

# So you want to build a placenames database: an introduction to toponymic data modelling

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Placenames in Bilingual Areas Workshop, Dublin, 13 May 2022



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GAEILGE **ENGLISH**



Locate on map

Search



Where am I?



Include street names

## Placename of the day

⏪ 2022-05-12



### Cluain Torc/Clonturk

civil parish

COUNTY **Baile Átha Cliath/Dublin**

BARONY **An Chúlóg/Coolock**

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## Welcome

Welcome to the **Placenames Database of Ireland**, developed by [Gaois](#), [Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge](#) (DCU) and [The Placenames Branch](#) (Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media). [More information](#) »



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Logainm.ie

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https://localhost:44342/main/

☆

🔒

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🔍

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logainm.ie

✖

micah

CAT

☐ baile fearainn 41

☐ toghroinn 4

☐ baile 1

☐ ionad daonra 1

☐ oileán nó oileánra 1

☐ séadchomhartha 1

☐ sráid 1

ORD

☐ Tiobraid Árann/Tipp 7

☐ Loch Garman/Wexfc 6

☐ Corcaigh/Cork 5

☐ Maigh Eo/Mayo 5

☐ Ciarraí/Kerry 4

☐ Cill Mhantáin/Wicklo 3

☐ Luimneach/Limerick 3

GL

☐ baile 49

☐ beag 48

an baile beag 🔍

✖ An Baile Beag

ainm iomlán ▼

GA ▼

49 ▼ 🔄

Ce BF An Baile Beag/Ballybeg Little

Ci BF An Baile Beag/Ballybeg

Co BF An Baile Beag/Ballybeg

**Co BF An Baile Beag/Ballybeg**

Co BF An Baile Beag/Ballybeg

Ga BF OIL An Baile Beag/Shanvallybeg

Ci BF An Baile Beag/Ballybeg

Ci BF An Baile Beag/Ballybeg

Ci BF An Baile Beag/Ballybeg

Ci BF An Baile Beag/Ballybeg

CD BF An Baile Beag/Littletown

⚡ ID 11683

☆

🔄

Co BF An Baile Beag/Ballybeg

RIA

**AIN**

INF

FUA

GL

CAT

COD

ORD

AIR

GEO

IOM

NÓT

ALT

Ballybeg

Teanga EN (Béarla)

Teanga inmheánach

Stádas ☒ Ard ☐ Íseal ☐ Folaithe

Inghlacthacht

✔ Sábháil

▼ Síos

📄 Scrios

An Baile Beag

Teanga GA (Gaeilge)

Teanga inmheánach

Stádas ☒ Ard ☐ Íseal ☐ Folaithe

Inghlacthacht ainm deimhnithe

✔ Sábháil

▲ Suas

📄 Scrios

Réidh.

☐ Scáileán cúng

# How to model...

1. Relations between place and name
2. Linguistic properties of names
3. Administrative hierarchies
4. Place clusters

# 1. Relations between place and name

# **GASAITÉAR NA hÉIREANN**

**AINMNEACHA IONAD DAONRA AGUS GNÉITHE FISICIÚLA**

# **GAZETTEER OF IRELAND**

**NAMES OF CENTRES OF POPULATION AND PHYSICAL FEATURES**

384	Baile an Locha	po	Mh	284277	Ballinlough	260
385	Baile an Locha	po	RC	158277	Ballinlough	261
386	Baile an Londraigh	po	Lm	176125	Ballylanders	382
387	Baile an Longfoirt	id	Ao	345400	Ballylumford	389
388	Baile an Mhanaigh	po	Co	176066	Monkstown	2918
389	Baile an Mhargaidh	po	Do	266430	Bellarena	564
390	Baile an Mhóta	d	BÁC	308367	Ballymount	422
391	Baile an Mhóta	po	Sl	166315	Ballymote	421
392	Baile an Mhuilinn	po	Ao	312388	Milltown	2868
393	Baile an Mhuilinn	po	Ao	331372	Milltown	2869
394	Baile an Mhuilinn	po	AM	296336	Clady Milltown	1002
395	Baile an Mhuilinn	po	BÁC	316230	Milltown	2870
396	Baile an Mhuilinn	po	Ca	234313	Milltown	2871
397	Baile an Mhuilinn	po	Ci	084113	Ballymullen	423
398	Baile an Mhuilinn	po	Ci	082100	Milltown	2872

[illegible]



Daingean Uí Chúis/Dingle

https://www.logainm.ie/en/1416499

Daingean Uí Chúis

genitive: **Dhaingean Uí Chúis**

validated name

(Irish)

Dingle

(English)

☐ Capitalise

Other names

**An Daingean**

genitive: **an Daingin**

local name

(Irish)

Glossary

**daingean**

ENGLISH | fortress

Ó, Uí

Explanatory note

Gaeilge

English

COUNTY

**Ciarraí/Kerry**

BARONY

**Corca Dhuibhne/Corkaguiny**

CIVIL PARISH

**Daingean Uí Chúis/Dingle**

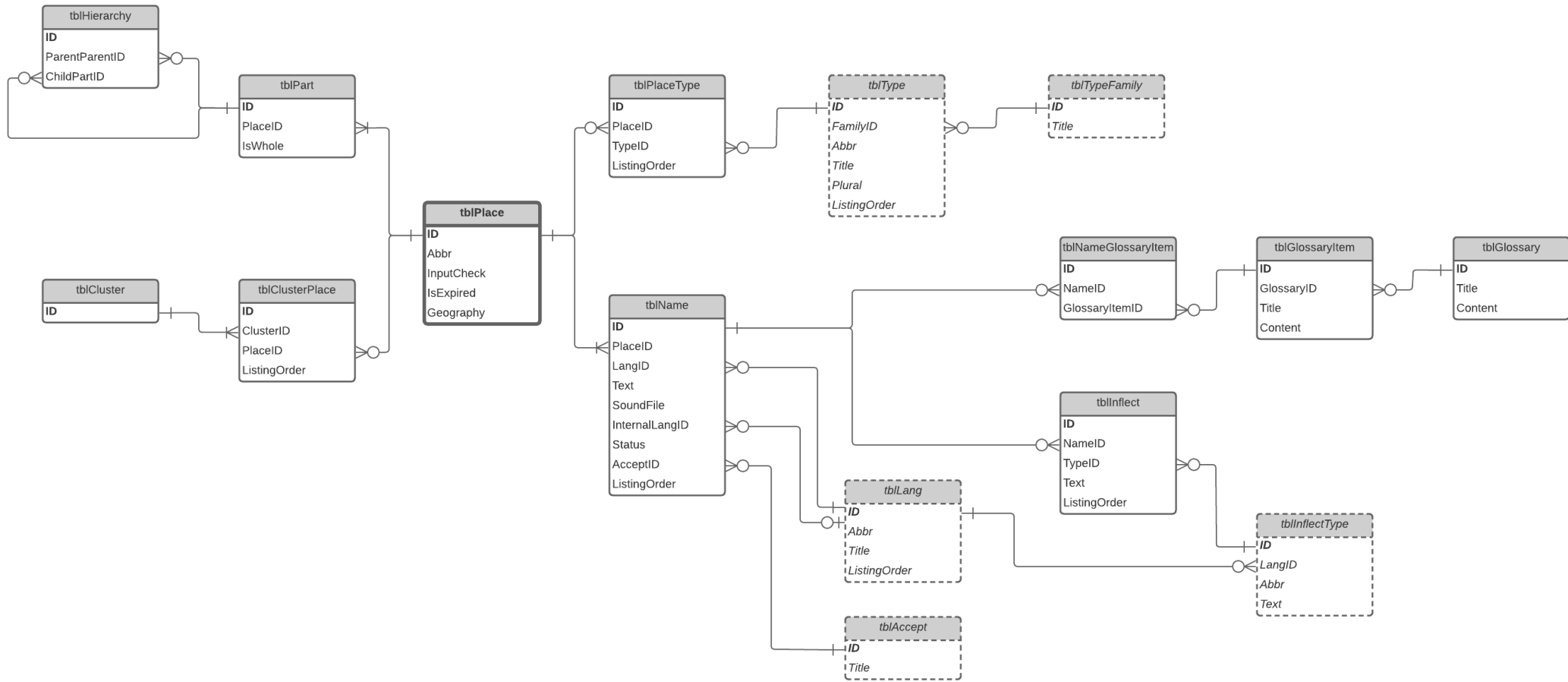
TOWN

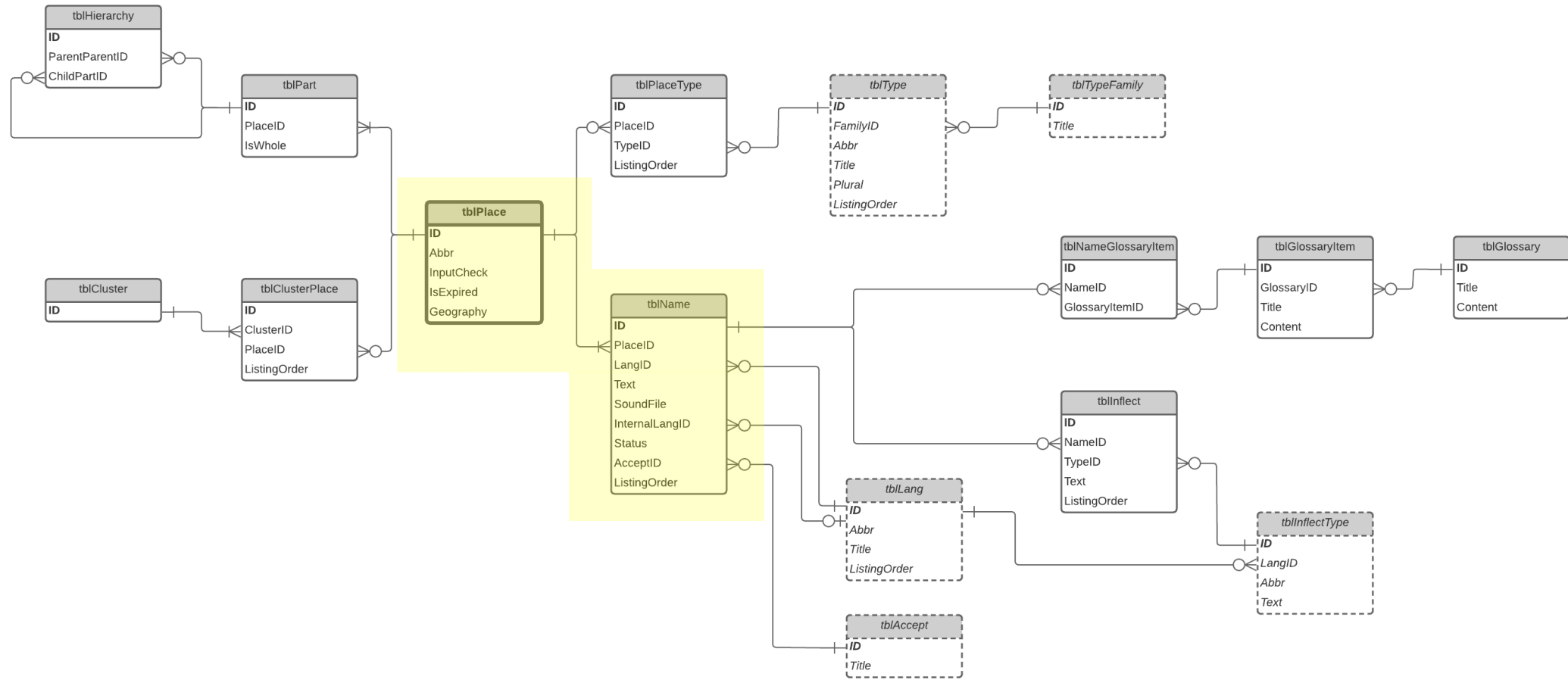
**Daingean Uí Chúis/Dingle**

SUBUNITS

streets (11)

roads (1)





Dún Laoghaire | loginm. x

+

← → 🏠 🔍 ↺

🔒 https://www.loginm.ie/en/1166922

📄 ☆

📧 ⬇️ 📱 🐱 ☰

Dún Laoghaire 🔊

genitive: Dhún Laoghaire

validated name

(Irish)

Dún Laoghaire 🔊

(Irish name used in English)

☐ Capitalise

Glossary

dún, dúnaibh

ENGLISH fort

Centrepoint

📍 53.2871, -6.14781

↕ latitude, ↔ longitude

IRISH GRID (WITH LETTER)

O 23571 27882

IRISH GRID (WITHOUT LETTER)

323572, 227883

IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR (ITM)

723496, 727910

COUNTY

Baile Átha Cliath/Dublin

BARONY

Ráth an Dúin/Rathdown

CIVIL PARISH

Baile na Manach/Monkstown

TOWN

Dún Laoghaire/Dún Laoghaire

SUBUNITS

streets (21)

## 2. Linguistic properties of names

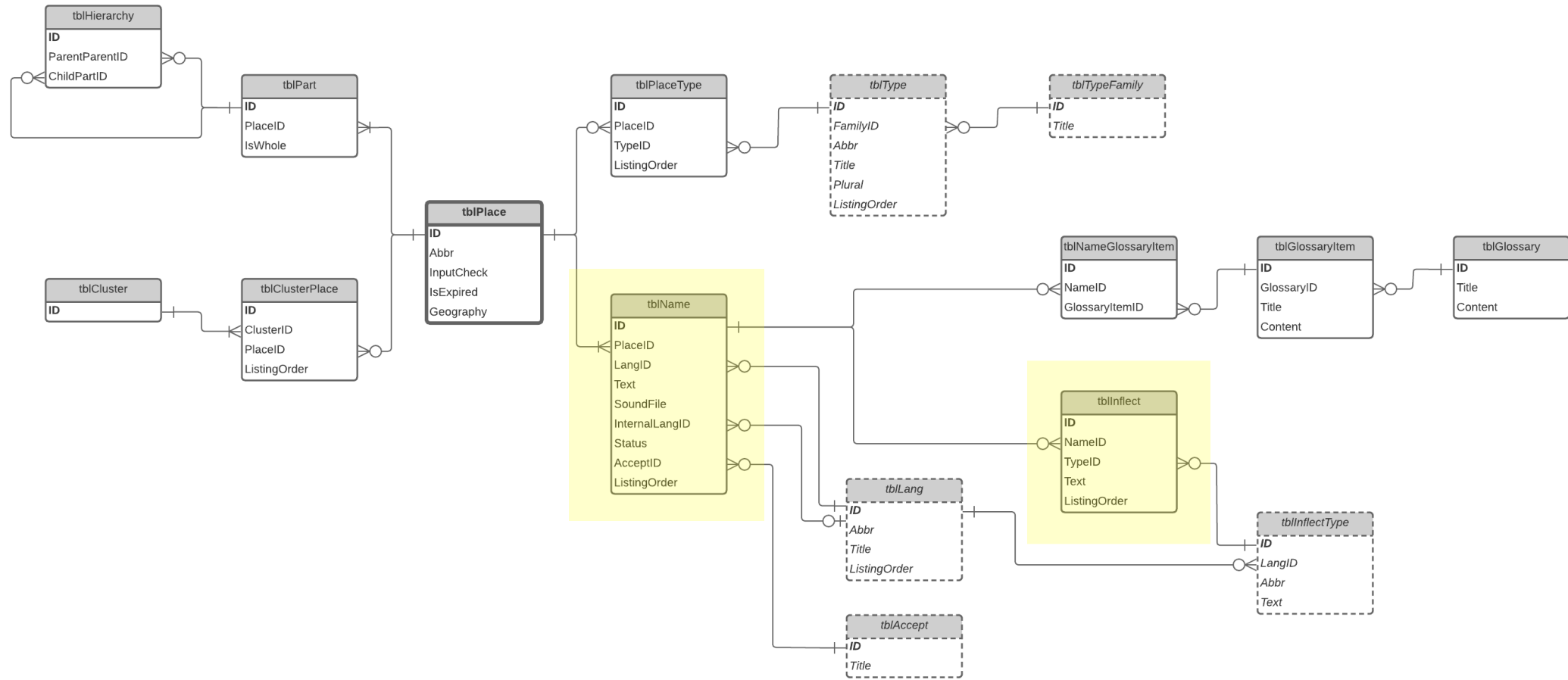
# Linguistic properties of placenames

- Inflected forms
  - *An Abhainn Bhán* → genitive case: *na hAbhann Báine*
- Initialisms
  - *The Glebe, An Bhó Dhearg*
- Abbreviations
  - *St. Macadaw's Church, Strand Rd.*
- Qualifiers, categorizers, disambiguators...
  - *Dominick Street Upper*
- Composite names
  - *An Fhorrach agus An Réabán Thoir, Cooladoon or Dooneragh Point*

An Abhainn Bhán/Whiteriver

https://www.logainm.ie/en/33603

</





## An Ghléib

genitive: na Gléibe

non-validated name

(Irish)

## The Glebe

(English)

☐ Capitalise

### Centrepoint

 53.3496, -6.43837

↕ latitude, ↔ longitude

IRISH GRID (WITH LETTER)

O 04043 34374

IRISH GRID (WITHOUT LETTER)

304044, 234375

IRISH TRANSVERSE MERCATOR (ITM)

703972, 734401

### Permanent link

<https://www.logainm.ie/1375859.aspx>

COUNTY

Baile Átha Cliath/Dublin

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY

Baile Átha Cliath Theas/South Dublin

STREET

An Ghléib/The Glebe

An Bhó Dhearg

00 101 111111



An Bhó Dhearg

St. | Saint Macadaw's Church

Dominick Street {Upper}

[Cooladoon] or [Dooneragh Point]

### 3. Administrative hierarchies

# Nested hierarchy

## Parent-child relations:

- C1 > P1 (Parish P1 is in County C1)
- P1 > T1 (Townland T1 is in Parish P1)

## Question:

- Which county is Townland T1 in?

## Answer:

- C1 > T1 (Townland T1 is in County C1)

# Non-nested hierarchy

## Parent-child relations:

- $C1 > P1$  (Parish P1 is in County C1)
- $C2 > P1$  (Parish P1 is in County C2)
- $P1 > T1$  (Townland T1 is in Parish P1)

## ***Additional fact:***

*Townland T1 is in that part of Parish P1 which is in County C1.*

## Question:

- Which county is Townland T1 in?

## Answers:

- $C1 > T1$  (Townland T1 is in County C1)
- $C2 > T1$  (Townland T1 is in County C2)



# Hierarchical shadowing

## **Partition:**

- $P1 = P1a + P1b$

## **Parent-child relations:**

- $C1 > P1a$
- $C2 > P1b$
- $P1a > T1$

## **Question:**

- Which county is Townland T1 in?

## **Answers:**

- $C1 > T1$  (Townland T1 is in County C1)

## 4. Place clusters

# How many Donegals are there?

- 5 in County Donegal
  - civil parish
  - townland
  - county
  - electoral district
  - town
- 1 in County Cork
  - townland
- 1 in County Tipperary
  - townland

logainm.ie

Placenames Database of Ireland

Donegal

Search

Include street names

Similar placenames: Donegal, Dolan, Donagule, Legan

Sort by

- Irish name
- English name

Filter by county

- no filter (11)
- Donegal (15)
- Tipperary (1)
- Clare (1)
- Cork (1)

Filter by category

- no filter (11)
- townland (3)
- electoral district (2)
- town (1)
- bay (1)
- county (1)
- promontory (1)
- civil parish (1)
- street (1)

Dún na nGall/Donegal

civil parish

COUNTY: Dún na nGall/Donegal

SARONY: Tír Aodha/Tirhugh

Dún na nGall/Donegal

townland

COUNTY: Dún na nGall/Donegal

SARONY: Tír Aodha/Tirhugh

BÁNHIGH/Banagh

CIVIL PARISH: Dún na nGall/Donegal

CIVIL PARISH: Cill Ó mBáilín/Killymard

ELECTORAL DISTRICT: Dún na nGall/Donegal

Dún na nGall/Donegal

county

Dún na nGall/Donegal

electoral district

COUNTY: Dún na nGall/Donegal

Dún na nGall/Donegal

town

COUNTY: Dún na nGall/Donegal

ELECTORAL DISTRICT: Dún na nGall/Donegal

SARONY: Tír Aodha/Tirhugh

BÁNHIGH/Banagh

Dún na nGall/Donegal

townland

COUNTY: Ceanas/Cork

SARONY: Bannagh Mhara/Bannymore

CIVIL PARISH: Cluain Meala/Clonmel

Dún na nGall/Donegal

townland

COUNTY: Tíobraid Árann/Tipperary

SARONY: An Trían Meánach/Middletown

CIVIL PARISH: Cnoc Ráfae/Knockraffon

# How many Lismores are there?

- 2 in County Waterford
  - town
  - townland
- 1 more in County Waterford
  - townland
- and many more in other counties

The screenshot shows the logainm.ie website, a database of Irish place names. The search bar at the top contains 'Lismore'. Below the search bar, there are filters for 'Sort by' (Irish name, English name) and 'Filter by county' (Waterford, Kerry, Tyrone, Cork, Down, Galway, Laois, Longford, Tipperary, Dublin, Cavan). The 'Filter by category' section shows 'no filter' selected, with other categories like 'townland', 'street', 'electoral district', 'enclosure', 'civil parish', 'wood', 'diocese', and 'town' listed. The search results are displayed in three columns, each with a map and a list of place names. The first column shows 'Lios Mór/Lismore' (townland) with a map of the area. The second column shows 'Lios Mór/Lismore' (town) with a map of the area. The third column shows 'An Lios Mór/Lismore' (townland) with a map of the area. The website is in English, and the language is set to 'ENGLISH'.



☒ OpenStreetMap ☐ OSI Irish ☐ OSI English ☐ OSI Digital Globe

town townland

## Lios Mór

genitive: Leasa Móire

validated name

(Irish)

### Hierarchy

COUNTY

Port Láirge/Waterford

BARONY

Cois Abha Móire agus Cois Bhríde/Coshmore and

# Now we know how to model...

1. Relations between place and name
2. Linguistic properties of names
3. Administrative hierarchies
4. Place clusters



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🔍 [SEARCH](#)

👤 [BROWSE](#)

📖 [GLOSSARY](#)

📄 [RESOURCES](#)

[GAELIGE](#) **ENGLISH**



Locate on map

Search



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⏪ 2022-05-12



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