

ABIGAIL WILLS

Better In than Out

HMP Birmingham is in the middle of a run-down built-up area. The prison wall works as a very effective edge.

'Edges are linear elements not considered as paths: they are usually, boundaries between two kinds of areas. They act as lateral references. Those edges seem strongest which are not only visually prominent, but also continuous in form and impenetrable to cross movement (Lynch, 1960, p. 62).'

It is prominent, continuous in form and impenetrable. However the presence of a large crane inside the wall makes one wonder about the impenetrability of the edge!

Looking at the residential housing on Lodge Road and side roads, the outside seems as much of a socio-economic prison as inside the edge.

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