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Surveillance from All Angles ?: Some Observations and Comments

1st Scottish Institute for Policing Research (SIPR) Annual Conference

12th 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

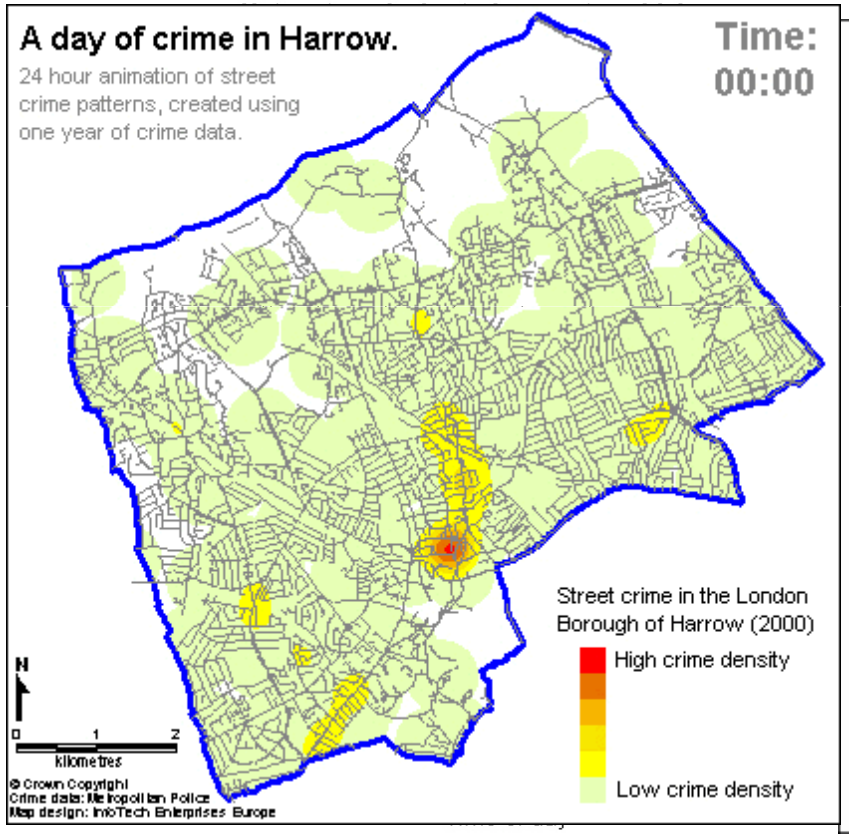
Crime Generators: *Places that bring people together and create crime opportunities for offenders who also happen to be there (e.g. a bus terminal, a school)*

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 ?



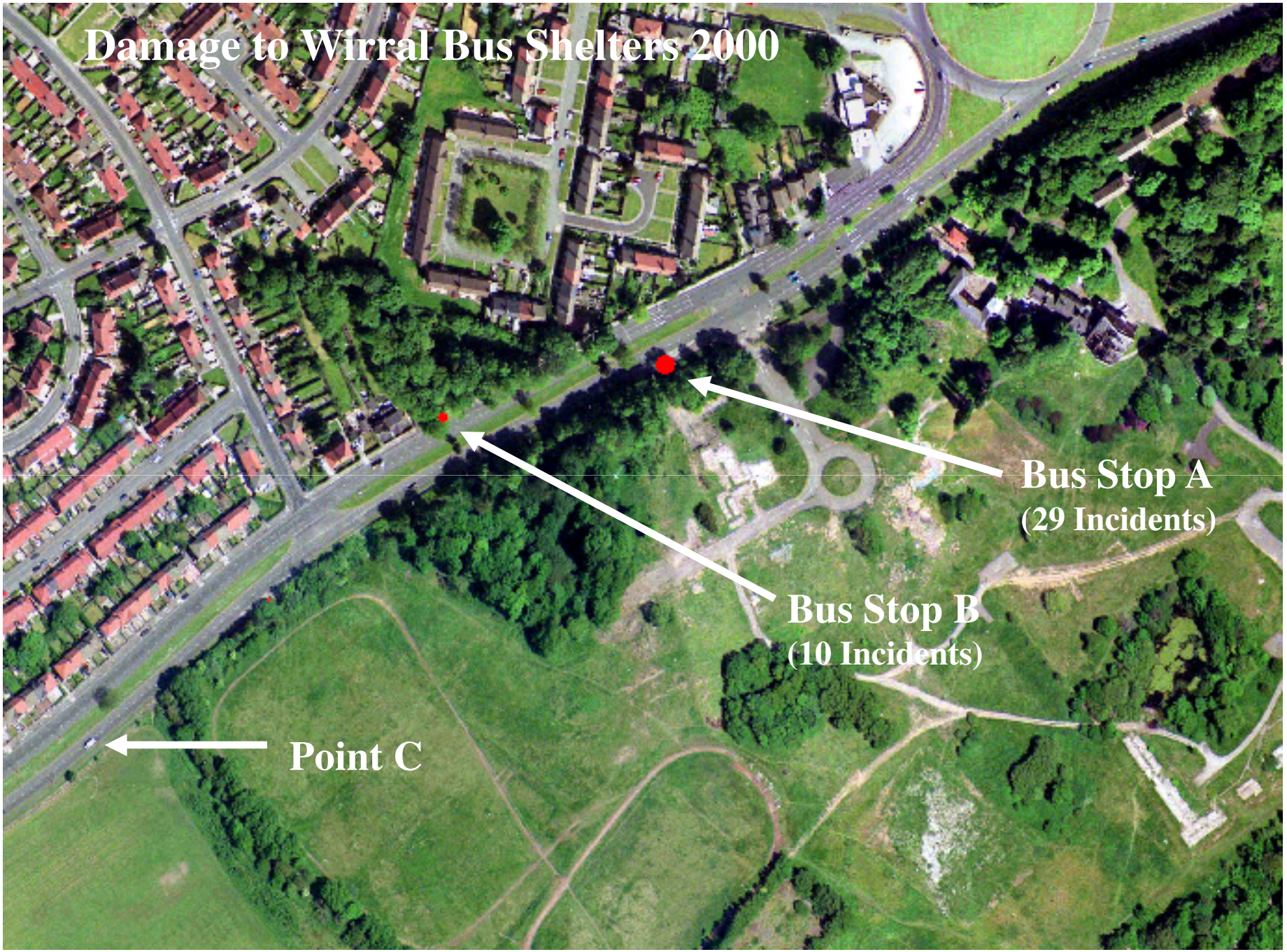
Routine activities theory

Cohen & Felson, 1979

A Suitable Target

A Motivated Offender

Lack of capable guardians


Damage to Wirral Bus Shelters 2000
Bus Stop A
(29 Incidents)
Bus Stop B
(10 Incidents)
Point C

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

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

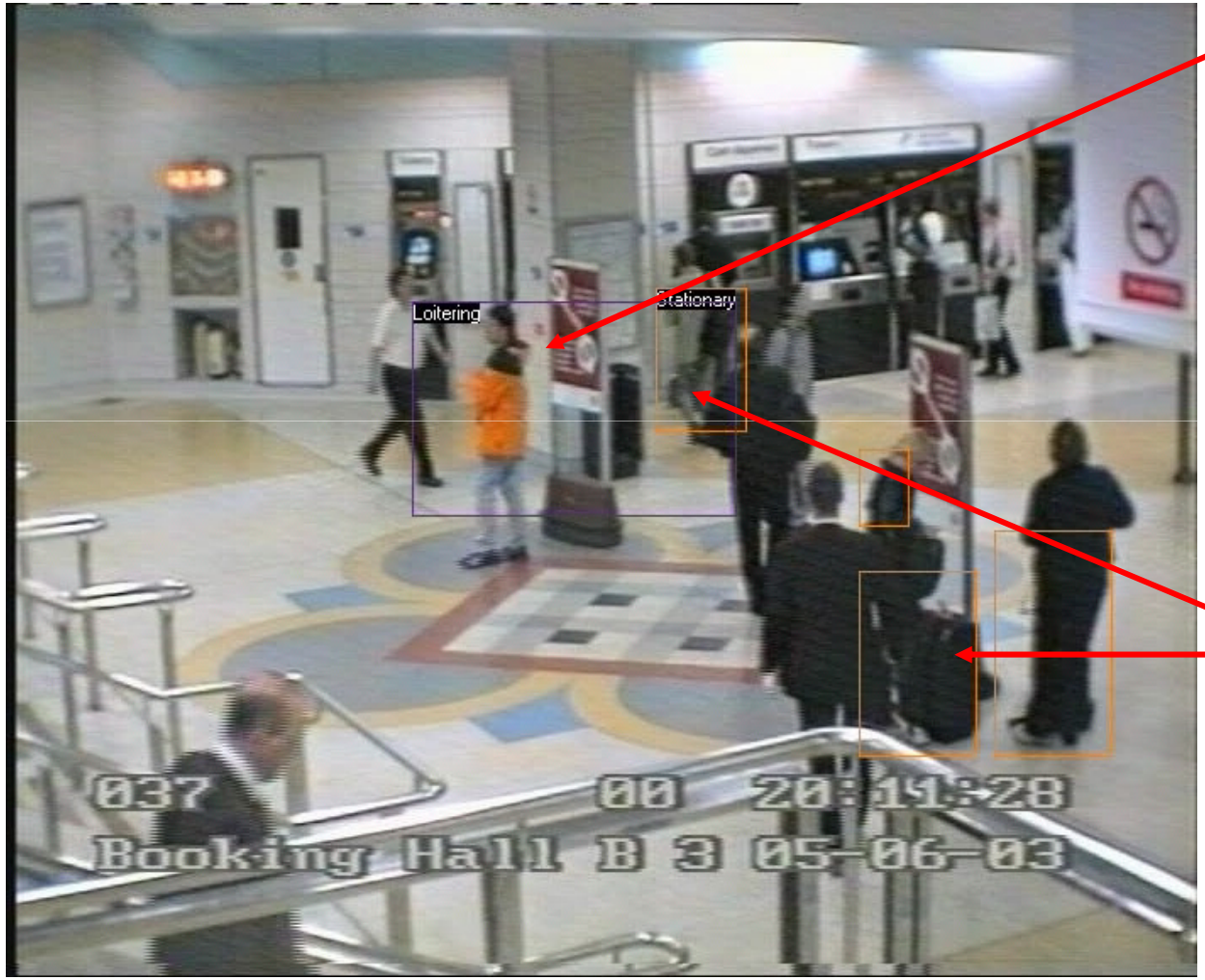
- Generally far fewer offences & offenders
- Use regional, national and international networks
- Terrorists gain knowledge of situations with which they are unfamiliar
- Terrorists seek opportunities that will maximise publicity, impact and fear.
- Terrorists tend to be specialists
- Risk to terrorists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

Is There a Difference ?

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

Prof. Tom Troscianko (Bristol)

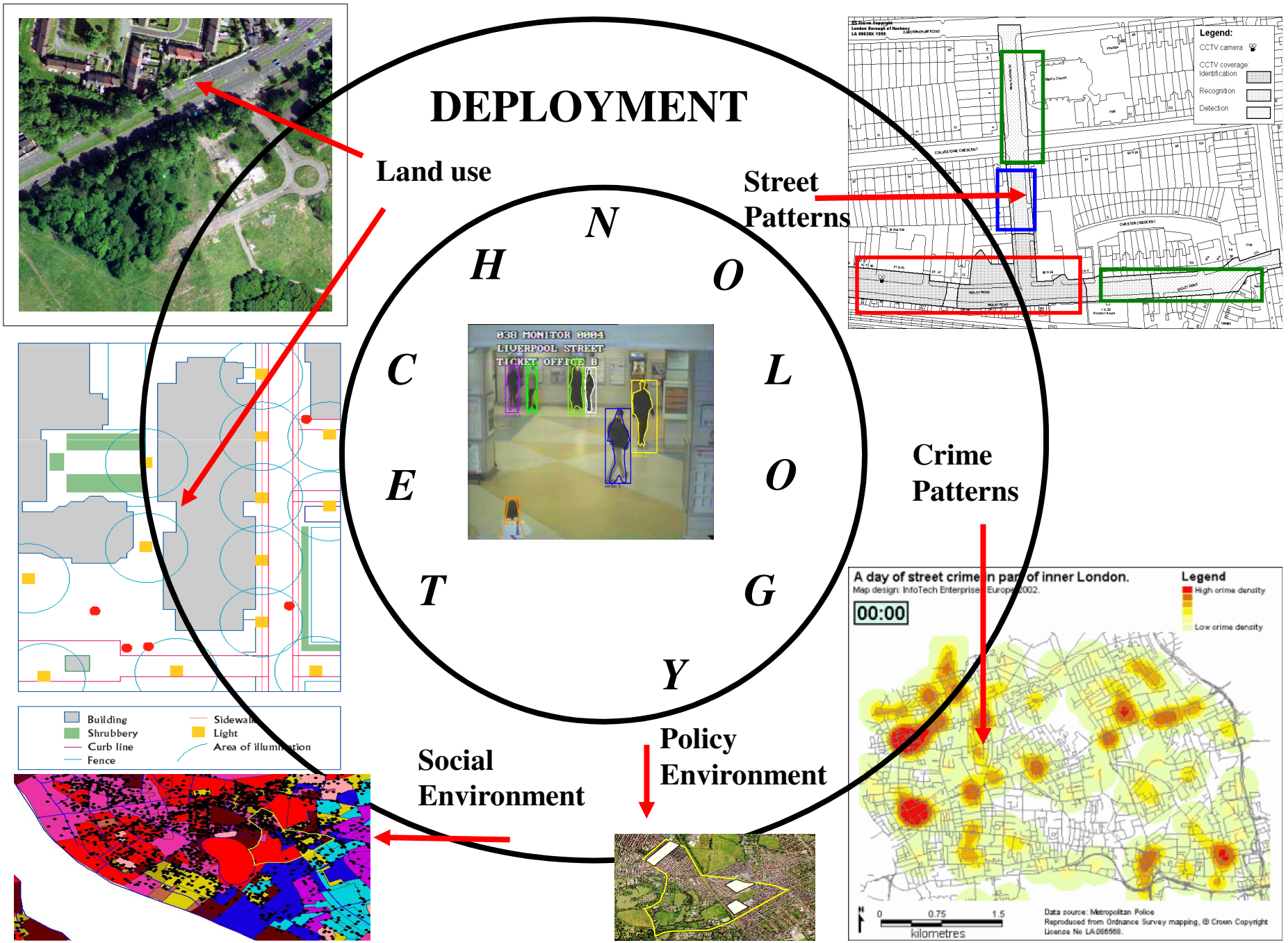
Illustrative Example



Loitering

Stationary

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


DEPLOYMENT
Land use
Street Patterns
Crime Patterns
Policy Environment
Social Environment
N
O
L
O
G
Y
T
E
C
H
038 MONITOR 0004
LIVERPOOL STREET
TICKET OFFICE B
Legend:
CCTV camera
CCTV coverage:
Identification
Recognition
Detection
Building
Shrubbery
Curb line
Fence
Sidewalk
Light
Area of illumination
A day of street crime in part of inner London.
Map design: InfoTech Enterprises Europe 2002.
00:00
Legend
High crime density
Low crime density
0
0.75
1.5
kilometres
Data source: Metropolitan Police
Reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping, © Crown Copyright
License No LA086568.

EVALUATION

MANAGEMENT

OFFENDER MOs

DATA SHARING

DISPLACEMENT

NATIONAL INTELLIGNCE MODEL

DIFFUSION OF BENEFIT

SKILLS

DETECTIONS

TRAINING NEEDS

SPEED ON ENQUIRY

FEAR OF CRIME

CRIME REDUCTION

ETHICS

COST EFFECTIVENESS

N H O C L E O T G Y

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