

ULSTER FOLK PARK AND TRANSPORT MUSEUM GROUP PROJECT

Objective: To assess the content and presentation of the Park and Museum exhibits.

Each group to agree on six key points (3 good, 3 bad) in relation to the outdoor Folk Park exhibits and four points (2 good, 2 bad) in relation to each of the Folk Galleries and the Transport Museum. Each group to report back at meeting on Saturday evening.

FIELDTRIP PROJECT

Group Project (3,000 words maximum) to be completed by Friday April 23. Select **one** of the following:

CROSS-CULTURAL FUSION AND LOCAL PARTICULARISM IN ULSTER

The history of the North of Ireland is often depicted in terms of the native Gaelic Irish being usurped by settlers from England and Scotland following the Ulster Plantation in the seventeenth century. The stereotypical image is of two communities, differentiated by religion, living side by side but remaining totally separate. However, there is evidence to suggest that both sides may have adopted aspects of each others' culture at local level, resulting in identifiable regional cultural traits which cut across the sectarian divide. The objective of this project is to assess the extent to which the traditional image of two totally separate communities may be an oversimplification. The exhibits and other resources of the Ulster Folk Park should be scrutinised for evidence relating to the project, and should be supplemented by follow-up reading, internet investigation, etc upon return to Maynooth.

THE ROLE OF TRANSPORT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND'S ECONOMY

Northern Ireland's economy experienced rapid industrial growth in the 18th and 19th centuries, based initially on handspun and woven linens which were transferred to mechanised production in the early 19th century, following which Belfast in particular became a major shipbuilding and engineering centre. In the 20th century these old industries have largely disappeared, to be replaced by a largely service-based economy. The focus of this project is to relate the development of transport infrastructure and services in the region to these economic changes. The Ulster Transport Museum should act as a primary information resource for this project, and should be supplemented by follow-up reading, internet investigation, etc upon return to Maynooth.

SPECIAL PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS IN A DIVIDED COMMUNITY

Religious residential segregation in Belfast increased markedly at the beginning of the Troubles in the late 1960s as minorities on both sides were either intimidated out of their houses or else decided to flee to the security of their own community. Most of the housing stock, which had been built in the 19th century, was subsequently replaced by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. When redeveloping, the NIHE had to take account of people's fears of being attacked. It also had to take account of people's very strong attachment to territory at a local level against a background of a major shift in the religious balance. The objective of this project is to identify the special planning considerations generated by such factors, and to review the strategies adopted by the planning authorities. The Belfast fieldtrip on Sunday afternoon will focus on this topic, and should be supplemented by follow-up reading, internet investigation, etc upon return to Maynooth.