Neighborhood Trajectories from Planning Data

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Barbour ABI

Barbour ABI is a leading provider of construction intelligence and lead generation services. They also create market reports and reviews that offer special insights into the construction industry. Clients can use their data to target businesses that are growing or relocating at exactly the right time. The biggest areas Barbour ABI cover are catering, retail, and finance. Their team of 60 researchers ensure that all the information held is up to date and of the highest standard, while their flexible search enables clients to get relevant results on demand. While clients use the up to date data, researchers can use the resources to track development over time, and hence establish how particular neighborhoods have developed over time.

The Data

Barbour ABI hold data on each construction project requiring planning application across the whole of the UK. The data goes back several years and captures the geo-location of each project, making it useable for geographic data analysis. In addition there is data on the project's industry and value, whether it is residential or not and its projected length and current status. Most importantly however Barbour ABI collected data on the contractors involved. This will open up scope for a network analysis of the contractors and construction companies, and how this network developed over time. The data is inputted through a form by the dedicated researchers and obtained from official websites and through regular phone calls.
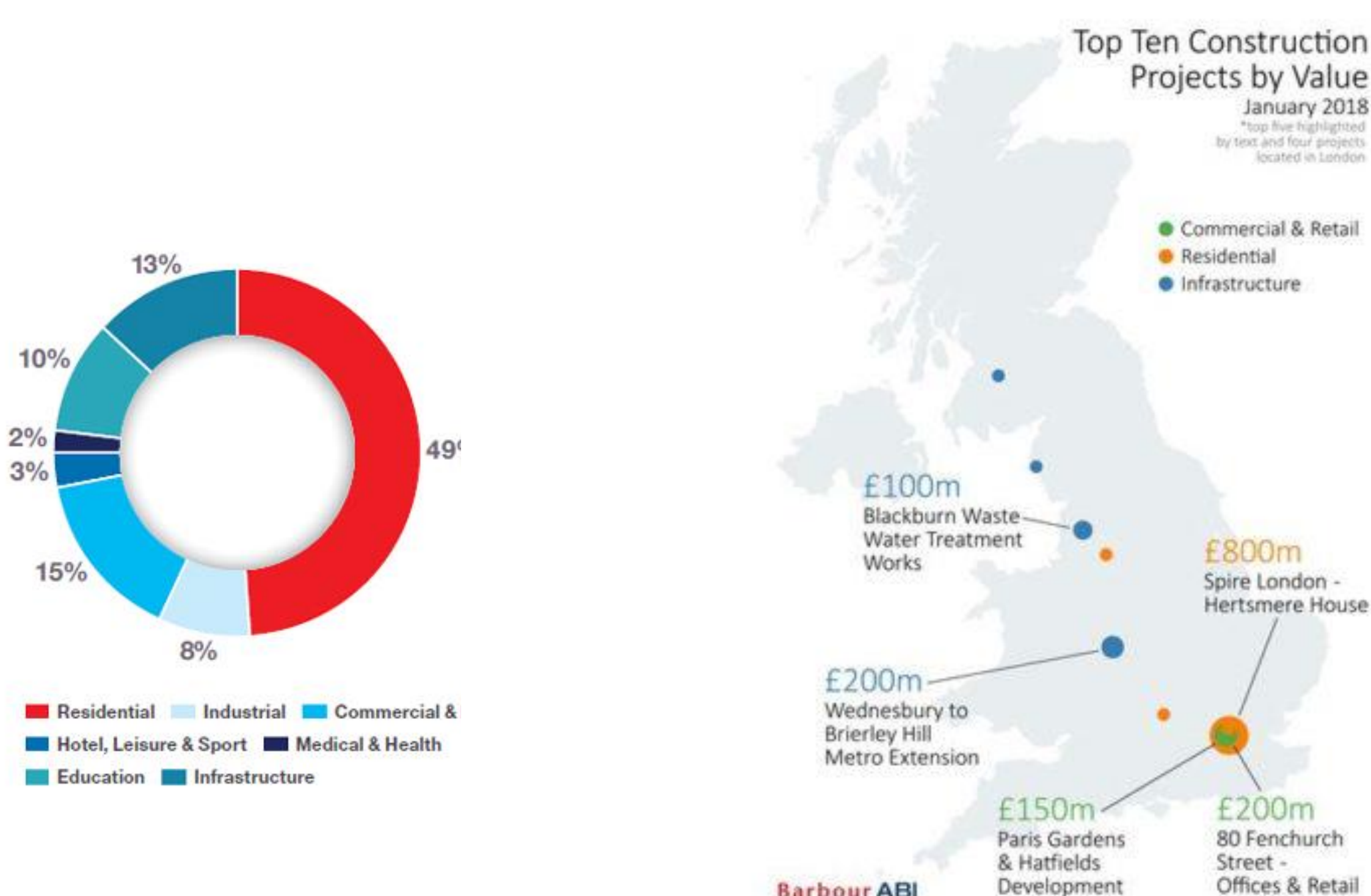
Potential Applications

With the spread of data available there is scope to explore both residential and non-residential real estate. One possible avenue for the research to go down is that of high street change. Recently, there has been a shift from traditional retail to leisure and fast food, and planning applications can potentially be an early indicator for what may become established trends. This could also include a typology of 'at risk' high streets where all commercial categories can be understood as in decline. In achieving this it is vital to utilize the wealth of data that the CDRC possesses on retail and leisure property and combining it with the planning data. This could allow for using the planning data to identify early indicators of markets experiencing growth and the geography of development.

This particular application of the data is important because it would allow for vulnerable retail centres to be identified ahead of time so their decline can be managed and perhaps prevented. It will also help shape business opportunities and map trajectories of neighbourhoods in conjunction with the development of its hospitality and retail centres.