

Prepared for the City of Lincoln Council



Lincoln Open Space Audit Report

Prepared by
Jeanne Bain



Open Space Audit Report

Contents	Page
Foreword	3
1.0 Introduction	5
1.1 Background	5
1.2 Strategic Context	8
1.3 Neighbourhood Partnership	9
1.4 Super Output Areas	10
2.0 The 'Place Check' Audit	12
2.1 Methodology	12
2.2 Assessment Criteria: Provision Usage; Provision Quantity; Provision quality; Provision Accessibility	14
3.0 Issues and Assessment	19
3.1 Parks and Gardens	19
3.2 Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, including Urban Woodland	21
3.3 Outdoor Sports Facilities	22
3.4 Provision for Children and Young People	24
3.5 Allotments	27
3.6 Cemeteries, Churchyards and Disused Burial Grounds	29
3.7 Civic Squares and Spaces	31
3.8 Common Land	33
4.0 Opportunities	35
5.0 Next Steps	36
6.0 Emerging Issues and Priorities	37

Open Space Audit Report

Tables		Page
1	Table of Typologies	7
2	Strategic Context	8
3	Specific Site Information	13
4	Provision usage	15
5	User Satisfaction	16
6	Quantity of Open Space	17
Maps		
1	Walkable Neighbourhoods	
2	Walkable Neighbourhoods Access Issues	
3	Primary Typologies within Wards	
4	Primary Typologies with Super Output Areas	
5	Parks & Gardens	
6	Natural & Semi Natural Greenspace	
7	Outdoor Sports Facilities	
8	Provision for Children & Young People	
9	Allotments	
10	Cemeteries and Disused Burial Grounds	
11	Civic Squares and Spaces	
12	Common Land	
Annex		
1	Placecheck – specific comments	41
2	Pie Charts	46
3	Specific information regarding	
	Site Furniture	54
	Play Equipment	57
	Access	59
	Wildlife	63

Open Space Audit Report

Foreword

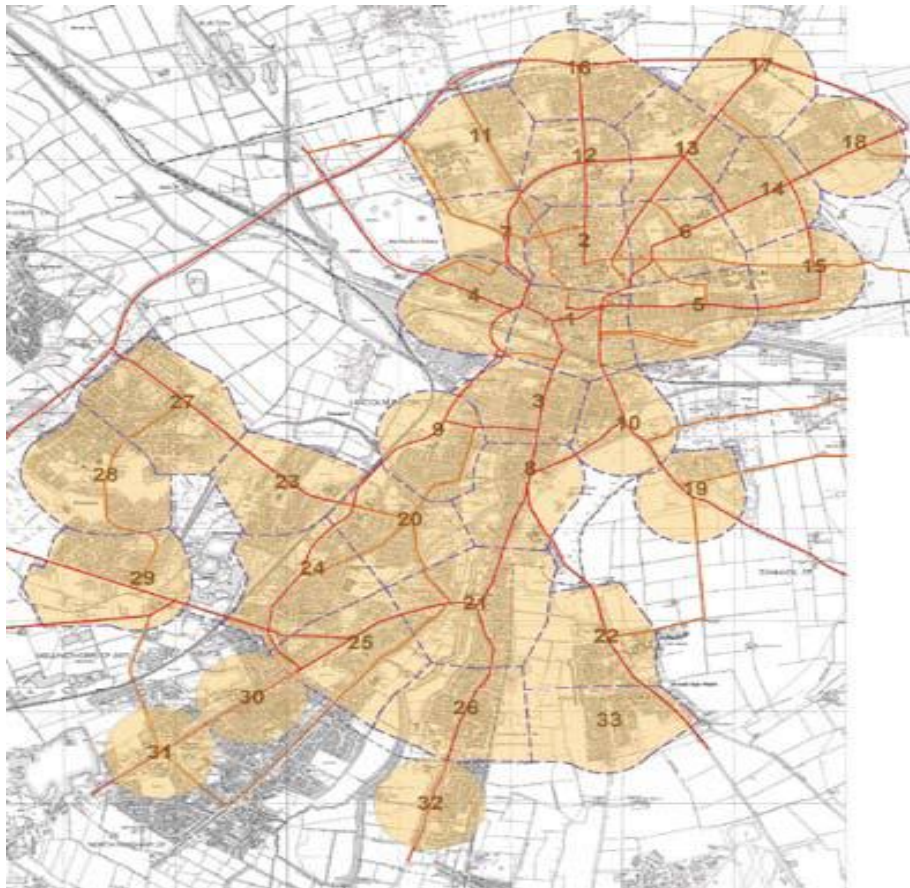
There are many rich and diverse open spaces in the City of Lincoln, covering 11 wards. The last Local Plan classified major areas of open space as Functional, Basic Natural Stock or Critical Natural Assets. The total area mapped was 469.95 hectares. This did not include all of the school playing fields, natural and semi natural greenspace or small amenity sites on street corners.

Within the 'Our City Our Future' document, the Community Plan's vision for a better environment is "to promote the best possible environment and protect it for our future generations" (2002, p20). They go on to say that "well-maintained, well used, secure and sustainable play areas, open spaces and green areas help to develop a sense of pride and responsibility amongst local citizens". The Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Preferred Options Consultation Report (2005, p19) sets out spatial objectives for the City. One of these objectives is "to maintain a strategic network of protected open space that defines the extent of the City's built up area and prevents urban sprawl, whilst also contributing to open space objectives for recreation, nature conservation and sport". This report will support the development of an Open Space Strategy for Lincoln in line with its strategic aims.

Lincoln is the largest urban area in the county with a population of 86,000 people. It is also at the heart of the Lincoln Policy area, an area that contains the largest single population concentration within Lincolnshire with a population of 160,000. Lincoln has seen significant development in recent years. The development of a new university around the Brayford Pool has resulted in a current student population of around 6,000. Several new housing developments such as St Georges and Bunkers Hill are ongoing. The Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands has designated Lincoln as one of its five principal urban areas targeted for growth over the next twenty years. Two urban extension sites have been identified within the emerging Local Planning Framework to the West and North East of the City, and will provide around 5,500 new homes phased over the next 25 years. Such developments will increase the demand for open space facilities, an issue that will clearly need to be addressed through the development process. An important starting point in planning such development is to understand how open space is valued and what users needs are. This open space audit is a step towards achieving this understanding.

Open Space Audit Report

The Council is also promoting the concept of 'Walkable Neighbourhoods'. The aim is for all residents in Lincoln to have access to daily needs such as a pint of milk, fruit and vegetables within walking distance of their homes. Walkable neighbourhoods work on the basis that most people will be willing to walk for five minutes to access services and facilities such as shops, bus stops, schools and places of worship. A range of uses should be available within each catchment area and be situated in locations that are easily accessible. Walkable neighbourhoods have a significant role to play in tackling social exclusion by providing facilities close to where people live. They also contribute to reducing the number of car journeys that people need to make, thus providing environmental benefits.



Lincoln:
Proposed Walkable
Catchment Areas.

The Lincoln Enquiry
by Design Report,
Final Draft May 06

The Prince's
Foundation 2005

This Open Space Audit work was commissioned by the City of Lincoln Council to be undertaken by LCDP, Urban Challenge and the Volunteer Centre. These three voluntary sector organisations have worked together for many years supporting local people to take an active part in consultations and decision-making about their community. Participation and involvement by local people was essential to this piece of work, as the City of Lincoln Council wanted to find out how the open spaces satisfied the needs of the community.

Open Space Audit Report

The site audits were carried out during August and September 05, followed by the analysis of the findings, the Open Exhibition in January and report back to the City of Lincoln Council in June 06. Details of the stages are as follows:

Stage 1 July 05	Recruitment and training of volunteers
Stage 2 August to end September 05	Volunteers auditing sites, completing the 58-question questionnaire with users of the 185 sites. The questionnaire was split into 2 sections, the first being Placecheck' questions: What do you like? What do you not like? What would make it better? The second section included auditing of the site furniture, equipment, access, etc. The surveyors also took photographs of the sites, paying particular attention to areas of excellence and areas for improvement.
Stage 3 August – September 05	Videoring of survey interviews, one for each typology.
Stage 4 January 06	Open Exhibition at Central Library to exhibit the photographs and the emerging themes from the audit
Stage 5 May 06	Draft report to the Planning Dept.
Stage 6	Stakeholder Workshop with officers.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Local authorities are recommended to produce an Open Space Strategy to guide and prioritise decision-making with regard to the protection and enhancement of local open space. To inform the development of an Open Space Strategy for Lincoln the City of Lincoln Council worked with a partnership of local voluntary organisations, LCDP, Lincoln Volunteer Centre and Urban Challenge, to carry out an Open Space Audit. The methodology was to consult with and actively involve local people in surveying and evaluating the Open Spaces around the City using the "Placecheck" model that has been used successfully in 7 neighbourhoods in the City.

The aim of the audit is to conduct a quantitative, qualitative and accessibility assessment of Open Space provision in Lincoln and report the conclusions to the City of Lincoln Council. The report would be based upon the key findings of local people who use the provision from their own perspective. An additional key criterion was how satisfied local people were with the open spaces in the community. It became evident during the survey that local people had either not given much thought to the open spaces in their area, or they were very involved in them. An example would be, the Commons group or the Allotment Holders group were knowledgeable and aware of the issues surrounding their particular interest. Some families travelled across the City to visit a play area they felt was a high enough standard for their children to play in. This brings into question the quality of provision as well as its location and accessibility and, more importantly, does it meet the needs of local people?

This report will contribute to the Open Space Strategy that will be prepared by the City of Lincoln Council and, based on the findings, make recommendations on the main issues. It is also hoped that it will provide a context for future stakeholder focus groups in considering the development of an open space strategy for Lincoln and an action plan for the future.

Following Planning Policy Guidance in Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, the Open Space in Lincoln can be categorised into eight different typologies

Open Space Audit Report

Table 1. Typologies

Parks and Gardens	Areas of open space specifically designed for public access and enjoyment and combining a variety of landscape and horticultural elements and facilities for the public. May incorporate sports facilities and / or play areas and cultural / historical features
Natural and semi-natural green space, including urban woodland	Open space that is made up of natural and semi-natural habitats. These habitats include areas formed by the natural processes of colonisation and succession. These sites are usually of significant landscape and nature conservation value.
Outdoor sports facilities	Open space designed to accommodate practice, training and competition of outdoor sports; including sports pitches, school playing fields, golf courses and other outdoor activities.
Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters and including informal play space.
Allotments	Areas of land which are cultivated for vegetable or fruit crops. They include statutory and non-statutory allotment sites, community gardens and land under agricultural management.
Cemeteries, churchyards and disused burial grounds	Land used for, and once used for, the burial of the dead. Often linked to quiet contemplation, the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity, and informal recreation.
Civic squares and spaces	Areas which provide a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events, and which provide an informal meeting place.
Common land	The commons are areas of land in public ownership and subject to the Lincoln Commons Act. They are also registered as open access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000.

Open Space Audit Report

1.2 Strategic context

There are a number of National, Regional and local strategic documents which consider the future of Lincoln City. These documents cover a broad range of planning issues, all of which impact on open spaces and how people use them.

Table 1: Strategic Context

Document	Main points
NATIONAL CONTEXT	
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Planning Policy Guidance Note 17; "Planning for open space, Sport and Recreation"	Highlights the importance for local authorities to undertake robust assessments of open space provision and need to support the development of Planning Policy
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Planning Policy Statement 9; " Planning for Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	Highlights the importance for local authorities to undertake robust assessments to ensure a thorough understanding of the biodiversity and geological assets within their area.
REGIONAL CONTEXT	
Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands 2005	Identifies a requirement for significant strengthening of the regional role of Lincoln as one of the regions five Principal Urban Areas"
COUNTY CONTEXT	
County Council Structure Plan	
Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan and LBA Steering Group	The existing plan has recently been reviewed through the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership and is due for consultation summer 2006
Lincolnshire Sports Development Partnership " Playing Pitch Assessment " 2003	Identified that Lincoln had a shortfall in junior football, cricket and senior rugby pitches and some issues regarding barriers to community use such as the poor quality of changing facilities, particularly with regard to the ability to accommodate mixed sex use and accessibility of private sites. There is a proposal to review the assessment in 06/07.
Lincolnshire Local Football Partnership Facilities Strategy 2003-2006; 2005 review of priorities document	Identifies a potential sports village development opportunity in the vicinity of its Skellingthorpe Road site and the improvement of the Birchwood site.
Lincolnshire Local Football Partnership Facilities Strategy 2003-2006; 2005 review of priorities document	Identifies a potential sports village development opportunity in the vicinity of its Skellingthorpe Road site and the improvement of the Birchwood site.
Lincolnshire Economic Strategy	This document provides a regional focus for the work and includes economic developments for the future
DISTRICT CONTEXT	
Local Development Framework	The LDF Core Strategy identifies the importance of the open space network in contributing to the future sustainability of the City. Existing Open Spaces are

Open Space Audit Report

	protected in the saved policies of the 1998 adopted Local Plan. Pressure to find additional housing sites around the City may arise following the revised Regional Strategy expected in Sept 06
Community Plan and Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)	The Community Plan recognises the importance of open space provision to the quality of life of the local community. The LSP is structure to include a Local Environmental Roundtable to advise on local environmental issues.
Lincoln Biodiversity Action Plan	The important habitats and species have been identified following a comprehensive consultation process. The action plans and targets for these habitats and species have yet to be drafted. Once these are completed the Biodiverstiy Action Plan can be completed.
Ecological Survey Project	Survey of potential biodiversity sites in Lincoln to be undertaken summer 2006 to provide baseline data to inform LDF development. Final Report expected winter 06/07
Allotments Strategy	A working group including the Allotments Association is developing the strategy.
Leisure Strategy	The City has just commenced a piece of work to develop this strategy; it involves local and statutory sports organisations.
Proposed new cemetery	A working group is currently looking at the provison of a new cemetery somewhere within the City.
Placechecks	To date, 7 Placechecks have been carried out in Lincoln, covering 4 wards (3 in Abbey, 2 in Park, 1 in Minster, 1 in Moorland). The Placecheck provides detailed information about a specific and usually small area, finding out what local people like, dislike and what they think would make it better.

1.3 Neighbourhood Partnership

The City of Lincoln Council has worked in partnership with the voluntary and community sector for many years, particularly with LCDP, Urban Challenge and the Volunteer Centre. Government programmes such as Neighbourhood Renewal, Sure Start and the new Safer and Stronger Communities programme are based upon the active involvement of local people, ensuring their views are linked with the decision-making process. Within the planning process LCDP was involved in a new approach to the consultation and development of the first draft deposit for the Local Development Framework, which was hailed by Government Office as an example of good practice. All of these programmes and development plans recognise the benefits of real participation and listening to what local people have to say about their community, their services and the longer term future of their City.

Open Space Audit Report

'Our City Our Future' has been acknowledged by the people of Lincoln as a document that is clear, informative and accessible. This brought together two planning exercises into one consultation process. The Community Plan that is linked to Neighbourhood Renewal, and the Local Development Framework that provides the overall context for long-term spatial development of the City.

The new Government Programme, Safer and Stronger Communities, recognises that local multi-agency teams, based in the poorest and most disadvantaged areas of the City, would be able to have a real impact on people's lives, encouraging them to become involved in the management and decision making regarding their community. This programme looks at areas of deprivation from a Super Output Area (SOA) basis rather than a Ward basis. As we are all aware, there are many 'pockets' of real disadvantage within fairly affluent Wards. By focusing in on these pockets - at times only a few streets, resources can go directly to them and intensive support provided.

Lincoln was recognised for ERDF Objective 2 status, which was based upon the indices of multiple deprivation, ranking 47th worst local authority in the Country. Following this it received Neighbourhood Renewal Funds, which was allocated to the 88 most deprived local authorities in the Country, both of these funding streams were based upon Abbey and Park wards of Lincoln. The new Safer and Stronger Communities Fund is allocated to the Super Output Areas of St Giles and Moorland. As part of this programme a Neighbourhood Management Team will be employed and a local Management Board will be established to steer the work and ensure that it reflects the needs of the Community they serve.

These two groups and other community forums across the City will be a key link and sounding board for taking the Open Space work forward.

1.4 Super Output Areas

The Super Output Areas (SOA) within the wards of Glebe and Moorland, as mentioned earlier, have been identified as areas of greatest need. The open spaces in these areas are crucial to the population, for improving health and wellbeing as well as building community spirit. In addition both of these areas have an above average population of children and young people in comparison to the rest of Lincoln. (Strategic Analyst report City of Lincoln Council). Please see the following pages for a map showing open space in Lincoln in relation to Super Output Areas.

Open Space Audit Report

Glebe

Glebe has a population of 8,366 people of which it is estimated that 2,254 are under 16 years of age. Within the SOA the population is 5,535 with 1,537 under 16 years. The open spaces available to people, particularly children in this area are 3 school fields, all of which are closed outside of school times. King George V Playing Field which covers an area of 9.47 hectares and 1 play area in Coleridge Gardens, which local people have recorded in the audit as dangerous. This shows a great need for more facilities, particularly for children and young people in this area. There is a planned play area in the new Bunkers Hill development but this, at the time of the open space audit, was not yet built.

Moorland

Moorland ward has a population of 7,851 people of which it is estimated that 1,950 are under 16 years of age. Within the SOA the population is 5,281 with 1,285 of those being under 16 years. The open space available in the ward is 7.15 hectares, which includes 1 school, 3 play areas, 4 natural and semi-natural space and 2 allotment sites. From the information received only the Joseph Rushton School is within the SOA and again its facilities are only open during school hours. The area known as the Backies, which was substantially improved 6 years ago, was not included in the information received from the City of Lincoln Council. This area is bounded by Westwick Avenue, Prial Avenue and Moorland Avenue. It provides a substantial open space for the area and has recently benefited from the installation of a skate park area.

More detailed statistics can be gained from the Strategic Analyst at the City of Lincoln Council.

2. The “Place Check” Audit

2.1 Survey Methodology

In June and July 05, LCDP created a questionnaire based on the requirements of the City of Lincoln Council, recruited and trained 80 volunteers to carry out the Open Space Audit. During August and September 2005, trained volunteers undertook an audit of Lincoln’s open spaces. The audit included interviewing people who were using the sites at the time of the survey. The questionnaire included a total of 58 questions; the first 10 were of a qualitative nature including the impression and views of people using / visiting the sites. It also asked people to give their opinion of the site in relation to the 3 Place Check questions; ‘What did they like?’ ‘What did they not like?’ and ‘What would make it better?’ (Specific comments relating to these questions are Annex 1). The rest of the questions were quantitative regarding the ‘state’ of the signage, cleanliness and of repair of site furniture, play equipment, facilities etc. In total 313 users were interviewed by approximately 80 volunteers. This provided a ‘snap shot’ in time; some of the people questioned used the site on a regular basis while others did not. The surveyors also gave their own personal impressions of the site; some lived in the area and knew the site well, while others were outside of their community and were visiting for the first time. Whilst surveyors were carrying out the audits a video was made, shadowing surveyors while they were interviewing the public, and also giving interviewees the chance to talk to the camera. To complement this, all surveyors were given cameras to take photographs of the site as they went along, paying particular attention to areas of excellence and areas that were in need of improvement.

To gain wider views a 3 day event was held at Lincoln Library to present the findings to the wider public. This was done by creating a scene to represent each of the typologies, with photographs and the individual reports for each typology. 137 visiting members of the public were encouraged to fill in a short questionnaire to add their views to the findings.

It is also hoped that the final report will provide a context for future stakeholder focus groups with the City of Lincoln Council officers and local people, in considering the development of an open space strategy for Lincoln and an action plan for the future.

The following table breaks down the number of sites surveyed in each typology, how many interviews were undertaken and how many sites are in each ward.

Open Space Audit Report

Table 3. Site information

Typology	Number of sites surveyed	Number of interviews	Sites in each ward	
Parks and gardens	15	32	Abbey Birchwood Boultham Carholme Castle Hartsholme Minster	1 1 2 4 2 1 4
Natural and Semi-natural green space	52	72	Abbey Birchwood Boultham Bracebridge Carholme Castle Hartsholme Minster Moorland Park	3 3 16 5 5 2 3 3 4 8
Outdoor sports facilities	37	42	Abbey Birchwood Boultham Bracebridge Carholme Castle Glebe Hartsholme Minster Moorland Park	1 4 6 5 1 2 4 2 7 1 4
Provision for children and young people	27	57	Abbey Birchwood Boultham Bracebridge Carholme Castle Glebe Hartsholme Minster Moorland Park	3 3 1 7 1 3 1 1 1 3 3
Allotments	17	28	Abbey Boultham Bracebridge Carholme Castle Hartsholme Minster Moorland Park	1 3 1 1 2 1 1 2 3
Cemeteries and disused burial grounds	21	42	Abbey Boultham Bracebridge Carholme Castle Minster Park	2 3 1 3 3 3 6

Open Space Audit Report

Civic squares and spaces	13	25	Abbey Boultham Carholme Castle Minster Park	2 2 3 1 2 3
Common land	3	15	Carholme Park	1 2
Total	185	313		

The surveyors interviewed up to 5 people who were using the site on the day of the survey to give this snapshot in time. Not all sites were being visited at the time of the survey.

2.2 Assessment Criteria: Provision Usage; Provision Quantity; Provision quality; Provision Accessibility

a) Local Usage and Needs

The sites are used in various ways by different users; this at times is linked to where a site is situated. For example, sites in the uphill area of Lincoln are used by tourists visiting the City such as Castle Square etc, whilst sites in the centre are used by workers and shoppers from other areas of the City. Also, the use of the Civic Squares within the City Centre changes at night to accommodate the 'night time economy'. Sites in the outlying areas are used mainly by local people, unless there is a specific reason for visiting, eg; family days out to Hartsholme Park. There are some anomalies, which have been highlighted; such as a large percentage of users of play areas are older people walking dogs. This prompts the question as to whether dogs should be allowed on areas designated for play. These questions will be considered in more detail later in the report.

On the whole the surveyors and interviewees were very impressed with the quantity of open space in the City, some of it hidden from the wider City – 'if you don't live locally, you don't know about it', stated one interviewee. The levels of satisfaction varied across the City with some of the more deprived wards having the worst kept open spaces, particularly play areas. However the low expectations of people who live in areas of need show as satisfaction within the survey.

The following table shows the average age of users, proximity of their homes to the site, how they travel to the site and how often they visit. Pie charts for each typology are attached as Annex 2.

Open Space Audit Report

Table 4. Provision usage

Typology	Age of users	Where users live	How they get to the site	How often they visit	Comments
Parks & Gardens	Evenly spread between 20 to 60	Further than 1 mile	Split between car and walk	Split between daily and less often than 1 month	This is split between the spaces in the uphill area being used by tourists and the main parks being used by local people.
Natural & semi-natural	Majority 20 to 40	Within ¼ mile	Walk	Daily	Overwhelmingly used by local people, usually to walk dogs.
Outdoor sports facilities	Even spread between 12 to 60	Within ¼ mile	Car / walk	Daily	As these sites were within school premises the age range has dropped, however people drive to the sports clubs.
Provision for Children & young people	12 to 75	Within ¼ mile	Walk	Daily	The age range of people visiting play provision is wide, the reason being that older people use many of the play areas to walk dogs.
Allotments	Majority 20 to 60	Within ¼ mile	Walk	Daily	This is in keeping with the norm of local people using their local allotments.
Cemeteries and disused burial grounds	Majority 40 to 60	Majority further than 1 mile	Split between car and walk	Split between daily and weekly	This shows the split between people visiting cemeteries in use and disused burial grounds used by many people as an oasis of peace in the centre of the city.
Civic squares and spaces	Split evenly between 12 to 60	More than ½ further than 1 mile	Split between bus, car and walk	Split between daily, weekly, monthly & less often	Used by various groups of people. Visitors to the civic squares in the uphill area and areas where people congregate in the city centre.
Common land	More than ½ of the people were 40 to 60, but with a ¼ being 20 to 40	Within ¼ mile	Walk	Daily	Usage of common land is by local people for recreation and keeping horses.

b) Provision Quality

There will always be a question of quality verses quantity. The following table considers the perceived overall quality of the open space in typologies. Interviewees were asked to score each site for satisfaction, rating it 1 = poor to 5 = excellent.

Open Space Audit Report

However there were a number of issues relating to access to some of the sites, particularly the schools' sites within the Outdoor Sports Provision typology. Also many of the natural and semi-natural green spaces were in private ownership and were inaccessible to the surveyors.

Table 5. Satisfaction Scores by typology

Typology	Mean satisfaction score
Parks and gardens	4.00 - 12 out of 15 were scored
Natural and semi-natural green space	3.17 - 29 out of 52 were scored
Outdoor sports facilities	3.53 - 17 out of 37 were scored
Provision for children and young people	2.81 - 24 out of 27 were scored
Allotments	4.68 - 17 out of 17 were scored
Cemeteries and disused burial grounds	3.94 - 16 out of 21 were scored
Civic squares and spaces	3.85 - 10 out of 13 were scored
Common land	3.83 - 3 out of 3 were scored
Overall total mean score	3.73 - 128 out of 185 scored

The two typologies that stand out as being of high quality are Parks and Gardens, and Allotments. The City of Lincoln Council has resourced the improvement and regeneration of some of the larger parks in the City, for example the Arboretum. This particular site scored very highly with both surveyor and users. Hartsholme Park was held in particularly high regard by users. One member of the public interviewed for the video described people who use Hartsholme regularly as 'a family'. The Allotments in the City scored highest of all, this indicates how allotment holders feel about their plots and the benefits to them and their families of working allotments.

The lowest scoring typology by quite a long way was Provision for Children and Young People. A few play areas scored very highly, for example Queens Park and Wickham Gardens. The play areas within the larger Parks, eg; the Arboretum, also had high scores. There were many reasons why some were scored poorly - litter, lack of security, dog fouling, and poor maintenance of equipment were all reasons for the low scores. This evidences the need for the City of Lincoln Council to consider these open spaces as a priority.

(Tables relating to the quality and quantity of play equipment and access are Annex 3).

Open Space Audit Report

c) Provision Quantity

Table 6. Quantity of Open Space to Population

Ward	Popu- lation	Hectares of Open Space							
		P & G	N&Sn G s	OSF	P for C&YP	All	C& D BG	CS & S	CL
Abbey	7306	6.37		2.19	1.44	1.97	0.45	0.08	
Birchwood	7802	7.45		0.45	0.07				
Boutham	7968	10.07		20.50	0.18	11.78	0.82	0.14	
Bracebridge	8368			14.85	2.62	1.25	0.69		
Carholme	7144	7.04		26.37	0.03	9.87	0.52		101.90
Castle	6679	3.51		1.01	1.46	8.18	0.29	0.13	
Glebe	8366			19.45	0.15				
Hartsholme	8908	46.45		5.08	0.08	0.27			
Minster	7118	1.52		17.76	0.18	1.00	6.61	0.18	
Moorland	7851			6.39	0.40	0.36			
Park	8049			10.38	0.76	1.20	17.72	0.49	87.85
Total	85559	82.41		124.43	7.37	35.88	27.10	1.02	189.75

* Very few site sizes on information for Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace

* Limited information on City Squares and Spaces

d) Provision Accessibility

The accessibility part of the questionnaire considered the directional signage, proximity to a bus stop, wheelchair & pushchair accessibility and the existence of cycle routes and racks. Transport links across the City were thought to be good, with bus stops near the majority of the sites. Wheelchair and pushchair access varied greatly, with Parks & Gardens and Civic Squares scoring highly, but Allotments, Common Land & Natural & Semi Natural open space scoring very poorly.

The vast majority of the users surveyed walked to the sites as they lived within ¼ mile and visited every day (see pie charts, annex 2). There are some notable exceptions such as cemeteries as these are on the periphery of the City rather than in the City Centre.

Many of the sites surveyed were criticised for the lack of directional signage. Users felt local people would only know about some of the sites. However the tourist sites in the City were well signposted. Users also felt that some of the sites, such as the Arboretum and Hartsholme Park should have information boards.

Open Space Audit Report

Accessibility within the sites varies; some typologies have very good paths e.g. Parks and Gardens. Others were noted to have poor paths for prams or wheelchairs e.g. Allotments.

Cycle paths and cycle racks were also highlighted as lacking in some of the typologies, the lowest scoring being Allotments with a satisfaction score of 1.75 (out of 5), Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace – 2.2 and Provision for Children and Young People – 2.93.

Open Space Audit Report

3. Issues and Assessment

The following chapter considers each typology on the information gathered by the surveyors in relation to; usage, quality, quantity and accessibility.

3.1 Parks and Gardens

Usage

The larger parks, the Arboretum, Hartsholme Park and Boultham Park are used for different reasons. The Arboretum and Hartsholme are used for enjoyment, relaxation and days out, whereas Boultham Park is used extensively for sporting activities. Boultham Park also fell outside the top scoring sites, however the City of Lincoln Council has plans to improve and refurbish the park. Users were very pleased with the improvements to the Arboretum.

Liquorice Park and Birchwood Nature Park are felt to be 'wild', which is how these areas are intended to be, but there is a wide variation in how they are perceived by local people. Some felt that they should be 'tidied up' which would, of course, defeat the aim of the space.

Uphill sites such as Temple Gardens and the Bishop's Palace are mainly used by tourists and are promoted mainly to visitors. The surveyor noted that, as a local person she was totally unaware that the vineyard attached to the Bishop's Palace Contemporary garden, is open to the public.

The lack of public toilets was raised as an issue. If toilets are on the sites, they are often only open when a linked facility e.g. a café, is open.

Quality

Parks & Gardens	Score Top	Score Bottom	Ward
Hartsholme Country Park	5		Hartsholme
The Arboretum	5		Abbey
Cathedral Park	4.5		Minster
The Wong		3.5	Carholme
Whittons Park		3.5	Carholme
Boultham Park		3	Boultham

As shown by the table above, the two major parks in Lincoln have very good satisfaction scores; in fact even the lowest scoring site was scored 3 out of 5. The

Open Space Audit Report

City of Lincoln Council is planning to improve Boutham Park and this should bring it up to the standard of the Arboretum.

In general the quality of the site furniture and play equipment in the larger sites was found to be well maintained and litter and dog bins used and emptied regularly. The survey reported that more picnic tables could be installed, as people expected to be able to sit and enjoy the surroundings.

Quantity

There are 82.41 hectares of Parks and Gardens in the City across 7 of the 11 wards. The largest area being in Hartsholme ward as this includes Hartsholme Park that totals 46.46 ha alone.

Accessibility

The survey shows that people do travel to visit the larger parks and gardens of the City with the majority of users travelling over 1 mile to visit. 11 of the 15 sites have bus stops nearby, making them accessible by public transport.

Users commented on the sites' accessibility by wheelchairs, pushchairs & prams. Many of the sites such as Hartsholme (which scored very highly overall) are difficult after rain, as the paths are grass or gravel. The more ancient sites, such as the Medieval Bishops Palace and Temple Gardens are inaccessible, as there are steep steps.

Users also commented about the access and facilities for cyclists. Cycling is prohibited within the formal settings of the larger parks and there are few cycle racks within this typology.

Open Space Audit Report

3.2 Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

Usage

Generally these spaces were perceived to be unwelcoming because of the wildness and naturalness of the spaces. Reasons for visiting varied from walking to school, cutting through to take a short cut, walking dogs, getting fresh air and bird watching. Issues of anti-social behaviour were highlighted as a problem, particularly littering, fly tipping, vandalism and, on some sites, discarded needles. Surveyors commented that all of the sites were habitats for many types of wildlife and many would be improved by installing some play equipment and benches. However this would change the nature of the site and potentially damage the wildlife habitat.

Quality

Natural & Semi-Natural greenspace	Top scoring	Bottom scoring	Ward
Greetwell Hollow Quarry	5		Abbey
Land Ease of Foal Close	5		Boultham
Swan Pool Skewbridge	5		Boultham
Land West of Arbo – top of Vine St		2	Abbey
Land to rear of Hill Cottage		1	Carholme
Old Quarry Burton Road		1	Castle

The characteristics of these areas would be compromised / spoilt by more than a minimum amount of site furniture. Are dog bins or litterbins needed? Do they create more problems than they solve? In fact, much of this typology is in private ownership over which the City Council has little or no control.

Quantity

There are 52 sites across the City, however the information received from the City of Lincoln Council does not give any site sizes, as much of this land is in private ownership.

Accessibility

Surveyors noted that the vast majority of the 52 sites across the City were inaccessible or accessible with difficulties, also directional signage was lacking and if there were footpaths, they were overgrown. However, if these sites were made accessible it could compromise the nature of them and also confer a 'duty of care' on the owners.

Open Space Audit Report

3.3 Outdoor Sports Facilities

Usage

A large proportion of the Outdoor Sports facilities are school playing fields. There were a number of issues about gaining access to these sites during the school day, and access in the evenings and at weekends is impossible because the sites are closed to the public. Generally, better use could be made of the school sites by local people if they were open to the public. In many communities they are the only open green playing field space. However it is recognised that the security of school premises is an issue.

Dog-fouling has been highlighted as a particular problem by users. There needs to be a distinction between school sports fields and public sports fields; school fields are fully fenced so don't need dog bins. One might argue that dogs shouldn't be anywhere near sports fields and by providing facilities one is only encouraging them. However, without adequate policing, dog walking (and fouling) on sports fields will continue and efforts should be made to protect the health and safety of users and spectators.

There are strong conflicting opinions about West Common Golf Course, ranging from exclusive use of the area for paying golf club members to ensuring people know about their 'right to roam' on Common Land.

Quality

Outdoor Sports Facilities	Top scoring	Bottom scoring	Ward
Ashby Ave Playing Feild	5		Hartsholme
Bracebridge Junior School	5		Bracebridge
Eastgate Lawn Tennis Club	5		Minster
Carholme Golf Course		2.5	Carholme
Monks Abbey Recreation ground		2.5	Abbey
Westgate Junior Shcool		2	Castle

In general users felt very satisfied with the quality of site furniture and play equipment. If the site is a school playing field the school is responsible for its

Open Space Audit Report

upkeep. Of the schools that took part in the survey, all the children were very satisfied with their sites.

Other large outdoor sports facilities such as the Football Club and the Lawn Tennis Club were again noted as having good quality facilities. However, City owned playing fields such as St Georges Playing Field and Clayton Sports Field were noted to need more litter and dog fouling bins.

Quantity

There are 124.43 ha of Outdoor Sports Facilities across all 11 wards in the City, the largest of which is Carholme with 26.37 ha, which of course is home to the golf course. Minster also has a substantial amount at 17.76 ha. Glebe has 19.45 ha, Boultham has 20.50 ha and Bracebridge has 14.85 ha.

Accessibility

Surveyors reported that the access to the sites was poor with no or few cycle tracks and in the spirit of health and fitness this was seen as a necessary addition to any sports facility.

Privately owned sites such as the golf course are well signposted and locally advertised, obviously to increase use and profits. As most of the sites are school playing fields, the majority of users walked to them and lived within ¼ mile. The survey noted that people tend to drive to sports clubs, e.g. golf and tennis.

3.4 Provision for Children and Young People

Usage

The Play Areas of Lincoln scored the lowest of all typologies in this survey. Play areas are used for recreational purposes including dog walking, enjoying the fresh air and walking. Many of the children's play areas are used by young people to congregate and meet friends.

There were a number of requests for picnic tables and toilets in play areas. The picnic tables and toilets were mainly requested by older people who were walking dogs. This of course, causes concern, as toilet facilities are notorious for anti-social and often illegal activity that could put children who may be by themselves at risk. It also raises the question as to whether dogs should be allowed on Play Areas on or off a lead, or at all.

The spread of play areas across the City does not reflect the number of children and young people in a specific area or ward. For example in the two areas identified for Safer and Stronger Communities funding, Glebe ward has only one play area and Moorland has three. Glebe ward covers the St Giles estate and the newer Glebe estate. Neither of these very different areas have adequate play provision. St Giles is an area of significant need with high numbers of young families, and the only play area is Coleridge Gardens, which scored very low in the satisfaction survey. The population of Glebe Ward is 8,378 and 25.6% of those are under 16 years of age, which is one of the highest percentages of under 16's in the City. Moorland has a population of 7,855 and also has a high percentage of under 16's, but has the advantage of 3 play areas which have scored reasonably highly in the satisfaction scores; Greenbank Drive – 3, Redcar Close – 3, and Fontwell Crescent which was not scored, but all comments relating to the sites were positive.

Within the survey it was stated that the Urban Rangers did a good job, however it was felt that there could be many more of them, as they gave users a feeling of safety and security as well as providing a point of contact with the City Council.

Open Space Audit Report

Quality

Provision for Children and Young People	Top scoring sites	Bottom scoring sites	Ward
Queens Park Play area	4.5		Park
St Andrew's Close Play Area	4		Park
Victoria St Play Area	4		Bracebridge
Coleridge Gardens Play area		1.5	Glebe
Keadby Close Play Area		1	Hartsholme
Tower Play Area		1	Abbey

Play areas within the larger Parks and Gardens scored very highly, which is not surprising as sites such as the Arboretum have recently been refurbished. Comments relating to the equipment in the parks included 'exciting' and 'fun'. However, in general the smaller play areas, which, by their very nature, are built for children to play in, have been classed as gloomy; the majority are in need of repair and cleansing, have missing swings and glass and other rubbish strewn about. Investment in play provision is required to bring these areas up to a standard across the City.

Quantity

The population of Lincoln is 85,500 of which 17,205 are under 16 yr, (2001 census) and only 7.37 hectares of Provision for Children and Young People (excluding small amenity sites). The National Playing Field Association (NPFA) standards are calculated as 0.8 hectares per 1000 population and do not relate to numbers of children. Work carried out by the Council to assess whether or not they met the national standards shows a significant deficiency in total hectares of play areas, to meet the standards Lincoln would need to increase its play area provision to 68 hectares. All wards in the City fall below the recommended standards by the NPFA, St Giles and Moorland are particularly bad. The Council has planning permission for 7 new play areas across the City, 5 in Glebe, 1 in Castle and 1 in Birchwood. However this will still not address the problem of adequate play provision for children and young people in the City.

Accessibility

The age range of users of play areas has been shown to be very wide in the survey. Many of the sites have gravel or grass paths, which make it difficult for pushchairs

Open Space Audit Report

and wheelchairs to access them. Most of the people interviewed lived within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the play area, though at least two families travelled by car to take their children to a play area that they felt was safe and secure enough for them.

Most of the Play Areas were surveyed in the summer months, at times when one might expect them to be well used, either by pre-school children with their parents or by older school age children; very often the play areas had no visitors while they were being surveyed. They seem to be underused or possibly undervalued? Outdoor play, away from the home, is beneficial to both children and their carers and consideration needs to be given to increasing play area use

Open Space Audit Report

3.5 Allotments

Usage

In general the allotments in Lincoln scored very highly with the users. The smallest site is Kingsway with 6 plots covering 0.22 hectares and the largest is Boultham Park at nearly 6.9 hectares. There are 928 lettable allotments in the City; 86% are let across the 17 sites in the City. There are also about 80 plots that are overgrown and not currently available to rent. None of the allotments have toilets and some only have one water tap, which can make watering a problem. The average site size of a plot is 2.34 hectares.

The allotment holders recognise the health and social benefits of keeping an allotment as well as the fresh fruit, vegetables and flowers that they can grow.

Surveyors reported lack of security, broken fences and cases of stolen vegetables, not often, but devastating when it happens.

Quality

Allotments	Top scoring sites	Bottom scoring sites	Ward
Wragby Road	5		Abbey
Hykeham Road	5		Bracebridge
Burton Ridge	4		Carholme
Greenbank Drive	4		Moorland
Triton Road Allotments		2	Hartsholme
Ermine Allotments		1	Minster

Very few of the allotment sites scored lower than a 3, which demonstrates how allotment holders feel about their plots. It was noted that some of the sheds etc were in poor condition; however this is the responsibility of the allotment holder and not the City Council.

Quantity

There are 35.88 hectares of allotment space across 9 of the 11 wards in the City. Notably the two areas which do not have allotment provision are Birchwood and Glebe. Pockets of these wards, especially the Council and Housing Association estates are well down the scale of deprivation and have high levels of health problems.

Open Space Audit Report

Accessibility

Users and surveyors stated that disabled access to allotments would be desirable, enabling wheelchair users to visit or even work allotments, although this would require substantial investment to develop raised bed plots. Consideration could be given to, for example, designating one or two plots at the entrance to the larger sites for wheelchair users.

Open Space Audit Report

3.6 Cemeteries and Disused Burial Grounds

Usage

Out of the 21 sites across the City all but 4 are disused. Most of the smaller sites are in and around the City Centre and the active cemeteries are located on the periphery of the built up area of the City. The disused sites were mainly used as quiet and peaceful places to take a break or eat lunch during the summer. A significant number of users lived further than 1 mile away. One third of the users interviewed were visiting graves in the newer cemeteries.

Surveyors reported that City Centre sites are at times used for illegal drinking and gathering of young people, which can be perceived as threatening to some people. This is a community safety issue, which will be linked into policing the City Centre.

Quality

Cemeteries and disused burial grounds	Top scoring sites	Bottom scoring sites	Ward
Eastgate Cemetery	5		Minster
Newport Cemetery	5		Castle
St Helen's Old Burial Ground	5		Boultham
St Swithins Gardens		3	Abbey
Park Street burial ground		2	Carholme
St Mary Magdalene		2	Castle

The larger cemeteries are on the outskirts of the City, where as the older disused burial grounds cut across the City Centre where many Churches used to be; now they form havens of peace for City workers to sit and eat their lunch. Whilst the survey was being completed Park Street disused burial ground was being improved. The site now has improved paths, seating and litter bins and is used by local workers.

Quantity

There are 27.10 hectares of Cemeteries and Disused Burial Grounds in the City. These are situated in 7 out of the 11 wards. They range in size from 0.036 hectares, St Benedict's Old Burial Ground to the New Cemetery at Canwick that is 6.77 hectares.

Open Space Audit Report

Accessibility

Not all sites are fully accessible, but most of the City Centre sites are open access. None of the sites have cycle racks and few have cycle routes to them. Most are accessible by public transport. Only the crematorium has good directional signage to it and is the only site that has any children's play equipment (which scored very highly), for families to use whilst visiting graves. Only the Crematorium has toilet facilities for visitors inside the chapel.

Open Space Audit Report

3.7 Civic Squares and Spaces

Usage

There are 13 Civic Squares and Spaces around the central area of the City and over half the users are under the age of 40. There was no pattern to the mode of transport to access the Squares, it would seem that local people and tourists use all methods of transport to get into the City.

The sites are used for meeting friends, particularly City Square. Young people meet there and like to skate in the area. A large number of older people also congregate in this area, enjoying the swans and sitting on the benches. It is reported that people felt there was not enough seating.

It was felt that City Squares should be made individual and distinctive – a policy is needed to develop the characteristics of each, but recognising their basic function – a place to provide a setting for buildings and where people can gather. The 'Enquiry by Design Master Plan' for the city centre expands on this theme, using pedestrian links to create an interesting and functional townscape. All should have adequate seating, litter and dog bins.

People using the sites said that they could be improved by encouraging street performers / entertainers, particularly in the uphill area of the City. There is also a need for shelters for people to go to when it rains.

Quality

Civic Squares and Spaces	Top scoring sites	Bottom scoring sites	Ward
St Marks Square	5		Boultham
Exchequergate	5		Minster
Brayford Wharf South	4		Abbey
City Square		3	Park
Guildhall Street		3	Carholme
High Bridge		3	Carholme

Most Civic Squares were reported to be generally clean and free from litter, graffiti and vandalism, but pigeons are felt to be a real problem, particularly when people are trying to eat lunch.

Open Space Audit Report

Quantity

There is 1.02 hectares of Civic Squares and Spaces, situated mainly within ½ mile radius of the City Centre. They are found in only 5 wards out of the 11 as these are the wards that converge on the Centre.

Accessibility

Surveyors reported that there are cycle routes to the City centre, but not all sites have cycle racks. Public transport into the City Centre is good from all areas. City squares are used by all ages and all abilities. We are aware that they are used extensively by young people for skating and meeting friends. None of them have any form of official play equipment, though benches and raised paved areas are used by skaters.

Open Space Audit Report

3.8 Common Land

Usage

There are 3 areas of Common Land in the City, with a total area of 189.75 hectares. This is almost half of the open space in the City. Users felt that a dedicated 'Commons Warden' or Urban Ranger would be beneficial to all of the commons but they don't want them 'too' managed. Wildlife on the commons is extensive, but could be improved with bird and bat boxes, particularly for barn owls. Dog fouling is a major problem on the commons, dog owners need to take responsibility for clearing away dog mess or be prosecuted. More litter and dog fouling bins were requested.

Of the 3 areas of Common Land, all are used for horses, walking, and family days out. Though they have sports facilities e.g. cricket pitches, golf etc, they are thought of as open space. Cowpaddle, however, is seen by users as a sports facility, rather than a piece of common land.

Quality

Common Land	Top scoring sites	Bottom scoring sites	Ward
South Common	4.5		Park
West Common	4		Carholme
Cowpaddle		3	Park

As the scores show, the common land of Lincoln is valued and highly rated by the users. There are however a number of specific issues. For example, the pond on West Common is not looked after and needs attention. Byelaws regarding dogs etc need to be prominent on sites and the responsibilities of users need to be highlighted, in order that they are kept clean for people to roam.

Quantity

There are 189.75 hectares of Common Land in the City. This is mainly situated in Carholme on the western edge of the City. The other two commons are in Park ward; South Common on the south east side of the boundary and Cowpaddle on the eastern side.

Accessibility

All of the commons are open access - places where the people of Lincoln can roam and feel they are in 'the countryside'. However the survey has shown that they are not particularly accessible to people who use wheelchairs or want to bring prams or

Open Space Audit Report

buggies onto the site. There are few paths, and if there were, it may change the very nature of what a 'common' should be; open to all who wish to use it, not over developed.

Wildlife

Wildlife is recorded on all open spaces to a greater or lesser extent, with the commons and natural and semi natural green space both scoring highly. The survey highlights the importance of open spaces for biodiversity, and also points to the desirability of green links, wherever possible, between the open spaces. The biodiversity of open spaces could be enhanced by giving consideration to eco friendly maintenance practices and planting schemes. The only negative comment about wildlife concerns the nuisance caused by pigeons in the city centre, especially in the City Squares where people sit. (Specific information re wildlife is Annex 3).

4.0 Opportunities

New Developments

The Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands (RSS8) states that a priority for housing provision in the region is: “....significantly strengthening the role of Lincoln as a Principle Urban Area through urban intensification and planned and sustainable urban extensions”. The two main sites proposed for sustainable urban extensions are Western Growth Corridor (Skewbridge / Swanpool) and North East Quadrant (Greetwell area). In total these extensions will provide 5,500 new houses in Lincoln, built through a phased development over the next twenty years.

Through Section 106 agreements, developers have to provide a percentage of developed land for community use. This may well be a play area in a housing development, but it may only be one piece of play equipment and piece of green space. This is not adequate for many new large developments. The two main locations for development considered in the Local Development Framework Preferred Options Report are Swanpool (Skewbridge or Western Gateway) and the Greetwell area (Lincoln Eastern Growth Corridor or North East Quadrant). Both of these sites are greenfield developments and are classed as ‘urban extensions’. They will however, have a full range of facilities including shops, jobs, transport links, etc. The Swanpool area under discussion has a large proportion of Open Space running through the middle of it. The City of Lincoln Council will also have to ensure these developments comply with the Open Space Strategy when it is completed.

There is also potential for improved open spaces through the Safer and Stronger Communities programme, where intensive work is being carried out by the Neighbourhood Management teams in Glebe and Moorland to identify the needs of the community and respond to them.

5.0 Next steps

5.1 Short Term Recommendations

The main short term recommendation is to arrange an Office Working Group Workshop to consider this report. We are aware that some of the following recommendations are already in the planning stage. By working with officers and members it will be possible to discuss the communities priorities and prepare an Action Plan and the Open Space Strategy for the City of Lincoln.

5.2 Recommendations into Action Plan

LCDP are not in a position to create an Action Plan at this stage. We feel we can list the recommendations for action – but that an Officer and Stakeholder Workshop should be held to ratify the recommendations and formulate the Action Plan from this.

6.0 Emerging Issues and Priorities

From the survey information, both qualitative and quantitative, the following issues have been highlighted, some are very specific while others much more general. Key issues and priorities for further research are summaries below.

Parks and gardens

This generally scored very highly, however in relation to access it was felt that paths could be improved in certain parks and that cycle access should be considered a priority.

- Sensitive management of wild parks and gardens, eg, Liquorice Park
- Sign giving location of nearest public toilet
- Improvement of Boultham Park
- Better cycle routes and paths to parks and cycle racks in parks
- Improved paths within parks and gardens
- Direction signs for local people as well as tourists

Natural and semi natural green space

Views on this typology varied, some local people thought the sites should be developed, but others were very much in favour of the 'naturalness' of the areas.

- Balancing need for low-level sensitive management and improved accessibility, eg, disabled access, signage. Is Open Space subject to DDA regulations?
- Maintenance of wildness aspect, not compromised by "development" such as play equipment, signage, even dog bins
- Fly tipping and littering a problem

Outdoor sports facilities

More outdoor sports facilities need to be accessible by local people, however when sports facilities are open access, there is a real problem with dog fouling.

- Improve non-motorised access, eg: cycle lanes and racks, footpaths
- Work with schools / County Council to achieve greater community use of school playing fields, within the context of school safety and security
- Determine dog policy for sports fields
- Major investment in changing facilities needed
- Development plan for King George V playing field

Open Space Audit Report

Provision for children and young people

This was the lowest scoring typology within the City. Lincoln is well below the NPFA National Standards in provision of this sort.

- Determine and enforce dog policy for play areas
- Work towards applying NPFA National Standard – 0.8 hectares of play space per 1000 population
- Improve access for prams and pushchairs
- Improved directional signs and giving location of nearest public toilet
- Relocate Archer Street play area
- Involve local people “Play Area Watch”, overnight locking, raising funds for improvements etc
- Play facilities for older young people within their local community, e.g. trim trail, shelters, skate facilities

Allotments

Allotments across the City are used and well thought of by the people of Lincoln. The benefits to health and wellbeing are evident in the survey.

- Improve security
- More public toilets – consider urinal earth toilet
- Encourage greater uptake
- Improve access, paths with cycle routes and racks
- Consider improvements for people with disabilities, provide specific allotments near the entrance and taps

Cemeteries and disused burial grounds

Many of the disused burial grounds in the City Centre are used and valued by workers to sit at lunch times. However, some are also used by groups of people to ‘hang out’ and drink.

- Make distinction between City centre disused burial grounds and active cemeteries, in terms of policy and recommendations, for example increase the availability of taps in active cemeteries
- Interpretation boards in disused cemeteries relating to the historic nature of the site and buildings
- Emphasise quiet oasis within the city centre for workers eating lunch in the summer months – but do not over develop
- Consider City Centre policing policies

Open Space Audit Report

Civic squares and spaces

A wide cross section of people use the Civic Squares and Spaces, tourists, young people and older people. Lincoln has many historic buildings, a beautiful waterway with swans and architecture for people to sit in Civic Squares and enjoy.

- Provision of cycle racks
- Encourage activity, eg: street performers
- More seating
- Strategy for anti-social behaviour, eg, pigeon feeding, skating, alcoholics – perhaps develop designated areas to accommodate needs of different users?

Common Land

Lincoln's Common Land totals 189.75 hectares which is over half of the open space in the City, it is appreciated by local people who comment, 'we have the country side on our own doorstep in the middle of the City'.

- Stock proof fencing on all three commons
- Dedicated commons' warden
- Dog free areas or dogs' toilet
- Cowpaddle neglected, boundary encroachment by development, illegal bottle digging, fly tipping

Overarching issues

There were many issues and priorities identified by local people within the survey, however the key themes that were emerging across the City and typologies were:

- Improve cycle routes and racks
- More public toilets
- Improved play areas
- Maps on community notice boards showing open spaces within a local area. Or leaflets, produced by local community groups in partnership with City Council. To encourage use and encourage walking and healthy activity
- Phone numbers on "no dog fouling" signs and "no littering" signs to report offenders, vandalism etc
- Encourage the involvement of residents and community groups in the maintenance, improvement and surveillance of open spaces.

Open Space Audit Report

These recommendations have been extracted from the Open Space Audit work; we feel that these represent the main areas for consideration. One of the main aims for the City of Lincoln Council Planning Department was to find out 'how satisfied' people were with the Open Space in their area. The recommendations mainly cover areas of concern, though it is important to point out that there were many positive points raised too, which we hope are represented within this report.

Placecheck Questions

Parks & Gardens

Likes

- Lovely trees; interesting vistas wherever you look, a surprise view around every corner, the fish, well maintained. *The Lawn*
- Like being in the countryside. – *Hartsholme Park*
- Good footpaths and sculptures. – *Temple Gardens*
- Contemporary garden is a tranquil, pleasant, well planned space. Vineyard is quiet, hidden space, undiscovered. *Bishop's Palace*
- Clean, a pleasure to walk in. The council's done a good job on it. Hope they keep it up, it's also near the hospital. *Arboretum*

Dislike:

- Litter, particularly around the ponds. *Arboretum, Boultham Park*
- Could do with more signage
- No skateboard facilities. *Boultham Park*
- Working toilets, improved play equipment. *Whitton's Park*
- Poorly paved areas unsuitable for wheelchairs.
- Footpaths often difficult, particularly after rain. *Hartsholme Park*
- Dogs should not be allowed off leads. *Arboretum*

What would make it better?

- Wheelchair access. *Liquorice Park & Lincoln Castle*
- Working toilets.
- More information signage.
- Cycle path along Skellingthorpe Road to site. *Hartsholme*
- More litter bins and seats. *Temple Gardens*

Natural & Semi Natural Open Space

Like:

- A great place which needs putting on the map, a place away from the City. *Skewbridge Swath*
- Pretty woods and lots of nice paths. Close to home. Never had any bother from youths. *Boultham Moor Woods*
- There are hares, rabbits, teasles, nettles, buttercups, himalyan balsam, (which is an invasive plant), fern, rosebay willow herb and mullein. *Cross O' Cliff Orchard*

Open Space Audit Report

Dislike:

- Riverside path is very narrow and badly surfaced and very dangerous for elderly people. It is impossible for wheelchairs to get in to enjoy the riverside path and dog fouling spoils the walk. *Witham Marshes*
- Vehicles driving down the track. *Fosdyke Navigation*
- Poor road access.
- Access – no good for pushchairs.

What would make it better?

- Improve cleanliness.
- Proper paths need to be laid.
- Cycle tracks.
- Clean up and advertise so that people know it exists, then they may use it and take more care. Some maintenance is essential to halt invasive weeds, especially ragwort.

Outdoor sports facilities

Like:

- Fun, the apparatus and its big enough to play football and sports. *Usher Junior School*
- Well kept, open clean space, well used, nice to see so many children engaged in football. *Skellingthorpe Road Playing Field*
- Bowl club area looks nice and tidy and the ruins, I like history. *Monks Abbey Recreation Area*
- Trim Trail. *Lesley Manser Primary and Kingsdown Nursery*
- Quiet and plenty of dog bins.

Dislike:

- Too many hills and bumps and mole hills. It's a bit scruffy. *Usher Junior School*
- No changing or toilet facilities. Temporary ones in season, but are very smelly. *Skellingthorpe Road Playing Field*
- The entrances, beer cans and empty bottles, lack of bins, dog fouling and lack of seats.
- Space is wasted – this is criminal. Could be used for young and old alike, offering sporting activities. *King George V Playing Field*

Open Space Audit Report

What would make it better?

- Development, development, development. Involve local people, let the community decide. *King George V Playing Field*
- Better entrances, more bins, more seats, some information about the history. *Monks Abbey Recreation Area*
- Toilet and changing facilities, floodlit grass pitches.
- Informing people about the right to roam, more information about access. *Carholme Golf Course*

Provision for Children & Young People

Like:

- Lots of nice equipment, nice and clean, nice environment. *Wickham Gardens Play Area*
- Large easy access gate, lots of grass to play and picnic, well maintained.
- Accessible with well spaced, varied play equipment.
- Nice pleasant quiet area. Good equipment for small children – grass short, well maintained. *Manor Leas Play Area*
- Good wide open space. It's a shame it's not utilised better. Long grass prevents children from playing games. *Syston Grove Play Area*
- Nice open green space where kids can run around freely, gather things for nature collections. Play opportunities nice. *Greenbank Drive Play Area*

Dislike:

- Litter, dog dirt, graffiti, glass, equipment poorly situated and in bad state of repair, paths very uneven could even be dangerous. *Coleridge Gardens*
- Bark chippings in wet weather. *Pullan Close Play Area*
- Sometimes glass on slide, and other litter. *St Andrews Play Area*
- Nothing, minimal equipment – close to heavily used road and flyover. *Archer Street Play Area*

What would make it better?

- Find a use for the old bowling green. *Wickham Gardens Play Area*
- More patrols by Urban Rangers. *General comment*
- Tables and seats for social time whilst watching children, golf putting green, skateboard park. *Jasmin Road Play Area*
- Fencing off would improve provision of area with equipment for small children. *Queens Park Play Area*
- More dog fouling bins. *General comment*

Open Space Audit Report

Allotments

Likes:

- Good for wildlife, like being in the country, quiet. Close knit site, tranquil, organic opportunity also good for fitness levels. *Hykeham Road Allotments*
- A little community, all the family have lots here and the grandchildren come. *Sincil Bank Allotments*

Dislikes:

- No toilets. *General comment across many*
- Vandalism, not often but devastating when it happens. *Sincil Bank Allotments*

What would make it better?

- Maintained and used to its original purpose. *Ermine Allotments*
- Spend some money on security, allotments checked regularly, plots to be better defined with pathways etc; grass cut regularly. *Greenbank Drive Allotments*
- Management of footpaths to help wheelchair users. *Wragby Road Old Allotments – Darwin Field*

Cemeteries and Disused Burial Grounds

Likes:

- Quiet and secretive place giving restful feelings. Oasis for wildlife, good area for biodiversity. *Eastgate Cemetery*
- Pleasant green seating area close to city centre. Open aspect – can watch the world go by. *St Martin's Old Burial Ground*
- Historic significance. Its convenience and proximity to local amenities. *St Paul in the Bail*

Dislikes:

- Incline when you get out of the car, not good for wheelchairs. *St Swithin's Cemetery*
- People sitting around drinking alcohol. People letting dogs foul, this puts people off using it. *St Martin's Old Burial Ground*
- No cycle racks or routes. *General comment across all sites*
- Needs tidying of leaves and undergrowth. No colours or flowers. *All Saint's Old Burial Ground*

What would make it better?

- Install a tap. *St Helen's Old Burial Ground*
- Cycle racks and improved cycle routes to all sites. *General comment*

Open Space Audit Report

Civic Squares and Spaces

Likes:

- Nice to watch the world go by, clean and fresh. *St Mark's Square*
- In good proximity to Brayford, good use of nature, light and it's not too noisy.
Brayford Wharf South
- Clean and well signposted.

Dislikes:

- Too many pigeons, often dive bombed and I don't like the cars coming through.
City Square
- No banner near the castle and a lack of seating. *Castle Square*
- Little lighting

What would make it better?

- Street lights, litter bins, information boards, buoyancy aids.
- Public toilets, parent and baby changing. *St Mark's Square*
- More seating and a fenced off skate park. *City Square*
- Cycle racks. *General comment*

Common Land

Likes:

- Everything, the openness, horses and walks. Play sport with the family. Its uniqueness, I live in the city but I have the country on my doorstep. *West Common*
- Big space, the view, wild life and the changing seasons, meeting other dog walkers. It's not over managed. *South Common*
- Football pitches and good changing rooms and the view of the cathedral.
Cowpaddle

Dislikes:

- Lack of maintenance, fencing very poor and insecure, very worried about the horses' safety. *West Common*
- Nothing except vandalism, litter and the killing of frogs. *South Common*
- Rabbit holes in the football pitches. *Cowpaddle*

What would make it better?

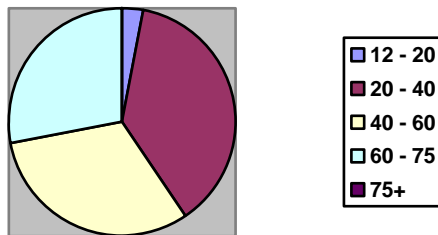
- More control, like a Commons Warden. *All*
- Better management of pond area. *West Common*
- Pathways at entrances made wider, some nettles and thistles. Otherwise leave it as it is. It's perfect. *South Common*
- More pitch and general maintenance, more parking and benches. *Cowpaddle*

Parks and Gardens

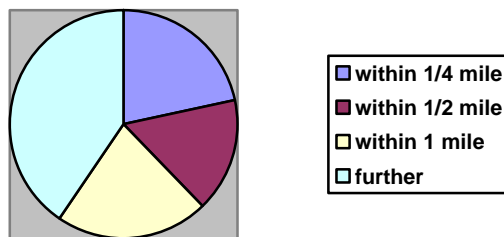
Total area of 82.41 hectares

32 people interviewed

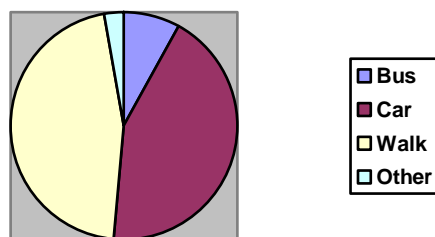
Age



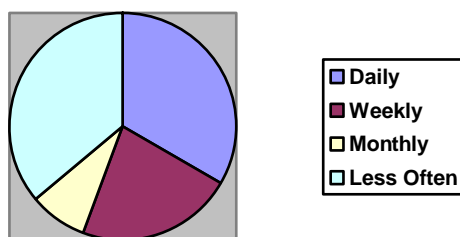
Where users live



How users get to the site



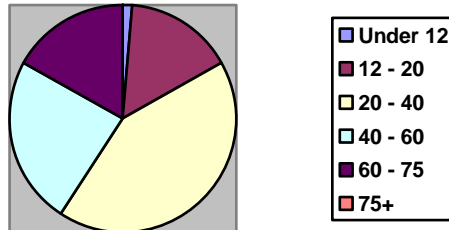
How often to they visit?



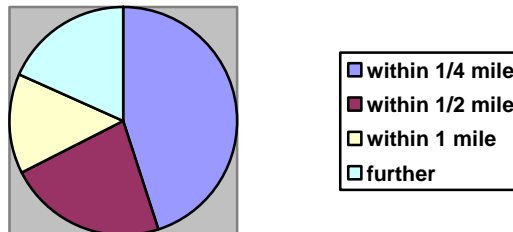
Natural and semi natural green spaces

72 people interviewed

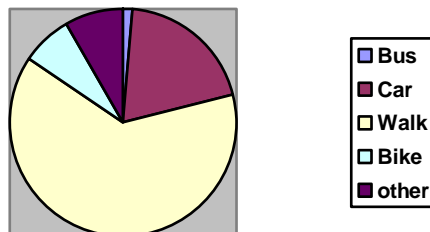
Age



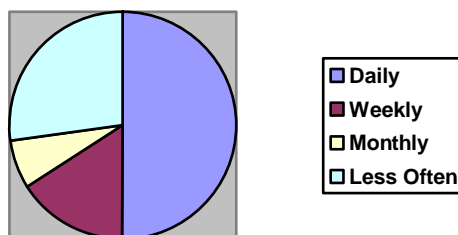
Where users live



How users get to the site



How often to they visit?

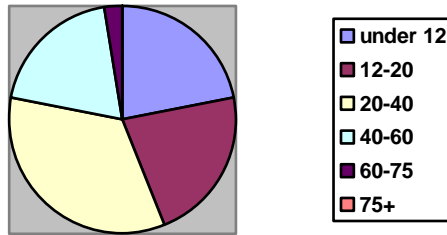


Outdoor Sports Facilities

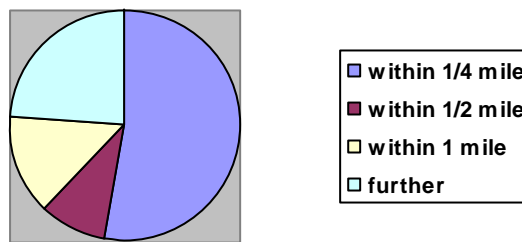
Total area of 124.43 hectares

42 people interviewed

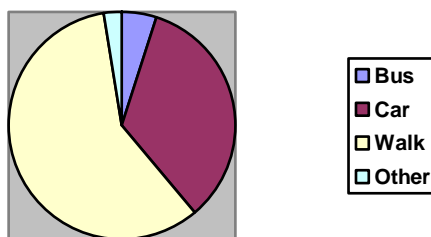
Age



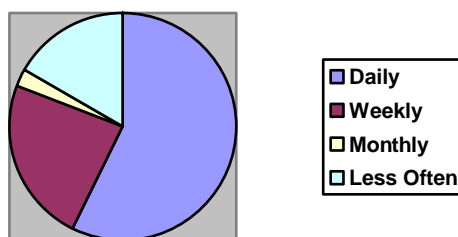
Where users live



How users get to the site



How often to they visit?

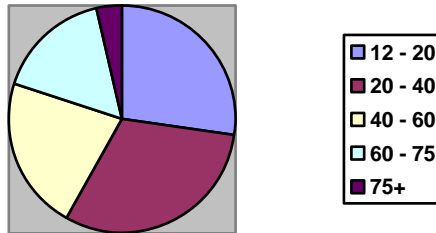


Provision for children & young people

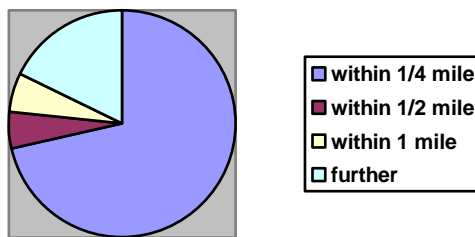
Total area of 7.37 hectares

57 people interviewed

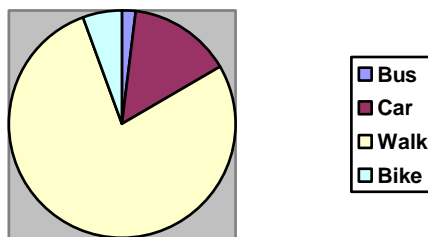
Age



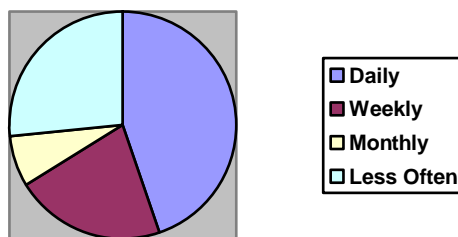
Where users live



How users get to the site



How often to they visit?

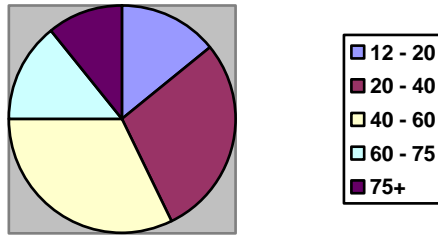


Allotments

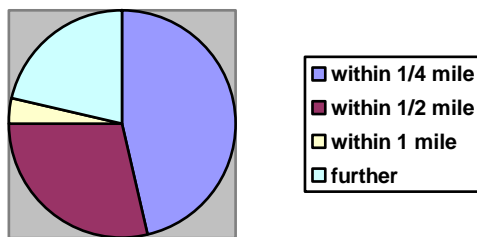
Total area of 35.88 hectares

28 people interviewed

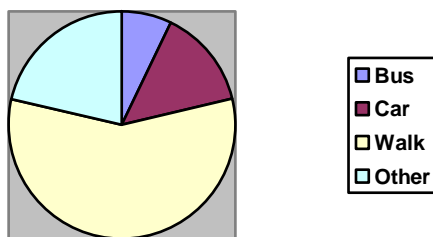
Age



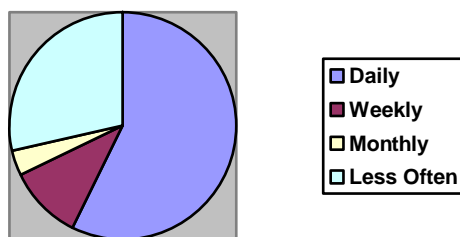
Where users live



How users get to the site



How often to they visit?

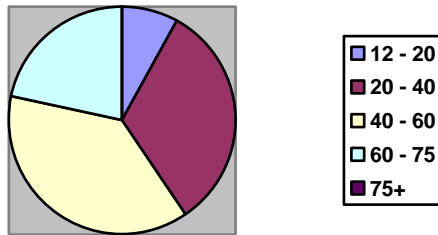


Cemeteries and disused burial grounds

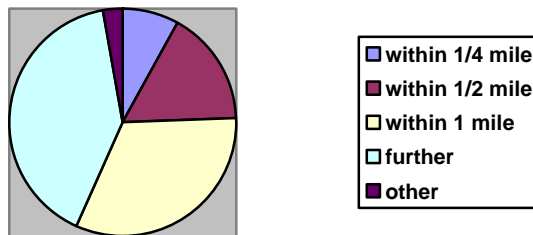
Total area of 27.10 hectares

42 people interviewed

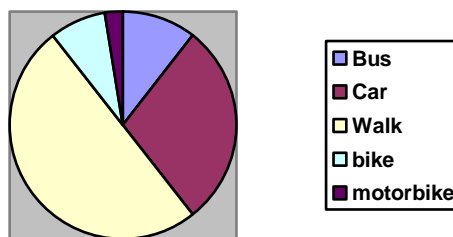
Age



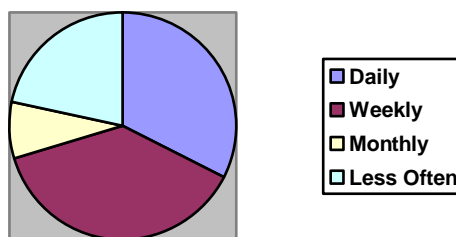
Where users live



How users get to the site



How often to they visit?

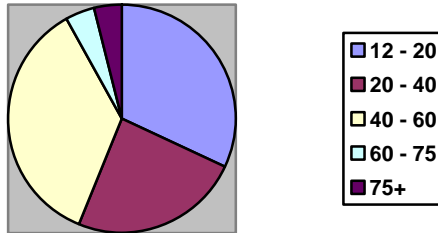


Civic Squares and spaces

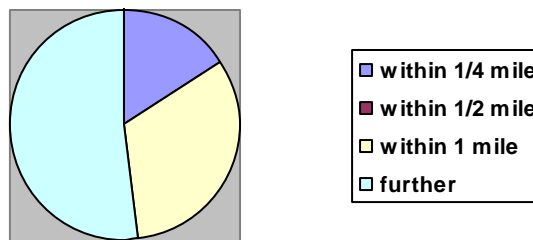
Total area of 1.02 hectares

25 people interviewed

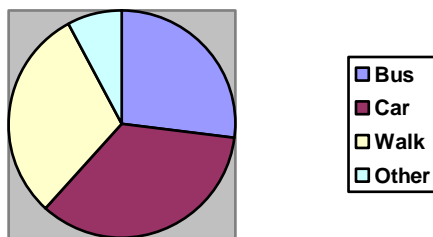
Age



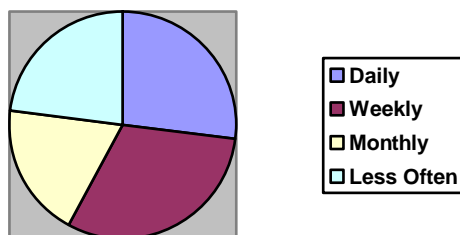
Where users live



How users get to the site



How often to they visit?

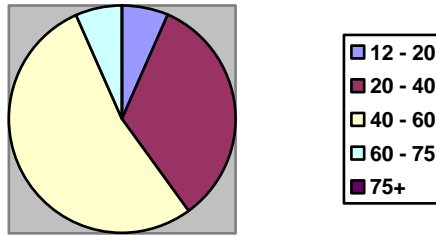


Common Land

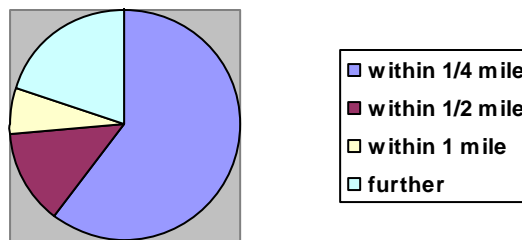
Total area of 189.75 hectares

15 people interviewed

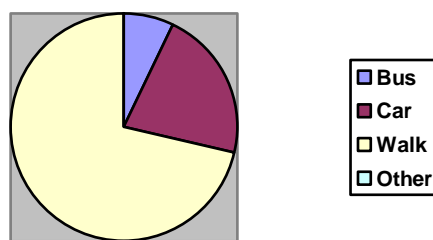
Age



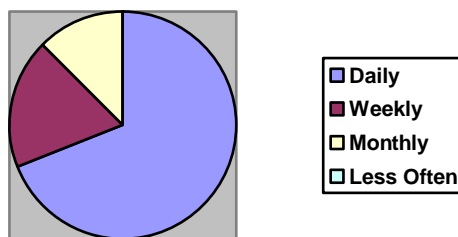
Where users live



How users get to the site



How often to they visit?



Open Space Audit Report

Annex 3

Site Furniture

Parks and Gardens – 15 sites across the City					
Furniture	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Litter bins	11	1	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bins & seats good condition, shelters often occupied by alcoholics – The Arboretum • Not enough seating around the lake area – Boultham Park • All good condition – Birchwood Nature Park • Bins in good condition and emptied frequently, lots of seating, picnic tales look nice – Hartsholme • Good wooden seats and modern contemporary garden – Medieval Bishop's Palace • Dog litter bins well used – Whittons Park • Litter bins and seats OK – The Wong
Seating	11	2	2	3.2	
Picnic tables	3	7	5	0	
Shelters	4	6	5	0	
Dog litter bins	8	4	3	2.7	
Natural & Semi Natural Greenspace – 52 sites across the City					
Furniture	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Litter bins	4	19	29	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog litter bin overfull– Nettleham & Searby Road • Good information centre – Swanholme Lakes • Litter bin is next to road not on site – Bracebride Corner • Basic benches – Witham East & South Delph • Two dog bins on perimeter – East of Fulmar Road • 2 bins on lampposts, one dog litter bin only – West of Arboretum, Vine Street
Seating	2	23	27	0	
Picnic tables	0	22	30	0	
Shelters	0	22	30	0	
Dog litter bins	8	15	29	0	
Outdoor Sports Facilities – 38 sites across the City					
Furniture	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Litter bins	18	6	4	3.56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,456 seats – Lincoln City Football Club • Good apparatus – Usher Junior School • 7 picnic tables – Lesley Manser School • 1 bin, 2 benches, 6 picnic tables all in good condition – Bracebridge Junior School • Viewing seats for outdoor pitches – University of Lincoln • 4 bins need emptying – Clayton Sports Ground
Seating	18	5	15	4.07	
Picnic tables	10	13	15	3	
Shelters	7	13	18	3.1	
Dog litter bins	3	18	17	2.17	

Open Space Audit Report

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All furniture within Club House • Shelter and Pavilion in good condition – Ruston Marconi Sports Ground • Need more litter bins, only 1 seat and 3 dog bins for whole area – King George V Playing Field • No litter bins, 3 seats in park and 3 in bowling area. Pavilion for bowlers only – Monks Abbey Recreation Ground • 10 benches all in good condition, dining tables outside club house – Eastgate Lawn Tennis Club
--	--	--	--	--	--

Provision for Children & Young People – 27 sites across the City

Furniture	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Litter bins	22	5	0	2.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bins in poor condition – Coleridge Gardens • Litter bins are old and scruffy, seating includes a wooden bench – Wickham Gardens • Litter bins in very poor condition – Pullen Close • Litter bins and seating in 'fair' condition – St Andrew's Close • Litter bins not emptied – Archer St • Bins need emptying – Keadby Close • More litter bins, seating, picnic tables and dog bins needed – Manor Leas • 1 bin always full, seating would be useful for older people – Syston Grove • Bins not emptied, 2 new seats and bench, but more needed – Jasmin Road • Bins need emptying, shelter in need of some attention – Queens Park • Litter bin also used as dog fouling bin – Greenbank Drive • Very poor littered site – Tower Crescent • Picnic tables, shelters and dog bins needed – Victoria St • Reasonable seating, dog bin off site – St Faith's
Seating	18	9	0	2.41	
Picnic tables	0	26	0	1.29	
Shelters	1	25	1	1.14	
Dog litter bins	6	20	1	2.2	

Allotments – 17 sites across the City

Furniture	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Litter bins	0	9	8	1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheds & greenhouses – Clarence Steet A • Sheds & greenhouses – Clarence Street B • Dilapidated sheds – Ermine • Sheds and greenhouses. There should be some dog bins – Hykeham
Seating	1	8	7	1.3	
Picnic tables	0	9	7	1.0	
Shelters	3	7	7	2.0	
Dog litter	0	10	7	0	

Open Space Audit Report

bins					Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter & dog bins really needed, but not seating – Tritton Road
Cemeteries and Disused Burial Grounds – 21 sites across the City					
Furniture	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Litter bins	11	6	4	4.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large bins and water tank with mains supply – Canwick New Cemetery Shelter but no seat! – Eastgate Cemetery Lots and in good condition – Crematorium Small bin on lamp post, wooden benches in OK condition – St Martins Old Burial Ground Tombstones only – St Mary Le Wigford
Seating	11	7	3	4.4	
Picnic tables	0	14	7	0	
Shelters	2	12	7	0	
Dog litter bins	3	11	7	0	
Civic Squares and Spaces – 13 sites across the City					
Furniture	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Seating	11	0	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bins in reasonable condition and good steel benches– City Square There are picnic tables on Brayford Wharf South and South High St Magistrates Court Are City Squares and Spaces only for Sunny Days? Are dogs not taken to City Squares and spaces?
Picnic tables	2	7	4	4	
Shelters	0	9	4	4	
Dog litter bins	0	9	4	1	
Litter bins	9	1	3	3.14	
Common Land – 3 sites across the City					
Furniture	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Litter bins	2	1	0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was only one litter bin on site but there were another two near by. No shelters, but 3 wind breakers for the horses. No dog litter bins on site, but there are some by the entrances – West Common Seating at Queens Park and Viking Way area, but vandalised on common – South Common Scruffy looking football changing rooms – Cowpaddle
Seating	1	1	1	0	
Picnic tables	0	2	1	0	
shelters	1	2	0	0	
Dog litter bins	0	1	2	0	

Open Space Audit Report

Play Equipment

Parks and Gardens – 15 sites across the City					
Play equipment	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Toddler swings	4	7	4	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment is all tasteful, attractive and fun, imaginative too. A good variety of other equipment – The Arboretum Some children's swings are missing but the ones that are there are good. There is also a see saw with one seat missing – Boultham Park Includes balancing play equipment – Hartsholme Park Toddler swings not operative. Site includes some nodding horses. The rest of the equipment appears to be well maintained – Whittons Park
Toddler rockers	2	9	4	4.5	
Children's swings	4	7	4	4.3	
Slides	5	5	5	4.5	
Climbing frames	5	5	5	4.5	

Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace – 52 sites across the City

Play equipment	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Toddler swings	0	52	0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All taken away due to vandalism – Witham Leas
Toddler rockers	0	52	0	0	
Children's Swings	0	52	0	0	
Slides	0	52	0	0	
Climbing frames	0	52	0	0	

Outdoor Sports Facilities – 38 sites across the City

Play equipment	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Toddler swings	2	18	18	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird feeder – Hartsholme Primary Obstacle course – Bishop King School Play Equipment – Lowfields School Logs to climb on in field – Bracebridge Junior No play equipment except goal posts – Clayton Sports Field No play equipment other than for sport – Lindum Sports Field Chain rope – Lancaster School
Toddler rockers	2	18	18	0	
Children's Swings	2	18	18	0	
Slides	1	19	18	0	
Climbing frames	5	13	20	0	

Provision for Children & Young People – 27 sites across the City

Play equipment	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Toddler	15	12	0	2.87	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old and gloomy – Colteridge Gardens

Open Space Audit Report

swings					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken swings, graffiti on slides and climbing frame – Nene Road • Slides are part of a wooden climbing frame. There is a metal climbing frame, a seesaw and a mini 2 person roundabout – Wickham Gardens • Swings missing, new frame and slide – Mildmay Street • Equipment is old and nasty – Pullen Close • Some climbing frames recently renovated – St Andrew’s Street • Small climbing frame as part of slide approach appears to have greasy substance on decking – Archer Street • Swings wrapped around frame. Dirty unknown substance on slide. Broken glass around climbing frame. Roundabout, broken glass nearby – Keadby Close • Climbing frame is a nice size. There is also a car and spinner – Manor Leas • Main concern with residents was that the equipment would be vandalised in evening by teenagers. Although many grandparents would like to bring their grandchildren to play on equipment – Syston Grove • Equipment needs repair and the graffiti needs painting over – Bristol Drive • Equipment includes monkey bars and a 5 seat rocking horse – Queens Park • Monkey bars and tyre swing – Fontwell Crescent • Swings wrapped around top of pole. Old mattress dumped – Tower Crescent • All equipment a good size and in reasonable condition, but could do with a lick of paint – Victoria Street • Equipment missing, not replaced when vandalised – Sudbrooke Drive
Toddler rockers	7	19	1	3.1	
Children’s Swings	14	13	0	2.81	
Slides	20	7	0	3.26	
Climbing frames	21	5	1	3.1	

Allotments – 17 sites across the City

Play equipment	Sites with	Sites without	Don’t know	Sat Score	Comments
Toddler swings	0	0	0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments relating to play equipment
Toddler rockers	0	0	0	0	
Children’s Swings	0	0	0	0	
Slides	0	0	0	0	
Climbing	0	0	0	0	

Open Space Audit Report

frames					
Cemeteries and Disused Burial Grounds – 21 sites across the City					
Play equipment	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Toddler swings	0	0	0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no sites within the specific question showing play equipment – however it is reported that the Crematorium does have a play area.
Toddler rockers	0	0	0	0	
Children's Swings	0	0	0	0	
Slides	0	0	0	0	
Climbing frames	0	0	0	0	
Civic Squares and Spaces – 13 sites across the City					
Play equipment	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Toddler swings	0	0	0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no play equipment in any of the City Squares and Spaces. However we know that many of the City Squares are used for informal play such as City Square for Skateboarding and the University site by students to kick a ball around.
Toddler rockers	0	0	0	0	
Children's Swings	0	0	0	0	
Slides	0	0	0	0	
Climbing frames	0	0	0	0	
Common Land – 3 sites across the City					
Play equipment	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Toddler swings	1	1	1	5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The play equipment is by Queens Park School on South Park – technically separate from the common, but the equipment is of a very high standard and scored very well – South Common
Toddler rockers	1	1	1	5.0	
Children's Swings	1	1	1	5.0	
Slides	1	1	1	5.0	
Climbing frames	1	1	1	5.0	

Access

Parks and Gardens – 15 sites across the City					
Access	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Direction	6	6	3	2.85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle route signs specify 'Arboretum'

Open Space Audit Report

signs to site					from uphill
Bus stop nearby	11	2	2	3.67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 minutes walk away – Hartsholme Park
Wheelchair	10	2	3	3.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uninspiring, even as bus stops go – The Arboretum
Pushchair	9	3	3	3.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible yes, but cyclists are not supposed to ride through – The Arboretum
Cycle	7	5	3	4.33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wheelchair access along main paths – Boultham Park Some parts accessible – Birchwood Nature Park Wheelchairs and pushchairs could have some difficulties – Temple Gardens Site is down ancient stone steps, poor access for many people – Medieval Bishops Palace There is a ramp for pushchairs and wheelchairs, but the ground is uneven – St Nicholas Gardens Very steep ramp – The Wong Wheelchair users would struggle – Lincoln Castle Limited access – St Mark's Gardens

Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace – 52 sites across the City

Access	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Direction signs to site	6	39	7	1.55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs only from Skellingthorpe Road – Hartsholme Park
Bus stop nearby	28	16	8	2.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2/3 public footpath signs – Land rear of Hill Cottage
Wheelchair	15	30	7	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle path signs from the City Centre – Witham East and South Delph
Pushchair	19	25	8	1.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overgrown signs stop them being read – Skewbridge Swath
Cycles	21	22	9	2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access difficult, but possible – Witham Valley South Poor – Hobbler's Hole Public footpath is available to wheeled vehicles but the rest of the site is not – Land rear of Hill Cottage Gate difficult and path overgrown – Burton Hall Steps and slopes only – West Cliff Possibly on mountain bikes – Bennett's Field Accessible but pathway on riverside, not the cycle track, very poor – Witham Marshes Steep hills, not suitable for access – Bracebridge Old Clay Pit Not really, no proper installed system – Skewbridge Swath Footpaths only – Land East of Fulmar Road

Open Space Audit Report

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With difficulty with a pushchair or pram – Land East of Uffington Ave • Only on open field area – Land adjacent to Tritton Road
--	--	--	--	--	--

Outdoor Sports Facilities – 38 sites across the City

Access	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Direction signs to site	13	14	11	4.67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two signs – Carholme Golf Course, West Common • Sign for bowling alley but not for range – Washingborough Golf Range • Not enough signs – The Usher School • Sign saying MOD – Sobraon Barracks • Prevented by bylaws – Carholme Golf Course, West Common • No cycle routes – Lincoln City Football Club • Locked 24/7 – Myle Cross Junior School • There is a lot of gravel and no cycle racks – Usher Junior School • Site accessible but not the clubhouse – Clayton Sports Ground • Mostly gravel footpaths through the centre – King George V Playing Field • Difficult from main entrance – Skellingthorpe Road • Wheelchair users would find it steep and uneven and broken glass present – Monks Abbey • Level but gravel – Eastgate Lawn Tennis Club
Bus stop nearby	17	7	14	3.4	
Wheelchair	25	1	12	3.3	
Pushchair	26	1	11	3.38	
Cycle	25	2	11	3.4	

Provision for Children and Young People – 27 sites across the City

Access	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Direction signs to site	1	26	0	1.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unless you lived very near, you wouldn't know it was there – Coleridge Gardens • Very difficult to locate – Manor Leas • Very difficult to locate – Syston Grove • Used to be called Birchwood Green – Jasmin Road • Well sign posted – Victoria Street • Not sure if the gate is wide enough – Greenlands • Gate opens onto grass, making access difficult – Newark Road • Although accessible they are uneven and dangerous – Coleridge Gardens • Presumably it can be used by cycles as there are no signs to say it can't be? – Wickham Gardens • No pathways to seating – St Andrew's Street
Bus stop nearby	15	9	3	2.92	
Wheelchair	23	3	1	2.72	
Pushchair	25	1	1	2.89	
Cycle	24	3	0	2.93	

Open Space Audit Report

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of broken glass on and around site – Keadby Close • Restricted entry and no formal paths – Cedar Avenue • Okay for prams and cycles, but not for wheelchairs – Manor Leas • Good footpaths for wheelchairs and a regular cycle route – Syston Grove • Very poor footpaths – Tower Crescent • Good for prams and cycles, difficult for wheelchairs – Victoria Street
--	--	--	--	--	---

Allotments – 17 sites across the City

Access	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Direction signs to site	0	13	4	1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be notices at each end of the site – Hykeham Road • Steps – Burton Ridge • Main track is accessible, but not the allotments – Long Leys Road • Grass track, overgrown entrance, too uneven – Sincil Bank • Uneven ground, lots of broken glass – Tritton Road • Just about accessible for prams and pushchairs – Wragby Road
Bus stop nearby	10	3	4	3.0	
Wheelchair	5	9	3	1.2	
Pushchair	5	7	5	1.4	
Cycle	6	6	5	1.75	

Cemeteries and Disused Burial Grounds - 21 sites across the City

Access	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Direction signs to site	2	18	1	2.23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not very new and only inside the site – Newport Cemetery • Well signposted – Crematorium • Signs just outside the site – St Benedict's • Good bus route access to the sites • Access, but the gate is narrow – Canwick Old Cemetery • Cycling prohibited, gravel paths not ideal, but no obstructions – Canwick New Cemetery • Stone drive would make it very uncomfortable – Eastgate Cemetery • Entrances too narrow – St Martin's • Access to Church, but not to graves – All Saints Old Burial • Could do with handrails – St Swithin's • Steps up to area – St Benedict's
Bus stop nearby	17	2	2	4.72	
Wheelchair	15	3	3	3.54	
Pushchair	17	1	3	3.72	
Cycle	14	2	5	4.4	

Civic Squares and Spaces – 13 spaces across the City

Access	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Direction signs to site	6	4	3	3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the site to other parts of Lincoln – St Peter at Arches

Open Space Audit Report

Bus stop nearby	9	3	1	4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steep Hill bus – Steep Hill Junction • No cycling between 10am & 4pm – City Square • All use it – Brayford Wharf South
Wheelchair	11	1	1	4.16	
Pushchair	12	0	1	3.71	
Cycle	9	3	1	3.5	
Common Land – 3 sites across the City					
Access	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Direction signs to site	1	1	1	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No directional signage to the Commons • Access with difficulty, cycles not allowed under the bylaws – West Common • Push chairs with difficulty – Cowpaddle
Bus stop nearby	2	0	1	4.0	
Wheelchair	1	2	0	1.0	
Pushchair	2	1	0	1.0	
Cycle	2	0	1	0	

Wildlife

Parks & Gardens – 15 sites across the City					
Wild Life	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Birds	10	2	3	3.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds are hard to spot when trees are leafy (except ducks, mallards, moorhens, etc). Kingfisher and woodpecker seen and photographed by someone I met. Squirrels in abundance. Butterflies and dragonflies. Flowers in rough areas and banks only – The Arboretum • Ducks and squirrels, insects mainly round lake and there were very few wild flowers – Boutham Park • Birds nesting boxes, squirrels, bats dragonflies, wild flowers in wooded area – Hartsholme Park • No evidence of wild flowers – Medieval Bishops Palace • Very few wild flowers, normal urban birdlife and dragonflies – Whittons Park
Mammals	7	5	3	3.0	
Insects	9	2	4	2.6	
Wild flowers	8	3	4	1.6	

Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace – 52 sites across the City

Wild Life	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Birds	41	2	9	3.43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are hares, rabbits, teasel, nettles, buttercups, Himalayan balsam, male fern, rosebay, willow herb and mullein – Cross O Cliff • Plenty of birds eating from fields, dragonflies, limited wild flowers,
Mammals	28	6	18	3.1	
Insects	39	0	13	3.5	
Wild	35	3	14	3.14	

Open Space Audit Report

flowers					<p>fewer than expected – Witham Valley South</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of foxes – Land North of Doddington Road • Geese, blackbirds, rabbits – Land East of Foal Close • Kestrel, sparrow hawks, jay, crows etc. squirrels, rabbit, deer and fox – Bennett’s Field • Crows and wood pigeon, not many wild flowers – Witham South • Swans, ducks, coots and squirrels – Witham Leas • Insects consisted of the usual flies and river insects, not many wild flowers – Bracebridge Corner • Very few ducks, squirrels and numerous species of wild flowers – Land East of Fulmar Road • Plenty of trees – Fen Plantation • Wild strawberries, daisies, dandelions and small wild flowers – Land West of Arboretum / Vine St
---------	--	--	--	--	--

Outdoor Sports Facilities – 38 sites across the City

Wild Life	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Birds	22	6	10	3.09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds in trees and formal planting – Washinborough Golf Range • Blackbirds, starlings, rabbits and dragonfly – Ashby Avenue • Some birds in trees – St Giles Infants School • Frogs and tadpoles in pond and daisies and daffodils – The Usher School • Rabbits, moles and wildflower area – Lesley Manser School • Crows, geese, hedgehogs and deer, caterpillars, butterflies and dandelions – Bishop King School • No birds at all – University of Lincoln • Crows – Ruston Marconi Sports Ground • Rabbit, dragonfly, wild flowers along drain boundary – Skellinthorpe Road Playing Field
Mammals	8	15	15	2.25	
Insects	16	10	12	3.2	
Wild flowers	11	14	13	3.66	

Provision for Children and Young People – 27 sites across the City

Wild Life	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Birds	18	9	0	4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 ladybird – Greenlands • Squirrels on site – Wickham Gardens • No wildlife seen – St Andrews
Mammals	4	19	4	0	
Insects	14	11	2	3.75	

Open Space Audit Report

Wild flowers	7	20	0	1.75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close • Squirrels and dragonflies – Keadby Close • Overgrown and untidy – Manor Leas • Ducks and swans on pond – Syston Grove • Daisies and dandelions – Bristol Drive • Blackbirds, gulls, mice, butterflies, similar to a hay field – Jasmin Road • Magpies, sparrows, rabbits and moles – Queen Park • Berries on the shrubs for the birds, maintained shrub borders – Fontwel Crescent • Sat on the grass and watched the beetles – Millman Road
--------------	---	----	---	------	--

Allotments – 17 sites across the City

Wild Life	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Birds	13	1	3	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red dead nettle, hawsbit, southisle – Clarence Street A • Nature is evolving on most of the site even to the benefit of these categories of wildlife – Greenbank Drive • Wild flowers on disused plots and boundaries – Sincil Bank • Various birds, flowers and insects, Squirrels and foxes – Tritton Road
Mammals	6	6	5	4.3	
Insects	12	1	4	3.2	
Wild flowers	13	1	3	2.6	

Cemeteries and Disused Burial Grounds – 21 sites across the City

Wild Life	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Birds	17	2	2	2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magpies, pigeons, weasel, squirrel, moles, midges, redshank. High level of maintenance resulting in few wild flowers – Canwick Road Old • Magpies and rabbits – Canwick New • Magpies, crows and pigeons – St Swithins • Formal planting – Crematorium • Bird muck – pigeons – St Martin's • Blackbirds, squirrels, magpies, dove, bees and beetles – St Nicholas • Yarrow, plantain and hawkshir – St Botolph's • Pigeons – All Saints • Lots of squirrels, butterflies, daisies and buttercups – St Helens • Pigeons – St Paul in the Bail
Mammals	8	10	3	2.0	
Insects	13	5	3	2.0	
Wild flowers	10	9	2	2.0	

Open Space Audit Report

					• Pigeons – St Benedict's
Civic Squares and Spaces – 13 spaces across the City					
Wild Life	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Birds	6	3	4	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of pigeons – City Square • Amongst the borders – Brayford Wharf South • Pigeons – Exchequergate
Mammals	0	5	8	0	
Insects	1	3	9	0	
Wild flowers	1	4	8	0	
Common Land – 3 sites across the City					
Wild Life	Sites with	Sites without	Don't know	Sat Score	Comments
Birds	3	0	0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland and heath land types, including kestrel, yellow hammer, thrush. Many grassland butterflies. Wrong time of year for wild flowers – South Common
Mammals	3	0	0	0	
Insects	3	0	0	0	
Wild flowers	3	0	0	0	