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### **Place Mapping with Teenagers: Locating their territories and documenting their experience of the public realm**

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# **Place Mapping: A Youth – Specific Methodology**

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# Mapping Teenage Microgeographies

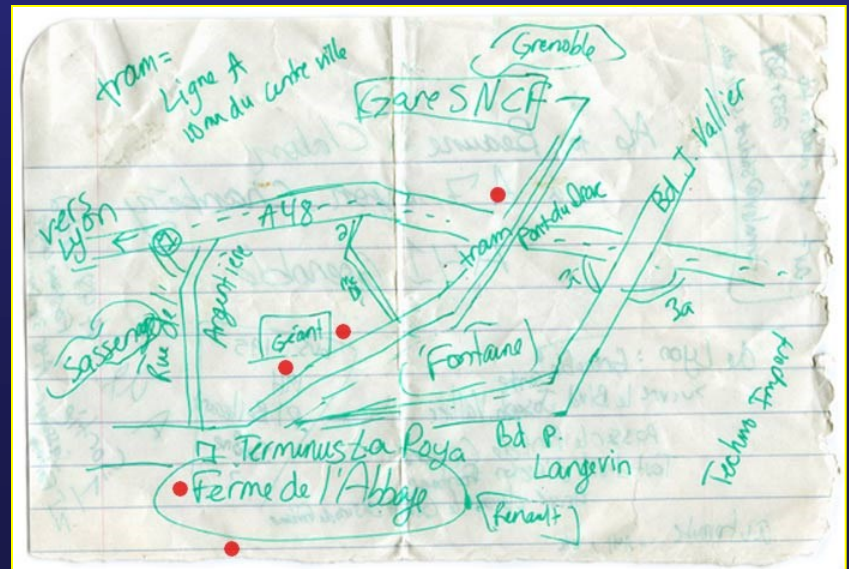
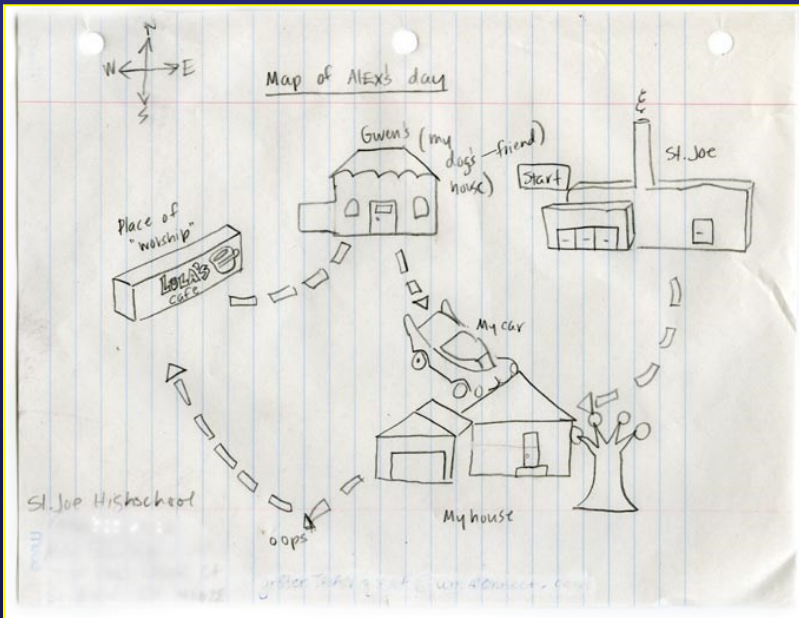
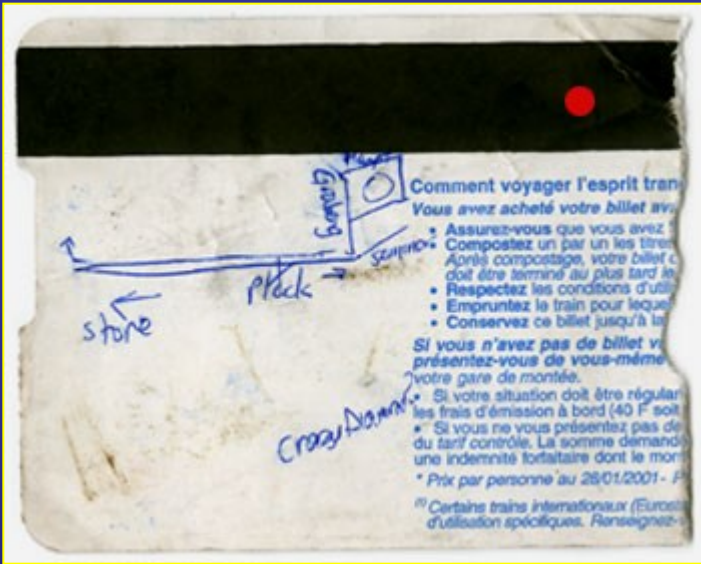
For each teenager the sum of the relationship between a range of everyday places beyond their home, school and playground constitutes a microgeography which when grouped together provides a spatio-temporal map of experience

(Matthews, Limb and Percy-Smith, 1997:193)

# Different Approaches in Mapping

- The map as material culture;
- The map as cognitive system;
- The map as social construction.

# Cognitive Mapping



# Defining a Youth - Specific Methodology

Public space is a practised place for and by teenagers. Hanging out and about in the city can be considered as a spatial performance, full of symbols and meaning for its performers.

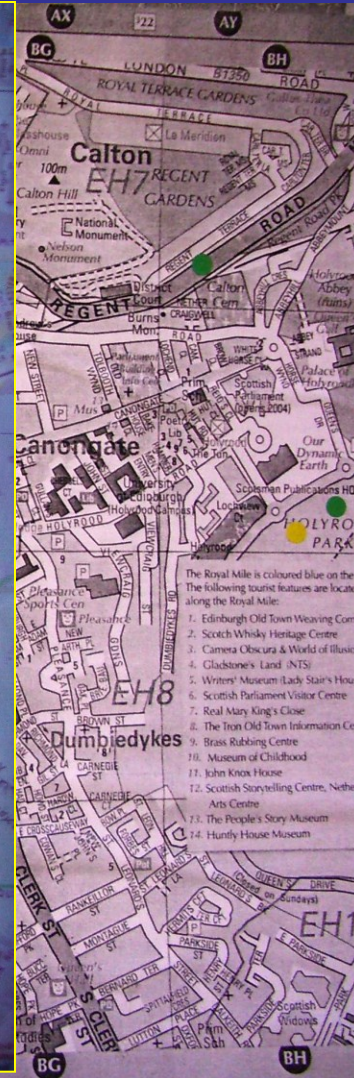
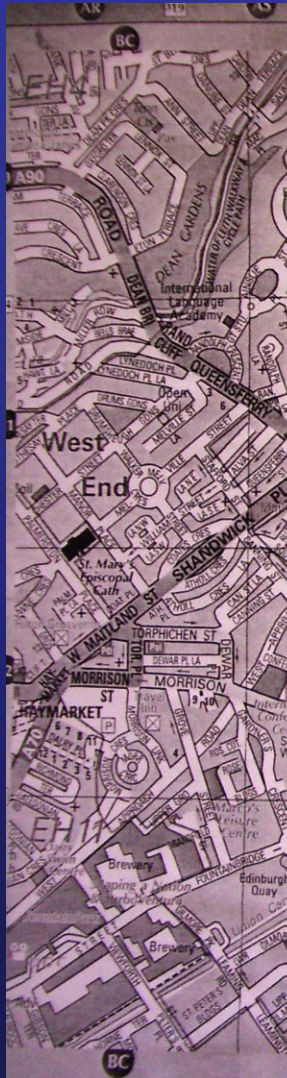
Following this approach, place mapping is a method to visually portray young people's spatial performance.

# Place Maps as Cartographic Narratives

The place maps are representations of young people's reality and themselves as they engage with it.

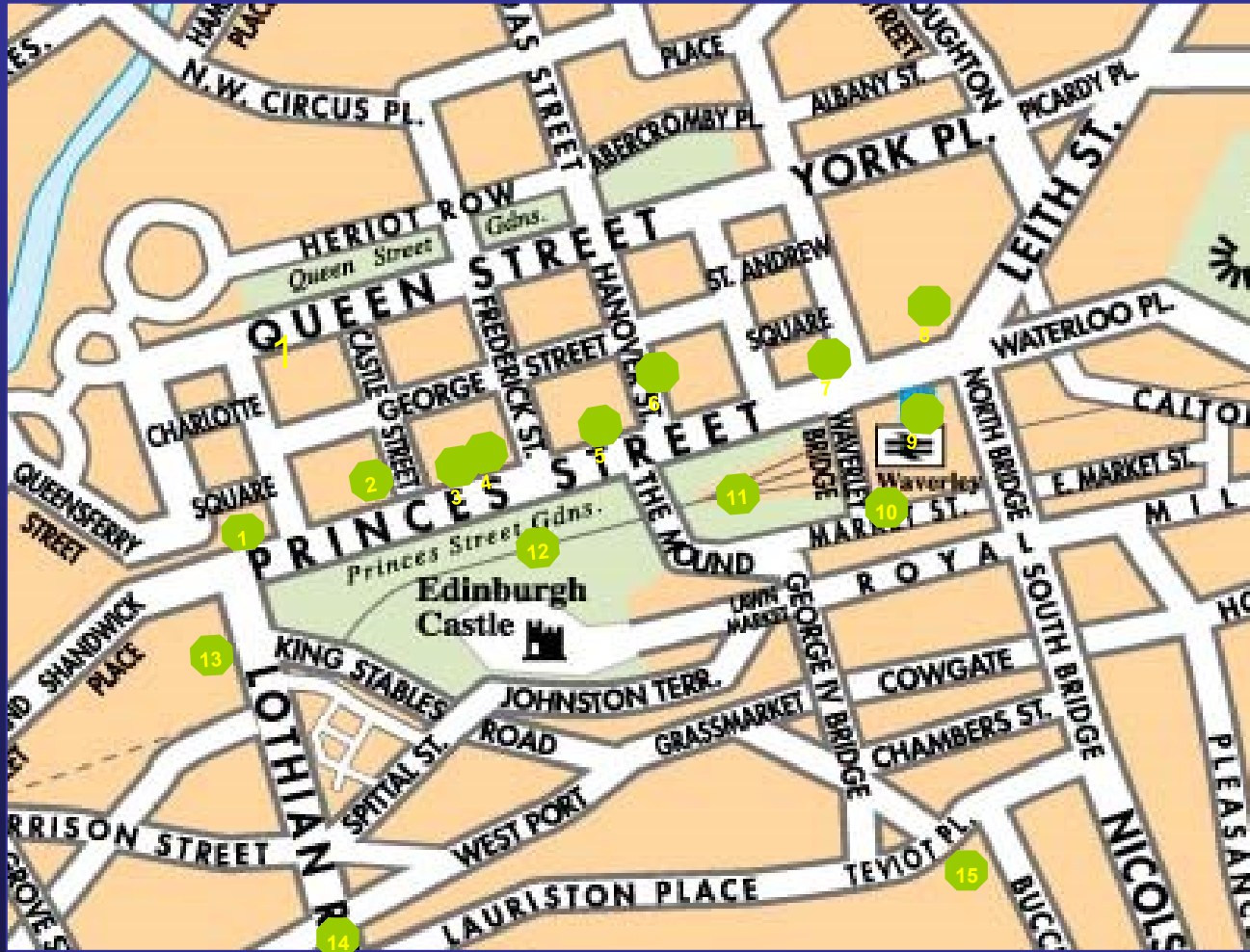
Young people inscribe on conventional street maps their spatial experiences, creating a web of inter-linked paths and routes according to favourite and least favourite places, spaces of inclusion and exclusion, hang-out spots and contested spaces.

# Favourite Places: Map Exercise



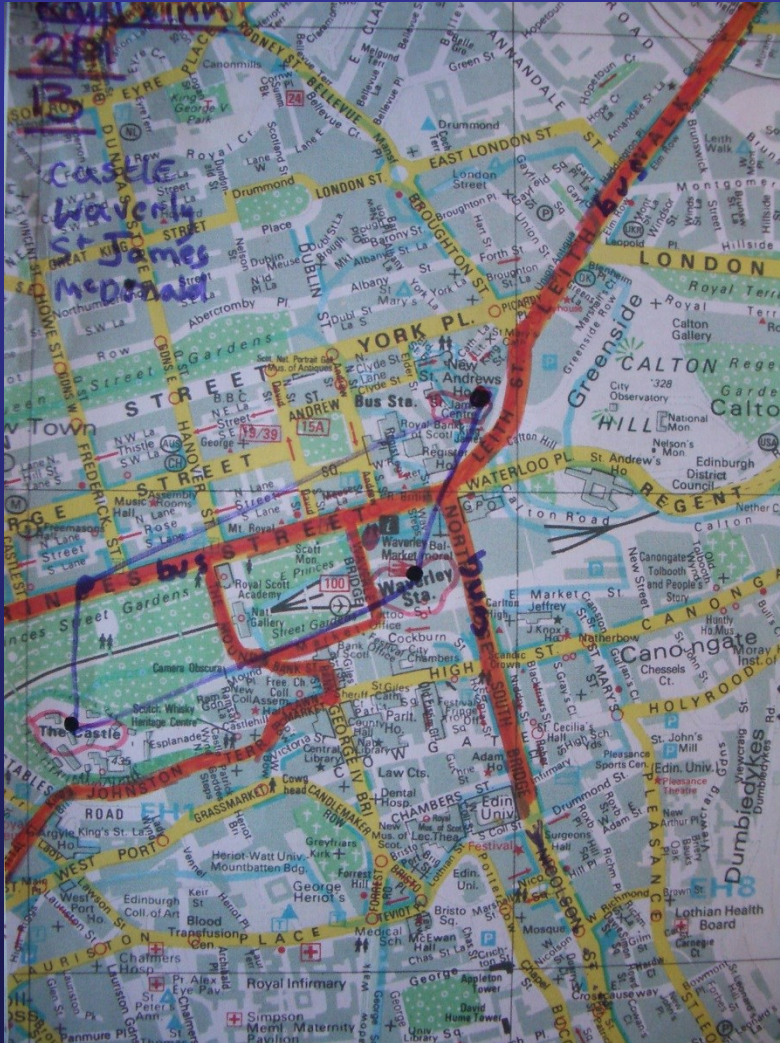


# Favourite Places: Interpretation

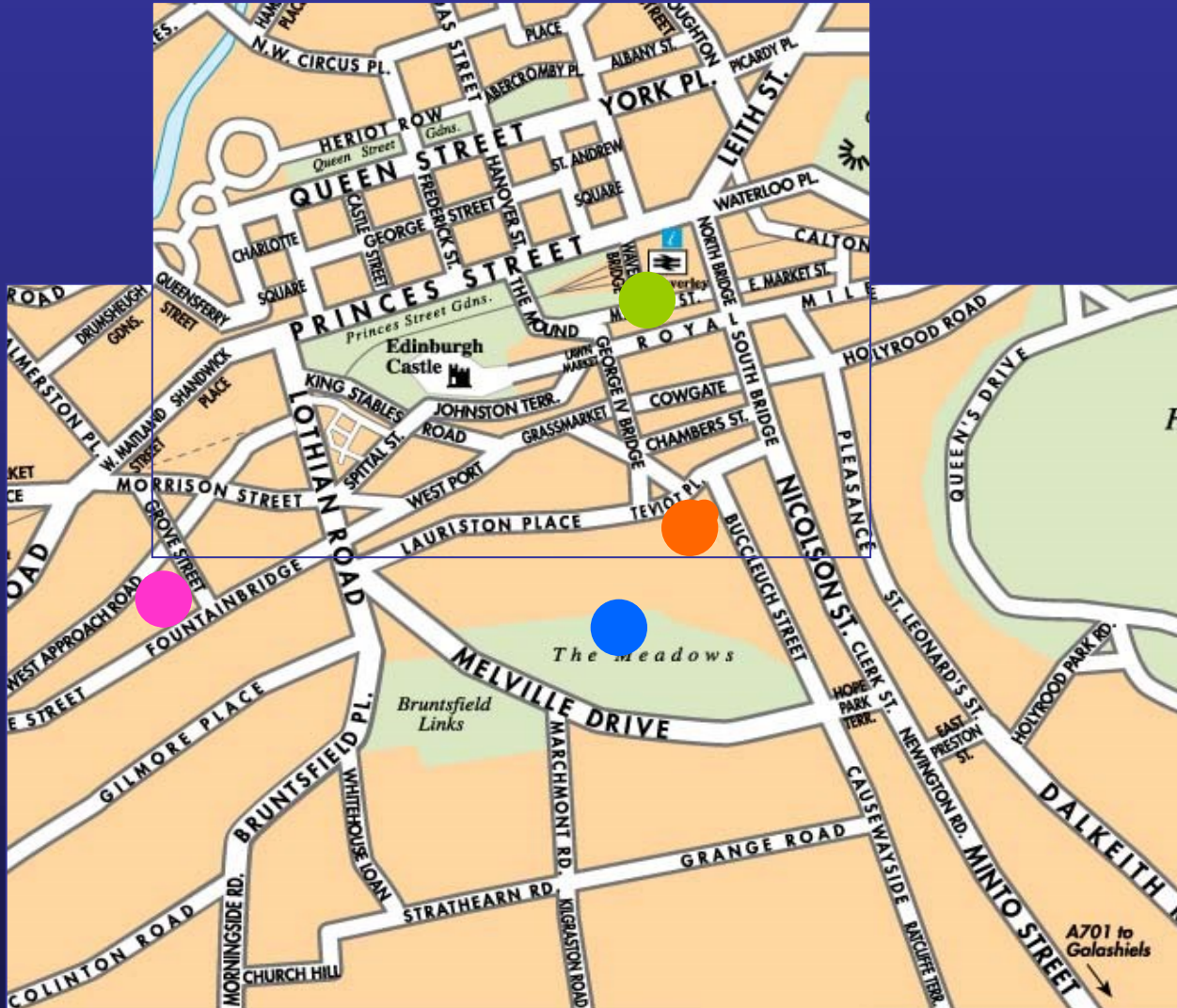


1. Charlotte Square
2. Burger King
3. Virgin Megastore
4. HMV Music Store
5. Starbucks Café
6. McDonalds
7. McDonalds
8. St. James Centre
9. Princes Mall
10. Cockburn Street
11. Princes Street Gardens
12. Princes Street Gardens
13. Festival Square
14. Bank of Scotland
15. Bristo Square

# Favourite Places: Map Exercise



# Least Favourite Places



- Cockburn Street
- Bristo Square
- Fountain Park
- The Meadows

# Main Findings

- Social interaction more important than the physical setting;
- Territorial/contested spaces;
- Fear of crime;
- Commercialised spaces: consumerism
- Indoors is outdoors:
  - a) Lack of spaces specially designed for young people's needs
  - b) Weather restriction

# Discussion on Place Mapping Methodology

- The school as research setting;
- The dynamics within the focus group;
- The use of place mapping as ‘task-based’ activity;
- The use of a multi-facet methodology
- Map reading vs. map drawing