

# Nottingham Old Market Square

## Public realm study

### Location

Nottingham, United Kingdom

### Duration

2004 - 2006

### A

**Visibility Graph Analysis (VGA)**, indicating more accessible space in red, then orange and yellow, to less accessible space in green. Visual accessibility attracts both movement and stationary activity.

### B

**Pedestrian movement survey**, showing higher movement levels in red, then orange and yellow to lower movement volume in green and then blue.

### C

**Observation of the pedestrian route**

Legend: blue - observed diagonal, red - avoiding centre, green - study boundary.

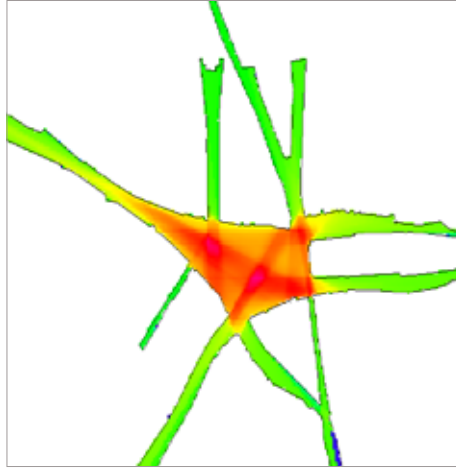
### D

**Observation of the pedestrian routes**

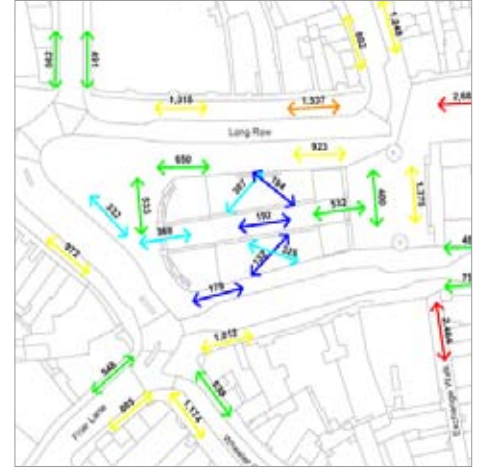
Legend: blue - observed route, green - study boundary.

### Over the page

The redesigned Nottingham Old Market Square from above.



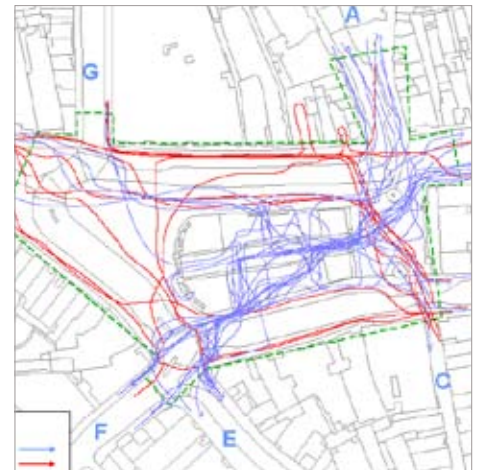
A



B



C



D

## REGENERATION CONTEXT

Space Syntax undertook extensive site analysis and provided public realm design advice to Gustafson Porter Landscape Architects when developing the concept for the regeneration of the Nottingham Old Market Square. After Trafalgar Square this is the second largest public space in Britain.

## FINDINGS

Our findings provided evidence of limited and inefficient pedestrian movement and activity in the square.

A survey of previous use patterns showed that 78% of pedestrians avoided the heart of the space. And our observation of the pedestrian route preference showed that 30% of diagonal routes avoided the centre of the Square.

## OUTCOME

The new design has simple, highly accessible routes that pass through the square from corner to corner, bringing pedestrian animation to the very centre.

The redesign of the Old Market Square in Nottingham has won eight awards for its outstanding integration of functional design. The awards include RIBA CABE Public Space Award and three coveted Civic Trust Awards: Outstanding contribution to the public realm, The Centre Vision Award for best practice in town centre regeneration and the Charcon Hard Landscaping Award.



