

2019

St Botolph's Priory

Usage Survey Report



SUMMARY

This report summarises the findings for the St Botolph's Priory Usage Survey conducted between June and July 2019 in the St Botolph's area of Colchester.

OBJECTIVES

- Address the visitor and the nature of their use of the site
- Identify how often visitors use the site and how long they visit for
- Address issues of the site management as perceived by the visitor
- Identify where visitors come from and how they get to the site
- Identify areas of strength and weakness as seen by the visitor

METHODOLOGY & SAMPLE

- Face-to-face interviews with a sample of visitors to St Botolph's Priory
- Online surveys
- June–July 2019
- Weekdays and weekends
- Sample size: 358

RESULTS

The results show that 136 people (41%) use the site as a short cut; 67 people (71%) emphasised that anti-social behaviour, crime and the uninviting atmosphere was the reason to this. Meanwhile, 114 people (34%) are interested in the culture and heritage.

Results Summary:

- 100 people (30%) visited once/twice per year
- 202 people (81%) spent 0-30 minutes at the site
- 86 people (25%) came locally from the CO1 area
- 17 people were not aware that St Botolph's Priory is open to the public all-year round and most (12 people) would visit if they had known this.

KEY ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

A total of 209 comments were received in this survey. Of those comments 98% (204 people) responded negatively, and 58% (118) of these negative comments are related to “drinkers” and “druggies”.

Number (%) of respondents says:	Key Issues	Recommendations
39%	HIGH PRIORITY: tackle anti-social behaviour & crime (drinkers, drug-dealers etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install CCTV cameras (considering the costs, does not have to be in operation) - Work with Safer Colchester Partnership - Schedule police patrols around the area
30%	More facilities & services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant in low maintenance planting (e.g. medieval herb/plant garden) - Planting bulbs in agreed areas - Hold events: fairs, plays, relevant music & dance - Perhaps a coffee shop; more people present could discourage drinkers
11%	More information about the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional interpretation on the site
13%	Maintenance (cleanliness, paths etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cut the large trees to create a lighter environment - Maintain/replace trees with significant epicormic growth - Clear vegetations around the graves - Install rubbish bins near the church steps - Ensure shop premises on St Botolph's Street keep a tidy area at the back of their premises.
7%	Better accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paved pathways
	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purchase and demolish the western edge to expand the landscape

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Questions 1, 4, 5 — examines frequency and duration of visits.

Questions 2, 3 — examines reasons for use of site and why it is not used for purposes other than a cut through.

Questions 6, 7 — looks at the distance travelled for those who currently use the site and their view of what improvement is required.

Questions 8 — asks the respondent if they are aware of the site being available all-year round to the public.

Questions 9, 10, 11 — looks at the distance travelled for those who currently do not use the site and the reasons why it is not used.

The sample of customers was selected at random by the interviewer. A total of 358 questionnaires were completed and analysed using SNAP Surveys.

Those questions that asked for narrative comments were also analysed statistically especially where the answers fell into groups that provide meaningful statistics. Results are given as percentages.

A copy of the full list of comments is included in Appendix 1.

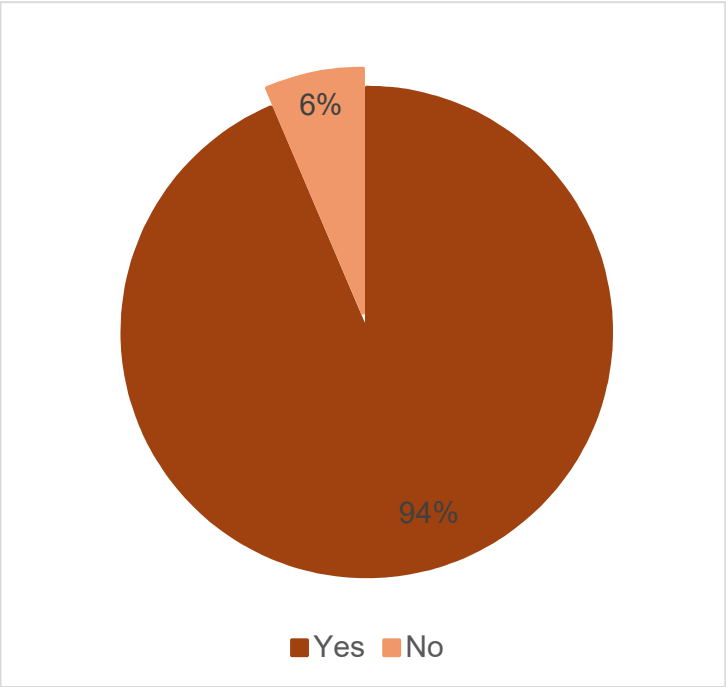
ROUTING OF QUESTIONS

Questions for those who **have** visited the site before

Questions for those who **have not** visited the site before



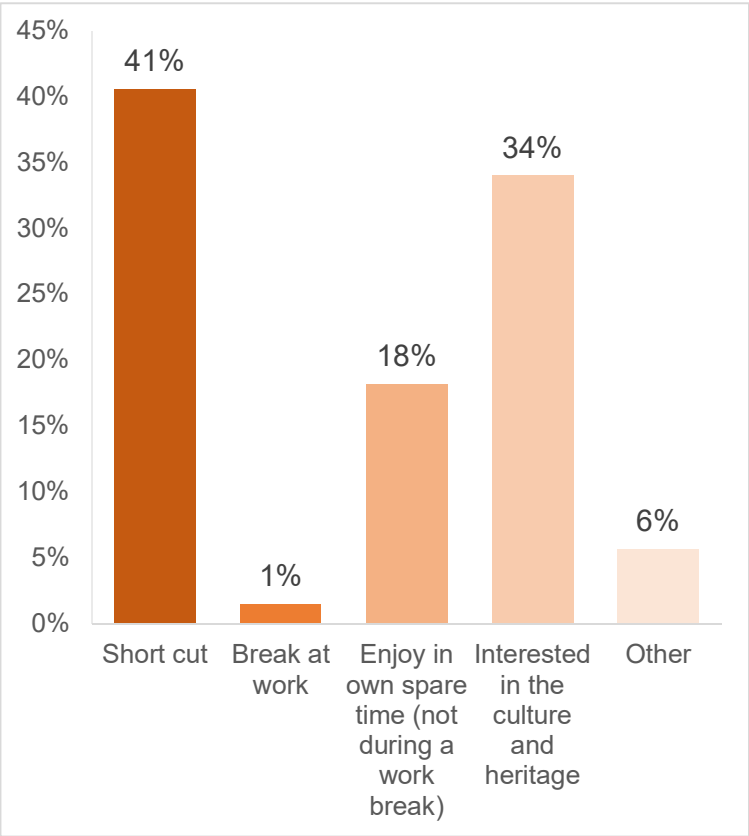
Q1. Have you ever visited St Botolph's Priory and grounds before?



Q1. Have you ever visited St Botolph's Priory and grounds before?	
Yes	335 94%
No	23 6%
Total	358 100%

94% of respondents (335 people) said they have visited St Botolph's Priory and grounds before. Only 6% (23 people) said they have never visited the site.

Q2. What do you use the site for?



Q2. What do you use the site for?	
Short cut	136 41%
Break at work	5 1%
Enjoy in own spare time (not during a work break)	61 18%
Interested in the culture and heritage	114 34%
Other	19 6%
Total	335 100%

Of those that have visited the site before, 41% of respondents (136 people) said they used the site as a ‘short cut’. 34% of respondents (114 people) visited for their own interest of the culture and heritage.

18% of respondents (61 people) visited in their ‘own spare time’ and only 1% (5 people) used the site for break at work.

6% of respondents (19 people) used the site for ‘other’ reasons as shown in question 2a (next page).

Q2a. Please state 'Other':

'Other' comments included:

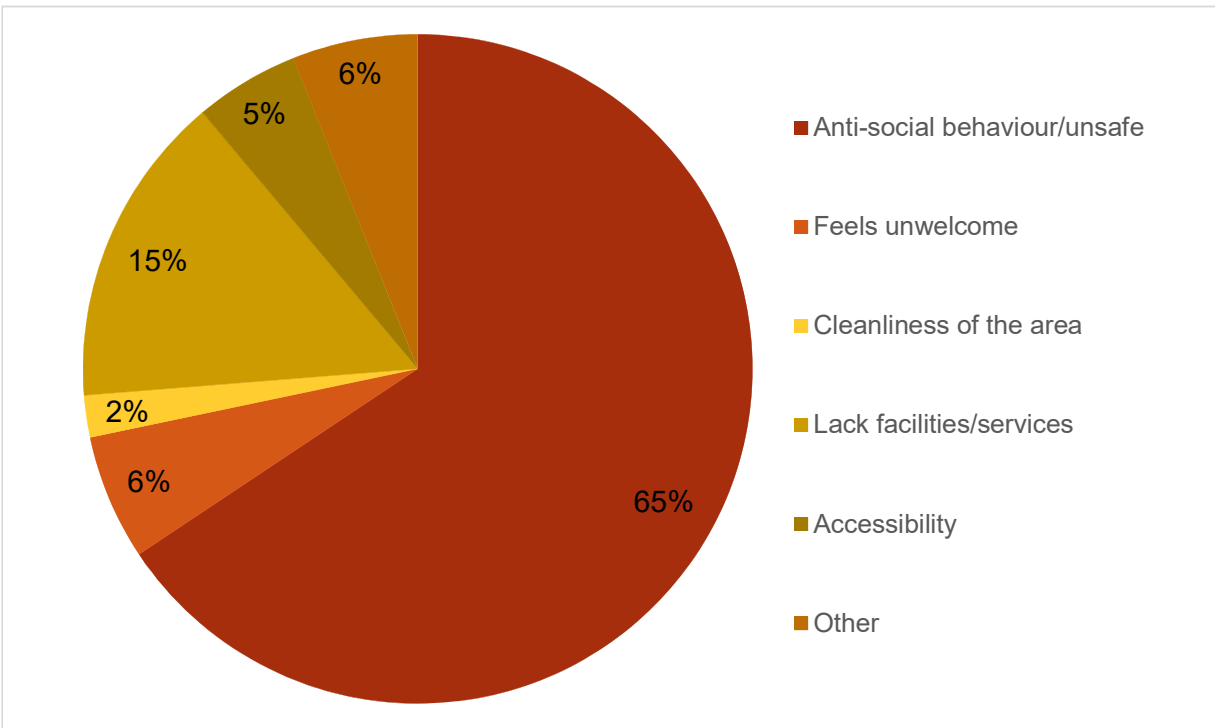
- I'm a town guide and take groups there
- Meet friends before starting our walk
- ALL THE ABOVE
- All the above, apart from Break at Work, plus Themed Open Day in past
- Short cut plus occasional community events
- Walking through
- As a short cut once but never again as full of crack heads
- Always park at car park
- It's the nicest way to walk from Britannia car park to the shops. I exercise my dog there too
- Short cut and occasionally for a nice detour to look at the ruins/enjoy the green space
- Walking dog
- On a lead walk
- photography sessions
- Wedding Photos
- Previous events held there

Q3. If you only use the site as a cut through, why do you not use for other reasons?

94 comments were received here. A relevant graph is presented on the next page.

Comment Themes	Count	Examples
Anti-social behaviour / unsafe	61 65%	<p>“Drug and alcohol users”</p> <p>“populated by street drinkers and I don’t feel inclined to linger as their behaviour can be antisocial and unpredictable.”</p> <p>“Queen St and surrounding area is known for incidents of street crime”</p>
Feels unwelcome	6 6%	<p>“I often don’t feel comfortable there. It doesn’t seem a ‘happy’ place”</p> <p>“can be intimidating”</p>
Cleanliness of the area	2 2%	<p>“untidy overgrown just not pleasant to stay longer.”</p> <p>“awful: dirty; lots of rubbish; rough, unkept rear to shops”</p>
Lack facilities / services	14 15%	<p>“Not much historical information available”</p> <p>“Limited seating in the shade”</p> <p>“Nothing else of interest once you have seen it once”</p> <p>“Only very occasionally is there an event”</p>
Accessibility	5 5%	<p>“I don’t live in town centre”</p>
Other	6 6%	<p>“Just walk through from car park. Not much time here.”</p>

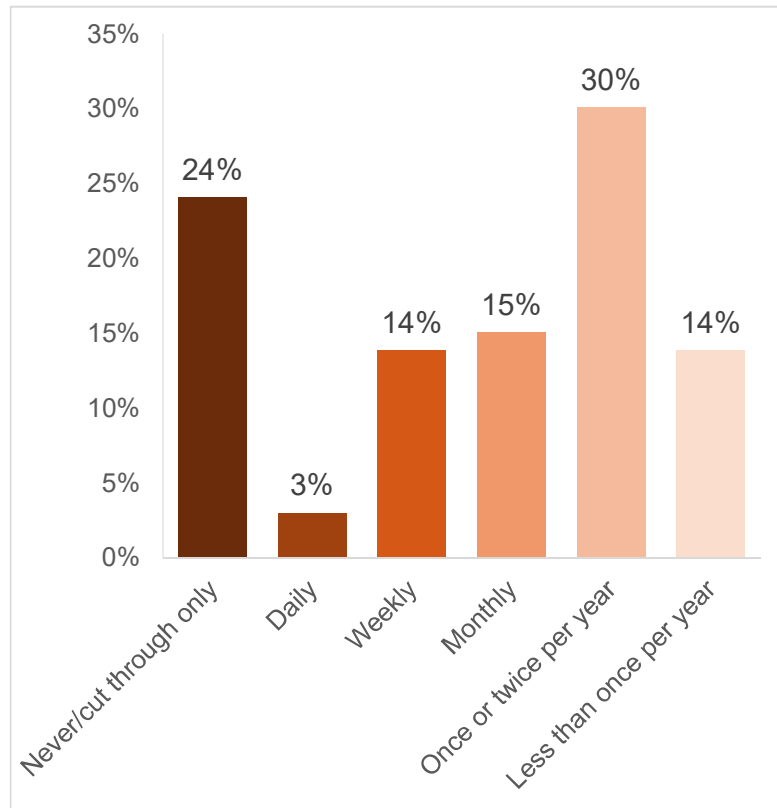
A copy of the full list of comments is included in Appendix 1.



Of those who used the site as a cut through, 65% of respondents (61 people) did not use the site due to anti-social behaviour and crime, and 6% (6 people) “don’t feel comfortable there”.

15% of respondents (14 people) did not use the site due to the lack of facilities and services.

Q4. How often do you use the site?

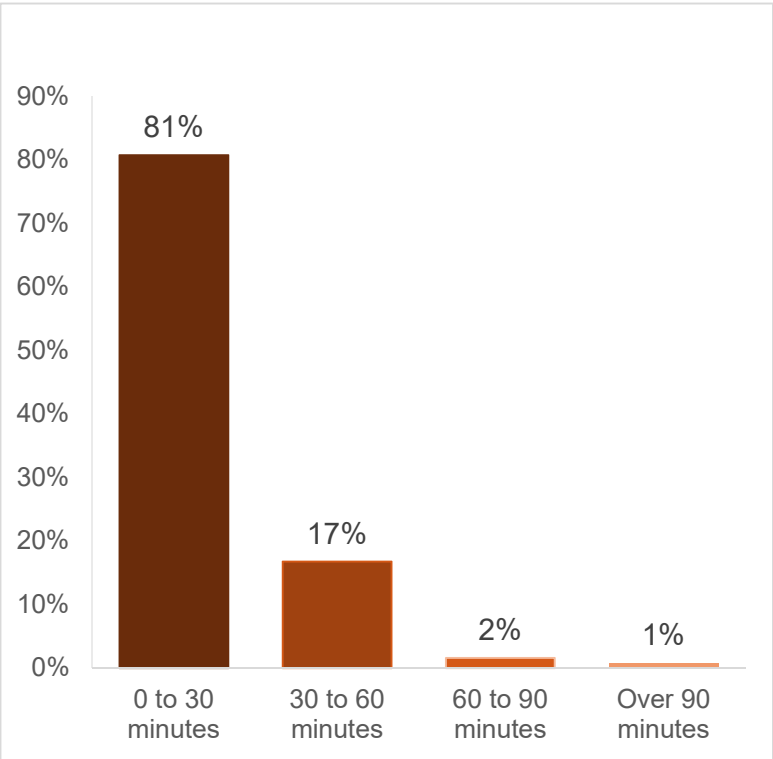


Q4. How often do you use the site?	
Never/cut through only	80 24%
Daily	10 3%
Weekly	45 14%
Monthly	50 15%
Once or twice per year	100 30%
Less than once per year	46 14%
Total	332 100%

Of those who have visited the site before, 30% of respondents (100 people) used the site once or twice per year, and 24% of respondents (80 people) never used the site or it is used as a cut through only.

Only 3% of respondents (10 people) used the site daily.

Q5. How long do you normally spend at the site?



Q5. How long do you normally spend at the site?	
0 to 30 minutes	202 81%
30 to 60 minutes	42 17%
60 to 90 minutes	4 2%
Over 90 minutes	2 1%
Total	250 100%

81% of respondents (202 people) spent 0 to 30 minutes at the site, while only 1% of respondents (2 people) spent over 90 minutes there.

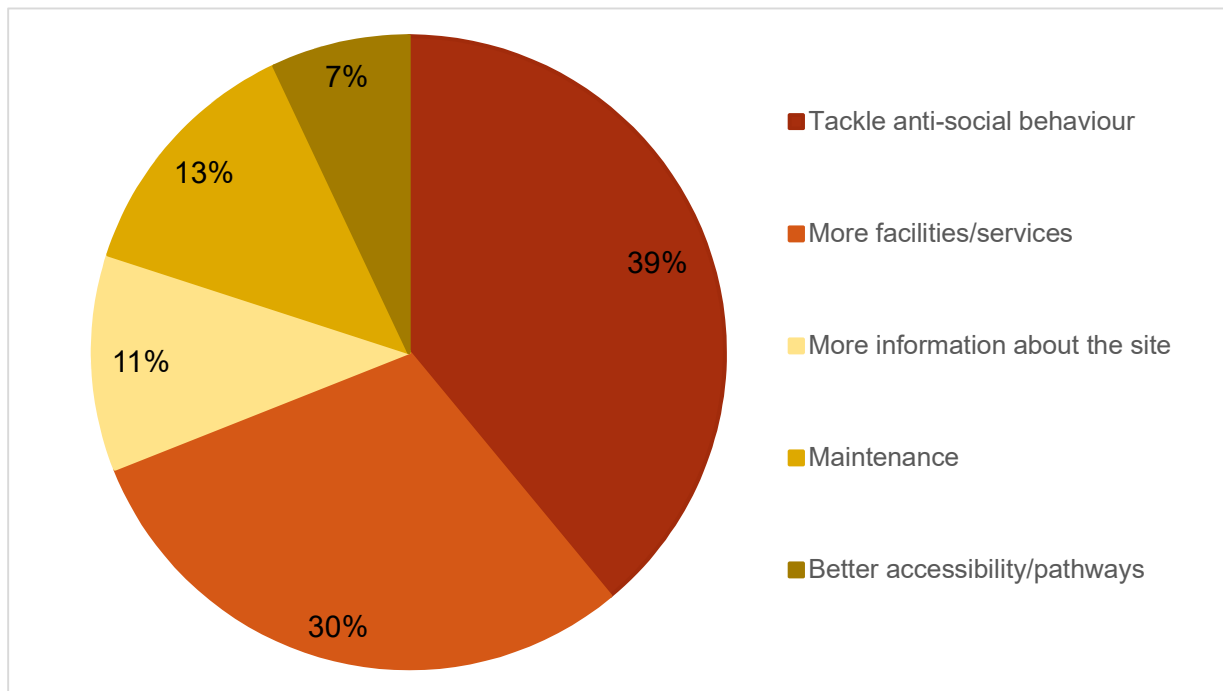
Q6. What would improve the site and encourage you to use it more?

96 comments were received here. A relevant graph is presented on the next page.

Common comments included:

Comment Themes	Count	Examples
Tackle anti-social behaviour (e.g. Drinkers)	37 39%	"CCTV and security" "Proper enforcement of drinking and drug laws" "Monitored for day drinkers and drug users"
More facilities/services	29 30%	"More seating areas" "charity fundraising events" "open theatre" "coffee shop" "Night illumination"
More information about the site	11 11%	"Historical information" "mapping it clearly on historical/tourism booklets"
Maintenance (e.g. cleanliness, flower display etc.)	12 13%	"tidy up & organised planting" "clean and safe environment"
Better accessibility/pathways	7 7%	"better signage" "better pathways so it's not all muddy"

A copy of the full list of comments is included in Appendix 1.

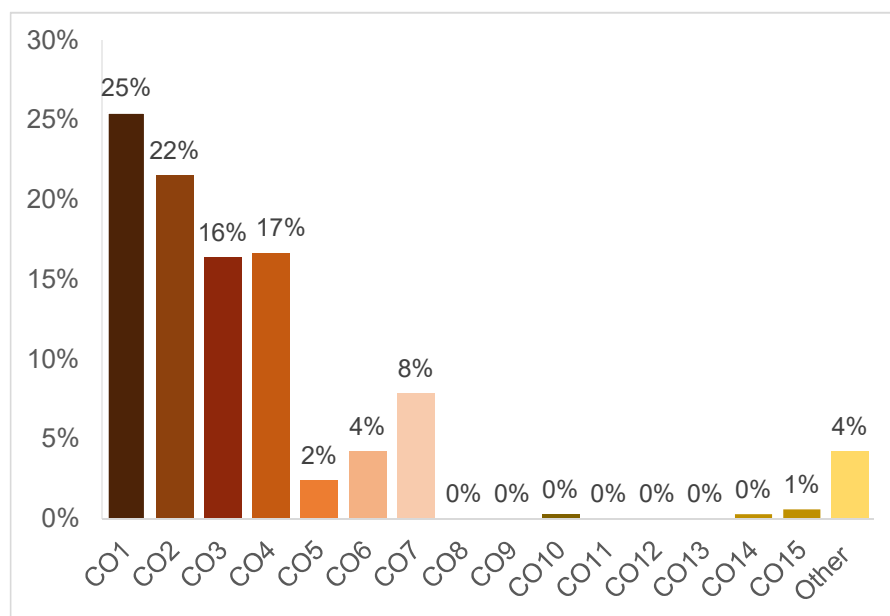


39% of respondents (37 people) agreed that they would be encouraged to use the site more if anti-social behaviour and crime problems are addressed.

30% of respondents (29 people) agreed that they would be encouraged to use the site more if there were more facilities and services available.

13% of respondents (12 people) suggested that a “tidy up” and better maintenance is required.

Q7. To help give us a better understanding of who currently uses St Botolph's Priory and where they come from, please could you tell us your postcode?



Postcode	Count	Percentage
CO1	84	25%
CO2	71	22%
CO3	54	16%
CO4	55	17%
CO5	8	2%
CO6	14	4%
CO7	26	8%
CO8	0	0%
CO9	0	0%
CO10	1	0%
CO11	0	0%
CO12	0	0%
CO13	0	0%
CO14	1	0%
CO15	2	1%
Other	14	4%
Total	330	100%

'Other' areas included: BD8, CO16, CM8, CM9, CM15, CM77, DA12, IP3, IP23, 2300

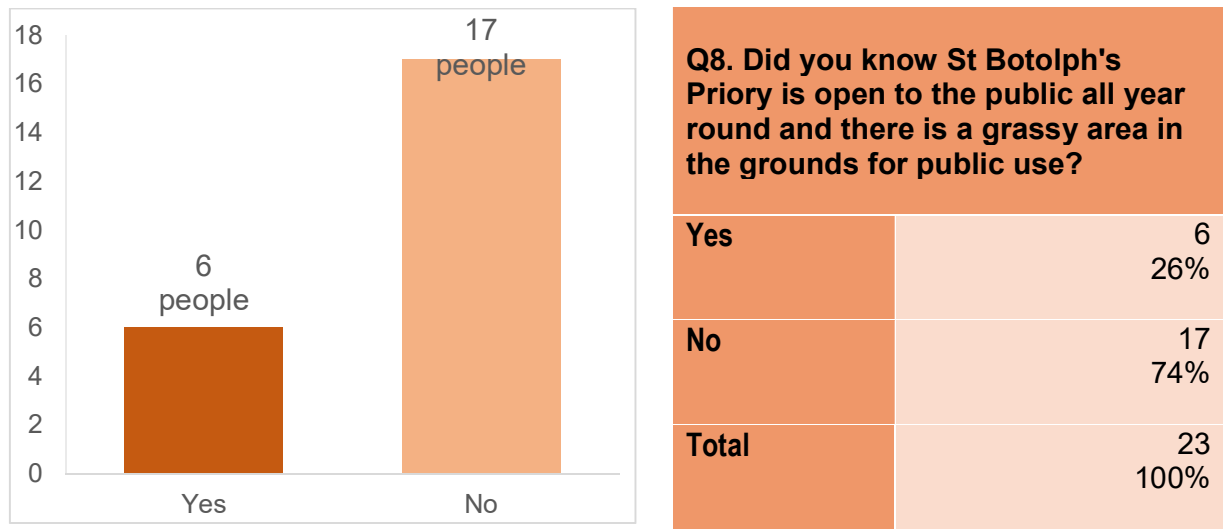
Most respondents, 25% (84 people) and 22% (71 people), came from the CO1 and CO2 areas respectively.

In comparison, only 2% of respondents (8 people) came from CO5.

There were 14 respondents who came from outside Colchester to use the site.

Postcode	Area
BD8	Bradford
CO16	Clacton-on-Sea
CM8	Witham
CM9	Maldon
CM15	Brentwood/ Ingatestone
CM77	Braintree
DA12	Gravesend
IP3	Ipswich
IP23	Stoke Ash
2300	Unknown

Q8. Did you know St Botolph’s Priory is open to the public all year round and there is a grassy area in the grounds for public use?



Of those who have never visited the site before, 6 people were aware that St Botolph’s Priory is open to the public all-year round while 17 people were not aware of this.

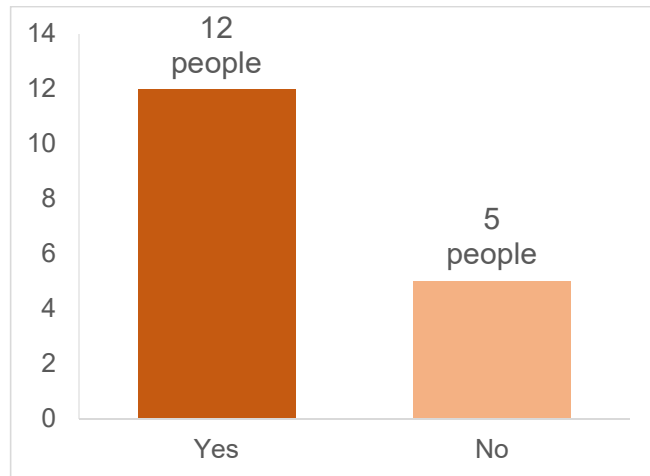
**Q9. Why don't you use the site and what would make you use or visit the site?
Are there any improvements which you think could be made?**

Most of the respondents who answered 'yes' in question 8 did not use or visit the site due to the "drunks and druggies". Therefore, this should be one of the major priorities to focus on first.

6 people commented:

- Drinkers. Ok with it otherwise
- Because it's well known as a Haven for alcoholic's
- get rid of the drunks and druggies that often use the site. Make it a more pleasant environment to be in
- It's not particularly interesting or convenient and is frequented by homeless people so doesn't feel safe
- Only just moved to the area
- Due to what I see online and hear about who hangs around there. Not safe. I would use if this problem sorted

Q10. Knowing this, would you use the site?



Q10. Knowing this, would you use the site?	
Yes	12 71%
No	5 29%
Total	17 100%

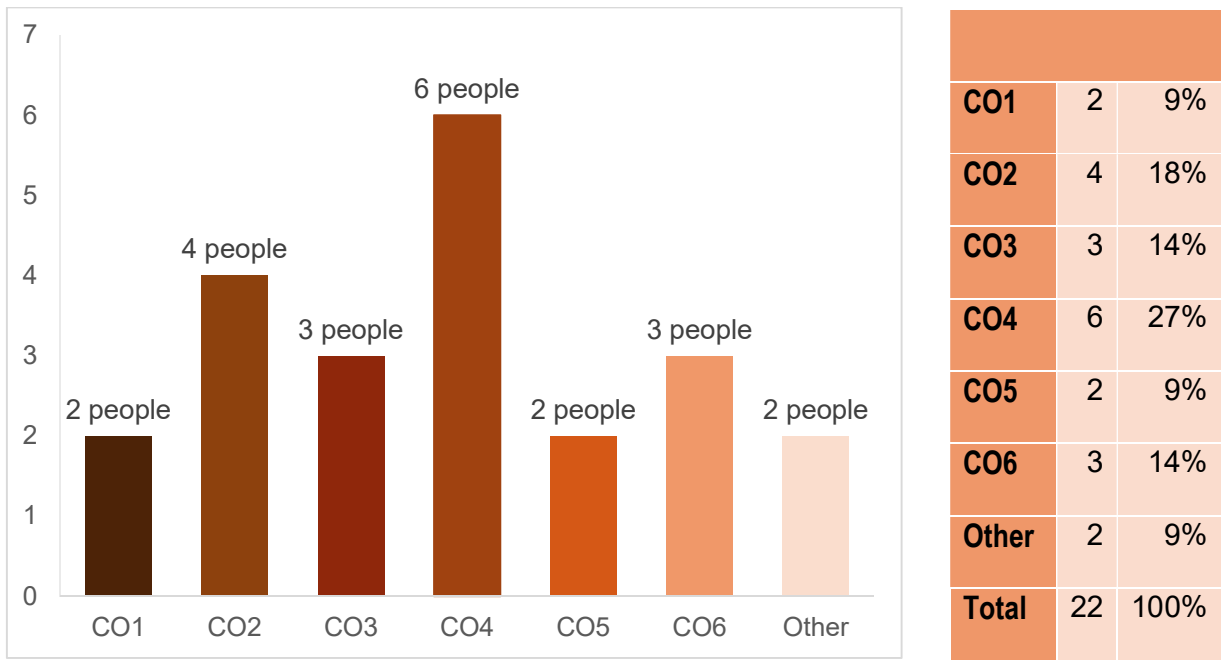
Of those who were not aware that the site is open to the public all-year round, 12 people said they would use the site if they knew this while 5 people would not.

Q11. Why not?

5 people commented:

- Just visiting
- Just visiting Colchester
- Live in New Zealand
- Unsavoury characters hanging around. Would love to explore it but don't feel safe.
- As it is currently if it were monitored then maybe as a place to relax and picnic

Q12. To help give us a better understanding of who currently does not use St Botolph’s Priory and where they come from, please could you tell us your postcode?



‘Other’ areas included BD8 and BNT

The data shows that the CO4 area was the most popular area for those who does not use the site.

There were 2 respondents who came from outside Colchester and does not use the site.

Q3. IF YOU ONLY USE THE SITE AS A CUT THROUGH, WHY DO YOU NOT USE FOR OTHER REASONS?

- Live other side of town plus drinkers put you off
- No not really but can be intimidating
- Seen all sorts of things, not inviting because of people
- Last me it but no can't s Stay for lng drinkers
- Just walk through from car park. Not much here
- Leave in Claiton
- Don't think about it as somewhere to go
- Drinkers, drugs stuff, seen a man urinating
- Possibly because live else wgere
- No just don't think about it
- No
- Choose to walk through
- Come down with grandson occsaiaonly loo at ruins. But don't stay because of drunks
- Interesting characters have children so wouldn't hang around but appreciate site
- Don't visit town centre a lot
- Not much there
- Always in a rush to get to town from car park
- Too many drunks/drug addicts in the area I don't feel safe staying any amount of time in the area
- The drunks
- Street drinkers , untidy overgrown just not pleasant to stay longer.
- I walk through it to get to the church when they have concerts on there. I've never thought about just
- going there to look at it before as nothing there encourages me to do so.
- Feel as if there's not enough interpretation and it's sometimes had anti social behaviour so want to get through aa quickly as possible
- Drinks there
- Not much historical information available
- Because of the drunks
- Nothing else of interest once you have seen it once
- Thetes not much there. Perhaps if there were seats or something else to do there I would spend time there.
- Drinkers and drug users!
- I often don't feel safe or comfortable there. It doesn't seem a 'happy' place. Also, Castle Park is more convenient for me.
- It is often populated by street drinkers and I don't feel inclined to linger as their behaviour can be antisocial and unpredictable. Also there's nothing to do there once you've looked at the ruins once - no visitor centre or outdoor cafe. I don't live or work in the vicinity so my only reason for going there is when I park nearby to use the town shops.
- Too many vagrants / drunks ruin place, they make it uninviting. 2. The yew trees make it less than inviting. 3. Litter. 4. Virtually everyone uses it as a short cut town to car park, no feeling of a comfortable place to rest or stay. 5. Apart form the priory building the grounds aren't inviting. 6. Not well maintained.. 7. General air of being run down. 8. The access into the site past St Botolph's church is awful: dirty; lots of rubbish; rough, unkept rears to shops.
- Feels a bit isolated as a woman walking alone with small child.
- It is not a pleasant place to walk through because of people drinking and congregating in the area,
- swearing and generally making it very unpleasant. Not a place to linger.
- Drinkers

- Lived here and already visited, drunks and drugs
- Time usually. More n way to somewhere else. Lovely site though Needs to be More family friendly
- It has a reputation as place where ant-social individuals hang out, and where anti-social activities take place. I have seen both, in broad daylight when cutting through.
- No reason to use site although lovely. Drunks see them a lot
- Had picnic in past. Just like to walk through
- Drinkers
- Drinkers, noise ec
- Because it's not appropriate for other uses.
- Anti social behaviour happens there
- Because they are loud and sometimes swearing people drinking from plastics/ paper bags. And Although it's not every day I would feel very uncomfortable specially if I bringing my family there.
- Too many druggies hanging about - does not feel safe.
- Nothing going on there. But it's lovely to look at.
- Drunk people.
- Easy access from car park to town
- I live near the space and like to use it more but i feels intimidating.
- Because of the drunks and druggies that frequent the site, makes it impossible to actually spend any time there as I feel intimidated by their presence.
- Once you've seen in that's it.
- Not as 'safe and clean' as castle park, so would prefer to walk that little bit further to enjoy the surroundings
- Too many druggies and drink people sitting there
- It's a rough area, it doesn't feel inviting like castle park. It's not well advertised or used for events. I
- associate it with drugs, drunks , rough people. I wouldn't send tourists there
- All the drugs and alcoholics, going toilet everywhere
- Used as a hangout for daytime drinkers
- Have also visited for cultural reasons
- There are usually unsavoury characters using the area and the paths are not welll defined.
- The ruins are beautiful but nil else to keep me there.
- It is full of drug users
- Local drunks gather there
- Mostly not enough time to sit and enjoy in better weather plus you do the "drinkers" in there although they have never bothered me it doesn't look a "nice" place for families to visit
- Because of drunks
- Not kept very well not welcoming
- Only very occasionally is there an event. They are usually excellent, but too few of them. Also they seem not to be widely advertised.
- Drunk, anti-social meeting ground (although, after a couple of run-ins I rarely even use it as a cut through now)
- Presence of antisocial behaviour
- Wouldn't stop there due to the drunks and druggies that use it as their hanging out area. I use the car park next to it, admire the ruins as I run through to town
- Don't feel that the site encourages me to stay, didn't know I was actually allowed to.
- I don't live nearby and am only visiting for shopping or cinema. There are often groups of unsavoury people sitting around which makes it very unattractive.
- Drug users
- Don't like the drunks and druggies that are usually there.
- There isn't anything to attract me to visit the area
- There are too many people sitting on the benches drinking alcohol, it makes me feel uncomfortable & not safe
- Just passing through, but enjoying the history from every headstone

- I live beside it and other than going to occasional events at the church/parish rooms.
- Don't live in town centre.
- Time limitation and unsocial behaviour.
- Because it's full of Down and Outs
- Limited time and have my own garden
- Not much there. Often drunks and undesirables hanging around.
- I have MANY times used it as a place of peace and quiet (when possible). It is mostly used by drunks and homeless people and it makes me feel sorry for tourists and us residents.
- It's a common spot for drug users and my concern relates to the amount of used needles found within the grounds. Safety is important and it doesn't make it pleasant or appealing to enjoy any other time for any other reason.
- Vagrants, Drug Users etc
- Drunks and drug users
- I live in Priory Street and mainly use the space to cut through on my walk to work. However, I have visited to look at the Priory itself and I love the remains and the space around them. I'd like the area to be better used by passers by / tourists / visitors as it's a beautiful space and more visitors may reduce some of the anti social behaviour which takes place in the grounds.
- What is there to make me just want to go and absorb the atmosphere and use it as a place to relax? Limited seating in shade on the street side nothing in the grass area, although someone was camping there on Saturday I noticed
- The Priory has a notorious reputation as a congregation point for drug users and persons who drink on the street. Queen St and surrounding area is known for incidents of street crime.
- I would spend time there but sometimes feel intimidated by people drinking and loitering
- drunks normally hang out there on the benches during the day.
- Unsociable behaviour, drinking taking place.
- Because of the drinking in there
- Drug and alcohol users
- There is always people hanging around in groups drinking alcohol and I always feel very intimidated by them. It's clearly the place for the drunks to hang out in Colchester.
- Undesirable people hanging about. Not much to do/see. Not great underfoot after rain.
- Because it feels unsafe with the number of homeless/drug addicts/drunks using the area. The amount of swearing and fights is awful.
- Area is often populated by users of drugs, day drinkers etc. as it is a hidden and often empty space.
- I'm a local and have spent time in the past taking an interest in the historical aspect of the site; I've also had to reprimand youngsters for using it for parkour. The church and adjacent buildings dominate the site.
- I do stop from time to time but this survey only gave me the opportunity to tick one. We have stopped for a sandwich before or to look at the information boards. Sometimes the other users put me off stopping for long with the children.
- doesn't feel very safe or inviting

Q6. WHAT WOULD IMPROVE THE SITE AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE IT MORE?

- Nothing.
- Get rid of the drug users that plague it
- More seating and events.
- If it was tidied up more and more trees and greenery and benches to sit on. It is a lovely quiet spot now there are not so many drunks in there
- Site specific theatre would be great.
- Monitored for day drinkers and drug users
- Get rid of drinkers who sit there all day - they are intimidating. Make the pathways easier to walk on.

- Fence it off so it's not used as cut through to make it more like an historic monument not just something that is in the way of a cut through.
- If there were fewer, homeless drunks, drug addicts on the site
- More seating areas (South Facing).
- More seating on the grassy area. Less drunk/drugs takers around
- Open it up for functions, charity fundraising events and in summer perhaps an open theatre, make it family friendly and even more important advertise that is there - the Roman Circus could do with more advertising from council so not's let St Botolphs be neglected that way either
- More monuments, statues and other things to make the area more interesting and to notify people about the Priory.
- A more welcoming environment, more interpretation boards and information.
- Less drunks and drug use
- Stop the drunks and drug takers using it. Better lighting, better advertising of it and Maybe licence some organised events? Take back ownership of it for use by decent people as a valuable historical asset to the town.
- This is a site of monumental historical importance and it's amazing to me that it is not treated as such.
- This site should be given over to English Heritage guardianship and fully utilised (maybe as part of the castle estate?). As a resident of the immediate area, I would even rather pay a fee to visit this beautiful place than see it go to ruin, full of drunks and drug takers. Open a coffee shop there, have events, encourage choirs and musicians. Even stalls or an antique/curiosity market. All
- More seating bushes and flowers
- Historical post to read about it, clean the site up and make it more noticeable, even from town station. Night illumination, waste bins, tea shop
- Perhaps some carefully planned landscaping. A snack bar and temporary children's play area.
- Highlighting the Priory ruins. A performance area?
- It's a nice space and a great piece of history that deserves better but due to it's position on the outskirts of the town centre, between two big car parks and it's pissed up regulars taking the benches
- It's hard to see it being anything other than a dodgy car park cut through
- Interpretation and presentation of site improved
- Clean it up and make it more used so it feels more safe. Make it more obvious for a tourist point.
- More information regarding the history of the area and greater feeling of security if antisocial behaviour is removed.
- Outdoor theatre.
- Discourage anti social behaviour so much in the grounds
- I would like to see it lit up at night
- More wildflowers etc. I really enjoy appreciating this area as a combination of heritage and a very beautiful natural area. I would really not want to see any development which would impact of the ruins or one it's space as a natural heaven for relaxing.
- Improve the steps. Prevent vagrants from gathering and using the site as a toilet. Improve interpretation signage. Hold open days for history and education.
- Not have so many dropouts hanging out on the benches, there's nowhere safe to sit
- Food n drink n seating maybe?
- Stop drinkers/drug users congregating
- Good tidy up & organised planting with seating areas.
- Play area
- Make it more family friendly and use the site for historical activities.
- Less tramps drinking would be good, more flowers and bedding plants maybe
- 1) Remove the anti social elements that are using the site permanently 2) Purchase the modern shop building and rear buildings that block the view to the Church and also toward

the Priory. This was suggested by a group of the local traders in 2012 and is still pertinent . Landscape the new approach to create a welcoming invitation to the revealed site. Use flood lighting but make it secure at night. Welcome local resident .organisational use - the Mosque,the schools,resident association . Art

- A range of historic or cultural activities or leisure amenities
- Get rid of all people drinking, cut some of the trees back to make it lighter in the churchyard & maybe
- some nice planting of flowers & would help it look a lot better.
- Less antisocial behavior in that area such as drinking and drug use.
- Use as open air theatre
- Proper enforcement of drinking and drug laws. It's surely a religious area,a former churchyard, historical remains. Let it be as is with just gardening teams doing their work. A useful shortcut for The Dell's elderly residents to avoid steep road and allow shopping cart use.
- Make it safer and deal with the drunks and druggies that frequent it
- More information boards with detailed history of the site, wider use of the area (e.g. landscaped garden or recreated buildings). Improved lighting to deter antisocial behaviour. Better path and step access. This is an ancient town steeped in history and we do not shine a bright enough light on that - the castle contains nearly all - we need more plaques and signs up linked to the key locations in our Roman history as well as the civil war and links to the nursery rhymes that were written here.
- Seating, get rid of the carpark, move on drunks/vagrants, make more of the area generally.
- More seating. The buildings backing onto the site being given a facelift. More care taken of the graves and surrounding area.
- Get rid of the dossers
- If I lived within walking distance and didn't feel anxious when alone. It's ok when an event on and lots of people around.
- keep out the scary people with cans of beer. I no longer take my guests from out of town or from America there, unfortunately.
- Clean and safe environment, major conservation of the priory as it looks neglected, and better maintained landscaping. I think privacy for the surrounding housing/ visitors should be considered by additional tree planting. A pop-up shop/hut could be a good source of revenue also. Better walkways, designated for those to cut through, and places to sit with levelled ground.
- Talks, visitor centre, better signage, make it a community area where groups of people can come to visit
- Get rid of the drunks
- Kids Park, Sculpture, Fountain, better landscaping in and around the ruins.
- Some picnic tables, more benches, perhaps some lighting. Perhaps use the space as an interesting 'band stand'
- Benches Historical information.
- Discourage it as a hangout for drunks as although they are polite enough they do make you feel uneasy, and the smoking and bad language are not great when you have children with them.
- Feeling more secure as a single woman walking through it. If it was used more frequently as the very interesting place it is!
- Something more about its history and the priory itself, stories etc
- Outdoor theatre, outdoor music venue, benches, keep it clean, meditation area, yoga area, historical info on it,
- More seating improved information on the history, the ability to visualize the site as it was, could it be integrated more with other historical parts of the town?
- It feels cut off and isolated, that would be lovely but there are often groups of possibly homeless people there which make it threatening. I wouldn't take my son there as I have seen drug paraphernalia there in the past. So tend to avoid because of that.
- Events eg plays, markets etc Less anti social behaviour on the site

- More publicity about the heritage and importance of this site in the context of the history of Colchester as a huge heritage site - also music and military music events celebrating the history of Colchester - something akin to the ability the Scots have of sharing their heritage
- It is fine as it is. I do enjoy the fairs and enactments but they are insufficiently advertised.
- Establishing the history of the place. Two boards explain what the priory was but that's about it.
- Having a model of the priory to show how it looked would allow people to see and think how the place looked. Also, pinpointing certain areas of interest surrounding the building, i.e the windows, the charred marks on the front from the civil war. Making it a place where people are comfortable.
- Recreation above ground of the original footprint or other key features would really help visualize the space - like they have done with the gate at the Roman circus.
- I think its good as it is. Maybe better access from Osborne Street end.
- If it was used as a venue for events and activities. If it was lit at night. If I was confident that it was a safe place to go (I am confident, for example, when I visit Castle Park, that I can do so safely).
- there is always a big group of drunk and disorderly group of people that make the space very difficult to enjoy or feel safe there. If those people weren't there myself and my family would visit more often and stay for longer. A park for the children would be nice
- Better pathways so it's not all muddy, feeling safer, more information on what it would have been like.
- Get rid of crackheads and make it safe
- Light it up at night, it would be beautiful. Actually what I love about it is how, mostly, it's a very peaceful calm site, an ideal place for slowing down, reflection and contemplation. It would be a shame to lose that element.
- The area around St Botolphs needs to be improved. The buildings in queen st and St B street need improvement. The area should be opened up, piazza etc
- Get rid of anti social behaviour .
- Info signs
- Yes
- More benches. A cafe opening up onto the site, with tables. Addressing the issue of the groups of people who sit and drink alcohol in the upper area: they can be off putting.
- Remove unsociable behaviour and events in the green area
- Not sure
- Seating areas, discreet litter bins, lighting if open in the evening, pop up drinks/food.
- Higher fencing and gating, antisocial behaviour active watch, Open air opera, Shakespeare, theatre, performance, better seating, better lighting (solar powered multi coloured, light it up!!) CCTV and security!
- More of an obvious visual and movement connection to Queen St and the other surrounding streets, a playground or other activity so there is a positive destination to visit, link into walking/cycling offroad trails eg Childwell Alley which leads down to the Colne. A more attractive route to the station.
- Make it feel safer more places to sit
- No street drinkers, drug users and anti-social behaviour. Also, be visionary and purchase the old buildings on the corner that are up for sale and compulsory purchase others, and knock them down, so the priory is visible from Queen Street.
- Make it a proper tourist attraction
- More facilities, more things to read about the history of the site. Picnic benches. Remove the drunk people!
- I would turn it into a building like Coventry cathedral. A mix of glass and ruins. You could then use the inside space all year round. If it was to be a picnic site, then improve the ground, add a little cafe.
- Could there be a visitor centre there so that visitors to Colchester have more of an understanding of the Priory?. To have a space where people can stop, rest, enjoy and learn are all amazing attributes. I would love to see lots of open air events and have always

thought it would be an ideal place for outdoor theatre/poetry/creative events all year round. I would love to put on something like “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” here, as it is the perfect setting!

- Fix broken street furniture, cleaner and try to keep street drinkers out. Maybe run an event from there to encourage people to use the space
- To make it more safe. Get the Police or whoever to move this people on.
- Easier access, better sign posting, mapping it clearly on historical/tourism booklets, maps and online reviewer portals such as TripAdvisor, colch tourism site, google etc. to actually encourage visitors (I've not seen much of this generally for Colch actually, needs improvement overall). Have amenities such as toilets present maybe a cafe? Clear info and ads around colch town station. More plaques with interesting historical info. better lighting. Better staff/caretaker presence to avoid wrong
- The only times ive walked through site, it had been frequented by homeless people/ people smoking drugs or drinking. Some monitoring of site to stop this behaviour, would benefit the site, as people would feel safer there.
- Use the opportunity to re-orientate the rail station and give newcomers to the town a nice route into the town via the Priory park rather than onto the ghastly multi-lane roundabout. It would then make sense to put a (or the) visitor information centre on the site [perhaps with some retail] to provide some oversight of the relics. Need better signposting as well.
- Better control of anti social behaviour
- Play equipment at the bottom near the car park. Picnic benches.
- Get rid of the low lifes who frequent the place.
- Having it kept tidy and clean and free from drinkers.
- if it didn't feel so sordid and secluded.
- To remove the drug dealers and their associates not only from the site but from the access road and area near the church. I would not dream of going there any more because it is taken over by these people and is highly intimidating.
- There are drinkers and others there too often. They seem intimidating, although do not necessary harmful, they spoil the area for others. Whilst the integrity of the Priory must be preserved, it could be landscaped nearer the church. Whilst quite well used, it needs publicity and more than the one info board. St Botolphs Church is interesting inside.
- Thank you for offering the chance for people to put forward suggestions for the Priory. However, they could have done themselves a favour by taking a quick look at the Trip Advisor reviews, which sum up what the problem is. Anti social behaviour! Add into the mix a lack of maintenance at the the site and perhaps some lighting and security. These actions would allow for some additional interpretation to tell the story of the Priory, the graveyard and the adjacent church. Around 10 years ago a pro