

# Blyth Media

Built environment communications specialists

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## GOING SHOPPING 2011: WALES TOP SHOPPING CENTRES

St David's, Cardiff, has been placed as the top shopping centre in Wales in the UK shopping centre hierarchy 'Going Shopping 2011 - The Definitive Guide to Shopping Centres.' by Trevor Wood Associates. Following redevelopment St David's moved 60 places up the national rankings to number 10, taking the number one position in Wales from the Cwmbran Shopping Centre. Nationally, Bluewater in Kent regained the top position, Westfield London, Shepherds Bush, moved straight into number three behind 2008 top placed, The Metro Centre, Gateshead.

From Wales 16 Shopping centres feature in the national top 500, with two making the top 100 of the guide which uses footfall, size, number and type of shops and facilities available to rank the UK's top shopping centres and provides research on factory outlet centres, shopping parks, tenants, owners, letting agents and managers.

| Wales: Top Five Shopping Centres |              |                              |             |        |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------------|
| UK 2011 Rank                     | UK 2008 Rank | Scheme                       | Location    | Points | Size (SQ FT) |
| 10                               | 70           | St David's                   | Cardiff     | 5,628  | 1,394,500    |
| 29                               | 33           | Cwmbran Shopping             | Cwmbran     | 4,160  | 750,000      |
| 145                              | 129          | The Quadrant Shopping Centre | Swansea     | 2,430  | 440,000      |
| 199                              | ***          | Eagles Meadow                | Wrexham     | 2,114  | 400,000      |
| 236                              | 213          | Aberafan Shopping Centre     | Port Talbot | 1,971  | 252,600      |

*Source 'Going Shopping 2011 - The Definitive Guide to Shopping Centres.' by Trevor Wood Associates*

Since the last Trevor Wood hierarchy was published in 2008, the 967,500 sq. ft. extension to Land Securities and Capital Shopping Centre's St David's, Cardiff, opened, anchored by a 291,000 sq ft John Lewis with Gap and Calvin Klein the latest to take stores. St David's was the highest riser across the UK. Wilson Bowden Developments' 400,000 sq ft Eagles Meadow in Wrexham opened in October 2008 and just made it into the UK top 200 at 199.

Across the UK the research shows the emergence of a premier division of 27 leading shopping centres that includes newcomers St David's, Cardiff and Liverpool One. Many of these leading schemes have plans to expand or enhance their tenant mix, further consolidating their dominance.

Trevor Wood, senior partner of Trevor Wood Associates, says: "It is encouraging that despite prevailing market conditions, most of the 500 leading schemes increased their scores, even if only marginally. This shows the understanding from landlords and tenants that long term success comes from sustained investment."

There are almost 32,000 retail units within the 500 leading schemes, and some 24,000 are occupied by major comparison goods retailers or groups with turnovers in excess of £3 million pa, involving 1,500 different trading fascias.

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Budget brands have expanded since the last review, with the likes of Shoe Zone, Peacocks and Card Factory all moving up the occupancy table and Poundland undertaking the largest single occupier expansion. The mobile phone sector has undertaken the most expansion overall.

100 of the top 500 schemes incorporate food courts; Multiplex cinemas are in 54 schemes including 28 of the top 100 schemes. 56 public libraries are now found within shopping centres with crèches or nurseries situated in 37 schemes. 95% of the 500 leading schemes now have stores trading every Sunday, up from 92% in the 2008 review.

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## Notes for Editors

Trevor Wood Associates was established in 1987 and is a leading, independent, provider of information on all retail and leisure schemes in the UK.

*'Going Shopping - The Definitive Guide to Shopping Centres'*, is the authoritative analysis of shopping centre and factory outlet developments within the UK and incorporates the widely quoted hierarchy of UK Shopping Centres, covering over 900 schemes.

Shopping centres currently trading are ranked by overall attractiveness to shoppers, retailers and investors. This was achieved by confirming detailed information for each scheme thought to be larger than 50,000 sq. ft. in the United Kingdom. The information was converted into points for selected features shown to be important to those groups, including tenants, lettable area, and type of scheme, weekly footfall and facilities available. The largest schemes are not always considered the most attractive and twenty one of the hundred largest schemes do not feature in the top 100.

## Other Key Findings:

- Top Investment Manager - Capital Shopping Centres
- Top Managing Agent - Jones Lang LaSalle
- Top Letting Agent - Cushman & Wakefield
- Top Factory Outlet Centre - Cheshire Oaks Designer Outlet, Ellesmere Port
- Top Shopping Park - Fort Kinnaird in Newcraighall, Edinburgh