

Statutory Consultation 2022

# **Preliminary Environmental Information Report**

Volume 3: Appendix 13.2

**Open Space Survey Results**



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 Open spaces surveys have been undertaken to collect key information on open spaces to inform the health and community impact assessment. The information collected helps to identify the sensitivity of resources and its users to potential effects of the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.2 The methodology for undertaking these surveys is set out in **Appendix 13.1** in Volume 3 of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). Three types of surveys have been undertaken:
- a. Open space user counts at:
    - i. Wigmore Valley Park; and
    - ii. Four recreational routes.
  - b. Open space quality assessments at:
    - i. Wigmore Valley Park; and
    - ii. Raynham Way Recreation Ground.
  - c. Open space user questionnaires at:
    - i. Wigmore Valley Park.
- 1.1.3 This appendix is structured by community resource as follows:
- a. Wigmore Valley Park;
  - b. Raynham Way Recreation Ground; and
  - c. Recreational routes.
- 1.1.4 The resources listed in this appendix reflects those which appear in the PEIR. For a full list of community resources which have been investigated through the community impact assessment, refer to **Appendix 13.1** Open Space Survey Methodology.

## 2 RESULTS

### 2.1 Wigmore Valley Park

- 2.1.1 User count surveys, user questionnaires and a quality assessment were undertaken at Wigmore Valley Park. **Table 1** provides details of the quality assessment.

Table 1: Wigmore Valley Park quality assessment record sheet

Name of site	Wigmore Valley Park
Location / address	Eaton Green Road, Luton, LU2 9JB
Owner / manager organisation	Luton Borough Council
Access point	Accessed from car park at Wigmore Valley Park

Name of site	Wigmore Valley Park
Facilities / assets on site	<p>A large park with a mixture of landscaped areas. The park is of high quality, and is comprised of large open fields, areas of mixed density vegetation, footpaths, tracks and bridleways, and facilities including a skate park, a large children's play area and picnic benches.</p> <p>Dog waste and litter bins are provided and located throughout the park. Plentiful car parking is located adjacent to the park – lighting and security cameras are provided. Other features of note include an unnamed sculpture and a derelict pavilion building.</p>
Magnitude of impact	Wigmore Valley Park is located adjacent to London Luton Airport. The Proposed Development will result in permanent land take however access will be maintained throughout construction with an overall gain in parkland provided and enhancement of facilities. Works to deliver the replacement area of open space will be undertaken in Phase 1.
Overall rating of magnitude of impact	Low
Sensitivity of resource and receptors	<p>At the time of undertaking the quality assessment, Wigmore Valley Park appeared to be well-used and well-maintained. This is further evidenced by user count surveys, results of which can be found later in this report.</p> <p>The park is located adjacent to London Luton Airport and on the edge of a suburban residential area of Luton known as Wigmore. There are few similar parks in the locality of similar scale and quality. The park is classified as a District Urban Park in the Luton Green Space Strategy Review (2014) and as a County Wildlife Site by Luton Borough Council.</p> <p>Users of the park sighted during the quality assessment include families using the children's play area, recreational walkers and dog walkers traversing through the park, and users of the skate park</p> <p>Friends of Wigmore Park is an active group which organises community events at the park including group dog walks, litter picks and nature walks.</p>
Overall rating of sensitivity	Medium
Overall significance	<p>Minor beneficial – Replacement parkland.</p> <p>Not significant</p>

## Wigmore Valley Park – User Count Surveys

2.1.2 Dates, times and weather conditions for surveys undertaken in 2019 are set out below.

2.1.3 A full days' worth of surveys was undertaken over two separate days (PM and AM), and results are recorded as such.

Table 2: Wigmore Valley Park user count survey details

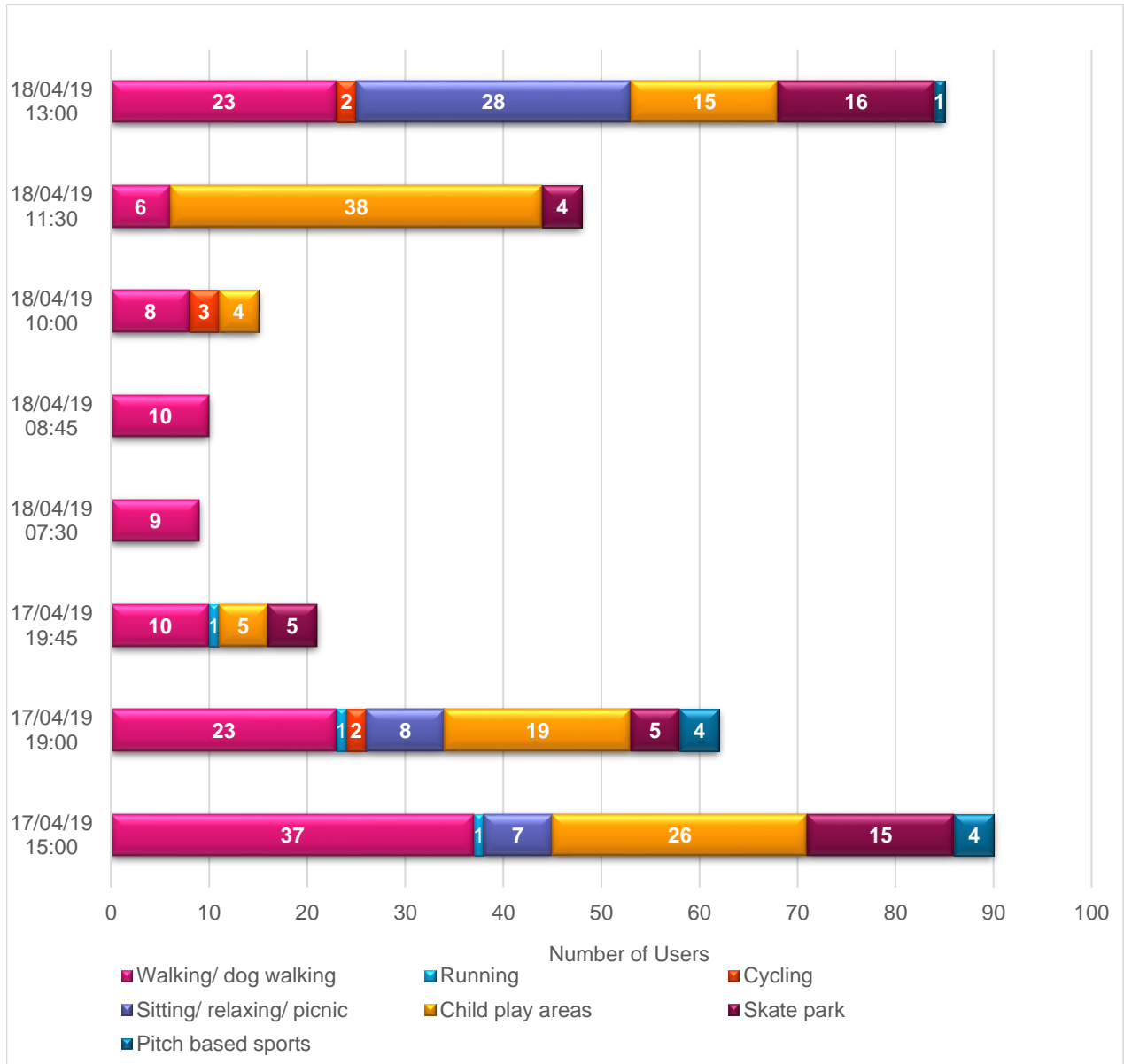
Survey period	Date	Day and Time	Term time / out of term time	Weather conditions
Spring	17/04/2019	Wednesday (PM)	Out of term time	Sunny, dry.
Spring	18/04/2019	Thursday (AM)	Out of term time	Early morning fog, cleared to become sunny and dry.
Spring	30/04/2019	Tuesday (PM)	Term time	Cloudy with sunny intervals, dry.
Spring	01/05/2019	Wednesday (AM)	Term time	Overcast, dry.
Spring	11/05/2019	Saturday (PM)	Term time	Sunny, dry.
Spring	19/05/2019	Sunday (AM)	Term time	Sunny, dry.
Early summer	19/06/2019	Wednesday (PM)	Term time	Surveys postponed due to inclement weather.
Early summer	20/06/2019	Thursday (AM)	Term time	Sunny, dry.
Early summer	06/07/2019	Saturday (PM)	Term time	Overcast, light drizzle, cleared to become cloudy and dry.
Early summer	07/07/2019	Sunday (AM)	Term time	Cloudy, dry.
Late summer	29/08/2019	Thursday (PM)	Out of term time	Sunny.
Late summer	30/08/2019	Friday (AM)	Out of term time	Cloudy with sunny intervals.
Late summer	05/09/2019	Thursday (PM)	Term time	Cloudy.
Late summer	06/09/2019	Friday (AM)	Term time	Cloudy.
Late summer	14/09/2019	Saturday (PM)	Term time	Sunny
Late summer	15/09/2019	Sunday (AM)	Term time	Sunny

Survey period	Date	Day and Time	Term time / out of term time	Weather conditions
Autumn	17/10/2019	Thursday (PM)	Term time	Overcast.
Autumn	18/10/2019	Friday (AM)	Term time	Overcast, windy.
Autumn	24/10/2019	Thursday (PM)	Out of term time	Surveys postponed due to inclement weather.
Autumn	25/10/2019	Friday (AM)	Out of term time	Surveys postponed due to inclement weather.
Autumn	09/11/2019	Saturday (PM)	Term time	Surveys postponed due to inclement weather.
Autumn	10/11/2019	Sunday (AM)	Term time	Sunny.

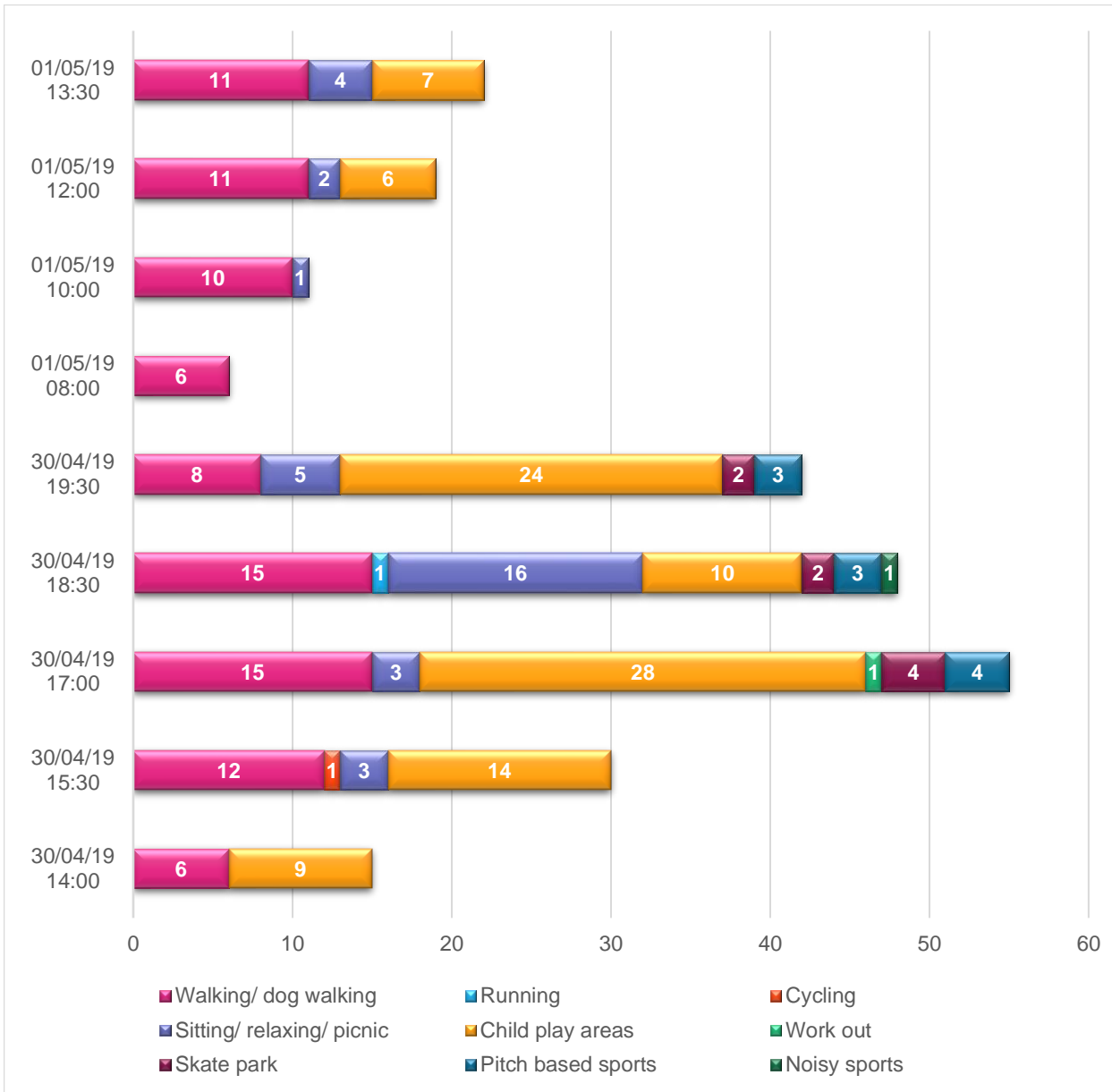
- 2.1.4 Throughout the surveys, higher numbers of users were recorded during school holidays and weekends. Activities recorded in higher frequencies during school holidays and weekends included sitting and relaxing in the park, families and children making use of the children's play area and people making using the skate park facility.
- 2.1.5 During school term time, daytime usage numbers were generally lower and limited to adult dog walkers and families using the children's play area. Usage numbers did however increase during the evenings, with families and children visiting the park to make use of the facilities.
- 2.1.6 Throughout the surveys, a consistently high proportion of overall visitors to Wigmore Valley Park were recorded as dog walkers.
- 2.1.7 Other activities recorded in lower numbers include picnicking, running, exercising, cycling, kite flying, playing football, playing cricket and playing frisbee.
- 2.1.8 A notable activity was a community dog walk, which takes place on the first Sunday of each month at Wigmore Valley Park. Over 40 participants of the dog walk were recorded during one of the surveys.
- 2.1.9 **Insets 1 to 10** below set out the observed usage of Wigmore Valley Park.



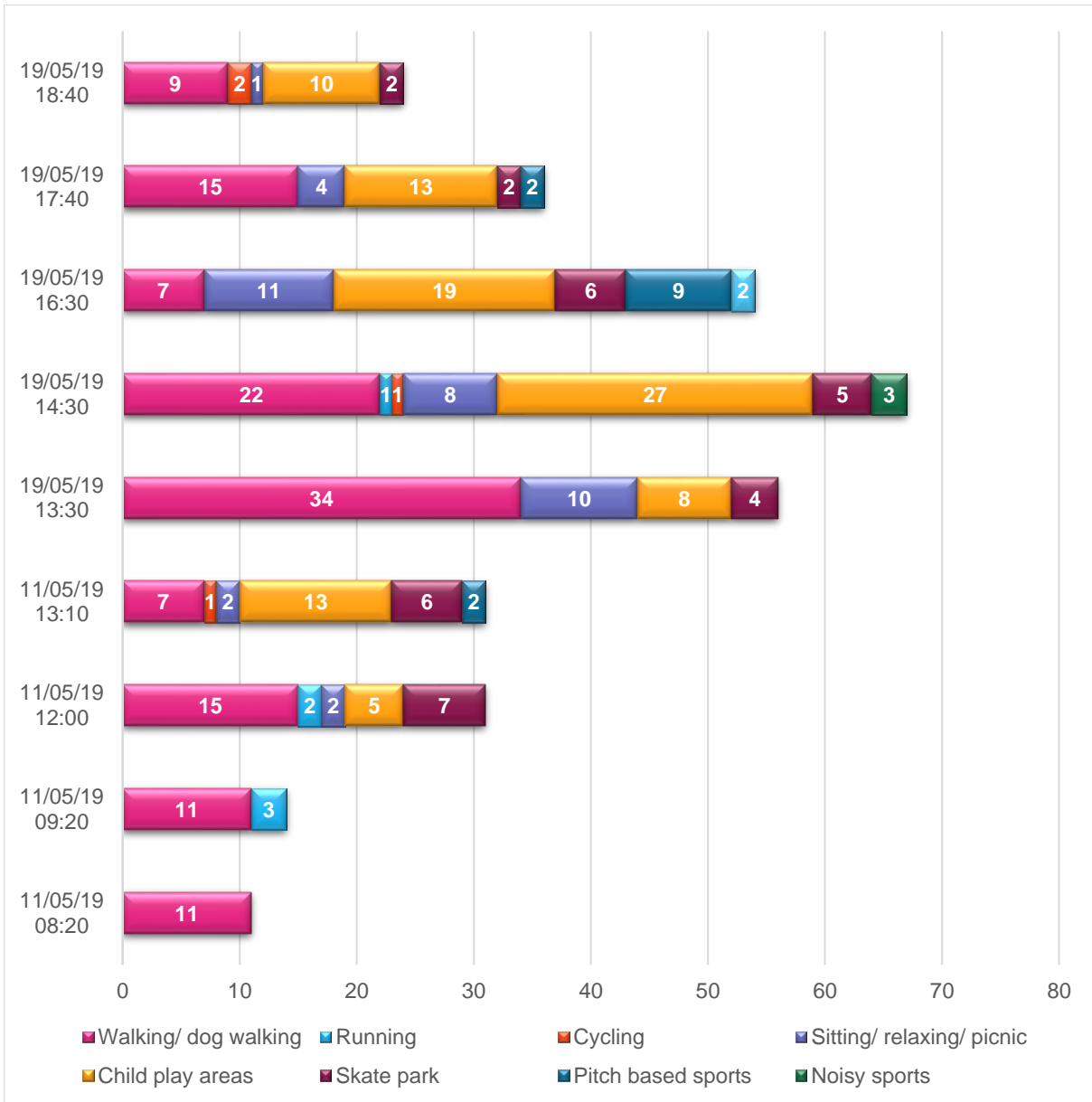
**Inset 21: User count survey results – Wigmore Valley Park, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019**



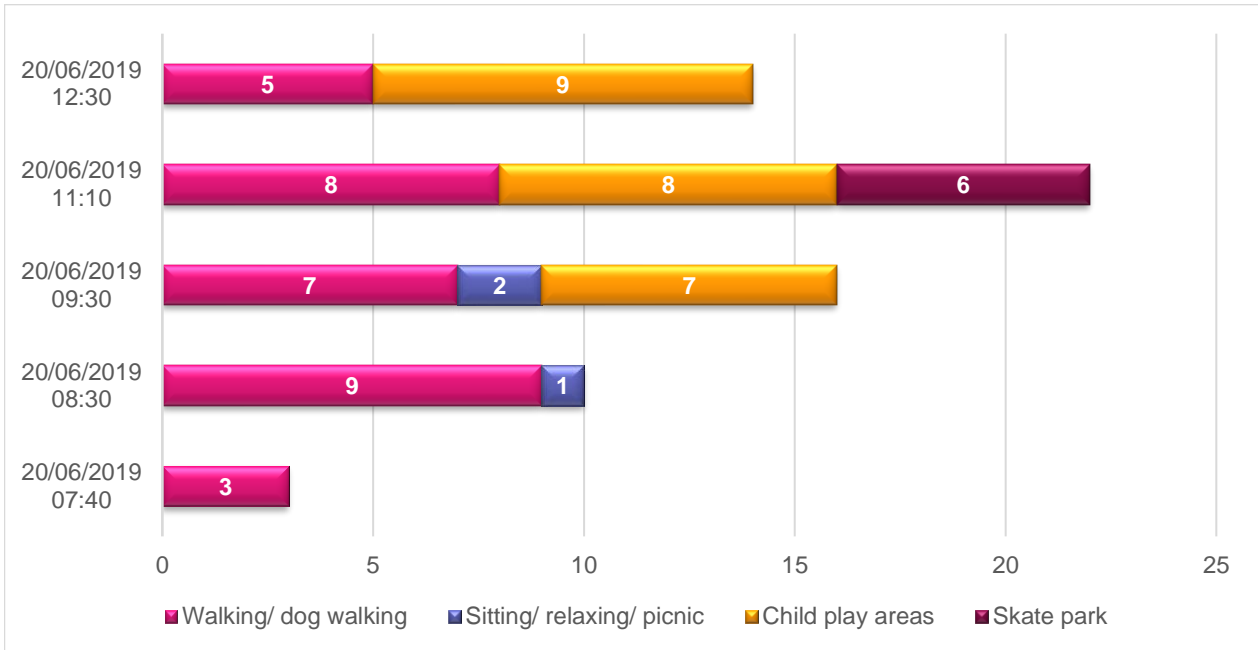
**Inset 22: User count survey results – Wigmore Valley Park, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019**



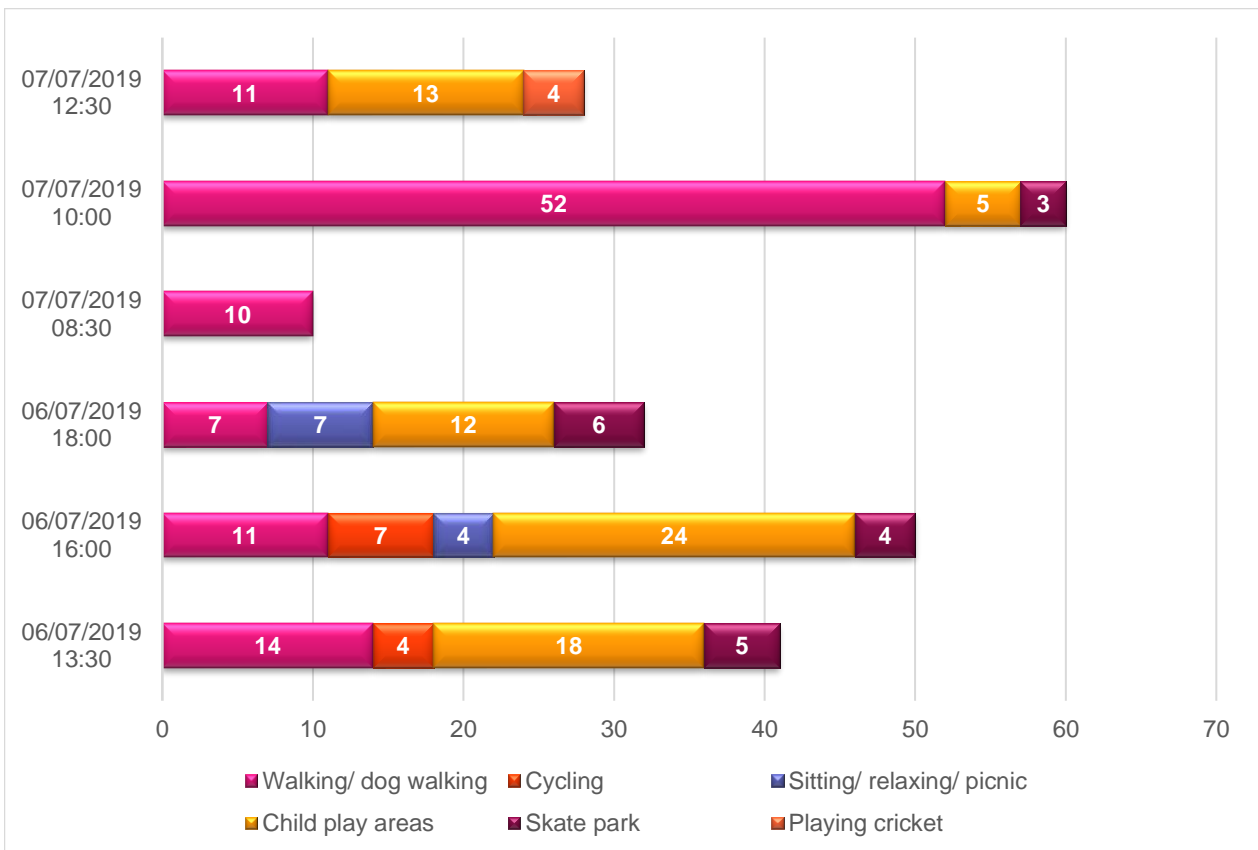
**Inset 23: User count survey results – Wigmore Valley Park, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019**



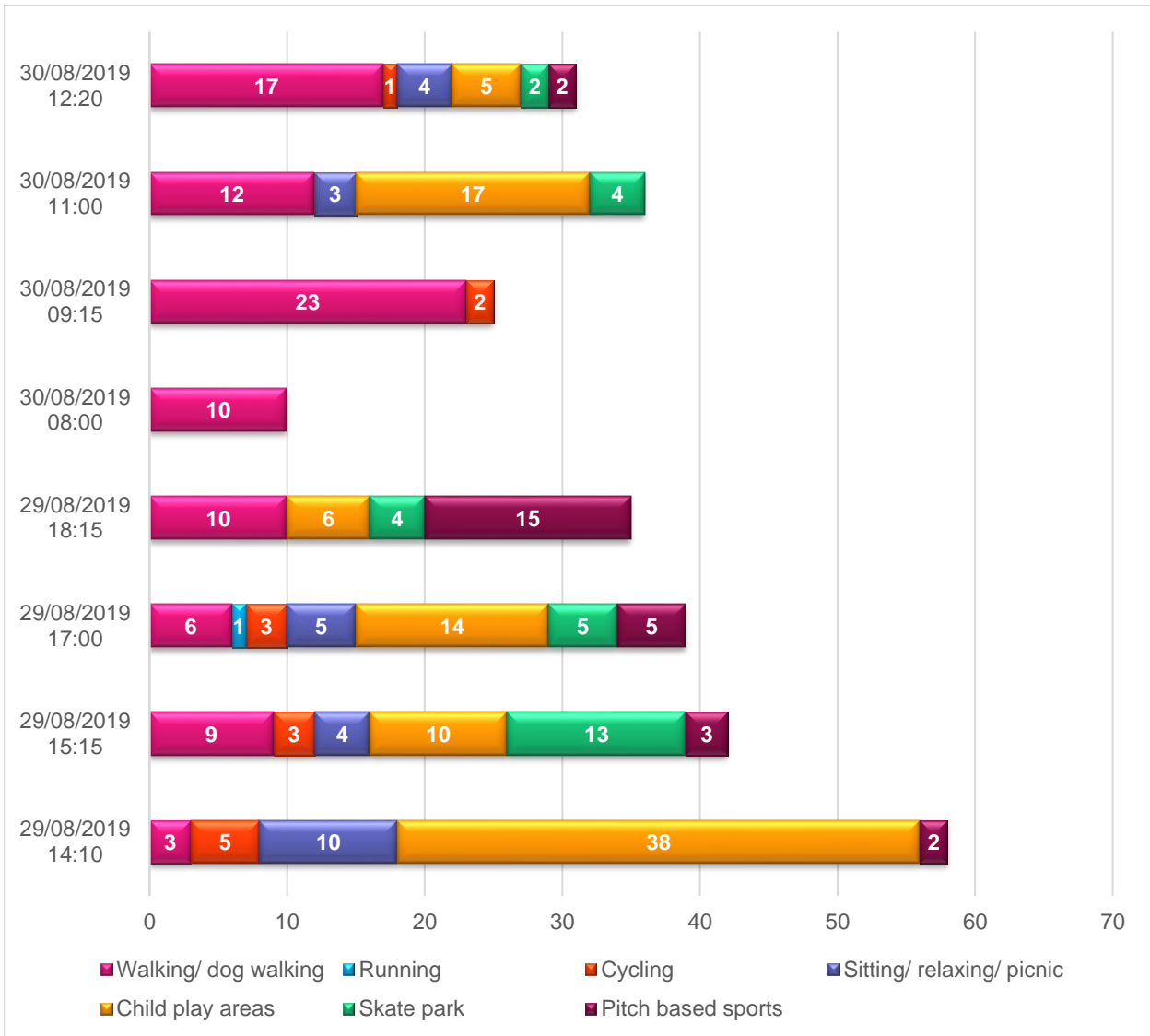
**Inset 24: User count survey results – Wigmore Valley Park, Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019**



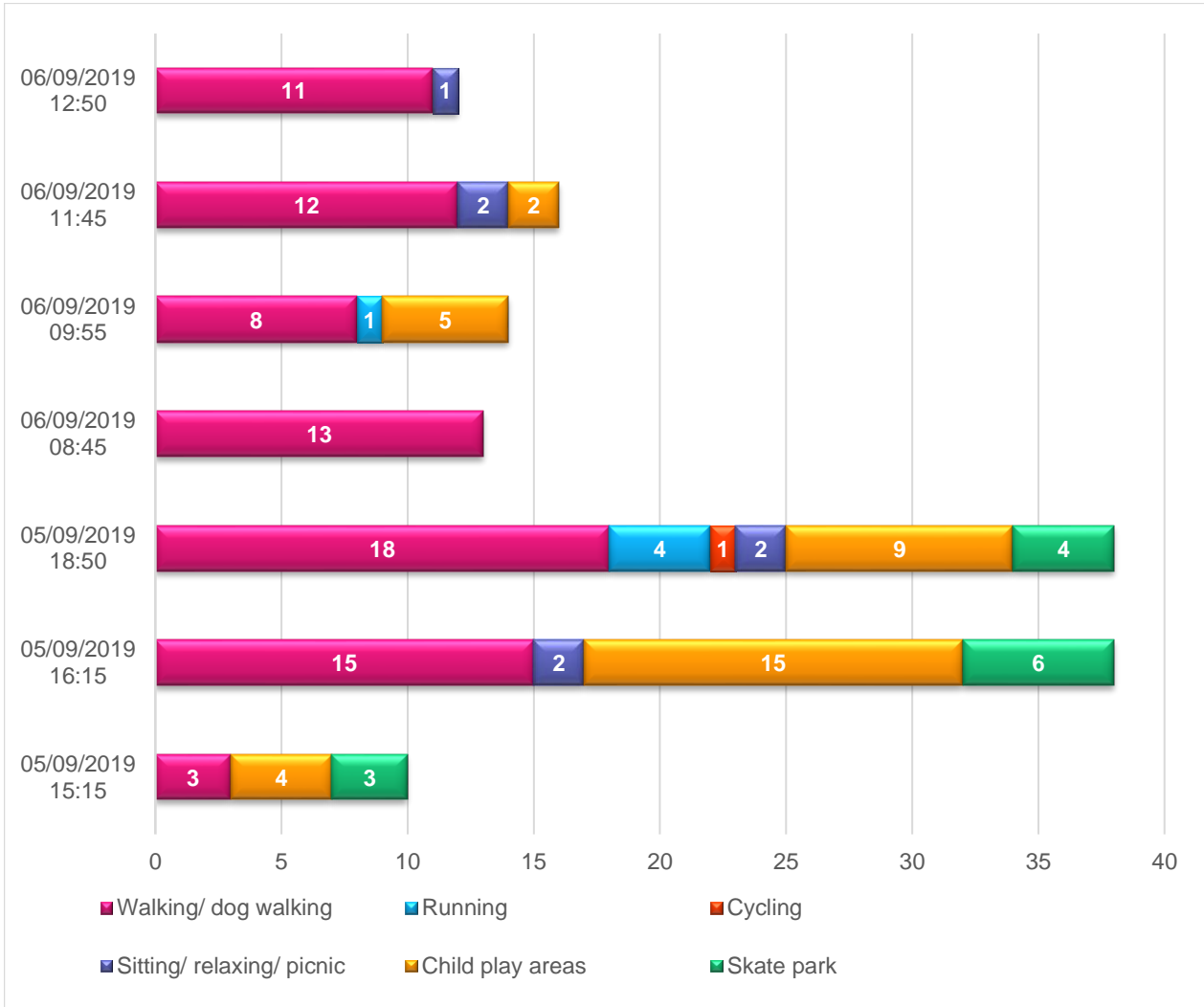
**Inset 25: User count survey results – Wigmore Valley Park, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019**



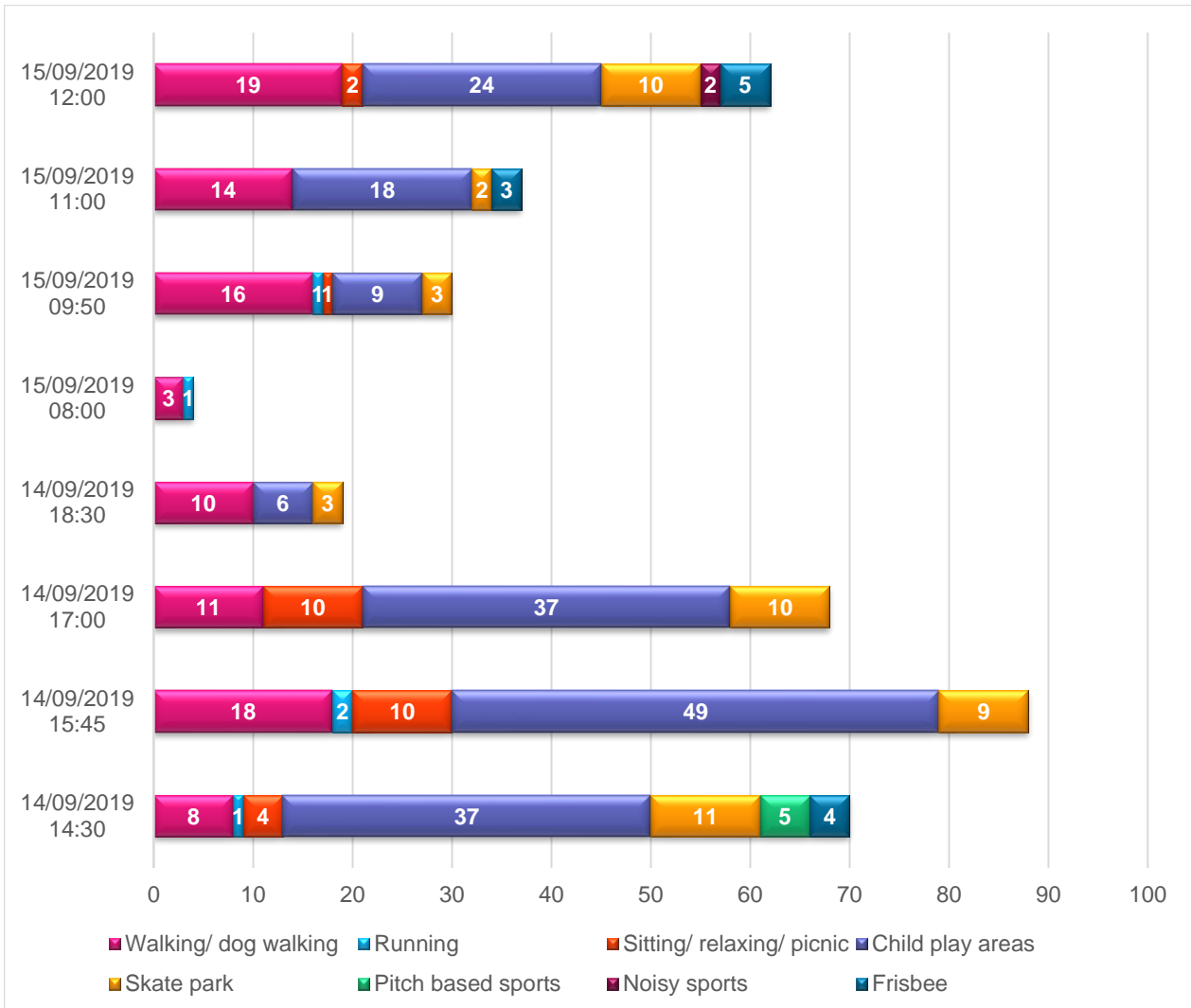
**Inset 26: User count survey results – Wigmore Valley Park, Thursday 29th and Saturday 30th August 2019**



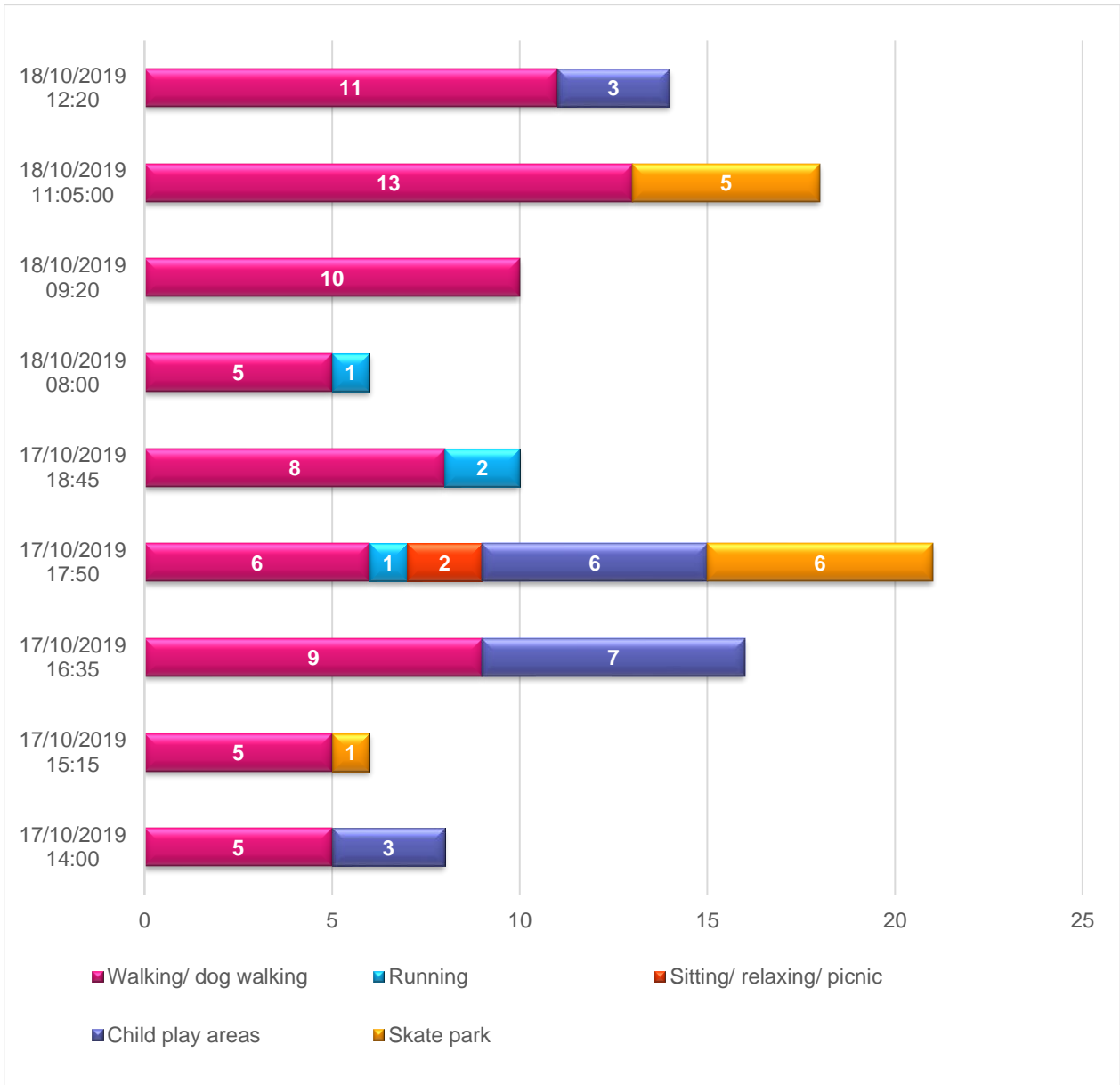
**Inset 27: User count survey results – Wigmore Valley Park, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019**



**Inset 28: User count survey results – Wigmore Valley Park, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

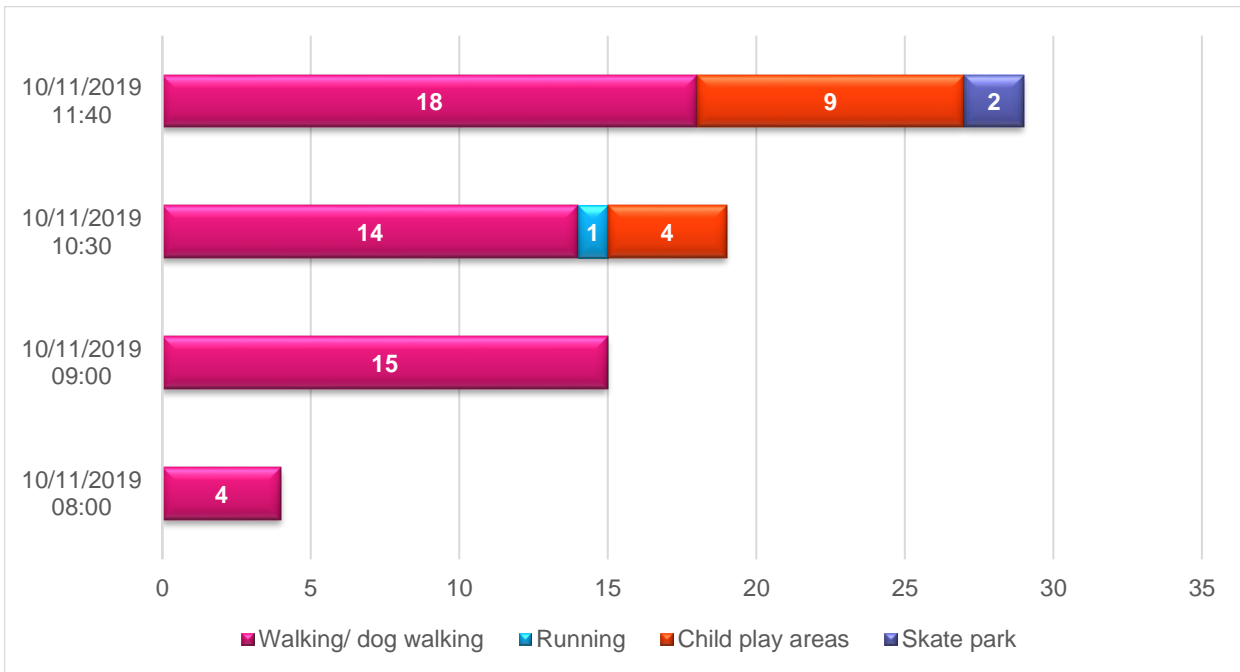


**Inset 29: User count survey results – Wigmore Valley Park, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019**





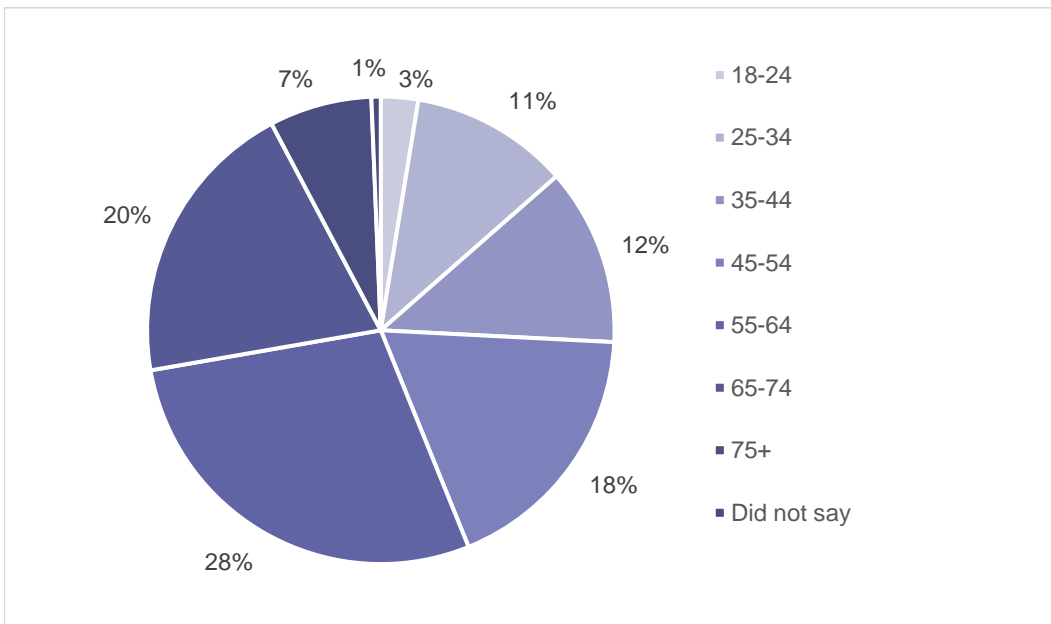
**Inset 210: User count survey results – Wigmore Valley Park, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019**



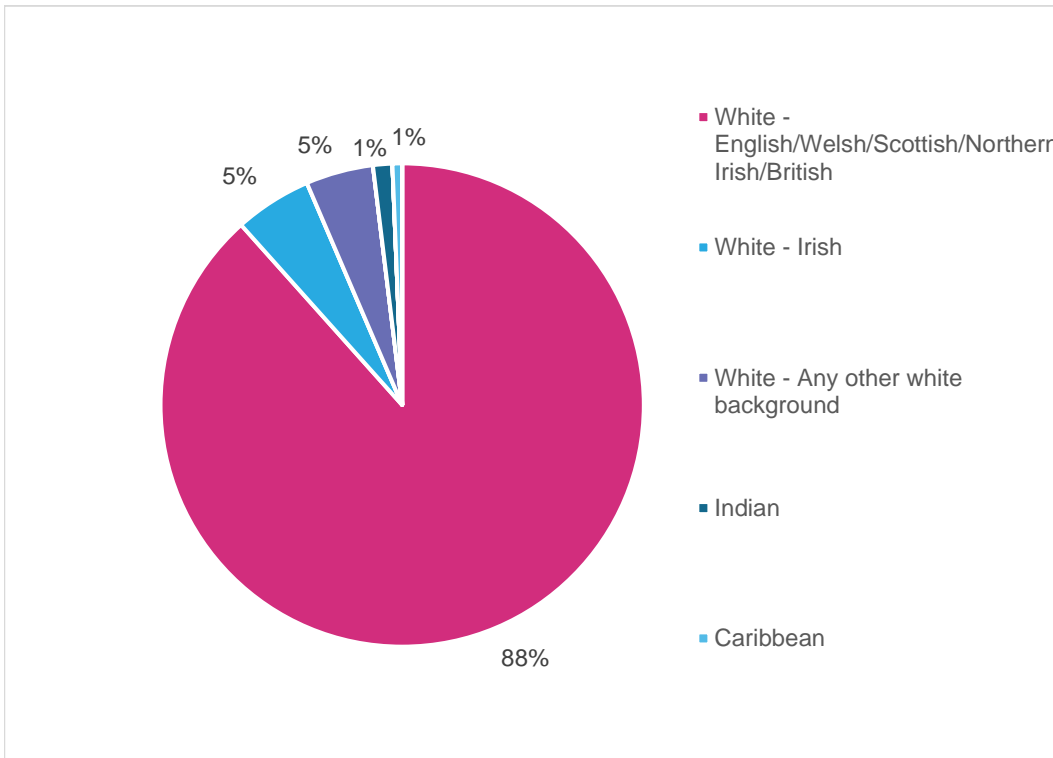
**Wigmore Valley Park User Questionnaire**

2.1.10 A total of 155 user questionnaires have been undertaken throughout the survey period. Demographic data on users was collected in order to inform the **Draft Equalities Impact Assessment**. **Insets 11-16** below show the results from the demographic data collected covering age, ethnicity, religious beliefs, gender, health and disability limitations and employment status.

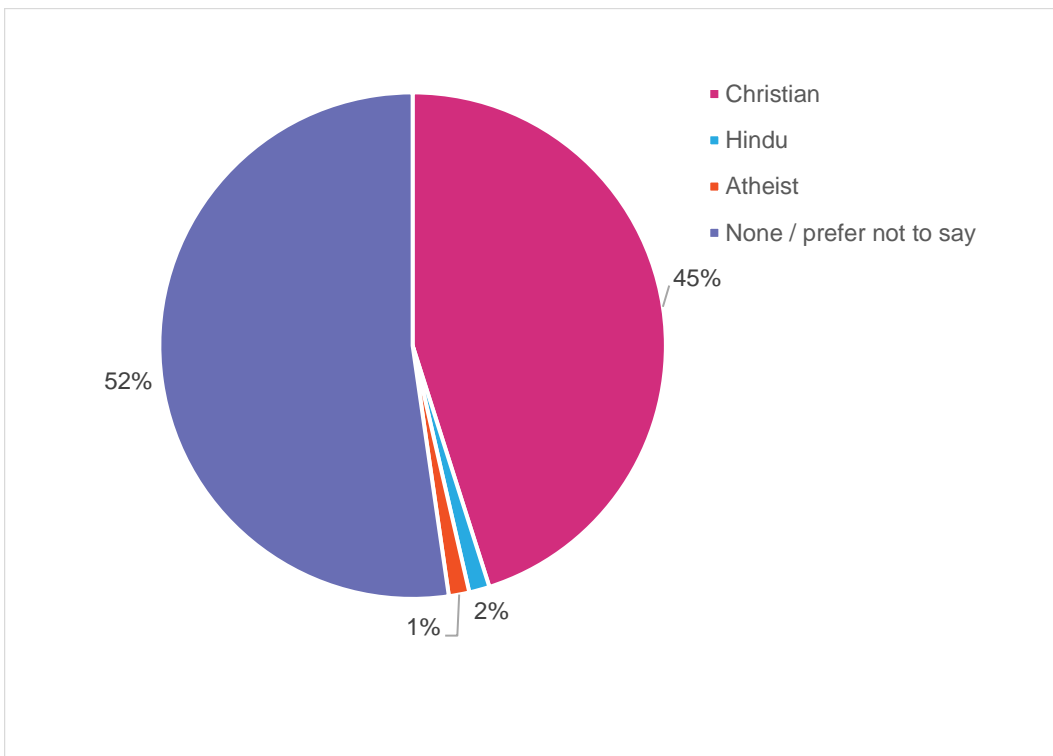
**Inset 211: Age (as %) of users surveyed**



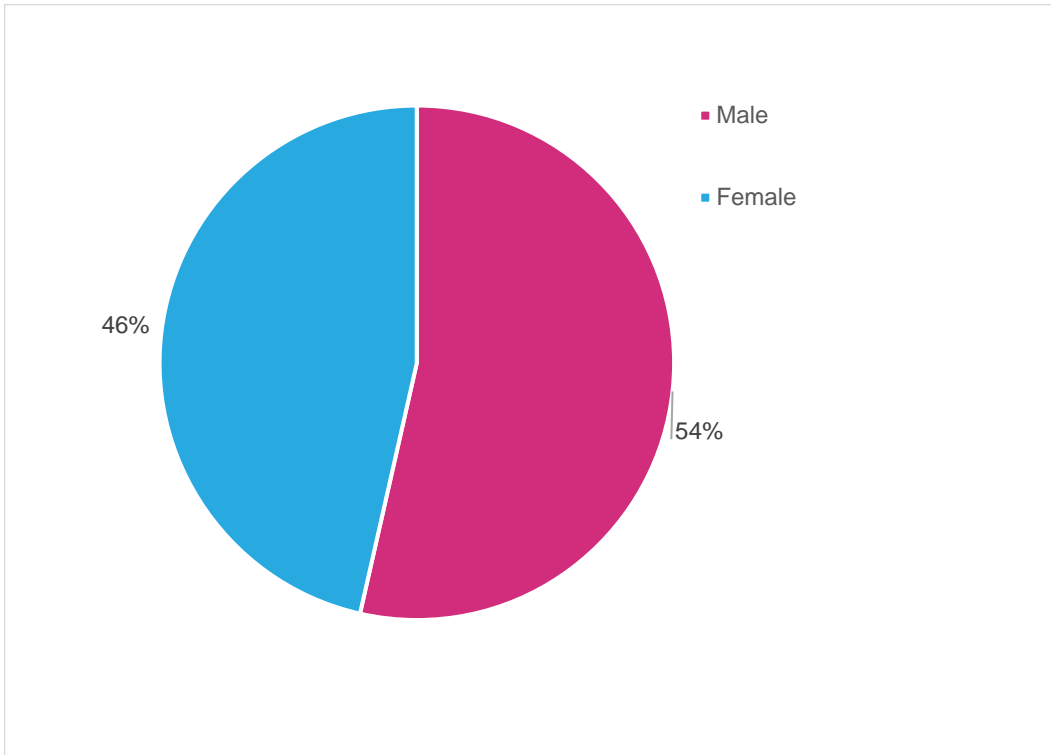
Inset 212: Ethnicity (as %) of users surveyed



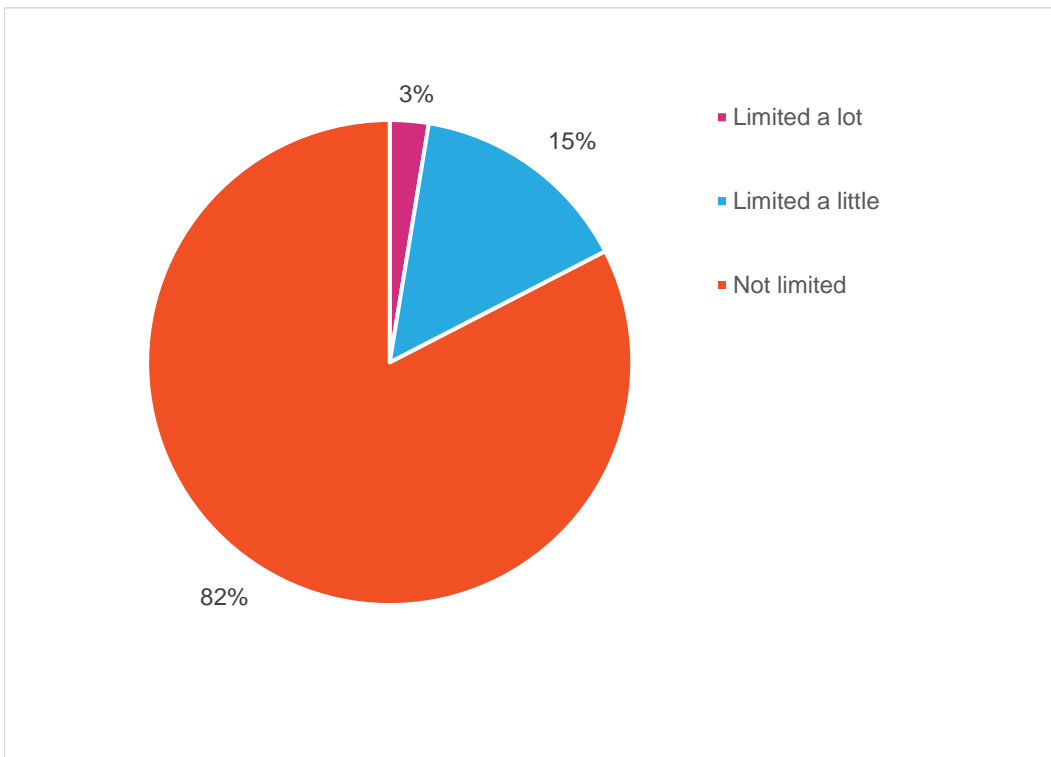
Inset 213: Religious beliefs (as %) of users surveyed



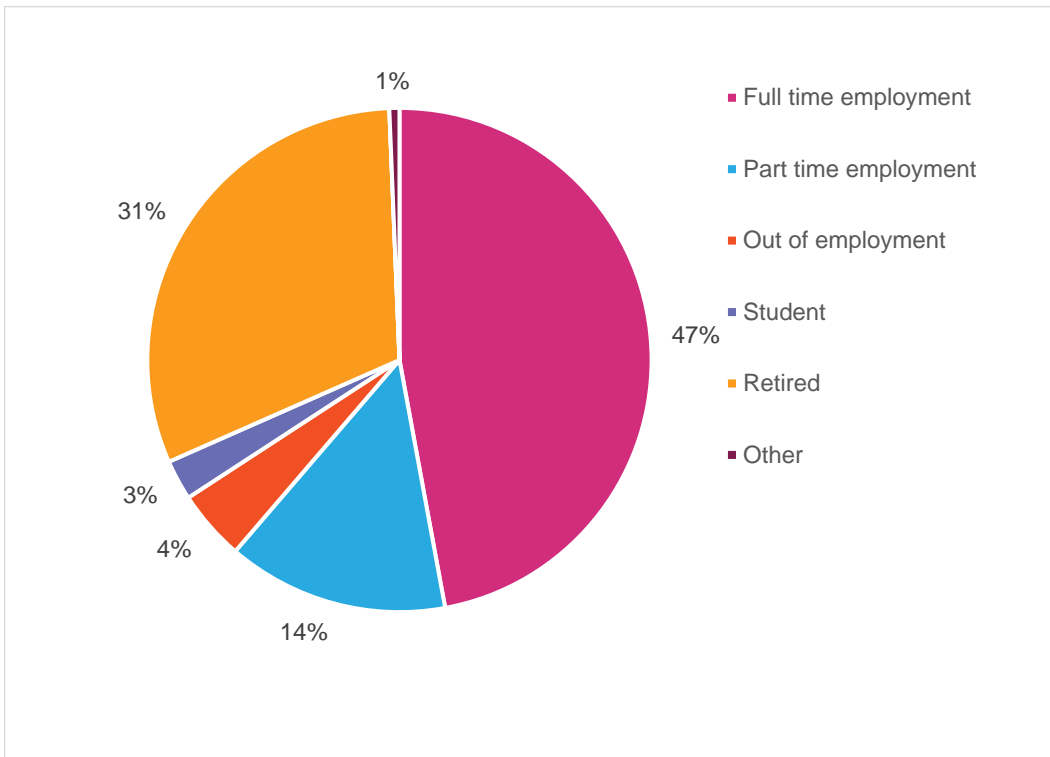
Inset 214: Gender (as %) of users surveyed



Inset 215: Health and disability limitations (as %) of users surveyed



**Inset 216: Employment status (as %) of users surveyed**

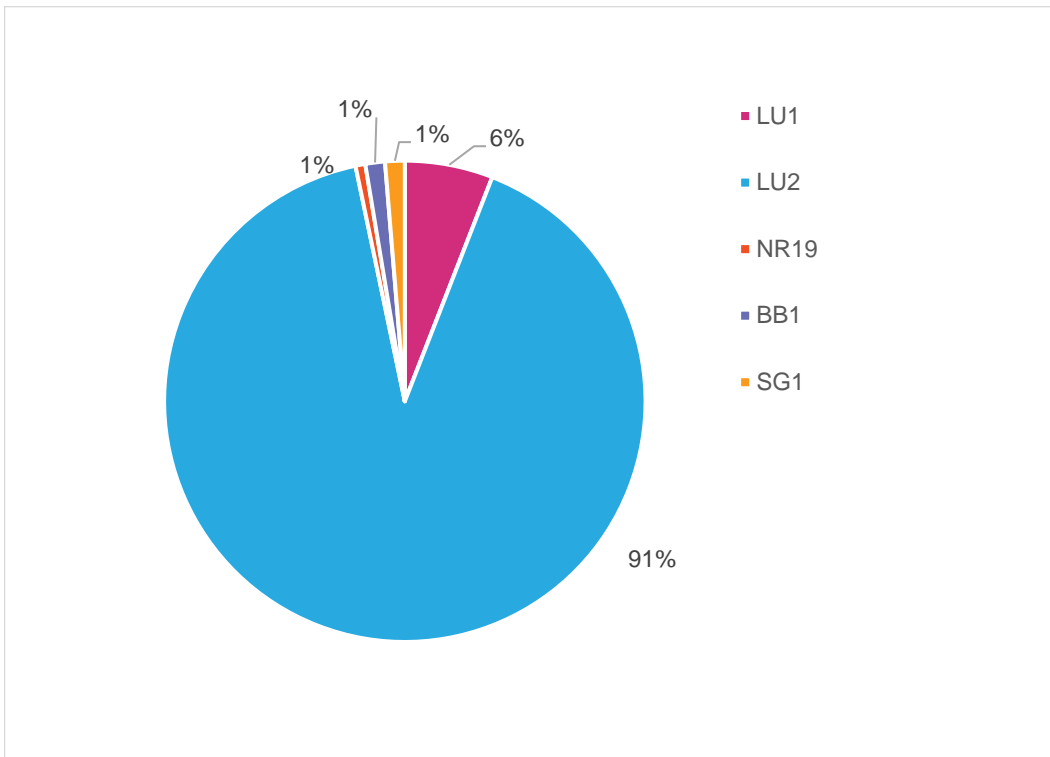


2.1.11 Inset 17 shows the postcodes of users surveyed. Of the total 155 users surveyed, 91% stated they live in the postcode district LU2. LU2 is an urban and rural postcode district spanning Luton and areas to the north and east in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

2.1.12 Of the total 155 users surveyed, 6% stated they live in the postcode district LU1. LU1 is an urban and rural postcode district spanning Luton and areas to the south west in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

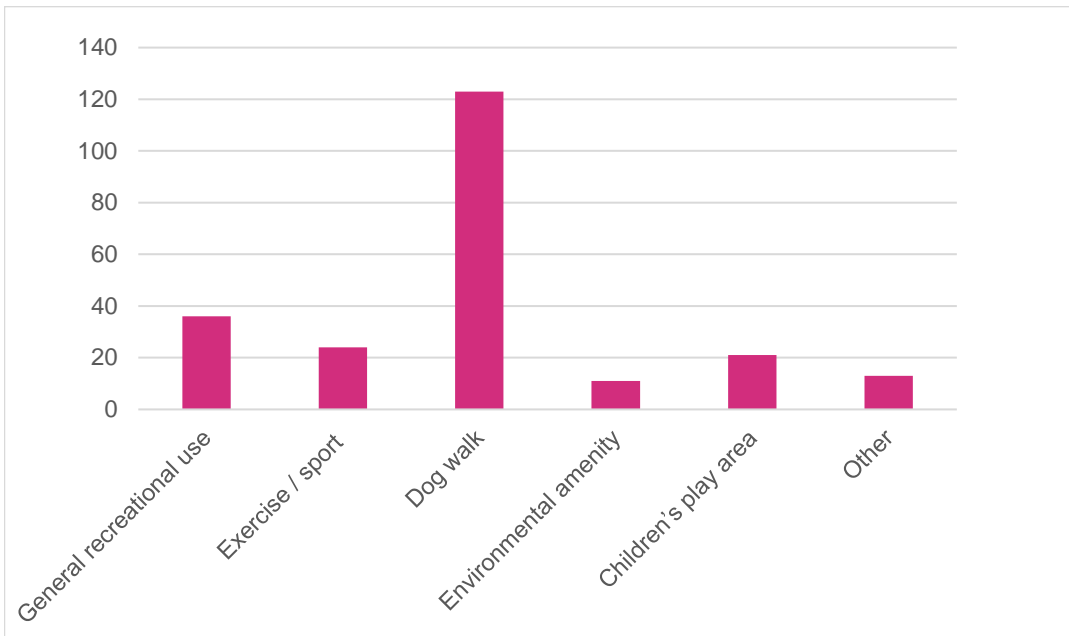
2.1.13 In terms of areas outside of Luton, of the total users surveyed, 1% stated they live in the postcode districts NR19, BB1 and SG1 respectively. NR19 is a rural postcode district in Norfolk, BB1 is an urban and rural postcode district in Lancashire, and SG1 is a postcode district in the county of Hertfordshire, containing the town of Stevenage as well as smaller conurbations. It is likely these users were visiting the Luton area.

Inset 217: Postcode (as %) of users surveyed



- 2.1.14 Users were asked to state the purpose of their visit and activities undertaken. All relevant purposes for visiting Wigmore Valley Park were recorded. Users could state more than one reason for visiting.
- 2.1.15 Of the total 155 users surveyed, 123 stated that dog walking was one of their reasons for visiting Wigmore Valley Park. Other popular reasons for visiting included general recreational use (36 users), exercise and sport (24 users), using the children’s play area (21 users) and environmental amenity (11 users).
- 2.1.16 Other recorded reasons for visiting Wigmore Valley Park included plane spotting (nine users), waiting to pick up relatives from London Luton Airport (two users), photography (one user) and attending a work-related social event (one user).

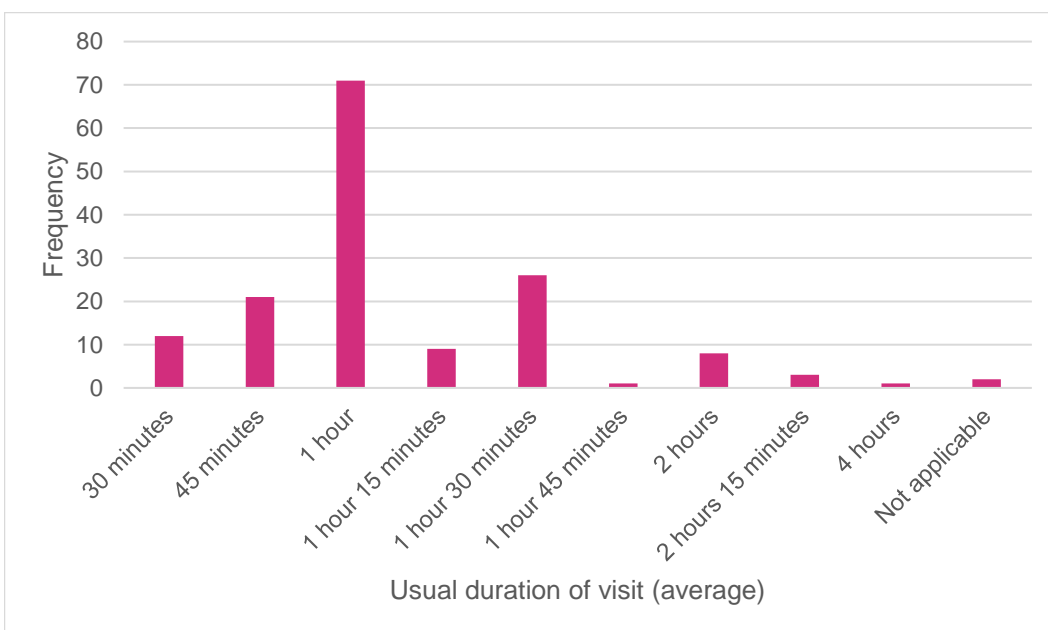
**Inset 18: Purpose of visit and activities undertaken**



2.1.17 Users were asked to state, on average, the usual duration of their visit to Wigmore Valley Park.

2.1.18 Of the total 155 users surveyed, 71 stated they usually spend around 1 hour at Wigmore Valley Park. The next most frequent duration for visiting was 1 hour and 30 minutes (26 of the total 155 users surveyed), followed by and 45 minutes (21 of the total 155 users surveyed). The remaining user responses were recorded in low frequency across the range of 30 minutes to 4 hours. Two users had never visited before therefore the question was not applicable.

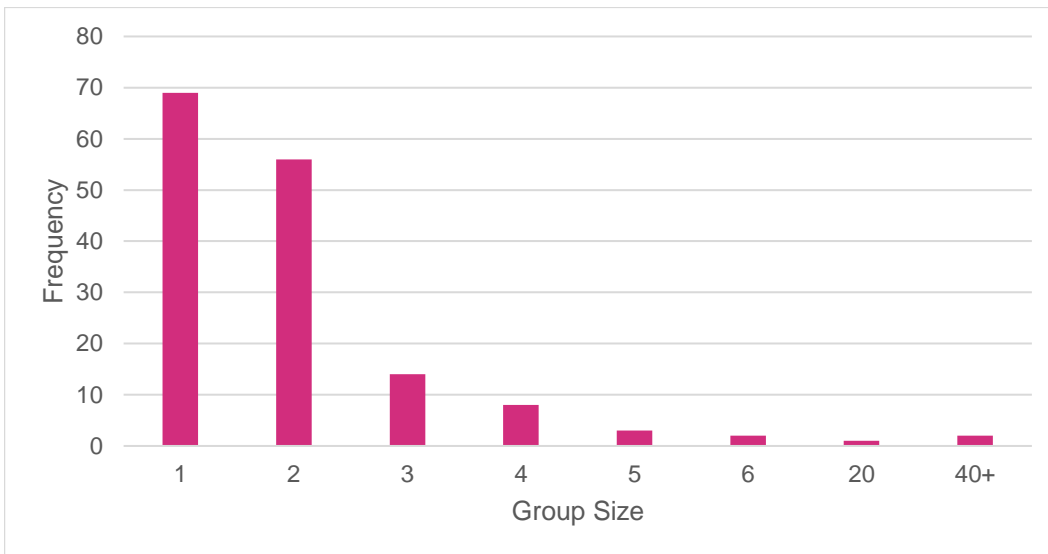
**Inset 219: Usual duration of visit (average, in hours)**



2.1.19 Users were asked to state the group size during the visit.

2.1.20 Most users surveyed were visiting Wigmore Valley Park either alone (69 out of the 155 users surveyed) or in a pair of two (56 out of the 155 users surveyed). Fourteen users surveyed were in a group of three, while thirteen users surveyed were part of groups ranging from four to six in size. A small number of users surveyed were part of large groups who were visiting Wigmore Valley Park - a work-related social event of roughly 20 people and a community dog walk of over 40 people.

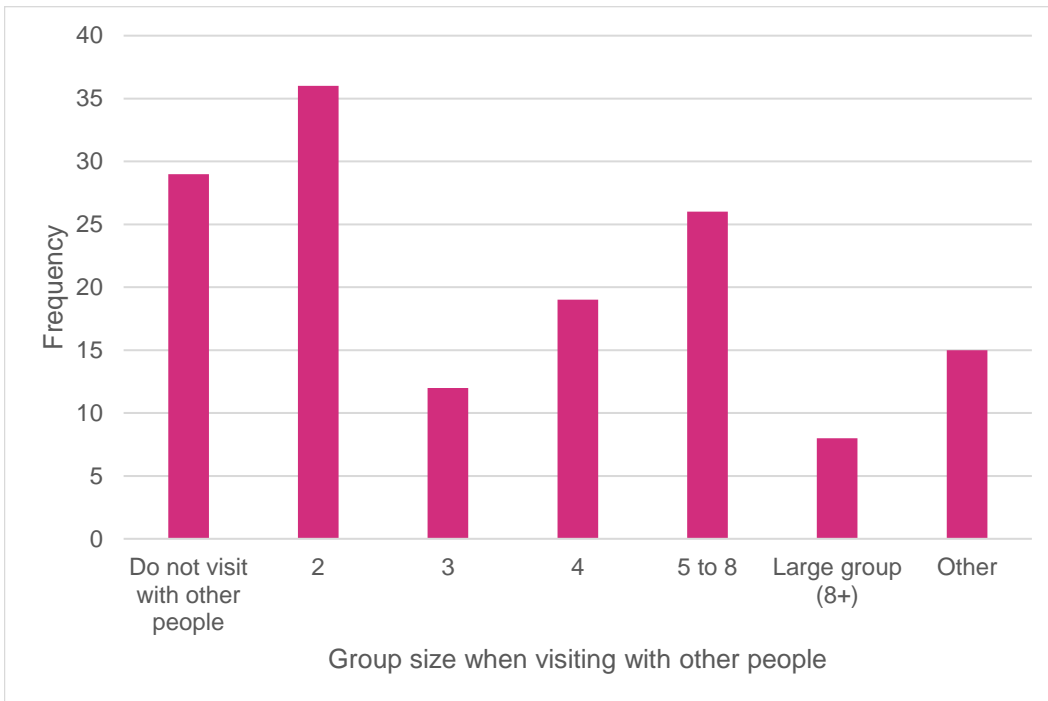
Inset 220: Group size of users surveyed



2.1.21 Users were asked whether they visit Wigmore Valley Park with other people, and if so, how many people are in the group.

2.1.22 Of the total 155 users surveyed, 29 stated that they do not visit with other people. 67 users stated that they visit in groups of between 2-4 people, while 26 users stated that they visit in groups of between 5-8 people. 23 users stated they sometimes visit in larger groups including a group of 15-20 family friends and an organised community dog walk of over 40 people. 15 users were recorded as 'other', as they could not provide specific numbers. These users did however state that they will often visit Wigmore Valley Park with family, grandchildren and visitors. One user stated that they work nearby and use Wigmore Valley Park for mentoring sessions with colleagues.

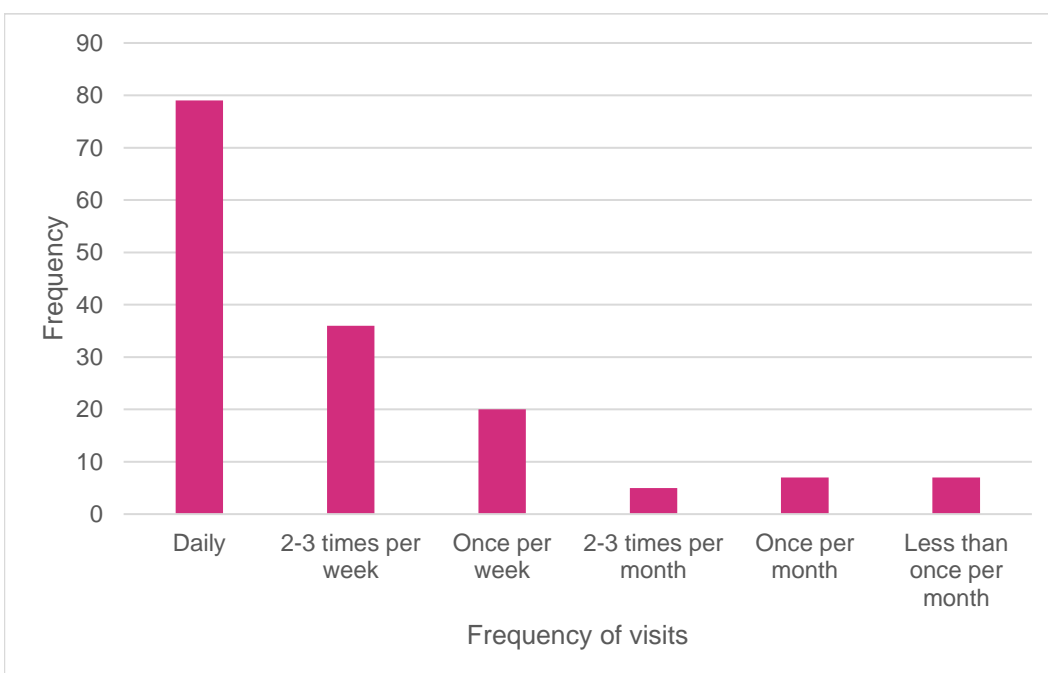
**Inset 21: Group sizes when visiting with other people**



2.1.23 Users were asked how often they visit Wigmore Valley Park. Of the total 155 users surveyed, 79 stated that they visit daily. A small number of these users stated that they visit twice a day. 36 users stated that they visit two to three times per week, while 20 users stated that they visit once per week. A small proportion of users surveyed stated that they visit less frequently than once per week.

2.1.24 Of the total 79 daily visitors, 71 were recorded as dog walkers.

**Inset 222: Frequency of visits**





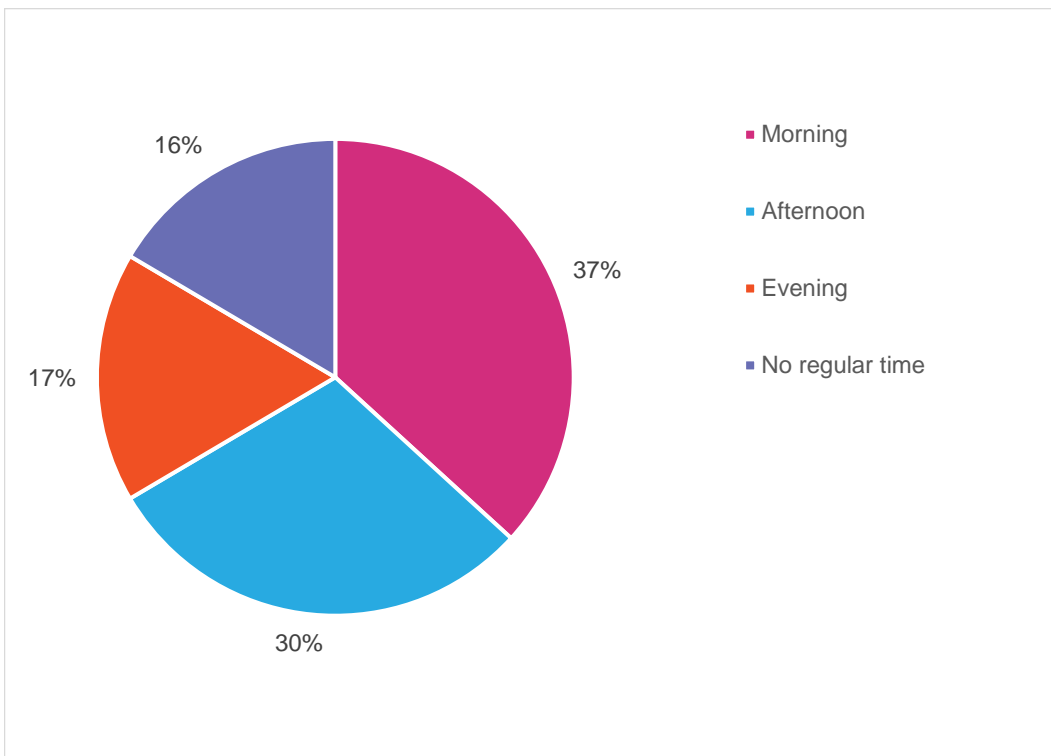
2.1.25 Users were asked whether there is any seasonal variation in how they use Wigmore Valley Park.

2.1.26 Of the total 155 users surveyed, 104 stated there is no seasonal variation in how they use Wigmore Valley Park. 21 users stated they visit less frequently in winter and seven users stated they do not visit at all during winter. Seven users stated that they avoid the park during wet weather because it can become muddy and waterlogged. 13 users stated they visit more frequently during school holidays and summer, while for two users the question was not applicable because they had never visited before.

2.1.27 Users were asked what time of day they generally visit Wigmore Valley Park.

2.1.28 Of the total 155 users surveyed, 37% tend to visit in the morning, while 30% and 17% tend to visit in the afternoon and evening respectively. 16% of users surveyed stated that they do not have a regular visiting time and it varies each time.

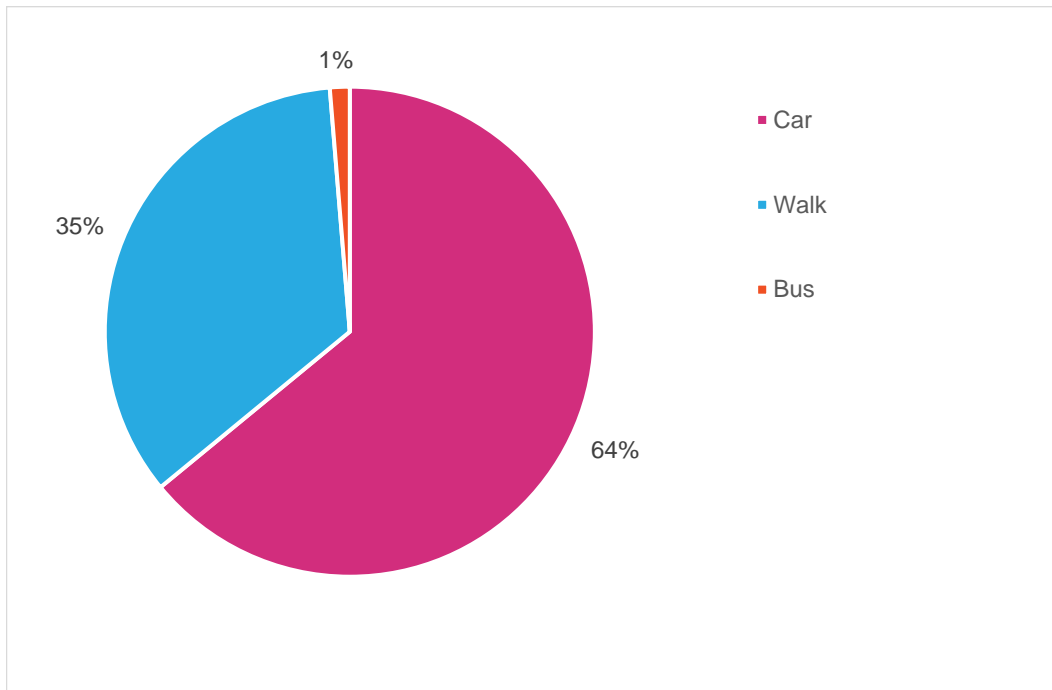
Inset 23: Regular time of visits (as %)



2.1.29 Users were asked which mode of transport they used to arrive at Wigmore Valley Park on the day the survey was undertaken.

2.1.30 Of the total 155 users surveyed, 64% stated that they travelled by car, while 35% stated that they walk. 1% of users stated that they travelled by bus.

## Inset 24: Mode of travel to Wigmore Valley Park (as %)



- 2.1.31 Further analysis has been undertaken to understand travel patterns of those within the LU2 postcode district. This is to understand local travel patterns when visiting Wigmore Valley Park.
- 2.1.32 Of the total 155 users surveyed, 138 stated they are from the postcode LU2. Of the total 138 from the LU2 postcode district, 87, users travel by car (63%) while 51 users travel by foot (37%).
- 2.1.33 Users were asked if there are any nearby community resources they generally use before or after visiting Wigmore Valley Park.
- 2.1.34 Of the total 155 users surveyed, a total of 82 respondents said they do not visit any other community resources before or after visiting Wigmore Valley Park. The remaining respondents stated they visited the following nearby community resources:
- premises at the nearby Wigmore Retail Park including the supermarket, newsagents and public house (59 respondents);
  - nearby shops at Gipsy Lane (two respondents);
  - the 'Tidy Tip' adjacent to Wigmore Valley Park (one respondent);
  - Crawley Green Recreation Ground on the way to or from Wigmore Valley Park (one respondent);
  - Ashcroft Recreation Ground on the way to or from Wigmore Valley Park (two respondents);
  - nearby Public Rights of Way on the way to or from Wigmore Valley Park (one respondent);
  - nearby swimming baths (one respondent); and

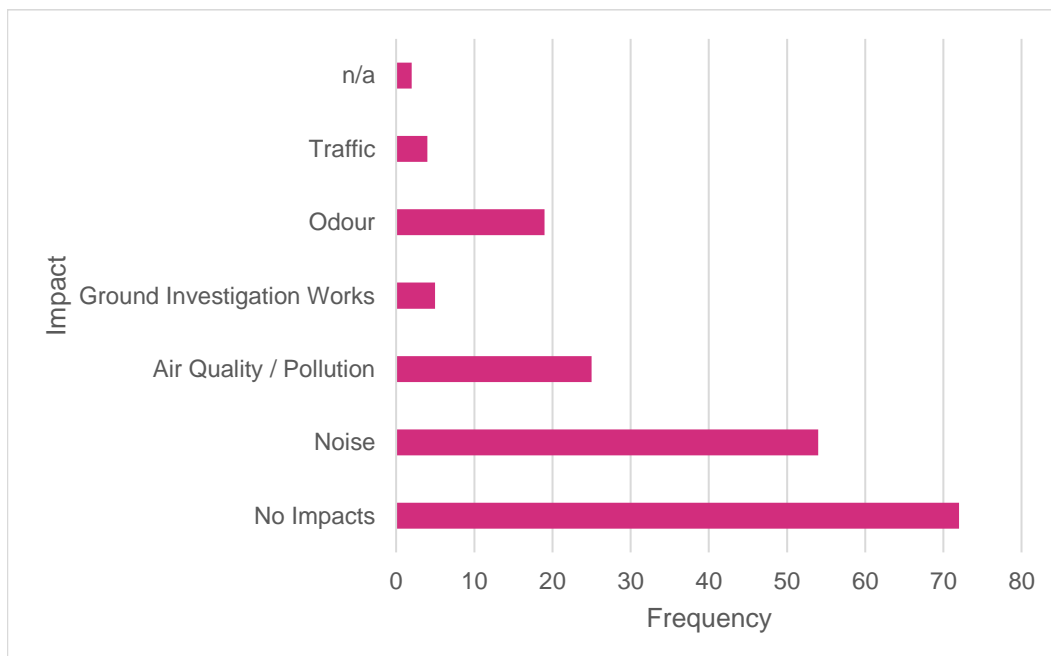
h. Stotfold Mill in Hertfordshire after visiting Wigmore Valley Park (one respondent).

2.1.35 Users were asked whether they currently experience any impacts of London Luton Airport when visiting Wigmore Valley Park.

2.1.36 Of the total 155 users surveyed, 72 reported they currently experience no impacts of London Luton Airport when using the park. Of those users who reported that they experience impacts of London Luton Airport when visiting Wigmore Valley Park:

- a. 52 users stated they experience noise impacts;
- b. 25 users stated they experience pollution / air quality impacts;
- c. 19 users stated they can smell aviation fuel depending on the wind direction;
- d. Five users reported disturbance from recent ground investigation works in Wigmore Valley Park, related to the Proposed Development;
- e. Four users reported traffic impacts when accessing Wigmore Valley Park;
- f. One user reported the visual impact of aircraft taking off and landing when visiting Wigmore Valley Park; and
- g. Two users had never visited the park before and were therefore unable to answer.

Inset 25: Impacts of London Luton Airport when using Wigmore Valley Park

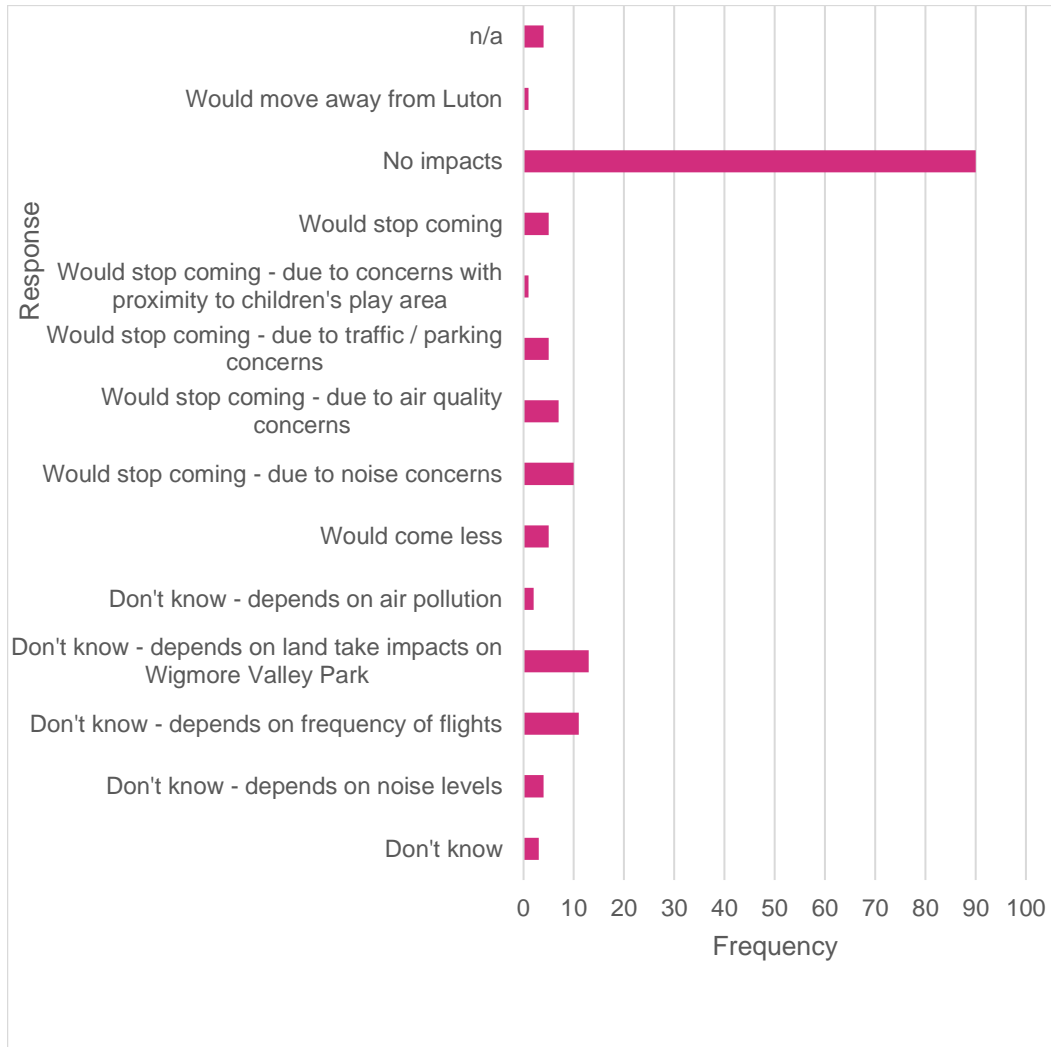


2.1.37 Users were asked how an increase in flight movements would affect their decision to visit Wigmore Valley Park.

2.1.38 Of the total 155 users surveyed, 90 stated that an increase in flight movements would not affect their decision to visit Wigmore Valley Park.

- 2.1.39 Of the total 155 users surveyed, 29 stated that an increase in flight movements would result in them ceasing to visit Wigmore Valley Park. These users cited noise concerns, air quality concerns, traffic and parking concerns, and concerns with the proximity of the Proposed Development to the children's play area. One user stated that they would relocate away from the Luton area if the expansion proposals for London Luton Airport proceed, so would therefore no longer visit Wigmore Valley Park.
- 2.1.40 Of the total 155 users surveyed, 33 stated that they don't know whether an increase in flight movements would affect their decision to use Wigmore Valley Park. These users stated that the decision to use Wigmore Valley Park would be informed by further information on noise levels, the frequency of flights, levels of air pollution, and the amount of land at Wigmore Valley Park which would be directly impacted by the Proposed Development.
- 2.1.41 Of the total 155 users surveyed, five stated that they would visit Wigmore Valley Park less due to an increase in flight movements.
- 2.1.42 The response of four users was considered not applicable. Two users did not answer the question and two users were not regular visitors to Wigmore Valley Park.

**Inset 226: Impacts of an increase in flight movements on user’s decision to use Wigmore Valley Park**



- 2.1.43 Users were asked whether there are any other open spaces which they perceive to be comparable to Wigmore Valley Park in the Luton area, and if so, whether they use them regularly.
- 2.1.44 Of the total 155 users surveyed, 92 stated that there are no comparable spaces to Wigmore Valley Park in the Luton area. Of the 92 responses, 10 users provided additional comments:
  - a. five users added that you would have to drive to visit any comparable open spaces to Wigmore Valley Park; and
  - b. five users added that there are no comparable open spaces to Wigmore Valley Park in the Luton area, citing reasons such as the access to wildlife and amenities for children.
- 2.1.45 Of the total 155 users surveyed, 61 stated that there are comparable open spaces to Wigmore Valley Park in the area:
  - a. 30 users stated that Stopsley Common / Lothair Road Recreation Ground is a comparable open space to Wigmore Valley Park. Of these

30 users, seven stated that they use Stopsley Common / Lothair Recreation Ground regularly;

- b. ten users stated that Stockwood Park is a comparable open space to Wigmore Valley Park. Of these ten users, two stated that they use Stockwood Park regularly;
- c. seven users stated that Wardown Park is a comparable open space to Wigmore Valley Park. No users stated that they use Wardown Park regularly;
- d. five users stated that Cockernhoe is a comparable open space to Wigmore Valley Park. One user stated that they use Cockernhoe regularly; and
- e. two users stated that Ashcroft Recreation Ground is a comparable open space to Wigmore Valley Park. No users stated that they use Ashcroft Recreation Ground regularly.

2.1.46 Other comparable open spaces to Wigmore Valley Park in the wider Luton area which received one individual response are listed below:

- a. Wandon Park, Luton;
- b. Eaton Green, Luton;
- c. Open fields accessed from adjacent Public Rights of Way, Luton;
- d. Clophill Woods, Clophill;
- e. Great Ashby Park, Stevenage;
- f. Dunstable Downs, Dunstable;
- g. Stewartby Lakes, Bedford; and
- h. Barton Springs, Harpenden.

2.1.47 Two responses were untraceable to named open spaces, while two users were unable to answer the question because they were not from the Luton area.

2.1.48 Users were asked for their perceptions of the quality of the overall environment at Wigmore Valley Park.

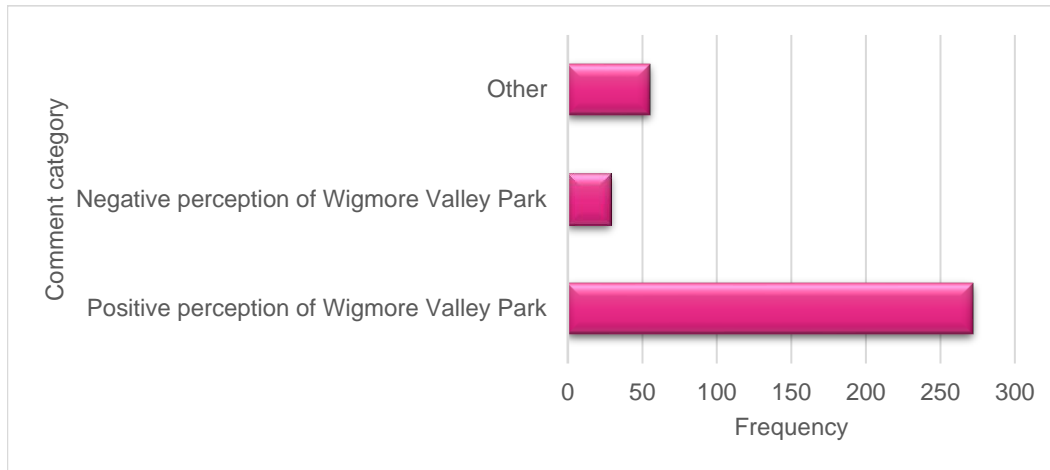
2.1.49 Responses have been analysed through an analytical process known as coding. Coding is a process whereby within each user response, comments are given a descriptive 'code' Each recorded comment on the quality of the overall environment of Wigmore Valley Park has been allocated a code. This allows multiple comments per user response to be recorded. Codes are then further grouped into common thematic categories.

2.1.50 Following the coding process, three categories are deemed appropriate to encompass the comments recorded:

- a. positive perception of the overall environment (i.e. positive comments about Wigmore Valley Park);
- b. negative perception of the overall environment (i.e. negative comments about Wigmore Valley Park);

- c. other (i.e. neither positive nor negative comments, such as suggestions for enhancement or concerns regarding future development proposals)

#### Inset 227: Perceptions of the quality of the environment of Wigmore Valley Park



2.1.51 A total of 272 positive comments related to the perception of the quality of the overall environment have been recorded, as listed below:

- a. well maintained, including grass cutting and cleanliness (15 comments);
- b. safe (three comments);
- c. user has been visiting Wigmore Valley Park for many years, often with family and children when they were younger (seven comments);
- d. important for young people in the area, providing somewhere to play, be outdoors and learn about nature (eight comments);
- e. tranquil and peaceful, and is important for nearby residents' health and wellbeing (five comments);
- f. good variety of facilities for different users, such as children's play facilities and the skate park (12 comments);
- g. good variety of footpaths, for walking, exercising, running and physical health (18 comments);
- h. good for plane spotting (seven comments);
- i. good for socialising and has a good community feel, with activities such as orchid walks, dog walks and group litter picks (seven comments)
- j. good variety in landscapes and different areas of the park, such as large open spaces, wooded areas, footpaths and trails (24 comments);
- k. good size with large, open spaces (27 comments);
- l. good for dog walking (24 comments);
- m. provides access to the countryside, nature and wildlife including mature trees, flowers and birds (34 comments);

- n. good for fresh air as Luton is a polluted area (three comments);
- o. general comment that it is a good open space (67 comments);
- p. easily accessible from the Wigmore area (ten comments); and
- q. valuable for the elderly (one comment).

2.1.52 A total of 29 negative comments related to the perception of the quality of the overall environment have been recorded, as listed below:

- a. issue with car security at north east access (one comment);
- b. issues with motorbike usage in the park (four comments);
- c. park can become boggy and frozen over during winter (three comments);
- d. issues with odour of aviation fuel (three comments);
- e. issues with anti-social behaviour including drug use, a lack of cctv and vandalism (seven comments);
- f. impacts of aircraft noise (four comments);
- g. impacts of pollution from aircraft fumes, including for asthmatic users of wigmore valley park (four comments); and
- h. poorly maintained and grass is not cut frequently enough (three comments).

2.1.53 A total of 55 'other' comments have been recorded which do not explicitly give a positive or negative view of the quality of the environment at Wigmore Valley Park. Many of these comments include suggestions or raise other concerns and are listed as follows:

- a. concerns with airport expansion and subsequent loss of parts of Wigmore Valley Park (18 comments);
- b. concern with impact of the Airport Access Road on Wigmore Valley Park (one comment);
- c. concern with impact of additional traffic generated by airport expansion on access to the park (two comments);
- d. concern that historic use of agricultural fertilisers will render the land proposed for replacement open space unsuitable (one comment);
- e. concern that the proposed replacement open space is too far away from the existing park, which will lead to a lack of usage and subsequently no long-term maintenance (two comments);
- f. suggestions for public toilets (five comments);
- g. suggestions for a café (four comments);
- h. suggestion for more investment in facilities including the Wigmore Pavilion building and children's play facilities (six comments);
- i. suggestion for more bins spread throughout the park and more frequent emptying (ten comments);
- j. suggestion for planting of fruit trees (one comment);



- k. suggestion for the provision of football pitches (one comment);
- l. suggestion for planting of a forested area (one comment);
- m. suggestion that the three-hour parking limit at the Wigmore Valley Park car park should be lifted on weekends, to allow extended activities such as picnics and activities for the local Scout group (two comments); and
- n. suggestion for improved surfacing of footpaths (one comment).

## Summary

- 2.1.54 User questionnaires have been designed to capture data on users' demographic background, reasons for visiting Wigmore Valley Park, usage patterns and attitudes towards London Luton Airport in relation to their use of Wigmore Valley Park.
- 2.1.55 Wigmore Valley Park is a well-used community resource for residents in the Luton area. The park provides facilities and areas for a variety of uses and activities, and indeed users have been recorded visiting Wigmore Valley Park for a variety of reasons. Most users surveyed are regular visitors to the park.
- 2.1.56 Data suggests that visits to the park are a regular occurrence in the lives of local residents, either as individuals and often as part of a wider social group. A number of comments suggest that people have historic connections to Wigmore Valley Park, whether that is through visiting with children when they were of a younger age, or through regular usage over many years.
- 2.1.57 It is considered that Wigmore Valley Park is an important environment for people to socialise. Notable findings are the existence of monthly community dog walks of over 40 people, litter picks, orchid walks and bat walks. This suggests that Wigmore Valley Park is an important environment for community and social cohesion.
- 2.1.58 Most users surveyed commented positively on the quality of the overall environment at Wigmore Valley Park. The most popular comments reflected the size of the various open spaces, the variety in topography and landscapes, and the access that it provides to the countryside, wildlife and nature.
- 2.1.59 Users reported relatively fewer negative comments in relation to the quality of the overall environment at Wigmore Valley Park. Comments recorded related to impacts of London Luton Airport, conditions in wet winter conditions, anti-social behaviour and general maintenance. A number of other comments were recorded, with many of these containing specific concerns or suggestions for improvements.
- 2.1.60 All comments received have been circulated to the design team for the replacement open space as part of the Proposed Development, to ensure local comments can be duly considered. This is in addition to consultations regarding the design of the proposed replacement open space.

## 2.2 Raynham Way Recreation Ground

2.2.1 The details of the quality assessment undertaken at Raynham Way Recreation Ground are provided in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Raynham Way Recreation Ground quality assessment record sheet

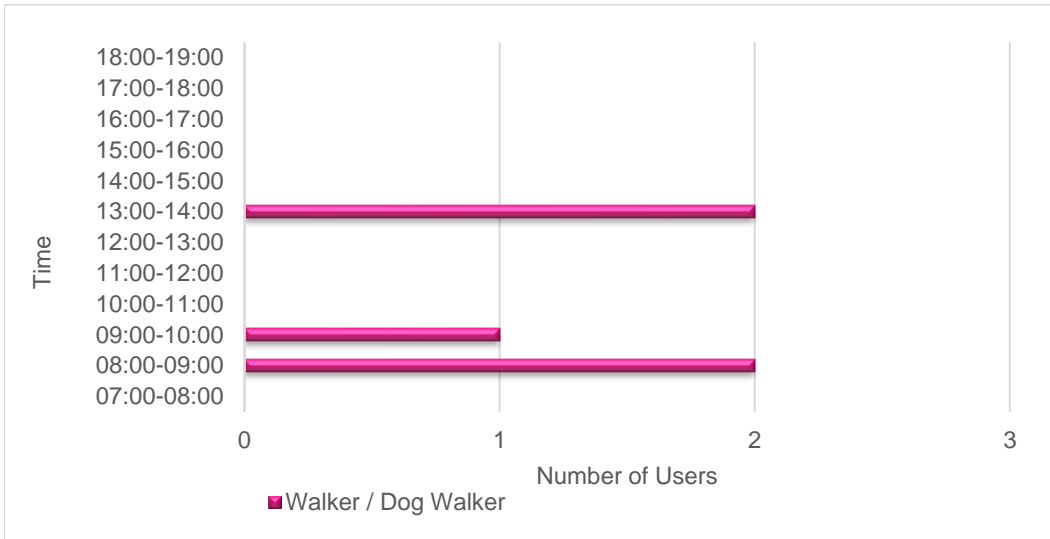
Name of site	Raynham Way Recreation Ground
Location / address	66 Eaton Green Road, Luton, LU2 9JE
Owner / manager organisation	Luton Borough Council
Access point	Accessed off Eaton Green Road
Facilities / assets on site	Raynham Way Recreation Ground is located to the north of London Luton Airport. The site is accessed from Eaton Green Way to the south, Barnston Close to the east and Raynham Way to the north. The site is comprised of a children's play area, a large open space with marked out football pitches and goal posts, and Raynham Community Centre. The recreation ground is well equipped with the provision of public gym equipment, litter and dog waste bins, car and cycle parking and security cameras. The community centre is a registered 'Asset of Community Value' and serves residents and communities within the east Luton area. It is owned and operated by members of the community.
Magnitude of impact	Reduction in amenity of users of Raynham Way Recreation Ground due to in-combination effect arising from significant residual noise and visual effects. Two significant residual environmental effects. Significant noise effect is due to surface access noise resulting from traffic on the AAR. Significant visual effect is due to the new built from the Proposed Development and an increase in operational activity.
Overall rating of magnitude of impact	Medium
Sensitivity of resource and receptors	As observed during the quality assessment, Raynham Way Recreation Ground is well maintained and well used by the local community including families, children, sports teams, community groups and dog walkers. Wigmore Valley Park is located within walking distance, but during the quality assessment it was not seen to provide football pitches and gym equipment. There are no similar recreation grounds within a 10-minute walking distance.
Overall rating of sensitivity	Medium
Overall significance	Moderate adverse in-combination effect. Significant

## 2.3 Recreational routes

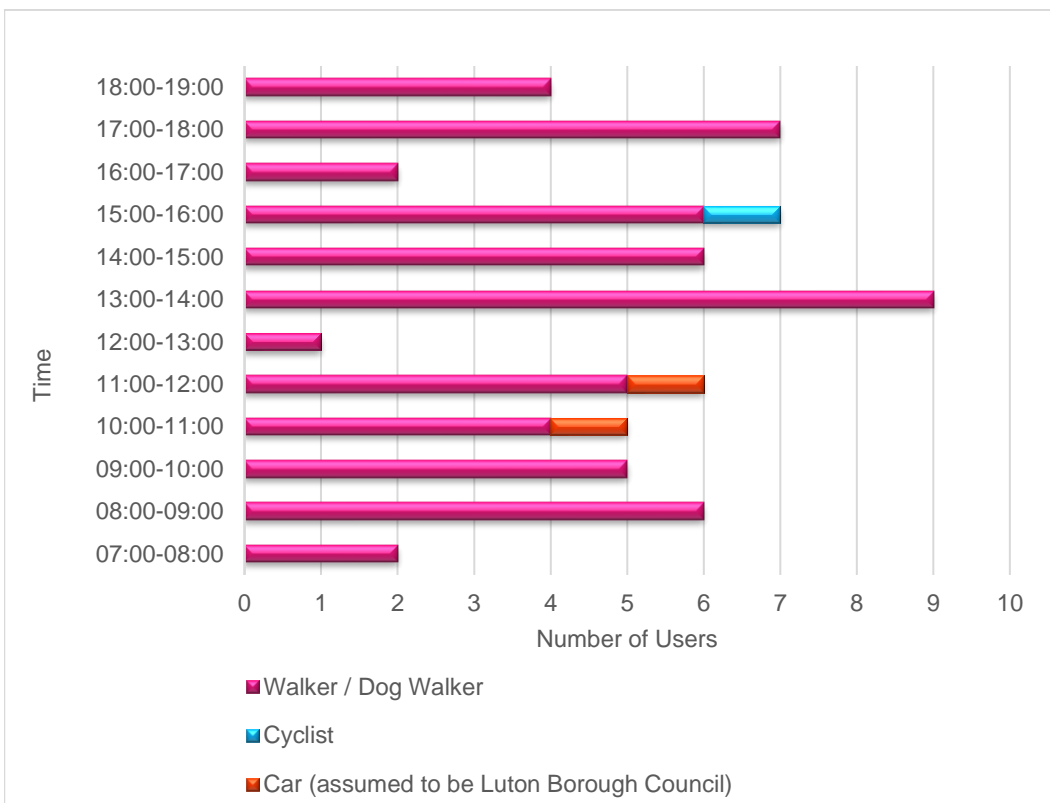
- 2.3.1 User counts have been undertaken on four recreational routes deemed likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. These are as follows:
- a. No. 1 - Kings Walden 043 footpath, which crosses the ridgeline of Winch Hill and connects Eaton Green Road and Winch Hill Road;
  - b. No. 2 – Undesignated footpath within Wigmore Valley Park, which follows the eastern edge of the existing airfield and southeast boundary of Wigmore Valley Park;
  - c. No. 3 – Public footpaths FP29 and FP38 and public bridleways BW28 and BW37, which follow the mature hedgerow to the south east of Wigmore Valley Park and east of the airfield between Eaton Green Road and Winch Hill Road; and
  - d. No. 4 - Kings Walden 052 public bridleway, which connects between Coleman’s Road (near Breachwood Green) and Eaton Green Road, and partially serves as a section of the Chiltern Way long distance footpath.
- 2.3.2 Further details of specific survey locations and methodology are outlined in **Appendix 131** Open Space Survey Methodology.
- 2.3.3 Surveys were undertaken in autumn 2018 and spring 2019.
- 2.3.4 Survey results show generally low weekday usage across all sites, while weekend usage is marginally higher. Routes within or adjacent to Wigmore Valley Park saw higher usage than those further to the east. The most usage of a recreational route was recorded at survey location No. 2, the undesignated footpath within Wigmore Valley Park. The route forms part of a series of interconnected footpaths and informal trails within Wigmore Valley Park and it connects with FP29 and FP38 and BW28 and BW37. The route is well used by walkers and dog walkers, and a small number of cyclists have also been recorded using the route.
- 2.3.5 Usage of the other recreational routes surveyed was recorded in much lower numbers.
- 2.3.6 **Insets 28-43** below set out the observed usage of the four recreational routes.

### Friday 28th September 2018

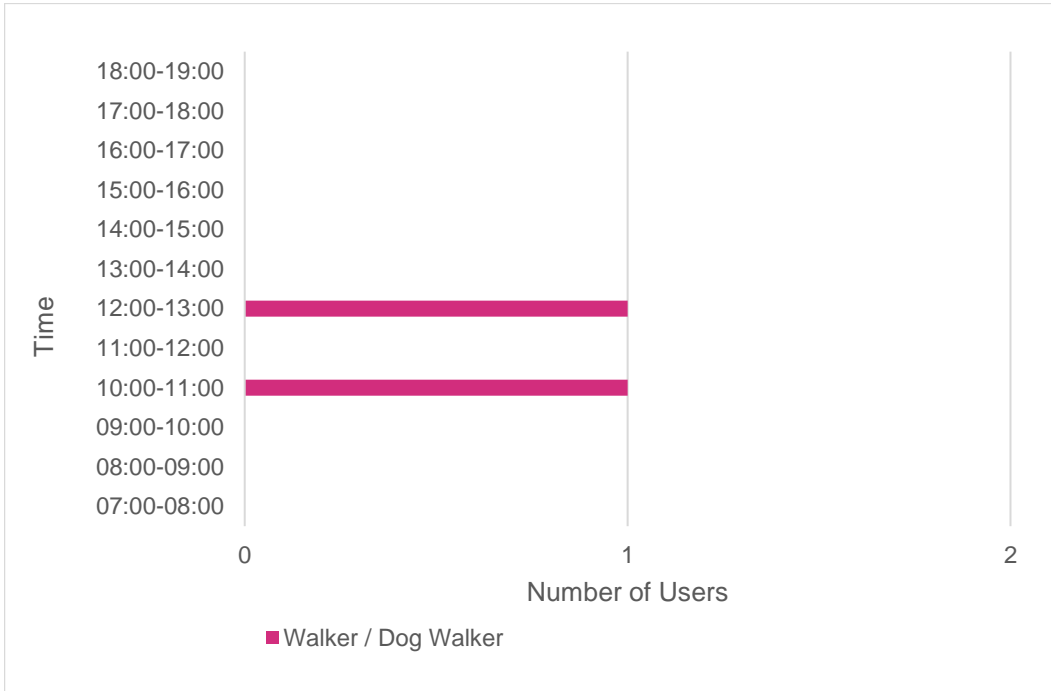
Inset 228: Recreational route survey results – Kings Walden 043 footpath, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019



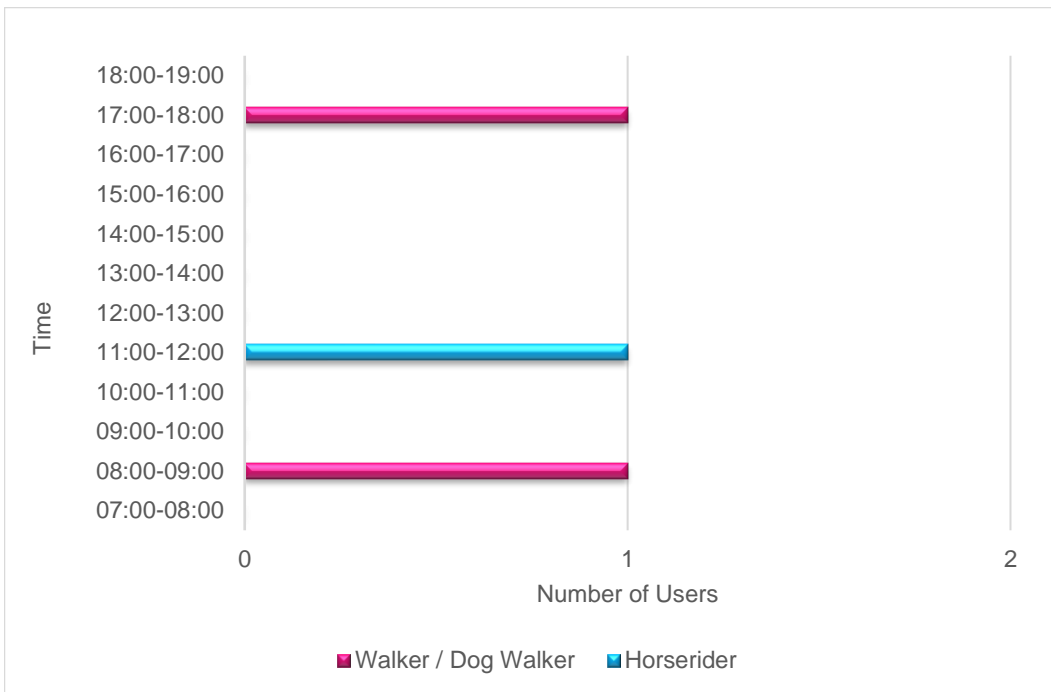
Inset 29: Recreational route survey results – Wigmore Valley Park undesignated footpath, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018



**Inset 30: Recreational route survey results – Unnamed bridleway, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

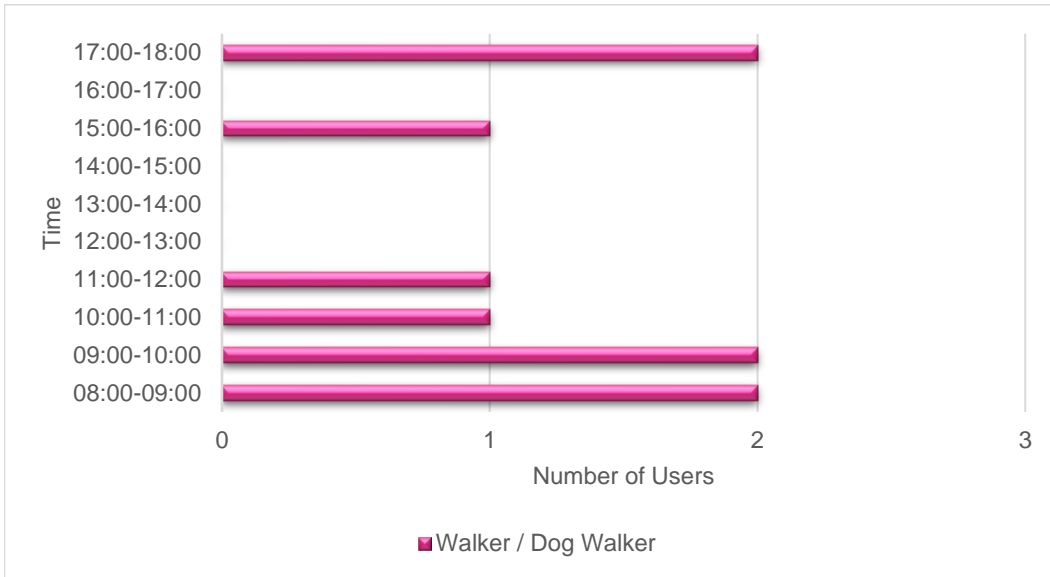


**Inset 231: Recreational route survey results - Kings Walden 052 footpath, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

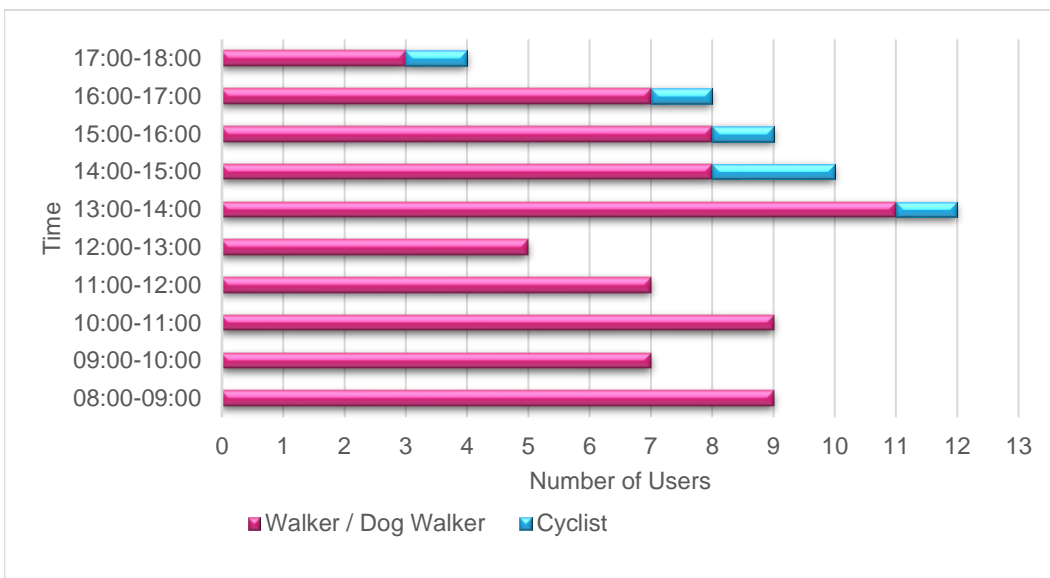


### Saturday 29th September 2018

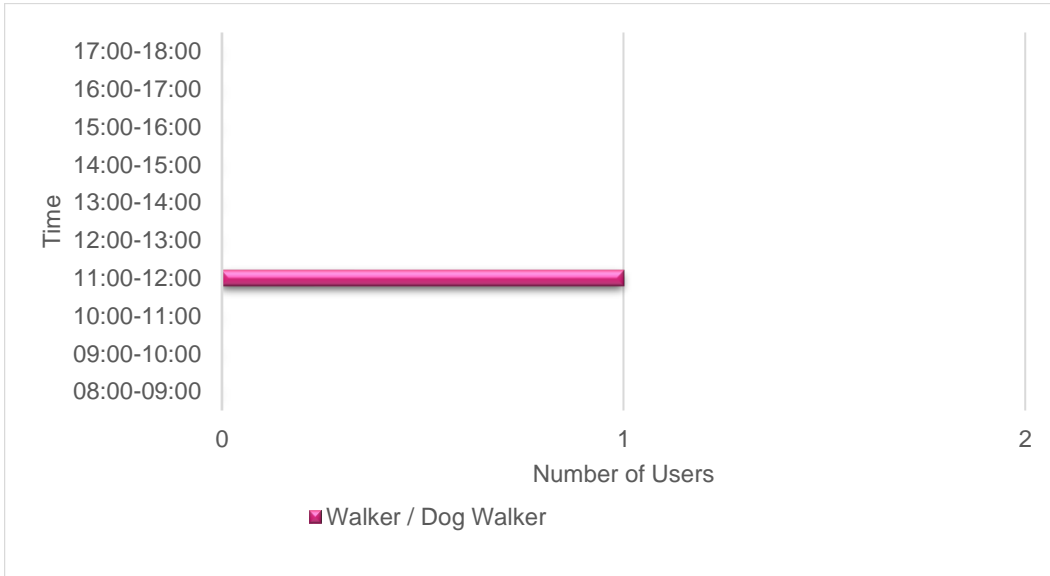
**Inset 232: Recreational route survey results – Kings Walden 043 footpath, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018**



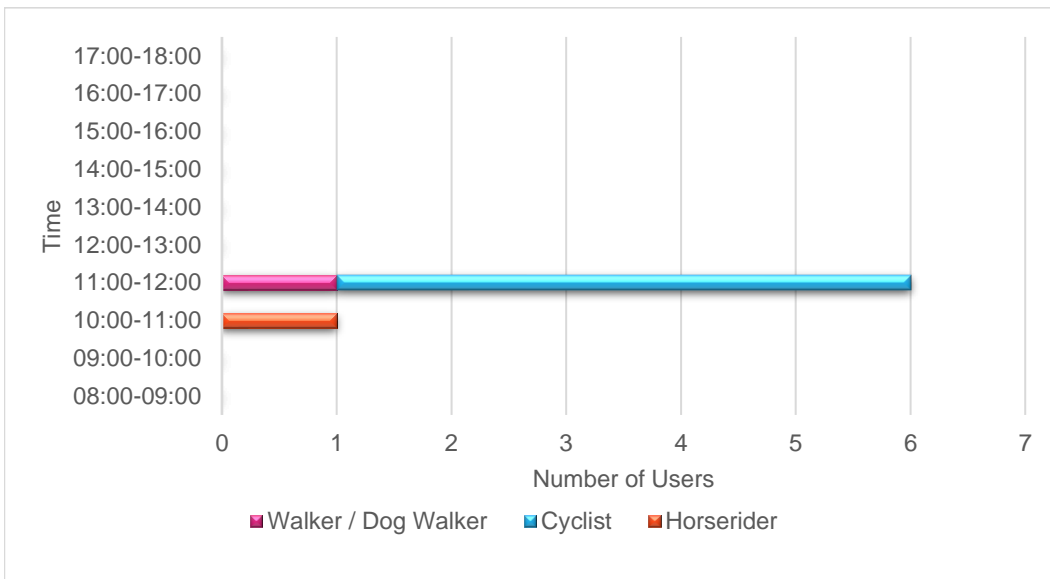
**Inset 233: Recreational route survey results – Wigmore Valley Park undesignated footpath, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018**



**Inset 34: Recreational route survey results – Unnamed bridleway, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

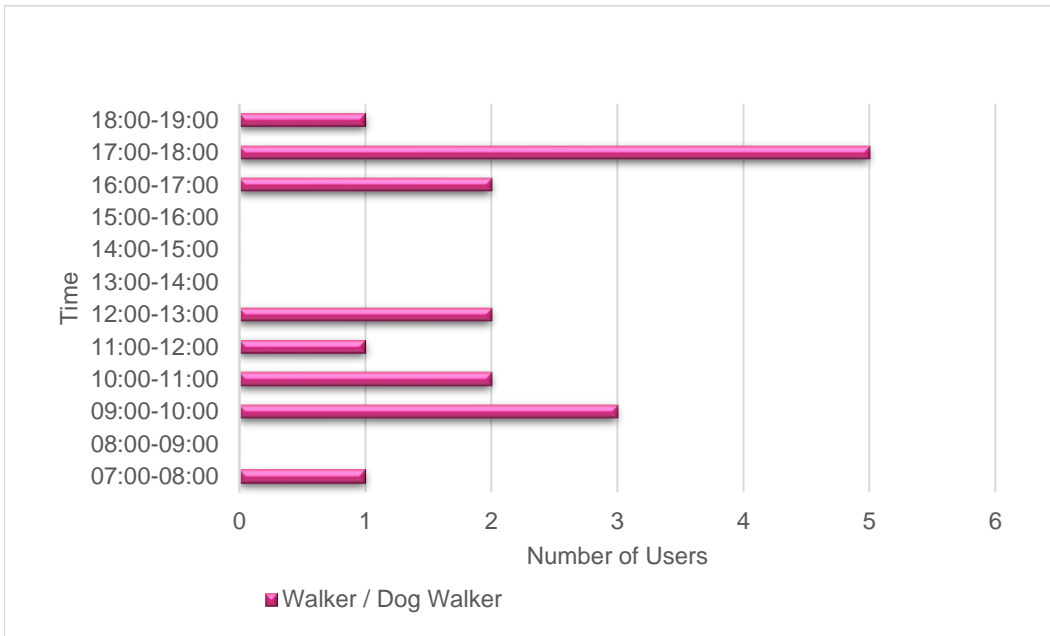


**Inset 35: Recreational route survey results - Kings Walden 052 footpath, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

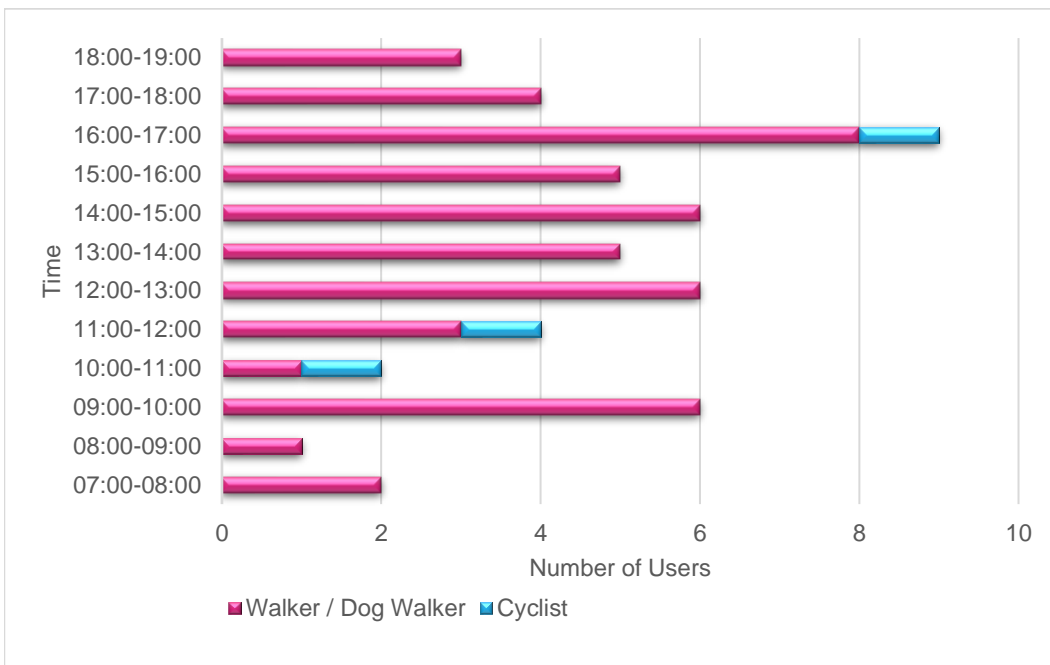


Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Inset 36: Recreational route survey results - Kings Walden 043 footpath, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019

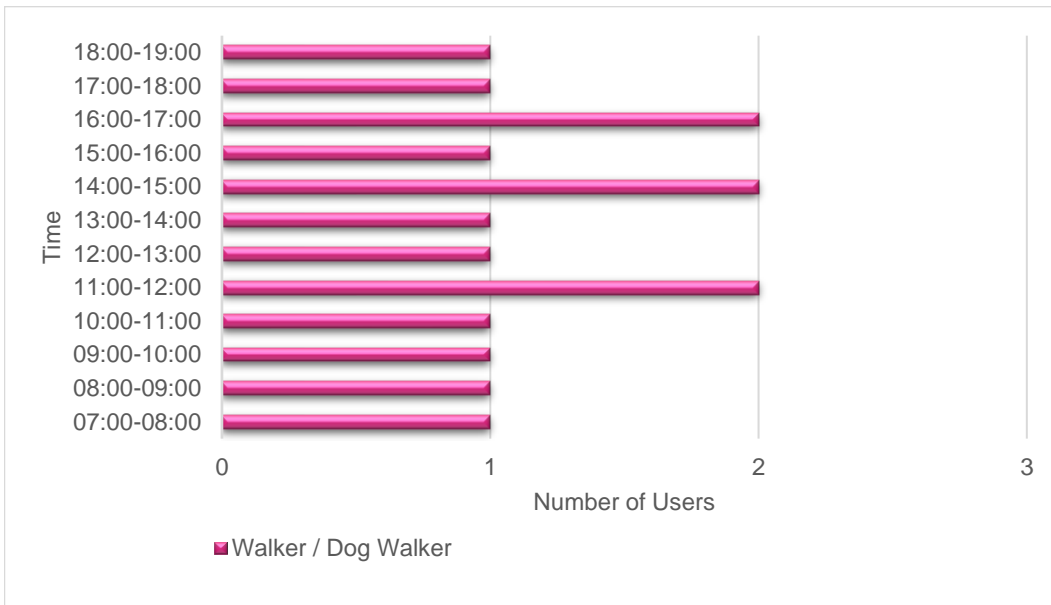


Inset 37: Recreational route survey results – Wigmore Valley Park undesignated footpath, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019

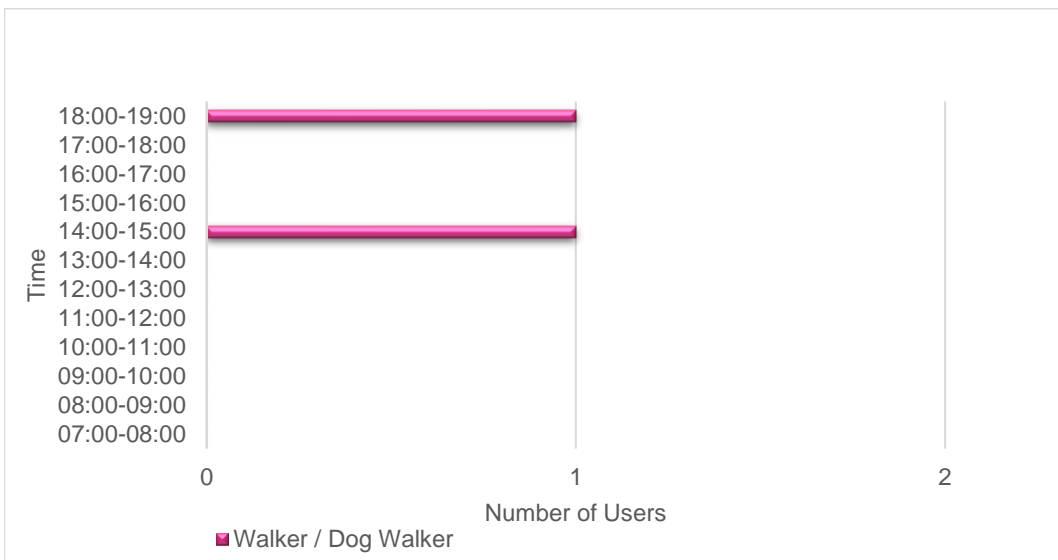




### Inset 38: Recreational route survey results – Unnamed bridleway, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019

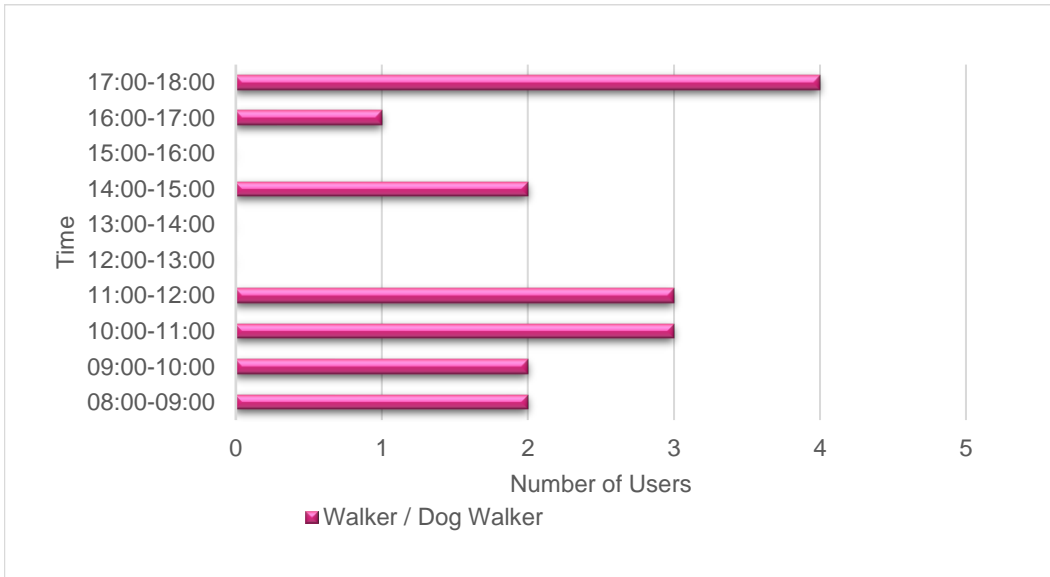


### Inset 39: Recreational route survey results – Kings Walden 052 footpath, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019

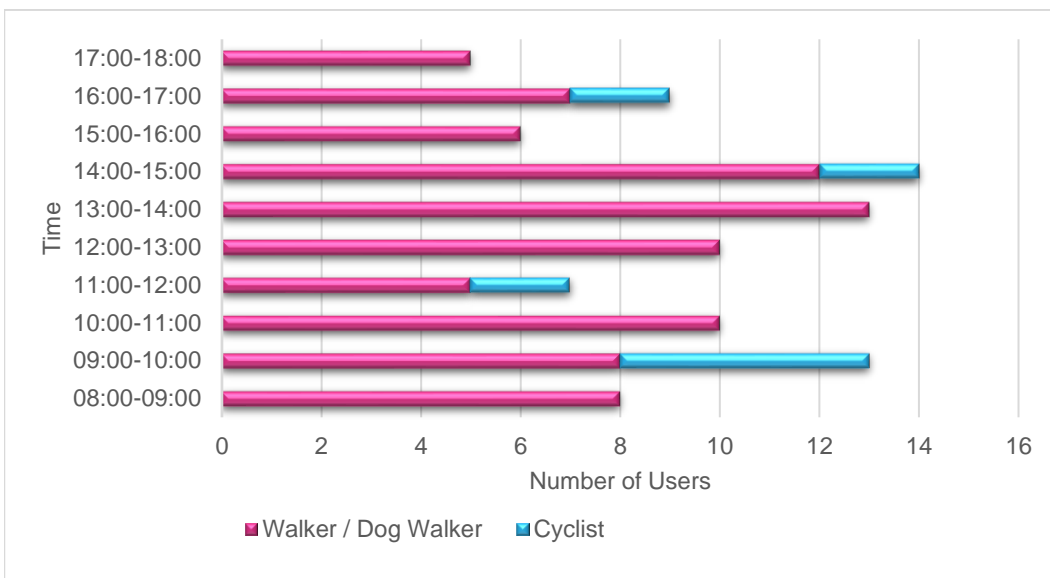


### Saturday 11th May 2019

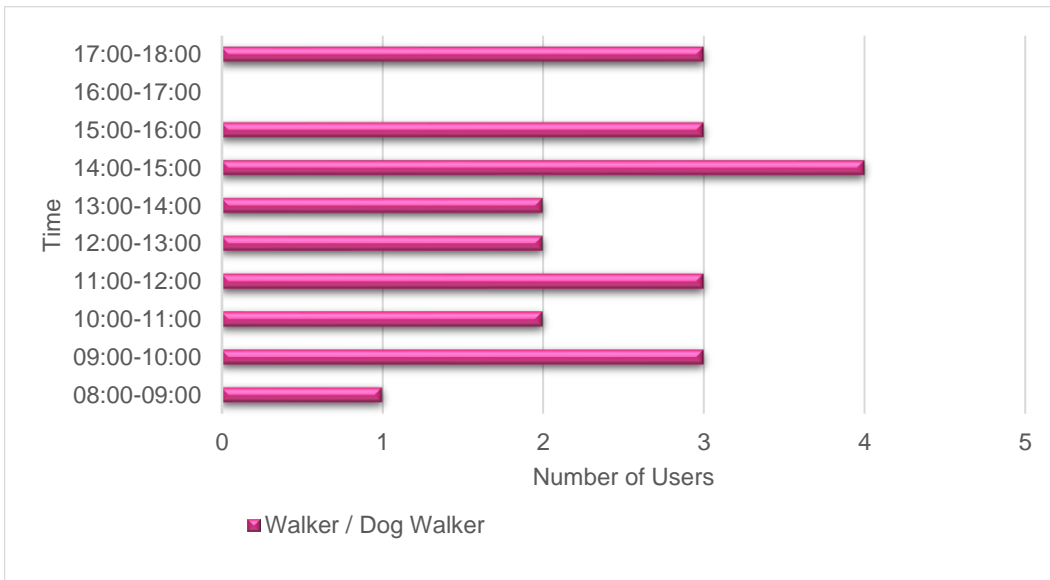
Inset 40: Recreational route survey results – Kings Walden 043 footpath, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019



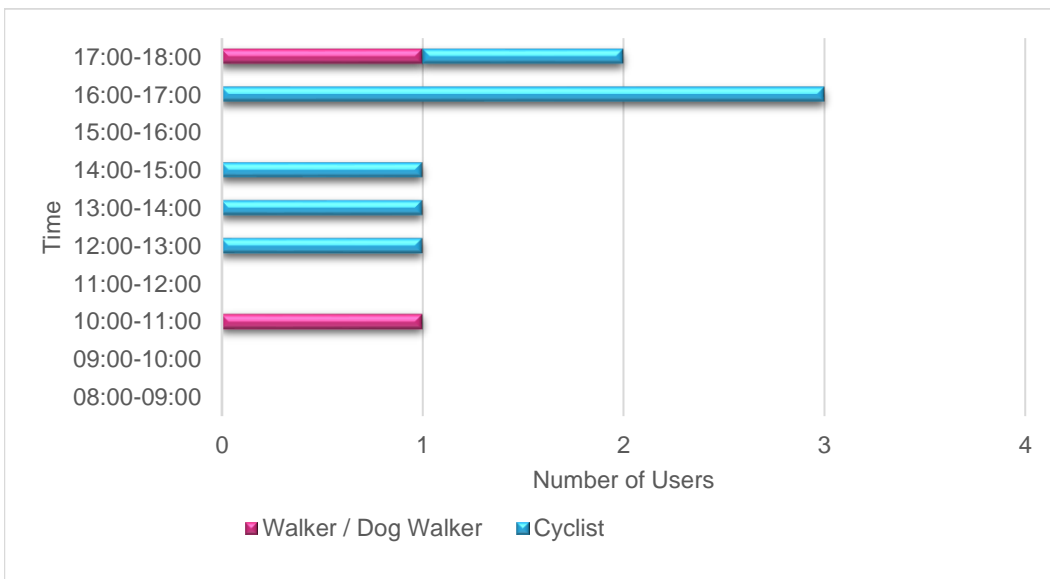
Inset 241: Recreational route survey results – Wigmore Valley Park undesignated footpath, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019



**Inset 42: Recreational route survey results – Unnamed bridleway, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019**



**Inset 43: Recreational route survey results – Kings Walden 052 footpath, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019**



**2.4 Outcomes**

2.4.1 Results from the user count surveys, questionnaires and quality assessments have been used to inform the health and community assessment contained within **Chapter 13** Health and Community in Volume 2 of the PEIR.

2.4.2 In addition, results of the user questionnaire surveys have been shared with the design team for the replacement open space and have informed the **Draft Equalities Impact Assessment**.