

CASE STUDY

Maynooth Railway Station Accessibility Upgrade

LOCATION: Maynooth, Co. Kildare
CLIENT: Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail
DATE: January 2026



Introduction

Maynooth Railway Station had long been identified by Irish Rail as a priority location for accessibility enhancement, with increasing passenger numbers, a busy commuter catchment, and a growing university population placing pressure on an ageing station layout.

To help deliver a modern, fully inclusive transport hub, Irish Rail selected Global Rail Services Ltd for our proven expertise in complex station upgrades, our strong track record of delivering works within live operational environments, and our ability to coordinate multidisciplinary programmes under tight possession constraints.

The completed upgrade was formally opened by Councillor Carmel Kelly, Mary Considine (CEO of Irish Rail), senior Irish Rail representatives, and Department of Transport officials including Minister James Lawless - reflecting the strategic importance of this project within Irish Rail's national commitment to improving step-free access and delivering a safer, more intuitive travel experience for all passengers.

Key Project Features

New Fully Accessible Footbridge

- ① A new covered footbridge spanning the railway, incorporating two 13-person lifts, providing step-free access to all platforms.
- ① Precast concrete shafts, stair units and bridge deck installed under carefully managed night-time possessions.

Platform Upgrades

- ① Remedial works to Platforms 1 and 2, including new ducting, drainage improvements, upgraded surfacing, platform lighting, fencing, markings, and signage.
- ① Installation of tactile surfaces and upgraded nosing's, as well as platform wayfinding enhancements.

Enhanced Passenger Facilities

- ① Refurbishment of the station's existing disabled toilet, completed within a tight one-week window to minimise disruption.
- ① Installation of help points and induction loops, fully integrated with Irish Rail's public address system.

Improved Accessibility on the Station Approaches

- ① Redesign and re-marking of accessible parking bays adjacent to the station building.
- ① Upgraded pedestrian lighting and improved wayfinding, including new tactile signage and a tactile map at the station entrance.

Scope of Works Delivered

Global Rail Services delivered a full multi-disciplinary package of civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, and public-realm works, including:

Civil & Structural Works

- ① Installation of track monitoring for all works within the track support zone.
- ① Design and implementation of temporary retaining support for excavations.
- ① Construction of new reinforced concrete piled foundations, retaining walls, ducting, drainage and chambers.
- ① Installation of a new under-track crossing (UTX) using hollow bearer sleepers.
- ① Precast concrete lift shafts, stair flights, landings, and the bridge deck installed under full TIII possession.
- ① Stairs, landings, fencing and roofing installed in coordination with the footbridge works to minimise possession needs.
- ① Installation of stair handrails, nosing's and tactiles.
- ① New footbridge drainage installed and integrated with the existing system.
- ① Removal of the existing footbridge following commissioning of the new one, with full reinstatement of platform finishes under full TIII possession.

Mechanical & Electrical Works

- ① New platform and footbridge lighting systems.
- ① Electrical services for lifts, CCTV relocations, PA/communications interface, and on-platform equipment upgrades.
- ① Temporary and permanent lighting design to meet IM-NW-1119 guidance.

Passenger Management & Station Operations

- ① Complex passenger diversions and temporary platform surfacing.
- ① Installation of solid hoarding along live platforms during construction.
- ① Maintenance of 2.5m operational platform width and 20 lux illumination throughout all station operational hours.

Traffic, Safety & Environmental Controls

- ① Full traffic/pedestrian management for station users, residents, and service vehicles.
- ① Noise monitoring using permanent noise sensors, weekly reporting, and deployment of certified acoustic blankets.
- ① Implementation of PSCS requirements, including PTS-competent personnel and strict track possession protocols.

Community & Stakeholder Liaison

A dedicated Community Liaison Officer supported the project, providing:

- ① Engagement with residents, businesses, landowners, and other project stakeholders.
- ① Regular updates on upcoming works, possessions, and temporary access changes.
- ① Attendance at Irish Rail control-room and coordination meetings.

This proactive communication helped maintain strong relationships with the Maynooth community and ensured transparency throughout delivery.

Project Challenges

Live Operational Railway

Working within a busy commuter station serving Maynooth University and large daily passenger volumes required meticulous planning, safe systems of work, and strict possession management.

Restricted Site Footprint

The platform environment and adjacent residential interfaces necessitated carefully coordinated compound layouts, crane setups, and pedestrian diversions.

Project Outcomes

The Maynooth Station Upgrade has delivered:

- ① Fully accessible station infrastructure meeting modern standards.
- ① Improved safety and passenger flow, particularly during peak commuter periods.

Conclusion

This project marks another significant achievement in Global Rail Services' portfolio of station upgrades, demonstrating expertise in:

- ① Complex works in live railway environments
- ① Multi-disciplinary delivery
- ① Community engagement

Testimonial

During the opening ceremony, Irish Rail's Colin Grimes praised Global Rail Services for delivering the works "to an exceptionally high standard" despite operational challenges.

Night-Time Working & Track Possessions

Extensive precast installation and track-proximate operations were delivered under TIII night-time possessions, requiring precision planning and a flexible approach to shifting possession availability.

- ① Enhanced lighting, signage and information systems, creating a more intuitive and inclusive station environment.
- ① Reduced long-term maintenance requirements through high-quality precast and structural solutions.

- ① Precision planning under possession constraints
- ① High-quality, accessibility-driven infrastructure improvements