

Georgiana Varna

# Measuring Public Space: The Star Model





## Measuring Public Space: The Star Model

Georgiana Varna, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom

In the rapidly expanding public space debate of the past few years, a recurring theme is the 'loss of publicness' of contemporary urban public places. This book takes up the challenge to find an objective way to prove or disprove this phenomenon. By taking the reader through a systematic and multi-disciplinary literature review it asks the deceptively simple question: 'What is publicness?' It answers this by first developing a new theoretical approach – 'The dual nature of public space', and secondly, developing a new analytical tool for measuring it – 'The Star Model of Publicness'. This pragmatic approach to analysing public space is tested then on three new public places recently created on the post-industrial waterfront of the River Clyde, in the city of Glasgow, UK. By seeing where and why certain public places fail, direct and informed interventions can be made to improve them and through this contribute to the building of more attractive and sustainable cities.

By adopting a multi-disciplinary approach to shed light on this 'slippery' concept, this book shows how urban design can complement other disciplines when tackling the complex task of understanding and improving the built environment's public realm. It also bridges the gap between theory and practice as it draws from empirical research to suggest more quantitative approaches towards auditing and improving public places.

*Public space is an integral ingredient of urban life, with a degree of complexity that requires multi-dimensional sensibility in theory and practice. Georgiana Varna insightfully approaches the subject by developing a new methodology for assessing the publicness of public spaces through five dimensions (ownership, control, physical configuration, animation, and civility), which are exemplified by three cases from Glasgow.*

Ali Madanipour, Newcastle University, UK

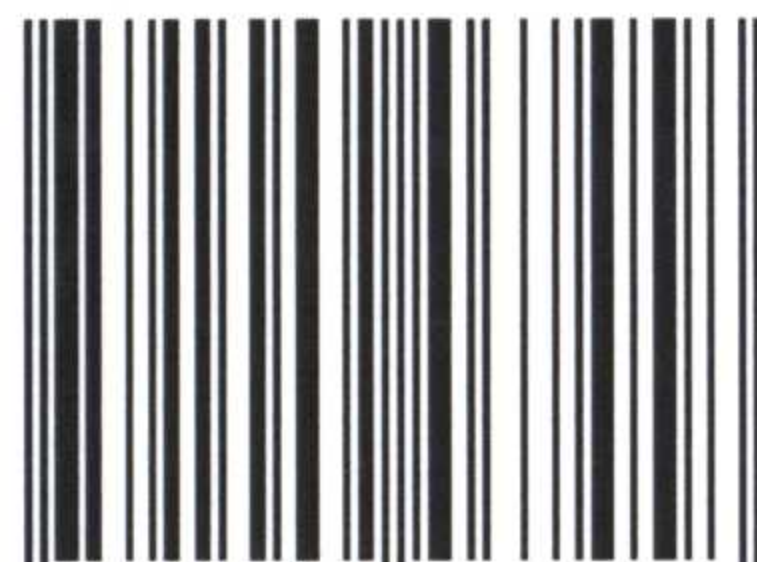
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Georgiana Varna  
*University of Glasgow, United Kingdom*

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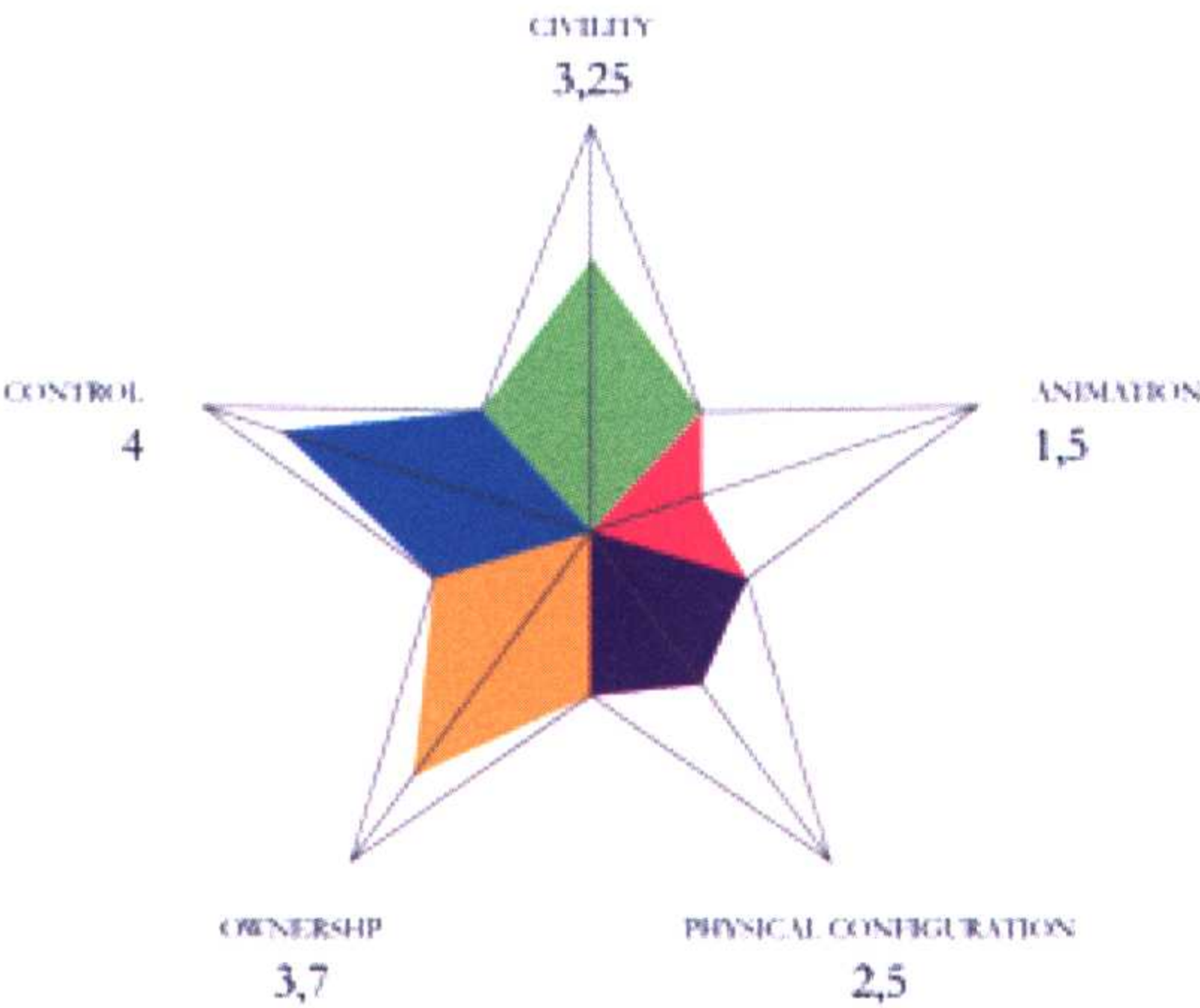
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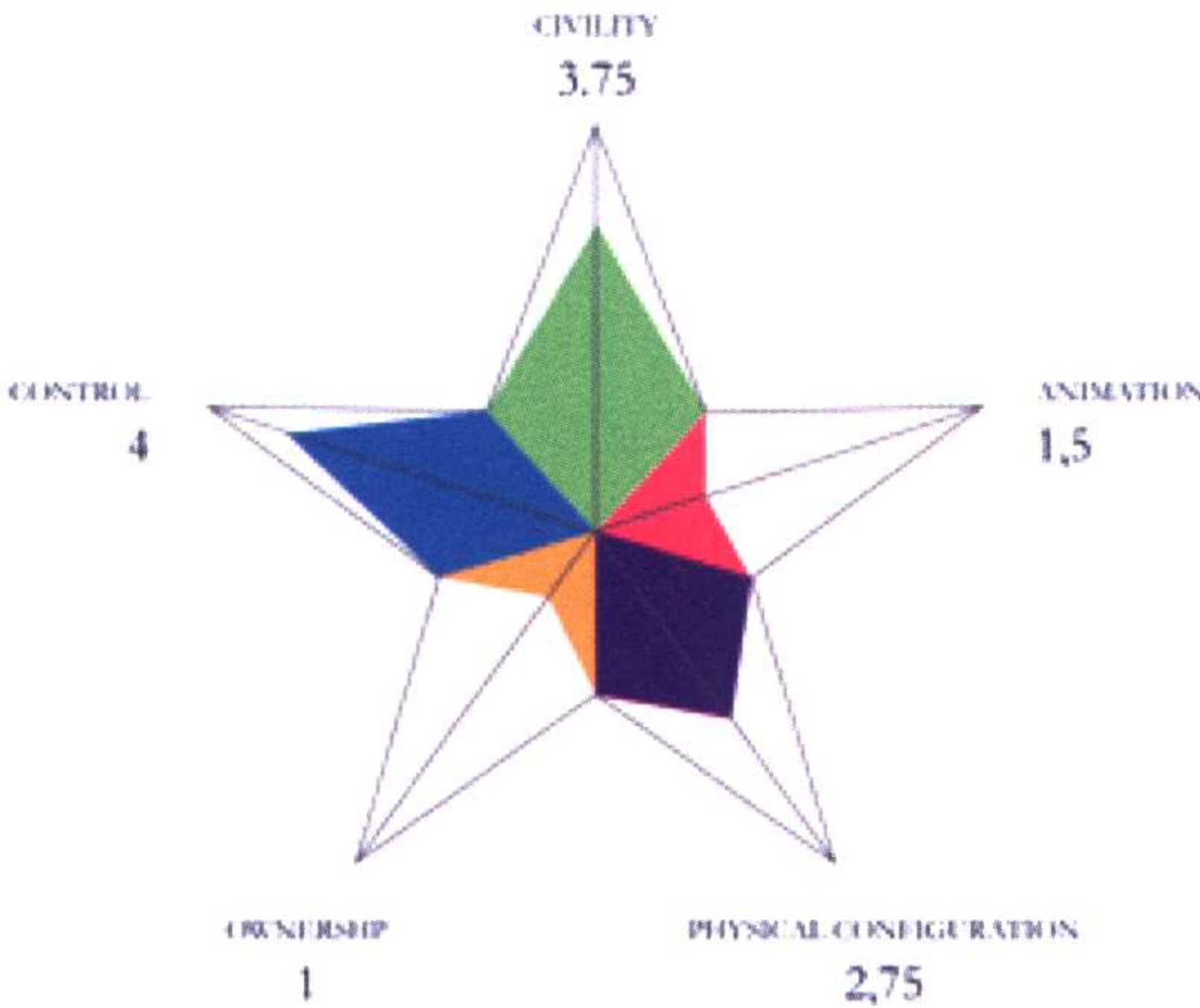


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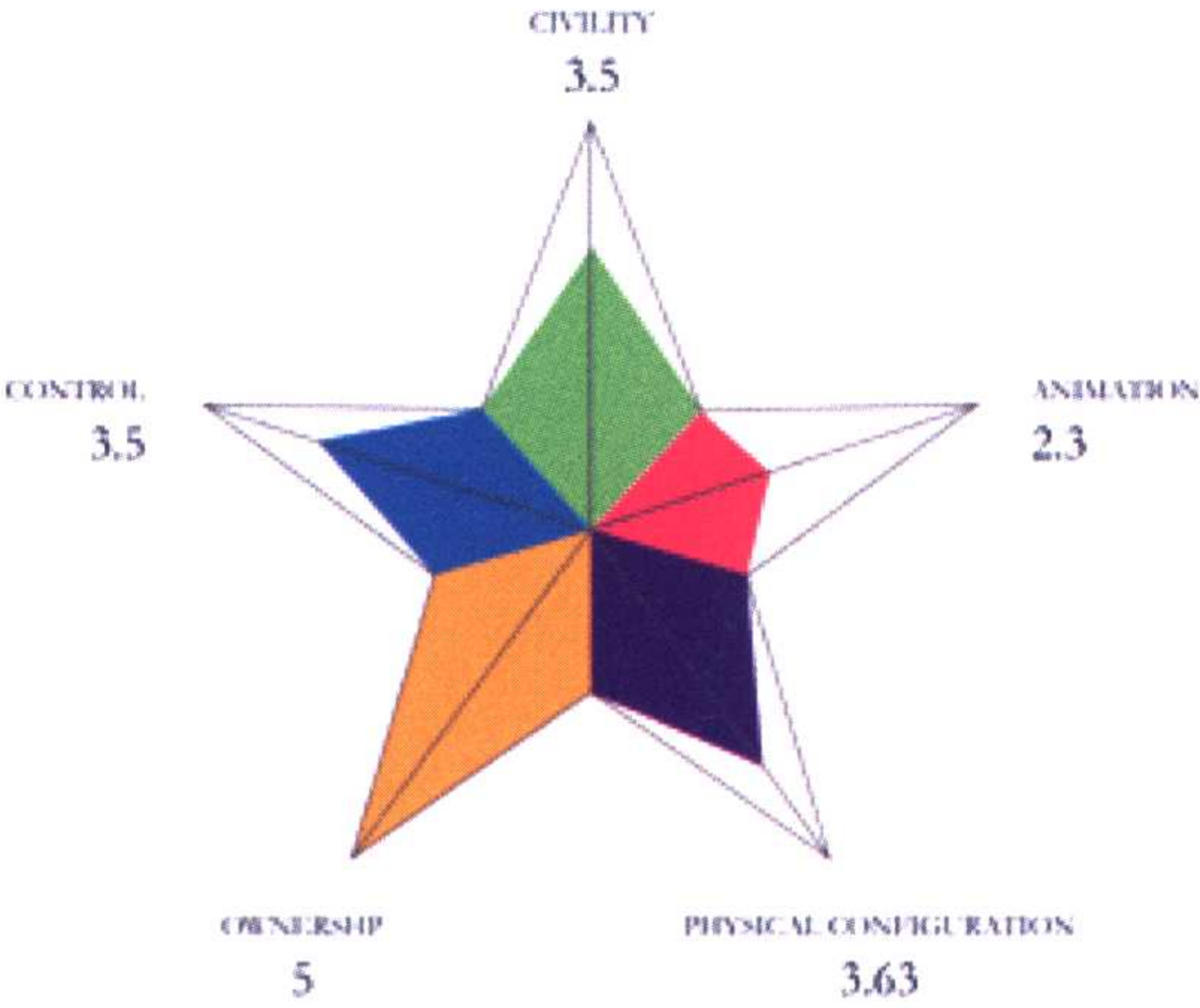
Star 1 | Pacific quay



Star 2 | Glasgow Harbour



Star 3 | Broomielaw



The Star Diagrams for the publicness of the three case studies considered for analysis: Pacific Quay, Glasgow Harbour and Broomielaw

MEASURING PUBLIC SPACE: THE STAR MODEL



*This book is dedicated to Steve Tiesedell, without whose support and knowledge, this book could have never been written and to Henri, for the endless hours of priceless conversations, infinite patience and never-ending help.*

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# List of Abbreviations

BDP	Building Design Partnership
CABE	Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
CSJ	Centre for Social Justice
CWWG	Clyde Waterfront Working Group
DCLG	Department of Communities and Local Government
DETR	Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
GCC	Glasgow City Council
GCVJSP	The Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan
GCVJSPC	Glasgow and Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan Committee
GEF	Glasgow Economic Forum
IFSD	International Financial Services District
KPF	Kohn Pederson Fox
PQDL	Pacific Quay Developments
SDA	Scottish Development Agency
SECC	Scottish Exhibition and Convention Centre
SEG	Scottish Enterprise Glasgow
WCP	Waterfront Communities Project



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