

# Oxford Reference

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

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## Orr

- **Current frequencies:** GB 7624, Ireland 2328
- **GB frequency 1881:** 4911
- **Main GB location 1881:** SW Scotland: esp. Lanarks
- **Main Irish location 1847–64:** Ulster: esp. Antrim and Down

**1** Scottish: nickname from Scottish Gaelic *odhar* 'dun, of sallow complexion'. This name is also common in Ireland. It was brought to Ulster from Scotland in the 17th century.

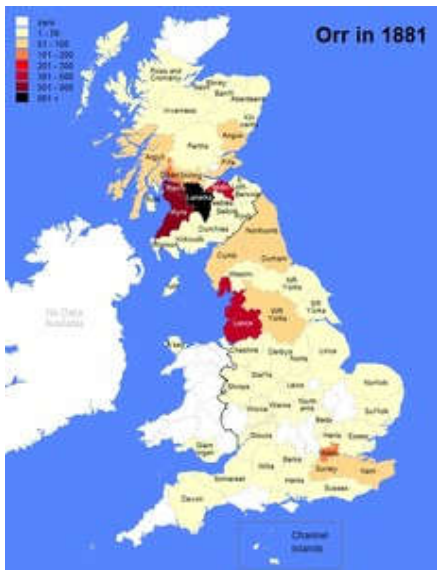
### Early bearers:

Donald Oure, 1512 in Athole and Home Manuscripts; John Or, 1578 in Cawdor Book; Johne Orr, 1610 in IGI (Glasgow, Lanarks); Alexr. Oar, 1625 in IGI (Elgin, Morays); Daniel Ore, 1650 in IGI (Kilbarchan, Renfrews).

**2** English: relationship name from Old Scandinavian *Orri*, originally a byname meaning 'black grouse'.

### Early bearers:

Roger Orre, 1202 in Assize Rolls (Lincs); William Orre, 1277 in Wakefield Court Rolls (Yorks); Johannes Orre, 1377 in Poll Tax (Rudston and Thorpe, ER Yorks); John Orr, 1509 in TNA (Walkeringham, Notts); Christopher Orr, 1637 in IGI (Gateshead, Durham); Anne Orr, 1711 in IGI (Owston, Lincs).



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Orr, 1881 frequency.

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