

Kildare County Development Board

Rural-Urban Dynamics in Kildare: Socio-economic patterns and trends

April 2006

taking a closer look at our county,
demographically, economically
and socially



Rural-Urban Dynamics in Kildare: Socio-economic patterns and trends

Prepared for

Kildare County Development Board

by

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FOREWORD



This profile is one of a series of documents produced by Kildare County Development Board as part of the process of reviewing its activities and planning for the future. In producing the profile the board examined the social, economic, cultural and recreational trends that reflect the County in which we live. A detailed analysis of this information provided the basis from which the future work of the board was planned, Kildare County Development Board Action Plan 2006-2008.

A major finding of this report has been the emergence of the urban-rural complexities that exist in County Kildare. While many of these complexities pose great opportunities for the County and strengthen the diverse environment Kildare offers, they also present a broad range of challenges that need to be addressed in a co-ordinated and integrated manner.

This document provides a basis from which the work of statutory and voluntary agencies in Kildare can be planned, and provides a solid validation for focusing our work in areas that experience disadvantage and on those who experience isolation and social exclusion. It gives us clear indicators of quality of life issues that affect citizens in Kildare and highlights the needs and gaps that exist.

Kildare County Development Board created a vision in 2002, with the launch of Kildare 2012, A Social, Cultural & Economic Strategy. This profile marks an important step in realising that vision and provides the foundation from which we can target and focus our resources on issues of most need. It is a valuable resource that can be used by all agencies on the County Development Board in planning and co-ordinating service delivery so as to ensure that Kildare becomes the first choice as a place to live, learn, work, visit and do business.

Niall Bradley
Kildare County Manager

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

In 2002 Kildare County Development Board prepared a socio-economic profile of the county, using the 1996 Census data, which was used to inform the actions detailed in *Kildare 2012, a strategy for the economic, social and cultural development of the county*. The purpose of this report is to update the profile. It contains detailed mapping which illustrates patterns within the county using data from the 2002 Census of Population as well as other data sources. It further considers how Kildare has changed since the 1996 Census. The key issues that emerged while compiling this profile, have been used by the CDB in preparing their action plan for the period 2006-2008.

The county of Kildare has an area of 169,426 hectares with a population of 163,944 in 2002. It is one of the most rapidly growing counties in Ireland with a population increase of 21.4% over the 1996-2002 period compared with an 8% increase for the country as a whole. The geographical position of the county is hugely important to any analysis of recent development trends and future prospects. Although the county is part of the Greater Dublin Area, much of its boundary is shared with counties that are part of the Objective One Border Midlands West (BMW) region. Development in the north-east of the county is very much influenced by the opportunities and pressures emanating from the Dublin metropolitan area, while much of the west and south of the county is more rural and in many ways peripheral. The National Spatial Strategy is based on a more vigorous approach to achieving balanced regional development and was adopted by the government in 2002. Given that there are no Gateways or Hubs located in the county, the challenge for Kildare in the promotion of economic development is even greater than in the past.

Kildare's topography consists of a large fertile plain broken only by a few small hills such as Dunmurry Hill and the Hill of Allen with upland areas mainly on the eastern county boundary. The fertile plain forms part of the central lowlands of Ireland and extends throughout most of the county including the unique landscape of the Curragh. The uplands to the east of the county separate the plains from the Wicklow Mountains and Blessington. There are seven Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within the county as well as 23 Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and one nature reserve. The landscape is also home to a wealth of national monuments as well as a number of significant historical sites at Maynooth, Kildare town and Celbridge.

Recent patterns of growth within the county are to a large extent influenced by both the location of key items of infrastructure as well as the settlement pattern that has developed over centuries. Three national primary roads, the M4/N4, M7/N7 and M9/N9 extend westwards and southwest from Dublin through the county to Galway and Sligo (M4), to Limerick and Cork (M7/N7) and to Waterford (M9/N9). One National Secondary road (N78) extends across the south of the county in a SW-NE direction through Athy. The Dublin-Sligo rail line extends along the north of the county with the Dublin-Cork line transversing the middle of the county and the Dublin-Waterford line extending from the Dublin-Cork line through the south west of the county.

Naas, the county town, is the principal urban centre with more than 18,000 (18,288) inhabitants. Indeed, Newbridge, Celbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth, Athy and Kildare town all have populations in excess of 5,000.

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Many of the smaller settlements north and east of Kildare town have experienced rapid growth over recent years associated with the influx of commuters from Dublin.

1.2 KILDARE IN A REGIONAL CONTEXT

1.2.1 *Settlement Strategy and Planning Policy*

Kildare is located in the Greater Dublin Region which includes the counties of Dublin, Wicklow, Meath and Kildare. Under the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) Dublin is the only designated Gateway in the region while Hubs are located outside the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) in keeping with the overall strategy of achieving balanced regional development.

The Regional Planning Guidelines for the GDA 2004-2016 were published in July 2004 to give effect to the NSS proposals at the regional level. All of County Kildare was designated part of the Hinterland in the Strategic Planning Guidelines 1999. However, in recognition of the fact that the growth of towns and villages within north-east Kildare is directly fuelled by proximity to Dublin, part of this area is included in the Metropolitan Area (including the towns of Celbridge, Kilcock, Leixlip and Maynooth) designation in the more recent Regional Planning Guidelines for the GDA. Most of the remainder of Kildare lies within the hinterlands as defined in the Guidelines (**Map 1**).

The spatial framework underpinning the Kildare County Development Board Strategy, *Kildare 2012 - An Economic, Social & Cultural Strategy*, was formulated taking account of the then Kildare County Development Plan, the GDA Strategic Planning Guidelines, investments under the National Development Plan (NDP) and the emerging proposals (as they were at the time of preparation of the strategy) for the National Spatial Strategy. In line with the County Development Plan, the CDB strategy recognised the potential for three corridors of development in the county: Naas-Newbridge-Kilcullen; Maynooth-Celbridge-Kilcock & Leixlip and Kildare-Monasterevin.

Kildare borders the Midlands and South-East Regions. The Midlands Region has the linked Gateway, as designated in the National Spatial Strategy, of Athlone-Mullingar-Tullamore. The future growth and development of this Gateway will obviously impact on the north-west of County Kildare. To the south of the county there are strong links with the South-East Region, and in particular with Carlow town. The development of the N9 motorway will help Kildare by better linking it with the Gateway of Waterford as well as the Hubs of Kilkenny and Wexford, in addition to the port facilities at Rosslare, Bellview and New Ross.

Naas was nominated as part of a Primary Dynamic Cluster in the Regional Planning Guidelines and is classed as a Large Growth Town Type 1 in the guidelines for the GDA, while Newbridge is classified as a Large Growth Town Type 2. Celbridge, Maynooth, Leixlip and Kilcock are all classed as Moderate Growth Towns in the GDA Regional Planning Guidelines. Naas as the county town lies at the top of the settlement hierarchy within the county but it was recognised that a polycentric approach (for example, Naas-Newbridge-Kilcullen) to urban development offered the most realistic opportunity of developing a locally based counterbalance to the Dublin metropolitan area for employment, service provision and recreational facilities. This was recognised in the action plan developed as part of the CDB strategy.

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The Regional Planning Guidelines place considerable emphasis on the need to create spatial stability capable of delivering the best achievable service level and employment opportunities throughout the entire region. The primary objective is a strong strategic framework with economic and cultural synergies being created if constituent settlements play contemporary roles. The Guidelines identify two Primary Dynamic Clusters: Naas-Newbridge-Kilcullen and Maynooth-Celbridge-Kilcock & Leixlip and one Secondary Dynamic Cluster: Kildare-Monasterevin (**Map 1**).

1.2.2 Economic context

County Kildare occupies 2.4% of the total area of the State and contains 4.2% of the population (2002). The CSO estimate of Gross Value Added (GVA) shows that in 1995, the latest year for which estimates are available at county level, the economy of Kildare contributed 4.1% of the total GVA for the State. Compared to the other counties under the immediate influence of the Dublin metropolitan area the performance in Kildare was quite good as evidenced by a GVA per capita that was 111% of the average for the State, compared with 80% for Wicklow and only 68% for Meath. Similarly, Kildare has a per capita disposable income that is greater than the average for the State. Between 1998 and 2002 the relative position of the Kildare index improved only very slightly (**Table 1**).

Table 1 Output and income indices

	GVA* per capita 1995	Disposable Income per capita 1998	2002
Kildare	111	104.8	104.9
Meath	68	95.0	96.0
Wicklow	80	95.0	100.2
Dublin	127	114.8	100.7
Mid East	88	98.7	113.4
Ireland	100	100.0	100.0

Data Source: CSO.

1.3 REPORT OUTLINE

An understanding of the factors that influence the achievement of an integrated approach to development in all of its dimensions was instrumental in the selection and inclusion of material for this report.

Chapter 2 identifies the major characteristics of the population structure of Kildare and its distribution as well as the dominant driver of demographic change – which in the case of Kildare is large-scale in-migration. Chapter 3 concentrates on the labour force component of the population as it is a major determinant of the amount of wealth creation. The size and characteristics of the labour force varies between different parts of the county and is influenced by demographic attributes such as the age profiles and the different

* Gross Value Added, GVA, is a measure of the value of the goods and services produced in the region priced at the value which the producers received minus any taxes payable and plus any subsidies receivable as a consequence of their production or sale.

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INTRODUCTION

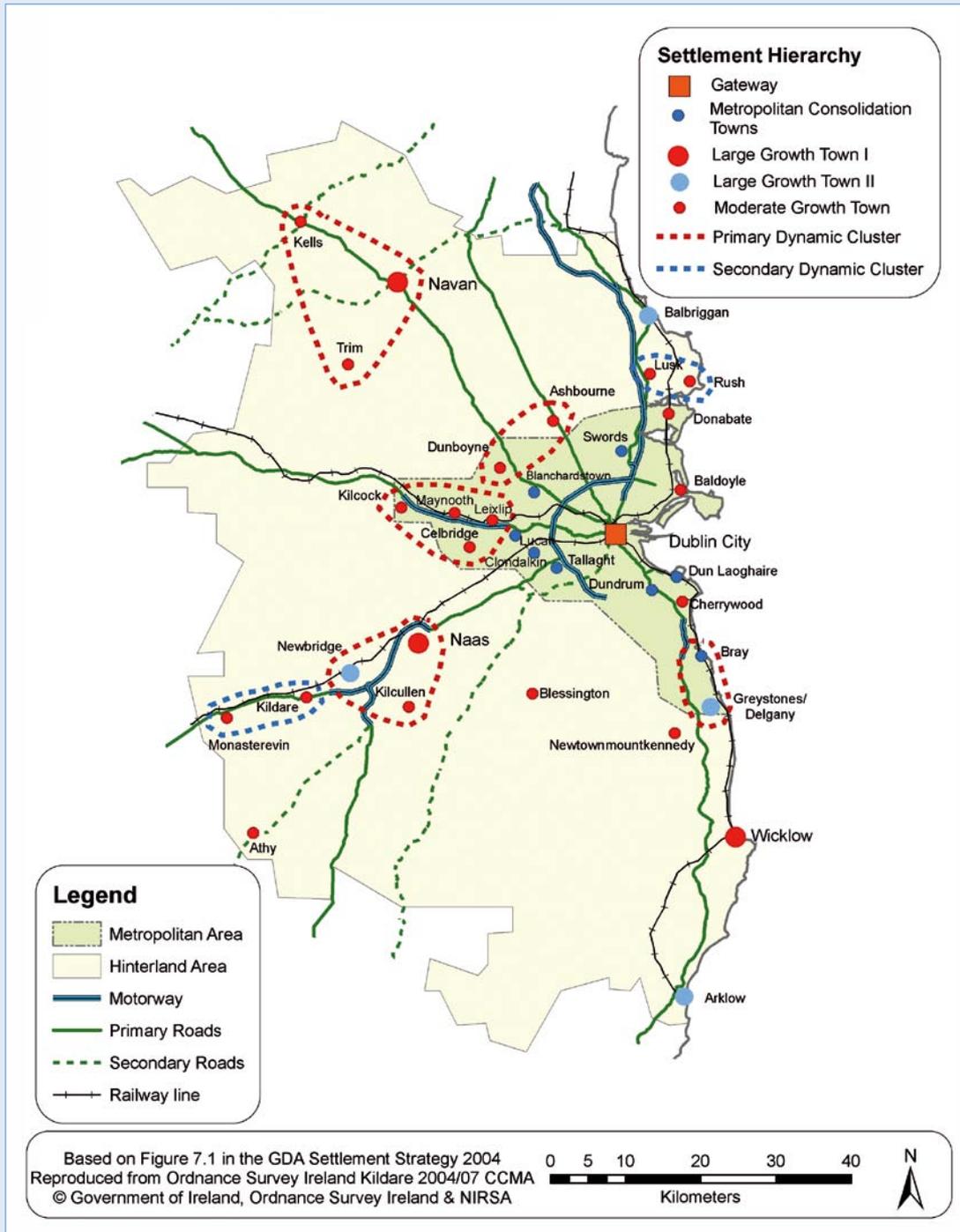
stages of households in the family life cycle. These aspects are considered in Chapter 2 and taken up more fully in Chapter 3 which also provides an in-depth analysis of the industrial sectors in which the workforce is employed. Chapter 4 considers the distributions and structures of the major economic sectors, given that these are major influences on local levels of productivity and competitiveness.

Chapter 5 examines the social context of life in Kildare and is concerned with social indicators, including a range of social exclusion variables. The role of education is explored first and local variations in levels of educational attainment are mapped. Following this the geography of social classes within the county is illustrated. This chapter also highlights that there are many groups in society that may be at risk of exclusion, including lone parents of young families, elderly persons living alone, households without a car, asylum seekers and travellers. The geographical distribution of the groups at risk are mapped and some recent data from the Department of Social & Family Affairs as well as Kildare County Council are also presented.

Chapter 6 concentrates on the wide range of factors that contribute to the quality of life of those living in Kildare. The importance of quality of life is recognised as a key goal in development strategies. Further, variations in quality of life factors are also known to have an influence on private sector investment decisions that may contribute to development of the county. This chapter presents a detailed analysis of housing and travel to work patterns, as well as childcare provision, health, the cultural heritage, leisure and recreational facilities and the quality of the natural environment. Chapter 7 highlights the range of essential supporting infrastructures including transport, water supply, energy and telecommunications provided in the county and their recent and future developments. Chapter 8 provides a synthesis of the spatial patterns that have been examined separately throughout the rest of the report. Finally, a number of conclusions are noted and issues for the CDB to address are identified.

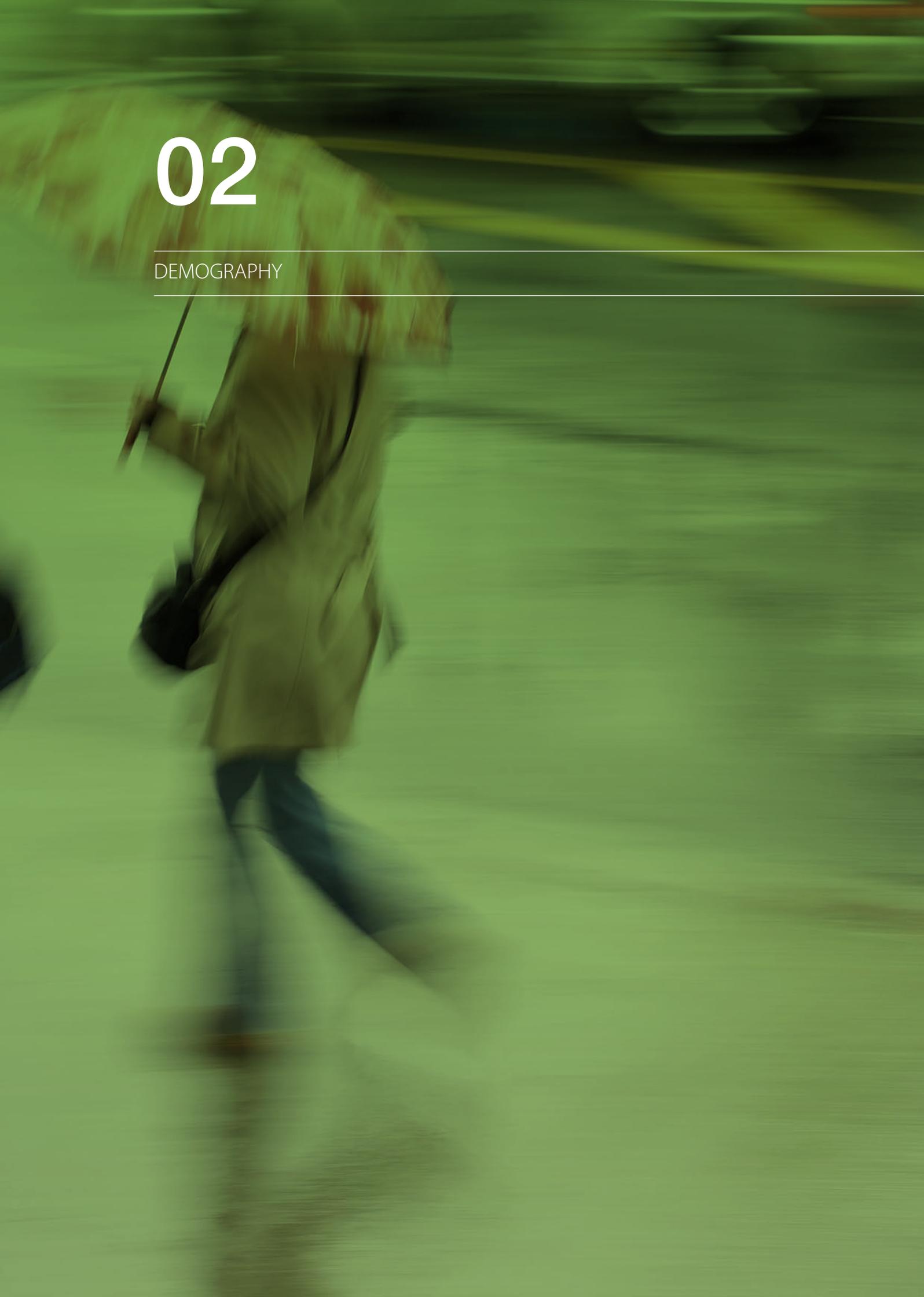
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MAP 1: REGIONAL PLANNING GUIDELINES GREATER DUBLIN AREA:
SETTLEMENT STRATEGY 2004-2016



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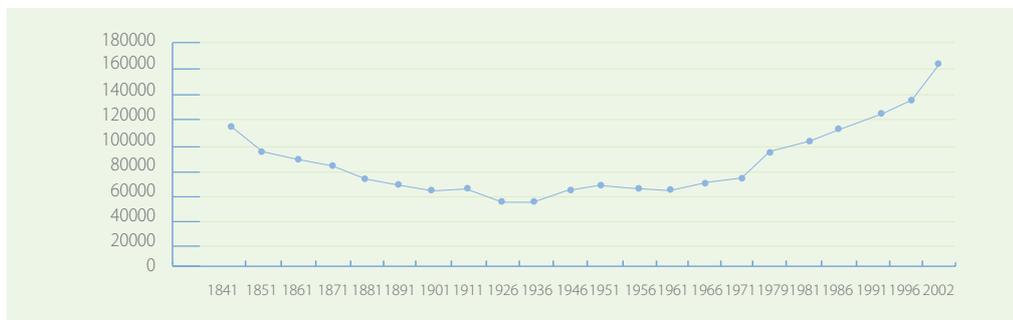
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2.1 INTRODUCTION

The total population of Kildare in 2002 was 163,944 persons and this had likely exceeded 180,000 by the end of 2005. Between 1996 and 2002 the population increased by 28,952 persons, or 21.4%. This was second only to Co. Meath (with a 22.1% increase) in terms of the largest percentage increase experienced by any Irish county over the 1996-2002 period, and was well in excess of the 8% increase for the State. In fact, the rate of population increase in Kildare has exceeded that of the State for each inter-censal period over the past two decades, with rates of 11.6%, 5.5% and 10.1% for the 1981-86, 1986-91 and 1991-96 periods respectively, as compared with average rates of 2.8%, -0.4% and 2.8% for the State. The rate of population increase was also well in excess of that for the neighbouring Dublin region.

Kildare's population is now even higher than it was in the mid nineteenth century. As can be seen from **Figure 1**, the population went into a long period of decline in the wake of the Famine, reaching a low of 57,892 in 1936. Since then, the population of Kildare has gradually increased – except for a short period of decline between 1956 and 1961 – and has increased more markedly since 1979.

Figure 1 Change in the population of Co. Kildare, 1841-2002

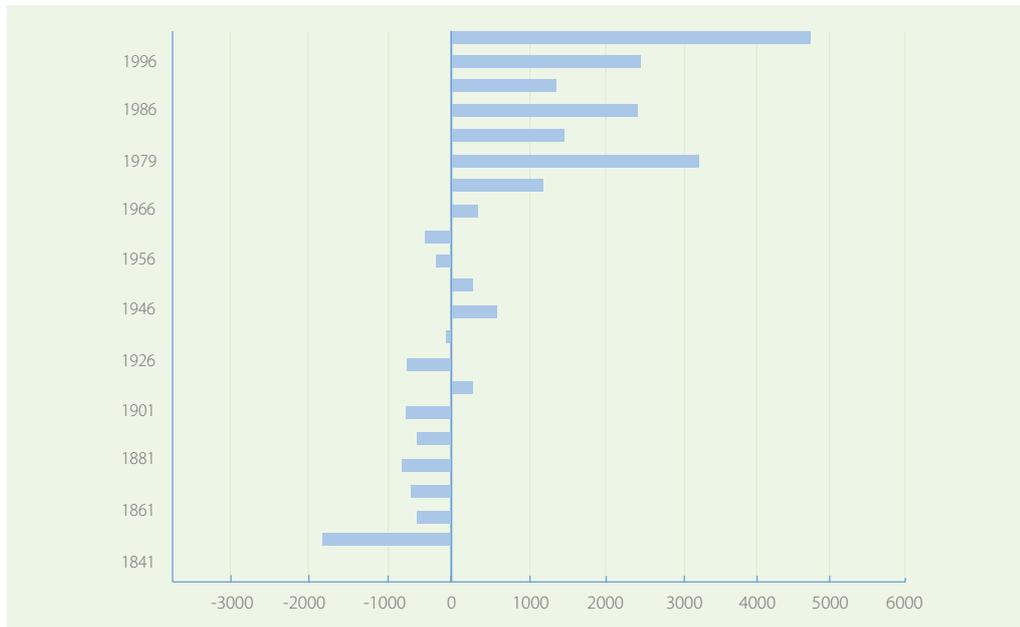


The 1996-2002 period, as can be seen in **Figure 2**, registered the most rapid rate of population increase over the past 150 years, with the Kildare population increasing at an average rate of 4,825 persons per annum over these six years. The only other period that experienced a roughly comparable rate of population increase was the 1970s, with the population increasing at a rate of 3,214 persons per annum during the 1971-81 period.

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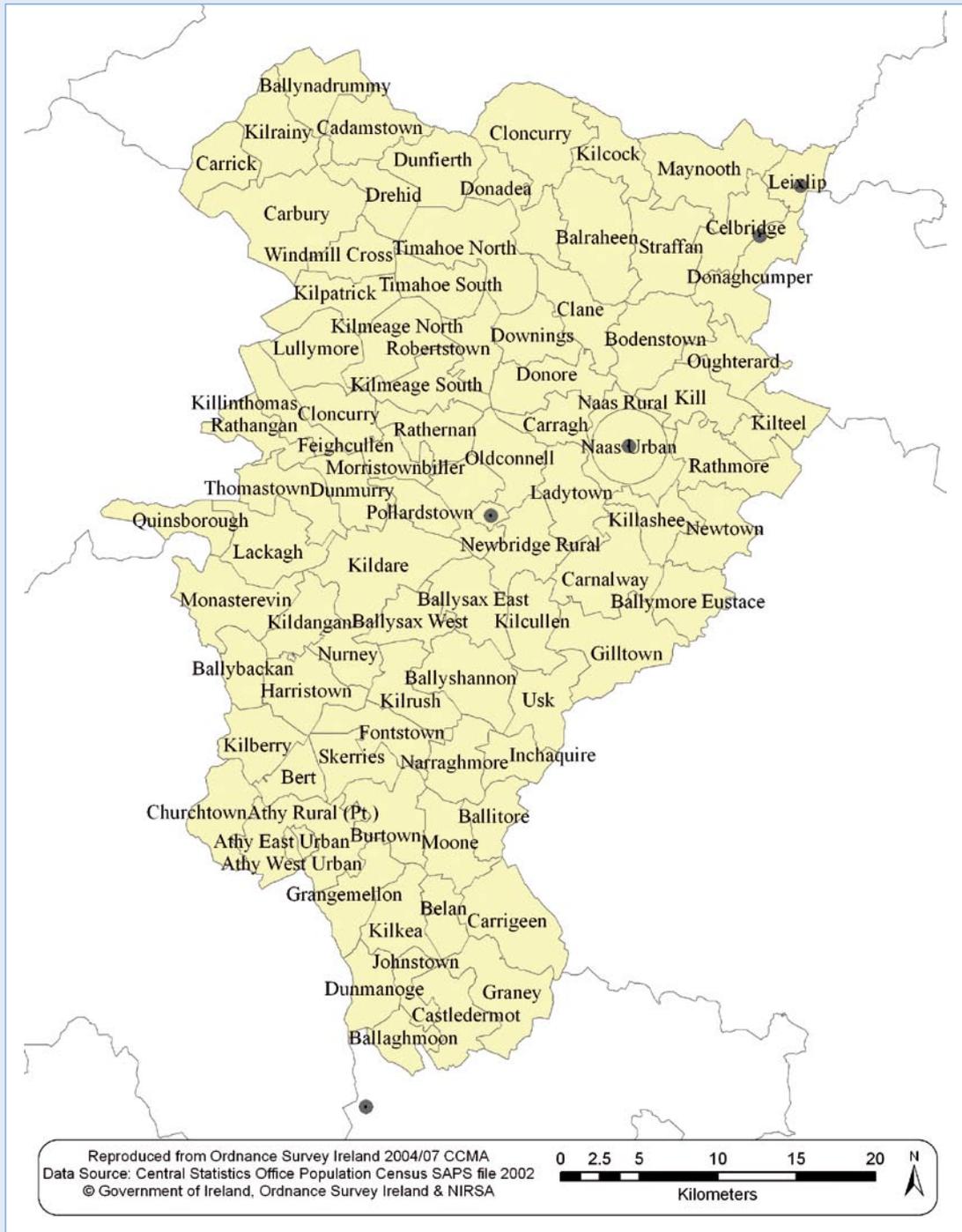
Figure 2: Average rate of population change per annum in Co. Kildare over the 1841-2002 period.



In contrast to previous inter-censal periods net migration emerged as the dominant factor contributing to population change in Ireland in the late 1990s. While Kildare had a far higher annual average rate of natural increase (births minus deaths) than the average for the State (12.8 vs 6.1 per 1000) net migration into Kildare is estimated to have been 17,909, which accounted for over 61.9% of the total increase.

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MAP 2: LOCATION OF EDs IN KILDARE



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2.2 POPULATION DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION

County Kildare is divided for statistical purposes into eighty-nine electoral divisions (EDs) which provide the spatial framework for mapping attributes of the population tallied at the time of the Census of Population in April 2002 (**Map 2**). A listing of all EDs in Kildare is included in Appendix A.

The overall population density in Kildare is 97 persons per square kilometre compared to a density of 55.8 persons per square kilometre for the State. Density levels vary considerably, as can be seen from **Map 3**, from the lowest in the very rural areas of the north west and south (having less than 70 persons per square kilometre) to between 571 and more than 1437 in the more urban districts (such as Newbridge, Naas and Athy) as well as the areas of the north east of the county that are within easy commuting distance of Dublin. According to the 2002 Census figures, Newbridge Urban was the electoral division with the largest population density (2,744 persons per square kilometre), followed by Athy West Urban (1437), Leixlip (1,327), Athy East Urban (1301) and Naas Urban (1010). The EDs with the lowest population densities in the county in 2002 were Lullymore (8), Quinsborough (8), Drehid (13), Carrick (14) and Burtown (15). In over one-third of the districts the densities were less than 25 persons per square kilometre.

2.2.1 *Urban settlements*

According to the 2002 Census, 106,195 persons, or almost 65 % of the population of Kildare, were designated as residing in urban areas defined as places with at least 1,500 inhabitants. This is significantly higher than the State proportion of 59.6% It further represents an increase over the 61.6% urban share of the population in Kildare recorded in the 1996 Census, reflecting the rapid growth of a number of urban centres during the late 1990s and early 2000s. The distribution of towns, classified by population size, and population change 1996-2002, are shown on **Maps 4 & 5**. If you consider the map of Towns 2002 (**Map 4**), the largest urban settlements were Naas, Newbridge, Athy, Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge. In terms of change, however, the greatest growth in an urban area between 1996 and 2002 was in Sallins with Prosperous, Rathangan, Kilcock, Clare, Kildare, Kill and Celbridge also exhibiting substantial growth.

Excluding the five city council areas, Naas is now the 11th largest town in the State in terms of population size, with 18,288 persons living in the town. Dundalk, Drogheda, Bray, Swords, Ennis, Tralee, Kilkenny, Sligo, Navan and Carlow are currently the only towns with larger populations. At the time of the 1996 Census, Naas was the 13th largest town, but over the 1996-2002 period it has overtaken Wexford and Athlone in terms of population in rank order.

An analysis of towns with more than 5,000 population (based on 1996 data) undertaken by NUI Maynooth researchers and Brady Shipman Martin Consultants for the National Spatial Strategy has shown that while Naas ranked 18th in terms of population, it's functional rank (i.e. range of services and functions) was slightly lower at 20. Similarly, Newbridge which ranked 21st in terms of population had a much lower functional rank at 35, suggesting that it provides much less services than its population rank would suggest. Leixlip, Celbridge and Maynooth each had lower functional ranks than their population size would suggest confirming their role as partial dormitory centres. In the south the strong local service role of Athy is also evident from the broad range of services provided. This resulted from analysis based on ten sets of indicators.

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Table 2: Population of principal towns and changes since 1986

	Total 2002	Change 1986-1991	Change 1991-1996	Change 1996-2002	Change 1986-2002
Naas	18288	1124	2933	4214	8271
Droichead Nua + environs	16739	566	1294	3376	10756
Celbridge	16016	2494	2660	3727	8881
Leixlip	15016	1256	257	1565	3078
Maynooth	10151	1259	2501	1623	5383
Athy	6049	-245	102	743	1315
Kildare	5694	-72	82	1416	1426
Clane	4417	55	1304	1291	2650
Sallins	2922	9	71	2068	2148
Kilcock	2740	137	274	915	1326
Monasterevan	2583	81	78	281	440
Kill	2246	15	193	535	743
Rathangan	1811	-141	61	621	541
Prosperous	1523	117	-68	709	758
Kilcullen	1483	-29	-60	-121	-210
Derrinturn	791	25	-9	247	263
Ballymore Eustace	786	50	94	67	211
Castledermot	726	-51	-8	-7	-66
Coill Dubh	592	-79	-11	-90	-180
Brownstown	500	112	-82	38	47
Suncroft	498	7	-30	8	-15
Allenwood	481	13	38	140	191
Kilmeague	436	36	33	-15	54
Kilberry	417	-21	-35	-49	-105
Robertstown	375	-29	-29	169	116
Ballytore	338	3	2	43	48
Straffan	332	38	0	-9	29
Milltown	271	1	-14	-26	-39
Maddenstown	179	-29	-26	-10	-65

The population of Naas, the largest town in Kildare, grew by 4,214 persons in the 1996-2002 period representing an almost 30% increase for the town. Much of this population increase has resulted from an influx of new residents into the town over the 1996-2002 period. For example, 1,768 persons in Naas, or almost 10% of the town's population had been living at a different address one year before the Census.

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Only Maynooth, with its large student population exceeds this rate in Kildare with 14.53% of its population having a different address one year previously.

Newbridge, with a population of 16,739 in 2002, is the second largest urban centre in Kildare and the one that has shown the greatest increase in population in Kildare since 1986 with a population increase of 10,756 persons during this time (**Table 2**). Like Naas, the main growth for this settlement took place in the 1996-2002 period. The population of Sallins grew by 2,068 persons over the 1996-2002 period, marking a population increase of 242% for the town and making it the fastest growing town in the 1996-2002 period. This growth is largely influenced by both its proximity to Naas and Dublin and the location of a train station in Sallins facilitating commuting to Dublin (**Map 5**). Much of the growth of Naas and its hinterlands appears commuter driven and this is bolstered by the fact that 22.7% of Naas Rural and 21.1% of Naas Urban residents spend more than 45 minutes in their daily commute to work.

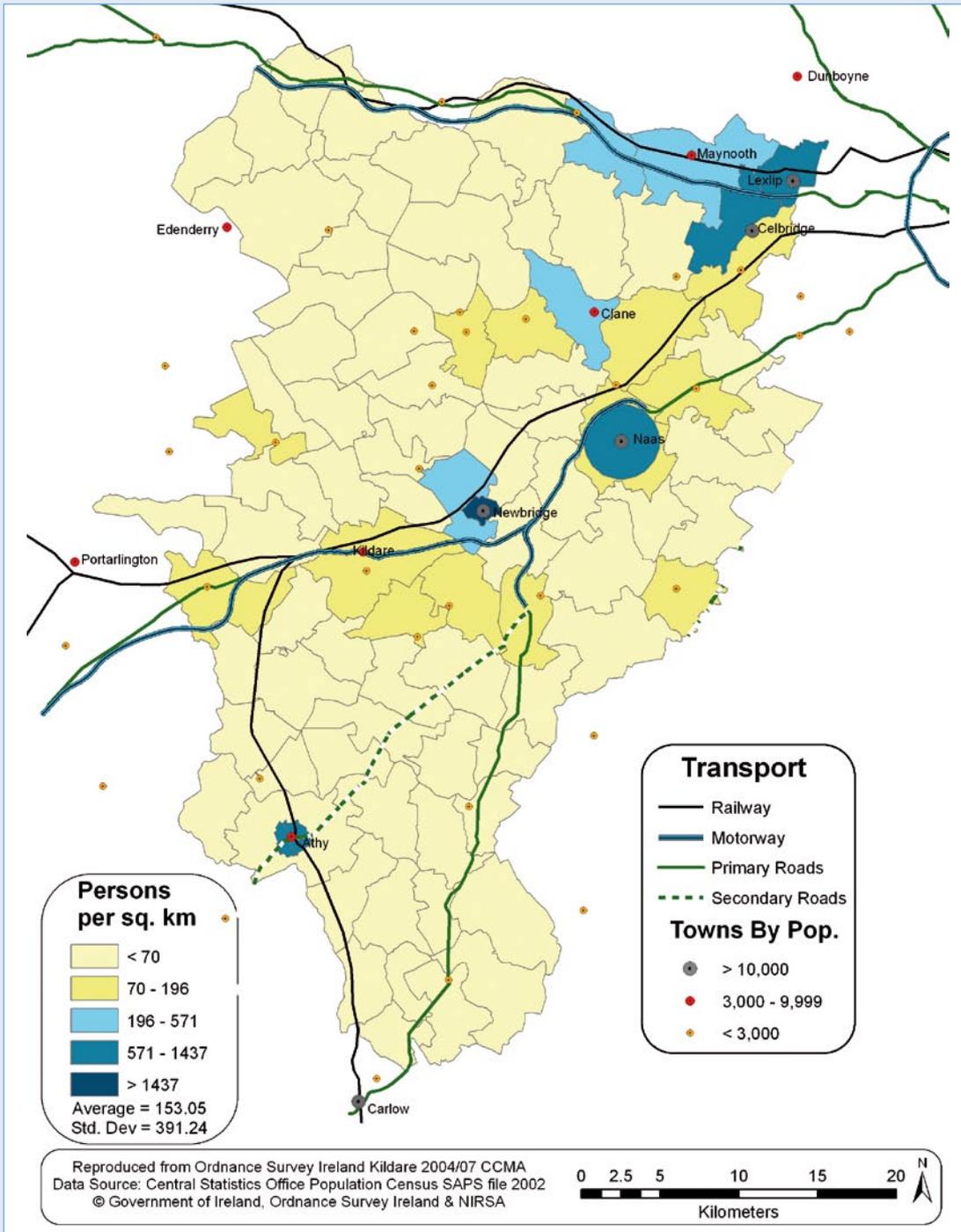
Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth remain the third, fourth and fifth largest towns in Co. Kildare with populations of 16,016, 15,016, and 10,151 respectively, according to the 2002 Census. The population of Celbridge increased by over 30% between 1996 and 2002, followed by Maynooth at 19% with Leixlip at almost 12%, exhibiting the least proportional growth of the three. These three towns are well within the Dublin commuter belt and their roles as commuter towns is evidenced by the fact that 23.6% of Celbridge residents, 20.8% of Maynooth residents and 25.9% of Leixlip residents spend more than 45 minutes commuting to work.

Prosperous experienced the second largest percentage increase in population in the 1996-2002 period in Kildare at 87.1% (709 persons) (**Map 5**). As expected, in-migration appears to be the key to the increase in Prosperous's population size with the percentage of those living at a different address one year earlier at 7.7%.

Athy and Kildare in the south of the county both have populations greater than 5,000 (6,049 and 5,694 respectively) but have not experienced the same recent rates of population growth as their counterparts in the north east of the county with increases of 14% and 33% respectively between 1996 and 2002.

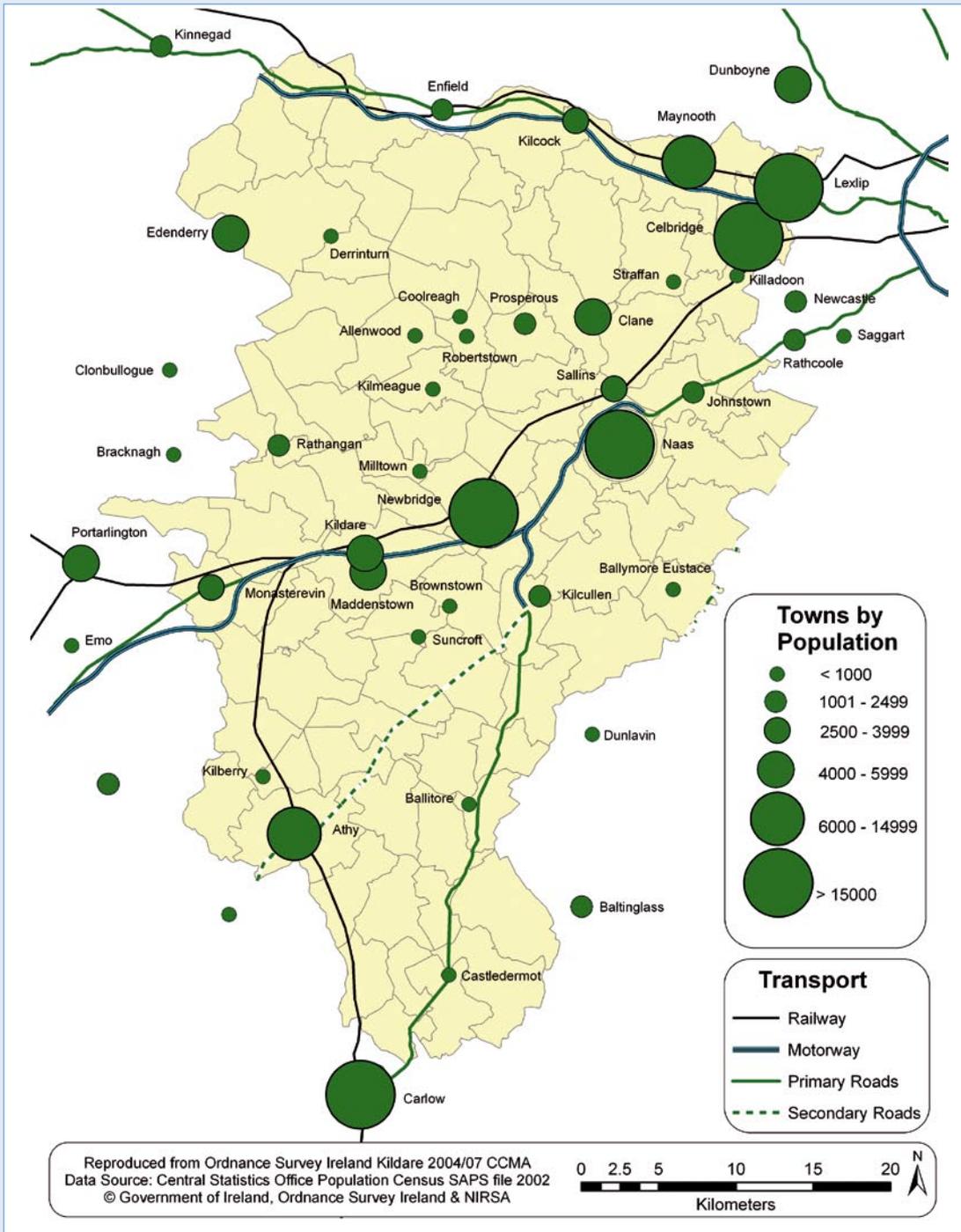
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MAP 3: POPULATION DENSITY



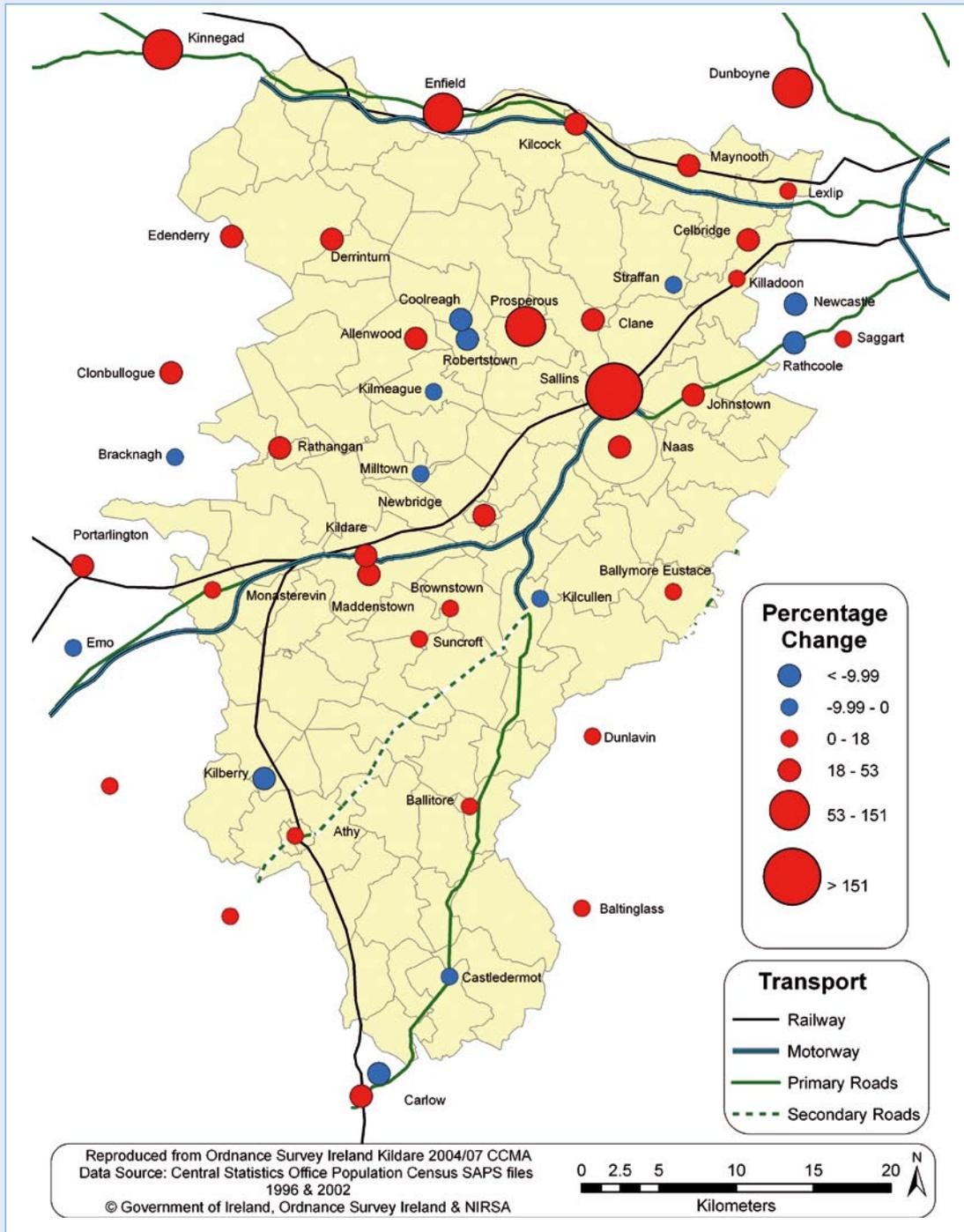
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MAP 4: TOWNS 2002



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MAP 5: PERCENTAGE POPULATION CHANGE IN TOWNS 1996-2002



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2.3 POPULATION CHANGE

The overall pattern of population change for Kildare is summarised on **Map 6** which shows that the greatest rates of population increase were along the routes of the N7 and N9, in the hinterlands of Naas, the area along the N4 near Kilcock and a number of districts in the west around Rathangan. Population increases were not as dramatic in other areas and indeed in some areas the population decreased. This was particularly the case in the south of the county and in the area of Brownstown near Kildare town and more unexpectedly in the north-west around Straffan. Information from the Planning Section in Kildare County Council suggests that the decrease in the Straffan area may have been due to physical constraints, that is, the waste water treatment system was at capacity so there were restrictions on major developments in the area, and this coupled with decreasing household size would likely explain the decrease – (in any case the population decrease was 3.5% or 52 persons). In four EDs the population increased by more than 50% between 1996 and 2002. The most notable increase was associated with the EDs just north of Naas, with the population increasing by 119% in the Bodenstown ED and by 69% in the Naas Rural ED. The other EDs to experience exceptional growth over this period were Thomastown (59%), Downings (49.4%), Kilcock (44.9%), Cloncurry (43.2%) and Windmill Cross (42.9%). The EDs around Naas and to the north of the town, namely, Naas Urban, Naas Rural, Bodenstown, Clane, Kill and Downings accounted for 31% of the total increase. In the northeast Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip and Kilcock accounted for a further 25.2% of the population increase in the county.

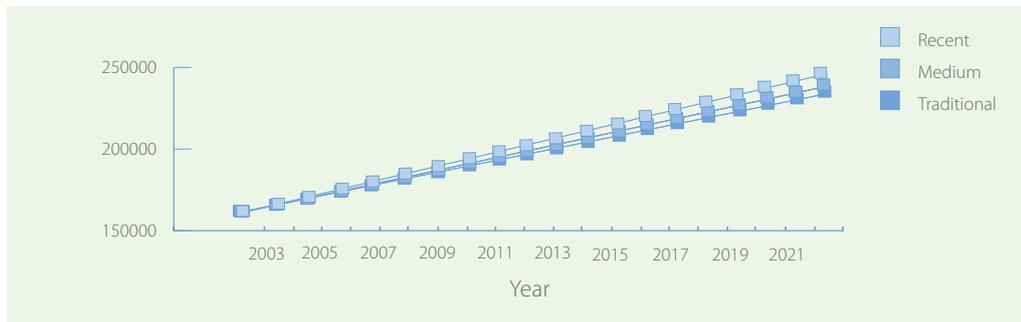
Endeavours to forecast the scale of population change in the future are laden with problems particularly in relation to forecasting migration and fertility trends. Further complications may transpire from the effects of any changes in policies that can directly influence the distribution of population. The implementation of the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) and the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) for the Greater Dublin Area could impact on the demographic trend for Kildare. The NSS may encourage measures to slowdown the growth of the Greater Dublin Area while the RPGs may encourage higher residential densities in Dublin. Together these strategies could bring about some deceleration in the pace of growth in Kildare. Alternatively there may be some shifts in the pattern of population growth within the county, for example, the expansion of the Heuston to Carlow rail line could dramatically increase population densities in the south of the county.

The latest available projections from the CSO, however suggest considerable expansion of the population of Kildare to 2021. **Figure 3** illustrates population projections for Co. Kildare based on regional projections produced by the CSO for the Mid-East region, which comprises the counties of Kildare, Wicklow and Meath. The scenario used here is M1F2 which largely assumes a continuation of recent demographic trends and is that which the CSO deems the most likely scenario. It is further divided using three internal migration scenarios: *Recent* would be consistent with the 2002 pattern continuing in the medium term and then moderating by 2021; *Medium* would be consistent with the 2002 pattern moderating in the short term and; *Traditional* would be consistent with the 2002 pattern reverting to the traditional 1996 pattern in the medium term. Irrespective of which scenario is considered it seems likely that the population of Co. Kildare will have increased well over the 200,000 mark by 2012 and will have reached 250,000 by 2021. This would represent a proportional increase of 52% in the population of Co. Kildare by 2021.

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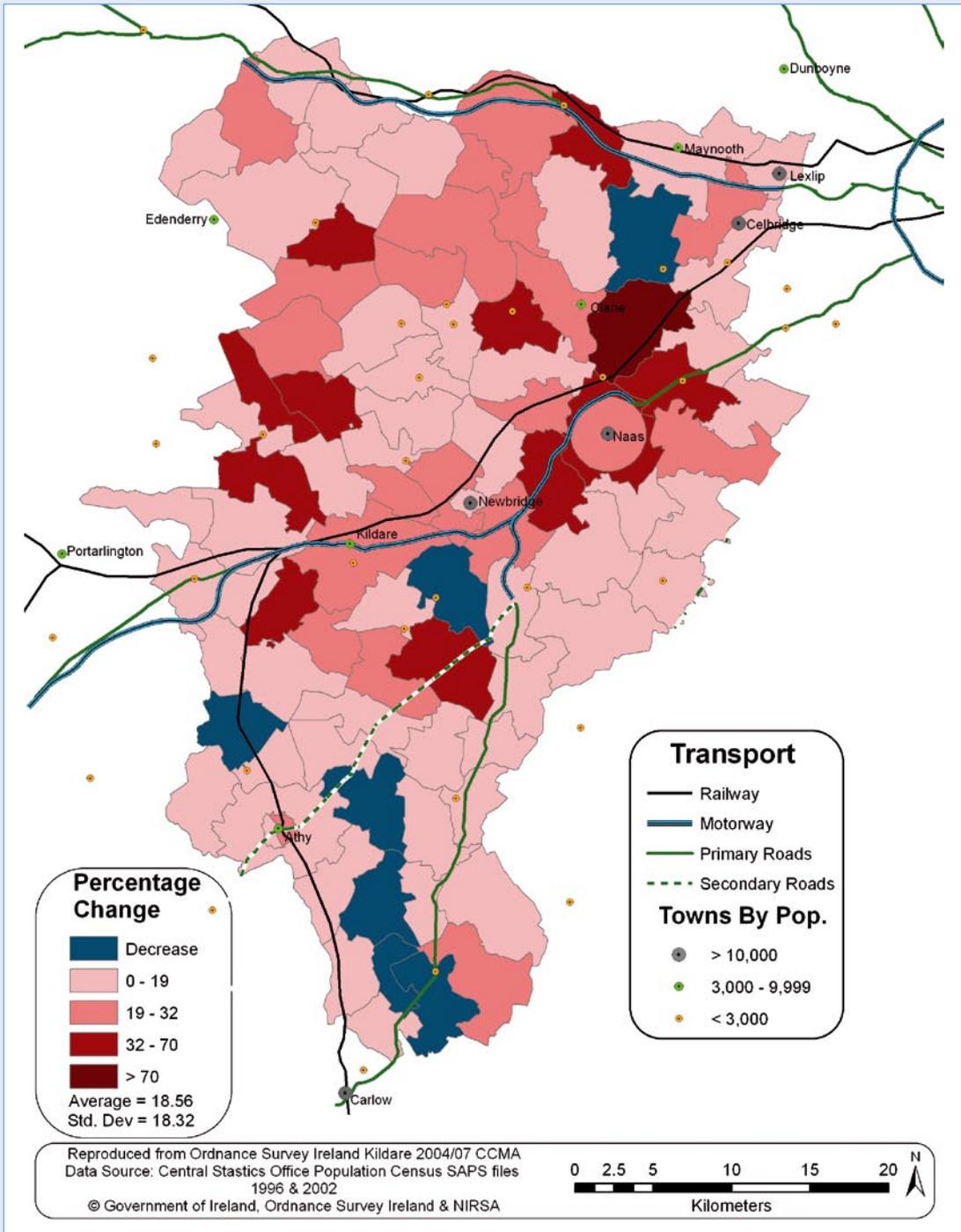
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Figure 3: Population Projections



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MAP 6: POPULATION CHANGE 1996-2002



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2.4 MIGRATION

In-migration from other counties and from outside the State is the major influence on the rate of population increase in Kildare. As can be seen from **Table 3**, a total of 17,909 persons migrated to Kildare between 1996 and 2002.

Table 3: Migration into Co. Kildare between 1996 and 2002

	Pop 1996	Total births 96-02	Total deaths 96-02	Pop 2002	Net migration
Kildare	134,992	15,885	4,842	163,944	17,909

While the scale of in-migration has increased over recent years the process has been ongoing for a much longer period. Thus, in 2002 less than half (46.1%) of the population residing in Kildare were born in the county. Almost 71,000 (43.3%) were born in another county and the remainder (10.6%) were born outside the State including 8,201 born in the UK and 1,419 in Northern Ireland, which combined accounted for 5.9% of the total. Of those born outside of Ireland and the UK the largest group were 2,332 from Europe (including 1,321 from outside the EU) followed by 1,655 from Africa and 969 from Asia.

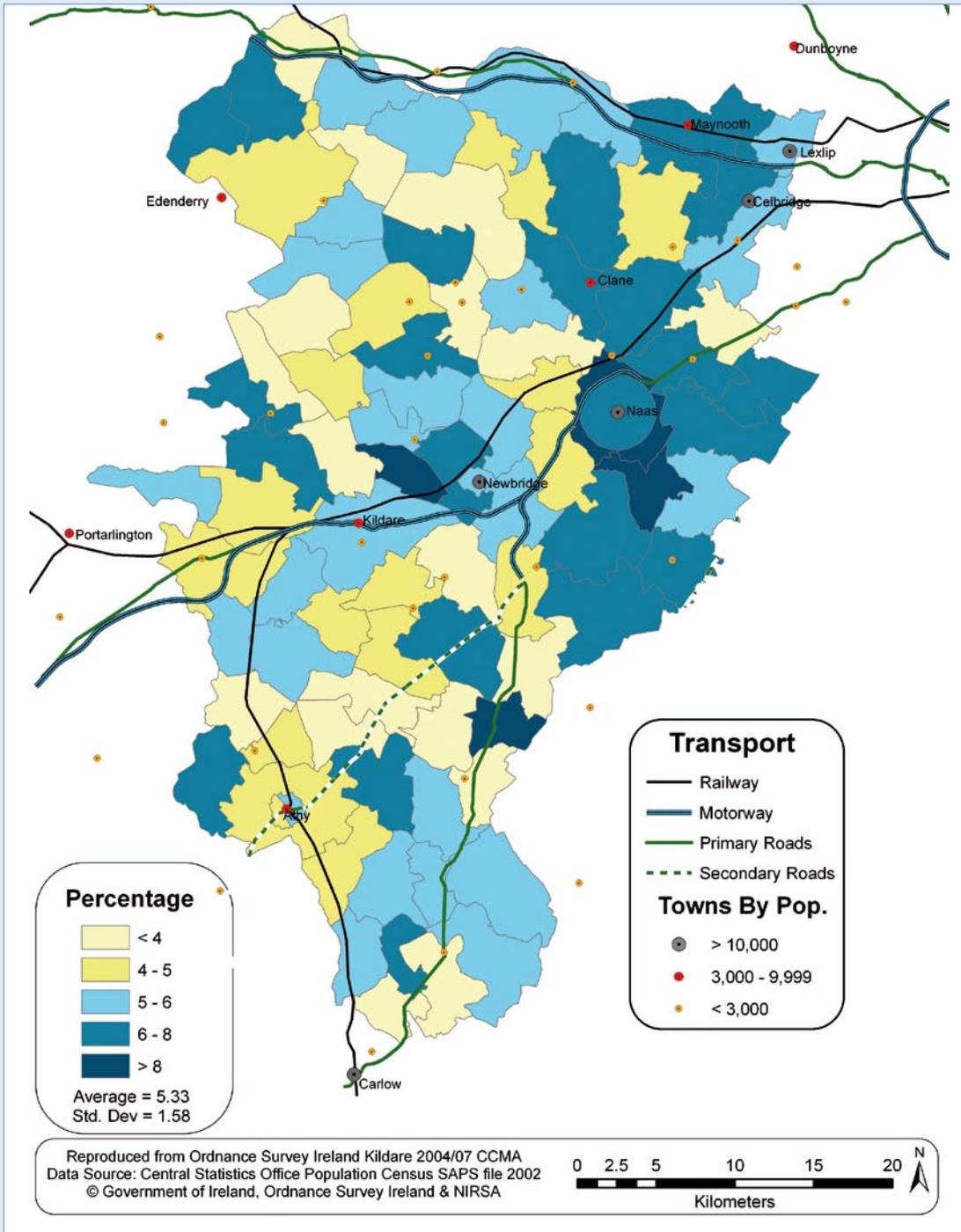
Map 7 illustrates that persons born in the UK are most strongly represented in the principal towns (Naas, Newbridge, Maynooth, Celbridge and Leixlip) and the main commuting corridors to Dublin within Co. Kildare. They are underrepresented in most of the rural EDs but there are concentrations in some EDs towards the west and south. If we consider those born outside of Ireland and the UK the concentrations are overwhelmingly in the north-east, and in the major towns (Naas, Newbridge, Kildare, Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip) within easy commuting distance from Dublin (**Map 8**).

The Census of Population also provides information on persons who were living at a different address twelve months prior to the census date. These data show that over the year prior to April 2002, 5,598 persons moved to Kildare from other counties which was the 3rd highest absolute level of inter-county in-migration after Dublin city and county and Co. Meath. The vast majority (67%) of the in-migrants to Kildare were previously living, though not necessarily born, in Dublin city or county. In addition to those that moved into Kildare another 6,596 who were already residing in the county moved to another address in Kildare. Furthermore, another 2,977 persons who had lived outside the State twelve months previously moved to Kildare. The combined total of persons that changed their addresses amounts to 15,171 or 9.5% of the total. This proportion is identical to the figure for Meath and more than twice the proportion of 4.0% for the State.

The distribution of all persons that had a different address twelve months prior to the Census in 2002 confirms the roles of Maynooth, Naas, Newbridge, and Kildare as the principal destinations (**Map 9**). These four towns plus Celbridge and Leixlip accounted for 49.7% of the total. Together these six centres accounted for only 40.6% of the movers who had a previous address in the county but a much larger share (62.6%) of the movers from outside the State. In contrast to those that moved within the county, these towns attracted 53.5% of the in-migrants from other counties with Naas attracting the largest share at 10.8%, followed by Celbridge with 9.5%. The fact that 46.5% of the in-migrants from other counties and 37.4% from outside the State are attracted to destinations other than the six centres referred to above confirms the attractiveness of rural communities and small urban centres as places of residence. It also highlights the extent of the pressures imposed on such places in the current phase of population growth.

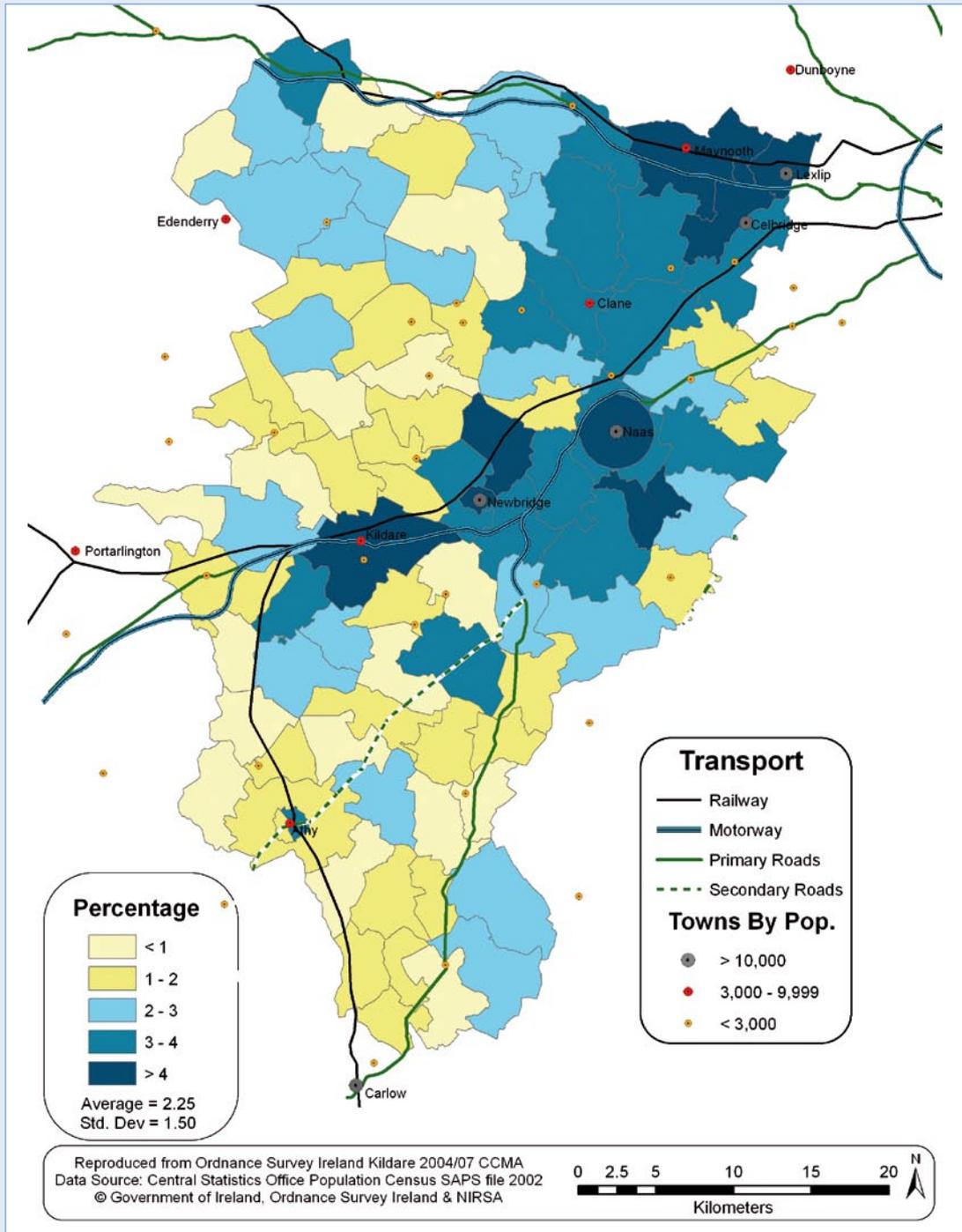
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MAP 7: PERSONS BORN IN THE UK AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002



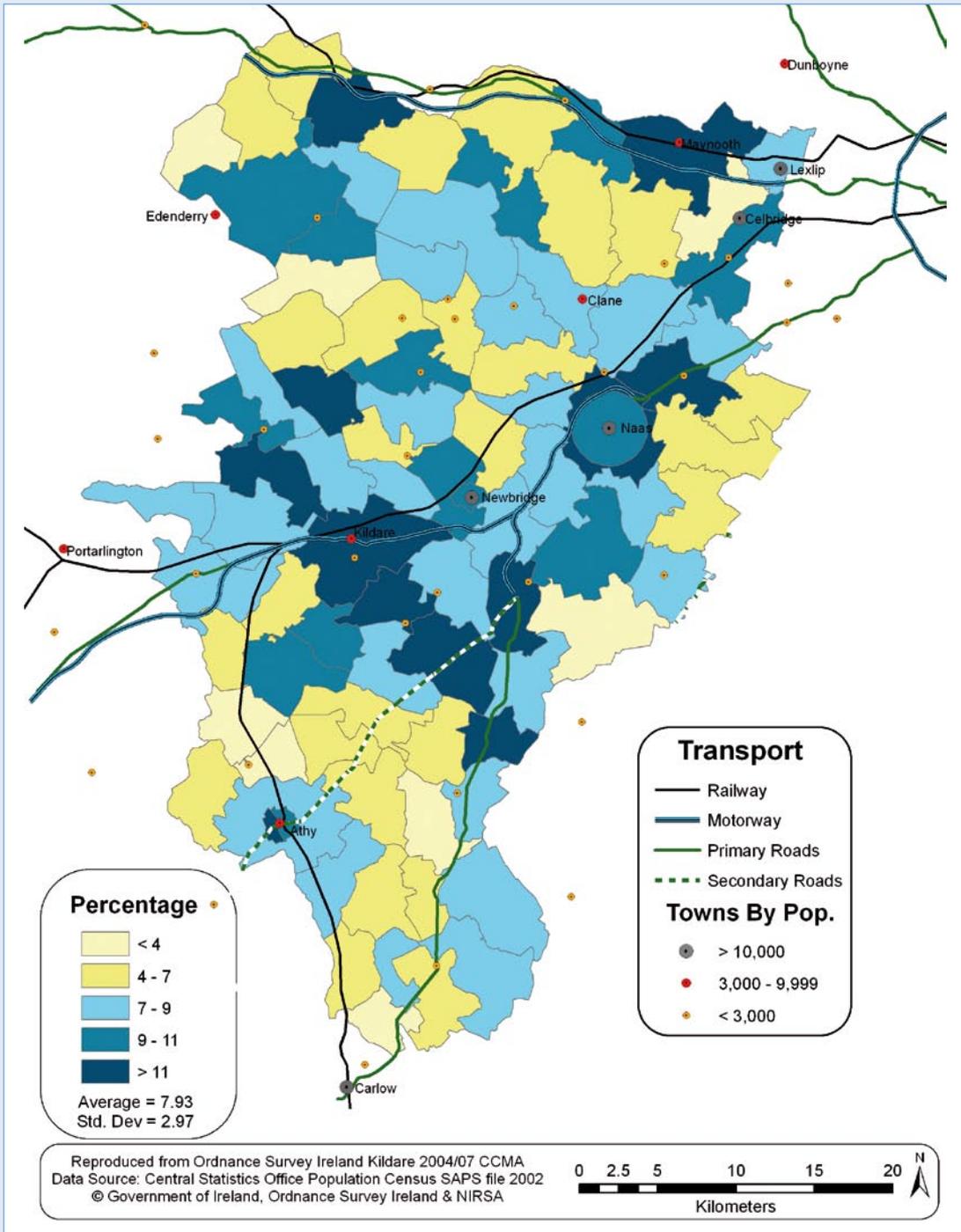
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MAP 8: PERSONS BORN OUTSIDE IRELAND & THE UK AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002



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MAP 9: PERSONS WITH A DIFFERENT ADDRESS ONE YEAR PREVIOUSLY
AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS AGED 1+ 2002



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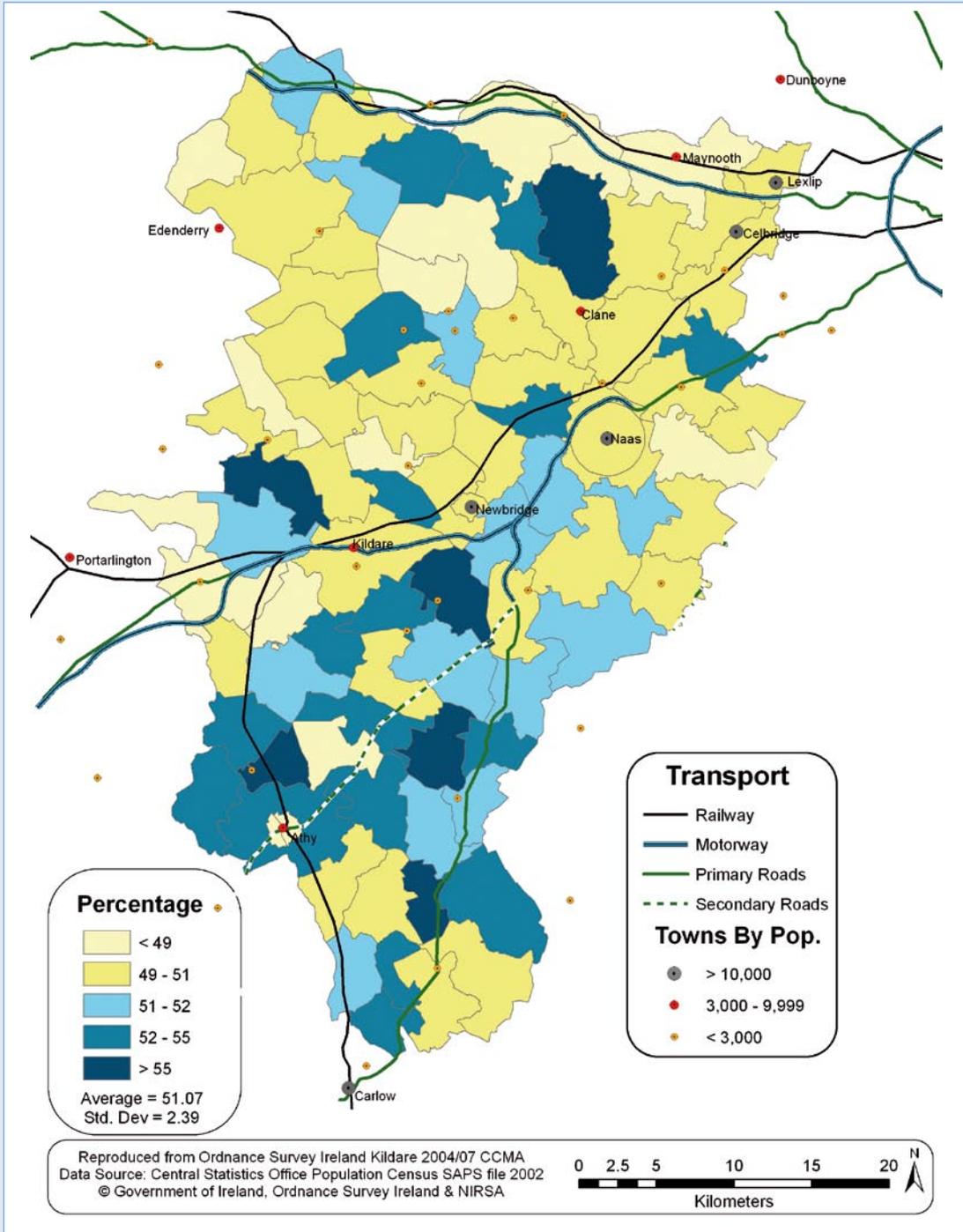
2.5 GENDER BALANCE

The gender ratio for Kildare is finely balanced with slightly more males than females (50.5% compared with 49.5%). Kildare is different from the general national trend in this respect as nationally females form the majority, accounting for 50.3% of the State's population, but Kildare is comparable to the more rural parts of Ireland where males generally account for over half of the population.

There are notable variations across the county in terms of gender divisions. Higher proportions of males tend to be associated with the more rural parts of the county, with EDs having particularly high levels of males clustered in the south (**Map 10**). EDs with the highest proportions of males include Balraheen (61.1%), Belan (58.0%), Bert (57.2%), Narraghmore (57.0%), Ballysax East (55.3%), Thomastown (55.3%), Dunfierth (54.6%), Nurney (54.5%) and Ballysax West (53.5%). Higher percentages of females generally tend to be associated more urbanised EDs, although there is a cluster of rural EDs with high percentages of females in the west of the county. Electoral divisions with the highest proportions of females include Kildangan (52.7%), Quinsborough (52.2%), Skerries (52.1%), Killinthomas (52.0%), Monasterevin (52.0%), Carrick (51.9%), Timahoe South (51.8%) and Kilcock (51.5%).

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MAP 10: MALES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002



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2.6 AGE STRUCTURE

The age profile of the population of Kildare and some of its neighbouring counties in 2002 is summarised in **Table 4** with details of the principal changes since 1996 in **Table 5**. In 2002 just over 39% of the population in Kildare was aged less than 25 years compared with 37.5% in the State. By contrast, the percentage aged over 45 in Kildare (26.4) was less than the overall share for the State (32.3). So Kildare can be seen as generally having a quite young population. However, since 1996 the percentage aged under 25 has declined from almost 45% to just over 40% despite an increase of 5,688 persons in this age cohort.

Table 4: Age Profile and Dependency Ratios, 2002 (1996 figures for Kildare in brackets)

	Kildare	Meath	Wicklow	Dublin	Ireland
%<15 yrs	23.7 (26.5)	23.6	22.5	19.2	21.1
%15-24 yrs	16.5 (18.1)	15.4	15.4	17.7	16.4
% 25-44 yrs	33.4 (30.6)	31.7	30.3	32.7	30.1
% 45-64 yrs	19.7 (17.6)	20.5	21.9	20.2	21.2
% 65+ yrs	6.7 (7.2)	8.7	10	10.2	11.1
Youth dependency	34.1 (39.9)	34.9	33.4	27.1	31.2
Elderly dependency	9.6 (10.8)	12.8	14.8	14.4	16.4

These data reflect the ageing trend which is in fact more pronounced in other parts of the State. The influx of a largely working age commuter population into the county has resulted in a significant reduction in the age dependency ratio (persons aged under 15 or over 65 as a percentage of the population aged 15-65) from 50.7% in 1996 to 43.7% in 2002, a level that is below the State average (47.6%) and the ratios for Meath (47.7%) and Wicklow (48.2%), but which is still slightly higher than the ratio for Dublin (41.5%).

Figure 4 illustrates the percentage of Kildares population in the different age categories in 1996 and 2002. **Table 5** indicates that the increases in Kildare for all the age categories were well in excess of the average rates in the rest of the State. In the 15-24 category, the increase in Kildare accounted for almost a third (29.6%) of the total increase in this category within the State as a whole. The large increase in the 25-44 age category (13,548 persons – see **Figure 5**) reflects the considerable level of migration into the county over the previous six years. The greatest proportional increase was in the 45-64 age-group and this is likely reflective of the fact that significant in-migration into Kildare has been ongoing for much longer than this six-year period.

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Table 5: Change in different age categories: Kildare compared with the State

	Kildare Change 1996-2002	Percentage Change	Ireland Change 1996-2002	Percentage Change
0-14 years	3,137	8.8	-31,996	-3.7
15-24 years	2,551	10.4	8,632	1.4
25-44 years	13,548	32.8	164,168	16.2
45-64 years	8,455	35.5	128,193	18.2
65+ years	1,261	13.0	22,119	5.3

Figure 4: Percentage of Kildare population in different age categories, 1996 and 2002

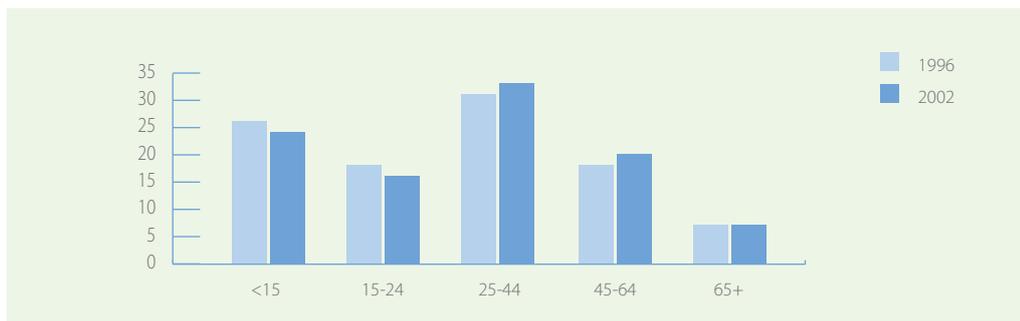
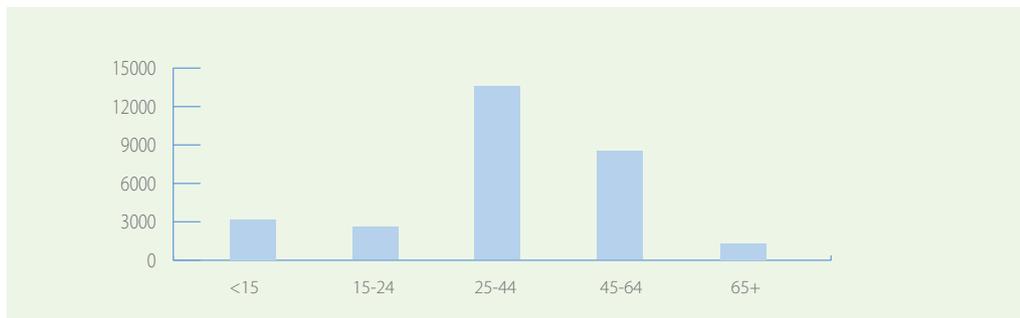


Figure 5: Population increase by age cohort between 1996 and 2002



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The spatial distributions of population in 2002 according to the main age groups, and the changes in the numbers in each age group, are summarised on **Maps 11-20**. The share of the young population (aged under 15 years, **Map 11**) is highest in the north east of the county, particularly in range of areas focussed on the towns of Naas, Newbridge, Clane and Celbridge. The districts with the highest proportions included Killinthomas (32.3%), Ballyshannon (30.9%), Balraheen (29.0%), Carragh (28.5%), Timahoe South (28.5%), Fontstown (28.3%), Kilcock (27.9%) and Ladytown (27.6%). The increase of 3,137 in the number of persons in this cohort between 1996 and 2002 was mostly concentrated in the environs of major urban areas such as Naas, Newbridge and Kildare and generally along the route of the N7 (**Map 12**). Some decline was recorded in parts of the south of the county, particularly to the north and east of Athy, south of Newbridge and Naas and around Straffan.

There are three distinct areas with high percentages in the 15-24 age group, which accounts for 16.5% of the total population (**Map 13**). The first of these areas is in the very north east of the county from Balraheen to Leixlip. Another such cluster is around Kilberry, just south of Monasterevin in the south west of the county. A third cluster can be seen stretching from Milltown across the N7 and N9 to the district just south of Kilcullen. EDs with the highest proportions in the 15-24 age category included Maynooth (25.5%), Balraheen (23.6%), Harristown (21.6%), Ballysax East (20.7%), Ballybackan (21.3%) and Kilberry (21.2%). An increase of 2,551 persons was recorded for this cohort with the largest gains around Celbridge, in the hinterlands of Naas and to the north east of Kilberry. Out-migration resulted in declines in some rural areas especially in the south of the county in an area stretching from the north of Athy to Castledermot (**Map 14**).

The spatial pattern for the 25-44 age group, which accounts for 33.4% of the total, is broadly similar to that of the 0-14 age category, which is not surprising given that the parents of children in the 0-14 age category fall mainly within the 25-44 age group (**Map 15**). The more urbanised districts in the north east around Maynooth, Clane, Naas and Newbridge, as well as a couple of districts in the west of the county, tend to have the largest proportions within this age category. EDs with the highest proportions in the 25-44 age category include Bodinstown (41.9%), Thomastown (39.4%), Naas Rural (39.2%), Naas Urban (39.1%), Drehid (38.6%), Celbridge (38.4%), Windmill Cross (37.1%), Clane (37.0%), Morrinstownbiller (36.5%), Kilcock (34.9%), Maynooth (34.8%), and Robertstown (34.5%). In-migration contributed to the very significant increase of 30.5% in the size of this cohort with gains recorded in the majority of districts and especially around urban centres such as Naas, Newbridge and Kildare (**Map 16**). Declines were recorded in Straffan, Kiltel and in some districts to the south west of the county.

There is a much higher incidence of middle aged and elderly persons in the more rural parts. One cluster of EDs with high proportions in the 45-64 age category encompasses the mainly rural hinterland of Athy (**Map 17**). Districts with the highest proportions in the 45-64 age category included Kilkea (33.9%), Burtown (32.4%), Kilashee (30.2%), Kiltel (28.8%), Athy Rural (28.5%), Pollardstown (27.6%), Straffan (27.3%) and Feighcullen (27.1%). The increase of 8,455 in this cohort was mostly concentrated in the north east of the county reflecting the effects of net in-migration in previous decades (**Map 18**). Declines were confined to three districts, in Athy, Johnstown in the south of the county and around Kilcullen.

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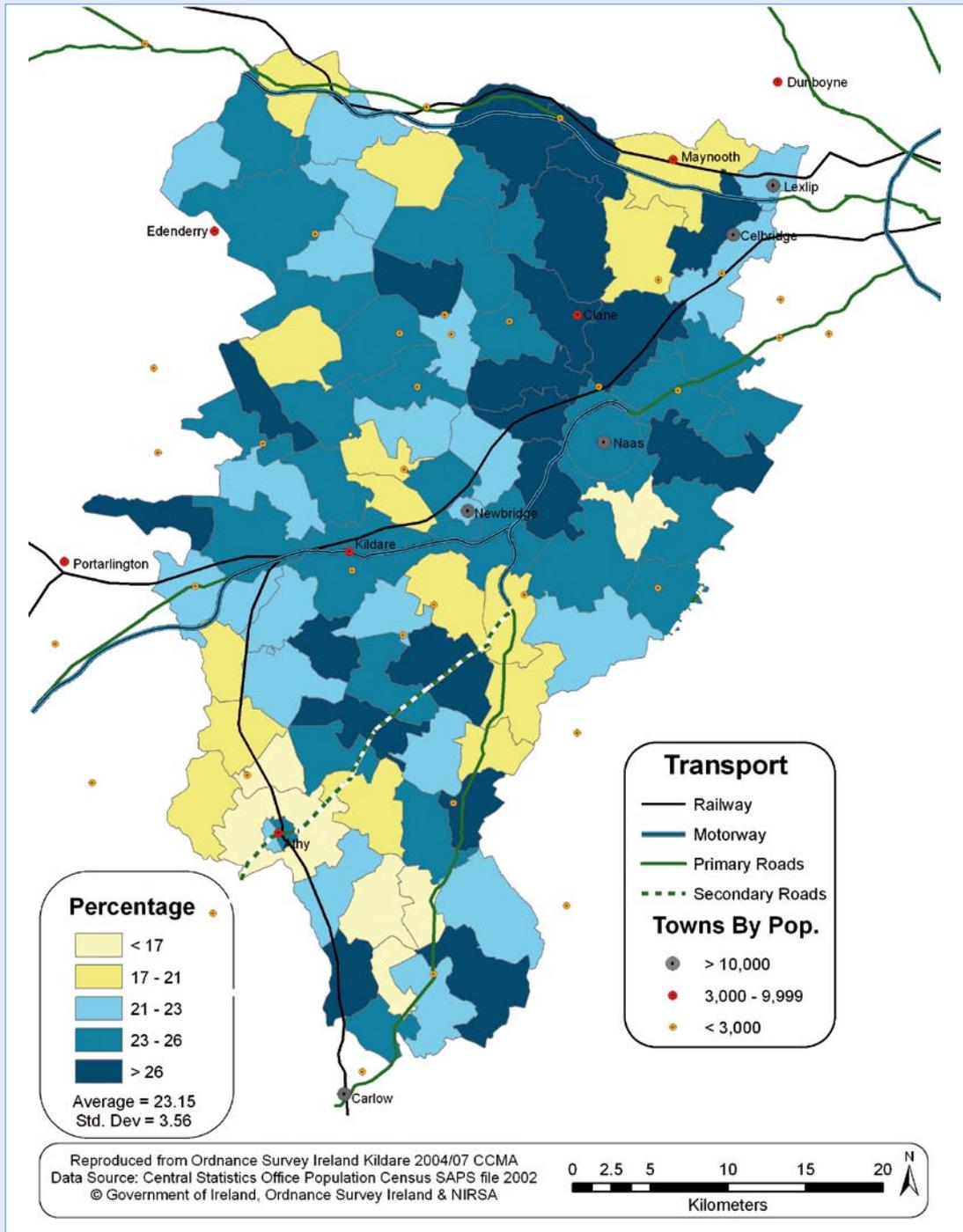
The proportion of the total population aged 65 and over is only 6.7%. While there is a small cluster immediately to the north of Newbridge, most of the districts with relatively high percentages aged 65 and over are in the south and south west of the county (**Map 19**). EDs with the highest proportions included Athy West Urban (16.3%), Oldconnell (15.6%), Kilkea (14.4%), Johnstown (13.4%), Bert (13.2%) and Kilshee (12.8%). The current age profile of these districts is reflective of the effects of out-migration of the younger population in previous decades. Significant increases in the number of persons aged over 65 occurred in the stretch from the N7/N9 border with Dublin to Kildare, around Clane and Monasterevin (**Map 20**).

The variations in the distributions of different age cohorts can be summarised by maps of dependency ratios. In terms of youth dependency, which is persons aged under 15 as a percentage of total aged 15-64, the pattern is quite variable with a large concentration towards the north eastern area and a number of pockets around Rathangan and south of Kildare and Kilcullen as well as the far south (**Map 21**). By contrast, the elderly dependency ratio, which is persons aged over 65 as a percentage of the total aged 15-64, distribution is less complex with a concentration in the south of the county near Ballitore and Castledermot, in the hinterland of Newbridge and to a lesser extent in the north west of the county (**Map 22**).

The demographic vitality ratio (which is persons aged 20-39 years as a ratio of number of persons aged over 60) for each electoral division in Kildare is almost the mirror image of that for age dependency, with the districts having the highest vitality ratios strongly concentrated in those parts that have experienced the greatest population growth in the 1990s, namely the commuter belt in the north east of the county and the hinterlands of the larger towns such as Naas, Newbridge and to a lesser extent some pockets around Rathangan and the area between Kildare and Monasterevin (**Map 23**).

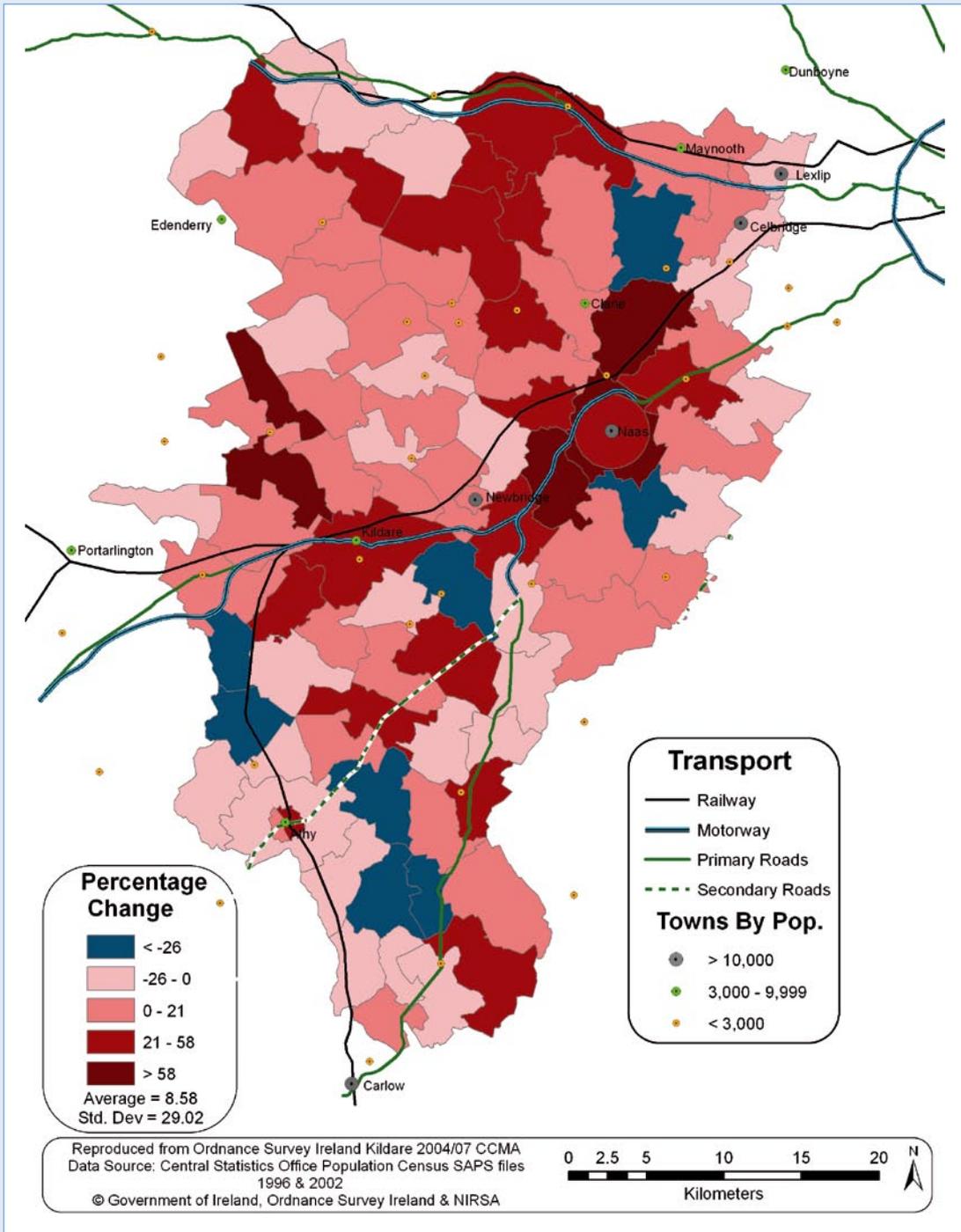
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MAP 11: PERSONS AGED 0-14 YEARS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002



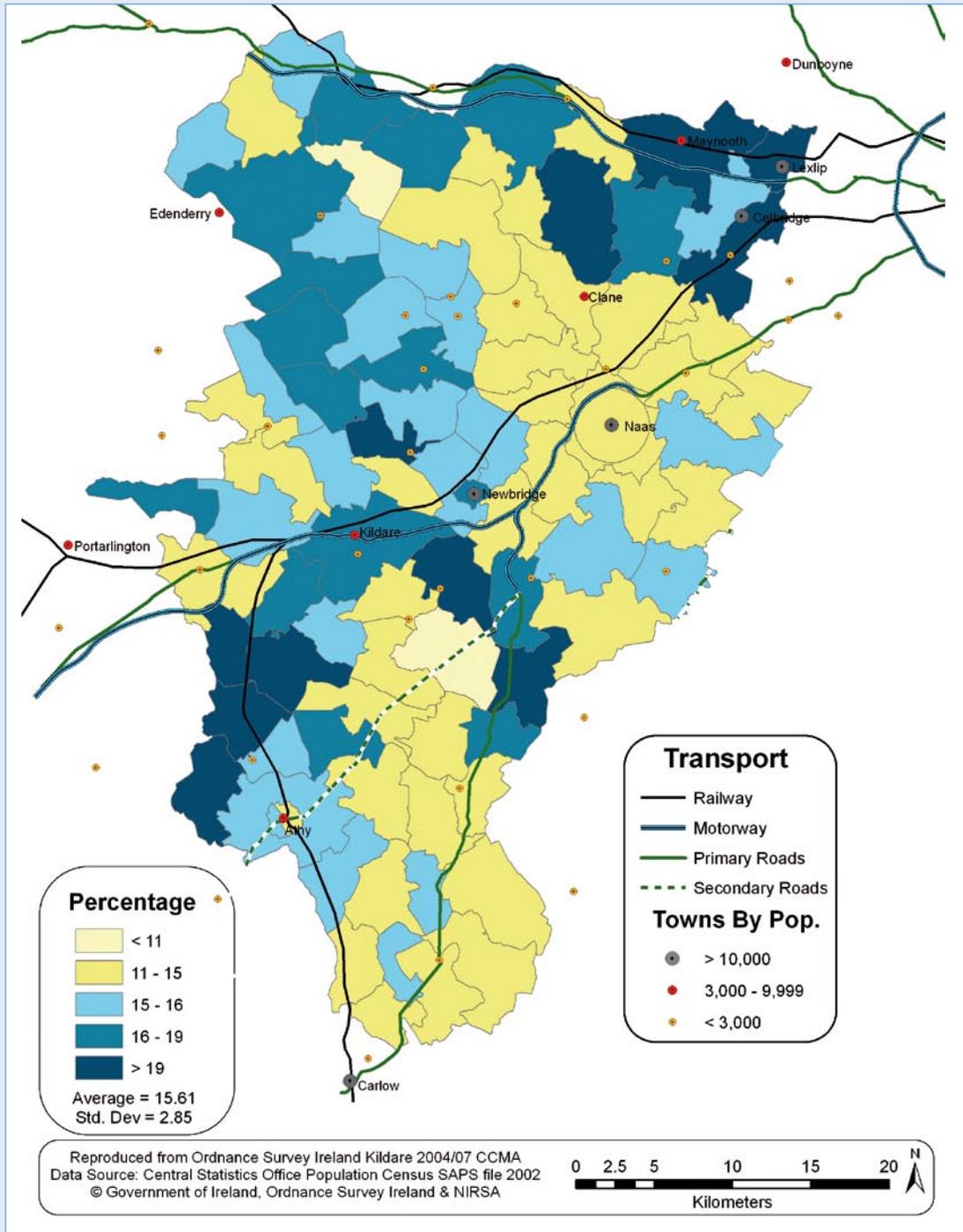
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MAP 12: PERSONS AGED 0-14 YEARS PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1996-2002



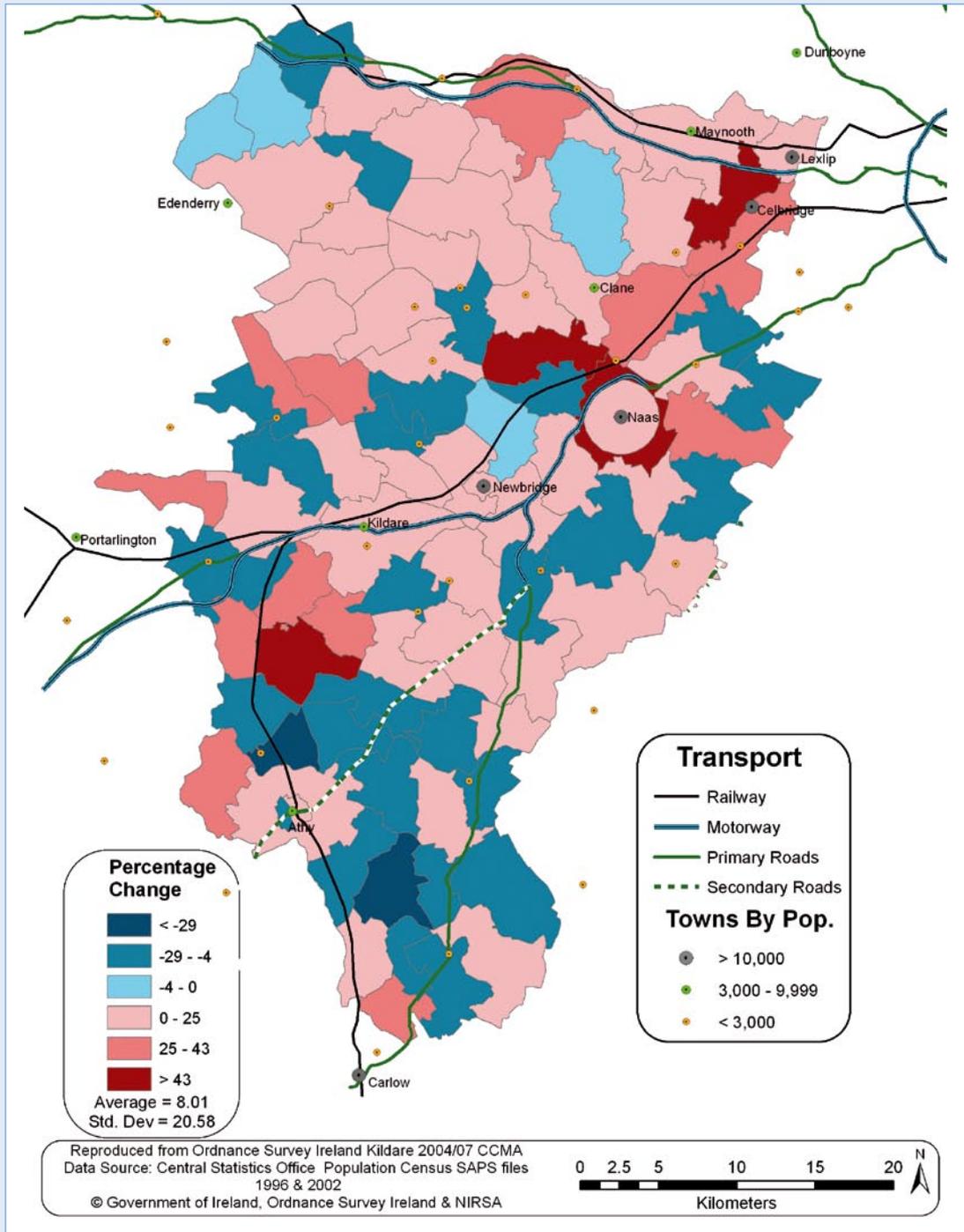
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MAP 13: PERSONS AGED 15-24 YEARS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002



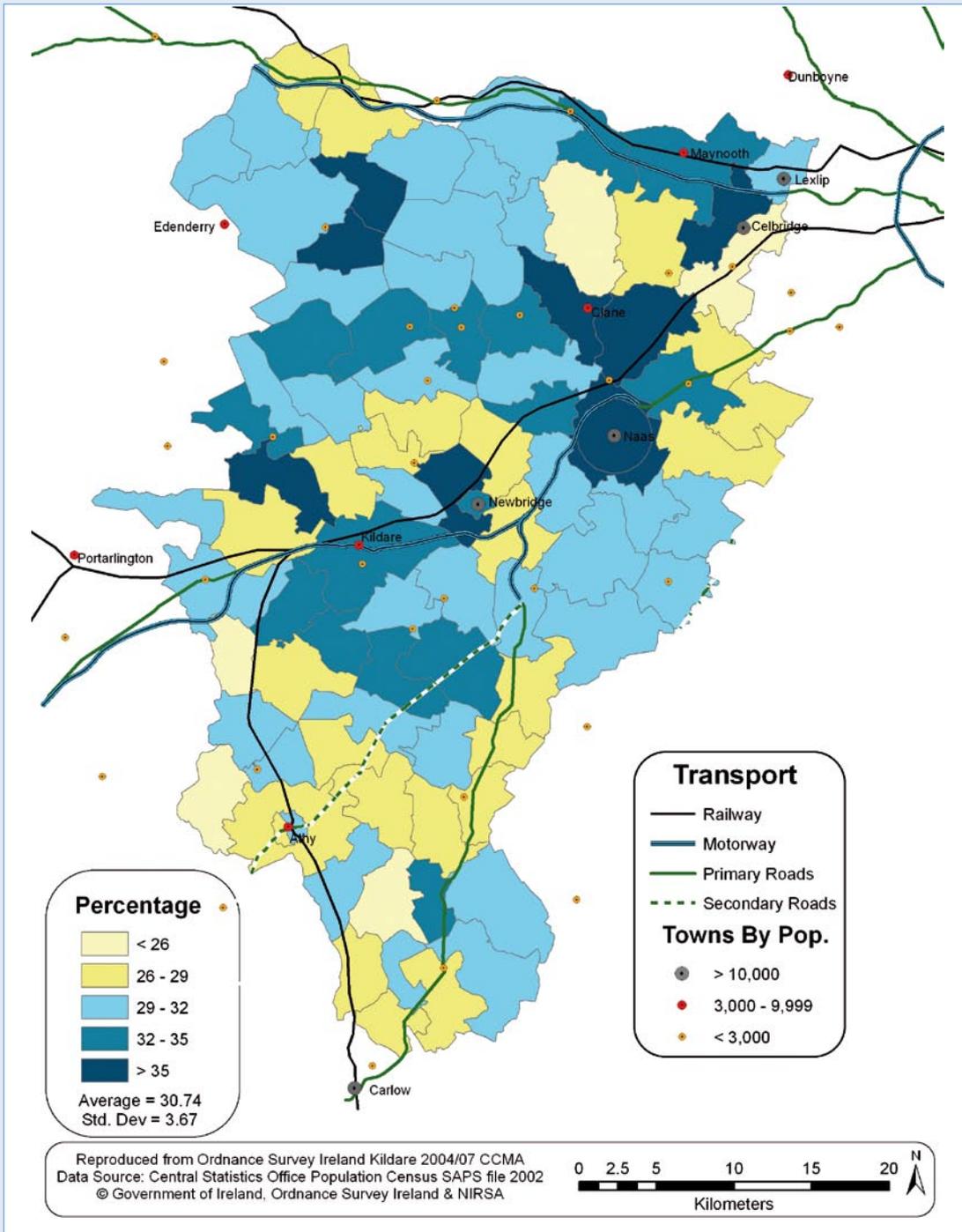
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MAP 14: PERSONS AGED 15-24 YEARS PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1996-2002



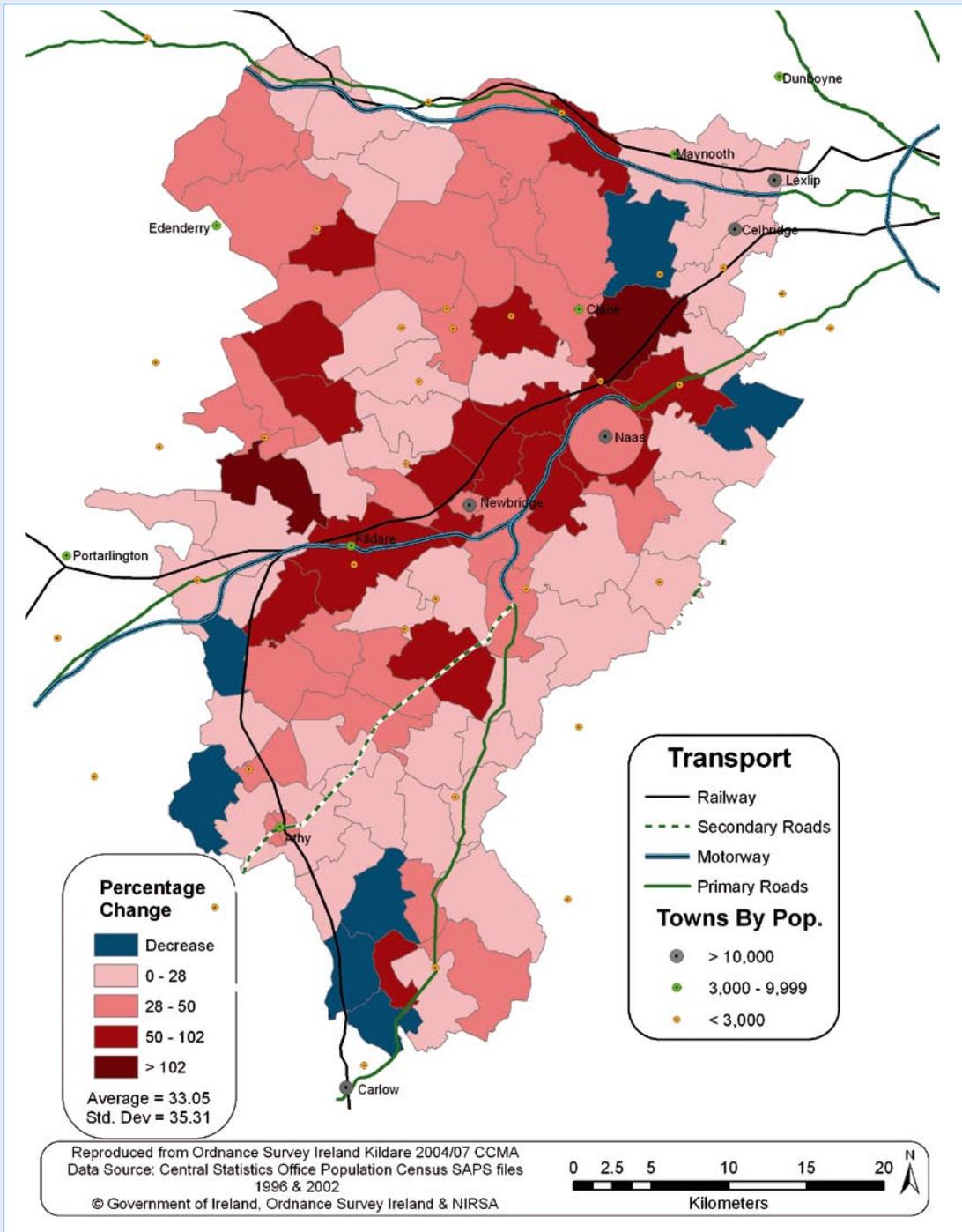
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MAP 15: PERSONS AGED 25 - 44 YEARS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002



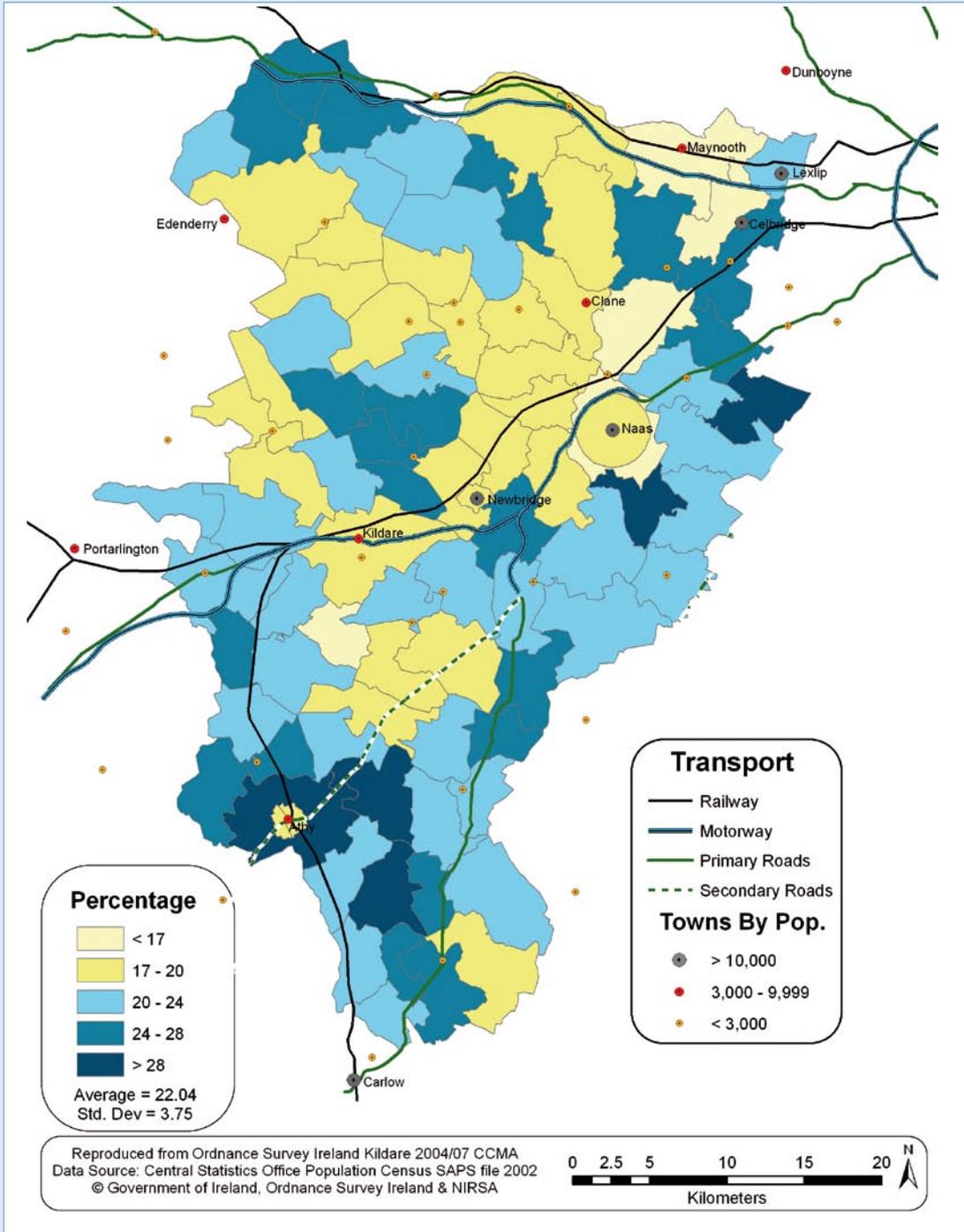
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MAP 16: PERSONS AGED 25 - 44 YEARS PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1996-2002



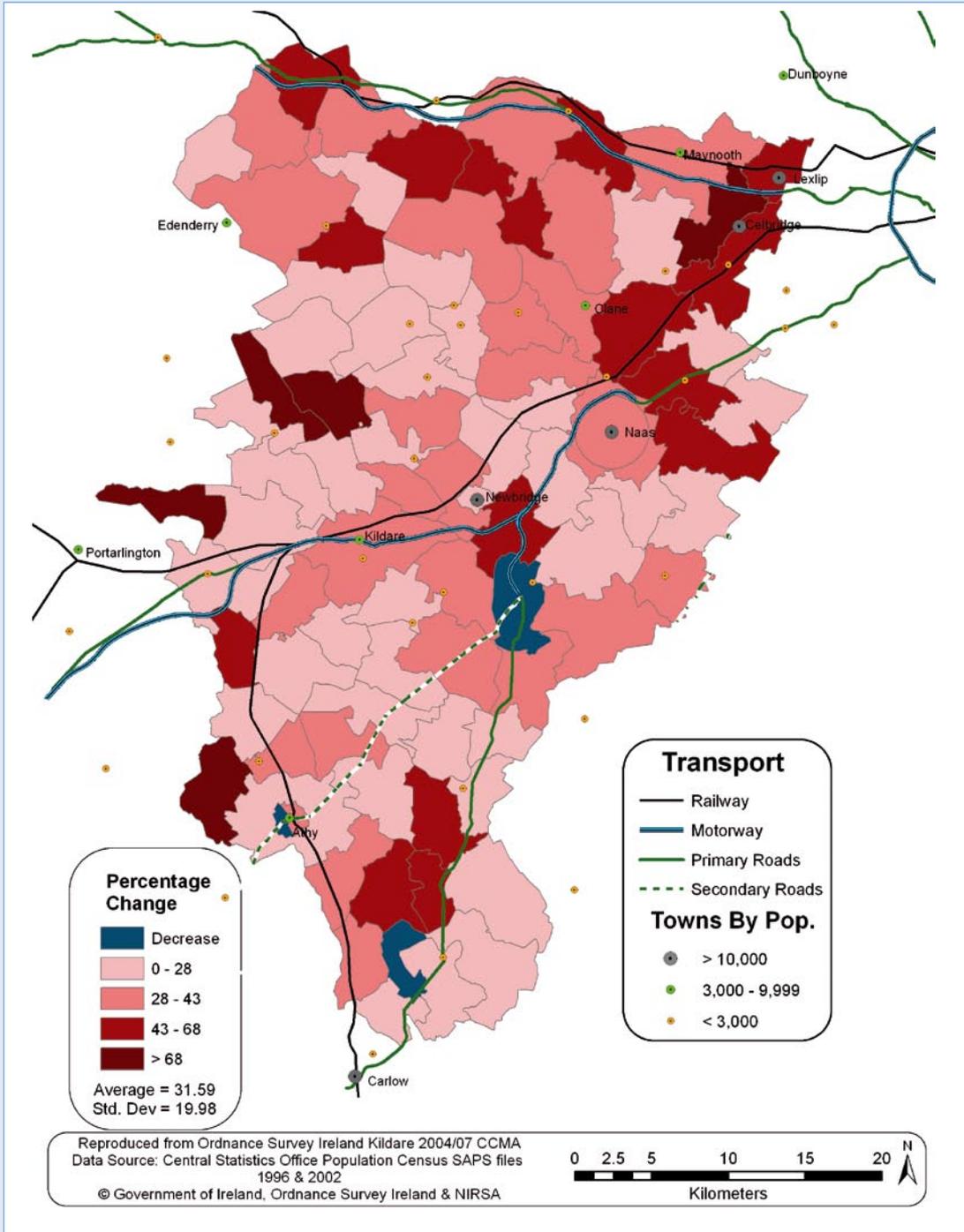
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MAP 17: PERSONS AGED 45-64 YEARS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002



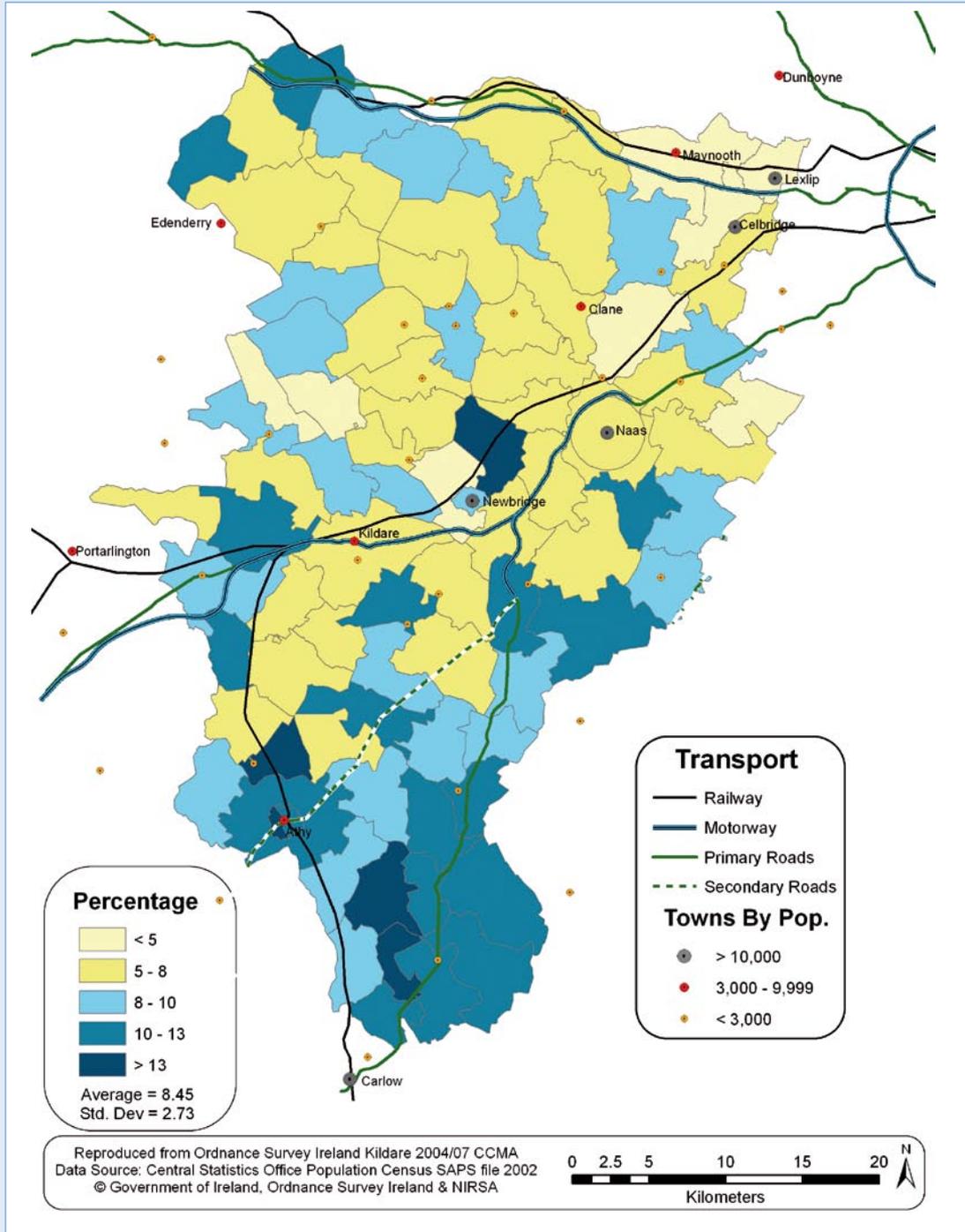
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MAP 18: PERSONS AGED 45-64 YEARS PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1996-2002



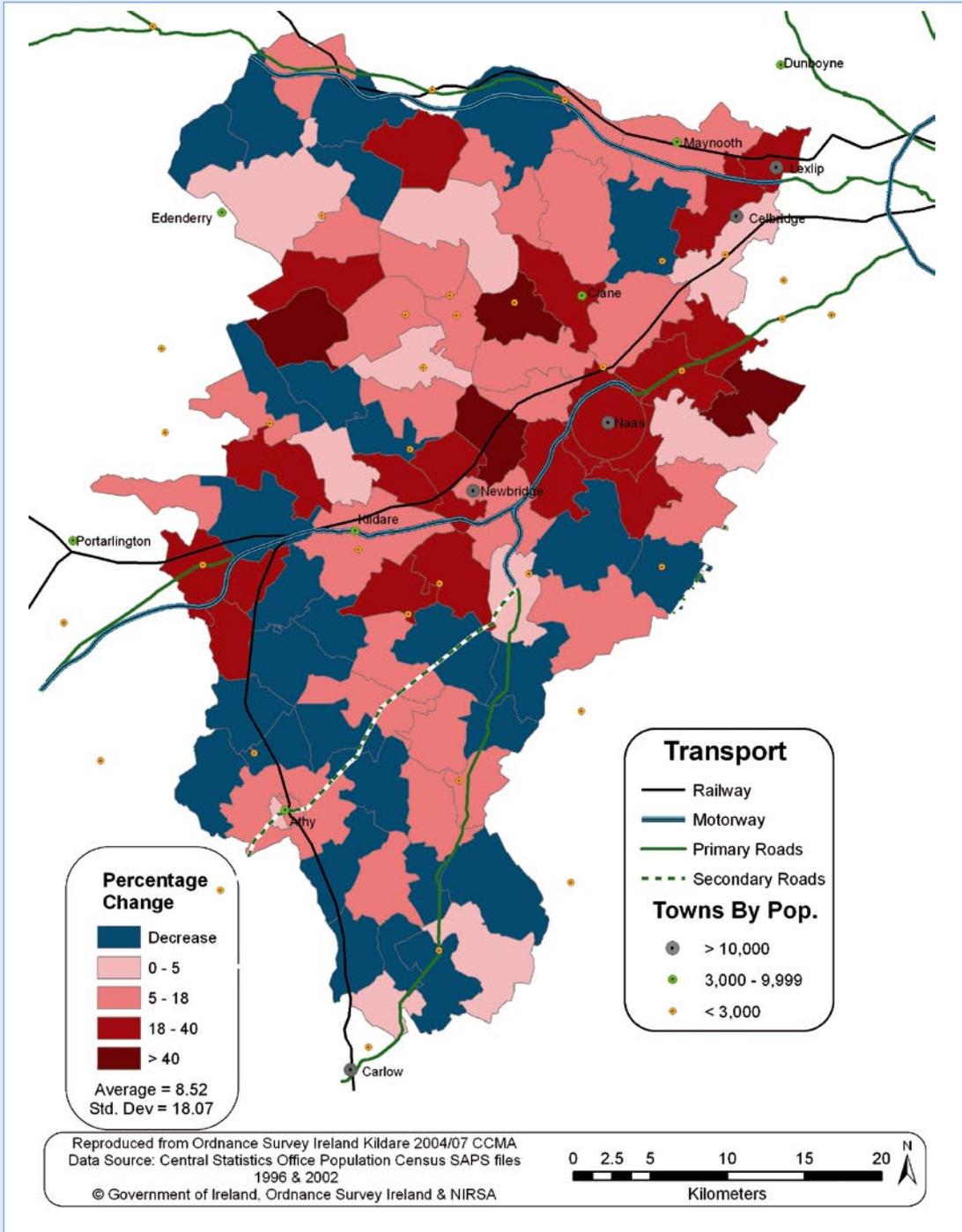
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MAP 19: PERSONS AGED 65+ YEARS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002



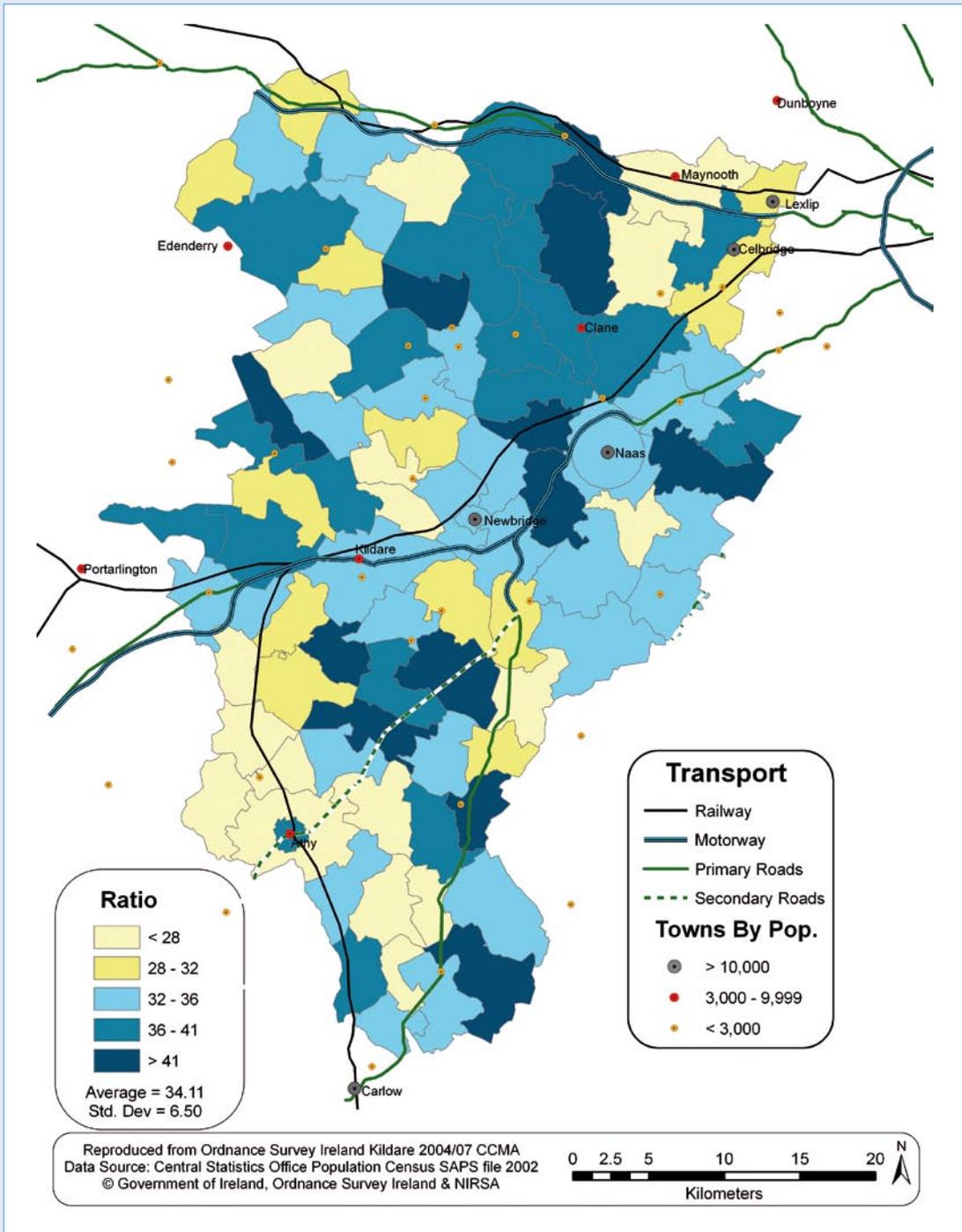
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MAP 20: PERSONS AGED 65+ YEARS PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1996-2002



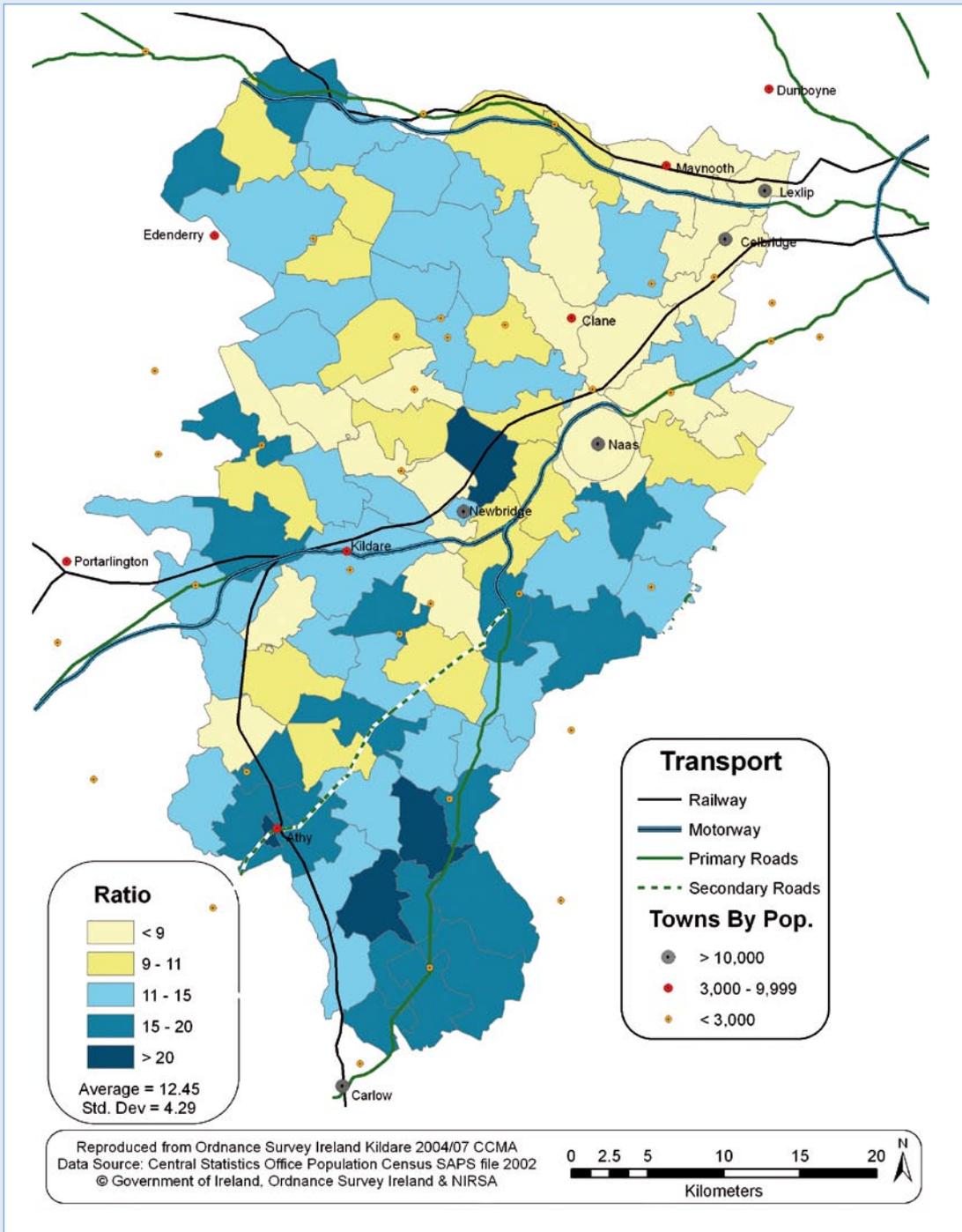
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MAP 21: YOUTH DEPENDENCY RATIO
 PERSONS AGED <15 YEARS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AGED 15-64 YEARS, 2002



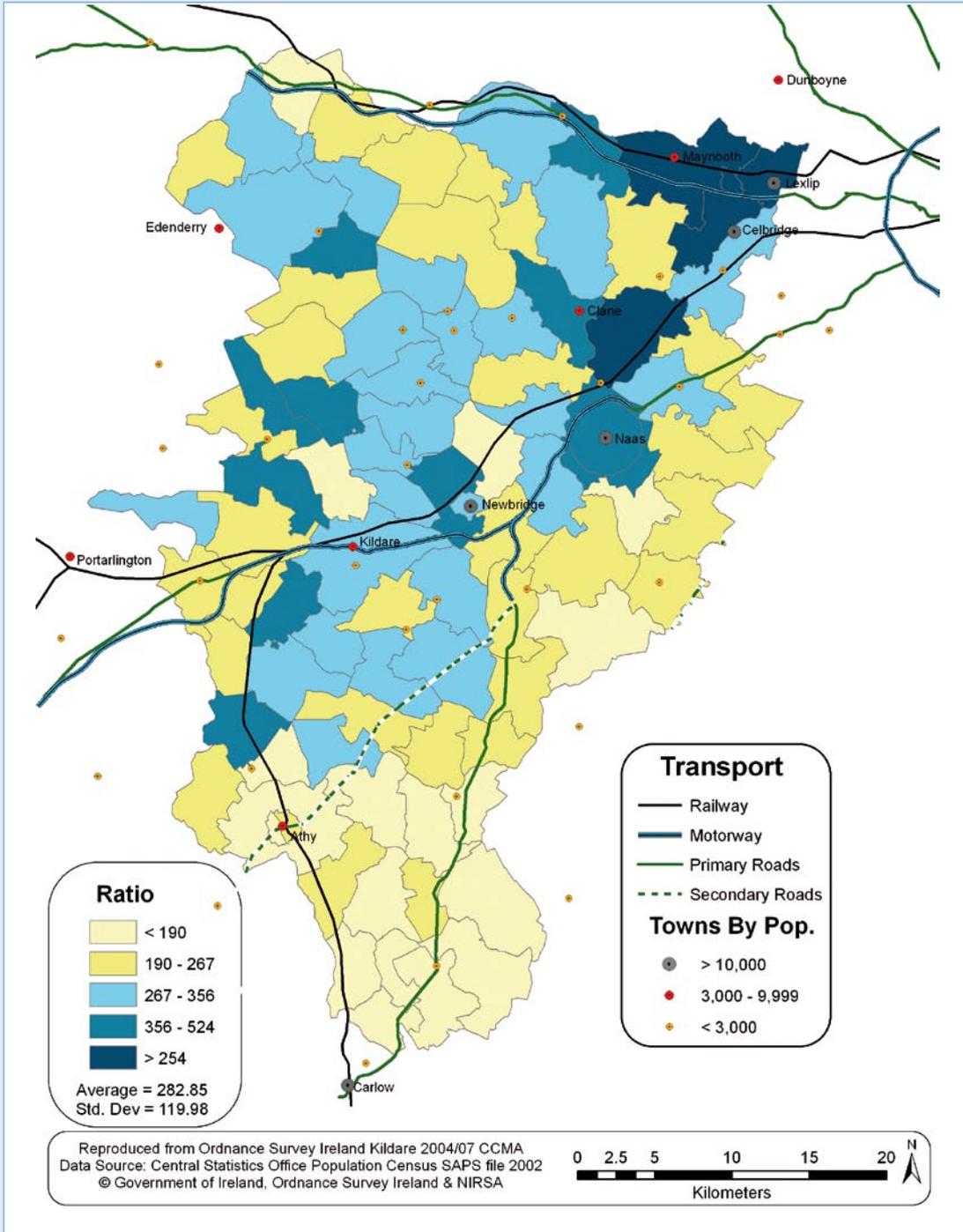
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MAP 22: ELDERLY DEPENDENCY RATIO
 PERSONS AGED 65+ YEARS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AGED 15-64 YEARS, 2002



02

MAP 23: DEMOGRAPHIC VITALITY RATIO
 PERSONS AGED 29-39 YEARS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AGED 60+ YEARS, 2002



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2.7 MARITAL STATUS

Table 6 shows that Kildare had a significantly higher proportion of married people in the population aged 15 and over than for the rest of the State. EDs with high proportions of married people were dispersed throughout the county, however there were also a number of clusters with high percentages of married people in some parts, the most obvious of these being an extensive area in the hinterland of Naas (**Map 24**). EDs with high proportions of married people included Fontstown (63.8%), Oughterard (63.3%), Drehid (61.8%), Ballyshannon (61.6%), Moone (60.6%), Pollardstown (60.4%), Giltown (59.7%), Killeel (59.6%) and Kilrainy (59.1%).

EDs with high proportions of single people are concentrated in other parts of the county, in particular around Maynooth in the north east of the county (which may be explained by the location of a university in Maynooth), around Kildare, Athy town centre and in a strip stretching from just north of Athy as far as Monasterevin. Areas with high proportions of single people include the EDs of Athy Urban West (63.1%), Maynooth (59.3%), Ballybrackan (56.2%), Ballysax East (55.9%), Kilberry (55.7%), Kilcullen (55.6%) and Ballysax West (55.3%).

Table 6: Marital Status: Kildare compared with the State

	Kildare	Percentage of total aged 15+	State	Percentage of total aged 15+
Married	63,665	50.9	1,454,413	47.0
Single	50,410	40.3	1,314,664	42.6
Separated/Divorced	5,554	4.4	133,838	4.3
Widowed	5,406	4.3	186,860	6.0

2.8 FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS

There were 50,477 private households in Kildare in 2002 with an average of 3.18 persons per household. Family households account for 80% of the total. Using data on the age profiles of household members it is possible to distinguish between households at different stages in the family life cycle. The idea of family life cycle is based on the knowledge that families move through a series of life stages that can be defined according to the age of the female partner and the children. The first stage (pre-family) is represented by young couples without children. It is followed by the pre-school stage characterised by couples with all children aged under four years. Following the transition through adolescence the adult stage is reached before progressing to the empty-nest phase when all children have left the home and finally the retirement stage is reached.

Each of the different stages have distinctive geographies (**Maps 25-28**) reflecting especially the effects of out-migration from rural areas and recent in-migration of mainly commuter oriented populations to

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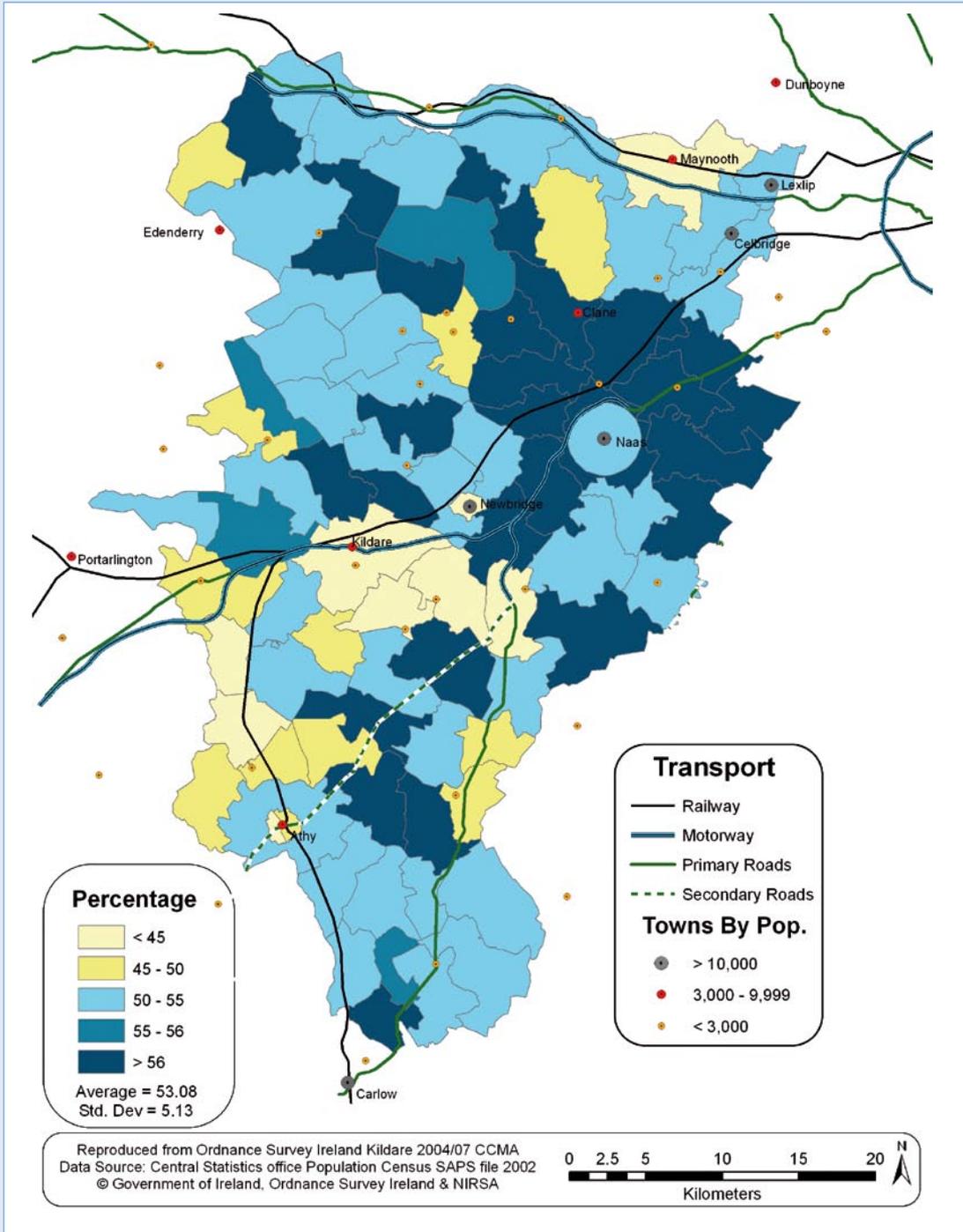
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several urban centres. Pre-school families are concentrated mainly in the EDs that have experienced rapid growth over recent years including especially urban centres with significant commuter populations (**Map 25**). Adult families are where the children have reached the adult stage and are still living at home with their parents. This was by far the most common family type accounting for almost 27% of the total. The highest incidence of adult families were in the south east of the county as well as pockets in the west of the county (**Map 26**). As expected, this family type was less dominant where there are large numbers of pre-school families.

Empty-nest families are those consisting of a couple only (no children living at home) where the female partner is aged between 45 and 64 years. This category represents almost eight percent of the total. The highest incidences are mainly in rural EDs especially in the hinterlands of Athy and south and east of Naas from which the children have migrated (**Map 27**). Finally, retired families which account for just over three percent of the total are most strongly represented on the outskirts of Athy and in districts to the south of Naas (**Map 28**).

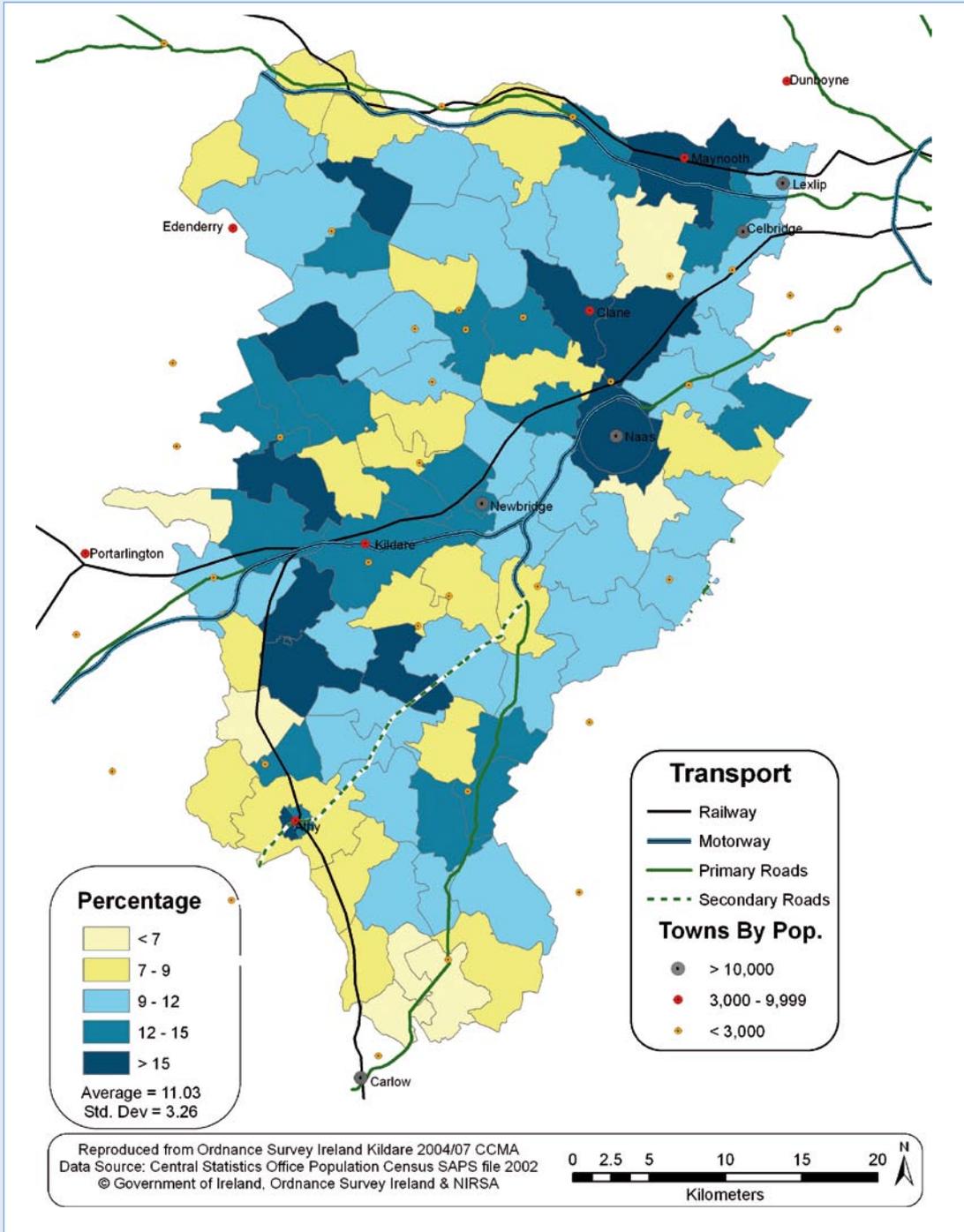
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MAP 24: MARRIED PERSONS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS AGED 15+, 2002



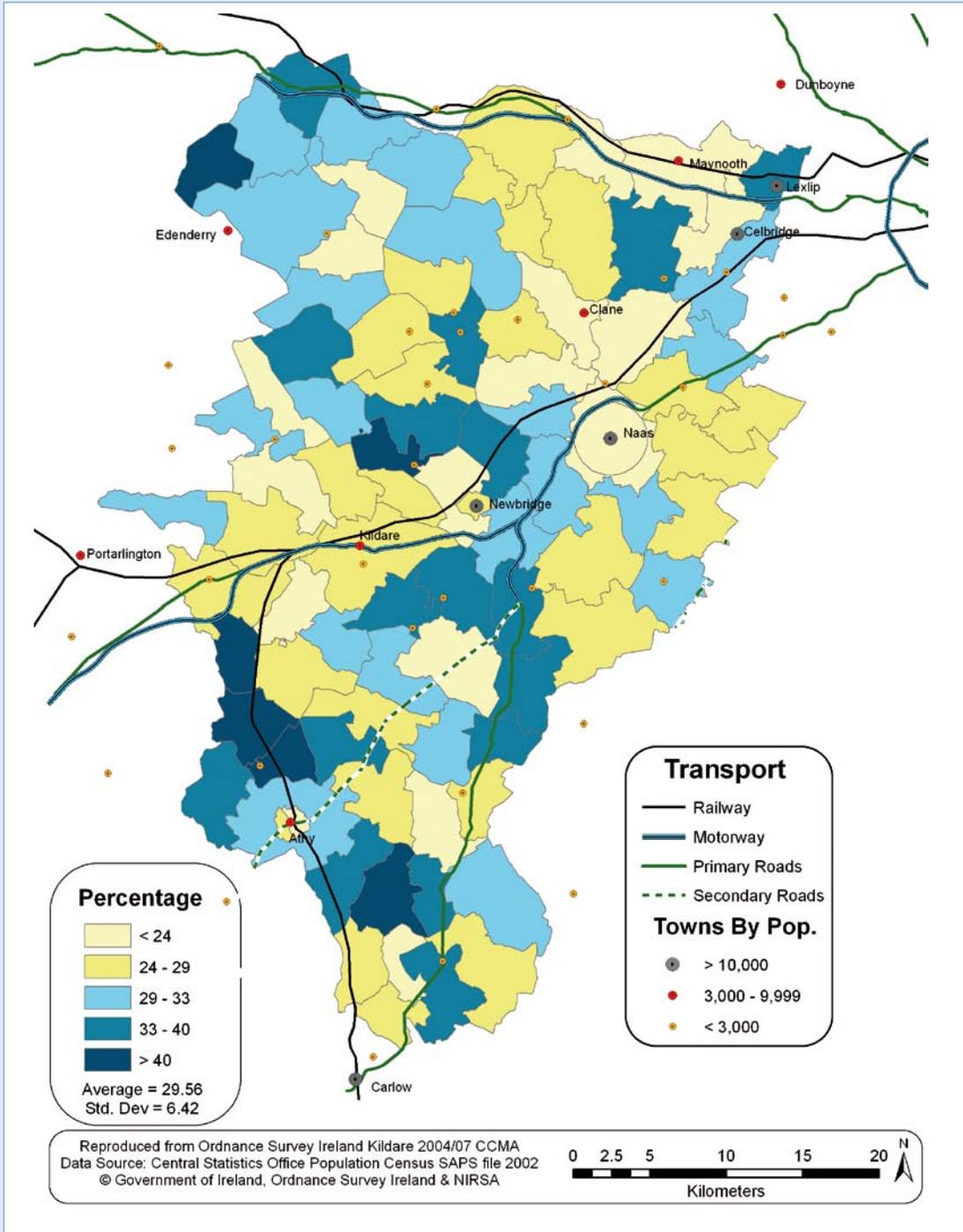
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MAP 25: PRE-SCHOOL FAMILIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL FAMILIES, 2002



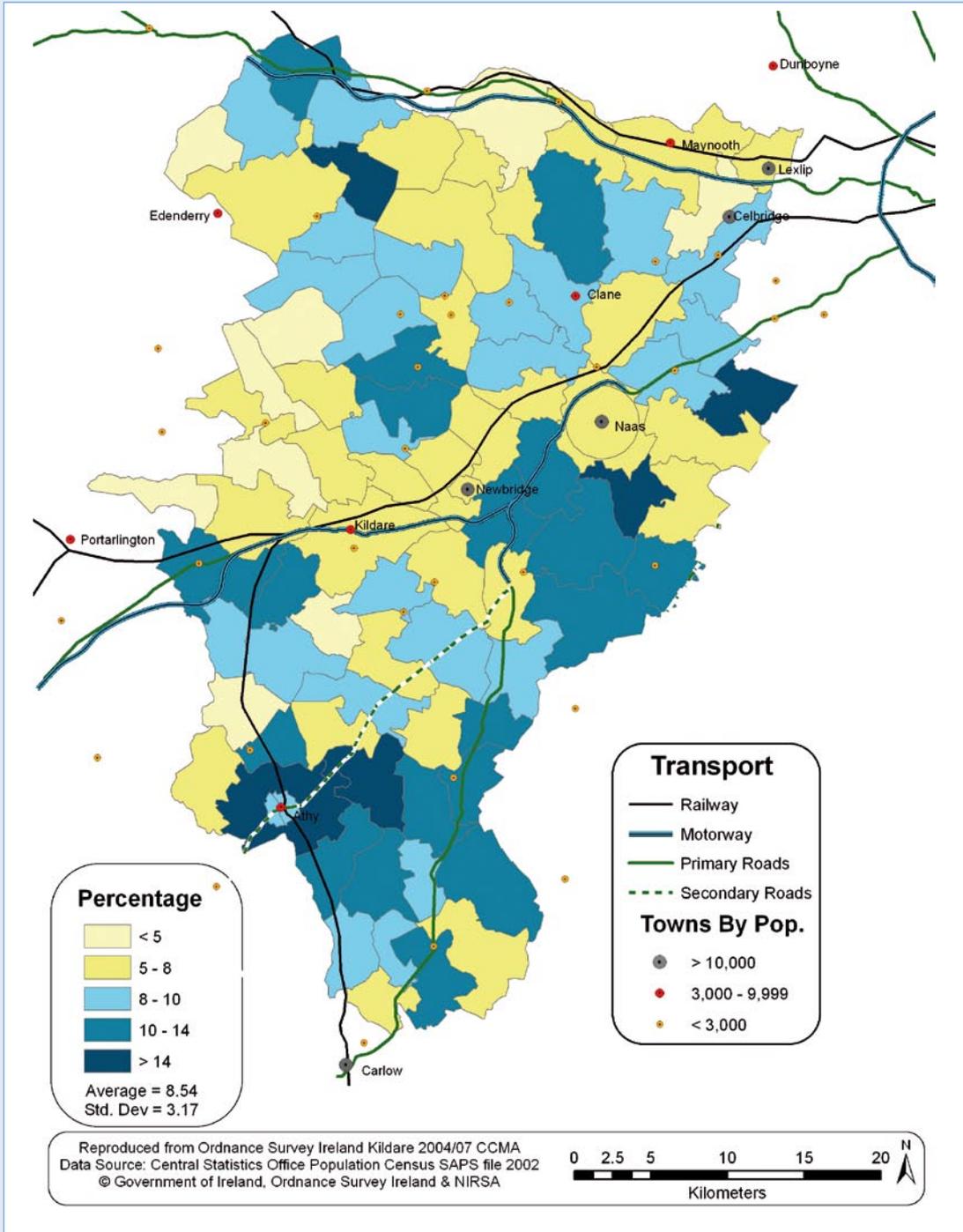
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MAP 26: ADULT FAMILIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL FAMILIES, 2002



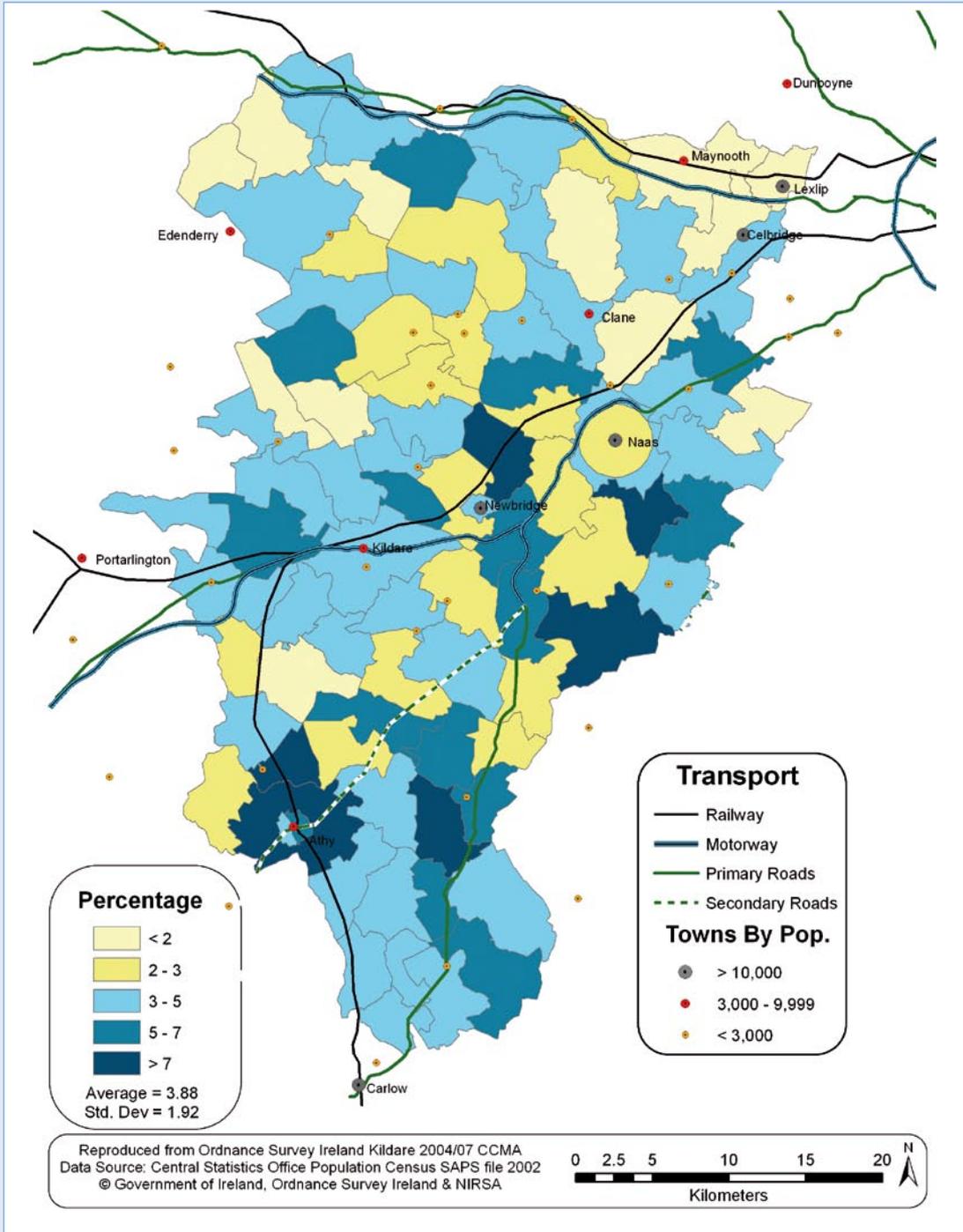
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MAP 27: EMPTY NEST FAMILIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL FAMILIES, 2002



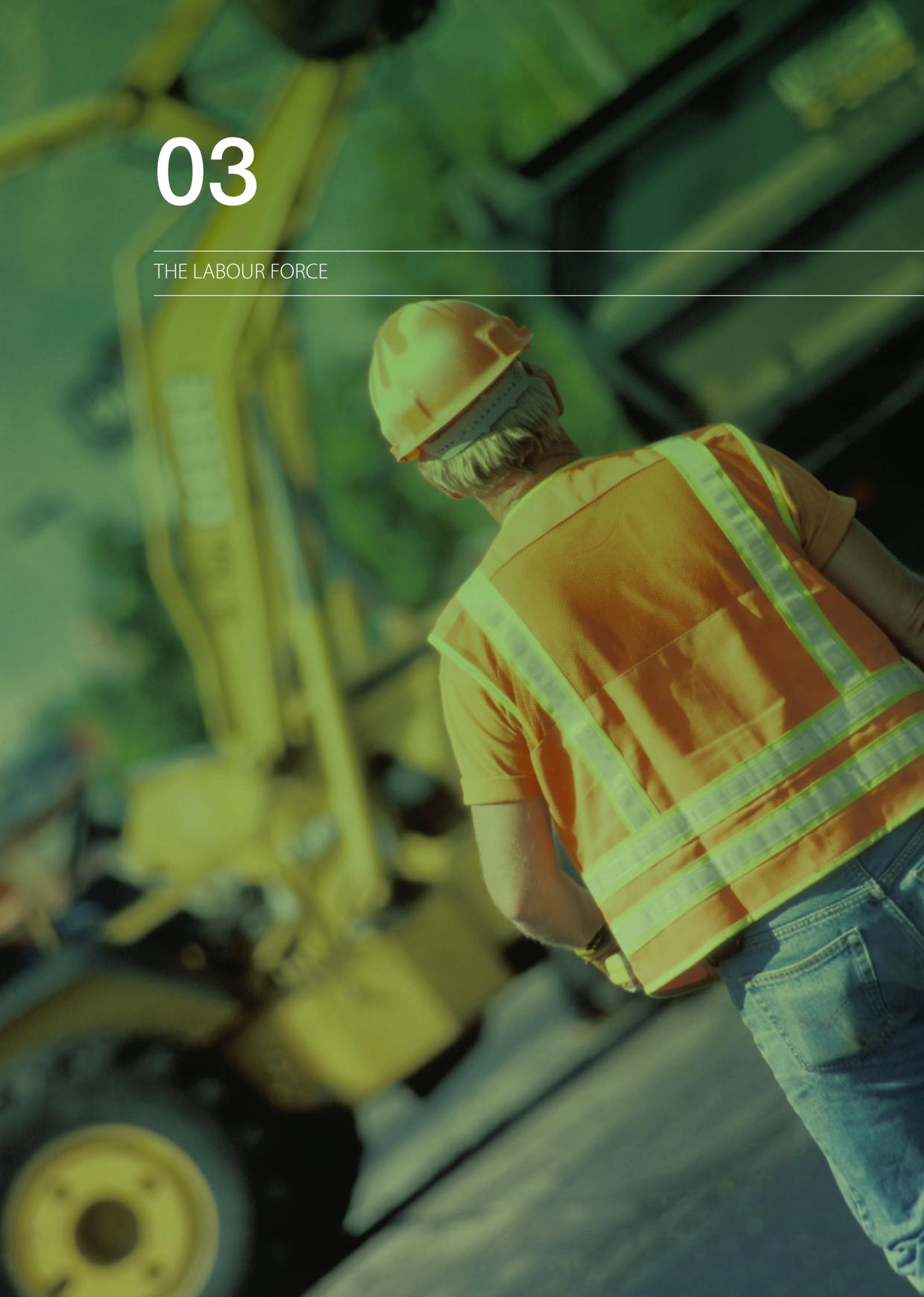
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MAP 28: RETIRED FAMILIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL FAMILIES, 2002



03

THE LABOUR FORCE



03

THE LABOUR FORCE

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The labour force consists of the total at work, the number of unemployed persons and the number of first time job seekers. Changes in the size of the labour force are influenced by demographic trends and participation rates. In a county such as Kildare where there is a high level of in-migration of adults in the working age groups most of the growth in the labour force is related to demographic trends. In addition, there has been an upward trend in female participation rates over the period since the early 1980s. This is as a result of a combination of factors such as improved educational levels, removal of barriers preventing married women from working, and a decline in average family size. Moreover, for many younger couples there is an economic necessity for both partners to be at work in order to pay the costs of increasing house prices. In 2002 the total number at work in Kildare was 74,347¹, compared with 51,299 in 1996. The overall participation rate is 63.4% compared with 58.3% for the State reflecting the age profile of the county (a larger proportion of those aged over 15 are in the working age groups) and the greater opportunities for employment in Kildare and neighbouring counties (**Table 7**).

Table 7: Labour Force Participation: Kildare compared with the State

	Kildare	Percentage Change 1996-2002	State	Percentage Change 1996-2002
At Work	74,347	+44.9	1,641,587	+25.6
First Time Job Seekers	689	-23.2	21,147	-23.4
Unemployed	4,184	-24.7	138,199	-30.6
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	-3.4	8.9%	-5.9
Labour force Participation Rate	63.4%	+5.2	58.3%	+2.8

The number of employed people increased dramatically in the State and also within Kildare over the 1996-2002 period largely arising from the economic boom associated with the emergence of the "Celtic Tiger". In Kildare alone the number of people at work increased by 23,048 people, or 44.9%, over this six year period, a much higher proportion than the average rate of increase for the State (25.6%). The increase in the numbers employed in Kildare and the State stem only partially from a reduction in unemployment levels, as the reduction in the numbers unemployed (including the reduction in the number of first time job seekers) accounts for only a small percentage of the employment increase. The unemployment rate for the State fell by 5.9% and for Kildare fell by 3.5% in the 1996-2002 period. In Kildare, the number of unemployed people (excluding first-time job seekers) fell by 1,376 over the 1996-2002 period, amounting to a 24.7% reduction. This number, however, approximated to just 6% of the increase in the number employed. So in 2002, there were 4,184 persons unemployed in Co. Kildare and this had increased to 4,440 by October 2005 according to the latest² Live Register analysis from the CSO.

¹ Note: this figure refers to the number of persons residing in Kildare who are classified 'at work'. Many of these are commuting to workplaces outside the county.

² October 2005

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THE LABOUR FORCE

3.2 PARTICIPATION RATES

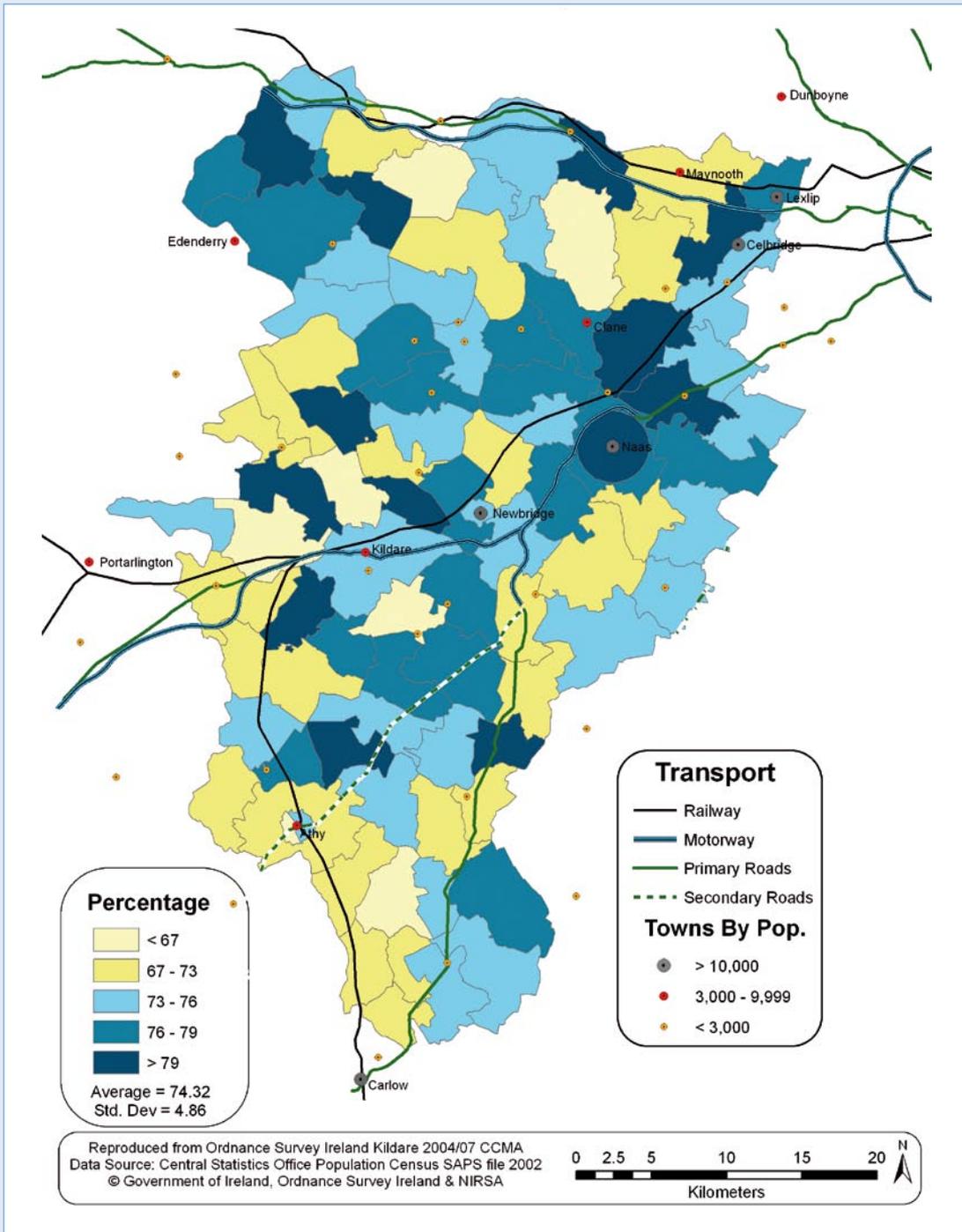
The participation rate in the labour force of all persons aged 15 years and over in 2002 was 63.4% in Kildare compared with 58.3% for the State (**Table 7**). A gender based breakdown of participation rates shows that the male labour force participation rate in Kildare was 71.1%, compared to 69.9% for the State while the rate for females at 51.2% was significantly higher than the rate for the State (47.0%).

There are some significant differences in the distributions of male and female participation rates. While generally the highest male participation rates are concentrated in a number of the urban centres in the north east, some of the highest male participation rates are in several of the less accessible rural areas. There are also, however, extensive rural areas with low ratios. (**Map 29**). The highest female participation rates are generally within the commuter-belt areas of the north east of the county, such as Naas and Celbridge. The lowest rates are generally in the south of the county with districts to the north east of Newbridge and Naas as well as a couple of districts in the west also exhibiting low female participation rates (**Map 30**).

While the male labour force participation rate for Kildare increased by only about six percent for County Kildare as a whole, between 1996 and 2002, there were some significant adjustments between districts (**Map 31**). Major increases occurred in a number of districts in the north east of the county, particularly north of Naas and west of Maynooth. By contrast, participation rates declined in a few of the more rural districts of the county in the far south, east of Johnstown and around Straffan. This can be related to some extent to the age profile of the population. The female participation rates increased in all but one ED at the very southern tip of the county. The most significant increases were in the hinterlands of Naas and in a number of more rural districts in the west of the county as well as a district south of Ballitore (**Map 32**).

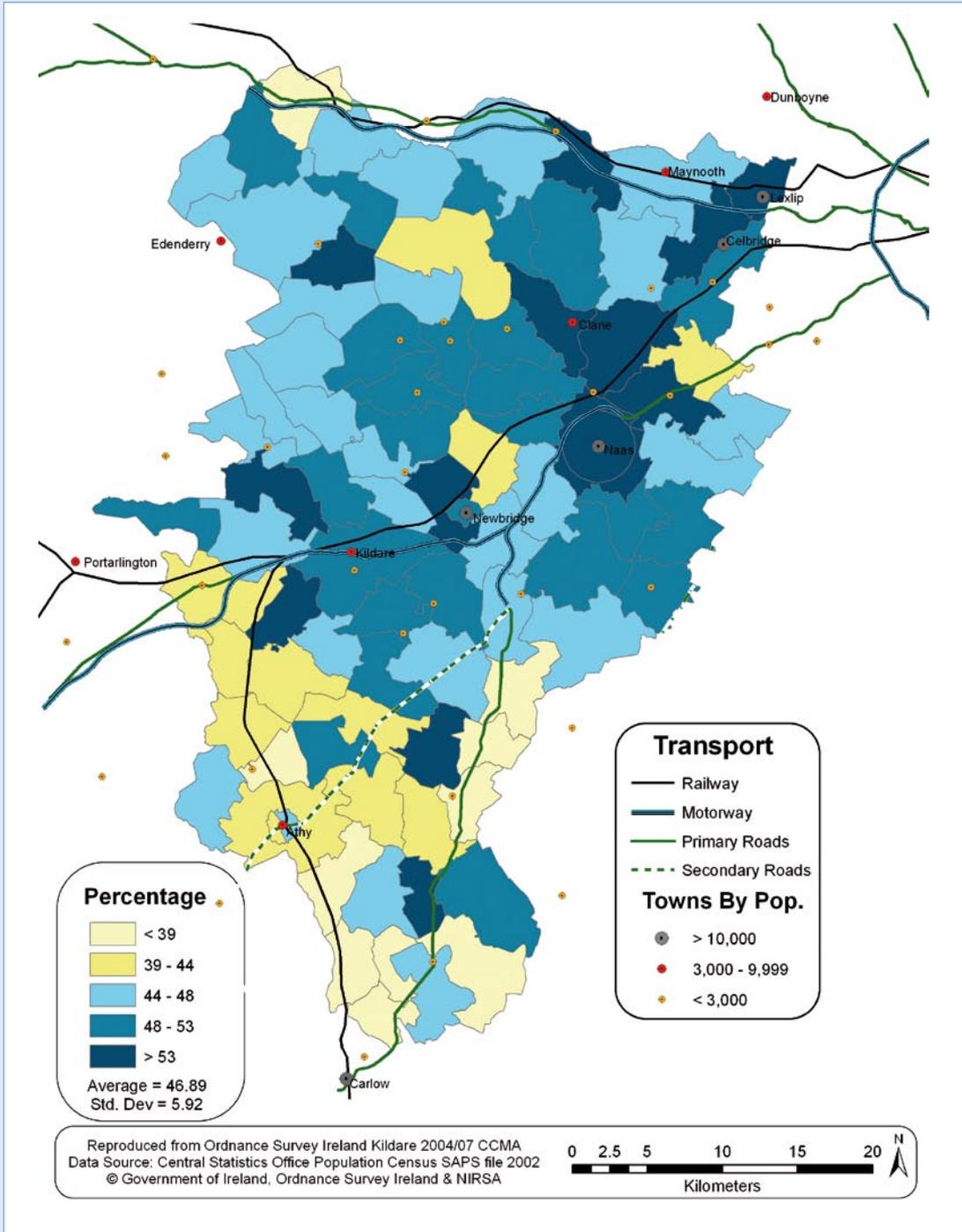
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MAP 29: MALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, 2002



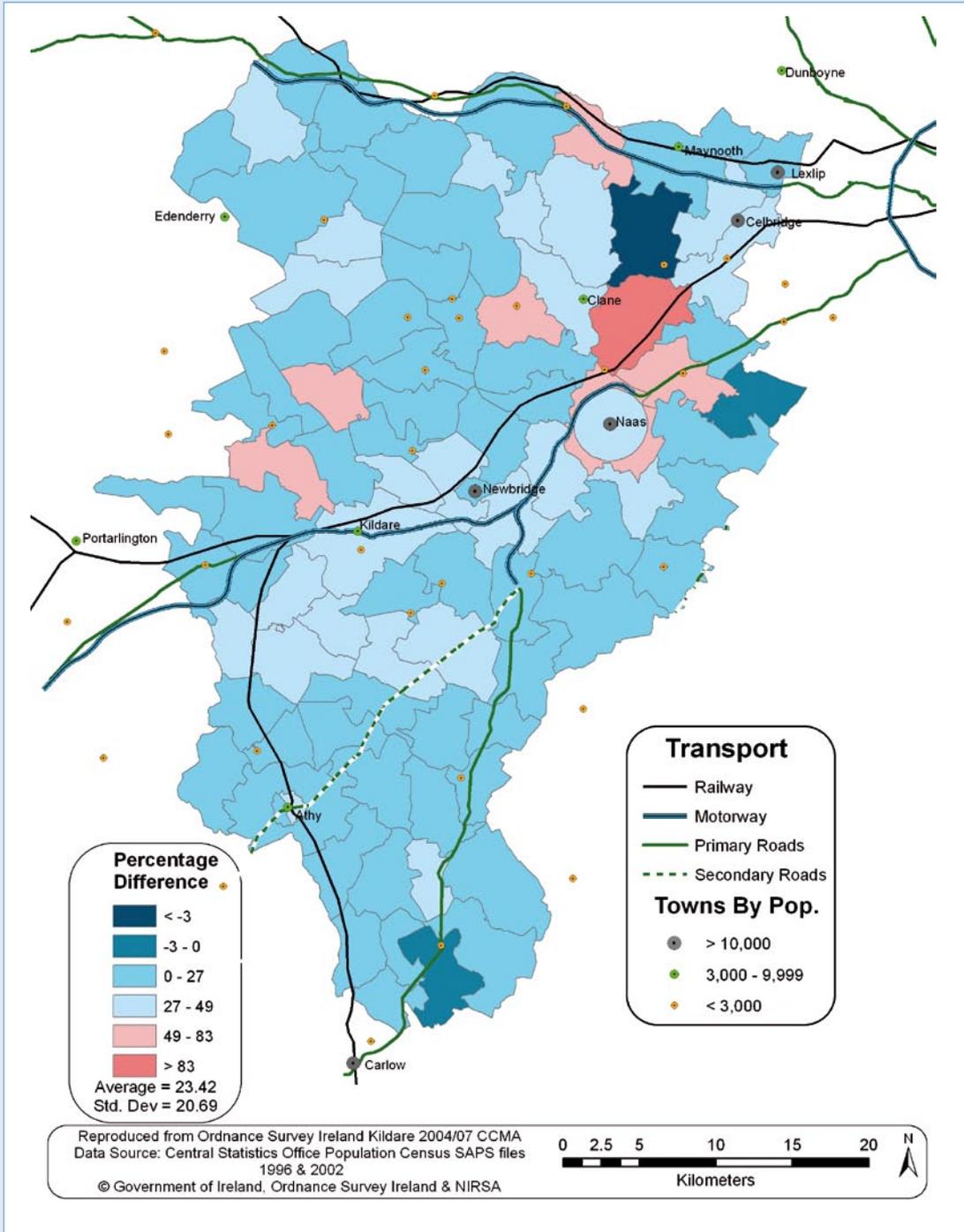
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MAP 30: FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, 2002



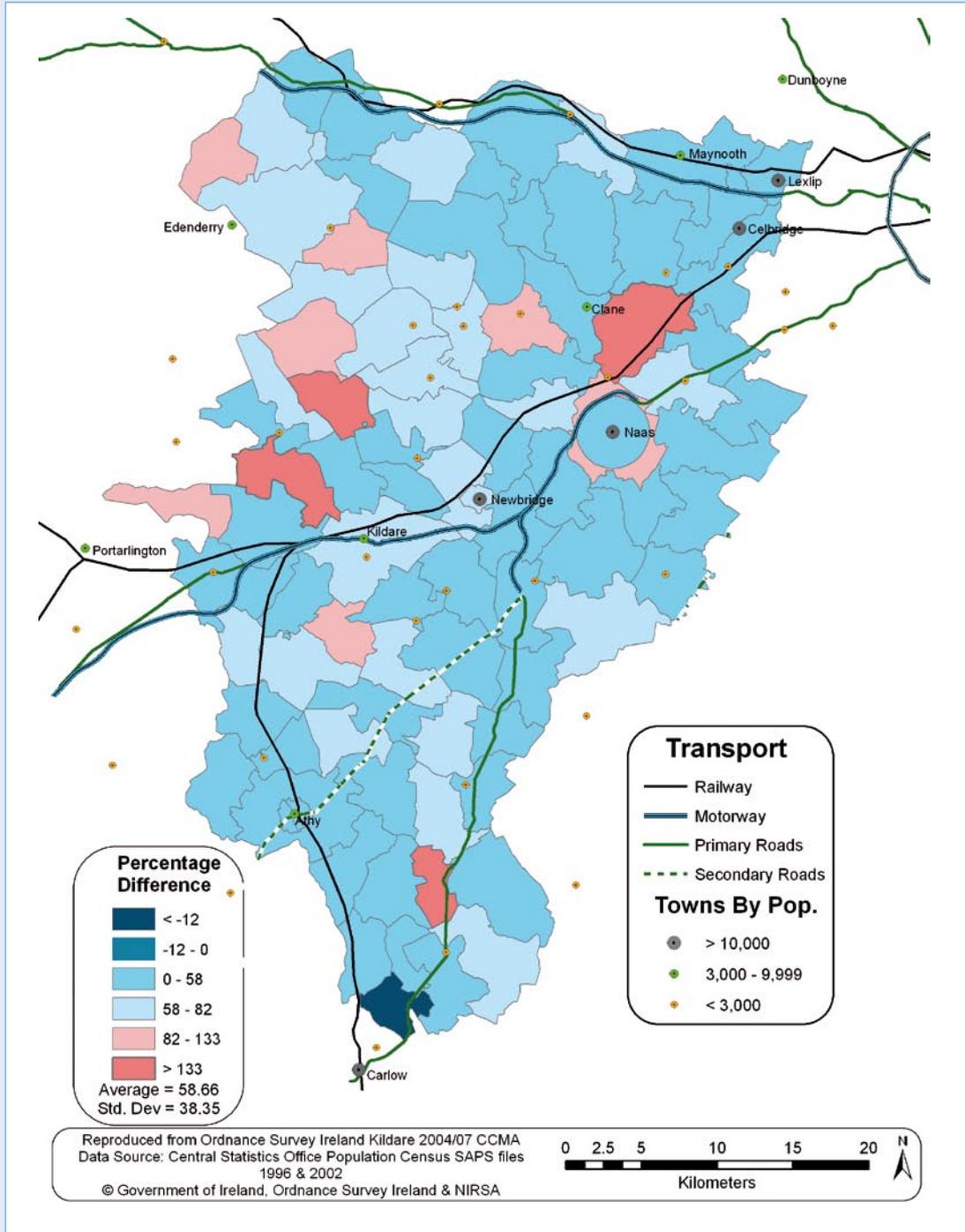
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MAP 31: MALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE PERCENTAGE DIFFERENCE 1996-2002



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MAP 32: FEMALE LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE PERCENTAGE DIFFERENCE 1996-2002



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THE LABOUR FORCE

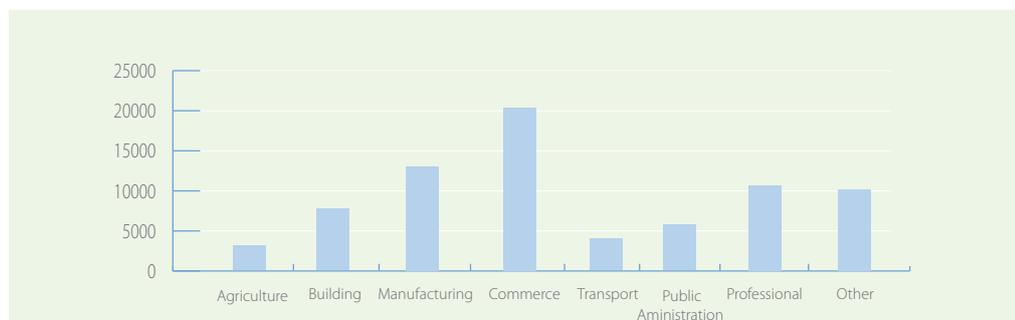
3.3 SECTORAL EMPLOYMENT PATTERNS

The distribution of persons at work according to industrial groups is summarised in **Table 8** and **Figure 6**. By 2002 there were only 3,096 persons at work in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector in Kildare representing 4.2% of the workforce. Between 1996 and 2002 the total at work in the sector declined by 14.8% which was not as great as the 30.4% decline throughout the State but is likely reflective of the fact that the decline in employment in agriculture in Kildare has been ongoing for a long period. By contrast employment increased in all other sectors and particularly in the building and construction (+7,665), commerce (+9,366) and 'other' sectors (+4792), which includes persons working in hotels as well as those in community, social and personal services activities. The level of increase in manufacturing (including electricity, gas and water supply sectors) was modest at 1,841 (16.5%) while the gain in the number of those working in public administration was only 672.

Table 8: Persons at work classified by Industrial Groups, Kildare and the State

	Kildare 2002	% Change 1996-2002	State 2002	% Change 1996-2002
Professional (Education & Health)	10,599	20.6	252,469	4.7
Public Administration	5,696	13.4	94,569	21.1
Transport	3,941	53.2	96,783	23.8
Commerce	20,287	85.8	440,656	62.2
Manufacturing, Mining & Utilities	12,965	16.5	261,952	0.5
Building & Construction	7,665	95.1	149,271	41.4
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	3,096	-14.8	97,137	-30.4
Other	10,098	90.3	247,053	65.6

Figure 6: Number employed in different sectors in Kildare



Data Source: Census of Population, 1996, 2002 CSO.

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3.4 SPATIAL PATTERNS OF EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

Employment in agriculture was greatest in the south and west parts of the county, while as expected the lowest levels were found around the major urban centres and in the commuter zones in the north east of the county. Agriculture accounted for more than one fifth of the total employment in most of the south east of the county (**Map 33**). There was another pocket of relatively high agricultural employment directly to the east of Monasterevin and north of Athy. Kildangan was the district with the highest level of agriculturally based employment (27.7%), with high levels also associated with Johnstown (26.8%), Carrigeen (25.3%), Burtown (25.2%), Harristown (21.5%), Moone (20.6%) and Graney (20.6%).

Farming is the sole occupation of most farmers in the less accessible areas in the west of the county, in a number of districts on the outskirts of Athy and to the south west of Ballymore Eustace and Kilcullen (**Map 34**). By contrast, farming has become a subsidiary occupation on more than one third of all farms and this is especially the case around Newbridge and in the more urban north-east of the county (**Map 35**).

Manufacturing industries account for 17.4% of the total at work, which is just slightly above than the share of 16% of the workforce for the State. The total number of manufacturing employees in Kildare increased by 1,841 (16.6%) between 1996 and 2002 following an increase by 2,293 (26.0%) between 1991 and 1996. A notable feature of **Map 36** is the high share of the workforce employed in manufacturing in many rural districts in the west of the county and also in the south of the county around Athy. The most prominent message from this map, however, is the low dependence on manufacturing throughout most of the county. The districts with the highest levels of manufacturing employment were Kilberry (36.1%), Kilpatrick (31.0%), Bert (29.6%), Athy West Urban (28.9%), Robertstown (25.9%) and Lullymore (25.3%) while the lowest levels were in Ballysax East (9.2%), Kildangan (9.7%), Belan (10.9%), Dunmurry (11.1%), Cloncurry (11.2%), Pollardstown (11.5%), Killashee (11.6%) and Balraheen (11.9%).

The highest levels of employment in building and construction in Kildare are mainly associated with districts in rural parts of the north and south east, where this sector accounts for more than 15% of total employment in many districts (**Map 37**). EDs with particularly high percentages of their workforce employed in the building and construction sector include Inchaquire (25.9%), Kilmeage South (18.2%), Castledermot (17.7%), Robertstown (17.7%), Balraheen (16.5%), Ballitore (16.3%) and Ballynadrummy (16.3%). The lowest levels of employment in this sector are associated with the north east of the county and areas in the west and south west. Low levels are associated with the hinterlands of Athy, Kildare and Naas and the commuting zone in the north east. The EDs with the lowest levels of employment in building and construction included Quinsborough (2.1%), Bert (4.2%), Burtown (6.1%), Ballaghmoon (6.7%), Ballysax East (6.8%) and Dunmurry (6.9%).

Employment in the transport sector which accounted for 5.3% of the workforce is focussed in three main areas: in the north of the county, particularly around Naas and in the commuter zone, in the south west around Athy and in the south east in a strip between Ballitore and Kilcullen (**Map 38**). Usk ED had the highest percentage of its workforce employed in the transport sector (10.3%), with high levels also associated with the EDs of Ballitore (9.3%), Naas Rural (8.8%), Cloncurry (7.9%), Oughterard (7.6%) and Kilteel

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(7.6%). Low levels of employment in the transport were widespread throughout most of the west of the county, particularly the mid west.

The commerce sector which includes wholesale and retail activities (10,386 workers), banking and financial services (3,337) and real estate and business services (6,564) increased its share of total employment from 21.3% to 27.3% between 1996 and 2002. The sector is very strongly concentrated in the north-east of the county (**Map 39**), and especially in the area that stretches from Newbridge to Leixlip where it accounts for more than one-third of the workforce in some districts including Kill (33.0%), Oughterard (32.3%), Donaghcumper (32.0%), Naas Urban (31.9%), Rathmore (31.0%) and Celbridge (30.8%). By contrast this sector is much less significant throughout most of the west and south of the county.

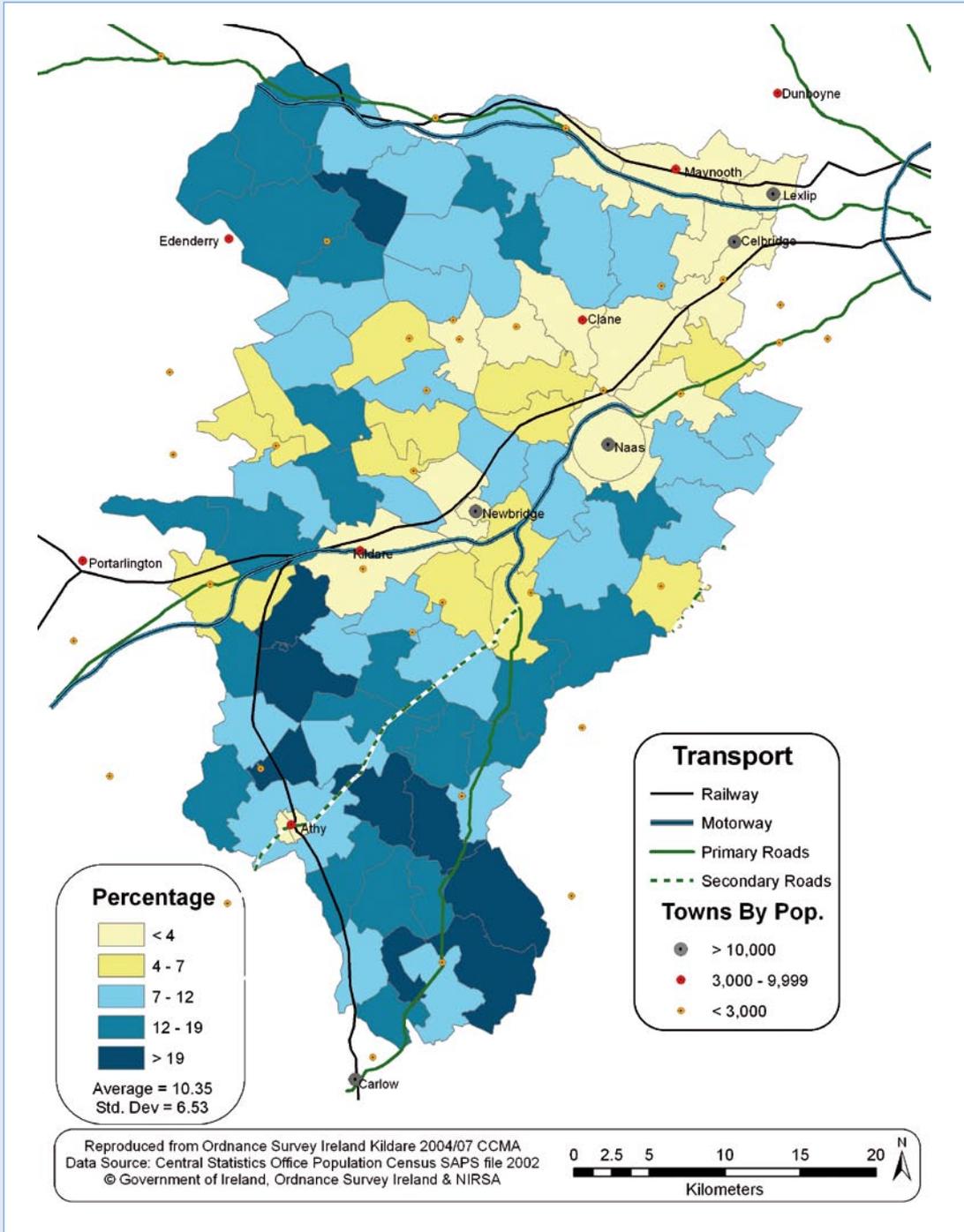
The professional sector total of 10,599 is made up of 4,898 workers in education and 5,701 in health and social work. High levels of employment in the professional sectors (not all of which is located in Kildare) are associated with more urbanised areas, including the commuter districts in the north-east of the county (**Map 40**). The highest proportions of professional employment were found in Maynooth (21.4%), Cloncurry (18.8%), Monasterevin (18.4%), Donaghcumper (18.3%) and Athy Rural (18.3%). The lowest levels were found mainly in the middle and west of the county with particularly low levels in the EDs of Inchaquire (2.4%), Belan (5.0%), Johnstown (7.0%), Kilpatrick (7.7%), Nurney (7.7%) and Killeel (8.1%).

There is a quite clear spatial pattern in employment in public administration in Kildare with the highest shares of employment in this sector concentrated in the Kildare, Newbridge, Naas area and in the north-east of the county (**Map 41**). The public administration sector accounted for the highest percentage of employment in the Ballysax East ED (32.4%), with high levels also in Ballysax West (14.9%), Morristownbiller (10.1%), Leixlip (9.8%), Kildare (9.5%), Newbridge Rural (9.3%), Carragh (9.0%) and Usk (8.7%). The lowest levels were found mainly in the north-west, with particularly low levels in the EDs of Inchaquire and Carrick where no-one was employed in public administration. Further low levels of employment in this sector were found in the EDs of Timahoe South (1.5%), Ballynadrummy (1.7%), Quinsborough (2.1%), Windmill Cross (2.2%), Kilberry (2.4%) and Kilmeage South (2.6%).

The final category of workers ('Persons in Other Employment' in **Map 42**) are those employed in hotels and restaurants (2,922), other community, social and personal service activities (2,957) and those whose industry was not stated. These workers are most strongly represented in some central and western EDs (**Map 42**) with lower proportions in the south, east and some districts in the north.

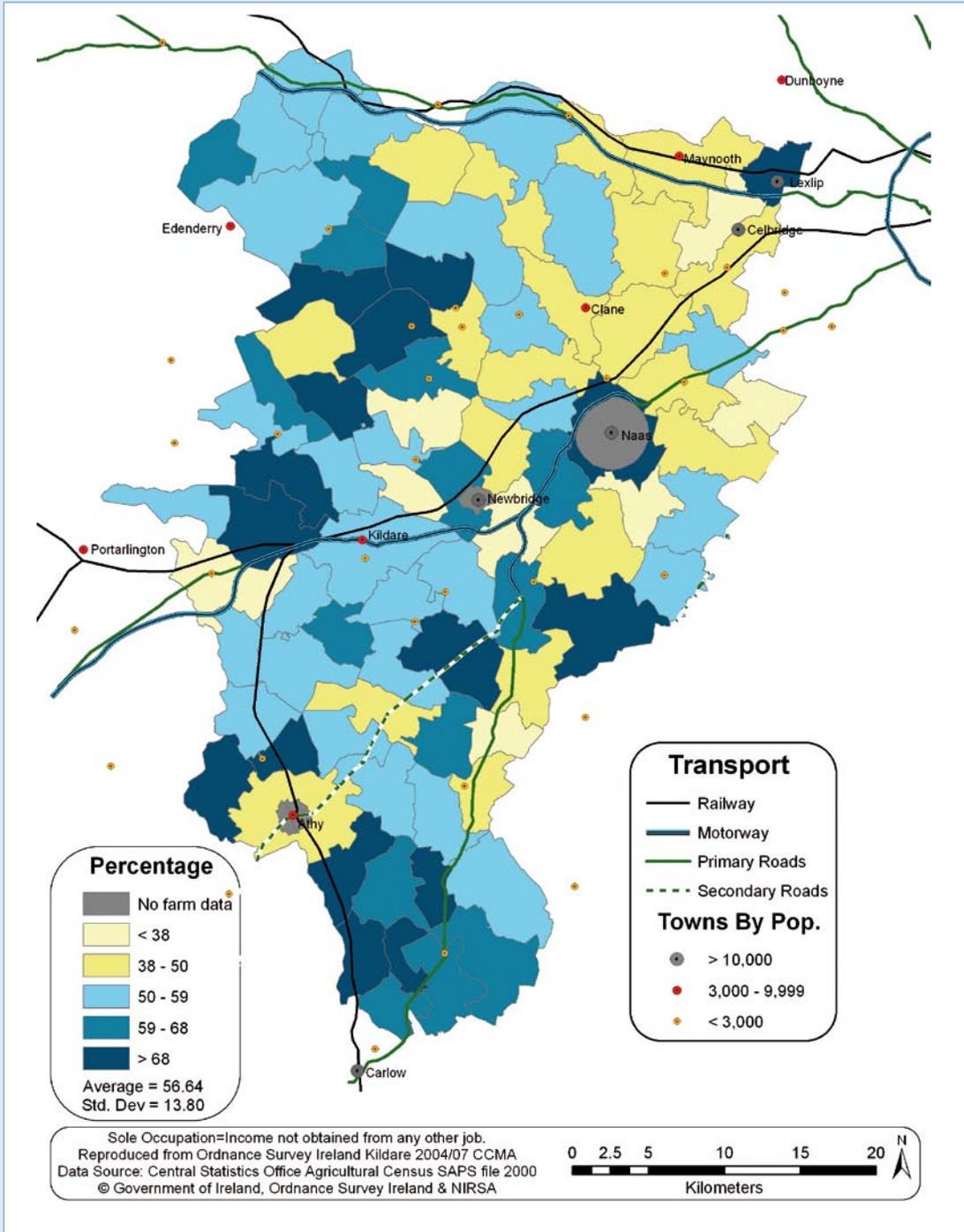
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MAP 33: PERSONS IN AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 15+ AT WORK, 2002



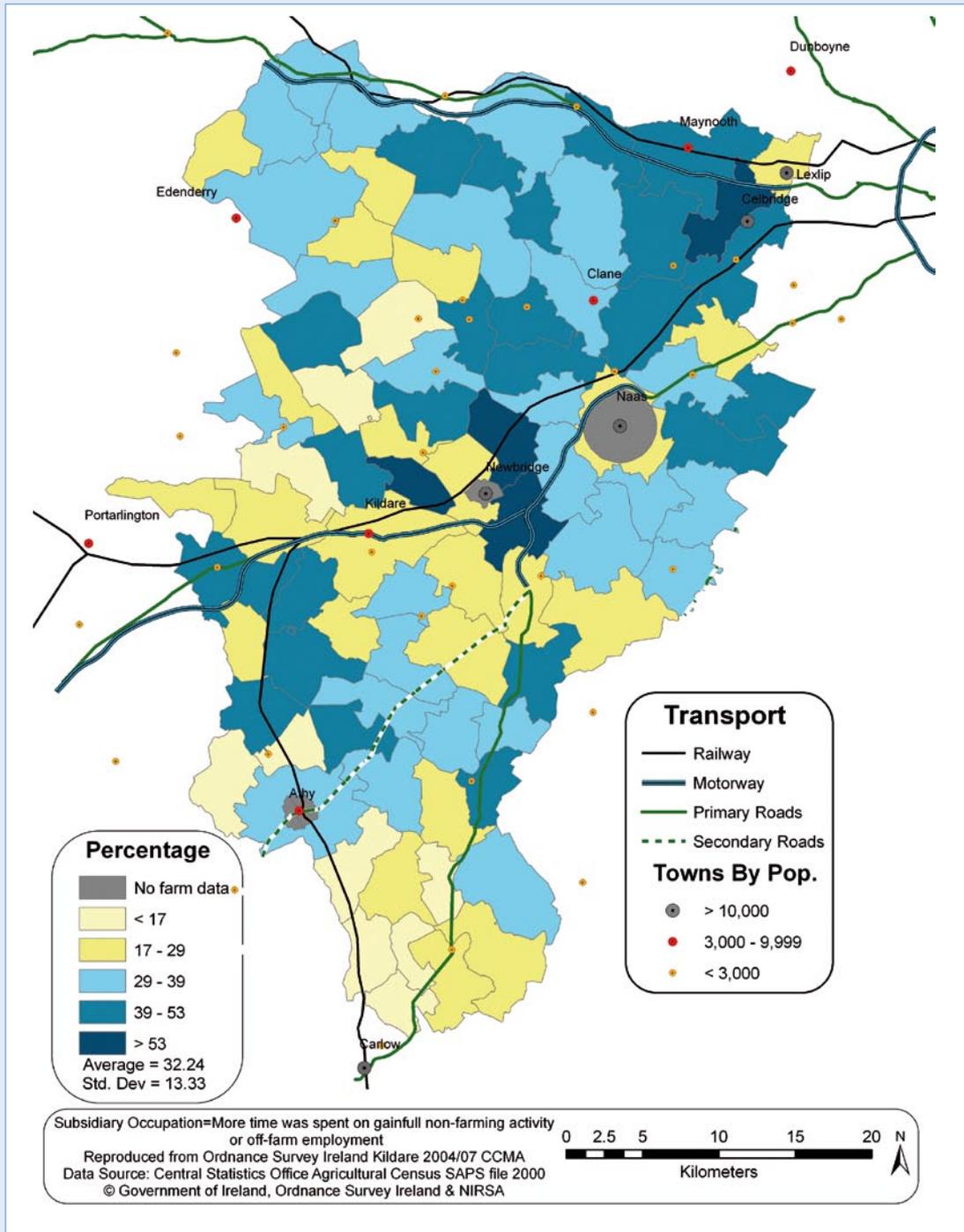
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MAP 34: SOLE OCCUPATION FARMERS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FARMERS, 2000



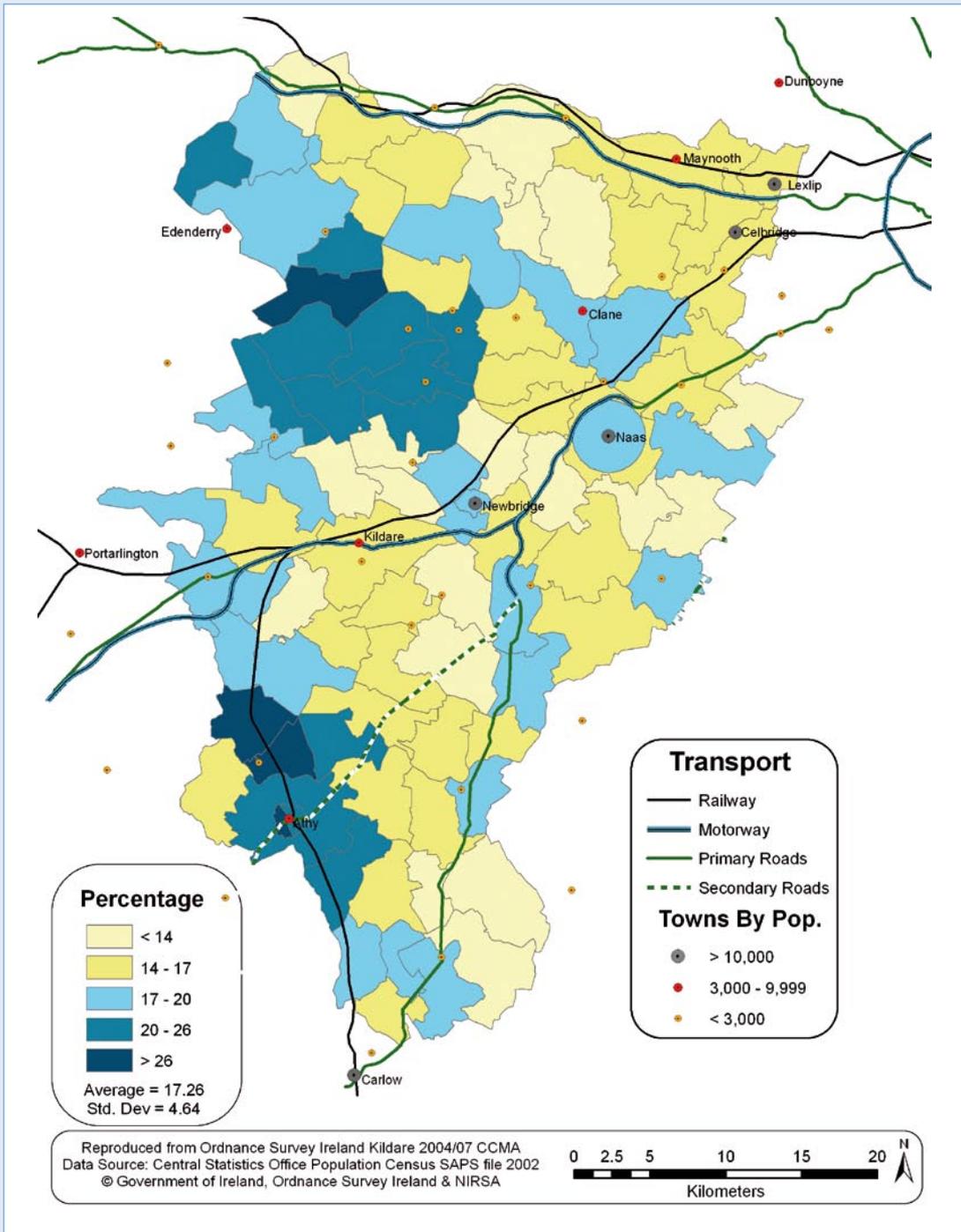
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MAP 35: SUBSIDIARY OCCUPATION FARMERS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FARMERS, 2000



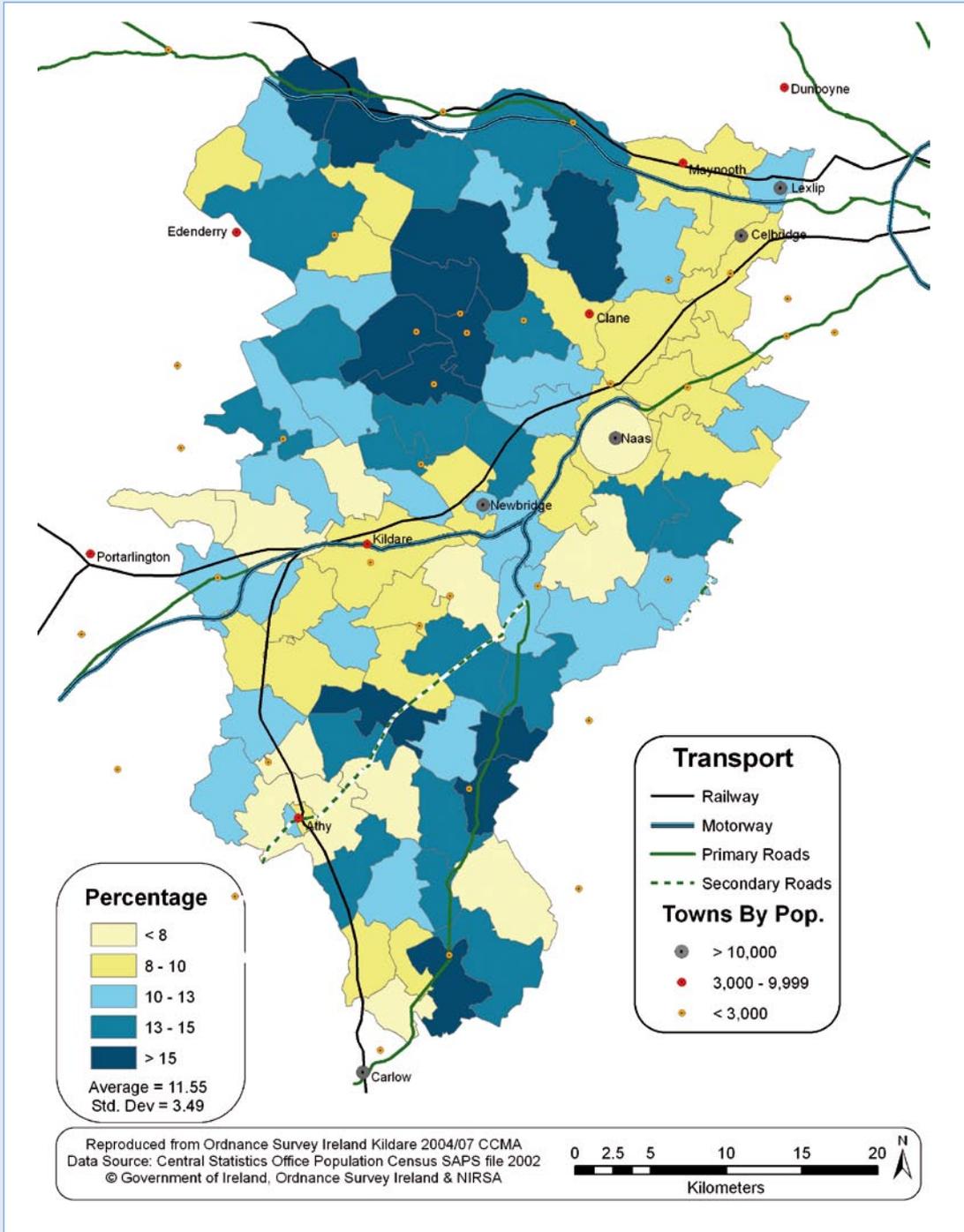
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MAP 36: PERSONS IN MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT
AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 15+ AT WORK, 2002



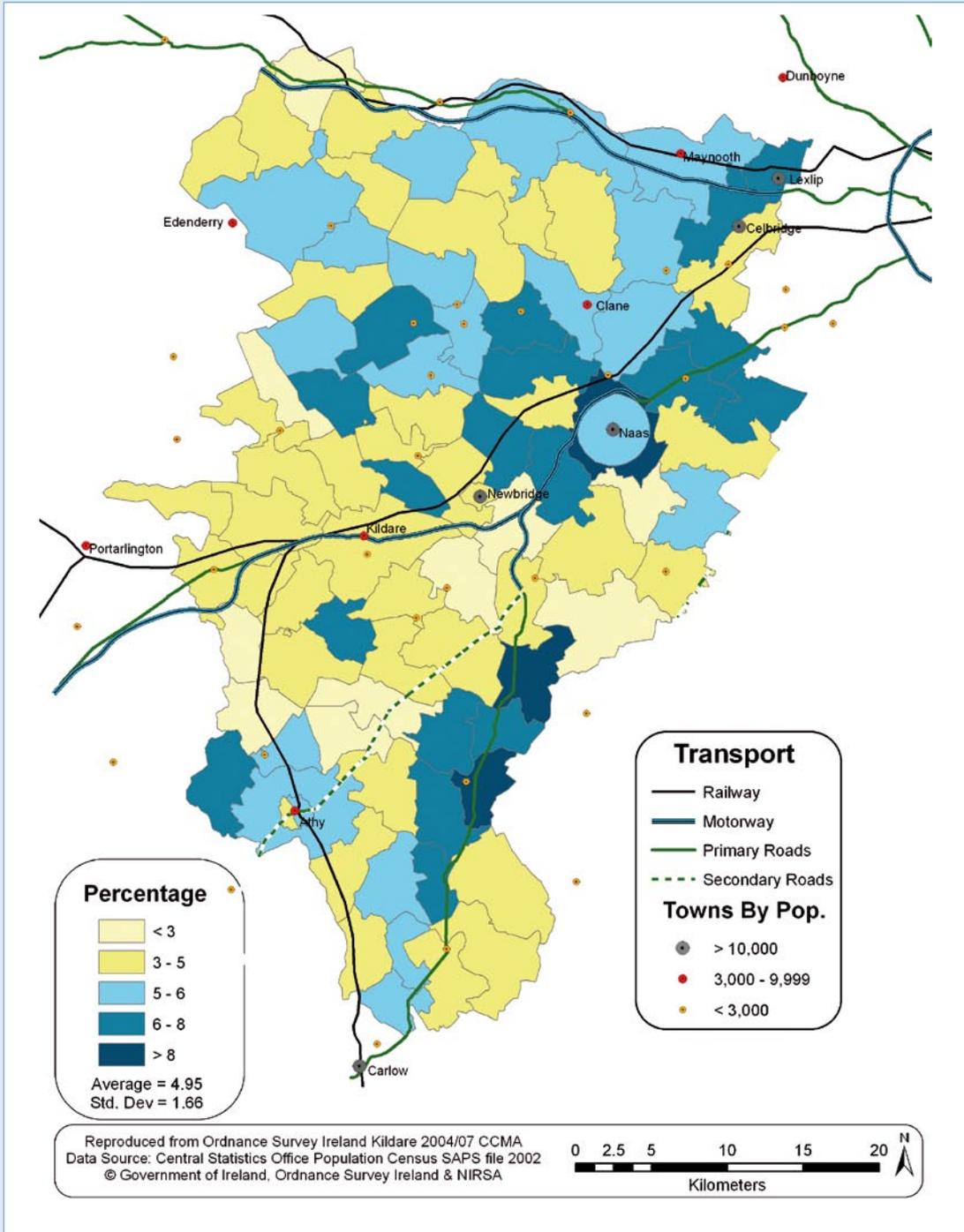
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MAP 37: PERSONS IN BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT
AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 15+ AT WORK, 2002



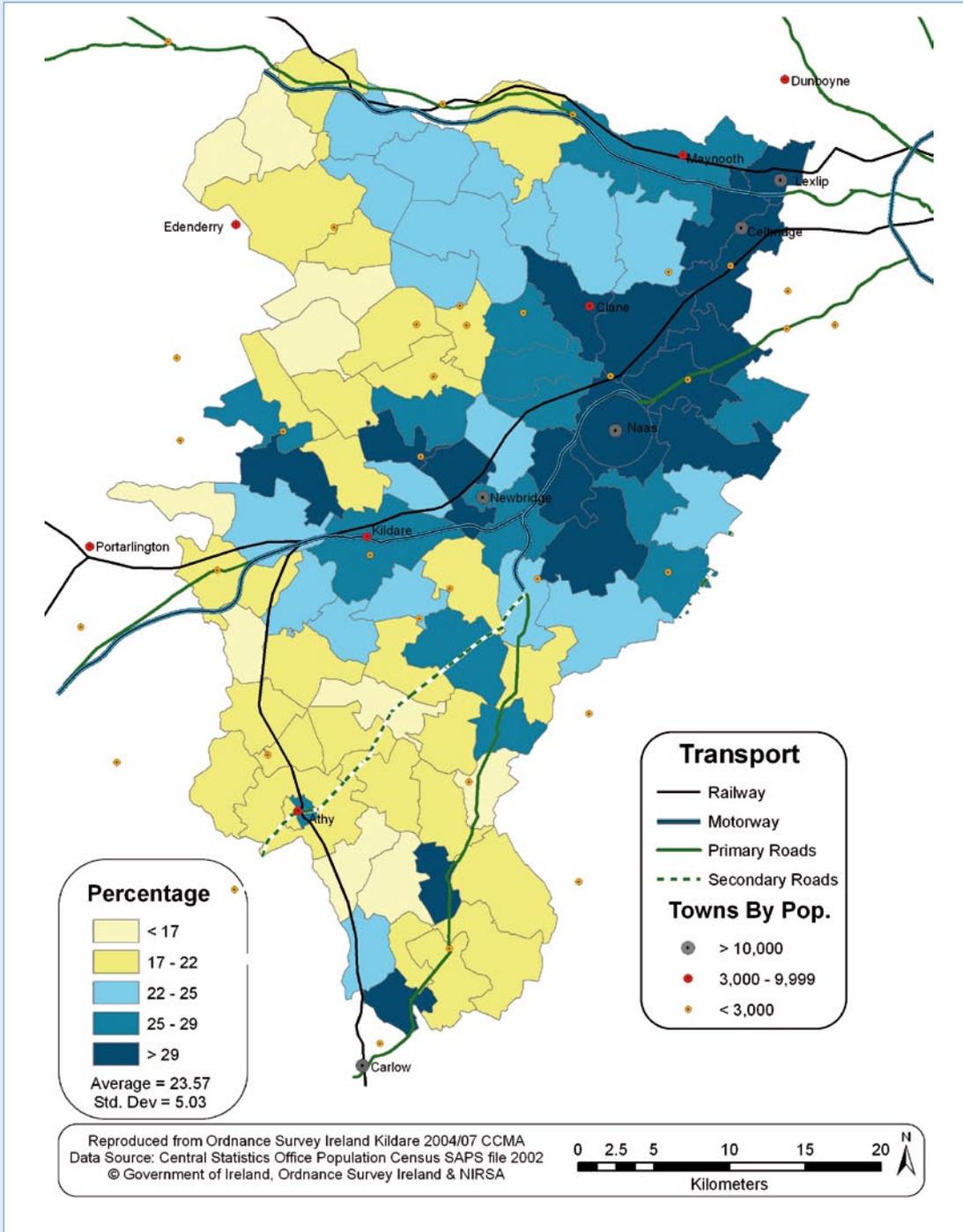
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MAP 38: PERSONS IN TRANSPORT EMPLOYMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 15+ AT WORK, 2002



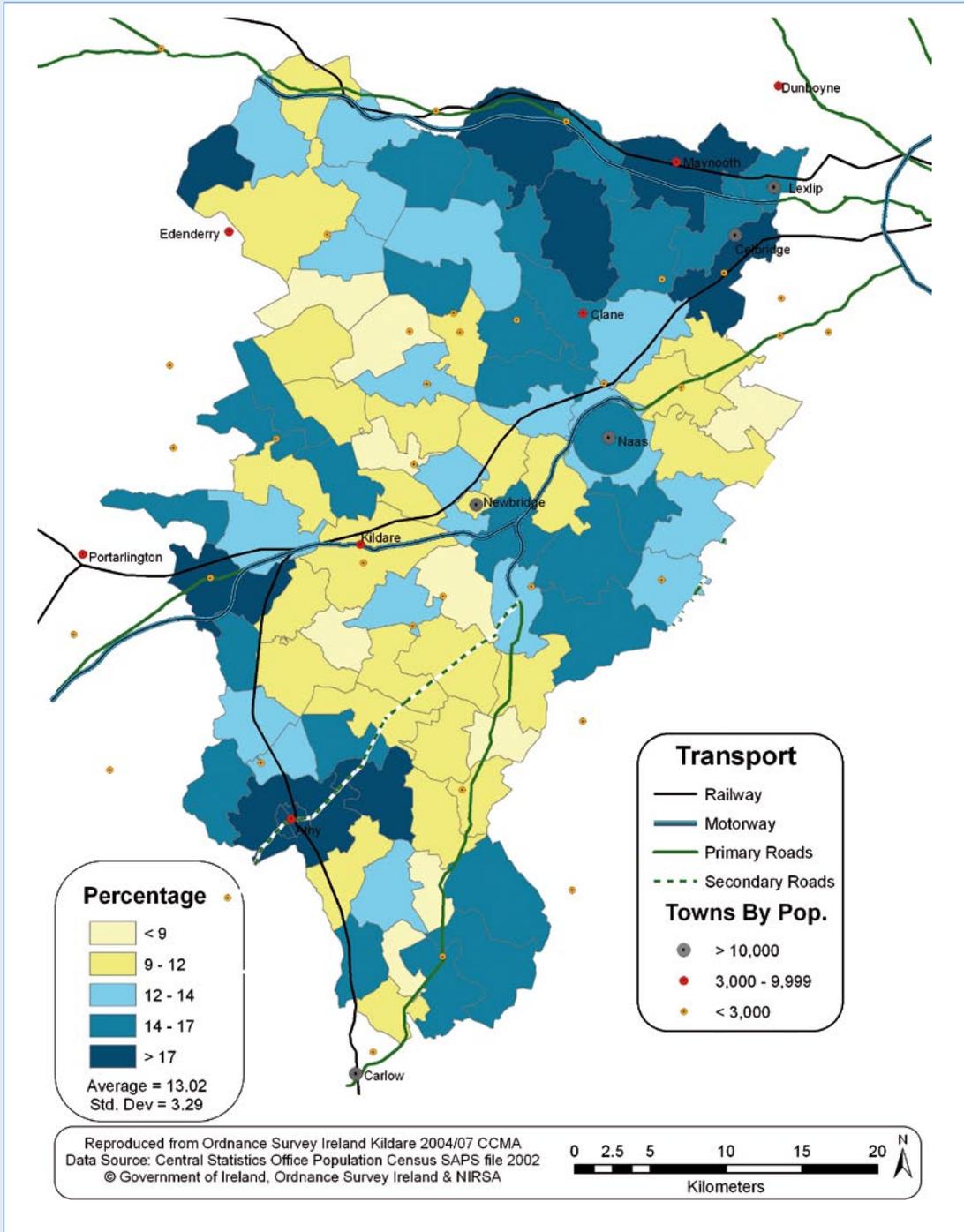
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MAP 39: PERSONS IN COMMERCE EMPLOYMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 15+ AT WORK, 2002



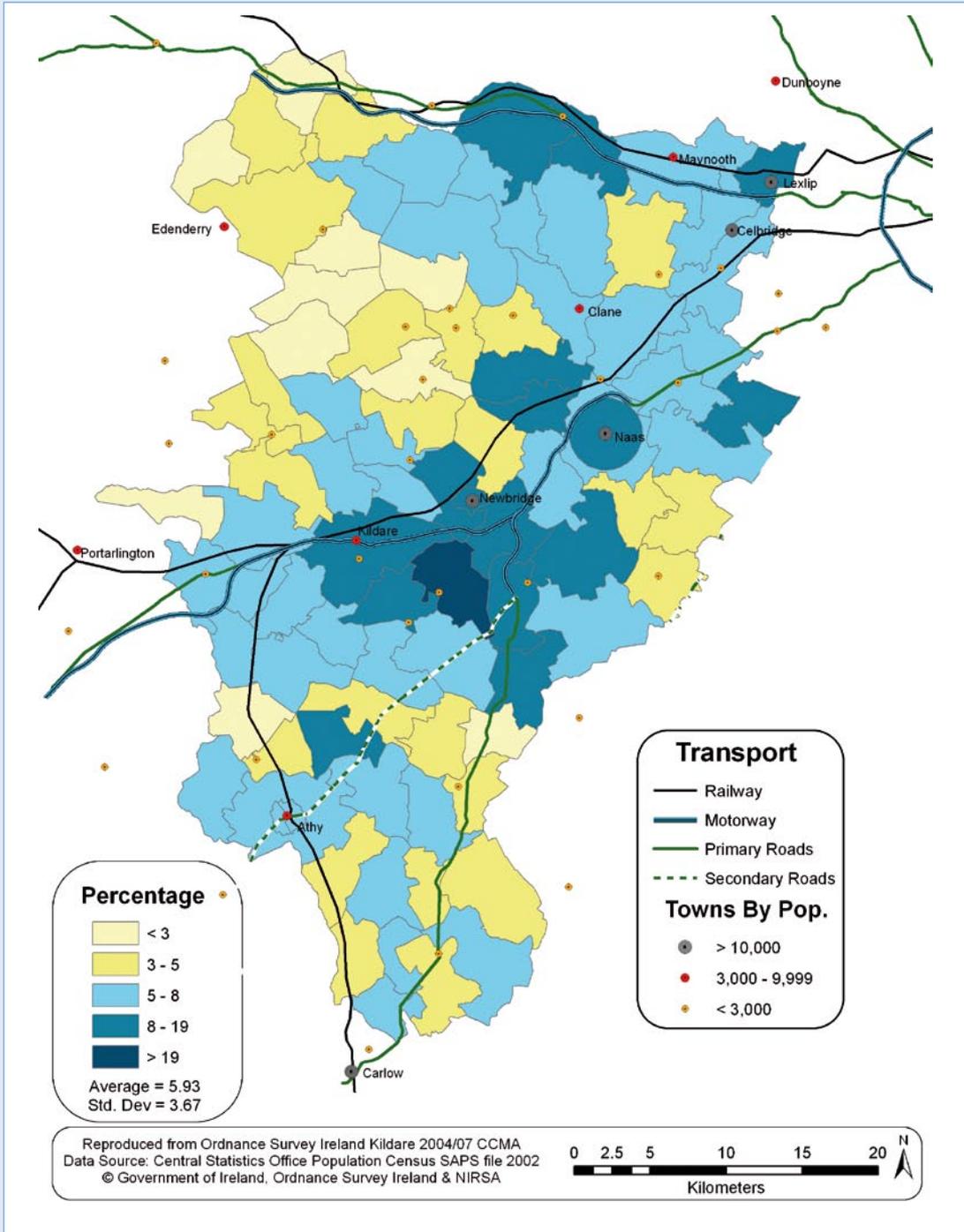
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MAP 40: PERSONS IN PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT
AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 15+ AT WORK, 2002



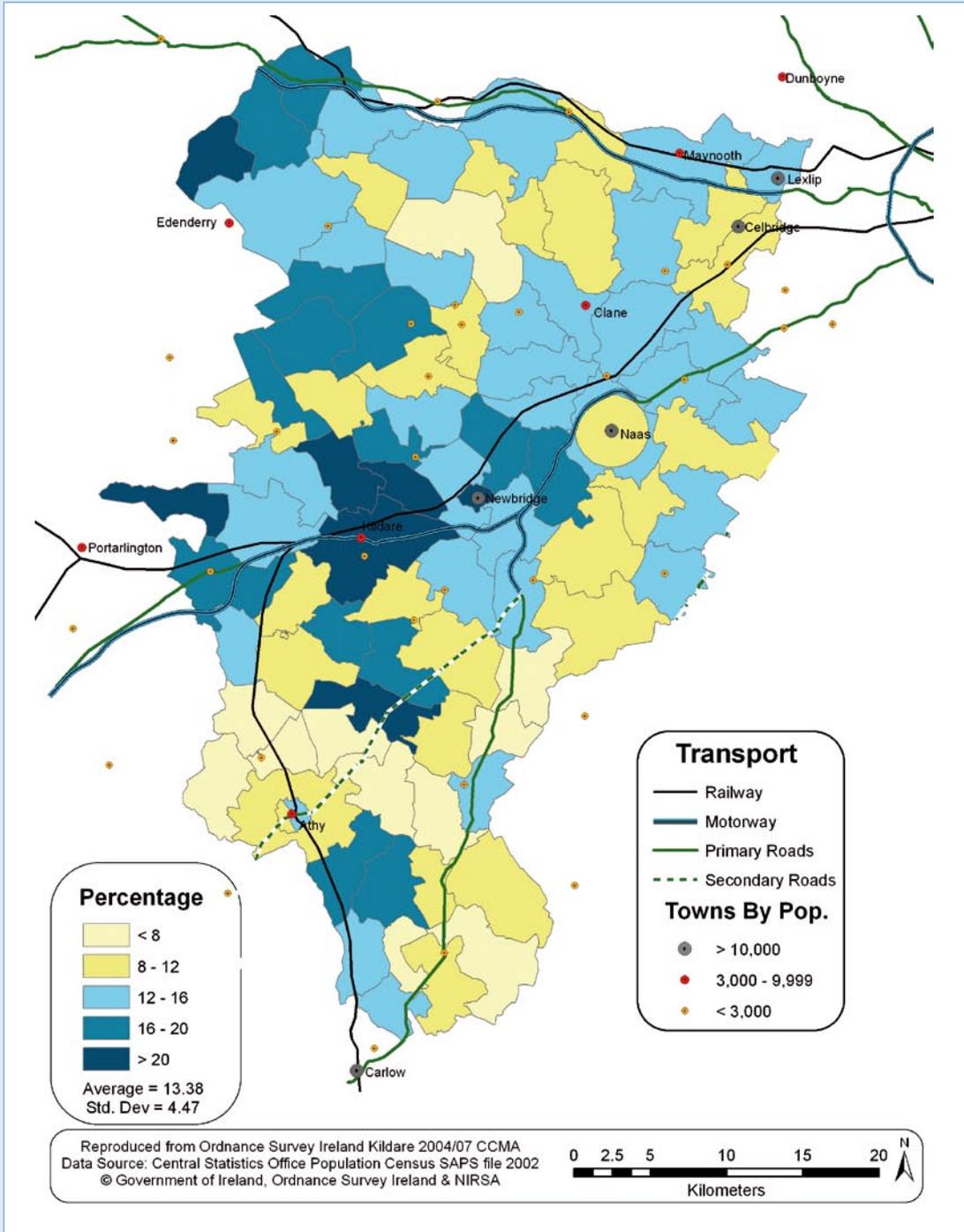
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MAP 41: PERSONS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS EMPLOYMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 15+ AT WORK, 2002



03

MAP 42: PERSONS IN OTHER EMPLOYMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 15+ AT WORK, 2002



03

THE LABOUR FORCE

3.5 PART-TIME WORK

The analysis in the preceding sections is based on each person identifying in the census whether or not they are at work. Some individuals who may not be working fulltime may not record themselves as at work. An alternative approach, promoted by the International Labour Organisation, to estimating the number at work is based on recording the number of hours worked in the week prior to the census date. By these criteria, 79,329 persons resident in Kildare were recorded as at work. Of this number 7,225 had worked less than 20 hours during the week prior to the census data. This subset, which is 71.4% female, accounts for 9.1% of the total at work. The distribution of these workers forms a number of clusters in the county with concentrations in the north-east, south of Naas, west of Newbridge, around Ballitore and west of Castledermot (**Map 43**). Unusually, the share of part-time workers in urban centres like Kildare, Newbridge and Naas is less than the average.

3.6 UNEMPLOYMENT

In 2002 there were 4,184 unemployed persons or 6.2% of the labour force, and 689 first time job seekers in Kildare. The highest unemployment levels were associated with the west and south west of the county and particularly with Athy and the hinterlands of Kildare town (**Map 44**). The EDs with the highest unemployment rates, based on the 2002 Census, were Athy Rural (16.8%), Athy West Urban (14.7%), Kilberry (11.6%), Athy East Urban (11.4%), Rathangan (10.5%), Timahoe South (10.2%) and Carbury (10.1%). The lowest unemployment rates were recorded in Pollardstown (1.3%), Johnstown (1.4%), Ladytown (2.0%), Ballaghmoon (2.2%), Giltown (2.3%), Kildangan (2.5%), Rathmore (2.8%).

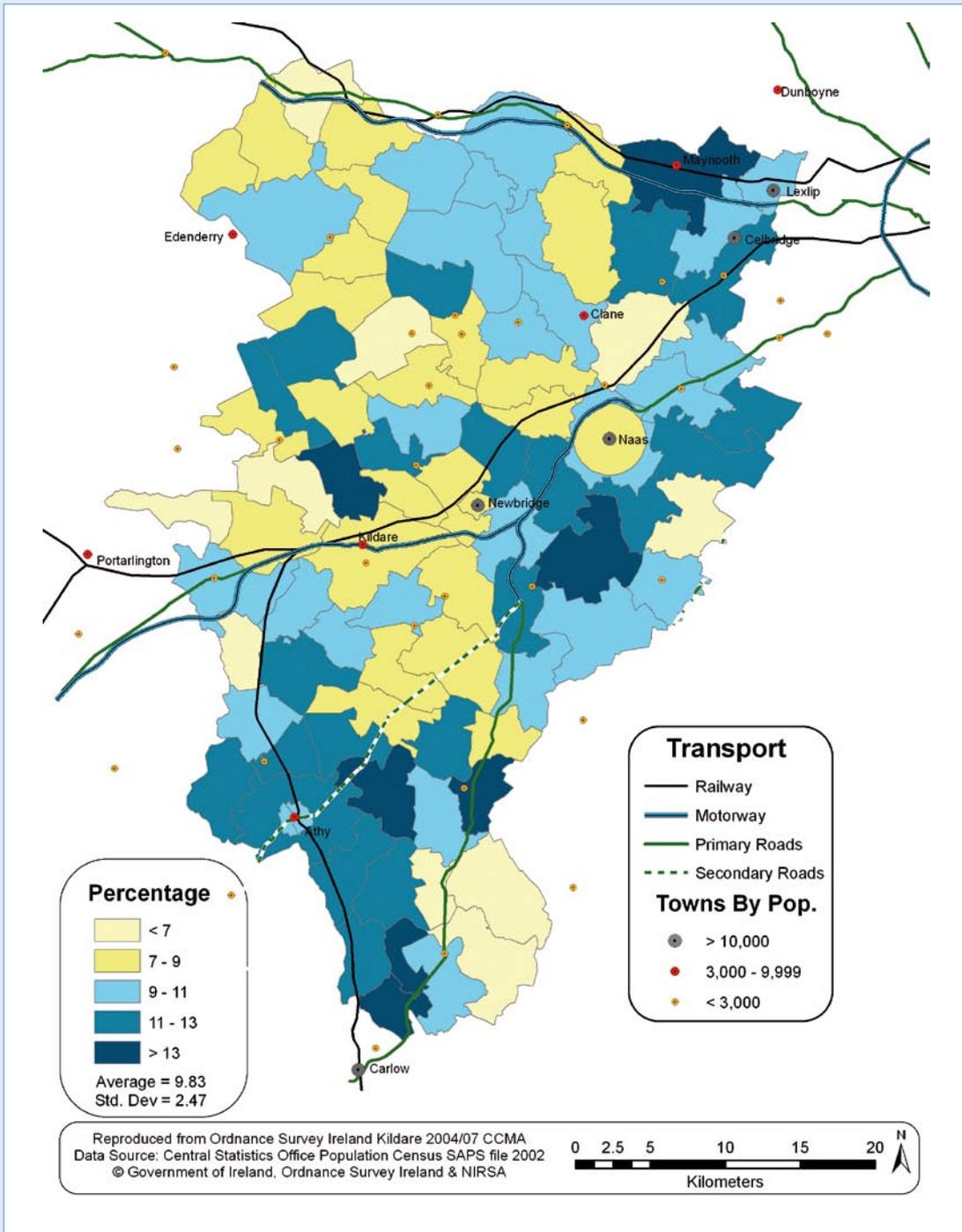
The total number of unemployed persons and first time job seekers declined by 24.0% (4,873), between 1996 and 2002. There were reductions throughout most of the county except for a district in the west just north of Rathangan a district east of Johnstown and another north of Ballymore Eustace (**Map 45**). In many of the very rural districts the decline in numbers exceeded 60%. The reduction in unemployment rates was generally lower in the north east of the county as rates were already relatively low there in 1996. By contrast the rates increased in two districts in the east of the county north of Ballymore Eustace and north east of Naas, however, caution is needed in terms of interpreting this pattern as the numbers involved in these EDs are small. The greatest improvements in the unemployment rate were in the south of the county, around Kilberry and two districts in the middle of the county (**Map 46**). The most recent unemployment figure for Kildare according to the Live Register figures of October 2005 indicates that there were 4,440 persons unemployed in Kildare: 850 registered in Athy district office, 1,311 in Maynooth and 2,279 in the Newbridge office (CSO 2005).

3.7 ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY RATIO

The economic dependency ratio is the ratio of the number of persons not at work to those at work. While the ratio for Kildare at 1.47 is less than the 2.39 for the State, there are considerable differences between EDs (**Map 47**). The lowest rates are mainly towards the north-east of the county where labour force participation rates are high and unemployment rates are less than the average for the county. Conversely, in the more rural areas of the west and south west of the county, particularly around Athy, the dependency ratios are higher.

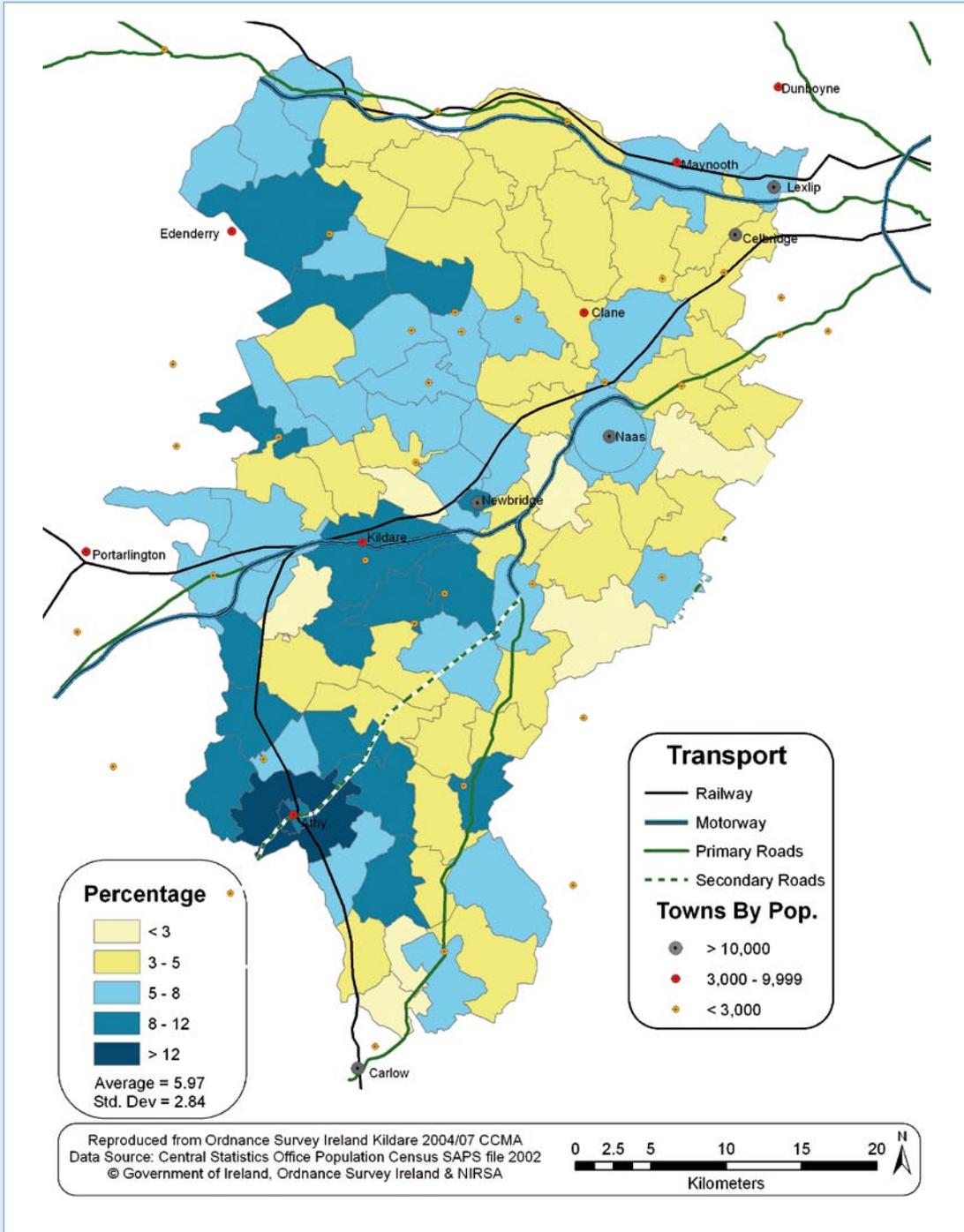
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MAP 43: PART-TIME WORKERS PERSONS WORKING <20 HOURS PER WEEK AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AT WORK, 2002



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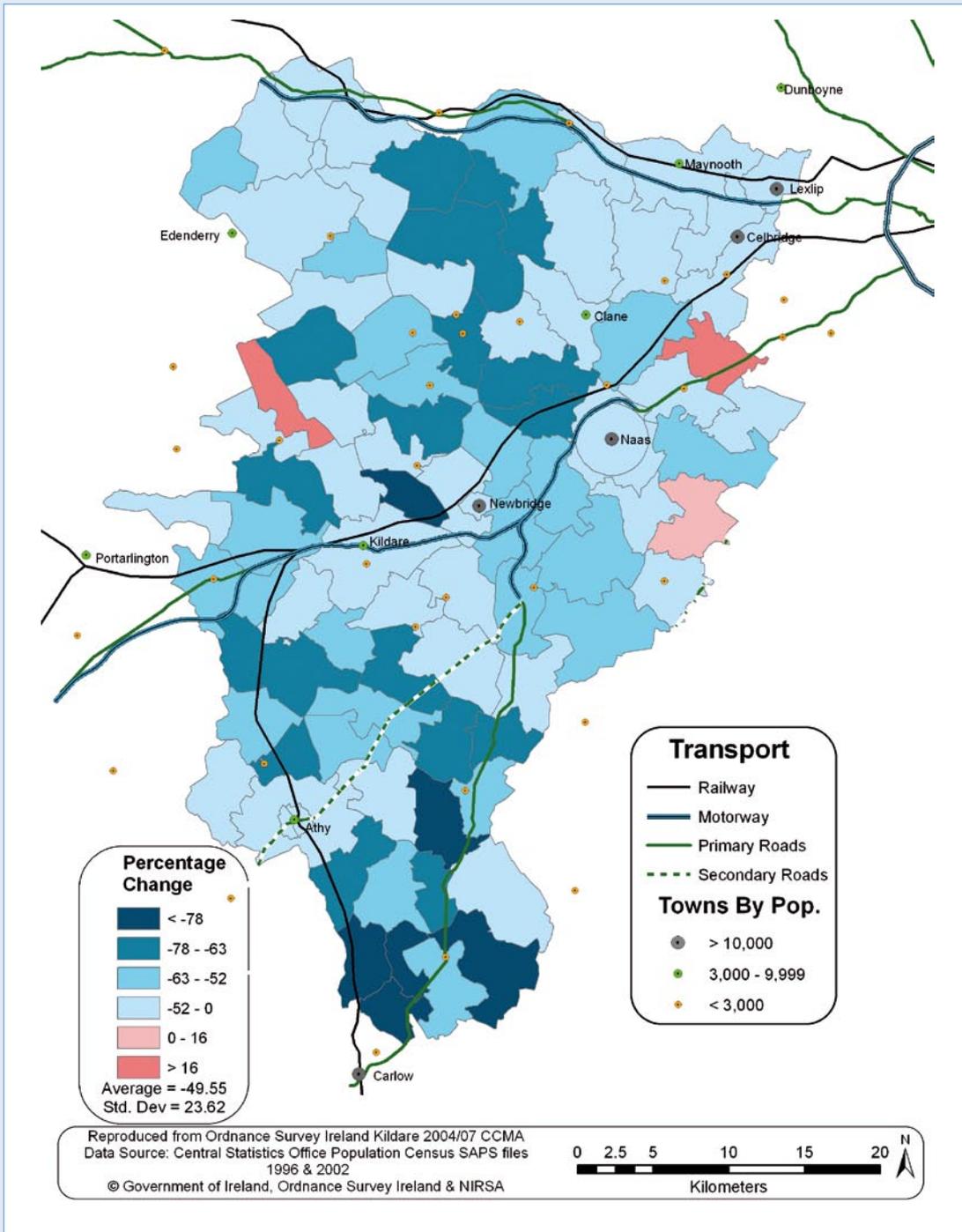
MAP 44: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE 2002



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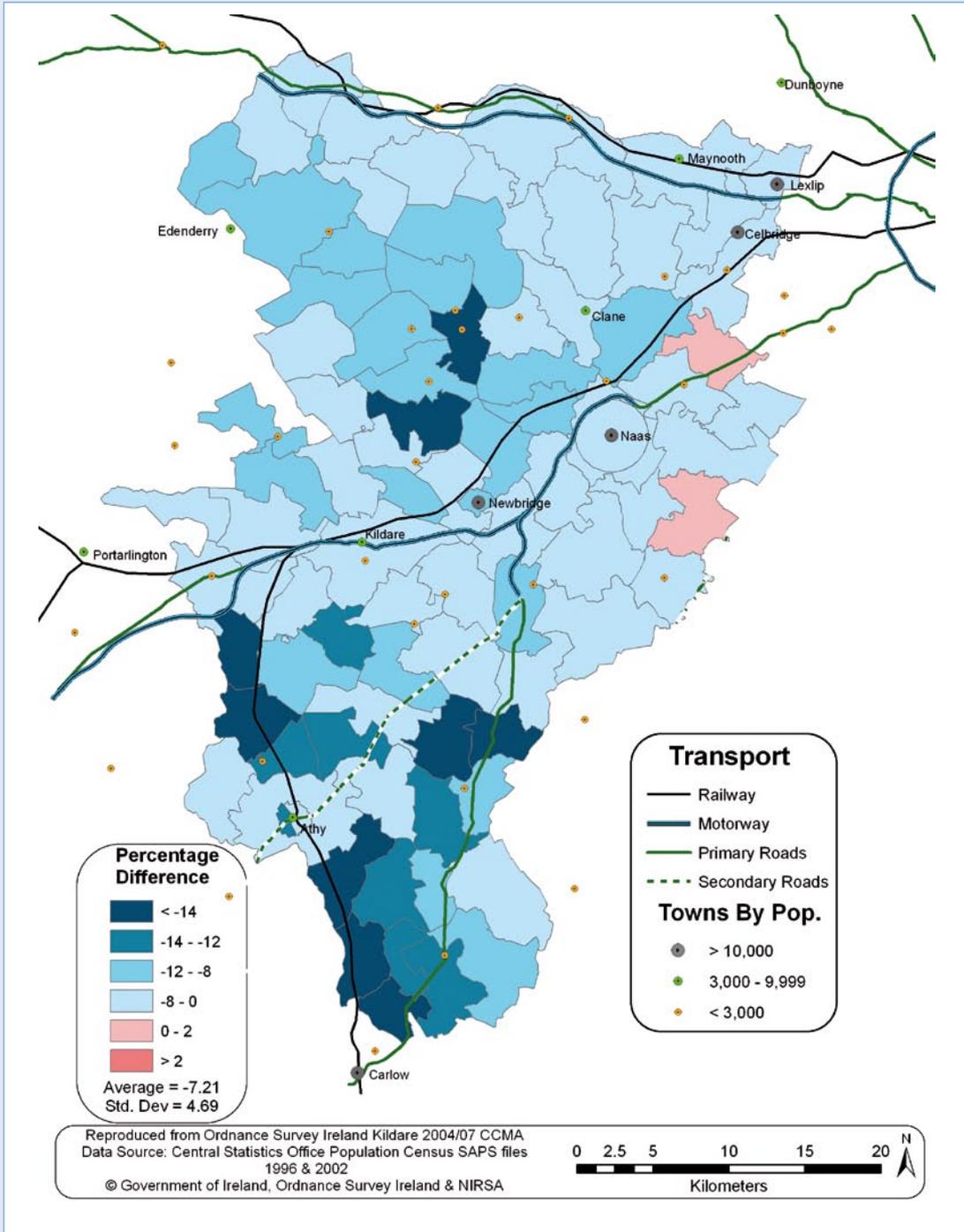
MAP 45: UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN NUMBERS OF PERSONS UNEMPLOYED 1996 - 2002



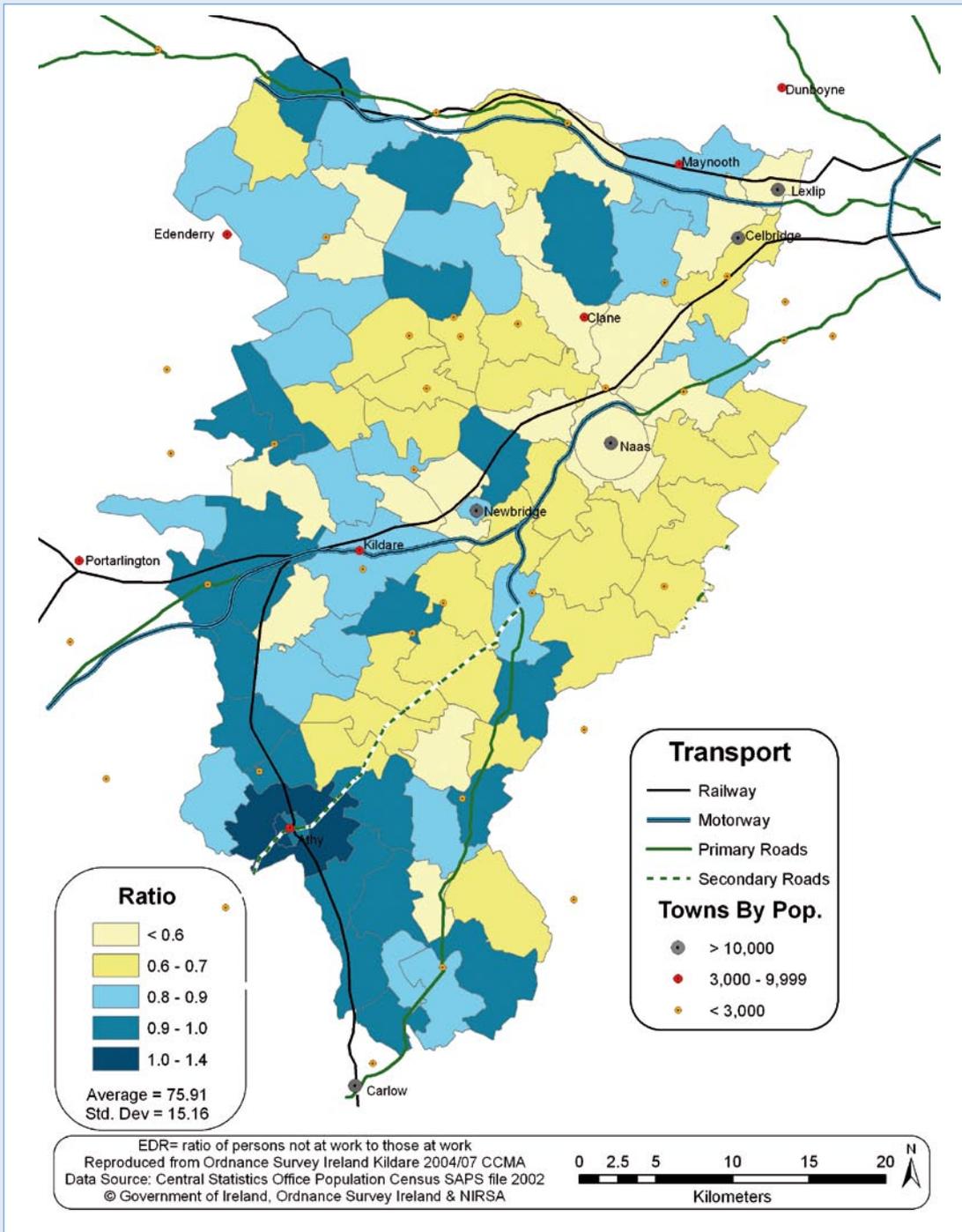
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MAP 46: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE PERCENTAGE DIFFERENCE 1996 - 2002



03

MAP 47: ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY RATIO, 2002



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THE ECONOMY

62.00 +
126.00 +
458.30 +
45.20 +
41.25 +
89.99 +
102.00 +
99.89 +
0.59 +
54.69 +
33.00 +
79.10 +
55.40 +
236.10 +
42.50 +
81.00 +
58.99 +
30.00 +

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THE ECONOMY

This section provides an overview of the current position in relation to the three main sectors: agriculture, manufacturing and internationally traded services, and other services including tourism.

4.1 AGRICULTURE

Whilst County Kildare is well known for its rich pasturelands, 32% of land in the county is considered marginal. In this way, there are very diverse agricultural practices in Kildare from the thriving horse industry to the harvesting of peat from the bogland in the west.

Table 9: Principal characteristics of agriculture: Kildare compared with the State, 1991 & 2000

	Kildare 1991	Kildare 2000	Ireland 1991	Ireland 2000
Avg. farm size (ha.)	37.8	41.8	26	31.4
Avg. farm size (ESUs)*	15.3	27.9	11.6	20.7
% farmers aged >65	20.5	19.9	22.8	19.8
Marginal land % of total	32	32	49	49
Specialist tillage %	11.8	14.8	2.9	3.3
Specialist dairying %	11.4	8.4	24.4	18.6
Specialist beef production %	31.9	39.6	42.1	51
Specialist sheep %	10.9	8.8	8.8	8.7
Mixed grazing livestock %	24.6	18.9	17.9	14.6
Mixed crops & livestock %	7.4	7.3	2.5	2.6

The average farm size (measured in both hectares and output levels) in Kildare is well above the national average throughout most of the county and especially in the south. Smaller farms are mostly concentrated in the north, midlands and west of the county as well as some pockets east of Naas (**Map 48 & 49**). The highest levels of farm output are mostly associated with the south-west (**Map 50**), which is mainly a specialist beef farming area. The decline in the number of farms by 557 in the 1990s resulted in some enlargement of the remaining farms. Throughout the county there were both increases and decreases in farm size between 1991 and 2000. The largest increases were in areas west of Allenwood, south of Newbridge, around Kilberry and more unexpectedly around Leixlip. The greatest decreases were, as expected, observed in the hinterlands of growing urban centres like Newbridge and Kildare, and also to the south east and north east of Athy, east of Johnstown, south of Prosperous and a couple of districts in the west (**Map 49**). The pattern of change in the economic value of agricultural output demonstrates some contrasts between the north and the south of the county with the greatest improvements in economic value in districts south of Kildare, around Rathangan, Clane and more unexpectedly, Celbridge and Leixlip (**Map 51**).

04

THE ECONOMY

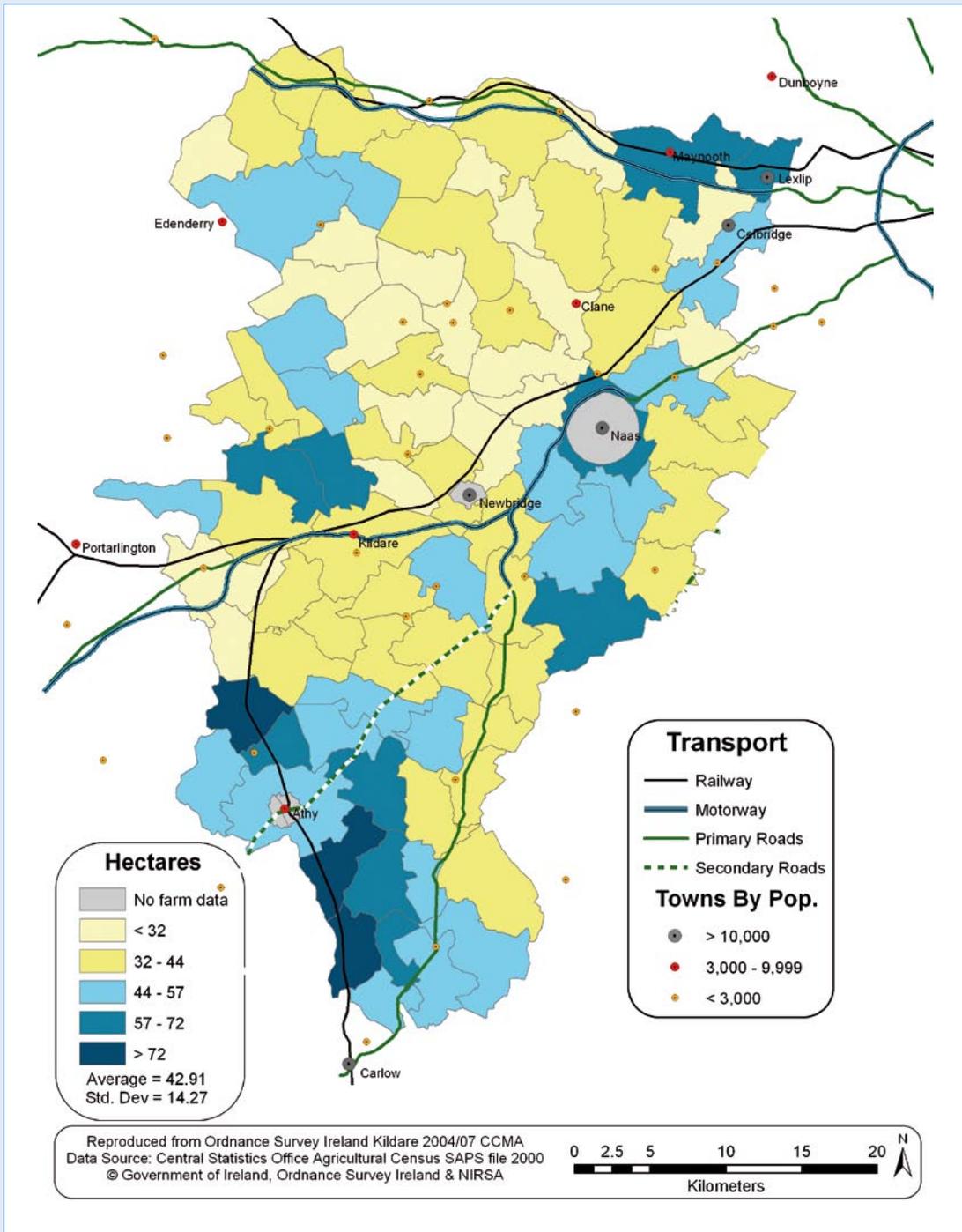
Kildare has approximately the same percentage of farmers aged over sixty-five as the State. There has been an increase in the percentage of those involved in both Specialist tillage and specialist beef production in Co. Kildare since 1991 and a decrease in the percentage of those involved in all other farming activities. Compared with the State Kildare had a higher proportion of specialist tillage, mixed grazing and mixed crops and livestock than the State, but proportionally less dairy and beef farmers. The extent of local specialisation in farm types is summarised in **Maps 52-56**. Specialised beef production is by far the most common type of farming accounting for almost 40% of the total farms in 2000 (**Table 9**). Beef farming is particularly strongly represented in the south west of the county around Athy (**Map 52**). Mixed grazing livestock is the second most common type of farming, though the number of farms in this sector has declined from 799 in 1991 to 508 in 2000. They are mostly associated with some of the best pastures, especially in the east of the county, east of Newbridge and around Kilcock (**Map 53**). Specialised tillage farming accounts for 14.7% of all farms in Kildare in 2000 and is the only other farming sector apart from beef farming to have experienced an increase between 1991 and 2000 in Kildare (from 382 in 1991 to 400 in 2000). Tillage farming is mainly concentrated in the east of the county especially in the area east of Naas and south of Newbridge (**Map 54**). Specialised sheep farming accounts for 237 farms in Kildare in 2000, compared with 353 in 1991 and its relative importance is greatest in the north west of the county (**Map 55**). Specialised dairy farming is less restricted geographically with pockets of high proportions of this type of farming to the south-west of Naas, west of Straffan, around Kilberry and Rathangan and near Castledermot in the south (**Map 56**). Specialised dairying also has experienced a decline from 369 farms in 1991 to 227 in 2000.

There have been a number of policy changes since the early 1990s following the CAP reforms, that have influenced the patterns of agricultural production and activity in Co. Kildare. The focus of agricultural policy has moved away from direct price supports and has been replaced by a system of direct payments to farmers. It is likely that there will be a further increase in part-time farming, particularly among those rearing beef cattle. Greater emphasis is likely to be placed on more environmentally sustainable agriculture and it is also anticipated that more farmers will participate in the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS). Already there is a high level of participation in a number of districts in the north-west of the county, around Monasterevin, Clane and Ballymore-Eustace where farms are generally small and less intensive (**Maps 57 & 58**).

Kildare is the country's most important centre for the bloodstock industry. A number of internationally known stud farms are located in the county. The horse industry is of considerable importance economically. It directly employs 5,500 people with a further 10,000 in associated industries and services, according to a report produced by the Kildare Agricultural Task Group (Kildare Agricultural Task Group, 2000).

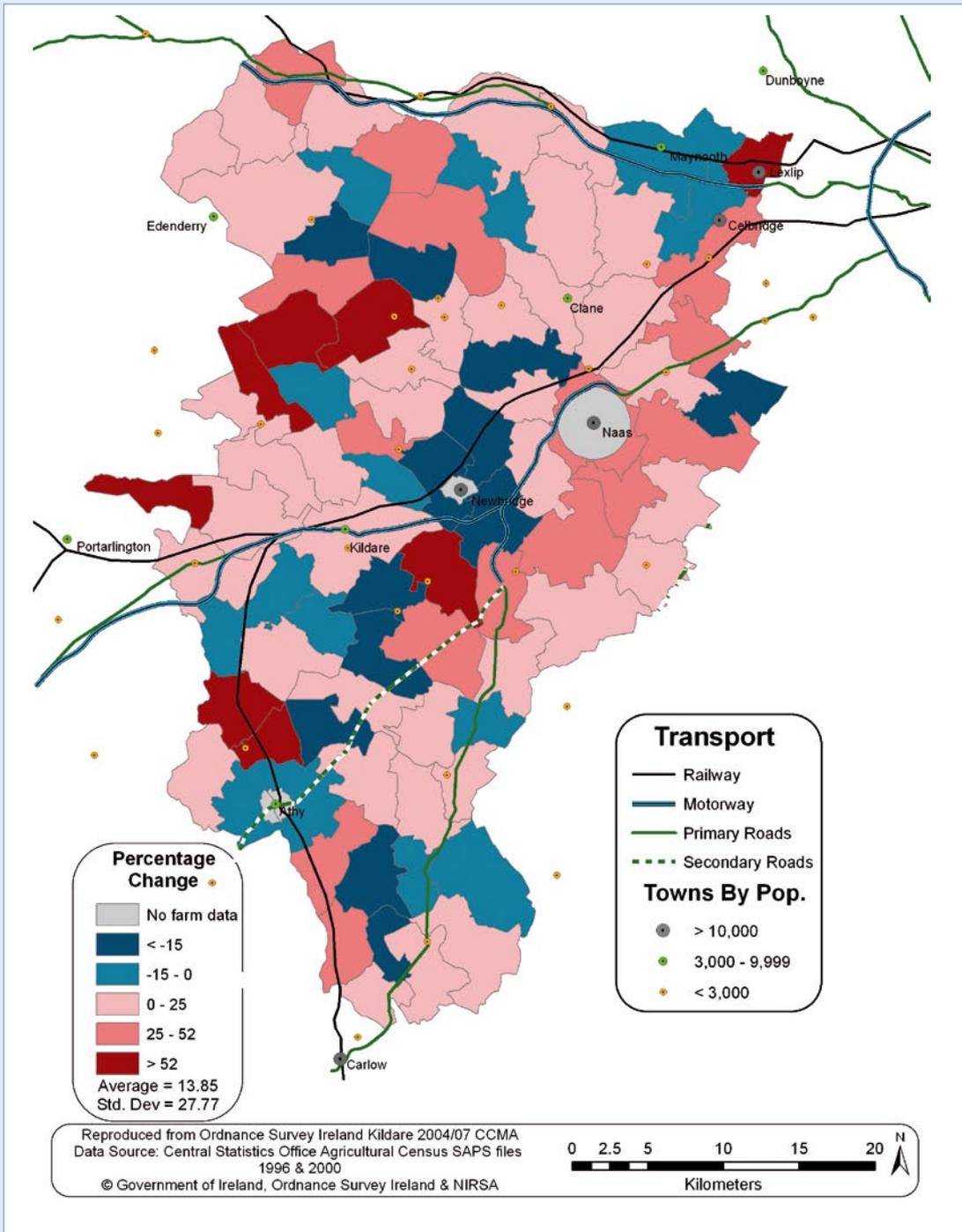
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MAP 48: AVERAGE SIZE FARM (HA) 2000



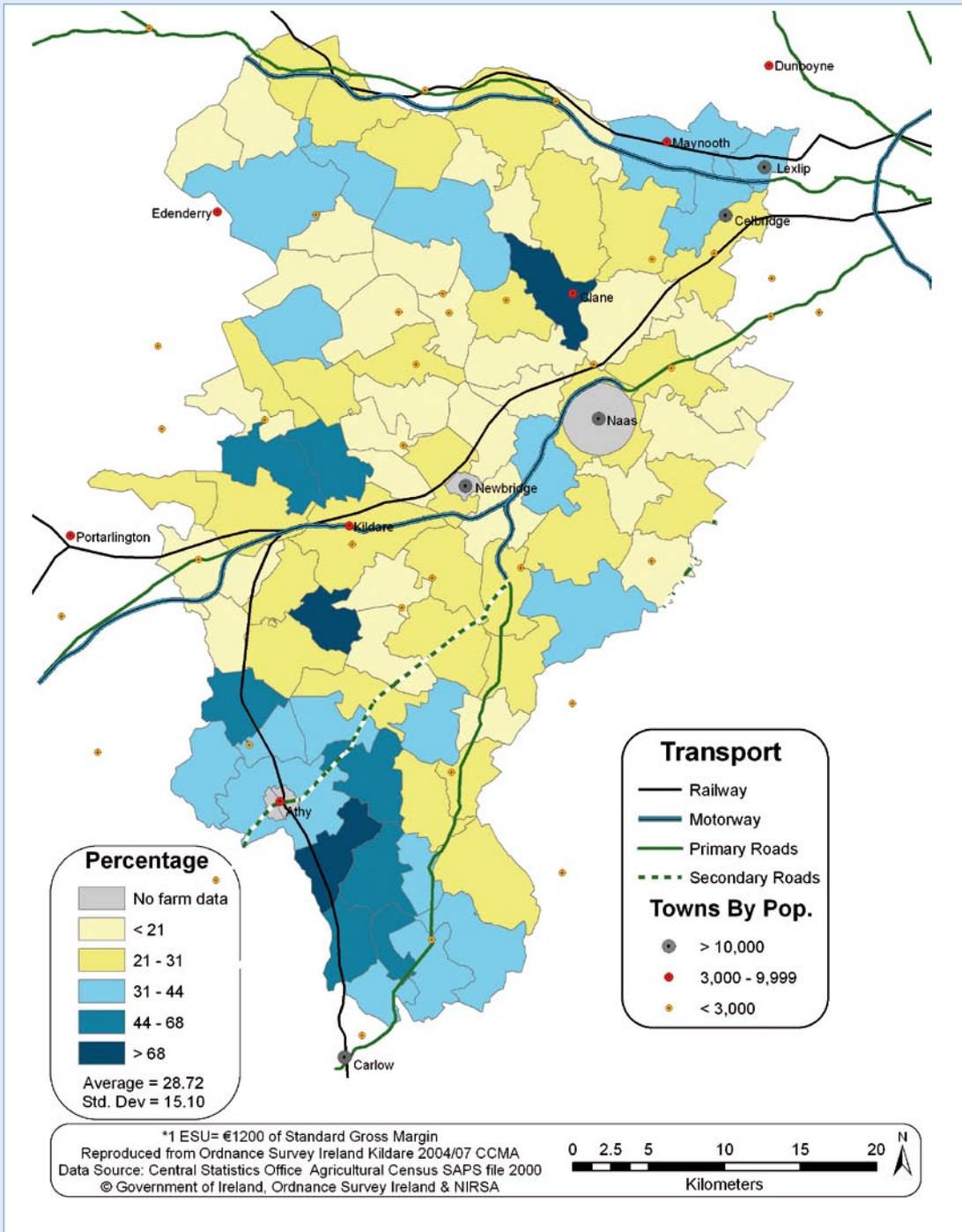
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MAP 49: CHANGE IN AVERAGE FARM SIZE (HA) 1991 - 2000



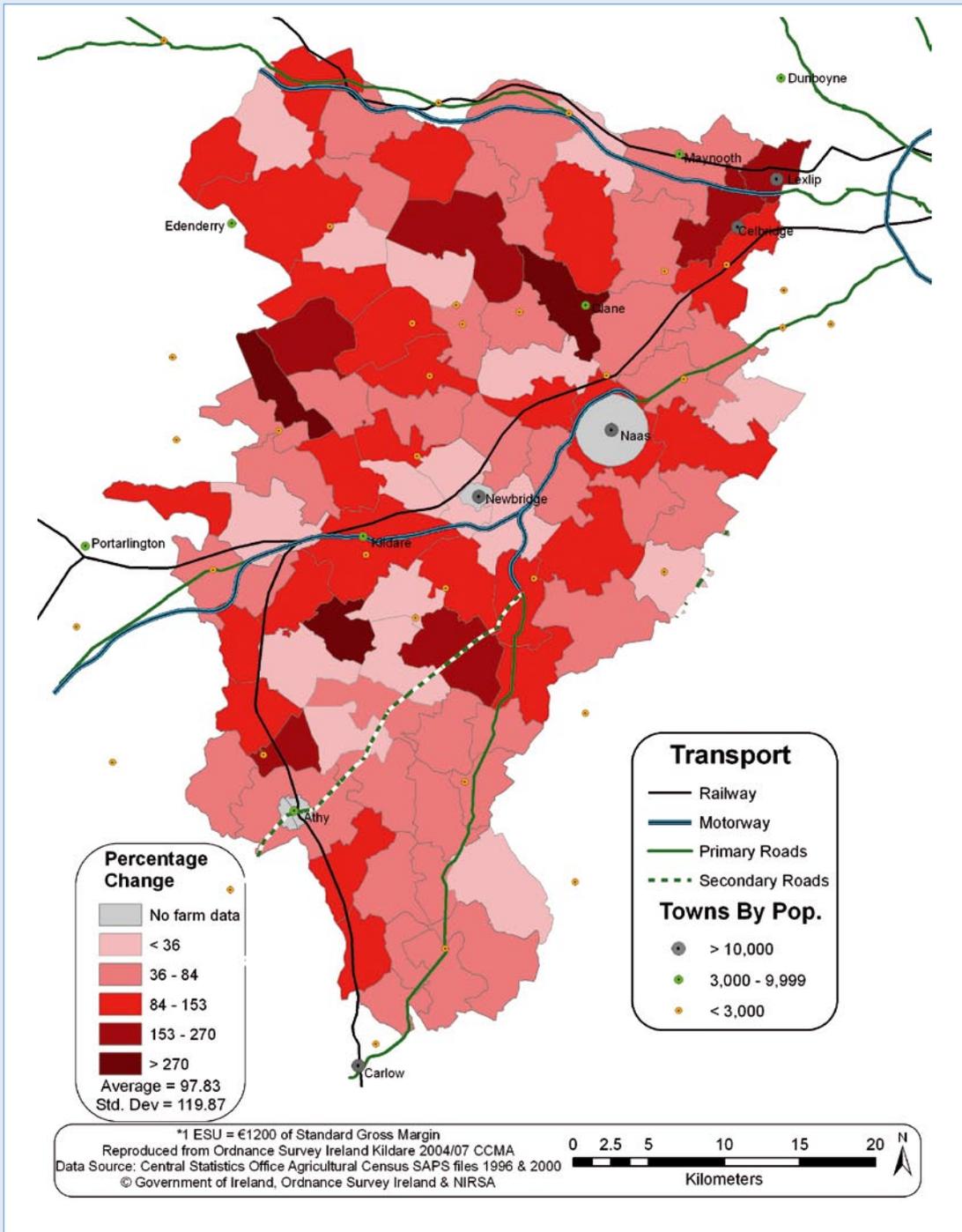
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MAP 50: AVERAGE FARM SIZE (ESU's*) AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FARMS 2000



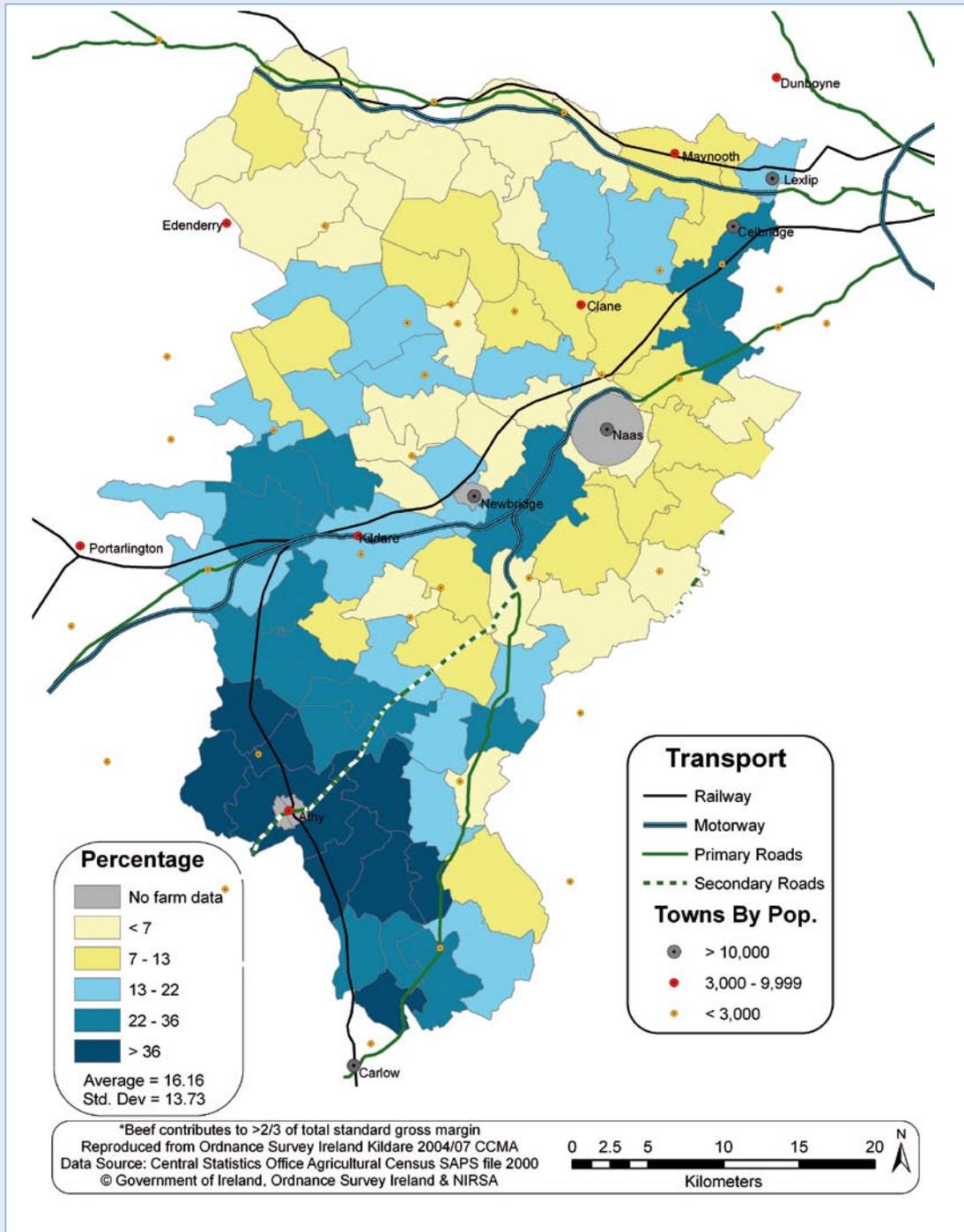
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MAP 51: AVERAGE FARM SIZE (ESU's*) PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1996 - 2000



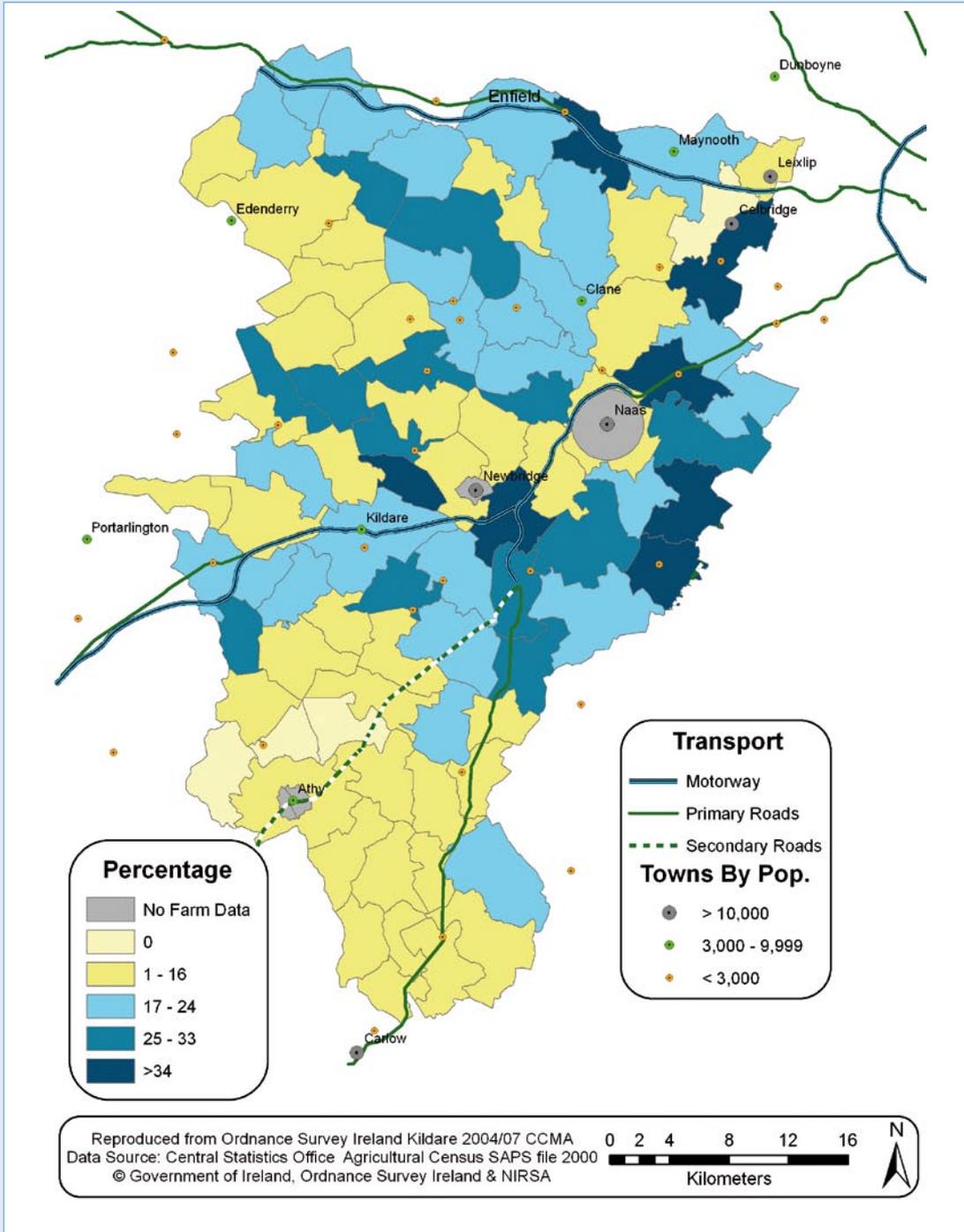
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MAP 52: SPECIALIST BEEF* FARMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FARMS, 2000



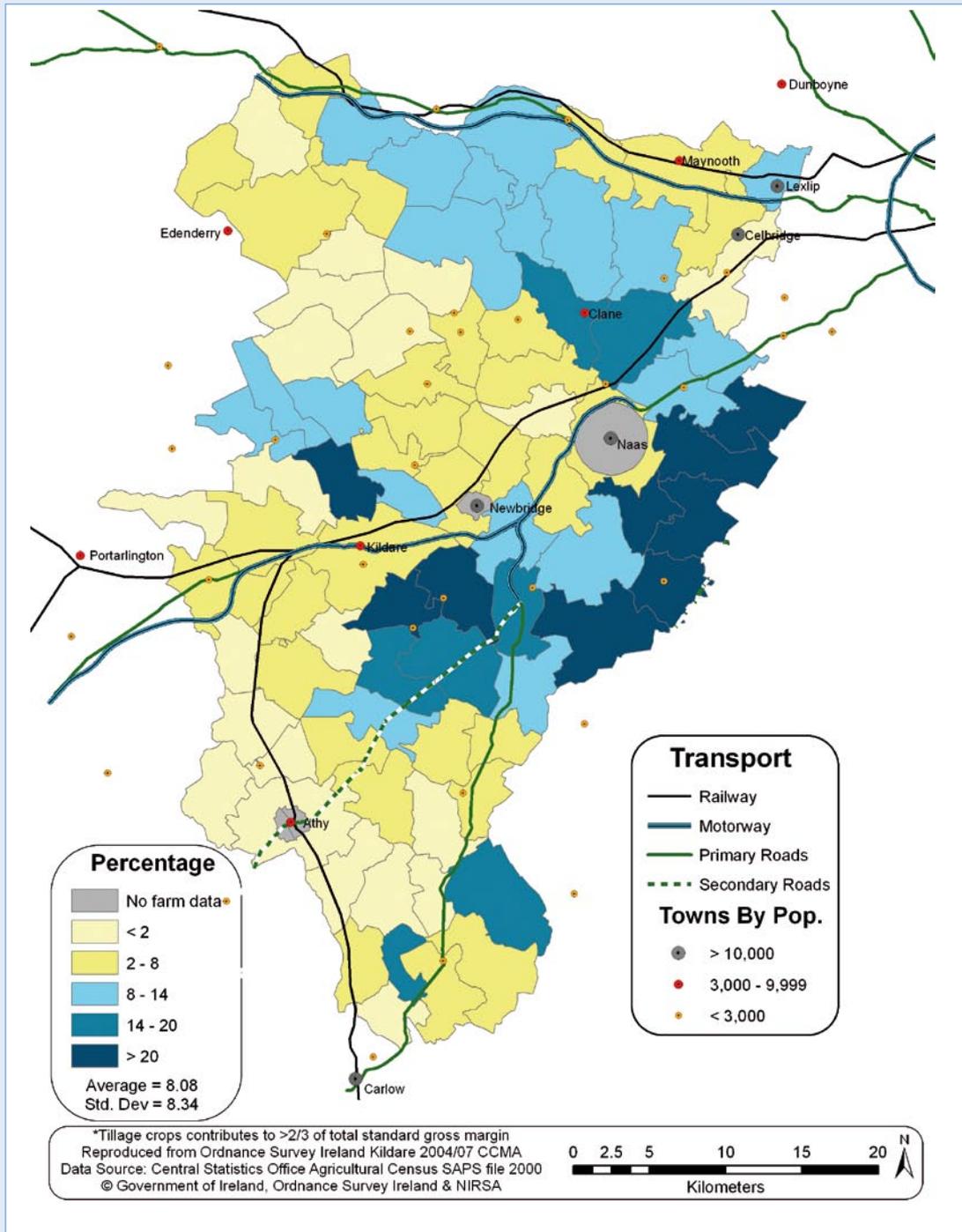
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MAP 53: MIXED GRAZING FARMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FARMS, 2000



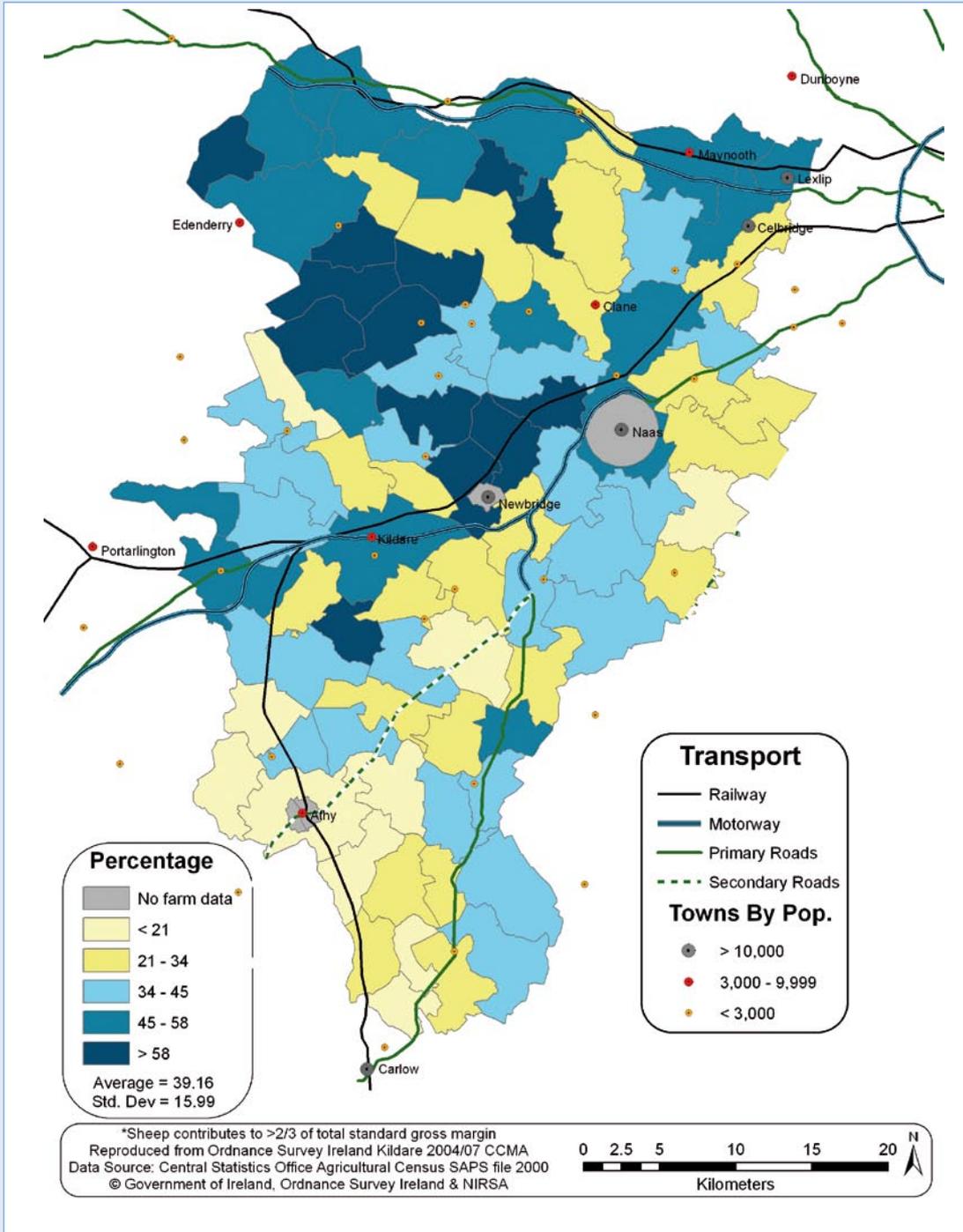
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MAP 54: SPECIALIST TILLAGE* FARMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FARMS, 2000



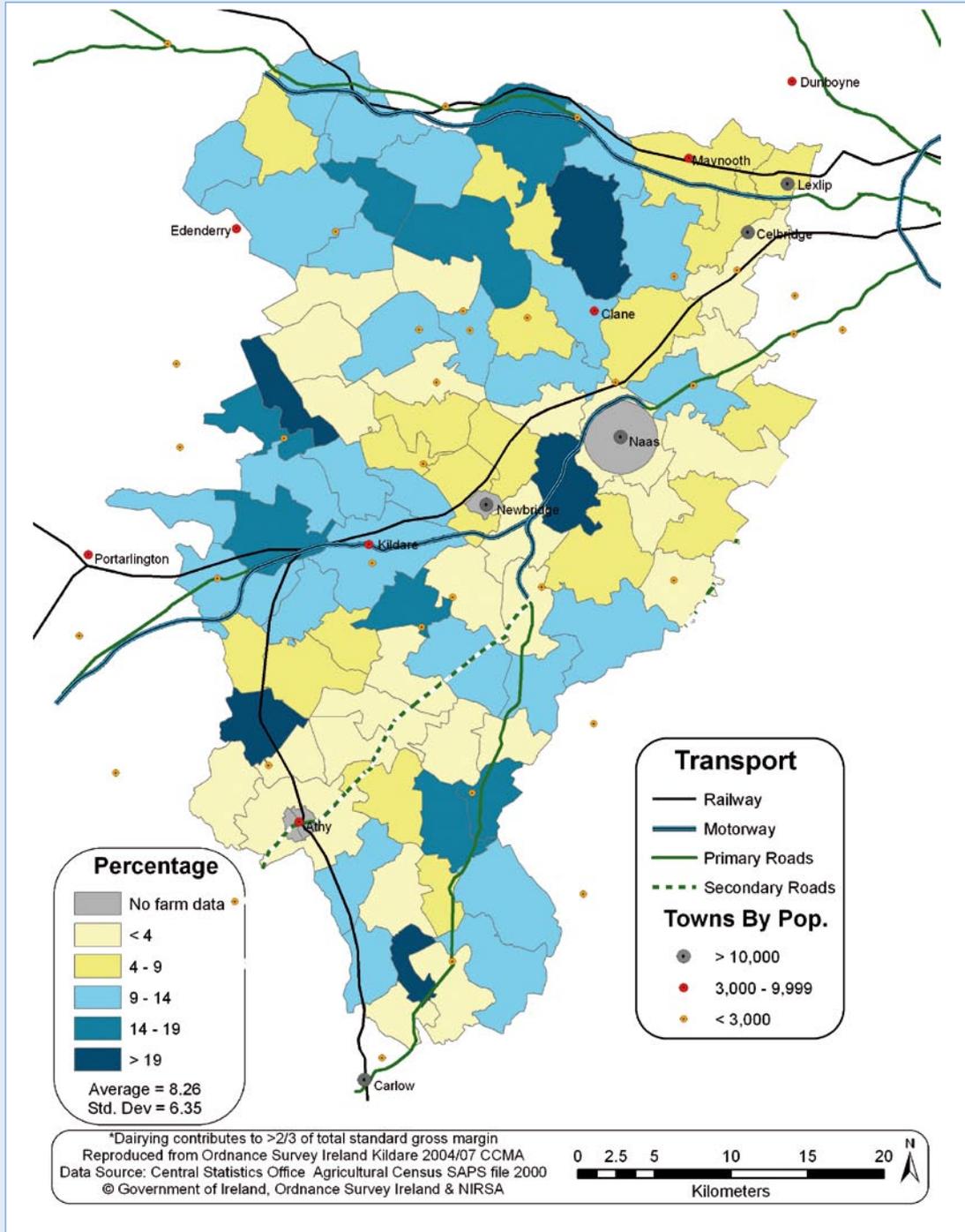
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MAP 55: SPECIALIST SHEEP* FARMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FARMS, 2000



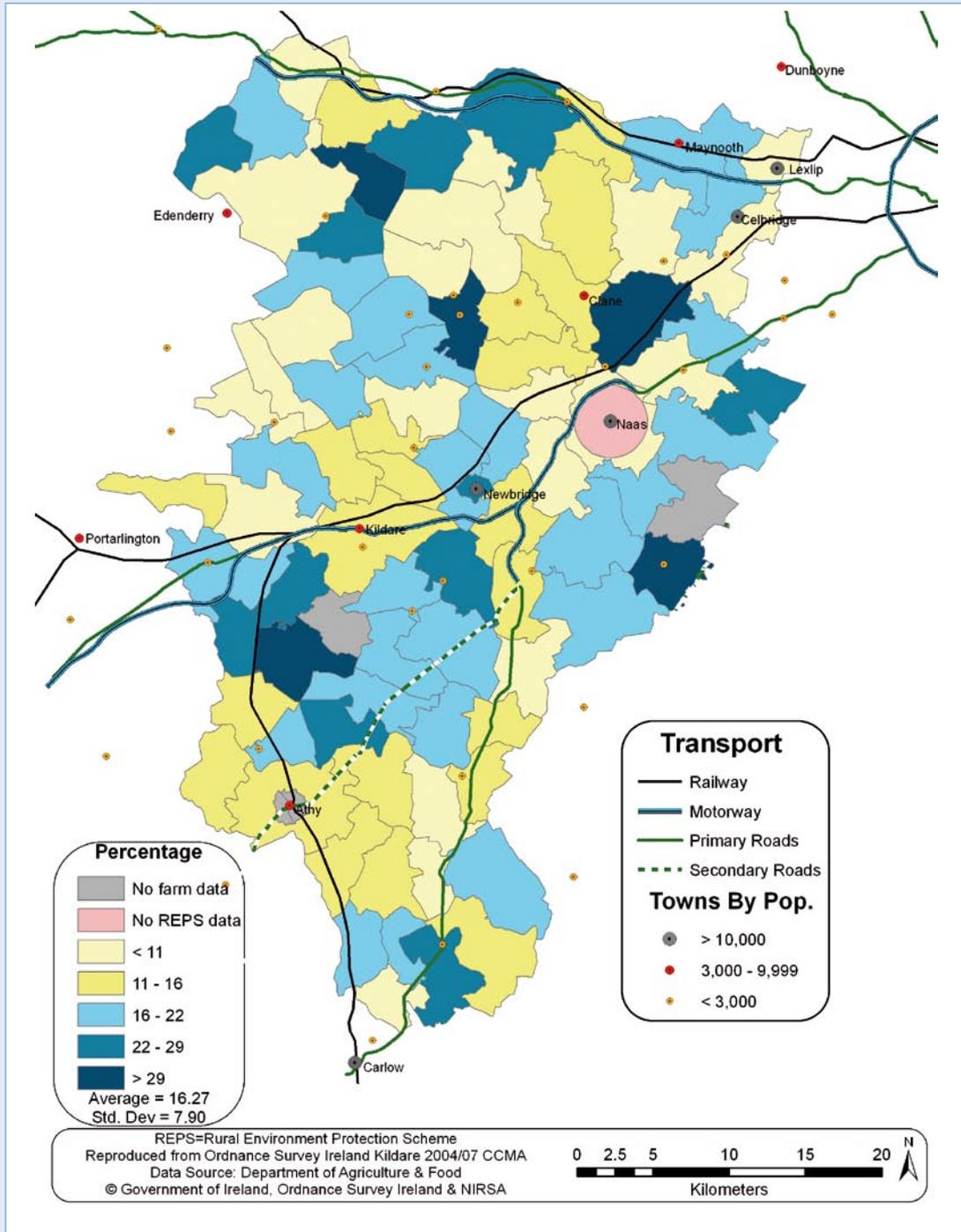
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MAP 56: SPECIALIST DAIRY* FARMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FARMS, 2000



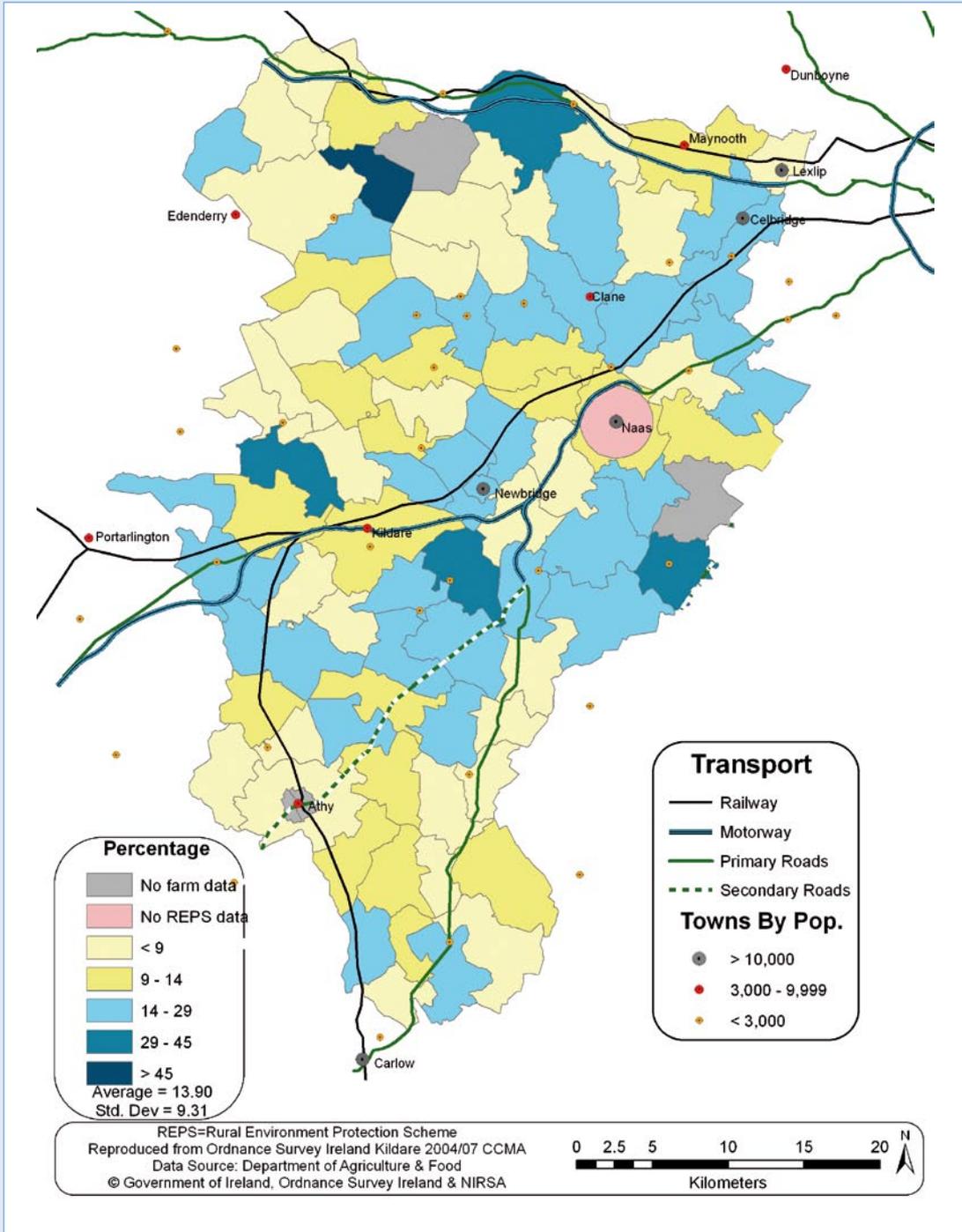
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MAP 57: FARMS IN REPS 1 & REPS 2 AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FARMS, 2000



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MAP 58: AREA (HA) IN REPS 1 & REPS 2 AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FARM LAND, 2000



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4.2 MANUFACTURING AND INTERNATIONALLY TRADED SERVICES

An analysis of the industrial profile is summarised in **Table 9**, with comparative data for the other counties in the Mid-East region. Kildare has significantly higher numbers employed in high value added sectors than either Wicklow or Meath and, in addition, the rate of increase in employment in Kildare is much higher than in the other counties. The foreign owned sector accounted for 69% of all employment in Kildare compared with 41% in Wicklow and 25% in Meath. Total employment in foreign owned firms rose by 3,908 between 1999 and 2004 in Kildare. The GVA per person employed is greater than the national average in Kildare at 104.4 in 2002 (**Table 10**).

Table 10: Industrial indicators for Dublin and Mid East counties

	Kildare	Meath	Wicklow	Dublin	Ireland
No. of manufacturing plants 2004	167	179	173	1,249	5,531
Total employment in mfg. and internationally traded services 2004	15,795	5,573	8,131	80,519	274,995
Net employment gain 1999-2004 all firms	6,997	3,187	5,341	57,597	151,537
Net employment gain 1999-2004 Foreign-owned	3,908	446	2,071	30,511	74,080
Net employment gain 1999-2004 Irish owned	3,089	2,741	3,270	27,086	77,493
GVA per person employed 2002 (Ireland = 100)	104.4	37.8	66.2	107.8	100.0
Wages and salaries as % of net output, 2002	11.7	52.5	16.7	12.3	12.7

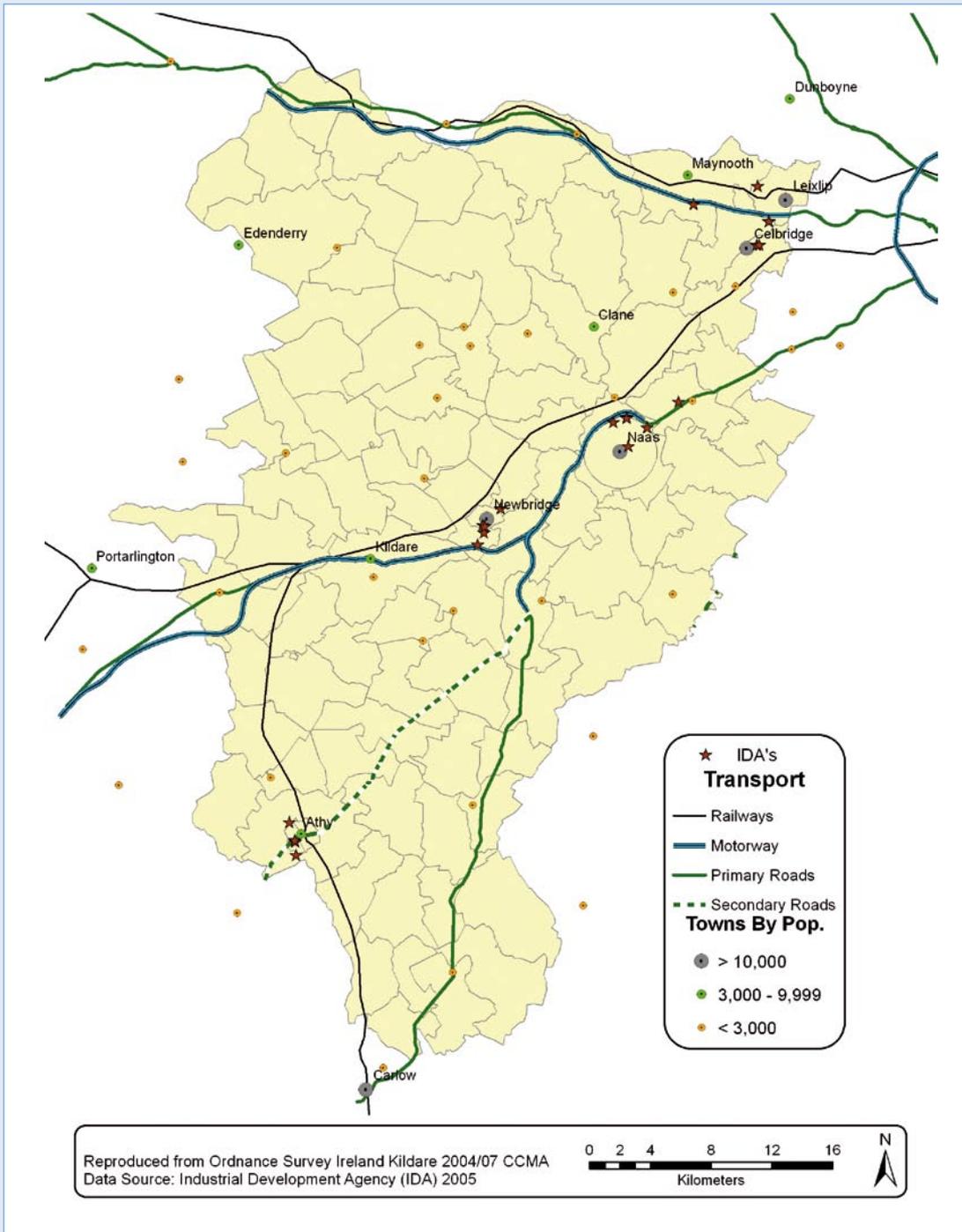
Source: Forfás database and CSO Census of Industrial Production, 2002

There are 24 foreign owned firms in Kildare employing a total of 10,310 persons on a permanent full-time basis that have been assisted by IDA Ireland. The companies are involved in producing a very diverse range of products including dental equipment, carpets, printers, roofing/cladding and pharmaceuticals. The distribution of foreign owned firms is influenced by many factors including the availability of suitable sites at accessible locations and the likelihood of being able to recruit and maintain a labour force with the requisite range of skills (**Map 59**).

Further expansion of the foreign owned sector will be influenced by the availability of key infrastructures (transport, telecommunications, environmental and social) and labour forces with appropriate skills at strategic locations in Kildare. Perhaps in the future with the construction of the M9, making the south of the county more accessible, more foreign owned firms will be encouraged to locate in the south. Kildare County Council has an Economic Development Office which aims to increase the county's share of the wealth created by Ireland's new economy.

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MAP 59: IDA IRELAND ASSISTED COMPANIES IN KILDARE 2005



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Enterprise Ireland is the principal agency supporting locally controlled manufacturing and internationally traded service industries. It has a government mandate to contribute to driving the growth of regional enterprise. Within the Mid East region its task is to ensure that the towns within the extended commuting distance of Dublin are developed with a good quality of life and a mixed economy so that they will attract new industries to the area. The EI strategy for developing locally controlled enterprises is based on four pillars:

- Developing and sustaining existing businesses,
- Enhancing the environment for business,
- Identifying and encouraging new start-up companies with strong growth potential,
- Identifying new opportunities for economic development, including investments by Dublin based companies who may wish to expand.

The Irish owned manufacturing sector is extensive with approximately 178 plants (December 2004) assisted by Enterprise Ireland, employing a total of 5,784 persons on a permanent full-time basis. There may be others that have not received assistance and are, therefore, not included in the Enterprise Ireland database. The vast majority of plants are classified as small (<50 workers). In 2004 out of the companies that had been categorised, there were 143 in the “small” category and 24 were in the “Medium” (51-250 workers) with just 3 in the “large” category. The distribution of these companies based on size is important as it influences the possibility of achieving economies of scale and also the potential for developing a strong base of internationally competitive enterprises.

The geographical distribution of Enterprise Ireland supported companies is, as expected, more dispersed than the pattern for foreign owned companies (**Table 11** and **Map 60**), although again most are concentrated in the major urban centres. The largest concentration is in Naas with 47 companies, though 34 of these are small ones. Newbridge and Athy both had 17 and there were 7 in Celbridge. The higher densities towards the north-east of the county, particularly around Naas, and along the main transport corridors are noticeable.

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Table 11: Distribution of Enterprise Ireland assisted companies, Kildare 2004

Town	Size			Total
	Large	Medium	Small	
Naas	2	12	33	46
Droichead Nua + environs	0	2	16	18
Celbridge	0	0	7	7
Leixlip	0	1	1	2
Maynooth	0	0	5	5
Athy	0	3	14	17
Kildare	1	0	5	6
Clane	0	0	7	7
Sallins	0	0	1	1
Kilcock	0	1	3	4
Monasterevan	0	0	4	4
Kill	0	2	2	4
Rathangan	0	1	7	8
Prosperous	0	0	1	1
Kilcullen	0	1	2	3
Straffan	0	0	2	2
Carbury	0	1	1	2
Castledermot	0	0	3	3
Kilmeague	0	0	1	1
Robertstown	0	0	2	2

Responsibility for fostering and sustaining micro enterprises rests with Kildare County Enterprise Board. Its mission is to “provide a support framework for the promotion and development of micro enterprise in County Kildare which will assist in the creation of competitive and sustainable enterprises on a balanced basis throughout the County”. The Board provides a range of services that include:

- Developing an enterprise culture,
- Providing business counselling/advice and mentoring,
- Management training and development,
- Financial assistance.

In accordance with government policy the Enterprise Board has responsibility for the development and support of micro enterprises. Particular aspects of micro enterprise support can be delivered through Kildare LEADER (who already have experience in this area of activity), where appropriate. An important aspect of the projects assisted by local development agencies is that they are generally dispersed away from the main urban centres (**Maps 61- 66**). Thus they have a distinctive role in fostering small-scale rural

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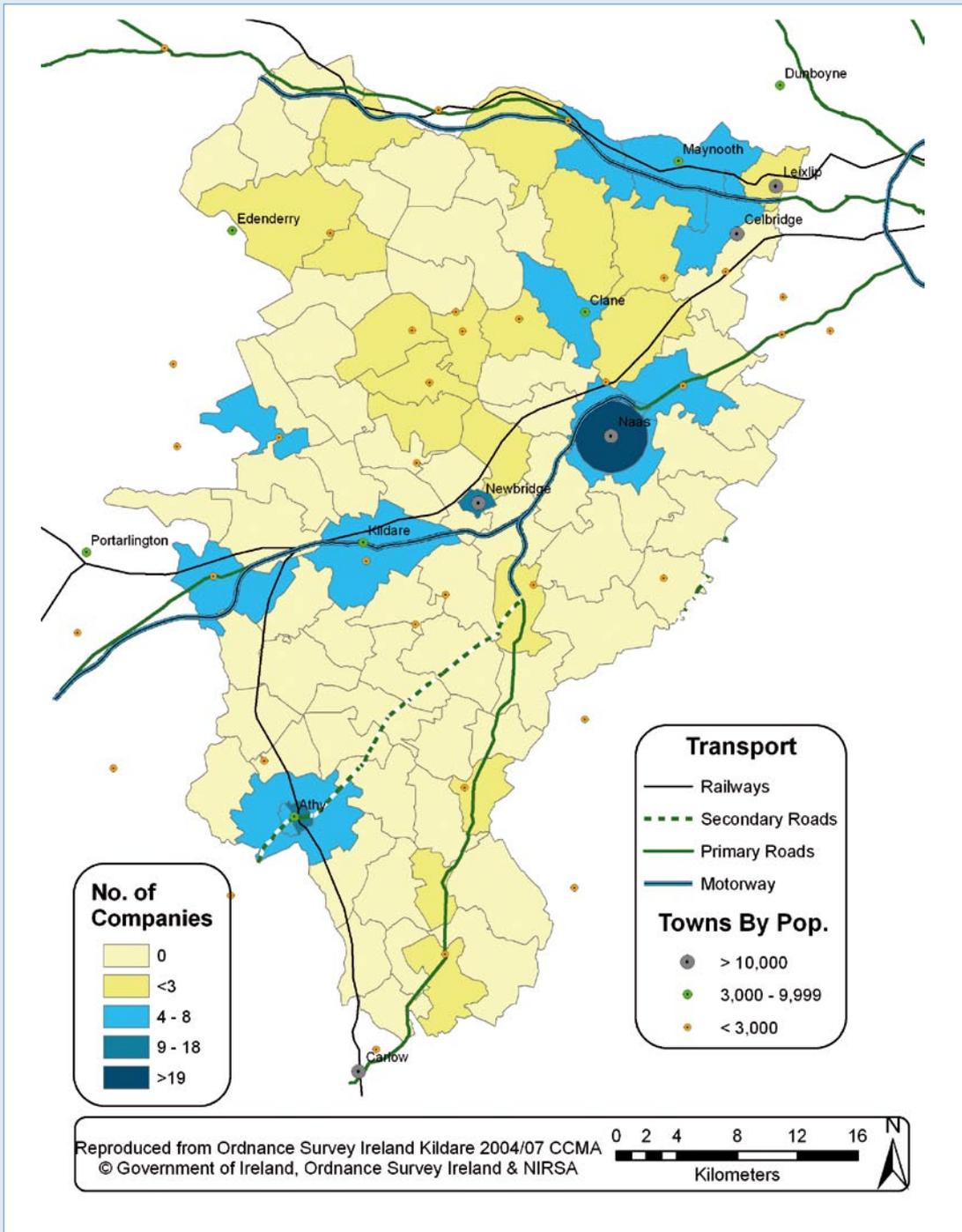
THE ECONOMY

based enterprises. However, in the case of projects on the Enhancement of Natural, Built, Social and Cultural Environment and those involving Innovative Rural Enterprises much of the focus does seem to be around some of the urban centres in Kildare and, as such, fostering of similar projects in the more rural and less accessible south and west of the county should be encouraged.

The geographical distribution of industries in the future will be influenced to a large degree by the availability of serviced industrial land. Although key land use zonings have been identified for the main urban areas in Kildare, unfortunately land that has been zoned as industrial, which has been taken up or has live permission on it, cannot be quantified at present in the county. In order to be able to estimate how much development land there is that has not been developed and the location of such land would require a survey to be carried out by the Planning Technicians in Kildare County Council. Perhaps this is a project that could be explored in the future in conjunction with Planning and the GIS Co-ordinator in Kildare County Council. The forthcoming "Economic Profile and Economic Development Strategy for Kildare to 2016" is likely to also be hugely influential on the future path of Kildares economic development.

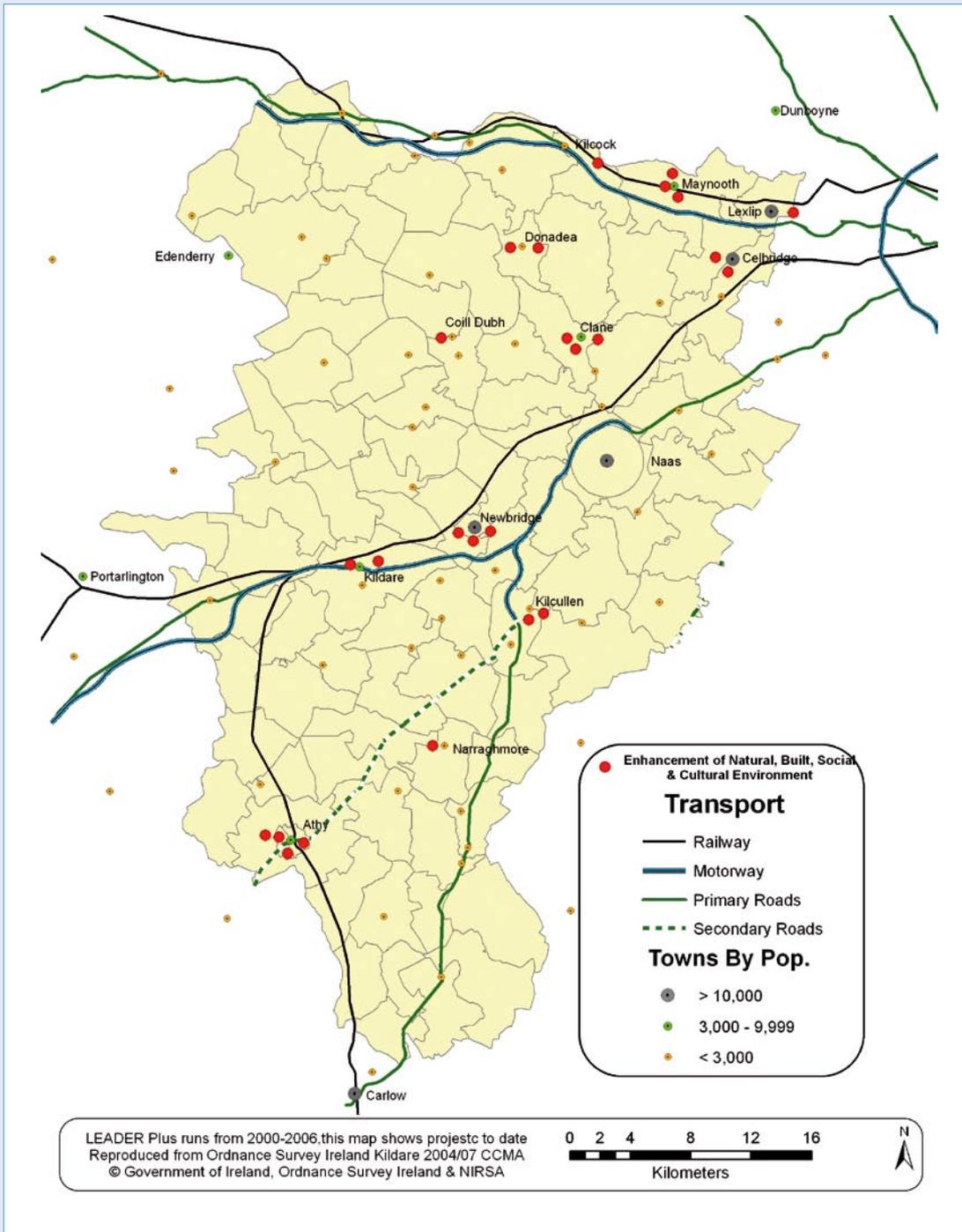
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MAP 60: DISTRIBUTION OF COMPANIES ASSISTED BY ENTERPRISE IRELAND



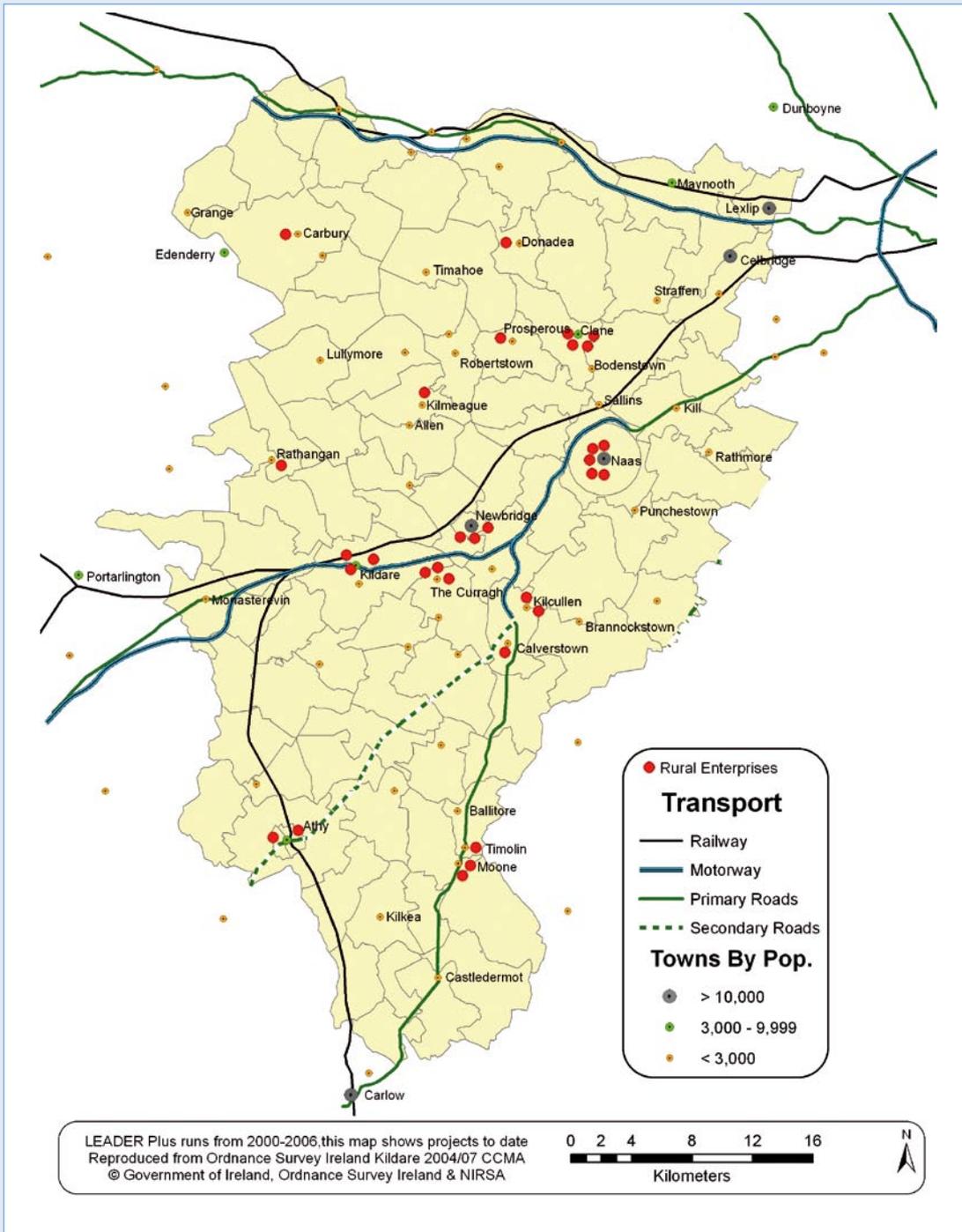
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MAP 61: DISTRIBUTION OF LEADER PLUS FUNDED PROJECTS
 ENHANCEMENT OF NATURAL, BUILT, SOCIAL & CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT



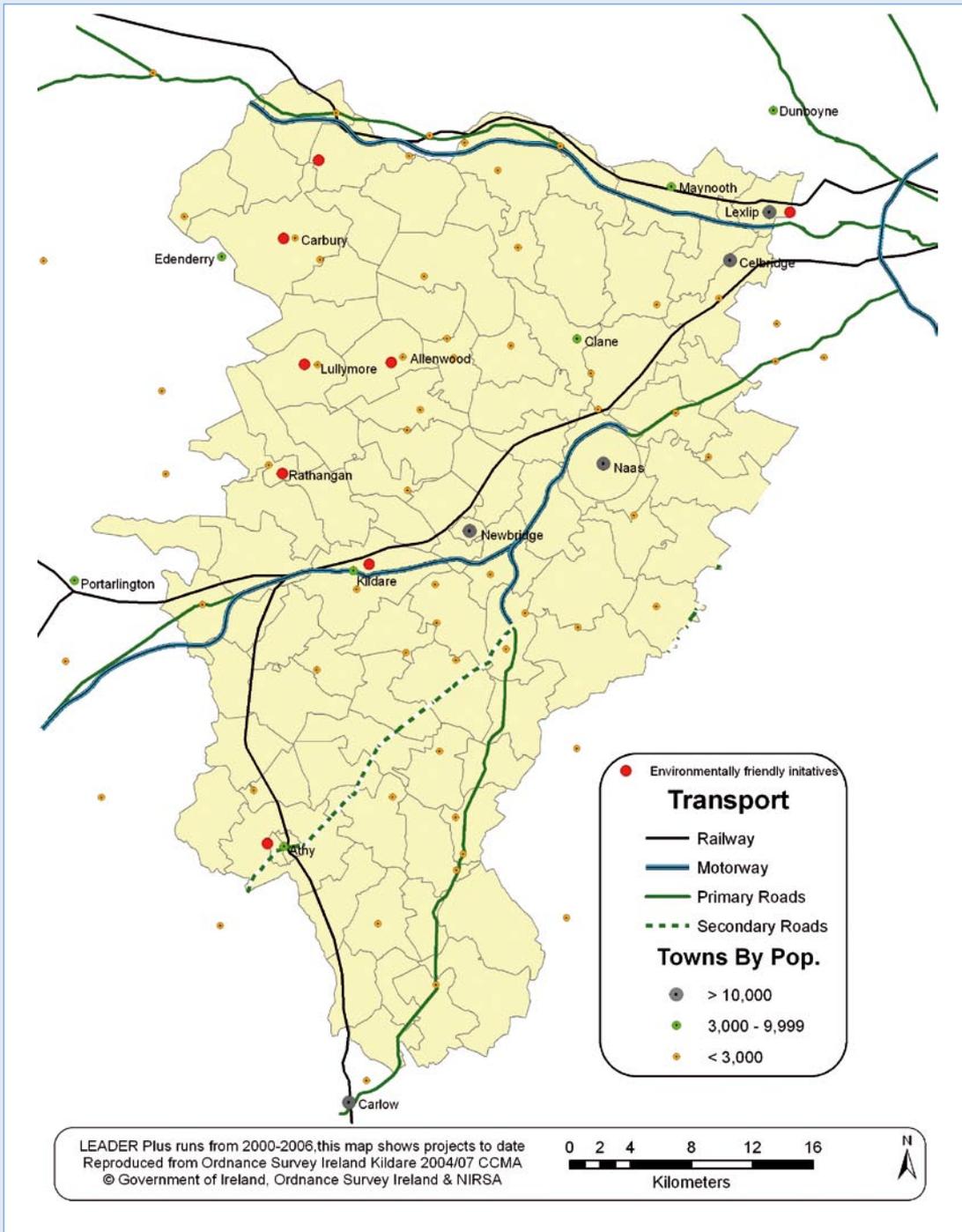
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MAP 62: DISTRIBUTION OF LEADER PLUS FUNDED PROJECTS INNOVATIVE RURAL ENTERPRISES



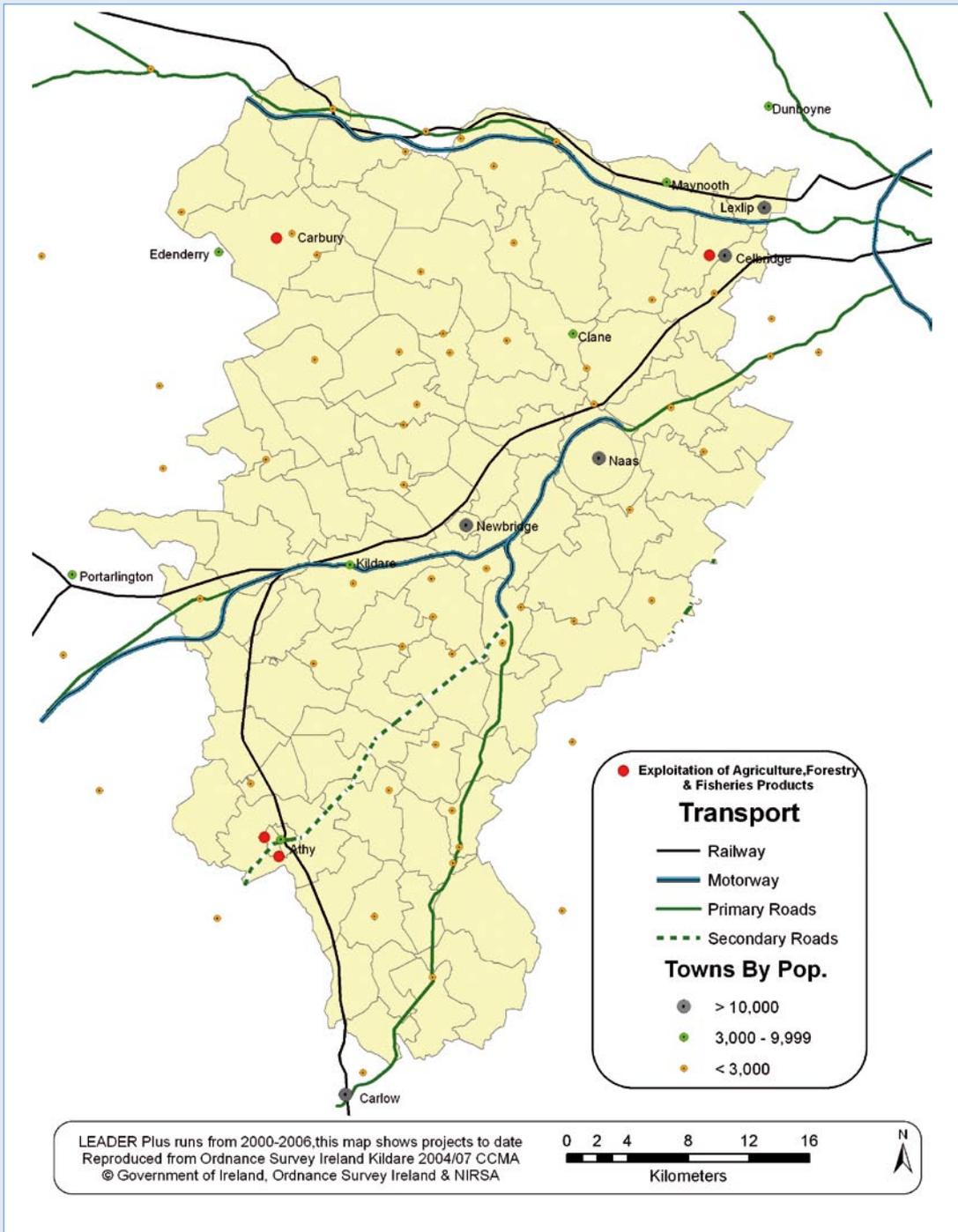
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MAP 63: DISTRIBUTION OF LEADER PLUS FUNDED PROJECTS
ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY INITIATIVES



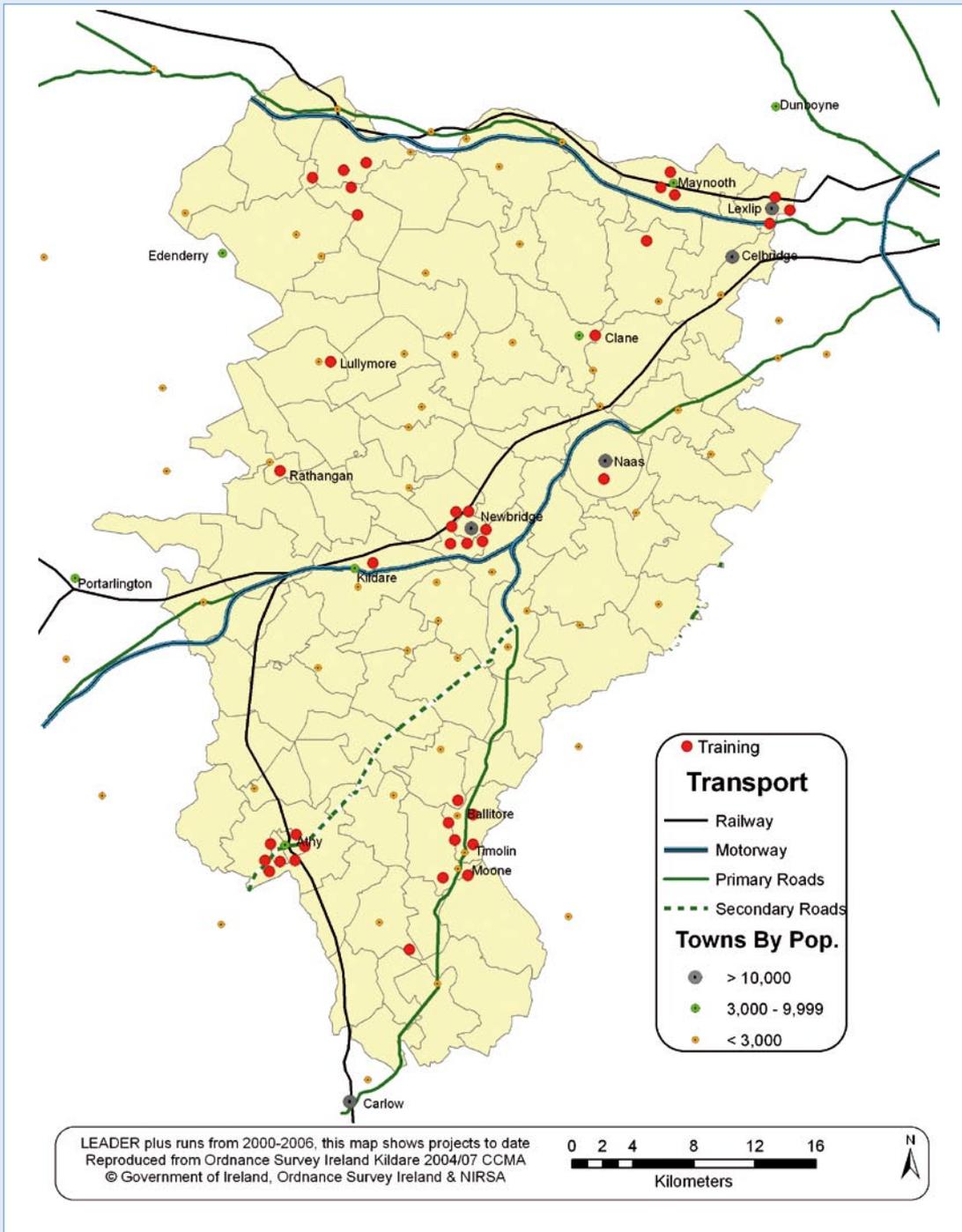
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MAP 64: DISTRIBUTION OF LEADER PLUS FUNDED PROJECTS
EXPLOITATION OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHERIES PRODUCTS



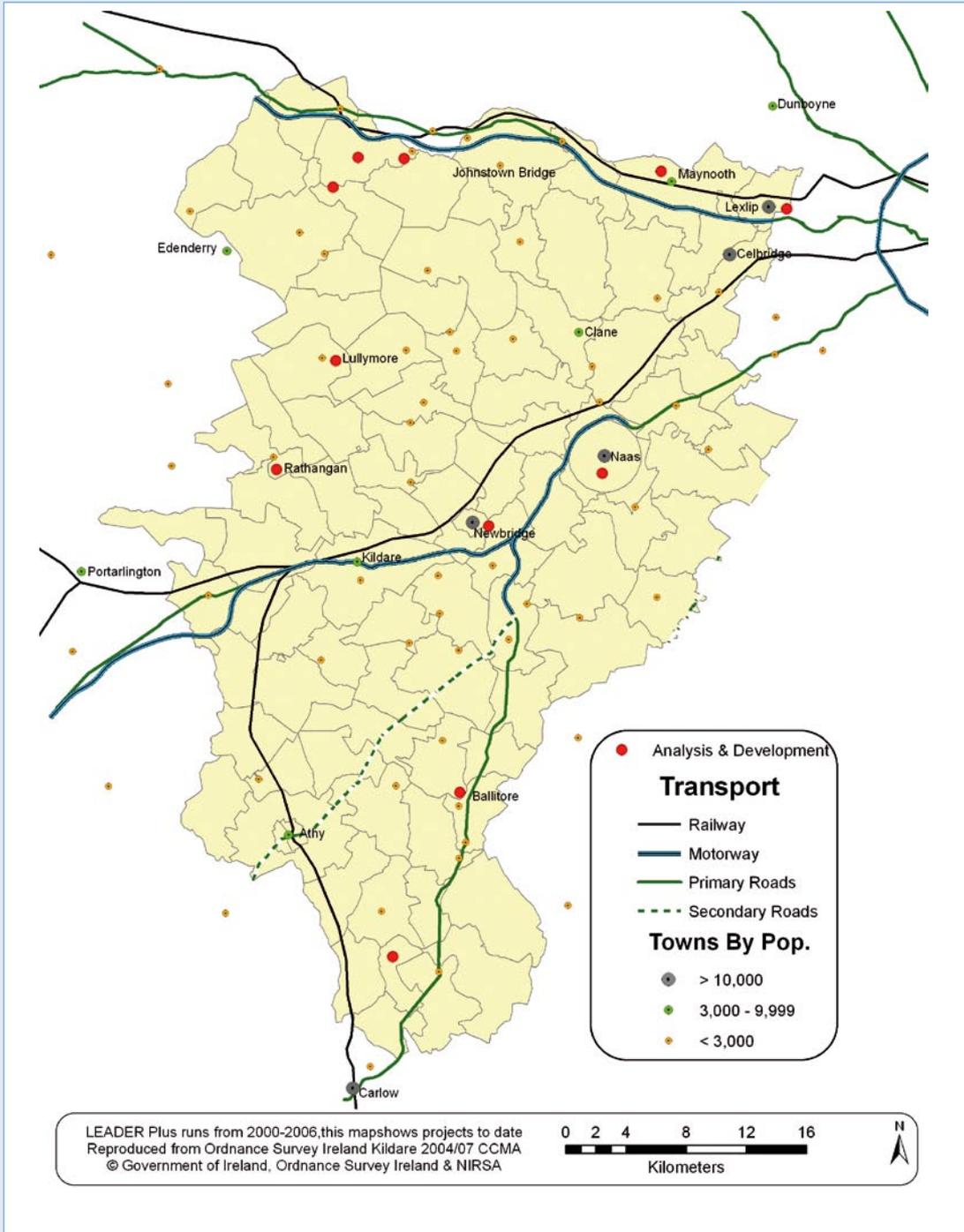
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MAP 65: DISTRIBUTION OF LEADER PLUS FUNDED PROJECTS TRAINING



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MAP 66: DISTRIBUTION OF LEADER PLUS FUNDED PROJECTS ANALYSIS & DEVELOPMENT



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THE ECONOMY

4.3 SERVICES

The services sector accounts for more than two thirds of the total workforce and it is also the most rapidly growing sector. It is, in addition, the sector in which most females are employed. As illustrated in the previous chapter, the distribution of service workers is very much influenced by access to urban centres as most services (retailing, business services, personal services and professional services) are provided from nodal centres. Future demands on this sector will depend on a number of factors such as local demand for locally traded services. For internationally traded services there are different requirements such as the availability of a workforce with appropriate skills plus key infrastructure (especially for ICT based services) and attractive work environments at accessible locations.

In addition to urban-based services tourism is also a major service industry, which can bring significant economic and social benefits to rural villages and small towns. Kildare is famous as a sporting, racing and hunting region. Racing at the Curragh, Punchestown and Naas takes place all year round, boasting some of the biggest meetings in the country's racing calendar. Near Kildare town, the Irish National Stud and neighbouring Japanese Gardens, said by experts to be the best of their kind in Europe, attracting 114,328 visitors in 2005³. Other visitor attractions in the county include Ballitore Quaker Museum (1,500 visitors in 2005), Castletown House in Celbridge (10,000 visitors in 2005), Straffan Butterfly Farm, Lullymore Heritage & Discovery Park (over 30,000 visitors in 2004).

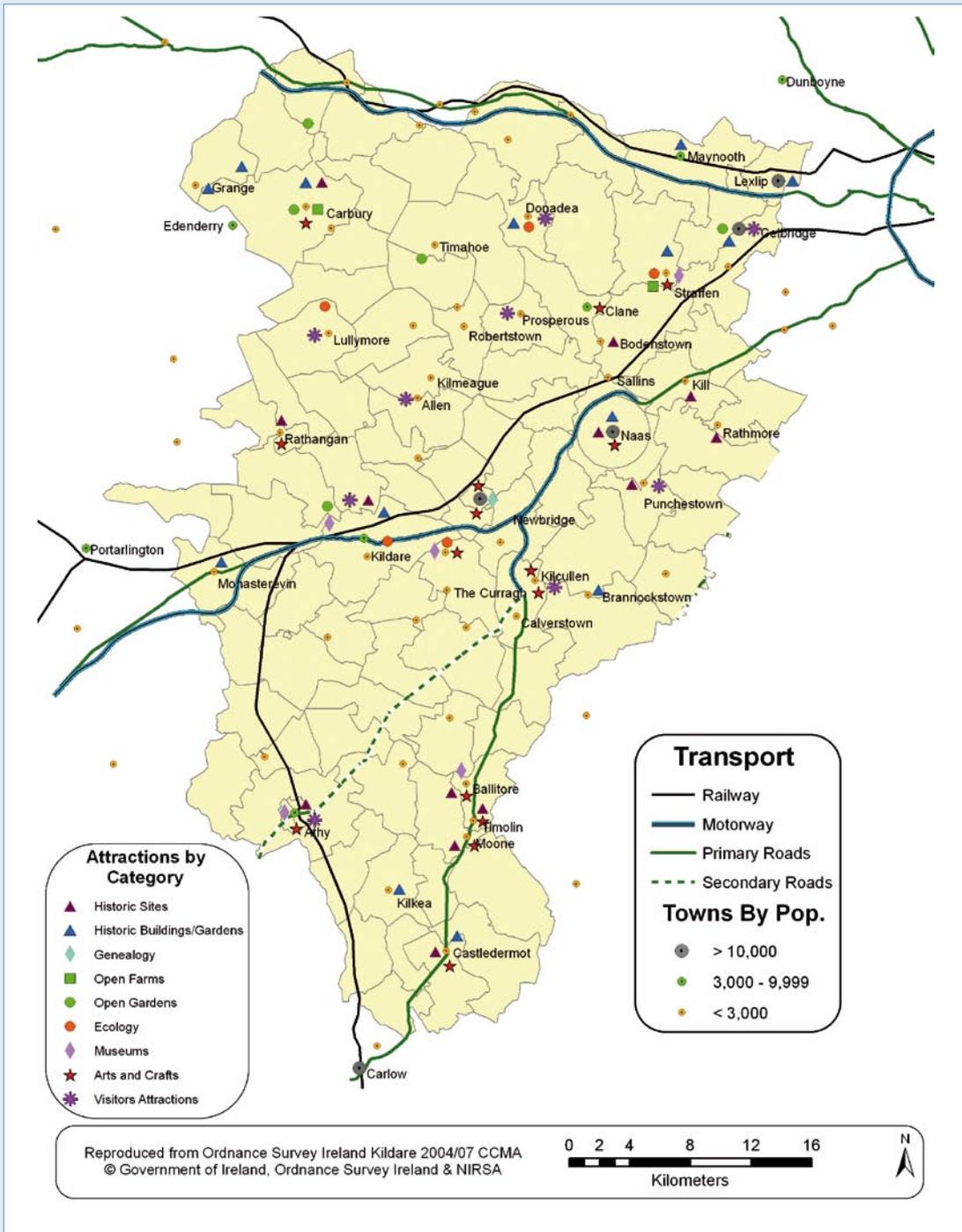
Apart from these attractions there are a number of high quality visitor attractions based on the county's archaeological and historical heritage, for example, the designated heritage towns of Kildare and Athy both have heritage centres (**Map 67**). There are three main tourist routes in Kildare: the North Kildare Tourist Route (including, for example, Castletown House, Leixlip Castle, St. Patrick's College Maynooth, the Millenium Maze and so on); the Mid Kildare Tourist Route (including, for example, The Curragh, The Hill of Allen, the Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens, and so on); and the South Kildare Tourist Route (including, for example, Punchestown Racecourse, Athy Heritage Centre, Castledermot Abbey, Moone High Cross, Ballitore Quaker Museum and so on (Failte 2005)). Visitors attracted by outdoor pursuits are catered for by equestrian facilities, golf courses and wide variety of walkways. There are also 2 long distance way-marked ways, the Barrow way and the Kildare way, and numerous looped walks and trails (ranging from canal walks to Coillte walks to town walking routes, for example, Sline Sláinte). Despite being a land-locked county, Kildare makes the most of its inland waterways, exploiting the 75 miles of Royal and Grand Canal, the Liffey, the River Rye, and the Barrow for canoeing, cruising, fishing (coarse fishing on the canals and game fishing, particularly on the Rye and the Liffey) and walking alongside. In addition there are 25 annual festivals at a number of locations throughout the county. The latest figures (2004) for the number of overseas tourists (not including domestic figures or day trips to the county) to Kildare are estimated at 161,000 which is second only to Wicklow, with 260,000 when compared to other counties in the Midlands East tourism region, followed by Westmeath with 111,000, Meath 96,000 and Louth 87,000 (Ireland 2004).

Given Kildares proximity to Dublin, there is no doubt that there is untapped tourist potential. County Kildare Failte, the county tourism committee has been working to fulfil the recommendations of the Tourism Task Force 2002-2006 but is now at a point where a new set of strategic goals need to be developed for the next five years. While large scale product development and marketing are supported by Failte Ireland and the regional tourism organisation (East Coast and Midlands Regional Tourism Authority) there are also supports for small scale rural tourism initiatives provided by Kildare LEADER especially towards the south of the county (**Map 68**).

³ Not final figure, figure to early December 2005

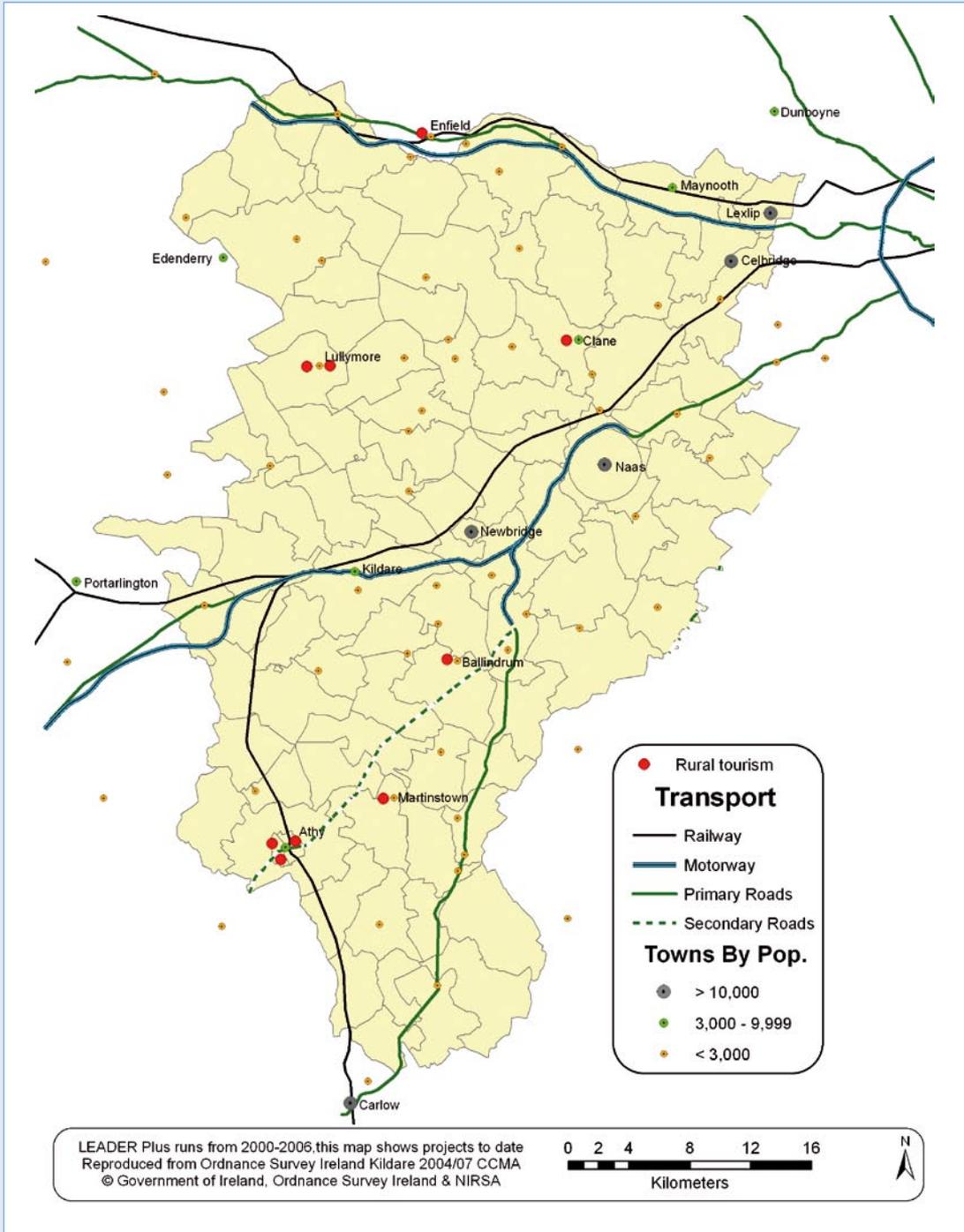
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MAP 67: TOURISM - VISITORS ATTRACTIONS



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MAP 68: DISTRIBUTION OF LEADER PLUS FUNDED PROJECTS RURAL TOURISM



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THE SOCIAL CONTEXT



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This section considers the structure of society in Kildare. Given that education is widely regarded as a key agent in both social and economic transformation, this section begins with an overview of levels of educational attainment in Co. Kildare. The links between education and status in the labour force are outlined and the geography of social stratification in the county illustrated. Finally aspects of social exclusion are considered.

5.1 EDUCATION

The pivotal role of education in the social and economic transformation of Ireland over recent decades is well documented. Formal education is provided in Kildare through 108 primary schools and 27 post primary schools. The location of these schools throughout the county are illustrated in **Maps 69 & 70**. Kildare is fortunate to have a university located in Maynooth (NUI Maynooth). Further, the county's proximity to Dublin means that there are third level institutions that are accessible to the majority of the population, for example, Blanchardstown Institute of Technology, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin Institute of Technology, with Carlow Institute of Technology being very accessible to the south of the county in particular. These institutions provide a wide range of programmes from certificate and diploma level to postgraduate degree.

The census of population provides information on the highest level of formal education attained by all persons aged over 15 years who have ceased formal education. The distribution of the population according to educational attainment levels is summarised in **Table 12**. As indicated in the table, Kildare has a significantly smaller proportion of its population than the State with lower educational levels. Kildare further have proportionately higher numbers of people with upper secondary or third level education. The differences in the educational profile are likely to be influenced by differences in age profiles as well as extensive in-migration into the county of a highly educated workforce.

Table 12: Percentage distribution of population aged 15 years and over by highest level of education completed 2002.

Highest level of education completed	Kildare	State
No Formal, Primary or Lower Secondary Education	39,894 (37.7)*	1,117,653 (42.6)
Upper Secondary Education	32,758 (32.3)	724,099 (29.1)
Third Level Education	28,826 (28.4)	646,837 (26.0)

5.1.1 SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Within Kildare there are considerable spatial contrasts in terms of levels of education completed. Areas in the south and west of the county tend to have higher percentages of their populations with lower

* Figures in brackets are percentage of the total.

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education levels, including more than two thirds in some EDs in these areas (**Map 71**). Electoral divisions with high percentages of their populations in this educational category included Athy West Urban (65.2%), Kilberry (64.2%), Ballitore (64.0%), Skerries (59.9%), Narraghmore (59.5%), Kilpatrick (59.5%), Grangemellon (59.4%), Nurney (57.7%) and Ballysax West (57.3%). In the north east of the county the proportion of the population with low education levels is much lower, with less than one third of the population in the north east and in the outskirts of most of the major towns in this category. Maynooth (23.2%), Naas Rural (25.6%), Celbridge (27.2%), Naas Urban (28.1%), Ladytown (28.2%) and Bodenstown (28.2%).

Table 12 illustrates that Kildare has a higher proportion with upper secondary education than the State. Areas with high levels of people with upper secondary education are strongly concentrated in the north and particularly the north-east of the county (**Map 72**). Particularly high proportions of those with upper secondary education are associated with the hinterlands of Nass and Leixlip and Celbridge. People with upper secondary education account for more than a third of the adult population in a number of EDs including Lullymore (37.6%), Oughterard (37.4%), Ladytown (37.3%), Leixlip (37.3%), Killeel (37.2%), Newtown (36.8%) and Kill (36.0%). Southern and western parts of the county have lower proportions, with low levels also associated with Athy town centre. Low proportions of people with upper secondary education are chiefly associated with the EDs of Nurney (23.2%), Ballitore (24.5%), Ballynadrummy (24.6%), Kilkea (24.6%) and Skerries (25.0%).

Kildare has a higher proportion of its population with third level education than the State (**Table 12**). Areas that have high proportions of people with third level education are strongly concentrated in the north-east (**Map 73**). Particularly high concentrations occurred in this commuter-belt zone. There are, as expected given the location of the university in Maynooth, particularly high concentrations of third level educated people in the very north east of the county as well as along the train lines and the N4 and N7 routes between Newbridge and Dublin, and between Maynooth and Dublin. The pattern that emerges thus is that people with third level education are particularly associated with districts near the major routeways within the county, thereby suggesting that many of them are likely to be commuting daily to Dublin. EDs characterised by high proportions of third level educated people include Maynooth (45.9%), Bodenstown (38.8%), Naas Urban (37.7%), Naas Rural (37.2%), Celbridge (36.4%), Donaghcumper (36.4%) and Rathmore (35.2%). Areas having low proportions with third level education are particularly focussed on the west of the county, as well as a number of pockets in the south. The lowest proportions were observed in Athy West Urban (7.5%), Kilberry (8.6%), Kilpatrick (9.0%), Kilmeage North (10.2%) and Ballitore (11.5%).

5.1.2 FUTURE PRESSURES ON EDUCATIONAL SERVICE PROVISION IN CO. KILDARE

In light of the massive in-migration and also growth in births in the Kildare area in recent years, it is important to consider likely school age children in the future and the impacts this will have on the educational services in Co. Kildare. If we consider just births alone they increased by more than 19% in Kildare in 2000 and that increase is being experienced in the educational services in Kildare at present (**Table 13**). Another massive increase was observed in Kildare in 2004 when the births increased by more than 23%. In order to get a clearer picture of how the growth in births and also growth in school age children from in-migration is

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distributed throughout the county what needs to be established are the numbers of those in the 0-4 age group and their locations within the county. It is hoped that this may be possible in the future with the setting up of the County Research and Statistics Office and obtaining information on child benefit from the Department of Social and Family Affairs. At present it is not possible to estimate future pressures on primary schools without such information as even the proxy measure of births (which does not take into account in-migration) is only available at county level or at the aggregated level of Naas and Athy.

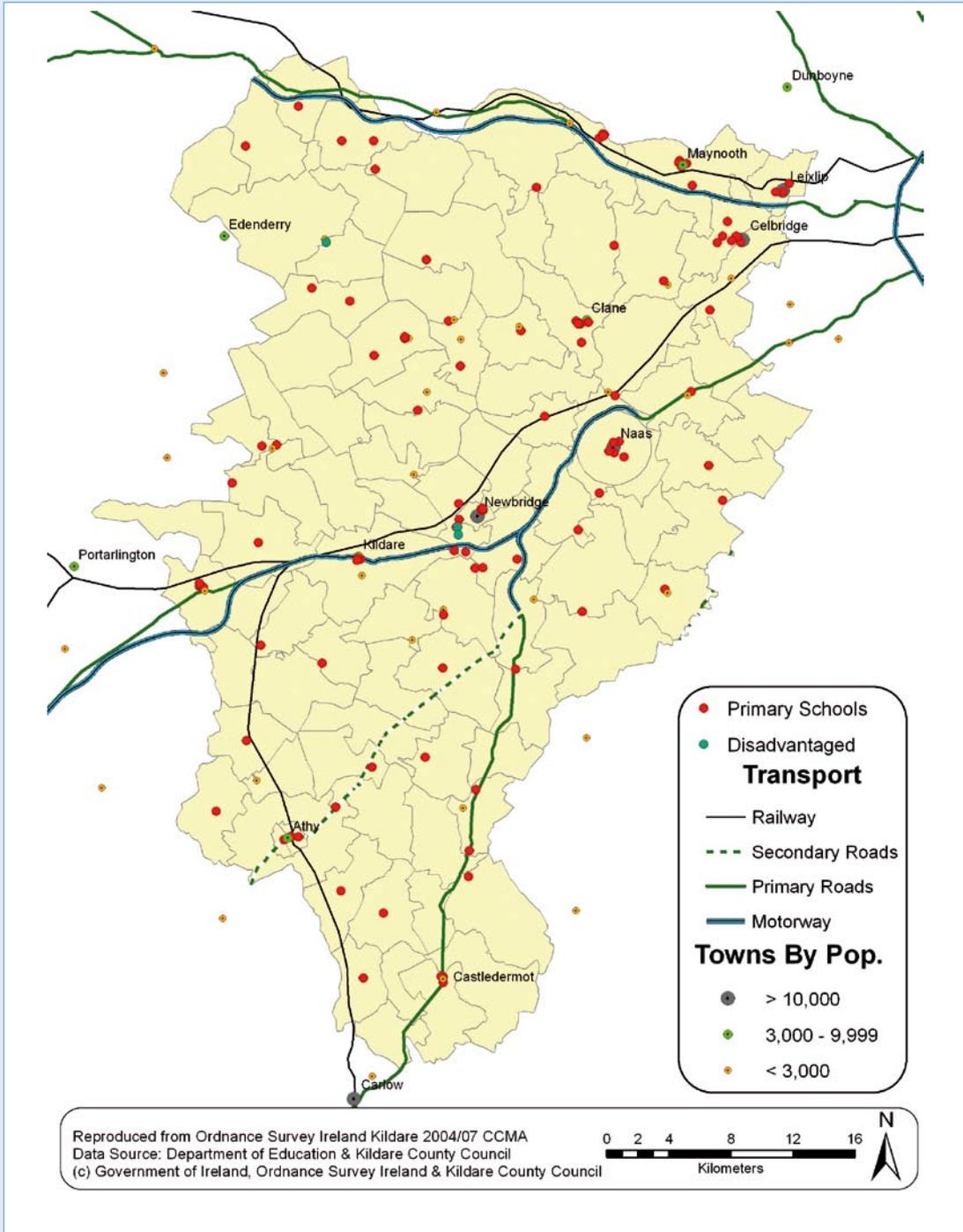
Table 13: Births in Kildare compared with Ireland

Year	Births in Kildare (% increase)	Births in Ireland (% increase)
1998	646	53969
1999	658 (+1.9)	53924 (-0.1)
2000	785 (+19.3)	54789 (+1.6)
2001	820 (+4.5)	57854 (+5.6)
2002	872 (+6.3)	60503 (+4.8)
2003	860 (-1.4)	61517 (+1.7)
2004	1120 (+23.2)	61684 (+0.3)

Source: Vital Statistics from the CSO

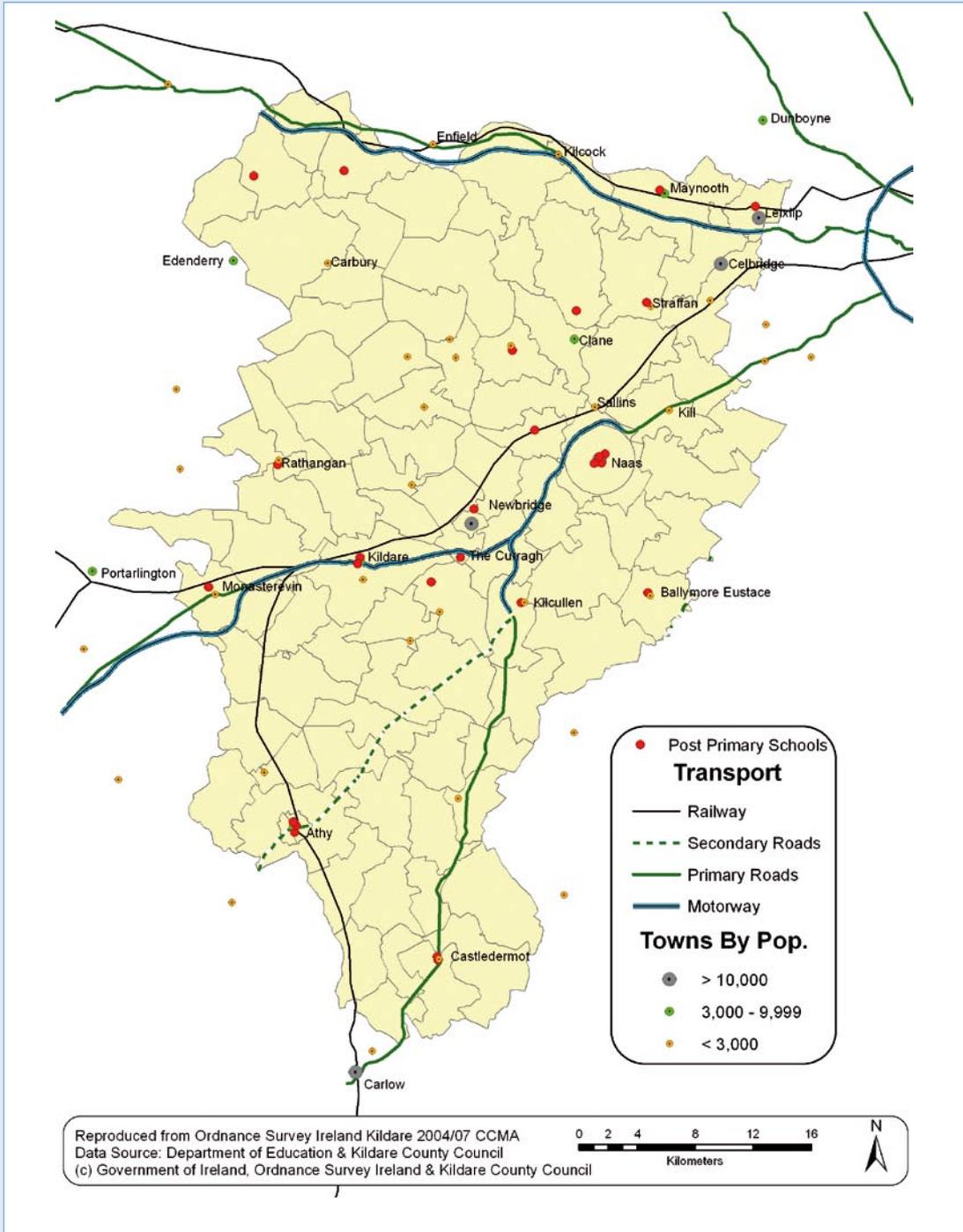
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MAP 69: KILDARE PRIMARY SCHOOLS



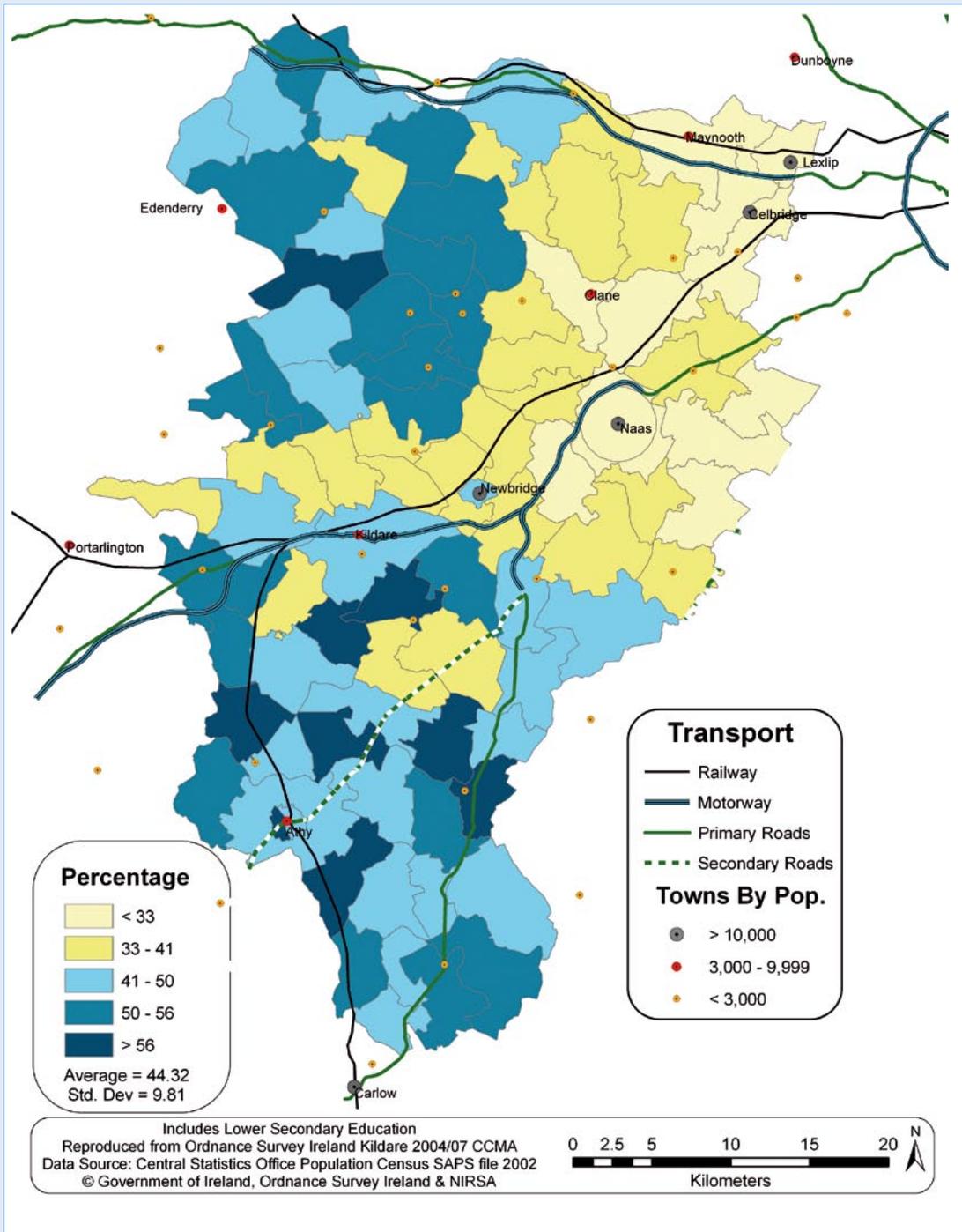
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MAP 70: KILDARE POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS



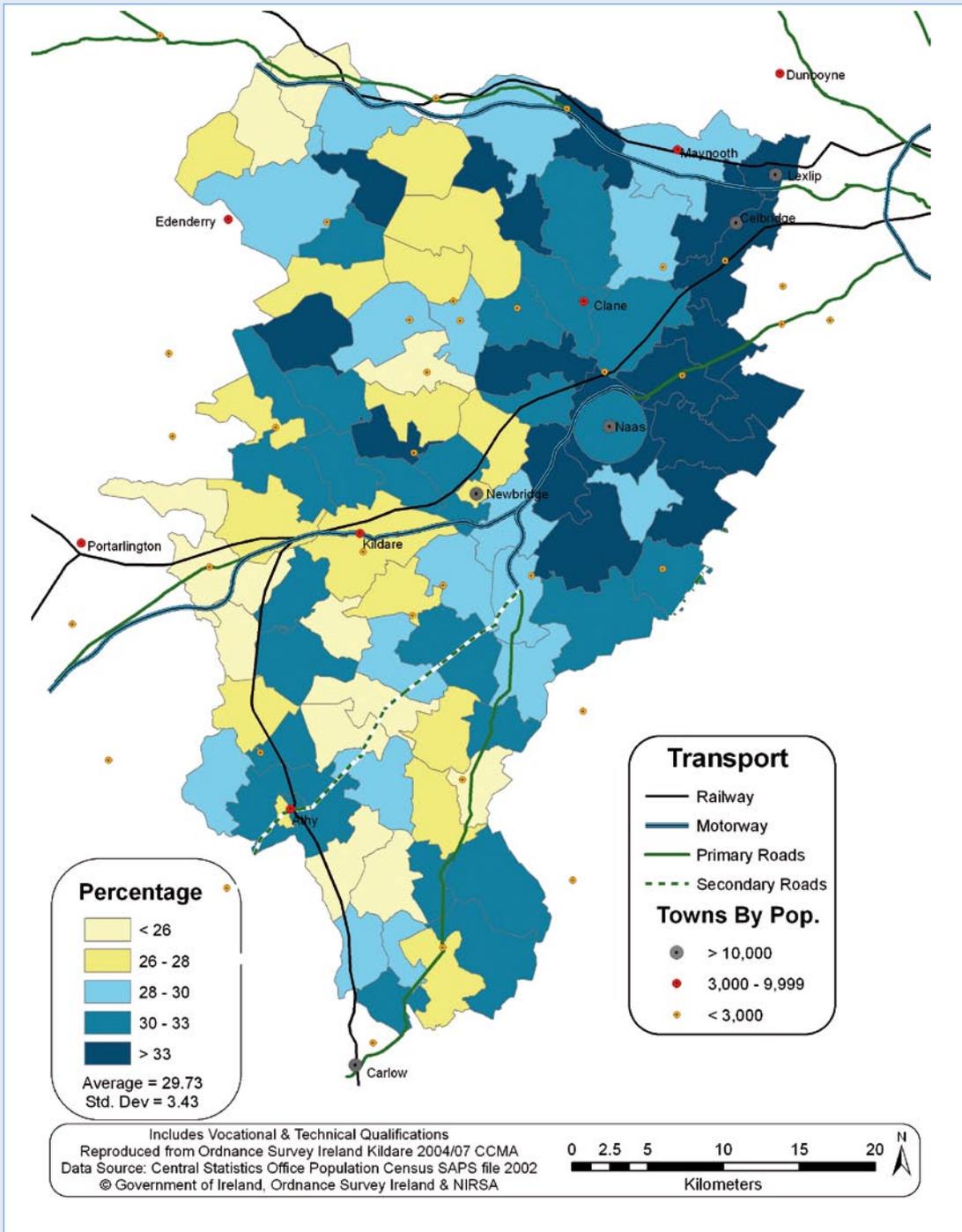
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MAP 71: PERSONS WITH PRIMARY, NO FORMAL OR LOWER SECONDARY EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS AGED 15+, 2002



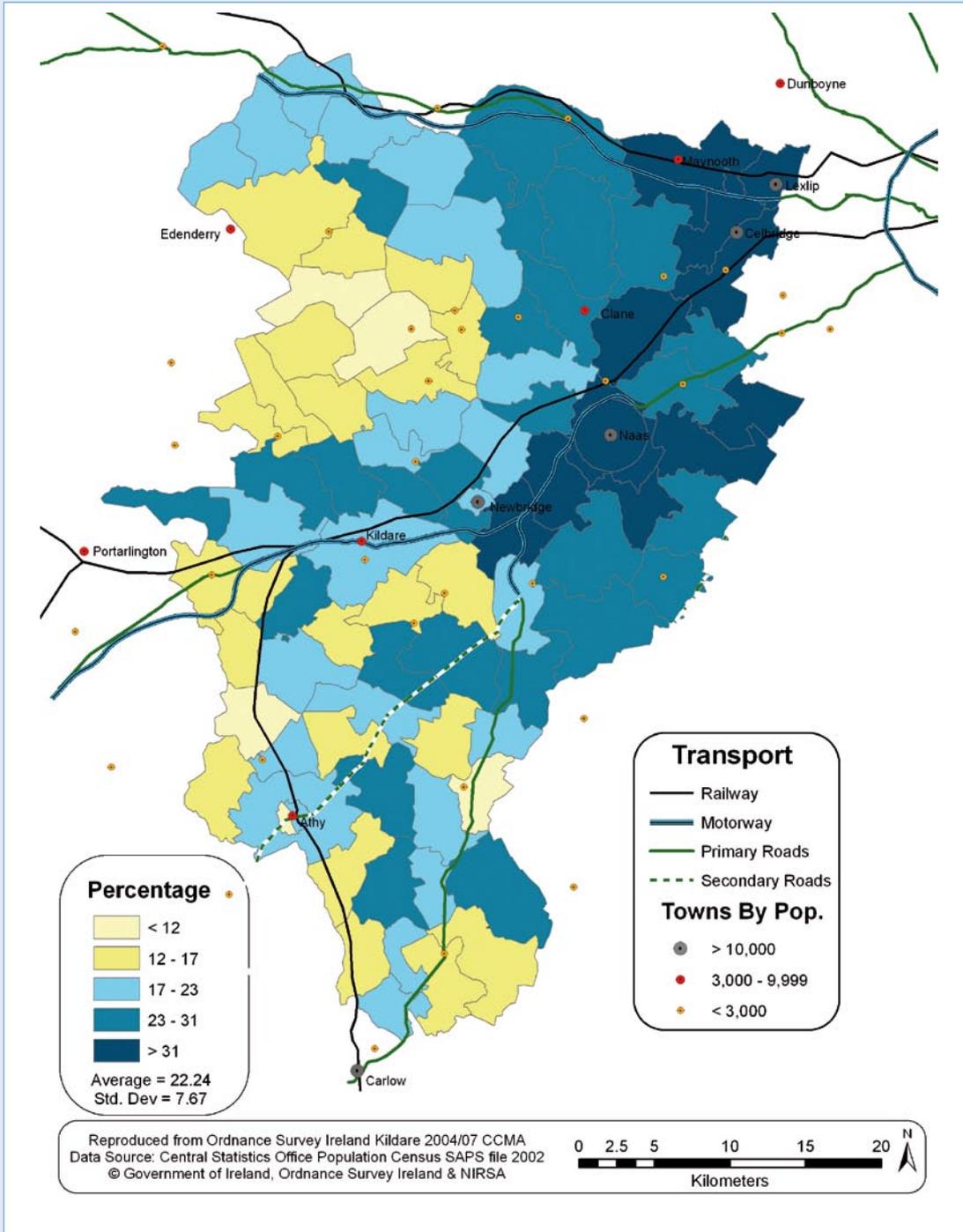
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MAP 72: PERSONS WITH UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION
AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS AGED 15+, 2002



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MAP 73: PERSONS WITH THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS AGED 15+, 2002



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5.2 SOCIAL CLASSES

The population is generally classified on the basis of occupations by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) into seven social class groups which are labelled as follows:

(1) Professional workers, (2) Managerial and technical, (3) Non-manual, (4) Skilled manual, (5) Semi-skilled, (6) Unskilled and (7) All others gainfully occupied and those for whom there is no occupational reference data.

The occupations that comprise each of the groups are selected in order to, as much as possible, bring together people with similar levels of occupational skill. Social class, therefore, ranks occupations by the level of skill required on a scale ranging from 1 (highest) to 7 (lowest). Further, educational attainment levels have a strong influence on occupational choices, which together with information on status in the labour force (employed vs unemployed), largely determines the social class to which individuals are assigned by The Central Statistics Office. The distribution of the populations of Kildare and the State by social classes are summarised in **Table 14**.

Table 14: Percentage Distribution of Population by Social Class 2002 and change 1996-2002

	Kildare %	Change 1996-2002	State	Change 1996-2002
Social Class 1	6.0%	2,093/2.1%	6.1%	43,372/22.3%
Social Class 2	29.0%	12,248/12.3%	25.5%	204,104/25.6%
Social Class 3	17.2%	1,456/1.5%	16.5%	-22,977/-3.4%
Social Class 4	17.2%	1,991/2.0%	17.2%	-68,805/-9.3%
Social Class 5	9.9%	1,591/1.6%	10.9%	-38,431/-8.3%
Social Class 6	5.4%	-2,490/-2.5%	5.6%	-88,575/-28.6%
Social Class 7	15.3%	8,926/9%	18.2%	262,428/58.2%

Data Source: Census of Population, 1996, 2002, CSO.

Social class 2 is the group with the largest numbers in both Kildare and the State. Slightly more than a quarter of the population of the State and almost a third of the population of Kildare are in this social class. There has also been a significant increase in the numbers in this class over the 1996-2002 period in Kildare, with an increase of just over 38%. A substantially smaller percentage of the population are in Social Class 1, namely 6.0% of the Kildare population and 6.1% of the States' population. Kildare, however, experienced a much lower percentage increase in the numbers in this class (2.1%) than was the case for the State (22.3%). In total, the numbers in social classes 1 and 2 accounted for more than a third of the Kildare population (35.0%). Kildare had a fairly similar proportion of people in Social Class 3 (17.2%) to the State (16.5%) but Kildare also experienced an increase of 1.5% in the numbers in this class, whereas the numbers in this group in the State declined by 3.4%. The numbers in the manual social classes (4,5 and 6) declined by 195,811 within the State between 1996 and 2002, and as a result these classes account for a significantly smaller proportion of the total population in 2002 than they did in 1996. Kildare, however, experienced increases in

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the skilled and semi-skilled manual classes, with a further 3,582 people in these groups. There was a decline in the numbers in the social class group of 2,490 (2.5%). Whereas Kildare experienced a larger increase in the managerial and technical classes than did the State as a whole, the county also experienced a much smaller decline in the semi-skilled and unskilled classes. An increase of 9% was associated with Social Class 7, compared with 58.2% for the State. This class group now accounts for a slightly smaller proportion (15.3%) than the proportion for the State (18.2%).

5.2.1 *Spatial distribution of social classes*

Within Kildare, large numbers of people in the managerial, professional and technical social classes tend to be concentrated in the commuter-belt areas in the north-east of the county and in a band that stretches along the middle of the county by Newbridge. Particularly high levels are focussed around the urban centres of Naas, Celbridge, Leixlip and in the hinterlands of Newbridge (**Map 74**). Donaghcumper (44.6%) is the electoral division with the highest proportion of its population in these social classes in 2002. High levels were also associated with Ladytown (49.7%), Rathmore (46.0%), Newtown (45.7%), Oughterard (45.2%), Naas Urban (45.0%), Dunmurry (44.9%) and Kilashee (44.2%). Particularly low levels are associated with the west of the county, around Kildare and other pockets in the south of the county. EDs with low levels in these social classes included Kilpatrick (14.2%), Athy West (15.2%), Kilberry (16.6%) and Kilmeage North (15.9%). This highlights the great geographical divide in terms of social class.

Map 75 illustrates the gains and losses in social classes 1 & 2 in the 1996-2002 period. Increases occurred in most districts, particularly in the hinterlands of Naas and Newbridge, around Allenwood and south east of Clane. However, decreases in the proportions in these social classes occurred most obviously in the hinterlands of Athy, in districts west of Castledermot, north of Ballitore and around Straffan (this can be explained by a population decrease in the Straffan ED – see Demography Chapter).

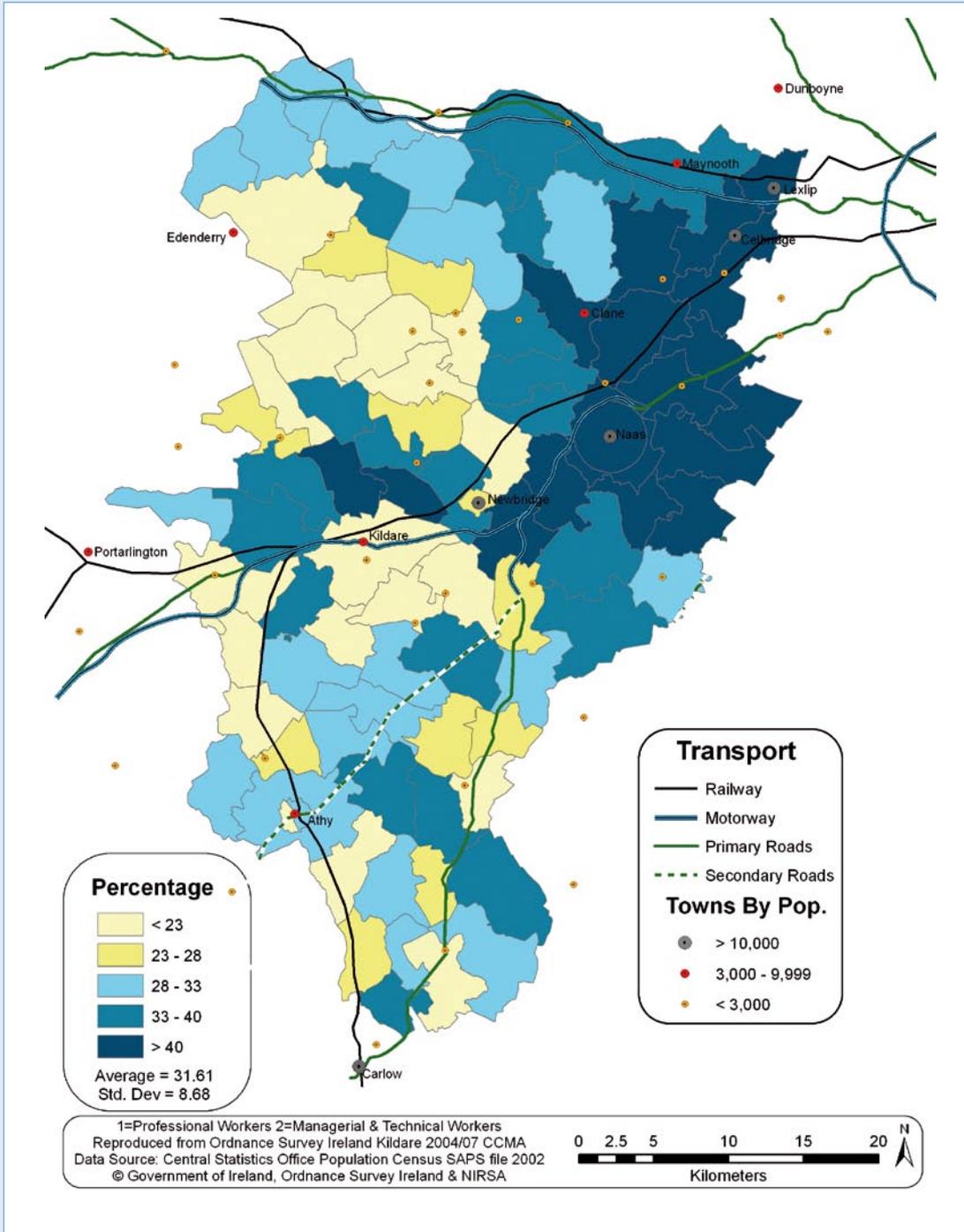
The proportions in the manual social classes tend to be particularly high in the west and south of the county particularly around Allenwood, Rathangan Kilberry, Ballitore, Castledermot and a number of districts to the north and south of Athy (**Map 76**). EDs with high proportions of people in social classes 4,5 and 6 included Kilberry (58.9%), Kilpatrick (54.7%), Kilmeage North (54.2%), Dunmanoge (53.4%) and Castledermot (53.2%). Much smaller proportions in the manual social classes are associated with the commuter zone areas in the north-east of the county as well as the hinterlands of Newbridge. Particularly low proportions of people in Social Classes 4,5 and 6 are associated with Ladytown (20.2%), Maynooth (20.3%) and Naas Urban (25.0%).

The pattern of change in the proportion of persons in the manual classes is complex as the net outcome for each district has resulted from gains in classes 4 and 5 and losses in class 6, **Table 14**. The most significant reductions were in a number of districts in the west of the county south of Enfield, north and east of Rathangan, to the north and south of Monasterevin and west and south-east of Athy (**Map 77**).

More than 15% of the population is classified as being in Social Class 7 which represents persons who do not belong to any of the previous groups as well as persons for whom there was insufficient information. This class was particularly strongly represented in the north and west of the county with pockes also around Maynooth, south of Kilcock and around the towns of Newbridge, Kildare and Monasterevin.

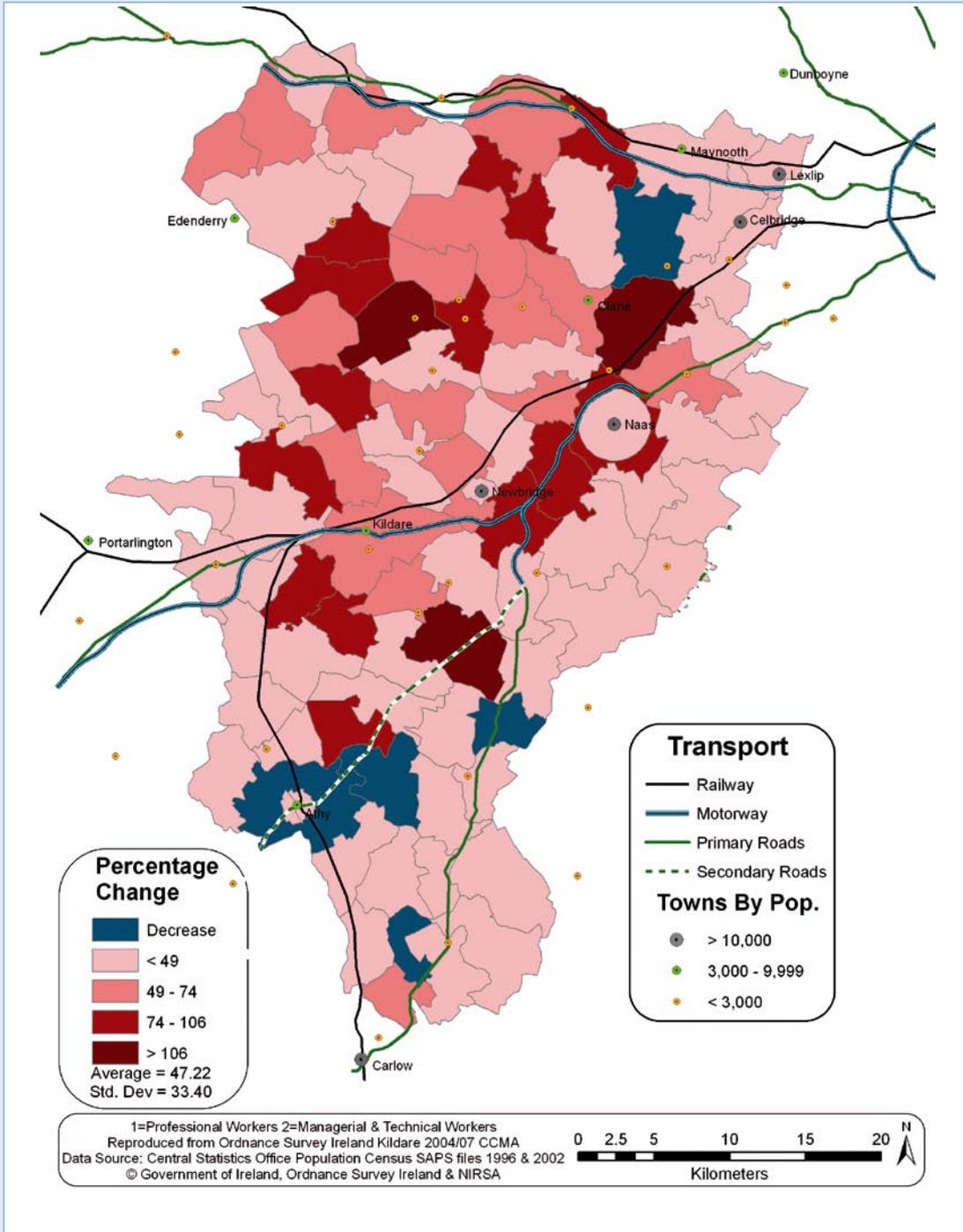
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MAP 74: PERSONS IN SOCIAL CLASSES 1 & 2 AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002



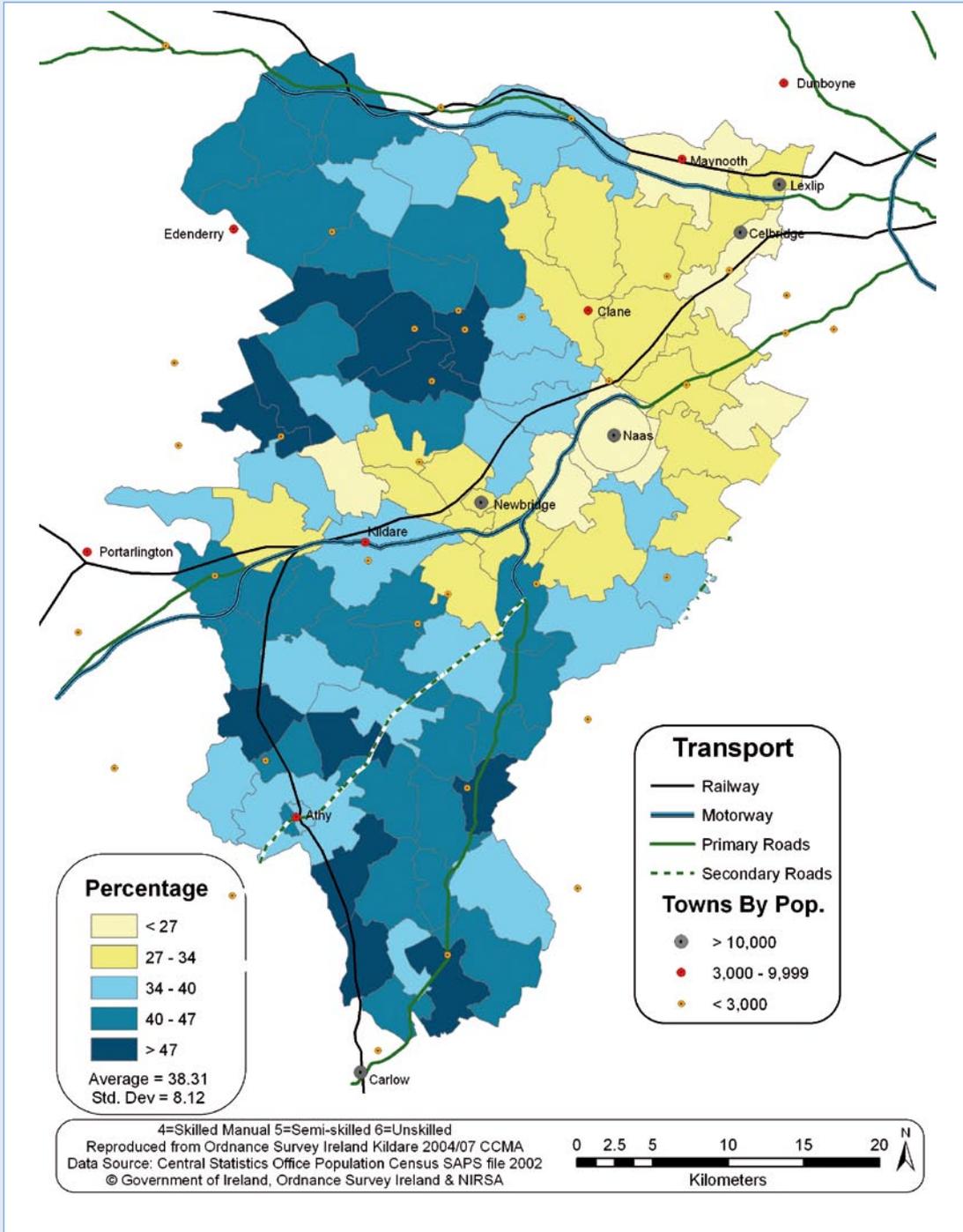
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MAP 75: PERSONS IN SOCIAL CLASSES 1 & 2 PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1996 - 2002



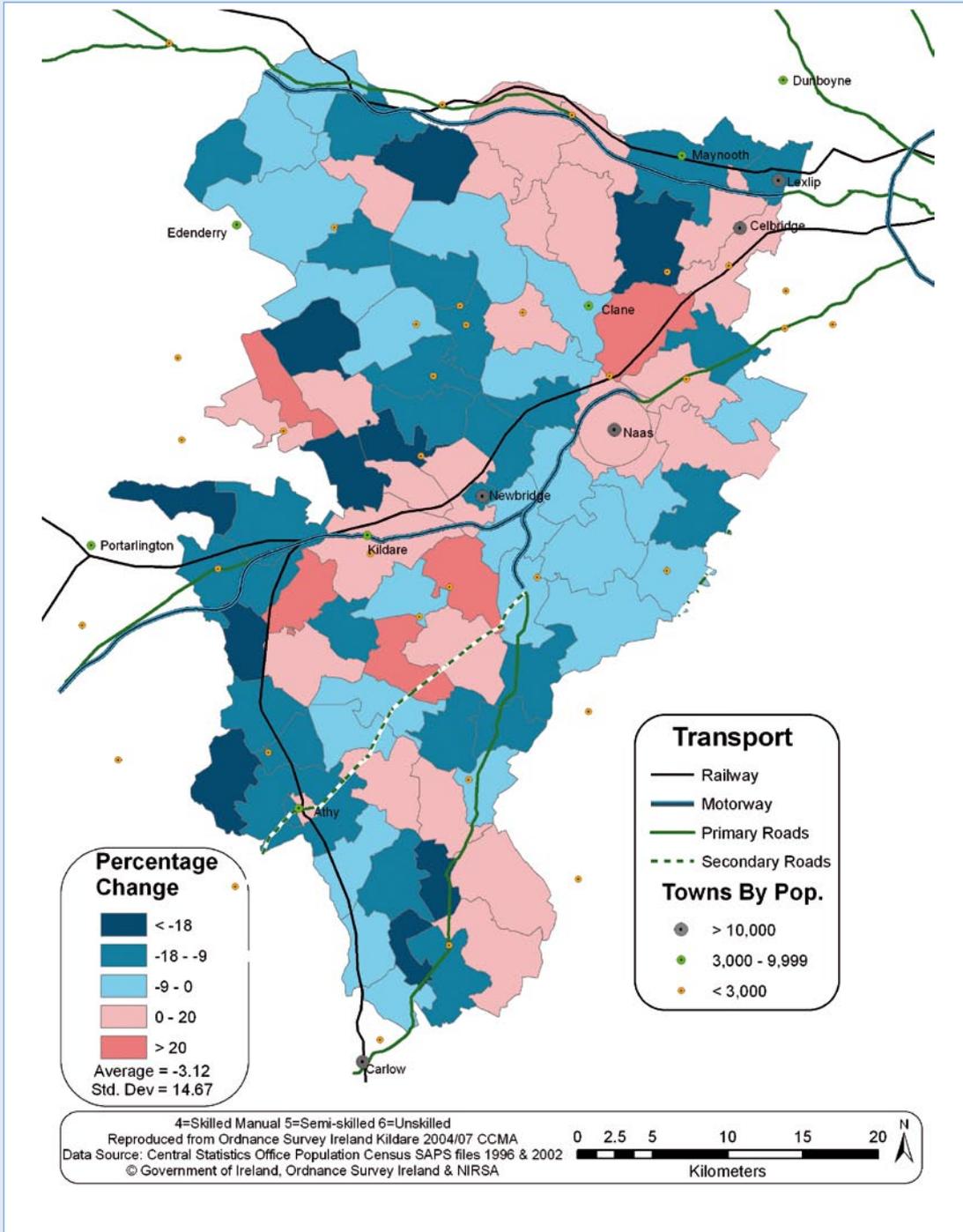
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MAP 76: PERSONS IN SOCIAL CLASSES 4, 5 & 6 AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002



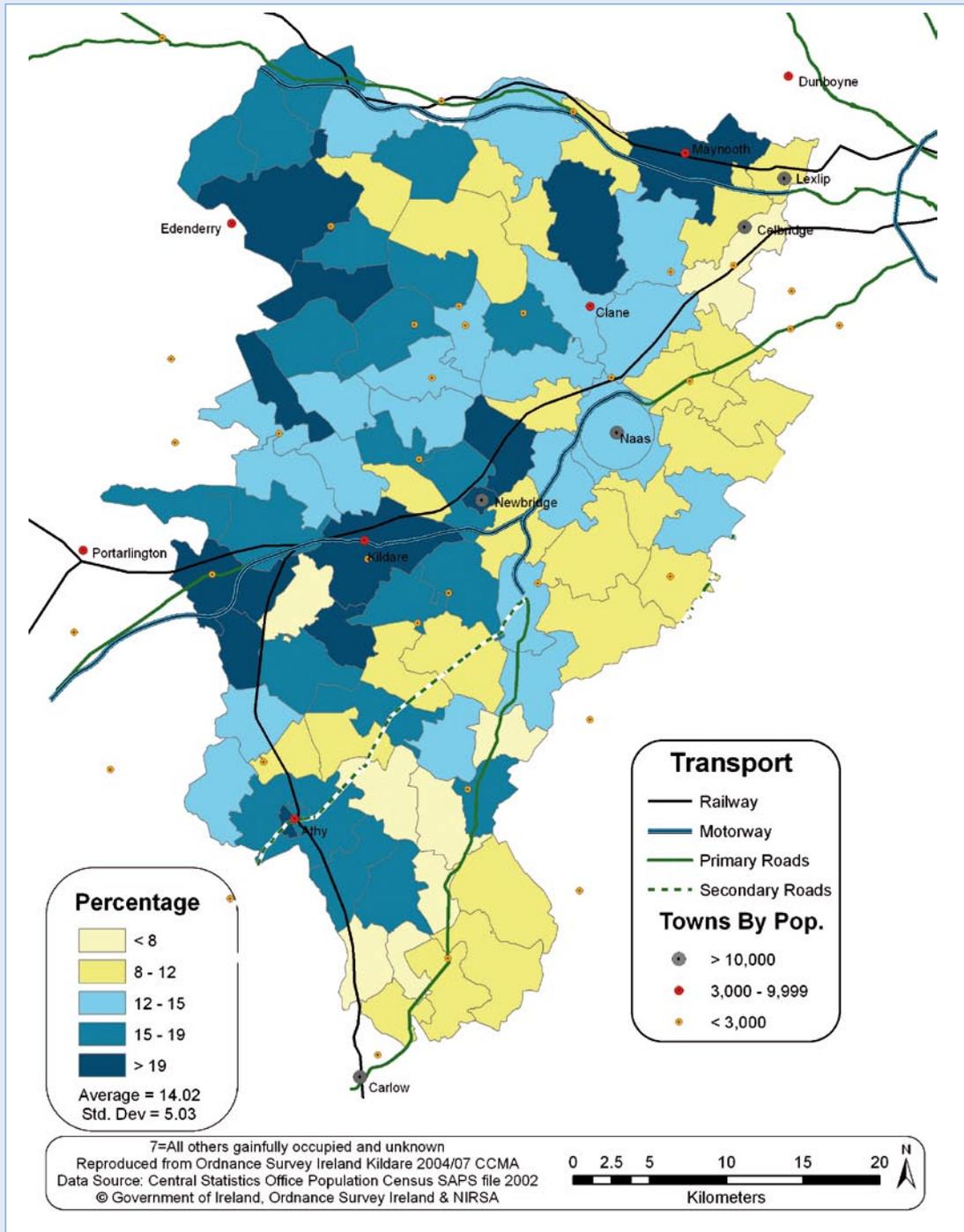
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MAP 77: PERSONS IN SOCIAL CLASSES 4, 5 & 6 PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1996 - 2002



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MAP 78: PERSONS IN SOCIAL CLASSES 7 AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002



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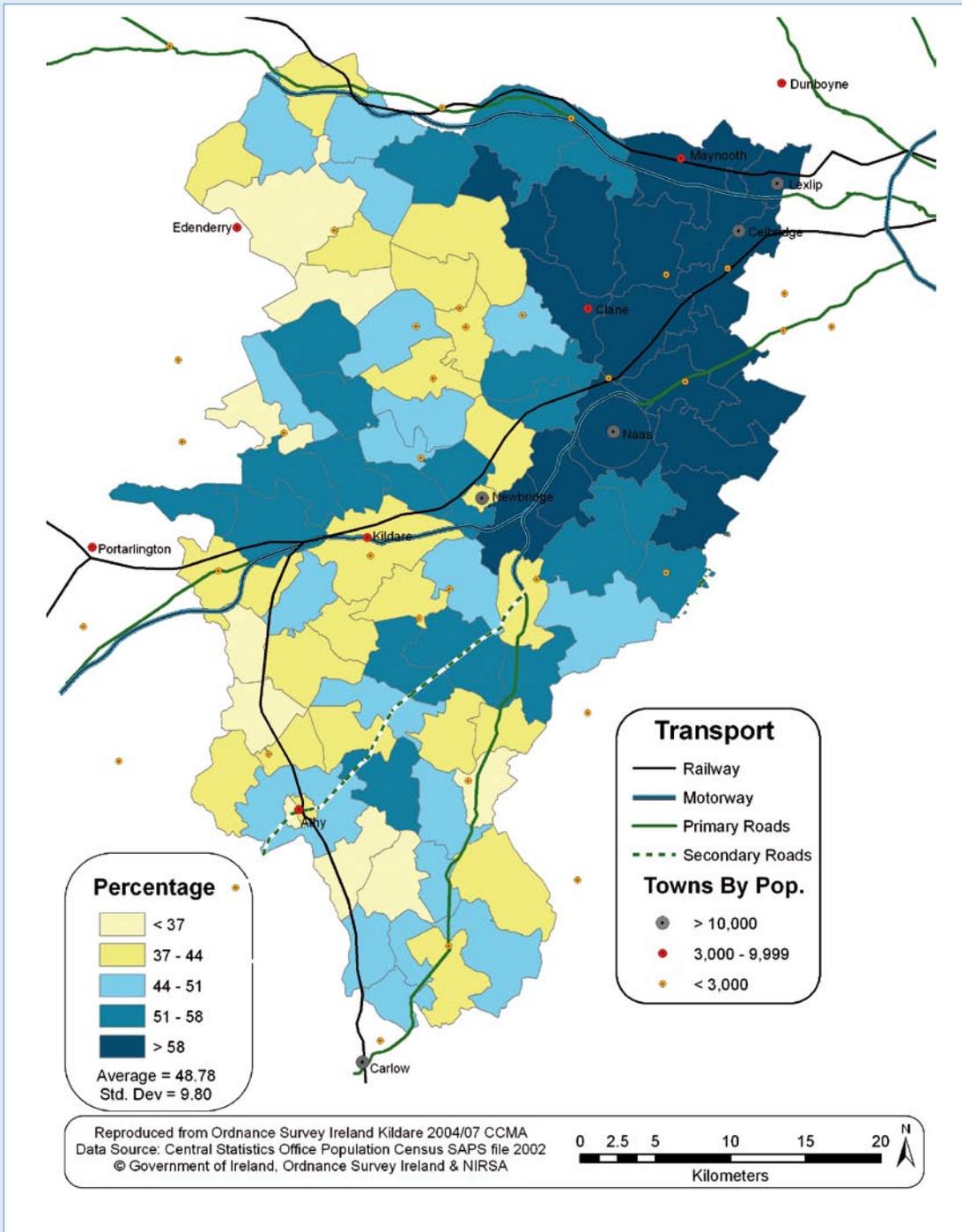
5.2.2 Ownership of Personal Computers and access to the Internet

Variations in social class distributions are known to strongly influence many aspects of social change including the adoption of new technologies. One of the most significant changes in recent times has been the widespread adoption of personal computers and even more recently the increasing number of households connected to the internet. More than half (53.3%) of all private households in Kildare had a personal computer in 2002 compared to 43.5% in the State. Within the county there is clearly a major divide between the north-east where high ownership levels are evident and the more rural EDs of the west and south of the county (**Map 79**). This pattern is similar to the social class divide illustrated in the previous section.

Access to the internet is influenced by a number of factors including the availability of appropriate infrastructure as well as the perception of benefits and needs by potential users. In 2002 more than two-fifths (42.5%) of households in Kildare had internet access compared with 34.1% in the State. Again, the spatial distribution of connected households is clearly influenced by variations in the social class composition and also the age profile of the population (**Map 80**).

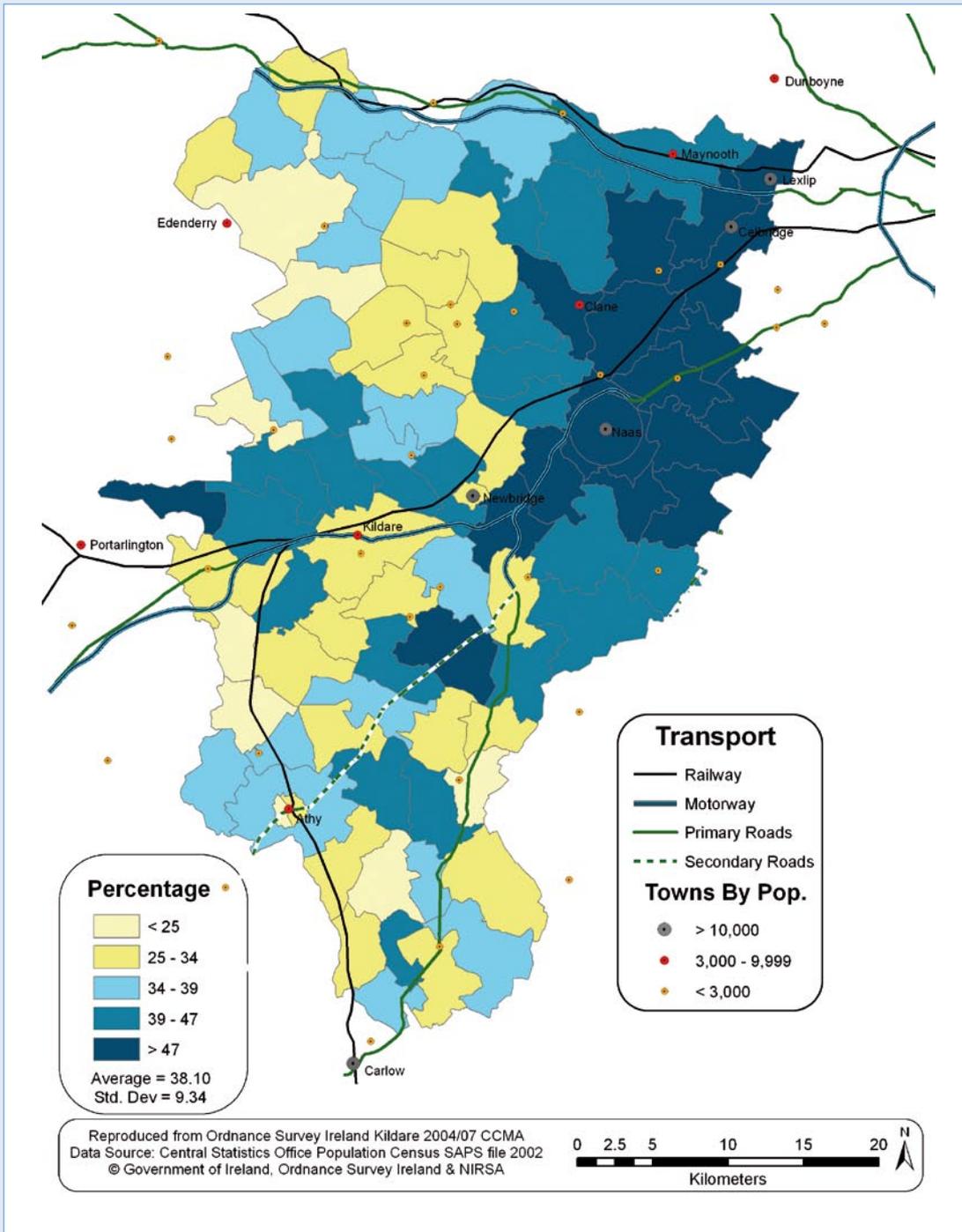
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MAP 79: HOUSEHOLDS WITH A PERSONAL COMPUTER
AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS, 2002



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MAP 80: HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCESS TO THE INTERNET
AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS, 2002



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5.3 SOCIAL INCLUSION

The promotion of a more inclusive society is a key objective of all development strategies for the future. It is a core objective in the National Development Plan 2000-2006. While there is broad agreement on the objective there are difficulties when it comes to measuring the extent of social exclusion. Due to the very significant data limitations it is necessary to rely on a number of proxy variables to identify the distribution of groups that may be at risk of experiencing some form of social exclusion. It is important to note that not all persons described by a particular proxy variable may be experiencing exclusion.

Kildare compares favourably with the rest of the State in relation to a series of different social variables which are summarised in **Table 15**. A slightly larger proportion of Kildare's population are lone parents with children aged under 15. On the other hand, proportionately fewer of Kildare's population were in the educational disadvantage category. The unemployment rate and the proportion of those living in local authority housing were also somewhat lower in Kildare compared with the State. The lower levels in these categories are reflected by differences in the Haase-Pratschke absolute and relative affluence/deprivation scores for Kildare and the State average. Kildare scores higher in terms of both absolute and relative affluence than most other counties in the State. The estimates of change in the relative affluence/deprivation scores also show that Kildare experienced a greater increase in affluence levels than the rest of the State over the 1996-2002 period.

Table 15: Social Indicators: Kildare compared with the State

	Kildare	State
Lone Parent Families (with children aged under 15)	2,802 (5.6%)	68,625 (5.3%)
No Formal, Primary or Lower Secondary Education	17,320 (17.1%)	552,220 (22.2%)
Unemployed (Unemployment Rate)	4,184 (6.2%)	138,199 (8.9%)
Rented Local Authority Housing	2,295 (4.6%)	88,206 (6.9%)
No Car Households	6,696 (13.4%)	277,130 (21.7%)
Aged 65, or Over, and Living Alone	9,795 (24.7%)	113,826 (29 %)
Aged 75, or Over, and Living Alone	1,237 (0.75%)	59,794 (1.5%)
People with a Disability	10,742 (6.6%)	323,707 (8.3%)
Absolute Affluence/Deprivation (Haase-Pratschke)	23.2	17.4
Relative Affluence/Deprivation (Haase-Pratschke)	8.0	2.2
Change in Deprivation Score 1991-2002	18.2	15.4

Data Source: Census of Population, 1996, 2002, CSO.

However, when examined on a sub county level there is an obvious polarisation between the most affluent and least affluent districts. At ED level, the lowest levels of affluence within Kildare, as based on the Haase-Pratschke index, are associated with southern and western parts of the county, and in particular with Athy town centre (Athy Urban West) which is characterised as disadvantaged with a deprivation score of -3.2

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(Athy is in the RAPID programme which means that it is a priority area for all State agencies) (**Map 81**). The highest levels of affluence were, predictably found in the north-east, around Maynooth, Celbridge and in the hinterlands of Naas. The EDs with the highest levels of relative affluence, based on this index, were Rathmore (37.1), Ladytown (36.1), Pollardstown (34.4), Donaghcumper (32.5), Killeel (32.2), Maynooth (31.1) and Naas Rural (30.7). The greatest improvements in relative affluence/deprivation between 1991 and 2002 occurred in areas around Sallins, Robertstown, areas north of Kildare town, south of Monasterevin as well as north of Ballitore and Castledermot. Belan (+35.5) was the ED that experienced the most significant increase in its relative affluence/deprivation score over this period (**Map 82**), followed by Drehid (32.1), Timahoe South (29.8), Thomastown (29.3), Bodenstown (29.2) and Windmill Cross (29.0). The EDs of Athy Rural (8.5) and Athy East Urban (10.0) experienced the smallest increases in terms of their relative affluence scores.

The following sections provide summary details on the distributions of certain categories of the population that may experience an enhanced risk of exclusion. Other categories are described elsewhere in the report.

5.3.1 Lone parents with young families

Lone parent young families (with children aged under 15 years) are frequently identified as a subset of the population at risk. They are typically likely to have left education at an early age, and they may also experience difficulties in relation to obtaining employment and housing. While these families represent almost six percent of all families they are most significantly concentrated around Athy, Newbridge and Ballitore (**Map 83**). The overall incidence of these families is lowest in the very south, east and north of the county. According to recent figures (September 2005) from the Department of Social & Family Affairs (DSFA), there were 3,253 persons in receipt of One Parent Family Payment (OPFP) (**Table 16**)⁴.

Table 16: One Parent Family Payments

Age	No. in Receipt of OPFP	% in Receipt of OPFP
Under 25	620	19.1%
25-34	1,294	39.8%
35-44	732	22.5%
45-54	383	11.8%
55-59	112	3.4%
60+	112	3.4%
Total	3,253	100.0%

Source: DSFA, 2005

From **Table 16** it can be seen that in Co. Kildare the greatest proportion (39.8%) of those in receipt of lone parent allowance are in the 25-34 age category, followed by 22.5% in the 35-44 age category. It is notable also that almost one-fifth of those in receipt of lone parent family payments are aged under 25.

⁴ This data is not confined to those lone parent families with children aged under 15 and as such includes families with children aged over 15 and under 18.

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5.3.2 Persons with a disability

In 2002, there were 10,742 persons resident in Kildare who were classified as having a disability, amounting to 6.6% of the total population. The majority, 33.0%, were aged over 65 years, while 7.2% were under 15 years. The distribution of persons with a disability shows high incidences towards the west of the county, particularly around Athy, Monasterevin, south of Enfield and around Kildare town. Reflecting the age profile of the population, the incidences towards the north-east of the county were low (**Map 84**). According to figures from the DSFA (September 2005), there are 2,704 persons on disability payments in Kildare. A further 428 persons are in receipt of a Disablement Pension. The vast majority of these recipients are between the ages of thirty-five and sixty-four (**Table 17**).

Table 17: Disability Payments

Age	Disability Benefit		Total
	Males	Females	
Under 25	53	37	90 (3.3%)
25-34	122	356	478 (17.7%)
35-44	206	538	744 (25.5%)
45-54	268	393	661 (24.4%)
55-64	353	331	684 (25.3%)
65+	33	14	47 (1.7%)
Total	1,035 (38.3%)	1,669 (61.7%)	2,704

Source: DSFA, 2005

In terms of Invalidity Payments in Kildare in 2005 (data complete to September 2005) a huge majority of recipients were between the ages of fifty-five and sixty-four (**Table 18**).

Table 18: Invalidity Pension

Age	Invalidity Pension		Total
	Males	Females	
Under 40	31	54	85 (4.4%)
40-54	259	286	545 (28.3%)
55-64	637	382	1,019 (52.8%)
65+	160	120	280 (14.5%)
Total	1,087	842	1,929

Source: DSFA, 2005

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According to recent information (October 2005) from the Health Research Board's National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD) and their National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD) there were 1,371 persons registered as having a physical or sensory disability and 1,145 registered as having an intellectual disability in Kildare in 2005. Of those with physical and/or sensory disabilities 682 (49.7%) were females and 689 (50.3%) were males. There was a slightly greater gender divide among those with intellectual disabilities with 497 (43.4%) females and 648 (56.6%) males. The age breakdown of this data suggests that the majority of those with physical or sensory disabilities were in the 45-64 age group, and the majority of those with intellectual disabilities were slightly younger with most in the 25-44 age group (Table 19). In both cases more than one fifth of those with disabilities were aged under-16 which has implications for educational and other service provisions for children with disabilities in Co. Kildare.

Table 19: Age breakdown of those on the NPSDD and the NIDD

Age group	NPSDD	NIDD
Under 16	322 (23.5%)	249 (21.7%)
16-24	116 (8.5%)	193 (16.9%)
25-44	232 (16.9%)	467 (40.8%)
45-64	602 (43.9%)	208 (18.2%)
65-74	99 (7.2%)	20 (1.7%)
Over 74	0 (0.0%)	8 (0.7%)
Total	1,371	1,145

Source: HRB NPSDD & NIDD, 2005

Those with intellectual disabilities are ranked from normal to profound in terms of the degree of their intellectual disability. Table 20 illustrates that the vast majority of those on the NIDD database in Kildare are classified as having moderate disabilities.

Table 20: Levels of Intellectual Disability of those in Kildare on the NIDD

Degree of Intellectual Disability	Numbers (%) with Intellectual Disability
Not verified	134 (11.7%)
Normal Range	1 (0.1%)
Borderline	21 (1.8%)
Mild	281 (24.5%)
Moderate	509 (44.5%)
Severe	156 (13.6%)
Profound	43 (3.8%)
Total	1,145

Source: HRB NIDD, 2005

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In terms of types of physical and sensory disability, the majority of those in this database were in the physical disability category, followed by those with visual disabilities (**Table 21**).

Table 21: Types of Physical & Sensory Disability of those in Kildare on the NPSDD

Type of Disability	Numbers (%) with Disability
Physical	1,061 (77.4%)
Hearing	142 (10.4%)
Visual	54 (3.9%)
Physical & Hearing	43 (3.1%)
Physical & Visual	18 (1.3%)
Hearing & Visual	1 (0.1%)
Physical, Hearing & Visual	13 (0.9%)
Speech/Language	3 (0.2%)
Physical & Speech/Language	12 (0.9%)
Hearing & Speech/Language	3 (0.2%)
Physical & Hearing & Speech/Language	1 (0.1%)
Physical & Visual & Speech/Language	20 (1.5%)
Total	1,371

Source: HRB NPSDD, 2005

5.3.3 Elderly persons living alone

People aged 65 or over and living alone account for a relatively lower proportion of the Kildare population than for the State. This is also true for those aged 75 or over and living alone (**Table 15**). In 2002, there were 9,795 people aged 65 or over and living alone in Kildare, with 1,237 aged 75 or over and living alone. Of those aged 65 or over and living alone 67% were females. Similarly, of those aged 75 or over and living alone 73.1% were females. At ED level, the highest proportions of people in the over 65 category (>3%) were in the south of the county, Athy, Kilcullen and south-east of Monasterevin (**Map 85**). The proportions are much smaller in the north-east of the county.

5.3.4 Households without a car

While patterns of mobility to work is discussed in the next chapter of this report, there is a significant number of households that experience disadvantage as they are without a car. There were 6,696 households (13.4% of total households) without a car in 2002. The absence of a car is often a major constraint for elderly people in particular who may have restricted mobility and may not have family members to provide lifts. Households without cars are most strongly represented around Athy, Newbridge, Kildare and around Monasterevin (**Map 86**). Almost 40% of households in Athy West Urban are without cars which may be due

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to the presence of an elderly population as well as households that can use the rail service for getting to work and other activities.

5.3.5 *Travellers*

Travellers are a group that have traditionally felt excluded from many aspects of mainstream society. Figures from Kildare County Council taken in November 2005 show that there were 99 traveller families in Kildare. Of these 44 were living in houses (32 in standard Local Authority estates, 8 in private rented housing, 2 in shared housing, 1 in a self owned house or site and 1 in a homeless hostel). Another 35 families were in traveller specific accommodation: 20 in halting sites, 6 in group housing and 9 in temporary halting sites. A further 20 families were on the roadside with 1 family long-term roadside residents and 19 that were categorised as non long-term roadside resident. Based on information from the 2002 Census the main concentrations of families were around Naas, Newbridge, Athy and just north of Carlow town (**Map 87**).

Kildare County Council adopted an Accommodation Programme for Traveller Families covering the period 2000-2004 (Council 2000). Although some success was achieved in implementing this programme, as evidenced by the fact that number of standard housing units delivered exceeded the target by 39%, the total number of housing units and halting bays delivered fell short of the target by 49%. The Traveller Accommodation Programme for 2005-2008 adopted by the County Council in May 2005 estimates that 55 units of accommodation will be required during the period of the plan (Council 2004).

5.3.6 *Asylum Applicants*

The most recent group of residents in the County that are subject to various forms of exclusion are refugees and asylum applicants and economic migrants. The total number of asylum applicants arriving in Ireland increased dramatically from 91 in 1993 to 11,634 in 2002 (Department of Justice, 2002). The total number of applications for refugee status has been declining each year since, from 10,325 in 2001 to 4,766 in 2004 (Walsh 2005). Nigeria is the principal source country accounting for 37% of arrivals in 2004. Other countries include Romania (6%), Somalia (4%), China (3%) and others (47%). The former McGee barracks in Kildare town and the EyrePowell Hotel in Newbridge have been used to accommodate refugees and asylum seekers in the county in the past. For those seeking refugee status uncertainties concerning asylum applications lead to considerable difficulties with regard to accommodation, education and lack of opportunity to participate in the labour force. Many economic migrants also experience difficulties with regard to housing, tenure of employment and social integration. Little factual information is available on the geographical location of such migrants within Co. Kildare. It is hoped that information gleaned from the Housing database within Kildare County Council and also from the regional office of the Department of Social and Family Affairs will assist with determining the locations of persons in this group and identifying their needs. This work is likely to form part of a report on poverty and social inclusion to be produced by the Community & Enterprise Section of Kildare County Council in 2006 – work is due to begin on this project in early 2006.

5.3.7 *Political Participation – Voter Turnout*

Voter turnout levels act as useful measures of community stability and cohesion, being strongly associated with levels of residential stability and mobility, as well as with other demographic factors, such as age, marital status, population and levels of social well-being. Turnout levels are also shaped by a range of political and institutional factors, such as levels of political competition, distance from the polling station, the day and times when polling takes place, and whether a local candidate is contesting an election or not. In Ireland,

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low turnout for local and general elections is very much an urban phenomenon, with lowest turnout levels registered in the larger cities and their hinterlands, as well as a number of larger provincial towns. However, referendum turnouts do tend to be highest in the more urban parts of the country, particularly in the more middle class areas within the Dublin region.

Recent research by the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, NUI Maynooth, and the Geary Institute, UCD, has calculated electoral division turnout levels for the 2002 General Election for every constituency in the Republic of Ireland, and the accompanying map of turnout for Kildare is drawn from this analysis. Kildare is an interesting case from a national perspective in this regard, reflecting the socio-economic and demographic differences within the county, in that much of the county forms part of the concentration of low turnout that encompasses much of the greater Dublin region, stretching from Drogheda in the north, taking in most of Meath and Kildare, to Carlow and Wicklow in the south (Kavanagh, Mills & Sinnott, 2004). The turnout characteristics of the rest of the county, namely the west and south of the county are not exactly as you would expect. Although high turnouts, as expected, were exhibited in the rural areas of the south of the county, rural areas in the west of the county had low turnouts. High turnouts were evident in a band south of Kilcullen and Kildare, to the north west of Naas, around Straffan, west of Athy and a couple of districts in the south of the county near Castledermot (**Map 88**).

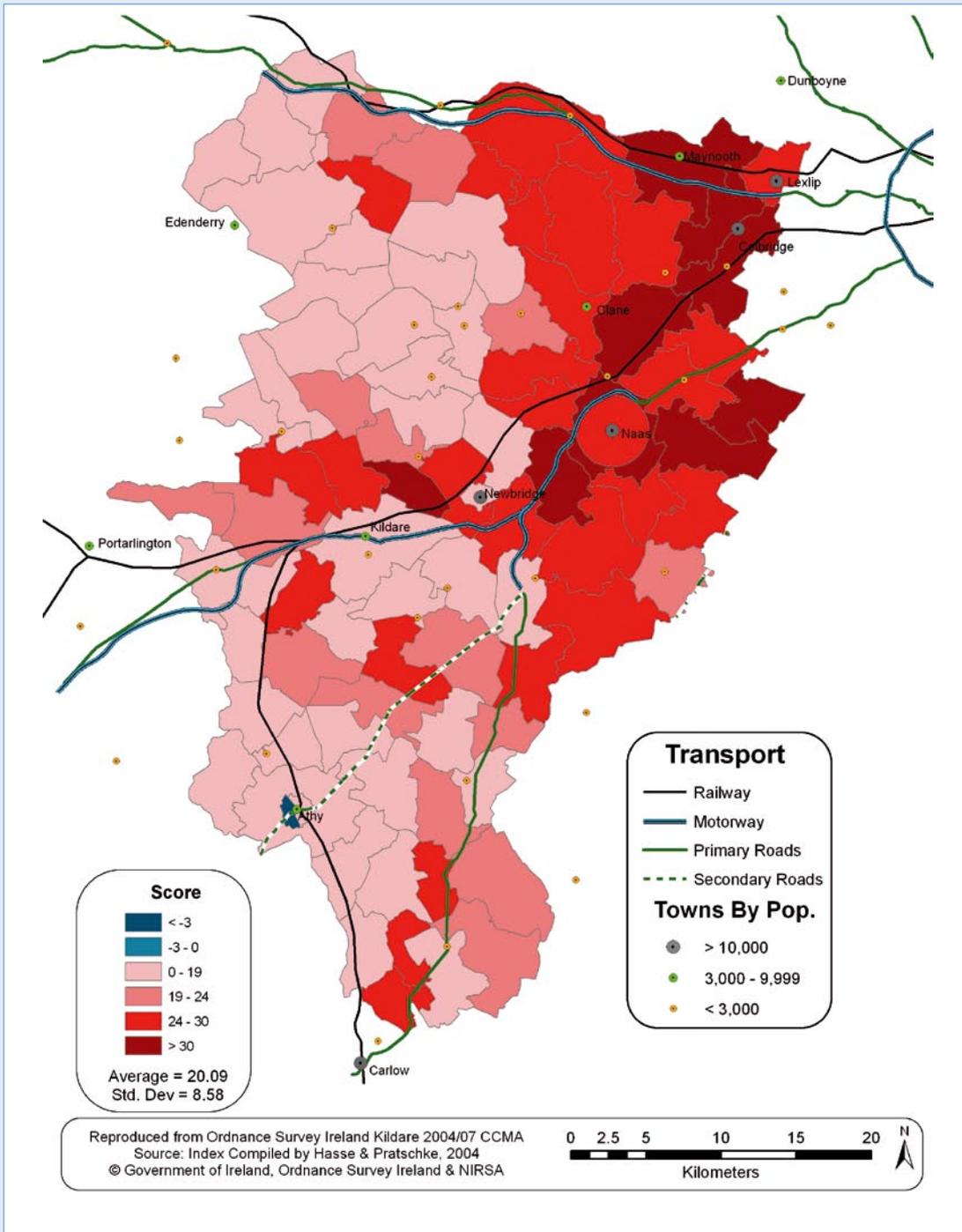
The electoral literature generally upholds that low turnouts are associated with lower levels of social well being and in the case of Co. Kildare this seems to be true in some areas but not in others, that is, the low turnout in many parts of the west of the county parallels with lower levels of social well being but in some areas of the south west of the county where you would expect lower turnouts based on the social aspects of the area, this does not hold true. Carragh had the highest turnout level of any of the Kildare electoral divisions in the 2002 General Election, with a turnout rate of 71.5%, a level more than 10% than the national average and more than 15% higher than the Kildare average. High turnout levels were also associated with Donore (70.4%), Kildangan (68.8%), Windmill Cross (66.4%), Usk (66.2%), Straffan (65.8%), Churchtown (65.7%) and Ballyshannon (65.2%). By contrast, the lower turnout levels were in the EDs of Oughterard (41.7%), Killinthomas (44.2%), Athy West Urban (44.8%), Graney (44.8%) and Robertstown (46.4%).

The geographical pattern observed for the turnout levels in the 2002 General Election was also mirrored in the 2004 Local, European and Citizen Referendum elections and the 2005 By-Election, as illustrated by **Maps 89** and **90**. In the local elections of 2004, turnouts were again highest to the east of Naas, south-west of Kildare and east of Athy. Turnouts were particularly low in some districts in the north of the county, particularly in the north-west. The highest turnouts for this election were again in Carragh (68.2%), Ladytown (67.0%), Churchtown (64.3%), Nurney (63.3%), Kildangan (62.5%) and Fontstown (61.1%). The lowest local election turnouts were in the EDs of Timahoe South (36.3%), Oughterard (40.9%), Balraheen (41.4%) and Cloncurry (42.7%).

The average turnout in the 2005 By-Election in Kildare (40.0%) represented a decline of more than 16% on the turnout level recorded in the 2002 General Election. As illustrated in **Map 89**, the By Election was in the north-east of the county. The highest rates were around Straffan and Clane in the EDs of Straffan (45.2%), Timahoe North (42.8%), Balraheen (42.3%) and Bodinstown (42.3%). Conversely, the lowest turnouts for this election were in Celbridge (33.8%), Maynooth (35.8%) and Naas Urban (37.2%).

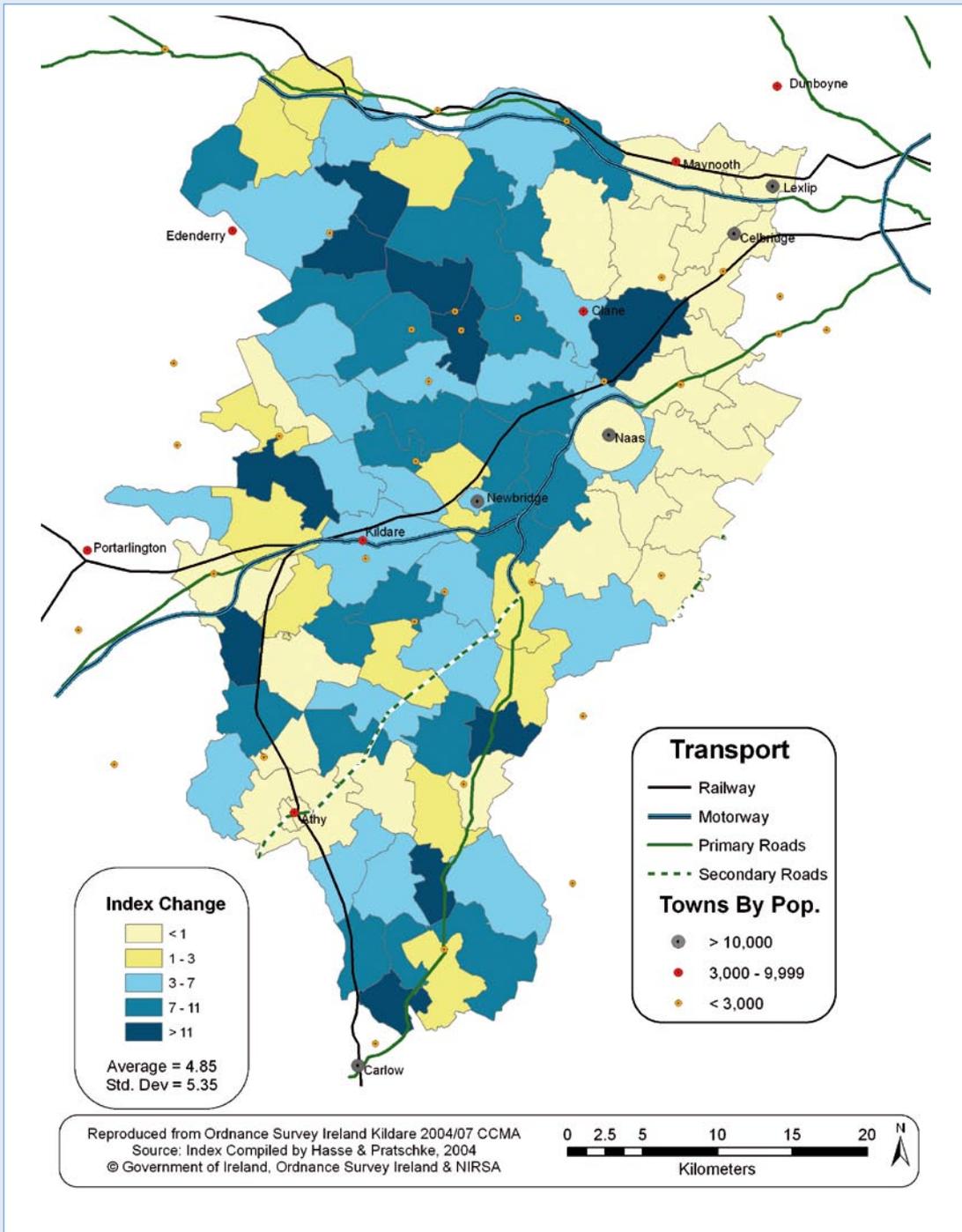
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MAP 81: MEASURE OF AFFLUENCE (HAASE PRATSCHKE) 2002



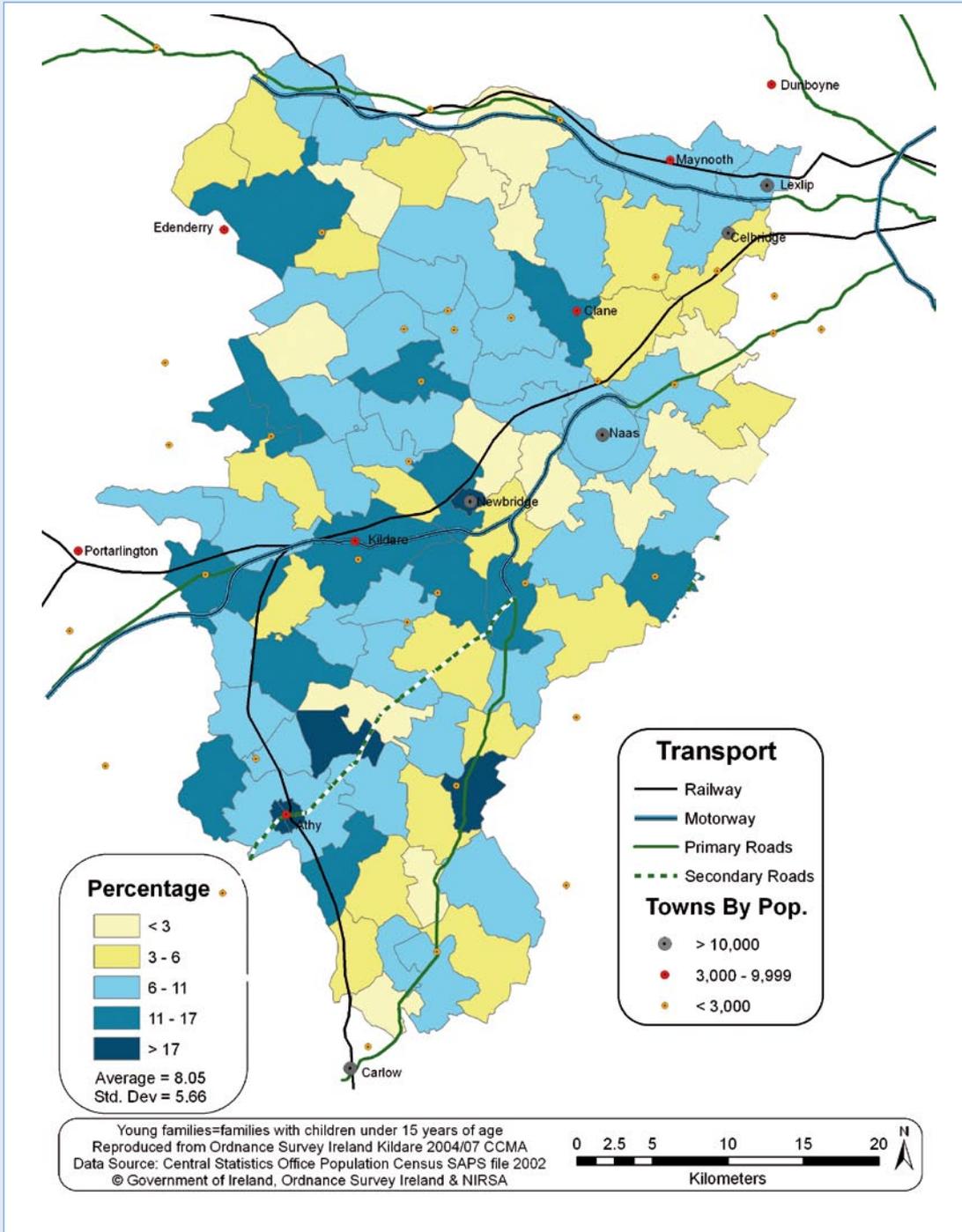
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MAP 82: CHANGE IN RELATIVE AFFLUENCE/DEPRIVATION 1991 - 2002



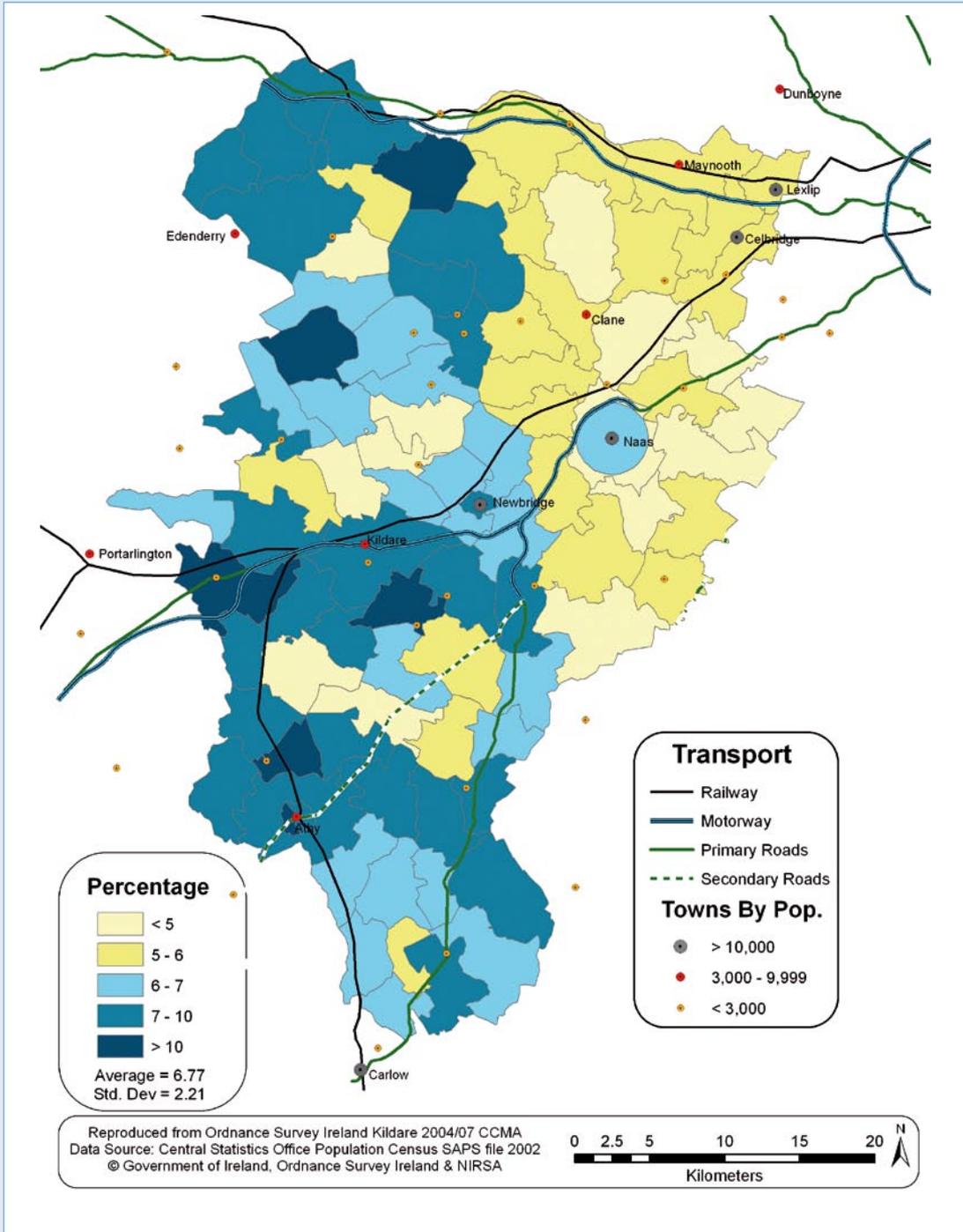
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MAP 83: LONE PARENT YOUNG FAMILIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL YOUNG FAMILIES 2002



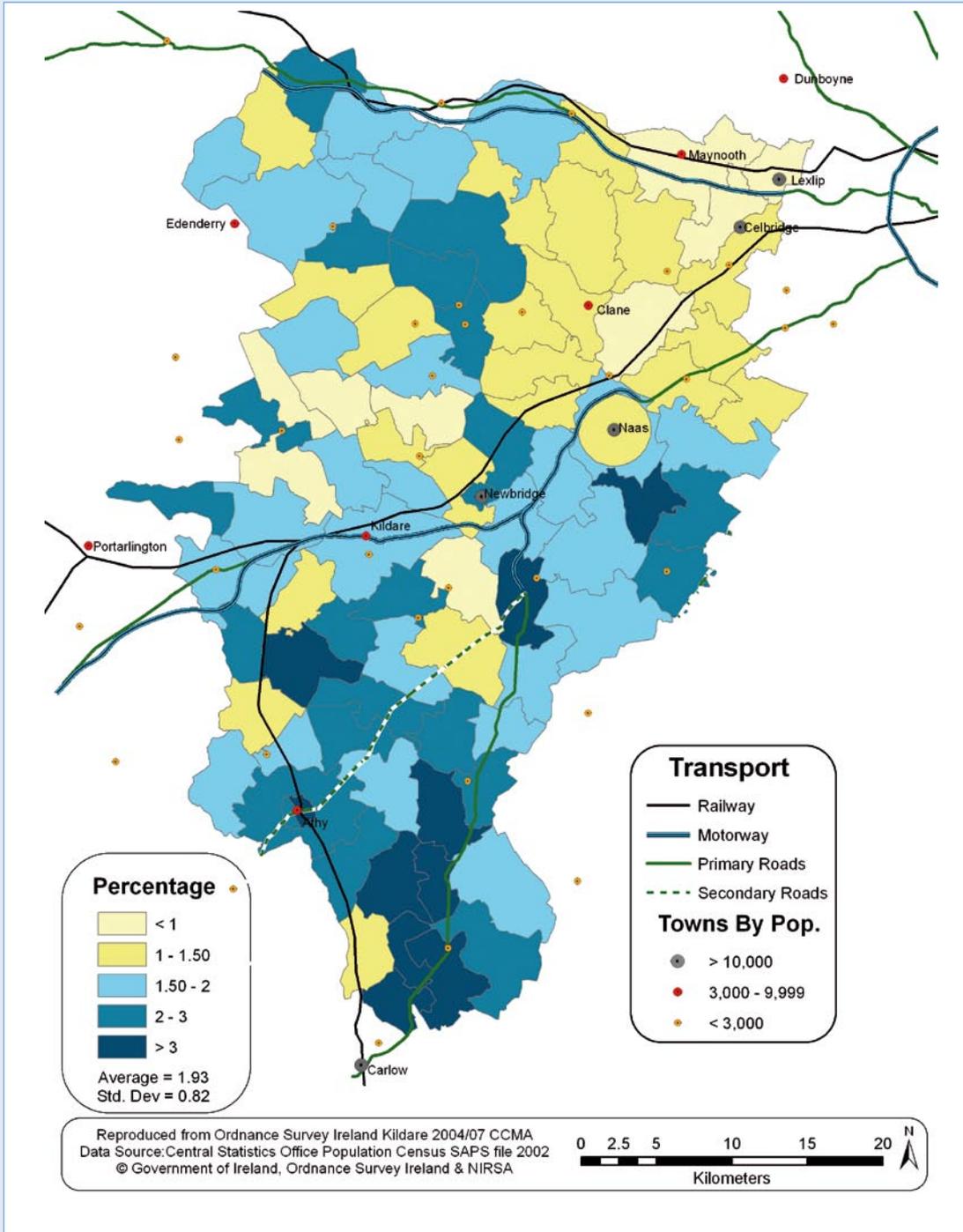
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MAP 84: PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002



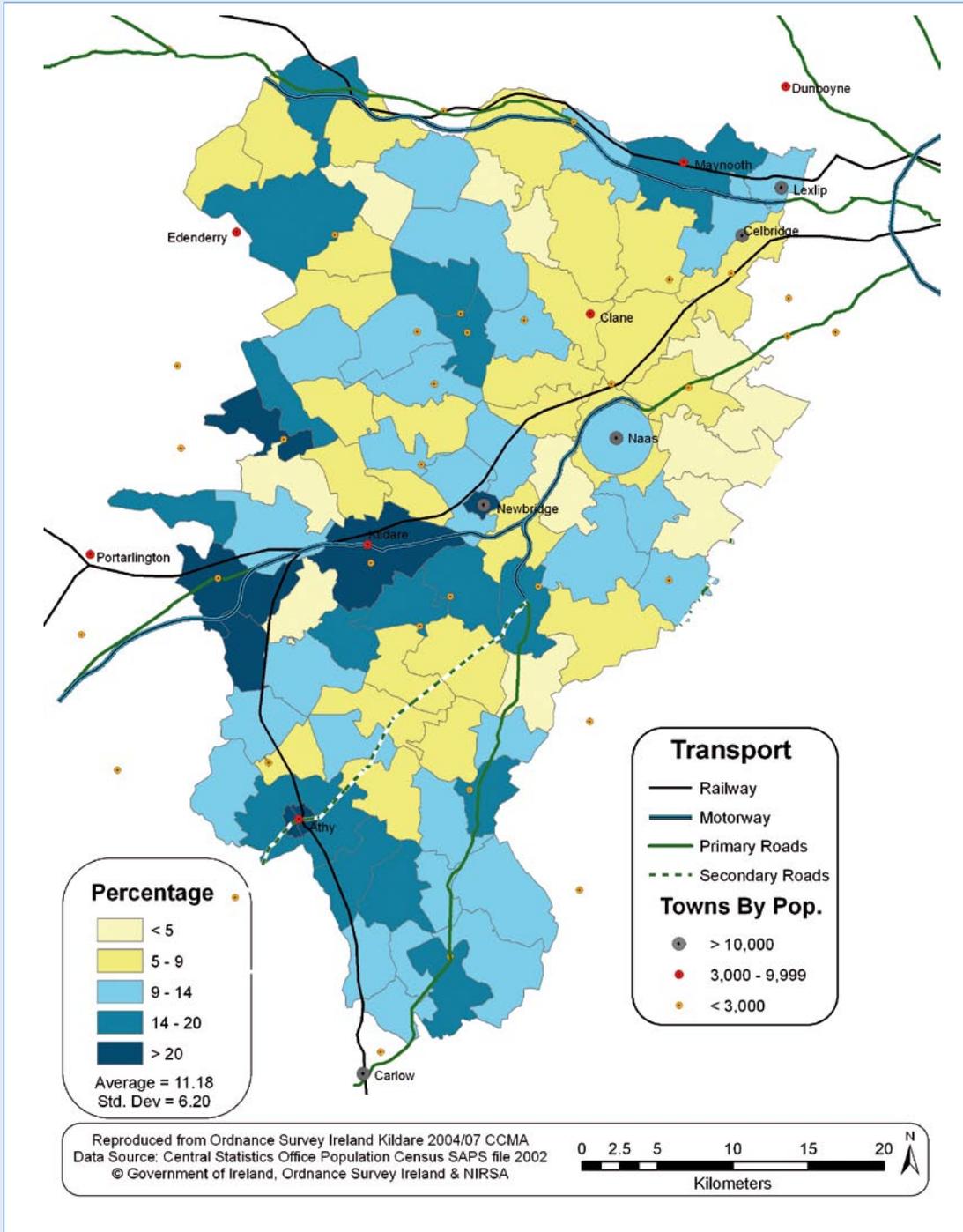
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MAP 85: PERSONS 65+ LIVING ALONE AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002



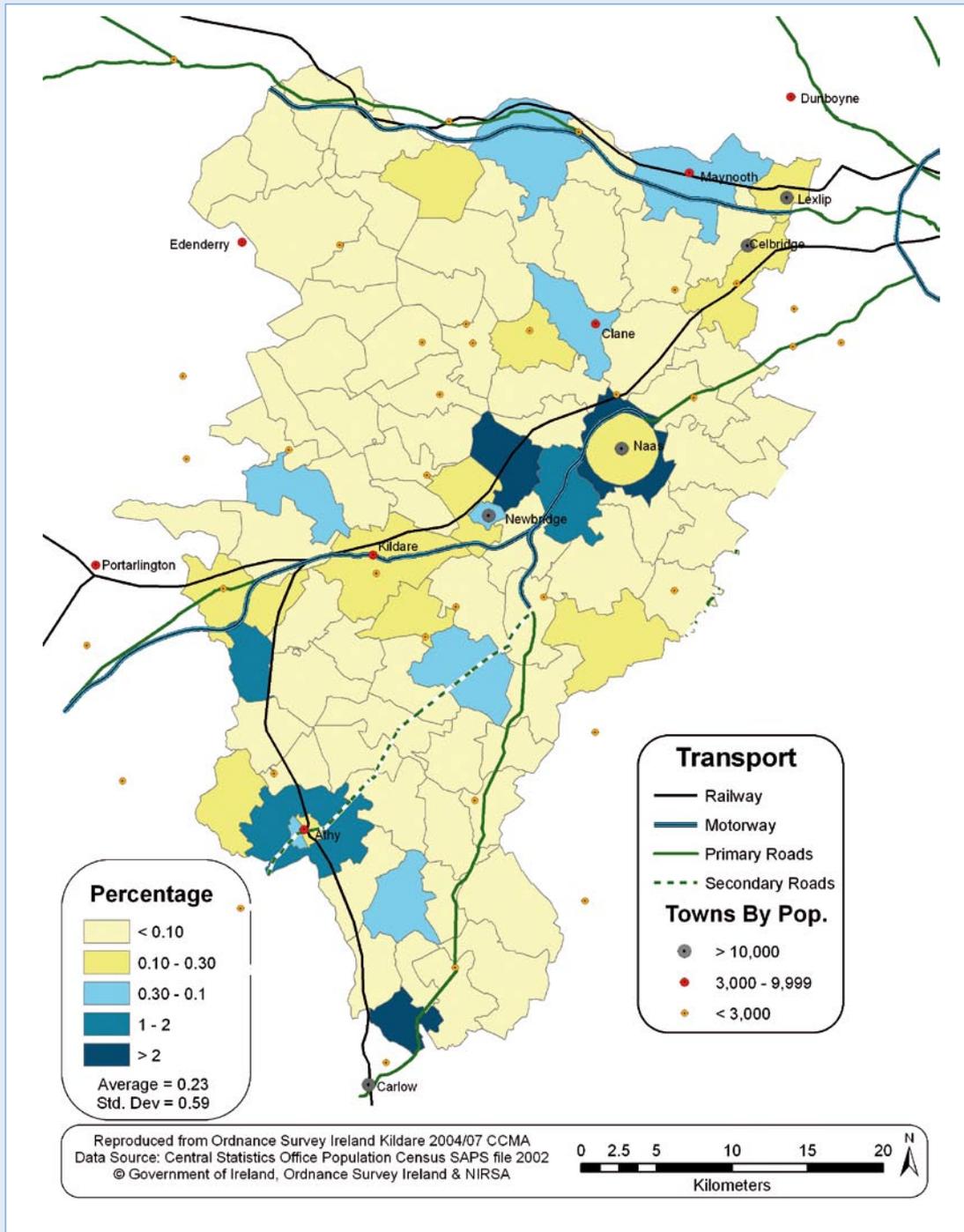
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MAP 86: HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT A CAR AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS, 2002



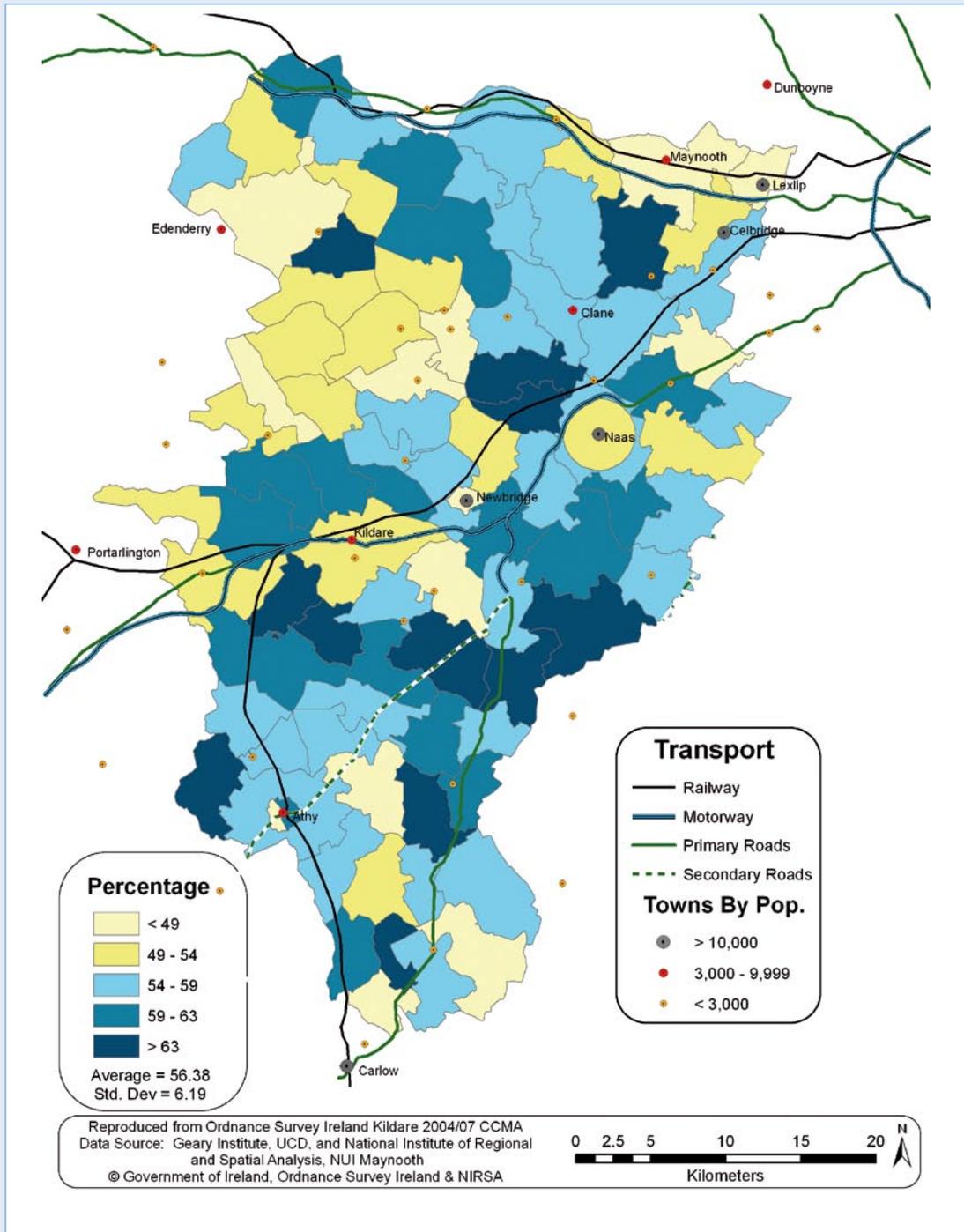
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MAP 87: TRAVELLERS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002



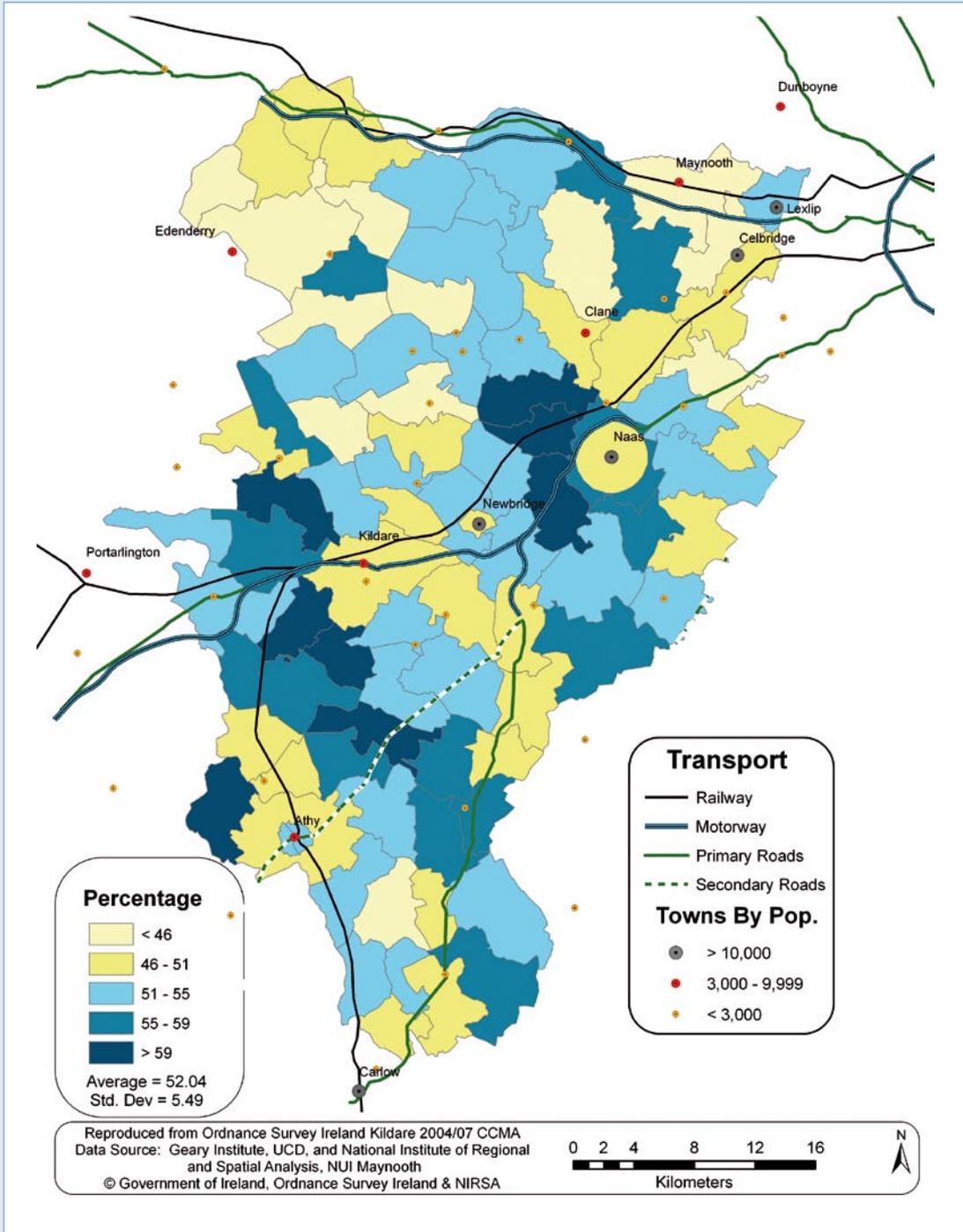
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MAP 88: DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION VOTER TURNOUT 2002 GENERAL ELECTION



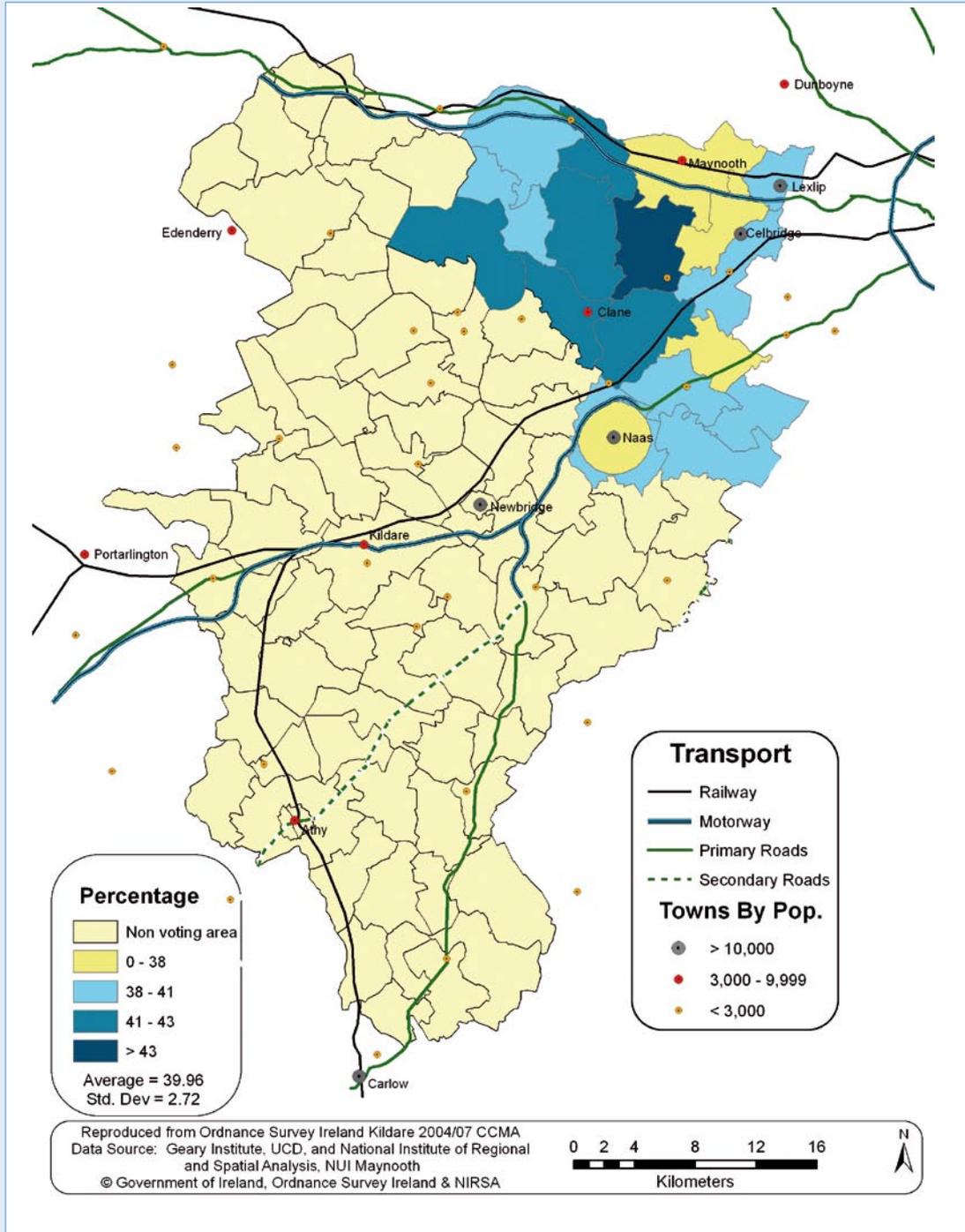
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MAP 89: DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION
 VOTER TURNOUT IN 2004 LOCAL, EUROPEAN & CITIZENSHIP REFERENDUM ELECTIONS



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MAP 90: DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION VOTER TURNOUT IN 2005 KILDARE NORTH BY-ELECTION



06

QUALITY OF LIFE



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QUALITY OF LIFE

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Many recent studies that have begun to speak of a sustainable concept of development have recognised the importance of maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for all citizens as central. In fact, one of the five objectives of the National Spatial Strategy is to “improve the quality of life for all sections of society”. Research on Quantifying Quality of Life undertaken by ERM consultants for the National Spatial Strategy, identified different sets of factors that influence quality in rural and urban contexts.

In rural areas key issues are the provision of education at first and second levels and also employment and training opportunities. Other important issues are health care provision, leisure and recreation facilities and public transport. Access to public transport is particularly significant in the more disadvantaged rural communities, especially for persons and households belonging to the lower social classes.

For towns and villages ERM identified a large menu of factors that contribute to a good quality of life. Places that have the majority of the following attributes are regarded as having a good quality of life:

- good income level and distribution
- high level of personal and material assets (e.g., home ownership)
- access to economic, social and physical infrastructure
- low crime level
- good quality affordable housing units
- balanced social mix
- good community interaction (clubs, organisation etc.)
- high quality historic heritage
- balanced industrial, service and tertiary employment mix.

The term ‘quality of life’ is used here in a broad sense to describe the conditions that contribute to a sustainable quality of life experienced by residents of the county. It is a multi-dimensional concept that embraces issues related to:

- cost of housing
- journey to work
- availability of childcare
- the quality of the natural environment and the cultural heritage
- the availability of health services and other forms of social supports and protection
- provision of recreation and leisure facilities
- parity of access to information.

Most of the topics discussed in previous chapters are also relevant to this concept especially access to education, range and quality of employment opportunities, settlement patterns which affect travel to work times, spatial segregation of social classes, and initiatives to overcome barriers to social inclusion. In the remainder of this chapter data are presented on a number of indicators that can be related to the above issues. Due to gaps in the data available a comprehensive analysis for all parts of the county is not feasible.

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In the future, it is hoped that these gaps in the data can be overcome. For the present the analysis is largely dependent on proxy measures using CSO data.

6.2 HOUSING

6.2.1 *The role of the Local Authority*

Local authorities have a wide remit with regard to housing. In addition to the provision of housing their function includes the planning of housing and the provision of services such as water and sewerage. In recent years, local authorities have gained new responsibilities in relation to planning for the implementation of national housing policy at local level.

Each local authority is required to prepare a housing strategy under Part V of the Planning and Development Act, 2000-2004. The strategy contains estimates on the housing need over a six-year period, together with details of how these needs will be met by the local authority itself, the private sector, and the voluntary and co-operative sector.

The Housing Strategy forms part of the development plan and it is through the development plan that the local authority seeks to ensure that there is adequate zoned land for residential purposes. Kildare County Council has recently carried out a review of its County Development Plan and consequently, its Housing strategy. The current Housing Strategy (2005) requires 8% of zoned residential land for social housing and 12% for affordable housing. The Housing Strategy analysis suggested that on average about 30% of new households are likely to experience an affordability difficulty.

For many people today the cost of housing is a major concern. Local authorities have a responsibility to assist persons with a housing need but unable to pay the full market price. Kildare County Council provides housing to eligible persons, or assists them to provide housing from their own means in a variety of ways:

- Provision of social housing, ie rented accommodation;
- Provision of accommodation for homeless people, be it emergency, transitional or permanent;
- Support/facilitate voluntary housing bodies to provide social housing under the Capital Assistance and Rental Subsidy schemes;
- Improvement works in lieu – carry out remedial works to privately owned houses in lieu of local authority housing;
- Shared Ownership Scheme;
- Affordable housing
- Tenant purchase;
- Loans for house purchase and improvements
- Low Cost Sites Scheme
- Mortgage Allowance Scheme
- Disabled persons grants
- Essential repairs grants.

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For those who can afford to purchase their own house a major element in the cost is the value of the site, which is influenced by market trends. The Local Authorities through their Development Plans seek to ensure that there is adequate supply of land zoned for residential development. Volume I of the County Development Plan sets out in detail the strategies for residential development in both rural and urban areas. The County Development Plan (and the Development Plans for Clane, Maynooth, Kilcock, Celbridge and so on) sets out the strategies for residential development in urban and rural areas. In 2004, it was calculated that within the County, there was in excess of 2,700 acres of undeveloped land zoned for residential purposes.

This land is principally available in Naas and Newbridge as the designated Large Growth Towns and in Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge, Kilcock, Kildare, Monasterevin, Kilcullen and Athy which are designated as Moderate Growth Towns under the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (2004). The development of this land is subject to the provision of the necessary physical and social infrastructure. It is recognised that the increase in the housing stock and household units needs a greater balance whereby the continued growth is matched by employment generation, improvements in the provision of social infrastructure and ultimately the quality of life enjoyed by the residents. Apart from slight dips in 2000 and 2003, housing completions in the county have increased steadily over the past number of years as set out in the following table.

Table 22: House Completions 1999-2004

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
Total house completions	2,419	2,366	2,426	3,126	2,971	3,479	3,584	20,371

Source: Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Government

The Housing Strategy (2001) estimated that 8,174 houses would be constructed between 2004 and 2006, approximately 2,725 per annum. The projected household formation in County Kildare of 14,630 additional households between 2003-2010 as recommended in the Regional Planning Guidelines (2004) amounts to approximately 1,829 additional units per annum. This would recommend a considerable slowing down in the county to pre-2000 rates. It is accepted that the current rate of house completions will not be sustainable indefinitely into the future and will start to decline, but not to the rates projected in the Regional Planning Guidelines.

6.2.2 Housing and households

The total number of households in Kildare in 2002 was 50,477, with an average of 3.2 persons per household. Of the total Kildare population, 156,916 people, or 97.7% were living in permanent households, including conventional houses and flats/apartments. Just over 400 people (0.2%) were living in temporary households and 93.0% of the population in 2002 resided in conventional houses.

The highest percentages of people living in flats or apartments tended to be mainly associated with the more densely populated parts of the county, namely the more urban, and to some extent the more north eastern parts. Newbridge Urban ED had by far the highest proportion living in flats or apartments (15.2%).

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Other EDs with relatively high levels included Kildare (9.7%), Athy West Urban (8.5%), Clane (7.8%), Maynooth (7.5%), Ballitore (7.2%) and Naas Urban (7.1%). Many areas of Kildare had relatively few, or no, people living in flats or apartments. These EDs were generally in the more rural parts of the county.

6.2.3 Housing tenure

Compared to the State the proportion of housing in Kildare that is owner occupied is high (79% vs 73.9%). Kildare also has a lower proportion of local authority housing, with just 7.6% compared to 10.4% for the State (**Table 23**). The spatial pattern of owner occupied housing (including mortgaged and non-mortgaged categories) at ED level is not particularly pronounced.

Table 23: Housing Tenure: Kildare compared with State

Households	Kildare	%	State	%
Owner Occupied (mortgaged)	25,963	51.8	484,774	37.9
Owner Occupied (no mortgage)	13,592	27.1	461,166	36.0
Local Authority (purchase)	1,499	3.0	44,783	3.5
Local Authority (rented)	2,295	4.6	88,206	6.9
Private Rented	4,588	9.2	141,459	11.1
Occupied Free of Rent	890	1.8	21,560	1.7

Data Source: Census of Population, 2002, CSO

More distinct spatial patterns emerge if this category is considered in terms of mortgaged and non-mortgaged owner-occupied housing. High levels of mortgaged housing are particularly associated with the main commuter areas in the north-east and in the hinterlands of Naas, Newbridge and Rathangan (**Map 91**). The strong association between mortgaged owner occupied housing and population increase confirms that large numbers among the new population in Kildare are owner-occupiers rather than renters. In this way Kildare differs in its growth pattern from Dublin Inner City, but is similar to other growth areas in the more rural parts of the Dublin commuter belt. The lowest proportions of mortgaged owner occupied housing tended to be found in the south-western and western parts of the county, as well as in the older centres of some of the larger settlements, including Newbridge and Athy. EDs with high proportions of people living in mortgaged housing in 2002 included Celbridge (69.3%), Bodenstown (66.4%), Thomastown (66.2%), Morristownbiller (63.2%), Naas Rural (62.3%), Kill (62.0%), Clane (61.8%) and Leixlip (60.7%). Low levels of mortgaged housing were associated with Ballitore (18.0%), Grangemellon (26.2%), Burtown (28.6%), Athy West Urban (29.1%), Castledermot (30.0%), Skerries (30.5%), Killashee (31.0%), Kilberry (31.2%), Rathangan (31.2%) and Harristown (31.7%).

Owner-occupied housing without a mortgage is concentrated in three different, mainly rural, clusters in the county including the north-west, the eastern area south of Naas and the area of the county south of Kildcullen. Areas with low levels of non-mortgaged owner occupied housing relative to the rest of the county include a number of EDs in the commuter belt area of the north-east, the outskirts of Naas, Newbridge, Kildare, Athy town centre and the hinterlands of Rathangan in the west.

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As expected, the centres of the towns of Maynooth, Newbridge, Naas, Athy, Kildare and Leixlip have the highest percentages of people living in private rented housing. Almost one-quarter of the population of Maynooth are living in private rented housing, as are 16.6% in Newbridge, 16.4% in Ballysax East and 13.6% in Naas Urban. The proportions living in private rented housing tend to be smaller in the remainder of the county although relatively high levels were associated with the EDs of Monasterevin (9.8%), Morristownbiller (9.0%), Pollardstown (8.4%), Clane (8.4%), Kilcullen (8.0%) and Kilcock (8.0%). Local authority rented housing accounted for a large proportion of the rented housing sector in EDs such as Killinthomas, Ballitore, Athy West Urban, Grangemellon, Rathangan, Castledermot, Dunmanoge and Skerries. **Map 92** illustrates the EDs with particularly high levels of their populations living in rented housing, both private and local authority rented. These included Athy West Urban (27.4%), Newbridge Urban (27.1%), Maynooth (25.6%), Ballysax East (22.7%), Rathangan (22.2%), Ballitore (21.5%), Killinthomas (21.1%), Athy East Urban (18.5%) and Skerries (18.3%).

Local authority housing, including both purchased and rented local authority housing accounts for more than ten per cent of the housing stock in nineteen EDs in Kildare. Seven of these EDs had more than twenty per cent local authority housing including Athy West Urban (30.1%), Killinthomas (26.3%), Ballitore (24.1%), Kilberry (23.6%), Rathangan (22.0%), Grangemellon (21.5%) and Skerries (21.4%). Other EDs with high proportions of local authority housing included Castledermot (18.2%), Newbridge Urban (18.0%), Ballysax West (17.3%), Carbury (16.8%), Timahoe South (15.9%), Athy East Urban (15.6%), Kilmeage South (15.0% and Kildare (15.0%). As shown in **Map 93** high levels of local authority rented housing were in Killinthomas (18.4%), Ballitore (18.0%), Athy West Urban (15.5%), Grangemellon (15.1%), Rathangan (14.9%), Castledermot (12.1%), Dunmanoge (11.8%), Skerries (11.5%), Carbury (10.9%) and Newbridge Urban (10.5%). Kilberry (16.6%), Athy West Urban (14.6%), Skerries (9.9%), Ballysax West (8.2%), Killinthomas (7.9%), Newbridge Urban (7.5%) and Rathangan (7.1%) were the EDs with highest proportions of their populations living in local authority purchased housing in 2002.

6.2.4 Age of housing

Table 24 shows that, on average, the housing stock in Kildare is relatively newer than that in the rest of the State. While 44.4% of the housing stock in the State was constructed before the 1970s, just 19.58% of the current housing stock in Kildare had been constructed at this stage. During the 1970s, however, there was a major surge in housing construction in Kildare, as well as the State, with more than one-fifth of the current Kildare housing stock being built during this period. Housing development declined over the following fifteen years in Kildare, as it did throughout the State, to about 80% of the levels achieved throughout the 1970s. However, the period since 1996 has seen a huge surge in housing construction in Kildare with more than a quarter of the 2002 housing stock having been constructed in the previous six years. This rate was much greater than the rate achieved in the State over the same period, as illustrated in **Table 24**.

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Table 24: Age of Housing: Kildare compared with the State

	Kildare	%	State	%
Built Before 1919	3,468	7.21	167,033	13.69
Built 1919-1940	2,333	4.85	114,304	9.37
Built 1941-1960	3,617	7.52	146,206	11.99
Built 1961-1970	3,376	7.02	114,010	9.35
Built 1971-1980	9,691	20.15	216,497	17.75
Built 1981-1990	7,890	16.41	170,403	13.97
Built 1991-1995	5,307	11.03	94,199	7.72
Built 1996 and after	12,411	25.81	197,134	16.16

Data Source: Census of Population, 2002, CSO

The EDs with the highest concentrations of older housing – that is housing constructed prior to World War II – tend to be generally concentrated around the main urban centres as well as areas in the south west of the county around Monasterevin, Edenderry and Rathangan. The lowest proportions of older housing stock are associated with areas in the western parts of the county and the very south. EDs that had high proportions of their housing constructed before 1941 included Inchaquir (51.9%), Johnstown (42.9%), Carrick (40.6%), Killashee (39.3%) and Kilkea (39.1%).

There was not a significant level of housing development in Kildare in the 1941-1960 period, as illustrated in **Table 24**, with development levels still relatively low in the commuter belt areas apart from Leixlip. The main areas of development were around Naas, Kildare, Newbridge and Athy. Housing built during this period accounts for more than twenty per cent of housing stock in only one ED – Robertstown (33.4%). High levels relative to the rest of Kildare were also observed in the EDs of Athy West Urban (19.5%), Ballysax West (19.2%), Castledermot (18.5%), Kilkea (18.1%), Ballybackan (17.3%), Athy Rural (16.4%) and Johnstown (16.3%). The variation in the proportion of housing built before 1960 is summarised in **Map 94** which clearly illustrates the contrast between the north and south of the county.

Housing development between 1960 and 1990 in Kildare was particularly concentrated in the north-east of the county as well as around the major urban centres. More than 50% of the housing in a number of EDs including Killeel (56.3%), Feighcullen (56.3%), Straffan (53.1%) and Donaghcumper (50.5%), were constructed over the 1960-1990 period. Over 60% of the housing stock in 2002 in the Leixlip and Kilberry EDs was constructed over the 1960-90 period (**Map 95**), with levels of 70.9% in Leixlip and 60.4% in Kilberry. EDs which had relatively low proportions of housing construction during this period included areas in the hinterlands of Naas as well as parts of the west and south of the county including Naas Rural (17.5%), Thomastown (20.8%), Bodenstown (20.9%), Robertstown (24.8%) and Graney (25.4%).

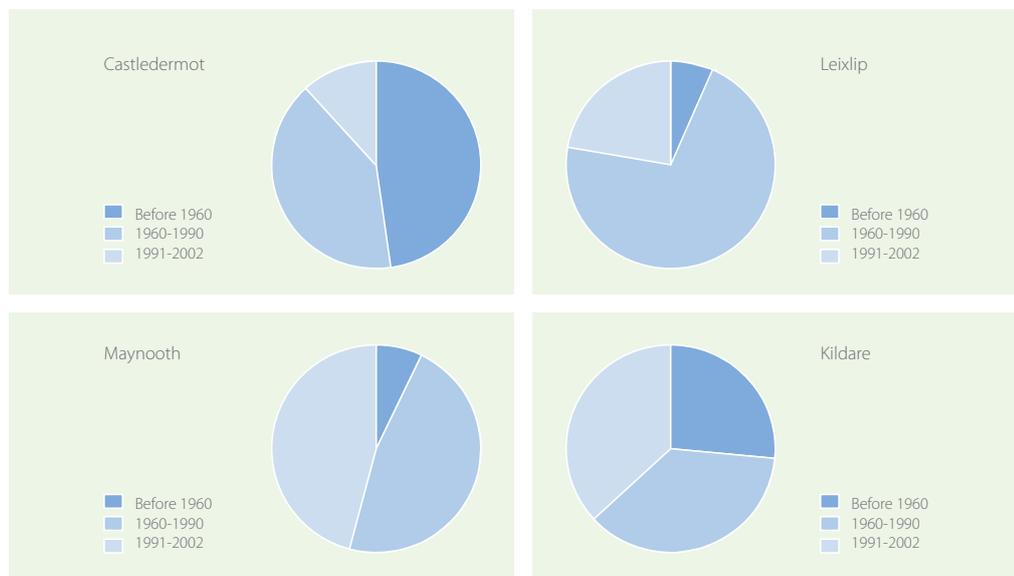
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Almost 37% of housing in Kildare in 2002 had been built in the previous twelve-year period, as illustrated in **Table 24**, and an electoral division level analysis shows that this construction was particularly concentrated in the commuter belt areas (**Map 96**). These areas include Maynooth, Celbridge, the hinterlands of Naas, Clane and Newbridge, Derrinturn and the hinterlands of Rathangan as well as more rural areas located near key route-ways through the county, such as Suncroft. More than 40% of the 2002 housing stock in a number of EDs in these areas was constructed during the 1991-2002 period including Kilcock (49.9%), Thomastown (48.5%), Naas Urban (48.0%), Windmill Cross (47.0%), Killinthomas (46.4%), Maynooth (46.3%), Celbridge (44.9%), Kill (44.5%), Ballyshannon (44.2%) and Morristownbiller (42.4%). In addition, more than 50% of the housing stock in the EDs of Bodenstown (63.4%), Naas Rural (62.8%), Clane (56.0%) and Downings (51.0%) were constructed in the 1991-2002 period. This period, however, accounts for relatively low levels of housing development in other parts of the county, with it accounting for less than 15 per cent of housing developments in areas south of Newbridge, Kildare and Naas as well as many rural areas in the south of the county. Less than ten per cent of housing developments were constructed during this period in the ED of Ballaghmoon (9.9%).

In this way, there are considerable differences across Co. Kildare in terms of the age of the housing stock and the periods within which the most significant housing developments took place, as illustrated in **Figure 7**. Much of the developments in rural southern Kildare had been constructed before the 1960s, as is the case with Castledermot ED. Housing developments during the 1960-90 period accounted for the largest proportion of housing stock in areas of the north east of the county as Dublins metropolis began to seep into north Kildare, for example, Leixlip ED. The areas experiencing the highest levels of development in the 1990s were the environs of main towns such as Naas and Newbridge, as well as the commuter areas in the north-east, including Maynooth ED as shown in **Figure 7**. In addition, a large proportion of the housing stock in the EDs of Maynooth and Kildare town were constructed over the decade before the 2002 Census, synonymous with a rapid expansion of the housing stock over a very short period of time.

Figure 7: Pie charts showing the proportion of housing constructed over different time-periods for selected EDs



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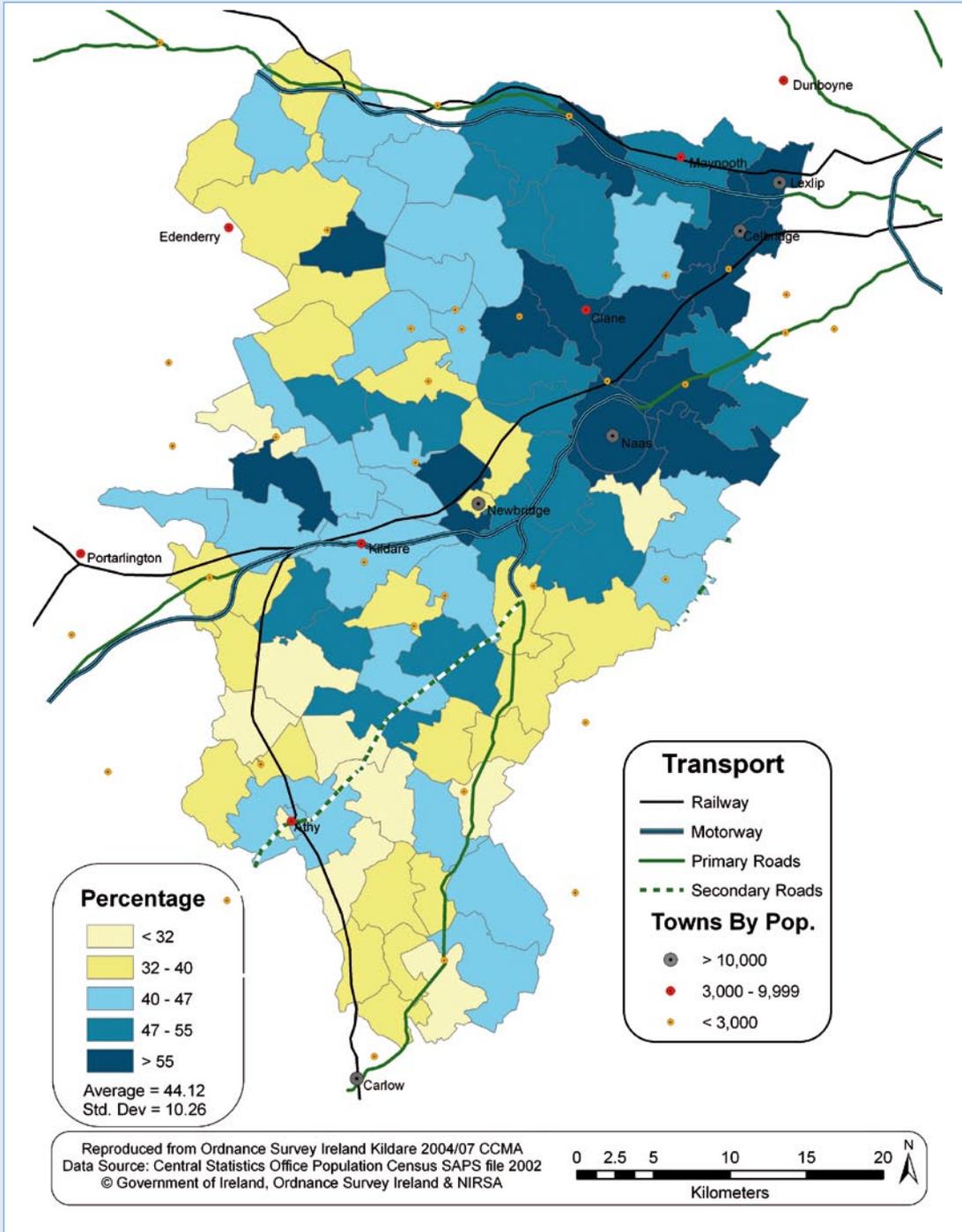
6.2.5 *One-off housing*

Private housing units that are classified as detached and serviced by a septic tank are taken as a proxy indicator of one-off rural dwellings. In 2002 almost two thirds (60.9%) of the total housing stock, in Kildare were in the form of one-off rural dwellings. This is a much higher percentage than the 35.6% for the State, reflecting the comparatively lower level of urbanisation in Kildare. As **Map 97** illustrates, one-off housing is mainly associated with the more rural EDs. By contrast, the lowest levels of one-off housing were associated with the main urban centres in the county and in the rapidly growing commuter-belt in the north-east of the county.

One-off housing accounted for a much higher proportion of the total housing in earlier decades. More than forty per cent (40.7%) of the one-off rural dwellings in Kildare were constructed before 1971. **Map 98** shows that throughout much of the south and north-west of the county more than 50% of the one-off rural dwellings enumerated in 2002 had been built prior to 1971. The growth in population in the 1970s was accompanied by a housing boom especially towards the north-east of the county and in the hinterlands of Newbridge, Naas, Kilcullen, Robertstown and Athy (**Map 99**). Approximately 17.9% of the one-off housing units in Kildare were built during the 1970s. The 1980s witnessed a continuation of one-off rural housing building especially in the middle of the county and on the outskirts of the commuter belt (**Map 100**). Overall there was a slight reduction in the volume of construction in this decade which accounts for 15.8% of the one-off housing stock. The proportion of housing units constructed in the early nineties was far less than in the eighties (7.5% compared to 15.8%) and there was also a significant move away from the east and northeast towards the west of the county especially in the period after 1996 (**Maps 101 & 102**).

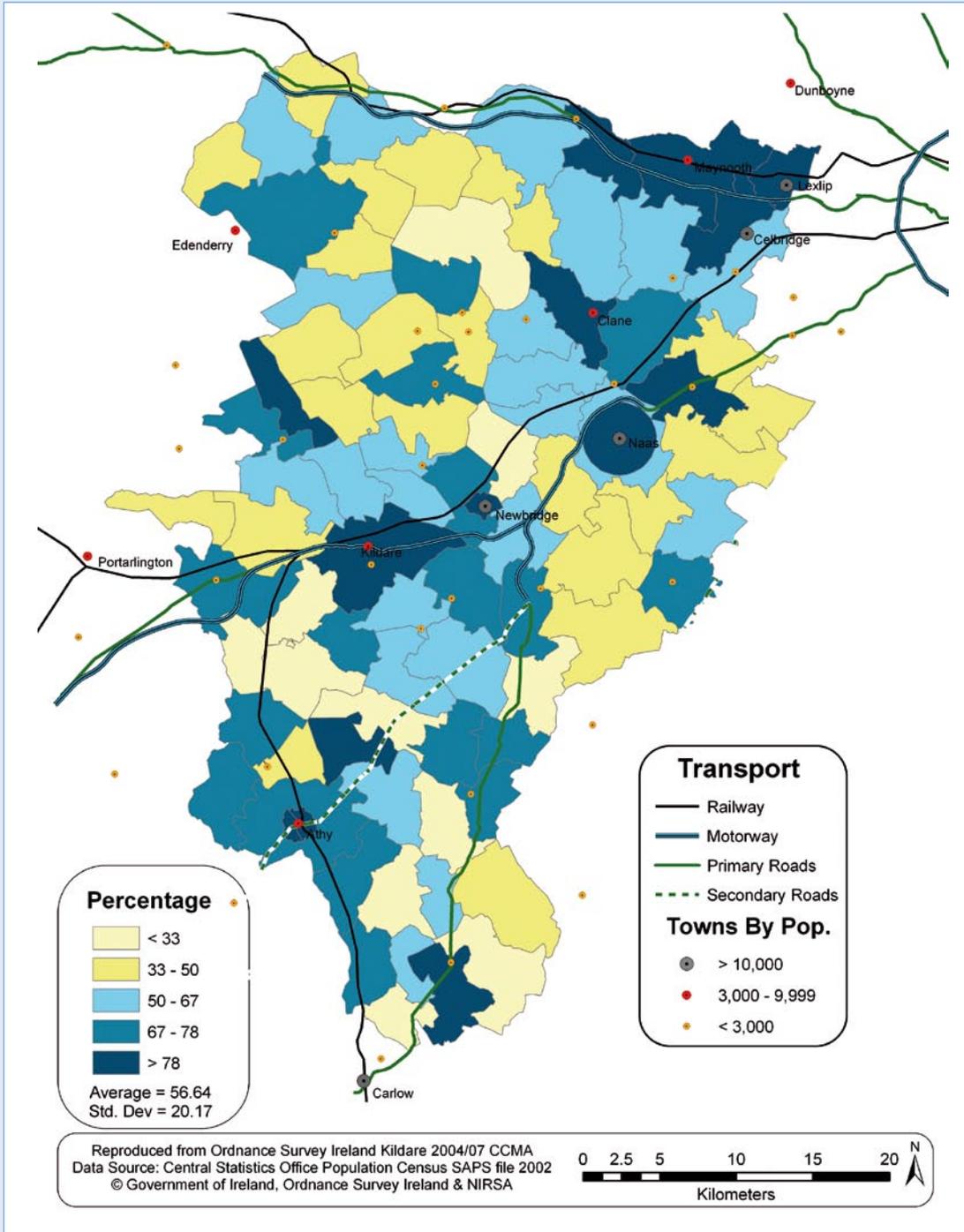
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MAP 91: MORTGAGED HOUSING AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSES, 2002



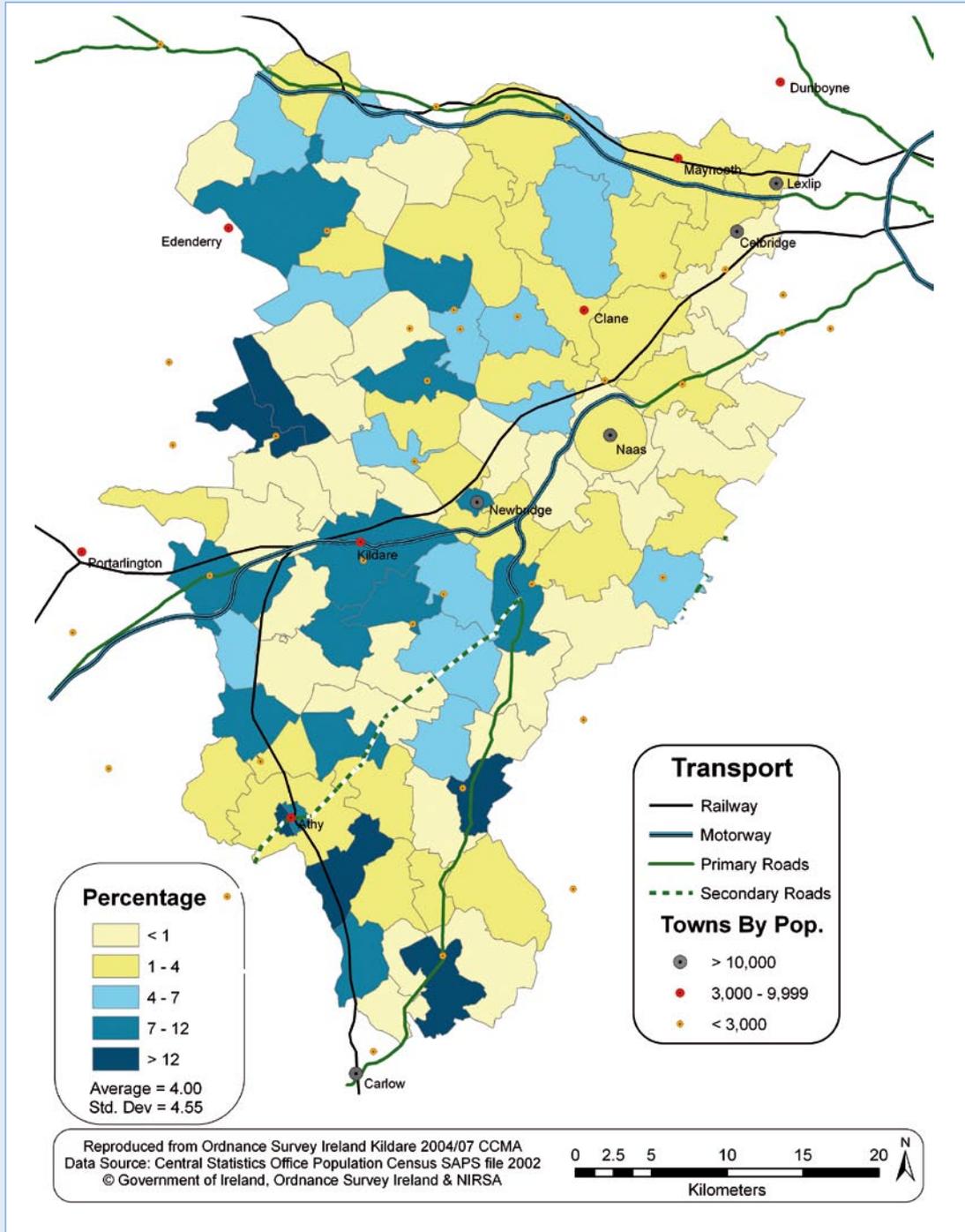
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MAP 92: TOTAL RENTED ACCOMMODATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSES, 2002



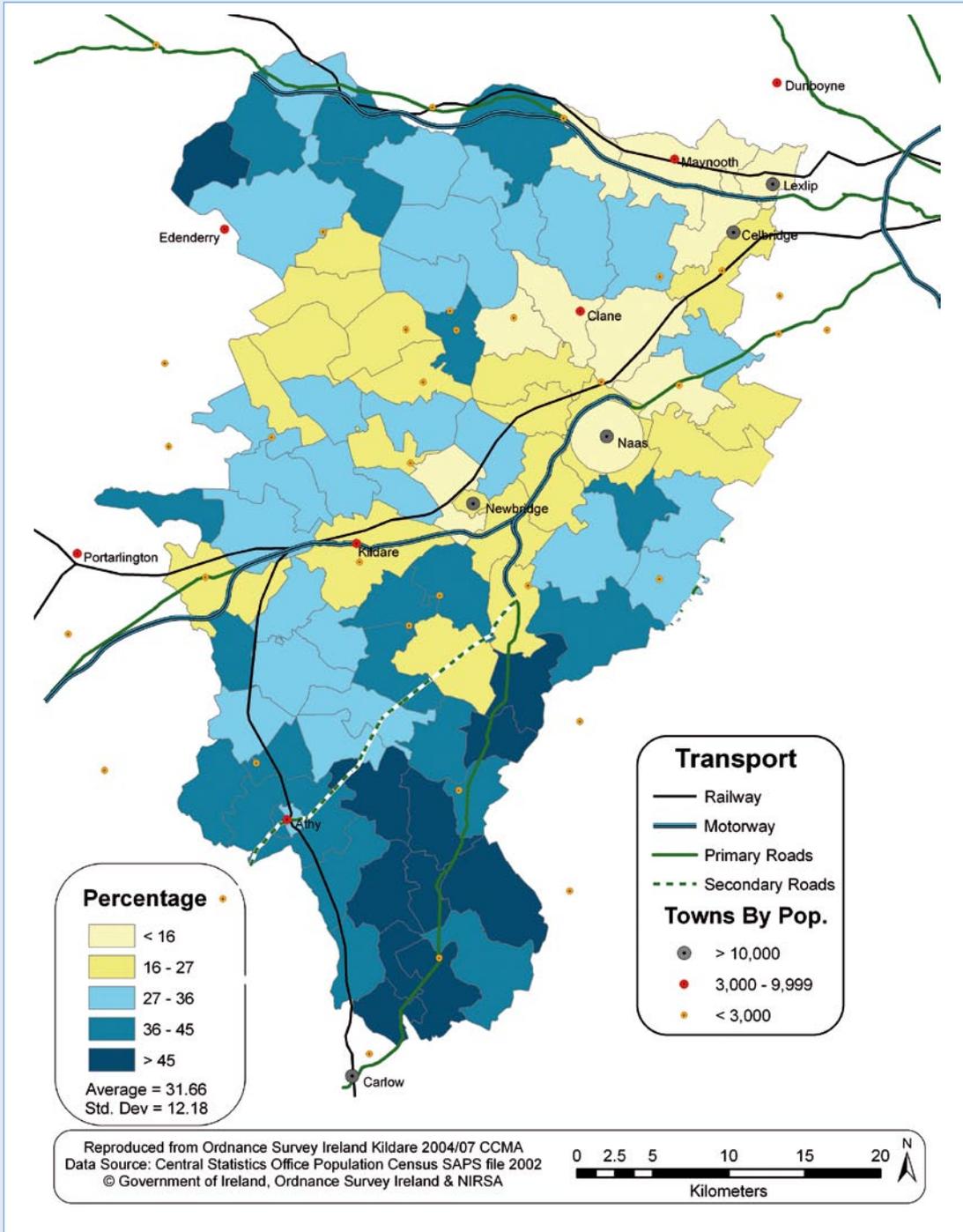
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MAP 93: RENTED LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSES, 2002



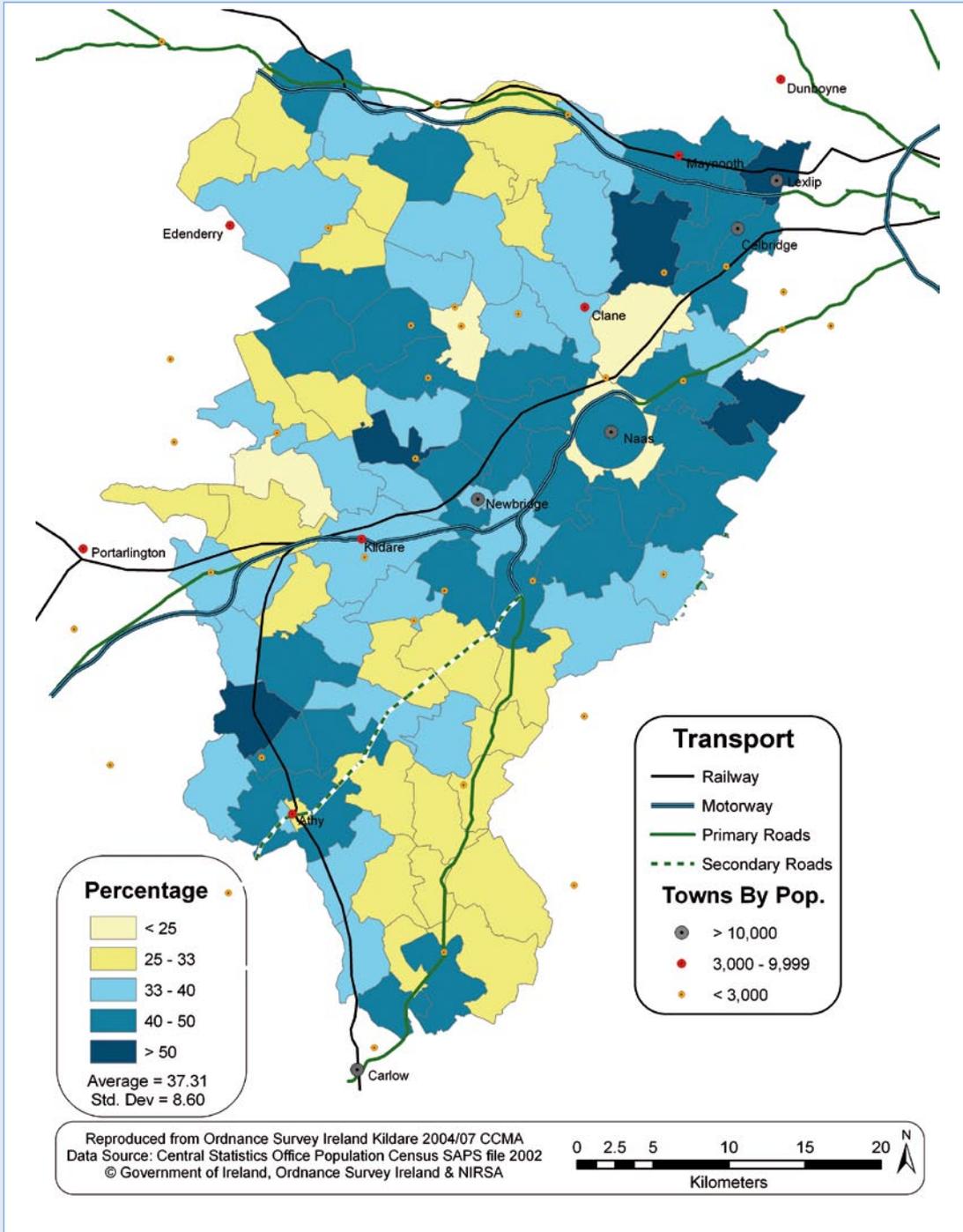
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MAP 94: HOUSES BUILT PRE 1960 AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSES, 2002



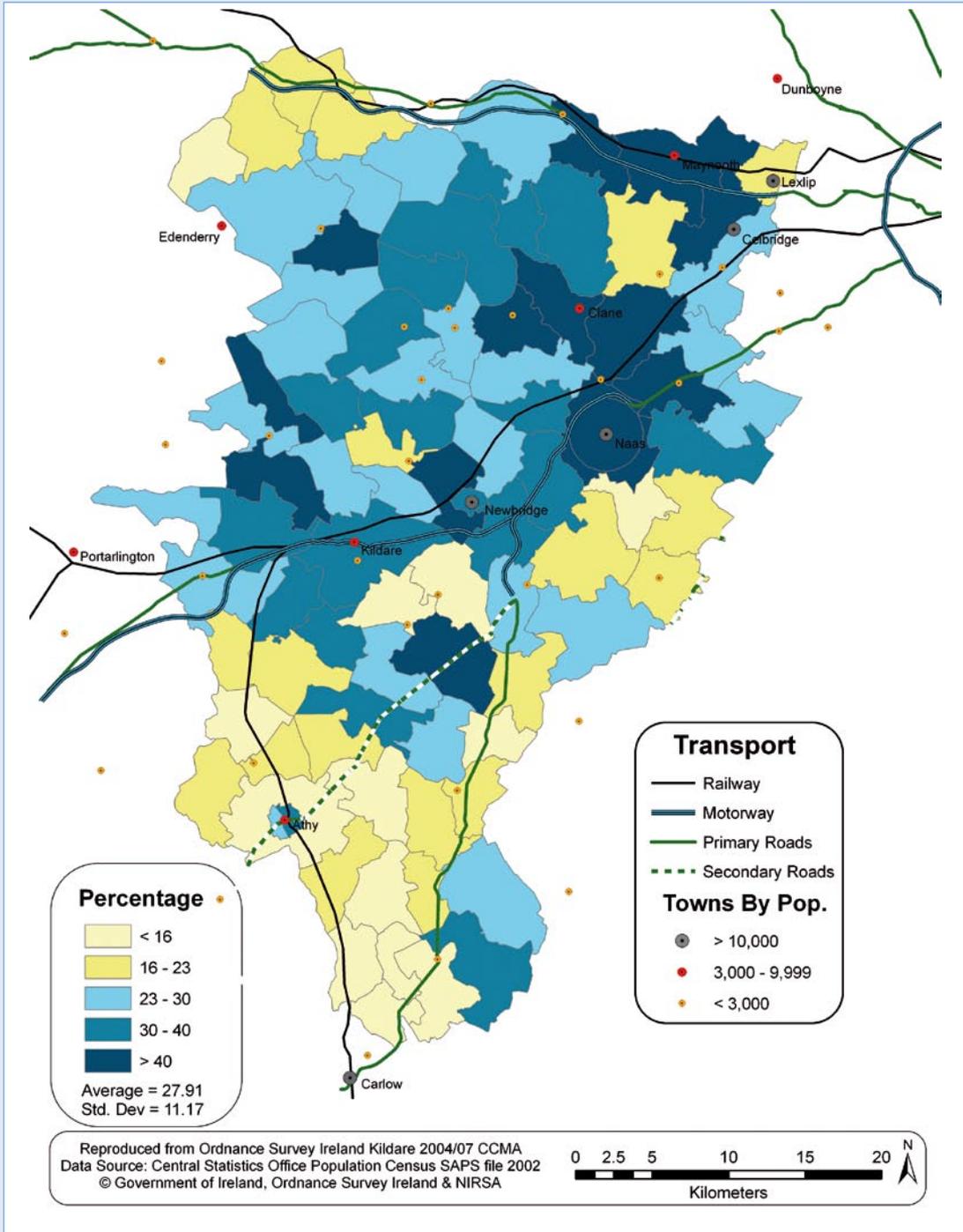
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MAP 95: HOUSES BUILT BETWEEN 1960 - 1990 AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSES, 2002



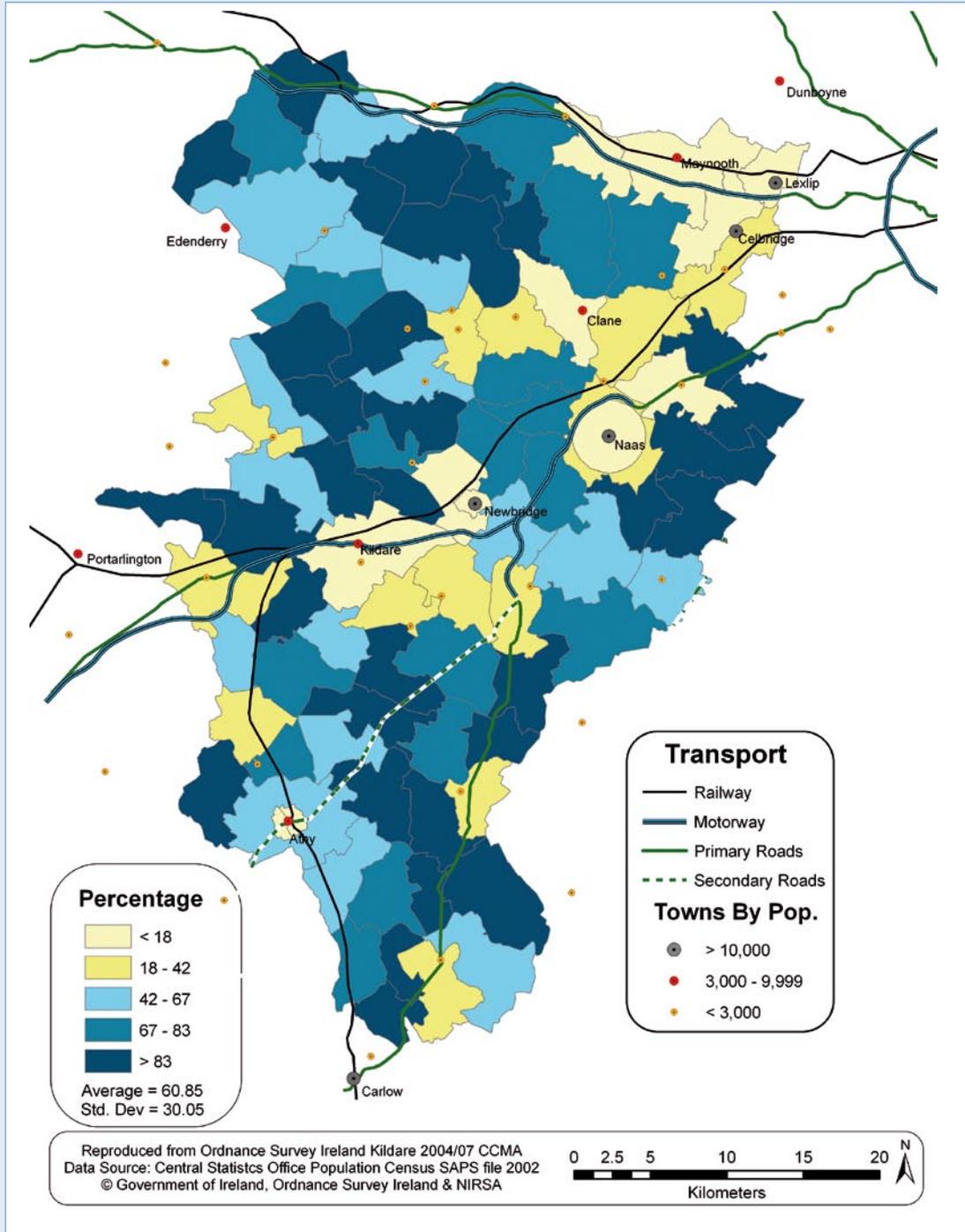
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MAP 96: HOUSES BUILT POST 1990 AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSES, 2002



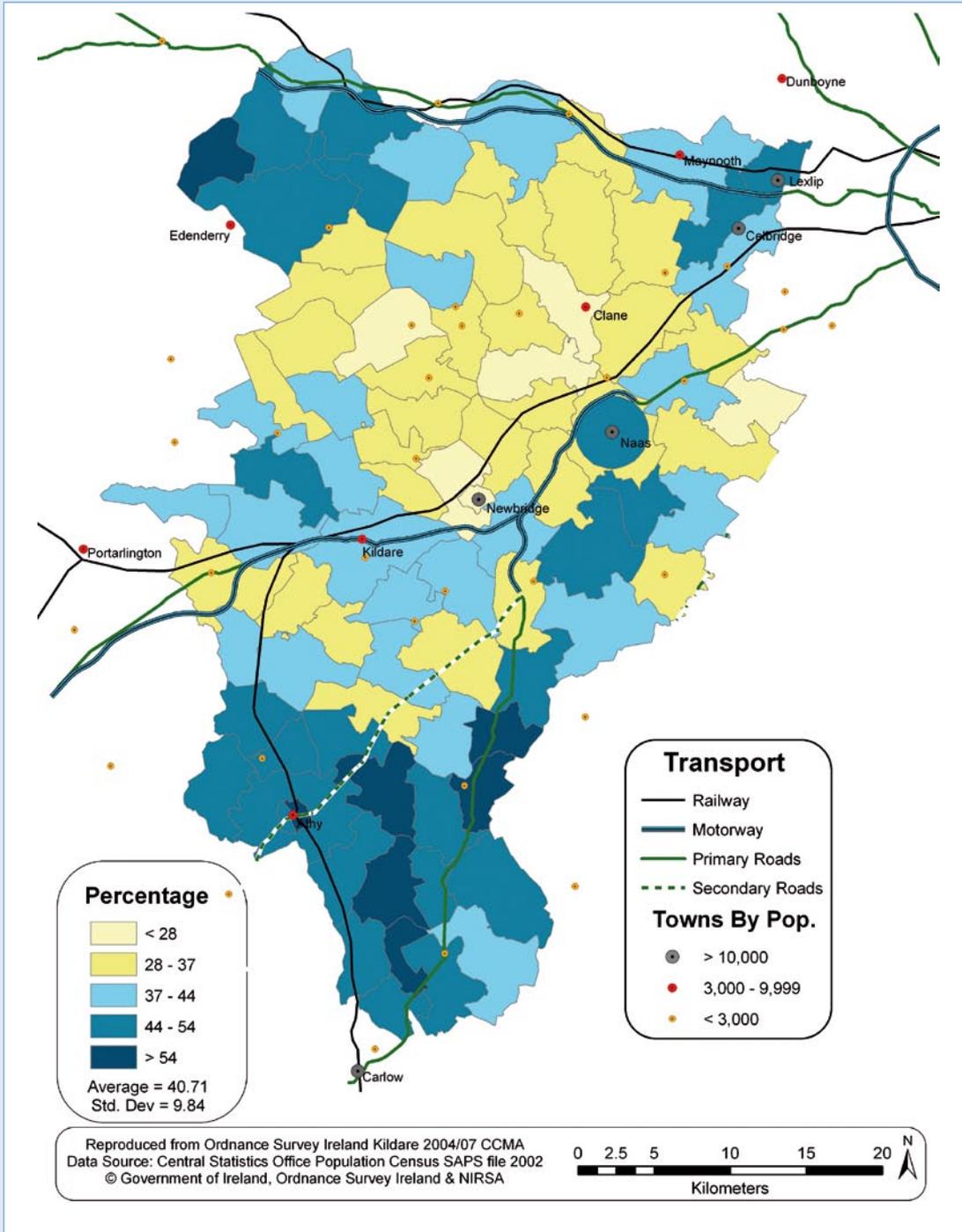
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MAP 97: ONE OFF HOUSES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSES, 2002



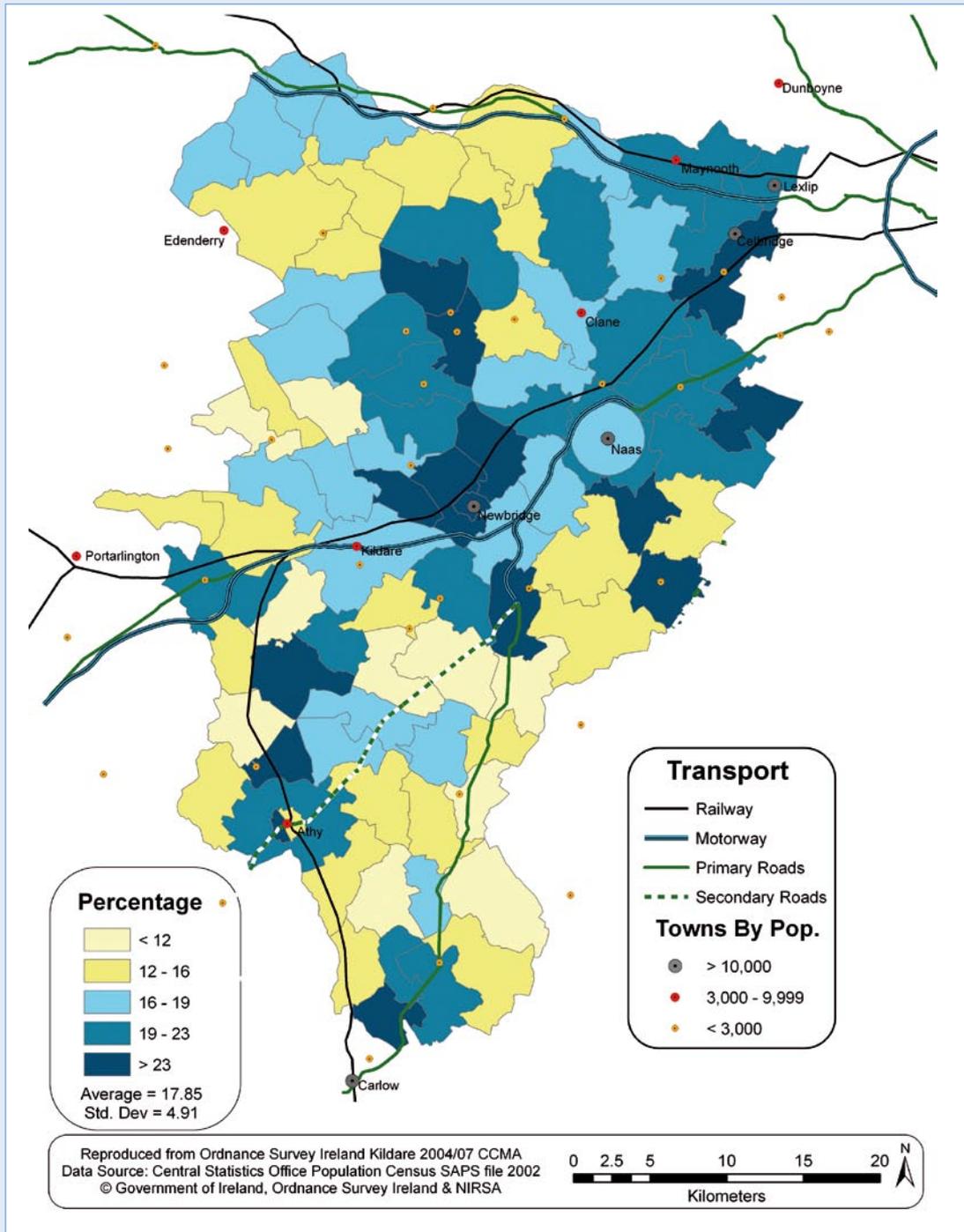
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MAP 98: ONE OFF HOUSES BUILT PRE 1971 AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSES, 2002



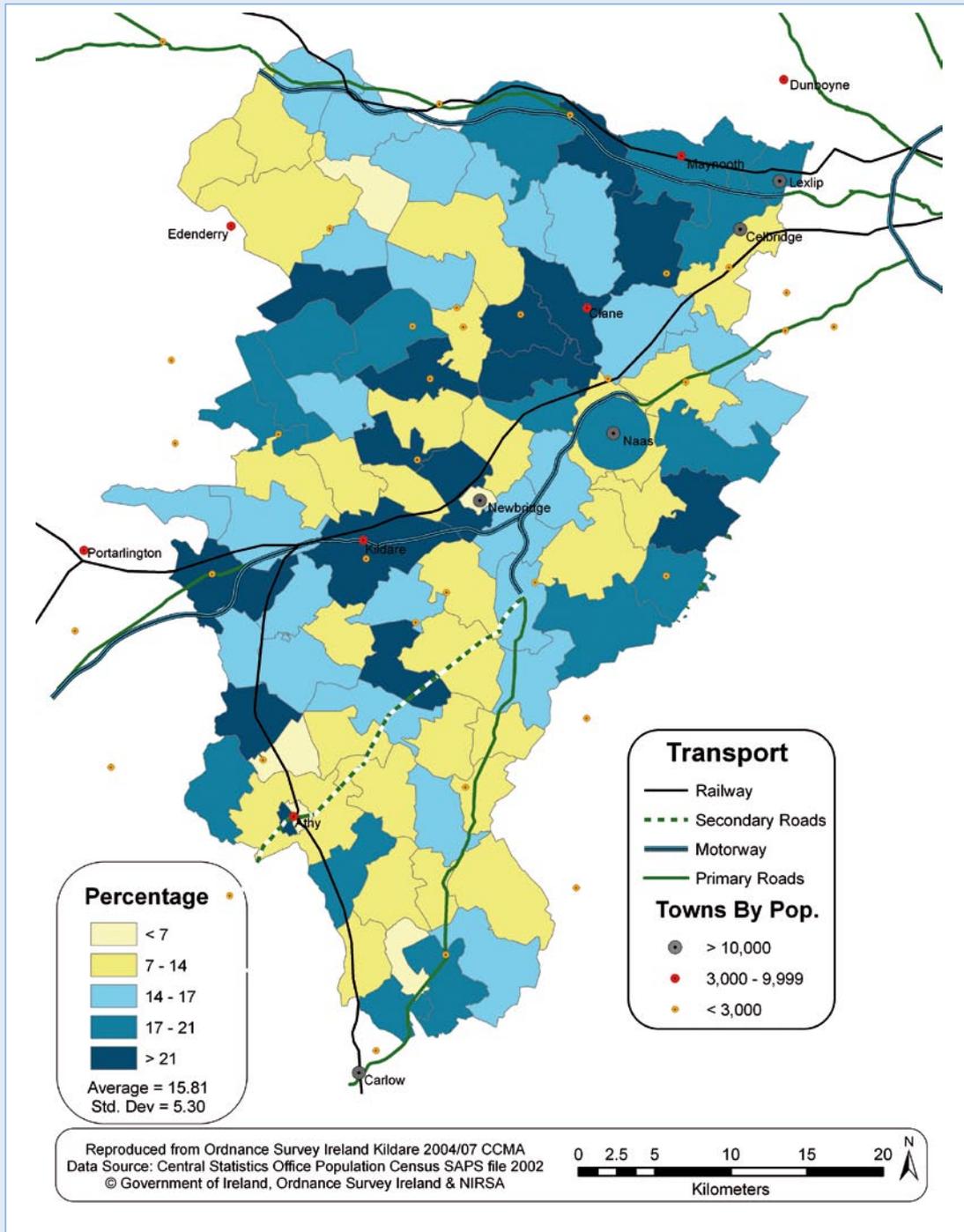
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MAP 99: ONE OFF HOUSES BUILT BETWEEN 1971 - 1980 AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSES, 2002



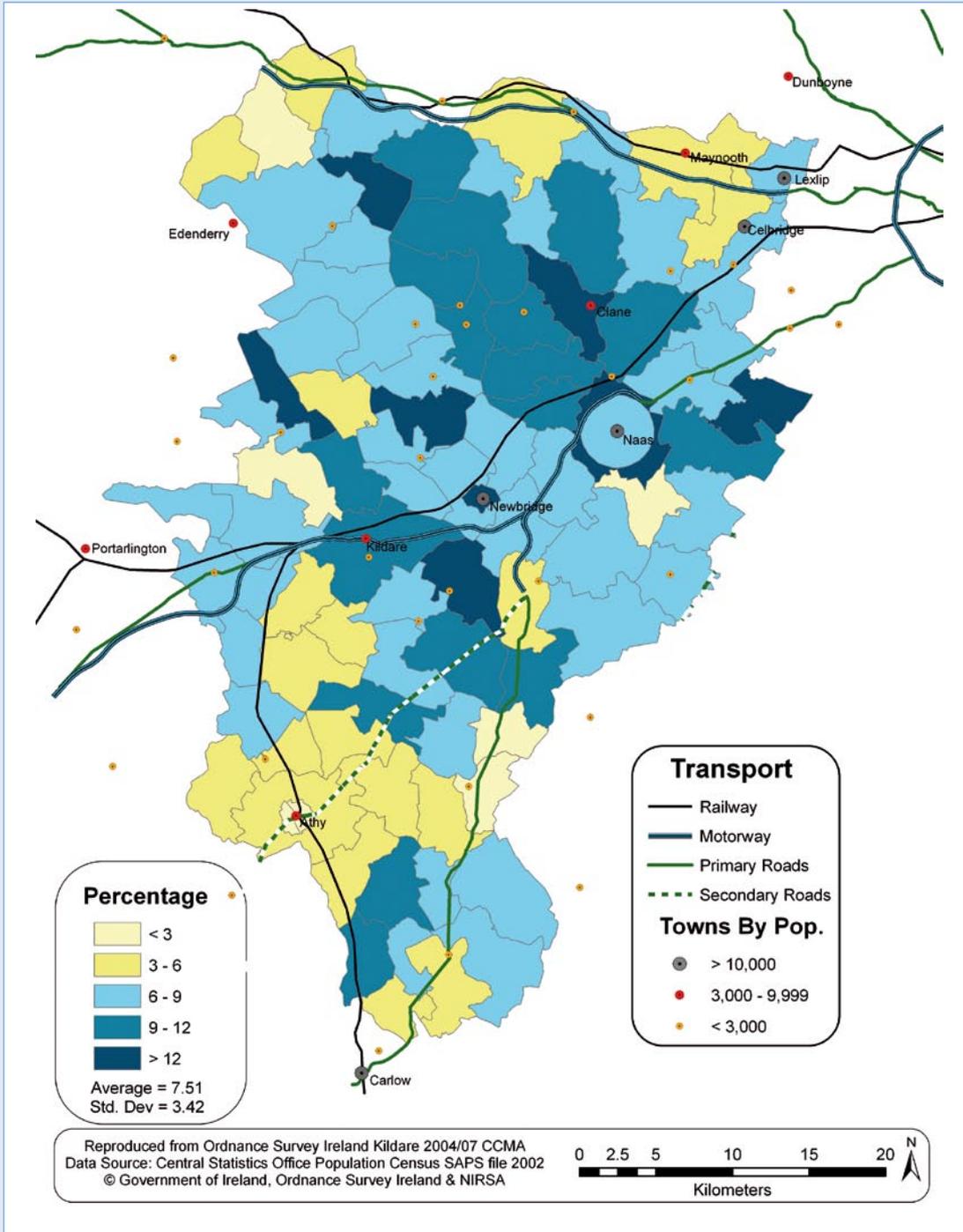
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MAP 100: ONE OFF HOUSES BUILT BETWEEN 1981 - 1990 AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSES, 2002



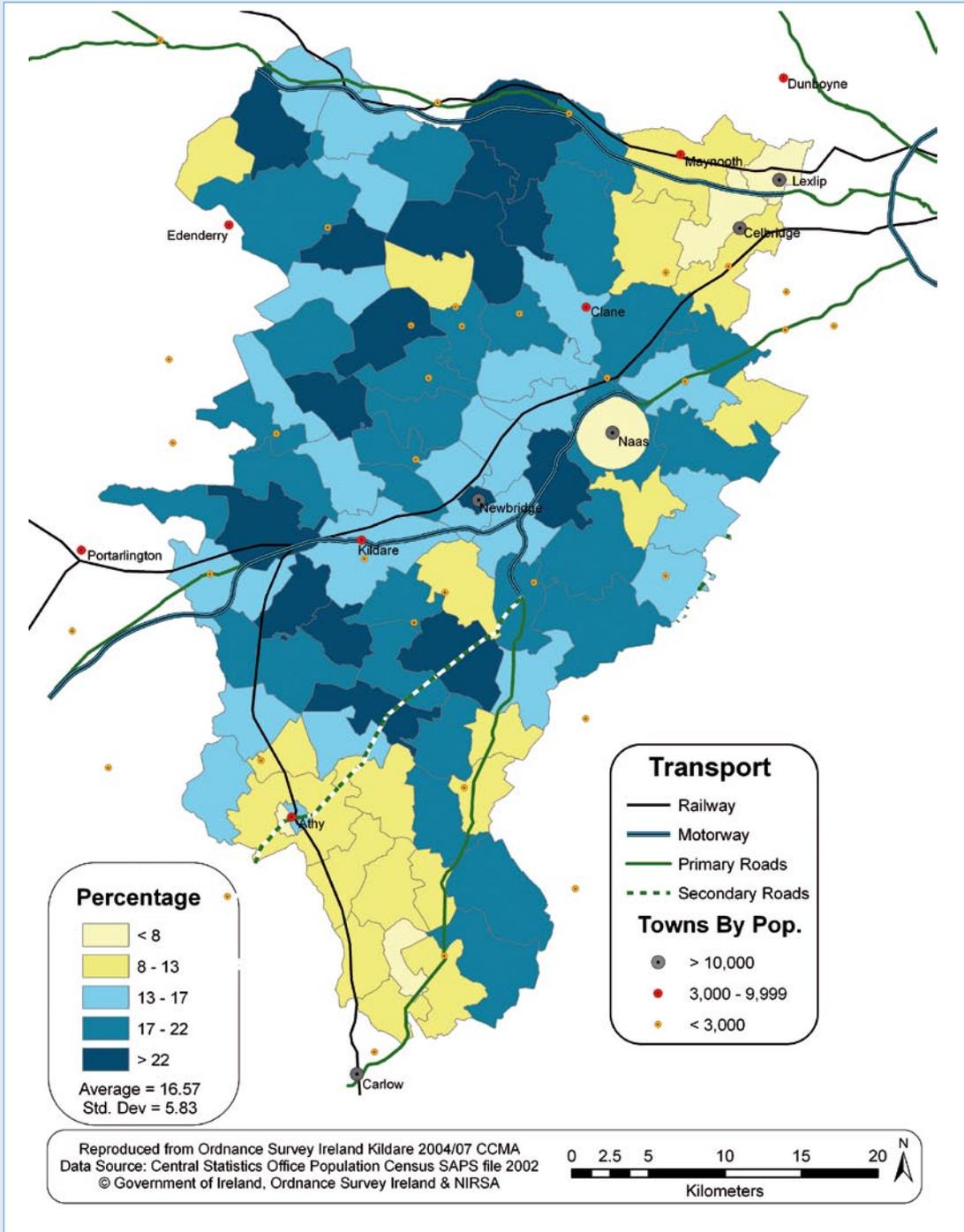
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MAP 101: ONE OFF HOUSES BUILT BETWEEN 1990 - 1995 AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSES, 2002



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MAP 102: ONE OFF HOUSES BUILT 1996 OR LATER AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSES, 2002



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6.3 JOURNEY TO WORK

Increasingly for many people the distance and duration of their journey to work is becoming a source of concern and is something which impacts on the quality of their lives. This trend since the late 1990s is particularly relevant to Kildare given the extent of commuting to workplaces outside the county, particularly to Dublin. The Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS) from the Census provide an opportunity to map the dominant modes of transport used for journeys to work and school/college as well as the distances and journey times to workplaces.

6.3.1 Modes of transport

The motor car is the dominant mode of transport accounting for 56.8% of trips made to work and school or college. For journeys to work, cars plus vans or lorries accounted for 61.4% of all trips. Almost half (48.9%) of the children aged 5-12 years are taken to school by car as are 28.1% of second level students. More than 1,200 third level students in 2002 travelled to college on a daily basis by car. Unfortunately the small area census data does not distinguish between modes of transport for work and education related trips. Almost 57% of all trips are by car and this is particularly the case in the hinterlands of Naas, east of Newbridge, in the hinterlands of Athy and in districts south east of Kildare town and north of Carlow. This contrasts with the much lower values in much of the north-east as well as areas around Kildare town, Monasterevin, east of Athy as well as Athy town centre (**Map 103**). The EDs with the highest percentages travelling to work or school by car are Oughterard (72.9%), Ladytown (71.3%), Ballaghmoon (69.2%), Churchtown (68.9%), Donore (68.5%), Inchaquire (68.3%) and Gilltown (68.2%). In Kildare, districts where car passengers account for relatively high proportions of the total travelling include Quinsborough (30.4%), Ladytown (29.9%), Churchtown (29.5%), Oughterard (28.8%), Graney (28.6%), Carnalway (27.6%) and Johnstown (27.3%). Car passengers account for particularly low proportions of the total number travelling to work or school by car in the Leixlip (10.6%), Belan (10.9%), Narraghmore (11.0%), Maynooth (11.9%), Athy West Urban (12.4%), Kiltel (12.7%), Kildangan (12.9%), Burtown (13.2%) and Newbridge Urban (13.4%) EDs.

Table 25: Journey to Work or School: Kildare compared with the State

	Kildare	State
Journey to Work: Foot	17,133 (15.1%)	432,616 (17.0%)
Journey to Work: Bicycle	2,430 (2.1%)	59,483 (2.3%)
Journey to Work: Bus	13,546 (11.9%)	346,187 (13.6%)
Journey to Work: Train	3,971 (3.5%)	47,712 (1.9%)
Journey to Work: Motor Car (Driver)	45,670 (40.2%)	921,042 (36.2%)
Journey to Work: Motor Car (Passenger)	18,845 (16.6%)	430,039 (16.9%)
Journey to Work: Leave Before 7.00am	14,306 (13.2%)	180,547 (7.6%)
Journey to Work: Leave 7.00-8.00am	30,680 (28.4%)	641,490 (27.0%)
Journey to Work: Travel 60+ Minutes	16,055 (14.8%)	178,182 (7.5%)
Journey to Work: Travel 90+ Minutes	4,961 (4.6%)	51,668 (2.2%)
Journey to Work: Travel 15+ Miles	28,204 (25.2%)	327,220 (13.1%)
Journey to Work: Travel 30+ Miles	7,903 (7.1%)	105,309 (4.2%)

Data Source: Census of Population, 2002, CSO.

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The percentage of journeys to work or school by bus/coach or train is much smaller accounting for just 15.4% of the total. The majority of these are work trips (9.4%). The highest percentages using bus or train to get to work or school/college are in the north east along the main train lines, a band across the south of the county which stretches from just north of Athy to Ballitore and a number of more rural districts in the west of the county where most second level students travel by bus (**Map 104**). EDs where high proportions use buses to travel to work or school include Narraghmore (24.7%), Killeel (24.4%), Ballybackan (24.4%), Ballitore (24.3%), Timahoe South (24.9%), Kilmeage South (23.1%) and Fontstown (21.0%). The lowest proportions were observed in Pollardstown (2.5%), Athy East Urban (3.6%), Athy West Urban (5.2%), Athy Rural (5.5%), Kilcock (6.0%) and Churchtown (6.4%).

Almost 4,000 people travel to work or school/college by train illustrating that Kildare is quite well served by the rail network. There are stations in Leixlip, Maynooth, Kilcock, Hazelhatch (Celbridge), Sallins, Newbridge, Kildare, Monasterevin and Athy. Maynooth with thirty-two train journeys to Dublin Connolly station every day during the week and Sallins with twenty-five train journeys to Dublin Heuston every day are the stations best served. The influence of these train stations is readily apparent when examining the spatial dispersion of people who travel to work by train in Kildare. Relatively higher proportions of people travel to work by train in a cluster of EDs centred around Maynooth, Naas and Kildare town. EDs with relatively high percentages of their populations travelling to work by train include Naas Rural (9.8%), Bodenstown (7.9%), Leixlip (7.3%), Dunmurry (6.9%), Maynooth (6.9%) and Kildare (6.6%). The proposed improvements to the Kildare route as well as improvements advocated for the Waterford line will obviously result in far greater numbers travelling to work by train in the south of the county over the coming years. This will be a welcome improvement to the accessibility of the south of the county.

6.3.2 *Travel times*

Three travel categories were covered by the 2002 Census in relation to journey to work: time of departure, time spent travelling, and miles travelled in the journey to work. Such factors are especially interesting in the case of Kildare, given its increasing role as a commuter county for people who travel to Dublin daily for work. **Table 25** reflects this, illustrating that Kildare people are proportionally more likely to be leaving for work earlier, to be spending longer times in travelling to work, and to be travelling longer distances than the national averages.

Approximately 17.5% of journey to work trips are of less than five miles distance with more than a quarter (25.6%) between 5 and 15 miles. Thus, 43.1% of those at work travel less than 15 miles to their place of work. Short distance trips are most common in the extreme north-east of the county, in the very south of the county near Carlow and in an area just north of Newbridge (**Map 105**). The highest incidences of persons travelling 15-29 miles to work are strongly concentrated in the north-east of the county (**Map 106**). Journeys of more than 30 miles account for 7.1% of all work trips. In the west of the county and in some districts south of Kildare and Newbridge proportions are often well above this average reaching more than 20% in some EDs (**Map 107**). In the case of Athy and areas close to the railway lines in the west of the county there are daily train services which may account for some of the long distance commuters.

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QUALITY OF LIFE

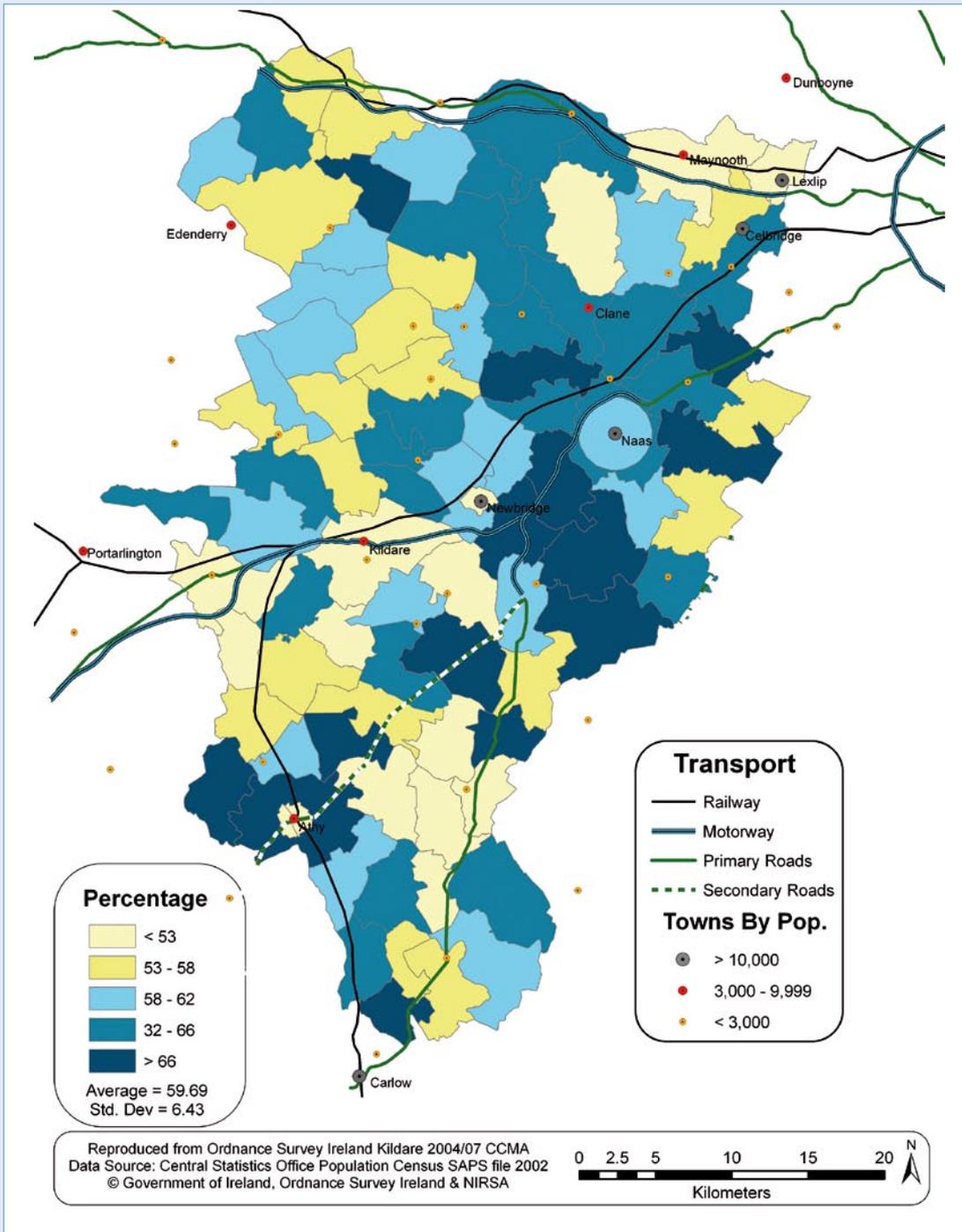
The duration of the journey to work measured in minutes may be a more useful concept when considering journey to work as it takes account of delays associated with congestion on the roads. Almost two-fifths of the workforce reaches their destination within 15 minutes of leaving home and a further 25.4% arrive between 15-30 minutes. Conversely, 14.8% of journeys are of more than one hour duration, while 4.6%, involving almost 5,000 workers, spend more than 90 minutes commuting to work each day.

High proportions of short duration journey times are confined to the rural hinterlands of urban areas like the area south of Newbridge and the areas around Kildare, Athy, Castledermot and Rathangan (**Map 108**). Journeys of 15-30 minutes duration are most common in the area south of Kildare and north-east of Athy and in the northern hinterlands of Newbridge (**Map 109**). Journeys of 30-59 minutes exhibit a very different pattern with strong concentrations in the north-east of the county as well as clusters in the north-west of the county (**Map 110**). Long distance commuters, making journeys of between 60-90 minutes duration are generally concentrated in a band of EDs that stretches from Leixlip to Naas as well as a number of outlier EDs in the west of the north-west of the county close to the Offaly and Meath borders (**Map 111**). Very long distance commuters, making journeys in excess of 90 minutes are generally scattered in clusters of EDs along the west of the county as well as a couple of districts in the very south and also east of Naas. Related to the length of journey times is the time people leave their homes in the morning with 13.2% leaving before 7.00 am and a further 13.5% leaving between 7.00 and 7.30 am.

It is likely that such lengthy commutes to jobs (largely) outside the county is causing very long days and as such is impacting on the quality of life for these commuters. Perhaps some further research into commuting patterns and the skills base of this workforce is warranted in the future with the aim of providing information which could suggest realistic alternatives to long-distance commuting.

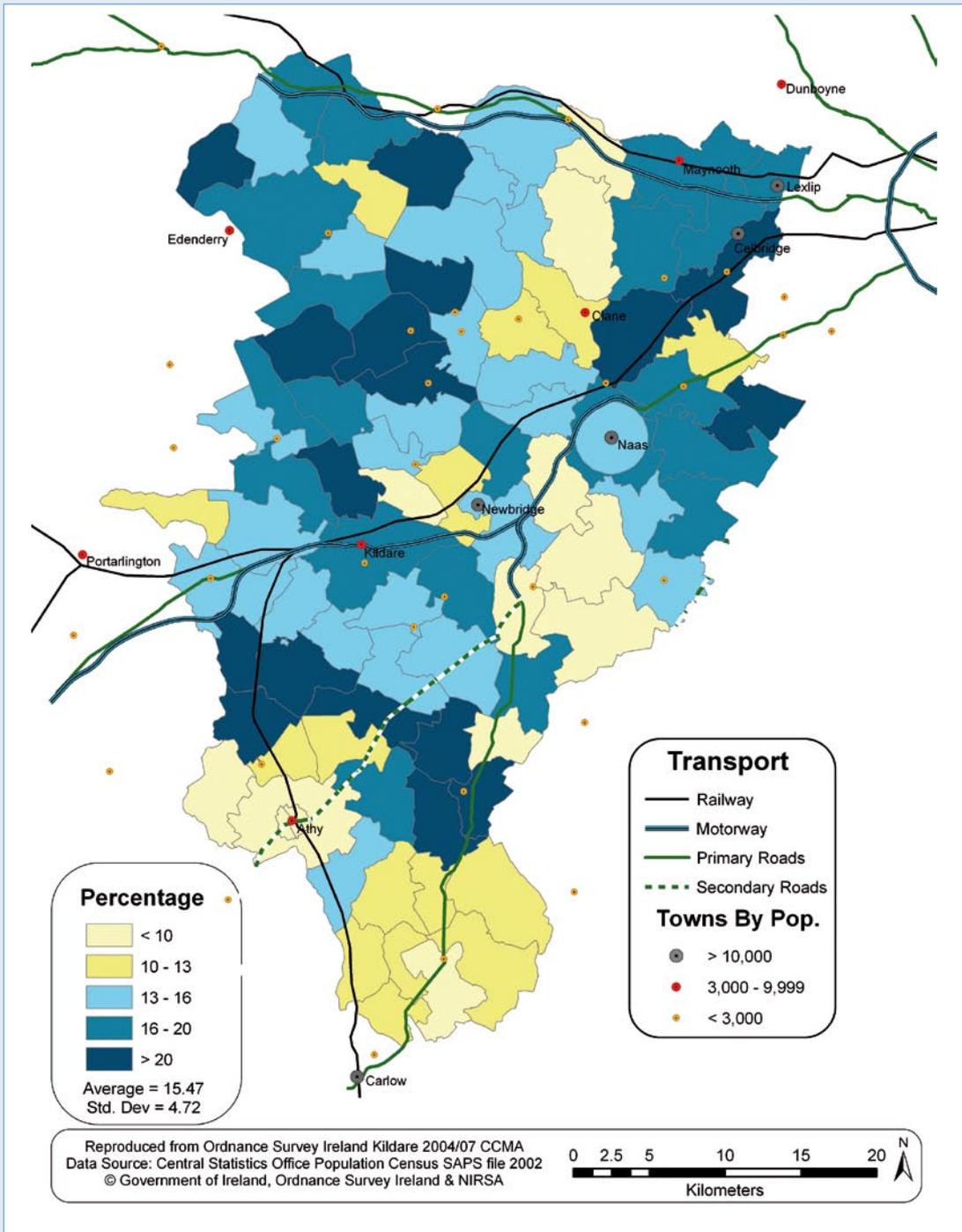
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MAP 103: PERSONS TRAVELLING TO WORK & SCHOOL/COLLEGE BY CAR
AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL TRAVELLING TO WORK & SCHOOL/COLLEGE, 2002



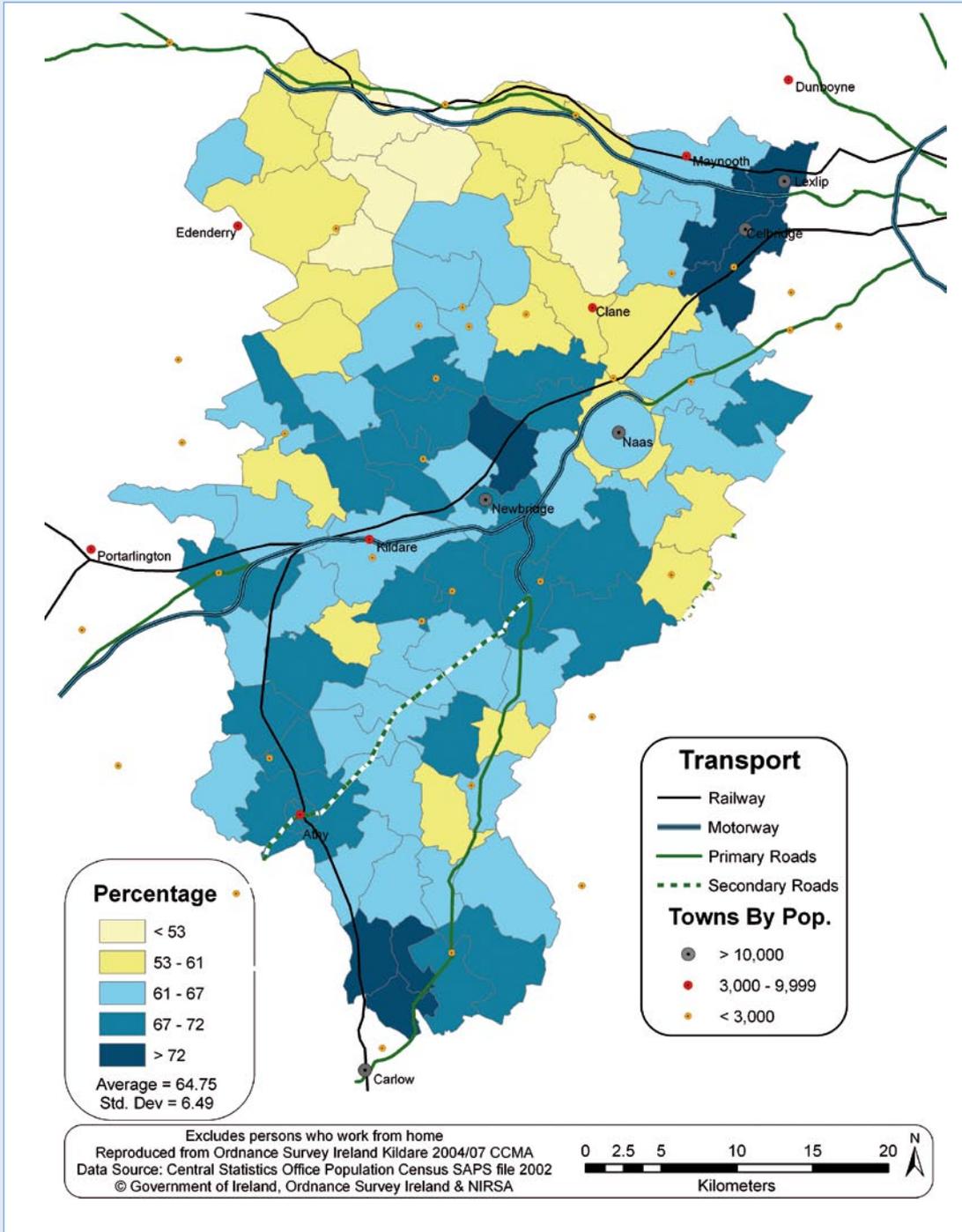
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MAP 104: PERSONS TRAVELLING TO WORK & SCHOOL/COLLEGE BY BUS OR TRAIN AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL TRAVELLING TO WORK & SCHOOL/COLLEGE, 2002



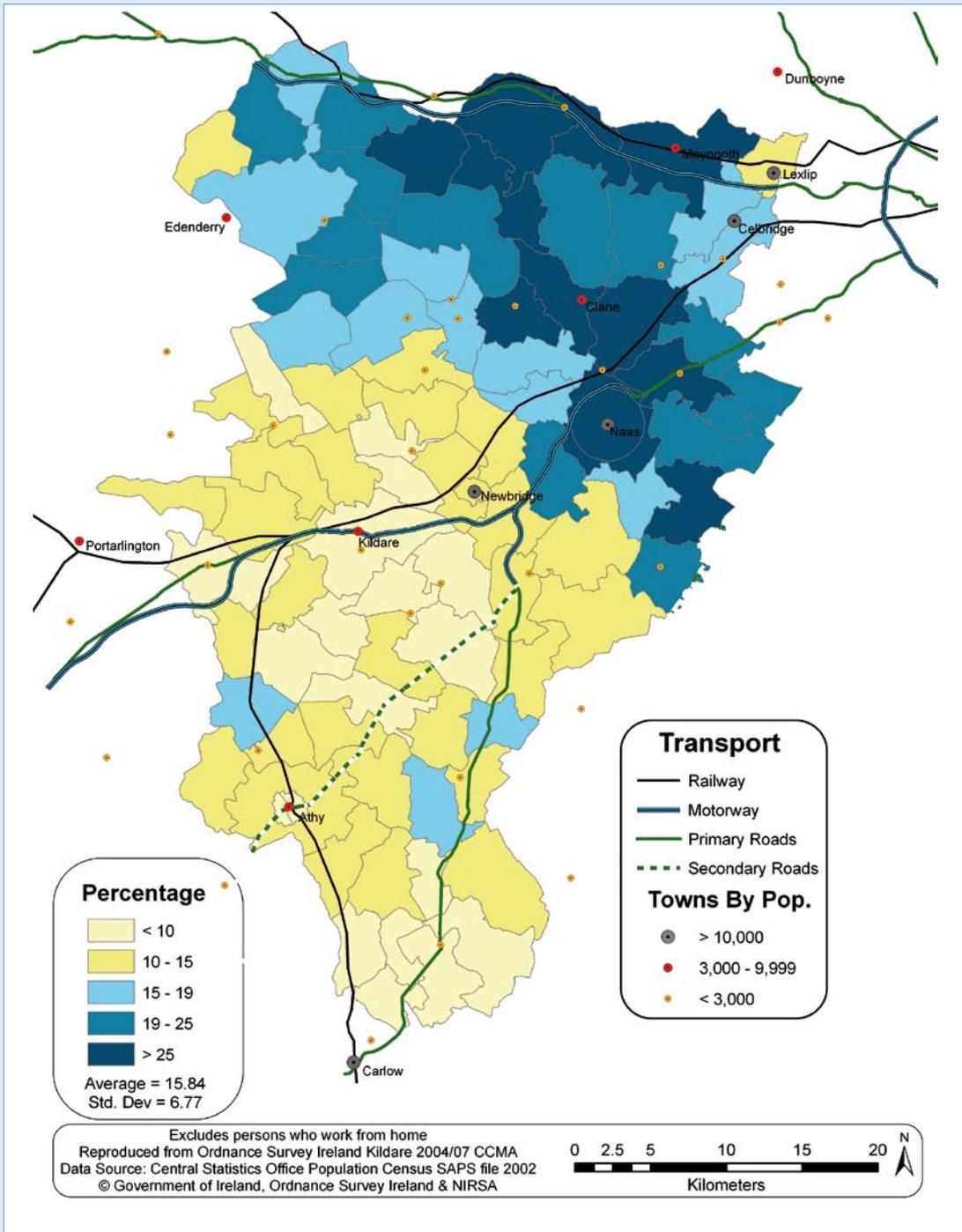
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MAP 105: PERSONS TRAVELLING LESS THAN 15 MILES TO WORK
AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 15+ AT WORK 2002



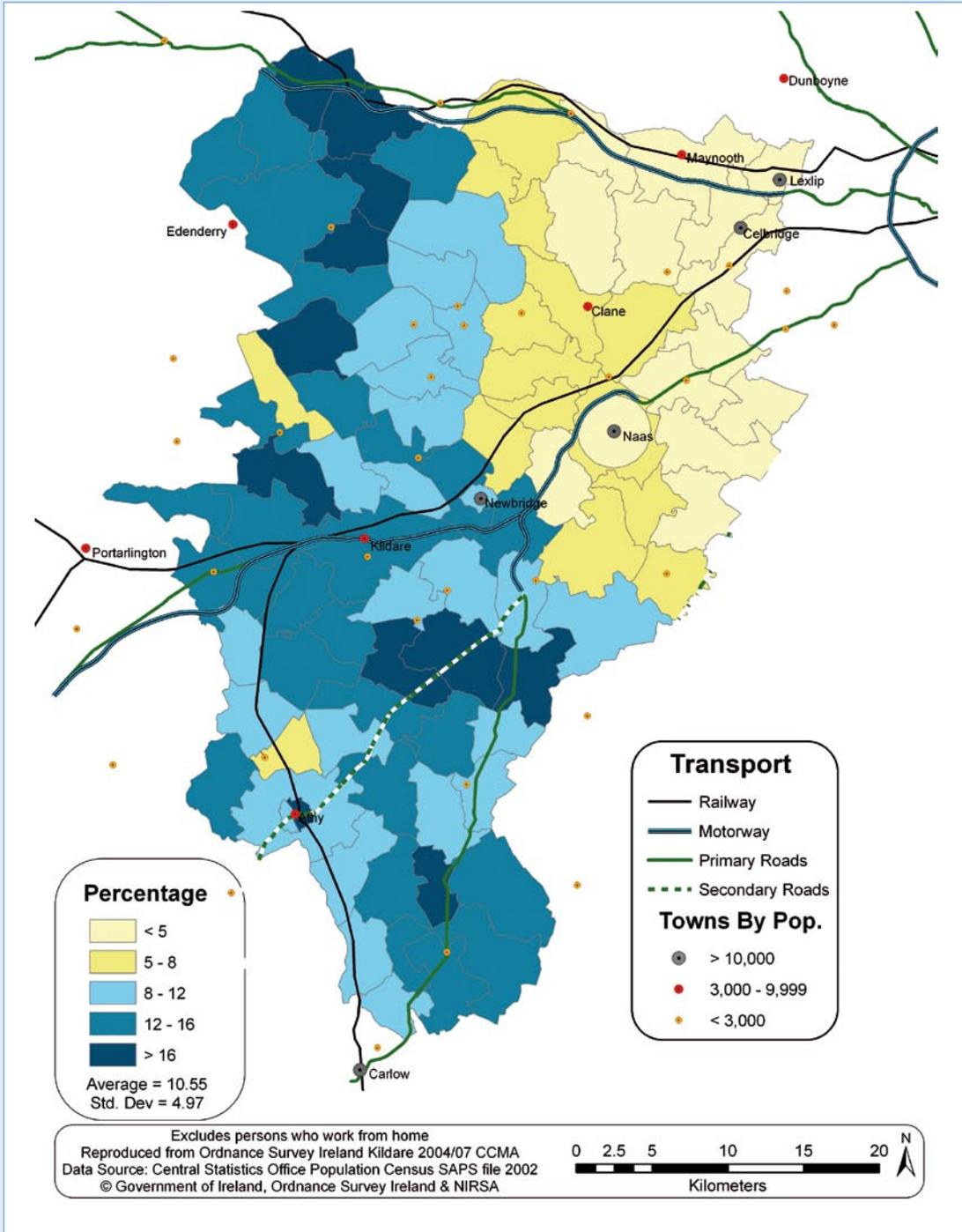
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MAP 106: PERSONS TRAVELLING 15 - 29 MILES TO WORK
AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 15+ AT WORK 2002



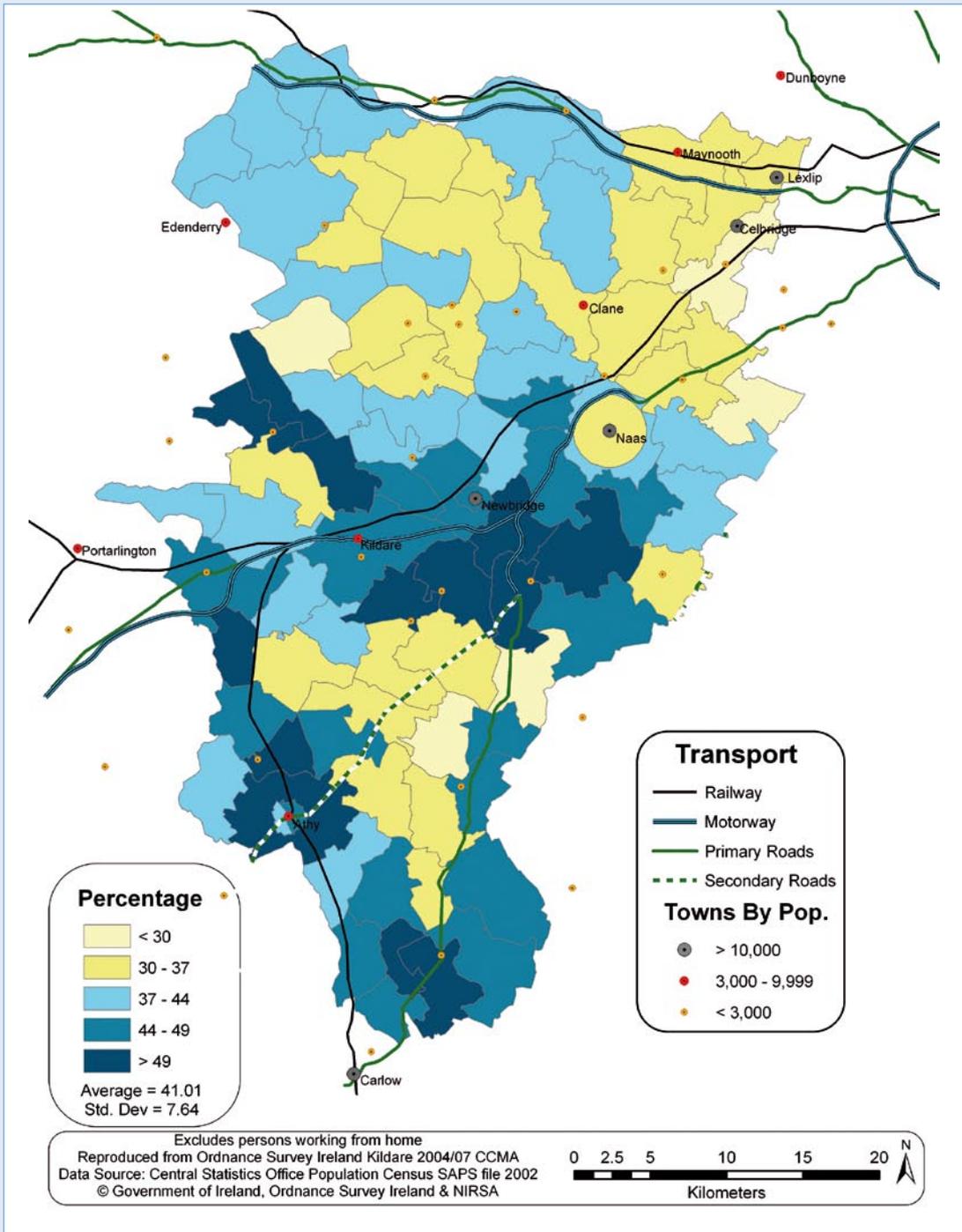
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MAP 107: PERSONS TRAVELLING 30+ MILES TO WORK
AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 15+ AT WORK 2002



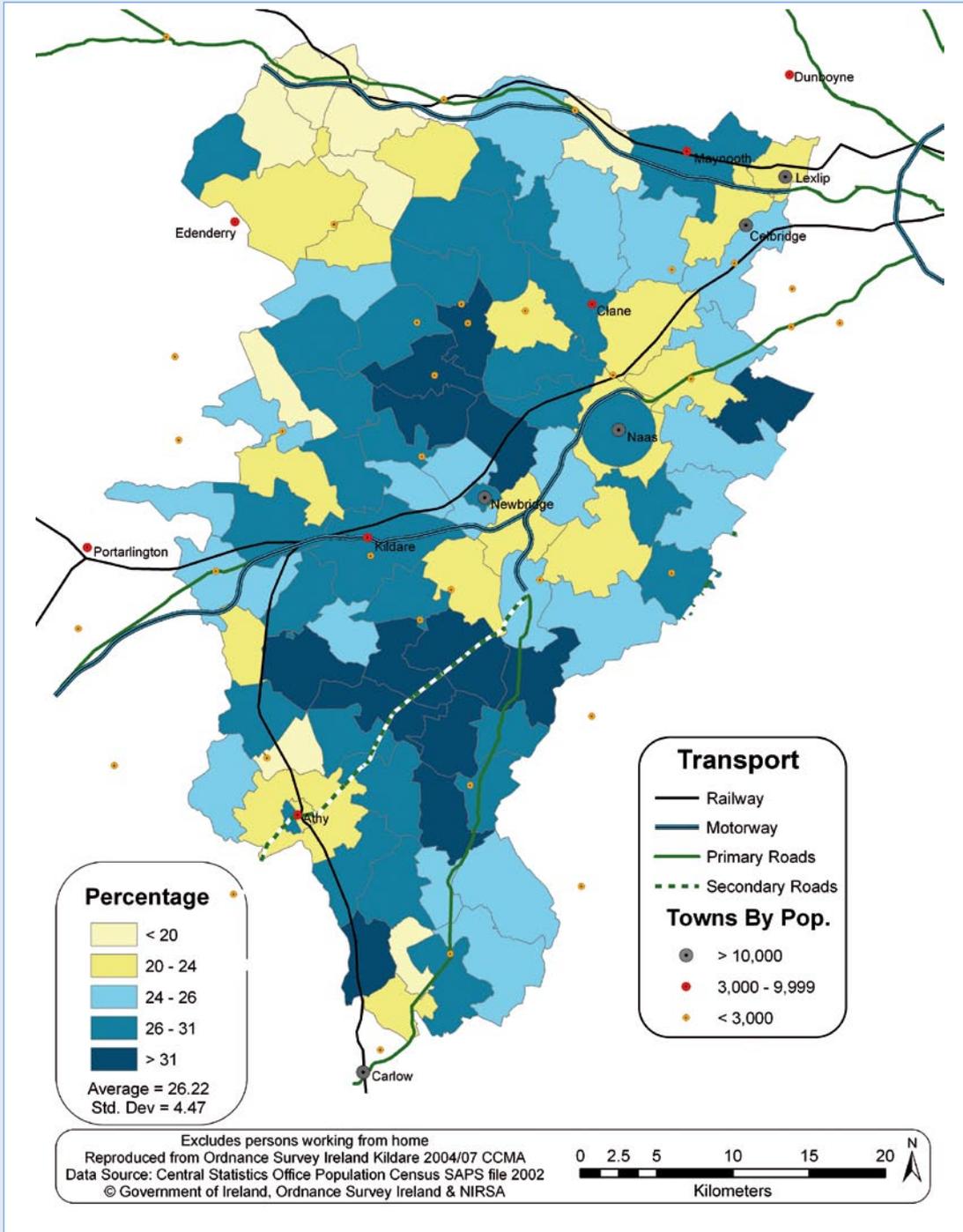
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MAP 108: PERSONS SPENDING <15 MINUTES TRAVELLING TO WORK
AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 15+ AT WORK 2002



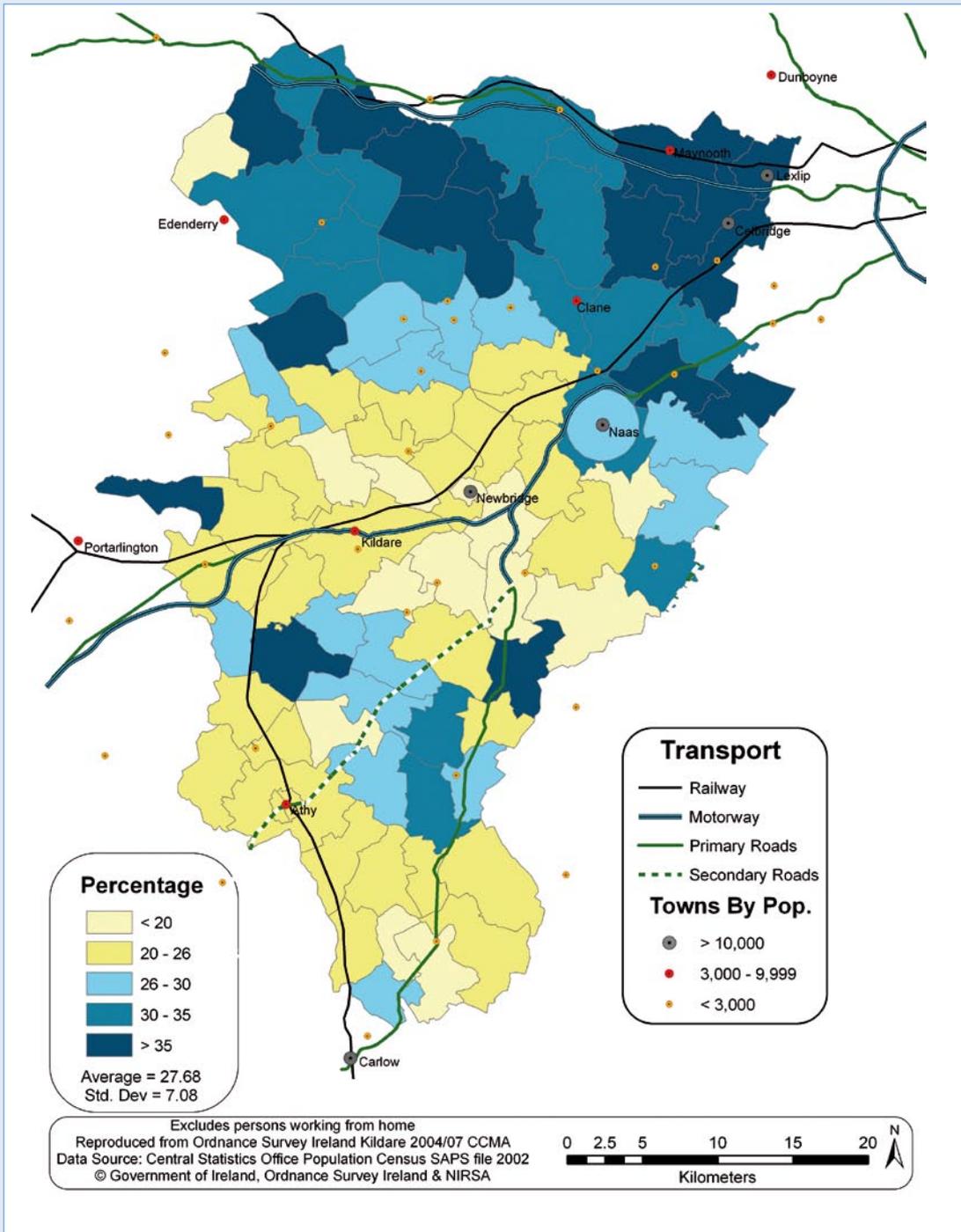
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MAP 109: PERSONS SPENDING 15-29 MINUTES TRAVELLING TO WORK
AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 15+ AT WORK 2002



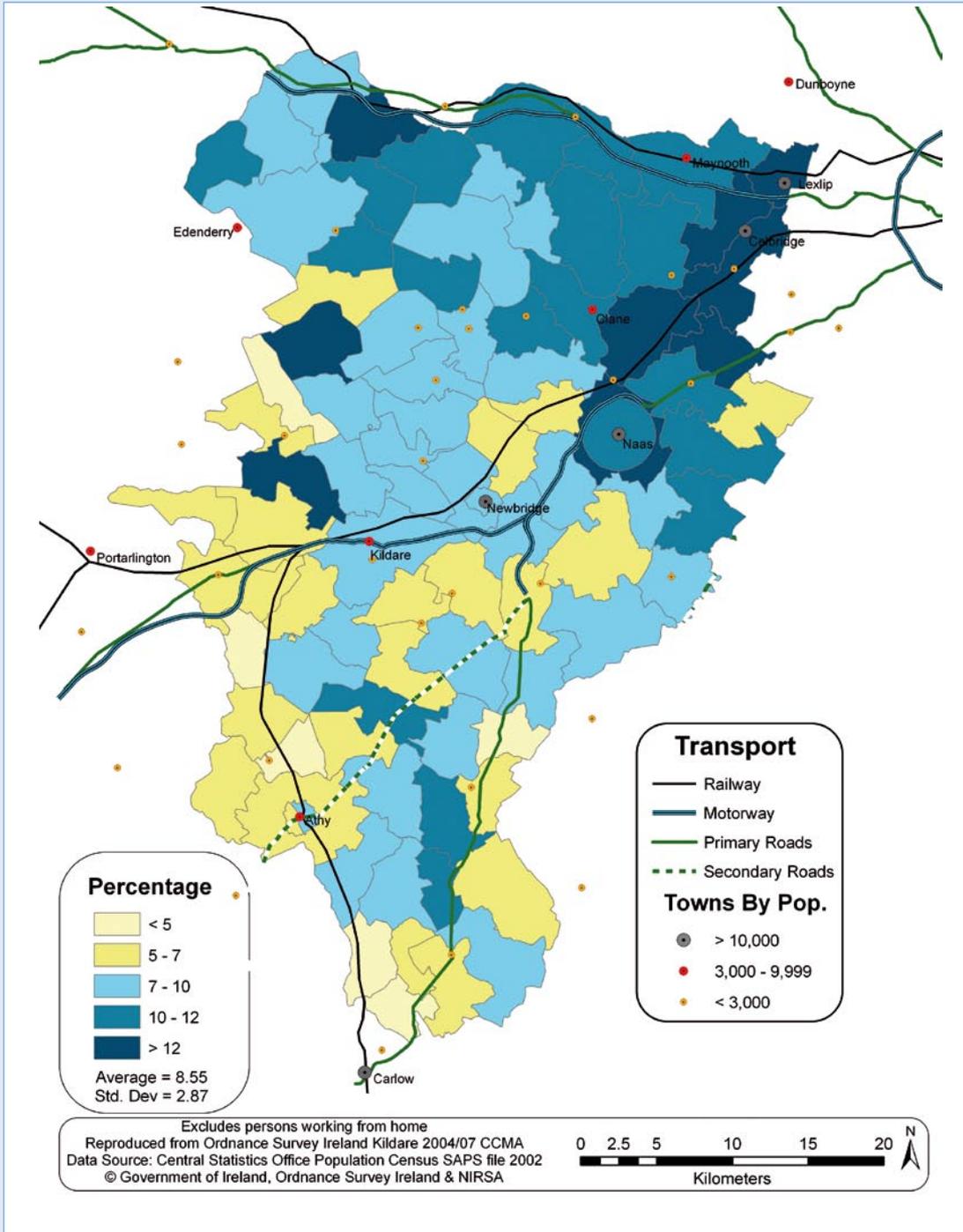
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MAP 110: PERSONS SPENDING 30-59 MINUTES TRAVELLING TO WORK
AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 15+ AT WORK 2002



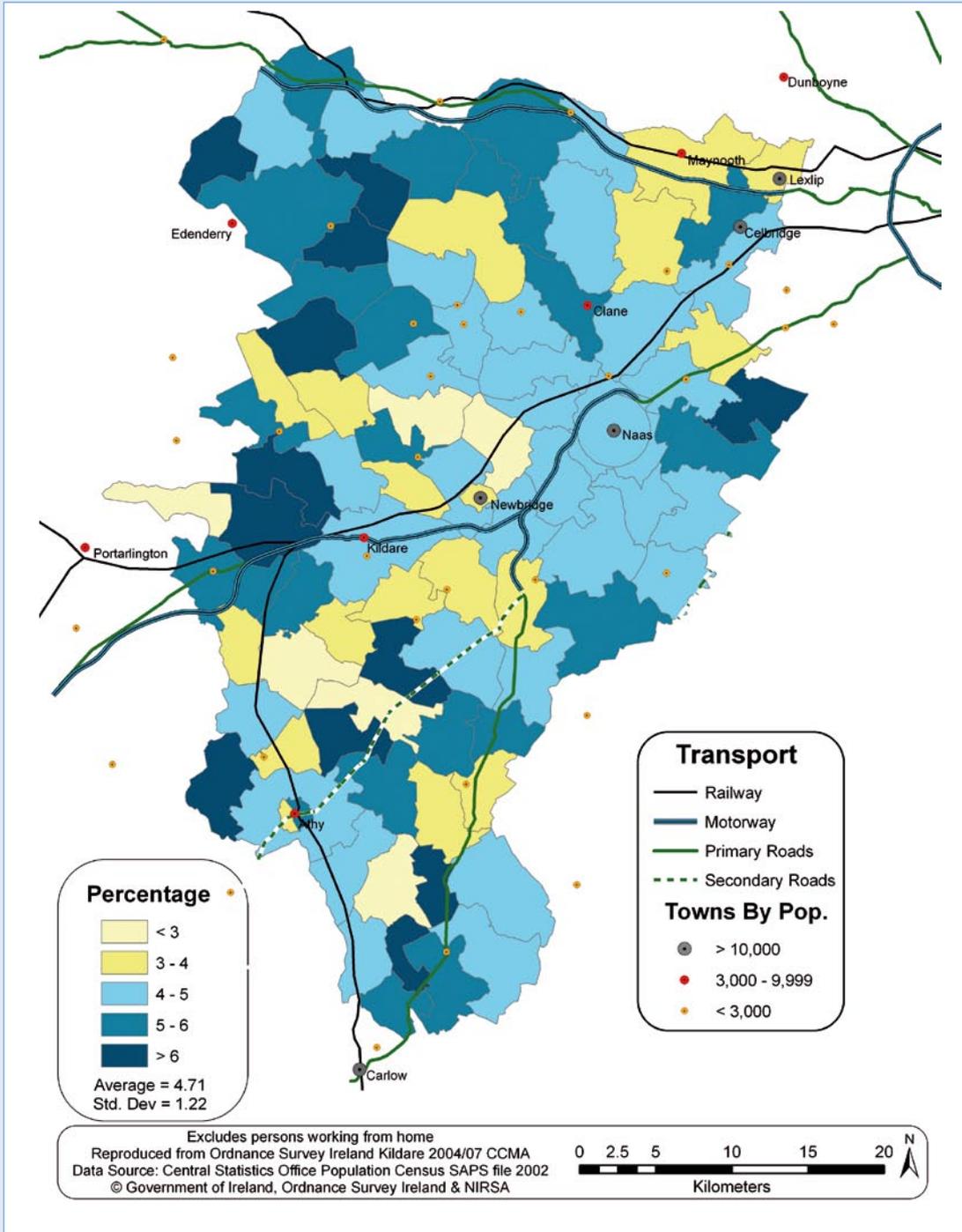
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MAP 111: PERSONS SPENDING 60-89 MINUTES TRAVELLING TO WORK
AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 15+ AT WORK 2002



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MAP 112: PERSONS SPENDING 90+ MINUTES TRAVELLING TO WORK
AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS 15+ AT WORK 2002



06

QUALITY OF LIFE

6.4 CHILDCARE

The availability or non-availability of childcare facilities is another factor that contributes to quality of life. The unavailability of childcare can contribute to social exclusion arising from an inability to participate in the workforce outside the home. Under the Government's National Development Plan childcare was identified as a priority and most recently (January 2006) the Government proposed an annual €1,000 payment to parents per child in recognition of the increasing burden of childcare costs.

The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform introduced the 'Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme (2000-2006)' to fund the development of childcare in Ireland while seeking to ensure that existing childcare services are not displaced by the introduction of new initiatives in the childcare area. The main objectives of this programme are:

- To maintain and support service provision
- To improve the quality of childcare in Ireland
- To increase the number and range of childcare facilities and childcare places
- To introduce a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of childcare services.

Under this plan County & City Childcare Committee's have been established to co-ordinate Childcare Services and promote a cross-agency co-operation in the delivery of Childcare Services at local level. In Kildare the committee was set up in 2001 and since its establishment €8,248,909 funding has been approved to-date for childcare in County Kildare. This has created 689 new childcare places. Childminders also receive funding and €63,000 has been allocated to Kildare in the form of Childminding Development Grants. There are no figures to-date on the numbers attending Childminding services but Kildare County Childcare Committee (KCCC) are undertaking some research over the coming year which should provide an insight into this area.

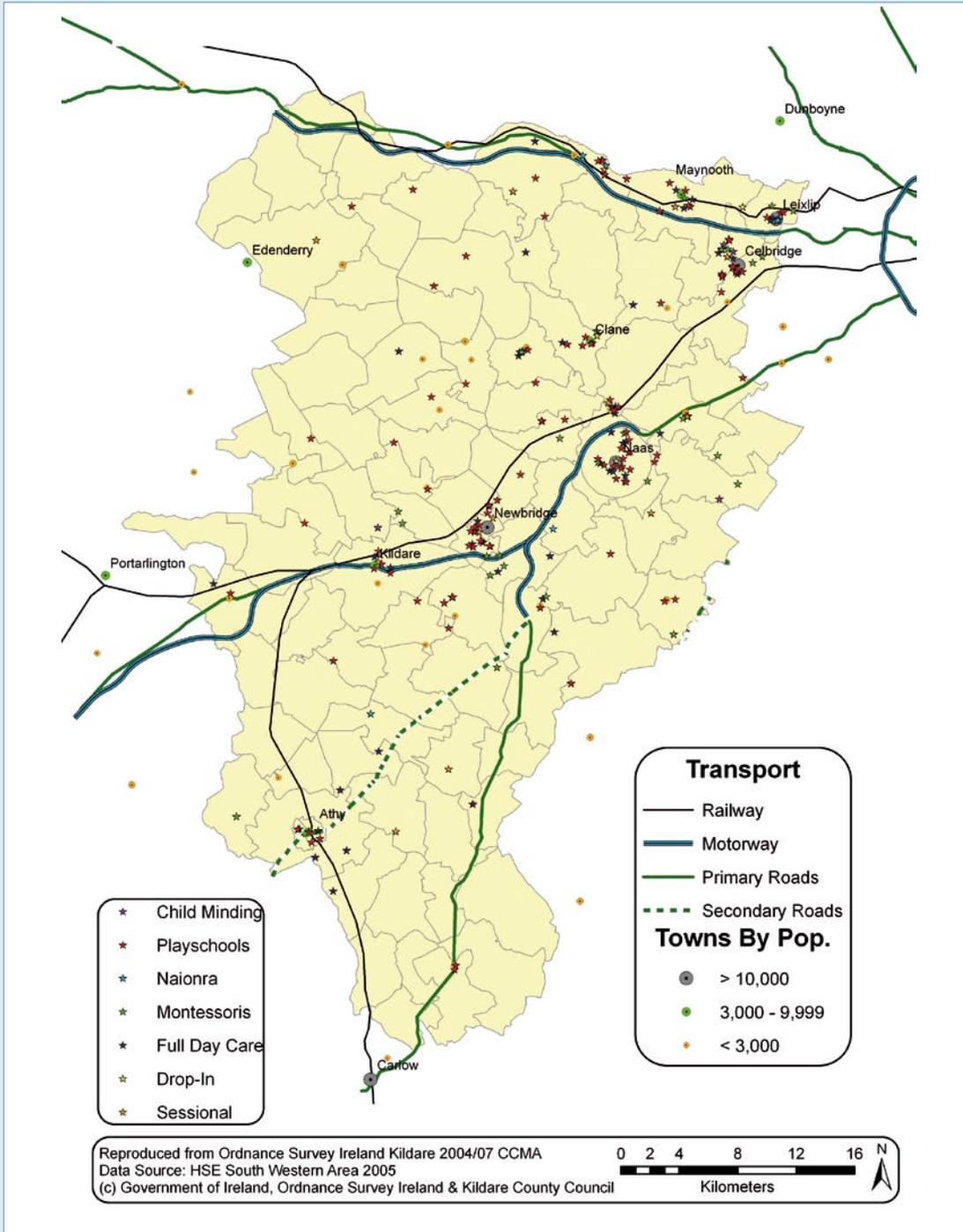
Map 113 illustrates the locations of current childcare provision throughout the county, based on figures from the HSE South Western Area. This is likely to be somewhat of an underestimation, however, as it does not take into account those who may provide a childminding service but are not a registered childcare facility.

According to a survey of parents and childcare providers carried out for Kildare County Childcare Committee in 2001 70% of families felt that the current childcare services on offer in County Kildare did not meet their needs (KCCC 2001). Almost two-thirds (61.9%) of parents interviewed had difficulties accessing paid childcare services. Further, many parents were unaware of the supports that exist in their locality and trying to get information about services on offer locally had caused difficulties for 64% of families.

More than two-thirds (64%) of childcare providers interviewed had more demand than they could supply and a majority cited planning restrictions as the major reason that prevented services operating at full capacity. Another difficulty identified by childcare providers was accessing operational funding (current expenditure as opposed to capital expenditure).

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MAP 113: CHILDCARE FACILITIES



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6.5 QUALITY OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The concept of sustainable development has at its core the idea that development aimed to meet the needs of the current generation must not reduce the capacity of the environment to sustain the needs of future generations. In effect all development actions need to take account of their potential environmental impacts. There are a number of areas in Kildare that are particularly important from an environmental perspective. These include seven Special Areas Of Conservation and 23 Natural Heritage Areas (**Maps 114 & 115**). Full details on each of these Areas are in Volume two of the County Development Plan (Council 2005).

6.5.1 *Landscape*

The rural parts of the county have been analysed by the Local Authority planners for their visual characteristics with a view to assisting developers and others who need to have regard to the sensitivity of different types of development in parts of the rural landscape where there are differing capacities to absorb development. Five types of Landscape Character Areas are identified on the basis of their visual quality and the particular sensitivities of each are identified in the Development Plan (2005). The five types of areas identified are:

- Upland areas
- Lowland areas
- Transition areas
- River valleys & water corridors
- Other landscape units.

6.5.2 *Water quality*

The quality of the river waters in Kildare is monitored by the County Council Environment Section. Kildare County Council is a partner in the Three River Basin District Projects, which were established as part of Ireland's response to the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). The WFD is law in Ireland since December 2003. Three river basin districts (RBD) are the Eastern RBD, the Shannon RBD and the North-South RBD. Approximately half of Kildare lies within the Eastern RBD Area. Basically, the WFD aims to provide a new comprehensive framework for the management of water resources and quality in the future to achieve "good ecological status" as required by the WFD. The term 'good ecological status' is applied to waters suitable for sustaining natural aquatic ecosystems, which are unaffected or only slightly impacted by human activity. In Kildare, the RBD Projects will draw on the experience gained by Kildare's participation in the recently completed EU funded Three Rivers Project.

Nationally, water quality monitoring began in Ireland in 1971 and since then there has been a steady decline in the quality of Ireland's rivers and lakes. The national trend is reflected in the data collected for the river Liffey. The Eastern River Basin District, which encompasses Co. Kildare has the lowest proportion of unpolluted channel of all the River Basin Districts. This can be largely explained by the fact that this is the most densely populated and developed region. The deterioration in water quality nationally in recent years has resulted from an increase in the total phosphorous load. This is mainly related to intensive farming practices and inadequately treated municipal waste-water. A management strategy has been prepared that will seek to reduce the extent of pollution through a combination of enforcement of codes of good practice

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QUALITY OF LIFE

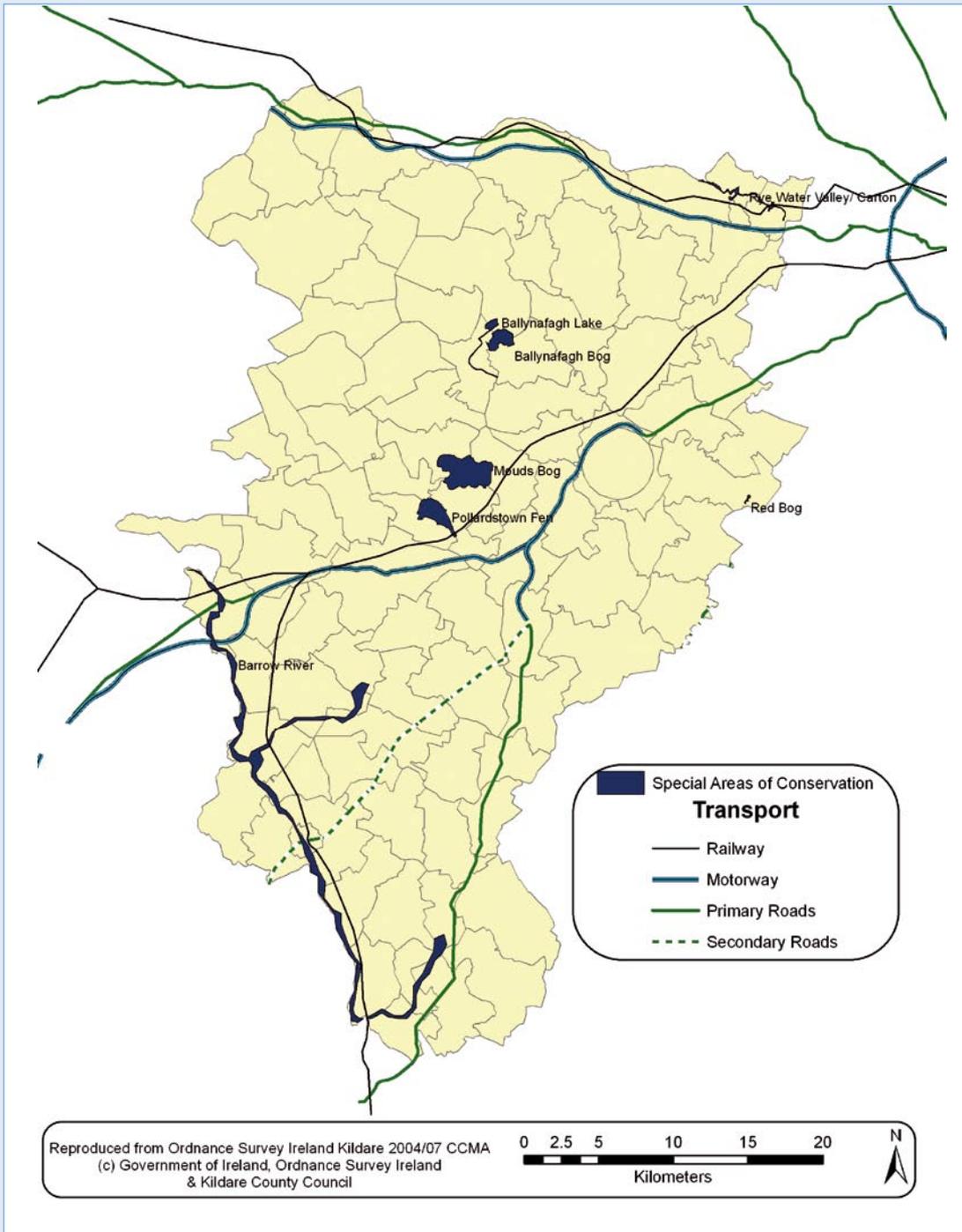
in all sectors (urban and rural) and promotion of awareness of the environmental hazards associated with certain activities. The overall objective is to restore the water system to 'good ecological status' as defined above.

6.5.3 *Waste management*

The disposal of waste material can impact very negatively on the quality of the environment if it is not carefully managed. Recycling is obviously a key component of any strategy for a sustainable approach to waste Management. Kildare County Council has already established recycling facilities in Kilcullen and Athy. The Council also proposes to increase the number of sites and diversity of material at Bring Centres, of which there are currently 37 (**Map 116**). The efforts of the Local Authority in relation to environmental management and enhancing environmental quality are complemented by activities supported throughout rural areas by Kildare LEADER.

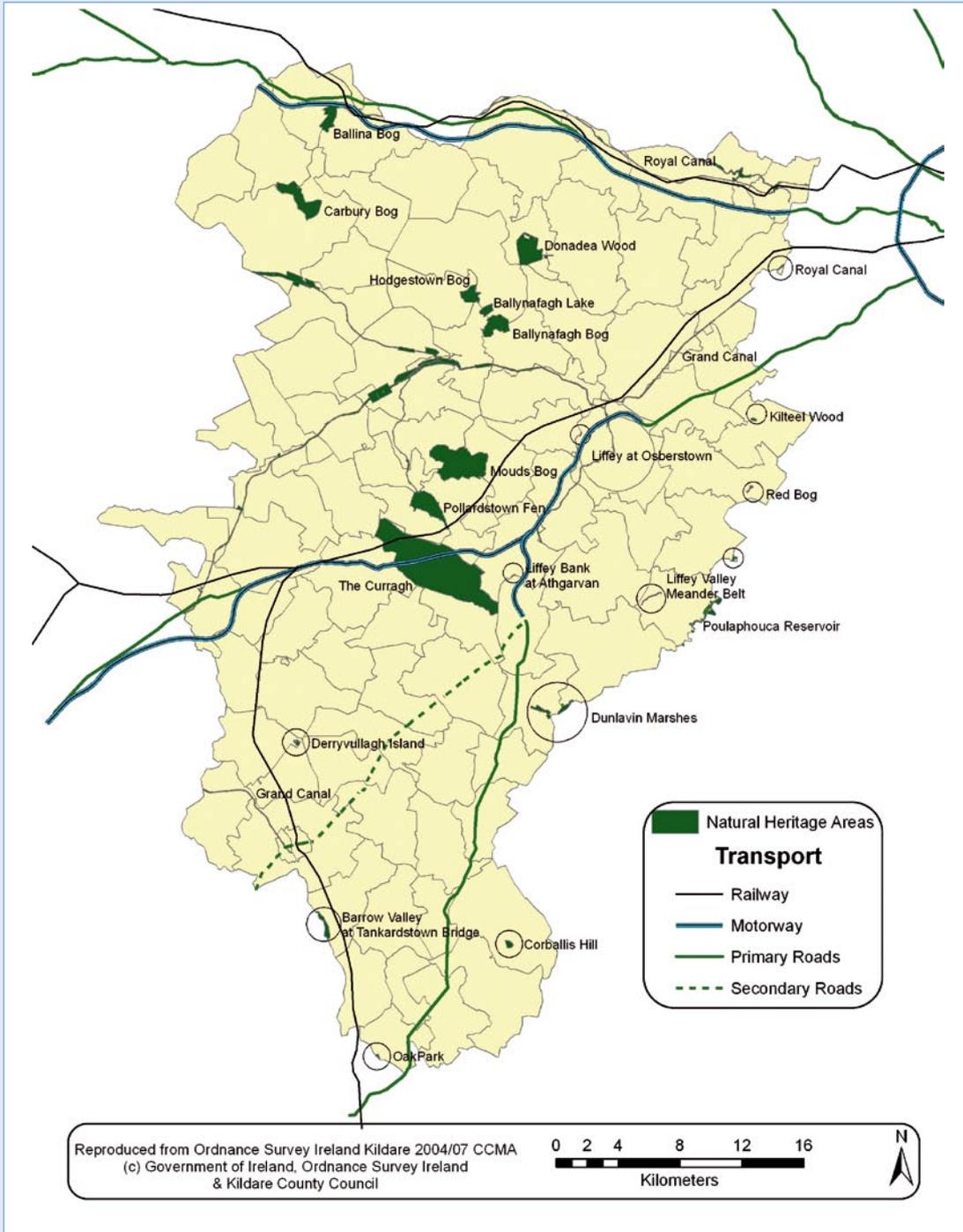
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MAP 114: SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION



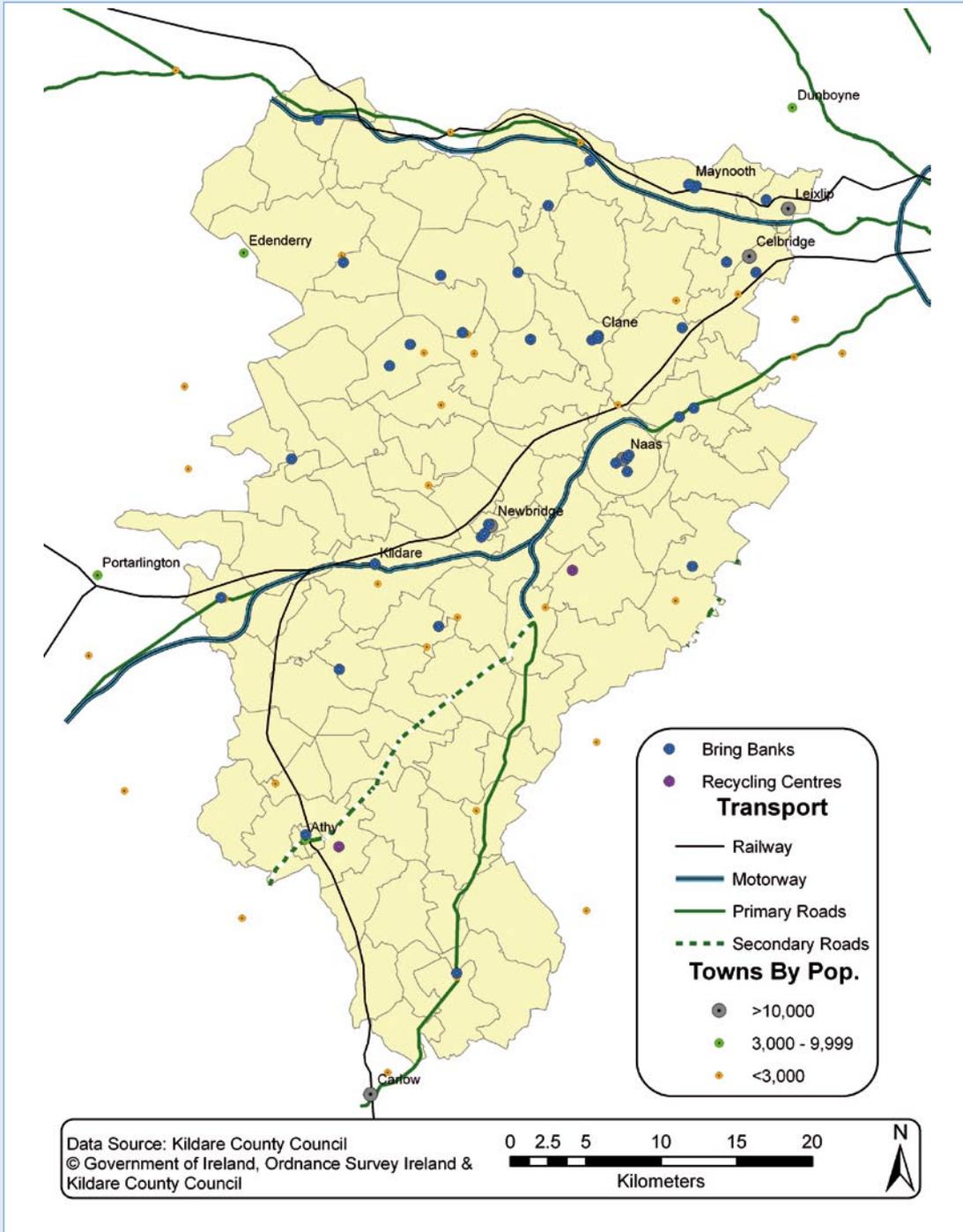
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MAP 115: NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS



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MAP 116: RECYCLING FACILITIES IN COUNTY KILDARE



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6.6 THE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Our heritage influences and enriches the character of our lives and is part of our identity. The Heritage Act (1995) defines heritage as including the following: monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, inland waterways, geology, landscapes, heritage parks, gardens, seascapes and wrecks.

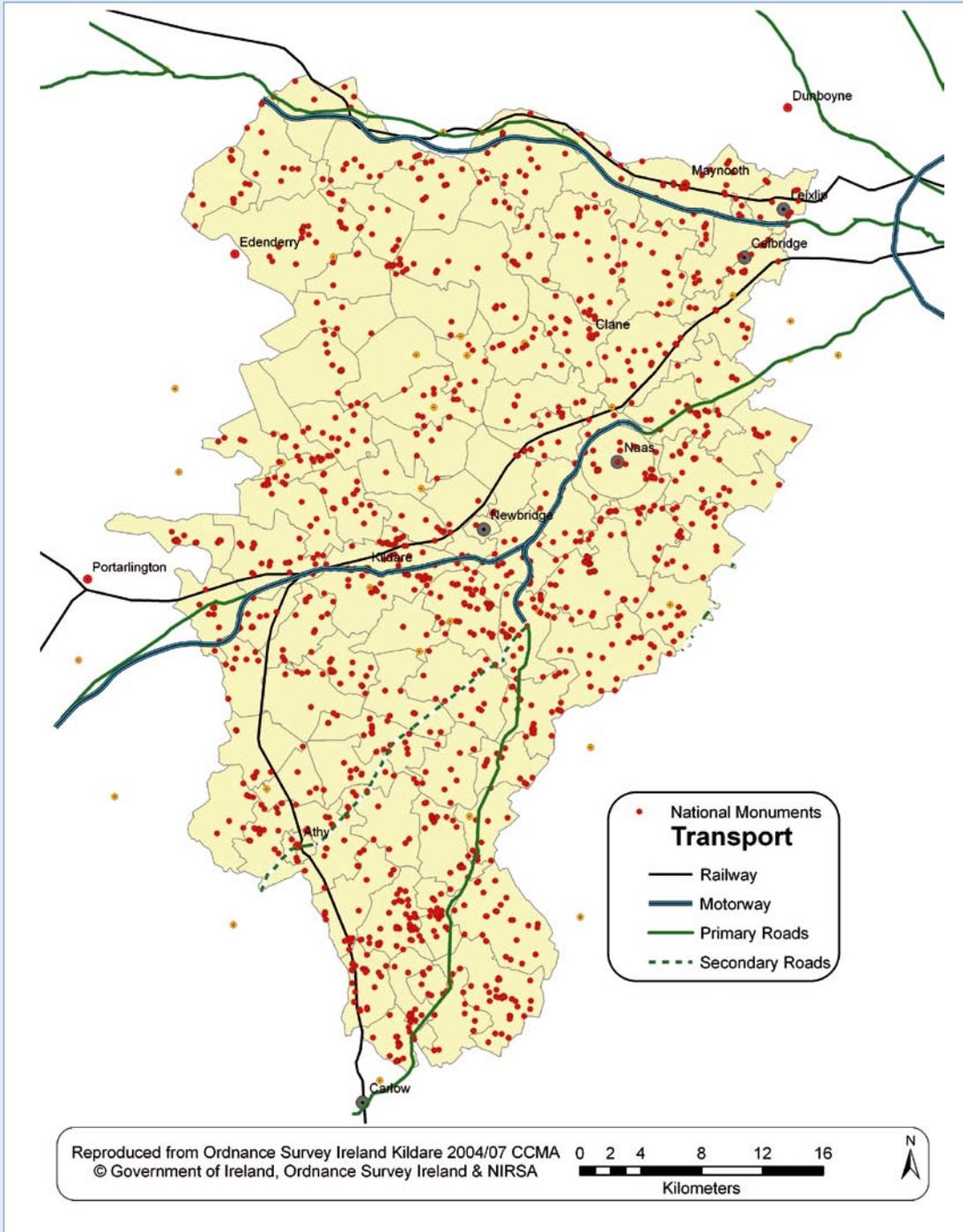
Kildare has a very rich heritage of archaeological sites and monuments (**Map 117**), historical buildings, country houses and demesnes (see also **Map 67**) and vernacular buildings. In addition there are many items of industrial archaeological interest such as mills, canals, roads and rail bridges. All of these resources combine to provide social, educational, recreational, aesthetic and economic benefits to the county and thus contribute to the quality of life that can be experienced by Kildare residents. However, many of these resources are coming under increasing pressure as a result of the rapid development in many areas of the county and there is a need to ensure that a balance is struck between necessary developments and the safeguarding of our heritage. Heritage is particularly important in Ireland as it plays such a strong role in the tourism industry here.

In order to protect heritage for future generations it will be necessary to put in place appropriate management strategies. The importance of our heritage has been recognised by the Government with the publication of The National Heritage Plan (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & The Islands, 2002). The plan sets out a vision for heritage conservation and management. A key priority of the plan is the preparation of County Heritage Plans and the appointment of Heritage Officers within local authorities. In 2002, Kildare County Council, in partnership with the Heritage Council, appointed a Heritage Officer. It is the role of the Heritage Officer to facilitate the development and implementation of a 5-year Heritage Plan for County Kildare, a process that began in 2004. The Heritage Plan is a cross-agency county strategy for the identification, protection, conservation, management, enhancement and interpretation of the heritage.

The Census of Population provides data on the number of persons aged over three years who can speak Irish. The data provides a crude measure of competence (subjectively assessed) in relation to ability to speak the language but it does not provide any information on the level of usage of Irish on a regular basis. **Map 118** shows that the highest proportions (approximately 50%) were in districts in the north-east of the county as well as a number of districts in the west and mid-west of the county. The high values in the north-east reflect the younger age profile and the higher educational levels of the population. Kildare does not have any official Gaeltacht areas.

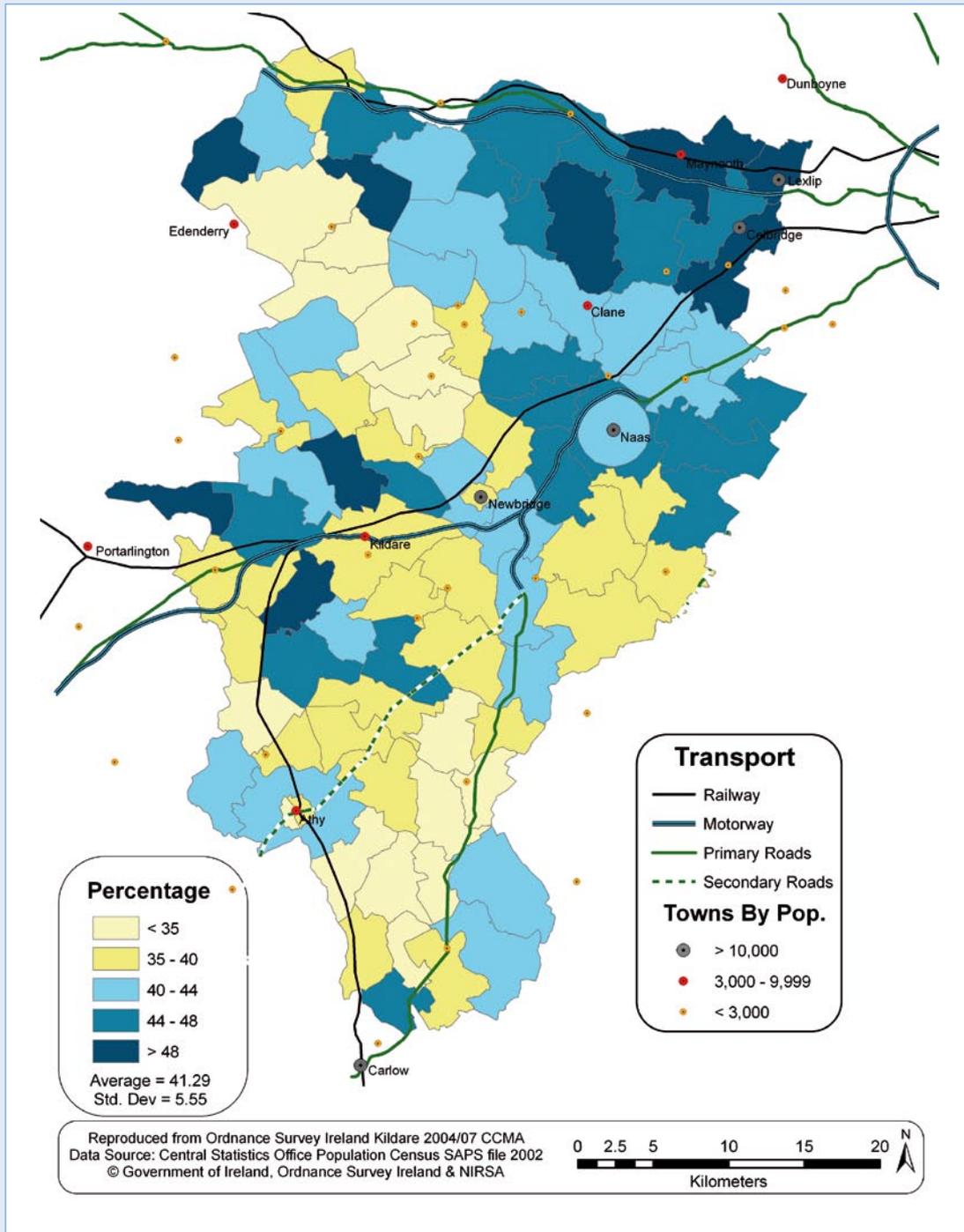
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MAP 117: NATIONAL SITES & MONUMENTS IN COUNTY KILDARE



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MAP 118: PERSONS WITH THE ABILITY TO SPEAK IRISH



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QUALITY OF LIFE

6.7 HEALTH

The quality of people's health is clearly a major influence on the quality of their lives. The Health Services Executive South Western Area has overall responsibility for delivery of a very wide range of health care programmes and also for provision of facilities, general and specialist, to cater for the needs of the population. The activities of the HSE are complemented by a number of supports provided by the Department of Social, Family & Community Affairs.

6.7.1 Drugs

Recent years have brought increased availability and usage of drugs in Ireland. While it is difficult to assess actual drug usage in Kildare, proxy measures, such as, the numbers from Kildare who undergo treatment for drug abuse and the number of arrests for drug possession give a good indicator of levels of drug activity.

Figures from the Health Research Board (HRB) on treated drug users living in Kildare from 1998-2003 indicate that 510 persons from Kildare were treated during this period (**Table 26**).

Table 26: Drug users living in Kildare 1998-2003

Treatment Status	Frequency
New Client	356
Old Client	151
Total	507
Not Known	3
Total	510

HRB, 2005

Analysis of the age breakdown of this group reveals that the vast majority of those treated were aged between 15 and 24 (**Table 27**). Recent years have also seen an increase of those in older age groups (30-39) presenting for treatment. **Table 27** further illustrates that treatments peaked in 2000.

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Table 27: Drug users in Kildare: age-group and year treated.

	Year treated						Total
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	
10-14	3	0	0	0	1	1	5
15-19	22	33	30	11	16	7	119
20-24	18	28	52	35	33	36	202
25-29	7	13	16	15	24	23	98
30-34	3	3	3	3	8	11	31
35-39	3	4	3	1	7	4	22
40-44	0	0	2	1	1	4	8
45-49	0	0	0	2	2	1	5
50-54	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Not known	0	1	2	14	1	0	18
Total	56	82	108	82	95	87	510

HRB, 2005

In terms of gender, the majority of those treated during this period were males (**Table 28**).

Table 28: Drug users in Kildare: gender and year treated

	Year treated						Total
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	
Male	43	62	84	52	57	58	356
Female	11	20	24	29	36	26	146
Total	54	82	108	81	93	84	502

HRB, 2005

The main drug type that treatment was given for was Opiates, followed by Cannabis (**Table 29**).

Table 29: Drug users in Kildare: main problem drug and year treated

	Year treated						Total
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	
Opiates	21	38	61	57	70	66	313
Ecstasy (and other mdma)	3	14	15	11	2	1	46
Cocaine	2	3	4	2	6	5	22
Amphetamines	2	3	0	0	0	0	5
Benzodiazepines	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
Volatile inhalants	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Cannabis	24	23	27	12	15	14	115
Other substances	1	0	0	0	2	0	3
Total	56	82	108	82	95	87	510

HRB, 2005

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Of those who used these drugs, 75% were polydrug users, that is, they used more than one type of drug. An interesting finding from this analysis is that more than 82% of drug users from Kildare were treated outside of Kildare (most likely Dublin) for their drug problems. Whether this is reflective of a lack of facilities in Kildare or merely proximity of services in Dublin is not clear. An analysis of where in the county those presenting for treatment were from, would provide more insight into this.

Data from the South West Regional Drugs Task Force gives an overview of drug related detections in some of the towns in Co. Kildare (**Table 30**). Overall, detections of Heroine usage are lowest in the county, followed by Cocaine and Ecstasy with Cannabis being the most common drug detected. In general detections were much more common in the larger urban areas like Athy, Kildare and Naas (however, this may be influenced by the location of Garda stations in these areas as opposed to where the detections had taken place). Naas in particular had peaks in 2003 for Cocaine, Ecstasy and Cannabis detection which was likely associated with a number of large outdoor concerts that took place in Punchestown that year. Detection figures for Maynooth seem quite low given that there is a large student population in the town. Unfortunately figures for Leixlip and Newbridge were not included in this dataset. Geocoding of both the HRB and the Drugs Task Force datasets would enable a more in-depth geographical analysis and would also illustrate whether there was a need for drug treatment facilities or targeted drugs education in particular areas. It is hoped that future collaborations with the HSE South Western Area and the County Research and Statistics Office will facilitate such an analysis.

Table 30: Overview of drug related detections in Kildare towns

	Heroine			Cocaine			Ecstasy			Cannabis		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Athy	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	2	3	8	11	25
Ballitore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ballymore Eustace	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Castledermot	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Celbridge	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	15	8
Clane	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	14	6	7
Coill Dubh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Derrinturn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Kilcock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	5
Kildare	1	2	1	2	0	1	3	0	2	14	10	21
Kill	4	1	0	1	3	1	2	0	0	1	5	5
Maynooth	0	1	0	2	1	0	3	0	2	6	2	1
Monasterevin	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	1	1
Naas	0	4	1	48	14	7	107	7	7	164	50	38
Total	9	10	4	55	20	11	116	10	14	228	103	113

South Western Regional Drugs Task Force, 2005

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6.7.2 Cancer incidence

Cancer incidence is quite an emotive issue. It is only in recent years that cancer incidence can be analysed on a sub-county level. Data from the National Cancer Registry Ireland (NCRI) and the ERHA (Eastern Regional Health Authority) indicates that there were 2,260 cancer incidences from 1994-2000 inclusive, in County Kildare. This analysis is based on primary malignant neoplasms only, excluding non-melanoma skin cancer, and using ED-coded data only. Because the age composition can vary between areas, and cancer incidence and mortality increases with advancing age, variations in crude incidence rates (the total number of new cases in the area per year divided by the population at risk) provide an unreliable measure for comparison between areas. Standardisation of morbidity rates makes allowances for differences in age composition of local populations so Standardised Incidence Ratios (SIRs) were calculated and plotted by the ERHA for each ED in Co. Kildare.

There are a number of facts that need to be taken into account when interpreting patterns of cancer incidence (NCRI, 2005):

- Cancer is more common than most people realise. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Ireland, following heart disease. About 30% of Irish people now living will eventually have cancer. Over the years, cancer will strike about three out of four families.
- Cancer is not one disease. Cancer is a group of more than 100 diseases characterized by uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells. Different types of cancer have different causes, different rates of occurrence, and different chances for survival. What turns a breast cell into breast cancer isn't what turns a white blood cell into leukaemia. Therefore, we cannot assume all the different types of cancer in a community share a common cause.
- The risk of having cancer increases with age. While cancer occurs in people of all ages, cancer rates rise sharply among people over 45 years of age. When a community consists primarily of people over the age of 45, we would expect more cancer than in a more mixed area. We would expect even more cancer if most people were over the age of 60.
- While the exact cause of most cancers is unknown, the most common types of cancer are associated with lifestyle factors. Cancer may be caused by a variety of factors acting alone or together over many years. Scientists estimate that most cancers are associated with factors related to how we live, called lifestyle factors.
- Environmental factors account for a small percentage of all cancer deaths. Many people believe that cancer is usually caused by exposure to toxic substances in the environment but scientists estimate that fewer than 10%, and probably no more than 3-4% of cancer deaths are related to external environmental factors such as radiation and toxic chemicals.
- Cancers today are usually related to events that happened many years ago. Cancer does not develop immediately after contact with a carcinogen. Instead, there is often a long period, 15 to 30 years, between the exposure to a carcinogen and medical diagnosis of cancer. This makes it very difficult to track what caused the cancer.

Map 119 illustrates the pattern of cancer incidence for all cancers, excluding non-melanoma skin cancer in Kildare from 1994-2000. There were no EDs that had a Standardised Incidence Rate (SIR) that was significantly above what would be expected. However, a number of areas, for example, in the hinterlands of Athy and Naas had incidence rates that were significantly below expected.

Because there are eighty-nine EDs in Kildare and so many different types of cancer involved and given the random nature of cancer, the chances are that, in relative terms, there will be at least one ED which appears to have an elevated incidence of cancer. However, this does not say anything about the aetiology

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of the disease. Any elevated incidence could be due to the location of , for example, a nursing home in a particular ED but is most likely due to chance and not to any casual factor. In any case, however, there are no significant elevated clusters of cancer incidence in Kildare.

6.7.3 *Care of the elderly*

The demographic profile of the population is changing with increasing numbers of people living into old age. While most people will have an active and healthy old age, a sizeable minority of older people are likely to require special care as they grow old. Research indicates that many older people are in need of some care and some in need of considerable care. In addition, the growing need for there to be two earners in a household to meet economic demands, such as mortgages, means that there are fewer people in the home to take care of elderly persons full-time. **Map 120** illustrates the location of nursing homes in the county (Kildare is incorporated into Community Care Area 9). If the locations of nursing homes in County Kildare are considered in the context of **Maps 19 & 22**, which illustrate the percentages of those aged over 65 and the elderly dependency ratio respectively, there seems to be a mismatch in service delivery for the elderly as there are higher proportions of elderly persons towards the south of the county but no nursing homes located in the vicinity, however, there is a geriatric unit in Athy hospital which may provide some services. Provision of specialised care of the elderly in the south of the county is something that may need to be addressed in the future.

6.8 SOCIAL SUPPORTS AND SECURITY

Over recent years there has been much concern over the provision of postal services in many rural areas. In addition to their primary function in relation to postal services the post office network is used for a wide variety of other services including:

- Department of Social, Community & Family Affairs payments;
- Television licence sales;
- Bill payments (e.g. Eircom, Bord Gais etc.);
- Money transfers
- Savings and investments
- National Lottery.

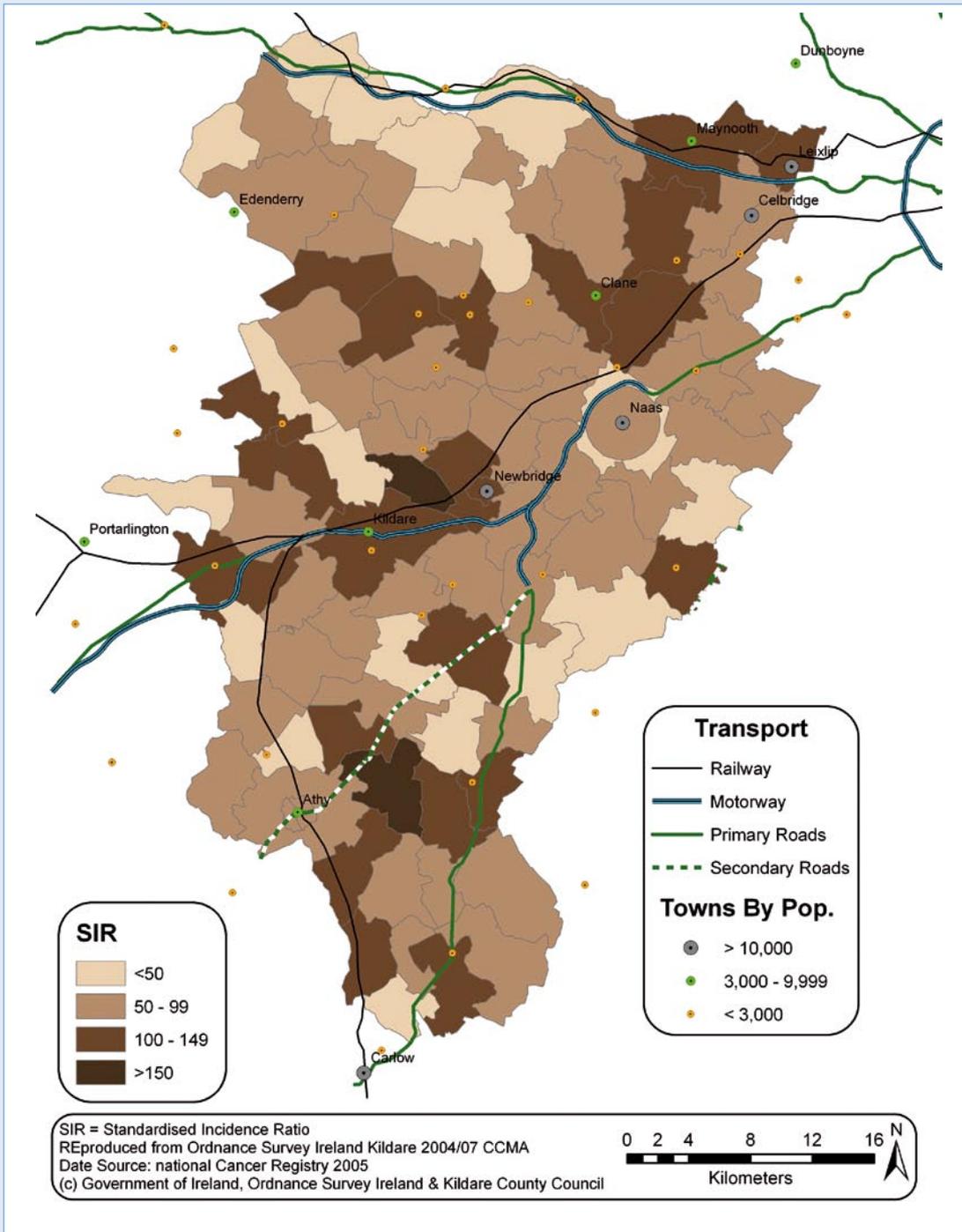
Rural post offices also serve as important meeting places for people who may have limited opportunities to visit the local village. Recent analysis has revealed that many post offices are loss-making operations and that the overall situation is likely to deteriorate further over the medium term. In order to maintain the rural network it will become increasingly necessary to generate new business. One option is that all government departments should be required to maximise the amount of their business that can be channelled through the rural network. There were 38 post offices in Kildare in 2005 (**Map 121**).

Personal security and concerns about the security of personal property are increasingly an issue that affects the quality of many people's lives. While the issue is relevant to almost all age groups it is particularly important for elderly people especially those living alone. There are 19 Garda stations dispersed throughout the county (**Map 122**).

Fire fighting is another important safety service provided by the Local Authority. There are six fire stations at strategic locations throughout the county (**Map 123**): Athy, Monasterevin, Leixlip, Newbridge, Naas and Maynooth.

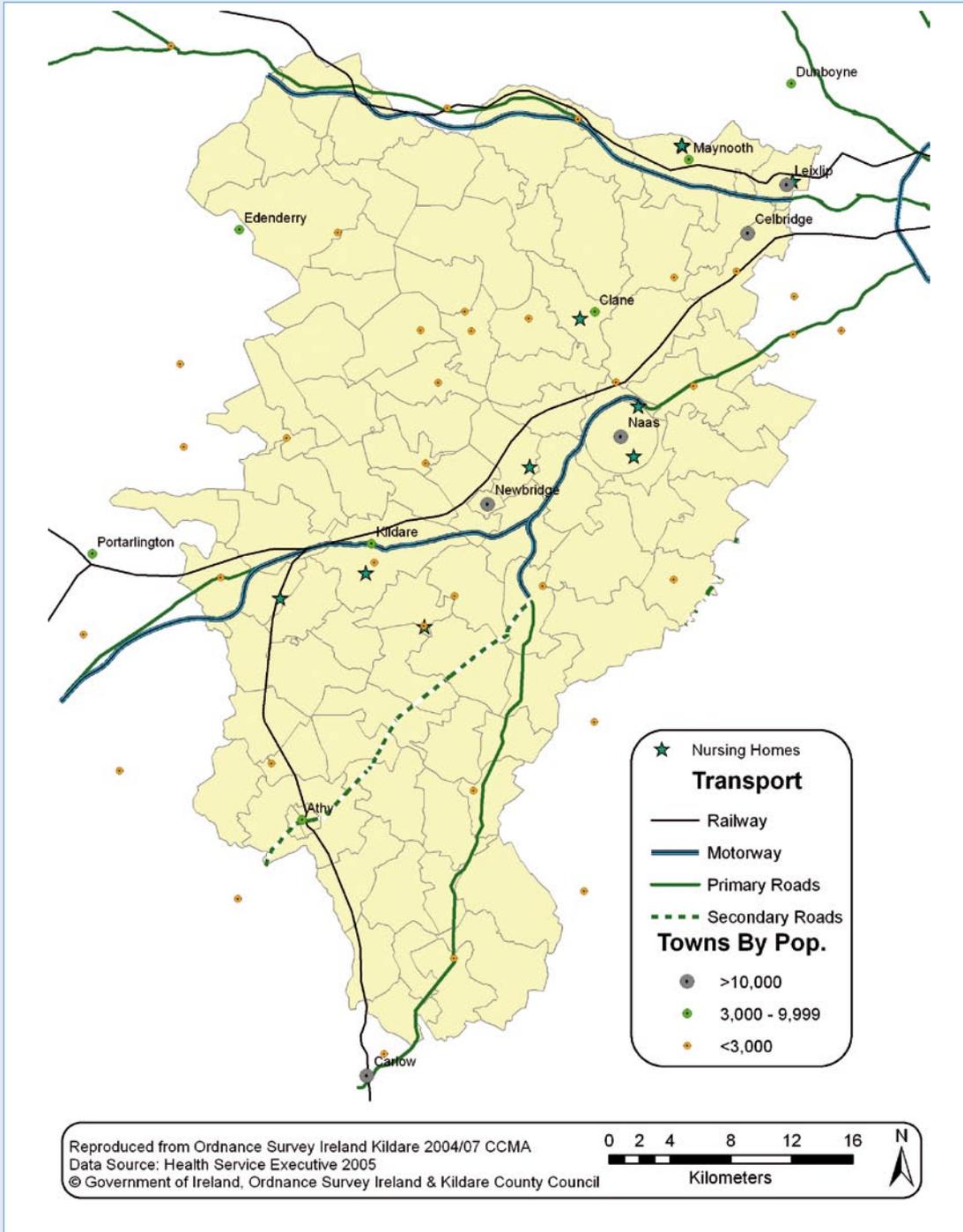
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MAP 119: STANDARDISED INCIDENCE RATIOS OF CANCER IN COUNTY KILDARE 1994-2000



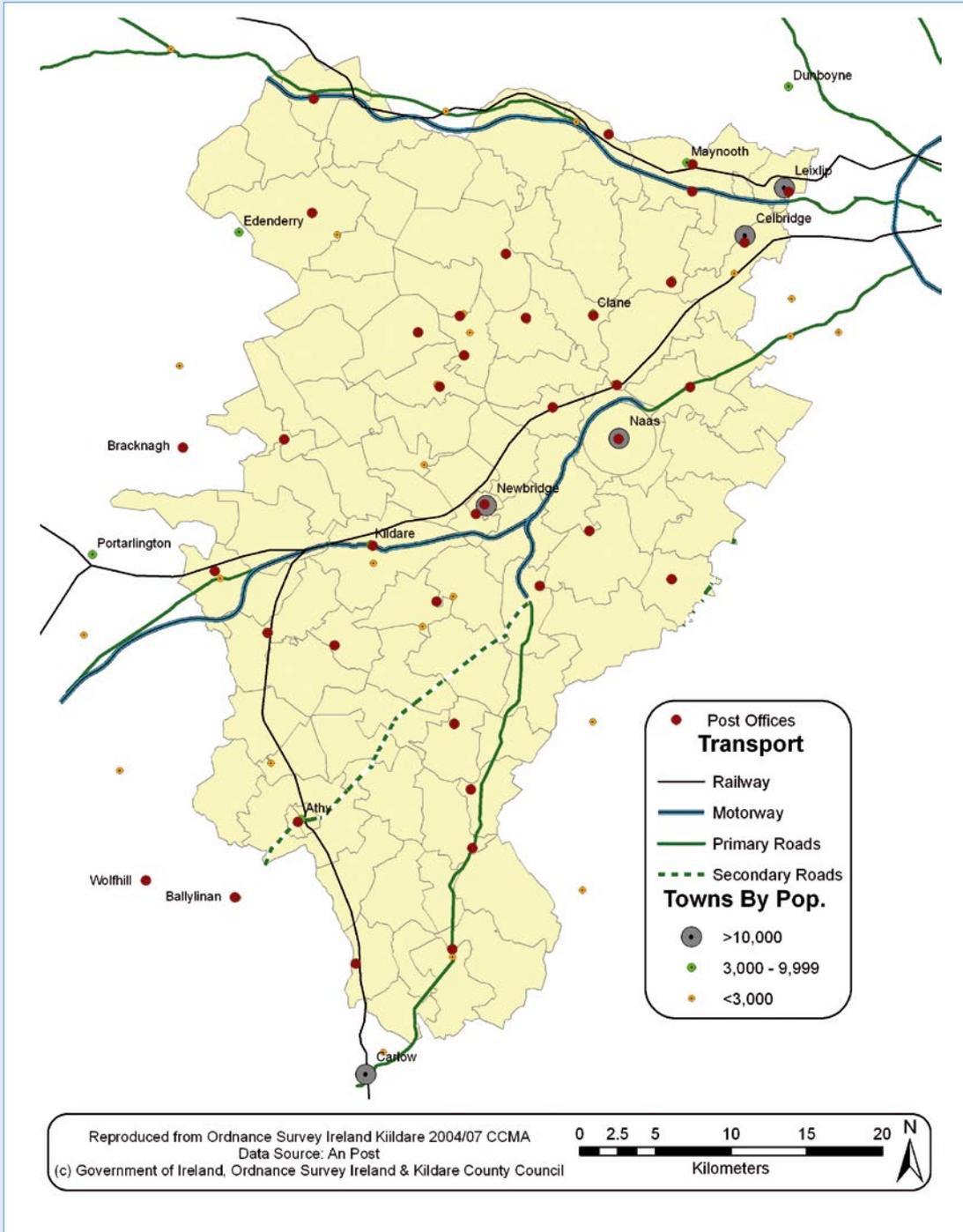
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MAP 120: NURSING HOMES IN COUNTY KILDARE



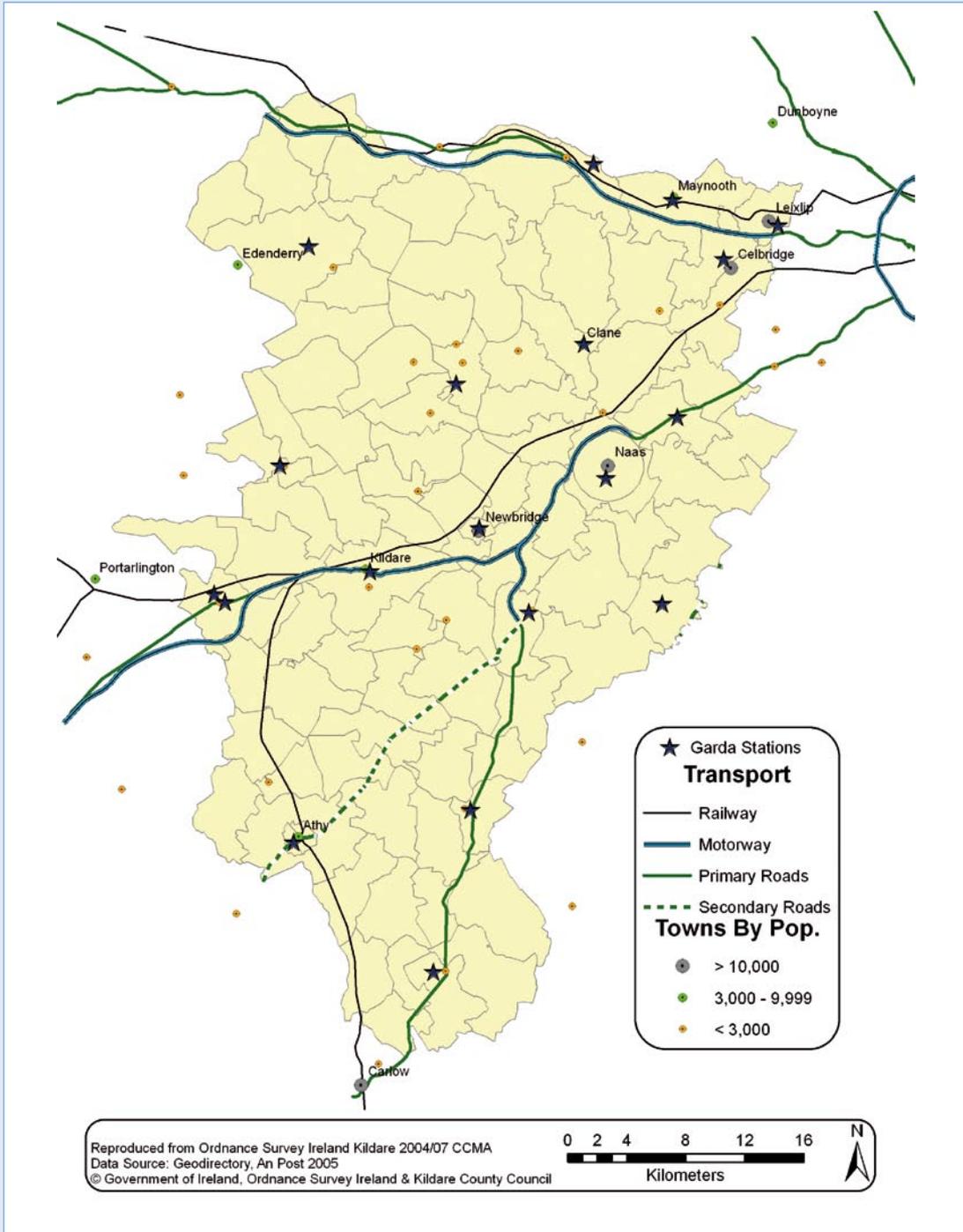
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MAP 121: POST OFFICES IN COUNTY KILDARE



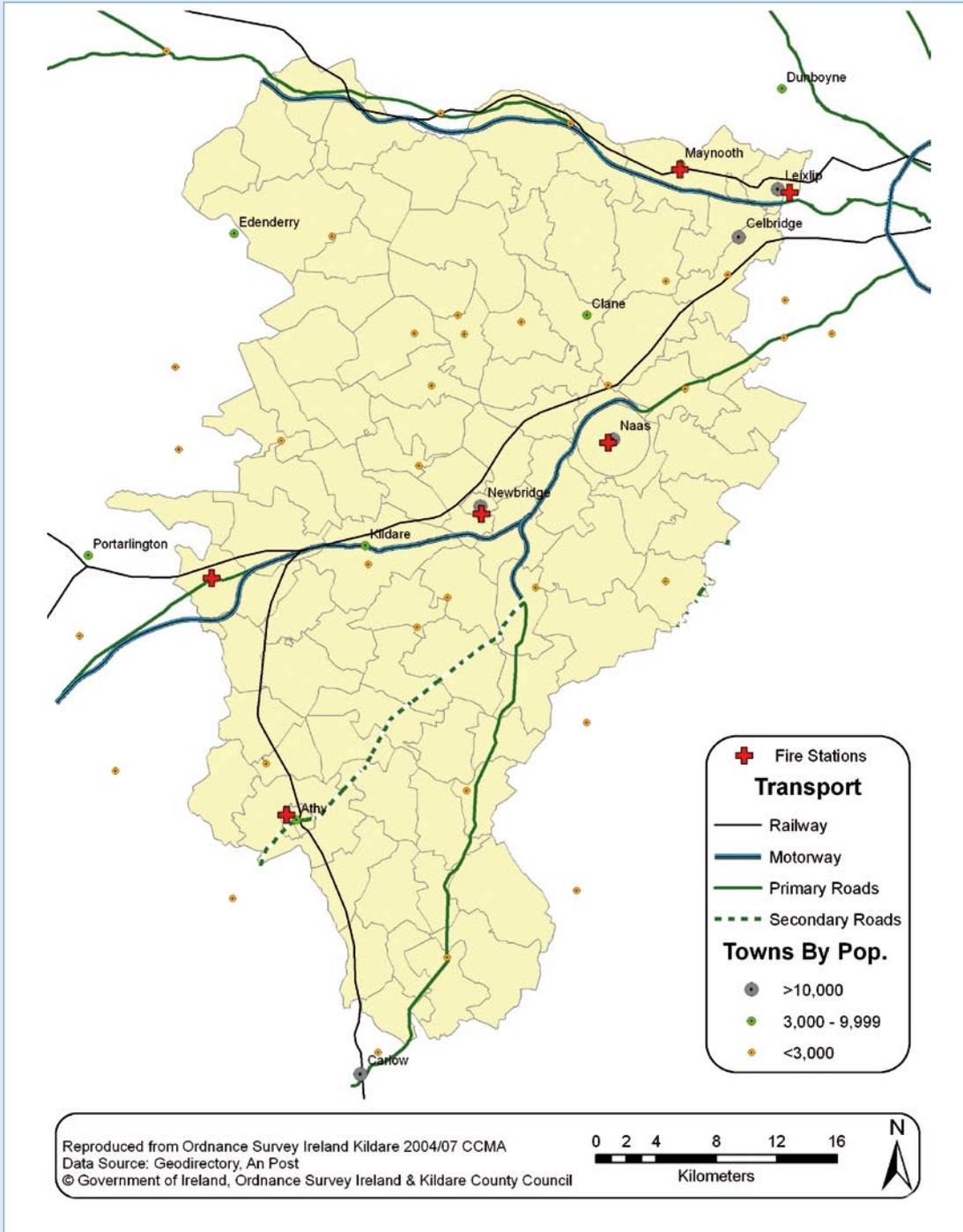
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MAP 122: GARDA STATIONS IN COUNTY KILDARE



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MAP 123: FIRE STATIONS IN COUNTY KILDARE



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6.9 RECREATION AND LEISURE FACILITIES

The availability of recreation and leisure facilities can enhance the quality of life that people may experience in different parts of the county. Information on recreation and leisure facilities is limited due to the absence of a comprehensive database. Almost every village has facilities for some field-based sports. In addition there are 17 equestrian facilities (including three race courses, Goffs Bloodstock Sales and the Irish National Stud) and 20 golf courses. There are also a number of walking routes, such as, the towpath trails along the canals. There are public swimming pools in Naas, and Athy. Residents of Kildare have access to museums, theatres and art galleries in Newbridge, Kilcullen, Kilcock and Straffan. Through its County Arts Officer and on-going development of its library service (see below) the County Council plays a central role in the development of the cultural life in the community.

6.10 PARITY OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION

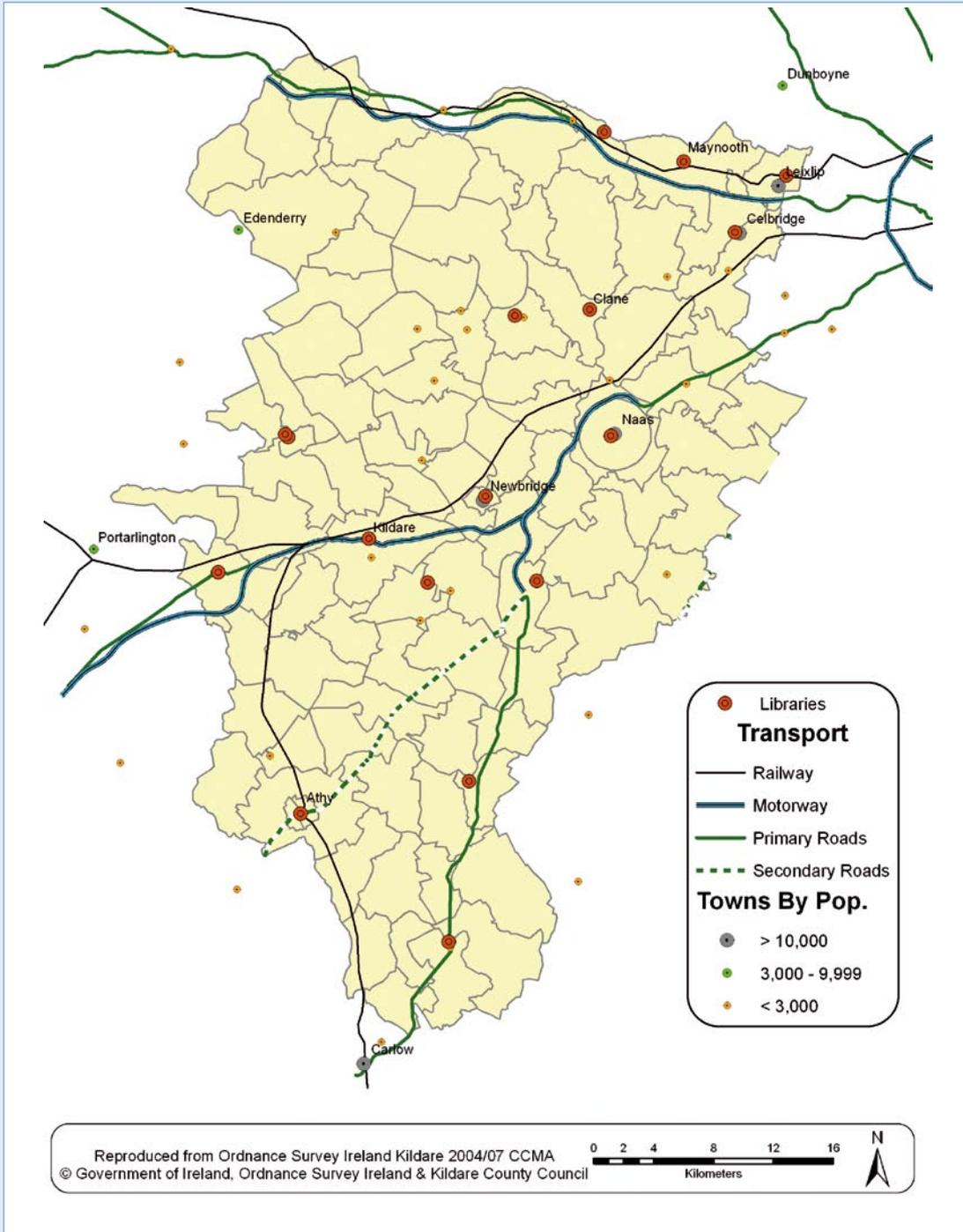
The more educated society has become, the greater has been the demand for access to information in a variety of formats. In order to cater for increasing numbers of readers there is a need for a well resourced and accessible library service. Kildare County Council supports the county public library service from its headquarters in Newbridge. There are, in addition, 16 branches throughout the county with only the very north-west appearing to be relatively poorly serviced, **Map 124**.

The arrival of information and communication technologies has brought about new ways of collecting and sharing information. If used properly the new technologies provide substantial opportunities for improving local democracy. Kildare County Council, through the implementation of the national policy "An ICT Vision for Local Government" has been to the forefront in ICT developments within the local government sector. The Draft Development Plan was placed on the Internet for the duration of the review period and Kildare County Councils website was short listed in 2005 for the Best Local Public Sector Website in the Eircom Golden Spiders Irish Internet Awards. The availability of Internet access at public venues will greatly expand the level of access to the widest possible range of information sources on a basis that has the potential to support a more inclusive society.

Initiatives to improve access to information in the county have been coupled with parallel initiatives to facilitate greater levels of citizen participation and the concerns of other stakeholders in decisions that affect different aspects of development. Through extensive adoption of the new partnership model in relation to a variety of complex tasks there has been a gradual transition towards a new form of governance that combines elements of both representative and participative democracy. The formation of the County Development Board is an important initiative in furthering this transition.

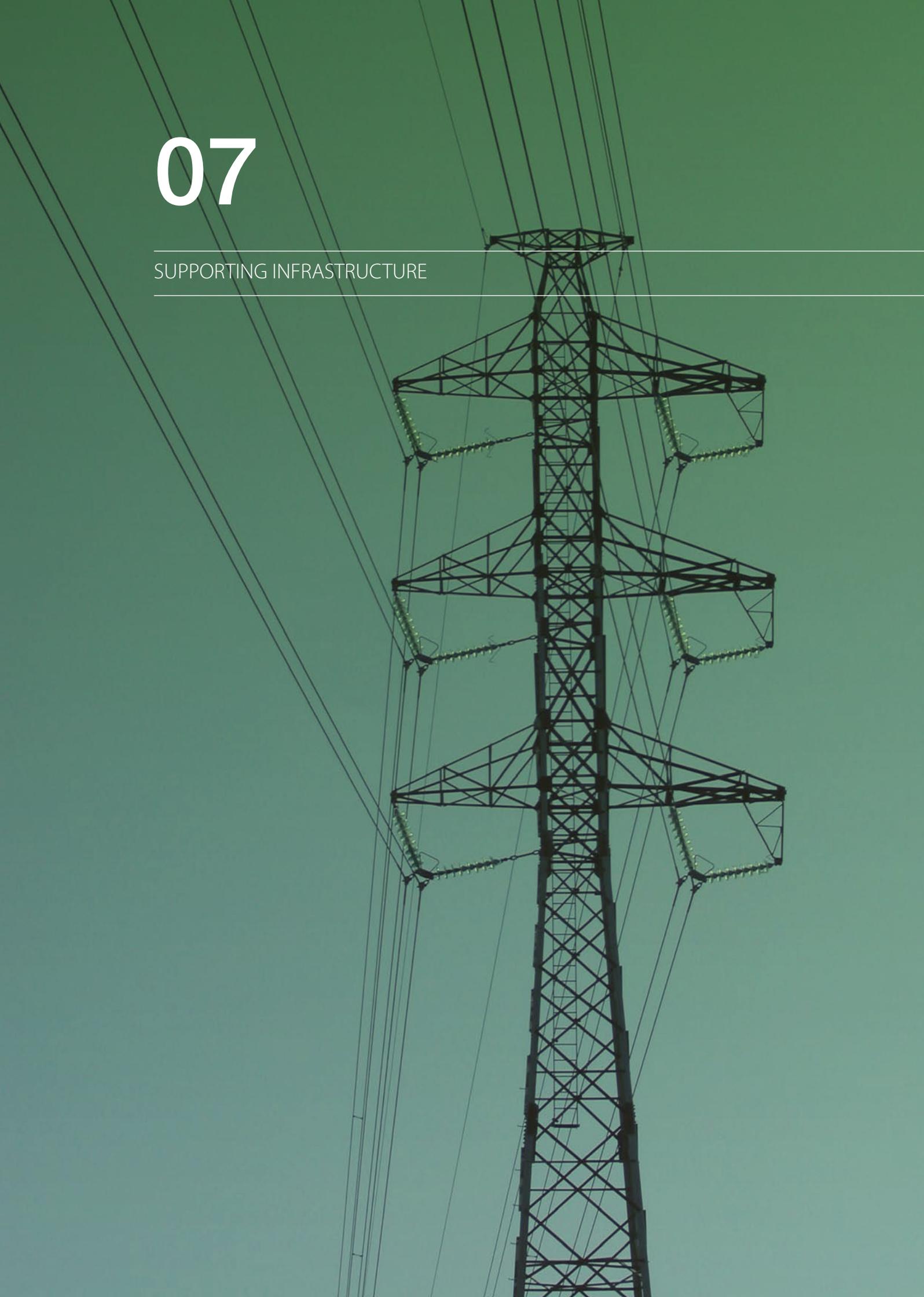
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MAP 124: LIBRARYS IN COUNTY KILDARE



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SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE



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SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE

This section provides an overview of the current position in relation to some key elements of the physical infrastructure that is necessary to support development in Kildare that will be sustainable. According to the County Development Plan the provision and safeguarding of infrastructural investment is a critical component of the development strategy for the county. Without an environmentally sound means of supplying water, disposing of wastewater and solid waste, as well as offering choice in types of transportation, the principles of sustainable development cannot be met.

7.1 TRANSPORT

Improving the standard of transportation infrastructure is of primary importance to the Council. The core objectives to be pursued through the County Development Plan (2005-2011) strategy will be:

- To improve road safety for all road users and reduce fatalities/accidents on Kildare roads.
- To prepare an integrated transport strategy for Kildare based on sustainability and better use of resources.
- To enable people, goods and services to reach their destination safely, economically and quickly and to improve access to services in rural parts of Kildare.
- To improve the capacity of the roads infrastructure within County Kildare in accordance with national/regional policy.
- To ensure that all new housing/developments are provided with adequate transport services and to enable these to be served, where possible, by public transport services through appropriate location, layout and density.
- To have a well maintained road network base.
- To improve travelling times by managing traffic more efficiently.
- To encourage public transport use throughout the county.
- To improve access for mobility impaired people.
- To provide safer routes to educational establishments within the county to encourage walking & cycling.

The increasing levels of commuting have led to huge increases in traffic volumes throughout the county. Despite improvements in the frequency of bus services, public and private, the private car remains the dominant form of transport in County Kildare. In order to achieve the over riding development strategy for the county provided for in the NSS and RPGs, the new County Development Plan has emphasised a modal shift in favour of public transport. Decisions on land use and development must take account of the existing public transport networks and support new networks.

Since the last County Development Plan was adopted in 1999, there have been many improvements in the key strategic transport links from the county to the Dublin metropolitan Area and to the Regions. The ease of transportation of goods and materials into the Greater Dublin Area and beyond is a key feature of the attractiveness of the county for economic investment.

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SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE

7.1.1 *Public transport and the rural transport initiative*

Future development of the transportation networks will necessitate an approach based on the principles of sustainable development which will require efforts to encourage greater use of public transport, especially for journeys to work. The current level of provision of public transport services is limited, especially for movements between rural and urban areas and to a lesser extent between the main urban centres.

7.1.1.1 *Suburban and rural bus services*

There have been significant improvements to the quality and frequency of bus commuter services to and from the urban centres in the county to Dublin and other regional centres. Whilst Naas has a local bus service connecting some of the expanding environs of the town to the town centre there is much room for improvement as large areas of the environs are not serviced by a suburban bus service.

Two rural transport companies which were established under the Department of Transport/ADM Rural Transport Initiative (RTI) operate in the county. They are South Kildare Community Transport (SKCT) and Offaly and Kildare Community Transport (OK Transport). South Kildare Community Transport has two buses operating an all day service from Castledermot through Athy and into Newbridge (**Map 125**). OK Transport provide a more intricate network of services in the north of the county and into Offaly (**Map 125**). Their services provide maximum flexibility to meet passenger needs as closely as possible and are fully accessible to those with disabilities. Using a dial-a-ride booking system, this means that each route can change marginally from week to week, according to demand. Passengers avail of the services by ringing a LoCall number to book their seat or by contacting the private operator who provides the service. The most obvious conclusion that can be drawn from **Map 125** is that the rural areas of the north of the county have much better public transport linkages to the urban areas than do rural areas in the south of the county.

7.1.1.2 *Suburban rail*

There have been some improvements to the suburban rail network in Kildare in recent years but major improvements in the form of the "Kildare Route Project" are proposed for the future. The Kildare Route Project is a major capital investment project designed to increase the frequency of commuter and other services along the key Kildare to Heuston corridor, to allow thousands more commuters every day use rail services. This will be achieved through increasing the number of tracks from two to four along the route from Cherry Orchard to the 10.5 milepost west of Hazelhatch, providing two dedicated lines for commuter services and two dedicated lines for Intercity and regional services. The Kildare Route Project has its origins in the National Development Plan, which identified the need to invest in public transport and in particular to improve the quality, speed and reliability of rail services, in order to reduce private car usage. The NDP pin-pointed the thirty-two kilometre route between Dublin's Heuston Station and Kildare as a major national growth corridor, requiring significant upgrading in order to meet the transportation needs of the communities living along the route. The Dublin Transportation Office also highlighted the need for investment in services along this route, based on predictions that commuter activity in this zone will substantially increase over the coming years. To this end, Iarnród Éireann has developed the Kildare Route Project which envisages meeting this demand by increasing the capacity and frequency of trains serving the route.

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SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE

The Kildare Route Project will allow Iarnród Éireann to deliver commuter and regional services as follows at peak times:

- Double Service Frequency from Hazelhatch to Dublin, serving all stations.
- Double Service Frequency between Dublin and Sallins, Newbridge, and Kildare, and continuing to serve outer commuter towns including Portlaoise, Athlone and Carlow.
- Will also facilitate increased frequency and clockface timetabling on Intercity routes.

The existing service has a total capacity per day, per direction of 11,050 suburban passengers. This service will be steadily increased to a total potential capacity of 36,400 suburban passengers per day in each direction. Improvements to the Waterford line have also been advocated and if these materialise this will improve accessibility to the south of the county considerably.

7.1.2 Road network

County Kildare is well serviced by the national roads network with the M4/N4, M7/N7 and M9/N9 passing through the county to the main centres of population in the west, south-west and south of the country. The north of the county is also serviced by the Dublin-Sligo line with the rest of the county being serviced by the Waterford and Limerick lines. The growth of population and especially the increase in the number of vehicles on the roads has in many areas created severe pressures on the roads infrastructure.

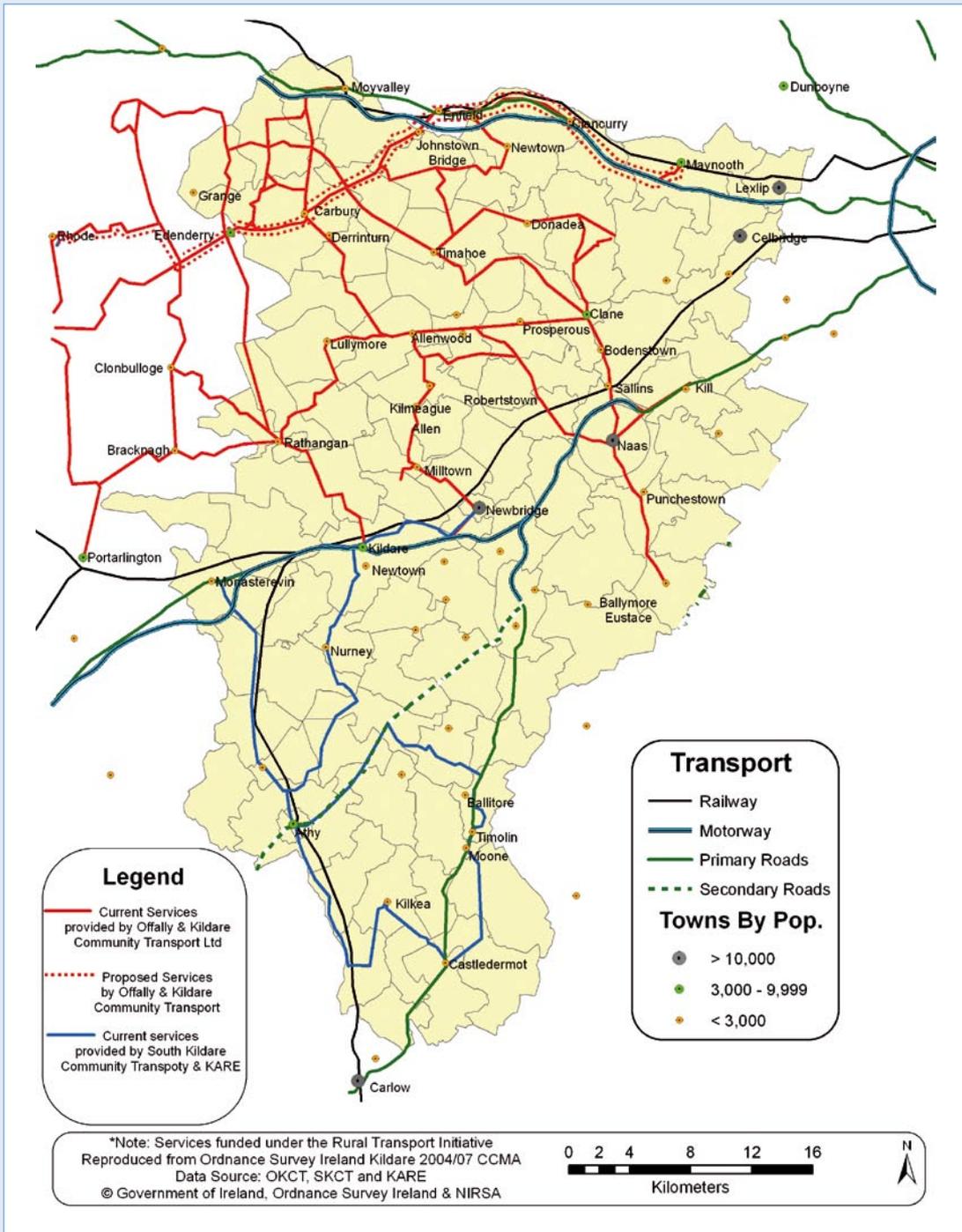
Recent and planned improvements to the network include: (**Map 126**)

- The completion of the M4 Motorway linking Kilcock – Enfield – Kinnegad in December 2005 has extended the M4 motorway from Kilcock westwards through the county.
- The completion and opening of the M7 (Monasterevin by-pass) motorway in November 2004 has provided continuous motorway along the M7 from Naas through county Kildare and beyond as far as Portlaoise.
- The improvement of the N7 interchange at Newhall, Naas is currently at pre-planning stage.
- Works are ongoing to widen the existing N7 between Naas and Johnstown as far as the boundary with South County Dublin. This work is scheduled for completion in Summer 2006.
- The N9/N10 Kilcullen to Waterford scheme includes the northern section situated in County Kildare. This high quality dual carriageway scheme will extend the existing M9 (Kilcullen By-Pass) to the southern county boundary. It is in the pre-construction stages at present and is due for completion in 2008. It will also include provision of a link road from Athy to the new N9 and a by-pass at Castledermot.
- Junction improvements will be carried out on the existing junction between the National Secondary Road N78/R417 Regional Road east of Athy to facilitate connection with the new N9 link road referred to above.
- The Athy Inner Relief Street (N78) is currently at the planning appeal stage and the Athy Southern Outer Relief Road is at pre-planning stage.

The improvements to the M7 and M4 have greatly improved traffic flows, travel times and accessibility in the north of the county. The proposed improvements to the M9 will further improve accessibility, particularly in the south of the county and also increase safety for drivers and other road users.

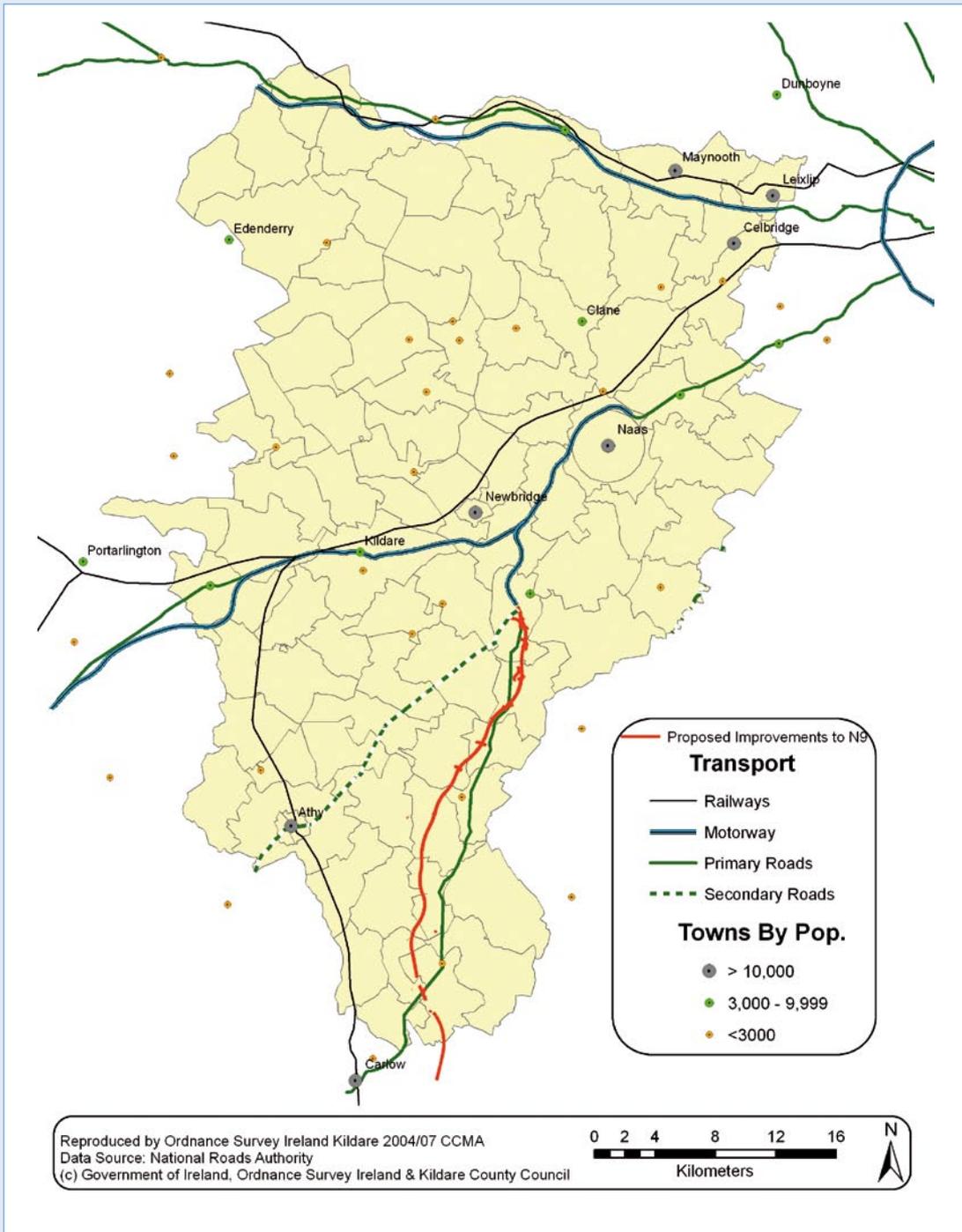
07

MAP 125: RURAL TRANSPORT SERVICES



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MAP 126: PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ROAD NETWORK



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7.2 ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURES

The main items of environmental infrastructure relate to water and sewerage treatment, and waste management. The provision and safeguarding of infrastructural investment is a critical component of the sustainable development strategy of the county. In relation to water and sewerage treatment there is a need for considerable investment in order to cater for the increasing population and the demands generated by industrial development. As can be seen from the previous sections the county has undergone a period of intense growth and change in the last fifteen years. This has resulted in a significant increase in pressure on infrastructure, including energy resources, water and waste water collection and treatment, solid waste recovery and communications infrastructure.

7.2.1 *Water services*

Over the life of the previous County Development Plan and against the backdrop of considerable population increases and significant housing supply, the existing services infrastructure of the county has experienced a dramatic increase in pressure. While reacting to this growth with significant investment directed into the services infrastructure, the continued growth of some areas of the county is restricted by a lack of capacity in both water and wastewater infrastructure to serve existing zoned lands. The supply/demand balance continues to be precarious in some parts of the county, however, there has been significant investment in water services in recent times to meet the challenges of growth. The Water Services Investment Programme Assessment of Needs was adopted by Kildare County Council in October 2003 and €40 million was invested in Water Services in Kildare in 2005 with similar investment likely in 2006. This Investment Programme identifies the need for strategic water/wastewater infrastructure in order to accommodate the level of growth envisaged. The Investment Programme provides for a ranked list of 21 projects influenced by the planned strategic direction of development for the county and the existing settlement strategy contained in the County Development Plan. The programme includes the upgrading/replacement of existing deficient infrastructure. Schemes recently completed include:

- Castledermot Water
- South Kildare Rural Water Sewerage Scheme
- Castledermot Sewerage - Treatment Plant
- Monasterevin Sewerage
- Watermain from Oldtown to Newbridge.

A number of schemes are also currently under construction and these include:

- Ballymore Eustace to Naas Watermain
- Curragh/Cutbush Sewerage
- Rathangan/Hybla Wellfields
- North East Kildare Rural Water Sewerage Scheme
- Castledermot Sewerage – Archaeology & Pipelaying
- Allenwood Sewerage
- Lower Liffey Valley River Sewerage Scheme – Straffan Sewerage
- Sludge Handling Facility at Osberstown
- Ballymore Eustace to Old Kilcullen Watermain.

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The servicing of certain urban centres in the north east of the County currently depends on the allocation of agreed capacity or volume from adjoining Local Authorities. Due to the distance of these towns from major drainage catchments, providing services has and continues to create difficulties for their continued development. Providing these services is difficult both economically and technically necessitating regional solutions involving the co-operation of adjoining Local Authorities. Due to these difficulties and in order to achieve the roles allocated to these urban centres in the Settlement Hierarchy, it is imperative that these centres proceed on the basis of balanced development both in terms of employment generation allied to residential growth but also on the basis of the sustainable provision of piped services. In order to move away from dependence on other Local Authorities and to facilitate Kildares independence in the future in terms of water supply, a number of wellfields are being developed in the county with the first one set to open in May 2006. In addition, there are plans for water abstraction from the River Barrow which is planned to be operational in Athy by 2008.

The Greater Dublin Drainage Study is presently being completed and the study outcomes will determine wastewater treatment and collection in the Greater Dublin Area up to 2031. The surface water drainage system is being analysed as part of this study and a regional policy on stormwater control is being formulated. A number of key flooding studies have resulted in major works taking place to resolve flooding in the county caused by climatic change and increased development.

The primary objective to be taken up with regard to piped water services is to secure the implementation of the Water Services Investment Programme in conjunction with the department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government and the adjoining Local Authorities. The majority of the county's water services infrastructure will have been upgraded or replaced to cater for projected demands up to and beyond 2012, broadly corresponding with the life of the new County Development Plan.

7.2.2 *Waste management*

Increasing population numbers and lifestyles associated with greater affluence are leading to ever increasing amounts of waste that needs to be disposed of. In addition, there are large amounts of waste produced by agriculture and some industrial sectors as well as by the construction industry. In accordance with the Waste Management Act 1996 and the Waste Management (Planning) Regulations 1997 Kildare County Council adopted a Waste Management Plan for the county in 2000 and in light of directions from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government the process of reviewing this plan is ongoing at present. The review of the Waste Management Plan will inform the recommended options for waste disposal and management. It is crucial that we preserve and protect our environment whilst simultaneously sustaining our growing population. County Kildare has a modern and sustainable system for the management of waste, protection of waters and the conservation of energy.

Kildare County Council has made significant progress over the period 2000-2005 in implementing the Waste Management Plan. Among the major developments were the closure of Silliot Hill Landfill Site and the development of a restoration and aftercare plan for the facility. Silliot Hill Landfill reached its design capacity in March 2002, and consequently has ceased to accept waste for disposal by landfill. Since then,

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the Council has constructed a waste transfer station at Silliot Hill which transports all the Council's domestic waste to Thornton's Recycling Ltd. in Dublin for baling, followed by subsequent disposal at Arthurstown landfill site. A final decision from Kildare County Council on the provision of a new facility is currently being considered in the context of proposed private development. A comprehensive strategy has been prepared that will involve measures to minimise the amount of waste for disposal by encouraging recycling and separation of disposable wastes.

Kildare County Council has placed considerable emphasis on changing peoples' behavioural patterns in order to reduce the volume of waste produced. Kildare County Council appointed an Environmental Awareness Officer in 2002 and recycling centres have been provided at Kilcullen and Athy and an additional one is planned for Kilcock. A two-bin collection service and pay-by use charges have been rolled out in most of the county (to all Kildare County Council customers) offering kerb-side collection for separated waste materials and a number of Bring Bank centres have been created in rural locations (see **Map 116**). In addition, more than 6,000 home composting bins have been distributed in the county. It is intended that a three bin system be rolled out to all Kildare County Council customers by 2009 with a brown bin to take cooked food and other organic waste.

7.3 ENERGY

The development of renewable energy sources is a priority at local, regional, national and European level. It is an objective of the current County Development Plan to encourage and facilitate the development of power generation facilities in the County including the support of non-renewable energy developments where it is consistent with the proper planning and development of the area. Kildare's energy supply is provided from a number of sources including the Liffey and Poulaphouca hydroelectric station and a natural gas pipeline from Cork to Dublin which passes through the east of the county. According to the County Development Plan (2006) when taking landscape character into consideration as well as the potential for visual impacts it is recommended that the lowland and bogland areas to the north-west of the county have the greatest landscape potential to absorb the development of wind farms. In terms of hydro-electricity the Council will not allow the canal system to be used as it is designated for tourist and amenity use, but where suitable the use of rivers for this purpose will be encouraged in the future according to the County Development Plan. Similarly the Council supports the development of solar energy as it has the capacity to make a significant contribution to energy production.

7.3.1 Electricity

In terms of electricity there are capacity constraints, particularly affecting the Newbridge/Naas and Kildare town area. The ESB has a list of major electrical infrastructure projects planned for coming years to cater for existing load and normal growth rates over the next five years, the majority of which are under way.

Monread 110/MV station is complete and is being connected to the medium voltage network around Naas/Johnstown/Newbridge. Athgarvan 38/MV station is being upgraded, doubling its capacity to 20MVA which will feed into the Newbridge area. The project of building a new 110/MV 2x20MVA station in Kildare

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to replace the existing 38/MV station has commenced with site acquisition underway. Approx 4 km of new 110kV line/cable will be built to connect this station to the existing Newbridge-Portlaoise 110kV line.

It is planned to double the capacity of Killeel 110kV/38kV station which serves the Naas/Johnstown area, and a new 110kV line will be built to loop this station. This project is planned to start in 2007. To benefit from this extra station capacity, and enable standby to the Johnstown area, a new 38kV line from Killeel to Johnstown, approx 6km is planned for 2007.

Options are being reviewed at present for a new 110/MV station in the Newbridge area. This new station which will serve the new industrial parks planned in Newbridge in addition to the commercial & residential load. The rebuilding of Naas and Celbridge 38kV stations and doubling of their capacity is planned to commence in 2007 while options for a new 38/MV station at Clane is also being considered.

In South Kildare, Stratford 110/38kV station has recently been completed and is now supplying the Kilcullen area. The construction of a new 110/MV 2x20MVA station in Athy is well under way and should be completed in 2006. This will enable the retirement of the two existing 38kV stations Stradbally Road and Ballylinan Road. The capacity at Kilcullen station is planned to be doubled to 20MVA in 2009.

In North Kildare, 20MVA of additional medium voltage capacity is being added by doubling the station capacity of Kilcock 38kV station, and adding an additional 10MVA capacity to Moneycooley 38kV/MV station. A new 38kV cable is being installed between Griffinrath 110/38kV station and Moneycooley 38kV station which will increase capacity and improve quality of supply at Maynooth. These three projects have commenced.

The project of building a new 110/MV station is planned for Maynooth in 2007, 110kV lines will be required to connect this into the 110kV network.

The above infrastructure reinforcements will cater for existing and normal growth in county Kildare for the next 5 years. Large customer loads will be catered for as they arise. In addition, the above does not include reinforcements of the high voltage network which are planned for by the Transmission System Operator, Eirgrid.

7.3.2 Gas

Natural gas is the cleanest of all fossil fuels and its chemical composition makes it an environmentally friendly fuel. Following the discovery of a major natural gas reserve off Kinsale in the early 1970s and the eventual construction of a pipeline to Dublin and further north there has been a very large increase in the consumption of gas for electricity generation and also for residential and industrial heating and other uses. As demand increased Kinsale gas supply was improved by imports via a pipeline system from Scotland. A second interconnector pipeline was put in place in 2000 to bring additional supplies ashore at Ballough in north Dublin from which a new pipeline was laid to Galway and from there to the Shannon Estuary.

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In terms of gas supply, the county is well served in terms of transmission lines and the towns of Athgarvan, Athy, Ballymore Eustace, Caragh, Castledermot, Celbridge, Clane, Johnstown, Johnstownbridge, Kilcock, Kilcullen, Kildare town, Kilkee, Kill, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas, Newbridge, Prosperous, Sallins and Straffan are currently served.

7.4 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Whereas private sector investment in telecommunications infrastructure has slowed down with the downturn in the international economy and the telecoms sector, Government funding has continued, most notably the development of Metropolitan Area Networks (MAN), which has been undertaken to stimulate further development of the communications infrastructure. The Government has stressed their awareness of the need to deliver high levels of broadband connectivity to industry and communities. In order to achieve this objective it seeks to make broadband infrastructure and services accessible and affordable nationally within 3 years. It is the policy of Kildare County Council to take full advantage of the Government's supportive position and to continue to play an important leadership role in providing critical infrastructure. To achieve this objective requires a high degree of cross-functional collaboration between the Kildare County Development Board and the Planning, IT, Infrastructure, Community & Enterprise and Economic Development Departments of Kildare County Council. In Kildare, Phase II towns for the provision of MAN were Clane, Kilcock, Kildare, Maynooth, Monasterevin, Newbridge, Prosperous, Rathangan, Sallins. Many of these MAN have been completed with the remainder expected to be completed in 2006 or early 2007.

In terms of Mobile Telecommunications Masts, the county is well served by the existing licensed operators. The policy in the Kildare County Development Plan which encourages co-sharing and clustering of masts is based on the recommended Guidelines for Planning Authorities with regard to Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures. The primary objective to be pursued with regard to Telecommunications is to position Kildare as a "Technology County" offering up to date telecommunication systems as part of the county's technology infrastructure and delivering adequate broadband capacity to key business locations, communities and schools in the county.

08

SYNTHESIS: A SPATIAL TYPOLOGY OF COUNTY KILDARE



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SYNTHESIS: A SPATIAL TYPOLOGY OF COUNTY KILDARE

8.1 INTRODUCTION

This section provides a synthesis of the spatial patterns that have been examined separately throughout the previous sections. Two summary classifications are presented in this chapter. The first is based on a statistical analysis of 30 census variables that were measured for each of the EDs in the county. Most of the data for this classification was taken from the small area statistics compiled from the 1996 census of population. As the typology presented here is a component of a national typology map, it provides a basis for establishing the wider context for Kildare. Population changes since 1996 in each of the area types identified on the basis of 1996 data are discussed. The second classification applies a similar methodology to the data from the 2002 census of population to construct a new summary map. A rural typology map for all of Ireland was prepared by NUI Maynooth⁵ and Fitzpatrick Associates for the National Spatial Strategy. The map identifies the urban areas along with six different types of rural areas.

8.2 THE RURAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC STRUCTURE VARIABLES

The analysis of the rural socio-economic structure was based on the following census variables:

- Demographic structure (6 indicators)
- Labour force characteristics (8 indicators)
- Education and social classes (3* indicators)
- Sectoral employment profiles (5 indicators)
- Changes in demography and labour force (5 indicators)

*Only three indicators were selected to measure the education levels and distribution by social classes as these indicators are strongly correlated with some of the others.

8.3 THE TYPOLOGY MAP

The typology map shows the distribution of six types of rural areas (only four apply in the case of Kildare) and also the urban areas that were excluded from the analysis (**Map 127**). The areas have been given the following summary labels:

- Peri-urban areas
- Very strong rural areas
- Strong agricultural areas undergoing adjustment
- Structurally weak rural areas
- Marginal rural areas
- Highly diversified rural areas

The distribution of population by area type (including the urban areas) for Kildare and adjoining counties is shown in **Table 31**.

⁵ *The Rural Typology is based on research undertaken by Dr. Celine McHugh*

SYNTHESIS: A SPATIAL TYPOLOGY OF COUNTY KILDARE

Table 31: Percentage distribution of population by area type 1996

Area Type	Kildare	Meath	Ireland
Urban	65.7	46.2	60.7
Peri-urban	11.7	20.1	22.2
Very strong rural	20.2	29.4	10.4
Strong agricultural	0.8	0.8	16.2
Structurally weak	0.1	3.2	6.3
Marginal	0.4	0.0	3.0
Highly diversified	1.0	0.3	2.5

The most notable features are that the percentage identified as urban is very slightly higher than the CSO definition (here account was taken of population density levels in accordance with OECD standards) and that only 0.5% of the population reside in what are described as weak or marginally rural areas. A brief description of each type follows.

Type 1: Peri-urban areas

These are generally characterised by high population densities, an advanced level of transition to a higher socio-economic profile (higher proportions with advanced levels of education, larger shares of the workforce in professional services and commerce functions), low levels of reliance on agricultural employment and high levels of commuting to work. They are generally found in close proximity to urban areas and are particularly evident around the larger towns and the cities. In Kildare these areas are in the hinterlands of Newbridge, Athy and Ballitore as well as in the north-west of the county. The peri-urban parts are essentially those parts of the open countryside that have been subjected to very high levels of urban generated adjustment; they contained almost 12% of the total population of the county in 1996.

Type 2: Very strong rural areas

These areas are very prominent in western, mid-western and south-eastern parts of the county. As well as possessing a strong agricultural base EDs that constitute this cluster also exhibit an above average level of transition to non-agricultural employment. The rate of population increase in this area type is generally higher than in the peri-urban areas and is reflected in a more youthful population. The rate of increase in the number of persons at work is significantly larger than in the peri-urban areas. This suggests that some parts of this area type are experiencing the demographic and labour force effects associated with the recent increases in long distance commuting. In Kildare this area type, which accounted for more than one-fifth of the population in 1996, embraces much of the county beyond the limits of the urban and peri-urban areas.

Type 3: Strong agricultural areas undergoing adjustment

This type of rural area is represented by EDs that are mainly concentrated in the west of the county, in the very south and in the north around Kilcock. In the wider national context these areas have a strong agricultural base due to a combination of larger farms with an orientation towards either dairying or tillage.

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Full-time rather than part-time farming is more the norm. However, following the introduction of restrictions on agricultural output as part of the CAP reforms in the 1990s the opportunities for further expansion became severely restricted.

Types 4 and 5: Structurally weak and marginal rural areas

These two area types represent the rural EDs that are economically and demographically most disadvantaged. The defining attributes are a strong reliance on very weak farm structure (elderly farmers on small farms producing very low levels of output, high level of decline in number of farmers), low levels of employment in manufacturing or services and a below average level of self-employment outside agriculture, and low levels of females in part-time employment. These economic attributes have contributed to the emergence of a very weak demographic profile based on an ageing population with relatively fewer households with young children.

Type 6: Highly diversified rural areas

There are no representations of this type of area in Kildare. Elsewhere in the country this type of area is mostly associated with scenic and high amenity landscapes that attract large numbers of tourists and support a distinctive socio-economic profile. This type of area has emerged as having higher levels of self-employment outside of agriculture and higher levels of part-time work especially for women.

8.4 SOCIAL AREA ANALYSIS, COUNTY KILDARE 2002⁶

Kildare is characterised by considerable levels of socio-economic and demographic differentiation, as the previous sections have shown, but such contrasts across the county are significantly less striking than those that characterise the neighbouring Dublin region or indeed those that mark other parts of the Republic of Ireland, as displayed in the tables below. These tables employ the index of dissimilarity technique to measure the degree of spatial polarisation in Kildare in social class terms relative to Dublin and the rest of Ireland. This statistical technique is used to measure differences between different ethnic or social groups, with a particular focus on how groups are segregated across different geographical areas.

Table 32a: Kildare indices of dissimilarity relative to Social Class 1

	SC 2	SC 3	SC 4	SC 5	SC 6	SC 7
2002 IoD	10.56	19.58	21.98	26.74	37.22	27.57
1996-2002 change	-3.59	-2.57	-1.06	-0.56	-1.63	-2.47
1996 IoD	14.15	22.15	23.05	27.30	38.84	30.05

Table 32b: Dublin indices of dissimilarity relative to Social Class 1

	SC 2	SC 3	SC 4	SC 5	SC 6	SC 7
2002 IoD	19.06	33.53	47.13	49.29	56.28	40.96
1996-2002 change	-1.38	-2.93	-2.43	-2.52	-0.72	-1.61
1996 IoD	20.44	36.45	49.55	51.81	57.00	42.56

⁶This section was based on analysis carried out by Dr. Adrian Kavanagh, NUI Maynooth & NIRSA and was written by Dr. Kavanagh.

SYNTHESIS: A SPATIAL TYPOLOGY OF COUNTY KILDARE

Table 32c: Republic of Ireland indices of dissimilarity relative to Social Class 1

	SC 2	SC 3	SC 4	SC 5	SC 6	SC 7
2002 IoD	17.61	26.75	34.92	37.74	44.11	34.16
1996-2002 change	-2.12	-2.44	-3.94	-3.97	-1.75	-3.57
1996 IoD	19.73	29.19	38.86	41.71	45.87	37.73

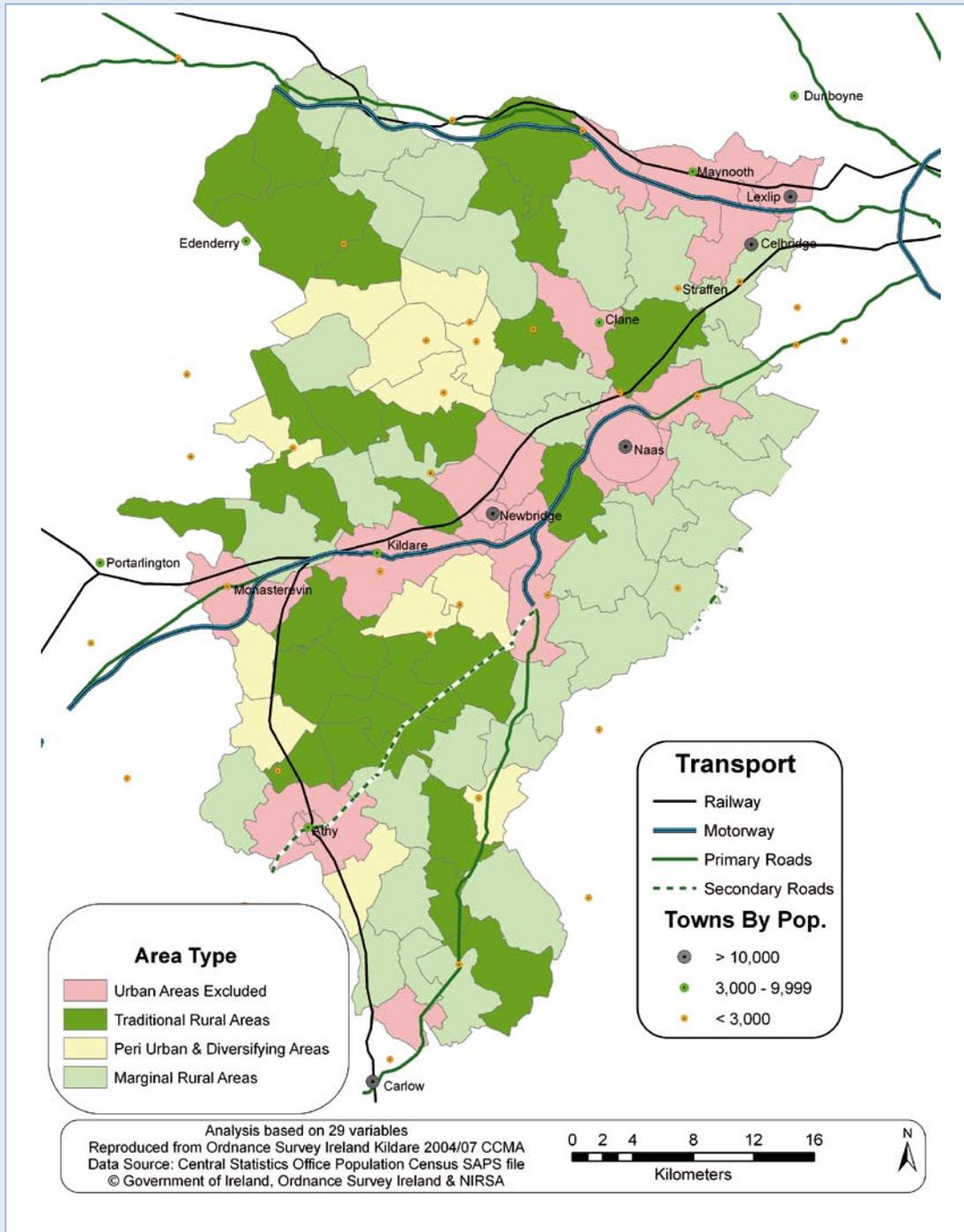
The Index of Dissimilarity has been used as a statistical means of measuring the spatial segregation of social class groups within Ireland, and also within parts of Ireland such as the Dublin region or Kildare County. Tables 32b and 32c show a greater spatial polarisation of social class (SC) groups in Dublin than in the rest of the country, but these suggest that the level of spatial segregation of classes has declined both in Dublin and in the Republic of Ireland over the 1996-2002 period. Comparing **Table 32a** with these two tables, the smaller indices of dissimilarity for Kildare suggests that social classes are less spatially segregated in Kildare than they are in the rest of Ireland, and especially relative to the Dublin region. The negative figures representing the change in these indices over the 1996-2002 suggests that, by and large, the degree of class segregation in Kildare, at an electoral division level, has declined somewhat over this period.

This report has noted significant socio-economic and demographic differences across Kildare, and the spatial pattern of different socio-economic and demographic factors, such as those related to demography, employment, travel trends, and social class, are relatively similar, with statistically significant associations existing between these. These appear to measure different aspects of the same phenomenon and thus the socio-economic and demographic complexities that mark the Kildare region may be represented by a small number of composite variables, or factors, as derived from a principal components analysis.

Broad and consistent spatial trends have been identified in the previous sections, with the geographies of different factors being largely similar to those of others, as in the concentration of high levels of older people, agricultural workers and owner-occupiers in the northern and western parts of the county. Factor and cluster analyses are statistical techniques that can be used to highlight such trends. Factor analysis is concerned with similarities between different variables and aims to group certain variables together into a smaller number of composite variables or 'factors', based on the strength of the inter-relationships between these variables. Subsequently, different electoral divisions within the county may be grouped, or clustered together, based on factor scores, to form broader areas that share similar socio-economic and demographic characteristics. The analysis will largely reflect previous research in the Irish context, such as McCafferty's (2004) recent study of Limerick City and the earlier research of Walsh, Brady and Mannion (2001) on identifying social areas in Dublin. This particular study is drawn from factor and cluster analyses of 28 socio-economic and demographic variables that have been studied in previous sections of this report, involving a range of factors linked to demography, household types, housing tenure, employment, educational levels and transport. Arising from this analysis, these variables were reduced to five composite variables, or factors, with **Table 33**, presenting the strength of the associations between these variables and the different factors that form the basis for this analysis.

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MAP 127: RURAL TYPOLOGY FOR COUNTY KILDARE FOUR CLUSTERS



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SYNTHESIS: A SPATIAL TYPOLOGY OF COUNTY KILDARE

Table 33: Factor loadings for different variables arising from principal components analysis

	1	2	3	4	5	6
% Population aged 25-44	0.50	0.55	0.41	0.18	-0.07	0.27
% Population aged 45-64	-0.23	-0.73	-0.22	0.18	0.38	-0.15
% Population aged 65+	-0.59	-0.31	-0.03	0.44	-0.28	-0.15
% Population change, 1996-2002	0.52	0.47	0.22	-0.12	-0.12	0.20
Family households as % of private households	0.51	-0.45	0.07	-0.48	-0.30	-0.06
Single person households as % of private households	-0.53	-0.10	-0.22	0.54	-0.31	0.04
Empty nest families as % of all families	-0.19	-0.46	-0.27	0.34	0.45	0.32
Agricultural employment, % of total employed	-0.21	-0.66	0.37	0.15	-0.18	0.06
Unemployment rate	-0.64	0.42	-0.14	0.05	0.25	-0.02
% Population living in owner occupied (mortgaged) housing	0.87	0.23	-0.02	-0.05	-0.02	-0.12
% Population living in owner occupied (not mortgaged) housing	-0.40	-0.76	0.28	0.07	-0.08	0.07
% Population living in rented council housing	-0.58	0.57	-0.15	-0.22	0.16	0.11
% Population living in housing built after 1990	0.59	0.65	0.09	-0.03	-0.09	0.23
% Population living in flats/apartments	-0.26	0.51	-0.43	0.29	-0.24	0.03
% Population who are not Irish or UK citizens	0.25	0.33	-0.22	0.42	-0.32	0.18
Labour force participation rate	0.42	0.33	0.53	0.43	0.20	-0.20
Female labour force participation rate	0.44	0.49	0.32	0.38	0.29	-0.19
Part time workers as % of total employed	-0.16	-0.25	-0.58	-0.20	0.04	0.46
Education up to lower secondary as % who have ceased education	-0.87	0.05	0.34	-0.22	-0.05	0.02
Third Level education as % who have ceased education	0.84	-0.04	-0.36	0.24	0.01	-0.04
No car households as % of all households	-0.66	0.55	-0.25	0.14	-0.10	-0.09
Travel 90+ minutes commuting time as % of population aged 5+	0.11	-0.10	0.46	0.13	0.25	0.50
% Population in Social Classes 1 and 2	0.81	-0.26	-0.32	0.17	0.10	-0.04
% Population in Social Classes 5 and 6	-0.83	0.00	0.33	0.03	0.01	0.07
People in lone parent households as % of population	-0.63	0.51	-0.12	-0.19	0.21	-0.24
Lone parent families with young children as % of families	-0.46	0.67	-0.29	-0.11	0.10	0.04
% of households with personal computers	0.91	-0.16	-0.22	-0.08	0.08	-0.06
% of households with internet access	0.90	-0.15	-0.25	-0.03	0.06	-0.03
Percentage of total variance	34.4%	19.7%	9.1%	6.6%	4.3%	3.6%

SYNTHESIS: A SPATIAL TYPOLOGY OF COUNTY KILDARE

Factor 1: Socio-Economic Status

Factor 1 is strongly related to those variables that measure socio-economic status, being closely connected to measures of social class, educational levels, participation in the workforce and other measures of social well-being, such as ownership of cars, personal computers and internet access. This factor is also related to differentials within the owner occupied housing sector, with a negative association with non-mortgaged owner occupied housing and a positive association with mortgaged housing. This factor accounts for approximately 35% of the total variance in the data set, and is positively associated with measures of high social status and negatively associated with measures of low social status. Given the strong, negative, association with a host of factors indicative of lower socio-economic status, such as low education levels, no car households, and the semi-skilled and unskilled social class groups, this factor may act as a valuable composite measure of relative levels of social deprivation within the county of Kildare. This factor is positively associated with the managerial, professional and technical social class groups. Moreover, the factor is also a useful indicator of population change, suggesting either that higher levels of people are being drawn to the parts of Kildare with higher social status, and it is negatively associated with population stagnation and areas characterised with higher proportions of older people and agricultural employment. High factor scores were especially associated with the commuter belt areas in the north-east of the county, with the lower scores associated mainly with areas in the west of the county, but particularly along the borders with Laois and Offaly (**Map 128**). The electoral divisions with the highest factor scores were Bodinstown (2.24), Naas Rural (2.02), Celbridge (1.80), Donaghcumper (1.56), Ladytown (1.55), Rathmore (1.47) and Thomastown (1.44). Areas with low scores for Factor 1 tend to be concentrated in the south-western, western and north-western parts of Co. Kildare. Electoral divisions associated with particularly low scores for Factor 1 include Athy West Urban (-2.90), Ballitore (-2.32), Grangemellon (-1.80), Ballybrackan (-1.49), Kilberry (-1.42), Castledermot (-1.34) and Rathangan (-1.32).

Factor 2: Urbanism

The second composite factor to emerge from the analysis accounts for roughly one-fifth of the total variance. This factor differentiates between areas that have high levels of people living in flats and apartments, rented Kildare County Council housing and/or housing constructed over the 1991-2002 period, on the one hand, and areas with high levels of owner occupied (non-mortgaged) housing, on the other hand. As such, this factor is strongly related to urban-rural variations across the county, as is also reflected by the negative association between this factor and agricultural employment. Furthermore, this factor is positively associated with population change, highlighting the concentration of much of Kildare's recent population increase in the hinterlands of its major towns, as well as in the commuter belt areas in the north east of the county. There is also a strong socio-economic status dimension to this factor, with it being positively correlated with deprivation related indices such as no car households, the unemployment rate and lone parent families with young children. Finally, there is a positive association between this factor and the percentage of people who are not Irish or UK nationals. High factor scores are found in different parts of Kildare, including the towns of Naas, Newbridge, Kildare and Athy, as well as the commuter belt areas of Maynooth, Celbridge, Kilcock, Clane and Bodinstown in the north-east of the county, and the Rathangan areas in the west of Kildare (**Map 129**). Electoral divisions that have high scores for Factor 2 include Droichead Nua Urban (2.62), Athy West Urban (2.44), Kildare (2.15), Bodinstown (2.03), Athy East Urban (1.69) and Killinthomas (1.53). Lower factor scores are associated with mainly rural areas in the south, the east and the north-west of

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the county. Burtown (-2.29), Johnstown (-2.08), Ballaghmoon (-1.84), Kilashee (-1.59) and Killeel (-1.53) are included amongst the electoral divisions to have particularly low factor scores.

Factor 3: Labour Market Status

The third composite factor to emerge from the analysis accounts for approximately 9% of the variance. This factor is particularly associated with employment related factors, and it is positively associated with the labour force participation rate and the female labour force participation rate and is negatively associated with unemployment levels and the percentage of part-time workers amongst the total numbers employed. There is a strong commuter dimension to this factor also, as there is a strong positive association between it and the percentage of people travelling 90 minutes, or more, in their daily commute to work. This factor is also positively associated with agricultural employment and negatively associated with the percentage of people living in flats and apartments, as well as the percentage of non-Irish and non-UK nationals. High factor scores are particularly associated with the south-eastern corner of the county, as well as parts of western and north-western Kildare. The lower factor scores tended to be concentrated in the commuter belt area of the north-east of the county, as well as two other areas, focused on the towns of Newbridge and Athy respectively (**Map 130**). High factor scores are associated with the electoral divisions of Thomastown (2.49), Windmill Cross (2.36), Belan (2.09), Kilmeage North (1.98), Kilpatrick (1.77), Drohid (1.62) and Carrick (1.57). The electoral divisions with the lowest scores were Maynooth (-2.75), Donaghcumper (-1.84), Athy West Urban (-1.70), Droichead Nua Urban (-1.55), Ballitore (-1.43) and Killeel (-1.41).

Factor 4: Family Status

Slightly less than 7% of the variance amongst the variables in the factor analysis is accounted for by the fourth factor to emerge from this analysis. This factor is particularly associated with family type variables, as it is strongly and negatively associated with the percentage of empty nest and single person households and positively associated with the percentage of family households. The factor is also negatively associated with the percentage of non-Irish and non-UK nationals, the labour force participation rate, and the 65 and over age category. Areas with low factor scores included some of the larger urban centres in Kildare, namely the town centres of Naas, Newbridge, Kildare and Athy, with low scores also associated with the area located immediately to the east of Monasterevin, as well as the south east of the county. High factor scores tend to be especially concentrated in the north-west of the county, as well as the electoral divisions immediately bordering on South County Dublin along the north-eastern edge of the county (**Map 131**). The electoral divisions with the lowest factor scores here include Kilashee (-3.25), Belan (-2.31), Carrigeen (-2.08), Droichead Nua Urban (-1.70), Naas Urban (-1.62), Athy East Urban (-1.50), Kildare (-1.43) and Oldconnell (-1.41). High scores for Factor 4 are particularly associated with the Killinthomas (3.65), Kilberry (2.03), Dunmanoge (1.89), Cloncurry (1.42), Balraheen (1.36) and Timahoe South (1.31) electoral divisions.

Factor 5: Population Stagnation

The fifth factor to emerge from the analysis, and accounting for over 4% of the variance in the data set, is particularly associated with different variables, such as the 45-64 age category and empty nest households, which are allied with traditional areas that have not been overtly shaped by the population increases that have partnered the Celtic Tiger. This factor, in turn, is negatively associated with population change, the percentage of non-Irish and British nationals in the population, one-person households and family

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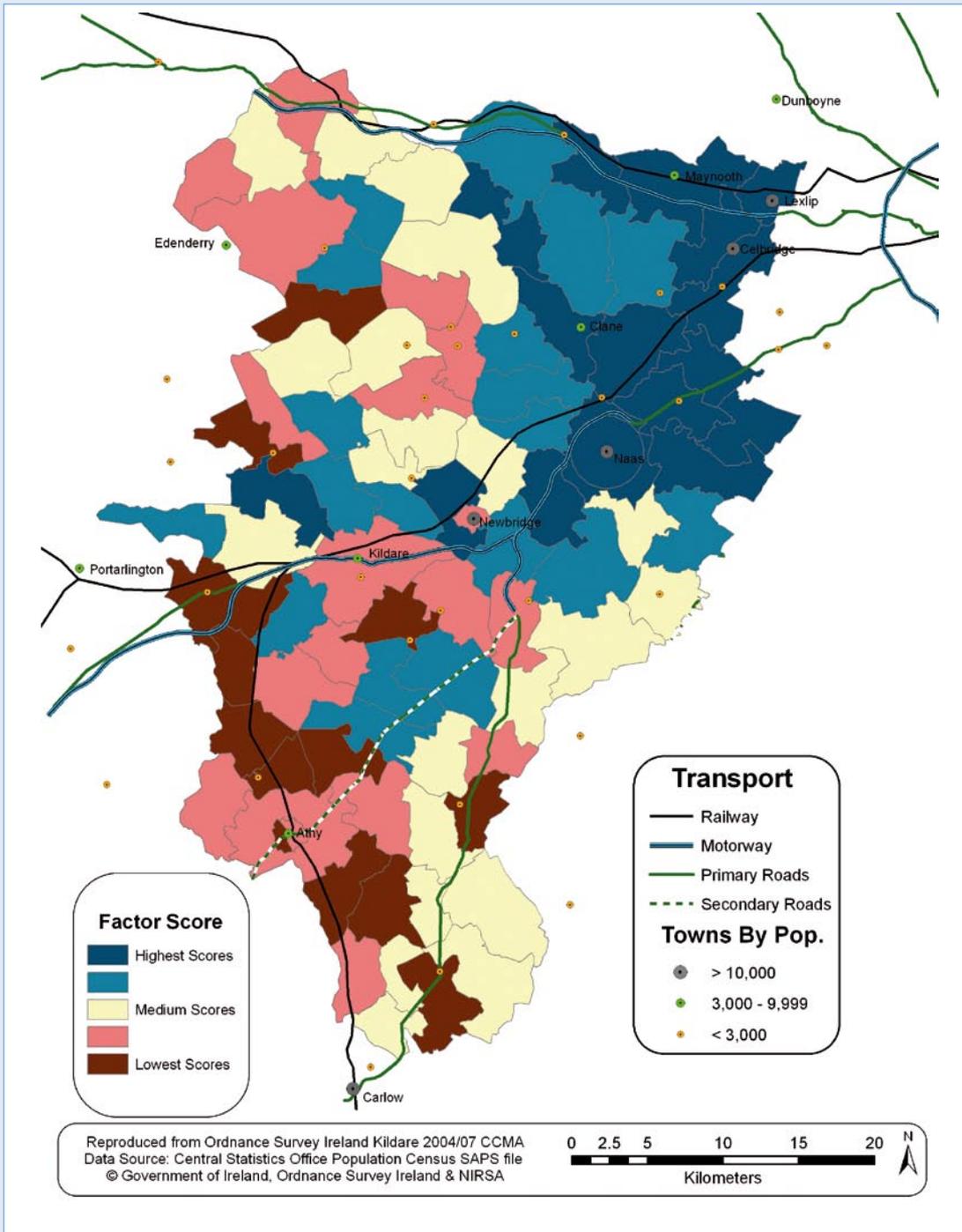
households. High factor scores are especially associated with the Leixlip and Kill areas in the north-east of the county, the rural environs of Athy, and the rural area located directly to the north of Newbridge, as well as the Kilrainy area in the north-west of Kildare (**Map 132**). Low factor scores are associated with Oldconnell, Maynooth, as well as the Kilrush and Ballaghmoon areas in the south and south east of the county. The electoral divisions with the highest factor scores were Burtown (2.14), Kiltel (2.08), Feighcullen (2.02), Churchtown (1.75), Athy Rural (1.73) and Skerries (1.63). Electoral divisions associated with particularly low scores for Factor 5 include Oldconnell (-3.15), Ballaghmoon (-2.40), Bert (-1.98), Quinnsborough (-1.85), Fontstown (-1.83) and Harristown (-1.80).

Factor 6: Long Distance Commuting

Finally, the sixth factor score accounts for slightly less than 4% of the variance amongst the variables in the data set. This factor is particularly associated with the percentage of people travelling an hour and half, or longer, in their daily commute to work, and is also positively associated with part time workers and empty nest households. There is no distinct spatial pattern as to where high or low factor scores are found across the county. High factor scores are associated with Maynooth, and parts of the north-west and south of the county, including the electoral divisions of Burtown (2.38), Drehid (2.32), Windmill Cross (2.19), Lullymore (1.86), Johnstown (1.79), Grangemellon (1.62) and Maynooth (1.52) (**Map 133**). There is no geographical pattern to the low factor scores, with electoral divisions with low scores being spatially dispersed areas across the county, including Quinnsborough (-2.72), Ballysax East (-2.12), Newtown (-1.87), Pollardstown (-1.82), Ballybrackan (-1.70), Carrigeen (-1.54) and Kilkea (-1.51).

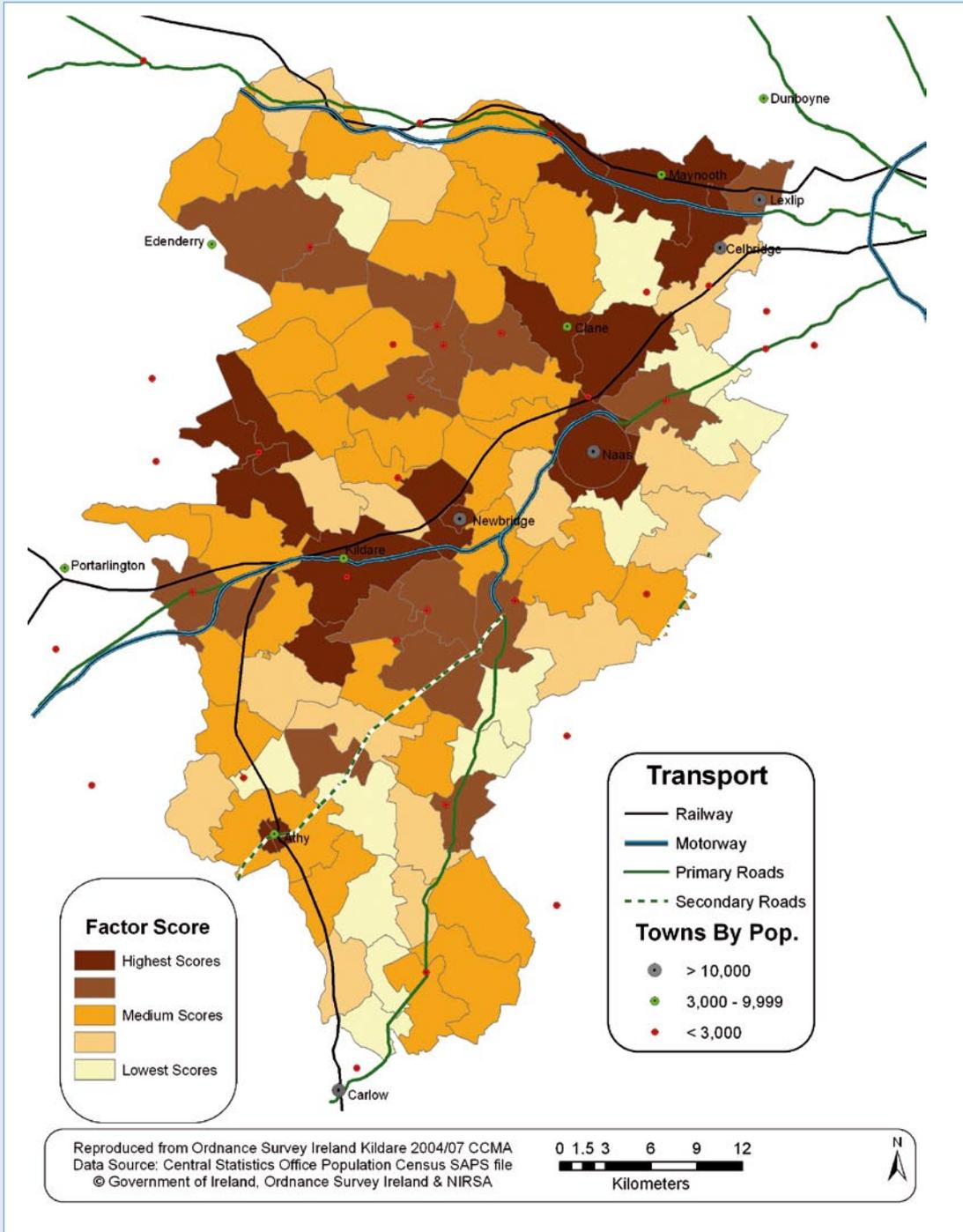
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MAP 128: FACTOR 1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS



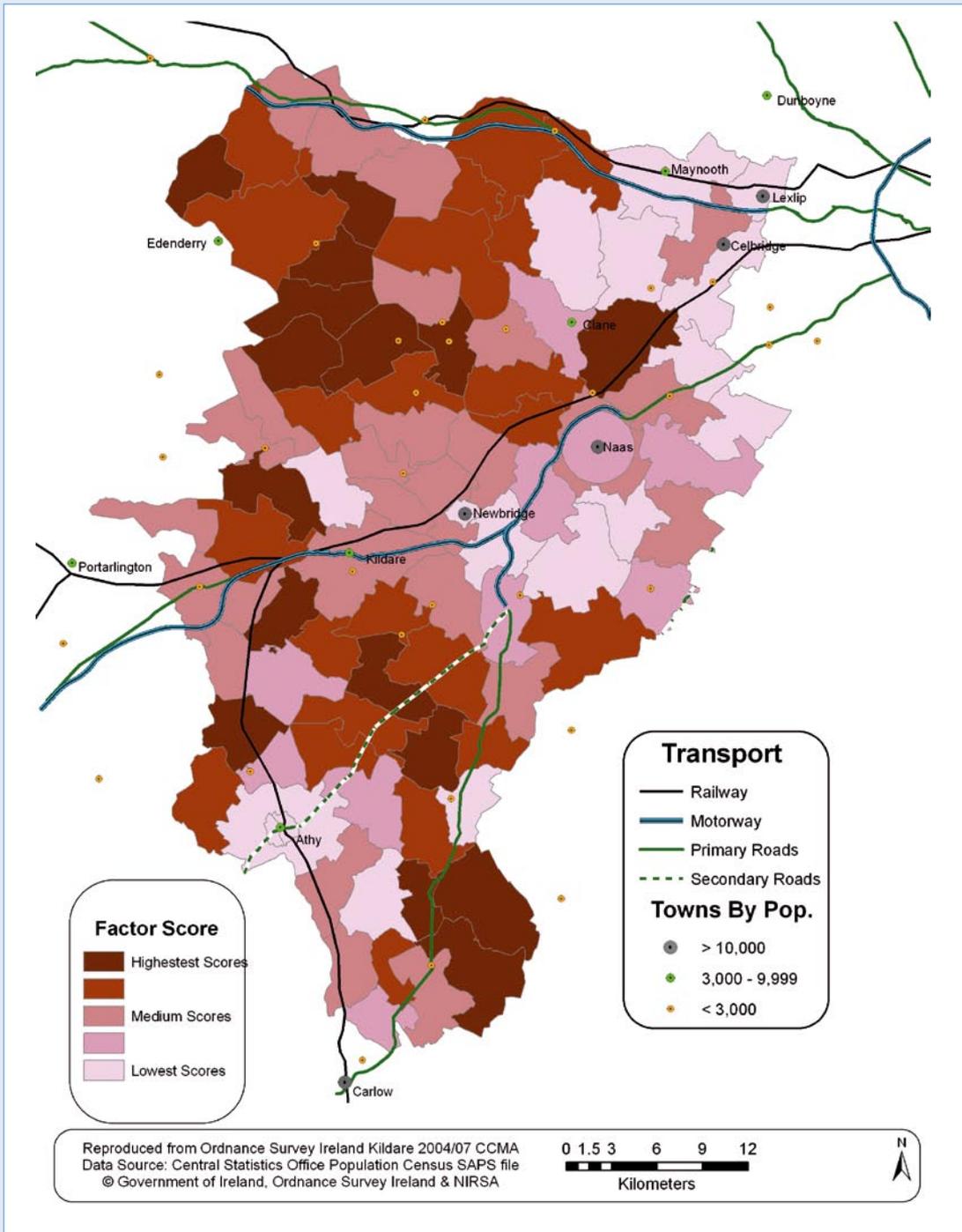
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MAP 129: FACTOR 2 URBANISM



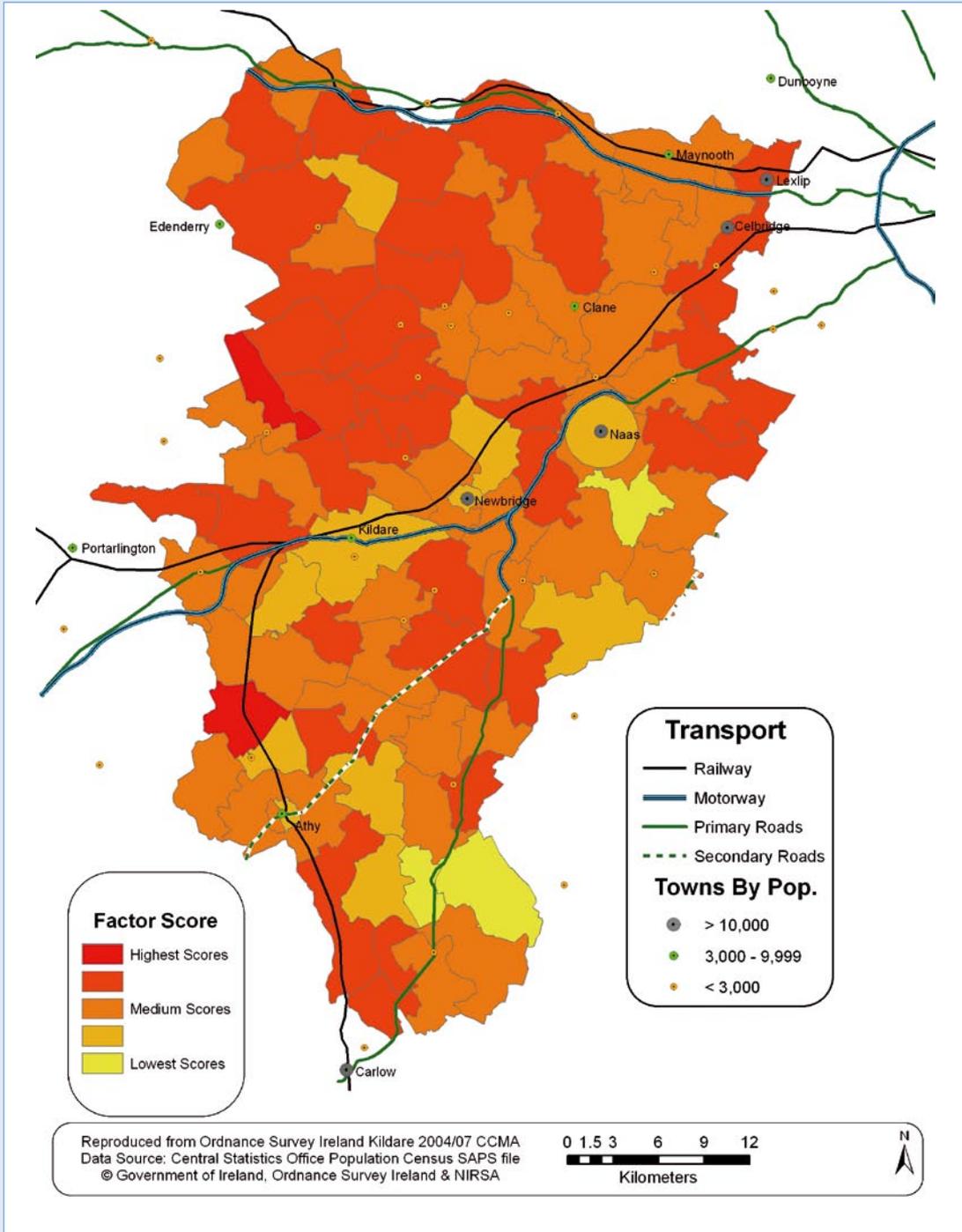
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MAP 130: FACTOR 3 LABOUR MARKET STATUS



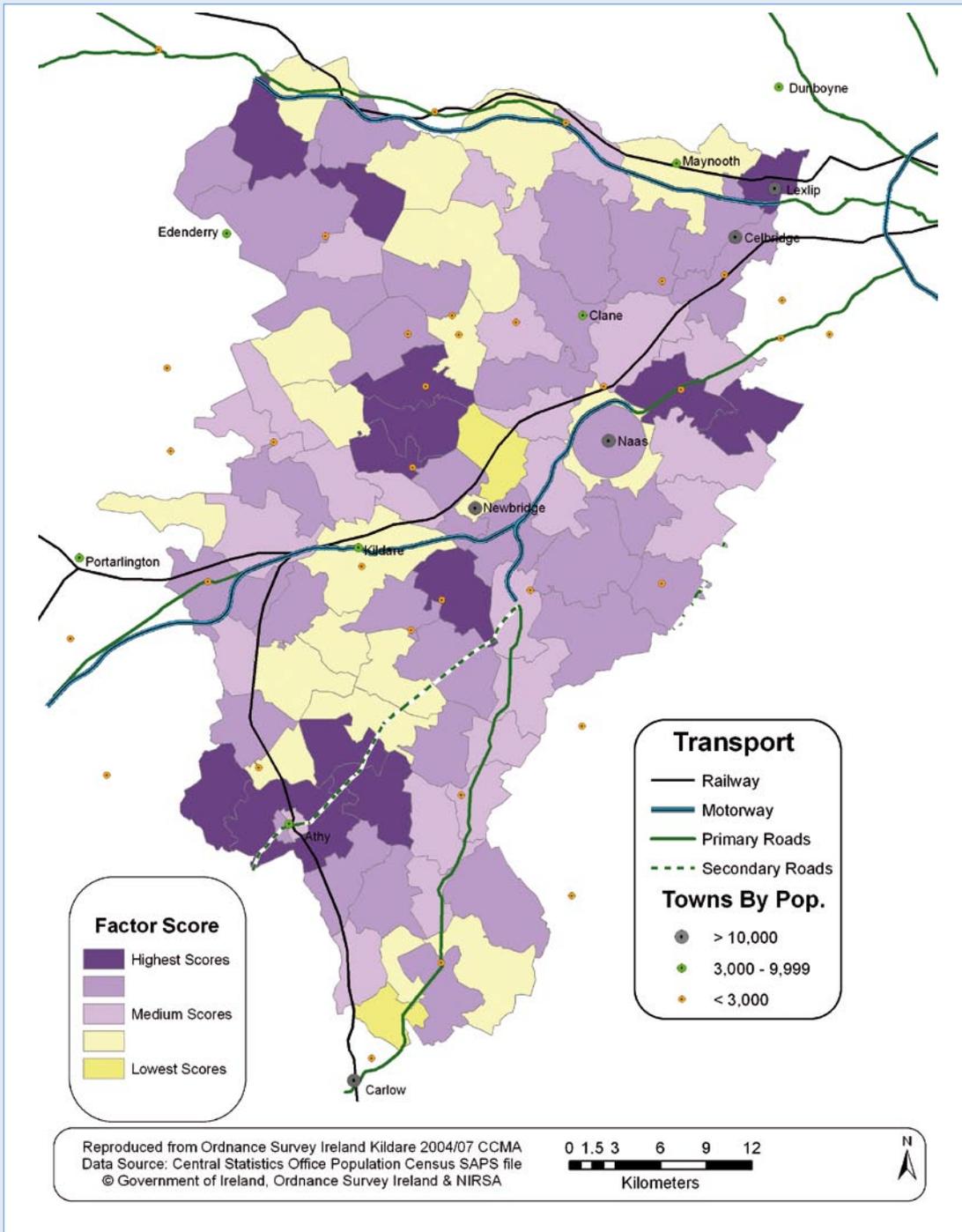
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MAP 131: FACTOR 4 FAMILY STATUS



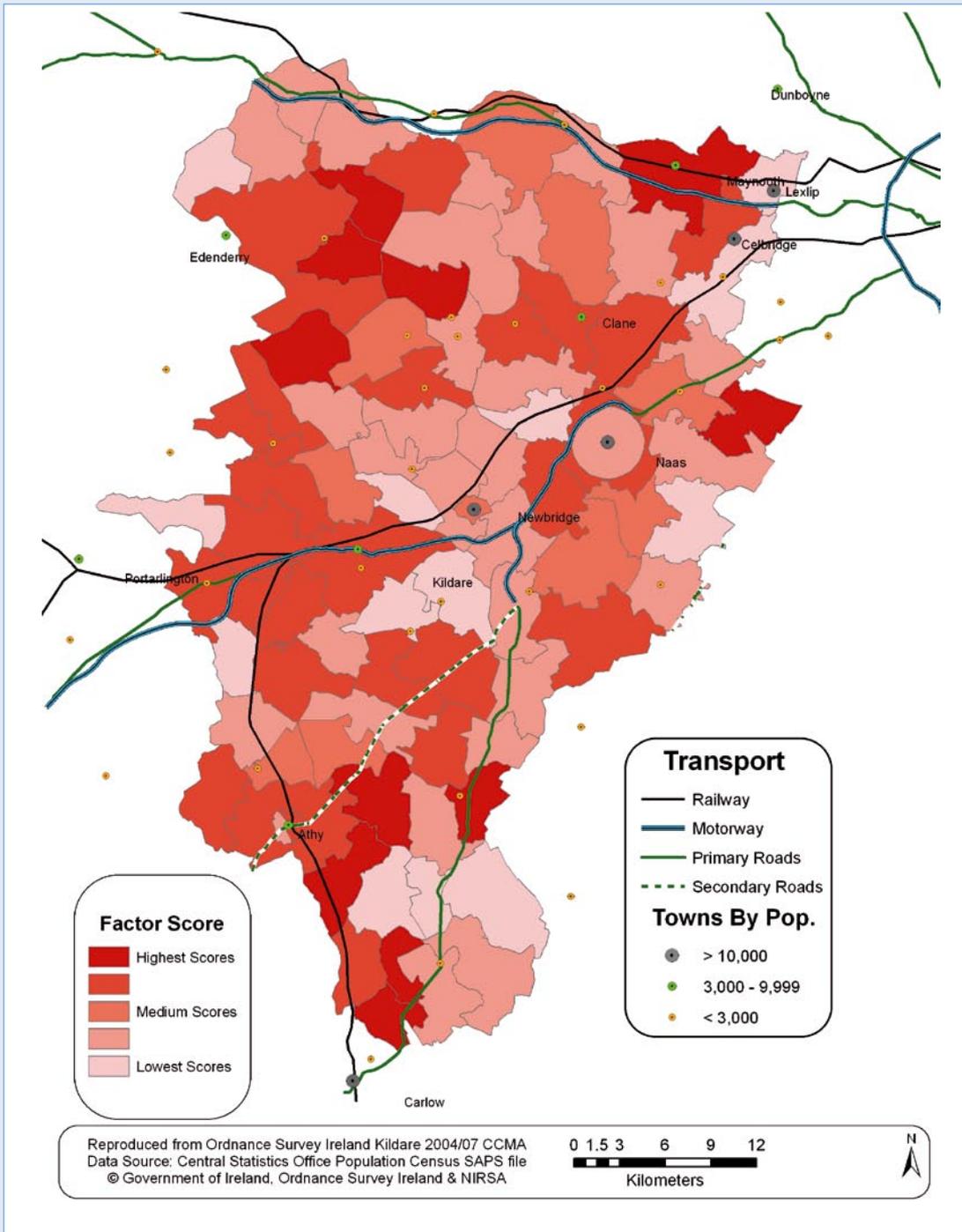
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MAP 132: FACTOR 5 POPULATION STAGNATION



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MAP 133: FACTOR 6 LONG DISTANCE COMMUTING



SYNTHESIS: A SPATIAL TYPOLOGY OF COUNTY KILDARE

8.4.1 *Social areas in Kildare*

Arising from the factor analysis, it is evident that, despite the complex socio-economic and demographic diversity within the county, it is possible to summarise the socio-demographic geography of Kildare in terms of five different dimensions in which areas within the county differ from each other. Based on the scores arising from this analysis, the use of cluster analysis allows for the identification of clusters of districts by studying similarities between districts across the five factors. The aim is to ensure that similar areas in terms of socio-economic and demographic characteristics are clustered together and the differences between the different clusters are maximised. From this analysis five distinct clusters emerged with each of them encompassing different selections of electoral divisions across the county. Average values for the different variables in each cluster are presented in **Table 34**.

The five different clusters, or social areas, can be characterised as follows, based on the comparisons of the mean values.

Cluster 1 (Social Area 1): Urban Kildare

There are fourteen electoral divisions in this cluster, including most of the larger urban centres in the county – indeed all of the larger settlements, except Leixlip, are included within this social area. This cluster is particularly characterised as comprising of electoral divisions with large populations, and above average levels of single persons, lone parent households (especially those with young families), and people living in new housing, rented council housing, or flats or apartments. There are also relatively high levels of non-Irish and UK citizens, of female labour force participation, and of no-car households associated with this cluster, as well as people with higher educational levels. On the other hand, the cluster is characterised as having lower than average levels of voter turnout, relatively lower levels of people travelling to work by motor car, and very low levels of agricultural employment. The electoral divisions in this cluster are: Athy East Urban, Athy West Urban, Naas Urban, Celbridge, Kilcock, Maynooth, Bodinstown, Clane, Downings, Droichead Nua Urban, Kilcullen, Kildare, Morristownbiller and Naas Rural.

Cluster 2 (Social Area 2): Commuter-Belt Kildare

Nineteen electoral divisions are included in Cluster 2 and these tend to be found within the main commuter belt areas in the north-east and east of the county, as well as the environs of other large towns such as Naas, Newbridge, Kildare and Athy. In many ways this cluster is almost the mirror image of Cluster 1, in that the districts within this cluster tend to be characterised as having considerably lower than average levels of different social deprivation related variables. This cluster is characterised by above average levels of married people, as well as above average levels of young adults (those in the 25-44 year age category). This cluster is also characterised as having high mean population densities for the electoral divisions located within it. The electoral divisions in this cluster are: Athy Rural, Burtown, Kilkea, Balraheen, Donaghcumper, Leixlip, Straffan, Ballymore Eustace, Carnalway, Donore, Droichead Nua Rural, Dunmurry, Feighcullen, Kill, Killeel, Ladytown, Oughterard, Pollardstown, Rathmore.

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SYNTHESIS: A SPATIAL TYPOLOGY OF COUNTY KILDARE

Table 34: Cluster profiles, displaying average values for each variable for different clusters

	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4	Cluster 5	Mean
Population	6,399	1,883	426	462	991	1,842
Population change, 1996-2002	34.0	15.0	18.1	16.6	14.2	18.6
0-14 age category	24.3	22.6	21.3	22.7	24.3	23.2
15-24 age category	15.5	16.1	14.2	15.7	16.1	15.6
25-44 age category	35.1	28.3	32.4	29.6	30.0	30.7
45-64 age category	17.8	25.2	22.8	22.1	21.6	22.0
65+ age category	7.3	7.8	9.3	10.0	8.1	8.5
Single people	40.5	36.6	37.1	37.3	38.9	38.1
Married people	50.0	55.5	54.3	54.2	51.5	53.1
Couple and children households	59.1	65.9	63.1	67.0	62.6	63.7
One person households	15.5	13.9	16.2	16.6	14.7	15.2
Empty nest families	7.0	10.5	9.1	7.5	8.3	8.5
Agricultural employment	2.8	9.7	19.0	17.7	10.8	11.9
Employed in Commerce sector	32.6	30.8	26.6	23.1	24.7	27.2
Unemployment rate	7.1	5.3	4.2	4.4	7.9	6.0
Owner occupied (mortgaged) housing	57.8	55.2	48.9	48.3	43.5	50.0
Owner occupied (not mortgaged) housing	20.7	35.2	42.7	44.7	36.5	36.3
Rented council housing	6.8	2.1	1.6	0.8	5.3	4.5
Housing built after 1996	32.6	18.0	20.9	19.1	20.0	21.5
Flats/apartments	3.6	1.1	0.7	1.6	1.5	1.6
Not Irish or UK citizens	4.5	2.4	2.6	2.4	1.7	2.6
Labour force participation rate	69.3	66.0	71.4	64.7	66.6	67.3
Female labour force participation rate	57.5	52.3	57.9	47.2	51.4	52.7
Part time workers	9.6	11.2	8.1	10.1	9.9	9.9
Education up to lower secondary level	44.7	43.4	49.2	54.9	61.3	51.7
Third Level education	28.9	29.1	24.9	20.8	15.7	23.1
No car households	16.5	7.8	7.1	9.9	14.0	11.2
Travel to work by motor car	57.5	63.4	62.2	59.9	59.1	60.4
Travelling 90+ minutes commuting time	4.5	4.4	5.8	4.4	4.6	4.7
Social Classes 1 and 2	34.0	39.6	34.0	30.7	23.5	31.6
Social Classes 4, 5 and 6	32.0	31.6	38.5	39.7	45.8	38.3
Lone parent households	11.9	9.1	7.8	8.3	13.2	10.4
Lone parent families with young children	6.5	2.7	1.8	2.6	5.1	3.8
Households with personal computer	51.5	58.4	49.4	49.0	42.1	49.5
Households with internet access	41.4	47.0	38.7	38.3	31.4	38.8
Voter turnout, 2002 General Election	53.6	56.9	59.3	57.2	55.3	56.4
Voter turnout, 2002 General Election	50.4	51.8	53.2	52.8	52.1	52.1
Turnout, 2005 Kildare North By-Election	38.9	40.7	40.2	40.4	-	40.0

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Cluster 3 (Social Area 3): Strong Rural

The third of our distinct clusters, or social areas, is comprised of fourteen electoral divisions in all, which tend to be spatially dispersed across the county, but with some degree of a concentration along Kildare's eastern border with Wicklow. The cluster has the highest mean levels of agricultural employment of all the clusters, and it is also has a low mean population, while being associated with lower than average levels of people living in flat or apartments, new housing, and rented council housing, thus underpinning the mainly rural characteristics of this particular social area. Given the general tendency for rural areas to have higher voter turnout levels than urban areas, it is not surprising that this area, along with Social Area 4, has the highest mean turnout levels of the different clusters. The electoral divisions in this cluster are: Belan, Carrigeen, Inchaquire, Kildangan, Kilrush, Narraghmore, Donadea, Carrick, Drehid, Thomastown, Windmill Cross, Gilttown, Killashee and Thomastown.

Cluster 4 (Social Area 4): Marginal Rural

Cluster 4 contains seventeen electoral divisions, covering large parts of north-western, western and southern Kildare. The cluster is associated with relatively high levels of residential stability, as is evidenced in the lower than average rates of population growth, the high level of non-mortgaged owner occupied housing, and high rates of agricultural employment. The mean voter turnout levels within this cluster are also well above the county average, as was the case for Social Area 3. On the other hand, the electoral divisions in this cluster have lower than average population density levels, as well as lower than average levels of new housing, rented council housing, and third level graduates. The electoral divisions in this cluster are: Ballaghmoon, Bert, Fontstown, Graney, Harristown, Johnstown, Lackagh, Moone, Quinsborough, Cloncurry (Celbridge), Ballynadrummy, Cloncurry (Edenderry), Dunferth, Lullymore, Oldconnell, Timahoe North, Usk.

Cluster 5 (Social Area 5): Economically Challenged

There are twenty-five electoral divisions in Cluster 5 (Social Area 5) and these tended to be mainly concentrated in the north-western, western and southern parts of the county. The electoral divisions included within this cluster are generally characterised as having high levels for various social deprivation related factors. This cluster is associated with a particularly high mean unemployment rate, and is also associated with higher than average levels for the percentage of people living in rented Kildare County Council housing, people with low educational attainment levels, and people in the semi-skilled and unskilled social class groups. High levels of lone parent households and of lone parent families with no children are also associated with the electoral divisions in this cluster. High percentages of the households within this cluster are also without cars, while lower than average levels of households have personal computers or access to the Internet. The electoral divisions within this cluster are also characterised by lower than average rates of population growth, as well as lower than average levels of non-Irish and non-UK nationals and of part-time workers, and of people in the managerial, technical and professional social class groups. The electoral divisions in this cluster are: Ballitore, Ballybrackan, Castledermot, Churchtown, Dunmanoge, Grangemellon, Kilberry, Monasterevin, Nurney, Skerries, Cadamstown, Carbury, Killinthomas, Kilpatrick, Kilrainy, Rathangan, Ballysax East, Ballysax West, Carragh, Kilmeage North, Kilmeage South, Rathernan, Robertstown, Timahoe South.

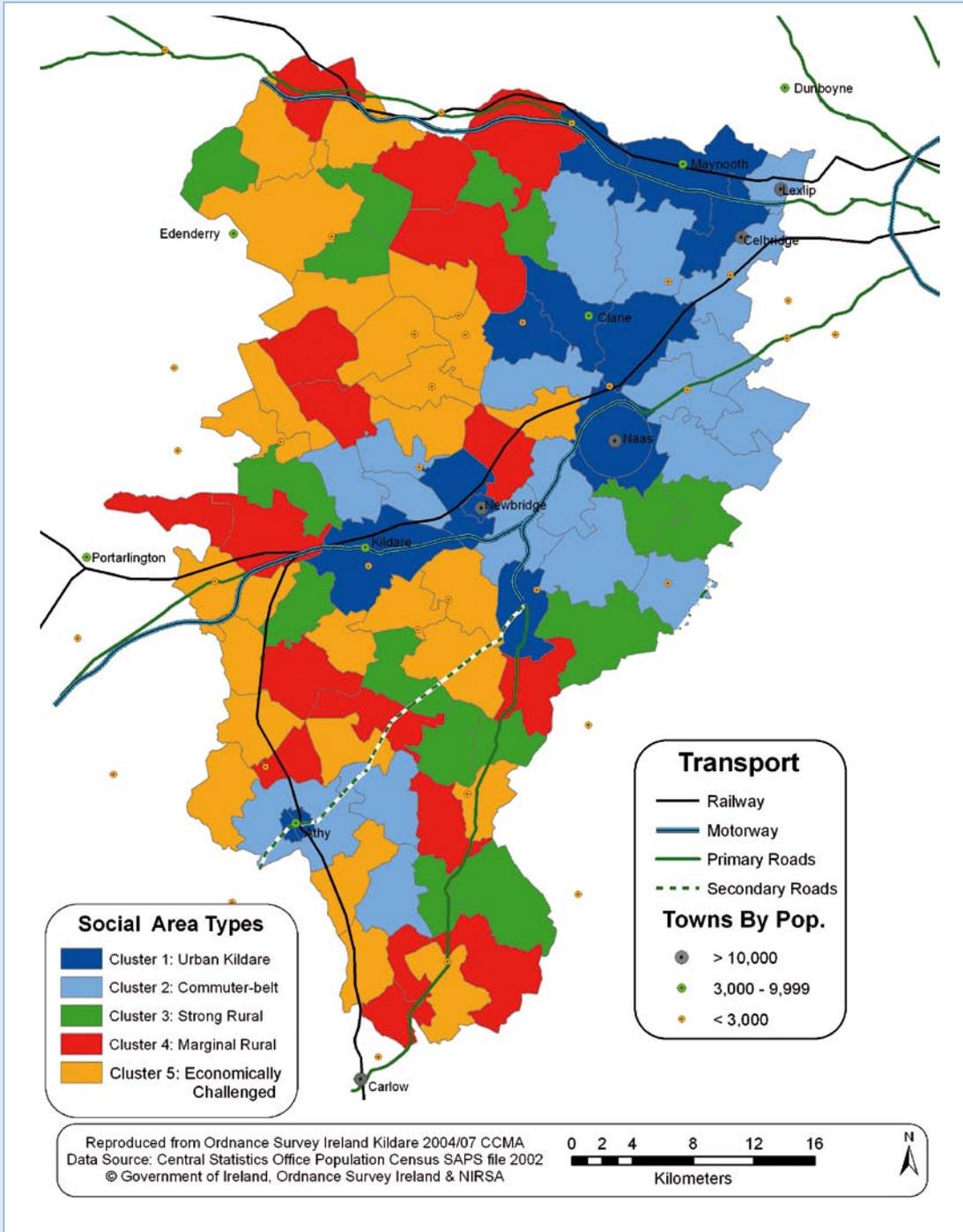
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SYNTHESIS: A SPATIAL TYPOLOGY OF COUNTY KILDARE

This analysis suggests that it is possible to identify a small number of distinctive clusters, on the basis of similar socio-economic and demographic characteristics, within the county of Kildare (**Map 134**). It points to significant differences between the clusters, such as differences in terms of relative affluence between Clusters 1 and 2, on the one hand, and Clusters 4 and 5, on the other. The analysis also points to differences in terms of population growth levels between Cluster 1 and the rest of the county, pointing to the fact that much of the most recent population growth in the county has been focused on urban centres. The culmination of this analysis is to present a division of the county into five relatively distinct social areas, each of which have relatively similar socio-economic and demographic characteristics, and each cluster has its own problems and challenges which will require different policy interventions and response to the challenges faced by other clusters. Urban problems are what largely define the challenges faced by the urban-core areas within Cluster 1, as well as issues to be faced in terms of the growing needs of ageing populations. Cluster 2, by contrast, faces few difficulties in relation to labour force participation and social well-being concerns, but instead its concerns are with responding the rapid population growth that the areas within this cluster have experienced in recent decades, with the main issues here to do with quality of life issues, such as commuting difficulties and the need for adequate service provision. As the rate of decline in agricultural employment continues, both nationally and within Kildare, Cluster 3 will need to address such issues. This cluster, to some degree, acts as a crossroad between the county between the rapid economic and population growth associated with Clusters 1 and 2 and the relatively underdeveloped areas located within Clusters 4 and especially 5. The future development of the county may dictate whether this cluster emerges as identifying more and more with the underdeveloped rural areas in the south and the west of the county, or the rapidly growing commuter-belt areas to the north and east. For Cluster 4, the problems are also to do with agricultural decline, as well as the peripheral location of areas within this cluster and the low levels of access to services, as with the lower than average levels of personal computer ownership and internet access. For Cluster 5, the focus is on social well-being and the challenge is to invigorate the economic and employment growth of the relatively underdeveloped areas within this cluster in advance of the changes to these areas that may arise in future years arising from increased levels of residential development.

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MAP 134: KILDARE SOCIAL AREA TYPOLOGY 2002



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There are a number of key areas emerging from this analysis that require ongoing consideration by the CDB. These include:

- Critical assessment of the evolving relationship of Kildare to Dublin and the implications of the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines for development within the county.
- Developing a regional approach to the funding of public services and especially the funding of Local Authorities in a way that fully recognises the complementary roles of different Local Authorities.
- Focusing on enhancing quality of life for all residents in a context of very rapid change.
- Promoting sustainable working and living conditions.
- Enhancing the competitiveness of all economic sectors and attracting new sectors that will provide more employment opportunities within the county for a more highly skilled labour force.
- Promoting sustainable use of all environmental resources.
- Implementing the integrated waste management strategy.
- Improving access for residents in more rural areas.
- Overcoming barriers that result in many different forms of social exclusion.
- Developing a coherent identity for Kildare, especially for new residents.
- Enhancing the range of educational opportunities and maximise the potential of existing educational resources.

The review of the CDB strategy takes into account the implications of the changes that have occurred over the 1996-2002 period while at the same time remaining committed to the principles of social and environmental sustainability. Environmental sustainability refers to the absolute need to ensure that economic development does not compromise either the level or quality of the environment in the long run. Social sustainability requires that development must be inclusive and must not fracture the degree of social cohesion that all societies need to remain viable, organic and dynamic. With this in mind Kildare is faced with a number of challenges.

The considerable growth in population in Kildare creates the most significant pressure, especially in light of the large-scale in-migration to the county (documented in Chapter 2 of this report) of a mobile labour force which, to a great extent, is commuting to work in places of employment located outside the county. The demands experienced over the past decade in Kildare are likely, if regional population projections are considered, to continue as the county's population looks set to reach 250,000 by 2021. While this massive population increase brings with it opportunities it also means that the need for co-ordinated planning and development strategies that extend across county boundaries will be even greater. For Kildare this will not only involve co-ordination with Meath, Fingal, Dublin City and South Dublin but also Offaly, Laois and Carlow.

Further, growth during this period has been based on largely residential rather than economic development. Although Kildare is seen as a "wealthy" county much of this wealth is concentrated in the north-east of the county. These differences, and the underlying forces of change, need to be considered in the future, particularly with a view to encouraging more balanced development throughout the county, particularly in the south-west of the county. It is hoped that planned improvements to the road and rail networks will

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facilitate such development in the future. The economy of the county is also impacted by the fact that the majority of those who have moved into the county are working in areas outside of the county.

As a consequence of the huge population influx in the county, provision of schools and childcare services are becoming increasingly important. These pressures are being felt more in some areas than others and there is a need for some investigation into educational and childcare need, on the one hand, and current as well as future service provision. The maps for this report demonstrate the extent of the social contrasts within the county, especially between the urban and peri-urban areas in the north-east, on the one hand, and the predominantly rural areas of the west and south. There is an obvious polarisation between the most affluent and least affluent districts. The challenge here is to contribute to the introduction of measures which would attempt to bridge this gap.

An important issue for the future will be to prioritise maintaining and improving the quality of life for all residents in the county irrespective of their location. A key issue here relates to improving employment opportunities in order to reduce the extent of commuting, in so far as that is possible, and provision of better public transport options for those who have to undertake long daily commutes. In this regard, there will be a need for better integration of settlement planning with transport provision and also greater co-ordination in the delivery of public services in the rapidly growing areas.

In conclusion, the CDB strategy needs to address issues identified above and develop proposals for co-ordinated and integrated responses that will lead to development that will be economically, socially, culturally and environmentally sustainable and at the same time contribute to an enhancement of the quality of life of all residents while also maximising the contribution of Kildare to the State. This will smooth the progress of making Kildare the first choice as a place to live, work, learn, visit and do business in line with Kildare County Councils mission statement.

What this report has further illustrated is that there are many gaps in knowledge in important areas in County Kildare, for example, the numbers and locations of children aged 0-4 in the county. Many state agencies maintain detailed databases of their clients that, without breaching privacy protocols, can be analysed to bridge this gap in County Kildare and help to predict future service needs within the county. The recently set up County Research & Statistics Office will work to bridge this gap by building on the information in this profile and collating up to date information from agencies operating in the county to provide a centrally based, accessible data resource which can contribute to planning future service provision in the county.

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APPENDIX A

ED ID	ED Name	Area sqkm
6001	Athy East Urban	2.20
6002	Athy West Urban	1.67
6003	Naas Urban	18.10
6004	Athy Rural (Pt.)	34.03
6005	Ballaghmoon	10.86
6006	Ballitore	12.73
6007	Ballybackan	12.31
6008	Ballyshannon	26.19
6009	Belan	10.79
6010	Bert	10.84
6011	Burtown	20.45
6012	Carrigeen	30.09
6013	Castledermot	19.16
6014	Churchtown	18.77
6015	Dunmanoge	14.50
6016	Fontstown	18.14
6017	Graney	26.56
6018	Grangemellon	18.28
6019	Harristown	20.86
6020	Inchaquire	12.12
6021	Johnstown	8.66
6022	Kilberry	16.81
6023	Kildangan	15.03
6024	Kilkea	18.12
6025	Kilrush	17.94
6026	Lackagh	25.40
6027	Monasterevin	27.37
6028	Moone	17.51
6029	Narraghmore	16.81
6030	Nurney	12.54
6031	Quinsborough	14.53
6032	Skerries	15.02
6033	Balaheen	33.06
6034	Celbridge	17.46
6035	Cloncurry	33.87
6036	Donadea	20.45
6037	Donaghcumper	24.08
6038	Kilcock	16.53
6039	Leixlip	11.42
6040	Maynooth	33.79
6041	Straffan	26.04
6042	Ballynadrummy	19.66
6043	Cadamstown	20.39
6044	Carbury	44.53
6045	Carrick	15.39

ED ID	ED Name	Area sqkm
6046	Cloncurry	15.64
6047	Drehid	15.40
6048	Dunfierth	22.42
6049	Killinthomas	14.94
6050	Kilpatrick	20.55
6051	Kilrainy	21.50
6052	Lullymore	21.45
6053	Rathangan	14.33
6054	Thomastown	20.05
6055	Windmill Cross	13.94
6056	Ballymore Eustace	16.93
6057	Ballysax East	20.63
6058	Ballysax West	14.39
6059	Bodenstown	28.00
6060	Carnalway	30.41
6061	Carragh	12.89
6062	Clane	18.82
6063	Donore	20.00
6064	Downings	16.04
6065	Newbridge Rural	19.08
6066	Newbridge Urban	2.80
6067	Dunmurry	16.11
6068	Feighcullen	10.92
6069	Gilltown	32.24
6070	Kilcullen	17.75
6071	Kildare	36.89
6072	Kill	19.30
6073	Killashee	13.85
6074	Kilmeage North	22.48
6075	Kilmeage South	17.65
6076	Kilteel	17.43
6077	Ladytown	19.95
6078	Morristownbiller	17.00
6079	Naas Rural	13.66
6080	Newtown	20.31
6081	Oldconnell	17.76
6082	Oughterard	15.83
6083	Pollardstown	10.87
6084	Rathernan	17.41
6085	Rathmore	24.24
6086	Robertstown	14.06
6087	Timahoe North	36.08
6088	Timahoe South	16.80
6089	Usk	18.80

NOTES & AMENDMENTS



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