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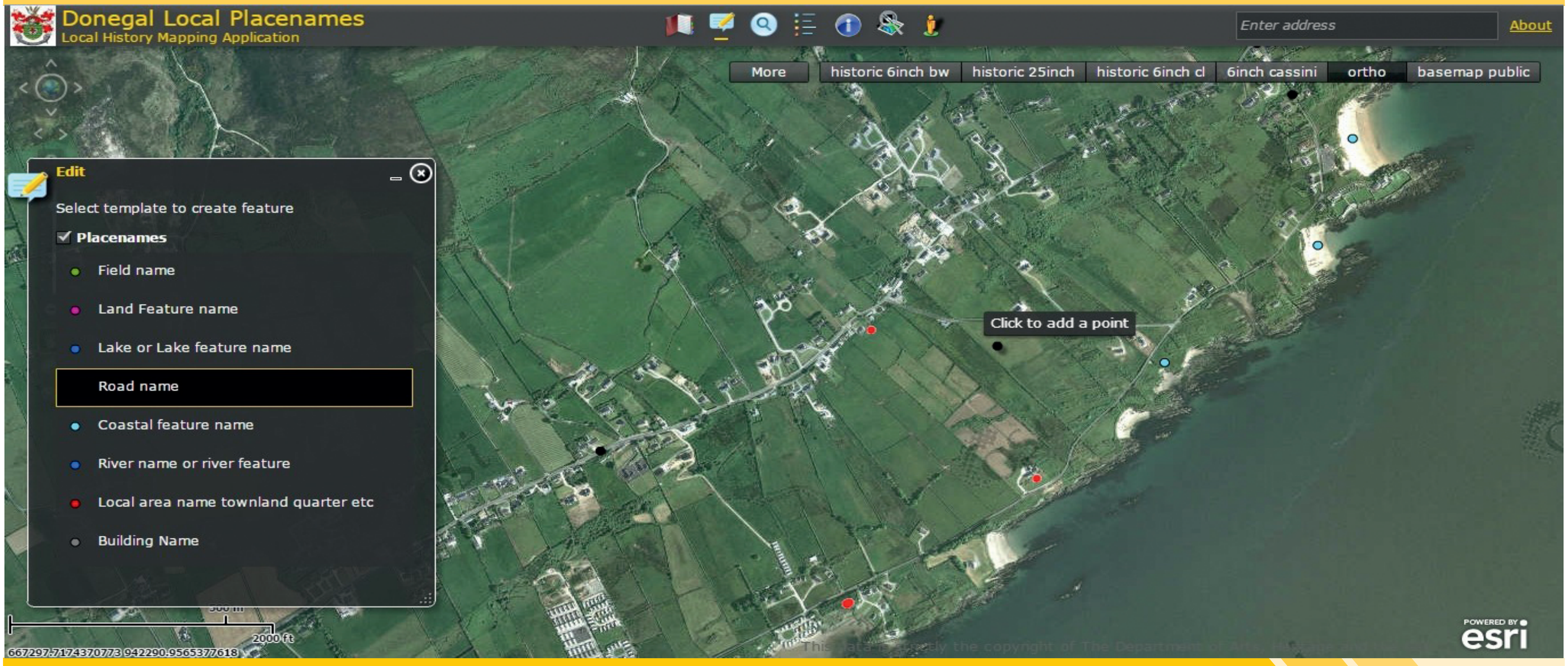


Participative GIS Tools

Project to preserve the local knowledge by working with local communities in County Donegal where, through the use Geographic Information Systems (GIS), they are able to “crowdsource” information only known locally. This initiative serves to empower and build up active digitizing communities.

Issues Faced

In an age of Digital Cartography, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Big Data, local knowledge and folklore of the surrounding landscape is being lost and is dying out with an ageing population.

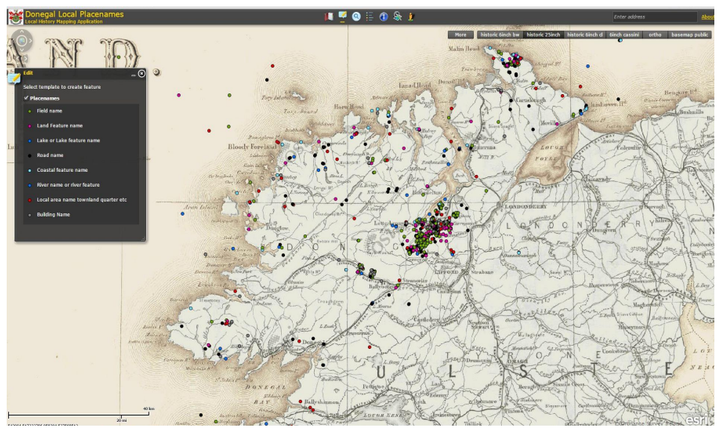
There is a real need of preserving this local knowledge seen as invaluable heritage that otherwise will be lost and impossible to obtain in the future.

Key Objectives

- Curtail the loss of local knowledge by capturing it in and sharing it through user-friendly GIS tools.
- Empower the role that the community may play in the provision of public information and services.
- Improve the public information management processes through a more intense and adequate use of digital technologies.

Main Results

- First crowdsourcing type project carried out in Donegal allowing the community to be a key player in the provision of public services.
- Easy-to-use map application accessible through the Donegal Map Portal that will be a resource for tracing family histories and researching local landscapes and folklore.
- Cost saving by allowing free access to digital maps avoiding the costly paper-produced ones.



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