Designing for Active Lives: Contextualising Public Toilet Provision

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Royal College of Art: Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design
Are Toilets Important?

- Likely to be visited by many people
- Often given ‘secondary’ consideration by providers
- Often given secondary consideration at design stage
- Important image enhancer for visitor attractions
- Vital aspect of BE for age friendly society, sustainable transport...
Are Toilets Important?

Physical aspects of relieving bladder and bowel “Normal”

• NHS – ideally 4-6 times per day for bladder
• NHS – 3 times a day to 3 times a week for bowel
• Women more often due to menstruation, pregnancy and menopause
• Men more often due to prostate health
Are Toilets Important?

Physical aspects of relieving bladder and bowel with a condition

• IBS – multiple bowel movements and urgency to reach toilets

• 17% of UK population

• 11% Men

• 23% Women
Are Toilets Important?

Physical aspects of relieving bladder and bowel due to medication
- High Blood Pressure/ Diuretics
- 1 in 4 UK adults (12.5 Million)
- 31% Men
- 26% Women
- 4 million people on anti-depressants
- 48% of UK population on medication
- 24% on more then 1 medication
Are Toilets Important?

Physical aspects of relieving bladder and bowel due to age

- Toddlers urinate 4-8 times a day
- Older people – increased bladder frequency
- Need to use toilets more often
- Weakening bladder muscles
- Urgency
Are Toilets Important?

Royal Society for Public Health (2019)

Lack of toilets is “affecting equality, mobility, physical fitness and other aspects of health”

• Access to toilets when outside of the home is a necessity for living active lives
What makes a good toilet for active living?

- Acceptable
- Clean
- Comfortable
- Familiar
- Sense of security
What makes a good toilet for active living?

- Accessible
- British Standards – 50 design features
- Audited 101 toilets in England
- Not one featured all 50 recommended features
- Highest score 32 features
- Failure to adhere to recommendations can make toilets inaccessible to users
What makes a good toilet for active living?

• Available
• Provision is fragmented
• Public and private providers
• Different initiatives for extending provision
• Community Toilet Schemes
• Can cause confusion for users – whose in whose out?
The Great British Public Toilet Map

• Bring together fragmented situation
• A map for all ‘publicly accessible toilets’
• ‘Any toilet the public can use without being ‘a customer’
• Data gathered from all 407 local authorities through FOI.
• Open data from National Rail Enquiries; Open Street Map.
• Crowdsourcing
• On-line resource. App in development
Update This Toilet

Align the crosshair with where you believe the toilet to be.

Toilet name
- Waterloo Park

Who can access?
- Public

Facilities
- Female and Male

Accessible facilities
- Unknown

Opening hours
- Daylight hours only

Attended?
- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Baby changing?
- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Automatic?
- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Radar key?
- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Fee?
- £0.10

Any notes?
Toilet Map Explorer exists to help people who want to know more about the data behind the The Great British Public Toilet Map.

You've come to the right place if you want to:

- Get a statistical overview of the data
- Search for specific toilet data
- Explore the data by UK Administrative Geography
- Learn how to use our APIs to power your application
- Learn about the Licensing terms under which you can use this data

If you're looking for the nearest Leo you're better off using The Great British Public Toilet Map

If you're looking for information about our software please head on over to our Github repository

**Stats**

You can view a selection of high level statistics here

**Search**

You can search for toilet data using keyword searches here

**Licensing**

Licensing information coming soon

**API**

The Toilet Map API is expressed in GraphQL. The endpoint is served at "https://www.toiletmap.org.uk/graphq". You can visualise the schema, or experiment with queries. To conduct mutations, or to get un redacted routes for certain fields you'll need to supply some credentials in an "Authorization" header. Please get in touch if you'd like to know how to achieve that. Please familiarize yourself with the terms under which our data is licensed before making use of it.
## Council Analysis

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Council Analysis

- Large councils of natural interest
- Councils with strong CTS

Most toilets:
- Cornwall (203)
- Highlands (191)
- City of London (108)

Fewest toilets:
- Flintshire (4)
- South Ribble (4)
- North Kesteven (4)

2016 GBPTM data
What are Publicly Accessible Toilets?
Publicly Accessible Toilets

Included on Great British Public Toilet Map
City centre toilets

- Public already relying on private providers
- Multiple providers (e.g. shopping centre, bus station, department store)
- Present as joined up provision, cover most hours.
- Expand with community toilet scheme.
Example: WCityStop.info, Wolverhampton
Park toilet

- Dedicated public toilet
- Accessible, inclusive
- Functional & clean
- Safe – preferably attended
- Free
- Robust
Example: London Fields
At Public Convenience we work to improve publicly accessible toilets for everyone - to ensure a public service that meets the public need.
Where to find info

British Standard 6465: Sanitary installations
- Part 1: Design & Scale of provision
- Part 2: Space recommendations
- Part 3: Selection, installation & maintenance
- Part 4: Public Toilets

Royal College of Art
British Toilet Association
Thank you

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Great British Public Toilet Map
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