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Minor placenames in Ireland: a guide to promoting and facilitating 'citizen humanities' in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage

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Naming places is a primary act of geographical appropriation, a demonstration of control over nature, the landscape and everything in it. Names create landscapes: an unnamed place on a map is literally a blank space.

Patrick J Duffy, *Exploring the history and heritage of Irish landscapes* (2007)

Introduction

The naming of places has through time provided us with a way of structuring and understanding our worlds. Ireland's toponymic landscape is exceptionally rich reflecting the placenaming agency of both past generations and contemporary inhabitants in meeting their varying needs and ideologies. Many of these are administrative placenames, given to administrative divisions, such as the county, civil parish and townland. Distinct to these official administrative placenames are minor placenames, associated with both physical components of the landscape such as lakes, rivers, bays, islands, mountains and hills and man-made features including for example fields, ancient structures such as ring-forts, buildings, wells and infrastructure such as roads, crossroads and bridges.

While these minor placenames are without official status, they are an integral part of Ireland's intangible cultural heritage (ICH) providing important insights and significantly enhancing our understanding of how Ireland's cultural landscape has both in the past, and is presently being shaped and used at micro levels. Intangible cultural heritage is defined by UNESCO as 'the practices, expressions, knowledge and skills that communities, groups and sometimes individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage'. It may be suggested that minor placenames fall within the 'expressions and knowledge' dimension of ICH. In many cases the knowledge of a minor placename whether given to a field, a stretch of road or a structure may be the sole preserve of one or two individuals and unless recorded is susceptible to irretrievable loss and by extension erosion of an aspect of the ICH of a particular community.

Concerns centered on the loss of unique and irreplaceable knowledge in the form of minor placenames, alongside a desire to provide encouragement and support to both interested groups and individuals in recording and by extension safeguarding these names underpins the project that this guide has emerged from. Led jointly by Dr Jonathan Cherry, DCU School of History and Geography and Dr Brian Ó Raghallaigh, DCU Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge, alongside Dr Diarmaid Ó Maoileoin, a postdoctoral researcher and Kate Murphy, a doctoral student in DCU Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge the project was funded under Strand 17: The Heritage Council New Foundations Award of the Irish Research Council New Foundations Scheme 2024.¹

The project aims to encourage a 'citizen humanities' approach in facilitating volunteers or 'citizens' in sharing their expertise and recording their knowledge of minor placenames they are familiar with. The information will be stored on the Meitheal Logainm website,² established in 2016 as a platform for recording minor placenames.

¹ The New Foundations 2024 funding call is available at <https://research.ie/funding/new-foundations>. All websites and links referenced in this guide were last accessed in October 2025.

² Meitheal Logainm available at <https://meitheal.logainm.ie/en/>

Minor placenames in Ireland: purpose and structure of this guide

This guide is intended to provide local authority heritage officers, archaeological and history societies, heritage and community groups, and individuals with sufficient information that will equip them to promote and facilitate their recording of minor placenames. It is broken into a number of sections including:

1. An introduction to minor placenames, highlighting their significance as components of the cultural landscape and as part of our intangible cultural heritage, with consideration of the central role of the Irish language in the formation, transmission, and interpretation of placenames, and the profound impact of anglicisation on Ireland's toponymic heritage.
2. An overview of the role of 'citizen humanities' as an approach in recording minor placenames.
3. An introduction to a range of accessible historical source materials appropriate in providing context to minor placenames as recorded.
4. Implementing the 'citizen humanities' approach in gathering and recording minor placenames: a step by step guide
 - a. Case study of minor placenames in a townland where English is the dominant language: Shancorn, Belturbet, Co. Cavan.
 - b. Case study of minor placenames in a townland in a Gaeltacht area: Buaile an Ghleanna, Acaill, Co. Mayo.
 - c. Examples of minor placename entries, 'basic', 'intermediate' and 'advanced'. Suggestions for citing and referencing sources.

Section 1

Minor placenames: significance

Unlike administrative placenames, given to administrative divisions like townlands or civil parishes and population centres such as villages, towns and cities, minor placenames do not have an official status in Ireland. These minor placenames are used in identifying the natural and man-made features that make up the Irish landscape, while the names themselves are considered an integral component of Ireland's cultural or human landscape. As historical and cultural geographers have noted, cultural landscapes - and by extension minor placenames - are being continually transformed to meet the exigencies of its inhabitants (see for example O'Flanagan, 1986; Aalen et al 2011 & Duffy, 2014). It is worthwhile reflecting on the constantly evolving nature of landscapes acknowledging that none are frozen at particular points in time. Considering the landscape as a palimpsest being inscribed, erased and reinscribed with features and components, including placenames, over time is also useful in this regard. Some of the more common categories of minor placenames in Ireland relating to the cultural landscape are detailed below.

Field names

One of the most pervasive features of Ireland's cultural landscape are the quilted network of fields into which the country's agricultural lands are divided and separated from one another. Pronounced regional differences in the shapes and patterns of these fields are evident reflecting both historical land ownership and occupation patterns and land quality. Such processes illustrated a familiarity with landscapes that was much more intimate in the recent past than today it might be argued. Farmers knew the fields that they were dependent on for their livelihoods with a fine grained familiarity and level of knowledge garnered from both their own experiences of working the lands and those passed down from those who had preceded them. As historical geographer Patrick J Duffy has observed 'The minute naming of places and farmscapes radiating out from the farmhouse is a reflection of the more crowded and local worlds of the recent past and is a legacy of generations who manhandled the landscapes of their home places' (2004: 709).

As well as being 'seen as a fundamental exercise in allocating meaning to place' (Duffy, 2004:694), the naming of individual fields simultaneously produced and facilitated an understanding of the geography of a particular agricultural holding that allowed activities and individuals to be accurately and precisely located, an important consideration in an era prior to mobile communication. Through the use of field names, neighbours assisting in the movement of livestock between fields or helping with the ploughing, harrowing, mowing and cutting of crops for example knew precisely where they needed to be. Likewise, through the use of field names those instructed to check on and count livestock or sent to find an individual on the farm knew which field they might expect to find them in.

The names given to fields reflected amongst other characteristics their shape, size, topography and their location in relation to another field, the farmhouse or agricultural buildings. Other names reflected the quality of land, productivity and usage of the particular field or frequently the situation of the field in relation to another significant landscape feature such as a church, mill, school or well. Other names were inspired by the family or first names of previous owners of particular fields or farms (for more on this see Duffy, 2004:705-706). Some examples of these include, the *Big Meadow*, the *High Field*, the *Well Field*, the *Three Corner Field*, the *Horse Park*, the *Kiln Field*, the *Meadows behind the house*, the *School House Field*, the *Brick Yard Field* and *Brady's Field*.

Since the 1950s the scale and mechanisation of agricultural activities has gained momentum. While accessing and farming, small sometimes awkwardly shaped fields did not pose a challenge when worked by hand and horse, such fields proved impractical when worked by tractors and machinery necessitated the removal of field boundaries in creating larger more accessible fields, resulting in the loss of field names. The knowledge and intimate understanding of farmers of their fields gleaned from slower, deeper and more sustained manual working and engagement was removed as agriculture gradually mechanised. As a result the relevance and significance of these field names are diminished, with Duffy noting that 'Most of these intimate minor names are being forgotten in emptier and tractored landscapes. The farm community today probably has little use for such local detail' (2004:709).

Field names are amongst some of the most common minor placenames found in any particular study area. Each has remarkable potential in illustrating how these fields have been identified and worked both in the past and today and who has influenced them through ownership and occupation.

Coastal names

Ireland's coastline extends to over 7,500 kilometers and the various natural and man-made features found along it, and off it, have been identified with some extraordinary minor placenames that are rich and insightful. Some of these features and phenomena include stacks, individual rocks, crags, cliffs, flagstones, headlands, peninsulas, points, ports, bays, harbours, quays, beaches, coves, estuaries, inlets, pools, sounds, reefs and troughs. An idea of the depth, richness and variety of such names may be gleaned from the dataset on *Minor placenames from part of the Waterford coastline* compiled by Liam Suipéil.³ Fishermen, seafarers and the various other industries dependent on the sea for their livelihoods needed to be aware of the nuances and vagaries of the challenging and at times dangerous environment where they spent much of their working lives. In understanding and navigating these places minor placenames were useful in identifying specific locations where perhaps good catches of fish might be expected or areas best avoided in the interest of safety, illustrating the dynamic connections between humans and the coast.

Infrastructure

Ireland's communication infrastructure, in the form of the road network and intersections, alongside bridges constructed as part of canal, railway and drainage projects during the 18th and 19th centuries comprise significant components of the country's cultural landscape, and have both inspired and acquired minor placenames in their own right.

The existing road network in the Republic of Ireland extends to just under 100,000 kilometers. *Roads* and *lanes* have been named in a variety of ways. Some acquired names in terms of the nearest town that they were heading towards or coming from, with others named after a dominant building or structure located alongside them or to which they lead for example *Chapel Road*, *Barrack Lane*, *Creamery Road* or *Mill Road*. The exotic sounding *Yellow Road* between Belturbet and Ballyconnell in county Cavan was named in reference to the colour of its surface which had been made from yellow gravel and sandstone! As with minor placenames given to other features, family names and natural features such as bogs have also inspired those attached to roads and lanes across the country.

3 Available at <https://meitheal.logainm.ie/personality-of-a-coastline/>

Crossroads and junctions between roads were significant social spaces in rural areas both in the past and still are to a certain extent today. Used as gathering places for those from the locality to assemble, converse, debate, dance or enjoy games such as road bowling or skittles, they were also often used as the meeting points for those departing on sporting and cultural excursions. While some were named after the townland in which they were located others have names inspired by the family who lived at the crossroads or held land in the vicinity such as *Reilly's Cross* close to Carrickmacross, Monaghan.⁴ Near Ballyhaise, county Cavan, a T-junction known as *The One Tree* which has various histories associated with it, is an instantly recognisable location to people in the vicinity.⁵

Bridges in all forms whether for canals, rivers or railways are sometimes named using the name of the townland they are located in or connect. In other instances the name may be unique such as *Ballinacur Bridge* that spans the Woodford River Canal connecting the townlands of Woodford Demesne and Kilnacreevy in county Cavan. To the south of Belturbet, the River Erne may be crossed using *Bakers Bridge* named after the local landowning family.

Water: wells, lakes and streams

Prior to the provision of water supplies to most of rural Ireland via local authority or group water schemes across Ireland from the 1960s onwards, wells, springs, rivers and lakes were the primary sources of potable water. In providing fresh drinking water, a well was an important and valued asset to any agricultural or residential holding and their presence and location often inspired minor placenames, as noted in relation to field names. Other more publicly accessible wells were often named after those who maintained them or the family whose land they were located. In addition to the wells' practical dimension, some 3,000 wells with sacred associations to particular saints or healing or curative attributes are dotted across the country. Taking various forms, holy wells are key components of the cultural landscape and many of these sacred spaces remain as foci for pilgrimages and visitations on particular days each year or have specific healing attributes and cures associated with their waters. Tamlyn McHugh's 'Holy wells of Ireland' (2023) published by the Heritage Council provides an excellently illustrated introduction to these features. The names given to these sites are sometimes inspired by their location or the name of the saint associated with the locality.

Larger water bodies such as lakes frequently share their names with the townland that surrounds them. In addition to these, Hu O'Reilly in his *Lakes of Cavan* (2022) has recorded the other names reflecting the shape, appearance or other distinguishing features of lakes in county Cavan. He identifies nine lakes named *Black*, five named *White*, five named *Dumb*, three named *Holy*, three named with family names - *Parkers*, *Pattersons* and *Dawsons* - alongside the *Round Lake* and *Peartree Lake*. The term *Lough* is used in naming lakes on Ordnance Survey Maps. The other major water bodies evident across Ireland are rivers and while the names of most are well known, specific places and features such as springs, currents, tides, banks and meanders in addition to stretches of rivers, like coastlines and fields also have unique names applied to them illustrating past and current human-riverine interactions.

⁴ For details on 'Reilly's Cross' see <https://meitheal.logainm.ie/en/?s=Reilly%27s+cross>

⁵ For an account of 'The One Tree' see <https://www.anglocelt.ie/2022/01/27/more-than-just-a-local-landmark/>

Ringforts and other archaeological features

Ringforts constructed of either stone or earth are circular settlements of varying sizes of which there are over 60,000 in Ireland. They are the country's most common archaeological monument and striking components of our cultural landscape. Dating from the late Iron Age through to the early Medieval period, they are referred to by a variety of names including *ráth*, *ringfort*, *fairy fort*, *lios*, *dún* or *cashel*. Many as Marion McGarry details in an RTÉ Brainstorm article have rich folklore and superstitions associated with them particularly as sites of fairy activity and as a result most have remained intact and undisturbed across the landscape.⁶ They are strikingly represented on the various editions of the Ordnance Survey, alongside a range of other archaeological monuments and while some are named on the maps such as *Corrabrack Fort* and *Granshagh or River View Fort*, Inishmore, Cavan (Fig. 1.1), most are not and are simply identified as Fort exemplified by that depicted on Cloverhill Demesne, Cavan (Fig. 1.2), known by the minor placename *Dromard Fort*.

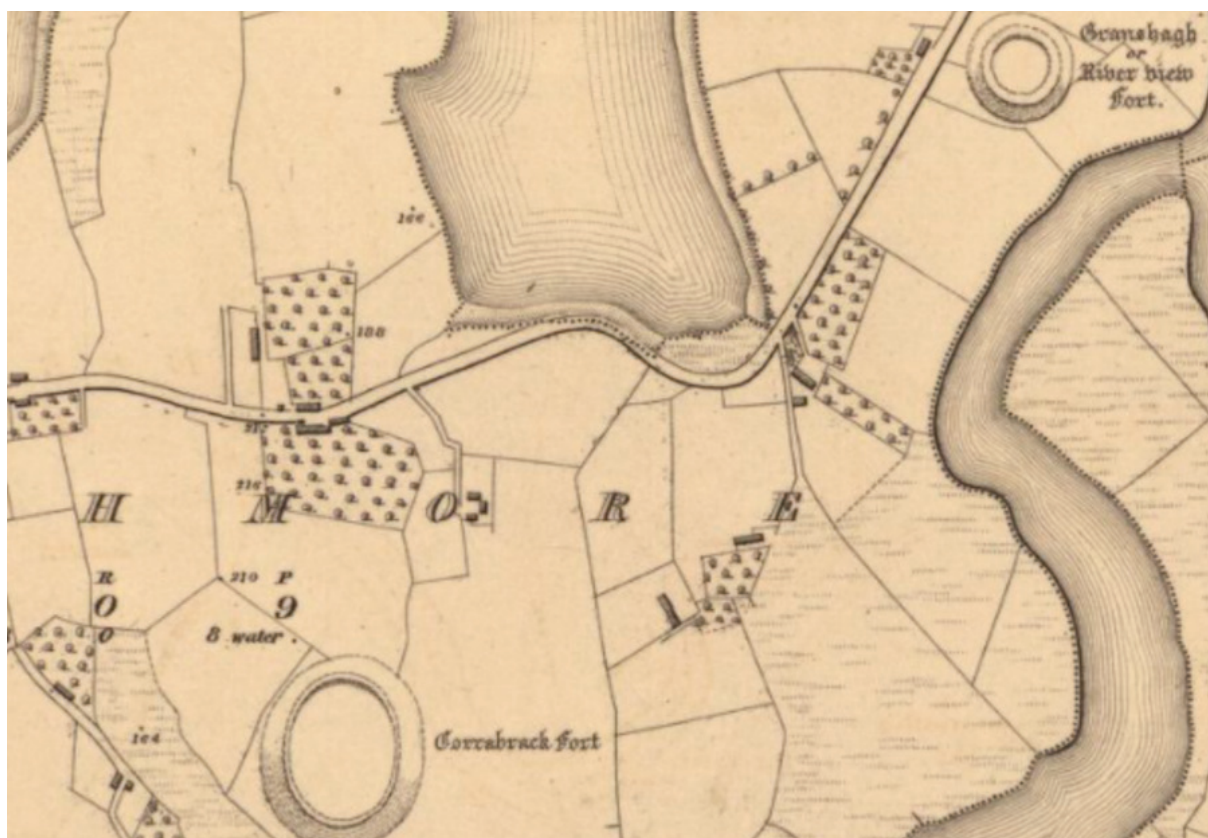


Fig. 1.1 *Corrabrack Fort* and *Granshagh or River View Fort*, Inishmore, Cavan.

Source: First Edition OS Sheet 20 Cavan, 1836. Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

6 Marion McGarry, (2025) 'The superstitions and mysteries around Ireland's 'fairy forts' available at <https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2025/0416/1237227-fairy-forts-ringforts-superstitions-rural-ireland/>



Fig. 1.2 'Fort' known by the minor placename 'Dromard Fort' Cloverhill Demesne, Cavan.
Source: First Edition OS Sheet 15 Cavan, 1836. Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

Sites and places associated with historical events

Traumatic historical events have also inspired minor placenames across Ireland. Two examples associated with Oliver Cromwell's conquest of Ireland in the mid 17th century are *Cromwell's Road* north of Tulla, County Clare⁷ and *Cromwell's Mount* near Drogheda, county Louth.⁸ The Bloody Bridge located to the south of Newcastle, county Down and the Bloody Bridge River are names inspired by a massacre of Protestant settlers there during the 1641 Rebellion.⁹ The Bloody Pass on Lough Erne between Inishfendra, Fermanagh and Derryvanny, Cavan (Fig.1.3) was the site of a significant battle and loss of life during the Williamite wars of the late 17th century.

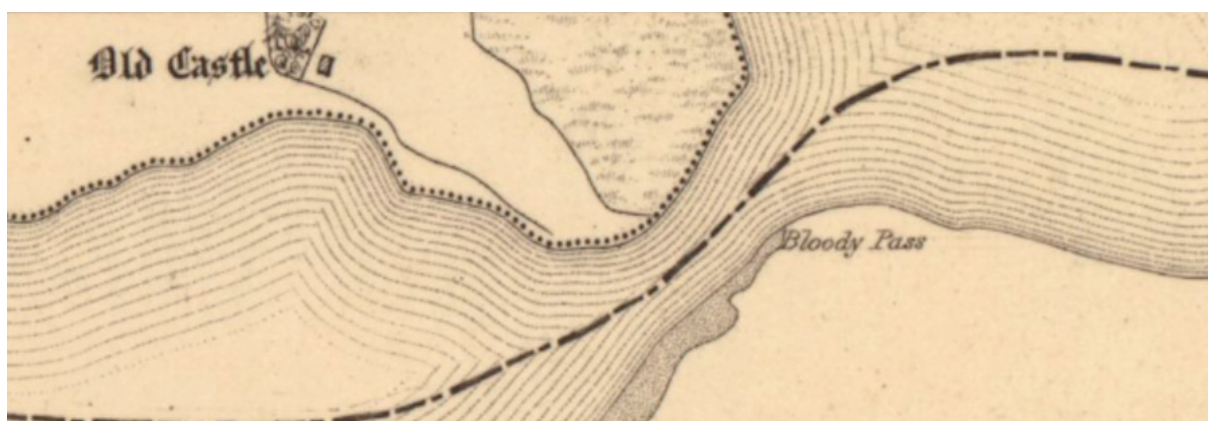


Fig. 1.3 The *Bloody Pass*, marked in the Cavan townland of Derryvanny.
Source: First Edition OS Sheet 42 Fermanagh, 1838. Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

7 For detail on the several roads named 'Cromwell's Road' as recorded on the Meitheal Logainm website see <https://meitheal.logainm.ie/en/?s=Cromwell%27s+Road>.

8 See <https://meitheal.logainm.ie/en/?s=Cromwell%27s+Mount>.

9 For detail on the several places named 'Bloody Bridge' as recorded on the Meitheal Logainm website see <https://meitheal.logainm.ie/en/?s=Bloody+Bridge>.

Minor placenames linked to the horrific and devastating events of the Great Famine, and from the public works such as road building projects established in response to it are also evident in the contemporary toponymic landscape.

Minor placenames: the urban dimension

While minor placenames relating to the natural and human environments are an integral part of Ireland's rural landscapes as detailed above, they are also unique components of Ireland's urban landscapes that are often overlooked. Streets, lanes and alleys, or specific stretches or points along these thoroughfares; corners and junctions, alongside other aspects of the streetscape and built environment evident in towns and cities in addition to their 'official' names often have minor placenames associated with them. The wealth and variety of names are exemplified by several collections accessible on the Meitheal Logainm website including that organised by Ennis Tidy Town and the Clare Roots Society for Ennis, county Clare.¹⁰

Valuing minor placenames: origins and language

As Manchan Magan (2020) has observed 'Each placename is like a code that can be deciphered to reveal insights into the culture, genealogy, myths, climate, botany, topography, and geology of a region'.¹¹ In recording minor placenames we need to acknowledge that each is equally significant and instructive in illustrating to us how the landscape has been shaped, evolved and used over time and should be considered and treated with parity of esteem. In recording minor placenames it is imperative that we do not place greater significance or importance on any one name over another, based on either its antiquity or recentness or whether it is in the Irish or English language.

The Irish language has had a profound influence on Ireland's placenames, however as Duffy has rightly observed, 'One of the notable things about placenames in the Irish landscape is the disjunction between the named landscape and its inhabitants today... the great majority of Irish place name meanings, however, are probably no longer accessible to the average inhabitant whose mother tongue has been English for several generations...[resulting in] a loss of memory and meaning', nonetheless he concludes that, 'in spite of frequent lack of comprehension of literal meanings, the names have resounding local, social and cultural significance' (2004:695).

'Place-naming' as Duffy notes 'is a fundamental cultural act, with language being a crucial marker of cultural identity' (2007:64). The significance of language and placenames as central components in local and indeed political identity is poignantly illustrated in a 2022 TV interview with the prominent Democratic Unionist Party politician Arlene Foster as part of a series named 'Creedon's Atlas of Ireland'. The programme presenter John Creedon recalled how the discussion regarding the placename of her home area in rural county Fermanagh in Northern Ireland evolved:

¹⁰ Available at <https://meitheal.logainm.ie/ennis-tidy-towns/>

¹¹ Manchan Magan, 'Uncovering Ireland's lost field names before it's too late' in The Irish Times, 22 Feb 2020, available at <https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/heritage/uncovering-ireland-s-lost-field-names-before-it-s-too-late-1.4172606>. In the article Magan highlighted Dr Aengus Finnegan's project on Westmeath's placenames. See <https://aengusfinnegan.ie/townland-names-of-westmeath-project/>

I asked her what the placename meant of the tiny village, Aghadrumsee, where she grew up," says Creedon. "She didn't know. I said, 'Would you like to know?' ... She said, 'Sure.' "I explained the Irish name is not Adrumsee, which is an anglicised version that she used for it. I said, 'It is Aghadrumsee. Three Gaelic words meaning 'achadh', an old term for field; 'dhrum', which is a hillock; and 'see', which comes from Saileach, meaning a sally tree. So really what Aghadrumsee means in its original form would be 'the land with the hillock covered in sally'. She lit up. She said, 'My father's farm was always full of sally rods.'¹²

Each minor placename provides deep and rich textures in shaping the 'personality of a place' reflecting the experiences, desires and needs of both past, and contemporary occupants, playing a significant role in the intangible cultural heritage of a particular area. Returning to the idea that the cultural landscape is constantly evolving and the idea that it reflects our pressing contemporary needs, in using minor placenames to identify specific features and locations, some names may (a) be potentially adopted and retained insuring their survival, (b) abandoned as they are considered obsolete causing them to fall into oblivion or (c) altered to reflect changed ownership of land for example or new names coined for features manifested more recently on the landscape. As Duffy has observed 'Within the highly localised template of townlands lie hidden layers of minor names that continue to have significance for local community heritage and area being rediscovered as part of the general resurrection of the local' (Duffy, 2004:696).

The importance of the Irish language in the collection of placenames

Placenames in Ireland are of profound linguistic, historical, and cultural significance. The vast majority derive from the Irish language, particularly the names of administrative land units such as baronies, civil parishes, and townlands, as well as major topographical features. Many of these names were coined centuries ago, some over a millennium earlier, yet what has come down to us is largely in anglicised form. Only a relatively small proportion were recorded in their original Irish form, whether in manuscripts, ecclesiastical Latin, oral tradition, or in those areas of the country where Irish continued to be spoken into the modern period (Mac Giolla Easpaig, 2009:82). The result is that Ireland carries a toponymic heritage that is deeply Irish in origin, yet profoundly shaped by centuries of anglicisation.

The anglicisation of Irish placenames, initiated during the Anglo-Norman colonisation of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, intensified over the following centuries. By the end of the nineteenth century, this process had coincided with the dramatic linguistic shift that saw Irish reduced from the language of the majority to that of a minority. The standardisation of placename spellings by the Ordnance Survey in the 1820s and 1830s, combined with the decline of Irish as a vernacular, ensured that the forms most familiar to the general public today are the anglicised versions, themselves the product of a long and complex history of linguistic compromise.

¹² Eimear McGovern, 'Arlene Foster learns about Irish origins of childhood homeplace name' in The Belfast Telegraph, 2 September 2022. Available at <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/arlene-foster-learns-about-irish-origins-of-childhood-homeplace-name/41956217.html>.

Most 'standardised' forms were coined through dictation, 'in which a non-Irish speaker transcribed in English orthography a name spoken by an Irish speaker and substituted English words that partially matched the sounds of the Irish elements, but not their meaning' (Nash, 1999:465). However, English orthography was ill-suited to representing Irish sounds, unable to mark distinctions between broad and slender consonants, long and short vowels, or correct stress. As a result, placenames were often rendered unintelligible.

Other anglicised forms arose from the substitution of unrelated English words for the approximate sounds of common Irish elements for example, rath for *ráth* (a ringfort), kill for *cill* (a church), lough for loch (a lake) and cloon for *cluain* (a meadow), which gave rise to the likes of *Cluain Locha* emerging as *Cloonlough* in English. Some variations in dialectal pronunciation also gave rise to inconsistent English forms for example, *Áth an Bháinín* (the ford of the little uncultivated field) survives as *Aughavaneen* in Tipperary, while *Áth an Dalláin* (the ford of the standing stone) appears as *Ahadallane* in Cork.

Many minor placenames, such as the names given to individual fields, are often quite straightforward and self-explanatory. They may describe a feature of the landscape, the position of the plot in relation to the homestead, or the soil, size, or shape of the land. While such names are practical and logical in origin, they also tend to be more recent than older administrative toponyms and, particularly outside the Gaeltacht, are more often of English rather than Irish derivation.

Placenames are enduring witnesses to Ireland's linguistic history, yet they are fragile and easily lost. Recording them is therefore essential to preserving our cultural heritage. Many names have their origins in Irish and can offer further insights when studied, but expertise in the language is not required to collect them. What matters most is documenting names exactly as they are used today or were until recent years, including anglicised forms. Preserving the original form without translation or alteration ensures an accurate record and prevents giving the false impression that Irish continued to be spoken in an area long after it had declined.

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Section 2

Recording minor placenames: adopting a 'citizen humanities' approach

A number of significant minor placename projects have been initiated over the past number of years that have focused on recording these unique components of our intangible cultural heritage. Many of these projects, focusing exclusively on field names have been organised and led by placename experts, working alongside interested local and community groups. While some have adopted a county wide approach others have taken smaller districts or areas as the focus for their efforts, with each illustrating the wealth of names and unique information which it is imperative to record. The information garnered as a result of some of these projects has been syndicated on <https://meitheal.logainm.ie/en/> as detailed in Fig. 2.1.

Name of project	Link to main project website	Link to Meitheal Logainm
Fingal Field names project	https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/fingal-fieldnames-project	https://meitheal.logainm.ie/fingal-fieldnames/
Louth Field Names Project	https://louthfieldnames.wordpress.com/	https://meitheal.logainm.ie/louth-field-names/?s=_
Mapping the minor place names of Cooley	https://louthfieldnames.wordpress.com/2016/03/22/mapping-the-minor-places-of-the-cooley-mountains/	https://meitheal.logainm.ie/cooley-mountains/
Mayo Placenames (Fiachra MacGabhann)		https://meitheal.logainm.ie/mayo-placenames/
Meath Field Names Project	https://meathfieldnames.com/	https://meitheal.logainm.ie/meath-field-names/
Westmeath Field Names Recording Project	https://aengusfinnegan.ie/field-names/	https://meitheal.logainm.ie/westmeath-field-names/

Fig. 2.1. Listing of some examples of ongoing and completed placename surveys. Source: Compiled by authors.

How is this project different?

While many minor placename projects illustrate what can be achieved when a particular area is focused upon by an expert led team of volunteers, our project is focused on equipping individuals, alongside local history, heritage and community groups to confidently record and share their unique cultural knowledge and wisdom relating to minor placenames. This guide and accompanying manual have been compiled in providing the basis to achieving this goal.

The centrality of both individuals and local groups in this process is paramount and the approach that we are promoting derived from the better known, 'citizen science' is that of 'citizen humanities'. This has been described as 'citizen science in the humanities' with citizens mobilised in sharing knowledge or transcribing an historical document for example (Heinisch et al, 2021:97). This approach has a long history in terms of the sharing of knowledge amongst academics and scholars, but the term 'citizen

humanities' was only coined in 2016 by Joni Adamson. In our endeavours to encourage and facilitate the recording of minor placenames 'citizen humanists' are uniquely placed to 'unlock the potential of embedded, diverse and culturally sensitive knowledge and play a crucial role in preserving and enriching cultural heritage' (Heinisch et al, 2021:97).

In adopting this approach and in promoting it as a nationwide initiative, we will be drawing upon the contributors or 'volunteer citizens' in harvesting significant numbers of minor placenames relatively quickly. The expertise and knowledge of each 'citizen humanist' is the project's key resource (Heinisch et al, 2021: 108). As the task is time sensitive, it is important to have the information committed to a record thus stemming to some extent a loss of knowledge that is frequently highlighted and lamented by all those interested in Ireland's history and cultural heritage. In democratising the collection of placenames, this people-powered approach will encourage, promote, equip and facilitate the capturing of information at a rate that would be impossible if undertaken by a team of researchers, thus safeguarding it in the existing Meitheal Logainm.ie platform, established in 2016 and designed for the decentralised collection and dissemination of minor placenames.¹³

In tapping into their own expertise and knowledge and through their recording of even just one minor placename, those for a particular townland or street, 'citizen humanists' will be safeguarding and preserving these placenames that provide such depth and richness to the personality and intangible cultural heritage of these places. Simultaneously, each contribution adds meaningfully to a unique and easily accessed national dataset that will provide a whole range of interested parties, including academic researchers from a range of disciplines, local studies enthusiasts and inquisitive individuals with a one of a kind resource.

As the project progresses we envisage showcasing in celebration and appreciation the important and meaningful contributions of the 'citizen volunteers', highlighting the collections of names contributed by a specific 'champion' collector, a particular minor placename of the week/month alongside some analysis pieces showing the frequencies and distributions of a particular name in each collection highlighting the value and significance of the collection.

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¹³ Available at <https://meitheal.logainm.ie/en/> [accessed October 2025].

Section 3

Historical source material for minor placenames

The purpose of this section is to provide to those recording minor placenames an introduction to some cartographic and documentary sources that may prove useful in setting the context of or evidence for the placename they have recorded. Many of these sources are freely available online and the local studies section of most county libraries will have copies as well. While individual knowledge or local knowledge of a minor placename is most frequently the primary source of information, where appropriate it is useful to cite source material that may illuminate the origins of the placename or provide further information to others who will access the name. The two main bodies of historical source material suggested here are cartographic and documentary sources. While most of these such as the Ordnance Survey, Griffith Valuation and the 1901 and 1911 Censuses of Population are available for the entire country other sources such as estate and privately commissioned maps are more varied in their coverage.

Ordnance Survey Maps

An initial reading of the first (1830s -1840s) and second edition (late 19th century- early 20th century) 6 inch to one mile Ordnance Survey Maps is encouraged in ascertaining if any minor names have been recorded on these maps. The entire collection sheet by sheet is available online via the National Library of Scotland website.¹⁴

Firstly identify the sheets that you wish to look at the Index to the Townland Survey for the particular county you are interested in. The numbers of the individual six inch sheets are detailed at the centre of each sheet as they appear on the Index to the Townland Survey Sheet.

For example if you are interested in looking at the area surrounding Cavan town by examining the Index to the Townland Survey for Cavan¹⁵ and focusing on the area of Cavan town you will see the number 20 in the middle of the sheet for Cavan (see Fig. 3.1).

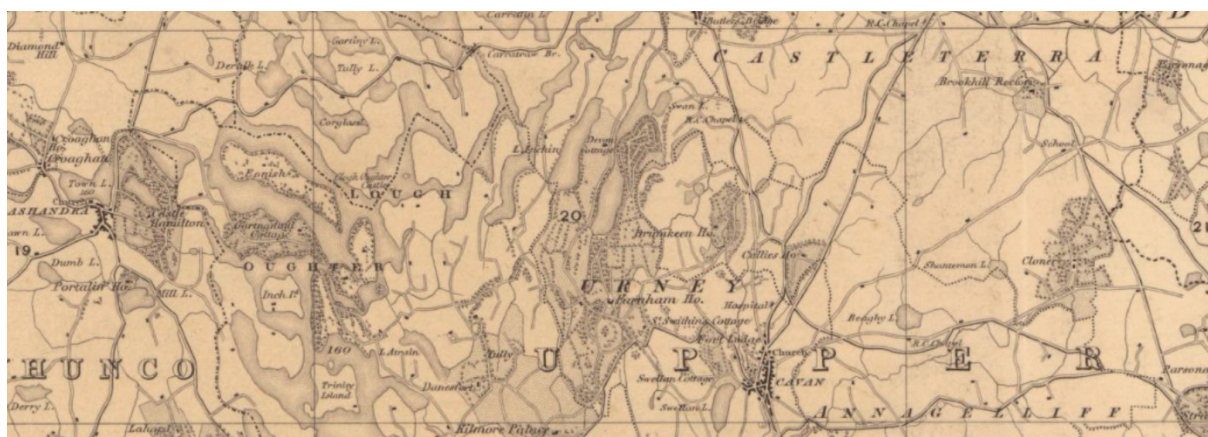


Fig. 3.1 Extract from the Index to the Townland Survey, Cavan, 1836.
Source: Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

14 Available at <https://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-ireland/counties.html>.

15 Available at <https://maps.nls.uk/view/246834008>.

Returning to the main page of the National Library of Scotland select Cavan and Sheet 20 1835/1836. You will then have access to a full copy of the 6 inch sheet number 20 for Cavan as it would appear as published.¹⁶

In spending some time examining Sheet number 20, I noticed a number of minor placenames including *Brick Field*, Drumalee (Fig. 3.2); *Drumgoon Fort*, Swellan Lower (Fig. 3.3) *Blackstick Bridge*, (Fig. 3.4) and *Deer Park* and *Mount Orange*, Paddock (Fig. 3.5).

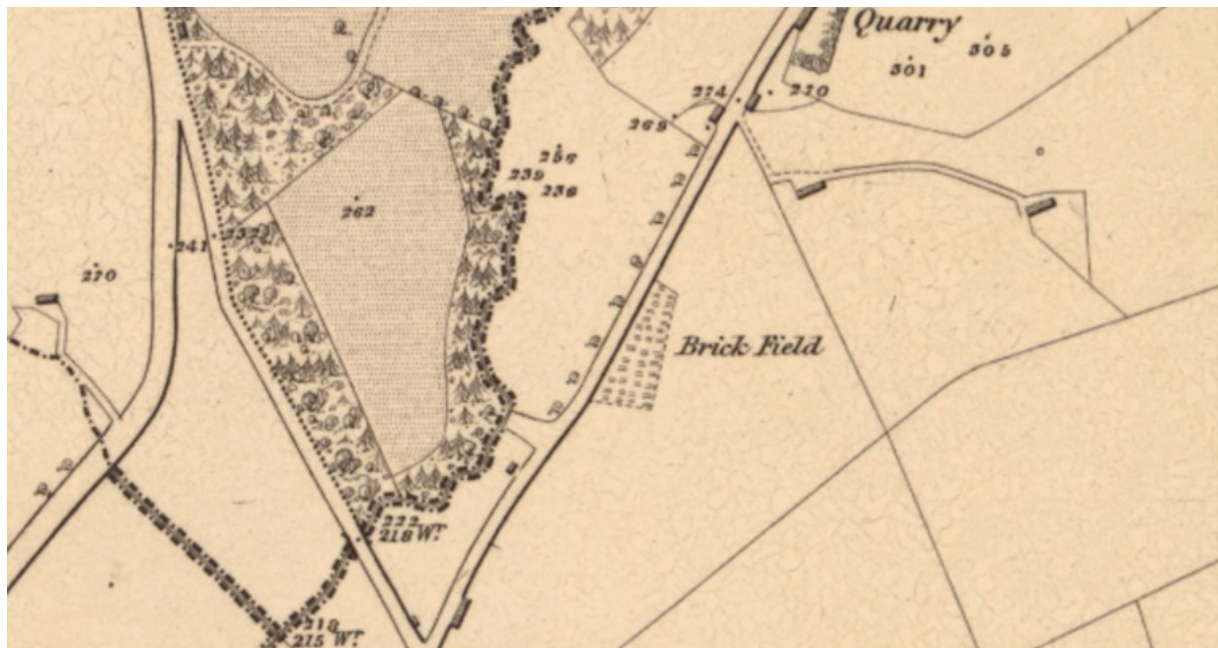


Fig. 3.2 *Brick Field*, Drumalee. Source: First Edition OS Sheet No 20. Cavan, 1836. Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

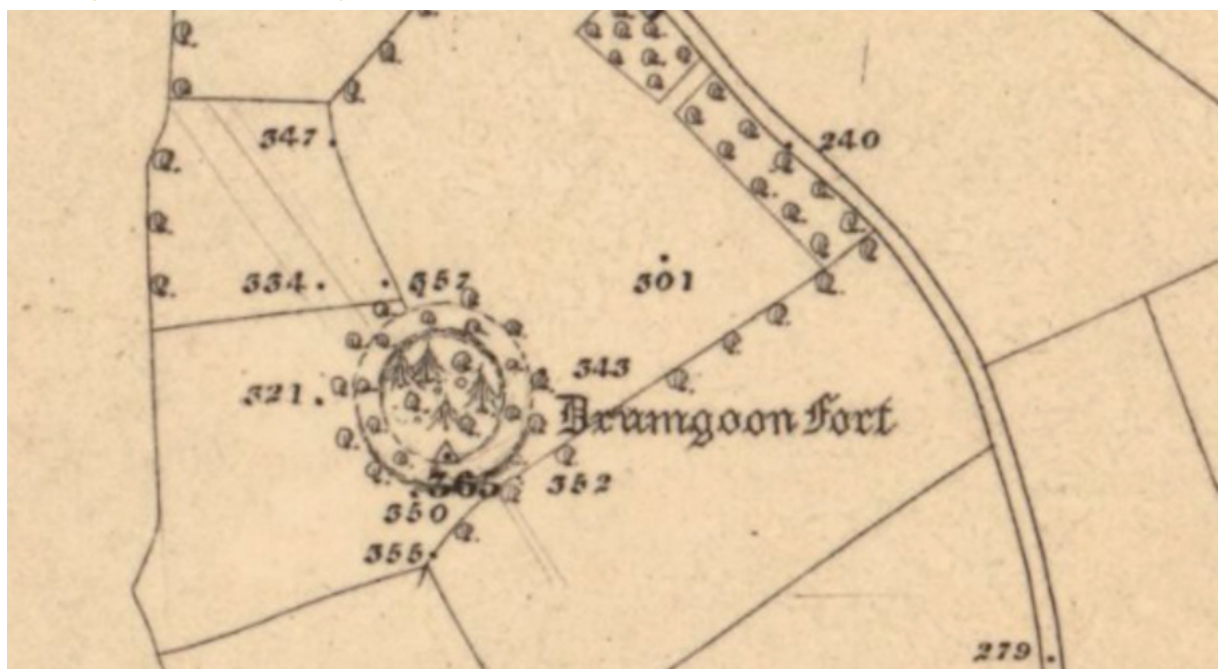


Fig. 3.3 *Drumgoon Fort*, Swellan Lower. Source: First Edition OS Sheet No 20. Cavan, 1836. Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.



Fig. 3.4 *Blackstick Bridge, Tirliffin*. Source: First Edition OS Sheet No 20. Cavan, 1836. Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.



Fig. 3.5 *Deer Park and Mount Orange, Paddock*. Source: First Edition OS Sheet No 20. Cavan, 1836. Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

An examination of the second edition (late 19th century- early 20th century) 6 inch to one mile Ordnance Survey Maps is also encouraged in ascertaining what minor names have been recorded on these maps. Staying with Sheet 20 Cavan the 1909 revisions records a lot of minor placenames for woodlands and plantations in some of the townlands that comprised Farnham Demesne, as illustrated in the extract shown in Fig. 3.6.¹⁷



Fig. 3.6 Jackson's Hill Plantation, Cornacutter Wood, Sheepwalk Plantation, Home Woods and Skin-em-alive Wood, Farnham Demesne. Source: Second Edition OS Sheet No 20 Cavan, 1909. Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

In addition to the collection of OS maps available online from the National Library of Scotland, many of the Ordnance Survey maps with revisions and updates, alongside aerial images and contemporary maps are available from Tailte Éireann (Irish Townland and Historical Map Viewer).¹⁸ Using these maps you can compare and contrast which minor placenames were recorded on these maps at different dates and the changing landscape of a particular townland, town or area over time which may have influenced a particular placename.

Taking the townland of Drumcrow, in the civil parish of Annagh, county Cavan as an example, a specific area of woodland named *Hollows Wood* was depicted on the 1836 OS 6 inch maps (see Fig. 3.7). The name *Hollows* is still given to an area of land and stretch of road that runs to the north of this area known as *Hollows Bottom*.

17 The 1909 revision of Sheet 20 Cavan is available at <https://maps.nls.uk/view/247666232> [accessed October 2025].

18 Tailte Éireann Ordnance Survey maps available in Irish Townland and Historical Maps Viewer at <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/bdc13f643b68486c99e23abdae0a98e>.

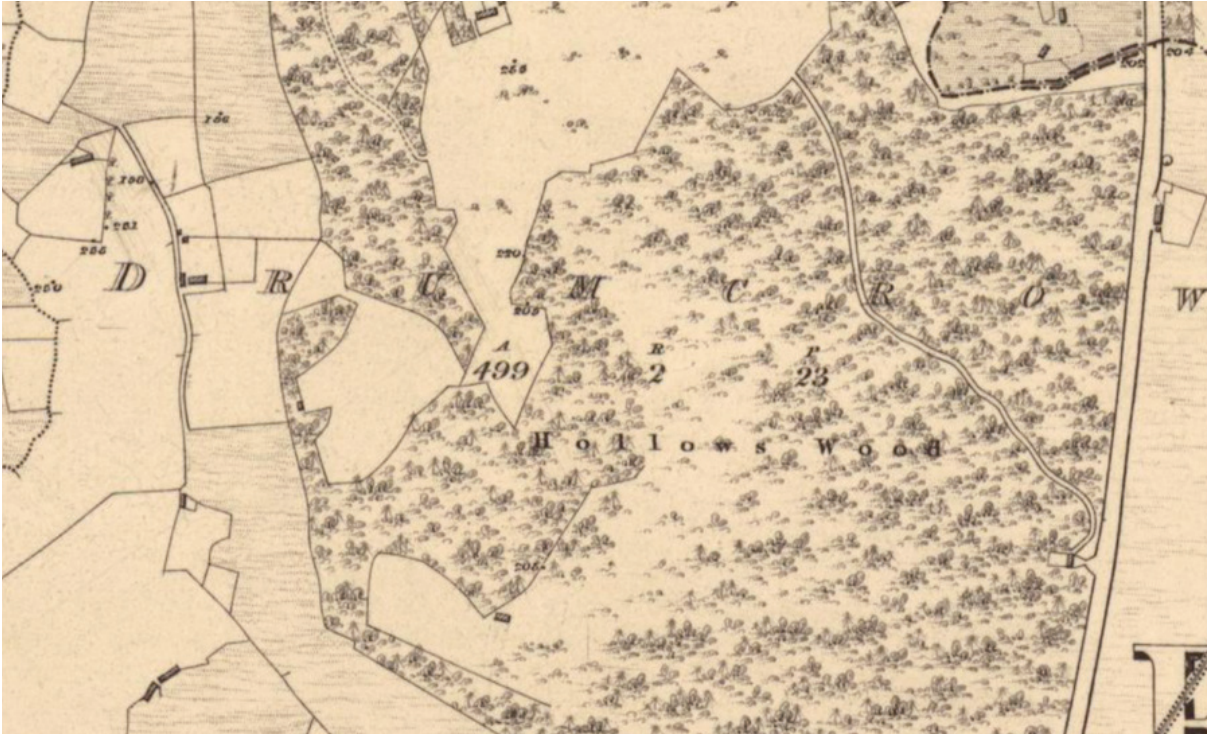


Fig. 3.7 *Hollows Wood, Drumcrow*. Source: First Edition OS Sheet No 15. Cavan, 1836. Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

By the early 20th century the name *Nahillah*, as a minor placename applied to both a Park and a House was recorded in the townland of Drumcrow (see Fig. 3.8). At first impressions this might appear as a 'new' name given to the area at some stage between the production of the 1830s OS map and the 1909 revisions to that map.

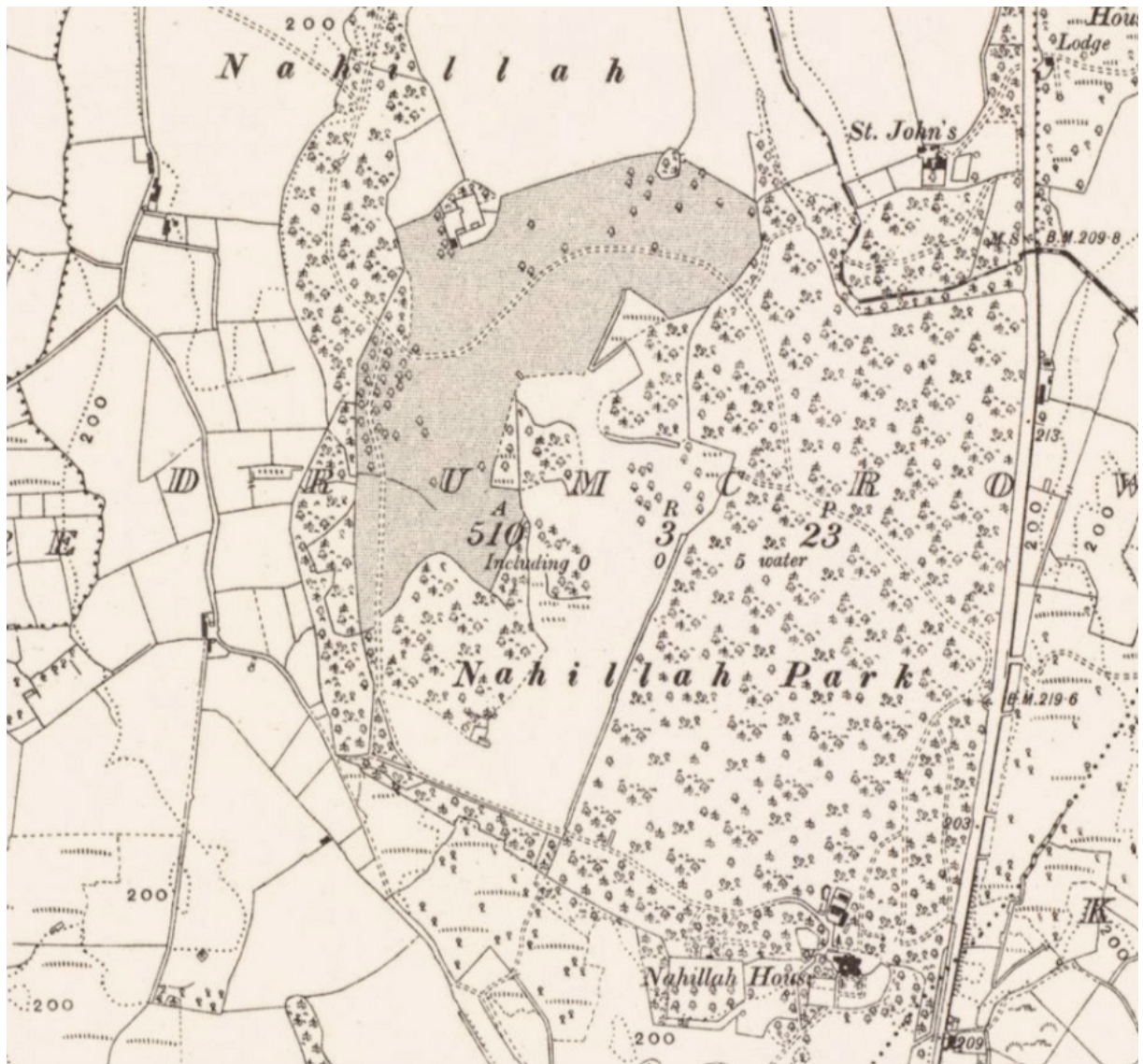


Fig. 3.8 Nahillah, Nahillah Park and Nahillah House, Drumcrow. Second Edition OS Sheet No 15 Cavan, 1909. Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

However, the name *Nahillah*, was first recorded as *Nahallagh* depicting an individual townland on the 1609 Ulster plantation Bodley Survey maps (see Fig. 3.9).

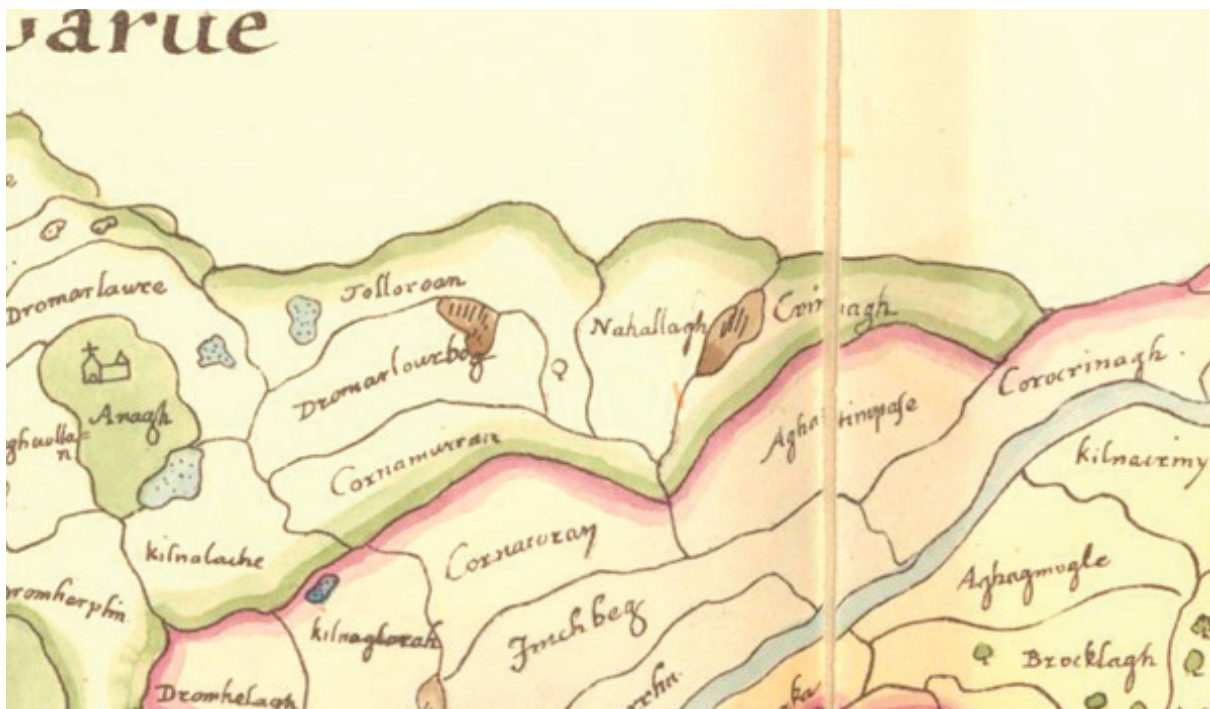


Fig. 3.9 Nahallagh [top centre] as depicted and recorded on the 1609 Bodley Survey. Source: Maps of the escheated counties of Ireland, 1609, 4.19 The Baronie of Loghtie, Special Collections, The Library, Queen's University, Belfast.

The name appears to have remained in use up to the early 19th century, as *Nahallas* is recorded on an estate map dated 1771, showing lands which meared Nahillah as shown in Fig. 3.10.

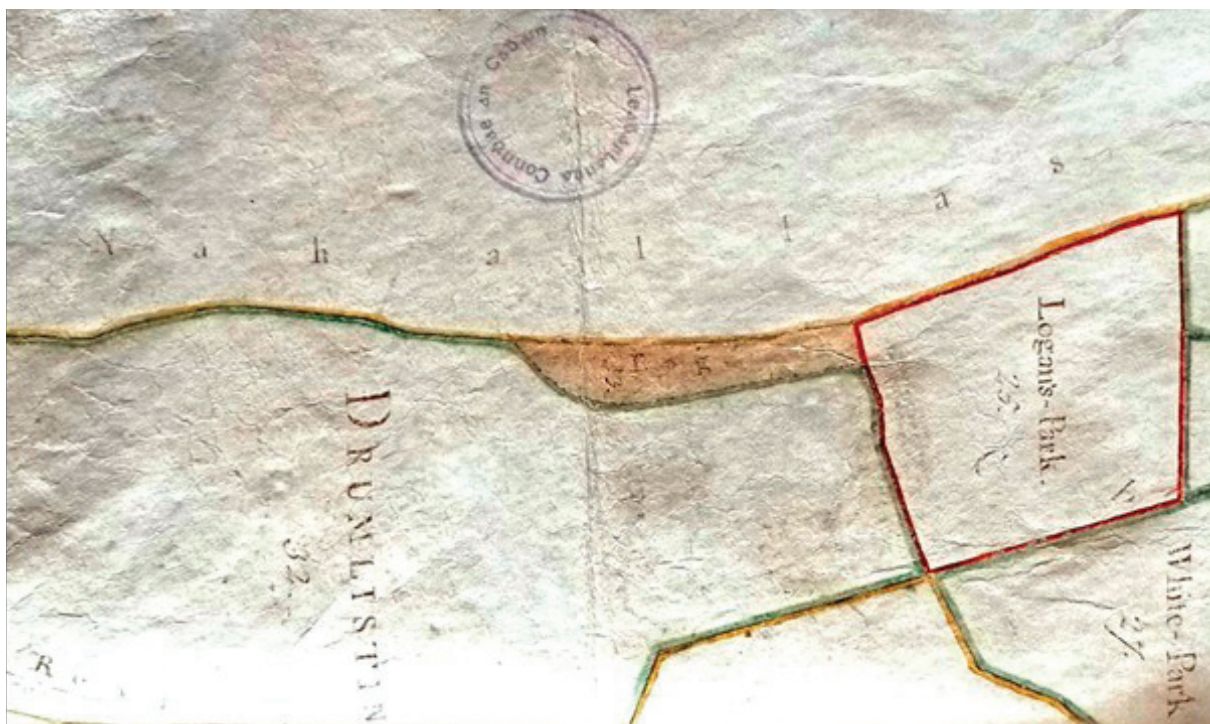


Fig. 3.10 Extract showing the name *Nahallas* from a survey of Cloverhill Demesne and Rahelliston, surveyed 1771 by John Piers. Source: Cavan County Archives, CCAS P017 / 0018. Courtesy of Cavan County Archive.

Another cartographic reference to *Nahillah* is found on an 1816 map of lands which meared it, recording the name *Nahalloes* (Fig. 3.11).¹⁹ It appears then that the name and division of land known as *Nahillah* was subsumed into the townland of *Drumcrow* when the area was surveyed and mapped by the Ordnance Survey in the 1830s with the name disappearing from the official record as a result only to reemerge by the early 20th century.



Fig. 3.11 'A Survey of the lands of Drumellison [OS Drumellis] and a moiety of Drumcrow [OS Drumcrow] in the Barony of Lower Loughtee and Co. Cavan. Surveyed by J. Longfield. June 1816' records the name *Nahalloes* in the centre foreground. Source: NLI MS 21 F. 32/ (024). Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.

Estate records maps

Maps and surveys drawn up in managing and administering the landed estates that covered Ireland up to the early 20th century as we have seen in the case of *Nahillah* are very useful in providing significant information relating to minor placenames and their origins. In identifying where estate maps and documentary records such as leases and title deeds that list the lands of the estate are extant, the Landed Estates database is an excellent starting point in providing a listing of archives and sources relating to a particular estate, including maps.²⁰ Occasionally these have been digitised or the originals may be accessed in a range of local and national libraries and archives.

¹⁹ This map is part of the Longfield collection of over 1,500, pre Ordnance survey maps held by the National Library of Ireland have been digitised and are available at <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Collection/vtls000282687>. They provide important insights into placenames in the early 19th century. A digital version of the 1816 map can be viewed at <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000301907>.

²⁰ Landed Estates database covering Connacht, Munster and the counties of Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan. c.1700-1914 is available at www.landedestates.ie.

Some of the papers relating to the Nugent family owned Farren Connell estate,²¹ close to Mountnugent, Cavan are today held in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, including a map of part of the estate dating from 1765. Fig. 3.12 is an extract of this map showing the discrete parcels of land and fields in the townland of Bobs Grove. The names hint at the use of particular fields and spaces for specific agricultural uses including *Horse park*, *Ram park*, and *Ashfield* noted as distinct fields and plots there, illustrating the diversity of productive spaces, improving practices in husbandry and arboriculture there. Another four acre plot 'intended as an orchard' and a six acre woodland plantation is also recorded, close to which was located the Nugent family home known alternatively as Bobs Grove or Farren Connell, is depicted on a five acre site described as the 'Garden grove, including houses and Sally park'.



Fig. 3.12 Extract from a survey of the lands of Mount Nugent, Bobs Grove, Gneeve, Raclagh and Clontyduff (Hart), Kilbride parish, surveyed in 1765 by Hugh Reilly. Source: Courtesy of the Deputy Keeper of the Records, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, D3835/C/1.

Besides naming places, the other key aspect of estate maps that may be of benefit for minor placenames relates to family names. Many estate maps recorded the names of those who were renting or leasing these lands as tenants. As already noted, one of the ways in which fields were often named was after the original owners when the property was acquired by the new owner. The presence of a particular family name on a map may have potential in pointing to the contemporary field or farm name. The 1812 survey of Aghnahederny, Cavan (Fig. 3.13) part of the Farnham estate is useful in highlighting the wealth of information that these estate maps contain. Some of the names of tenants detailed included Coyle, Gaffny, Widow Flood, Patt Lynch, John Briody, Terence Kilroy, Peter Lynch and Terence Lynch, alongside descriptions and the extent of their farms.

21 The Farran Connell estate entry from the Landed Estates database is available at <https://landedestates.ie/estate/4133>.



Figure 3.13 Extract from a map of Aghnahedran [OS Aghnahederny] in the parish of Ballinacue [Kilbride] and county of Cavan. Surveyed in August 1812 by James Grier. Source: Farnham Papers, NLI 21 F. 117 (4). Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.

The Griffith Valuation

Away from cartographic sources, several documentary sources again available online for the entire country may prove useful in giving context to a particular family name associated with a property or area. The mid 19th century Griffith Valuation or Primary Valuation of Tenements undertaken by Sir Richard J Griffith aimed to provide a basis for assessing local taxes, through an equitable and uniform system. The valuation is accessible online.²² Details are recorded in tabular form (see Fig. 3.14 for an example), with townlands arranged alphabetically within their civil parishes, baronies, and Poor Law unions. The information at tenement scale includes reference numbers to the position of the tenement in the Griffith valuation maps, 6 inch to 1 statute mile, the name of each occupier and immediate lessor, a description of the tenement, its acreage (if relevant) and individual annual valuations for both land and buildings. The final column provides the total annual valuation of the entire property. The detail recorded at townland level within the Griffith Valuation provides a unique source with which to analyse the changing ownership and occupation of land within Ireland from the mid-nineteenth century.

Valuation of Tenements.											
ACTS 15 & 16 VIC. CAP. 63; 17 VIC. CAP. 8; AND 19 & 20 VIC. CAP. 63.											
COUNTY OF CAVAN.											
BARONY OF TULLYGARVEY.											
UNION OF COOTEHILL.											
PARISH OF ANNAGH.											
No. and Letters of References to Map.	Names.		Description of Tenement.	Area.	Ratable Annual Valuation.		Total Annual Valuation of Ratable Property.				
	Townlands and Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.			Land.	Buildings.					
	AGHADREENAGH. (Ord. S. 16.)			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
1	Edward Johnston, .	Hugh Swanzy, .	House, offices, and land, .	14 3 28	10 10 0	1 0 0	11 10 0				
2	John McMahon, .	Same, .	Office and land, .	16 1 33	11 15 0	0 10 0	12 5 0				
3	James Huston, .	Same, .	Land, .	15 2 39	3 0 0	—	3 0 0				
4	Patrick Huston, .	Same, .	Land, .	—	3 0 0	—	3 0 0				
5	Peter Kelly, .	Same, .	Land, .	4 3 1	3 10 0	—	3 10 0				
6	Peter Kelly, .	Same, .	House and land, .	2 1 5	1 10 0	0 10 0	5 10 0				
7	Peter Kelly, .	Same, .	Land, .	2 2 31	1 15 0	—	1 15 0				
8	Owen McDonnell, .	Same, .	Land, .	7 0 35	5 10 0	—	5 10 0				
9	Owen McDonnell, .	Same, .	Land, .	1 2 28	0 15 0	—	0 15 0				
10	Patrick McDonnell, .	Same, .	House, offices, and land, .	5 1 31	3 15 0	1 5 0	4 10 0				
11	Terence Gormley, .	Same, .	House and land, .	1 1 5	1 0 0	0 10 0	1 10 0				
12	Michael Flood, .	Same, .	House, office, and land, .	9 1 12	5 10 0	0 10 0	6 0 0				
13	Michael Flood, .	Same, .	Land, .	3 2 17	1 15 0	—	1 15 0				
14	Margaret Naughton, .	Michael Flood, .	House, .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0				
15	Michael Flood, .	Hugh Swanzy, .	Land, .	9 0 15	4 5 0	—	4 5 0				
16	John Prunty, .	Same, .	House, office, and land, .	2 2 3	1 0 0	0 15 0	1 15 0				
17	Philip Trickle, .	John Prunty, .	House and garden, .	0 0 20	0 2 0	0 8 0	0 10 0				
18	Michael Flood, .	Hugh Swanzy, .	Land, .	2 2 33	0 10 0	—	0 10 0				
19	Terence Gormley, .	Same, .	Land, .	2 0 12	1 8 0	—	1 8 0				
20	John Prunty, .	Same, .	Land, .	0 2 13	0 2 0	—	0 2 0				
21	John Prunty, .	Rev. E. B. W. Venables, .	Herd's bo., off., & land, .	60 2 6	34 15 0	4 0 0	38 15 0				
	John Prunty, .	Same, .	Corn-mill and kiln, .	—	—	5 15 0	5 15 0				
	Michael Dunlavy, .	John Prunty, .	House, .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0				
	Robert Freeman, .	Same, .	House, .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0				
	Michael Coyle, .	Same, .	House, .	—	—	1 0 0	1 0 0				
	Mary Brady, .	Same, .	House, .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0				
	John Murphy, .	Same, .	House, office, and land, .	10 1 20	7 5 0	0 15 0	8 0 0				
	Water, .	—	Water, .	2 2 10	—	—	—				
	—	—	—	1 2 24	—	—	—				
	ANNAGHOASIL. (Ord. S. 16.)			Total, .	177 2 21	103 2 0	17 18 0	121 0 0			

Fig. 3.14 Extract from Griffith Valuation showing Aghadreenagh, Annagh Parish, Cavan. Source: Griffith Valuation, Cavan, 1856.²³

²² The Griffith Valuation is available at <https://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml>.

²³ See <https://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml>.

Censuses of Population 1901/1911

Like the Griffith Valuation, the Census of Population for 1901 and 1911 also provides a unique source in connecting family names to a particular place. Family names have come to be associated with landmark sites, fields or farms or particular roads or sections of roads to name a few examples. The entire census archive has been digitised and is accessible online.²⁴ In searching the census we would suggest using either (a) the Townland/street search function in cases where you know the name of the townland already or (b) the Search by location by county, DED and townland/street in accessing the returns for a particular place (Fig. 3.15).

County

All Counties



Townland / Street

Please enter a townland or street

DED

Please enter a townland or street

Search by location

You can also search the census records by place, and view your ancestors' neighbours, or get information about the place they lived in.

Search by location | 

[Click here for help with searching by location](#)

Fig. 3.15 Search by townland or street (top) or by location (below) options.
Source: <https://nationalarchives.ie/collections/search-the-census/browse/>.

²⁴ The 1901 and 1911 Censuses are available at <https://nationalarchives.ie/collections/search-the-census/>.

Section 4

Implementing the 'citizen humanities' approach in gathering and recording minor placenames

The approach detailed below may be undertaken either entirely electronically on a computer/device or alternatively hard copies of maps and survey sheets can be printed out and annotated with the names recorded committed at a later stage to the Meitheal Logainm website.²⁵ It is suggested that the smallest administrative division used in rural Ireland, the townland, or a street, in urban settings might be used in the collection of these names.

1. Using the Placenames Database of Ireland²⁶ identify and note down the spelling of the townland / street you are interested in and the civil parish it is located within.
2. Using the Irish Townland and Historical Map Viewer²⁷ locate your townland / street on the 25 inch map (MapGenie 25 Inch - ITM as shown in Fig. 4.1).



Fig. 4.1 Selecting the MapGenie 25 Inch ITM map. Source: Irish Townland and Historical Map Viewer. CYAL50486075 © Tailte Éireann – Surveying.

3. Using a screen grab or 'snipping tool' select the townland / street that you wish to focus on and save a copy of this map onto your computer. If you wish you can then print a hard copy of the map.

25 Meitheal Logainm available at <https://meitheal.logainm.ie/en/>

26 Placenames Database of Ireland available at <https://www.logainm.ie/en/>

27 Irish Townland and Historical Map Viewer available at <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/bdc13f643b68486c99e23abdae0a98e>

4. On either the hard copy of the map or the version that you have saved electronically, identify / number the features (buildings, infrastructure, features, fields) in the townland / street that you are aware of as having a minor placename.
5. Record these names on either the Sample Minor Placename Recording Sheet (see later section) and commit them at a later stage to the Meitheal Logainm website. Alternatively you can commit them directly to Meitheal Logainm.

Section 4 (a) Case study of minor placenames in one townland: Shancorn, Belturbet, Co. Cavan.

Based entirely on the knowledge of the landowner, this case study of the townland of Shancorn, Belturbet, Co. Cavan aims to illustrate how existing knowledge of minor placenames might be captured.

Step 1: Using the Placenames Database of Ireland you can either type in the name of the townland / street that you are wanting to identify or you can use the 'Locate on map' function (Fig. 4.2). The official spelling of the townland/street name will appear alongside the names of the barony and civil parish within which it is located.

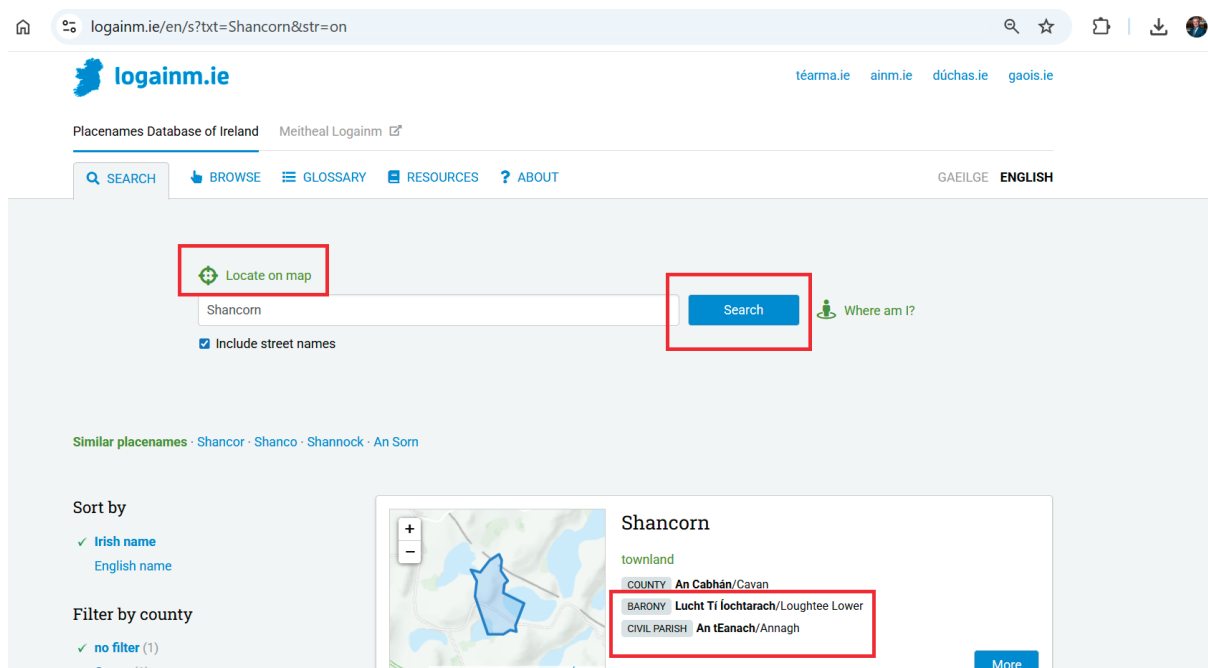


Fig. 4.2 'Locate on map' function from Placenames Database of Ireland. Source: <https://www.logainm.ie/en/>

Step 2: Using the Irish Townland and Historical Map Viewer locate your townland / street, using the Search bar and ask that this be shown on the 25 inch map (MapGenie 25 Inch - ITM) as shown in Fig. 4.3

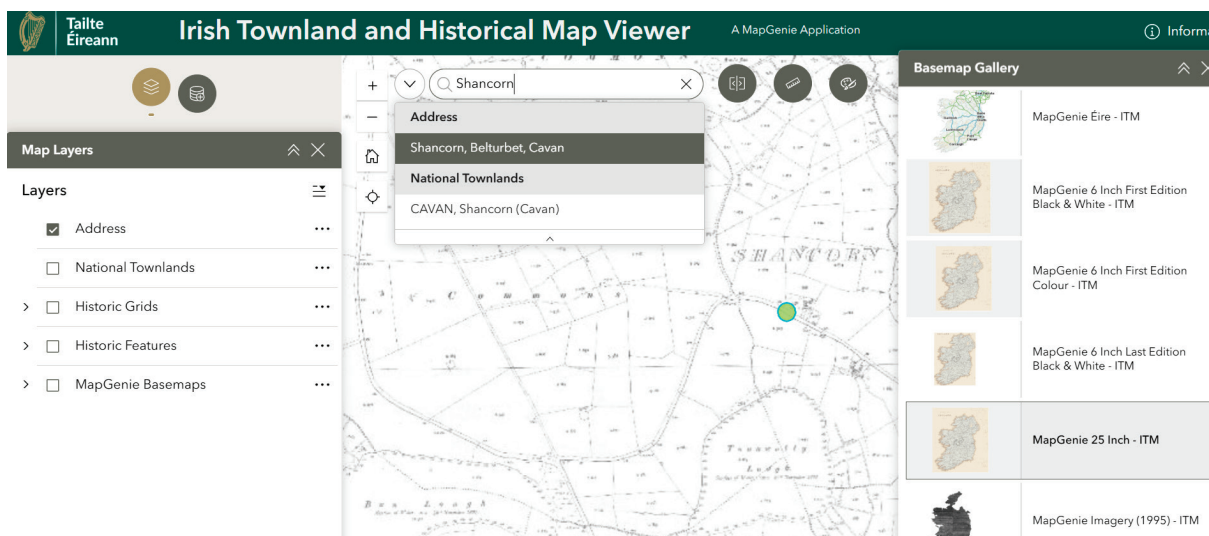


Fig. 4.3 Locate your townland / street on the MapGenie 25 Inch ITM map. Source: Irish Townland and Historical Map Viewer. CYAL50486075 © Tailte Éireann – Surveying.

Step 3: One notable feature of the 25 inch maps as shown in Fig. 4.4 for Shancorn, is that they record the area of fields in statute acres. On either the electronic copy using the 'Draw' and 'Draw Text' functions available on the Irish Townland and Historical Map Viewer²⁸ (as illustrated in Figs. 4.4 and 4.5) or on the hard copy of the map, identify / number the features (buildings, infrastructure, features, fields) in the townland / street that you are aware of as having a minor placename.

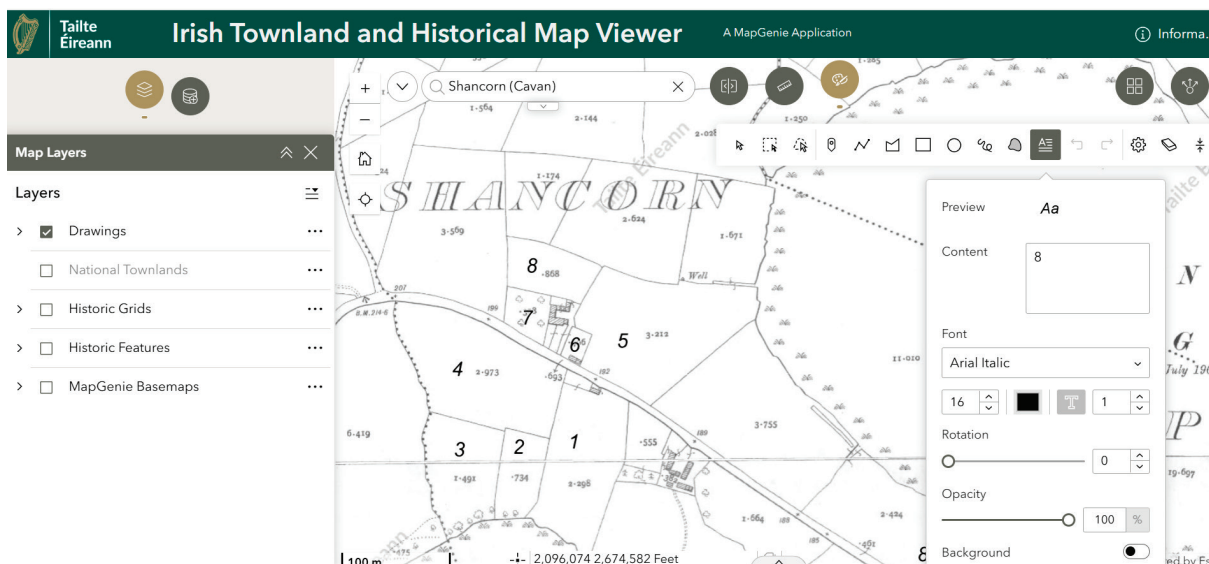


Fig. 4.4 Part of Shancorn townland as shown on the 25 inch map. Source: Irish Townland and Historical Map Viewer. CYAL50486075 © Tailte Éireann – Surveying.

28 For more on adding data to the map online see <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d982ad85855f41109d9c0c74ef2600f7>

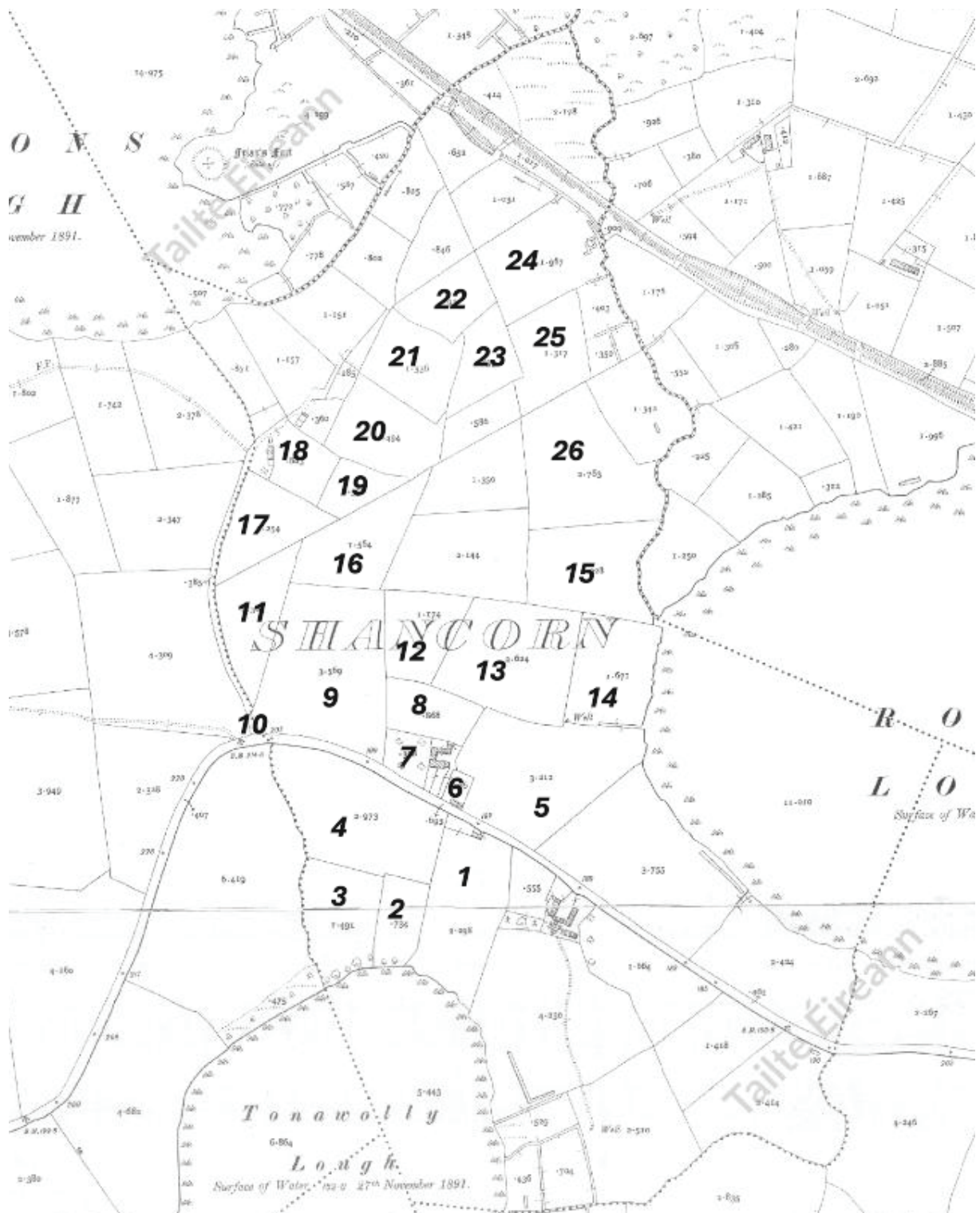


Fig. 4.5 Field / features as numbered in Shancorn. Source: Irish Townland and Historical Map Viewer. CYAL50486075 © Tailte Éireann–Surveying.

Step 4: Submit these names directly to Meitheal Logainm or alternatively record them on the Sample Minor Placename Recording Sheet, for submission at a later date to Meitheal Logainm.

Sample Minor Placename Recording Sheet

Location: as identified using Placenames Database of Ireland²⁹

Townland: <i>Shancorn</i>	Civil Parish: <i>Annagh</i>	Barony: <i>Loughtee Lower</i>
----------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Names:

No.	Record the spelling of the name in Irish and/or English (spell as pronounced)	Feature (field, building, infrastructure)	Meaning / origin of the name	Sources of information (for example local knowledge, maps, Griffith Valuation, Census or other)
1	The bull's field	field		Local knowledge
2, 3 & 4	Wallace's meadows	field		Local knowledge
5	The piss pot	field	It always seemed to rain when the grass in this field was mowed for hay	Local knowledge
6	The haggard	farmyard		Local knowledge
7	The orchard	orchard		Local knowledge
8	The calf park	field		Local knowledge
9	The field next the Commons	field	This field lies close to the boundary with the Commons, an area in the townland of Corporation Lands ³⁰	Local knowledge
10	Elliott's lane	lane	Lane that led to Elliott's lands	
11	Lucy's garden	field	Lucy was a horse	Local knowledge
12	The round hill	field		Local knowledge
13	The bush field	field		Local knowledge
14	The asses bottom	field		Local knowledge
15	The drinking place	field	Livestock had access to water from the drain and lakeshore in this field	Local knowledge
16	The rotten end	field		Local knowledge
17, 18 & 19	Elliott's land	field	A family of Elliott's are recorded in the 1911	Local knowledge and Census 1911

²⁹ Placenames Database of Ireland available at <https://www.logainm.ie/en/>

³⁰ For Corporation Lands see <https://www.logainm.ie/en/4995>.

No.	Record the spelling of the name in Irish and/or English (spell as pronounced)	Feature (field, building, infrastructure)	Meaning / origin of the name	Sources of information (for example local knowledge, maps, Griffith Valuation, Census or other)
20 & 21	The square meadows	field		Local knowledge
22	The three corner	field	Located close to a three corner field	Local knowledge
23	The bane (bean) field	field		Local knowledge
24	The sandy meadow	field		Local knowledge
25	Jones's hill	field		Local knowledge
26	The field over the bog	field		Local knowledge

Section 4 (b) Case study of minor placenames in one townland in a Gaeltacht area: Buailé an Ghleanna, Acaill, Co. Mayo.

The same methodology detailed above can be applied in Gaeltacht areas, where Ordnance Survey maps often record anglicised forms of minor placenames. In such contexts, local Irish speakers are typically able to identify and interpret the original Irish forms, provided the names continue to be used within the community.

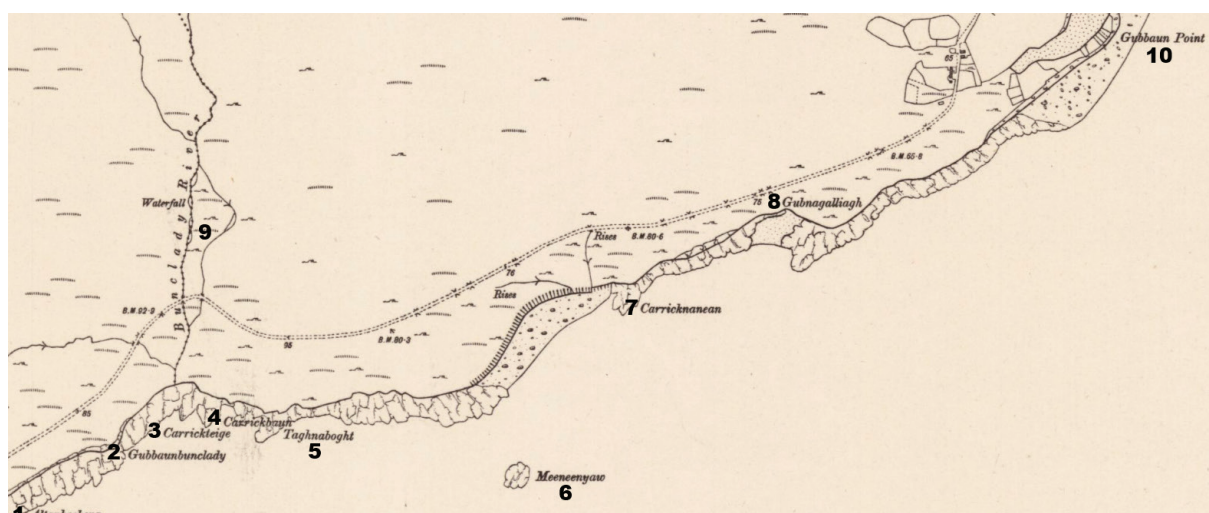


Fig. 4.7 Features as numbered in Buailé an Ghleanna. Source: Irish Townland and Historical Map Viewer. CYAL50486075 © Tailte Éireann –Surveying.

Location: as identified using Placenames Database of Ireland

Townland: <i>Buaile an Ghleanna</i>	Civil Parish: <i>Acaill</i>	Barony: <i>Buiríos Umhaill</i>
--	------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Ainmneacha:

No.	Record the spelling of the name in Irish and/or English (spell as pronounced)	Feature (field, building, infrastructure)	Meaning / origin of the name	Sources of information (for example local knowledge, maps, Griffith Valuation, Census or other)
1	Allt an Phíobaire	cliff or cliffs	"the cliff of the piper"	Local knowledge
2	Gobán Bhun Claoidí	point, tip	"little point of the bottom of the mountain stream"	Local knowledge
3	Carraig Thaidhg	rock or rocks	"Tadhg's rock"	Local knowledge
4	An Chreig Bhán	rock, crag	"The white rock, crag"	Local knowledge
5	Teach na mBocht	man-made feature	"The poor-house"	Local knowledge
6	Maidhm Aon Fheá	rock or rocks		Local knowledge
7	Carraig na nÉan	rock or rocks	"The rock of the birds"	Local knowledge
8	Gob na gCailleach	point, pormontory	"the point, headland of the hags"	Local knowledge
9	Abhainn Bhun Claoidí	river	"river of the bottom of the mountain stream"	Local knowledge
10	Gobán	point, pormontory	"The small point or headland"	Local knowledge

Section 4 (c) Examples of potential minor placename entries

The following examples classified as basic, intermediate and advanced are intended to illustrate the various ways in which minor placenames might be captured and the types of sources that might be examined and cited in providing context or an explanation as to the origins of the placename.

Basic entries record minor placenames based on local knowledge. This will be the most popular source of information as everyone has knowledge of minor placenames that they associate with locations and features they are familiar with.

The High Field. Drumellis, Cavan.	Source: Local knowledge.
The Big Meadow. Parisee, Cavan.	Source: Local knowledge
The High Field. Drumellis, Cavan.	Source: Local knowledge

Intermediate entries aim to proffer and provide a contextualised basis for the name, through the use of references to some easily accessible source material that has nationwide coverage such as the Ordnance Survey maps, mid 19th century Griffith Valuation and early 20th century Censuses of Population.

Name of feature. Townland name, county.	Source of information
Kemp's Brae. Cloverhill Demesne, Cavan.	Source: Local knowledge. A short section of road that includes a small incline / brae, named after the Kemp family who lived near the start of the incline. The family name can be identified from both Census 1901 and Census 1911.
The Priest's Bog. Drumellis, Cavan.	Source: Local knowledge. An area of bogland. It is most likely that this name was applied to it based on the leasing of the bog and surrounding lands by Rev Hugh Fitzsimons as recorded in the Griffith Valuation.
Gannon's Cross. Corrarod, Cavan.	Source: Local knowledge. A crossroads junction. Named after Jeremiah Gannon who was recorded as leasing property there in the Griffith Valuation.

Advanced entries will draw upon a range of sources including manuscript sources in highlighting a particular minor placename.

Name of feature. Townland name, county.	Source of information
Nahillah, Drumcrow. Cavan	Source: The name 'Nahallagh' is recorded on Bodley's 1609 barony map (Maps of the escheated counties of Ireland, 1609, 4.19 The Baronie of Loghtie, Special Collections, The Library, Queen's University, Belfast.); a 1771 map showing 'Nahallas' (Cavan County Archives, CCAS 0018); a 1816 map records 'Nahalloes' (NLI MS 21 F. 32/ (024)); the First Edition OS 6 inch to 1 mile (1836) shows 'Hollows Wood' while the Second Edition OS 6 inch to 1 mile (1912) records Nahillah, Nahillah Park and Nahillah House.

Citing / referencing sources: The following are suggested as ways of citing some of the more common sources that you may use when recording minor place names.

Source	Suggested shortened citation
Censuses of population	Census 1901; Census 1911; Census 1926.
Ordnance Survey maps	OS, Scale; Sheet number and Year of publication.
Griffith Valuation	GV (Year of publication)
Manuscript sources (documentary & cartographic)	<p>Name of archive for example NLI, (National Library of Ireland); NAI (National Archives of Ireland); local archive (Cavan Archive Service).</p> <p>Call number / archive reference for the source.</p> <p>Title of the source.</p> <p>The first two pieces of information are the most important to include as a reference.</p>



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