

TOWNLANDS OF IRELAND

BÁILCÉ FEARAINN NA HÉIREANN

A little bit about your Townlands of Ireland poster.

According to townlands.ie (the project that maps Ireland's townlands to OpenStreetMap), 61,119 townlands have been mapped. This figure blew our tiny minds when we first read it, guessing initially that there might be something like 5,000 or 10,000 tops.

I've been fascinated with townlands since I learned as a kid that our townland at the time - Brockra, or An Bhrocraigh, meant place of badgers, or badger's den essentially. Then, recently I realised that our current address uses the wrong townland - only by a matter of tens of metres. The correct one is the lovely sounding Raheenglas or An Ráithín Glas, meaning little green rath / fort. Of course, we've now taken that to mean our own little green galvanised shed.

Historical boundaries have become less important since the arrival of Eircodes, which hold none of the hints of nature, geography and history that townland names have.

We're hoping this project plays some part to keeping townlands present and relevant. It builds on the incredible work done by townlands.ie, loganim.ie and the OpenStreetMap project.

Thanks!

Jack & Erin

