

Central Business District

Right: Bristol: the Central Business District. The same church is marked on Millerd's map and the early photographs on pages 58 and 59



City centre by day (*above*) and the same area in the evening (*below*)



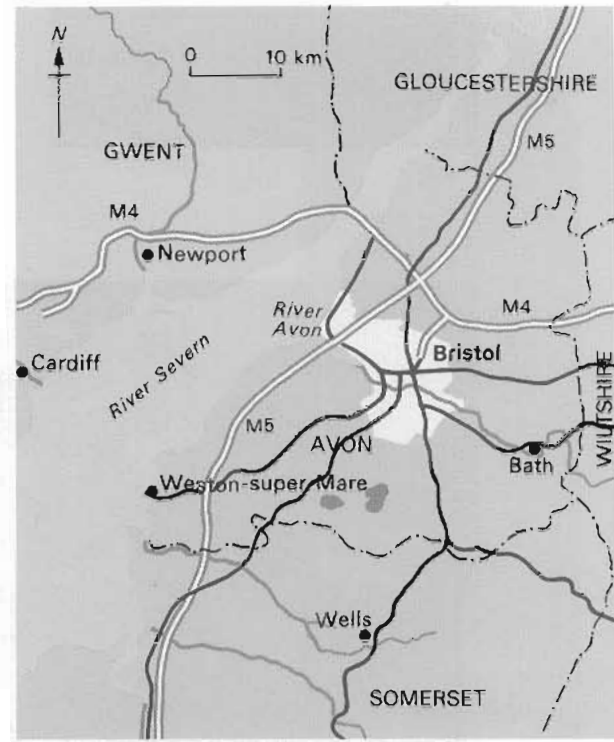
The centre is a good place to have offices and shops serving the whole city and the surrounding areas, since it is usually the easiest place to get to. Because a lot of firms want to be there, though, the value of the land is high and rates and rents are also expensive. So buildings are built upwards to save ground space.

The shops are usually large, and include chain and department stores such as Boots, Sainsburys and Marks and Spencers. Here will be the headquarters of banks, building societies and big companies, and very often the offices of the local district and county councils. Because so much business is carried on here, such areas are often called the Central Business District. The name is not strictly true, since there are often cinemas, restaurants, hotels, clubs, theatres and parks amongst the offices and shops.

Few people live in the city centre. Workers travel into and out of it each day. Traffic is a problem, especially during the rush hours when work starts and ends. The roads get jammed up, and the buses and suburban trains are packed. It is difficult to find places to park a car. City centres are busy, bustling places during most days, but are often empty, quiet and lonely – apart from the restaurants and theatres and clubs – in the evenings and weekends.

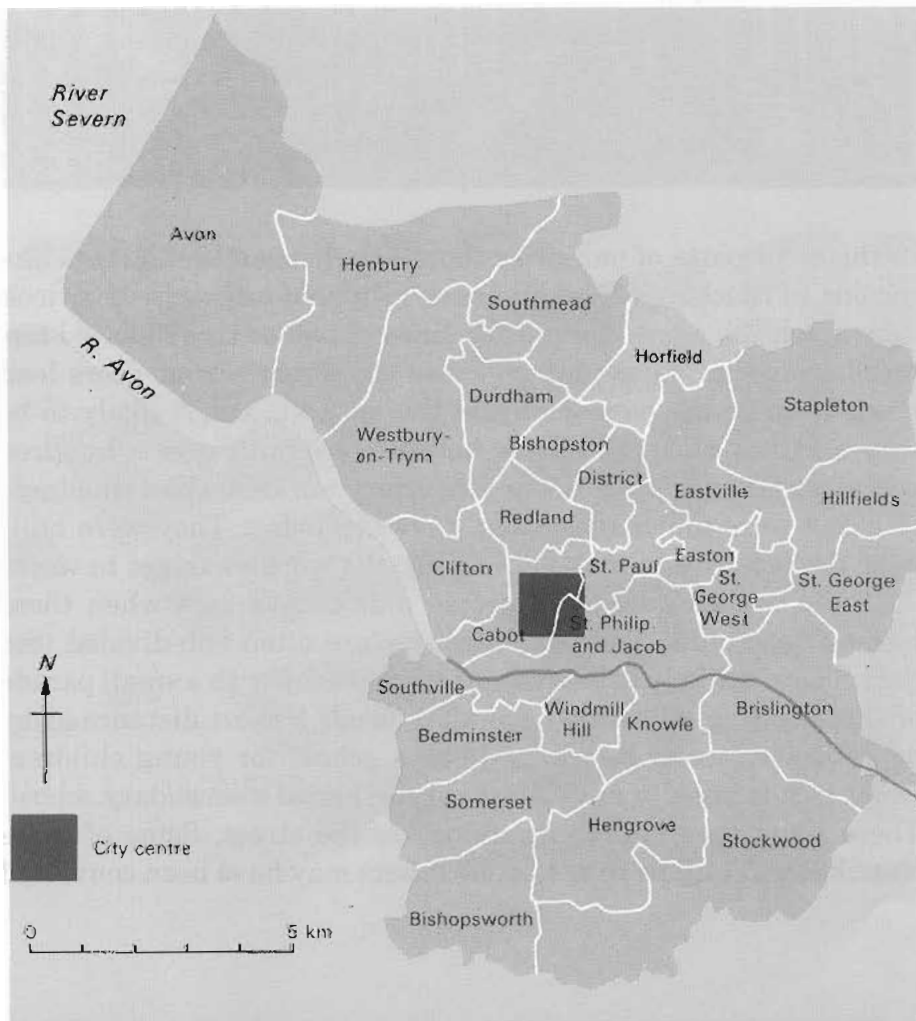
As the Central Business District expands more and more people move out of the inner city to live in the suburbs and surrounding towns. In many cities, old derelict sites near the city centre are being used to build new houses on and bring people back to the city centre. This has been especially common where old abandoned docks are found near city centres, such as in Bristol and London.

- 1 Look at the part of Bristol around Wine Street in the 1920s. This part of Bristol was badly damaged by bombs during the Second World War. What changes have happened? What is the area used for now?
- 2 How is the shortage and high cost of land in the city centre shown by the new buildings put up in central Bristol? If land is scarce, is it sensible to give so much space to parkland?
- 3 Look at the table of population change. Name the three 'wards' or areas with the biggest % loss. Where are they? Why have these wards lost population?
- 4 On a map of the central area of your town or city try and draw a line around the big offices, shops, hotels and places of entertainment. Add any central bus or railway stations and show the main car park. Give the map a title.



Bristol and its relationship to its surrounding area

The wards of Bristol



Percentage population change in Bristol 1951–1981

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Avon | - 9.5 |
| Bedminster | - 34.0 |
| Bishopston | - 25.2 |
| Bishopsworth | +473.2 |
| Brislington | - 9.3 |
| Cabot | - 48.7 |
| Clifton | - 26.5 |
| District | - 28.7 |
| Durham | - 9.4 |
| Easton | - 46.2 |
| Eastville | - 22.2 |
| Henbury | + 99.2 |
| Hengrove | - 12.6 |
| Hillfields | - 22.1 |
| Horfield | - 22.4 |
| Knowle | - 28.2 |
| Redland | - 25.0 |
| St George East | - 2.3 |
| St George West | - 37.9 |
| St Paul | - 54.2 |
| St Philip & Jacob | - 68.8 |
| Somerset | - 16.0 |
| Southmead | - 10.3 |
| Southville | - 38.0 |
| Stapleton | - 12.7 |
| Stockwood | + 182.3 |
| Westbury-on-Trym | + 18.2 |
| Windmill Hill | - 47.7 |