The background of the cover is a vibrant, slightly blurred aerial photograph of a green field. A central black rectangular box contains the title in white text. Below the box, a semi-transparent map overlay is visible, showing field boundaries, a winding path, and various geographical markers. The map includes labels such as 'Church' and 'AQUILA' and numerical values like '500' and '600'.

A Field Name Research Handbook

Compiled by:
Alan Counihan
(The Townlands Project)

A
FIELD NAME
RESEARCH
HANDBOOK

Alan Counihan

The Townlands Project

Published by Two Streams Press

With the support of Kilkenny Leader Partnership

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*Cover design incorporates a partial reproduction of a
Grand Jury Map of County Kilkenny made in 1825.*



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Preface

This Field Name Research Handbook has grown out of Alan Counihan's wonderful Townlands Project., an exploration of a parish landscape and its community in north Kilkenny which, as Heritage Officer, I was delighted to support through the Kilkenny Heritage Plan programme. Within these pages Alan has developed a publication that blends science, folklore, common sense and respect for the local, all presented in his unique style.

Alan does not claim that this publication is the definitive methodology for field name recording. Rather, he recognizes that every project should have its own distinctive flavour, presenting a set of guidelines for other communities, based on best practice and his own experience. I believe that this will be an invaluable resource for groups in County Kilkenny and beyond.

There is a great urgency to place name and field name recording, as each day more and more traditional place names are being lost. I hope that Alan's work on this handbook, and the Townlands Project, will provide inspiration and support for other communities and serve as a catalyst and encouragement to others who wish to engage in a similar way with their own local landscapes.

Dearbhala Ledwidge,
Heritage Officer,
Kilkenny County Council.

Foreword

County Kilkenny LEADER Partnership has a particular interest in the heritage of County Kilkenny which is best expressed through the partnerships developed with communities who lead out projects such as the *Townlands* Project. In light of lessons learned in the course of the Townlands Project, Johnswell Development Committee approached KLP through the *Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013* (RDP) seeking support for the development and implementation of a Landscape Research Seminar and a Field Name Research Handbook. This type of community driven project has significant relevance to the RDP and fitted neatly into the *Basic Services to the Economy & Rural Population* Measure in the Programme. The project crosses key themes within the *Rural Development Strategy for Co. Kilkenny. Seizing Opportunities; Embracing Change*. These include Community Development firstly and offering secondary benefits in terms of Rural Tourism.

It is the view of the board and staff of KLP that communities are key drivers in the development and sustaining of the quality of rural life. Heritage projects such as the Townlands Project offer rural communities a key opportunity to participate in the interpretation of their shared heritage and its projection to the world. This project is underpinned by the informed assumption that communities constantly reshape themselves thereby enriching the heritage and fabric of their community.

The Townlands Project also recognises that the changes which occur in the rural landscape are regularly determined by its inhabitants but equally that the landscape can determine the constitution of its communities. It further attempts to reflect these relationships through tracing how we name the landscape, how this process of naming can be determined by the physical characteristics of the landscape, the personality of the community itself, ownership and events. The relevance of the Townlands Project to rural communities has been proven by the interest in the associated events organized during Heritage Week 2010. Declan Rice (KLP CEO) and I, attended the seminar and public conversation, *The Landscapes of Home*, in a packed Johnswell Hall to hear poets, writers, geographers and local people share their stories about shaping and being shaped by the landscapes where

they have belonged. Similarly, when the project was being considered for support under the Rural Development Programme it proved to have a significant level of appeal to the KLP staff, Project Evaluation Committee and Board, the majority of which belong to the rural landscape. Sharon Stone, an American colleague said to me recently when discussing Townlands ; 'I was baffled when I first came over here 20 years ago' and my husband would say he is 'going to the "White Hay" field, the Red Hill field or the Onnie Collins field to work. I thought it was a little odd that patches of grass had names.... but it makes sense now'.

The Townlands Project has great relevance to my own relationship to the landscape and to where I grew up in particular. I am from a farm in Bonnettstown, just four miles from Kilkenny city. My family moved on to this farm formerly owned by my Granduncle in 1975 which included fields called the 'White Park' & 'Judes Garden'. The naming process recommenced the same year with the christening of a newly merged field, the 'Farm Field' & the 'Four Calf Field' – named after the first batch of animals we let out on it. They admittedly are not the most imaginative of names but they did allow a means of discerning one part of the farm from another and have stood the test of time despite in some cases the boundaries that separate them from other fields disappearing.

However, it is often the case that when fields are merged and boundaries removed the associated field names are also lost and our sense of place and experience of landscape are the poorer for it. The work of retrieval and recording of place names is important and valuable.

KLP is delighted to have been part of the Townlands experience. We who have been touched by it have learned much about our landscapes and the delivery of the Rural Development Programme in Co. Kilkenny has been enriched by it also. We are pleased to support the development of this Field Name Research Handbook which should serve both as a guide and an encouragement to others in the exploration of their own unique landscapes.

Martin Rafter,

Social Inclusion Programmes Manager,

County Kilkenny LEADER Partnership.

Introduction

This short handbook has grown out of a personal experience of field name research in the context of the Townlands Project, an exploration of the landscape in the old Civil Parish of Rathcoole in north Kilkenny. During this process, to which I was entirely new, I was fortunate to have the guidance of our county's Heritage Officer and the Kilkenny Heritage Forum who supported the project in its main research phase. In the course of this research process I did not become an expert but I did learn a great deal some of which might now usefully be shared and which might help simplify the process for others who wish to carry out similar surveys within their own landscape.

My target audience for this work is one which includes those who wish to carry out field name research within their own townland, parish or barony on an individual basis, as a collective, or as a local history society. Having navigated my own way through fields of data, with their complex flora of micro-data, I have set out to develop a handbook that employs clear and simple "user-friendly" language which might help others to carry out their own work to the highest standard. As the historian, John Lynch, has written, "local history is a legitimate and valid form of history" and it is for this very reason that "the local historian must accept the same standards in terms of research and presentation of data as any other historian. There can be no half measures. Local or specialist studies are simply too important".

While field name research is of great value to any group or community that undertakes such work, deeply enriching the experience of place, it also has a national value especially in the area of comparative studies. To facilitate inter regional comparisons of place names for example it will be of great benefit if all field name research is recorded in a consistent manner. The actual mechanics of the survey are less important than its results. To use a metaphor off the land, your survey may produce a good crop but it will be the manner of your harvesting which will be of crucial importance.

Within these pages the essential requirements of a field name survey are outlined, along with a guide to the work involved and

some advice as to its realization. This is not a definitive work on the subject. It is rather a synthesis of my own experience and of the various approaches of other surveys which are ongoing across the country and whose members have been extremely generous and co-operative in offering advice and assistance. More details about, and links to, other Place Name Surveys are listed in the Appendices of this handbook.

Field name research is important and valuable work. The names of our landscape offer us a window into the past of a landscape and keep alive the memory of those who lived their lives within it before us. Although stitched to private holdings these field names are part of our collective culture. We will be careless to lose them.

It is out of an awareness of such possible loss that this handbook has grown and I am deeply grateful to the Johnswell Development Committee of Johnswell, Co Kilkenny, who, in tandem with their indispensable and enthusiastic support for the Townlands Project, have had the foresight to recognize the potential value of this publication and who commissioned its research and development. This handbook could not have been realized without the invaluable support of Kilkenny Leader Partnership and the guidance of Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer for Kilkenny County Council. I am also deeply grateful for the advice and assistance of Joan Mullen of the Meath Field Name Project, Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer with Galway County Council, Ordnance Survey Ireland, Declan Macauley , Executive Librarian, Local Studies with Kilkenny County Library Service, Brendan Cunningham, GIS Project Officer, Kilkenny County Council, and Paddy and Cathy Dooley of Carrigeen, Co Kilkenny.

Alan Counihan.

CHAPTER ONE.

PREPARING THE WORK

- 1. Planning the Project**
- 2. Gathering Resources**

1. Planning the Project

Before starting a place name survey of any area you must have a plan. The size of the area you choose to survey will dictate the amount of time and work involved. A clear plan will also allow you to establish the costs involved, both financial and personal.

Define the field name survey territory

Define and select the territorial boundaries of your project. Be reasonable in this target. The Cork and Kerry Place Names Survey suggests that 150-300 place names can be collected in a week's work of 35 hours. In my own experience this is a generous estimate. In the Townlands Project I confined my research to the boundaries of the Civil Parish in which I reside. This comprised nine townlands and over 3600 acres. It involved several weeks of full-time work.

Plan a Survey Schedule

It is important to establish a realistic calculation as to the amount of time and effort your survey will involve. Remember that there may be as many as three visits per farm or household. The first will be to introduce yourself and the survey and to solicit participation. This is the time to deliver survey literature and map copies and to establish phone contact links. The second visit will be to collect the completed survey forms and maps or to sit with the household and to go through the landholding field by field.

The third visit will be to confirm that the information you have recorded is correct. Out of respect for your informant and the generosity of their participation all of these visits must be open-ended.

In addition, there will have to be more time given to each farm or household in writing up all of the associated information. You should, if possible and only with permission, walk every field you wish to record. You will have to record the location or GPS of each field you record.

This work is most effectively achieved over the winter months. The winter season offers greater visibility in the landscape and greater survey safety as most farm animals will be indoors.

Develop a Survey Project budget

It is important at this stage to establish all possible costs involved in your survey. These will include map purchases, GPS handset, audio-recording device (optional), printer ink, stationery, and transport fuel costs.

2. Gathering Resources

Having decided on the area of your survey it is time to learn what is already known and published about it. You will not be the first to engage with this landscape and others may already have carried out similar work. You will have much to learn from the experience of others. Here is a list of resources commonly available to all.

- **Local Authority Heritage Office**
- **Local Authority Library Service**
- **Local Collaborators.**

Local Authority Heritage Officer

Perhaps the most important contact you can make at the outset of your work is with your local Heritage Officer. He or she will be able to provide you with information as to works already carried out in your county which may have impacted on your area along with contact details for staff working in the Local Studies department of your local library service, advice on the economic sourcing of the maps which you will require and, most importantly, suggestions as to best practice. It is important to remember that your project is but one of many within the county and that in recent times the resources available to heritage projects have diminished while the demand for them has increased. Be reasonable in your requests for assistance and support.

Local Authority Library Service

Visit your local library headquarters and meet with the librarian in charge of the **Local Studies** Collection. Some of the useful resources usually available are:

- **Related Local History Publications**
- **Record of Monuments and Places Maps**
- **Irish Folklore Commission's Schools Project**

Related Local History Publications

Many libraries will already have a publication related to the place names of your county. Your interest in the local is not unique. Some titles from the south-eastern counties of the island are:

The Place Names of County Kilkenny; Owen O'Kelly.

The Place Names of Decies; Canon Patrick Power.

The Place Names of County Carlow; Edward O'Toole.

The reference section in your local library is likely to have relevant publications on the place names, and perhaps some field names, of your county. In addition the Local Studies department may have copies of the **Ordnance Survey Namebook** for your county available to read. The Namebooks describe every townland in each county along with an explanation of their place names. A copy of John **O'Donovan's Ordnance Survey Letters** for your county may also be available in book format.

Such place-name publications can be useful for their list of field names and their translations. The farm households in your survey might find these useful as memory prompts and they might even surprise you by knowing their location which, in all cases, is what you are after.

Record of Monuments and Places Maps

It is likely that within your survey area there will be several historic monuments and it may be an advantage to know their nature and location in advance of any site visit.

To assist you in this regard, copies of the 1987 (6" O.S.I.) revised edition of the Record of Monuments and Places maps for each county are available in most county branch libraries. On these maps all known sites and monuments in your locality are encircled and numbered while information on them can be retrieved from a corresponding index with which you should also be provided. All of this information is also available on **www.archaeology.ie** as is information on how to identify sites and monuments of archaeological significance in your landscape, and a brief explanation of related terminology. (see Appendix 6.: Useful Websites).

Irish Folklore Commission's Schools Collection

One of the best known sources for folklore in Ireland is the Schools Folklore Collection. From 1936-38 almost 5000 primary

schools collaborated in the scheme with children engaged as the primary researchers of local life, landscape and lore from their parents, grandparents and wider family groups. These are remarkable documents although their quality varies from school to school dependent as much on the teacher's engagement and guidance as on the material collected.

The Schools Folklore Collection for your parish or county is available to read in your local library headquarters on microfilm. They are organized on a school by school basis. It is possible to order photocopies of your local school's collection, or any pages that are of particular interest, for a small fee.

Depending on the school, place names and field-names are sometimes listed with accompanying lore.

LOCAL COLLABORATORS

The survey you are about to undertake will demand a great deal of your time and much commitment. It will be of great benefit to have the collaboration of like-minded people who place equal value on the preservation of place and the history of their landscape. Given our own experience you will find many eager to help promote and realize the survey.

Local Community and Active Retirement groups

Take the time to present your survey plans to these groups. Given that a history of place is fundamental to any rural community it will be surprising if you do not find survey volunteers among their number.

Local Schools

If you can get the teachers and pupils of your local schools involved word of the field name survey will quickly travel to many homes. In the Townlands Project we found our local national school to be an invaluable collaborator. Working closely with the school staff and using the 1937 folklore collection from the same school we developed a series of plays about the locality which

were performed for the community in the village hall. This gave us a great opportunity to introduce the survey to a large audience. It is helpful to have people know something of your intentions before you drive into their yard.

Local Publicity

Place notices in your Parish newsletter and write an article outlining the survey and its goals for your local newspaper. An exhibition in your local community hall can be a very effective tool in helping to build an audience and to explain the project to the community at large (Heritage week can be an appropriate time for such an event.) Contact your local radio and let them know about the survey also. Such means and methods can be helpful in attracting other like-minded volunteers to the project.

Talk and communicate with others who have worked on similar projects. Much of the information and advice in this guidebook has been so gleaned.

CHAPTER TWO

ESSENTIAL SURVEY TOOLS.

1. **Maps.**
2. **GPS**
3. **Survey Forms**
4. **Audio recording device**
5. **Notebook**
6. **Camera**

1. Maps

The first and most important tool required to carry out your survey work is a map, or set of maps, of your research area. This will prove an essential and indispensable project resource .

Among the maps suitable for field name surveys are the Historic Maps (6 inch or 25 inch scale) created by the Ordnance Survey Ireland when mapping the entire island field by field, and hedgerow by hedgerow, from 1829 to 1842. The majority of the field-names you will be recording, especially those in Irish, would have been in use at that time.

Where to view and to source these maps?

The historic maps can be easily viewed free of charge at the **Ordnance Survey Ireland** website (see Appendix 2, Useful Links). Copies can also be purchased from the OSI either in PDF format through online download, or as full sheet hard copies at their Map Sales shop in their Phoenix Park headquarters, (next door to Farmleigh House), or by post. However, such purchases can prove challenging and costly especially if you have no financial support for your project.

Current cost of a map copy downloaded as a PDF :

6 inch B&W A4
€10.00 (plus VAT)

While the PDF map copy can be useful to help plan a project and delineate a survey territory it has its limitations as it can only be viewed on your computer screen or projected. All OSI maps in PDF format are “locked” and cannot be edited or printed. In short, you will not be able to make copies.

Current OSI costs for hard copy map purchases by post are:

6 inch B&W A0 (full sheet):
€50.00.(plus VAT)

25 inch B&W A0 (full sheet):
€80.00.(plus VAT)

If you have no other option than to purchase maps for your master set this is a cost you will have to calculate. In the Townlands Project we required eight A0 full sheet maps based on the 25 inch scale to cover the townlands surveyed. The much more extensive Meath Field Names Project required fifty three!!

Given these costs and their awkward size it will be a folly to carry your set of full sheet maps from house to house as you conduct your survey. Your master set should be kept only for exhibition and as the hard copy archival record of the survey.

As an economical alternative it is possible to purchase the 6 inch B&W historic maps in smaller hard copy paper format. The A3 size will prove of greater practical use. These smaller size maps can be photocopied and distributed to your survey team, or to your participating farms directly, for field name identification. **It will be possible to make copies of the maps you receive by post.**

All paper copies of OSI maps must be ordered directly from Map Sales at the OSI or from one of their authorized agents. A list of

these can be found on the OSI website.

The current cost of an A3 6inch B&W historic map :
€14.00.(plus VAT)

All of the prices quoted within this handbook are current and are subject to change.

Record Place Maps

For present day survey purposes the **revised** editions of the 6 inch OS Historic Maps are an effective solution because they include later landscape changes including settlement patterns, roads etc which are recognizable today. For example, the road on which we live is not shown on the original 1839 survey although it is on the revised versions. In the Townlands Project we worked most effectively with the 6” B&W maps revised in 1900. However, editions with more recent revisions can be ordered.

These revised editions are sold as **Record Place Maps** and can be purchased directly from the OSI or from an authorized agent. According to the OSI they are “an ideal reference source for those interested in a record of the whole country covering a period from the late 19th century to the mid-twentieth century”. They can be provided on A4 to A0 paper sizes.

The current cost of a Record Place Map in A3 size :
€66.18. (inc VAT)

TIP: You will need to envisage the image you see onscreen enlarged to A3 size. The size of the fields in your survey map must allow you to identify them by number or other “**unique identifier**”. However, given the costs involved, they should not be unnecessarily large either. To ensure the best return for your investment I would recommend visiting the Map Sales Office at the OSI, or an authorized agent, with an outline of your survey area. As a result you should be provided with a set of maps that align well one with another and with a minimum of unnecessary overlap.

Cost-Effective Map Solutions

In my own experience it was important to consider cost-effective solutions to these challenges. The Townlands Project was very fortunate in having the indispensable support of our local Heritage Officer who supplied, at no cost to the project, one set of all the full sheet OSI maps, based on the 25 inch scale, which we required. This master set was used only for exhibition purposes and for the final inscription of each field name in its appropriate location at the survey's end. A copy of this inscribed master set was in turn presented to the Heritage Office and the county archive as part of the survey record.

When necessary, we also purchased the Record Place Maps of the relevant townlands in A3 size from an OSI agent and also made multiple copies of each.

TIP :

It also became clear in the course of the work that some informants had great difficulty in viewing the maps or interpreting their information. To circumvent this difficulty I printed out black and white aerial views of each farm using the **Google Earth** software programme and, for some elderly participants in particular, this seemed to be of great assistance in helping to identify their fields. One could also, if necessary, use such black and white aerial images in place of the smaller survey maps, and write the identification numbers directly on to the fields in the aerial view. Apart from your printer ink and broadband access time there are no further costs involved.

Incorporating aerial views of the landscape into your survey process offers the additional benefit of demonstrating the amount of hedgerow removal within your survey area. Often named fields are no longer evident in the landscape. The aerial view, in combination with your survey map, can also prove a useful orientation guide in the field.

For more information and advice on Google Earth see Appendix 3.

Most farm households will already possess a full colour aerial view of their landholdings. This is supplied by the Department of Agriculture as an “aerial aid” for farm identification purposes.

2. Global Positioning System, (GPS).

While sadly not part of the process of all field name surveys the recording of the physical location, or **GPS**, of all surveyed fields is now actively encouraged by the Heritage Council. The letters GPS stand for Global Positioning System. The use of **Global Positioning System** handsets is becoming commonplace for all landscape data recording. It is important to remember that while the field name survey you are undertaking will be of primary interest to your local community it also has a wider national relevance. Local history is the weft and warp of a larger cultural pattern. There may be historians and scholars interested in comparing the data you gather with that from other parts of the country or those from abroad who wish to access the field name information and to view the fields themselves in the landscape via the computer. This will only be possible if the exact locations of the field are known.

The **Global Positioning System (GPS)** is a space-based global navigation satellite system(GNSS) that provides location and time information in all weather anywhere on Earth when and where there is an unobstructed line of sight to four or more GPS satellites. It is freely accessible by anyone with a GPS receiver. Most GPS receivers are accurate to within 15 meters on average.

In order to record the location of any field you will need to use a **hand held GPS device** and these are commonly available and reasonably priced. Some mobile phones now also offer GPS capabilities. An outlay of €300.00 will purchase an accurate and reliable hand-held GPS instrument. The GPS instrument can record, among other data, the grid references of the fields or places in your survey.

The less expensive the instrument the less accurate it is likely to be while exotic features are also unnecessary for survey purposes. However, care must be taken in setting up the

instrument so that the information recorded by your survey is of a format compatible with other national data recording systems.

TIP: Whatever type of instrument you use it is important that you set up the **position format in decimal degrees (hddd.ddddd°)** and the **Map Datum as WGS 84.**

(If using GPS is not an option, you can record grid references using maps. For further information on taking a grid reference see www.biodiversityireland.ie/biodiversity-data/national-standards/)

3. Survey Forms

Survey Forms are also an essential tool and offer a very efficient and simple means of presenting your questionnaire to your survey informants. They will also prove of great benefit from an organizational point of view allowing you to create files on your computer for each farm. For those without computer skills they will provide the paper hard copy of the survey project and offer similar, if more time-consuming, organizational benefits. The survey forms also facilitate the participation of the informants in your absence.

If possible, develop your own survey form on the computer (or have someone in the community assist in its development) so that you and your survey collaborators can write them up after each farm visit. Having the survey forms in digital format will also allow you to make copies of the form and to back up all of the information.

TIP: For a sample Survey Form: see Appendix 7.

Regularly back up your survey records to an external hard drive or to disc.

4. Audio Recording Device

An audio recording can be particularly useful in the course of a survey especially in the context of old field names in Irish where the informant is uncertain of the spelling or meaning of the word. In such instances it is useful to hear and record the word as pronounced as this may offer a guide as to the correct written form of the name. Such devices are also useful for recording any folklore or local histories associated with the fields and their names provided for your survey. However, such devices should only be used with your informant's permission.

It is not uncommon for people to become guarded in their conversation when such a device is produced, and so it is best used only when the circumstances seem appropriate and the atmosphere is comfortable and easy. It will be most helpful if you explain exactly why you consider its use to be beneficial.

Oral history recordings can greatly enrich any place name survey or local folklore collection and a series of recordings entitled *Conversations around the Home Place* became a core element of the Townlands Project. However, it is beyond the scope of this booklet to offer guidance in the processes of field recordings. There are some oral history related websites listed in Appendix 6. Galway County Council have also published a very useful handbook on the subject: ***Collecting and Preserving Folklore and Oral History: Basic Techniques.***

5. Notebook

A notebook is an invaluable tool especially if you do not have the resources for audio equipment. During your survey use the notebook to make phonetic spellings of the field names you hear and to list the outline of any folklore you might hear. On your return home do not delay in writing up the notes of each survey for the information can very easily slip away.

6. Camera

An inexpensive digital camera will also prove an invaluable tool in the field allowing for visual documentary of any historic sites or monuments as well as any unusual flora. For further advice as to a camera's survey use and organizing photographs see Chapter Six.





CHAPTER THREE.

Essential Survey Questions

Other Useful Survey Subjects.

Essential Survey Questions

In order to implement an effective and useful field-name survey of any farm you will need to record the following:

The Field Names

Locations

The field names, along with their location, are the essential elements of your survey.

THE FIELD NAMES

It will be most effective to have these written down by your informant between your farm visits. However this will not always be possible and you may have to write them down yourself on your survey form in the owner's presence. In any event it is always beneficial to go through the form together. This has the benefit of allowing you to hear the correct pronunciation and to record it phonetically. In the cases of old Irish field names this can be especially useful. On such occasions an audio-recording device can be extremely helpful but this should only be used if it seems appropriate and with your informant's permission.

Given the small size of your map or image it will be most useful to apportion a number or other “unique identifier” to each individual field on the map. On the separate survey form you can then log these numbers and record the names of the fields accordingly along with any other relevant information you receive.

This information should then be transferred to your main database record without delay.

Location

While not included in all surveys the exact location of a field really should be considered essential information. The inclusion of GPS co-ordinates in your survey will greatly enhance its quality and value and increase the potential for access to its information by a wider public. It can also facilitate the incorporation of your survey data into broader systems of information on a county or national basis. The inclusion of GPS co-ordinates for the fields in your survey allows the incorporation of that data into GIS mapping systems on a national basis. Simply put, the inclusion of GPS co-ordinates will allow others to view the results of your survey online. Whether viewing the landscape on screen through your Local Authority’s website or through applications such as Google Earth, interested parties can click on a field within the landscape and the name, along with any other information which you have recorded in the survey will appear.

The actual recording of the field’s location involves nothing more than standing in the centre of the field and “marking” the co-ordinates in latitude and longitude on the screen of your GPS handset. (For more detailed instructions on set up and use See Chapter 4.)

TIP: Should circumstances dictate that it is not possible to enter a field it is feasible to get an accurate reading of that field's location in latitude and longitude co-ordinates using Google Earth on your computer.

Instructions on the correct set up of Google Earth preferences for this purpose can also be found in the Appendices.

Whether using a handset or Google Earth, for your own survey records make a note of the following:

Record Lat/Long in **decimal degrees**. eg:(Lat(N): 52.71985; Long(W) 07.16826.)

Enter the latitude and longitude in separate headed columns.

OTHER USEFUL SURVEY SUBJECTS

Other Place and Landmark Names

Associated Folklore

Historic Sites or Monuments

Interesting Flora and Fauna

Photographs

Other Place and Landmark Names

Your farm visit is a great opportunity to record other place and landmark names many of which may no longer be in use. Given that most of our local roads were originally designed for horse and foot traffic the landscape was very particularly named. Crossroads, mass rocks, wells, and hilltops all had unique appellations as places of gathering.

Associated Folklore

This is the time to record any historic or mythological tale associated with the field. Remember that it may be the last opportunity for anybody to do so.

Unusual Historic Feature

Enquire as to the presence of any unusual stones, raths, earthworks, mass paths, lime kilns, or water pumps, on the farm or in the local area. While many households may, for very practical reasons, be reluctant to mention any previously unrecorded evidence of potential archaeological interest on their own lands, they may well have stories of monuments or earthworks which once existed in their surrounding landscape which might be of great interest to the local community and to historians.

Interesting Flora and Fauna

Enquire as to the presence of any unusual flora or fauna on the farm or in the area. Are there any special trees or hedgerows? Are there any lone or fairy thorns? When was the last remembered presence of partridge, corncrake, cuckoo? etc

Photograph

With the farm owner's permission, take a photograph of any notable feature. No images or other survey information should be publicly disseminated without the landholder's consent. (See Chapter Five). When down-loading a photograph to the survey files on your computer make sure to apportion an identifying number which matches or corresponds to the appropriate field where it was taken. This will prove invaluable when organizing your final survey spreadsheet or Excel table. For further guidance on identification numbers (see Chapter Six)



CHAPTER FOUR

GETTING STARTED

- 1. The Farm Survey Envelope**
- 2. The Farm Visit**

1. The Farm Survey Envelope

At the outset you may find it useful to make a preliminary or introductory visit to all the farms you hope to survey. Certainly, from experience, it is a process I would recommend. Such a process will allow you to again advertise the survey and to solicit participation. It will also allow you and your colleagues to plot on a map the participating farms so that you can plan your return visits effectively.

In the Townlands Project this initial farm visit was the first step in the survey process. It was the time when we introduced ourselves to the farm families, or other households, and explained the project. We also made delivery of an envelope that contained:

- One Survey Cover Letter,
- One or two Survey Forms, (depending on farm size)
- Participant instructions,

- A townland map or maps on which the farm is situated,
- An aerial photograph of the surrounding landscape,
- Two pencils (1 x plain, 1 x colour),
- Survey contact phone numbers.

One of the benefits of the farm survey envelope lies in it remaining a niggling reminder about the project after your visit. It is also useful in that it can be taken by a farm owner to parents or relatives who might recall the names but who no longer live on the farm. It also has the advantage of encouraging independent participation in the gathering of local history. It can also be posted to those who have moved away from the area.

The reason for the inclusion of the maps and aerial photographs is obvious. So too are the survey contact phone numbers should participants have any questions. However, **you** will always have to make the contact call.

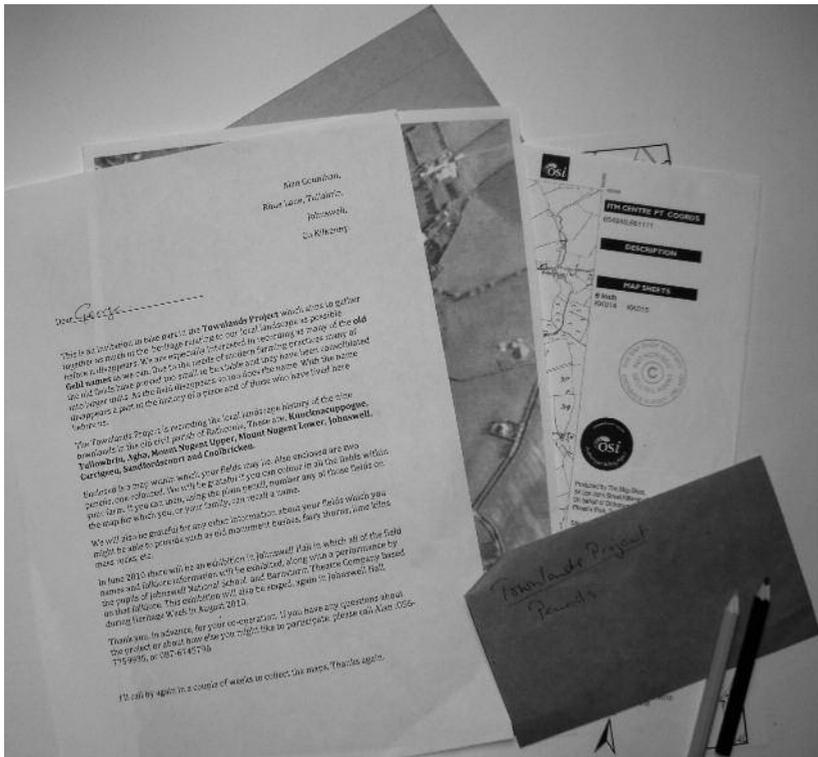
It is vital on your first farm visit that you note the names of interested parties in the household and, if you do not already have it, that you also note their phone number so that an advance call can be made in preparation of the next visit.

The Survey Cover Letter

Given that most farm owners will also have their own property maps in the house, perhaps the most essential item in the envelope is the letter of introduction. This is the document that should be provided to each household or farm that you hope to engage in the survey. In it you should outline the goals of the field name survey, list its potential benefits and invite participation. In the Townlands Project we also included some simple survey instructions in this document.

TIP: See Appendix 1. Sample Survey Cover Letter

Having read the sample Survey Cover Letter you will understand the reason for the inclusion of the two pencils in the survey envelope. I was of the firm belief that whenever a busy person took time out to engage with the survey at the kitchen table he or she should not have recourse to the excuse of not having a pencil in the house!



Farm Survey Envelope Contents.

2. The Farm Visit

In addition to the farm survey envelope it is important that you also bring a high degree of courtesy with you on your farm visits.

You will be asking people with very busy lives to take the time to participate in the survey. It is important to acknowledge their generosity in sharing the information they have about the family lands and to avoid being of any nuisance. Always allow your informants choose the time for your visits. Always thank people for their co-operation without which the survey would be diminished. It is also important that you bring along a good deal of common sense when visiting a working farm. Here are some simple things to bear in mind both around the yard and in the field.

- When parking, do not block access to sheds or fields.
- Park on hard ground.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Do not climb over gates.
- Do not cross through ditches.
- Do not litter.
- Wear appropriate footwear and avoid bright colours around animals.
- Carry a walking stick when in the field.
- Do not enter fields where cows are suckling calves or a bull is present.
- Carry a First Aid kit in the car.
- Carry a fully charged mobile phone and let someone know your whereabouts in advance.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE SURVEY

1. A Case History

2. In the Field

1. A Case History

Perhaps the best way to demonstrate a survey procedure is to document a typical case history from the Townlands Project. In March 2010, having received their phone number from neighbours whose fields I had just surveyed, I called ahead to make an appointment with a farm family to ask if they were interested in participating in the survey themselves. On hearing that they would gladly collaborate I made my way down to the farm that afternoon.

Being a resident of a neighbouring townland my car was quickly recognized when it rattled into their yard and there was an easy welcome followed by a long conversation on local matters. This is one of the great advantages of local communities carrying out their own surveys. The advantage can be heightened for a “blow-in” to any community as one can travel from house to house without any historical baggage.

It was not long before we were sitting at the kitchen table and both P. and C. were poring over a copy of the 6" Record Place map of their townland. The first thing we did was to mark the boundaries of their holding.

As the images reveal, P and C chose to write the names of their fields directly on to the map and so, in their presence, I transferred them to the Survey Form. This allowed me to hear the field names pronounced phonetically which was to prove of great benefit.

During this visit both P. and C. were able to supply me with the names of fields on several neighbouring farms of which the present owners were ignorant. They were also able to identify the old mass path that once ran through their lands.

This long survey visit was proof that conversation is perhaps the most effective tool of all in any landscape related survey, one to which all others are but organizational aids.

Townlands Field Name Survey Form				
Surveyed by: AC		Date: 22-3-2010		
Landowner details				
Name: Paddy & Cathy		Contact number: 056-332000		
Field Names and Locations				
No.	Field Name	Townland	GPS LAT	GPS LONG
1	THE GLEN (?)	CARRIGEEN		
2	THE RATH FIELD	CARRIGEEN		
3	PAIRC AN MAIL (?)	CARRIGEEN		
4	RYE GRASS	CARRIGEEN		
5	PAIRCRES (?)	CARRIGEEN		
6	THE HILL	CARRIGEEN		
7	PAIRCINS (4)	CARRIGEEN		
8	BLANCHE'S GARDEN	CARRIGEEN		
9	THE BREEK	CARRIGEEN		
10	THE BOG	CARRIGEEN		
11	DEIME BREEK (?)	(Mt NUGENT)		
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
Field Notes				
<p>Blanche's Garden - box used be shown here by previous owner - Blanche</p> <p>Paircres - translation?</p> <p>Deime Breek. Outlying field. Just above Church Meadow. Paddy Lyons calls it Drim Reek. Must be Drim Rieck the striped ridge - listed in O'Kelly's "Place Names of County Kilkenny."</p> <p>Moss Path :- used to run through farm to Johnsonsill village (church)</p> <p>Many other field names recorded for other farms. (see notebook)</p>				
Audio recording or note book records		✓	Photograph(s)	

Handwritten survey form.

That same evening I transferred the information from the handwritten Survey Form on to the computer with additional notes as to the possible spelling and translations of the field names provided. The farm file was then immediately saved to an external hard drive and the hard copy survey forms were filed in the Project's ring binder.

Townlands Field Name Survey Form				
Surveyed by: A.C		Date: 22/3/2010		
Landowner details				
Name Paddy and Cathy *****		Contact number 056-*****		
Field Names and Locations				
No.	Field Name	Townland	GPS LAT	GPS LONG
1	The Gleann	Carrigeen		
2	The Rath Field	Carrigeen		
3	Páirc an Úill	Carrigeen		
4	Rye Grass	Carrigeen		
5	Páircreis	Carrigeen		
6	The Hill	Carrigeen		
7(a)	Páircíns	Carrigeen		
7(b)	Páircíns	Carrigeen		
7(c)	Páircíns	Carrigeen		
8	Blanche's Garden	Carrigeen		
9	The Breek	Carrigeen		
10	The Bog	Carrigeen		
11	Drom Riach	Mt Nugent Lr		
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
Field Notes				
<p>The Glen: pronounced as The Gleann. Páircreis: no translation yet, Blanche's Garden: A Mr Blanche, previous owner of this field (?) used to grow flax in this location. Drom Riach (offered as Drime Breek). A fine field directly above the Church Meadow in Mt Nugent Lower. Paddy Lyons already mentioned this field. Also listed in O'Kelly's Place Names of County Kilkenny but listed in error as being in Johnswell td. Mass Path used to run through farm into Bourke's farmyard where it joined that from Kilkieran and ran on to cross stream just below The Line where it met the road to Johnswell just below the village.</p>				
Audio recording or note book records			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Photograph(s) <input type="checkbox"/>

Desk copy survey form.

In the Field

The third visit to this farm was in order to walk the fields and record the GPS co-ordinates of those for which we had names. This would first involve getting permission and enquiring as to which fields were being grazed on the day. The essential tools for a field survey walk are:

- **GPS handset**
- **Numbered field map or aerial photograph**
- **Digital camera**
- **Digital audio recording device**
- **GPS handset**

Having previously set up the handset (see Chapter 2) prior to the walk the actual recording of the field co-ordinates is extremely straightforward. While the instructions for the use of handheld GPS devices will vary according to their manufacture the process should not be much more complicated than the following:

Standing in the middle of the field, turn on the device. Wait while it searches for a satellite signal. When the accuracy reading on screen no longer decreases you will receive the best result. Then:

- Press the **Page** button until you reach the **Menu** page.
- Select **MARK**.
- Press **Enter** button.
- The coordinates for your exact location will appear on the bottom of the screen.
- Press **ENTER** again
These coordinates will be logged to the device's memory.
- Proceed to the next field and repeat the process.

TIP: To avoid later confusion or error try to record the field GPS coordinates in accordance with the field identification numbers on your map or aerial photograph.

When you return home you can access all the coordinates that you have recorded during the day. To do this:

- return to the **MENU** page.
- Select **WAYPOINTS**.
- Press **ENTER**.

All the coordinates you have recorded during the day will be listed on screen in the order in which you recorded them. You can then transfer these directly to your desk survey form on the computer.

Townlands Field Name Survey Form				
Surveyed by: A.C		Date: 22-3-2010		
Landowner details				
Name Paddy & Cathy *****		Contact number 056-*****		
Field Names and Locations				
No.	Field Name	Townland	GPS LAT	GPS LONG
1	The Glenn	Carrigeen	52.70541 ^a	07.18159 ^a
2	The Rath Field	Carrigeen	52.70531 ^a	07.17880 ^a
3	Páirc an Úill	Carrigeen	52.70422 ^a	07.18098 ^a
4	Rye Grass	Carrigeen	52.70298 ^a	07.17970 ^a
5	Páircreis	Carrigeen	52.70223 ^a	07.17853 ^a
6	The Hill	Carrigeen	52.70076 ^a	07.17789 ^a
7(a)	Páircíns	Carrigeen	52.70067 ^a	07.18041 ^a
7(b)	Páircíns	Carrigeen	52.70214	07.18169 ^a
7(c)	Páircíns	Carrigeen	52.70360 ^a	07.18266 ^a
8	Blanche's Garden	Carrigeen	52.70424 ^a	07.18516 ^a
9	The Breek	Carrigeen	52.70355 ^a	07.18445 ^a
10	The Bog	Carrigeen	52.70202 ^a	07.18334 ^a
11	Drom Riach	Mt Nugent Lr	52.70497 ^a	07.16473 ^a
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
Field Notes				
<p>The Glen: pronounced as The Glenn. Páircreis: no translation yet, Blanche's Garden: A Mr Blanche, previous owner of this field (?) used to grow flax in this location. Drom Riach (offered as Drime Breek). A fine field directly above the Church Meadow in Mt Nugent Lower. Paddy Lyons already mentioned this field. Also listed in O'Kelly's Place Names of County Kilkenny but listed in error as being in Johnswell td. Translated as : "The Striped Ridge" Mass Path used to run through farm into Bourke's farmyard where it joined that from Kilkieran and ran on to cross stream just below The Line where it met the road to Johnswell just below the village.</p>				
Audio recording or note book records		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photograph(s)	
			2	

Complete working desk survey form.

Numbered Field Map or Aerial Photograph.

These will be invaluable in helping you negotiate your way around the farm. In the Townlands Project I carried both the farm map with the numbered fields along with an aerial photograph in strong plastic sleeves when carrying out a field walk. More than once they proved invaluable orientation guides. Due to the amount of hedgerow removal in recent years confusion as to the location of a field that now only exists in name can easily occur.

Digital Camera.

This is an important tool for the documentation of any unusual features in the field such as lime kilns, raths, fairy thorns, mass path remnants etc. As soon as you return from your field walk, download the images to your computer and label them according to the townland and field in which they were taken.

Digital Audio Recording Device

This is a useful tool to have in the field in the event that you wish to record any details about unusual visual or archaeological features. It is more practical than a notebook and can be used in almost any weather.

Once the field walk is complete you should have all the necessary survey information for this farm and are ready to file it in the survey project's **final archive format**

CHAPTER SIX

1. Organizing the Survey Data
2. Presenting the Survey Data

Organizing the Survey Data

Any individual or group working on a field name survey will decide on the research method or system that works most effectively for them. The goal is to gather the necessary and essential data by the most efficient means possible. For groups whose members are carrying out the work on a voluntary basis this is certainly of great importance and, hopefully, some of the methods I have outlined in the preceding pages will prove useful to them in gathering the essential core information of field names and their GPS location.

However, no matter what means are employed to gather the data it must be organized in such a way as to make the data and associated information easily and widely accessible. If it is your intention to link the fruits of your survey to a Local authority GIS system, or some map-based software programme (eg: Mapinfo Mapping Software), you should seek advice or assistance from that Local Authority's Heritage Officer or GIS Project Officer **at the outset of your project** so that you can agree on the "data" or essential survey information to be recorded and also receive guidance on the development of your final survey spreadsheet. This will allow the data to be presented in a format that can be easily and efficiently archived both for the local community and for Local Authority Library services especially the Local Studies Collection.

All of the research information that you have gathered must now be organized as survey data. This will involve quite an amount of work but, if you have been diligent with your Field Name Survey Forms, it should not be too time consuming. The following is a list of the data that is usually included in a survey record

Typical Place Names Survey Record Data

1. Surveyors Name.*
2. Date of Survey. *
3. Place name/Field name.*
4. Site Location/Unique ID (e.g Townland code, number e.g).*
5. OS Discovery Series Sheet No.*
6. GPS co-ordinates (Lat/Long).*
7. Townland.*
8. Parish.*
9. Electoral Area.*
10. Feature Photograph (this to be linked to unique ID).
11. Informant (First name, Surname).*
12. Informant Address.*
13. Informant Contact Details.
14. Informant's connection with the locality and place name.
15. Informant's Voice recording (Yes/No).
16. Informant's Signature.

* asterix denotes essential survey record data

TIP: On the above list of spreadsheet subjects perhaps the most important information from an archival point of view will be No 4: Site Location/Unique ID. A **Unique Identifier** will be required for each field, or photograph, that you record in your survey archive. This can be done very simply. You will be recording your fields according to the townland in which they are located. Create a code for each townland, using the first and last initial of the townland and the first and last initial of the Civil Parish of which it is part, along with a number allocated to that particular field. For example, the first field to be logged for the townland of Tullabrin in the parish of Rathcoole will be **TNRE1**, and so on in ascending order. For an illustration see the sample spreadsheet in Appendices.

The most efficient means of organizing your data is by means of a **spreadsheet**. For those who have not made one before this is not an impossible task. If I could manage it with my own limited

IT skills most others should manage also. If it seems too much of a challenge, find someone with the skills to assist you.

In the Townlands Project we worked with the Microsoft Excel software which, after some initial challenges, proved an effective and simple means of logging and organizing all of the survey data into one accessible document file. Excel offers a very useful, and easily available, spreadsheet that works well for this type of project. Excel spreadsheets can also be linked to Geographic Information Systems (GIS). This is particularly important if your project is indeed going to be uploaded onto a local authority, or other, GIS system.

TIP: For an example of a survey project spreadsheet see Appendix 7.

Having collated all of your data into a spreadsheet format it is now time to organize all of the information together. This can be most effectively done by the transfer of everything you have gathered onto compact disc or digital memory device. Make back-up copies.

For your own records you should also create a disc (and back-up disc) incorporating all of the research files, survey forms, unedited audio files and images including any or all of the completed survey forms for individual farms which you may have. This is your own research record.

Presenting the Survey Data.

A most effective way of presenting your survey data to your community and to the wider public is by means of an **exhibition**. This is best held in your local Community Hall or similar venue. In the Townlands Project during Heritage Week 2010 we exhibited the full sheet OSI 25 inch scale maps with all of the field names recorded during the project written directly on to the map in their appropriate fields.

TIP: If writing directly on to the master set of maps use pencil or archival ink.

This proved a very popular event within the community and was recognized as a collective sharing of the privately owned. The survey was seen as a kind of commonage where the individual contributions formed and enriched the fabric of the whole. Other survey projects such as the X-PO Field Mapping Project in Kilnaboy, Co Clare, also exhibit their ongoing survey as part of their process.

These master sets of inscribed maps are not only very valuable survey records but important heritage artifacts in their own right and should be cared for as such. All master sets of the survey maps should be stored appropriately in dry conditions. The same applies to all hard copy files, compact discs, paper survey records and notebooks

It may be appropriate to make additional copies of these master sets so that they can also become part of your county's heritage archive through the presentation of them to your local authority via its Heritage Office or County Museum. Copies of the master set might also be made available to the Local Studies department your local library. A set might also be much prized by the teaching staff at your local school so that the young, being its future guardians, might be made aware of the richness of their local landscape.

Another effective tool for the presentation and dissemination of your survey results is by means of a Website or a Blog (weblog) site. These need not be elaborate affairs and can be developed by those with even limited I.T. skills using free templates from companies such as Wordpress (www.wordpress.com), Drupal(www.drupal.org) and many others.

Websites offer great ease of accessibility by others to the fruits of your survey and can have surprising results. The Townlands Project website recently received a response from an Australian scholar whose ancestors had emigrated from the townlands within our survey area in the mid-nineteenth century. She was able to contribute a great deal of her own research about many families since their departure that is proving of great local interest. Hopefully soon she, and the descendants of other emigrants abroad, will be able to view and identify online the

very fields her ancestors farmed and eventually left behind them. There is a great richness in such possibilities.

After all of the work you and your colleagues have carried out in the course of your survey it is important that it has contemporary relevance and the possibility of frequent use as a resource. It should be a live archive. Otherwise one might well question its purpose. I know of fine townland surveys carried out by individuals the fruits of which rest in handwritten notebooks in the kitchen drawer. Such great work has the potential of being lost, whether through illness or death, the simple process of relatives not recognizing the value of those notebooks' contents rendering it a waste. It is important that you find every possible way of sharing the fruits of your survey.

This brings us to the summarizing question. Field Name Research, why do it at all? Do we do it for our own satisfaction and personal enrichment, the cultural enrichment of others or for the celebration of our local landscape and of those who have lived here in the past? Ideally, all of the above, and it is a hope that the contents of this handbook will contribute towards the work being effectively and easily done and made available to all, even when we cannot envisage whom they might be. May the work flourish. There is much to be done.

CHAPTER SEVEN.

1. **Health and Safety**
2. **Insurance**

Health and Safety

In the event that you will seek financial support for your survey you may be required to provide a Health and Safety Statement for your self and fellow volunteers along with a Hazard and Risk Assessment for the overall project. Even if this is not a requirement it is advisable that you give consideration to all possible risks and hazards associated with field work and provide practical guidance and training to all survey volunteers both for their own safety, and the safety of others, while engaged in a farm survey. Common sense and experience will prove invaluable.

A **Hazard and Risk Assessment Procedure** involves the identification and description of the following:

- **Hazards** (the potential for injury or harm)
- **Risks** (the likelihood of exposure to hazard)
- **Control Measures** (the measures put in place to eliminate or reduce the potential exposure to hazard).

In addition to those already outlined in Chapter Four, the following are some safety suggestions in response to some common potential hazards. This is by no means a comprehensive list and professional assistance should be sought to identify all possible risks and hazards which may arise in the course of your survey.

1. Dogs
2. Cattle or horses
3. Infection.

1. Dogs

Should you encounter an aggressive dog you should:

- Stand your ground;
- Do not run;
- Do not stare at the animal;
- Do not turn your back on the animal;
- Retire slowly with head lowered and eyes averted.

2. Cattle and Horses

Prior to any field survey work secure permission and discuss your route with the farmer/proprietor.

- Do not enter any field where cows are suckling calves or a bull is present.
- Beware of frisky animals especially young store cattle or horses;
- Never bring a dog;
- Keep close to the headland of fields especially where entire field is not visible;
- Be conscious of potential escape routes;
- Avoid impenetrable hedges;
- Keep upwind of animals when possible;
- Carry a walking stick.

TIP: Most of the above hazards can be avoided if the survey is carried out in the appropriate season of Winter.

3. Infections

These can arise from a number of sources and practical steps can be taken to avoid them. Cuts and abrasions may result from climbing on rusted gates or attempting to traverse barbed wire or hedgerows. Such risks are best avoided through use of the appropriate entrance to a field. In the event of any cut received while on survey apply immediate treatment from the First Aid Kit upon returning to your vehicle. If necessary, contact your doctor.

To avoid potential exposure to tick bites wear appropriate footwear and long sleeved clothing. Tuck trousers into socks. Check for the presence of ticks on your person immediately on return from your survey.

Other possible sources of infection might arise from contaminated surfaces and can be avoided through practical cleanliness. Use disinfected hand wipes upon return to vehicle.

TIP: Always carry and provide each volunteer with a list of the appropriate Emergency Services contact numbers for your locality along with that of the Survey Co-ordinator

Insurance

For field name research surveys the question of insurance is the elephant in the room or the bull in the field. We all would like to get by on a wing and a prayer in the hope that our luck will hold and that nothing untoward will occur. However, as we are all too well aware, accidents do happen and the results can be disastrous. In order to protect yourself, your fellow survey volunteers, and especially those who have given you permission to walk upon their land, it is in the interests of all concerned that appropriate insurance coverage is in place.

In the case of an individual carrying out a survey within his or her own townland the costs of a public liability policy can be considerable. It is far more economical for community groups to

source appropriate cover especially as they will likely already have policies in place to cover activities in the Community Hall. It is possible that insurance cover can be extended to include the activities of the Survey.

In the event that a Local Authority is contractually supporting your research it is possible that your activities could be covered under their policy. However this should be clarified before commencing work.

Under no circumstances should you, or any volunteer, engage in any fieldwork on a farm without appropriate insurance cover in place. That would be reckless, selfish and unfair.

APPENDICES

- 1. Sample Survey Cover Letter**
- 2. Sample Survey Forms**
- 3. Google Earth: some tips and hints**
- 4. Translation**
- 5. Other Field Name Surveys**
- 6. Useful Websites**
- 7. Sample survey spreadsheet**

Sample Survey Cover Letter :

The _____ Field Name Survey

Dear _____

This is an invitation to take part in the _____ **Field Name Survey** which aims to gather together as much of the heritage relating to our local landscape as possible before it disappears. We are especially interested in recording as many of the **old field names** as we can. Due to the needs of modern farming practices many of the old fields have proved too small to be viable and they have been consolidated into larger units. As the field disappears so too does the name. With the name disappears a part of the history of a place and of those who have lived here before us.

The _____ Field Name Survey is recording the local landscape history of the _____ townlands in the old civil parish of _____ . These are: (**List your townlands here**).

Enclosed is a map within which your fields may lie. Also enclosed are two pencils, one coloured. We will be grateful if you can colour in all the fields within your farm. Please, using the plain pencil, then number any of those fields on the map for which you, or your family, can recall a name.

Also enclosed is a **Survey Form**. It will be most helpful if you can write the names of the fields appropriate to their numbers on your map along with the townland in which they are located.

We will also be grateful for any other information about your fields which you might be able to provide such as old monument bushes, fairy thorns, lime kilns mass rocks, etc. Such information can be listed in the **Field Notes** section.

During Heritage Week 20— there will be an exhibition in _____ Hall in which all of the field names and folklore information that we are able to record will be exhibited.

Your co-operation will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about the project or about how else you might like to participate, please call :056_____, or 087_____.

There will be another visit in a couple of weeks to collect the maps and, hopefully, to talk some more with you about them and the field names you have recorded. We can also complete the survey form together at that time if this seems more suitable.

With thanks, _____.

Sample Survey Forms

Sample Field Name Survey Form				
Surveyed by:				Date:
Landowner details				
Name				Contact number
Field-Names and Locations				
No.	Field-Name	Townland	GPS LAT	GPS LONG
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
Field Notes				
Audio recording or note book records			Photograph(s)	



Field Naming Project - Survey Form							
Surveyor		Contact Telephone					
Field Location Details							
Land Owner			Contact Details				
Prev Owner			Map Code				
Estate			Field Number				
Townland			Field Name				
Parish							
Landscape Features							
Photograph (s) Taken		Bog	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lone Tree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hedge	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No	Swamp	<input type="checkbox"/>	Furze/ Whins	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ash	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drumlins	<input type="checkbox"/>	Double Bank	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blackthorn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo Reference		Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gripe	<input type="checkbox"/>	Holly	<input type="checkbox"/>
		River	<input type="checkbox"/>	Raised Ditch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed Deciduous	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Spring	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townland Boundary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whitethorn	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Stream	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tree Rings/ Clumps	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
						<i>If other please enter description</i>	
Man Made Features							
Photograph (s) Taken		Gate, Galvanised	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drainage Channels	<input type="checkbox"/>	Holy Well *	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No	Gate, Iron	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brick Field	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sportsfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piers, Concrete	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gravel Pit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Archaeological Feature	
Photo Reference		Piers, Stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stone Quarry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fort	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Stone Walls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rock Art	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Scratching Post	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheep Dip	<input type="checkbox"/>	Standing Stones	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Bridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	Benchmark	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tomb	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Building Remains	<input type="checkbox"/>	Laneway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Underground	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Croppy Memorial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kileen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Cross	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mass Pass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If other please enter description</i>	
		Forge	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mass Rock	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Name Origin:							
Folklore:							
* Holy Well, Patron, Cure, Pattern Day etc.							
Source:							
Grid Reference (if known)							
Notes:							

GALWAY COUNTY PLACENAMES SURVEY

RESEARCH DATA CARD

Fieldwork:

SURVEYORS NAME: _____

DATE OF SURVEY: _____

IDENTIFICATION

Placename

to include

variant spellings (Gaeilge &

English)

SITE LOCATION

Unique ID/

Reference Number¹

OS Discovery

Series Sheet No.

GPS Co-ordinates

Townland

Electoral Area

INFORMANT

First Name

¹ Please use the first and last initial of the townland in which the place name is located in such as CHTG1 = Corrolough townland in the civil parish of Templetoagh representing the first placename to be recorded in that particular townland.

Surname

Address

INFORMANT CONTACT DETAILS

Phone number (s)

E-mail address

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM INFORMANT

INFORMANT'S CONNECTION WITH THE LOCALITY AND PLACENAME

INFORMANT'S VOICE RECORDING

Yes No

INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE.....DATE.....

Google Earth: Some Tips and Hints

Google Earth is a virtual globe, map and geographical information programme which can present maps of the earth using superimposed imagery obtained from satellites, aerial photography and Geographical Information Systems(GIS). The programme is currently available as a free open source software download for use on personal computers with suitable operating systems.

The internal coordinate system of Google Earth is based on geographic coordinates (latitude/longitude) on the WGS84 (World Geodetic System) datum. This is also the correct coordinate system for your survey.

To download Google Earth to your computer visit www.google.com/earth/download-earth.html and follow instructions. A broadband connection will be essential for effective use.

Once the programme is downloaded, open it and familiarize yourself with the its features, the simplest of which will be suitable for survey purposes. Before viewing a particular townland or farm do the following:

- Click on **Google Earth** in the **Menu Bar**
- Select **Preferences**
- Select **Lat/Long**
- Select **decimal degrees** button
- Select **O.K.** in lower right hand corner of window.

You will now be able to record the correct GPS readings for your selected fields.

In the **Search** Menu on the left of the screen type in the name of the townland or village the landscape of which you wish to view eg: Johnswell, County Kilkenny, Ireland. Click on the **Search icon**. The landscape you wish to view should appear on the screen. Use the zoom and directional tools to the right of the screen to navigate the landscape and to select your townland or farm.

As you move the mouse or cursor you will notice changes in the lat/long coordinates at the bottom of the screen. Place cursor in the centre of a field and log the coordinates to the appropriate fieldname using the same Unique Identifier numerical method as outlined in Chapter Two.

A more thorough but equally simple process is as follows: With the farm you are viewing on screen.

- Click on **ADD** in the Menu Bar.
- Select **Placemark**, (a drawing pin icon appears on screen).
- Drag this icon to the centre of the field you wish to geographically locate.
- A **New Placemark** window appears on screen.
- In the **Name** box, type the Field-name
- The Lat/Long co-ordinates are automatically logged in the window.
- In the **Description** box add any details about the field (hedgerows removed etc)
- Click **OK** to close the window.

The field-name is now listed in the Places window to the left of the screen. Repeat the process for all of the fields on the farm. To later retrieve this information:

- highlight the Field-name in **Places** (sidebar window)
- Select **Edit** in the Menu Bar
- Select **Get Info** in the drop down menu.

You can continue this process for the entire farm and the name for each field will appear both in the landscape image and in the sidebar list. (To later remove Placemarks: select Edit in the Menu Bar and select Delete in the drop down menu).

Saving the Information

The aerial view of the landscape on your screen, replete with your field-names, can be saved as a file for your records.

- Go to **File** in the Menu Bar
- Select **Save (Save Image)** in the pop-up window.
- Type the name of your townland and farm
- Select the folder where you wish to store the information
- Click on **Save**

Printing the Information

- To print an aerial image of the farm or townland on your screen:
- Click on **File** in the Menu Bar
- Click on **Print** in the drop-down menu
- Select **Graphic 3d view**
- Select **Medium** (1400x1038) quality
- Select **Print**

The print of your screen image will comprise 50% of an A4 page. This allows for notes, field-names and numbers to be listed in the lower half of the sheet. In the Townlands Project we included such images in our Farm Survey Envelopes to good effect.

TIP: Given the amount of printing involved in a field-name survey of any size, a black and white laser printer is a good and economical investment. All aerial images will be in black and white and this is perfectly adequate for survey purposes.

Translation

The translation of old field names from Gaeilge into English can be as challenging as rendering them in their correct form in the first instance. In places where Gaeilge or Irish is no longer spoken or where the informant is not literate the only means of recording the name is phonetically. If the surveyor has inadequate Irish the problem is further complicated. In such cases an audio recording device is an invaluable survey tool.

Here is a brief example from the Townlands Project. An informant provided a field name in writing as The Caushier. He pronounced it as The Cosheer. He described it as a meadow that had not been sown but that had come back to grass of its own accord. I had no idea how to set about either a correct spelling or a translation. Fortunately, while looking through O'Kelly's *Place Names of County Kilkenny* I came across a field name called the Caitheamh Siar. This translates as a "throw back". O'Kelly goes further, describing it as *"land dug or ploughed for reclamation, the top soil with weeds and brushwood being collected in heaps, burned and spread over the area as manure"*. My informant's field must have been one such and the field is now archived in our survey as Caitheamh Siar.

In the Townlands Project we relied, apart from Owen O'Kelly's work, on P.W.Joyce's *Place Names of Ireland* (3 vols) and the *Irish English Dictionary* by the Rev Patrick S. Dineen.

Logainm.ie the website for **Bunachar Logainmneacha na hÉireann** or **The Place Names Database of Ireland** is also a helpful resource. (see Useful Websites below). None of the above aids are an adequate substitute for fluency in the native language. A fluent Irish speaker will be of great assistance to this aspect of your survey should you wish to include it.

Other Field Name Surveys

There are many other field name projects being carried out throughout the country. Here are some with which we have been in contact:

The Cork and Kerry Place Name Survey.

<http://www.placenames.ie>

Established in 1996 this is perhaps the longest running place name survey in the country and the survey coordinator is Dr Eamon Lankford. To contact the survey write to: Cumann Iarsmalann Chláire, An tÁras, 13 Dyke Parade, Cork.

Tel: 021-4274110.

Email: logainmneach@gmail.com

The Meath Field Names Project.

The goal of this project is to record the names of all the fields within the county, estimated at 100,000. It is ongoing with a large team of trained volunteers. The Project Co-Ordinator is:

Ms Joan Mullen,

c/o Rathdrinagh, Beauparc, Navan, Co Meath.

Tel: 087-2077622.

Email: joanfmullen@eircom.net

The project website is presently in development.

www.meathfieldnames.com

Clare Placenames Committee:

This survey is but a part of a larger oral history project which is carrying out great and invaluable voluntary work in that county.

For more details visit: **www.clarememories.ie**

Tomás Mac Conmara,

Clare Education Centre, Kilrush Road, Ennis, Co Clare.

Tel: 087-9160373

Email: clarememories@eircom.net

Other Useful Websites:

www.kilkennycoco.ie

This site, along with other Local Authority websites, is a great resource for local heritage. It will soon be possible to view the digital mapping potential of the Townlands Project Field Name Survey via this Kilkenny County Council website. Several other GIS data-based heritage resources will also be available.

www.logainm.ie

Already mentioned above, this website of Bunachar Logainmneacha na hÉireann or the Placenames Database of Ireland is useful for all place name research with almost 50,000 townlands listed in the database. The site also offers educational resources for primary and secondary schools as well as third level institutions. New features offer sound files of placenames; mapping tools; a system to enable simultaneous Irish-English and English-Irish translation of lists of placenames and supplementary aids for the public including explanatory notes on certain features of the placenames.

www.askaboutireland.ie

This is a very useful website for local historians. An especially useful resource is the **Griffiths Valuation** record for each county allowing one to link occupants to places and place names in the mid 19th century. It is also possible to view a map of a landscape of your choice in the original Ordnance Survey 6 inch series.

www.archaeology.ie

This is the website for the **National Monuments Service**. To view the extensive Sites and Monuments Database:

Select the **Search Site** option in the Side Menu bar;

Select **Sites and Monuments Database** (or Site Map);

Select the disclaimer at bottom of the Terms and Conditions page;

You will now have access to the site's **Intranet Mapviewer**.

The next steps are simple. Zoom in on the map to select your local landscape and all of the known or recorded sites and monuments will be visible as red dots. Using the information cursor click on the red dot you wish to identify. All recorded information about the site or monument will appear in the sidebar

www.ucc.ie/research/nfp

This is the website for the **Cork Northside Folklore Project**. While not directly related to the research of place names it is an education in the possibilities of folklore research and community enrichment.

www.townlands.net

This is the website for the **Townlands Project** out of which this handbook has grown. It is a documentary of the project and its activities. The website also includes excerpts from seminar papers and field name records.

www.heritagecouncil.ie

This is the website of the **Heritage Council** and is a useful resource for all heritage related events throughout the country. It is also a useful site to learn of developments in the fields of oral history and local history

www.osi.ie

The website of the **Ordnance Survey of Ireland**. An indispensable resource for all map related investigations of landscape. (See Chapter Two)

www.oac.ie

This is the website for Oidhreacht an Chláir, the Clare Institute for Traditional Studies in Miltown malbay in Co Clare. It is an extensive resource some of which is relevant to the recording and archiving of place names.

www.ucc.ie/research/nfp

This is the website for the Cork Northside Folklore Project. While not directly related to the research of place names it is an education in the possibilities of folklore research and community enrichment.

Townland Phase 2 Placenames Survey Data

Site location ID no.	Surveyors Name	Date of Survey	Townland	Civil Parish	Electoral Area	Placename/ Fieldname	OS Discovery Sheet No.	Latitude	Longitude	Recorded monument no.	Previously un-recorded monument	Photo No. (feature)	Informant name	Informant address	Informant contact details	Information received from informant	Informants connection with the locality and placename
TNRE4	Alan Counihan	15/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Minister Murphys	61	52.724778	-7.17723				Murt Murphy	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE5	Alan Counihan	15/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Walls	61	52.724852	-7.180623				Murt Murphy	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE6	Alan Counihan	15/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Over Reek	61	52.72833	-7.18007				Murt Murphy	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE7	Alan Counihan	15/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Under Reek	61	52.724873	-7.184456				Murt Murphy	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE8	Alan Counihan	15/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Long tail	61	52.725859	-7.184037				Murt Murphy	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE9	Alan Counihan	15/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	The Cruhoon	61	52.72591	-7.181183				Murt Murphy	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE10	Alan Counihan	15/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	James' Field	61	52.726206	-7.178186				Murt Murphy	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE11	Alan Counihan	15/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Horse's Field	61	52.727328	-7.177636				Murt Murphy	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE12	Alan Counihan	15/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Ellen Moore's	61	52.727226	-7.179047				Murt Murphy	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE13	Alan Counihan	15/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	High Field	61	52.121213	-7.180341				Murt Murphy	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE14	Alan Counihan	15/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Three Acres	61	52.727146	-7.181931				Murt Murphy	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE15	Alan Counihan	15/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Pea Field	61	52.728322	-7.181893				Murt Murphy	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE16	Alan Counihan	15/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Molly's Field	61	52.728541	-7.177728				Murt Murphy	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE17	Alan Counihan	15/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Paddock	61	52.728318	-7.176197				Murt Murphy	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE18	Alan Counihan	15/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Lugnagree	61	52.725411	-7.176626				Murt Murphy	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE19	Alan Counihan	16/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Magree's Meadow	61	52.720695	-7.169199				Martin Butler	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE20	Alan Counihan	16/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	The Thien	61	52.721556	-7.171104				Martin Butler	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE21	Alan Counihan	16/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Parnell's Garden	61	52.722204	-7.172235			TN21	Martin Butler	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny		Site of Parnellite rally during Home	Landowner
TNRE22	Alan Counihan	16/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	The Island	61	52.723236	-7.170111				Martin Butler	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE23	Alan Counihan	16/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Walsh's	61	52.72478	-7.167321				Martin Butler	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE24	Alan Counihan	16/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Cantwells	61	52.722473	-7.168352				Martin Butler	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE25	Alan Counihan	16/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	The Acre	61	52.726523	-7.16845				Martin Butler	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE26	Alan Counihan	16/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Cúinne Mór	61	52.725978	-7.169706				Martin Butler	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE27	Alan Counihan	16/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	The Pins	61	52.724767	-7.172099				Martin Butler	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner
TNRE28	Alan Counihan	16/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	The Store	61	52.724319	-7.173639	KK015-002		TN28	Martin Butler	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny		Ring of Stones mistakenly recorded	Landowner
TNRE29	Alan Counihan	16/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	Currans	61	52.72713	-7.174753			TN29	Martin Butler	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny		Lone thorn/Fairy Thorn	Landowner
TNRE30	Alan Counihan	16/02/2010	Tullabrin	Rathcoole	Gowran	The Cover	61	52.72328	-7.176722				Martin Butler	Tullabrin, Johnswell, Co. Kilkenny			Landowner

Sample Survey Spreadsheet

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This handbook was made possible with the support of:-

