

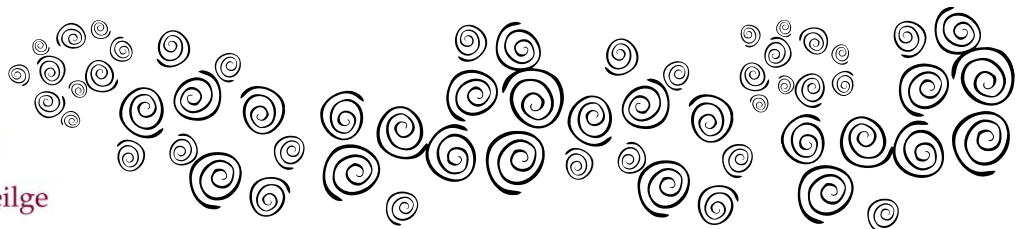
My Placename Detective Journal

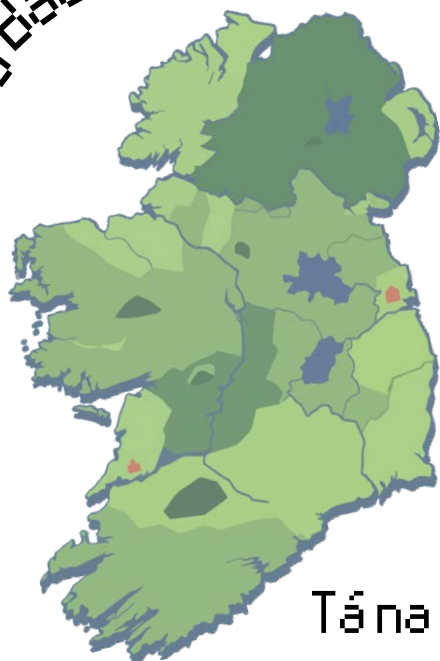
FÉILE SCÉALTA NA HITHREACH



Name:

Location:





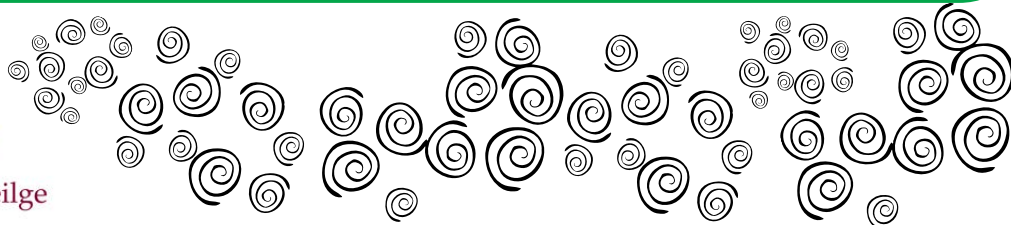
Irish is one of the oldest European Languages with written records going back to the 4th century. Just over 200 years ago, Irish was the prominent spoken language across the island of Ireland.



Tá na Speaclaí Gaeilge ag teastáil!

Places have been named in Ireland throughout the last 2,000 years of habitation of the island. Most placenames coming from Irish, some English and even Norse. During English colonisation of Ireland an 'anglecisation' of placenames took place, meaning the sound of the original placename was usually kept similar but the way of spelling was changed to the English language phonetics. This has left us with placenames such as 'Barnankile' which has no meaning in the English language but when we transform them back to their original meaning 'Bearna an Choill' (the gap in the woodland), we can understand very important information about the area.

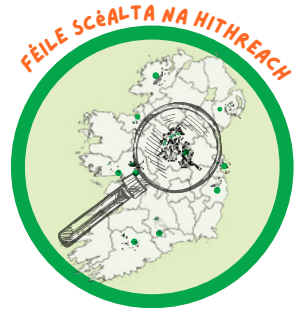
Nature is most prominent in our placenames, with 13,000 out of 60,000 placenames featuring trees, though without an Ghaeilge, we would not understand what the placenames represent. That is why, we invite you to put on your speaclaí gaeilge, explore the places around you, and tell us what part nature has played in your area.



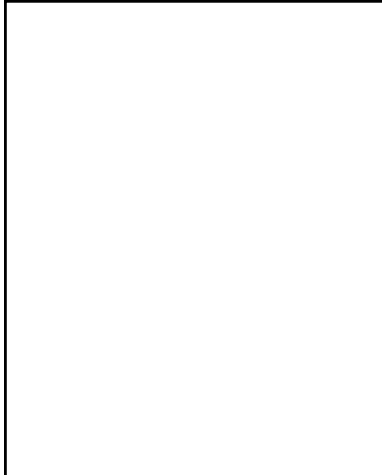


CASEFILE

= logainm.ie , [google maps](https://www.google.com/maps)



Detective Identity Card



Name:

Placename Investigated:

Logainm as Gaeilge!:

Date:

Draw yourself here! ↗

Tip: Maybe you will choose your **own townland, grandparents townland, village, town, county name, school townland**, the name of a **field nearby!** What about a placename **on the way to school** that always intrigue you!

CUS SÍOS

Your mission is to investigate your local placename and discover what it tells you about the natural world, past and present. Does the landscape still match the story stated in its Irish name?

DÁN

AMHRÁIN

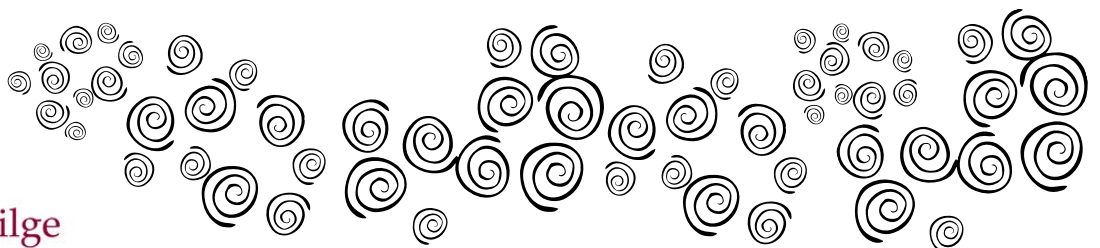
DRÁMA

AN SPROIC

An sproic ná scéal an logainm a insinn dúinn trí dhán, amhrán nó dhráma trí mheán na Gaeilge agus bí sa seans a bheith i gcaomh an chomórtais



Foras na Gaeilge





ARE ANY OF THESE PLACENAMES NEAR YOU?



Cuas an Éisc | Coosanesk
Leac an Éisc | Lackaneask
Uamha an Éisc | Guilameen



Sceir na Roilleach |
Cregnarullah
Stacán Roilleach |
Stackanrelagh



Bearna an Mhadra | Barnamaddra
Cluain Cú | Clooncoe
Abhainn Léim an Mhadra
| Leamawaddra

Léim an Bhradáin | Leixlip
Léim an Bhradáin | Leamabridaun
Mín Uí Bhradáin | Meenyrbraddan



Bóthar Dhomhnach Broc
| Donnybrook Road
Clonbrock / Cluain Broc
Doire Bhroc |



Béal Átha hÉin/Ballyhean
Loch an Éin/Lough Hanane



Spioróg | Speeroge Rock
Cnocán Seabha | Shouks
Glaise na nGealbhan |
Glashanagalloon Stream



Baile na Sionnach/Ballinashinnagh
Cluain Sionnach/Cloonshannagh
Cluain Sionnach/Foxborough
Cnocán an Mhadra Rua/
Browningstown



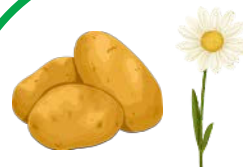
Coill na Spideog/Kylespiddoge
Baile na Meantán
/Ballynamountain



Caor/Wilton
Drom Caor/Dromkeare
Cnoc Cúile Caor/
Knockcoolkeare



Buaile na hEorna/Ballinahorna
Carraig Eorna/Carrickorna
Cluain na hEorna/Glennyhorn



Oileáin Fhataí/ Potatoe Islands
Feadán Thamhnach Nóinín
/Fiddauntawnanoneen





TREES, TREES, EVERYWHERE!

13,000 out of the **61,000** placenames reference trees! That is 20% of our total placenames! Irelands tree cover is now at 11% with only 1% being the native trees that feature in our placenames.

Check out our seminar from [Tree Week 2026](#) where we discuss tree in our placenames!

WATER-LOGGED IRELAND!

Caochán / Caorán / Corcach* = marsh land / moor

Bogach / Boglach / bogán = soft boggy ground

Eanach = marsh / swamp / fen

Feadán = watercourse / gully

Gaoth = stream / estuary

Móin = Turf, place of turf

Portach = Bog

Riasc = marsh / bogland

seascann = sedgy bog

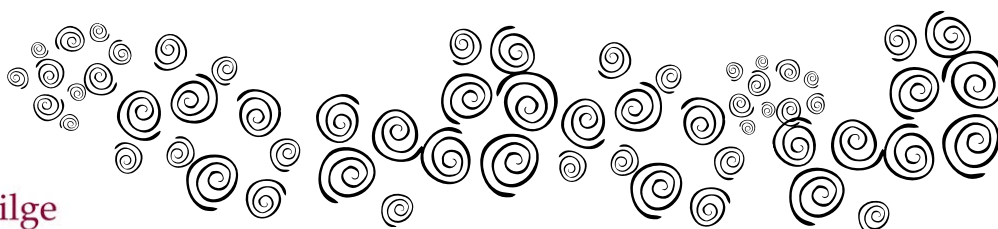
Greallach = mire / puddly ground

Inis (inse) = island, holm, water-meadow

Lá / léanna / loch / luachair = quagmire / water meadow / rushland



***CORCAIGH**





IRISH WILDLIFE FACT FILES



Otters live near clean rivers and streams and are a sign of healthy water systems.

The dipper is often found on fast-flowing rivers in Ireland.

Native bees rely on wildflowers and hedgerows.



Foxes adapt well to mixed landscapes of farmland, woodland and are even seen in urban areas.

Native oak woods once covered much of Ireland but are now rare.

Check out our Spotter Sheets to help identify biodiversity in the area...



Wader birds



Trees



Plant



Bug



Garden birds

OTHER VERY COMMON WORDS IN IRISH PLACENAMES

Coill = wood / forest

Baile = settlement / home place

Cnoc (cnoca) = rock

Tiobra, Tiobraid = well

Gleann = valley

Sliabh = mountain

Sráid = Street

Muileann / Muilinn = mill

Cill = Church

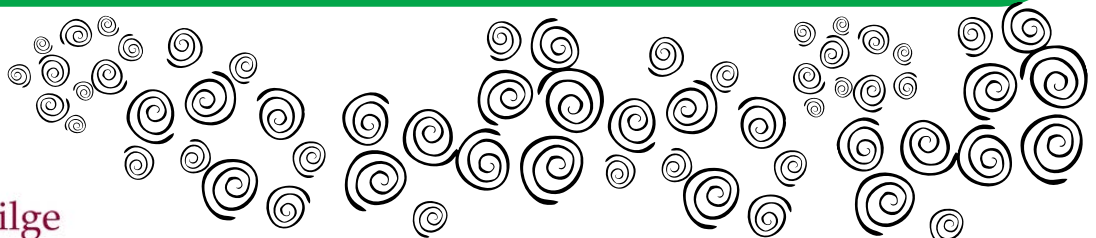
Caisleán = Castle

Droichead = Bridge

Séipéal = Church

Eaglais = Cathedral

Trá = Beach



NASC LE DO THÉAMA SCOILEANNA GLASA

Bruscar Agus Dramhaíl

'Litter Pick' i gceantar an logainm ata roghnaithe nó pléigh ar thioncar an bhruscair asa lá ata inniú ann. Áit a phiocadh a bhfuil an chuid bruscar ann na laethanta seo, ach a bhfuil miniú spéisiúil sa logainm

Uisce

Logainm a bhaineann le Uisce a phiocadh. Déantar tagairt de seo ar an leathanach 'An raibh a fhios agat'

Taisteal

Eagraigh siúlóid, nó turas rothair chun an cheantair roghnaithe. Nó ainmnigh na logainmeach go léir a thrasnaítear ar do bhealach chun na scoile!

Fuinneamh

Ta níos mó na cúpla céad logainm in Éirinn a déanann tagairt do Mhuilinn, a d'úsáideadh cumhacht na habhann chun fuinneamh a ghinniúnt. Déan taighde ar seanfhuinnimh an cheantair agus a nasc leis an dtimpeallacht

Bithéagsúlacht

Roghnaigh aon logainm a déanann tagairt do chrann, d'ainmhithe, do phlandaí agus do ghnáthóga!

Saoránachta Dhomhanda

Déan tagairt do tír éigin eile, agus a logainm spéisiúil ata acu a bhaineann leis an dúlra!

**Ní Caithidh claoí go ducht le do théama don chomórtas seo,
ach tá féidireachta ann chun é a nascadh le chéile!**

MISSION 1: THE NAME DETECTIVE

 = logainm.ie, dúchas.ie



Note to teacher: Choose one mission or combine mission worksheet that best suits your situation.

What is your placename? _____

Irish name (find it on logainm.ie): _____

What is its meaning? _____

What natural clue is in the name? _____

Detective question

What do you think this place looked like long ago?

Draw this location based on the "clue" hidden in your placename



MISSION 2: SOUND SCAN DETECTIVE

 = [Sound mapping activity \(bilingual\) logainm.ie](https://www.logainm.ie),



Note to teacher: Choose one mission or combine mission worksheets that best suits your situation.

Did you complete the sound mapping activity when visiting the placenames?



What is your chosen placename?

What is its meaning

Write or draw some of the differences between what you imagined the placename to be, based on the clue in its name, and what you experienced from your visit there.



Detective question

Can you identify why it has changed?

MISSION 3: HABITAT HUNTER



Note to teacher: Choose one mission or combine mission worksheets that best suits your situation.

What habitats can you see?

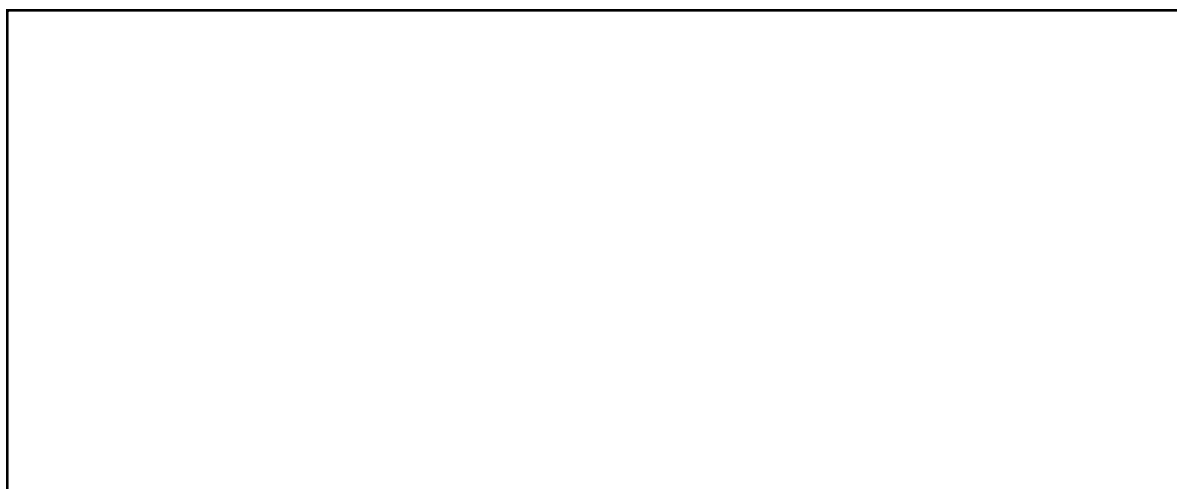
- ☐ woodland
- ☐ grassland
- ☐ wetland
- ☐ farmland
- ☐ town/urban
- ☐ hedgerow

What living things can you see?

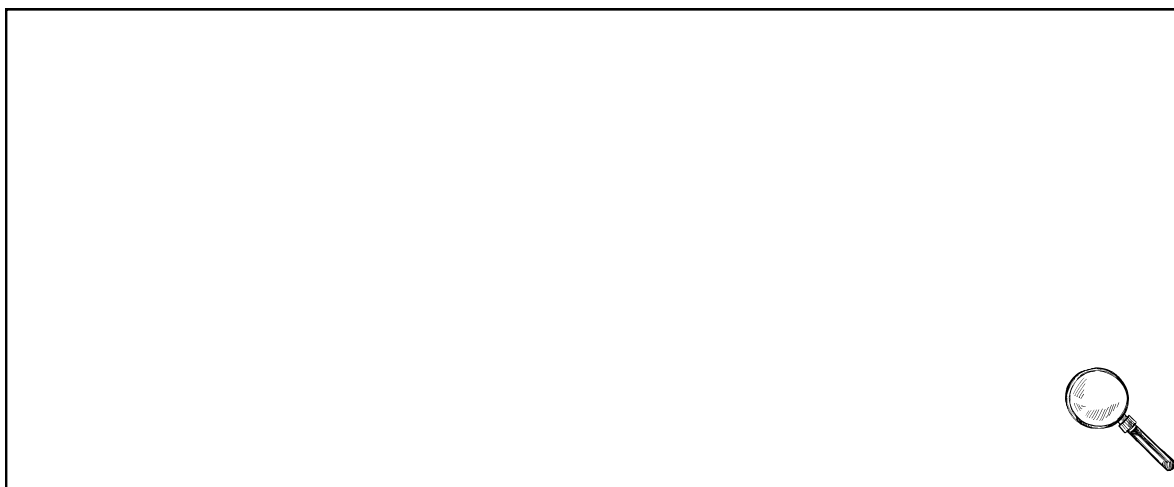
- ☐ trees
- ☐ flowers
- ☐ birds
- ☐ insects
- ☐ mammals
- ☐ moss / lichens



Draw the habitat you are standing in



HABITAT CLUES (collect one or more): fallen leaves · grass seed heads · bark rubbings · textures or colours you found in nature (use crayons for rubbings).




DETECTIVE QUESTION:

Does this habitat match your placename?

- ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ PARTLY

Note to teacher: Choose one mission or combine mission worksheets that best suits your situation.

What does your placename suggest this place was like?

- ☐ forest
- ☐ river/wetland
- ☐ hill
- ☐ bog
- ☐ open land

☐ other (describe)

What do you see here today?

Has the landscape changed?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ A little

What might have caused this change?

- ☐ farming
- ☐ roads
- ☐ buildings
- ☐ industry
- ☐ natural change
- ☐ not sure

Draw:

"Then" (what it might have looked like long ago)



Draw:

"Now" (what it looks like now)

DETECTIVE QUESTION:

If someone named this place today, what would they call it?



MISSION 5: HERITAGE DETECTIVE

logainm.ie, dúchas.ie



Note to teacher: Choose one mission or combine mission worksheets that best suits your situation.

Every place has stories as well as nature clues. Talk to someone who knows the area well, a parent, grandparent, neighbour or local historian.

Ask someone older about this place. What did they call this place when they were young?

Has the wildlife or landscape changed in their lifetime?

HERITAGE CLUES (collect one or more)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ A local story | ☐ An old photograph |
| ☐ A copy of an old map | ☐ A family memory |

Stick in or write your heritage clues here.



DETECTIVE QUESTION:

What does this story add to your investigation?



Note to teacher: Choose one mission or combine mission worksheets that best suits your situation.

The most surprising thing I found was...

I think this place has changed because...

My biggest questions are....

One thing I would tell a Scientist about this place is...

Sketch your favourite discovery
(draw the plant, animal, insect or place you found most interesting)

What did I learn?

One thing I could do to help nature here:

The story hidden in this Irish placename is...

DIALANN AN LOGAINM



Ainm: _____ **Rang:** _____ **Dáta:** _____

Mo logainm: _____

Cad is brí leis: _____

The important things I know about this place : _____

List words as Gaeilge associated with your placename

DÁN AS GAELIGE

An féidir leat dán a scríobh faoin logainm speisialta seo?





Here we have some expert advice from one of our Leinster Travel officers, Darren Donohue, an award winning poet!

What is a Sonnet?

A sonnet is a poem with 14 lines.

For hundreds of years, poets have used sonnets to write about love, nature, friendship and beautiful places. Like every good building, a sonnet has a plan.

It is made up of four stanzas:

- Quatrain (4 lines)
- Quatrain (4 lines)
- Quatrain (4 lines)
- Couplet (2 lines)

Together these make fourteen lines.

The Rhyme Pattern

Most traditional sonnets follow this rhyme pattern: ABAB, CDCD, EFEF, GG

The letters simply tell us which lines rhyme

For example:

A – The river dances gently through the glen.

B – Its waters sparkle underneath the sky.

A – It greets the birds returning home again.

B – While clouds drift slowly, lazily on high.

Notice how glen rhymes with again, while sky rhymes with high.

A Sonnet Has a Journey. Think of your sonnet as telling a tiny story.

First Quatrain: Introduce the place. What does it look like? What does its name mean?

Second Quatrain: Describe the place using your senses. What would you hear? What colours would you see? What animals or plants might live there?

Third Quatrain: Look beneath the surface. What history does the place hold? Who may have lived there? Why do you think people gave it this name?

Final Couplet: Finish with one memorable thought. What makes this place special?

What should people remember about it