



Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann  
Royal Irish Academy

# Town & country

## Perspectives from the Irish Historic Towns Atlas

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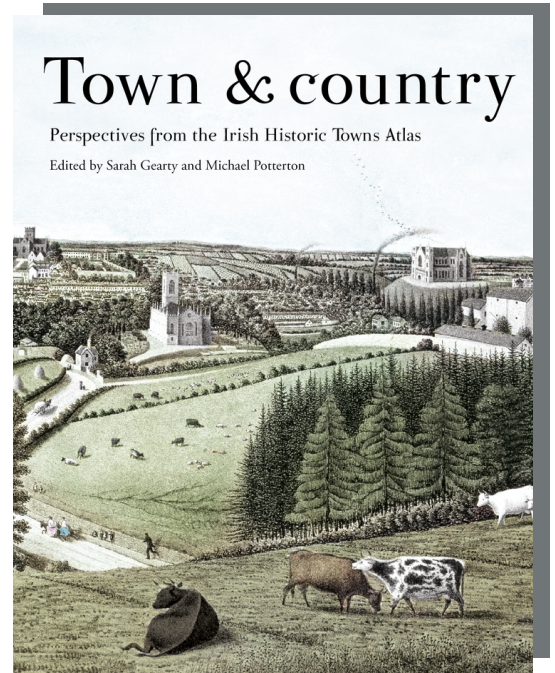
**Sarah Gearty, Michael Potterton**

The interconnection between town and country is the central theme in this new volume. It is based on a seminar held in 2021 where contributors used and compared historic town atlases to understand how the urban landscape interacted with its suburban surroundings and rural hinterland through time. Four essays focus on Ireland, looking at the enduring and complex relationships between the urban and the rural from monastic times through to the nineteenth century. More broadly, an introduction (by Michael Potterton) gives the international context and a concluding essay (by Chris Dyer) discusses the study of town and country as two very complementary fields of research. *Town and country* is dedicated to the historical geographer and renowned cartographic historian, J.H. Andrews, who died in 2019. It includes Andrews's seminal essay on the topographical development of the town of Kildare, from the first publication of the Irish atlas series in 1986, alongside essays on his life's work and a bibliography of his extensive writings. The book is full colour and illustrated with over 60 maps and images. For further information on IHTA research programme, go to [www.ihta.ie](http://www.ihta.ie).

## Editors

Sarah Gearty is Cartographic and Managing Editor with the Royal Irish Academy's Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA) research programme. She is the co-author (with Fergus O'Ferrall and Martin Morris) of IHTA, no. 22, *Longford* (2010); (co-editor with H.B. Clarke) of the Maps and texts series from the Royal Irish Academy (2013, 2018).

Michael Potterton is a Lecturer and Director of the MA in Local History in the Department of History at Maynooth University. He is Chair of the IHTA and one of two Irish representatives on the International Commission for the History of Towns. He is a member of the editorial board of Proceedings of the RIA, is the Series Editor of Maynooth Studies in Local History and is Principal Investigator on the RIA-funded Moynagh Lough Project. He is a Director of Dublinia and the Medieval Trust and in 2011 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. His publications include (with Margaret Murphy) *Dublin Region in the Middle Ages* (2010) and (with Christiaan Corlett), *The town in medieval Ireland in the light of recent archaeological excavations* (2020).



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