

Appendix 6

Comparison of taxi volumes to other Local Access Streets

Introduction

The WSP Bank Junction Taxi availability analysis report (March 2024) suggested:

“In general, the Bank area exhibits lower taxi availability, which is to be expected as many of these streets are no longer through routes by car or taxi during the day. Additional data is required to assess how this compares to other local access streets that are not through routes to destinations.”

In response to this suggestion Officers looked at undertaking the same ‘Lights on light off’ survey as used for the WSP analysis on a further five local access streets but the cost was prohibitive.

Instead, data from traffic counts undertaken in 2022 has been used to compare the volume of taxis. The 2022 counts are from July and November, and an average of the two counts has been used in the analysis below.

Comparative streets

The choice of streets in the 2022 data is limited but three comparable local access streets were identified: Mark Lane, Old Broad Street and Old Bailey.

Mark Lane has a restriction preventing movement north towards Fenchurch Street. It provides a route to other side streets and premises. Mark Lane is one way and has some office and retail frontages. This is comparable to Queen Victoria Street (between Queen Street and Bank) where there is no through route possible for motor vehicles. Access to Bucklersbury and Walbrook (providing access to The Mansion House, the Magistrates Court, and the main Bloomberg office entrance) in addition to offices and leisure services in One Poultry are available, but frontage is relative inactive. Poultry is also similar but to a lesser degree as there are no other streets to access between Queen Street and Bank. There is an access to a service area on Grocers Hall Court and there is also access to one of the entrances to the Ned Hotel.

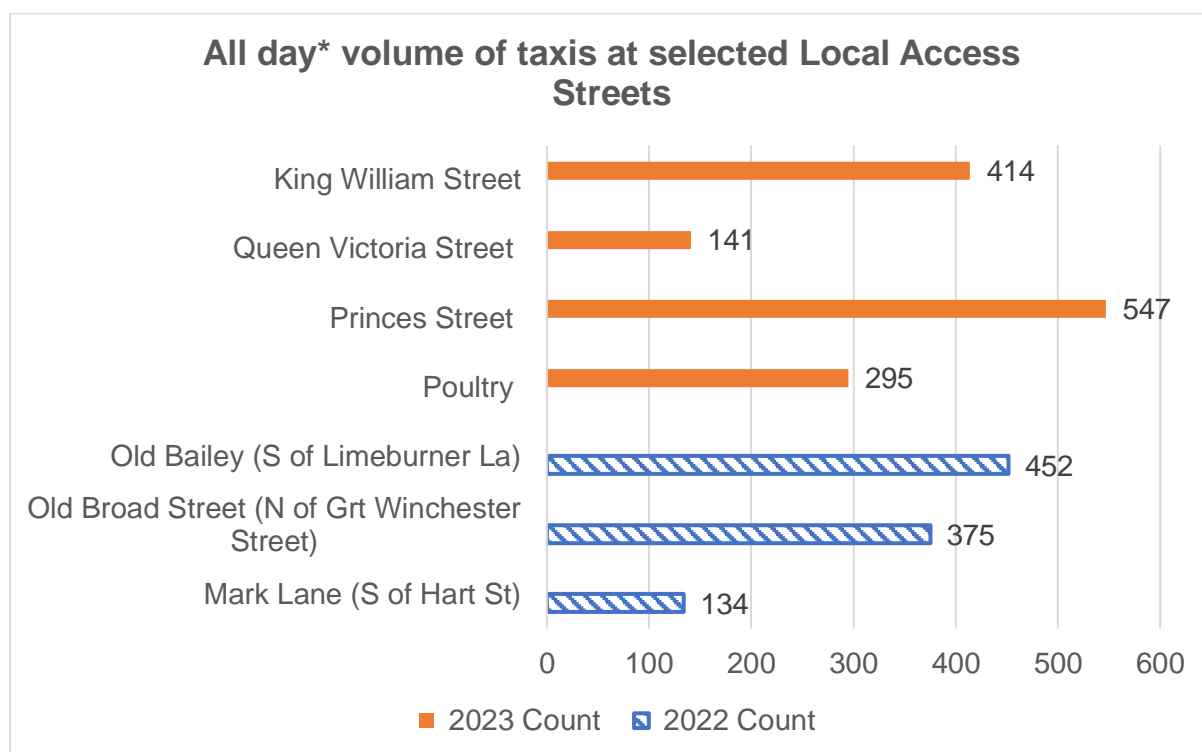
Old Broad Street is considered similar to King William Street. They both have a long stretch of office and retail frontages. Old Broad Street is operating one way northbound while King William Street is effectively one-way for access during the Bank restriction hours as taxis and other vehicles can only enter from the south.

Old Bailey has similarities with Princes Street. Old Bailey has a restriction by Limeburner Lane preventing vehicles from continuing southbound. Northbound vehicles do have a ‘through route’ with access to Giltspur Street, High Holborn and Newgate Street as well the Old Bailey. There are several office entrances and retail/services at ground level. Princes Street has little active frontage along its entire length but runs alongside the Bank of England. The accessible entrance for the Ned hotel and the entrance to Grocers Hall are also located along it. Princes Street provides an access route to Cornhill during restricted hours.

All day volumes

The 2023 surveys undertaken by WSP looked at availability of taxis did not undertake the survey for a full 24 hours, so the total day numbers are entirely not like for like. The 2023 survey was between 07:00 and 01.00 (the following morning). The 2022 data was midnight to midnight.

Graph 1: Showing total number of taxis counted on a selection of Local Access Streets in 2022 and 2023. *2023 counts are only for 18 hours)



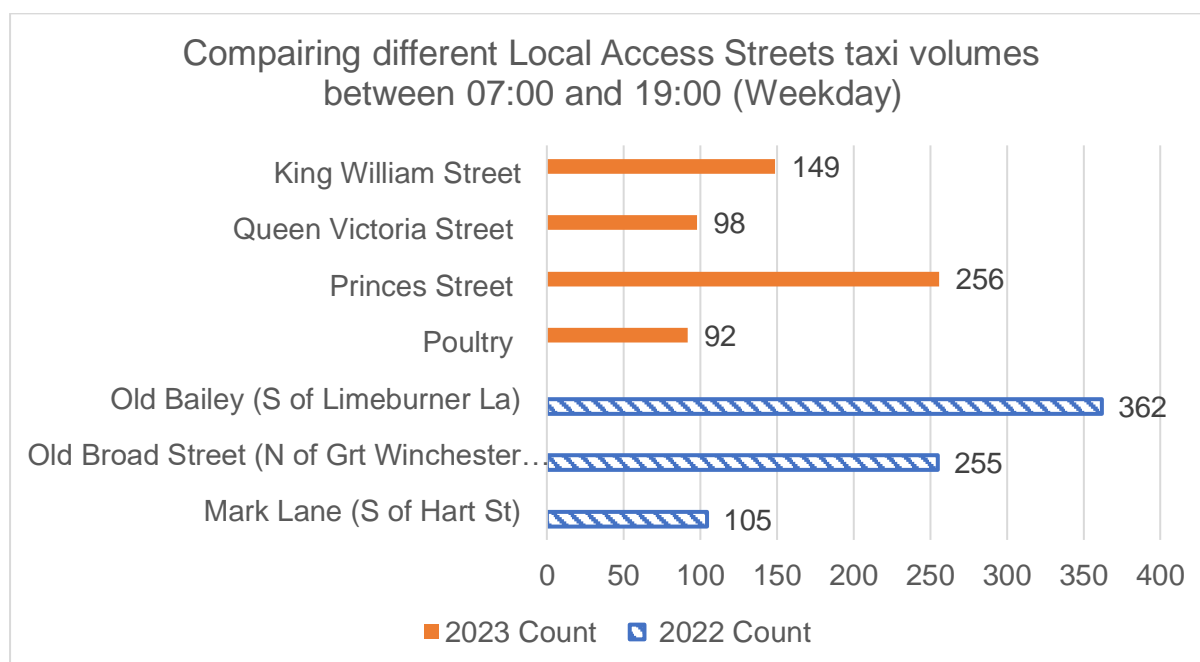
Recognising this disparity in the number of hours recorded, but also recognising that taxi volumes are generally low between 0100 and 07:00. Comparing the two data sets suggests there are similarities in the volume of taxis on Mark Lane and Queen Victoria Street and on Old Broad Street and King William Street.

Princes Street has a larger volume of taxis across the day in comparison to Old Bailey, with Princes Street having an additional 95 taxis recorded. Poultry compared to Mark Lane has 161 more taxis across the day.

Taxis between 07:00 and 19:00

Looking at the same streets again but within the restricted hours of 07:00 to 19:00

Graph 2: Showing total number of taxis counted on a selection of Local Access Streets in 2022 and 2023 between 07:00 and 19:00 hours on a weekday



The volume of taxis on Mark Lane is very similar to Queen Victoria Street and Poultry. It should be noted that when the WSP survey work was undertaken before taxis were permitted (on an experimental basis) to travel through the Cheapside bus gate restrictions and before the taxi rank on Poultry outside the Ned hotel was installed. Both of these interventions are expected to lead to an increase in taxis on Poultry during the restricted times.

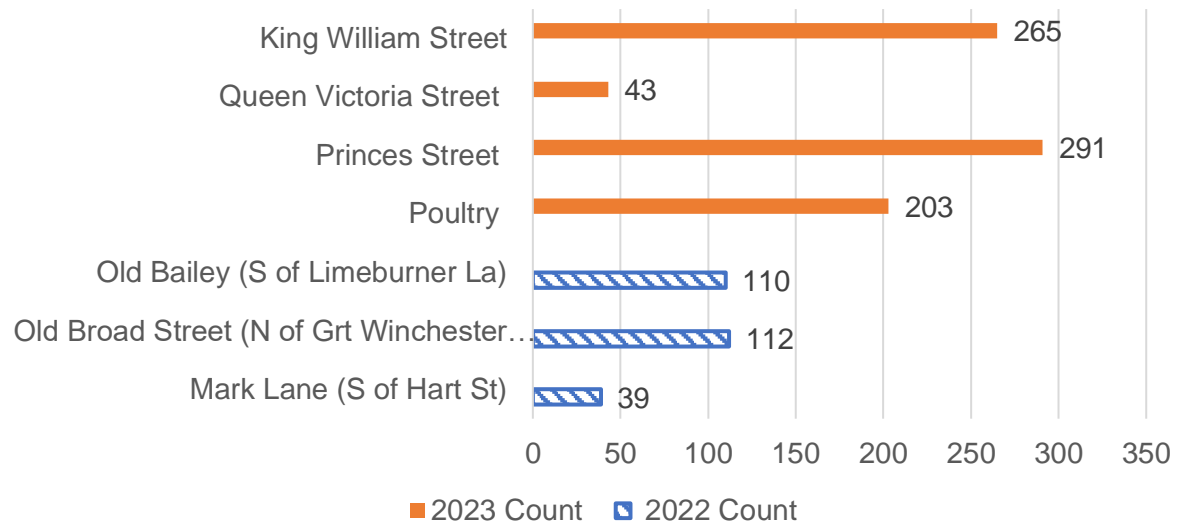
The data suggests that Old Bailey is used by more taxis than Princes Street between 07:00 and 19:00. 106 more taxis were counted on Old Bailey over the twelve-hour period, on average this is equivalent to nine additional taxis an hour.

Old Broad Street is also used by more taxis than King William Street between 07:00 and 19:00. 106 more taxis were counted on Old Broad Street over the twelve-hour period, on average this is equivalent to nine additional taxis an hour.

After 19:00

As some of the arms of Bank are open to traffic after 19:00 it is worth looking at the last 6 hours of the 2023 data and the last 12 hours of the 2022 data.

Comparing different local access Street taxi volumes between 19:00 and 07:00/01:00



Queen Victoria Street, which is closed to motor traffic 24 hours a day (at Bank), and Mark Lane have very similar volumes as they have the same typology throughout the day.

Both Old Bailey and Old Broad Street, have a much lower volume of taxis when compared with King William Street, Poultry and Princes Street. Even if we were to assume that all of these taxis on Old Broad Street and Old Bailey occurred before 0100, these volumes are nearer the volumes of taxis on Poultry and King William Street during the day.

Conclusion

Although based on a small sample of streets, the data suggests that taxi volumes on the approaches to Bank are comparable with similar local access streets.

The most significant differences during 07:00 and 19:00, when the Bank restrictions are in effect, are an average of an additional nine taxis an hour on Old Bailey, compared to Princes Street, and Old Broad Street, compared to King William Street. This situation reverses after 19:00 when there are more taxis using Princes Street and King William Street compared with Old Bailey and Old Broad Street.