# CALLOWLAND (PPA NA), WATFORD PARKING TECHNICAL NOTE





# CALLOWLAND (PPA NA), WATFORD

# PARKING TECHNICAL NOTE

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# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.	INTRODUCTION	4
1.1	GENERAL	4
1.2	PROJECT OVERVIEW	4
1.3 2.	REPORT SCOPE & STRUCTURE PARKING SURVEY METHODOLOGY	4 5
2.1	GENERAL	5
2.2	SURVEY EXTENT	6
2.3 3.	PARKING CAPACITY PARKING SURVEY RESULTS	7 10
3.1	GENERAL	10
3.2	PARKING DEMAND	10
3.3	CONCLUSION	23
LIST OF F	IGURES	
Figure 1. Figure 2. Figure 3. Figure 4. Figure 5. Figure 6. Figure 7. Figure 8. Figure 9. Figure 10. Figure 11.	Parking Survey Area Suspended Parking, Bradshaw Road Suspended Parking, Cecil Street Suspended Parking, Cromer Road Parking on Pavement & Double Yellow Lines, Judge Street Parking on Pavement & Double Yellow Lines, Leavesden Road Parking on Pavement & Double Yellow Lines, Victoria Road Recorded Daytime Parking Demand Resident & Non-Resident Parking (Saturday Survey) Resident & Non-Resident Parking (Tuesday Survey) Resident & Non-Resident Parking (Wednesday Survey)	6 9 9 13 14 14 21 22 22 22
LIST OF T	ABLES	
Table 1. Table 2. Table 3. Table 4. Table 5. Table 6.	Parking Capacity by Street Parking Demand by Street — Overnight (All Vehicles) Parking Demand by Street (including Single Yellow Lines) — Overnight (All Vehicles) Parking Demand by Street, Saturday Survey Parking Demand by Street, Tuesday Survey Parking Demand by Street, Wednesday Survey	7 11 15 18 19 20

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

### 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 General

- 1.1.1 SYSTRA Ltd (SYSTRA) has been commissioned by Watford Borough Council (the Client) to provide transport and highway consultancy services through the undertaking of an onstreet parking survey within the Callowland area in Watford.
- 1.1.2 The Local Planning Authority is Watford Borough Council (WBC) and the Local Highway Authority is Hertfordshire County Council (HCC).

# 1.2 Project Overview

- 1.2.1 Callowland is a predominantly residential area located to the north of the retail and commercial centre of Watford and to the east of Watford North Rail Station. Parking in the area sits within the Permit Parking Area (PPA) 'NA'. The PPA is operational from 08:00 to 10:00 and 19:00 to 22:00, Monday to Saturday, including Bank Holidays.
- 1.2.2 PPA NA is bound by a residential area with unrestricted parking to the north (northwards from Gammons Lane), railway lines to the east and west, and by CPZ D, Penn Road and the retail park to the south.
- 1.2.3 To understand existing parking provision and current utilisation within the Callowland area, the Council has commissioned SYSTRA to undertake an on-street car parking occupancy survey to assess parking capacity and stress levels on streets within PPA NA, with the survey results intended to enable the Client to undertake a review of operational hours of PPA NA and understand potential suitable changes to hours of PPA operation.

### 1.3 Report Scope & Structure

- 1.3.1 This Parking Technical Note sets out the results of the on-street parking survey undertaken in September 2021 to ascertain current levels of on-street parking supply and demand within PPA NA. Following this introductory section, the remainder of this Parking Technical Note is structured as follows:
  - Section 2: Parking Survey Methodology sets out the methodology and spatial scope of the survey.
  - Section 3: Parking Survey Results provides a detailed overview of the results of the survey.

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

## 2. PARKING SURVEY METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 General

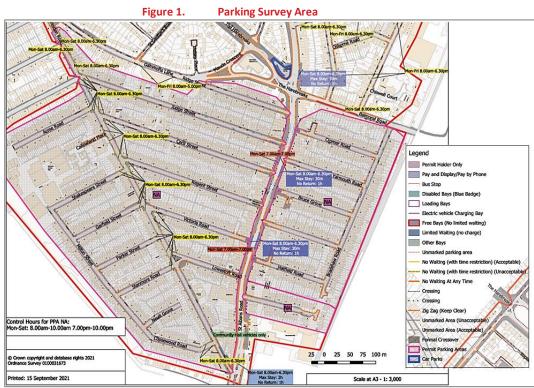
- 2.1.1 A parking beat survey was undertaken within PPA NA by an independent survey company, MHTC Ltd, on Saturday 4 September, Tuesday 7 September and Wednesday 8 September 2021. The survey was undertaken as a series of two-hour beats, with overnight survey beats taken between 05:00 and 07:00, and subsequent beats carried out at the following time periods:
  - 08:00-10:00;
  - 0 10:00-12:00;
  - **1**2:00-14:00;
  - **1**4:00-16:00;
  - o 16:00-18:00; and
  - **O** 20:00-22:00.
- 2.1.2 The timings of survey beats have been planned to ensure beats do not overlap with the start or end times of PPA restrictions; as such, a beat was not undertaken between 18:00 and 20:00.
- 2.1.3 The survey was undertaken during school term time, and at a time with no formal travel restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in place. The weather was warm and dry for the three survey days.
- 2.1.4 In order to provide an accurate picture of parking occupancy levels, the survey was undertaken on two neutral weekdays and one weekend day, avoiding school holidays and dates with a major event occurring locally that could impact upon the survey results. Onstreet parking restrictions were recorded and parking provision and utilisation segregated by street.
- 2.1.5 In order to establish percentage parking stress, the total length of acceptable parking areas was recorded alongside the number of parked cars on a street-by-street basis. For stretches of road where parking can be undertaken but individual bays are not marked out (hereafter referred to as 'unmarked bays'), an assumed vehicle length of 5.25m has been utilised to calculate the number of theoretical spaces available.
- 2.1.6 Locations which are considered unsuitable for parking, such as within five metres of approaches to junctions and corners or across vehicle crossovers and driveways, are not included within the parking capacity figures detailed below.
- 2.1.7 It is noted that the width of some streets within the survey area is too narrow to accommodate parking on both sides of the carriageway without encroaching onto the pavement. However, parking currently takes place on both sides of these roads, with vehicles parked partially on the footway (pavement parking).
- 2.1.8 For sections of road narrower than 6.7m, parking is not possible on both sides of the road without such encroachment; in these locations, the unmarked kerbside parking capacity is reduced by 50% if there is potential to park on both sides of the road. Capacity is not reduced if parking is not permitted on the other side of the road (for example due to the presence of double yellow lines).

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

- 2.1.9 Similarly, where the width of the road is such that parking on either side would cause an obstruction (4.9m or narrower), this has been excluded from the parking capacity figures.
- 2.1.10 Any suspended parking bays (for example due to temporary roadworks or to accommodate a skip) have been removed from the parking supply when calculating the parking stress.

# 2.2 Survey Extent

2.2.1 The spatial scope of the parking survey is shown in Figure 1, alongside an overview of parking availability by type and street. A copy of the parking supply plan is contained at Appendix A for information.



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2.2.2 The survey incorporates the following streets:

0	Acme Road;	0	Lowestoft Road;
0	Bradshaw Road;	0	Milton Street;
0	Brixton Road;	0	Nevill Grove;
0	Bruce Grove;	0	Parker Street;
0	Cecil Street;	0	Regent Street;
0	Copsewood Road;	0	Ridge Street;
0	Cromer Road;	0	Salisbury Road;
0	Garfield Street;	0	Shakespeare Street;
0	Hatfield Road;	0	Stanmore Road;
0	Judge Street;	0	Victoria Road; and
0	Leavesden Road;	0	Yarmouth Road.

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

# 2.3 Parking Capacity

2.3.1 Table 1 provides an overview of parking capacity by street, split by parking type.

Table 1. Parking Capacity by Street

STREET	RESIDENT PERMIT HOLDER (MARKED)	RESIDENT PERMIT HOLDER (UNMARKED)	'OTHER'	SINGLE YELLOW LINE	TOTAL
Acme Road	0	55	0	3	58
Bradshaw Road	0	83	5	0	88
Brixton Road	0	38	0	0	38
Bruce Grove	3	44	0	0	47
Cecil Street	0	98	1	1	100
Copsewood Road	0	75	0	4	79
Cromer Road	4	41	0	0	45
Garfield Street	0	47	0	0	47
Hatfield Road	5	35	0	0	40
Judge Street	2	122	4	4	132
Leavesden Road	0	92	8	59	159
Lowestoft Road	0	29	0	1	30
Milton Street	0	55	0	0	55
Nevill Grove	0	28	0	0	28
Parker Street	0	43	0	0	43
Regent Street	0	92	1	1	94
Ridge Street	0	49	0	0	49
Salisbury Road	0	39	0	0	39
Shakespeare Street	0	52	0	2	54
Stanmore Road	0	39	0	1	40

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

STREET	RESIDENT PERMIT HOLDER (MARKED)	RESIDENT PERMIT HOLDER (UNMARKED)	'OTHER'	SINGLE YELLOW LINE	TOTAL
Victoria Road	3	51	5	1	60
Yarmouth Road	3	46	0	0	49
Total	20	1,253	24	77	1,374

- 2.3.2 There is parking capacity for a total of 1,374 vehicles within the survey area, the vast majority of which (93%) comprises resident permit holder parking, either through individual bays or unmarked areas (i.e. bays are not individually marked out). Parking within these areas can be used by permit holders only during hours of operation of PPA NA.
- 2.3.3 As noted in Table 1, a limited volume of other / specialist parking bays are provided within the survey area. These are broken down as follows:
  - O Disabled Parking: x12 (3 Bradshaw Road, 1 Cecil Street, 4 Judge Street, 1 Regent Street, 3 Victoria Road);
  - Electric Vehicle Parking / Charging: x4 (2 Bradshaw Road, 2 Victoria Road); and
  - Limited Waiting: x7 (Leavesden Road).
- 2.3.4 Streets with the largest parking capacity are Leavesden Road (159 spaces) and Judge Street (132 spaces). Comparatively, Neville Grove (28 spaces) and Lowestoft Road (30 spaces) offer the fewest number of parking spaces.
- 2.3.5 It is noted that the survey area incorporates a parking capacity for a total of 77 vehicles on single yellow lines. The majority of such capacity (for 59 vehicles) is located on Leavesden Road. Parking is permitted on single yellow lines before 08:00 and after 18:30, Monday to Saturday.
- 2.3.6 Suspended parking to enable the storage of a skip within the carriageway was recorded on Bradshaw Road (Figure 2), Cecil Street (Figure 3) and Cromer Road (Figure 4) during the survey period.

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

Suspended Parking, Bradshaw Road Figure 2.



Figure 3.



Figure 4. **Suspended Parking, Cromer Road** 



Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

## 3. PARKING SURVEY RESULTS

### 3.1 General

3.1.1 As previously detailed, a parking beat survey was undertaken by an independent survey company, MHTC Ltd, on Saturday 4 September, Tuesday 7 September and Wednesday 8 September 2021, with beats undertaken between 05:00 and 22:00.

## 3.2 Parking Demand

- 3.2.1 The survey recorded parking capacity for a total of 1,374 vehicles within the survey area; this figure includes parking capacity located on single yellow lines. Given parking is not permitted on single yellow lines between 08:00 and 18:30 on the survey days, and PPA restrictions operational from 19:00, this provision (for 77 vehicles) has been removed from the parking capacity figures utilised below. This results in overall parking capacity for 1,294 vehicles across the survey area.
- 3.2.2 A summary of occupancy levels across the three survey days is set out in the following sections.

### **Overnight**

3.2.3 In order to record overnight resident parking, a beat was undertaken between the hours of 05:00 and 07:00, with an assumption made that all parking recorded in this period is associated with residents. Table 2 overleaf provides a summary of overnight parking stress levels recorded across the three survey days.

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

Table 2. Parking Demand by Street - Overnight (All Vehicles)

STREET	CAPACITY	DAY 1 (SATURDAY)		DAY 2 (TUESDAY)		DAY 3 (WEDNESDAY)	
STREET	CITY	OCCUPIED	STRESS	OCCUPIED	STRESS	OCCUPIED	STRESS
Acme Road	55	59	107%	58	105%	56	102%
Bradshaw Road	88	79	90%	84	95%	87	99%
Brixton Road	38	34	91%	29	77%	31	83%
Bruce Grove	47	45	96%	39	83%	37	79%
Cecil Street	99	104	105%	96	97%	101	102%
Copsewood Road	75	67	89%	69	92%	60	80%
Cromer Road	45	48	107%	49	109%	51	113%
Garfield Street	47	50	106%	48	102%	50	106%
Hatfield Road	40	45	113%	40	100%	40	100%
Judge Street	128	134	105%	125	98%	126	98%
Leavesden Road	100	110	110%	100	100%	92	92%
Lowestoft Road	29	27	94%	30	103%	30	103%
Milton Street	55	61	111%	63	115%	59	107%
Nevill Grove	28	24	86%	21	75%	20	71%

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

STREET	CAPACITY	DAY 1 (SATURDAY)		DAY 2 (TUESDAY)		DAY 3 (WEDNESDAY)	
SIREEI	CITY	OCCUPIED	STRESS	OCCUPIED	STRESS	OCCUPIED	STRESS
Parker Street	43	45	105%	35	81%	34	79%
Regent Street	93	92	99%	91	98%	84	90%
Ridge Street	49	34	70%	43	89%	40	82%
Salisbury Road	39	40	103%	40	103%	41	105%
Shakespeare Street	52	50	96%	46	88%	48	92%
Stanmore Road	39	37	95%	35	90%	29	74%
Victoria Road	59	57	97%	59	101%	58	99%
Yarmouth Road	49	51	104%	47	96%	48	98%
Total	1,297	1,295	99.8%	1,249	96.3%	1,224	94.3%

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

- 3.2.4 It can be seen that 1,295, 1,249 and 1,224 vehicles were recorded as parked overnight across the area on the respective survey dates, representing a parking stress level of between 94.3% (Wednesday survey) and 99.8% (Saturday survey).
- 3.2.5 When looking at parking demand on a street-by-street basis, Table 2 demonstrates that overnight parking stress is uniformly high across the survey area, with a minimum stress of 70% recorded on Ridge Street (Day 1, weekend survey day), and a maximum stress of 115% recorded on Milton Street (Day 2, first weekday survey).
- 3.2.6 Parking demand exceeds theoretical capacity on a number of roads. Such levels of parked vehicles compared to reported capacity can be attributed to vehicles parking on single yellow lines (as permitted during the overnight period), parking on both sides of the road, partially on the pavement, and parking on double yellow lines. Figures 5 to 7 show examples of such parking on Judge Street, Leavesden Road and Victoria Road respectively.



MHTC, September 2021

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021



MHTC, September 2021



MHTC, September 2021

- 3.2.7 As previously detailed, the survey area includes parking capacity for 77 vehicles on single yellow lines, the majority of which (59 vehicles) is located on Leavesden Road. Parking is not permitted on single yellow lines between 08:00 and 18:30, Monday to Saturday. To enable consistent reporting across survey beats, this provision has been removed from the parking capacity figures utilised in the demand reporting, resulting in overall parking capacity for 1,294 vehicles across the survey area.
- 3.2.8 However, as parking is permitted on single yellow lines during the overnight beat, a sensitivity assessment is presented in Table 3 providing a summary of overnight parking stress levels recorded across the three survey days against a capacity that includes for acceptable parking on single yellow lines.

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

Page 14/24

Table 3. Parking Demand by Street (including Single Yellow Lines) – Overnight (All Vehicles)

CAP	CAP		Y 1 DA' RDAY) (TUES			DAY 3 (WEDNESDAY)	
STREET	CAPACITY	OCCUPIED	STRESS	OCCUPIED	STRESS	OCCUPIED	STRESS
Acme Road	58	59	102%	58	100%	56	97%
Bradshaw Road	88	79	90%	84	95%	87	99%
Brixton Road	38	34	91%	29	77%	31	83%
Bruce Grove	47	45	96%	39	83%	37	79%
Cecil Street	100	104	104%	96	96%	101	101%
Copsewood Road	79	67	85%	69	87%	60	76%
Cromer Road	45	48	107%	49	109%	51	113%
Garfield Street	47	50	106%	48	102%	50	106%
Hatfield Road	40	45	113%	40	100%	40	100%
Judge Street	132	134	102%	125	95%	126	95%
Leavesden Road	159	110	69%	100	63%	92	58%
Lowestoft Road	30	27	91%	30	99%	30	99%
Milton Street	55	61	111%	63	115%	59	107%

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

	САР		Y 1 RDAY)		DAY 2 (TUESDAY)		DAY 3 (WEDNESDAY)	
STREET	CAPACITY	OCCUPIED	STRESS	OCCUPIED	STRESS	OCCUPIED	STRESS	
Nevill Grove	28	24	86%	21	75%	20	71%	
Parker Street	43	45	105%	35	81%	34	79%	
Regent Street	94	92	98%	91	97%	84	89%	
Ridge Street	49	34	70%	43	89%	40	82%	
Salisbury Road	39	40	103%	40	103%	41	105%	
Shakespeare Street	54	50	93%	46	85%	48	89%	
Stanmore Road	40	37	93%	35	88%	29	73%	
Victoria Road	60	57	96%	59	99%	58	97%	
Yarmouth Road	49	51	104%	47	96%	48	98%	
Total	1374	1295	94.2%	1249	90.9%	1224	89.0%	

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

- 3.2.9 When taking into account the additional capacity for 77 vehicles on single yellow lines, Table 3 confirms an overnight parking stress level of 94.2%, 90.9% and 89.0% to 94.2% on the respective survey days. This represents a reduction in parking stress levels of approximately five percentage points.
- 3.2.10 The majority of single yellow line parking capacity (59 of 77) is located on Leavesden Road. Inclusion of these spaces in the overall parking capacity result in overnight stress levels of 64% (as an average across the three survey days).
- 3.2.11 However, parking demand still exceeds capacity on a number of streets where single yellow line parking is not possible, including Cromer Road (113% maximum occupancy), Garfield Street (106%) and Hatfield Road (113%).

### **Daytime**

3.2.12 Six daytime parking beats were undertaken during the three survey days to record changes in parking demand across the daily period. Tables 4 to 6 set out parking stress levels recorded for each street during the daytime beats on the three respective survey days. As previously noted, beat timings were planned to ensure beats did not overlap with the start or end times of PPA restrictions.

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

Table 4. Parking Demand by Street, Saturday Survey

STREET	08:00- 10:00	10:00- 12:00	12:00- 14:00	14:00- 16:00	16:00- 18:00	20:00- 22:00
Acme Road	100%	89%	89%	73%	82%	93%
Bradshaw Road	89%	85%	78%	75%	78%	89%
Brixton Road	88%	96%	77%	71%	85%	85%
Bruce Grove	83%	81%	77%	98%	87%	79%
Cecil Street	97%	98%	98%	88%	102%	101%
Copsewood Road	83%	83%	92%	81%	87%	99%
Cromer Road	93%	87%	82%	87%	93%	89%
Garfield Street	102%	96%	89%	91%	111%	106%
Hatfield Road	98%	93%	100%	103%	103%	98%
Judge Street	98%	80%	75%	77%	77%	84%
Leavesden Road	81%	73%	82%	80%	82%	98%
Lowestoft Road	77%	63%	84%	84%	117%	114%
Milton Street	100%	85%	69%	64%	84%	87%
Nevill Grove	82%	75%	64%	64%	79%	82%
Parker Street	86%	84%	74%	70%	86%	79%
Regent Street	86%	85%	86%	80%	90%	98%
Ridge Street	70%	68%	72%	66%	56%	62%
Salisbury Road	85%	85%	82%	87%	97%	92%
Shakespeare Street	88%	83%	83%	79%	87%	96%
Stanmore Road	85%	77%	74%	87%	87%	97%
Victoria Road	89%	84%	88%	93%	98%	102%
Yarmouth Road	90%	96%	98%	96%	96%	86%
Total	89%	84%	83%	81%	88%	92%

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

Table 5. Parking Demand by Street, Tuesday Survey

STREET	08:00- 10:00	10:00- 12:00	12:00- 14:00	14:00- 16:00	16:00- 18:00	20:00- 22:00
Acme Road	80%	85%	93%	89%	85%	104%
Bradshaw Road	74%	69%	64%	68%	78%	83%
Brixton Road	59%	54%	59%	67%	80%	80%
Bruce Grove	62%	64%	68%	70%	70%	106%
Cecil Street	74%	81%	81%	85%	80%	105%
Copsewood Road	65%	67%	72%	72%	79%	87%
Cromer Road	60%	73%	82%	69%	91%	107%
Garfield Street	81%	83%	79%	81%	83%	100%
Hatfield Road	73%	80%	93%	100%	103%	65%
Judge Street	75%	59%	60%	60%	66%	86%
Leavesden Road	59%	62%	72%	66%	71%	108%
Lowestoft Road	51%	37%	58%	44%	92%	92%
Milton Street	71%	60%	60%	60%	55%	100%
Nevill Grove	50%	50%	54%	43%	50%	82%
Parker Street	60%	72%	65%	56%	63%	84%
Regent Street	69%	66%	69%	72%	76%	92%
Ridge Street	58%	60%	61%	43%	72%	67%
Salisbury Road	77%	77%	77%	77%	77%	80%
Shakespeare Street	71%	71%	64%	75%	87%	101%
Stanmore Road	62%	74%	79%	69%	72%	90%
Victoria Road	62%	71%	80%	80%	82%	95%
Yarmouth Road	63%	61%	76%	80%	86%	104%
Total	68%	68%	71%	70%	77%	91%

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

Table 6. Parking Demand by Street, Wednesday Survey

STREET	08:00- 10:00	10:00- 12:00	12:00- 14:00	14:00- 16:00	16:00- 18:00	20:00- 22:00
Acme Road	75%	87%	89%	87%	98%	102%
Bradshaw Road	68%	68%	65%	59%	69%	98%
Brixton Road	56%	67%	98%	80%	75%	92%
Bruce Grove	53%	57%	72%	64%	81%	96%
Cecil Street	72%	82%	80%	88%	87%	101%
Copsewood Road	60%	61%	77%	73%	76%	88%
Cromer Road	58%	62%	64%	76%	73%	102%
Garfield Street	83%	74%	70%	77%	87%	102%
Hatfield Road	74%	71%	81%	84%	86%	108%
Judge Street	63%	56%	58%	66%	65%	76%
Leavesden Road	63%	65%	75%	73%	66%	102%
Lowestoft Road	54%	65%	61%	58%	96%	106%
Milton Street	69%	49%	51%	51%	53%	104%
Nevill Grove	50%	57%	57%	46%	43%	79%
Parker Street	72%	67%	58%	60%	65%	95%
Regent Street	66%	75%	73%	77%	83%	97%
Ridge Street	64%	60%	57%	62%	73%	65%
Salisbury Road	77%	79%	79%	72%	90%	92%
Shakespeare Street	71%	60%	66%	71%	81%	95%
Stanmore Road	56%	62%	49%	49%	54%	78%
Victoria Road	61%	75%	88%	81%	103%	102%
Yarmouth Road	59%	84%	94%	82%	94%	102%
Total	65%	68%	71%	71%	77%	94%

3.2.13 The results demonstrates that the streets with the highest parking stress on average are Garfield Road and Hatfield Road (99% stress) on the weekend survey day, and Acme Road (89-90% stress) on both the weekday survey days.

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

3.2.14 The results of the survey are shown graphically in Figure 8, which details overall parking occupancy levels recorded across the survey area as a whole on the three days. It can be seen that during the weekday surveys, parking demand typically reduced during daytime hours which can be attributed to residents travelling to work. Such a reduction is not seen during the weekend survey with parking levels consistently higher across all time periods (with the exception of 20:00 to 22:00). This can be accounted to a reduction in commuting levels at the weekend.

Figure 8. Recorded Daytime Parking Demand

110%

100%

90%

80%

70%

60%

05:00-07:00 08:00-10:00 10:00-12:00 12:00-14:00 14:00-16:00 16:00-18:00 20:00-22:00

Day 1 (Saturday)

Day 2 (Tuesday)

Day 3 (Wednesday)

- 3.2.15 Average overall occupancy levels within the PPA do not drop below 65% at any point during the survey. A maximum of 449 available parking spaces were recorded, during the 08:00-10:00 beat on the Wednesday survey, equating to a 65% stress level.
- 3.2.16 Parking demand levels do not exceed overall theoretical capacity in any beats during the Tuesday or Wednesday surveys.
- 3.2.17 As previously detailed, a parking beat was undertaken between the hours of 05:00 and 07:00 to record overnight resident parking, with an assumption made that all parking recorded in this period is associated with residents. Recording of vehicle registration plates has allowed for analysis of parking by residents and non-residents during remaining beats, with vehicles not parked during the 05:00 to 07:00 beat assumed to be non-residents (e.g. parking for work purposes).
- 3.2.18 Figures 9 to 11 overleaf provide a breakdown of resident and non-resident parking demand across the respective survey days, with resident parking shown in grey and non-resident in purple. It can be seen that resident parking demand is highest during the overnight (05:00 to 07:00) and evening (20:00 to 22:00) beats, with reductions during daytime beats as residents travel to work. Such a reduction is less pronounced during the Saturday survey.

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

Figure 9. Resident & Non-Resident Parking (Saturday Survey)



Figure 10. Resident & Non-Resident Parking (Tuesday Survey)

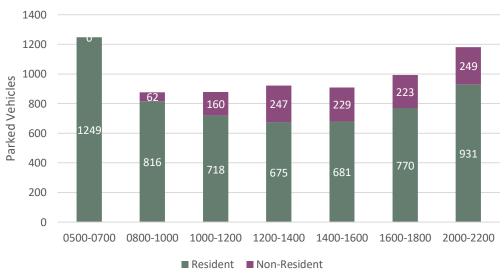
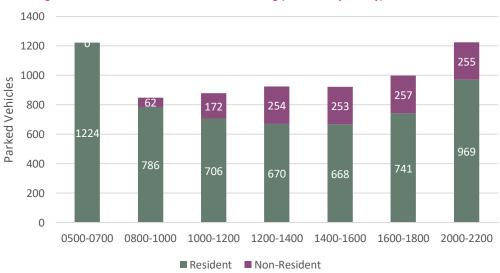


Figure 11. Resident & Non-Resident Parking (Wednesday Survey)



Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

### 3.3 Conclusion

- 3.3.1 Parking demand is currently high in the Callowland area, particularly during the overnight period when parking demand can be attributed to residents, and on the weekend day (Saturday).
- 3.3.2 Instances of vehicles parked on pavements in narrow streets and double yellow lines result in parking stress levels exceeding theoretical capacity during the overnight period on a number of streets. Weekday parking demand reduces during daytime hours as residents travel to work via car.
- 3.3.3 Parking demand reduces during daytime hours, particularly during the weekday surveys, as residents travel to work via car. However, recorded parking stress levels do not drop below 65% at any point across the area as a whole during the survey period.
- 3.3.4 It is noted that parking restrictions within PPA NA currently operate from 08:00 to 10:00 and 19:00 to 22:00, Monday to Saturday, including Bank Holidays. The results of the parking survey suggest that parking demand is highest during the overnight period and at the weekend, when parking can be predominantly attributed to residents. It is considered that there would be limited impact if the operational hours of the PPA were to be extended to include daytime hours, when parking demand is currently lower.

# **APPENDIX A**

# PARKING SUPPLY PLAN

Callowland (PPA NA), Watford	
Final Report	110791
Parking Technical Note	24/09/2021

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Lancaster House 67 Newhall Street Birmingham United Kingdom B3 1NQ

### **BIRMINGHAM, STUFFOLK ST**

8th Floor Alpha Tower Crowne Plaza Suffolk Street Birmingham B1 1TT

### **BRISTOL**

One Temple Quay Temple Back East Bristol

United Kingdom

BS1 6DZ

### **DUBLIN**

2nd Floor Riverview House 21-23 City Quay Republic of Ireland

Dublin 2

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#### **GLASGOW**

The Centrum Business Centre 38 Queen Street Glasgow G1 3DX

### **LEEDS**

100 Wellington Street Leeds United Kingdom LS1 1BA

#### **LIVERPOOL**

5th Floor Horton House Exchange Flags Liverpool United Kingdom L2 3PF

### **LONDON**

3rd Floor 5 Old Bailey London United Kingdom EC4M 7BA

### **MANCHESTER**

16th Floor City Tower Piccadilly Plaza Manchester United Kingdom M1 4BT

### **NEWCASTLE**

South Corridor, Milburn House Dean Street Newcastle United Kingdom NE1 1LE

#### PERTH

13 Rose Terrace Perth United Kingdom PH1 5HA

#### **READING**

Davidson House Forbury Square Reading United Kingdom RG1 3EU

### WOKING

Dukes Court Duke Street Woking Surrey United Kingdom GU21 5BH

#### YORK

The Crescent York United Kingdom YO24 1AW

Meridian House

