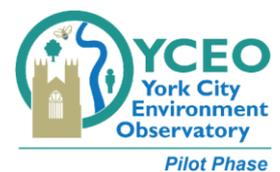




York Open Data

-User Guide-



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1 York Open Data

York Open Data (<https://www.yorkopendata.org/>) is the official open data website of City of York Council and was launched in March 2015. The majority of the data available within the York Open Data platform has been published under the *UK Open Government Licence (OGL)* by the City of York Council and in compliance with the *Data Protection Act 1998* in a “raw data” format. However, some processed data can be found as well or under proprietary licenses. The published data provides an insight into the City of York.

1.1 Aims of YOD

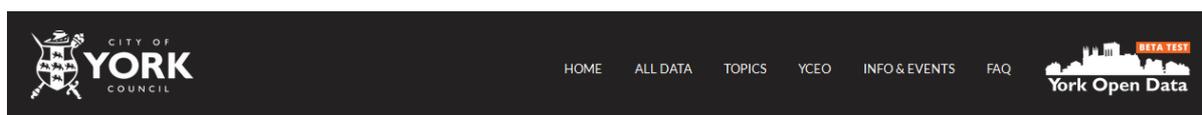
- Ensure better quality and a higher quantity of open data is released on the city into the hands of local citizens and businesses.
- Bring the power of open data to a wider audience through working to make open data more accessible to all users.
- Encourage developers to create transformative open data applications, and increase the profile of open data and its applicability towards transparency, strengthening democracy and supporting local, national and international economic growth.
- Work towards providing solutions that will allow for open analysis of the council’s and city’s open data that can help revolutionise the understanding of the city needs, to meet the expectations of its residents.
- Be delivered in a financially sustainable way so that as products or services are created, developers have confidence the platform will be available long term.
- Support council’s statutory responsibilities around the transparency code, and council’s commitment to being an open and transparent authority using the platform as the place to find data about York.
- Attempt to ensure that all published data is relatively easy to create, maintain, and, most importantly, at least in a 3 stars format.

2 Navigating on York Open Data

2.1 Header

- Home – York Open Data’s homepage.
- All data – All datasets published on the site.
- Topics – Datasets grouped into topics.
- YCEO – York City Environment Observatory section. For more information on the YCEO, please see section 5 on this document.

- Info & Events – Useful information about York Open Data and our events. You can choose to see all posts or just York Open Data related ones.
- FAQ – Answers to frequently asked questions. If you do not find the answer you are looking for, please contact us at info@yorkopendata.org .
- City of York Council icon – Clicking on it opens City of York Council’s website
- York Open Data icon – Clicking on it navigates to York Open Data’s home page



2.2 Footer

- Navigation – List of top level pages on York Open Data.
- Social media and contact us – Contact details for City of York Council and York Open Data.
- About - Brief description of the platform.
- Disclaimer, privacy policy and terms & conditions – Legal conditions applied to the site when making use of it.

NAVIGATION

[Home](#)
[All Data](#)
[Topics](#)
[Info & Events](#)
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SOCIAL MEDIA

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CONTACT US

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ABOUT YORK OPEN DATA

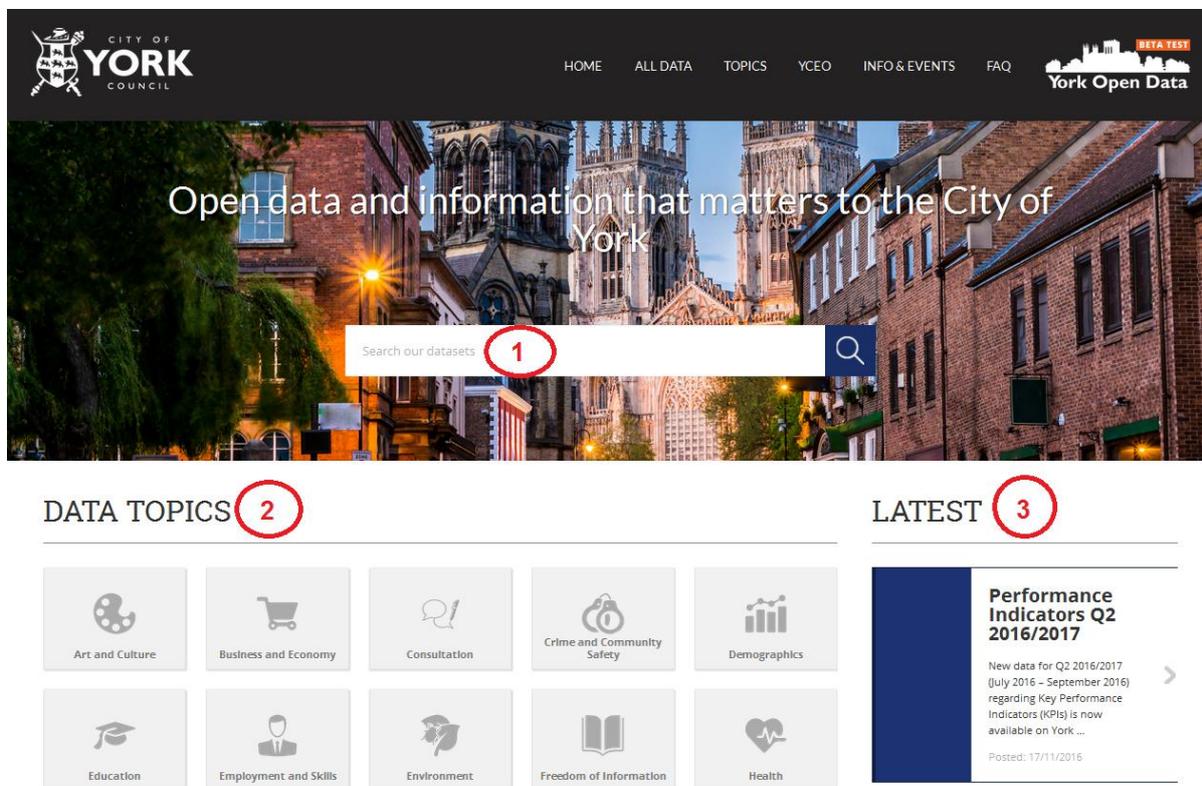
York Open Data is the place to find open data and information about things that matter to the City of York.

[OPEN DATA](#)

[Login](#)

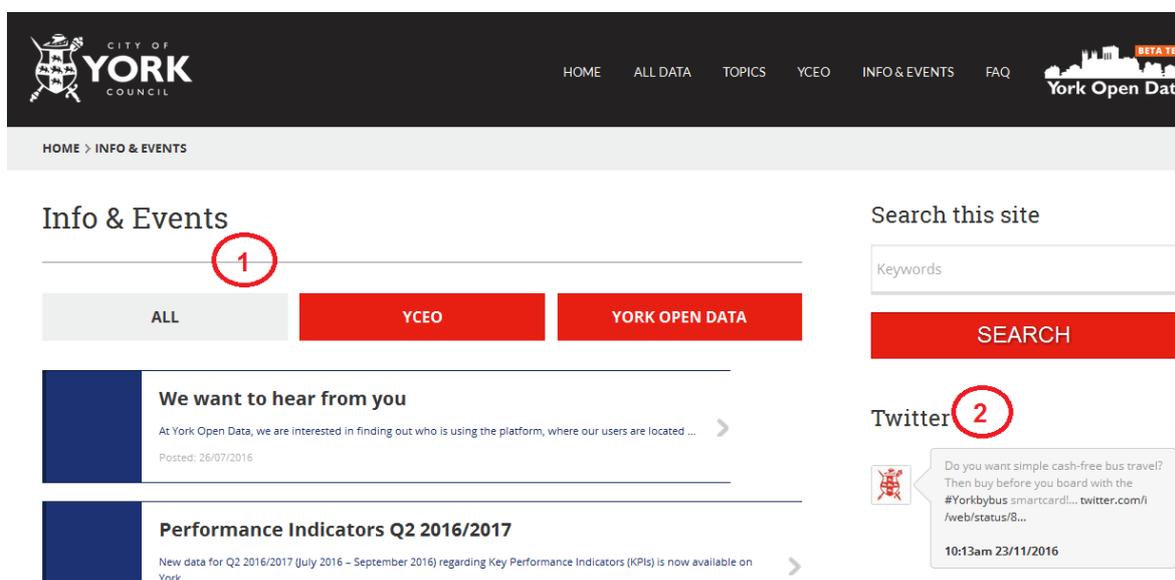
2.3 Home

The home page is the default landing page for YOD. You can find a searching bar for browsing the data (1), a list of data topics (2) and the latest news about the site (3).



2.4 Info & Events

This page is used for publishing all York Open Data and York City Environment Observatory related news and events. The content can be filtered using the buttons located at the top (1), which also takes effect on the twitter feed displayed (2).



3 Browsing the data

Data is published in units called “datasets”. A dataset is a parcel of data - eg the employment rate for a region or the spending for a government department. When searching for data, each result will be an individual dataset.

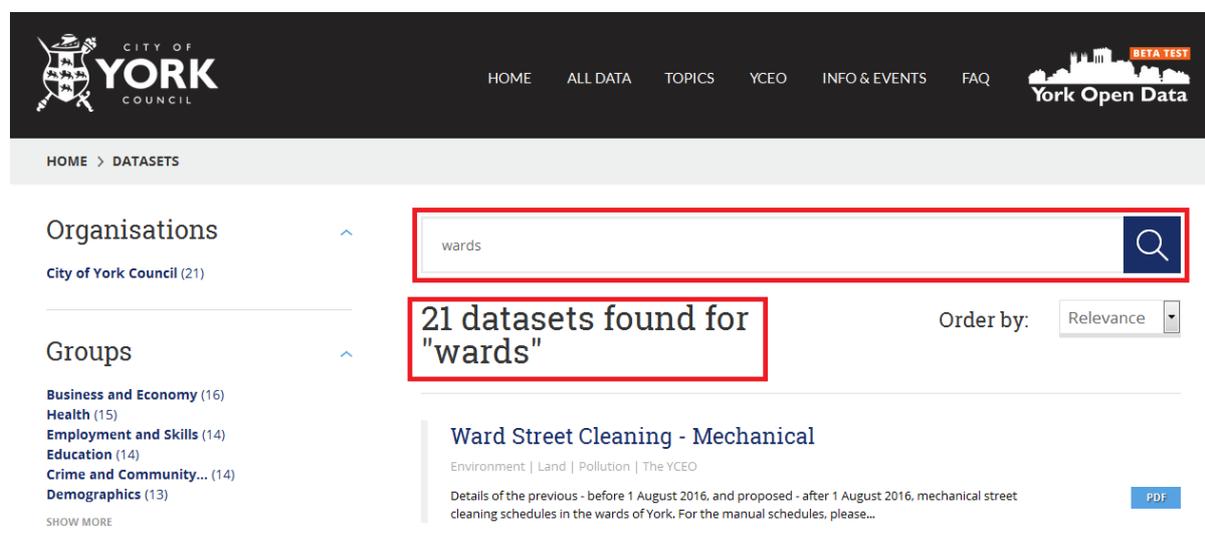
A dataset has two parts:

- The “metadata” which is the information about the data. For example, date, what formats it is available in, the title and publisher, what license it is released under, etc.
- A number of “resources”, which hold the data itself. A resource can be a CSV or Excel spreadsheet, XML file, PDF document, image file, linked data in RDF format, etc. A dataset can contain any number of resources.

There are different options for browsing the datasets available on the platform:

3.1 Search bar

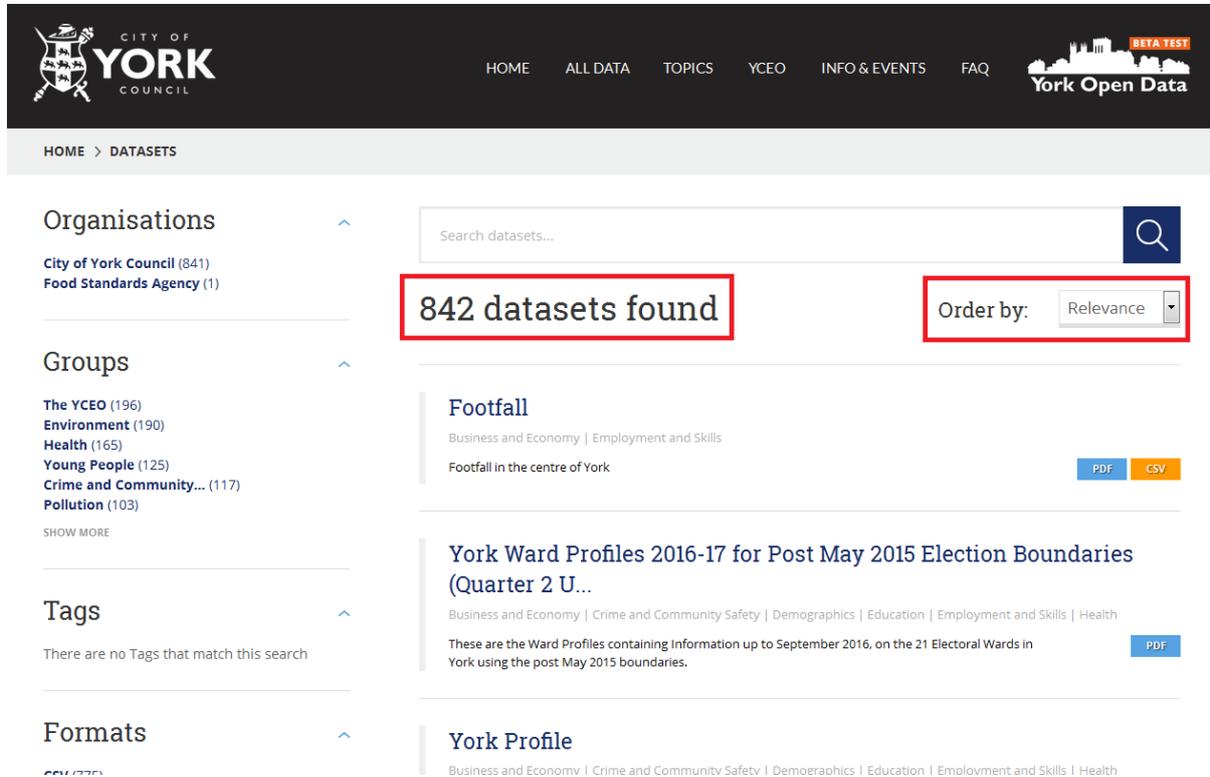
The search bar allows the user retrieving datasets related with any combination of words typed in. This can be a broad search eg “wards” or a more specific one “ward profiles”



The search bar can be found in the “home” page, as described in point 2.3 of this document, and in the “all data” and “YCEO” pages

3.2 All data

Clicking on the “All Data” tab on the header (or clicking on the magnifying glass of the search bar without entering any searching string) displays all the available datasets on the platform.

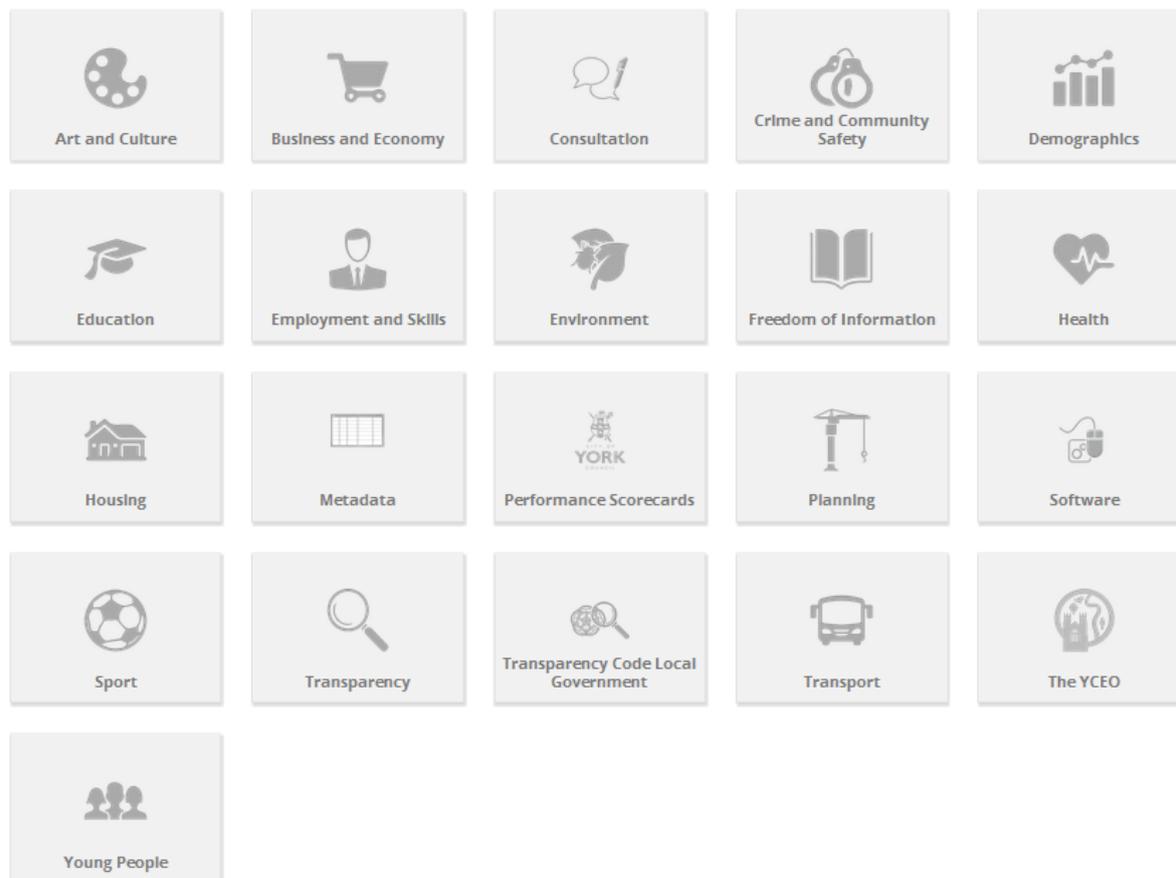


By default last updated datasets appear on top, but this order can be changed using the “order by” drop down.

3.3 Topics

York Open Data uses topics to help organising the published data, and to make the search and navigation on the page easier. To view all datasets related to a specific topic just click on one of them on the home page. A dataset can be attached to more than one topic.

DATA TOPICS



3.4 Datasets list

To get a spreadsheet with a list of all datasets published on York Open Data, type “Datasets’ List” in a search bar and choose the dataset called “Datasets’ List” from the search result. The spreadsheet contains a link to each dataset listed and is updated on monthly basis.

3.5 Filtering results

Filters can be very helpful if there are a large number of search results. They can be combined, selectively adding or removing them, and modifying and repeating the search with existing filters still in place.

Filters are located on the left side of the page (1) and the ones applied are displayed on top of search results (2)

The screenshot shows the City of York Council's Open Data portal. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, ALL DATA, TOPICS, YCEO, INFO & EVENTS, and FAQ. The City of York Council logo is on the left, and 'York Open Data BETA TEST' is on the right. Below the navigation bar, a breadcrumb trail shows 'HOME > DATASETS'. On the left side, a sidebar menu is highlighted with a red box and a circled '1'. The sidebar includes sections for 'Organisations' (City of York Council (13)), 'Groups' (Health (13), Demographics (13), Business and Economy (13), Employment and Skills (12), Education (12), Crime and Community... (12), SHOW MORE), 'Tags' (There are no Tags that match this search), 'Formats' (PDF (13)), and 'Licenses'. The main content area shows a search bar with 'wards' entered. Below the search bar, it says '13 datasets found for "wards"'. To the right of this text is an 'Order by:' dropdown menu set to 'Relevance'. Below the search results, there are filter buttons: 'Groups: Business and Economy' and 'Formats: PDF', both highlighted with a red box and a circled '2'. The search results list three datasets: 'Private Housing Stock Ward Factsheets', 'York Ward Profiles 2011-12 for Pre May 2015 Election Boundaries', and 'York Ward Profiles 2014-15 for Pre May 2015 Election Boundaries'. Each result includes a brief description and a 'PDF' button.

4 Exploring a dataset

Once you have clicked on a dataset from the search results, the dataset page will be displayed listing the available resources (2), a description for the dataset (1) and each resource and some metadata (3,4,5).

The screenshot shows the City of York Open Data website interface. At the top is the City of York Council logo and navigation links: HOME, ALL DATA, TOPICS, YCEO, INFO & EVENTS, FAQ, and a BETA TEST badge. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: HOME > DATA > FOOTFALL.

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Organisation:** City of York Council.
- Topics (4):** A list of topics with icons: Business and Economy (shopping cart icon) and Employment and Skills (person icon).
- Social:** Links to Facebook, Twitter, and Google+.
- Licence (5):** Open Government Licence 2.0 (United Kingdom) with an OPEN DATA badge.
- Dataset Filter:** A bar with 'Dataset' and 'Topics' tabs.
- Footfall:** The main title of the dataset.
- Description (1):** 'Footfall in the centre of York'.
- Resources (2):** A grid of resource cards, each with a file icon, title, description, and an EXPLORE button:
 - PDF: British Retail Consortium Calendar 2015 (British Retail Consortium Calendar)
 - PDF: British Retail Consortium Calendar 2016 (British Retail Consortium Calendar)
 - PDF: Read me (How to extract footfall data from York Open Data)
 - CSV: Footfall Hourly (Hourly data for footfall in the centre of York. This data is updated every...)
 - CSV: Footfall Daily (Daily data for footfall in the centre of York. This data is updated every...)
 - CSV: Footfall Weekly (Weekly data for footfall in the centre of York. This data is updated every...)
- Additional Info (3):** A table showing metadata for the dataset.

Field	Value
Author	City of York Council - Business Intelligence Hub
Maintainer	City of York Council - Business Intelligence Hub
Schema1	FootfallHourly

4.1 Resources

A dataset can contain one or more resources. Different resources might contain the same data in different formats or they might contain data for different years.

Those resources can be in almost any format, from jpg or a csv to a zip folder. Depending on such format, the platform will be capable of previewing it by clicking on “more” or to only offer to download it by clicking on “go to resource”.

The screenshot shows the City of York Open Data portal. The top navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'ALL DATA', 'TOPICS', 'YCEO', 'INFO & EVENTS', 'FAQ', and 'York Open Data' (with a 'BETA TEST' badge). The breadcrumb trail is 'HOME > DATA > FOOTFALL'. The left sidebar contains sections for 'Organisation' (City of York Council), 'Topics' (Business and Economy, Employment and Skills), 'Social' (Facebook, Twitter, Google+), and 'Licence' (Open Government Licence 2.0). The main content area is titled 'Footfall' and includes a 'Description' section. The 'Resources' section lists several items: 'British Retail Consortium Calendar 2015' (PDF), 'British Retail Consortium Calendar 2016' (PDF), 'Read me' (PDF), 'Footfall Hourly' (CSV), 'Footfall Daily' (CSV), and 'Footfall Weekly' (CSV). Each resource has an 'EXPLORE' button. A red box highlights the 'EXPLORE' button for the 2015 calendar, which has a dropdown menu containing 'MORE' and 'GO TO' options.

If the resource is in a csv or excel format, the preview functionality will also allow you to filter the data and to create graphs.

4.2 Filtering the data

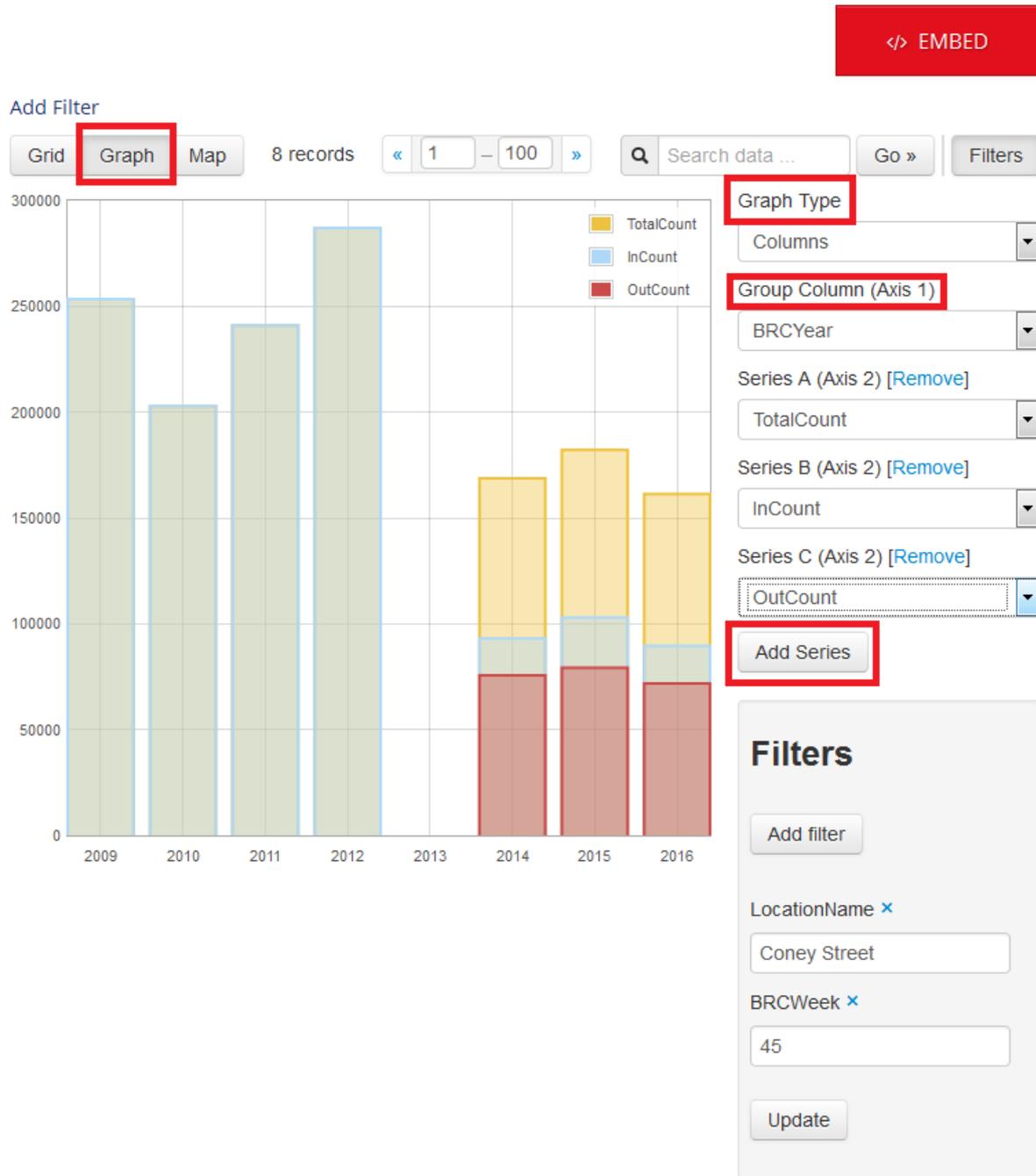
To add filters to the preview, click on filters --> add filter and choose from the available ones and click on “Add”. Then fill in the value for the field and click on “Update”.

The screenshot shows the York Open Data website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the City of York Council logo and links for HOME, ALL DATA, TOPICS, YCEO, INFO & EVENTS, and FAQ. A 'BETA TEST' badge is visible next to the 'York Open Data' logo. Below the navigation bar, a breadcrumb trail reads 'HOME > DATA > FOOTFALL > FOOTFALL WEEKLY'. On the left side, there are sections for 'Resources' (listing 'British Retail ...', 'Read me', 'Footfall Hourly', 'Footfall Daily', 'Footfall Weekly') and 'Social' (with icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Google+). The main content area features a 'Footfall Weekly' title and a 'Data Explorer' tab. A URL bar shows the data resource link. Below the URL, a description states: 'Weekly data for footfall in the centre of York. This data is updated every Tuesday.' A red 'EMBED' button is located in the top right of the data area. The 'Add Filter' panel is open, displaying a table with 8 records. The table has columns: _id, SiteName..., Locatio..., Locatio..., BRCYear, BRCQua..., BRCMo..., BRCWe..., and It. The data rows show footfall counts for various locations (Coney Street) from 2009 to 2016. The 'Filters' panel on the right has an 'Add filter' button, a search field for 'LocationName' with 'Coney Street' entered, a search field for 'BRCWeek' with '45' entered, and an 'Update' button. Red boxes highlight the 'Filters' button in the top right, the 'Add filter' button, and the 'Update' button.

_id	SiteName...	Locatio...	Locatio...	BRCYear	BRCQua...	BRCMo...	BRCWe...	It
65	York	Coney St...		2009		November	45	
169	York	Coney St...		2010		November	45	
271	York	Coney St...		2011		November	45	
375	York	Coney St...		2012		November	45	
481	York	Coney St...		2013		November	45	
683	York	Coney St...		2014		November	45	
948	York	Coney St...		2015		November	45	
1208	York	Coney St...		2016		November	45	

4.3 Data graphs

To create a graph, click on “Graph”, choose a graph type and the values to display on both axis. Multiple series can be represented at the same time in axis 2.



4.4 GIS data

York Open Data hosts a number of geospatial datasets. Resources for these datasets are usually uploaded in a KML and a GeoJSON format, though there are some shapefiles and other formats too. Both KMLs and GeoJSONs can be previewed on a map using YOD's capabilities. Clicking on "more" on a geospatial resource will open the map view by default.

The screenshot displays the York Open Data website interface for the 'Listed Buildings' dataset. At the top, the City of York Council logo is on the left, and navigation links (HOME, ALL DATA, TOPICS, YCEO, INFO & EVENTS, FAQ) and the 'York Open Data' logo with a 'BETA TEST' badge are on the right. A breadcrumb trail reads 'HOME > DATA > LISTED BUILDINGS > LISTED BUILDINGS'. On the left sidebar, there are sections for 'Resources' (with three links to 'Listed Buildings') and 'Social' (with links for Facebook, Twitter, and Google+). The main content area features a red 'GO TO RESOURCE' button, the title 'Listed Buildings', a URL field containing 'http://data.cyc.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/fd6a709a29bf46ca085adb956ce127c_15.geojson', and a 'GeoJSON' label. A disclaimer states: '*Please note the content of this resource is too big to be previewed efficiently. The download functionality is fully available for this resource.' Below this is a location pin icon and the text 'GeoJSON'. A red 'EMBED' button is positioned above a map view. The map shows a dense cluster of blue location pins in the city of York, with labels for 'Haxby', 'Airedale', 'Wharfedale', and 'Easingwold'. Map controls (zoom in/out) are visible in the top-left corner of the map area.

If the resource is a GeoJSON, clicking on a point will display the information for that point.

Please be aware this geospatial data is very demanding and the content may take a while to load when previewing it. This is due to slow server response and you may need to refresh the page in order to correctly preview the content.

4.5 API

An API makes it easier to develop a program by providing some of the building blocks needed. A programmer then puts the blocks together.

Data on York Open Data can be accessed and queried using the platform's API. For more information on how to use such API, please read the official documentation:

<http://docs.ckan.org/en/latest/api/>.

5 The YCEO

The York City Environment Observatory (YCEO) is a project jointly led by the University of York's Environment department and City of York Council. The purpose is to design and lay groundwork for establishing a unique city observatory for determining links between environmental quality issues in York.

The project is split in 2 phases, the pilot phase which will be developed between June 2016 and December 2017 and the implementation phase, subject to further funding availability.

The pilot phase of the YCEO aims to integrate, combine and analyse data related to York in a way that has never been done before. Data discovered along the project will help the city to better understand how environmental issues affect health, wellbeing and the economy of the city. All these data will be hosted in the YCEO section of York Open Data.

5.1 YCEO data

Data and results will be of significant benefit to citizens, the research community, city decision makers, national government departments, large and small businesses and future generations of different sectors:

- Citizens and community groups will actively participate in the YCEO via citizen science activities, and will be able to access different datasets such as air quality where they live and work.
- Researchers working in the environment, health, social science and humanities sectors can access models and data to fully understand the links between the quality of the environment, health, well-being and the economy.
- City of York Council and other decision makers, such as the Environment Agency and NHS Trusts, will be able to find holistic intelligence to make evidence-based decisions on the design and operation of the city to benefit citizens. Data will mean they are better placed to demonstrate the impacts of different interventions, such as the designation of the city as an ultra-low emission zone, changes in transport policy and flood planning.
- Businesses and cultural and heritage organisations will benefit from YCEO knowledge to make long-term improvements to York in terms of safety, attractive environments and healthier and happier workers.
- Knowledge and understanding gathered will be transferrable to other cities in the UK and around the world.

5.2 The YCEO page

The YCEO page is a section of YOD which means it works the same way the rest of York Open Data does and that all data (both York Open Data's and YCEO's) can be accessed in a centralised place.

However, to help organising data topics found on the YCEO page are different from the ones displayed on YOD's homepage.

NAVIGATION

- [Home](#)
- [All Data](#)
- [Topics](#)
- [Info & Events](#)
- [FAQ](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)

CONTACT US

- West Offices
- Station Rise
- York
- YO1 6GA
- [Email Us](#)
- [City of York Council](#)

ABOUT YORK OPEN DATA

York Open Data is the place to find open data and information about things that matter to the City of York.

[Data](#) [Beta](#)

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6 Good to know

This section contains some useful tips when using York Open Data.

You don't need to register or log in to search, view or download data, these functionalities are freely available to all users. You don't need to use any key either to query the data through the API.

When searching for datasets you can add as many filters as you want. If you want to remove an applied filter you don't need to start a new search, you can click on the "X" next to the filter name to remove it. Read more about filters in section 3.5 of this document.

You can easily get to the YCEO page by typing www.yceo.org.uk in your internet browser.

On a dataset page, leave the cursor on top of the "explore" button of a resource for a few seconds: it opens and allows you to choose between two options:

1. More – if you click on this, it will take you to the resource.
2. Go to Resource – download the chosen resource, or open it on your computer

Please see section 4.1 of this document.

When looking for datasets you might notice few of them are under more than one topic. This makes the searching more effective.

When using the data filtering option you might want to switch between views (grid, graph). The system remembers any applied filter and/or series so you can keep adding more of them. There is no required order to add filters and series; you can do it in any order and you can modify them anytime – as long as you don't reload the page!

Once you are in a view of a resource, you can easily navigate to other resources of the same dataset by clicking on the list of resources – on the left side of the page if using a PC.

York Open Data uses breadcrumbs, so you can easily jump from one section to another.

Once you are in one dataset's page, you can view all the datasets attached to the same topic as the current one by clicking on one of the topics displayed. Please see section 4 of this document.