



## Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

*...is a forum that encourages debate on a wide range of research findings, with the overall aim of promoting evidence-based policy and law-making within Northern Ireland*



# HOME AND AWAY

## EXPLOITING THE CORPUS OF NI PLACENAMES FOR CULTURAL TOURISM

# NORTHERN IRELAND PLACE-NAME PROJECT

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# INTRODUCTION: NIPNP

- name studies in Britain & Ireland:
- Dublin, Glasgow, Nottingham, Aberystwyth
  
- origin of NIPNP in QUB

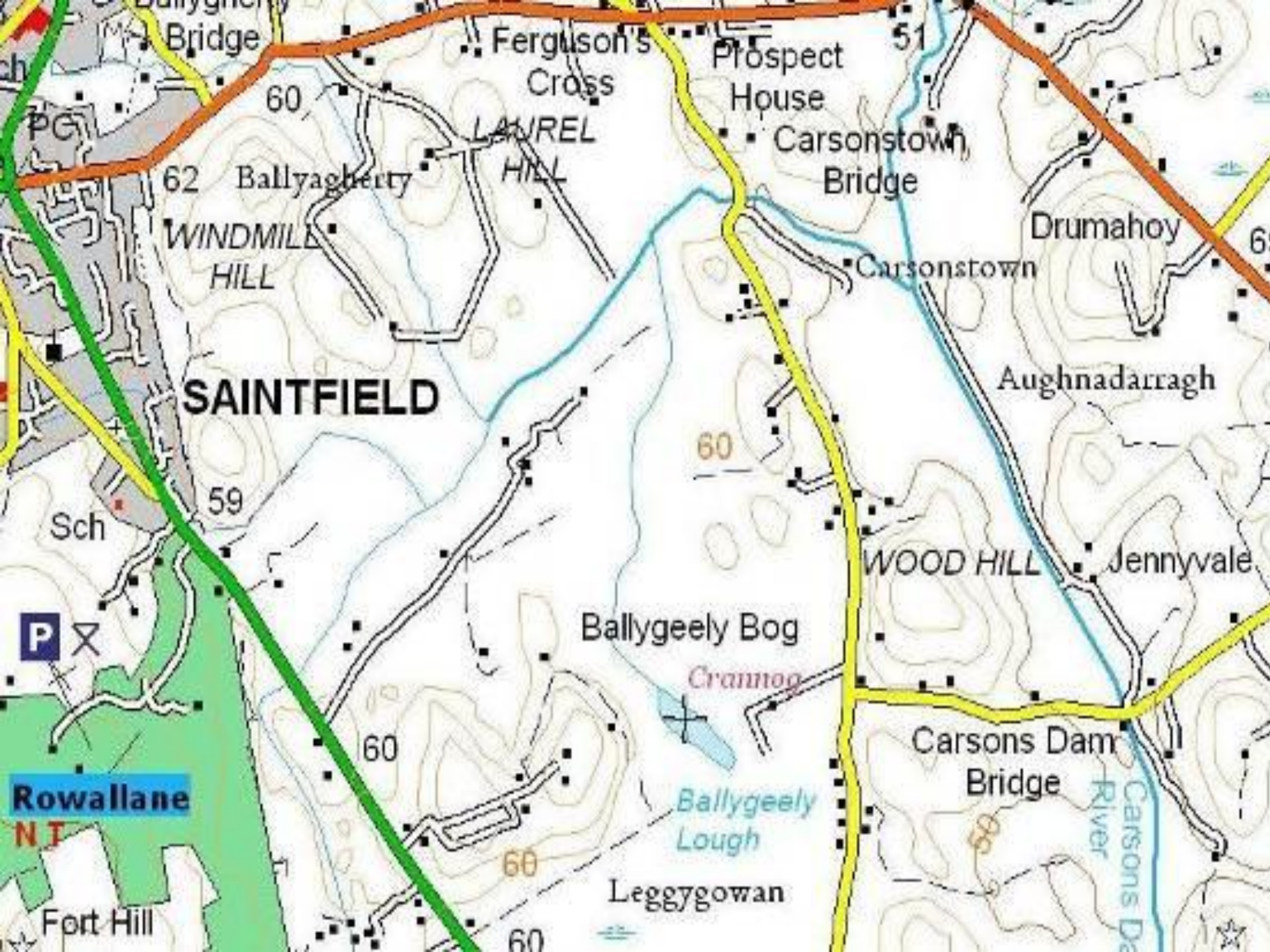


# AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- enrichment of cultural life: recording, preserving and publishing online the corpus of NI place-names and their historical background
- enhancement of understanding of aspects of language and history as preserved in these names
- creation of space: to encounter linguistic and cultural diversity through the exploration of connection between place and people (of whatever linguistic or ethnic origin)

# CORPUS OF NAMES

- 30,000 place-names
- varying linguistic origin
- Irish, English, Scots, Norse...
  
- distinct Ulster flavour: combination of the first three



Ballygherry Bridge

Ferguson's Cross  
LAUREL HILL

Prospect House  
Carsonstown Bridge

62 Ballyagherty  
WINDMILL HILL

Drumahoy

**SAINTFIELD**

Aughnadarragh

Sch

59

60

WOOD HILL

Jennyvale

**P**

Ballygeely Bog

Crannog

60

Ballygeely Lough

Carsons Dam Bridge

Carsons Dam River

60

Leggygowan

60

**Rowallane N.T.**

Fort Hill

# LAYERS AND HIDDEN DEPTHS

- Belfast
- Hillsborough
- Stormont
  
- Ballytrustan < Ir. *Baile Throstáin* < Eng. *Thurstanstun*

# BELFAST

- Maine (USA)
- Prince Edward Island (Canada)
- Christchurch (New Zealand)





# DERRY-LONDONDERRY

- Vermont (USA)
- Nova Scotia (Canada)
- New South Wales (Australia)
- Londonderry Island, off Tierra Del Fuego in Chile
- Derry & Londonderry, New Hampshire (USA)





# NIPNP QUERIES

- **recent example:** Arnprior, Ontario (west of Ottawa)
- enquiry: origin and meaning of Ballygallum in Co. Down
- family emigrated, 1822 to Peterborough, NE of Toronto
- husband, 50; wife 42 (from Wilmont in Co. Antrim)

# THE RESOURCE

- geographical coverage
- categorisation of names
- mapping interface
  
- search facilities
- explanatory paragraph: the ‘story’ of the name

# SEARCHING FOR ROOTS

- places from which emigrants originated
- names in wills and deeds, bibles, gravestones etc.
- place-names which have been lost or which are now spelt differently or have new names



# THE STORY OF BUSHMILLS

- the settlement and James I
- whiskey production and the foundation of the distillery
- exploitation of place and its associations in advertising
  
- what of 'sacred water'!
- Bush, Boyne, Lagan and divine cows!

# CULTURAL TOURISM

- integrated resource: geographical, historical & linguistic data in one website
- exploitation in collaboration with community groups
- NIPNP & Lough Neagh Partnership: publication and signage
- Sustrans Cycle Trail: names encountered by walkers & cyclists
- engagement with cultural diversity of the Lough



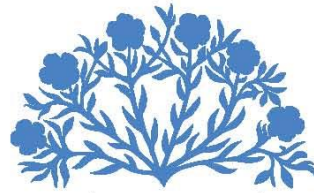
# FURTHER EXPLOITATION

- virtual portal or gateway to Northern Ireland
- ‘Tourism Ireland’: North-South co-operation online
- access at strategic public locations: touchscreen and other technology
- addition of a photographic gallery









Northern Ireland  
Assembly



The Open University



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