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Surveillance from all angles? Some observations and comments

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# **Surveillance from All Angles ? : Some Observations and Comments**

*1<sup>st</sup> Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR)  
Annual Conference*

12<sup>th</sup> September 2007, Pollock Halls, Edinburgh

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Applied Criminology Centre**



*University of*  
**HUDDERSFIELD**

# What is Surveillance ?

***“ the processes of observing what happens in different locations and contexts and converting such observations into both intelligence and situational assessments directly linked to action and interventions***

# Surveillance of What ?

- Individuals (Victims, potential victims, offenders, potential offenders)
- Groups of individuals (co offenders, gangs, networks)
- Biometrics of Individuals (e.g. voice, fingerprints)
- Buildings (external and internal)
- Items of Property (electronic goods, mobile phones)
- Bags, packages, containers
- Means of Transport (on buses, trains)
- Places and spaces (town centres, streets, car parks, estates)
- Cyberspace

# Forms of Surveillance

- Visual
- Voice
- Signal
- X rays and scanners
- Thermal
- Smell
- Chemical
- Radioactivity
- Biological
- Electronic (email, credit card/ bank transactions, downloads, web use)
- Documentary
- Telephony

# Why ?

- Intelligence gathering
- Monitoring and tracking
- Public reassurance
- Guardianship & Deterrence
- Crowd control
- Identification of suspects
- Identification of Offenders
- Apprehension [before/during/after an offence]
- Economic Gain
- Personal Satisfaction

# By Whom ?

- Police
- CDPR
- British Transport Police
- Customs and Excise
- Bus companies
- Banks
- Business Watch
- DSS / Inland Revenue
- Burglars
- Terrorists
- Fraudsters
- Bank Robbers
- Neighbours

# Additional Considerations

- Differences in deployment of technologies (explicit, covert, concealed devices, miniaturisation)
- Different response time windows (immediate reaction to live events – studied responses – replays- analysis of visual images)
- Different ethical perspectives on surveillance

# Stages in Surveillance

- A Design & specification of technology  
[Overt, Covert, detection or deterrence ?]
- B Targeting and Deployment
- C Prioritisation & Interpretation of Surveillance images and data
- D Communication & Data Sharing
- E Police/ Practitioner Responses
- F Offender Response
- G Public Response

# A Theory for Each Stage

## Theories about:

- the reasons for surveillance [benign or oppressive ?]
- the role of surveillance [reassurance, crime detection, crime prevention]
- **offender response and behaviour** [defiance, avoidance, desistance]
- surveillance and crime reduction [how does surveillance impact on crime ?]
- **places and crime opportunities**
- criminal networks and organised crime
- **terrorism**
- public perceptions, risk and fear
- victims and vulnerability
- **crime displacement**
- community cohesion and support for surveillance
- **perception and cognition [How does one distinguish the unusual from the mundane from a plethora of images?]**
- inference of intentions from human movement (gait, gesture, motion)
- knowledge and action
- governance, power and control

# Crime Theories

- **Routine Activities Theory**

[Convergence of motivated offender, suitable target & absence of capable guardian]

- **Rational Choice Theory**

[Offenders select crime targets by weighing up risks of being caught, costs/effort involved against the reward]

- **Crime Pattern Theory**

[Emphasis on crime-prone locations – departure/arrival points (nodes), journeys between them (paths) and borders between neighbourhoods (edges)]

- **Social Disorganisation Theory**

[Residents share few common interests and don't look out for each other]

# General Theory of Crime Attractors, Generators & Detractors

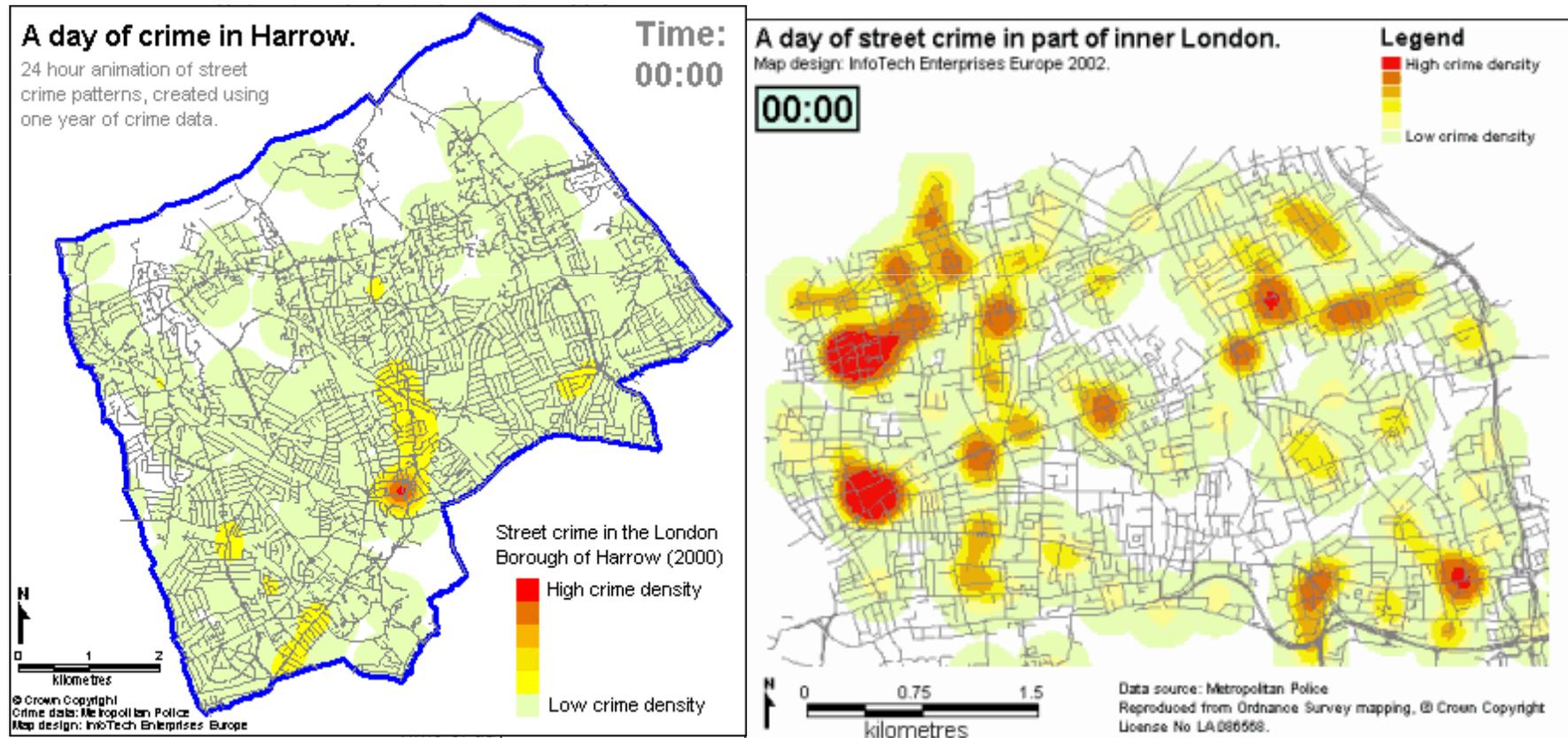
**Crime Generators:** *Places that bring people together and create crime opportunities for offenders who also happen to be there (e.g. a bus terminal, a school)*

**Crime Attractors:** *locations, sites, properties specifically targeted by offenders (e.g. red light districts, crack houses)*

**Crime Detractors:** *a location that discourages offenders and offending (e.g. sites with good natural surveillance, strong cohesive communities)*

**‘Urban areas can be viewed as a ‘patchwork of crime generators, crime attractors, crime detractors, and neutral areas’ Brantingham and Brantingham (1995)**

# Explain these Patterns ?



# Routine activities theory

Cohen & Felson, 1979

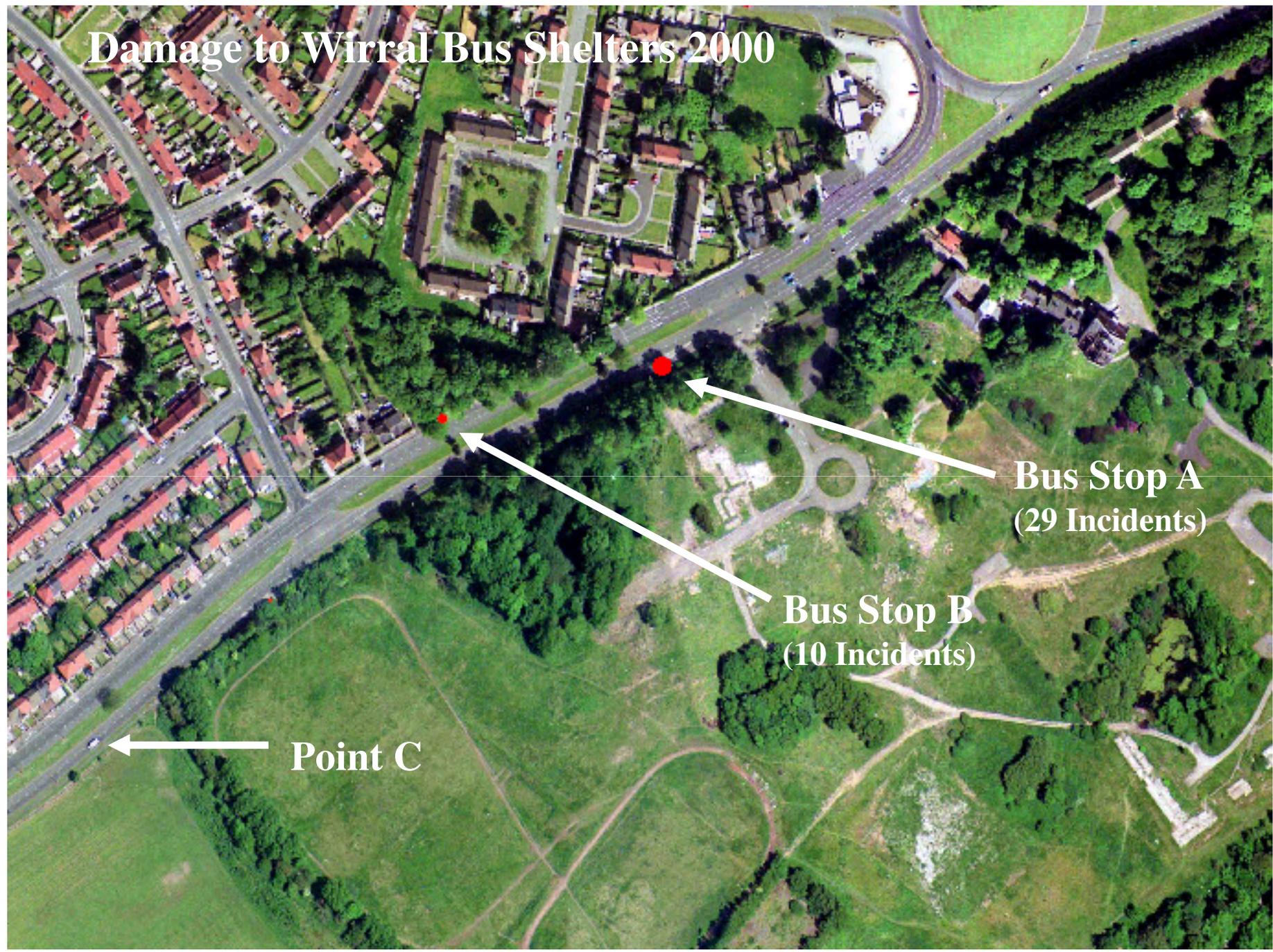
A Suitable Target

A Motivated Offender

**Crime**

Lack of capable guardians

# Damage to Wirral Bus Shelters 2000



Bus Stop A  
(29 Incidents)

Bus Stop B  
(10 Incidents)

Point C

<b>Theory</b>	<b>Insights Provided</b>	<b>Surveillance Implications</b>
<b>Routine Activities Theory</b>	Crime Opportunities	<b>Identify times and locations where guardianship is weak</b>
<b>Rational Choice Theory</b>	Offender Decision Making and Behaviour (Benefits versus Risks)	<b>Target Known MOs, suspects &amp; Offenders (especially prolific offenders)</b>
<b>Crime Pattern Theory</b>	Patterns of movement down paths, across nodes along edges	<b>Monitor transport corridors, bus routes, journeys to crime, ANPR</b>
<b>Crime Attractors, Generators, Detractors</b>	Venues, service delivery points, events that bring people together	<b>Bars, stations, Taxi ranks, night clubs, shopping malls</b>
<b>Social Disorganisation Theory</b>	Residents share few common interests. Unable to look out for each other or supervise young people	<b>Anti social Behaviour, criminal damage to street furniture and cameras, Indifference/ hostility towards police</b>
<b>Broken Windows</b>	Dereliction & neglect, signals to offenders that nobody is control	<b>Surveillance to support crackdowns and zero tolerance</b>
<b>Strain Theory</b>	Criminal behaviour triggered by demoralising impact of societal inequalities	<b>Target affluent areas bordering disadvantaged communities</b>

## **CRIMINAL OFFENDERS**

- Nearly everyone commits crime at some point
- Most offenders travel relatively short distances to commit crimes
- Offenders commit crimes within their 'awareness spaces'
- Offenders pick easy, familiar opportunities – one reason for repeat victimisation
- Offenders tend to be generalists
- Risk to offenders is being caught after the act

## **TERRORISTS**

- Generally far fewer offences & offenders
- Use regional, national and international networks
- Terrorists gain knowledge of situations with which they are unfamiliar
- Terrorists seek opportunities that will maximise publicity, impact and fear.
- Terrorists tend to be specialists
- Risk to terrorists is being caught before the act

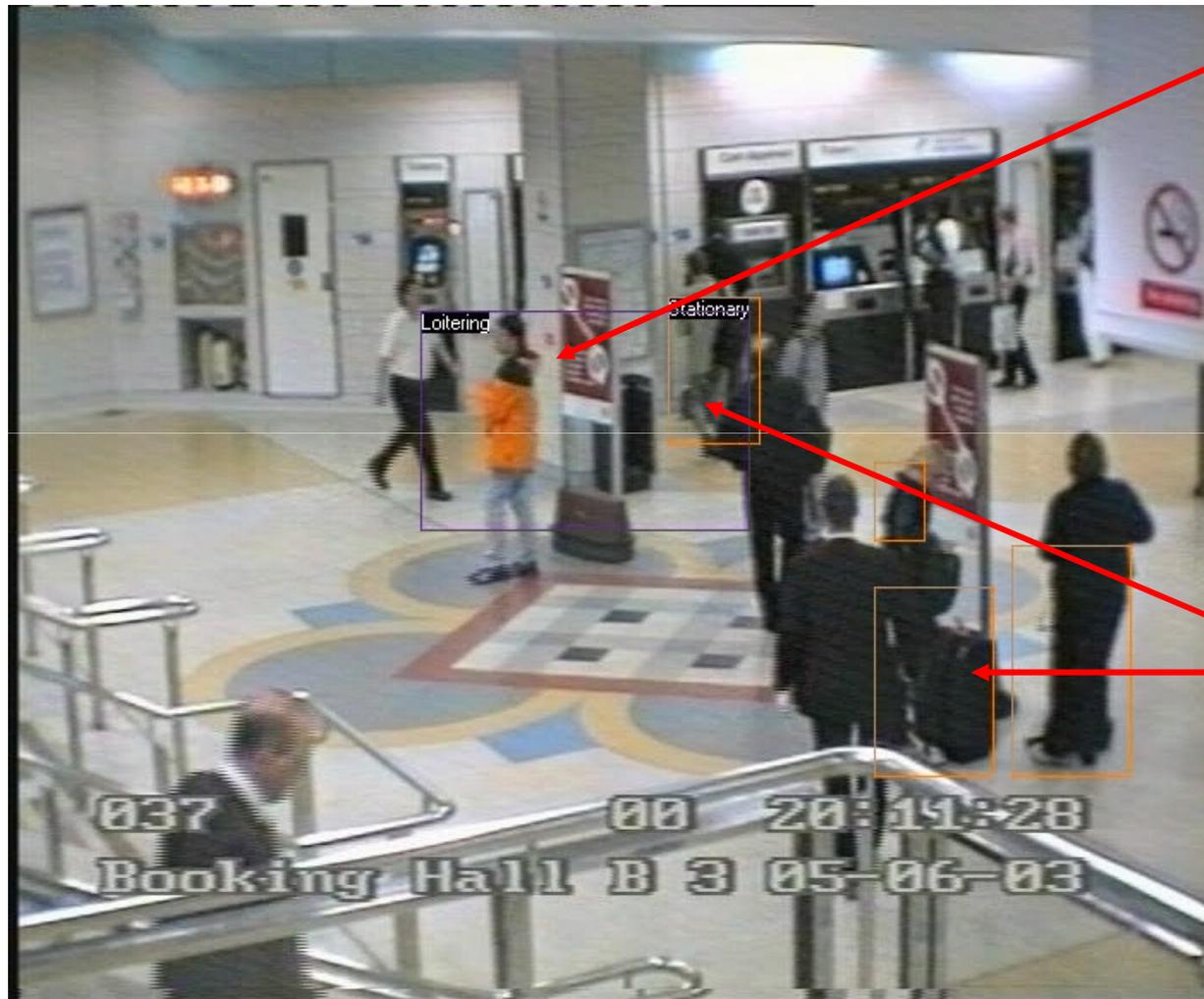
# Is There a Difference ?

	<b>Crime</b>	<b>Terrorism</b>
<b>Motivated Offenders</b>	Economic Gain Personal Gratification Risk vs Reward	Harm to system, social/ cultural, ethnic groups Ideology/ Religion
<b>Suitable Targets</b>	Property Cash Vulnerable people	Symbolic buildings/ places People in/ near to them (Indiscriminate) Establishment figures Those “colluding” with the enemy
<b>Capable Guardians</b>	Residents, Visitors Employees Surveillance systems Patrols (wardens, police)	Residents, Visitors, Employees Surveillance systems Patrols (wardens, police) Religious Communities



*Prof. Tom Troscianko (Bristol)*

# Illustrative Example



Loitering

Stationary

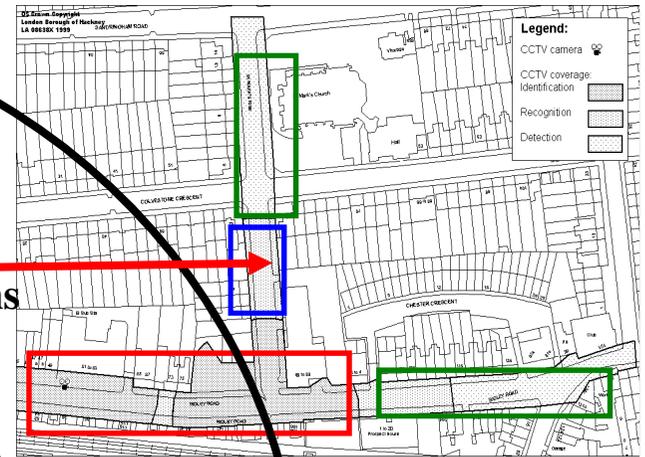
*Dr. Sergio Velastin (Digital Image Research Centre - Kingston )*

# DEPLOYMENT

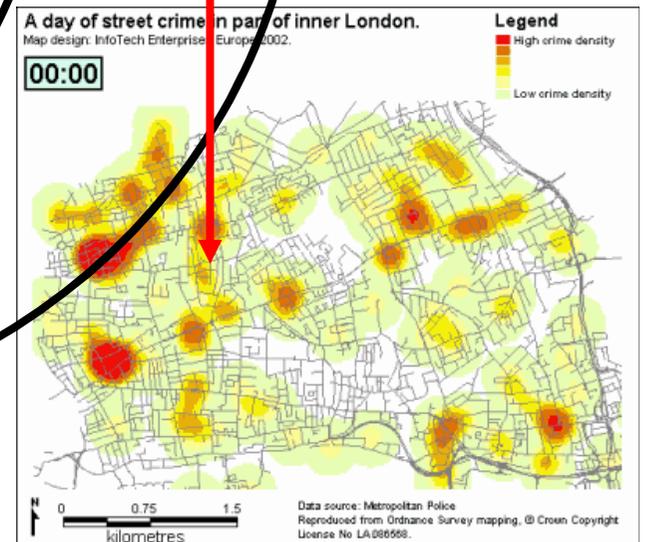
Land use



Street Patterns

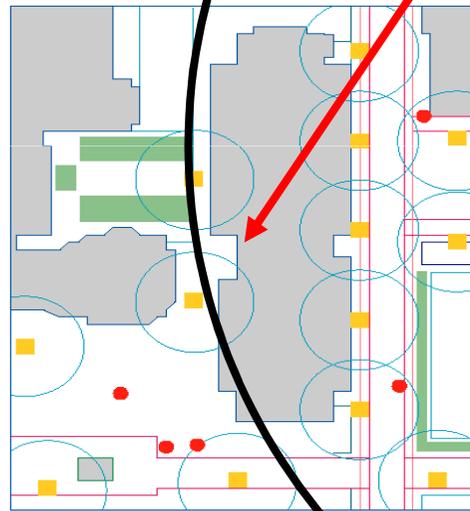


Crime Patterns

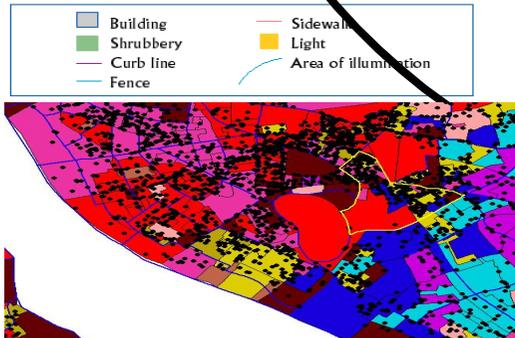


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Social Environment



Policy Environment



# EVALUATION

MANAGEMENT

OFFENDER MOs

DATA SHARING

DISPLACEMENT

NATIONAL  
INTELLIGENCE  
MODEL

DIFFUSION OF  
BENEFIT

SKILLS

DETECTIONS

TRAINING NEEDS

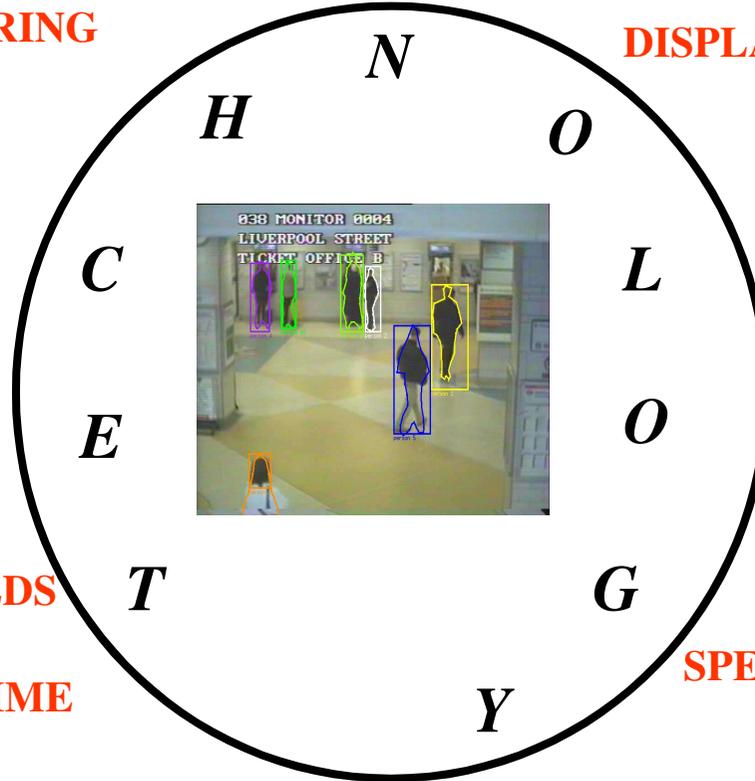
SPEED ON ENQUIRY

FEAR OF CRIME

CRIME REDUCTION

ETHICS

COST  
EFFECTIVENESS



# Contact Details

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