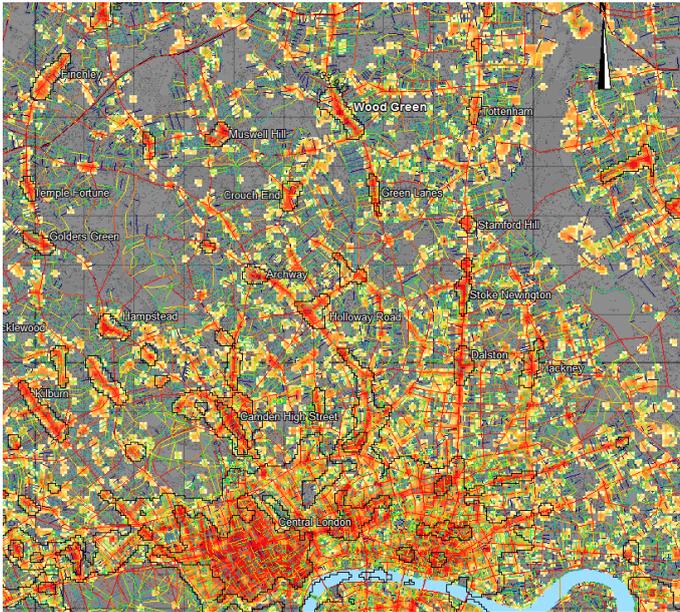


# Scales of movement and diversity of land use



Network analysis of the location of London's suburban centres highlights the essential linearity of retail in this environment (above). In contrast, the distribution pattern of offices shows clustering at top and tail of high street. While larger centres are easily represented in these terms as 'attractors', destinations one might choose to move to and around; smaller centres, by contrast, are represented as places where one might pass through *en route* to somewhere else.

Yet when we look at some smaller centres close up we find that this hierarchical pattern begins to break down, even at the macro scale. Not only is much of the main retail activity in fact not on the route with the greatest network accessibility, but when other categories of activity are taken into account, a more convex and more complex description of the relationship between built form and socio-economic activity is required.



Analysis of the spatial distribution of land use activities shows how different parts of the town centre are located on streets that are prominent at different scales; the main high street, running southwest to north-east, is prominent at the two higher scales (top left and right), whilst Portland Road running perpendicular to it in a south-easterly direction, emerges at lower scales (bottom left and right); it is notable in this context that the two streets are distinguished by a markedly different range of land uses.

We find an underlying spatial signature to smaller suburban town centres that is the outcome of local grid conditions emerging from a process of overlapping networks of movement at a variety of scales and for a variety of purposes. We suggest that the success of local centres is conditional on their built form adaptability to social and economic change through time. We conclude that the feature of adaptability in local centres can play an important role in supporting a wider range of locally generated activity than just retail.