

# User preferences in woodland design

## CELY WOODS

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During the summer, we randomly selected 61 people to fill in a questionnaire with the aim of understanding peoples preferences in:

- facilities provided
- distribution of facilities
- site management

*Here is a summary of the main results...*



### SITE USERS: WHO ARE THEY?

More than 60% of those interviewed were aged 45+, visit the site monthly and live more than 2 miles away.

### PREFERENCES OVER DIFFERENT STYLES OF DESIGN



43% of respondents ranked the wooden bench (LEFT) as their first choice because of its rustic design. 52% ranked the recycled plastic bench (RIGHT) as their least favourite.



46% of respondents chose the natural play area (LEFT) as their first choice. 59% of respondents agreed that their least favourite play area was the imaginary game (RIGHT), primarily because of perceived safety concerns.



### PREFERENCES OVER DISTRIBUTION OF FACILITIES

34 out of 61 interviewees thought that signage should be found at junctions only.



48% of respondents chose the sheltered BBQ (LEFT) as their first option, whilst the simple BBQ (RIGHT) was least preferred by 64% of respondents.



50% of respondents thought that there should be a 'medium frequency' distribution of both picnic areas and benches, and they should be scattered around.

Users were almost unanimous that there should be at least some benches and picnic tables: with 89% of users ranking the "zero benches" option as their least favourite.



48% of respondents chose the directional sign (LEFT) as their most favourite option. 59% ranked the very descriptive sign (RIGHT) as their least favourite because it was hard to understand at a glance.



70% of respondents stated that they preferred having a picnic on a table rather than having it on a blanket

72% of respondents would like to see some form of constructed shelter on site. 87% would like to see interpretations signs.



The most preferred pathway could not be clearly identified, with options B and C each selected by 34% of respondents (Option B illustrated LEFT). 74% of interviewees ranked the paved pathway as their last choice (RIGHT).



### PREFERENCES OVER MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

In hypothetical scenarios to save money in site management practices, 41% of respondents would cut the grass less often. In terms of investment, 31% of respondents would spend more money on providing extra facilities such as toilets.