- 1 English: locative name from Middle English *atter hille* ‘(dweller) by the hill’.
Early bearers: Walter atter Hille, 1330, John at Ryll, 1524 in *Place-Names of Devon* pp. 477, 562.
2 English: from Middle English *atter hilde, atter helde* ‘(dweller) on the slope’ (Middle English, Old English *hild, held*).

Early bearers: Joh. ater Helde, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Pashley and Hoathly, Sussex); Rad. ater Hylde, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Poynings, Sussex); James Attrill, 1686 in *IGI* (Shorwell, IoW); William Attrill, 1775 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); George Attrill, 1780 in *IGI* (Southampton, Hants); Richard Attrill, 1802 in *IGI* (Dover, Kent); William Attrill, 1807 in *IGI* (West Firie, Sussex).

3 English: it may also be a variant of **Hatherall** (1); compare Jane Hatrell, 1568 in *IGI* (Stratfield Saye, Hants). That and following bearers may otherwise belong under (1) or (2).

Early bearers: Thomas Atrill, 1629 in *IGI* (Thorley, IoW); Mary Attrell, 1769 in *IGI* (Godshill, IoW).

Attriede

- **Current frequencies:** GB 37, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 27
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey
- English: see **Attride**.

Attwater

Variants: **Atwater**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 417, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 250
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex and Kent; Devon; also Durham

English: locative name from Middle English *at (the) water* '(dweller) beside the water' (Old English *water*), usually a reference to a pond, stream, or river. Compare **Bywater** and **Waterer**.

Early bearers: William Atewatr', 1198 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Herts); Ricardus Hetewater, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Pagham, Sussex); Simon Attwater, 1428 in *Feet of Fines* (Warwicks and Worcs); William Atwater, 1495 in *Feet of Fines* (Somerset); Agnes Attwater, 1568 in *Parish Registers* (Baltonsborough, Somerset).

Attwell

Variants: **Atwell**, **Attwill**, **Atwill**, **Atterwill**, **Attewell**, **Attawell**, **Attewill**, **Attwooll**, **Attwool**, **Hatwell**, **Towell**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1064, Ireland 22
- **GB frequency 1881:** 656
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England and Wales

English: locative name from Middle English *at the(r) welle*, later *atte welle*, '(dweller) by the spring or well' (Old English *at þære welle*). Compare **Well**.

Early bearers: Gilbert Attewell, 1274 in *Hundred Rolls* (Essex); John ater Welle, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Richard atte Wille, 1333 in *Place-Names of Devon* 450; Radulphus Atthewell', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Keyham, Leics); Johannes Attewell', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Northants); Amicia and Cecilia Attewell', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Bisbrooke, Rutland); Joane Attwell, 1553 in *IGI* (Cavenham, Suffolk); Willihelmus Attewell, 1577, Katherine Attiwell, 1596 in *IGI* (Threekingham, Lincs); Abraham Attwell, 1587 in *IGI* (Wingham, Kent); Johanna Attwell, 1590 in *IGI* (Calne, Wilts); Richard Attwell, 1604 in *IGI* (Saint Antholin Budge Row, London); Johane Attwell, 1607 in *IGI* (Nettlecombe, Somerset); William Attwooll, 1734 in *IGI* (Portland, Dorset); Mary Atterwell, 1750 in *IGI* (Leicester, Leics).

Attwill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 14, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 11
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Hants
- English: see **Attwell**.

Attwood

Variants: **Atwood**, **Awood**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 4467, Ireland 36
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2914
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. W Midland and Gloucs; London; Hants

English: locative name from Middle English *atte wode* '(dweller) by the wood' (Old English *æt þāem wuda*).

Early bearers: Thomas Attewode, 1243 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Robert Atwode, 1457 in *Oseney Cartulary* (Oxon).

Attwool

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 43
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset; Hants and Dorset

English: see **Attwell**.

Attwooll

- **Current frequencies:** GB 77, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 183
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset

English: see **Attwell**.

Atty

- **Current frequencies:** GB 34, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 57
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Durham and Lancs

1 English: see **Attey**.

2 English: see **Atthey**.

Atwal

Variants: **Athwal**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1512, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** o

Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat tribe.

Attwater

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 39
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

English: see **Attwater**.

Atwell

Variants: **Towle**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 648, Ireland 29
- **GB frequency 1881:** 630
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Somerset, Gloucs, and Glamorgan; Hants and Dorset; Staffs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Tyrone and Fermanagh

English: see **Attwell**.

Atwick

Variants: **Attick**, **Atick**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 40, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: locative name probably from Middle English *atte wyk*, denoting a dweller or worker at a dairy farm (Old English *wic* 'specialized or outlying farm'), but the ER Yorks place-name *Atwick* is an alternative possibility.

Early bearers: Walter ate Wyk, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John Atwick, 1613 in *IGI* (Egham, Surrey); Henrici Atwick, 1665 in *IGI* (Chertsey, Surrey); Daniell Atwick, 1676 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx); Nathaniell Atwick, 1687 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph without Aldgate, London); William Atwick, 1695 in *IGI* (West Itchenor, Sussex).

Atwill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 258, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 151
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: see **Attwell**.

Atwood

- **Current frequencies:** GB 172, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 540
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent; Middx and Surrey; Worcs and Staffs

English: see **Attwood**.

Atyeo

- **Current frequencies:** GB 232, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 68
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset

English: locative name from Middle English *atte yo* '(dweller) by the river' (Old English *ēa*); see **Yeo**.

Early bearers: Roger atte Yo, 1333 in *Place-Names of Devon* 263; Mary Atyeo, 1667 in *IGI* (Bridgwater, Somerset); Charles Atyeo, 1813 in *IGI* (Meare, Somerset).

Au

Variants: **Ao**, **Aw**, **Ow**, **Ang**, **Ngo**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 531, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** o

1 Chinese: Mandarin form of the Chinese surname 敖 (**Ao** in Mandarin pinyin, **Ngo** in Cantonese romanization), meaning both 'rambling' and 'deposed king without posthumous titles' in ancient Chinese: (i) from the personal name of Tai Ao (太敖), teacher of the legendary king Zhuan Xu (traditional dates: 2514–2437 BC). (ii) it is said that the surname is also borne by descendants of deposed kings of the former state of Chu, with no posthumous titles, during the Spring and Autumn period (770–476 BC).

2 Chinese: Cantonese form of the Chinese surname 歐 (**Ou** in Mandarin pinyin), meaning 'to sing someone's praise' in ancient Chinese: (i) from the place-name Dong Ou (東甌), a fief (in present-day Wenzhou in Zhejiang province) which was granted to Yao in 192 BC. It is said that Yao was a descendant of Wujiang (reigned 355–333 BC), king of the state of Yue (located mainly in present-day Zhejiang and Jiangxi province) during the Spring and Autumn period (770–476 BC). (ii) from the place-name Ou Yu (歐餘), name of a fief (located in present-day Zhejiang province) that was granted to Ti, the second son of Wujiang (reigned 355–333 BC), king of the state of Yue (located mainly in present-day Zhejiang and Jiangxi province) during the Spring and Autumn period (770–476 BC).

3 Chinese: Cantonese form of the Chinese surname 區 (**Ou** in Mandarin pinyin), originally denoting an ancient vessel for measurement in ancient Chinese: from the personal name of Ou Zhizi (歐冶子), an expert sword-maker who lived during the Spring and Autumn period (770–476 BC). Some of his

Aubert

descendants inherited *Ou* (歐) as their surname, simplifying the Chinese character 歐 to 區.

Aubert

- **Current frequencies:** GB 127, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 143
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Montgomerys; Lancs

1 Huguenot, French: see **Albert** (2).

Early bearers: Marie Aubert, 1614, Aubert Auber, 1691, Pierre Auber, 1692 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street French Huguenot Church, London); Jacques Aubert, 1699 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Claude Aubert, 1728 in *IGI* (Saint Peter le Poer, London); Daniel Abraham Aubert, 1739 in *IGI* (Spitalfields, Middx); Marner Clement Eli Jean De Basire Aubert, 1877 in *IGI* (Kirkdale, Lancs).

2 English: see **Albert** (1).

Aubertin

Variants: Auberton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 56, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 31
- **Main GB location 1881:** Berks, Hants, and Surrey; Glamorgan

Huguenot: from Metz (Lorraine). On the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 the original emigrant fled to Switzerland; his great-grandson came to England about 1767. But the name was already in England by then. It is formed with the diminutive suffix *-in* from *Aubert*, the vernacular form of *Albert*. **Early bearers:** Henriette Aubertin, 1715 in *IGI* (Spitalfields, Middx); Jean Aubertin, 1736 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street French Huguenot Church, London).

Auberton

- **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- Huguenot: see **Aubertin**.

Aubery

- **Current frequencies:** GB 28, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 95
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English, Italian: see **Aubrey**.

Aubin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 132, Ireland 5
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 215
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Cambs
- English: see **Albin**.

Early bearers: Richard Aubin, 1610 in *IGI* (Cambridge, Cambs); Rebecca Aubin, 1797 in *IGI* (Wisbech, Cambs).

Aubon

- **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- English: see **Alban**.

Auborn

- **Current frequencies:** GB 35, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- English: see **Auburn**.

Aubrey

Variants: Aubery, Aubry, Aubury, Awbery, Awbrey, Abery, Abrey, Abra, Aburrow, O Bray, Alberly, Alberly, Allberry, Allberrey, Albury, Alsbury, Horberry

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1476, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 836
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in S Wales and S and central England

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English male personal name *Albry*, *Aubry*, *Aubery*, a borrowing of Old French *Alberi*, *Aubri*, from Continental Germanic *Alberic*, composed of the elements **alb-* ‘elf’ + **ric* ‘power, realm’. Post-medieval examples of the surname may alternatively belong under (2) or (3) below.

Early bearers: given names: Albricus de Capella, 1214 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Cambs); Aubri Bunt, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs).

surnames: John Aubri, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Robert Aubri, 1308 in *Feet of Fines* (Suffolk); Adam Albry, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Geoffrey Aubry, 1380 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); John Aubery, Awberry, Aubry, 1460 in *Bardsley* (Norfolk); John Awbery, 1547 in *IGI* (Swannington, Norfolk); Tymothie Awberie, 1615 in *IGI* (Norwich); Prudentia Awbrey, 1558 in *IGI* (Dullingham, Cambs); James Awberry, 1734 in *IGI* (Knapwell, Cambs); William Awberry, 1564 in *IGI* (Sandy, Beds); Mary Aubery, 1610 in *IGI* (Potton, Beds); Jane Aubury, 1619 in *IGI* (Luton, Beds); Elizabeth Aubery, 1733 in *IGI* (Eaton Socon, Beds); William Aubry, in *Census 1881* (Cambs).

2 English: relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Albrey*, *Aubrey*, Old French *Albree*, *Aubree*, *Auberee* (Continental Germanic *Albrad* from **alb-* ‘elf’ + an undetermined second element). Some of the late Middle English and Modern English examples may belong under (1) or (3). From about 1400, pronunciation of Middle English *-ey* began to converge with that of *-y*, with resulting confusion of *Aubrey* (1) and (2) and some interchange of spellings. See also **Abson** and **Ablett**, which incorporate pet forms of the name, and **Abery**. Some of the post-medieval examples may alternatively belong under (3) below.

Early bearers: given names: Albreda, 1198 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Herts), 1205 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Warwicks); Aubreda, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Albreda, Albree de Jarpenvill’, 1221 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Bucks); Albreda daughter of Robert, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lockton, NR Yorks); Albreda Adas, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Irthlingborough, Northants); Albray, Aubray, 1379 in *Yorks Poll Tax*.

surnames: Osbertus filius Alberade, 1115 in *Winton Domesday* (Hants); Ricardus filius Albrei, 1199 in *Leicester Freeman Register* (Leics); Johannes filius Aubre, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); John Albre, 1243 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Robert Aubrey, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Bucks); William Albray, 1297 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Edlington, WR Yorks); William Aubray, 1324 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (WR Yorks); William Aubray, 1341 in *Lincs Royal Inquest* (Lincs); Edward Awbrey, 1551, John Awbrey, 1623 in *IGI* (Brecknock, Brecknocks); William Aubrey, in *Census 1881* (Glamorgan).

3 English: variant of **Abery** (1), from a local pronunciation of Avebury (Wilts). Compare

Aburrow.

Early bearers: Alis Awbrey, 1564 in *IGI* (Chieveley, Berks); Ann Awbry, 1759 in *IGI* (Chieveley, Berks); Charles Aubrey, 1843 in *IGI* (Brightwalton, Berks); John Awbrey, 1573 in *IGI* (Easton Percy, Wilts); Mary Awbery, 1598 in *IGI* (Kingsclere, Hants); James Awberry in *Census 1881* (Hants); Thomas Aubrey, in *Census 1881* (Wilts).

4 English: occasionally a variant of **Horbury**; compare John Parker of Aubrey (i.e. Horbury) near Wakefield, 1804 in *Parish Registers* (Collingham, WR Yorks).

Early bearers: Nicholas Awbray, 1561, John Aubury, 1636 in *Parish Registers* (Birstall, WR Yorks).

References: *Redmonds, Surnames and Genealogy*, p. 216.

Aubry

- **Current frequencies:** GB 62, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 47
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- English: see **Aubrey**.

Auburn

Variants: Auburn

- **Current frequencies:** GB 180, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 77
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Northants and Beds

English: locative name from Auburn (Lincs) or Auburn (ER Yorks).

Early bearers: Henry of Auburn, 1226 in *Feet of Fines* (Yorks); Robertus Hawburn’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Selby, WR Yorks); William de Auburne, 1388 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Notts); Henry Auburn’, 1405 in *Feet of Fines* (Newport Pagnell, Bucks); Williamus Auburn, 1564 in *IGI* (Holbeach, Lincs); Mary Auburn, 1665 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Peter Aubone, John Auborne, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk); Susanna Auburn, 1687 in *IGI* (Great Ponton, Lincs); Thomas Auburn, 1747 in *IGI* (Upper Stondon, Beds); George Awburn, 1758, John Auburn, 1785 in *IGI* (Haltwhistle, Northumb).

Aubury

- **Current frequencies:** GB 75, Ireland 9
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 79
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Berks, Surrey, and Middx
- English: see **Aubrey** (3).

Auchterlonie

Variants: Lonie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 280, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 206
- **Main GB location 1881:** Fife; also Angus

Scottish: locative name from Auchterlownie (Angus), now Wester Lownie by Dunnichen. See also **Lonie**.

Early bearers: Wauter de Ogtherloveny, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Fife); William of Ochterlowny, 1388 in *Bamff Charters* (Bamff, Perths); Alexander de Uchtirlowny, 1410 in *Great Seal of Scotland* (Perth); Thomas Auchterlonie, 1653 in *IGI* (Edinburgh); Margaret Auchterlownie, 1664 in *IGI* (Dundee, Angus); Robert Auchterlonie, 1675 in *IGI* (Leuchars, Fife).

Auckland

Variants: Aukland

- **Current frequencies:** GB 610, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 422
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and WR Yorks

English: locative name from Auckland (Durham).

Early bearers: Geoffrey de Aukelaunde, 1269 in *Feet of Fines* (Yorks); Robert de Aukland, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); William de Aukland, 1351 in *York Freeman’s Register*; Nicholas Auckland, 1546 in *IGI* (Epworth, Lincs); Alani Auckland, 1552 in *IGI* (Epworth, Lincs); John Auckland, 1565 in *IGI* (Saxton

in Elmet, WR Yorks); Catherin Auckland, 1585 in *IGI* (Howden, ER Yorks); Thomas Auckland, 1623 in *IGI* (Eston, NR Yorks).

Aucoek

- **Current frequencies:** GB 59, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 79
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
- English: see **Alcock**.

Aucott

- **Current frequencies:** GB 503, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 149
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Midlands
- English: see **Alcott**.

Aucutt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 59, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 25
 - **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands and Gloucs
- English: see **Alcott**.

Audas

- **Current frequencies:** GB 79, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 71
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs, Yorks, and Durham
- English: see **Aldous**.

Auden

- **Current frequencies:** GB 102, Ireland 18
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 55
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Worcs and Shrops; also Lancs and Derbys
- English: see **Alden**.

Audin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 131, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 62
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Alden**.

Audiss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 13
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs
- English: see **Aldous**.

Audley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 357, Ireland 44
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 283
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Kilkenny
- English: locative name from Audley (Staffs).
Early bearers: Adam de Aldeðalega, 1185 in *Pipe Rolls* (Staffs); James de Audeley, 1272 in *Assize Rolls* (Staffs); Hugh Daudelegh, 1333 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Wilts); John de Audeley, 1377 in *Assize Rolls* (Warwick); Nicholas de Audeley, 1393 in *Feet of Fines* (Staffs); Edmund Audele, clerk, 1478 in *Feet of Fines* (Shrops); Thomas Audley, 1557 in *IGI* (Houghton Conquest, Beds); Maria Audley, 1636 in *IGI* (Witton cum Twambrooks, Cheshire); James Audly, 1670, John Auly, 1727 in *IGI* (Branscombe, Devon).

Audrey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 28, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 22
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon and Bucks
- English: see **Awdry**.

Audritt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 37, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- 1 English: see **Aldred**.
 2 English: see **Alldritt**.
 3 English: see **Aldridge**.

Audry

- **GB frequency 1881:** 6
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon
- English: see **Awdry**.

Audsley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 447, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 330
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: locative name from an unidentified place, presumably in WR Yorks.
Further information: Derivation from Aldersley in Bradford is linguistically possible but in the Middle ages this minor place-name is attested only in the field name *Aldeleysike* in 1292, and there is no evidence that it gave rise to a surname. Identification with East and West Ardsley (WR Yorks), though close to Dewsbury, where the surname has most of its early history, is phonological improbable.
Early bearers: John de Audesley, 1373 in *Yorks Title Deeds* (Sandal, WR Yorks); John Audesley, 1494 in *Yorks Deeds* (Ossett, WR Yorks); John Awdisley, 1545 in *Thoresby Society* 11 (Ossett, WR Yorks); Thomas Audsley, 1621 in *IGI* (Dewsbury, WR Yorks); Thomas Audsley, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Ossett, WR Yorks); Elin Audsley, 1666 in *IGI* (Sandal Magna, WR Yorks).
References: *Redmonds, Surnames and Genealogy*, p. 217.

Audus

- **Current frequencies:** GB 126, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 83
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs; WR Yorks
- English: see **Aldous**.

Augar

- Variants:** Agar
- **Current frequencies:** GB 38, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 41
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon
- English: see **Algar**.

Auger

- **Current frequencies:** GB 712, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 542
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex
- 1 English: pronounced with a soft g or /dʒ/, this is a variant of **Alger** (i).
 2 English: pronounced with a hard g, it is a variant of **Algar** or **Alger** (ii). Compare **Agar**, **Agger**, **Haggard**.

Aughey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 50, Ireland 57
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Meath
- Irish: see **Haughey**.

Aughney

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Carlow
- Irish: from **Mac Fhachtna**, see **Haughey**.

Aughton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 223, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 250
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: locative name from any of at least three places called Aughton (Lancs, ER Yorks, WR Yorks).
Early bearers: Thomas de Autun', de Aucton', 1212 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Yorks); William de Aghton, 1354 in *York Freeman's Register*; Robti Aughton, 1567 in *IGI* (Blo Norton, Norfolk); Richard Aughton, 1603 in *IGI* (Walton on the Hill, Lancs); Elzabethe Aughton, 1610 in *IGI* (Bradley by Stafford, Staffs); Astain Aughton, 1613 in *IGI* (Saint John Micklegate, York); Elizabeth Aughton, 1677 in *IGI* (Chester le Street, Durham).

Augood

- **Current frequencies:** GB 49, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 21
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- English: see **Allgood**.

Augur

- **Current frequencies:** GB 41, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 62
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Oxon
- English: see **Algar**.

August

- Variants:** Augustus, Auguste
- **Current frequencies:** GB 229, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 129
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Hants, E Anglia, London
- English: (i) nickname perhaps from the month-name. Month-names do occur in English surnames, see for example *Jennery*, *Feaviour*, *Averill*, but almost always in a French form, though the anglicized **January** is an exception. (ii) from the Latin personal name *Augustus*, which may also be found as a surname. (iii) possibly a variant of *Aukus* or a similar name; compare Johannes Aukus, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Cherrington, Warwicks).
Early bearers: Samuell August, 1568 in *IGI* (Dartford, Kent); John August, 1630 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Francis August, 1692 in *IGI* (Saint Mary Aldermary, London).

Auguste

- **Current frequencies:** GB 262, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 16
- French: French form of **August**.
Further information: No hard evidence has been found for Huguenot origin. The few early records are from ports.
Early bearers: William Auguste, 1831 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs).

Augustin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 396, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 5
- French: see **Augustine**.

Augustine

- Variants:** Augustin
- **Current frequencies:** GB 629, Ireland 14
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 7
- Relationship name from the personal name *Augustin* (Latin *Augustinus*), a derivative of the Latin word

augustus ‘consecrated; majestic’; compare **Augustus**. Although the given name, usually in its Latin form, was quite common in the medieval period, mainly because of the veneration of Saint Augustine of Hippo and perhaps also of Canterbury, the vernacular form **Austin** was even more frequent in England. Since the 1950s the frequency of this surname in Britain has increased due to immigration.

Early bearers: Nicholas Augustin, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Roberto Augstyn, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Wyboston, Beds); Johanne Augustyn, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Gilmorton, Leics); William Augstine, 1630 in *IGI* (Linwood, Lincs).

Augustus

- Current frequencies:** GB 323, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881:** 48
 - Main GB location 1881:** S Wales; IoW
- English, Welsh: relationship name from the Latin personal name *Augustus*, from *augustus* ‘consecrated; majestic’, or as a ‘classicalized’ variant of **August**; this is found even in the medieval period alongside its French-derived form **Austin**, and was a source of post-medieval family names.
- Early bearers:** Ricardus Augustus, son of Augustini Edward, 1621 in *IGI* (Montgomerys); Ernestus Augustus, 1674 in *IGI* (South Kilworth, Leics); Marcus Augustus, 1705 in *IGI* (Colchester, Essex); John Augustus, 1739 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx).

Aujla

- Current frequencies:** GB 1025, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (Punjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat clan.

Auker

Variants: **Alger**

- Current frequencies:** GB 176, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 81
- Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Alker*, *Auker*, from either Old English *Ealþhere* with Anglo-Norman French vocalization of /l/ before the consonant, or from Old French *Alcher*, *Aucher*, *Auqu(i)er* Continental Germanic *Alchari*, both deriving from elements meaning ‘temple’ and ‘army’. The 12th-century spelling *-ch-* is an Anglo-Norman French representation of /k/.

Further information: The rare surname *Alcher* (2 bearers in the 1881 census) is perhaps a another version of the French name but with *-ch-* representing the Central French pronunciation /tʃ/ as in *chair*. Compare Auchere filius Henrici, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cambs); John Aucher, 1428 in *Feudal Aids* (Wilts). **Early bearers:** given names: Alcherus Venator, 1166 in *Pipe Rolls* (Essex). surnames: Ailwin Alher, Alcher, 1180, about 1216 in *History of Saint Barts Hospital* (London); Willelmus filius Alcheri, 1185 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); William Alker, 1212, Robertus filius Aucheri, 1230 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Norfolk).

Aukett

- Current frequencies:** GB 145, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881:** 52
 - Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
- English: see **Alcott**.

Aukin

- GB frequency 1881:** 1
- English: see **Alkin**.

Aukland

- Current frequencies:** GB 69, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881:** 89
 - Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks, E Midlands
- English: see **Auckland**.

Aulak

- Current frequencies:** GB 142, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian: see **Aulakh**.

Aulakh

Variants: **Aulak**

- Current frequencies:** GB 234, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Punjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat clan.

Auld

Variants: **Awde**, **Ault**, **Aulds**

- Current frequencies:** GB 1886, Ireland 245
- GB frequency 1881:** 1781
- Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland
- Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim and Down

Scottish: nickname Scottish form of **Old**, from Older Scots *ald*.

Early bearers: John Alde, 1284 in *Scotland Calendar* (Carrick, Ayr); John Alde, burgess, 1292 in *Perth Blackfriars* (Perth, Perth); Bartholomew Alde, burgess, 1477 in *Irvine Muniments* (Irvine, Ayr); John Auld, 1488 in *Acts of Council, Scotland* (Carmunnock, Lanarks); Williame Auld, 1608 in *IGI* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens).

Aulds

- Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 24
 - GB frequency 1881:** 14
 - Main GB location 1881:** Scotland
- Scottish: variant of **Auld** with post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Ault

- Current frequencies:** GB 805, Ireland 4
 - GB frequency 1881:** 687
 - Main GB location 1881:** Derbys and Staffs
- Scottish: N English variant of Scottish **Auld**.

Aulton

- Current frequencies:** GB 255, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881:** 119
 - Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks and Staffs
- 1 English: see **Alton**.
2 English: see **Olton**.

Aumonier

Variants: **Amner**

- Current frequencies:** GB 28, Ireland 5
- GB frequency 1881:** 28
- Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cheshire

Norman, English: occupational name from Old French *aumoner*, *aumonier* ‘almoner’.

Further information: An almoner was a high official in the household of a bishop, prince, or other person of rank, or in a monastery, whose responsibility was to oversee distribution of alms to the poor.

Early bearers: Adam le Augmoner, 1297 in *Feet of Fines* (Hunts); Michael le Aumouner, 1297 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); Adam Aumener, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Essex); Robertus Aumoner, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Milcombe, Oxon); Daniel Aumonier, 1701 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Marie Aumonier, 1717 in *IGI* (Spitalfields, Middx); Mary Aumonier, 1811 in *IGI* (Southwark, Surrey); Henry Collingwood Aumonier, 1832 in *IGI* (Saint Dunstan in the West, London).

Aung

- Current frequencies:** GB 238, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881:** 0
- 1 Chinese: non-standard romanization form of the Chinese surname 洪, see **Hong** (1).
2 Burmese: unexplained.

Aunger

- Current frequencies:** GB 95, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881:** 72
 - Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall and Devon; Durham
- 1 English: see **Ainger**.
2 German: the Durham name might alternatively be a variant of **Anger** (2).

Aungiers

Variants: **Angers**, **Ainger**

- Current frequencies:** GB 41, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881:** 21
- Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks

1 Norman, English: locative name from Angers in Maine-et-Loire, France. The post-medieval examples may alternatively belong with (2).

Early bearers: Hugo de Angiers, de Angers, 1207–8 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Wilts); Thomas de Aungers, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Welbury, NR Yorks); William Angers, 1768 in *IGI* (Appleton Wiske, NR Yorks); James Aungiers, 1829 in *IGI* (Middleton Tyas, NR Yorks).

2 English: variant of **Anger**, **Angier**, **Ainger** with post-medieval excrescent *-s*. With the Cambs examples below compare William Anger, 1805 in *IGI* (Haddenham, Cambs), and Richard Anger, 1815 in *IGI* (Graveley, Cambs). However, it is formally possible that the following early bearers belong with (1).

Early bearers: Steuen Angers, 1653 in *IGI* (Saint Lawrence Pountney, London); John Angers, 1733 in *IGI* (Graveley, Cambs); John Aungiers, 1792 in *IGI* (Haddenham, Cambs).

Aurora

- Current frequencies:** GB 57, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian: see **Arora**.

Aust

- Current frequencies:** GB 355, Ireland 16
- GB frequency 1881:** 336
- Main GB location 1881:** Somerset and Wilts

English: locative name from Aust (Gloucs).

Early bearers: Anthony Aust, 1544 in *IGI* (Box, Wilts); John Aust, 1575 in *IGI* (Steeple Ashton, Wilts); Robert Aust, 1632 in *PROB 11* (Corsham, Wilts).

Austen

- Current frequencies:** GB 1915, Ireland 30
- GB frequency 1881:** 2293
- Main GB location 1881:** Kent

- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Meath
- English: see **Austin**.

Austerberry

- **Current frequencies:** GB 143, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 66
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs, WR Yorks; also Staffs

English: an altered form of *Austerby*, see **Oxtoby**.
Early bearers: Robert Owsterbury, 1637, identical with Robert Austerby, 1638 in *Parish Registers* (Frickley, WR Yorks); John Austerbury, John Osterbury, 1669 in *Parish Registers* (Hooton Pagnell, WR Yorks); Anne Austerberry, 1702 in *Parish Registers* (Brodsworth, WR Yorks); Anne Owsterbury, 1730 in *IGI* (Pontefract, WR Yorks); Ann Austerberry, 1792 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs).

References: *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*; David Austerberry, *The Austerberry Saga*, 2007, Oswestry, Shrops.

Austerfield

- **Current frequencies:** GB 124, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 32
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: locative name from Austerfield (WR Yorks), so named from Old English *eowestre* ‘sheepfold’ + *feld* ‘open land’.

Early bearers: Willelmus Austerfeld’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Tickhill, WR Yorks); Mary Osterfelde, 1578 in *IGI* (Elsham, Lincs); Margarette Osterfeild, 1590 in *IGI* (Amcotts, Lincs); Isabell Austerfeild, 1604, Thomas Osterfeld, 1611 in *IGI* (Broughton by Brigg, Lincs); Johes Osterfeld, 1718 in *Parish Registers* (Elland, WR Yorks); David Austerfield, 1804 in *IGI* (Wakefield, WR Yorks).

Austick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 121, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 52
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Austwick**.

Austin

Variants: **Auston**, **Austen**, **Austing**, **Austins**, **Owston**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 22384, Ireland 834
- **GB frequency 1881:** 14490
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin; also Westmeath

1 English: relationship name from the extremely common Middle English and Old French personal name *Austin*, a vernacular form of **Augustin**.

Early bearers: given names: Austinus de Bernardeston, 1224 in *Feet of Fines* (Suffolk); Austinus de Beston’, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Ostin atte Putte, 1327 *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset).

surnames: Henry Austin, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Avice Augstyn, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Essex); Gilbertus Austyne, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Cumb); Johanne Austyn, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Kent); Thomas Austyn’, 1470 in *Feet of Fines* (Sussex); Thomas Austen, 1542 in *Parish Registers* (Adisham, Kent); Margaret Austine, 1561 in *IGI* (Cranbrook, Kent). George Ausden, 1882 in *IGI* (Watford, Herts);

2 English: variant of **Aspden**.

Austing

- **Current frequencies:** GB 21, Ireland o

- **GB frequency 1881:** 51
- **Main GB location 1881:** London
- English: see **Austin**.

Austins

- **Current frequencies:** GB 44, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 93
- **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs

English: variant of **Austin** with genitival or post-medieval excrescent -s.

Early bearers: Edith Austines, 1275 *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Avice Augstyn, Avice Austynes, 1327 *Subsidy Rolls* (Essex); Thos. Austins, 1641 in *IGI* (Luton, Beds); Anna Austins, 1652 in *IGI* (Little Stukeley, Hunts); Richard Austins, 1664 in *IGI* (Bethersden, Kent); John Austins, 1675 in *IGI* (Stratford upon Avon, Warwicks); Rich Austins, 1676 in *IGI* (Bromsberrow, Gloucs).

Auston

- **Current frequencies:** GB 101, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 152
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England and Scotland

1 English, Scottish: see **Austin**.

2 English: see **Owston**.

Austwick

Variants: **Austick**, **Ostick**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 429, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 255
- **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks and WR Yorks

English: locative name from Austwick (WR Yorks).

Early bearers: Rose de Austwic, 1202 in *Feet of Fines* (Yorks); Roger de Oustewyk, 1341, in John Austewyk, 1425 in *York Freeman’s Register*.

Autery

- **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Norman, English: see **Autrey**.

Autherson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 23, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 24
- **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks

English: variant of **Alderson**.

Autie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 33, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
- **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs

English: see **Auty**.

Early bearers: George Autie, 1858 in *IGI* (Bretforton, Worcs).

Auton

Variants: **Olton**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 508, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 318
- **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks, WR Yorks, and Durham; Devon

1 English: locative name from Aveton Giffard (Devon), which was formerly pronounced /'ɔːtən/ and is recorded as *Awton Gifford* in 1546.

Early bearers: George Auton, 1573 in *IGI* (Offwell, Devon).

References: *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 265.

2 English: see **Alton**.

3 English: see **Olton**.

Autrey

Variants: **Autery**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

1 Norman, English: locative name from any of several places in France named Autrey or Autry.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

2 Norman, English: from the Old French personal name *Audry*, from Germanic *Aldric* ‘ancient power’. There are also places for example in Allier, Ardennes, and Loiret bearing this name; it could be a topographic name from any of them.

Autry

- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs, WR Yorks

English: see **Hawtrey** and compare **Dawtrey**.

Auty

Variants: **Alty**, **Awty**, **Autie**, **Otty**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1237, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1004
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Auty*, *Outi*, *Oti* (Old Scandinavian *Auti*), of uncertain origin.

Early bearers: given names: Auti, Alti, Outi, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Beds, Cheshire, Derbys, Gloucs, Hants, Leics, Lincs, Norfolk, Shrops, Staffs, Suffolk, Sussex, Warwicks); Outi de Lincol’, 1166 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Auty le Paumer, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Outy de Sutton’, 1280 in *Assize Rolls* (Notts). surnames: Walterus filius Aulti, 1177 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); Willelmus filius Auti, 1200 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Andream filium Auti, 1202 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs); Robertus Aute, 1379, Robertus Aute, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Tunstead, Norfolk); Henrico Alty, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Ashton Keynes, Wilts); Johannes Anty (for Auty), 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Dewsbury, WR Yorks); Simon Auty, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Tickhill, WR Yorks); John Awty, 1524 in *Ancient Deeds* vi (Suffolk); Thos. Awtye, 1560 in *IGI* (Mistley, Essex); John Autye, 1574 in *IGI* (Wells next the Sea, Norfolk); John Awtie, 1544, Edward Awtye, 1610 in *IGI* (Dewsbury, WR Yorks); Thomas Awtie, 1629 in *IGI* (Little Plumstead, Norfolk); Richard Autey, 1718 in *IGI* (Snaith, WR Yorks); Joseph Auty, 1724 in *IGI* (Clitheroe, Lancs).

References: *Fellows Jensen, Scand. Personal Names*, pp. 43–4; *Insley, Scand. Personal Names*, pp. 86–8; *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Avann

- **Current frequencies:** GB 77, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 61
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex

English: locative name from a misdivision of the Middle English phrase *atte vann(e)* ‘at the fen’ (see **Vann**).

Early bearers: Henry atte Vanne, 1341 in *Nonarum Inquisitiones* (Sussex); John Avanne, 1527 in *Sussex Wills*.

Avant

- **Current frequencies:** GB 41, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 69
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Devon

English: see **Avent**.

Avard

- **Current frequencies:** GB 73, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 145
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent and Sussex

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Averd* or *Award*, reduced forms of Middle English *Alfward*, from Old English *Ælfweard*. For a more regular development of the name see **Allward**.

Early bearers: given names: Auuardus merta, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Awart, identical with Aluuart, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Suffolk); Averd the fisher, 1337 in *Patent Rolls* (Norfolk).

surnames: Margeret Averd, 1579, Agnes Avarde, 1581 in *IGI* (Horsmonden, Kent); John Averd, 1609, Thomas Avord, 1615 in *IGI* (Rottingdean, Sussex); John Avard, 1628 in *IGI* (Alfriston, Sussex); Mary Avard, 1668 in *IGI* (Hawkhurst, Kent).

Avary

- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

English: see **Avery**.

Further information: This spelling is rare in Britain but is more common in the USA.

Aveley

Variants: **Avely**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 14
- **Main GB location 1881:** Herts and Cambs

English: locative name from Aveley (Essex) or Avely Hall (Suffolk).

Further information: No evidence has been found to support Wilson's suggestion (*Reaney and Wilson*) of a locative origin either from Avely (Essex), which is recorded as *Aluithalea* in 1086, *Alviueleia* in 1157, *Alvyleye* in 1272–1307, and *Alveley*, *Aveley* in 1535, or from Avely Hall in Assington (Suffolk), which is recorded as *Aluenelega* in 1086, *Alwyneleye* in 1298, *Alvyngley alias Alweley* in 1518–29, and *Alveley alias Alvingley* in 1569.

Early bearers: William de Auele, 1202 in *Pipe Rolls* (Somerset); Martha Aveley, 1788 in *IGI* (Soham, Cambs); Mary Aveley, 1823 in *IGI* (Soham, Cambs); Frederick Aveley, 1859 in *IGI* (Biggleswade, Beds).

References: *Place-Names of Essex*, pp. 120–1; *Ekwall*, *DEPN*, p. 19; *TNA*, C 1/475/13, C 3/29/1.

Aveline

Variants: **Aveling, Evelyn, Eveling**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 75, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 33
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs; Bucks

English: relationship name from the Middle English and Old French female personal name *Avelin(e)*, either a double diminutive pet form of Continental Germanic *Ava* or of Old French and Middle English *Avicē*; see **Avis**. In the post-medieval forms of the surname final *-in* sometimes developed to *-ing*.

Early bearers: given names: Auelina, 1175–86 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk), 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cambs). surnames: Henry Avelin, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Reginald Auelyn, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Johannes Avelyne, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Bilsington, Kent); Willelmus Avelyn, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Runtton, Norfolk); Johannes Avelyn, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Gestingthorpe, Essex); Robertus and Henricus Avelyne, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Scoulton, Norfolk);

Willelmus Avelyne, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Denver, Norfolk); Johannes Havelyn, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Canterbury, Kent); Thomas Aveling, 1562 in *IGI* (Lowestoft, Suffolk); Allis Aveline, 1562 in *IGI* (Egham, Surrey).

Aveling

- **Current frequencies:** GB 122, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 168
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs; Kent

English: see **Aveline**.

Avely

- **GB frequency 1881:** o

English: see **Aveley**.

Aven

- **Current frequencies:** GB 48, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 16
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset

English: see **Avon**.

Avenall

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 47
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey

English: see **Avenell**.

Avenel

- **GB frequency 1881:** 3
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

English: see **Avenell**.

Avenell

Variants: **Avenel, Avenall**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 368, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 254
- **Main GB location 1881:** S England: esp. Wilts

English: relationship name from the Old French personal name *Avenel*, a double diminutive of Continental Germanic *Avo*.

Further information: There was an important Norman family of this name in Scotland in the Middle Ages, but it had disappeared there by the modern period. For the family in Anglo-Norman England (from Les Biards, Manche, and with English estates in Devon, Northants and Notts) see *Domesday Descendants*, pp. 156–8. The surname was later confused with **Averill**.

Early bearers: given names: Avenel, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Shrops), 1166 in *Red Book of the Exchequer* (Essex); Auenellus, 1190 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Auenellus, 1196 in *Eynsham Cartulary* (Oxon). surnames, England: Robert, Paganus Auenel, 1139 in *Templars Records* (Oxon), 1195 in *Pipe Rolls* (Herefs); Oliver Avenel, valet, 1305–6 in *Scotland Calendar* (Tynedale, Northumb); Matilda Avenel, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Sharrington, Norfolk); Ann Avenell, 1562 in *IGI* (Great Coxwell, Berks); Elizabeth Avenell, 1563 in *IGI* (Great Coxwell, Berks); Ellyn Avenell, 1565 in *IGI* (Highworth, Wilts); Joan Avenell, 1584 in *IGI* (Puttenham, Surrey); Joan Avenell, 1586 in *IGI* (Walberton, Sussex). surnames, Scotland: Robert Avenell', 1138–47 in *Kelso Register* (Edinburgh); Vincent Avenel, 1204–5 in *Saint Andrews Charters* (Winthank, Fife).

Avent

Variants: **Avant**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 287, Ireland o

- **GB frequency 1881:** 274
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

Norman, English: nickname from Old French *avenant* 'fitting; handsome, comely', an adjective that was also used as a personal name. Compare **Davenant** and **Havenhand**.

Early bearers: given names: Avenant de Twipp', 1204 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Devon).

surnames: Osbert, Ralph Auenant, 1156–80 in Bury (Suffolk), 1198 in *Feet of Fines* (Norfolk); Richard Avenant, 1357 in *Patent Rolls*; George Avent, 1601 in *IGI* (Yealmpton, Devon); Alexander Avenant, 1613 in *IGI* (Kings Norton, Worcs); John Avenant, 1651 in *Devon Wills* (Stokeinteignhead).

Averies

- **Current frequencies:** GB 52, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

English: see **Averis**.

Averill

Variants: **Avril, Everall**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 478, Ireland 68
- **GB frequency 1881:** 272
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands

1 English: nickname from the name of the month (April), Middle English *averil*, Old French *avrill*, Latin *aprilis*, perhaps (according to Reaney) with reference to freshness of temperament, or youth, or possibly to the changeable weather of the month. Compare **Feaviour**. The native English name was reinforced by French Huguenot use of the same surname; see (2) and compare **April**.

Further information: The name was sometimes confused with **Avenell** by dissimilation of /r/ to /n/ before /l/. Compare Johannes Averel, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Bradfield, Berks) with Mary Avenall, 1629 in *IGI* (Bradfield, Berks); and Mary Avenall, 1638, Richard Averall, 1774 in *IGI* (Godalming, Surrey).

Early bearers: Thomas Averel, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Richard Averil, 1322 in *Assize Rolls* (Staffs); John Aueril, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Johannes Aueryll', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Northampton, Northants); Thoma Averill', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Alrewas, Orgreave, Fradley and Edingale, Staffs); Anne Averell, 1540 in *IGI* (Solihull, Warwicks); Jerman Averil, 1570 in *IGI* (Ash next Ridley, Kent); Elizabeth Avril, 1725 in *IGI* (Wolverhampton, Staffs).

2 Huguenot: nickname the French equivalent of (1).

Early bearers: Paul Avril, 1745 in *IGI* (Glasshouse Street French Huguenot Church, Westminster, Middx).

3 English: locative name perhaps occasionally from Haverhill (Suffolk) with loss of initial *H-*, but the post-medieval bearers cited below may belong with (1).

Early bearers: Galfrido, Ricardo de Haverhulle, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Great Bardfield, Essex); Walter Averell in *IGI* (Beeston, Norfolk); Tho Averhill, 1673 in *IGI* (Bradwell on Sea, Essex).

References: *Suffolk Place-Names*, p. 56; *Watts, Dictionary*, p. 288.

Averis

Variants: **Averiss, Averies**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 103, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 41
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

English: variant of **Avery** with genitival or post-medieval excrement -s.

Early bearers: Thomas Averyes, 1568 in *IGI* (Maulden, Beds); Elizabeth Averis, 1582 in *IGI* (Harpenden, Herts); Hughe Averies, 1588 in *IGI* (Eaton Bray, Beds).

Averiss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 109, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 26
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs
- English: see **Averis**.

Averley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 7
- English: locative name of uncertain origin; perhaps from Aversley Wood in Sawtrey (Hunts).
- Early bearers:** John de Averle, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Hunts); George Averley, 1623 in *IGI* (Lincoln, Lincs); Lawrence Averley, 1641 in *IGI* (Soham, Cambs); Elizabeth Averley, 1685 in *IGI* (Bredhurst, Kent); Johannis Averley, 1704 in *IGI* (Kings Ripton, Hunts); Eleanor Joyce Averley, 1815 in *IGI* (Saint Giles Cripplegate, London).
- References:** *Place-Names of Beds and Hunts*, pp. 196–7.

Avery

- Variants:** **Avory, Avary, Every, Havery, Averis**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 6318, Ireland 68
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 4996
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread
- Norman, English: relationship name from the Middle English and Anglo-Norman French personal name *Averey*, a medieval French form of **Alfred**.
- Early bearers:** given names: Alvrei venator, 1294 in *Charter Rolls* (Yorks).
- surnames: Rogerus filius Alvredi, 1166 in *Red Book of the Exchequer* (Yorks); Hugo filius Auveray, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Notts); Willelmus filius Averay, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Nicholas Auverey, 1273 in *Hundred Rolls* (Worcs); William Auure, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Wilts); Walter Averay, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Cust Alvere, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Edmund Avered, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Walter Averey, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); Rogerus Averye, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Surrey); Richard Avore, 1428 in *Feudal Aids* (Sussex); John Avery, 1558 in *IGI* (Hartland, Devon); Harry Avory, 1562 in *IGI* (Bramshott, Hants); John Avary, 1602 in *IGI* (Dallington, Sussex); John Avery, 1675, John Alvery, 1683 in *IGI* (Herstmonceaux, Sussex); William Alvery, 1716 in *IGI* (Alderminster, Warwicks); George Alvery, 1767 in *IGI* (Nottingham, Notts).

Aves

- **Current frequencies:** GB 611, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 501
 - **Main GB location 1881:** E Anglia
- 1 Norman, English: relationship name variant of **Avis**.
- Early bearers:** Alis Aves, 1546 in *IGI* (Cavenham, Suffolk); Elizabeth Aves, 1568 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Henry Aves, 1575 in *IGI* (Worth, Sussex).
- 2 Norman, English: relationship name occasionally perhaps from the Old French female personal name *Ave*, Continental Germanic *Ava*, with genitival or post-medieval excrement -s. Compare **Aveline**.

Early bearers: Willelmus filius Aue, 1198 in *Feet of Fines* (Norfolk); John Aves, 1588 in *IGI* (Bradfield Combust, Suffolk); Agnes Aves, 1596 in *IGI* (Bere Regis, Dorset); Roger Aves, 1604 in *IGI* (Habberley, Shrops); John Aves, 1620 in *IGI* (Orpington, Kent).

Aveson

- Variants:** **Aveston**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 22, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 50
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London; E Anglia
- English: see **Avison**.

Aveston

- **Current frequencies:** GB 37, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 19
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Pembrokes
- 1 English: probably, in most cases, a variant of **Aveson** with intrusive *t*.
- 2 English, Welsh: locative name perhaps occasionally from either of two places called Alveston (Gloucs, Warwicks).
- Early bearers:** England William de Alueston, 1190 in *Pipe Rolls* (Warwicks); Robert Aveston, 1631 in *IGI* (Chipping Norton, Oxon).
- Wales Letitia Aveston, 1788, Louisa Avestone, 1835 in *IGI* (Dale, Pembrokes).

Avey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 361, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 219
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs and Suffolk; Sussex
- English: probably from Old Scandinavian *afi*, literally 'grandfather', used as a male personal name (*Fellows Jensen, Scand. Personal Names*).
- Early bearers:** John Avey of Knesworth [Kneesworth, Cambs], 1320 in *Patent Rolls*; Johanne Auye, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Kent); Willyam Avey, 1575 in *IGI* (Downham, Cambs); John Avey, 1601 in *IGI* (Downham, Cambs); Thomas Avey, 1641 in *IGI* (Rushbrooke, Suffolk); Rich Ave, 1685 in *IGI* (Bradfield Combust, Suffolk); Marke Avie, 1704 in *IGI* (Bury Saint Edmunds, Suffolk); John Avey, 1707 in *IGI* (Cottenham, Cambs); Tho. Eavey, 1779 in *IGI* (Ixworth, Suffolk).

Aveyard

- **Current frequencies:** GB 593, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 343
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Lancs
- English: perhaps a variant of **Halfyard**, with *Half*-becoming *Hauve*-, then *Have*- and *Ave*-. Compare Tho. son of John Halfyard, 1748 in *IGI* (Chapel Allerton in Leeds, WR Yorks) and Robt. Halfyard, 1790 in *IGI* (Darfield, WR Yorks).
- Early bearers:** Robert Yanyn alias Hayvyerd, Robert Janinge aliter Hawyerd, Robert Ganinge aliter Haworthe, 1540–3 in *Parish Registers* (Dewsbury, WR Yorks); Elizabeth Haveyard, 1578 in *IGI* (Dewsbury, WR Yorks); John Aveyard, 1585, Jane Haveyard, 1668 in *IGI* (Mirfield, WR Yorks); Edvardi Aveyard, 1698, David Aveyard, 1802 in *IGI* (West Ardsley, WR Yorks).
- References:** *Redmonds, Surnames and Genealogy*, p. 217.

Avill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 109, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 43

- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- Norman, English: (i) locative name perhaps from Abbeville in Picardy, France. (ii) locative name, alternatively, perhaps from the lordship of Avill in Dunster (Somerset).
- Early bearers:** Johannes Avile, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lopham, Norfolk); John Avile, 1453 in *Devon Record Office* (Exeter); Thomas Aville, 1810 in *IGI* (Wickersley, WR Yorks).

Avins

- **Current frequencies:** GB 64, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 74
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Leics and Warwicks
- English: relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Avine* (which is probably a pet form of **Avis**) + excrement or genitival -s.
- Early bearers:** given names: Avina, 1221 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Notts); Avin' de Eyton', 1255 in *Hundred Rolls* (Shrops).
- surnames: Elizabeth Avins, 1650 in *IGI* (Hinckley, Leics); Isabel Avins, 1672 in *IGI* (Polesworth, Warwicks).

Avis

- Variants:** **Aviss, Aves, Havis**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 1686, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1436
 - **Main GB location 1881:** SE England (esp. Sussex); E Anglia
- Norman, English: relationship name from the Old French and Middle English female personal name *Avice*, which may be from Continental Germanic *Aveza*, but is more likely from Latin *Avitia*, apparently a derivative of *avitus* 'ancestral, very old'.
- Early bearers:** given names: Auizia, 1154–89 in *Danelaw Documents* (Leics); Auicia, about 1175–86 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk); Auicia, 1199 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Auicia, 12th cent. in *Danelaw Documents* (Notts).
- surnames: Walter Auices, 1186–1210 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk); Thomas Avice, 1220 in *Book of Fees* (Berks); Ricardus filius Avice, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); Thomas Avis, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Robert Avies, 1738, Robert Avis, 1742, Sarah Avies, 1745 in *IGI* (Cowden, Kent); John Avis, 1780, John Avies, 1782 in *IGI* (Kersey, Suffolk).

Avison

- Variants:** **Aveson**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 784, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 433
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Avice* (see **Avis**), or perhaps occasionally from the Middle English personal name *Ave* (see **Aves**), + -son.
- Early bearers:** Robert Avison, 1558 in *London Met Archives* (Sharlston, WR Yorks); Ralph Avyson, 1674 in *York Freeman's Register*.
- References:** *WR Yorks Surnames*, p. 40.

Aviss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 87, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 81
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk
- Norman, English: see **Avis**.

Avner

- Variants:** **Lawner**
- **GB frequency 1881:** 9

English: occupational name from Middle English, Old French *avenier*, *avener* ‘oat merchant’. Used also of the chief officer of a stable, who had charge of the provender for the horses.

Further information: This name has died out in Britain (unless it survives in **Lawner**), but continues to thrive in the USA.

Early bearers: Roger le Avener, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Hants); Alexander le Avener, 1231 in *Patent Rolls* (London); Johanne Launer, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Luton, Beds).

Avon

Variants: Aven

- **Current frequencies:** GB 92, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 96
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Somerset and Wilts

1 English: locative name from Avon (Wilts) or Little or Middle Avon (Gloucs), both named from the river on which they stand.

Early bearers: John Aven, 1583 in *IGI* (Bratton, Wilts); Joseph Avon, 1593 in *IGI* (Acton by Nantwich, Cheshire).

References: *Place-Names of Wilts*, pp. 1, 87; *Gover, Hants Place-Names*, p. 229; *Place-Names of Gloucs*.

2 English: relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Avine*, a possible source in the midlands (see **Avins**).

Avory

- **Current frequencies:** GB 139, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 133
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Hunts; London
- English: see **Avery**.

Avrill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 60, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 6
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- English: nickname see **Averill**.

Aw

- **Current frequencies:** GB 67, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- 1 Chinese: non-standard romanization of the Chinese surname 胡, see **Wu** (6).
- 2 Chinese: non-standard romanization of the Chinese surnames 歐 and 區, see **Au** (2) and (3).

Awad

- **Current frequencies:** GB 494, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Arabic, Muslim: (i) occupational name from Arabic ‘*awwād* ‘lute player’ or ‘lute maker’. (ii) possibly also from a personal name based on Arabic ‘*awwād* ‘one who compensates or indemnifies’.

Awal

- **Current frequencies:** GB 160, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Arabic, Muslim: probably from an Arabic personal name *awwal*, meaning ‘first’, or the compound ‘*abd-ul-awwal*, ‘servant of the First (an epithet of Allah)’. **Further information:** Awal is also the ancient name of Bahrein, an island and city (now a state) in the Persian Gulf. However, this does not seem to have any connection with the personal name.

Awan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1676, Ireland 7
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Arabic, Muslim: from an Arabic personal name of uncertain origin, perhaps based on *āwān* ‘times, seasons’.

Awbery

- **Current frequencies:** GB 125, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 42
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Hants and Berks
- English: locative see **Aubrey**.

Awbrey

- **GB frequency 1881:** 6
- English: see **Aubrey**.
- Further information:** This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Awcock

- **Current frequencies:** GB 270, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 171
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
- English: see **Alcock**.

Awdas

- **Current frequencies:** GB 48, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 43
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Aldous**.

Awde

- **Current frequencies:** GB 74, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 38
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Westm and Durham
- English: N English variant of **Old** or **Auld**.

Awdry

Variants: Audry, Audrey, Aldred, Eldred, Eldrett, Altree, Alltree

- **Current frequencies:** GB 74, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 77
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts

1 Norman, English: locative name from Audrieu (Calvados), recorded as *Aldreium* in 1108 (*Dauzat and Rostaing*). The first known bearer of this name in England, William *de Aldrie*, was executed for treason in 1095, and there appears to be no other medieval evidence for the surname in Wilts, where William’s lands were. Nevertheless the post-medieval evidence for *Awdry* in Wilts and for *Audrey* in adjacent counties has been tentatively assigned to this etymology, partly because the same surname (and perhaps the same family as William) occurs continuously elsewhere (in Durham from the 12th to the 14th centuries), and partly because a Robert Audrey is recorded in Oxon in 1279. Alternatively, the Wilts, Berks, Oxon, and Gloucs surnames derive from the relationship name identified in (2). *Odry* is an occasional post-medieval variant, which as *Oderly* survived sporadically in England until the 1881 census but has now become extinct.

Early bearers: N England Rogerus Audrei, 12th cent., Rogerius de Auderia, 1170–1200, Walterus de Audre, 1215–45, Walterius Daudri, 13th cent., Thomas Daudri, 1370–1400 in *Durham Liber Vitae*. S England Willelmus de Aldrie, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Wilts); Robert Audrey, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls*

(Oxon); Eydryeth Audrye, 1560, Agnis Awdrye, 1596, Godwin Audry, 1623, Jeremiah Awdry, 1823 in *IGI* (Salisbury, Wilts); Eme Audry, 1582 in *IGI* (Thatcham, Berks); Abraham Awdry, 1591 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); Joseph Awdrye, 1596 in *IGI* (Westbury on Severn, Gloucs); John Audry, 1637 in *IGI* (Coldridge, Devon); John Odry, 1661 in *IGI* (Shipton under Wychwood, Oxon); Unutie Awdrey, 1694 in *IGI* (Market Lavington, Wilts); John Audrey, 1765 in *IGI* (Marlborough, Wilts); William Audrey, 1854 in *IGI* (Ashampstead, Berks).

References: *Dauzat and Rostaing*, p. 35.

2 English: relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Aldrith*, which sometimes became *Audrey* by a 15th-century pronunciation change of /ald/ to /aud/. It derives from one of three Old English female personal names, *Æðelþrȳð*, *Ælfþrȳð*, and *Ealhþrȳð*. The first element in these is *æðel* ‘noble’, *ælf* ‘elf, sprite’, or *ealh* ‘shrine, temple’, and the second element is *þrȳð* ‘strength, force’. The most popular was *Æðelþrȳð*, commonly latinized as *Etheldreda* and appearing in various Middle English forms such as *Atheldrith(e)*, *Aldrith*, *Aldreth*, *Etheldred*, and *Eldrid(e)*. It was borne by Saint Etheldred (later known also as Saint Audrey), queen of Northumbria, daughter of Anna, king of East Anglia. She was the founder and first abbess of the monastery at Ely in about 672, and her continuing cult after the Norman Conquest was probably responsible for the survival of the personal name well into the 14th century, especially in E Anglia. Common Middle English forms like *Aldreth* and *Eldrid* probably contributed to **Aldred**, whose main location is E Anglia, **Eldred**, which is common in E England, and possibly **Eldrett**. It may be the source of *Audrey* and *Awdry* in SW England, see (1). **Early bearers:** given names: Aldreda, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Norfolk); Adeldreda, 1202 in *Feet of Fines* (Norfolk), identical with Aildreda, 1206 in *Curia Regis Rolls*; Aldreda, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Etheldreda wife of Hugo de Rokelund, 1290 in *Norwich Deeds*; Etheldreda, 1304 in *Ancient Deeds* (Essex); Eldrede Freman, 1310 in *Gaol Delivery Rolls* (Norfolk); Etheldr’ Goldwyn, 1381 in *Suffolk Poll Tax*. surnames, E Anglia: Johannes Aildrith, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Norfolk); Jhon Audry, 1546 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); William Awdrye, 1560 in *IGI* (South Weald, Essex); Anne Awdry, 1563 in *IGI* (Fowlmere, Cambs); Thomas Audrey, 1574 in *IGI* (Lowestoft, Suffolk); Andrew Awdry, 1559 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk).

3 Huguenot: relationship name French **Auduroy** ‘(son) of (someone surnamed) *Duroy* or *Durey*’, which itself signified ‘(son) of (someone nicknamed) the king’ (Old French *le roi* or *le rei*). *Auduroy*, perhaps through its variant *Audurey*, may have become shortened to *Audry* and confused with a different surname, French **Audri**, from the Old French male personal name *Audri*, Continental Germanic *Aldric*. **Early bearers:** Ester Auduroy, daughter of Jean and Ester Auduroy, 1689 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street, London); Renee Audry, daughter of Jean and Marie Audry, 1701 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street); Pierre Audry, son of Michel and Marie Audry, 1729 in *IGI* (Saint Jean French Huguenot Church, Spitalfields, Middx).

Awmack

- **GB frequency 1881:** 14
 - **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks
- English: see **Allmark**.

Awood

- **GB frequency 1881:** 2

English: locative name for someone who lived by a wood. See **Attwood**.

Early bearers: William A Wode, 1485 in *London Letter Books* L; Robert a Wode, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex).

Awty

- **Current frequencies:** GB 101, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 57
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs; ER Yorks

English: see **Auty** and compare **Otty**.

Early bearers: Thomas Awty, 1823 in *IGI* (Burslem, Staffs); George Awty, 1870 in *IGI* (Kingston upon Hull, ER Yorks).

Axbey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 27, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4

English: locative name from *Aksby*, a metathesized form of *Askby*, from any of the various places called **Ashby**. For example, Castle Ashby in Northants is recorded as *Axeby* in 1235 (*Place-Names of Northants*, p. 142).

References: *Place-Names of Northants*, p. 142.

Axcell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 150, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 17
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

1 English: see **Axtell**.

2 Norman, English: see **Askell**(1).

Axe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 371, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 314
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset and Dorset; WR Yorks and Lincs

1 English: nickname from Middle English *ax* ‘axe’, perhaps from a tool or weapon of choice, or ‘axle’. **Early bearers:** Johanne Axe, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Oxon); Johan Axe, 1563 in *IGI* (Elham, Kent); John Axe, 1574 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); Frances Axe, 1588 in *IGI* (Clayton with Frickley, WR Yorks); Robt Ax, 1646 in *IGI* (Spalding, Lincs).

2 English: locative name perhaps sometimes from the river Axe (Devon), though surnames from rivers are quite rare.

References: *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 2; *English River-Names*, pp. 152–5; *Watts, Dictionary*, p. 28.

Axel

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: see **Axell**.

Axell

Variants: **Axel**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 102, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 55
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex, Kent, and Essex

1 English: see **Axtell**.

2 English: see **Askell**.

Axford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1015, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 732
- **Main GB location 1881:** SW England: esp. Wilts; also Surrey

English: locative name from either of two places called Axford (Wilts, Hants).

Further information: Axford in Nutley (Hants), which is recorded as *Ashore* in 1272, *Axore* in 1280 (and throughout the medieval period), *Axor* in 1708, and *Axford* in 1757, is an unlikely source of the surname. The second element of the place-name is Old English *ōra* ‘slope’, remodelled to *ford* as late as the 18th century, and the first element may be the same as in the Wilts place-name.

Early bearers: Ad Axforthe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Potterne, Wilts); Johnis Axford, 1547 in *IGI* (Botusfleming, Cornwall); Agnes Axford, 1587 in *IGI* (Bratton, Wilts).

References: *Place-Names of Wilts*, p. 288; *Hampshire Place-Names*, p. 26; *Gover, Hants Place-Names*, p. 133.

Axon

Variants: **Axson**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1021, Ireland 63
- **GB frequency 1881:** 745
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cheshire

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name **Acke* + *son*. This personal name was a pet form of **Adam** rather than a survival of Old English *Acca*, which had probably gone out of use by the mid-13th century, i.e. before surnames in *-son* became hereditary in N England. *Acke* is a short form of pet names of *Adam* such as *Adkin* (see **Atkin**) and **Adcock** with assimilation of the *-d-*. Compare **Nack**, **Akin**, and **Acock**. There may have been occasional confusion with **Haskayne**.

Early bearers: Johannes Akeson, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Malham, WR Yorks); Thomas Acson, 1561 in *Bardsley* (Cheshire); Johanna Acson, 1607, Ellenora Axon, 1635 in *IGI* (Great Budworth, Cheshire); James Axon, 1620, Francis Axon, 1747 in *IGI* (Stockport, Cheshire).

2 English: relationship name alternatively from the Middle English female personal name *Agace* (Agatha) + *son*. See **Agass**.

Early bearers: Willelmus Agetson, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Burneston, NR Yorks); Simon Agasson, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Clint, WR Yorks); Simon Aggeson, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Warwicks); Willelmo Agasson, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Bottesford, Leics); Robt. Axon, 1560 in *IGI* (Much Wenlock, Shrops); Susan Axon, 1575 in *IGI* (Saint Peter Cornhill, London); Katherina Axon, 1602 in *IGI* (Great Budworth, Cheshire); John Axon, 1603 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Mary Axon, 1603 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent).

Axson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 43, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 32
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: see **Axon**.

Axtell

Variants: **Axcell**, **Haxell**, **Haskell**, **Axten**, **Axell**, **Ashkettle**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 514, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 355
- **Main GB location 1881:** S Midlands: esp. Bucks

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Asketill*, Old Scandinavian *Ásketil*. Through loss of the unstressed medial vowel it developed to **Asktil*, and by metathesis of /sk/ to /ks/ it became *Ax(s)til*, *Axtell*, *Axcell*, etc. The

personal name was first introduced to England by Viking settlers in E Anglia, the N Midlands, and N England, but it was also much used by the Normans, which explains its occurrence as a surname in S England. See also **Ashkettle**, and compare **Askell** and **Anketell**, which are from different versions of the same personal name.

Early bearers: S England Willelmo Axtil, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Corscombe, Dorset); Benedicto Axtil, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Bradford Abbas, Dorset); William Axtil, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Churchstanton, Devon); Willm. Axtell, 1588 in *IGI* (Horsham, Sussex); Sarah Axtell, 1599 in *IGI* (Sandwich, Kent); Elizabeth Axtell, 1683, John Axtell, 1686 in *Bardsley* (Canterbury, Kent); Daniel Axtell, 1776 in *IGI* (Chatham, Kent).

2 English: nickname for a salt merchant, from Middle English *Hakkesalt*, composed of *hakken* ‘to hack, chop (something) into pieces’ + *salt* ‘salt’. Compare **Salter**. The medieval nickname is well evidenced but the 1314 and 1323 Great Berkhamstead surname forms are slightly irregular. *Hecke-* for *Hacke-* is unexpected, while the preposition *de* implies a locative name but none has been identified, so the preposition may be a scribal error. Whatever the etymology of this surname, it is the source of the Great Berkhamstead farm name Haxters End, recorded as *Haksaltsend*, 1565 in *Place-Names of Herts*. William and Roger are therefore potential ancestors of the post-medieval Great Berkhamstead family and perhaps of other families in Herts and neighbouring Bucks with surnames spelled *Axal*, *Axcell*, *Axell*, *Axhall*, *Axoll*, *Haxall*, and *Axtell*. The loss of initial *H-* and final *-t* would not be unusual developments, nor is the insertion of medial *-t-* to give *Axtell*, now the main version. However, it is impossible to distinguish these post-medieval names from identical ones with different etymologies, and some or all the of the S Midlands names may in fact derive from (1) above. See also **Haxell**.

Further information: *Reaney and Wilson* assigns the medieval Berkhamstead forms to **Hackshall** or **Hackshaw**, but the 1881 distribution of the surnames tells against this.

Early bearers: S Midlands Gervasius Hakesalt, 1176 in *Pipe Rolls*; Walter Hakesalt, 1212 in *Pipe Rolls* (Hants); Robert Hakesalt of Winchester, 1280 in *New Forest Documents* (Hants); Roger Hakesalt, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts*; William Hecksalt, 1314, Roger de [sic] Hakkesalt, 1323 in *Place-Names of Herts* (Great Berkhamsted); Edward Hacsalt, 1387 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs); John Axtell, 1539, Isaak Axtell, 1614 in *IGI* (Chesham, Bucks); John Axtell, 1614, William Axell, 1716 in *IGI* (Berkhamsted); Elizabeth Axoll, 1566 in *IGI* (North Mimms); Ralfe Axcell, 1571 in *IGI* (Digswell); Dorothe Axal, 1575, William Axtell, 1586 in *IGI* (Saint Albans); Sara Axtell, 1582, Sarah Axtell, 1686 in *IGI* (Hemel Hempstead); Joseph Axhall, 1754, Frances Haxall, 1794 in *IGI* (Cheshunt, Herts).

Axten

Variants: **Axton**, **Axtens**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 317, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 136
- **Main GB location 1881:** Bucks and Middx

1 English: *Axten* and *Axton* may be variants of **Axtell**, particularly in Bucks.

Early bearers: Agnes Axton, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Agnes Axton, 1546 in *IGI* (Waddesdon, Bucks); Laurence Axton, Axon, 1561 in *Bardsley*; Hellen Axtone, 1573 in *IGI* (Cranbrook, Kent); Robert Axten, 1663 in *IGI* (Long Crendon, Bucks); John Axtin, 1675 in *IGI* (Burnham, Bucks); John Axten, 1713 in *IGI* (Little Missenden, Bucks); Moses Axten, 1800 in *IGI* (Chesham, Bucks).

2 English: locative name; alternatively *Axton* might be a metathesized form of a place-name such as Ashton in Bainton (Northants), which is *Axton* in 1253 (*Place-Names of Northants* 229).

References: *Place-Names of Northants*, p. 229.

Axtens

- **GB frequency 1881:** 15
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset

English: variant of **Axten** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Axton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 287, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 142
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx and Surrey; also Gloucs

English: see **Axten**.

Axworthy

- **Current frequencies:** GB 226, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 212
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: locative name from Axworthy in Thrushelton (Devon), recorded as *Arkeswrthi* in 1238.

Early bearers: [. . . de] Arkesworthi, 1330 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Devon); William de Arkesworthy, 1359 in *Pedigrees from Plea Rolls* (Devon); Harry Axworthy, 1542, Marten Axworthie, 1546 in *IGI* (Lezant, Cornwall); George Axworthie, 1574, Blanch Axworthy, 1581 in *IGI* (Hatherleigh, Devon).

References: *Place-Names of Devon*, pp. 210–11.

Ay

- **Current frequencies:** GB 78, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4

Chinese: Mandarin form of the Chinese surname 艾, see **Ngai** (2).

Ayaz

- **Current frequencies:** GB 359, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Turkish, Muslim (Pakistan, India): (i) locative name most probably from Āyāz, a village in Khuzestan, Iran. (ii) It could alternatively be a derivative of the Turkish adjective *ayaz* ‘frosty; cold; bare or bald’. **Further information:** Malik Ayaz was a Turkish slave of Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni in the early 11th century. His legendary devotion to his master eventually resulted in his rising to be ruler of Lahore in Panjab, and his name has corresponding popularity.

Aycock

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2

English: see **Acock**.

Further information: This form of the name is rare in Britain but more numerous in the USA.

Aydin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 496, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Turkish: relationship name from the given name *Aydın*, from either a word meaning ‘enlightened’ or from the name of a province of Turkey.

Aydon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 98, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 69
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb, Durham, and NR Yorks

English: locative name from Aydon in Corbridge (Northumb), which is recorded as *Ayden* in 1225 and *Haydon* in 1346. The place-name probably derives from Old English *hæg* ‘hay’ or *ēg* ‘island’ + *denu* ‘valley’.

Early bearers: Heugh Ayden, 1586, William Aydon, 1604 in *IGI* (Great Edstone, NR Yorks); Mabell Aydon, 1588, Michael Ayden, 1682 in *IGI* (Hexham, Northumb); Jacob Aydon, 1594 in *IGI* (Newcastle on Tyne, Northumb); Beniaman Ayden, 1712 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk).

References: *Place-Names of Northumb and Durham*, pp. 9, 106.

Ayeni

- **Current frequencies:** GB 340, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): from the personal name *Ayeni*, from Yoruba *a yẹ ni* ‘who suits one’, i.e. ‘(child) who will be an asset to us’.

Ayer

Variants: Ayres, Haire, Layer, Ayr, Hayer, Eyer, Eyre, Hoyer, Heyer

- **Current frequencies:** GB 90, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 125
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Scotland (Selkirk), Durham, Northants

Scottish, English: see **Ayre**.

Ayers

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1853, Ireland 28
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1782
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Clare; Wexford
- English: see **Ayres**.

Ayerst

- **Current frequencies:** GB 69, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 72
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent and Surrey

English: locative name from Aydhurst in Staplehurst (Kent), which is recorded as *Hetheh'st* in 1275, *Heythhurst* in 1278, *Haytherst* in 1473, and *Haydherst* in 1504. The place-name derives from Old English *hyrst* ‘wooded hill’, with an uncertain first element.

Early bearers: [. . .] de Edherst', 1232 in *Kentish Place-Names* (Kent); Rob's de Hetherst, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wye hundred, Kent); Wymark de Etherst, 1334 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Eyborne hundred, Kent); Edmund de Hetheherst, 1334 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Marden hundred, Kent); John Ayherst, 1423 in *Feet of Fines* (Teynham, Kent); John Eytherst, 1447 in *Canterbury Wills* (*Probate*) (Smarden, Kent); Richard Ayherst, 1477, Thomas Aydeherste, 1491 in *Canterbury Wills* (*Probate*) (Sutton Valence, Kent); Robert Ayherst, 1485 in *Kent Wills* (Sutton Valence, Kent); John

Ayherst, 1501 in *Feet of Fines* (Farningham, Kent); John Eyerst, 1528, Isabel Eyarst, 1534–5 in *Canterbury Wills* (*Probate*) (Boughton Malherbe, Kent); Thomas Ayerst, 1529 in *Kent Wills* (West Malling, Kent); Jone Ayerst, 1560 in *IGI* (Hadlow, Kent); Thomas Ayherst, 1567, Thomas Eyherst, 1569 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Thomas Ayerst, 1583 in *IGI* (Heathfield, Sussex); John Ayherst, 1612 in *IGI* (Etchingham, Sussex); Prudence Eyerst, 1618, Elizabeth Eyherst, 1635 in *IGI* (Tonbridge, Kent).

References: *Kentish Place-Names*, pp. 130–1; additional place-name forms from the English Place-Names Society's collection for the Survey of Kent.

Aykroyd

- **Current frequencies:** GB 136, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 113
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Ackroyd**.

Ayland

- **Current frequencies:** GB 83, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 153
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

1 English: see **Hayland**.

2 English: see **Ayling**.

Aylard

- **Current frequencies:** GB 62, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 89
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex

English: see **Allard**.

Aylen

- **Current frequencies:** GB 253, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 197
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex, Hants, Surrey
- English: see **Ayling**.

Ayler

Variants: Aylor

- **GB frequency 1881:** 21
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey

English: occupational name from Old French *aillier*, *-iere* ‘garlic seller’.

Further information: This surname appears to have died out in Britain, but *Ayler* and *Aylor* are still found in the USA. These US forms may, however, be derivatives of the unrelated German names *Ehler* or *Öhler*.

Early bearers: Luke le Ayler, le Ayeler peverer (i.e. ‘pepperer’), 1287, 1304 in *London Letter Books B*; John Aylor, 1570, Edythe Ailer, 1571 in *IGI* (Romsey, Hants); Robert Ayler, 1708 in *IGI* (Winchester, Hants); William Ayler, 1791 in *IGI* (Witley, Surrey); James Ayler, 1836 in *IGI* (Guildford, Surrey).

Ayles

Variants: Ailes, Hayles

- **Current frequencies:** GB 504, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 495
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset, Hants, and IoW

1 English: variant of **Hayles** with loss of *H-*. The following early bearers may alternatively belong under (2) or (3).

Early bearers: Christian Ayles, 1562, Elinor Ayles, 1682, Richard Ayles, 1817 in *IGI* (Ringwood, Hants); Agnis Ayles, 1602 in *IGI* (Swanage, Dorset); Ann Ayles, 1763 in *IGI* (Portland, Dorset).

2 English: relationship name perhaps from an unrecorded Middle English personal name **Ayl(h)ise*, **Ayl(h)ese* (Old English **Æðelhyse*, composed of the elements *æðel* ‘noble’ + *hyse* ‘youth, warrior’) with the common development of *Æðel-* to *Ayl-*. Compare Old English *Brūnhyse*, *Godhyse*, *Lēofhyse*.

Early bearers: Richard Aylis, 1302 in *Feudal Aids* (Suffolk); Ricardus Ayles, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Northants); Johannes Eyles, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Surrey); Christian Ayles, 1562 in *IGI* (Ringwood, Hants); Joane Ayles, 1564 in *IGI* (Trowbridge, Wilts); Kath. Ayles, 1567 in *IGI* (Eastergate, Sussex); Annes Ayles, 1568 in *IGI* (Twyford, Bucks); Elizabeth Ayles, 1581 in *IGI* (Crophorne, Worcs).

References: *Feilitzen*, p. 297.

3 English: (i) relationship name; variant of the now extinct surname *Ayle*, from Middle English, Old French *aie(u)l* ‘uncle’, with post-medieval excrescent -s. (ii) nickname variant of another now extinct surname *Ayle*, from Middle English *eile*, Old English *egle* ‘loathsome, troublesome’, with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Early bearers: surnames without -s: Richard le Eyle, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Ralph Ayl, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Waltero Ayl, Johanne Eyle, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Wilts); Richardus Ayle, 1568 in *IGI* (Hanley Castle, Worcs); John Ayle, 1660 in *IGI* (Hemel Hempstead, Herts).

Aylesbury

Variants: *Alesbury*, *Elsbury*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 213, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 105
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Wilts, Somerset, and Dorset; also Durham

English: locative name from Aylesbury (Bucks) or possibly Aylesbeare (Devon).

Early bearers: Richard de Ailesberia, 1188 in *Eynsham Cartulary* (Oxon); John de Aylesbury dictus le Tauerner de Oxonis, 1307 in *Balliol Deeds* (Oxon); Willelmus de Aylesbiry, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Ripon, WR Yorks); John Aylesbury, 1423 in *PROB 11* (Medelton Keynes, Bucks); Bennet Alesbury, 1589 in *IGI* (Chislehurst, Kent); Richard Elsbury, 1663 in *IGI* (Niton, IoW); Richard Alesbury, 1675 in *IGI* (Darlaston, Staffs); William Elsberry, 1795 in *IGI* (Pittington, Durham); George Aylesbury, 1829 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb).

References: *Place-Names of Bucks*, p. 145.

Aylett

Variants: *Aylott*, *Allatt*, *Allitt*, *Allett*, *Alliott*, *Ellyatt*, *Eylott*, *Ilott*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 796, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 657
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex and London

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Aillet*, *Aliett*, or *Eliet*, the main source of which is the common Old English female name *Æðelgȳð*, composed of the elements *æðel* ‘noble’ + *gȳð* ‘war’, but the much rarer Old English male name *Æðelgēat*, with the tribal name *Gēat*, may also have contributed. See also **Eliot**.

Early bearers: given names: Ailletus, 1180–1207 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Norfolk); Ailleth, Ailed (female), 1198 in *Feet of Fines* (Norfolk); Æliot Grim, 1202 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs); Ailhiet (female), 1202 in *Feet of Fines* (Norfolk); Ailith, Ailleth filia Godwini, 1207 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Suffolk); Alettus Prepositus, 1212 in *Curia*

Regis Rolls (Northants); Alyott de Symondston, 1311 in *Lacy Accounts* (Lancs).

surnames: Galfridus filius Ailghieti, before 1176 *Colchester Cartulary* (Essex); Simon filius Alet, 1199 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); Gilebertus filius Aillith, 1204 in *Pipe Rolls* (Cambs); Simon filius Aileda, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Boydin Ailet, 1212 in *Book of Fees* (Essex); Walter Aliot, Aylet, Thomas Ailot, John Ayllyth, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Ralph Alyet, 1286 in *Pinchbeck Register* (Suffolk); Agn’ Eylot, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Shalfleet, Hants); Brigett Aylett, 1549 in *IGI* (Margaret Roding, Essex); Joane Allett, 1579 in *IGI* (Ware, Herts); Thomas Aylott, 1587 in *IGI* (Roxwell, Essex); Anne Eylott, 1664 in *IGI* (Therfield, Herts); John Aylott, 1670 in *IGI* (Westmill, Herts); William Aylett, 1692, Jane Aylott, 1703 in *IGI* (Sawbridgeworth, Herts).

Ayley

Variants: *Ailey*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 121, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 74
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent, Essex, Herts, and London

English: variant of **Haley** with loss of initial *H-*.

Early bearers: Hugh Ayley, 1567 in *IGI* (Bishops Stortford, Herts); John Ayley, 1629 in *IGI* (Harlow, Essex); Tho. Ailey, 1668 in *IGI* (London).

Aylieff

- **Current frequencies:** GB 22, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 11
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants and Berks

English: see **Ayliffe**.

Ayliff

- **Current frequencies:** GB 41, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 43
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants, Surrey, Kent

English: see **Ayliffe**.

Ayliffe

Variants: *Ayliff*, *Aliffe*, *Ayloff*, *Elliff*, *Elliffe*, *Aylieff*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 441, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 382
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts and Gloucs

1 English: relationship name from one of three Middle English personal names of Scandinavian origin, *Ailef*, *Ailif*, and *Ailof*. Old Danish, Old Swedish *Elif* (Old Scandinavian *Eilifr*, apparently composed of the elements *ei* ‘ever’, *lifðr* ‘alive, lively’) and *Elif* (Old Scandinavian *Eileifr*, with **leifr* ‘remainder’) gave rise to *Ayliff(e)*, *Aliffe*, and *Eliff*. Old Danish, Old Swedish *Elaf* gave rise to *Ayloff*, but the names were probably confused with each other.

Early bearers: given names: Eilaf, Ailof, Elaf, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Ailef de Palestun, 1175 in *Pipe Rolls* (Northumb).

surnames: Willelmus filius Eilaf, 1191 in *Pipe Rolls* (Northants); Robertus filius Egelof, 1196 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); Egelaf, 12th cent. in *Douglas Book* (Suffolk); Ricardus filius Ailof, 1203 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Northants); Nicholas Eiluf, Ailof, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Warwicks); Julian’ Aylyf, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); Willelmo Elof, 1289 in *Carisbrooke Cartulary* (Arreton, IoW); Geoffrey Ayllef, John Aylofh, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Roger Eyllfe, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Semington, Wilts); John Aillofe, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Winterslow, Wilts); Walterus Eylof’, 1379 in

Poll Tax (Mildenhall, Wilts); George Ayliffe, 1621 in *IGI* (Bucklebury, Berks); Walter Ayliffe, 1630 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx); John Ayliffe, 1632 in *IGI* (Foxley, Wilts); Francis Ayliffe, 1639 in *IGI* (Albury, Herts); Henry Ayliffe, 1639 in *IGI* (Romsey, Hants).

2 English: relationship name from a Middle English female personal name, *Aileve*, Old English *Æðelgifu*, which appears in *Domesday Book* as *Æileua*, *Eileua*, *Aileua*, and *Eleua*. For -*iff* from -*gifu*, compare **Brightiff**, here, perhaps, influenced also by *Ailiff*. Ayloff can only be included here by assuming influence from the Scandinavian name. Compare Richard Aylyuaue, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Warwicks).

Early bearers: given names: Eilieua de Kerletona, 1154–89 in *Danelaw Documents* (Leics).

surnames: Segarus Aileves, 1188 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Kalendar* (Suffolk); Edwardus filius Eileve, 1206 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Sussex); Rogerus filius Aelive, 1214 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Cambs); Robert Aylgive, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Edolina Ayleve, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Hunts).

Aylin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 46, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 53
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey, Herts, Hants, Sussex

English: see **Ayling**.

Ayling

Variants: *Aylin*, *Aylen*, *Aling*, *Alin*, *Ayland*, *Hayling*, *Hayland*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2796, Ireland 14
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2163
- **Main GB location 1881:** SE England: esp. Sussex

English: relationship name, nickname from the Middle English personal name *Ayling*, from Old English *Æðeling* (*æðeling* ‘prince’).

Early bearers: given names: Ailligg’ alias Eiling buttarius, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk).

surnames: Reginald Aylyng, 1296, Reginald Aylling, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wickham, Sussex); Richard Aelyng, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Heyshott, Sussex); William Aylyg, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lodsworth, Sussex); John Ayling, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Chidham, Sussex); Richarde Aylyng, 1552 in *IGI* (Easebourne, Sussex); Annys Ayling, 1565 in *IGI* (Stedham, Sussex); Edmond Ayling, 1575 in *IGI* (Bramshott, Hants); William Ayling, 1764 in *IGI* (Heyshott, Sussex).

Aylmer

Variants: *Aylmore*, *Elmore*, *Ellmore*, *Elmer*, *Ellmer*, *Elmar*, *Elmers*, *Helmere*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 295, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 196
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Norfolk; London; Hants
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Kildare and Meath

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Ailmer*, from Old English *Æðelmær*, composed of the elements *æðel* ‘noble’ and *mære* ‘famous’. See also **Aymer**.

Further information: This English name has been established in Ireland since the 16th century.

Early bearers: given names: Ailmar, Æilmar, Eilmerus, Aimar, Almer, Elmar, Elmer, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Hælmerus, 1154–89 *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Ailmerus le Bercher, 1212 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Herts),

quidam Ailmerus villanus in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Yorks).
surnames, England: Godwinus filius Elmari, 1115 in *Winton Domesday* (Hants); Henry Ailmer', 1208 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Berks); Roger Ailmar, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Warwicks); Johanne Eylmer', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Husbands Bosworth, Leics); Thoma Hailmer, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Luton, Beds); Rose Aylmer, 1559 in *IGI* (Sproughton, Suffolk); Richard Ailmore, 1659 in *IGI* (Easebourne, Sussex).
surnames, Ireland: Gerald Aylmer, Chief Justice, 1543 in *Fiants Henry* §66 (Dullardeston, Meath); James and Gerald Aylmer, 1561 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §302 (Dullardestown, Meath); Edward Aylmer 1599 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6267 (Kilbrue, Meath).

Aylmore

- **Current frequencies:** GB 122, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 55
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
- English: see **Aylmer**.

Ayloff

- **GB frequency 1881:** 4
- English: see **Ayliffe**.

Aylor

- **GB frequency 1881:** 4
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Hants
- English: see **Ayler**.
Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Aylott

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1001, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 491
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Herts
- English: see **Aylett**.

Aylward

Variants: Ailward, Elward
• **Current frequencies:** GB 1141, Ireland 529
• **GB frequency 1881:** 613
• **Main GB location 1881:** Hants and Sussex
• **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Kilkenny
English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Ailward*, from Old English *Æðelweard*, composed of the elements *æðel* ‘noble’ and *weard* ‘ward, protector’. *Domesday Book* has *Ægelward* and *Ailuuard*. See also **Allward**.
Further information: This English name has been established in Ireland since at least the 16th century.
Early bearers: given names: Godric filius Æilwardi, about 1095 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents* (Suffolk); Egelwardus, 1126–7, Ailwardus presbiter, 1153–68 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk).
surnames, England: Robert Ailward', 1201 in *Pipe Rolls* (Hants); Robertus Ailwardi, 1229 in *Close Rolls* (Gloucs); Nicholas Eylward, 1243 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Thomas Aylward', 1360 in *Feet of Fines* (Boston, Lincs); Thomas Hayleward, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Buckland, Gloucs); Richard Aylward', 1397 in *Feet of Fines* (Hants); Gyles Aylward, 1560 in *Parish Registers* (Ickleton, Cambs).
surnames, Ireland: Peter Aylward, sheriff of the county, 1562–3 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §502 (Waterford); Richard Aylward, 1601 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6484 (Aylwardstown).

Aylwen

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- English: see **Aylwin**.

Aylwin

Variants: Aylwen
• **Current frequencies:** GB 256, Ireland 0
• **GB frequency 1881:** 193
• **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Aylwin* (Old English *Æðelwine*). See also **Alwin**, **Elvin**.
Early bearers: given names: Adelwinus, Ailwinus, Aluuin(e), Eluuinus, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Ailwinus Neht, 1154–89 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Eilwinus de la Berne, 1211 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Surrey).
surnames: Hubert egelwin, 1194 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Bucks); Walter Athelwin, 1205 in *Pipe Rolls* (Gloucs); Simon Aylwyn, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Beds); Alice Eylwyn, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts*; Helin Aylwin, 1543 in *IGI* (Froxfield, Hants); Richard Aylwin, 1550 in *IGI* (Froxfield, Hants); Elizabeththe Aylwin, 1552 in *IGI* (Duncton, Sussex); Robert Patrick Aylwin, 1762 in *IGI* (Haslemere, Surrey); Mary Wright Aylwin, 1770 in *IGI* (Carey Street New Court Ind Nc, London).

Aymer

Variants: Amar, Amer, Aimer, Aimers, Hamer, Haymer
• **Current frequencies:** GB 47, Ireland 0
• **GB frequency 1881:** 31
• **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs; Kincardines
1 Scottish, English: (i) relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Aimar*, found in *Domesday Book* as one of the forms of the Old English name *Æðelmār* (see **Aylmer**). (ii) the Middle English personal name could also be via Old French from a Continental Germanic personal name, either *Agimar* or (*H*)*adamar*.
Early bearers: given names: Eymer Thurberd, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Aymer de Valence, 1298 in *Gascon Calendar*.
surnames, England: Philip Aimer, 1180 in *Pipe Rolls* (Essex); Robertus Aymere, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Great Haseley, Oxon); Cuthbert Amers, 1538 in *PROB 11* (Saint Michael Crooked Lane, City of London); Jeames Aimers, 1622 in *IGI* (Holy Island, Northumb); John Aymer, 1643 in *IGI* (Bishops Cannings, Wilts).
surnames, Scotland: Thomas Haymer, 1643 in *IGI* (Sprouston, Roxburghs); James Aymer, 1663 in *IGI* (Stitchel, Roxburghs).
2 English: see **Hamer**.
Early bearers: Thomas Haymer, 1629 in *IGI* (Bury, Lancs); Thos. Aymer, 1753 in *IGI* (Farnworth near Prescott, Lancs).

Aynes

- **GB frequency 1881:** 18
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Northants

English: variant of **Haynes** with loss of initial *H*-.
Further information: This name is rare in Britain but more common in the USA.
Early bearers: Henry Aynes, 1563 in *IGI* (Broad Chalke, Wilts); William Aynes, 1626 in *IGI* (Bearstead, Kent); Thomas Aynes, 1702 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph without Aldgate, London); John Aynes, 1758 in *IGI* (Wootton Bassett, Wilts).

Aynsley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 376, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 367
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb and Durham
- English: see **Ainsley**.

Aynsworth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 8
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey
- English: see **Ainsworth**.

Ayodele

- **Current frequencies:** GB 325, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Nigerian (Yoruba): from the personal name *Ayòdélé* (Yoruba *ayò dé ilé* ‘joy has reached the house’).

Ayoola

- **Current frequencies:** GB 259, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Nigerian (Yoruba): from a personal name *Ayòṣọ̀lā* (Yoruba *ayò ọ̀lā* ‘joy for (our) nobility’).
References: Oduyoye, p. 79.

Ayoub

- **Current frequencies:** GB 331, Ireland 12
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Arabiic, Muslim: see **Ayub**.

Ayr

Variants: Air
• **Current frequencies:** GB 23, Ireland 0
• **GB frequency 1881:** 87
• **Main GB location 1881:** SW and central Scotland
1 Scottish: locative name from the royal burgh of Ayr in SW Scotland.
Early bearers: Reginald de Are, clerk, 1287 in *Stevenson, Documents* (Ayr); Albinus de Are, 1315–21 in *Great Seal of Scotland*; Richard Air, 1432 in *Glasgow Register* (Glasgow); Jonet Aire, 1606 in *IGI* (Monifieth, Angus); Jean Aire, 1636 in *IGI* (Brechin, Angus).
References: *Mills, Dictionary*, p. 26; *Names of Towns and Cities*, p. 43.
2 Scottish: it could also be a variant of **Ayer** or **Ayre**.

Ayre

Variants: Ayr, Ayer, Eyre, Eyer, Ayres, Ayers, Airts, Aires, Aiers, Aers, Ayris, Eyres, Eyers, Eayres, Eayrs, Hayer, Haire, Hare, Hair, Heyer, Layer
• **Current frequencies:** GB 2708, Ireland 83
• **GB frequency 1881:** 1643
• **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Durham, NR Yorks, ER Yorks; also Devon
• **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim; Dublin; Galway
1 English, Scottish: relationship name from Middle English *eir*, *eyr* ‘heir’ (Anglo-Norman French *heyr*, Latin *heres*). See also **Layer**.
Early bearers: Ralph le Eir, 1208 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Robertus Heres, 1220 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Cambs); Richard le Heyer, 1274 in *Hundred Rolls* (Gloucs); Henry Ayer, le Eyer, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Lincs, Oxon); Adam le Hayre, 1275 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (WR Yorks); Robert le Heir, 1281 in *Eynsham Cartulary* (Oxon); Robert Air, 1281, and John Ayr, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar*; William Hoyre, 1302 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Radulphus Heyer', 1379 in *Poll*

Tax (Northwold, Norfolk); Henricus le Eyr, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Surrey); Thomas Hayer, 1550 in *IGI* (Saint Mary le Bow, London); Eliza. Hayer, 1566 in *IGI* (Great Waltham, Essex); Roger Hayer, 1580 in *IGI* (Gnosall, Staffs); Elizabetha Hayer, 1611 in *IGI* (Quethiock, Cornwall); Willm. Hayer, 1614 in *IGI* (Lincoln, Lincs); Francis Eyre alias Eare alias Aire, 1724 in *Deputy Keeper's Report* 41 (Cornwall).
 2 English: (i) relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Alcher* (Old English *Ealhhere*; see **Alger**). Compare Aston Eyre (Shrops), which was held in 1212 by Robert, grandson of *Aer*. (ii) see also **Hair**.

Early bearers: Robertus filius Aier, 1166 in *Red Book of the Exchequer*; Robertus filius Aer, Aier, 1180, 1196 in *Pipe Rolls* (Shrops), the latter being identical with Robert Aier, 1201 in *Pipe Rolls* (Shrops); Wilimi. Ayre, 1540 in *IGI* (Therfield, Herts); Nicolaus Ayre, 1543 in *IGI* (South Weald, Essex); Alyce Ayre, 1546 in *IGI* (Limpsfield, Surrey); Joan Ayre, 1549 in *IGI* (Stoke Gabriel, Devon); Jamys Ayre, 1554 in *IGI* (Saint Martin Ludgate, London).

Ayres

Variants: Aiers, Aires, Airts, Aers, Ayers, Ayris, Ayriiss, Eyres, Eysers, Eayrs, Eayres, Hayers
 • **Current frequencies:** GB 7199, Ireland 213
 • **GB frequency 1881:** 4026
 • **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. S central England; Devon

English: variant of **Ayre** with post-medieval excrement -s.

Early bearers: Christopher Eires, 1598 in *IGI* (Plymouth, Devon); Arthur Ayers, 1659 in *IGI* (Fremington, Devon); Frances Ayres, 1697, Edward Ayress, 1730 in *IGI* (Grendon Underwood, Bucks).

Ayrey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 92, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 39
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: see **Airey**.

Ayris

- **Current frequencies:** GB 383, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 147
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon and Berks; London
- English: see **Ayres**.

Ayriiss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 159, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 47
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northants and Oxon
- English: see **Ayres**.

Ayrton

Variants: Airton, Arton
 • **Current frequencies:** GB 539, Ireland 0
 • **GB frequency 1881:** 493
 • **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Lincs
 English: locative name from Airton in Kirkby Malham (WR Yorks).
Early bearers: Arnaldus and Johannes de Ayreton', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Airton, WR Yorks); Johannes de Ayreton', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Horton in Ribblesdale, WR Yorks); Nicholaus de Ayrton', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Alwoodley, WR Yorks); Willelmus de Ayreton', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Rimington, WR Yorks); William Ayreton, 1460 in *York Freeman's Register*; Robert

Airton, 1560 in *IGI* (Rylstone, WR Yorks); Roger Ayrton, 1571 in *IGI* (Aldborough, WR Yorks); John Airton, 1598 in *IGI* (Kirkby Malham, WR Yorks); Johis. Airton, 1615, Thomas Ayrton, 1665 in *IGI* (Gisburn, WR Yorks); Anna Airton, 1621 in *IGI* (Colne, Lancs).

References: *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*; *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 6, p. 128.

Ayscough

- **Current frequencies:** GB 136, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 133
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: variant of **Askew**.

Ayshford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 74, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 46
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon; Scotland (Midlothian)

English, Scottish: see **Ashford**.

Ayson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 33, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 29
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: see **Haysom**.

Ayto

Variants: Hayto, Hatto

- **Current frequencies:** GB 131, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 50
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: variant of **Eatough**.

Early bearers: Gyllard Hato, 1560 in *IGI* (Fletching, Sussex); Ellen Heyto, 1564 in *IGI* (Scotter, Lincs); Clacy Haytow, 1599 in *IGI* (Deptford, Kent); Richard Hayto, 1601 in *IGI* (Nunnington, NR Yorks); Elizabeth Hato, 1601 in *IGI* (Shap, Westm); John Hatto, 1612, Marie Haytoe, 1614 in *IGI* (Bromley, Kent); John Haythoe, 1650 in *IGI* (Crosthwaite, Cumb); Ann Hattow, 1716 in *IGI* (Stamford, Lincs); Susanna Heytow, 1725 in *IGI* (Antony, Cornwall); Anthony Hayto, 1783, William Ayto, 1808 in *IGI* (Normanton, Lincs); William Hato, 1812, Mary Hayto, 1813 in *IGI* (Holme Pierrepont, Notts); George Ayto, 1843 in *IGI* (Nottingham, Notts); William Hayto, 1867 in *IGI* (Bakewell, Derbys).

Ayton

Variants: Aiton, Aytoun

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1153, Ireland 87
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 932
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England and Scotland: esp. Norfolk; Durham; Midlothian
- 1 English: locative name from Ayton (NR Yorks). See also **Eyton**.

Early bearers: William de Atune, about 1174 in *Yorks Charters*; John de Aiton', 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); John de Ayton', 1300 in *Feet of Fines* (Yorks); Willm. Ayton, 1559 in *IGI* (Hadleigh, Suffolk); Mary Ayton, 1576 in *IGI* (Folkestone, Kent); Clayham Ayton, 1583 in *IGI* (Denton, Norfolk); Elizabeth Ayton, 1598 in *IGI* (Houghton le Spring, Durham); Steven Ayton, 1600 in *IGI* (Duxford, Cambs).

References: *Place-Names of NR Yorks*, pp. 100–1, 165–6.
 2 Scottish: locative name from the lands of Ayton (Berwicks).

Early bearers: Helias de Eitun, 1166–82 in *History of North Durham* (Coldingham, Berwicks); William de Eytone, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Berwick); John de Aytoun, 1300 in *Home of Wedderburn Manuscripts* (Lamberton, Berwicks); Grissall Ayton, 1612 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian).

Aytoun

- **Current frequencies:** GB 33, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 47
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Midlothian; Fife
- Scottish: see **Ayton** (2).

Ayub

Variants: Ayoub

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1919, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Arabic, Muslim and Christian Arab: from *Ayyūb*, the Arabic form (familiar to Muslims from the Qur'an, Sura 4) of the Biblical Hebrew personal name *Īyōb* 'Job'.

Further information: The popularity of the personal name among Muslims is partly due to the fame of Salāh ad-Dīn Yūsuf ibn Ayyūb (c.1138–1193; known in Europe as Saladin), founder of the Ayyubid dynasty in Egypt. He was a Kurdish Muslim, born in Tikrit, who became Sultan of Egypt and Syria (reigned 1174–1193). In Palestine he fought against and defeated the Crusaders, but was nevertheless noted by them for his chivalry as well as his military genius.

Azad

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1065, Ireland 11
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Iranian, Muslim (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan): from a personal name based on Persian *āzād* 'freedom'.

Azam

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2415, Ireland 15
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Arabic, Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic *a'zam* 'greatest'.

Aze

- **Current frequencies:** GB 41, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 11
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: (i) most probably a variant of **Hayes**, which is common both as a surname and as a minor place-name in Devon, where the original sense, 'enclosure' (Old English *gehæg*, Middle English *hay*), had probably developed to 'farm' or 'holding' (*Place-Names of Devon*, p. 129) by the Middle English period. (ii) possibly also a variant of **Ace**.

Early bearers: John Aze, 1632, Francis Aze, 1705 in *IGI* (Barnstaple, Devon); Mary Aze, 1671 in *North Devon Record Office* (Barnstaple, Devon); Judeth Aze, 1693 in *IGI* (Landkey, Devon); William Aze, Aze, 1693, 1696 in *IGI* (Bishops Tawton, Devon).

Azeem

- **Current frequencies:** GB 418, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Arabic, Muslim: see **Azim**.

Azhar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 543, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Azim

Arabic, Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic *azhar*, ‘brightly shining’ or ‘famous’.

Azim

Variants: *Azeem*

- **Current frequencies:** GB 474, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3

Arabic, Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic ‘*azīm*, ‘mighty’, ‘magnificent’. *al-‘azīm*, ‘the magnificent’ is one of the traditional ninety-nine names of Allah.

Aziz

- **Current frequencies:** GB 5461, Ireland 26
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim (widespread throughout the Muslim world): relationship name from the Arabic personal name

‘*azīz*, meaning both ‘mighty’ and ‘dear one’; or its frequent compound ‘*abd-ul-‘azīz*, ‘servant of the Almighty (an attribute of Allah)’.

Further information: Al-‘Aziz (955–996) was the fifth Fatimid khalif of Egypt (975–996), noted among other things for his religious tolerance.

Azizi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 405, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Arabic, Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic ‘*azīzi* meaning ‘of the family of **Aziz**’.

Azram

- **Current frequencies:** GB 149, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim: unexplained.

Azzopardi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 553, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

southern Italian, Maltese: ethnic name, occupational name from the medieval Greek word *atsoupas* ‘Mauritanian, Moor, Black person’ (plural *atsoupadēs*), which also came to mean ‘mercenary soldier’. The medieval Greek word probably derives ultimately from Old Persian *takhma spada* ‘army’, modern Persian *sipah*. The modern form seems to have been influenced by Italian (*gatto*)*pardo* ‘serval’ (a species of wild cat), which features on the arms of the Sicilian princely di Lampedusa family.

Further information: There is no evidence to support the belief that the name is of Sephardic Jewish origin or that it means ‘Sephardic’.

Early bearers: Joseph Azzopardi, born in Malta, in *Census 1881* (Royal Navy).

Ba

- **Current frequencies:** GB 72, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 9
- 1 African: unexplained. Compare **Bah**.
 - 2 Arabic: from a shortened form of *Abā*, accusative case of *abu* ‘father’.
 - 3 Chinese: Mandarin or Cantonese form of the Chinese surname 巴: (i) said to be borne by descendants of Fu Xi, a legendary king who lived prior to the Xia dynasty (i. e. before 2070 BC). (ii) from *Ba* (巴), the name of an ancient state (located in Sichuan province and the city of Chongqing), which was annihilated during the Spring and Autumn period (770–476 BC).
 - 4 Vietnamese: unexplained.

Baah

- **Current frequencies:** GB 251, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Ghanaian: see **Bah**.

Baalham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 177, Ireland 22
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 80
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk
- English: see **Balaam**.

Babalola

- **Current frequencies:** GB 504, Ireland 5
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Nigerian (Yoruba): relationship name from the personal name *Babalólá* (Yoruba *baba l’ólá* ‘the father is honour’, understood as ‘is the source of honour’, i. e. for the child).

Babar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 438, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (Panjab): Hindu (Arora), based on the name of an Arora clan.

Babatunde

- **Current frequencies:** GB 413, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Nigerian (Yoruba): from the personal name *Babátúndé* (Yoruba *baba tún dé* ‘father has returned’), applied to a child born after the death of his father or grandfather.

Babb**Variants: Babbs**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1139, Ireland 53
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 811
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon, Somerset, and Cornwall; also Staffs
- 1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Babb(e)*, usually no doubt a pet form of the female name *Barbara* (see **Barbary**) but possibly in some cases a survival of the Old English personal name *Babba*. Some of the following early bearers may alternatively belong under (2).

Further information: Middle English pet forms of *Barbara* probably include **Babb** and **Babbitt**, as well as *Babel* and *Babelot*, as evidenced by Margery Babel and Nicholas Babelot, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs).

Early bearers: Alwinus Babbe, 1198 in *Feet of Fines* (Suffolk); Richard Babbe, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Devon); Richard Babbe, 1301–2 in *Winchester Pipe Roll* (Hants); Joh’s Babbe, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Canterbury, Kent); Edmundus Babbe, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Teigngrace, Devon); Ricardo Babbe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Corfe, Somerset); Agnis Babb, 1576 in *IGI* (North Petherton, Somerset); Gyles Bab, 1611 in *IGI* (Bideford, Devon); Benjamin Bab, 1622 in *IGI* (Sarratt, Herts); James Babb, 1749 in *IGI* (Falmouth, Cornwall); George Babb, 1752 in *IGI* (Lincoln, Lincs); Patience Babb, 1781 in *IGI* (Wednesbury, Staffs).

- 2 English: nickname from Middle English *babe* ‘infant, young child’.

Early bearers: Ralph le Babb(e), 1199 in *Memoranda Roll* (Wilts); Walter le Babb(e), 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Henry Babe, 1555 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk).

Babbage**Variants: Babbidge**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 547, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 471
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: nickname perhaps for someone given to mockery or fooling people, or alternatively for someone who stammered or spoke indistinctly. The source looks like an unrecorded Anglo-Norman French **baubich*, **babich*, **bobich*, Middle English **ba(u)bi(s)ch*, **bobi(s)ch*, with two possible senses. It could be related to Middle English *babishen* ‘to mock, scoff at’, from the same root as Old French *baubir*, *bober* ‘to mock, deride, make a joke (of)’, and Anglo-Norman French *baubeur* ‘false, insincere person’. Compare Middle English *bobben* ‘to deride, make a fool of’. Alternatively the surname might be related to Anglo-Norman French *balbuisir* (Latin *balbutire*) ‘to stammer, speak indistinctly’, with the same root as Old French *bauber*, Anglo-Norman French *babber* ‘to stammer’, and Anglo-Norman French *baube* ‘stammering’ (Latin *balbus*) and *baubeur* ‘stammerer’.

Further information: *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 374, associates Henry Bobich’ (1332) with the place called Babbages in Winkleigh. The post-medieval unrounding of *o* to *a* is a common feature of Devon dialect. The 16th-century *-aw-* spelling seems to reflect an alternative Middle English form **Baubi(s)ch*.

Early bearers: Henry Bobich’, Sarra Bobych’, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Winkleigh, Devon); Johannes Bebisich’ [for Bobisch’], 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Chawleigh, Devon); Johan Bawbych, 1546, Edmond Babbage, 1579, in *IGI* (Devon); Adam Babage, 1570 in *IGI* (Clyst Hydon, Devon); Thomsan Babbidge, 1579 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); Bennett Bobbidge, 1610 in *IGI* (Uplowman, Devon); Samuel Bawbidge, 1618 in *IGI* (Abbotskerswell, Devon); George Babedg, 1628 in

PROB 11 (Cullompton, Devon); Rogeri Babbage, 1637 in *IGI* (Winkleigh, Devon); Elizabeth Babidge, 1727 in *IGI* (Hatherleigh, Devon); Michael Babbidge, 1751 in *IGI* (Portsmouth, Hants); John Babbidge, 1832 in *IGI* (Northwood, IoW).

Babbidge

- **Current frequencies:** GB 75, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 33
 - **Main GB location 1881:** IoW; Shrops
- English: see **Babbage**.

Babbington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 181, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 145
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Midlands
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Kerry; Wexford
- 1 English: see **Babington**.
 - 2 English: see **Bebbington**.

Babbitt**Variants: Babot**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 6
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northants

English: relationship name from the Middle English female personal names *Babet* and *Babot*, pet forms of **Barbara**. Compare also **Babb** (1).

Further information: This name is now rare in Britain but more numerous in the USA.

Early bearers: Geoffrey Babeth, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Richard Babot, 1619, Richard Babutt, 1779, Joseph Babut, 1787 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lincs); Clement Babbett, 1655 in *IGI* (Garboldisham, Norfolk); Jn. Babbett of Plymouth, cordwainer, 1684 in *Cornwall Record Office*; Richd. Babbit, 1775 in *IGI* (Frant, Sussex).

Babbs

- **Current frequencies:** GB 319, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 242
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex and Surrey; also Staffs and Derbys

English: variant of **Babb**, with genitival or post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Early bearers: Cristina Babbes, 1377, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Canterbury, Kent); Elizabeth Babbs, 1593 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Wm. Babbs, 1607 in *IGI* (Southam, Warwicks); John Babbs, 1658 in *IGI* (Lambourne, Essex).

Babcock

- **Current frequencies:** GB 87, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 27
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Middx

English: apparently a post-medieval form of **Badcock**. There is no reason why a Middle English **Babbecok*, a pet form of *Babb* (Barbara), should not have existed, but evidence has yet to be found.

Early bearers: Edward Badcock, 1559, Mary Babcock, 1613 in *IGI* (Bassingbourn, Cambs); John Badkock, 1596, Mary Babcock, 1713 in *IGI* (Paul, Cornwall);

Baber

Wm. Babcock, 1751 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Elias Babcock, 1772 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs).

Baber

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1280, Ireland 14
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 614
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs and Somerset
- English: nickname from a Middle English borrowed form of an Anglo-Norman agent noun **baubeour* ‘stammerer’, from *baubeier* ‘to stammer’.
- Early bearers:** Alexander Babur, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Waterston, Dorset); Alicia Baber, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Milton, Berks); Elisabeth Baber, 1589 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Henry Baber, 1631 in *IGI* (Bath, Somerset); Agnes Baber, 1632 in *IGI* (West Ilsley, Berks).

Babey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 138, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 91
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Hants
- 1 English: (i) relationship name perhaps from a Middle English pet form of the female personal name *Barbara*. Compare **Babb** (1), of which *Baby* (1332) may either be a variant + the hypocoristic suffix *-y* or a Devon dialect form of final *-e*. Compare Thomas Babbe senior, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Colyton, Devon). (ii) nickname from Middle English *babbe*, *babi* ‘young child, infant’. Compare **Babb** (2).
- Early bearers:** Walter Baby, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Colyton, Devon); Henricus Baby, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Dalditch, Devon); Henricus Baby, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Morston, Norfolk); Elizabeth Babey, 1664 in *IGI* (Southwark, Surrey); Henry Babey, 1739 in *IGI* (Horsham, Sussex); Edmund Babey, 1786 in *IGI* (Eling, Hants).
- 2 Norman: locative name perhaps from Baby (Seine et Marne) but there is no evidence that this gave rise to an Anglo-Norman surname.

Babington

- Variants:** **Babington, Bavington, Bebbington, Bevington**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 430, Ireland 85
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 295
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey; Lincs; Warwicks; Cheshire; also Ayr
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Derry
- English, also Scottish: (i) locative name from Babington (Somerset) or possibly Bavington (Northumb), which is recorded as *Babington* until the early 18th century; see *Watts, Dictionary*. The alteration to *Bavington* and *Bevington* shows a common development of *-b-* to *-v-* in place-names and surnames. (ii) locative name from Bebington (Cheshire), see **Bebbington**. (iii) locative name from Bevington (Warwicks), see **Bevington**.
- Further information:** The derivation in *Reaney and Wilson* from Babbington in Kimberley (Notts) is implausible, since it is a minor place-name derived from the surname.
- Early bearers:** Eva de Babington, 1201 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Hugo de Babington, 1270 in *Assize Rolls* (Everton, Notts); Henricus de Babbyngton, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Anston, WR Yorks); John Babyngton, knight, 1484–5 in *Nottingham Borough Records* (Notts); Margaret Babington, 1556 in *IGI* (Metheringham, Lincs); Beatrisse Bavington, 1561 in *IGI* (East Barkwith, Lincs); Anne Bevington, 1660 in *IGI* (Welton le Wold, Lincs); Easter Bavington, 1667 in

IGI (Raithby cum Maltby, Lincs); James Babington, 1711 in *IGI* (Benniworth, Lincs).

Babot

- **GB frequency 1881:** 16
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Jersey
- English: see **Babbitt**.

Babson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- English: perhaps a dissimilated form of **Brabson**; see **Brabazon**.
- Early bearers:** Adam Babson, Brabson, 1380 in *Assize Rolls* (Warwicks); Richard Babson, 1645 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); John Babson, 1662 in *IGI* (Framfield, Sussex).

Babu

- **Current frequencies:** GB 459, Ireland 11
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (Gujarat): nickname, Hindu (Lohana), from Prakrit *bappā* ‘father’.

Baccas

- **Current frequencies:** GB 27, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- English: see **Backhouse**.
- Further information:** The surname in this spelling is frequent in Jamaica.

Bacchus

- **Current frequencies:** GB 604, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 201
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Beds
- English: see **Backhouse**.

Baccus

- **Current frequencies:** GB 36, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 25
- English: see **Backhouse**.

Bach

- **Current frequencies:** GB 384, Ireland 16
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 324
 - **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Worcs
- English: see **Bache**.

Bache

- Variants:** **Bach, Batch, Bash, Baish**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 981, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 616
 - **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Staffs, Shrops, and Worcs
- English: locative name from Middle English *bach*, *bech(e)* ‘stream’ (Old English *bæce*). Compare **Bage** (2).
- Early bearers:** Robert de Basche, 1199 in *Assize Rolls* (Staffs); Reiner de Bache, 1212 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Lincs); Ralph de la Bache, 1252 in *Rydwere Chartulary* (Staffs); William atte Bache, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Agnes Bache, 1539 in *IGI* (Chetton, Shrops); Elena Bache, 1544 in *IGI* (Chetton, Shrops); Thomas Bache, 1546 in *IGI* (Solihull, Warwicks); John Bache, 1548 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); John Bache, 1548 in *IGI* (Worcester, Worcs).

Bachelor

- Variants:** **Batchelar, Batchelder, Batcheldor, Batchellor, Batchelour, Batchlor, Batcheler**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 200, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 428
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Midlands: esp. Warwicks
- Norman, English: see **Batchelor**.

Bacher

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 25
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Renfrews
- English: see **Batcher**.

Bachu

- Variants:** **Bhachu**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 132, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (Panjab): Hindu, Sikh, and Muslim, probably from Sanskrit *bačča* ‘child’.

Bachus

- **GB frequency 1881:** 28
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs
- English: see **Backhouse**.

Back

- Variants:** **Bake, Batt, Bax**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 1748, Ireland 10
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1593
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon; Kent and Sussex; Norfolk
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down
- 1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Bakke* (Old English *Bacca*). Some of the following bearers may alternatively belong with (2) or (3).
- Early bearers:** given names: Bacce (dative), about 1189–1200 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Kalendar*. surnames: Godwine Bace, about 1055 in *Tengvik* (Somerset); Richard Bac, 1182 in *Pipe Rolls* (Cornwall); Richard Backe, 1277 in *Cotton Claudius C xi* (Suffolk); Walterus Backe, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Culmstock, Devon); Johanne Bak, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Canterbury, Kent); Galfridus Backe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Cressenhall, Norfolk); Rogerus Bakke, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Pulham, Norfolk); Johannes Backe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Cossington, Somerset); Ricardus Bak, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Brighton, Sussex); Henrico Backe, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Hinton Waldrist, Berks); Johannes Bak, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Boston, Lincs); John Back, 1564 in *IGI* (Oldham, Lancs); Ricardi Back, 1579 in *IGI* (Kirkby Lonsdale, Westm); Ricd. Backe, 1581 in *IGI* (Worfield, Shrops); Anthony Back, 1583 in *IGI* (Kirtan in Holland, Lincs); Mychayell Back, 1601 in *IGI* (Seaford, Sussex); Hugo Back, 1602 in *IGI* (Freethorpe, Norfolk); Edward Back, 1612 in *IGI* (Brabourne, Kent); Hannah Back, 1655 in *IGI* (Sandford, Devon).
- 2 English: nickname from Middle English *bakke* ‘bat’, possibly for a blind person.
- Early bearers:** Godwin the clerk, called Bak, 12th cent. in *Ekwall, ELPN* (London); Henry le Bak, 1297 in *King’s Bench Pleas*.
- 3 English: locative name, nickname from Middle English *bak* ‘ridge’ (Old English *bæc*), either with reference to a topographical feature, as in the 1327 example, or to a person’s back, for someone with a bent back perhaps.

Early bearers: Joan atte Back, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset).

Backer

- **Current frequencies:** GB 79, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 169
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Baker**.

Backes

- **Current frequencies:** GB 48, Ireland 6
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 3
- English: see **Bax**.

Backhouse

Variants: **Bakehouse, Bacchus, Backus, Bachus, Baccus, Bacus, Baccas**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2946, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2211
- **Main GB location 1881:** N England: esp. WR Yorks and Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Roscommon; Derry

English: locative name, occupational name for someone who worked at a bakery, from Middle English *bak(e)hous* ‘bake-house, bakery’.

Early bearers: Walter de Bakhous, 1306, Thomas Bachous, 1334 in *London Letter Books E* (London); Richard del Bakhous, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lancs); Nicholaus del Bakhouse, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lonsdale wapentake, Lancs); Willelmus Bakhows, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Birdsall, ER Yorks); Charles Baccus, 1544 in *Ancient Deeds v* (Yorks); Gyles Bachus, 1629 in *IGI* (Heversham, Westm); Edward Bacchus, 1725 in *Deputy Keeper’s Report 41* (Beds).

Backhurst

- **Current frequencies:** GB 172, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 144
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Hants, Sussex, and Surrey
- English: see **Baghurst**.

Backler

Variants: **Backner**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 191, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 203
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk and Essex

Norman, English: occupational name, status name from Norman French *bacaler* ‘a young knight, a novice in arms’. The [k] is a characteristically Norman form where Central French has [tʃ]; see **Batchelor**.

Early bearers: John de [sic] Bakalur, 1196 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Devon); Nicholas le Bakelere, 1320 in *Close Rolls* (Shrops); Johannes Bakeler, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Stogursey, Somerset); Thomas Bakeler, clerk, 1390 in *Patent Rolls* (London); Edmund Bacler, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Thomas Backler, 1560 in *IGI* (Dallinghoo, Suffolk); Miles Backler, 1568 in *IGI* (Great Bromley, Essex); Perry Backler, 1772 in *IGI* (Long Wittenham, Berks); Richard Backler, 1792 in *IGI* (Southwark, Surrey).

Backman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 88, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 32
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex and Middx
- English: occupational name from Middle English **bak-man* ‘maker or seller of pastries, tarts, or pies’ (Old English *gebæc* ‘baked goods, bakemeats’ +

mann ‘man’). Compare Walter *le Bakmonger*, 1314 in *Thuresson* (Herts).

Early bearers: Walter Bakman, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Camsb); Johanne Bakeman, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Waltham Holy Cross, Essex); William Bakman, 1353 in *Patent Rolls* (NR Yorks); John Bacman, 1593 in *IGI* (Bassingham, Lincs); William Backman, 1622 in *IGI* (Kirdford, Sussex); Alfred Backman, 1833 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx).

References: *Thuresson*, p. 197.

Backner

- **GB frequency 1881:** 18
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Berks and Surrey
- 1 English: occupational name from Middle English **baconer*, **baconour* ‘curer of bacon, bacon-seller’.
- Early bearers:** Walterus Baconur, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Bocking, Essex); Elizabeth Backner, 1722 in *IGI* (Bampton, Oxon); Matthew Backner, 1738 in *IGI* (Nottingham).
- 2 English: perhaps also a variant of **Backler**.
- Early bearers:** Samuel Backner, 1803, Louisa Sidney Backler, 1840 in *IGI* (Bedminster, Somerset).

Backs

- **GB frequency 1881:** 49
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent
- English: see **Bax**.
- Further information:** This form is rare in Britain but more numerous in the USA.

Backshall

Variants: **Backshell**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 242, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 229
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
- 1 English: locative name either from Paxhill (Park) or from Buxshalls, both in Lindfield (Sussex).
- Further information:** The derivation in *Reaney and Wilson* from Backshells in Billingshurst (Sussex) is mistaken; this farmstead was called after the surname of its late 16th-century owner, John Backshell of Sele in Sussex (or possibly Seale in Surrey; compare **Boxall**), who married Dorothy West of Billingshurst in 1591 (*Place-Names of Sussex*, pp. 150–1).
- Early bearers:** Ph’o de Bacselve, 1296, Johe Bakeshelve, 1327, Joh’e and Ric’o de Bacselve, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lindfield, Sussex); Henry Backshyll, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John Backshell, 1591 in *Chichester Marriage Licences* (Sussex); Th. Backshell, 1613 in *IGI* (Henfield, Sussex); John Backshall, 1643 in *IGI* (Steyning, Sussex); Thomas Bagshall, 1705, Thomas Backshall, 1716 in *IGI* (Broadwater, Sussex).
- References:** *Place-Names of Sussex* 2, pp. v and 340–2; *Surnames of Sussex*, p. 119.
- 2 English: variant of **Boxall** with unrounding of the vowel.
- Early bearers:** Thomas Backshall, 1620, James Backshall, 1765 in *IGI* (Dorking, Surrey).

Backshell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 71, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 42
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey and Sussex
- English: see **Backshall**.

Backus

- **Current frequencies:** GB 68, Ireland 25

- **GB frequency 1881:** 40
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Leics
- English: see **Backhouse**.

Backwell

Variants: **Bagwell**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 99, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 126
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon; Gloucs
- English: locative name from Backwell (Somerset).
- Early bearers:** Thomas de Bacwell, 1225 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Johan Backwell, 1596 in *IGI* (Congresbury, Somerset); John Backwell, 1664 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); Thomas Backwell, 1678 in *IGI* (Lydney, Gloucs).

Bacon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 8979, Ireland 239
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 7492
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England: esp. N Midlands and E Anglia
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Laois; Derry
- Norman, English: (i) relationship name from the Norman French personal name *Bacun*, derived from the oblique stem of Continental Germanic *Bacco*, which may be from a word ancestral to German *Backe* in either of the senses ‘back, rump’ or ‘cheek’, though the latter is mainly S German. The Latin nominative form of this occurs as *Bacus* in about 1113 in the *Burton Chartulary* (Staffs). (ii) nickname possibly from Old French, Middle English *bacon*, *bacun* ‘side of bacon’, perhaps a nickname for a curer or seller of bacon or for someone having a supposed similarity to the meat.
- Early bearers:** William Bacun, about 1150 in *Staffs Chartulary*; Richard Bacun, about 1150 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Nicholas Bachun, 1226 in *Burton Chartulary* (Staffs); Geoffrey Bacon, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Juliana Bakon’, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Manton, Rutland); Willelmus Bacon’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Hunsingore, WR Yorks); Adam Bacoun, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Runtun, Norfolk); Robertus Bacun, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Soberton, Hants); Ricardus Bacon’, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Finchingfield, Essex); Andrew Bacon, 1544 in *IGI* (Charlecote, Warwicks); Edw Bacon, 1551 in *IGI* (Spexhall, Suffolk); Judith Bacon, 1563 in *IGI* (Bocking, Essex); Isabella Bacon, 1564 in *IGI* (Chesterfield, Derbys).

Bacus

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- English: see **Backhouse**.
- Further information:** This spelling is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Badal

- **Current frequencies:** GB 65, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian: Sikh, possibly derived from Hindi or Panjabi *badal* ‘cloud’, from Sanskrit *vārdala* ‘water’. It is found in the Jat community.

Badams

- **Current frequencies:** GB 39, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 26
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks
- Welsh: see **Baddams**.

Badat

Badat

- **Current frequencies:** GB 490, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Muslim, Indian: unexplained.

Badbury

- **GB frequency 1881:** 3
- English: locative name from Badbury in Chisledon (Wilts), Badbury Rings in Shapwick (Dorset), or Badbury Hill in Great Coxwell (Berks).
- Early bearers:** Herbert de Badebiri, 1212, Herbert de Baddebir', 1218 in *Pipe Rolls* (Sussex); [. . . de] Baddebir', 1244 in *Place-Names of Dorset* (Dorset); Mary Badbury, 1684 in *IGI* (Longbridge Deverill, Wilts); William Badbury, 1718 in *IGI* (West Hanney, Berks).
- References:** *Place-Names of Wilts*, p. 281; *Place-Names of Dorset* 2, pp. 177–8; *Place-Names of Berks*, p. 362.

Badby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 75, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 46
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northants
- English: locative name from Badby (Northants).
- Early bearers:** William de Baddebi, 1202 in *Assize Rolls* (Northants); Nicholas de Baddeby, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ashby Saint Ledgers, Northants); William Badby, 1388–9 in *Feet of Fines* (Surrey); Thomas Badby, 1425 in *Assize Rolls* (London); Mary Badby, 1563 in *IGI* (Bury Saint Edmunds, Suffolk); George Badby, 1814 in *IGI* (Croughton, Northants).

Badcock

- Variants:** **Batcock, Battcock, Babcock, Badcoe**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 912, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1691
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Devon and Cornwall; Cambs
- English: (i) relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Badecok*, a pet form of **Bade** + the diminutive suffix *-cok*. (ii) relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Batecok*, a pet form of **Bate**. Through voicing of the *-t-* this name may have been much confused with *Badecock* in (i).
- Early bearers:** given names: Batekok de Grendon, 1229 in *Patent Rolls* (Warwick); Batecok, 1288 in *Assize Rolls* (Cheshire); Badecok Korneys, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex).
- surnames: Edrich' Bathecoc, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Worcs); Richard Batcok, 1285 in *Assize Rolls* (Cheshire); William Badecok, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts* (Dorset); William Badecok, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Derbys); Rogerus Badcok, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Walsgrave on Sowe, Warwick); John Badecok, 1391 in *Feet of Fines* (Devon); Johis Badcock, 1560 in *IGI* (Marytavy, Devon); John Badkock, 1596 in *IGI* (Paul, Cornwall); William Batcock, 1639 in *IGI* (Wonersh, Surrey); Mark Badcoe, 1891 in *Census 1891* (Glamorgan).

Badcoe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 32, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- English: comparatively recent variant of **Badcock**.

Badd

- **GB frequency 1881:** 11
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon
- English: see **Bade**.

Baddaley

- **GB frequency 1881:** 104
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs
- English: see **Baddeley**.

Baddam

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 37
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Pembrokes
- Welsh: see **Badham**.

Baddams

- Variants:** **Badams**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 177, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 50
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- Welsh: variant of **Badham** with excrescent *-s*.
- Early bearers:** John Baddams, 1627 in *IGI* (Hampton in Arden, Warwick); Richard Baddams, 1652 in *IGI* (North Nibley, Gloucs); Joseph Badhams, 1724 in *IGI* (Wroxall, Warwick).

Baddeley

- Variants:** **Baddiley, Baddaley, Badeley, Baddley, Badley, Beadley**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 1556, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 663
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs; also Cheshire
- English: locative name from Baddeley (Staffs) or Baddiley (Cheshire).
- Further information:** This name has always had a strong association with Staffs, and to a lesser extent Cheshire. Origin from a differently spelled Suffolk or Hants place-name is less plausible.
- Early bearers:** Gilbert de Badele, 1227 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); John de Baddyleye, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); Alicea Baddeley, 1541 in *IGI* (Audley, Staffs); Margreta Baddeley, 1611 in *IGI* (Sandbach, Cheshire); Edward Baddeley, 1626 in *IGI* (Wolstanton, Staffs); Ann Baddely, 1632 in *IGI* (Eccleshall, Staffs); Wm Baddeley, 1714, William Badderly, 1748 in *IGI* (Stamford, Lincs).

Badder

- **Current frequencies:** GB 123, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 88
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts
- 1 English: possibly a variant, with an unrounded first vowel, of **Boder**, of which a form with a short vowel seems to exist.
- Early bearers:** Nicholas Badder, 1610 in *PROB 11* (Dodington, Gloucs); Thomas Badder, 1618 in *IGI* (Enfield, Middx); Thomas Badder, 1639 in *IGI* (Sutton Veny, Wilts).
- 2 English: locative name perhaps occasionally from Great and Little Baddow (Essex), locally once pronounced /bædə/, though this is not strongly supported by the modern distribution.
- Early bearers:** Edmundo de Badewe, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Great Baddow, Essex); Joane Badder, 1632 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Thomas Badder, 1636 in *IGI* (Hanham and Oldland, Gloucs); Margery Badder, 1639 in *IGI* (Rugeley, Staffs).
- References:** *Place-Names of Essex*, p. 233.

Baddick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 71, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 5
- English: see **Baddock**.

Baddiley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 110, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 80
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire, Staffs, and WR Yorks
- English: see **Baddeley**.

Baddley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 83, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 183
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs
- English: see **Baddeley**.

Baddock

- Variants:** **Badock, Baddick**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 83, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 23
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx
- English: relationship name from an unrecorded Middle English personal name **Baddok*, which is from Old English *Baduca*, a suffixed derivative of a name beginning with *beadu* 'battle'.
- Early bearers:** Robert Badok, 1323 in *Patent Rolls*; William Baddock, 1534 in *York Freeman's Register* (York); Richard Badock, 1615 in *IGI* (Long Bennington, Lincs); Maria Baddock, 1664 in *IGI* (Astbury, Cheshire); Thomas Baddock, 1723 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Mary Baddick, 1794 in *IGI* (Wootton Courtney, Somerset).

Bade

- Variants:** **Badd, Baid**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 101, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 31
 - **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks
- 1 English, Scottish: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Bade* or *Badde*, either a survival of Old English *Bada* (of uncertain origin, but perhaps related to *beadu* 'battle') or possibly a variant of the personal name **Bate**. Compare **Badcock**.
- Further information:** Compare the unrecorded Old English **Badding*, a derivative of *Bada*, apparently attested in Robert Badding, 1197–1221 in *Ancient Deeds* i (Middx), and William Bading, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs).
- Early bearers:** given names: Bada, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Derbys); Badde, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls*.
- surnames: Bicticus Bade, 1086 in *Winton Domesday* (Hants); William Badde, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Worcs); John Badde, Bade, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Rob'tus Bad, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Greenwich, Kent); Joh'es Bade, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Aylesford, Kent); Richard Bade, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Barnstaple, Devon); Simon Bade, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Barnstaple, Devon); Stephanus Badde, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Little Snoring, Norfolk); Willelmus Bade, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Southam, Warwick); Willelmus Badd', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Knaresborough, WR Yorks); Johannes Badde, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Hundersfield, Lancs); Ricardus Bade, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Stockerston, Leics); Willelmus Badde, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Great Wytheford, Shrops); Willm. Bade, 1544 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Anne Badde, 1551 in *IGI* (Solihull, Warwick); Elizabeth Bade, 1608 in *IGI* (Leith, Midlothian); Ann Bade or Bode, 1614 in *IGI* (Gainford, Durham); Thomas Badde, 1632, Tho Badd, 1639 in *IGI* (Fareham, Hants); William Badd, 1652 in *IGI* (Kirkcaldy, Fife); David Baid, 1671 in *IGI* (Saint Andrews and Saint

Leonards, Fife); Mary Bade, 1715 in *IGI* (Wakefield, WR Yorks); James Bades, 1775 in *IGI* (Askrigg, NR Yorks).

2 German: (i) relationship name from a short form of a Continental Germanic personal name composed with *badu* 'strife, battle'. (ii) occupational name from Middle Low German *bade* 'messenger'.

Early bearers: William Bade, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (West Ham, Essex); Augusta Bade, born in Bremen, Germany, in *Census 1881* (Woodford Saint Mary, Essex); Ernest Bade, born in Hamburg, Germany, *Census 1881* (Horton in Bradford, WR Yorks); Wilhelm Bade, born in Germany, *Census 1901* (London); Ernst Bade, born in Germany, *Census 1911* (London); Karl Bade, born in Germany, *Census 1911* (London).

Badeley

- **GB frequency 1881:** 21
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire; Hants
- English: see **Baddeley**.

Baden

- **Current frequencies:** GB 242, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 202
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered; esp. Wilts
- 1 English: (i) locative name from a place called *Bayden* in Sussex, which is referred to in 17th-century documents but unlocated. It is possibly to be identified with Bainden, a manor in Mayfield. (ii) locative name from Baydon (Wilts).

Further information: The surname of the Baden-Powell family is from their use as a surname of the given name + surname of an ancestor, whose given name originated in the surname discussed here.

Early bearers: England: John Badyn, 1327 in *Patent Rolls* (Winchelsea, Sussex); Thomas Bayden, 1454, John Baydon, 1537, Richard Bayden, 1642 in *East Sussex Record Office* (Sussex); Agnes Baydon, 1605 in *IGI* (Burbage, Wilts); Anthony Bayden, 1610 in *IGI* (Great Bedwyn, Wilts); Thomas Baden, 1659 in *Wilts and Swindon Archives* (Wilts); Lewis Baddon, 1678, Lewis Baden, 1704, Anne Badden, 1718 in *IGI* (Walsall, Staffs).

Scotland: Christen Baden, 1658 in *IGI* (Urquhart, Morays); John Baddon, 1662, John Badden, 1667, Cristian Baden, 1706 in *IGI* (Duffus, Morays).

2 German, Jewish (Ashkenazic), Danish: relationship name patronymic from the German personal name *Bade*, for which compare the **Bade** of English origin. As an occasional Jewish name it is probably a handout or ornamental adoption.

Early bearers: Heinrich Herman Christian Baden, 1746 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Chas. and Maria Baden, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Liverpool, Lancs); John Geo. Baden, born in Hanover, in *Census 1881* (Shoreditch, Middx); Christopher Baden, in *Census 1881* (Southwark, Surrey); Hermann Henry Baden, 1865 in *IGI* (Whitechapel, Middx); Harris and Ada Baden, born in Russia, in *Census 1911* (WR Yorks).

Badenoch

- **Current frequencies:** GB 138, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 135
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Banffs and Aberdeens
- Scottish: locative name from province of Badenoch in Inverness.

Early bearers: Patrick of Badynach, 1435 in *Edinburgh Guildry*; possibly same as Patrick Baidyenach, 1460 in *Arbroath Register* (Aberdeen); Mathews Baydenagh, notary public, 1473 in *Morton Register, Scotland* (Aberdeen diocese); John Banzenacht, burgess, 1541 in *Aberdeen Register* (Inverurie, Aberdeens); Hary Badenoch, 1693 in *IGI* (Rothiemay, Banffs).

Bader

- **Current frequencies:** GB 318, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 44
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx

German, Jewish (Ashkenazic): occupational name denoting an attendant in or owner of a public bath house, from an agent derivative of Middle High German *bat* 'bath' (Old High German *bad*), German *Bad*. In former times, such attendants undertook a variety of functions, including blood-letting, tooth-pulling, and hair-cutting.

Early bearers: Hermann Bader, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Chorlton on Medlock, Lancs); Frederick Bader, born in Switzerland, in *Census 1881* (Lambeth, Surrey); Louis Bader, born in Cracow, in *Census 1881* (Middx); Ada Bader, born in Russia, in *Census 1901* (Yorks); Ludwig Bader, born in Germany, in *Census 1901* (London); Christian Bader, born in Germany, in *Census 1901* (London); Marks Bader, born in Austria, in *Census 1901* (Middx); Bach Bader, born in Russia, in *Census 1901* (London); Barnett Bader, born in Russia, in *Census 1911* (London).

Badesha

- **Current frequencies:** GB 190, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat clan, whose name probably derives from Persian *badshah* 'king'.

Badge

- **Current frequencies:** GB 66, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 141
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall and Devon

1 English: see **Bage**.

2 English: possibly a variant of **Budge**, especially in SW England.

Badger

Variants: **Bagger**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2121, Ireland 83
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1723
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Staffs and Warwicks
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Derry

1 English: locative name from Badger (Shrops), which is recorded as *Beghesoure* in 1086, *Bagesore* in the 14th century, and *Bagsore alias Badger* in 1694.

Early bearers: [... de] Baggesour', 1203–4, [... de] Bagesoure, 1212 in *Place-Names of Shrops* (Shrops); William de Beggeshour', 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Shrops); John de Bagisore, 1353 in *Patent Rolls* (Shrops); Thomas Bagger, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Coreley, Shrops); Thomas Badger, 1540 in *IGI* (Rushbury, Shrops).

References: *Place-Names of Shrops* 1, p. 29.

2 English: (i) occupational name from Middle English *bagger* 'bag-maker, maker of small sacks'. Compare **Bagg**. (ii) occupational name from Middle English *badger* 'hawker, huckster', though this word

is not recorded in *MED* before 1467–8 and it is of doubtful origin.

Early bearers: Ælfegus se baggere, Raulfo bagger, 12th cent. in *Angevin Canterbury* (Canterbury, Kent); Ivo le Bagger, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Matilda la Baggar', 1275 in *Fransson* (Worcs); Richard le Bagger, 1297, Adam Badger, 1324 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (WR Yorks); Emma le Baggere, 1307 in *Fransson* (Staffs); Richard Bagare, 1332 in *Fransson* (Lincs); Ralph Baghere, 1348 in *Derbys Archaeological Journal* 36 (Derbys); Ricardus Badger, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Rawcliffe, West Yorks); Galfrido Bagger, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Snodhill, Herefs); Johanne Baggere, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Nether Wroughton, Wilts); Joan Badger, 1541 in *IGI* (Stoke Hammond, Bucks); Alice Badger, 1558 in *IGI* (Redbourne, Lincs); Edward Bagger, 1561 in *IGI* (Saint Clement Danes, Middx); Richard Badger, 1586 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Breamore, Hants); Thomas Bagger, 1663 in *IGI* (Georgeham, Devon).

References: *Fransson*, pp. 94–5.

Badgery

- **Current frequencies:** GB 131, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 38
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall and Devon; Worcs

English: locative name from Badgeworthy in Brendon (Devon), pronounced /bædʒəri/.

Early bearers: William Baggeworthy, 1416 in *Patent Rolls* (Devon); Samuel Badgery, 1766 in *IGI* (Heavitree, Devon).

References: *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 59.

Badgett

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 18
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Brecknocks

Norman, English: see **Baggott**.

Further information: This form is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Badgley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 6
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex

English: see **Betchley**.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Badham

Variants: **Baddam, Badhan, Baddams**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1258, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 870
- **Main GB location 1881:** Herefs

Welsh: relationship name from the Welsh patronymic **ap Adam** 'son of Adam', treated in spelling as if it were from a place-name ending in *-ham*. The modern form of *Adam* in Welsh is *Addaf*.

Early bearers: Elizabetha Baddam, 1546 in *IGI* (Kings Pyon, Herefs); Thomas Baddam, 1565 in *IGI* (Upleadon, Gloucs); Etkin Badam, 1581 in *IGI* (Wellington, Herefs); Seath Ap Adda, 1631 in *IGI* (Oswestry, Shrops); Philip Baddam, 1678 in *IGI* (Monmouth, Monmouths); George Badham, 1696 in *IGI* (Peterchurch, Herefs); John Badhan, 1701 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph's without Aldersgate, London); John Abadham, 1741 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Tho. Badhan, 1749 in *IGI* (Withington, Herefs); John

Badhan

Badhan, 1800 in *IGI* (Worcester, Worcs); Henry Badam, 1814 in *IGI* (Saint Issels, Herefs).

Badhan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 404, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- 1 Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat clan.
- 2 Welsh: an occasional variant of **Badham**.

Badiani

- **Current frequencies:** GB 246, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (Gujarat): Hindu (Lohana), from *Badi-* (a reduction of an ancestral name) + the suffix *-ani* denoting derivation from (i.e. 'descendant of').
- Further information:** This name is also found among people from Sind, Pakistan, who have migrated into India.

Badkin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 64, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 54
- **Main GB location 1881:** Midlands: esp. Derbys and Staffs

English: (i) variant of **Bodkin**. (ii) in some cases, it may alternatively be a variant of **Batkin** with voicing of /t/ to /d/. Compare John Badekyn, 1312, John Batekyn, 1327 in *Kent Place-Names* p. 492.

Early bearers: Thomas Badekyn, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Sible Hedingham, Essex); Margeria Badkin, 1614 in *IGI* (Hanbury, Staffs); An Badkin, 1616 in *IGI* (Howden, ER Yorks); William Badkin, 1710 in *IGI* (Marden, Kent); Rich. Badkin, 1726 in *IGI* (Rosliston, Derbys); Ann Badkin, 1771 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx).

Badland

- **Current frequencies:** GB 149, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 117
- **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs

English: locative name probably from Badland in Kinnerton (Radnors).

Early bearers: [. . .] Badelonde, 1343 in *National Library of Wales* (Radnor Court Rolls); William Badlond', 1431 in *Feet of Fines* (Shrops); William Baydelond', 1433 in *Feet of Fines* (Herefs); Richard Badlond, 1450 in *Patent Rolls* (Worcester, Worcs); Annes Badland, 1553 in *IGI* (Kingsland, Herefs); Stephen Badlande, 1589 in *Shrops Archives* (Bircher, Herefs).

References: Charles, B. C. (1938) *Non-Celtic place-names of Wales* London: University of London, p. 174.

Badley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 317, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 322
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs; Staffs

English: see **Baddeley**.

Badman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 616, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 425
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset
- English: nickname from Middle English *badde* 'bad' in one of its various applications (e. g. 'wicked', 'worthless', 'unfortunate') + *mann* 'man'.
- Early bearers:** Simon Bademan, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); John Bademan, 1375 in *London Pleas*; Johannes Badman', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Willoughby,

Warwicks); Edmund Badman, 1584 in *PROB 11* (Yatton, Somerset); John Badman, 1589 in *IGI* (Portishead, Somerset).

Badnall

Variants: **Badnell**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 26
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs

English: locative name from Baden Hall in Eccleshall (Staffs). There may well have been some confusion with **Bagnall**.

Early bearers: Robert de Badenhale, 1242 in *Book of Fees* (Staffs); William de Badenhale, 1299, Nicholas de Bedenhale, 1300 in *Assize Rolls* (Staffs); Margreat Badnall, 1563, Henery Badnal, 1690 in *IGI* (Standon, Staffs); Anna Badnall, 1586, Elizabeth Badnol, 1657 in *IGI* (Eccleshall, Staffs); Elizabetha Badnol, 1605 in *IGI* (Childrey, Berks); Johannes Badnall, 1661 in *IGI* (Norton in Hales, Shrops); Anne Badnell, 1681 in *IGI* (Marcham, Berks).

References: *Staffs Place-Names*, p. 97.

Badnell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 42, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 18
- **Main GB location 1881:** Berks

English: see **Badnall**.

Badock

- **Current frequencies:** GB 30, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 18
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

English: see **Baddock**.

Badrick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 233, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 178
- **Main GB location 1881:** Bucks

English: see **Betteridge**.

Badrock

- **Current frequencies:** GB 174, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 76
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire

English: see **Betteridge**.

Badwal

- **Current frequencies:** GB 136, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat clan.

Baer

Variants: **Behr**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 139, Ireland 9
- **GB frequency 1881:** 30
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx

1 German: (i) nickname (**Bär**), from Middle High German *ber* 'bear', denoting someone thought to resemble the animal in some way, or perhaps one who kept a performing bear. (ii) locative name for someone who lived at a house distinguished by the sign of a bear. (iii) relationship name, possibly a shortened form of some Continental Germanic personal name containing the element meaning 'bear'.

Early bearers: Louis Baer, professor of music, born in Germany, in *Census 1861* (West Derby, Lancs);

August Baer, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Liverpool, Lancs); Johann Baer, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Greenwich, London); Conrad Baer, born in Switzerland, in *Census 1881* (London); Friedrich Baer, born in Germany, in *Census 1891* (London); Otto Baer, born in Germany, *Census 1901* (Hampstead, Middx); Franz Ludwig Baer, metals merchant, born in Germany, in *Census 1911* (Manchester, Lancs).

2 Jewish (Ashkenazic): relationship name from the Yiddish male personal name *Ber*, based on the Yiddish word *ber* 'bear'.

Early bearers: Moses Baer, born in Poland, in *Census 1851* (Bethnal Green, Middx); Aaron de Baer, in *Census 1861* (Middx); Solomon de Baer, in *Census 1861* (Middx).

3 Dutch: nickname from Middle Dutch *baer* 'naked, bare'. *Debrabandere* suggests it may have denoted someone who wore ragged clothes.

Baffin

- **GB frequency 1881:** 9
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks
- English: variant of **Boffin**, itself a variant of **Boughen**, with unrounding of [o] to [a].

Bagan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 184, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 25
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lanarks; Angus

1 Scottish: possibly a variant of **Beggan**.

Early bearers: Scotland: Arthur Bagan, born in Ireland, in *Census 1841* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Felix Bagan, jute worker, born in Ireland, in *Census 1881* (Dundee, Angus); Owen Bagan, french polisher, born in Ireland, in *Census 1881* (Glasgow, Lanarks); James Bagan, born in Glasgow, in *Census 1901* (Inverkip, Renfrews); Maggie Bagan, born in Ireland, in *Census 1901* (Glasgow, Lanarks).

England: Barnard Bagan, boot and shoe maker, born in Ireland, in *Census 1851* (Liverpool, Lancs); John Bagan, labourer, born in Ireland, in *Census 1861* (Dover, Kent); William Bagan, born in Ireland, in *Census 1901* (Cardiff, Glamorgan).

2 Polish, Jewish (Ashkenazic): locative name from any of several minor places in Poland named with Polish *bagno* 'marsh'.

Bagby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 83, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 49
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs; also ER Yorks
- English: locative name from Bagby (NR Yorks).
- Early bearers:** Robert de Bagby, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); John de Bagby, 1362 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Johanne de Bagby, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (York); Richard Bagby, 1616 in *IGI* (Wombourne, Staffs); John Bagby, 1692 in *IGI* (Kirkby Fleetham, NR Yorks); John Bagbee, 1825 in *IGI* (Tipton, Staffs).

Bage

Variants: **Badge**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 620, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 210
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham and Yorks

1 English: nickname possibly from Middle English *bagge*, Anglo-Norman French *bage* 'badge, cognizance, emblem', perhaps for someone who wore one as a sign of affiliation to a family or guild.

Early forms may alternatively be for **Bagg** and some of the following bearers from SW England and the W Midlands may alternatively belong with (2).

Early bearers: Stephanus Bage, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (East Knoyle, Wilts); Robertus Bag', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Ulleskelf, WR Yorks); Hugo Bag', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Malmesbury, Wilts); Alyce Badge, 1569 in *IGI* (East Barkwith, Lincs); Rychard Badge, 1581 in *IGI* (Brixham, Devon); Lancelot Badge, 1611 in *IGI* (Watford, Herts); John Badge, 1638 in *IGI* (Maker, Cornwall); John Bage, 1663 in *IGI* (Duffield, Derbys); Elinor Badg, 1743 in *IGI* (Kingswinford, Staffs); Basil Bage, 1745 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Jubwch Baige, 1771 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Ralph Bage, in *Census 1881* (Hartlepool, Durham); Arthur Bage, in *Census 1881* (Horton in Bradford, WR Yorks).

2 English: locative name perhaps occasionally from The Bage in Dorstone, The Bage Farm in Madley, or Bage in Kington (all Herefs), with names derived from Old English *bæce* 'stream'; compare **Bache**.

Early bearers: [...] Bache, about 1220 in *Herefs Place-Names* (Herefs); William Bage, 1609 in *IGI* (Wellington, Herefs).

References: *Herefs Place-Names*, pp. 74, 140.

Bagehot

- GB frequency 1881: 5
 - Main GB location 1881: Somerset
- Norman, English: see **Baggott**.

Bagenal

- Current frequencies: GB 52, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 0
- English: see **Bagnall**.

Bagg

Variants: Bagge, Baggs

- Current frequencies: GB 391, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 523
- Main GB location 1881: widespread; esp. Dorset and Somerset

English: (i) nickname from Middle English *bagge* 'bag, pack, bundle'. The surname was common in Middle English and in some cases it may denote a bag maker. It might also have been used for a beggar: compare 'Hit is beggares rihte uorte beren bagge on bac and burgeises for to beren purses' (about 1230 in *OED*). Compare **Badger** (2). (ii) relationship name; although no examples of its independent use have been noted, this may be a patronymic from the nominative case of the Continental Germanic personal name *Bago* (*Baco*), for which see **Back**. Compare **Baglin**, **Baggett**.

Early bearers: William Bagge, 1166 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Nicholas Bagge, 1214 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Warwicks); Thomas Bagge, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Cossington, Somerset); Roberto Bagges, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Downton, Wilts); James Bagge or Bagg, 1557 in *PROB 11* (Buckland, Devon); Elizabeth Bagge, 1561 in *IGI* (Bradfield, Berks); Radulphi Bagge, 1596 in *IGI* (Shipdham, Norfolk); Thomas Bagg, 1626 in *PROB 11* (Chardstock, Dorset); William Bagg, 1635 in *PROB 11* (Winsham, Somerset).

Bagga

- Current frequencies: GB 339, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 0

Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat clan.

Baggaley

- Current frequencies: GB 1354, Ireland 5
 - GB frequency 1881: 580
 - Main GB location 1881: Notts, Derbys, and Staffs
- English: see **Baguley**.

Baggallay

- Current frequencies: GB 23, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 16
 - Main GB location 1881: London; Notts
- English: see **Baguley**.

Baggalley

- Current frequencies: GB 12, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 45
 - Main GB location 1881: Notts, Derbys, and Staffs
- English: see **Baguley**.

Baggarley

- Current frequencies: GB 39, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 12
 - Main GB location 1881: London
- English: see **Baguley**.

Bagge

- Current frequencies: GB 183, Ireland 31
 - GB frequency 1881: 153
 - Main GB location 1881: Norfolk, Suffolk, and Middx
 - Main Irish location 1847–64: Waterford
- English: see **Bagg**.

Bagger

- GB frequency 1881: 21
 - Main GB location 1881: scattered
- English: see **Badger**.

Baggett

- Current frequencies: GB 250, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 191
 - Main GB location 1881: scattered
- Norman, English: see **Baggott**.

Baggley

- Current frequencies: GB 308, Ireland 22
 - GB frequency 1881: 206
 - Main GB location 1881: Staffs; Lincs
- English: see **Bagley**.

Baggot

- Current frequencies: GB 48, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 126
 - Main GB location 1881: Staffs
- Norman, English: see **Baggott**.

Baggott

Variants: Baggot, Bagott, Bagot, Baggett, Badgett, Bagehot

- Current frequencies: GB 1584, Ireland 64
- GB frequency 1881: 870
- Main GB location 1881: W Midlands: esp. Staffs
- Main Irish location 1847–64: Limerick

Norman, English: relationship name from the Norman personal name *Bagot*, a diminutive of

Continental Germanic *Bago*, perhaps from **bag-* 'fighting'. Compare **Bagg** and **Back**.

Early bearers: given names: Bagot, about 1125 in *Staffs Chartulary*.

surnames: Herueius filius Bagot, 1130–2 in *Hatton's Book of Seals* (Staffs); Hereveus Bagod, about 1159 in *Staffs Chartulary*; Ingeram Bagot 1154–89 *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Hereficus Bachot, 1195 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Warwicks); Simon Baghot, 1198 in *Feet of Fines* (Staffs); Walter Bagot, 1201 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Yorks); Willelmus Bagotte, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Street Ashton, Warwicks); Johanne Bagot, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Weeton with Preese, Lancs); Robertus Bagot, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Coven, Staffs); Jane Bagott, 1556 in *IGI* (Alvechurch, Worcs); Willm. Baggott, 1562 in *IGI* (Bourne, Lincs); Thomas Baggott, 1604 in *IGI* (High Ercall, Shrops); John Bagot, 1612 in *IGI* (Poulton le Fylde, Lancs); Anne Baggott, 1657 in *IGI* (Wolverhampton, Staffs); John Bacot, 1695, Jenet Bagot, 1706 in *IGI* (Lytham, Lancs).

Baggridge

- Current frequencies: GB 17, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 7
- Main GB location 1881: Glamorgan

English: locative name from Baggridge in Wellow (Somerset) or a lost place called *Baggeridge* in Woodlands (Dorset).

Further information: There is also a place called Baggeridge in Sedgley (Staffs), but this does not seem to have produced a local surname.

Early bearers: William de Bagerigge, 1201, William de Baggerugge, 1207 in *Feet of Fines* (Oxon); [...] de] Bagerregge, [...] de] Bagherug', 1250, [...] de] Bagerig, 1274 in *Place-Names of Dorset* (Dorset); Walter de Baggerigg, 1274 in *Hundred Rolls* (Dorset); John Baggridge, 1597 in *IGI* (Forscote, Somerset); George Baggeridge, 1759 in *IGI* (Siston, Gloucs); Martha Bageridge, 1779 in *IGI* (Bedminster, Somerset); Francis Bagridge, 1790 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs).

References: *Ekwall*, *DEPN*; *Place-Names of Dorset* 2, pp. 284–5; *Staffs Place-Names*, pp. 97–8.

Baggs

- Current frequencies: GB 630, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 692
- Main GB location 1881: S England: esp. Hants, Dorset, and Somerset

English: variant of **Bagg** with genitival or excrescent -s.

Early bearers: George Bagges, 1561 in *IGI* (Hinton Waldrist, Berks); Joannes Bagges, 1580 in *IGI* (Wedmore, Somerset); Richard Baggs, 1594 in *IGI* (Greatford, Lincs); Thomas Baggs, 1617 in *IGI* (Madron, Cornwall); Elinor Baggs, 1694 in *IGI* (Winchester, Hants).

Bagguley

- Current frequencies: GB 511, Ireland 1
 - GB frequency 1881: 209
 - Main GB location 1881: Staffs; Notts
- English: see **Baguley**.

Bagha

- Current frequencies: GB 137, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 0

Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat clan.

Baghurst

Variants: **Backhurst**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 121, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 71
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs and Wilts

English: locative name from Baughurst (Hants), which is recorded as *Baggeherst* in 1175 but has been influenced by the minor name *Haughurst* (*Hauekehrst* in 1256) in the same parish, giving rise to strains of the surname with *-au-* or *-o-*, on the one hand, and *-a-* on the other.

Early bearers: Ralph Baghurst, 1363–4 in *TNA* (Sheffield, Burghfield, Berks); John de Boghurst, chaplain, 1374 in *Lancs Record Office*; Walter Boghurst, 1376–7 in *TNA* (Meopham, Kent); John Bogherst, 1571 in *IGI* (Cuxton, Kent); Henry Boggast, 1576 in *IGI* (Meopham, Kent); Jone Boghurst, 1579 in *IGI* (Offham, Kent); John Baghurst, 1623 in *IGI* (Brimpton, Berks); Richard Bagust, 1660 in *IGI* (Ufton Nervet, Berks); Thome Baghurst, 1668, Henry Bogust, 1688, John Boggust, 1701 in *IGI* (Clanfield, Hants); John Backhurst, 1688 in *IGI* (Cranleigh, Surrey); Rebacka Baughurst, 1721 in *IGI* (Rochester, Kent); Anne Jane Baughurst, 1757 in *IGI* (Basingstoke, Hants); Richard Baghurst, 1781 in *IGI* (Awre with Blakeney, Gloucs); Martha Baghurst, 1796 in *IGI* (Baughurst, Hants).

References: *Hampshire Place-Names*, p. 30.

Bagilhole

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 6
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: see **Beaglehole**.

Baglee

- **Current frequencies:** GB 95, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 66
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham and Cumb
- English: see **Bagley**.

Bagley

Variants: **Baggley**, **Baglee**, **Baglow**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3024, Ireland 16
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2212
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Staffs, Warwicks, and Shrops
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork; Kildare

1 English: see **Baguley**.

2 English: locative name from one or more of the places named Bagley, such as Bagley Farm in Tickhill and Bagley in Farsley (both WR Yorks), Bagley in Hordley (Shrops), Bagley in Wellington and Bagley in Wedmore (both Somerset), and Bagley in Axminster (Devon).

Early bearers: [... de] Baggylecth, 1271–2 in *Place-Names of Shrops* (Shrops); [... de] Bakelegh', 1281, [... de] Bakeleye, 1327 in *Place-Names of Devon* (Devon); Thomas de Baggeleghe, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); Walther de Baglay, about 1345 in *Calverley Charters* (WR Yorks); Ralph de Baggeley, 1362 in *Patent Rolls*; Johannes Baglay, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Farsley, WR Yorks); Willelmus de Bagley, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Stancill, WR Yorks); Willelmus de Baglay, Johannes de Bagly, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Tickhill, WR Yorks); John Bagley, 1581 in *IGI* (Shrewsbury, Shrops); John Bagley, 1603 in *IGI* (Dudley, Staffs); Richard Backley, 1668, Arthur Bagley, 1724 in *IGI* (Ellesmere, Shrops); Jesper Backley, 1689 in *IGI*

(Dartmouth, Devon); John Baglah, 1752 in *IGI*

(Barton in Fabis, Notts).

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 1, p. 53; 3, p. 230; *Place-Names of Shrops* 5, p. 71; *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 635.

Baglin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 235, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 165
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

Norman, English: relationship name from the Old French personal name *Baguelin*, *Baglin*, a diminutive of Continental Germanic *Bago* (*Baco*). Compare

Bagg, **Bacon**.

Early bearers: Willelmus Bagelin de Morgan, 1230, Edmund Bagelan, late warrenner of the duke of Brittany, 1340 in *Patent Rolls*; William Bagelin, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); Dorcas Baglin, 1662 in *IGI* (Coaley, Gloucs); Richard Baglan, 1667, Joseph Baglin, 1678 in *IGI* (Cam, Gloucs); Richard Baglin, 1684 in *IGI* (Leonard Stanley, Gloucs); Rachell Baglin, 1691, Elizebeth Bagling, 1693 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb).

Baglole

- **Current frequencies:** GB 16, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 27
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: see **Beaglehole**.

Baglow

- **Current frequencies:** GB 222, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 62
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: variant of **Bagley**.

Bagnal

- **GB frequency 1881:** 105
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs
- English: see **Bagnall**.

Bagnall

Variants: **Bagnal**, **Bagnell**, **Bagenal**, **Bagnold**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3524, Ireland 428
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2571
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Leinster: esp. Offaly

English: locative name either from Bagnall (Staffs), which is recorded as *Badegehall*, *Baginhal*, *Baginholt* in the 13th century, or from Bagnall in Alrewas (also Staffs), which is recorded as *Bagenhale*, *Bagganhal* in the 13th century. There may well have been some confusion with **Badnall**.

Further information: In the 16th century the name was taken to Ireland, where it became well established.

Early bearers: England: William de Bagenhale, 1283 in *Patent Rolls*; William de Bagenholt, 1299 in *Assize Rolls* (Bagnall, Staffs); Roger de Baggenhull, 1307 in *Assize Rolls* (Newcastle under Lyme, Staffs); Nicho' de Bagynholt, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Fenton, Staffs); Thoma de Bagynholt, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Endon, Staffs); Henr' de Bagynholt, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Grindon, Staffs); John Bagenelle, 1379 in *London Letter Books H*; Willelmo Bagnall', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Derby, Derbys); Raphe Bagnall, 1543 in *IGI* (Nantwich, Cheshire); Ralph Bagnall, Bagnold, Bagenall alias Bagnald, 1561 in *Patent Rolls*; Eliz. Bagnall, 1563 in *IGI* (Trentham, Staffs); Sarah

Bagnall, 1808 in *IGI* (Bucknall cum Bagnall, Staffs);

Ann Bagnall, 1846 in *IGI* (Alrewas, Staffs).

Ireland: N. Bagnoll, chief commissioner of Ulster (Louth excepted), 1577 in *Fiants Elizabeth*; Henry Bagnoll, 1577 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §3021.

References: *Staffs Place-Names*, p. 98.

Bagnell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 102, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 194
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Offaly, Meath, and Dublin,

English: see **Bagnall**.

Bagnold

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 7
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx

English: see **Bagnall**.

Bagot

- **Current frequencies:** GB 310, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 419
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

Norman, English: see **Baggott**.

Bagott

- **Current frequencies:** GB 19, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 143
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and Worcs

Norman, English: see **Baggott**.

Bagri

- **Current frequencies:** GB 226, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat clan.

Bagrie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 16, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 66
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Aberdeens, also Banffs
- Scottish: see **Beagrie**.

Bagshaw

Variants: **Bagshawe**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2703, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2376
- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys, WR Yorks, and Lancs

English: locative name from Bagshaw in Chapel en le Frith (Derbys).

Early bearers: Robert de Baggeshagh, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Derbys); William de Baggeshaugh, 1339 in *Derbys Charters*; Willelmus de Bagshaw, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Bowden, Derbys); William de Bagshagh, 1397 in *Feet of Fines* (Derbys); William Bagshaugh, 1434 in *Patent Rolls* (Chapel en le Frith, Derbys); Margerie Bagshaw, 1559 in *IGI* (Stainton by Tickhill, WR Yorks); Thomas Bagsha, 1565, Thomas Bagshae, 1572 in *Petre Documents*; Alicia Bagshaw, 1565 in *IGI* (Chesterfield, Derbys); Henrie Bagshawe, 1575 in *IGI* (Lichfield, Staffs).

References: *Place-Names of Derbys*, p. 60.

Bagshawe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 95, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 149

- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys and WR Yorks
- English: see **Bagshaw**.

Bagster

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 84
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey; Devon; Leics
- English: see **Baxter**.

Baguley

Variants: **Bagguley, Baggaley, Baggallay, Baggalley, Baggarley, Bagley**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1100, Ireland 14
- **GB frequency 1881:** 837
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts; Cheshire and Lancs
- English: locative name from Baguley (Cheshire).
- Early bearers:** Peter de Baggeleg', 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cheshire); Hugo de Bageley, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Redditch, Lancs); James Baguley, 1413 in *Patent Rolls* (All Saints, York); John Baguley, 1527 in *Coroners' Rolls* (Notts); William Baguley, 1548 in *IGI* (Middleton by Oldham, Lancs); Willialmus Baggeley, 1560 in *IGI* (Runcorn, Cheshire); Margareta Baggulay, 1577 in *IGI* (Belton in Axholme, Lincs); Mary Bagula, 1608 in *IGI* (Nottingham, Notts); Robert Baguly, 1618 in *IGI* (Didsbury, Lancs); Isaake Bagaley, 1629 in *IGI* (Winthorpe, Notts); Thomas Baggerly, 1644 in *IGI* (Breedon on the Hill, Leics); Elizabeth Baglow, 1675 in *IGI* (South Collingham, Notts); Richard Baggala, 1693 in *IGI* (Snelland, Lincs); Thomas Baggalow, 1697 in *IGI* (Mansfield, Notts); Robt. Baggerlow, 1715 in *IGI* (Laxton, Notts); Joseph Baggalow, 1716 in *IGI* (Mansfield, Notts); Elizth Baggella, 1722 in *IGI* (Wickenby, Lincs); John Baggurly, 1741 in *IGI* (Barton in Fabis, Notts).

Bagwell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 537, Ireland 9
- **GB frequency 1881:** 248
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon, Dorset, and Somerset
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Tipperary
- English: variant of **Backwell** with voicing of /k/ to /g/ between a vowel and a voiced consonant.
- Early bearers:** Geoffrey Bagwell, 1374–5 in *Norwich Leet Jurisdiction* (Norfolk); Johane Baggwell, 1539 in *IGI* (Colyton, Devon); John Bagwell, 1560 in *IGI* (South Perrott, Dorset); Wilmott Bagwill, 1571 in *IGI* (West Buckland, Somerset); Elizabeth Bagwell, 1584 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); John Bagwell, Nicholas Baggwell, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Devon).

Bagworth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 117, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 89
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs and Leics
- English: locative name from Bagworth (Leics).
- Early bearers:** William de Baggeworth, 1340 in *Patent Rolls* (Leics); Alicia de Bagworth', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Bagworth, Leics); Walterus de Bagworth, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Baunstone, Leics); John de Bagworth, king's serjeant at arms, 1344 in *Patent Rolls* (Westminster, Middx); Robert Bagworth, 1575 in *IGI* (Lowdham, Notts); Robrte Bagworth, 1589 in *IGI* (Corby, Lincs); Nycholas Bagworth, 1608 in *IGI* (Wymondham, Leics).

Bah

Variants: **Baah**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 782, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- Ghanaian or other West African: (i) possibly from Akan *ba* 'child' or *baa* 'branch'. (ii) possibly from Mandinka *baa* 'big, great'.
- Further information:** Names from languages in this region which end in a vowel are often anglicized by the addition of a final *-h*. Compare for instance **Mensah**.

Bahadur

- **Current frequencies:** GB 324, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (northern states): Hindu (Kayasth) name in the Mathur subgroup.

Bahar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 317, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Muslim (Turkey, Iran, Pakistan) and Jewish (Sephardic): (i) from a personal name based on Persian *bahar* 'spring'. (ii) possibly also from a personal name based on Arabic *bāhir* 'splendid, brilliant'.
- References:** *Ahmed*

Bahia

- **Current frequencies:** GB 652, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat clan.

Bahl

- **Current frequencies:** GB 153, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- Indian (Panjab): Hindu (Khatri) and Sikh, based on the name of a clan in the Khatri community, which is probably a derivative of Sanskrit *bahala* 'strong'.

Bahra

- **Current frequencies:** GB 688, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat clan.

Bai

- **Current frequencies:** GB 316, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- 1 Chinese: Mandarin form of the Chinese surnames 白 and 柏, see **Pak** (1) and (2).
- 2 Korean: (i) (배, *Pae*; Chinese character: 裴) said to be borne by descendants of Chi T'a (祗沱), one of the legendary six elders who established Pak Hyökköse as the Shilla kingdom's first king. In AD 56, in recognition of his support, the Shilla king Yuri Isagūm (AD 24–57) bestowed upon Chi T'a the surname 裴 (*Bai*). However, nothing more is known about his descendants. (ii) The person normally cited as the founding ancestor of Bai families in Korea was originally named Paek Ok (白玉). The Koryō king T'ae Cho (太祖) Wan Kōn (王建) renamed him Bai Hyūn-kyōng (裴玄慶) in honour of his meritorious service in the founding of the Koryō Kingdom in AD 918.

Baid

- **Current frequencies:** GB 41, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4
- English: see **Bade**.

Baidoo

- **Current frequencies:** GB 182, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Ghanaian: unexplained.

Baig

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2121, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- 1 Muslim: nickname, Muslim (common in Pakistan), from the Turkish word *bey* 'bey', originally a title denoting a local administrator in the Ottoman Empire, but subsequently widely used as a title of respect; also from an Albanian or other form of the same Turkish word, perhaps taken from an archaic spelling *beg* representing *beğ*.
- 2 Scottish: variant of **Begg** (1).
- Early bearers:** Scotland: Grissell Baig, 1652 in *IGI* (Dalkeith, Midlothian); John Baig, 1683 in *IGI* (Dron, Perth); Robert Baig, 1767 in *IGI* (Crichton, Midlothian); David Baig, in *Census 1841* (Perth); Alexander Baig, in *Census 1861* (Midlothian); Molder Baig, in *Census 1901* (Lanarks).
- England: Joseph Baig, in *Census 1841* (Shrops); Edward Baig, in *Census 1841* (Kent); Edward T. Baig, in *Census 1891* (London).

Baigent

Variants: **Begent, Bidgen**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 524, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 408
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey and Hants
- Norman, English, French, Flemish: (i) possibly, like **Bowgen** and **Budgen**, a variant of **Beauchamp**. Old French *Beau-* often appears as *Be-* and *Bay-* in English surnames. The *-ch-* has been voiced and an excrescent *-t* has been added. (ii) nickname, perhaps the French name **Beaujean**, Flemish **Beaujan(t)**, **Bejean**, from Old French *bel Jehan* 'handsome John', + excrescent *-t*. It could have been introduced to England in the 15th or 16th century by Flemish migrants.
- Early bearers:** Alis Bagiant, 1568 in *IGI* (Folkestone, Kent); Samll Bagent, 1577 in *IGI* (Eastry, Kent); Thomas Badgent, 1595, Anne Begent, 1633, Susan Bedgeant, 1666 in *IGI* (Dover, Kent); William Begent, 1667 in *IGI* (Staines, Middx); Aaron Baigent, 1703 in *IGI* (Guildford, Surrey); John Baigent, 1709 in *IGI* (Rotherwick, Hants).
- References:** *Morlet, Dictionnaire; Debrabandere*.

Baigrie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 150, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 39
- **Main GB location 1881:** Aberdeens
- Scottish: see **Beagrie**.

Baiker

- **GB frequency 1881:** 8
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex
- English: see **Baker**.

Baikie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 248, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 414

Bail

• **Main GB location 1881:** Orkney; Caithness
Scottish: locative name probably from Beaquoy in Birsay (Orkney), according to Clouston, who says '[t]here was certainly a family of Beaquoy of Beaquoy, and the odal lands of the Baikies, afterwards of Tankerness, certainly lay in the near neighbourhood.' Black suggests, however, that it may originally be from the old manor of Baikie in Angus (*Beaqui*, in 1565), and transferred to Orkney. Marwick records the Orkney place-name as *Beaqui* in 1492, *Beaquoy* in 1500.
Early bearers: John Baikie, 1643 in *Acts of Parliaments of Scotland* (Kirkwall, Orkney); Rot. Bai ky, 1668 in *IGI* (South Ronaldsay, Orkney); Thomas Backie, 1697 in *New Spalding Miscellany* (Kirkwall, Orkney); Geo Bai ky, 1708 in *IGI* (Canisbay, Caithness).
References: Clouston, *Surnames of Orkney*, p. 33; Black, pp. 41–2; *Birsay Place-Names*, p. 84.

Bail

• **Current frequencies:** GB 155, Ireland 8
• **GB frequency 1881:** 178
• **Main GB location 1881:** Herts and Bucks; Leics
1 English: see **Bale**.
2 Indian (Karnataka): locative name, Hindu (Brahman), probably from Tulu *bail* 'low-lying land' (Dravidian *vayal* 'plain, field').

Baildon

Variants: Bayldon, Beldan, Beldon
• **Current frequencies:** GB 51, Ireland 0
• **GB frequency 1881:** 106
• **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
English: locative name from Baildon (WR Yorks).
Early bearers: Hugh de Beyldon, 1251 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Henry de Bayldon, 1372 in *Feet of Fines* (Yorks); Johannes de Baildon, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Calverley, WR Yorks); John Baildon, 1550 in *IGI* (Dewsbury, WR Yorks); Robart Baildon, 1625 in *IGI* (Baildon, WR Yorks); Janie Baildon, 1672 in *Hearth Tax* (Yorks).

Baile

• **Current frequencies:** GB 55, Ireland 5
• **GB frequency 1881:** 57
• **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Carmarthens
• **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Louth; Down
English: see **Bale**.

Baileff

• **Current frequencies:** GB 20, Ireland 0
• **GB frequency 1881:** 8
• **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb
English: see **Bayliff**.
Early bearers: Aaron Baileff, 1763 in *IGI* (Ecclesfield, WR Yorks); John Baileff, 1766 in *IGI* (Ousby, Cumb).

Bailer

• **GB frequency 1881:** 26
• **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
English: see **Baylor**.

Bailes

• **Current frequencies:** GB 1026, Ireland 12
• **GB frequency 1881:** 558
• **Main GB location 1881:** Durham
English: see **Bales**.

Bailless

• **Current frequencies:** GB 40, Ireland 0
• **GB frequency 1881:** 40
• **Main GB location 1881:** Leics
English: see **Bayliss**.

Bailey

Variants: Baillie, Baily, Baylie, Bayley, Baylay, Bayly, Baly, Baley, Bally
• **Current frequencies:** GB 67670, Ireland 1499
• **GB frequency 1881:** 44697
• **Main GB location 1881:** widespread; esp. WR Yorks, Lancs, Cheshire, and Staffs
• **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread; esp. Down and Antrim
1 English: occupational name from Middle English *bailli* 'manager, administrator' (Old French *bailli(s)*, *baillif* and thus identical in origin with **Bayliff**). This has become the most common form of the surname, having fallen together with other origins (see 2 and 3 below), but as a vocabulary word it has dropped out of use. Compare Scottish **Baillie**.
Early bearers: Roger le bayly, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Suffolk); John Baly, 1274 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (WR Yorks); Thomas Bailie, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Thomas le Baly, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Ricardus Bailly, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Weare Giffard, Devon); Thomas Bailly, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Great Oakley, Essex); Thomas Baili, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Bushby, Leics); Thomas Bailli, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Dodford, Northants); Rogero Baily, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Allensmore, Herefs); Johanne Balie, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Westm); Johannes Baillie, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Settle, WR Yorks); Thoma Baili, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Aston Blank, Gloucs); Simone le Bailly, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Great Barr, Staffs); William Bailye, 1559 in *IGI* (Caddington, Beds); Petronel Bailey, 1561 in *IGI* (Stanford Rivers, Essex); Marcy Bailey, 1562 in *IGI* (Saint Andrew by the Wardrobe, London); William Bailey, 1563 in *IGI* (Ashbourne, Derbys); George Baylee, 1563 in *IGI* (Barnstaple, Devon); John Bailey, 1569 in *IGI* (Birmingham, Warwicks); William Bailey, 1588 in *IGI* (Little Plumstead, Norfolk); Ann Bailly, 1620 in *IGI* (Shenington, Oxon); William Bailley, 1627 in *IGI* (Westbourne, Sussex).
2 English: locative name from Bailey in Little Mitton (Lancs).
Early bearers: Elias de Baillee, 1204 in *Feet of Fines* (Lancs); Ralph de Baylegh, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Jordan de Bailegh, 1257 in *Lancs Inquests* (Lancs); Johannes de Baylag, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Appletreewick, WR Yorks); Ricardo de Bayley, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Ribby with Wrea, Lancs); Willelmus Baylay, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Pontefract, WR Yorks); John Bailey, 1526 in *York Registry Wills* (Great Mitton, WR Yorks); Ralph Bailey, 1602 in *IGI* (Bispham with Norbreck, Lancs); Martha Baylay, 1614 in *IGI* (Almondbury, WR Yorks).
References: Redmonds, *Dictionary of Yorks Surnames; Lancs Place-Names*, p. 141.
3 English: locative name, occupational name, occasionally from Middle English (Old French) *bailli* 'the wall surrounding a castle or fortified city' or 'the court within such a wall'. Dyonisya *en la baillie* owned houses and shops in the Old Bailey, London, 1319 in *Subsidy Rolls* (London). Compare **Bale**.
Early bearers: John ate Baylie, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent).

Bailhache

• **Current frequencies:** GB 28, Ireland 0
• **GB frequency 1881:** 52
• **Main GB location 1881:** Jersey
Norman, French: (i) nickname apparently from Old French and Norman French (including Channel Islands) *baille hache* 'give axe', perhaps used as an occupational nickname for a woodman or an executioner. Compare **Balhatchet**. But continental French records almost invariably include the preposition *de*, suggesting a place-name origin. (ii) also later continental French, witness the 1701 'Draft of an Act for naturalizing . . . John Baillehache . . .' (possibly the Southampton merchant of that name).
Further information: Payne's *Armorial of Jersey*, p. 34, says that it is on record in Jersey since the *Extente de Jersey* of 1331. 'The Norman stem is traced from Raoul de Baillehache, living near Caen in 1305, where the name is and has been variously spelt, *Ballehache*, *de Bellehache*, *de Bailhache*, *de Baillhache*, *de Balliehache*, and *de Baillehache*.'
Early bearers: given names: Baylehache marescallus, 1154 in *Stenton, Feudalism* (Suffolk).
surnames: John Baillehache, 1418 in *Deputy Keeper's Report*, p. 41; John Baillehache of that Isle of Jerzey, marchand, 1615 in *Privy Council* 34, p. 96; Nicholas Baillehache, 1666 in *Ordres du Conseil*.

Bailie

• **Current frequencies:** GB 463, Ireland 115
• **GB frequency 1881:** 415
• **Main GB location 1881:** Scotland; also N England; esp. Cumb
• **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down
Scottish: see **Baillie**.

Bailliff

• **Current frequencies:** GB 126, Ireland 0
• **GB frequency 1881:** 99
• **Main GB location 1881:** Cumb
English: see **Bayliff**.

Bailiss

• **Current frequencies:** GB 116, Ireland 0
• **GB frequency 1881:** 59
• **Main GB location 1881:** Leics, Warwicks, Worcs, and Gloucs
English: see **Bayliss**.

Baillargeon

• **GB frequency 1881:** 0
French: diminutive of **Baillarger**, a nickname for a cereal farmer, from *baillarge* 'species of barley with double-row heads'.
Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in North America, where some branches of the family have adopted the names Roe or Rowe as an English equivalent.

Baillie

Variants: Bailie, Bailie
• **Current frequencies:** GB 5068, Ireland 88
• **GB frequency 1881:** 3081
• **Main GB location 1881:** Scotland
• **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down; Dublin
1 Scottish: from Older Scots *baillie*, see **Bailey**. In Scotland, a baillie was the chief magistrate or administrative officer of a barony or part of a county.

Early bearers: Robert Baillie, 1595 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); William Bailie, 1608 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Jonat Baillie, 1610 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks); Margaret Bailie, 1652 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks).

2 Scottish: locative name from Older Scots *bailli* ‘outer court of a castle’; see **Bailey** (3) and **Bale**.
Early bearers: William de Bailli, 1311–12 in *Scotland Calendar*, 1315 in *Morton Register, Scotland*.

Bailor

- **GB frequency 1881:** 10
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks
- English: see **Baylor**.

Bails

- **GB frequency 1881:** 23
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Bales**.

Bailward

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants

English: occupational name perhaps for the guardian of a court or bailey, from Middle English *bail(e)* (see **Bale**) + *ward* ‘guardian’. However, given the absence of any medieval evidence, the surname may rather be a variant of **Ballard** with hypercorrect *-w-*.

Early bearers: George Balward, 1611 in *IGI* (Winwick, Lancs); Ralph Balward, 1681 in *IGI* (Great Mongeham, Kent); Julia Susannah Bailward, 1794 in *IGI* (Horsington, Somerset); Benjamin Bailward, 1799 in *IGI* (Trowbridge, Wilts).

Baily

- **Current frequencies:** GB 713, Ireland 81
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1886
- **Main GB location 1881:** S England: esp. Somerset and Wilts
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Cork

English: see **Bailey**.

Baimbridge

- **Current frequencies:** GB 85, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 99
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham; Derbys and Leics

English: see **Bainbridge**.

Bain

Variants: Baine, Bayne, Bane, Baines, Bawn

- **Current frequencies:** GB 8200, Ireland 141
- **GB frequency 1881:** 7408
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland: esp. Caithness; Lanarks, Midlothian, Aberdeens
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim and Down

1 Scottish Gaelic, Manx: nickname from Scottish Gaelic *bàn*, Irish *bán* ‘white’, i. e. fair-haired. As a Manx name (spelled *Bane*) this may be a reduced form of Manx *Macguilley Vane*, equivalent to Irish *Mac Giolla Bháin* ‘son of the fair youth’. Compare Irish **Kilbane**.

Early bearers: Scotland: Malise Bane, 1320 in *Lennox Cartulary* (Killearn, Dunbartons); Thomas Ban, 1324 in *Perth Blackfriars* (Perth, Perth); John Bane, burgess, 1423 in *Edinburgh Register* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); William Bayn, 1467 in *Cupar-Angus*

Rental Book (Keithick, Perth); Duncan Bayne, burgess, 1542 in *Great Seal of Scotland* (Dingwall, Ross and Cromarty); Besse Bain, 1586 in *IGI* (Dunfermline, Fife); Alexander Bane, 1638 in *IGI* (Tranent, E Lothian); Grizel Bane, 1701 in *IGI* (Crieff, Perth).

Ireland: Morghe Bane O’Horan, 1567 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1038 (Baligoghan, Carlow); Walter Bane Fitz Richard, gent., 1567 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1038 (Carlow); Thomas Bane, fisherman, 1582–3 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §4115 (Dongarvan, Waterford).

2 Irish, Scottish Gaelic: from **Mac B(h)eathain**, see **McBain**.

3 English: (i) nickname from Middle English *beyn*, *bayn*, Old Scandinavian *beinn* ‘straight, direct’, also meaning ‘ready to serve, hospitable’. (ii) nickname from northern Middle English *bān*, *bain* ‘bone, leg’ (Old English *bān*, Old Scandinavian *bein*), denoting someone with a gammy leg, perhaps. Compare **Legg**.

Early bearers: Richard Beine, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Camsb); John Bayne, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); William Bayn, 1323 in *Assize Rolls* (Staffs); Johannes Bayn, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Buckland, Gloucs); Carolann Bain, 1592 in *IGI* (Wokingham, Berks); Edward Bain, 1640 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); Sarah Bain, 1660 in *IGI* (Harpندن, Herts); Job Bain, 1674 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); John Bain, 1682 in *IGI* (Ripley, WR Yorks).

4 English: variant of **Bane** (1).

Bainbridge

Variants: Bainbrigge, Baimbridge, Benbridge, Bembridge, Bambridge

- **Current frequencies:** GB 6846, Ireland 41
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 4202
 - **Main GB location 1881:** N England; esp. Durham
- English: locative name from Bainbridge (NR Yorks).
Early bearers: Matilda de Baynbrigg’, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Bainbridge, NR Yorks); Rogerus de Baynbryg’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Dent, WR Yorks); Willelmus de Baynbrig’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Nun Monkton, WR Yorks); Johannes de Baynbrig’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Aldbrough, WR Yorks); Henricus de Baynbrig, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lonsdale wapentake, Lancs); Morker’ Baynbrigg’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Markington, WR Yorks); Elizabeth Benbridge, 1560, Elyzabeth Bainbridge, 1622, Robert Baimbridge, 1632, Henry Bembridge, 1639 in *IGI* (Long Bennington, Lincs); James Bainbridge, 1579 in *IGI* (Winston, Durham); Willm Baimbridge, 1603 in *IGI* (Norton, Durham); John Bainbridge, 1613 in *IGI* (Brompton by Sawdon, NR Yorks).

Bainbrigge

- **Current frequencies:** GB 29, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 25

English: see **Bainbridge**.

Baine

- **Current frequencies:** GB 45, Ireland 91
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 226
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Renfrews
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim
- Irish, Scottish: see **Bain**.

Baines

Variants: Bains, Baynes, Banes

- **Current frequencies:** GB 8982, Ireland 50
- **GB frequency 1881:** 5673
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and WR Yorks

- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Mayo

1 Norman, English, Scottish: locative name from places in France called Bains, in either Ille-et-Vilaine or Maine-et-Loire.

Further information: There is no evidence to support derivation from a plural form of Middle English *bain* ‘bath’, nor from northern Middle English *banes*, *baines* ‘bones’, plural of *ban*.

Early bearers: England: Serlo Baynes, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); William Banes, 1246, Roger Bayns, 1277 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); John de Bayns, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Lincs); Thomas de Baines, 1333 in *York Freeman’s Register*; Thomas de Baines, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Doncaster, WR Yorks); Thomas Baynes, 1446 in *York Freeman’s Register* (York).

Scotland: Alexander Banyns, 1541 in *Criminal Trials in Scotland*; Thomas Banis, 1583, and Archibald Beanes, 1633 in *New Spalding Miscellany* (Saint Andrews, Fife); Andrew Baines, 1676 in *Register of Edinburgh Marriages* (Edinburgh, Midlothian).

References: *Dauzat and Rostaing*, at **Bains**.

2 English, Scottish: nickname variant of **Bain** or **Bane** with post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Bains

- **Current frequencies:** GB 4422, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 738
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Durham; also Notts and Lincs

1 Norman, English, Scottish: see **Baines**.

2 Indian (Panjab): Sikh name based on that of a Jat tribe.

Bainton

Variants: Baynton, Bayntun

- **Current frequencies:** GB 374, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 390
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts; also ER Yorks and Lincs

1 English: locative name from Baynton in Edington (Wilts).

Early bearers: [. . . de] Beinton, 1203 in *Place-Names of Wilts* (Wilts); John Beynton, 1453 in *Place-Names of Wilts* (Wilts); Prudence Bainton, 1570 in *IGI* (Bromham, Wilts).

References: *Place-Names of Wilts*, pp. 92, 141.

2 English: locative name from Bainton (ER Yorks).

Early bearers: Turstan de Baynton’, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Walter de Bayntona, 1297 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Beverly, ER Yorks); Roberto de Baynton’, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (York); Johannes de Baynton’, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Middleton on the Wolds, ER Yorks); Johanne de Baynton’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Derby, Derbys); Thomas Baynton’, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Kirkburn, ER Yorks); Janeta Bainton, 1552 in *IGI* (Howden, ER Yorks).

References: *Place-Names of ER Yorks*, p. 165.

3 English: locative name perhaps also from Bainton (Northants) or Bainton in Stoke Lyne (Oxon), both of which are recorded as *Badin(g)ton* in the 12th and 13th centuries.

Early bearers: [. . . de] Badint’, about 1200, [. . . de] Badington’, 1240–1 in *Place-Names of Oxon* (Oxon); William de Baynton’, 1361 in *Feet of Fines* (Warwicks); Jhes Baynton, labourer, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Stoke Doyle, Northants).

References: *Place-Names of Northants*, p. 229; *Place-Names of Oxon*, p. 237.

Baird

Baird

Variants: **Beaird**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 8236, Ireland 1203
- **GB frequency 1881:** 6389
- **Main GB location 1881:** Scotland: esp. SW Scotland
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Ulster

Scottish: common pronunciation of **Bard** in Scotland.

Bairnsfather

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 41
- **Main GB location 1881:** E Scotland; also Durham

Scottish: Scottish equivalent of **Barnfather**.

Early bearers: Robert Bairnsfather, 1621 in *IGI* (Newbattle, Midlothian); John Bairnsfather, 1667 in *IGI* (North Berwick, E Lothian); Majorie Bairnsfather, 1678 in *IGI* (Duns, Berwicks).

Bairstow

Variants: **Barstow**, **Bastow**, **Baistow**, **Beastall**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 970, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1054
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: locative name from a lost place called *Bairstow* in Southowram (WR Yorks).

Early bearers: Ralph de Bayrestowe, 1277 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (Hipperholme, WR Yorks); Thomas de Barstowe, 1348 in *Derbys Archaeological Journal* 36; Radulfus de Baystow, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Darley, Derbys); Roberti Bairstow, 1548, Edward Bayr stall, 1568, Wm. Barstow, 1593, John Baistow, 1785 in *IGI* (Halifax, WR Yorks); Samuele Bairstow, 1624 in *IGI* (Wakefield, WR Yorks).

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 3, p. 90.

Baisbrown

Variants: **Bisbrown**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 23, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 31
- **Main GB location 1881:** Westm

English: locative name from Baysbrown in Langdale (Westm).

Early bearers: William Basbroun, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Irtton with Santon, Cumb); Christopher Baysbrown, 1494 in *York Freeman’s Register* (York); Laurence Besbrowne, 1595, Hugh Bisbrowne, 1667 in *Lancs Wills* (Lancs); Matthew Baisbrown, 1736 in *IGI* (Windermere, Westm).

References: *Place-Names of Westm* 1, pp. 203–4.

Basden

Variants: **Basden**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 141, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 20
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey, Kent, and Essex

English: locative name from Basden Wood in Hawkhurst (Kent).

Early bearers: Richard de Badisdenne, 1253 in *Ancient Deeds* 4 (Kent); [. . .] de Badewsdn’, 1254, [. . .] de Badesden’, 1270, [. . .] de Battesdenn’, 1346 in *Kent Place-Names* (Kent); Alic’ de Batisdenne, 1334 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Selbritten hundred, Kent); John Basden, 1470 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Hawkhurst, Kent); Richard Basden’, 1497, William Basden’, 1498 in *Feet of Fines* (Goudhurst, Kent); Ann Basden 1561 in *IGI* (Wartling, Sussex); John Bastden, 1571 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Agnes Baseden, 1607 in

Cranbrook Wills (Kent); William Baseden, 1614 in *IGI* (Brightling, Sussex); Elizabeth Baysden, 1630 in *IGI* (Monks Horton, Kent); Beckey Basden, 1793 in *IGI* (Datchet, Bucks).

References: *Kent Place-Names*, p. 336.

Baish

- **Current frequencies:** GB 120, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 71
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts

English: see **Bache**.

Baisley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 58, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 47
- **Main GB location 1881:** Bucks; Midlothian

English, Scottish: variant of English **Baseley** or Scottish **Paisley**.

References: This form is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Baiss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 14, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 29
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset

English: see **Bass**.

Baister

Variants: **Baster**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 133, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 83
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham and ER Yorks

English: occupational name from Middle English **baster* ‘saddler’ (Old French *bastier*).

Early bearers: Baldwynus le bastere, 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Devon); Petro le Bastere, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Chebsey, Staffs); Robert Baster, 1332 in *Fransson* (Norfolk); Robert Baster’, 1376 in *Feet of Fines* (Notts); Ricardus le Baster, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Salford, Lancs); Alice Baister, 1568 in *IGI* (Coningsby, Lincs); Julian Baister, 1571 in *IGI* (Durham, Durham); Thos. Baster, 1572 in *IGI* (Thornton Curtis, Lincs); Rogerus Baster, 1581 in *IGI* (Cley next the Sea, Norfolk); Thomas Baister, 1666 in *IGI* (Newark on Trent, Notts).

References: *Fransson*, p. 124.

Baistow

- **Current frequencies:** GB 64, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 97
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Bairstow** and compare **Bastow** and **Beastall**.

Baitson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 41, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 19
- **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks

English: see **Bateson**.

Baitup

Variants: **Bateup**, **Beartup**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 169, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 50
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex and Kent

English: unexplained. Possibly a nickname from Middle English *bai* ‘reddish brown’ + *top(pe)* ‘hair on the head; tuft of hair’ (Old English *topp(a)*), or possibly a nickname from either Middle English

baiten ‘to feed (an animal)’ or the falconry term *baten* ‘to beat the wings impatiently and flutter away from the fist or perch’ (OED) + *up* ‘up’. The alias *Baitam*, recorded in 1610, is equally unexplained.

Early bearers: Sara Baytop, 1602, Sara Baitop alias Baitam, 1610 in *Canterbury Cathedral Archives* (Egerton, Kent); Sarah Bateupp, 1619 in *IGI* (Egerton, Kent); Edward Batup, 1664 in *IGI* (Chiddingstone, Kent); Elizabeth Bateupp, 1669 in *IGI* (Penshurst, Kent); Thomas Baytop, 1674 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Sarah Baytup, 1726 in *IGI* (Smarden, Kent); Thomas Beartup, 1727 in *IGI* (Chalvington, Sussex); Sarah Bateup, 1742 in *IGI* (Wadhurst, Sussex); Richard Baytop, 1762 in *IGI* (Cowfold, Sussex); William Bateup, William Bartup, 1766 in *IGI* (Shipbourne, Kent); Richd Beartop, 1767 in *IGI* (Hawkhurst, Kent); Thomas Baitup, 1779 in *IGI* (Shoreham, Kent); Ann Baytup, 1792 in *IGI* (Bolney, Sussex); Wm. Beatup, 1804 in *IGI* (Fittleworth, Sussex).

Bajaj

- **Current frequencies:** GB 399, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Panjab and Rajasthan): Hindu (Arora, Bania, Khatri), Jain, and Sikh name, from Panjabi *bājāj* ‘clothier, dealer in clothes’ (from Arabic *bazzāz*).

Further information: The Aroras, Khatri, and also the Baniyas all have clans called Bajaj.

Bajwa

- **Current frequencies:** GB 867, Ireland 9
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat tribe.

Bak

- **Current frequencies:** GB 654, Ireland 26
- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
- **Main GB location 1881:** Leics

1 Dutch: nickname from the Middle Dutch *bak* ‘ferry-boat, trough’ or the like.

Further information: There are other *Baks* in earlier censuses, especially in the E Midlands, whose background cannot be determined.

Early bearers: Joseph Bak, *Census 1871*, born in Amsterdam.

2 Polish, Czech, Slovak: relationship name from the medieval Slavic personal name *Bak*.

3 Chinese: non-standard romanization of the Chinese surname 麥, see **Mak** (1).

Bakare

- **Current frequencies:** GB 604, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian: from *Bákàrè*, an adaptation among Yoruba-speaking Muslims of the Arabic male given name *Bakrī*, an adjectival form of *bakr* ‘young camel’, indicating descent from an individual of this name or its compound *Abū Bakr* (compare **Abubakar**).

Bake

Variants: **Bakes**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 163, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 169
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

1 English: relationship name, nickname from the Middle English personal name **Baioc*, a diminutive of the personal name **Bay**. Redmonds notes Arthur Bake, Baick, or Bayock, 1621–32 in *Parish Registers* (Hampsthwaite, WR Yorks). Some bearers may belong with (2).

Early bearers: Johannes Bake, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Warkworth, Northants); Adam Bake, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Welbury, NR Yorks); Johannes Bayok, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (South Walsham, Norfolk); Willelmus Bayok, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Clint, WR Yorks); Ralph Baiok, 1408 in *Patent Rolls* (Yorks); Christopher Baiok, 1523–9 in *Knaresborough Wills* (Knaresborough, WR Yorks); Elysabeth Bake, 1567 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Thomas Bake, 1571 in *IGI* (Castor, Northants); Robert Bake, 1577 in *IGI* (Calverley, WR Yorks); Mary Bake, 1588 in *IGI* (Landrake, Cornwall); Robert Baikie, 1698 in *IGI* (Hampsthwaite, WR Yorks).

References: *Redmonds, Surnames and Genealogy*; *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

2 English: variant of **Back**.

Bakehouse

- **Current frequencies:** GB 52, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 35
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset and Gloucs
- English: see **Backhouse**.

Baker

Variants: **Backer, Baiker**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 87468, Ireland 1574
- **GB frequency 1881:** 65134
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England: esp. London and SE
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Cork; Dublin

1 English: occupational name from Middle English *bakere*, *backere* 'baker' (Old English *bæcere*).

Compare **Baxter**.

Early bearers: William le Bakere, 1177 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Robert Bakere, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Walter le Backere, 1280 in *Fransson* (Hants); Johannes Bakere, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Woodham Ferrers, Essex); Simon Baker', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Canterbury, Kent); Thomas Baker, 1478 in *Feet of Fines* (Shrops); Henry Baker, 1538 in *IGI* (Wartling, Sussex); Helena Baker, 1541 in *IGI* (Burton upon Trent, Staffs).

2 Jewish (Ashkenazic): occupational name probably adopted for cognates in other European languages, such as German **Bäcker, Becker**; Dutch **Bakker, De Becker, De Ba(e)cker**, etc., or for Jewish **Be(c)ker(man)**.

Early bearers: Israel Baker, machinist for tailor, born in Poland, in *Census 1881* (Leeds, WR Yorks); Lewes Baker, Hyman Baker, born in Russia, in *Census 1891* (Leeds, WR Yorks); Barnett Baker, born in Poland (Russian subject), in *Census 1901* (Salford, Lancs); Isaac Baker, boot finisher, born in Russia, in *Census 1901* (Whitechapel, Middx); Lazarus Sebag Baker, born in Russia, in *Census 1911* (West Derby, Lancs).

Bakes

- **Current frequencies:** GB 251, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 162
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: variant of **Bake** with genitival or post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Early bearers: Walterus Bakes, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Buckland Saint Mary, Somerset); Johanne Bakes, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Callow, Herefs); George Bakes, 1543 in *IGI* (London); Nicholas Bakes, 1574 in *IGI* (Colchester, Essex); Robert Backes, 1579 in *IGI* (Gainsborough, Lincs); Wllm. Bakes, 1610 in *IGI* (Bodmin, Cornwall); Thomas Bakes, 1620 in *IGI* (York).

Bakewell

Variants: **Balkwill**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1321, Ireland 20
- **GB frequency 1881:** 844
- **Main GB location 1881:** Midlands: esp. Staffs, Leics, Derbys, Warwicks, and Notts

English: locative name from Bakewell (Derbys).

Early bearers: Roger de Bakewell, 1325 in *Feet of Fines* (Derbys); John de Baucquell, 1347, Robert de Bawkwell, canon of Rochester, 1386 in *Patent Rolls*; Henry de Bakewell, 1373, Roger Baukwell, 1392, Nicholas de Baukwell, 1397 in *Patent Rolls* (Derbys); Nich. de Baukwell, 1375–6, Rich. de Bawkwell, 1434 in *Notts Archives*; Thoma Bakewell', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Asfordby, Leics); Agn' Bakewell', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Lichfield, Staffs); Agnes Bawkwell, 1552 in *IGI* (Lincoln, Lincs); Agnes Bakwell, 1557 in *IGI* (Burton upon Trent, Staffs); Robert Bawkwell, 1563 in *IGI* (Eckington, Derbys); Alice Bakewell, 1566 in *IGI* (Kirk Ireton, Derbys); John Bakewell, 1574 in *IGI* (Ashby de la Zouch, Leics); Joane Bakewell, 1584, Willia. Bakwell, 1586 in *IGI* (Witherley, Leics); Tho. Barkell, 1653 in *IGI* (Saint Denis, York).

Bakker

- **Current frequencies:** GB 273, Ireland 17
- **GB frequency 1881:** 21
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

Dutch: occupational name from *bakker* 'baker'.

Early bearers: Robert Bakker, 1614 in *IGI* (Newport, Shrops); Jacob Bakker, 1665 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Mary Gerdhowder Bakker, 1843 in *IGI* (Hodnet, Shrops); John Bakker, 1777 in *IGI* (Warbleton, Sussex); Maria Bakker, born in the Netherlands, in *Census 1881* (Newington, Surrey) (Bowdon, Cheshire); Gustaf Bakker, born in the Netherlands in *Census 1881* (Bowdon, Cheshire); Derk Bakker, born in Ameland, the Netherlands, in *Census 1881* (East Stonehouse, Devon).

Bakrania

- **Current frequencies:** GB 272, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (Gujarat): Hindu (Brahman), unexplained.

Baksh

- **Current frequencies:** GB 351, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Muslim (Iranian, also found in Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh): relationship name from a Persian personal name *Bakhsh*, based on the Persian word *bakhsh*, here meaning 'gift, fortune'.

References: *Ahmed*.

Bakshi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 298, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (Panjab): Hindu and Sikh, from Persian *bakhshī* 'paymaster', originally the title of an official who distributed wages in the Muslim armies.

Bal

- **Current frequencies:** GB 890, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 5

1 French: relationship name from a short form of one of a number of personal names of Continental Germanic origin formed with **bald* 'bold, brave' as the first element.

Early bearers: Francois Bal, wine merchant born in France, in *Census 1881* (Westminster, Middx); Clothilde Bal, born in France, in *Census 1901* (London); Alphonse Bal, born in France, in *Census 1901* (London); Gabrielle Bal, born in France, in *Census 1911* (NR Yorks).

2 Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat tribe, from Sanskrit *bala* 'strength'.

3 Polish: relationship name from a reduced form of the personal name *Baltazar*, the Polish form of *Balthasar*, the traditional name of one of the Three Wise Men of Christian tradition, related to that of the Old Testament royal name *Belshazzar*, from Akkadian *Bēl-šarra-ušur* '[may the god] Bel/Baal protect the king'.

Bala

Variants: **Balu**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 507, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4

1 Iranian, Indian (Gujarat and Mumbai): probably from Persian *bālā* 'high, exalted'.

2 Indian (southern): Hindu, based on Sanskrit *bāla* 'child'.

Further information: In India this is a given name, but it has come to be used as a family name among people from South India.

Balaam

Variants: **Ballaam, Ballam, Balham, Baalham, Ballan, Ballin**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 644, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 393
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk

1 English: locative name from Baylham (Suffolk), which is recorded as *Beleham* in 1086, *Beilham* in 1191, and *Beylham* in 1228. The form of the surname has been assimilated by folk etymology to the Biblical personal name *Balaam* (Numbers 23–4).

Early bearers: Edmundus Belom, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Kenninghall, Norfolk); Martha Balam, 1582 in *IGI* (Isleham, Cambs); John Beylham, 1500 in *PROB 11* (Stratford, Suffolk); John Balam, 1568 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Thomas Balaam, 1603 in *IGI* (Walkern, Herts); Robt. Baylam, 1606 in *IGI* (Pakenham, Suffolk); Thomas Balham, 1651 in *IGI* (Little Plumstead, Norfolk); Ann Balham, 1678 in *IGI* (Stowmarket, Suffolk); Tamarin Balham, 1683 in *IGI* (Little Massingham, Norfolk); William Baleham, 1708 in *IGI* (Bramerton, Norfolk); Peter Balaam, 1731 in *IGI* (Hessett, Suffolk); John Baalham, 1759 in *IGI* (Polstead, Suffolk); Catharine Bealum, 1787 in *IGI* (Redgrave with Botesdale, Suffolk); Samuel Baylham, 1792 in *IGI* (Old Newton, Suffolk); John Bailham, 1795 in *IGI* (Ipswich, Suffolk); Eliza Baalam, 1830, Sophia Baylham, 1834 in *Parish Registers* (Little Welnetham, Suffolk).

2 Norman, English: locative name from Ballon in Le Mans (Sarthe). The surname is variously recorded as *Baalun, Baalan, Balun, and Balon*, and perhaps also as *Balum* and *Bal(h)am* through false association with Middle English names ending in *-um* and *-ham*.

Balaban

This name also appears to have been re-pronounced in the 18th century like the Biblical personal name *Balaam*.

Further information: The family of de Ballon had lands and interests in S Wales, Cornwall, Gloucs, Oxon, and Surrey (Bermondsey Abbey).

Early bearers: Hamelinus de Baalon, 1176 in *Pipe Rolls* (Devon); John Balum, 1212 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Wilts); Rosa Balam, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Willelmus Balham, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (South Shorwell (West Court), Hants); Johannes Balam, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Whitwell, Hants); John Ballan, 1566 in *IGI* (York); Thomas Ballam, 1575 in *IGI* (Ringwood, Hants); Ales Ballan, 1589, Mary Ballen, 1716 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); James Ballan, 1647, Robert Balland, 1667 in *IGI* (New Malton, NR Yorks); Thomas Ballam, 1654 in *IGI* (Binfield, Berks); William Balaam, 1734 in *IGI* (Whippingham, IoW); Sarah Balaam, 1741 in *IGI* (Blandford Forum, Dorset).
References: *Anglo-Norman Families*, p. 12; *Domesday Descendants*, pp. 302–3.

Balaban

- **Current frequencies:** GB 63, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

1 Ukrainian, Belorussian, Romanian, Jewish (eastern Ashkenazic): nickname from an eastern Slavonic word meaning 'hawk', used either for someone thought to resemble a hawk in some way or for a falconer. In Ukrainian and Belorussian *balaban* also means 'chatterer'.

Early bearers: Rachel Balaban, born in Austria, in *Census 1901* (Manchester, Lancs); Isaac Balaban, 1903 in *Jews' Hospital* (Manchester, Lancs); Samuel Balaban, cotton goods merchant, Rebecca Balaban, born in Brody, Austria, in *Census 1911* (Manchester, Lancs)

2 Turkish: nickname for a big man, from Turkish *balaban* 'tame bear'.

Early bearers: Marcar Balaban, born in Turkey, in *Census 1911* (Manchester, Lancs).

Balachandran

- **Current frequencies:** GB 257, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Kerala and Tamil Nadu): Hindu, from Sanskrit *bālacandra* 'crescent moon' (from *bāla* 'child' + *candra* 'moon').

Balakrishnan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 358, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Kerala and Tamil Nadu): Hindu, from Sanskrit *bālakṛsna* 'child Krishna' (from *bāla* 'child' + *kṛsna* 'Krishna', name of an incarnation of the god Vishnu, meaning 'black') + the Tamil-Malayalam third-person masculine singular suffix *-n*.

Further information: This is a given name in South India, but it has come to be used as a family name among emigrants.

Balance

- **GB frequency 1881:** 54
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks, Derbys, and Staffs; Cumb; Denbighs
- English: see **Ballance**.

Balasubramaniam

- **Current frequencies:** GB 305, Ireland 1

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu): Hindu, from Sanskrit *bāla* 'child' + *subramaniam*, an epithet of the god Kārtikeya. See also **Subramanian**.

Balch

Variants: **Baulch, Belch, Boalch**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 495, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 376
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset and Wilts

English: (i) nickname from an unrecorded Middle English **balche* or **belche*, presumed descendants of Old English *bælce* 'belch, belching; stomach; pride, arrogance'. (ii) nickname possibly from Middle English **balche*, a noun or adjective derived from Old English *bælcan* 'to shout', for a man who habitually shouted.

Further information: Reaney suggests that the word in (i) may have had the same meaning as Old English *balca* 'balk, beam, bank, ridge' and was used to denote someone who lived by a bank or ridge; or in the case of *le Balch, le Belch* was possibly used in the sense 'beam', metaphorically for a stout or heavily built man. There is no warrant for these speculations.

Early bearers: England: William Belch, 1185 in *Templars Records* (Oxon); William le Belch, 1295 in *Parliament Rolls* (Essex); Robert Balch, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); John Balche, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Chute, Wilts); Roberto Balch', 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Thornford, Dorset); Richard le Balch, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John Belch, 1343 in *Patent Rolls* (Tring, Herts); Simon Belch', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Salisbury, Wilts); Walter Belch, 1563 in *IGI* (Southill, Beds); Gulielmi Balch, 1572 in *IGI* (High Ham, Somerset); William Belch, 1581 in *IGI* (East Malling, Kent); Henricus Balch, 1587 in *IGI* (Chardstock, Devon); Henrici Balch, 1602 in *IGI* (North Wootton, Dorset); John Belch, 1615 in *IGI* (Pirton, Herts); John Baulch, 1707, John Balch, 1730, John Bolch, 1738 in *IGI* (Brewham, Somerset); Joseph Boalch, 1782 in *IGI* (Colyton, Devon).

Scotland: Jonett Belch, 1658 in *IGI* (Dunblane, Perthshire).

Balchin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 994, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 674
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex and Surrey

Norman, English: variant of **Beauchamp**.

Early bearers: Arnold Balchin, 1573 in *IGI* (Woolbeding, Sussex); Henry Balchyn, 1577 and Hendrye Balchin, 1615 in *IGI* (Bramley, Surrey); Lawrence Balchen, 1606 in *IGI* (Haslemere, Surrey); Mariah Balcheen, 1753 in *IGI* (Wisborough Green, Sussex); Hendrye Balchin, Bridger Balchen, 1813 in *IGI* (Kirdford, Sussex).

Balcock

Variants: **Baucutt, Bawcutt, Bowcott, Bowcutt**

- **GB frequency 1881:** 18
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey; Lancs

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Balcock*, a pet form of **Bald** (usually for **Baldwin**) + the hypocoristic suffix *-cock*. There may have been some confusion with **Bulcock** and **Boocock**.

Early bearers: William Balcok, 1263 in *Feet of Fines* (Lincs); Geoffrey Balcok, 1276 in *Hundred Rolls* (Yorks); Alan Balkok, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Hunts);

Henry Balcok, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Warwicks); Johannes Balkok', Ibbot Bolkok', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Sheffield, WR Yorks); Willelmo Balkok', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Barmby on the Marsh, ER Yorks); Juliana Balkoc, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Banbury, Oxon); Robertus Balcok', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Goose Haddlesey, WR Yorks); Richard Balcock, 1440 in *Sheffield Manorial Records* (WR Yorks); Alice Bawcoke, 1581 in *IGI* (Winston, Durham); Ann Baldcock, 1622 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Mary Balcock, 1675 in *IGI* (Saint Lawrence in Thanet, Kent); John Balcock, 1686 in *IGI* (Luddenden, WR Yorks); Mary Bowcott, 1704, Philip Boulcott, 1718 in *IGI* (Ullingswick, Herefs); Richard Bowcott, 1791, Richard Bowlcott, 1793 in *IGI* (Tarrington, Herefs).

Balcom

- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wigtowns

English: see **Balcombe**.

Further information: This spelling is rare in Britain but more common in the USA.

Balcomb

- **Current frequencies:** GB 137, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 312
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex and Kent

English: see **Balcombe**.

Balcombe

Variants: **Balcomb, Balcom, Bawcombe, Balkham, Bauckham, Balcon, Balkan**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 778, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 456
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex; also Kent and Surrey

English: locative name from Balcombe in Sussex.

Further information: There is a similarly named place in Frittenden (Kent) but there is no medieval evidence that it produced a surname. Derivation from Balkholme (ER Yorks), illustrated by Johannes Balkholm', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Wheldrake, ER Yorks), is also theoretically possible but there is no evidence that it has survived as a hereditary surname.

Early bearers: John de Balecomb, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Edmundus Balcumbe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Balcombe, Sussex); Ricardus Balcombe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Ardingly, Sussex); Thomas Balcombe, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Thomas Balcombe, 1559 in *IGI* (Balcombe, Sussex); John Baucam, 1570 in *IGI* (Buxted, Sussex); Thoma Balcombe, 1586 in *IGI* (Shipbourne, Kent); Thomas Baulcombe, 1589 in *IGI* (Glynde, Sussex); Margaret Balkam, 1589 in *IGI* (Steyning, Sussex); William Bawcom, 1591 in *Archaeologia Cantiana* 48 (Kent); William Baucomb, 1598 in *IGI* (Faversham, Kent); Thomas Baucom, 1607 in *IGI* (East Grinstead, Sussex); John Baulcomb, 1615 in *IGI* (Cuckfield, Sussex); Ann Bauckham, 1666 in *Poll Tax* (Teston, Kent); Ann Balkham, 1698 in *IGI* (Herstmonceux, Sussex).

Balcon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 46, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 14
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx

1 Jewish (Ashkenazic): probably a variant of **Balkin** (2).

Further information: According to family legend, the Polish Jewish grandfather of the British film

producer Sir Michael Balcon took *Balkon* as his surname because his house was the only one in the community with a balcony (Polish or Yiddish *balkon*).

Early bearers: Hyman Balcon, born in Poland, in *Census 1891* (Whitechapel, Middx); Morris Balcon, boot finisher, born in Russia, in *Census 1891* (Whitechapel, Middx); David Joseph Balcon, tailor, born in Poland, in *Census 1891* (IoW); Lewis Balcon, tailor, born in Poland, in *Census 1901* (Holborn, Middx); Louis Balcon, tailor cutter, born in Poland, in *Census 1911* (Edgbaston, Warwicks).

2 English: variant of **Balcombe**.

Early bearers: Sarah Balcon, 1731 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Cornelius Balcon, 1795 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); William Balcon, gas fitter, born in Middx, in *Census 1881* (London).

Bald

Variants: Bauld, Bold

- **Current frequencies:** GB 364, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 477
- **Main GB location 1881:** central Scotland: esp. E Lothian and Lanarks

1 Scottish, English: relationship name from the Norman personal name *Bald(e)*, *Baud(e)*, occasionally *Bold*, a short form of the common Continental Germanic personal names *Baldwin* or *Baldric*, or possibly a survival of Old English **Beald* (compare **Balding**); the relevant element in each of these is *b(e)ald* 'brave'. Balt, 1086 in *Domesday Book*, may be Old English or Continental Germanic (Norman). As a hereditary surname it seems to have died out in England but survives in Scotland. Some of the post-medieval early bearers may belong under (2).

Early bearers: given names, England: Balt, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Yorks); Balde, about 1150 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs), 1191 in *Pipe Rolls* (London), 1198 in *Pipe Rolls* (Beds); Bald' filius Bald', 1199 in *Pipe Rolls* (Herts); Boold, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lancs).

surnames, Scotland: Henricus Baldus, 1219 in *Scone Charters* (Perth, Perths); Henricus Baude 1329–71 in *Scone Charters* (Perth, Perths); Rycharde Bauld, burgess, 1540 in *Irvine Muniments* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); James Bald, 1567 in *Kelso Register* (tenant of Kelso Abbey, Roxburghs); James Bauld, 1666 in *Edinburgh Apprentices Register* (Edinburgh); John Bald, 1620, Sibylla Bald, 1679 in *IGI* (Haddington, E Lothian); William Bald, 1664 in *IGI* (Torryburn, Fife); Jean Bald, 1776 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks); Andrew Bald, 1797, Hannnah Oliver Bauld, 1865 in *IGI* (Spott, E Lothian); James Bald, 1798 in *IGI* (Govan, Lanarks).

surnames, England: John Balde, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Worcs); Gilbertus Balde, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Blagdon, Somerset); Enme Balde, 1566 in *IGI* (Moulton near Spalding, Lincs); Ales Bald, 1574 in *IGI* (Stratford upon Avon, Warwicks); Paciene Bawld, 1577 in *IGI* (Folkestone, Kent); Thomas Baulde, 1581 in *IGI* (Rottingdean, Sussex); John Balte, 1584 in *IGI* (White Notley, Essex); Henry Balde, 1588 in *IGI* (Sutton, Cambs); Mary Baulde, 1590 in *IGI* (London); Mary Balt, 1670 in *IGI* (Ashton Keynes, Wilts); William Bauld, 1701 in *IGI* (Alston, Cumb).

2 English, Scottish: nickname from Middle English *ballade* 'ball-shaped' (perhaps 'corpulent') but more commonly 'hairless, bald', and as such translated as Latin *calvus*. Compare **Ballard**.

Early bearers: England: Simon le Bald', 1178 in *Pipe Rolls* (Essex); Hugo Calvus, 1198 in *Feet of Fines* (Herts); William le Ballede, about 1248 in *Bec Abbey Documents* (Wilts); Reginald le Ballede, 1307 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ware, Herts); Walter le Baud, 1307 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Little Hadham, Herts); Agneta le Ballede, 1309 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Turvey, Beds); William Balled, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ramsey, Hunts); Madoc le Balled, 14th cent. in *Ancient Deeds vi* (Cheshire), whose seal was inscribed S madoci cal[vi]; Richardus Bald, 1573 in *IGI* (Waltham Saint Lawrence, Berks); John Bald, 1610 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk).

Scotland: William calvus, 1214–49 in *Glasgow Register* (Linton, Peebles) and Joannes Calvus, 1280 in *Paisley Register* (Sanquhar, Dumfriess); David Bald, 1617 in *IGI* (Monifieth, Angus); Elspet Bald, 1631 in *IGI* (Haddington, E Lothian); Margaret Bald, 1644 in *IGI* (Leslie, Fife).

Baldacchino

- **Current frequencies:** GB 209, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Italian: relationship name from the personal name *Baldacchino*, a diminutive of *Baldaccio*, variant of *Baldo*, itself a pet form of any of various personal names formed with the Germanic element *bald* 'bold, brave', such as *Baldovino*, *Garibaldo*, and *Tebaldo*.

Further information: It is most unlikely to be for Italian *baldacchino* 'canopy'.

References: *De Felice*.

Baldam

- **Current frequencies:** GB 154, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 30
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs; Durham

English: unexplained. Possibly a variant of **Baldon**, perhaps influenced by Old French *bele dame* 'beautiful lady' (compare **Beldam**).

Early bearers: Jhon Baldome, 1599 in *IGI* (Hatton, Lincs); Katherina Baldame, 1607 in *IGI* (Hatton, Lincs); John Baldam, 1608 in *IGI* (Panton, Lincs); Vincent Baildham, 1695, Vincent Baldham, 1696 in *IGI* (Leake, Lincs); John Baldam, 1860 in *IGI* (Stockton on Tees, Durham).

Balder

- **Current frequencies:** GB 24, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 5

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Balder* (Old English *Bealdhere*, formed from *beald* 'bold, brave' + *here* 'army').

Early bearers: given names: Balder' Martell', 1160–2 in *Clerkenwell Cartulary* (Dorset).

surnames: John Balder, 1415 in *Patent Rolls* (Norfolk); Thomas Balder, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Richard Balder, 1575 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Jonne Balder, 1592 in *IGI* (Sutton Saint Edmund, Lincs); Margaret Balter, 1599, Mary Balder, 1609 in *IGI* (Ixworth, Suffolk).

Balderson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 543, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 569
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs and Northants

English: variant of **Balderston**.

Balderston

Variants: Balderstone, Bolderston, Boulderstone, Balderson, Bolderson, Boldison, Baldwinson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 166, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 272
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs, Lancs, and WR Yorks; Kent; also central Scotland

1 English: locative name from Balderston (Lancs) or Balderstone in Castleton (also Lancs).

Early bearers: William de Balderston, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); William de Baldreston, 1292 in *Whalley Abbey Coucher Book* (Lancs); Adam de Baldreston, 1323 in *Lancs Court Rolls* (Rochdale, Lancs); Simon de Balderston, 1330 in *Patent Rolls* (WR Yorks); Ricardus de Baldirston', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Rothwell, WR Yorks); Robertus de Baldreston', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Thornton in Lonsdale, WR Yorks); Richard de Balderston, 1434 in *Patent Rolls* (Lancs); Jo. Balderstone, 1569 in *IGI* (Giggleswick, WR Yorks); Richus Balderston, 1577 in *IGI* (Swanton Abbott, Norfolk); Elizabeth Balderstone, 1579 in *IGI* (West Ashby, Lincs); Ambrose Bolderstone, 1584, Sibbell Bolderson, 1602 in *IGI* (Chislet, Kent); Johne Balderston, 1599 in *IGI* (Lancaster, Lancs).

References: *Lancs Place-Names*, pp. 55, 69.

2 English, Scottish: locative name from Balderston in W Lothian.

Early bearers: Scotland: William de Baudrestone, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (W Lothian); George Balderstone, burgess, 1599 in *Laing Charters* (Linlithow, W Lothian); James Balderston, 1616 in *IGI* (Linlithgow, W Lothian).

Balderstone

- **Current frequencies:** GB 341, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 187
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: see **Balderston**.

Baldery

- **Current frequencies:** GB 18, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 36
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs; SE England
- English: see **Baldry**.

Baldey

Variants: Baldy, Boldy

- **Current frequencies:** GB 84, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 76
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey

English: (i) relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Baldith* (Old English **Bealdgȳð*, formed with *beald* 'bold, brave' + *gȳð* 'combat, war') or from the Middle English female personal name *Baldive* (Old English **Bealdgifu*, formed from *beald* + *gifu* 'gift'). (ii) relationship name in Suffolk, possibly from a Middle English survival of the Old Scandinavian male personal name *Baldi*, from an ancestor of Old Scandinavian *ballr*, having a sense like Old English *beald* 'bold, brave'.

Early bearers: given names (female): Baldith uxor, about 1170 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Hunts); Baldehiua, Baldehiuam filiam Willelmi, 1198 in *Feet of Fines* (Norfolk); Baldethiva, 13th cent. in *Ancient Deeds iv* (Warwicks).

surnames: William Baldith, 1204 in *Pipe Rolls* (Gloucs); Simon Baldy, 1274 in *Hundred Rolls* (Suffolk); John Baldy, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Johanne

Baldick

Baudethe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Weston Turville, Bucks); John Baldy, 1620 in *IGI* (Rottingdean, Sussex); William Boldy, 1630 in *IGI* (Coldwaltham, Sussex); Benjamin Boldy, 1772 in *IGI* (Kirk Smeaton, WR Yorks).

Baldick

- **GB frequency 1881:** 20
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; WR Yorks

English: see **Baldock**.

Baldie

Variants: **Baldy**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 192, Ireland 6
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 154
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Scotland: esp. Fife
- Scottish: nickname, relationship name from the personal name *Baldie*, a pet form of **Archibald** or **Baldwin**.

Early bearers: Thomas Baldy, 1540 in *Genealogical Collections by Macfarlane* (Ceres, Fife); Johnne Baldie, 1680 in *IGI* (Saint Andrews and Saint Leonards, Fife); Jean Baldy, 1709 in *IGI* (Kinross, Kinross).

Balding

Variants: **Boulding**, **Bouldin**, **Bolding**, **Boldin**, **Belding**, **Beldin**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 686, Ireland 16
- **GB frequency 1881:** 549
- **Main GB location 1881:** E England: esp. Norfolk and Lincs

English: (i) relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Balding*, itself from Old English **Bealding*, a derivative of *Beald* (compare **Bald**), not recorded before the Conquest. (ii) relationship name, sometimes a late development of Baldwin, as for example in the case of Anthony Baldin and Bartholomew Balding, recorded side by side with *Baldwin* in 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk). Alexander Baldyne, 1251 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Hunts) may be an earlier example.

Early bearers: Joscus filius Balding', 1189–99, Gilebertus filius Balding, 1212 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Lincs); William Bolding, 1255 in *Hundred Rolls* (Shrops); Joan Bolding, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Alice Baldyng, John Baldyng, 1327, Robert Beldyng, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Thomas Baldyng, 1429 in *Feet of Fines* (Algarkirk, Lincs); John Boldyng', 1432 in *Feet of Fines* (Hants); Joane Bawldin, 1553 in *IGI* (Diss, Norfolk); Mathew Baldinge, 1596 in *IGI* (Walcott, Norfolk); Francis Belding, 1680 in *IGI* (East Dereham, Norfolk).

Baldock

Variants: **Baldick**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2904, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2059
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Middx, and Herts; Lincs

English: locative name from Baldock (Herts), a town founded in the 12th century by the Knights Templar and given the name of Baghdad in its Old French form.

Early bearers: Hugh de Baldoca, 1185 in *Templars Records* (Beds); Thomas Baldac, about 1280 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Alice de Baldok, 1307 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Hertford, Herts); Robert de Baudok, 1307 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Stevenage, Herts); Johanne Baldoke, 1309 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Stanbridge, Beds); Johanne Balduk,

1309 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Colmworth, Beds); Robert Baldec, 1331 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Wilts); Willo de Baldoke, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wrestlingworth, Beds); Willelmus Baldok, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Colchester, Essex); William Baldocke, 1460 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Notts); Cycele Baldock, 1548 in *IGI* (Sandwich, Kent); Michael Baldock, 1568 in *IGI* (Arlesey, Beds); Mary Baldock, 1575 in *IGI* (Wartling, Sussex); Richard Boldock, Marie Baldock, 1671 in *IGI* (Pinchbeck, Lincs); John Baldick, 1713 in *IGI* (Withern, Lincs).

Baldon

Variants: **Boldon**, **Baldam**, **Bolden**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 16, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 31
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs; Durham

1 English: (i) locative name from Marsh Baldon or Toot Baldon (Oxon). (ii) locative name occasionally from Baildon (WR Yorks), which is recorded as *Baldon* in the 16th century, or from Ballidon (Derbys).

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Early bearers: Thoma Bolden, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Bisley, Gloucs); Johannes Baldon', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Benson, Oxon); Thomas Baldone, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Shillingford, Oxon); Roberto Balden', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Nethercote, Leics); Antone Baldon, 1547 in *IGI* (Dewsbury, WR Yorks); William Balden, 1568, Jossephe Baldon, 1581 in *IGI* (Corsham, Wilts); Agnes Baulden, 1590 in *IGI* (Box, Wilts); Mereall Baldon, 1598 in *IGI* (Kippax, WR Yorks); John Baldon, 1604 in *IGI* (Cholsey, Berks); William Baulden, 1625 in *PROB 11* (Stratford upon Avon, Warwicks); Paul Ballidon, 1637 in *PROB 11* (Derby, Derbys); Isack Baldon, 1697 in *IGI* (Romsey, Hants); William Baldon, 1726 in *IGI* (Watlington, Oxon).

References: *Place-Names of Oxon*, pp. 162–4; *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 4, p. 158; *Place-Names of Derbys*, p. 343.

2 English: see **Boldon**.

Baldree

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 11
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex

English: see **Baldry**.

Baldrey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 152, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 154
- **Main GB location 1881:** E Anglia, Middx, and Herts

English: see **Baldry**.

Baldrick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 31, Ireland 62
- **GB frequency 1881:** 10
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Donegal

English: see **Baldry**.

Baldrige

- **Current frequencies:** GB 67, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 35
 - **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks and Durham
- English: see **Baldry**.

Baldry

Variants: **Baldrey**, **Baldery**, **Baudrey**, **Baudry**, **Baldree**, **Boldry**, **Boldra**, **Boldero**, **Bowdery**, **Bowdrey**, **Bowdry**, **Baldrick**, **Baldrige**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1767, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1397

• **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk and Norfolk

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal names *Baldrī(c)* and *Baldrīch*. The first is usually from Continental Germanic *Baldric*, which was common in the French forms *Baldri* and *Baudri*. The second represents the cognate Old English name **Bealdric*, formed from *beald* 'bold, brave' + **ric* 'ruler', which is attested in Middle English forms such as *Belrich*, *Balrich*, *Baltriht*, and *Baldrich*.

Early bearers: given names: Baldric, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Baldricus, 1127–54 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk); Baldri de Grendal 1154–89 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Baldric, 1202 in *Feet of Fines* (Hants); Baudricus de Lawdecote, 1208 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Surrey); Baldericus de Sutton', 1340 in *Feet of Fines* (Bucks); Baldricum Raunce, 1364 in *Feet of Fines* (Lincs).

surnames: William Baldri, 1185 in *Templars Records* (Herts); Aluredus Baltriht, 1197 in *Pipe Rolls* (Wilts); Henry Belrich, 1203 in *Pipe Rolls* (Oxon); Alexander Baudri, 1205 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Suffolk); Richard Balrich, 1238 in *Oseney Cartulary* (Oxon); Walter Baldrich, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Robert Baldrik, Henry Baudrik, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Essex); Thomas Baldrik', 1337 in *Feet of Fines* (Leics); Johannes Baldrich', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Higham Ferrars, Northants); Roger Balderyk', 1386 in *Feet of Fines* (Boston, Lincs); Dyones Baldry, 1561 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); Martin Balryge, 1576 in *York Registry Wills* (Rievaulx, NR Yorks); Francis Baldry, Boldery, James Baldery, Stephen Bolderowe, Martin Boldroe, Widow Boldery, Boldry, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk); Tho. Baldrige, 1675 in *IGI* (Kilburn, NR Yorks); John Bauldry, 1705 in *IGI* (Southwold, Suffolk); Francis Boldra, 1784 in *IGI* (Lowestoft, Suffolk).

Baldwin

Variants: **Baldwyn**, **Balwin**, **Bawden**, **Bodin**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17802, Ireland 327
- **GB frequency 1881:** 12691
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England: esp. Lancs and WR Yorks; also London
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Waterford and Cork

Norman, English, Irish: relationship name from the personal name *Baldwin*, a popular Flemish (i. e. Dutch) name formed from Continental Germanic **bald-* 'brave' + a word cognate with Old English *wine* 'friend'; the name is recorded in England both before and after the Norman Conquest.

Further information: The Flemish-English family name was established in Ireland before 1500. In Donegal it was adopted for Ó Maolagáin (see **Milligan**), due to folk association of the Irish word *maol* 'bald' with English *bald*.

Early bearers: given names: Baldewinus, about 1095 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents* (Suffolk); Baldwin de Cumba, 1202 in *Feet of Fines* (Hants); Baldwin le Pestour, 1329 in *Feet of Fines* (Boston, Lincs); Baldewino de Wansted', 1331 in *Feet of Fines* (Hants); Baldewynus Busshop, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Corston, Wilts); Baldeuen' Bruere, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Malmesbury borough, Wilts).

surnames, England: Randulfus filius Balduini 1154–89 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Stephen Baldewin, 1200 in *Pipe Rolls* (Hants); John Baudewin, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Ricardo Bawdewyn', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Huncote, Leics); Willelmus Baudwyn, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Rimington, WR Yorks); Radulfus Baldewene, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Lackford, Suffolk); Radulphus Baldwin, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Moulton, Lincs); John Baldwin, 1540 in *IGI* (Worplesdon, Surrey); Roberte Baldwin, 1553 in *IGI* (Solihull, Warwicks); Anthony Bawdwine, 1593 in *IGI* (Halifax, WR Yorks); Sampson Boldwin, 1627, Sampson Baldwin, 1635 in *IGI* (Melksham, Wilts); Hammond Baldewen, 1758, Hammond Baldwin, 1760 in *IGI* (Colne, Lancs). surnames, Ireland: David Baldon, husbandman, 1573 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2347 (Porlonezboe, Kilkenny); Nicholas Baldon, 1576 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2746 (Kilcone).

Baldwinson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 128, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 65
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: altered form of **Balderston**, via *Balderson*. **Further information:** Derivation from the personal name *Baldwin* (see **Baldwin**) + *-son* seems obvious and is formally possible (compare the continental equivalent, e. g. Broun Bawedewynson, born in Leiden (Holland) and living in Beccles (Suffolk), 1436 in *Patent Rolls*), but local evidence points to the origin suggested above in *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Early bearers: Thomas Baldwinson, 1730 in *IGI* (Armthorpe, WR Yorks); Elisabeth Baldwinson, 1748 in *IGI* (Harewood, WR Yorks).

Baldwyn

- **Current frequencies:** GB 100, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 97
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

English: see **Baldwin**.

Baldy

- **Current frequencies:** GB 55, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 96
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex; also WR Yorks
- 1 English: see **Baldey**.
2 Scottish: see **Baldie**.

Bale

Variants: **Bail**, **Baile**, **Bayle**, **Bailey**, **Bales**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2740, Ireland 20
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2247
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Somerset; also Leics

English: locative name from Middle English *bail(e)* 'wall of the outer court of a castle', which came to be used to denote the court itself (after 1200 in *MED*). The surname is probably synonymous with *Bailward*, denoting the keeper of a such a court or bailey. Compare **Bailey**. The 1190 London example refers to the Old Bailey. *Redmonds* suggests that Eudo del Bayle, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Richmond, NR Yorks), was named after the bail at Richmond. **Early bearers:** Richard del Baille, about 1190 in *History of Saint Barts Hospital* (London); Eudo del Bayle, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); John Bayl, 1382 in *Feet of Fines* (Sussex); Thomas Bale, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Agache Bayle, 1571 in *IGI* (West Itchenor, Sussex); Digory Bayle, 1616 in *IGI* (North Petherwin,

Devon); Richard Bayle, 1768 in *IGI* (Wombridge, Shrops).

References: *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Balentine

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 8
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

Scottish: see **Ballantyne**.

Further information: This spelling is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Bales

Variants: **Bayles**, **Bailes**, **Bails**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 759, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1115
- **Main GB location 1881:** E England: esp. Norfolk and Suffolk

English: (i) variant of **Bale** with post-medieval excrement *-s*. (ii) variant of **Bayliss**. (iii) locative name from Bayles in Alston (Cumb).

Early bearers: [. . .] del Bales, 1292, [. . .] Balles, 1301 in *Place-Names of Cumb* (Cumb); Agnes Bales, 1564 in *IGI* (Frostenden, Suffolk); Thoms. Bales, 1566 in *IGI* (Ashmanhaugh, Norfolk); Anthony Bales, 1591 in *IGI* (Romaldkirk, NR Yorks); Zacarias Bailes, 1629 in *York Freeman's Register* (Yorks).

References: *Place-Names of Cumb*, p. 173.

Baley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 30, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 277
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in England

English: see **Bailey**.

Balfe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 407, Ireland 659
- **GB frequency 1881:** 39
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin and Meath; Roscommon

Irish, Norman: from *balbh* 'stammering', which is probably the Norman French surname **Baube**, Latin *balbus* 'stammering'.

Early bearers: Adam Balf, 1285 in *CDI* §149 (Dublin); Oliver Balf, gent., 1549 in *Fiants Edward* §342 (Molrenewgon); Robert Balf, 1560 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §261 (Gallemoreston, Meath); Gerald Balfie, soldier, 1578 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §3460; Edward Balf, 1602 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6621 (Grinanston).

Balfour

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2441, Ireland 92
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2070
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland: esp. Fife and Angus; also Midlothian
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Fermanagh; N Leinster

Scottish: locative name from the barony of Balfour in Fife.

Early bearers: Peter de Balfur, 1263 in *East Fife Documents*; John de Balfure, 1304 in *Scotland Calendar*; William de Balfure, 1331–5 in *Laing Charters*; Michael de Balfoure, 1365 in *Great Seal of Scotland*; Isbell Balfour, 1561 in *IGI* (Dunfermline, Fife).

Balham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 14, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 43

- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Staffs

1 English, Norman: locative name perhaps from Balham in Streatham (Surrey). This suits the location of the following early bearers. However, Balham appears in the 13th and 14th centuries spelled *Belg-*, *Balg-*, and *Ballweham*, but not *Balaam* or *Balham*. These latter spellings suggest that the bearers may have been descendants of the Norman family of *de Ba(a)llon*, who were benefactors of Bermondsey Priory (Surrey); see **Balaam** (2). **Early bearers:** Walterus Balaam, 1258–9, Walterus Balam, 1263 in *Assize Rolls* (Guildford, Surrey); Johannes Balham, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Witley, Surrey); John Balham, 1388–9 in *Feet of Fines* (Surrey); Margarete Balham, 1498 in *PROB 11* (London). **References:** *Place-Names of Surrey*, pp. 33–4.
2 English: see **Balaam** (1).

Balhatchet

- **Current frequencies:** GB 39, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 23
- **Main GB location 1881:** E Cornwall and SW Devon; also Worcs

Cornish: nickname from Medieval French *baille hachet* 'give axe', perhaps for a woodman, or, some have claimed, an executioner. Compare **Bailhache**, with the Middle English *hache* 'axe, hatchet' instead of the diminutive *hachet*.

Early bearers: Jone Balhatchet, 1545 in *IGI* (Poughill, Cornwall); Richardi Balhatchett, 1573 in *IGI* (Buckland Monachorum, Devon); John or Mathew Ballhatchett, 1708 in *IGI* (Widecombe in the Moor, Devon); Grace Balehatchet, 1718 in *IGI* (Stratton, Cornwall); Jno Balhetchett, 1779 in *IGI* (Stratton, Cornwall).

Bali

- **Current frequencies:** GB 382, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

Indian (Panjab): Hindu (Brahman), based on the name of a clan in the Mohyal subgroup of Saraswat Brahmins. It is probably derived from an ancestral personal name.

Balis

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 28
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey

English: see **Baylis**.

Balk

- **Current frequencies:** GB 43, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 36
- **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks

English: see **Baulk**.

Balkan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 14, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 7
- **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks

English: see **Balcombe**.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but more common in the USA.

Early bearers: Henry Balkan, born in Elsford, Kent, in *Census 1881* (Skelton in Guisbrough, NR Yorks).

Balkham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 106, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 82

Balkin

- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
- English: variant of **Balcombe**.

Balkin

Variants: **Balcon**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 45, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 36
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands

1 Norman, English: relationship name perhaps from an unrecorded Middle English personal name **Baldekin*, **Baudekin*, an Anglo-Norman borrowing of Middle Dutch *Baudequin*, a Flemish pet form of the personal name **Baldwin**. Compare **Bodkin**. However, a clear link between Middle English *Baudekin* (attested in Northumb), and post-medieval *Balkin* (found in the W Midlands) has not been established, and the modern name may have a different source, a variant of **Balcombe** perhaps, by migration.

Early bearers: John Baudekyn, 1365 in *Patent Rolls* (Chillingham, Northumb); Johan Baudkyn, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Glanton, Northumb); Johannes Balkin, 1572 in *IGI* (Stone, Staffs); Raph Balkin, 1602 in *IGI* (Waverton, Cheshire); Thomas Balkin, 1796 in *IGI* (Hartshorne, Derbys).

References: *Debrabandere*, at Baudequin.

2 Jewish (Ashkenazic): relationship name from the Yiddish female personal name *Beyle*, meaning 'beautiful' (related to French *belle*). Compare **Balcan**.

Early bearers: Ada Balkan, born in Russia, in *Census 1891* (Prestwich, Lancs); Lazarus Balkin, tailor, born in Russia, in *Census 1891* (Manchester, Lancs); Joseph Balkin, macintosh maker, born in Russia, in *Census 1901* (Prestwich, Lancs); Hyman Balkan, in *Census 1901* (Bethnal Green, Middx); Samel Balkin, clicker, boot trade, born in Russia, in *Census 1911* (Whitechapel, Middx); Goodman and Sarah Balkin, born in Vilna, Russia, in *Census 1911* (Whitechapel, Middx); Aaron Balkin, colliery labourer, born in Russia, in *Census 1911* (Neath, Glamorgan).

Balkwill

Variants: **Barkell**, **Barkwill**, **Barkwell**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 351, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 262
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: apparently a variant of **Bakewell**, from the place-name Bakewell (Derbys), which appears as *Baukwell*, *Bawkwell*, and the like throughout the Middle Ages. The distribution suggests a south-western origin, with regional *-will* for more general *-well* 'stream', but no suitable place has been found; it may be irregular for one of the places called *Blackwell* or *Blakewell* in Devon, but on the face of it the first element is either Old English *balca* 'ridge, bank' or *bealluc* 'testicle'. There is a Balkwell Farm in North Shields (Northumb) which can hardly be relevant.

Early bearers: Danielis Bawlkwell, 1562 in *IGI* (Enfield, Middx); Georgius Balkwell, 1615 in *IGI* (Ashburton, Devon); Cordwell Balckwell, 1627 in *IGI* (Harrow on the Hill, Middx); Willielmi Balkwill, 1622 in *IGI* (Buckfastleigh, Devon); Richard Balkwell, 1650 in *IGI* (Crediton, Devon); Grace Barkwell, 1663 in *IGI* (Highampton, Devon); James Barkwill, 1679 in *IGI* (Dunchideock, Devon); Arthur Bawkwell, 1691 in *IGI* (Black Torrington, Devon); Mergeary Balkwill, 1715 in *IGI* (Sheepwash, Devon); Anne Barkell, 1753 in *IGI*

(Gwinear, Cornwall); Thomas Barkal, 1759 in *IGI* (Sithney, Cornwall); Honour Barkel, 1762 in *IGI* (Calstock, Cornwall); John Barkle or Barkell, 1781, Francis Barkle or Bartle, 1799 in *IGI* (Camborne, Cornwall).

Ball

Variants: **Balle**, **Balls**, **Le Ball**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 35134, Ireland 674
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 24483
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Lancs, Staffs; London
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin and Meath
- 1 English: (i) nickname from Middle English *bal*, *ball(e)* 'ball, sphere, globe, round body' (Old French *balle* or Old English **beall(a)*). (ii) nickname possibly from a Middle English adjective **ball* in the sense 'bald', from *ball* 'a white streak, a bald place', *balle* being the weak form. (iii) relationship name from *Balle*, an Old Scandinavian personal name found in place-names in England, which may have survived as Middle English *Balla*, found in 1250 in *Book of Fees* (Hants). The Scandinavian name may be for *ballr* 'dangerous' in an older sense of 'brave'. **Early bearers:** Godwin Balle, 1137 in *Ekwall, ELPN* (London); Norman Balle, 1183 in *Pipe Rolls* (Northants); G. le Bal, 1249 in *Selborne Charters* (Sussex); Robro le Bal, 1296, Matill' le Bal, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Steyning, Sussex); Robert le Bal, 1301–2 in *Winchester Pipe Roll* (Hants); Thoma Bal, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Eaton Socon, Beds); Henrico Balle, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Osgathorpe, Leics); Alano Ball', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Liverpool, Lancs); Margaret Ball, 1540 in *IGI* (Ellastone, Staffs); John Ball, 1547 in *IGI* (Saint Mary Magdalen Old Fish Street, London); Ketheryn Baul, 1565 in *IGI* (Edenham, Lincs); Robert Bal, 1615 in *IGI* (Kirkham, Lancs).

2 English: locative name from Middle English *bal*, *ball(e)* 'knoll, rounded hill'. This is the same word as 'ball, sphere, globe, round body' in (1), applied topographically.

Early bearers: Alfwin' attebal, 1166 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Henricus atte Balle, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); Thomas atte Ball', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Staverton, Northants); Richard atte Balle, 1386 in *Löfvenberg* (Worcs); Katherine Ball, 1539 in *IGI* (Higham, Suffolk); Lawrence Ball, 1539 in *IGI* (Upton cum Chalvey, Bucks); John Ball, 1540 in *IGI* (Fulbourn, Cambs); Steven Ball, 1540 in *IGI* (Lezant, Cornwall).

References: *Löfvenberg*, pp. 5–6; *Place-Names of Wilts*, p. 422; *Vocabulary of English Place-Names*, at **ball*.

Ballaam

- **Current frequencies:** GB 69, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 6
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- English: see **Balaam**.

Ballagh

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13, Ireland 13
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 3
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey
- Scottish: nickname, perhaps from Gaelic *ballach* 'speckled, marked'. **Early bearers:** John Ballagh, 1856 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs); James Ballagh, 1857 in *IGI* (Eastwood, Renfrews).

Ballam

- **Current frequencies:** GB 429, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 301
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset
- English: see **Balaam**.

Ballan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 131, Ireland 6
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 69
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham; WR Yorks
- English: see **Balaam**.

Ballance

Variants: **Ballans**, **Balance**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 361, Ireland 93
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 241
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Lincs; Staffs
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim; Dublin
- English: nickname from Middle English *balaunce* 'balance, set of scales' (Old French *balance*), perhaps given to a balance maker or someone who used a balance for weighing goods. **Further information:** Compare Thomas le Balauncer, 1283 in *London Letter Books A* (London), and John le Balauncer, 1339 in *Patent Rolls*, from Anglo-Norman French *balancer* 'one who weighs with a balance'. See *Thuresson*, p. 155.

Early bearers: Roger Balance, 1196 in *Feet of Fines* (Newbold Pacey, Warwicks); Roger Balaunce, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Warwicks); Nicholas Balaunce, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Newbold Pacey, Warwicks); William Balaunce of Warwick, 1347 in *Patent Rolls* (Warwicks); Howell Ballance, 1586, Richard Ballans, 1587 in *IGI* (North Elmham, Norfolk); Christopher Ballance, 1588 in *IGI* (Kegworth, Leics); Tho. Ballance, 1591 in *IGI* (Rocester, Staffs); Robert Ballance, 1599 in *IGI* (Carleton juxta Snaith, WR Yorks); Robt Ballans, 1608 in *IGI* (Stickney, Lincs); Augustine Balance, 1655 in *IGI* (Thorney, Cambs). **References:** *Hjertstedt*, p. 54.

Ballans

- **Current frequencies:** GB 61, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 36
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Lincs
- English: see **Ballance**.

Ballantine

- **Current frequencies:** GB 830, Ireland 235
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 916
 - **Main GB location 1881:** central Scotland: esp. Ayr; also Northumb
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Tyrone
- Scottish: see **Ballantyne**.

Ballantyne

Variants: **Ballantine**, **Ballentine**, **Ballentyne**, **Ballintyne**, **Balentine**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3716, Ireland 81
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 2265
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland: esp. Roxburghs and Selkirks, also Lanarks and Midlothian; and N England: esp. Northumb
- Scottish: locative name probably from the lands of Bellenden, now Bellendean, on Ale Water west of Robertson (Roxburghs). John Ballantyne, archdeacon of Moray 1533–8, was also recorded as John Ballentyne or Bellenden. It has been suggested that

the place-name is from Gaelic *baile an deadhain* ‘the dean’s farm’, which leaves open the possibility of more than one geographical origin; the surname is persistently associated with Falkirk and Edinburgh as well as Roxburghs. The origin of the variation between *-d-* and *-t-*, if genuine, is unknown.

Early bearers: Scotland: Robert Bellentyne, abbot of Holyrood, 1484–1500 in *Scots Peerage* 1; Johne Bellendene, 1575, Hendrie Belenden, 1640 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); James Bellenden, 1596, Agnes Bellendyne, 1615, Robert Ballanden, 1637 in *IGI* (Falkirk, Stirlings); Robert Ballendene, 1600 in *IGI* (Kelso, Roxburghs); Agnes Balladene, 1611 in *IGI* (Leith, Midlothian); Johne Ballantine, 1632, William Ballandene, 1649 in *IGI* (Peebles, Peebles); Margaret Balantine, 1653, William Ballintine, 1682 in *IGI* (Lanark, Lanarks); John Ballantein, 1694, James Bellantyn, 1699 in *IGI* (Yarrow, Selkirks). England: Alexander Ballantyne, 1586 in *IGI* (Ripon, WR Yorks); William Ballantine, 1588 in *IGI* (Morton by Bourne, Lincs).

References: *Black*.

Ballard

Variants: **Bollard**, **Bailward**, **Baller**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 6097, Ireland 93
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4451
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Worcs and Warwicks, and SE: esp. Berks, Hants, Sussex, and Kent
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** scattered: esp. Antrim; Cork

English: nickname from Middle English *ballard* ‘bald-headed man’.

Further information: Where Wyclif’s Bible translation has ‘Stye up, ballard!’, Coverdale translates, ‘Come vp here thou balde heade’.

Early bearers: Peter Ballard, 1196 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Northants); Adam Ballard, 1210 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Cambs); Johannes Ballard, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Fawler, Oxon); Adam Ballard, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Rougham, Norfolk); Waltero Ballard, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (East Garston, Berks); Ricardus Ballard, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Bath, Somerset); Joane Ballard, 1543 in *IGI* (Hartlebury, Worcs); Robert Ballard, 1546 in *IGI* (Stanford Rivers, Essex); Peter Ballard, 1642, Peter Ballad, 1647 in *IGI* (Great Wilbraham, Cambs).

Ballaster

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- English: see **Arblaster**.

Balle

- **Current frequencies:** GB 30, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 31
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon; ER Yorks
- English: see **Ball**.

Ballenger

- **Current frequencies:** GB 30, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 71
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs
- English: see **Ballinger**.

Ballentine

- **Current frequencies:** GB 133, Ireland 121
- **GB frequency 1881:** 106
- **Main GB location 1881:** Angus

- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Sligo; Antrim and Armagh

Scottish: see **Ballantyne**.

Ballentyne

- **Current frequencies:** GB 91, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 73
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb; Angus
- Scottish: see **Ballantyne**.

Baller

- **Current frequencies:** GB 162, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 71
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks; Surrey
- 1 English: (i) occupational name from an agent derivative of Middle English *bal*, *ball(e)* ‘ball, sphere’, perhaps denoting a ball maker. See **Ball** (1), and compare Johanna Balmaker’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Broughton and North Newton, Oxon). (ii) locative name for someone who lived at a knoll, from a derivative of Middle English *bal*, *ball(e)* ‘knoll, rounded hill’. Compare **Ball** (2), and for the formation with *-er* compare **Waterer**.

Early bearers: Alan le Baller, 1243 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Geoffrey Ballar, 13th cent. in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Cambs); Roberto Baller’, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lillington, Dorset); Henry le Baller’, Walter le Ballere, 1333 in *Fransson* (Somerset); John Ballare, 1438 in *Feet of Fines* (Kent); Henry Baller, 1600 in *IGI* (Downham, Cambs); Robert Baller, 1606 in *IGI* (Bridgwater, Somerset); Richard Baller, 1666 in *IGI* (Abbotts Ann, Hants); William Baller, 1792 in *IGI* (Birmingham, Warwicks); William Baller, 1796 in *IGI* (Clapham, Surrey).

References: *Fransson*, p. 194.

2 English: variant of **Ballard** with loss of final *-d*.

Ballester

- **Current frequencies:** GB 65, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- English: see **Arblaster**.

Ballet

- **GB frequency 1881:** 8
- Norman, English: see **Ballett**.

Ballett

Variants: **Ballet**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 128, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 70
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset

1 Norman, English: relationship name from the Norman personal name *Balet*, a diminutive of Continental Germanic *Ballo*, of uncertain origin, perhaps a nickname from **bal(l)-* ‘ball’.

Early bearers: Cristina Balet, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); Johannes Balet, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Reading, Berks); Thomas Balet, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Osmington, Dorset); John Ballett, 1641 in *Somerset Petition* (Somerset).

2 English: nickname from Middle English *bal*, *ball(e)* ‘ball, sphere’ + *heved*, *hed* ‘head’, presumably for a round-headed person.

Early bearers: Robert Balheved, 1316 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Richard Balleheved, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); Radulpho Balleheved, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Tisbury, Wilts); Thomas Balhefd, 1402 in *Feudal Aids* (Suffolk); Robert Balhed’, 1502 in *Feet of Fines* (Suffolk).

Balley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 88, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 120
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Berks; Devon
- English: see **Bally**.

Ballie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 73, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 116
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland
- Scottish: see **Baillie**.

Ballin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 126, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 46
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

1 German, Danish, Jewish (Ashkenazic): locative name from a place so named near Neubrandenburg, Germany.

Early bearers: Samuel Ballin, 1784 in *IGI* (Hambro Synagogue, London); Isaac Ballin, furrier, in *Census 1841* (Bristol, Gloucs); Magnus Ballin, born in Germany, in *Census 1871* (Birkenhead, Cheshire); Wilhelm Ballin, born in Germany, in *Census 1871* (Bloomsbury, Middx); Joel Ballin, historical engraver, born in Denmark, in *Census 1881* (Kensington, Middx); Siegfried Ballin, leather dresser, born in Denmark, in *Census 1891* (Hereford, Herefs); John Ballin, engraver and painter, born in Denmark, in *Census 1871* (Kensington, Middx); Bernhard Ballin, born in Germany, in *Census 1901* (Kingston upon Hull, ER Yorks); Carl Ballin, stone merchant, born in Germany, in *Census 1901* (Bloomsbury, Middx); Adolf Ballin, born in Denmark, in *Census 1911* (Islington, Middx); Gerson Joel Ballin, in *Census 1911* (Brynmarw, Brecknocks).

2 Huguenot: relationship name from the French personal name *Ballin*, which originated as a pet form of Continental Germanic *Ballo*, for which compare **Ballett**.

Early bearers: Marie Louise Ballin, 1723 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street, London); Fermin Ballin, 1727 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street, London); Firmin Ballin, born in France, in *Census 1871* (London); Adrienne Ballin, born in France, in *Census 1871* (London); Auguste Ballin, born in France, in *Census 1901* (Middx).

References: *Morlet, Dictionnaire*.

3 English, Norman: variant of **Balaam**.

Ballingall

- **Current frequencies:** GB 345, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 426
- **Main GB location 1881:** Fife

Scottish: locative name from the lands of Ballingall near Milnathort (Kinross).

Early bearers: John Ballingall or Bangall, 1478 in *Scottish Armorial Seals*; Andrew Ballingaw, 1551 in *Protocol Book Gaw*; William Ballingall, 1558 in *Criminal Trials in Scotland*; Henrie Ballingall, 1593 in *IGI* (Anstruther, Fife); Issobel Ballingal, 1629 in *IGI* (Leslie, Fife).

References: *Black*.

Ballinger

Variants: **Ballenger**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1702, Ireland 12
- **GB frequency 1881:** 946
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs and W Midlands

Ballington

• **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Clare
English: (i) occupational name, nickname from Middle English *balinger* ‘a small swift warship’, also used of a sailor on such a vessel (Anglo-Norman French *balinger*, *balenger*). (ii) variant of **Berringer** (compare **Bellinger**).
Early bearers: William Balinge, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Shrops); Henry Balinge, 1348 in *Patent Rolls* (Derbys); Richard Balynger, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Badgeworth, Gloucs); William Ballenger, 1539, Richard Ballinger, 1603 in *IGI* (Charlton Kings, Gloucs); Elizabeth Ballenger, 1562, Agnis Ballinger, 1565 in *IGI* (Manuden, Essex); William Balinge, 1584 in *IGI* (Saint Albans, Herts); William Ballanger, 1790 in *IGI* (Leckhampton, Gloucs).

Ballington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 131, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 101
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys; also Staffs and Warwicks
- English: see **Bollington**.

Ballintyne

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 107
 - **Main GB location 1881:** SW Scotland
- Scottish: see **Ballantyne**.

Balman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 26, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 34
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon
- English: see **Balman**.

Balloch

Variants: **Bulloch**, **Ballock**, **Bullick**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 386, Ireland 9
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 203
 - **Main GB location 1881:** central Scotland: esp. Stirlings
- 1 Scottish: locative name from Balloch (Dunbartons).
Early bearers: Donald Balloch, 1476 in *Great Seal of Scotland*; Robert Balloch, 1598 in *Register of Edinburgh Marriages* (Edinburgh); Robert Balloche, 1599 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Johnne Balloche, 1624 in *IGI* (Baldernock, Stirlings); Agnes Ballock, 1666, William Balloche, 1676 in *Stirling Testaments* (Saint Ninians, Stirlings); William Belloch, 1676 in *Stirling Testaments* (Alloa, Clackmannans); John Balluch, 1761, Sophia Balloch Cameron, 1881 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks); Alexander Ballock, 1787 in *IGI* (Falkirk, Stirlings).
References: *Black*.
2 Scottish, English: see **Bullick**.

Balloch

- **GB frequency 1881:** 37
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Stirlings
- 1 Scottish: see **Balloch**.

2 English: nickname from Middle English *ballok* ‘testicle’ (Old English *bealluc*).
Further information: The Old English word is also found as a byname. Compare Robert Blakehalloc (for *-balloc*, ‘black testicle’), 1243 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Roger Gildynballokes (‘golden testicles’), 1316 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (WR Yorks). The latter is English for the name of Humfrid Aurei Testiculi, 1086 in *Domesday Book*, which in the original French

is *Orescuilz* (as in the place-name Sandford *Orcas*, Somerset).
Early bearers: England: Lewin Balloc, about 1110 in *Winton Domesday* (Hants); Malger balloc, about 1175 in *Newark Documents* (Newark, Notts); Simon Ballok, 1227 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Sussex); John Balloc, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ludgershall, Bucks); William Ballok, 1381 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs); Alexander Ballock, 1591 in *IGI* (Friskney, Lincs); Henry Ballock, 1776 in *IGI* (Lyng, Norfolk).
3 Scottish: locative name sometimes perhaps from Gaelic *bealach* ‘mountain pass’ or from one of the minor places in Scotland called *Ballach*, from this word.
Early bearers: Robert Ballach, 1670 in *IGI* (Deskford, Banffs); Alexr. Bollach, 1763 in *IGI* (Grange, Banffs); Anne Ballach, 1798 in *IGI* (Grange, Banffs); Isabella Ballack, 1864 in *IGI* (Banff, Banffs).

Ballon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 27, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 8
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx
- 1 Norman, English: relationship name from the Norman French personal name *Ballon*, *Ballun*, derived from the oblique stem of Continental Germanic *Ballo*, for which compare **Ballett**. Some of the early bearers given here may belong to (2).
Early bearers: given names: Baloun, Balun, 1276 in *Hundred Rolls* (Leics).
surnames: John Ballon, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts*; Walter Ballun, 1296, Ballom, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Ricardus Baloun, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Braybrooke, Northants); William Balon, 1541 in *IGI* (Wantage, Berks); William Ballon, 1656 in *IGI* (Mablethorpe, Lincs); Edward Balon, 1725 in *IGI* (Hackney, Middx).
2 English: nickname from Old French *balon* ‘little ball’ or ‘package’, perhaps for a little man of rotund form or for a packer.
Early bearers: John le Balun, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Herefs); Thomas le Balon, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Robert Ballon, 1673 in *IGI* (New Malton, NR Yorks); John Ballon, 1705 in *IGI* (Dronfield, Derbys); Edward Ballon, 1733 in *IGI* (Piddlehinton, Dorset); Francis Ballon, 1752 in *IGI* (Ashcombe, Devon).

Balls

- **Current frequencies:** GB 977, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 3741
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex
- English: variant of **Ball** with post-medieval excrescent *-s*.
Early bearers: Niehle Balls, 1553 in *IGI* (Wells next the Sea, Norfolk); Thomas Balles, 1554 in *IGI* (Attleborough, Norfolk); Thomas Balls, 1568 in *IGI* (Rendham, Suffolk); Rafe Balls, 1570 in *IGI* (Hardwick, Bucks).

Bally

- Variants: **Balley**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 105, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 132
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset; also WR Yorks and Lancs
- 1 English: perhaps a variant of **Bailey**.

Further information: There is no evidence to support Wilson’s derivation in *Reaney and Wilson* from the Old Scandinavian personal name *Balli*, originally a nickname from Old Scandinavian *ballr* ‘dangerous’.
Early bearers: Richard Balli, 1176 in *Pipe Rolls* (Kent); Margaret Bally, 1314 in *London Letter Books D*; Thomas Bally, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Crawley, Oxon); Thomas Bally, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (South Perrott, Dorset); Christiana Balley, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Fletchampstead, Warwicks); Rogerus de Baley, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Langthwaite, WR Yorks); Johannes de Bally, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Tickhill, WR Yorks); William Bally, 1562 in *IGI* (Burbage, Wilts); Siphra Bally, 1593 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Samuel Bally, 1628 in *IGI* (Lillington, Dorset); Grace Bally, 1647 in *IGI* (Huddersfield, WR Yorks); Mary Bally, 1648, Jemima Balley, 1709 in *IGI* (Bath, Somerset); Martha Bally, 1717 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs).
2 English: locative name from Bale (Norfolk), which was originally Old English **Baða-leāh*, recorded as *Bathele* in 1086 and as *Bale* (indicating a two-syllable pronunciation) in 1208.
Early bearers: [... de] Bathele, 1177, [... de] Badel’, 1255 in *Place-Names of Norfolk* (Norfolk); Ralph de Balley, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Johannes Balleye, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Felmingham, Norfolk); Pet Bally, 1539 in *IGI* (South Creak, Norfolk); Robert Bally, 1600 in *IGI* (Ixworth, Suffolk).
References: *Place-Names of Norfolk* 3, p. 111.

Balm

- **Current frequencies:** GB 111, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 116
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Balme**.

Balmain

Variants: **Balman**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 153, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 182
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Midlothian; Perth and Fife
- Scottish: locative name from the lands of Balmain in Fettercairn (Kincardines).
Early bearers: Patrik Balmen, 1553 in *Plays in Scotland* (Perth); John Balmayne, 1599 in *Fordell Memorials*; Margaret Balmayne, 1607, Jonet Balmain, 1615 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Elisabeth Balmain, 1667 in *IGI* (Abbotshall, Fife); Malcolm Balmean, 1680 in *Oliphants in Scotland* (Perth); Willjam Balman, 1686 in *IGI* (Dunbarney, Perths).
References: *Black*.

Balman

Variants: **Ballman**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 195, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 117
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Somerset
- 1 English: (i) relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Baldeman* (Old English **Bealdmann*, formed from *beald* ‘bold, brave’ + *mann* ‘man’). (ii) nickname from Middle English *bald*, *bold* ‘bold, brave’ (Old English *beald*) + *man* ‘man’. (iii) nickname from Middle English *ballede* ‘ball-shaped’ (perhaps ‘corpulent’) but more commonly ‘hairless, bald’ + *man* ‘man’.
Early bearers: given names: Baldeman filius Fabri, 1188 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Kalendar* (Suffolk).
surnames: Nicolaus filius Baldeman, 1188 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Kalendar* (Suffolk); Adam Baleman, 1332 in

Subsidy Rolls (Sussex); Adam Baldeman, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Felmingham, Norfolk); Willelmus Baldeman, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Beamsley, WR Yorks); Willelmus Baldman, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Sutton Poyntz, Dorset); Johannes Boldeman, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (High Laver, Essex); Richard Balman, 1415 in *London Letter Books I* (London); Johane Balman, 1632 in *IGI* (Oakford, Devon); John Balman, 1674 in *IGI* (Dulverton, Somerset); Richard Ballman, 1763 in *IGI* (Silverton, Devon).

References: *Jönsjö, Nicknames*, p. 51.

2 Scottish: see **Balmain**.

Balmbra

- **Current frequencies:** GB 132, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 28
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb and Durham
- English: variant of **Bambrough**.

Balme

Variants: **Balm**, **Balne**, **Baum**, **Bawn**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 171, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 215
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: locative name from Balne (WR Yorks).
Further information: There is no early evidence suggesting possible derivation from Middle English *balme*, *baume* ‘balm, balsam’, though this word has probably influenced the name.

Early bearers: Math’s de Baune, 1167, Robert de Balne, 1175 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Alicia de Balne, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts* (Yorks); William de Balme of Elsham, 1370 in *Patent Rolls*; Johannes de Balne, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Laughton en le Morthen, WR Yorks); Henricus de Balne, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Whiston, WR Yorks); Johanne Balne, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Barmby on the Marsh, ER Yorks); Thomas de Balme, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Stainforth, WR Yorks); Johannes Balm, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Bentley, WR Yorks); Wylm. Baume, 1551 in *IGI* (Rothwell, WR Yorks); Marmaduke Baume, 1640 in *IGI* (Leeds, WR Yorks); Anne Balm, 1688 in *IGI* (Snaith, WR Yorks); Joseph Baume, 1743 in *IGI* (Nottingham, Notts); Benjeman Baume, 1772 in *IGI* (Saddington, Leics).
References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 2, pp. 14–15.

Balment

Variants: **Balmont**, **Bament**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 118, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 68
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon
- Norman, English: locative name from Bailleulmont (Pas-de-Calais).
Early bearers: Thomas Balmound, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Broadclyst, Devon); Vincent Balymond, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Aylesbeare, Devon); Robert Baillmund, Nicholas Baillmund, 1348 in *Patent Rolls* (Shaftesbury, Dorset); Stephano Balmond, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Leigh, Somerset); Chrystian Balmonte, 1546, Alyce Balmont, 1547, Beaten Balmante, 1568, Roger Balmant, 1608 in *IGI* (North Molton, Devon); John Balmont, 1707 in *IGI* (Silverton, Devon).

Balmer

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1922, Ireland 342
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1133
- **Main GB location 1881:** N England: esp. Durham and Northumb, and Scottish Lowlands: esp. Roxburghs

- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** E. Ulster
- English: occupational name apparently from a Middle English **balmer*, **baumer* ‘seller of balsam or ointment’, a derivative of Middle English *balme*, *baume* ‘balm, balsam; any aromatic or soothing ointment’ (Old French *basme*, *balme*, *baume*).
Early bearers: England: Richard le Baumere, 1305 in *London Court Rolls* (London); John Balmer, 1583 in *IGI* (Dacre, Cumb); Thomae Balmer, 1614 in *IGI* (Great Ayton, NR Yorks); Francis Balmer, 1656 in *IGI* (Gateshead, Durham); John Balmer, 1695, Thomas Balmar, 1703 in *IGI* (Barton, NR Yorks).
 Scotland: Lillias Balmer, 1658 in *IGI* (Oldhamstocks, E Lothian); Adam Balmer, 1675 in *IGI* (Jedburgh, Roxburghs).

Balmforth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 945, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1131
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Bamford**.

Balmont

- **Current frequencies:** GB 83, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 35
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs
- Norman, English: see **Balment**.

Balne

- **Current frequencies:** GB 23, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 16
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey and Hants
- English: see **Balme**.

Balneaves

Variants: **Neave**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 83, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 40
- **Main GB location 1881:** Aberdeens; Kincardines, Angus

Scottish: locative name from Balneaves in Kinnell (Angus).
Early bearers: Scotland: Jeane Balnevis, 1637 in *IGI* (Perth, Perths); Henry Balneave, 1648 in *IGI* (Saint Andrews and Saint Leonards, Fife); William Balnevis, 1668, Thomas Balnave, 1672 in *IGI* (Dundee, Angus); Charls Balneave, 1684 in *IGI* (Alyth, Perths); John Balneaves, 1680 in *IGI* (Auchterarder, Perths).
 Forms without Bal-: Androw Neave, 1653, Issobell Neve, 1680 in *IGI* (Dundee, Angus); George Neve, 1680 in *IGI* (Nigg, Kincardines); Charles Neaves, 1806 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian).

Balogh

- **Current frequencies:** GB 341, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** o

Hungarian: nickname for a left-handed or clumsy person, from *balog* ‘left-handed’, from *bal* ‘left’.

Balogun

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1545, Ireland 33
- **GB frequency 1881:** o

Nigerian (Yoruba): from Yoruba *balógun*, title of a leading warrior, second in command to a king, etymologically *baba ní ogun*, literally ‘father in or at war’.

Balsam

Variants: **Balsham**, **Balsom**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 89
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Somerset; also Norfolk

1 English: variant of **Balson**.
 2 English: locative name from Balsham (Cambs).
Early bearers: Pinna de Belesham, 1086 in *Ely Inquisition*; Margaret de Balsham, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Roberto Balsham, 1309 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sandy, Beds); William Balsham, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Willelmo de Balesham, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Thaxted, Essex); Thomas de Balsham, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Hilton, Hunts); Richard Balsham, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Great Gransden, Hunts); Willelmus Balsham, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Chigwell, Essex); Willelmus Balsome, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Willingale Spain, Essex); Alan Balsam, 1523 in *Archaeologia Cantiana* 41 (Kent); William Balsam, 1594 in *IGI* (South Lynn, Norfolk); John Balsham, 1600 in *IGI* (Little Plumstead, Norfolk); Jhon Balsam, 1602 in *IGI* (Hadstock, Essex); Jane Balsham, 1726 in *IGI* (Castle Camps, Cambs).

Balsdon

Variants: **Balston**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 431, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 261
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

1 English: locative name from Great Bouldon in Newent (Gloucs), Balstone in Buckland Monachorum or Bulstone in Branscombe (both Devon).

Early bearers: [. . . de] Bullesdon, 1221 in *Place-Names of Gloucs* (Gloucs); William de Bolesdon, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Newent, Gloucs); John de Bolesdon, 1346 in *Patent Rolls* (Hants); Thomas Bullesdon, 1484 in *Feet of Fines* (Hants); Richard Balsdoun, 1622 in *IGI* (Shebbear, Devon); James Balsdon, 1777 in *IGI* (Falmouth, Cornwall).

References: *Place-Names of Gloucs* 3, p. 174; *Place-Names of Devon*, pp. 226, 621.

2 English: locative name in Northumb and Durham; the surname may be from Bowsden in Lowick (Northumb), which is recorded as *Bollisdon* in 1250. **Early bearers:** Thomas de Bolesdon, 1293 in *Northumb Eyre Roll* (Northumb); Richard de Bollisdon, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Bowsden, Northumb); Rand de Bollesdon, 1377 *Poll Tax* (Bowsden, Northumb); Willelmus de Bollesdon, 1377 *Poll Tax* (North Middleton, Northumb); James Balsdon, 1880 in *IGI* (Ashington and Newbiggin, Northumb); Elizabeth Balsdon, 1881, James Bolsdon, 1896 in *IGI* (South Shields, Durham).

References: *Place-Names of Northumb and Durham*, p. 28.

Balsham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 17
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: see **Balsam**.

Balshaw

- **Current frequencies:** GB 550, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 618
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: locative name from one or more of three lost places called *Balshaw*, in Spotland, Ainsworth, and Ditton (all Lancs).

Balsillie

Early bearers: Robert de Balsagh, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); [. . .] de Balghschae, 1296 in *Lancs Place-Names* (Lancs); John de Balschagh, 1311, Adam de Balshagh, 1323 in *Lancs Inquests* (Lancs); Johannes de Balshagh', Adam de Balshagh', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Cuerdley, Lancs); Robert Balshagh, 1401 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Thomas Balshay, 1512, William Baldshawe, 1522 in *York Freeman's Register* (York); Margaret Balshaw, 1578 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs).
References: *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 7.

Balsillie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 111, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 177
 - **Main GB location 1881:** E Scotland: esp. Fife
- Scottish: locative name from Balsillie near Leslie (Fife).
Early bearers: Andrew Balsillie, 1536 in *Privy Seal of Scotland Register*; David Bawsilly, 1591 in *Saint Andrews Kirk Session*; John Bassillie, 1596 in *Retours, Scotland* (Perth); James Balsillie, 1652 in *IGI* (Kingsbarns, Fife).
References: *Black*.

Balsom

- **Current frequencies:** GB 205, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 202
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Dorset
- English: see **Balsam**.

Balson

Variants: **Balsam**
• **Current frequencies:** GB 273, Ireland o- **GB frequency 1881:** 208
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset

English: variant of **Balston** with loss of *-t-*.
Early bearers: Margaret Balson, 1582 in *IGI* (Durnford, Wilts); Amy Balson, 1584 in *IGI* (Shebbear, Devon); John Balsom, 1698, James Balsam, 1735 in *IGI* (Whitestone, Devon); Mary Balsam, 1722, William Bolsom, 1792 in *IGI* (Bitton, Gloucs); Anne Balston, 1741, Jenny Balson, 1768 in *IGI* (Bridport, Dorset).

Balster

Variants: **Bolster**
• **Current frequencies:** GB 57, Ireland o- **GB frequency 1881:** 28
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset; Kent

English: (i) occupational name from Middle English *balester*, *balister* 'crossbowman' (Old French *balestre*). Compare **Arblaster**. (ii) nickname from Middle English *balester*, *balister* 'crossbow, arbalest'.
Early bearers: William le Balister, 1293 in *Assize Rolls* (Cheshire); Tomas Balster, 1450 in *Patent Rolls* (Tooting, Surrey); Isaack Balster, 1673 in *IGI* (Otterton, Devon); Jacob Balster, 1694 in *IGI* (Wincanton, Somerset); Anne Balster, 1728 in *IGI* (Bridport, Dorset).

Balston

Variants: **Balstone**, **Balson**
• **Current frequencies:** GB 93, Ireland o- **GB frequency 1881:** 105
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants and Dorset

1 English: see **Balsdon**.
2 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Balston* (probably from an unattested Old English **Beadstān*, formed from *beald* 'bold, brave' + *stān* 'stone').

Early bearers: Robert Balston, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); John Balston, 1362 in *Patent Rolls*; Edward Balston, 1597 in *IGI* (Bale, Norfolk); Johis Balston, 1645 in *IGI* (Saint Martin in the Fields, Middx); Edmund Balston, 1655 in *IGI* (Honiton, Devon); Morgan Balston, 1737 in *IGI* (Winterborne Saint Martin, Dorset); Sarah Balston, 1749 in *IGI* (Saint Dunstan in the West, London).

Balstone

- **GB frequency 1881:** 52
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- English: see **Balston**.

Balu

- **Current frequencies:** GB 189, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- 1 Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat clan.
2 Indian (southern states): Hindu, variant of **Bala** or **Balan**, often a truncation of names like **Balachandran**, **Balakrishnan**, **Balasubramaniam**, etc.
Further information: *Balu* is a personal name in southern India, where personal names are written after the family name, and, probably as a result of this practice, it has become established as a family name among South Indians who have moved north or abroad.

Baluch

- **Current frequencies:** GB 158, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- 1 Muslim (Iran, Pakistan): ethnic name for someone from Baluchistan.
2 Polish: from the personal name *Baluch*, a reduced form of *Baltazar*.

Balwin

- **GB frequency 1881:** 94
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk; Kent
- English: see **Baldwin**.

Baly

- **Current frequencies:** GB 58, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 77
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Bailey**.

Bamber

Variants: **Baumber**, **Bomber**, **Bambridge**
• **Current frequencies:** GB 3358, Ireland 125- **GB frequency 1881:** 2310
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim

1 English: locative name perhaps from Bamber Bridge in Walton le Dale (Lancs).
Early bearers: Robert Bamber, 1592 in *IGI* (Poulton le Fylde, Lancs).
References: *Lancs Place-Names*, pp. 68–9.
2 English: locative name from Baumber (Lincs). Some of the bearers given here may belong to (3).
Early bearers: England: Malger de Bæmburc, 1190, Malger de Bamburc', 1202 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); John de Baumburgh', 1359, John Baumburgh', 1364 in *Feet of Fines* (Lincs); Johanne de Baumburgh', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Louth, Lincs); Willelmus Bambour, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Barby and Onley, Northants); John Bamburgh, 1428 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); John Bamburgh, 1428 in

Patent Rolls (Isle of Sheppey, Kent); William Bamber, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Henry Bamber, 1566 in *IGI* (Hemingby, Lincs); Henry Baumber, 1589 in *IGI* (Gautby, Lincs); John Baumbrough, 1615 in *IGI* (Thornton Curtis, Lincs).

3 English: see **Bambrough**.

Bamberger

- **Current frequencies:** GB 165, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 49
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- Jewish (Ashkenazic), German: locative name denoting someone from Bamberg in Bavaria.
Early bearers: German: Henrich Bamberger, in *Census 1841* (Durham); Dietrich Bamberger, born in Germany, in *Census 1861* (Middx); Henry Bamberger, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Tottenham, Middx); Henry Bamberger, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Battersea, Surrey); Dietrich Bamberger, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Lambeth, Surrey); Armand Bamberger, born in Germany, in *Census 1901* (London).
Jewish: Simeon and Malche Bamberger, in *Census 1851* (Middx); Abraham Bamberger, in *Census 1851* (Middx); Zacharias Bamberger, born in Germany, in *Census 1871* (London); Levi Bamberger, born in Groningen, the Netherlands, in *Census 1881* (Saint George in the East, Middx); Elias Bamberger, born in Frankfurt [am] Main, Germany, in *Census 1901* (Mile End Old Town, Middx).

Bamborough

- **Current frequencies:** GB 218, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 143
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham and Northumb
- English: see **Bambrough**.

Bambrick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 290, Ireland 223
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 61
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Selkirk
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Laois and Kilkenny
- Scottish, Irish: locative name from Ballinbreich in Flisk (Fife), which is recorded as *Balnebrech* in 1390, *Bambryich* in the 16th century.
Early bearers: Henry Banbrik, alias Gwy, 1581–2 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §3825; Hugh Bamberick of Graunge, 1602–3 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6775; Thomas Bambricke, yeoman, 1602–3 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6775 (Grandgemanagh); Henry Bambricke, yeoman, 1602–03 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6775 (Grandgemanagh).
References: *Place-Names of Fife* 4, pp. 384–7.

Bambridge

- **Current frequencies:** GB 623, Ireland 7
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 620
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk; Essex
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim
- English: (i) locative name from a Middle English **bem-brigge* 'tree-bridge', i. e. one formed by a felled tree or made of wooden beams, or from a place called this such as Beambridge in Worleston (Cheshire), which is recorded as *le Bembrugg* in 1302–6, and Beam Bridge and Dagenham Beam Bridge, both in Dagenham (Essex), the latter being recorded in the 13th century as *pontem voc. Dagenham Beem*. Compare **Beam**, **Trowbridge**, and the place-names *Thelbridge* (Devon), *Elbridge* (Shrops). (ii) in NE England, a variant of **Bainbridge**.

(iii) locative name in Ireland, possibly from Banbridge, Co Down.

Early bearers: Johannes de Bambrig', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lonsdale, Lancs); Elizabeth Bambridge, 1589 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Symondi Banbridge, 1603 in *IGI* (Fullbeck, Lincs); John Bambridge, 1626 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); George Bambridge, 1630, Anthony Bambrigg, 1633, Charles Banbridge, 1669 in *IGI* (Whickham, Durham); Ann Bambridge, 1648 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); John Bembridge, 1665 in *IGI* (Thetford, Norfolk).

References: *Place-Names of Cheshire* 3, p. 153; *Place-Names of Essex*, pp. 92–3; *Lancs Place-Names*, pp. 68–9.

Bambrough

Variants: Bamborough, Balmbra, Bamber

- **Current frequencies:** GB 455, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 144
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham and Northumb
- English: locative name from Bamburgh (Northumb).
Early bearers: England: Thomas de Bamburg, 1277 in *Patent Rolls* (Bamburgh, Northumb); Alexander de Baumburgh, 1344, in *Patent Rolls* (Northumb); Laurence de Bamburg, 1386 in *Patent Rolls*; Johis Bambrough, 1625 in *IGI* (Norton, Durham); Rob. Bambrough, 1666, Ralph Balmbra, 1846 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Johannes Bamburgh, 1668 in *IGI* (Whittingham, Northumb); Isabell Balmbrough, 1686 in *IGI* (Berwick upon Tweed, Northumb); Willm. Balmboro, 1714, William Balmbro, 1744 in *IGI* (Felton, Northumb); William Bambrow, 1750 in *IGI* (Sunderland, Durham); John Bambrugh, 1755 in *IGI* (Whickham, Durham); Thomas Bambro, 1760 in *IGI* (Bywell, Northumb).
 Scotland: Bessy Baumber, 1718 in *IGI* (Jedburgh, Roxburghs).

Bambury

- **Current frequencies:** GB 438, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 212
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Somerset; also Hants
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Kerry
- English: see **Banbury**.

Bament

- **Current frequencies:** GB 127, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 52
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon
- Norman, English: see **Balment**.

Bamfield

- **Current frequencies:** GB 147, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 282
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Cornwall
- Norman, English: see **Banfield**.

Bamford

Variants: Bamforth, Balmforth, Banford, Benford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 5418, Ireland 152
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 4484
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; also Derbys and WR Yorks
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim
- English: locative name from Bamford (Lancs) and Bamford (Derbys).

Early bearers: William de Bamford, 1228 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Suffolk); Thomas de Bamford, 1312 in *Whalley*

Abbey Coucher Book (Lancs); John de Baunford, 1316 in *Patent Rolls* (Lincs); Adam Baunford, 1369 in *Patent Rolls*; Adam Bamforth, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Hiendley, WR Yorks); Johannes de Baunford, 1381 *Poll Tax* (Castleton, Derbys); Henricus de Bamfort, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Withington, Lancs); Nicholaus de Baumford, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Eyam, Derbys); Christopher Bamfurth, 1539 in *Coroners' Rolls* (Notts); Henrici Balmforth, 1564 in *IGI* (Halifax, WR Yorks); Thomas Bamford, 1572 in *IGI* (Ashbourne, Derbys); Thomae Baumforth, 1590 in *IGI* (Barnsley, WR Yorks); Josephus Balmford, 1682 in *IGI* (Ticknall, Derbys).

Bamforth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1183, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1330
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Bamford**.

Bampfylde

- **Current frequencies:** GB 44, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 23
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Berks
- Norman, English: see **Banfield**.

Bampton

Variants: Banton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 793, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 436
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants, Berks, Bucks, and Oxon

English: locative name from one or more of the places so called, such as Bampton (Oxon, Devon, Westm), Kirkbampton (Cumb), and Bampton (ER Yorks).

Early bearers: Jordan de Bampton', 1208 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Oxon); [... de] Bantun, 1210, [... de] Bampton, 1227 in *Place-Names of Cumb* (Cumb); Gilbert de Bamton, 1288 in *Assize Rolls* (Sussex); Katerina de Bampton, 1296, Katerina de Banton, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Salehurst, Sussex); Thomas de Bampton, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cumb); John de Bampton', 1340 in *Feet of Fines* (Bucks); Ralph de Bampton', 1342 in *Feet of Fines* (Hants); Robertus de Bampton', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Carlisle, Cumb); Johannes Bampton', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Bampton, Oxon); Johannes Bantone, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (West Hoathly, Sussex); Johannes Bamptoune, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Warnborough, Oxon); Gervase Bampton', 1428 in *Feet of Fines* (Notts); Thomas de Bampton', chaplain, 1430 in *Feet of Fines* (Westm); Jone Bampton, 1539 in *IGI* (Chesham, Bucks); Robert Bampton, 1539 in *IGI* (Trowbridge, Wilts); John Bampton, 1575 in *IGI* (Ringwood, Hants); Marie Banton, 1591, John Bamton, 1604 in *IGI* (Little Birch, Herefs); Johanne Banton, 1596 in *IGI* (Southampton, Hants); Edwardi Bampton, 1604 in *IGI* (Hornton, Oxon); Alis Banton, 1607 in *IGI* (Cockerham, Lancs); William Banton, 1613 in *IGI* (Chellaston, Derbys); Elizabeth Banton, 1621 in *IGI* (Harting, Sussex); John Bampton, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Devon); James Bampton, 1644 in *IGI* (White Waltham, Berks); Elizabeth Bampton, 1677 in *IGI* (Longstone, Derbys); Margaret Bamton, 1795 in *IGI* (Garstang, Lancs).
References: *Place-Names of Oxon*, p. 304; *Place-Names of Devon*, pp. 530–1; *Place-Names of Westm* 2, p. 189; *Place-Names of Cumb*, pp. 142–3; *Place-Names of ER Yorks*, pp. 106–7.

Bamrah

- **Current frequencies:** GB 257, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** o

Indian (Panjab): Hindu (Jat) and Sikh, based on the name of a Jat clan. It is also found among Ramgarhia Sikhs.

Bamsey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 344, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 115
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: locative name from Beamsworthy in Beaworthy (Devon), which is recorded as *Baldemundeswurthe* in 1249, *Bealmesworthy* in 1418.

Early bearers: Alice de [B]almandesworth, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Beaworthy, Devon); George Bamsy, 1730, John Bamsay, 1762 in *IGI* (Clyst Saint George, Devon); William Bamsey, 1733, Mary Bamzey, 1760 in *IGI* (Thorverton, Devon); John Bamsay, 1762 in *IGI* (Clyst Saint George, Devon).

References: *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 129.

Banahan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 82, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Roscommon; also Leitrim

Irish: from Ó Beannacháin, see **Bannigan**.

Banaras

- **Current frequencies:** GB 167, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** o

Indian (northern states): probably from the city of Banaras.

Further information: Banaras is a holy city of the Hindus, a sacred place of Shiva, located on the River Ganges.

Banberry

- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall and Devon
- English: see **Banbury**.

Banbery

- **Current frequencies:** GB 49, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 65
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon, Warwicks, and Staffs; Devon
- English: see **Banbury**.

Banbury

Variants: Banbery, Banberry, Bamburg

- **Current frequencies:** GB 701, Ireland 9
- **GB frequency 1881:** 713
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Cornwall; Middx; also Leics

1 English: locative name from Banbury in Broadwoodwidge (Devon), which is recorded as *Barnebur* in 1238, *Bornebury* in 1372, and *West Bonbury* in 1758.

Further information: There appears to have been some confusion with **Bunbury**.

Early bearers: Henry de Bornebury, 1371, Edward Burnebury, 1416, Edward Burnebury, 1427 in *Feet of Fines* (Devon); Agnes Burnbury, 1578 in *IGI* (Saint Minver, Cornwall); Jasper Banbury, 1640 in *IGI* (Hatherleigh, Devon); John Burnbury, 1641 in *IGI*

Bance

(Bradworthy, Devon); Elizabeth Banbury, 1642, Clemance Banbery, 1665 in *IGI* (Saint Maby, Cornwall); Robert Banbury, 1644, Joane Burnbury, 1671 in *IGI* (Shobrooke, Devon); Elizabeth Bambury, 1651, John Bambery, 1689 in *IGI* (Northam, Devon); Johan Banberry, 1661 in *IGI* (Bideford, Devon); Grace Burnbury, 1679, Mary Bonbury, 1688 in *IGI* (Merton, Devon).

References: *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 179

2 English: locative name from Banbury (Oxon).

Early bearers: Algot de Banneberi, 1178 in *Pipe Rolls* (Oxon); Henry de Bannebury, 1310 in *London Letter Books D*; John de Bannebury, 1364 in *Feet of Fines* (Leics); Johannes Banberye, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Wolston, Warwicks); Willelmus Banborwe, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Ewelme, Oxon); William Banbury, 1562, Maria Bambury, 1688 in *IGI* (Tredington, Warwicks); Richard Banbery, 1563 in *IGI* (Claybrooke, Leics); Henry Banberry, 1587, Thomas Banbury, 1618 in *IGI* (Bletchley, Bucks); John Banbury, 1638 in *IGI* (Theddingworth, Leics); William Bambury, 1730 in *IGI* (Chipping Norton, Oxon); Richd Bambery, 1774 in *IGI* (Asthall, Oxon).

Bance

- **Current frequencies:** GB 540, Ireland 12
- **GB frequency 1881:** 330
- **Main GB location 1881:** Berks, Hants, Surrey, and Kent

1 Norman, English: locative name apparently from Baons-le-Comte (Seine-Maritime). In the case of the early bearer William le Bans, 1334, cited below, either *le* is an error for *de* or a different explanation is required.

Early bearers: Radulf de Bans, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Cambs); John Bance, Thomas Ban3, 1301–2 in *Winchester Pipe Roll* (Bishops Waltham, Hants); [. . .] Banse, 1301–2 in *Winchester Pipe Roll* (Hants); William le Bans, 1334 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Toltingtrough hundred, Kent); John Bance, 1450 in *Patent Rolls* (Kent); Johannes Bance, 1542, Catherina Bants, 1615 in *IGI* (Highworth, Wilts); Alexander Bance, 1568 in *IGI* (West Farleigh, Kent).

References: *Tengvik*, p. 70.

2 English: variant of **Bant** with post-medieval excrement -s.

3 English: see **Bunce**.

Bancroft

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3261, Ireland 12
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2900
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Lancs; also Cheshire and Derbys

English: locative name from one or more of the numerous places so called, such as Bancroft in Hamstall Ridware and a lost *Bancroft* in Wolstanton (both Staffs), a lost *Bancroft* in Harewood (WR Yorks), Bancroft in Etwall and a lost *Bancroft* in Rowsley (both Derbys), Bancroft Field in Soham (Cambs), and a lost *Bancroft* in Mere (Cheshire).

Early bearers: Stephen de bancroft, 1222 in *Saint Paul's Domesday*; John atte Bencrofte, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Roger de Bancroft, 1368 in *Patent Rolls* (Westm); Roberti de Bancroft', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Morleston and Litchurch, Derbys); Thomas Bancrofte, 1481–2 in *Feet of Fines* (Warwicks); John Bancroft, 1542 in *IGI* (Farnworth near Prescot, Lancs); Henrici Bancroft, 1561, Ric. Bankcroft, 1582 in *IGI* (Halifax, WR Yorks); Mary Bancroft, 1570 in *IGI*

(Chellaston, Derbys); Wm. Bancroft, 1584 in *IGI* (Wilmslow, Cheshire).

References: *Staffs Place-Names*, p. 100; *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 4, p. 183; *Place-Names of Derbys*, pp. 164, 559; *Place-Names of Cambs*, p. 201; *Place-Names of Cheshire* 2, p. 54.

Band

Variants: Bant, Bond

- **Current frequencies:** GB 740, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 682
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in English Midlands and central Scotland: esp. Fife

English: (i) nickname from Middle English *band*, *bond* 'cord, string, ribbon, band, strap, stripe, fetter, hoop, etc. ', presumably for one who wore, used, or made such things. See also the synonymous **Bend** and compare **Bandy**. (ii) variant of **Bond**.

Early bearers: John Bande of Aylesham, 1328 in *Patent Rolls* (Norfolk); Ricardo Bande, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lubenham, Leics); Walterus Bande, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Beckford, Gloucs); Robt. Bande, 1573 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk).

Scotland: Janet Band, 1629, Jean Bond, 1786 in *IGI* (Saint Andrews and Saint Leonards, Fife).

Banda

- **Current frequencies:** GB 583, Ireland 18
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

African: probably from Chichewa *banda*, a word denoting a type of big ant, used as a totemic name and subsequently as a surname in various SE African countries (e. g. Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia).

Bandali

- **Current frequencies:** GB 126, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Pakistani: locative name from any of several places called *Bandali* or *Bhandali*, in Pakistan.

Banden

- **GB frequency 1881:** 11

English: locative name from Bandonhill in Beddington (Surrey).

Early bearers: Richard de Bandon', 1206 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Surrey); Robert de Bandon, 1246–7, Richard de Bandon, 1285–6 in *Feet of Fines* (Bandonhill in Beddington, Surrey); Adam de Bandon, 1315–16 in *Feet of Fines* (Beddington, Surrey); Richard Bandon, 1327 in *Patent Rolls* (Suffolk); John de Bandone, 1353 in *London Letter Books G* (London); William Bandon, 1418 in *Patent Rolls* (Ely, Cambs); Will Banden, 1683 in *IGI* (Worth, Sussex); Arthur Banden, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Devon); Richard Banden, 1717 in *IGI* (Breaage, Cornwall).

References: *Place-Names of Surrey*, pp. 40–1.

Bandey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 139, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 27
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Northants and Beds

English: see **Bandy**.

Bandy

Variants: Bandey, Bendy, Bundy

- **Current frequencies:** GB 462, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 303
- **Main GB location 1881:** Bucks and Beds

English: (i) nickname perhaps from an unrecorded Middle English **bandi*, **bondi*, **bendi*, derivatives of Middle English and Old English *band*, *bond*, *bend* 'band, ribbon, stripe' + Middle English -i, reinforced by Old French *bendé* 'striped', with reference perhaps to clothing ornamented with ribbons or stripes, or to the diagonal band of a heraldic device. Compare **Band**. (ii) nickname perhaps from an unrecorded Middle English word **bandy*, **bendy* 'curved stick', used for someone with bent or crooked legs. Compare **Gambrill**. The word *bandy* is first recorded about 1630 in *OED* in the context of a hockey-like game called bandy-ball played with bent sticks, so the surname evidence (if this is the same word) is considerably earlier.

Early bearers: Radulpho Bandy, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Lichfield, Staffs); Thomas Bandy, 1396 in *Patent Rolls* (Malvern, Worcs); Thomas Bendy, 1572 in *IGI* (Hanley Castle, Worcs); Mary Bendy, 1587, Ann Bandy, 1736 in *IGI* (Hardmead, Bucks); Annie Bandie, 1599 in *IGI* (Wavendon, Bucks); Richard Bandee, 1635 in *IGI* (Whaddon, Bucks); James Bendy, 1652 in *IGI* (Pitney, Somerset); Rob Bandey, 1669 in *IGI* (Wootton by Bedford, Beds); Betty Bendey, 1793, Thomas Bandy, 1832 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs).

Bane

Variants: Bain, Baines

- **Current frequencies:** GB 462, Ireland 215
- **GB frequency 1881:** 365
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk; Gloucs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Galway

1 English: nickname from Middle English *ban* 'slayer, murderer' (Old English *bana*).

Early bearers: Hereward Ban, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); Anne Bane, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs, Oxon); Willelmus Bane, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Wooton Wawen, Warwicks); Anne Bane, 1588 in *IGI* (Norwich); Edward Bane, 1591 in *IGI* (Saint Andrew by the Wardrobe, London).

2 Irish, Scottish, English: variant of **Bain**.

Banerjee

Variants: Banerji

- **Current frequencies:** GB 873, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Bengal), Bangladeshi: Hindu (Brahman), from *Ban-*, a reduced form of the village name *Bandoghat*, + *-jee*, from *jhā*, a greatly reduced form of Sanskrit *upādhyāya* 'teacher', hence 'teacher from Bandoghat'.

Further information: In Bengali names formed with *-jee*, the initial element is believed to indicate a village granted by Ballal Sen, a legendary ancient king of Bengal.

Banerji

- **Current frequencies:** GB 117, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian: see **Banerjee**.

Banes

- **Current frequencies:** GB 148, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 272
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London; Beds; Staffs
- English, Scottish: see **Baines**.

Baney

- **Current frequencies:** GB 27, Ireland 0

- **GB frequency 1881:** 28
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk; Essex
- English: possibly a nickname from a Middle English adjective with the suffix *-i* derived from what has become dialectal *bane* 'lithe, nimble; clever' (from Scandinavian *beinn* 'straight'). The base-word is found in E Anglia and NW England. Compare Scots and formerly W English *steepy* for *steep*.
- Further information:** Reaney's derivation from an unrecorded (northern) Middle English **bani* 'bony' is untenable, given the distribution of the surname.
- Early bearers:** John Bani, William Bani, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Bucks); Anne Banie, 1564 in *IGI* (Kirkham, Lancs); John Baney, 1661 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Henry Bany, 1725 in *IGI* (Little Dunham, Norfolk).

Banfater

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 12
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- English: variant of **Barnfather**.
- Early bearers:** John Barnfather, 1630, John Banfather, 1664 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk).

Banfield

- Variants:** Banville, Banfill, Bamfield, Bampfylde
- **Current frequencies:** GB 2018, Ireland 26
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1365
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset; Sussex, Kent, and Surrey
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Galway
- Norman, English, Irish: (i) locative name from Banville (Calvados). There has been some confusion between this surname and **Bonfield**. (ii) locative name from one or more of the numerous places in England with similar names, such as Bampfylde House in Poltimore (Devon) and Banville Farm in Wheathampstead (Herts). There may have been some confusion with **Benfield**.
- Further information:** In the 19th century members of an Irish family established themselves as nobility (*Freiherren von Banfield*) in Austria.
- Early bearers:** Richard de Bamfeld, 1264 in *Patent Rolls* (Wells, Somerset); Richard de Bamfeld, 1272, Richard de Baunfeld, 1294 in *Place-Names of Herts* (Herts); [. . .] Benefeld, 1306, [. . .] Baumfeld, 1317, [. . .] Banfeld, 1346 in *Place-Names of Devon* (Devon); John Baunfeld, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Huxham, Devon); Matheus de Banfeld, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lonsdale, Lancs); Thomas Bamfeld, 1462, Matthew Bampfeld, 1492 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Agnes Banfield or Banfill, 1567 in *IGI* (Axminster, Devon); Elinor Bandfield, 1589 in *IGI* (Portisham, Dorset); Dorothy Banfield, 1597 in *IGI* (Richmond, Surrey); John Bampfyld, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Devon); Nicholas Bampfield, 1649 in *IGI* (Bath, Somerset); Copplestone Banfield, 1732 in *IGI* (Honiton, Devon).
- References:** *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 444; *Place-Names of Herts*, p. 56.

Banfill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 36, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 22
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey
- Norman, English, Irish: see **Banfield**.

Banford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 270, Ireland 37

- **GB frequency 1881:** 261
 - **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Warwicks
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Fermanagh
- English: see **Bamford**.

Banga

- **Current frequencies:** GB 406, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (northern states): Hindu (Kayasth), based on the name of a subgroup of the Kayasth community.

Bangar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 273, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian (Panjab): Hindu and Sikh, unexplained.

Bangay

- **Current frequencies:** GB 143, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 108
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk and Suffolk
- English: locative name see **Bungay**.

Banger

- **Current frequencies:** GB 308, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 195
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset and Somerset
- English: relationship name, contracted variant of **Berringer**, pronounced /beɪndʒə/. A man named Berenger was undertenant in 1086 (*Domesday Book*) of Sutton (Wilts), which was known as Sutton *Berengers* in 1377 and Sutton *Benger* in 1488.
- Early bearers:** Willelmus Bangar, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Bentley, WR Yorks); Margareta Banggere, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Pollington, WR Yorks); Matheus Bangor', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Northampton, Northants); Marye Banger, 1591 in *IGI* (Bere Regis, Dorset); Elizabeth Benger, 1592 in *IGI* (Horningsham, Wilts); Dorotheie Banger, 1595 in *IGI* (North Petherton, Somerset); Anne Benger, 1706 in *IGI* (Rowde, Wilts); John Bainger, 1787 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx).

Bangham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 118, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 118
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and W Midlands; also Devon
- English: unexplained. Possibly an alteration of the name of Bangor-on-Dee (Flints).
- Further information:** The rarer name *Bankham* appears to be distinct from this.
- Early bearers:** Willu. Bangham, 1568 in *IGI* (Sandwich, Kent); Issabell Bangham, 1584 in *IGI* (Deerhurst, Gloucs); Katherin Bangham, 1628 in *IGI* (English Bicknor, Gloucs); Peter Bangham, 1668 in *IGI* (Adbaston, Staffs); Benjamin Bangum, 1731 in *IGI* (Madeley, Shrops).

Bangs

- **Current frequencies:** GB 512, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 285
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex and Herts
- English: perhaps a variant of **Banks**.
- Early bearers:** Richard Banges, 1568 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); John Bangs, 1586 in *IGI* (Panfield, Essex); Edward Bangs, 1591 in *IGI* (Braintree, Essex); Wilm. Banges, 1595 in *IGI* (Ridlington, Norfolk).

Bangura

- **Current frequencies:** GB 756, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Sierra Leone: unexplained. The name of a ruling house tracing its lineage to Kande Bangura, the first chief of Kamaranka.

Banham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2017, Ireland 15
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1520
 - **Main GB location 1881:** E Anglia
- English: locative name from Banham in Norfolk.
- Early bearers:** Geoffrey de Banham, 1206 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Norfolk); Thomas de Banham, 1337 in *London Letter Books E*; Robert Banham, before 1466 in *Paston Letters* (Norfolk).

Banister

- **Current frequencies:** GB 590, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1230
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Lincs; Sussex
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cavan
- Norman, English: see **Bannister**.

Banjo

- **Current frequencies:** GB 283, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 3
- Nigerian: an abbreviated form of one of several Yoruba sentential names with *-báńjò* (from *bá mi jò* 'suits me') as the final element, such as *Adébáńjò* 'the crown, or royal lineage, suits me' (see **Adebanjo**), *Oyèbáńjò* 'a title or titles suit me'.

Bank

Variants: Banks

- **Current frequencies:** GB 98, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 286
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and ER Yorks
- 1 English: locative name either from Middle English *banke* (Old Scandinavian *banke*) 'bank, hillside' or from one or more of the many places so called. The term is particularly common in the minor place-names of WR Yorks. Compare **Binks** and **Bench**.
- Further information:** Newton Bank in Flasby (WR Yorks) gave rise to the local surname *Bank* which appears as an affix in the nearby place-name Bank Newton.
- Early bearers:** Walter del Banck', 1297 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); Matthew Banke, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Thomas del Bank, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Arncliffe, WR Yorks); Ricardus de Bank, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Giggleswick, WR Yorks); Hugo del Bank, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lonsdale wapentake, Lancs); Thomas del Banke, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Towton, WR Yorks); Nicholaus del Bancke, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Brinsworth, WR Yorks); Roberto del Bank, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Great Musgrave, Westm); Willelmus de Bank, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Sledmere, ER Yorks); Mathew Bank., 1540 in *IGI* (Saint Lawrence Pountney, London); Wlm. Bank, 1552 in *IGI* (Croston, Lancs); John Bank, 1563 in *IGI* (Greystoke, Cumb); Brigett Bank, 1571 in *IGI* (East Grinstead, Sussex); Thomasina Bank, 1573 in *IGI* (Giggleswick, WR Yorks).
- References:** *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 6, pp. 50, 55; 8, pp. 7–8.
- 2 Irish: in Ireland, this was also adopted for Ó **Bruacháin** (see **Brohan**).

Banker

Banker

- **Current frequencies:** GB 26, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 61
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Lancs

English: (i) nickname from Middle English *banker*, *banc(o)ur*, *bankquer*, *bankert* ‘covering of tapestry or other fabric for a bench, couch, or chair; ornamental hanging’, possibly for someone who made or sold such things. (ii) occupational name possibly from Middle English *benker*, seemingly ‘maker of benches’ but recorded only in names. (iii) nickname, perhaps a variant of **Bunker** (except in examples with the definite article).

Early bearers: Albrice le Baunker, 1245 in *Feet of Fines* (Cams); Thomas Bankar, 1358 in *Statutes of Labourers* (Northants); Richard Bankere, 1414 in *Feet of Fines* (Woodcroft in Luton, Beds); William Banker, 1571 in *IGI* (Chester, Cheshire); Anne Banker, 1719, Bankart, 1769 in *IGI* (Leicester, Leics).

Bankes

- **Current frequencies:** GB 161, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 190
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire

English: see **Banks**.

Bankhead

- **Current frequencies:** GB 120, Ireland 45
- **GB frequency 1881:** 59
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim

Scottish: locative name from one of the minor places in Scotland named as ‘top of the bank’; the most likely one is on the border between Kilmarnock and Dregghorn in Ayr.

Early bearers: Sir William Bankhede, 1527 in *Criminal Trials in Scotland*; John Bankhead or Bankhead, 1559 in *Scottish Armorial Seals* (Bushe, Ayr); Helen Bankheid, 1600 in *Register of Edinburgh Marriages* (Edinburgh); Hew Bankheid, 1634 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Perth); Mary Bankhead, 1676 in *IGI* (Kilmarnock, Ayr); Hugh Bankhead, 1764 in *Wigtown Testaments* (Portnessock, Wigtowns).

References: *Black*.

Bankier

- **Current frequencies:** GB 156, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 128
- **Main GB location 1881:** Stirlings

Scottish: locative name from the lands of Bankier by Banknock (Stirlings), known mainly from defunct Bankier Distillery.

Early bearers: John Bankier, 1662 in *Argyll Sasines* (Kirkintilloch, Dunbartons); James Bankier, 1670 in *Hamilton Testaments* (Cadder parish, Lanarks).

References: *Black*.

Bankole

- **Current frequencies:** GB 340, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Nigerian (Yoruba): from the personal name *Bánkòlé* (Yoruba *bá mi kó 'lé* ‘build a house with me’).

References: Oduyoye, p. 45.

Banks

Variants: **Bankes**, **Bangs**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20730, Ireland 489
- **GB frequency 1881:** 15236

- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread; esp. Lancs, Yorks, and Staffs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Sligo, Leitrim, and Longford; Limerick

1 English: variant of **Bank** with post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Early bearers: John Bankes, 1542 in *IGI* (Oswaldkirk, NR Yorks); Robt. Banks, 1542 in *IGI* (Rotherham, WR Yorks); John Banks, 1543 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); Henrici Bancks, 1563 in *IGI* (Tatenhill, Staffs).

2 English: locative name, a reduced form of Middle English *bank-house* ‘house on the bank’.

Early bearers: Johannes del Bankhouce, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lonsdale, Lancs); William Bankhoue, 1482 in *York Freeman's Register* (York); Robert Bancus, 1513 in *York Guild Register* (York).

3 Irish: in Ireland, this is often the English name imported, but it was also adopted for **Ó Bruacháin** (see **Brohan**).

Early bearers: John Banks, 1572 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2169 (Dublin).

Bann

- **Current frequencies:** GB 365, Ireland 87
- **GB frequency 1881:** 343
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Armagh and Down

Norman, English: (i) relationship name, probably from an unrecorded Middle English personal name **Banne* (Old English **Banna*, of uncertain meaning). Compare **Banning**. (ii) nickname perhaps from Old French *bane*, *banne* ‘hamper, pannier; tip-cart’.

Early bearers: Brucstanus Banne, 1086 in *Winton Domesday* (Hants); Ricardo Banne, 1210–11 in *Winchester Pipe Roll* (Hants); Richard Banne, 1249 in *Assize Rolls* (Wilts); William bann, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Leics); Helena Ban, 1566, William Bann, 1576 in *IGI* (Biddulph, Staffs); Edward Bann, 1614 in *IGI* (Wokingham, Berks); Robert Bann, 1630 in *IGI* (Paston, Norfolk); Kathrine Bann, 1655 in *IGI* (Chester, Cheshire).

References: *Tengvik*, p. 150; *Feilitzten*, *Winton*, p. 207.

Bannan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 251, Ireland 24
- **GB frequency 1881:** 218
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered; esp. Lancs; Glasgow
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cavan

Irish: from **Ó Banáin**, see **Bannon**.

Bannard

- **Current frequencies:** GB 92, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 93
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northants

English: (i) possibly a variant of **Banner** with excrescent *-d*. (ii) alternatively perhaps a variant of **Baynard**.

Early bearers: Rogerus Bannard, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Salisbury, Wilts); Hellen Bannard, 1587 in *IGI* (Ditchat, Somerset); Richard Bannard, 1717 in *IGI* (Cobham, Kent); Elizabeth Bannard, 1777 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Henry Bannard, 1814 in *IGI* (Brackley, Northants).

Bannatyne

Variants: **Bannerton**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 322, Ireland 14
- **GB frequency 1881:** 357

- **Main GB location 1881:** W Scotland: esp. Bute
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Clare

Scottish: locative name from a place called *Bennachtain*, according to *Black*, whose site and etymology are uncertain. The second element appears to be a Gaelic genitive case form of the Pictish personal name *Nechtán*.

Further information: This has been incorrectly claimed to be a variant of **Ballantyne**. It has also been claimed that the original form, *Bannatyne*, was that of a sept associated with Clan Campbell and Clan Stuart of Bute. There has been some confusion of the two names over part of their distributions in later centuries, as witnessed by the John Bannatyne who is also called Ballentyne and Bellenden in the 1660s (*Black*) and the brothers mentioned in *Patronymica Britannica*, p. 17, who indifferently called themselves Bannatyne and Ballantyne.

Early bearers: William de Benathyne, 1242–50 in *Midlothian Charters*; Nicolas de Benothyne, 1278–94 in *Midlothian Charters* . . . Banaghtyn, 1304 in *Black*; Johannes de Banauthyn, dominus de Currok, about 1354 in *Kelso Register* (Roxburghs); Sir Richard of Bannochtime of the Corhouse, about 1460, sometimes signing himself Bannachty, in *Black*; Richard Banauchtyne de Corhouse, 1467 in *Newbattle Register* (Corehouse, Lanarks); Agnes Bannatyne, 1600 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Thomas Johnne Bannatyn, 1612 in *IGI* (Tranent, E Lothian); Jonat Bannatyn, 1668 in *IGI* (Ayr, Ayr); Donald Bannatyn, 1691 in *IGI* (Rothesay, Bute); David Bannatyne, 1671 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks); James Bannatine, 1672 in *IGI* (Yester, E Lothian); Finual Bannatyn, 1744 in *IGI* (Rothesay, Bute); Mary Bannatine, 1794 in *IGI* (Kilmory, Bute).

References: Learney, Sir Thomas Innes (1908) *The Clans, Septs, and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands*.

Bannell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 116, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 79
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered; esp. Norfolk; Middx

1 English: see **Barnwell**.

2 English: see **Banwell**.

Banner

Variants: **Bannard**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2417, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1635
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Worcs

English: nickname from Middle English *baner* ‘banner’ (Old French *banere*, *baniere*), possibly for one who made banners or who carried a banner in processions.

Early bearers: Will’m’s Baner, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ham hundred, Kent); Willelmus Banner, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Saint Michael, Worcs); Catherine Banner, 1539 in *IGI* (Farnworth near Prescott, Lancs); Thomas Banner, 1545 in *IGI* (Worcester, Worcs); Nicholis Baner, 1580 in *IGI* (Birmingham, Warwicks); Edward Bannor, 1671 in *IGI* (Bromsgrove, Worcs).

Bannerman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1174, Ireland 37
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1039
- **Main GB location 1881:** Highland Scotland: esp. Aberdeen, Sutherland, and Caithness

Scottish: occupational name from Older Scots *banner-man* 'standard-bearer, ensign'.

Early bearers: Dovinaldus Banerman, king's physician, 1368 in *Great Seal of Scotland* (Clinterty, Aberdeens); Alexander Banerman, 1391 in *Arbroath Register* (Aberdeen); John Banarman, burgess, 1467 in *Dunfermline Register* (Berwick upon Tweed, Northumb); Alexander Bannerman, sheriff-depute, 1498 in *Aberdeens Court Records* (Aberdeen).

Bannerton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Galway

Irish: of uncertain origin; possibly a variant of **Bannatyne**, although De Bhulbh says the distribution of this spelling, in Ballinasloe and Galway, is very different from that of Bannatyne, which is found in Belfast and Down, brought from Arran and Bute. However, respelling of names from Britain is quite common in Ireland.

Bannester

- **GB frequency 1881:** 41
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- Norman, English: see **Bannister**.

Bannigan

Variants: **Banahan**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 156, Ireland 8
- **GB frequency 1881:** 9
- **Main GB location 1881:** Glasgow
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Monaghan

Irish: from Ó Beannacháin 'descendant of Beannachán', a personal name from a diminutive of *beannach* 'peaked, pointed, having horns', maybe in the sense 'little stag'.

Early bearers: Ireland: Donogh O Bennaghan, horseman, 1578 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §3229 (Tyrrerell, Sligo); Gilleduff O Benachain, 1585 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §4686 (Cluinamahin, Sligo); Cormuck, Dowalltagh, and Hugh O Benochan, 1590 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §5434 (Clonemahin, Sligo); Gille-gromaie O Benahan, 1590 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §5498 (Kyncrevyn, Sligo).

Banning

- **Current frequencies:** GB 476, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 430
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs, Wilts, and Berks
- English: relationship name perhaps from an unrecorded Middle English personal name **Banning*, which might be a pet form of Old English **Banna* (see **Bann**).

Early bearers: Thoma Banyng, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Manton, Wilts); Thoma Bannyng', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Marlborough, Wilts); William Banning, 1562 in *IGI* (Burbage, Wilts).

Bannister

Variants: **Banister**, **Bannester**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 7753, Ireland 109
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 5138
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and WR Yorks
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin; Antrim
- Norman, English: nickname from Old French *banaste*, *banastre* 'covering for a cart or wagon; basket', i. e. a large wicker container. In the 12th century a Norman family of this name had estates in Orne (Normandy) and in England. Ricardus

Banastre appears in charters relating to the earls of Chester in about 1120–9. In the mid-12th century Turstan or Turstin Banastre was father-in-law to Richard fitz Roger of Woodplumpton, Lancs, which may explain the later appearance of the surname in Lancs. With what sense the Norman surname was acquired is unknown. It can hardly have been occupational, contrary to Reaney's view that it denoted a basket maker. It is possible that many or even all of the later bearers of the surname were descended from this knightly family. Willelmus Banastre, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Sulhamstead Bannister, Berks) was probably a descendant of William Banastre, who held one of the manors at Sulhamstead in 1198. However, several men with this surname in the Poll Tax Returns are described as servants or agricultural labourers, while Ricardus Banastr', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Gnosall, Staffs) was a butcher. It is conceivable that these men took their name from Middle English *banastre*, a borrowing of the French word, and that it referred to a basket or hamper they used in their work. Alternatively they may have belonged to branches of the knightly family that had fallen in the social scale.

Early bearers: Turstan Banastre, 1149–53 in *Stenton, Feudalism* (Lincs); Richard Banastre, 1186 in *Eynsham Cartulary* (Oxon); John Banastre, 1258 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Leeds, WR Yorks); John Banastre, 1296 in *Patent Rolls* (Berwick upon Tweed, Northumb); Roberto Banastr', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Walton le Dale, Lancs); Roberto Banastr', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Congerstone, Leics); Adam Banaster, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Brierley, WR Yorks); Richard Banester, 1459 in *Ancient Deeds* vi (Staffs); John Banyster, 1554 in *York Freeman's Register* (York); Jacobi Bannister, 1542 in *IGI* (Alstonefield, Staffs); Henrici Banester, 1560, Henric. Bannister, 1590 in *IGI* (Halifax, WR Yorks); Henrie Bannister, 1604 in *IGI* (Bolton, Lancs).

References: *Domesday Descendants*, pp. 161–2.

Bannon

Variants: **Bannan**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1287, Ireland 1290
- **GB frequency 1881:** 329
- **Main GB location 1881:** IoM; Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Tipperary

Irish, Manx: from Ó Banáin 'descendant of *Banán*', a personal name based on a diminutive of *bán* 'white, fair, pale'.

Early bearers: Ireland: Mael-Patraic Ó Banan, bishop of Connor and Dalaraide, 1174 in *AU*; Ó Banain, bishop of Oirghialla (Clogher), 1319 in *AU*; Thaddeus O'Bannan, yeoman, 1599 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6274 (Blackwood, Kildare).

References: *Kneen*.

Bano

Variants: **Banu**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 841, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

Muslim (India, Pakistan): status name from Persian *bānū* 'princess, lady, Mrs'. This is a respectful term of address or reference meaning 'lady', normally used with a Muslim woman's personal name.

Bansal

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1668, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

Indian (northern states): nickname, Hindu (Bania), Jain, and Sikh, apparently related to Sanskrit *vamśa* 'lineage', also meaning 'bamboo'.

Further information: The Agarwal Banias have a clan called Bansal (see **Agarwal**), as have the Ramgarhia Sikhs.

Bant

Variants: **Bance**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 157, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 239
- **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks; Cornwall

English: (i) see **Bunt**. (ii) see **Band**.

Early bearers: Gulielmi Bant, 1574 in *IGI* (Quethiock, Cornwall); Degorii Bant, 1623 in *IGI* (Gulval, Cornwall); William Bant, 1713 in *IGI* (Coventry, Warwicks).

Banter

- **GB frequency 1881:** 72
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

English: unexplained, possibly a variant of **Bunter**. **Further information:** This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Early bearers: Mathew Banter, 1579 in *IGI* (Newcastle, Northumb); Sarah Banter, 1732 in *IGI* (Fleet Prison and Rules of the Fleet, London); Richard Banter, 1817 in *IGI* (Newington, Surrey).

Banthorpe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 229, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 76
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk and Norfolk

English: locative name from Bonthorpe in Willoughby (Lincs).

Early bearers: Robert Benthorp [for Bonthorp], 1381 in *Patent Rolls* (Holland, Lincs); Samuel Banthorp, 1799 in *IGI* (Rendham, Suffolk); Maria Banthorpe, 1817 in *IGI* (Dennington, Suffolk).

References: *Lincs Place-Names*, p. 16.

Bantick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 132, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 112
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk and Essex
- English: see **Bantock**.

Bantin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 115, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 72
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London; Gloucs
- English: see **Banting**.

Banting

Variants: **Bantin**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 270, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 264
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants

English: unexplained; possibly a variant of the obsolete adjective *bunting* in the sense 'chubby, tubby' or in the E Anglian dialectal sense 'slovenly', or an application of the bird-name. Compare **Bunting**.

Early bearers: Nicholas Banting of Redehale, 1269 in *Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich)*; Agnes Bantying', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Kingston upon Hull, ER Yorks); Margareta Bontyng, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Pentlow, Essex); Thomas Bantinge, 1548 in *IGI* (Wantage, Berks); Agniss Banting, 1601 in *IGI* (Bampton, Oxon); Mary

Bantock

Banting, 1678 in *IGI* (Kingston Bagpuize, Berks); Jno. Bantin, 1723 in *IGI* (Bampton, Oxon); Martha Anne Bonting, 1812 in *IGI* (Warblington, Hants).

Bantock

Variants: Bantick, Bundoock, Bundick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 211, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 151
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk

English: unexplained.

Early bearers: Johanne Bondok', 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Saint Lawrence, Essex); Richard Bondock, 1567 in *IGI* (Stock, Essex); Robert Bantock, 1581 in *IGI* (Belchamp Walter, Essex); John Bantocke, 1600 in *IGI* (Stratford Saint Mary, Suffolk); Mary Bandoock, 1616 in *IGI* (North Willingham, Lincs); Nathl. Bantock, 1638 in *IGI* (Assington, Suffolk); Anne Bantick, 1683 in *IGI* (Groton, Suffolk); Thomas Bantuck, 1712 in *IGI* (Sudbury, Suffolk); Sarah Bandoock, 1807 in *IGI* (Layton, Essex).

Bantoft

- **Current frequencies:** GB 60, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 106
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk; also Lancs

English: see **Bontoft**.

Banton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1189, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 449
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Derby

English: see **Bampton**.

Banu

- **Current frequencies:** GB 311, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** o

Indian: see **Bano**.

Banville

- **Current frequencies:** GB 46, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Wexford
- Norman, English, Irish: variant of **Banfield**. This is the original French form of the place-name, and it is now the usual spelling of the surname in Ireland.

Banwait

- **Current frequencies:** GB 226, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat clan.

Banwell

Variants: Bannell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 601, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 430
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset

1 English: locative name from Banwell (Somerset).

Early bearers: John de Banwell, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Walter de Banewell, 1335 in *Glastonbury Chartulary* (Somerset); Johanne Bannewalle, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Holme Lacy, Herefs); Williambi Banwell, 1557 in *IGI* (Westbury, Wilts); Robert Banwell, 1608 in *IGI* (Badgworth, Somerset); Alee Banwell, 1804, James Bannell, 1835 in *IGI* (Kingston Seymour, Somerset).

2 English: locative name from Banwell Farm in North Mundham (Sussex).

Early bearers: Nicholas de Benewell, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Gilbertus Banewell', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Runciton, Sussex); Johanne Banewelle, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Chichester, Sussex); Margrate Banwell, 1584 in *IGI* (Selsey, Sussex); William Banwell, 1587 in *IGI* (Chichester, Sussex).

References: *Place-Names of Sussex*, p. 73.

Banyard

- **Current frequencies:** GB 909, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 681
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk, Cambs, and Norfolk

Norman, English: see **Baynard**.

Bao

- **Current frequencies:** GB 120, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- Chinese: Mandarin form of the Chinese surnames 包 鮑 and 保, see **Pau** (2–4)

Baptie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 278, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 246
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland; esp. Roxburghs, Selkirks, and Midlothian
- Scottish: locative name apparently from Badby (Northants).

Early bearers: William de Baddeby, tunc constabularius de Berewic, about 1270 in *Home of Wedderburn Manuscripts*; John de Baddeby and Nicol de Baddeby of the county of Berewyk, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar*; John Badbee, 1536 in *Privy Seal of Scotland Register*; Elspeth Baptie, 1610 in *IGI* (Leith, Midlothian); Agnes Bapty, 1677 in *IGI* (Kirkliston, W Lothian); Alexander Babtie, 1742 in *IGI* (Yarrow, Selkirks); James Bapti, 1773 in *IGI* (Stitchel, Roxburghs).

Baptist

- **Current frequencies:** GB 337, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 174
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb and Durham
- Huguenot, French: see **Baptiste**.

Baptista

- **Current frequencies:** GB 308, Ireland 9
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Spanish, Portuguese: relationship name from the personal name *Baptista* 'Baptist', after Saint John the Baptist (see **Baptiste**). This form is found in Portugal, Spain (Castile), and some other countries. Compare **Baptiste**, **Batista**, and **Battista**. **Early bearers:** John Baptista, 1649 in *IGI* (Clerkenwell, Middx); Isobell Baptista, 1684 in *IGI* (Holy Island, Northumb); Joseph Baptista, born in Portugal, in *Census 1901* (Lancs); Jose Baptista, in *Census 1911* (Hants).

Baptiste

Variants: Baptist, Batiste

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1315, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 47
- **Main GB location 1881:** Guernsey; also Hants, Berks, and Surrey

Huguenot, French: relationship name from a medieval French and English personal name, derived from the distinguishing epithet of Saint John the Baptist, who baptized people, including Jesus

Christ, in the river Jordan (Mark 1:9). The name derives from Latin *baptista* (Greek *baptistēs*). Compare **Baptista**, **Batista**, and **Battista**. **Further information:** Many but not all bearers of this name in England are of Huguenot descent. **Early bearers:** England: Lewes Baptist, 1562 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph without Bishopsgate, London); James Baptist, 1595 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); John Baptiste, 1672 in *IGI* (Holy Island, Northumb); Pierre Baptiste, 1702 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street French Huguenot Church, London); Maurice Batiste, artist, born in France, in *Census 1881* (Reading, Berks); Daniel Batiste, carpenter, born in Guernsey, in *Census 1881* (Barrow in Furness, Lancs); Andrew Baptiste, born in Guernsey, in *Census 1881* (Birmingham, Warwicks); Thomas Baptist, in *Census 1881* (Brighton, Sussex); Joseph Baptiste, in *Census 1881* (Deptford, Kent). Channel Islands: Nicholas Batiste, in *Census 1881* (Saint Anne, Alderney); Thomas Batiste, in *Census 1881* (Saint Mary de Castro, Guernsey).

Bapu

- **Current frequencies:** GB 210, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** o

Indian (Muslim): probably derived from Hindi/Urdu *bapu* 'father'.

Bara

- **Current frequencies:** GB 99, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3

1 Scottish: locative name from Bara, the name of an ancient manor and parish in E Lothian, recorded as *Barewe* and *Berewe* in the early 13th century (*Saint Andrews Charters*).

Early bearers: Henry de Barue, about 1200 in *Newbattle Register* (Bearford, E Lothian); Gilbert de Berewe, 1206–22 in *Saint Andrews Charters* (Bara, E Lothian); William Bara, 1678 in *IGI* (Stenton, E Lothian); Janet Bara, 1719 *IGI* (Gladsmuir, E Lothian).

2 Huguenot, French: nickname denoting a sly or deceitful person, from Old French and Occitan *barat* 'ruse, guile'.

Early bearers: Huguenot: Jean Bara, 1610 in *IGI* (Walloon or Strangers Church, Canterbury, Kent); Pierre Bara, 1626 in *IGI* (Walloon or Strangers Church, Canterbury, Kent); Marie Bara, 1634 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street, London); Guillaume Bara, 1683 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street, London).

3 Polish, Czech: relationship name from a reduced vernacular form of the Latin personal name *Bartolomaeus* (Polish *Bartłomiej*, Czech *Bartoloměj*; see **Bartholomew**), or possibly from a pet form of the personal name *Barbara*.

4 Spanish: locative name from Bara in Huesca province or from Bará in Tarragona.

Early bearers: Enrique and Madalena Larrissa Bara, born in Spain, in *Census 1911* (Glamorgan); Cyprian Bara, born in Spain, in *Census 1911* (Glamorgan).

5 Muslim: unexplained.

Barakat

- **Current frequencies:** GB 237, Ireland 8
- **GB frequency 1881:** o

Muslim (widespread, especially in Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh): from a personal name based on Arabic *barakāt* 'blessings, good fortune, prosperity', often found in combinations such as *Barakat-ullah* 'blessings of Allah'.

Baram

- **Current frequencies:** GB 39, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 12
 - **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks
- English: see **Barham**.

Baran

- **Current frequencies:** GB 670, Ireland 6
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 9
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- 1 Jewish (eastern Ashkenazic): ornamental name, nickname from Slavic and Yiddish *baran* 'ram'.
Early bearers: Rachel Baran, 1850 in *Great and Hambro Synagogue Births* (London); Moses Baran in *Census 1891* (Lancs).
 2 Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, Czech, Slovak: nickname from *baran* 'ram', denoting either a forceful, lusty man or else a shepherd.
Early bearers: Joe Baran, born in Poland, in *Census 1911* (WR Yorks).
 3 English: variant of **Barran**.

Baranowski

- **Current frequencies:** GB 361, Ireland 9
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- Polish and Jewish (eastern Ashkenazic): locative name from any of many places named with Polish *baran* 'ram'. In Polish-speaking regions this was also adopted as an ornamental name among Jews.
Early bearers: Karol Francis Baranowski, 1854 in *BMD* (Clerkenwell, Middx); Stanislaw Baranowski, 1867 in *BMD* (Holborn, Middx).

Barbara

- **Current frequencies:** GB 178, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 8
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- Italian, Spanish, Portuguese: relationship name from the female personal name *Barbara*, which was borne by a popular saint, whose life is the subject of legend rather than historical fact. Compare English **Barbary**.
Early bearers: England: Giovanni Barbara, born in Switzerland, in *Census 1881* (Battersea, Surrey); Caroline Barbara, born in Italy, in *Census 1891* (Sussex); Domenico Barbara, born in Italy, in *Census 1901* (Lancs).
 Malta: Carmelo Barbara, Jose Barbara, born in Malta, in *Census 1881* (Royal Navy); Carlo Barbara, Michael Barbara, born in Malta, in *Census 1901* (Royal Navy); Salvatore Barbara, Ricardo Barbara, Vincent Barbara, born in Malta, in *Census 1911* (Royal Navy).

Barbary

Variants: Barbary

- **Current frequencies:** GB 108, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 75
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall
- English: relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Barbary*, *Barbery*, Old Norman French forms of Latin *Barbara* (from the feminine form of *barbarus* 'barbarian, foreigner'), which was introduced after the Norman Conquest along with the cult of Saint Barbara. *Barbary* remained a common spoken form of the personal name in post-medieval England. See also **Barbara**, **Babb**, and **Babot**.
Early bearers: Richard Barbary, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Leics); John Barbary, 1564 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Thomastes Barbury, 1603 in *IGI*

(Faversham, Kent); John Barbbery, 1615 in *IGI* (Romford, Essex); Barbbery Barbbery, 1633 in *IGI* (Shrewsbury, Shrops); John Barbbery, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk); Thomason Barbbery, 1687, George Barbary, 1705 in *IGI* (Saint Mewan, Cornwall); Petter Barbury, 1722 in *IGI* (Saint Anthony in Roseland, Cornwall).

Barbato

- **Current frequencies:** GB 143, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- Italian: nickname from *barbato* 'bearded', from *barba* 'beard' (Latin *barba*).
Early bearers: Mary Barbato, 1790 in *IGI* (Bethnal Green, Middx); Antonio Barbato, born in Italy, in *Census 1911* (London).

Barbe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 105, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 23
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: (i) relationship name from a pet form of the female personal name **Barbara**. Compare **Barbet** and **Barbot**. (ii) nickname from Middle English *barbe* 'beard; barb' (Old French *barbe*). Compare **Beard**. Note the definite article in the case of Nicholas la Barbe, 1345, cited below.
Early bearers: Bernardus Barb, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Hants); Willaim Barbe, 1229 in *Patent Rolls* (Kent); Hugh Barbe, 1307 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Offley, Herts); John Barbe, Nicholas Barbe, 1335 in *Patent Rolls* (Somerset); Nicholas la Barbe, 1345 in *Patent Rolls* (Modbury, Devon); Laurencio Barbe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Baydon, Wilts); Humfridi Barbe, 1577 in *IGI* (Newcastle under Lyme, Staffs); Thomas Barbe, 1585 in *IGI* (Elham, Kent); George Barbe, 1596 in *IGI* (Churchdown, Gloucs); Richard Barb, 1611 in *IGI* (Luddenhams, Kent); Daniell Barb, 1630 in *IGI* (Brent Knoll, Somerset).

Barber

Variants: Barbour

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20808, Ireland 422
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 17862
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread; WR Yorks, Lancs, and Cheshire; Norfolk and Suffolk
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Sligo; Antrim; Tyrone
- English: occupational name from Middle English *barb(o)ur* 'barber' (Old French *barbier*). The barber was formerly a regular practitioner in surgery and dentistry. Compare **Barbour**.
Early bearers: Alan le Barbur, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Warwicks); John le Barbur, 1248 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Thomas le Barber, 1281 in *London Letter Books A* (London); Richard le Barber, 1298 in *London Court Rolls* (London); Seykin le Barbier, Robert le Barbier, 1299 in *London Letter Books C* (London); Nicholas le Barber de Gadesden, 1328 in *Canterbury Freeman's Rolls* (Kent); Thomas le Barbor, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Derby, Derbys); Robertus Barbowre, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Thorpe next Norwich with Pockthorpe, Norfolk); Robert Barber, 1539 in *IGI* (West Halton, Lincs); Anne Barbor, 1549 in *IGI* (Stockton on Teme, Worcs); John Barbour, 1558 in *IGI* (Worcester, Worcs).

Barbery

- **Current frequencies:** GB 113, Ireland o

- **GB frequency 1881:** 74
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall
- English: see **Barbary**.

Barbet

Variants: Barbett

- **Current frequencies:** GB 73, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 39
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex and Middx
- 1 English: (i) relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Barbet*, a diminutive of **Barbe**, from **Barbara**. Compare also **Barbot**. (ii) nickname occasionally, perhaps, from a diminutive of Old French *barbe* 'beard'.
Early bearers: given names: Barbetta, 1190, Barbeta, 1191 in *Pipe Rolls* (Kent).
 surnames: William Barbette, 1195 in *Pipe Rolls* (Berks); Robert Barbet, 1562 in *IGI* (Dover, Kent); Thomas Barbet, 1585 in *IGI* (Elham, Kent); Wm Barbet, 1593 in *IGI* (Spalding, Lincs); Edward Barbett, 1619 in *IGI* (Saint Lawrence in Thanet, Kent); Thomas Barbet, 1682 in *IGI* (Little Stukeley, Hunts).
 2 Huguenot: of the same origin(s) as (1).
Early bearers: Jaques Barbet, 1604 in *IGI* (Walloon or Strangers Church, Canterbury, Kent); Jean Barbet, 1724 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street French Huguenot Church, London).

Barbett

- **GB frequency 1881:** 8
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx
- English: see **Barbet**.

Barbey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 26, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 35
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Barby**.

Barbier

- **Current frequencies:** GB 134, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 41
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Jersey
- Huguenot: occupational name from Old French *barbier* 'barber-surgeon' (see **Barber**).
Early bearers: Huguenot: Claude Barbier, 1673, Pierre Barbier, 1714, Isaac Barbier, 1720 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street, London); Prosper Louis Barbier, 1869 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx).
 Channel Islands: Nicolas Barbier, 1568 in *IGI* (Saint Saviour, Jersey); Robert Barbier, 1671, Philippe Barbier, 1777 in *IGI* (Saint Ouen, Jersey).

Barbieri

- **Current frequencies:** GB 245, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 13
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx
- Italian: occupational name based on *barbiere* 'barber-surgeon', from Late Latin *barbarius*, a derivative of *barba* 'beard'. Compare **Barber**.
Early bearers: Pietro Barbieri, in *Census 1851* (Middx); Jemocente Barbieri, born in Italy, in *Census 1881* (Knockholt, Kent); Luigi Barbieri, born in Italy in *Census 1881* (Liverpool, Lancs); Guilo Barbieri, born in Italy, in *Census 1881* (London).

Barbon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 13

• **Main GB location 1881:** Westm and Lancs
 1 English: locative name from Barbon (Westm).
Early bearers: Tomas de Berebrunna, 1195 in *Pipe Rolls* (Westm); [... de] Berebunn', 1197, [... de] Bereburne, 1279, [... de] Berghburn, 1292 in *Place-Names of Westm*(Westm); Gilbert de Berburn, 1376 in *Patent Rolls* (Lancs); Gilbertus de Berburn, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lonsdale wapentake, Lancs); Henery Barben, 1669 in *IGI* (Ravenstonedale, Westm).
References: *Place-Names of Westm* 1, pp. 23–4.
 2 English: nickname from Middle English *bare* 'bare' + *bon* 'bone' (Old English *bær* + Old Scandinavian *beinn* or Old English *bān*), presumably for a thin man.
Early bearers: Robert Barebayn, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); Thomas Barbon 1494–5 in *Parish Registers* (Ledbury, Herefs); Wylyam Barebone, 1569 in *Parish Registers* (Ledbury, Herefs); Agnes Barban, 1593 in *IGI* (Cartmel, Lancs); Praise-God Barebone, 16th cent. in *Smiles*, p. 361.
 3 Huguenot: nickname from French *barbon* 'old man' (literally 'bearded man').
Early bearers: Abraham Barben, 1634 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street, London); Claude Baraban, 1697 in *IGI* (Glasshouse Street, Westminster, Middx); William Barbon, 1786 in *IGI* (Covent Garden, Middx).
References: *Morlet, Dictionnaire*.

Barbosa

• **Current frequencies:** GB 560, Ireland 9
 • **GB frequency 1881:** 4
 Portuguese: locative name from *barba*, a type of plant, + the suffix *-osa*, denoting a place rich in this plant.

Barbot

• **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
 • **GB frequency 1881:** 0
 1 English: relationship name from the Middle English female personal name *Barbot*, a diminutive of *Barbe*, from *Barbara*. Compare *Barbet*.
Early bearers: given names: Barbota (f), 1240 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex).
 surnames: Henry Barbot, 1206 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Lincs); Richard Barbot, 1303 in *Feet of Fines* (Yorks); Robert Barbot, William Barbot, John Barbot, 1328 in *Patent Rolls* (Notts) Betrix Barbot, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Rotherham, WR Yorks); Johannes Barbot', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Ecclesfield, WR Yorks); Robert Barbot, 1418 in *Feet of Fines* (Hants).
 2 Huguenot: of the same origin as (1).
Early bearers: Jean Charles Barbot, 1690 in *IGI* (Glasshouse Street and Leicester Fields French Huguenot Church, Westminster, Middx); Charles Abraham Barbot, 1694 in *IGI* (La Patente, Berwick Street French Huguenot Church, Spitalfields, Middx).

Barbour

• **Current frequencies:** GB 2326, Ireland 368
 • **GB frequency 1881:** 1644
 • **Main GB location 1881:** Scottish Lowlands: esp. Renfrews, Ayr, and Kircudbrights
 • **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim
 Scottish: mainly Scottish spelling of **Barber**, from Anglo-Norman French *barbour*, Old French *barbeor*.

Early bearers: William Barbitonsor, 1317 in *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland* (Montrose, Angus); Philip Barbour, 1383 in *Aberdeen Friars* (Aberdeen); John Gray alias Barbour of Edinburgh, 1463 in *Scotland Calendar*; Clappertoun Barbour, 1556 in *Kelso Register*.

Barbrook

• **Current frequencies:** GB 122, Ireland 0
 • **GB frequency 1881:** 109
 • **Main GB location 1881:** Essex
 English: locative name from Birdbrook (Essex), which is recorded as *Bridbroc* in the 13th century, *Brybroke* in 1381, *Burbrooke* or *Bridbroke* in 1594, and was pronounced in modern times as /bɑbruk/.
Early bearers: Willelmo de Bridebroke, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Birdbrook, Essex); Henrico de Briddebroke, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex); Johannes Bridbrook, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Colchester, Essex); Thomas de Berbrok, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Witton, Norfolk); John Bridbroke, clerk, 1418 in *Feet of Fines* (Worcs); Alice Barbrook, 1696 in *IGI* (Stuntney, Cambs); Thos Bearbrook 1757 in *IGI* (Kelvedon near Colchester, Essex); Sarah Barbrook, 1796 in *IGI* (Flempton with Hengrave, Suffolk); George Burbrook, 1814 in *IGI* (Hundon, Suffolk).
References: *Place-Names of Essex*, pp. 411–12.

Barby

Variants: **Barbey**
 • **Current frequencies:** GB 189, Ireland 0
 • **GB frequency 1881:** 103
 • **Main GB location 1881:** Northants and Leics
 English: relationship name perhaps from an unrecorded Middle English female personal name **Barby*, a diminutive of *Barbe*, from *Barbara*.
Early bearers: Anna Barby, 1560 in *IGI* (Burton upon Trent, Staffs); Elezabeth Barby, 1611 in *IGI* (Rowston, Lincs); Thomas Barby, 1641 in *Somerset Petition* (Somerset); Barby Barby, Nicholas Barbey, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Devon); Samuel Barbey, 1648 in *IGI* (Burrough on the Hill, Leics).

Barcham

• **Current frequencies:** GB 107, Ireland 0
 • **GB frequency 1881:** 111
 • **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
 English: see **Bircham**.

Barchard

• **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland 0
 • **GB frequency 1881:** 56
 • **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks; Sussex and Surrey
 English: see **Burchett**.

Barclay

Variants: **Barckley, Barclay, Bartley, Berkley, Berkeley, Burkley, Birkley, Brickley**
 • **Current frequencies:** GB 8528, Ireland 276
 • **GB frequency 1881:** 6141
 • **Main GB location 1881:** Fife; Aberdeens, and Banffs; also Ayr
 • **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Ulster: esp. Tyrone
 Scottish: locative name from one or more of the many places so called, such as Berkley (Somerset), Berkeley (Gloucs), Birtley in Witley and Birtley in Bramley (both Surrey), Barklye in Heathfield (Sussex), Bartley in Eling and Bartley Heath in Odiham (both Hants), and Bartley Green in

Northfield (Worcs). In several cases the /k/ has become a /t/.

Further information: The Scottish Barclays were Norman barons originally from southwest England. It was long assumed that they were from the family that held Berkeley Castle in Gloucs, but G. W. S. Barrow (1973, *The Kingdom of the Scots*) adduced evidence that they are more probably from Berkley in Somerset.

Early bearers: England: Roger de Berchelai, de Bercleia, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Gloucs and Somerset); Thomam de Berclay, 1226 in *Patent Rolls* (Acton, Gloucs); Berkwald de Berkle, 1244, Sewyn' de Berkel', about 1257 in *New Forest Documents* (Bartley in Eling, Hants); Henry de Barclay, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Derbys); Helewys' de Berkele, 1327, Robert de Berklegh, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Johanne de Berkeleye, Petro de Berklye, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Witley, Surrey); Willelmo de Berklegh', Robertson de Burklegh', 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Bramley, Surrey); Matylde Berclay, Matilda de Berkley, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Great Bowden, Leics); Thomas Berkeley, 1533 in *IGI* (Berkeley Castle, Gloucs); George Barclay, 1547 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Thomas Barckley, 1561 in *IGI* (Bosbury, Herefs); Charles Berkeley, 1599 in *IGI* (Bruton, Somerset); Thomas Berkley, 1790 in *IGI* (Worcester, Worcs); Francis Henry Fitzharding Berkeley, 1794 in *IGI* (Berkeley, Gloucs).
 Scotland: Walter de Berchelai or Berkelai, Chamberlain of Scotland, 1165 in *Aberdeen Register*; Humfridus de Berkeley, about 1178–98 in *Brechin Register* (Brechin, Angus); Walter de Berkelay and Robert de Berkelay, about 1175 in *Glasgow Register* (Glasgow, Lanarks); Gelis Barclay, 1561 in *IGI* (Perth, Perth); Mariore Barclay, 1575 in *IGI* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens); Wattie Barclay, 1579 in *IGI* (Anstruther, Fife); Lowrence Barclay, 1581 in *IGI* (Stirling, Stirlings).
 Ireland: Lord Barckelly, 1562 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §464 (Moylotyston, Kildare); John Barckley, 1570 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1617; Francis Barkely, 1585 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §4633 (Connaght); Francis Barkley, 1597 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6154.

References: *Place-Names of Surrey*, pp. 215, 226; *Place-Names of Sussex*, p. 467; *Gover, Hants Place-Names*, p. 195; *Hampshire Place-Names*, p. 28; *Place-Names of Worcs*, p. 348.

Barclay

• **Current frequencies:** GB 36, Ireland 4
 • **GB frequency 1881:** 116
 • **Main GB location 1881:** Midlothian
 Scottish: see **Barclay**.

Barco

• **Current frequencies:** GB 35, Ireland 19
 • **GB frequency 1881:** 0
 English, Irish: see **Barcoe**.

Barcock

Variants: **Bearcock, Barcott**
 • **Current frequencies:** GB 167, Ireland 0
 • **GB frequency 1881:** 74
 • **Main GB location 1881:** Beds and Bucks
 English: unexplained; perhaps a variant of **Bercott**, with post-medieval substitution of *-cock* for *-cot*. Compare Henry Bircott, 1653 in *IGI* (Hughenden, Bucks), but *Barcock* seems to be a 19th-century arrival in Bucks and there may be no connection between the names.

Early bearers: Robert Barkock, 1541 in *IGI* (Little Bromley, Essex); Willimi Barcocke, 1576 in *IGI* (Eaton Socon, Beds); Anthony Barcock, 1582 in *IGI* (Ipswich, Suffolk); William Barcock, 1585–6 in *Feet of Fines* (Hunts); Johanna Barcock, 1599 in *IGI* (Great Staughton, Hunts); William Barcock, 1609, William Barcoke, 1613, Elizabeth Barecock, 1786 in *IGI* (Coveney, Cambs); Mary Barkock, 1699 in *IGI* (Bromham, Beds); Thomas Bearcock, 1738, John Barecock, 1752 in *IGI* (Chatteris, Cambs); William Barcock, 1829 in *IGI* (Astwood, Bucks); Martha Barcott, 1842 in *IGI* (Great Houghton, Northants); Kate Barcock, 1878 in *IGI* (Northampton, Northants).

Barcoe

Variants: Barco

- **Current frequencies:** GB 113, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3

1 English: unexplained; evidently from an unidentified place-name, possibly in E Anglia.

Early bearers: Rogerus de Bargho, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk); Suzan Barco, 1612, Frauncys Barkoe, 1615, Dorothy Barcoe, 1619 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Catherine Barkoe, 1655 in *IGI* (Betley, Staffs); Edwd. Barkow, 1741 in *IGI* (Histon, Cambs); Thomas Barcoe, 1836 in *IGI* (Saint Ervan, Cornwall).

2 Irish: unexplained.

Barcott

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- English: see **Barcock**.

Barcroft

Variants: Bearcroft

- **Current frequencies:** GB 248, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 282
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; also Staffs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Tyrone

English: locative name from one or more of the numerous places so called, such as Barcroft in Cliviger (Lancs), Barcroft in Bingley, Bar Croft Bottom in Almondbury, Barcroft in Haworth, and a lost *Barcroft* in Pudsey (all WR Yorks).

Early bearers: William de Bercroft, 1274 in *Hundred Rolls* (Yorks); [. . .] de Bercroft, 1296 in *Lancs Place-Names* (Lancs); [. . . de] Bercroft, 1328 in *Place-Names of WR Yorks* (WR Yorks); Johannes de Barcroft, 1377, Johannes de Bercroft, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Haworth, WR Yorks); Agn' de Barcroft, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Farnhill, WR Yorks); Willelmus de Bercroft, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Bramley, WR Yorks); Alicia de Bercroft, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Wilpshire with Dinckley, Lancs); Mary Barcroft, 1574 in *IGI* (Burnley, Lancs); Johes Barcroft, 1580 in *IGI* (Leigh with Bransford, Worcs); Elizabetha Bearcroft, 1645 in *IGI* (Hanbury, Worcs).

References: *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 84; *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 2, p. 259; 3, pp. 238, 261; 4, p. 165.

Bard

Variants: Barde, Baird

- **Current frequencies:** GB 275, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 246
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex and Cambs; E Lothian

1 Norman, English: (i) relationship name from the Old French personal name *Bard(e)*, Continental Germanic *Bardo*, from **bard-* '(battle)axe', borne as

a surname by a prominent Norman family with lands in west Normandy and in various English and Scottish counties, including Essex, Herts, NR Yorks, Northumberland, and Lanarks. In Scotland the original family were Norman landowners in Strathaven parish (Lanarks). They were descended from the Baards, lords of Loftus in the North Riding of Yorkshire, descendants of the mid-12th-century Richard Baart. The preposition in some of the medieval examples is an anomalous addition to convey high social status. (ii) some post-medieval examples may be variants of **Beard**.

Early bearers: England: Ralph Bard, about 1155 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Hugh Bard', 1219 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); John Barde, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); Johannes Bard, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Hartington, Northumb); Katerina Bard, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Crimsham, Sussex); Henricus Barde, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Goldsborough, WR Yorks); James Bard, 1539 in *IGI* (Grimsby, Lincs); Thomas Bard, 1564 in *IGI* (Sutton, Beds); Willm Bard, 1564 in *IGI* (Topcroft, Norfolk); Barnard Bard, 1571 in *IGI* (East Grinstead, Sussex); Reynald Bard, 1576 in *IGI* (Little Hadham, Herts).

Scotland: Richard de Baard, 1229 in *Kelso Register* (Strathaven, Lanarks); Richard Bard, 1240 in *Kelso Register* (Little Kype, Lanarks); Johan, Nicol Bard, 1296 in *Ragman Rolls* (Lanarks); Robert de Barde, 1369 in *Acts of Parliaments of Scotland*.

References: Barrow, *Anglo-Norman Era; Domesday Descendants*, pp. 158–9.

2 Scottish Gaelic: occupational name, status name from Gaelic *bàrd* 'poet, minstrel'. Some of the following bearers may otherwise belong with (1); the two names have probably been confused.

Further information: Fergus de Bard (with the 'de' a possible mistake for 'le') and Duncan Barde may have been descended from the late twelfth-century owner of Dunsyre, Lanarks, Fergus Macbard (*Kelso Register*), with his Gaelic patronymic possibly denoting a family of professional poets. Note also Donald Bard, 1328 in *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*.

Early bearers: Scotland: Fergus de Bard, 1296 in *Ragman Rolls* (Lanarks); Duncan Barde, 1296 in *Ragman Rolls* (Stirlings); Simon le Bard, 1364 in *Rotuli Scotiae*; Johannes Bard or le Barde, 1389, 1398 in *Moray Register* (Morays); John Bard, 1526 in *Privy Seal of Scotland Register* (Langmure, Ayr); Maeg Bard, 1565, Margaret Baird, 1571 in *IGI* (Dunfermline, Fife); Jonet Baird, 1594, Jonet Bard, 1596 in *IGI* (Falkirk, Stirlings).

Barde

- **Current frequencies:** GB 19, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 8

English, Scottish: see **Bard**.

Bardell

Variants: Bardill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 537, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 360
- **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks and Staffs; also Herts, Beds, and Essex

Norman, English: (i) relationship name; see

Bardolph. (ii) locative name; see **Bardwell**.

Early bearers: Aschetill Bardel, 1159 in *Pipe Rolls*; William Bardell, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cambs); William de Bardill, clerk, 1335 in *Patent Rolls*; Oliver Bardall, 1561 in *IGI* (Saint Martin in the Fields, Middx); John Bardell, 1569 in *IGI* (Lichfield, Staffs);

Anne Bardell, 1645 in *IGI* (Glatten, Hunts); John Bardell, 1667, Elizabeth Bardle, 1775 in *IGI* (Little Hadham, Herts); Thomas Bardill, 1790 in *IGI* (Denby, Derbys).

Barden

Variants: Bardin, Bardon, Berden, Bearden, Beardon, Bardens

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2034, Ireland 216
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1142
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent and Sussex; also WR Yorks
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Wexford and Kilkenny; Westmeath

1 English: locative name from Barden Park in Tonbridge (Kent), Bardown in Ticehurst (Sussex), which is recorded as *Berdowne* in 1410, or Berden (Essex).

Early bearers: [. . .] de Barden', 1278, [. . .] de Bardenne, 1295 in *Kent Place-Names* (Kent); Robert de Berdon, 1296, William de Bardene, 1327, John Barden, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John de Berdene, 1323 in *Coroners' Rolls* (London); Henry Barden, 1357 in *Patent Rolls* (Lingfield, Surrey); Simon de Barden', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Dullingham, Cambs); Johannes Berden, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (High Roding, Essex); John Barden, 1561 in *IGI* (Ardingley, Sussex); Joan Barden, 1566 in *IGI* (Lamberhurst, Kent); Edward Bearden, 1571 in *IGI* (Borden, Kent); Agnes Berden, 1590 in *PROB 11* (London).

References: *Kent Place-Names*, pp. 180–1; *Place-Names of Sussex*, p. 451.

2 English: locative name from Barden near Skipton (WR Yorks), which is recorded as *Berdene* in about 1140, or Barden near Leyburn (NR Yorks).

Early bearers: Abraham de Barden', 1176 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); Thomas de Berden, 1362 in *Feet of Fines* (Yorks); Robertus Berden', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Ripley, WR Yorks); Johanne de Berden', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (York); Maria de Berden, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Spotland, Lancs); Cuthbti Barden, 1575 in *IGI* (Kirby Sigston, NR Yorks); Johanis. Barden, 1590 in *IGI* (Ripon, WR Yorks).

3 English: see **Bardon**.

4 Irish: from Ó *Bairdín* 'descendant of the bard'.

Early bearers: James O'Bardan, 1559 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §186 (Tomneclare, Wexford); James Bardane, husbandman, 1571–2 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2041; Schan O'Bardan, gent., 1576 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2913 (Tisinye, Longford).

Bardens

- **Current frequencies:** GB 26, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 59
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: variant of **Barden** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Early bearers: Humphry Bardens, 1718 in *IGI* (Buckfastleigh, Devon); Thomas Bardens, 1811 in *IGI* (Cranbrook, Kent).

Barder

- **Current frequencies:** GB 56, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 51
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Lancs; London; Monmouths

English: occupational name from Middle English **barder*, **bardour* 'maker of horse armour' or

Bardgett

possibly ‘pack-maker’, an agent noun derivative of Old French *barde* ‘horse armour (made of sheets of steel); pack-saddle’, Anglo-Norman *barde* ‘pack’ (compare the Old French verb *barder* ‘to equip a horse with armour’).

Further information: The early bearer Nicholas le Barder cited by Wilson (*Reaney and Wilson*) is an erroneous form for Nicholas le Barber, 1328 in *Canterbury Freeman’s Rolls* (Kent).

Early bearers: Hugh Bardur, 1202–3 in *Feet of Fines* (Warwicks); Roger Bardor, 1392 in *Patent Rolls* (Nocton, Lincs); Anne Barder, 1680 in *IGI* (All Hallows London Wall, London); Thomas Barder, 1696 in *IGI* (Pembury, Kent); Valentine Barder, 1780 in *IGI* (Pontefract, WR Yorks).

Bardgett

- **Current frequencies:** GB 138, Ireland 12
- **GB frequency 1881:** 53
- **Main GB location 1881:** Westm

English: unexplained.

Further information: Middle English (Old French) *barget* ‘a small barge or boat’ is formally possible but there is no evidence yet that this gave rise to a medieval surname.

Early bearers: Richard Bargett, 1547 in *IGI* (Durham, Durham); Edward Bardgett, 1722, Willm Bargett, 1732 in *IGI* (Lazonby, Cumb); Elizabeth Bargett, 1735 in *IGI* (Bolton, Westm); Edward Bargett, 1837, Jonathan Bardgett, 1841 in *IGI* (Barton, Westm).

Bardill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 148, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 103
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys and Notts
- English: see **Bardell**.

Bardin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 54, Ireland 27
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 32
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London; Lancs and WR Yorks
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Westmeath, Meath, and Louth
- 1 Huguenot: from French, a pet form of the Germanic personal name *Bardo*. Compare **Bardon**. **Early bearers:** Charles Bardin, 1674 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street, London); Renne Bardin, 1715 in *IGI* (West Street Church, London); Pierre Bardin, 1749 in *IGI* (Hungerford Market or Castle Street Church, London).
2 Irish: from Ó Bairdín, see **Barden**.

Bardney

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 7
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs
- English: locative name from Bardney (Lincs). **Early bearers:** Mathei de Bardenay, 1223 in *Patent Rolls* (Bardney, Lincs); Ralph de Bardeney, 1283 in *Patent Rolls* (Suffolk); Richard de Bardeney, 1306 in *Registrum Antiquissimum* (Lincs); John Bardney, 1562 in *IGI* (Billinghay, Lincs); Margareta Bardney, 1594 in *IGI* (Wigtoft, Lincs).

Bardo

- **Current frequencies:** GB 62, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 29
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent
- Norman, English: see **Bardoe**.

Bardoe

Variants: **Bardo**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 123, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 80
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

Norman, English: variant of **Pardoe**.

Early bearers: Lucresse Bardo, 1701 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); James Bardoe, 1757 in *IGI* (Palgrave, Suffolk); James Bardoe, 1791 in *IGI* (Old Windsor, Berks).

Bardolph

Variants: **Bardell**

- **GB frequency 1881:** 11
- **Main GB location 1881:** Herts

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Bardolf* (Continental Germanic *Bartholf*; from **bard-* ‘(battle)axe’ + **wulf-* ‘wolf’).

Early bearers: given names: Bardolfus de Fotipoi, 12th cent. in *Danelaw Documents* (Notts).
surnames: Hugo Bardulfus, Hugo Bardol, 1142–53 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Thomas Bardolf, 1184 in *Gilbertine Charters* (Lincs); Isabel Bardulf, 1307 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Watton at Stone, Herts); Hugh Bardolf, Thomas Bardolf, 1361 in *Patent Rolls* (Stoke Bardolph, Notts); Hugone Bardolf, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Loughborough, Leics); William Bardoul, 1418 in *Deputy Keeper’s Report* 41; John Bardolph, 1685 in *IGI* (Northaw, Herts).

Bardon

Variants: **Barden**, **Beardon**, **Bearden**, **Berden**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 206, Ireland 196
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 115
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Longford; Wexford
- 1 English: locative name from Bardon (Leics). **Early bearers:** William Bardon, 1573 in *IGI* (Ketton cum Tixover, Rutland); Anna Bardon, 1580 in *IGI* (Leire, Leics); Tho. Bardon, 1595 in *IGI* (Kings Cliffe, Northants); Sarah Beardon, 1808 in *IGI* (Ilkeston, Derbys).
2 English: see **Barden**.
3 Irish: from Ó Bairdín, see **Barden**.
4 Huguenot: from French, a pet form of the Germanic personal name *Bardo*; compare **Bardin**. **Early bearers:** Jeanne Bardon, 1691 in *IGI* (Patente Soho or Le Temple, Westminster, Middx); Marie Bardon, 1703 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street, London); Pierre Bardon, 1702 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street, London).

Bardsley

Variants: **Beardsley**, **Beardslee**, **Barsley**, **Barzey**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1927, Ireland 30
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2269
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cheshire

1 English: locative name from Bardsley in Ashton under Lyne (Lancs), which is recorded as *Bardesley* in 1422, or Bardley in Stottesdon (Shrops), which is recorded as *Berdesleia* in 1194.

Early bearers: Thomas de Bardesleg’, 1242 in *Book of Fees* (Shrops); Ricardus de Berdirsley, Johannes de Berdusley, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Ashton under Lyne, Lancs); Thomas Berdesley, 1419 in *Feet of Fines* (Bucks); [. . .] de Berdesley, 1422 in *Lancs Place-Names* (Lancs); Peter Bardeslay, 1453 in *York*

Freemen’s Register (Yorks); Anna Berdisley alias Sadler, 1547 in *PROB 11*; George Beardsley, 1567 in *IGI* (Lichfield, Staffs); Catherina Beardsley, 1572 in *IGI* (Derby, Derbys); Joane Beardsley, 1574 in *IGI* (Mottram in Longdendale, Cheshire); Jane Bardsley, 1583, Jon Barsley, 1589 in *IGI* (Oldham, Lancs); Richard Bardsley, 1614 in *IGI* (Ashton under Lyne, Lancs); Olliver Beardsley, 1635 in *IGI* (Nottingham, Notts); Ephraim Bardsley, 1716 in *IGI* (Chester, Cheshire).

References: *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 29; *Ekwall*, *DEPN*, p. 25.

2 English: perhaps also a variant of **Barnsley**, at least when the source is Barnsley (Gloucs) since the early records of the place-name show a good deal of variation between *Barnes-*, *Barndes-*, and *Bardes-* spellings.

Early bearers: William de Berdeslega, 1195 in *Pipe Rolls* (Gloucs); [. . . de] Bardesle, 1221 in *Place-Names of Gloucs* (Gloucs); William Bardsly, 1573 in *IGI* (Loxton, Somerset); Thomas Barsly, 1671 in *IGI* (Edington, Wilts).

Bardwell

Variants: **Beardwell**, **Bardell**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 540, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 315
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk

English: locative name from Bardwell (Suffolk).

Early bearers: Tedricus de Berdewelle, 1190 in *Pipe Rolls* (Suffolk); Robertus Berdewelle, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Old Buckenham, Norfolk); William Bardewell’, 1472 in *Feet of Fines* (Leics); Simon Bardwell, 1538 in *IGI* (Wingfield, Suffolk); John Beardwell, 1584 in *IGI* (Hadleigh, Suffolk).

Bardy

- **Current frequencies:** GB 142, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 36
- **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks

English: relationship name perhaps from an unrecorded Middle English personal name **Bardy*, a pet form of **Bardolph**.

Early bearers: Johannes Bardy, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Empingham, Rutland); John Bardy, 1388 in *Patent Rolls* (Yoxford, Suffolk); William Bardy, 1585, John Bardye, 1588 in *IGI* (Ottringham, ER Yorks); George Bardey, 1777 in *IGI* (Burton Leonard, WR Yorks).

Bare

- **Current frequencies:** GB 139, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 136
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent, Essex, and Middx; also Westm

1 English: nickname from Middle English *bar* ‘bare’ in one of its range of senses applicable to persons, e.g. ‘bald, hairless’, ‘poor’, ‘sterile’.

Early bearers: John Bare, 1274 in *Hundred Rolls* (Suffolk); Roger Bare, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Nicholas Bare, 1310 in *Patent Rolls*; Ricardus Bar’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Docking, Norfolk); Johannes Bare, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Horringer, Suffolk); Henry Bare, 1574 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); Thomas Bare, 1622 in *IGI* (Crundale, Kent).

2 English: from one of the locations or named places mentioned under **Barr**.

Early bearers: Willelmus de Bare, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Lonsdale, Lancs); Rycharde Bare, 1562 in *IGI* (Bagby, NR Yorks); Margret Bare, 1578 in *IGI*

(Cartmel, Lancs); John Bare, 1580 in *IGI* (Croxtton, Lincs); Mercey Bare, 1582 in *IGI* (Barcombe, Sussex).

Barefield

- **Current frequencies:** GB 119, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 45
- **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon and Berks Norman, English: see **Barfield**.

Barefoot

Variants: Barfoot

- **Current frequencies:** GB 196, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 208
- **Main GB location 1881:** Berks and Oxon

English: nickname from Middle English *bare-fot* 'with bare feet, barefooted' (Old English *bær* + *fōt*), used to signify friars, pilgrims, and those doing penance. Compare Simon Barleg, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts* (Herts), and Emeloth Baresanke, 1221 in *Cotton Claudius D xiii A* (Norfolk), both 'bare-legged'.

Early bearers: Robert barefot, about 1160 in *Stenton, Feudalism* (Northants); Reginald Berfot, 1203 in *Pipe Rolls* (Cumb); John Barfot, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Thomas Barefot, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Bramley, Surrey); Margaret Barfoot, 1541 in *IGI* (Fillongley, Warwicks); Alice Barefoot, 1576 in *IGI* (Cheshunt, Herts); Henry Barfoot, 1592 in *IGI* (Great Coxwell, Berks); Agnis Barfoot, 1619 in *IGI* (Winchester, Hants); Francis Bearfoot, 1716, Aaron Barefoot, 1729 in *IGI* (Hurley, Berks); John Barfoot, 1746, William Barfett, 1761 in *IGI* (Bideford, Devon).

Bareford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 76, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 15
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs
- English: see **Barford**.

Bareham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 694, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 412
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk and Essex
- English: see **Barham**.

Barella

- **Current frequencies:** GB 147, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 9

Italian: relationship name from a suffixed derivative of the Continental Germanic personal name *Baro*, from **baro* 'man'. Compare **Barone**.

Early bearers: Domnick Barella, *Census 1841* (Northumb); Pietro Barella, born in Italy, in *Census 1861* (Middx); Appollonia Barella, 1863 in *IGI* (Durham, Durham); Peter Barella, looking glass maker, born in Italy, in *Census 1881* (Westminster, Middx); Secondo Barella, born in Italy, in *Census 1891* (Gloucs); Pauls Barella, born in Italy, in *Census 1911* (London).

Barette

- **Current frequencies:** GB 37, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 45
- **Main GB location 1881:** Jersey

1 Norman, French: (i) relationship name from the French female personal name *Barette*, a derivative of the Continental Germanic personal name *Baro* (from **baro* 'man'). (ii) locative name, diminutive of *barre* 'bar, rail', used as a topographical name for a

railed-in place. (iii) variant of French **Barratte**, identical in origin with English *Barrett*, see (2). **Early bearers:** Huguenot: Jaque Barette, 1659 in *IGI* (Walloon or Strangers' Church, Canterbury, Kent). Channel Islands: Edouard Barette, 1645 in *IGI* (Trinity, Jersey); Joseph Barette, in *Census 1881* (Saint John, Jersey); Jane Barette, in *Census 1881* (Saint Ouens, Jersey); Joseph Barette, born in France, in *Census 1891* (Jersey); Marie Barette, born in France, in *Census 1911* (Jersey).

References: *Morlet, Dictionnaire*.

2 English: variant of **Barrett**.

Early bearers: John Baritte, 1569, Jone Barette, 1572 in *IGI* (Prestbury, Cheshire); Dorrytye Barette, 1581 in *IGI* (North Ormsby, Lincs).

Barff

- **Current frequencies:** GB 46, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 115
- **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks

English: see **Bargh**.

Barfield

Variants: Barefield

- **Current frequencies:** GB 805, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 597
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk; Rutland

1 Norman, English: locative name of Norman origin, from Berville-la-Champagne in Eure, as perhaps in the case of the first two examples, or from any of the six Bervilles in Normandy, three in Eure, two in Seine-Maritime, or one in Calvados. In E Anglia, the post-medieval bearers may alternatively belong to (3).

Early bearers: Nigel de Bereuile, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Bucks); Robert de Bereuill, 1204 in *Pipe Rolls* (Devon); Johannes Barfeld, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Cley next the Sea, Norfolk); Dorothy Barfield, 1595 in *IGI* (Wilsford, Lincs); Edmund Barfield, 1626 in *IGI* (Wrestlingworth, Beds); Samuel Barfield, 1635 in *IGI* (Horsley, Gloucs); Prudence Barfield, 1640 in *IGI* (Calne, Wilts); Elizabeth Barfield, 1663 in *IGI* (Ixworth, Suffolk); John Barfield, 1735 in *IGI* (Glaston, Rutland).

2 English: in Kent, see **Burvill**.

3 English: locative name perhaps also from Bardfield Saling and Great and Little Bardfield (Essex), recorded as *Byrdefelda* in 1086, *Berdefeld* in the 12th century, *Bordefeud* in 1235, *Bardefeld* in 1253, *Bradevill* in 1283, *Berdevyle* in 1430. The place-name may derive from Old English **byrde* 'bank, edge, border' + *feld* 'open land'. The post-medieval bearers cited here may alternatively belong to (1), with intrusive *-d-* perhaps influenced by the Essex place-name.

Early bearers: Walterum de Berdefeld, 1230 in *Patent Rolls* (Essex); Simon de Berdefeld, 1312 in *London Letter Books D* (London); Galfrido de Berdefelde, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Stapleford Tawney, Essex); Adam Berdefelde, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Fobbing, Essex); Stephano Bardevyle, Stephano Bardeville, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Theydon Garnon, Essex); Ralph de Bardefield, 1366 in *Patent Rolls* (Essex); Thomas Berdefeld, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Great Baddow, Essex); Dorothy Bardfield, 1598 in Boyd's Marriage Index (High Roding, Essex); John Bardfield, 1778, Rebecca Barfield, 1813 in *IGI* (Wetheringsett, Suffolk).

References: *Place-Names of Essex*, pp. 504–6; *Vocabulary of English Place-Names*, at **byrde*.

Barfoot

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1210, Ireland 54
- **GB frequency 1881:** 905
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants and Dorset
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Derry

English: see **Barefoot**.

Barford

Variants: Bareford, Berford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 782, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 649
- **Main GB location 1881:** E Midlands: esp. Beds and Northants

English: locative name from any of the places named Barford, in Beds, Northants, Warwicks, Norfolk, Oxon, Surrey, Wilts, or Barforth in NR Yorks.

Early bearers: Henry de Bereford, 1204 in *Pipe Rolls* (Gloucs); William de Berford, 1325 in *York Freeman's Register*; Johannes de Berford, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Watton, Norfolk); Johannes Berford, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Bloxham, Oxon); Nicholaus de Berford, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Flixton, Suffolk); John Berford, 1419 in *York Freeman's Register*.

Bargain

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: nickname from Middle English *bargaine* 'business arrangement or agreement', probably for a merchant or trader.

Early bearers: Thomas Bargayn, 1297 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); Richard Bargayne, 1365 in *York Freeman's Register*; Willelmus Bargayn, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Wrangbrook, WR Yorks); Philip Bargaine, Walter Bargin, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Devon).

Bargary

- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

Irish: from **Mac Bearthagra** or **Mac Biorthagra**, see **Berkery**.

Bargate

- **Current frequencies:** GB 43, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 35
- **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks; Surrey

English: locative name, nickname denoting someone who lived '(by the) town gate', or who was the keeper of the Bargate.

Early bearers: Adam de la Bargate, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Joseph Bargate, 1794 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); George Bargate, 1816 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Betsy Bargate, 1829 in *IGI* (Westerdale, NR Yorks); Thomas Bargate, 1848 in *IGI* (Lambeth, Surrey); Annie Gertrude Bargate, 1874 in *IGI* (Dalton in Furness, Lancs).

Barge

- **Current frequencies:** GB 359, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 404
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Dorset, Somerset, and Gloucs

English: nickname for a bargeman or seaman, from Middle English *barge*. Compare Johannes Bargeman, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Southwark, Surrey).

Further information: Old French *barge* originally denoted a small sea-going vessel with sails.

Early bearers: Robert de la Barg, 1217 in *Patent Rolls* (Sussex); Peter del Barge, mariner, 1359 in *York*

Bargent

Freemen's Register; Gyeelles Barge, 1589 in *IGI* (Sidmouth, Devon).

Bargent

- **Current frequencies:** GB 82, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 125
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Hants, Bucks, and Berks
- English: unexplained; the lack of medieval bearers and the southern distribution suggest that it might be an irregular late variant of **Baigent**.

Early bearers: Richard Bargent, 1595 in *IGI* (Bighton, Hants); Henry Bargent, Bargant, 1629 in *IGI* (Kingston upon Thames, Surrey); William Bargent, in *IGI* (Reading, Berks); James Bargent, 1764 in *IGI* (Old Basing, Hants); Hannah Bargent, 1819 in *IGI* (Eton, Bucks); Hannah Barjent, 1827 in *IGI* (Portsmouth, Hants).

Bargery

- **Current frequencies:** GB 257, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 173
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset; also Guernsey
- Norman, English: locative name from Old French *bercherie* 'sheepfold' (also found as *bergerie*), whose Norman French counterpart *berkerie* may sometimes be responsible for the Irish name **Berkery**.
- Early bearers:** Myghell Bargery, 1550 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Jasper Bargery, 1699 in *IGI* (Crewkerne, Somerset); Francis Bargery, 1771 in *IGI* (Misterton, Somerset).

Bargewell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 157, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 66
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- English: locative name from Bawdeswell (Norfolk).
- Early bearers:** Radulphus Baldeswelle, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Great Dunham, Norfolk); Thomas Bardswell, 1593 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Rose Bargewell, 1742 in *IGI* (Larling, Norfolk); Benjamin Bargewell or Bardswell, 1828 in *IGI* (Ingham, Norfolk).

Bargh

Variants: **Barugh**, **Barff**, **Bark**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 469, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 231
- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys; also Lancs and WR Yorks

English: locative name from Barugh (in Darton, WR Yorks), Barff Hill (ER Yorks), or Barugh (pronounced *barf*, NR Yorks), or for someone who lived '(by the) hill' Middle English *bergh* (Old English *beorh*).

Early bearers: Robert de Bargh, 1310 in *Feet of Fines* (Suffolk); John de Bergh, 1365 in *York Freemen's Register*; Willelmus Bargh, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Clifford, WR Yorks); Anna Barughe, 1592 in *IGI* (Burneston, NR Yorks); Henery Barugh, 1689 in *IGI* (Crayke, NR Yorks).

Barham

Variants: **Bareham**, **Bearham**, **Baram**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2632, Ireland 14
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1812
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffok and Norfolk; Kent and Sussex

English: locative name from any of several places called Barham in Cambs, Hunts, Suffolk, Kent, Sussex, and Devon.

Early bearers: John de Barham, 1238–9 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Eichard de Berham, 1274 in *Patent Rolls* (Berks); Helewys de Berham, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Willelmus Barham, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Bury, Suffolk); Richard Berham, 1418 in *Patent Rolls* (Kent); John Berham, 1447 in *Feet of Fines* (Kent); William Baram, 1597 in *IGI* (Buxted, Sussex).

Bari

- **Current frequencies:** GB 691, Ireland 27
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

1 Arabic, Muslim: relationship name from an Arabic personal name based on *bāri* 'originator'. **Further information:** *Al-Bāri* 'the Creator' is an attribute of Allah. The personal name '*Abd-al-Bāri*' means 'servant of the Creator'.

2 Italian: locative name from the Adriatic port of Bari, chief city of Apulia.

Baring

- **Current frequencies:** GB 178, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 129
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- German: relationship name derivative of the Continental Germanic personal name *Baro*, from **baro* 'man'.
- Further information:** John (né Johann) Baring, an Exeter wool trader, was born in Bremen, Germany. His sons John and Francis founded Barings Bank in London in 1762. There were however Barings in England before Johann's immigration; compare Anthony Bearing, 1632 in *IGI* (Ipswich, Suffolk).
- Early bearers:** Verner Baring, 1700 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx); John Baring, 1758 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); Alexander Baring, 1773 in *IGI* (London); William A. Baring, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Manchester, Lancs).

Bark

Variants: **Barke**, **Barks**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 703, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 450
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs, Derbys, and Notts

English: perhaps a variant of **Bargh**. *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*, notes Cuthbert *Bargh* or *Barke*, 1637–9 in *Parish Registers* (Garforth, WR Yorks).

Further information: Jordan le Barc, 1197 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk and Suffolk), and Ralph le Berk', 1249 in *Assize Rolls* (Wilts) appear to be the earliest evidence for the name, but they may really be for **Barker**, an apostrophe representing the suffix having been lost.

Early bearers: William Barke, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); Willelmus Bark, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Uppingham, Rutland); Rich. Bark, 1545 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Rich Bark, 1660 in *IGI* (Nottingham, Notts); Widdow Bark, 1663 in *IGI* (Wentworth, WR Yorks); William Bark, 1674 in *IGI* (Navenby, Lincs); John Bark, 1689 in *IGI* (Wilne, Derbys).

Barkas

- **Current frequencies:** GB 134, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 68
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb and Durham
- English: see **Barkhouse**.

Barkaway

- **Current frequencies:** GB 61, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 58
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: see **Barkway**.

Barke

Variants: **Barks**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 390, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 191
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts and Leics

English: see **Bark**.

Barkell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 36, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 79
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Cornwall

English: see **Balkwill**.

Further information: This name has sometimes been confused with **Bartle**. It is quite rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Barker

Variants: **Berker**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 46069, Ireland 530
- **GB frequency 1881:** 38824
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread; esp. Yorks and Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** scattered; esp. Ulster

1 English: occupational name usually from Middle English *barkere* 'tanner'.

Early bearers: Jordan le Barkere, 1255 in *Assize Rolls* (Essex); John le Barker, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Johannes Barker, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Rocester, Staffs); Johannes Barker, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Bradford, WR Yorks); Simone Barker, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Elstow, Beds); Willelmo le Barker, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Wavertree, Lancs); Johanne Barkar', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Saddington, Leics); Agn' Barker, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Thurgarton, Norfolk); Thomas Barcar, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Airmyn, WR Yorks); Alice Barker, 1538 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Wyllm Barker, 1539 in *IGI* (Bardsey, WR Yorks); John Barker, 1540 in *IGI* (Egglescliffe, Durham); William Barker, 1540 in *IGI* (Croydon, Surrey); Agnes Barker, 1541 in *IGI* (Elm, Cambs).

2 English: occupational name occasionally from Middle English *berker*, *bercher* (Old French *berchier*, *bercher*, *berkier*, *berker*) 'shepherd'. Old French also had the form *barcher*, and later, when Middle English *-er-* had become *-ar-*, *barker* 'shepherd' would be indistinguishable in form from *barker* 'tanner' (1).

Early bearers: Ralph Berker, 1185 in *Templars Records* (Yorks); Aluredus le berkier, 1193 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); John le Bercher, 1212 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Hants).

Barkes

- **Current frequencies:** GB 254, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 85
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham

English: see **Barkhouse**.

Barkess

- **Current frequencies:** GB 157, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 84
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham

English: see **Barkhouse**.

Barkett

- GB frequency 1881: 47
- Main GB location 1881: London

English: unexplained. Perhaps a variant of **Barcock** or **Bercott**.

Barkham

- Current frequencies: GB 326, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 200
 - Main GB location 1881: SE coast: esp. Suffolk
- English: locative name from Barkham in Suffolk, recorded as *Berk(e)ham* in 1220–1517.
- Early bearers:** John de Berkham, Isaac de Berkham, 1267 in *Patent Rolls* (Gloucs); John de Berkham, 1316 in *Patent Rolls*; John Barkham, 1494 in *PROB 11* (London); John Berkham, 1609 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); John Barkham, 1642 in *PROB 11* (Bocking, Essex).

Barkhouse

Variants: **Barkes**, **Barkess**, **Barkas**, **Barkus**

- Current frequencies: GB 52, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 10
 - Main GB location 1881: Durham
- English: locative name, occupational name for someone who lived by or worked at a ‘barkhouse’, i.e. a tannery.
- Further information:** From ancient times, throughout the Middle Ages, and up to the present day, leather has been processed with tree bark to make it softer, more durable, and waterproof.
- Early bearers:** Alfred del Barkhus, 1283 in *Patent Rolls*; Thomas del Barkhous, 1379 in *Yorks Poll Tax*; Richard del Barkhous, Walter del Barkhous, 1338 in *Patent Rolls*; Thomas del Berkhouse, 1388 in *Feet of Fines* (Ollerton, Notts); Christofer Barkhowse, 1586 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Francis Barkus, 1626 in *IGI* (Houghton le Spring, Durham); Andrew Barcas, 1705 in *IGI* (Ryton, Durham); Thomas Barkass, 1738 in *IGI* (Bishopwearmouth, Durham).

Barkley

- Current frequencies: GB 708, Ireland 273
 - GB frequency 1881: 388
 - Main GB location 1881: Shrops, also Flintshire
 - Main Irish location 1847–64: Antrim
- English: see **Barelay**.

Barks

- Current frequencies: GB 558, Ireland 2
 - GB frequency 1881: 413
 - Main GB location 1881: Lincs, Notts, and Derbys
- English: variant of **Bark** with post-medieval excrement -s.
- Early bearers:** Elizabethe Barks, 1576 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); John Barks, 1674 in *IGI* (Wilne, Derbys).

Barksby

- Current frequencies: GB 143, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 25
 - Main GB location 1881: Derbys
- English: locative name from Barkby (Leics). The medial -s- is found in a record of 1242, perhaps by association with Barkestone in the same county.
- Early bearers:** . . . Barkebi, 1227 in *Gild Rolls*, *Place-Names of Leics*; Henry de Barkeby, 1309 in *Patent Rolls* (Newbold, Leics); Thomas de Barkeby, William de Barkeby, 1363 in *Feet of Fines* (Leics); John Barkby,

1707 in *IGI* (Sutton Bonington, Notts); William Barksby, 1789 in *IGI* (Stanley, Derbys).

References: *Place-Names of Leics* 3, p. 21.

Barkshire

- Current frequencies: GB 77, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 68
 - Main GB location 1881: Berks
- English: see **Berkshire**.

Barkus

- Current frequencies: GB 82, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 85
 - Main GB location 1881: Berks and Wilts; also Durham
- English: see **Barkhouse**.

Barkway

Variants: **Barkaway**

- Current frequencies: GB 194, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 182
 - Main GB location 1881: Suffolk and Norfolk
- English: locative name from Barkway (Herts).
- Early bearers:** Walter de Berqueie, 1141–51 in *Colchester Cartulary* (Essex); John de Berkwey, 1281 in *London Letter Books B* (London); Willelmo Berkquey, Willelmo Berkwey, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Witham, Essex); Richard Barkaway, Barkway, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk); John Barkway, 1732 in *IGI* (Diss, Norfolk); James Barkaway (signed Barkerway), 1776 in *Parish Registers* (Suffolk).

Barkwell

- Current frequencies: GB 17, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 49
 - Main GB location 1881: Devon and Cornwall; also Durham
- English: see **Balkwill**.

Barkwill

- Current frequencies: GB 76, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 35
 - Main GB location 1881: Devon; Surrey
- English: see **Balkwill**.

Barkwith

- Current frequencies: GB 40, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 50
 - Main GB location 1881: Middx
- English: see **Barkworth**.

Barkworth

Variants: **Barkwith**

- Current frequencies: GB 291, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 164
 - Main GB location 1881: Lincs and ER Yorks
- English: locative name from Barkwith in Lincs, recorded as *Barcuurde* in *Domesday Book*.
- Early bearers:** Robert de Barcword, about 1150 in *Gilbertine Charters*; Roger de Barkworth, 1339 in *London Pleas*; John Barkword, 1371 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs); Richard Barkwith, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk).

Barlas

- Current frequencies: GB 175, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 109
 - Main GB location 1881: central Scotland: esp. Perth
- Norman, Scottish: see **Borlase**.

Barlee

- Current frequencies: GB 16, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 20
 - Main GB location 1881: Norfolk
- English: see **Barley**.

Barlet

- GB frequency 1881: 9
 - Main GB location 1881: London
- English: see **Barlett**.

Barlett

Variants: **Barlet**

- Current frequencies: GB 58, Ireland 7
- GB frequency 1881: 131
- Main GB location 1881: Northants and Oxon
- Main Irish location 1847–64: Dublin

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Berlet*, a doubly suffixed diminutive in -*el-et* of a Continental Germanic male given name in *Ber-*, from **ber-* ‘bear’, for example **Berhard*.

Early bearers: Willelmus filius Berlet’, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Robert Berlet, 1206 in *Pipe Rolls* (Notts); John Barlet, 1242 in *Book of Fees* (Wilts); Adam Berilot, 1327 in *York Freeman’s Register*; Francis Barlett, 1576 in *IGI* (Holme upon Spalding Moor, ER Yorks); Sibell Barlett, 1596 in *IGI* (Turville, Bucks); Jane Barlett, 1635 in *IGI* (Chislet, Kent); William Barlett, 1636 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx); Mary Barlett, 1651 in *IGI* (Harting, Sussex).

Barley

Variants: **Barlee**, **Barlow**

- Current frequencies: GB 2080, Ireland 4
 - GB frequency 1881: 1623
 - Main GB location 1881: Lincs and ER Yorks
- 1 English: (i) locative name from any of the places called Barley in WR Yorks, Lancs, and Herts. (ii) see **Barlow**, with which *Barley* was frequently confused, especially in Lancs and WR Yorks.
- Early bearers:** Leofric de Berle about 975 in *Tengvik* (Herts); Henry de Berel’, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Johannes de Barlay, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Wentworth, WR Yorks); Willelmus de Barlay, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Castleton, Derbys); Margaret Barley, 1543 in *IGI* (Saint Leonard Eastcheap, London); Thome Barley, 1562 in *IGI* (Kelshall, Herts); Richard Barley, 1563 in *IGI* (Dronfield, Derbys); Lawrencius Barley, 1563 in *IGI* (Sheffield, WR Yorks); Margareta Barley, 1578 in *IGI* (Howden, ER Yorks); Eliz. Barley, 1579 in *IGI* (Barrow on Humber, Lincs).
- References:** *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.
- 2 English: nickname from Middle English *barli*, *barlich* ‘barley’, perhaps given to a dealer in barley (compare **Barleyman**) or to a maker or seller of barley bread or cakes. Compare Josce Barlibred, 1185 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Roger Barliwastel, 1210 in *Feet of Fines* (Lincs).
- Early bearers:** Jordan Barlie, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Warwicks); John Barlich, Reur’ Barliche, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon, Cambs); Johannes Barlee, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Norfolk); Thoma Barley, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Freeby, Leics); John Barley, 1571 in *IGI* (Dartford, Kent).

Barleycorn

- Current frequencies: GB 60, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 37
- Main GB location 1881: Surrey

Barleyman

English: nickname from Middle English *barli-corn* 'barley, barleycorn'. The word was used to denote both the plant and the grain. Compare **Grandage**. **Early bearers**: William Barlicorn, 1233 in *Close Rolls* (Lincs); Godfrey Barlicorn, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Gilbert Barlicorn, 1327 in *Jönsjö, Nicknames* (Lincs); John Barlycorn, 1332 in *Seltén, Bahuwrihi Names* (Poslingford, Suffolk); Ricardus Barlycorn, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Cottingham, ER Yorks); John Barlicorn, 1440 in *Feet of Fines* (Herts); Richard Barlycorn, 1705 in *IGI* (Plymouth, Devon); Mary Barlicorn, 1802 in *IGI* (Streatham, Surrey). **References**: *Seltén, Bahuwrihi Names*, p. 12; *Jönsjö, Nicknames*, p. 51.

Barleyman

- **Current frequencies**: GB 23, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881**: 19
- **Main GB location 1881**: Essex

English: occupational name for a dealer in barley, Middle English *barli* + *man*. Compare **Ryman**. **Early bearers**: Peter Barlyman, 1332 in *Thuresson* (Lincs); Robert Barleyman, 1574 in *IGI* (Bluntisham cum Earith, Hunts); George Barliman, 1680 in *IGI* (Ingoldsby, Lincs); Mary Ann Barleyman, 1810 in *IGI* (Kelvedon, Essex).

Barling

- **Current frequencies**: GB 292, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881**: 445
- **Main GB location 1881**: Kent

English: locative name from Barling Green Farm in East Sutton (Kent), Barling in Essex, Birling Farm in Eastdean (Sussex), recorded as *Barlyng* in 1363, or Barlings in Lincs.

Early bearers: Baddewin de Barling, 1240–1 in *Forest Pleas* (Essex); William de Berling, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Radulphus Barlyngg, in *Poll Tax* (Cold Norton, Essex); John Barling, 1461 in *Kent Place-Names* p. 214.

Barlow

Variants: **Barlowe, Barley**

- **Current frequencies**: GB 18499, Ireland 307
- **GB frequency 1881**: 16143
- **Main GB location 1881**: Lancs, Cheshire, and Staffs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64**: scattered: esp. Roscommon; Wexford

English: (i) locative name from any of the places named Barlow, especially that in Lancs, but also those in WR Yorks and Derbys. (ii) see **Barley**. *Barlow* was sometimes pronounced *Barley* and vice versa. Redmonds notes Humphrey Barley, Humphrey Barlowe, 1636–41 in *Parish Registers* (Sheffield, WR Yorks).

Early bearers: Thomas de Barlowe, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); John de Berlowe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Yorks); Margery Barley or Barlowe, 1509 in *Foreign and Domestic Letters* (Derbys); William Barlee or Barlowe, 1509 in *Foreign and Domestic Letters* (Essex); Nicholas Barlow, 1541 in *IGI* (Middleton by Oldham, Lancs); John Barlow, 1558 in *IGI* (Frodsham, Cheshire); Anthony Barlow, 1569 in *IGI* (Lichfield, Staffs); Jo Barlow, 1575 in *IGI* (Chesterfield, Derbys); Francis Barlow, 1582 in *IGI* (Halifax, WR Yorks). **References**: *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Barlowe

- **GB frequency 1881**: 16

- **Main GB location 1881**: WR Yorks and Lancs
- English: see **Barlow**.

Barltrop

- **Current frequencies**: GB 240, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881**: 113
 - **Main GB location 1881**: Essex and Middx
- English: a late variant of **Barthorpe** (compare **Bartrop**) with inorganic *-l-*.

Barman

- **Current frequencies**: GB 110, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881**: 130
- **Main GB location 1881**: Kent

English: see **Bearman**.

Barmby

Variants: **Barnby**

- **Current frequencies**: GB 294, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881**: 178
- **Main GB location 1881**: ER Yorks and WR Yorks

English: locative name from Barmby Moor or Barmby on the Marsh (both ER Yorks), or Barnby in Lythe (NR Yorks), which may also have contributed to **Barnaby**.

Early bearers: Roger de Barnebia, 1179 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Robert de Barnneby, 1282 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Yorks); William de Barneby, 1347 in *Feet of Fines* (Yorks); Willelmus de Barnby, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Harton with Claxton, NR Yorks); Thoma de Barnby, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Asselby, ER Yorks); Robertus de Barnebe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Cawthorne, WR Yorks); Agnes Barmby, 1564 in *IGI* (Whitgift, WR Yorks); Thomas Barmby, 1656 in *IGI* (Alne, NR Yorks); Thomas Barmby, 1673 in *IGI* (Boynton, ER Yorks).

Barmore

- **GB frequency 1881**: 31
- **Main GB location 1881**: Warwicks

English: locative name perhaps from a place named *Barmore* or *Barmoor*, numerous examples of which are found in Derbys, NR Yorks, and Northumb, and also in Angus, Wigtowns, and Lanarks. This northern place-name type may account for some early bearers like Mathew Barmore, 1617 in Penrith. The modern distribution however suggests possible derivation from Barnmoor Green, Claverdon (Warwicks), recorded from 1411, or from the lost *Barre-Moor* in Colton (Staffs), recorded from 1492. **Further information**: Although rare in Britain, this name is thriving in the USA.

Early bearers: Mathew Barmore, 1617 in *IGI* (Penrith, Cumb); George Baremore, 1756 in *IGI* (Cheadle, Staffs); John Barmoor, 1758 in *IGI* (Wolverhampton, Staffs); Joseph Barmore, 1775 in *IGI* (Worcester, Worcs); Elizabeth Barmore, 1817 in *IGI* (Nuneaton, Warwicks).

Barn

- **Current frequencies**: GB 148, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881**: 130
- **Main GB location 1881**: Fife

Scottish: see **Barne** and compare **Berne**.

Early bearers: Jean Barn, 1714 in *IGI* (Stewarton, Ayrs); Patrick Barn, 1736 in *IGI* (Kilmalcolm, Renfrews); Grissal Barn, 1745 in *IGI* (Yetholm, Roxburghs); Agnes Barn, 1754 in *IGI* (Breachin, Angus); Helen

Barn, 1800 in *IGI* (Cramond, Midlothian); Magdlen Barn, 1813 in *IGI* (Monimail, Fife).

Barnaby

Variants: **Barneby, Barnby, Parnaby**

- **Current frequencies**: GB 834, Ireland 11
- **GB frequency 1881**: 596
- **Main GB location 1881**: Lincs and ER Yorks; Norfolk; Kent

1 English: (i) locative name in NR Yorks and ER Yorks from Barnaby in Guisborough (NR Yorks) or from the places mentioned at **Barnby**. (ii) locative name in N Lincs from Barnetby le Wold or Barnoldby le Beck (both in N Lincs). (iii) locative name in Norfolk and Suffolk probably from Barnby (Suffolk). **Early bearers**: Richard de Bernaldeby, 1160 in *Gisborough Cartulary* (Yorks); [. . . de] Bernetby, 1180–90, [. . . de] Berneteby, 1191, [. . . de] Bernalby, 1240 in *Place-Names of Lincs* (Lincs); Thomas de Berneby, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Full Sutton, ER Yorks); Johannes de Barnaby, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Cley next the Sea, Norfolk); John de Bernaby, 1385 in *Patent Rolls* (Bonby, Lincs); Williamus Barnibie, 1549 in *IGI* (Amcotts, Lincs); Robert Barneby, 1554 in *IGI* (Redisham, Suffolk); Agnes Barnaby, 1556 in *IGI* (Laceby, Lincs); Agnes Barnabye, 1572 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); Robertus Barnebye, 1606 in *IGI* (Alne, NR Yorks); Georgii Barnebie, 1610 in *IGI* (Rudston, ER Yorks); Geo Barnaby, 1616 in *IGI* (Barton upon Humber, Lincs); Johannes Barnaby, 1669 in *IGI* (Cratfield, Suffolk).

References: *Place-Names of NR Yorks*, p. 150; *Place-Names of Lincs* 2, pp. 8–10; 4, pp. 54–5.

2 English: relationship name from the personal name *Barnaby*, the vernacular English form of the Biblical name *Barnabas* which also had some currency: Bernabas Pegon, 1434 in *Feet of Fines* (Beds). This name is apparently from Aramaic *bar na ya* 'son of the prophet', but the Greek text of Acts 4:36 explains the name as *hyios paraklēseōs* 'son of consolation' or 'encouragement'. Some of the following examples may belong with (1).

Early bearers: Roger Barnabe, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cambs); Walter Barnabe, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lyndhurst, Hants); Roger Barnaby, 1331 in *Feet of Fines* (Cambs); Juliana Barnabe, 1367 in *Feet of Fines* (Northants); Thomas Barnaby, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Daventry, Northants); John Barnebe, 1436 in *Feet of Fines* (Hants); Anne Barnebye, 1563 in *IGI* (Mere, Wilts); Gyllian Barnaby, 1564 in *IGI* (Saint Giles Cripplegate, London); Robert Barnaby, 1565 in *IGI* (Aylesbury, Bucks); Edward Barnaby, 1602 in *IGI* (Limpsfield, Surrey); Phillip Barnaby, 1607 in *IGI* (Harrow on the Hill, Middx); Oliver Barnibe, 1611 in *IGI* (Tenterden, Kent); Rebecca Barnaby, 1618 in *IGI* (Andover, Hants); Richard Barnabye, 1653 in *IGI* (Boughton under Blean, Kent).

3 English: variant of **Parnaby** by assimilation to the much more familiar personal name, place-name, or locative surname.

Barnacal

- **GB frequency 1881**: 4
- **Main GB location 1881**: Cheshire

English: see **Barnacle**.

Barnacle

Variants: **Barnacal, Barnicle, Barnikel, Burnikell**

- **Current frequencies**: GB 408, Ireland 0

- **GB frequency 1881:** 361
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks and Leics
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Galway; also Mayo
- 1 English: (i) nickname perhaps from Middle English *bernacle*, *barnakyll*, a diminutive of Middle English *bernak*, Old French *bernac* ‘powerful bit or twitch’, used to restrain a restive horse or ass, also as an instrument of torture. The nickname might have been applied to an expert in taming horses, a torturer, or possibly a man with a savage, unrestrained temper who was considered in need of such restraint. (ii) nickname perhaps from the barnacle goose, Middle English *bernacle*, a species of wild goose (compare **Wildgoose**).

Further information: It is unlikely to be a locative name from Barnacle (Warwicks), which is *Bernhangre* in *Domesday Book*, as this place-name did not reach its modern form before 1547.

Early bearers: Richard Bernikel, 1344 in *Close Rolls* (Kent); Richard Barnakyll, 1514 in *Oxford University Register*; John Barnacle, 1545 in *Bardsley*; Thos. Barnacle, 1574 in *IGI* (Southam, Warwicks); Christopher. Burnicle, 1625 in *IGI* (Kirkleatham, NR Yorks).

2 Irish: adopted for Ó Cadhain, by translation of *cadhan* ‘barnacle goose’. Compare **Coyne** 2.

Further information: This probably originated as an 18th- or 19th-century translation of the Irish name. **Early bearers:** surnames, Ireland: Michael Barnacle, 1796 in *Flaxgrowers Ireland* (Annagh, Mayo); Patrick Barnacle, 1869 in *IGI* (Mayo, Ireland).

Barnard

Variants: **Bernard**, **Barnett**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 9617, Ireland 61
- **GB frequency 1881:** 7382
- **Main GB location 1881:** SE England: esp. E Anglia
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork

Norman, English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Bernard* (Old French *Bernart*, from Continental Germanic *Bernhard*, from **ber-* ‘bear, **bern-* ‘warrior’ + **hard-* ‘hard, strong’).

Early bearers: given names: Bernardus, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Hunts); Bernardus, 1101–16 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk).

surnames: Ricardus filius Bernardi, 1205 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Somerset); Hugo Bernard’, 1130 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); Thomas Bernhard, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Robert Barnard, 1446 in *York Freeman’s Register*.

Barnatt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 126, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 83
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs
- English: see **Barnett**.

Barnaville

- **Current frequencies:** GB 35, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Irish: see **Barnwell**.

Barnbrook

- **Current frequencies:** GB 345, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 109
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and Warwicks
- English: locative name from Bournbrook in King’s Norton (Worcs); note Edward Wigston of

Barnebrooke in King’s Norton, 1507 in *Birmingham Archives*. The early Devon distribution is unexplained.

Early bearers: . . . Byrnebrec, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Christian Barnbrook, 1593 in *IGI* (Plymouth, Devon); Nicholas Barnbrook, 1598 in *IGI* (Coreley, Shrops); John Barnbrooke, 1663 in *IGI* (Kings Norton, Worcs); Richard Barnbrook, 1706 in *IGI* (Deritend and Bordesley, Warwicks).

References: *Place-Names of Worcs*, p. 351.

Barnby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 237, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 272
 - **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks
- English: variant of **Barmby** or **Barnaby**.

Barnden

- **Current frequencies:** GB 304, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 196
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent and Sussex
- English: locative name from Bannings in Telscombe (Sussex), recorded as *Berendune* in the 15th century, *Barrendens* in 1573–7, *Barndens* in 1696, (Lower) *Barndeane* in 1879.

Further information: Barnden Farm, near Smarden (Kent), is probably named from the surname rather than vice versa.

Early bearers: Matild’ de Berndune, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Denton, Sussex), South Heighton, and East Blatchington; Johanne de Berndoune, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Iford, Sussex); Johanne Berndone, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Brighton, Sussex); Regino de Berndon, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Rodmell, Sussex); Willmo Berndon, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Kingston, Sussex) near Lewes; Willyam Barnden, 1538 in *IGI* (Alfriston, Sussex); Isabell Barnden, 1540 in *IGI* (Piddinghoe, Sussex); Margaret Barnden, 1554, Annis Barndon, 1555 in *IGI* (Newhaven, Sussex); Agnes Barnden, 1561 in *IGI* (Kingston near Lewes, Sussex); Edward Barnden, 1578 in *IGI* (Tenterden, Kent); Mathew Barnden, 1614 in *IGI* (Worthing, Sussex); Thomas Barndon, 1628 in *IGI* (Streat, Sussex); Nicholas Barnden, 1639 in *IGI* (Goudhurst, Kent).

References: Coates, R. (2010) *A Place-Name History of the Parishes of Rottingdean and Ovingdean in Sussex (including Woodingdean and Saltdean)* Nottingham: (2010), pp. 21–3.

Barne

Variants: **Barn**, **Barnes**, **Berne**, **Byrne**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 73, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 60
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Bern*, *Barn*. In the Midlands and East Anglia this is based on the Scandinavian personal name *Biörn*, anglicized as *Beorn*; in the south-west it is from Old English *Beorn*; both names are from a word meaning ‘warrior’. Some of the following surname bearers may alternatively belong with other senses below.

Early bearers: given names: Bearn, 1071, Barn, 1072 in *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* (Devon); Beornus, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Suffolk); Bern, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Dorset).

surnames: Tomas filius Bern’, 1177 in *Pipe Rolls* (Staffs); Pirne Beorn, about 1050 in *Yorks Charters*; William Bern, 1190 in *Pipe Rolls* (Worcs); Simon Bern, 1202 in

Assize Rolls (Lincs); Robertus Barne, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (North Kilvington, NR Yorks); James Barne, 1540 in *IGI* (Ellough, Suffolk); Maude Barne, 1540 in *IGI* (Ashperton, Herefs); Robarte Barne, 1540 in *IGI* (Houghton Regis, Beds); William Barne, 1540 in *IGI* (Charlton Kings, Gloucs); Elisabeth Barne, 1541 in *IGI* (Guildford, Surrey).

2 English: status name from Middle English *barn* (Old Scandinavian *barn*) ‘child’. This term is found in *Domesday Book* as a byname for men of the upper classes; it might also have had the meaning ‘young man of a prominent family’, like Middle English *child* (see **Child**).

Early bearers: Siuuard Barn, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Warwicks); Gamell’ Barn, 1166 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Adam le Barn, 1212 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Yorks); William le Barne, 1232 in *Patent Rolls* (Lincs); Ricardus le Barne, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Sutton, WR Yorks).

3 English: locative name, nickname for residence near or employment at a barn, Middle English *bern* (Old English *bere-ærn*). See also **Barnes**. Some of the post-medieval bearers may alternatively belong with (1) or (2).

Early bearers: Eilwinus de la Berne, 1211 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Surrey); Richard atte Berne, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Richard Attebern, 1286 in *Close Rolls* (Locksash in Up Marden, Sussex); Peter del Barne, 1316 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (WR Yorks); Edward atte Berne, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Paignton, Devon); John atte Berne, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Dawlish, Devon); Willelmus ate Berne, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Hawkhurst, Kent); Petrus atte Bern’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Liss Abbas, Hants); Radulphus atte Berne, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Hamsey, Sussex); Gilberto atte Bern’, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Pitton, Wilts); Henry Berne, 1541 in *IGI* (Norton and Lenchwick, Worcs); Helaria Berne, 1543 in *IGI* (Bovey Tracey, Devon); Alice Berne, 1555 in *IGI* (Great Canfield, Essex); Christiana Barne, 1561 in *IGI* (Ugborough, Devon); Issabell Berne, 1563 in *IGI* (Rushton, Northants); Christen Barn, 1607 in *IGI* (Saint Erth, Cornwall).

4 Irish: see **Barron**.

Early bearers: Richard Barne, 1570 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1558 (Balmadore, Kildare).

Barneby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 29
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Herefs; Lincs and Norfolk
- English: see **Barnaby**.

Barnecut

- **GB frequency 1881:** 28
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall
- English: see **Barnicoat**.

Barnecutt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 63, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 13
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall and Devon
- English: see **Barnicoat**.

Barnell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 66, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 83
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in England: esp. Beds

1 English: variant of **Barnwell**.

2 Scottish: variant of **Barnhill**.

Barner

- **Current frequencies:** GB 34, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 46
- **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks

1 English: (i) locative name in southern England, from Middle English **berner* ‘dweller by the barn’. Compare **Barne** (3), and for the formation with *-er* compare **Waterer** elsewhere and in later names, possibly a variant of **Berner**.

Early bearers: John Barner, 1366 in *Feet of Fines* (Lincs); William Barnare, 1543 in *IGI* (Eynsford, Kent) Rychard Barnare, 1573 in *IGI* (Headley, Hants); James Barner, 1761 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); John Barner, 1780 in *IGI* (Kingston upon Hull, ER Yorks).

2 Scottish: unexplained.

Early bearers: Walter Bairner, 1664 in *IGI* (Wemyss, Fife); Nicholas Barner, 1656 in *IGI* (Torryburn, Fife); Thomas Barner, 1703 in *IGI* (Wemyss, Fife).

Barnes

Variants: **Barns**, **Berns**, **Burns**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 47843, Ireland 1351
- **GB frequency 1881:** 35749
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread

1 English: locative name from Barnes in Surrey or from residence near or employment at a cluster of barns.

Early bearers: Philip de Bernes, 1199–1216 in *Hatton’s Book of Seals* (Surrey); Peter del Bernes, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Derbys); John Bernes, 1356, de Bernes, Bernes, 1364, Bernys, 1369 in *London Letter Books G* (London); William Bernes, 1380 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Joan Barnes, 1450 in *Saint Radegund Priory Cambridge*; Nicholas Barnes, 1540 in *IGI* (Thrigby, Norfolk); Henry Barns, 1539 in *IGI* (Rye, Sussex).

2 English: variant of **Barne** with post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

3 Irish: in Ireland in many cases this is no doubt the English name, but in others it is adopted for Irish Ó Bearáin, see **Barron**.

Early bearers: John Barneyse, gent., 1570–1 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1697; John Barnise, gent., 1578 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §3453 (Deisert).

Barnet

- **Current frequencies:** GB 276, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1414
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Angus
- English: see **Barnett**.

Barnetson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 137, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 128
- **Main GB location 1881:** Caithness

Scottish: relationship name perhaps from the Old French personal name *Bernart* (see **Barnard**) + *son*.

Further information: Black takes the first component to be a Scottish form of the Scandinavian personal name *Bernsten*. It is not clear how such a form might have developed.

Early bearers: Bernie Barnatsone, 1653, William Barnetsone, 1665 in *IGI* (Canisbay, Caithness); Anna Barnatsone, 1654 in *Old Lore Miscellany* (Freswick, Caithness); Wm. Bernardson, 1655, Margaret Barnadsone, 1671 in *IGI* (Holm and Papay, Orkney);

Magnus Barnetsone, 1657, Christiane Bernardsone, 1660 in *IGI* (South Ronaldshay, Orkney); Marjorie Barnardsone, 1659 in *IGI* (Kirkwall and Saint Ola, Orkney); William Barnatson, 1662 in *Caithness Testaments* (Kirk, Caithness); Barbara Bernardson, 1759 in *IGI* (Bower, Caithness).

Barnett

Variants: **Barnet**, **Barnatt**, **Barnitt**, **Barnette**, **Bernett**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20857, Ireland 418
- **GB frequency 1881:** 13422
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Staffs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim and Derry; Waterford

1 English: locative name from any of the places in Herts, Middx, and elsewhere named in Old English as *bærnet* ‘(land) cleared by burning’.

Early bearers: Brictnod de la Bernet, about 1200 in *Löfvenberg* (Sussex); William atte Bernette, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Jordan atte Barnette, 1310 in *London Letter Books D*; John Barnet, 1483 in *Feet of Fines* (Herts); John Barnett, 1539 in *IGI* (Herstmonceaux, Sussex); Thomas Barnett, 1565 in *IGI* (Kingsley, Staffs); Jo. Barnett, 1566 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph without Aldgate, London); Raffe Bernet, 1590, Raphe Barnett, 1600 in *IGI* (Coleshill, Warwicks).

2 Norman: variant of **Barnard**. *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames* records Henry Barnard alias Barnet of Haxby (WR Yorks) in 1608.

3 Jewish (Ashkenazic): this surname has been adopted by Ashkenazic Jews in the English-speaking world, perhaps as an anglicized form of some vaguely similar Jewish name such as **Baruch**.

Early bearers: Alfred Barnett, 1814 in *Great and Hambro Synagogue Births* (Hereford, Herefs); Abraham Barnett, born in Russia, in *Census 1881* (Bishopwearmouth, Durham); Barnard Barnett, glazier, born in Poland, in *Census 1881* (Bishopwearmouth, Durham); Numark Barnett, born in Poland, in *Census 1881* (Stroud, Gloucs); Israel Lewis Barnet, in *Census 1901* (London); Davis Barnet, born in Russia, in *Census 1901* (London); Simon Barnet, born in Russia, in *Census 1911* (WR Yorks).

Barnette

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2

English: see **Barnett**.

Further information: This spelling, which shows French influence, is rare in Britain but more common in the USA.

Barnewall

- **GB frequency 1881:** 4
- English, Irish: see **Barnwell**.

Barney

Variants: **Barnie**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1161, Ireland 10
- **GB frequency 1881:** 699
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Norfolk and Suffolk; Oxon; also Caithness

1 English: locative name from Barney in Norfolk. Some bearers may belong with (2).

Early bearers: Thomas de Berneye, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Reedham, Norfolk); Johannes de Berneye, 1379 in

Poll Tax (Stobbard, Norfolk); Alicia Barney, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Cottingham, ER Yorks); Joane Barney, 1543 in *IGI* (Charlton Kings, Gloucs); Roger Barney, 1543 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Marget Barney, 1544 in *IGI* (Saint Martin Pomary, London); Wylliam Barney, 1557 in *IGI* (Albrighton near Wolverhampton, Shrops); Robt. Barne, 1594 in *IGI* (Mutford, Suffolk); Georgei Barney, 1603 in *IGI* (Worminghall, Bucks); Anne Barne, 1614 in *Parish Registers* (Sothorn, Suffolk).

2 Scottish: relationship name possibly from the Old Scandinavian personal name *Bjarni* (from *björn* ‘bear’).

Early bearers: Katherine Bernie or Barne, 1558 in *Cupar-Angus Rental Book* (Coupar Grange, Perths); Donald Barne, 1777 in British Army Service Records (Latheron, Caithness).

References: *Black*.

Barnfather

Variants: **Banfater**, **Bairnsfater**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 576, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 432
- **Main GB location 1881:** N England: esp. Cumb and Northumb

English, Scottish: nickname from Middle English *barn*, *be(a)rn* ‘child, offspring’ + *fader* ‘father’ (Old English *bearn* + *fæder*). Compare Old Scandinavian *barnfadrir* ‘a child’s alleged father’.

Early bearers: William Barnefader, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); William Barnefader, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Willelmus Barnefadir, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Headingley, WR Yorks); Henry Barnefathir, 1392 in *Sheffield Jackson Catalogue* (Yorks); William Barnesader (for Barnefader), 1476 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Notts); Adam Barnisfader, 1502 in *Criminal Trials in Scotland*; Robert Barnfather, 1598 in *IGI* (Kirkoswald, Cumb); John Barnfather, 1607 in *IGI* (Durham, Durham).

Barnfield

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1172, Ireland 16
- **GB frequency 1881:** 737
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

English: locative name from Barnfield Farm in Luppitt (Devon) or Barnfield Shaw in Mayfield (Sussex).

Early bearers: William de Bernefeld, 1195 in *Pipe Rolls* (Kent); Robert de Bernefeld, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Thomas Barnefeild, Barnefild, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Devon).

Barnham

Variants: **Barnum**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 399, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 239
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: locative name from either of the places named *Barnham*, in Suffolk and Sussex, or from *Barnham Broom* in Norfolk. Each of these place-names is from the Old English male personal name *Beorn* or *Beorna*, + *hām* ‘large farming estate’.

Further information: In the modern period, before about 1700 the name is found most often in SE England, and after that date more often in E Anglia.

Early bearers: Walter de Bernham, about 1191 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Kalender* (Suffolk); Robert de Bernham, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Willelmus Bernham, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (East Ashling, Sussex); Ricardus de Bernham, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Middle

Harling, Norfolk); Thomas Barnam, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Roger Barnham, 1542 in *IGI* (Tangmere, Sussex); Martin Barnham or Barneham, 1621 in *PROB 11* (Lewes, Sussex); Thomas Barnham, 1630 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Francis Barnum, 1703 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph without Bishopsgate, London).

Barnhill

Variants: **Barnell**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 38, Ireland 13
- **GB frequency 1881:** 30
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lanarks
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Tyrone

Scottish: locative name from Barnhill in Blantyre (Lanarks), or Barnhill in Inchinnan (Renfrews).

Early bearers: Rebecca Barnhill, 1650 in *Maxwells of Pollok*; Jonet Barnehill, 1696 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks).

Barnhouse

- **Current frequencies:** GB 32, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 44
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: locative name from Middle English *bernhous* 'house attached to a granary' or toponymic from one or more of the places so named, for example Barn House in Brightling and Barnhouse Farm in Shipley (both Sussex).

Early bearers: William Bernehus, 1147–61 in *Cartae Antiquae*; Reginaldus Bernehus, 1242–3 in *Book of Fees* (Ashmansworthy in Woolfardisworthy near Bideford, Devon); William de Bernehus, 1278–9 in *Feet of Fines* (Sussex); John Bernhous, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ashford, Devon); Henry Bernhous, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sparkwell in Staverton, Devon); Roger Bernhous, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ashmansworthy in Woolfardisworthy near Bideford, Devon); John Bernehus of Sparkwelle, 1346 in *Patent Rolls* (Devon); John Barnehowes, 1416 in *Patent Rolls* (Dartmoor, Devon); John Barnehowse, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Devon).

References: *Place-Names of Sussex*, pp. 191, 473.

Barnicle

- **Current frequencies:** GB 42, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 48
 - **Main GB location 1881:** IoW; Warwick
- English: see **Barnacle**.

Barnicoat

Variants: **Barnicott, Barnicot, Barnecutt, Barnecut**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 294, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 211
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall

English: locative name from Barnacott in Stoke Rivers, Westleigh (Devon), or from some other minor place similarly named.

Early bearers: Thomas de Bernecot', 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); Walter de Bernycot', 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts*; Mary Barnicoat, 1704 in *IGI* (Budock, Cornwall); Margaret Barnicoat, 1705 in *IGI* (Saint Levan, Cornwall); John Barnicoat, 1821 in *IGI* (Rotherhithe, Surrey); Nancy Barnicoat, 1826 in *IGI* (Saint Giles without Cripplegate, London); Philip Barnicoat, 1869 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs).

Barnicot

- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall; Glamorgan
- English: see **Barnicoat**.

Barnicott

- **Current frequencies:** GB 67, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 106
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset; Kent

English: see **Barnicoat**.

Barnie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 106, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 93
- **Main GB location 1881:** Caithness

Scottish, English: see **Barney**.

Barnikel

- **Current frequencies:** GB 82, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 9
- **Main GB location 1881:** Glamorgan; Lancs

English: see **Barnacle**.

Barningham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 156, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 101
- **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks and Durham; also Lincs and Norfolk

English: locative name from any of the places called Barningham in NR Yorks, Suffolk, or Norfolk (with the affixes Little, Winter, Town, or Norwood).

Early bearers: Leomer de Berningeham, 1121–38 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents* (Suffolk); Walter de Berningham, 1203 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Suffolk); Peter de Berningham, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Richard de Bernyngham, 1315 in *Patent Rolls* (Yorks); Richard de Bernyngham, 1424 in *Patent Rolls* (Yorks); Ralph Barnyngham, 1503 in *Feet of Fines* (Notts).

Barnish

- **Current frequencies:** GB 171, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 125
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

Norman, English: nickname from Old French *barnage* 'qualities or attributes of a baron', a contraction of Old French *baronage*. See also **Burnage**.

Early bearers: Ralph barnage, 1130 in *Pipe Rolls* (Dorset); William Barnage, 1270 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Reginald Barnage, 1311 in *Place-Names of Dorset* 2, p. 112 (Dorset); Willelmus Bernysh, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Beaminster, Dorset); Elizabetha Barnish, 1681 in *IGI* (Burslem, Staffs); Wm. Barnish, 1702 in *IGI* (Wardleworth, Lancs).

Barnitt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 24, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 31
- **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks; Worcs

English: see **Barnett**.

Barns

- **Current frequencies:** GB 536, Ireland 12
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1920
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread; esp. Lancs; London; Devon
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Armagh; Donegal

English, Irish: see **Barnes**.

Barnsby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 85, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 102

- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey

English: locative name from Barsby (Leics), recorded as *Barnesbi* in 1086.

Early bearers: William de Barnesby, 1348 in *Patent Rolls* (Leics); Willelmus Barnysby, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Thorpe Satchville, Leics); Thoma de Barnesby, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (South Croxton, Leics); Anne Barnsby, 1560 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); Willm Barnsby, 1678 in *IGI* (Staines, Middx).

References: *Place-Names of Leics* III, p. 101.

Barnsdale

- **Current frequencies:** GB 206, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 208
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: locative name from either of two places named *Barnsdale*, in Rutland, recorded as *Bernardeshull(e)* in 1202, or WR Yorks, recorded as *Barnysdale*, in about 1420.

Early bearers: Willelmus de Bernardeshill', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Normanton, Rutland); William Barnsdale, 1583 in *IGI* (Bromley, Kent); Francis Barnsdale, 1654 in *IGI* (Saxilby, Lincs); Alice Barnsdall, 1776 in *IGI* (Newark on Trent, Notts).

Barnshaw

- **Current frequencies:** GB 185, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 106
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire

English: locative name from Goostrey cum Barnshaw (Cheshire), recorded as *Gosre et Berneshalgh'* in 1430.

Early bearers: Jane Barnshaw, 1567 in *IGI* (Goostrey cum Barnshaw, Cheshire); Robert Barneshaw, 1603 in *IGI* (Goostrey cum Barnshaw, Cheshire).

References: *Place-Names of Cheshire* II, p. 226

Barnsley

Variants: **Bardsley, Barsley, Barzey**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1523, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1175
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Staffs, Worcs, and Warwicks

English: locative name from one or more of the places so called, such as Barnsley (WR Yorks), Barnsley (Gloucs), and Barnsleyhall in Bromsgrove (Worcs), which is recorded as *Barndesley* in 1255, *Barndley* in about 1300, and *Barnsley* in 1564.

Compare **Bardsley** (2).

Early bearers: [. . . de] Barndeale(ye), 1259 in *Place-Names of Worcs* (Worcs); John de Barnusley, 1340–1450 in *Coventry Guild Register* (Warwicks); Thomas de Barnesleye, 1346 in *Patent Rolls* (Silkstone, WR Yorks); William de Brandeleie, 1347 in *Patent Rolls* (Worcs); Alice de Berneslegh, 1354 in *Statutes of Labourers* (Cheshire); Thomas Berneslay, 1382 in *Feet of Fines* (Yorks); Adam de Barnesley, 1440 in *Sheffield Manorial Records* (WR Yorks); Helynor Barnsley, 1544 in *IGI* (Hartlebury, Worcs); Katerina Barnsley, 1546 in *IGI* (Kirkburton, WR Yorks); Elizabeth Barnsley, 1608 in *IGI* (Wolverhampton, Staffs).

References: *Place-Names of Gloucs* 1, pp. 24–5; *Place-Names of Worcs*, p. 338.

Barnum

- **Current frequencies:** GB 19, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- English: see **Barnham**.

Barnwall

- **GB frequency 1881:** 7
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Meath
- Irish: see **Barnwell**.

Barnwell

Variants: **Barnwall**, **Barnaville**, **Barnell**, **Bannell**, **Barnewall**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 815, Ireland 141
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 583
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin and Meath
- English: locative name from Barnwell (Northants) or Barnwell in Cambridge (Cambs).

Further information: Sir Michael de Berneval or de Barneval took part in Strongbow's expedition to Ireland in 1172. He first held land in Berehaven, Cork, before the main landing in Leinster. The English name was gaelicized as **de Bearnabhal**.

Early bearers: England: Eustace de Bernewell', 1177 in *Pipe Rolls* (Cambs or Hunts); Thomas de Bernewell', 1270 in *Henry III Building Accounts*; Johannes de Bernewell', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Langham, Rutland); Johannes Bernewell', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Thorpe Waterville with Achurch, Northants); Willelmo Bernewell', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Eversholt, Beds); Hugone Barnwel, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Great Bowden, Leics); Thomas Barnewell', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Astley, Warwicks); John Bernewell, Barnewell, 1475 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Richard Barnell or Burnell, 1556 in *PROB 11* (Witham, Essex); Thomas Barnewell, 1560 in *PROB 11* (Cransley, Northants); Robert Barnewell, 1564 in *PROB 11* (Stamford Baron, Northants); Richard Barnell, 1608 in *IGI* (Bermondsey, Surrey); Henry Barnell, 1609 in *IGI* (Nuneaton, Warwicks); John Barnwell, 1630 in *PROB 11* (Wilstead, Beds); Georg Barnill, 1663 in *IGI* (Little Plumstead, Norfolk); Ann Bannell, 1691 in *IGI* (Kineton, Warwicks); Ann Bannell, 1792 in *IGI* (Wells next the Sea, Norfolk).

Ireland: Christopher Barnewall, 1560 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §267 (Gracediewe, Dublin); Patrick Barnewell, sheriff of Dublin, 1560 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §260; Thomas Barnewell, knight, 1560 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §260 (Dublin); Patrick Barnewall, Lord of Trymltston, 1560 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §260.

References: *Place-Names of Northants*, pp. 178–9; *Place-Names of Cambs*, p. 39.

Baron

Variants: **Barron**, **Barren**, **Barone**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3537, Ireland 38
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3086
- **Main GB location 1881:** N England; also Cornwall, Devon.

- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cavan; Limerick
- 1 English: nickname, status name from Middle English *barun*, *baroun* 'baron, a nobleman ranking below an earl and above a knight' (Old French *barun*, *baron*), perhaps used as a nickname for a haughty man but it had additional senses in Middle English, some of which may have been intended literally, including 'alderman' (especially of London) and 'master of a household, husband'. For the Scottish and Irish name see **Barron**.

Early bearers: N England: Elizabeth Barron, 1592 in *IGI* (Frodsham, Cheshire); George Baron, 1605, Thomas Baron, 1761 in *IGI* (Blackburn, Lancs); Thomas Barron, 1616, Stephen Barran, 1718 in *IGI*

(Brandesburton, ER Yorks); Phillip Baron, 1648, Robert Baron, 1723 in *IGI* (Bridlington, ER Yorks); Martha Barron, 1666, Elizabeth Barron, 1741 in *IGI* (Rothwell, WR Yorks); William Baron, 1688, George Barron, 1703, Henry Barron, 1845 in *IGI* (Gateshead, Durham); John Barron, 1709 in *IGI* (Tynemouth, Northumb).

S England: Lefuine Barun, about 1095 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents* (Suffolk); Geoffrey le Barun, 1236 in *Assize Rolls* (Hants); Gervase le Cordewaner alias Baronn, alderman of Aldgate, 1250–6 in *Ekwall*, *ELPN* (London); John Baron, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Roger le Baron, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wimborne Minster, Dorset); John Baron, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Buckland Barton, Devon); William Baroun, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Alphington, Devon); Thomas Baron, 1565 in *IGI* (Perranuthnoe, Cornwall); Willus Baron, 1583, William Barron, 1704 in *IGI* (Ugborough, Devon); Jn. Barron, 1735 in *IGI* (Mevagissey, Cornwall).

2 English: see **Barone**.

Barone

Variants: **Baron**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 200, Ireland 10
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

1 Italian: relationship name from the Germanic personal name *Baro*, or to a lesser extent the title *barone* 'baron', both derivatives of an unattested word **bara-* '(free) man'.

Early bearers: Adrian Barone, born in Italy, in *Census 1881*; Battista Barone, born in Italy, in *Census 1891*; Francesco Barone, born in Italy, in *Census 1911* (London).

2 English, Scottish: archaic variant of **Baron**.

Early bearers: England: Robtus Barone, 1542 in *IGI* (Ugborough, Devon); Elizabetha Barone, 1575 in *IGI* (Netherseal, Leics); Thomas Barone, 1617 in *IGI* (Barnstaple, Devon).

Scotland: John Barone, 1717 in *IGI* (Dalgety, Fife).

Barot

- **Current frequencies:** GB 337, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2

1 English: possibly a variant of **Barrett**.

Early bearers: Richard Barot, 1565 in *IGI* (Bosham, Sussex); Elizabeth Barot, 1631 in *IGI* (London); Robart Barot, 1759 in *IGI* (Lichfield, Staffs); William Barot, in *Census 1851* (Yorks).

2 French: locative name from *barot*, a diminutive of *bare* 'pole, gate, barrier; house enclosed by a paling fence'.

Early bearers: Louis Barot, born in France, in *Census 1881* (Saint Helier, Jersey).

Barr

Variants: **Barre**, **Barrs**, **Delabarre**, **Bare**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10901, Ireland 2154
- **GB frequency 1881:** 7205
- **Main GB location 1881:** Glasgow
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Ulster

1 Scottish: locative name from either of two places named Barr, in Ayr, Renfrews, or any of various other places in south-west Scotland named with Gaelic *barr* 'height, hill' or a Brittonic cognate of this.

Early bearers: Atkyn de Barr, baillie, 1340 in *Ayr Friars Charters* (Ayr, Ayr); Patrick Bar, 1551 in *Protocol*

Books Glasgow (Glasgow, Lanarks); William Barr, 1686 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Paisley, Renfrews).

2 English, Welsh: locative name from Great Barr in Staffs. This is from British Celtic **barro-* 'top, summit' and refers to Barr Beacon; there is evidence that this was known as *la Bare* in the 13th century. Some bearers may belong with 5.

Early bearers: Edricius de la Barre, 1170 in *Pipe Rolls* (Staffs); William de Barre, 1199 in *Assize Rolls* (Staffs); Thomas de Barr', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Penkridge, Staffs); Thomas Barr, 1542 in *IGI* (Wantage, Berks); German Barr, 1543 in *IGI* (Barnstaple, Devon); Robert Barr, 1568 in *IGI* (Minting, Lincs); Daniell Barr, 1570 in *IGI* (Buxted, Sussex); John Barr, 1570 in *IGI* (Selston, Notts).

3 Norman, English: locative name from Barre-en-Ouche in Eure, or perhaps from Barre-de-Semilly in Manche.

Early bearers: Richard de Barra, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Somerset).

4 English: locative name for someone who lived by a gateway, from Old French, Middle English *barre* 'barrier, gateway'. Compare the place-name *Temple Bar* in London and elsewhere, and *Above Bar* in Southampton (Hants). See also **Barrer**.

Further information: In Fenland, *bar* could denote an obstruction (for example, a weir) in a stream.

Early bearers: Anger de la Barra, about 1216–17 in *Clerkenwell Cartulary* (London); Peter de Bar, 13th cent. in *Lewes Chartulary* (Norfolk); John ate Barre, 1283 in *Battle Abbey Customals* (Sussex); John de la Bare, attorney, 1310 in *Patent Rolls*; John atte Barre, 1358 in *Feet of Fines* (Bucks).

5 Irish: from **Ó Bairr**, a variant of **Ó Báire**. Compare **Barry** (2, ii).

Early bearers: Shane O'Bare, gent., 1558 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §52 (Carlow); John Barre, justice of the peace, 1561, in *Fiants Elizabeth* §381 (Carlow); John O'Barre, 1563 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §542 (Catherlagh); Dermot Barre, kern, 1577 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §3069 (Inge, Cork); Tho. fitz John Barre, 1597 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6173 (Cloneane).

6 English: nickname from Middle English (Old French) *barre* 'bar, stake', applied as a nickname for a tall, thin man or alternatively for a maker of iron bars; compare Robert Barremakere, 1347 in *London Letter Books F*. The following early bearers may, however, belong to **Barry**.

Early bearers: Hugo Barre, 1155 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Alexander Barre, 12th cent. in *Rievaulx Cartulary* (NR Yorks).

Barrable

- **Current frequencies:** GB 102, Ireland 5
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 58
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Cornwall
- English: see **Barriball**.

Barrack

- **Current frequencies:** GB 228, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 170
- **Main GB location 1881:** Aberdeens; Essex

Scottish: locative name from the lands of Barra, formerly Barroch, in Bourtie (Aberdeens).

Further information: The English name is unexplained, unless it is a late survival of the name of the wood called *Barrock* which gives its name to Berkshire.

The county name was still being written *Barrokshyre* in the 13th century and the wood still mentioned by name (*nemus de Barroc*) in 1199. However, the dominant spelling of these names had *-e-* not *-a-*.

Early bearers: Scotland: Johnne Barrok, 1508 in *Saint Andrews Charters* (Auchmaliddie, Aberdeens); John Barrak, 1630 in *Saint Andrews Charters* (Ardo, Aberdeens); Alexr. Barrack, 1646 in *IGI* (Ellon, Aberdeens); James Barrak, 1693 in *IGI* (Peterhead, Aberdeens); John Barrack, 1767 in *IGI* (Methlick, Aberdeens).

England: William Barrok, king's sergeant at arms, 1393 in *Patent Rolls*; Thomas Barough', 1506 in *Feet of Fines* (High Halden, Kent); George Barrouke, 1604 in *IGI* (Bishopsgate, London); Dorethay Barreck, 1635 in *IGI* (Haddenham, Cambs); Richard Barrack, 1730 in *IGI* (Hatcliffe, Lincs); Thomas Barrock, 1760 in *IGI* (Bardwell, Suffolk).

References: *Black*.

Barraclough

Variants: Barrowclough, Barrowcliff, Barrowcliff, Berrecloth, Berrycloth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3446, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2964
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: locative name from an unidentified place in Southowram (Halifax, WR Yorks). Redmonds notes that there is a deserted medieval site by Barrowclough Lane in Southowram. The pronunciation is *Barraccluff* or (in London) *Barraclow* or *Barracclue*.

Early bearers: Peter del Bariclouge, 1315, de Barneclough (for Barueclough), 1316 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (Sowerby, WR Yorks); John de Baroclogh, 1416 in *Yorks Deeds* (Southowram, WR Yorks); Robert Bereclough, 1493 in *York Guild Register*; Wi. Barroclough, 1539, John Barraclough, 1591 in *IGI* (Halifax, WR Yorks); Henry Barryclught, 1561, Thomas Baraclough, 1588, Anne Beraclough, 1606, Francis Baroclogh, 1612, Francis Barrowclough, 1631 in *Parish Registers* (Rothwell, WR Yorks); Elizabeth Barraclue, 1627 in *Bardsley* (Yorks); Edward Barracliff, 1765 in *Bardsley* (Yorks).

References: *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Barradell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 300, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 181
- **Main GB location 1881:** Leics; also Notts

English: locative name, unexplained; apparently from a place-name **Barrow Dale*, which might be associated with Barrow on Soar (Leics), right in the heart of this name's local distribution, but no such place is recorded.

Early bearers: Ann Baradale, 1584 in *IGI* (Quornndon, Leics); Joseph Barradell, 1667, Robert Barrowdale, 1669 in *IGI* (Leicester, Leics); Laurence Barradail, 1681 in *IGI* (Boothby Graffoe, Lincs); Henry Baradal, 1690, John Barradell, 1793 in *IGI* (Loughborough, Leics); Ino Barradale, 1758 in *IGI* (Shepshed, Leics); Charles Barrowdale, 1792 in *IGI* (Melton Mowbray, Leics).

Barragry

- **Current frequencies:** GB 18, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Limerick

Irish: from Mac Bearthagra or Mac Biorthagra, see **Berkery**.

Barran

Variants: Baran, Barren, Barrand, Barrance

- **Current frequencies:** GB 186, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 188
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: of uncertain origin; possibly a nickname from Middle English *bar(r)ain*, *bar(r)en*, *baran* 'barren' (Old French *barain*, *baraigne*). As a hereditary surname the sense 'destitute, poor, worthless' seems more likely than 'sterile, childless'.

Early bearers: Hugo Baren, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Wardington and Coton, Oxon); Elsbethe Barren, 1558, Robert Barran, 1561, Johne. Baran, 1586 in *IGI* (Halifax, WR Yorks); Thomas Barren, 1564 in *IGI* (Tuddenham Saint Mary, Suffolk); Martin Barren, 1629 in *IGI* (Houghton le Spring, Durham); Christopher Baran, 1632 in *PROB 11* (Saint Saviour Southwark, Surrey); Mary Baran, 1649 in *IGI* (Hardwick, Cambs); Michael Barran, 1678 in *IGI* (Leeds, WR Yorks).

Barrance

Variants: Barrans

- **Current frequencies:** GB 105, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 59
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cambridge and Herts

English: unexplained. Perhaps a variant of **Barran** with post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Early bearers: John Burrance, 1581 in *IGI* (Eastbourne, Sussex); Thomas Barranes, 1588 in *PROB 11* (Greatham, Rutland); William Barrence, 1619 in *PROB 11* (Salisbury, Wilts); Edmund Barrance, 1653 in *IGI* (Great Wilbraham, Cambs); John Barrans, 1693, Samuel Baren, 1707 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); Richard Barance, 1714 in *IGI* (Eriswell, Suffolk); Mary Barrans, 1751 in *IGI* (Birstall, WR Yorks); Benjamin Barrans, 1765 in *IGI* (Comberton, Cambs).

Barrand

- **Current frequencies:** GB 361, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 406
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: unexplained, but probably a variant of **Barran** with excrescent final *-d* found for example in Yorks dialects.

Early bearers: Barthus. Barrand, 1553 in *IGI* (Pickworth, Lincs); Richarde Barrande, 1566 in *IGI* (Sempringham, Lincs); Alice Barrand, 1587 in *IGI* (Spalding, Lincs); Henricus Barrand, 1697 in *IGI* (Elland, WR Yorks); John Barrand, 1755 in *IGI* (Haydor, Lincs).

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 7, p. 91.

Barrans

- **Current frequencies:** GB 60, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 48
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Barrance**.

Barras

- **Current frequencies:** GB 690, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 582
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham and Northumb

1 English: see **Barrass**.

2 Portuguese and Spanish: variant of **Barros**.

Barrass

Variants: Barras, Barris, Barrus

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2076, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 738
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham and Northumb

1 English: variant of **Barrows**. *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames* records William Barowes, 1547, John Barras, 1638 in *Knaresborough Wills* (Knaresborough, WR Yorks).

Early bearers: Janeta Barras, 1577 in *IGI* (Swillington, WR Yorks); Rici Barras, 1583 in *IGI* (Middle Rasen, Lincs); Niobert Barras, 1589 in *IGI* (Whickham, Durham); Richard Barras, 1672 in *Hearth Tax* (Yorks); John Barrass, 1702 in *IGI* (Whickham, Durham); Joseph Barrass, 1713 in *York Freeman's Register* (Yorks); Thomas Barhouse, 1736 in *IGI* (Leeds, WR Yorks); William Barass, 1788 in *IGI* (Chester le Street, Durham).

2 French, English: (i) nickname perhaps for a large or tall person, from Old French *barrace* 'large bar, bulky obstacle'. (ii) locative name possibly from the same word as in (i) in the technical sense 'the outwork of a fortress'.

Early bearers: William Barras, merchant of London, 1273 in *Patent Rolls* (London); Adam Barras, 1391 in *Patent Rolls* (Worcester, Worcs).

3 Portuguese and Spanish: re-spelling of **Barros**.

Barrat

- **Current frequencies:** GB 93, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 185
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

English: see **Barrett**.

Barratt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 7470, Ireland 42
- **GB frequency 1881:** 6028
- **Main GB location 1881:** Midlands: esp. Staffs

English: see **Barrett**.

Barre

- **Current frequencies:** GB 242, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 41
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

French, English: see **Barr**.

Barrel

- **GB frequency 1881:** 114
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk, Essex, and London

English: see **Barrell**.

Barrell

Variants: Barrel

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1403, Ireland 8
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1136
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk and Essex

1 English: nickname from Middle English *barel* 'barrel, cask', Old French *baril*, presumably used for a cooper or possibly to denote someone with a rotund figure or who drank excessively.

Early bearers: Turstin Baril, 1166 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); William Baril, 1185 in *Pipe Rolls* (Worcs); William Barel, 1353 in *Patent Rolls* (Grimsby, Lincs); Johannes Barel, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Pebworth with Broad Marston, Gloucs); John Barell, 1441 in *Patent Rolls* (Cornwall); John Barrell, 1562 in *IGI* (Belchamp Walter, Essex); Martyn Barrel, 1586 in *IGI* (Sandwich, Kent); Ann Barrill, 1738 in *IGI*

Barren

(Lavenham, Suffolk); Anne Barrall, 1767 in *IGI* (Mutford, Suffolk); John Barrel, 1775, Catherine Barrall, 1807 in *IGI* (Wells next the Sea, Norfolk).
2 English: post-medieval variant of **Barwell**.
Early bearers: John and Susan Barrell, 1688, Barwell, 1691 in *Bardsley*.
3 Huguenot: see **Beharrell**.

Barren

- **Current frequencies:** GB 55, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 99
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham; Westm; also Banffs
- English: perhaps a variant of **Barran** or **Baron**.

Barrer

Variants: **Barrere**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 7
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx

English: locative name for someone who lived by a town or castle gate, from an agent derivative of Middle English *barre* ‘barrier, gateway’; compare **Barr**. Gilbert le Barrier, 1210 in *Pipe Rolls* (Sussex) is probably identical with Gilbert Barre, 1221 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Kent), while in the Sussex *Subsidy Rolls* Walter atte Barre and Walter le Barrer’ appear in the assessments for Madehurst in 1296 and 1327 respectively.

Early bearers: Gilbert (le) Barrer, 1221–2 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Devon, Dorset), 1229 in *Close Rolls* (Sussex); William Barrer, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Arundel, Sussex); Ricardus Barrere, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Bramley, Surrey); John Barrer, 1648 in *IGI* (Wheldrake, ER Yorks); Mary Barrer, 1687 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Benjamin Barrer, 1721 in *IGI* (Leominster, Herefs); Henry Barrer, 1728 in *IGI* (Shelsley Beauchamp, Worcs); James Barrer, 1745 in *IGI* (Ripponden, WR Yorks).

References: *Surnames of Sussex*, p. 154, 158.

Barrere

- **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- English: see **Barrer**.

Barret

- **Current frequencies:** GB 135, Ireland 18
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 839
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and WR Yorks; Middx
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork; Galway
- English: see **Barrett**.

Barreto

- **Current frequencies:** GB 302, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

1 Portuguese: nickname from *barreto* ‘cap’.
Further information: This name is also found in Goa and elsewhere in western India, where it was taken by Portuguese colonists.

Early bearers: Henriquez Barreto, born in Portugal, in *Census 1871* (London); Estevo Barretto, born in India, in *Census 1901* (Essex).

2 Spanish: locative name, nickname possibly from an unidentified place named from Spanish *barreta*, *barreto*, apparently from *bara* ‘(crow)bar’, or else applied as a nickname.

Early bearers: Ignacio H. De Barreto, in *Census 1871* (London); Antonio H. De Barreto, in *Census 1871* (London); Fernando H. De Barreto, in *Census 1871* (London); Jose J. H. De Barreto, in *Census 1871* (London).

Barrett

Variants: **Barratt, Barrat, Barritt, Barrott, Barret, Barette, Berrett**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 30800, Ireland 6279
- **GB frequency 1881:** 19852
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread; esp. WR Yorks and Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork; Mayo

Norman, English, Irish: nickname probably for a quarrelsome person, from Old French *barat*, Middle English *bar(r)at*, *bar(r)et(te)* ‘trouble, distress’, later ‘deception, fraud; contention, strife’. Through Norman settlement it also became common in Ireland, where it was gaelicized as **Baróid** (Munster) and **Baréid** (Connacht).

Further information: Evidence is lacking for a derivation from the Continental Germanic personal name *Beroald*, Old French *Beraud*, which has been suggested. The Old Scandinavian personal name *Bárðr* is found in the spellings *Bared* and *Baret* in Yorks and Lincs in *Domesday Book*, but there is no proof of its continued use.

Early bearers: England: Matthew Baret, about 1150–5 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Robert Barate, 1165 in *Pipe Rolls* (Notts); Jordan Barat, 1185 in *Templars Records* (Herts); Seman Barette, 1207 in *Pipe Rolls* (Hants); William Barrette (Barat), 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Essex); Adam Baret, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Blackaton, Devon); Walterus Baret, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Eltham, Kent); Simon Baret, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Heacham, Norfolk); Johannes Baret, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Sutton, WR Yorks); Johannes Baret, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Twynning, Gloucs); Johannes Baret’, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Lathom, Lancs); John Barrat, 1541 in *IGI* (Chappel, Essex); Alice Barret, 1542 in *IGI* (West Bradenham, Norfolk); Isabell Barrit, 1542 in *IGI* (Willoughby, Lincs); Johis. Barret, 1547 in *IGI* (Halifax, WR Yorks); Anne Barrett, 1548 in *IGI* (Kingsclere, Hants); Thomas Barret, 1551 in *IGI* (Charlton Kings, Gloucs); John Barrett, 1553 in *IGI* (Barnstaple, Devon); James Baratt, 1598 in *IGI* (Henbury, Gloucs); Margaret Barratt, 1602 in *IGI* (Lichfield, Staffs); Henry Barrot, 1608 in *IGI* (Chesterfield, Derbys); Jacobi Barrott, 1619 in *IGI* (Medbourne, Leics); Thomasine Barrett, 1631 in *IGI* (Bingley, WR Yorks).

Ireland: Edmund Barret, 1566 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §915 (Richardston, Carlow); Beany Barret, 1574 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2510 (Limerick); Rob Barrett, 1585 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §4731 (Kyllalo); Richard McJames Barott, husbandman, 1585 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §4781 (Cork).

Barretto

- **Current frequencies:** GB 174, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Italian: from *barretto* ‘cap’, presumably a nickname. Compare Spanish **Barreto**.

Early bearers: Serefius Barretto, born in Italy, in *Census 1901* (Notts).

Barriball

Variants: **Barrable**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 219, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 101

• **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Cornwall
English: locative name probably from a not certainly identified place near Launceston, Cornwall. A possibility is Barbaryball in Stowford, Devon, seven miles east of Launceston, but the recorded spellings of that are not conclusive, and its origin is itself uncertain.

Early bearers: John Berball, 1463 in *Cornwall Manorial Surveys* (Launceston, Cornwall); Thomas Bareball, 1522 in *Cornwall Military Survey* (North Hill, Cornwall); William Baryball, 1544 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lewannick, Cornwall); Andreas Bariball, 1576 in *IGI* (Saint Teath, Cornwall); Edward Berriball, 1626 in *IGI* (Menheniot, Cornwall); Dorrothy Barraball, 1656 in *IGI* (Saint Enoder, Cornwall); Johan Barriball, 1669 in *IGI* (Buckland Monachorum, Devon); Henry Barabble, 1686 in *IGI* (Saint Breward, Cornwall); Jno. Barrabell, 1699 in *IGI* (Saint Ceer, Cornwall); John Bearibale, 1756 in *IGI* (Liskeard, Cornwall); William Barrable, 1792 in *IGI* (Devonport, Devon); Elizabeth Barrible, 1833 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon).

Barrick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 439, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 219
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs, Northants, and Beds; Essex

English: see **Berwick**.

Barrie

Variants: **Barry, Berrie**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3166, Ireland 34
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2159
- **Main GB location 1881:** Angus

1 Scottish: locative name from Barry in Angus.

Early bearers: William de Barry, 1360 in *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland* (Gowrie below the Isla, Perth); Thomas Barry, 1391 in *Scotland Calendar*; John Barry, 1408 in *New Spalding Miscellany* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens); John de Barry, 1430 in *Brechin Register* (Montrose, Angus); Katern Barrie, 1577 in *IGI* (Monifieth, Angus).

2 Scottish: Scottish spelling of **Barry**.

Barriere

- **Current frequencies:** GB 19, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

French: see **Barrier**.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain, but is thriving in the USA, where it is also recorded in the translated form *Gates*.

Barrigan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 132, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 31
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

Irish: from Ó Beirgin, see **Bergin**.

Barringer

- **Current frequencies:** GB 374, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 270
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northants, Beds, and Hunts

English: see **Berringer**.

Barrington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1825, Ireland 92
- **GB frequency 1881:** 967
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset

- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Wexford; Kildare; also Clare

1 Norman, English: locative name generally from any of the various places called Barrington, in Somerset, Gloucs, Cambs; the first example, however, is Norman; it is probably from Barentin in Seine-Maritime.

Early bearers: Fulk de Barenton, 1198 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Geoffrey de Barrington, 1219 in *Pipe Rolls* (Dorset, Somerset); Nicholas de Baryngton, 1344 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); John Baryngton, 1433 in *Patent Rolls* (Little Hadham, Herts); Thomas Barington, 1576, Priscylla Barrington, 1580 in *IGI* (Salisbury, Wilts); John Barrington, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Devon).

2 Irish: in Ireland, this is often the English name, but it was also adopted for Irish *Ó Bearáin*; see **Barron**. **Early bearers:** John Baringeton, captain, 1564 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §647; John Barrington, gent. and landowner, 1572 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2113.

Barris

- **Current frequencies:** GB 14, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 65
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham and Northumb
- English: variant of **Barrass**.

Further information: This form is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Barritt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 810, Ireland 15
- **GB frequency 1881:** 781
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks; Northants; Essex

English: see **Barrett**.

Barron

Variants: Barrons, Barne, Barnes, Birrane

- **Current frequencies:** GB 7007, Ireland 1463
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4591
- **Main GB location 1881:** Aberdeens and Banffs; Durham; WR Yorks and Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread

1 Scottish: (i) nickname, status name from Scots *baron*, which in the Highlands denoted a small proprietary landholder. In Angus it alluded specifically to a tenant of one of the small baronies attached to the Abbey of Coupar Angus, as in the case of Robert Barrone, tenant of Glenlylay (Glenisla), 1508 in *Cupar-Angus Rental Book*. The surname was taken by Scottish migrants to Ulster. Compare **Baron**. (ii) relationship name, reduced form of **McBarron**.

Early bearers: Patrick Baroun, 1428 in *Arbroath Register* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); James Barroun, 1555 in *Protocol Books Glasgow* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); William Barrowne, 1658, in *IGI* (Dundee, Angus); John Barron, 1688, in *IGI* (Old Machar, Aberdeens); Margaret Barron, 1755 in *IGI* (Kirkmichael, Banffs); John Baron, 1795 in *IGI* (Old Machar, Aberdeens); John Barron, 1862 in *IGI* (Dundee, Angus).

2 Irish: from **Mac an Bharáin**, see **McBarron**.

Early bearers: John Barron fitz Richard, horseman, 1567 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1032 (Cosinestowne, Wexford); Thomas Barron fitz Edmund, gent., 1571 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1934; Milo Barron, 1572 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2032 (Bournechurch); Richard Baron alias fitz Gerald, 1578 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §3431 (Kilkenny).

3 Irish, Manx: relationship name from *Ó Bearáin* ‘descendant of *Bearán*’, a personal name based on a diminutive of *bior* ‘stake, spit, spear’.

Early bearers: Deirmot O Barran, 1603 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6761; Phelim crome O Barran, 1603 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6761.

4 English: see **Baron**. However, the frequency of this form in Northumb and Durham is due in part to immigration by Scots bearing the surname explained in (1).

Barrons

- **Current frequencies:** GB 64, Ireland 9
- **GB frequency 1881:** 118
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb; also Midlothian

English, Scottish: variant of **Barron**, with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Barros

Variants: Barras, Barrass

- **Current frequencies:** GB 412, Ireland 18
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3

Portuguese, Spanish: locative name from any of numerous places in the Iberian peninsula named with *barro* ‘clay, loam’.

Early bearers: Diego De Barros, born in Brazil, in *Census 1871* (London); Jose Elrique Barros, born in Brazil, in *Census 1891* (Denbighs); Braz Monteirs De Barros, born in Brazil, in *Census 1911* (Northumb).

Barrott

- **Current frequencies:** GB 235, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 195
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and WR Yorks
- English: see **Barrett**.

Barrow

Variants: Berrow, Barrows

- **Current frequencies:** GB 7596, Ireland 197
- **GB frequency 1881:** 6317
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cheshire; also Westm; Devon; Hants and Sussex
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork

English: locative name from one or more of the numerous places so named, such as Barrow (Cheshire, Northumb, Rutland, Shrops, Suffolk), Barrow in Furness (Cumb), North and South Barrow and Barrow Gurney (both Somerset), Barrow on Humber (Lincs), Barrow upon Soar (Leics) and Barrow upon Trent (Derbys).

Early bearers: Adam de Barewe, 1192 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); Alured atte Berewe, John de la Berewe, 1242 in *Book of Fees* (Worcs); William del Berwe, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Adam a la Barewe, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); John atte Barwe, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); Reginaldus Barwe, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Poltimore, Devon); Ricardo Barow, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Old Dalby, Leics); Laurencius de Barwe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk); Elias dil Barowe, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Parr, Lancs); Margareta Barow, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (North Ferriby, ER Yorks); Thomas de Baruwe, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Castleton, Derbys); William Abarowe, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Juliana Barrow, 1539 in *IGI* (Severn Stoke, Worcs); John Barow, 1544 in *IGI* (East Down, Devon); Rycharde A Barow, 1545 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wilts); Edmund Barrow, 1545 in *IGI* (Kirkby Lonsdale, Westm); Willm. Barrow, 1559 in *IGI*

(Lockington, Leics); John Barrow, 1564 in *IGI* (Frodsham, Cheshire); John Barrow, 1572 in *IGI* (Shawbury, Shrops); Margratt Barrow, 1574 in *IGI* (Winwick, Lancs).

Barrowcliff

- **Current frequencies:** GB 160, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 156
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Notts and Lincs
- English: see **Barraclough**.

Barrowcliffe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 331, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 167
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Notts and Leics
- English: see **Barraclough**.

Barrowclough

- **Current frequencies:** GB 349, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 530
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Lancs
- English: see **Barraclough**.

Barrowman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 556, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 405
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lanarks

English, Scottish: see **Burman**.

Further information: Black doubtfully explains *Barrowman*, also found as *Barraman*, as ‘one who helps to carry a handbarrow’, but, apart from his first example which is found as *Baroumane* and *Borrowman* in two different MSS, his earliest evidence is in 1570, whilst the first example in *OED* is about 1675.

Barrows

Variants: Barrass

- **Current frequencies:** GB 646, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 746
- **Main GB location 1881:** Midlands: esp. Notts, Leics, and Warwicks; Kent

English: variant of **Barrow** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Early bearers: Elizabeth Barrows, 1544 in *IGI* (Burton upon Trent, Staffs); Thomas Barrows, 1561 in *IGI* (Margate, Kent); Stephi. Barrows, 1580 in *IGI* (Boston, Lincs).

Barrs

- **Current frequencies:** GB 703, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 467
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Leics and Warwicks
- English: variant of **Barr** with plural or post-medieval excrescent -s.
- Early bearers:** Richard Barrs, 1570, Ruth Bars, 1628 in *IGI* (Burbage, Leics); Joyce Barrs, 1592 in *IGI* (Market Bosworth, Leics); Richard Barrs, 1754, Mary Barss, 1783, Joseph Bars, 1784 in *IGI* (Dunchurch, Warwicks);

Barrus

- **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- English: probably a variant of **Barrass**.

Barry

Variants: Barrie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11553, Ireland 9141
- **GB frequency 1881:** 5377

- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. London; Lancs; S Wales
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Cork

1 Norman, English, Welsh, Irish: locative name perhaps from a French hamlet named with Old French *barri* ‘rampart’, later applied to a settlement below the rampart of a town; see (5). However, although there are plenty of hamlets so named in southern France, it has not been possible to identify one in or near Normandy, and this origin of the Norman surname is therefore uncertain. The Norman family itself believed that their surname alluded to Barry Island off the Glamorgan coast, opposite the town of Barry. It seems an insignificant place for the naming of such a powerful family, but that is the story told by Gerald de Barry (alias Giraldus Cambrensis) in his *Itinerarium Cambriae* (1191). Born at Manorbier Castle (Pembroke) in about 1146, he was a grandson of William de Barri and Nest, daughter of the Welsh prince Rhys ap Tewdwr, and a great-grandson of Odo, lord of Manorbier, to whom Barry, along with much other land in S Wales, had been granted by William the Conqueror. In Ireland the surname mostly goes back to another member of this family, Philip de Barry, who took part in the invasion of Ireland in 1169.

Further information: Gerald de Barry states that Barry Island took its name from a Saint Baroc, whose remains were buried there, but it is clearly named from the adjacent town, which is thought to derive its name from the river (Old Welsh **barren* ‘hill brook(?)’ that flows into Barry harbour. See *DPN Wales*.

Early bearers: England and Wales: Willelmus de Barri, 1131 in *Pipe Rolls* (Pembroke); Nest de Barri, 1185 in *Pipe Rolls* (Sussex); Richard Barri, 1195 in *Feet of Fines* (Suffolk); John Barry, 1550 in *IGI* (Rye, Sussex); Nicolas Barry, 1561 in *IGI* (Shipbourne, Kent); Beniamyn Barry, 1564 in *IGI* (Saint Dunstan in the East, London); Robart Barry, 1567 in *IGI* (Bodmin, Cornwall); John Barrey, 1573 in *IGI* (Hastings, Sussex); William Barry, 1575 in *IGI* (Barnstaple, Devon); Mary Barry, 1702, Mary Bary, 1706 in *IGI* (Shelton, Beds).

Ireland: James Barry, viscount of Barrymore, 1561, in *Fiantis Elizabeth* §351; Thomas Barrie, lord Barrie Oge, 1564 in *Fiantis Elizabeth* §666 (Munster); James Barry, knight, viscount of Buttivaunt and Lord Barrymore, 1573 in *Fiantis Elizabeth* §2253 (Munster).

References: Giraldus Cambrensis, *The Itinerary through Wales and The Description of Wales*, ed. Ernest Rhys, Everyman’s Library (London, 1908), p. 60; *Domesday Descendants*, p. 305.

2 Norman, English: nickname from Old French *barriet*, *barret*, *barré* ‘striped’ (Old Norman French **barri*, Latin *barratus*), probably in reference to striped clothing or to a piece of striped cloth worn around the helmet for identification in battle. The term *barry* came to be used in heraldry for a field horizontally divided by strips of alternating colour. The seal of Galfridus Barry, lord of Teversal (Notts), on a charter dated 1244, was ‘barry of eight or ten with a file of ten labels’ (*Thoroton, Notts*). Another family named Barry were lords of Tollerton (Notts), though it is unclear if they were related to the Teversal family. In modern Notts, Barry may have been confused with Berry.

Early bearers: Radulfus Barret, 1130, Radulfus Barre (of Teversal) 1204, Galfridus Barret, 1176–7, identical with Galfridus Barre, 1177 in *Pipe Rolls* (Notts); Robertus Barry, lord of Tollerton, 1242–3 in *Book of Fees* (Notts); Ric[ard]us Barry of Tollerton, 1288 in *Assize Rolls* (Notts); Thomas Barre, lord of Teversal, 1316 in *Feudal Aids* (Notts); John Barry of Teversal, 1450 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Notts); Ed[mund]o Barry of Tollerton, 1450 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Notts); Lettuse Barrie, 1639, William Barry, 1695, Joseph Barry, 1748 in *IGI* (Calverton, Notts); William Barry, 1821 in *IGI* (Ruddington, Notts).

3 Irish, Manx: in Ireland, when this is not the Norman name in (1), it may be an anglicized form of Ó Báire ‘descendant of Báire’, a short form of either of two Gaelic personal names, *Bairrghionn* or *Fionnbharr*, both meaning ‘fair-topped’. This may also be the source of the Manx name Barry, whose family’s main seat was Ballavarry in Kirk Andreas (*Kneen*).

Early bearers: Ireland: James McShane Movyle Barry, gent., 1573 in *Fiantis Elizabeth* §2247 (Dongormy, Cork); John Moyle McDavid McRobert Barry, gent., 1573 in *Fiantis Elizabeth* §2247 (Castellehan, Cork); Conogher M’loghlen I Barrie, 1591 in *Fiantis Elizabeth* §5562.

10M: [. . .] Barry, 1643, [. . .] Barrey, 1663 in (*Kneen*).
4 Scottish: locative name see **Barrie**.

5 Huguenot, French: locative name; French Barry, from a French place so named; see (1) and compare **Dubarry**. Huguenots brought this name to England and Ireland in the 17th century.

Early bearers: Isaac Barry, 1693 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street French Huguenot Church, London).

References: Morlet, *Dictionnaire*.

Barsby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 995, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 516
- **Main GB location 1881:** NE Midlands: esp. Leics and Rutland

English: locative name from Barsby in Leics, recorded as *Barnesbi* in 1086 (*Domesday Book*).

Early bearers: William de Barnesby, 1348 in *Patent Rolls* (Leics); Thomas, son of Henry de Barnesby, pardoned for the death of John Power of Barnesby, killed at Barnesby, 1354 in *Patent Rolls*; Willelmo Barnesby, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Thorpe Satchville, Leics); John Barnesby, 1604 in *IGI* (Eton, Bucks); Alice Barsby, 1634 in *IGI* (Spalding, Lincs).

Barsey

- **GB frequency 1881:** 5
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Pembrokes
- English: see **Barzey**.

Barsham

Variants: Basham, Bassham, Bassam, Bassom, Bassan, Basson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 51
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk and Suffolk

English: locative name from North, East, or West Barsham (Norfolk), or from Barsham (Suffolk).

Early bearers: Henry de Barsham, 1198 in *Feet of Fines* (Norfolk); Martin Barsham, Bassham, 1367 in *Colchester Court Rolls* (Essex); Willelmus de Barsham, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Kings Lynn, Norfolk); Johannes de Barsham, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Sedgeford, Norfolk); Radulphus Barsham, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Brighton,

Sussex); Simon Basham 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Preston, Sussex); Wyllm. Bassam, 1552, Robt. Barsham, 1554 in *IGI* (North Elmham, Norfolk); Thomas Basham, 1566 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Frances Basson, 1594 in *IGI* (Bluntisham, Hunts); Edmund Bassham, 1599 in *PROB 11* (Twyford, Norfolk); Raphael Bassan, 1604 in *IGI* (Bluntisham cum Earith, Hunts); Phill. Basham, 1698, Joseph Barsham, 1701, Robert Bashan, 1710 in *IGI* (Kings Lynn, Norfolk).

Barsley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 117, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 126
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: variant of **Bardsley** or **Barnsley**.

Early bearers: Richard Barsley, 1563 in *IGI* (Winteringham, Lincs); George Barsley, 1682 in *IGI* (Boothby Graffoe, Lincs).

Barson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 735, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 560
- **Main GB location 1881:** Midlands: esp. Leics and Notts; Oxon and Berks

English: relationship name from the personal name *Bert*, a short form of *Bertelmeu* (see **Bartholomew**) + the patronymic marker *-son*. Compare **Bart**. There may also have been some confusion with **Burson**, or the latter could perhaps be a variant of this name.

Early bearers: Hugo Bertson, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cumb); Johannes Barson’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (South Creak, Norfolk); Etlyng Barson, 1562 in *IGI* (Long Bennington, Lincs); Richard Barson, 1573 in *IGI* (Long Bennington, Lincs); John Barson, 1607 in *IGI* (Pitminster, Somerset); Nicholas Barson, 1621 in *IGI* (Saint Giles Cripplegate, London); Elizabeth Barson, 1633 in *IGI* (Warminster, Wilts).

Barston

- **Current frequencies:** GB 44, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 104
- **Main GB location 1881:** Leics; WR Yorks

English: locative name from Barston in Warwicks.

Early bearers: Margareta de Barston’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Hambleton, WR Yorks); Isabella Barston’, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Knipton, Leics); John de Barston’, 1390 in *Feet of Fines* (Harlaxton, Lincs); Thomas Barston’, 1420 in *Feet of Fines* (Denton, Lincs); An Barston, 1553 in *IGI* (Dymock, Gloucs); Richard Barston, 1566 in *IGI* (Cuddesdon, Oxford); Benjamin Barston, 1604 in *IGI* (Cuddesdon, Oxford); Richard Barston, 1693 in *IGI* (Mancetter, Warwicks); John Barston, 1719 in *IGI* (Castle Donnington, Leics); Lawrence Barstone, 1756 in *IGI* (Peterborough, Northants); Francis Barstone, 1760 in *IGI* (Walgrave on Sowe, Warwicks).

Barstow

- **Current frequencies:** GB 586, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 518
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Bairstow**.

Bart

Variants: Barth, Barthe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 70, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 179
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset and Somerset; Norfolk

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Bart*, a pet form of *Bartelmew* (see **Bartholomew**).

Early bearers: Award Bart, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); Walterus Bart', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (South Stoke, Oxon); Henrico Barth, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Donhead, Wilts); Thoma Barthe, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Lodhuish, Somerset); William Barte, 1420 in *London Letter Books* I.

Bartell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 172, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 103
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

English: see **Bartle**.

Bartels

- **Current frequencies:** GB 167, Ireland 16
- **GB frequency 1881:** 68
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

English: variant of **Bartle** with post-medieval excrement -s.

Early bearers: Eleanor Bartles, 1635 in *IGI* (Alderley, Cheshire); Edward Bartles, 1676 in *IGI* (Hampton in Arden, Warwicks); William Bartles, 1717 in *IGI* (Rostherne, Cheshire); Thomas Bartels, 1729 in *IGI* (Inkberrow, Worcs); Richard Bartels, 1755 in *IGI* (Dodderhill, Worcs).

Barten

- **Current frequencies:** GB 52, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 98
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

English: variant of **Barton** or **Bertin**.

Barter

Variants: **Bartter**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1853, Ireland 60
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1625
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset, Hants, Wilts, Devon, and Somerset
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork

English: nickname from Middle English *baratour* 'brawler, wrangler; cheat, deceiver' (Old French *barateor*, *barateur*).

Early bearers: Hugh le Bartur, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); Thomas Bartour, 1360 in *Feet of Fines* (Wilts); Stephanus Barter, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Weeke, Hants); Elena Bartour, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Wantage, Berks); John Bartyr alias Bartour, 1561 in *Patent Rolls* (Dorset).

Barth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 213, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 138
- **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs

English: see **Bart**.

Barthe

- **GB frequency 1881:** 11
- **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs

English: see **Bart**.

Bartholomew

- **Current frequencies:** GB 33, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 308
- **Main GB location 1881:** SE England: esp. Kent, Middx, and Surrey, also Hants and Berks

English: see **Bartholomew**.

Bartholomew

Variants: **Bartholemew**, **Berthelemy**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3271, Ireland 46
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2411
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England; esp. Kent, Sussex, and London; also Berks
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Bertilmew*, *Bertelmy*, a post-Conquest borrowing of the Old French form of the Biblical personal name *Bartholomew* (Hebrew 'son of Talmai', a name meaning 'abounding in furrows'). The surname has been re-spelled and pronounced after the modern Biblical form of the personal name. For its common pet forms see **Bartle** and **Bartlett**.

Early bearers: given names: Bartholomeus canonicus, 12th cent. in *Danelaw Documents* (Notts). surnames, England: Robert Bartelmeu, 1273 in *Hundred Rolls* (Hunts); John Bertelmeu, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Fishersgate, Sussex); Walter Berthelmeu, 1334 in *London Letter Books* E; William Bartholomew, 1544, Thomas Bartilmew, 1566 in *IGI* (Stopham, Sussex); Robert Bartholomew, 1555 in *IGI* (Christchurch, London); Margareta Bartlemew, 1560 in *IGI* (Wisbech, Cambs); Fulk Bartholomew, 1565 in *IGI* (Alcester, Warwicks); John Bartholmew, 1569 in *IGI* (Egham, Surrey); John Bartholmew, 1594 in *IGI* (Cholsey, Berks); Willm. Bartlmewe, 1607 in *IGI* (Lambourn, Berks); Thomas Bartholomew, 1626 in *IGI* (Ellastone, Staffs); Gorge Bartholomew, 1637 in *IGI* (Kingsclere, Hants). surnames, Ireland: Henry Bartholomew, 1592–3 in *Fiants Elizabeth* \$5778 (Kildare).

Barthorp

- **GB frequency 1881:** 36
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Suffolk; Notts and Lincs

English: see **Barthorpe**.

Barthorpe

Variants: **Barthorp**, **Bartrop**, **Bartropp**, **Bartrip**, **Bartrup**, **Bartup**, **Barltrop**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 421, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 119
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts; also Lincs and Derbys

English: locative name from Barthorpe Bottoms in Acklam (ER Yorks).

Early bearers: [. . . de] Barchetorp, 1166 in *Place-Names of ER Yorks* (ER Yorks); William de Baretorp, 1200 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); William de Barkentorp', 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Walter Berthrop, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); John Baltrip, 1341 in *London Letter Books* F; William Baltrip, 1351 in *Assize Rolls* (Essex); Johannes de Barthorp, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Barthorpe, ER Yorks); Bartholomew Balthroppe, 1586 in *Parish Registers* (Denham, Suffolk); Jonathan Barthrope, 1673 in *Sheffield Jackson Catalogue* (WR Yorks); John Bartrop, 1676, John Barthorp, 1682, George Barthorp, 1696 in *IGI* (Sturton le Steeple, Notts); Georg Bartrap, 1683 in *IGI* (Upton, Lincs); Hester Bartrap, 1687 in *Bardsley*; Christopher Barthrup, 1706 in *York Freeman's Register* (York); William Barthorp, 1714 in *IGI* (Great Driffield, ER Yorks); Robt. Barthorpe, 1723 in *IGI* (Sutterton, Lincs); Thomas Bartrop, 1804, Daniel Barltrop, 1822 in *IGI* (Takeley, Essex).

References: *Place-Names of ER Yorks*, p. 148.

Barthram

- **Current frequencies:** GB 242, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 67
- **Main GB location 1881:** NE coast: esp. NR Yorks

Norman, English: see **Bartram**.

Bartie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 84, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 65
- **Main GB location 1881:** Midlothian

Scottish: see **Barty**.

Bartin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 49, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 92
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset

English: variant of **Barton** or **Bertin**.

Bartindale

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 15
- **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks

English: locative name from Bartindale, a depopulated place in Hunmanby (ER Yorks).

Early bearers: John Bartendale, 1424 in *York Freeman's Register*; Richardus Bartendale, 1624 in *IGI* (Settrington, ER Yorks).

Bartlam

- **Current frequencies:** GB 635, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 323
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and Warwicks

English: of uncertain origin, perhaps from a reduced form of *Bartlemew* or *Bartlemy*, see **Bartholomew**.

Early bearers: Robert Bartlam, 1575 in *PROB 11* (Chipping Farringdon, Berks); Ellnor Bartlam, 1583 in *IGI* (Wantage, Berks); Henricus Bartlam, 1633 in *IGI* (Aston Cantlow, Warwicks); Thos. Bartlum, 1636, Thos. Bartlam, 1640, Thos. Bartlem, 1650 in *IGI* (Longnor, Shrops); Willimi Barklam, 1639 in *IGI* (Whitbourne, Herefs); Thom. Barklam, 1642 in *IGI* (Woolstaston, Shrops); Ellis Bartlam, 1656 in *IGI* (Mucklestone, Staffs); Mary Barklam, 1728 in *IGI* (Great Bolas, Shrops); Richard Bartlem, 1739, George Bartlum, 1741 in *IGI* (Whitchurch, Shrops); Mary Bartlom, 1741 in *IGI* (Stone, Staffs); William Bafford Barklam, 1772 in *IGI* (Brierley Hill, Staffs); John Barklamb, 1786 in *IGI* (Saint George in the East, Middx).

Bartle

Variants: **Bartell**, **Bartels**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2042, Ireland 10
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1750
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall; WR Yorks and Notts
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Sligo

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English and Old French personal name *Bartel*, a pet form of *Bartelmew*, *Bertelmew* (see **Bartholomew**, and compare **Bartlett**); sometimes also the equivalent name in other Romance languages. Bartholomew Chastiloun and Sarah his wife had a son known as John Bartyll, 1384 in *London Husting Wills*.

Further information: It is possible that the southern forms may originate in a locative name from the late-recorded Burtle (Somerset), but there is no hard evidence.

Bartleet

Early bearers: given names: John Bartill, son and heir of Bartill de Castellones, a Lombard, 1383 in *Patent Rolls*; Bartill Laurensen, 1625 in *Black*.

surnames: Philippe Bartle, 1583 in *IGI* (Bourne, Lincs); Joyes Bartell, 1599 in *IGI* (Southampton, Hants); Thomas Bartle, 1637 in *IGI* (Wendron, Cornwall); William Bartole, 1641 in *PROB 11* (Crewkerne, Somerset); Alexander Bartel, 1634 in *IGI* (Lissington, Lincs); Jane Bartle, 1630, John Bertle, 1636 in *IGI* (Long Newton, Durham).

2 English: locative name from Higher, Lower Bartle in Saint Michael on Wyre parish (Lancs). There may have been some confusion with **Birtle**.

Early bearers: William de Bartel, 1339, William de Bartaill, 1341 in *Patent Rolls*; John de Bartale, 1401 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); John de Barthall, 1402 in *Patent Rolls* (Lancs); George Bartle, 1601 in *IGI* (Guiseley, WR Yorks); Ralph Bartell, 1611 in *IGI* (Wigan, Lancs); William Bartle, 1672 in *Hearth Tax* (Yorks).

References: *Lancs Place-Names*; *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Bartleet

- **Current frequencies:** GB 98, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 101
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs and Warwicks
- English: see **Bartlett**.

Bartlet

- **Current frequencies:** GB 127, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 294
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Aberdeens
- English: see **Bartlett**.

Bartlett

Variants: Bartlet, Bartleet, Barttelot, Partlett

- **Current frequencies:** GB 16650, Ireland 255
- **GB frequency 1881:** 13052
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset, Somerset, and Devon

1 Norman, English: relationship name from the Middle English and Old French personal name *Bertelot*, *Bartelot*, pet forms of **Bartholomew** with the Old French double diminutive suffix *-elot*. Compare **Bartle**.

Early bearers: Godricus Bertelot, about 1157 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk); Walter Bertelot, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Thomas Bartelot, 1294 in *Feet of Fines* (Cambs); Thomas Bartelot, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Johanne Bartilot, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Teffont Evias, Wilts); Henrico Bartelot, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Salisbury, Wilts); Thomas Bartlot, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Rothwell, WR Yorks); Alexander Bertlot, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Ashton, Dorset); Edward Bartelett, 1496 in *PROB 11* (Earnley, Sussex); Alyce Bartelot, 1498 in *PROB 11* (Saint Martin Vintry, City of London); Robert Bartolet, 1502 in *PROB 11* (London); Edward Bartelott, 1503 in *Feet of Fines* (Sussex); Johis Bartlett, 1541 in *IGI* (Hennock, Devon); Alexander Bartlett, 1582 in *IGI* (Longburton, Dorset); John Bartlet, 1583 in *PROB 11* (Finchampstead, Berks); Nicholas Bartlet, 1646 in *PROB 11* (Dunster, Somerset).

2 Irish: adopted for **Mac Pharthaláin**, see **McFarlane**.

Bartley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2946, Ireland 580
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1439

- **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks, Lancs, and Cheshire; Flints and Denbighs; Sussex, Hants, and Surrey

- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim and Derry
- 1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Bartle*, a pet form of **Bartholomew**.

Early bearers: Francis Bartley, 1571 in *Oxford University Register* (Somerset); Stephen Bartly or Bartley, 1597 in *PROB 11* (Great Cheverell, Wilts); Andrew Bartley, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Devon).

2 English: variant of **Barclay**.

Early bearers: Richard Barkeley or Bartley, 1592 in *Oxford University Register* (Gloucs).

3 Irish: in Ireland, this is sometimes the English name, but it was also adopted for **Mac Pharthaláin**, for which see **McFarlane**.

Bartolo

- **Current frequencies:** GB 170, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Italian, Maltese: relationship name from a short form of *Bartolomeo*, Italian form of **Bartholomew**.

Early bearers: Henrietta Bartolo, 1835 in *IGI* (Clifton, Gloucs); Lorenzo Bartolo, born in Malta, in *Census 1881* (Royal Navy); Giovanni Bartolo, born in Malta, in *Census 1881* (Royal Navy); Carmelo Bartolo, born in Malta, in *Census 1901* (Royal Navy); Giuseppe Bartolo, born in Malta, in *Census 1901* (Royal Navy).

Barton

Variants: Barten, Bartin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 21595, Ireland 606
- **GB frequency 1881:** 16031
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread: Lancs; also IoW
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Fermanagh and Tyrone; Kerry

English: locative name from one or other of the many places named Barton.

Further information: The name is also found in Ireland, where it has been gaelicized as **de Bartún**.

Early bearers: Ælfric æt Bertune, 1015 in *Tengvik* (Devon); Paganus de Barton, 1163 in *Pipe Rolls*; John de Barton', 1300 in *Feet of Fines* (Yorks); John atte Berton', 1333 in *Feet of Fines* (Hants); Thomas de Barton', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Rimington, WR Yorks); Rogerus de Barton', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lonsdale, Lancs); Henry Barton, 1435 in *PROB 11* (Saint John Walbrook, City of London); Water Barton, 1538 in *PROB 11* (Reading, Berks); Thomas Barten, 1586, Thomas Bartyn, 1609 in *Sheffield Jackson Catalogue* (WR Yorks); Richard Barton, 1605 in *PROB 11* (East Peckham, Kent).

Bartram

Variants: Barthram, Bartrum, Barttrum, Batttram, Batram, Battrum, Batterham, Bertram, Bertrand, Buttrum, Bartron

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3020, Ireland 12
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1396
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England; esp. Norfolk; also Notts; Beds

Norman, English: relationship name from the Old French personal name *Bertran(t)* (Continental Germanic *Bertram*, formed from **berht* 'bright' +

**hrabn* 'raven'). Forms of second element ending in *-t* or *-d* may alternatively be from **rand-* 'shield-rim'.

Early bearers: given names: Bertrannus, 1086 in *Domesday Book*; Bertram, about 1150–60 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs), identical with Bertrannus before 1183 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs).

surnames: William Bertram, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Hants); Henry Bertran, about 1155 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Regin' fil' Bertram, 1195 in *Feet of Fines* (Northants); John Bartram, 1278 in *London Letter Books A*; John Bartrem, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); Mariota Berteram, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Nycolas Bartrum, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); William Battram, George Bartrom, Bateram, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk).

Bartrip

- **Current frequencies:** GB 159, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 67
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex and Middx
- English: see **Barthorpe**.

Bartron

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Norman, English: perhaps a variant of **Bartram**. **Further information:** This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Bartrop

- **Current frequencies:** GB 285, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 209
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Notts; Essex
- English: see **Barthorpe**.

Bartropp

- **Current frequencies:** GB 35, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- English: see **Barthorpe**.

Bartrum

- **Current frequencies:** GB 365, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 267
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk and Norfolk; also Somerset

Norman, English: see **Bartram**.

Bartrup

- **Current frequencies:** GB 19, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 54
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex and Middx
- English: see **Barthorpe**.

Barttelot

- **Current frequencies:** GB 33, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 14
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Hants and Sussex
- English: see **Bartlett**.

Bartter

- **Current frequencies:** GB 30, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 43
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent
- English: see **Barter**.

Barttrum

- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk; Kent
- Norman, English: see **Bartram**.

Bartup

- **Current frequencies:** GB 66, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 14
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
- English: see **Barthorpe**.

Barty

Variants: **Bartie**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 184, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 167
- **Main GB location 1881:** Angus and Perth

Scottish: relationship name from a diminutive of the personal name **Bartholomew**.

Early bearers: Robert Barty, 1552 in *Dundee Municipal History* (Dundee, Angus); John Bairty, burgess, 1587 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Catherein Bairtie, 1637 in *IGI* (Brechin, Angus); Patrick Barty, 1701 in *IGI* (Bendochy, Perth).

Barua

- **Current frequencies:** GB 191, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Assam): nickname, Hindu, derived from a title.

Baruch

- **Current frequencies:** GB 91, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 34
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx

Jewish: from the Hebrew personal name *Baruch*, based on a word meaning 'blessed, fortunate'.

Further information: Baruch was the name of a disciple of Jeremiah, the supposed author of one of the books of the Apocrypha.

Early bearers: Abraham Baruch, born in Poland, in *Census 1861* (Manchester, Lancs); Isaac Baruch, born in Spitalfields, Middx, in *Census 1881* (Middx); Alex Baruch, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Shoreditch, Middx); Louis Baruch, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Liverpool, Lancs); Julius Baruch, born in Germany, in *Census 1891* (Hants); Samuel Baruch, cabinetmaker, born in Romania, in *Census 1901* (Prestwich, Lancs); Lena Baruch, born in Holland, in *Census 1911* (West Ham, Essex).

Barugh

- **Current frequencies:** GB 172, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 87
 - **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks and ER Yorks
- English: see **Bargh**.

Barwell

Variants: **Barrell**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1174, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 928
- **Main GB location 1881:** Midlands: esp. Leics, Northants, Warwicks and Rutland; Middx and Surrey

English: locative name from Barwell (Leics). See also **Barrell**.

Early bearers: Elyas de Barewelle, 12th cent. in *Danelaw Documents* (Leics); Willelmo de Barewelle, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Sheepy Magna, Leics); Willelmus Barewell', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Ryton, Warwicks); Henricus de Barwell', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Braunstone, Leics); John Berwell', 1386 in *Feet of Fines* (Wootton Underwood, Bucks); Richard Barwell', 1509 in *Feet of Fines* (Brightwell Baldwin, Oxon).

Barwick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2294, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1241
- **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks and WR Yorks; Norfolk; Kent

English: see **Berwick**.

Barwise

- **Current frequencies:** GB 451, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 260
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cumb and Westm
- English: locative name from Barwise in Westm.
- Early bearers:** Robert de Beriwis, 1246 in *Miscellaneous Inquisitions* (Cumb); Richard de Berewys, 1270 in *Patent Rolls* (Cumb); Henry de Barweis, 1291 in *Close Rolls* (Westm); Anthony Barwis, 1561 in *Patent Rolls* (Cumb); Edward Barwise, 1590 in *IGI* (Morland, Westm); John Barwis, 1602 in *IGI* (Penrith, Cumb).

Barwood

- **Current frequencies:** GB 289, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 213
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: see **Burwood**.

Barzey

Variants: **Barsey**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 173, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 18
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Gloucs; Pembroke

1 Welsh, English: locative name from Bardsea (Lancs) or Bardsey (Caernarvons), with assimilation of /d/ before the sibilant as in **Barsley** for **Bardsley**. The examples below may alternatively belong with (2) or (3).

Early bearers: N England: Charolus Barsey, 1581 in *IGI* (Wensley, NR Yorks); Tho. Bardsey, 1651 in *IGI* (Urswick in Furness, Lancs).

SW England: Robert Berdesey, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wick, Gloucs); Ann Bardsey, 1612, John Barsye, 1619 in *IGI* (Plymouth, Devon); Elizabeth Barzey, 1748 in *IGI* (Northam, Devon).

2 English: reduced form of **Bardsley** (1) or its variant **Beardsley**. Compare George Beardsley, 1567 in *IGI* (Lichfield, Staffs) and Daniel Bardsley, 1788 in *IGI* (Ashton under Lyne, Lancs) with the 1581 and 1788 examples below.

Early bearers: James Barsey, 1581 in *IGI* (Lichfield, Staffs); Owen Barsy, 1618 in *IGI* (Shrewsbury, Shrops); Ellin Barsey, 1689 in *IGI* (Cockerham, Lancs); Elizabeth Barsy, 1741 in *IGI* (Uttoxeter, Staffs); William Bardsey, 1788 in *IGI* (Ashton under Lyne, Lancs).

3 English: locative name; the examples from SW England cited under (1) may alternatively belong with **Bardsley** (2).

4 English: locative name; possibly from Barsey Farm (Shudy Camps, Cambs), recorded as *terram Willelmi de Berardeshy*, 1307–27 in *Place-Names of Cambs*, p. 106, or from Barsey Walk Farm (near Horncastle, Lincs), though early forms of this place-name are unavailable. Mumby and Hogsthorpe, where the 1591 and 1621 examples are located, are not far from Horncastle.

Early bearers: William de Berardeshy, 1268 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Jhon Bardzey, 1591 in *IGI* (Mumby, Lincs); Christopher Barsey, 1612 in *PROB 11* (Brookesby, Leics); Diana Bardsey, 1617 in *IGI*

(Southill, Beds); Alice Bardzey, 1621 in *IGI* (Hogsthorpe, Lincs).

Basch

- **Current frequencies:** GB 27, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 15
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon; Lancs

1 German: (also Bäsch), from a South German short form of the personal *Sebastian*.

Early bearers: Otto Basch, in *Census 1861* (Middx); Gustavus Basch, in *Census 1861* (Devon); Johann Basch, born in Germany, in *Census 1871* (Lancs); Gustavres H. Basch, born in Liverpool, Lancs, in *Census 1881* (Toxteth Park, Lancs); Edward Basch, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Plymouth, Devon).

2 Jewish: see **Bash**.

Bascom

- **Current frequencies:** GB 31, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall

English: see **Bascombe**.

Bascomb

- **GB frequency 1881:** 53
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset and Wilts; also Lincs

English: see **Bascombe**.

Bascombe

Variants: **Bascom**, **Bascomb**, **Buscombe**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 419, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 202
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset and Hants

English: locative name from either of two places called Boscombe in Hants and Wilts, the latter recorded as *Buscombe* in 1086 and *Bascombe* in about 1180.

Early bearers: Robert de Boscombe, 1344 in *Patent Rolls* (Wilts); Isabella Boscombe, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Childswickham, Gloucs); Robert Buscomb, 1548 in *IGI* (Braunton, Devon); John Baskam, 1600 in *IGI* (Sturminster Marshall, Dorset); Wm Buscome, 1619, James Boscomb, 1627 in *IGI* (Bodmin, Cornwall); Bathsheba Bascome, 1691 in *IGI* (Dorchester, Dorset); Caleb Buscome, 1709 in *IGI* (Dartmouth, Devon); George Bascomb, 1761 in *IGI* (Affpuddle, Dorset); Francis Bascome, 1773 in *IGI* (Shalfleet, Hants); John Bascombe, 1792 in *IGI* (Trowbridge, Wilts); Richard Buscombe, 1805 in *IGI* (Saint Kew, Cornwall); Peregrine Boscombe, 1838 in *IGI* (Laycock, Wilts).

References: *Place-Names of Wilts*, p. 361.

Bascott

Variants: **Baskett**

- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
- **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs

English: locative name from Bascote in Warwicks.

Early bearers: Adam de Bascote, 1206–7 in *Feet of Fines* (Warwicks); Basilia de Besecot', 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Warwicks); Adam de Baskote, 1373 in *Oriel College Records* (Oxford); Johanna Bascote, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Ingarsby, Leics); Robt Bascott, 1765 in *IGI* (Warwick, Warwicks); Joseph Bascott, 1800 in *IGI* (Kineton, Warwicks); Thomas Baskott, 1827 in *IGI* (Marton, Warwicks).

Basden

- **Current frequencies:** GB 136, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 92
- **Main GB location 1881:** SE England: esp. Bucks English: see **Baisden**.

Base

- **Current frequencies:** GB 201, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 211
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork English: see **Bass**.

Baseley

Variants: **Bazeley**, **Bazely**, **Bazley**, **Basley**, **Beesley**, **Baisley**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 328, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 243
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northants

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Basile* or *Basily*, used for men and women alike. It is a post-Conquest borrowing of Old French *Basil(e)*, from Latin *Basilius* (male, derived from Greek *basileios* ‘kingly’) and its feminine form *Basilia*. *Basilius* was the name of several saints, including Saint Basil the Great (329–79), the brother of Saint Gregory. For a pet form of the name see **Bass**. Compare **Basil**.

Early bearers: given names (male): Basill’, 1170–1200 in *Durham Liber Vitae*. given names (female): Basilia, 1134 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk), 1154–89 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Basill’ Vidua, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex). surnames: Willelmus filius Basilie, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Ralph Basille, 1251 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Hunts); Ricardus filius Basili, John Basyly, 1252 in *Ramsey Cartulary* (Hunts); Walter Basely, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); John Basely, 1307 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cottered, Herts); Peter Basele, 1307 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Berkhamsted, Herts); Godfrey Basely, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Buckden, Hunts); Willelmus Baselye, 1377, Johanne Baselly, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (West Corton, Wilts); Radulpho Basely, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Allensmore, Herefs); Johanne Basill’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Somercoates, Lincs); Robertus Basle, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Beetley, Norfolk); Reginaldus Basilie, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Syderstone, Norfolk); Simon Basely, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Catesby with members, Northants); Johannes Basely, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Hinderclay, Suffolk); Johnnes Baseley, 1563 in *IGI* (Stokesby with Herringby, Norfolk); Hester Basley, 1566 in *IGI* (Much Hadham, Herts); Thomas Basley, 1578 in *IGI* (Caddington, Beds); William Baseley, 1599 in *IGI* (Aldenham, Herts); Richard Bazely, 1623 in *IGI* (Willingham by Saint Ives, Cambs); Richard Bazeley, 1753 in *IGI* (Welton, Northants).

Basey

Variants: **Bassey**, **Bassy**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 255, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 130
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: relationship name from a Middle English pet form of the Middle English personal name *Basil(y)*, used for men and women alike. See **Baseley** and **Basil**, and compare **Bass**. **Early bearers:** Ricardus Basi, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Barlow, WR Yorks); Robertus Bassy, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Bath, Somerset); Johanna Basie, 1379 in *Poll Tax*

(Bromham, Wilts); Johannes Basey, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Pebworth with Broad Marston, Gloucs); Austine Basey, 1592, Robt. Bassy, 1635, Thoms. Bassey, 1636 in *IGI* (Cringleford, Norfolk); Richard Basey, 1629 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph without Aldgate, London); Isaac Basey, 1646 in *IGI* (Southwark, Surrey); Elizabeth Bassey, 1653 in *IGI* (Dartmouth, Devon); Francis Bassey, 1764 in *IGI* (Hinderwell, NR Yorks); William Bassey, 1795 in *IGI* (Lambeth, Surrey).

Basford

Variants: **Bassford**, **Bashford**, **Bashforth**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1107, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 899
- **Main GB location 1881:** Midlands: esp. Leics and Northants; also Derbys and Cheshire

English: (i) locative name from Basford, Notts. (ii) possibly also from Besford, Worcs; note Alexander de Besford, 1256 in Patent Rolls (Worcs), also recorded as Alexander *de Basford* of Worcester, in the same year.

Early bearers: Robert de Baseford, 1340 in *Patent Rolls* (Thurgarton, Notts); John Basheford, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Robert Basford, 1539 in *IGI* (Longford, Derbys); Edmond Bashford, 1695 in *Bardsley*.

Bash

Variants: **Basch**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 123, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 74
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

1 English: see **Bache**.

2 Jewish: acronymic surname from the Hebrew patronymic phrase *Ben Shelomo*, *Ben Shemuel*, *Ben Shimon*, or *Ben Shimshon*. See also **Brock**.

Early bearers: Jacob Basch, born in Prussia, in *Census 1851* (Plymouth, Devon); Samuel Bash, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Levenshulme, Lancs); Harris and Moses Bash, born in Russia, in *Census 1891* (Whitechapel, Middx); Isadore Bash, diamond mounter, born in Poplar, in *Census 1901* (Mile End Old Town, Middx).

Basham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 846, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 739
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk, Norfolk, and Essex

English: see **Barsham**.

Bashar

- **Current frequencies:** GB 148, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2

Arabic, Muslim: (i) relationship name from a male given name derived from Arabic *bašar* ‘man, mankind’. (ii) from a male given name derived from Arabic *baššār* meaning ‘bringer of good news’. **References:** *Ahmed*.

Basharat

- **Current frequencies:** GB 449, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic *bashārah*, meaning ‘good news’. **References:** *Ahmed*.

Basher

- **Current frequencies:** GB 166, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 156

- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall

1 English: of uncertain origin; perhaps a variant of **Bosher**.

Early bearers: Henry Basher, 1581 in *IGI* (Plymouth, Devon); Joan Basher, 1615 in *IGI* (Grafham, Sussex); Richd Basshar, 1688 in *IGI* (Ruan Major, Cornwall); William Bashar, 1786 in *IGI* (Ruan Minor, Cornwall). 2 Muslim: see **Bashir**.

Bashford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1600, Ireland 86
- **GB frequency 1881:** 996
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey, Sussex, and Kent; also Worcs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim; Monaghan English: see **Basford**.

Bashforth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 314, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 215
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Basford**.

Bashir

Variants: **Basher**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 5195, Ireland 25
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic *bašīr* ‘bringer of good news’, an epithet of Muhammad.

References: *Ahmed*.

Basi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 590, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Sikh): see **Bassi**.

Basil

Variants: **Bassil**, **Bassill**, **Bazell**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 138, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 34
- **Main GB location 1881:** Herts

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Basil*, itself from Old French *Basil(e)*, Latin *Basilius*. Compare **Baseley**.

Early bearers: Aldred Bassill, 1589 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); Willimi Bazell, 1625 in *IGI* (Persnore, Worcs); Johannes Bassill, 1625 in *IGI* (Hatfield, Herts); Mary Bazell, 1641 in *IGI* (Luton, Beds); Thomas Bazill, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk); John Basil, 1706 in *IGI* (Kensworth, Herts); George Bassil, 1734 in *IGI* (Harpenden, Herts); John Basil, 1735, John Bassell, 1738 in *IGI* (Essendon, Herts).

Basing

- **Current frequencies:** GB 77, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 88
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants

1 English: locative name from Basing in Hants.

Early bearers: Cola de Basinga, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Hants); John de Basing’, 1200 in *Pipe Rolls* (Hants); Richard de Basing, 1219 in *Feet of Fines* (Basingstoke, Hants); Henry de Basyng’, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts*; Gulielmi Basing, 1617 in *IGI* (Chaddleworth, Berks); William Basing, 1708 in *IGI* (Catherington, Hants).

2 English: relationship name occasionally perhaps from the Middle English personal name *Basing* or *Besing*, perhaps an Old English pet form of Old

Scandinavian *Bassi* or *Bessi* (a recognized pet-form, via *bersi*, of *björn* 'bear'), or perhaps Old English *Bassa*. Apart from the 1202 example, the following bearers may alternatively belong with (1).

Early bearers: given names: Besing, about 1150–60 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Basing de Blaikemare, about 1200 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs). surnames: Robert filius Basing, 1202 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs); Johannes Basyng', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Empingham, Rutland); Ricardus Basyng, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Bocking, Essex); Willmus Basing, 1589 in *IGI* (Wisbech, Cambs); Sarah Basing, 1703 in *IGI* (Wellington, Shrops); Mary Basing, 1705 in *IGI* (Saint Martin in the Fields, Middx).

References: *Fellows Jensen, Scand. Personal Names*, pp. 49–51.

Bask

- GB frequency 1881: 17
- Main GB location 1881: Derbys

English: nickname from Middle English *baisk*, *bask* 'bitter, acrid; ungrateful, or irritating to the senses' (Old Scandinavian *beiskr*).

Early bearers: Henry Baske, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); Roger Baske, 1357 in *Assize Rolls* (Staffs); Ricardus Baske, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Chebsey, Staffs); Margery Bask., 1578 in *IGI* (Goostrey cum Barnshaw, Cheshire); John Bask, 1730 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Mary Bask, 1753 in *IGI* (Leicester, Leics); Joseph Bask, 1763 in *IGI* (Gloucester, Gloucs); John Bask, 1785 in *IGI* (Hackthorn, Lincs).

Baskaran

- Current frequencies: GB 202, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 0

Indian: from a Tamil male given name.

Baskerfield

- GB frequency 1881: 67
 - Main GB location 1881: Worcs and Staffs
- Norman, English: see **Baskerville**.

Baskerville

Variants: **Baskerfield**, **Baskeyfield**, **Basterfield**, **Basketfield**, **Baskwell**, **Basquil**, **Pasterfield**, **Pesterfield**

- Current frequencies: GB 939, Ireland 9
- GB frequency 1881: 704
- Main GB location 1881: Cheshire; Herefs; Devon
- Main Irish location 1847–64: Tipperary

Norman, English: locative name from Boscherville in Eure.

Early bearers: Roger de Bascheruilla, 1127 in *Cartae Antiquae* (Gloucs); Rogerus Baskerville, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Harcourt, Shrops); Robert Baskerville, 1427 in *Feet of Fines* (Lincs); James Baskerfield, Baskervyle, 1530 in *Star Chamber Staffs Suits* (Staffs); John Baskerville, 1634 in *IGI* (Goostrey cum Barnshaw, Cheshire); Thomas Baskerville, 1647 in *IGI* (Almeley, Herefs); Johes Baskerfield, 1682 in *IGI* (Burton upon Trent, Staffs).

Basket

- Current frequencies: GB 12, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 119
- Main GB location 1881: S England: esp. Suffolk; Dorset

English: see **Baskett**.

Basketfield

- Current frequencies: GB 49, Ireland 11
- GB frequency 1881: 26
- Main GB location 1881: Northants

Norman, English: see **Baskerville**.

Baskett

Variants: **Basket**

- Current frequencies: GB 302, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 339
- Main GB location 1881: Suffolk; Dorset, Somerset, Hants, and Berks; Warwicks

1 English: (i) nickname from Middle English *basket*, perhaps for a basket maker (compare **Basketter**) or for someone who carried a basket or pannier as part of his work, for example for carrying stones to a lime-kiln (*Salzman, Building*), or carrying goods for sale. Compare Middle English *basket bred* 'bread sold in the market to poor folk' (1441 in *MED*). (ii) relationship name possibly from an unrecorded Middle English personal name **Basket*, which could have been a pet form of *Base* (see **Bass**) + the Picard and Flemish double diminutive hypocoristic suffix *-ket*. For a comparable pet form of *Base* see **Baskin**.

Early bearers: William Basket, 1191 in *Pipe Rolls* (Surrey); Henry Basket, 1198 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Essex); Thoma Basket, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Great Crawford (lost) in Spettisbury, Dorset); Roberto Basqet (Basket), 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Writtle, Essex); Robertus Basket, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Bale, Norfolk); Radulphus Baskette, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Brinklow, Warwicks); Nicholaus Basket, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Youlgreave, Derbys); Willelmus Basket, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Tittleshall, Norfolk); Bartholomew Basket, 1564 in *IGI* (Horsington, Somerset); Cecely Basket, 1593 in *IGI* (Downton, Wilts); Jane Baskett, 1617 in *IGI* (Sturminster Marshall, Dorset); Sara Basket, 1693 in *IGI* (Budbrooke, Warwicks); Elizabeth Basket, 1717 in *IGI* (Shotley, Suffolk).

2 English: locative name from a house or shop name, denoting someone who lived or worked 'at the (sign of the) basket', presumably a basket maker. The post-medieval London name may otherwise belong with (1).

Early bearers: Margeria atte Bascat, 1319 in *Subsidy Rolls* (London); Thomas Kent atte Basket, beside Billyngesgate, 1424 in *London English*, p. 184; Jonathan Baskett, 1677 in *IGI* (Saint Mary Woolnoth, London).

3 English: see **Bascott**.

Basketter

- Current frequencies: GB 39, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 26
- Main GB location 1881: Lincs

English: occupational name for a basket maker, from Middle English *basket* + the agent suffix *-er*. Compare William Basketwricte, 1229 in *Patent Rolls* (Lincs), and Thomas Basketmaker, 1551 in *IGI* (Cambridge, Cambs). The great majority of early bearers are from the willow-growing fen country.

Early bearers: Elizabeth Basketter, 1607 in *IGI* (Dunston, Lincs); John Baskiter, 1734 in *IGI* (Butterwick near Boston, Lincs); William Basketer, 1780 in *IGI* (Boston, Lincs).

Baskeyfield

- Current frequencies: GB 345, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 132

- Main GB location 1881: Staffs
- Norman, English: see **Baskerville**.

Baskin

- Current frequencies: GB 44, Ireland 43
- GB frequency 1881: 22
- Main GB location 1881: Lincs and Notts; also Kent
- Main Irish location 1847–64: Donegal

1 Norman, English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name **Baskin*, a borrowing of Flemish or Picard *Basequin*, a pet form of *Base* (Continental Germanic *Baso*, perhaps meaning 'purple') + the diminutive suffix *-kin*. It could also have been used as a pet form of Old French *Basile*. See **Bass**, **Baseley**.

Early bearers: Adam Baskyn, 1274 in *Hundred Rolls* (Derbys); Johannes Baskyn, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Canterbury, Kent); Jenne Basken, 1591 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph without Aldgate, London); Elizabeth Baskin, 1607 in *IGI* (Long Bennington, Lincs); Samwell Baskin, 1622 in *IGI* (Sturry, Kent).

References: *Michaëlsson, Noms de Personne*, pp. 86–8.

2 Irish: from Ó Baiscinn, from a personal name *Bascaoin* meaning 'fair of hand'. The Irish surname arose from a historical population group called *Corca Bhaiscinn* 'seed of *Bascaoin*' in west Clare, and is independent of the Norman name.

Baskwell

- GB frequency 1881: 23
 - Main GB location 1881: Devon
- Norman, English: see **Baskerville**.

Basley

- Current frequencies: GB 120, Ireland 1
 - GB frequency 1881: 188
 - Main GB location 1881: Northants
- English: see **Baseley**.

Basnett

Variants: **Bassnett**, **Bosonnet**

- Current frequencies: GB 684, Ireland 13
- GB frequency 1881: 374
- Main GB location 1881: Cheshire

Norman, English: nickname from Middle English *bacinet* (Norman French *bassinnet*), 'a hemispherical helmet, without a visor, worn under the fighting helmet; also (later), a pointed helmet with a visor' (*MED*), denoting someone who wore or made headgear of this kind.

Further information: The name was prominent in Dublin in the 16th century, but is now more common in Liverpool.

Early bearers: England: Xpoferus Bassnet, 1550 in *IGI* (Swanton Morley, Norfolk); Ann Basnet, 1592 in *IGI* (Nettleton, Lincs); Daniell Bassnett, 1647 in *IGI* (Frodsham, Cheshire).

Ireland: William Basnett, 1563 in *Fiantis Elizabeth* §582 (Stalorgan, Dublin); William Basnett, gent., 1566 in *Fiantis Elizabeth* §999; Thomas Basnett, yeoman, 1602–3 in *Fiantis Elizabeth* §6775 (Ballemore).

Bason

- Current frequencies: GB 449, Ireland 2
- GB frequency 1881: 438
- Main GB location 1881: Shrops and Montgomerys; Northants

English: reduced form of **Bateson**.

Basquil

Early bearers: Katherine Bason, 1561 in *IGI* (Kendal, Westm); John Bason, 1565 in *IGI* (Saint Giles Cripplegate, London); Charles Bason, 1626 in *IGI* (Manchester, Lancs); Martha Bason, 1667 in *IGI* (Ludlow, Shrops); Ann Bason, 1813 in *IGI* (Towcester, Northants).

Basquil

- **Current frequencies:** GB 50, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Mayo

Norman, Irish: variant of **Baskerville**, found mainly in Ireland.

Basra

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1240, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat clan.

Basran

- **Current frequencies:** GB 138, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Panjab): Sikh, the name of a Jat clan.

Bass

Variants: **Base**, **Baiss**, **Bayes**, **Bays**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 4285, Ireland 95
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3150
- **Main GB location 1881:** E Midlands and SE England: esp. Essex; Beds, Hunts, and Cambs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork; Wexford

1 English: nickname for a short person or for one of low birth or behaviour, from Middle English *bas(e)*, *bass* ‘low, of small height’ or ‘low-born, base’ (Old French *bas*). Compare **Bassett**. Some of the following early bearers may alternatively belong under (2) or (3).

Early bearers: N England: Thomas Base, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Sheffield, WR Yorks); Robt. Base, 1546 in *IGI* (Rotherham, WR Yorks); Barbara Basse, 1574, Jane Bass, 1628 in *IGI* (Holme upon Spalding Moor, ER Yorks); George Baze, 1759, John Bays, 1780 in *IGI* (Muston, ER Yorks); Joshuae Bayze, 1669 in *IGI* (Sheffield, WR Yorks).

SW England and W Midlands: Aelizia Bass’, 1180 in *Pipe Rolls* (Warwicks); David le Bas, 1205 in *Pipe Rolls* (Gloucs); Walter Basse, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Kineton, Warwicks); John Basse, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Nutwell, Devon); Ricardus Bayse, 1379, Ricardus Bays, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Bath, Somerset); Johannes Base, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Marton, Warwicks); Alexandre Bays, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Monkton Farleigh, Wilts); Joanna Basse, 1538 in *IGI* (South Littleton, Worcs); Richard Bayse, 1547, Agnes Base, 1558, Samuel Bayse, 1589 in *IGI* (Westbury on Severn, Gloucs); Margaret Bayes, 1562 in *IGI* (Banbury, Oxon); Philip Basse, 1573, Daniell Bass, 1643, Josephth Base, 1657 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); Margret Bayes, 1574 in *IGI* (Ribbesford, Worcs); Maria Bass, 1610 in *IGI* (Harbury, Warwicks); Willus. Bace, 1638 in *IGI* (Bromsgrove, Worcs); Rich Baiss, 1723 in *IGI* (Devizes, Wilts).

S and E Midlands: Geoffrey Base, 1274 in *Hundred Rolls* (Lincs); John Basse, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Hamerton, Hunts); Roger Baise, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Grafham, Hunts); Willelmus Base, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Keyham, Leics); Thomas Basse, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Northampton, Northants); Matheo Basse, 1379 in

Poll Tax (Dean, Beds); Jacobus Basse, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Boston, Lincs); Richard Basse, 1391 in *Feet of Fines* (Skidbrooke, Lincs); Johannis Beyze, 1540 in *IGI* (Sutterton, Lincs); Richard Bayes, 1545 in *IGI* (Eyeworth, Beds); Margaret Basse, 1545 in *IGI* (Great Gransden, Hunts); Thome Basse, 1564 in *IGI* (Alford, Lincs); John Basse, 1567 in *IGI* (Twyford, Bucks); Elizabeth Bass, 1572 in *IGI* (Hertford, Herts); Thomas Basse, 1604 in *IGI* (Great Dalby, Leics); Morton Bass, 1630 in *IGI* (Marston Moretaine, Beds); Edmund Bays, 1717 in *IGI* (Wellingborough, Northants). E Anglia and SE England: Willelmus Basse, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Mattishall, Norfolk); Johannes Bayse, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Wendling, Norfolk); Willelmus Basse, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Gestingthorpe, Essex); Joanna Basse, 1539 in *IGI* (Croxtan, Cambs); Johanis. Basse, 1542 in *IGI* (South Weald, Essex); Cicely Bayes, 1560 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Nicholas Base, 1565 in *IGI* (Rendham, Suffolk); Joone Bayes, 1567 in *IGI* (Wisbech, Cambs); Clement Bayse, 1577 in *IGI* (Feering, Essex); William Bayes, 1582 in *IGI* (Hadlow, Kent); Jn Bays, 1643 in *IGI* (Mortlake, Surrey).

2 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Bas(s)e*. This could be an Old French form of Continental Germanic *Baso* (perhaps meaning ‘purple’) or more commonly a pet form of Middle English and Old French *Basile* or *Basily*, used of men and women alike. See **Baseley**, **Baskin**, and **Baskett**, and compare Willelmus Baseson’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Hexthorpe and Balby, WR Yorks), and Johannes Baseson’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Ryton, Warwicks).

Early bearers: given names: Basse Berc’, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Thornton Watlass, NR Yorks).

3 English: nickname from Middle English *baers*, *bas* ‘freshwater perch, bass or any of various related or similar fish, such as the sea bass’. Compare *Bace*, *fysche*, about 1440 in *Promptorium Parvulorum*. **Early bearers:** Osbert Bars, 1207 in *Pipe Rolls* (Gloucs); Richard le Bars, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Arnold Bass, 1566 in *IGI* (Ipswich, Suffolk); Bridgeta Bass, 1573 in *IGI* (Alford, Lincs); George Bass, 1581 in *IGI* (North Molton, Devon); Elizabeth Bass, 1588 in *IGI* (Chalfont Saint Giles, Bucks).

Bassam

- **Current frequencies:** GB 155, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 94
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex; Norfolk

English: see **Barsham**.

Bassan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 310, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 11
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

English: see **Barsham**.

Basset

- **Current frequencies:** GB 114, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 273
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall

Norman, English: see **Bassett**.

Bassett

Variants: **Basset**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 6281, Ireland 240
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4641
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall and Devon; Kent; and Middx; also Carmarthen

• **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down; Wexford
Norman, English: nickname from Old French *basset* ‘of low stature’, a diminutive of *bas* ‘low; dwarf’. **Further information:** According to Ordericus Vitalis, Ralph Basset was raised by Henry II from an ignoble stock and from the very dust, ‘de ignobili stirpe ac de pulvere’.

Early bearers: Ralph Basset, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Herts, Beds); Ralph Basset, 1115 in *Winton Domesday* (Hants); Milo Basseth, 1139 in *Templars Records* (Oxon); Philip le Basset, 1260 in *London Letter Books B*; Robert Basset, 1358 in *Feet of Fines* (Herts); Johannes Basset, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Shaftesbury, Dorset); Thomas Basset, 1416, 1427 in *Feet of Fines* (Devon); Jhon Bassitt, 1569 in *IGI* (Stamford, Lincs); John Bassatt, 1605, Joan Bassett, 1608 in *IGI* (Cuckfield, Sussex).

Bassey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 296, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 68
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey

English: see **Basey**.

Bassford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 300, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 183
- **Main GB location 1881:** Leics

English: see **Basford**.

Bassham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 122, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 89
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: see **Barsham**.

Bassi

Variants: **Bassi**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1432, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 15
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

1 Italian: (i) nickname from the nickname *basso* ‘low, thickset’. (ii) relationship name from *bassus* ‘low’, as exemplified in *Bassus*, a family name of the Roman Republican period.

Early bearers: Anthony Bassi, born in Italy, in *Census 1881* (Eccleston in Prescot, Lancs); Antonio Bassi, born in Italy, in *Census 1881* (Walthamstow, Essex); Francesco Bassi, itinerant musician, born in Italy, in *Census 1881* (Holborn, Middx); Angelo Bassi, ice cream seller, born in Italy, in *Census 1881* (Clerkenwell, Middx); Guiseppe Bassi, born in Switzerland, in *Census 1881* (Westminster, Middx); Antonio Bassi, born in Italy, in *Census 1891* (Lancs); Ernesto Bassi, born in Italy, in *Census 1901* (London) Pietro Bassi, born in Switzerland, in *Census 1911* (London).

2 Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Jat clan.

Bassick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 10
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham

English: see **Bastick**.

Bassil

- **Current frequencies:** GB 154, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 92
- **Main GB location 1881:** Herts

English: see **Basil**.

Bassill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 27, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 25
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Beds
- English: see **Basil**.

Bassindale

- **Current frequencies:** GB 200, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 95
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs and WR Yorks
- English: see **Baxendale**.

Bassinder

- **Current frequencies:** GB 154, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 21
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Baxendale**.

Bassingthwaite

- **Current frequencies:** GB 62, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 38
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- English: locative name from Bassenthwaite in Cumb.
- Early bearers:** Adam de Bastenthwayt, 1342 in *Patent Rolls*; Thomas Bastynthwayt, 1363 in *Patent Rolls*; John Basynthwayt, 1444 in *Feet of Fines* (Herts); John Bassynghewhytt, 1568 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Susan Bassingthwaighte, 1745 in IGI (Bale, Norfolk).

Bassnett

- **Current frequencies:** GB 159, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 118
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cheshire; Warwicks

Norman, English: see **Basnett**.

Bassom

- **Current frequencies:** GB 124, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 42
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent and Essex
- English: see **Barsham**.

Basson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 549, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 373
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon
- English: see **Barsham**.

Bassy

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 23
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Basey**.

Bastable

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1007, Ireland 27
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 582
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork
- English: locative name from Barnstaple in Devon or Barstable Hall in Essex.
- Early bearers:** Richard de Bardestapel, 1219 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Ralph Barstaple, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); Henrico Barstaple, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Oxford, Oxon); Agnis Bastable, 1594 in IGI (North Petherton, Somerset).

Bastard

- **GB frequency 1881:** 421
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Cornwall
- Norman, English: nickname from Middle English, Old French *bastard* ‘child born out of wedlock’.
- Further information:** *Bastard* is the name of a Devon family recorded at Kitley near Yealmpton since the late 17th century. The sharp decline in numbers of bearers of this surname since the 19th century is no doubt due at least in part to people changing their name because of the negative connotations of the vocabulary word. However, illegitimacy was not always regarded as a stigma; the Conqueror himself is described as ‘William the Bastard’ in state documents.
- Early bearers:** Robert Bastard, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Devon); William le Bastard, 1201 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Johannes Bastard, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Canterbury, Kent); Henry Bastard’, 1411 in *Feet of Fines* (Aveton Gifford, Devon); Robert Bastard’, 1417 in *Feet of Fines* (Modbury, Devon).

Basten

- **Current frequencies:** GB 249, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 193
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon
- English: see **Bastian**.

Baster

- **Current frequencies:** GB 87, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 154
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham
- English: see **Baister**.

Basterfield

- **Current frequencies:** GB 298, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 165
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs
- Norman, English: see **Baskerville**.

Bastian

Variants: **Bastien**, **Bastin**, **Basten**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 259, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 165
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Bastian*, a pet form of **Sebastian**, from Latin *Sebastianus* ‘man of Sebastia’, a city in Pontus.

Early bearers: Bastianus before 1200 *Dublin Documents*, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Worcs).

Colin Bastin, 1225 in *Patent Rolls*; John Bastian, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Robertus Bastion, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Farthingstone, Northants); Willia. Bastian, 1572 in IGI (Knodishall, Suffolk); Luce Bastin, 1574 in IGI (Farnham, Surrey); Jane Bastian, 1581 in IGI (Ivinghoe, Bucks); Jessie Bastian, 1581 in IGI (Norwich, Norfolk); James Bastian, 1586, Elnor Bastyan, 1602 in IGI (Perranuthnoe, Cornwall); Ann Bastian, 1590 in IGI (Stepney, Middx); Robert Bastin, 1606 in IGI (Ottery Saint Mary, Devon); John Bastion, 1697, Grace Bastian, 1698 in IGI (Saint Gluvias, Cornwall).

Bastick

Variants: **Bassick**, **Bostwick**, **Bostick**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 180, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 113
- **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks and Staffs

- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Offaly

1 English: locative name from Bastwick in Norfolk.

Early bearers: Geoffrey de Bastwyke, 1335 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Henry Bastwyk, 1367 in *Patent Rolls* (Norwich, Norfolk); Stephen Bastwyk’, 1390 in *Feet of Fines* (Edworth, Beds); Johis Basticke, 1562 in IGI (Ingatestone, Essex); Johne Bassick, 1589 in IGI (Braceborough, Lincs); John Basticke, 1611 in IGI (Bildeston, Suffolk).

2 English: for the W Midlands name see **Bastock**.

Bastien

- **Current frequencies:** GB 91, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 9
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
- English: see **Bastian**.

Bastiman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 121, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 26
 - **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks and ER Yorks
- English: of uncertain origin.

Further information: One possible origin might be an unrecorded Middle English **Bastonman*, a compound of Old French, Middle English *baston* ‘cudgel, mace, staff of office, (walking) stick’ + *man*, hence perhaps ‘beadle’ or ‘man armed with a stick’ (the sense of Old French *bastonier*). Another is to suppose an unrecorded pet form of the rare Middle English (Old French) personal name *Bastian* (short for *Sebastian*) + the Flemish hypocoristic suffix *-man* (see **Bastian** and compare **Potman**). However, without medieval evidence for the name, any explanation is highly conjectural.

Early bearers: John Bastyman, fisherman, 1528 in *York Registry Wills* (Hilderthorpe, ER Yorks); Robert Bastyman or Bastiman, and Nicholas Bastiman, 1568–9 in *Yorks Deeds* (Sewerby, ER Yorks); Isabel Bastyman, widow, 1577 in *York Registry Wills* (Flamborough, ER Yorks); Annas Bastiman, 1602 in IGI (Filey, ER Yorks); Bartle Basteman, 1628 in IGI (Barton upon Humber, Lincs); Robt. Bastiman, 1669 in IGI (Flamborough, ER Yorks); Sarah Basterman, 1793 in IGI (Barmston, ER Yorks).

References: *Morlet, Dictionnaire; Debrabandere*.

Bastin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 860, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 787
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon
- English: see **Bastian**.

Basting

- **Current frequencies:** GB 24, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 48
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: probably a variant of **Bastin**.

Further information: This form is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Bastock

Variants: **Bastick**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 312, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 202
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks
- English: possibly a variant of **Bostock**; note Esther Bastock or Bostock, 1895 in IGI (Bordesley, Warwicks).

Baston

Early bearers: Willelmus Bastoke, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Colston Bassett, Notts); Johannes Bastoc, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Pebworth with Broad Marston, Gloucs); John Bustok, 1394 in *Highworth Hundred Rolls* (Wilts); Rowlandi Bastocke, 1586 in *IGI* (Tanworth in Arden, Warwicks); Thomas Bastock, 1733 in *IGI* (Newbold Pacey, Warwicks).

Baston

Variants: Bastone

- **Current frequencies:** GB 614, Ireland 40
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 638
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon; Northumb
- Norman, English: (i) nickname from Old French *bastun* ‘stick’, perhaps used to denote someone who walked with the aid of a stick. (ii) locative name, see **Bayston**.

Early bearers: Ernardus Bastun, 1191 in *Pipe Rolls* (Suffolk); Richard Bastun, 1203 in *Assize Rolls* (Northants); Nicholas Baston, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); Walter Baston, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lindfield, Sussex); Robertus Bastoun’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lindfield, Sussex); Robert Bayston’, clerk, 1474 in *Feet of Fines* (Lowick, Northants); Idie Baston, 1636 in *IGI* (Bampton, Oxon); James Baston, 1797 in *IGI* (Harbottle, Northumb).

Bastone

- **Current frequencies:** GB 114, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 65
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon
- English: see **Baston**.

Bastow

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1002, Ireland 21
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 989
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: variant of **Bairstow** with loss of *-r-* in the consonant cluster. Compare **Beastall**.
- Early bearers:** Georg Bastow, 1617, Robert Barstow, 1630 in *IGI* (Hemingbrough, ER Yorks); Jeremiah Bastow, 1671 in *IGI* (Leeds, WR Yorks).

Basu

Variants: Bose

- **Current frequencies:** GB 491, Ireland 5
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- 1 Indian (Bengal), Bangladeshi: nickname Hindu (Kayasth), from Bengali *boṣu*, from Sanskrit *vasu*, which has many meanings including ‘wealth, gem, radiance’. It is an epithet of Shiva and of several other gods.
- 2 Indian: see **Bose**.

Bat

- **Current frequencies:** GB 26, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 16
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Middx; Devon
- 1 English: see **Batt**.
- 2 English: see **Bate**.

Batch

- **Current frequencies:** GB 316, Ireland 11
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 253
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- English: see **Bache**.

Batchelor

- **Current frequencies:** GB 87, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 28

- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey
- Norman, English: see **Bachelor**.

Batchelder

- **Current frequencies:** GB 89, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 62
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- Norman, English: see **Bachelor**.

Batcheldor

- **Current frequencies:** GB 87, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 43
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent
- Norman, English: see **Bachelor**.

Batcheler

- **Current frequencies:** GB 106, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 89
 - **Main GB location 1881:** SE England: esp. Sussex
- Norman, English: see **Bachelor**.

Batcheller

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 23
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent
- Norman, English: see **Bachelor**.
- Further information:** This spelling is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Batchellor

- **GB frequency 1881:** 47
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk
- Norman, English: see **Bachelor**.

Batchelor

Variants: Bachelor, Batchlor, Batchellor, Batchelour, Batcheler, Batcheller, Batchelar, Batcheldor, Batchelder

- **Current frequencies:** GB 7281, Ireland 64
- **GB frequency 1881:** 5040
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread; esp. SE England: esp. Herts; Surrey, Sussex, and Hants; also Angus
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin

Norman, English: occupational name, status name from Middle English, Old French *bacheler* ‘a young knight, a novice in arms’. The [tʃ] is a characteristically Central French form where Norman French has [k]; see **Backler**.

Early bearers: England: Roger Bachelere, about 1165 in *Staffs Chartulary* (Staffs); Stephen le bachilier, 1203 in *Feet of Fines* (Suffolk); Walter le Bachelor, 1248 in *Feet of Fines* (Surrey); Thomas Batcheller, Widow Batchelder, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk). Scotland: William Bachelor, burgess, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Haddington, E Lothian); Adam Bachiler, 1476 in *New Spalding Miscellany*; William Batchler, 1598 in *Brechin Testaments* (Stradightly Mains, Angus); Andrew Batchlar, 1652 in *Dunblane Testaments* (Moncreiff, Perth); John Batchelor, 1662 in *IGI* (Monikie, Angus).

Batchelour

- **Current frequencies:** GB 18, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 7
- Norman, English: see **Bachelor**.

Batcher

Variants: Bacher

- **GB frequency 1881:** 30
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. S England
- English: locative name for someone who lived by a stream, from a derivative of Middle English *bach*, *bech(e)* ‘stream’. Compare **Bache**, and for the formation with *-er* compare **Waterer**.
- Early bearers:** Philip Bacher, 1255 in *Hundred Rolls* (Bucks); William le Bachiere, 1280 in *Fransson* (Hants); Harre Bacher, 1540 in *IGI* (Steeple Ashton, Wilts); Elles Batchter, 1578 in *IGI* (Littlebourne, Kent); Elizabeth Bacher, 1605 in *IGI* (Cranbrook, Kent); Steeven Batchter, 1650 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Giles Batchter, 1665 in *IGI* (Kingsclere, Hants); Marta Bacher, 1789 in *IGI* (Alverstoke, Hants).

Batchford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 161, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 78
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Notts; Gloucs; Essex
- English: see **Batsford**.

Batchlor

- **Current frequencies:** GB 25, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 173
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered; Angus; also Wilts
- Norman, English: see **Bachelor**.

Batcock

- **Current frequencies:** GB 67, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 58
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey; also Glamorgan
- English: see **Badcock**.

Bate

Variants: Bates, Bat, Batt, Batte

- **Current frequencies:** GB 5844, Ireland 66
- **GB frequency 1881:** 5067
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and NW Midlands: esp. Staffs; also Cornwall and Devon
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin

1 English, Norman: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Bate*. It could represent an unrecorded Old English name **Bata* (compare **Battock**), or a side-form of *Batte*, a short form of Anglo-Norman French names beginning in *Bart-*, such as *Bartelmew* (Bartholomew) or *Bartram* (Bertram). See **Batt** and compare the pet form **Bateman**, which also occurs as *Batman* and *Battman*. Some of the following early bearers may belong under (2).

Further information: The Old English personal name is possibly evidenced in the place-name *Batcombe* in Dorset (see *Place-Names of Dorset* 4, p. 186). It may be identical with the byname of a Winchester monk, Ælfricus qui Bata cognominabatur, about 1051 in *Tengvik*. Tengvik derives it from Old English *batt* ‘cudgel’ (see **Batt**), and suggests it may have been used as a nickname for someone of a stout appearance.

Early bearers: given names: Bate, 1275, 1286 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (WR Yorks). surnames, N England and W Midlands: Rogerus filius Bate, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Derbys); Roger Bate, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Henricus Bate, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Wakefield, WR Yorks); Agn’ Bate, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Stockton and Walton, Staffs); Ricardus Bate, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Charlecote, Warwicks); Henricus Bate, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Buxton, Derbys); Alys Bate, 1545 in *IGI*

(Loxley, Warwicks); Margerie Bate, 1545 in *IGI* (Marbury, Cheshire); Anthony Bate, 1547 in *IGI* (Mavesyn Ridware, Staffs); Alice Bate, 1560 in *IGI* (Norton, Derbys); Lawrence Bate, 1581 in *IGI* (Crothorne, Worcs); Elizabetha Bate, 1562, James Bate, 1818 in *IGI* (Sheffield, WR Yorks); George Bate, 1563 in *IGI* (Winwick, Lancs).

surnames, S and E Midlands, E Anglia: Simone Bate, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Knossington, Leics); Walterus Bate, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Kilsby, Northants); Petrus Bate, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (East Dereham, Norfolk); Johannes Bate, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Spalding, Lincs); Rogerus Bate, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Thwaite, Suffolk); John Bat, 1394, John Bate, 1396 in *London Letter Books H*; Johanna Bate, 1539 in *IGI* (Epworth, Lincs); Anne Bate, 1540 in *IGI* (Castor, Northants); John Bate, 1559 in *IGI* (Lockington, Leics); Annis Bate, 1562 in *IGI* (Saint Margaret Lothbury, London).

surnames, SW England: Thomas Bate, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Willesley, Gloucs); Walter Bate, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Woolston, Devon); Johannes Bate, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Willesley, Gloucs); John Bate, 1554 in *IGI* (Lezant, Cornwall); Fraunces Bate, 1578 in *IGI* (Cirencester, Gloucs); John Bate, 1606 in *IGI* (Fremington, Devon).

2 English: locative name perhaps from an unrecorded Middle English antecedent of Modern English dialect *bate* 'river island or land liable to flooding'. Wawne (in the 1297 example below) is in marshy land by the River Hull.

Further information: Reaney doubtfully suggests that the locative name denoted someone who lived by a 'fat pasture'. This would be an unrecorded sense of Old Scandinavian *bati* 'profit, gain'.

Early bearers: Thomas del Bate, 1270 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Northumb); William of Ye Bate, 1297 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wawne, ER Yorks); Walter atte Batte, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); Johannes de Bat', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Broomley, Northumb); Thomas del Bate, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lonsdale wapentake, Lancs); Johannes de Bate, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Studley Royal, WR Yorks); Mark Bate, 1539 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Alice Bate, 1544 in *IGI* (Reading, Berks).

Bately

- **Current frequencies:** GB 23, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 62
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk and Suffolk
- English: see **Beatley**.

Bateman

Variants: **Battman**, **Batman**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10839, Ireland 283
- **GB frequency 1881:** 7704
- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England and Wales
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Bateman*, *Bat(te)man*, (in the W Midlands) *Batemon*, a pet form of *Bate* or *Batte* with the hypocoristic suffix *-man*. See **Bate** and **Batt**, and for the suffix compare **Hickman**, **Human**, **Potman**, and **Pateman**.

Early bearers: given names: Bathemanus de Staunford', 1222 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Rutland); Bateman le Keu, 1267 in *Patent Rolls*; Batman d'Appleton, 1313 in *York Freeman's Register* (York); Bateman Lemeryng', 1323 in *Nottingham Borough Court Rolls* (Notts).

surnames: Alexander Bateman, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); William Batemon, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Nich' fil' Bateman, 1315 in *Mansfield Court Roll* (Notts); Petrus Battaman, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Winestead, ER Yorks); Johannes Bateman, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (North Luffenham, Rutland); Thomas Bateman, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Little Corringham, Lincs); Willelmus Batemon, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Lower Penn, Staffs); Thomas Bateman, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Bristol, Norfolk); Willelmus Bateman', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Askwith, WR Yorks); Johannes Batman, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Stanley, WR Yorks); Johannes Bateman, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Kings Cliffe, Northants); Simon Bateman, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Little Totham, Essex); Ricardus Batmon, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Glazebrook, Lancs); Willelmus Bateman, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Wheldrake, ER Yorks); Perciuallus Bateman, 1542 in *IGI* (Wensley, NR Yorks); Jelyan Bateman, 1545, Roose Battman, 1548 in *IGI* (Saint Michael Bassishaw, London); Joan Bateman, 1546 in *IGI* (Sandwich, Kent); John Baytman, 1553 in *York Freeman's Register*; Elizabeth Bateman, 1556 in *IGI* (Marsham, Norfolk); John Bateman, 1558 in *IGI* (Horton in Ribblesdale, WR Yorks); Roger Bateman, 1560 in *IGI* (Kendal, Westm); Richard Batman, 1560 in *IGI* (Cartmel, Lancs); Richard Bateman, 1562 in *IGI* (Toppesfield, Essex); Joane Bateman, 1565 in *IGI* (Upper Arley, Worcs); Richard Batman, 1570 in *IGI* (Tamworth, Staffs); Thoms Bateman, 1572 in *IGI* (Rendcombe, Gloucs); George Bateman, 1587, George Battman, 1591 in *IGI* (Roos, ER Yorks); Richard Bateman, 1597 in *IGI* (Dalton in Furness, Lancs).

References: *McClure, Jack I*, pp. 108–9.

Bater

Variants: **Beater**, **Better**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 707, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 311
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: occupational name, nickname from Middle English *beter*, *betour* 'beater, flogger, boxer' (Old French *bateor* 'one who beats', Old English *bēatere* 'beater, boxer'), either for a fighter (compare **Champion**) or, more probably, for someone who grinds spices or beats cloth or metal, such as a coppersmith, or for a dealer in *baterie*, i. e. beaten copper or brassware (*London Court Rolls*). It may also be a short form of the common occupational names *Coperbeter*, *Flaxbeter*, *Goldbeter*, *Ledbeter*, *Wodebeter*, *Wolbeter*.

Further information: Stephen le Coperbeter, 1286, was identical with Stephen le Batur (1292 in *London Letter Books A*).

Early bearers: Richard Batere, 1166 in *Pipe Rolls* (Berks); Edmund le batur, 1199 in *Pipe Rolls* (Gloucs); Jordan le Bettere, 1200 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Lincs); Robert le batur, 1210 in *Pipe Rolls* (Hants); John le Betere, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Wilts); Robertus Batur, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Dumbleton, Gloucs); Robertus Batur, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Caversham, Oxon); Joane Batur, 1560 in *IGI* (Saint Giles in the Wood, Devon); Alce Bater, 1567 in *IGI* (South Tawton, Devon); Simon Bater, 1592 in *IGI* (Westmeston, Sussex); Willia Bater, 1614 in *IGI* (East Coker, Somerset); William Bater, 1619 in *IGI* (Bere Regis, Dorset).

Bates

- **Current frequencies:** GB 27695, Ireland 1005
- **GB frequency 1881:** 18720

- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread; esp. Lancs, WR Yorks, and NW Midlands Midlands
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** W Ulster; Wexford
- English: variant of **Bate** with genitival, plural, or post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Further information: This name is also common in Ireland.

Early bearers: Richard Bates, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts* (Yorks); Jenet Bates, 1540 in *IGI* (Kirkby Lonsdale, Westm); Johanna Bates, 1540 in *IGI* (Halifax, WR Yorks); Elynor Bates, 1547 in *IGI* (Saint Mary the Virgin Aldermanbury, London); Cassander Bates, 1559 in *IGI* (Frampton, Lincs); Alice Bates, 1561 in *IGI* (Sheepy Magna, Leics); John Bates, 1563 in *IGI* (Wells next the Sea, Norfolk); Richard Bates, 1579 in *IGI* (Kinver, Staffs); Thomas Baits, 1597 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); George Bates, 1613 in *IGI* (Prescot, Lancs).

Bateson

Variants: **Baitson**, **Batson**, **Battson**, **Beatson**, **Bason**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2099, Ireland 187
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1874
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks, ER Yorks, and Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down, Derry, and Antrim

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal names **Bate** or **Batt** + *-son*. See also **Beatson**.

Early bearers: John Batessone, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Derbys); Richard Bateson, 1327 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (WR Yorks); John Battson, 1467 in *York Guild Register*; Ric. Bateson, 1562 in *IGI* (Chorley, Lancs); Rafe Batson, 1562 in *IGI* (Hardwick, Bucks); Egidius Bateson, 1568 in *IGI* (Giggleswick, WR Yorks); William Baitson, 1612 in *IGI* (Pocklington, ER Yorks); William Baitson, 1662 in *Preston Guild Rolls* (Lancs).

Bateup

- **Current frequencies:** GB 141, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 19
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex

English: see **Baitup**.

Batey

Variants: **Baty**, **Batie**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2049, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1170
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham, Northumb, and Cumb

English: relationship name from a pet form of the Middle English personal name **Bate**. Compare **Beaty**, a variant of **Beattie**.

Early bearers: William Baty, 1277 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Hugo Baty, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); John Batey, 1639 in *IGI* (Mottram in Longendale, Cheshire); Gulielmi Batey, 1647 in *IGI* (Worminghall, Bucks); Edmund Batey, 1669 in *IGI* (Folkestone, Kent); Steepen Batey, 1672 in *IGI* (Whitechapel, Middx); John Batey, 1685 in *IGI* (Stanwix, Cumb).

Bath

Variants: **Bathe**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2356, Ireland 12
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2242

Batha

- **Main GB location 1881:** S England: esp. Cornwall; Somerset, Wilts, and Hants
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Meath

1 English: locative name from Bath (Somerset), Bathe Barton in North Tawton (Devon), or possibly other minor places so called.

Early bearers: Walter de la Bathe, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); [... de] Ba, 1281, [... de] Bathe, 1333 in *Place-Names of Devon* (Devon); Alexander Bathe, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Thomas de Bathe, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sheepwash, Devon); Reginald de Bathe, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Burlescombe, Devon); John Bathe, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (East Budleigh, Devon); Johannes de Bathe, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Colchester, Essex); Willelmo Bathe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Marlborough, Wilts); Thomas Bathe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Rawcliffe, WR Yorks); Johannes Bathe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Honing, Norfolk); Henricus atte Bathe, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Chelmarsh, Sutton and Hampton, Shrops); Johannes Bathe, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Sheffield Bottom, Berks); Willelmus Bathe, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Tugby, Leics); Robert A Bathe, 1545 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wilts); Nicholaus Bath, 1548, Thomas Bathe, 1551 in *IGI* (Saint Michael Penkevil, Cornwall); Elizabetha Bathe, 1548 in *IGI* (Dunsby, Lincs); Agnes Bath, 1565 in *IGI* (South Kelsey, Lincs); Christiana Bathe, 1576, Christiana Bath, 1601 in *IGI* (Wedmore, Somerset); Richard Bath, 1635 in *IGI* (Wembury, Devon).
References: *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 370.
2 Indian (Sikh): from the name of a Jat clan.

Batha

Variants: Bathe, Bather, Batho, Badder

- **Current frequencies:** GB 103, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 30
- **Main GB location 1881:** Montgomerys and Denbighs; also Shrops

Welsh: relationship name from the Welsh patronymic *ap Atha* ‘son of *Atha*’. The Welsh personal name *Atha*, a spelling variant of *Adda* ‘Adam’, was also common in Shrops and Chirkland in the 14th century.

Early bearers: given names: Atha ap Atha, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Shrops); Atha Gogh, 1332 in *Chirkland Extent*. surnames, Wales: Jevan ap Atha, ap Adda, 1391 in *Chirkland Extent*; John Bathowe, 1537 in *Morris, Welsh Surnames* (Haverfordwest); Jevan ap John ap Gryffyd Batto, 1538 in *Chirkland Extent*. surnames, England: Atha ap Atha, William ap Atha, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Shrops); Humfrey Bathowe, John Batowe, 1538 in *Shrops Archaeological Transactions* (Shrops) 3, p. viii; Richard Bathoe, 1567 in *IGI* (Ludlow, Shrops); Richard Bathaw, 1574 in *Bardsley* (Cheshire); William Batha, 1610, Adam Batho, 1613, Elizabeth Bather, 1683 in *Bardsley* (Cheshire).

Batham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 464, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 146
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs

English: locative name probably from the place referred to in the name of the Roman road *Bathamgate* in Derbys. The place-name is lost, but it is from **Badum*, the dative plural of OE *bad* ‘bath’, and must denote the Roman baths at Buxton, where the road leads. The first and second bearers may really belong with **Beetham**, or with a lost place referred to in the name of Henricus atte Bathe, 1381

in *Poll Tax* (Chelmarsh, Sutton and Hampton, Shrops), respectively.

Early bearers: Thomas de Bathum, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Reedness, WR Yorks); William Bethom, 1509 in *Feet of Fines* (Shrops); Anna Batham, 1582 in *IGI* (Lapley, Staffs); John Batham, 1601 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Christopher Bathum, 1701 in *IGI* (Old Swinford, Worcs); John Bathom, 1749 in *IGI* (Kingswinford, Staffs).

Bathe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 232, Ireland 27
- **GB frequency 1881:** 403
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts

1 English: see **Bath**.
2 Welsh: see **Batha**.

Bather

- **Current frequencies:** GB 307, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 298
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Shrops; Denbighs
- Welsh: see **Batha**.

Bathgate

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1037, Ireland 15
- **GB frequency 1881:** 694
- **Main GB location 1881:** Midlothian, E Lothian, and Lanarks

Scottish: locative name from Bathgate in W Lothian.
Early bearers: Master Adam de Baggat, sheriff of Roxburgh, 1220–43 in *Melrose Register* (Elliston, Roxburghs); Thomas de Bathket, 1312 in *Scotland Calendar* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); James Bathgate, 1646 in *IGI* (Corstorphine, Midlothian).

Bathia

- **Current frequencies:** GB 121, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Gujarat): Hindu (Lohana), unexplained.

Bathie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 110, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 145
- **Main GB location 1881:** Angus

Scottish: locative name possibly from the lands of *Bathie* (Perths).

Early bearers: Alexander Bathe, 1526 in *New Spalding Miscellany* (Brechin, Angus); John Bathie, 1695 in *Dunkeld Testaments* (Dunkeld, Perths); Tho. Bathy, 1698 in *IGI* (Murroes, Angus); James Bathie, 1700, John Bathy, 1705 in *IGI* (Liff, Benvie, and Invergowrie, Angus).
References: *Black*.

Bathley

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: locative name from Bathley in Notts.

Early bearers: Henry de Bathele, about 1220–7 in *Registrum Antiquissimum*; William of Bathele, 1246 in *Feet of Fines* (Yorks); Johanne Bathele, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Rearsby, Leics); Thomas Bathely, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Irthlingborough, Northants).

Batho

- **Current frequencies:** GB 376, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 310
- **Main GB location 1881:** Shrops and Cheshire

Welsh: local variant of Welsh **Batha**.

Bathurst

- **Current frequencies:** GB 413, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 405
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey and Kent; also Shrops and Herefs

English: locative name from Bathurst in Warbleton (Sussex).

Early bearers: William de Batherst, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Geoffrey de Bathurst, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Katherine Batherst, 1392 in *Highworth Hundred Rolls* (Wilts); Roberte Bathurst, 1559 in *IGI* (Horsmonden, Kent); Ashemet Bathurst, 1571 in *IGI* (Staplehurst, Kent); Lancelot Bathurst, 1574 in *IGI* (Saint Mary Abchurch, London); Robart Bathurst, 1607 in *IGI* (Saint Clement Danes, Middx); Thomas Bathurst, 1626 in *IGI* (Theddingworth, Leics).

Batie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 42, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 35
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb and Durham
- English: see **Batey**.

Batista

Variants: Bautista

- **Current frequencies:** GB 252, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 7

Portuguese, Spanish, Catalan: relationship name from the medieval personal name *Batista*, derived from the distinguishing epithet of Saint John the Baptist. Compare **Baptiste**, **Baptista**, and **Battista**.
Early bearers: Frances Batisto, 1644 in *IGI* (Saint Giles Cripplegate, London); John Batista, 1808 in *IGI* (Falmouth, Cornwall); Baroni Battista, born in Italy, in *Census 1881* (London); Bennetto Batista, born in Novara, Italy, in *Census 1881* (Middx); Giovanni Batista, born in Italy, in *Census 1881* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Vincenze Batista, born in Italy, in *Census 1881* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Vincentii Battista, 1883 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb).

Batiste

- **Current frequencies:** GB 48, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 107
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Guernsey and Alderney
- Huguenot, French: see **Baptiste**.

Batkin

Variants: Badkin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 351, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 186
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Batkin*, from the personal name **Bate** + the diminutive suffix *-kin*.

Early bearers: given names: Batekyn clericus, 1274 in *Hundred Rolls* (Essex). surnames: Thomas Batekyn, 1325 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Hugh Batkyn, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); Ann Batkin, 1573 in *IGI* (Stafford, Staffs); Johannes Batkin, 1590 in *IGI* (Tatenhill, Staffs); Willm. Batkin, 1603 in *IGI* (Kirton in Holland, Lincs); Elizabeth Batkin, 1625 in *IGI* (Willesborough, Kent); Gilbert Batkin, 1646 in *IGI* (Berwick upon Tweed, Northumb).

Batley

Variants: Battley, Beatley, Betley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1326, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1289
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks; Norfolk and Suffolk

1 English: locative name from Batley (WR Yorks). **Early bearers:** Oto de Battelay, 1191 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); John de Bateley, 1274 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (WR Yorks); Margery Batley, 1565 in *IGI* (Barnburgh, WR Yorks); Willi Battley, 1576 in *IGI* (Sheffield, WR Yorks); Nicholai Batleye, 1583 in *IGI* (Elland, WR Yorks); John Batley, 1590 in *IGI* (Batley, WR Yorks); Edmund. Battley, 1635 in *IGI* (Huddersfield, WR Yorks); Nicolaus Beatley, 1637 in *IGI* (Durham, Durham); Sara Battley, 1637, Fanny Betley, 1861 in *IGI* (Thornhill, WR Yorks).
2 English: see **Beatley**.

Batman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 34, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 130
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Bateman**.

Baton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 23, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 83
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: Derbys; also Roxburghs; Jersey
- 1 English, Scottish: see **Batten**.
2 Huguenot: from French **Bâton**, compare **Baston**. **Early bearers:** Huguenot: Judith Baton, 1672 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street, London); Isaac Baton, 1677 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street, London); Jacques Baton, 1678 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street, London).

Batool

Variants: **Batul**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 425, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Arabic, Muslim, Subcontinental: from a personal name based on Arabic *batūl* 'virgin, chaste', an epithet of Maryam, mother of the Prophet 'Isa (Jesus), also of Fatima, daughter of Muhammad.

Batra

- **Current frequencies:** GB 266, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Indian: Hindu (Arora) and Sikh name of unknown etymology. It is the name of a clan in the Arora community.

Batram

- **Current frequencies:** GB 60, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 24
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk
- Norman, English: see **Bartram**.

Batrack

- **Current frequencies:** GB 32, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 44
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset
- English: see **Betteridge**.

Batsford

Variants: **Batchford**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 409, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 234
- **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks and Worcs

English: locative name from Batsford (Gloucs) or Battisford (Suffolk).

Early bearers: Richard de Batesford, 1182–1211 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Calendar* (Suffolk); Everard de Bateford', de Batesford', 1202 in *Feet of Fines* (Suffolk); Ricardo Bacheford, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Fyfield, Berks); John de Batesford, 1300 in *Eynsham Cartulary*; Johis. Batsforde, 1597 in *IGI* (Abbots Langley, Herts); Robert Batsford, 1598 in *IGI* (Chipping Ongar, Essex); Johis Batsford, 1689 in *IGI* (Winchcombe, Gloucs); Sarah Batchford, 1761 in *IGI* (East Hanningfield, Essex); John Batchford, 1781 in *IGI* (Tewkesbury, Gloucs).

Batson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 995, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 798
- **Main GB location 1881:** Bucks and Beds; Norfolk; Somerset

English: see **Bateson**.

Batstone

- **Current frequencies:** GB 418, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 255
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Somerset

English: locative name from Batson in Salcombe (Devon), which is *Badestana* in Domesday Book (1086).

Further information: The place is not in Malborough as indicated in the index to *Patent Rolls*, Edward III, vol. 4, p. 226.

Early bearers: William de Badeston, 1238 in *Patent Rolls* (with reference to Wimborne deanery, Dorset); Agnes Badstone, 1566 in *IGI* (Colyton, Devon); John Badston, 1567 in *IGI* (Woodbury, Devon); Humphrye Batstone, 1600 in *IGI* (Yarcombe, Devon).

Batt

Variants: **Bat**, **Batte**, **Bate**, **Batts**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2298, Ireland 73
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2012
- **Main GB location 1881:** S England: esp. Somerset and Gloucs; Hants; London and Kent; also WR Yorks
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Donegal

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Bat(te)*, probably a pet form of Middle English *Bartelmew* (*Bartholomew*) or perhaps the rarer *Bartram* (*Bertram*). Compare **Bett** and **Bate**, with which *Bat(te)* may often have been interchangeable; and compare the pet form **Bateman**, also found as *Batman* and *Battman*.

2 English: (i) nickname probably in many cases a variant of **Back** 'bat' (the winged animal). The alteration of Middle English *bakke* to *bat* is not on record before 1580 in *OED* but the frequency with which *le Bat* occurs in medieval documents suggests that this is a likely source of the name. (ii) nickname alternatively from Middle English *bat(te)* (Old English *batt*) 'cudgel, club, bat', perhaps for someone of stout appearance or for one who wielded a bat. Compare **Bate** (1) and *Ælfricus* qui Bata cognominabatur, about 1051 in *Tengvik*. Examples below without the definite article may belong under (2) or (3).

Early bearers: William, Robert, and Peter Bat, 1170–87 in *Ekwall*, *ELPN* (London); Herbert Bat, 1182 in *Pipe Rolls* (Shrops); Reginald le Bat, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Yorks); Richard le Bat, 1296, John Bat, 1327 in

Subsidy Rolls (Brighton, Sussex); John Bat, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Bristol, Gloucs); Petrus le Bat', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Horton, Wilts); Johanne le Bat, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Stitchcombe, Wilts); Johannes le Bate, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Derby, Derbys); Thoma Batte, Thomas Bate, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Market Harborough, Leics); Willelmo Bat, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Orton on the Hill, Leics); Johanne Bat', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Fivehead, Somerset); Alexander Batt., 1542 in *IGI* (Belton in Axholme, Lincs); Stiven Batt, 1542 in *IGI* (Goodworth Clatford, Hants); Jhon Batt, 1544 in *IGI* (Dudley, Staffs); John Batt, 1554 in *IGI* (Saint Columb Major, Cornwall); John Batt, 1563 in *IGI* (North Petherton, Somerset); Richard Batt, 1563 in *IGI* (Cranbrook, Kent); George Bat, 1565 in *IGI* (Pitcombe, Somerset); Richard Batt, 1568 in *IGI* (Quinton, Gloucs); John Bate or Batt, 1570 in *Oxford University Register*.
3 English: see **Bate**.

Battams

- **Current frequencies:** GB 474, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 152
- **Main GB location 1881:** Beds, Bucks, and Northants

English: probably a variant of **Bottoms** with unrounding of the first vowel; see **Bothams**.

Early bearers: Robert Battams, 1678 in *IGI* (Thornborough, Bucks); Richard Battams, 1714 in *IGI* (Cranfield, Beds).

Battcock

- **Current frequencies:** GB 19, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 53
 - **Main GB location 1881:** SE England
- English: see **Badcock**.

Batte

- **Current frequencies:** GB 79, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 21
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs; ER Yorks

1 English: see **Batt**.
2 English: see **Bate**.

Battell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 199, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 109
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk
- Norman, English: see **Battle**.

Batten

Variants: **Baton**, **Batton**, **Battin**, **Batting**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3505, Ireland 30
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2752
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Baten* or *Batun*, diminutive of *Bat* (see **Bate**).

Early bearers: given names: Batin Bythemore, Bathon Mayster, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset). surnames: Walter Batun, 1248 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Robert Batin, 1261 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); William Baton, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); John Batten, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); Johannes Batton', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Heath Barton, Devon); William Batten, 1539, Mawris Batten, 1540 in *IGI* (Clifton, Gloucs); Johis. Batten, 1544 in *IGI* (Landulph, Cornwall);

Battensby

Johane Batten, 1558 in *IGI* (Portishead, Somerset); Robert Batten, 1578 in *IGI* (Kenn, Devon).

Battensby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 174, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 105
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham and Northumb
- English: variant of **Battersby**.

Batter

Variants: **Batters**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 46, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 166
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts

English: occupational name from *batour*, a borrowing from medieval French *bateor* ‘(cloth-) beater, fuller’ or a beater of other materials. Compare Alan. le Orbatour ‘goldbeater’, 1314 in *Fransson* (Worcs), and for the sense, also **Leadbetter**.

Further information: Peter in York in 1314 was evidently a girdler (*zonarius*); girdlers also made small metal objects. The word *batour* does not denote a beater of game, which is a usage new in the 19th cent.

Early bearers: Rog. le batur, 1230 in *Fransson* (Hants); Pet. le batour, zonarius, 1314 in *Fransson* (Yorks); Robert le Batour, fforester, 1319 in *Patent Rolls* (referring to Notts); Johanne Batter, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Martin, Wilts); Elizabeth Batters, 1559 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Clemence Batter, 1570 in *IGI* (Bodmin, Cornwall); Mary Batter, 1576 in *IGI* (Winterbourne Earls, Wilts); Abraha. Batter, 1585 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Robert Batter, 1587, and Reinold Batters, 1596 in *IGI* (Plymouth, Devon); Edward Batter, 1610 in *IGI* (West Lavington, Wilts); Barnard Batter, 1764 in *IGI* (Powderham, Devon).

Batterbee

- **Current frequencies:** GB 383, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 238
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: see **Batterby**.

Batterby

Variants: **Batterbee**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 75, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 147
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: probably a variant of **Battersby**.

Early bearers: Robarte Batterby, 1584 in *IGI* (Gnosall, Staffs); Thomas Batterbee, 1592 in *IGI* (Bromham, Wilts); Ellin Batterby, 1625 in *IGI* (Leeds, WR Yorks); John Batterby, 1633 in *IGI* (Old Buckenham, Norfolk); Thomas Batterby, 1743 in *IGI* (Whitwell, Derbys); John Battarbee, 1790 in *IGI* (Marbury, Cheshire); Zechariah Batterbee, 1797 in *IGI* (Kings Lynn, Norfolk).

Batterham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 341, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 229
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs and Norfolk
- Norman, English: see **Bartram**.

Batters

- **Current frequencies:** GB 316, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 289
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

English: variant of **Batter** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Battersby

Variants: **Battensby**, **Batterby**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2126, Ireland 131
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2114
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; also WR Yorks
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Meath

English: locative name probably from Battersby, the former name of Dunnow in Slaidburn (WR Yorks), rather than Battersby in Ingleby Greenhow (NR Yorks).

Early bearers: William de Bathresby, about 1170–89 in *Yorks Charters* (Yorks); [. . . de] Bathersby, 1316 in *Place-Names of WR Yorks* (WR Yorks); Ricardus de Bathersby, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Newton, WR Yorks); Roger de Batersby, 1401 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); John Badersby, 1428, Edmund Battersby, 1501 in *York Freeman’s Register* (York); Anne Battersby, 1669 in *IGI* (Monk Hesledon, Durham); Richard Batisbye, 1691 in *IGI* (Bury, Lancs); Edmund Battersbee, 1697 in *IGI* (Manchester, Lancs); John Battensby, 1701 in *IGI* (Sedgefield, Durham).

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 6, p. 204; *Place-Names of NR Yorks*, p. 167; *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Battershell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 28, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 65
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Devon and Cornwall

English: see **Battershill**.

Battershill

Variants: **Battershell**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 147, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 154
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Cornwall

English: locative name from Battishill in Bridestow (Devon).

Early bearers: Johane Battishill, 1541, Wilmot Battishill, 1612, Eliz Battishell, 1675 in *IGI* (South Tawton, Devon); Richard Battershill, 1680, Jane Battershall, 1769 in *IGI* (Exeter, Devon); George Battershell, 1708 in *IGI* (Stoke Damerel, Devon); Joseph Battershell, 1708 in *IGI* (Portsea, Hants); John Battershell, 1774, Sophia Battershall, 1791 in *IGI* (Gosport, Hants).

References: *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 177.

Batterson

Variants: **Batteson**, **Battison**, **Battisson**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 30, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 87
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northants, Bucks, and Cambs

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Baten* (see **Batten**) or **Batty** + the patronymic marker -son, later confused with *Patterson*.

Early bearers: Andrew Batenson, 1561 in *Bardsley* (Durham); Abraham Battison, 1699 in *York Freeman’s Register*; George Battison alias Pattison, son of John Pattison, 1758 in *York Freeman’s Register*.

Batterton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 89, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 25
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and WR Yorks

English: locative name, possibly a variant of **Betterton**, from Betterton in Lockinge (Berks), recorded as *Baterton*’ in 1220 and *Baterton* in 1329. **Early bearers:** Jhon Batterton, 1569 in *IGI* (Rickmansworth, Herts); John Batterton, 1663 in *IGI* (Gloucester, Gloucs); Elizabeth Batterton, 1683 in *IGI* (Coughton, Warwicks); Josephus Batterton, 1724 in *IGI* (Stone, Staffs).

References: *Place-Names of Berks*, p. 487.

Batteson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 57, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks; Beds

English: see **Batterson**.

Battey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 166, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 288
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks; also Warwicks
- English: see **Batty**.

Battie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 71, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 145
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and ER Yorks
- English: see **Batty**.

Battin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 69, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 140
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall and Devon
- English: see **Batten**.

Batting

- **Current frequencies:** GB 119, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 152
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Bucks; Devon
- English: variant of **Batten**.

Battiscombe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 44, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 61
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Somerset

English: locative name from Bettiscombe in Dorset. **Early bearers:** John Battiscombe, 1440 in *Ancient Deeds* ii (Dorset).

Battison

- **Current frequencies:** GB 445, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 321
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northants
- English: see **Batterson**.

Battisson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 174, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 69
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northants
- English: see **Batterson**.

Battista

- **Current frequencies:** GB 232, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3

Italian: relationship name from the medieval personal name (*Giovanni*) *Battista*, from the distinguishing epithet of Saint John the Baptist. Compare **Baptiste**, **Baptista**, and **Batista**.

Battle

Variants: **Battell**, **Battyll**, **Bettles**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1180, Ireland 93
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 889
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England: esp. Suffolk
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Sligo and Mayo
- 1 Norman, English: nickname from Old French *de la bataille* ‘(man) of the battle-array; warrior’.

Early bearers: England: Hubert Bataile, about 1140 in *Ancient Deeds* i (Essex); William de la Bataille, 1196 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Northants); Simon le Batel, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); William Battle, 1580 in *IGI* (Roxwell, Essex); John Battle, 1596 in *IGI* (Climping, Sussex); Margret Battel, 1617 in *IGI* (Woodbridge, Suffolk); James Battle, 1772 in *IGI* (Cranford Saint John, Northants).

Scotland: John de Labatil, about 1245 in *Inchaffray Charters* (Perth, Perths); Richard Battle, 1856 in *IGI* (Perth, Perths).

2 Irish: adopted for **Mac Concatha**, ‘son of *Cú Chatha*’ a personal name meaning ‘hound of battle’ (where *con* is genitive of *cú* ‘hound’ + *cath* ‘battle’). **Early bearers:** Marrianus and Fergallus McConchaa, 1585 in *Fiants Elizabeth* 4786 (Knockdowe, Leitrim); Mulrony and Farriell McEncahe, 1593 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §5796 (Cowlany, Sligo); Sarah Battell, 1703 in *IGI* (Dublin); Patrick Battle, 1819 in *IGI* (Sligo).

Battley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 242, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 169
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk and Suffolk
- 1 English: see **Beatley**.
2 English: see **Batley**.

Battman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 106, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 41
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey and Hants; WR Yorks

English: see **Bateman**.

Battock

- **GB frequency 1881:** 6
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx and Surrey
- English: relationship name perhaps from an unrecorded Middle English personal name **Battok*, Old English **Bat(t)oc*, which would be a pet form of *Bata* (see **Bate**, **Batt**). Old English **Battoc* appears to be the first element of the name of Battisborough (in Holbeton, Devon).

Early bearers: Turchil Batoc, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Warwicks); Thomas Battok, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); John Battok, 1362 in *Sheffield Jackson Catalogue* (Suffolk); Thomas Battocke, 1539 in *IGI* (Brundall, Norfolk); George Battocke, 1630 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk).

Batton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 68, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 143
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Kent; Gloucs

English: see **Batten**.

Battram

- **Current frequencies:** GB 97, Ireland 0

- **GB frequency 1881:** 85
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk
- Norman, English: see **Bartram**.

Battrick

- **Current frequencies:** GB 355, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 202
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset
- English: see **Betteridge**.

Battrum

- **Current frequencies:** GB 55, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 45
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk
- Norman, English: see **Bartram**.

Batts

- **Current frequencies:** GB 413, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 496
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon
- English: variant of **Batt** with genitival, plural, or post-medieval exrescent -s. Compare **Bates**.
Early bearers: Matilda Battes, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Thomas Batts, 1541 in *IGI*; Abraham Batts, 1541 in *IGI* (Lowestoft, Suffolk); Margaret Batts, 1628 in *IGI* (Bicester, Oxon).

Battson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 130, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 83
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- English: see **Bateson**.

Batty

Variants: **Battye**, **Batthey**, **Battie**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 5124, Ireland 26
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 4554
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Westmeath; Tyrone
- English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Batty*, a pet form of the personal name **Batt**.

Early bearers: Johannes filius Batti, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lancs); John Batty, William Batti, 1308, 1316 in *Wakefield Court Rolls* (Yorks); Stephanus Baty, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Routh, ER Yorks); Jhoes Batty, 1543 in *IGI* (Kirkburton, WR Yorks); Jacobus Batty, 1548 in *IGI* (Kirkburton, WR Yorks); Willim Batty, 1549 in *IGI* (Saint Nicholas Acon, London); Jams Batty, 1560 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Jacobi Batty, 1562 in *IGI* (Kirkby Lonsdale, Westm).

Battye

- **Current frequencies:** GB 934, Ireland 28
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1077
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Batty**.

Battyll

- **GB frequency 1881:** 18
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- Norman, English: see **Battle**.

Batul

- **Current frequencies:** GB 21, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Arabic, Muslim: see **Batool**.

Baty

- **Current frequencies:** GB 684, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 725
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb, Cumb, and Durham

English: see **Batey**.

Bau

- **Current frequencies:** GB 33, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 6
- Chinese: see **Pau**.

Bauchop

- **Current frequencies:** GB 52, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 130
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Stirlings and Clackmannans
- Scottish: of uncertain derivation; perhaps a variant of **Wauchope**.
Early bearers: Patrick Bauhok, 1589 in *Scottish Antiquary* (Stirling, Stirlings); Thomas Bawchok, 1591 in *Scottish Antiquary*; Robert Bauchop, 1604 in *Retours, Scotland* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Thomas Bachop or Bachope, treasurer, 1622, 1646 in *Stirling Burgh Records* (Stirling, Stirlings).
References: *Black*.

Bauckham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 229, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 69
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs
- English: variant of **Balcombe**, a Sussex and Kent surname. The Lincs Bauckhams appear to be descended from Robert Bauckham of Lincs, shipwright, born in Gravesend (Kent) about 1833 (*Census 1881*).

Baucutt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 74, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 23
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northants
- English: see **Balcock**.

Baud

- **Current frequencies:** GB 30, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 19
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Leics
- Norman, English: nickname from Middle English, Old French *baud* ‘gay, sprightly’.
Early bearers: Simon le Baud, 1219 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Northants); Reginald le Baud, 1239 in *Feet of Fines* (Cambs); Johannes Baude, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (North Walsham, Norfolk); Alice Baud, 1607 in *IGI* (Cherry Hinton, Cambs); Joseph Baud, 1654 in *IGI* (Crich, Derbys); Joseph Baud, 1665 in *IGI* (Edwardstone, Suffolk); Robert Baud, 1696 in *IGI* (Great Chesterford, Essex); Mary Baud, 1730 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent).

Baudains

- **Current frequencies:** GB 30, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 137
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Jersey
- French: relationship name variant of **Baudin**, a pet form of the personal name *Baud*, from Continental Germanic *Baldo*, derived from **bald* ‘brave’.
References: *Morlet, Noms de Personne*.

Baudrey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 4
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey
- English: see **Baldry**.

Baudry

- **Current frequencies:** GB 29, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 13
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Hants; Jersey
- English: see **Baldry**.

Bauer

- **Current frequencies:** GB 642, Ireland 37
- **GB frequency 1881:** 199
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

German, Jewish (Ashkenazic): status name, nickname from German *Bauer* ‘farmer’, Middle High German (*ge*)*būr*, Middle Low German *būr*, denoting the inhabitant of a *būr*, a small dwelling or building. This word later fell together with Middle High German *būwære*, an agent noun from Old High German *būan* ‘to cultivate’, eventually also (at first in Low German dialects) ‘to build’. The German surname thus can mean ‘farmer’ or ‘builder’. It also came to mean ‘neighbour, fellow citizen’, and was used as a term of address, especially in country districts.

Further information: This surname is also found elsewhere in central and eastern Europe.

Early bearers: German: Leopold and Adolphus Bauer, born in London, in *Census 1851* (Marylebone, Middx); Frederich Aug. Bauer, pianist, born in Hamburg, in *Census 1861* (Saint Pancras, Middx); Rudolph Bauer, born in Austria, in *Census 1871* (Liverpool, Lancs); Johannes Bauer, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Liverpool, Lancs); Christian Bauer, born in Coblenz, Germany, in *Census 1881* (Wanstead, Essex); Karl Bauer, born in Grunsburg, Germany, in *Census 1881* (West Ham, Essex); Maria Baur, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (London); Gunda Bauer, born in Germany, in *Census 1901* (Lancs).

Jewish: Gottlieb Maurice and Cecilia Yelda Bauer, born in Hamburg, Germany, in *Census 1881* (Middx); Lazarus and Rachel Bauer, born in Poland, in *Census 1911* (Lancs); Louis and Leah Bauer, born in Russia, *Census 1911* (London).

Baugh

Variants: **Vaugh**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1935, Ireland 26
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1066
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Staffs, and Welsh Marches: esp. Shrops and Herefs; also Wilts

Welsh: nickname probably from *bach* ‘little’.

Early bearers: Madog Bach, Jevan Bach, 1391 in *Chirkland Extent*; Madog Lloit Bach, 1391–3 in *Chirkland Extent*; Geoffrey Bagh’, 1450 in *Shrewsbury Guild Rolls*; Rychard Bawgh, 1545 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wilts); Edwardus Baugh, 1606 in *Parish Registers* (Chelmarsh, Shrops).

Baughan

Variants: **Baughen, Baughn, Baun**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 711, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 274
- **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon

Welsh: nickname from the Welsh adjective *bychan* ‘little’, a diminutive of *bach*, originally in general use to distinguish father and son bearing the same name in genealogies. This word usually appears in anglicized surnames in the lenited form **Vaughan**. **Further information:** A Welsh family of this name was established from an early date in Great Rollright (Oxon).

Early bearers: Griffith ap Res Boughan, 1352 in *Morgan and Morgan*; Thomas Bawghen, 1552 in *IGI* (Dymock, Gloucs); Thomas Boughan, 1557 in *IGI* (Hereford, Herefs); Henrie Baughan, 1616 in *IGI* (Great Rollright, Oxon); Joseph Beughon, 1721 in *IGI* (Broseley, Shrops); Lucas Baughan, 1759, Lucy Baugham, 1762 in *IGI* (Banbury, Oxon).

Baughen

- **Current frequencies:** GB 137, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 72
- **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon

Welsh: see **Baughan**.

Baughn

- **Current frequencies:** GB 53, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 37
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts, Gloucs, and Oxon

Welsh: see **Baughan**.

Baulch

- **Current frequencies:** GB 393, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 221
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset

English: see **Balch**.

Bauld

- **Current frequencies:** GB 329, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 70
 - **Main GB location 1881:** central Scotland: esp. Fife
- Scottish: see **Bald**.

Baulk

Variants: **Balk**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 161, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 85
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs and Herts; also WR Yorks

English: locative name from Middle English *balke* ‘ridge or bank created by ploughing’ (Old English *balca*), or from a place named with this word, for example Balk near Thirsk (NR Yorks).

Early bearers: Johannes Balk, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Bockhampton, Dorset); Wm. Baulke, 1578 in *IGI* (Humbleton, ER Yorks); Phillip Balk, 1579 in *IGI* (Roche, Cornwall); Matthew Balk, 1643 in *IGI* (Staverton, Devon); Barnard Balk, 1699 in *IGI* (Patrington, ER Yorks); Lilly Balk, 1726 in *IGI* (Guilden Morden, Cambs); Thomas Baulk, 1729 in *IGI* (Guilden Morden, Cambs); Margt Balk, 1729 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Anne Baulk, 1710 in *IGI* (Nunkeeling, ER Yorks).

Baum

Variants: **Baume**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 720, Ireland 8
- **GB frequency 1881:** 462
- **Main GB location 1881:** Leics

1 English: variant of **Balme**.

2 German: locative name, nickname from Middle High German, Old High German *boum* ‘tree’.

Early bearers: Gadfried [*sic*] Baum, born in Hamburg, Germany, in *Census 1851* (London); Johann Philip Baum, upholsterer, born in Frankfurt, in *Census 1861* (Westminster, Middx); Adolphus Baum, born in Hamburg, Germany, in *Census 1881* (Lambeth, Surrey); Augustus Baum, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Widnes, Lancs); Heinrich Baum, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Bradford, WR Yorks); Fritz Balm, born in Baden Baden, Germany, in *Census 1881* (Westminster, Middx).

3 Jewish (Ashkenazic): ornamental name from German *Baum* ‘tree’, or a short form of any of the many ornamental surnames containing this word as the final element, for example *Feigenbaum* ‘fig tree’ and *Mandelbaum* ‘almond tree’.

Early bearers: David Baum, tobacconist, born in Prussia, in *Census 1861* (Portsmouth, Hants); Myer Baum, tailor, born in Poland, in *Census 1871* (Whitechapel, Middx); Esther, Isaac, and Miriam Baum, in *Census 1881* (Mile End Old Town, Middx); Aaron Baum, born in Poland, in *Census 1881* (Southwalk, Surrey); Barnet and Hannah Baum, born in Russia, in *Census 1891* (Lancs); Harris Baum, born in Austria, in *Census 1911* (London).

Bauman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 38, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 39
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent; Notts

Jewish (Ashkenazic), German: Jewish or anglicized variant of **Baumann**.

Baumann

Variants: **Bauman**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 224, Ireland 31
- **GB frequency 1881:** 75
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

German, Dutch, Jewish (Ashkenazic): status name, nickname from German *Baumann* ‘peasant’, also used as a term of address in the sense ‘neighbour, fellow citizen’.

Early bearers: German: Hermann Baumann, ship broker, born in Germany, in *Census 1871* (Hartlepool, Durham); Carl Ernest Gotlip Baumann, 1878 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Henrich Baumann, born in Hanover, Germany, in *Census 1881* (Kirkdale, Lancs); Rudolph Baumann, ship broker, born in Prussia, in *Census 1881* (Hackney, Middx); Fritz Baumann, born in Germany, in *Census 1891* (London); Charles Baumann, born in Germany, in *Census 1911* (London); Gottfried Baumann, born in Switzerland, in *Census 1911* (Cheshire).

Dutch: Henri Baumann, born in Holland, in *Census 1911* (London).

Jewish: Aaron Bauman, cap maker, born in Germany, in *Census 1851* (Algate, London); Aaron Bauman, clothes salesman, born in Russia, in *Census 1861* (Islington, Middx); Ida N. Baumann, born in Russia, in *Census 1881* (Clapham, Surrey); Samuel Bauman, born in Russia, in *Census 1891* (London); Nathan and Deborah Baumann, born in Russia, in *Census 1891* (London); Isaac Bauman, born in Poland, in *Census 1911* (London).

Baumber

- **Current frequencies:** GB 379, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 323
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: see **Bamber**.

Baume

- **Current frequencies:** GB 71, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 116
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

1 German, Jewish: see **Baum**.

2 French: locative name from a pre-Latin term *balma* ‘cave’ or (in E France) ‘mound, hillock’.

Early bearers: Huguenot: Jean Baume, 1648 in *IGI* (Walloon or Strangers Church, Canterbury, Kent); Charl Cesar Baume, 1676 in *IGI* (Threadneedle Street, London); Marie Baume, 1771 in *IGI* (Artillery, Spitalfields, Middx).

References: *Morlet, Dictionnaire*.

Baun

- **Current frequencies:** GB 11, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 59
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

Welsh: probably a reduced form of Welsh **Baughan**.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but more numerous in the USA.

Bausor

- **Current frequencies:** GB 100, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 42
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs, Notts, and Derbys
- English: perhaps an altered form of **Bowser** (1) or (2).

Early bearers: William Bausor, 1752 in *IGI* (Linby, Notts).

Bautista

- **Current frequencies:** GB 394, Ireland 15
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Spanish: see **Batista**.

Bavastock

- **Current frequencies:** GB 16, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: see **Baverstock**.

Baver

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 25
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: perhaps a variant of **Beaver**.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Early bearers: Margaret Baver, 1594 in *IGI* (West Ilsley, Berks); Matthew Baver, 1605 in *IGI* (Plymouth, Devon); William Baver, 1653 in *IGI* (Barnsley, WR Yorks); Thomas Baver, 1761 in *IGI* (Scrooby, Notts).

Baverstock

Variants: **Bavastock**, **Beverstock**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1096, Ireland 7
- **GB frequency 1881:** 690
- **Main GB location 1881:** Berks, Hants, Dorset, and Wilts

English: locative name from Baverstock in Wilts.

Early bearers: Nicholas Baberstoke, 1346 in *Patent Rolls*; Walter Baberstoke, 1576 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wilts); John Baverstock, 1614 in *IGI* (Bishops Waltham, Hants); Lucie Beverstock, 1614 in *IGI* (Minster, Kent); Ricd. Bavistock, 1748 in *IGI* (Bedhampton, Hants); Sarah Beaverstock, 1770 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Joseph Bavenstock, 1791 in *IGI* (Blandford Forum, Dorset).

Bavin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 455, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 298
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: unexplained, apparently a nickname from Middle English *bavein* ‘bundle of brushwood’.

Early bearers: Alce Bavin, 1541 in *IGI* (Metheringham, Lincs); Thomae Bavin, 1576 in *IGI* (Washingborough, Lincs).

Bavington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 311, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 48
- **Main GB location 1881:** Bucks and Beds

English: (i) see **Babington**. (ii) see **Bevington**.

Early bearers: William Babington, 1629 in *IGI* (Pavenham, Beds); Thomas Bavington, 1746 in *IGI* (Cranfield, Beds); Thomas Bavington, 1747 in *IGI* (Ravenstone, Bucks).

Bavis

- **Current frequencies:** GB 22, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 27
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

Norman: probably a variant of **Beavis**.

Further information: This form is rare in Britain but more numerous in the USA.

Bavister

- **Current frequencies:** GB 239, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 59
- **Main GB location 1881:** Beds

English: *Titford* suggests that this is a late variant of **Vavasour**. It would be a dissimilated form of *Vavister* and *Vavester*, variants of *Vavasour* that are evidenced in Lincs, also in Cambs, whence the name spread into Beds. Compare Willa Vavister, 1579 in *IGI* (Scopwick, Lincs); Thomas Vavister, 1615 in *IGI* (Cranwell, Lincs); Mary Vavester, 1708, Joseph Vavisor, 1738 in *IGI* (New Sleaford, Lincs).

Early bearers: Wllm. Bavester, 1610 in *IGI* (Kirkby Green, Lincs); Johan. Bevester, 1620 in *IGI* (Melton Mowbray, Leics); John Bavister, 1634 in *IGI* (Whissendine, Rutland); John Bavester, 1636 in *IGI* (Willingham by Saint Ives, Cambs); John Bavister, 1654 in *IGI* (Eaton Socon, Beds); Mary Bavistor, 1716 in *IGI* (Ridgmont, Beds); William Babister, 1702, Richd. Bavister, 1716 in *IGI* (Stoke Goldington, Bucks).

Bawa

- **Current frequencies:** GB 374, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian (Panjab) Sikh, from the title *Bawa*, borne by male descendants of the first three Sikh gurus. The name is found among the Khatris and the Jats.

Bawcombe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 42, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 37
- **Main GB location 1881:** Shrops; Middx

English: see **Balcombe**.

Bawcupp

- **Current frequencies:** GB 57, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 42
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

English: see **Balcock**.

Bawden

Variants: **Boden**, **Boaden**, **Bowden**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1301, Ireland 11
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1499
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset

1 English: relationship name, variant of **Baldwin**. Some of the surname bearers given here may belong at (2).

Early bearers: given names: Boden or Bawden Maylle, 1591–5 in *Bardsley*; Bawden Richards, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Devon).

surnames: William Bawden, 1551 in *IGI* (Saint Columb Major, Cornwall); Philippe Bawden, 1553 in *IGI* (Littleham by Bideford, Devon); Walter Bawdon, 1555 in *IGI* (Colyton, Devon); John Bawdon, 1555 in *IGI* (Lezant, Cornwall); Christian Bawden, 1557 in *IGI* (Trowbridge, Wilts); Joannes Bawden, 1572 in *IGI* (Wedmore, Somerset); John Bawdon, 1597 in *IGI* (Brent Knoll, Somerset); Richard Bawden, 1621, Mary Bauden, 1625 in *IGI* (Perranuthnoe, Cornwall).
2 English: see **Bowden**.

Bawdon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 118, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 85
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset and Devon
- English: see **Bowden**.

Bawn

Variants: **Baun**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 264, Ireland 13
- **GB frequency 1881:** 199
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork; Down; Westmeath

1 Norman, English: locative name perhaps from a variant pronunciation of Anglo-Norman French (*de*) *Bohun* (from Bohon, Manche), see **Boon** (1). The de Bohun family’s principal possessions were in Gloucs and Wilts.

Early bearers: Ricardus Baune, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Hambledon, Hants); William Baune, 1591 in *IGI* (Trowbridge, Wilts); Susanna Bawn, 1597 in *IGI* (Aldworth, Berks); Susan Bawn, 1616 in *IGI* (Chippenham, Wilts); Sarah Bawn, 1720 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs).

2 English: variant of **Balme**.

Early bearers: Nicolai Bawne, 1545 in *IGI* (Pickworth, Lincs); Agnes Bawn, 1575 in *IGI* (Thornton Curtis, Lincs); John Baun, 1609 in *IGI* (Hugglescote, Leics); Thomas Baune, 1710 in *IGI* (Mirfield, WR Yorks).

References: *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

3 Irish: see **Bain**.

Bawtree

- **Current frequencies:** GB 71, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 132
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey; Essex

English: see **Bawtry**.

Bawtry

Variants: **Bawtree**

- **GB frequency 1881:** 15
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: locative name from Bawtry in WR Yorks.

Early bearers: Peter Bautre, 1298 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs); Nicholas de Bautre, 1316 in *Feet of Fines* (Hunts); Johannes de Bautre, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Brinsworth,

Bax

WR Yorks); Reginald Bawtre, merchant, 1429 in *York Registry Wills*; John Bawthrie, 1576 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wilts).

Bax

Variants: Backs, Backes

- **Current frequencies:** GB 611, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 374
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

English: variant of **Back**, with post-medieval excrement -s.

Early bearers: Daniell Backes, 1583 in *IGI* (Rusper, Sussex); Richard Bax, 1540, Parnel Backes, 1594 in *IGI* (Nonington, Kent); Francis Bakes, 1640 in *IGI* (Minster, Kent).

Baxandall

- **Current frequencies:** GB 104, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 41
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Baxendale**.

Baxby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 110, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 49
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Derbys
- English: locative name from Baxby in Huthwaite (NR Yorks).

Early bearers: Alicia de Baxby, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Aismunderby with Bondgate, WR Yorks); John Baxby, 1410–11 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Yorks); Thomas Baxby, 1432 in *Yorks Wills*.

Baxendale

Variants: Baxandall, Bassindale, Bassinder

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1624, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1526
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and WR Yorks

English: locative name from Baxenden in Lancs, recorded as *Bacstanden* in 1324, with *-dale* later substituted for *-den*.

Early bearers: Richard Baxenden, 1576 in *Parish Registers* (Halifax, WR Yorks); Katherine Backstendeyle, 1595 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs); Anne Bacstondyne, 1602 in *IGI* (Croston, Lancs); Sarah Bassindale, 1676 in *IGI* (Gainsborough, Lincs); Edward Bassindale, 1702 in *IGI* (Messingham, Lincs); Elisabetha Basingdale, 1722 in *IGI* (Amcotts, Lincs); Joseph Baxendell, 1734, William Bascendale, 1810 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs); Wm. Bassendale, 1734, Wm. Basendale, 1744 in *IGI* (Althorpe, Lincs); Richard Boxendale, 1748 in *IGI* (Blackburn, Lancs); Daniel Bassinder, 1753 in *IGI* (Scotter, Lincs); John Bassandale, 1774 in *IGI* (Haworth, WR Yorks); John Basendale, 1790 in *IGI* (Coppull, Lancs).

References: *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Baxter

Variants: Bagster

- **Current frequencies:** GB 24004, Ireland 1458
- **GB frequency 1881:** 17756
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Lancs; Middx; Lanarks
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Ulster

English: occupational name from Middle English *baxter* ‘baker’ (Old English *bæcestre* ‘baker’, earlier ‘female baker’, the feminine equivalent of *bæcere*; see **Baker**).

Early bearers: England: Liueger se Bacestere before 1093 *Tengvik* (Devon); Hanne Bakestre, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cheshire); Will'o le Bacstere, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); William le Baxtere, 1333 in *Feet of Fines* (Suffolk); Ricardo Bakster, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Saint Denys, Walmgate, York); Patricius Bakister, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Carlisle, Cumb); Johannes Baxster, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Pontefract, WR Yorks); Thomas Baxter, 1539 in *IGI* (Morland, Westm); Robert Baxter, 1539 in *IGI* (Great Waldingfield, Suffolk); Henrie Baxter, 1550 in *IGI* (Farnworth near Prescott, Lancs); Dorothy Baxter, 1558 in *IGI* (Sandwich, Kent); Robertu Baxter, 1563 in *IGI* (Bolton upon Dearne, WR Yorks). Scotland: Geffrei le Baxtere, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Angus); William Baxtare, 1312 in *Scotland Calendar* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Robert Baxter, 1398 in *Aberdeen Council Register* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens); Margaret Baxter, 1611 in *IGI* (Glasgow, Lanarks). **References:** *Black*.

Bay

Variants: Baye, Bays

- **Current frequencies:** GB 262, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 129
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; otherwise scattered

1 English: nickname from Middle English *bai* ‘reddish brown’, of hair or complexion.

Early bearers: Gilbert le Bay, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Agnes le Bay, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Warwicks); Anes Bay, 1561 in *IGI* (Canwick, Lincs); Thomas Bay, 1567 in *IGI* (Shipdham, Norfolk); John Bay, 1581 in *IGI* (Brenchley, Kent); John Bay, 1604 in *IGI* (Ribbesford, Worcs); John Bay, 1607 in *IGI* (Englishcombe, Somerset).

2 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Bay* (either from the Old English male name *Bēaga* or the female *Bēage*, both from *bēag* ‘ring’). Compare **Bake** (1).

Early bearers: Robert filius Bay, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Yorks).

3 English: locative name from Middle English *bei* ‘ring, bend’ (Old English *bēag*), used topographically for features such as river-bends.

Early bearers: John ate Bey, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); Roger Attebege, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); William Bay, 1373–5 in *Assize Rolls* (Lincs).

4 Chinese: non-standard romanization of the Chinese surname 馬, see **Ma** (1).

Bayard

- **Current frequencies:** GB 26, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 27
- **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks; Norfolk; Middx and Surrey

Norman, English: (i) nickname from *Bayard* (Old French *baiart*, *baiard* ‘bay-coloured’), the name of the bright bay magic horse given by Charlemagne to Renaud in a 12th-century chanson de geste. It was subsequently used as a mock-heroic name for any horse, particularly for a blindly reckless or foolish one. Applied as a human nickname it probably denoted someone with a proud, haughty, or reckless disposition, rather than someone with reddish brown hair (as is often supposed from the original sense of *baiart*). Compare Chaucer’s ‘proud Bayard’ and ‘Bayard the blynde’; ‘Pay blustered as blynde as bayard’ (about 1325 in *OED*); ‘But as Bayard the blinde sted [steed] . . . He goth there no man will

him bidde’ (1393 in *OED*). (ii) nickname perhaps occasionally from Old French *bayard*, *baiart* ‘hand barrow used for heavy loads’, used possibly to denote a mason’s labourer. Compare Old French, Anglo-Norman French *baiardeur*; *bayardours* is found in 1359 in (*Salzman, Building*, p. 439) and *baiard* ‘hand barrow’ in 1278 in (p. 243). In the Vale Royal accounts of 1278 the *bayardors* or *bairdores* are described as ‘men carrying with barrows large stones to be carved into the workshop and out’ (*Salzman, Building*, p. 353). This is a less likely origin than (i). **Early bearers:** Ralph baird (baiart), 1086 in *Ely Inquisition* (Herts); Godfrey Baiart, Baiard, 1161–2 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Simon Bai(h)ard, 1203, 1206 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Herts); Willelmus Bayard, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Worcester, Worcs); Ricardo Bayarde, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (East Norton, Leics); Agnes Bayard, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Salthouse, Norfolk); Johanne Baiard, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Baydon, Wilts); Ricardus Bayard, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Cudworth, WR Yorks); Henricus Bayard, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Ashford, Derbys); Wilm. Bayarde, 1551 in *IGI* (Kingston upon Thames, Surrey); Ric. Bayard, 1583 in *IGI* (Watford, Herts); Henrye Bayard, 1588 in *IGI* (Ingoldsby, Lincs); John Bayard, 1620 in *IGI* (Brindle, Lancs); Alice Bayard, 1638 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Luke Bayard, 1658 in *IGI* (Saint Bride Fleet Street, London); Robert Bayard, 1752 in *IGI* (Kingstone, Staffs).

Baybutt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 254, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 131
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: unexplained. Perhaps from the French surname *Babault*, itself of uncertain origin, and evidence for a French connection is lacking. The name is very local to Ormskirk and district. **Early bearers:** Richard Babot, 1619 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs); Wm. Babet, 1759 in *IGI* (Aughton by Ormskirk, Lancs); Joseph Babert, 1735 in *IGI* (Aughton by Ormskirk, Lancs); James Baybut, 1751 in *IGI* (Croston, Lancs); Joseph Baybutt, 1770 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs); Richard Babutt, 1779 in *IGI* (Ormskirk, Lancs); William Baybold, 1792 in *IGI* (Halsall, Lancs).

Baycock

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 20
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex; Oxon

English: see **Beacock**.

Baye

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 27
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

English: see **Bay**.

Further information: This spelling is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Bayer

Variants: Beyer

- **Current frequencies:** GB 220, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 80
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

1 English: (i) occupational name for a maker of baize cloth, from an agent derivative of Old French *baies*, Middle English *bayes* (from the adjective *bai* ‘reddish-brown, bay’), probably so called because of

its original colour. Originally a coarse woollen material with a long nap, it was said to have been introduced into Britain by immigrants from France and the Netherlands in the 16th century, but the word certainly appears much earlier in English. (ii) locative name for a 'dweller by the bend', from an agent derivative of Old English *bēag* 'bend'.

Early bearers: John Beyer, 1262 in *Feet of Fines* (Warwick); William le Beier, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Alice Bayer, 1351 in *Colchester Court Rolls*; John Bayer, 1566 in *IGI* (Saint Augustine Watling Street, London); Jeremy Bayer, 1627 in *IGI* (Borden, Kent); Daniel Bayer, 1649 in *IGI* (Bacton, Suffolk); John Bayer, 1657 in *IGI* (Kings Lynn, Norfolk); Thomas Bayer, 1672 in *IGI* (Fowlmere, Cambs).

2 German, Jewish (Ashkenazic): locative name from German *Beier* 'Bavarian', denoting a person from Bavaria.

Early bearers: Charles Bayer, stay manufacturer, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Marylebone, Middx); Frederick Bayer, pork butcher, born in Germany, in *Census 1891* (Southwark, Surrey); Israel Bayer, carman, born in Russia, in *Census 1901* (Stepney, Middx); August Bayer, pork butcher, born in Germany, in *Census 1901* (Kirkdale, Lancs); Jacob Bayer, grocer and provisions dealer, born in Germany, in *Census 1911* (Lambeth, Surrey); Christian Bayer, tailor, born in Germany, in *Census 1911* (Shoreditch, Middx); Reinhold Beyer, professor of music, born in Zwebendorf, Prussia, in *Census 1911* (Liverpool, Lancs).

Bayes

Variants: Bays, Base

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1159, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 827
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northants; Norfolk
- English: see **Bass**.

Bayfield

- **Current frequencies:** GB 489, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 406
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: locative name from Bayfield in Norfolk.

Early bearers: Adam de Baifeld', 1208 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Norfolk); Simon de Bayfeld, 1390–1 in *Norwich Leet Jurisdiction*; Alan Bayfeld, 1461 in *Paston Letters*.

Bayford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 722, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 381
- **Main GB location 1881:** Herts and Essex

English: locative name from Bayford (Herts).

Early bearers: [. . . de] Begeford, 12th cent. in *Place-Names of Herts* (Herts); Stephen Beyford, 1385 in *Patent Rolls*; William Bayford, 1392 in *Feet of Fines*; John Beyford' of Aldebery, 1404 in *Feet of Fines* (Herts); Agnis Bayford, 1560 in *IGI* (Little Hadham, Herts); Grace Bayford, 1573 in *IGI* (Sawbridgeworth, Herts); Symon Bayford, 1604 in *IGI* (Little Sampford, Essex); John Baiford, 1635 in *IGI* (Hunsdon, Herts).
References: *Place-Names of Herts*, p. 214.

Baylay

- **Current frequencies:** GB 72, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 40
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs

English: see **Bailey**.

Bayldon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 60, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 123
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Baildon**.

Bayle

- **Current frequencies:** GB 72, Ireland 23
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 43
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Bale**.

Bayler

- **GB frequency 1881:** 41
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx
- English: see **Baylor**.

Bayles

- **Current frequencies:** GB 455, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 592
- **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks and Durham; Suffolk

English: see **Bales**.

Bayless

- **Current frequencies:** GB 69, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 154
 - **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands
- English: see **Bayliss**.

Bayley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 4174, Ireland 41
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 4810
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire and Staffs
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Tipperary; Down
- English: see **Bailey**.

Baylie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 118, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 81
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Bailey**.

Bayliff

Variants: Bayliffe, Bailiff, Baileff, Bayliss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 186, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 181
- **Main GB location 1881:** Westm; also Cumb and Lancs

English: from Middle English *bailli*, *baillif* 'manager, administrator' (Old French *bailli(s)*, *baillif*). The term could denote the king's officer in a county, hundred, town, castle, or forest, or an elected town officer, a magistrate, an officer of a court, serving warrants and enforcing judgments. In Middle English, a bailiff often denoted the agent of a lord in managing a manor, collecting rents, etc., but in the early modern period the term gradually became specialized as denoting an officer of justice under a sheriff, who executes writs and processes, distrains, and arrests. Compare **Bailey**.

Early bearers: Richard le Baillif, 1242 in *Book of Fees* (Herefs); Gilbert le Balif, 1280 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); John Bayliff, Baylly, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Johannes Balis, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Little Casterton, Rutland); Robertus Baillif, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Pennington, Hants); Henrico le Balif, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Blackburn, Lancs); Waltero Bayleffe, 1379 in

Poll Tax (Broad Town, Wilts); Edward Bayliff, 1543, Johis. Bayliff, 1602, Edw. Bayliff, 1607 in *IGI* (Kirkby Lonsdale, Westm); Leo. Bailiff, 1602, Egidy Bailiff, 1604 in *IGI* (Kirkby Lonsdale, Westm); John Bailiffe, 1662 in *IGI* (Whitkirk, WR Yorks).

Bayliffe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 83, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 85
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Westm; Wilts
- English: see **Bayliff**.

Baylis

Variants: Balis

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2304, Ireland 6
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 3100
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs, Gloucs, and Oxon
- English: see **Bayliss**.

Bayliss

Variants: Baylis, Bailiss, Bailless, Bayless, Bailes, Bales

- **Current frequencies:** GB 7941, Ireland 48
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3775
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Warwick, Worcs, and Staffs

English: variant of **Bayliff** with post-medieval excrement -s.

Further information: In some cases it may be a survival of the Old French nominative form *baillis*.

Early bearers: Thomas Baillis, 1547, Samuel Baylles, 1635 in *York Freeman's Register*; Anne Bailis, 1579 in *IGI* (Droitwich, Worcs); William Bayless, 1702 in *IGI* (Broadway, Worcs); John Baileys, 1711 in *IGI* (Bromsgrove, Worcs); Elizabeth Baileys, 1727 in *IGI* (Tipton, Staffs); Elizebeth Bailis, 1677 in *IGI* (Stow on the Wold, Gloucs); Thomas Bailiss, 1694 in *IGI* (Bidford on Avon, Warwick); Benj Bailless, 1735 in *IGI* (Black Bourton, Oxon); George Bailless, 1746 in *IGI* (Birmingham, Warwick); John Bayless, 1768 in *IGI* (Walsall, Staffs).

Baylor

Variants: Bailor, Bailier, Bayler

- **Current frequencies:** GB 21, Ireland 31
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3

English: occupational name from the legal term *bailor* (Anglo-Norman French *baillur*, *baileor*) 'one who delivers goods'.

Early bearers: Johannes Bailor, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Carlton, WR Yorks); John Bayler, 1581 in *IGI* (Singleton, Sussex); Edmund Bailor, 1634 in *IGI* (Bourne, Lincs); Thomas Bailier, 1639 in *IGI* (Carisbrooke, Hants); James Baylor, 1765 in *IGI* (Birmingham, Warwick).

References: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Bayly

- **Current frequencies:** GB 404, Ireland 40
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 434
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent; Devon
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Kilkenny
- English: see **Bailey**.

Bayman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 292, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 202
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; London

Baynard

Norman, English: variant of **Beaumont**.

Early bearers: Ralph Bayman, 1450 in *Patent Rolls* (Headcorn, Kent); Daniell Bayman, 1589 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx); Robert Bayman, 1591 in *IGI* (Southampton, Hants); Robert Bayman, 1604 in *IGI* (Plymouth, Devon); Elyzabeth Bayman, 1612 in *IGI* (Camerton, Cumb); Frannces Bayman, 1618 in *IGI* (Ramsbury, Wilts); Mary Bayman, 1688 in *IGI* (Shrewsbury, Shrops); Mary Bayman, 1754 in *IGI* (Warrington, Lancs).

Baynard

Variants: **Banyard**, **Bunyard**, **Bannard**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 30, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 33
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

Norman, English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Bainard*, via Norman French from Continental Germanic *Beinhard*, of uncertain origin, perhaps from **bein-* ‘leg, bone’ or a supposed element **bagin-* ‘dispute’ + **hard-* ‘hard, brave’.

Early bearers: Rotbert’ homo bainardi, 1086 in *Ely Inquisition* (Suffolk); Ralph baignart, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Essex); Ralph bainard, 1086 in *Ely Inquisition* (Norfolk); Ralph Baignard, Bangiard, Baniardus, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Herts); Robert Bainard, 1182 in *Gisborough Cartulary* (Yorks); John Baynard, Beynard, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Robert Baniard, 1207, Bainard, 1208 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Norfolk); William Banyard, 1346 in *Feudal Aids* (Suffolk); Philip Baynarde, 1438 in *Feet of Fines* (Hants); Philippus Baynard, 1538 in *IGI* (Calne, Wilts); Willm. Banyard, 1560 in *IGI* (Soham, Cambs); Anne Baynard, 1560 in *IGI* (Cuxton, Kent); Christoferus Banyard, 1595 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Alice Bunyard, 1612 in *IGI* (Hildersham, Cambs); Ann Bunyard, 1612 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Arthur Bunyard, 1668, James Banyard, 1779 in *IGI* (Maidstone, Kent).

References: *Morlet*.

Bayne

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1017, Ireland 46
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1095
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Perth and Fife; also Kent
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Donegal and Derry
- Irish, Scottish: see **Bain**.

Baynes

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1247, Ireland 78
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1178
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; London, Essex, also Cambs
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Mayo
- Norman, English, Scottish, Irish: see **Baines**.

Baynham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1091, Ireland 8
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 562
 - **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Herefs
- Welsh: see **Beynon**.

Baynton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 410, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 301
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset, Gloucs, and Worcs; also ER Yorks
- English: see **Bainton**.

Bayntun

- **Current frequencies:** GB 80, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 34
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent, Surrey, Hants, and Wilts

English: see **Bainton**.

Bayram

- **Current frequencies:** GB 282, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 35
 - **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks and Lincs
- English: variant of **Byrom**. Redmonds notes that John Barum is otherwise called Bayram, 1625–6 in *Parish Registers* (Rothwell, WR Yorks).
- Early bearers:** Johis. Baram, 1627 in *IGI* (Rothwell, WR Yorks); Mary Byrom, 1669, James Bayrom, 1703 in *IGI* (Bury, Lancs); Hannah Byrom, 1721, Wm. Bayram, 1731 in *IGI* (Wakefield, WR Yorks).

Bays

- **Current frequencies:** GB 439, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 349
 - **Main GB location 1881:** E England: esp. ER Yorks; Norfolk, Cambs, and Northants
- 1 English: see **Bass**.
- 2 English: variant of **Bay** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Bayston

Variants: **Baston**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 185, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 166
 - **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks and Lincs
- 1 English: locative name from Baston in Lincs.
- Early bearers:** Turstan de Baston’, 1191 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); Johannes de Baston’, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Holbeach, Lincs); Willelmus de Baston’, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Leics); Thomas Baston, 1561 in *IGI* (Fleet, Lincs); Thomas Baston, 1605 in *IGI* (Wensley, NR Yorks); John Bayston, 1610 in *IGI* (Fiskerton, Lincs); Katteren Bayston, 1611 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); Joseph Baston, 1731 in *IGI* (Hollym cum Withernsea, ER Yorks).
- 2 English: locative name from Bayston in Shrops.
- Early bearers:** [. . . de] Beestan’, 1208–9 in *Place-Names of Shrops*; Alice de Bayston, 1320 in *Patent Rolls* (Derbys); [. . .] Beiston, 1344–5 in *Place-Names of Shrops*; William Beyston, 1455 in *Feet of Fines* (Bayston, Shrops); Ambrose Bastone, 1573 in *IGI* (North Nibley, Gloucs).
- 3 English: relationship name from an unrecorded Middle English personal name **Baystan*, Old English *Bēagstān*, from *bēag* ‘ring’ + *stān* ‘stone’.
- Early bearers:** Willelmus Baystan’, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Great and Little Habton, NR Yorks); William Baystan, 1379 in *Patent Rolls* (Yorks); Anne Baston, 1668 in *IGI* (Snaith, WR Yorks).

Bayton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 241, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 175
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs and Monmouths
- English: locative name from Bayton (Worcs).
- Early bearers:** Thomas de Bayton’, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Upton Bishop, Herefs); Roberto Bayton’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Burton, Herefs); Johannes Bayton’, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Windley Pool in Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks); Johannis Bayton, 1564 in *IGI* (Shipton, Shrops); Ann Bayton, 1573 in *IGI* (Much Marcle, Herefs); Edward

Baiton, 1586 in *IGI* (Munslow, Shrops); Lewis Bayton, 1600 in *IGI* (Tewkesbury, Gloucs); Walter Bayton, 1625 in *IGI* (Redmarley D’Abitot, Worcs).

Baz

- **Current frequencies:** GB 191, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Arabic, Muslim: from a personal name based on Arabic *bāz* ‘falcon’.
- Further information:** It is borne by, among others, Lebanese Christians and seems also to have been used as a personal name among Sephardic Jews.

Bazeley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 539, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 288
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northants
- English: see **Baseley**.

Bazell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 91, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 43
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset, Wilts, and Hants
- English: see **Basil**.
- Early bearers:** Henry Bazell, 1832 in *IGI* (Wyke Regis, Dorset).

Bazely

- **Current frequencies:** GB 91, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 63
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northants; Devon; Kent
- English: see **Baseley** and compare **Basil**.
- Early bearers:** Willelmus Basly, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Canterbury, Kent); Nicholas Basley, 1539, Robert Baseley, 1584 in *IGI* (Colyton, Devon); James Bazely, 1647 in *IGI* (Bromley, Kent); Beniamyn Bazely, 1655 in *IGI* (Totnes, Devon); Elizabeth Bazely, 1726 in *IGI* (Welford, Northants).

Bazley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 472, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 298
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon; also Northants
- English: see **Baseley** and compare **Bazely**.

Beabey

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 42
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Hants and Wilts
- English: see **Beeby**.

Beacall

- **Current frequencies:** GB 115, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 51
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Shrops and Cheshire
- English: perhaps a variant of **Beagle**.
- Early bearers:** Thomas Beacall, 1655 in *Parish Registers* (Shrewsbury, Shrops); George Beacall, 1682 in *IGI* (Hodnet, Shrops); George Beacal, 1693 in *IGI* (Myddle, Shrops); George Beacall, 1726 in *Shrops Archives* (Shrops); John Beagle, 1733, John Beacall, 1810 in *IGI* (Cleobury Mortimer, Shrops).

Beach

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3120, Ireland 23
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 2848
 - **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Staffs, Worcs, Warwicks; London
- English: see **Beech**.

Beacham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1162, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 834
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset and Gloucs; also Monmouths

Norman, English: see **Beauchamp**.

Beachamp

- **GB frequency 1881:** 9
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset; Surrey
- Norman, English: see **Beauchamp**.

Beachem

- **GB frequency 1881:** 20
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset and Gloucs
- Norman, English: see **Beauchamp**.

Beacher

- **Current frequencies:** GB 245, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 220
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex; also ER Yorks and WR Yorks

1 English: see **Beecher**.

2 English: in N England probably a variant of

Beardsall

Early bearers: Thomas Beacher, 1721 in *IGI* (Stretford, Lancs); Richard Beacher, 1745 in *IGI* (Tankersley, WR Yorks).

References: *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Beachill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 123, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 25
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: unexplained.

Early bearers: George Beachall, 1710, Beachell, 1720 in *IGI* (Quadring, Lincs); Jas. Beachill, 1750 in *IGI* (Monk Frystone, WR Yorks); William Beachell, 1778 in *IGI* (Snaith, WR Yorks); Henry Beachill, 1798 in *IGI* (Sandal Magna, WR Yorks); Ann Beechill, 1827 in *IGI* (Mottram in Longdendale, Cheshire).

Beachley

Variants: **Beechley**

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: locative name apparently from Beckley (Sussex), which is no doubt also one of the sources of the surname **Beckley**. The development to [tʃ] rather than [k] is seen in some of the early forms of the place-name.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Early bearers: Willmo de Bechely, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Warnham, Sussex); Willmo de Bechelye, 1296, Walto de Bechele, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Ifield, Sussex); Pho de Bechelye, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (New Shoreham, Sussex); Robert Bechele, 1377 in *Patent Rolls* (Sussex); Robert Bechele, the elder, 1388 in *Patent Rolls* (Bolney, Sussex); [. . .] Beechele, [. . .] Bechele, 1432 in *Place-Names of Sussex* (Sussex); John Becheley, 1528 in *East Sussex Record Office* (Sussex); Nynion Bechely, 1581 in *West Sussex Record Office* (Cuckfield, Sussex); Johannis Beachly, 1670 in *IGI* (Saint Martin in the Fields, Middx); Ann Beechley, 1780, Ruth Becheley, 1802 in *IGI* (Cuckfield, Sussex); Peter Bechely, 1790 in *IGI* (Wivelsfield, Sussex); William Beachley, 1819 in *IGI* (Berkhamsted, Herts); Richard Beachley, 1855 in *IGI* (Ardingly, Sussex).

References: *Place-Names of Sussex*, pp. 526–7.

Beachy

- **GB frequency 1881:** 23
- **Main GB location 1881:** Bucks and Oxon

English: see **Beechey**.

Further information: This spelling is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Beacock

Variants: **Baycock**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 337, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 189
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs; also WR Yorks and ER Yorks

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Becok*, a compound of *Be* (a pet form of *Beton* or *Beatrice*) + the diminutive suffix *-coc*. Compare John Becokson, 1366 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lancs).

Early bearers: Henricus filius Becok, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lancs); Stephen Becoc, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); Alanus Bekok, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Spalding, Lincs); Ric Becocke, 1566 in *IGI* (Laughton by Gainsborough, Lincs); Susanna Beacock, 1600 in *IGI* (Claxby by Normanby, Lincs).

Beacom

- **Current frequencies:** GB 135, Ireland 183
- **GB frequency 1881:** 14
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Fermanagh

Norman, English: see **Beauchamp**.

Beacon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 253, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 259
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Longford; Tipperary

English: locative name from one or more of the many places described by, or with names deriving from, Middle English *beken* 'beacon, sign, signal' (Old English *bēacūn*), such as Beacon in Luppitt (Devon), Beacon End in Stanway (Essex), and Beacon Hill in Bishopstone (Sussex).

Early bearers: Johannes Bekyn, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Theydon Bois, Essex); Ricardus Bekyn, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Queniborough, Leics); William Bekyn', chaplain, 1436, William Beken', clerk, 1437 in *Feet of Fines* (Herts); Roger Beacon, 1562 in *IGI* (Bury Saint Edmunds, Suffolk); John Beken, 1577 in *IGI* (Dover, Kent); Richard Beaken, 1596 in *IGI* (Bath, Somerset); Willm Beacon, 1606 in *IGI* (Hernhill, Kent); Willm. Beacon, 1607 in *IGI* (Bath, Somerset); Benj. Beken, 1753 in *IGI* (Biddenden, Kent).

References: *Place-Names of Devon*, p. 643; *Place-Names of Essex*, p. 400; *Place-Names of Sussex*, p. 365.

Beacroft

- **Current frequencies:** GB 145, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 112
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs

English: see **Beecroft**.

Beade

- **Current frequencies:** GB 14, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 12
- English: see **Beed**.

Beadel

- **Current frequencies:** GB 40, Ireland 0

- **GB frequency 1881:** 90
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex
- English: see **Beadle**.

Beadell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 155, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 140
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey and Essex
- English: see **Beadle**.

Beadham

- **GB frequency 1881:** 19
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

1 English: see **Beetham**.

2 English: see **Beedham**.

Beadle

Variants: **Badel, Beedle, Beedell, Beadell, Bedle, Bedel, Bedell, Beddall, Biddle, Biddell, Buddle, Beedles**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3031, Ireland 18
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2102
- **Main GB location 1881:** London, Kent, Surrey, Essex, and Herts; Durham

1 English: occupational name for a beadle, a medieval court official, from Middle English *bedel*, chiefly a borrowing from Old French. The related Old English word *bydel* also contributed to the surname, appearing as Middle English *bidel* in N and E England (hence the name *Biddle*, etc.) *budel* in S England and the W Midlands (hence *Buddle*, etc.), and *bedel* in SE England, especially Kent (another source, therefore, of *Beadle* and *Beedle*).

Early bearers: Brun Bydel, 11th cent. in *Codex Diplomaticus* 1353 (Somerset); Brictmarus Bedel, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Suffolk); Erneis bedel, Luinus budel, and Richard budel, 1148 in *Winton Domesday* (Hants); Ailsie le Bedell', 1175 in *Pipe Rolls* (Leics); Robert le Budel, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); Galfridus Bedel, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Kingsdown, Kent); Richard Bedle, 1541 in *Rochester Wills* (Kent); Richard Byddell, 1559 in *Feet of Fines* (Hunts); Jhone Beddle, 1564 in *IGI* (Dover, Kent); Richard Biddell, 1569 in *IGI* (Birmingham, Warwicks); Judeth Biddall, 1593 in *IGI* (Willingham by Saint Ives, Cambs); Christopherus Beddell, 1601 in *IGI* (Aspenden, Herts); John Biddle, 1655 in *York Freeman's Register*; William Beadle, John Beddall, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk); Thomas Biddel, 1667, William Biddle, 1673 in *IGI* (Church Hulme, Cheshire).

2 English: locative name from Bedale (NR Yorks).

Early bearers: Ricardus de Bedale, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Hellifield, WR Yorks); Isabella de Bedale, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (York).

3 English: locative name alternatively from one of the many minor places called Bedwell, (e. g. in Essendon and Stevenage, Herts) or Bidwell (e. g. in Titchmarsh, Northants).

Further information: For Bedwell and Bidwell see *Vocabulary of English Place-Names*, at *byden*. Loss of *w* after a consonant is a common dialect development.

Beadles

- **Current frequencies:** GB 66, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 76
- **Main GB location 1881:** Montgomerys and Shropshire

English: see **Beedles**.

Beadley

- GB frequency 1881: 115
- Main GB location 1881: Notts; Shrops; Lancs and WR Yorks

English: probably a variant of **Baddeley**.

Beadling

- Current frequencies: GB 159, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 71
 - Main GB location 1881: Northumb and Durham
- English: variant of **Bednall** (from Beadnell, Northumb) with metathesis of *-n-* and *-l-*.
- Early bearers:** Michael Beadlin, 1658 in *IGI* (Hexham, Northumb); Dorothy Beadland, 1710 in *IGI* (Kirkleatham, NR Yorks); John Beadling, 1713, Robert Beadlin, 1723, Tho. Beedlin, 1747 in *IGI* (Whickham, Durham); Andrew Beedlin, 1727, Hannah Beadland, 1822 in *IGI* (Houghton le Spring, Durham); William Beadland, 1733 in *IGI* (Washington, Durham); William Beadland, 1745 in *IGI* (Belford, Northumb); James Beadlan, 1785 in *IGI* (Helmsley, NR Yorks).

References: *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Beadman

- Current frequencies: GB 204, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 146
- Main GB location 1881: Leics

English: occupational name for someone who prayed for the soul of a benefactor, Middle English *bedeman* 'man of prayer'.

Early bearers: William Bedman, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); Johanne Bedeman', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Saltmarshe, ER Yorks); William Bedemon, 1381 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); Johane Beadman, 1559, William Bedman, 1632 in *IGI* (Attleborough, Norfolk); An Beadman, 1710, Joseph Bedman, 1719 in *IGI* (Twycross, Leics).

Beadnell

- Current frequencies: GB 140, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 124
- Main GB location 1881: NR Yorks, Durham, and Northumb

English: see **Bednall**.

Beadon

- Current frequencies: GB 76, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 158
 - Main GB location 1881: Somerset and Devon
- English: see **Beeden**.

Beadsmore

- Current frequencies: GB 22, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 121
- Main GB location 1881: Staffs

English: see **Beardmore**.

Beadsworth

- Current frequencies: GB 195, Ireland 5
- GB frequency 1881: 62
- Main GB location 1881: Leics and Lincs; also WR Yorks

English: locative name from Badsworth (WR Yorks). **Early bearers:** John de Baddesworth, 1334–7 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); John Baddesworth, 1420 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Yorks); John Beadsworth, 1685 in *IGI*

(Leeds, WR Yorks); Anthony Beadsworth, 1708 in *IGI* (Uppingham, Rutland).

Beagan

- Current frequencies: GB 138, Ireland 54
- GB frequency 1881: 57
- Main GB location 1881: Lancs, Westm, and Durham

Irish: from Ó Beachain (see **Behan**) or Ó Beagáin see (**Beggan**).

Beagle

Variants: **Beacall, Beagles**

- Current frequencies: GB 182, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 97
- Main GB location 1881: scattered: esp. London; Cambs

English: locative name possibly from Beal in Kellington (WR Yorks), which is recorded as *Begale* in 1086, *Beghale* in the 13th century, and *Beal alias Beghall* in 1584.

Early bearers: John de Beghal, 1328 in *Patent Rolls* (Yorks); Robertus de Beghall', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Pontefract, WR Yorks); Robertus de Beghall', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Cridling Stubbs, WR Yorks); Johannes de Beghall', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Hillam, WR Yorks); Johannes Beghalle, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Sandal Magna, WR Yorks); Robert Beghall of Cridlyng, 1397 in *Patent Rolls* (WR Yorks); Forman Beagle, 1613 in *IGI* (Grantham, Lincs); Xpopher Beagle, 1637 in *IGI* (Godalming, Surrey); Benjamin Beagle, 1782 in *IGI* (Thorney, Cambs).

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 2, p. 55.

Beaglehole

Variants: **Bagilhole, Baglole**

- Current frequencies: GB 25, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 61
- Main GB location 1881: Cornwall and Devon

English: locative name, on the face of it possibly topographical, from or related to dialectal *bog(g)le-hole* 'hobgoblin's lair', but this is a word of N England and Scotland.

Early bearers: Roger Bagelhole, 1447 in *Cornwall Record Office* (Hartland, Devon); Henry Bagelhole, 1560, Thomas Baggilhole, 1631, Jane Bagalhole, 1667 in *Parish Registers* (Hartland, Devon); John Baggelhole, 1573 in *IGI* (Gwinear, Cornwall); Charles Bagelhole, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Devon); John Bugelhole, 1777 in *IGI* (Marazion, Cornwall); Elizabeth Bugelhoal, 1807 in *IGI* (Breaage, Cornwall).

Beagles

- Current frequencies: GB 121, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 37
- Main GB location 1881: Cambs and Norfolk

English: variant of **Beagle** with post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Early bearers: Wm. Beagles, 1705 in *IGI* (Holme, Hunts); Robert Beagles, 1718 in *IGI* (Whaplode, Lincs); Charles Beagles, 1771 in *IGI* (Elm, Cambs).

Beagley

- Current frequencies: GB 596, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 497
- Main GB location 1881: Hants

Irish: from Ó Beaglaioich, see **Begley**.

Beagrie

Variants: **Baigrie, Bagrie, Begrie**

- Current frequencies: GB 227, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 64
- Main GB location 1881: Aberdeens

Scottish: from Bagrae in Alvah parish, Banff; possibly also from Balgray in Angus.

Early bearers: John Balgray, 1569 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens); John Balgrie, 1634 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Luffness, E Lothian); William Baigrie, 1680 in *IGI* (Longside, Aberdeens); John Beagrie, 1697 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); William Bagrie, 1728 in *IGI* (Gartly, Aberdeens); John Beagrie, 1736 in *IGI* (Longside, Aberdeens).

Beahan

- Current frequencies: GB 140, Ireland 0
 - GB frequency 1881: 53
 - Main GB location 1881: Lancs
 - Main Irish location 1847–64: Leinster: esp. Offaly
- Irish: from Ó Beachain or Ó Beathain, see **Behan**.

Beaird

- Current frequencies: GB 44, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 0

Scottish: see **Baird**.

Beak

Variants: **Beake, Beeke, Beck, Beeks**

- Current frequencies: GB 232, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 382
- Main GB location 1881: Gloucs, Wilts, and Somerset

English: nickname from Middle English *bek, bekke* 'beak, bill of a bird' (Old French *bec*), probably for someone with a very prominent nose.

Early bearers: Stephen le Beek, 1321 in *MED* (Kent); Henr. le Beek, 1328 in *MED*; Alice le Beeke, 1333 in *MED* (Staffs); Thomas Beeke, 1561 in *IGI* (Margate, Kent); Percefall Beake, 1587 in *IGI* (Cuddesdon, Oxon); John Beake, 1655 in *IGI* (North Petherton, Somerset); John Beak, 1679 in *IGI* (Stanton Saint Quintin, Wilts); Benjamin Beek, 1682 in *IGI* (Bethersden, Kent).

Beake

- Current frequencies: GB 196, Ireland 0
- GB frequency 1881: 204
- Main GB location 1881: Somerset, Gloucs, and Wilts

English: see **Beak**.

Beal

Variants: **Beale, Beall, Beel, Beales**

- Current frequencies: GB 3286, Ireland 16
- GB frequency 1881: 2758
- Main GB location 1881: N England: esp. WR Yorks and ER Yorks; S England: esp. Kent and Sussex

1 English: locative name from Beal (Northumb, earlier *Behill*) or Beal (in Kellington, WR Yorks). In the E Midlands, it may also be from Beald Farm in Cambs, recorded as *Bele super Dedhil*, about 1195 in *Place-Names of Cambs*, or, especially in Lincs, perhaps from a word or name for a farm derived from Scandinavian *boli* 'farm'.

Early bearers: Richard and William de Bele, 1222 in *Medieval Ely* (Cambs); Simon de Beel, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); William Beall, 1379 in *Yorks Poll Tax*

(Yorks); Thomas de Behil, 1382 in *Bardsley* (Northumb); John Bele, 1517 in *Yorks Poll Tax* (Northumb); Richard Beele, 1540 in *IGI* (Walsham le Willows, Suffolk); Richus Beal, 1592 in *IGI* (Sutton, Sussex); Alice Beal, 1597 in *IGI* (Sutton Saint James, Lincs).

2 English: see **Beale**.

Bealby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 74, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 104
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts

English: locative name see **Bielby** and compare **Bilby**.

Beale

Variants: **Beal**, **Beales**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 5560, Ireland 177
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3779
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hants, Surrey, Sussex, and Kent; also Warwicks

• **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork and Laois
1 English: relationship name either from Middle English *bel(e)* ‘fair, beautiful’ used as a woman’s name, or from a pet form of an Old French or Middle English female personal name ending in *-bel*, especially *Isabel* (see also **Bell**).

Early bearers: given names: Bele, 1194 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Sussex); Bella, Bele Coty, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Lincs).

surnames: Alexander filius Bele, 1203 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); Robert fil’ Bele of Mansfield, 1287 in *Sherwood Forest Eyre* (Notts); John Beale, 1542 in *IGI* (Bentley, Hants); Alverey Beale, 1551 in *IGI* (Kippax, WR Yorks); John Beale, 1552 in *IGI* (Black Torrington, Devon); Katheren Beale, 1552 in *IGI* (Coleshill, Warwicks); Willm Beale, 1552 in *IGI* (Birtsmorton, Worcs).

2 English: nickname from Middle English *bel(e)* ‘fair, beautiful’ (Old French *bele*). The forms without article may belong to (1) above or to **Beal**.

Early bearers: Thomas Bele, 1206 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Essex); Robertus le Bel, 1207 in *Fine Rolls*; John Bele, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Ralph le Bele, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs); John Beal, 1589 in *IGI* (Hingham, Norfolk); Ellinoure Beale, 1617 in *IGI* (Long Burton, Dorset).

3 English: see **Beal**.

Beales

Variants: **Beals**, **Beels**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2149, Ireland 23
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1237
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk; also Suffolk and Essex

English: relationship name, variant of **Beale** with genitival or post-medieval excrescent *-s*.

Early bearers: Suzan Beales, 1618 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk).

Bealey

Variants: **Beeley**, **Bealy**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 240, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 269
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon; also Lancs; also Norfolk

1 English: locative name from Belleigh (in Dartington, Devon).

Early bearers: William de Beallelegh’, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Dartington, Devon); Jacobe Bealigh, 1578 in *IGI* (Barnstaple, Devon); Mary Bealy, 1627 in *IGI* (Botusfleming, Cornwall); Mark Bealy, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Devon); Mary Beally, 1662 in *IGI* (Maker, Cornwall); Thomas Beeley, 1771 in *IGI* (Nymet Tracey, Devon).

2 English: see **Beeley**.

Bealing

- **Current frequencies:** GB 295, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 195
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset and Somerset
- English: unexplained; perhaps a variant of **Belling** or **Billing**.

Early bearers: Margaret Bealinge, 1595, John Bealing, 1627 in *IGI* (Mere, Wilts); John Bealing, 1639 in *IGI* (Winterborne Kingston, Dorset); Raph Beeleinge or Beelinge, 1645 in *PROB 11* (Saint Mary Cray, Kent); Betty Beling, 1729 in *IGI* (Broad Chalke, Wilts).

Beall

- **Current frequencies:** GB 356, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 403
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon; SE England; NE England; Fife

English: see **Beal**.

Beals

- **Current frequencies:** GB 79, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 228
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk and Suffolk; also Yorks

English: see **Beales**.

Bealy

- **GB frequency 1881:** 60
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and Cumb; Devon

1 English: see **Beeley**.

2 English: see **Bealey**.

Beam

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 82
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

1 English: locative name from Middle English *bem* ‘tree; beam, post, piece of timber’ (Old English *bēam*), used topographically, perhaps most often in the sense ‘footbridge’, as in Beam Bridge in Dagenham (Essex). Compare **Bambridge**.

Early bearers: Stephen de la Beme, 1199–1216, Osbert de la Beme, about 1260–2 in *Hornchurch Priory Kalendar* (Havering, Essex); Osborn Atterbeame, 1274 in *Hundred Rolls* (Essex); Henry atte Beme, 1332 in *Löfvenberg* (Surrey); Johanna Beame, 1551 in *IGI* (Redgrave, Suffolk); Thomas Beam, 1598 in *IGI* (Cheriton, Kent); Francis Beam, 1606 in *IGI* (Fewston, WR Yorks); Andrew Beam, 1654 in *IGI* (Saint Gluvias, Cornwall); John Ben Beam, 1700 in *IGI* (Saint Anne and Saint Agnes, London); Hugh Beam, 1704 in *IGI* (Holt, Wilts).

References: *Vocabulary of English Place-Names*, at *bēam*; *Place-Names of Essex*, pp. 92–3.

2 English: nickname from Middle English *bem* ‘beam; tree; beam of a loom; beam of light’ (Old English *bēam*), the same word as in (1), perhaps used to denote a stocky person or possibly a weaver.

Early bearers: Agnes Bem, 1319 in *Subsidy Rolls* (London).

Beaman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 914, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 560
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Shrops, Staffs, and Worcs

1 Norman, English: see **Beaumont**.

2 English: see **Beeman**.

Beamand

- **Current frequencies:** GB 68, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 71
- **Main GB location 1881:** Shrops

Norman, English: see **Beaumont**.

Beament

- **Current frequencies:** GB 278, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 124
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset and Somerset; Herts

Norman, English: see **Beaumont**.

Beamer

Variants: **Beemer**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 116, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 74
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire

English: occupational name from Middle English *bemere* ‘trumpeter’ (Old English *bēmere*, *biemere*).

Early bearers: Normannus Bemere, 1160–5 in *Ekwall*, *ELPN* (London); William Bemer, 1595 in *IGI* (Stodmarsh, Kent); Alicia Beemer, 1602 in *IGI* (Wedmore, Somerset); Ellinnor Beamer, 1635 in *IGI* (Scarborough, NR Yorks); Ann Beamer, 1804 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs).

References: *Ekwall*, *ELPN*, pp. 55, 200.

Beames

- **Current frequencies:** GB 443, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 235
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs, Wilts, and Somerset
- Norman, English: see **Beamish**.

Beamish

Variants: **Beamiss**, **Beames**, **Beams**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 854, Ireland 157
- **GB frequency 1881:** 460
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork

Norman, English: (i) locative name from Beaumais-sur-Dive in Calvados or any of various other places in France named with Latin *Bellus Mansus* ‘fair dwelling’. See *Anglo-Norman Families*. (ii) locative name, in some cases from Beamish in Durham, recorded as *Bellus Mansus* in 1251 and *Bewmys* in 1288.

Early bearers: William Baumis, de Beaumis, 1154–89 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Richard de Beames, de Belmes, 1191–2 in *Pipe Rolls* (Shrops); Robert de Beaumeis, 1208 in *Feet of Fines* (Hunts); Henry de Beaumes, 1329 in *Feet of Fines* (Great Limber, Lincs); Thomas Beaumoio, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Staffs); Anne Beamys, 1568 in *IGI* (Buxhall, Suffolk); Samuel Beamish, 1603 in *IGI* (Nuneaton, Warwicks); Anna Beamis, 1627, Ann Beamiss, 1789 in *IGI* (Ely, Cambs).

Beamiss

- **Current frequencies:** GB 18, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 49
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs

Norman, English: see **Beamish**.

Beamond

Beamond

- **Current frequencies:** GB 137, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 126
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Shrops
- Norman, English: see **Beaumont**.

Beamont

- **Current frequencies:** GB 90, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 154
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- Norman, English: see **Beaumont**.

Beams

- **Current frequencies:** GB 167, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 316
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs and Wilts; Glamorgan; also Northumb

Norman, English: see **Beamish**.

Bean

Variants: **Been**, **Beane**, **Beene**, **Beans**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 4674, Ireland 56
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 3811
 - **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in E and N England: esp. WR Yorks; Kent; also Aberdeens
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** scattered
- 1 English: (i) nickname from Middle English *bene* ‘pleasant, genial, kindly’. Some of the following early bearers may alternatively belong with (2). (ii) nickname from Middle English *bene* ‘bean’. The word was commonly used to denote something of little worth, as in the phrase ‘Al nas wurth a bene’ (*MED*, about 1325). It may have been used to nickname someone who habitually used the term or who was thought to merit it. Alternatively it may have been a name for a grower or seller of beans. Compare **Pease**. (iii) locative name; it may also be from a location. *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames* cites Adam del Bene of Harrogate (1351) as evidence to suggest that in the Harrogate area, where the Yorks name later proliferated, it may have been derived from a place where beans grew.

Further information: The broad bean, *Vicia faba*, was a staple food in Europe in the Middle Ages. The green bean, *Phaseolus vulgaris*, came from South America and was not introduced to Europe until the late 16th century. Compare the now extinct surnames *Beaner* and *Beancod*: John le Bener, 1282 in *London Letter Books A*; Adam Benecod, 1221 in *Cotton Tiberius B ii*. **Early bearers:** Gerard Bene, 1166 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Ailwardus Bene, 1180 in *Pipe Rolls* (London); Juliana Bean, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Aislaby, NR Yorks); Jone Bean, 1556 in *IGI* (Aldborough, Norfolk); Abraham Bean, 1574 in *IGI* (Penshurst, Kent); Gabrielis Bean, 1592 in *IGI* (Ryther, WR Yorks); Richard Bean, 1603 in *IGI* (Marwood, Devon); Geoffrey Bean, 1605 in *IGI* (Stillingfleet, ER Yorks); Robert Bean, 1622 in *IGI* (Egton, NR Yorks); Bryan Bean, 1708 in *IGI* (Knaresborough, WR Yorks).

2 English: perhaps a variant of **Benn**. Compare **Benney**. **Early bearers:** Robertus filius Biene, 1168 in *Pipe Rolls* (Cumb); Ricardus filius Bene, 1278 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs). 3 Irish, Scottish: in Scotland and Ireland this is a reduced form of **Mac B(h)eathain**, see **McBain**. **Early bearers:** Andrew Bean, 1609 in *IGI* (Inverness, Inverness); John Bean, 1659 in *IGI* (Foveran, Aberdeens).

4 Irish: in Ireland, also a reduced form of **Ó Beachain**, see **Behan**.

Beane

Variants: **Beans**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 209, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 206
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: see **Bean**.

Beaney

Variants: **Beeney**, **Beeny**, **Beney**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1147, Ireland 17
- **GB frequency 1881:** 487
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex and Kent; Northumb and Durham

1 English: see **Benney**.

Early bearers: Robertus Benye, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Cuckfield, Sussex); Dorothy Beney, 1602 in *IGI* (Brenchley, Kent); Mary Beeny, 1604 in *IGI* (Cranbrook, Kent); Thomas Beeny, 1628, Mary Beney, 1684 in *IGI* (Warbleton, Sussex); Dorothy Beeny, 1636 in *PROB 11* (Burwash, Sussex); Elenor Beany, 1681 in *IGI* (Warehorne, Kent); John Beaney, 1740 in *IGI* (Staple, Kent); James Beaney, 1769 in *IGI* (Hooe, Sussex).

2 Scottish: see **Bennie**.

Beanland

- **Current frequencies:** GB 432, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 614
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: locative name for someone who lived by land on which beans grew, from Middle English *ben(e)* (Old English *bēan*) + *land*. The principal source appears to have been a locality near Keighley (WR Yorks).

Early bearers: Robertus de Benelandes, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Keighley, WR Yorks); Grace Beanland, 1579 in *Parish Registers* (Halifax, WR Yorks); Grace Beneland, 1613 in *Parish Registers* (Guiseley, WR Yorks); Christopher Beanland, 1620 in *IGI* (Bingley, WR Yorks); John Beanland, 1672 in *Hearth Tax* (Yorks); Edward Beanland, 1746 in *York Freeman’s Register*.

References: *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Beans

- **Current frequencies:** GB 18, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 108
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

English: variant of **Bean** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Early bearers: England: Willm. Beanes, 1573 in *IGI* (Bourne, Lincs); Henry Beans, 1618 in *IGI* (Meldreth, Cambs); Dorothy Beans, 1621 in *IGI* (South Lynn, Norfolk); Charles Beans, 1689 in *IGI* (Whittington, Shrops).

Scotland: David Beanes, 1591 in *IGI* (Anstruther, Fife); Mareon Beans, 1629 in *IGI* (Ceres, Fife); Jannat Beans, 1666 in *IGI* (Dundee, Angus).

Bear

- **Current frequencies:** GB 588, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 786
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall; Suffolk and Essex

English: see **Beer**.

Beara

- **GB frequency 1881:** 15
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon
- English: see **Beer**.

Bearcock

- **GB frequency 1881:** 34
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs
- English: see **Barcock**.

Bearcroft

- **Current frequencies:** GB 252, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 142
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Worcs; NR Yorks
- English: see **Barcroft**.

Beard

Variants: **Bard**, **Beards**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 9699, Ireland 44
- **GB frequency 1881:** 7747
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs; Midlands: esp. Derbys and Cheshire; Essex, Kent, and Sussex; Cornwall
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down

1 English: nickname from Middle English *berd* (Old English *beard*), frequently translated by French *barbe* (see **Barbe**), and often in a Latin or French prepositional form, ‘(the man) with the beard’.

Early bearers: England: Ælfsige mid þam berde, about 1100 in *Pelteret*, p. 113 (Devon); Hugo AlaBarbe, Barbatus, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Hants); Baldeuinus cum barba, 1086 in *Cambs Inquisition* (Cambs); Alsi berd, 1086 in *Ely Inquisition* (Cambs); Alwine bierd, 1148 in *Winton Domesday* (Hants); Alfwin’ berd, 1155 in *Pipe Rolls* (Herts); Robert a la barbe, 1178 in *Pipe Rolls* (Bucks); Thomas Ouelabarbe, 1280 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); William od la Barbe, 1311 in *London Letter Books D* (London); Roger Beerde, 1368 in *Feet of Fines* (Tempsford, Beds); Richard Berde, 1464 in *PROB 11* (London); Pnell. Beard, 1547 in *IGI* (Rye, Sussex); Thomas Bearde, 1558 in *PROB 11* (Reigate, Surrey).

Ireland: Richard Beard, archdeacon of Cashel, 1564 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §686; William Bearde or Berde, knight, 1569 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1348 (Ballincorbille, alias Ballicorbett).

2 English: locative name from a place called *Beard* (Derbys) now represented by Beard Hall and Beardwood Farms in New Mills parish.

Early bearers: Adam de Berd, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Derbys); Johannes de Berde, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Derby, Derbys); Ricardus de Berd, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Bowden, Derbys); Richard de Berde, 1409 in *Feet of Fines* (Beard in New Mills, Derbys); Jacobi Beard, 1568 in *IGI* (Chesterfield, Derbys); Wm. Beard, 1602 in *IGI* (Darfield, WR Yorks).

References: *Place-Names of Derbys*, p. 151.

Beardall

Variants: **Bearder**, **Beardow**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 407, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 313
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts and Derbys

English: locative name from Beardhough in New Mills (Derbys).

Early bearers: [. . . de] Berdehalwe, 1285 in *Forest Pleas* (Derbys); Johanna de Berdhalgh’, 1381 in *Poll Tax*

(Bakewell, Derbys); Eln Beardall, 1594 in *Parish Registers* (Norton, Derbys); Ellin Beardow, 1627, Samuel Berdoe, 1709 in *IGI* (North Wingfield, Derbys); Henry Bearder, 1667 in *IGI* (Sheffield, WR Yorks); Matthew Beardoe, 1701, Alice Bearder, 1719 in *IGI* (Papplewick, Notts); George Beardaw, 1731 in *IGI* (Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts).

References: *Place-Names of Derbys*, p. 151; *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Bearden

- **Current frequencies:** GB 12, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 34
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- English: variant of **Barden** or **Bardon**.

Bearder

- **Current frequencies:** GB 263, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 182
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Notts
- English: see **Beardall**.

Beardmore

Variants: **Beardsmore**, **Beadsmore**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1950, Ireland 19
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1364
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and Derbys

English: locative name from a lost place called *Beardmoors* in Farley (Staffs), which is recorded as *Berdesmor* in 1290 and *Berdemore* in 1296.

Early bearers: Richard de Berdemore, 1295, Richard de Berdemor, 1307 in *Assize Rolls* (Staffs); William de Berdemor, 1374 in *Patent Rolls* (Staffs); Ellen Berdmore, 1558 in *Parish Registers* (Leigh, Staffs); Ellen Beard-more, 1568 in *Parish Registers* (Malpas, Cheshire); Samuel Berdmore, 1604 in *Parish Registers* (Church Lawton, Cheshire); Edmond Beardsmore, 1679 in *IGI* (Alton, Staffs); Jhn Beadmre, 1798 in *IGI* (Kingsley, Staffs).

References: *Tooth* vol. 1, pp. 136–7; *Staffs Place-Names*, p. 108.

Beardon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 174, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 102
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; Derbys
- English: variant of **Bardon** or **Barden**.

Beardow

- **Current frequencies:** GB 164, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 87
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys and WR Yorks
- English: see **Beardall**.

Beards

- **Current frequencies:** GB 508, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 337
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs, Worcs, and Warwicks

English: variant of **Beard** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Beardsall

Variants: **Beardsell**, **Beardshaw**, **Beardshall**, **Beacher**, **Burdsall**, **Birdsell**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 369, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 277
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Notts

English: locative name from Buersill (in Rochdale, Lancs), recorded as *Berdeshull* (1292), *Burddsell* (1543). The name has probably been confused with **Birdsall**.

Further information: Breadsall in Derbys is another possible source, with metathesis of the -r-, but there is no certain evidence of this.

Early bearers: [. . . de] Birdeshille, 1324 in *Lancs Court Rolls*; Robertus de Byrdushul, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Pendleton, Lancs); Thomas Beardsell, 1560 in *IGI* (Saxton in Elmet, WR Yorks); Nycholas Beardshawe, 1569 in *IGI* (Braithwell, WR Yorks); Richi. Beardsall, 1574 in *IGI* (Alford, Lincs); Alice Beardshaw, 1584 in *IGI* (Tattershall, Lincs); Robi. Beardshay, 1589 in *IGI* (Wragby, WR Yorks); Edward Burdsall, 1608 in *IGI* (Manchester, Lancs); Ann Beardsall, 1627 in *IGI* (Kirkburton, WR Yorks); Anne Beardshaw, 1660 in *IGI* (Tuxford, Notts); Fran. Beardsall, 1703 in *IGI* (Worksop, Notts).

References: *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*; *Lancs Place-Names*, p. 55.

Beardsell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 275, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 301
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Beardsall**.

Beardshall

- **Current frequencies:** GB 215, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 114
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Beardsall**.

Beardshaw

- **Current frequencies:** GB 338, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 247
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Beardsall**.

Beardslee

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- English: see **Bardsley**.
- Further information:** This spelling of the name is rare in Britain but is common in the USA.

Beardsley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1709, Ireland 23
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 954
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys and Notts
- English: see **Bardsley**.

Beardsmore

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1014, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 412
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs, Warwicks, and Leics

English: see **Beardmore**.

Beardsworth

Variants: **Beardworth**, **Beardwood**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 538, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 544
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: locative name from Beardwood, NW of Blackburn (Lancs), recorded as *Berdewrthe* (1258), *Berdeswurth(grave)*, and *Burdeswurthe* (1305), and *Berdwood*, 1609 in *Lancs Place-Names*.

Early bearers: Simon de Berdewrthe, 1258 in *Lancs Inquests*; Jane Beardsworthe, 1600 in *IGI* (Standish, Lancs); William Beardsworth, 1608 in *IGI* (Kirkham, Lancs); Willmi Beardsworth, 1613 in *IGI* (Colne, Lancs); James Beardwood, 1688 in *IGI* (Brindle, Lancs).

Beardwell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 211, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 195
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex and Suffolk

English: see **Bardwell**.

Beardwood

- **Current frequencies:** GB 237, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 242
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin
- English: see **Beardsworth**.

Beardworth

- **GB frequency 1881:** 24
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: see **Beardsworth**.

Beare

- **Current frequencies:** GB 809, Ireland 102
- **GB frequency 1881:** 545
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall and Devon; Suffolk and Norfolk

English: see **Beer**.

Bearfield

- **Current frequencies:** GB 63, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 38
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx; ER Yorks

English: locative name possibly from Great or Little Bardfield or Bardfield Saling in Essex.

Early bearers: Johannes Berdefeld, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Great Waltham, Essex); John Bardfeld or Bardfield, 1507 in *PROB 11* (Colchester, Essex); Mary Berfield, 1690 in *Parish Registers* (Westminster, Middx); William Bearfield, 1692 in *Parish Registers* (Clifton on Dunsmore, Warwicks); George Bearfield, 1772 in *IGI* (Leyton, Essex).

Bearham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 77, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 23
 - **Main GB location 1881:** SE England
- English: see **Barham**.

Bearhop

- **GB frequency 1881:** 11
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Berwicks
- Scottish: see **Bearup**.

Bearhope

- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Roxburghs
- Scottish: see **Bearup**.

Bearman

Variants: **Berman**, **Barman**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 851, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 591
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex

English: (i) occupational name for a porter or bearer, Middle English *ber(e)man*, *bar(e)man* (Old English

bāermann). (ii) relationship name without the article, *Berman* may also be from a personal name. Walterus filius Bereman, 1198 in *Pipe Rolls* (Kent) may have been the son of a porter, but his father may have borne the name **Beornmann* (from Old English *beorn* ‘warrior’ + *mann* ‘man’), unrecorded in Old English, but of a type common in the 11th and 12th centuries; or perhaps from the rare Old English personal name *Beornmund* (from *beorn* + *mund* ‘protection’). Compare Adam Beremund, 1204 in *Pipe Rolls* (London); William Beremund, 1272 in *Assize Rolls* (Hants).

Early bearers: Alsi Berman, 1137 in *Ekwall, ELPN*; Gilbert Berman, 1222 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Surrey); Ralph Bareman, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Beds); Simon le Berman, 1281 in *Thureson* (Lincs); Geoffrey le Barman, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Yorks); Henry Bearman, 1560 in *IGI* (Ware, Herts); Isaac Bearman, 1563 in *IGI* (Saint Martin Orgar and Saint Clement Eastcheap, London); Anne Bearman, 1579 in *IGI* (Ranby, Lincs); Roger Bearman, 1583 in *IGI* (Bocking, Essex); Thoms Bearman, 1585 in *IGI* (Black Torrington, Devon).

Bearne

- **Current frequencies:** GB 430, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 256
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: unexplained; possibly a regional survival of the older pronunciation of *barn*, in which case compare **Barne**.

Early bearers: Richard Berne, 1525 in *PROB 11* (London); Joane Bearne, 1565 in *IGI* (Bovey Tracey, Devon); Eellena Bearne, 1580 in *IGI* (Kings Walden, Herts).

Bearpark

- **Current frequencies:** GB 236, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 232
- **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks

English: locative name from Bearpark (Durham).

Further information: For the first 140 years of its record it appears only in Wensley.

Early bearers: Dorothea Bearpark, 1542 in *IGI* (Wensley, NR Yorks); John Bearper, 1734 in *IGI* (Kirkby Malzeard, WR Yorks).

Bearryman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 49, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: see **Berryman**.

Bears

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 43
- **Main GB location 1881:** N England: esp. Lancs

English: see **Beers**.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Beart

- **Current frequencies:** GB 124, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 125
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk and Suffolk

English: see **Bert**.

Bearup

- **GB frequency 1881:** 8
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex

English: see **Baitup**.

Bearup

Variants: **Bearhop**, **Bearhope**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 23, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 24
- **Main GB location 1881:** NE England

Scottish, English: locative name from *Bearhope*, a lost place in the Scottish borders, composed of the elements *bere* ‘barley’ or *bare* ‘bare’ and *hop* ‘remote valley’.

Early bearers: Richard Bearhop, 1715 in *IGI* (Hownam, Roxburghs); George Bearhope, 1723 in *IGI* (Bedrule, Roxburghs); Robert Bearup, 1741 in *IGI* (Birdhope Craig, Northumb).

References: *Non-Celtic Border Place-Names; Germanic Toponymicon*.

Beary

- **Current frequencies:** GB 76, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 15
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Limerick and Tipperary

Irish: from Ó Béara, see **Berry** (5).

Beasant

- **Current frequencies:** GB 323, Ireland 38
- **GB frequency 1881:** 338
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts and Dorset

English: see **Bessant**.

Beasley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 5498, Ireland 147
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3211
- **Main GB location 1881:** Midlands: esp. Warwicks; Berks and Bucks
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** scattered

English: see **Beesley**.

Beason

- **Current frequencies:** GB 175, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 155
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

English: see **Beeston**.

Beast

- **GB frequency 1881:** 21
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex and Suffolk; Hunts

English: see **Best**.

Early bearers: Gelbarte Beaste, 1563 in *IGI* (Linton, Kent); Valentyne Beaste, 1574 in *IGI* (Saint Michael Wood Street, London); John Beaste, 1578 in *IGI* (Iddesleigh, Devon); Elizabethe Beaste, 1579 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); Grace Beaste, 1617 in *IGI* (Sandon, Essex).

Beastall

Variants: **Bestall**, **Bestow**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 434, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 213
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts and Derbys

English: variant of **Bairstow**. The loss of *-r-* in the consonant cluster (compare **Gaston** for **Garston**) is already apparent in Radulfus de Baystow, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Darley, Derbys, where the name is still found in the 17th century). The substitution of *-stall* for *-stow* is paralleled in *Bearstall* for *Bairstow*, noted by *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Early bearers: Robert Bestall, 1579, Rowland Bestow, 1612, John Beastall, 1648 in *IGI* (Darley, Derbys); Thomas Bestall, 1716 in *IGI* (Newark on Trent, Notts).

Beaston

- **Current frequencies:** GB 32, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 120
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham

English: see **Beeston**.

Beat

- **Current frequencies:** GB 196, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 191
- **Main GB location 1881:** Angus

English, Scottish: see **Beet**.

Beater

- **Current frequencies:** GB 30, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 59
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Dorset

English: see **Bater**.

Beath

Variants: **Beth**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 66, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 182
- **Main GB location 1881:** E Scotland

1 Scottish: locative name from Beath in Fife.

Early bearers: Edmund de Beeth, 1231 in *Dunfermline Register* (Dunfermline, Fife); Donald Bait, 1508 in *Dunkeld Rentale*; Janet Baith, 1652 in *IGI* (Auchtermuchty, Fife); David Beath, 1662 in *IGI* (Dysart, Fife); Thomas Beth, 1694 in *IGI* (Arngask, Perth).

2 Scottish Gaelic: from Mac Beatha, see **McBeth**.

Beatham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 114, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 45
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cumb

English: see **Beetham**.

Beatie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 32, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 232
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Glasgow

Scottish: see **Beattie**.

Beatley

Variants: **Betley**, **Bately**, **Batley**, **Battley**, **Betteley**, **Bettany**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 62
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk; London; Wilts

1 English: locative name from Beetley in Norfolk, which is recorded as *Betellea* in 1086.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but more common in the USA.

Early bearers: Adam de Betteley, monk, 1287 in *Patent Rolls*; Stephen and Robert de Betle (Norfolk), 1313 in *Patent Rolls*; Johannes de Betelee, mariner, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Kings Lynn, Norfolk); Willelmus de Betelee, thaxter, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Upton, Norfolk); Margery Betele, 1411 in *PROB 11* (Lenn, Norfolk); Johannis Batteley, 1566 in *IGI* (Thorndon, Suffolk); Henry Betley, 1577 in *IGI* (Hadleigh, Suffolk); Thomas Bateley, 1609 in *IGI* (Great Snoring, Norfolk); Thomas Bately, 1620 in *IGI* (Southwold, Suffolk);

Ann Batly, 1628 in *IGI* (Bury Saint Edmunds, Suffolk); Zelocheell Bately, 1598, Stephen Beatley, 1696 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Thomas Bately, 1692 in *IGI* (Kings Lynn, Norfolk); Mary Betley, 1709 in *IGI* (South Elmham All Saints, Suffolk); Esther Beateley, 1762 in *IGI* (Mattishall Burgh, Norfolk); Ann Beetly, 1777 in *IGI* (Wimbotsham, Norfolk); Thomas Beatly, 1799, Thomas Batley, 1820 in *IGI* (Wisbech, Cambs).

2 English: occasionally perhaps a variant of **Betteley**, though this name is not otherwise found in Hants.

Early bearers: Peter Beatly, 1673 in *IGI* (Portsmouth, Hants); Thomas Bately, 1716 in *IGI* (Gosport, Hants).

3 English: variant pronunciation of **Batley**.

Beaton

Variants: Bethune, Beton, Betton

• **Current frequencies:** GB 3919, Ireland 38

• **GB frequency 1881:** 3429

• **Main GB location 1881:** NW Scotland: esp. Inverness; also Aberdeens and Angus; Somerset

1 Norman, Scottish: locative name from Béthune (Pas-de-Calais). The original pronunciation of the surname is represented in spellings like *Betun*, *Betton*, and *Betoun*.

Further information: Baldwin de Betton or de Betun was the son of Robert de Bethune (alias Robert le Roux), who was seigneur and advocate of Béthune (Pas-de-Calais). Robert is on record from about 1145 to 1191 and appears in the English Pipe Rolls between 1162 and 1165. He may be identical with the Robert de Betunia who witnessed a Scottish charter about 1165–90. The Hebridean family of McBeth, hereditary physicians, adopted the surname *Beaton* in the 16th century.

Early bearers: England: Baldwinus de Betton, de Betun, 1195–7 in *Pipe Rolls* (Berks); William de Bettayne, de Betton, 1282–8 in *London Letter Books A*; John Beaton, 1559 in *IGI* (Saint Neot, Cornwall); Joyce Beaton, 1562 in *IGI* (Enfield, Middx); Richard Beaton, 1581 in *IGI* (Stoke Rivers, Devon); John Bethune, 1744 in *IGI* (East Grinstead, Sussex).

E Scotland: Robert de Betunia, 1165–90 in *Saint Andrews Charters*; John de Betun, before 1211 in *Arbroath Register* (Dunkeld, Perth); Andrew de Byetoine, 1296 in *Scotland Calendar* (Forfar, Angus); William Bettoun of Wosthall, 1526 in *Brechin Register* (Angus); Margaret Bethune, 1633 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); James Bethune, 1635 in *IGI* (Monifieth, Angus); Robert Beaton, 1636 in *IGI* (Markinch, Fife); Christian Bethune, 1653 in *IGI* (Saint Andrews and Saint Leonards, Fife); Alexr. Beaton, 1675 in *IGI* (Methlick, Aberdeens); Thomas Beaton, 1684 in *IGI* (Forfar, Angus).

NW Scotland: Allister McMaister alias Betoun, 1585 in *Inverness Records*; Issobel Beaton, 1664 in *IGI* (Dingwall, Ross and Cromarty); Fergus Beaton, 1706 in *IGI* (Petty, Inverness); Niel Bethune, 1712 in *IGI* (Dingwall, Ross and Cromarty).

References: *Domesday Descendants*, p. 324; John Bannerman, *The Beatons: a Medical Kindred in the Classical Gaelic Tradition* (Edinburgh, 1998).

2 English: see **Beeton**.

3 English: see **Betton**.

Beatrice

• **Current frequencies:** GB 40, Ireland 2

• **GB frequency 1881:** 3

English: relationship name from the Middle English and Old French female personal name *Beatris*, *Bietriz*. This is the name of a 4th-century saint, originally *Viatrix* ‘(female) wayfarer’, altered to resemble *beatus* ‘blessed’.

Early bearers: Richard filius Beatricie, 1212 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Yorks); Geoffrey Beatriz, 1210 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Cambs); John Baytrise, 1662 in *Hearth Tax* (Essex); Susannah Beatrice, 1663 in *IGI* (Chetwynd, Shrops).

Beatson

Variants: Beetson

• **Current frequencies:** GB 1114, Ireland 8

• **GB frequency 1881:** 556

• **Main GB location 1881:** Perth and Fife; also WR Yorks

1 Scottish: see **Bateson**.

Early bearers: John Batisoun or Batysoun, 1458 in *Great Seal of Scotland*; William Beatisoun, 1627 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register*; Robert Beatson, 1675 in *IGI* (Campbeltown, Argyll); Willam Beatson, 1680 in *IGI* (Wemyss, Fife); Christin Beetson, 1737 in *IGI* (Abbotshall, Fife).

2 English: variant of **Betson** or **Bateson**. Some of the bearers cited here may belong to (1).

Early bearers: Rycharde Beatson, 1563 in *IGI* (Dewsbury, WR Yorks); William Beetson, 1565 in Boyd’s Marriage Index (Narborough, Norfolk); Margaret Beetson, 1592 in *IGI* (Lincoln, Lincs); Alice Beetson, 1609 in Borthwick Institute (Rotherham, WR Yorks); John Beatson, 1630 in *IGI* (Brindle, Lancs); Ann Beetson, 1827 in *IGI* (Middleton by Oldham, Lancs); Joseph Beetson, 1850 in *IGI* (Finedon, Northants).

Beattie

Variants: Beatty, Beaty, Beatie, Beedie

• **Current frequencies:** GB 10885, Ireland 2752

• **GB frequency 1881:** 6384

• **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland: esp. Dumfriess and Roxburghs; Aberdeens, Kincardines, and Angus

• **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Ulster: esp. Antrim
1 Scottish Gaelic, Irish: relationship name from Irish **Mac (an) Bhiadhthaigh**, Scottish Gaelic **Mac a’ Bhiadhthaigh** ‘son of the victualler’; compare **McVittie**.

Early bearers: Edward Betaghe, 1575 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2677 (Rathhalron, Meath); Pardon to Nicholas Betaghe, gent., 1577 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2286 (Walterston, Meath).

2 Scottish: relationship name from *Beatie*, an alternative spelling of *Baty*, a pet form of **Bartholomew**.

Early bearers: given names: Baty, Flessor, about 1340 in *Ayr Friars Charters* (Ayr).

surnames: David filius Bety, provost, 1342 in *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland* (Linthgow, W Lothian); John Betty, burgess, 1473 in *New Spalding Miscellany* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens); William Baty, burgess, 1513 in *Brechin Register* (Montrose, Angus); John Bety, 1558 in *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland* (Montrose, Angus); Hew Batie, Johnne Batie, 1569 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register*; Robert Bettie, burgess, 1635 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Montrose, Angus); Jean Beattie, 1682, Margaret Beedie, 1767 in *IGI* (Inverbervie, Kincardines).

Beatty

• **Current frequencies:** GB 1091, Ireland 902

• **GB frequency 1881:** 440

• **Main GB location 1881:** scattered in England and Scotland: esp. Lancs

• **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Ulster

Scottish: see **Beattie**.

Beaty

• **Current frequencies:** GB 625, Ireland 9

• **GB frequency 1881:** 684

• **Main GB location 1881:** Cumb

• **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Derry; Westmeath; Mayo

Scottish: see **Beattie**.

Beauchamp

Variants: Beachamp, Beacham, Beachem, Beacom, Beecham, Balchin, Budgen, Budgeon, Baigent, Bowgen

• **Current frequencies:** GB 1356, Ireland 12

• **GB frequency 1881:** 1004

• **Main GB location 1881:** Middx, Surrey, Wilts, and Hants

• **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Waterford
Norman, English: locative name from any of several places in France named Beauchamp (Anglo-Norman French *belcamp*, *belchamp*, Latin *bello campo* ‘beautiful field’); the Domesday Book family came from Beauchamps (Manche). The name developed to *Bauchon* and **Balchin**, and possibly to **Budgen** and **Baigent**, though the last two may have other origins.

Further information: This name was occasionally adopted for the Scottish Gaelic name **Campbell**, by translation into French of the folk etymology *de campo bello* ‘from the fair field’.

Early bearers: Hugo de Belcamp, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Herts); William de Bellow Campo, 1161 in *Templars Records* (London); Robert de Beauchamp, 1203 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); John de Bello Campo, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Halberton, Devon); John Bechaumpe, 1376 in *London Letter Books H*; Willelmo Bauchon, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Weston Turville, Bucks); John Beacham, 1561 in *IGI* (Bury Saint Edmunds, Suffolk); Richard Beacham, 1571 in *IGI* (Salisbury, Wilts); Robert Beecham, 1591 in *IGI* (Castle Carlton, Lincs); Mary Beacham, 1598 in *IGI* (Lockerley, Hants); Thomas Beecham, 1616 in *IGI* (Borden, Kent); Oliver Beacham, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk); Richard Beacham, 1682 in *IGI* (Long Ashton, Somerset); Thomas Beacham, 1756, Ann Beachim, 1760 in *IGI* (Mells, Somerset).

Beauclerk

• **Current frequencies:** GB 24, Ireland 0

• **GB frequency 1881:** 42

• **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex, Kent, and Hants
English: nickname, evidently a 17th-century coinage from French *beau* ‘fine, handsome’ + *clerc* ‘clerk’.

Further information: This is the family name of the Dukes of Saint Albans, who are descended from Charles Beauclerk (1670–1726), illegitimate son of King Charles II and Nell Gwyn.

Early bearers: Charles and Topham Beauclerk, 1739 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); George Beauclerk, 1759 in *IGI* (Berwick upon Tweed, Northumb); William Robert Beauclerk, 1794 in *IGI* (Redbourne, Lincs);

Beauford

Charles George Beauclerk, 1804 in *IGI* (Nuthurst, Sussex).

Beauford

- **GB frequency 1881:** 20
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

Norman, English: see **Beaufort**.

Beaufort

Variants: **Beauford**, **Bufford**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 29, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 33
- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx

Norman, English, Huguenot: locative name from one or other of the numerous places in France called Beaufort, notably in Nord, Somme, and Pas-de-Calais. **Further information:** This surname was borne in the 14th century by the illegitimate children of John of Gaunt and his mistress Catherine Swinford. Their name was derived from their father's castle, Beaufort, in Champagne. Henry Beaufort (c.1377–1447) became a cardinal and papal legate; his brother Thomas (died 1427) became Duke of Exeter; a third brother, John (died 1407), became Earl of Somerset. The latter's granddaughter, Margaret Beaufort (1443–1509) married Edmund Tudor, half-brother of Henry VI, and was the mother of Henry VII. The English admiral Sir Francis Beaufort (1774–1857), who devised the Beaufort scale (used for measuring wind velocity), was a descendant of a French Huguenot refugee, Daniel de Beaufort, who became pastor of a church in Spitalfields, London.

Early bearers: Henry Bewefort, 1340–1450 in *Coventry Guild Register*; Gylbert Bowfort, 1545 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wilts); Andrew Beaufort, 1660 in *IGI* (Saint Gluvias, Cornwall); Mary Arden Beaufort, 1731 in *IGI* (Soho, Middx); Mathew Beaufort, 1736 in *IGI* (Saint Martin in the Fields, Middx); Ann Mary Beaufort, 1739 in *IGI* (Saint Sepulchre, London).

Beaufoy

Variants: **Boffey**, **Boffy**, **Boffee**, **Buffey**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 154, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 132
- **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks

Norman, English: locative name in the case of the *Domesday Book* tenants from Beaufour (Calvados), which is recorded as *Belfou*, *Beaufou* in 1100 and as *Bellefai* in about 1160 (*Tengvik*).

Early bearers: Ralph de Bellafago, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Norfolk); Ralph de Belfago, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Suffolk); William de Belfou, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Wilts); William Belfou, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Herts); Nicholas de Bealfo, 1114–16 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk); Thomas de Beaufow, 1185 in *Rotuli de Dominabus* (Rutland); Robert de Biaufey, 1210 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Derbys); Emma de Beaufey, 1212, Emma de Beaufo, 1236 in *Book of Fees* (Notts); Thomas Buffy, 1276 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); William Bouffaye, 1544 in *Feet of Fines* (Hunts); Joan Beaufoy, 1672 in *IGI* (Meriden, Warwicks); John Boffey, 1702 in *IGI* (Broxbourne, Herts); John Boffey, 1756 in *IGI* (Davenham, Cheshire).

Beaulah

- **Current frequencies:** GB 40, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 55
 - **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks and Lincs
- English: see **Bewley**.

Beaulieu

Variants: **Buley**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 69, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 16
- **Main GB location 1881:** London

1 English: see **Bewley**.

2 English: see **Buley**.

Beauman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 23, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 33
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

1 Norman, English: see **Beaumont**.

2 English: see **Bowman**.

Beaumont

- **GB frequency 1881:** 42
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk

Norman, English: see **Beaumont**.

Beaumont

Variants: **Beaument**, **Beauman**, **Beaumont**, **Beamand**, **Beaumont**, **Beament**, **Beaman**, **Beeman**, **Bayman**, **Bemand**, **Bemment**, **Bement**, **Belmont**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10255, Ireland 104
- **GB frequency 1881:** 8806
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks; also Suffolk
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Derry and Antrim

1 Norman, English: (i) locative name from any of the five places in Normandy named Beaumont (Old French 'beautiful hill or mound'). The *Domesday Book* family came from Beaumont-le-Roger (Eure). (ii) locative name; the Suffolk name may alternatively derive from Beaumont cum Moze (Essex), a Norman re-naming of a place formerly known as *Fulepet* 'foul hollow', in imitation of one of the places mentioned in (i). It is recorded as *Bealmont* (1175–80) and *Beumund* (1328) in *Place-Names of Essex*.

Further information: Most English bearers of the surname are probably descended from Henry de Beaumont (died 1340), who came to England from France as a soldier, serving Edward I, II, and III of England. He acquired the earldom of Buchan in Scotland by marriage.

Early bearers: Rogerius de Belmont, de Bellomonte, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Dorset, Gloucs); Ralph de Belmunt, 1187 in *Pipe Rolls* (Oxon); John Bemund, 1274 in *Hundred Rolls* (Suffolk); Godfrey de Beumund, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Norfolk); William Beaumound, Beaumon, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); John Bomund, 1300 in *Feet of Fines* (Suffolk); Robert Beaumont, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Laurence Beaumont, 1369 in *London Letter Books G*; Johannes Bemond, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Watlington with members, Oxon); Roberto Bemound, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Chawston with Colesden, Beds); Ricardus Bemond, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Bradfield, Norfolk); Ricardus Beaumont, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Hilmorton, Warwicks); Johanne Bemond, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Ashton Keynes, Wilts); Thomas Beauman, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Darley, Derbys); Willelmus Bemont, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Dorsington, Gloucs); John Beaumont, 1544 in *IGI* (Toddington, Beds); Jn Beamon, 1554 in *IGI* (Tonbridge, Kent); Isack Beaumont, 1555 in *IGI* (North Elmham, Norfolk); Robt Beaumont, 1563 in *IGI* (Garvestone, Norfolk); Wedow Beaument, Mrs Beaumonte, 1568 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); Edmund Beaumont, 1607 in *IGI* (Burford, Shrops); Robtus Beamon, 1608 in *IGI* (Melksham, Wilts); Mrs

Bemant, Peter Beaman, Widow Bomant, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk); John Beaumont, 1773, Elias Beaumont, 1777 in *IGI* (Nayland, Suffolk); Mary Bammant, 1774 in *IGI* (Kenninghall, Norfolk). 2 Norman, English: locative name the Lancs and WR Yorks name is from Beaumont (Lancs), named in imitation of one of the Norman places mentioned in (1). It is recorded as *Belli Montis* (1190), *Belmont* (1212), (*de*) *Beaumont* in the 13th century, and *Beaumont* (about 1320) in *Lancs Place-Names*.

Early bearers: [. . .] de Beaumont, 13th cent. in *Church of Lancaster*; John de Beaumont, 1297 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lepton, WR Yorks); Willelmus de Bemond, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lonsdale wapentake, Lancs); Johanne de Beaumont, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Warcop, Westm); Robt. Beaumont, 1539 in *IGI* (Rothwell, WR Yorks); William Beaumont, 1574 in *IGI* (Manchester, Lancs); Jacobus Beaumont, 1598 in *IGI* (Almondbury, WR Yorks); Alyce Beaumont, 1585, Marie Beamon, 1628 in *IGI* (Brodsworth, WR Yorks); Roberte Beaumonde, 1586 in *IGI* (Burnley, Lancs); James Beaumont, 1704 in *IGI* (Wardleworth, Lancs).

References: *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Beausang

- **Current frequencies:** GB 21, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork

French, Irish: nickname from Old French *beau sang* 'good blood'.

Further information: It is unclear whether this family were Huguenots, but *De Bhulbh* indicates a French family of this name, from Cork (also *Woulfe*, *Irish Names and Surnames*, p. 288, formerly called in Irish 'French').

Early bearers: Ireland: Hannah Beausang, 1865 in *IGI* (Killeagh, Cork); Thomas Beausang, 1866 in *IGI* (Middleton, Cork).

Beausire

- **Current frequencies:** GB 13, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 15
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire and Lancs

English: probably a fancy 19th-century re-fashioning of **Bewsher** (see **Belcher** and compare **Belshaw**, **Beushaw**), rather than a direct survival of Old French and Middle English *beau sire*.

Early bearers: Robert Beausire, 1832 in *IGI* (West Derby, Lancs).

Beautement

- **Current frequencies:** GB 19, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 8
- **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks

Norman, English: see **Beautyman**.

Beautyman

Variants: **Beautement**, **Butement**, **Bootyman**, **Bootman**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 146, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 85
- **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks; Northumb

Norman, English: locative name from Le Boutimont (Pas-de-Calais), or Boutement (Calvados).

Early bearers: John de Botemont, 1172 in *Anglo-Norman Families*; Hugh de Buttemund, 1212 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Leics); Nicholas Botemund, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); William Botyman, 1525 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); John Booteman, 1609 in *Parish*

Registers (Suffolk); Phillis Bootiman, 1641 in *IGI* (Tynemouth, Northumb); Thomas Beautyman, 1707 in *IGI* (Wadworth, WR Yorks); Peter Butement, 1716 in *IGI* (Rothbury, Northumb); Isabel Beautelement, 1761 in *IGI* (Berwick upon Tweed, Northumb); William Beautyman, 1792 in *IGI* (Kingston upon Hull, ER Yorks).

Beavan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 792, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1169
- **Main GB location 1881:** SE Wales and W Midlands: esp. Herefs

Welsh: see **Bevan**.

Beaven

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1151, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 870
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts

Welsh: see **Bevan**.

Beaver

Variants: Beever, Beevor, Bever, Bevir, Biever, Baver, Beevers

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1413, Ireland 33
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1318
- **Main GB location 1881:** Leics, Rutland, and Northants; also Gloucs; NR Yorks and WR Yorks
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Tyrone

1 English: locative name from Belvoir in Leics, pronounced *beever* (/bi:və/). Some bearers may belong with (2).

Early bearers: Ralph de Belueeir, 1170 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); John de Beauveir, 1204 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); William Bever, 1207–8 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Leics); William de Beuver, 1207–8 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Dorset); Maria Beaver, 1581 in *IGI* (Almondbury, WR Yorks); Willm Beaver, 1583 in *IGI* (Croydon, Surrey); Richard Beaver, 1589 in *IGI* (Bideford, Devon); George Beaver, 1604, Anthony Beavor, 1628 in *IGI* (Little Marlow, Bucks); Robt Beaver, 1613 in *IGI* (Baston, Lincs).

2 English: nickname from Middle English *bever*, *bevve* ‘beaver’.

Early bearers: Godwyn Beure, 1084 in (about 1300) *Ekwall, ELPN*; Adam Bever, 1274 in *Hundred Rolls* (Somerset); Thomas le Bevere, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex).

Beavers

- **Current frequencies:** GB 496, Ireland 13
- **GB frequency 1881:** 201
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks; also Suffolk and Norfolk
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Tyrone

English: see **Beevers**.

Beaves

- **Current frequencies:** GB 42, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 76
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset

Norman: see **Beavis**.

Beavill

- **Current frequencies:** GB 18, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 5

Norman, English: see **Beville**.

Beavin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 27, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 57
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

English: see **Bevin**.

Beavis

Variants: Beaves, Beevis, Bevis, Beviss, Beves, Bovis, Bavis

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1731, Ireland 11
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1226
- **Main GB location 1881:** S England: esp. Hants, Dorset, and Devon; also E Anglia
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Fermanagh

1 Norman, English: locative name of Norman origin from Beauvais (Oise).

Early bearers: Goisbert de Beluaco, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Herts); Thomas Beueys, 1317 in *Assize Rolls* (Kent); Philip de Beauveys, 1321 in *Quo Warranto Pleas* (Lancs); Robert de Beueys, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cambs); Agnes Beavis, 1559 in *IGI* (Much Hadham, Herts); Dorothe Beavis, 1564 in *IGI* (Babraham, Cambs); Joane Beavis, 1580 in *IGI* (Borden, Kent); Anne Beavis, 1853 in *IGI* (Everton, Lancs).

2 Norman, English: nickname from Old French *bel, biau, beau* ‘fine’ + Anglo-Norman French *fiz* ‘son’. *Bel* was often used as a term of affection, hence ‘dear son’.

Further information: Some records, such as Hugo Beauuiz cited below, suggest that the name may sometimes have been understood as *bel* + *vis* ‘handsome face’, but that does not appear to have been the origin.

Early bearers: Odo Belfiz, 1176 in *Pipe Rolls* (Hants); William Beaufiz, Biauiz, 1208 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Gloucs); Hugo Beaufiz, Beauuiz, 1221 in *Assize Rolls* (Warwicks); William Beaufitz, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Black Torrington, Devon); Chris Beavis, 1641 in *IGI* (Woodbury, Devon); Richard Beavis, 1661 in *IGI* (Andover, Hants); Henricj Beavis, 1675 in *IGI* (Stanton, Gloucs).

Beavon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 317, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 181
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Staffs and Warwicks

Welsh: see **Bevan**.

Beavors

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 9
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Beevers**.

Beazer

Variants: Bezer

- **Current frequencies:** GB 263, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 130
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs and Wilts

Norman, English: probably a variant of **Belcher**, in which the diphthong in Middle English **Beucher* or *Beusire* has been simplified to produce *Be(a)ser*.

Early bearers: Elizabeth Beser, 1542 in *IGI* (Box, Wilts); Richard Beazer, 1577 in *IGI* (Corsham, Wilts); Edward Beaser, 1602 in *IGI* (Ramsbury, Wilts); John Beasur, 1626 in *IGI* (Bromham, Wilts); Thomas Beazer, 1640 in *IGI* (Little Sodbury, Gloucs); Hannah Beezer, 1740 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Susannah Beazor, 1755 in *IGI* (Tewkesbury, Gloucs); James

Beezard, 1802, Sarah Beazard, 1835 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs).

Beazleigh

- **Current frequencies:** GB 26, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 15
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey

English: see **Beesley**.

Beazley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 879, Ireland 23
- **GB frequency 1881:** 598
- **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts, Hants, and IoW
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork and Kerry

English: see **Beesley**.

Bebb

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1050, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 581
- **Main GB location 1881:** Montgomerys and Shrops

English: see **Bibb**.

Bebbington

Variants: Bebington, Bevington, Babbington, Babington, Bavington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2061, Ireland 34
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1327
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire, Lancs

1 English: locative name from Bebington (Cheshire). The alteration to *Bavington* and *Bevington* shows a common development of *-b-* to *-v-* in place-names and surnames.

Early bearers: Adam de Bebyngton, 13th cent. in *Whalley Abbey Coucher Book* (Lancs); Peter Bebynton, 1492 in *Place-Names of Cheshire* iv, p. 24; William Babington, 1588, Roger Bavington, 1625 in *IGI* (Wigan, Lancs); Vrye Babington, 1600 in *IGI* (Nantwich, Cheshire); Ellen Bebbington, 1610, John Bevington, 1748 in *IGI* (Frodsham, Cheshire); John Bebington, 1789 in *IGI* (Bolton le Moors, Lancs); Joseph Bebbington, 1794, Jos. Bibbington, 1797 in *IGI* (Bunbury, Cheshire); Elizabeth Bebbington, 1814, Elizabeth Bibbington, 1814 in *IGI* (Weaverham, Cheshire).

2 English: see **Babington**.

Bebby

- **GB frequency 1881:** 28
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs

English: see **Bibby**.

Bebee

- **Current frequencies:** GB 44, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 28
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk and Cambs; Middx

English: see **Beeby**.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Bebington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 58, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 143
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire

English: see **Bebbington**.

Bec

- **Current frequencies:** GB 32, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Norman: see **Beck** (2).

Becalick

- GB frequency 1881:** 18
 - Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Lancs
- English: see **Beckerleg**.

Becce

- Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881:** o
- English: see **Beckles**.

Bech

- Current frequencies:** GB 42, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881:** 17
 - Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks
- English: see **Beech**.

Becher

- Current frequencies:** GB 81, Ireland 5
 - GB frequency 1881:** 62
 - Main GB location 1881:** Essex, Kent, and Sussex
 - Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork
- English: see **Beecher**.

Beck

Variants: **Becke**, **Bec**, **Becks**

- Current frequencies:** GB 9561, Ireland 572
 - GB frequency 1881:** 6942
 - Main GB location 1881:** widespread in England: esp. WR Yorks and Lancs; also London; Norfolk
 - Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down
- 1 N English: locative name for someone who lived by a brook, Middle English *bekke* (Old Scandinavian *bekkr*), common in Norfolk, the N Midlands, N England, and Scotland.
- Early bearers:** Polin filius Hugonis ad le Becke de Stok', mid-13th cent. in *Thurgarton Cartulary* (East Stoke, Notts); Robert Attebek, 1297 in *Subsidy Rolls* (North Stainley, WR Yorks); Rog. atte Beck, 1302 in *Feudal Aids* (Norfolk); Alicia Beck, 1546 in *IGI* (Beeley, Derbys); Jane Beck, 1548 in *IGI* (Budbrooke, Warwicks); John Beck, 1548 in *IGI* (Kirkby Lonsdale, Westm); Myles Beck, 1553 in *IGI* (Saint Mary Magdalen Old Fish Street, London); Robert Beck, 1561 in *IGI* (Grimsby, Lincs).

2 Norman: locative name from any of the numerous places in northern France named *Bec*, of the same Scandinavian origin as (1). The *Domesday Book* under-tenants probably came from Bec-Hellouin in Eure.

Early bearers: Walter Bec, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Bucks); Geoffrey de Bech in *Domesday Book* (Dorset); Ralph de Bec, 1093–6, about 1130–60 in *Canterbury Domesday Monachorum* (Kent); Walter de Bec, 1166 in *Red Book of the Exchequer* (Norfolk); Henry Bec, 1196 in *Pipe Rolls* (Lincs); Robert de Becco, 1199 in *Assize Rolls* (Staffs); Adam del Bec, 1207 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Lincs); Henry Delebec, Ralph del Bek (his son), 1263 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Essex); dominus Henricus de Beck, 1253–66 in *Thurgarton Cartulary* (Wiverton, Notts); Richard Beck, 1562 in *IGI* (Tittleshall, Norfolk); Robert Beck, 1565 in *IGI* (Hints, Staffs); Thomas Beck, 1592 in *IGI* (Dartford, Kent); Mary Beck, 1595 in *IGI* (Dinton, Bucks).

3 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name **Becke* (Old English **Becca* or *Beocca*), of uncertain origin. Compare **Bexon**. **Early bearers:** Æluuin Becce filius, Brun Becce filius, about 1095 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents*

(Suffolk); Osbert Becche, about 1140, Terricus Becce, about 1166 in *Ekwall, ELPN* (London); Robert Becke, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Robertus filius Beck', 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts* (Yorks); Bartholomew Beck, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts* (Wilts).

4 English: see **Beak**.

Becke

- Current frequencies:** GB 37, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881:** 17
- English: see **Beck**.

Beckell

- Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881:** 29
 - Main GB location 1881:** Somerset
- English: see **Bickell**.

Beckenham

- Current frequencies:** GB 117, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881:** 123
 - Main GB location 1881:** Kent, Surrey, and Berks
- English: see **Beckingham**.

Becker

- Current frequencies:** GB 1332, Ireland 64
 - GB frequency 1881:** 379
 - Main GB location 1881:** London and Kent; also Lancs; Devon; Norfolk
 - Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin
- 1 German, Jewish (Ashkenazic): occupational name, alternative spelling of German *Bäcker* 'baker'. **Early bearers:** Hermann J. Becker, naturalized British subject, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Tottenham, Middx); Karl August Becker, born in Prussia, in *Census 1881* (Saint Saviour, Jersey); Chas Otto Gustave Becker, born in Westphalia, Germany, in *Census 1881* (Colchester, Essex); Solomon Becker, born in Poland, in *Census 1881* (Birmingham, Warwicks); Harris and Esther Becker, born in Poland, in *Census 1891* (London); Israel Becker, born in Russia, in *Census 1901* (London); Diedrich Becker, born in Germany, in *Census 1901* (London).
- 2 English: of uncertain origin. Derivation from an unrecorded Middle English **bekker* 'maker or user of mattocks' (a derivative of Middle English *bek(ke)* 'mattock, pick') is theoretically possible but medieval evidence for the surname is difficult to identify with certainty. Some of the following bearers may belong with (1).
- Early bearers:** Agnes Becker, 1570 in *IGI* (Gresham, Norfolk); William Becker, 1590 in *IGI* (Stamford, Lincs); Thomas Beker, 1616 in *IGI* (Maidstone, Kent); Oliver Becker, 1633 in *IGI* (Renhold, Beds); Elmer Becker, 1617 in *IGI* (Paul, Cornwall) Mary Becker, 1662 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Sarah Becker, 1732 in *IGI* (Formby, Lancs).

Beckerleg

Variants: **Beckerlegge**, **Becalick**, **Beckerley**

- Current frequencies:** GB 185, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881:** 158
 - Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall
- English: unexplained.

Early bearers: Richard Byckelake, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Black Torrington, Devon); Thomas, John, William Byckelake, John Bycklake, John Beckelake, 1524 in

Subsidy Rolls (Beaworthy, Devon); Tomas Becalegge, 1615, William Becalegg, 1619, Mary Beccalegge, 1626 in *IGI* (Madron, Cornwall); Oliver Beckerledge, 1617, Thomsin Becerledge, 1635, Jane Bekelegg, 1636 in *IGI* (Paul, Cornwall); Margaret Bicklegg, 1630 in *IGI* (Crediton, Devon); Wm. Beckerley, 1718 in *IGI* (Breage, Cornwall).

Beckerlegge

- Current frequencies:** GB 19, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881:** 13
 - Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall; Cheshire
- English: see **Beckerleg**.

Beckerley

- Current frequencies:** GB 22, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881:** 22
 - Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall
- English: see **Beckerleg**.

Becket

- Current frequencies:** GB 129, Ireland o
 - GB frequency 1881:** 600
 - Main GB location 1881:** Bucks
- Norman, English: see **Beckett**.

Beckett

Variants: **Beckitt**, **Beket**

- Current frequencies:** GB 9982, Ireland 551
- GB frequency 1881:** 5949
- Main GB location 1881:** widespread: esp. Norfolk and Suffolk
- Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim

1 Norman, English, Irish: nickname from Old French, Middle English *beket* 'small beak' (a diminutive of Old French *bec* 'beak or mouth'), perhaps with reference to someone with a small beak-like mouth (compare **Beak**), though the Middle English word appears to have had a wide range of 'pointed object' applications including 'a corbel', 'a kind of arrow', 'a kind of bird', and 'a kind of fish'.

Early bearers: William Bechet, Beckett, about 1155 in *Danelaw Documents* (Lincs); Robert Beket, 1176 in *Feet of Fines* (Berks); Thoma Beket, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (North Duffield, ER Yorks); Robertus Beket, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Burton in Lonsdale, WR Yorks); Johanna Beket, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Weasenham, Norfolk); Hugo Beket, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Formby, Lancs); Alicia Beket, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Plungar, Leics); Johannes Beket, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Donnington, Gloucs); Agatha Beket, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Hambledon, Hants); Willia. Beckett, 1539 in *IGI* (Limpsfield, Surrey); Robertus Beckett, 1540 in *IGI* (Betley, Staffs); Roger Beckett, 1541 in *IGI* (Ipswich, Suffolk); John Beckett, 1546 in *IGI* (Margaret Roding, Essex); Jhon. Beckett, 1553 in *IGI* (Rothwell, WR Yorks).

2 English: locative name from Beckett in Shrivenham (Berks).

Early bearers: [. . . de] Becote, 1179–80, [. . . de] Beccote, 1284 in *Place-Names of Berks* (Berks); John de Beckcote, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); John de Beckote, 1351 in *Patent Rolls* (Berks); Ricardo Becot, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Worthington, Leics).

References: *Place-Names of Berks*, p. 376.

Beckey

- Current frequencies:** GB 71, Ireland o

- **GB frequency 1881:** 33
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset; Surrey
- English: (i) locative name of uncertain origin: possibly from a lost or unidentified place in Somerset. (ii) possibly from Becca in Aberford (WR Yorks), which has Old English *haga* ‘enclosure’ as the final element etymologically, which normally gives *-haw*, but Becca is recorded with *-hay* in the 13th and 16th centuries.

Early bearers: John Becky, 1366 in *Patent Rolls* (Lincs); Mary Beckey, 1641 in *Parish Registers* (Saint Margaret Westminster, Middx); Elizabeth Beckey, 1677 in *Parish Registers* (East Bergholt, Suffolk); Rebecca Beckey, 1710 in *IGI* (Little Torrington, Devon); John Beckey, 1834 in *IGI* (Mottram in Longdendale, Cheshire).

Beckford

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1710, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 163
- **Main GB location 1881:** Berks

English: locative name from Beckford (Gloucs). **Further information:** This surname is frequent in Jamaica. It was taken there in the 17th century by the Beckford family. Colonel Peter Beckford (1643–1710) served as acting governor of Jamaica in 1702. **Early bearers:** Nicholas de Beckeford, 1216–72 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Gloucs); Robert de Becford, 1245–50 in *Registrum Antiquissimum*; Thomas Beckford, 1603 in *IGI* (Great Marlow, Bucks); Mathew Beckford, 1606 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Anna Beckford, 1607 in *IGI* (Hanley Castle, Worcs); Elizab. Beckford, 1610 in *IGI* (Watford, Herts); Richard Beckford, 1612 in *IGI* (East Grinstead, Sussex).

Beckham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 516, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 259
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: locative name from East, West Beckham (Norfolk). **Early bearers:** Johannes de Becham, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Fring, Norfolk); Robertus Bekham, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Pudding Norton, Norfolk); Jn. Beckham, 1554 in *IGI* (South Creak, Norfolk); Peter Beckam, 1586 in *IGI* (Salisbury, Wilts); Richardus Beckham, 1608 in *IGI* (Corpusty, Norfolk); Ben Backham, 1722, Sus Beckham, 1746 in *IGI* (Thurlton, Norfolk); John Beckham, 1768, James Backham, 1769 in *IGI* (Kings Lynn, Norfolk).

Beckingham

Variants: Beckenham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 615, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 440
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Wilts, Hants, and Berks
- English: locative name from Beckingham (Lincs or Notts). Stephen Bekingham from the E Midlands settled at Beckingham Hall in Tolleshunt Major (Essex) before 1543. One of the Tolleshunt manors was sometimes known as *Tolleshunt Beckingham*, and the parish occasionally just as *Beckingham*, in post-medieval centuries.

Further information: Despite what the distribution at the 1881 census might imply, there is no recorded connection with Beckenham (Kent) before John Beckenham, 1789 in *IGI* (Beckenham, Kent).

Early bearers: Johannes de Bekyngham, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Kingston upon Hull, ER Yorks); Thomas Bekyngham, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Fotheringhay, Northants); Johannes Bekenham, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Idbury, Oxon); Andrew Beckinggam, 1550 in *PROB 11* (Whippingham, IoW); Palludia Beckingham, 1631 in *PROB 11* (Tolleshunt Beckingham, Essex); William Beckenham, 1661 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx); Hugh Beckenham, 1701 in *IGI* (Saint Mary le Bow, London).

References: *Place-Names of Essex*, pp. 306–9.

Beckinsale

- **Current frequencies:** GB 247, Ireland 9
- **GB frequency 1881:** 144
- **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon

English: unexplained, possibly from a lost place-name ending in Old English *halh* ‘nook, corner’, *hall* ‘hall’, *salh* ‘sallow tree’, or *sol* ‘muddy pond’.

Early bearers: Kateryn Beckensole, 1570 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); John Beckensale, 1594 in *IGI* (Long Ashton, Somerset); Wiliam Beckinsale, 1602 in *IGI* (Leigh, Gloucs); Richard Beckensole, 1605 in *IGI* (Cheriton, Hants); Thomas Beckingsale, 1655, John Beckinsale, 1662 in *IGI* (Brize Norton, Oxon); John Beckensoll, 1697 in *IGI* (Bishops Waltham, Hants).

Beckett

- **Current frequencies:** GB 165, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 321
- **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks and WR Yorks; Fife

Norman, English: see **Beckett**.

Beckles

Variants: Beccele

- **Current frequencies:** GB 409, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 19
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex

English: locative name from Beccles in Suffolk.

Early bearers: Tankard de Beccles, 1191 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Richard de Bekles, 1278 in *London Letter Books B*; John Bekyllis, 1487 in *Yorks Wills*; Lancelot Beckle, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Devon).

Beckley

Variants: Beckly

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1173, Ireland 5
- **GB frequency 1881:** 773
- **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon, Bucks, and Herts

1 English: locative name from Beckley (Oxon), and perhaps also from Beckley (Sussex). Compare **Beachley**.

Early bearers: Ralph de Beckele, 1211 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Suffolk); Rico de Beckele, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Beckley, Sussex); Johannes Bekely, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Shapwick, Somerset); Ricardo Beckeleye, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Stretford hundred, Herefs); Thomas Beckley, 1551 in *IGI* (Hurstbourne Tarrant, Hants); George Beckley, 1590 in *IGI* (Long Crendon, Bucks); Richard Beckley, 1636 in *IGI* (Bampton, Oxon); Richard Beckley, 1690 in *IGI* (Petworth, Sussex).

References: *Place-Names of Oxon*, p. 165; *Place-Names of Sussex*, pp. 526–7.

2 English: see **Bickley**.

Beckly

- **Current frequencies:** GB 44, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 56

- **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon; Devon and Cornwall

English: see **Beckley**.

Beckman

- **Current frequencies:** GB 197, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 64
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

1 English: nickname from northern Middle English *bekke* ‘stream’ (Old Scandinavian *bekkr*) + *mann* ‘man’, probably denoting someone who lived or worked beside a stream.

Early bearers: Alice wife of John Bekeman, fishmonger, 1397 in *York Registry Wills* (Yorks); John Bekeman alias John atte Lane, 1409 in *Patent Rolls* (Blunham, Beds); Hester Beckman, 1590 in *IGI* (Smarden, Kent); John Beckman, 1629 in *PROB 11* (Little Burstead, Essex).

2 German and Jewish (Ashkenazic): (i) occupational name denoting a baker, from older South German *beck*, West Yiddish *bek* + *man(n)*. (ii) locative name in northern Germany; it may denote someone who lived by a stream, from Low German *Beke* ‘stream’ + *Mann*.

Early bearers: German: Adolf Beckman, born in Hanover, Germany, in *Census 1881* (Hackney, Middx); John Beckman, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Middx); Jno Gustav Beckman, born in North Shields, in *Census 1881* (North Shields, Northumb); Wilhelmina Beckman, domestic servant, born in Germany, in *Census 1891* (Ormskirk, Lancs); Gustav Beckman, baker, born in Germany, in *Census 1901* (Fulham, Middx); Carl Gustav, baker, born in Rhineland, German, in *Census 1911* (Willesden, Middx). Jewish: Abraham Beckman, born in Krakow, Poland, in *Census 1881* (Whitechapel, Middx); Isaac Beckman, hawker, born in Russia, Esther Beckman, born in Russia, in *Census 1901* (Whitechapel, Middx); Abraham Beckman, woollen merchant, born in Austria, in *Census 1911* (Whitechapel, Middx).

Becks

Variants: Bex

- **Current frequencies:** GB 146, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 90
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered: esp. Lancs; Notts

English: variant of **Beck** with post-medieval excrement -s.

Beckson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 21, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts; Middx

English: see **Bexon**.

Beckton

Variants: Becton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 53, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 127
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cumb and Lancs

English, Scottish: locative name from Beckton in Dumfriess, SW Scotland, or nearby Bectonhall. **Further information:** Not from Beckton in East Ham (Essex), which is named after the 19th-century gas and coal magnate S. A. Beck.

Early bearers: Richard Beckton, 1681 in *IGI* (Hayton, Cumb); John Bectoune, 1685 in *Privy Council of*

Beckwith

Scotland Register (Tinwald, Dumfriess); Thomas Beckton, 1692 in *IGI* (Renwick, Cumb); George Becton, 1699 in *IGI* (Dumfries, Dumfriess); Edward Beckton, 1728 in *IGI* (Dumfries, Dumfriess).

Beckwith

Variants: **Beckworth**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2314, Ireland 24
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1757
- **Main GB location 1881:** Essex; Durham and NR Yorks

English: locative name from Beckwith in Pannal (WR Yorks).

Early bearers: Johannes de Bekwith', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Beckwith in Killinghall (in Ripley parish, adjacent to Pannal), WR Yorks); Adam de Bekwith', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Clint, WR Yorks); Robertus de Bekwyth', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Minskip, WR Yorks); Johannes Bekwyth', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Idle, WR Yorks); Richard Bekwyth, 1415 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Yorks); Adam Bekwith, 1423 in *York Freeman's Register* (York); John de Bekwith' 1432 in *Feet of Fines* (Toulston in Newton Kyme, WR Yorks); John Beckworth, 1600 in *IGI* (Horsington, Lincs).

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 5, pp. 116–7.

Beckworth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 74, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 172
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks; Leics; Middx
- English: variant of **Beckwith**.

Becraft

- **GB frequency 1881:** 12
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx
- English: see **Beecroft**.

Becroft

- **GB frequency 1881:** 35
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks
- English: see **Beecroft**.

Becton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland 34
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 29
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Notts; Norfolk; Middx
- English: see **Beckton**.

Bedale

Variants: **Bedall**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 34, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 57
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs, Cheshire, and Staffs

English: locative name from Bedale (NR Yorks).

Early bearers: Leticia de Bedale, 1348 in *Derbys Archaeological Journal* 36; John de Bedale, 1351 in *York Freeman's Register*; John Bedale, 1412 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Gloucs).

Bedall

- **GB frequency 1881:** 46
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs
- English: see **Bedale**.

Bedborough

- **Current frequencies:** GB 210, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 57
- **Main GB location 1881:** Berks and Middx

English: locative name from Bedborough in Bishop's Cannings (Wilts).

Early bearers: Leonard Bedbero, 1566 in *PROB 11* (Longbridge Deverill, Wilts); Margery Bedborowe, 1598 in *IGI* (Teddington, Gloucs); Willme Bedborowe, 1601 in *IGI* (Oxenton, Gloucs); George Bedberry or Bedberrie, 1642 in *PROB 11* (Salisbury, Wilts); Georgius Bedborow, 1693, Arthuri Bedborough, 1724 in *IGI* (Sunninghill, Berks); Daniel Bedborough, 1727 in *IGI* (Hurst, Berks); Thomas Bedborough, 1732 in *IGI* (Burnham, Bucks).

Bedd

- **GB frequency 1881:** 1

English: locative name for a dweller '(at the) garden plot', Middle English *bed*, *bedd(e)*, Old English *bedd*. **Early bearers:** Roger Bedde, 1248 in *Assize Rolls* (Berks); Thomas of the Bedde', 1312 in *Patent Rolls*; Roger de la Bedde, 1327 in *Miscellaneous Inquisitions* (Middx); Thos. Bedd, 1734 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); Sarah Bedd, 1827 in *IGI* (Chelmsford, Essex).

Beddall

- **Current frequencies:** GB 588, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 379
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and Worcs
- English: see **Beadle**.

Beddard

Variants: **Bedder**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 458, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 370
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs

Welsh: see **Bedward**.

Bedden

- **Current frequencies:** GB 85, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 110
- **Main GB location 1881:** Bucks

English: variant of **Beeden**.

Bedder

- **Current frequencies:** GB 207, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 66
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Leics and Warwicks
- English: variant of **Bedworth**.

Beddie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 56, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 114
- **Main GB location 1881:** Aberdeens

Scottish: see **Beedie**.

Bedding

- **Current frequencies:** GB 454, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 232
- **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon, Bucks, and Northants

English: unexplained.

Further information: It is not certain that the form of 1265 belongs here.

Early bearers: Ralph de Bedyne, 1265 in *Patent Rolls*; Elizabeth Beddinge, 1620, William Bedding, 1622 in *IGI* (Elstow, Beds); Ralph Bedding, 1676 in *IGI* (Quainton, Bucks).

Beddingfield

- **Current frequencies:** GB 38, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 31

- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk

English: see **Bedingfield**.

Beddingham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 15, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 17
- English: see **Bedingham**.

Beddington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 106, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 160
- **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks

English: locative name from Beddington (Surrey), which is recorded as *Bedington* in 1229 and *Bidintona* in 1239. The place-name means 'farmstead associated with a man called Bēada', from the Old English personal name *Bēada* + Old English connective *-ing-* + *tūn* 'farmstead, settlement'. **Further information:** The geographical link may be connected with Alicia de Betyndon', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Warwicks); the Surrey place-name appears as *Betyndon* in 1301 (*Inquisitiones post Mortem*).

Early bearers: Elizabeth Beddington, 1613 in *IGI* (Acton by Nantwich, Cheshire); John Bedington, 1639 in *IGI* (Turvey, Beds); Anthony Beddington, 1690 in *IGI* (Bletchingley, Surrey); Edward Biddington, 1732, Ann Bedington, 1792 in *IGI* (Awre with Blakeney, Gloucs); Margaret Beddington, 1746 in *IGI* (Preston Bagot, Warwicks); James Bettington, 1747 in *IGI* (Ombersley, Worcs); Martha Bedington, 1770 in *IGI* (Nuneaton, Warwicks).

References: *Place-Names of Surrey*, p. 40.

Beddis

- **Current frequencies:** GB 346, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 93
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs
- Welsh: see **Beddows**.

Beddoe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 553, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 529
 - **Main GB location 1881:** S Wales: esp. Pembrokes and Glamorgan; also Shrops
- Welsh: see **Beddow**.

Beddoes

- **Current frequencies:** GB 799, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 544
- **Main GB location 1881:** Shrops

Welsh: see **Beddows**.

Beddow

Variants: **Beddoe**, **Beddows**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1216, Ireland 8
- **GB frequency 1881:** 819
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Shrops and Staffs

Welsh: relationship name from the Welsh personal name *Bedo*, apparently a pet form of *Mareddud*, see **Meredith**.

Early bearers: given names: Bedo Brwynllys, 1460 in *Dictionary of Welsh Biography* (Bronllys, Brecknocks); Bedo ap Richard, 1493 in *Shrops Archaeological Transactions* 2/xi.

surnames: Howel ap Bedowe, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lyddham, Shrops); Johannes Bedowe, 1524 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cardeston, Shrops); Walter Beddoe, 1564 in *IGI*

(Ludlow, Shrops); John Beddoe, 1641 in *Shrops Archaeological Transactions* 3/iv; John Beddow, 1673 in *IGI* (Malpas, Cheshire).
References: *Morgan and Morgan*, pp. 161–2.

Beddowes

- **Current frequencies:** GB 43, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 66
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs; also Shrops
- Welsh: see **Beddows**.

Beddows

Variants: **Beddoes**, **Beddowes**, **Beddis**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1125, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 578
- **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs; also Shrops

Welsh: variant of **Beddow** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Early bearers: Richard Bedes, 1563 in *IGI* (Staunton on Arrow, Herefs); Margaret Beddoes, 1571 in *IGI* (Ludlow, Shrops); Johan'es Beddies, 1585 in *IGI* (London); Willam Biddis, 1653 in *IGI* (Reading, Berks); Richard Beddes, 1649, Joan Beddis, 1684 in *IGI* (Awre with Blakeney, Gloucs); Georgii Beddows, 1662 in *IGI* (Wistanstow, Shrops); Edward Beddoes, 1729 in *IGI* (Oswestry, Shrops); Marth[a] Biddiss, 1729 in Boyd's Marriage Index (Enfield, Middx); Eleanor Beddows, 1741 in *IGI* (Malpas, Cheshire); John Beddass, 1773 in *IGI* (Dudley, Staffs); Eleanor Biddiss, 1812 in *IGI* (Southwark, Surrey).

Bedeau

- **Current frequencies:** GB 198, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1
- Huguenot, French: occupational name from French *bedeau* 'beadle', a term for a sergeant of justice; compare **Beadle**.
- Early bearers:** Huguenot: Pierre Bedeau, 1731 in *IGI* (Threadneedle St).
- French: Ann Bedeau, in *Census 1851* (Northants); Maria Bedeau, born in Paris, in *Census 1881* (Middx).

Bedel

- **Current frequencies:** GB 20, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 21
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx and Surrey
- English: see **Beadle**.
- Further information:** This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Bedell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 108, Ireland 21
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 180
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Beadle**.

Bedells

- **Current frequencies:** GB 28, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 55
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Beadles**.

Bedford

Variants: **Bedforth**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 9256, Ireland 165
- **GB frequency 1881:** 7035
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hunts and Cambs; WR Yorks

- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Donegal and Dublin
- English: locative name from Bedford (Beds, Lancs) or Bedforth in Thornhill (WR Yorks).
- Early bearers:** Osgar de Bedeford, 1086 in *Domesday Book* (Beds); Robert de Bedeford, about 1180 in *Bury Saint Edmunds Documents* (Lincs); John de Bedforth, 1379 in *Yorks Poll Tax*; William Bedford, 1465 in *Paston Letters*.

Bedforth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 41, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 38
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and ER Yorks
- English: see **Bedford**.

Bedgood

- **Current frequencies:** GB 72, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 50
 - **Main GB location 1881:** SW England: esp. Somerset; also Middx
- English: see **Bidgood**.

Bedi

- **Current frequencies:** GB 660, Ireland 31
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Indian (Panjab): Sikh, based on the name of a Khatri clan; it is derived from Sanskrit *vedi* 'one who knows the Vedas'.
- Further information:** Guru Nanak (1469–1539), the founder of the Sikh religion, was a member of the Bedi clan.

Bedingfield

Variants: **Beddingfield**, **Benefer**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 370, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 248
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk and Norfolk

English: locative name from Bedingfield (Suffolk).

Early bearers: Walkelin de Bedigfelde, 1198 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Adam de Bedingefeld, 1200 in *Feet of Fines* (Bedingfield, Suffolk); Roger de Bedyngfeld, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (London); Edmund Bedingfeld, 1553 in *PROB 11* (Oxborough, Norfolk); Richard Bedingfeilde, 1558 in *IGI* (Dickeburgh, Norfolk); Phil. Bedingfelde, 1594 in *IGI* (Southolt, Suffolk); John Bedingfeild, 1673, Robert Bedinfield, 1712 in *IGI* (Kings Lynn, Norfolk).

Bedingham

Variants: **Beddingham**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 90, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 75
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs

English: locative name from Beddingham (Sussex) or Bedingham (Norfolk).

Early bearers: Robert de Bedingham, 1206 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Norfolk); William de Bedyngheam, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Richard Bedyngham, 1461 in *Place-Names of Cambs* p. 241.

Bedle

- **GB frequency 1881:** 18
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs
- English: see **Beadle**.

Bedlington

- **Current frequencies:** GB 92, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 173
- **Main GB location 1881:** Durham and NR Yorks

English: locative name from Bedlington (Northumb).

Early bearers: Willelmo de Bedlyngton', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (York); Christopher Bedlington, 1574 in *IGI* (Jarrow, Durham).

Bedloe

- **GB frequency 1881:** 9
- English: see **Bedlow**.

Bedlow

Variants: **Bedloe**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 145, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 60
- **Main GB location 1881:** SE England: esp. Essex
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Dublin

English: locative name from Bledlow (Bucks). The surname shows dissimilatory loss of the first -l-.

Early bearers: William Bledelauwe, 1253 in *Henry III Building Accounts*; John de Bledelawe, John de Bledelowe, 1329 in *Feet of Fines* (Bucks); William Bledelowe, 1356 in *Feet of Fines* (Oxon); Thomas de Bledelawe, 1361–2 in *Feet of Fines* (Surrey); Thomas Bledlowe, citizen and alderman of London, 1477 in *Feet of Fines* (Kent); Thomas Bledlowe, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Marton, WR Yorks); Patrick Bedlowe, 1482 in *Feet of Fines* (Devon); Sybell Bledlowe, 1578 in *IGI* (Dinton, Bucks); Nycolas Bedlow, 1579 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx); Benedict Bedloe, 1596 in *IGI* (Whitechapel, Middx); Elizabeth Bledlowe, 1605 in *IGI* (Bicester, Oxon); John Bledloe, 1610 in *IGI* (Cuddesdon, Oxon); Moyses Bedlow, 1622 in *IGI* (Reading, Berks); Sara Bedlow, 1661 in *IGI* (Wethersfield, Essex); Samuel Bedloe, 1721 in *IGI* (Dorchester, Dorset).

Bednall

Variants: **Bednell**, **Beadnell**, **Beadling**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 301, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 167
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts, Derbys, Staffs, and Warwick

English: locative name from Bednall (Staffs) or Beadnell (Northumb).

Early bearers: Thomas de Bedenhale, 1194 in *Staffs Chartulary* (Staffs); Thomas de Bedenhal', 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Northumb); Adam de Bedenhale, 1279 in *Assize Rolls* (Northumb); Margaret Bednall, 1645 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Mathew Bednall, 1660 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Willm Bednall, 1684 in *IGI* (Uttoxeter, Staffs); Marya Bednall, 1691 in *IGI* (Norton, Durham); Ann Bednall, 1715 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph without Bishopsgate, London); Sarah Bednal, 1731 in *IGI* (Walsall, Staffs).

Bednell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 32, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 38
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks
- English: see **Bednall**.

Bedser

- **Current frequencies:** GB 40, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 32
- **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey

English: locative name from an unidentified (perhaps lost) place called *Bedesore* or *Badesore*, apparently near Bexhill (Sussex).

Bedson

Early bearers: Alic' de Bedesore, 1296, Johe Badesore, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Bexhill hundred, Sussex); John Badesore, 1339 in *Patent Rolls* (Bexhill, Sussex); William Bedser, 1723 in *IGI* (Funtington, Sussex); Mary Bedser, 1745 in *IGI* (Lurgashall, Sussex); Betty Bedsor, 1757 in *IGI* (Ashtead, Surrey); Thomas Bedser, 1786 in *IGI* (Esher, Surrey).

Bedson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 516, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 354
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and Cheshire
- English: variant of **Betson**.

Bedsworth

- **GB frequency 1881:** 18
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Middx and Surrey
- English: locative name variant of **Bettesworth**. Compare Elnor Betsworth, 1592 in *IGI* (Guildford, Surrey) with Thomas Bedsworth, 1651 in *Parish Registers* (Guildford, Surrey), and John Bedsworth, 1694, Ann Bettesworth, 1701 in *IGI* (Tillington, Sussex).
- Further information:** This name is rare in Britain but is more common in the USA.
- Early bearers:** Richard Bedsworth, 1687 in *Parish Registers* (Saint Clement Danes, Middx); Thomas Bedsworth, 1706 in *IGI* (Godalming, Surrey).

Bedward

- Variants:** **Beddard**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 334, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 157
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs and Welsh Marches
- Welsh: relationship name from the Welsh patronymic *ap Edward* 'son of **Edward**'. Compare **Bowen**.
- Early bearers:** Dafydd ap Edward ap Hoell, 1498 in *Chirkland Extent*; Davye Bedward, 1588 in *IGI* (Donington, Shrops); John Bedhard, 1643 in *York Freeman's Register*.

Bedwell

- Variants:** **Bidwell**, **Bidewell**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 1191, Ireland 9
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1162
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk, Essex, Kent, and Surrey; Beds
- English: locative name from Bedwell (Essex, Herts), Bedlar's Green (Essex), Bidwell (Beds, Northants, Devon, Somerset), or Biddles Farm (Bucks), all of which were named as 'the spring or stream in a shallow valley' (Old English **bydwelle*). See *Place-Names of Northants*, p. 222. Later forms have been confused with **Beadel**.
- Early bearers:** Stephen de Bedewell', 1229 in *Close Rolls* (Essex); Johannis Bedwell, 1555 in *IGI* (Stevenage, Herts); Margaret Bedwell, 1559 in *IGI* (Great Amwell, Herts); Peter Bedwell, 1583 in *IGI* (Kelvedon near Colchester, Essex); Katherine Bedwell, 1585 in *IGI* (Benenden, Kent); Morrice Bedwell, 1593 in *IGI* (Reading, Berks).

Bedwin

- **Current frequencies:** GB 52, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 44
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon
- English: locative name from Great and Little Bedwyn (Wilts).

Early bearers: Walter de Bedewynde, 1309 in *London Letter Books D* (London); John de Bedewynd', 1331 in *Feet of Fines* (IoW); William Bedewynde, 1387 in *Feet of Fines* (Watlington, Oxon); Richard Bedewynd, 1392 in *The Church in London* (London); Henry Bedwyn, 1452 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Thos. Bedwin, 1751 in *IGI* (Sunningwell, Berks); George Bedwin, 1791 in *IGI* (Oxford, Oxon).

Bedworth

- Variants:** **Bedder**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 311, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 169
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Warwicks and Staffs
- 1 English: locative name from Bedworth (Warwicks).
- Early bearers:** Willelmo Bedworth, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Scalford, Leics); Jane Bedworth, 1544 in *IGI* (Croston, Lancs); Steven Bedworth, 1605 in *IGI* (Shenstone, Staffs); Willyam Bedder, 1612 in *IGI* (Pinchbeck, Lincs); Thos. Bedder, 1746 in *IGI* (Bedworth, Warwicks).
- 2: see **Budworth**.

Bee

- Variants:** **Bees**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 2093, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 1687
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs, Notts, and Leics
- 1 English: nickname from Middle English *be(e)* 'bee', used most probably for a busy, industrious person.
- Early bearers:** Walter le Be, 1195 in *Oseney Cartulary* (Oxon); Robert Be, 1198 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Yorks); William le Beo, 1243 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Henricus Bee, 1539 in *IGI* (Burton upon Trent, Staffs); Willms. Bee, 1540 in *IGI* (Burton upon Trent, Staffs); John Bee, 1542 in *IGI* (Saint Stephen Coleman Street, London); Margaret Bee, 1549 in *IGI* (Runham, Norfolk); Rogeri Bee, 1550 in *IGI* (Rudston, ER Yorks).
- 2 Chinese: non-standard romanization of the Chinese surname 馬, see **Ma** (1).

Beebe

- **Current frequencies:** GB 258, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 126
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs; Derbys
- English: see **Beeby**.

Beebee

- **Current frequencies:** GB 195, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 211
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs
- English: see **Beeby**.

Beeby

- Variants:** **Beabey**, **Beebee**, **Beebe**, **Bebée**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 1292, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 985
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northants, Leics, and Hunts; also Cumb
- 1 English: locative name from Beeby (Leics).
- Early bearers:** John de Beby, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Leics); Roger de Bebie of Toneworth, 1337 in *Patent Rolls* (Tanworth, Warwicks); Johanne de Beby, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Beeby, Leics); Richard Bebie, 1596 in *York Freeman's Register*; Christopher Beebe, 1627 in *PROB 11* (Halstead, Leics); John Beebee, 1630 in *IGI*

(Plumtree, Notts); Robert Beeby, 1674 in *Hearth Tax* (Suffolk); Edmund Beabey, 1811 in *IGI* (Millbrook, Hants).

2 English: see **Bibby**, which may be the source of the name in Cumb.

Early bearers: Joseph Beebie, 1634 in *IGI* (Crosthwaite, Cumb); John Beebye, 1638 in *IGI* (Cockermouth, Cumb); Elinor Beebey, 1643 in *IGI* (Bridekirk, Cumb);

Beech

- Variants:** **Beach**, **Bech**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 7193, Ireland 44
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 4412
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Staffs, Cheshire, and Shrops
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Limerick
- English: locative name from Middle English *beche* 'beech-tree' (Old English *bēce*) or Middle English *beche* 'stream' (Old English *bæce*).
- Further information:** *Beche* may be from Old English *bēce* 'beech' or *bæce* 'stream', and without further evidence it is impossible to distinguish these in Middle English. In Worcs and Staffs, where *bæce* normally survives as *bach(e)*, *Beche* is probably a variant of this. Robert de Beche, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Cams), came from either Landbeach or Waterbeach, both earlier *Beche* 'stream, valley'. Elias ater Beche, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex), probably lived at Beech Farm (*Battle Abbey Customals*).
- Early bearers:** John de la Beche, 1236 in *Book of Fees* (Worcs); Idonea de Beche, 1240 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Jacob' atte Beche, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); William de la Beche, 1340 in *Feet of Fines* (Staffs); Lawrence Beech, 1548 in *IGI* (Saint Matthew Friday Street, London); Richard Beech, 1560 in *IGI* (Saint Mary Abchurch, London); John Beech, 1562 in *IGI* (Saint Albans, Herts); Nicolas Beech, 1576 in *IGI* (Bromley, Kent); Franciscus Beech, 1581 in *IGI* (Newcastle under Lyme, Staffs).

Beecham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1373, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 801
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs
- Norman, English: see **Beauchamp**.

Beecher

- Variants:** **Beacher**, **Becher**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 616, Ireland 204
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 309
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Cork
- 1 English: locative name from Middle English **becher*, denoting one who lived by a beech-tree, from an agent derivative of Middle English *beche* 'beech-tree' (Old English *bēce*). Compare **Beecham**, and for the formation with *-er* compare **Waterer**.
- Early bearers:** John Becher, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cams); Walter Bechere, 1360 in *Patent Rolls* (Chiddingstone, Kent); Johannes Bechere, 1428 in *Feudal Aids* (Sussex); William Beecher, 1567 in *IGI* (Shipbourne, Kent); Alce Beecher, 1627 in *IGI* (Frant, Sussex).
- References:** *Fransson*, p. 194.
- 2 English: this English name is also common in Ireland.
- Early bearers:** Grant to Phane Beecher, gent., 1588 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §5266 (Cork).

Beechey

Variants: **Beechy, Beachy**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 767, Ireland 2
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 385
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon, Bucks, and Berks
- English: locative name for someone who lived '(by the) beech enclosure', Middle English *beche* + *hay* (Old English *bēce* + *(ge)hæg*).

Early bearers: Thomas de la Bechey, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Oxon); Adam Bechhey, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Alphamstone and Bures, Essex); John Beechy, 1620 in *IGI* (Cumnor, Berks); Mary Beachey, 1674 in *IGI* (Saint Sepulchre, London).

Beeching

- **Current frequencies:** GB 704, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 564
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent and Sussex

English: perhaps from a form related to the first element of Bedgebury in Goudhurst (Kent), recorded as *Bechebyri* around 1270, which might or might not be a personal name.

Early bearers: John Bechyng' the younger, 1382 in *Feet of Fines* (Warmington, Northants); William Bechyng, 1413 in *Patent Rolls* (Kent); John Bechyng', 1448 in *Feet of Fines* (Lamberhurst, Kent); Richard Bechyng, 1450 in *Patent Rolls* (Hawkhurst, Kent); John Bechyng, 1471 in *Canterbury Wills (Probate)* (Benenden, Kent); Elizabeth Beching, 1585, Godley Beechinge, 1610 in *Parish Registers* (Staplehurst, Kent).

Beechley

- **GB frequency 1881:** 6
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
- English: see **Beachley**.

Beechman

- **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- English: locative name for a 'dweller by the beech-tree', Middle English *beche* 'beech-tree' (Old English *bēce*) + *man*. Compare **Beecher**.
- Early bearers:** Willelmo Becheman, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Banstead, Surrey); Johanne Becheman, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Bandonhill in Beddington, Surrey); John Becheman, butcher, 1361 in *Patent Rolls* (Sandhurst, Kent); John Becheman, 1367 in *Canterbury Cathedral Archives* (Staplehurst, Kent); Sarah Beechman, 1742 in *IGI* (Wye, Kent).
- References:** *Fransson*, p. 203.

Beechy

- **Current frequencies:** GB 19, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 106
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Oxon and Berks; Worcs
- English: see **Beechey**.

Beecroft

Variants: **Beacroft, Bycroft, Becroft, Becraft**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1430, Ireland 9
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1256
- **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks and Notts

English: locative name from Beecroft Hall in Horton in Ribblesdale (WR Yorks), which is recorded as *Bigcrofte* in 1534.

Early bearers: Willelmus de Bygcrofft, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Horton in Ribblesdale, WR Yorks); Robertus Bygcroft, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Gisburn, WR Yorks); Cassander Bicroft, 1582 in *IGI* (Frampton, Lincs);

Edward Bycroft, 1671 in *IGI* (Orston, Notts); Aaron Beecroft, 1726 in *IGI* (Fewston, WR Yorks).

References: *Place-Names of WR Yorks* 6, p. 221; *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames*.

Beed

Variants: **Beade**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 80, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 88
- **Main GB location 1881:** Pembrokes

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal *Bede* (Old English *Bēda*, possibly derived from the stem of the verb *bēodan* 'to command'). The name of the Venerable Bede remained in use, though rare, until the 13th century, long enough to become a surname.

Early bearers: Alanus filius Bede de Swainton', 1230 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Raymond Bede, 1260 in *Assize Rolls* (Cambs); Robert Beda, 1275 in *Hundred Rolls* (Wilts); Robt Bead, 1559 in *IGI* (Gedney, Lincs); Daniell Bede, 1601, Anne Beade, 1602 in *IGI* (Ewell, Kent); John Beade, 1602 in *IGI* (Ashcombe, Devon); Thomas Beed, 1657 in *IGI* (Marlborough, Wilts); James Beed, 1760 in *IGI* (Leigh, Lincs).

Beedell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 242, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 171
- **Main GB location 1881:** Devon

English: see **Beadle**.

Beeden

Variants: **Beedon, Beadon, Bedden, Beedham**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 306, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 121
- **Main GB location 1881:** Notts and Lincs; Surrey and Hants

English: (i) locative name from Beedon (Berks), Beadon (in Hennock, Devon), or Baydon (Wilts). (ii) locative name for someone who lived by the hill, from Middle English *bi doun* (Old English, Middle English *dūn* 'hill').

Early bearers: Robert de Bedon, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts*; Johannes Bidun, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Briston, Norfolk); Robertus Bedon, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Cley next the Sea, Norfolk); Robertus Bedon', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Addington, Northants); Willelmus Bedon', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Alveston with members, Warwicks); Johanne Bedoun, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Potterne, Wilts); Edmundo Bedone, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Charlton, Berks); Clement Bedon', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Castle Hedingham, Essex); Johannes Bidon', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Sible Hedingham, Essex); Robertus Bedoun, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Great Finborough, Suffolk); Mary Beadon, 1560 in *IGI* (Woodbury, Devon); Robte Beedon, 1603 in *IGI* (Blickling, Norfolk); Thomas Bedden, 1607 in *IGI* (Buckingham, Bucks); Willm Beddon, 1609 in *IGI* (Campsea Ash, Suffolk); Christian Bedden, 1616 in *IGI* (Warminster, Wilts); Thomas Bedden, 1636 in *IGI* (Welford, Berks); Nicholas Beaden, 1642 in *Protestation Returns* (Devon); Jone Beeden, 1654 in *IGI* (Wells next the Sea, Norfolk); Robert Beeden, 1683 in *IGI* (Wisborough Green, Sussex); Ann Beeden, 1736 in *IGI* (Leasingham, Lincs).

Beedham

Variants: **Beadham**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 501, Ireland 6

- **GB frequency 1881:** 324
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Yorks, Lincs, and Notts
- 1 English: (i) possibly from Bytham (Lincs), with Middle English lengthening and lowering of the main vowel to give modern *Beedham*. (ii) Later forms of the name may have been confused with or represent **Beeden**.

Early bearers: Cecilie de Bytham de Lenton, 1353 in *Coroners' Rolls* (Lenton, Notts); Johannes Bytham, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Stamford, Lincs); Johanne Bytham, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Long Clawson, Leics); Alice Bedham, 1567 in *IGI* (Enderby, Leics); Elizabeth Byddam, 1583 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); Willm Beedham, 1608 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Jane Beedham, 1627 in *IGI* (Kneesall, Notts); Mary Beedom, 1661 in *IGI* (Rolleston, Notts); James Beedham, 1681 in *IGI* (Stubton with Fenton, Lincs).

2 English: see **Beetham**.

Early bearers: Robt. Beedam, 1620 in *IGI* (Keighley, WR Yorks); William Beedum, 1765 in *IGI* (Gate Helmsley, NR Yorks).

Beedie

Variants: **Beedy, Beddie, Biddie**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 532, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 186
- **Main GB location 1881:** Angus, Kincardines, and Aberdeens

Scottish: variant of **Beattie** with intervocalic voicing of /t/ to /d/. See also **Biddy**.

Early bearers: Nicholl Beddy, 1580 in *Brechin Testaments*; David Bedie, 1616 in *Saint Andrews Testaments*; Gilbert Beedie, 1674 in *IGI* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens); William Biddie, 1683 in *IGI* (Peterhead, Aberdeens); Katharine Beadie, 1701 in *IGI* (Arbroath, Angus); William Bydie, 1703 in *IGI* (Saint Fergus, Aberdeens); Margrat Biddie, 1719, William Beedie, 1737 in *IGI* (Grange, Banffs); William Bidey, 1759 in *IGI* (Durriss, Kincardines); Anne Beedie, 1760 in *IGI* (Garvock, Kincardines).

Beedle

- **Current frequencies:** GB 545, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 384
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

English: see **Beadle**.

Beedles

Variants: **Beadles, Bedells, Biddles**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 199, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 97
- **Main GB location 1881:** Montgomerys

English: variant of **Beadle** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Early bearers: Jane Bedells, 1566 in *IGI* (Bedford, Beds); John Beadles, 1600 in *IGI* (Clophill, Beds); Richard Beedles, 1608 in *IGI* (Chatteris, Cambs); Thomas Beedles, 1625 in *IGI* (Water Stratford, Bucks).

Beedon

- **Current frequencies:** GB 67, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 46
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk

English: see **Beeden**.

Beedy

- **GB frequency 1881:** 4
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London
- Scottish: see **Beedie**.

Beeforth

Beeforth

- **Current frequencies:** GB 118, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 64
 - **Main GB location 1881:** NR Yorks and WR Yorks
- English: locative name from Beeford (ER Yorks).
Early bearers: Roberto de Beford, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Kingston upon Hull, ER Yorks); Ricardus de Befforth', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Foxholes, ER Yorks); Jeneta Beeforth, 1603 in *IGI* (Strensall, NR Yorks).

Beegan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 58, Ireland 7
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Galway
- Irish: from Ó Beachain or Ó Beathain, see **Behan**.

Beehan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 42, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 10
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs and WR Yorks
- Irish: from Ó Beachain or Ó Beathain, see **Behan**.

Beeharry

- **Current frequencies:** GB 194, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** o
- Indian: see **Beharry**.

Beeke

- **Current frequencies:** GB 103, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 27
- English: see **Beak**.

Beeken

- **Current frequencies:** GB 289, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 134
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs
- Unexplained; perhaps Dutch, abbreviated from some such place-name as *Beek en Donk* in North Brabant. May be confused with **Beacon** or even **Bacon**, if not simply a local spelling of **Beacon**.
Further information: Strongly associated with Crowland (Lincs).
Early bearers: William Beeken, 1732 in *IGI* (Crowland, Lincs); Mary Beaken, 1752 in *IGI* (Thorney, Cambs).

Beeks

- **Current frequencies:** GB 109, Ireland 10
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 35
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Herefs
- English: possibly a variant of **Beak** with post-medieval excrement -s.
Early bearers: Willm Beakes, 1578 in *IGI* (Dudley, Staffs); Maria Beeks, 1579 in *IGI* (Offord Cluny, Hunts); John Beaks, 1666 in *IGI* (Ashton upon Mersey, Cheshire); Dorotheae Beaks, 1667 in *IGI* (Wimbledon, Surrey); Margaret Beeks, 1776 in *IGI* (Tarrington, Herefs).

Beel

- **Current frequencies:** GB 298, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 214
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cornwall; Lincs
- English: see **Beal**.

Beelby

- **GB frequency 1881:** 25
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Northumb; ER Yorks; Warwicks
- English: see **Bielby**.

Beeley

- Variants:** **Bealey**, **Bealy**
- **Current frequencies:** GB 648, Ireland 3
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 626
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Cheshire and Derbys
- 1 English: locative name from Beeley (Derbys); occasionally perhaps from Beeleigh (Essex) or Beoley (Worcs), though evidence for this is hard to find.
Early bearers: Thomas de Beghley, 1316 in *Derbys Charters*; Geoffrey de Beley, 1357 in *Derbys Charters*; Roger Bealie, 1561 in *IGI* (Trentham, Staffs); Margret Beeley, 1564 in *IGI* (Motttram in Longdendale, Cheshire); Johis Beeley, 1588 in *IGI* (Sheffield, WR Yorks); Henry Bealey, 1606 in *IGI* (Morley, Derbys); Jane Beeley, 1610 in *IGI* (Ashton under Lyne, Lancs); John Bealey, 1629 in *IGI* (Wilmslow, Cheshire); Radulphi Bealy, 1645 in *IGI* (Prestwich, Lancs); Anne Beelie, 1652, Elizabeth Beely, 1654 in *IGI* (Glossop, Derbys).
- 2 English: see **Bealey**.

Beels

- **Current frequencies:** GB 101, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 120
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lincs
- English: see **Beales**.

Beeman

- Variants:** **Beaman**, **Beman**
- **GB frequency 1881:** 107
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent
- 1 English: occupational name from Middle English **bee-man* 'bee-keeper' (Old English *bēo* + *mann*).
Early bearers: R. Beman, 1283 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Suffolk); William le Bemon, 1324 in *Lancs Court Rolls* (Lancs); Willelmus Bemon, 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Hucknall Torkard, Notts); Thomas Beaman, 1566 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); Margeret Beman, 1577 in *IGI* (Hasfield, Gloucs); Edward Beeman, 1616 in *IGI* (Rushbury, Shrops); Francis Beamon, 1634, Edw. Beeman, 1645 in *IGI* (Melksham, Wilts); Henry Beeman, 1656 in *IGI* (Greenwich, Kent).
- 2 Norman, English: variant of **Beaumont**.

Beemer

- **GB frequency 1881:** 2
- English: see **Beamer**.

Been

- **Current frequencies:** GB 23, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 73
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
- English: see **Bean**.

Beene

- **GB frequency 1881:** 9
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Surrey; Suffolk; WR Yorks
- English: see **Bean**.
Further information: This spelling of the name is now rare in Britain but more common in the USA.

Beeney

- **Current frequencies:** GB 491, Ireland 4
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 171
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
- English: see **Beaney**.

Beenham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 111, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 55
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Bucks and Berks; also Herefs
- English: see **Benham**.

Beeny

- **Current frequencies:** GB 138, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 75
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex
- English: see **Beaney**.

Beer

Variants: **Beere**, **Beare**, **Bere**, **Bear**, **Beara**, **Beers**, **De la Bere**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 5018, Ireland 18
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 4778
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, and Dorset; Kent
- 1 English: (i) locative name from any of the 18 places in Devon called Beare or Beara or the 17 called Beer, Beera, or Beere (all named with Old English *bearu* 'grove'). The normal dative of this (*bearwe*) would become *barrow*, but in Devon and the neighbouring counties of Somerset and Dorset it had a dative *beara*, which became Middle English *bere*. In some cases the surname may be topographic in origin, *atte beare* 'at the grove'. (ii) locative name perhaps occasionally from Middle English *bere* 'woodland swine-pasture' (Old English *bær*). Compare **Abear**.
Early bearers: Ordric de Bera, 1168 in *Pipe Rolls* (Devon); William de la Bera, 1168 in *Pipe Rolls* (Hants); Nicholas Attebere, 1247 in *Assize Rolls* (Somerset); Henry del Beer, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Derbys); Anys Beer, 1565 in *IGI* (Crediton, Devon); Richard Beer, 1566 in *IGI* (Cranbrook, Kent); Margaryt Beer, 1589 in *IGI* (Salisbury, Wilts); Joannis Beer, 1629 in *IGI* (Wolstanton, Staffs); Margery Beer, 1631 in *IGI* (Warleggan, Cornwall).
- 2 English: nickname from Middle English *ber(e)* 'bear' (recorded in medieval documents as Latin *ursus*, Old French *urs*).
Early bearers: Tedric' Vrs', 1130 in *Pipe Rolls* (Oxon); Theodoricus le Bere, 1166 in *Oseney Cartulary* (Oxon); Ralph Bere, 1177 in *Pipe Rolls* (Norfolk); Nicholas le Urs, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Staffs); Robert le Beer, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Thomas le Beore, 1355 in *Patent Rolls* (Pedmore, Worcester).
- 3 Jewish (Ashkenazic): translation of German **Bier** or possibly an anglicization of a like-sounding name in some other European language.
Early bearers: Sarah Beer, married in 1712 in *Bevis Marks Records* (London); Barnett Beer, boot finisher, born in Russia, in *Census 1891* (Hackney, Middx); Israel Beer, egg merchant, born in Russia, in *Census 1901* (Hackney, Middx); Solomon Beer, rag dealer, born in Russia, in *Census 1911*.

- 2 Irish: from Ó Béara, see **Berry**.

Beerling

- **Current frequencies:** GB 106, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 146
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

English: locative name from Birling (Kent).

Early bearers: [. . .] de Byrling', 1278 in *Kentish Place-Names*, p. 71; John Byrlinge, 1334 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Langport hundred, Kent); Stevyn Birling or Byrling, 1558 in *PROB 11* (Bredgar, Kent); Agnes Byrlynge, 1577 in *IGI* (Canterbury, Kent); Richus. Beerling, 1605 in *IGI* (Margate, Kent); Tho. Beerling, 1686 in *IGI* (Wickhambreux, Kent); Elizabeth Beerlin, 1789 in *IGI* (Sandwich, Kent).

Beers

Variants: Bears

- **Current frequencies:** GB 272, Ireland 117
- **GB frequency 1881:** 168
- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys, Warwicks, and Oxon
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Down; Dublin

English: variant **Beer** with genitival or post-medieval excrement -s.

Beery

- **GB frequency 1881:** 28
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs; Devon

Irish: from Ó Béara, see **Berry**.

Bees

Variants: Beese

- **Current frequencies:** GB 586, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 471
- **Main GB location 1881:** Somerset, Gloucs, and Monmouths

English: variant of **Bee** with post-medieval excrement -s.

Early bearers: Rich. Beze, 1542 in *IGI* (Sutterton, Lincs); John Bees, 1549 in *IGI* (Rye, Sussex); Tabitha Bees, 1576 in *IGI* (London); Richard Bees, 1592, in *IGI* (Grittleton, Wilts); George Beese, 1729, Thos. Bees, 1744, Ann Bease, 1775 in *IGI* (Bitton, Gloucs);

Beesby

- **GB frequency 1881:** 12

English: see **Bisby**.

Beese

- **Current frequencies:** GB 420, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 213
- **Main GB location 1881:** Gloucs

English: see **Bees**.

Beesley

Variants: Beasley, Beazley, Beazleigh, Beezley, Beisley, Besley, Bezley, Bisley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 3313, Ireland 31
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2391
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands: esp. Warwicks; also WR Yorks and Lancs

1 English: locative name variant of **Bisley**. The Gloucs place-name is recorded as *Beseley* (1555), *Beesley* (1618), and *Biesley* (1621) in *Place-Names of Gloucs*.

Early bearers: Robert Besely, 1357 in *Feet of Fines* (Bampton, Oxon); Watte Besley, 1560 in *PROB 11* (Saint Nicholas Hereford, Herefs); Thomas Beesley, 1567, Valentyn Besley, 1630 in *IGI* (Wootton Wawen,

Warwicks); Richard Beasley, 1585 in *IGI* (Bruton, Somerset); Joanna Beesley, 1593 in *IGI* (Sunningwell, Berks); Henry Beezlie, 1635 in *IGI* (Saint Botolph without Bishopsgate, London); Jhon Beisley, 1643 in *IGI* (Alcester, Warwicks); Richard Beesly, 1643 in *IGI* (Mickleton, Gloucs); John Bezley, 1664 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx); Elizabeth Bezley, 1670 in *IGI* (Buckland, Berks); Joanna Besley, 1703 in *IGI* (Colyton, Devon); Nathaniel Beisly, 1719 in *IGI* (Great Barrington, Gloucs); John Bessley, 1727 in *IGI* (Marcham, Berks); James Beezley, 1736 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Wm Besly, 1744 in *IGI* (Barnstaple, Devon); Thomas Beazley, 1744 in *IGI* (Stalbridge, Dorset); Judith Beaseley, 1749 in *IGI* (Farmborough, Somerset); Anne Beslee, 1763 in *IGI* (Staplehurst, Kent); John Beazeley, 1763 in *IGI* (Birmingham, Warwicks);

2 English: locative name from Beesley (Lancs). See also **Bisley** (2).

Early bearers: Thomas de Besleg, 1246 in *Assize Rolls* (Lancs); William de Besleg, 1392 in *Patent Rolls*; William Beesley, 1564 in *IGI* (Leigh, Lancs); Elizabeth Besley, 1576 in *IGI* (Aldborough, WR Yorks); Francis Besley, 1615 in *IGI* (Wakefield, WR Yorks); Richard Beesly, 1667 in *IGI* (Saint Helens, Lancs); Anna Beesley, 1725 in *IGI* (Waddington, WR Yorks); Maria Beezley, 1693 in *IGI* (Colne, Lancs); Frances Beisly, 1698, William Beisley, 1711 in *IGI* (Huyton, Lancs).

3 English: occasionally, perhaps, a variant of **Baseley**, especially in the S and E Midlands. Some of the following bearers may alternatively belong under (1).

Early bearers: Edward Beesley, 1568 in *IGI* (Walkern, Herts); Jo. Beasley, 1619 in *IGI* (Norwich, Norfolk); William Beezley, 1633 in *IGI* (Ely, Cambs); Jane Beasley, 1636 in *IGI* (Borden, Kent); William Beasley, 1644 in *IGI* (Southwark, Surrey); Mary Beazley, 1665 in *IGI* (Bedford, Beds); William Beezley, 1689 in *IGI* (Redbourn, Herts).

Beeson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1740, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1190
- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys, Leics, and Lincs; Bucks

English: see **Beeston**.

Beesting

- **Current frequencies:** GB 45, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 29
- **Main GB location 1881:** N Midlands: esp. Shrops and Staffs; also Lancs and WR Yorks

English: see **Beeston**.

Early bearers: Francis Beesting, 1751 in *IGI* (Workshop, Notts); John Beasting, 1754 in *IGI* (Chesterfield, Derbys).

Beeston

Variants: Beaston, Beston, Beeson, Beason, Besson, Beesting

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1822, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1257
- **Main GB location 1881:** Midlands: esp. Shrops, Staffs, Derbys, and Notts

1 English: locative name from Beeston (Notts, pronounced *Beeson*), Beeston (Cheshire), Beeston Regis, Beeston Saint Andrew, Beeston Saint Lawrence, Beeston with Bittering (all Norfolk), or Beeston in Sandy (Beds).

Early bearers: William de Beston(e), 1153–66 in *Saint Benet of Holme Register* (Norfolk); William de Beston(e), 1205 in *Pipe Rolls* (Notts); Henricus Beeston', 1377 in *Poll Tax* (Langham, Rutland); Johannes de Beston', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Great Fransham, Norfolk); Marg' de Beeston', 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Boston, Lincs); George Beeston, 1567 in *IGI* (Flamborough, ER Yorks); Doratheia Beeston, 1574 in *IGI* (Bunbury, Cheshire); Margeria Beeston, 1577 in *IGI* (Branston, Lincs); Arthure Beeston, 1579 in *IGI* (Keighley, WR Yorks); Thomas Beeston, 1586 in *IGI* (Bletsoe, Beds).

References: *Place-Names of Beds and Hunts*, pp. 107–8.

2 English: locative name from Beeston (WR Yorks).

Early bearers: Andrew de Bieston', 1203 in *Pipe Rolls* (Yorks); Herbert de Beston', 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Richard de Bestayn, 1297 in *Earldom of Cornwall Accounts* (Yorks); Radulphus de Beston', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Beeston, WR Yorks); Ricardus de Beeston', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (East Rigton, WR Yorks). 3 English: locative name for someone who lived '(to the) east of the hamlet', Old English *bi ēastan tūne*, as in the case of Ralph de Bestune, who came from The Beesons in Sutton (Cambs), recorded as *Estounesende* in 1302 and *Beestoun* in 1348, '(the place) to the east of the hamlet', in contrast to *Westounesende* de Sutton (*Place-Names of Cambs* p. 239).

Early bearers: William Besteton, Ralph Biesteton, about 1248 in *Bec Abbey Documents* (Hants); Ralph Byeston, 1256 in *Ramsey Abbey Court Rolls* (Hunts); Ralph de Bestune, 1279 in *Hundred Rolls* (Cambs).

Beet

Variants: Beat, Beets

- **Current frequencies:** GB 644, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 424
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks, Lancs, Notts, and Lincs

English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Bete*, a pet form of *Betris* (Beatrice). Compare **Bett** and **Beatrice**.

Early bearers: England: Adam Bete, 1298 in *Derbys Charters*, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Lancs); Richard Bete, rector, 1419 in *Patent Rolls*, 1444 in *York Registry Wills* (Kirk Smeaton, WR Yorks); Francys Beet, 1562 in *IGI* (Salisbury, Wilts); Jo. Beat, 1634 in *IGI* (Croston, Lancs).

Scotland: Janot Beatt, 1643 in *IGI* (Brechin, Angus); Johne Beat, 1654 in *IGI* (Leith, Midlothian); John Beatt, 1654 in *Dunblane Testaments* (Cargill, Perth); Janet Beet, 1677 in *IGI* (Dunino, Fife).

Beetham

Variants: Beatham, Betham, Beadham, Beedham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 564, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 498
- **Main GB location 1881:** Westm; also WR Yorks

English: locative name from Beetham (Westm).

Early bearers: Ralph de Bethum, 1279 in *Assize Rolls* (Northumb); Abilla de Bethum, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Lonsdale wapentake, Lancs); Johannes de Bethum, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Denton, WR Yorks); Robertus de Bethum, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Elland, WR Yorks); John de Bethum, 1392 in *Feet of Fines* (York); John de Bethum, 1423 in *Feet of Fines* (Osmotherley, NR Yorks); Thomas Betham, 1539, Thome Beatham, 1592 in *IGI* (Kirkby Lonsdale, Westm); Mary Beatham, 1666 in *IGI* (Skipton, WR Yorks).

Beetle

Beetle

- **Current frequencies:** GB 10, Ireland o
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 37
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- English: see **Bettle**.

Beetlestone

Variants: **Biddlestone, Biddleston**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 223, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 119
- **Main GB location 1881:** Shrops; Warwicks

English: locative name from Biddlestone in Llangarron (Herefs), influenced by folk etymological association with the word *beetle*.

Early bearers: Alice Biddlestone, 1636 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); Ane Beetlestone, 1670, John Biddlestone, 1741 in *IGI* (Brewood, Staffs); Emanuel Biddleston, 1673 in *IGI* (Crowle, Worcs); Thomas Beetleson, 1675 in *IGI* (Sutton Maddock, Shrops); Wm Beetleston, 1689 in *IGI* (West Bromwich, Staffs).

Beeton

Variants: **Beaton, Beton, Betton**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 826, Ireland 18
- **GB frequency 1881:** 927
- **Main GB location 1881:** Cambs and Suffolk

1 English: relationship name from the Middle English personal name *Beton*, a diminutive of *Bete*, a pet form of *Beatrice* (see **Beet**).

Early bearers: given names: Beton de Wath, 1379 in *Yorks Poll Tax*; Bete or Betune (Beatryse), about 1440 in *Promptorium Parvulorum*.

surnames: John Betoun, 1311 in *Colchester Court Rolls* (Essex); Richard Beton, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Derbys); Jo. Beton, 1565 in *IGI* (Soham, Cambs); John Beeton, 1565 in *IGI* (Melbourn, Cambs); Armigill Beton, 1617 in *IGI* (Clerkenwell, Middx); Samuel Beeton, 1727 in *IGI* (Wickhambrook, Suffolk).
2 English: see **Betton**.

Beets

- **Current frequencies:** GB 51, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 52
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent; Norfolk; Lancs

English: variant of **Beet** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Early bearers: England: John Beets or Betts, 1610 in *PROB 11* (Pakenham, Suffolk); Richard Beats, 1624 in *IGI* (Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumb); Martha Beets, 1638 in *IGI* (Great Yarmouth, Norfolk); John Beets, 1644 in *IGI* (Rochester, Kent).

Scotland: Margaret Beats, 1653 in *IGI* (Old Machar, Aberdeens); Jeane Beats, 1663 in *IGI* (Leith, Midlothian); George Beets, 1749 in *IGI* (Barony, Lanarks).

Beetson

- **Current frequencies:** GB 102, Ireland 6
- **GB frequency 1881:** 82
- **Main GB location 1881:** Northants; Lancs

English: see **Beatson**.

Beever

- **Current frequencies:** GB 952, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 495
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Beaver**.

Beevers

Variants: **Beavers, Beavors, Beevors, Bevers**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1415, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 756
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: variant of **Beaver** with post-medieval excrescent -s.

Beevis

- **Current frequencies:** GB 148, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 93
- **Main GB location 1881:** Suffolk and Norfolk

Norman: see **Beavis**.

Beevor

- **Current frequencies:** GB 340, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 193
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk and Suffolk; Notts

English: see **Beaver**.

Beevors

- **Current frequencies:** GB 17, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 141
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

English: see **Beevers**.

Beezley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 52, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 87
- **Main GB location 1881:** London; Gloucs

English: see **Beesley**.

Beg

- **Current frequencies:** GB 692, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 8

1 Turkish, Bosnian: status name from Turkish *beg* 'bey', a title of respect and also a very high rank in the Ottoman military.

2 Slovenian: nickname from *beg* 'escape, getaway', probably denoting a refugee.

Begadon

- **GB frequency 1881:** o

Irish: explained by Woulfe as an anglicized form (in Carlow) of Ó Beagacháin, 'descendant of *Beagachán*', a personal name based on *beag* 'small'. Names with the ending -*achán* were often anglicized as either -*agan* or -*ahan* (see **Hourigan, Hanrahan**), although the presence of *d* rather than *g* is unusual. **Early bearers:** Donogh O Beggahan, and Donyll O Begkehan, 1600 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6447 (Klinkarill, Carlow).

Begam

- **Current frequencies:** GB 113, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** o

Muslim: see **Begum**.

Began

- **Current frequencies:** GB 21, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 41
- **Main GB location 1881:** Glasgow

Irish: from Ó Beagáin, see **Beggan**.

Begbie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 520, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 462

- **Main GB location 1881:** widespread in Scotland: esp. Midlothian

Scottish: locative name from the lands of Begbie (formerly Baikbie) in Haddington (E Lothian).

Early bearers: John Baikbie, William Baikbie, 1566 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Drem, E Lothian); Michael Begbie, 1612 in *IGI* (Tranent, E Lothian); Margaret Begbie, 1628 in *IGI* (Pencaitland, E Lothian).

Begent

- **Current frequencies:** GB 106, Ireland o
- **GB frequency 1881:** 52
- **Main GB location 1881:** Kent

Norman, English: see **Baigent**.

Begg

Variants: **Beggs, Small, Baig**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 2095, Ireland 66
- **GB frequency 1881:** 1815
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Scotland: esp. Caithness and Aberdeens

- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Meath

1 Scottish Gaelic and Irish: nickname from *beag* 'small'. In Ireland, this name has also been anglicized as **Small**.

Early bearers: Scotland: Malcolm beg, about 1208–14 in *Glasgow Register* (Campsie, Stirlings); Malise Beg, burgess, 1300 in *Laing Charters* (Stirling, Stirlings); John Beg, 1329 in *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland* (Cardross, Dunbartons); Bessie Begg, 1612 in *IGI* (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Christane Begg, 1638 in *IGI* (Aberdeen, Aberdeens).

Ireland: Richard Bege, gent., 1559 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §148 (Freyseliston, Meath); Matthew Begg, 1560 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §249 (Boranston); Rory Begge, 1567 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1068 (Kilkenny); Thomas Og Beg, 1601 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6494 (Kerry).

2 English: nickname from Old French *bègue* 'stammerer'.

Early bearers: Edwin le bege, 1214 in *Pipe Rolls* (Devon); Henry Begge, 1327 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Somerset); Robert Begg, 1503 in *Yorks Wills*.

Beggan

Variants: **Began, Biggane, Bagan, Biggins, Beagan**

- **Current frequencies:** GB 94, Ireland 37
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 6
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** S Ulster and Meath
- Irish: from Ó Beagáin 'descendant of *Beagán*', a personal name from a diminutive of *beag* 'small'. The name has been anglicized as **Little, Lyttle**, and **Littleton**.

Early bearers: Morghe O'Bekane, 1564 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §615; John Beaghan, 1564 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §643 (Norrage, Kildare); John O'Bekayn, 1569 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1388 (Ballymowloyrd); George Beacon, butcher, 1578 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §3420 (Dublin); Donogh O'Beggan, 1601 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6576 (Balliregane); Ownie Becan or Becan, yeoman, 1603 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6769 (Kildare); John Biggan, 1796 in *Flaxgrowers Ireland* (Aghanloo, Derry).

Beggar

- **GB frequency 1881:** 6

English: nickname from Middle English *begger(e)*, *beggar(e)* 'beggar' Old French *begart*, *begar(d)*.

Early bearers: Richard Beggere, 1210–11 in *Winchester Pipe Roll*; Adam le Beggare, 1275 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Worcs); Adam Beggere, 1314 in *Inquisitiones post Mortem* (Wilts); Sarah Beggar, 1791 in *IGI* (Westminster, Middx); William Beggar, 1795 in *IGI* (Manchester, Lancs); Mary Beggar, 1805 in *IGI* (Lambeth, Surrey); James Beggar, 1816 in *IGI* (Maidstone, Kent).

Beggs

- **Current frequencies:** GB 879, Ireland 993
- **GB frequency 1881:** 399
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Scotland: esp. Ayr
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Antrim

Scottish: variant of **Begg** with post-medieval excrement -s.

Beglan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 60, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 11
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Durham; Cheshire
- Irish: see **Beglin**.

Begley

Variants: Bigley, Beagley, Bigelow

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1731, Ireland 1564
- **GB frequency 1881:** 506
- **Main GB location 1881:** Glasgow; Lancs; Pembrokes
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread: esp. Derry; Kerry

Irish: from Ó **Beaglaioich** ‘descendant of *Beaglaoch*’, a personal name meaning ‘little hero’.

Early bearers: Donogh mcEy O’Beggelly, gallowglass, 1572 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §2109 (Cork); Conoghor O’Beggilly, gallowglass, 1577 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §3032 (Cork); Hugh Mac Neall O’Biggely, 1585 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §4726; Conoghor mc Shane Beggly, 1601 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6558; Eae mcShane I Begly, 1601 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6558 (Carrig Roghan).

Beglin

Variants: Beglan, Biglan, Biglen

- **Current frequencies:** GB 116, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 20
 - **Main GB location 1881:** scattered
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Longford
- Irish: from Ó **Beigleighinn**, ‘descendant of *Beigleighinn*’, a personal name meaning ‘little scholar’ or ‘of small learning’. This was the name of a medical family. The English surname **Bignall** has sometimes been adopted as an anglicization.
- Early bearers:** Tho. O Begleyn, weaver, and Teig O Bigleyn, cottier, 1592 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §5740 (Gartlanstowne and Dirrenegarragh, Connacht); Hugh O Biglen, and Donogh O Begline, 1602 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §6699 (Lisnanonagh and Cloonbronee, Longford).

Begom

- **Current frequencies:** GB 116, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Muslim: see **Begum**.

Begrie

- **GB frequency 1881:** 43
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Aberdeens
- Scottish: see **Beagrie**.

Begum

Variants: Begom, Begam, Begun

- **Current frequencies:** GB 51234, Ireland 36
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim: from a female honorific, equivalent to ‘lady’ or ‘Mrs’.

Begun

- **Current frequencies:** GB 102, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Muslim: see **Begum**.

Beh

- **Current frequencies:** GB 74, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- 1 German: possibly one of many variants of Boehm.
 - 2 Chinese: Teochew form of the Chinese surname 馬, see **Ma** (1).
 - 3 Chinese: non-standard romanization of the Chinese surname 白, see **Pak** (1).
 - 4 Chinese: non-standard romanization of the Chinese surname 麥, see **Mak** (1).

Behan

Variants: Beahan, Beehan, Behen, Behun, Beagan, Beegan, Bean

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1122, Ireland 2380
- **GB frequency 1881:** 104
- **Main GB location 1881:** Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** widespread in S Ireland: esp. Kildare

Irish: (i) from Ó **Beachain** ‘descendant of *Beachán*’, a personal name based on a diminutive of *beach* ‘bee’. (ii) alternatively, perhaps, from Ó **Beathain** ‘descendant of *Beathán*’, a personal name based on a diminutive of *beatha* ‘life’. Compare **Bean**, **McBeth**.

Early bearers: Maurice O’Begayn, butcher, 1559 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §177 (Limerick); John Beaghan, 1564 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §643 (Norrage, Kildare); David (Fitz Donoghe) O’Beaghane, 1567 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1045 (Waterford); Thomas Beaghan, husbandman, 1569 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1364 (Cloneykynn).

Beharrell

Variants: Barrell

- **Current frequencies:** GB 191, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 91
 - **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks; Cambs
- Huguenot: nickname apparently from a variant of French *bihoreau* ‘(black-crowned) night heron’ (from earlier *buhoreau*). The name was sometimes assimilated to *Barrel(l)*. *Redmonds, Dictionary of Yorks Surnames* notes Francis Beharell, Francis Barrel in the 1811 parish register of Drypool (ER Yorks).
- Early bearers:** Charles Beharel, 1590 in *IGI* (Walloon or Strangers Church, Canterbury, Kent); Nathanel Beharrell, 1717 in *IGI* (Wawne, ER Yorks); Elisha Beharrell, 1745 in *IGI* (Beverley, ER Yorks); John Beharrell, 1801 in *IGI* (Doddington, Cambs).
- References:** *Morlet, Dictionnaire*, at *Bihoreau*.

Beharry

Variants: Beeharry

- **Current frequencies:** GB 160, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Indian: from Hindi *bihārī*, a common final element in Hindu personal names in India, from Sanskrit *vihārī* ‘one who roams about for pleasure’ or ‘beautiful’.

Further information: The name is found among people of Indian origin in Guyana and Trinidad.

Behen

- **GB frequency 1881:** 7
- Irish: from Ó **Beachain** or Ó **Beathain**, see **Behan**.
- Further information:** This spelling of the name is rare in Britain but quite common in the USA.

Behenna

- **Current frequencies:** GB 136, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 146
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Devon and Cornwall
- Cornish: locative name possibly from a lost Cornish place, such as that now called *Bessy Benath* (recorded as *Bosanneth alias Bosawna* in 1612), on the border of Veryan and Ruan Lanihorne parishes.
- Early bearers:** John Behennow, 1522 in *Cornwall Military Survey* (Saint Michael Carhayes, Cornwall); Edward Behanno, 1543 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Veryan, Cornwall); Seblie Behennow, 1627 in *IGI* (Probus, Cornwall); Richard Behenna, 1633 in *IGI* (Saint Enoder, Cornwall); Elizabeth Behennah, 1723 in *IGI* (Kea, Cornwall).
- References:** Information from O. J. Padel.

Behr

- **Current frequencies:** GB 111, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 49
- German and Dutch: from a variant of the personal name *Bähr* (see **Baer**).
- Early bearers:** Isaac Behr, 1791 in *IGI* (Sudbury, Suffolk); Joseph Behr, 1812 in *IGI* (Plumbland, Cumb); Conrad Theodore Behr, 1874 in *IGI* (Stepney, Middx).

Behrens

- **Current frequencies:** GB 201, Ireland 1
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 142
 - **Main GB location 1881:** London; Lancs
- Dutch, North German, Jewish (Ashkenazic): relationship name, patronymic from the personal name *Behrend*, a variant of *Bernhard* (see **Barnard**).
- Further information:** Documentary evidence suggests that the earlier form *Be(h)rendes* was generally replaced by *Behrens* during the 17th century. Among Jews it may have been adopted as an ornamental name or been a handout name.
- Early bearers:** German: George Behrens, 1721 in *IGI* (Saint Giles Cripplegate, London); Johannes Behrens, 1800 in *IGI* (Liverpool, Lancs); Fredrich Behrens, 1807 in *IGI* (Saint Marylebone, Middx); Johann Diederick Behrens, 1861 in *IGI* (Bristol); Gotlieb Behrens, sugar baker, born in Hanover, Germany, in *Census 1891* (Saint George in the East, Middx).
- Jewish: Sarah Behrens, 1838 in *Great and Hambro Synagogue Births* (London); Barnet, son of Joseph Behrens, jeweller, born in ‘foreign parts’, in *Census 1841* (Finsbury, Middx); Solomon Behrens, merchant born in ‘foreign parts’, in *Census 1841* (Chorlton, Lancs); Isaac Behrens, pawnbroker, born in Prussia, in *Census 1871* (Manchester, Lancs).

Behun

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0
- Irish: from Ó **Beachain** or Ó **Beathain**, see **Behan**.
- Further information:** This spelling of the name is almost extinct in Britain but is quite common in the USA.

Beighton

- **Current frequencies:** GB 785, Ireland 3
- **GB frequency 1881:** 449
- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys, Notts, and WR Yorks

English: locative name from Beighton in Derbys (*Bectune*, 1086 in *Domesday Book*).

Early bearers: Thomas de Becton, 1279 in *Patent Rolls*; Robert de Beyghton of Notyngham, 1347, Robert de Beghton, 1355 in *Patent Rolls* (Nottingham, Notts); Stephanus de Beghton', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Castleford, WR Yorks); Rogerus de Begton', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Burghwallis, WR Yorks); Robert Beghton, 1491 in *York Registry Wills* (Yorks); John Beighton, 1560 in *IGI* (Bradfield, WR Yorks); William Beghton, 1619 in *IGI* (Wirksworth, Derbys); George Beighton, 1645 in *PROB 11* (Crich, Derbys).

Beilby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 328, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 334
- **Main GB location 1881:** ER Yorks

English: see **Bielby**.

Beirne

Variants: O'Beirne, O'Beirn, O'Beirne

- **Current frequencies:** GB 952, Ireland 1401
- **GB frequency 1881:** 71
- **Main GB location 1881:** Denbighs, Cheshire, and Lancs
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Roscommon

Irish: from Ó Beirn 'descendant of *Beirn*', which is probably either an Irish form of the Old Scandinavian personal name *Björn* or a variant of the earlier Irish personal name *Bran*, as in **O'Byrne**. **Early bearers:** Ireland: Aedh Ua Birn, 1273 in *AU*; Gilla-Crist Ua Birn, 1274 in *AU*; Muircertach Ua Birn, son of Imhur Ua Birn, 1300 in *AU*; Hugh O'Byrn, 1550 in *Fiants Edward* §537; John glas O'Berne, galloglass, 1550 in *Fiants Edward* §603; Gerald O'Birne, gent., 1563 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §579 (Newre); Tege oge O'Byrne, chief, 1566 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §848 (Dublin); Cayer carraghe O'Byrn, gent., 1567 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1036 (Corranroo, Dublin); Brian O'Berne, horseboy, 1571 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §1741 (Meylerston, Kildare); Donogh boy O Beirn, 1590 in *Fiants Elizabeth* §5468 (Porterin, Roscommon).

Beisley

- **Current frequencies:** GB 28, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 57
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Berks and Surrey
- English: see **Beesley**.

Beith

- **Current frequencies:** GB 218, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 289
- **Main GB location 1881:** W Scotland: esp. Renfrews

Scottish: locative name from Beith (Ayr).

Early bearers: Archibald Beith, Thomas Beitht, 1497–1501 in *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland* (Nithsdale, Dumfries); William Beith, 1585–87 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Auchorties, Morays); Archibald Beith, 1669 in *Privy Council of Scotland Register* (Arran, Bute); Archibald Beeth, 1762 in *IGI* (Irvine, Ayr). **References:** *Black*.

Bekir

- **Current frequencies:** GB 186, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

Turkish: relationship name from the given name *Bekir*, corresponding to and derived from Arabic *Baqir*, from *baqir* 'beloved', or a nickname from the same source.

Bekker

- **Current frequencies:** GB 165, Ireland 4
- **GB frequency 1881:** 2

Dutch: occupational name denoting a baker, Middle Dutch *backere*. Compare German **Becker**.

Early bearers: Conrad Bekker, 1853 in *IGI* (Bury Saint Edmunds, Suffolk); Fredericka Bekker, in *Census 1871* (Midlothian); John Bekker, tailor, born in Germany, in *Census 1881* (Birmingham, Warwicks); Rudolf Bekker, in *Census 1901* (Kent).

Bel

- **Current frequencies:** GB 30, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 22
- **Main GB location 1881:** Leics

English: see **Bell**.

Belassie

- **Current frequencies:** GB 18, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: see **Belsey**.

Belben

- **Current frequencies:** GB 131, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 98
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset

English: see **Belbin**.

Belbin

Variants: Belben

- **Current frequencies:** GB 348, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 251
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset; also Wilts and Hants

English: possibly a nickname from the plant-name *Convolvulus arvensis* 'bindweed', which is notoriously hard to get rid of. It is known by a host of regional names, the first element being *bear-*, *bell-*, *bed-*, and the second *-bine*, *-bind*, *-wind*, and so on. The combination *bellbind* is known from Somerset and E Anglia, and others from this list in S England. **Early bearers:** Edward Belbine, 1564 in *IGI* (Ringwood, Hants); Margorie Belbin, 1573 in *IGI* (Ringwood, Hants); Umphery Belbin, 1597 in *IGI* (Ringwood, Hants); James Belben, 1665 in *IGI* (Ringwood, Hants); Robt. Bellben, 1754 in *IGI* (Bere Regis, Dorset).

References: G. Grigson (1958), *The Englishman's Flora*, London, pp. 308–9.

Belby

- **Current frequencies:** GB 31, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 20
 - **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks and Lancs; Kent
- English: see **Bielby**.

Belch

- **Current frequencies:** GB 124, Ireland 27
- **GB frequency 1881:** 150

- **Main GB location 1881:** Middx, Surrey, and Herts; Lanarks
- English: see **Balch**.

Belcham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 81, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 227
 - **Main GB location 1881:** SE England: esp. Essex
- English: see **Belsham**.

Belchamber

Variants: Bellchamber, Bellchambers, Belchambers

- **Current frequencies:** GB 268, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 186
- **Main GB location 1881:** Sussex, Surrey, and Kent

English: locative name, occupational name presumably for the keeper of a bellchamber, the room where bells were hung in a bell tower or in a belfry, from Middle English (Old English) *belle* 'bell' + Middle English (Old French) *chambre* 'room'. However, the compound is not recorded in *OED* before 1848. A keeper of a bellchamber may also have been the bell ringer.

Further information: Reaney points out that the 1369 example was earlier *atte Belchambre*, and that there is no evidence to support Bardsley's view that *Belchamber* was a variant of *Bellencombe*. The family of William Belencumbre (1235 in *Assize Rolls*) originated in Bellencombe (Seine-Maritime, Normandy) and settled in Essex. It has long been extinct, their name surviving in Belcumber Hall in Finchingfield. According to McKinley, the surname Bellchamber is first recorded in Sussex in the late 13th century. Richard Belechambr or Belechombre was tenant of a virgate in Slindon before 1285, and Walter Belechambre possessed land in Kirdford before 1334.

Early bearers: Thomas Belchambre, 1369 in *London Letter Books G*; Robertus Belchambr', 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Bury, Sussex); William Belchamber, 1543 in *IGI* (Worthing, Sussex); Jone Bellchamber, 1566 in *IGI* (Angmering, Sussex); Wm Belchamber, 1603 in *IGI* (Reading, Berks); George Belchamber, 1608 in *IGI* (Norton, Kent); Willa Bellchamber, 1622 in *IGI* (Stratford Saint Mary, Suffolk); Thomas Bellchamber, 1638 in *IGI* (Cliddesden, Hants); John Bellchamber, 1657 in *IGI* (Holborn, Middx). **References:** *Surnames of Sussex*, p. 186.

Belchambers

- **Current frequencies:** GB 38, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 65
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Kent and Sussex
- English: see **Bellchambers**.

Belchem

- **Current frequencies:** GB 38, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 21
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex; Surrey
- English: see **Belsham**.

Belcher

Variants: Belsher, Belshaw, Bellshaw, Beushaw, Bewshea, Bewsey, Bewsher, Busher, Boshier, Bowsher, Beausire, Beazer, Bowser, Boucher, Bouchier, Bowcher

- **Current frequencies:** GB 5020, Ireland 8
- **GB frequency 1881:** 3586

- **Main GB location 1881:** W Midlands, Berks, Oxon, and Gloucs; London; also WR Yorks
 - **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Kilkenny; Cork
- 1 Norman, English: nickname from Old French *bel ch(i)ere* or *beu ch(i)ere*, which had various senses, including ‘fair face or looks’, ‘fine manners’, ‘good company’, ‘good cheer, food and drink, hospitality’. Compare **Goacher**. In N England the ending of the name was sometimes reinterpreted as *-shaw* and *-shea* as though it were a locative surname. Some of the following early bearers may alternatively belong under (2).

Early bearers: W England: Richard Belecher, 1274 in *Hundred Rolls* (Gloucs); Alexander Belsier, Belshyre, 1542 in *Oseney Cartulary* (Oxon); William Belcher, 1548 in *IGI* (Denchworth, Berks); Walterus Belcher, 1552 in *IGI* (Burton upon Trent, Staffs); John Belcher, 1565 in *IGI* (Deerhurst, Gloucs); Robert Belsher, 1566 in *IGI* (Frampton Cotterell, Gloucs); Henry Bowschere, 1575 in *Oxford University Register*; William Belsheer, 1587 in *IGI* (Bath, Somerset); Richarde Belshyre, 1596, Richard Bousher, 1691 in *IGI* (Bristol, Gloucs); William Bowsher, 1603, Francis Bowshire, 1641 in *IGI* (Marlborough, Wilts); Robert Belsire, 1617, William Belshire, 1710 in *IGI* (Yate, Gloucs); Mary Belsheare, 1641 in *IGI* (Westbury, Wilts); John Bowsier, 1686 in *IGI* (East Challow, Berks). E England: Alexander Belcher, 1453 in *Feet of Fines* (Essex); Margaret Bewcher, 1530 in *Suffolk Archaeology Proceedings* (Suffolk); Katherine Belcher, 1640 in *IGI* (High Halden, Kent); Henry Belsher, 1662 in *Hearth Tax* (Essex); James Bellshaw, 1667 in *IGI* (Cheshunt, Herts).

N England: Thomas Belcher, 1219 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Ricardus Beauchir, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Scotton, WR Yorks); Johannes Belschagh, 1379 in *Poll Tax* (Armthorpe, WR Yorks); William Bewshawe, 1539 in *York Freeman's Register*; Mabel Bowsher, 1573, Thomas Bewsher, 1608 in *IGI* (Askham, Westm); Brandie Bewshaw, 1613 in *IGI* (Brompton by Sawdon, NR Yorks); Marey Belshaw, 1636 in *IGI* (Bolton, Lancs); Rachael Beusher, 1787 in *IGI* (Penrith, Cumb); Henry Mitchenson Bewshea, 1859 in *IGI* (Dalton in Furness, Lancs); George Boushear, 1890 in *IGI* (Atherton, Lancs).

2 Norman, English: nickname from Old French *bel, beu* + *sire* ‘fair sir’, a term of address (compare **Goodsir**, **Sweetser**). From at least the 15th century this name was probably confused with (1) above, owing to the pronunciation of Middle English *beu sire* and *bel sire* as ‘bewcher’ and ‘belsher’. In the York Plays Herod sarcastically addresses a messenger, ‘Bewcher! wele ye be’, and, when Annas orders a boy who has been bound to be brought in, the soldier mockingly announces, ‘London, here is the belschere broght that ye bad bring’.

Early bearers: Geoffrey Beusire, 1226 in *Curia Regis Rolls* (Essex); John Belsire, 1274 in *Hundred Rolls* (Kent); Ricardus Beuser, 1297 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Crigglestone, WR Yorks); Walter Beusire, 1301 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Thornaby, NR Yorks); Gregory Bousyre, 1314–16 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Staffs); Andrew Beausire, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Combe Raleigh, Devon).

Belcourt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 28, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: locative name from Old French *bel(le)* ‘beautiful’ + *co(u)rt* ‘court, residence’, presumably

for someone who lived at or near a place so named. It does not appear to occur independently in the UK before the modern period.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Early bearers: Dorina Belcourt, born in the USA, 1891 in *Census 1891* (London).

Beld

- **GB frequency 1881:** 0

English: nickname from Middle English *beld* ‘brave, courageous’ (Old English *beald*). Compare **Bold** (2). **Further information:** This name has died out in Britain but continues to thrive in the USA.

Early bearers: Roger le Belde, 1317–18 in *Feet of Fines* (Surrey); William Belde, 1378 in *London Letter Books F* (London); Henrie Beld, 1545 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Wilts); Peter Beld, 1828 in *IGI* (Farnworth near Prescott, Lancs); Thomas Beld, 1832 in *IGI* (Tibberton, Shrops).

Beldam

Variants: Beldom, Beldan, Beldham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 50, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 95
- **Main GB location 1881:** Hunts and Cambs

Norman, English: nickname from Anglo-Norman French *beledame* ‘fine lady’, perhaps used as a derogatory term.

Further information: Middle English *beldam* ‘grandmother’ is not recorded before about 1440 and the sense ‘aged woman, hag’ not until the 16th century.

Early bearers: Godfrey Beledame, 1296 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Richard Beledame, 1332 in *Subsidy Rolls* (Sussex); Robert Beldame, 1375 in *Jönsjö, Nicknames* (Yorks); Elsebeth Beldam, 1540 in *IGI* (Rudgwick, Sussex); Samuel Beldam, 1648 in *IGI* (Foxton, Cambs); Francisci Beldam, 1652 in *IGI* (Braithwell, WR Yorks).

References: *Jönsjö, Nicknames*, p. 53.

Beldan

- **GB frequency 1881:** 43
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks

1 Norman, English: see **Beldam**.

2 English: see **Baildon**.

3 English: see **Beldon**.

Belden

- **Current frequencies:** GB 49, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 29
- **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk

English: see **Beldon**.

Beldham

- **Current frequencies:** GB 74, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 76
- **Main GB location 1881:** scattered

Norman, English: variant of **Beldam** with intrusive *h*.

Beldin

- **GB frequency 1881:** 5

English: see **Balding**.

Further information: This name is rare in Britain but is thriving in the USA.

Belding

- **Current frequencies:** GB 142, Ireland 0

- **GB frequency 1881:** 113
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Norfolk
- English: see **Balding**.

Beldom

- **Current frequencies:** GB 59, Ireland 0
 - **GB frequency 1881:** 18
 - **Main GB location 1881:** Essex
- Norman, English: see **Beldam**.

Beldon

Variants: Belden, Beldan

- **Current frequencies:** GB 118, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 165
- **Main GB location 1881:** WR Yorks; Durham

1 English: locative name from Beldon Hill in Manningham (WR Yorks).

Early bearers: Hugh de Beldon, 1204 in *Assize Rolls* (Yorks); Anne Beldon, 1559 in *IGI* (Dewsbury, WR Yorks); Robert Beldon, 1570 in *IGI* (Dronfield, Derbys); Edward Beldon, 1580 in *IGI* (Saint Mary Woolnoth, London); Emery Beldon, 1582 in *IGI* (Petworth, Sussex); Johis Beldon, 1599 in *IGI* (Saint Albans, Herts).

2 English: see **Baildon**. Redmonds notes Israel Bayldon or Beldon, 1662–5 in *Parish Registers* (Mirfield, WR Yorks), and Joseph Beldon or Beldom, 1670–2 in *Hearth Tax* (Sheffield, WR Yorks).

Belenger

- **Current frequencies:** GB 26, Ireland 0
- **GB frequency 1881:** 13
- **Main GB location 1881:** Dorset

English: see **Berringer**.

Belfield

Variants: Bellfield

- **Current frequencies:** GB 1084, Ireland 1
- **GB frequency 1881:** 759
- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys, Cheshire, and Staffs

English: locative name from Belfield (Lancs).

Early bearers: Adam de Belfeld, 1325 in *Patent Rolls* (Yorks); Nicholas de Belfeld, 1327 in *Patent Rolls*; Nicholas Belefeld, 1337 in *Patent Rolls* (Lancs); Ricardus de Belfelt, 1381 in *Poll Tax* (Butterworth, Lancs); Richard Belfeld or Belfelde, 1493 in *PROB 11*; Toby Belfield, 1566 in *IGI* (Paignton, Devon); Charles Belfelde, 1592 in *PROB 11* (Gainsborough, Lincs); Nicolaus Belfield, 1617 in *IGI* (Wardleworth, Lancs).

Belfitt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 113, Ireland 2
- **GB frequency 1881:** 63
- **Main GB location 1881:** Derbys

Scottish: variant of **Belford**.

Early bearers: Robert Belfit, 1676, Johani. Belfitt, 1684 in *IGI* (Whittington, Derbys); Anne Bellfit, 1728 in *IGI* (Bishop Norton, Lincs); Hannah Belfitt, 1783, Humphry Belfit, 1787 in *IGI* (Chesterfield, Derbys).

Belford

Variants: Belfitt

- **Current frequencies:** GB 422, Ireland 18
- **GB frequency 1881:** 265
- **Main GB location 1881:** Angus and Fife; Kirkcudbrights
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Fermanagh, Leitrim, and Longford