

MONITORING THE QUALITY OF EXPERIENCE IN FORESTS WHISTON, MERSEYSIDE

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A. Background and introduction

Background

This report contains the results of a survey undertaken by NFO Transport and Tourism at Whiston Woods in Merseyside.

The survey approach used was developed for use by Forest Enterprise and was piloted during February and March 2003 at sites in the New Forest and South Wales. Surveys using the same methods and questionnaires were also undertaken at Westonbirt Arboretum and Grizedale Forest Park between August and October 2003. The results of these surveys will be presented separately during December 2003.

This report details the findings of the survey that was undertaken during August and September 2003 in Whiston Woods, Merseyside.

Method

A total of 52 visitors were interviewed between 25th August and 20th September during 13 days of interviewing. It was originally expected that interviewing would continue until the end of October but it was stopped earlier due to declining numbers of interviews being achieved each day. The main reason for this declining 'strike rate' (i.e. number of interviews per day of interviewing) was the fact that towards the end of the fieldwork period it was increasingly difficult to find visitors who had not been interviewed already. This issue reflects the relatively low number of total users at this site, most of whom tend to visit on a very regular basis.

Visitors who used the site at least once a month were interviewed and asked to rate both the levels of importance of different aspects of woodland and forest visits and their satisfaction with the same aspects at Whiston. Visitors who came less often were interviewed for a shorter period before being given a questionnaire regarding their levels of satisfaction. This was completed and returned, using a reply-paid envelope. Copies of the questionnaires used are appended.

Report

This report provides the results of the survey undertaken at Whiston Woods. Results of the surveys undertaken at Westonbirt and Grizedale will be presented separately. More detailed comparisons of the results obtained at different sites will also be provided toward the end of 2003.

Due to the relatively quiet nature of this site the total sample size is small. As such, although the 52 users interviewed are likely to represent a high proportion of total users, it is important to treat the results with some caution. In the sections discussing importance and satisfaction results have been tested using ANOVA (analysis of variance) techniques and only statistically significant findings are discussed in the commentary.

Answers to open ended questions have been appended.

B. Main results

Visitor profile

To determine the types of people using the woods, visitors were asked to provide some information about their age, family situation and place of residence.

Demographics

The largest proportion of visitors (42%) to Whiston Wood were in the Empty Nester lifecycle group (over 45 years, no children in the household) while 33% were Families (children under 16 living in the household) and a smaller proportion (15%) were Young Independents (under 35 years, no children in household).

About an eighth of visitors (12%) were aged between 16 and 24, 40% were aged between 25 and 44 and the remaining half were aged 45 or over (48%).

Table B-1 – Age and lifecycle (%)

Base: All respondents (52)

	%
Age	
16 - 24	12
25 – 34	19
35 – 44	21
45 – 54	15
55 – 64	23
65+	10
Lifecycle	
Young Independents	15
Families	33
Empty Nesters	42
Other	10

In terms of social class, as the table below illustrates, around half of visitors (48%) were in the DE social classes (semi and unskilled workers, state pensioners and unemployed). By comparison, in the UK population as a whole 32% of people are DEs while larger proportions are ABC1s.

Table B-2 – Social class (%)

Base: All responses (52)

	Visitors	UK Population
AB – ‘upper middle class’ – higher/ intermediate managerial, administrative or professional	12	17
C1 – ‘lower middle class’ – supervisory or clerical, junior managerial, administrative or professional	15	26
C2 – ‘skilled working class’ – skilled manual workers	25	25
DE – ‘working class’ and unemployed – semi and unskilled manual workers, state pensioners, unemployed	48	32

Origin

The majority of visitors lived in the immediate local area with 85% stating that they were from Whiston while 6% were from Rainhill.

Table B-3 – Area of residence (%)

Base: All respondents (52)

	%
Whiston	85
Rainhill	6
Liverpool	4
Warrington	2
St.Helens	2
Other North West	2

Trip profile

Visitors were also asked a number of questions about their current visit to Whiston in terms of the length of time spent away from home, time spent in the wood and activities undertaken.

Type of visit

Reflecting the close proximity of Whiston Wood to the homes of its users, all of the 52 respondents stated that they were on a short trip away from home which would last for less than 3 hours. No respondents were on holiday or on a day out lasting more than 3 hours.

Table B-4 – Type of visit (%)

Base: All respondents (52)

	%
On a short trip of less than 3 hours from home	100
On a day out for more than 3 hours from home	-
On holiday away from home	-

Frequency of visits

The majority of visitors had been to Whiston Woods before (88%). In terms of frequency of visits, most users visited the site several times a week with two in five visiting every day (40%). This level of use reflects the proximity of users' homes to the site and the activities undertaken (see Table B-7).

Table B-5 – Frequency of visits to forest (%)

Base: All respondents (52)

	%
Every day	40
4 to 6 times per week	13
1 to 3 times a week	21
1 to 3 times a month	8
4 to 6 times a year	-
1 to 3 times a year	6
Less often	-
First ever visit	12

Length of visits

Visitors spent an average of just over half an hour in Whiston Wood (36 minutes). The largest proportions of visitors stayed on the site for between 15 minutes and 30 minutes (38%) or between 30 minutes and an hour (37%).

Table B-6 – Length of visit (%)

Base: All respondents (52)

	%
Up to 15 minutes	15
15 – 30 minutes	38
30 minutes – 1 hour	37
1 hour – 2 hours	8
2 hours – 3 hours	2
3 hours – 5 hours	-
More than 5 hours	-
<i>Average</i>	<i>36 mins</i>

Only 1 visitor out of the 52 interviewed stayed for more than 2 hours.

Activities undertaken

When asked what they did during their visit, the most frequently mentioned activity by far was dog walking (63%) while the remaining 37% of visitors walked without a dog. Other activities undertaken by smaller proportions of visitors included cycling on tracks (12%) and running (4%).

Table B-7 – Activities undertaken during visit to forest (%)

Base: All respondents (52)

	%
Dog walking	63
Other walking	37
Cycling on waymarked tracks	12
Running	4
Seeing something in the woodland (e.g. sculpture)	4
Cycling off waymarked tracks	2
Birdwatching	2
Hill walking/ rambling	2
Photography	2
Horse riding	2

Importance of different aspects of visit

To identify the drivers of quality, it was useful to ask visitors to rate how important different aspects were in their decision to visit the site. Visitors could rate each of a list of aspects as 'very important' (+2), 'quite important' (+1), 'neither important not unimportant' (0), 'not very important' (-1) or 'not at all important' (-2). Scores were then applied to responses, allowing averages to be obtained across the whole sample - the higher the average score, the more important the aspect is across the sample as a whole.

This analysis suggests that the priorities amongst visitors to Whiston Wood were 'Being able to enjoy scenery and views', 'Feeling safe', 'Being able to enjoy wildlife' and 'Solitude, peace and quiet'. Having 'Enough car parking' and 'Barbecue facilities' were seen as least important.

In the chart below an overall ‘average’ of all of the mean scores has been included in the ranking. Any aspect above this level can be considered as important to the site while the other aspects may be of less importance overall or only important to some groups of visitors.

Table B-8 – Importance of different aspects in decision to visit (mean score)

Base: All respondents (52)

	Importance score
<i>Being able to enjoy scenery and views</i>	1.77
<i>Feeling safe</i>	1.77
<i>Being able to enjoy wildlife</i>	1.76
<i>Solitude, peace and quiet</i>	1.75
<i>Choice of paths for walking</i>	1.30
<i>Value for money of your whole trip or day out</i>	1.27
<i>Benches/ seats</i>	1.12
<i>Being able to spend time with family and friends</i>	1.02
AVERAGE	0.22
Clear signposting on footpaths	-0.27
Leaflets and information about the place you are visiting	-0.28
Availability of staff at the site (e.g. rangers)	-0.38
Clean toilets	-0.64
Choice of trails for other activities	-0.68
Children’s play equipment	-1.00
Feeling happy to leave your car in the car park	-1.09
Baby changing facilities	-1.29
Enough car parking	-1.31
Barbecue facilities	-1.81

When comparing these scores it is important to bear in mind that not all variations are statistically significant. This ranking should therefore be treated as providing a broader indication of what is most important and what is least important to visitors.

Respondents were also asked to specify what else, if anything, had influenced their decision to visit. The most frequently provided reasons related to dog walking (38%), the convenience of the site to the user's home (19%), getting fresh air (15%) and exercise (13%).

Table B-9 – Other influences on decision to visit (%)

Base: All respondents (52)

	%
Come to walk dog	38
Convenience/ close to home	19
Just for fresh air/ meeting friends/ day out	15
Exercise/ keep fit	13
Weather/ sun	10
Quiet/ peaceful	10
Day out for the children	8
Safe area	4
Garden festival	2
No other reasons	6

Some of the specific responses provided are listed below. The full verbatim comments provided to all of the open ended questions are appended.

A short cut to my son's house, I can let the dog off the lead.

Exercise the golden retriever, fresh air and sunshine.

To get exercise, somewhere to walk, being able to bring a pram into woods, local to home.

It's peaceful, the only bit of greenery we've got, everything is getting taken off us.

Because its on our doorstep, its safe, its handy and convenient.

Its just somewhere for the kids to walk or my grandson to ride his bike in safety.

I exercise my dog here and if you get to the top of the hill you can see Liverpool's Cathedrals and it's a spectacular view.

Its lovely to have somewhere to walk with the dogs without traffic, the traffic around here needs calming, near to this entrance it's so fast.

Its peaceful, I bring the dog here every day. When you walk the paths at 6 am and see foxes and hares I think its lovely.

It's a nice wide open space where you can enjoy the scenery, you can stroll without any traffic.

A bit of fresh air, stop the kids tearing themselves apart.

Favourite aspects of forest

When visitors were asked about what they liked most about Whiston Wood, the most frequently provided responses related to peace and quiet, tranquillity and scenery (60%), the open spaces (23%) and opportunities for walks (21%).

Table B-10 – What like most about site (%)

Base: All respondents (52)

	%
Peace/ tranquillity/ lovely scenery	60
Open spaces	23
Walking / good walks/ exercise/ fresh air	21
Walking area for dogs	15
Close to home	13
Safe to bring kids	6
Wildlife/ trees	4
Children's activities	2
Don't know/ not stated	13

Other responses related to the suitability of the site for dog walking, the wildlife and views and safety for children. Some of the specific answers provided included the following:

It gets me off the roads so I don't get knocked off my bike.

Quiet and peaceful, a big enough area to have a good walk or cycle.

Convenient to me, peace and quiet.

Open space, exercise for dogs, panoramic views.

Ducks in the pond, open spaces, the solitude, chance to meet people.

t's lovely and peaceful for walking with my daughter and her children, its safe for them we can let the eldest boy run around a bit.

It's just like stepping into the countryside it's nice.

The freedom feels lovely, it perhaps needs a warden or something.

Just the fresh air and the scenery, you can look for miles, its open, the exercise its good for you, keeps you fit.

Satisfaction with different aspects of visit

Visitors were provided with a list of different elements of the site and asked to rate how satisfied they had been with each during their visit. Respondents could rate each of the list on a five point scale which included 'very satisfied' (+2), 'quite satisfied' (+1), 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied' (0), 'not very satisfied' (-1) or 'not at all satisfied' (-2). Also, if visitors had no experience of a specific element they were asked to indicate that they did not know.

Scores were then applied to responses, allowing averages to be obtained across the whole sample - the higher the average score, the more satisfied visitors were with this aspect. This analysis suggests that, overall, visitors were most likely to be satisfied with the scenery and views, wildlife, peace and quiet and value for money obtained during a visit.

In the chart below an overall 'average' of all of the mean scores has been included in the ranking. Elements below this average include the availability of staff on site and feeling happy to leave a car in the car park.

Table B-11 – Satisfaction with different aspects at forest (mean score)

Base: All respondents (52)

	Importance score
<i>Being able to enjoy scenery and views</i>	1.73
<i>Being able to enjoy wildlife</i>	1.68
<i>Solitude, peace and quiet</i>	1.66
<i>Value for money of your whole trip or day out</i>	1.54
<i>Being able to spend time with family and friends</i>	1.41
<i>Feeling safe</i>	1.36
<i>Choice of paths for walking</i>	1.24
<i>Choice of trails for other activities</i>	1.11
<i>Benches/ seats</i>	0.68
AVERAGE	0.59
Clear signposting on footpaths	-0.03
Barbecue facilities	-0.32
Enough car parking	-0.57
Leaflets and information about the place you are visiting	-0.62
Availability of staff at the site (e.g. rangers)	-0.95
Feeling happy to leave your car in the car park	-1.00

When comparing these scores it is important to bear in mind that not all variations are statistically significant. This ranking should therefore be treated as providing a broader indication of what visitors are most and least satisfied with.

Visitors who stated that they were dissatisfied with any aspects of the wood were asked to indicate why. Key reasons provided and the numbers of respondents providing these reasons were as follows:

- Not enough/ no signposts (8)
- No staff (5)
- Not enough benches or seats (5)
- Not enough car parking (4).

Identification of issues

Tables B-7 and B-11 illustrated a ranking of the overall levels of importance and levels of satisfaction visitors have with different aspects of the 'visitor experience' at Whiston Wood. It is useful to combine these two measures to identify the elements which are most relevant to improving quality.

The chart opposite presents each of the elements that were rated in terms of both importance and satisfaction. The centre point is where the 'average' importance crosses the 'average' satisfaction score (as in B-7 and B-10). Each of the elements are plotted in the 4 quadrants as follows:

- Top left – *More Satisfied - Less Important* – Choice of trails. Visitors are generally very satisfied with this element although it is rated as less important on average.
- Bottom left – *Less Satisfied – Less Important* – Barbecue facilities, enough car parking, being happy to leave car, availability of staff, leaflets and information and clear signposting. Overall, visitors were slightly less satisfied than average with these aspects but they are also seen as less important by most visitors. These elements can therefore be considered as lower priorities for investment.
- Top right – *More Satisfied – More Important* – Being able to enjoy scenery and views, being able to enjoy wildlife, spending time with friends and family, feeling safe, value for money and solitude and peace and quiet. Elements in this quadrant are rated highly in terms of both importance and satisfaction. These are the site's key strengths which should be maintained.
- Bottom right – *Less Satisfied – More Important* – Encouragingly no aspects fall into this quadrant but the provision of benches and seats almost does. Elements which are in or near this quadrant are rated as more important than 'average' but have received lower satisfaction scores. These are elements which possibly require further attention.

It is important to note that the scores presented in this chart are averages across *all visitors* during the period in which the survey took place. It should be remembered that the scores for satisfaction and importance varied between different types of visitors so their priorities will also differ.

As discussed previously, not all variations in scores are statistically significant so results should be treated as indicative.

Other visitors

When asked which of a list of other users they had encountered during their visit, most visitors stated that they had seen other walkers and/or children (81% and 73% respectively). Just over half had seen cyclists, horse riders and/or motor bikers (56% each) while a quarter had seen vehicles driving in the wood (23%).

Table B-12 – Other visitors encountered (%) and impact on enjoyment (row %)

Base: All respondents (52)

	%	Increased enjoyment a lot +2	Increased enjoyment a little +1	Made no difference 0	Decreased a little -1	Decreased a lot -2	Score
Walkers	81	10	10	62	-	-	0.36
Children	73	10	8	20	6	-	0.29
Cyclists	56	2	6	44	2	2	0.07
Horse riders	56	8	8	29	6	4	0.18
Motorbikers/ moto cross	56	-	-	6	10	40	-1.62
Vehicles driving in the forest	23	-	-	-	-	8	-2.00
None of these visitors	2						

Respondents who had encountered each of the different user groups were asked to indicate whether or not this had increased or decreased their overall enjoyment. Mean scores were applied to results from +2 if a user group 'increased enjoyment a lot' to -2 if they 'decreased enjoyment a lot'.

As the table illustrates, while encounters with other walkers were usually positive (20%) or of no impact to enjoyment (62%), other user groups had negative impacts on some respondents. Most notably, half of all visitors stated that their enjoyment had decreased because of motorbikers in the forest (40% 'decreased a lot'). This proportion accounts for nearly all of those who had encountered this user group.

Disturbances to visit

Respondents were also presented with a list of potential negative disruptions and asked what impact, if any, each had on their visit. As the table below illustrates, the majority of respondents indicated that each of the potential impacts either 'didn't reduce their enjoyment' or that they did not know (suggesting the impact had not been encountered).

However, the disruptions most likely to have had any effect were noise from other users/ motorised sports (decreased the enjoyment of 37% of visitors) litter or fly tipping (16%), dogs and dog dirt (16%) and vandalised, missing or damaged signposts (16%).

Table B-13 –Impact of potential issues on enjoyment (row %)

Base: All respondents (52)

	Didn't reduce enjoyment	Decreased a little	Decreased a lot	Don't know	Score
	1	2	3		
Noise from other users or motorised sports	25	10	27	38	2.0
Vandalised missing or damaged signposts	40	4	12	44	1.5
Litter or fly tipping	52	8	8	33	1.3
Dogs and dog dirt	60	8	8	25	1.3
Muddy tracks	60	2	4	35	1.1
Forest operations such as felling	37	-	-	63	1.0

Respondents were asked to indicate what else, if anything had decreased their enjoyment. Answers provided related mainly to vandalism (8%) and overgrown weeds, etc. (4%). Some of the specific answers provided are reproduced below:

The fact they have ruined the stream by digging it out. Now there is not as much wildlife.

Peregrine falconer, hunting for grouse, they drove their vehicle into the farmland too.

Someone has burnt one of the picnic tables.

I have to keep the dogs on a lead when the motorbikes are about.

The grass is growing wild and is overgrown, gorse is poisonous it all needs monitored regularly.

Improvements

When asked what, if anything, needed to be improved at Whiston Wood, about a third of visitors either stated that nothing should be improved or that they ‘didn’t know’ what should be improved (35%).

The suggestions that were made are listed below. The most frequent suggestions related to the provision of more seating (15%), more bins (13%), more children’s activities or play areas (13%), the provision of a park warden (13%) and generally tidying up the area (12%).

Table B-14 – Suggested improvements (%)

Base: All respondents (52)

	%
More seating	15
More bins	13
More children’s activities/ play area	13
Park warden (i.e. security)	13
Tidy up area (i.e. cut trees, grass, clear weeds)	12
More trails/ paths	10
More/ improved maps/ signs	8
Stop quad bike access	4
Car park too small/ expensive	4
More fencing needed	2
Plant more trees	2
Nothing/ fine as it is	12
Don’t know/ not stated	13

Some of the specific suggestions provided are reproduced below. Full listings of the responses to open-ended questions are appended.

Clear the overgrown patch by bus stop, could be made into a car park to encourage visitors, a nice bench at the bottom of the field.

A fitness course and a way through to Blundell's hill.

Disposal bins for dog dirt, more benches to sit on.

A nature trail for school children, a guided walk.

Would like to see opening in Blundell's lane, able to do a circle walk, the opening to woods needs a circle gate in frame that stops motorbikes getting in.

More fauna for bird life, what are they going to plant in the fenced off areas?

Maybe a ranger to keep vandalism at a minimum because of seats and tables, I would be available.

More signs letting people know its here.

Tidied up as a bit more, lots of nettles and paths need clearing of litter, totally different to the housing estate.

A little swing and roundabout for the kids, a little kiosk for tea and coffee.

Some of the weeds cut down sometimes they do overgrow quite bad, some leaflets would be nice, telling you what's been done.

It possibly needs another picnic bench or ordinary benches but one or two have been burnt.

Play group equipment but it would probably be wrecked.

A couple of bins, no facilities next to the tables, a few more well established trees, plant more trees from this country elms, oaks

Lights for night times, more benches, further down the bottom a play park.

Key findings and conclusions

This survey has indicated that users of Whiston Wood tend to visit the site on a weekly if not daily basis. Most are there primarily to walk dogs but obtain satisfaction from the peace and quiet, openness, views and solitude that can be obtained. The majority of visitors live locally and the site is clearly seen as an important local asset and escape from the user's normal urban surroundings.

Most users are satisfied with the basic facilities provided and their main requirement is the maintenance of the natural aspects which they enjoy most. There is a demand for the provision of more benches although it is also recognised that these are likely to be vandalised.

The main issue at this site is the disturbance caused by motorcyclists. As most of the users interviewed are there to enjoy peace and quiet the noise created by motorised sports has a major impact on the quality of their visit.

Other issues mentioned relate to vandalism of benches and signposting, litter and the need to cut back overgrown nettles, weeds, etc.

When asked to suggest improvements, specific alterations and extensions to path routes were suggested. Ways of stopping motorbikes from entering the wood were also suggested, for example employing a 'warden' or installing more fencing and gates.

C. Appendices

Answers to open-ended questions

Questionnaires

Answers to open-ended questionsQ.7b) What else, if anything, influenced your decision to visit Whiston Woods today?

It's local

It's a nice clean area except for dogs fouling the paths

A short cut to my son's house, I can let the dog off the lead

The weather, lovely sunny day, a good place to walk in any weather

Exercise the golden retriever, fresh air and sunshine

Dogs, to get fit

Dog

I like walking, walking the dog

A short cut to my daughters house, keeps me off main roads

To walk dog

To walk the dog today

To get exercise, somewhere to walk, being able to bring a pram into woods, local to home

Just a nice day, local to home

To walk the dogs

Visit daughter and take the dog out

Local and have dog, best open space, meet people, will improve as trees etc grow

It's clean and safe

It's local and handy

Generally dog walking

Relaxing walk with the dog

It's peaceful, the only bit of greenery we've got, everything is getting taken off us

The match is on the television this afternoon so decided to get out

Only green belt in Whiston left now, they're continually building, like to walk

I've brought my dog out, we come every day

Just the dog needs exercise and so do I

It's local

Because its on our doorstep, its safe, its handy and convenient

The dog, he loves walking here

Its just somewhere for the kids to walk or my grandson to ride his bike in safety

I exercise my dog here and if you get to the top of the hill you can see Liverpool's Cathedrals and it's a spectacular view

Its lovely to have somewhere to walk with the dogs without traffic, the traffic around here needs calming, near to this entrance it's so fast

Its peaceful, I bring the dog here every day when you walk the paths at 6am and see foxes and hares and I think its lovely

It's a nice wide open space where you can enjoy the scenery, you can stroll without any traffic

Keeping fit

A bit of fresh air, stop the kids tearing themselves apart

To keep off road with pony

The smaller stones on path are easier for my daughter to push my wheelchair, would be nice to see a car park then you would get more people visiting here then

Near to home

Visiting my friend we always go for a walk in the woods

Just a quiet place to go for walks

Just here for a few minutes

Its usually my mum that comes with the kids but she's gone on holiday

Thought we'd be able to make a day out away, thought we'd get fresh air and enjoy a cup of tea, do you know where there's a café around?

The two children were mad to come walking and to play here, only the kids wanting to come

New employees for Knowsley's council and getting to know the area

Walk next doors dog

To walk the dog

To get away from street life, relax, have a chat with friends

Q.11 Why were you not satisfied with this particular aspect?

Car Parking

There is none

There is none

No car parking here at all only on the road

No facilities

Sign Posts

There are none

There are none

Not enough signs

None around

There is none

Mainly for children so they don't get lost

No one knows its here

None here

Leaflets

There are none

Letting people know what's happening, but not to have the leaflets in a box here they will end up as litter. If there is a centre they could go in and get info needed

To inform local residents of what wildlife you can see here

Availability of staff

I never see any

Maybe have an info centre/manned

Would like to see a ranger to keep it looking tidy and keep the vandals away

To advise where to see wildlife

None

Barbecue

Not enough facilities

Family day out

Not enough

Benches

Not enough benches

Only one bench here

Not enough

Not enough

Choice of trails

A cycle and horse path away from walkers

To get to Blundell's hill you have to walk on the road, would like a path as sometimes for a jog around here and don't like using the road

Vandalism

Have found youths and children pulling up plants and posts

If there were more seats they would be vandalised

Safety

If I see a man walking alone I am not too happy

Q.12c) Why did this type of visitor decrease your enjoyment?Quad bikes

Too noisy

Vehicles

Also upsets the dog

Motorbikes

Children use this area so it's not safe

Noise, pollution, my dogs hate them

Noise

They try to intimidate people

Too noisy

Travelling too fast

Noisy, dangerous with young children about

Stop them entirely, noisy, dangerous

Noisy

Dust going everywhere and noise breaks silence, danger to children

Dangerous

They shouldn't be here most of them are children without insurance

Because of children and accidents

Noise and pollution, children use this area, it's not safe

Dangerous driving

The noise and scaring the birds

They are just youngsters so I suppose they have no insurance and they're noisy and dangerous and my dogs have to be kept on a lead when they are around

They come in a group and seem very dangerous especially for dogs and young children

They send up a lot of dust and make a lot of noise

The noise, they were young children on them and even fell off, they have ruined the path already

They are noisy and dangerous and shouldn't be on the park

Dangerous to walkers

Dangerous

Travel too fast, accidents as a result of their speed

Noisy, ruins the path

Horse Riders

Spraying the stream

They frighten the dogs and are not always under control

Personal safety, maybe have their own paths

Ruining the paths

Dog doesn't like horses

Cyclists

With having a dog they get frightened

Ruining the paths

Vandalism

Children vandalising seats

Children

They scream and upset the dog

Don't like when not attended with adults

Q.13b) Why did this issue decrease your enjoyment?Quad Bikes

Too noisy

Dog Dirt

There is often dog dirt on the path

Needs people to be aware others use this area also

Pooper scoopers and bins needed

You see a lot of dog's dirt on the paths I take him into the woods myself

People should clean it up and they should have bins for dog dirt

Motorbikes

Noise, pollution, dog does not like

Noise

Too noisy, intimidating

Noisy, no silences

Dust going everywhere and noise breaks silence, danger to children

Come here for peace and quiet not to hear noise

Usually on Sundays they are a bit of a nuisance

They should perhaps have a developed place for them or signs to say they should not be on here

The swirl very fast on the paths and ruin them, your frightened you'll get run over

Makes it dusty and noisy

They are noisy and dangerous

Noisy and dangerous

Litter

People dumping litter by stream

No litter bins

More bins around keep it looking nice

More bins

Some bins near the picnic tables would be nice
Makes it untidy and spoils things

Vandalism

Vandalism of a picnic table
Benches vandalised with names engraved in them
The benches have lost money
Slows down regeneration process
I have seen it happening, need a warden in this place
New seats and trees could be vandalised

Muddy Fields

Dog gets dirty
Children can fall and get covered in mud

Noise

Roads are noisy and busy this place is quiet
Danger
I came for peace and quiet
Dangerous

Dogs

Owner should be responsible for taking dog dirt home but they don't

Q.14 What else, if anything, decreased your enjoyment?

The fact they have ruined the stream by digging it out there is not as much wildlife
Peregrine falconer, hunting for grouse, they drove their vehicle into the farmland too
Someone has burnt one of the picnic tables
I have to keep the dogs on a lead when the motorbikes are about
There's no shelter when it starts to rain, you get loads of bees here and they follow you
round and an odd dragonfly
The grass is growing wild and is overgrown, gorse is poisonous it all needs monitored
regularly
Vandalism

Q.15 Thinking about your most recent visit to Whiston Wood and others you have made in the past, what if anything would you like to see changed or improved to make future visits more enjoyable?

Longer Paths

Stop access to quad bikes

Car Park Facilities

Something to attract the birds as not many birds here

Clear the overgrown patch by bus stop, could be made into a car park to encourage visitors, a nice bench at the bottom of the field

Keep on top of nettles, water for kids to play in

A fitness course, a way through to Blundell's hill

More supervision of woods

Disposal bins for dog dirt, more benches to sit on

A nature trail for school children, a guided walk

Litter bins, play area for children

Facilities for children e.g. play areas

No bins or toilets

Zebra crossing into the wood by gate, need litter bins, nice walk, local to home, quiet

Would like to see opening in Blundell's lane, able to do a circle walk, the opening to woods needs a circle gate in frame that stops motorbikes getting in

More fauna for bird life, what are they going to plant in the fenced off areas?

Maybe a ranger to keep vandalism at a minimum because of seats and tables, I would be available

Quad bikes should be prevented, maybe a few more seats

Access to Blundell's hill via a path

More signs letting people know its here, road users

Tidied up as a bit more, lots of nettles and paths need clearing of litter, totally different to the housing estate

A little swing and roundabout for the kids, a little kiosk for tea and coffee

Probably a warden, someone taking care of the place

Some of the weeds cut down sometimes they do overgrow quite bad, some leaflets would be nice, telling you what's been done

It's lovely

A couple of litter bins up near the picnic tables

A little play area would be nice, there are quite a lot of young children that come down here with their parents

Just less weeds really and nice grass

Over to the far side of Parken's gate there is no fencing so my dog could run off over there if I didn't know to keep a lead on and the traffic is sometimes so fast

It possibly needs another picnic bench or ordinary benches but one or two have been burnt

There's not enough proper grass for them to go on really for games

Just moved and the motor bikers need monitored perhaps by the rangers

A swing park for the children, some seats at regular intervals

It's fine as it is, play group equipment but it would probably be wrecked

Put lights up, very dark at night, a ranger visiting bins for dog dirt

A couple of bins, no facilities next to the tables, a few more well established trees, plant more trees from this country elms, oaks

Property development banned

Keep the open spaces

More benches

Lights for night times, more benches, further down the bottom a play park

Q.16 Finally, what do you like most about Whiston Woods?

It gets me off the roads so I don't get knocked off my bike

Local near to home, peaceful, good for walking the dog

The peace and the solitude

The way it is set out I think its going to be really nice

Somewhere peaceful and quiet to walk

Quiet and peaceful, a big enough area to have a good walk or cycle

The peace and quiet, the nice walk

Convenient to have, better than being unused farm field

Convenient to me, peace and quiet

Fresh air, freedom to take the dog out

It's nice and peaceful, nice scenery

Quiet scenery good, off the road area, no traffic when cycling

Somewhere nice to walk the dog, also a place to sit and think

Peace and quiet, good place to walk dog

Freedom to walk, also the planting of new trees, would like to see wildflowers

Open space, exercise for dogs, panoramic views

Just the peace and quiet and the open aspect, no limitations

Ducks in the pond, open spaces, the solitude, chance to meet people, prove that open spaces can be utilised

Quiet and it's away from all the houses

The view, peace and quiet

Quiet

Convenient, no more building it's a green belt area

The scenery you can't beat it, it's the peace you cant hear anything when you are out here

Just open, gives you a little fresh air, somewhere safe to bring the kids, and keeps you away from the cars and the fumes

The new trees, I like gardening

Its so quiet and pleasant, the dog loves to come over here and so do I for that matter, its so vast

The peace and quiet really, it's so close to home for my dogs to go and enjoy their

Walks

Its handy and a nice pleasant area for walks

That you can take the dog and have a nice peaceful walk

It's lovely and peaceful for walking with my daughter and her children, its safe for them we can let the eldest boy run around a bit

It's just like stepping into the countryside it's nice

The freedom feels lovely, it perhaps needs a warden or something

Just the fresh air and the scenery, you can look for miles, its open, the exercise its good for you, keeps you fit

Its the freedom its open spaces and scenery

It's quiet, its unusually quiet apart from the bikers

Somewhere to walk, the air's fresher

Its safe for the dog to come to, nice scenery quiet and peaceful

The peace and quiet, the scenery is nice, nice view, fields

Solitude, but plenty people around first thing in the morning, enjoy the work or amble through, pity use of the old part not open any more
Being able to let the dog run free, open space, actually having had something done to this place
Freedom, fresh air to be able to walk without buildings, is becoming a great place to meet other people
Its peaceful, quiet, there's no one to tell you off

Questionnaires

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