



20th International Geography Olympiad

Maynooth, Ireland

19th – 23rd August 2024

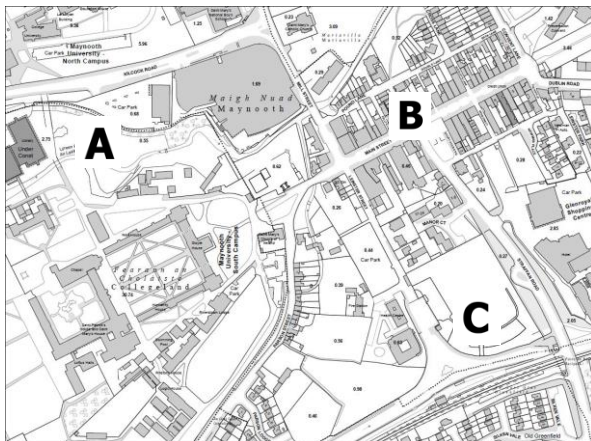
20th August 2024 - Fieldwork Exercise

INFORMATION BOOKLET

Source 1 - Map of Fieldwork Locations

The fieldwork will take place within walking distance of Maynooth University campus, taking in several sites on campus and in the wider town of Maynooth. There are 3 sites for fieldwork in the morning (A – C) where you will be asked to carry out several tasks. These tasks will provide data which will help you do the Problem Solving Activity this afternoon.

Map of Maynooth and the fieldwork sites (source: Open Street Map)



A: St Patrick's College and Maynooth University South Campus

B: Main Street

D: Maynooth Train Station and the Royal Canal

The IGEO Fieldwork Exercise is based around three enquiry questions about active travel. Please have these in your mind as you carry out the tasks today:

- How does Maynooth town and University help its residents and visitors achieve SDG3?
- How is good health encouraged for all in the design and facilities of the town and university?
- How could personal mobility and physical exercise to support well-being, be increased in Maynooth for all people?

Source 2 - Background Information on Sustainability and Health

World Health Organisation (WHO) 'health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity'.

Figure 1: Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations)



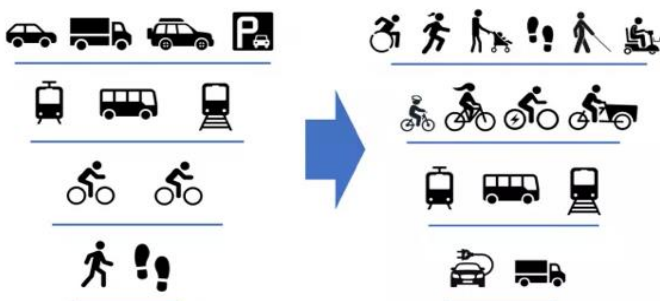
The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agreed in 2015 and set the agenda for global development to 2030. Sustainable Development Goal 3: 'ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages', with the target 3.4: To reduce mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health.

Figure 2: 5 Ways to Well-being (New Economic Foundation)



Active Travel is promoted in Ireland as part of the Climate Action Plan. It is defined in as "travelling with a purpose, using your own energy".

Figure 3: Symbols representing active travel (source: Dublin City Council)



Health, movement are all closely connected. Physical, mental and social well-being are encouraged by personal mobility and exercise, walking, cycling, meeting others and building a community through regular contact. Cycling, walking, wheeling, and using a non-motorised scooter to make journeys to work, school, or shops are all forms of active travel.

By 2030, the UN aims to reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.

Within the IGEO Fieldwork Exercise you will apply your geographical knowledge and skills to consider how SDG3 can be enacted in Maynooth. You will critically assess places and spaces in Maynooth during the morning. And in the afternoon, you will carry out a plan to promote mental health and well-being for all people.

Source 3 - Descriptions of Fieldwork Locations

Location A - St Patrick's College and Maynooth University

Located at the western edge of Maynooth town, between the Lyreen River and the Royal Canal lies the campus shared by St Patrick's College and Maynooth University. First established in 1795 as a seminary to educate priests, today the campus is home to St Patrick's Pontifical University and several departments of Maynooth University.

Location B – Maynooth Main Street and the Avenue

Maynooth was an important medieval stronghold but by the early 18th century was largely run-down with some parts in ruins. However, from the 1750s the village was re-developed along a new Main Street that provided a line from the old seat of the Fitzgerald family at Maynooth Castle and their new estate at Carton House. Carton Avenue was given as a public amenity in the care of Kildare County Council in 1981, having previously been part of the Carton Estate.

Location C - The Royal Canal and Maynooth Station

The Royal Canal was designed in the late 18th century and was built between 1790 and 1817, reaching Maynooth in 1796. The Canal is 175 km long, with 76 locks, 65 aqueducts and 85 bridges. Historically it was used for passengers and freight. When the railways arrived, passengers transferred to the quicker rail service. The harbour, known locally as Duke's Harbour, is roughly triangular in shape and on the north side of the canal, opposite the railway station. The Midland Great Western Railway opened their main line from Broadstone, Dublin, to Maynooth in 1848. Surprisingly for such a large town, Maynooth Station was closed between 1947 and 1981 when the new commuter service to Maynooth began running. In 2005 Maynooth Station gained a new modern booking office, with a glass edifice, along with platform extensions but the original signal cabin, platforms and station masters house remain.

THE IRISH TIMES

Tuesday 30th July 2024

Olivia Kelly



The extension of rail services to 600,000 people, trebling the current network, is finally moving forward with the grant of permission to bring the Dublin Area Rapid Transport (DART) to Maynooth, Co Kildare.

The Maynooth DART, first announced almost 20 years ago, has been approved by An Bord Pleanála (the planning board in Ireland), with services expected to start running on the line by the end of the decade, Irish Rail said.

The €1 billion project, Irish Rail is calling Dart+ West will double train services along the Maynooth line from six to 12 per hour per direction, increasing hourly passenger capacity from 5,000 to more than 13,000 each way.

Dart+ West is the first phase of Irish Rail's plans for a major expansion of Dart services, which also includes the electrification of rail lines and other upgrades around Dublin.