



Walkabout Analysis Checklist

Look at the site and compare the elements of its current situation to those created in the proposed designs if available.

Permeability

- How many streets connections or routes can you identify around the site? Does the proposed development improve or increase the number of connections or routes? Why or why not?
- Can you identify what kind of routes they are (pedestrians, cycles, cars, public transport, etc.)?
- Are the blocks in the proposed plan larger or smaller than those on the existing site? Are the blocks larger or smaller than those around the site? How does this affect the way you get through the area?
- Approximately how far do you have to walk before you can easily make a choice to change direction? (Calculate one pace as around 1 metre.)
- Are there choices for safe and pleasant routes for cycling or walking?
- Is it easy not to use a car here? Why or why not?

Vitality

- How much of the site has active edges? Does the proposed development increase the number of active edges?
- What uses can you see inside the buildings through the windows/entrances? Will the proposed development increase the view?
- Which parts of the site feel busy or quiet? Can you identify why?
- What signs of social abuse do you see? (graffiti, vandalism, etc.). Will the proposed scheme reduce this in any way? If so, how?
- Do you feel safe in the area? Why or why not? Will the proposed development improve safety or not? How? Think about likely day/night differences in street experience.
- Would you feel safe in the area without other people?
- Where would you not feel safe alone? Why?

Variety

- How many different uses can be identified? Where are they located? What does the proposed scheme offer?
- Can you tell different uses from the streets or public spaces? Will the proposed development change this?
- Are any uses/activities likely to be open at night? What happens in the proposed schemes?
- Do any of the uses conflict with each other?
- Are the buildings occupied and, if not, why do you think they are vacant? Will the proposed scheme improve the occupancy rate? Why or why not?

Continued...



Legibility

Can you identify any of the five legibility characteristics around the site and in the site? (Paths, nodes, edges, landmarks and districts).

- Will the proposed scheme contribute to any of the five characteristics?
- How easy is it to find your way around within the area?
- Will the proposed scheme change this?
- Where can you see existing landmarks?

Robustness

- How many different activities can you identify in the streets surrounding the site (consider both buildings and open spaces)?
- Can you identify any unused spaces (streets, doorways, blank walls, etc.)?
- Does the detailed design of the public space encourage or prevent a wide range of activities?
- Is there any evidence that the buildings and public spaces have changed in use over time? Does the proposed development reuse existing buildings?
- In what other ways could these buildings and spaces be used?
- Would the weather affect activities in and around the site? How?
- Are the public spaces sheltered from the south-westerly, northern or eastern winds? Are the spaces south-facing?
- Are trees planted here?

Note:

These questions are intended to stimulate the process of enquiry, are not finite and should be added to if appropriate.

Photographs:

Photograph key aspects of the sites. Note the five urban design qualities and try to record a positive and not so positive photo of each principle.