City of London Open Spaces Audit

Analysis of the spatial distribution of open spaces in the City of London, set within the context of the City of London Local Plan policies.

Part 1 of 2

Data as at 31st March 2018

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Contents

Tables of Figures .................................................................................................................................. 3

Executive Summary ............................................................................................................................. 5

1. Introduction .................................................................................................................................. 7

Open Spaces in the City of London ............................................................................................... 7

Purpose of this Document .............................................................................................................. 7

Document Structure ......................................................................................................................... 7

The Audit Series (2002-2017) .......................................................................................................... 8

Audit Methodology ........................................................................................................................ 8

Definition of ‘Open Space’ .............................................................................................................. 9

Policy Background .......................................................................................................................... 10

  The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) ............................................................... 10

  The London Plan ...................................................................................................................... 10

  The City of London Local Plan ........................................................................................... 12

The Report ....................................................................................................................................... 12

2. Total Open Space in the City of London ................................................................................. 13

Introduction .................................................................................................................................... 13

History of Open Space in the City of London ............................................................................ 13

Spatial Distribution of Open Space in the City of London ....................................................... 14

Spatial Distribution Analysed by Key City Place ...................................................................... 16

The Size of Open Spaces .............................................................................................................. 18

3. Open Space Analysed by Typology .................................................................................. 19

Introduction .................................................................................................................................... 19

Distribution by Typology ............................................................................................................. 19

  Civic Spaces ............................................................................................................................ 22

  Parks and Gardens .................................................................................................................. 26
Tables of Figures

Map 1: Open Spaces in the City of London ................................................................. 15
Map 2: Spatial Distribution of Open Space by Typology ................................................. 21

Graph 1: Proportion of Open Space within the Key City Places ............................ 16
Graph 2: Open Space Size Bands ........................................................................... 18
Graph 3: Proportion of Open Space by Typology ......................................................... 19

Table 1: Methodology for the City of London Open Spaces Audit ......................................................... 9
Table 2: The London Plan Open Space Hierarchy ................................................................. 11
Table 3: Total Open Space by Typology and Key City Place (measured in hectares) ............ 20

Picture 1: New Ludgate Place ...................................................................................... 22
Picture 2: Paternoster Square ...................................................................................... 22
Picture 3: Mitre Square ............................................................................................... 22
Picture 4: Tower Place ................................................................................................. 22
Executive Summary

Open spaces in the City of London are relatively small in the context of the London Plan hierarchy, constrained by a lack of opportunities to provide additional space in a dense urban environment with many listed buildings. Therefore, there is a focus on the opportunity to deliver a significant number of small-scale open spaces. As at 31st March 2018, there were 33.1 hectares (331,000m²) of open space in the City of London. Many of these spaces were developed as a result of devastation from the Great Fire and World War II, and modern redevelopment schemes and City Public Realm projects.

Denser concentrations of open spaces are in the western and northern areas, particularly at the Temples, St. Paul’s Cathedral, and the Barbican and Golden Lane residential estates. The largest open space is the Inner Temple Garden, located in the south-western area.

Open spaces in the City of London comprise of a range of typologies; the most common being civic spaces which account for 16.3 hectares (163,000m²), or 49% of the total, and are separated into two classifications:

- Primary civic spaces, which include courtyards and public piazzas, accounting for 6.2 hectares (62,000m²) of open space, and
- Secondary civic spaces, which provide amenity space for pedestrians, primarily on street space; these account for 10 hectares (100,000m²) of open space.

Other open spaces in the City of London include parks, gardens, cemeteries, churchyards, amenity spaces and outdoor recreation facilities.

25.4 hectares (254,000m²) of open space is accessible to the public; this amounts to 77% of the total. Public access is most common in civic spaces, parks, gardens, cemeteries and churchyards. There is good access to public open space in most areas where there is a high daytime population (e.g. the Eastern Cluster and St. Paul’s Cathedral), whereas all primarily residential areas have access to private open spaces. The Temples area, which comprises a mixture of residential and legal buildings, has good access to large public and private open spaces.

Public open spaces in the City of London often provide seating for workers and visitors; locations with high levels of office floorspace or visitors contain high levels of seating.

21.1 hectares (211,000m²) of the total open space has sufficient provision to allow for inclusive access (allowing access to all members of the community, including those with disabilities); this amounts to 74% of the total open space. Inclusive access is more common in modern open spaces (especially civic spaces) compared to older spaces, such as cemeteries and churchyards, constructed prior to the development of accessibility guidelines.

41% of open space in the City of London is classified as ‘green space’, with primarily soft landscaping (e.g. turf and planting beds). Green spaces are more common in the west of the
City, whereas the east is characterised by densely-built modern developments and hard-surfaced open spaces.

The City of London contains ten Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), located primarily in the north. The City of London’s open spaces provide a range of wildlife habitats, including water features and planting. New development schemes in the City of London are helping to enhance biodiversity through provision of open space and green infrastructure.

65% of trees within the City of London are located within open spaces; nine sites are subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).
1. Introduction

Open Spaces in the City of London

The City of London is a world-leading business and professional services centre and is thus one of the most densely-built up parts of London; it also contains many listed buildings.

However, the City of London also has many open spaces, including a range of civic spaces, gardens, cemeteries, churchyards, amenity spaces, and outdoor sport and recreation facilities, which provide respite for workers, residents and visitors to the City.

Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to provide an audit of open spaces in the City of London to assist with the review of the City of London Local Plan, setting out, for the City of London’s open spaces, an analysis of:

- The total area (in hectares and square metres);
- The spatial distribution by typology;
- Public utility;
- Inclusive access;
- Green spaces and
- Biodiversity issues.

Appendix 1 provides a glossary.

Appendix 2 provides details of national and local policy documents that relate to open spaces and biodiversity.

Document Structure

The profile of open spaces is divided into two sections:

- Section 1 sets out policy background, and analyses the spatial distribution, size and typology of open spaces in the City of London, and
- Section 2 analyses public utility of open space, inclusive access, green spaces, biodiversity and tree distribution.

This document is Section 1, which sets out, for open space in the City of London:

- History;
- Spatial distribution;
- Size and
- Typology classification.

The City of London open spaces audit provides information on how the City of London meets the requirements of City of London Local Plan policies, setting out information regarding the distribution and characteristics of open space. The audit builds upon a historic audit series, developed in 2002; the City of London reviewed the audit series in 2007 and 2012.


Audit Methodology

Table 1 sets out the methodology used for the City of London open spaces audit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>City of London Context</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify all open spaces.</td>
<td>The baseline is an audit series undertaken in 2002, 2007, 2012 and 2017. The City of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>London significantly enhanced the provision in recent years, creating additional civic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>spaces from underused highway, and other disused open spaces, and securing additional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>land as part of redevelopment schemes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Categorise open spaces by function and</td>
<td>The City of London categorises open spaces by typology, size and characteristics; for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>size.</td>
<td>example, public accessibility and facilities provided (e.g. permanent seating).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-site audit of open spaces.</td>
<td>The City of London monitors all sites through a combination of data from sources such</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>as planning permissions, City Public Realm initiatives, the historic data series and,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>where required, from an on-site inspection.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 1: Methodology for the City of London Open Spaces Audit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>City of London Context</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production of datasets and key information.</td>
<td>The City of London records open spaces audit data spatially; this is available to view through the City of London <a href="https://data.gov.uk">Interactive Mapping</a> and the spatial software tools on the City of London pages at <a href="https://data.gov.uk">data.gov.uk</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Definition of ‘Open Space’

The City of London have used a consistent definition for the term ‘open space’ since the 2002 City of London [Open Spaces Audit](https): ‘Land which is not built on which has some amenity value, or potential for amenity value. Amenity value is derived from the visual or other enjoyment which the open space can provide, such as historical interest and value.’

In practice, the audit evaluates all types of open space, irrespective of ownership or public access.

The audit excludes:

- Sites less than 0.005 hectares (50m²) in area;
- Private spaces with limited public benefit (e.g. no visual amenity);
- Sites where the primary purpose is vehicular movement and
- Temporary open spaces (i.e. installed for a planned period of fewer than two years).

The City of London provides a range of green roofs, which are analysed separately in the document, [City of London Local Plan Monitoring Report – Green Roofs](https). However, some green roof spaces provide open space amenity for the public and are thus recorded in the open spaces audit; these include:

- Highwalks at the Barbican residential estate;
- Exchange Square and
- Petticoat Square, within the Middlesex Street residential estate.
Policy Background

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF (published February 2019) sets out planning policies for England; paragraphs 96 and 97 state that:

96. ‘Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.’

97. ‘Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or

b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or

c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.’

Appendix 2.1 sets out full details.

The London Plan

The London Plan was published in March 2016; Policy 7.18 (Protecting open space and addressing deficiency) sets out that:

‘Boroughs should undertake audits of all forms of open space and assessments of need¹. These should be both qualitative and quantitative and have regard to the cross-borough nature and use of many of these open spaces.’

Appendix 2.2 sets out the full policy wording.

Policy G4 (Local green and open space) of the Draft London Plan (published December 2017) also addresses the need to protect local green and open spaces, and supports the creation of new areas of publicly accessible green and open space. Appendix 2.3 sets out the full policy wording.

¹ Although the London Plan makes reference to paragraphs 64 and 73 of the NPPF, this reference is now out of date; the corresponding paragraphs in the current NPPF are paragraphs 96 and 97.
Table 7.2 (Public open space categorisation) in the London Plan sets out a hierarchy of open spaces\(^2\), based on their spatial area, for the purpose of allowing boroughs to identify areas of deficiency; Table 2 sets out details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Space Categorisation</th>
<th>Size Guideline</th>
<th>Distance from Homes</th>
<th>Found in the City of London</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Parks</td>
<td>400 hectares or greater</td>
<td>3.2 to 8 km</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Parks</td>
<td>60 to 400 hectares</td>
<td>3.2 km</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Parks</td>
<td>20 to 60 hectares</td>
<td>1.2 km</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Parks and Open Spaces</td>
<td>2 to 20 hectares</td>
<td>400m</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Open Spaces</td>
<td>0.4 to 2 hectares</td>
<td>Less than 400m</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pocket Parks</td>
<td>Less than 0.4 hectares</td>
<td>Less than 400m</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linear Open Spaces</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: The London Plan Open Space Hierarchy\(^3\)

All open spaces in the City of London are smaller than 2 hectares (20,000m\(^2\)). This is due to the City of London’s historically densely built-up nature and the number of listed buildings, which constrain the development of larger open spaces. Thus, the City of London open spaces audit focuses on analysing the types of open space detailed below (descriptions are as set out in Table 8.1 of the Draft London Plan):

- **Small Open Spaces**: Gardens, sitting out areas, children’s play spaces or other areas of a specialist nature, including nature conservation areas.
- **Pocket Parks**: Small areas of open space that provide natural surfaces and shaded areas for informal play and passive recreation that sometimes have seating and play equipment.
- **Linear Open Spaces**: Open spaces and towpaths alongside the Thames, canals and other waterways, paths, disused railways, nature conservation areas and other routes that provide opportunities for informal recreation. They are often characterised by features or attractive areas that are not fully accessible to the public but contribute to the enjoyment of space.

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\(^2\) This is also set out in Table 8.1 (Public open space categorisation) of the Draft London Plan.

The City of London Local Plan

The City of London Local Plan (published January 2015) sets out the policy context for the City of London. Policy CS19 (Open Spaces and Recreation) sets out the need:

‘To encourage healthy lifestyles for all the City’s communities through improved access to open space and facilities, increasing the amount and quality of open spaces and green infrastructure, while enhancing biodiversity…’

The policy also sets out the importance of improving access and increasing the biodiversity value of open spaces. Appendix 2.4 sets out the full policy wording.

The Report

The report sets out details of:

- Total open space in the City of London;
- Open space analysed by typology;
- Public utility of open space;
- Inclusive access and
- Green spaces.

The City of London delivers new open space through redevelopment and City Public Realm projects. This includes the replacement of open space lost due to redevelopment works, and is monitored in the City of London Local Plan Monitoring Report – Open Spaces and Recreation.
2. **Total Open Space in the City of London**

### Introduction

This section analyses open space in the City of London in terms of the:

- Historical context
- Spatial distribution
- Size

### History of Open Space in the City of London

Since the Roman era, the City of London has primarily comprised of an intensely-developed ‘city centre’ environment with limited open space provision. Open space in the City of London has developed over several key phases:

- **Cemeteries and churchyards (12th to 19th Centuries):** The City of London has historically contained a large number of churches (recorded as far back as the 12th Century) with ancillary cemeteries and churchyards; while some of the churches no longer exist, the associated open spaces remain intact;

- **The Great Fire of London (1666):** The Great Fire of London caused devastation throughout the Square Mile and necessitated large-scale demolition of buildings to stop the spread of the fire, resulting in several open spaces;

- **Bomb devastation (20th and 21st Centuries):** This included:
  - **The Blitz:** the Barbican Estate and its open spaces, and St. Dunstan-in-the-East Churchyard are on sites devastated by wartime bombings, and
  - **The 1992 St. Mary Axe bombing:** The site was redeveloped to create 30 St. Mary Axe and the adjacent open space;

- **Creation of space providing walking routes and open space amenity (20th and 21st Centuries):** During the 20th and 21st Centuries, a number of pedestrian routes, which also provided open space amenity, were constructed in the City of London, most notably the highwalk system at the Barbican residential estate, and the riverside walkway, and

- **City Public Realm projects (21st Century):** Open spaces have been created as a result of City Public Realm projects on areas of underused street space (e.g. Plough Place, Holborn Circus, John Carpenter Street and Middlesex Street); these types of open spaces are primarily small in scale, compared to the larger urban context.

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4 Section 3 of this document analyses cemetery and churchyard sites in detail.
Spatial Distribution of Open Space in the City of London

As at 31st March 2018:

- The City of London contained approximately 33.1 hectares (33,100m²) of open space, not including sites temporarily closed due to redevelopment works, and
- A range of new open spaces were under construction as part of redevelopment schemes; the City of London Local Plan Monitoring Report – Open Spaces and Recreation sets out full details.

Map 1 shows the spatial distribution of open space in the City of London. The City of London’s interactive mapping and the City of London pages at data.gov.uk provide spatial data.

Open spaces are found throughout the City of London, but are mostly concentrated at:

- The western area, particularly at the Temples and
- The northern area, which includes a significant cluster of open spaces adjacent to the Golden Lane and Barbican residential estates.

Smaller clusters of open spaces are located adjacent to St. Paul’s Cathedral and the Middlesex Street residential estate.

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5 This does not include open spaces under construction as at 31st March 2018.
Map 1: Open Spaces in the City of London
Spatial Distribution Analysed by Key City Place

Paragraph 2.7 of the City of London Local Plan sets out five Key City Places, areas that face specific planning challenges during the period up to 2026. This report terms areas outside the Key City Places as ‘Rest of the City’.

Map 1 includes the spatial extent of the Key City Places; Graph 1 shows the proportions of the total open space within the individual Key City Places.

Just over half of the open space in the City of London (51%) is situated in The North of the City; this amounts to 16.7 hectares (167,000m²). The largest concentrations of open space are at:

- The Golden Lane and Barbican residential estates, which have significant residential populations;
- The Broadgate Estate, a modern commercial area with offices, restaurants and lunchtime snack bars, and
- St. Botolph-without-Bishopsgate Churchyard.

Thames and the Riverside contains the second highest proportion of open space in the City of London (20%); this amounts to 6.6 hectares (66,000m²). Open space is located:
Along the Riverside Walk, which extends along the entire River Thames frontage within the City, and
At the Temple Gardens, which comprise 2.2 hectares (22,000m²) of open space across two sites; Inner Temple Garden is the City of London’s largest open space.

12% of the City of London’s total open space is located in the **Rest of the City**; this amounts to 4 hectares (40,000m²). Open spaces are distributed evenly, but with clusters of small and medium open spaces at Staple Inn, Carter Lane, Queen Victoria Street and Fenchurch Street Station.

**Cheapside and St. Paul’s** contains a relatively low proportion of the City of London’s total open space (9%); this amounts to 3.1 hectares (31,000m²). Most open space in this Key City Place is located near to St. Paul’s Cathedral, which attracts large numbers of visitors on both weekdays and weekends. Smaller open spaces are located towards the east, distributed more sporadically, and include some churchyard sites and piazzas on land adjacent to the Royal Exchange.

The lowest proportions of the City of London’s total open space are found in:
- **The Eastern Cluster** (4%, comprising 1.3 hectares or 13,000m²), which is characterised by dense office developments, and
- **Aldgate** (4%, comprising 1.2 hectares or 12,000m²), although Aldgate has concentrations of open space adjacent to the Mansell Street residential estate.

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6 Individually, the two gardens have spatial areas of 0.5 hectares (5,000m²) and 1.7 hectares (17,000m²).
7 As at 31st March 2018, a major site (Aldgate Square) was under construction within the Aldgate Key City Place, and due for completion during the 2018/19 financial year.
The Size of Open Spaces

Graph 2: Open Space Size Bands

Graph 2 sets out the Open Space size bands. The majority of open spaces in the City of London are below 0.05 hectares (500m²) in area; just eight are above 0.4 hectares (4,000m²); these would fall within the definition of ‘small open spaces’\(^8\)). Only three open spaces are between 0.4 and 0.5 hectares in size.

This is a profile of small open spaces when compared to the larger parks and heathlands found in other London Boroughs and the adjacent City of Westminster.

\(^8\) See Section 1.
3. **Open Space Analysed by Typology**

**Introduction**

The open spaces audit uses the typology classifications listed in this document⁹ to provide an assessment of the type of open space provided and its utility.

This section defines all individual typologies and assesses their spatial distribution within the City of London.

**Distribution by Typology**

![Graph 3: Proportion of Open Space by Typology](image)

- **Graph 3** shows the proportions of open space by typology;
- **Table 3** sets out detailed statistics and
- **Map 2** sets out the distribution of open space by typology.

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⁹ **PPG17: Planning for Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation** set these out.
Table 3: Total Open Space by Typology and Key City Place (measured in hectares)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typology</th>
<th>Key City Place</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The North of the City</td>
<td>Cheapside and St. Paul's</td>
<td>Eastern Cluster</td>
<td>Aldgate</td>
<td>Thames and the Riverside</td>
<td>Rest of the City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic Spaces</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Civic Spaces</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Civic Spaces</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and Gardens</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemeteries and Churchyards</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenity Spaces</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Green Corridors</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for Children and Young People</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Sports Facilities</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allotments, Community Gardens and Urban Farms</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Map 2: Spatial Distribution of Open Space by Typology
**Civic Spaces**

Civic and market squares, and other hard-surfaced areas designed for pedestrians. Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

Civic spaces are primarily located within built-up sites, with predominantly hard landscaping and comprise public squares, courtyards and piazzas. Overall, the City of London has 16.3 hectares (163,000m²) of civic space; this accounts for 49% of the total open space.

The open spaces audit sub-divides this classification has been sub-divided into **primary and secondary civic spaces**.

**Primary Civic Spaces**

Includes civic and market squares and other surfaces designed for pedestrians, with open space amenity.

The City of London has 6.3 hectares (63,000m²) of primary civic space; this accounts for 19% of open space in the City of London. **The North of the City** contains significant clusters of
primary civic spaces towards the north, at large 20th Century developments, including the Barbican and Broadgate estates, and Devonshire Square, where large areas of open space have been provided for residents and workers. There is a cluster of medium-sized primary civic spaces located centrally, near to the Guildhall. In other parts of this Key City Place they are more sporadic but include New Ludgate Place (Picture 1), and open spaces at St. Bartholomew’s Hospital and Dashwood House.

The largest primary civic spaces in **Cheapside and St. Paul’s** are situated towards the west of the Key City Place, adjacent to St. Paul’s Cathedral (e.g. Paternoster Square – Picture 2); these accommodate visitors and workers. There are very few examples elsewhere in this Key City Place, although there is a medium-sized primary civic space at the Royal Exchange, which provides a lunchtime spot and meeting point, because of its central location and easy access to Bank Station.

In the **Eastern Cluster**, primary civic spaces are being created as a result of major redevelopment schemes, primarily in the central area. Since 2003, open spaces have been provided at sites including:

- The Leadenhall Building, 122 Leadenhall Street;
- 30 St. Mary Axe;
- 51 Lime Street and 25 Fenchurch Avenue and
- Mitre Square (Picture 3).

**Aldgate** is primarily a transitional area with housing provision; there is one small primary civic space, located at Aldgate Bus Station.

**Thames and the Riverside** contains a few small and medium-sized primary civic spaces; the largest is Tower Place (Picture 4), located in the east.

Most primary civic spaces in the **Rest of the City** are located towards the west, comprising a mixture of historic spaces (e.g. Staple Inn Court) and modern open spaces resulting from major redevelopment schemes (e.g. New Street Square and 40 Chancery Lane). There are some primary civic spaces in sporadic locations towards the central and eastern areas; for example, Old Change Court\(^{10}\) and Fenchurch Place.

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\(^{10}\) As at 31 March 2018, Old Change Court was partially closed to facilitate redevelopment works.
Secondary Civic Spaces

The City of London has 10 hectares (100,000m²) of secondary civic space, primarily located on pedestrian routes; this accounts for 30% of open space within the City of London. These are frequently delivered through City Public Realm schemes as pedestrian routes that provide open space amenity.

Although their primary purpose is pedestrian movement, secondary civic spaces provide open space amenity, usually through the provision of seating and landscaping. These include a mixture of:

- ‘Traditional’ street space where vehicular access has been removed (often as a result of City Public Realm projects), to create pedestrian-friendly environments with open space amenity.
• Other walkways, including walkways adjacent to the River Thames and elevated pedestrian routes (highwalks).

In the North of the City, most secondary civic spaces are located within and adjacent to the Barbican Estate, and primarily form landscaped parts of the highwalk system (Picture 5), with seating. Clusters of small and medium secondary civic spaces are located at Holborn Viaduct and Basinghall Street, in the western and central areas.

Secondary civic spaces in Cheapside and St. Paul’s are primarily located:

• Adjacent to the cathedral, and
• At Bloomberg Place, Cannon Street (Picture 6), a redevelopment scheme completed in 2017.

No significant secondary civic spaces are located in the Eastern Cluster.

Two secondary civic spaces are located at Aldgate; these are:

• The open space situated between the St. Botolph Building, 138 Houndsditch and Beaufort House, 15 St. Botolph Street.
• Aldgate Avenue (Picture 7).

A significant secondary civic space at Thames and the Riverside is the Riverside Walk (Picture 8), which follows most of the northern Thames riverside. The Riverside Walk Enhancement Strategy (published January 2015); sets out the City Corporation’s intentions to extend the Riverside Walk between Broken Wharf and Queenhithe. The Temples area, located in the west, contains some medium-sized secondary civic spaces (e.g. Fountain Court).

Within the Rest of the City, secondary civic spaces are located sporadically; there is a cluster of small secondary civic spaces in the west, on street spaces that have been enhanced by the City Corporation (e.g. Plough Place). Some larger sites are located towards the central area, around St. Paul’s Cathedral (e.g. Peter’s Hill) and the eastern area (e.g. Sky Garden Walk and Minster Court).

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11 Aldgate Square was under construction as at 31st March 2018.
Parks and Gardens

Accessible, high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.

In the City of London, parks and gardens account for 5.4 hectares (54,000m²) of open space; this accounts for 16% of open space in the City of London.

Parks and gardens are more common towards the western area of the City with fewer towards the east, which is characterised by dense office developments.

Parks and gardens are located sporadically in The North of the City, with several medium-sized parks; the largest sites are:

- Two parks at Holborn Circus;
• Smithfield Rotunda Garden;
• The Barber Surgeons’ Hall Garden;
• London Wall Place (Picture 9) and
• Finsbury Circus Gardens (this is partially closed due to Crossrail works).

In Cheapside and St. Paul’s, several parks and gardens are located adjacent to the cathedral and Cannon Street. These include the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Garden, Festival Gardens (Picture 10) and parts of St. Paul’s Churchyard12, which are used frequently by workers and visitors.

Only one park and garden site is located in the Eastern Cluster, which is primarily a densely-built area, tailored toward office provision; this is Jubilee Gardens, located towards the north of the Key City Place.

No park and garden sites are located in Aldgate, where many of the open spaces are private sites ancillary to educational and residential uses.

The largest park and garden site in Thames and the Riverside is at Middle and Inner Temple Gardens, located in the west. Some smaller parks and gardens are located towards the east, including Tower Hill Garden13, and Seething Gardens, Seething Lane (Picture 11) which were reopened in 2017 following excavation works to facilitate an adjacent redevelopment scheme.

In the Rest of the City, several parks and gardens are located towards the central area, including Carter Lane Gardens and Cleary Gardens; the largest site is located in the west, adjacent to the Maughan Library, Chancery Lane (Picture 12). Only one park is located in the east; this is King George’s Field, Goodman’s Yard.

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12 This comprises land not within the original churchyard extent and thus not within the ownership of the church.
13 This site is partially located within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets but, as a pragmatic view, the whole open space is assessed in the City of London open spaces audit.
Cemeteries and Churchyards

Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

The City of London has 4.2 hectares (42,000m²) of cemetery and churchyard sites; this accounts for 12% of open space in the City of London.

In accordance with the Disused Burial Grounds Act (1884), the City of London’s cemeteries and churchyards are no longer used for burials. The Diocese of London owns all cemetery and churchyard sites in the City of London14, and the City Corporation are required to consult them regarding management issues. In terms of provision of amenity to the public, the City of London includes three types of cemetery and churchyard sites:

- Sites associated with active churches, including St. Paul’s Cathedral;
- The sites of former churches in the City of London; for example, the churchyards of St. Mary Aldermanbury and St. Dunstan in the East (Picture 13), destroyed during

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14 Open spaces formerly owned by the Diocese, but subsequently deconsecrated include the former St. Pancras Church Garden, which was reclassified as a primary civic space in 2012.
World War II, where the land within the church ruins has been landscaped to form part of the open space, and

- Sites formerly used as burial grounds, but which have been opened to the public as open space as the result of an agreement between the City Corporation and the Diocese of London; examples of where this has happened are Ireland Yard (Picture 14) and the site of St. Gabriel Fenchurch, Fen Court.

The amenity value of cemeteries and churchyards varies greatly; in terms of landscaping, sites include:

- Soft-landscaped green spaces with similar characteristics to parks and gardens (e.g. Postman’s Park – Picture 15 - and St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate Churchyard) and
- Hard-landscaped spaces (e.g. St. Mary-Le-Bow Churchyard and St. Helen’s Bishopsgate Churchyard – Picture 16).

Some cemetery and churchyard sites in the City of London have intact gravestones; examples include Ireland Yard and Postman’s Park, King Edward Street.

In The North of the City, several medium and large sites forming current and former churchyards are located in the central area, adjacent to the Barbican Estate; most of these comprise green spaces that are used as lunchtime spots. Examples include:

- Postman’s Park (St. Botolph Aldersgate Churchyard);
- St. Giles’ Churchyard, Fore Street, and
- St. Olave Silver Street Churchyard, Noble Street.

There are a few smaller churchyard sites located towards the west, at Holborn and Smithfield (e.g. St. Sepulchre Without Newgate, Newgate Street, and the two churchyards of St. Bartholomew, West Smithfield15). The eastern part of this Key City Place is dominated by modern commercial buildings, and thus has fewer churchyards; the largest churchyard in this area is at St. Botolph-without-Bishopsgate Church.

The largest churchyard in Cheapside and St. Paul’s is the cathedral churchyard (located towards the west), which falls within two typologies; only the historic churchyard is owned by the Diocese of London. There is also a cluster of small and medium, hard-surfaced sites further east, around Cheapside and Bow Lane, the largest of which is St. Mary-Le-Bow Churchyard.

In the Eastern Cluster, some small churchyard sites are located sporadically, including the churchyards of St. Ethelburga’s, St. Helen’s Bishopsgate and St. Katharine Cree; these primarily comprise hard-surfaced sites.

15 These are associated with two churches; St. Bartholomew the Less and St. Bartholomew the Great.
Just one churchyard is located in **Aldgate**; this is a hard-surfaced site at St. Botolph-without-Aldgate Churchyard.

Cemetery and churchyard sites are distributed sporadically within **Thames and the Riverside**, mostly in locations near to the river; these include St. Magnus the Martyr and All Hallows by the Tower.

Several smaller churchyard sites are located sporadically in the **Rest of the City**, with clusters located at Ludgate Hill and the eastern end of Cannon Street; the former churchyard of St. Dunstan in the East is the largest site.
Amenity Spaces

Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.

The City of London has 3.2 hectares (32,000m²) of amenity space\(^\text{16}\); this accounts for 10% of open space in the City of London.

For the purposes of the audit, this typology primarily comprises shared gardens located within residential estates, designed specifically for the enjoyment of residents. Other spaces of this type are ancillary to public buildings and the City’s livery halls. The majority of the City’s amenity spaces are located towards the northern and eastern boundaries of the City, although some smaller sites are situated closer to the central area.

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\(^{16}\) While PPG17 refers to ‘amenity greenspace’, the City of London open spaces audit uses the term ‘amenity space’ to include all private sites, including those that are primarily hard-surfaced.
The largest amenity spaces are located in The North of the City and Aldgate, within the City’s planned residential estates (at Golden Lane, the Barbican – Picture 17 - and Middlesex Street – Picture 18). The North of the City also has clusters of smaller amenity spaces located around Smithfield and London Wall, ancillary to Haberdashers’ Hall, 18 West Smithfield, the Museum of London, London Wall (Picture 19) and residential units at Little Britain. One small amenity space is located at Aldgate and is ancillary to a public house at Little Somerset Street.

Two amenity spaces are located towards the east of Thames and the Riverside:

- The private garden at Fishmongers’ Hall, London Bridge, and
- Private land associated with the Grange Hotel, Cooper’s Row, which also forms a pedestrian route and contains part of the original London Wall.

Within the Rest of the City, there is a cluster of small amenity spaces located in the central area, ancillary to livery companies. Larger amenity spaces are located:

- In the west, at Staple Inn Hall (Picture 20), and
- In the east, ancillary to the public house at Goodman’s Yard.

No amenity spaces are located in Cheapside and St. Paul’s or the Eastern Cluster; these areas are primarily in commercial and business use and have low numbers of residential units.
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces

Wildlife conservation, biodiversity, environmental education and activities.

The City of London has 132 hectares (13,200m²) of natural and semi-natural green spaces; this accounts for 4% of open space in the City of London; these sites contribute to biodiversity and are intended primarily as natural habitats. For more information regarding biodiversity in the City, see Section 6 of this report.

Picture 21: Barbican Wildlife Garden, Fann Street

Picture 22: Barbican Lake

All natural and semi-natural greenspaces in the City of London are located in The North of the City; these include the Barbican Wildlife Garden, Fann Street (Picture 21) and the artificial lakes within the Barbican estate (shown in Picture 22).
Local Green Corridors

Walking, cycling … whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration.

The City of London has 1.2 hectares (12,000m²) of local green corridors; this category accounts for 4% of open space in the City of London. In the context of the City of London open spaces audit, this definition refers to green areas primarily used for planting, which provide a visual amenity.

Local green corridors in the City of London are located sporadically, outside of the central areas, which are built up more densely.

The largest site in The North of the City is located at Noble Street, adjacent to a section of the original London Wall (Picture 23). There are several smaller sites situated within and around the Barbican Estate, where areas of planting have been provided within hard-surfaced open spaces (including the highwalks).

In Aldgate, local green corridors have been provided adjacent to Guinness Court; these are areas of landscaping within the private residential estate.

Several local green corridors are located in Thames and the Riverside, including planted traffic island sites at Queen Victoria Street and Lower Thames Street (Picture 24). Parts of the Riverside Walkway have been landscaped to create local green corridors, adjacent to Blackfriars Bridge and London Bridge.

In the Rest of the City, local green corridors can be found at Queen Victoria Street and Upper Thames Street, comprising planting areas adjacent to civic spaces.

No local green corridors are situated within Cheapside and St. Paul’s or the Eastern Cluster, which primarily comprise high-density modern buildings and hard-surfaced open spaces.
Provision for Children and Young People

Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.

The City of London has 0.9 hectares (9,000 m²) of open space provision for children and young people; this accounts for 3% of open space in the City of London.

Policy 3.6 (Children and young people’s play and informal recreation) of the London Plan sets out the need to provide children’s play space and encourages local authorities to assess provision (see Appendix 2.2 for the full policy wording).

Paragraph 3.4.7 of the Draft London Plan states that:

‘Communal play space for children and young people should be provided in developments with an estimated occupancy of ten children or more in accordance with the requirement of Policy S4 Play and informal recreation.’

Draft London Plan Policy S4 encourages local authorities to undertake audits for play and recreation provision; the full policy wording is set out in Appendix 2.3.

The Mayor of London has also produced a Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation (published September 2012), which states that:
(Paragraph 1.3): ‘Children and young people need free, inclusive and accessible spaces offering high-quality play and informal recreation opportunities in child-friendly neighbourhood environments.’

(Paragraph 3.26): ‘School facilities and school playing fields can provide an important contribution to high quality play spaces for a range of community activities, such as pre or after school cultural and other sports activities. Where possible, children should be allowed access to use them outside school hours. Maximum use of schools after school hours or at weekends can contribute to reducing deficiencies in play provision, providing children with greater choice for play activities, respond to the needs of working parents as well as supporting educational attainment. Already undertaken initiatives have also demonstrated that it contributes to social inclusion, community cohesion, improved health, youth diversion and parental engagement.’

City of London Local Plan Policy DM19.4 (Play areas and facilities) sets out the City of London’s intentions to protect and enhance play provision (see Appendix 2.5 for the full policy wording).

Play sites are required in areas where young people are located; these are:

- Housing locations where families with children live (which in the City is primarily concentrated in the Barbican, Golden Lane, Middlesex Street and Mansell Street estates); more details regarding household composition within the City’s residential areas are provided in the City of London’s Census reports, and
- Schools, many of which are situated close to residential estates where families with children live.

Provision for children and young people in the City of London mostly comprises:

- Play areas, including basketball courts.
- Playground facilities at the City of London’s schools.

In The North of the City, play facilities are located within the Golden Lane and Barbican residential estates, and comprise equipped play areas and also the playground at the City of London School for Girls.

While Cheapside and St. Paul’s has a very low resident population, play facilities are located towards the west, at St. Paul’s Choir School.

No play sites are located in the Eastern Cluster, which is primarily a business district.

Aldgate has significant play facilities in three locations:

- Sir John Cass Church of England School, St. James’s Passage (Picture 25);

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17 The most recent Census data is from 2011.
• Petticoat Square and
• Adjacent to Guinness Court (Picture 26).

Two large sites are situated within Thames and the Riverside; these are play facilities at the City of London School for Boys and are located towards the west. Towards the east, there is a small play area located within Tower Hill Garden\textsuperscript{18}.

In the Rest of the City, there are very few housing clusters; thus, the only play site in this locality is small-scale provision within King George’s Field, located towards the east.

\textsuperscript{18} The City of London open space audit includes this site because it forms part of Tower Hill Garden, although it is located within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
Outdoor Sports Facilities

Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics or countryside or water sports.

Because of the densely built-up nature of the City of London, opportunities to provide outdoor sports provision are very limited. However, the City of London has 0.6 hectares (6,000m²) of outdoor sports provision. This category accounts for 2% of open space in the City of London and includes any space set out for the purpose of outdoor sporting activities, not including those designed for children and young people.

The provision of outdoor sports facilities is set out in:\n
- Paragraphs 91 and 97 of the NPPF, which encourage provision for sports and recreation;
- London Plan Policy 3.19 (Sports facilities);
- Draft London Plan Policy S5 (Sports and recreation facilities) and
- City of London Local Plan Policy DM19.3 (Sport and recreation).

In the City of London, outdoor sports facilities are located in The North of the City, where there is a greater density of residential use; this includes:

- Tennis courts at the Golden Lane Estate (Picture 27);
- Sports pitches at the Barbican Estate;
- Seasonal use of Exchange Square as an ice rink, and
- A netball court at St. Botolph-without-Bishopsgate Churchyard.

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19 See Appendix 2 for more details.
Allotments, Community Gardens and Urban Farms

Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. Open countryside located on the boundary of an urban area.

These sites comprise communal allotment gardens, associated with a residential area, which provide opportunities for growing of vegetables, thereby setting spaces of this type apart from amenity spaces, which are used primarily for informal recreation. This category also includes urban farms, used for rearing livestock.

The City of London includes just 0.02 hectares (200m²) of open space within this typology, amounting to less than 1% of the total. This is Golden Baggers Allotment, at the Golden Lane Estate (within The North of the City), which occupies land previously used as a nursery play area.

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The City of London Corporation is the Local Authority for the financial and commercial heart of Britain, the City of London.

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