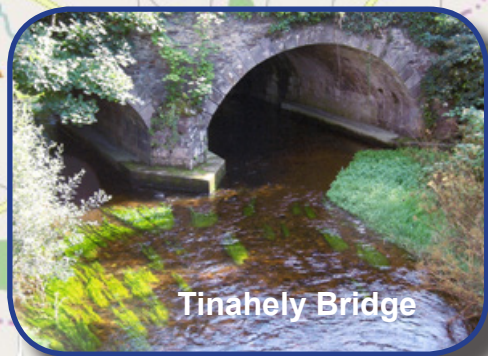
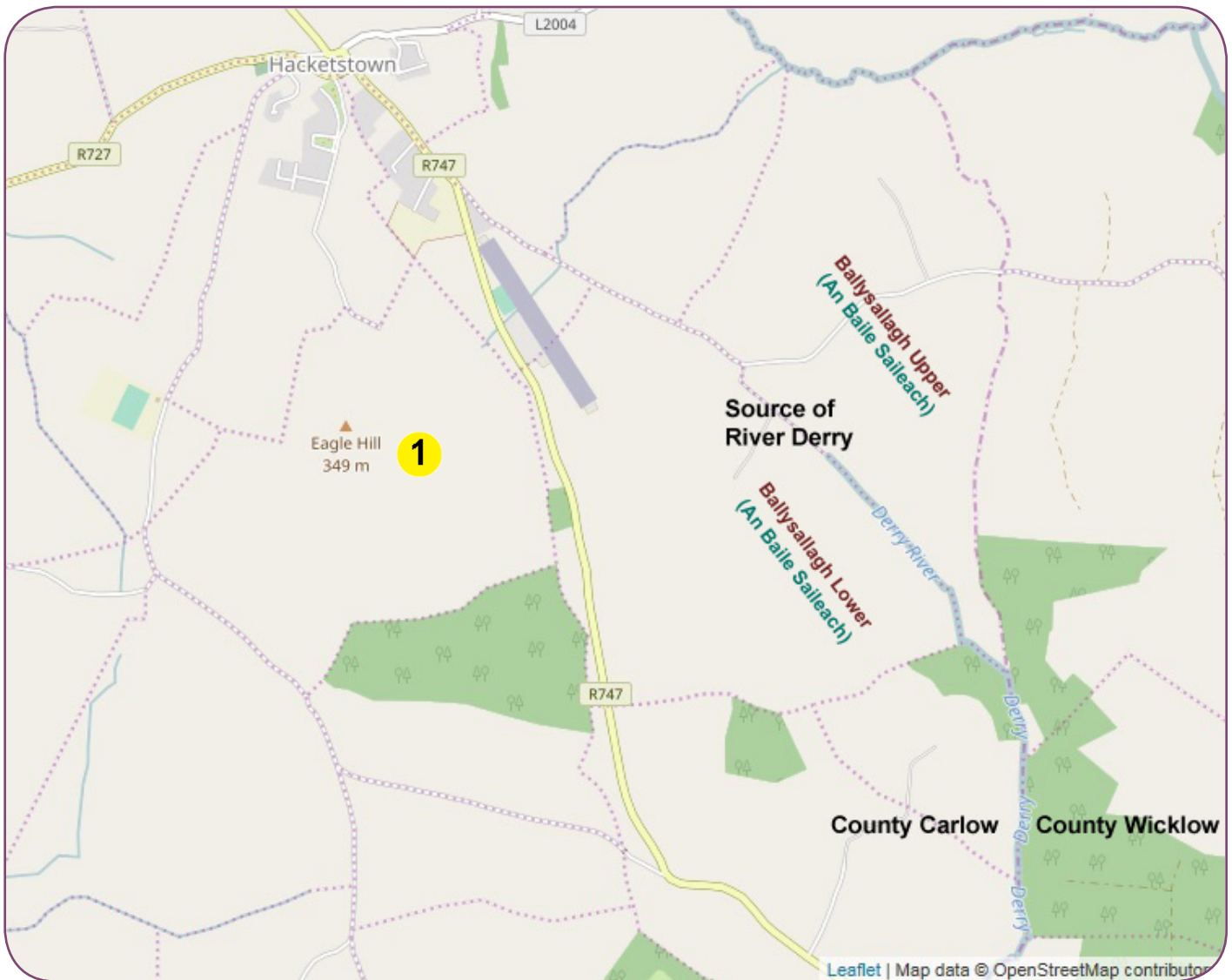


The River Derry From Source to Slaney



The River Derry begins her Journey (Section 1)



Eagle Hill

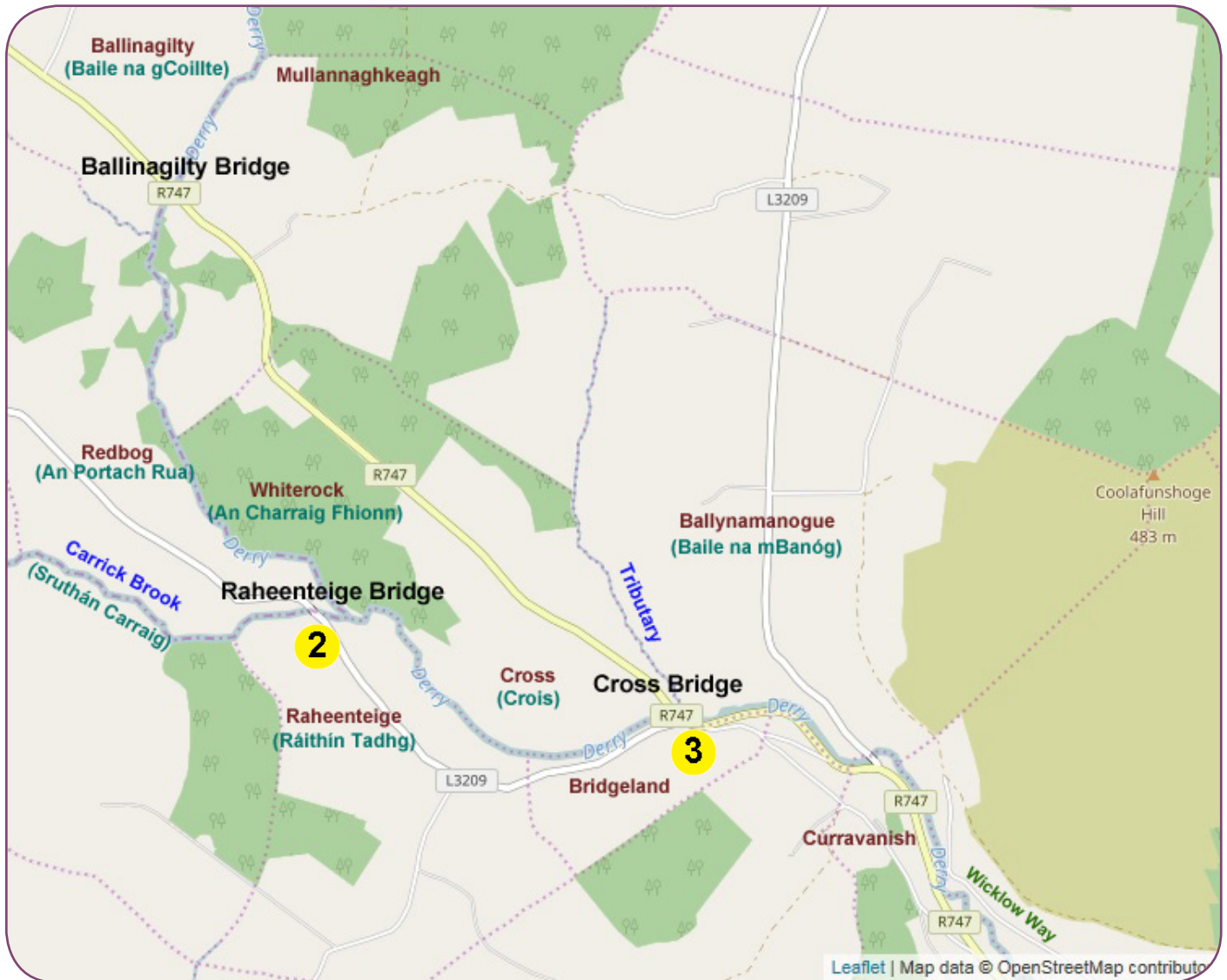
The **River Derry** rises east of Eagle Hill (349 Meters) and in her infancy forms the border between the townlands of Ballysallagh Lower (to the west) and Ballysallagh Upper (to the east). The River Derry as a stream south of Eagle Hill, Hacketstown, the hill is covered with heather, furze and pockets of oak wood, if it were a natural landscape the hill would be covered in oak. The river flows south and is the boundary between County Carlow (west) and County Wicklow (east). There is a field where the ditches are moving towards the centre.

Ragwort, thistles, lush growth, river gravels and water hyacinth can be seen along the way. Also, Alder, which likes damp conditions and is a native tree, along with, willow herb, foxglove, thistle, a scene somewhat removed from the source of the river. Also seen are very wet areas, green sphagnum moss (once used for medicinal purposes and is now being planted on

bare hillsides to restart growth) indicates acidity in the soil. Bracken and meadow sweet indicative of fertility.

Light Ford Bridge, with granite parapet made of cut stone. Then a steep drop with a waterfall. The landscape is sloping and drainage water from the surrounding area is filling the river. The lush growth on the bank comes from the nutrients that have been washed down and deposited there. Water flowing under trees gives a dappled effect which suits fish and insect life. Ripples and pools make the area suitable for spawning, redness indicates iron deposits seeping into the water.

Ballinagilty Bridge to the Wicklow Way (Section 2)



The river continues south through the townland of Mullannaghkeagh and turns south west on entering Ballinagilty, she flows on under **Ballinagilty Bridge** which is on the R747. The bridge consists of a wall and arch of cut stone. The River now on flatter ground beginning to meander and is surrounded by a hilly landscape. The river at this point continues to mark the boundary between Carlow and Wicklow. Shortly after Ballinagilty Bridge a tributary joins the river from the Carlow side and the river continues south through a wooded area with Redbog on the Carlow side and Whiterock in Wicklow.



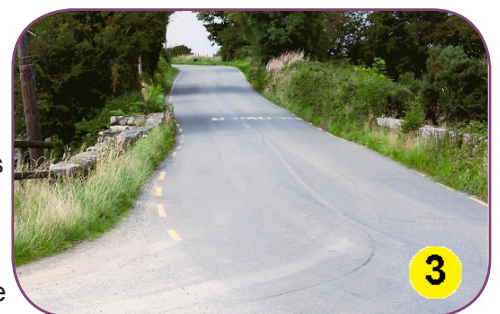
Raheenteige Bridge

Ballynamanogue (east) joins the river.

The Derry then turns east and then south east and journeys through Curranish (west) and Coolafunshoge (east) in view of the Wicklow Way. The river is spreading out, gravels plentiful, wooden footbridge, ripples aerating the water, taking oxygen out of the air, salmon would spawn here, riverbank

At **Raheenteige Bridge** a tributary from the west, Carrick Brook, flows under the L3209 and joins the Derry. The bridge is of cut granite arches, a breakwater to limit the pressure of water on the bridge and there is a floor on this bridge. A ford, a big pool where the river has widened, it is no longer channelized; less flow and gravels deposited, water boatmen on the calmer stretches.

The river turns east at this point through Cross and Bridgeland and flows under the R747 at **Cross Bridge**. At **Cross Bridge** a tributary from the north which flows through Cross (west) and

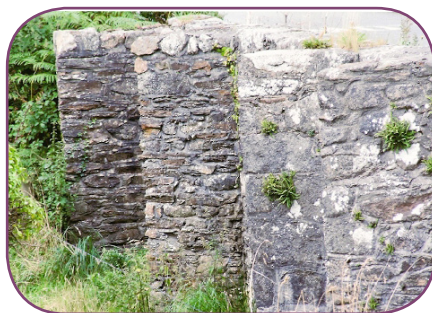


Cross Bridge

with lush growth, common fern, herb robert, bracken, brier, wild orchid, watercress, and elder. The area of the river bank shows that the river in the past was far bigger than it is now, there ought to be gravel along the edges and alluvial deposits.



The River Raheen

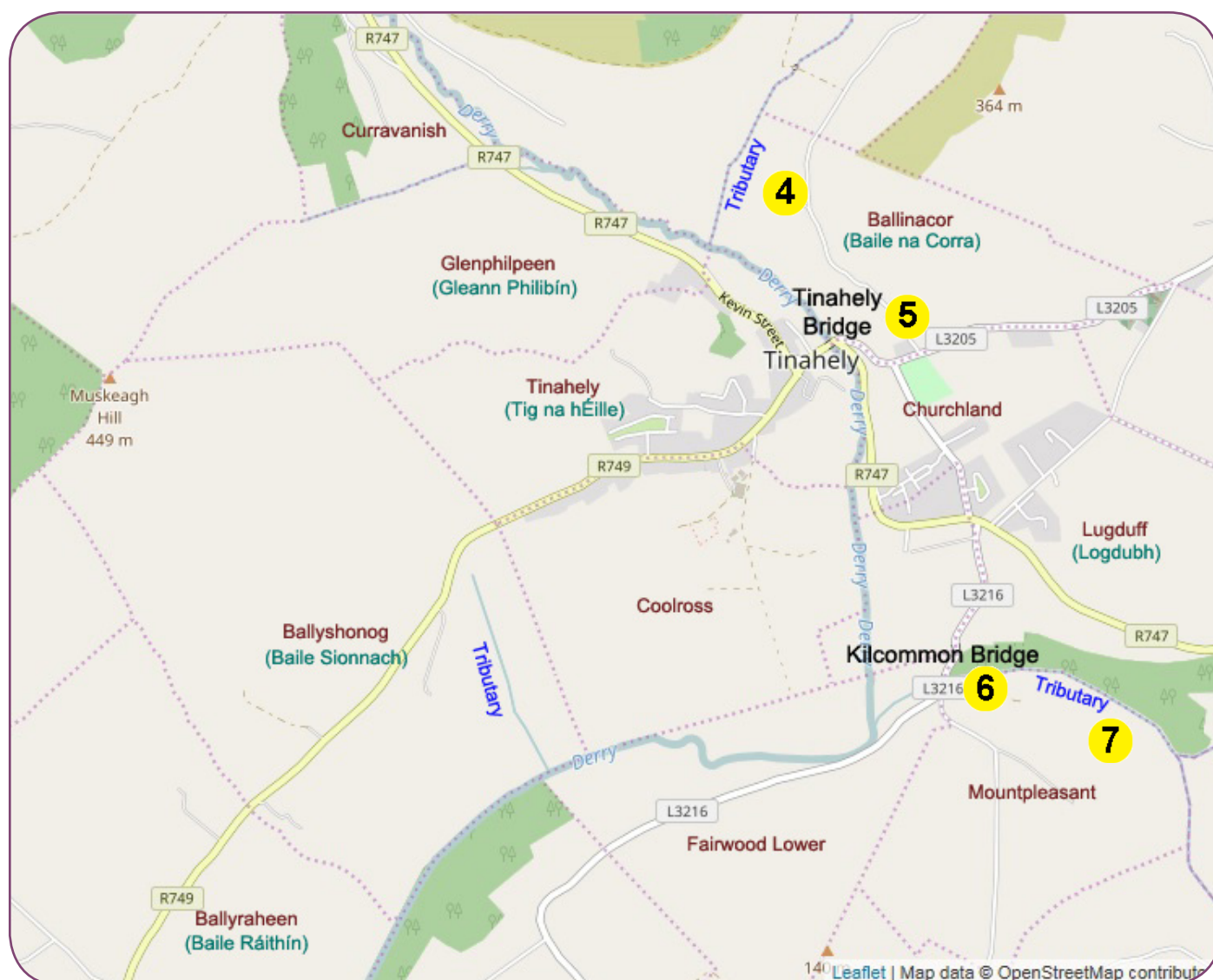


Cross Bridge from under the road



Cross Bridge Church

Through the Tinahely Area (Section 3)



The river continues south/east towards Tinahely with Ballinacor to the east and Glenphilpeen to the west. The floor on the bridge has a weir effect, the water builds up behind the bridge and below the bridge the water picks up the natural fall of the ground making a run which would be typical of the middle section of a river with glides and pools alternating, snowberry and ash grow near the bridge.

A tributary from the north/east (traveling through Ballinacor) joins the river just north of Tinahely. Ground is flat, water coming in slowly; this may have been a wider river at one time, a suitable place for trout to move up during spawning. A tributary which flows through Lugduff and Mountpleasant from the east travels under the L3216 at Kilcommon Bridge

and joins the river Derry at this point where she turns west through Fairwood Lower (south) with Ballyshonog to the north west. Another tributary joins the river from the north/west coming through Ballyshonog.



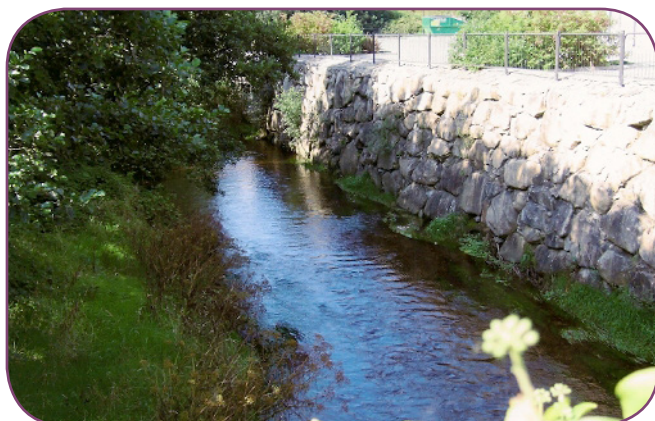
Tributary at Ballinacor (note the iron deposits)



Tinahely Bridge on R747



Under the Bridge at Tinahely



The Tinahely River



Tinahely Landscape

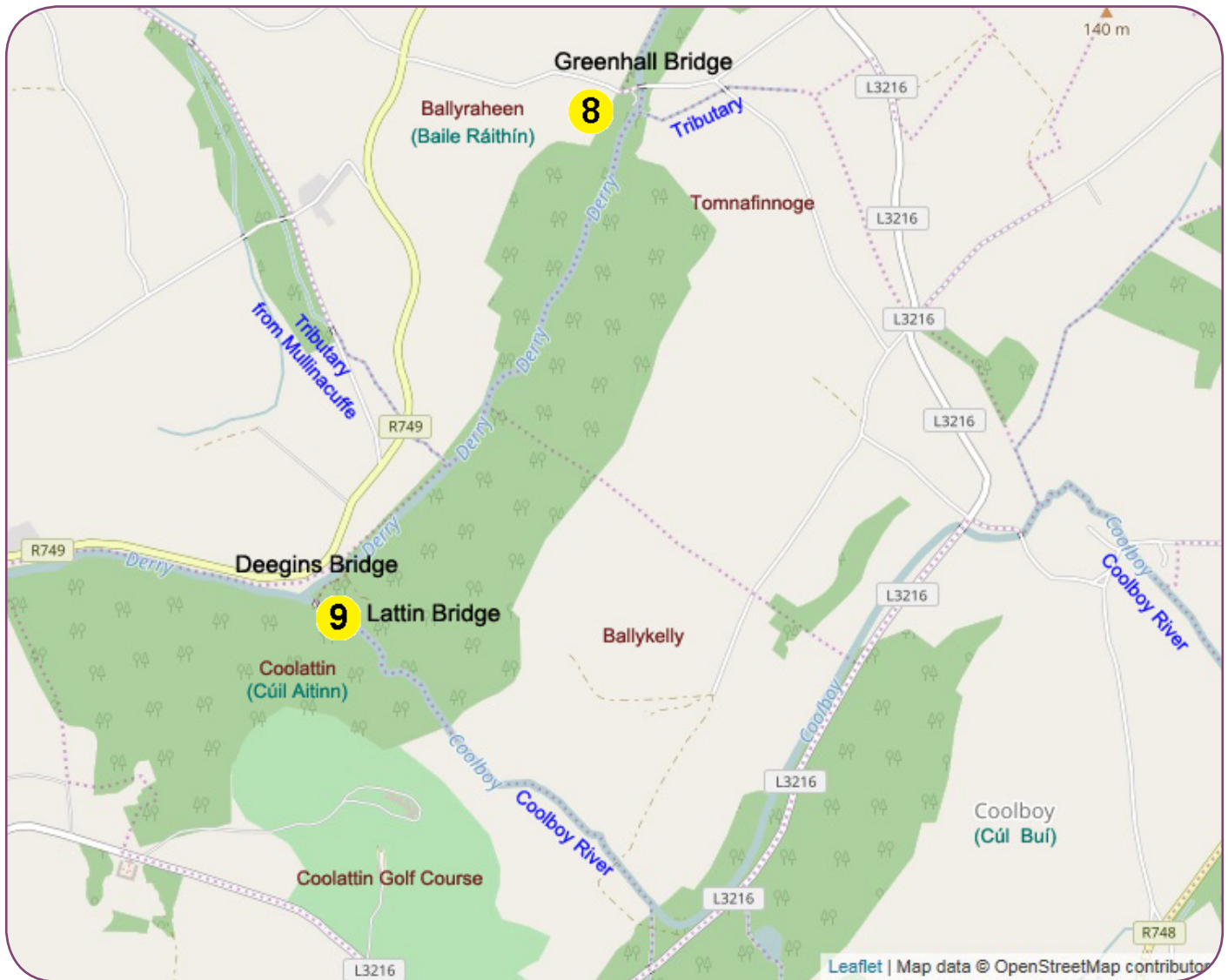


Kilcommon Bridge



Kilcommon Tributary

Greenhall Bridge to Coolattin (Section 4)

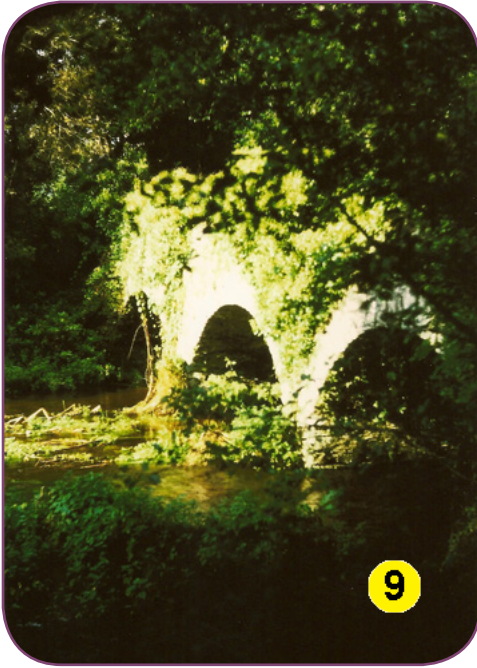


Then the Derry turns south west towards **Greenhall Bridge** passing through Ballyraheen (west) and Tomnafinnoge (east).

A tributary joins the river from the east just after **Greenhall Bridge**. The Derry travels on in a south west direction through a wooded area and a tributary from Mullinacuffe (north/west) flows under the R749 joins the river just before **Deegins Bridge**.



Greenhall Bridge



Lattin Bridge

Lattin Bridge travels over the Coolboy River. There are three arches at **Lattin Bridge**, one filling up with vegetation, meadow sweet and rhododendron (originally from India and brought in by the Fitzwilliams it loves acidic conditions and with plentiful rainfall can become a menace) the gunnera is another menace, the river is now in a garden and is much wider, it has slowed down, forming pools, there are ripples, unpolluted but still with enrichment.

Coolattin House formerly the home of the Fitzwilliams. There is a footbridge near the old railway station; the river is quite deep here.

From there the river flows to Shillelagh remaining close to the R749 travelling through the townlands of Coolattin (east) and Ballynultagh (west).

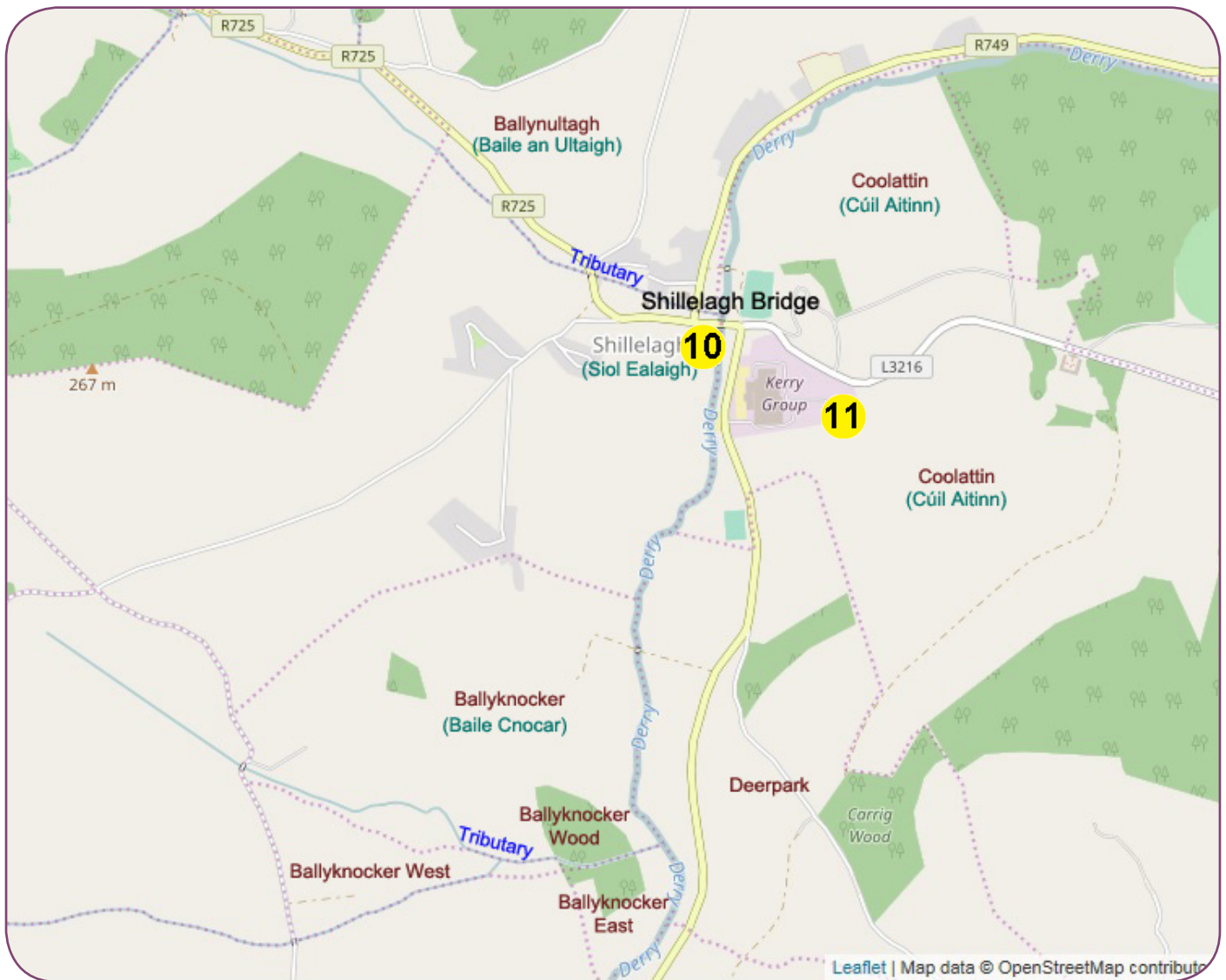


Coolattin House



The River Derry at Lattin Bridge

The Journey through the Shillelagh Area (Section 5)



A tributary from the north/west travels under the R749 and joins the Derry just before Shillelagh. Below the bridge the river is widening because it is carrying more water and draining from a wider catchment area and it now has two tributaries. The sycamores are more than a 100 years old,



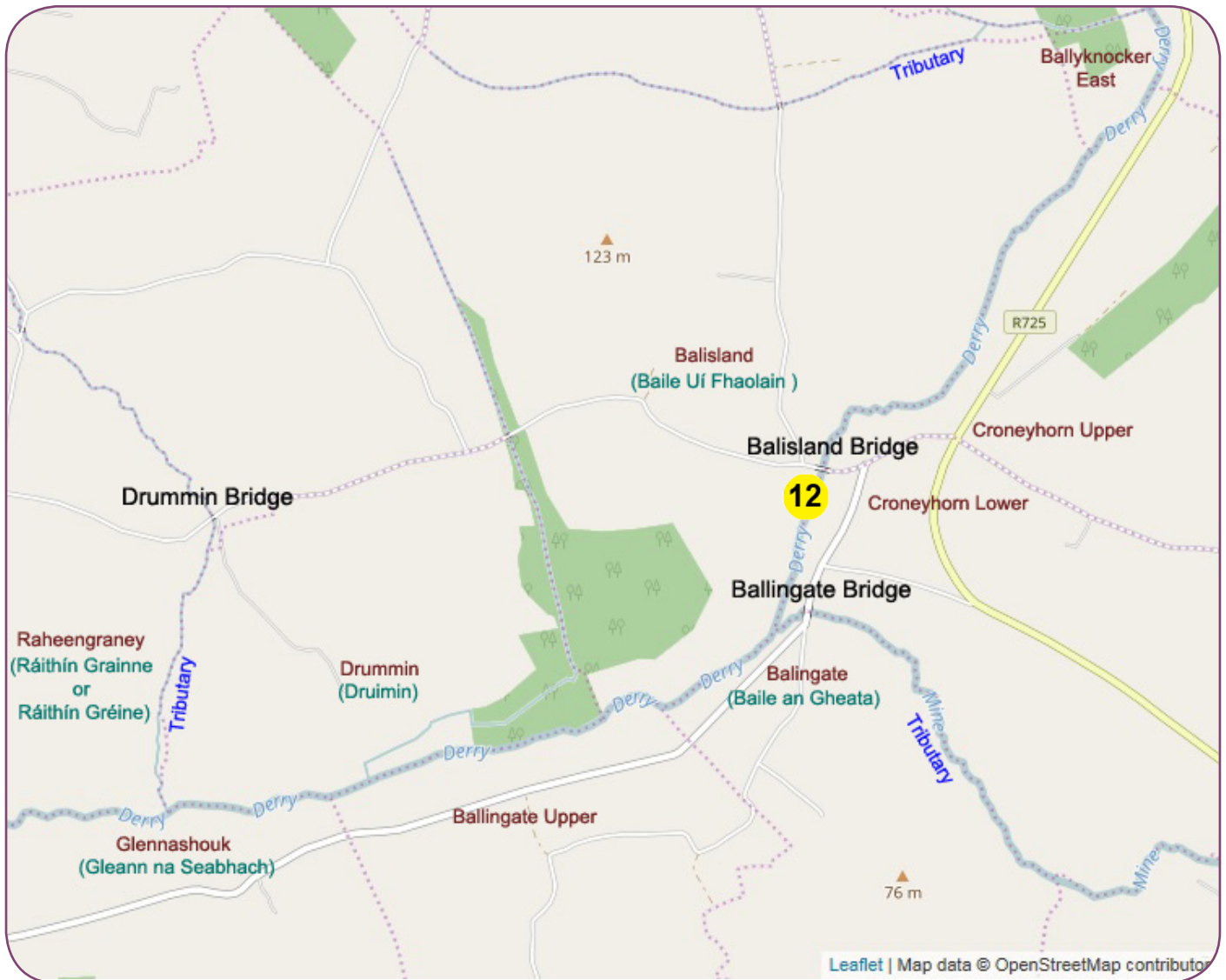
Shillelagh Bridge



Kerry Foods have a pumping station for taking water from the Derry; they would have a license for this.

In Shillelagh she flows under the R725 and travels south and continues adjacent to this road.

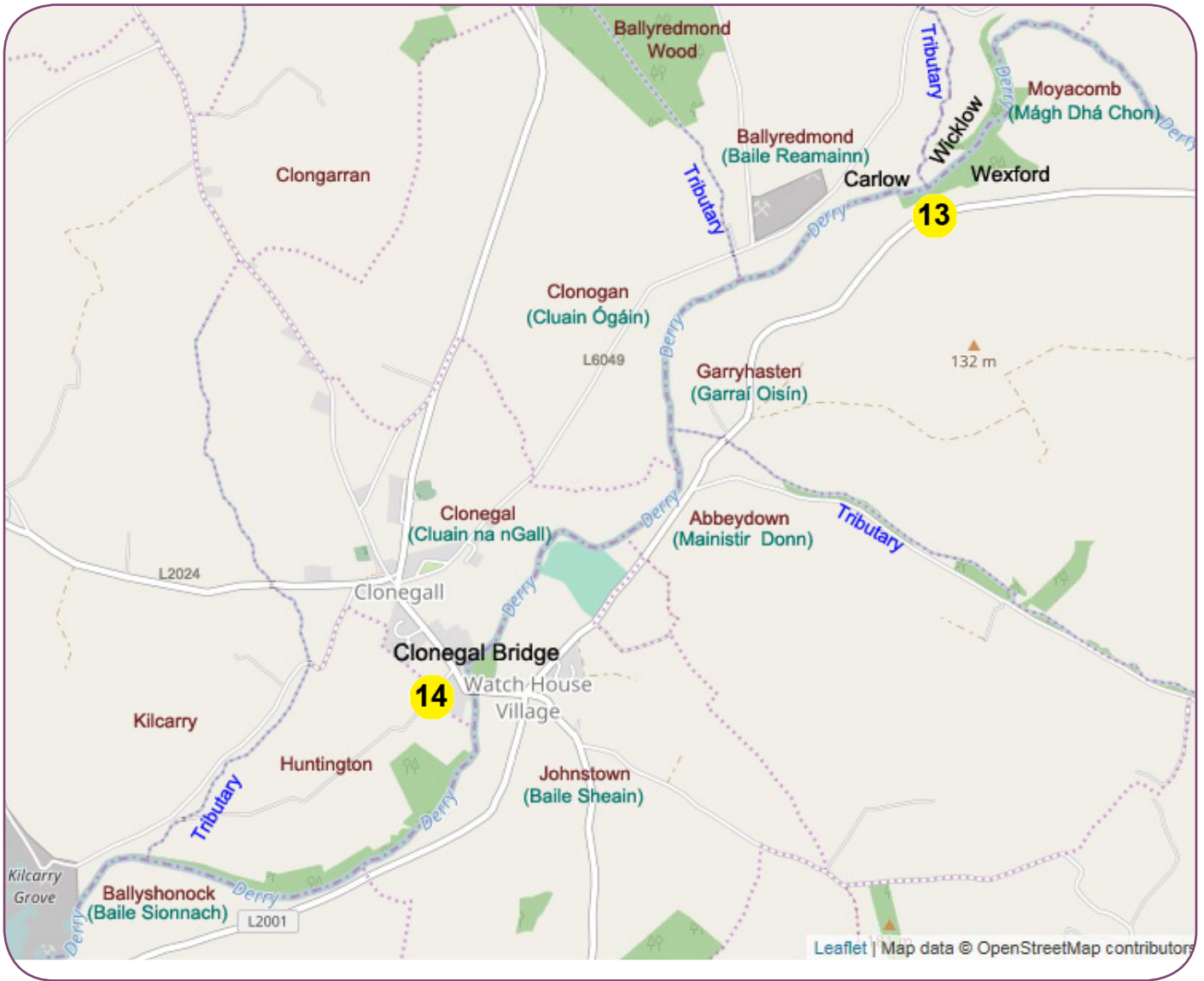
Balisland Bridge and Ballingate Bridge (Section 6)



The river continues and flows under **Balisland Bridge** through Balisland (west) and Croneyhorn Upper and Lower (east). This is a replacement for a bridge washed away in the 1960's, very fertile area, there is a sudden step up in the land from the riverbank indicating that in former times the river was much wider, the river has travelled on quite a downhill journey from Eagle Hill. The River Mine from the east joins the Derry at Ballingate Bridge where the river turns west. This is a more recent bridge with the use of iron pipes in the railings

The Derry travels through Drummin to the north and Ballingate Upper to the south. A tributary which travels under **Drummin Bridge** from the north and defines the boundary between Raheengraney and Drummin joins the Derry and the townland Glennashouk is south of the Derry.

The Journey through Clonagal (Section 7)



In Raheengraney the river Derry turns south through Burrow and forms the border between County Wicklow and County Wexford. When the river turns south/west a tributary from the north which forms the border between Wicklow and Carlow joins the Derry, at this point the three counties of Carlow, Wexford and Wicklow meet. **13**



Ballyredmond

After the meeting of the three counties a tributary from the north/ west which travels through Ballyredmond Wood forming the border between the townlands of Ballyredmond and Clonogan to the north joins the Derry with Garryhasten to the south. This tributary travels under the L6049.

After this tributary the river Derry turns due south and is joined by another tributary from the east which travels through Garryhasten and Abbeydown passing under the L2001. Garryhasten is a landscape of mixed farming, oak and ash along the riverbank. On the Ballyredmond Road the river is coming out of a flat area into hilly ground, the river channel is narrowing. The remains of a millrace used to power the mill at Binnions.



The River Derry turns into Clonegal

The river comes round a turn into Clonegal (above photo), mallard and swans on the river (photos below), lime trees shade the river and an ash wood is growing on the other side.

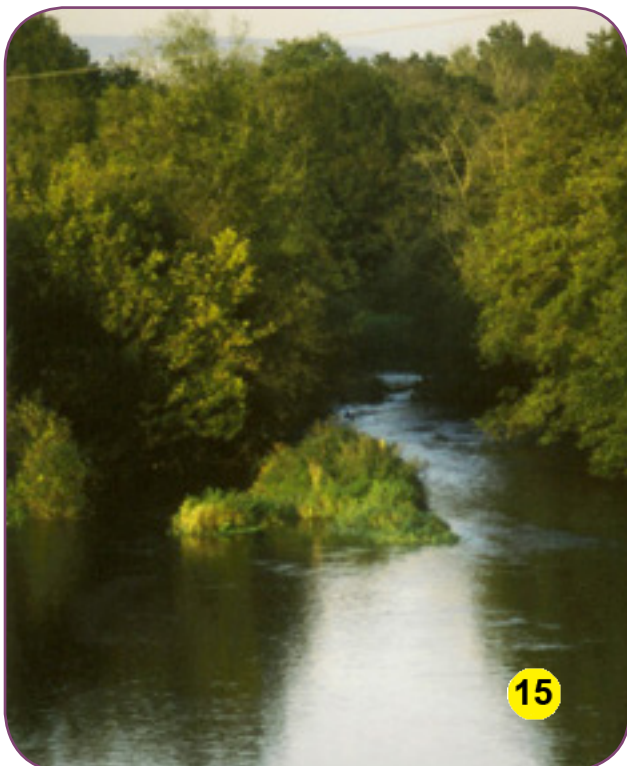


Swans with their signets and Mallards on the River Derry



Clonegal Bridge is the last bridge on the river Derry, it has five arches and buttresses to take the load, the dry arch once took the millrace, there is granite facing on the arches and the breakwaters are of cut stone, the bridge marks the border of Carlow and Wexford and there are many building styles in the stonework, the original parapet can be seen almost at ground level. Tradition has it that the bridge was built after a flood in 1780 (Or. Kevin Whelan) **Clonegal Bridge** was mentioned in the Down Survey of 1650, on examining flood pictures they show how wide the river was in olden days, the soil in the flood plain would be very rich with alluvial deposits. The Mill, once an ironworks and then a flour mill. Passing the Wilderness of Huntington Castle which is a habitat for wildlife.

The River Derry meets the River Slaney at Kildavin (Section 8)



The island at the mouth of the Derry River

The Derry ends its journey at Kilcarray Grove. The river Derry is now joining the river Slaney, there is an island at the mouth of the Derry (this is where the banshee would be seen between two rivers!)

The Slaney and the Derry come from the same geology but the Slaney is a much faster river because it begins on higher ground in the Glen of Imaal, the water is very dark from peat in the mountains. The Slaney is a much wider river with ripples, glides, pools and manmade weirs for salmon fishing.



Kildavin Bridge has very narrow arches and is completely made of cut stone. It is linking a higher road to a much lower road.



View from Kildavin Bridge of the meeting of the rivers Slaney (left) and Derry (centre)

The length of the River Derry from her Source to the Slaney is approximately 47.6 Km (29.6 miles)

Credits:

Research and photographs: Margaret Grant

Commentary: Oscar Grant

Translation of townlands into Irish and their meaning: Margaret Grant

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Meaning of Irish Townland Names

Section 1 (page 2)

Ballysallagh (An Baile Saileach)
the place of the willow

Section 2 (page 3)

Ballinagilty (Baile na gCoillte)
the woodlands

Raheenteigue (Ráithín Tadhg)
Tadhg's ringfort

Cross (Crois)
a crossroads

Ballynamanogue (Baile na mBanóg)
a small enclosed place

Currvanish
Curr is a turn or a bend

Coolafunshoge (Cúil an Fuinseog)
the corner of the ash trees

Section 3 (page 4)

Ballinacor (Baile na Corra)
the place of the weirs or the pointed hills

Glenphilpeen (Gleann Philibín)
Philip's Glen

Kilcommon (Cillín Chaoimhín)
St. Kevin's cell

Lugduff (Logdubh)
a dark hollow

Ballyshonog (Baile Sionnach)
the place of the foxes

Ballyraheen (Baile Ráithín)
the place of the ring fort

Section 4 (page 6)

Mullinacuffe
Mullach is a hill

Coolboy (Cúl Buí)
cúl is 'back of' and buí is 'yellow'

Coolattin (Cúil Aitinn)
a corner of furze

Section 5 (page 8)

Ballynultagh (Baile an Ultaigh)
the place of the Ulsterman

Ballyknocker (Baile Cnocar)
a hilly place

Section 6 (page 9)

Balisland (Baile Uí Fhaolaín)
Whelan's place

Ballingate (Baile an Gheata)
the place of the gate

Drummin (Druimin)
a little hill

Raheengraney
(Ráithín Grainne or Ráithín Gréine)
*the ring fort of Grainne or
the ring fort of the sun*

Glenachouk (Gleann na Seabhach)
the glen of the hawks

Newry (Baile Fearainn)
woodlands

Money (An Muine)
the thicket

Section 7 (page 10)

Moyacomb (Mágh Dhá Chon)
*the plain of the two hounds:
these could be the two hounds of
Fionn Mac Cúmhall
or the rivers Derry and Slaney*

Ballyredmond (Baile Reamainn)
the home of the Redmonds

Clonogan (Cluain Ógáin)
Hogan's meadow

Garryhasten (Garraí Oisín)
Oisín's garden

Abbeydown (Mainistir Donn)
the monastery of the brown monks

Ballyshonock (Baile Sionnach)
the place of the foxes

Clonegal (Cluain na nGall)
meadow of the stranger

Section 8 (page 12)

Kildavin (Cill Damháin)
the church of Damháin

Ballinvalley (Baile an Bhealaig)
townland of the way

Ballypierce (Baile Phiarais)
the home of Pearse

continued.....

Meaning of Irish Townland Names

.....continued

Ballyshancarragh
(Baile Sheáin Charraigh)
home of John of the rock

Ballyshonock (Baile Sionnach)
home of foxes

Bunnagurragh (Bun na gCurrach)
bottom of the marsh / mouth of the river

Cranemore (An Crann Mór)
the big tree
(An Corrán Mór)
the land with big stones
pointing upwards

Crowsgrove (Garrán Crowe)
grove of Crowe

Drumderry (Drom Doire)
hill of oak

Glebe (An Ghléib)
the sod

Kilcarry (Cill Cárthaigh)
the church of Cárthach

Lackabeg (An Leaca Beag)
the small hillside

Raheen (Raithín)
the fort



Another view of the River Derry turning into Clonegal



Note the arched stone work close to the road surface; this is the parapet of the original Clonegal Bridge