3.30

3.31

Figure 3.30 Nelson's Column, Trafalgar Square, London.

Figure 3.31 Wren's Column, London.

city. Soho and Mayfair are well known districts of London while Nottingham, like many other medium-sized cities, is divided into areas such as Lenton, The Park, Forest Fields and The Meadows. Districts have known names: they have a resident and/or a working population who contrast themselves with 'outsiders'. Each district has a boundary where it ends and the next place begins. Determining the position of boundaries, however fluid they may be, is an important step in deciding the nature and extent of the study area.

The final major element by which the city image is structured is the edge. Edges are two-dimensional linear elements where the function of pathway is of less importance than the role of boundary. Examples of boundaries are railway lines, canals, rivers, sea fronts and the vertical cliff face of a natural escarpment. Alexander suggests that boundaries should be 'fleshy' and permit movement.[14] Such 'fleshy' boundaries, he believes, reflect the complexity of city life,

where activities overlap in endless combinations. This is most true of the boundary between districts but less apparent for the major perceptual structural barriers such as the river or sea front. It would, however, be a very dull city if all boundaries were similar to the prison wall where entry is through one or two controlled gateways: a concept, incidentally, which security-conscious North American-style housing developments closely follow. Even the boundary of the shore line is not a complete barrier and is used as a connection between land and sea by fishermen, swimmers and pleasure boats. The subtle change of architectural style from one district to another is a common feature of the civilized city and so different from the 'peace line' in Belfast with its high security fence which is the ultimate expression of exclusion.

Paths, nodes, landmarks, districts and edges all have a significant role in determining the legibility of the city, but even at the smaller scale of the