Colney Heath Group (CH Group)

Appeal by Brett Aggregates Limited

Land at former Hatfield Aerodrome Hatfield Hertfordshire AL4 0JB

Ref. App/M1900/W/24/3346607

Ellenbrook Park User Study Winter 2025-6

M.F. Rawlins

1.00 Summary

1.01 To understand the use of Ellenbrook Park the CH group undertook a user study during January-March 2026, the study was by way of an interview undertaken on site with 312 interviews being completed so providing a high level of confidence in the data obtained.

1.02 The most important entrances used were Albatross Way Hatfield, then Barlow Hatfield and by Notcutts Garden Centre Smallford. The other Smallford entrances recorded lower level of use. The northern entrances near Beech Farm and Coopers Green Lane recorded very low levels of use.

1.03 The user study identified 20 people traveling through the park from one side to the other, however due to the short daylight hours we have a concern on the reliability of this data and feel it could be underestimate.

1.04 The southern routes in the park recorded the greatest levels of use, while the routes in northeast corner recorded the lowest levels of use. Over 80% of users used routes within the application site area and almost 60% of users using routes which pass either end of the proposed lagoon site during their time in the park.

1.05 Walking was recorded as the largest mode of travel in the park at 93% of all users with runners and cyclists being the remainder, with almost 60% of park users recorded as walking or exercising a dog. The average time spent in the park is just over 60 minutes with over 90% of users using the park either daily or weekly.

1.06 Park users were requested to provide reasons for the route selection of the day of the interview this identified the length of route was the most important factor followed by a quiet or secluded route. With proximity to their home or place work, suitable walking or cycling surface and to be able to access wildlife being recorded in mid- range. The lower scoring reasons included good natural surveillance, social reasons, proximity to car parking and the most direct route to the desired destination.

1.07 The CH group user study also needed to understand how the proposed quarry might impact on or change future users of the park. The questions were designed to find out how the proposed quarry might change peoples choice of route in the park compared with current usage.

1.08 All the topics were carried from the earlier question '*reasons for current route selection*' and received a level of responses resulting in they broadly remained in similar order as previously. But two quarry related responses topped the number of all responses the wish to avoid crossing quarry roads and to avoid the active quarry areas. This has wide implications on the use of the park going forward, any proposed layout and any public access strategy.

1.09 The final question was to obtain information about additional needs and requirements - these included medical needs. This section also contained an open question to pick up any topics not recorded elsewhere.

1.10 The questions which looked to the future highlighted concerns about the impact the quarry would have peoples use of the quarry and therefore with possible health implications. Once the issues related to the crossing roads within the park and wishing to avoid the active areas the factors involved in their basic selection of routes did not change from the current factors involved in route selection.

1.11 The 14.7% of people who recorded a health-related issues, this has the potential to significantly impact on the path and gate design across the site as well other safety related issues. This also applies to the 22% of people who either have children or are sometimes responsible for children and their safety.

1.12 Over 37% of all park users recorded concerns about the dogs or other dogs' behaviour in the park which also has design implications.

1.13 In the open question a wide range of topics were recorded with over 100 responses, of particular note is 18 people who commented about the northeast corner and its unsuitability, this also is reflected in routes using data with only 3.98% of users using this route, there being only one in this area.

2.00 Introduction

2.01 Following the Secretary of State Letter (SoS) and the inspectors case management conference (CMC) the CH group agreed that additional evidence was required on the use of the park and why people choose routes and areas within the park, this also reflects paras 2, 2a and 6a in SoS letter of 11th November 2025. CH group also needed to understand how any quarrying would impact future park users without knowing Brett's proposals in advance. It was very clear from the start obtaining high quality data during the winter would be very challenging, the CH group having already undertaken their previous survey in mid-winter.

3.00 Methodology used

3.01 Due to nature of the information required, the CH group agreed the survey would be conducted by way of an interview with park users. However, the group needed to be sure that we were interviewing park users therefore the interviews would need to be conducted within the park. Due the time of year and the likely weather conditions in the park and the strong likelihood of interviewing commuters, a target time of 3mins per interview was set.

3.02 A factor which had to be factored into the design of the user study was that we were using volunteers to undertake the work many, if not most, were lacking any previous experience in conducting interviews and or market research. All recorders were provided with a set of notes indicating the methods to be used and standards required (appendix 2).

3.03 The questions and the interview pack were developed during December 2025 and by Christmas 2025 a pilot survey was ready for evaluation. As we were undertaking interviews some form of ID was going to required, on reflection the best way was to use Hatfield Town Council and Colney Heath Parish Council logos as semi formal ID. The use of these council logos was later approved by both councils. The interviewers would be limited to committee members of resident's associations or members of CH group.

3.04 The pilot survey was undertaken between Christmas and the New Year 2025, and following analysis of the results, some minor adjustments were made, and additional question added. The pilot also confirmed that the target 3mins was achievable but demonstrated the need for interviewers to carry additional information for those whose English was not their first language or for those who requested additional information.

3.05 The final pack contained maps and questions in waterproof laminated flip chart, which is recommended to be handed to the interviewee, so the recorder is hands free to enable him/her to record the responses on separate recording sheet, see appendix 1.

3.06 The early analysis of the results indicated that a large number of interviews would be required to achieve a reasonable level of confidence in the data. The user study started on Monday 5th January 2026 with the aim of completing by the end of February 2026, hoping this would provide a suitable number of responses and provide the interviewers with an opportunity to avoid the worst winter weather as the interviews will be conducted outdoors. There was a concern from the start that the study would miss commuters through the park in both morning and evenings due to the short daylight hours. We have also learnt from previous work that some people walk their dogs prior to going to work in the mornings, these would also be missed.

3.07 The questions focused on three topics.

Current entrances used, routes used and areas of use.

Reasons why people use their current route.

Factors which might cause or wish them to change their route in the event of the quarry, and special factors which could or will impact on their choice of route in the event of quarrying taking place.

3.08 Current entrances used, routes used and areas of use.

The CH group knew from previous work in the park that people go to the park and travel through the park for four reasons – relaxation, health related, dog walking and commuting to work or school. Obtaining reliable data on commuting in the winter was clearly going to be difficult due short day light hours and ground conditions in the park being very wet and muddy in places. We understand that people are in the park from 5.00 in the morning, it was clearly not possible to interview people in the dark at that time in morning, and the winter evenings would not be much easier.

3.09 On balance it was decided that the best evidence we could achieve would be to record which entrance people entered the park by and which entrance they propose to leave the park by. This would enable us to determine if people are travelling through the park or using a broadly circular route, so the first two questions were –

3.10 ***Q1*** *Which entrance did you use to enter the country park today?*

Q2 *Which exit do you plan to leave the country park by?*

3.11 The next information we required was to have a better understanding of what routes people use within the park. From our first study we know the paths people use but not how people use to link them together to form a route. We have previously tried asking people to describe their route but proved unworkable due to time constraints recording the information and later issues relating to the analysis of the data afterwards.

3.12 A map-based system was tested and proved satisfactory, this formed the basis of this part of the user study. Using local knowledge and our data from the previous survey we were able to prepare a map with major routes shown in colour for the interviewee to select the most appropriate route or routes. The route used question was finalised as –

Q3 *Which Route/s best describes your planned route today?*

It is understood that your route may not fit these routes exactly but please select the most appropriate or combination of several routes.

3.13 Reasons why people use their current route.

We needed evidence to effectively respond to SoS letter of 11th November 2025 and particularly para 2a, 2b and 6b. and most importantly we required robust data to assess any future proposal against and provide the supporting evidence.

3.14 Time in winter weather was always going to be an issue, so a simple selection of a number of reasons from a prepared list was considered the most appropriate way forward both for speed in the field and later analysis. The ranking of the choices was considered but rejected due to time limitations.

3.15 At first a long list possible of reasons was prepared but this was reduced to reflect known park usage and the formal planning guidelines including ACT Advice note- Active travel and sustainable development, WRAT, HCC PRoW bridleway standards.

3.16 The final question and options were –

Q4 *What aspects did you consider when selecting your route today? Please select the* ***4*** *most important factors.*

A	*Access to appropriate wildlife habitat*
B	*Good natural surveillance*
C	*Length of route - duration*
D	*Proximity to car parking*
E	*Proximity to my home or place of work*
F	*Quiet or secluded route*
G	*Social reasons*
H	*Suitable walking, cycling, or mobility surface.*
I	*The most direct route to your destination*

3.17 Fundamental to improving east-west access and to the integration of park is understanding the level of usage or the demand on each route. Q3 provides part of the answer but additional information was considered necessary. So, two questions on the level of usage were included together with a validation question, as follows:

Q5 *How long do you expect to be within the country park today?*

Q6 how often do you visit the Country Park?

A	*Daily*
B	*Weekly*
C	*Monthly*
D	*Infrequently*
	When did you last visit the park

The validation question was a simple request as to when they were last in the park.

3.18 Factors which might cause or wish them to change their route in the event of the quarry, and special factors which could or will impact on their choice of route in the event of quarrying taking place.

3.19 To gain an understanding of how people's choice of routes might change, the list would broadly need to reflect the question in Q4, with additional questions as required without making the study too long. Following careful consideration only two extra elements were added.

3.20 Again, time in winter weather was always going to be an issue so a simple selection of a number of reasons from a prepared list was considered the most appropriate way forward both for speed in the field and later analysis. The ranking of the choices was considered but rejected due to time limitations. The final question was -

Q7 *There is a current application to quarry on part of Ellenbrook Country Park. The proposal includes the digging of lagoons, the crossing of bunds and haul roads (potential site plans are available within this pack).*

What aspects are you likely to consider when selecting any future route? Please select the ***4*** *most important factors*

A	*Access to appropriate wildlife habitat*
B	*Traffic free route- void crossing quarry roads*

C	*Good natural surveillance*
D	*Length of route - duration*
E	*Proximity to car parking*
F	*Proximity to my home or place of work*
G	*Quiet or secluded route*
H	*Social reasons*
I	*Suitable walking, cycling, or mobility surface.*
J	*The most direct route to your destination*
K	*To avoid the active quarry areas*

3.21 The earlier study had identified a number of special factors which needed to be considered as part of any public access strategy, these included health reasons, children and dogs. We also felt it would be beneficial if a final open question was included to allow people to note anything they felt was important in the route selection not previously covered.

***Q8** Additional factors which could impact your future use of Ellenbrook Country Park*	
A	*Do you or other members of your group suffer from disabilities e.g. mobility, sight, or hearing?*
B	*Do you have or are you sometimes responsible for young children?*
C	*Do you have or are you sometimes responsible for dog/s which have behavioural issues which could impact on the routes you are able to use?*
D	*Other factors which could influence your choice of route within Country Park – please state*

4.00 Analysis of the Results

4.01 The study period was from the 5th January to 2nd March 2026 with 313 interviews being completed over this period with over 85 hours being spent by the recorders in the park. The high number of interviews completed provides the CH group with high level of confidence in data provided.

4.02 Recorders were requested to record the number of declined interviews, the total number was 28, with varying reasons being recorded as people unable or willing to be interviewed these included-

Being with dogs including a nervous dog.
On phone
Lack of time
Required to get home due to incident at home.
Runners

One or more recorders included people they had missed due to them being busy undertaking another interview. On reflection the instructions were not clear on this point see appendix 2.

4.03 Recorders were also requested to record the weather at the time they were active in the park, they included within their weather notes the following occasions; –

Sun/sunny	17
Cloud/overcast	23
Windy	6
Cold	13
Dry	12
Drizzle/rain	9

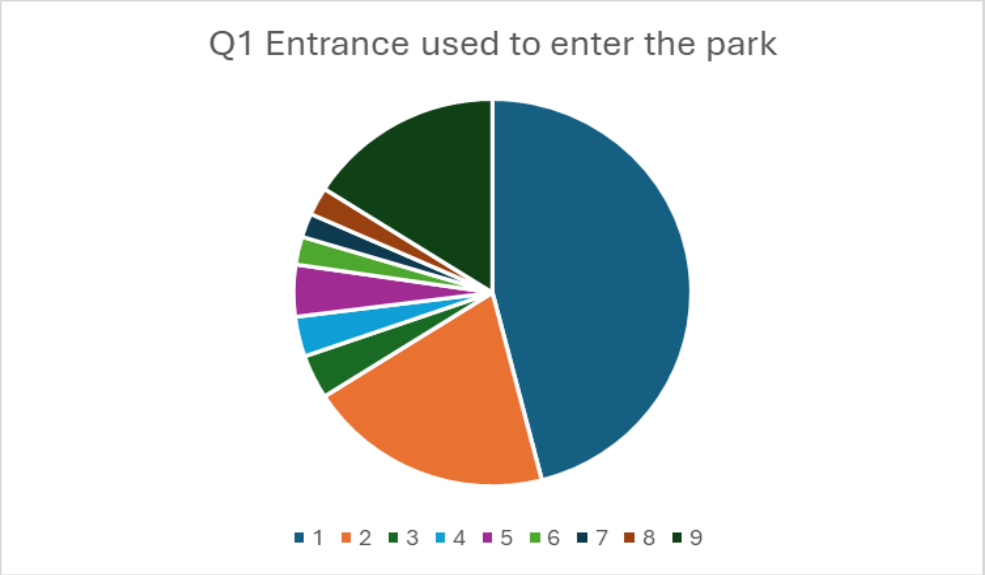
4.04 While this does not impact significantly on data it does demonstrate the levels of use of the park in all weathers. Our data under-records the amount of wet weather during the study period when compared with Rothamsted weather station and reflects the challenges of undertaking a user study in winter. The study period had to be extended into early Mach due adverse weather in January and February so that the study could obtain the desired number of interviews.

4.05 Recorders were requested to record the approximate location of the interview using the route colours. An analysis of this data indicates that location of the interviews broadly reflects the level of route usage bearing in mind that some locations have multi routes at some points. This analysis confirms the overall reliability of the study.

4.06 The CH group wishes to thank all members of the Ellenbrook Area and Smallford and Sleapshyde Residents Associations for all the work in undertaking the user study.

4.07 Entrances Used

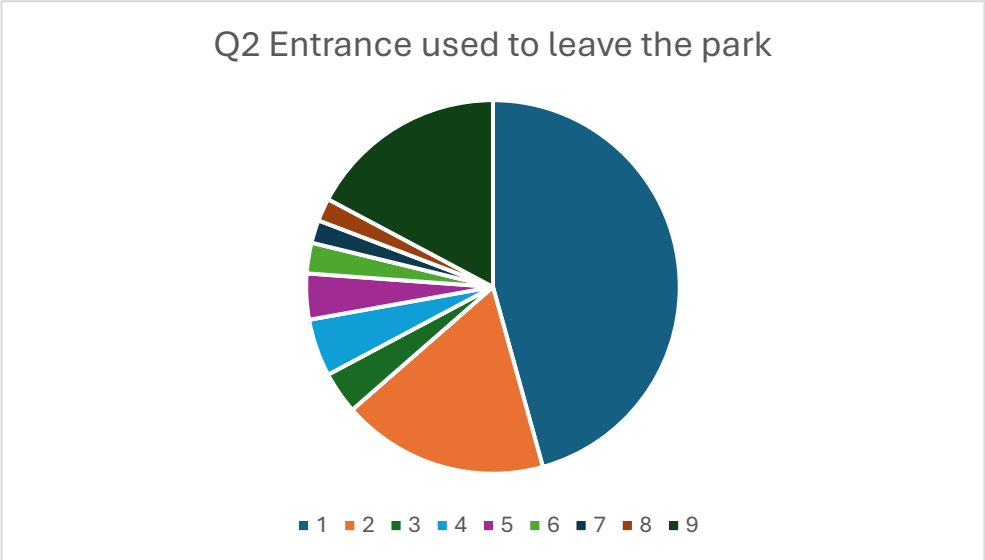
Q1 Which entrance did you use to enter the country park today?



Entrance used to enter the park	No. Respondents	Percentage
1 Hatfield, Albatross Way	138	46.00
2 Smallford, Notcutts Garden Centre	60	20.00
3 Smallford, Jove Gardens	11	3.67
4 Smallford, Lawrence Close	10	3.33
5 Smallford, BT trials site (south)	13	4.33
6 Smallford, BT trials site (north)	7	2.33
7 Beech Farm	6	2.00
8 Cooper's Green Lane	7	2.33
9 Hatfield, Barlow	48	16.00

2 respondents entered the park via Popefield Farm.

4.08 ***Q2*** Which exit do you plan to leave the country park by?



Entrance used to leave the park	No. Respondents	Percentage
1 Hatfield, Albatross Way	138	45.70
2 Smallford, Notcutts Garden Centre	54	17.60
3 Smallford, Jove Gardens	11	3.64
4 Smallford, Lawrence Close	15	4.97
5 Smallford, BT trials site (south)	12	3.97
6 Smallford, BT trials site (north)	8	2.65
7 Beech Farm	6	1.99
8 Cooper's Green Lane	6	1.99
9 Hatfield, Barlow	52	17.20

2 respondents left the park via Popefield Farm

4.09 Analysis

For both entering and leaving the park Hatfield Albatross Way (no.1) was the most important entrance followed by Hatfield Barlow (no.9) and Smallford near Notcutts Garden Centre (no.2). To some extent the Smallford entrances are interchangeable depending upon where you live on Smallford or where you are able to park as many users have indicated parking being a factor. The northern entrances Beech Farm (no.7) and Cooper's Green Lane (no.8) consistency record low levels of use which broadly reflects the low number of people living near these entrances.

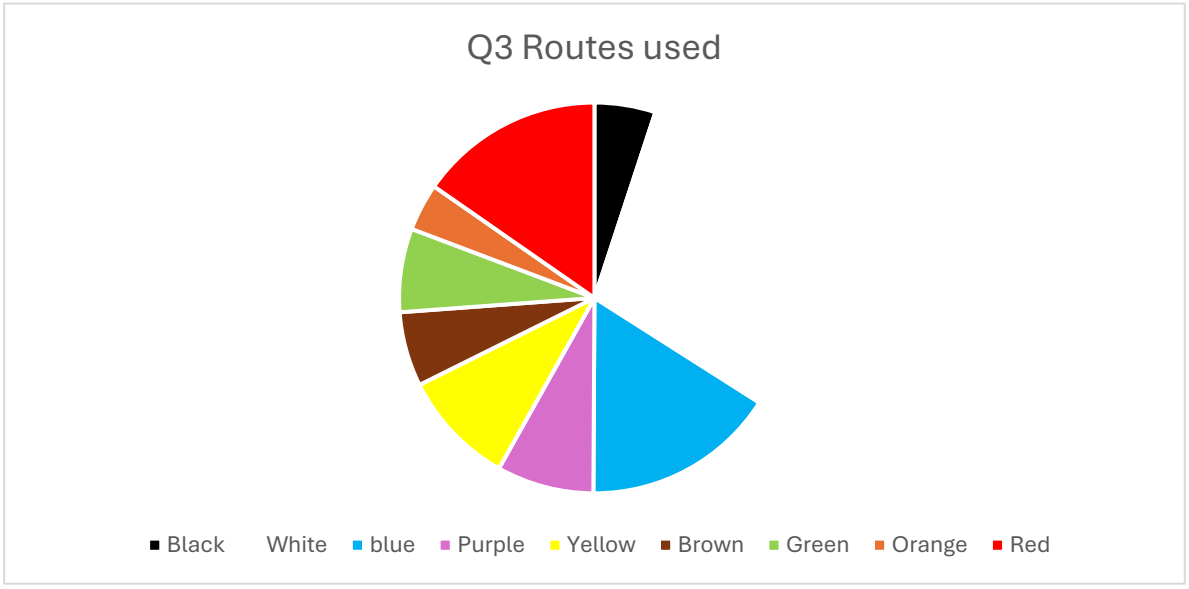
Entry Entrance	Exit entrance used – shaded green indicates cross park travel								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	124	4	2			2			8
2	5	49	2	1	1	1			1
3	2		7	2					
4	1	1	1	7					
5				2	11				
6	1		1	1		4			
7							6		
8								6	1
9	5	1				1			50

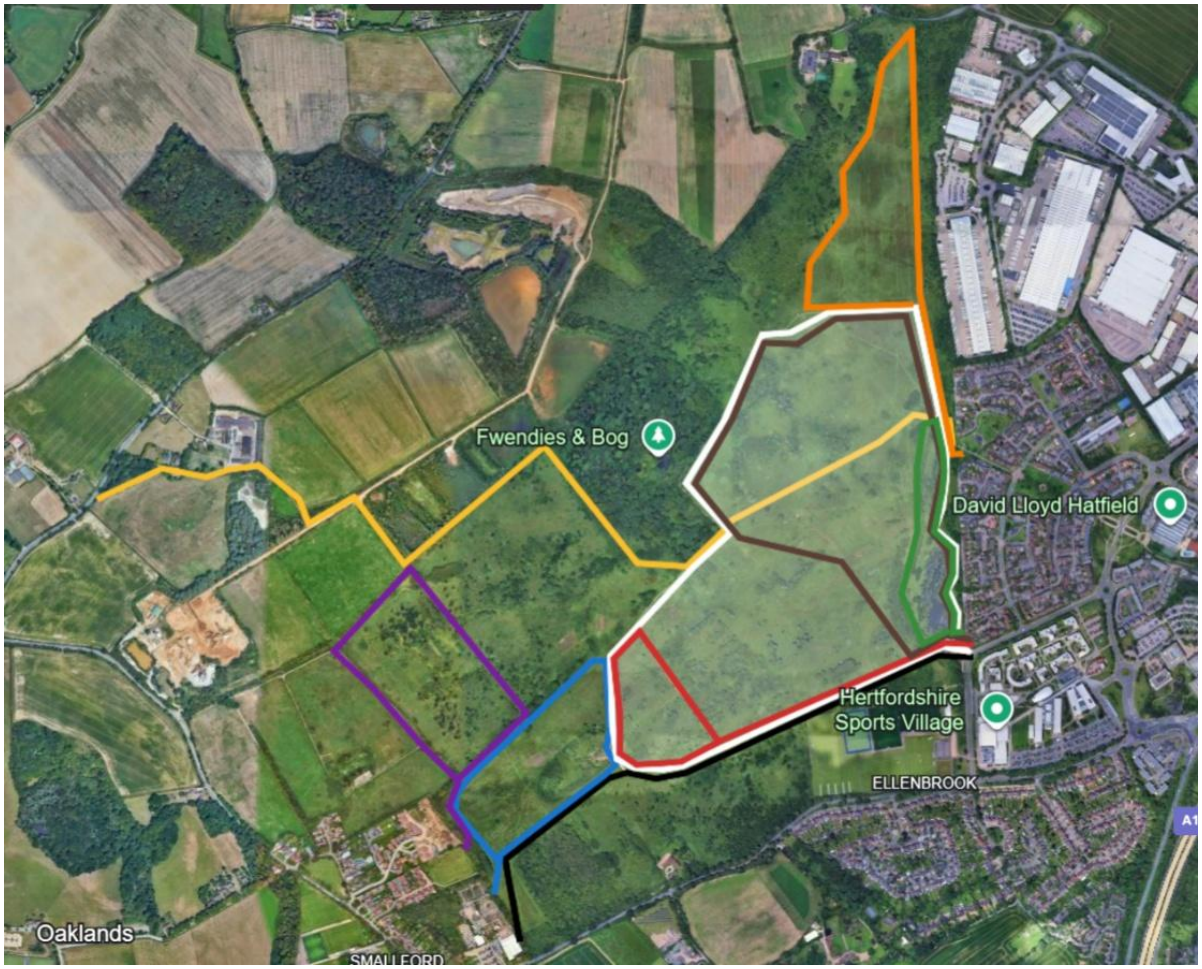
4.10 The user study recorded a total of 20 people travelling east-west or west-east across the park during the study, however this is likely to be an under recording due to the short days in winter, as recorders were not on site during most likely commuting times. People are also less likely to commute through the park in winter due to either am or pm daylight limitations, and inclement weather.

4.11 Routes used in the park.

Q3 *Which Route/s best describes your planned route today?*

It is understood that your route may not fit these routes exactly but please select the most appropriate or combination of several routes.





Routes used in the park			
Route	Route description	No. of users	Percentage
Black	Hatfield to Smallford via taxiway	27	5.12
White	Loop walk via taxiway, Home Wood	147	29.40
Blue	Smallford open area loop	86	16.32
Purple	Smallford BT trial site loop	43	8.16
Yellow	Beech Farm via Home Wood to Hatfield Barlow	51	9.67
Brown	Loop walk via cattle field and Home Wood	33	6.26
Green	Linear Park loop	37	7.02
Orange	Northeastern loop	21	3.98
Red	Taxiway 'P' loop	82	15.56

4.12 Analysis

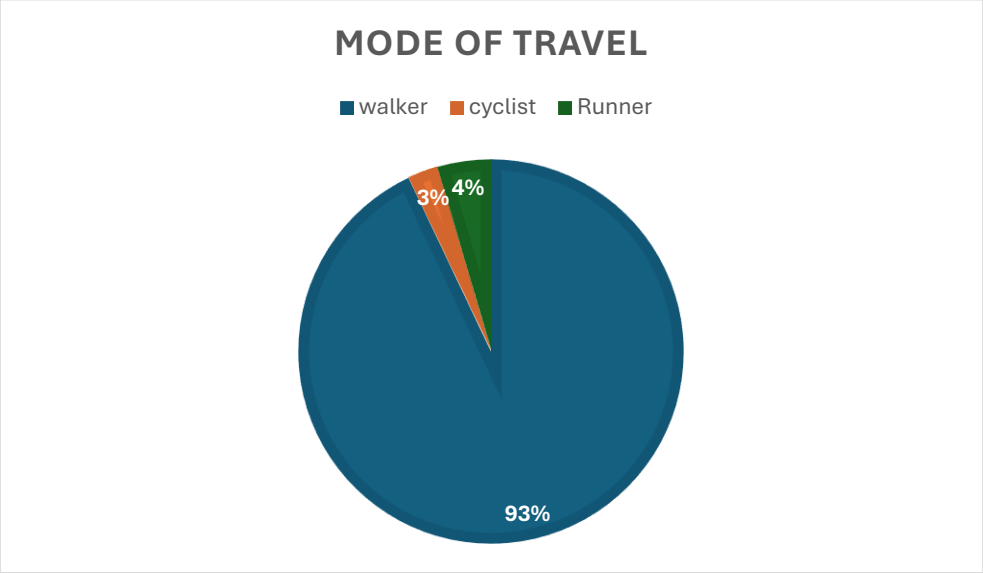
Interviewees were requested to name their proposed route on the day of the interview, if necessary to use multi routes to best describe their proposed route. Due to some paths having multi routes running along them there is clearly in some areas a level of incorrect recording e.g. black route can also be recorded as white-blue or red-blue all being correct. To meet the normal standards for market research recorders were instructed to note what the interviewee stated and not to interpret their response.

4.13 The only routes wholly beyond the proposed site are the green, brown and orange routes, these three routes only account for 17.26% of all routes used within the park. Therefore about 82% of users of the park use routes within the application site.

4.14 59.75% of all park users pass through the routes at either end of the proposed lagoon site in the event of quarrying. The yellow and purple routes in the area north of the hedge at Smallford end, basically the area of the processing area, only accounts for about 18% of route usage.

4.15 Modes of travel in the park

This was not a formal question, but the recorders were requested to note this aspect.



4.16 Walkers are by far the largest group by mode of travel with 291 walkers or walking groups being recorded. Runner were the next group recorded with 14 runners or groups of runners recorded, the smallest group were cyclists with 8 cyclists or cycling groups being recorded.

4.17 59.74% (187 respondent's) of park users were with dog, the vast majority were walkers, but 1 runner was recorded with a dog.

4.18 Time spent in the park Q5.

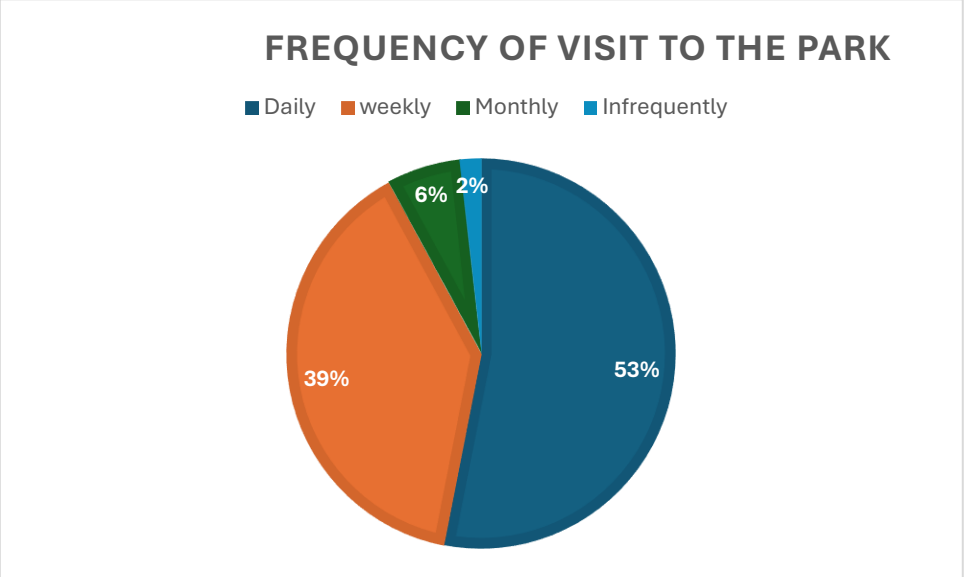
All respondents were requested to estimate the time they intended to be in the park on the day of the interview. The average was 63 minutes with minimum recorded at 10 minutes with a maximum of 240 minutes.

Time spent in park by mode of travel			
Mode of travel	Average	Minimum	Maximum
Walking	64	10	240
Cyclist	36	25	60
Running	55	25	90

4.19 Frequency of visit Q6

All respondents were requested to indicate their frequency of visits to the park, together with a validation question. In broad terms the validation question supported the response to question 6 or satisfactory information was

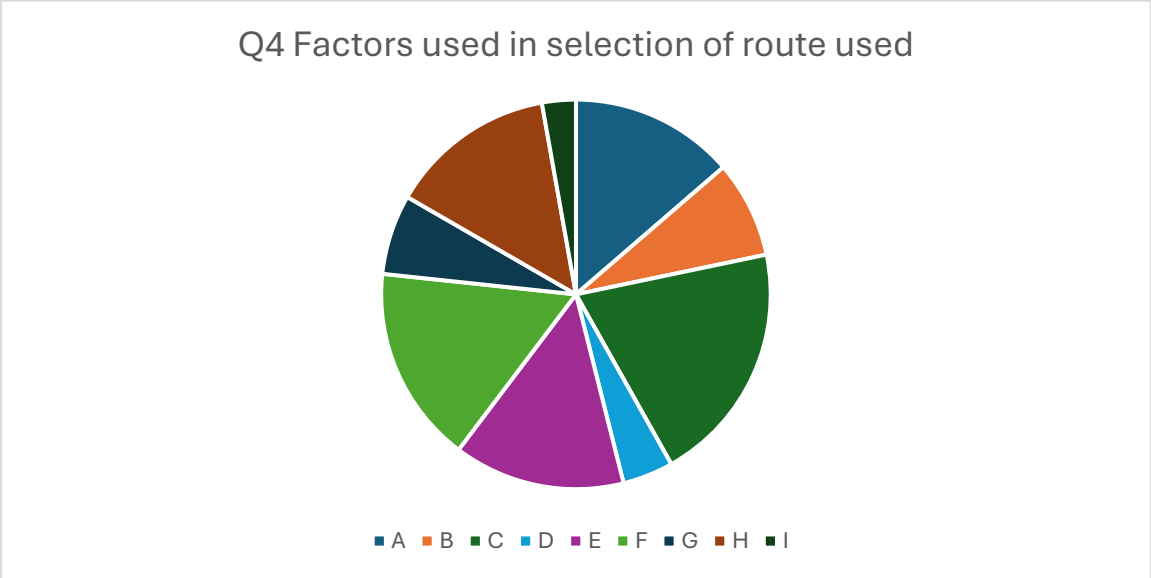
provided why the validation did not support the response to Q6 e.g. the person had been in hospital for previous weeks but otherwise visits the park every day.



4.20 Users at the time of the survey clearly visit the park on regular basis with over 90% recording daily or weekly visits.

4.21 Factors used in users route selection today.

Q4 *What aspects did you consider when selecting your route today? Please select the* ***4*** *most important factors.*



Factors which impact route selection			
Response	Criteria	No. responses	Percentage
A	Access to appropriate wildlife habitat	146	13.67
B	Good natural surveillance	85	8.05
C	Length of route - duration this could include for exercise and relaxation	215	20.13
D	Proximity to car parking	45	4.21
E	Proximity to my home or place of work	132	14.23
F	Quiet or secluded route	175	16.38
G	Social reasons	71	6.65
H	Suitable walking, cycling, or mobility surface.	148	13.86
I	The most direct route to your destination	30	2.81

4.22 Analysis

The most important factor recorded was for length or duration of the route at 20.13% this could include health reasons, or the level of exercise required for a dog. There is no significant difference in frequency of visits in people who recorded length of route as reason in their route selection and that of the main study sample.

Usage of the park, all users - dog walkers					
Time spent in park			Frequency of visit to park		
	All users	Dog walkers		% All users	% Dog walkers
Average	64mins	66mins	Daily	53.1	62.1
Minimum	10mins	20min	Weekly	39.0	32.2
Maximum	240mins	120mm	Monthly	6.2	4.5
			Infrequent	1.7	1.1

4.23 Dog walkers spend marginally longer in the park but importantly are significantly more frequent visitors to the park.

4.24 The next most important factor was accessing a quiet or secluded route at 16.38%, this also has significant implications. This is covered in the special factors considered in Q7. Ellenbrook Park is one the few quiet open spaces in the area.

4.25 The next factor respondents listed was the proximity of the park to their home or place of work at 14.23%, this has implications due to current policies aimed to reduce unsustainable travel and in making communities more sustainable. This together with other responses, is telling a story that people need access in close proximity to their homes, and large scale, quiet, open spaces.

4.26 The next important factor people identified was the quality of surface at 13.86%. For some the taxiway is an ideal surface particularly those with mobility issues. The white route also provides a good circular route with reasonable surface and also meets the requirements in the above criteria, regarding length, quietness and proximity to homes.

4.27 The next factor is access to nature and wildlife at 13.67%. Due to the varied landscape the western area includes the most important areas which would be lost by quarrying. However, due to the low levels of use and the limited number of paths at the northeastern end of the park, detailed analysis did not find reliable data, with any data being beyond the limits of confidence due to the small sample size.

4.28 The next factor is routes and areas with natural surveillance at 8.05%. The current layout of paths offer users a wide range of routes with varying levels of surveillance, so users are able to select a route on which they feel comfortable and safe.

4.29 The next factor is for social reasons at 6.65%. The current wide paths allow for easy access to medium or larger groups while still meeting all the previous criteria.

4.30 The next factor is proximity to car parking at 4.21%. Much of Hatfield and southeast St Albans are deficient in open space - Colney Heath Open Spaces review 2025 (XYZ7) and CHPC Hatfield & Smallford Green Spaces review (CHPC-09). Some people who travel greater distances, need to park in close proximity to the park. Most of the nearby parking is restricted Monday-Fridays with only Smallford providing some car parking including at Notcutts Garden Centre.

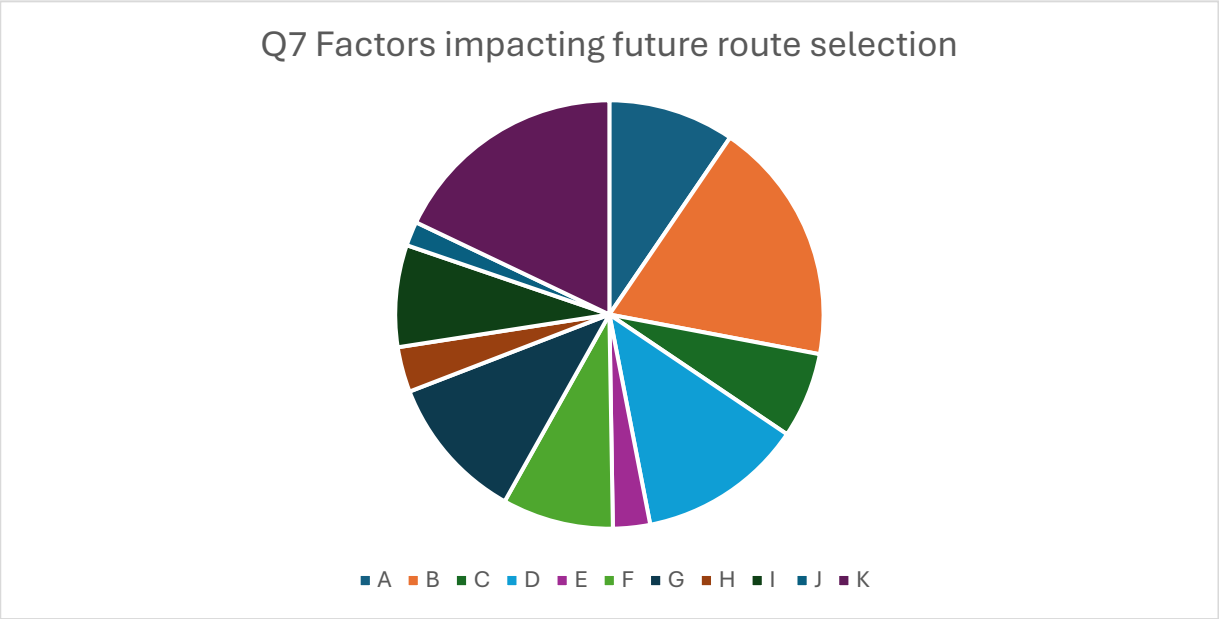
4.31 The final factor is the directness of route at 2.81%, the number of people selecting this is greater than those recorded as travelling through the park so other factors must have influenced their choice. This and previous studies have recorded that people commute to work and school through the park, for them the directness of the route will be a vital factor and a sustainable mode of transport.

4.32 Looking to the future.

Q7 *There is a current application to quarry on part of Ellenbrook Country Park. The proposal includes the digging of lagoons, the crossing of bunds and haul roads (potential site plans are available within this pack).*

What aspects are you likely to consider when selecting any future route?

*Please select the **4** most important factors*



Factors involved in future route selection			
Response	Criteria	No responses	Percentage
A	Access to appropriate wildlife habitat	109	9.52
B	Traffic free route - void crossing quarry roads	211	18.40
C	Good natural surveillance	74	6.47
D	Length of route - duration this could include for exercise and relaxation	143	12.56
E	Proximity to car parking	32	2.80
F	Proximity to my home or place of work	96	8.39
G	Quiet or secluded route	121	11.00
H	Social reasons	39	3.41
I	Suitable walking, cycling, or mobility surface	88	7.69
J	The most direct route to your destination	21	1.83
K	To avoid the active quarry areas	205	17.92

4.33 Analysis

The factor which concerns most people at 18.4% is crossing roads within the park, this includes both haul and service roads. This will impact many users including dog walkers which account for 59.74% of all park users, those with mobility issues 14.7% of all park users, and for those responsible for children, in the study about 22.23% of users recorded that they are responsible for children at times. All those entering the park from the Smallford end will always have to cross the service road which is approximately 38% of all users.

4.34 The next most import factor recorded was - 'wished to avoid active quarrying areas' with 17.92% of respondents recording this as a concern. Given the low recorded levels of use in the alternative eastern area of the park at just 17.26% of people using that area this must be a very significant concern for residents' health and wellbeing, there being few alternatives locally if the better used areas become unavailable to users. See also Special factors below.

4.35 The next factor is the length of the route at 12.56% of respondents which is down from 20.13% in the current situation so other factors are more important.

4.36 The next factor is the desire for quiet or secluded route at 11% of respondents, again this is down from current use which recorded 16.38% of respondents. But the wish to avoid active quarry areas and the wish for quiet or secluded route is adding up to significant numbers at 29%.

4.37 The next factor is access to wildlife at 9.52% of respondents. In the early stages of the quarry many of the better habitats for wildlife will be lost or severely damaged, this includes the processing area, lagoons area, phase A and the woodland-shrubland along the southern edge of the site.

4.38 The next factor was nearness to the respondent's home or place of employment at 8.39%.

4.39 The next factor recorded was suitable walking and cycling surface, while this may improve at times, the gaps in bridleways are a significant concern at various stages including establishment, phases A and E and during final restoration. At some periods during the quarry life the bridleways will be improved but generally later in the life of the quarry.

4.40 Good natural surveillance was recorded as a factor in determining future routes by 6.47% of respondents. The proposed routes of the bridleways are a significant concern as is the maintenance of the site prior to quarrying. The park is of about 25 years maturity so without active management much of western end will become overgrown with shrubbery as currently the case at

the proposed processing area. Both the northeastern end and the Smallford end open area currently receive active management which controls the shrub and tree growth. The large number of twists and turns on the southern bridleway is of great concern as its hidden behind shrubbery or bunds along much of length and where it passes near the lagoons.

4.41 Social factors were recorded as a factor in their future route selection by 3.41% of respondents. This is at low level but there are few alternatives locally.

4.42 Easy parking 2.8% This is important as much of Hatfield and southeast St Albans are deficient in open space - Colney Heath Open Spaces review 2025 (Xyz7) and people need to travel beyond acceptable walking distance to access open space.

4.43 Directness of route at 1.83% of respondents is low, but our data was recorded in winter. The directness of the proposed bridleways is the greatest concern at a time when the government is promoting more sustainable modes of travel walking or cycling through the park are the most sustainable modes of travel.

4.44 One the impacts of the quarry have been removed from the analysis options B and K, the criteria for route selection remains broadly unchanged.

4.45 Special factors

Q8 Additional factors which could impact your future use of Ellenbrook Country Park.

	Criteria	No. respondents	Percentage
A	Do you or other members of your group suffer from disabilities e.g. mobility, sight, or hearing?	46	14.7
B	Do you have or are you sometimes responsible for young children?	70	22.36
C	Do you have or are you sometimes responsible for dog/s which have behavioural issues which could impact on the routes you are able to use?	103	37.05
D	Other factors which could influence your choice of route within Country Park	N/a	N/a

4.46 Q8a Disabilities

46 or 14.7% of all respondents reported either they or members of their group reported some form of disability. There is no clear single health reason, but a wide range of issues many of which have quarry design and safety issues related with them. The type of disability was not formally requested but some recorders were able to obtain additional information, their notes included the following information –

2 boys with autism
ADS
Asthma - warned about dust.
Cancer and heart patient needs local green space cannot drive.
Diabetes must exercise every day.
Feels insecure on narrow path so wants wide paths.
Health reasons (not stated)
Health worker brings Mental health patients into the park (a)
Knee - needs to walk on flat even surface.
Limited sight
Medical reason no car needs to keep active.
Mental health (reason not stated) – recorded 3 times.
Mental health anxiety
Mobility (reason not stated) - recorded 7 times.
mobility needs a good walking surface & quiet.
mobility scooter
Mother has mobility scoter.

Mum on crutches & mental health.
Needs a smooth even route.
Peace & quiet for mental health & exercise.
Planning walks for U3A
Sees many people coming into the park with their carers.
Sight
Sight - needs wide space.
Visits with elderly parents need assistance.
Walking difficulties

(a) Previous survey work in the park has recorded Hertfordshire Health Walks taking place within the park, however it was not clear if this person was part of this organisation or another organisation.

4.47 Q8b Young children

70 or 22.36% of all respondents stated in the interview that they were sometimes responsible for young children which may come to the park. The number of possible children in the park has clear design and safety issues in particular in the crossing of roads and the need for good safety fencing. Details were not formally requested but some recorders were able to obtain additional information, their notes included the following information –

3 kids on bikes -need hard surface, nice for kids to get ahead but in sight.
Child learning to ride bike.
Concern about young child near trucks
Cycles to school when dry
Dad & kid on scooter
Grandkids
Grandkids
Has a dog and kids likes a walk where both can roam on off paths
Safety
Would not go near quarry with children

4.48 Q8c Dog/s which have behavioural issues.

103 people responded positively to this question; 37.05% of all respondents or 55.08% of dog walkers. There are a high number of people with dogs in the park accounting for 59.74% of all park users. A significant number of dogs owners have concerns over their dog in the park, the principal issue appears to be when dogs are in close proximity to each other, then looking ahead along narrow paths and at gated crossings would appear to be the high-risk areas. Details were not formally requested but some recorders were able to obtain additional information, their notes included the following information –

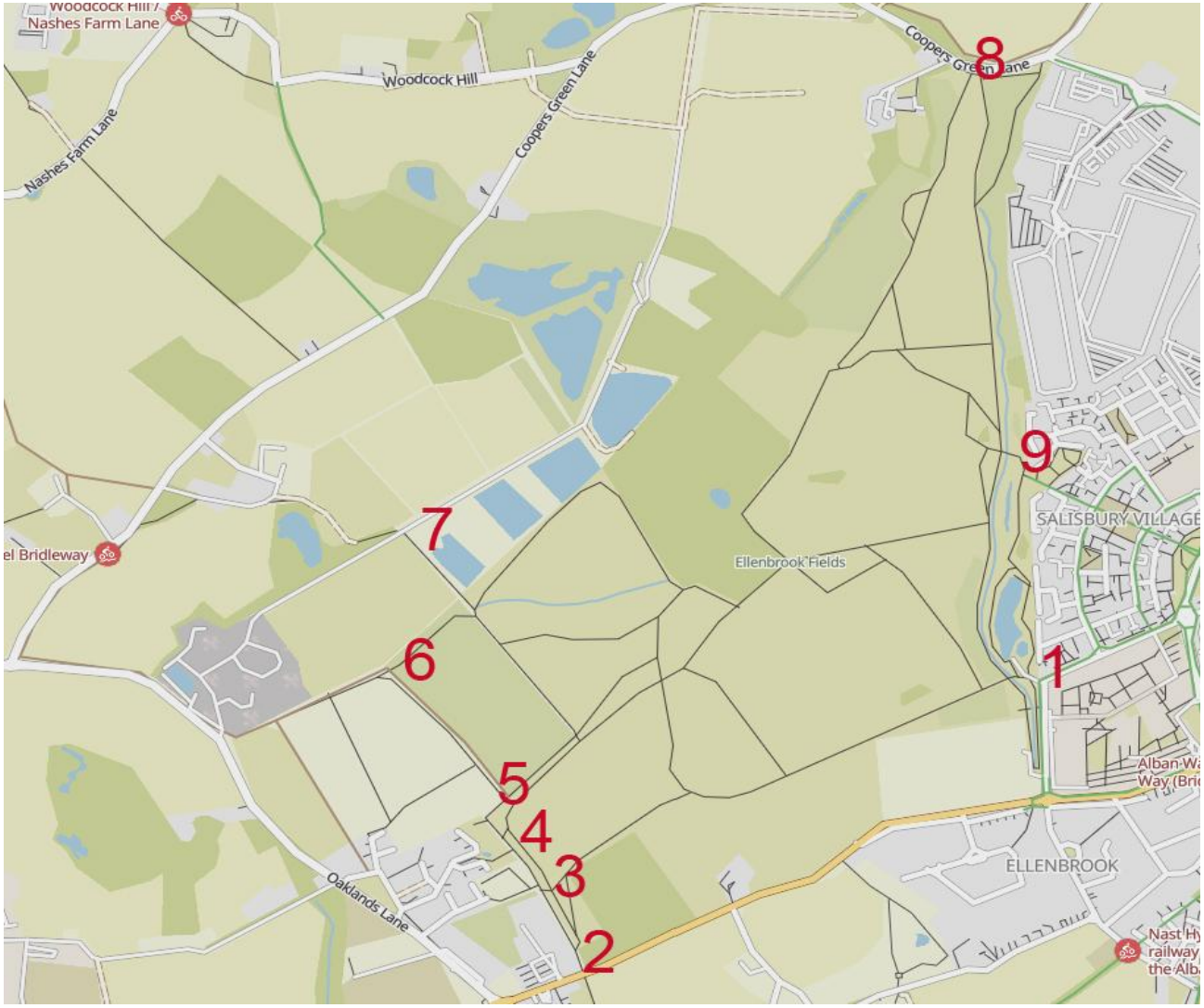
Avoid going near dogs off lead.
Avoid other dogs.
Behavioural concerns large dog
Come to park twice a day and wants a good walking surface along a variety of routes.
Dangerous dogs.
Dog lively.
Dog doesn't like other dogs, so space is important, only goes north if lots of other dogs in park.
Dog likes to run around.
Dog with injury.
Dogs (reason not stated) – recorded 6 times.
Dogs need to tun off lead.
Dogs with behavioural issues
Don't want to go near dogs.
Elderly dog so quiet away from dogs
Has a number of dogs wants to let off lead away from traffic.
Has a rescue dog away from other dogs and children.
Heavy machines and crowded areas.
I live on my own my dog is my only companion.
I need visibility and room to pass other walkers.
Keeps dog away from children.
keeps away from other dogs.
Large dog doesn't want to go near other dogs.
Let's off lead if no horses.
Mobility of dog (disabled dog) - recorded 2 times.
Needs space as trains guide dogs & other dogs behavioural issues - recorded 2 times.
Nervous dog must be away from active areas.
Nervous dog
Nervous dog so needs space - recorded 2 times.
Noise scares my dogs.
Other dogs so prefer open space.
Other dogs, however, incidences are rare.
Quiet, – recorded 3 times.
Reactive dog – recorded 2 times.
Reactive dog needs space - recorded 2 times.
Too many dogs.
Training guide dog, also used by other GD trainers.
Wants to avoid other dogs.

4.49 Q8d other factors

Interviewees were asked about other factors which would influence their choice of route within the Country Park. Adverse comments about the northeast area or orange route were included 18 times. The following comments were noted –

Access to any remaining wildlife
Avoid most waterlogged route
Avoid noise, but easy walking
Beautiful fields trees and nature
Come here for quiet and wildlife, too wet to go to north area
Concern about silica dust and noise
Depends on weather, use the longer route into the woods
Difficult to find walking route
Doesn’t go to n/e path not suitable for runner, very wet in winter
Doesn’t go to north end too wet
Doesn’t go north on orange route too far nothing to see
Doesn't go north path not good, wet not good for running
Don't take child near dust and noise of quarry
Dust
Dust noise Mud
East access, near my home
Enjoyment and views
Free Green space
Gate suitable for cycles
Good surveillance for user walker
In better weather would include the area
It’s the only park in Ellenbrook
Kids have bikes
Largest open space, access to nature, informal unlike Heartwood
Less able
Like to be able to see who is coming
Likely to go to Highfield or Heartwood
Likes to go on circular route to see different area, nothing to see in NE corner
Loves the variety on walk, not much on n/e field
Maintain similar access places and distance
Mobility & impact of quarry
Most direct route to work
Mud on road, litter avoid other dogs
N/E corner too far nothing to see
Need a quiet relaxing walk
Nice
No change – recorded 2 times

No where else to walk nearby
Doesn’t go to n/e field likes variety on route
Noise, dust lorries
Noise other walks around
Off lead opportunities
Only open space near home as unable to drive due to diabetes
Open space – recorded 2 times
Orange can walk and run easily
Orange is good running route
Orange is quiet for walking exercise
Orange is too long - recorded 3 times
Orange route too far - recorded 3 times
Orange route too far doesn’t have time – recorded 2 times
Orange route too far from home
Probably won’t come if quarry here
Probably won’t visit if quarry, concerned over cut trees in Home Wood
Q7 not with quarry
Quality of winter paths
Quarry
Quiet (no additional information) – recorded 7 times
Quiet area
Quiet Environment
Quiet social
Quiet social wildlife
Quietness due lack of traffic
Safe & secure boundary for dog, variety of landscape
Safety during non-daylight hours during winter months
Safety
safety of my dog
Safety quiet walk is important
Safety & free from floods
To many changes to my known route
Too muddy to walk on grass routes
Try to walk away from grass routes as so muddy
Walking in peaceful environment
Walks off the standard routes no plans for horse riders needs replanning due gas pipeline & Cemex site
Want a nice route to walk dog close to home
Want to walk on circular route for variety on good surface not mud or grass
Won’t like to see quarry
Would avoid a spoilt environment
Would go to n/s in summer, too wet now no decent path to cycle



Q1 Which entrance did you use to enter the country park today?

Q2 Which exit do you plan to leave the country park by?

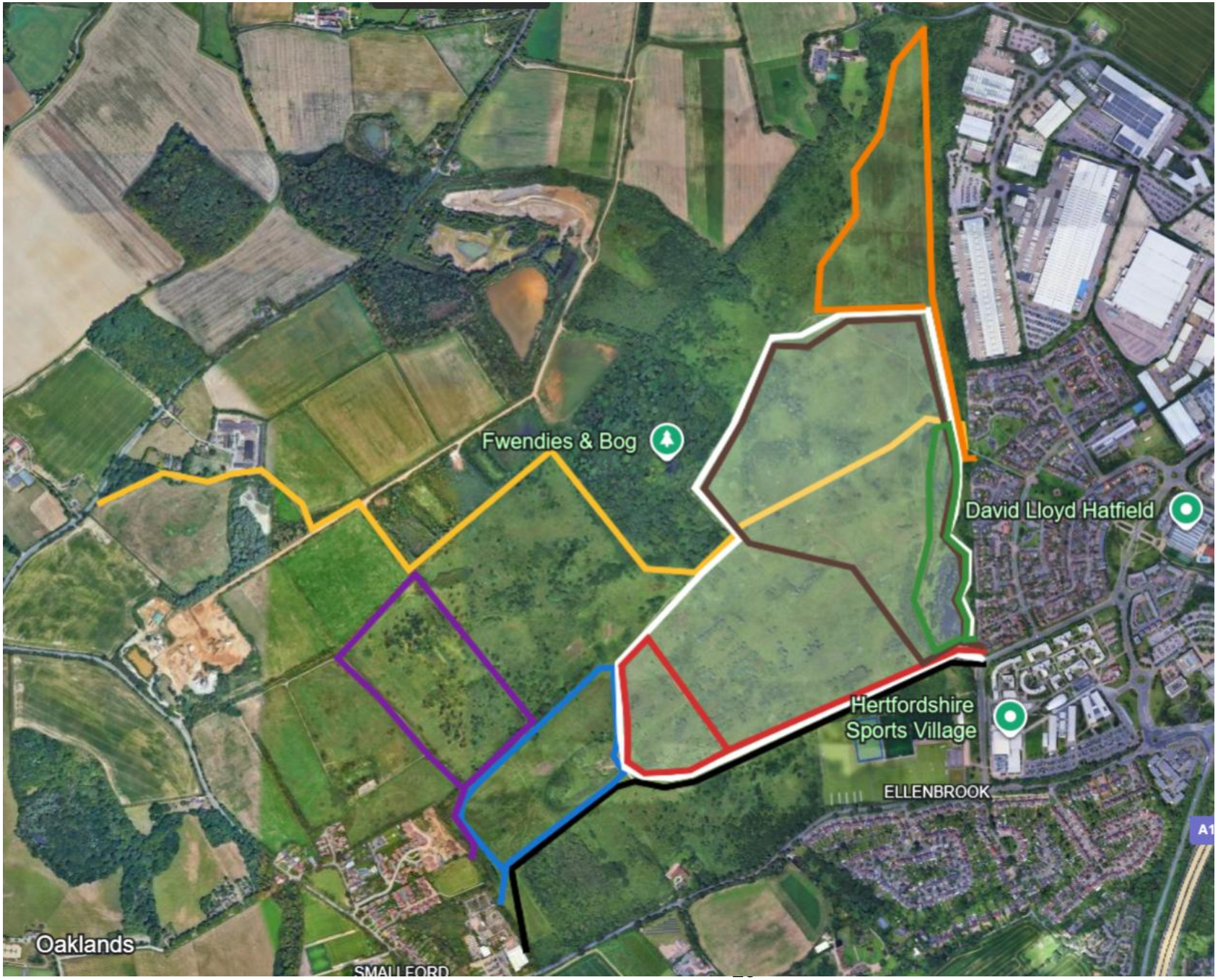
This survey is being conducted by the Colney Heath Group which consists of

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
COLNEY HEATH · SLEAPSHYDE · SMALLFORD · TYTTENHANGER

Ellenbrook Area Residents Association

HATFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
Hertfordshire

Smallford and Sleapshyde Residents Association



Q3 Which Route/s best describes your planned route today?

It is understood that your route may not fit these routes exactly but please select the most appropriate or combination of several routes.

Q4 What aspects did you consider when selecting your route today? Please select the **4** most important factors		
A	Access to appropriate wildlife habitat	The country park contains different habitat zones open grassland, shrubland and woodland which attract different species.
B	Good natural surveillance	Personal safety is a concern, so I prefer a more open route.
C	Length of route - duration this could include for exercise and relaxation	
D	Proximity to car parking	As you need to travel by car to the country park.
E	Proximity to my home or place of work	
F	Quiet or secluded route	
G	Social reasons	This could include the paths widths needed to accommodate a group for meeting, walking with friends etc or ease of access for other members of the group.
H	Suitable walking, cycling, or mobility surface.	
I	The most direct route to your destination	

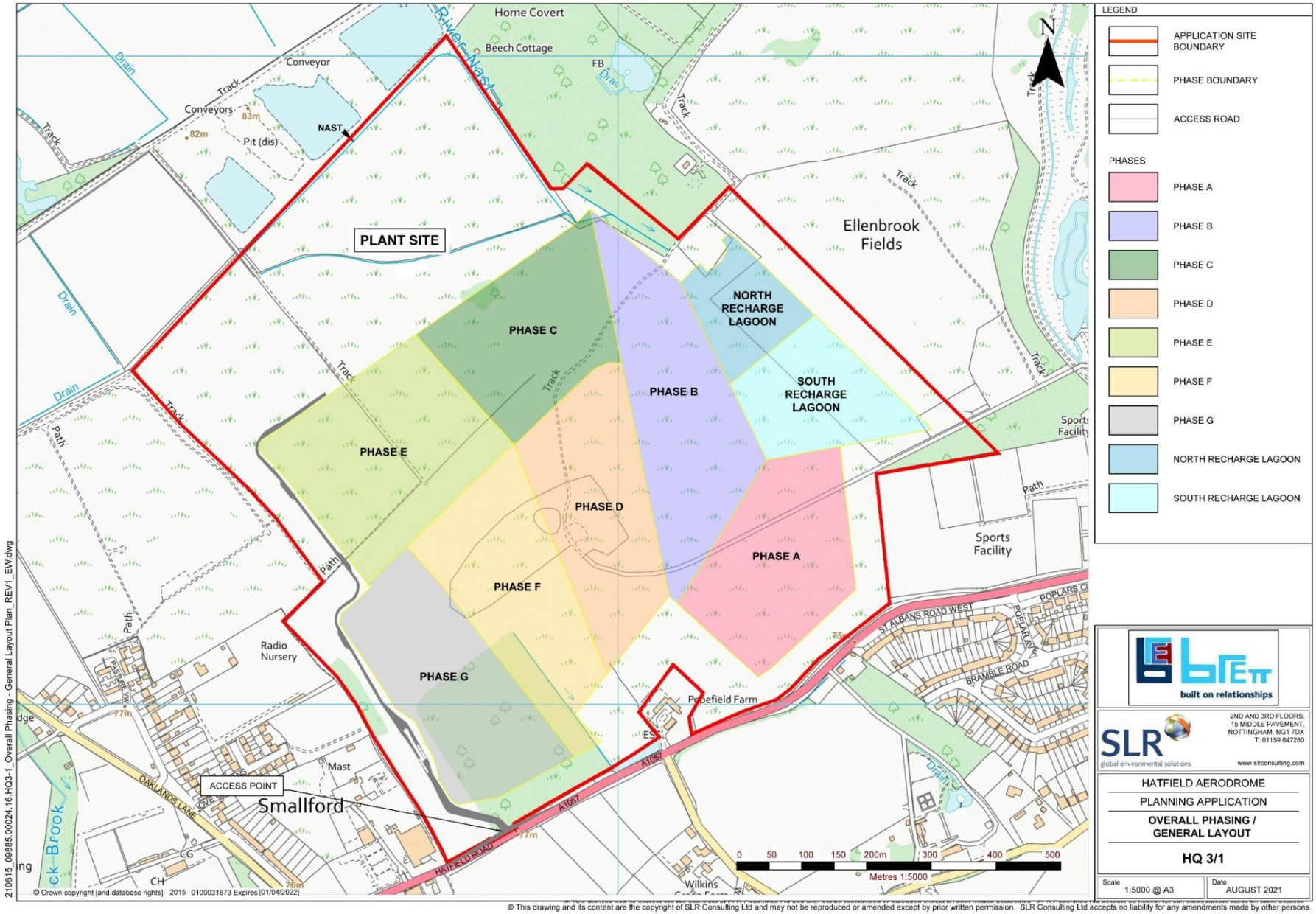
Q5 How long do you expect to be within the country park today?

Q6 how often do you visit the Country Park?		
A	Daily	You visit the country park once or more most days.
B	Weekly	You visit the country park at least once most weeks
C	Monthly	You visit the country park at least once a month most months
D	Infrequently	
	When did you last visit the park	

Q7 There is a current application to quarry on part of Ellenbrook Country Park. The proposal includes the digging of lagoons, the crossing of bunds and haul roads (potential site plans are available within this pack). What aspects are you likely to consider when selecting any future route? Please select the **4** most important factors		
A	Access to appropriate wildlife habitat	The country park contains different habitat zones open grassland, shrubland and woodland which attract different species.
B	Traffic free route - void crossing quarry roads	Two types of roads will exist. Access road between the main Road A1057 and processing area Between the working quarry area and processing area.
C	Good natural surveillance	Personal safety is a concern, so I prefer a more open route.
D	Length of route - duration	this could include for exercise and relaxation
E	Proximity to car parking	As you need to travel by car to the country park.
F	Proximity to my home or place of work	
G	Quiet or secluded route	
H	Social reasons	This could include the paths widths need to accommodate a group for meeting, walking with friends etc. or ease of access for other members of the group.
I	Suitable walking, cycling, or mobility surface	
J	The most direct route to your destination	
K	To avoid the active quarry areas	The quarrying will harm some of the site and will be visible from within the Country Park. Depending upon the process or stage, some machinery will be deep in quarry so out of sight. The processing area will be screened by bunds, but the working will only have current trees and shrub screening until they are removed a result of quarrying.

Q8 Additional factors which could impact your future use of Ellenbrook Country Park		
A	Do you or other members of your group suffer from disabilities e.g. mobility, sight, or hearing?	This could include issues relate crossing bunds 3-5m high walking along sloping paths, crossing busy haul roads or going through gates.
B	Do you have or are you sometimes responsible for young children?	Our understanding is that all lagoons and working areas will be fenced off, however gates may be open on haul roads during working hours.
C	Do you have or are you sometimes responsible for dog/s which have behavioural issues which could impact on the routes you are able to use?	e.g. need to keep away from other dogs, children etc.
D	Other factors which could influence your choice of route within Country Park	Please state

Current proposed layout, however following the Secretary of States request to reopen the inquiry this may change slightly.



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Current proposed layout, however following the Secretary of States request to reopen the inquiry this may change slightly

Ellenbrook Country Park User Study 2025-26 Recording Sheet Sheet no.

Date	Start time	Finish time	Recorder
Weather		Number of declined respondents	

Q1 Entrance		Q2 Proposed exit		
Q3 Route		Cyclist/s	Runner/s	Walker/s
Q4 Route selection		With dog/s (Y/N)		
Q5 Time in park		Location of interview - route		
Q6 regularity	When?	Q7 future Routes		
Q8 special factors				

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Q3 Route		Cyclist/s	Runner/s	Walker/s
Q4 Route selection		With dog/s (Y/N)		
Q5 Time in park		Location of interview - route		
Q6 regularity	When?	Q7 future Routes		
Q8 special factors				

Appendix 2

Ellenbrook Country Park User Study

Colney Heath group are carrying out a survey to understand why users of the park use particular routes and whether that is likely to change once the quarrying starts, particularly as there will be two large lagoons just northwest of the university pitches which will provide a significant barrier to an east west route.

This study should only be undertaken by committee members of the Residents Associations.

Any information provided by responders in this study must remain confidential, any information obtained will only be used in an aggregated manner, so it will be impossible to identify individuals.

Care must be taken avoid biasing interviewees –

> The best way to avoid any bias to hand the survey to the person being interviewed and record their responses.
>
> As the recorder you can only write down their comments.

To obtain the best mix and balance of responses its recommended that the recorder walks around the Country Park intercepting as many known routes as possible.

If you are undertaking the study multiple times, please use different routes each time and try to include some of the more remote areas at least once, but you should have regard for your personal safety. Please try to include weekdays and weekends to enable us to understand people's routes on different days.

It is important that you only record todays details, some people provide information on the normal route/s rather the current days route. It is OK to survey the same person on a different day as they may use a different route.

Responders may have problems in understanding some questions if English is not their first language, the plans within the pack may be used to assist in explaining the details.

This study is being undertaken by the Colney Heath Group which includes Colney Heath Parish Council, Ellenbrook Area Residents Association, Hatfield Town Council and Smallford and Sleapshyde Residents Association. It has not been possible to provide each recorder with an ID badge therefore the survey sheet page 1 with the logos can be used as ID this is with the agreement of the councils.

Q1 Please record the entrance number used, some responders may have difficulty in orientating their current location on the map, providing some assistance is within acceptable practice.

Q2 Please record the proposed exit number.

Q3 you can record <u>one or more routes</u> by colour to best reflect the users proposed route.

Q4 Please record by letter up to 4 items.

Q5 Please record in minutes only, if an interviewee provides a response 1-1 ½ hours please work out an approximant average and ask them to confirm that its appropriate before recording it e.g. 75mins.

Q6 Please record by letter, making note of any other useful comments made.

Q7 Please record by letter up to 4 items. You may use the maps provided within the pack to assist the interviewee respond, care must be taken not to bias the respondent. The maps are particularly useful to explain to people whose first language is not English.

Q8 responders may provide a range of comments even if they are included in previous questions each comment should be recorded.

Recording sheets

Please record on the first sheet, the date, start time, your initials, and your sheet number, on all following sheets please record the date and sheet number. On the final sheet please record your finish time.

Please only record by the letter or number where they are provided.

Following the interview please record if they were either cyclists, runners or walkers, if they had dog/s with them and the route on which the interview took place.

Please also record any people or groups who declined to complete the survey.

Once completed please forward the forms Sue Meehan, Spencer James or Mike Rawlins.

Thank you.