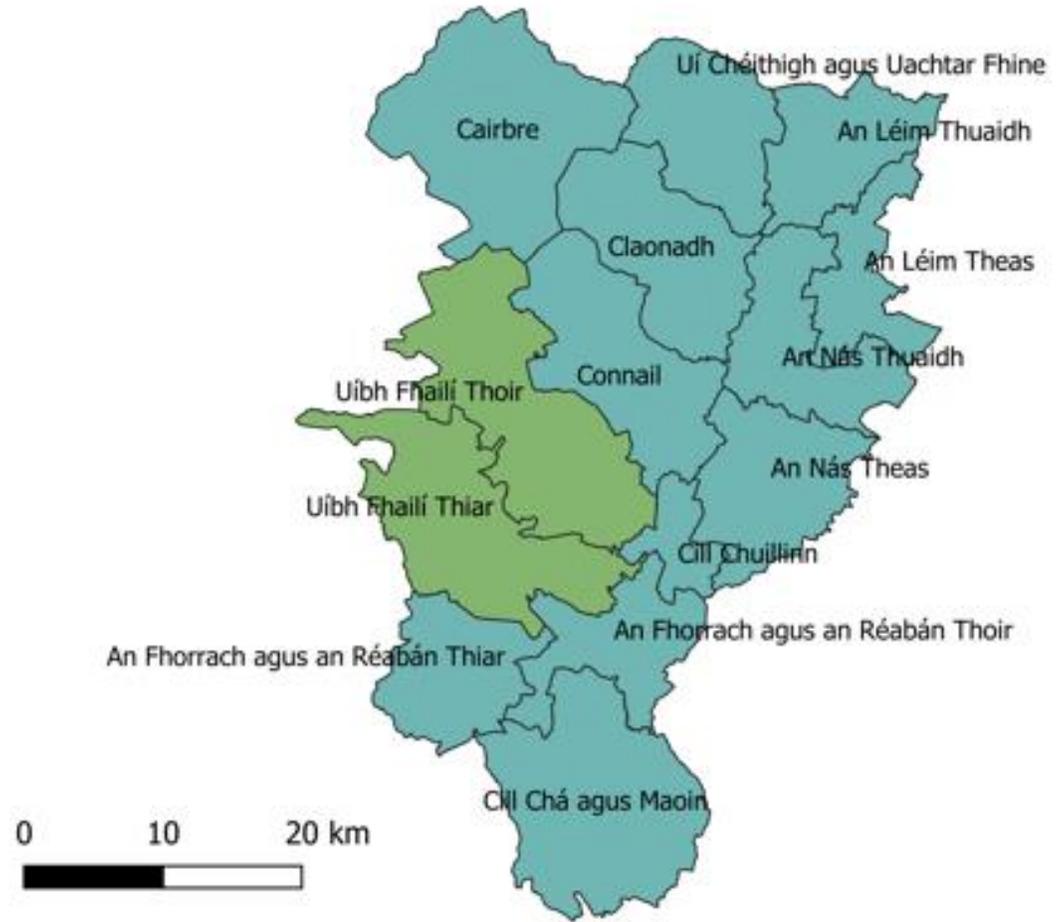


Justin Ó Gliasáin, Dublin City University

- Background of research
- The meaning of *fearann*
- *Fearann* in townland names
- *Fearann* in Kildare

Background

This presentation stems from PhD research 'Minor Place-Names in the Baronies of Offaly East and Offaly West, County Kildare.

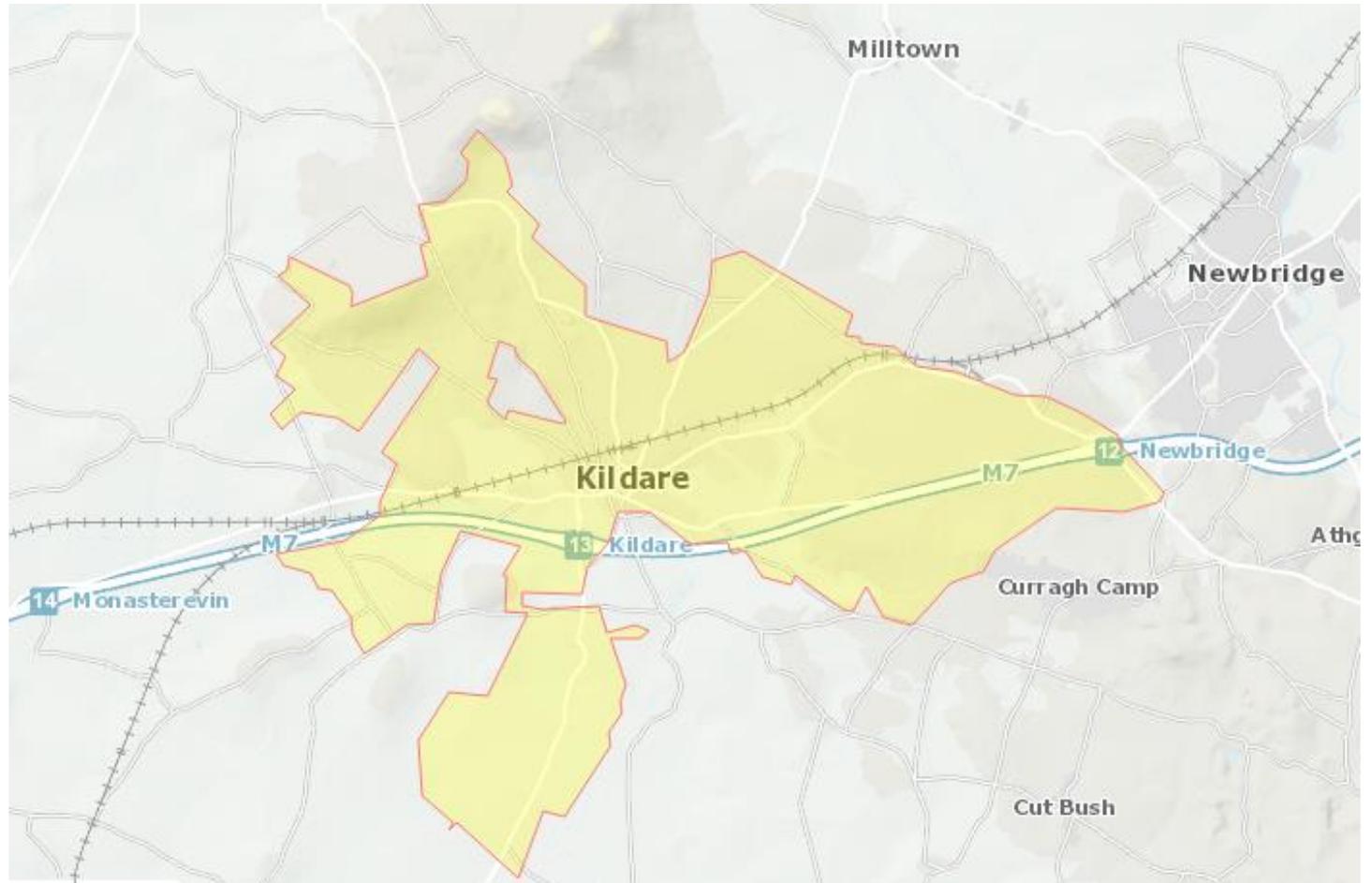


Civil Parish of Kildare



Civil Parish of Kildare

- Situated in the barony of Offaly East in County Kildare.



The meaning of *fearann*

‘land, domain, territory, of a definite area, large or small; gen. of land possessed or occupied by an individual, tribe or nation’ (Dictionary of the Irish Language)

‘Land, territory, domain; field, farm, grounds’ (Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla)

“land” especially “ploughland” as a unit of land’ (Irish Place Names, 1994: 86).

‘a field, land, farm; ground, country’ (Dineen)

Fearann in Townland Names

In Ireland, civil parish are subdivided into townlands. Townlands are the smallest administrative units.

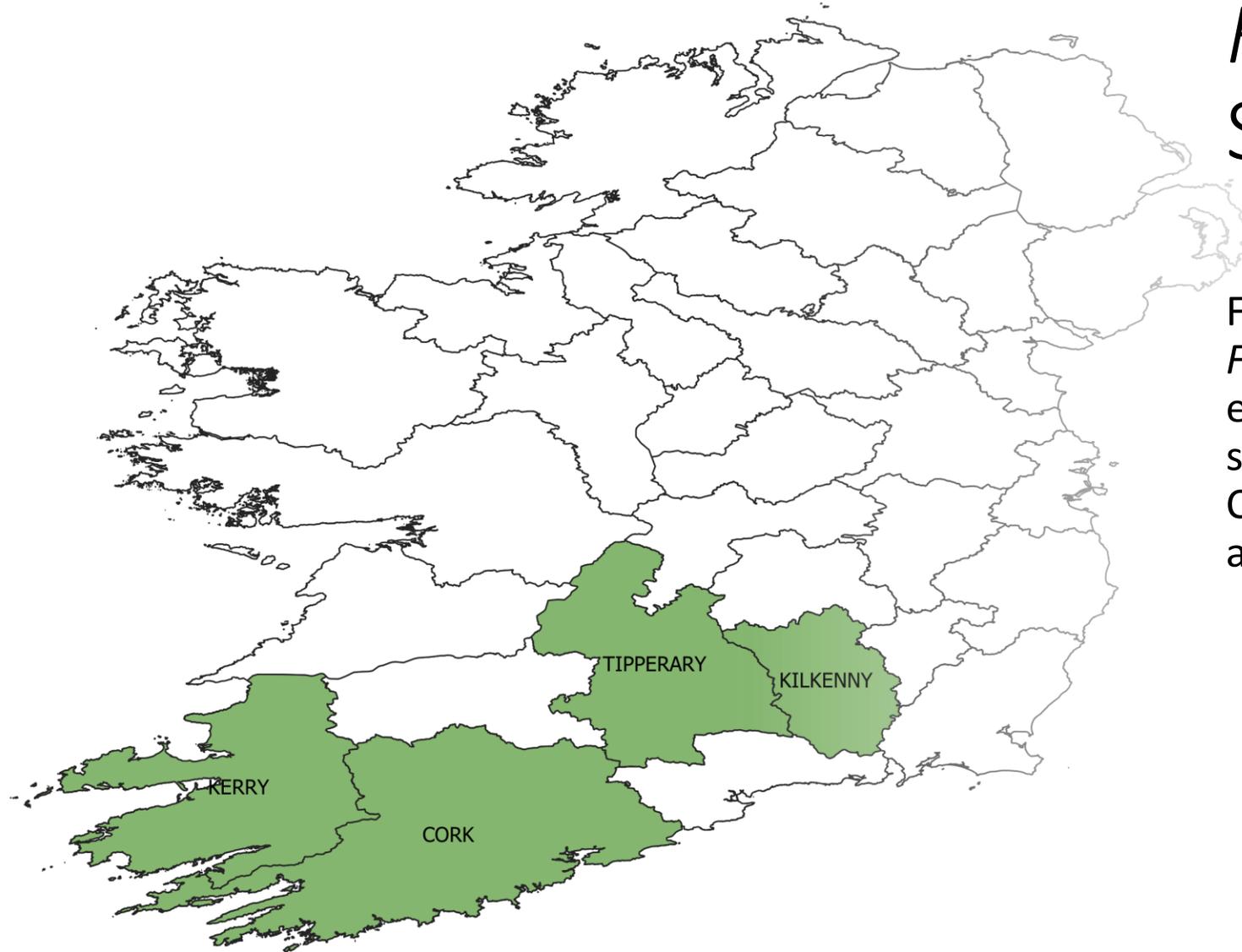
Average townland size is about 325 acre (Adams, 1978: 50)

Townlands vs Minor Place Names

‘Minor placenames, in the context of this project, are placenames other than administrative placenames and population centres’

<https://meitheal.logainm.ie/en/info/>

Fearann in the South



Fearann (anglicised as *Farren*, *Farran*, *Farrin*) is a common element in townland names in the south of the country, particularly in Cork (50) Kerry (37) Tipperary (30) and Kilkenny (20).

Fearann in County Kildare

- There seems to be only one townland in County Kildare which has *fearann* as the generic element in its original Irish form: *Farranadum* / **Fearann na dTom** – ‘the land of the bushes’
- There are numerous English townland names with the generic element *-land* however, there is no proof that any of these are a translation of **fearann**.

Fearann in Minor names in the Civil parish of Kildare

- PhD Research on minor place names in the Baronies of Offaly East and Offaly West Co. Kildare (29 civil parishes in total) uncovered 29 minor names with *Fearann* as the generic element.
- 25 of these are in the civil parish of Kildare.
- However the parish of Kildare comprised 31% of all names for the entire thesis.

Fearann in Minor place names in the Civil Parish of Kildare - Sources

- Thomas Emerson's Survey of the Manor of Kildare – 1674
- 'A rent roll of the Earl of Kildare's rents that stood out in arreare...when the last rent rolls and accompts were made up. With an account of what has been received by Robert Porter up to May 1, 1684'. London: British Museum, Harleian Ms. 7200
- Land Deeds in The Registry of Deeds – 1708+
- A Survey of the Town of Kildare, John Rocque, 1757
- Various 19th century estate maps.

Thomas Emerson's Survey of the Manor of Kildare - 1674

- PRONI MIC541/11 'A Book of Rifference of the townes and lands belonging to the right Honourable John Earl of Kildare Lying and being in the Barony of Ophaley in the County of Kildare with numbers agreable to the mapp made in the yeare 1674'

A Survey of the Town of Kildare, John Rocque, 1757

‘A survey of the manor of Kildare situat'd in the barony of Ophaly & county of Kildare belonging to his Excellency Jas. E[a]r[l] of Kildare, by John Rocque chorographer to their R[ight] H[onorable]s the late & present Prince of Wales. General survey and 18 maps, 1757'. TCD MS 10434

Farringate

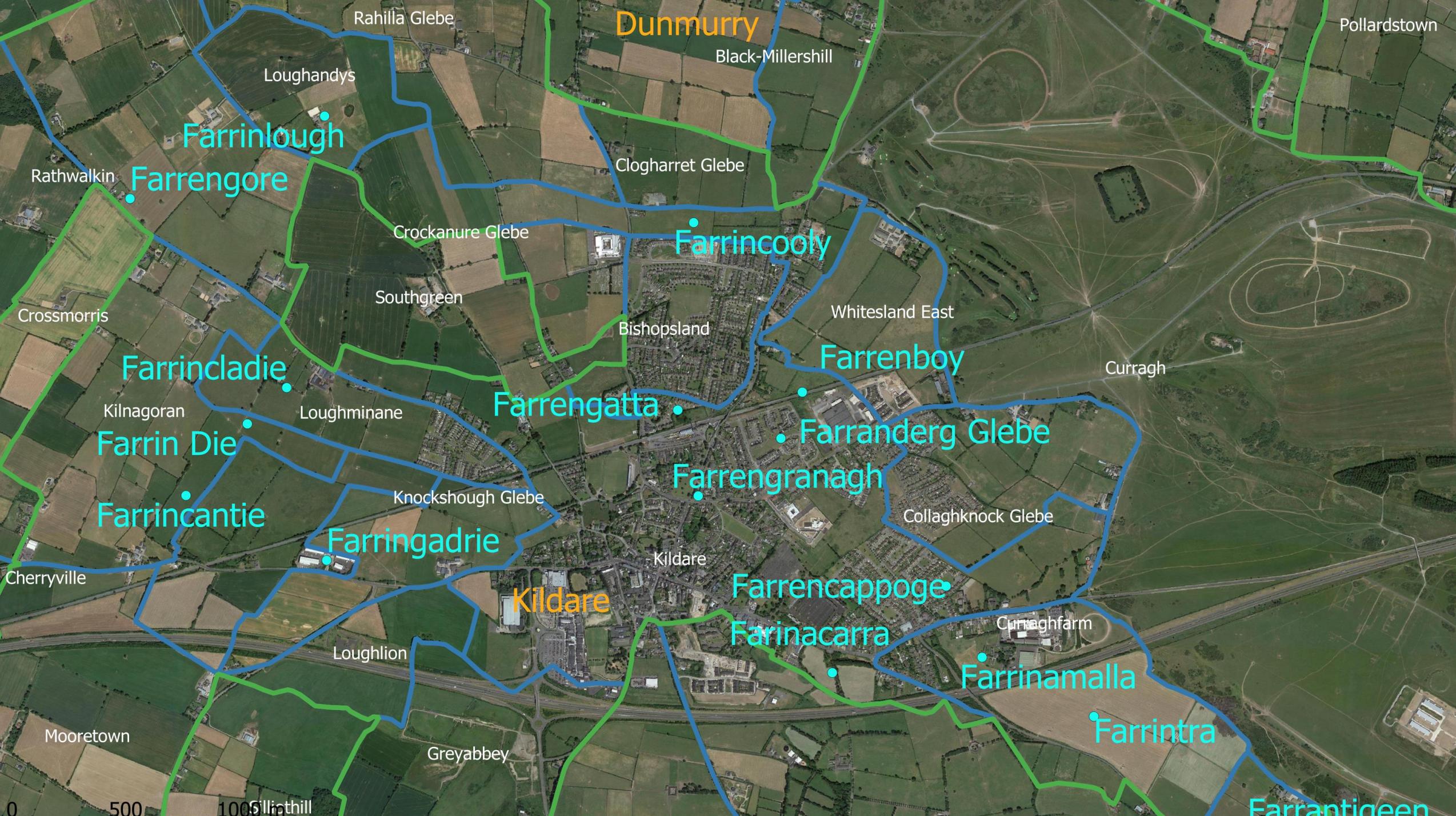
'the land of the gate'

672914 713106

1. 1674 Farringate
2. 1674 Farringatee
3. 1684 ffarrengatta
4. 1684 the gate park
5. 1744 Farrengatta
6. 1744 Farrengatta
7. 1746 Farrengatta
8. 1757 Farringath
9. 1775 Farrengatta
10. 1816 Farranatha
11. 1817 Farrenaneattha

***Fearann an Gheata**

- Emerson BoR, 30
- Emerson Contents
- Rent Roll
- Rent Roll
- CGn. 115.328.80638
- CGn. 117.242.80637
- CGn. 126.32.85272
- Rocque TCD (CD)
- CGn. 304.547.206097
- Kildare Est.²⁴⁰
- Sherrard 1817



Rahilla Glebe

Dunmurry

Pollardstown

Black-Millershill

Loughandys

Farrinlough

Clogharret Glebe

Rathwalkin

Farrengore

Crockanure Glebe

Farrincoolly

Southgreen

Crossmorris

Bishopsland

Whitesland East

Farrincladie

Farrengatta

Farrenboy

Curragh

Kilnagoran

Loughminane

Farrin Die

Farranderg Glebe

Farringranagh

Farrincantie

Knockshough Glebe

Collaghknock Glebe

Farringadrie

Kildare

Farrincappoge

Cherryville

Kildare

Farinacarra

Cunaghfarm

Farrinamalla

Loughlion

Farrintra

Mooretown

Greyabbey

Farrantigeen

0 500 1000 Illitthill

English form	Recommended Irish form	Acreage	Description of holding	Land use
Farinacarra	*Fearann an Charraigh	8a 1r (~13 standard acres)		(Tillage) (<i>Rocque TCD (CD)</i>)
Farnacunsay	*Fearann —?	13a 3r 21p (~21 standard acres)		
Farranderg Glebe	*An Fearann Dearg	57a 1r standard acres, (<i>Ordnance Survey Namebooks 1838</i>)		
Farrangadree	*Fearann Gadraigh	3a 0r 0p (~4.8 standard acres)	‘parcel’ (a single field on Rocque’s map)	(Tillage) (<i>Rocque TCD (CD)</i>)
Farrenboy	*An Fearann Buí	10a 1r 0p (~16.2 standard acres)	(a single field on Rocque’s map)	(Tillage) (<i>Rocque TCD (CD)</i>)
Farrencappoge	*Fearann na Ceapóige		(a single field on Rocque’s map)	(Tillage) (<i>Rocque TCD (CD)</i>)
Farrengate	*Fearann an Gheata	16a 1r 0p (~26 standard acres)	‘parcel arable’ (a single field on Rocque’s map)	‘arable land’ (<i>Emerson</i>)
Farrengore	*Fearann Gabhar	22a 0r 0p (~35.6 standard acres)	‘A long parke’ (a single field on Rocque’s map)	
Farrengranagh	*An Fearann Gránna	2a 0r 20p (~3.2 standard acres)	‘parcel’ (a single field on Rocque’s map)	
Farrin Die	*Fearann —?	8a 02r 00p (~13 standard acres)	(a single field on Rocque’s map)	(Tillage) (<i>Rocque TCD (CD)</i>)
Farrinamalla	*Fearann na Mala	20a 2r 0p (~32.3 standard acres)	(Seems to include multiple fields)	(Mostly pasture) (<i>Rocque TCD (CD)</i>)
Farrincantie	*Fearann an Cheanntaigh	6a 2r 0p (~9.7 standard acres)		(Tillage) (<i>Rocque TCD (CD)</i>)
Farrincooly	*Fearann Cúile	15a 1r 0p (~24.3 standard acres)	‘parcel’	(Tillage) (<i>Rocque TCD (CD)</i>)
Farrinlough	*Fearann an Locha	13a 2r 0p (~21 standard acres)		

Farringate / *Fearann an Gheata - 'the land of the gate'

'James Hetherington 2ar 2r of the great meddow in little Broadhooke 5 ar 3r in Farrengatta 16ar r in the Earles three parks 3ar 3r 12 p in the Pidgeon parke 1ar 20r in all 29ar 1r 32p with his house and back houses to the castle wall in Kildare by lease for three lives from May [16]83.' (*Rent Roll*)

Evidence of an open-field system?

‘Russe park in many mens holdings lying betwixt Rathangan and Rathilly laine all plowed land contains in all 30 2 00’ (Emerson)

Examples of Qualifying Elements

- Animals
 - *Farrengore* / **Fearann Gabhar** ‘the land of the goats’
- Color
 - *Farranderg Glebe* / **An Fearann Dearg** – ‘the red land’
 - *Farrenboy* / **An Fearann Buí** - ‘the yellow land’
- Vegetation
 - *Farringadrie* / **Fearann Gadraigh** – ‘the land of the osiers’
- Man-made features
 - *Farringate* / **Fearann an Gheata** – ‘the land of the gate’
- Agriculture
 - *Farrencappoge* / **Fearann na Ceapóige?** “the land of the little tillage plot?”
- Topographical Features
 - *Farrinamalla* / **Fearann na Mala** – ‘the land of the (hill) brow’
 - *Farrinlough* / **Fearann an Locha** – ‘the land of the lake’
- Religious connotations
 - *Faranchanter* / **Fearann an Chantaire** – “the chanterland Cantaire - ‘chanter, chorister’ (FGB) – located in Glebe land Cf. Chanterlands, Athy Co. Kildare
- Personal Names / Surnames
 - *Feranduganna* / **Fearann an Dubhagánaigh** – ‘An Dubhagánach’s land’
 - *Farran Neil* / **Fearann Néill** – ‘Niall’s Land’

Structure & Chronology

Structure	Frequency	%
Noun + article+ qualifying noun (10 th century + (Toner, 1999: 21). Increasingly common from the 11 th century onwards (Flanagan, 1980: 41))	11	44
Noun + qualifying noun (400 AD+, (Mac Giolla Easpaig, 1981: 152).	6	24
Article + noun + qualifying adjective (common from 11 th century onwards (Mac Gabhann, 2014: I, 13).	3	12
Noun + surname	2	8
Noun + personal name	2	8
Noun + qualifying noun + qualifying adjective	1	4

Parish of Carn

- A map of the lands of Carna [Carn] Barony of Offaly East and County of Kildare in the tenure of [Edward] Byrne
- [between 1770 and 1840]. NLI MS 21 F. 35 / (081):
- *Farnahoun* / **Fearann na hAbhann** – ‘the land of the river’;
- *Farnacunsay*/ **Fearann ?**



Dalkey Co. Dublin

- *Farransheball*
- *Farrantubber* (**Fearann (an) Tobair**) - 'the land of the well'
- *Farranayatta* (**Fearann an Gheata**) – 'th land of the gate'
- *Farranahaslanaivee*
- *Farranacorrigeen*
- *Farranateltoon*
-
- A map of the Lands of Dalkey situate in the Parish of Dalkey Barony of Upper Cross [- recte Rathdown] and County of Dublin. Surveyed by Thos Reading 1765, NLI MS 21 F. 53 / (077)

County Wexford

'**Fearann** is found in a number of now-defunct minor names in Wexford e.g. "Farantample" ...
"Farrinursey" ...
"Farranstine" ...
"Farrenkevanegh ows Farrenegollum" ...
"Farrandiggan" ...
"Farrenvoboy" ...' (Ó Cruaíoch & Mac Giolla Chomhghaill, 2016: 867)



Conclusions

- The element *fearann* was used extensively in fieldnames in the parish of Kildare.
- *Fearann* seems to have been used solely to refer to smaller units in this parish rather than larger units which later became townlands.
- Most of these names were probably coined from the 11th century onwards

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Toner, G. (1999) 'The definite article in Irish place-names', *Nomina*, 22, 5–25.