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The Place-Names of Co. Roscommon
Liam Ó hAisibéil

Introduction

Roscommon is one of five counties comprising the province of Connacht, bounded to the west by the counties of Galway and Mayo, by Sligo and Leitrim at all points to the north, and by Leitrim, Longford, Westmeath to the east, and counties Offaly and Galway to the south. Around two thirds of the boundaries of Roscommon are defined by two significant rivers, namely the River Shannon to the east, and the River Suck which forms the southern and south-western boundaries of the county, formally established in the late-sixteenth century. Extensive tracts of peat, moorland, and areas of upland comprise its western and northern boundaries. Writing in 1832, the topographical writer Isaac Weld, describes the geographical character of the county as follows:

> 'The mountains on the borders of Lough Allen, the Curlew mountains in the same district, the great sand-stone ridge of Slievebawn, extending through the baronies of Ballintobber and Roscommon, and Slievealuyn in the west, afford sure indications that the surface of the county is not devoid of inequality and variety. Neither is it merely in the vicinity of the mountains that the surface is broken; but in various parts it is agreeably undulated with hill and dale. Nevertheless, considerable tracts of flat ground intervene likewise, through which dull and sleepy rivers wind their sluggish course, frequently overflowing their sedgy banks and flooding the country to a considerable extent on either side. Some of the larger bogs also present flat surfaces of considerable extent, whilst others are diversified with all the inequalities of the hills upon which they repose. Along the river Suck, and likewise on the Shannon, there are extensive tracts of flat alluvial soil, and also vast plains of bog'.[1]

The physical geography of the county as described above is echoed in its place-names, where the names of natural features, evidenced in townland names, indicate a landscape characterised by riverside meadows, extensive patches of peat and moorland, tree-covered drumlins, and rich grazing lands which are situated, for the most part, atop limestone plateaus through the geographic centre of the county. Along with names denoting natural features, other place-name elements, generally settlement terms such as *baile, cill, lios* and *ráth*, provide a snapshot of the historic personal names and surnames of the

county, some of which are still extant today, while others have fallen out of use over time through changes in naming practices, social upheaval, linguistic shift from Irish to English over the course of the nineteenth century, and in the more recent past, emigration. While the archaeology and the socio-cultural history of Roscommon has been well-documented by individual scholars, research projects and local history groups, a comprehensive analysis of its place-names has yet to be conducted.[2] The purpose of this chapter is to take a first step in this analysis, presenting the administrative framework of the county, listing its baronies and parishes, and then to provide a brief examination of the most frequent place-name elements in the townland names of County Roscommon. This general overview will provide an account of the defining characteristics and patterns of naming that can be identified in the place-names of this county.

The Earliest Stratum

The earliest recorded names on the island of Ireland are the 47 distinct name forms found in Ptolemy's 'map' of Ireland, dating from the second century AD, in which we find the names of promontories, river-mouths, settlements, islands and 'tribes' or early population-groups.[3] Of relevance to this chapter, one place – *Rhaeba*, has been tentatively identified by Robert Darcy and William Flynn using geographic and mathematical analysis as the area around the royal assembly site of Cruachain (Rathcroghan) and ancient cemetery of Carn Fraích (Carns), situated near the village of Tulsk on the great central plain of Roscommon, indicating the significance of this site in the pre-Christian landscape of Ireland.[4] The significance of Cruachain in some of our earliest literary texts cannot be ignored, where the site is generally associated with Queen Medb of Connacht in the well-known epic tale of *Táin Bó Cuailnge,* and is the locus of all activities relating to Connacht in the earliest literature.[5] Many places and peoples on Ptolemy's 'map' remain unidentified today and, as noted by Paul Russell, there is a 'surprising lack of correspondence between Ptolemy's names and those attested later in Old Irish sources'.[6] Russell speculates that this is as a result of textual corruption in the intervening years, or that it 'may also be indicative of substantial tribal movements and changes in the balance of power in the intervening period'.[7] These 'changes in the balance of power' are alluded to by both Francis John Byrne

and Nollaig Ó Muraíle as having particular significance for the early-medieval population groups of Connacht.[8]

Francis John Byrne describes Connacht as 'a backwater whose affairs impinged little on the main course of Irish history' during the early-medieval period.[9] Although Connacht does not appear to exercise any major role in national affairs until the rise of Toirrdelbach Ua Conchobair in the twelfth century, the annalistic evidence indicates that Connacht was a region rife with political strife and internecine feuding, and documents the rise to power and the decimation of various population groups in the district during the early-medieval period.[10] The Uí Briúin and the Uí Maine rose to become the dominant peoples in north-western, central and southern areas of the county from the seventh century onwards, and by the ninth century, Connacht is described by Ó Corráin as 'a palimpsest of old survivals and newly arisen and expanded dynasties'.[11] Byrne suggests the liminal regions of poorer land to the far south and to the north of the county as areas of contention, where 'dispossessed peoples who still retained elements of their tribal identity' could congregate, including groups such as the Grecraige, the Calraige Luirg, the Ciarraige Aí, Ciarraige Airtich and Delbna Nuadat.[12] Nollaig Ó Muraíle provides an account of some lesser-studied but early population-groups in Connacht, noting that their history can be summarised as 'a story of being steadily and relentlessly squeezed and crushed by the burgeoning power of great Connacht dynasties' yet despite this, managing to leave their trace in the toponymic record of the area, emphasising the role of place-names as indicators of now-lost peoples and their supposed historic settlements.[13]

Sources for the study of Roscommon place-names

An individual seeking to uncover the origins of Irish place-names must be prepared to leaf through many types of primary sources, ranging from medieval and early-modern manuscripts or diplomatic editions/digitised versions of same, land grants and deeds, transcriptions of legal texts, maps, folklore archives, as well as audio recordings of field work from more recent times. The sources listed below are the most authoritative and productive in place-name studies for Roscommon, written in Irish, Latin, and English, and are used to obtain historical forms of place-names. It's worth noting that several important Irish language sources are associated with Roscommon, e.g. the *Annals of Connacht*, the

Annals of Loch Cé, perhaps written at Kilronan and the *Cottonian Annals,* written between Boyle Abbey and Trinity Island on Lough Key.[14] These sources are invaluable as they provide original Irish language forms of the place-names, rather than relying solely on anglicised or Latinised forms to reconstruct the original name. Even with the evidence of an Irish language form, it can be challenging to identify an infrequently attested medieval name with a modern-day location, without drawing on much later sources to identify the exact location.[15] Other secondary sources, from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries can prove vital, such as *Place-names of the Elphin Diocese,* by the Rev. M.J. Connellan as it offers Irish language-forms for 2,542 townland names in the diocese of Elphin, based on the author's own researches and local information.[16] Edmund Hogan's magnum opus, entitled *Onomasticon Goedelicum locorum et tribuum Hiberniae et Scotiae* (Dublin, 1910) is essential reading in the search for clues to the extent of ancient territories and place-name references in Irish language sources.[17] There are also some relevant ecclesiastical sources that provide evidence of early parishes, ecclesiastical taxation and church affairs in the county.

Table 1: Sources for place-names research (with approximate period)

Source name	Approx. Period/Date
Annals of Ulster	431-1588
Annals of Tigernach	488-1178
Annals of Connacht	1224-1544
Annals in Cotton MS. Titus A. XXV (Cottonian Annals)	<1257
Annals of Loch Cé	1014-1590
Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland	1171–1307
Obligationes pro Annatis Diocesis Elphinensis	15th/16th cent.
The Ecclesiastical Register	16th-19th cent.
The Irish fiants of the Tudor sovereigns during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Philip & Mary, and Elizabeth I	1521-1603
The Chancery Inquisitions of Roscommon	1582-1664
The Compossicion Booke of Conought	1585
Calendar of Irish Patent Rolls of James I	1603-1624
Annála Ríoghachta Éireann/The Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland	c. 1630[18]
The Martyrology of Donegal. A Calendar of the Saints of Ireland	1630
The Down Survey of Ireland	1654
A census of Ireland, circa 1659	1659
Books of Survey and Distribution, Roscommon	c. 1660
Act of Settlement and Explanation	1666-1683
Hiberniae Delineatio: atlas of Ireland	1685
Monasticon Hibernicum, or the Monastical History of Ireland	1722
The census of Elphin 1749	1749
Registry of Deeds, Dublin	1708-1738
Estate Maps	1724-1800
Grand Jury Map, Roscommon	1817
Tithe Applotment Books	1823-1842

Ordnance Survey Names Books	1837
The Place-names of Elphin Diocese	1952

Some of the most productive sources, with regards to the numbers of attested place-names are the early modern sources concerning land ownership, land surrender and regrant, royal pardons, and licences of the *Chancery Inquisitions*, *the Irish fiants of the Tudor sovereigns* and the *Calendar of Irish Patent Rolls of James I*. These provide us with a significant number of name forms (both surnames and place-names) from the period 1521-1624. The name forms and their arrangement within entries in these texts can help build a comprehensive picture of townland size, its value, ownership and usage during this troubled period, and in some cases can assist in revealing the original Irish form of a recorded name, as the table below will indicate. In the case of townlands with established English language names (see Deerpark and Lodge below), their modern English forms offer no clues as to their original forms but through a process of elimination, and by making identifications based on topography, townland size, and local knowledge, the townland's original Irish name can often be restored. Note the importance also of drawing upon multiple sources to interpret anglicised or otherwise corrupted spellings of names. The townland name Kilfaughna could be interpreted from its anglicised form as containing either *cill* 'church, cell of Fachna' or *coill* 'wood of Fachna' but when additional sources are taken into consideration, the historical form from the *Chancery Inquisitions* can be identified as *Coltefagheney*, revealing the plural noun *coillte* 'woods' to be the initial element.

Table 2: Comparison of recorded historic forms of place-names

Ordnance Survey form	Inquisitions (1590-1616)	Irish language form	Meaning
Blackfallow	Branrae	Branra Dubh	'black fallow-land'
Carkfree	CarrowneKirkefrych	Ceathrú na gCearc Fraoigh	'quarter(land) of the grouse'
Deerpark	Carownageassea	Ceathrú an Easa	'quarter(land) of the waterfall'
Dereenahinch	Deryenehenshy	Doirín na hInse	'little oak-wood of the holm'
Farranagalliagh East	Fferan ne Callyagh	Fearann na gCailleach	'(plough)land of the nuns'
Kilfaughna	Coltefagheney	Coillte Fachna	'Fachna's woods'
Knockadalteen	Cnockyailtyme	Cnoc an Dailtín	'hill of the horseboy' [?]
Knocknabeast	Knocknepeiste	Cnoc na Péiste	'hill of the worm'
Leiterra	Leighderie	Liataire	'grey oak-wood'
Lodge	Mullagh Iteig	Mullach Uí Thaidhg	'Ó Taidhg's summit'

| Lisdaly | Lissigalla | Lios Uí Dhálaigh | '(the) enclosure of Ó Dálaigh' |

This work would be somewhat redundant if detailed parish and townland maps for this period existed but unfortunately, as is the case with other counties in Connacht, the earliest detailed baronial map depicting significant settlements, some townlands and parochial boundaries in County Roscommon, dates from the late-seventeenth century, and so we are without cartographic representations of many of the districts in Roscommon prior to this period.[19] This situation is somewhat improved prior to the Ordnance Survey (1829-1842) with the commission of the Grand Jury map of County Roscommon (1817) and a substantial number of private estate maps (c. 1770-1880s), giving us invaluable cartographic representations of the baronies, parishes, townlands and minor names in the county.[20]

The Shiring of Roscommon

As in other Irish counties, such as Armagh, Dublin, Galway, Sligo, and Donegal – County Roscommon derives its name from a settlement within the county, now Roscommon town in the barony of Ballintober South. The settlement is named after Comán, son of Faolchú (Comán mac Fáelchon) whose feast day is celebrated on the 26 December.[21] His death is recorded by the annalists in the mid-eighth century, despite the suggestion of a sixth century date for the foundation of his early-church at Ros (hence Ros Comáin, now townland of Ballypheasan) in other sources.[22] His supposed remains were exhumed and were 'enclosed in a shrine with a covering of gold and silver' at the monastery of Roscommon in 1170.[23] The monastery adopted the Rule of St. Augustine in the mid-twelfth century and remained in use as an Augustinian house until the dissolution of the monasteries in the sixteenth century.[24] The settlement rose to prominence in military affairs when it was chosen as the site for a castle, built in 1269, as a 'border fortress within Roscommon, constructed to protect the Anglo-Norman settlements to the south and along the Suck'.[25]

As an administrative unit, County Roscommon has existed in much its current form since the county was established (or 'shired') by the English administration in approximately 1579.[26] As early as the mid-13th century, however, several districts within the modern-day county had by then, formed the

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king's 'Five Cantreds' of county Roscommon, which at that time was significantly larger than present-day Roscommon, incorporating portions of east Galway and south Sligo.[27] The Anglo-Norman cantred in Ireland was an administrative unit of (i) judicial function; (ii) policing; (iii) civil administrative function; and (iv) taxation.[28] The king's 'Five Cantreds' in Roscommon consisted of six districts whose names are derived from the earlier population group and district names of the area. The districts were: Uí Maine (Omany), Tír Maine (Tirmany), Magh nAí (Moy Ai), na Trí Tuatha (The Three Tuaths), Magh Loirg and Tír Oirill (the two half-cantreds Moylurg and Tirerrill – taken as one).[29] Four of the six cantred names are derived from the names of early-population groups. Both Uí Maine 'descendants of Maine' and Tír Maine 'Maine's territory' take their names from the ancestral founder of the dynasty, Maine Mór, of whom little evidence survives. Na Trí Tuatha is associated with the three *tuatha* or peoples of the Corcu Achlann, the Cenél Dobtha and Tír Briúin na Sinna. Tír Oirill 'Ailill's territory' refers to the district encompassing the south east of modern-day Sligo and the northern section of Roscommon.[30] These districts were remnants of an earlier system of the *trícha cét* (thirty hundred) and although these areas were later replaced by the cantred in an administrative capacity, they retained their name forms derived from the early population groups who inhabited those districts. The remaining two cantreds refer to physical features: Magh nAí '(the) plain of Aí [?]' (known in later times as Machaire Connacht/the Maghery), and Magh Loirg '(the) plain of the track'.

A number of these cantred names were later replaced by the family names of the chief lordships of Roscommon, many of whom claimed descent from the Uí Briúin (Aí), most significantly the Síol Muireadaigh, descended from Muireadach Muillethan (†702), from whom the notable Roscommon surnames of Ó Conchobair (O'Conor), Ó Maolruanaidh (Mulrooney) Mac Diarmada (McDermott), emerged.[31] While Uí Maine and Magh Loirg remained as district names into the early-modern period, the southern half of Roscommon became associated with the Uí Cheallaigh (lords of Uí Maine), the central region with the Ó Conchobair Ruadh and Ó Conchobair Donn (lords of Machaire Connacht), and the Mac Diarmada (lords of Magh Loirg). By the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, documents relating to land grants, letters patent and *fiants*, such as the *Irish Patent Rolls of James I*, the *Compossicion Booke of Conought*, and the *Fiants of the Tudor Sovereigns*, refer to the various districts

within modern-day Roscommon as: O'Kelly's country, McDavie's country, O'Connor Roe and O'Conor Don's countries and MacDermott's country. Writing in 1683, the Reverend John Keogh refers to the practice of naming of districts in this manner as follows:

'Connaught and I suppose other provinces was anciently distinguished into countries called Doohie or Tyere (Tuaith Tire) named from such and such families or nations inhabiting them, as in the Barony of Athlone, Doohie Keogh, the Country or nation of the Keoghs. In the Barony of Ballintobber, Doohie Hanly, the Country of Hanly, and betwixt Elphin and Jamestown, that sweet Country Teir O Ruen of Teir O Byrn, the country of the Burns'[32]

The fractious nature of landholding, the division of land, and relationships between family members in Roscommon, is alluded to in the *Compossicion Booke of Conought* of 1585, where an order is made to attempt to control the succession of land among kin-groups, allowing for the lands of Mac Diarmada Rua, Ó Conchobair Rua and Ó Conchobair Donn to 'linally descend from the father to the sonn according to the curse and order of the lawes of England'.[33]

The creation of counties and baronies in Ireland was a gradual process, slowly replacing (though not always re-naming) earlier territorial land-units from the 13th to the 17th century.[34] The barony as an administrative unit initially denoted 'a territory held under feudal terms of military service'.[35] The barony is relatively unknown today and the majority were formally established between 1534 and 1606, when Ireland had approximately 267 baronies, replacing 180 earlier cantreds, although there are discrepancies between the boundaries of these medieval cantreds and the later baronies.[36] While there are now eleven baronies in modern day County Roscommon, encompassing the early-medieval cantreds and later lordships mentioned above, the county of Roscommon was initially divided into the six baronies of **Athlone, Ballintober, Belamoe, Boyle, Moycarnane** and **Roscommon.**[37] The following paragraphs outline the development of each of these six barony names.[38]
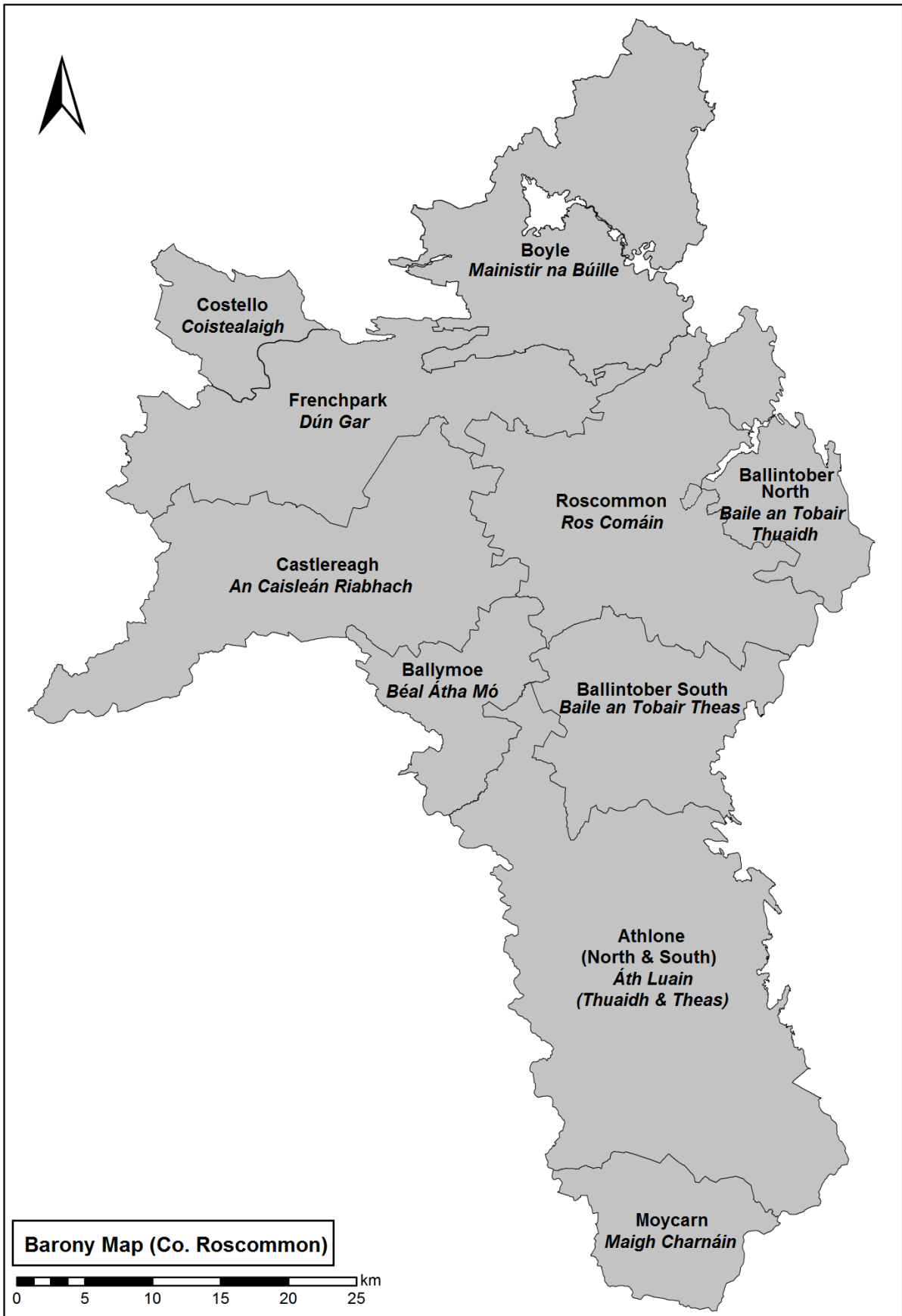
Figure 1: Barony map of Co. Roscommon

The map shows the following baronies:

- **Boyle** — *Mainistir na Búille*
- **Costello** — *Coistealaigh*
- **Frenchpark** — *Dún Gar*
- **Ballintober North** — *Baile an Tobair Thuaidh*
- **Roscommon** — *Ros Comáin*
- **Castlereagh** — *An Caisleán Riabhach*
- **Ballymoe** — *Béal Átha Mó*
- **Ballintober South** — *Baile an Tobair Theas*
- **Athlone (North & South)** — *Áth Luain (Thuaidh & Theas)*
- **Moycarn** — *Maigh Charnáin*

Barony Map (Co. Roscommon)

The barony of **Athlone** < Áth Luain 'Luan's ford' (divided into Athlone North and Athlone South after 1871) is situated in the south of the county and derives its name from the settlement of Athlone (Baile Átha Luain) on the west bank of the Shannon in the townland of <u>Athlone and Bigmeadow</u>, close to Athlone Castle. At the time of the Ordnance Survey, the largest portion of Athlone town was then situated on the western bank of the Shannon.[39] This barony was created from the early-medieval cantred of Tyrmany (Tír Maine), and by 1585 was known by the English administration as O'Kelly's Country.[40]

The barony of **Ballintober** < Baile an Tobair 'settlement of the well or spring', originally Baile Tobair Bríde, was divided into Castlereagh and Ballintober by 1841, with Ballintober subsequently divided into Ballintober North, Ballintober South by 1851. The creation of the barony of **Castlereagh**, after the settlement of Castlerea < An Caisleán Riabhach 'the striped/grey castle', was a Grand Jury arrangement and John O'Donovan recommended ignoring this division on the Ordnance Survey barony map.[41] This barony originally comprised the lands of the O'Conor Don (Ó Conchobair Donn) named after Toirdhealbhach Óg Donn Ó Conchobair, who assumed control of the lands following the death of Ruaidhrí Ó Conchobair, king of Connacht, in 1384.[42] Ruaidhrí's death created a schism within the Uí Chonchobair which led to war throughout Connacht.[43]

The barony of Belamoe, later re-fashioned as **Ballymoe** derives its name from a settlement, now a village of Ballymoe < Béal Átha Mó 'approach to Áth Mó' meaning 'ford of slave/Mugh (a personal name)', on the banks of the Suck in County Galway.[44] The lands comprising the barony are mentioned in an indenture made at Galway in February 1585, listing Sir H[u]bbert Burke, Shane mc Ulick, Davy mcEdmond and mcWalter as lord chieftains, gentlemen and freeholders of 'mc Davies Contry by east the River of Sluck in the County of Roscomon'.[45] It was identified as a half-barony from the late-sixteenth century until c. 1832.

The barony of **Boyle** < Mainistir na Búille 'monastery (of) the Boyle (river)' is the northernmost barony in the county. The barony name originates in the name of the settlement that developed a few hundred metres west of the Cistercian monastery, founded on the western bank of the Boyle River in

1161.[46] Magh Loirg (Moylurg) was the primary name used to designate this district from the eighth century until the mid-seventeenth century, when Boyle began to take its place in the administrative record.[47] The barony is now much reduced from its previous extent due to the creation of the barony of **Frenchpark** (Dún Gar 'fort of Gar') from its western reaches shortly before 1841. The parishes of Tibohine, Castlemore, Kilcolman and Kilnamanagh (in the baronies of **Frenchpark** and **Costello**) formed the territory of Airtech, once home to the Ciarraige Airtich, but were made part of the barony of Boyle ('otherwise called Moylurge') by 1585.[48]

The half-barony of Moycarnane, later reduced to **Moycarn** < Maigh Charnáin 'plain of (the) small heap or cairn' is located at the southernmost point of the county. These lands, like those of Athlone above were also associated with the O'Kelly's in 1585.

The barony of **Roscommon** < Ros Comáin 'Comán's wood, elevated ground', deriving its name from the settlement at Roscommon is situated in the middle of the county, with **Ballintober North** to the east, **Balintober South** to the south and **Castlereagh** and **Ballymoe** to the west, with **Boyle** and **Frenchpark** baronies to the north. Prior to the official formation of the barony of **Roscommon**, the territory was under the control of the Uí Chonchobair and following the death of Ruaidhrí Ó Conchobair in 1384, Toirdhealbhach Ruadh Ó Conchobair assumed control of this area, known as 'O'Conor Roe's country' (Ó Conchobair Ruadh's) by 1585.[49]

As evidenced in the preceding paragraphs, the modern barony names in County Roscommon are derived from medieval settlements within their borders, and in the cases of **Frenchpark** and **Castlereagh**, are nineteenth century subdivisions of earlier baronies, taking their names from the principal settlements within their respective districts. **Frenchpark** is named after the French family, originally from Galway, whose ancestors had been landowners in the area since the seventeenth century.[50] Writing in July 1837, John O'Donovan remarks:

> 'the S.W. part of the Barony of Boyle has been called the Barony of French Park. I wish they had called it the Barony of *Dungar*, which would sound better. Dun Gair is the original Irish name of the place now called French (Park), and the people say that a title is going to be conferred on [Arthur] French, and that they'll have to call him Tighearna Dhúin Gair'.[51]

These modern names show little evidence of linkage with early population-group names in Roscommon, indicating that these divisions were late, and were created 'merely for greater convenience of administration'.[52] The only exception, perhaps, is that of the half-barony of **Costello** < Coistealaigh '(land of the) Coistealaigh', whose name comes from the Anglo-Norman family, long-established in Mayo, descended from one William de Angulo, son of Jocelyn (Gaelicized as Goisdelb), mentioned in 1176, and from whom his descendants adopted the patronymic Mac Goisdelb, later the surname, now generally given as Mac Coisteala, and Ó Coisteala.[53]

Civil parishes

Civil parishes are administrative units, larger than townlands but ecclesiastical in origin and typically contain an early church-foundation. The lands adjacent to a medieval church, or further afield, could belong to the church. Indeed eleven civil parishes in Roscommon have detached portions situated within other parishes.[54] Civil parishes can differ in both extent and in name from modern religious parishes (Catholic, Church of Ireland) and the names of these parishes are generally taken 'from some townland within them but were sometimes distinctive'.[55] The place-name can sometimes provide the only evidence that an early church existed at a particular place, or to tell us the name of the saint venerated there.[56] There are sixty-two civil parishes in County Roscommon and as will be demonstrated below, thirty-two of these parish names contain distinctly ecclesiastical elements, all of which are borrowed from Latin.

The earliest documentary evidence for a church foundation in the county is given in the *Collectanea*, a hagiographical account written c. 700 by Tírechán of Saint Patrick's life in Ireland. One of the early church sites mentioned by Tírechán is that of the *Cell Mór* of Mag Glais, identified with the parish, townland and village of **Kilmore** in the barony of Ballintober North.[57] Another, in the parish of **Elphin** is referred to by Tírechán as *Senella Cella Dumiche [Senchell Dumiche]* now the townland and parish of **Shankill** in the barony of Roscommon.[58] The element *cill* (from Latin *cella*) means 'church, monastic settlement or foundation; churchyard, graveyard' (*DIL* sv. *cell*) and is found in twenty-five parish names in Roscommon. According to Flanagan, *cill* became the standard term used to identify monastic foundations as the Irish monastic church developed.[59] It is found in initial position

in twenty-three instances (e.g. **Kilbride** < Cill Bhríde, **Kilronan** < Cill Rónáin, **Kiltrustan** < Cill Trostáin), prefixed by an adjective in **Shankill** < An tSeanchill, and as a qualifier (i.e. Baile na <u>Cille</u> > **Ballynakill**, barony of Ballymoe) in one final parish.

The parish names of **Estersnow** and **Dysart** contain the element *díseart*, borrowed also from Latin *desertus*, meaning 'solitary place, hence retreat, asylum, hermitage' (*DIL* sv. *dísert*). This element is typically associated with the pre-Norman period but as Flanagan notes, the significant *díseart* sites in Ireland do not feature in the annals before the ninth century, and therefore cannot be said to belong to the earliest period of the Irish church.[60] The parish name of **Estersnow** serves to illustrate some of the challenges where a modern place-name has become quite corrupted from its original form during the anglicisation process. The name is composed of the noun *díseart*, and the early-Irish personal name Nuadha. The annals identify Nuadha of Locha hUama (Cavetown Lake, parish of Estersnow), bishop, anchorite, and abbot of Armagh, who travelled from Armagh to Connacht in 811, and whose death is recorded in the year 812.[61] John O'Donovan, writing in July 1837 states: 'In Meath they corrupt *Disert* to *Ister* by a fair (*dichendh* and) metathesis, but *here* (in Moylurg) it is mangled to *Tirs* in Irish and Easter in the anglicising… there is no accounting for (the) freaks of custom'.[62] The early anglicised forms of this name are generally *Isertnowne* up until the 17th century, when name forms similar to *Estersnow* begin to emerge in the written record.[63]

Although not necessarily always ecclesiastical in nature, the word *teach* 'house, dwelling' (*DIL* sv. *tech*), is commonly found at early ecclesiastical sites, particularly when followed by a personal name.[64] In County Roscommon, this element is found in five parish names, including two forms in the dative case (*tigh*): Teach Eoin (**St. Johns**), Teach Baoith (**Taghboy**), Teach Mhic Conaill (**Taghmaconnell**), Tigh Baoithín (**Tibohine**), and Tigh Srathra (**Tisrara**). The distribution of this element among townland names seems to be concentrated in the southwest and northwest of the county.

Termonbarry in the barony of Ballintober North contains the late Latin loanword *tearmann* 'the lands of a church or monastic settlement within which rights of sanctuary prevailed; sanctuary, refuge, safe place in general' (*DIL sv. termonn*)'. This element also occurs in a number of townlands

within the county, in Termon (An Tearmann) in the parish of **Boyle**, and Termon Beg (An Tearmann Beg) and Termon More (An Tearmann Mór), both in **Kilkeevin** parish.

The element *teampall* from Latin *templum*, meaning 'church' (*DIL* sv. *tempul*) can be easily identified in the parish of **Drumatemple** in the barony of Ballymoe, Flanagan notes that *eaglais, mainistir* and *teampall* are all 'noticeably absent from early documented place-nomenclature' but that the recorded incidences of both *mainistir* and *teampall* begin to increase from the late-twelfth century, including the use of *teampall* to refer to specific stone-built structures within an identified monastic settlement.[65] The element is also found in the townland of Carrowntemple < Ceathrú an Teampaill 'quarter(land) of the church', in the parish of **Tisrara** and in Ballintemple < Baile an Teampaill 'settlement of the church' in the parish of **Cloonfinlough.**

Other ecclesiastical elements appear in townland rather than civil parish names, such as *gráinseach* 'a grange, a granary', the townlands of Grange in parish of **Cam,** and Aghnagrange in **Boyle**; *mainistir* (as found in Irish form of **Boyle**), *eaglais* 'a church, a building for worship' as qualifying element in Ballynaheglish in the parish of **Cloonygormican**; *tamhlacht* ''(pagan) burial ground' or 'sanctuary/land set apart' as found in Tawlaght < Tamhlacht, occurring in the two parishes of **Killukin** and **Kilronan** in the north of the county.[66] A significant early occurrence of the element *baisleac* '(Lat. basilica) church' is attested in the case of the parish of **Baisleac** in the barony of Castlereagh, given by Tírechán as *Bassilica Sanctorum*.[67] The use of this element in place-names indicates a very early shrine or tomb containing important relics.[68] The remaining parish names are a somewhat mixed-bag of elements, ranging from habitational elements such as *dún* (**Dunamon** < Dún Iomáin), *lios* (**Lissonuffy** < Lios Ó nDufaigh), *ráth* (**Rahara** < Ráth Ara), *baile* (**Ballintober** < Baile an Tobair), to topographic elements such as *ard* (**Ardcarn** < Ard Carna), *áth* (**Athleague** < Áth Liag), *droim* (**Aughrim** < Eachroim, **Drum** < An Droim), *cluain* (**Cloontuskert** < Cluain Tuaiscirt, **Cloonygormican** < Cluain Ó gCormacáin) and *ail* (Ail Finn). For a full list of the civil parishes of the county, see **Appendix A: Civil Parishes of County Roscommon**.

Townland names

The townland is the smallest administrative unit on the island of Ireland and was essentially a unit of economic and agricultural organisation in a 'territorially-defined community'.[69] Every townland on this island possesses a name and defined boundaries, most of which were formally demarcated during the Ordnance Survey of Ireland in the middle of the nineteenth century. Evidence for the origins of the townland system is fragmentary at best, but the documentation of small land units from the twelfth century onwards indicates a 'systematic and comparatively uniform territorial organisation' with an average size nationally of c. 325 acres.[70] As noted by Patrick O'Flanagan, the adoption and use of pre-existing townland structures by the English administration led to the institutionalisation and codification of townland names, albeit in anglicised or Latin forms, thus giving those names legal status and weight, leading to their widespread preservation in land titles, deeds, or church and state papers from the sixteenth century onwards.[71] The townland exhibits a variety of alternative, regional names, such as the *baile biataigh* 'land of a food-provider' primarily in Ulster, *seisreach* 'ploughland' in Tipperary, *gníomh* 'grass of one cow' in Mayo, *baile bó* 'land providing one cow as rent' in Tyrone and the *tate* (of uncertain etymology) in counties Monaghan and Fermanagh.[72] There are also regional variations in the size of the townland unit, as evidenced by the names of divisions used to attempt to quantify these small territories by their relative size to one another:

> 'In Connaught the prevailing distribution was into townlands, of vague import; *quarters*, the fourth part of the former; *cartron*, the fourth of a quarter; *gnieve*, the sixth of quarter. The *cartron* was computed-at 30 native acres.'[73]

In County Roscommon, the elements *ceathrú* 'quarter(land)', *cartún*/cartron 'a fourth part[?]', occur in over 150 townland names. *Ceathrú* is always anglicised as *carrow* or *carow* in Roscommon, though occasionally confused in these forms with the element *cora* 'weir', evidenced by the townland name of **Cloonacarrow** < Cluain Dá Chora 'pasture of two weirs'. McErlean contrasts the variation found in land assessment terms in Ulster with the provincial unity demonstrated in Connacht and County Clare in the division and arrangement of townlands.[74] The term *baile* appears to have designated the largest unit in Connacht, which could be subdivided into four quarters '*ceathramha*', sixteen cartrons, or

twenty-four gneeves. While the relevance of this system to modern day townlands and their acreages has yet to be investigated on a wide-scale basis, sixteenth and seventeenth century documentary evidence demonstrates the grouping of these units, particularly *quarters*, as subdivisions of the *baile* or landholding in Connacht.[75]

There is a total of 2,117 townlands in modern day County Roscommon.[76] The Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898 saw the transfer of 72 townlands from counties Mayo and Galway to County Roscommon. Most of these townlands are in the half-barony of Costello, now shared between Mayo and Roscommon in the north-west of the county; the remainder are to the south in the half-barony of Ballymoe. Included in this total are over twenty small islands on lakes and rivers in the county, which are less than one acre in size. It has also been observed that townlands were not standardised units, despite their administrative importance, as the evaluation of land was based on 'an area of good land together with a variable amount of uncultivated land', leading to differing average sizes of townlands across Ireland.[77] The average size of a townland in County Roscommon is c. 287 acres but **Cloonown** (parish of St. Peter's), the largest townland in the county, has an area of 2,469 acres, a significant proportion of which is comprised of peatland [bogland] and seasonally flooded grassland, whereas the townland of **Commons** (parish of Taghboy) extends to an area of just 1 acre, over half of which was water in the nineteenth century.

Analysis of Place-name Elements

John O'Donovan spent three months in County Roscommon in 1837 conducting field-work on behalf of the Ordnance Survey. On 4 June 1837, he describes his arrival into Roscommon, stating: 'I have now entered upon a region totally different from Longford, and am very much pleased with the intelligence of the people', concluding that he has 'been much pleased with the Connacians, and hope to obtain much (ancient) topographical information from them (during this summer)'.[78] While engaged in this work, he found several 'local' words, used in place-names, distinctive from any others he had yet encountered during his researches on behalf of the Ordnance Survey. One such word was the 'curious' callow < *caladh* 'landing-place', an Irish word given to the English language, where he noted the particular understanding of this word in south Roscommon as being 'fields on the banks of a river

or lake, and exactly corresponding with the *Strath* or *holme* of the north of Ireland', rather than the general meaning of 'landing-place or ferry'.[79] Interestingly, this word survives in the Irish form of only one townland name in Roscommon today, namely Caladh na Carraige, anglicised as **Rockingham Demesne** on the southern shore of Lough Key in the north of the county. It appears to be absent from all townlands in the south of the county, despite O'Donovan learning of its meaning in that area, although he records that the townland of **Kilnamanagh** < Coill na Manach was known by some as *Cala[dh] na Manach* in 1837.[80] On 9 June 1837, O'Donovan remarks on the word *turlach,* stating:

> 'It [*turlach*] is not very different from *Callow* but still a distinction is made and well understood. A *Callow* is on the brink of a river or *constant* lake, and is generally flooded in winter; a *Turlach* (Gen. Turlaighe) is (marshy) land, which in the winter is covered with water & presenting the appearance of a real lake, but which dries up in Summer. *Turlachs* are generally found in lime stone districts'[81]

O'Donovan's remarks reveal the wealth of information that can be gleaned from examining place-names in their physical setting, by wandering over 'rocks, glens, *currachs*, creggans, turlaghs, callows, Ards, sheskins, sloughs, cors, &c. &c.'[82] His discerning awareness of the association between topographical elements and bedrock was ahead of its time, demonstrating the value of local information and field-work, when successfully combined with the linguistic analysis of historical name forms.

Researches conducted in both Ireland and in Great Britain have demonstrated the advantages to engaging in the wide-scale analysis of place-name elements, particularly when topographic elements are the focus of enquiry.[83] These place-name elements are lexical items and are the basis for the composition of any place-name. Once deciphered, they can be broadly categorised on the basis of (a) their type, and (b) their meaning. Their type can be natural (topographic) or artificial (made by humans). Examples of topographic elements are: *ard* 'a height', *doire* 'an oak-wood', *mullach* 'a summit', *gleann* 'a valley', and examples of artificial elements are those like *teach* 'a house', *ráth* 'a fort', *cill* 'a church', and *baile* 'a settlement'. These elements can be further categorised into groups based on their meaning. Names of islands, rocks in the sea/lake, strands, and peninsulas can be grouped together for example, as can words associated with trees, forests, clearings, etc. In linguistic terms, these elements can be further categorised, i.e. whether they are a noun, an adjective, prefix, suffix, a number, a preposition,

part of a compound, etc. Indeed, the morphological structure of place-names has been successfully exploited to estimate the relative age of a chosen place-name structure and its general period of usage or productivity.[84] For example, place-names of the structure *noun + noun* (e.g. *Leacmhaigh* < **Legvoy or Gardenstown***,* composed of *leac* 'flat slab of rock or stone' + *magh* 'a plain, an open stretch of land', *Fionnúir* < **Finnor**, composed of *fionn* 'white, bright, lustrous' + *dobhar* 'water') ceased to be productive by a very early period, c. 400, giving us an approximate date after which these structures were no longer being used in the generation of place-names.[85]

Unsurprisingly, the range and frequency of place-name elements occurring in the townland names in County Roscommon indicate the overall geographic character of the county – a landscape dominated by riverine pastures, grazing land, round low hills and heights, and tree-covered drumlins, evidenced by the frequency of the elements *cluain* (213)*, ceathrú* (125)*, corr* (84)*, cnoc* (46) and *ard* (59)*, droim* (52) and *doire* (55). The chart below indicates the number of townland names with at least 15 occurrences of the identified element in an initial position (e.g. Cluain Caoin > **Cloonkeen**; Droim Mór > **Dromore**; Gort Buí > **Gortboy**) and indicates the number of names with the element in the qualifying position (e.g. Baile na Cille > **Ballynakill**; Dúchluain < **Dacklin**).
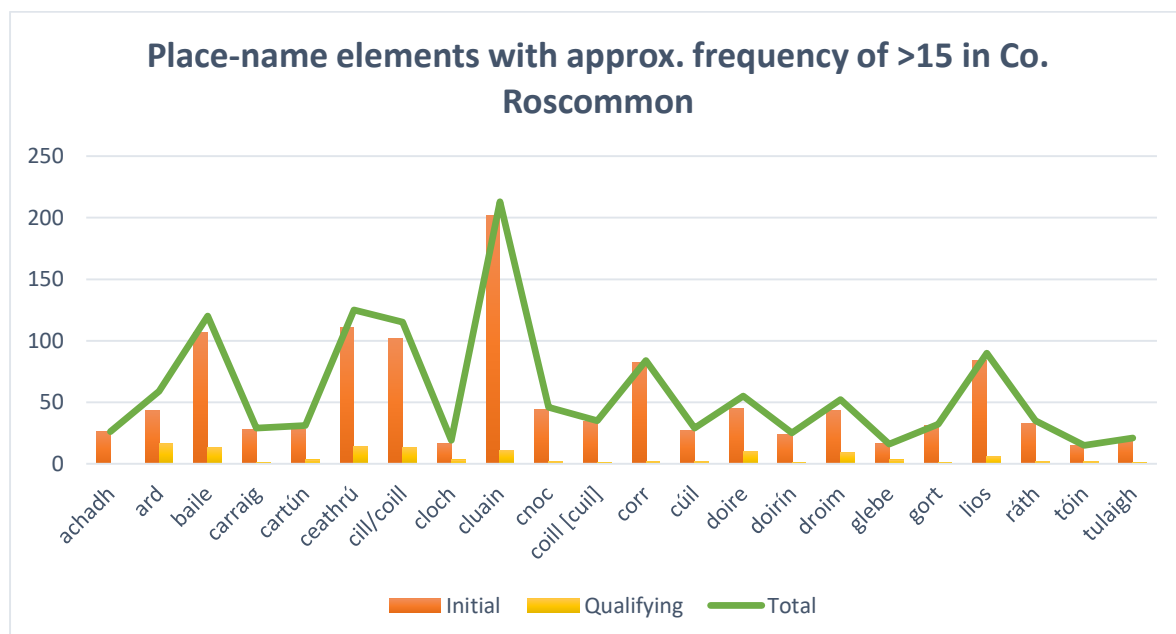

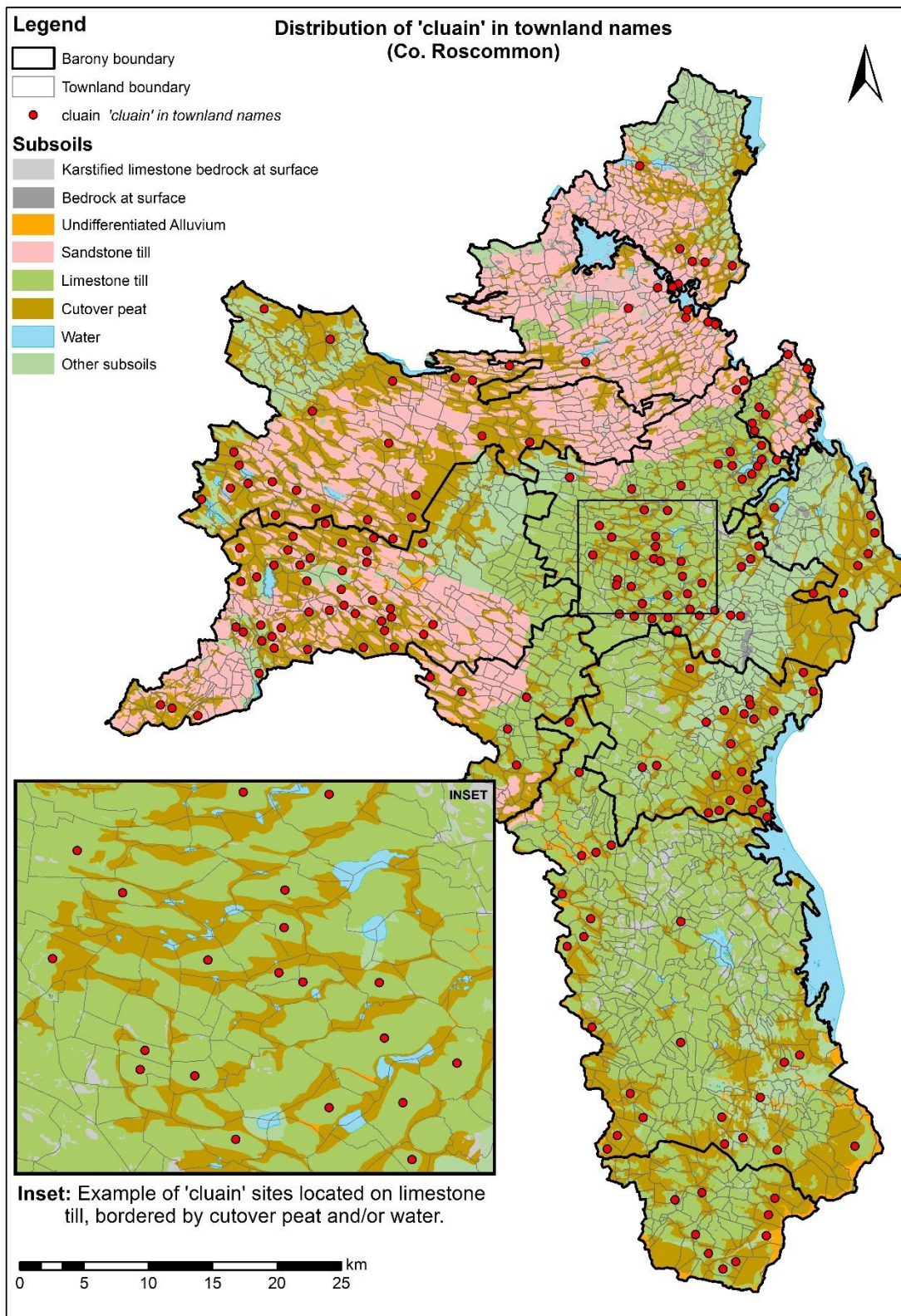*Figure 2: Place-name elements with approx. frequency of >15 in Co. Roscommon*

Figure 3: Distribution of 'cluain' in townland names

Conclusion

A comprehensive survey and analysis of the townland names of County Roscommon has yet to be published, if only to fill the gaps and corroborate the research completed by John O'Donovan for the Ordnance Survey in the mid-nineteenth century. Field-work and the collection of historical name forms for the baronies of Moycarn, Athlone North and Athlone South was undertaken by Alan Mac an Bhaird on behalf of the Placenames Branch between 1975 and 1982, and historic name forms for townland names in the baronies of Ballintober North, Ballintober South, and Roscommon were collected by the present author in 2006-2007.[86] The late Fiachra Mac Gabhann provided a comprehensive examination of the townlands in the barony of Costello that were transferred to County Roscommon in 1898.[87] To date, the most detailed study of an area within the county has been undertaken on the barony of Boyle, completed by the present author in 2013.[88] This study collected over 7,400 historical name forms (from manuscript and printed sources, maps, and phonetic forms obtained during field-work) for 300 townland names and 120 minor names in the barony of Boyle. As yet, the western baronies of Ballymoe, Frenchpark and Castlereagh await attention.

A more pressing issue, perhaps, is the rate at which townland names (and minor place-names) are being lost from memory. While it is true that all 'official' townlands are, by now, mapped in one form or another, many townlands are now without inhabitants or, in particular, no longer have an agricultural community who work on the land, maintaining the use of 'unofficial' names, such as field-names, hill-names, names of streams, the location of crossing points on rivers, significant topographical features such as large rocks, old trackways, the names and locations of enclosures, ringforts, and historic monuments. This onomastic record is at risk of being lost due to movements in population, and changes in how the rural and urban landscape of Ireland is being organised and accessed by its inhabitants.

Acknowledgements

Appendix A: Civil Parishes of Co. Roscommon

English/Anglicised form	Irish form	Meaning
Ardcarn	Ard Carna	'height of the cairn'
Athleague	Áth Liag	'ford of stones'
Aughrim	Eachroim	'horse-ridge'
Ballintober	Baile an Tobair	'settlement of the well or spring'
Ballynakill	Baile na Cille	'settlement of the church'
Baslick	Baislic	'(the) basilica'
Boyle	Mainistir na Búille	'monastery of the Búill (river)'
Bumlin	Buimlinn	'speckled pool' [?]
Cam	Camach	'crooked place' [?]
Castlemore	An Caisleán Mór	'the big castle'
Clooncraff	Cluain Creamha	'pasture of (the) ramsoms'
Cloonfinlough	Cluain Fionnlocha	'pasture of (the) bright lake'
Cloontuskert	Cluain Tuaiscirt	'northern pasture'
Cloonygormican	Cluain Ó gCormacáin	'pasture of (the) Ó Cormacáins'
Creagh	An Chríoch	'the boundary'
Creeve	An Chraobh	'the branch'
Drum	An Droim	'the ridge'
Drumatemple	Droim an Teampaill	'ridge of the temple'
Dunamon	Dún Iomáin	'fort of Iomán'
Dysart	An Díseart	'the hermitage'
Elphin	Ail Finn	'bright stone/rock'
Estersnow	Díseart Nuan	'Nuadha's hermitage'
Fuerty	Fíorta	'high-wood' [?]
Kilbeagh	Cill Bheitheach	'church of birches'
Kilbegnet	Cill Bheagnait	'Beagnait's church, cell'
Kilbride	Cill Bhríde	'St. Bríd's church, cell'
Kilbryan	Cill Bhraoin	'Braon's church, cell'
Kilcolagh	Cill Chomhlach	'gated church, cell'
Kilcolman	Cill Cholmáin	'Colmán's church, cell'
Kilcooley	Cill Chúile	'church of (the) corner/recess'
Kilcorkey	Cill Churcaí	'Curcach's church, cell'
Kilgefin	Cill Geifin	'Gefin's church, cell'
Kilglass	Cill Ghlais	'grey church, cell'
Kilkeevin	Cill Chaoimhín	'Caoimhín's church, cell'
Killinvoy	Cill Fhionnmhaí	'church of (the) fair-plain'
Killukin	Cill Abhaicín	'Abhacín's church, cell'
Killukin	Cill Lúcainn	'Lúcann's church, cell'

Killummod	Cill Lomad	'Lomad's church, cell' [?]
Kilmacumsy	Cill Mhic Coimsigh	'Coimse's son church, cell' [?]
Kilmeane	Cill Mhiáin	'Miadhán's church, cell' [?]
Kilmore	Cill Mhór	'(the) big church, cell'
Kilnamanagh	Cill na Manach	'church of (the) monks'
Kilronan	Cill Rónáin	'Rónán's church, cell'
Kilteevan	Cill Taobháin	'Taobhán's church, cell'
Kiltoom	Cill Tuama	'church of (the) ridge, hillock, mound'
Kiltrustan	Cill Trostáin	'Trostán's church, cell'
Kiltullagh	Cill Tulach	'church, cell of mounds'
Lissonuffy	Lios Ó nDufaigh	'fort of (the) Uí Dhufaigh/Ó Dufaigh'
Moore	An Múr	'the wall, rampart'
Ogulla	Óigeala	[?]
Oran	Órán	'(the) spring, well spring or fountain'
Rahara	Ráth Ara	'Ara's fort'
Roscommon	Ros Comáin	'Comán's wood, elevated ground'
Shankill	An tSeanchill	'the old-church, cell'
St. Johns	Teach Eoin	'Eoin's house'
St. Peter's	Paróiste Pheadair	'Peadar's parish'
Taghboy	Teach Baoith	'Baoth's house'
Taghmaconnell	Teach Mhic Conaill	'Conall's son's house'
Termonbarry	Tearmann Bearaigh	'Bearach's sanctuary'
Tibohine	Tigh Baoithín	'Baoithín's house'
Tisrara	Tigh Srathra	'house of (the) saddle-pack'
Tumna	Tuaim Ná	'the ridge, hillock, mound of *Ná' [?]

Appendix B: Gazetteer of Common Place-name Elements (n = >15)

The gazetteer of place-name elements below contains all elements with an estimated frequency of 15 occurrences or more in County Roscommon and is arranged alphabetically by the Irish-language root of each element.

Element	Interpretation	Example + Etymology
achadh	The word *achadh* 'expanse of ground; pasture, field' (*DIL* sv. *achad*) or 'a field, land, a plain' (*Dinneen*) occurs in about two dozen townland names in Co. Roscommon.[89] It is typically anglicised as *agha-'*, *'agh'* or *'augh-'*.[90] As a place-name element nationally, there are c. 900 examples, with half of those examples found in Ulster, indicating a northern distribution of this element.[91] As stated by Flanagan and Flanagan: 'Very often [*achadh*] is qualified by terms descriptive of its size or shape'.[92]	**Aghamore** 'big field' **Aghafin** 'bright field' **Aghalustia** 'burnt field' **Aghanasurn** 'field of the kilns'
ard	*Ard* 'high place, height' (*DIL* sv. 1*ard* II (a)) is generally found in initial position (as an initial element) in townland names in the county, e.g. **Ardeash** rather than **Carroward**. The actual geographical height of places named *ard* varies from 60m to 174m in Roscommon, it appears to indicate a height of c. 90m on average.	**Ardeash** 'height of (the) track' **Ardakillin** 'height of the little wood' **Ardnagowna** 'height of the calves' **Carroward** 'high quarter(land)'
baile	The element *baile* 'place; piece of land (belonging to one family, group or individual' (*DIL* sv. 1*baile* (a)) is a common element in the place-names of Roscommon with c. 120 examples, indicating *baile* 'place, township' (*Ó Dónaill*) or 'a town, a village, a home; a townland' (*Dinneen*), but generally taken as meaning 'place of'.	**Ballyformoyle** 'place of (the) round hill' **Ballindrehid** 'place of the bridge' **Ballykilcline** 'place of Mac Giolla Chlaoin'
carraig	*carraig* 'rock, large stone' (*DIL* sv. *carrac*) or 'large prominent stone' is found in some 28 townland names in Co. Roscommon, in many cases combined with an animal name or an adjective (*mór* 'big, great', *beag* 'small', *lom* 'bare').[93]	**Carricklom** 'bare rock' **Carricknagat** 'rock of the cat' **Carrigeenagappul** 'little rock of the horse'
cartún	*Cartún* 'name of a measure of land' (*DIL*) may be a loanword from English or a Romance language and on paper at least, seems to indicate 'Chartered land, holding; measure of land (equated to 64 acres)' (*Ó Dónaill* sv. *cartúr*) is the basic element. Joyce believed that Anglo-Norman settlers introduced the term, derived through 'the French *quarteron* from the mediaeval Lat. *quarteronus*… it was applied to a parcel of land varying in amount from 60 to 160 acres'.[94] There are 18 examples of this element without qualification (save for surname designations, e.g. Cartron (Brett), Cartron (King). It may have been appended to townlands to indicate their size, in terms of land assessment, as evidenced by *Cartron Dryshagh* (1587) for the townland **Drishoge** in parish of Killukin.	**Cartron** 'cartron' **Cartronaglogh** 'cartron of rocks' **Drishoge** < Cartún Driseach 'cartron of briars'
ceathrú	*ceathrú* '(*cethramad*). quarter, fourth part… part; district, quarter, name of a measure of land' (*DIL* sv. *cethramthu*(e)). McErlean maintains that 'most Connacht Townlands are composed of Quarters and this general homogeneity is graphically illustrated by the concentration of Townland names incorporating the element Carrow'.[95] There are some 125 examples of this element in Co. Roscommon.	**Carrownurlar** 'quarter)land of the level surface' **Carrowndangan** 'quarter(land) of the fortress/stronghold' **Carrowntlieve** 'quarter(land) of the mountain/moor'

		Lecarrow 'half-quarter(land)' **Carrownageeragh** 'quarter(land) of the sheep'
cill	*cill* 'church, monastic settlement or foundation, collection of ecclesiastical buildings; (b) churchyard, graveyard' (*DIL* sv. *cell*). *cill* 'church; churchyard; cell' (*Ó Dónaill*). This element, typically anglicised as *kil-* or *kill-*, is almost indistinguishable from *coill* 'wood, forest', also similarly anglicised. There are some 115 examples of this element (some of which might also represent *coill*) in the county and a significant proportion of these are accompanied by a personal name, assumed to be that of a patron saint, but many remain unidentified.	**Kildalloge** 'Lallóg's church, cell' **Kilbeg** 'little church, cell' **Cartronkilly** 'cartron of (the) church, cell' **Kilnalosset** 'church, cell of the kneading-trough' **Killeen East** 'little church, cell (east)'
cloch	*cloch* 'stone, rock; stone (as building etc. material)' (*DIL* sv. *cloch*) and *clochar* 'stony place' (*DIL* sv. 1*clochar*) appears in some 19 townland names in Co. Roscommon and it occurs in both generic and qualifying positions.	**Cloghnashade** 'stone of the jewels' **Knocknacloy** 'hill of the stone' **Clerragh** 'stony-place'
cluain	The place-name element c*luain* 'meadow, pasture-land, glade' (*DIL* sv. *clúain*) or 'a meadow, pasture land; a plain between two woods, a water-shed' (*Dinneen* sv. *cluain*) is the most common element in townland names in Co. Roscommon, with c. 213 examples identified. The element was once thought to indicate an ecclesiastical site or early-church foundation, but this appears to be coincidental in nature and the element cannot be considered an ecclesiastical one.[96] Generally anglicised as clon- or cloon-, it can appear as -lin and -loon, when prefixed by a noun or adjective. A clear pattern emerges regarding the occurrence of this element when mapped against the subsoil map of Roscommon, **see Figure 3: Distribution map of 'cluain' in townland names (Co. Roscommon)**, where *cluain* sites are consistently located adjacent to peatland, or to a water feature, with a clear majority of instances occurring on limestone till. Pádraig Ó Cearbhaill's comprehensive study of the element *cluain* in County Tipperary obtained similar results regarding the locational features of *cluain*, where from a total of 88 occurrences, 64 were beside a stream or river, 32 were situated beside an ecclesiastical site, 43 beside a peatland/wetland and 7 were beside a lake.[97] A more appropriate definition therefore is that proposed by Joyce, where *cluain* indicates 'a fertile piece of land or a green arable spot surrounded or nearly surrounded by bog or marsh on one side and water on the other'.[98] This definition is corroborated by Cawley in her analysis of settlement patterns in Roscommon in the nineteenth century, where 'some of the largest clachans in the county occur in townlands where the placename element 'cluain' dominates … The 'cluain' is synonymous with water meadows subject to winter flooding but providing fertile summer pasture suitable for communal grazing of livestock as pursued by the clachan dwellers'.[99]	**Cloonacarrow** < Cluain Dá Chora 'pasture of two weirs' **Clooneen** 'little pasture' **Clooncah** 'pasture of (the) battle' **Cloonkeen** 'fair/pleasant pasture' **Clooncruffer** 'pasture of (the) priest' **Cloonyogan** 'pasture of Ó hÓgáin' **Dacklin** 'black pasture' **Brackloon** 'speckled pasture'
cnoc	cnoc 'lump, protuberance; hill, mound' (*DIL* sv. *cnocc*) or 'a hill, a height, a mountain' (Dinneen). The element cnoc 'means anything from a hill to a small mountain'.[100] This element appears in some 44 instances of townland names in Co. Roscommon, almost always in initial position. These small hills can range in height from 50m to 130m, but the average height of places named *cnoc* appears to be c. 50m.	**Knockadaff** 'hill of the ox' **Knockadoo** 'hill of the mound' **Knocknafushoga** 'hill of the lark' **Knockacorha** 'hill of the standing stone '

		Attiknockan 'place of the house of (the) little hill'
coill/coillte	*coill* 'wood, forest' (*DIL* sv. 1*caill*) and 'a wood, grove' (*Dinneen*) is typically anglicised as kil-/kill- hence confusion with the element *cill* 'church, cell'. It can also be anglicised as *cuil*, as evidenced by the examples to the right. There are 35 confirmed instances of this element in Co. Roscommon, but linguistic analysis of many other possible sites is yet to be conducted.	**Cuilmore** 'big wood' **Cuiltaboolia** 'woods of the booley' **Kilmacarril** 'wood of Coireall's son' **Cuilrevagh** 'grey-wood' **Laughil** 'elm-wood'
corr	The noun *corr* 'projecting point, edge; rounded hill, rounded hump' (*Ó Dónaill* sv. 1-2*corr*) and the adjective *corr* 'tapering, cuspidated, peaked, pointed, jutting out or up, swelling' (*DIL* sv. 1*corr* II) appear in some 84 townland names in Co. Roscommon. The element has also been defined as 'odd; tapering, pointed' (*Ó Dónaill* sv. 5*corr*) and when combined with *baile*, is generally believed to mean 'noticeable, prominent' rather than 'rounded, projecting' etc. [101] The distribution of this element in townland names is, for the most part, confined to the north of the county, and associated with the drumlin belt running across north Roscommon and into east Mayo. Anglicised forms of this element can be easily confused with those of *cora* 'weir' (*DIL* sv. *cora (b)*).	**Corskeagh** 'round hill of (the) thornbushes' **Cortober** 'round hill of the well' **Corbally** 'the noticeable town(land)' **Cornamaddy** 'round hill of the dogs' **Cornaveagh** 'round hill of the ravens' **Cornameelta** 'round hill of the midges'
cúil	*cúl* 'back, rear; back of head, neck' (*DIL* sv. *cúl*) or 'the back of a hill' is the initial element here.[102] The word has the same origins as *cúil* 'corner, recess' (*DIL* sv. *cúil*) and both words can be applied in a topographical sense, but *cúil*, rather than *cúl* appears to be more commonly found in townland names.[103] There are some 29 examples of this element in the townland names of the county.	**Cooladye** 'back of two faces' **Coolagarry** 'back of the garden' **Cooldorragh** 'dark back' **Coolmeen** 'smooth back' **Coolnagranshy** 'back of the grange
doire	*doire* 'an oak-wood; a grove, thicket' (*DIL* sv. *daire* I, II) and 'an oak grove, a wood, a thicket' (*Dinneen* sv. *doire*). The element appears to have developed an extended meaning to include 'I gceantracha uisciúla ar imill locha is ionann *doire* agus droimnín atá ina oileán san uisce' ['in watery places beside lakes, *doire* can be made equivalent with an island in the water'].[104] In north Roscommon use of the element *doire* appears to refer to high ground, or a small hillock surrounded by peatland, or to trees that once grew on this hillock. There are some 55 examples of this element in Roscommon townland names, along with 25 additional examples of its diminutive *doirín* 'little oak-wood'.	**Derry** 'oak-wood' **Derrygirraun** 'oak-wood of the gelding' **Derrinturk** 'oak-wood of the boar' **Derreentunny** 'oak-wood of the palisade'
doirín	A diminutive form of the word *doire* 'an oak-wood; a grove, thicket' (*DIL* sv. *daire* I, II) and 'an oak grove, a wood, a thicket' (*Dinneen* sv. *doirín*), meaning 'little oak-wood'. There are 25 examples of this element identifiable in townland names in the county, and the element is generally found in initial position, except for **Ballaghaderreen** < Bealach an Doirín.	**Derreenavicara** 'little oak-wood of the vicar' **Derreenavoggy** 'little oak-wood of the boggy ground' **Ballaghaderreen** 'pass of the little oak-wood'
droim	The word *droim* 'ridge, usually of elevated ground; hill' (*DIL* sv. *druim(m)* III) or 'a back, a ridge' (*Dinneen* sv. *drom*) and the related word *dromainn* 'humped (?) back; hillock' (*DIL* sv. *drumman*) are of frequent occurrence in the county. In districts where drumlins feature as part of the topography, the element is applied to a small height/platform, particularly if it is elongated.[105] These elongated hills are typically between 60m and 80m in height. There 52 examples of *droim* and 8 examples of *dromainn* in townland names in Roscommon.	**Drum** 'ridge' **Drumdaff** 'ridge of (the) ox' **Drumman** 'little ridge' **Drumsillagh** 'ridge of willows' **Breandrum** 'stinking ridge'

glebe	Glebe is an English element, of frequent occurrence in Ireland and signifies 'A portion of land assigned to a clergyman as part of his benefice ... glebe-house n. a parsonage, manse'.[106] There are 16 examples of this element in Co. Roscommon, the majority of which appear as unqualified usages.	**Glebe** **Glebe East**
gort	*gort* 'a field (of arable or pasture land); land, territory' (*DIL* sv. 1*gort* I (a)(c)) or 'a field or plantation' (*Dinneen*) is found in some 32 townland names in Co. Roscommon. It is almost always in initial position and qualified by either a noun (with or without the article 'the') (**Gortanure** < Gort na nIúr 'field of the yew-trees') or an adjective (**Gortboy** < Gort Buí 'yellow field').	**Gortacoosan** 'field of the cave' **Gortaphuill** 'field of the hole' **Gortleck** 'field of flat-stone' **Gortnadarra** 'oaken field/field abounding in oaks'
lios	*lios* 'the space about a dwelling-house or houses enclosed by a bank or rampart' (*DIL* sv. *les*) and 'a small circumvallation or ring-fort' (*Dinneen*). It is not uncommon for a personal name to qualify the word *lios* as can be seen from **Lisgreaghan** < Lios Gréacháin, or a surname, i.e. **Lisdaly** < Lios Uí Dhálaigh. The townland of **Lissaphobble** < Lios an Phobail 'the people's enclosure' may indicate a possible Mass site.[107] The element is found in some 90 townland names in Co. Roscommon.	**Lisbaun** 'white enclosure' **Lisboy** 'yellow enclosure' **Lisgarve** 'rough enclosure' **Lismoyle** 'flat enclosure' **Lisnahoon** 'enclosure of the cave'
ráth	*ráth* 'An earthen rampart surrounding a chief's residence, a fort, rath' (*DIL* sv. 2*ráth*). There are approx. 35 examples of this element in the townland names of Roscommon, typically qualified by a personal name (**Rathbrennan** < Ráth Bréanainn) or an adjective (**Rathmore** < Ráth Mór).	**Rathbrennan** 'Bréanainn's rath' **Rathdiveen** 'Daimhín's rath' **Rathnalulleagh** 'rath of the milch cows'
tóin	*tóin* 'hindquarters, podex; bottom' (*DIL* sv. tón (a)(b)) or 'bottom; lowest part; lower end' (*Dinneen*) is found in approx. 17 townlands in County Roscommon. The element is typically interpreted in place-names as meaning the 'bottomland' or 'lower part' of a townland, and frequently appears with the element *gaoith* 'inlet of sea; estuary' (*Ó Dónaill*)' though this does not suit the topographical context of the Roscommon examples of **Tonregee** < Tóin re Gaoith and **Tonlegee** < Tóin le Gaoith. McKay explains the element as indicating hills thate are in 'exposed positions'.[108] *Tóin* features in the names of close to 120 townlands nationally.[109]	**Tonaknick** 'bottom(land) of the hill' **Tonlegee** 'bottomland facing water/wind' **Tonrevagh** 'grey bottom(land)'
tulaigh	*tulach* 'a hill or mound, an assembly hill' (Dinneen). The anglicised form *tully-/tulli-* is generally taken to represent a calcified form of the dative case of *tulach* 'Hill(ock), mound' (*DIL* sv. *tulach*). It can appear unqualified (**Tully** < An Tulaigh), and with qualification (**Tullyboy** < An Tulaigh Bhuí).	**Tully** 'hillock' **Tullycarton** 'hillock of (the) cartron' **Tullyleague** 'hillock of (the) stone' **Tullyvohaun** 'Ó Mocháin's hillock'

[1] Isaac Weld, *A Statistical Survey of the County Roscommon* (Dublin, 1832), pp 12-13.

[2] Post-Ordnance Survey studies on place-names in Co. Roscommon tend to feature as a minor and localised part in local history publications, and an overall view is lacking. See for example: M.J. Connellan, *The Place-names of Elphin diocese* (Roscommon, 1938); Mary Gormley, *Tulsk parish in historic Maigh Ai: aspects of its history and folklore* (Dublin, 1989); Cyril Mattimoe, *North Roscommon: its people and past* (Kildare, 1992); Drum Heritage Group (eds) *Drum and its hinterland* (Drum, 1994) pp. 116-7, 337-63; Dermot Mac Dermot, *Mac Dermot of Moylurg: the story of a Connacht family* (Manorhamilton, 1996); Francis Beirne and Tisrara Heritage Society (eds) *A History of the parish of Tisrara* (Tisrara, 1997), pp 18-20; Taughmaconnell Historical and Heritage Group (eds), *Taughmaconnell: a history* (Dublin, 2000); Henry Tonra, *The parish of Ardcarne: a history* (Roscommon, 2001), pp. 17-40; Clonown Community Centre (ed.) *A sense of place: Clonown, a county Roscommon Shannonside community* (Athlone, 2006); John Keenehan (ed.), *St. Michael's Church - Drumlion - Co. Roscommon, 1856-2006: church, people and landscape* (Carrick-on-Shannon, 2006); Kilronan Then and Now Committee (eds) *Kilronan then and now: a collection of heritage, history, folklore and nostalgia from Kilronan parish, Co. Roscommon* (Kilronan, 2012); Lisacul Community (eds) *The Gathering: a history of Lisacul, its people and its culture* (Lisacul, 2013), pp 162-3.

[3] Karl Müller, *Claudii ptolemaei geographia*, (Paris, 1901).

[4] John Waddell, 'Rathcroghan – a royal site in Connacht' in *The Journal of Irish Archaeology*, i (1983), p. 21; Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, *Royal inauguration in Gaelic Ireland c. 1100-1600: a cultural landscape study* (Dublin, 2003), pp 60-4; Robert Darcy and William Flynn, 'Ptolemy's map of Ireland: a modern decoding' in *Irish Geography*, xli, no. 1 (2014), pp 49-69.

[5] Cecile O'Rahilly (ed. and tr.), *Táin bó Cúailnge: Recension I*, (Dublin, 1976). For a recently published guide to outlining the supposed route of the *Táin* through counties Roscommon and Longford, see: 'The Route of *Táin Bó Cúailnge* in Counties Roscommon and Longford' in *Archaeology Ireland* (www.jstor.org/stable/90005362) (29 July 2017).

[6] Paul Russell, 'What was best of every language: The early history of the Irish language' in D. Ó Cróinín (ed.), *A new history of Ireland,* i: *prehistoric and early Ireland* (Oxford, 2005), p. 410.

[7] Russell, 'What was best of every language', p. 410.

[8] See Francis John Byrne, *Irish kings and high-kings*, (London, 1987) and Nollaig Ó Muraíle, 'Some early Connacht population groups' in A.P. Smyth (ed.), *Seanchas: studies in early and medieval Irish archaeology, history and literature in honour of Francis J. Byrne* (Dublin, 1999), pp 161-77.

[9] Byrne, *Irish kings*, p. 230.

[10] Seán Mac Airt and Gearóid Mac Niocaill, *The Annals of Ulster* (to A.D. 1131) (Dublin, 1983), (henceforth cited as Mac Airt, *AU* plus entry number), see entries under: *AU* 743.9; 746.5; 752.15; 754.7; 757.8; 758.4; 775.8; 789.16; 812.9; 818.9; 822.6; 824.5.

[11] Donncha Ó Corráin, *Ireland before the Normans* (Dublin, 1972), p. 9.

[12] Byrne, *Irish kings*, pp 232-3, 236.

[13] Ó Muraíle, *Early Connacht,* p. 176-7.

[14] Katherine Simms, *Medieval Gaelic sources* (Dublin, 2009), p. 25; Daniel McCarthy, *The Irish annals: their genesis, evolution and history* (Dublin, 2008), p. 43.

[15] For example the minor name of Lorton Hill, referred to once as Lúghbhurtán 'herb-garden' in 1235 (*Annals of Loch Cé*), appears variously as *Lyartane* (1578)*, Lougharton* (1593)*, Luartane* (1610)*, Luhartan* (1610)*, Laertayne* (1613)*, Lowertane* (1616)*, Loortane* (1660)*, Looerty* (1667)*, Luarton* (1749) giving rise to the lordship title of Lorton – as Lord Lorton (Sir Robert King), a member of the King family who owned the estate of Rockingham Demesne from the 17th century.

[16] Michael Joseph Connellan, *The Place-names of Elphin diocese*, (1938). For example, the townland now known as Woodbrook, Tumna parish, recorded locally by Connellan as *Cionnchoilleadh,* which can be identified as *Cionn Coilleadh* 'head of (the) wood' which is attested in multiple sources from *Keane Celly* (1610), *Killkullogh* (1666c), *Kinkellew* (1728) then *Woodbrook* (1817). A similar example is that of Lyonstown, only attested in that form since early 19th century, but can be securely identified as *Cluain Buíochair* 'pasture of the yellow-place', found as *Clonboyagh* (1585), *Clownboyagher* (1616), *Cloonboyher* (1659), *Cloonbigher* (1725).

[17] Hogan's *Onomasticon* is being gradually updated by an ongoing project at UCC (https://www.ucc.ie/en/locus/) and another version, dubbed the E-Onomasticon is available as a pdf download (https://www.dias.ie/celt/celt-publications-2/onomasticon-goedelicum/).

[18] Simms notes the concerns of regional bias, the process of copying and re-copying and the reliability of evidence given in annalistic sources, due to their compilation at a much later date, using earlier sources, as is the case with *Annála Ríochta Éireann/Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland*, see Simms, *Medieval Gaelic sources*, pp 33-6.

[19] William Petty, *Hiberniae Delineatio. Atlas of Ireland. By Sir William Petty*. (Newcastle upon Tyne, 1968).

[20] See William Edgeworth and John Griffith, *Grand Jury Map Roscommon*. Map of the County of Roscommon in two parts (1817), and estate maps held at the National Library of Ireland, Dublin (for example 14 A. 1-2, 21 F 43, 21 F 45).

[21] Pádraig Ó Riain, *A dictionary of Irish saints* (Dublin, 2011), p. 216.

[22] John O'Donovan, *Annals of the kingdom of Ireland by the Four Masters,* i (Dublin, 1848-51; reprint 1990), p. 742.5; 746.18 (henceforth cited as O'Donovan, *AFM* plus entry number); Mac Airt, *AU* 747.12.

[23] O'Donovan, *AFM,* ii, p. 1175.

[24] Historic Environment Viewer, 'Archaeological inventory of County Roscommon: Saint Coman's Church of Ireland' (http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/) (10 March 2018).

[25] B. J. Graham, 'Medieval settlement in County Roscommon' in *Proceedings of the royal irish academy. section c: archaeology, celtic studies, history, linguistics, literature 88C* (1988), p. 23.

[26] O'Flaherty, Roderic, et al. *A chorographical description of West or H-Iar Connaught: written A.D. 1684*. (Dublin, 1846), p. 305, where Roscommon is also described as a 'suitable county town'. See also Henry Sidney, 'Sir Henry Sidney's memoir of his government of Ireland. 1583' in *Ulster Journal of Archaeology,* 3 (1855), pp 40-1. The date of 1570 is generally given for the 'shiring' of the province of Connacht, including counties Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Roscommon and Clare, see William Nolan, 'Some Civil and Ecclesiastical Territorial Divisions and their Geographical Significance' in William Nolan (ed.) *The shaping of Ireland: the geographical perspective'*, (Cork, 1986), pp 72-3.

[27] Hubert T. Knox, 'Occupation of Connaught by the Anglo-Normans after A.D. 1237 (Continued)' in *The journal of the royal society of antiquaries of Ireland*, xxxiii, no. 3 (1903), p. 292; Paul MacCotter, 'Medieval Irish political and economic divisions' in *History Ireland,* xv, no. 5 (2007), p. 19. The estimated total extent of these cantreds is outlined in Paul MacCotter, *Medieval Ireland: territorial, political and economic divisions* (Dublin, 2008), p. 207-11.

[28] Paul MacCotter, 'Functions of the cantred in medieval Ireland' in *Peritia,* xix (2005), p. 312.

[29] Michael Herity and David McGuinness, *Ordnance survey letters, Roscommon: letters relating to the antiquities of the County of Roscommon containing information collected during the progress of the ordnance survey in 1837* (Dublin, 2010) (henceforth Herity, *OS Letters*).

[30] Ludwig Bieler, *The Patrician texts in the Book of Armagh,* Scriptores Latini Hiberniae, x (Dublin, 1979), pp 139-40: 'Patrick ordained holy Ailbe a priest, and pointed out to him a marvellous stone altar on the mountain of the Uí Ailello, because he was among the Uí Aillelo'; *Interfectio nepotum Ailello la Greccraighi* (Mac Airt, *AU* 753.10).

[31] The Uí Briúin Aí and Síl Muireadaigh listed as two of the 'free-tribes' of Connacht in *Lebor na Cert*, see Myles Dillion, (ed.) *Lebor na Cert: the Book of Rights*, ITS xlvi (Dublin, 1962), pp 52-5.

[32] Copy of Rev. John Keogh's statistical account of Co. Roscommon originally drawn up for Sir William Petty's Down Survey in 1683. National Library of Ireland, MS. 3649.

[33] Martin Freeman and Gerard Hayes-McCoy (eds) *The compossicion booke of Conought* (Dublin, 1936), pp 160-1 (henceforth Freeman, *Compossicion Booke*).

[34] Kay Muhr, 'Territories, people and place-names in Co. Armagh' in *Armagh: history & society* (Dublin, 2001), p. 296.

[35] George Brendan Adams, 'Prolegomena to the study of Irish place-names' in *Nomina*, ii (1978), p. 48.

[36] MacCotter, *Medieval Irish divisions*, p. 19.

[37] This figure of eleven includes the three "half-baronies" of Ballymoe and Moycarn, (which are divided between counties Galway and Roscommon) and Costello (divided between Mayo and Roscommon), a portion of which was transferred to Roscommon under the Local Government Act of 1898.

[38] This information has been obtained by comparing the nomenclature used in selected sources from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, including the Census Reports for Co. Roscommon, as published in Archive CD Books Ireland Ltd., *Census of Ireland, Co. Roscommon 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911* (CD-ROM, Dublin: Archive CD Books Project, 2010); Clarkson, et al., *Notes on baronies of Ireland 1821-1891* (PDF, Belfast: Database of Irish Historical Statistics, 1997); Séamus Pender, A 'census' of Ireland c. 1659 (Dublin, 1939), and indentures given in Freeman, *Compossicion Booke*, pp 80-92, 152-76.

[39] Ordnance Survey Name-Book of the parish of St. Peter's: 'The largest portion of Athlone is situated upon it, including the castle, the parish church of St. Peter's & a R.C. chapel, an old sessions house, and 2 distilleries &c'.

[40] Freeman, *Compossicion Booke*, p. 167.

[41] Herity, *OS Letters*, p. 53.

[42] O'Donovan, *AFM*, iv, 1384.2.

[43] O'Donovan, *AFM*, iv, 1384.2.

[44] Pádraig Ó Riain, Diarmuid Ó Murchadha and Kevin Murray, *Historical Dictionary of Gaelic Placenames : Foclóir Stairiúil Áitainmneacha na Gaeilge – Fascicle 1 (Names in A-) : Fascúl 1 (Ainmneacha in A-)*, (Cork, 2003), pp 144-5.

[45] Freeman, *Compossicion Booke*, p. 81.

[46] Aubrey Gwynn and R. Neville Hadcock, *Medieval religious houses: Ireland: with an appendix to early sites* (Harlow, 1970), p. 128; Dermot Mac Dermot, *Mac Dermot of Moylurg: the story of a Connacht family* (Manorhamilton, 1996), p. 442.

[47] Liam Ó hAisibéil, Logainmneacha Mhagh Loirg agus Uachtar Thíre, Contae Ros Comáin: Anailís ar ainmneacha bhailte fearainn na seandúichí sin, unpublished PhD, Thesis, National University of Ireland, Galway (2013), pp 42-54.

[48] Ó Muraíle, *Early Connacht,* p. 168; Freeman, *Compossicion Booke*, p. 157: 'there is a quantitie of land called Artragh consisting of 68 q[uarte]rs'.

[49] Herity, *OS Letters*, p. 53; Freeman, *Compossicion Booke*, p. 153.

[50] Patrick French fitzStephen (†1667) buried at Frenchpark, see Landed Estates Database 'French/Ffrench (Frenchpark)' (www.landedestates.ie) (01 July 2018).

[51] Herity, *OS Letters*, p. 60; Arthur French was created Baron de Freyne of Artagh in 1839, see Landed Estates Database 'French/Ffrench (Frenchpark)' (www.landedestates.ie) (01 July 2018).

[52] Liam Price, 'Ráith Oinn' in *Éigse,* vii, no. 3 (1954), pp 186.

[53] Fiachra Mac Gabhann, *Logainmneacha Mhaigh Eo: barúntacht Choistealach,* x (Dublin, 2014), p 58.

[54] The eleven parishes, arranged in a north-south direction are those of Boyle, Ardcarn, Kilcolagh, Creeve, Kilglass. Ogulla, Kilbride, Lissonuffy, Cloonfinlough, Drum and Creagh.

[55] Adams, *Prolegomena*, p. 49.

[56] Dónall Mac Giolla Easpaig, 'Early ecclesiastical settlement names of County Galway' in Gerard Moran and Raymond Gillespie (eds.) *Galway history & society : interdisciplinary essays on the history of an Irish county* (Dublin, 1996), p. 796.

[57] Bieler, *Patrician texts*, pp 140-1.

[58] Kenneth William Nicholls, 'Some patrician sites of eastern Connacht' in *Dinnseanchas*, v, no. 4 (1973), p. 114.

[59] Deirdre Flanagan, 'Ecclesiastical nomenclature in Irish texts and place-names: a comparison' in *Proceedings of the 10th international congress of onomastic sciences,* ii, (1969), pp 379-88.

[60] Deirdre Flanagan, 'The Christian impact on early Ireland: Place-Names evidence' in Próinséas Ní Chatháin, et al. (eds) *Irland und Europa: Die kirche im frühmittelalter = Ireland and Europe: The early church,* (Stuttgart, 1984), p. 34-6.

[61] Mac Airt, *AU,* 811.1, 812.4.

[62] Herity, *OS Letters*, p. 73.

[63] Ó hAisibéil, *Logainmneacha Mhagh Loirg*, pp. 311-2.

[64] See Deirdre Flanagan and Laurence Flanagan, *Irish place names* (Dublin, 2002), p. 147: '... in place-names frequently is used of a saint's house, i.e. a 'church', especially in earlier compositions where the *teach*-element is usually followed by a personal name'. See also Patrick S. Dinneen, *Foclóir Gaedhilge agus Béarla = Irish-English Dictionary* (Dublin, 1927), henceforth *Dinneen*: 'a house, building… *oft.* in sense of church or other ecclesiastical establishment'.

[65] Flanagan, *The Christian impact*, p. 38-9.

[66] For definition of *tamhlacht,* see Patrick McKay, *A dictionary of Ulster place-names* (2007) p. 139.

[67] Bieler, *Patrician texts*, p. 146-7.

[68] Charles Doherty, 'The Basilica in Early Ireland' in *Peritia*, iii (1984), p. 310-13.

[69] Thomas McErlean, 'The Irish townland system of landscape organisation' in Terence Reeves-Smyth and Fred Hamond (eds.), *Landscape archaeology in Ireland*, BAR British Series, cxvi (Oxford, 1983), p. 328-32.

[70] Patrick Duffy, 'The territorial organisation of Gaelic landownership and its transformation in County Monaghan, 1591-1640' in *Irish Geography,* xiv (1981), p. 1; Adams, *Prolegomena*, p. 50.

[71] Patrick O'Flanagan, 'Placenames and change in the Irish landscape' in in William Nolan (ed.) *The shaping of Ireland: the geographical perspective*', (Cork, 1986), pp 117-8.

[72] Kay Muhr, '*Appendix B: Land Units'* in Gerard Stockman, Gregory Toner and Mícheál B. Ó Mainnín (eds), *The Place-names of Northern Ireland: Country Down I – Newry and South-West Down* (Belfast, 1992), p. 173; Patrick Duffy, 'Patterns of Landownership in Gaelic Monaghan in the Late Sixteenth Century' in *Clogher Record*, x, no. 3 (1981), p. 306.

[73] William Reeves, 'On the Townland Distribution of Ireland' in *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy (1836-1869)*, vii (1857), pp. 473–480.

[74] McErlean, *The Irish townland system*, p. 318-20.

[75] McErlean, *The Irish townland system*, p. 320, 323-4.

[76] This count is the most accurate estimate available and is based on my recent analysis of the number of townlands in the county, comparing the data available on the Placenames Database of Ireland (www.logainm.ie) where 2,090

townlands plus 17 islands are listed, and the 2,048 townlands listed in the *Index to the Townlands, and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland* (1851). The discrepancy between numbers is due to the townlands in two parishes, being listed as one entry in www.logainm.ie, and several islands that are classed as townlands in both historic and modern assessments of the county.

[77] Muhr, *Land Units,* p. 173.

[78] Herity, *OS Letters*, p. 4.

[79] *Ibid.*, p. 4.

[80] *Ibid.*, p. 4.

[81] *Ibid.*, p. 6.

[82] *Ibid.* p. 19.

[83] See Fiachra Mac Gabhann, *Logainmneacha Mhaigh Eo* (10 vols, Dublin, 2014); Margaret Gelling and Ann Cole, *A landscape of names*, (Stamford, 2014); Simon Taylor, et al. *The place-names of Fife* (5 vols, Donington, 2006-12).

[84] Deirdre Flanagan, 'Place-names in early Irish documentation: Structure and composition' in *Nomina: Journal of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland*, iv, 41-5 (1980); Dónall Mac Giolla Easpaig, 'Noun + Noun compounds in Irish placenames' in *Études Celtiques,* xviii (1981), pp 151-63; Gregory Toner (1999) 'The definite article in Irish place-names'. *Nomina: Journal of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland,* xxii, pp 5-24, and more recently by Fiachra Mac Gabhann, *Logainmneacha Mhaigh Eo* (2014).

[85] Mac Giolla Easpaig, *Noun + Noun*, p. 152.

[86] Liam Ó hAisibéil, Logainmneacha Chontae Ros Comáin: Ainmneacha na mbailte fearainn i mbarúntachtaí Ros Comáin, Baile an Tobair Thuaidh agus Baile an Tobair Theas, unpublished MA, Thesis, National University of Ireland, Galway (2007).

[87] Parts of the parishes of Castlemore, Kilbeagh and Kilcolman were transferred to Co. Roscommon. See Fiachra Mac Gabhann, *Logainmneacha Mhaigh Eo: Barúntacht Choistealach,* x (Dublin, 2014), pp 537-602.

[88] Ó hAisibéil, *Logainmneacha Mhagh Loirg*.

[89] Royal Irish Academy. *Dictionary of the Irish language: Based mainly on Old and Middle Irish materials* (Dublin, 1983), henceforth *DIL* (online at www.dil.ie); Patrick S. Dinneen, *Foclóir Gaedhilge agus Béarla = Irish-English Dictionary* (Dublin, 1927), henceforth *Dinneen*; Niall Ó Dónaill, *Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla*, (Dublin, 1977), henceforth *Ó Dónaill*.

[90] Patrick Weston Joyce, *Irish names of places,* i (3 vols, Dublin, 1869-1913), p. 232.

[91] Patrick O'Connor, *Atlas of Irish Place-names*, (Limerick, 2001), p. 17.

[92] Flanagan and Flanagan, *Irish place names*, p. 12.

[93] *Ibid.* p. 44.

[94] Joyce, *Irish names of places*, i, p. 245.

[95] McErlean, *The Irish townland system,* p. 320.

[96] Joyce, *Irish names of places*, i, p. 233.

[97] Pádraig Ó Cearbhaill, *Cluain i logainmneacha Co. Thiobraid Árann* (Dublin, 2010), p. 16-7.

[98] Joyce, *Irish names of places*, i, p. 233.

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