QUERCUS in Lewisham

Evaluation Report

August 2008

Introduction

This report assesses the successes of the EU LIFE funded QUERCUS project (*Quality Urban Environments for River Corridor Users and Stakeholders*) in Lewisham against the three stated QUERCUS aims:

- To increase use and enjoyment of Ladywell Fields and the Ravensbourne River corridor
- To reduce crime and fear of crime
- To improve habitats for wildlife

The report focuses primarily on Ladywell Fields as a project delivery area, because it was possible to collect meaningful baseline information from the existing park in August 2006. Cornmill Gardens, on the other hand, is a new open space, and as such it was not possible to gather useful comparative data on its use, habitat value and the fear of crime associated with it.

The approach the QUERCUS team have taken to realise these aims will therefore be rigorously assessed with respect to Ladywell Fields, and where possible, additional supplementary evidence from Cornmill Gardens will be included.

The achievement of each aim will be examined in turn within this report. Data presented in the Baseline Report (Aug 2006) will be used as the starting point in each case; the key changes made and approaches taken will be set out briefly, and before the current results pertaining to each aim are presented. A short discussion section follows, setting out the project team's perceptions on the reasons for success or failure in each case, and the lessons learned in carrying out the project.

The same methods and data sources are being used to assess the success of QUERCUS in Lewisham as were used to establish the baseline position at the beginning of the project, as the table below illustrates:

Aim	**Method used to collect baseline information**	**Method used to collect end of project data**
Increase use and enjoyment of Ladywell Fields and the river corridor	Park keeper's head counts Survey in and around the park	Park keeper's head counts Survey in and around the park
Reduce crime and fear of crime	Crime data from police Survey as above	Crime data from police Survey as above
Improve habitat value	Greater London Authority habitat & biodiversity survey	Waterlink Way Ranger habitat & biodiversity survey using the GLA's as a model

Section 1 – Use and Enjoyment of Ladywell Fields

In order to make Ladywell Fields a more popular open space, the northern field of the park was re-landscaped through QUERCUS, to focus on its previously hidden natural asset – the river Ravensbourne. The vision was to create a well used and well loved park, focused on the river, which would be seen by local people as an important resource within an urban inner city environment. Prior to the QUERCUS project the river Ravensbourne ran along the edge of Ladywell Fields in an artificially widened and toe-boarded channel. QUERCUS has created a new river channel, bringing around half of the Ravensbourne's flow into the centre of the park in a more natural V-shaped meandering channel, to be seen and enjoyed by all. The previously formless landscape, lacking character and interest has thus been transformed by the new river channel, its banks and the use of the resulting earth on site to create terraces, views and improve accessibility.

View of the new channel from the Ladywell Road entrance

The changes made have been well received by park users and local people. The bar chart below (figure 1) shows how survey respondents rated the major physical changes carried out to the park through the QUERCUS project 2006-2008.[1]

[1] The skate park was already in the park prior to the baseline study being carried out, and so is excluded from this analysis.

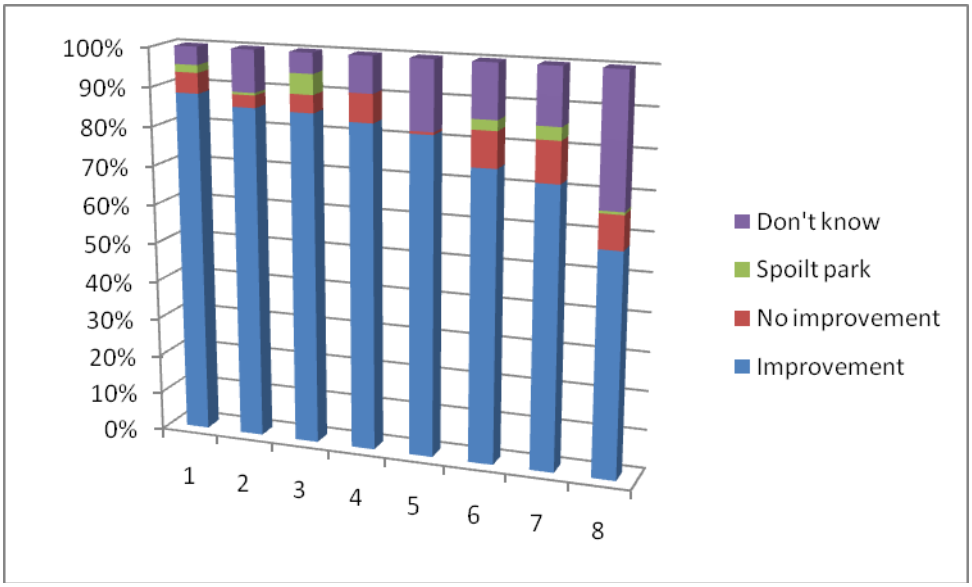

Figure 1

1 General landscape changes
2 Opening up the nature reserve to become part of the park, accessible to all
3 New river channel
4 New path to the station
5 New entrance, renewed use and renovation of the education centre
6 Removal and planting of trees
7 Removal of railings along the existing river channel
8 Renovation of St Mary's Garden

The most popular change is to the general landscape – 88% of respondents think the QUERCUS project has improved the landscape, and over 85% agree that creating the new river channel has improved the park. Even the removal of railings and trees – opposed by some when the project sought planning permission - has been welcomed by over 70% of respondents.

The key issue in terms of achieving the aims of the QUERCUS project, however, is whether this approval of the changes made has translated into increasing the use and enjoyment of the park and river corridor.

1.1 Park Usage

To provide a snapshot of total park usage, the park keeper carries out a headcount of people in the park at around 2pm each day. Data from July 2005 and 2006 was used to create the baseline from which QUERCUS worked. This is compared with data from July 2008 on the graphs (figures 2 and 3) below:

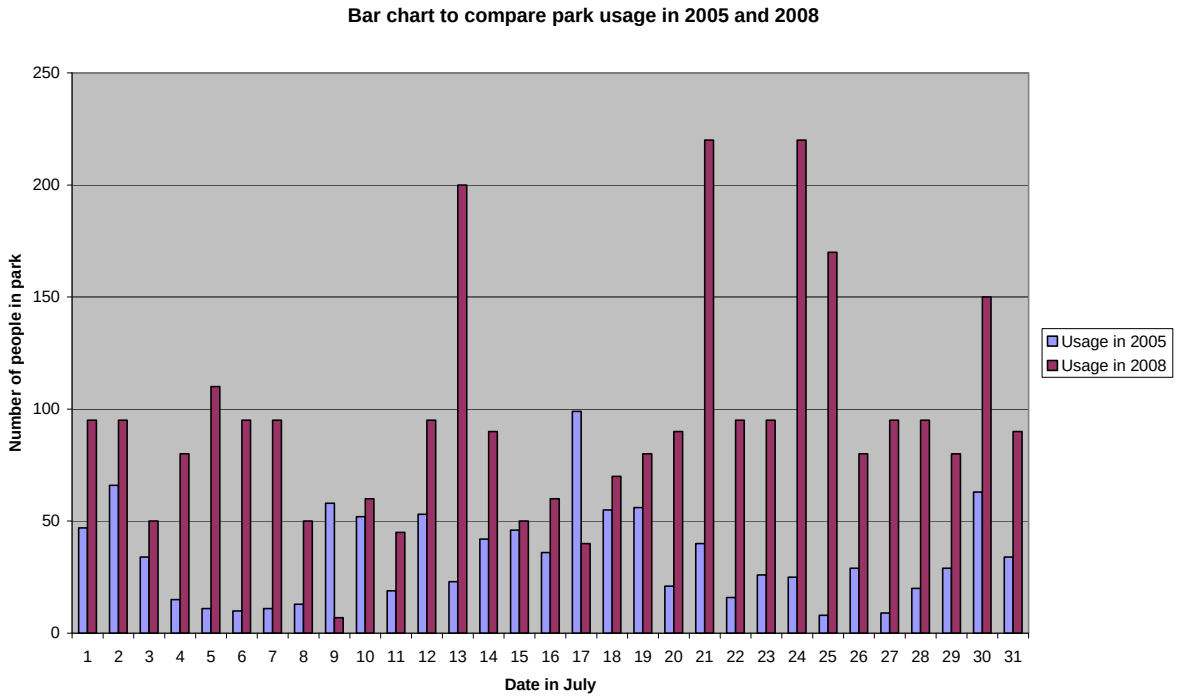

Figure 2

In 2006, data was only available from 1st – 21st July.

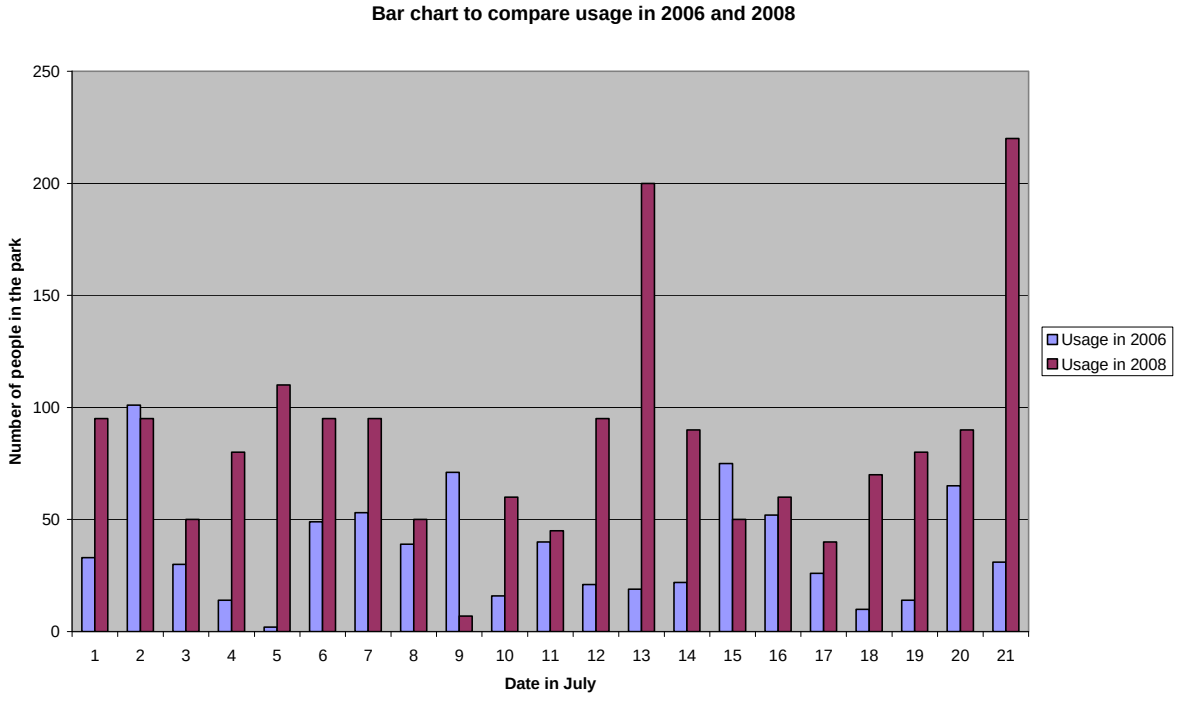

Figure 3

Headcounts were taken at 12 noon in 2005, but at 2pm in 2006 and 2008. The 2006 data is therefore more directly comparable with 2008.

Both graphs above show a dramatic increase in park usage since the completion of the QUERCUS works. In 2005, the average number of people in the park at the time of the headcount was 34. In 2006, it was 37 – slightly higher – possibly because the headcount was carried out slightly later in the day, and because 2006 was a particularly hot summer in Britain.

The average number of people in the park in 2008 however, throughout July, was 94 – a 276% increase on 2005, and 254% increase on 2006! This is despite the fact that headcounts in 2008 did not include the middle and southern sections of the park, whereas the previous headcounts did. (Typically 5-10 people were in these sections of the park in 2005 and 2006 when the headcounts were carried out).

This two and a half fold increase in usage exceeds the aims and expectations with which the QUERCUS project set out.

1.2 Changes in use & enjoyment of the park & river corridor

In addition to analysing total usage of the park over time, we sought also to develop an understanding of how use and enjoyment of the park has changed through QUERCUS. Data was captured in the questionnaire (179 were completed post project). The results reveal that:

- Ladywell Fields is now attracting new visitors – 18% of those responding had not been to the park prior to the QUERCUS project;
- 51% of respondents visit Ladywell Fields more often following the landscape changes made through QUERCUS.

Unfortunately no final data was collected on the length of time people stay in the park, as the survey was criticised for being overly long, and required editing to secure an adequate response. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that the park has become a place in which people stay longer each visit. Many families picnic by the new river channel, hospital employees enjoy their lunchtime in the summer sunshine, and even in colder weather people stop to watch the water or enjoy a coffee in the newly opened cafe. The QUERCUS team's aspiration to create a place in which people love to linger rather than pass through quickly

"Whilst chilling out in Ladywell Fields for 3-4 hours yesterday afternoon with a cuppa from the cafe, Cynthia reading a book, Daisy paddling in the River (with lots of other kids), it occurred to me, not for the first time, how fantastically Ladywell Fields is becoming what we hoped, a few years back, it might become."

Park User Group secretary

has been achieved.

Café at Ladywell Fields

People enjoying the newly designed park

School children river dipping

As part of the survey we sought to gain a better understanding of what people enjoyed about the park, and why they visited. While many of the responses remained similar in the pre-project and post project surveys, one significant change was evident. Prior to the QUERCUS project, the children's playground at the southern tip of the northern field was a major draw for park users – almost half of survey respondents normally used the playground during their visit to the park, prior to the park's transformation through QUERCUS. However, following the project, only 21% normally visit the play area as part of their visit. Whilst previously the playground was one of the few attractions or facilities in the park, now the landscape and river itself provide enjoyment, amusement and a focus for the park. As a result, while many children and families still use the park, the artificial, contained environment of the playground has become less popular (probably particularly in the summer) now the river, banks and pools provide a natural environment for explorative play.

This reflects the research evidence that children like and benefit from playing in environments which contain 'natural' elements such as vegetation and water. This approach is increasingly being supported nationally by Play England.

The newly created river channel, with Lewisham Hospital in the background

1.3 Changes in perception of the park

The survey of park users revealed a clear perception that the general facilities in the park have improved through the QUERCUS project. People now rate park facilities (benches and bins, the cafe, facilities for children, paths and maintenance and sports facilities) considerably more highly than they did before the works took place, as the bar chart below (figure 3) demonstrates.

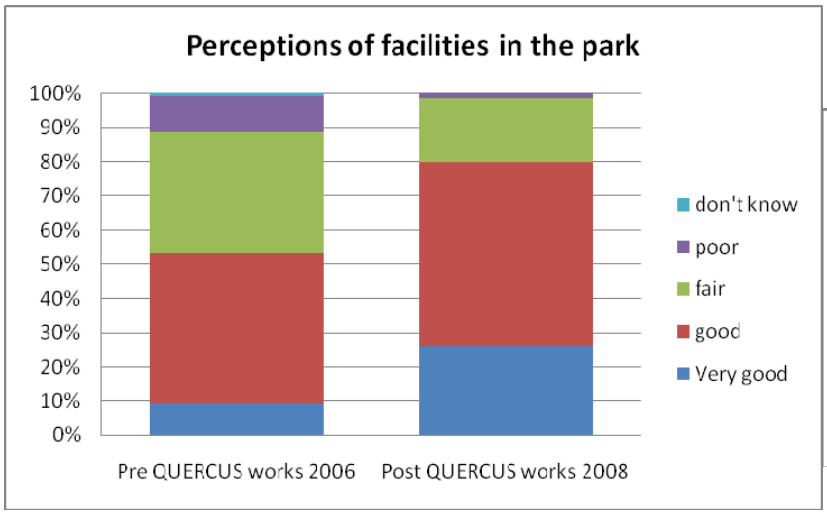

Figure 4

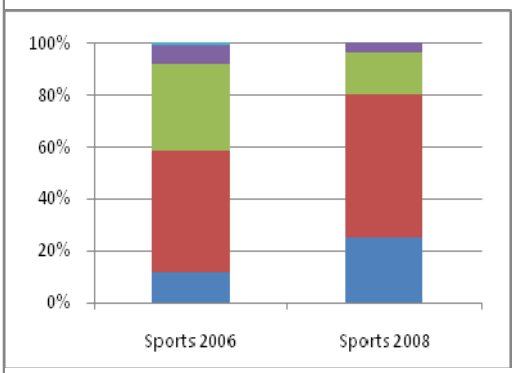

Figure 5

Interestingly survey respondents felt the sports facilities were better in 2008 than in 2006, although within that timeframe the only substantial changes to sports facilities in the park were the removal of a tennis court and football pitch! It seems that the success of QUERCUS has engendered a positive feeling towards the park such that even facilities which have not

been enhanced through the project are now regarded with greater satisfaction than they were two years ago.

Whilst most park users feel the facilities in the park have improved, nevertheless, there remain some concerns about using the open space. For the vast majority of people these issues do not create insurmountable barriers, but they may tinge the enjoyment of their visits. On the whole the number of survey respondents rating issues of concern has decreased significantly as the bar chart below (figure 6) illustrates. There are just three areas in which levels of concern have escalated during the lifetime of QUERCUS. The first is concern about dogs – particularly those not on a lead. This is likely to be as a result of the increase in number of people in London owning dogs which are perceived to be aggressive or threatening. Given that 22% of survey respondents were concerned about this issue, consideration is being given to establishing a 'dogs on leads' policy in this part of the park, enforced by the park keeper.

The other two issues of increasing concern to park users are related to perceptions of safety – park users increasingly feel that the space is too enclosed, and that the visibility of paths is poor. This is despite the efforts made by QUERCUS to design out crime from the park. Interestingly, the re-landscaping the tree pruning and removal in Ladywell Fields have opened up views to and from the road, making the space less enclosed, and on pre-existing paths visibility has only been enhanced. However, it may be that survey respondents are thinking of the new paths in the wildlife area where sensitivity to the natural environment has led to designing less clear sight lines than in other parts of the park.

New path to station through wildlife area

Clear sight lines over terraced lawn area

It seems that creating self policing space (part of the designing out crime model – to be addressed in more detail in section 2 of this report) is important to park users. It could perhaps be more thoroughly addressed within the QUERCUS project area through further tree pruning in key locations.

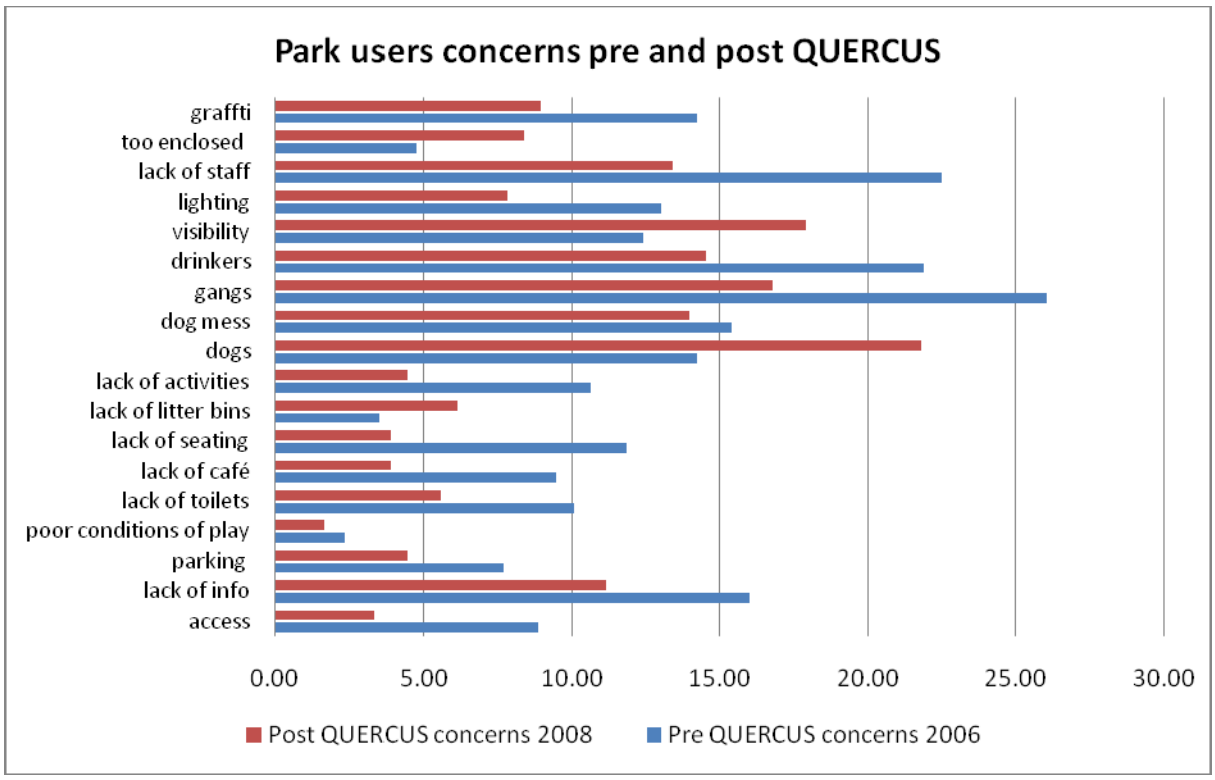

Figure 6

Despite these remaining concerns, over 70% of survey respondents agreed that the QUERCUS project has increased the use and enjoyment of Ladywell Fields and its river.

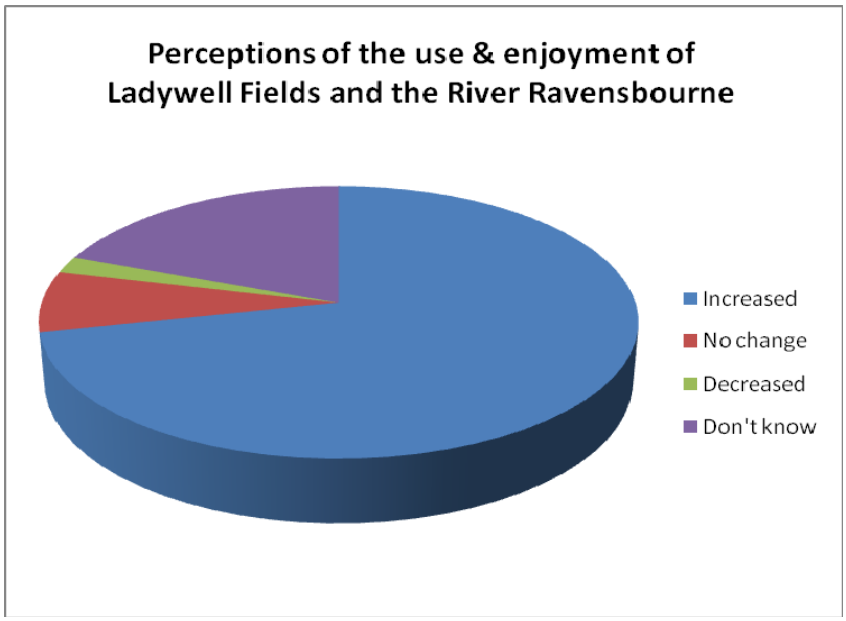

Figure 7

Section 2 – Reducing crime and fear of crime

2.1 The approach

At the beginning of the project, the QUERCUS partnership employed Groundwork SE London to research criminal activity and fear of crime within the three urban river corridors. They developed a model which all three partners could employ to make their river corridors safer.

The report is available in full or summary form at **www.quercus-project.eu**

Essentially three approaches were recommended:

Firstly, and most crucially, Groundwork recommended creating **self-policing space.** To achieve this the open space needs to be busy, and sight lines clear. In such spaces park users look out for each other, and any potential perpetrator is prevented from carrying out criminal activity as too many pairs of eyes are watching. The space should be well maintained, as neglect generates fear of crime, and may indicate to potential perpetrators that criminal acts will be tolerated.

Secondly, Groundwork recommended protecting the potential victim, by removing potential hiding places, providing formal surveillance and creating alternative routes so a victim has easy means of escape.

Thirdly, Groundwork recommended that in some specific areas, limiting access to parts of a linear open space could make it safer, by excluding potential perpetrators from areas which are difficult to enliven.

The QUERCUS project in Lewisham has sought to implement this model in Ladywell Fields. Groundwork identified particular issues within the site which could encourage criminal activity. These are listed below, together with the solutions implemented to overcome these problems.

Issue 1 - Entrances are not welcoming. The space lacks identity and clear function.

Solutions

- Entrance at Ladywell rd was previously uninviting with restricted views.
- Removed swing gate and replaced with stainless steel bollards to opens up the entrance.
- Removed trees in front of the entrance to open up vistas to the rest of the park.
- Finger signs and identity signs installed increasing the user confidence to explore the park and use as a through route.

Effect – Increased use of Ladywell Fields as a park to enjoy and as a pedestrian and cycling route to and from Catford and Lewisham Hospital.

Issue 2 - Poor visibility and sight lines across the park

Solutions

- Improved sight lines in the park, especially from the entrances.
- Selective removal and pruning of trees and shrubs.
- Increased lighting across the park and to the station,
- New bridges are wide and low with slatted sides, so not to create a secluded 'pinch point'.

Effect- Increased use of Ladywell Fields during non peak times such as early morning and evening, as people feel safer in the park, even when few other people are present.

Issue 3 – Lack of interest in the park, resulting in under use

Solutions

- River restoration has created an interesting feature that the public use and enjoy.
- New park café offers refreshments and somewhere to sit and socialise.
- Former station ticket office has been turned into an environmental education classroom. This has become a valuable resource for the boroughs schools.

Effect – Increased use of the park as a destination. The public are coming to the park more frequently and for longer periods. There are now more eyes and ears in the park creating a self policing space.

2.2 The results

In order to assess the success of the designing out crime model in reducing criminal activity in the park, police statistics of reported crimes in the park are compared before and after the project.

Jan – July 2004-05 26 crimes reported

Jan – July 2008 22 crimes reported

Jan – Dec 2002 28 crimes reported

Jan – Dec 2008 28 crimes reported

(projected on the basis of the 04-05 incidents)

These basic statistics indicate that criminal activity in the park has dropped slightly from the 04-05 base, but has not reduced from the 2002 level.

However, as the total number of visitors to the park has increased by around two and a half times since QUERCUS began, the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime per visit to the park, has in fact more than halved. Perhaps it is no wonder, therefore that people tend to feel safer. The results of the questionnaires carried out with park users show that prior to the QUERCUS works, 11% park users felt unsafe in the park. Following QUERCUS, however, only 3% still feel unsafe in the park. In addition, many others who previously felt 'fairly safe' now feel much more confident in the park, as the graph below shows.

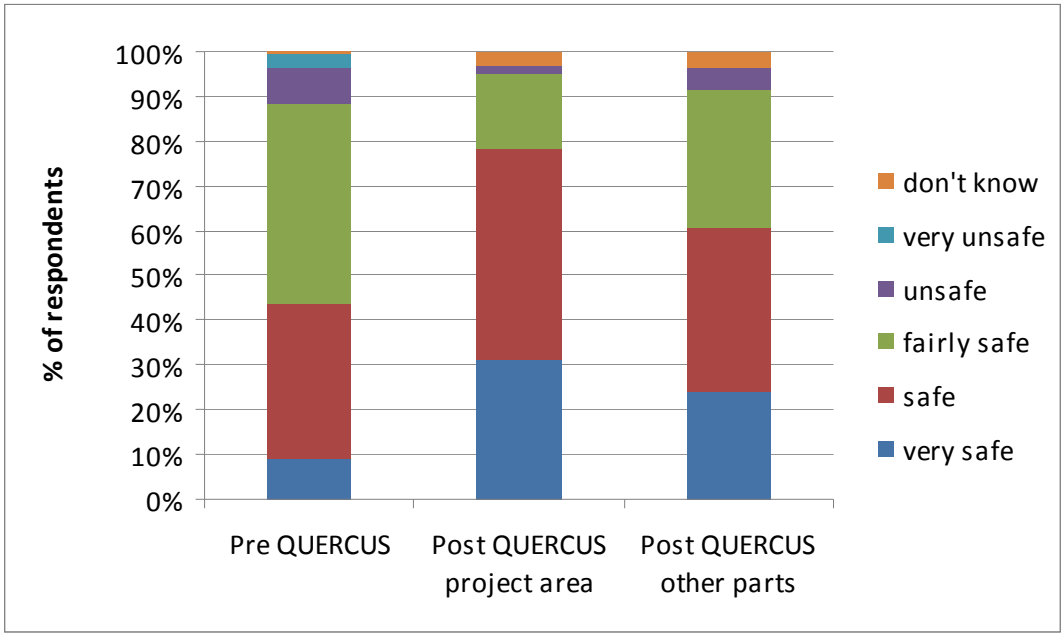

Figure 1

Interestingly, although there have been no physical changes to the park outside of the QUERCUS area, in the northern section of Ladywell Fields, park users now feel safer throughout the park than they did prior to the project. This is likely to be because the park as a whole is now more popular, and there are therefore more people around to watch out for each other. The project area itself, has, however, seen a greater change in park users' perceptions of safety. Prior to the project, only 44% people felt safe or very safe in the park. Following the QUERCUS improvements and application of the designing out crime model, 78% park users feel 'safe' or 'very safe'.

It could be argued that fear of crime would be associated with the type of criminal incidents taking place in the park. However, the graph below indicates that crimes have become more serious since 2002, with particular growth in assault and malicious wounding. Conversely, in 2002, half of all crime reports were dog attacks, whereas in 2008, no dog attacks were reported.

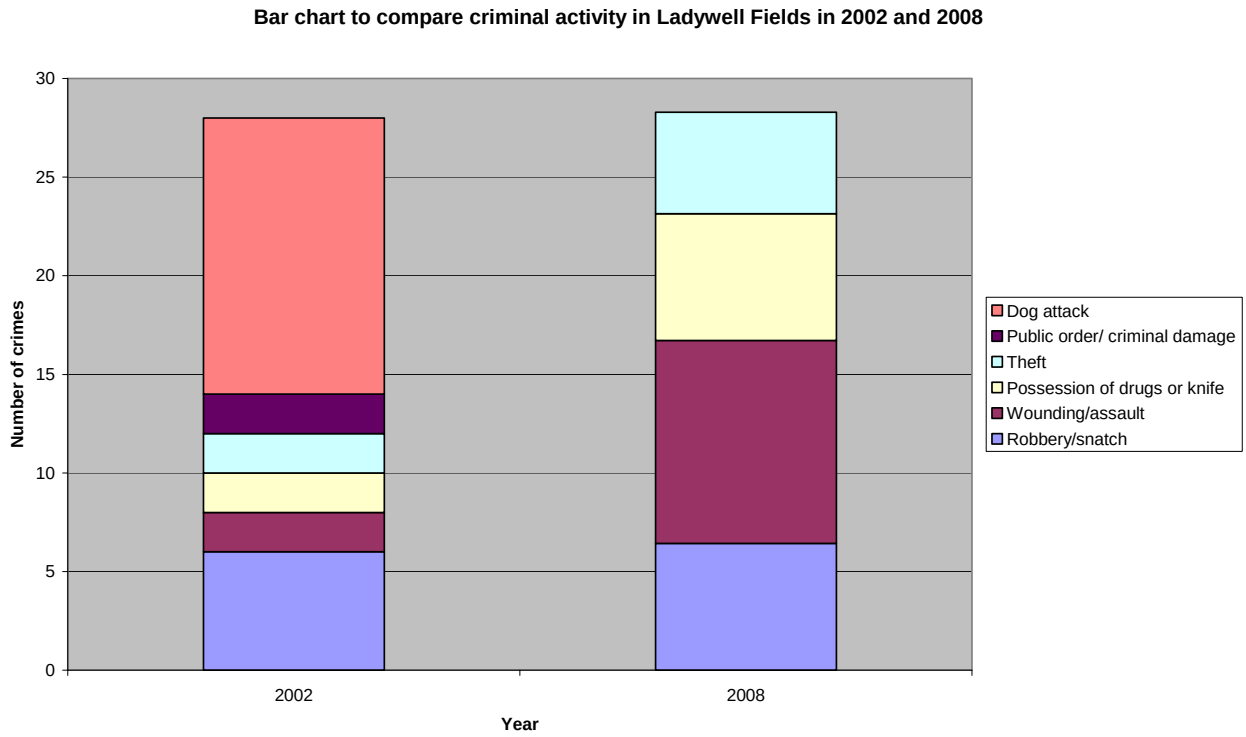

Figure 2

In terms of the time of year, or day of the week crimes are committed in the park, no clear patterns emerge. Interestingly no crimes were committed between 11am and 3pm, when the park tends to be busy, supporting the designing out crime model's 'self policing space' concept. However, the majority of criminal activity took place between 3-7pm, which is often just as busy as the lunchtime period. The increase in criminal activity in the afternoon may be due to an influx of young people after school (several crimes were committed in the skatepark, for example) though there is no data available on the age of perpetrators to verify this assumption.

The locations of criminal activity has shifted following QUERCUS. The key hotspot highlighted by the designing out crime report in 2006 was the near the station – particularly in the passageway adjoining the nature reserve. This was previously a secluded spot in which sight lines were very poor. Through the QUERCUS project this area has been transformed through improving sightlines from the road and entrance to the park in to the passageway, and, most importantly through transforming the former nature reserve into an open access wildlife area, with clear management and new paths from the station to the park. While many criminal incidences were concentrated around the station in 2005-06, only one took place in this part of the park in 2008. Implementation of the designing out crime model in this previous crime hotspot has clearly been a success.

2.3 Conclusions

Overall, has the key aim of the QUERCUS project, to reduce crime and fear of crime in Ladywell Fields been achieved?

In carrying out the questionnaire following the QUERCUS works, park users were asked whether they felt the project had been successful in achieving this objective.

42% said they thought it had, while 41% felt there had been no change, and a small minority felt that crime and fear of crime had worsened over the three years (2.5%).

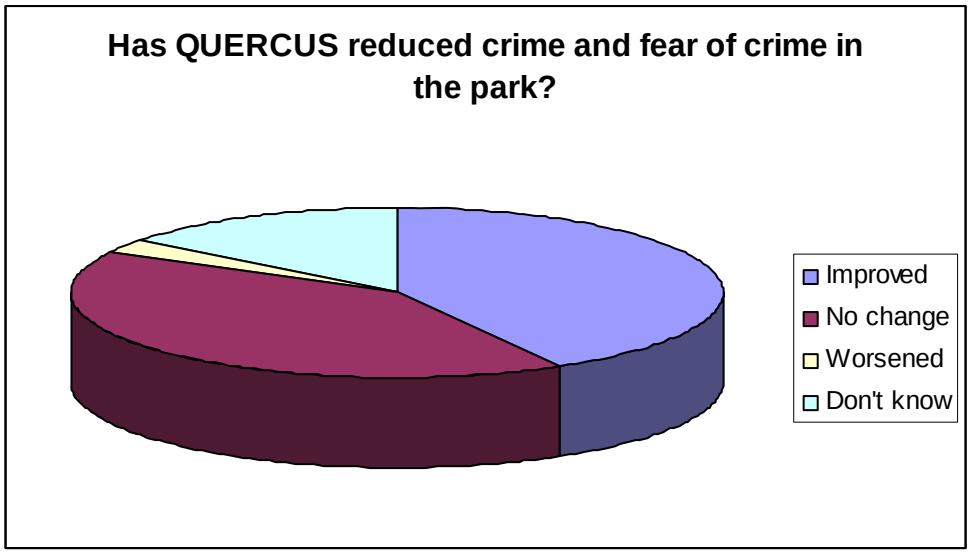

Figure 3

It can be concluded then, that the second aim of the QUERCUS project has been achieved in part in Ladywell Fields. Per visitor, the number of crimes reported has decreased dramatically, but the absolute number of crimes committed in the park has remained relatively stable. When asked personally how safe they felt in the park, users responded considerably more positively than in 2006, but when asked if the QUERCUS project had successfully reduced crime and fear of crime in the park, the response was less unanimous. Perhaps the most concrete indicator of success is the reduction in the number of criminal reports in the previous crime hotspot adjacent to the station, from 6 incidents of street crime in one year, to one incident of theft.

When applied as rigorously as possible to key location, it seems that the designing out crime model developed for the QUERCUS project has considerable power, not only to make people feel safer, but also to substantially reduce criminal activity.

Section 3 - Habitats and Biodiversity in Ladywell Fields

3.1 Introduction

The Greater London Authority (GLA) carried out a habitat and species survey one day in July 2005. The survey examined areas in Ladywell Fields, covering a range of habitats within the park. The habitat types, and every different species sighted in each area were recorded.

In August 2006 an analysis of this data was done in order to show the composition of Ladywell Fields, in relation to habitat types and species numbers. This information provides a baseline against which the final results of the QUERCUS project can be compared.

The follow up survey was carried out in August of 2008 following the same methodology as the survey in 2005

As there have been no major changes to the southern and middle fields, since the last analysis, this assessment focuses on the northern field and the 3 original survey areas contained within it.

.Map of Northern field

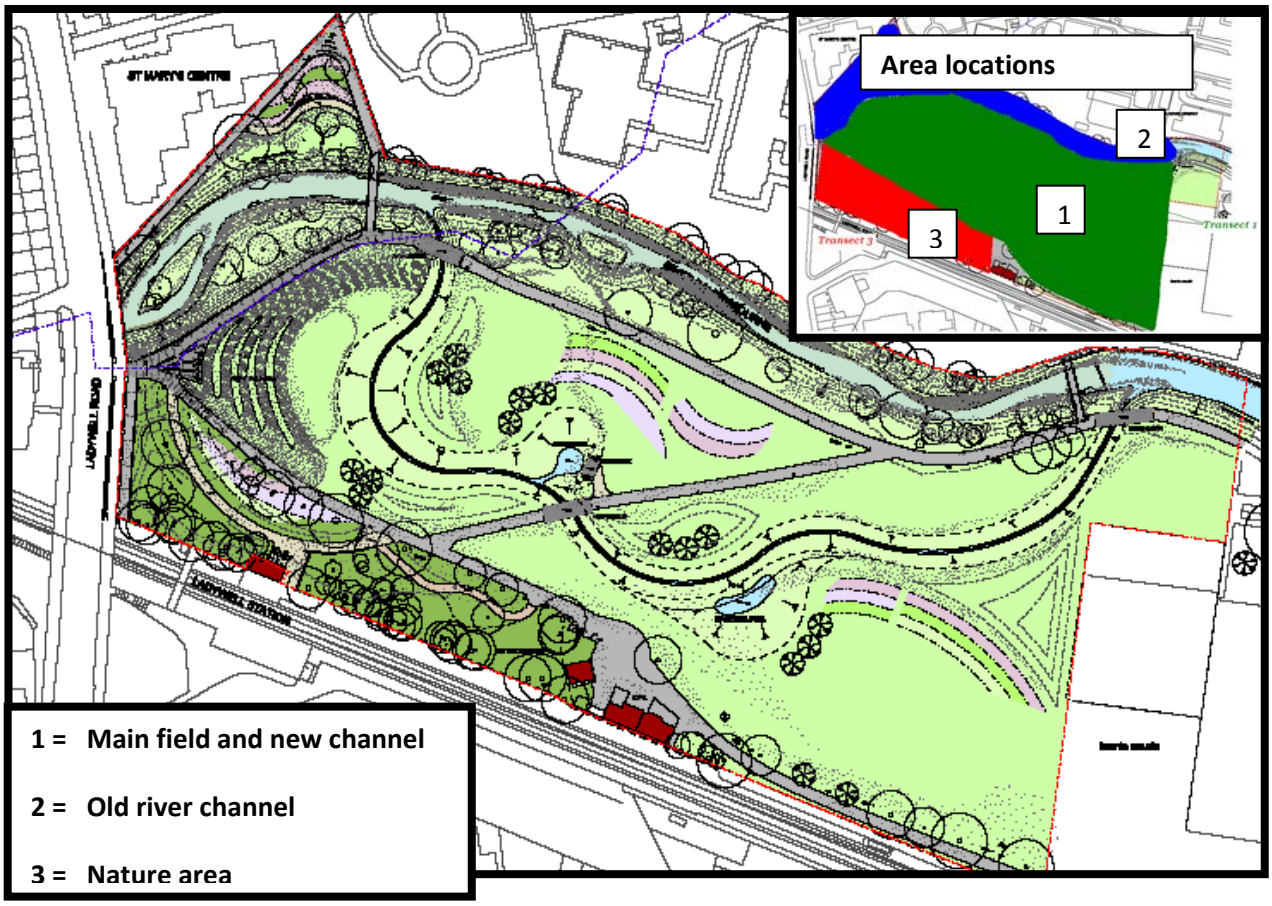

Figure 1

3.2 Habitats

Comparison of the habitats in the Northern Field before and after the QUERCUS works

Pre -QUERCUS

Figure 2

Post QUERCUS

Figure 3

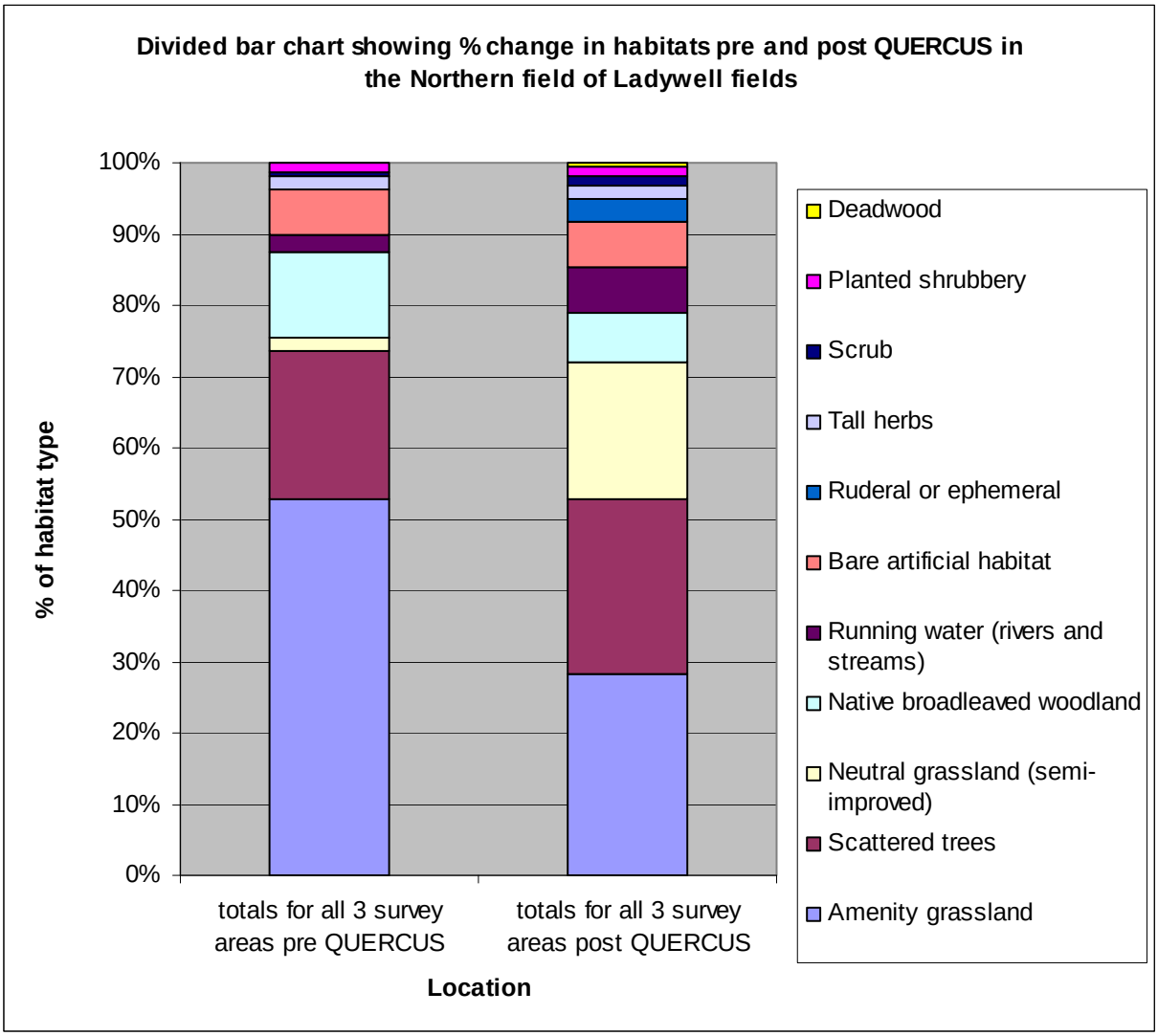

Figure 4

The bar chart shows that before the QUERCUS project, amenity grassland and scattered trees were the most prevalent form of habitat within the sample area. Following the QUERCUS project, amenity grassland has been reduced by almost 50% of its original area. Semi-improved grassland has increased from 2% to 20% of the total area and the area of running water has more than doubled, due to the new naturalised river channel running through the centre of the park.

New habitats present in the park, post QUERCUS, are deadwood and ephemeral/ruderal. Deadwood habitats have been created by volunteers forming loggeries and lying timber. The 2 pools created adjacent to the new channel and the restored pond in the nature reserve account for the ruderal and ephemeral habitats.

3.3 Species

In the species survey carried out by the GLA in 2005 areas containing large amounts of amenity grassland were less biodiverse than other habitat types such as running water and semi-improved grass land.

Amenity grassland has been significantly reduced in the project area and replaced with semi-improved grassland, running water, ephemeral pools and dead wood. This has had a positive effect on the number of species found in the northern field of Ladywell Fields.

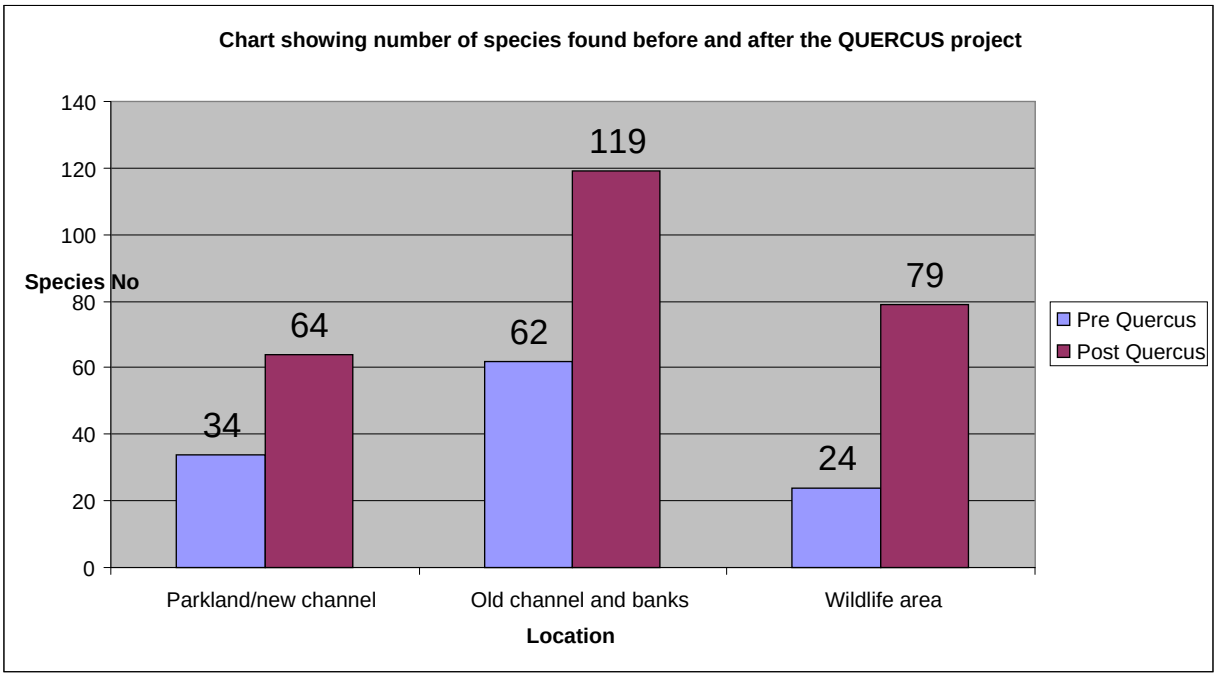

Figure 5

Figure 5 shows that all three surveyed areas have shown a dramatic increase in the number of species observed. In areas 1 and 2 the number of species found has almost doubled and in area 3 it has increased more than three fold.

The increase of species in area 1 is due to the introduction of several new habitat types notably running water and semi improved grassland.

Area 2, while not being changed drastically by the QUERCUS project in terms of physical works, has seen a change of conditions. The re-routing of the river channel has reduced the flow of the old channel resulting in slightly different habitat conditions in the channel. Small pools and eddies have formed which seem to attract a higher percentage of fishing birds to the channel. Kingfishers, grey wagtails and herons have all been spotted with more regularity since the completion of the QUERCUS project.

Area 3 has benefited from the increased management made possible through the QUERCUS project. Conservation volunteer sessions run by the Waterlink Way Rangers, have brought

the previously overgrown area of trees and scrub into a more formalised management regime. The area still has areas of scrub and trees but now also has a willow coppice, a pond, woodland meadow, mixed hedge and deadwood habitats. The results of the survey clearly demonstrate that the increased variety of habitats and improved management has been effective in increasing biodiversity.

3.4 Notable species

Since the project was completed, herons, kingfishers, mallard and mandarin ducks have all been spotted in the park. Stag beetle sightings have been recorded, however we may not find out the true success of the deadwood habitats created for this red list species for some 4 to 7 years, as any eggs laid this year will take up to 7 years to develop from larvae to adults.

Jersey Tiger Moth spotted recently in Ladywell Fields

A Jersey Tiger moth was also sighted in August 2008. Usually restricted in distribution to the Channel Islands and parts of the south coast and south Devon, a population has recently been identified in central London. This is a welcome addition to the wildlife of Ladywell Fields.

3.5 Invasive Species

Before the QUERCUS project the original river bank was heavily populated with Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam. During the QUERCUS project these species have been mapped and a management plan drawn up to eradicate them from Ladywell Fields. The Japanese Knotweed has been sprayed regularly and a significant reduction has been seen.

Himalayan Balsam

Himalayan Balsam has been hand pulled before it sets seed, each year from the start of the project. This year (2008) has seen a significantly reduced crop compared with 2007 and 2006, suggesting the Himalayan Balsam seed bank has been reduced as a result of this intensive management.

Giant Hogweed has also been found in Ladywell Fields, but is much

less prevalent then Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed. Giant Hogweed is widespread throughout the British Isles especially along riverbanks. Forming large, dense stands it displaces native plants and reduces wildlife interest. When found on site, the flowering heads have been removed and the stems cut down and left to rot on site. The stems are sprayed to prevent this perennial from growing back up the following spring.

3.6 Conclusion

Has the QUERCUS aim to improve habitats for wildlife been achieved?

The river restoration and associated landscape improvements have increased the total variety of habitats contained within the QUERCUS site, and enlarged the running water and semi-improved grassland habitats. These habitats are known to support a relatively large number of species. Together with intensive management of the invasive species present, and the more targeted management of the wildlife area, the QUERCUS project has significantly improved habitats for wildlife.

The survey of park users carried out since the QUERCUS project shows that local people recognise and appreciate these changes, as the pie chart below illustrates:

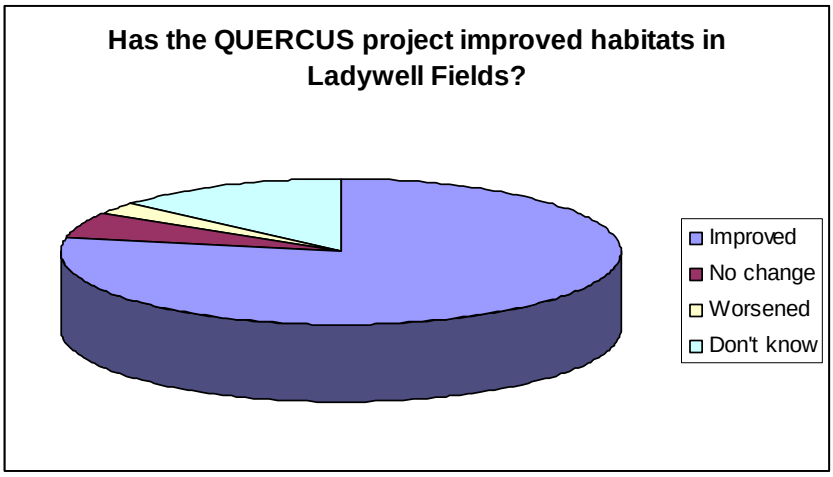

Figure 6

The QUERCUS team are also delighted to [illegible]amatic increase in the number of different species already using these habitats, as revealed by the survey. As good management of the site continues, and the habitats mature and establish further, additional biodiversity gains are expected.

These improvements in habitats and biodiversity are particularly encouraging in an inner city park. The changes show that it is possible to create a haven, not only for people, but also for wildlife, in a relatively small green space within an urban environment.

Section 4 - Discussion – The role of community involvement

The success of QUERCUS in encouraging more local people to use and enjoy the park and river, to reduce fear of crime and improve habitats for wildlife, does not rest in the re-landscaping of the park alone. Throughout the project the Waterlink Way Rangers have engaged local community groups, worked with volunteers and delivered environmental education sessions for schools in the park and river – both in Ladywell Fields and Cornmill Gardens. Those taking part learn about wildlife in the park, become familiar with the place, making them feel safer there, and most importantly, develop a sense of ownership of the park, such that they care for and feel pride in the environment. This level of investment by local people will ensure the benefits of QUERCUS are sustained for many years to come, and that the newly transformed landscape is cared for as it matures.

For literally thousands of school children and staff, participating in environmental education on the QUERCUS sites has been an introduction to Ladywell Fields and Cornmill Gardens, and, more importantly, the natural riverine environment within the inner city. Having made a first visit they are much more likely to return with their families, and to regard the river as a positive resource to be embraced and respected, rather than hidden, polluted or forgotten.

Whilst it is more difficult to measure, and may take years of cultural shift, this change in attitude towards urban rivers has been a major driver of the QUERCUS project in all three locations. Allowing people to have access to the river and to enjoy the water is an important part of this changing attitude. It has therefore been very satisfying, not only to see the use of Ladywell Fields increasing significantly following QUERCUS, but to see people who were previously anxious or dismissive of the river, watching it flow, paddling, and finding life in the water.

Picnics by the river

Section 5 - Lessons Learned

The transformed landscape created through QUERCUS is now well loved and well used, but the process of the transformation has been controversial. Local opposition was encountered particularly as we sought planning permission and was centred on the issue of tree removal. Through this experience the team has learned to:

- Expect controversy;
- Do everything possible to communicate transparently and openly with local people and community groups at the earliest possible opportunity, drawing particular attention to any potentially controversial issues;
- Allow opposition to challenge ideas and bring about design adaptation, but not to dilute central themes and outcomes[2].

In creating well used and well loved riverside open spaces, it has also been important to:

- Concentrate capital funds for use in a small area.

The EU life capital funds could have been spread thinly across the whole of the Waterlink Way. The decision to focus on two small areas – the creation of Cornmill Gardens and the transformation of the northern section of Ladywell Fields only, has enabled the creation of high quality riverine landscapes. The outcomes are clear and local people are excited by the changes. Following such positive outcomes it is likely to be easier to attract further funding to extend the approach to a larger area. Lewisham Council is currently pursuing additional funding to transform the rest of Ladywell fields and make improvements to the Waterlink Way, using the QUERCUS project as a springboard.

The QUERCUS team consider the success of the project in Lewisham to be built not only on the transformation of the river corridors, but also, importantly on the engagement of local people. The team has learned to:

- enable people to be involved and to experience the riverine landscape at the level to which they are interested and able.

[2] For example, in Ladywell Fields fewer trees were felled than had originally been planned following local opposition, and more new trees were planted. However, the key theme of creating clear sight lines and a welcoming entrance from which people could view the park was not compromised, despite some local people fiercely opposing the removal of trees at the park entrance.

For some frequent volunteering sessions are needed, allowing them to invest in the parks and river significantly. For others, participation in an annual clean up event or fun day is as much as they can offer, but allows them to feel engaged in the project, and to value the park more as a contributor, rather than casual visitor.

Volunteers helping out in Ladywell to remove some old fencing

School children learning about the wildlife found in Ladywell Fields

Encouraging investment by the community is a key part of transforming public spaces, and has been a crucial component of the QUERCUS project's success in Lewisham.

Further information of the QUERCUS Project in Lewisham is available by contacting: europe@lewisham.gov.uk