

City Praise Centre 2022/23 Travel Survey and Plan

21st October 2022

Revised 2nd May 2023

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1. *Objective*

This document is part of City Praise Centre's commitment in response to Informative Clause 4 of the 'Notification of Grant of Permission to Develop Land', application no. 20210659. It contains the results from a survey conducted over the weekends of the 11th and 18th September 2022, with the intention of:

- Establishing current car usage on a Sunday
- Creating initiatives on how car usage could be reduced
- Setting targets for car reduction over the next 12 months.

This survey was conducted through an online form that was advertised in our services, in our weekly email updates, and through a message sent to members of the church through our membership app. They were asked specific questions about their mode of transport on that day. The questionnaire used is shown in Appendix I.

2. *Survey of parking availability*

There are two main areas belonging to the church where people can park at any time (Fig 1):

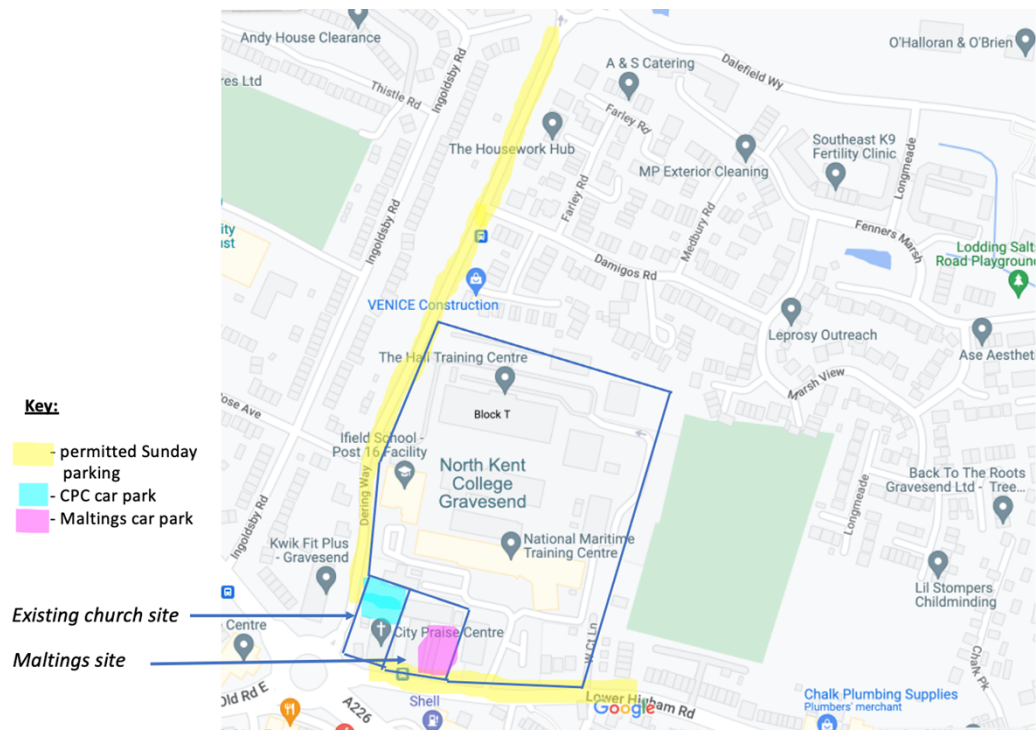


Fig 1: Site map showing parking availability

- **Existing Church site** with 24 designated car parking spaces. This is the original car park belonging to the church.
- **The Maltings site** with 33 designated car parking spaces.

On a Sunday, two additional areas become available:

- **North Kent College** that is right next door with 200+ designated car parking spaces. These are provided on a 5-year rolling commitment (see Appendix II).
- **Westcourt School** that is 0.3 miles from the church with a walking time of 5-7 minutes. This venue acts as a back-up should the college not be available.

The roads by the church do not have parking restrictions on a Sunday. Assuming 6 metres is required to park each car, the road space available includes:

- Dering Way: 80 cars (400 metres of road with parking on both sides – note that there are no houses on this road)
- Lower Higham Road: 15 cars (100 metres of road)

However, it is our intention that this space **will not** be used. To this end we have an External Host team that ensures all visitors to the church use either the on-site car parks or the college, and not the roads.

3. Survey of actual car usage

Car usage can be split into two categories – Weekday including Saturdays, and Sundays. All analyses were produced from data collected both during the survey and throughout the year (See Appendix III).

3.1 Weekday and Saturday car use

During the week the typical profile of car usage during the day is well below capacity as visitors come and go during the day (Fig 2). The grey line shows the total car parking spaces available on-site while the coloured lines show daily usage by hour.

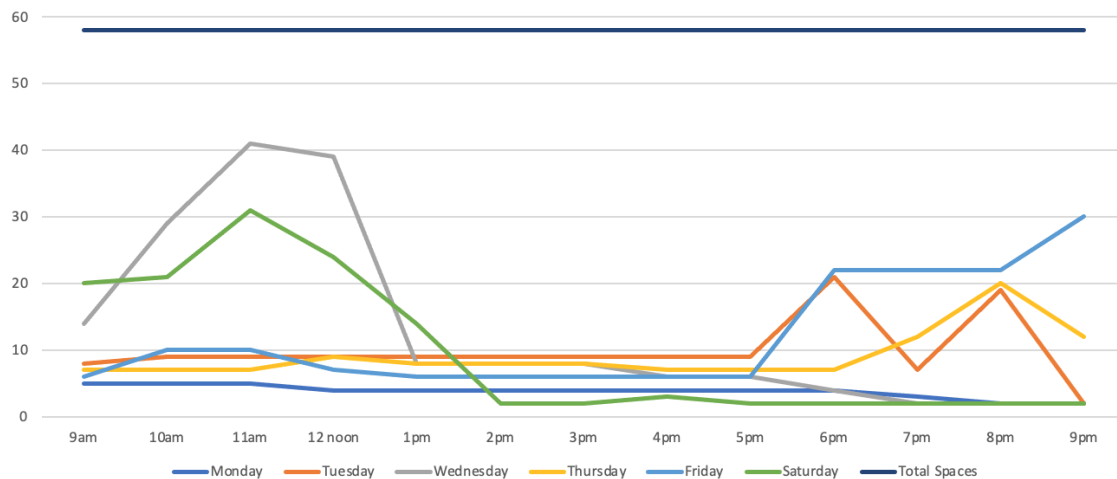


Fig 2. Average car park use, Monday – Saturday

The only change is when the National Blood Transfusion service comes each month. On these days, parking usage increases to a maximum of 40 cars which is still within on-site car parking availability.

3.2 Sunday car use

Sundays is when we receive the most visits. For the past 4 years we have kept a count of the number of people attending Sunday services and the number of cars in the car parks. At no time have we observed anyone parking on the street.

There is a dedicated parking team on a Sunday morning that operate from 9am, 2 hours before the service begins, to around 1:30pm, which is approximately 1 hour after the service ends. Their duties are to ensure that everyone parks in the right place, that no one parks on the roads surrounding the church, and who direct traffic to and from the site.

Since we started in April 2018, there have been no traffic incidents or issues related to City Praise Centre. There have been no traffic queues/problems both before or after the service.

If we look at the past 15 months in detail, we find the following car usage (fig 3):

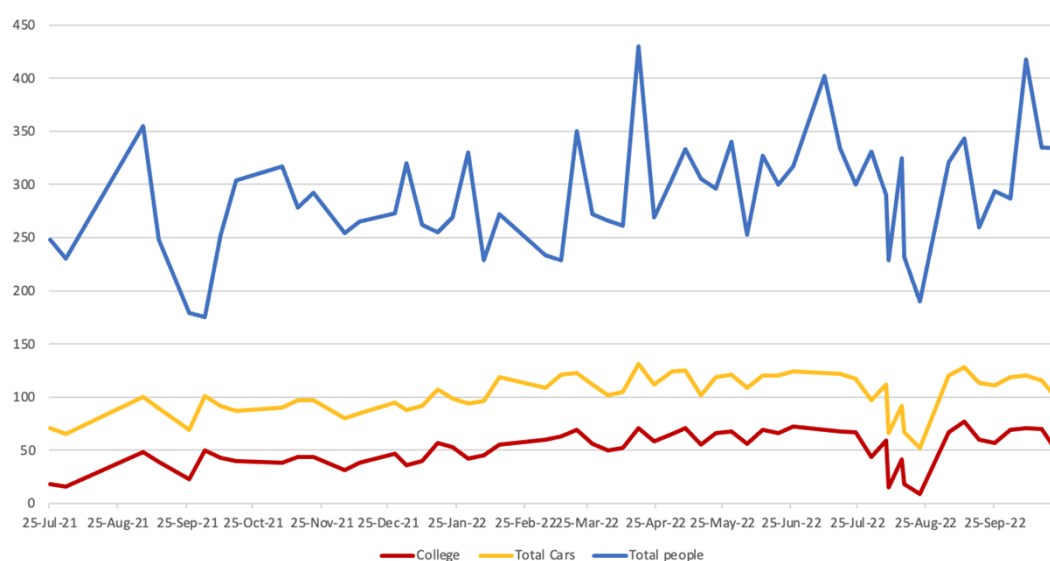


Fig 2. Car park usage between July 2021 – October 2022

The above chart shows the number of cars (in red) that could not be parked at the church and so used the college car park, with the total number of cars parked shown in yellow. The total number of attendees is shown in blue.

We would like to point out that the church has been operating near its maximum capacity for over 6 months and so these figures are unlikely to change. From this and the data supplied, we can deduce:

- On a Sunday we need around 40-80 extra car parking spaces. This is easily catered for by our agreement with North Kent College
- The maximum number of extra car spaces we have used to date is 73 (430 attendees). This was at a special baby dedication and baptism event and not part of our 'normal' services
- Around 20-30% of people who attend the church are children who cannot drive

4. Survey of travel methods

4.1 About the survey

61 adults in total took part in the survey covering 121 people who attended the church during the survey period. The average attendance during this period was 301, so the survey equates to just over 40% of attendees. The results we believe are representative of the congregation as a whole.

4.2 Modes of travel:

The following modes of transport were used to attend the church from those who answered the survey:

	2022 Survey No. of people (% of total)	2021 Survey No. of people (% of total)
Car drivers:	32 (26%)	34 (28%)
Car passengers:	74 (61%)	73 (59%)
Walk:	13 (11%)	11 (9%)
Used public transport:	1 (1%)	5 (4%)
Cycle:	1 (1%)	0

As can be seen there has been a slight increase in those who walk to church which reflects the increasing focus on having members from the local community.

4.3 Survey attendee demographics:

In looking at where respondents live in relation to the church and their use of a car (shown in brackets), the survey showed:

	2022 Survey	2021 Survey
> 1 mile:	38 (8 cars)	11 (3 cars)
1-3 miles:	25 (9 cars)	21 (9 cars)
4-5 miles:	9 (4 cars)	1 (1 cars)
6-10 miles:	52 (18 cars)	13 (12 cars)
> 10 miles:	17 (13 cars)	10 (7 cars)

Because the survey was anonymous, we are unable to differentiate between respondents who travelled in the same car, and so the above table may double-count the number of cars used. As we have found in previous surveys, car usage seems largely unaffected by distance travelled.

In looking at just those attendees who come by car (Fig 4), a large percentage of cars have passengers. Some of these with disabled and very young children need to use a car. There has been progress made in reducing car usage with adults who live close to the church + increasing the number of occupied seats in a car.

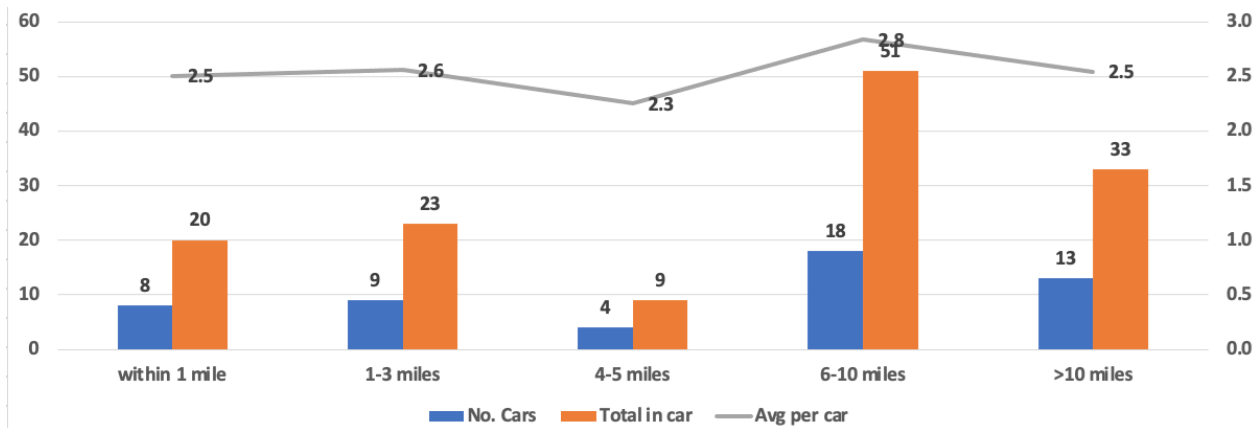


Fig 4. Distance travelled by car and the number of passengers

4.4 Alternatives for those travelling by car

When those who travelled by car were asked about alternatives, 21 of the 46 respondents (46%) said that other options for transport do exist, yet 91% said that they had no intention of changing from the convenience of driving. The following chart displays all alternatives facing those who come by car (Fig 5):

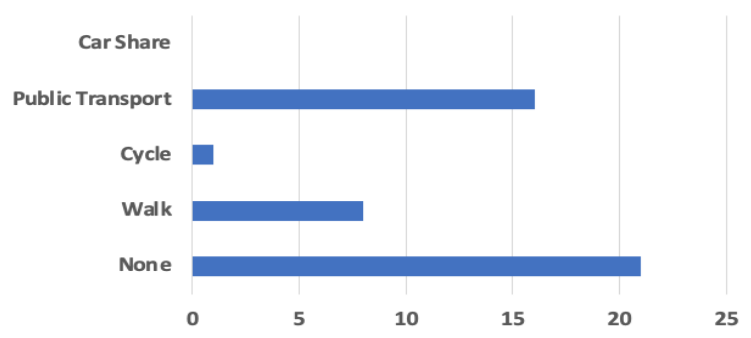


Fig 5. Other forms of transport available to car drivers

When asked how likely they were to change to these alternate modes of transport, the following replies were received:

No	Maybe	Yes	Don't know
42 (91%)	0	2 (4%)	2 (4%)

When asked what would cause people to change, the replies included:

- Nothing (x19)
- Better weather (x2)
- Better health (x5)
- Better bus routes and times (x5)

5. Transport review

5.1 Parking availability

As required by the planning notification, the church provides 57 car parking spaces for a Sunday morning, with another 200+ open to us at the college if we need to use them. Parking space is not an issue for us as has been demonstrated since moving in on April 1st 2018. Our car parking team ensure that no one parks on the road and that traffic does not affect the local amenity of the area.

However, we are committed to doing all we can to drive down car usage and so the following initiatives have been or are in the process of being put in place. These initiatives will be promoted in our literature, from our Sunday Information point, and from time-to-time from the platform.

5.2 Promotion of public transport options

Public transport options are already promoted and will continue to be promoted on our website and in our notices. This is restricted to bus service supplied through Arriva that also connect with Gravesend railway station. Three different bus services stop at (or very close by) the Maltings on a Sunday that operate the following time-tables on a Sunday:

- 480: Bus service runs Gravesend town centre every 15-20 mins
- 480: Bus service runs from Riverview every 30 mins
- 490: Bus service runs from Kings Farm every 15 mins
- 190: Bus service from Chatham every 20 mins

5.3 Walking and Cycling

We continue to promote walking for those who live close by (e.g. within a 2-3 mile radius).

Consequently, we run a monthly walking club on a Saturday for all the family, and a men's monthly evening walking group. Our aim is to encourage people to walk rather than use the car. There is ample room at the back of the church for storing prams and pushchairs, and our Internal Host team are there to help users.

We have one person who cycles when the weather is good. As with walking, we run a monthly cycling group and have installed a 12 secure rack for storing bicycles in the church car park. This can easily be extended if required.

5.4 Car Sharing

We found, sadly, that no one was interested in being part of a car-sharing scheme, this may simply be a short-term response to the COVID risk but is part of a longer-term trend we have seen. We will still promote this option and encourage people to register their interest to both share their car and indicate if they would like a lift.

6. Targets

We set two targets 2 years ago that looks at reducing car usage:

Total No. of cars as a % of adults attending

As can be seen below, the ratio of cars to adults has fallen by 5% but is still short of the overall target we set of 30%. Our aim for the next 12 months is to get closer to this target.

2021 % of cars to people attending	Current 2022 % of cars to people	12 month target set in 2021	Revised 12 month target for 2023
38%	33%	30.0%	30.0%

Percentage No. of cars used for people living in a 3-mile radius of the church. This is based on the people actually surveyed.

As can be seen below we have significantly lowered the percentage of people using cars who live within a 3 mile radius of the church. For the next 12 months we are looking to see if we can lower this figure further.

2021 % of people using cars	Current 2022 % of people using cars	12 month target	Revised 12 month target
56.3%	32%	50.0%	30.0%

Appendix I: Travel Survey Questionnaire

Hi,

As part of our commitment to Gravesham Borough Council, we have to provide an annual survey on how people travel to the church on a Sunday. This is so they can assess our impact on the roads in the area.

If you are over 16, we do hope you will take part. All data will be kept anonymous and only used as part of our submission to the council. For that reason we are not asking you to put in any personal details.

How did you travel here this morning? (Circle appropriate answer)

Walked Car Public Transport Cycle Other: _____

How they see your mode of transport changing over the next 12 months?

Approximately, how many miles did you travel to get here? _____

Questions for those travelling by Car:

If you came by car, were you: (Circle appropriate answer)

The driver of the car A passenger in the car

Not counting yourself, how many other people were in the car? _____

Of these, how many were under 18? _____

How many of the people in the car were disabled or a child under 5? _____

What other forms of transport are generally available for you to get here?

What would persuade you to NOT use a car in the future?

Thank you for your participation!

Appendix II: Parking Agreement with North Kent College and Westcourt School

The following is a scan of the agreement held and presented to the council.



www.northkent.ac.uk
Principal David Gleed MA (Oxon) ACA

Graeme Baldwin
City Praise Centre CIO
9-11 Lower Higham Road
Gravesend
Kent
DA12 2LY

Direct Dial: 01322 629639
Email: johndoran@northkent.ac.uk
Our Ref:
Your Ref:

16 January 2018

Dear Graeme,

In confirmation of our discussions, I can confirm that the college is happy with a 5 year rolling agreement allowing City Praise Centre the use of the colleges car parks for Sunday Services between 10am-3pm for 52 weeks a year. Initially for up to 77 parking spaces with an 'in principle' agreement for increased hours and capacity beyond this with details to be agreed as and when required.

Any security costs that the college incurs in regard to fulfilling this agreement will be covered in full by City Praise Centre CIO on an at cost plus VAT basis, i.e. the college will pass on the actual charge we would have to pay our incumbent security contractor for the service.

Building on our historic relationship which is in excess of 12 years with the current staff, the college is also very interested in your offer of the reciprocal use of your new facilities in particular the use of the auditorium and additionally as a space used during the exam season, dates, times and requirements to be agreed annually.

I trust this meets your requirements, any issues please don't hesitate to contact me?

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Doran'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name 'Doran' being more prominent.

John Doran (MBIFM)

Estates and Facilities Manager
North Kent College

DARTFORD CAMPUS
Oakfield Lane Dartford Kent DA1 2JT
Tel: 01322 629400 Fax: 01322 629468

GRAVESEND CAMPUS
Lower Higham Road Gravesend Kent DA12 2JJ
Fax: 01322 629767

Course Enquiries: 0800 074 1447 or course.enquiries@northkent.ac.uk
A Partner College of the University of Greenwich

The following is a scan of a letter received from Westcourt School on 10th January 2023 as a backup for the college:



Westcourt Primary & Nursery School

Silver Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4JG

Tel: 01474 566411

www.westcourt.kent.sch.uk

admin@westcourt.kent.sch.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

City Praise Centre has formally approached the school about the hire of the school car park in relation to their planning application. The school has formally agreed that this arrangement can take place as the hire of the car park will be outside of school hours.

The school has a long-standing community relationship with the church which is located just 0.3 miles from the school. This takes approximately 5-7mins to walk between the two locations.

The school has a fully secured carpark which has fully secured automatic gates. The gates would be stewarded by City Praise members to ensure that no cars park in the surrounding streets, therefore causing no disruption to the neighbourhood. The school carpark holds spaces for 54 cars and 2 additional disabled parking spaces. If capacity was needed beyond this, the school playgrounds could also be used for parking as these can be accessed via the main carpark. This would give parking for approximately 100 cars.

The school hiring policy has been attached for your information. The rate of the hire of the carpark would be £50 a whole day. The price of this would be adjusted accordingly if the hire was just for 3 hours.

If you have any further questions about the hire of the school car park, please do not hesitate to get into contact with myself.

Yours sincerely,

Miss M Sexton

Head Teacher



Appendix III: Data used in car park usage analyses

Weekday typical usage:

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9am	5	8	14	7	6	20
10am	5	9	29	7	10	21
11am	5	9	41	7	10	31
12 noon	4	9	39	9	7	24
1pm	4	9	8	8	6	14
2pm	4	9	8	8	6	2
3pm	4	9	8	8	6	2
4pm	4	9	6	7	6	3
5pm	4	9	6	7	6	2
6pm	4	21	4	7	22	2
7pm	3	7	2	12	22	2
8pm	2	19	2	20	22	2
9pm	2	2	2	12	30	2

Sunday usage since July 2021, by week:

	Base Camp	Maltings	College	Total Cars	Adults	Kids church	Total people
25-Jul-21	22	31	18	71			248
01-Aug-21	19	30	16	65			230
08-Aug-22	20	31	15	66			229
15-Aug-22	16	33	18	67			232
22-Aug-22	10	33	9	52			190
05-Sep-21	22	30	48	100			355
12-Sep-21	18	32	39	89			248
26-Sep-21	21	25	23	69			179
03-Oct-21	19	32	50	101			175
10-Oct-21	20	29	43	92			252
17-Oct-21	19	28	40	87			304
24-Oct-22	20	30	46	96			334
07-Nov-21	22	30	38	90			317
14-Nov-21	24	29	44	97			278
21-Nov-21	24	29	44	97			292
28-Dec-21	22	26	47	95			273
05-Dec-21	18	31	31	80			254
12-Dec-21	20	27	38	85			265
02-Jan-22	20	32	36	88	320	0	320
09-Jan-22	22	30	40	92	203	59	262
16-Jan-22	21	29	57	107	193	62	255
23-Jan-22	18	28	53	99		69	269
30-Jan-22	22	30	42	94	288	42	330

	Base Camp	Maltings	College	Total Cars	Adults	Kids church	Total people
06-Feb-22	19	32	45	96	181	48	229
13-Feb-22	32	32	55	119	223	49	272
06-Mar-22	18	31	60	109	178	55	233
13-Mar-22	21	37	63	121	180	49	229
20-Mar-22	22	32	69	123	290	60	350
27-Mar-22	24	32	56	112	222	50	272
03-Apr-22	22	30	50	102	210	56	266
10-Apr-22	24	29	52	105	191	70	261
17-Apr-22	28	32	71	131	430	0	430
24-Apr-22	22	32	58	112	209	60	269
02-May-22	27	32	65	124	247	58	305
08-May-22	24	30	71	125	264	69	333
15-May-22	24	23	55	102	230	75	305
22-May-22	24	29	66	119	240	56	296
29-May-22	22	31	68	121	280	60	340
05-Jun-22	22	31	56	109	208	45	253
12-Jun-22	23	28	69	120	252	75	327
19-Jun-22	21	33	66	120	236	64	300
26-Jun-22	20	32	72	124	250	67	317
10-Jul-22	21	33	69	123	310	92	402
17-Jul-22	21	33	68	122	272	62	334
24-Jul-22	19	31	67	117	282	18	300
31-Jul-22	20	33	44	97	270	61	331
07-Aug-22	20	33	59	112	290	0	290
14-Aug-22	19	32	41	92	325	0	325
04-Sep-22	22	31	67	120	241	80	321
11-Sep-22	19	32	77	128	270	73	343
18-Sep-22	25	28	60	113	217	43	260
25-Sep-22	21	33	57	111	230	64	294
02-Oct-22	18	32	69	119	216	71	287
09-Oct-22	19	30	71	120	325	93	418
16-Oct-22	21	25	70	116	256	79	335