

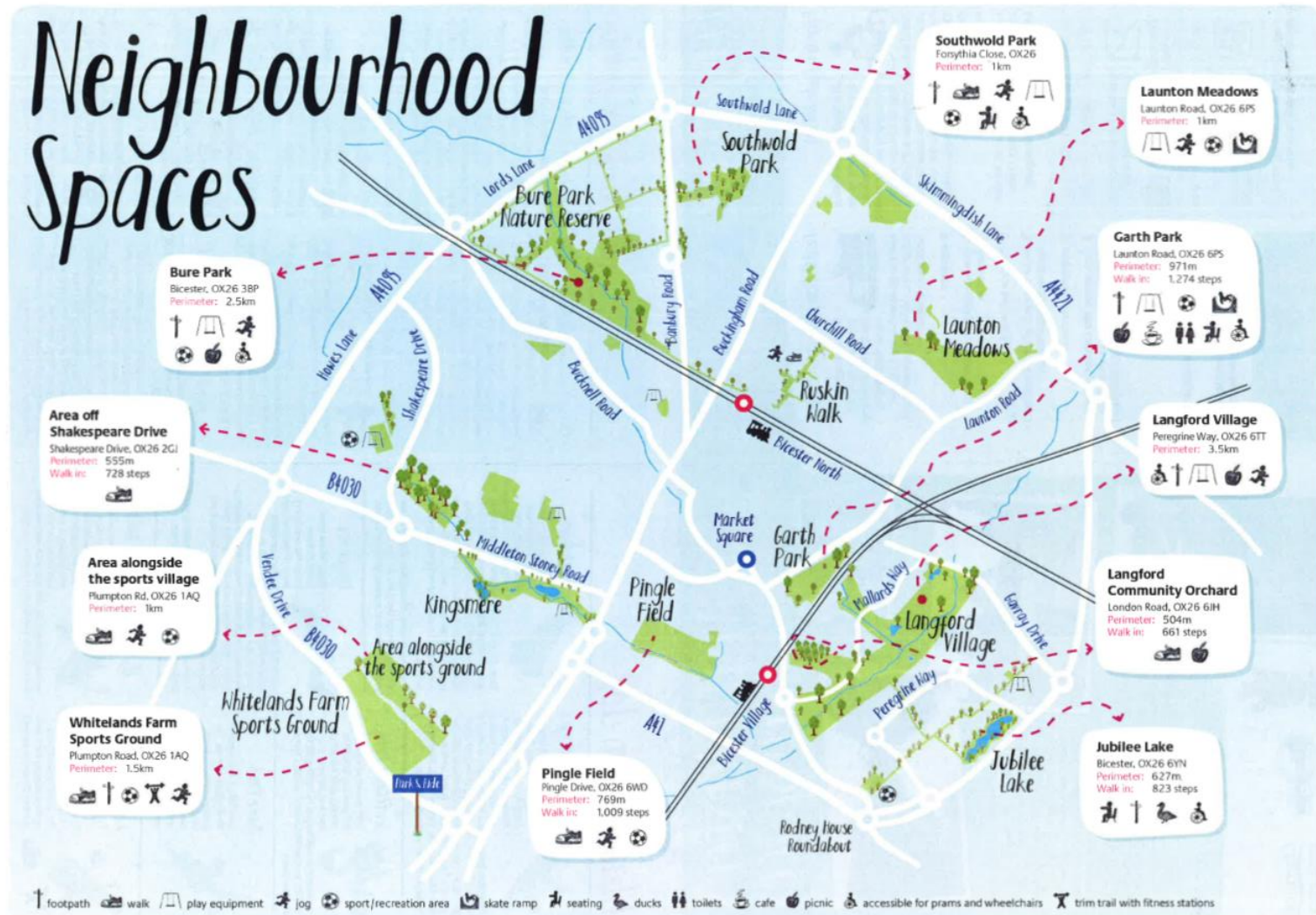
# EVALUATION OF GREEN OPEN SPACES

Bure Park & Nature Reserve, Bicester



Professor Georgia Butina Watson

# Neighbourhood Spaces



# Why are green open spaces important?

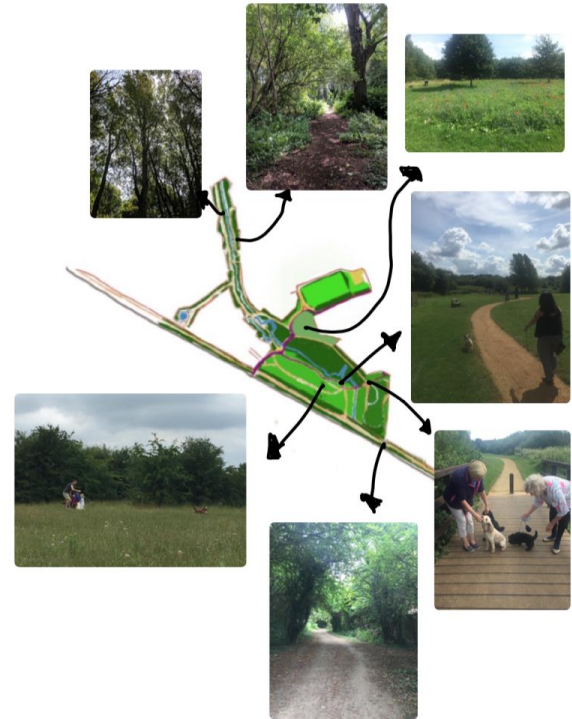
- Offer opportunities for physical activity (walking, cycling, jogging); community interaction & socialising;
- Can contribute to psychological benefits and mental well-being; reduce negative emotions;
- Offer recreational and play opportunities;
- Support biodiversity and sustainability.



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# Methodology for qualitative assessment of Bure Park

- Area observation-  
February -August 2017;
- Area analysis and  
spatial mapping;



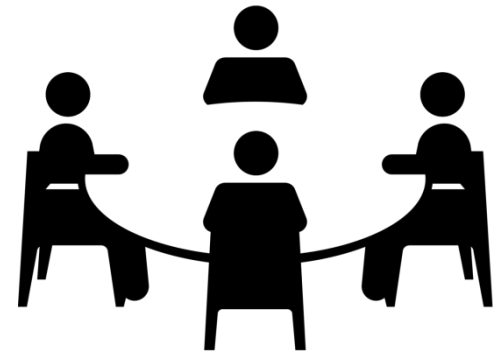
- Questionnaire & semi-structured interviews with users (102 respondents)



- Conducted walks:  
Nature Walk;



- Focus group discussions

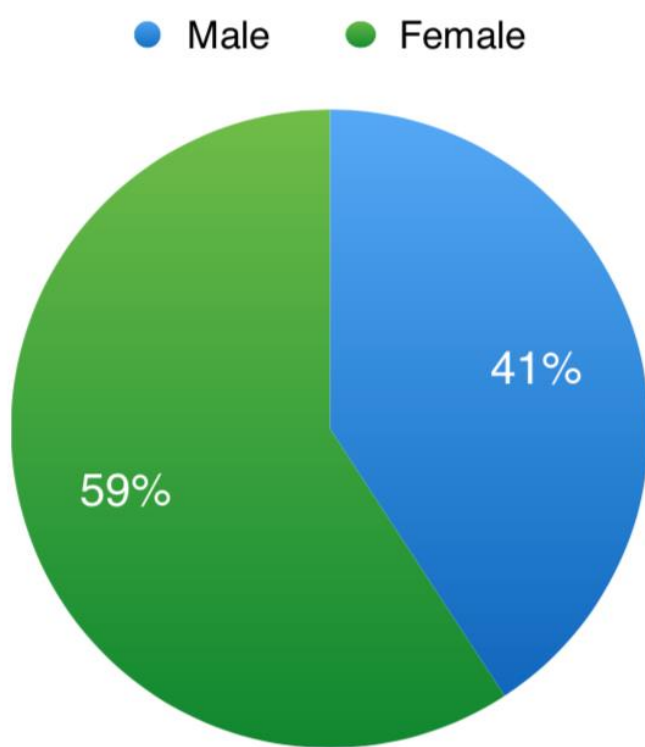




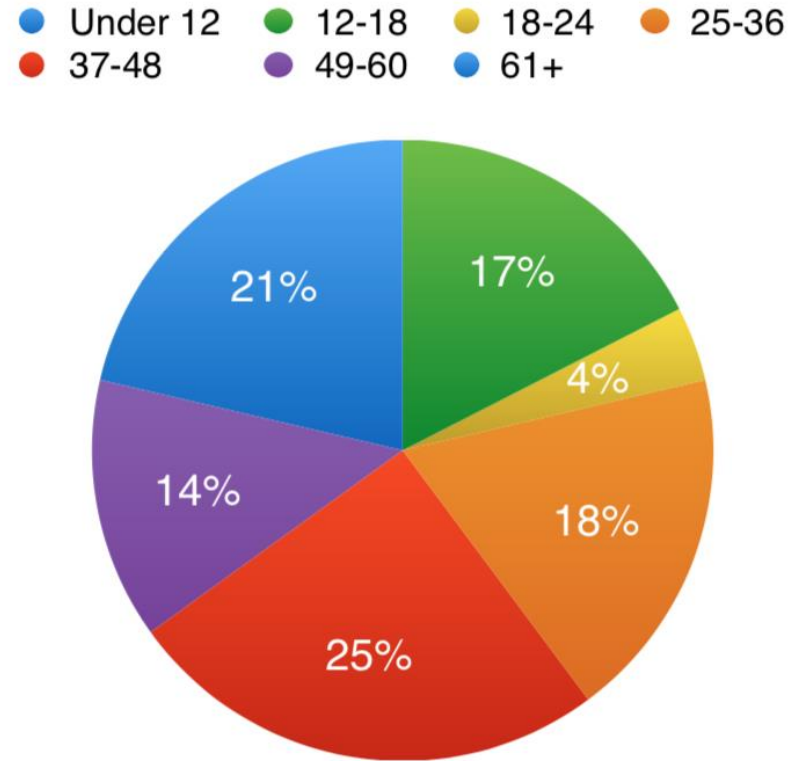
# Images of Bure Park



# Profile of users who responded to survey

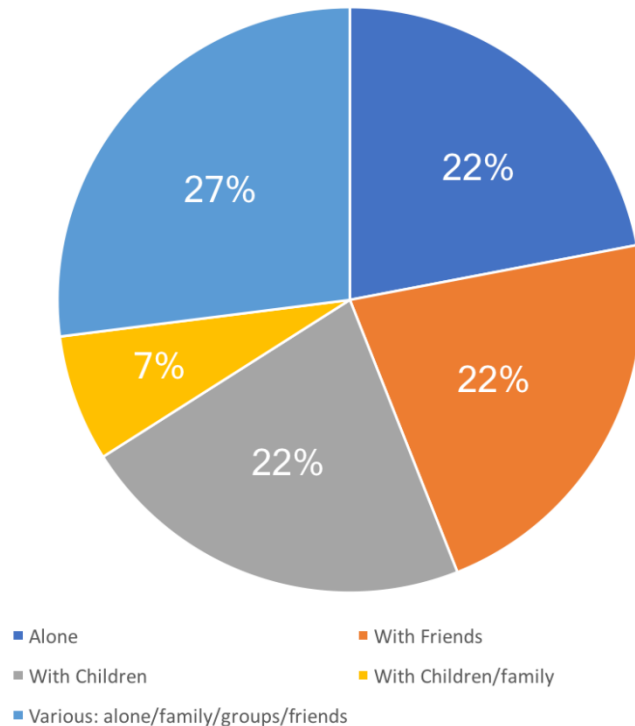


Representational Data of male and female users

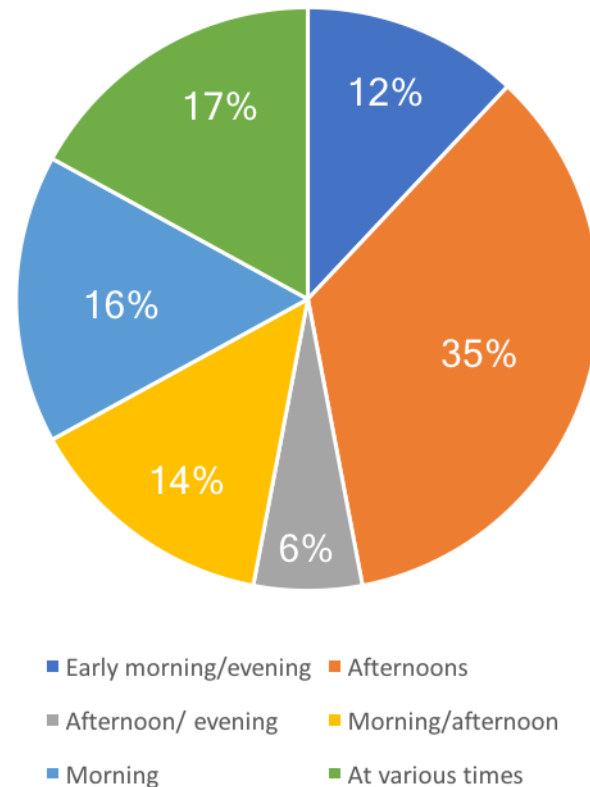


Representational Data of different age group users

# Frequency and time of visits



Representational Data of pattern of visits



Representational Data of different time of use



# Why do users visit the park?

Most users engage in a variety of activities when visiting Bure Park; 102 respondents mentioned the following:

- Walking : 58 (respondents mentioned walking as one of their preferred activity)
- Dog walking: 48 responses

- Playing :23 mentions
- Relaxing: 17 mentions
- Engagement with nature & wildlife : 16
- Jogging: 16
- Cycling: 15
- Having a Picnic: 11
- Meeting friends: 6
- Sports: 3



# What do the users like the most?

Overall, there is a very positive feel about the area and many respondents would not change anything. Some positive highlights include:

- Good location: close to home; close to school;
- The area is spacious, quiet, clean, safe + safe from traffic; nice; relaxing; good atmosphere;



- Child- and people-friendly;  
dog –friendly; community-orientated;



- The park is: green, relaxing,  
many trees & planting;  
wildflower meadows; bird-  
singing; butterflies; plenty  
of grass; woodland areas; a  
variety of habitats; paths;  
water; the pond;  
surrounding fields;





- Different zones of use; play areas and play equipment; sport facilities; a variety of things to do; well-maintained;



- People-friendly; community-based; local culture;





# Users' suggestions for areas of improvement



Child-friendly ; organised activities; improved play areas



Bio-diversity and wildlife



Provide more equipment & sports facilities



Encourage community involvement. Friends of Bure Park (the Green Gym)



More benches, signs



Provide facilities: café, food,  
drinks, toilets



Introduce picnic areas with tables



Improve night lighting





Drinking water for dogs



No horses on pathways



General management and maintenance: rubbish collection, crime prevention and control (police presence)



# Conclusions

- Bure Park & nature reserve- is an important local community resource- for health, social & other benefits;
- Not only distance from housing but also the quality of open space is important to attract more users and to increase the use of the green spaces;
- Maintenance and regular improvements are important to encourage use throughout the year, for all ages.

# Thank you

**Research Team**

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