



WISE Audit: urban form of participants' local neighbourhoods

During the first phase of Inclusive Design for Getting Outdoors, WISE audited the local neighbourhoods of 200 older participants (who were also interviewed for the project) using an urban form checklist. The surveys were conducted within a 300m radius of each participant's home and only included the area the participant would be able to walk in from home without driving, so that areas not accessible to pedestrians due to physical barriers, such as rivers and railway lines, were excluded. All surveys were done between 10am and 3pm weekdays or during daylight hours at weekends. 1:1250 scale OS maps were used.

Checklist of Urban Form Characteristics

The research method required WISE to develop a tool with which to gather the necessary data. This was adapted from checklists previously designed by the team while based at the Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development (OISD) – for example the Built Environment Site Survey Checklist (Burton et al, 2005) – using the findings from the literature review and focus groups. The checklist was piloted for inter-rater reliability and to ensure that characteristics being measured were assessed in an appropriate manner.

The urban form checklist was divided into four sections:

1. Map measurements of the neighbourhood's predominant street pattern, block sizes, street junctions and open space.
2. The participant's dwelling type – including form, height and age.
3. The participant's street – including type, shape, topography, natural surveillance, variety of built form, condition of buildings and street greenery.
4. The participants' neighbourhood – including location, mix of use, density, natural surveillance, legibility, traffic and pedestrian levels, greenery.

This profile published January 2011. For further information, please contact idgo@ed.ac.uk.