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Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC
the capital's environmental records centre

Spaces to Visit metadata

TABLE NAME: SpacesToVisit

CITATION: The dataset contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2024. The site boundaries are based on Ordnance Survey mapping, and the data are published under Ordnance Survey's 'presumption to publish'. When using these data please acknowledge GiGL and Ordnance Survey as the source of the information using the following citation:

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DESCRIPTION: Spaces to Visit are defined as:

Open space provided to the public as a destination for leisure, activities and community engagement, including green corridors that provide opportunities for walking and cycling.

This dataset provides information about each Space to Visit site including site boundary, name, area and type. It is a GIS polygon dataset where one polygon (or multi-polygon) represents one accessible space. The dataset is updated on a quarterly basis. For further information please contact [GiGL](#).

Please note that access and opening times are subject to change (particularly at the current time) so if you are planning to visit a site check on the local authority or site website that it is open.

DATA SOURCES:

The boundaries and information in this dataset are a combination of data collected during the London Survey Method habitat and open space survey programme (1986 – 2008) and information provided to GiGL from other sources since. These sources include London borough surveys, land use datasets, volunteer surveys, feedback from the public, park friends' groups, and updates made as part of GiGL's on-going data validation and verification process.

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8345552

Registered Address: 10 Queen Street Place, London, EC4R 1BE



Due to data availability, some areas are more up-to-date than others. We are continually working on updating and improving this dataset. If you have any additional information or corrections for sites included in the Spaces to Visit dataset please contact [GiGL's Database Officer](#).

ATTRIBUTES:

Field name	Description	Example
SiteName	Name of the site	Battersea Park
SiteID	GiGL unique identifying code	OS_Wa_0025
PrimaryUse	Primary land use type.	Park
Borough	London borough(s) containing the site.	Wandsworth
AreaHa	Area of site given in hectares. Measured from GIS.	80.7
Easting	X coordinate of site centroid	528,067
Northing	Y coordinate of site centroid	177,193
Qualifier	Qualifier for Easting and Northing location	Centroid
Access	Accessibility of the site for the general public.	Free
DataSource	The data source. Please see a list of sources in the table below.	Data source: various
DataVersion	The version of the dataset	15
ReleaseDate	Date when the dataset was last updated and released	April 2024
Copyright	Copyright details	Created by Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC (GiGL) – Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government License v3.0

ATTRIBUTE CATEGORIES:

i. **PrimaryUse – Primary Land Use Category**

Category	Definition
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Park	This refers to traditional public open spaces laid out formally for leisure and recreation. They usually include a mixture of lakes, ponds, lidos, woodland, flowerbeds, shrubs, ornamental trees, play spaces, formal and informal pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts, golf pitch & put, footpaths, bandstands, toilets, cafes and car parks - but not necessarily all of these. Parts of some parks might be managed as so-called natural areas. Examples of parks include the Royal Parks, municipal parks such as Battersea and Victoria, and wilder places such as Hampstead Heath which, although having distinctly informal qualities, are maintained predominantly for the same purpose, and include the usual swings and roundabouts and playing pitches. Many parks are enclosed by walls or railings, although some parks that began as common land may not be enclosed.
Formal garden	This refers to spaces with well-defined boundaries that display high standards of horticulture with intricate and detailed landscaping. It includes the London squares common to central London, which are typically square areas of grass with some shrub borders, bounded by railings, and surrounded by buildings. Examples include Belgrave Square and Soho Square.
Common	This is a formal designation. They are publicly accessible open spaces with few if any 'facilities'. They will typically be mainly open rough grassland (not mown playing field or recreation ground type grass) and/or woodland. Commons are much less formal than parks or parkland. Examples include Wimbledon Common and Clapham Common.
Country Park	These are large areas set aside for informal countryside recreation near or within towns and cities. A list of sites that accredited Country Parks is available on the Natural England website .
Public woodland	This refers to woodland that is accessible for recreational use, but not managed for nature conservation.
Nature reserve	This is a category reserved for an open space that is managed primarily for nature conservation.
River	This should only be used for rivers and streams that do not form part of another land use, such as park, common or nature reserve.
Canal	This implies an artificial waterway that is navigable. Docks are included in this category.
Walking/cycling route	



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Recreation ground	This is an area of mown grass used primarily for informal, unorganised ball games and similar activities (including dog walking). Not to be confused with playing fields, below.
Playing field	This is a site comprising playing pitches, usually for football, but also for rugby and hockey and, in the summer, for cricket. They often have changing rooms and pavilions. Almost always, playing fields consist only of pitches; but they will sometimes have other bits of open land around the edges. Pitches are often to be found in parks and commons, but the type here is concerned with sites that are exclusively or predominantly reserved for organised team sports.
Other recreational	This is used for sites that are used exclusively or predominantly for other organised sports such as bowls or tennis.
Amenity green space	This is an expanse of grass used for informal recreation. There will be few, if any, facilities.
Village green	This is a formal designation. It is usually an expanse of grass in the centre of old villages, often used in the summer for cricket.
Play space	This is a site set aside mainly for children. It will contain the usual paraphernalia of swings, slides and roundabouts.
Adventure playground	This is a defined play area for children in a supervised environment. Boundaries and entrances are secure.
Youth area	This is a defined area for teenagers including skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops and other more informal areas such as 'hanging out' areas and teenage shelters.
Allotments	
Community garden	This includes an area that is generally managed and maintained by the local population as a garden and/or for food growing and are normally restricted in their access. For examples Phoenix Garden in Holborn.
City farm	This includes areas that are generally managed and maintained as a small farm by the local population. They contain livestock and planting and are normally restricted in their access. For example, Freightliners Farm in Islington.
Cemetery/churchyard	This includes burial grounds, graveyards, crematorium grounds and memorial gardens, and gardens or grounds of non-Christian places of worship.
Civic/market square	This includes tarmac areas or paved open spaces, which may or may not include planting. They do not necessarily have seats and may just be a plaza area. They often provide a setting for civic buildings and opportunities for open-air markets, demonstrations and civic events. Examples include the area in front of the jubilee line station at Canary

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	Wharf, and the plaza in front of Westminster Cathedral.
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ii. Access - Accessibility of the site for the general public.

Category	Definition
Free	Sites that are explicitly provided as spaces for use by all members of the public, every day, at all times of the year, for no fee (includes sites that are closed overnight)
De facto	Sites that while not explicitly provided for public use, are nonetheless readily accessible.
Restricted	Sites that are explicitly accessible, but not to all members of the public, for free, at all times. NOTE: restricted access sites are included if they are restricted to a certain age group e.g. adventure playgrounds, or if they have restricted opening hours. Other types of restricted access sites are not included. All sites that require a fee for access are excluded

TABLE OF SOURCES:

Survey name	Percentage of Spaces to Visit dataset
London Survey Method habitat and open space survey programme	62%
Community / GiGL validation & verification*	23%
Borough survey or planning data**	12%
Groundwork Survey 2015	2%
Digitised from OS Master Map/other	<1%
Green Flag survey 2016	<1%
London Development Database	<1%
Guardian POPS	<1%

* includes volunteer surveys, feedback from general public, friends of parks groups, and updates made as part of our on-going data validation and verification process.

** LB Barking and Dagenham, LB Camden, City of London, LB Enfield, LB Hackney, LB Harrow, LB Havering, LB Hounslow, LB Lambeth, LB Merton, LB Richmond upon Thames, LB Southwark, LB Sutton, LB Tower Hamlets.