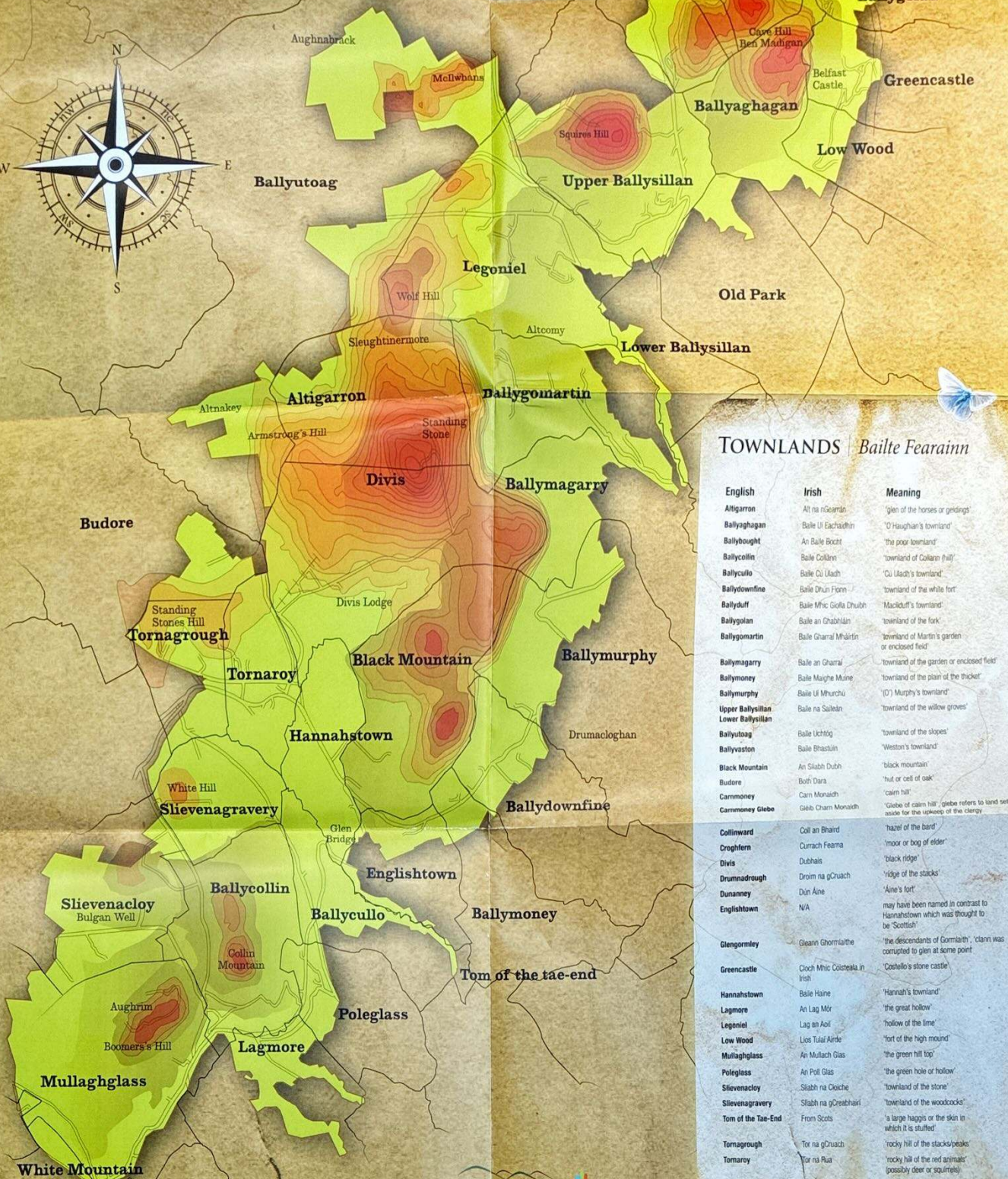


Belfast Hills

TOWNLANDS



TOWNLANDS *Bailte Fearainn*

English	Irish	Meaning
Altigarron	Alt na nGarrán	'glen of the horses or geldings'
Ballyaghagan	Baile Uí Eachadhráin	'O'Eachadhráin's townland'
Ballybought	An Baile Bocht	'the poor townland'
Ballycollin	Baile Colláin	'townland of Colláin (hill)'
Ballycullo	Baile Cu Uíadhrá	'Cu Uíadhrá's townland'
Ballydownfine	Baile Dhún Fionn	'townland of the white fort'
Ballyduff	Baile Mhic Giolla Chruibh	'Macduff's townland'
Ballygolan	Baile an Ghobhláin	'townland of the fork'
Ballygomartin	Baile Gharraí Mháirtín	'townland of Martin's garden or enclosed field'
Ballymagarry	Baile an Gharraí	'townland of the garden or enclosed field'
Ballymoney	Baile Maighé Múine	'townland of the plain of the thrasher'
Ballymurphy	Baile Uí Mhurchú	'O' Murphy's townland'
Upper Ballysillan	Baile na Salláin	'townland of the willow groves'
Ballyutoag	Baile Uíocht	'townland of the slopes'
Ballyvaston	Baile Bhastáin	'Weston's townland'
Black Mountain	An Slabh Dubh	'black mountain'
Budore	Both Dara	'hut or cell of oak'
Carnmoney	Carn Mornaigh	'carn hill'
Carnmoney Glebe	Glebe Charn Mornaigh	'Glebe of carn hill', 'glebe refers to land set aside for the use of the clergy'
Collinward	Coll an Bhaird	'hairst of the bard'
Croghfern	Curnach Fearna	'moor or bog of elder'
Divis	Dubhais	'black ridge'
Drumnadrough	Droim na gCruach	'ridge of the stacks'
Dunaney	Dún Áine	'Áine's fort'
Englishtown	N/A	may have been named in contrast to Hannahstown which was thought to be 'Scottish'
Glengormley	Gleann Ghormláiríe	'the descendants of Gormláiríe', 'carrn was corrupted to glen at some point'
Greencastle	Cloch Mhic Coisteala in Irish	'Coisteala's stone castle'
Hannahstown	Baile Haine	'Hannah's townland'
Lagmore	An Lag Mór	'the great hollow'
Legoniel	Lag an Aoi	'hollow of the time'
Low Wood	Loos Tulaí Airde	'fort of the high mound'
Mullaghglass	An Mullach Glas	'the green hill top'
Poleglass	An Poll Glas	'the green hole or hollow'
Slievenacloy	Slabh na Cloiche	'townland of the stone'
Slievenagavery	Slabh na gCrestáirí	'townland of the woodcocks'
Tom of the Tae-End	From Scots	'a large haggis or the skin in which it is stuffed'
Tornaough	Tor na gCruach	'rocky hill of the stacks/peaks'
Tormaroy	Tor na Rúa	'rocky hill of the red animals' (possibly deer or squirrels)
White Mountain	English name	Varesloy or Carestoy was also used and may be a version of Carn Tulaí 'north cairn'



The striking landscape of the hills inevitably features in their townland names.

Some describe the physical characteristics, including the very rock that makes the hills, while other reflect mankind's influence on the landscape. The dark basalt of the hills and the contrasting chalk is reflected in the English names Black Mountain and (the much later) Whiterock, and also in the Irish names Divis - *Duibheach* 'black ridge' and *Ligleach* - *Lag on Aoid* 'the hollow of the limestone'.

IRISH

ENGLISH

<i>achadh</i>	<i>field</i>
<i>ais</i>	<i>steep valley or hill</i>
<i>ait</i>	<i>mountain</i>
<i>beann</i>	<i>summit or castle</i>
<i>carri</i>	<i>mountain, hill, slope</i>
<i>cloich</i>	<i>stone</i>
<i>collam</i>	<i>stone or castle</i>
<i>curnish</i>	<i>mountain, hill, slope</i>
<i>drim</i>	<i>ridge</i>
<i>dun</i>	<i>fort</i>
<i>gall</i>	<i>foreign</i>
<i>garrul</i>	<i>graben or small field</i>
<i>glenn</i>	<i>glenn</i>
<i>log</i>	<i>below</i>
<i>maigh</i>	<i>plain</i>
<i>minne</i>	<i>tabletop</i>
<i>millach</i>	<i>hill (usually rounded)</i>
<i>poll</i>	<i>hole or hollow</i>
<i>scath</i>	<i>central</i>
<i>slach</i>	<i>commemorative tree</i>
<i>slabh</i>	<i>monument, upland</i>
<i>for</i>	<i>height or rocky hill</i>
<i>hilling</i>	<i>slope</i>

Reading Our Landscape...



Naming Our Hills

The source of many of our placenames lies in our Gaelic past. Divis, Carmoney, Colin and Slievenacloy have retained versions of their older Gaelic names.

The ridge behind Collin mountain is called Slievenagravy - *Slíabh na gCreadhairí* 'the mountain of the woodcocks', birds which thrive in moist woodlands and bogs. Other names for some of the other hills have also survived. Mullaghglass - *An Mullach Glas* 'the green hill top' became Boomer's Hill. Altankey - *Alt na Chaitíe* 'the valley height of the cuckoo' became Armstrong's Hill. Cuckoos can still be heard amongst its scrub and hedgerows as they scan for meadow pipit nests across the mosses and heather of Divis and Standing Stones Hill.

Wolf Hill gets its name from the tradition that the last wolf in Ireland was killed there in 1692. However, 17th century documentation offers us a number of earlier names such as Sloughinmore - *Slouchán na Fhar* 'the cairn of the big man or giant' which got its name from a standing stone or commemorative cairn on its slopes. According to Irish folklore bad luck and misfortune followed those who tampered with these stones.

Trees & Woods

The range of trees in the foothills are evident in the townland names which include references to trees such as *saillich* 'willows or salices', *feann* 'alder', *doire* 'oak', *coll* 'hazel' and *minne* 'thicket or scrub wood'.

Trees have been important to the Irish from earliest times. In the fifth century, the creators of the first Irish alphabet, called *Ogham*, even named their letters after trees.

<i>Feann</i>	The alder was associated with war and death. This may be because its white wood turns red when cut. It was traditionally used to make the roof of the house and the making of containers and charcoal and the use of the bark and twigs to make dye.
<i>Alder</i>	The oak is a symbol of strength, fertility, kingship and endurance. It was also associated with magic and the underworld: a circle drawn with wood was used for magic and protection. The Irish harp was traditionally made from willow and its wood was also used for wickerwork and to make household implements.
<i>Doire</i>	The oak is a symbol of strength, fertility, kingship and endurance. It was also associated with magic and the underworld: a circle drawn with wood was used for magic and protection. The Irish harp was traditionally made from willow and its wood was also used for wickerwork and to make household implements.
<i>Oak</i>	The oak is a symbol of strength, fertility, kingship and endurance. It was also associated with magic and the underworld: a circle drawn with wood was used for magic and protection. The Irish harp was traditionally made from willow and its wood was also used for wickerwork and to make household implements.
<i>Willow</i>	The oak is a symbol of strength, fertility, kingship and endurance. It was also associated with magic and the underworld: a circle drawn with wood was used for magic and protection. The Irish harp was traditionally made from willow and its wood was also used for wickerwork and to make household implements.

Townlands

The townland is a unique feature of the Irish landscape and is one of the most ancient divisions in the country.

Townlands predate the Norman invasion of the 12th century. The size of the townland was generally related to the quality of the land, areas of good land having more townland divisions than areas of poor land. There are over 60,000 townlands in Ireland and anything from around five to thirty can be grouped together to form a parish. In the past, the value of land was often measured in terms of how it would support cattle, so people talked about having 'a cow's grass', that is being able to feed one cow for a year. Upland areas were used for common pasture and the movement



Folklore & Heritage

The name of the large Iron Age rath of Dunnyne Fort, in Carrinmore, or Nancy's Fort, is probably from the Irish *Dun Aine* meaning 'the fort of Aine'. She was an ancient Irish sun-goddess who was associated with summer, love and fertility. Her name means brightness or radiance. Five rituals were performed in her honour on hilltops up until the late 19th century. In some parts of Ireland she was thought to have been the Queen of the Fairies.

Some names reflect the Christian heritage of the hills such as Shankill (the old church), two of the five civil parishes which converge on the Belfast hills. It is also likely that Budoire 'hut or cell of oak' refers to the site of an early Christian hermitage and that Bogdan Well at Slievenacloy and the townland of Bovoiglan - *baile Bhoiglan* 'the hut of Bogdan' also echo Christian traditions. Some scholars have suggested that the latter are named after St. Olan, a contemporary of St. Patrick, normally associated with the Dal Riata of north Antrim.

Belfast Hills TOWNLANDS



Belfast Hills
Partnership

Ben & Ballyaghagan Madigan

Although a 15th century Irish source calls it *Beann Uamha* 'the hill of the cave', its more common name was *Beann Mhadagán*, and Mac Art's Fort was *Dún Mhadagán*.

They were both named after Mauidán (7857 AD), a king of the *Ulaidh* (Ulster), the tribe which gave its name to Ulster.

Ben Madigan has long been associated with The O'Neills of Clandebo, who controlled the area from the 14th century until Elizabethan times. In 1556 the Earl of Sussex was told that in Ben Vadigan ... there is a great cave where is the treasure of the country of Clandebo'. The O'Neills of northern Clandebo were inaugurated at Mac Art's Fort which lies in the townland of Ballyaghagan. This townland is named after the O'Heachadhán family, who for several hundred

years acted as hereditary bards to the O'Neills. As their patrons disappeared or lost their land, these bards descended into obscurity, and most of them changed their name to Heagan or Hawkins. A few became highwaymen. The most famous of these was Neice O'Haugham, who haunted the hills of Antrim from the Braid to Collin Mountain until he was caught and hanged at Carrickfergus in 1720. His treasure is said to be buried in the Belfast Hills, five jumps to the east of a spot where you can see five castles, five boughs and five counties.

Belfast Hills Partnership

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*The full name of the organisation is the Belfast Hills Partnership Trust Ltd.

The text for this publication was prepared by ULTACH Trust: www.ultach.org

