# Case study: Mapping Mobility Stockport

**Co-creating solutions to tackle inequality with data-driven technology**

Towns and cities often include barriers that exclude people with restricted mobility. People with impairments are often experts in negotiating these obstacles, and have their own strategies for negotiating and circumventing them.

We partnered with Stockport Council on a 'Mapping Mobility Stockport' project. It aimed to create a mobility map of Stockport town centre.

Working with Disability Stockport and Age UK Stockport we set out to crowdsource geospatial data for the areas and routes that these communities regularly use, the obstacles and barriers they come across, and the things that work well.

We co-designed a series of workshops and outdoor mapping expeditions. These were based on Joy Diversion meetups that Open Data Manchester runs throughout the year. In a Joy Diversion, participants use maps of Manchester and Salford from the 1800s and propose expeditions to explore the two cities. They venture out, find and map points of interest, then return to share their findings. Although primarily a fun, family-centred event, these have been used by OpenStreetMap enthusiasts too. The format provided a good starting point for the Mapping Mobility workshops.

From the Mapping Mobility expeditions, we gained valuable insight. The original aim was to see whether it would be possible to create a mobility map of the town centre. Jamie Scowcroft from Stockport Council talks more about that in this video outlining the aims. Whilst we were able to collect and map this data, it raised further questions around the inclusivity of the mapping technologies we currently use.

Width of road, incline, things like bollards or street signs in pavements—these are all permanent fixtures that can and should be mapped. If we are an able-bodied person, we cannot presume to know what to look for and what to map. The Mapping Mobility project served as a strong pilot for a methodology that can quickly and ethically crowdsource this data—and the OpenStreetMap community is one that is in the best position to push this in the right direction.

Open Data Manchester is exploring this further through our work on a proposed Lexicon of Experience, creating standards that could meet all manner of disability needs