AncientIreland.ie
Walking in Ancient Steps

Family Trees & DNA Guide

Organise your tree and understand analysis tools alongside documentary evidence.



Cahir Castle, County Tipperary — John5199 — CC BY 2.0

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Cover: a photograph of the identified site. This guide supports research and planning; records, admission and provider terms can change.

Family Trees

Keep evidence beside each relationship

Use full names, dates as recorded and source references. Mark uncertain links. Review suggested matches before accepting them and keep an export of your research.

Before choosing a platform

• Can you export your tree and source references?

• Who can see living people and private notes?

• Is the tree personal or shared with other contributors?

• Which features or records require payment?

Family-tree platforms

Ancestry

Tree building and record searching. Check subscription features and privacy settings.

FamilySearch

Explore its family-tree and records services; understand shared-tree editing before contributing.

Findmypast

Explore records and tree options; check collection coverage and plan terms.

MyHeritage

Explore tree and matching services; check limits and personal-data settings.

Sources & further reading

• IrishGenealogy: civil and church records

• GRONI historic records

• National Archives census search

Useful links

https://www.ancestry.co.uk/

https://www.familysearch.org/

https://www.findmypast.co.uk/

https://www.myheritage.com/

https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/faq/

https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/go-groni-online

https://nationalarchives.ie/collections/search-the-census/

Analysis & DNA Tests

Choosing a DNA kit

Choose by your research question, matching features, data exports, privacy terms and total cost. Check supply and processing in your country. Read the provider’s current product information before buying.

AncestryDNA

Review current product, matching features and privacy information.

MyHeritage DNA

Review the current product, matching options and consent settings.

Tools for existing results

GEDmatch

Compare compatible DNA data and explore genealogy tools. Read current privacy and law-enforcement matching choices before uploading.

MyTrueAncestry

Explore comparisons with ancient samples. Treat results as interpretation, rather than proof of descent from a named historical person.

DNA Painter

Explore chromosome mapping and relationship tools to help organise evidence from matches.

Keep control of your DNA data

AncientIreland.ie does not collect or process raw DNA files. Upload only at a chosen provider, with informed permission from the person tested. Review matching, sharing and deletion first.

Sources & further reading

- Gedmatch
- GEDmatch privacy policy
- Mta
- Dna Painter

Useful links

https://www.ancestry.co.uk/dna/

https://www.myheritage.com/dna

https://www.gedmatch.com/

https://mytrueancestry.com/en/

https://dnapainter.com/

https://www.gedmatch.com/privacy-policy-october-21-2025/

Your notes & next actions

Question or task	Source / date	Next action