

Commercial, Industrial and Leisure Land Availability in West Sussex

Introduction

We have carried out surveys of retail, business, industrial, storage, and office use since the mid-1970s. These surveys help us with monitoring the provision of employment floorspace.

Summary data from 2000 onwards are available.

Data Collection

We undertake the annual update of the survey using information, provided by Local Planning Authorities, on planning permissions and appeal decisions related to relevant uses. Appropriate data is then extracted from planning application records. In addition, information on sites identified in adopted Local / Neighbourhood Plans are included.

The survey originally covered the calendar year (January to December) and records are in this format for results up to December 2003. However, to accord with the monitoring periods laid down in statute, this has now been adjusted to cover the financial year with data being collected for the period 1 April to 31 March. The survey to 31 March 2005 was the first to use the new end date and to afford adjustment from calendar to financial year it covered a 15-month period.

Categories of Use

Sites are monitored using the Use Class Order as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended), where the net gain in floorspace exceeds 50 square metres.

On the 1st September 2020 there was a reorganisation of the use class order. For monitoring purposes any application that was registered before that date was determined, and therefore monitored, using the old use class reference. For applications registered after 1st September 2020 they were determined, and therefore monitored, using the new use class reference. A summary of the use classes that are monitored, currently used and now revoked is provided below.

Monitorable Use Classes (Now Revoked) for Applications Registered Prior to 1st September 2021

Use Class	Description
Class A1	Includes shops, retail warehouses, hairdressers, undertakers, ticket and travel agents, post offices, dry cleaners and internet cafés.
Class A2	Includes banks, building societies, estate and employment agencies, professional and financial services and betting offices.
Class B1(a)	Offices not within class A2.
Class B1(b)	Research and development, studios, laboratories and high tech uses.
Class B1(c)	Light industry.

Use Class	Description
Class B1 Flexible	A mixed-use category to cover instances where a specific B1 use is unknown.
Class D2	Includes cinemas, music, dance and concert halls, sports halls, swimming baths, skating rinks, gymnasiums, bingo halls and casinos.

Currently Monitorable Use Classes

Use Class	Description
Class B2	General industry.
Class B8	Includes wholesale warehousing, storage and distribution and repositories.
Class C1	Includes hotels, boarding and guest houses, where a net change of more than 25 bedrooms is involved.
Class E	A mixed-use category to cover instances where a specific E use is unknown.
Class E(a)	Includes display or retail sale of goods, other than hot food.
Class E(c)(i)	Includes the provision of financial services.
Class E(c)(ii)	Includes professional services (other than health or medical services).
Class E(c)(iii)	Includes other appropriate services in a commercial, business or service locality.
Class E(d)	Includes indoor sport, recreation or fitness (not involving motorised vehicles or firearms or use as a swimming pool or skating rink).
Class E(g)(i)	Includes offices to carry out any operational or administrative functions.
Class E(g)(ii)	Includes research and development of products or processes.
Class E(g)(iii)	Includes industrial processes.
Class F2(a)	Includes shops (mostly) selling essential goods, including food, where the shop's premises do not exceed 280 square metres and there is no other such facility within 1000 metres.

Use Class	Description
Class F2(c)	Includes areas or places for outdoor sport or recreation (not involving motorised vehicles or firearms).
Class F2(d)	Indoor or outdoor swimming pools or skating rinks.

Development Status

Most entries result from the grant of planning permission either by local authorities or on appeal to the Secretary of State. However, sites that are identified in approved policy documents, such as Local / Neighbourhood Plans are also included although there may not benefit from extant planning permission.

Each permitted site in the survey is visited once a year to check the stage it has reached in the development process. The following development status categories are used.

Status	Description
Available Without Permission	Sites without planning permission which have been identified in policy documents.
Outline Permission	Sites with outline planning permission.
Full Permission Not Started	Sites with full planning permission where development has not started.
Development Started	Sites in course of erection – development started.
Complete Not Occupied	Works completed but building not occupied.
Occupied	Works completed and building occupied.

Data

Visit our [Commercial and residential data](#) web page to view the most recent years survey data.

Contact Us

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