



**Green Dale Survey**  
18<sup>th</sup> June 2017

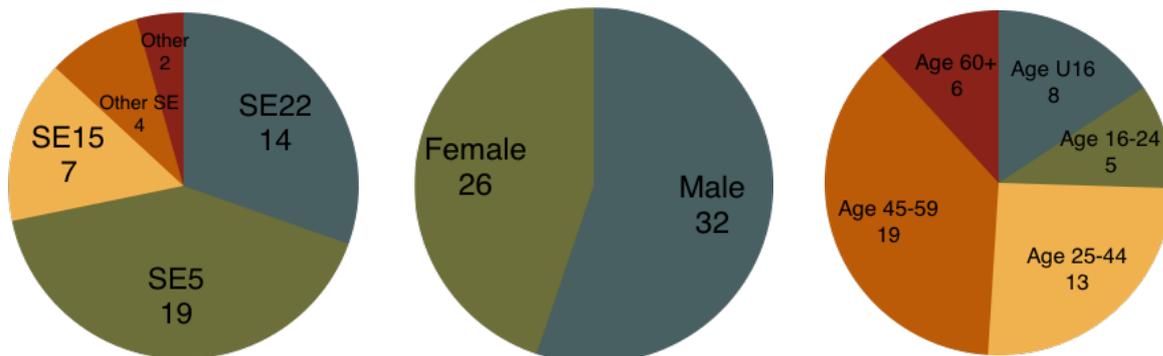
*“Living in a city... it’s not under lock and key... a place like this is really important. We need a countryside in our city”* SE22 resident who visits Green Dale a couple of times a week to play football on the astroturf.

*“It isn’t a regimented park... it is scruffy and governed by natural cycles. All the wildlife that is here. Incredible to have this space.”* SE15 residents, daily visitors to Green Dale to walk the dog.

On June 18<sup>th</sup> 2017, a sunny Sunday, a group of volunteers surveyed the users of Green Dale, between 8am and 6pm, asking a series of open questions to everyone who passed through the space and writing down their responses. We wanted to learn why people were using the site, what they valued most about it and what, if anything, they would change.

**Who did we meet?**

We met 50 people (including our own team of 6) and counted a further 9 who we weren’t able to speak to. 80% of those surveyed were from postcodes that border Green Dale (SE15, SE5 or SE22). However, apart from our team, almost nobody belonged to the Friends of Green Dale, demonstrating that this survey reached well beyond our membership. Age and gender profiles were diverse (see below).



41 (82%) of those we spoke to told us they came to Green Dale weekly or more, with 12 reporting that they visited the site daily.



## **What would people like to see changed about Green Dale?**

Only a few suggestions for changes to Green Dale were made, with many respondents happy with things as they are or even stating firmly that nothing should change (10). The most common request was for better management of the paths – cutting back the growth a little further or reducing the mud (8 comments). Almost as common were comments on issues around litter and dog mess (7) and some suggested a better entrance / welcome to the site (3). Some comments were made about the length of the grass (3), within which there were two requests for areas of shorter grass (one 'for picnics'). Other suggestions included a community garden, designation as a hedgehog sanctuary, a bird hide, tidying the astroturf, an additional light, and leasing the site to locals to protect it. There was one note of tension about the multi-purpose nature of the site ('ban footballers') but this was very much in contrast to the many more responses which valued the astroturf and the wild areas together and appreciated the way different people could use the site in different ways.

## Survey responses

### 1. What brought you to Green Dale today?

*"Dog walking"*

*"Dogs"*

*"Enjoy sunshine, fresh air, green pleasant unique piece of open green space"*

*"Walk the dog"*

*"Quiet, sunbathing"*

*"I like through all the flowers"*

*"Dog walker, dog likes it"*

*"Walking the dog"*

*"Take part in the survey"*

*"Play football"*

*"Walking the dog"*

*"Walk through"*

*"Walk the dog"*

*"Walking through to Dulwich picture gallery"*

*"Walking to Dulwich"*

*"Going to Sainsbury's...nice greenery to go through"*

*"Sainsbury's"*

*"Nice shortcut. Pollution free, cuts out traffic"*

*"The open space"*

*"Walking and dog walking"*

*"Just love it"*

*"To ride bikes"*

*"Dog walking and quiet"*

*"Tennis-music"*

*"Play tennis, listen to music, have a smoke"*

*"Dogs"*

*"Walking through from church"*

*"Dog walking plus Sainsbury's"*

*"Dog walk"*

*"Dog walk"*

*"To help with the survey"*

*"Walk the dog"*

*"Dog"*

*"Walk the dog"*

*"Help with survey"*

*"Walking through"*

*"Walking dogs and baby"*

*"Passing through to church"*

*"Doing survey"*

*"Doing survey"*

## 2. For what other reasons do you come to Green Dale?

*"Dog walking, brambling, butterflies, bees, birds"*

*"Dogs"*

*"Convenient shortcut. Blackberries!"*

*"\_"*

*"Local"*

*"The blackberries, elderflower, cut through, long grass for guinea pigs. Walking the dog"*

*"Semi wildness. Peace and quiet"*

*"Occasional run"*

*"Walking to work, bird watching, enjoying the peace and quiet"*

*"\_"*

*"Love the wildlife. Only urban space round here that's not managed"*

*"\_"*

*"\_"*

*"\_"*

*"\_"*

*"Play football"*

*"Picnics/chilling"*

*"Visiting Sainsbury's"*

*"Open space and football on astroturf"*

*"Looking at wildlife"*

*"To exercise"*

*"Play football, hang out for fun"*

*"Natural space, not manicured, wildlife"*

*"Chill, smoke – on bicycle"*

*"To chill"*

*"Only dogs, its peaceful"*

*"\_"*

*"\_"*

*"Peace and quiet, litter picking, observe vegetation"*

*"Running, walk. Peace and quiet"*

*"Walk to Camberwell. Stroll after lunch"*

*"See some nature. Peace and quiet"*

*"no"*

*"Look at birds, see what's happening, what's growing. Come here every day, see sun come up, watch change over year"*

*"Short-cut to Sainsbury's"*

*"Cycling through"*

*"\_"*

*"None"*

*"Walk to Sainsbury's, for a walk"*

*"For the amazing variety of flora and fauna – a lovely wild space"*

### 3. How often do you come to Green Dale (please circle)

Visit frequency	Daily	12	
	Couple of times a week	17	
	Weekly	12	
	Monthly		
	Occasionally	4	
	First time ever	5	50

### 4. What do you value most about Green Dale? What do you think is important about the space?

*"Wildness"*

*"Spacious"*

*"Not a municipal park! As nature has shaped it"*

*"Wild, exists as it is"*

*"Looks like "wild", not so many buildings – more close to nature"*

*"The nature and the open space away from roads / open space / wildlife"*

*"Open field in a built up area. Good as a bit unkempt"*

*"It's not a park. Dog loves it"*

*"It's an unspoilt open space. A place to relax and enjoy nature"*

*"Open, it's free. Good to play on astroturf"*

*"Football pitch for the kids"*

*"Little wild space"*

*"Hear birds. Nice rugged land and open space"*

*"Wild unkempt"*

*"Nice varied quiet green space. Bramble picking. Mature trees. Nice little enclave"*

*"Safe space away from roads"*

*"Open space and come with friend"*

*"Jungle wild and rugged"*

*"Greenery. We need a countryside in our city"*

*"Untouched nature haven"*

*"Clean air and tidy"*

*"Love the landscape-it's really green-quiet"*

*"Natural untouched space, hidden gem, not many kids"*

*"Comfortable, not too far"*

*"Close to where I live"*

*"Close and it's easy to get here for dogs"*

*"A secluded space – like a country walk"*

*"Big open space and nature"*

*"That it is semi-wild and open, allowing myself education. That it is preserved as MOL. That it still supports hedgehogs"*

*"Feels like a little bit of countryside, nature, peace in the city"*

*"Wildness, open space"*

*"Uniqueness in an urban. Wildness. Kids can run wild"*

*"Quiet"*

*"That it stays as it is. The fact that it isn't a regimented park, that it is scruffy and governed by natural cycles. Birds and wildlife, bats, kestrels. All the wildlife that's here. Incredible to have this space in London. The way the astroturf works – its open access. Kids come over from the estate"*

*"It feels wild and beautiful"*

*"Green space. Love astroturf – played football on it when younger"*

*"Good for dogs running around"*

*"Tranquility in the city"*

*"It's a natural environment and its community run"*

*"The birds in winter – all of it"*

## **5. If you could change one thing about Green Dale, what would it be?**

*"\_"*

*"Cut back a bit, not much"*

*"Should be leased to local people. Perhaps a focus to protect from developers"*

*"Nothing"*

*"\_"*

*"Astroturf is a bit of a mess. Community growing space. Rubbish"*

*"Leave it alone"*

*"Make it bigger"*

*"Keep paths tidy and clear up litter"*

*"\_"*

*"Don't change it"*

*"Keeping paths clear, but keeping it overgrown"*

*"Litter"*

*"Nothing"*

*"\_"*

*"Another light"*

*"Light"*

*"\_"*

*"I wouldn't want to change anything. Living in a city it's not under lock and key, a place like this is really important...Littering"*

*"Not build on it"*

*"Help to clean up litter"*

*"More shade on pitch today!"*

*"No footballers, cut back paths"*

*"More ladies. Cut nettles on path"*

*"Keep paths a bit clearer – otherwise keep as it is"*

*"Clear pathways"*

*"Paths cleared and less muddy. Bit more..."*

*"Use tennis court – garden?"*

*"Smarten up the entrances. Make it a SINC. Make it a hedgehog refuge"*

*"Make it bigger"*

*"Entrance gate"*

*"Keep grass a bit shorter"*

*"Nothing"*

*"Rubbish/plastic bottles. Something that makes it clear how special it is. A bird hide? Making it more obvious its welcoming. People assume bottom gate is locked"*

*"Gateway/entrance so it has a beautiful entrance"*

*"Bit tidier, but not too much, some open grass for picnics"*

*"Clean up rubbish, cut round pitch"*

*"Nothing"*

*"Better entrances and paths"*

*"For dog owners to pick up their dog poo"*