

# Urban redevelopment in Paris - an evaluative approach

John Snelling – Head of Geography, Trinity School

**Royal Geographical Society**  
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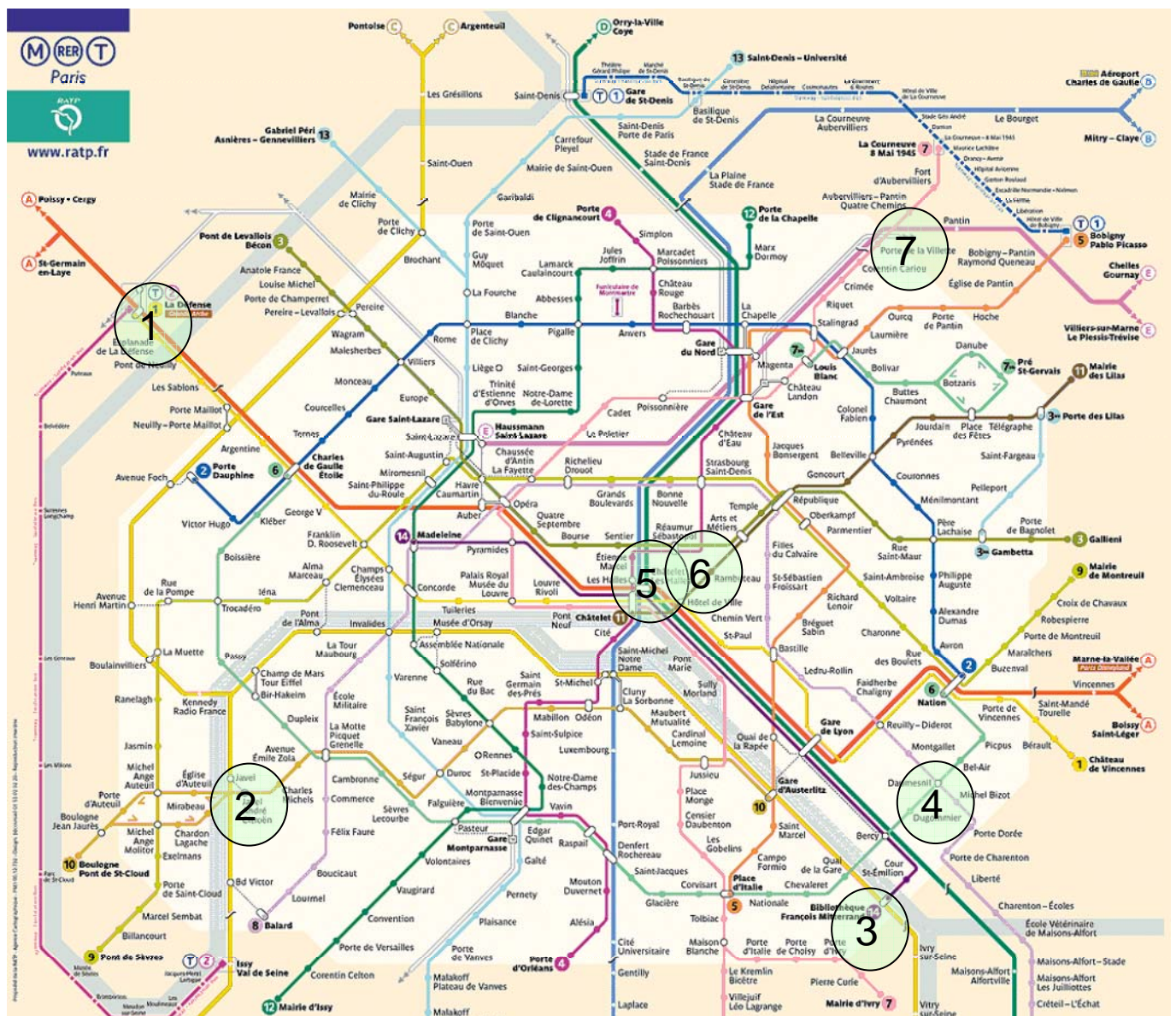
line of the activity / day

2 day/1 night field trip via Eurostar to Paris to investigate a variety of urban redevelopment sites in Paris.

The 7 sites are detailed below, covering both inner and outer Paris, Intra Muros and Extra Muros, Small and Large Scale, as well as East & West, North & South:

1. La Defense
2. Javel 15<sup>th</sup> *Parc Andre Citroen*
3. Luck 13<sup>th</sup> ?
4. 12<sup>th</sup>, Daumensil-Bercy *Avenue Daumesnil, Le Viaduc des Arts, Promenade Plante & 2 apartments*
5. 4<sup>th</sup> Le Beaubourg *Centre Pompidou*
6. 1<sup>st</sup> Les Halles
7. 19<sup>th</sup> - beyond Bellville *Parc de la Villette*

Each site was selected as a recent redevelopment project and for the quality of the design, planning and architecture.



## 2. Key learning outcomes

- An understanding of the different scales of redevelopment projects available to urban planners
- An evaluative approach to look and see fieldwork
- A clear set of comparative case study material for inclusion in A2-level essays

## 3. Links with the curriculum

- OCR Geography A GCE - 2684 module Synoptic Geography: People and Environment Options - Managing Urban Environments
- OCR Geography B GCE - 2688 Human systems & their management
- AQA Geography A GCE - module 5 Challenge and Change in the Human Environment - Managing Cities – Challenges and Issues - Reversing the Decline
- AQA Geography B GCE - Module 3 - Urban Change in the UK and the Wider World in the Last 30 Years
- Edexcel Geography B GCE - Unit 2 Managing Change in Human Environments - Urban Environments

New A-level module links include:

- OCR AS Managing change in Human Environments - Managing Urban Change
- AQA A2 Contemporary Geographical Issues - World Cities
- Edexcel AS Global Challenges - Rebranding Places
- pre-U Global Themes - Housing the People

The synoptic links with other A2 subjects and many and varied from industry and managing industrial decline & changes to urban tourism, managing congestion and transport planning to sustainable development and

It also proved excellent for students studying for creative A-levels such as Photography, DT & Art as most of the buildings & areas were of contemporary architecture & design and lent themselves to many elements of their courses.

## 4. Preparatory and follow up work

Preparatory work minimal, however a review of the redevelopment work of any nearby city/town as a comparison would be most useful.

Students were set a series of research projects before going that highlighted some of the historical and contemporary issues in Paris. These included:

- Haussmann
- Les Grands Travaux
- Congestion
- Tourism
- The Master Plan
- Social segregation & the riots
- The Mayor of Paris

Students were directed to the internet, various A-level textbooks and a number of Paris guides.

## 5. Step by step guide to the fieldwork activities

- The students travel to each of the sites as a group by public transport and walk to each of the sites - a metro pass to include the area of La Defence costs E20 for 2 days
- At each of the sites they review the previous land use and **history of the construction/ redevelopment**
- In groups they then **evaluate the effectiveness of the projects** using a series of agreed criteria e.g. Social, Economic & Environmental (which would allow for developed discussions regarding sustainability)
- They then feed their ideas into the group and **discuss how each of the areas might be improved**
- 30-45 minutes is required for each of the sites depending upon what you give the students in advance and the lengths of the discussions you have on site (also how long the weather allows the students to remain outside!)
- The order is usually dictated by the location of the hotel, usually in the North close to the Gare du Nord or Montmartre - previous routes:

Day 1 (full day with travel and hotel check in)

1. La Defence
2. 15<sup>th</sup>
3. 13<sup>th</sup>
4. 12<sup>th</sup>

Day 2 (½ day if begun by 0900, afternoon for sightseeing)

5. 4<sup>th</sup>
6. 1<sup>st</sup>
7. 19<sup>th</sup>

- Cheap deals can be arranged directly with Eurostar group travel, well under £100 B&B in 3star hotels most times of the year
- Travel is easier from in and around London & the South-East

## 6. Resources, or links to resources

Most areas has a page of images of before and after (redevelopment) shots, with a space in between (excluded in these notes) for background notes to be given at each location. Where appropriate there are census statistics included.

The notes have the name of the area, Metro/RER station & lines that serve that location, with a second side for the evaluation and suggested improvements (see attached files).

## 7. Photos



Students in the Parc de la Villette in front of the Geode  
The impressive entrance to the Cite de la Science



Students at work beneath the Grande Arche at la Defense

## 8. Feedback from teacher on why the fieldwork is successful

*“The trip is a wonderful experience for both staff and students alike; intense whilst working but giving a wonderful impression of the whole city and worthwhile on so many levels for all concerned. Those studying French got a wonderful opportunity to practice their language skills and those who liked rugby went to see a fantastic game at the Stade Francais!”* Teacher

## 9. Any changes that teacher would make for future trips

With the increasing pressures placed on all departments in terms of time allocation for fieldwork, I am forced to make the trip into the February ½ term and make it more of an option. It has run for 2 very successful years at the end of January, just after the AS retake session, but with a new headmaster and increasing calls to justify one day off school and sports fixtures missed for students, things will change. This may give us the opportunity to combine with our French and Art departments who are keen on visiting Paris with various L and U6 groups, but may mean that we go the beginning of the Christmas holidays.



## 10. Feedback from students

*"We want to tell you how pleased we were that Jay and his geography classmates had the opportunity to go to Paris last month to look at so many different and very good examples of environmental improvements and regeneration over the course of the trip. There is no doubt in our mind that first hand experience of these places is a vital and essential way to understand the subject; and memorable too. As with your other field trips that Jay has been on, it was well organised and researched, and an important and enjoyable educational experience!"* Parent

*"I found the recent Paris Trip to be both useful and enlightening not only for bettering geographical understanding and applying classroom taught theory, but also to appreciate a different culture in a different country."* Student

*"I thought the Paris trip was a highly enjoyable, yet educationally beneficial, experience. I liked visiting sites of different scales and having to really think about whether or not they were successful in the short, medium and ultimately long term. There was a lot of sightseeing and travelling to fit in, but we were rarely unoccupied and were given plenty of free time to discover the city for ourselves."* Student

## 11. Examples of work, where possible

All of the work has been integral to our study of Managing Urban Environments, and has proved to be a key case study, allowing students to genuinely evaluate material at the high level required at A2. All work was in the form of notes and personal evaluations, integrated into their revision notes and essay work.

## 12. Top tips for making the fieldwork meaningful and effective

- Preparation and planning in the fieldwork, creating genuine enthusiasm for all aspects of the study sites
- Making the students take decisions about how to reach locations using public transport in order to empower them
- Allowing them sufficient free time to explore the city themselves in order to have their own Parisian experience, and to discover their own part of the city
- Giving them guides in advance so that they can plan their free time

## 13. Equipment list

- clips boards and printed sheets
- cameras - optional but extremely useful

## 14. Relevant contacts

- [Eurostar Group Travel](#)