

**Coyrle er Ymmyd y Ghaelg
er Cowraghey Ellan Vannin**
**GUIDE TO THE USE OF MANX
ON ISLE OF MAN SIGNAGE**



INTRODUCTION

This is the first guide of its type to lay out how to incorporate Manx into **new or replacement** public signage in the Isle of Man. Demand for its creation has come from Local Authorities and individuals who have been seeking support, guidance & direction.

Manx is protected under the **European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)**, with the Isle of Man Government applying Part III of the Charter in 2021.

A Tynwald resolution in 1985 established the opinion that “Manx Gaelic should be supported and encouraged by all agencies of Government and Boards of Tynwald so far as they are practically able”. It addressed the official and legal standing of Manx, stating that all official oaths could be made in either Manx or English, that Manx placenames should be protected and that bilingual place names in Manx and English should have equal standing.

In December 1995 the Department of Education produced a report on the Future Development of the Manx Language, which was received by Tynwald. It gave a commitment to support and promote the language, building upon previous resolutions and leading to more formal programs and educational institutions in the subsequent years.

The guidance clarifies that British Standard BS EN 17210:2021 ‘Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment’ applies to Manx wording as well as English wording.

It is pleasing to introduce the guide during Blein ny Gaelgey — the Year of the Manx Language, which features a wide range of events, projects, and activities to promote and celebrate the language across the Isle of Man and internationally and provide a lasting legacy. This simple guide supports these aims.

GUIDANCE

Road & Place Names

1. If a Manx name is being used as the main place description, then **NO** English translation is required e.g. Ballabeg.
2. Where English is currently used, or being proposed, a Manx translation **should be included**, e.g. for [Birch Drive], the translation would be [Imman Beih].

Footpath Signage

PRoW footpaths with existing Manx names such as the Raad Ny Foillan and Bayr Ny Skeddan do not require a translation. Where there is an English name, the Manx should be included also. A QR code with a link to pronunciation and English meaning may be added.

Countryside Codes & Litter Codes/Campaigns

Both English & Manx **should be included**.

Brown Tourist Signs

Both English & Manx **should be included**.

Highway Signage

The inclusion of the Manx language on highway signage is currently outside the scope of this guidance but may be considered separately in future. It is noted that bilingual highways signage is used frequently in other parts of the British Isles.

DESIGN & STYLE CONSIDERATIONS

Manx Positioning on Sign

The positioning of Manx text should be determined by the relevant local authority or public body. Where both languages are displayed, it is recommended that Manx is positioned above or before the English text.

Prominence

Typographic hierarchy organises text in a way that guides the reader's eye to what is most important. The prominence of both Manx and English can be achieved through appropriate and carefully considered choices of font, type size, leading, position, colour and tone without compromising legibility and consistency.

For ease of legibility, it is recommended that, due to functionality (navigation and safety considerations) English is read first – hence the use of upper case.

Font Style

A sans serif font such as Arial, Helvetica and Verdana should be used as they are easy to read.

Font Colour

Black for both languages is recommended as the preferred option, providing cost-effectiveness and visual consistency across the Island. Alternative colour schemes may be used where appropriate, provided both languages retain equal prominence and legibility.

Case

Manx is to be in upper and lower case above English in upper case – both in the same font size. 'Welcome to' and other wording should use sentence case capitalisation only. Where the name is only in Manx, upper case should be used.

Braille

UEB is to be used for transcriptions from Manx.

EXAMPLES

In other jurisdictions



Isle of Man

Straid Mylvreeshey
BRIDSON STREET

Reayrt ny Baie
BAY VIEW ROAD

BALLABEG

VISUAL GUIDE FOR 'WELCOME TO ...' SIGNAGE

Manx Positioning on Sign

Manx positioning to be decided by each local authority or public body. It is recommended that Manx should ideally be placed before the English.

Prominence

Typographic hierarchy organises text in a way that guides the reader's eye to what is most important. The prominence of both Manx and English can be achieved through appropriate and carefully considered choices of font, type size, leading, position, colour and tone without compromising legibility and consistency.

For legibility, it is recommended that, due to functionality (navigation and safety considerations) English is read first – hence the use of upper case.

Font Style

A sans serif font such as Arial, Helvetica and Verdana should be used, without italics, as they are easy to read.

Font Colour

English signage is typically presented in black. Manx text may be presented in black or another contrasting colour such as red, blue or green, provided legibility and equal prominence are maintained. Remember BS EN 17210:2021 applies to Manx and English wording.

Case

Upper case lettering for original versions of place names.

'Welcome to' and other wording should use sentence case capitalisation only for both languages.

Example

- ✓ The positioning of the Manx is at the discretion of the local authority.
- ✓ The Manx and English are given equal prominence through appropriate use of colour, tone, size and position. Where the name is to be in Manx only, upper case is to be used.
- ✓ For legibility, the font for both languages should be sans serif such as Arial, Helvetica and Verdana, with neither language italicised. Do not use decorative or historical fonts for Manx.
- ✓ The font colour of one language should not fade before the font of the other.
- ✓ Upper case lettering is used for place names. 'Welcome to' and other wording uses sentence case capitalisation only.



SUPPORT

Translation Services

Culture Vannin

translations@culturevannin.im

Translation response times: Culture Vannin's Translation Service recommends allowing a lead time of two working weeks.

Quality Assurance

Manx Language Officer (MLO), DESC

Robert.Teare@sch.im

To advise on policy, offer guidance and perform final checks before signs are produced.

Guidance to Property Site Developers

Manx Language Officer (MLO), DESC

Robert.Teare@sch.im

To advise on potential place and street naming, taking account of the local environment, history and heritage.