



Inclusive Design for Getting Outdoors

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EPSRC EQUAL Research Network Workshop

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EPSRC

Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council

extending quality life
equal

OPENspace

- Research centre for inclusive access to outdoor environments
- Edinburgh College of Art and Heriot-Watt University
- I'DGO team
 - Prof. Catharine Ward Thompson
 - Prof. Peter Aspinall
 - Dr Takemi Sugiyama

OPENspace

- Three broad areas of work
 - disability and social inclusion
 - health and restorative environments
 - tourism
- Brings together leading researchers in landscape architecture, environmental psychology, quality of life measures, visual impairment and inclusive design

OISD:WISE

- Wellbeing in Sustainable Environments Research Unit
- Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development, Oxford Brooke University
- I'DGO team
 - Dr Elizabeth Burton
 - Lynne Mitchell

OISD:WISE

- Promotes social sustainability in the built environment (at all scales from buildings to whole cities)
- Focuses on wellbeing, mental health and quality of life (QoL)
- Offers cross-disciplinary working, generation of practical guidance, wide dissemination to professional and user groups

SURFACE

- Salford University Research Focus on Accessible Environments
- University of Salford
- I'DGO team
 - Rita Newton
 - Marcus Ormerod
 - Vanja Garaj

SURFACE

- Research, consultancy and master's level teaching
- Focus on designing effective indoor and outdoor environments suitable for everyone to use
- Emancipatory Research Approach
- Putting theory into practice

Consortium partners

- Dementia Voice
 - Jane Gilliard
 - innovative information, training, research and development work for people with dementia
- Housing Corporation
 - Steve Onger
 - expertise in housing for older people, dissemination of research findings

Consortium partners

- RICAbility
 - Research Institute for Consumer Affairs
 - Lindsey Etchell
 - expertise in research and dissemination work for older people
- Sensory Trust
 - Jane Stoneham
 - accessible and inclusive environmental design, therapeutic environments and outdoor experience

Consortium collaborators

- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister - Peter Bide
- Aberdeen City Council - David Kilgour
- UK Institute for Inclusive Design - Andrew Walker
- Cherwell District Council - John Gregory and Jeremy Sacha
- Edinburgh City Council - Carmen Duncan
- JMU Access Partnership - Carol Thomas

Consortium collaborators

- Manchester Disabled People's Access Group - Felicity Harris
- Merseytravel - David Skelton
- Page and Park Architects - David Page
- Respect for People - Nick Curry, Tim Embley and Adrian Terry
- Southern Derbyshire NHS Trust - Peggy Frost
- Wales Tourist Board - Chris Coleman

Research aim

- To identify the most effective ways of ensuring that the outdoor environment is designed inclusively to improve the quality of life for older and disabled people

Research objectives

- To establish QoL criteria for older people in terms of the outdoor environment
- To investigate how different outdoor environments perform in relation to these QoL criteria
- To identify positive and negative features of outdoor environments
- To provide guidance for developers, designers and user groups

Research challenge

- The relationship between older people and their environment is increasingly recognised as important for quality of life
- Very little research has addressed this relationship
- Designers, planners and developers lack information on how to ensure outdoor environments are easy for older people to use and enjoy

Theoretical context

- People's engagement with place
 - physical qualities of place
 - activities and behaviours
 - perceptions and beliefs
- People have
 - goals, e.g. social, daily living, recreational
 - objectives, e.g. shopping, meeting friends
 - tasks that enable these, e.g. crossing the road

Theoretical context

- What people are prepared to attempt relates to
 - expectations
 - difficulty
 - confidence
 - importance

Benefits of outdoor activities

- Outdoor environments that support older people's outdoor activities are likely to have positive effects on QoL
 - physiological benefits: general health, physical exercise, improved sleep
 - psychological benefits: relaxation, reduced stress/depression
 - social benefits: better social integration, access to services, informal opportunities to socialise

Research focus: OPENspace

- Landscape
 - open space networks
 - parks
 - woodland
 - green spaces
 - gardens
 - allotments
 - street trees
 - planted areas

Research focus: OISD:WISE

- Urban form
 - location
 - density
 - mix of land uses
 - street hierarchy
 - street layouts
 - street activity
 - road junctions
 - built form

Research focus: SURFACE

- Detailed design
 - general street image
 - street furniture
 - pedestrian crossings
 - signage
 - footways
 - paving
 - level changes

Methodology

- Focus groups and semi-structured interviews with older people
- Workshops with older people, designers and providers
- Interviews with older people
- On-site analysis of neighbourhood urban form and detail

Methodology

- On-site behaviour-setting surveys
- Questionnaire survey of designers and providers
- Analysis and comparison of good practice
- Development of guidance documents
- Dissemination

Dissemination tools

- Workshops at key stages, seminars and conferences towards end
- Website, discussion list and newsletters
- Partner and collaborator input
- Publications for planners, designers and providers
- Publications for lay people and end-users
- Academic and professional journal publications/presentations

Key outputs

- QoL criteria for older people in relation to outdoor environments.
- Tools for measuring outdoor environments in relation to their use
- Identification of features that help or hinder older people in using and enjoying the outdoor environment
- Information/guidance for developers, designers and planners and for lay people

Dissemination strategy

- User involvement from the beginning
- Partners'/collaborators' networks and forums
- Ongoing discussion/feedback
- Networks to maximise continuous dissemination
- Targeted outputs

Who will benefit?

- All users of the outdoor environment
- Organisations and groups representing the interests of older people and disabled people
- Planners, designers, managers, developers and landowners
- Community and residents' associations
- Academics and other researchers studying built and natural environments