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# Scientists head for Cardiff to watch drunks walk

[Jul 24 2008](#) by [Gerry Holt](#), Western Mail

THE Welsh capital has been used by scientists as a model to find out how streets can be made safer for drunks staggering home after a night out.

A team of scientists went on to the streets of Cardiff to get information about drunken behaviour to feed into their computer model.

They hope to come up with street designs that direct late-night revellers safely home to their beds instead of into the path of trouble. They believe redesigning streets to make them more user-friendly

**WalesOnline  
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for drunks could reduce conflict and violence.

The team made 24 visits to the city centre between 11pm and 3am on Fridays and Saturdays, breathalysing people and monitoring their gait. A quarter were found to be so drunk they were staggering.

Simulations were then run showing crowds in various states of inebriation trying to pass through a narrow alleyway to three different destinations. When a fifth were staggering, progress was reduced by 9%, while a whole crowd of drunks led to a 38% reduction in movement.

“Drunks become irritants because they slow people’s progress towards their goal,” said study leader Simon Moore, from the University of Cardiff, who presented the findings last week at the International Crime Science Conference in London.

“They may then become targets of violence.”

The researchers plan to investigate how moving street obstacles or increasing pedestrianisation might ease congestion near nightspots.

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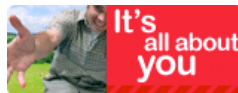
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