

RT 55.

Systematic Traffic Counting Programme
Clár-áireamh Sistéamach Tráchta

NATIONAL
LIBRARY OF
IRELAND

An Foras Forbartha

The National Institute for Physical
Planning and Construction Research

St. Martin's House, Waterloo Road,
Dublin 4. Telephone 64211.



J. Devlin and P. McGuinness.

December, 1970

Price 15/- (75p)
excluding postage.

Ir. 600

f 3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page	V
Summary	VI	
Notes and tentative classification system	VI	
1	7	
11 The Counting Programme.		
Introduction	9	
General	10	
Earlier Work	10	
Initial Steps and Procedures	11	
Types of Counter Used	11	
General	11	
Non-recording counters	12	
Self-recording counters	13	
Counter Maintenance	13	
Counter Accuracy	13	
Types of counting Stations	13	
General	13	
Permanent Stations	14	
Control Stations	14	
Local Stations	14	
Specification for Counting Programme	14	
Form of Programme	14	
Programme Criteria	14	
111 Processing Data from Permanent Traffic Counters.		
General	17	
Preparation of Magnetic Tape	18	
Storing Counter Volumes on Tape	18	
Producing Monthly Printout	18	
Correcting Errors in Counter Volumes	19	
Annual Summary Tables	19	
Content of Printout	19	
1V Grouping Permanent Counters.		
General	21	
Objectives of Grouping	21	
Grouping Systems	22	
Criteria for Grouping	22	
Highest Hour System	22	
Bureau of Public Roads System	22	
An Foras Forbartha Grouping System	23	

First Printing Dec. 1969,
Second Printing Jan. 1970.
Published Dec. 1970.

Cover Design E. O'Doherty B. Arch
Graphics Prepared by Val Innes
and Adrian Slattery

Printed by Tru-Print.

SUMMARY

V Processing Data from Control Counters.	General	Page	27
	Grouping Control Counters	"	27
	Reasons for Grouping	"	27
	Counter Output	"	27
	Grouping Procedure	"	27
	Calculation of AADT	"	28
		"	28
V1 Processing Data from Local Counters.	General	Page	28
	Calculation of AADT	"	29
V11 Results of Counting Programme.	Use of Results	Page	29
	Use of Groups	"	31
	Use of Factors	"	31
	Experience Gained	"	31
	Values of AADT	"	32
V111	Acknowledgements	Page	33
1X	References	Page	34
X	Table 1 - Definitions	"	35
	Table 2 - AADT Values for all Sections	"	37
	Table 3 - Permanent Counter Groupings	"	39
	Table 4 - Monthly Factors	"	40
	Table 5 - Group 1 Daily Factors	"	40
	Table 6 - Group 2 " "	"	40
	Table 7 - Group 3 " "	"	40
	Table 8 - Group 4 " "	"	40
	Table 9 - Group 5 " "	"	40
	Table 10 - Overall Travel Information on National Routes	"	41
X1	Figures 1 to 13	"	44
X11	Maps 1 to 27	"	53
	Publications	"	85

A country wide traffic counting programme for the National and the more important other routes was commenced in 1968. It aimed at establishing the average daily traffic for each portion of the counted network.

This report relates how the counting programme was organised, what counting strategy was used and how the field data were analysed and processed. The summarised results are presented in tabular form by reference to route number and section and also in map form.

During the analysis traffic flow patterns were identified for each of five functional types of route. Daily and monthly factors based on these patterns are given. Computer programs were developed to perform the analysis and provide printed summary information in specially designed formats.

Attention of the reader is drawn to the fact that the route classification and numbering system referred to in this Report has no formal significance other than the simplification it offered in indexing road sections on which counts were taken.

The reader is cautioned, therefore, against confusing the tentative route classification used in this Report with that which will emerge when the Minister for Local Government's official decisions on reclassification and route numbering become known.

1. This report presents the results of an extensive traffic counting programme undertaken on the principal routes throughout the Republic during 1968. The series of flow maps at the end of the report enumerates the main results, namely, the numbers of mechanically propelled vehicles passing on every section of the network during an average day in 1968.

2. The procedures used in analysing the census counts as received from the field stations is the subject of separate reports, RT.56 and RT.59. These describe the transfer of field information to data cards, the analysis procedure and the several computer programs used to carry out that analysis. Such programs could readily be used by any other agency wishing to process counter tapes or to use any of the analysis procedures. For the sake of completeness a summary description of the operations performed in these programs is included in this report.

3. The size of the road network included in the counting programme comprises the tentative National Primary and Secondary Routes and some of the more important other Routes. In all approximately 4,000 miles were included. These are the principal routes in the Republic and they extend into and through the towns and cities which they connect.

4. The counting programme had the following general objectives:

To provide information considered to be essential in the study of road accidents

To provide information needed for the determination of economically feasible road standards

To provide working data for economic investigations in road transport

To provide traffic flow information used in the design of road improvements

To provide base data required in local, regional and national planning studies

To provide an essential base for further research projects in the construction, safety and traffic fields

To provide working data for persons engaged in pavement design.

5. There are many other fringe uses to which traffic flow information is frequently put in the tourist, commercial, and private sectors. These uses need not be enumerated here.

6. Not all information collected in the counting programme is presented in this report. That portion of the programme which investigated composition of traffic by type of vehicle has been presented in Report RT.49. Moreover there are items of detail or local interest which are not suitable for inclusion in a general report such as this. Additional information about individual counters and traffic patterns is available if required.

General

11. THE COUNTING PROGRAMME

7. The immediate objective of the counting programme was to establish:

- (a) Annual average daily traffic (AADT) on every significant section of the counting network.
- (b) Total travel in vehicle miles on the principal through routes.
- (c) The approximate composition of traffic by class of vehicle at chosen points on the network.
- (d) Any significant characteristics of travel by region or by route function.
- (e) Hourly, daily, monthly patterns for as many route types as might emerge.
- (f) Information on travel in daylight and in darkness.
- (g) Information which would make possible the design of future programmes using far fewer counting points.
- (h) The distribution of design hour volumes at selected points on the network.

8. The procedure used to carry out the programme comprised the division of the road network into short sections, the systematic recording of traffic data related to each section and the execution of computational steps to obtain meaningful information relevant to the above objectives.

9. In this chapter there is mention of some of the earlier work in this area. There is also a description of the steps involved in drafting the programme, a discussion on the types of mechanical counters used and a sample presentation from the many counting schedules employed.

10. The interpretation of field data and the computational procedures used to arrive at the final information are all treated in later chapters.

11. Earlier work by Treacy (1) had demonstrated the value of identifying characteristics which could be used to interpret short period counts. This technique was used extensively in the present programme and was developed further to infill accidental gaps in the counting sequence and later to smooth out idiosyncrasies in the returns from individual counters. Both O'Keeffe (2) and Treacy had drawn attention to the need for information on design hour volumes and this type of information was extracted wherever hourly information was available. Traffic flow information presented by McCarthy (3) described intertown traffic volumes based on a two-day census supported by permanent counting stations. The present counting programme differs from that described by McCarthy in that it monitors the variation in traffic volumes at more frequent points, while the network covered is less extensive in terms of mileage. The procedure used revealed very significant changes in volume along routes as they passed through or close to even small towns. This was less evident from the type of study reported by McCarthy.

12. Much counting information was already collected by individual local authorities. It was felt that the present programme would, by co-ordinating such counts, lead to a more uniform programme the results of which could be published on a uniform format. Moreover the emergence of regional or functional patterns should lead to greater accuracy in reporting. The centralised processing of the voluminous information from self-recording counters seemed to offer considerable advantages in the way of computerisation.

13. Notwithstanding some advantages which may follow from pattern identification it should never be overlooked that the quality of any counting programme is totally dependent on the accuracy of the field data from which it is compiled.

14. Following a recommendation from the Seventh Meeting of the Road Traffic Advisory Group at An Foras, a working party was set up to advise on a counting programme. Their report, RT.20, set criteria for counting sections, reviewed available equipment and formulated procedures.

15. The census network was first divided into short counting sections so chosen that traffic volume was considered uniform within the limits set by the Working Party. Major intersections and the edges of towns most frequently marked the section changes. Section lengths varied considerably with the circumstances, the average being 3.9 miles. As sections would later be used to designate lengths of road on which a counter would be placed it was advantageous to assign an index number to each.

16. Unfortunately the official route classification of the road network was under review at the time of the programme

and could not be used. A tentative classification and tentative route numbering system was therefore "invented" solely for the purpose of this project. It offered a logical system of indexing a portion of road by route and section number e.g. N9-28, meaning National Route 9, Section 28.

17. The determination of sections and the assignment of numbers to them was carried out at An Foras which then drafted the programme and scheduled the counting sequence in a manner later to be described. The field counting was in every case carried out by the local authority for the area concerned. These field counts were then returned to An Foras for processing, summarisation and preparation of flow maps. The manner of processing and data extraction is outlined later in this report and is presented in fuller detail in the Documents RT.56 and RT.59.

General

18. Two classes of counter were used

- (a) Small counters of the non-recording type having a digital display register opposite a small glass window on the counter case. The register advances with each passing vehicle.
- (b) Large counters of self-recording type having a paper tape output which gives a periodic record of vehicles passed.

19. In every case, save one, counters were attached to pneumatic type detectors. These were small bore rubber tubes stretched and fixed down to the pavement in a direction transverse to traffic and designed to transmit a pneumatic impulse from each passing axle. One counter, in Co. Wicklow, was attached to a battery operated induction loop detector installed by the local authority for experimental purposes.

Non-recording Counters

20. Non-recording counters were mainly of two kinds: the Sykes-RRL type and the K-Hill type. Both operated from dry cell batteries.

21. The Sykes-RRL type and a very similar model marketed by Girling Limited contain a bellows type diaphragm. An air pulse from the tube expands the diaphragm closing an electric switch which in turn activates a linear solenoid. A ratchet arrangement then advances the register.

22. In the K-Hill type the air pulse lifts a ball off its seating releasing excess air. The ball closes an electric switch activating a rotary solenoid which is directly connected to the register.

23. Either make of counter is intended to be read without having to open the case but internal condensation frequently required that this be done. It will be seen that the counting programme called for a once daily reading, ideally at midnight. An 8.00 a.m. reading time was chosen for reasons of practical convenience.

24. An example of the field sheet used with these counters is illustrated in Fig. 1. It provides for counters recording either axle numbers or vehicle numbers. The form is similar to various versions previously used by local authorities.

25. Data from field sheets was transferred to a Monthly Return Form, Fig. 2. This has an unusual calendar format first developed by Wicklow Co. Council in 1959. Its use enables important daily characteristics to be preserved even though counting information over a month may be broken or incomplete. It also clarifies the question of weekends with respect to the calendar month and it gave rise to the unusual definition of ADTM (average daily traffic for the month) in table 1.

Self-recording Counters

26. Self-recording type counters were mainly of two kinds: the Streeter Amet type and the Fischer and Porter type. For both types the mode of activation was via bellows type diaphragms connected to tube detectors in a manner similar to that used in one of the non-recording counter types already described. Dry batteries were the most usual power source.

27. The Streeter Amet type counter prints on its output tape the period total (usually hourly) of vehicles passing and then automatically resets to zero. A sample output is illustrated on Fig. 3. It will be seen that the tape can be read directly by the human eye. In practice some smudging and faintness of printing was experienced. As the readings are non-cumulative all readings must be abstracted and visual mistakes are carried into summaries. This could be both advantageous and disadvantageous. It should be mentioned that later models of this counter have a printed tape output that can also be read automatically by an electric scanner though no such model was used on this programme. Such a tape is illustrated on Fig. 4.

28. The Fischer and Porter type counter punches in binary code on its output tape a continuously cumulative total of vehicles passing. The punching interval was usually set at one hour. A sample output is illustrated on Fig. 5. The tape cannot readily be read by human eye though the cumulative nature of the data does lend itself to the rapid extraction of daily or other summaries. In practice a purpose made translator is necessary to abstract the readings. Two types are marketed, a decimal display translator giving a straight visual

display of the punched tape data and an automatic translator designed for coupling to a standard IBM keypunch so as to give automatic transfer of data to IBM punched cards. A display type translator used on this programme was not very reliable and resulted in many translation errors needing subsequent correction. It was not possible to arrange the coupling of an automatic translator to the IBM keypunch at An Foras during the period of this project but efforts in this direction are still proceeding. Difficulty in translating the Fischer and Porter counter tapes into usable form considerably delayed the production of this report.

Counter Maintenance

29. No formal programme of counter maintenance was set. Through the courtesy of the Road Research Laboratory a comprehensive maintenance guide (4) in relation to Fischer and Porter counters was circulated where appropriate.

Counter Accuracy

30. The insertion of correction factors, based on visual checks, to amend counter readings was provided for in the design of the field sheet for non-recording counters Fig. 1. An accuracy check procedure is included in the maintenance guide mentioned above (4) for self recording counters, however, in the latter case no procedure was provided for the correction of counts already taken. Report RT.49 in relation to visual counting gave some information on the accuracy of the self-recording counters.

General

31. Three types of counting station were adopted, permanent stations, control stations and local stations. One or other of these stations was placed on every counting section on the network.

Permanent Stations

32. Permanent stations, to the number of 49, were located at a wide variety of points through the network. These included urban routes, commuter routes, intertown routes and tourist routes. As far as could be judged each type of route was represented. Permanent counter positions from previous programmes were retained where possible. A self-recording counter was placed at each permanent station and an hourly record for the full year was aimed at.

Control Station

33. Control stations, to the number of 100, were similarly located through the network; their precise location was fixed after studying the next group, local stations. Control stations were counted for three separated months or parts thereof. Non-recording counters were used and these were read at 8.00 a.m. each day. The objective was to ascertain seven averaged readings, one for each day of the week to represent each of the months. Thus three completed forms, Fig. 2, were aimed at for each control station.

Local Stations

34. Local stations, to the number of 1,000 were located one to each section of the network not already having a permanent or control station. Local stations operated for not more than one month in the year. Non-recording counters were used. These were read at 8.00 a.m. each day. Each of the seven days of the week was averaged, using the form illustrated, Fig. 2, and an ADM (average daily traffic for the month) was calculated.

Specification for Counting Programme

Form of Programme

35. The specification for the counting programme was prepared at An Foras and a copy of the relevant portion supplied to each authority involved. It comprised a list of the counting sections, a map showing their location and a schedule or counting plan. A copy of the specification for Co. Meath is reproduced in Figs. 6, 7 and 8.

Programme Criteria

36. The Co. Meath specification may be used to illustrate the criteria for programme formulation. The two permanent stations were chosen from the overall criteria already discussed. Their number and choice were based on subjective assessment.

37. The number and placement of control stations is dictated by their function. A very reliable AADT estimate and seasonal pattern information were required. Both requirements should be met from counting in three separated months. Seasonal information would make it possible to choose a suitable type permanent station to which readings might be related in making the AADT estimate. The existence of control stations is intended to help in making the corresponding choice for local stations. Since local stations placed on similar routes to the control could be expected to fluctuate seasonally with it the counting schedule ensured that counting at a control station and any related local stations would occur simultaneously.

38. Thus in Co. Meath, see Fig. 7, where control station N3-15 in An Uaimh is counted in May/Aug/Nov all other urban stations including those in Kells are counted in one or other of these months and related to N3-15 for expansion to AADT. Likewise control station N60-13 is counted in March/June/Sept and other rural stations on the same route comprising N60-9, 12 and 14 are counted in one or other of these months and related to N60-13 for expansion purposes.

39. Most permanent stations act as control stations for those local stations which are adjacent to them. The assignment of local stations to a particular control was subjective but this is not thought to have lead to significant errors. However, the system suffered from the disadvantage that its functioning could be greatly upset by non-adherence to the prescribed timing schedule.

40. The mechanics of relating local stations to controls and controls to permanent stations in the analysis of counts is not relevant at this point but will be described later in the Report.

General

41. At the commencement of the counting programme An Foras entered into an arrangement with an outside contractor to handle the data from the self recording tape output counters. An Foras specified how the information should be handled and the format in which the results should be returned by the Contractor. This format is substantially that shown in Figures 9 and 10. Because of protracted delays which occurred under this arrangement, An Foras decided to initiate procedures to handle the work using its own staff and rented computer facilities. Furthermore this was seen as a desirable step in relation to future counting programmes. With this objective An Foras wrote its own computer programs in Fortran language suitable for the IBM 360/44 computer. Some counter outputs, instead of being sent to contractors, were processed using An Foras Programs and the six tables, in Figs. 9 and 10 were obtained in that way.

42. The tables are intended as a detailed yet easily assimilable record of traffic volumes, averages and summaries. They can be produced in duplicate, one copy for the respective local authority, the other to be retained at An Foras to provide materials for further research. The information they contain is a fulfillment of a number of the objectives of the counting programme and could be particularly useful in accident research and decisions related to road design. The information also forms the basis of counter grouping procedures to be described in the next chapter.

43. The program procedures used by the contractor are not known to An Foras. However the procedures of the Foras' method, being readily available, are described in the remainder of this chapter.

44. In the Foras method four separate programs are employed and two magnetic tapes are used for storage. Two of the programs are concerned with preparing the magnetic tapes and storing the field data. The remaining two programs control the printing of the tables to the formats of Figs. 9 and 10 respectively. This choice of method took account of several factors. Any punched data cards are handled once only which is convenient and requires minimum computer time. Data from any type of counter is acceptable and it can be fed into the

system for odd periods at a time yet prints are obtainable in even monthly increments when called for. Questionable field information can be amended, displaced in time or deleted altogether. A detailed description of the programs may be found in Report RT.56. An outline description will now be given here.

Preparation of Magnetic Tape

45. The "first" computer program is used to prepare the magnetic tape. It has a twofold function. Firstly, it stores on the tape the constant information that appears on the output tables - for example, the local authority name, the counter location, the number of days in the month and the hours of daylight. Secondly, it prepares the tapes to receive the counter volumes. This amounts to the allocation of a fictitious value (-1 vehicles per hour) to every volume location appropriate to each hour of the year for each counter for which provision is made. Subsequent computer programs alter these fictitious volumes only when real values are available. Thus, it is possible to identify missing volumes and to exclude them from both calculations and printed tables.

Storing Counter Volumes on Tape

46. The "second" program was designed to handle the information from the counters. Special routines were built into this program to cater for the separate types of counter already discussed. Two routines - hourly cumulative and hourly non-cumulative - were arranged for the tape output counters discussed in paragraphs 27 and 28. A third routine was used for 24 hour non-recording counters as these are frequently placed at permanent stations during breakdowns. Two further routines were provided to convenience the correction or deletion of traffic volumes already stored by the computer.

Producing Monthly Printout

47. Before the second program can be used it is necessary to transfer the counter information to IBM data cards. A header card is punched to accompany each batch of data cards. It nominates one of the five processing routines discussed above and identifies the counter, date and time appropriate to the batch. The computer then assigns the hourly (or 24 hour) traffic volumes to the appropriate locations on the magnetic tape replacing in the process any previously stored fictitious or real volumes.

48. The "third" program is used to produce the monthly printout tables (tables A, B, and C in Fig. 9). It locates the section of magnetic tape reserved for the month in question, and prints the tables from the volumes stored thereon.

49. The format of presentation used in table A is believed to be the best attainable and was arrived at after a study of many formats by other researchers. It is modelled on a presentation by Parrish et al(5). A good format should give the reader the greatest facility to recognise anomalies in the counter data such as incorrect day, incorrect hour or unusual value of any volume reading. The format used requires a

printing width of 132 characters; unfortunately this requirement limits the use of these programs to computers having printers of this capability.

50. The day totals from table A are reprinted in table B using the now familiar calendar format used for non-recording counters as in Fig. 2. This same information is presented, table C, as factors to the monthly base. Some commonly occurring counter faults can often be quickly identified from a glance at table C. The magnetic tape contains the volumes shown in table A only; the contents of tables B and C are calculated each time a printout is produced, thereby ensuring that any subsequent corrections or additions to table A are automatically incorporated in later printings of tables B and C.

51. If examination of the monthly printout reveals that questionable or incorrect readings have been stored amended cards may be punched and the "second" program run again in the normal way. However, the most frequently occurring errors can more easily be rectified by using the special correction or deletion routines referred to in paragraph 46. The most frequently occurring errors appear to arise from:

Incorrect labelling of counter tapes by hour, date or description.

Failure of counter clock.

Battery becoming partially or fully discharged.

Detector tube becoming cut or blocked.

Annual Summary Tables

Content of Printout

52. The annual summary tables (tables D, E and F in Fig. 10) are produced by the "fourth" computer program. This program locates the section of magnetic tape dealing with the counter in question, analyses all the "real" volumes contained thereon, and prints the results of this analysis in the form illustrated.

53. The items contained in table A are self-evident with the exception of the lines prefaced "DY AV" and "WD AV". Each DY AV figure is the average of all days' volumes appearing in the column above it while each WD AV figure represents a similar average for weekdays only (Saturdays and Sundays excluded).

54. In table D, the AADT was found by averaging the twelve ADTM values, substitute monthly factors ("FM") being used in place of missing ADTM figures. The symbols ADTMWD, ADTMSA and ADTMSU refer respectively to the average daily traffic for the month based on Weekdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The highest volumes listed in table F are identified by hour (HO), day of week (DY), date of month (DT) and month (MO). At the foot of table F will be found the frequency of occurrence of volumes in incremental ranges. The ranges are given in units of 100 vehicles per hour starting with volumes in the range

0-99 vehicles per hour tabulated under range "0". The table F figures, and the table showing the volume ranges, should be used with caution if some of the year's hourly volumes are missing.

55. The average daily factors listed in table E are values brought forward from table C where each factor is the ratio of the average volume for that day to the ADTM for that same month. Table E values form the basis of the counter grouping exercise to be described in the next chapter.

1V GROUPING PERMANENT COUNTERS

General

56. A major application for the comprehensive traffic picture available at permanent stations is its use in the expansion of short period counts elsewhere to calculate their annual average daily traffic (AADT). The availability of 49 traffic patterns from permanent stations raised the question of which patterns were the most representative and therefore the most suitable for use in this application.

57. Much of the earlier work in counting revealed that while patterns at many stations differ from each other common group patterns could be recognised and furthermore that such groups coincide broadly with roads having similar predominant functions. The recognition of any such groups could ensure that patterns having the broadest application would be used in this expansion process. Counter grouping and the calculation of average patterns for use in expansion is already employed in most states in the U.S. The remainder of this chapter enumerates the advantages to be expected from grouping and discusses some of the grouping procedures which were considered and that which was ultimately adopted for this programme.

Objectives of Grouping

58. Objectives and advantages to be seen in counter grouping are several and three of the more important are now listed:

- (a) Grouping performs a valuable smoothing function in relation to fluctuations which are local in origin (e.g. sports events, counter faults) and which it would be desirable to suppress whenever continuous counts are used to expand short term counts at other places.
- (b) Where counters, falling into geographic or other identifiable configurations, exhibit sufficient similarity to merit groupings then these configurations may be used to indicate suitable assignment for short term counting stations at other locations.
- (c) Whereas the original number and placement of permanent stations was subjective, grouping would provide objective criteria for future years permitting each type of road to be adequately but not over-represented.

Criteria for Grouping

59. Before a large number of counters can be formed into groups it is necessary to select criteria to characterise the traffic pattern at a counter. Once criteria are established the performance of a counter would be represented solely by the chosen characteristic or characteristics. Similarity or dissimilarity between two counters, or the 'goodness of fit' of a particular counter with a group of counters could then be expressed in terms of these characteristics. In this way a number of groups could be arranged each composed of counters having like characteristics. Since many locations carrying mixed traffic might ultimately fall between two groups the number of groups should be sufficient to avoid a poor fit in such cases.

Highest Hour System

60. The ratio of the 30th highest hour in the year to the annual average daily traffic is one possible characteristic which might be used as a basis for a grouping system. This ratio is known to reflect route function. However no reference could be found in the literature to its use in this context.

Bureau of Public Roads System

61. Most states in the U.S. use monthly factors as characteristics giving in effect 12 characteristics to describe the pattern of each counter. An "array method", advocated by the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads is then used to establish counter groups (6). A large table of factors by month is prepared wherein factors are arrayed in descending order of magnitude within each month. As the factor sequence of counters might vary month to month it is necessary that every factor in the table carry an index or label identifying the counter to which it belongs. Where it is seen that factors from certain counters are numerically close for all or nearly all months such counters are considered to form a group. Limits of permitted variability within a group are suggested by the Bureau.

62. In discussions with some state highway officials it was suggested that the Bureau system left room for improvement. For one thing it was difficult to operate where more than about 20 counters were involved. There was mention also of the degree of subjectivity in the identification of groups. References in the literature raise other points. Drusch writing of Missouri Highway Department's experience in the use of the Bureau's system (7) reports "This resulted in an excessive number of groups. When indicating the group assignment of continuous count stations on a map by the use of color codes, no reasonable pattern of continuous group assignments appeared. Other tests indicated that an appreciable number of stations

would tend to change groups in the following year".

63. Drusch's remark about possible absence of pattern when groups are plotted on a map is significant in relation to the second objective set out here in paragraph 58. Compact groups however logically formed in a mathematical sense are of little more than academic value unless they also conform to some identifiable configuration. Instead it would be preferable to ascertain which configurations of groups give rise to the most compact group patterns. It would also be reasonable to expect that stations so grouped would be unlikely to switch groups from year to year.

64. In the analysis of the 50 point census in Great Britain (8) a search for groups displaying similar patterns does not appear to have been undertaken. The administrative categories of road were accepted as constituting the groups and the counter results were averaged within each category. It should be borne in mind that tourist traffic which is a major independent variable in Ireland probably constitutes a far lesser proportion of total traffic in Great Britain.

An Foras Grouping System

65. An Foras considered the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads' system of grouping and the shortcomings ascribed to it. It felt that some objections might be met if the 12 characteristics, or monthly factors used to describe a counter were enlarged to 84 by considering day of the week. This made it desirable to adopt some other method of assessing similarity when comparing counters with each other. The method was to use the sum of the squared differences for all 84 characteristics as a measure of dissimilarity between counters. This gave a tendency to keep apart counters which had a large difference for any particular day or month. The method also changed a step, which is very complex in the Bureau method, into something which could be more easily computerised. The next operation was to form groups using the above measure of dissimilarity.

66. The number of possible group configurations using say 4 groups and 50 counters runs into many millions. The number is indeed so great that it is impracticable, even using a computer, to test every conceivable combination for 'goodness of fit'. A procedure was used, therefore, to encourage the formation of nuclei of groupings and each counter in turn was then compared to these nuclei. A group nucleus was then allowed to acquire any counter which displayed a good fit.

67. In a first exercise every counter was regarded as the nucleus of a group giving in effect 49 groups. Any two displaying similarity (literally when the preferred match of each was mutual) were allowed to coalesce and their characteristics averaged. Each such step obviously reduced the number of

groups by one. When all mutual similarity cases were exhausted the process was allowed to continue by gradually increasing the dissimilarity permissible at each acquisition. Thus groups grew in size but decreased in number. A printout was made of group constituents and their dissimilarity measurements when all 49 counters had been formed into 8 groups, 7 groups, 6 groups, 5 groups and 4 groups respectively. Two counters showed such dissimilarity all round that they were withdrawn. The constituents of each group were then identified geographically and otherwise to see if recognisable configurations could be identified.

68. Checks were made by repeating the exercise while changing the sequence in which counters were examined. Unfortunately, several trials revealed that, while substantially similar groupings emerged each time, a few counters did switch groups. Furthermore the presence of recognisable configurations depended on which option was accepted. The exercise was then abandoned but its results gave vital clues to the choice of nuclei in the next exercise that followed.

69. In a second exercise 26 counters were chosen to represent 5 groups recognised in the first exercise. These groups, when plotted on a map, seemed to fall into five functional classes and were given description names for convenience. Group nuclei were then formed from these as follows:

- 2 counters on urban commuter routes
- 3 counters on urban routes general
- 15 counters on rural intertown routes
- 4 counters on predominantly tourist routes
- 2 counters on tourist routes with unusual Sunday characteristics

70. The characteristics of every counter - including the 26 above but excluding the two anomalous counters, paragraph 67 - were compared to the mean characteristics of the 5 group nuclei by measuring the sum of the squared differences of characteristics. Counters were then assigned to the group of best fit. Group mean characteristics for the enlarged nuclei were now recalculated and the process repeated until stability was reached.

71. The groupings resulting from the exercise are given in table 3 and shown geographically on Fig. 11. Apart from two counters, one near Tullamore and one near Kilkenny, the group configuration follows a geographic pattern. No acceptable reason is seen for the two irregularities.

72. These five groups, represented by their respective mean group characteristics, were used to expand the counts at control stations in a manner to be described in the next chapter. The mean monthly factors displayed by the five groups are shown in Fig. 12. An example of the daily characteristics during one month is shown in Fig. 13. A complete presentation of these values is given in tables 4 - 9.

73. The two grouping exercises which have been treated in outline in this chapter are described in full detail in report RT.59.

General

74. This chapter describes how control stations were identified with one or other of the five permanent station groups and how annual average daily traffic (AADT) at the control was estimated from the counts available. It will be recalled that counts at control stations were planned for three separated months. In some instances departure from the counting schedule occurred; where this happened identification of that control with a permanent counter group was often less reliable. Local stations assigned to that control were similarly influenced.

75. The method of control grouping was broadly similar to that for permanent grouping. Again use was made of computer programs and these are detailed in Report RT.59. Only an outline of the steps involved is given in the paragraphs that follow.

Grouping Control Counters

Reasons for Grouping

76. Identification of a particular control station with one or other of the five permanent groups was performed to make sure that counts at that control (three months data) and at each dependent local station could be expanded to AADT from a correct weighting of the monthly patterns appropriate to the location. In the absence of this identification it would be impossible to arrive at an accurate estimate of AADT at either a control or local station not knowing whether the location was tourist, intertown or other function type.

Counter Output

77. Normally three forms of the type, Fig. 2, were available from control stations each giving six average daily volume readings, Saturday and Sunday having been combined into a single "weekend" value. This gave 18 characteristics to describe any control which was counted for the planned three separated months.

78. The computer program was made sufficiently flexible to handle characteristics other than the 18 in number. This proved a useful facility whenever a departure from the precise counting plan occurred. A counter breakdown or a decision to count extra months could therefore be accommodated.

Grouping Procedure

79. The grouping procedure for each control station consisted of measuring the similarity between it and each of the five permanent station groups, and associating the control with the group exhibiting the greatest similarity in characteristics.

80. The computer examined the data from each control in turn and established the months in which it was counted. Selecting the same period at each of the five permanent groups it calculated five sets of matching characteristics which were then compared to the group characteristics. The differences observed in the compared values were squared and summed separately for each group. The resulting summation producing the lowest value was interpreted to be the group of best fit. This is thought to be similar to the method used in the Georgia study(5).

81. Using this method every control station was assigned to one or other of the five permanent groups. A plot of the grouping on a map showed some geographic anomalies. This is not altogether surprising as some controls would have been counted in months when several groups had similar factors and it would not therefore have led to any erroneous output in these cases, see Fig. 12. No doubt the anomalies also included some more significant incorrect assignments. Drusch (7) in a similar exercise using the BPR method discovered on a test that a surprising 44% of assignments went to an incorrect group. No such test was possible here.

82. The annual average daily traffic (AADT) at a control station was calculated by first summing the 18, or other number of daily volumes, ascertained from available Monthly Returns, Fig. 2. This tot was then reduced to AADT by dividing it by the tot of corresponding day characteristics for the appropriate group to which the control now belonged. In this way use was made of every available day's count at the control to minimise any unusual daily or monthly variation that might have interposed.

Calculation of AADT

General

Calculation of AADT

V1 PROCESSING DATA FROM LOCAL COUNTERS

83. It will be recalled that by far the largest number of counting stations in the programme belong to the 'local station' class. These stations were counted for one month or part thereof. The grouping exercises for permanent and control stations already described were carried through mainly to provide a valid means of expanding monthly counts at local stations to AADT. This chapter describes the procedures used.

84. Every local station was first assigned subjectively to an adjacent control or permanent station considered to have a like route function, see paragraph 37. As local and control stations were most often on the same route, see Co. Meath Fig. 8, serious error was unlikely from this source. The plan for counting ensured that every control station was being counted simultaneously with all local stations assigned to it.

85. The average daily traffic for the month (ADTM, see Fig. 2) at the local station was expanded to AADT in the ratio of Control AADT to the Control ADTM for that same month.

86. Consideration was given to an alternative method whereby AADT might have been calculated by dividing the ADTM by the monthly factor for the group to which its controlling station belonged. The method adopted could be expected to give better AADT values where unusual but genuine traffic variations occurred. The alternative method would give better values where any variations arose from counter malfunction at the control station.

87. Calculation of AADT for local stations was also carried out using a computer program as before. Details of this program are also included in Report RT.59.

Use of Results

Use of Groups

88. Analysis of the permanent counting stations resulted in the emergence of five groups each broadly coinciding with routes having a particular function. If counts were taken at the same points in future years it would be possible to calculate a growth rate broadly representative of route function.

Use of Factors

89. The characteristics by which these groups are described are reproduced as factors in tables 4-9. Table 4 contains monthly factors and these are also shown graphically in Fig. 12. If a monthly count, ADTM, is available for any point at which the route function can be judged then the AADT can be obtained by dividing the ADTM value by the relevant factor from Table 4. This relationship could be expected to be substantially true for some years to come.

90. Similarly if counts are available for particular days only, at a point, the AADT can be obtained by dividing the available day values by the relevant factors from tables 5 - 9 and averaging the results obtained.

91. It should be noted that the day factors in table 5 are to an annual base and should not be confused with the day factors in Figs. 9 or 10 which are to a monthly base. The latter is convertible into the former by multiplying by the monthly factor.

Experience Gained

92. In this programme the method used to establish grouping and hence route function of control stations was based on the relative magnitude of counts taken over three separated months. It is desirable that either July or August be one of these months. Where this puts a premium on counters, 14 days, not necessarily consecutive, could be used to establish the monthly count. Portable self recording counters would be useful for this. Local counts taken in April, May, September or October are better insulated against the effect of incorrect group assignment than counts taken in any other months.

93. In this programme the method of analysis required that related local and control counters be operating simultaneously. This should have given very accurate AADT values provided only that counters were recording without error. Had local stations been related directly to the permanent group selected by the control then local station AADT would have been less sensitive to counter error but more sensitive to errors from real short term fluctuations in traffic volume.

94. Taking all the above considerations together and viewing them against the back-ground of the five patterns which emerged, and the experience of counter breakdowns it would appear that a better counting schedule would result from counting control stations only in Feb., July, August and November and counting local stations only in March, April, September and October. In the analysis local stations would then be related directly to one or other of the permanent groups chosen by the control.

95. More consideration could be given to the selection of permanent station sites. Should, for example, the five emergent groups be more equitably represented? Should streets in provincial towns be represented? A case could be made for random selection using the vehicle/mile information now available.

96. The siting of counter location within each counting section was much influenced by site convenience; better adherence to the third point rule would be desirable.

97. A better documented system of counter checking and maintenance is needed. Frequently a return of axles (not vehicles) was adverted to by the vigilance of someone who thought that a reading was unexpectedly large.

98. More research is needed into methods of detection other than pneumatic tubes particularly in relation to permanent counting stations located on busy routes.

99. The computer programs which were prepared during the course of this project are all in Fortran language. These would readily be made available on request to anyone wishing to use them.

100. The most important information available from the programme is that on AADT values for every section of the network. These are given in map form, maps 1 - 26 and again in tabular form, table 2. The indexing of the sections in this table is based on the tentative route numbering system pending the formal adoption of a numbering system for the newly classified National and Regional routes.

101. This project was undertaken in co-operation with the Department of Local Government and the Local Authorities. An Foras wishes to thank the officials of that Department for their co-operation and in particular Mr. P. M. McNeill whose advice and assistance was much appreciated during the programme. An Foras wishes also to thank the local authorities and their staffs who contributed all the field data on which this report is based. The success and accuracy of the results depended entirely on their efforts. Finally An Foras wishes to acknowledge the exploratory work done by the Working Party on Traffic Counting.

Maps in this report are based on the ordnance survey by permission of the Government; Licence No. 121/69.

1X REFERENCES

1. Treacy, P.J. A PRECURSORY REVIEW OF TRAFFIC COUNTING IN RURAL AREAS Transactions I.C.E.I. Vol. 89 No. 2 Jan. 1963.
2. O'Keeffe, P.J. ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN IRELAND Transactions I.C.E.I. Vol. 87 No. 5 April 1961.
3. McCarthy, P.F. TRAFFIC CENSUS ON MAIN ROAD SYSTEM Transactions I.C.E.I. Vol. 90 No. 6 May 1964.
4. Blackmore, D.H. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FISCHER AND PORTER PUNCHED-TAPE COUNTER RRL Report No. 9 1966.
5. Parrish, E.C., Peterson, E.D., and Threlkeld, R. GEORGIA'S PROGRAM FOR AUTOMATED ACQUISITION AND ANALYSIS OF TRAFFIC-COUNT DATA Highway Research Record 199, 1967.
6. U.S. Bureau of Public Roads GUIDE FOR TRAFFIC VOLUME COUNTING MANUAL, 1965.
7. Drusch, R.L. ESTIMATING ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC FROM SHORT-TERM COUNTS Highway Research Record 118, 1966.
8. Tanner, J.C. and Scott, J.R. 50-POINT TRAFFIC CENSUS - THE FIRST FIVE YEARS Road Research Technical Paper No. 63 RRL 1962.
9. Dunn, J.B. 50-POINT TRAFFIC CENSUS RRL Reports No. 45 and No. LR 119.
10. Dunn, J.B. and Sheppard, Mrs. P. 50-POINT TRAFFIC CENSUS RRL Report No. LR 222.
11. REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE INTRODUCTION OF A SYSTEMATIC TRAFFIC COUNTING PROGRAMME RT.20, An Foras Forbartha (unpublished)

TABLE 1 DEFINITIONS

ADTM	Average Daily Traffic for Month. There is a unique value for each census point for each month. Obtained by taking the average of the available Sunday volumes, the average of the available Monday volumes Tuesday Wednesday etc. summing and dividing by seven.
AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic. There is a unique value for each census point for each year. Obtained by summing all 12 ADTM values and dividing by 12. Where some ADTM values are missing the AADT value is obtained by summing available ADTM values and dividing by the sum of the substitute monthly factor (MF) values (table 4) for the same months.
FM	<u>Sum available ADTM values</u> i.e. Sum substitute FM values for the same months
FM substitute	Monthly Factor Obtained by dividing ADTM by AADT
DY AV	Any of the monthly factor values from table 4. Day Average as used in Fig. 9.
WD AV	Obtained by averaging all the available counts for the hour and month indicated. Weekday Average as used in Fig. 9.
weekday	Obtained by averaging all the available weekday counts for the hour and month indicated. Monday to Friday inclusive.
AV DAYLIGHT VEHICLES	Sum of DY AV entries for the hours of daylight - as used Fig. 9.
ADTMWD	The average of all the weekday counts which are available for that month - as used Fig. 10.

ADTMSU The average of all the Sunday counts which are available for that month - as used Fig. 10.

ADTMSA The average of all the Saturday counts which are available for that month - as used Fig. 10.

HO-DY DT-MO As used in table F, Fig. 10, these refer to the hour HO, day of week DY, date of month DT and month of year MO, in which the stated traffic volume was observed.

Table 2 AADT Values for all Sections

SECTION	AADT	SECTION	AADT										
N 1-01	3888	N 4-25	3247	N 7-14	1	N 12-01	1394	N 17-19	1473	N 23-01	3223	N 23-01	3201
02	6993	02	2861	15	664	03	899	20	2500	21	3185	22	6266
03	9405	28	1143	16	2235	04	320	23					
04	7864	29	3259	17	1081	05	363						
05	5813	30		18	929	06	193						
06		31	4574	19	1548	07	434						
07	4511	32	4747	20	629	08							
08	4645	33	5667	21	844	09	654	N 18-01	1007	08	1276	09	1670
09	3817	34	4771	22	1381	10	1016	03	922	11		12	
10	8306	35				11	2530	03	761	12		13	
11	5514	36	9245			12	2410	04	920	13		14	
12	4778	37	12006	C2	4468	14	1845	03	1604	15		16	
13	5289	38	11285	C3	2605	15	1940	03	2302	16		17	
14	6154			C4	1959	16	2580	02	2834	11		12	
15	6253			C5	1497	17	2930	08	1348	13		14	
16	4957			N 5-01	5414	09	1784	13	939	15		16	
17	7631	02	441	05	2163	10	2690	14	1273	16		17	
18	8302	03	244	07	2885	11	3564	15	1953	16		17	
19	9976	04	245	08	2017	12	2469	12		13		14	
20	10927	05	2655	09	1300	N 13-01	1964	13	2946	14		15	
21		06	3345	10	2886	15	9477	14	3473	15		16	
22	10374	07	2618	11	1877	02	1360	15	9477	N 57-01	822	16	
23	14758	08	1821	12	1594	03	1270	16	7598	02	1191	17	
24	19636	09	1688	13	3207	04	2741	17	10437	03	710	18	
25	22629	10	2071	14	3986	05	1791	18	12435	04	586	19	
26	41794	11	2716	15	2474	06	1224	19	14630	05	378	20	
27	44865	12	1943	16	1903	07	1607	06		07	1548	08	
28		13	1740	17	2074	08	2120	09	4648	07	922	10	
N 2-01	3378	14	1715	18	1708	10	3714	08	587	11		12	
02	3059	15	2573	19	1392	11	3729	12	2720	N 19-01	2664	09	
03	1144	16	1626	20	1409	13	5462	02	2676	10	926	11	
04	1264	17	2270	21	1726	12		03	2606	11	765	12	
05	687	18	2590	22	1660	13		04	2330	12	1532	13	
06	913	19	4487			14		05	1463	13	2016	14	
07	688	20	4107			15	9761	06	1513	14	3341	15	
08	999	21	3895			16	13548	07	19093	08	3234	17	
09	5444	22	3764	C2	11769	17	1993	07	1423	15	4878	18	
10	2574	23	3169	02	9763	08	1996	06	3845	17	8449	19	
11	1390	24	3878	03	4120	09	3845	10	1676	18	6446	19	
12	1100	25	4423	04	2724	10	1509	11	1509	20	8876	21	
13	2801	26	4153	05	3384	12	1389	12	11471	22	21119	23	
14	1413	27	4793	06	7118	N 14-01	3578	07	1440	08	4464	09	
15	703	28		07	4140	10	1980	12	4664	20	778	21	
16	2192	29	4944	08	2053	13	1338	23	6411	22	504	24	
17	1335	30	5696	09	2707	14	1458	23		07	446	24	
18	1573	31	6556	10	4686	15	1736	15	1236	N 58-01	439	16	
19	4364	32	7203	11	1690	16	1966	16	3463	02	1846	17	
20	2153	33	6561	12	2253	17	1859	17	2488	03	595	18	
21	2002	34	6361	13	2221	19	1409	19	2272	04	1255	20	
22	1337	35	9696	14	2094	20	1897	21	3155	05	766	22	
23	1538	36	8630	15	1760	11	1736	22	5374	06	508	23	
24	1529	37	12230	16	2442	12	1498	23	6411	07	446	24	
25	1485	38	13726	17	2269	13	1338	24	34207	08	446	25	
26	1717	39	14754	18	2060	14	1874	25		09	778	26	
27	2401	40	20673	19	1706	15	1874	26		10	2434	27	
28	2610	41	13973	20	2005	16	1820	11	3059	12	859	13	
29	3532	42	14617	21	2919	17	2128	12	2133	13	1262	14	
30	5858	43	14418	22	2133	18	2538	13	2006	14	1298	15	
31	13614	23		23	1836	19	2056	02	1304	14	1298	15	
32	27108	24		24	2820	20	2056	03	806	14	2451	15	
		25		25	2308	21	2487	04	1487				
		26		26	2299	22	29568	05	2957				
		27		27	3670	23	14052	06	3049				
N 3-01	908	02	2027			07	1749	N 59-01	671				
02	1431	03	1524			08	1873	02	748				
03	1560	04	1975			09	2940	03	1083				
04	3360	05	2005			10	4159	04	689				
05	5227	06	2234			11	11125	05	1258				

TABLE 3 PERMANENT COUNTER GROUPINGS

Table 2 (cont) AADT Values for all Sections

SECTION	AADT	SECTION	AADT	SECTION	AADT	SECTION	AADT	SECTION	AADT	SECTION	AADT
N61-01		N70-01	498	N79-11	1376	N87-01	1219	R154-01	1412	R332-01	4522
02	667	02	645	12	1725	02	879	02	714		
03	1971	03	1100	13	2270	03	714				
04	2546	04	509	14		04	1272				
05		05	392	15		05	2084	R155-01	411	R335-01	4977
06	690	06	1777	16				02	1447	02	4923
07	801	07	1134								
08	630	08	1581								
09	1137	09	1810	N80-01	8	N88-01	1175	R158-01	1071	R498-02	2136
10	1092	10	2476	02	6	02	1584			03	2435
11	1915	11	614	03	41					04	3900
12	1136	12	919	04	387			R159-01	689		05 5656
13	1074	13	704	05	1182	N89-01	1286				
14	2210	14	1192	06	1095	02	844				
15	807	15	1747	07	1931	03	870	R160-01	469	R499-01	1619
16	1004			08	744	04	1312	02	193	02	1009
17	1621			09	866	05	1746			03	1028
		N71-01	350	10	1185						
		02	303	11	423						
N62-01	1994	03	552	12	406	N90-01	2289	R168-01	295	R524-01	127
02	1329	04	516	13	532	02	2698				
03	1295	05	878	14	1138	03	3413	R171-01	621		
04		06	1019	15	1050	04	1076			R542-01	589
		07	909	16	684	05	1355	R174-01	604	02	280
		08	1914	17	911	06	1476				
		18	2588								
								R629-01	249		
N63-01	1147					R 8-01	765	R175-01	302	R647-01	
02	453					02	1611	02	1590	02	
03	1003	N72-01	996	N81-01	3644					03	343
04	842	02	1712	02	523					04	614
05	1072	03	982	03	815						
06	1648	04	523	04	618	R12-01	784	R176-01	943		
		05	815	05	617						
		06	617	05	664			R177-01	2955	R651-01	179
		07	763	07	750						
		08	767	08	750			R178-01	1305	R677-01	129
		09	565	09	565						
		10	672	10	672	R25-01	650	R201-02	2075	R711-01	
		11	537	11	537	02	611				
		12	615	12	615			R202-01	828	R728-01	173
		13	1000	13	1354	R26-01	552				
		14	531	12	1336	R45-01	601	R203-02	991	L149-01	299
		15	464	13	814						
				14	856	R56-01	376	R208-01	1330		
				15	1032			02	3060		
N65-01	693	N73-01	498	16	1655			03	3313		
02	1476	02	562					04	9508		
03	820	03	513	N82-01	721			05	8300		
04	619	04	754	02	729	R69-01	644			06	7627
05	566	05	824	03	1323	07	8090			07	8090
		06			03	1627	R70-01	1489	R65-01	677	
		07	1070	04	600			02	1489		
		08	591	05	566	R56-01	376	R208-01	1330		
		09	547	06	1489			02	3060		
N66-01	972	08	591	07	397	R65-01	677			03	3313
02	1400	09	547							04	9508
03	2009									05	8300
04	4123									06	7627
05	897	N74-01	1240							07	8090
06	495	02	1187	N83-01	1267	R69-01	644			08	16586
07	932	03	437	02	963	R71-01	781	R212-01	3268		
08	820	04	437	03	1398	02	411	02	5744		
09	1139	05	617	04	2282			03	9228		
10	1684	06	759	05	2329	R72-01	707	04	11029		
		07	1023	06	1704	R73-01	1324	R213-01	1801		
		08	770	07	1402						
		09	387	08	1943	R92-01	2377				
		10	1456	09	3198	R96-01	832	R216-01	3040		
		03	569	10	4730	02	3260	02	3260		
		04	791			R97-01	2885	R217-01	5623		
		05	974								
		06	6152			R100-01	101	R255-01	3144		
		07	3019			02	661	02	3581		
		08	888			03	1922	03	4233		
		09				10	1303	04	7435		
		10				11	351	05	18362		
		11				12	2005	06	16038		
		12				13	2100	07	19093		
		13				14	655	02	1425		
		14				15	716	02	511	R255-01	3144
		15				16	1448	03	3581	02	3581
						17	5120	R105-01	469	03	4233
						02		04	7435	03	4233
						03		05	18362	04	7435
						04		06	16038	05	18362
						05		07	19093	06	16038
						06		07	19093	07	19093
						07		08	19093	08	19093
						08		09	19093	09	19093
</td											

OVERALL TRAVEL INFORMATION ON NATIONAL ROUTES

Table 4: Monthly Factors

MONTH	GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5
JANUARY	0.8656	0.8536	0.7636	0.6797	0.6209
FEBRUARY	0.9066	0.8725	0.8004	0.7165	0.6624
MARCH	0.9730	0.9363	0.9065	0.7891	0.8067
APRIL	1.0096	0.9867	0.9834	0.9091	0.9312
MAY	1.0325	1.0015	0.9941	0.9188	0.9492
JUNE	1.1111	1.0348	1.1108	1.1364	1.3368
JULY	1.1250	1.0883	1.2269	1.4090	1.6115
AUGUST	1.1165	1.0880	1.2925	1.6034	1.6811
SEPTEMBER	1.0421	1.1250	1.1500	1.2482	1.0758
OCTOBER	1.0106	1.0934	1.0093	0.9501	0.8394
NOVEMBER	0.9424	1.0108	0.9107	0.8506	0.7749
DECEMBER	0.8635	0.9074	0.8513	0.7885	0.7095

Table 5: Group 1 Daily Factors

MONTH	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT+SUN
JANUARY	0.99319	0.8894	0.8822	0.9163	0.9626	1.4770
FEBRUARY	0.9932	0.9382	0.9290	0.9708	1.0080	1.5574
MARCH	0.9954	0.9989	0.9931	1.0437	0.9914	1.7913
APRIL	1.0454	1.0358	1.0475	1.0803	1.0105	1.8480
MAY	1.0692	1.0392	1.0522	1.0960	1.1057	1.8421
JUNE	1.1161	1.1166	1.1037	1.1380	1.1667	2.1386
JULY	1.1594	1.1366	1.0998	1.1625	1.2029	2.1265
AUGUST	1.1190	1.1324	1.1165	1.2208	2.0636	
SEPTEMBER	1.0617	1.0626	1.0582	1.0818	1.1259	1.9047
OCTOBER	1.0292	1.0243	1.0247	1.0423	1.1046	1.8495
NOVEMBER	0.9926	0.9739	0.9621	1.0016	1.0923	1.6340
DECEMBER	0.9382	0.9001	0.7873	0.8893	0.9603	1.5697

Table 6: Group 2 Daily Factors

MONTH	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT+SUN
JANUARY	0.9069	0.9071	0.8901	0.8925	0.9310	1.4480
FEBRUARY	0.9075	0.8946	0.8987	0.9464	0.9426	1.5140
MARCH	0.9657	0.9714	0.9574	0.9981	1.0090	1.6528
APRIL	0.9755	1.0689	1.0365	1.0558	0.9986	1.7720
MAY	1.0376	1.0069	1.0258	1.1291	1.1423	1.6686
JUNE	1.0168	1.0916	1.0812	1.1279	1.1145	1.8114
JULY	1.1180	1.0924	1.1134	1.1474	1.1816	1.9697
AUGUST	1.0859	1.1216	1.1136	1.1526	1.1804	1.9616
SEPTEMBER	1.1659	1.1680	1.1839	1.1683	1.2196	1.9696
OCTOBER	1.1460	1.0895	1.1268	1.1938	1.1967	1.9012
NOVEMBER	1.0618	1.0268	1.0622	1.0824	1.1215	1.7208
DECEMBER	0.9948	0.9714	0.8778	0.9180	0.9880	1.6021

Table 7: Group 3 Daily Factors

MONTH	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT+SUN
JANUARY	0.9178	0.7707	0.7774	0.7872	0.8272	1.3647
FEBRUARY	0.8457	0.7972	0.8178	0.8349	0.8743	1.4328
MARCH	0.9728	0.9119	0.8728	0.9130	0.9791	1.6961
APRIL	1.0794	0.9831	0.9513	0.9963	0.9946	1.8792
MAY	1.0146	0.9465	0.9733	1.0200	1.0581	1.9460
JUNE	1.1618	1.0552	1.0596	1.1119	1.1590	2.2283
JULY	1.2428	1.1498	1.1454	1.1734	1.2853	2.5919
AUGUST	1.3411	1.2409	1.2215	1.2592	1.3454	2.6394
SEPTEMBER	1.2017	1.1311	1.1114	1.1241	1.1989	2.2829
OCTOBER	1.0257	0.9744	0.9925	1.0249	1.0822	1.9656
NOVEMBER	0.9679	0.9092	0.8855	0.9172	0.9966	1.6982
DECEMBER	0.9066	0.8615	0.7802	0.8649	0.9408	1.6049

Table 8: Group 4 Daily Factors

MONTH	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT+SUN
JANUARY	0.7214	0.6849	0.6728	0.6815	0.7439	1.2596
FEBRUARY	0.7285	0.7254	0.7206	0.7222	0.7646	1.3598
MARCH	0.8374	0.7931	0.7685	0.7944	0.8141	1.5160
APRIL	1.0068	0.9411	0.8730	0.9101	0.9161	1.7169
MAY	0.9553	0.8864	0.9031	0.9443	0.9705	1.7719
JUNE	1.1693	1.0749	1.0862	1.1089	1.1724	2.3433
JULY	1.4207	1.3219	1.3821	1.3382	1.4027	2.9976
AUGUST	1.6490	1.5349	1.5276	1.5628	1.5951	3.3597
SEPTEMBER	1.2992	1.2262	1.2232	1.2325	1.2681	2.4881
OCTOBER	0.9591	0.9219	0.9480	0.9629	1.0123	1.8469
NOVEMBER	0.9196	0.8305	0.8276	0.8322	0.9278	1.6163
DECEMBER	0.8281	0.8081	0.7065	0.7907	0.8737	1.5147

Table 9: Group 5 Daily Factors

Key:	MONTH	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT+SUN
Group 1 Commuter Group	JANUARY	0.6519	0.6036	0.6323	0.6189	0.6771	1.1623
2 Urban Group	FEBRUARY	0.7093	0.6585	0.6405	0.6716	0.7033	1.2540
3 Intertown Group	MARCH	0.8626	0.7690	0.8003	0.8324	0.8569	1.5254
4 Tourist Group	APRIL	1.0050	0.8980	0.9259	0.9259	0.9632	1.8007
5 Sunday Tourist Group	MAY	0.9271	0.8602	0.9310	0.9170	0.9833	2.0261
	JUNE	1.6388	1.1595	1.0849	1.0913	1.1650	3.2184
	JULY	1.5119	1.3995	1.4390	1.3916	1.4885	3.8501
	AUGUST	1.8651	1.6344	1.4662	1.4219	1.4555	3.8927
	SEPTEMBER	1.0194	1.1255	1.0859	1.0199	1.0449	2.2350
	OCTOBER	0.8667	0.7731	0.8106	0.8405	0.8730	1.7075

ROUTE	DESCRIPTION	VEHICLE MILES	VEHICLES
N57	Dublin-Baltinglass-Enniscorthy	132,558	1,888
N58	Blessington-Naas-Trim-Drogheda	54,748	892
N59	Kilcullen-Athy-Kilkenny-Clonmel	94,427	1,310
N60	Dundalk-Mullingar-Tullamore	81,738	1,014
N61	Tullamore-Portlaoise-Tullow	50,729	936
N62	Dundalk-Castleblaney	20,722	1,582
N63	Moate-Tullamore	13,170	947
N64	Tullamore-Portumna	21,228	628
N65	Muinebeg-Thomastown-Ballyhale	11,853	655
N66	New Ross-Rosslare Harbour	39,620	1,215
N67	Cavan-Monaghan-Customs Post	33,068	1,282
N68	Cavan-Athlone	40,837	775
N69	Athlone-Birr-Horse and Jockey	49,265	795
N70	Loughrea-Nenagh-Thurles	47,731	813
N71	Boyle-Athlone	31,722	685
N72	Ballina-Charlestown-Longford	51,887	690
N73	Achill-Swinford	30,942	637
N74	Castlebar-Galway	41,248	838
N75	Clifton-Oughterard-Galway	56,352	1,125
N76	Galway-Spiddle-Maam Cross	50,953	1,359
N77	Claregalway-Oranmore	3,929	741
N78	Kilkee-Ennis-Birdhill	44,088	663
N79	Limerick-Tarbert-Tralee	87,508	1,328
N80	Newcastle West-Rathluirc-Cashel	38,560	636
N81	Mitchelstown-Killarney	57,916	957
N82	Mallow-Dungarvan	39,183	779
N83	Killarney-Cork	90,207	1,762
N84	Killarney-Skibbereen	53,531	817
N85	Killarney-Ring of Kerry-Kenmare	62,219	709

ROUTE	DESCRIPTION	VEHICLE MILES	VEHICLES
N86	Sligo-Belcoo	12,636	413
N87	Donegal-Killybegs	16,956	958
N88	Letterkenny-Stranorlar	15,045	1,254
N89	Letterkenny-Dunfanaghy	26,020	1,136
N90	Buncrana-Letterkenny	44,602	1,866

FIG 1 SPECIMEN FIELD SHEET FOR TEMPORARY STATION

COUNTY COUNCIL				Month <u>July 196</u>
Field Sheet for TEMPORARY Station				Route <u>N 47</u> Section <u>17</u>
Name of Attendant <u>John Murphy</u>				Location <u>the Broughs Gate</u>
Counter No. <u>3B</u> <small>Arches</small>				Vehicles ✓
MANUAL CHECK				
Date in Full	Reading at 8 a.m.	DAILY SUBTRACTION	CORRECTED COUNT	Date _____ p.m. _____ p.m. By counter _____ Finish _____ Start _____ Diff. _____ Cars etc. _____ Com. & Bus. _____
Mon. 19 July	1176			
Sat. 17	9582	1594	1688	
Fri. 16	8941	641	679	
Thurs. 15	8341	600	636	
Wed. 14	7719	622	659	
Tues. 13	7117	602	638	
Mon. 12	6532	585	609	Correction _____ %
Sat. 10	5421	1111	1178	MANUAL CHECK Date <u>9/7/68 7.1.</u> 5.05 p.m. 5.35 p.m. By counter _____ Finish <u>5361</u> Start <u>5260</u> Diff. <u>101</u> 107 Cars etc. _____ Com. & Bus. _____
Fri. 9	4759	662	701	
Thurs. 8	4138	621	659	
Wed. 7	3505	633	671	
Tues. 6	2885	620	657	
Mon. 5	2285	600	636	
Remarks: Counter tube checked for leaks With tyre pump on Sat 10th July O.K. ✓				Correction _____ % <u>107</u> <u>101</u>

NOTES:

Entries are made from bottom of page towards top, this eases the subtraction.
DAILY SUBTRACTION for Wednesday (say) is got by subtracting Wednesday's reading from Thursday's reading. Even minor adjustments to the counter should be recorded under "Remarks". Such knowledge is useful in applying the correction factor. Note also special events: Sports event, Bank Holiday, etc.

MANUAL CHECK to be for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour during any busy period once or twice per fortnight depending on experience. This gives the correction _____ % (Machine/hand). This is then used to amend the DAILY SUBTRACTIONS for that week whence the CORRECTED COUNT is calculated on a slide rule.

The hand count omits bicycles but includes scooters, cars, vans, buses, commercial and tractors.

FIG 2 SPECIMEN MONTHLY RETURN SHEET FOR TEMPORARY STATION

One monthly return for each temporary counter to be prepared before the 7th of the month following.

A D T M	
717	
60	61
62	63
64	

Month	Year
July	29
	X

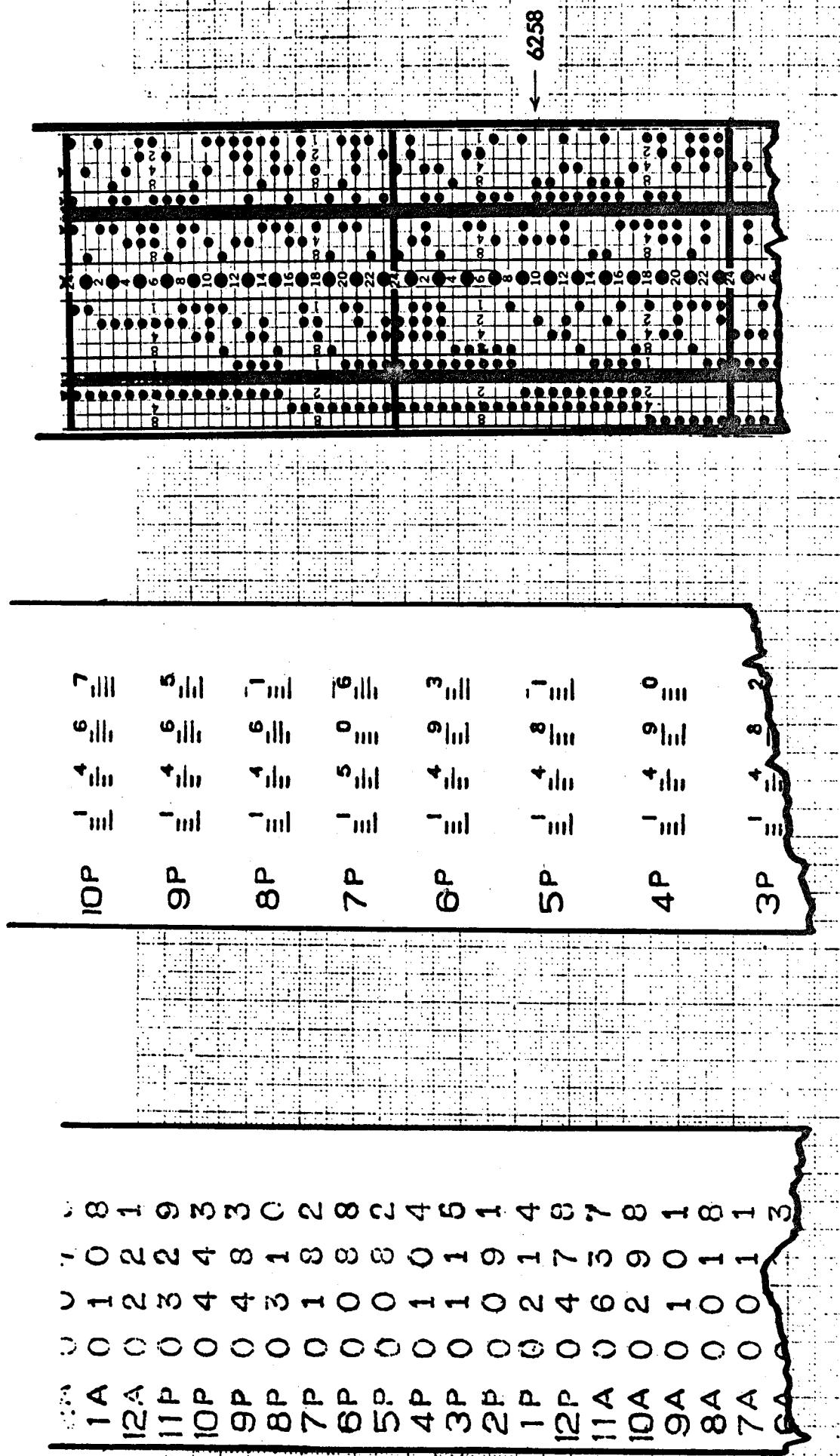
Local Authority	
X	X
22	23
24	

Route No.		Section
N 47		17
1	2	3
3	4	5
4	6	7
5	8	9
6	10	
Office use only	7	1 X

Corrected Counts to be entered here from Field Sheet

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat./Sun.
			1	718	1207
636	657	671	8 659	701	1178
609	638	659	15	679	1688
434	309		22	Counter tube cut	1802
642	684	696	29	684	784 2504
Totals	1887	1979	2026	1979	2882 8379
Daily Average	629	659	675	660	720 1676 5019
					Total of Avs. 717

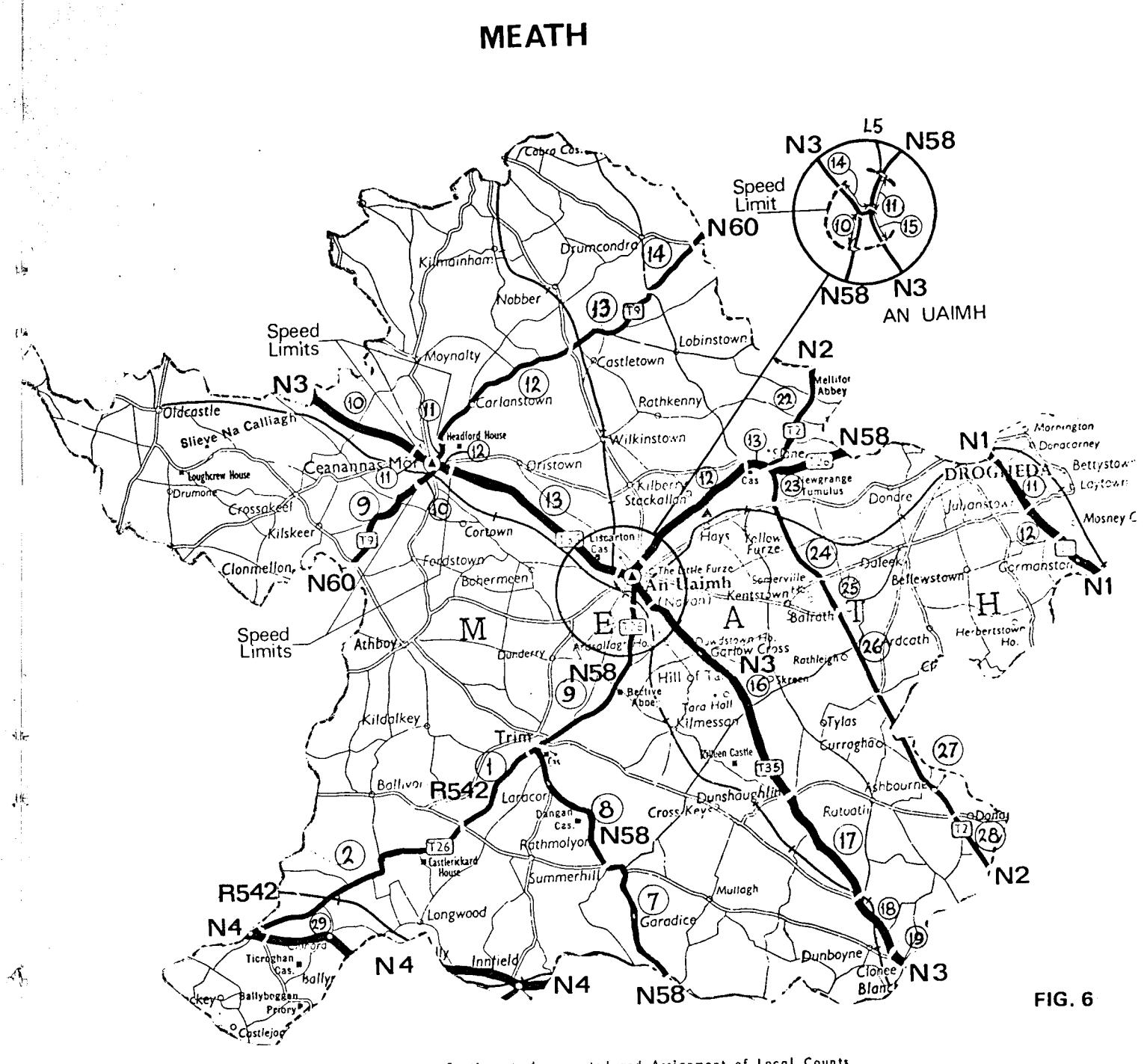
Suspect readings



46

Fig. 4 Sample Streeter Amet counter tape for automatic reader

Fig. 5 Sample Fischer & Porter counter tape for automatic reader



Route	N1	N2	N3	N4	N58	N60	R542
Section	11 12	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	29	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	9 10 11 12 13 14	1 2
Town			Kells		Kells		
Control			An Uaimh		An Uaimh		
Meath N 1-12	X X						
" N 2-26		X X X X X					
" N 3-15			X X	X X			
" N 3-17				X X X X			
" N58-12					X X X	X X	X X
" N60-13					X	X X X	X X
Westmeath N 4-28						X	

Control Stn. thus
Permanent Stn. thus

FIG. 7

47

MONTHLY SCHEDULE OF SECTION COUNTS

COUNTY: M E A T H

FIG 8 SPECIMEN MONTHLY COUNTING SCHEDULE

ROUTE	SECTION	NUMBER OF COUNTS	LOCATION	NUMBER OF COUNTS											
				June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May
N1	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
N2	26	26	22	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
N3	13,16,18,19	14	17	15	17	15	17	15	17	15	17	15	17	15	17
N4	29	29	10,11	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
N58	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
N60	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
RS42	9,12,14	1,2	9,12,14	1,2	9,12,14	1,2	9,12,14	1,2	9,12,14	1,2	9,12,14	1,2	9,12,14	1,2	9,12,14

FIG 9 Example of Monthly Printout

AN FORAS FORBARTRA TSO.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
SELF RECORDING COUNTER STATION N 13-7																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
ROUTE AUGUST 1969																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
LOCAL AUTHORITY NO. 139 CLARE																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
** EACH HOUR VEHICLES DURING HOUR ENDING - TABLE A **																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
80 W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23 L	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632

IRELAND

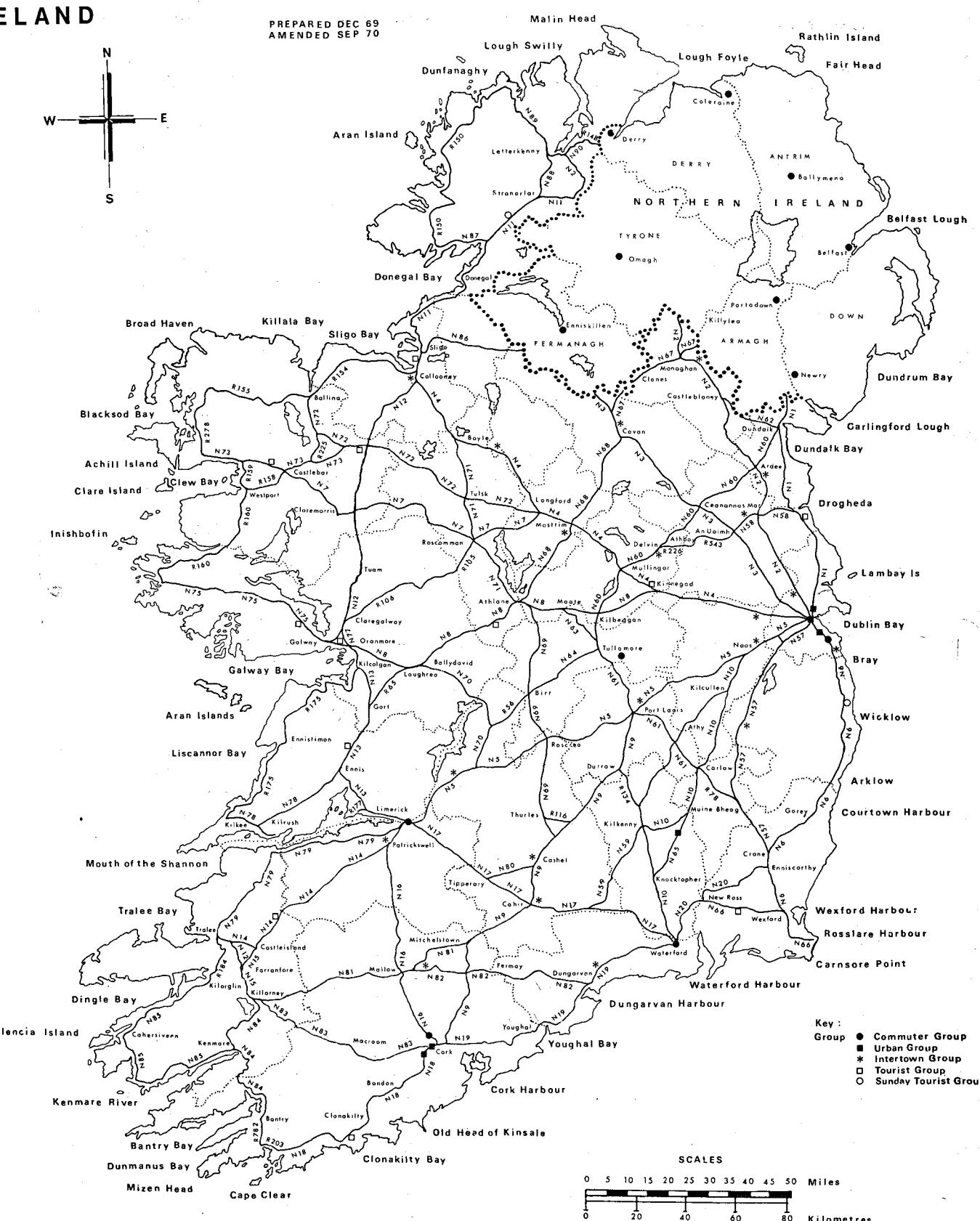


Fig 11 MAP SHOWING COUNTER GROUPINGS (Route Numbers Tentative)

BASED ON THE ORDNANCE SURVEY
BY PERMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT
LICENCE NO. 121/67

MONTHLY FACTORS

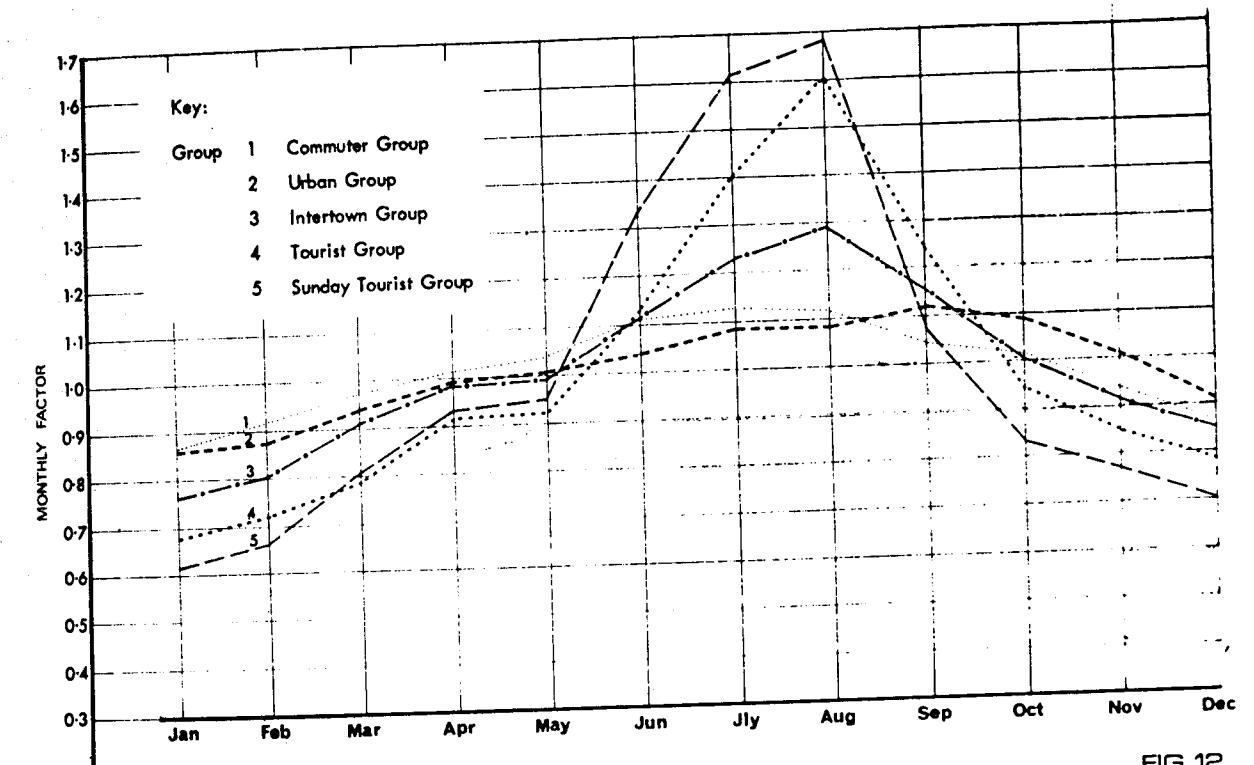


FIG. 12

DAY FACTORS FOR MONTH OF JULY

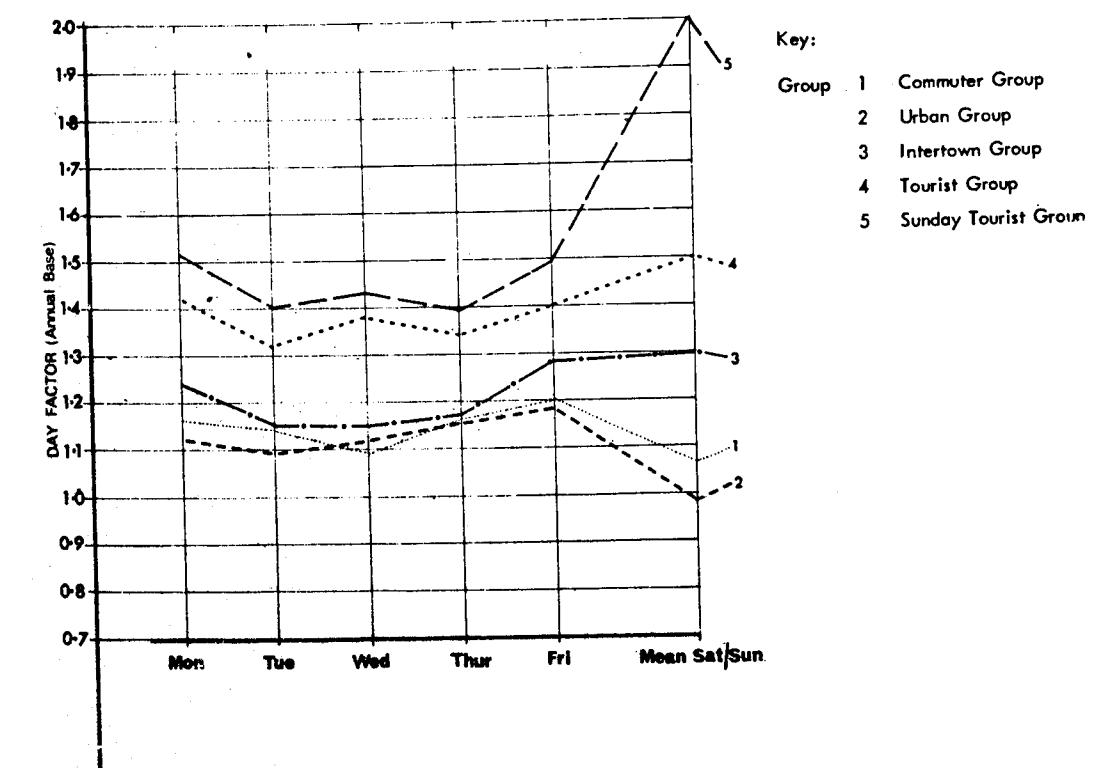


FIG. 13

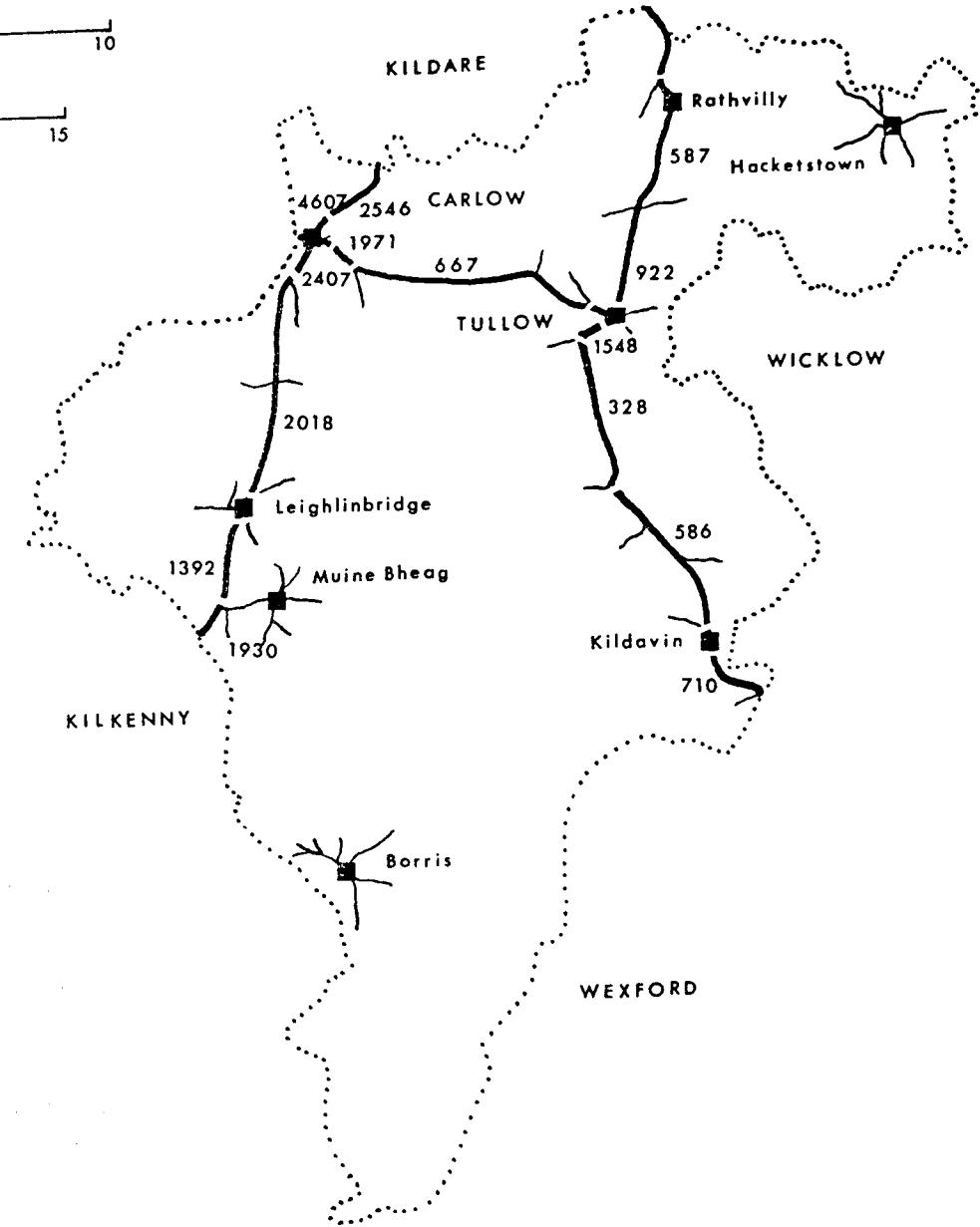
CARLOW

MILES

KILOMETRES

5 0 5 10 15

5 0 5 10 15

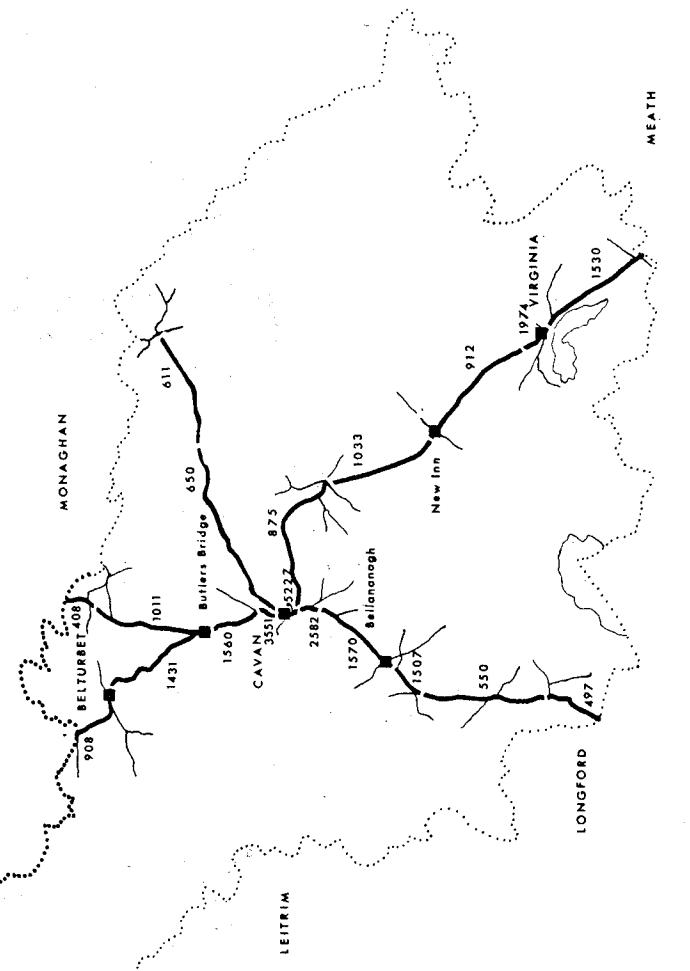
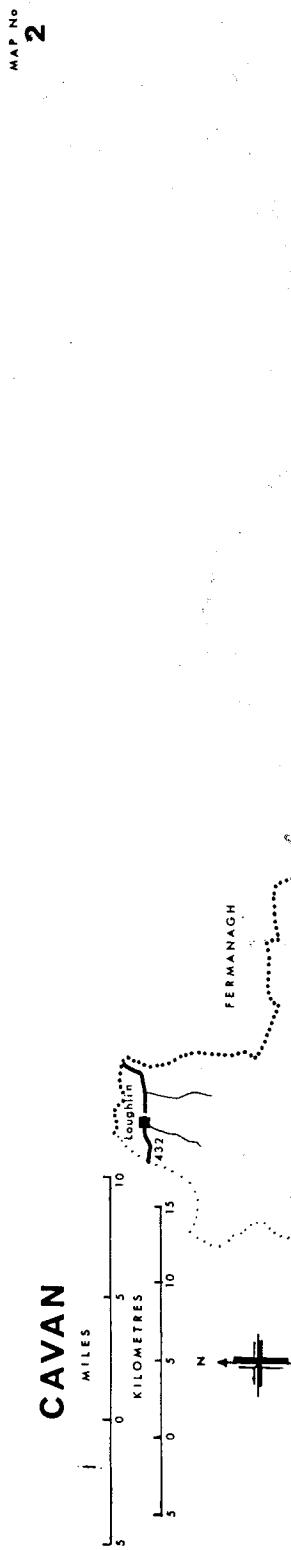


Carlow

53

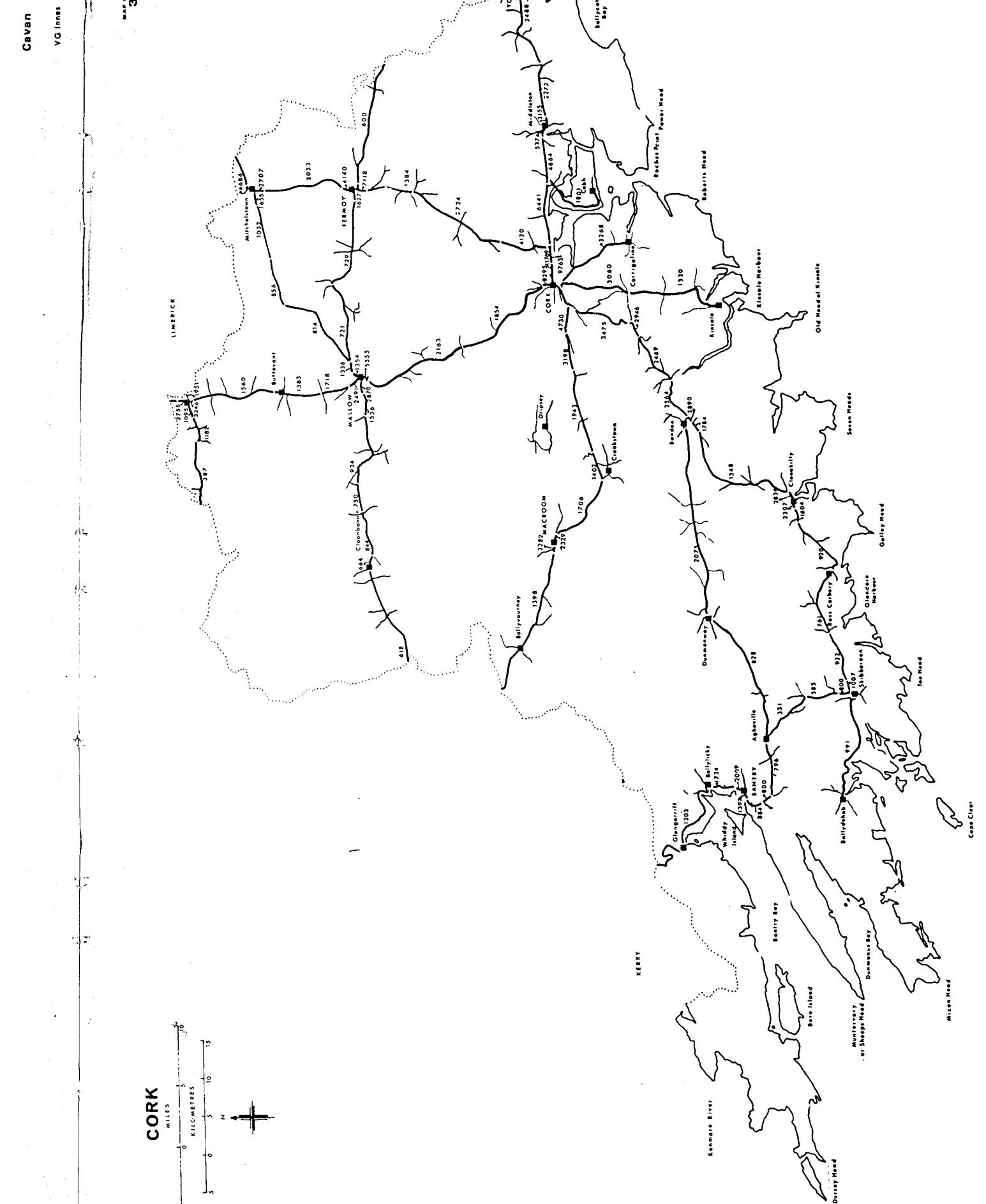
V G Innes

BASED ON THE ORDNANCE SURVEY
BY PERMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT
LICENCE NO 121/67



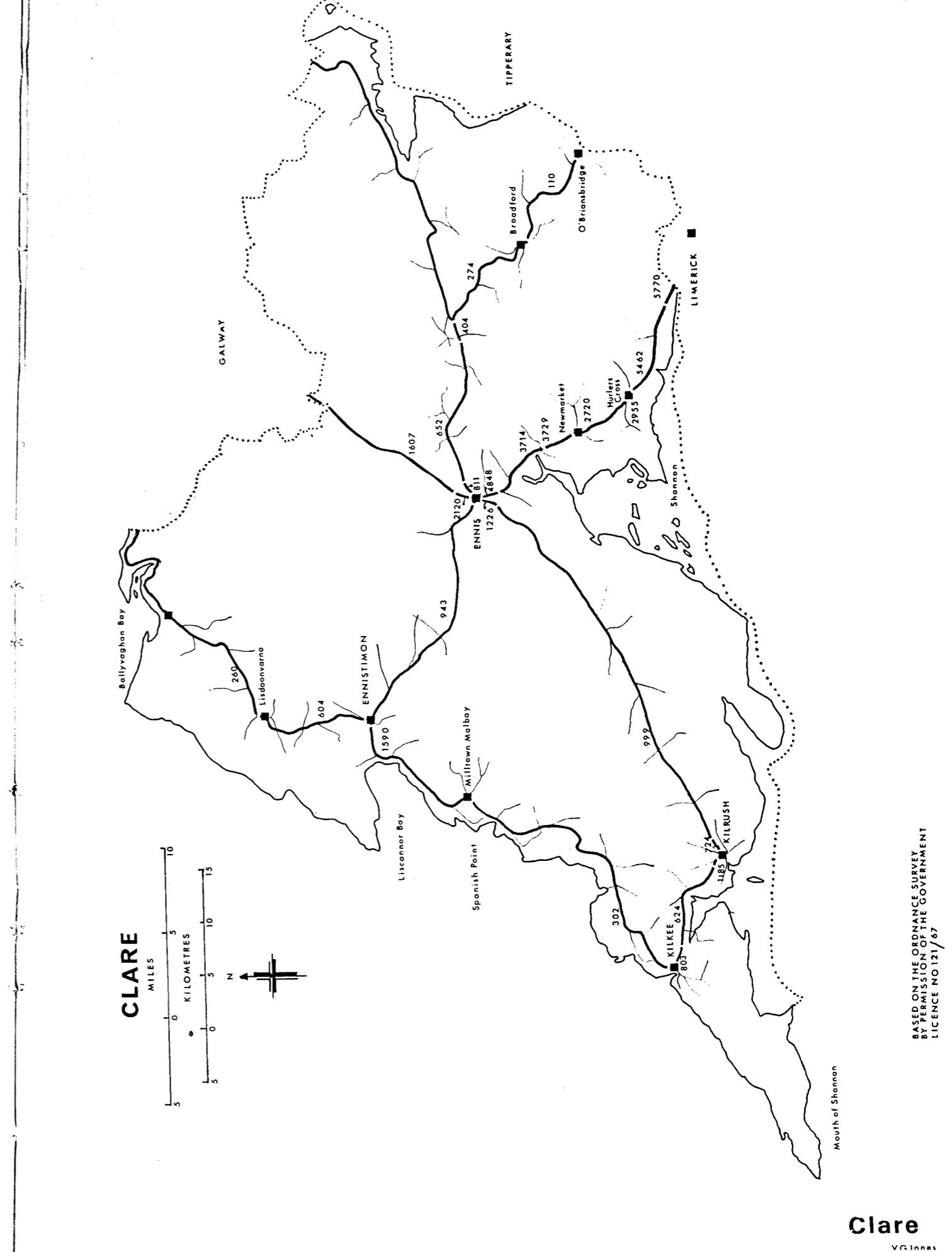
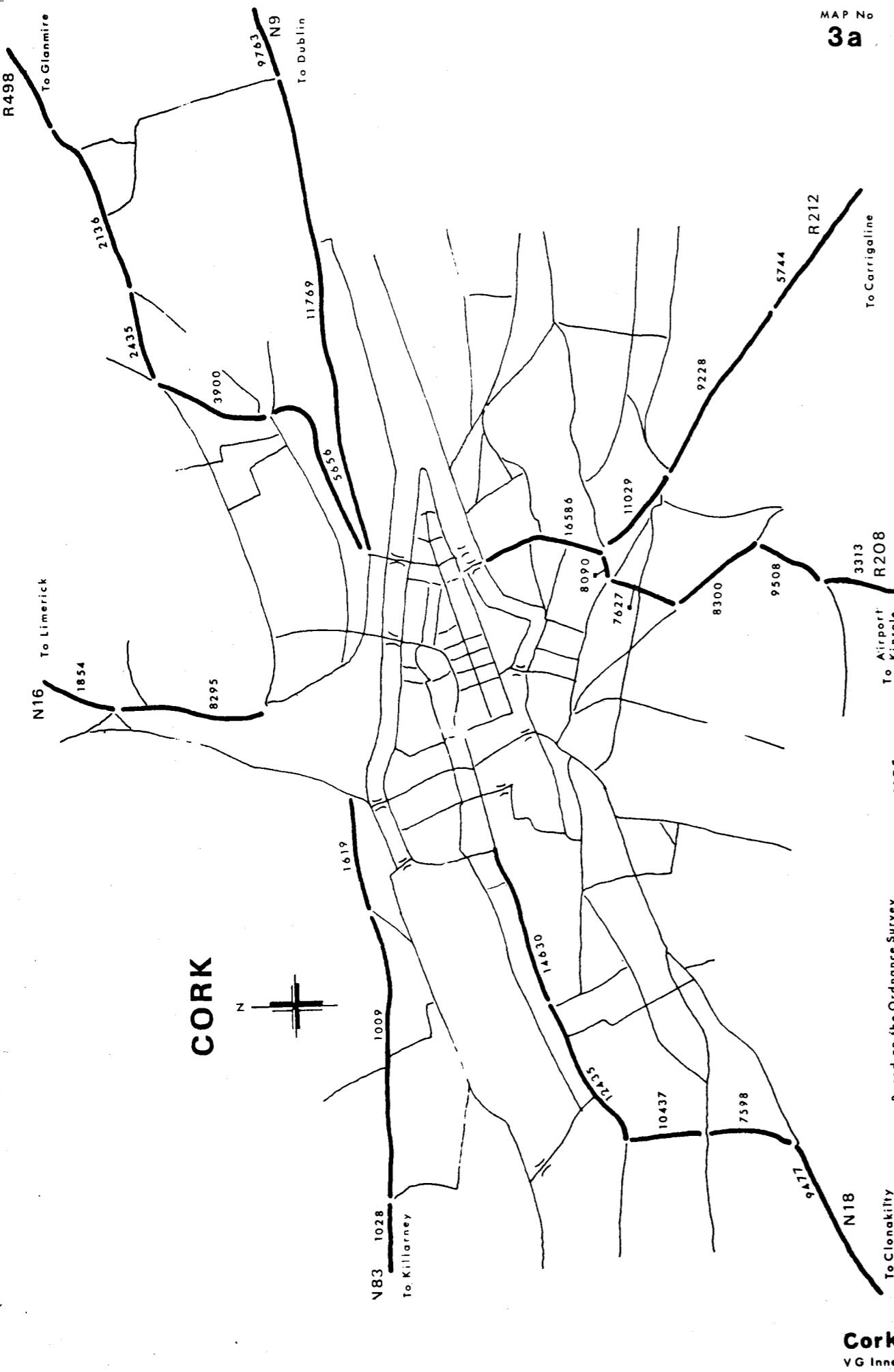
CAVAN

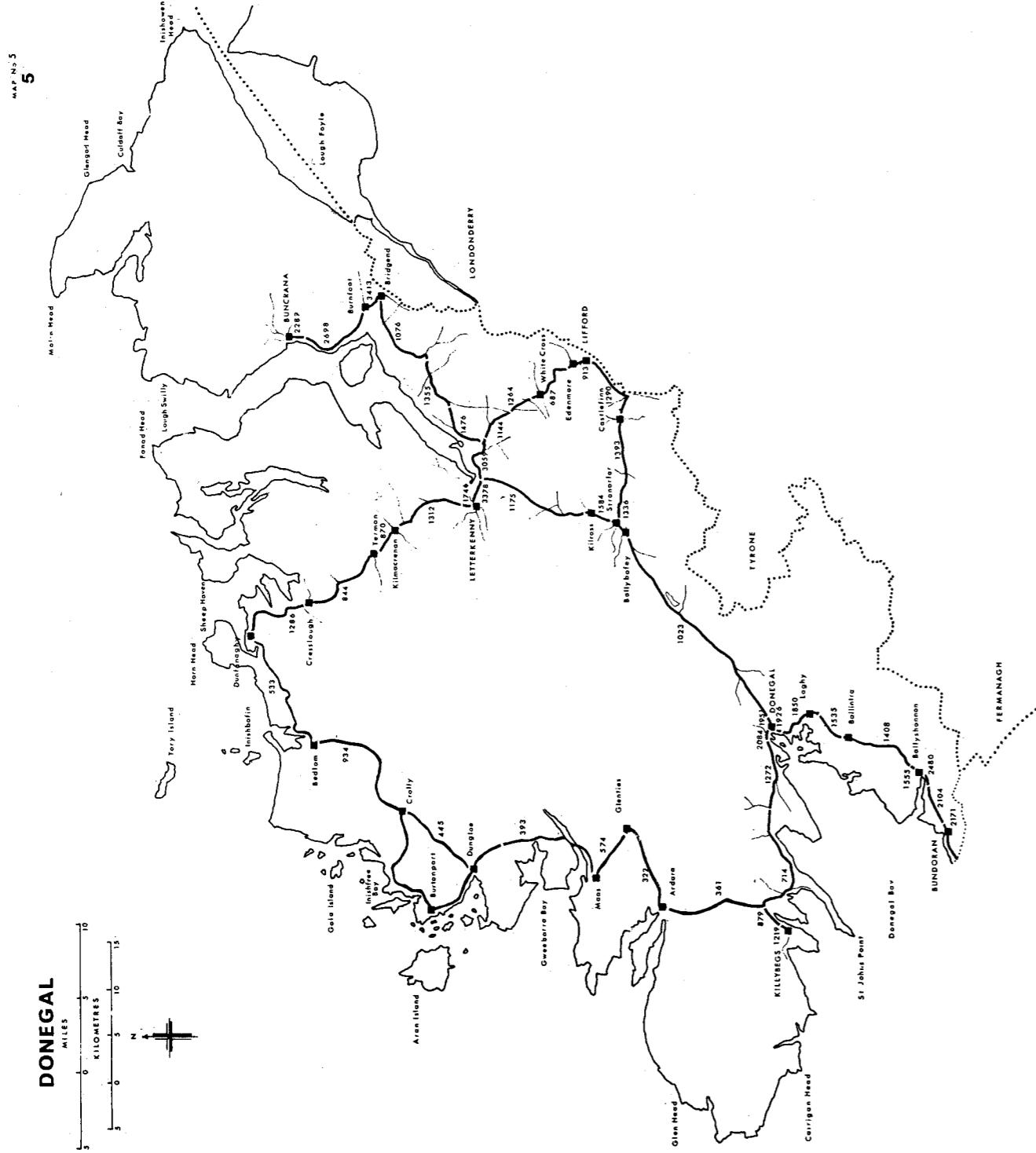
MAP No
2



cor

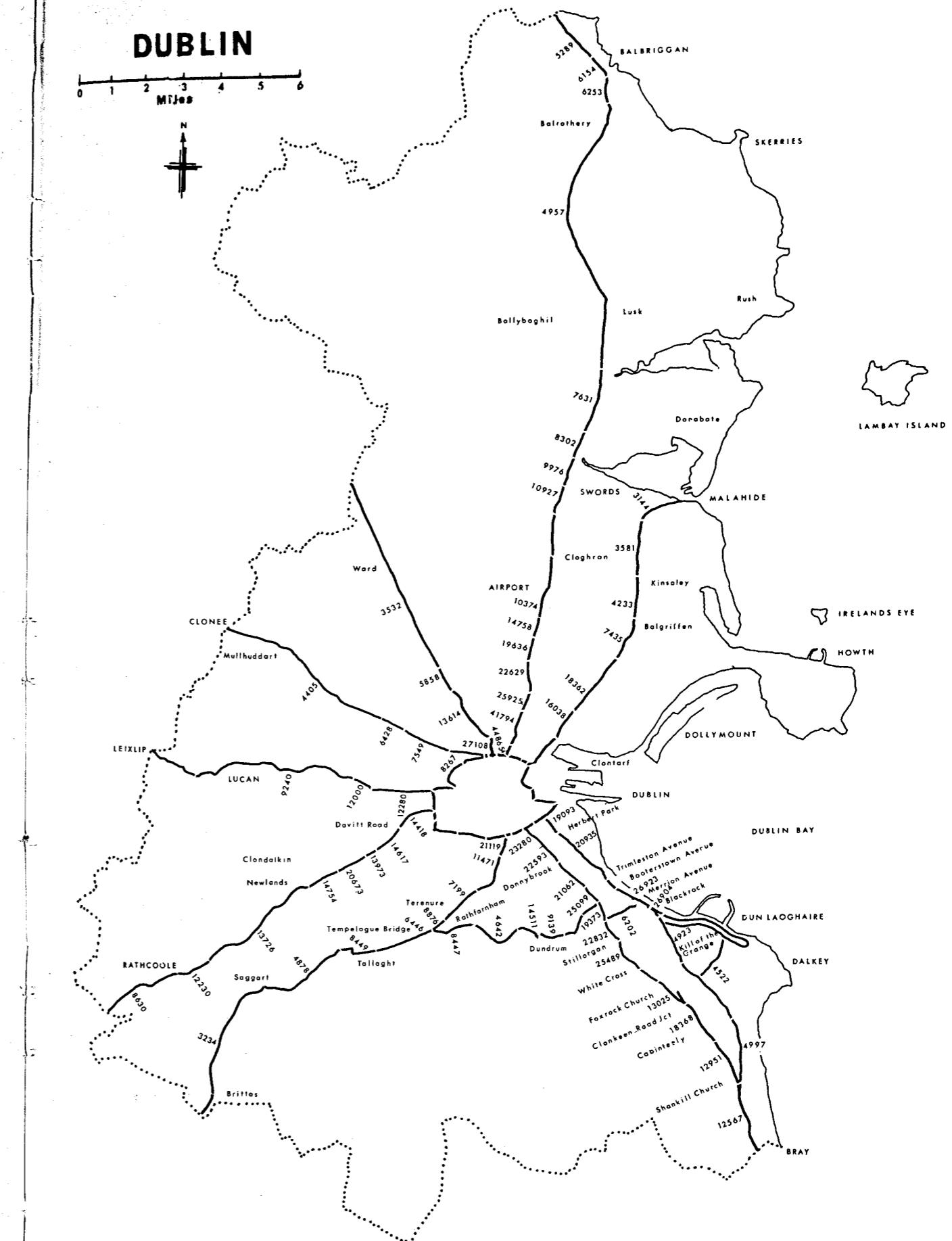
5





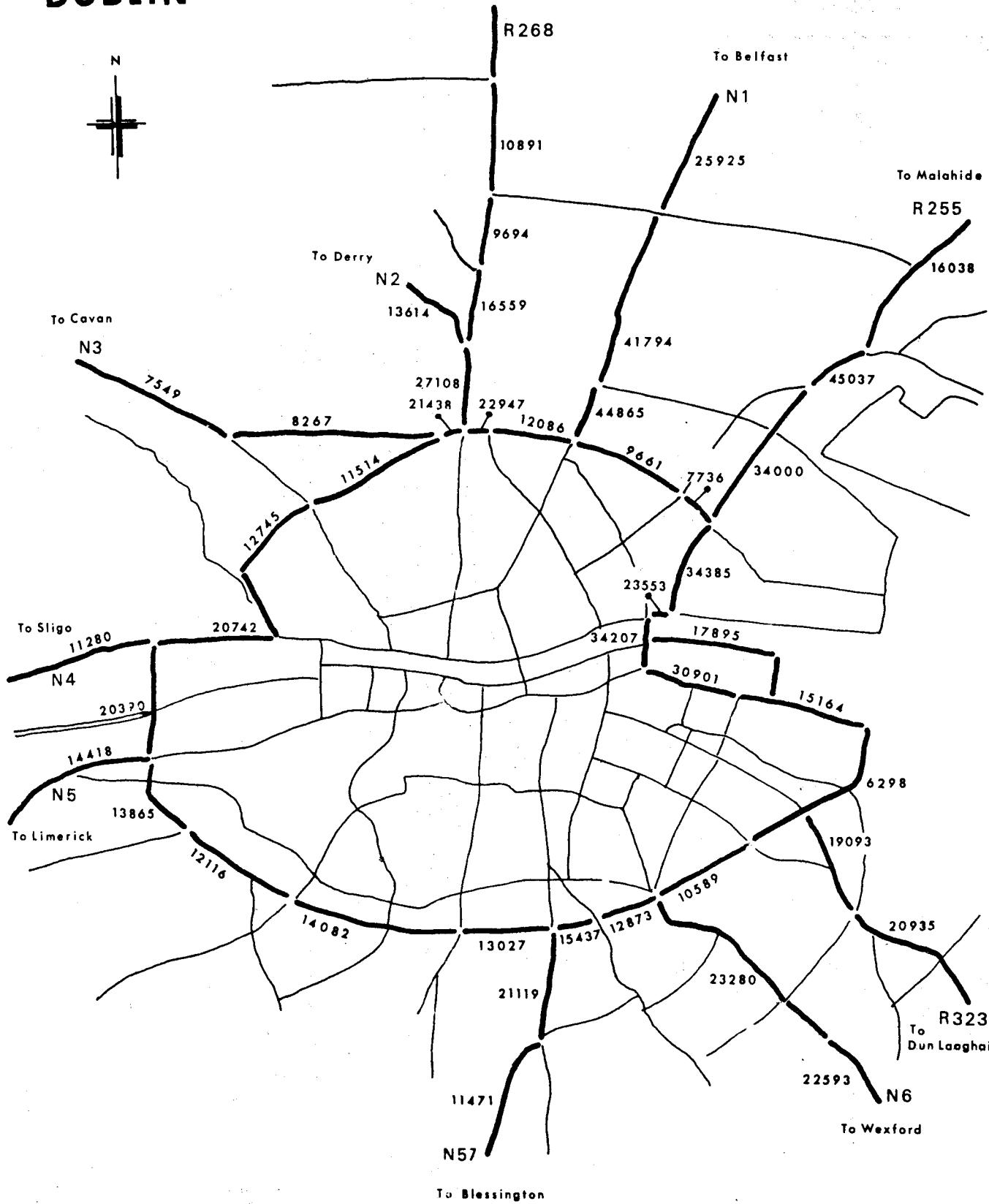
Donegal

VCG Incentives



DUBLIN

MAP No
6a

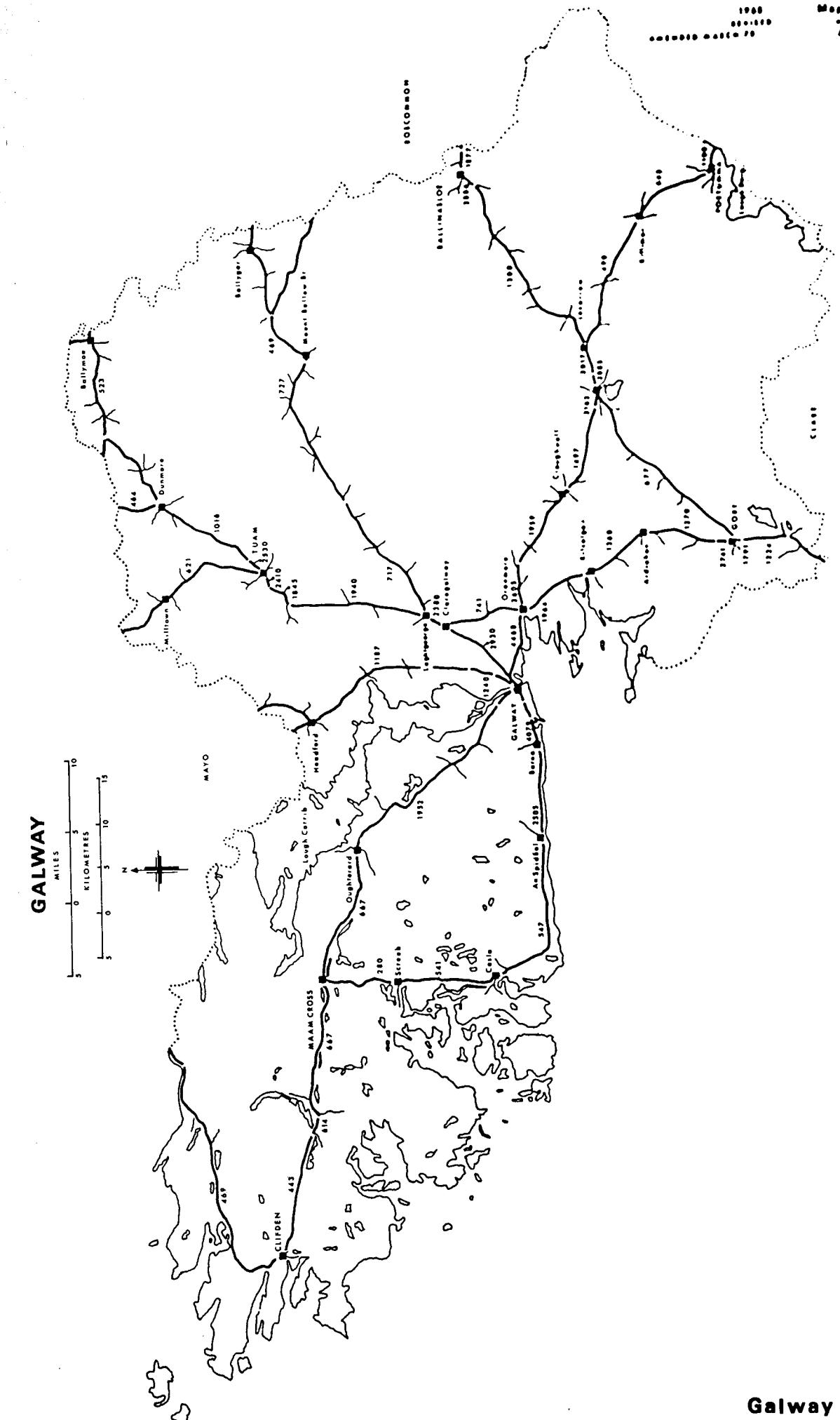


Based on the Ordnance Survey
by Permission of the Government Licence No 1195

Dublin
VG Innes

BASED ON THE ORDNANCE SURVEY
BY PERMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT
LICENCE NO 1195

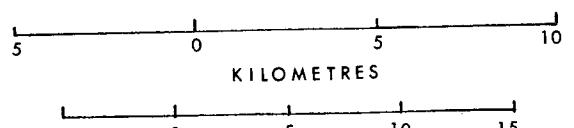
Galway
VG Innes



KILKENNY

MAP No
10

MILES



LAOIS

Freshford

Urilingford

PAULSTOWN

KILKENNY

CALLAN

THOMASTOWN

BALLYHALE

MULLINAVAT

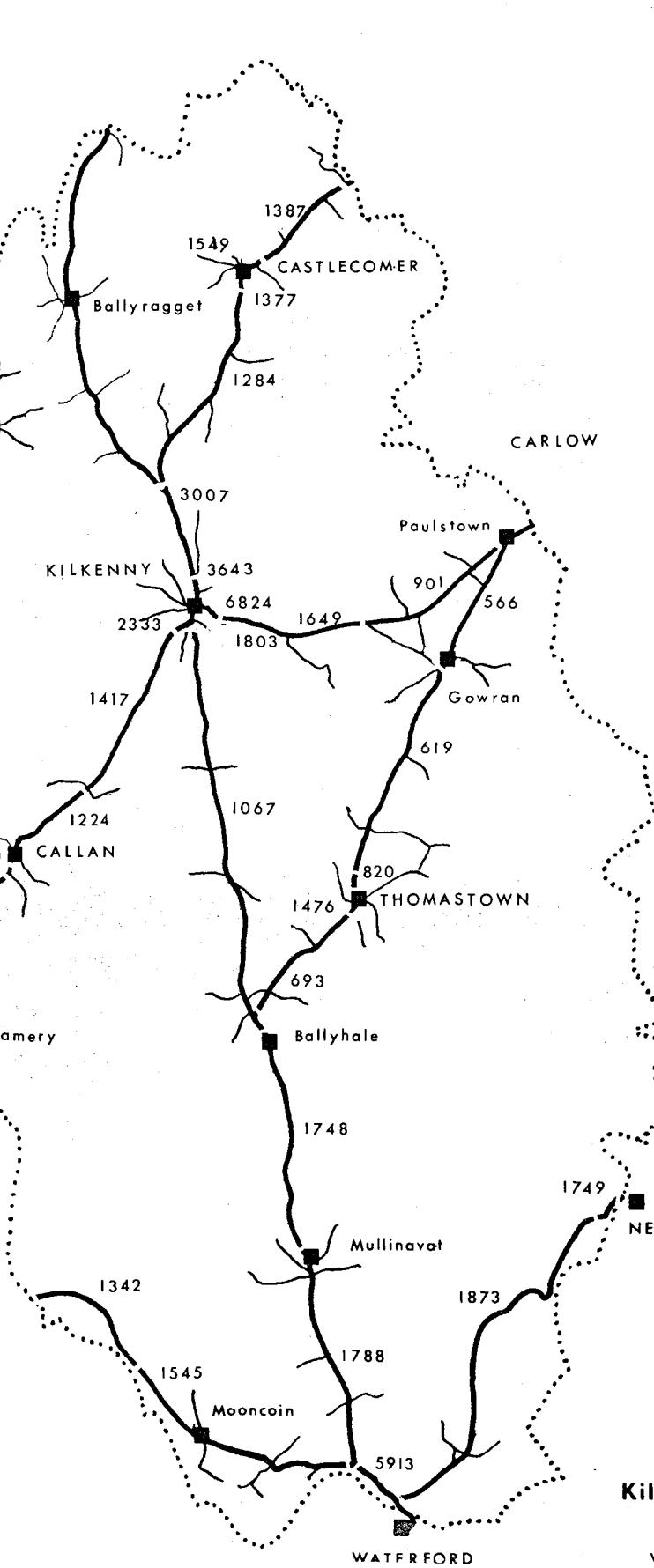
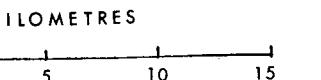
MUNCOIN

NEW ROSS

WATERFORD

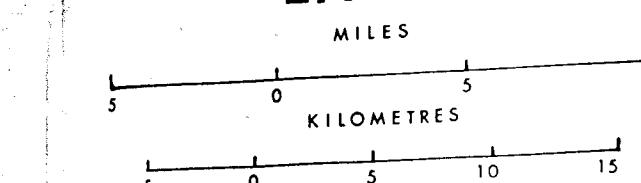
Kilkenny

KILOMETRES



V G Innes

LAOIS



OFFALY

MOUNTMELICK

MOUNTRATH

BORRIS IN OSSORY

DURROW

CULLAHILL

KILKENNY

TISSY

ARLESS

GRAIGUE

GREYTARD

NEWTOWN

WATERFORD

N

3895

3169

3764

3690

2299

2005

129

957

693

920

1836

1342

1545

1748

1873

1749

1387

1549

1377

1284

3007

2333

1417

1067

1224

1720

1258

689

1476

693

1748

1342

1545

1788

1873

5913

1749

1387

1549

1377

1284

3007

2333

1417

1067

1224

1720

1258

689

1476

693

1748

1342

1545

1788

1873

5913

1749

1387

1549

1377

1284

3007

2333

1417

1067

1224

1720

1258

689

1476

693

1748

1342

1545

1788

1873

5913

1749

1387

1549

1377

1284

3007

2333

1417

1067

1224

1720

1258

689

1476

693

1748

1342

1545

1788

1873

5913

1749

1387

1549

1377

1284

3007

2333

1417

1067

1224

1720

1258

689

1476

693

1748

1342

1545

1788

1873

5913

1749

1387

1549

1377

1284

3007

2333

1417

1067

1224

1720

1258

689

1476

693

1748

1342

1545

1788

1873

5913

1749

1387

1549

1377

1284

3007

2333

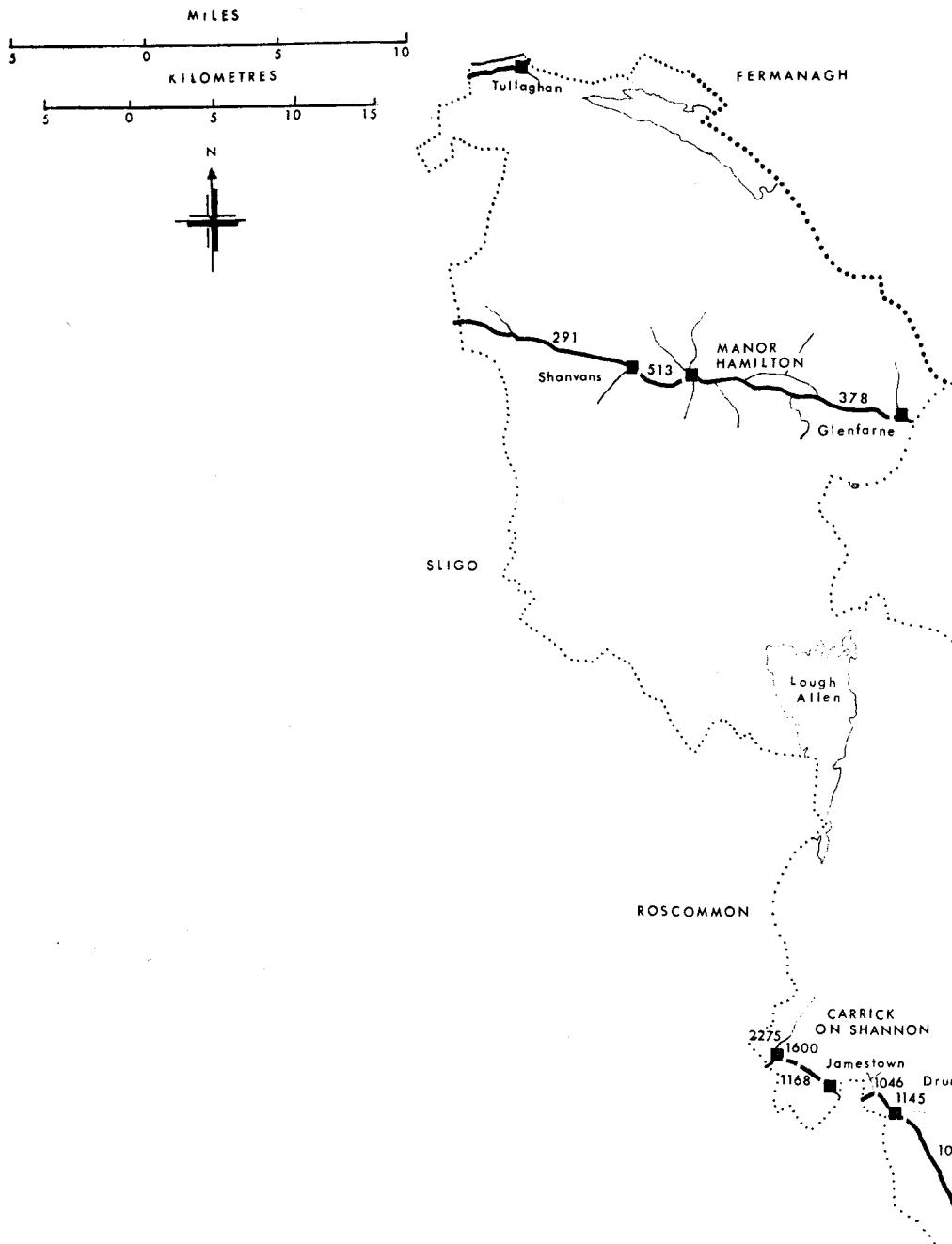
1417

1067

1224

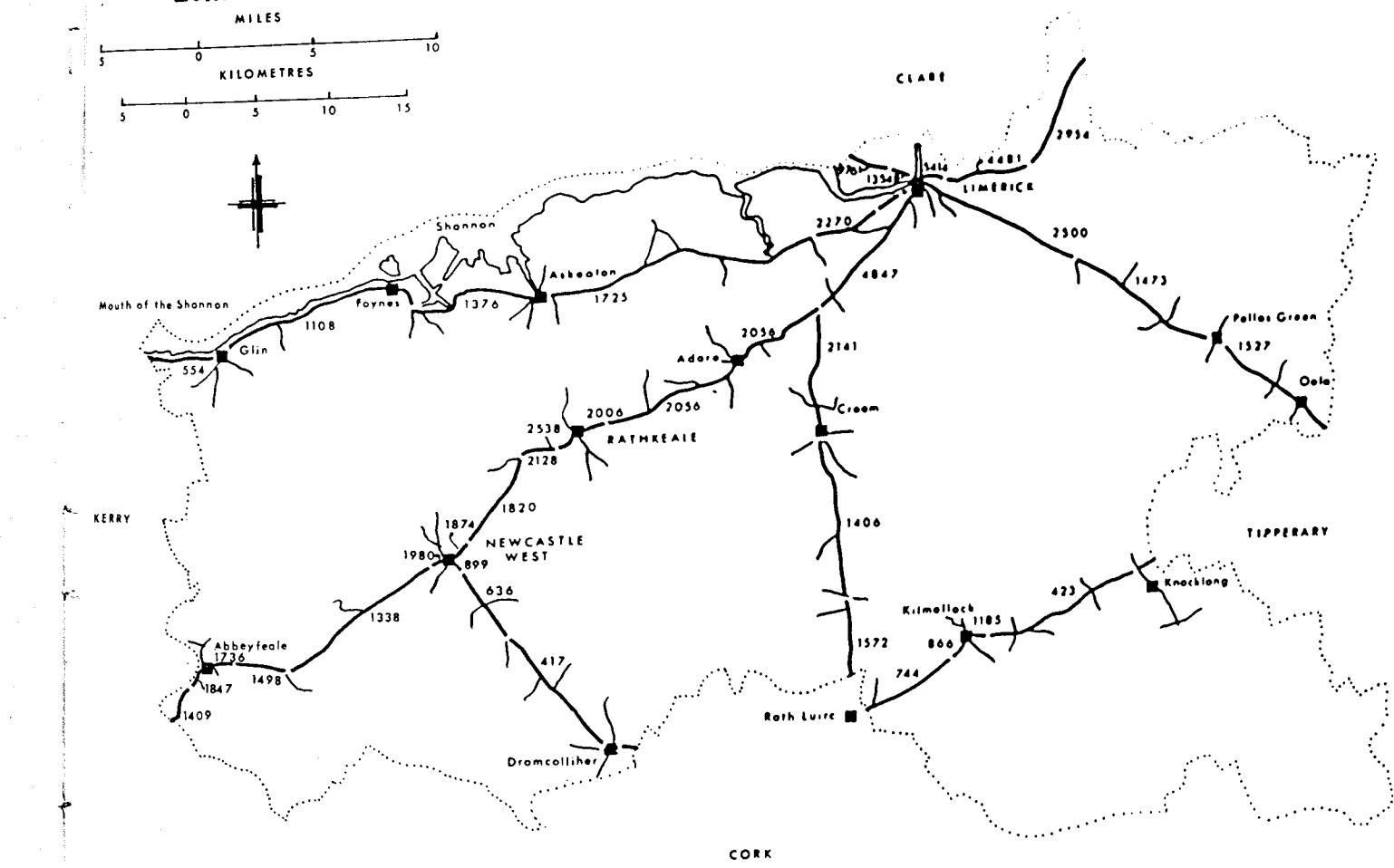
1720

LEITRIM



MAP NO
12

LIMERICK



MAP NO
13

Leitrim

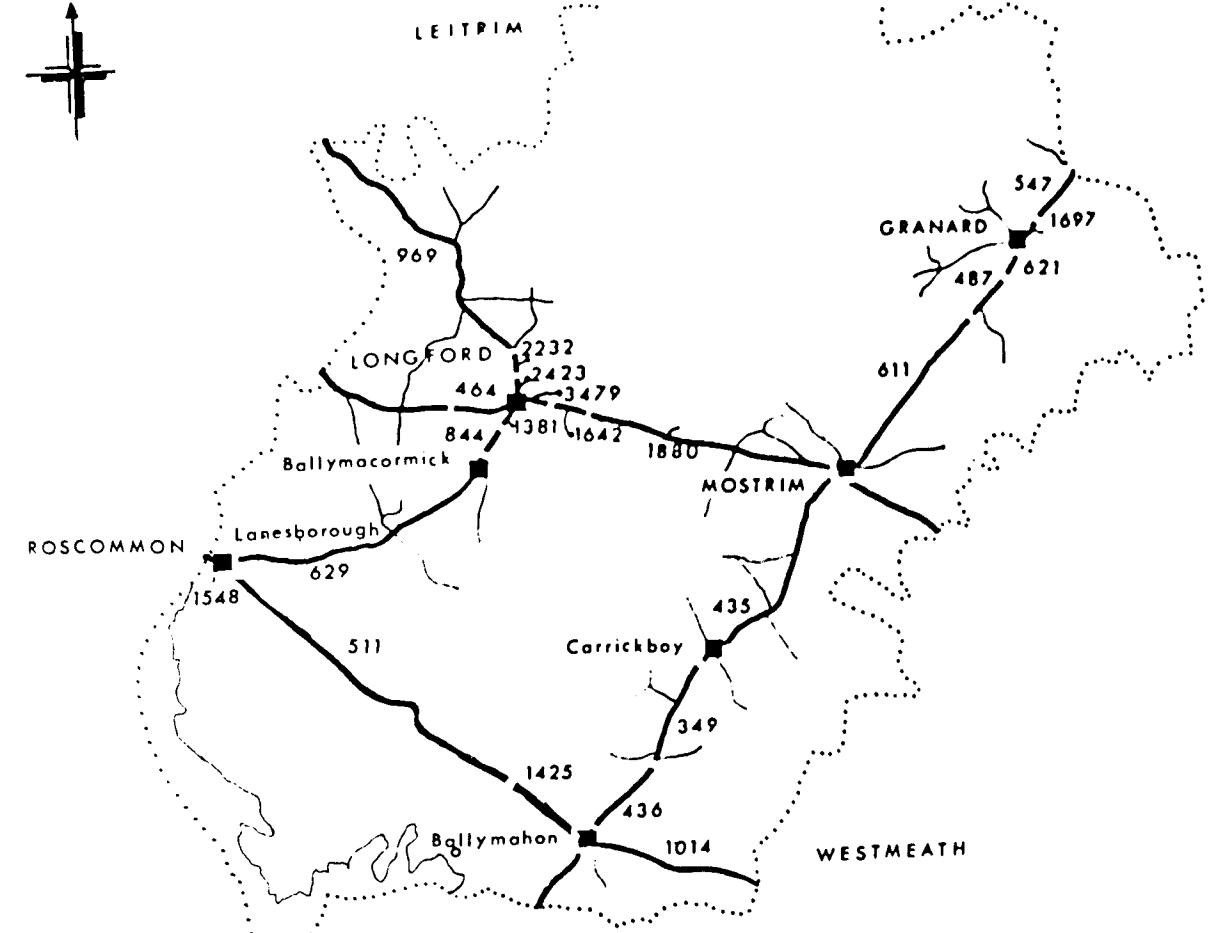
V G Innes

Limerick

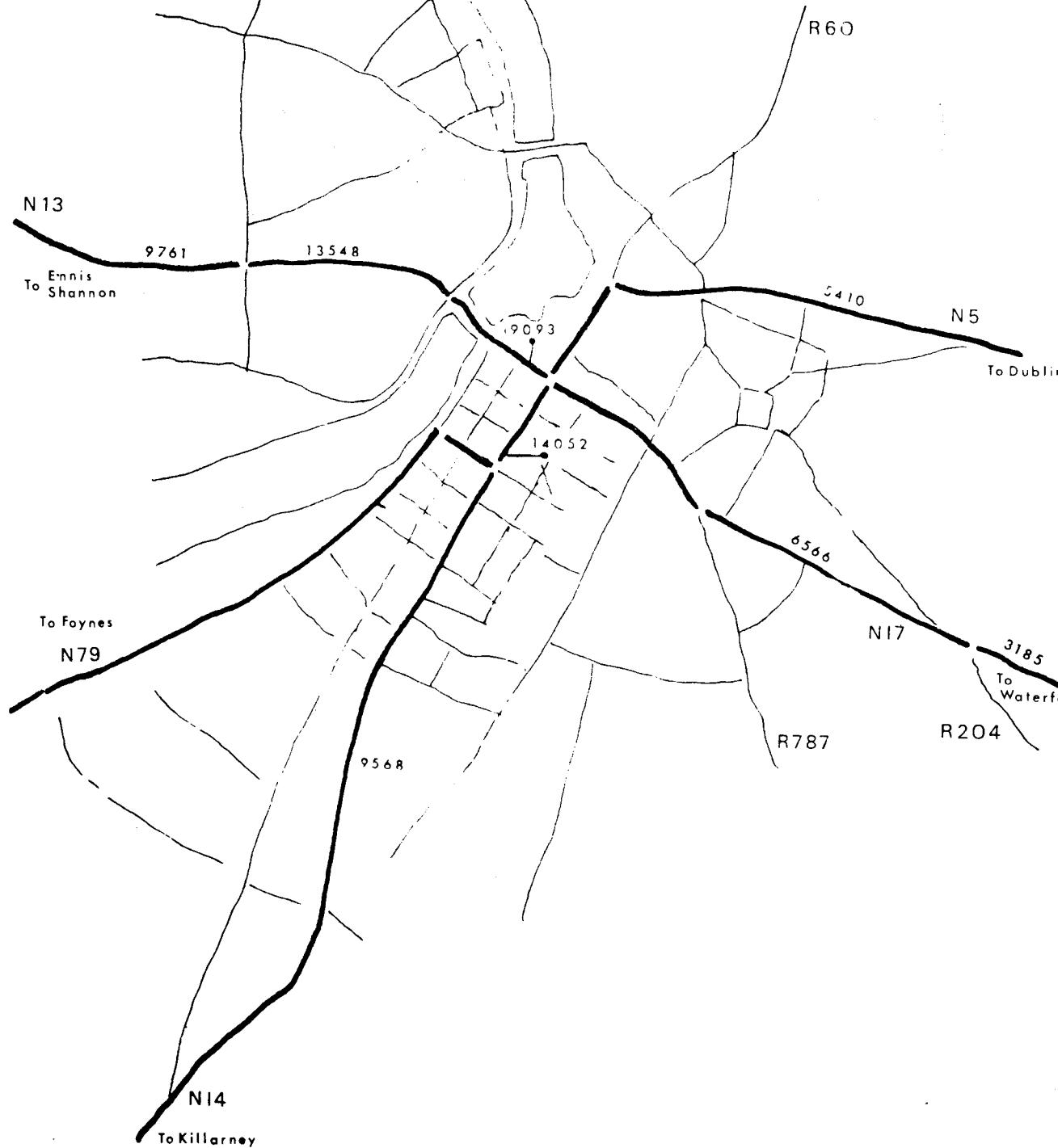
V G Innes

LONGFORD

MILES
0 5 10
KILOMETRES
0 5 10 15



LIMERICK



Based on the Ordnance Survey
by Permission of the Government. Licence No 1195

Limerick
VG Innes

Longford
VG Innes

LOUTH

MAP No
15

Z

Louth

V G Innes

MAY 0

MAYO

Mayo

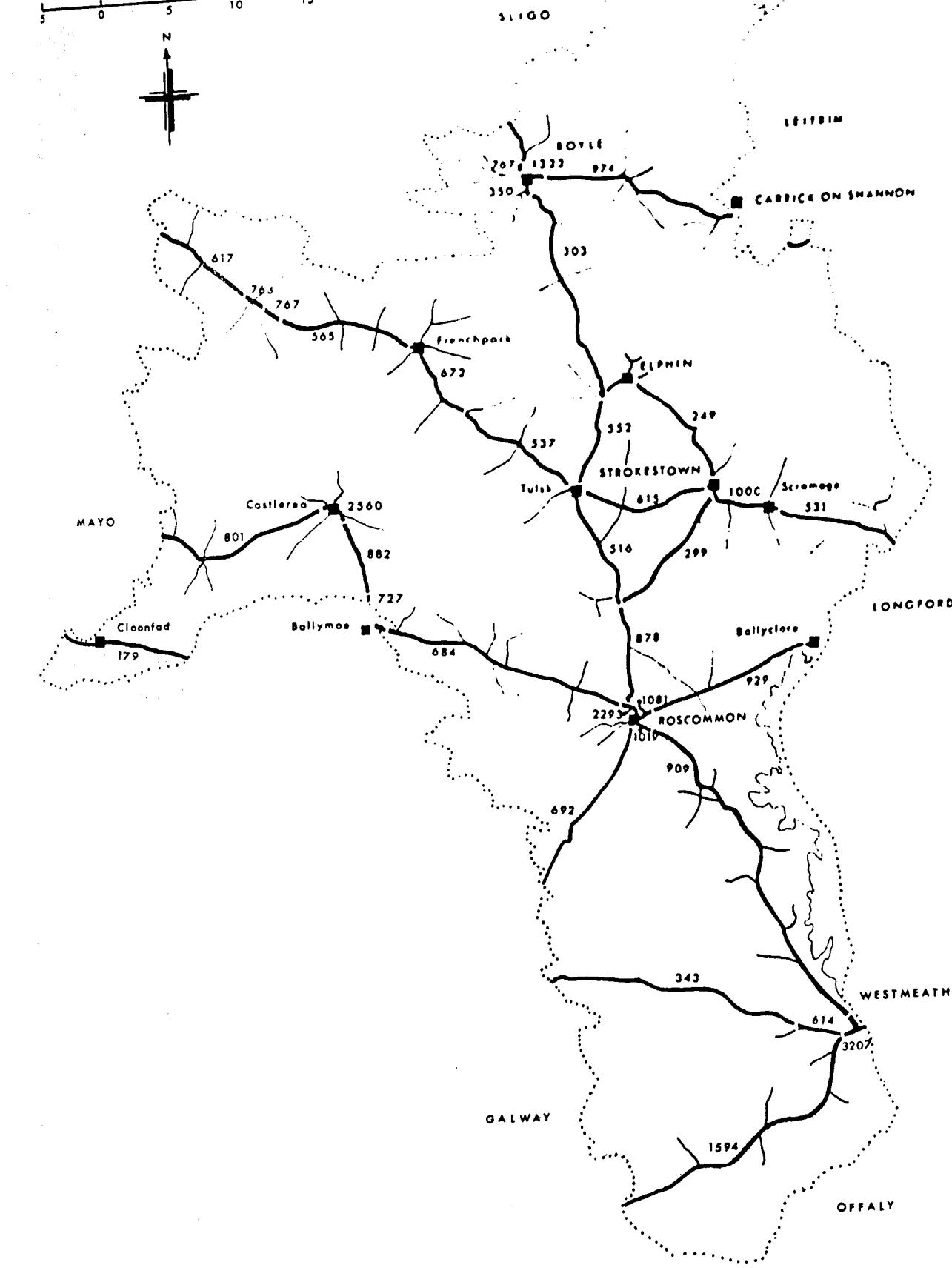
ROSCOMMON

MILES
0 5 10
KILOMETRES
0 5 10 15



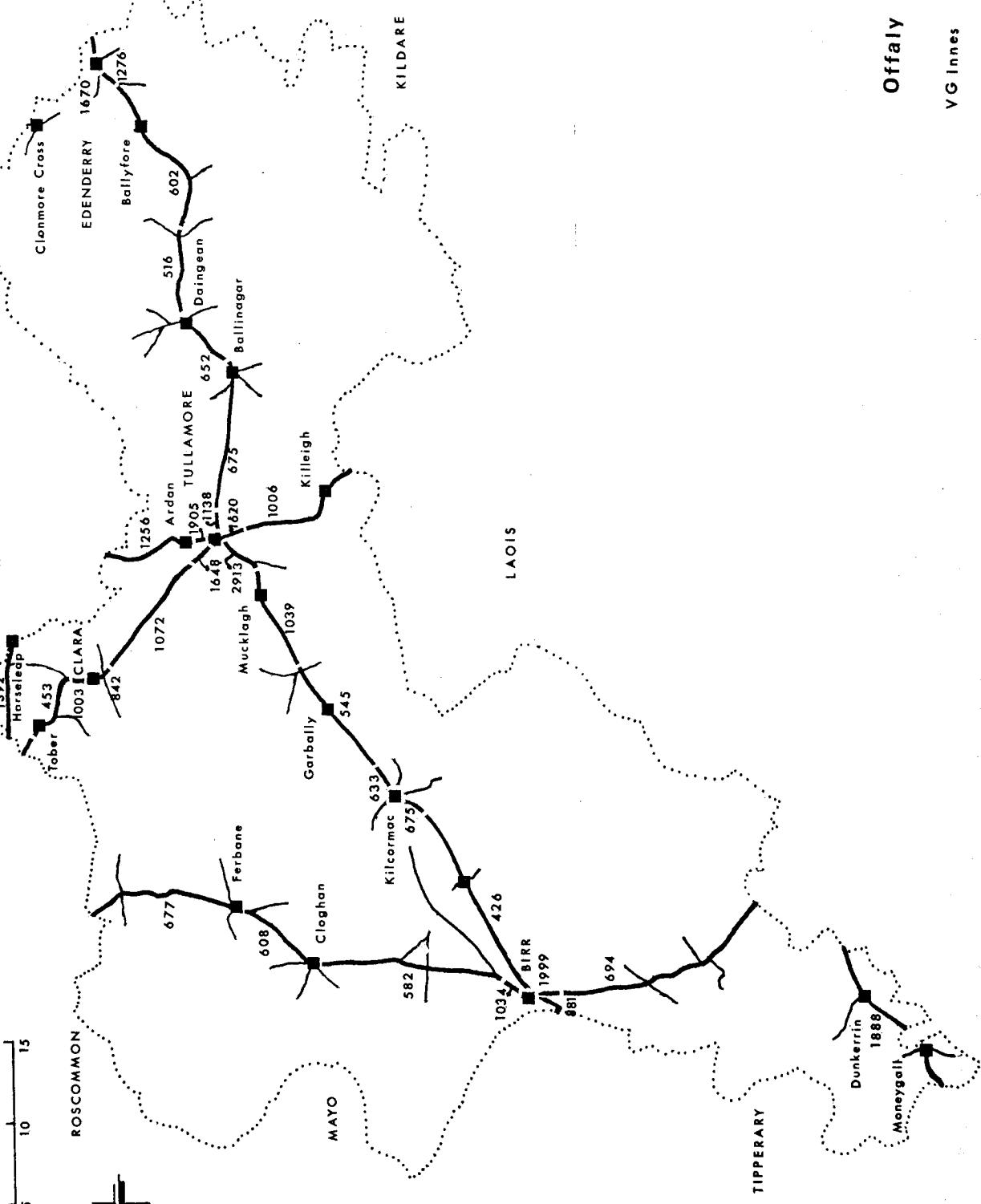
Offaly

VG Innes

MAP No
19

OFFALY

MILES
0 5 10
KILOMETRES
0 5 10 15



MAP No
23

WATERFORD

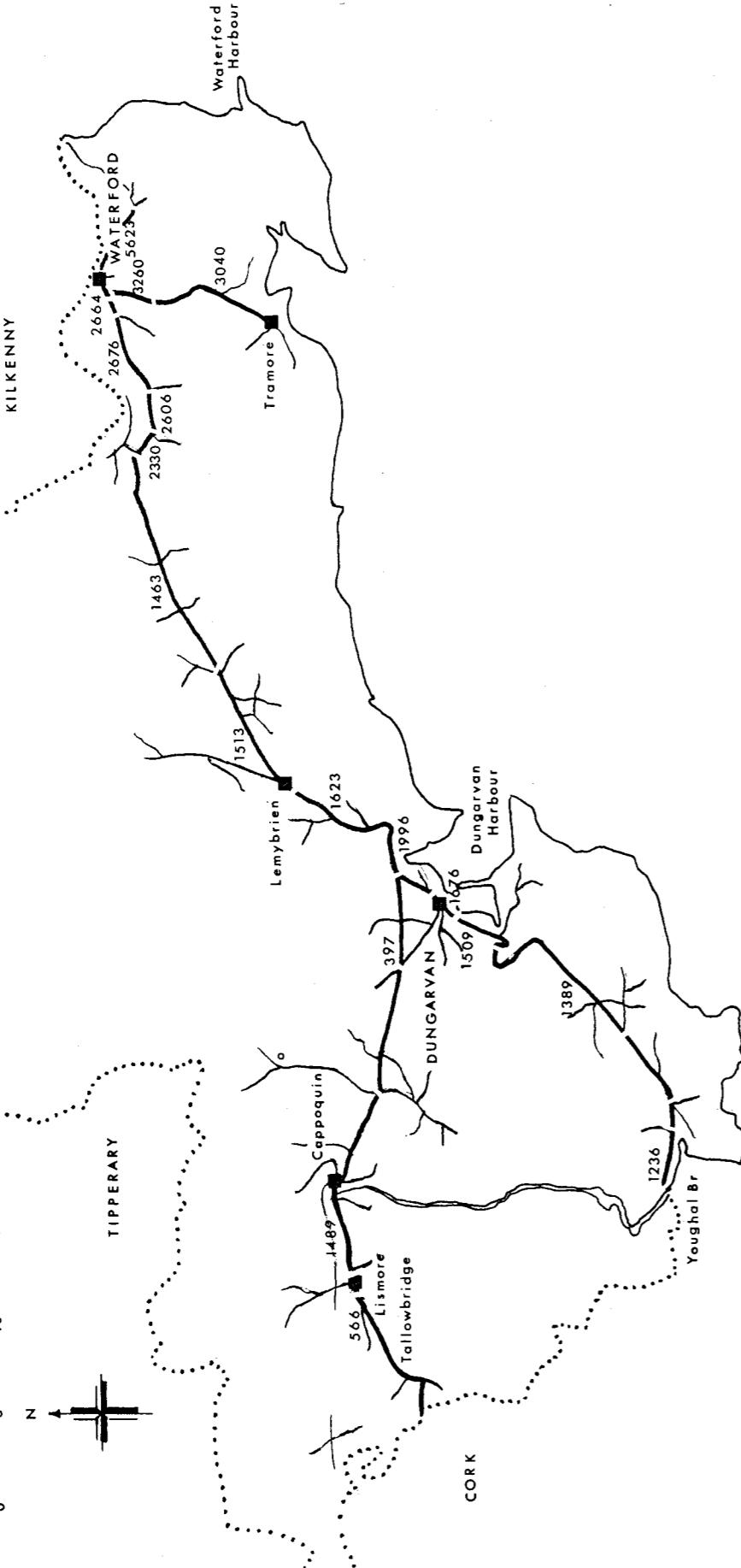
MILES

0 5 10 15

KILOMETRES

0 5 10 15

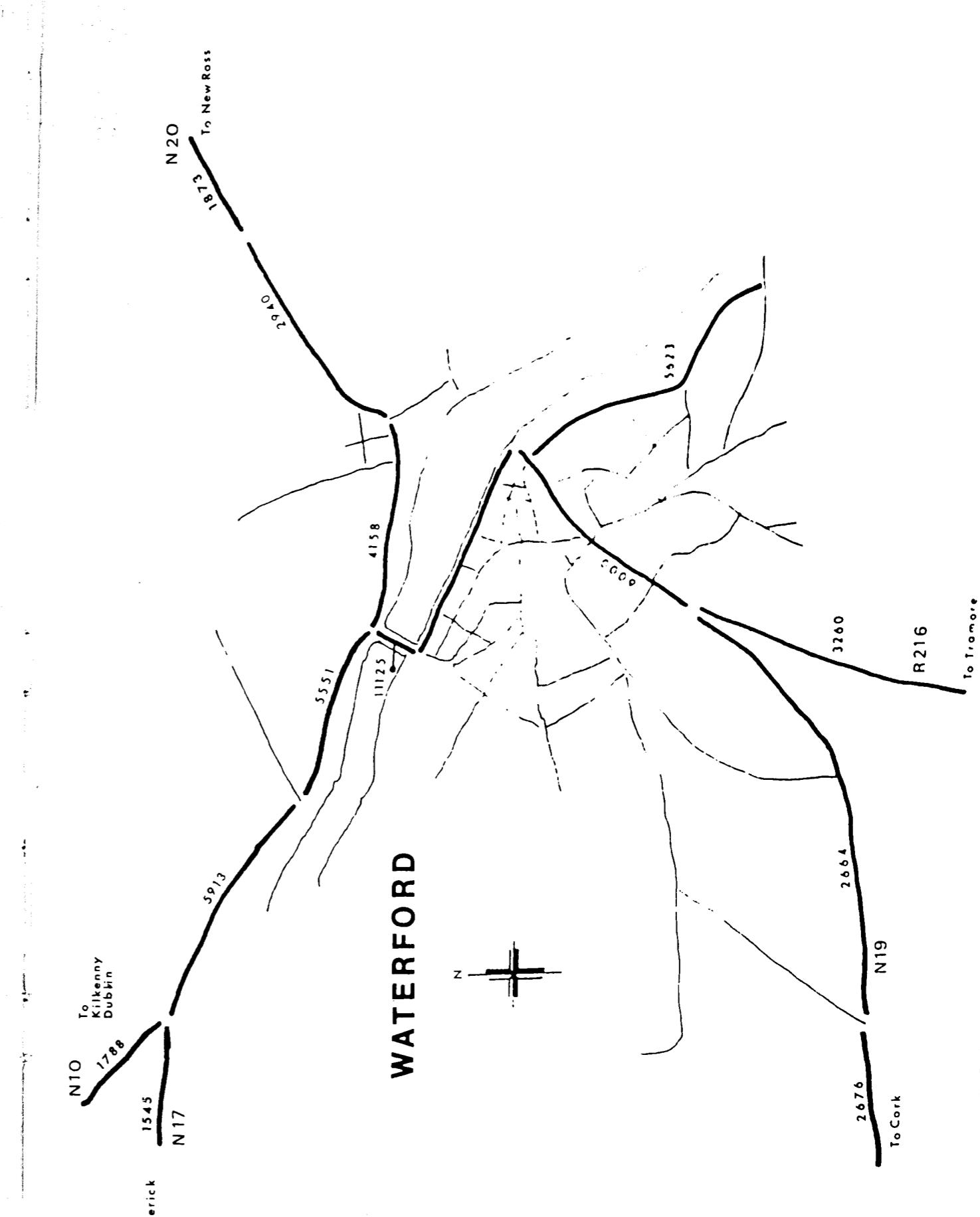
5



Waterford

V G Innes

N10 To Kilkenny Dublin
1788
1545
N17 To Limerick



Waterford
V G Innes

WEXFORD

MILES

KILOMETRE

2

1

WESTMEATH

N

MAP No
24

2

MEATH

Westmeath

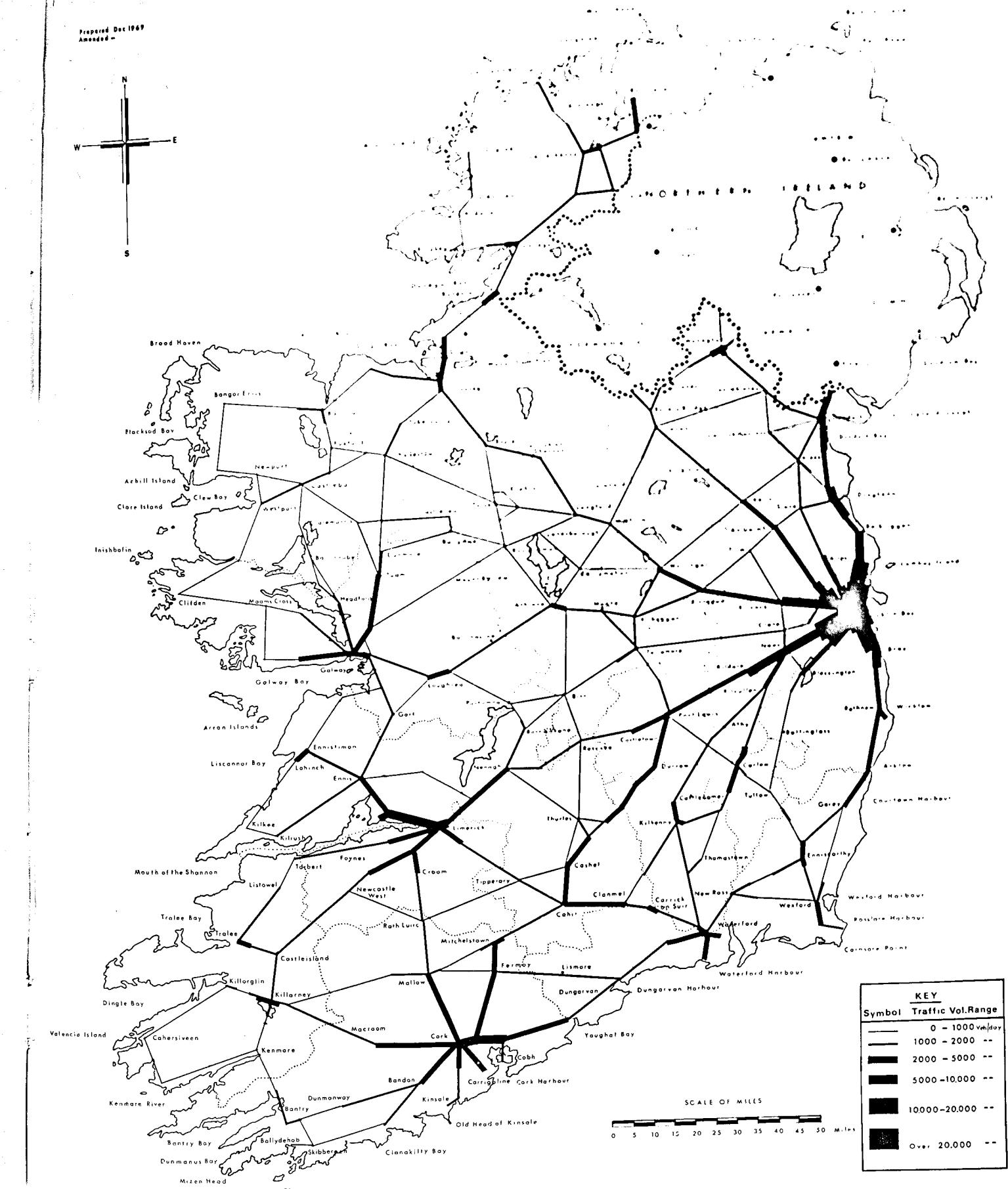
VG Innes

Wexford

VG Innes

WICKLOW

MAP No
26



MAP SHOWING RANGES OF RURAL TRAFFIC VOLUMES 1968

V G Innes

BASED ON THE ORDNANCE SURVEY
BY PERMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT Licence No 121/67

AN FORAS FORBARTHA

St. Martin's House,
Waterloo Road,
Dublin 4.
Tel. 64211

s. d.

PUBLICATIONS

Expansion of the Construction Industry in Ireland Published 1965	45 pp	10. 6.
Planning for Amenity and Tourism Published 1966	110 pp	17. 6.
Urban Redevelopment: New Ross Published 1966	16 pp	7. 6.
Land Use and Building Condition Surveys Published 1966	27 pp	8. 6.
Training of Construction Foremen Published 1967	26 pp	2. 6.
Industrial Development and the Development Plan Published 1967	52 pp	12. 6.
New Dimensions in Regional Planning: A Case Study of Ireland Published 1967	128 pp	25. 0.
A System of Reporting and Recording Traffic Accident Information Published 1967	75 pp	35. 0.
Report on Administration of the Arterial Road Programme Published 1966	61 pp	7. 6.
A Study of Highway Construction and Maintenance Operational Management in the Republic of Ireland Published 1967	48 pp	15. 0.
New Homes: A Pilot Social Survey Published 1968	66 pp	21. 0.
Technical Documentation for the Building Industry Published 1968	306 pp	5. 0.
Road Design Manual Section 3: Fencing Part 1: Nailed Timber Post and Rail Published 1968	28 pp	2. 6.
Education of Planners in Ireland Published 1966	24 pp	17. 6.
Public Lighting in Ireland Published 1968	121 pp	5. 0.
A Study of the Effectiveness of Special Speed Limits on the Dublin - Naas Road Published 1968	15 pp	21. 0.
A Study of Traffic Accidents on Dublin - Naas Road (1966 and 1967) Published 1968	15 pp	12. 6.
Rescue Services at the Scene of Traffic Accidents Published 1969	30 pp	7. 6.
General Speed Limits Published 1969	50 pp	

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

National Standard Building Elements and Design
Cost Control Procedures

Young Workers in a Country Town

Systematic Traffic Counting Programme

