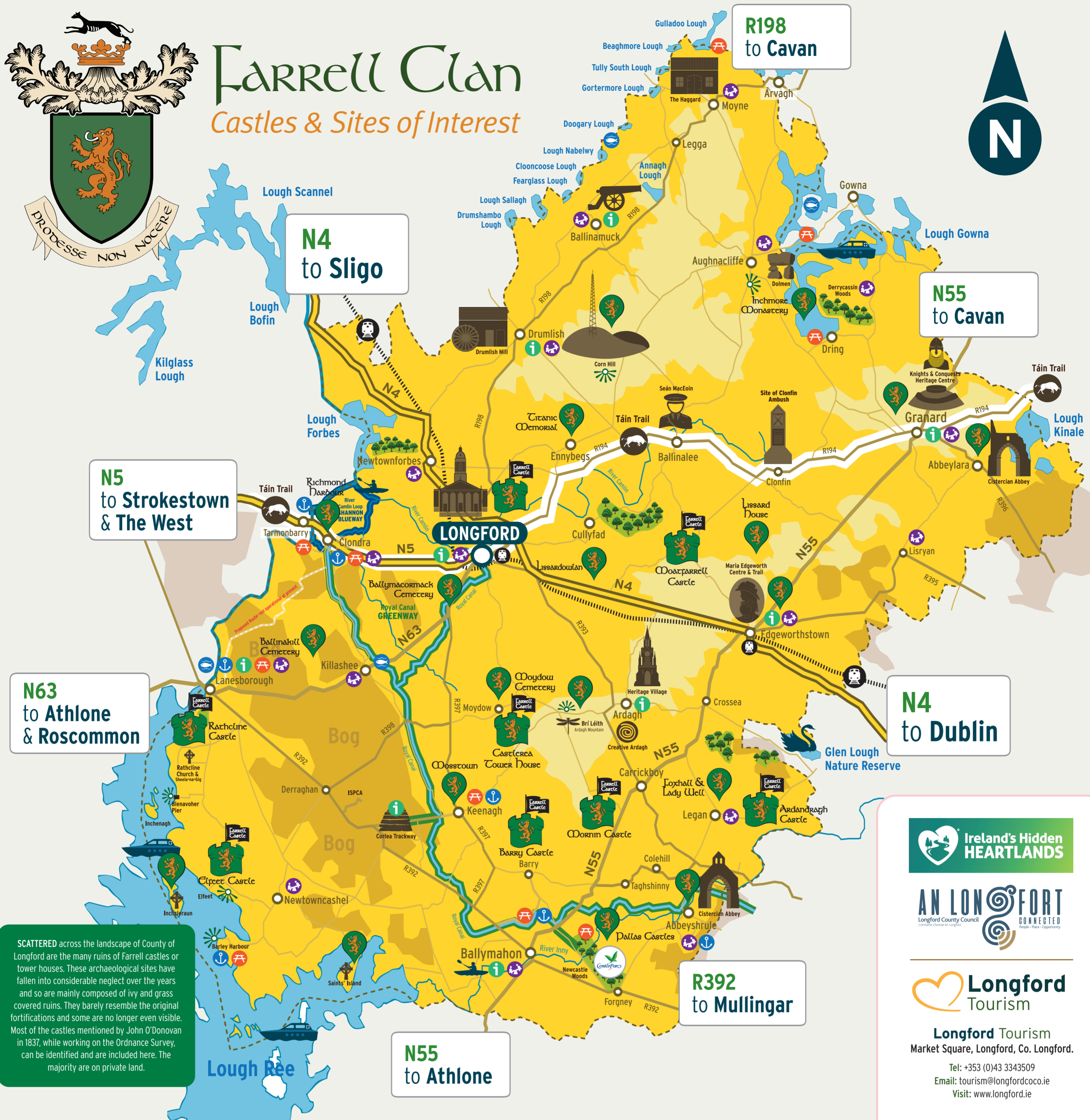




Farrell Clan

Castles & Sites of Interest



SCATTERED across the landscape of County Longford are the many ruins of Farrell castles or tower houses. These archaeological sites have fallen into considerable neglect over the years and so are mainly composed of ivy and grass covered ruins. They barely resemble the original fortifications and some are no longer even visible. Most of the castles mentioned by John O'Donovan in 1837, while working on the Ordnance Survey, can be identified and are included here. The majority are on private land.

Ireland's Hidden HEARTLANDS

AN LONGFORT
Longford County Council

Longford Tourism

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Visit: www.longford.ie

Farrell Castles

- Longford Castle**
The O'Farrells built a fortress or longport, probably in the late 1200s. It gave its name to Longford Town. Later, a stone castle was built on it and after 1774, a barracks was constructed on the site. **Location & Access:** Connolly Barracks gate, north end of Longford Town. Demolished in 1971.
- Castlerea Tower House**
Castlerea has been in the ownership of the Higgins family of the adjacent Castlerea House for the last 100 years. On the right side, the structure has an arched entrance above which there is a lift sq. opening or 'murder hole' - used to stop unwelcome guests. **Location & Access:** 1 mile from Moydow village. Private land.
- Mornin Castle**
Mornin Castle dates from the medieval period and was owned by a branch of the O'Farrells who retained their lands through the turmoil of the 17th century. Four storeys high, it would originally have been fortified by a palisade fence. It was lost to the Jessop family in the 18th century. **Location & Access:** Moydow. Private land.
- Barry Castle**
This castle was levelled to the ground in 1295 by Geoffrey O'Farrell, Chieftain of Annaly. Barry was an Anglo-Norman castle and he attacked it and others in the area at the time. Only a mound of stones is visible. **Location & Access:** Parish of Taghshinny, outside Barry Village, South Longford. Private land.
- Ardandragh Castle**
Little is known about the history of Ardandragh Castle. John Farrell was granted it in 1620, during the Plantation of Longford. His family lost it in the Cromwellian period. In 1836, the castle was described as ruined. A house was built onto the castle and was owned by the Shaw family for many years. **Location & Access:** Legan. Ruin no longer visible.
- Rathcline Castle**
This medieval tower house was possibly the chief residence of the O'Quinns, Lords of Rathcline. It was taken by the O'Farrells by the 16th century. Later granted to Sir Thomas Dutton, who built a fortified manor against its northern wall, and was later still, remodelled by Sir George Lane c.1667. By 1800 it was largely derelict. The nearby Rathcline Church has an ancient Sile na Gig displayed on one of its walls. **Location & Access:** Approx 3kms from Lanesborough, South Longford. Private land.
- Moatfarrell Castle**
This ancient site was once home to a Motte and Bailey castle owned by the O'Farrells. It was used as an inauguration site for the Clan Chieftaincy. **Location & Access:** Between Ballinallee and Edgeworthstown. Private land.
- Eifeet Castle**
Late medieval tower house, probably built by the O'Farrells of the Callows onto an earlier Anglo-Norman bawn wall. **Location & Access:** Shores of Lough Ree, near Newtowncashel. Private land.

Farrell Sites

- St Mel's Cathedral**
The foundation stone was taken from an early church ruin in Ardagh, associated with St. Mel, beneath which the saint is said to be buried. **Location & Access:** Centre of Longford town, reopened in 2014 after 2009 fire. Public access.
- Corn Hill**
Highest point in the county, site of an ancient cairn and known variously as Sliabh Uillen, Sliabh Chairbre, Carr Clann Aodha and Cairn Clonhugh after one of the branches of the O'Farrell family. **Location & Access:** Killoe Parish. Public access.
- Titanic Memorial**
The James Farrell Titanic monument was unveiled in April 2012. The monument commemorates the deeds of James Farrell who lost his life while ensuring the survival of fellow passengers. **Location & Access:** Ennybegs Village. Public access.
- Inchmore Monastery**
Founded in the 6th century by Saint Colmcille, it was raided by the Vikings in 931. The 12th century saw it conform to Augustinian rule. It continued until 1540s. **Location & Access:** Lough Gowna. Private land.
- Old Granard**
Granard was an important Anglo-Norman settlement and O'Farrell site. It was destroyed by Edward Bruce in 1315. Excavations in Granardkill in 2002 revealed evidence of a later town. **Location & Access:** North Longford. Private land.
- Granard Motte & Bailey**
Built by Norman Knight, Richard de Tuite around 1199AD. It was erected within a pre-existing ring fort or rath which may have been an inauguration site for the local branch of the Farrell clan. **Location & Access:** North Longford. Public access.
- Abbeylara Abbey**
There was a Cistercian monastery in Abbeylara, founded by the Anglo-Norman Richard de Tuite, c.1200. Its last abbot was Richard O'Farrell and he had it dissolved in 1540 during the Reformation. **Location & Access:** North Longford. Private land.
- Abbeyshrule Cistercian Abbey**
Founded by the Cistercians c.1200AD, this monastic site was built next to what was a stronghold of the O'Farrell Buighe Sept. A tower house was built beside the monastery in the sixteenth century. **Location & Access:** South Longford. Public access.
- Foxhall & Lady Well**
Foxhall was the home of the Fox family, probably built on the site of a castle. Lady Well was the site of a church that was built in 1730 by John Farrell. **Location & Access:** Legan village. Private land.
- Saints' Island**
A 200-acre 'island' which has been long-united with the mainland by a causeway since the 1650s. It is the site of an Augustinian church ruin, which was founded c. 1200 by the Anglo-Norman Dillon family. It fell within the territory of the O'Farrell Buidhe who controlled it for most of its history, supplying several of the known priors. **Location & Access:** Shore of Lough Ree in South Longford. Public access.
- Inchcleraun Island**
Named after Clothra, sister of the legendary Queen Maebhbh of Connacht and reputed ancestor of the O'Farrells. It is supposedly where she was slain by her vengeful nephew. Site of a monastery founded by St. Diarmuid, teacher of St. Ciaran of Clonmacnois, in 540AD. Burial site of clan members - the O'Farrells, the O'Cuinn and O'Breens. **Location & Access:** Lough Ree. Accessible by boat.
- Ballymacormack Church**
Church remains can be found in the cemetery. The church dates from the medieval period and served the parish of Ballymacormack. **Location & Access:** Outskirts of Longford. Public access.
- Mosstown, Keenagh**
Site of the O'Farrell Castle at Keenagh. **Location & Access:** Near the Dovecote, Keenagh. Private land.
- Lissard House**
Site of home of the More O'Farrells, Catholic land agents in the 20th century. **Location & Access:** Edgeworthstown. Private land.
- Richmond Harbour, Clondra**
Cut stone harbour, which was once the point from which many emigrants, including O'Farrells, embarked on their journey from Longford to America and the New World. It's also the start/end point of the Royal Canal Greenway. **Location & Access:** Near the Goldsmith monument at Pallas. Private land.
- Pallas Castles**
There are ruined castles at Pallas More and Pallas Beg which were probably owned by the O'Farrells. **Location & Access:** Near the Goldsmith monument at Pallas. Private land.
- Old Moydow Cemetery**
Resting place of the O'Farrells of Mornin. The oldest headstone dates to 1640. **Location & Access:** Moydow. Public access.
- Lissardowlan Site**
This was once a principal seat of the O'Farrells with a sizeable community and castle built by Sean Ó Fearghail in 1377. **Location & Access:** On the N4, outside Longford Town. Private land.
- Ardagh & Bri Leith**
The Heritage Village of Ardagh is a site of primary importance in the ecclesiastical history of County Longford and was closely associated with the O'Farrell family from the mid 14th century. Following the split in the clan in 1445, and subsequent division of Anghaile into two regions, Bri Leith (Ardagh Hill) may have acted as an inauguration site for the southern O'Farrell Buidhe. **Location & Access:** Ardagh Village is off the R393, Bri Leith, is just west of the village and has a beautiful, sign-posted, woodland and hill public walk with great views.



Coat of Arms & Crest

The Farrell Coat of Arms and Crest is distinguished by a Golden Lion rampant which signifies bravery, nobility, glory, strength and courage on a green field which signifies hope, joy and love. The golden colour denotes generosity and elevation of mind. The crest is a ducal coronet with an unleashed hound – *Cú reubha* – which translates as 'I Have Broken My Hold'. In Irish folklore, Gaelic poetry and mythology the hound is often used as an epithet to describe a valiant warrior. A famous example of such a warrior in Irish Mythology is the Hound of Cullen – more famously known as *Cú Chulainn* who legend tells us fell victim to the powerful Queen Maedhbh – Ancestral Queen of the Farrell Clan.

Clan Motto

There are a number of mottos associated with the Farrell Clan including *Cú Rue Baid* which translates as 'The Unleashed Hound' and *Cor et Manus Concordant* which translates as 'Hand and Heart are in Concord'. They encompass the many wonderful character traits that are evident of the noble O'Farrells but the most popular motto used is that here below: **Prodesse Non Nocere – 'To do Good not Evil'**

Longford Farrell Clan

Our Longford-based clan have a dedicated core committee, comprised of Farrell family members, relatives and friends. We meet regularly throughout the year to discuss how best to promote our Farrell Clan activities, celebrate important dates for members, organise mini gatherings, dinners and daytrips, but also just to catch up on local news, events and projects of interest.

Clan Rallies

The most important event and project for us and indeed for all of our clan members around the world, is the Farrell Clan Rally. Held every four years here in Longford this is a five day gathering of Farrells from every corner of the globe who come together in celebration of our shared ancestral roots. The rally has been taking place since 1993 so there are many interesting images to view of those gatherings on our clan website.

Clan Connections

The Farrell Clan is a long standing, registered member of the Clans of Ireland, via which we connect, communicate, and celebrate with other family clans from around the Island and abroad. We also maintain a modern website and manage a dedicated Facebook group with over four thousand members. We are happy to have our members contribute to the clan in whatever way is meaningful to them. The more you engage with us the more vibrant and rewarding the clan family will be for you.

Become a Clan Member

We offer a number of Farrell Clan membership possibilities which include annual and lifetime membership options. These membership packages all include a beautifully designed Clan Certificate and a quarterly newsletter with all kinds of interesting content from Farrells here in the Hidden Heartlands of Ireland, as well as our members around the world.

Become a Clan Ambassador

Would you like to act as a Farrell Clan Ambassador for your country? If so, we would love to hear from you! We want to make connections with Farrell people in as many countries around the world as possible so we can trace where our Farrells are, what they are up to and what kind of history the Clans have in those countries. Our hope is that by having dedicated Farrell Ambassadors we will be able to connect more efficiently and coordinate our activities across countries – a Farrell Clan without barriers, borders or boundaries and connected by history, heritage and haemetics.

Farrell Clan History

The O'Farrell territory of Anghaile or Annaly grew out of a larger territory occupied by the Conmaicne people, which included part of neighbouring County Leitrim. Annaly was shired and became County Longford in 1570.

The Clans of Annaly

In Ireland, the word 'clan', or 'clann' (in the Irish language), was used in different senses in the medieval period. It could mean those who had the same surname or, more specifically, the descendants of a particular individual. In the latter case, it could mean that those who were closely related had common interests in landownership. However, political power was exercised by the head/chief over a particular territory and did not extend to relatives in other territories.

The clans who occupied the lands of County Longford in times past were as follows: O'Farrell, O'Fox, O'Mulfeeny (O'Feeny), O'Quinn, McGilligan, MacRonan, McGowan, McCormack, McGilchrist, O'Slevin, O'Sheridan, McHugh and McConway. There were also two Anglo Norman families: the Flemings and the Tuites. The location of the above clans is easy to pinpoint because of the prevalence of their names among the people of the present day. We of course are focused on O'Farrells, the Chieftans of Annaly, who held sway over the lands of Annaly from the 1100s right up to the reign of James 1st of England.

The O'Farrells of Annaly

The *Uí Fhearghail* – O'Ferralls or O'Farrells, claim to be descended from Ir, son of Milesius through their ancestor Conmac, son of Fergus Mac Roigh and the legendary Maedhbh (Maev) Iron Age Queen of Connaught, from whom they derive their clan name, Conmaicne – the race of Conmac. The chief clans of the Conmaicne were the MacRannals, MacDonoughs, O'Duignans and the O'Farrells. They were princes of Annaly, their chief seat noted as being at Longford town, called in Irish, *Longphort Uí Fhearghail*, which translates as 'O'Farrells Stronghold'. The famous ancient saga *Táin Bó Cúailnge* or 'Cattle Raid of Cooley' illustrates the prowess of Queen Maeve and part of the trail crosses north County Longford, passing through Longford Town.

The name *Uí Fhearghail*, translates as 'followers of Fearghal' and the name Fearghal is assumed to derive from the Gaelic words *Fear* which translates as 'Man' and *Ghal* which translates as 'Valour', so we arrive at 'Man of Valour' or a similar version 'Valiant Warrior'. Some sources say that Fearghal, King of Conmaicne, was indeed 'a valiant warrior' slain at

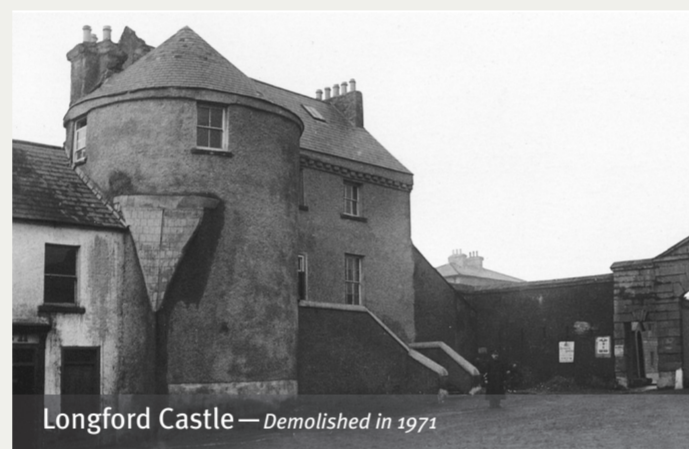
the famous battle of Clontarf in 1014. He was one of only a few Irish Chieftans who fought alongside Brian Boru against the Vikings and one of only three from the lands now known as Leinster who did so, the other two being the O'Nolans and the O'Mores. Many of the other clans fought with the Vikings or through petty jealousies didn't involve themselves at all.

The name *Anghaile* or Annaly is said to have originated with Anghal, great-grandson of Fearghal, who had also given his name to the greater family group the Muintear Anghaile, of which the Uí Fhearghail were the dominant members. By the middle of the 12th century the clan had gained possession of most of the lands. This prosperity was disrupted by the Anglo-Norman invasion of the 12th century, but by the 15th century, they had reasserted considerable control over the territory. They had however also by this time, due to internal clan conflict over the Lordship of Anghaile, divided into two clan subgroups, Clann Seaáin / *Ó Fearghail Bán* (White O'Farrell) and *Clann Murchadha/ Ó Fearghail Buidhe* (Yellow O'Farrell), controlling the north and south of Annaly respectively. Although there were also a plethora of Gaelic Irish and Anglo Norman families in the area during this time period, there was little internal opposition to the Uí Fhearghails domination of the Lordship of Anghaile, indeed they monopolised the Chieftancy of Anghaile from the time the clan first appeared in the area claiming rights of ownership. It was the internal feuding of the clan that ultimately led to the end of a single Ó Fearghail Lordship of the territory.

The title of Ó Fearghail went to the ruling Lord (*Taoiseach*) and that title did not necessarily go from father to son, but by a more complex process that involved choosing from a large kin group. Often, the strongest succeeded. The Lord's household was where the greatest concentration of wealth and political influence was evident, with any economic surplus within the clan channelled into that household, helping to maintain their status. The core lands of the medieval Lordship of Anghaile are noted by Neil Farrell in his research paper for *Longford: History & Society*, as being 'clustered in two distinct segments, the south eastern lands encompassing most of the Barony of Shrule in the possession of the Ó Fearghail Buidhe and the rest, further north, encompassing much of the Barony of Granard, in the possession of the Ó Fearghail Bán'.

The bitter internal division between the branches of the Uí Fhearghail which saw the establishment of two separate chieftancies also meant separate inauguration sites, a situation which 'interfered significantly with the internal workings of the lordship'. The Lords of the Ó Fearghail Buidhe used *Móta Uí Fhearghail* (Moatfarrell) while in the north the Ó Fearhaile Bán used *Ráith Granard* (the Moat of Granard). Their territory was then reduced under the colonial confiscations of James 1st and Oliver Cromwell with many of the clan members becoming tenants of the new English and Scottish landlords. In 1570 the two main septs of the O'Farrell clan surrendered their lands to the crown. This account of the history of the Uí Fhearghail provides only a brief glimpse into what is a lengthy, complex and truly fascinating historical story involving many interesting chieftans, battles, murders, marriages and mayhem of all kinds due to clan rivalry.

The Farrells have been associated with this midland region for more than 1,000 years, in that time having built many castles and fine tower houses of note including their main fortress at Longford Town. The Clan lost its control of the area by the mid-1600s when leading military members were forced to take flight and joined the armies of France and Spain. The majority remained settled in County Longford and the surrounding counties of Roscommon and Westmeath. Others moved to the cities in search of a livelihood with Dublin being the most popular destination. Farrells are presently very plentiful in the county of Longford but there are also thousands of Farrells in Ireland and throughout the world, the majority of whom can trace their ancestry right back here to the Hidden Heartlands of Ireland and the County of Longford. Internationally most people with Farrell origins are in the UK (England, Scotland and Wales), USA, Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, New Zealand, Australia and Argentina. We also have members from South Africa, Zimbabwe, France, Germany, Spain and Belgium. Our current Ó Fearghail (Farrell Clan Chieftan), Conal Connie O'Ferrall, is a man of great honour, wit and wisdom, who is held in high esteem by members of the Farrell Clan from around the world. He is a worthy chieftain who along with his wonderful wife Rose has been leading our Longford Farrell Clan since its founding in 1991, representing us and the County of Longford at events, locally, nationally and Internationally.



Longford Castle — Demolished in 1971



St Mel's Cathedral



Corn Hill



Granard Motte



Inchmore Monastic Ruins



Titanic Memorial



Castlereagh Tower House



Saints' Island



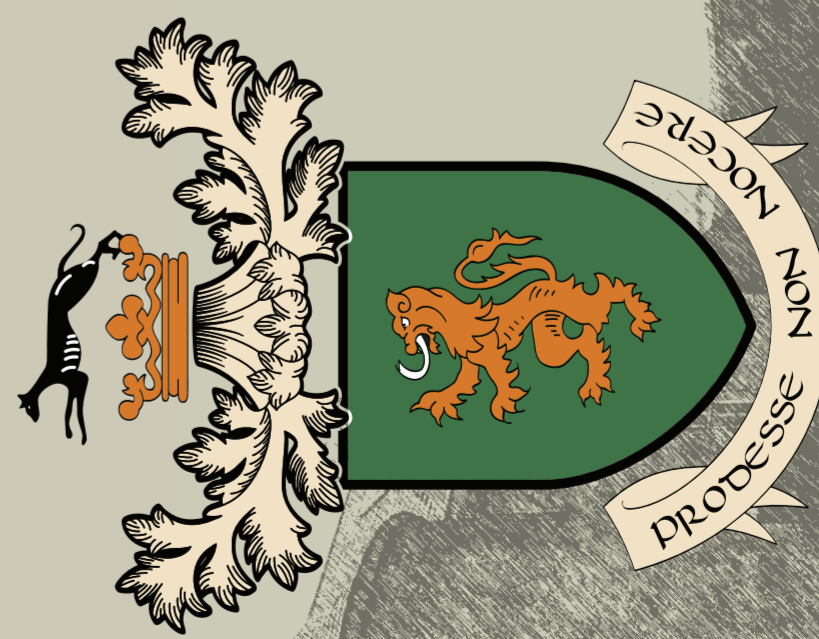
Rathline Castle

Getting Here



Farrell Clan

Castles, Sites & History of the Farrell Clan Homeland



MAP Explore and enjoy County Longford

594/30

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By Rail: Irish Rail
The Dublin-Sligo train passes through County Longford, stopping at Edgeworthstown and Longford town. Up to 12 trains travel daily, taking the 50min to Dublin Connolly and the 20mins to Sligo (Maeldubhara).
www.irishrail.ie

By Bus: Bus Éireann
The Expressway services of Ballina-Dublin and Sligo-Dublin pass through Longford town (direct to airport and city). There is also a Longford-Cavan service and a Longford-Athlone service with connections in Athlone to Limerick, Cork and Galway. For more info contact: [Longford Station: +353 043 3343208](tel:+3530433343208)

Farrell Clan Officers
If you would like to connect with any of our clan officers you can email to the addresses noted on our Contact section of the site where you'll also find a short bio for each elected member. We are here to help you learn about your clan and your country of origin. For more info email: info@farrellclan.ie