

FINGAL FIELDNAMES PROJECT

Workshop - 26/03/2025, Carnegie Library, Swords

Abarta Heritage - Róisín Burke

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

- Began in 2018 with training and support delivered by Conor Ryan of Abarta Heritage and was supported by Fingal County Council.
 - Supported by Christine Baker, Fingal County Council's Heritage Officer.
 - An action of the Fingal County Heritage Plan (2024-2030).
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WHAT IS A FIELDNAMES PROJECT?

- A record of every known field name in the area.
 - Field names and their meanings are remembered by local farmers and landowners.
 - Recorded by volunteers into a database
 - A useful resource for understanding the history and cultural heritage of the area.
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PREVIOUS PROJECTS

Recent projects to document field names have taken place in:

- Meath (2013)
 - Louth (2012-2014)
 - Kilkenny (2010-2016)
 - Roscommon
 - Mayo
 - Minor place names have also been recorded in Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Clare and Mayo.
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WHY ARE FIELD NAMES IMPORTANT?



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- A landscape photograph showing a vast, golden field in the foreground, likely a harvested crop field. In the middle ground, there is a line of dark green trees. The background features a hazy horizon with distant hills or mountains under a sky filled with large, grey, dramatic clouds. The overall mood is serene and historical.
- They are an important part of Fingal's cultural heritage.
 - They can often date back hundreds of years.
 - They offer unique insights into the past e.g. they may tell us about what the field was previously used for: Brick field where bricks were once made.

A wide landscape of a golden field under a cloudy sky. The field is in the foreground, stretching towards a line of trees in the middle ground. The sky is filled with large, grey, dramatic clouds, with some light breaking through. The overall mood is somber and atmospheric.

They might tell us who owned or lived in the field: Mike's field.

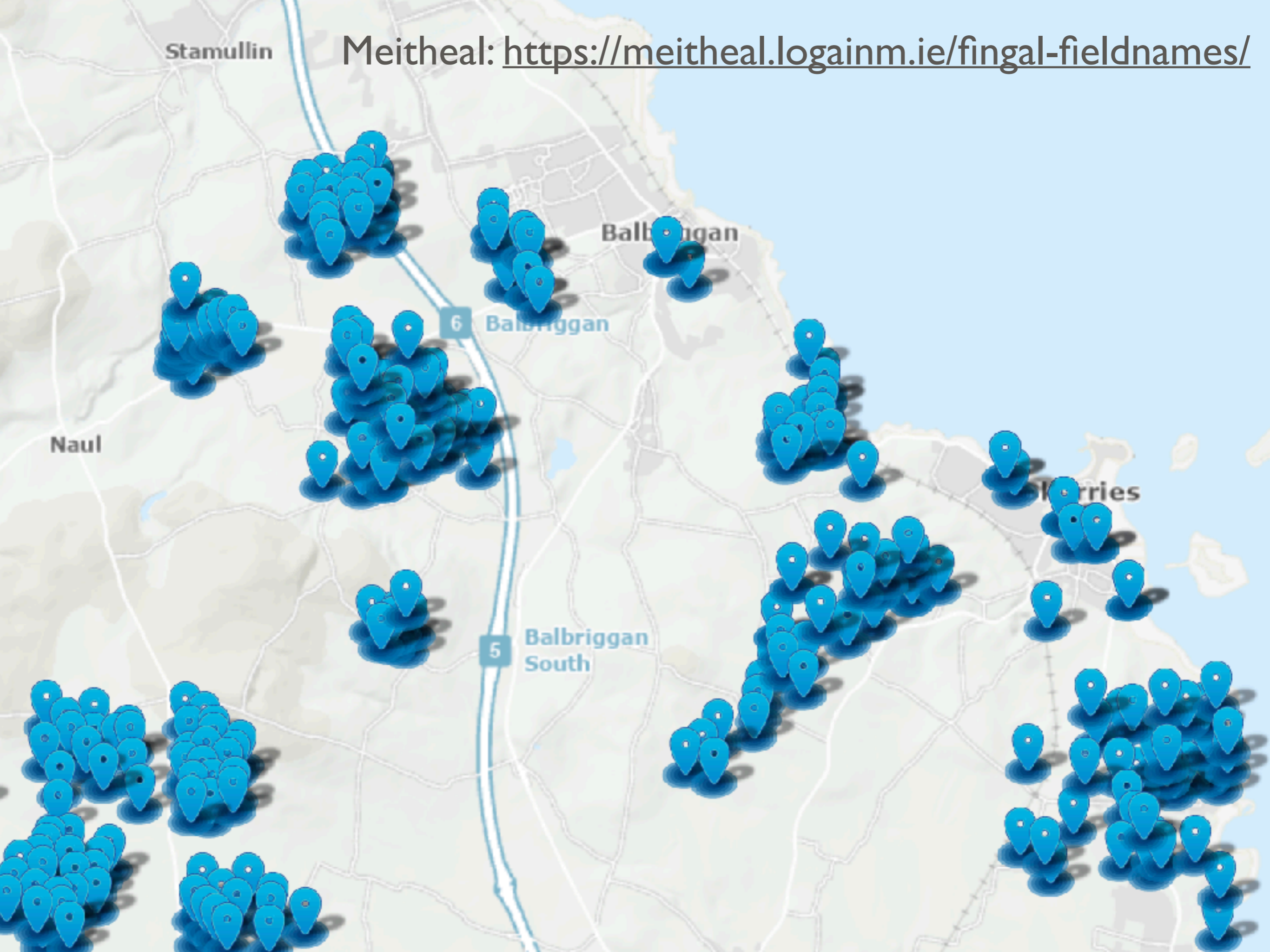
They might record an archaeological or natural feature that is now gone: The druid's altar or Diarmuid and Gráinne's Bed

They might tell of an exciting event: The bloody field.

What has been achieved so far:

- Over 100 volunteers
- At least 75 townlands covered
- Approximately 1,400 fieldnames covered
- A large database was created.
- A final report analysing the findings was created.
- Fieldnames were recorded online and made publicly accessible

Meitheal: <https://meitheal.logainm.ie/fingal-fieldnames/>



WHY COLLECT FIELD NAMES?

Because once lost they are lost forever

- Older generations passing on.
 - Development is quickly changing the landscape: what was once farmland or landed estates are now housing estates and industrial zones.
 - Field boundaries are changing or being removed.
 - They have no official status and are not officially recorded, so volunteer help is urgently needed.
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A group of approximately 15 people are seated around a large, dark wooden table in what appears to be a pub or community hall. They are all looking towards a man standing on the right side of the frame. The man is wearing a light blue short-sleeved shirt and dark trousers, and he is holding a large sheet of paper, likely a presentation or agenda. The room has a warm, rustic feel with wooden paneling, a bar area in the background with various bottles, and a television mounted on the wall. A chandelier is visible in the upper right corner. The overall atmosphere is that of a formal yet relaxed meeting or presentation.

HOW TO VOLUNTEER

HOW TO VOLUNTEER?

- You can work on your own or in groups.
 - I'll email information to anyone who signed the sheet.
 - Directly email: info@abartaheritage.ie
 - If there is someone you think might be interested let them know.
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WHAT YOU NEED

- The Fingal Fieldnames handbook (I'll email to you)
 - Recording sheets (I'll email them to you)
 - Map of the townland (I'll email it to you)
 - A pencil
 - Enthusiasm!
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HAND BOOK

- Available on www.fingal.ie

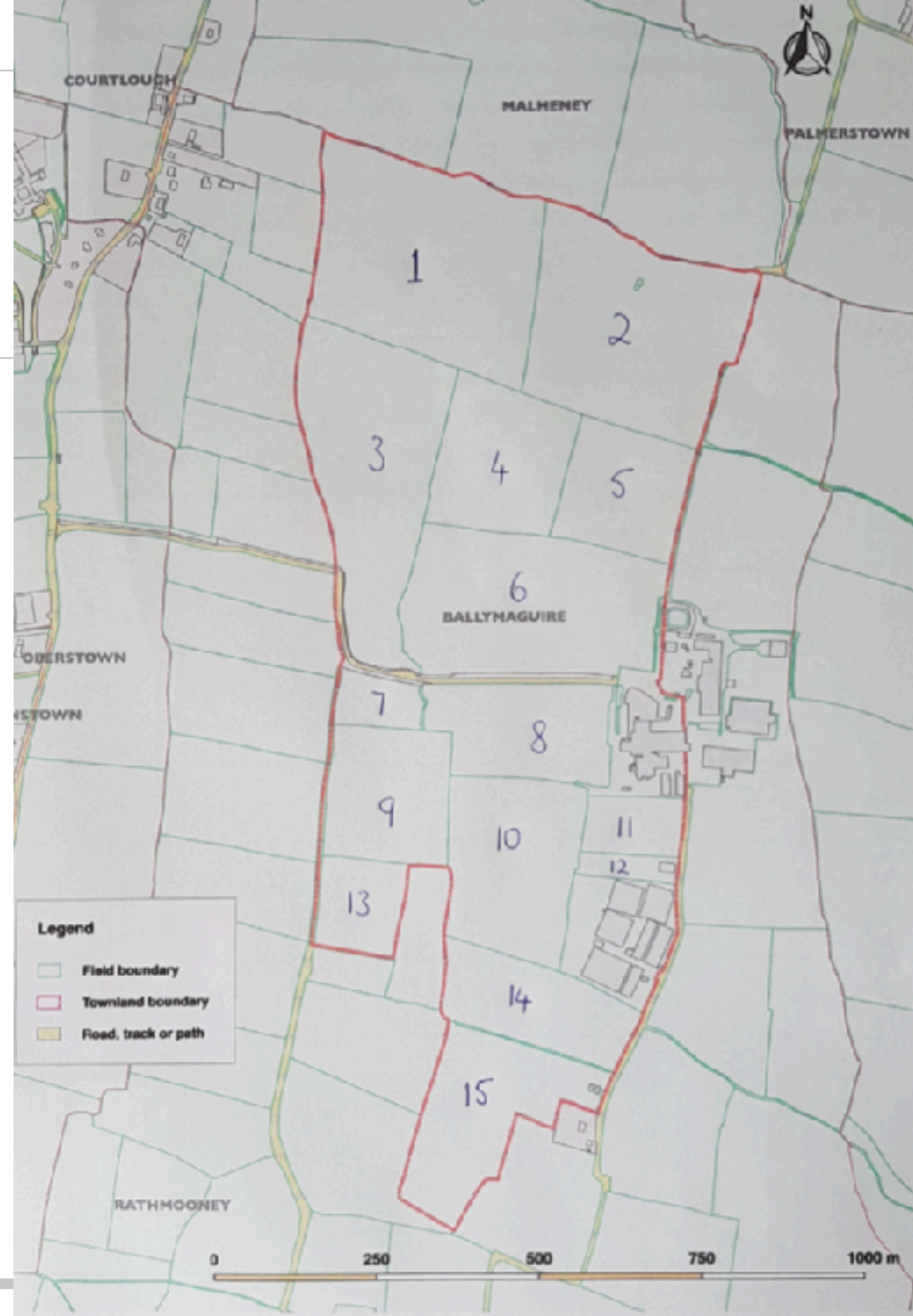
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TOWNLAND MAP

- Sample from Ballymaguire.
- If you email me about the townland you'd like to cover I will send you a blank map of that townland to fill in.
- Number should start in the top left corner and finish in the bottom right.



RECORDING SHEET

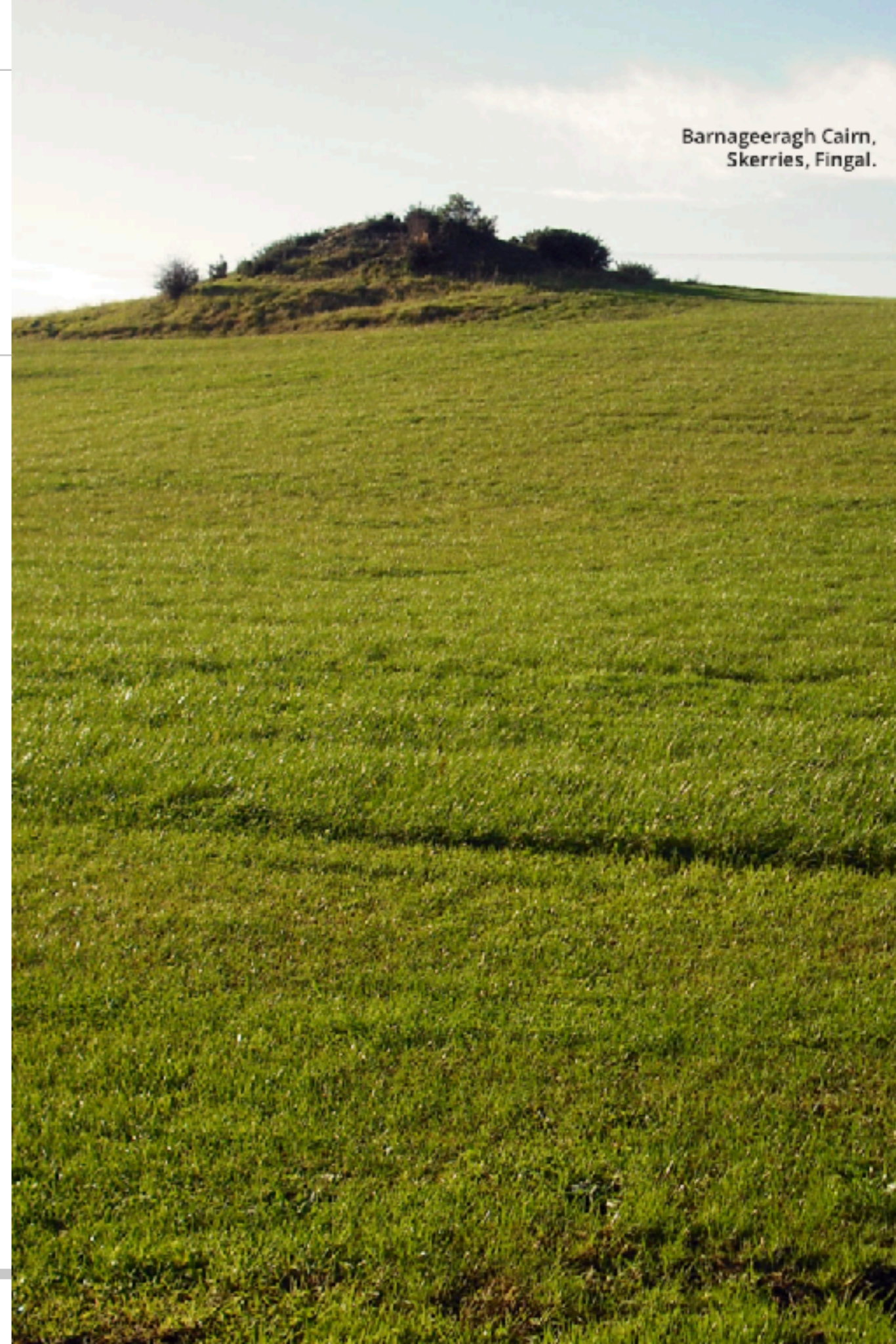
- Each field gets its own recording sheet.
- All the information is easy to find in your hand book

Surveyor (your name):		Phone/email:	
Field location			
Civil Parish		Landowner's name	
Townland		Landowner's phone/ email	
Townland Code		Previous owner (if known)	
Field Map Reference No.		Landed Estate (if known)	
GPS Coords		Audio record made? (Y/N)	
Fieldname details			
Field name in English or Irish if applicable			
Meaning of field name			
Any stories or folklore connected to this field?			
Comments?			
Fieldname age	1900s <input type="checkbox"/>	1800s <input type="checkbox"/>	1700s <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
Current use		Field size (acres/ hectares)	
Any notable field features (check the Fingal Fieldnames booklet)			
Source of your info:			

ONCE COMPLETE

- You can either photograph/scan the recording sheets and email them to Christine Baker - Fingal Heritage Officer (christine.baker@fingal.ie) or post them.
 - Let us know if you would like to research another townland.
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Barnageeragh Cairn,
Skerries, Fingal.





**INTERESTING STORIES &
FOLKLORE FOUND IN
FINGAL'S FIELDNAMES**

Location: near Ballyboughal

“Broomfield” is so called because brooms or plants from which brushes were made grew there.

Location: Baldurgan, Swords

There is a field called "Howards field" because nineteen families of Howard lived in it.

Location: Parslickstown

”The Curragh” is so called because long ago Mr Hoey the father of the man who lives there at present, used to train horses in the field.

Location: Clonshough

The “Bare Bones” on Mr Wilson’s farm is so-called because there is never any grass in it. The only bit of grass there is, is about half an inch long.

Location: Ballyboughal

The “Hop Yard” is so called because there was a distillery for the brewing of hops here two hundred years ago. Others say that hops grew there.

FAIRIES

Location: Damastown

There is a hole in the field called the “Cobbler's Hole” because a little man was seen by several people at dusk cobbling boots, for the fairies.

Location: Grange

There is a field called the “Wandering Hill” because one evening there was a man going across this field. It was getting dark and his foot struck a stray sod which put him astray. He could not find his way home and wandered around all night. In the morning he found himself many miles away from where he was going. Ever since it was called the wandering hill.

WAR

Location: Baldurgan

There is a field called “Dead man’s bones” because after the battle of Clontarf the Dalcassians journeyed to Baldurgan, where they buried their dead.

Location: half a mile outside Swords

There is a hill called “Gallows Hill”, which gets its name from the time of the English invasion. They used to hang their Irish prisoners on this hill and then bury them there.

Location: Newtown

‘Billy’s Field’ is named because King William of Orange was supposed to camp or pass through that field on his way from the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.

Location: Newtown

‘Croppy’s Hill’ so called because long ago Croppies (1798 rebels who used to shave or crop their hair) were hung in that field.

Location: Baldongan

“Cromwell's Bush” and “Cromwells Field” this is where Cromwell planted his cannon that blew down Baldongan Castle.

HIGHWAY ROBBERS

Location: Santry

The “Robber’s Bank” is so-called because many robberies took place there. The famous Captain O’ Dare and many other highwaymen staged many a hold-up near the Robber’s Bank.

Location: Murragh

“Collor’s Acre” named for Collor the robber who used to go through this field on his way to Naul.

Location: Balscadden

"Collier Horn" where Collier the Robber had his hiding place. He summoned his army of robbers by blowing a horn in this field.

Location: Santry

There is a tree called “Colliers-bush” because a highway man named Collier used to hide there and hold up the mail coach.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

- Think about the townlands you might like to explore.
 - Check out the free resources.
 - Email me your townland choice.
 - Start your research & contact the local land owner.
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NEXT WORKSHOP

Come along to our next workshop on

Wednesday the 16th of April in

The Village Inn - Ballyboughal at 7 pm

Tell your friends!



THANK YOU

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer email:

info@abartaheritage.ie

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