

**Monitoring the quality of experience in forests
Dalby, North Yorkshire**

Final report

February 2005



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Forestry Commission
February, 2005

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A. Background and introduction

Background

This report contains the results of a survey undertaken by TNS Tourism & Leisure at Dalby Forest Park in North Yorkshire.

The survey approach was developed for use by the Forestry Commission and was piloted during February and March 2003 at sites in the New Forest and South Wales. Surveys using the same methods and questionnaires have since been undertaken at Grizedale Forest Park in Cumbria, Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire and Whiston Woods in Merseyside between August and October 2003 and, between July and October 2004, surveying took place at both Thetford Forest Park, Suffolk and Dalby Forest Park in North Yorkshire.

Method

A total of 290 visitors were interviewed at Dalby Forest Park between 19th July and 29th October during 22 days of interviewing.

Visitors who used the site at least once a month were interviewed and asked to rate both the levels of importance of different aspects of woodland and forest visits and their satisfaction with the same aspects at Dalby. Visitors who came less often were interviewed for a shorter period before being given a questionnaire regarding their levels of satisfaction. This was completed and returned, using a reply-paid envelope. Copies of the questionnaires used are appended. Interviewing was undertaken at and around the main visitor centre and car park.

Report

This report provides the results of the survey undertaken at Dalby Forest Park. As mentioned previously, similar surveys have also been undertaken in six other Forestry Commission sites to date, providing a total 'database' of some 1,644 interviews with forest users. The results of the surveys undertaken at other sites have been used within this report to help draw comparisons and to highlight the key variations at Dalby.

A total of 290 visitors were interviewed and 95 self completion questionnaires were returned (46% of the 209 distributed). The following section provides the survey results across the total survey sample and, where appropriate, compares the responses provided by visitors in different demographic groups and those taking part in different activities. In the sections discussing importance and satisfaction results have been tested using ANOVA (analysis of variance) techniques and only statistically significant findings are discussed in the commentary.

Answers to open ended questions have been appended.

B. Main results

Visitor profile

To determine the types of people using the forest park, visitors were asked to provide some information about their age, family situation and place of residence.

Demographics

Two out of five visitors to Dalby were male (60%). This majority was most notable amongst people visiting Dalby often (78%), cyclists (76%) and those on a short day trip to the forest (72%).

Two-fifths of visitors to Dalby Forest Park were in the Family lifecycle group (children under 16 living in the household) and a similar proportion were Empty Nesters (over 45 years, no children in the household) (40% both). A much smaller proportion (9%) were Young Independents (under 35 years, no children in household).

Table B-1 – Age and lifecycle (%)

Base: All respondents (290)

	%
Age	
16 – 24	6
25 – 34	13
35 – 44	32
45 – 54	18
55 – 64	14
65+	16
Lifecycle	
Young Independents	9
Families	40
Empty Nesters	40
Other	11

Some 19% of all visitors were aged between 16 and 34, 50% were aged between 35 and 54 and the remaining three out of ten were aged 55 or over (30%).

It is useful to compare these results with the averages obtained across all of the forests included in this programme of research. Dalby is generally slightly more likely to attract Family and Empty Nester visitors (40% each v averages of 37% and 38%) but is visited by a lower proportion of Young Independents (9% v 19% on average).

It is useful to compare the age and lifecycle profiles of different types of visitors. Compared to the overall profile, a larger proportion of cyclists were in the Families group (45%) while visitors who were on holiday or walking (apart from dog walking) were more likely to be Empty Nesters (48% and 46% respectively).

In terms of social class, as the table below illustrates, around a third of visitors (32%) were in the AB social classes (higher and intermediate managerial, administrative or professional) while a further 38% were C1s (supervisory or clerical, junior managerial, administrative or professional). The remaining three out of ten visitors (30%) were in the C2 and DE classes.

By comparison, in the UK population as a whole 43% of people are ABs or C1s while larger proportions are C2s or DEs.

Table B-2 – Social class (%)

Base: All responses (290)

	Visitors	UK Population
AB – ‘upper middle class’ – higher/ intermediate managerial, administrative or professional	32	17
C1 – ‘lower middle class’ – supervisory or clerical, junior managerial, administrative or professional	38	26
C2 – ‘skilled working class’ – skilled manual workers	21	25
DE – ‘working class’ and unemployed – semi and unskilled manual workers, state pensioners, unemployed	9	32

Visitors most likely to be in the AB or C1 social classes included those in the Young Independent lifecycle group (84%). Conversely, a larger proportion of Families and Empty Nesters were C2s or DEs (32% and 30% respectively).

The social class profile of visitors to Dalby was similar to the overall average recorded across the other sites included within this programme of research, with a somewhat lower proportion of DEs (9% v 16%).

Origin

All visitors were asked to provide the postcode of their place of residence. Nearly all of the visitors to Dalby Forest Park were living in the UK with less than 1% staying elsewhere. The table below show the areas of residence mentioned by 2% or more of the visitors.

Table B-3 – Area of residence (%)

Base: All respondents (290)

	%
York	39
Hull	10
Doncaster	4
Sheffield	4
Leeds	4
Nottingham	2
Boston	2
Middlesbrough	2
Norwich	2

Two-fifths of the visitors to Dalby Forest Park lived in Yorkshire and the surrounding area (39%). The most common area of residence around York was North Yorkshire, including Scarborough, Malton, Whitby and Kirkbymoorside (19%). Indeed, 8% of the visitors were living within the North York Moors National Park. A tenth were residents in the Hull area (10%), and the most common place of residence was the north side of Hull (2%). Some 4% were living in the areas around Doncaster, Sheffield and Leeds, whilst 2% were residents in each of the areas around Nottingham, Boston, Middlesbrough and Norwich.

Visitors from North Yorkshire were also the most frequent visitors with for example visitors in the Scarborough area (postcode YO12), being most likely to visit Dalby Forest Park at least once a month or more often (12%). The visitors living within the North York Moors National Park and visiting Dalby were most likely to be either Young Independents or Empty Nesters (12% and 11% respectively). The most common activity amongst the visitors living in this area was dog walking and nature study (12% each).

Season ticket ownership

A fifth of the visitors indicated that they owned a season ticket (20%). As might be expected, visitors who came to the site at least once a month were the most likely to own a

season ticket (60%) while only 3% of the holidaymakers interviewed had one. In terms of lifecycle group, Empty Nesters were the least likely to have a season ticket (17%) while the activity group most likely to hold one were those undertaking nature study and cyclist (30% and 28%).

The visitors who stated that they had a season ticket for Dalby were also asked how they rated the value for money they obtained from the ticket. Some 79% said that the value for money was 'very good', 19% thought the value for money was 'quite good' and only 2% were neutral.

Trip profile

Visitors were also asked a number of questions about their current visit to Dalby Forest Park in terms of the length of time spent away from home, time spent in the wood and activities undertaken.

Type of visit

Three out of ten visitors were on a short trip from home of less than 3 hours duration (30%), a similar proportion were on a longer day trip (30%) and 40% were on holiday.

By comparison, across all of the sites included in this programme of research a larger proportion of visitors were on short day trips (64%) while fewer were on a longer day trip (17%) or on holiday (19%).

Table B-4 – Type of visit (%)

Base: All respondents (290)

	%
On a short trip of less than 3 hours from home	30
On a day out for more than 3 hours from home	30
On holiday away from home	40

Visitors most likely to be on a short trip of less than 3 hours duration included those who came to the site at least once a month (56% on a short trip), nature study (43%), cycling (42%), Families (38%) and Young Independents (36%). On the other hand, Empty Nesters and visitors who took part in walking were more likely than other visitors to be on holiday away from home (47% and 45% respectively).

Frequency of visits

Some 70% of all visitors had been to Dalby Forest Park before. Visitors on short trips from home, day trips, Young Independents, dog walkers and cyclists were the most likely to be on repeat visits (86%, 85%, 80%, 79% and 78% respectively). Visitors who were on holiday and those aged between 16 and 24 were more likely than others to be on their first visit (76% and 37%).

In terms of frequency of visits, most users visited the site fairly infrequently with nearly three out of five visitors visiting less than once a month (58%) while only 7% visited once a week or more.

Table B-5 – Frequency of visits to forest (%)

Base: Respondents who have been to Dalby before (204)

	%
Every day	*
4 to 6 times per week	1
1 to 3 times a week	6
1 to 3 times a month	32
4 to 6 times a year	17
1 to 3 times a year	22
Less often	19

* Less than 0.5%

Cyclists were most likely to be visiting Dalby frequently, with 63% visiting the forest at least once a month or more. In terms of lifecycle, Young Independents and Families tended to visit Dalby most frequent, i.e. once a month or more often (55% and 49% respectively).

By comparison, across all of the sites included in this programme of research, larger proportions of visitors visited forests at least once a week (23%) and fewer were on their first ever visit (20%).

Length of visits

Visitors spent an average of just over 3 hours (3 hours 7 minutes) in Dalby Forest Park. The largest proportions of visitors stayed on the site for between 2 and 3 hours (30%) or 3 and 5 hours (32%). Only 6% stayed for less than 1 hour.

The average length of time spent varied between some of the different user groups with dog walkers typically spending 3 hours and 19 min in the forest, a similar length of time as Families (average of 3 hours and 14 minutes), slightly longer than the other lifecycle groups.

Table B-6 – Length of visit (%)

Base: All respondents (290); All who walked (199); All who cycled (86)

	Total time on site %	Time spent on any walking %	Time spent cycling %
Up to 15 minutes	*	2	-
15 – 30 minutes	2	15	1
30 minutes – 1 hour	4	21	6
1 hour – 2 hours	18	23	22
2 hours – 3 hours	30	17	24
3 hours – 5 hours	32	11	31
More than 5 hours	13	2	7
<i>Average</i>	<i>3 hrs 7 mins</i>	<i>1hr 41 mins</i>	<i>2 hrs 54 mins</i>
<i>Proportion of time on site</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>83%</i>

* Less than 0.5%

- No responses

Table B-6 also illustrates the amount of time spent walking or cycling by those visitors who took part in each activity. Overall, visitors who took part in walking spent an average of 1 hour and 41 minutes undertaking this activity, approximately half of their time on site (51%). Visitors who took part in cycling spent an average of 2 hours and 54 minutes undertaking this activity, more than four-fifths of their total time on site (83%).

Overall length of visit at Dalby Forest Park was the second longest of those recorded at the other sites included so far in this programme of research. By comparison the average length of visit across all of the sites was 2 hours and 57 minutes.

Activities undertaken

When asked what they did during their visit, the most frequently mentioned activity was walking, without a dog (55%). A further 46% of visitors were driving on a forest drive and a similar proportion had a picnic or barbecue (43%). Three out of ten were cycling (30%), whilst a fifth took part in dog walking or visited the adventure play ground (20% each). Some 13% took photographs whilst on a visit and a smaller proportion were birdwatching or watching something else of interest in the forest (9% and 8% respectively).

Table B-7 – Activities undertaken during visit to forest (%)

Base: All respondents (290)

	%
Walking without a dog	55
Driving on forest drive	46
Picnic or barbecue	43
Cycling	30
Dog walking	20
Adventure play ground	20
Photography	13
Birdwatching	9
Seeing something in the forest e.g. sculpture or ancient tree	8
Nature/natural history visit	6
Hill walking/ rambling	4
Visiting the shop	4
Children's play area	2
Climbing	1
Running	1
Orienteering	1
Motorsports	1

As the table above illustrates, nearly four out of five of visitors were undertaking walking in some form (79%), whilst 36% were engaging in some form of nature study including photography.

When asked, two-thirds of the visitors stated that they expected to use any waymarked trails during their visit to Dalby (66%), with particularly high proportions of cyclists doing so (85%).

Compared to the average across all of the sites included in this programme of research, visitors to Dalby Forest Park were less likely to use children's playground (2% v 13%), see sculptures, etc. in the forest (0% v 8%) and take part in dog walking (20% compared to average of 25%) but more likely to walk without a dog, have a picnic or BBQ, use an adventure playground or drive on a forest drive.

It is useful to compare levels of participation in the main activities amongst different user groups:

- *Walking without a dog (55% overall)* – visitors most likely to undertake this activity included those who also engaged in nature study (73%), those aged 55 or over (66%), people on holiday (63%) and Empty Nesters (62%).
- *Driving on forest drive (46% overall)* – similar profile as those walking, i.e. a larger proportion of people on holiday (65%), those undertaking nature study (60%), aged between 55 and over (57%) and Empty Nesters (56%).
- *Picnic of barbecue (43% overall)* – visitors who were on a longer day trip (55%), those who took part in walks without a dog (53%), those aged 45-54 years (49%), Families and female visitors (47%) were the most likely to have picnic or barbecue during their visit.
- *Cycling (34% overall)* – people most likely to cycle whilst in Dalby Forest Park were those aged 16-24 years (69%), Young Independents (68%), frequent visitors (53%) and visitors on day trips of less than 3 hours duration (41%).
- *Dog walking (20% overall)* – most notably, female visitors were more likely than males to take part in dog walking (26% v 16% respectively). In terms of lifecycle group, Young Independents were the most likely to walk a dog (24%).
- *Adventure playground (20% overall)* – as might be expected Families were most likely to use these facilities (38%). Female visitors and those out on a day trip for more than 3 hours were most likely to do so too (27% and 31% respectively).

Importance of different aspects of visit

To identify the drivers of quality, it was useful to ask visitors to rate how important different aspects were in their decision to visit the site. Visitors could rate each of a list of aspects as 'extremely important' (5), 'very important' (4), 'fairly important' (3), 'fairly unimportant' (2) or 'not at all important' (1). Scores were then applied to responses, allowing averages to be obtained across the whole sample - the higher the average score, the more important the aspect is across the sample as a whole.

In the table below an overall 'average' of all of the mean scores has been included in the ranking. Any aspect above this level can be considered as being most important to the site across all visitors while the other aspects may be of less importance overall or only important to certain groups of visitors.

Table B-8 – Importance of different aspects in decision to visit (mean score)

Base: All respondents (290)

	Importance score
<i>Being able to enjoy scenery and views</i>	4.15
<i>Feeling happy to leave your car in the car park</i>	4.11
<i>Solitude, peace and quiet</i>	4.03
<i>Being able to spend time with family and friends</i>	3.92
<i>Clean toilets</i>	3.85
<i>Enough car parking</i>	3.85
<i>Choice of trails for cycling</i>	3.78
<i>Feeling safe in the forest</i>	3.78
<i>Value for money of your whole trip or day out</i>	3.75
<i>Being able to enjoy the wildlife</i>	3.74
<i>Clear signposting on footpaths</i>	3.73
<i>Children's play equipment</i>	3.65
<i>Choice of paths for walking</i>	3.61
OVERALL AVERAGE	3.57
<i>Being able to get fit and healthy</i>	3.52
<i>Leaflets and maps to help you find your way around</i>	3.48
<i>A shop</i>	3.39
<i>A forest drive</i>	3.32
<i>Information about the site's history and conservation</i>	3.28
<i>Availability of staff at the site</i>	2.94
<i>Baby changing</i>	2.93
<i>Availability of cycle hire on site</i>	2.86
<i>Choice of trails for other activities</i>	2.82

This analysis suggests that the overall priorities amongst the majority of visitors to Dalby Forest Park included 'Being able to enjoy scenery and views', 'Feeling happy to leave you car in the car park', 'Solitude, peace and quiet' and 'Being able to spend time with family and friends'.

On the other hand, facilities of less importance overall or only of importance to specific groups of visitors included the choice of trails for other activities than walking and cycling, cycle hire, baby changing facilities and the availability of staff on site.

It is useful to compare the importance of the different facilities and elements of the site amongst different user groups. The following bullets highlight the groups *most* likely to indicate that specific aspects were of importance to them:

- *Being able to enjoy scenery and views (4.15 overall)* – most important to people on a short day trip (4.32), those aged 45-54 years (4.25) and visitors engaged in a nature study (4.25) and dog walking (4.24).
- *Feeling happy to leave your car in the car park (4.11 overall)* – most important to people on short day trips (4.36) and C2DEs (4.29).
- *Solitude, peace and quiet (4.03 overall)* – this aspect was of most importance to those undertaking a nature study (4.15), those aged 55 or over (4.14) and Empty Nesters (4.12).
- *Being able to spend time with family or friends (3.92 overall)* – particularly important to those on a short trip (4.14), Families (4.10), those aged 25-44 years (4.06) and C2DEs (4.01).
- *Clean toilets (3.85 overall)* – most important to those engaged in a nature study (4.15), those on a short day trip (4.00) and Families (3.97).
- *Enough car parking (3.85 overall)* – this aspect was of most importance to those over 55 years (4.06), Empty Nesters (4.00) and those going for other walks than dog walking (3.92).
- *Choice of trails for cycling (3.78 overall)* – this aspect was most important to Young Independents (4.65), those aged 16-24 years (4.55) those out on a longer day trip (4.16) and, as would be expected, this element was particularly important to cyclists (4.44).
- *Feeling safe in the forest (3.78 overall)* – of most importance to those on a short day trip (4.12), those involved in a nature study (4.00), dog walkers (3.91), those over 55 years and C2DEs (3.86 each).

- *Value for money of your whole trip or day out (3.75 overall)* – more important to Families (3.94), those on day trips (3.91), those aged 25-44 years (3.86) and frequent visitors (3.84).
- *Being able to enjoy the wildlife (3.74 overall)* – of most importance to those on short day trips (4.11), those involved in a nature study (4.00), people dog walking (3.93) and visitors aged 45-54 years (3.86).
- *Clear signposting on footpaths (3.73 overall)* – signposting on paths was of most importance to cyclists (3.89) and those aged 45-54 years (3.92).
- *Children’s play equipment (3.65 overall)* – these facilities were especially important to those out on a longer day trip (4.07), female visitors (4.01) and Families (3.97).
- *Choice of paths for walking (3.61 overall)* – dog walkers (3.84), other walkers (3.76), those on short day trips (3.73) and those aged 45-54 years (3.72) were most likely to rate this aspect as important in their decision to visit.
- *Being able to get fit and healthy (3.52 overall)* – most important amongst cyclist (4.06), and visitors aged 16-24 years (4.06).
- *Shop (3.39 overall)* – the shop was of most importance in the decision to visit for those aged 16 to 24 (3.60) years and visitors on longer day trips (3.57).
- *Leaflets and maps to help you find your way around (3.39 overall)* – most important to those aged 16-24 years (3.69), Young Independents (3.63), those aged 45-54 years (3.60) and those on longer day trips (3.57).
- *Forest drive (3.32 overall)* – the provision of a forest drive was of most importance to female visitors (3.62), visitors on holiday (3.54) and dog walkers (3.50).
- *Information about the site’s history and conservation (3.28 overall)* – most important to people engaging in a nature study (3.55), visitors on holiday (3.39) and infrequent visitors (3.39).
- *Availability of staff at the site (2.93 overall)* – the availability of staff such as rangers was of most importance to C2DEs (3.09), those involved in a nature study (3.08), visitors on short day trips (3.05) and those going walking in general (3.02).

- *Baby changing (2.93 overall)* – this facility was most important to C2DEs (3.26), female visitors (3.22), those on longer day trips (3.21) and Families (3.12).
- *Availability of cycle hire on site (2.86 overall)* – visitors on longer day trips and holiday (3.23 and 3.21), those who took part in cycling (3.20) and those aged 25-44 years (3.13) were the most likely to rate this element as important in their decision to visit.
- *Choice of trails for other activities (2.82 overall)* –visitors aged 16-24 years (3.40), Young Independents (3.20) and dog walkers (3.05) were most likely to rate this aspect as important in their decision to visit.

These results demonstrate the varying levels of importance of different elements of the forest to different types of visitors. Overall, visitors in the Empty Nester lifecycle perceive the solitude, peace and quiet and enough car parking as more important whilst Young Independents rated the choice of trails for cycling, leaflets and maps and choice of trails for other activities as more important. Families rated being able to spend time together, clean toilets, value for money, children’s play equipment and baby changing facilities as most important to them.

Respondents were also asked to specify in their own words what else, if anything, had influenced their decision to visit. The most frequently provided responses were: the chance to have a day out and spend time with friends and family (20%), good trails for cycling and walking (10%), just passing on the route to somewhere else and having been before and wanting to return (8% each). The table below shows the influences mentioned by 3% or more.

Table B-9 – Other influences on decision to visit (%)

Base: All respondents (290)

	%
Just for day out/meeting/bringing friends/family	20
Good trails, i.e. cycling/walking	10
Just passing on route elsewhere	8
Been before	8
Recommended by friends/family	7
Quiet/peaceful	6
Exercise/keeping fit/good walks	6
Children's play area	5
Convenience/close to home/ holiday accommodation	5
Like the area	5
Saw advertised, i.e. TV/leaflets/maps	4
The scenery	4
Nice weather	4
Come to walk the dog	4
Never been before	3
A safe area	3

Some of the specific responses provided are listed below. The full verbatim comments provided to all of the open ended questions are appended.

Sundays are our family day and we always go out. Today we chose the forest.

It's a hot day so we thought we'd have a picnic; peace and quiet after a hectic week.

I heard it was a good place for cycling and signposted trails and a friendly place.

To have a safe bike ride for our family.

On route for Whitby. Fancied a picnic.

3 birthdays and 2 wedding anniversaries today, yesterday and tomorrow. There are 8 car loads of us. We always come here.

We came last year and enjoyed it so much and the weather's lovely.

Recommended by host at bed and breakfast.

To bring the children for freedom. They like the adventure playground. Like to come every year. Circular swing caused a bad back graze.

Came to see the place for the first time as I was camping near the gate entrance.

Favourite aspects of forest

When the frequent visitors were asked what they liked most about Dalby Forest Park, the most frequently provided responses related to peace and quiet, tranquillity and scenery (35%), open spaces (10%), the opportunities for walks and the choice of trails (8% each). The table below outlines all the aspects visitors liked the most.

Table B-10 – What like most about site (%)

Base: All frequent visitors (176)

	%
Peace/ tranquillity/ lovely scenery	35
Open spaces	10
Walking/good walks/exercise/fresh air	8
The trails. i.e. forest, cycling	8
Everybody enjoys coming here	7
Wildlife/trees	6
Safe to bring the kids	4
Children's activities	3
Well maintained	1
Close to home	1
Walking area for dogs	1
Picnic area	1
Others	2
Don't know/ not stated	10

Other responses related to the wildlife and safety, especially for children. Overall, a tenth of these visitors could not state what they liked most (10%). Some of the specific answers provided included the following:

The ability to get away from other people and enjoy the tranquillity and nature's own sounds.

Feeling of peace and quiet. Trees are simple national vegetation of power. They are a thing of beauty in life and in their 'death' provide cradle to coffin.

Room for the dog to run without being in danger.

A great fitness centre in its own right.

Close to home and lots of variety in terms of trails. I don't feel threatened here.

The lovely walks and the obviously managed forest.

Caters for everyone – keep fit enthusiasts to car drivers.

Being able to let the children run free and know they were safe.

Mrs Davidson's cream teas and her lovely gardens and good value for money.

Importance of Dalby Forest Park

To help determine the influence of Dalby Forest Park in decisions to visit the local area, all visitors who did not live within the North York Moors National Park were asked to indicate how important the site had been in their decision to come:

Table B-11 – Importance of site and its facilities in decision to visit North York Moors National Park (%)
Base: All respondents living outside North York Moors National Park (164)

	%
The only reason for coming	44
Very important	19
Quite important	12
Neither important nor unimportant	12
Not very important	1
Not at all important	4
Don't know	9

More than half of visitors who lived outside of the National Park indicated that Dalby Forest Park was either 'very important' (19%) or their 'only reason' (44%) for visiting the area. In contrast only 5% stated that the site was 'not very' or 'not at all' important.

The visitors most likely to state that Dalby Forest Park was the only reason for coming to North York Moors National Park were frequent visitors and those on a short day trip (71% each), cyclists (62%), Families (56%), Young Independents (53%) and male visitors (50%).

Satisfaction with different aspects of visit

Visitors were provided with a list of different elements of the site and asked to rate how satisfied they had been with each during their visit. Respondents could rate each of the elements on a five point scale which included 'excellent' (5), 'very good' (4), 'good' (3), 'fair' (2) and 'poor' (1). Also, if visitors had no experience of a specific element they were asked to indicate that they did not know.

Scores were then applied to responses, allowing averages to be obtained across the whole sample - the higher the average score, the more satisfied visitors were with this aspect. This analysis suggests that, overall, visitors were most likely to be satisfied with the availability of car parking space, the scenery and views, their visit as a whole, being able to spend time with family and friends and the solitude, peace and quiet.

Table B-12 – Satisfaction with different aspects at forest (mean score)

Base: All frequent respondents and self completion respondents (176)

	Satisfaction score
<i>Enough car parking</i>	4.35
<i>Being able to enjoy scenery and views</i>	4.31
<i>Your visit as a whole</i>	4.27
<i>Being able to spend time with family and friends</i>	4.26
<i>Solitude, peace and quiet</i>	4.25
<i>Feeling safe in the forest</i>	4.20
<i>Being able to get fit and healthy</i>	4.11
<i>Feeling happy to leave your car in the car park</i>	4.09
<i>Children's play equipment</i>	4.04
<i>Forest Drive</i>	4.03
<i>Value for money of your whole trip or day out</i>	4.02
<i>Choice of trails for cycling</i>	3.93
OVERALL AVERAGE	3.90
Being able to enjoy the wildlife	3.89
Choice of paths for walking	3.89
Clear signposting on footpaths	3.89
Clean toilets	3.82
Shop	3.78
Availability of cycle hire on-site	3.76
Friendliness of staff	3.68
Information provided by staff	3.67
Leaflets and maps to help you find your way around	3.63
Choice of trails for other activities (e.g. horse riding)	3.59
Baby changing facilities	3.50
Information about the site's history and conservation	3.42
Availability of staff at the site (e.g. rangers)	3.05

An overall 'average' of all of the mean scores has been included in the ranking. Elements ranked lowest on average include availability of staff at the site, information about the site's history and conservation, baby changing facilities and choice of trails for other activities.

When comparing these scores it is important to bear in mind that not all variations are statistically significant. This ranking should therefore be treated as providing an indication of what visitors are most and least satisfied with.

Compared to the scores obtained at the other sites included in this programme of research, visitors to Dalby Forest Park were generally more likely to be satisfied with the car parking, children's play equipment and shops.

Visitors who stated that they were dissatisfied with any aspects of the wood (50 visitors in total) were asked to indicate why. Key reasons provided and the numbers of respondents providing each comment were as follows:

- Expensive (i.e. shop/restaurant/car park) (5)
- Not enough staff/no staff (5)
- Toilets need improved (2)
- Not enough signs/no signs (2)
- Choice of paths; not enough car parking; need more development and grading between blue and red trails and too busy (1 each)

Levels of satisfaction with each of the aspects included in table B-12 varied between different groups of visitors. The following bullets summarise the groups that were more likely than average to be satisfied with each of the elements that were rated:

- *Enough car parking (4.35 overall)* – this, most satisfactory aspect overall, was rated most highly by holiday visitors (4.41), Young Independents (4.41), dog walkers (4.40) and infrequent visitors (4.39).
- *Being able to enjoy scenery and views (4.31 overall)* – visitors engaged in nature study (4.44), female visitors (4.43), visitors aged 55 or over (4.42), visitors on holiday (4.42) and C2DEs (4.41).
- *Your visit as a whole (4.27 overall)* – this aspect was rated most highly by visitors involved in nature study (4.48), dog walkers (4.45) and female visitors (4.39).
- *Being able to spend time with family and friends (4.26 overall)* – this aspect was satisfactory to most visitors, especially amongst infrequent visitors (4.45), those on holiday (4.44) and C2DEs (4.41).
- *Solitude, peace and quiet (4.25 overall)* – the highest satisfaction scores for this aspect were provided by those aged 55 and over (4.43), those on longer day trips (4.40) and infrequent visitors (4.38).

- *Feeling safe in the forest (4.20 overall)* – this aspect received high satisfaction scores amongst most groups, particularly those engaged in a nature study (4.36), infrequent visitors (4.27), Families (4.26) and those aged 25-44 years (4.26).
- *Being able to keep fit and healthy (4.11 overall)* – Young Independents (4.41), C2DEs (4.28), cyclists (4.27) and those aged 16-44 years (4.23) were most likely to rate this aspect highly.
- *Feeling happy to leave your car in car park (4.09 overall)* – visitors more likely to be satisfied with this aspect included Families (4.31), those aged 25-44 years (4.28), Young Independents (4.25) and cyclists (4.19).
- *Children’s play equipment (4.04 overall)* – visitors in social group C2DE (4.33) and female visitors (4.29) provided the highest score for this aspect.
- *Forest Drive (4.03 overall)* – visitors on holiday (4.32), infrequent visitors (4.32) and female visitors (4.25) were generally more satisfied with this facility.
- *Value for money of your whole trip or day out (4.02 overall)* – visitors most satisfied with the value for money included those involved in a nature study (4.22), female visitors (4.15), those aged 55+ years and those engaged in other types of walking apart from dogwalking (4.13 each).
- *Choice of trails for cycling (3.93 overall)* – satisfaction with this facility was highest amongst those who were out on a short day trip (4.15), Young Independents (4.14), cyclists (4.06) and those aged 25-44 years (4.00).
- *Being able to enjoy the wildlife (3.89 overall)* – highest satisfaction scores were provided by C2DEs (4.05), those on short day trips (4.03), those aged 25-44 years (4.01) and those engaged in a nature study (4.00).
- *Choice of paths for walking (3.89 overall)* – higher satisfaction scores were provided by those aged 55+ years (4.05), dogwalkers (4.03), cyclists (4.02) and Young Independents and Empty Nesters (4.00 each).
- *Clear signposting on footpaths (3.89 overall)* – cyclists (4.08), those on short day trips (4.07) and those aged 16-24 and 25-44 years (4.00 each) were more likely to be satisfied.

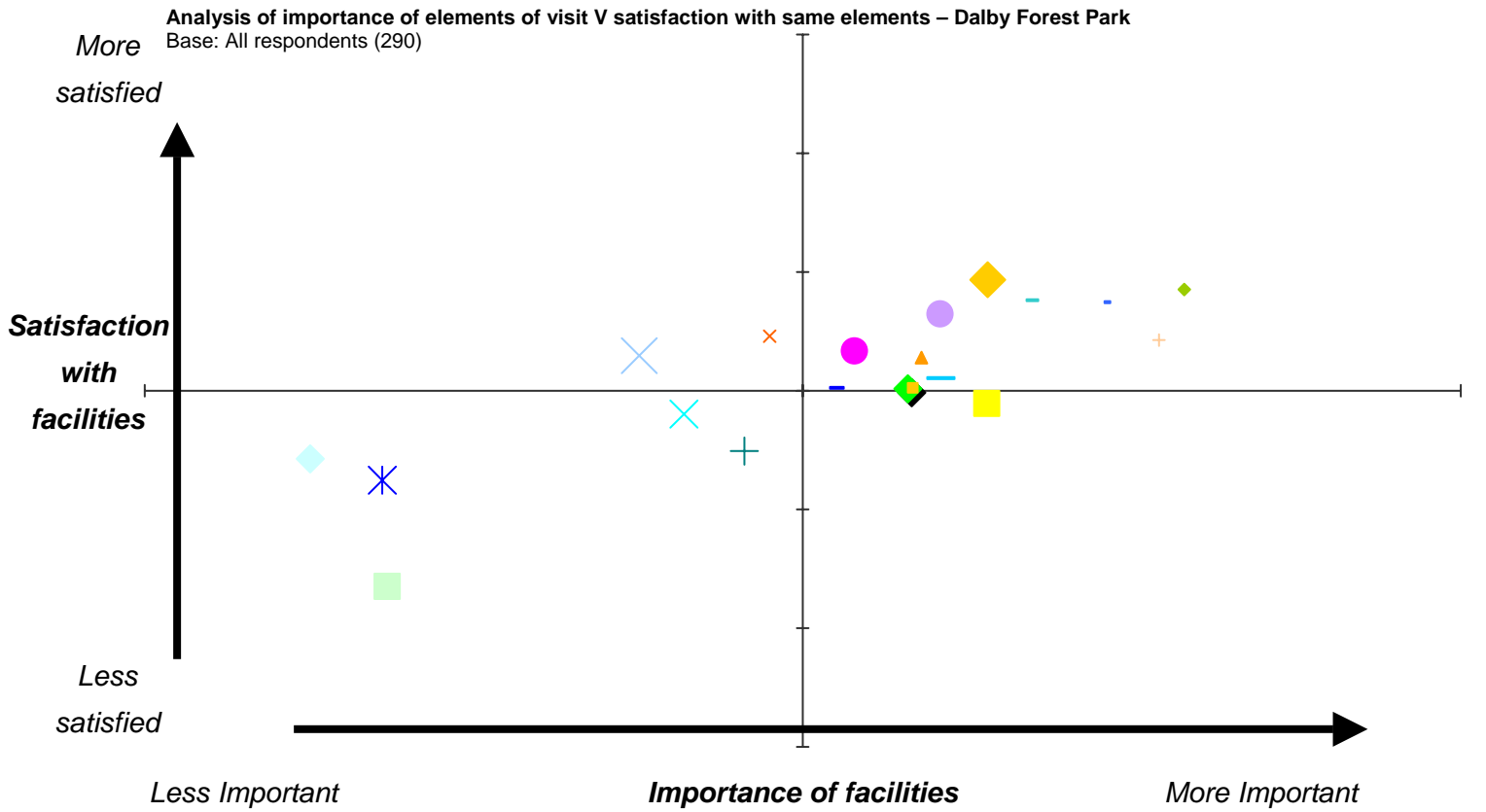
- *Clean toilets (3.82 overall)* – highest satisfaction with toilets was found amongst those out on a short day trip (4.06), dog walkers (4.03), cyclists (3.96), frequent visitors and C2DEs (3.95 each).
- *Shop (3.78 overall)* – highest satisfaction amongst cyclists (3.89), female visitors (3.98), frequent visitors (3.87), those aged 55+ years and visitors involved in a nature study (3.85 each).
- *Availability of cycle hire on-site (3.76 overall)* – satisfaction with this facility was highest amongst female visitors (4.15), C2DEs (4.13), people undertaking other walking apart from dog walking (4.03), those aged 55+ years and people out on a long day trip (4.00 each).
- *Friendliness of staff (3.68 overall)* – satisfaction with this element was highest amongst dog walkers (3.92), visitors on short day trips (3.83), female visitors and those aged 55+ years (3.81 each).
- *Information provided by staff (3.67 overall)* – again, satisfaction with this element was highest amongst dog walkers (3.87), those out on short day trips (3.84) and female visitors (3.82).
- *Leaflets and maps to help you find your way around (3.63 overall)* – visitors more likely to be satisfied with this aspect included Young Independents (3.86), those aged 55+ years (3.84) and cyclists (3.75).
- *Choice of trails for other activities (3.59 overall)* – scores for this element were highest amongst those aged 55+ years (4.20), Empty Nesters (4.14), C2DEs (3.90) and those out on longer day trips (3.88).
- *Baby changing facilities (3.50 overall)* – female visitors (5.00), those out on short day trips (3.88), cyclists (3.78), those aged 45-54 years (3.67), infrequent visitors (3.67) and dog walkers (3.67) were the most satisfied with this aspect.
- *Information about the site's history and conservation (3.42 overall)* – satisfaction with the information about the site was higher amongst those on short day trips (3.59), those aged 55+ years (3.57) and visitors who took part in nature studies (3.54).

- *Availability of staff at the site (3.05 overall)* – satisfaction with this element was highest amongst those on short day trips (3.27), visitors involved in a nature study (3.24), cyclists (3.20) and those aged 55+ years (3.19).

These differences in levels of satisfaction demonstrate how the quality of experience can vary between user groups. Overall, Young Independents were more likely than older respondents to be satisfied with many of the facilities including the opportunities to get fit and healthy, feeling safe to leave the car in the car park and the amount of car parking, choice of trails for cycling, choice of paths for walking and leaflets and maps of the site.

Families were most likely to state that they were satisfied with the feeling of safety in the forest, both personal and for their car but they were least satisfied with the availability of staff at the site, information about the site's history and conservation and the baby changing facilities.

Empty Nesters were most satisfied than the younger life cycle groups with the children's play equipment, choice of trails for other activities, being able to enjoy scenery and views and the solitude, peace and quiet.



- ◆ Enough car parking
- ✕ Shop
- ✕ Baby changing facilities
- + Leaflet and maps to find your way around
- Choice of trails for cycling
- Availability of staff on site
- ✕ The forest drive
- Feeling safe in the forest
- Solitude, peace & quiet
- ◆ Being able to enjoy scenery and views
- ▲ Value for money of your whole trip
- ◆ Clear signposting
- Clean toilets
- Children's play equipment
- Choice of paths for walking
- ◆ Choice of trails for other activities
- ▲ Availability of cycle hire on site
- ✕ Information about the site's history and conservation
- + Feeling happy to leave your car in the car park
- Being able to spend time with family and friends
- Being able to enjoy wildlife
- ✕ Being able to get fit and healthy

Identification of issues

Tables B-8 and B-12 illustrated a ranking of the overall levels of importance and levels of satisfaction visitors have with different aspects of the 'visitor experience' at Dalby Forest Park. It is useful to combine these two measures to identify the elements which are most relevant to improving quality.

The chart opposite presents each of the elements that were rated in terms of both importance and satisfaction. The centre point is where the 'average' importance crosses the 'average' satisfaction score (as in B-8 and B-12). Each of the elements are plotted in the 4 quadrants as follows:

- *Top right – More Satisfied – More Important* – Feeling happy to leave car in car park, solitude, being able to enjoy scenery and views, spending time with friends, enough car parking, feeling safe, value for money, choice of trails for cycling, play equipment, choice of trails for walking and being able to enjoy wildlife. Elements in this quadrant are rated highly in terms of both importance and satisfaction. These are the site's key strengths which should be maintained.
- *Bottom right – Less Satisfied – More Important* – Clean toilets and clear signposting on footpaths. Elements which are in or near this quadrant are rated as more important than 'average' but have received lower satisfaction scores. These are elements which possibly require further attention.
- *Top left – More Satisfied - Less Important* – Being able to get fit and healthy and Forest Drive. Visitors are generally very satisfied with these elements although they are rated as less important on average.
- *Bottom left – Less Satisfied – Less Important* – Shop, leaflets and maps, choice of trails for other activities, baby changing facilities and availability of staff at site. Overall, visitors were less satisfied than average with these aspects but they are also seen as less important by most visitors. These elements might therefore be considered as lower priorities for investment.

It is important to note that the scores presented in this chart are averages across *all visitors* during the period in which the survey took place. It should be remembered that the scores

for satisfaction and importance varied between different types of visitors so their priorities will also differ.

Other visitors

When asked which of a list of other users had been encountered during their visit, around nine out of ten visitors stated that they had seen other walkers (90%), cyclists (85%) or children (84%). Smaller proportions had seen vehicles driving in the forest (64%), horse riders (32%) or motorbikers (20%). None of those interviewed had actually taken part in horseriding and only 1% had been undertaking any motorsports at Dalby.

Respondents who had encountered each of the different user groups were asked to indicate whether or not this had increased or decreased their overall enjoyment. Mean scores were applied to results from +2 if a user group ‘increased enjoyment a lot’ to -2 if they ‘decreased enjoyment a lot’.

Table B-13 – Other visitors encountered (%) and impact on enjoyment (row %)

Base: All frequent visitors and self completion respondents (176)

	%	Increased enjoyment a lot +2	Increased enjoyment a little +1	Made no difference 0	Decreased a little -1	Decreased a lot -2	Score
Walkers	90	8	16	74	1	-	0.31
Cyclists	85	5	16	77	1	-	0.26
Children	84	8	11	79	1	1	0.24
Vehicles driving in the forest	64	-	1	85	12	2	-0.15
Horse riders	32	2	5	88	5	-	0.04
Motorbikers/ moto cross	20	-	-	60	26	14	-0.54
None of these visitors	1						

As the table illustrates, while encounters with other walkers, children, cyclists or horse riders usually had no impact or were predominantly positive, encounters with motorbikers or other vehicles were more likely to be negative (40% and 14%).

Motorbikes or motocross disrupted the enjoyment of 14 respondents (8% of total). Their impact was mentioned by visitors in a variety of user groups with reasons for dissatisfaction given as for example the noise created (5), ruined paths and driving too fast (2).

Some 16 respondents (9% of total) stated that vehicles in the forest disturbed their enjoyment. These respondents stated that vehicles in the forest had ruined paths (2), drivers had a lack of consideration for walkers (3), vehicles were driving too fast (2) and that the vehicles created noise pollution (1).

The results obtained at Dalby were broadly similar to those across the 7 sites included in this programme of research.

Disturbances to visit

Respondents were also presented with a list of potential negative disruptions and asked what impact, if any, each had on their visit. As the table below illustrates, the majority of respondents indicated that each of the potential impacts either 'didn't reduce their enjoyment' or that they did not know (suggesting the impact had not been encountered).

However, the disruptions most likely to have a more negative effect were dogs and dog dirt (decreased the enjoyment a lot amongst 6% of visitors), noise from other users (3%), litter or fly tipping (2%) and vandalised, missing or damaged signposts (2%).

Table B-14 –Impact of potential issues on enjoyment (row %)

Base: All frequent visitors and self completion respondents (176)

	Didn't reduce enjoyment 0	Decreased a little 1	Decreased a lot 2	Don't know	Score
Dogs and dog dirt	65	10	6	19	0.27
Noise from other users or motorised sports	71	8	3	18	0.17
Litter or fly tipping	65	9	2	24	0.17
Muddy tracks	69	12	1	18	0.16
Vandalised, missing or damaged signposts	67	5	2	27	0.11
Forest operations such as felling	64	3	1	32	0.07

There were some variations in the levels of intrusion of each of the possible impacts, as follows:

- *Dogs and dog dirt* – those aged 45-54 years (0.50), visitors engaged in nature study (0.47), those on short day trips (0.38) and male visitors (0.34) were more likely to mention that this was an issue.

- *Noise from other users or motorised sports* – respondents more likely to have stated that this impact negatively impacted on their enjoyment included those on short day trips (0.33), cyclists (0.23) and Empty Nesters (0.22).
- *Litter or fly tipping* – visitors on short day trips (0.33), those engaged in nature study (0.29), those aged 25-44 years (0.28) and frequent visitors to the site (0.26) were more likely to state that this problem impacted upon their enjoyment.
- *Vandalised, missing or damaged signposts* – again, visitors out on a short day trip (0.25) were more likely to be unhappy with this aspect, along with visitors engaged in nature study (0.21), frequent visitors (0.19) and visitors who were cycling (0.18).
- *Forest operations such as felling* – cyclists (0.17), frequent visitors and those out on a short day trip (0.14 each) were more likely than other visitors to mention this issue.
- *Muddy tracks* – visitors on short day trips (0.27), those aged 25-44 years (0.22) and C2DEs (0.21) were more likely to be unhappy with this aspect.

Respondents were asked to indicate what else, if anything had decreased their enjoyment. Encouragingly, most respondents could not think of anything or did not state any other issues (85%). Some 4% of the issues related to tracks in terms of improvement, in particular for disabled and cyclists. Some 3% of visitors mentioned maintenance related issues such as signs, litter, vandalism etc, whilst improvements relating to facilities such as toilets, car parking etc were mentioned by 2%.

Some of the specific answers provided are reproduced below:

Adderstone Play Area – now dismantled – WHY, why replace it with dangerous chains? Some people might think this is the only play adventure ground.

On the black cycle trails it's uncyclable in two areas because of bad drainage.

Dog dirt gets on the cycle wheels and splashes in your face.

It was raining and the café was muddy under awning.

The grassed area at the rear of car parking spaces was poor and un-retained where paths have been formed.

Expectations V Reality

Respondents to the self completion questionnaire (95 respondents), who were either on their first ever visit to the site or visited less than once a month, were asked to indicate how their overall visit had compared with expectations.

More than two-fifths of respondents stated that the visit was ‘much better’ than they had expected (43%), whilst 14% stated that it was ‘a little better’. Just under two out of five of respondents found the forest ‘as expected’ (37%) while 2% thought that it was a little worse.

Table B-15 – Overall rating of visit to forest compared to expectations (%)

Base: All self-completion respondents (95)

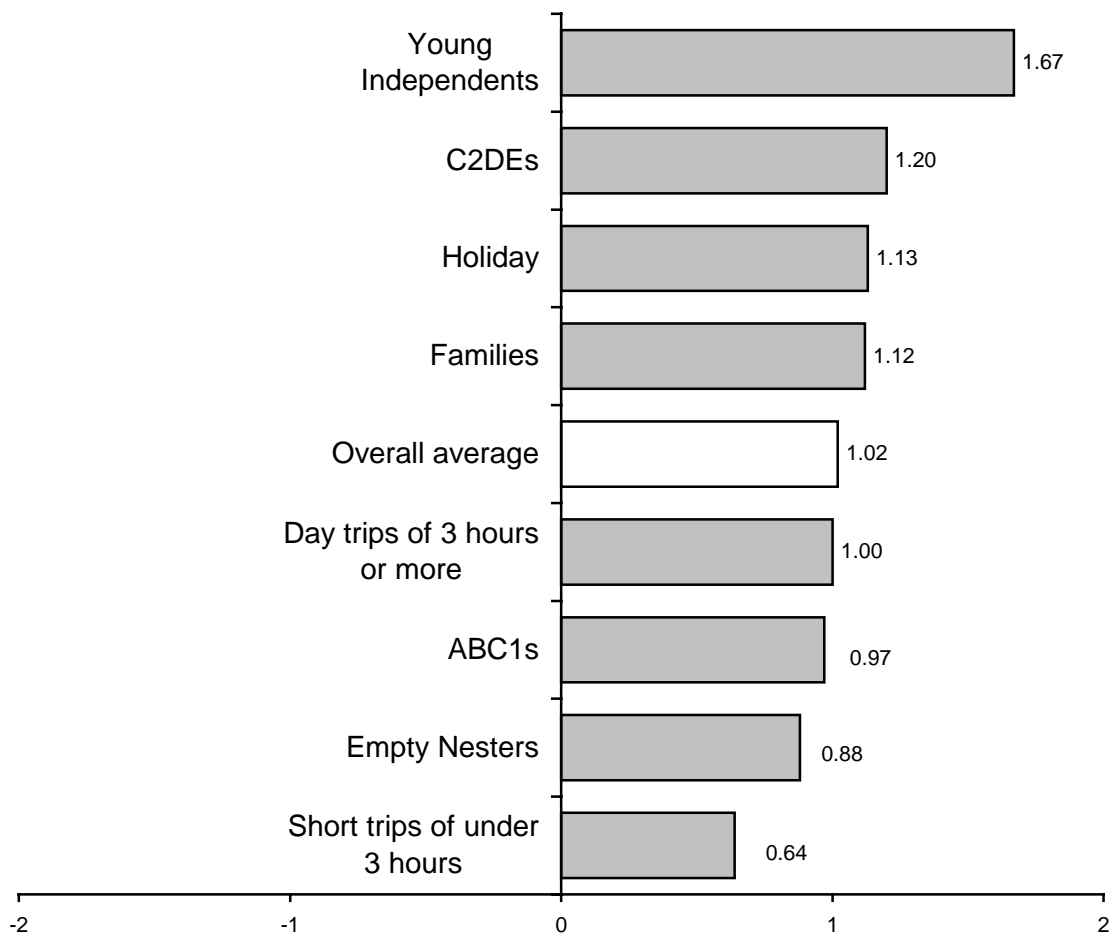
	%
Much better (+2)	43
A little better (+1)	14
As expected (0)	37
A little worse (-1)	2
Much worse (-2)	-
Don't know/not stated	4

- No responses

When scores were applied to responses from +2 (‘much better’) to -2 (‘much worse’), an overall, positive score of 1.02 was obtained. By comparison, the average across all sites surveyed to date was 0.81.

The chart below compares the scores provided by different groups of visitors. Overall, Young Independents and visitors in the C2DE social classes were most likely to find the forest to be much better than expected while visitors on short trips and Empty Nesters were less likely to do so.

Figure B-1 – How visit compared with expectations (mean scores)
Base: All respondents to self completion questionnaire (95)



When asked to state why they found the forest better than expected, responses mainly related to the good facilities (n=3), scenery (2), good cycle tracks (2) and clean condition of forest (2).

The two respondents who found the forest to be worse than expected were also asked to state why. Reasons given included disappointing forest drive (1) and that the Adderstone play ground was better (1).

Improvements

When asked what, if anything, needed to be improved at Dalby Forest Park, almost half of the visitors either stated that nothing should be improved or that they ‘didn’t know’ what should be improved (49%).

The suggestions that were made are listed below. The most frequent suggestions related to more trails and paths (11%), more or improved maps and signs (6%), more bins (5%) and indoor café and more seating (3% each).

Table B-16 – Suggested improvements (%)

Base: All frequent visitors and self completion respondents (176)

	%
More trails/ paths	11
More/ improved maps and signs	6
More bins	5
Indoor café when weather is bad	3
More seating	3
Need more toilets	2
More passing places on road	2
More children’s activities/ play area	2
More variety in café	1
Stop access for quad/ motor bikes	1
Tidy up are e.g. cut trees/ grass	1
Keep forest open late during summer	1
Shop/ restaurant too expensive	1
More sculptures	1
Park warden, i.e. security/too much vandalism	1
More parking needed for disabled	1
Plant more trees	1

Some of the specific suggestions provided are reproduced below. Full listings of the responses to open-ended questions are appended.

More maintenance on the cycle tracks that they get muddy in wet weather.

A shower room. More varied routes for cyclists. More way mark trails.

More publicity about adventure playground. Please replace Adderstone with something similar.

Shortage of hot type dustbins for disposable barbeques.

More bins for litter and for dog excretion.

Indoor café at centre in case if inclement weather.

Abolish idea to change shop area into glass and chrome construction.

Finish all the projects that have been started. More speed bumps for motorists, still too fast!

Expenditure

To get an indication of the economic impact of visitors to Dalby Forest Park, respondents were asked to specify the amount they had personally spent during the day of their visit to the forest. Some 10% of all respondents stated that they did not spend anything during their visit. This was most common among people who were on a short day trip, frequent and younger visitors. The tables below present the average expenditure per person for different elements of their visit. The overall average expenditure does not add up to the average amounts spent for each of the categories outlined below, as not all respondents were able to provide details of their expenditure beyond their total amount spent.

Table B-17 - Average expenditure per person per day (incl. day trip and overnight stay)

Base: All frequent visitors and self completion respondents (176)

	%
Accommodation (incl. food and drink)	£34.00*
Food and drink (excl. at accommodation)	£7.11
Admission fees	£3.63
Shopping (non-routine, souvenirs)	£3.57
Transport (incl. petrol, taxis, public transport)	£5.73
Equipment (e.g. hire of boat, horse-riding)	£1.60
Miscellaneous	£0.66
Overall average spend	£28.54

* Two outliers over £200 removed, based on 21 respondents.

All respondents who were staying at least one night away from home were asked to indicate how much they had spent on *accommodation* in the area the previous night or the following night, if they had not stayed a night at the time of the interview. The respondents who stayed overnight in the area paid an average of £34.

All respondents were asked to state what they had paid for *food and drink* during their visit. On average, visitors spent £7.11, including those who did not pay anything (23%). Visitors on holiday spent most on average (£13.44), whilst people out on short and longer day trips spent less on average (£3.44 and £5.57 respectively).

The average amount paid for *admission fees* to attractions and visitor centres was £3.63, including those who did not pay anything (36%). Again, holiday visitors along with those engaged in nature study spent most on admission fees (£5.78 and £5.64 respectively).

Some £3.57 was spent on *shopping* on average by the respondents, including the 47% who had not spent anything on this element. Holiday visitors were spending most on average on shopping (£8.49), followed by those undertaking nature study (£7.32), visitors engaged in other walking apart from dog walking (£5.37) and those aged 55+ years (£5.07).

Visitors spent on average £5.73 on *transport* (including petrol, public transport, taxis etc), including those who did not spend anything on transport (39%). As in the other categories, holiday visitors had largest transport costs (£11.11), followed by people walking (£7.78) and older respondents over 55 years (£7.10).

In total, visitors to Dalby Forest Park spent £28.54 per person per day, if the costs for accommodation are included and 10% did not pay anything. Holiday visitors spent £61.96, compared to £15.24 amongst visitors out on a longer day trip and £10.03 for those who were out on a short day trip (average spend amongst all day trippers was £12.57). Families spent a total average of £37.32, slightly higher than Young Independents (£34.06) and nearly twice as much as Empty Nesters (£19.30).

Key findings and conclusions

This survey indicated that users at Dalby Forest Park tended to visit the site fairly infrequently and that a large proportion (three out of ten) were first time visitors. Although the majority of visitors were visiting Dalby Forest Park once a month or less often, the forest seems to have a core of dedicated and quite frequent users, especially amongst the Young Independents and Families and visitors cycling.

The site was used for a variety of purposes including walking, driving on forest drive, picnic/barbeque, cycling, dog walking and visiting the adventure play ground. Nearly four out of five visitors undertook walking of any sort and a third were engaged in nature study of some sort. On average, the visitors spent just over three hours in the forest and cyclists spend nearly twice as long in the forest as walkers.

Cycling was mostly undertaken by Young Independents, in particular the younger visitors aged 16-24 years, who seemed to be frequent visitors going to Dalby on a short day trip for the sole purpose of cycling.

Most users were generally satisfied with the site and the forest's key strengths included the availability of car parking; scenery and views; the visit as a whole; being able to spend time with family and friends; the solitude, peace and quiet and the feeling of safety and security. Similar aspects of the forest visit were mentioned as key reasons for visiting the site: scenery and views; safety and security; the peace and quiet and opportunities to spend time with family or friends.

Specific areas which obtained slightly lower satisfaction scores included availability of staff at the site; information about the site's history and conservation; baby changing facilities and choice of trails for other activities.

There is little conflict between different user groups at this site with only small proportions experiencing any negative impacts from others. Motorised sport such as motobikers/moto cross and other vehicles driving in the forest were the groups most likely to reduce the enjoyment of others. Similarly, fairly small proportions of visitors had negative experiences with dog or dog dirt or litter/ fly tipping.

Reflecting the positive experiences reported by most visitors, more than half of first time and infrequent visitors stated that Dalby Forest Park had been better than they expected, whilst only 6% found it to be worse.

When comparing the importance and satisfaction of various aspects of the forest visit, clean toilets and clear signposting on footpaths were rated as more important than 'average' but received lower satisfaction scores. These are elements which possibly require further attention. Other aspects that were seen as important and only received slightly higher ratings than 'average' were: being able to enjoy wildlife, choice of paths and trails for walking and cycling and value for money.

Although the majority of visitors were satisfied with their experience at Dalby Forest Park, half of the visitors mentioned possible improvements. A tenth of the suggestions related to an increase of trails and paths, whilst somewhat smaller proportions suggested: more or improved maps and signs, more bins, indoor café and more seating.

C. Appendices

Questionnaires

Results obtained at other Forestry Commission sites

Responses to open-ended questions

What else, if anything, influenced your decision to visit Dalby Forest Park today?

FRESH AIR/OUTDOOR/PEACE AND QUIET

- To visit an outdoor activity place.
- I like it quiet. I don't like people too much.
- The forest. My last visit was only a drive through so this time I wanted to spend longer here.
- The wildlife – birds etc. WC.
- To get out of the house.
- Peace and quiet.
- Look at the scenery, tranquillity. Good parking.
- To explore nature.
- It is a nice day we tend to gravitate to the forest.
- Walking, scenery, bird watching, picnics.
- We wanted to see Dalby. We like the countryside. Nice picnic areas.
- The open space. Enjoyed last years visit.
- Scenery. Bilberry picking.
- Get away from the rat race.
- Tranquillity, to walk among the trees, the fresh air, the way they keep the forest.
- The scenery. Wildlife.
- Peace and quiet.
- To enjoy scenery, spend some time with family and go mountain biking.
- Scenery. The views.
- Escapism.
- Peace and quiet.
- Quieter at the end of the holidays – no children.
- Peace and quiet.
- Scenery.
- We enjoy the environment of the forest, it's a good place to be.
- Wildlife, walking, enjoyment and opportunity to bring the grandchildren.
- The scenery and walking.



WEATHER/SEASONAL

- Autumn colours. Scenic drive.
- Forests are nice in the rain and children like to get out.
- In the area – came to Dalby because coast walking is too windy.
- Staying at Whitby. Came here for more protection from gale force wind.
- We are looking for shelter from wind and the forest was ideal.
- A nice day to be out.
- Bright sunshine on setting out – rain here. Daughter's day off.
- Nice drive out. Hoping for good weather.
- It wasn't such good weather so not much traffic and children coming next week.
- The lovely weather. I love Dalby forest.
- Sunny weather. Afternoon off. Dog for walking.
- Lovely weather.
- Not too hot but not raining.
- Changing seasons. Daughter up from Kent for a visit.
- The weather – because most people will go to the seaside so it may be quieter!

BEEN BEFORE

- An extension for £2 on the £5 weekly pass ensured we return.
- Involved with local scout group and do use the forest for various activities.
- A visit here every year from Flanborough.
- Previous knowledge of this forest. Family also visit.
- Enjoyed our last visit especially for this walk.
- Came here as a child so a revisit from mid 80's.
- Family arrangement. Came as children to Dalby.
- Came 20 years ago. Repeat visit.
- Like the area. Weekly pass purchased.
- 3 birthdays and 2 wedding anniversaries today, yesterday and tomorrow. There are 8 car loads of us. We always come here.
- Return visit because hadn't been for a long time. Good weather.
- Enjoyed it previously. Like the walks.
- We came last year and enjoyed it so much and the weathers lovely.
- We haven't been for a while so we thought we'd pop up and have a look round.
- We enjoy coming.
- Like to come here regularly. Good for dog. Enjoy walking.
- Got many happy memories.
- We've been to Cropton before and we're making arrangements to come back next year.
- We vary where we go so include Dalby in the rota.
- Liked it once before.

CYCLING

- Day off work so came here for cycling.
- Cycling.
- Use of purpose cycle tracks.
- A leaflet at the caravan site also safe off the road cycling.
- More for the cycling and safety.
- We like to cycle and it's the closest park to where we live.
- Cycling opportunity and nice weather.
- Cycle hire facility. Staying at a local campsite.
- Cycling.
- I heard it was a good place for cycling and signposted trails and a friendly place. I am alone.
- Good access from Scarborough. Good quality marked cycle road trails.
- To try the cycling trails today.
- To have a safe bike ride for our family.
- Cycling.
- Just for cycling – it is ideal.
- Last day of school holidays, traffic free for cycling. Beauty.
- To use the cycle routes.
- To cycle.

EXERCISE/ KEEP FIT/WALKS

- Fit and healthy.
- Nice walk with friends.
- Have a walk

- A walk we planned to do. Dalby Forest leaflet.
- We know Grizedale Forest so also wanted to try this forest for walking.
- To have a good walk.
- Visited to find a nice walk.
- The way mark trails are now very good.
- To do a walk.
- Like biking and walking.
- To have a walk, get some fresh air.

CLOSE TO ACCOMMODATION/HOME

- To visit the forest whilst in the area. Handy to our holiday venue.
- Staying in the forest already.
- Staying in the forest itself, so needed to get out.
- Drive through it most days while staying in the area.
- To fit in Dalby before returning home. Son stayed in Forest Lodge. Seen RAC rally on TV in Dalby.
- Staying around here. Do not like sands or seaside.
- Near a relatives residence. For a walk.
- Staying in Forestry Commission accommodation – given a pass for this visit.
- Called in on the way home.
- Nearest forest to me.
- Local to our place of stay. Adventure playground. Knew what it was like from previous visit.
- Camping close by – easy access.
- It is home – born at a local farm.
- More accessible without relying on parents e.g. cycle trains. Many varied trails. To get to Dalby by train have to go to Middlesbrough first!
- Came to see the place for the first time as I was camping near the gate entrance.
- We like the campsite provided. Cycling trails very good, no traffic!
- Close to home. Other family have visited the forest before us.
- It's a lovely day and we're resident in the forest for two weeks.
- Already in caravan site in the area.
- Proximity to home, it is very carefully managed and our past enjoyment of it.
- Ideal location.
- To explore it. Camping in the area.

ADVENTURE PLAY GROUND/CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

- To occupy the children.
- Children off school because of a teacher training day!
- Organised outing every Friday for the children – Hull. This is one of their favourite venues.
- To bring the grandchildren out for the day.
- We were nearby and brought the children to play.
- The children enjoy it here.
- School holidays. Nearby forest. No traffic. Children safe to enjoy themselves.
- Cheap day out. Freedom. Children safe.
- So nice. Interesting for children. Always come here. Cheaper than seaside.
- To bring the children for freedom. They like the adventure playground. Like to come every year. Adventure playground. Circular swing caused a bad back graze.
- To take the children out and they like the surroundings especially adventure play.

- Driven past – decided this time to call in. Cottage accommodation had leaflet. Adventure playground was main reason.
- Grandchildren on holiday – the days that fit in with their holiday.
- Well equipped for the boys and for picnic. We like walking.
- Nice for children – no danger. Our contact was children’s adventure playground – York branch. They organise coach trips to all the playgrounds!
- We like the forest. Nice for the children. Adventure playground excellent. Wheelchair access could be improved.
- To bring the children to good facilities.
- Grandchildren wanted to come. Facilities for children.
- For the children’s benefit.
- Kids playing facilities, away from city.
- A safe bike ride for granddaughter.
- Cheap day. Safe for children. Quiet.
- Children wanted fresh air. It wasn’t raining.
- To use the playground.
- End of holiday for children.
- To go climbing with children.
- Child wanted adventure playground.
- Good for kids, keeps them occupied.
- It’s attractive, I like the scenery. The kids like the playground. Lots to do.

NEVER BEEN BEFORE

- I saw the sign for the forest and never had done anything like this before.
- Visited Yorkshire but never the forest before.
- Visited other Forestry Commission places in the past. Stayed in a cabin before.
- To have a look round to see what there is to do.
- We just came out of curiosity to see what was here.

RECOMMENDED/ADVERTISED

- Read the brochures in the caravan site.
- I’d heard from somebody else that it was very nice.
- Saw a sign in Thornton Dale. Leaflet in rented cottage.
- Recommended to us by a person we met in North Yorkshire!
- Leaflets at Flaxton where we are staying. Plus wanted to walk the days.
- 14 days holidays. Looking for places to visit. Told about the forest by our host at the hotel.
- A day off. Quite fancied it. Website information provided us with an incentive to visit Dalby.
- We have read and heard a lot of favourable comments about Dalby.
- I knew people who had been here in the past.
- Pickering Tourist Information Office helped you.
- It’s on the way from down south on our way to Scarborough.
- Recommended for cycling. When you pay £5 you should be given a simple map, not charged extra. Bigger arrows needed on notices.
- A friend recommended the cycling trails.
- Someone recommended it and it is on our route to Whitby.
- Heard a lot about it and looking for places to go now both retired.
- Leaflets at campsite advertised cycle forest.
- Friend’s recommendation.
- Like the outdoors. Recommended by a friend.

- Recommended by a friend.
- Somebody had recommended it to us.
- A leaflet.
- Seen advertised at Haven Park – at Prim Valley.
- Someone else in family visited before.
- Recommended by host at bed and breakfast.
- Came out for a drive. Someone pointed us here.
- A leaflet at out cottage. To walk, annoyed that map given at entrance did not show distances between places i.e. scale.
- Picked up a leaflet advertising the forest.

DOG WALKING

- Staying in Goathland but needed more freedom for walking the dogs.
- Always come here to walk dogs.
- To bring the dog.
- I walk the dog.
- So dog could join us for the day. Also on route for Whitby
- Walk the dog each day.
- A day out for a change and for the dog.
- To give the dog a break.

DAY OUT/VISIT/PICNIC

- Called on route to Saltburn.
- Stumbled on the forest whilst on route.
- Just an idea for a day out, we've past it before.
- A beautiful route to Scarborough.
- Off work today. Trails dry.
- My friend lives in the National Forest.
- Fitting in the forest on a short visit to North Yorkshire.
- Call here on the way to Scarborough.
- Plan to visit as part of the holiday.
- Market day in Helmsley and came on here.
- On way to Whitby with granddaughter.
- On the way to Scarborough through the forest.
- A planned picnic. Children on adventure playground. A barbeque centre seems to be removed.
- Fancied a day trip.
- On route for Whitby. Fancied a picnic.
- Sundays are our family day and we always go out. Today, we chose the forest.
- A good day out – good value for money.
- For lunch nearby so popped in.
- All the family with us. Safe environment. Cheap day out.
- A good day out. 6 in the party.
- It's a hot day so we thought we'd have a picnic, peace and quiet after a hectic week.
- Day out with a Midlands visitor.
- Plan to visit Bridestones and include Dalby Forest.
- Annual meeting with friends.
- Passing through.
- End of half term. Wanted a day out.

- A spare day slotted in.
- Just passing by on holiday.
- Looking for a scenic route on way from Scarborough and saw the Dalby Forest sign.
- To take our visitors round.
- A day out.
- From north to south we come through the forest for a drive out. The only route to get south from Whitby.
- Browned off with Scarborough so came here instead.
- On route back from Filey.
- Just before going back to work.
- Visit before university.
- On our way to the sea for boating but it was cancelled.
- A party with neighbours.
- To have a barbeque with neighbours.
- A neighbour's barbeque. Enjoy the scenery.

OTHER

- To see the tree felling and to make a film.
- Run out to visitor centre at Dalby to pick up an activity – EVENTS for 2004 booklet.
- To renew membership.
- Public transport.
- To see the visitor centre. Know Dalby from the motor sport angle.
- We had expected a lower entry fee and were shocked by the increase to £5.
- Decided to come today – no reason.
- Ease of parking. Pleasure of parking car next to our chairs. We have difficulty walking – one in a wheelchair.
- Came to visitors centre to get Pendlebury Witches.
- Hunger – we like the quiet at the café.

Did any type of user decrease your enjoyment, and if so why?

VEHICLES DRIVING IN THE FOREST

- Other vehicles, some drive too fast, why not more speed limits.
- Vehicles – Drive too fast without concern for others.
- Forestry Commission vehicles speeding.
- Cars need slow speed limit applied. Solitude affected by others.
- One on-coming vehicle almost had us off road.
- Vehicles driven too fast in/near car park.
- Road crossings should be better signed.
- Safety issue with our children.

MOTORBIKERS/MOTO CROSS

- Motor cycles – noisy and lots of them.
- The motorbikes – make too much noise.
- On one point in our walk, 3 motor cyclists came riding by churning up the paths.

- Motorcycles being ridden dangerously.
- A couple of motorbikes sped past as I was on a cycle trail – a little disturbing.
- Motorcycles very noisy.
- Passing each other and noise element.
- Noise.

DOGS AND DOG DIRT

- Dog owner, dirt not picked up.
- Loose dogs can be a problem (3 occasions) on a single visit, especially as partner is visually impaired.

CHILDREN

- Uncontrolled children in the shop/café area.

HORSERIDERS

- Horse riders, horse riders are rude.

CYCLISTS

- Cyclists – Lack of bells and they are so fast. They do spoil the walking tracks with ruts on narrow paths.

Why did this particular issue decrease your enjoyment?

NOISE FROM OTHER USERS OR MOTORIZED SPORTS

- Motorbikes – Noisy, pushy.
- Motorcycles and rallies – noisy and obstructive.
- Other people talking, found annoying. Noise of motors in the forest, noise and smell of oil.
- Noise from bikes – Noisy!.
- Radio noise from parked car.
- Radio playing loud in parked car.
- People- too much larking about.
- Motorcyclists on foot path.

LITTER OR FLY TIPPING

- Litter, too much.
- Litter – more than necessary.
- Fly tipping – Spoils the area – action should be taken.
- Litter – other people being daft and not respecting the countryside.
- Litter – some people just throw it around.
- Fly tipping – spoils your enjoyment.
- Litter, too much. More signs needed – anti-litter.
- Litter – looks messy.
- Litter – not sufficiently tidy.
- Litter (fly tipping) – messy.
- Some litter between stops on cycle rides.
- One fully-grown adult throwing can on grass verge from his cycle.
- Not enough, if any, litter bins.

DOGS AND DOG DIRT

- Dog dirt, don't like dogs and dirty.
- Dog dirt, there should be a fine imposed on guilty owners.
- Dog dirt – fine possible owners. Vandalised signs – nothing you can do.
- Dog shit – people should clear there dog's dirt away.
- 3 Dogs, too much.
- Dog dirt – too much – need rules on picking up.
- Dogs/dirt, did come across dirt on footpaths.
- Dog dirt – attracts flies.
- Dog dirt always decreases my enjoyment.
- Dog dirt about and dogs not on leads.
- Evidence of dog fouling various areas including open grassed areas.
- Dog dirt – spoils your enjoyment.
- Constantly on the lookout for loose dogs/dog dirt as partner visually impaired.
- Dog dirt all over track! Our walk diverted due to work been done.
- Dog dirt on the walkway around the lake.

MUDDY TRACKS

- Dog dirt, don't like dogs and dirty.
- Muddy tracks – hard work and you get muddy.
- Muddiness – very wet in places – stepping stones?
- Muddy tracks – very muddy.
- Muddy tracks – clothes soiled etc.
- Muddy trails – bikes skid.
- Muddiness – I'm wet and cold.
- Muddy tracks – We are both disabled and the condition of the tracks make it difficult for us.
- Tracks only muddy due to heavy rain!
- Very wet and muddy on our visit.
- Some cycle trails were excessively muddy and rutted.
- Some areas were muddy in the play areas.
- Some of the mountain bike trails are a bit too muddy to ride

VANDALISM, MISSING OR DAMAGED SIGNPOSTS

- Missing signpost not yet replaced.
- % vandals, out of control.
- Vandalised signs – Potential to get lost.
- Vandalism, it deflects the enjoyment of coming.

What else, if anything, decreased your enjoyment of Dalby Forest Park during your most recent visit?

- Toilets up at the top at Adderstone Park.
- Adderstone Play Area – now dismantled – WHY, why replace it with dangerous chains. Some people might think this is the only play adventure ground.
- Assault course taken down at Adderstone Field. No explanation. Waste of time going.
- We came to Dalby Forest on 02/08/04. It was our daughters 11th birthday. It was her decision to go to Dalby forest. Unfortunately we visited the children's play area. The swing, in our opinion is not safe. Our daughter grazed all her back as the swing went into the main central pole. Our children were being supervised so it wasn't as though they were messing around. This swing in our opinion should be removed and a more suitable replacement erected.
- It's getting very busy now. The charges have gone up. The playground has made it busier.
- Unable to find a children's playground still advertised on map that is CLOSED without warning.
- More cycling tracks.
- Showers after mountain biking.
- Jet wash for bikes.
- On the black cycle trails it's uncyclable in 2 areas because of bad drainage.
- More trails – technical trails. Transport to and from e.g. bike bus from York.
- Dog dirt gets on the cycle wheels and splashes in your face.
- More car parking and open spaces.
- Much more bike trails.
- A bike wash.
- More easy cycle tracks.
- Narrow roads, 4X4's reduces size of available roads.
- We don't like the smell of barbeques, too dangerous when dry.
- I e-mailed the Forestry Commission to ask if they could label trees and I have not yet had an answer.
- Drain the car park.
- Disabled access to pathways could be improved by using all terrain buggies.
- Stop fly tipping.
- To catering was a tad expensive.
- Facilities for disabled.
- If possible increase walks and the number of walks.
- A dry place to sit down to eat lunch/sandwiches.
- It was raining and the café was muddy under awning.
- The grassed area at the rear of car parking spaces was poor and un-retained where paths have been formed.

What, if anything would you like to see changed or improved to make any future visits more enjoyable?

CYCLING FACILITIES AND PATHS

- There should be an outdoor shower.
- More maintenance on the cycle tracks that they get muddy in wet weather.
- Wider range of cycle tracks. Few more behind the scenes demonstrations.
- More marked and graded cycle tracks.
- A shower room. More varied routes for cyclists. More way mark trails.
- More cycle tracks needed. Keep places specifically for tourists.
- Area for bike jumps (might be difficult for hire bikes). Wider strip of more natural vegetation along forest tracks.
- A few more cycle tracks.
- A cycling route graded between blue and red routes. More extensions of cycle routes with signposting to avoid boredom.
- Cycling trails need IMPROVEMENT compared to Wales and Glentress and other areas.
- A changing block.
- Changing and washing facilities for cyclists.
- Cycleway maps.
- Expansion of cycle routes to provide more variety.
- More variety of cycle trails.
- More family bike rides and better signposts for bike riders.
- Cycle trail maintenance.
- Even more variety of cycle trail.
- More cycle paths for MTB rides.
- More cycle trails.
- Even more choice of bike trails.

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS

- More children's play areas. It is the same things. Children would like more variety.
- Payphone needed at adventure playground for accidents. Crossbar swing is dangerous. The one at Castle Howard is more child friendly. Complaint about red hot barbeques and children. Nowhere to dispose of barbeques. Also a running water tap would have eased the pain of burns on both arms – She needed hospital treatment.
- More publicity about adventure playground. Please replace Adderstone with something similar.
- More grassy areas for children's games. Better access to the river.
- I have children – even more park facilities: but you've done well as it is!

BINS AND LITTER

- Bins for dog dirt. Litter bins too few.
- Shortage of hot type dustbins for disposable barbeques.
- Why no dustbins at the picnic area?
- More litter bins – metal around the walkways.
- More strategically placed litter bins. More disposal facilities for hot barbeques. Bricks to get barbeques off grass to stop burning squares in grass sod.
- Nothing except disposable barbeque safe receptacle.
- Dog dirt bins.
- More bins for litter and for dog excretion.
- More dog bins.

- BBQ disposal area and BBQ floor protectors and more litter bins.

CATERING FACILITIES

- Making more facilities available at the café like sandwiches and snacks.
- Potter's café
- Restaurant/tea room facilities
- More barbeque areas.
- More barbeques and picnic benches.
- More stops for food/drink apart from visitor centre.
- Maybe more refreshments in areas currently without and maybe more toilet facilities in areas without.
- Indoor café and shop for drinks/water/sandwiches etc
- Indoor café at centre in case if inclement weather.
- Being able to sit indoors for morning tea on chilly days.
- Jingleby Thorn open all year (or somewhere warm to go for a snack/hot drink. It's feeling a bit cold to picnic!).
- Abolish idea to change shop area into glass and chrome construction.
- A café to sit in and have a drink especially when weather bad.

OTHER FACILITIES

- Different marked walks as we've done them all.
- More seating available in the forest. More checks on vandalism especially in Deepdale.
- Not sure of any. More shelters for bad weather. More seating.
- More toilet facilities. Wider roads.
- Some static field binoculars for wading wildlife. A load of sticks for kids to build a den like some other sites here.
- Finish all the projects that have been started. More speed bumps for motorists, still too fast!
- More of the older trees could be NAMED.
- More disabled parking and clearer markings for it also.
- More view points.
- More seats.
- To be able to buy a car sticker from the shop.
- More picnic tables.
- Information boards placed along tracks i.e. details of flora, fauna, history of site, possible wildlife etc.
- More footpaths for visually impaired walkers. Start/finish points more clearly marked.
- More sign posts.
- More signs for walkers on footpaths. There seemed to be more for cyclists.
- More pull off points to park away from main areas.
- More signs on footpaths and more signed footpaths.
- Don't like the walk back to the information centre being on the road. I can walk on the road back home.
- Toilets at more car park locations.
- More signposts, giving distances to other places. Better, clearer footpaths.
- Wood carving in places where you would least expect them.
- More passing places on road.
- More toilets etc, facilities not very good, clean.

OTHER SERVICES/MAINTENANCE

- The centre was closed because of a rally and I was notified as a member.
- It was closed from a rally and the leaflet said Halloween was today but its tomorrow.
- Free entry.
- Improve transport to the site.
- Ban motorcycles.
- Leave open a bit longer in relation to day length especially for locals – Whitby etc. Workers who could come after work if it was worth it.
- People asked to be more considerate with barbeques.
- We miss not being able to drive through the Forest late evening.
- More hardwood trees.
- Forewarning of £5 toll.
- Free map detailing short (say 1½ - 3 miles) circular walks suitable for less mobile.
- Speed limit slow. Dog muck cleaned up by owners.
- More broadleaf planting.
- In winter, gritting on the roads as far as the first car park so that walks can still be enjoyed in ice/snow.
- Improve transport to the site.
- Free maps and better signage.
- Making sure that signage is not overgrown and is always visible to path users.

NO CHANGES

- Nothing, it's excellent. I wouldn't like to see it more commercialised, perhaps a few more walks.
- No more improvements as this would commercialise the unspoilt forest.
- Dalby is getting a bit too popular now.
- Nothing. Too many improvements could attract far more visitors and spoil all the advantages.

What do you like the most about Dalby Forest Park?

PEACE/TRANQUILITY/SCENERY

- Peacefulness.
- Nice scenery.
- Solitude. Quietness.
- The peace and quiet.
- The quiet. Privacy area around one's car.
- It is a good, peaceful day out.
- It's safe.
- Quietness. A cheap family day out.
- The quietness.
- It is so quiet.
- Scenery, views. I just like it.
- The scenery, ease of access to forest.
- Scenery. Variety. Away from bustle.
- Sheer beauty.

- Everything varied, scenic, views, valleys.
- Fresh air. Getting away from it all.
- Protected, beauty, freedom.
- The accessibility to the forest. The scenery.
- Scenery, peace and quiet, wildlife, walking and the ice creams.
- Get away from it all. Pleasant and invigorating.
- Peace and quiet.
- The peace/quiet. Scenery. Fewer cars. Less to spend money on.
- The solitude.
- Lack of people.
- The solitude.
- To get away from people. Only a few minutes from town. The smells.
- The peace and tranquillity. Nature.
- Peace, scenery.
- A wonderful tranquil place.
- The reason we come here is for the peace and quiet and the wildlife.
- Cleanliness, peace and quiet
- Peace and tranquillity, fresh air, the walking and scenery.
- Scenery, enough spaces for each purpose to have privacy, brooks.
- Scenery, scale, atmosphere.
- Beautiful scenery. Peace and tranquillity.
- The ability to get away from other people and enjoy the tranquillity and nature's own sounds.
- Peace and quiet.
- Stunning scenery round every corner.
- Beauty, tranquillity, nature.
- Quiet.
- Peace and quiet
- Scenery and general upkeep.
- Scenery and peace and quiet for walking.
- Good environment and lovely scenery.
- Tranquillity, seclusion and scenery.
- Scenery, quietness, uncrowded.
- Scenery.
- Peace and quiet.
- Views, ambience.
- Setting, easy access.
- Peace. Quiet. Scenery.
- Peace, quiet, walks and paths, views. Get away feeling.
- Peace and quiet away from main centre, lovely countryside.
- General peacefulness.
- Peace and quiet.
- Scenery, wildlife, walks, not commercialised.
- Peace and quiet. Able to feel "away from it all" seeing butterflies and wild flowers not seen before. Spending time with family.
- Scenery. Tranquillity.
- Beautiful – scenery – space to walk – long views – variety of vegetation.
- The beautiful scenery/peaceful and quiet.
- Feeling of peace and quiet. Trees are the simple natural vegetation of power. They are a thing of beauty in life and in their "death" provide cradle to coffin.
- Scenery, tranquillity, solitude, nature, getting away from hustle and bustle of normal life.
- The scenery most of all. Getting away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.
- Peace and quiet despite others around.

- The space and views. Very natural environment. Healthy.
- The peacefulness.
- Scenery

OPEN SPACES

- Plenty of space to get together with our friends.
- Nice views.
- The combination of scenery, remote and good roads.
- Freedom. Wander around.
- Views.
- The feeling of freedom.
- The 'away from it all' factor. Pleasant people compared to the element I meet as a Policeman.
- Forest views and forest parks and picnic areas.
- Lots of different areas to explore and people not cramped in one site.
- Room for the dog to run without being in danger.
- The freedom, as we have a dog walkers we like to have freedom and have the chance to give our dogs freedom.
- To get away from: work, society, people.
- Open spaces, scenery, children's play area, shop, visitor centre teashop.
- Such a big area to walk.
- Freedom to experience all parts with dogs, mostly able to be off lead and facilities.
- Wide open spaces and peace and quiet.
- Large and open area gives a feeling of freedom for walkers and cyclists but not many good views.

WALKING/EXERCISE/FRESH AIR

- A walk and something to eat.
- The walking, the peace and quiet and the scenery.
- Keeping fit.
- A keep fit area.
- Fitness programme easy to implement.
- Keeping fit.
- A great fitness centre in its own right.
- The keep fit factor. To get away from busy roads in the city.
- Fresh air and walks.
- Space to walk dog.
- Open air, relaxing, to do anything you want all or nothing.

TRAILS (E.G. FOREST, CYCLING, WALKING)

- The cycle tracks.
- The red run and black run.
- Cycling and walking trails.
- The cycling.
- The cycling trials, scenery.
- It's aimed at cyclists and it's only an hour's drive from the house.

- Off road riding. You don't come up here with a season ticket if you don't like the environment.
- The variety of attractions or walks away from others.
- Cycling on trails.
- Cycling.
- The cycling is good. Get away from work, enjoy the hobby
- Close to home and lots of variety in terms of trails. I don't feel threatened here.
- Access of cycling trails.
- Different types of signposted walks and cycle trails.
- The walks.
- Fantastic amenities and excellent cycling.
- Easily accessible trails.
- Forest trails.
- The walks and views.
- The lovely walks and the obvious managed forests.
- Challenging routes
- Walking without a map.
- The well thought out drive.
- Well signed cycle routes.
- Opportunity for lots of different walks with dog. Ice cream in the summer!

EVERYBODY ENJOYS IT

- A good place to meet, our family all meet and park our cars together. Likes everything. The children can play in the river.
- Caters for everyone – keep fit enthusiasts to car drivers.
- Even elderly can enjoy from the vehicle.
- There's a nice balance of features for all tastes/ages.
- Variety of activities possible.
- Variety of walks and varied ability walks (for all ages and levels of fitness).

WILDLIFE/TREES

- I loved the forest, I worked here for 35 years, I built the road and planted the larch trees in 1951.
- Bilberries. Wild quality of terrain.
- Bird life, scenery, peaceful.
- Variety of trees and wildlife.
- The trees.
- Beautiful trees etc.
- Natural unspoilt area.
- Wildlife and walks.
- Tracks, lakes, trees, wildlife.
- Woodland, peace and quiet. Safe walking, chance to look for wildlife.

CHILDREN

- We came up here to have a bike ride away from cars. The children can enjoy its play area.
- Ease of access, clean, safe, enjoyable environment. Somewhere you can take the children.
- Children play and enjoy the river.

- I love it all. It is child friendly.
- The good response of the children.
- Children safe. Plenty for them to do. Cheaper than Scarborough.
- Children like it. All the family have terrific enjoyment.
- The facilities for children. Away from it all! Sense of isolation.
- Facilities for children are very good. Fewer cars per mile of road.
- Children very safe. Scenery. Quiet. Usually safe roads.
- We came on a flying visit to inspect facilities and amusements for young children. We shall bring our granddaughters (aged 6 & 7) during summer holidays.
- Being able to let the children run free and know they were safe.
- Views, park for the children. Brilliant value for money.
- Children's activities i.e. play areas and rivers.
- Excellent family facilities.
- The short walk we did which the children enjoyed even our 2 year old.

OTHER

- Easy access from Scarborough.
- Car parking.
- I could write a long essay.
- The location.
- A cheap day out.
- Near to home. Lovely.
- The accessibility. It appears to be well managed.
- The picnic areas.
- It's a working forest. Village atmosphere.
- The informality of car parks and smashing kiosk and small shop/centre.
- Tea shop at Jingleby farm (very nice setting).
- Visitor facilities.
- Different places to sit and read.
- Well maintained.
- Excellent parking and facilities.
- Good bench locations for resting! (Thanks to friends of Dalby Forest).
- Everything is so neat and tidy. Also different places to see on each visit, (Also Jingleby Thorn Farm cream teas)
- Everything.
- We also loved the farmhouse tea room at Jingleby Thorn.
- Excellent café.
- Quality of maintenance.
- Cleanliness. Adequate parking. Well kept paths.
- Mrs Davidson's cream teas and her lovely gardens and good value for money.
- The interesting shop and picnic places.

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