Project report on Logainm.ie and Meitheal Logainm.ie SNSBI, University of Nottingham

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Logainm.ie

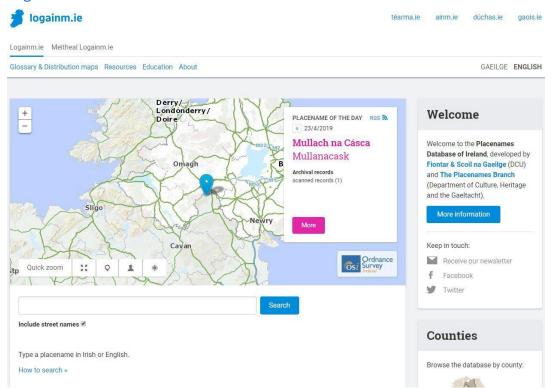


Figure 1: The Placenames Database of Ireland (logainm.ie)

- The Placenames Database of Ireland (logainm.ie)
- Provides the official Irish-language forms of the placenames of Ireland on a public website and a management and editorial system for the Placenames Branch on a private website
- The primary function of the Placenames Branch is to undertake research in order to establish the correct Irish language forms of the placenames of Ireland and to publish them for official
- logainm.ie is being developed by Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge (FSG) in Dublin City University (DCU) in collaboration with the Placenames Branch of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG)
- Launched on 1st October 2008

Current Statistics

- 91,866 placenames in Irish
- 111,361 placenames in English
- 12,562 sound files in Irish
- 10,623 sound files in English
- 9,039 explanatory notes
- Approx. 80,069 entries with archival records. These records show some of the historical evidence for the place names, e.g. various spellings etc. that the Placenames Branch collected from various sources.

Extra resources

There are other resources on the website also:

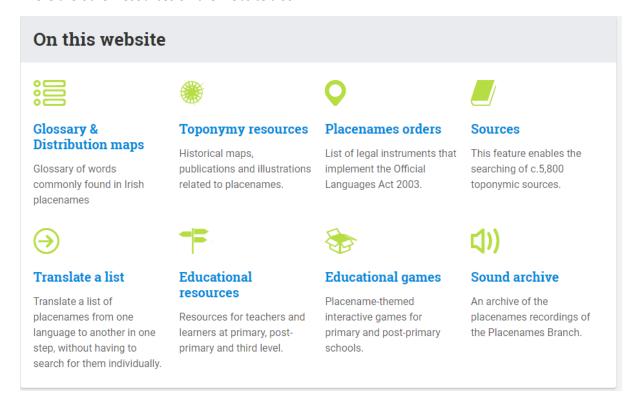


Figure 2: Extra resources on logainm.ie

Usage statistics

The website has had 1,468,965 visitors since it's launch on 1st October 2008.

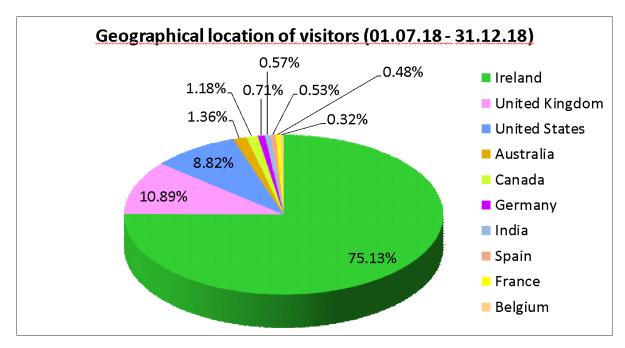


Figure 3: Geographical location of visitors (01.07.18 – 31.12.18)

Current phase 2017-2019

Current phase 2017-2019 involves:

Addition of more archival records to logainm.ie

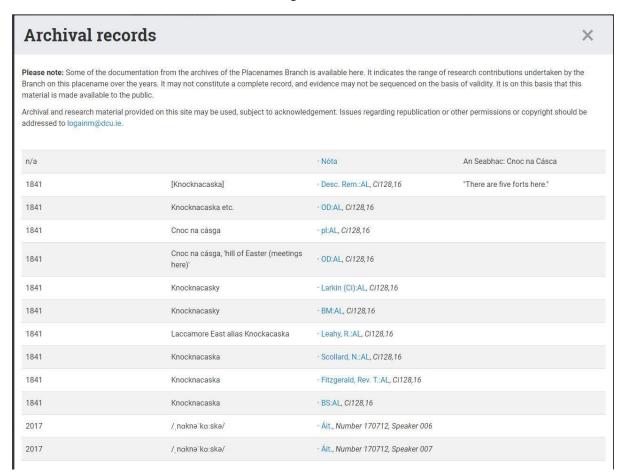


Figure 4: Archival records in logainm.ie

- Development of an application program interface (API) for logainm.ie
- Collaboration with Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi), Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland (OSNI) and the Northern Ireland Place-Name Project (NIPNP) to create links between the databases to enhance them in terms of place names, coordinates and boundary data
- Sound files for Co. Down recorded and added to logainm.ie
- Compilation of a comprehensive list of Ireland's street names for the purpose of providing authoritative Irish-language versions during the next phase of the project subject to funding. The local authorities have responsibility for streetnames in their respective areas, few however, have reliable lists of the Irish versions of these names. OSI contracted the Placenames Branch to supply authoritative Irish versions for all streetnames within the state between 2006 and 2008 in cooperation with the respective local authorities, however, not all local authorities availed of the scheme. During the scheme the Placenames Branch determined the Irish-language names of approx. 22,000 streets in 14 out of 34 council areas throughout the country. In addition to this they have also researched the streets of other areas, e.g. Kerry and Clare independent of the local authorities there. The Placenames Branch also determine the names of streets on request when local authorities or property developers contact them directly. During 2018 FSG wrote a computer programme to match the streets in Ordnance Survey Ireland's database with the streets in Logainm.i.e and OpenStreetMap

(OSM). OSi send lists of streets to FSG and FSG run the computer programme on the lists. Then FSG check the matching manually to see if the streets have been matched correctly. This proved challenging when it came to examples like 'The Park' (21 in OSi, 10 in logainm.ie) and 'The Green' (19 in OSi and 12 in logainm.ie) in Dublin city!

Future plans 2020+ (subject to funding)

- Addition of more archival records to logainm.ie
- Reformulation and redesign of the editorial and the public website
- Placename Workshop 2021 (workshops already held in 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018)
- Continued collaboration with OSi, OSNI and NIPNP
- Common elements in Irish placenames
- Determination of authoritative Irish-language versions of streetnames: This requires research as for example 'Green' in a street name could refer to a green area or the surname Green
 - Sráid an Ghraoinigh/Green Street
 street
 county: Kilkenny
 city: Kilkenny
 - Sráid na Faiche/Green Street
 street
 county: Kilkenny
 city: Kilkenny
 - Sráid na Faiche/Green Street
 street
 county: Kilkenny
 city: Kilkenny
 - An Bóithrín Glas/Green Street
 street
 county: Tipperary
 town: Roscrea
 - Sráid an Doirín/Green Street
 street
 county: Kerry
 - An Bóithrín Glas/Green Street
 street
 county: Tipperary
 administrative county: North Tipperary
 electoral district: Roscrea

Figure 5: Search results for 'The Green' in logainm.ie

town: Roscrea

Meitheal Logainm.ie



Figure 6: Meitheal Logainm.ie

- A community placenames collection project
- To provide a crowdsourced database for information about minor placenames
- Developed by FSG in DCU and the Placenames Branch of the DCHG
- Launched at the SNSBI pre-conference workshop entitled Tools for sharing minor placenames on the 14th April 2016



Figure 7: Turf-cutting meitheal, photograph from the National Folklore Collection https://www.duchas.ie/ga/cbeg/21971

A meitheal 'working group' is a group of people working together to accomplish a task, such as cutting turf in the case of this photograph from the National Folklore Collection of Ireland. In the case of Meitheal Logainm.ie the people are working together to collect and preserve data about minor placenames.

Minor placenames on Meitheal Logainm.ie

- Non-administrative placenames e.g.
- Field names have no administrative function, but they are extremely important as they contain information on a local level regarding settlement patterns, agriculture and industry, amongst other things. Unfortunately, information regarding field names is not as widespread as it once was due to demographic shifts, and thus it is vital that minor placenames be collected before they are forgotten. We hope that Meitheal Logainm.ie can help those who wish to record the field names in their own localities.
- Physical features e.g. lakes, rivers, bays, headlands, islands, hills
- Man-made features e.g. ring forts, churches, crossroads, bridges

Logainm.ie versus Meitheal Logainm.ie

- Separate websites
- Data on Meitheal Logainm.ie is not validated by the Placenames Branch or by FSG
- Facility for users to switch between the two websites using tabs at the top of the screen
- Results in logainm.ie for a search made in Meitheal Logainm.ie and vice versa
- While there are about 15,000 minor names in logainm.ie, it consists mainly of administrative names, e.g. counties, baronies, civil parishes and townlands
- Meitheal Logainm.ie consists of minor placenames

Current database contents

61,152 townlands 24,305 streets 3,478 electoral districts 2,563 civil parishes 2,510 minor features 2,320 population centres 1,946 lakes 1,243 islands and archipelagos 1,044 rocks 996 rivers 816 sub-townlands 795 towns 731 hills 632 mountains and mountain ranges 581 bridges 433 wells 429 houses 386 points, tips 345 baronies 290 ecclesiastical sites 287 monuments 259 creeks 244 man-made features 221 strands 211 bays 211 enclosures 204 promontories 194 graveyards, cemeteries, burial grounds 193 streams 192 crossroads 179 villages 168 castles 165 cliffs 165 features 157 woods 156 fields 154 valleys 140 roads 134 localities 90 historical names 86 passes 77 harbours 73 holes 53 quays, piers, wharves 53 bogs 44 cairns 38 channels, sounds 38 coombs 35 caves, souterrains 34 hamlets 33 waterfalls 32 counties 30 estuaries 28 standing stones 25 footpaths 25 fissures 24 fords 24 hollows 23 patches of ground 23 brows, slopes, hillsides 21 tombs 20 marshes 16 dioceses 16 reefs 12 canals 11 sandhills 11 turloughs 67 other geographical units

View further statistics regarding the Placenames Database of Ireland »

Figure 8: Current database contents on logainm.ie

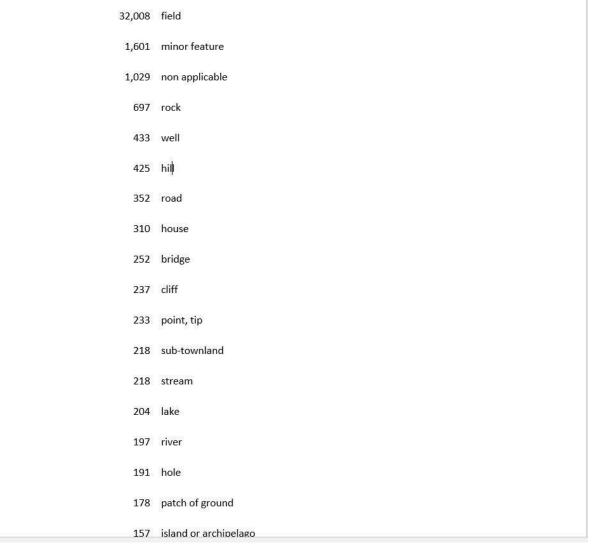


Figure 9: The 18 most common types of minor names on Meitheal Logainm.ie

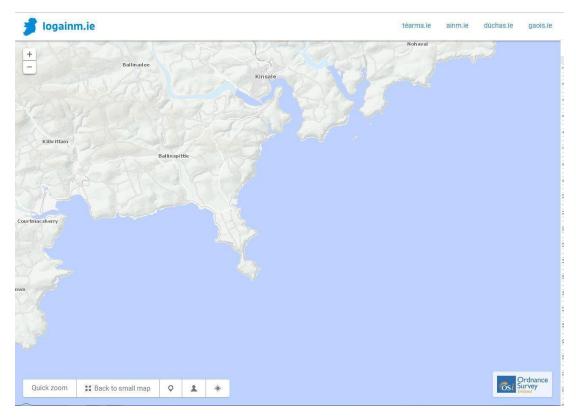


Figure 10: Administrative names on logainm.ie from the Old Head of Kinsale, Co. Cork on the South West coast of Ireland

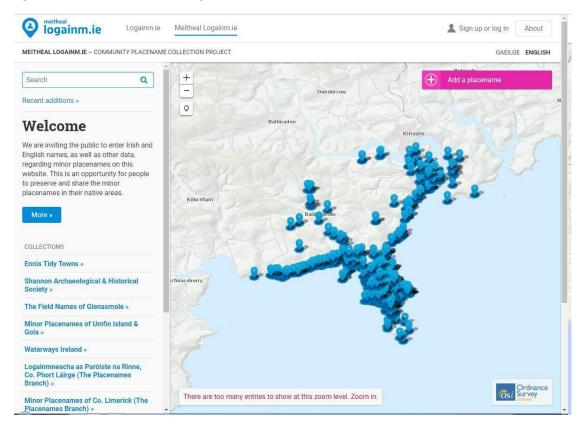


Figure 11: Minor placenames on Meitheal Logainm.ie from the Old Head of Kinsale, Co. Cork

Minor placenames on Meitheal Logainm.ie from the Old Head of Kinsale, Co. Cork on the South West coast of Ireland. Our thanks to <u>Jerome Lordan</u> for inputting those records on logainm.ie. Jerome has added 472 records to Meitheal Logainm.ie.

Statistics

- 309 individual users
- 15 collections by groups
- 41,467 records
- 191 audio recordings
- 9,155 names in Irish
- 36,491 names in English
- 25,197 visitors since launch in 2016

Current phase 2017-2019

- Geolocation: Meitheal Logainm.ie allows you to use geolocation to automatically obtain your current location when exploring minor placenames in your immediate environment or when contributing new placenames to the database. This facility is available on all supported devices and is particularly useful when employed on mobile devices, as it allows you to map placenames in the field.
- Recording audio: The audio recording facility was added to Meitheal Logainm.ie at the beginning of 2018 and it enables users to create audio recordings and store them in Meitheal Logainm.ie. This is a valuable development as it aids in preserving the pronunciation of minor placenames in addition to the textual information associated with them. The sound recordings on logainm.ie capture a guide to the local pronunciation of placenames for the public a single speaker was chosen for each county. The sound files on Meitheal Logainm.ie can capture the local pronunciation as individuals from the specific areas within the county can record the pronunciation of their local placenames. This audio recording facility is state of the art and already groups (e.g. Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales) have expressed interest in the technology. We are looking into possibilities to release the source code for Meitheal Logainm.ie under an open licence.
- Minor Placenames Workshop 17-18 May 2018
- Addition of 8 new collections
- Additions to the list of examples of research in the field of minor placenames, e.g. maps, publications, websites and theses

Future plans 2020+ (subject to funding)

- Addition of new collections
- Addition of new examples of research in the field of minor placenames
- Feature to upload a photograph
- Addition of historical and aerial Ordnance Survey maps
- Improved guidelines for users

Examples of collections and records on Meitheal Logainm.ie Collections

MEITHEAL LOGAINM.IE - COMMUNITY PLACENAME (COLLECTIONS Ennis Tidy Towns » Shannon Archaeological & Historical Society » The Field Names of Glenasmole » Minor Placenames of Umfin Island & Gola » Waterways Ireland » Logainmneacha as Paróiste na Rinne, Co. Phort Láirge (The Placenames Branch) » Minor Placenames of Co. Limerick (The Placenames Branch) » Westmeath Field Names Pilot Recording Project » Minor Placenames of Co. Waterford (The Placenames Branch) » Louth Field Names Project » Mapping the Minor Place Names of the Cooley Mountains » Minor Placenames of Rathlin » Coláiste Pobail Cholmcille, Toraigh » Meath Field Names Project » Mayo Placenames (Fiachra Mac Gabhann) »

Figure 12: Collections from Meitheal Logainm.ie

Coláiste Pobail Cholmcille

In **2012** (i.e. before Meitheal Logainm.ie) logainm.ie ran a competition for post-primary schools. Pupils were invited to research placenames in their local area and to submit the research in any of the following formats: text, wall chart, mindmap, photographs, drawings/images, poster, booklet, short film, Powerpoint presentation or recorded interview. Coláiste Pobail Cholmcille, Tory Island – won the competition for their map and <u>Powerpoint Presentation</u> on placenames on Tory Island.

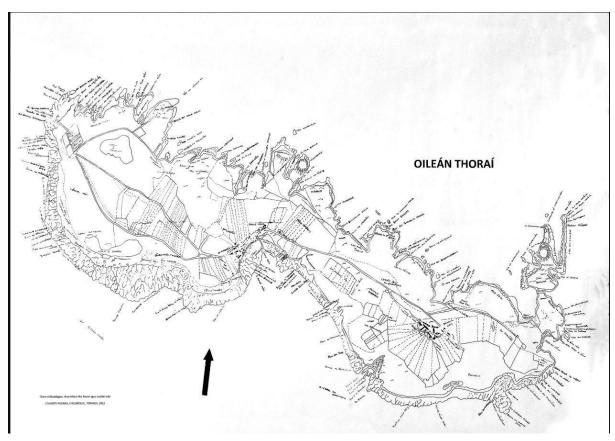


Figure 13: Entry by Coláiste Pobail Cholmcille to the logainm.ie competition for post-primary schools 2012

In **2018** logainm.ie ran a competition for post-primary schools. Pupils were invited to enter data in **Meitheal Logainm.ie** about minor placenames in the vicinity of the school (or of the pupils' homeplace). Coláiste Pobail Cholmcille, Tory Island — won the competition. The pupils managed to record over 400 minor placenames along with numerous audio recordings which capture the local pronunciation of the collected entries. This collection preserves the toponymic heritage of Tory Island and its vicinity and records valuable historic, geographic and toponymic information for future generations. Rocks, fissures, fields, caves and many other types of minor placenames are included in this collection.



Figure 14: Entry by Coláiste Pobail Cholmcille to the Meitheal Logainm.ie competition for post-primary schools 2018

The pupils of Colásite Pobail Cholmcille also gathered minor names from the islands in the vicinity of Tory Island: Inis Beag, Oileán Dúiche and Inis Bó Finne.

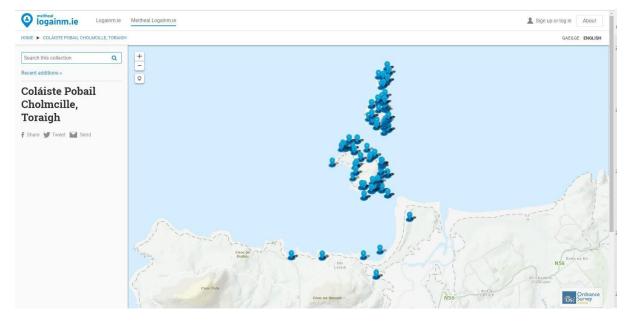


Figure 15: Entry by Coláiste Pobail Cholmcille, Toraigh to the Meitheal Logainm.ie competition for post-primary schools 2018

An example from the Coláiste Pobail Cholmcille, Toraigh collection: <u>An Bhuilg Chaoch</u> – submerged rock, caoch = blind

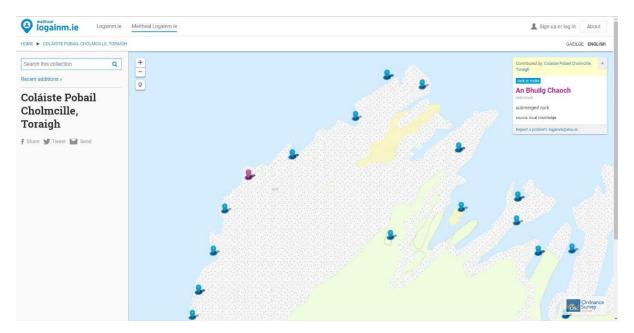


Figure 16: Example 'An Bhuilg Chaoch' from the Coláiste Pobail Cholmcille, Toraigh collection

Another example from the Coláiste Pobail Cholmcille, Toraigh collection: <u>An Mhórsheisear</u> (Church of the Seven who came to see Colm Cille according to local legend.)

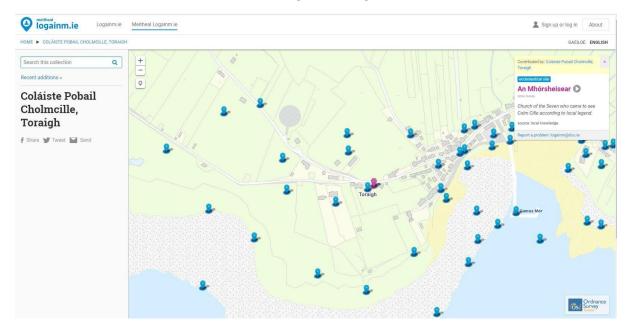


Figure 17: Example 'An Mhórsheisear' from the Coláiste Pobail Cholmcille, Toraigh collection

The 10 most common types of minor names in this collection:

- rocks e.g. An Bhuilg Chaoch
- fissures e.g. An Cúl-Scoilt
- cliffs e.g. An Bhinn Bhriste
- fields e.g. An Blár
- holes e.g. An Poll Dubh
- promonotory e.g. An Dún
- caves, souterrains e.g. Uaimh a' Toir Mhóir
- points, tips e.g. An Méile Mór

• enclosures e.g. An Chonabhail Bheag

Minor Placenames of Rathlin

Brian Mac Lochlainn collected these placenames from Alex Morrison in the 1980s and the 1990s. Alex was born in Greenock in Scotland in 1915. When his mother died Alex was just three years old, he was sent to Rathlin where his father's sister reared him and Irish was spoken in the house. He had an extensive knowledge of the minor placenames of the island and there are almost 400 names in the collection. Alex died in 2012. There is a link on Meitheal Logainm.ie to more information about his life and this collection. Brian made a sound recording of Alex saying the placenames and it is available at the same link.

We received this numbered list of names from Brian Mac Lochlainn's daughter, Caoimhe Nic Lochlainn, a colleague of ours in FSG. These are the names that Brian collected from Alex.

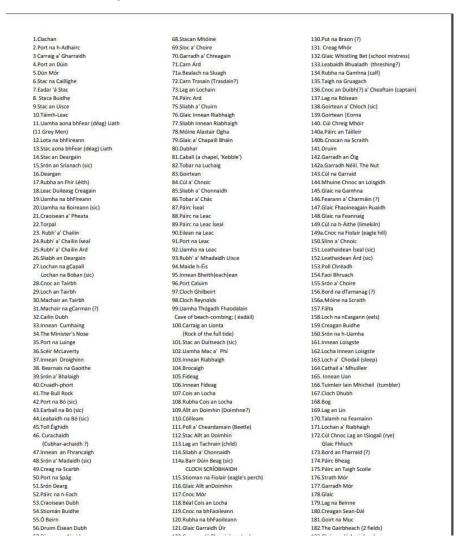


Figure 18: List of minor placenames on Rathlin Island collected by Brian Mac Lochlainn from Alex Morrison

And this map with the numbers from the list on the previous slide representing where the places are located.

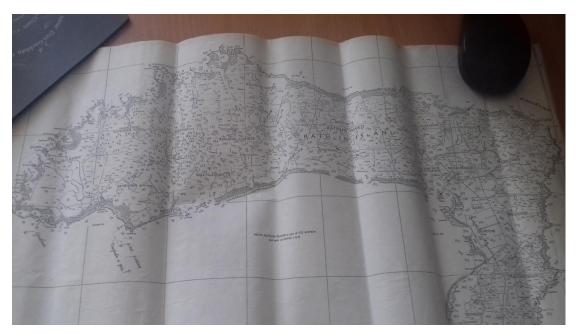


Figure 19: Map of minor placenames on Rathlin Island collected by Brian Mac Lochlainn from Alex Morrison

And 12 of these 1 metre squared aerial photographs of the Ireland, which show every field and house. Brian and Alex spent many Sundays identifying the placenames with their locations.

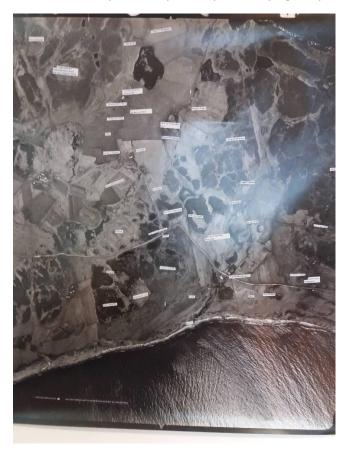


Figure 20: Aerial photograph of minor placenames on Rathlin Island collected by Brian Mac Lochlainn from Alex Morrison

We couldn't use the map on Meitheal Logainm.ie to enter the placenames there because the basemap of the 6 counties that Land & Property Services (LPS) provide to OSi MapGenie is not as accurate or as detailed as it could be, but we hope that this will improve over time. So instead we used the website Irish Grid Reference Finder to get the coordinates for the place represented by each minor placename.

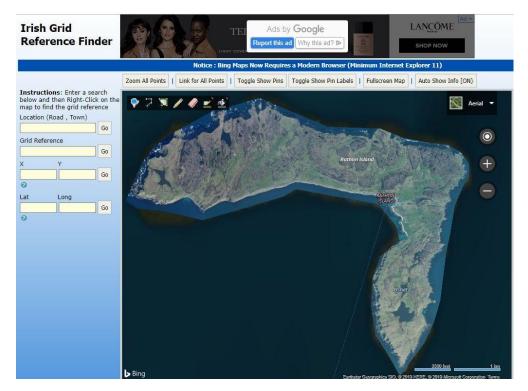


Figure 21: Rathlin Island on the website Irish Grid Reference Finder

For example we located Loch an Tairbh on the map here and got the coordinates.

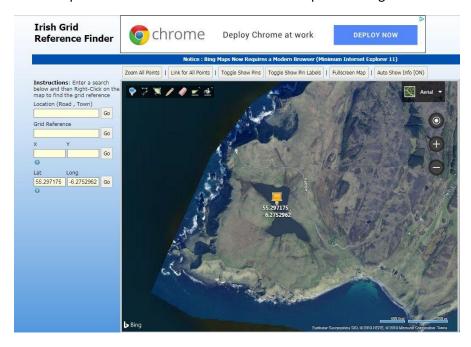


Figure 22: Location of the minor name 'Loch an Tairbh' on Rathlin Island on the website Irish Grid Reference Finder

We were then able to create a record for Loch an Tairbh on Meitheal Logainm.ie.

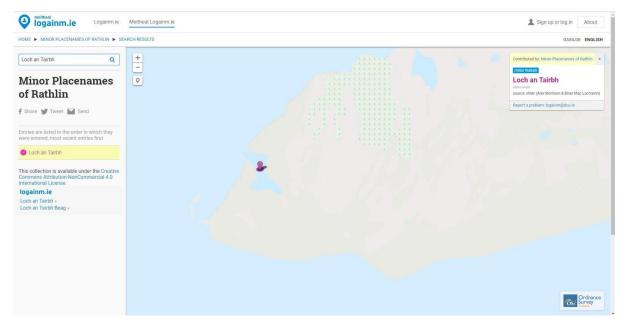


Figure 23: The entry for 'Loch an Tairbh' on Meitheal Logainm.ie

You can see here that some of the map to the left is missing, giving the appearance that the lake it right at the edge of the island when in fact it is not if you look back to the website Irish Grid Reference Finder.

This is how the collection looks now on Meitheal Logainm.ie. You can click on any of the points on the map and the information about the placename pops up in a box on the screen.

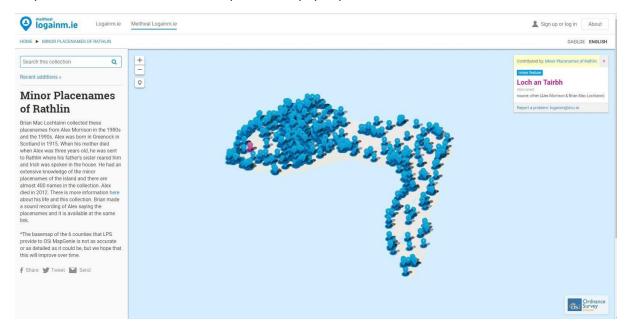


Figure 24: Minor Placenames of Rathlin collection on Meitheal Logainm.ie

The most common elements in this collection (costal names as one would expect). I've taken the explanatory notes from Mac Giolla Easpaig, Dónall (1989–90). <u>'The place-names of Rathlin Island'</u>, Ainm, 4: 3-89.

The most common elements in the minor names of this collection:

• port – Port an tSonais (the port of the luck)

- páirc Páirc na nEach (the field of the horses)
- glaic Glaic an Acair / Glaic an dá Acair (the hollow of the acre or the hollow of the 2 acres)
- cnoc Cnoc an Airgie (the hill or rock of the silver or money)
- cúil Cúl a'Chnoic / Cúl an Chnoic (the back of the hill)
- uamha Uamha na gColmán (the cave of the pigeons)
- stac Stac an Uisce (the stack of the water)
- rubh' Rubh' a' Mhadaidh Uisce / Rubha an Mhadaidh Uisce (the point of the otter))
- sliabh Sliabh an Deargain / Sliabh an Deargáin (mountain of the red nook)



Figure 25: Waterways Ireland collection on Meitheal Logainm.ie

An example from Waterways Ireland: <u>Hangman's Arch</u> (A boatman got engaged to a local girl. He had to leave for work and when he returned she had married another man. He subsequently took his own life. Historical piece written in local pub. R415, Newbridge, County Kildare, Ireland).

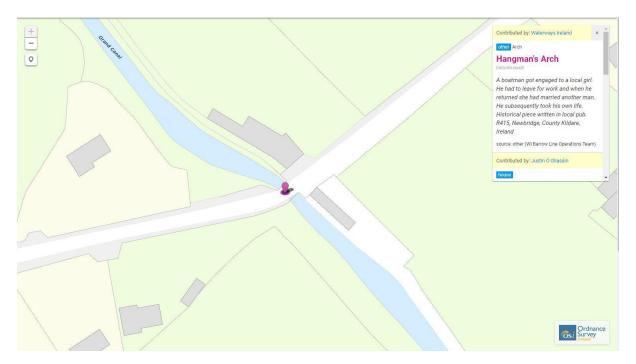


Figure 26: Waterways Ireland: Hangman's Arch on Meitheal Logainm.ie 1

Extra information contributed by Justin Ó Gliasáin (The Hangedmans Arch was ran by the Kelly family until the late 1990s/early 2000s, who also lived in the building. Until recent times the remains of a tree could be seen outside the pub surrounded my a small stone arch. This was supposedly the tree from which the above-mentioned boatman hanged himself. The western gable wall was formerly emblazoned with the words: 'Hangedman's Arch Beer Cellar' which could be seen clearly from the road when crossing the canal bridge from the west. Also clearly visible when travelling this direction were the words 'Topless Lounge', written on a roofless structure to the rear of the pub which served as a sort of beer garden. This is now part of the dining area in the modern restaurant. Until the change of ownership the name 'Laurence Kelly' was above the door. The pub is mentioned in the Schools' Folklore Collection: 'The Provision + Spirit Shop at the Milltown Canal bridge used to be known as " House" The Gaelic Proprietor Lawrence Kelly Predecessor https://www.duchas.ie/ga/cbes/4742170/4741857http://hatspics.co.uk/photo_expanded.php?id=9 105016http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/niah/search.jsp?type=record&county=KD®no=11901813)

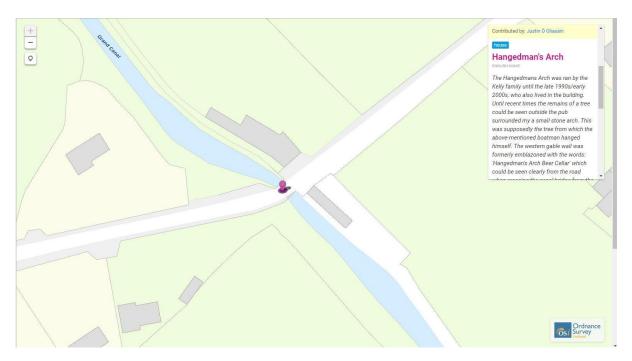


Figure 27: Waterways Ireland: Hangman's Arch on Meitheal Logainm.ie_2

Mapping the Minor Place Names of the Cooley Mountains

An example from the collection <u>Mapping the Minor Place Names of the Cooley Mountains</u>: <u>The Hairpin Bend</u> (Description: A sharp hairpin bend on the Bog Road)

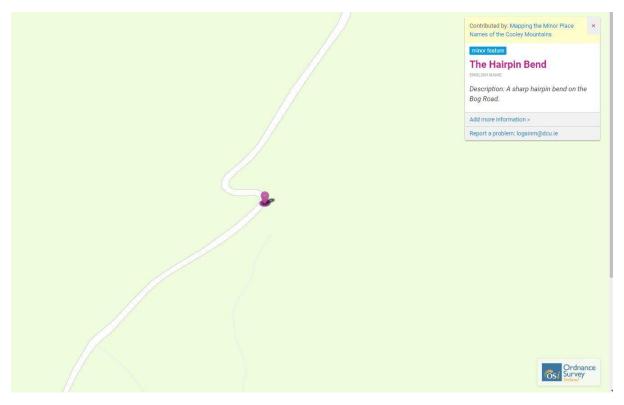


Figure 28: Mapping the Minor Place Names of the Cooley Mountains: The Hairpin Bend

How to use Meitheal Logainm.ie

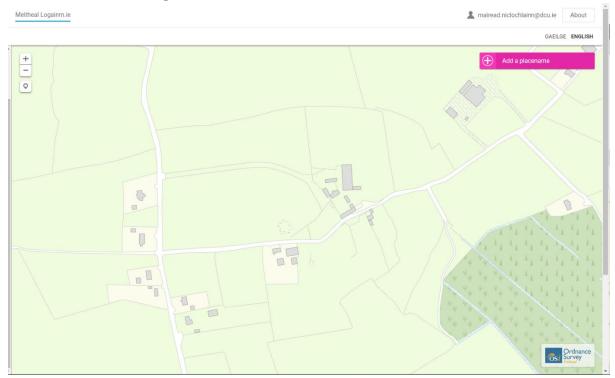


Figure 30: Step 1 - Add a placename

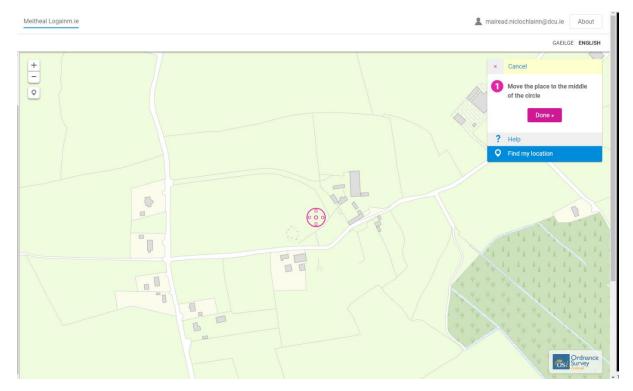


Figure 31: Step 2 – Move the place to the middle of the circle and click on *Done*

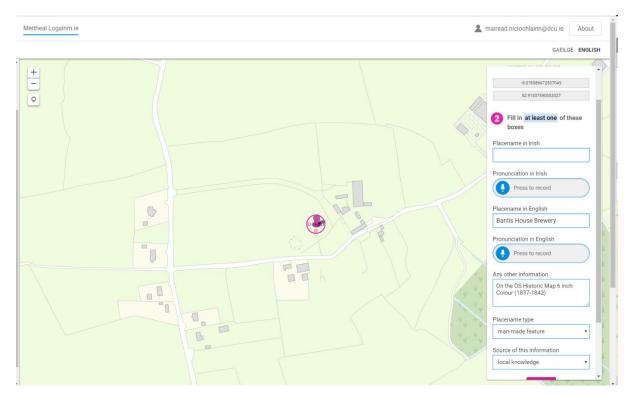


Figure 32: Step 3 – Fill in at least one of these boxes

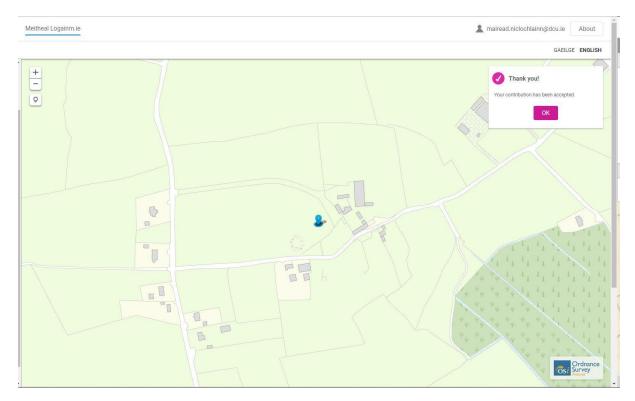


Figure 33: Thank you – your contribution has been accepted

