



PUBLIC OPINION OF FORESTRY 2007: ENGLAND

Results for England from the UK 2007 Survey of
Public Opinion of Forestry, carried out on behalf of
the Forestry Commission

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Executive Summary

2007 survey

In 2007, four separate public opinion of forestry surveys were undertaken - across the UK (around 4,000 interviews), Scotland (1,000 interviews), Wales (950 interviews) and Northern Ireland (1,000 interviews).

This report presents the results from England residents (3,339 interviews) from the UK survey and, where appropriate, highlights changes over time by comparing the results with those from previous surveys. It highlights any differences in opinion amongst adults in England by geographic variables (i.e. regional, deprivation and degree of rurality) and socio-demographic variables (e.g. gender and age).

Some of the questions asked in the 2007 UK survey were the same as those asked in 2005 (and in earlier years); however, a number of new questions were asked on topics such as the relationship between forestry and climate change, woodfuel and community involvement.

Separate reports provide similar results for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Forests, woodlands and trees in the media

64% of respondents had seen or read about forests, woodlands or trees on the television, radio or in the newspapers in the last 12 months (up from 50% in 2005).

The most common response, given by 35% of respondents, was the one new response option available, 'Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change'.

For each of the topics listed, respondents who had visited forests or woodlands recently, or who were in social grades ABC1, were more likely than those who had not visited forests or who were in social grades C2DE, to have seen or read about the topic.

Forest management

93% of respondents selected at least one public benefit as a good reason to support forestry with public money; the top three reasons given were 'to provide places for wildlife to live', 'to help tackle climate change' and 'to provide places to walk in'. In general, support for each benefit was marginally higher in 2007 than in 2005 or 2003. When asked directly about the standard of forest management in the UK, of those respondents who gave an opinion, 84% gave a positive or neutral response.

Respondents who owned a car, who had visited forests or woodlands recently and who were in social grades ABC1 were all more likely than those who did not have a car, who had not visited forests or woodlands or who were in social grades C2DE to give each of the 14 responses as being good reasons for supporting forestry with public money.

Climate change

70% of respondents believe that climate change will have a large impact on the UK.

There was a high degree of agreement with a set of statements regarding the ways in which forests and woodlands can impact on climate change, for example 80% of respondents agreed that 'Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in

wood'. However, 55% of respondents incorrectly agreed that 'The UK could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees'.

A set of statements was presented to respondents to ascertain their views on the way in which UK forests should be managed in response to climate change. The responses received reflect a general belief that forestry is a method that can be used to mitigate the effects of climate change. For example, 90% of respondents agreed that 'A lot more trees should be planted' while only 14% agreed that 'There is nothing that anyone could do that would make any difference'.

Residents of the most deprived areas were more likely than those from the least deprived areas to believe that climate change would have a large impact on the UK. In addition, those from the most deprived areas were more likely to agree that 'The UK could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees', that 'There is nothing that anyone could do that would make any difference', that 'No action is needed; let nature take its course' and that 'Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates'.

Wood as a fuel

8% of respondents said that they used wood as a fuel in their home, either on its own, or with other fuels. Of these, 69% classified themselves as an occasional user, while only 8% use it as the main fuel for heating their home.

Changes to woodland

71% of respondents would like to see more woodland in their part of the country, a significantly higher proportion than in 2003 (67%) or 2005 (65%).

In the 12 months prior to being asked, 7% of respondents had been involved with woodland voluntary work, organised tree planting or a community woodland group.

Woodland recreation

76% of respondents had visited a woodland or forest in the last few years, a significantly higher proportion than in 2005 (65%) or 2003 (66%). Of those respondents who had not visited, 25% gave their main reason for not visiting as 'not being interested', down from 33% in 2005.

Of those adults who had visited woodlands in the last few years, 82% visited woodlands in the countryside and 61% (up from 51% in 2005) visited woodlands in and around towns.

68% of woodland visitors had been to a woodland or forest at least once a month in the summer of 2006 (up from 60% in the 2005 survey). 40% visited at least once a month in the winter of 2006/07 (up from 28% in the 2005 survey).

For the first time in this series of surveys, the internet (38%) is the primary source of information used when thinking about visiting woodlands not visited before.

The majority of respondents agreed with a set of statements regarding their views on the purpose and potential uses of woodlands; for example 95% agreed that 'Woodlands in the UK are an important part of the country's natural and cultural heritage' and that 'Woodlands allow families to learn about nature'.

1. Introduction

Background

The Forestry Commission has conducted similar biennial surveys of public attitudes to forestry and forestry-related issues since 1995 though the surveys have evolved since then:

- In the initial surveys, a representative sample of 2,000 adults across Great Britain (GB) was surveyed;
- In 2001, with more interest in country-level results within GB, additional questions were asked of representative samples of 1,000 adults across Scotland and Wales;
- In 2003, the main survey was extended to include Northern Ireland in the 4,120 adults interviewed and separate surveys of 1,000 adults continued in Scotland and Wales;
- In 2005 and 2007, the need for separate surveys in each country was confirmed, with the increased interest in country-level and regional information. However, the requirement for continued high-quality coherent information for GB/UK as a whole means that four separate surveys were undertaken each year:
 - A representative sample of 4,000 adults across GB (2005) and across UK (2007)
 - A representative sample of 1,000 adults across Scotland
 - A representative sample of 1,000 adults across Wales
 - A representative sample of 1,000 adults across Northern Ireland

Some questions were asked in all four of the surveys conducted in 2007, but an increasing number are survey-specific.

This report

This report presents the results of the respondents in England to the UK survey, and highlights any changes over time by comparing the 2007 results with previous surveys¹. It also highlights any differences in opinion amongst adults in England by region, deprivation ranking, degree of rurality and by socio-demographic variables.

Results for England are available by the standard Government Office Regions (GOR's): North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humber, East Midlands, West Midlands, South West, East of England, London and the South East.

As the majority of respondents to the UK survey resided in England (83%), the England results presented here are similar to the results for the UK as a whole. Separate reports present the results from the surveys undertaken across the UK and in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

A full set of tables, reporting the results of each question by geographic and socio-demographic variables are available upon request and will shortly be published on the Forestry Commission website alongside this report².

Survey design

The England 2007 survey results presented in this report are taken from the TNS CAPI Omnibus survey carried out from 22nd February – 5th March 2007 by TNS. The survey was based on a representative sample of 4,000 adults (aged 16 or over) across the UK. They were selected from

¹ This report mainly compares England results from the UK 2007 survey with results from the previous surveys of England based respondents in 2003 and 2005.

² <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-5zy19w>

a minimum of 270 sampling points by a random location method. More details of the sample method are given in Appendix 3: TNS Omnibus Random Location Sampling Method. The England 2005 and 2003 survey data were obtained from the RSGB General Omnibus, also carried out by TNS.

All results are subject to the effects of chance in sampling, so a range of uncertainty (confidence interval) should be associated with any result from the survey. The confidence intervals take into account the effect of clustering, weighting and stratification in the survey design (see Appendix 3: TNS Omnibus Random Location Sampling Method).

- For questions asked to the whole sample of 3,339, the range of uncertainty around any figure should be no more than $\pm 2.5\%$.
- For responses of subgroups, i.e. questions not posed to the whole sample of respondents, the range of uncertainty is correspondingly higher. For example the uncertainty for statistics broken down by gender should be no more than $\pm 3.7\%$; the North East region accounts for 5% of the sample (170 respondents), so the uncertainty should be no more than $\pm 11.4\%$, and the South East accounts for 17% of the sample (566 respondents) so the confidence interval around results should be no more than $\pm 6.2\%$.
- For questions asked to the whole samples, differences of more than 3.6% between the 2007 results and earlier results (i.e. 2005 or 2003) are statistically significant.

Results are shown as percentages. These have been individually rounded so may not always total to exactly 100.

Regression analysis

The 'socio-demographic comparisons' and 'geographic comparisons' sections of this report present the results of multivariate regression analysis. Further details on the variables used are given in Appendix 1: Cross-breaks used in analysis and Appendix 2: Correlation matrix of variables used in analysis.

The multivariate regression analysis examines the relationship between responses and socio-demographic and geographical attributes. The model attempts to identify a set of explanatory variables (socio-demographic and geographic variables) that account for a large proportion of the variance of the response variable in question. The model originally includes all variables and sequentially removes the variable that has least effect on the variance, leaving only the most significant variables.

The geographic and socio-demographic sections only report results derived from the regression models. Each region was input into the model as a separate variable, therefore only the results from those regions identified as significant in the model are reported (e.g. if North West was shown to be significant, the results from other regions are not highlighted). Conversely, the rural/urban and deprivation variables were each input as single variables in the analysis, and therefore all possible variable values are reported (e.g. urban 15%, small town & fringe 24%, village 26%).

Unless otherwise specified, those respondents who answered 'Don't know' have not been included in the regression analysis.

Some of the variables found to be significant in the regression results may not have seemed significant in the initial analysis because another correlated variable may have been influencing results in the opposite direction. For example, there is a strong correlation between age and having any children in the household; the initial differences for those with and without children in the household may have appeared significant, but the regression may have shown this to be better explained by age.

2. Forests, woodlands and trees in the media

2.1 Forests, woodlands and trees in the media

Respondents were asked whether they had seen or read about UK forests, woods or trees on the television, radio or in the newspapers in the last twelve months. Although the topics commonly identified in 2003 and 2005 ('birds and other animals in woodlands', 'tree planting' and 'forests and woodlands as places to visit') were also high on the list in 2007, the most commonly selected response was the new 'climate change' option (Table 1).

Overall in 2007, an increase in recognition was identified across all topics; significantly more respondents (64%) selected at least one topic than in 2005 (50%) and 2003 (48%). 3% of respondents selected only the new 'climate change' topic, therefore on a like-for-like basis, 61% of the 2007 respondents recognised at least one of the topics that were presented to the 2005 respondents.

Table 1: Seen or read about forests, woods or trees in the last 12 months (%)

	2003	2005	2007
Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change	--	--	35
Birds and other animals in woodlands	22	25	34
Tree planting	23	22	30
Forests and woodlands as places to visit	19	19	25
Public rights of access to woodlands	19	23	24
Protests about roads or other developments on woodlands	21	19	23
Flowers and other plants in woodlands	15	15	22
Loss of ancient or native woodlands	15	14	20
Restoration of ancient or native woodlands	12	12	17
Creation of new native woodlands	12	11	15
Community woodlands / new local woodlands	10	10	14
Tree pests and diseases	9	10	13
Wood for fuel / (short rotation coppice)	8	7	11
Labelling / certification of wood products	7	6	10
At least one topic	48	50	64

Base: All respondents in England - 2003 (3,412), 2005 (3,367), 2007 (3,339)

Geographic comparisons

Table 2 presents the proportion of respondents by region for the top five most recognised categories.

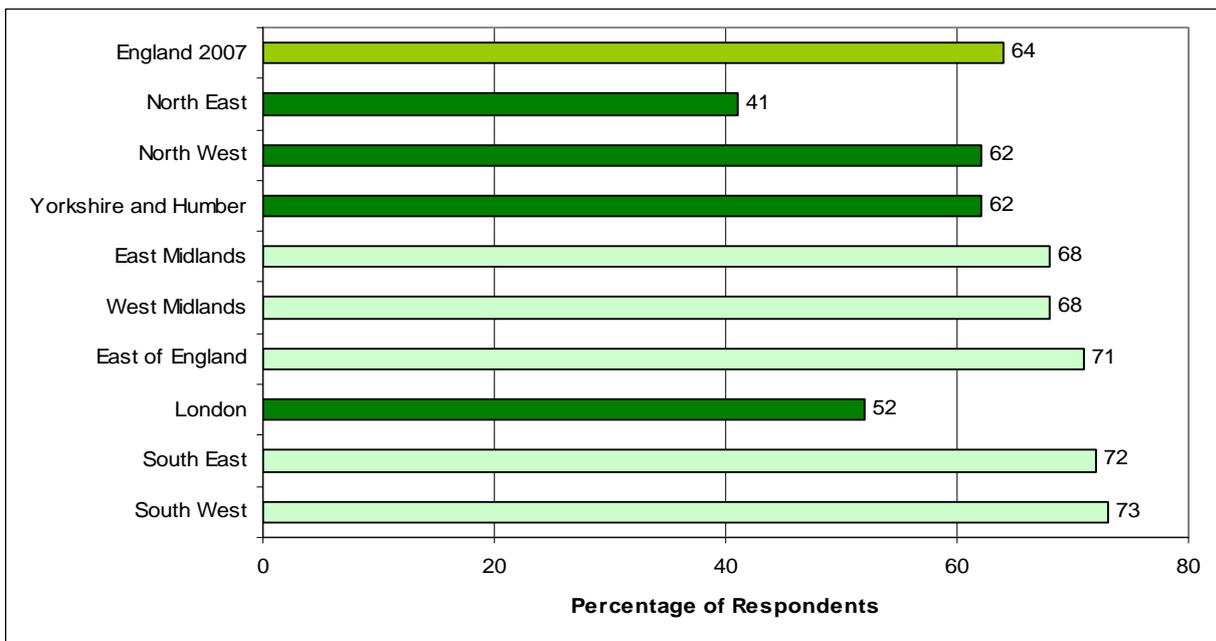
Table 2: Seen or read about forests, woods or trees in the last 12 months, by region (%)

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	South West	East of England	London	South East	England
Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change	22	32	32	37	38	47	43	30	40	35
Birds and other animals in woodlands	16	37	35	34	39	48	40	19	40	34
Tree planting	20	27	30	28	35	39	36	27	34	30
Forests and woodlands as places to visit	14	23	26	23	28	39	33	15	31	25
Public rights of access to woodlands	11	23	34	19	24	33	28	15	27	24
At least one topic	41	62	62	68	68	73	71	52	72	64

Base: All respondents in England 2007 survey (3,339)

Residents of the North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humber and London and respondents resident in urban areas (urban 62%, small towns & fringe 72%, village 81%) were all less likely than those living elsewhere to have recalled at least one topic (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Respondents who have seen or read about at least one topic, by region (%)



Base: All respondents in England (3339)

NOTE: Dark green indicates statistically significant variable in the multivariate model.

Respondents living in the North East were less likely than those living elsewhere to have heard about 'Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change'; those living in the South West were more likely to give this response.

Respondents living in the South West were more likely than those living elsewhere to have heard about 'Birds and other animals in woodlands'.

Respondents from the North East (20%) were less likely than respondents living elsewhere (31% average) to have heard or read about 'Tree planting', while respondents living in the South West (39%) were more likely to give this as a response.

Those from the South West were more likely than respondents from the rest of the country to have read or heard about 'Forests and woodlands as places to visit' and 'Public rights of access to woodlands'.

Respondents of the most deprived areas were less likely to have seen or heard about 'Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change' (24%) and 'Birds and other animals in woodlands' (22%) than respondents whose address was located in the least deprived areas (39% and 38% respectively).

Socio-demographic comparisons

For each of the topics listed, respondents who had visited forests or woodlands recently, or who were in social grades ABC1, were more likely than those who had not visited forests or who were in social grades C2DE, to have seen or read about the topic.

The following results identify, for the top five most recognised categories and overall, those variables highlighted as significant in the regression model.

Respondents who had seen or read about at least one of the topics, England overall 64%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 57%; aged 35 to 54 65%; aged 55 and over 70%;
- **Car access** - access to car 69%; no access to car 54%;
- **Gender** - male 66%, female 63%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 73%; C2DE 55%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 70%; not visited 45%.

Respondents more likely to have seen or heard about 'Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change', England overall 35%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 30%; aged 35 to 54 39%; aged 55 and over 39%;
- **Car access** - access to car 40%; no access to car 26%;
- **Gender** - male 38%, female 34%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 45%; C2DE 28%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 41%; not visited 20%.

Respondents more likely to have seen or heard about 'Birds and other animals in woodlands', England overall 34%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 25%; aged 35 to 54 36%; aged 55 and over 43%;
- **Car access** - access to car 39%; no access to car 21%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 39%; without 33%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 40%; C2DE 29%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 39%; not visited 21%.

Respondents more likely to have seen or heard about 'Tree planting', England overall 30%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 23%; aged 35 to 54 31%; aged 55 and over 38%;
- **Car access** - access to car 35%; no access to car 23%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 39%; C2DE 18%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 35%; not visited 18%.

Respondents more likely to have seen or heard about 'Forests and woodlands as places to visit', England overall 25%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 19%; aged 35 to 54 27%; aged 55 and over 32%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 32%; C2DE 20%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 31%; not visited 11%.

Respondents more likely to have seen or heard about 'Public rights of access to woodlands', England overall 24%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 15%; aged 35 to 54 25%; aged 55 and over 29%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 29%; C2DE 17%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 27%; not visited 10%.

2.2 Promotions of forests, woodlands, trees and wood products

A further media-related question asked respondents about a number of national promotions aimed at enhancing public understanding and awareness of woodlands, wood products and related issues.

Table 3 shows that the majority of respondents in all regions had heard of none of the promotions. The 2007 responses were similar to those received in 2005.

8% of respondents said that they were aware of the 'Forest Education initiative'; 5% had heard of 'Forest Schools', and a similar proportion had heard of the 'Autumn Colours' campaign; 3% had heard of 'Wood for Good or other promotions for timber uses and products', and the 'Active Woods' promotion.

These proportions of respondents should be placed within the context of a possible tendency for some respondents to select a category simply because it sounds plausible.

Table 3: Whether respondent has heard of various promotions, by region (%)

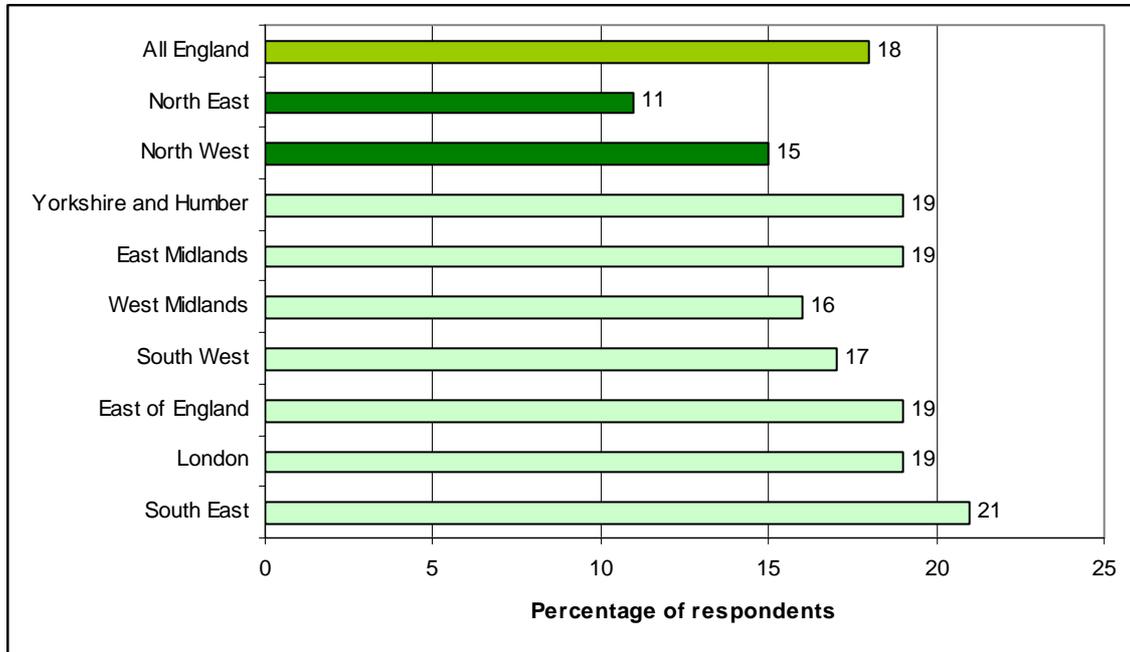
	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	South West	East of England	London	South East	England 2007	England 2005
Forest Education	4	7	9	7	8	7	9	8	8	8	8
Forest Schools	5	5	4	7	4	8	7	5	5	5	5
Autumn Colours	4	4	6	4	5	4	4	5	6	5	4
'Wood for Good' / other timber promotions	2	4	4	3	2	3	3	3	6	3	4
Active Woods 'Naturally good for you'	2	2	4	6	2	4	3	5	3	3	3
None/ Don't know	89	85	81	80	84	83	81	80	79	82	83
At least one	11	15	19	19	16	17	19	19	21	18	17

Base: All respondents in England - 2005 (3,367), 2007 (3,339)

Geographic comparisons

Respondents from the North East and North West of England were significantly less likely to have heard of any promotions than those in the rest of the country (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Whether respondent has heard of at least one of the promotions, by region (%)



Base: All respondents in England 2007 survey (3,339)

Note: Dark green indicates significance in multivariate analysis.

Socio-demographic Comparisons

Respondents who had heard of at least one of the promotions, England overall 18%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 20%; aged 35 to 54 19%; aged 55 and over 16%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 19%; not visited 13%.

3. Forest management

3.1 Benefits of forestry

The government supports forestry in many ways. Respondents were asked to select (from a list of possible public benefits) good reasons to support forestry with public money. The majority (93%) of respondents in England selected at least one benefit.

The top three good reasons to support forestry with public money were 'to provide places for wildlife to live', 'to help tackle climate change' and 'to provide places to walk in', (Table 4). In general, support for each benefit was marginally higher in 2007 than in 2005 and 2003.

Table 4: Whether respondent believes public benefits are good reasons to support forestry with public money (%)

	2003	2005	2007
To provide places for wildlife to live	71	67	72
To help tackle climate change ¹	-	-	62
To help prevent the 'greenhouse effect' and global warming ¹	58	56	-
To provide places to walk in ²	61	57	60
To improve the countryside landscape	57	53	56
To provide healthy places for physical activity, relaxation and stress relief	-	44	48
To support the economy in rural areas	46	42	45
To create pleasant settings for developments around towns	41	38	41
To provide places to cycle or ride horses	40	35	39
To make woods more accessible to all in the community	41	36	38
To provide renewable energy including wood as fuel ²	32	29	37
To help rural tourism	42	37	37
To restore former industrial land	35	31	34
So that the UK can buy less wood products from abroad	33	30	32
To provide timber for sawmills and wood processing	28	24	27
At least one reason	93	89	93

Base: All respondents in England surveys - 2003 (3,412), 2005 (3,367), 2007 (3,339)

¹ Note the change in wording for this topic

² The wording differed slightly in the 2003 and 2005 surveys

Geographic comparisons

Table 5 gives the regional breakdown of the top three reasons for supporting forestry with public money.

Respondents from London and the North West were less likely than those living elsewhere to have given at least one reason to support forestry with public money.

Respondents in London and the North West were less likely than those living elsewhere to give 'To provide places for wildlife to live' as a response, while those respondents living in the South West were more likely to give this as a response.

Those living in the East Midlands, East of England, South East and Yorkshire and Humber were less likely than those living elsewhere to give 'To help tackle climate change' as a good reason for supporting forestry with public money.

Respondents in the North West, North East, Yorkshire and Humber, East Midlands and London were less likely than those elsewhere to provide the response 'To provide places to walk in' as a good reason to support forestry with public money.

Residents in the most deprived areas were less likely to give 'To provide places for wildlife to live' (57%) and 'To provide places to walk in' (48%) as good reasons to support forestry with public money than respondents whose address was located in the least deprived areas (75% and 63% respectively).

Table 5: Whether respondent believes public benefits are good reasons to support forestry with public money, by region (%)

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	South West	East of England	London	South East	England
To provide places for wildlife to live	66	65	73	70	76	83	78	58	75	72
To help tackle climate change	55	63	58	57	69	71	64	59	60	62
To provide places to walk in	54	58	59	55	66	70	69	48	62	60
At least one reason	90	91	94	92	95	95	96	89	96	93

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents who had a car, who had visited forests or woodlands recently or were in social classes ABC1 were more likely than those without a car, who had not visited forests or woodlands recently and were in social classes C2DE to give each of the 14 reasons for supporting forestry with public money.

The following results identify, overall and for the top five reasons for supporting forestry with public money, those variables highlighted as significant in the regression model.

Respondents who gave at least one reason to support forestry with public money, England overall 93%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 91%; aged 35 to 54 94%; aged 55 and over 94%;
- **Car access** - access to car 95%; no access to car 88%;
- **Gender** - male 95%, female 92%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 96%; C2DE 91%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 96%; not visited 84%.

Respondents who gave 'To provide places for wildlife to live' as a good reason to support forestry with public money, England overall 72%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 64%; aged 35 to 54 75%; aged 55 and over 75%;
- **Car access** - access to car 76%; no access to car 61%;
- **Gender** - male 70%, female 73%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 76%; C2DE 67%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 77%; not visited 55%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 74%; without 71%.

Respondents who gave 'To help tackle climate change' as a good reason to support forestry with public money, England overall 62%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 58%; aged 35 to 54 65%; aged 55 and over 62%;
- **Car access** - access to car 66%; no access to car 52%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 71%; C2DE 53%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 68%; not visited 43%;
- **Work status** - those who were employed 66%; not employed 57%.

Respondents more likely to give 'To provide places to walk in' as a good reason to support forestry with public money, England overall 60%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 49%; aged 35 to 54 63%; aged 55 and over 67%;
- **Car access** - access to car 64%; no access to car 50%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 64%; C2DE 56%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 65%; not visited 43%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 63%; without 59%.

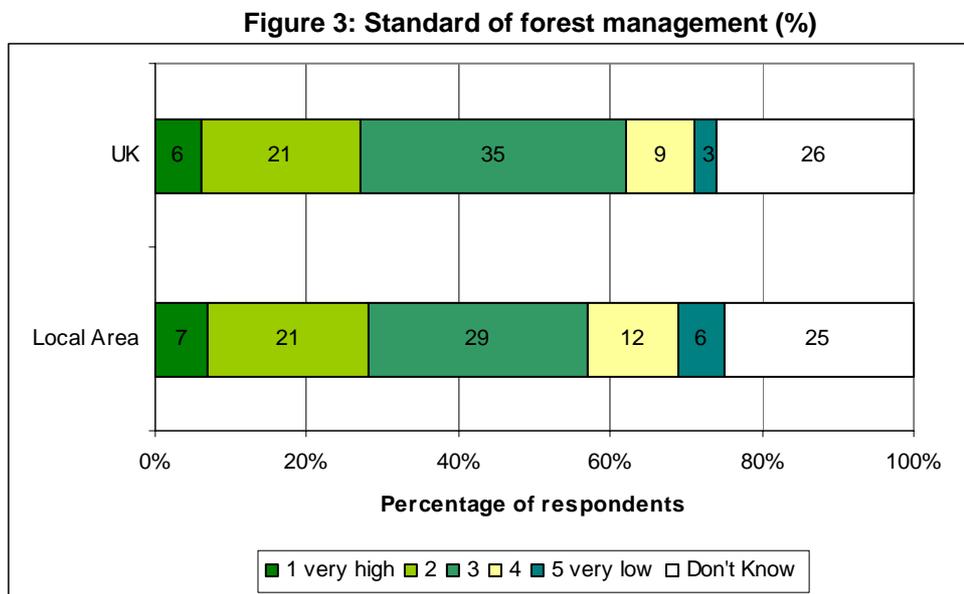
3.2 Forest management standards

A new question in the 2007 survey asked about 'Forest Management', defined as referring to all activities in woodland, including woodland creation, recreation, wildlife management and timber production.

Respondents were asked to rate the standard of forest management both in the UK and in their local area. Ratings were given on a scale of 1-5, 1 being 'very high' and 5 being 'very low'.

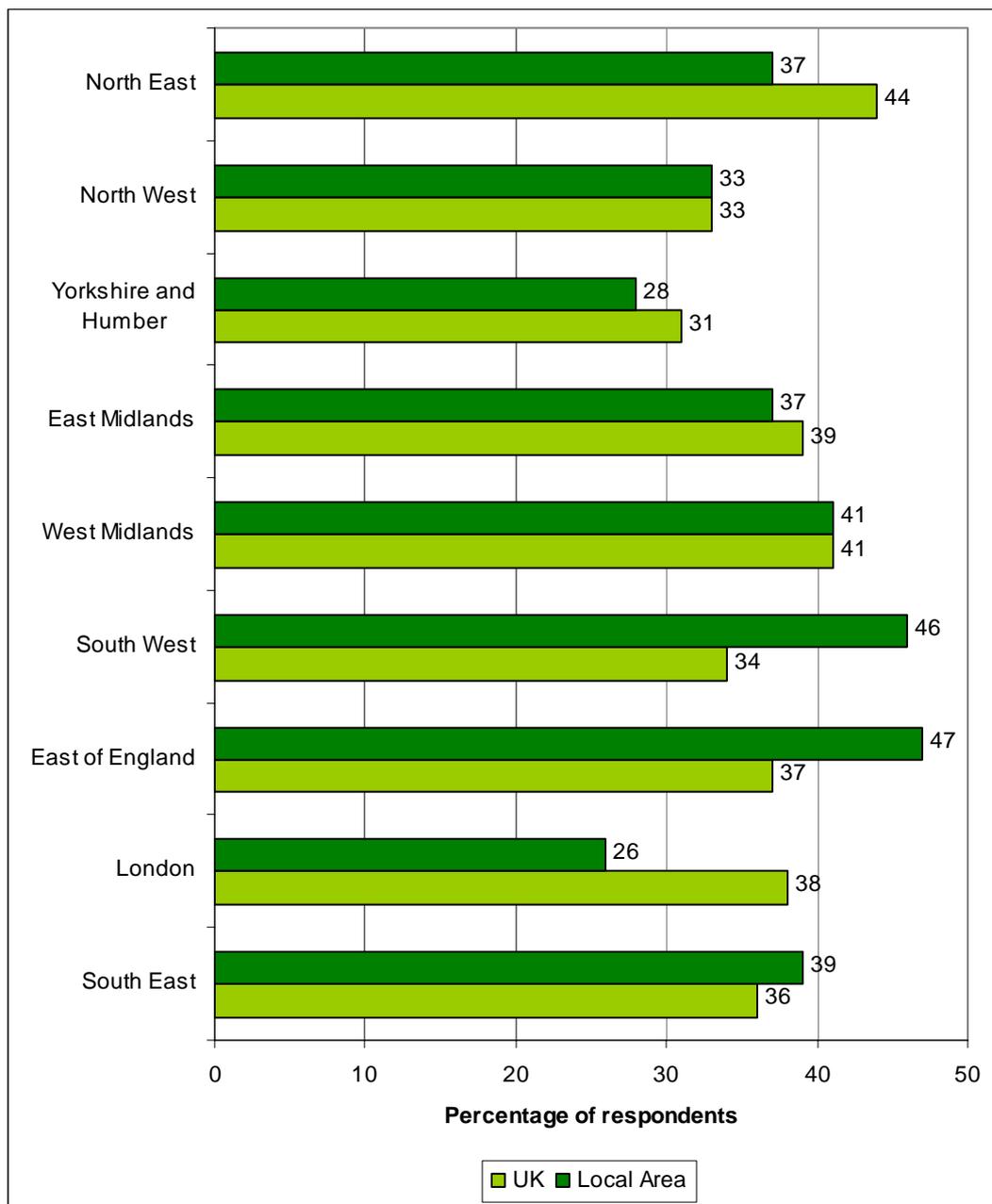
Figure 3 shows that overall, similar responses were received to the UK and local area questions. When asked about the standard of forest management in the UK, of those respondents from England who provided an answer, 37% were positive, i.e. they provided a response of '1 - very high' or '2'.

Around a quarter of respondents could not give a rating, presumably because they did not know enough about either forests or the topic of forest management.



Base: All respondents in England - 2007 (3,339),

Figure 4: Levels of overall positive ratings (1 or 2) of forest management, by region (%)



Base: Respondents who gave a response to this question, 2483 for the UK, 2514 for the local area.

Geographic comparisons

Figure 4 shows that respondents from Yorkshire and Humber were less likely than those elsewhere to rate the standard of forest management in the UK as '1 very high' or '2', whereas those living in the North East were more likely to respond in this way.

Respondents from the North West, Yorkshire and Humber and London were less likely than those from the rest of the country to rate the standard of forest management in the local area as '1 very high' or '2'; those from the South West were more likely to provide high ratings.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents rating the standard of forest management in the UK as 'Good' or 'Very Good', England overall 37%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 33%; aged 35 to 54 34%; aged 55 and over 42%;
- **Children** - with children 39%; without 31%;
- **Gender** - male 40%, female 33%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 38%; C2DE 35%.

Respondents rating the standard of forest management in their local area as 'Good' or 'Very Good', England overall 37%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 35%; aged 35 to 54 35%; aged 55 and over 42%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 40%; C2DE 34%.

4. Climate change

The UK Government believes that climate change is the greatest long-term challenge facing the world today. There is strong evidence that climate change is happening and that man-made emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are its main cause.

Globally, forest ecosystems play a key role in addressing climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in growing vegetation and soil. Deforestation caused by the unsustainable harvesting of timber and the conversion of forests to other land-uses leads to significant emissions of this stored carbon back to the atmosphere. Forests and woodlands can also be managed as a sustainable source of wood – an alternative energy source to fossil fuels, and a low-energy construction material.

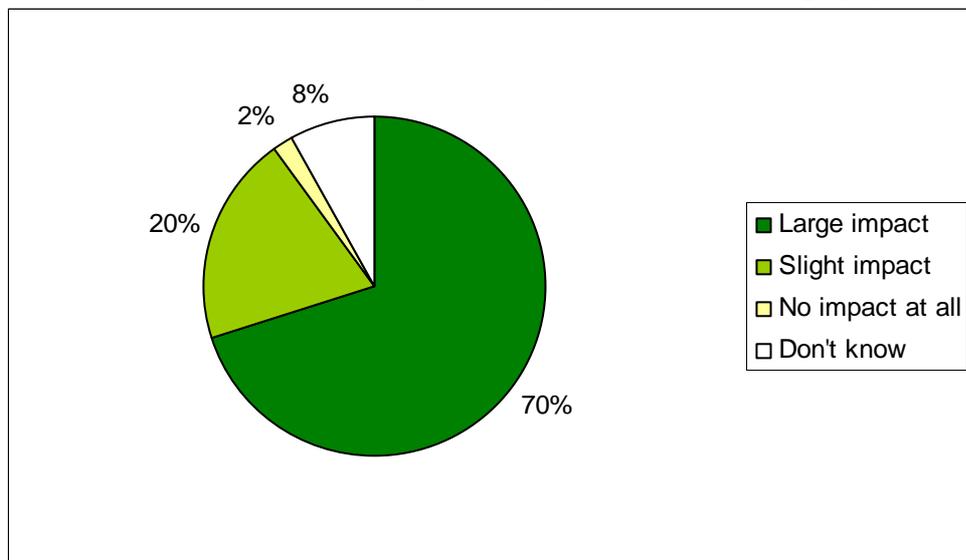
Although, on a world scale, they cover a small area (8.6% of the land area in England in 2007), the forests and woodlands in England have a role to play too.

A new section of questions on this issue was added to the 2007 survey. Section 2.1 of this report has already noted that 'Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change' was the top answer provided by respondents when asked whether they had seen anything about UK forests in the media. Additionally, respondents identified in section 3.1 that the second top public benefit to be gained from public support of forestry is 'to help tackle climate change'. Sections 4.1 to 4.3 report the results of other new questions on this topic.

4.1 Impact of climate change

The vast majority of respondents in England believe that climate change will have an impact on the UK, with most believing that there will be a large impact (70% of all respondents).

Figure 5: Impact of climate change (%)



Base: All respondents in England 2007 survey (3,339)

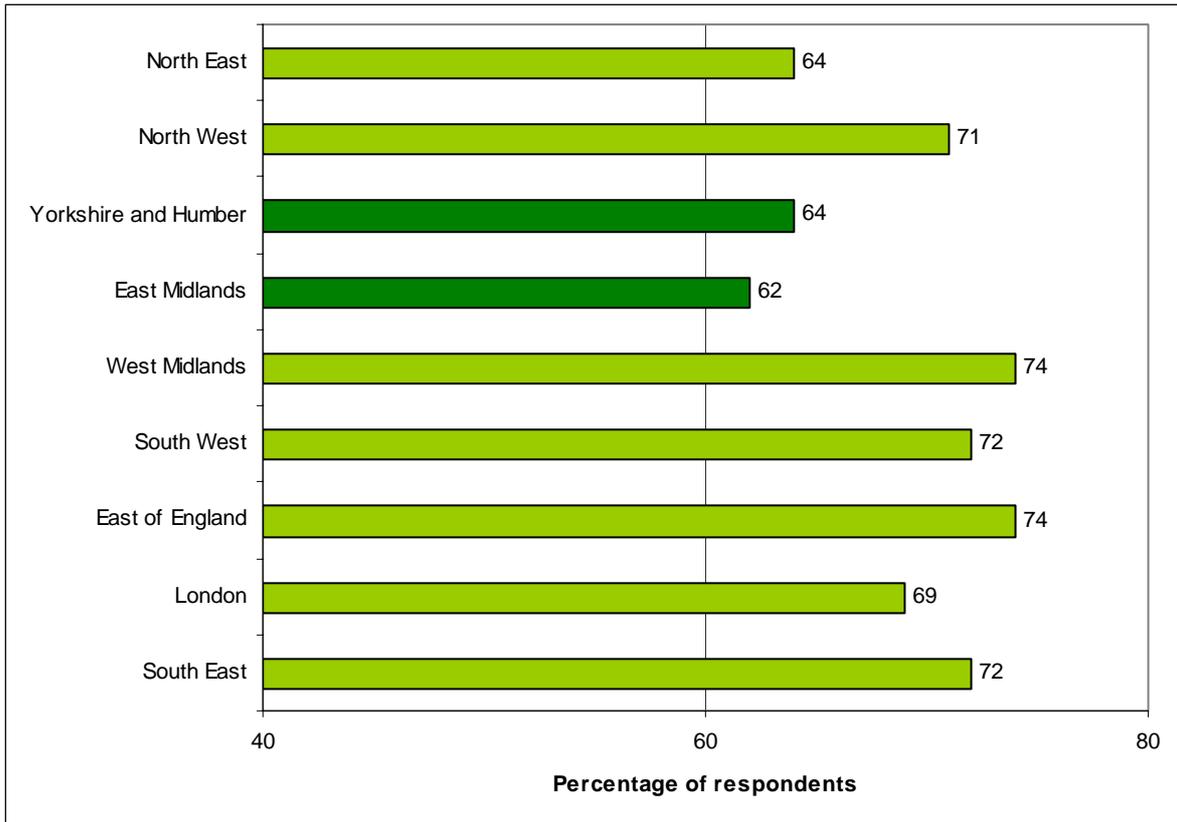
Geographic comparisons

Figure 6 shows the percentage of people who thought that climate change will have a large impact on the UK, by region.

Respondents from the East Midlands and Yorkshire and Humber were less likely than those living elsewhere to think that climate change would have a large impact on the UK.

Residents from the most deprived areas (65%) were less likely than those living in the least deprived areas (71%) to believe that climate change would have a large impact on the UK.

Figure 6: Impact of climate change, by region (%)



Base: All respondents in England - 2007 (3,339)

Note: Dark green indicates significance in the multivariate regression

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents believing that climate change would have a large impact on the UK, England overall 70%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 71%; aged 35 to 54 75%; aged 55 and over 64%;
- **Car access** - access to car 72%; no access to car 64%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 73%; C2DE 64%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 73%; not visited 60%;
- **Working status** - unemployed 65%; employed 74%.

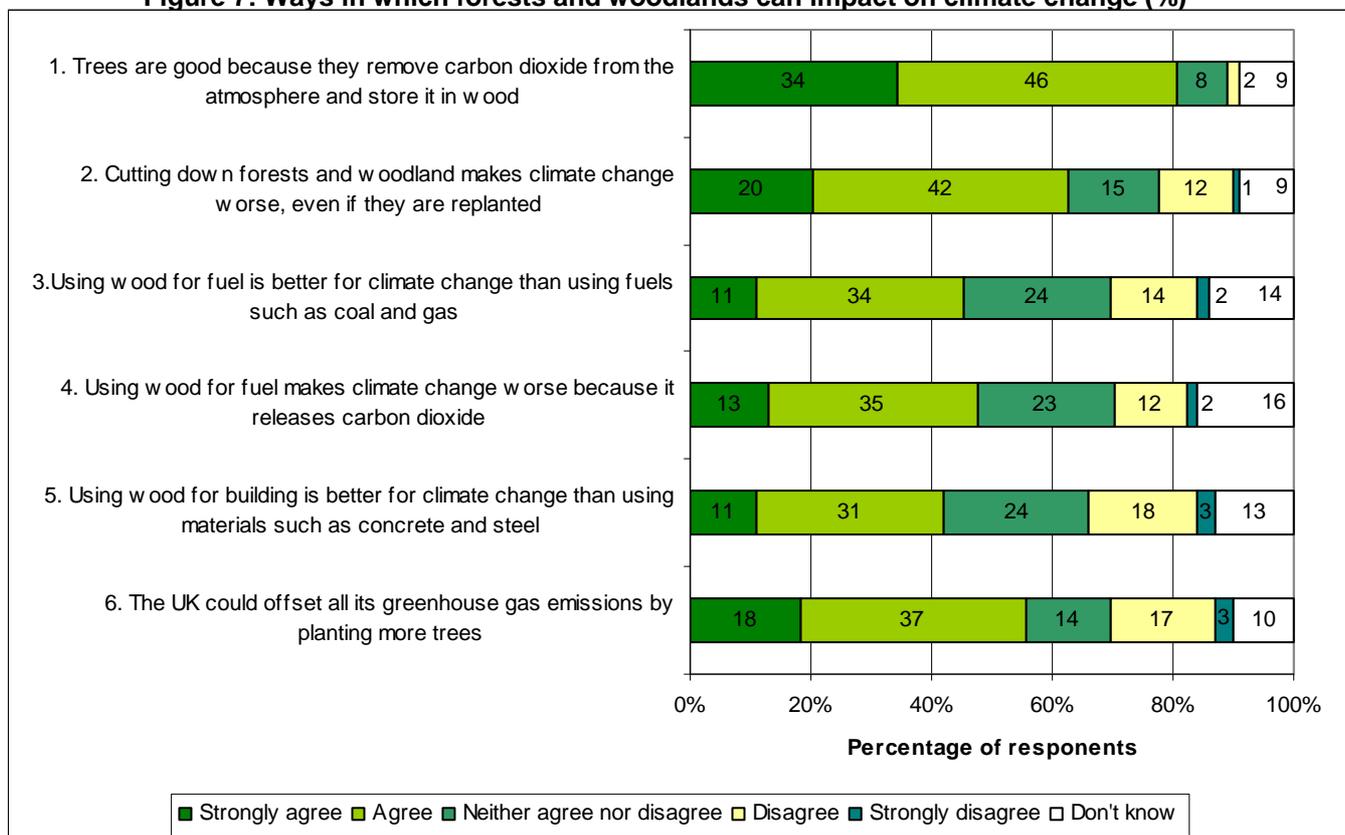
4.2 Woodlands' impact on climate change

In an attempt to gauge both the beliefs and knowledge of the public on the relationship between forests and climate change, respondents were asked about their level of agreement with a set of statements regarding the ways in which forests and woodlands in the UK can impact on climate change.

Over 40% of all respondents agreed (selected '1 strongly agree' or '2') with each of the statements and many more respondents agreed with each statement than disagreed (selected '5 strongly disagree' or '4').

The highest level of agreement, four-fifths of respondents, was with the statement that 'Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood'. More than half of respondents believe that 'Cutting down forests and woodland makes climate change worse, even if they are replanted' and that 'The UK could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees'.

Figure 7: Ways in which forests and woodlands can impact on climate change (%)



Base: All respondents in England - 2007 (3,339)

It is helpful to consider the numbered statements shown above in Figure 7 alongside the following common expert opinion¹:

¹ Statements and principles from the Forestry Commission 'Forestry and climate change' website: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6umkar>

1. In general, it is believed that forests and woodlands have a key role to play in mitigating the effects of climate change. Forests and woodlands do help to stabilise atmospheric carbon dioxide by sequestering and storing carbon in trees, vegetation and soils.
2. In the short term, cutting down forests and woodlands does make climate change worse, as carbon stocks are released, but in the longer term this is countered by replanting. However, this harvesting and replanting should not be confused with deforestation, which implies a change in land cover from forest to non-forest land, whereas sustainable wood production involves cyclical harvesting and growing.
3. Wood and other materials derived from plants have an important contribution to make towards our future energy needs. Wood can be used as a low-carbon renewable energy source to substitute for fossil fuels.
4. Carbon released by burning woodfuel in modern, efficient systems is re-absorbed by growing trees in a cycle that reduces the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere. The long-term effect of tree planting, good forest management practices and burning woodfuel in efficient systems should be almost carbon neutral, however, such forests would of course not offset other emissions.
5. Wood products can be used as low-energy alternatives to materials such as concrete and steel, which involve high-energy use in their production. The biomass in wood products is also a carbon stock in its own right, just as much as biomass in living trees.
6. Afforestation makes an important contribution by sequestering carbon, but it is not feasible for the UK to become 'carbon neutral' through afforestation alone. It is estimated that to do this would require creation of some 50 million hectares of forest – approximately twice the land area of the UK. The same principle is of course also valid for individual countries such as England, where an impractical level of afforestation would be required.

Geographic comparisons

Table 6: Levels of agreement with statements about ways in which forests can impact on climate change, by region (%)

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	South West	East of England	London	South East	England
1. Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood	85	86	88	90	87	89	89	88	89	88
2. Cutting down forests and woodland makes climate change worse, even if they are replanted	60	68	70	70	75	63	63	75	68	69
3. Using wood for fuel is better for climate change than using fuels such as coal and gas	47	51	55	53	58	49	52	55	53	53
4. Using wood for fuel makes climate change worse because it releases carbon dioxide	53	62	53	51	62	53	50	64	51	56
5. Using wood for building is better for climate change than using materials such as concrete and steel	40	47	50	48	49	47	47	53	45	48
6. The UK could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees	63	65	61	66	58	49	54	72	59	61

Base: Those who gave an opinion ranging from 2,803 for statement 4, to 3,050 for statement 1.

Respondents from the North East and the North West were less likely than those living elsewhere to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' with the statement that 'Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood'.

Respondents from the West Midlands and London were significantly more likely than those living in the rest of the country to give some form of agreement to the statement 'Cutting down forests and woodland makes climate change worse, even if they are replanted'; those from the North East and the East of England were less likely to agree with this statement.

'Using wood for fuel makes climate change worse because it releases carbon dioxide' was more likely to gain agreement from respondents living in London, the West Midlands and the North West than those living elsewhere. Those living in more urban areas were also more likely to agree (urban areas 57%, villages 50% and towns and fringe 49%).

Those from the South West were less likely than respondents from elsewhere to agree that 'The UK could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees' while those from London and the East Midlands were more likely to agree with this statement.

Respondents from more rural areas were more likely to agree that 'Using wood for building is better for climate change than using materials such as concrete and steel' (villages 54%; urban areas 48% and towns and fringe 45%).

Residents of the most deprived areas (72%) were more likely than those from the least deprived areas (59%) to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that 'The UK could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees'.

Socio-demographic comparisons

For each part of this question, the variables shown to be significant in the analysis are highlighted below; in the following statements, the proportion 'agreeing' refers to those respondents who answered either 'strongly agree' or 'agree':

Respondents agreeing that 'Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood', England overall 88%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 84%; aged 35 to 54 89%; aged 55 and over 90%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 89%; not visited 85%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Cutting down forests and woodlands makes climate change worse, even if they are replanted', England overall 69%:

- **Social grade** - ABC1 66%; C2DE 72%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Using wood for fuel is better for climate change than using fuels such as coal and gas', England overall 53%:

- **Gender** - male 51%; female 56%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Using wood for fuel makes climate change worse because it releases carbon dioxide', England overall 56%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 59%; aged 35 to 54 55%; aged 55 and over 55%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 54%; without 56%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 60%; C2DE 52%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 55%; not visited 61%;
- **Working status** - unemployed 59%; employed 54%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Using wood for building is better for climate change than using materials such as concrete and steel', England overall 48%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 44%; aged 35 to 54 51%; aged 55 and over 49%.

Respondents agreeing that 'The UK could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees' England overall 61%.

- **Car access** - access to car 70%; no access to car 59%;
- **Gender** - male 58%; female 64%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 52%; C2DE 70%.

4.3 Forest management in response to climate change

The respondents were presented with a series of statements regarding the way in which UK forests and woodlands should be managed in response to the threat of climate change.

There was a clear distinction in the level of agreement with the six statements posed, but for each, the majority of responses were in line with most expert opinion.

The majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that:

- 'a lot more trees should be planted' (90%);
- 'more information should be provided about the ways in which wood can be used to lessen our impact on the environment' (86%); and that
- 'different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates' (75%).

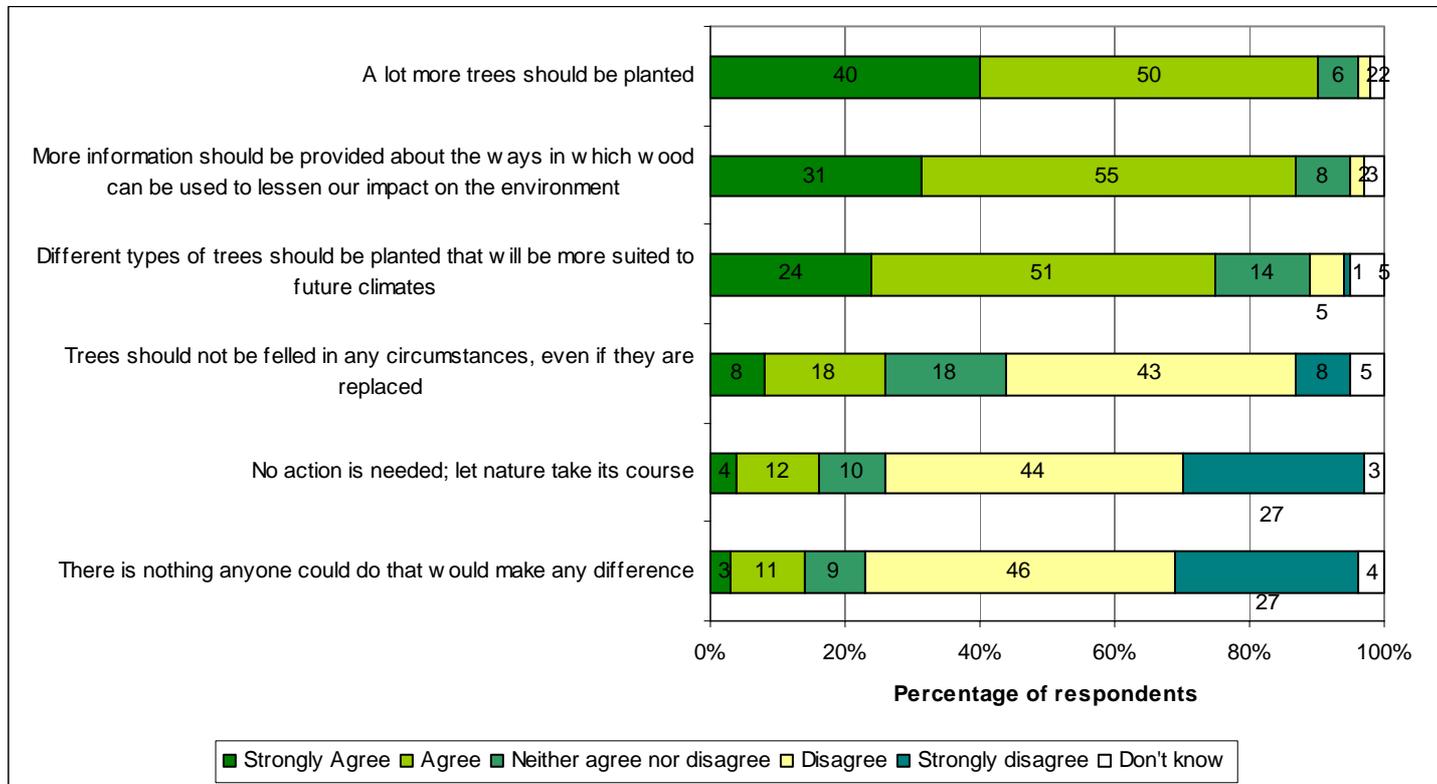
Agreement with these points reflects a belief that climate change is occurring but also some amount of faith that forestry and wood can be utilised in an attempt to mitigate changes.

Conversely, a majority of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that:

- 'there is nothing that anyone could do that would make any difference' (73%);
- 'no action is needed; let nature take its course' (72%); and that
- 'trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced' (51%).

These results suggest that respondents believe we can and should use our knowledge of forestry to attempt to make a difference.

Figure 8: Management of UK forests in response to the threat of climate change (%)



Base: All respondents in England - 2007 (3,339)

Geographic comparisons

Table 7: Levels of agreement with statements about the management of woodlands in response to climate change, by region (%)

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	South West	East of England	London	South East	England
A lot more trees should be planted	86	91	93	95	93	91	90	93	91	92
More information should be provided about the ways in which wood can be used to lessen our impact on the environment	83	92	88	90	90	91	86	90	89	89
Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates	83	79	81	81	79	76	77	84	76	79
Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced	22	26	27	19	35	19	23	40	26	27
No action is needed; let nature take its course	19	17	20	15	21	13	13	19	12	16
There is nothing that anyone could do that would make any difference	17	13	18	13	17	13	10	18	14	15

Base: Those who gave a response ranging from 3,159 for 'Different types of trees should be planted...' to 3,279 for 'A lot more trees should be planted'

Respondents from the West Midlands, were more likely than those living elsewhere to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' with the statement 'No action is needed; let nature take its course'.

'A lot more trees should be planted' was less likely to gain agreement from those in the North East than those living elsewhere, while those from the East Midlands and London were most likely to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' with this statement.

Respondents from the West Midlands and London were more likely than those living in other regions of England to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' with the statement 'Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced'. Those living in the South East were more likely than those living in regions other than the West Midlands or London to 'Strongly Agree' with this statement.

Respondents from London were more likely than those elsewhere to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' with 'Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates'.

Those from the North East and the East of England were less likely to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that 'More information should be provided about the ways in which wood can be used to lessen our impact on the environment' than those who lived in other regions of England.

Residents of the most deprived areas were more likely to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that 'There is nothing anyone can do that would make any difference' (19%); 'No action is needed; let nature take its course' (23%); and that 'Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates (86%); residents of the least deprived areas responded 14%, 15% and 78% respectively.

Socio-demographic comparisons

For each part of this question, the variables shown to be significant in the analysis are highlighted below; in the following statements, the proportion 'agreeing' refers to those respondents who answered either 'strongly agree' or 'agree':

Respondents agreeing that 'A lot more trees should be planted', England overall 92%:

- **Car access** - access to car 93%; no access to car 89%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 93%; not visited 86%.

Respondents agreeing that 'More information should be provided about the ways in which wood can be used to lessen our impact on the environment', England overall 89%:

- **Gender** - male 88%, female 91%;
- **Work status** - not employed 87%; employed 91%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 91%; not visited 83%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates', England overall 79%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 77%; aged 35 to 54 81%; aged 55 and over 81%;
- **Gender** - male 81%, female 78%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 75%; C2DE 83%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 80%; not visited 78%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced', England overall 27%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 34%; aged 35 to 54 24%; aged 55 and over 25%;
- **Car access** - access to car 23%; no access to car 38%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 21%; C2DE 34%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 24%; not visited 38%;
- **Work status** - not employed 31%; employed 21%.

Respondents agreeing that 'No action is needed; let nature take its course', England overall 16%:

- **Car access** - access to car 13%; no access to car 23%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 11%; C2DE 21%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 13%; not visited 26%;
- **Work status** - not employed 21%; employed 12%.

Respondents agreeing that 'There is nothing anyone could do that would make any difference', England overall 15%:

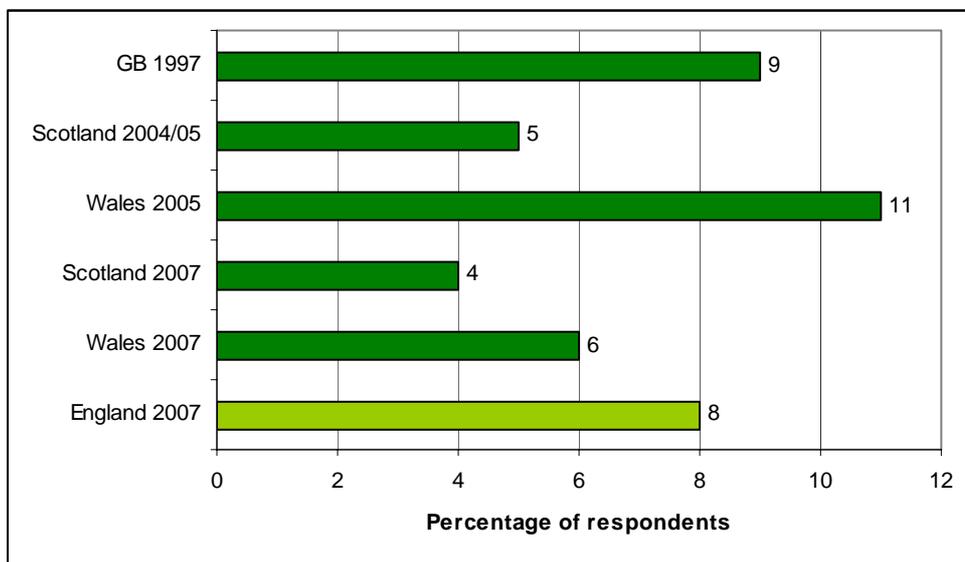
- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 14%; aged 35 to 54 13%; aged 55 and over 17%;
- **Car access** - access to car 13%; no access to car 19%;
- **Gender** - male 16%, female 14%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 12%; C2DE 17%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 12%; not visited 25%.

5. Wood as a fuel

In 2007, 8% of respondents in England said that they used wood as a fuel in their home, either on its own, or with other fuels. This question was not asked in the previous GB/UK/England public opinion surveys. However, the question was asked in separate 2007 public opinion surveys undertaken in Wales and Scotland, in the 2005 Wales public opinion survey, in a woodfuel consumption study in Scotland in 2004/05 and in the 1997 GB firewood survey.

Each of these surveys identified a small proportion of respondents who use wood as a fuel. It is notable that the 2007 England result is not significantly different from the GB result from ten years earlier.

Figure 9: Proportion of respondents who use wood as a fuel in their home (%)

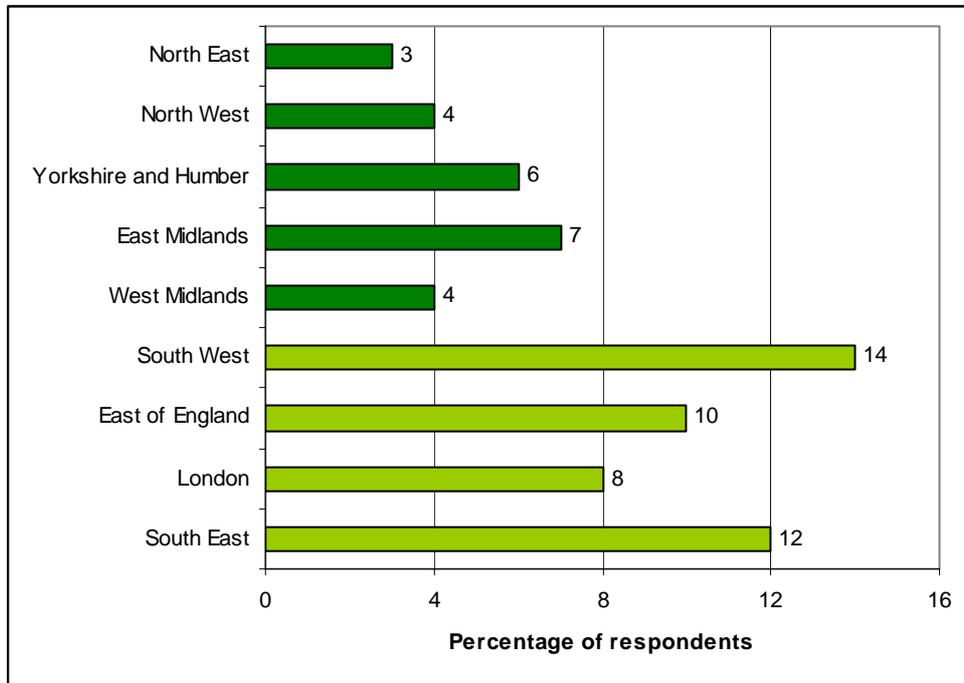


Base: All respondents in - GB 1997 (2,000), Scotland 2004/5 (4,006), Wales 2005 (1,001), Scotland 2007 (1,007), Wales 2007 (953), England - 2007 (3,339)

Geographic comparisons

Respondents in the North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humber, East Midlands and West Midlands were less likely than those in the rest of England to use wood as a fuel in their home.

Figure 10: Proportion of respondents who use wood as a fuel in their home, by region (%)



Base: All respondents in England 2007 survey (3,339)

Note: Those in dark green are statistically significant in the multivariate regression

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents using wood as a fuel in their home, England overall 8%:

- **Car access** - access to car 10%; no access to car 4%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 11%; C2DE 6%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 10%; not visited 3%.

The respondents who did use wood for fuel were asked three further questions:

- The majority either obtained their wood fuel a few bags at a time (42%) or gathered it themselves (40%), while 16% received it by the truck load;
- The majority of respondents classified themselves as an occasional user (69%), while 29% said they used wood as a fuel regularly;
- Only 8% use it as the main fuel for heating their home, while the rest mainly use something else.

As there were only 272 respondents who used wood as a fuel, no regional or socio-demographic analyses were carried out on subsequent questions.

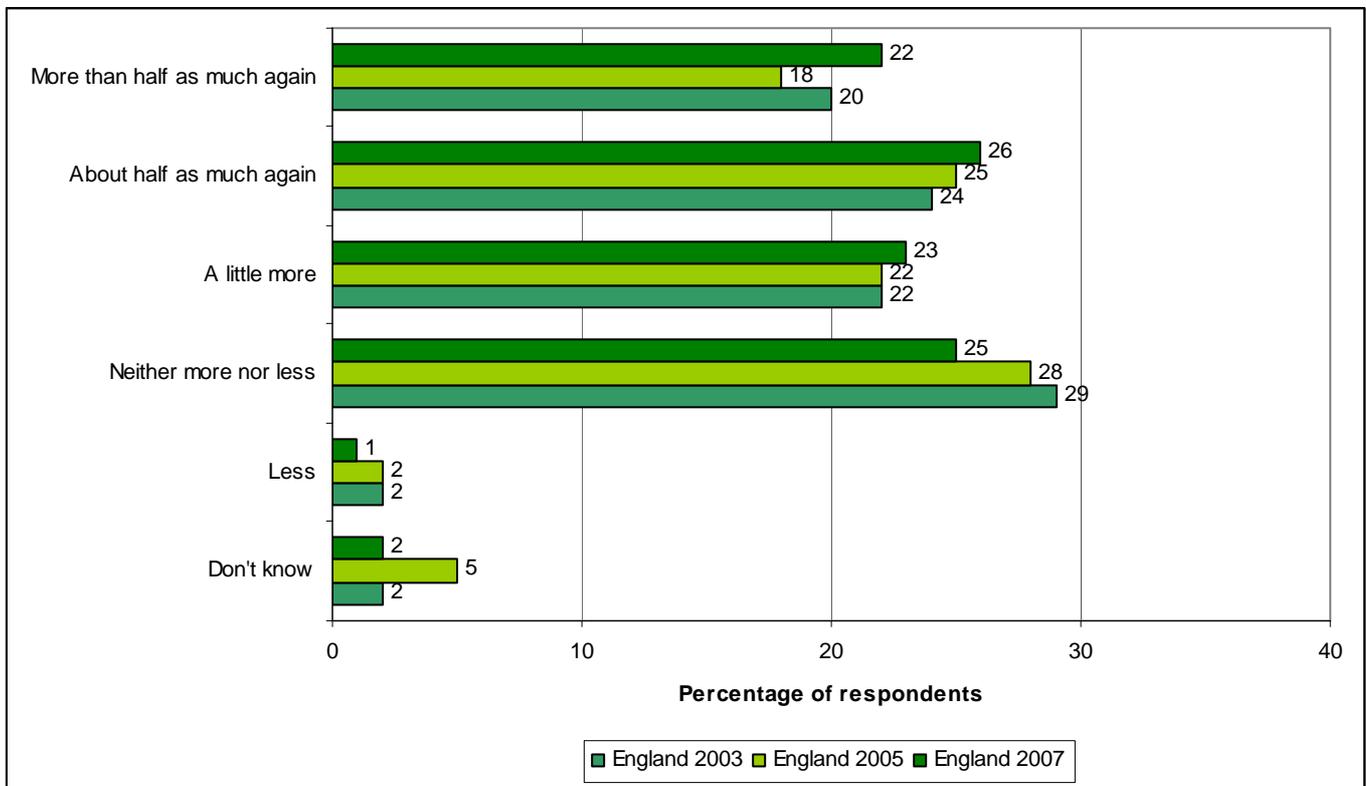
6. Changes to woodland

The recorded area of woodland in England has increased, from 0.9 million hectares in 1980 to 1.1 million hectares in 2007. Although some of this increase can be attributed to improved coverage of woodland inventories, it is nevertheless clear that total woodland area has increased.

6.1 Desire for change in woodland area

The respondents were asked whether they would like to have more or less woodland in their part of the country. Over two-thirds of respondents indicated they would like to have more woodland (71%), a significantly higher result than that obtained in either 2005 (65%) or 2003 (67%). Roughly similar proportions of the England 2007 respondents indicated that they would like to see a little more (23%), about half as much again (26%) and more than half as much again (22%).

Figure 11: Desire for more woodland in respondent's part of the country (%)

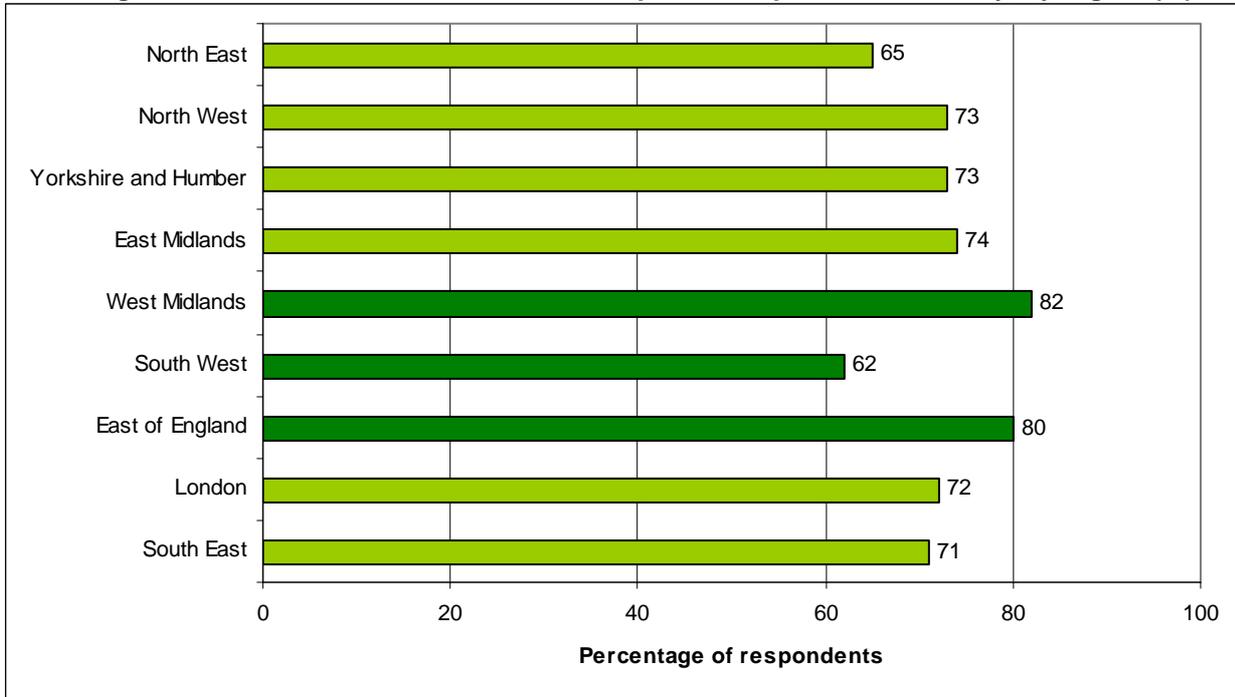


Base: All respondents in England - 2003 (3,412), 2005 (3,367), 2007 (3,339)

Geographic comparisons

Respondents from the West Midlands and the East of England were more likely to say they desired more woodland in their part of the country; those in the South West were less likely to give this response.

Figure 12: Desire for more woodland in respondent's part of the country, by region (%)



Base: Respondents who gave a response (3264)

Note: Those in dark green are statistically significant in the multivariate regression

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents wanting more woodland in their part of the country, England overall 73%:

- **Children** - with children 74%; without 70%;
- **Gender** - male 75%, female 71%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 75%; not visited 61%.

6.2 Woodland based community involvement

The UK Forestry Standard¹ encourages woodland owners to involve local communities.

In the 12 months prior to being interviewed, only 7% of respondents said that they had been involved in any of the three types of community events listed in this question, i.e. they were a member of a community based woodland group such as a 'Community Trust' or 'Friends of Group', or had participated in either an organised tree planting event or some voluntary work in connection with a woodland (e.g. physical work in a wood, admin, fund raising, running a group).

The 7% of respondents who indicated participation in one of these activities corresponds to around three million adults involved in such activities nationally.

Table 8: Community involvement (%)

	England 2007
Involved in organised tree planting	4
Involved in woodland voluntary work	3
Member of community based woodland group	2
None / Don't know	93

Base: All respondents in England - 2007 (3,339)

Geographic comparisons

Respondents from the South East (11%) were more likely than those living elsewhere to have been involved in at least one of the activities listed.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents involved in at least one of the activities listed in the last 12 months, England overall 8%:

- **Gender** - male 7%, female 9%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 9%; C2DE 5%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 8%; not visited 2%;
- **Working status** - unemployed 5%; employed 9%.

As the numbers involved were relatively low, no further analysis was carried out.

¹ FC (2004): *The UK Forestry Standard (2nd edition)*; *The government's approach to sustainable forestry*, Forestry Commission, Edinburgh

7. Woodland recreation

The UK Forestry Standard¹ encourages the creation and improvement of public access to woodland for recreation.

7.1 Proportion visiting woodland

Just over three-quarters of respondents (76%) said that they had visited forests or woodlands for walks, picnics or other recreation in the last few years (Table 9), representing a significant increase over the results received in 2003 and 2005.

Table 9: Visited woodland in last few years (%)

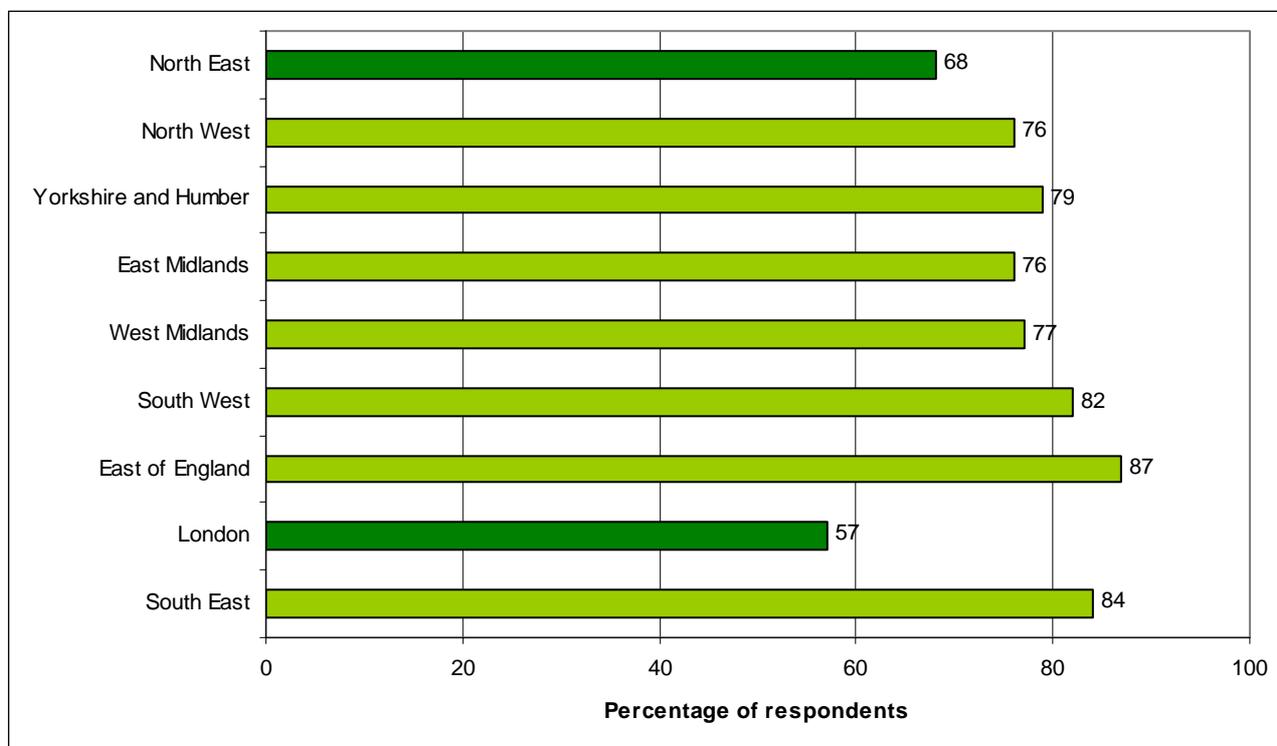
	England 2003	England 2005	England 2007
Visited woodland in last few years	66	65	76

Base: All respondents in England - 2003 (3,412), 2005 (3,367), 2007 (3,339)

Geographic comparisons

Respondents from the North East and London were less likely than those in the rest of England to have visited forest or woodlands in the last few years. Residents of the most deprived areas (62%) were less likely than others (80%) to have visited forests or woodlands in the last few years.

Figure 13: Visited woodlands in last few years, by region (%)



Base: All respondents (3,339)

Note: Dark green indicates significant variable in the multivariate analysis

¹ FC (2004): *The UK Forestry Standard (2nd edition)*, Forestry Commission, Edinburgh

Socio-demographic comparisons

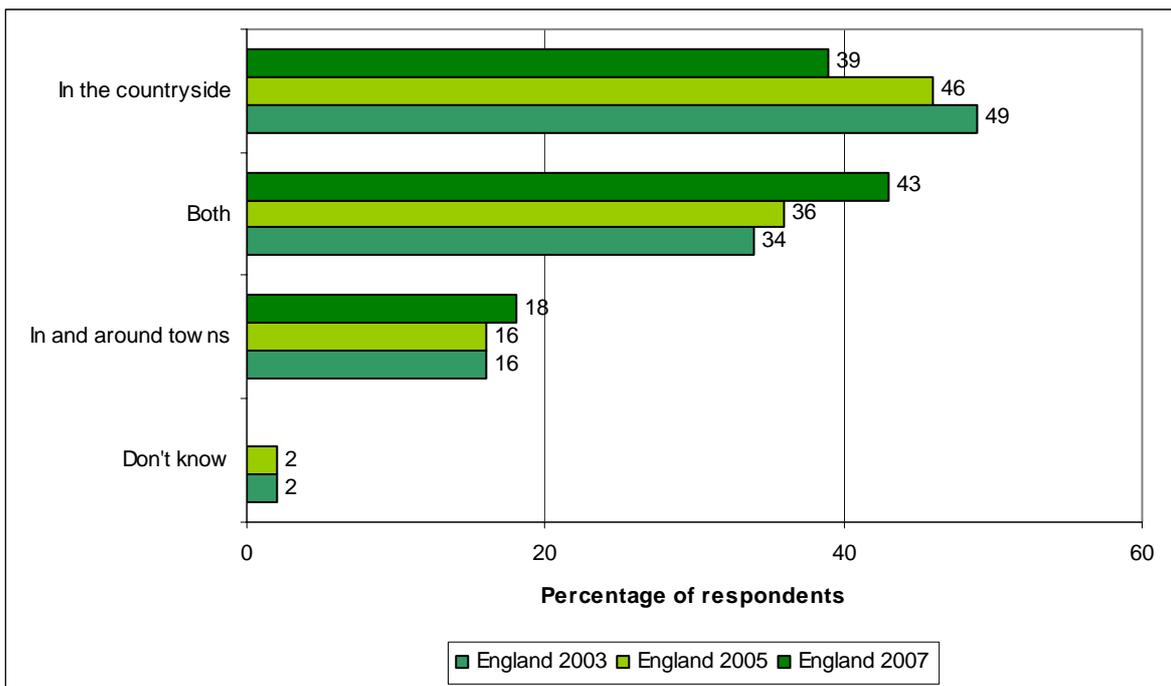
Respondents who have visited forests or woodlands recently, England overall 76%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 78%; aged 35 to 54 83%; aged 55 and over 70%;
- **Children** - with children 82%; without 74%.;
- **Car access** - access to car 84%; no access to car 60%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 84%; C2DE 69%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 81%; without 59%.

7.2 Type of woodland visited

A large proportion of woodland visitors said that they had visited woodland in the countryside (82% in total) and 61% said that they had visited woodland in and around towns (significantly more than the 51% in 2005). Figure 14 shows that 39% of woodland visitors have only visited woodland in the countryside, 18% have only visited woodland in and around towns and 43% have visited both rural and urban woodland.

Figure 14: Type of woodland visited (urban/rural)



Base: All respondents except those who had not visited woodland in the last few years - 2,554

Geographic comparisons

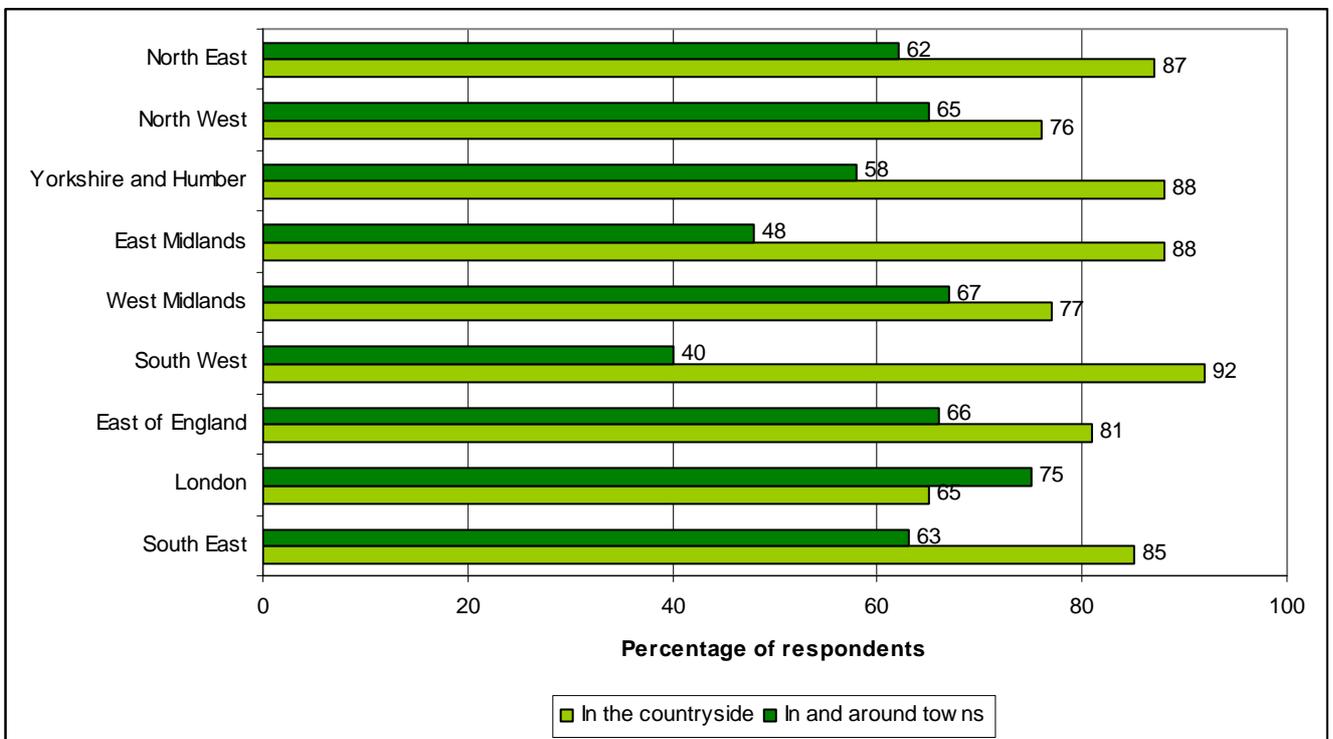
Respondents from the East Midlands (48%) and the South West (40%), were less likely than those living elsewhere to have visited woodlands in and around towns than respondents in the rest of England.

Respondents from the North West (76%), the West Midlands (77%) and London (65%) were less likely to have visited woodlands in the countryside, than those elsewhere, while respondents from the South East (85%) were more likely to have visited woodlands in the countryside.

Residents of the most deprived areas (71%) were less likely than residents of the least deprived areas (84%) to have visited woodland in the countryside.

As expected, respondents who lived in urban areas (66%) were more likely than those from villages (44%) and small towns and fringe areas (41%) to have visited woodland in and around towns.

Figure 15: Type of woodland visited, by region (%)



Base: Respondents who had visited woodlands recently (2,554)

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents who had visited woodlands in and around towns, England overall 61%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 69%; aged 35 to 54 62%; aged 55 and over 53%;
- **Car access** - access to car 59%; no access to car 69%.

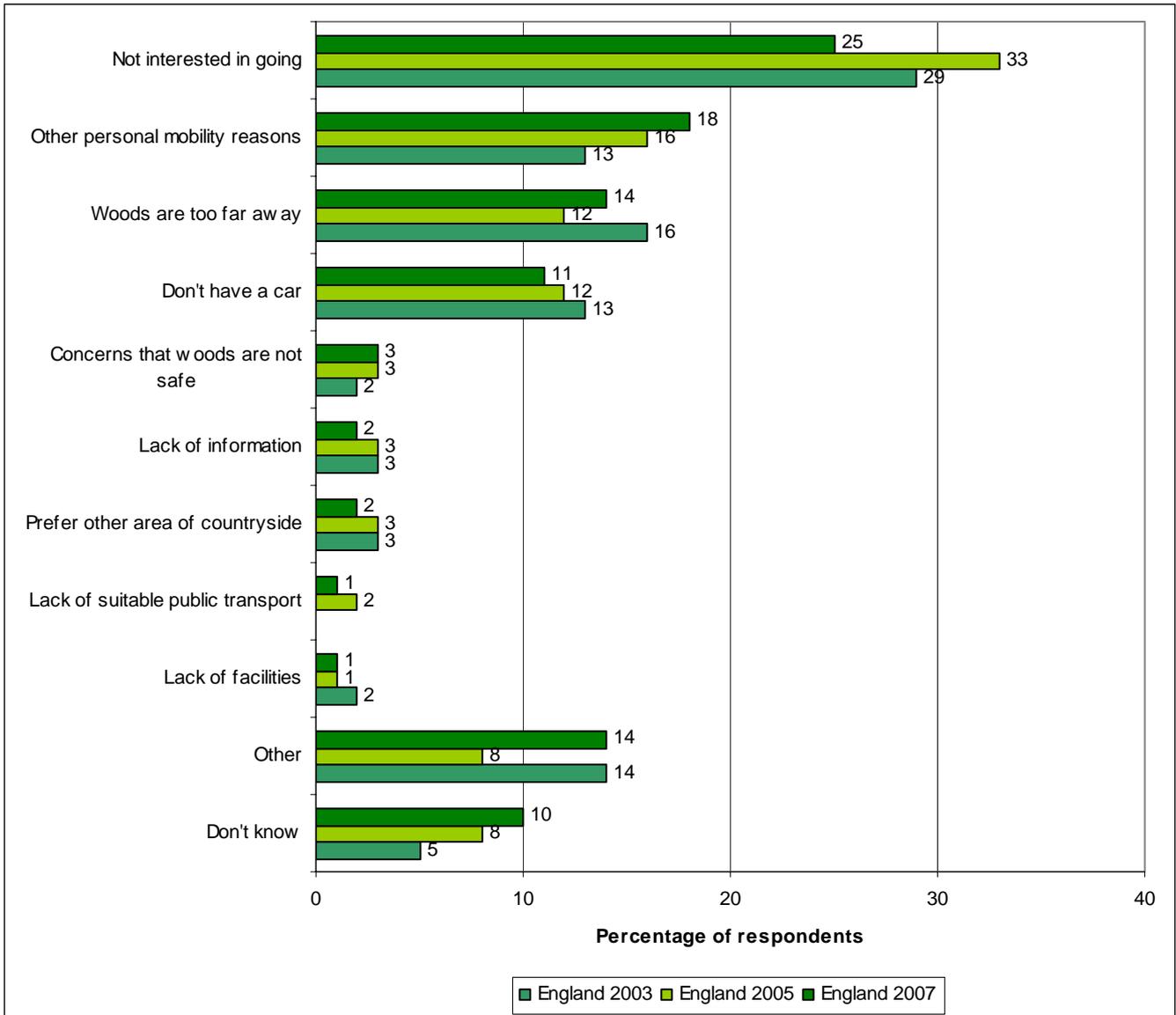
Respondents who had visited woodlands in the countryside, England overall 82%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 75%; aged 35 to 54 86%; aged 55 and over 83%;
- **Car access** - access to car 86%; no access to car 69%;
- **Children** - with children 81%; without 85%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 87%; C2DE 76%;
- **Work status** - employed 85%; unemployed 79%.

7.3 Reasons for not visiting woodland

Respondents who had not visited woodland in the last few years were asked to give their main reason for not visiting. Figure 16 shows that in 2007, as in previous years, the main reason given for not visiting a forest or woodland was that the respondent was not interested in going (25%), however this represents a significant decrease from the equivalent 2005 result (33%).

Figure 16: Main reason for not visiting forest/woodland in last few years (%)



Base: Respondents in England who had not visited woodland in the last few years - 2003 (1,127), 2005 (1,128), 2007 (785).

Geographic comparisons

Table 10 gives the regional breakdown of the top three reasons for not visiting forests or woodlands in the last couple of years.

Respondents from London and the North East were less likely than those living elsewhere to give 'Other personal mobility reasons' as their main reason for not visiting forests or woodlands in the last few years.

Respondents from London and the South East, were more likely than those in other areas to give 'Woods are too far away' as their main reason for not visiting forests or woodlands in the past few years. Residents of the most deprived areas (19%) were more likely than those in the least deprived areas (11%) to give 'Woods are too far away' as their main reason for not having visited forests or woodlands in the last couple of years.

Table 10: Main reasons for not visiting forests/woodlands, by region (%)

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	South West	East of England	London	South East	England
Not interested in going	30	19	19	32	28	16	22	28	25	25
Other personal mobility reasons	11	25	27	26	19	16	23	7	23	18
Woods are too far away	7	5	11	8	14	6	11	24	19	14

Base: Respondents in England who had not visited woodlands in the past few years (785)

Socio-demographic comparisons

The following results identify, for the top three reasons for not visiting forests or woodlands, those variables highlighted as significant in the regression model.

Respondents giving 'Not interested in going' as their main reason for not visiting forests or woodlands in the last few years, England overall 25%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 38%; aged 35 to 54 23%; aged 55 and over 17%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 14%; without 30%;
- **Work status** - employed 27%; unemployed 24%.

Respondents giving 'Other personal mobility reasons' as their main reason for not visiting forests or woodlands in the last few years, England overall 18%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 2%; aged 35 to 54 7%; aged 55 and over 34%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 44%; without 5%;
- **Work status** - employed 27%; unemployed 24%.

Respondents giving 'Woods are too far away' as their main reason for not visiting forests or woodlands in the last few years, England overall 14%:

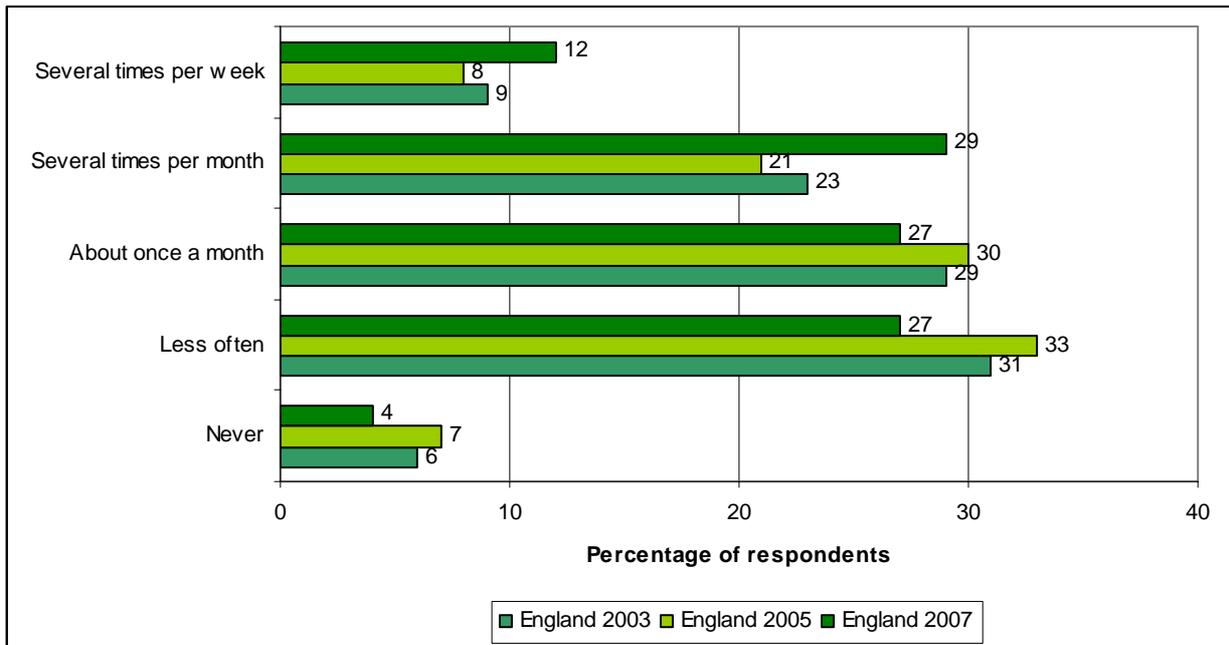
- **Car access** - access to car 16%; no access to car 12%.

7.4 Frequency of woodland visits

Of the respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years, 68% said that they visited at least once a month in the summer of 2006 (Figure 17) and 40% said that they visited at least once a month in the winter of 2006/7 (Figure 18).

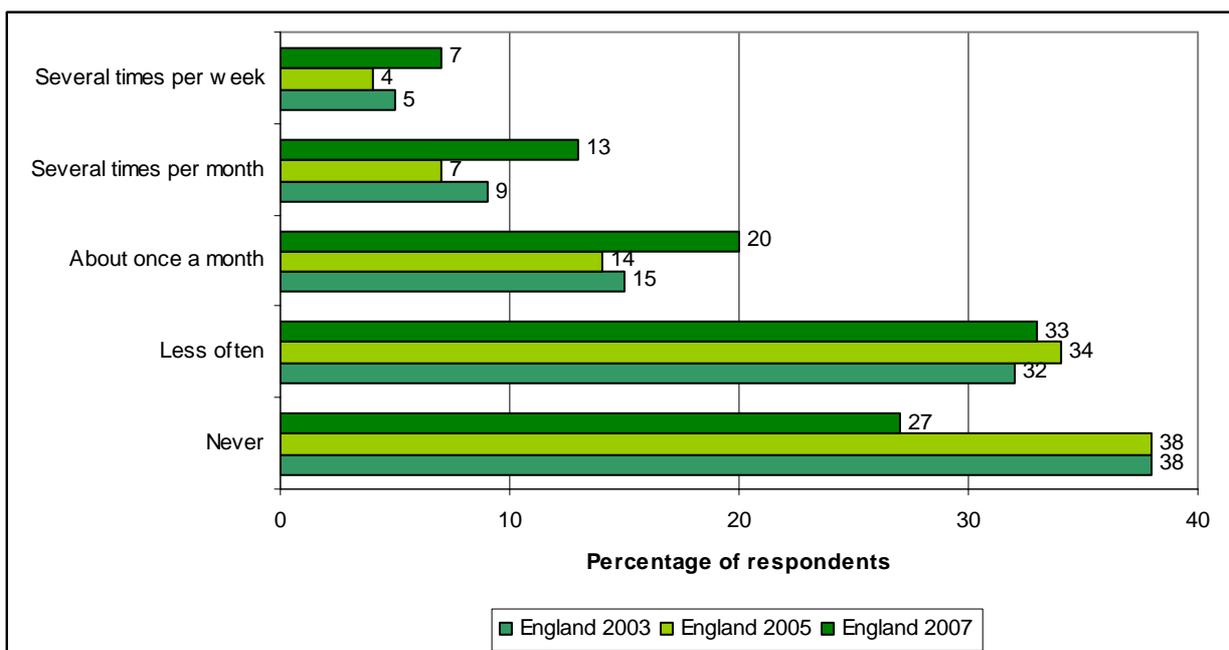
Over a quarter (27%) of those who had visited woodland in the last few years said that they did not visit during the most recent winter. Only 4% said that they did not visit during the most recent summer.

Figure 17: Frequency of visits in summer - change over time



Base: All respondents in England who had visited woodland in the last few years - 2003 (2,285), 2005 (2,239), 2007 (2,554)

Figure 18: Frequency of visits in winter – change over time



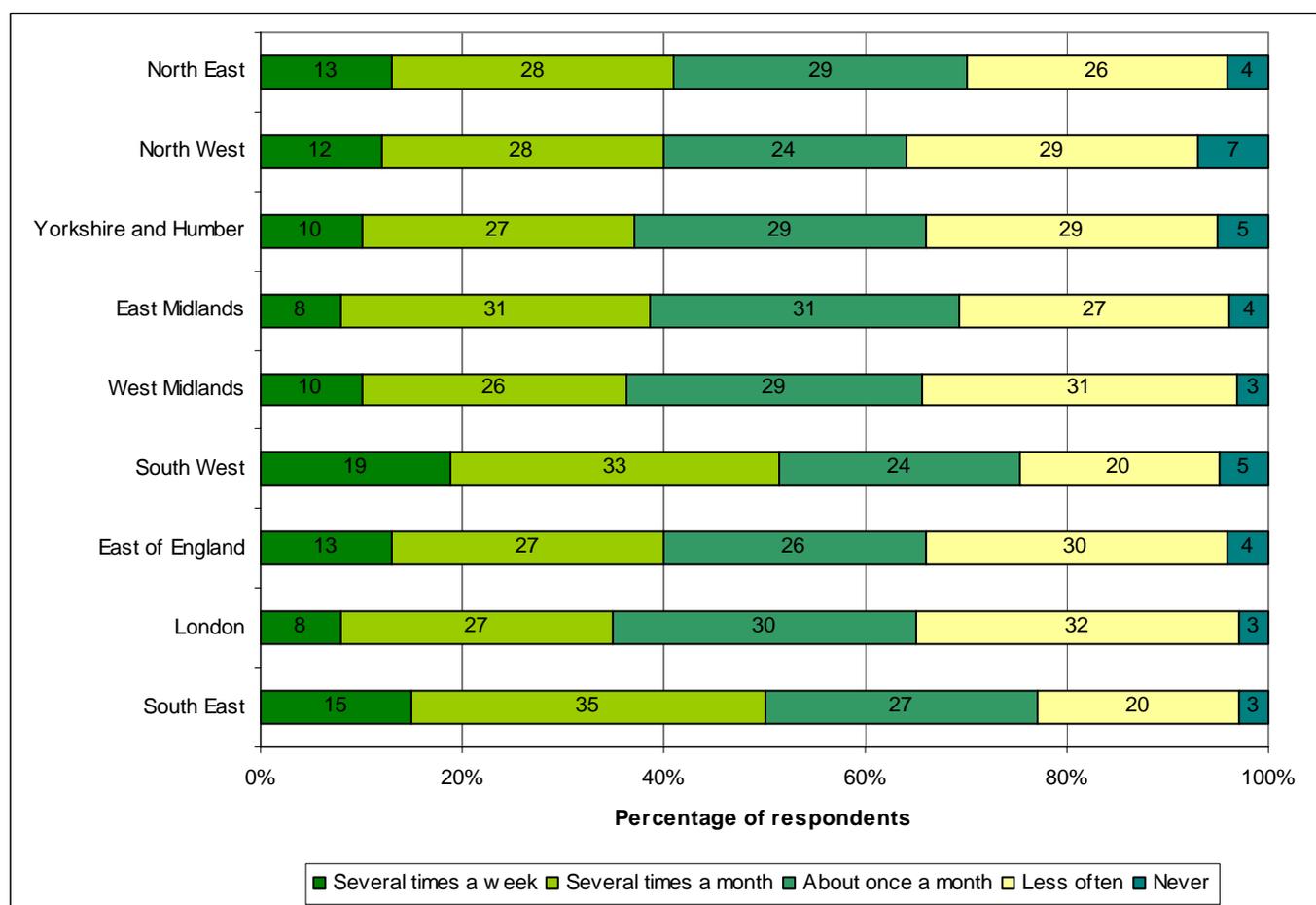
Base: All respondents in England who had visited woodland in the last few years - 2003 (2,285), 2005 (2,239), 2007 (2,554)

By using the 2007 survey data to combine information about those who had visited forests in the last few years, with the frequency of visit information for the last year, it is possible to estimate the proportion of adults who have visited woodland in the last year. In this way it is estimated that 73% of adults visited woodland in the last year, 72% in the summer of 2006, and 54% in the winter of 2006/2007.

Geographic comparisons

Respondents in the South West and the South East are more likely than those who live elsewhere to visit woods more often in the summer, with a higher percentage of them visiting 'Several times a week' or 'Several times a month' than respondents in the other regions of England.

Figure 19: Frequency of visits in summer, by region (%)

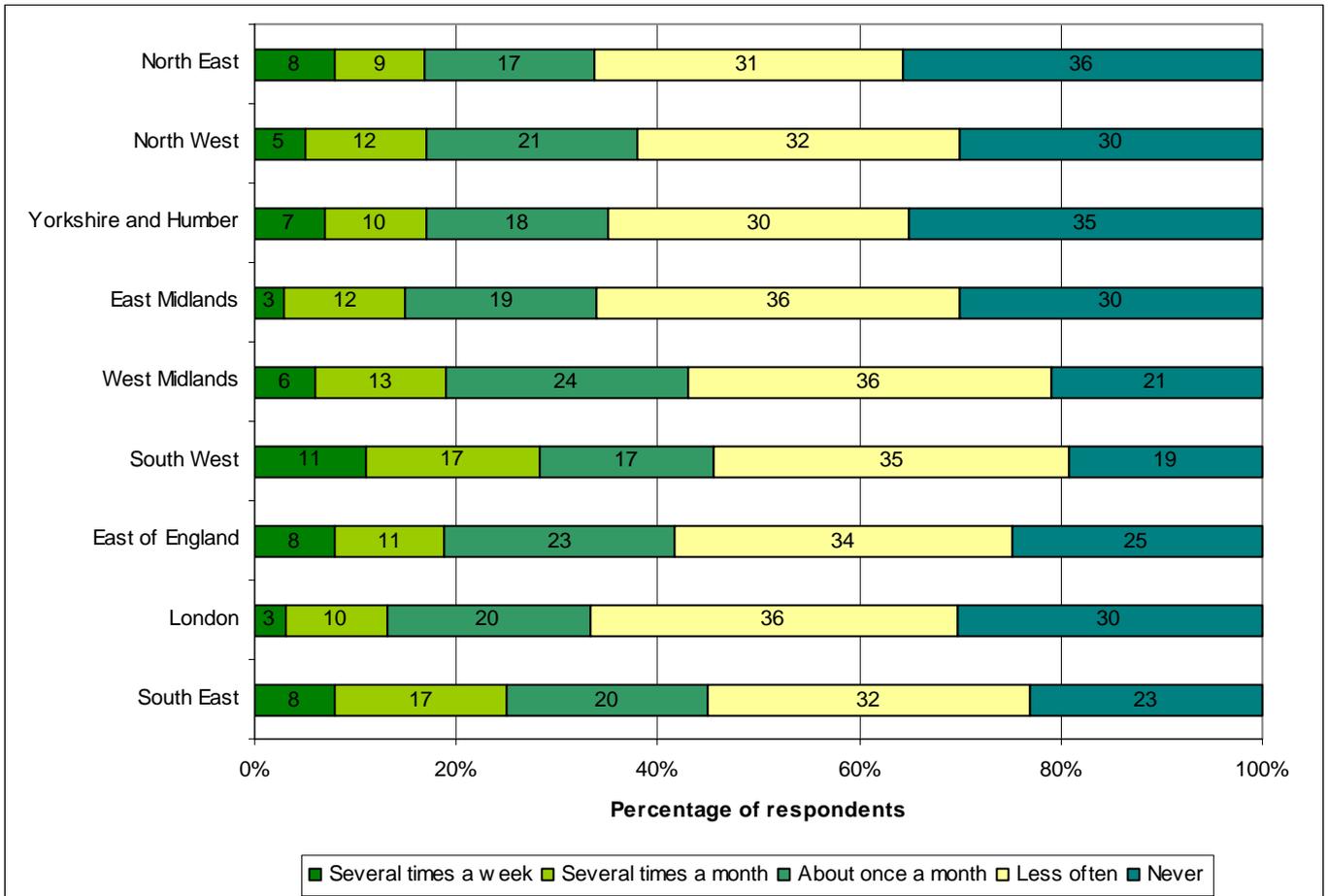


Base: Respondents in England who had visited woodlands in the past few years (2,554)

Respondents from the North East (16%), North West (17%), Yorkshire and Humber (17%), the East Midlands (15%) and London (13%) were less likely than those from other areas to have visited 'Several times a month' or 'Several times a week' during the winter.

Residents of the most deprived areas were less likely than those of the least deprived areas (20%) to have visited woodlands either 'Several times per week' or 'Several times per month' during the winter of 2006/7.

Figure 20: Frequency of visits in winter, by region (%)



Base: Respondents in England who had visited woodlands in the past few years (2554)

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents who had visited 'Several times a week' or 'Several times a month' during the summer, England overall 41%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 44%; aged 35 to 54 44%; aged 55 and over 38%;
- **Car access** - access to car 43%; no access to car 38%;
- **Children** - with children 47%; without 39% (analysis shows that the higher proportion of those with children who are frequent visitors acts to reduce the effect that the proportion of high frequency visiting increasing with age of respondent).

Respondents who had visited 'Several times a week' or 'Several times a month' during the winter, England overall 20%;

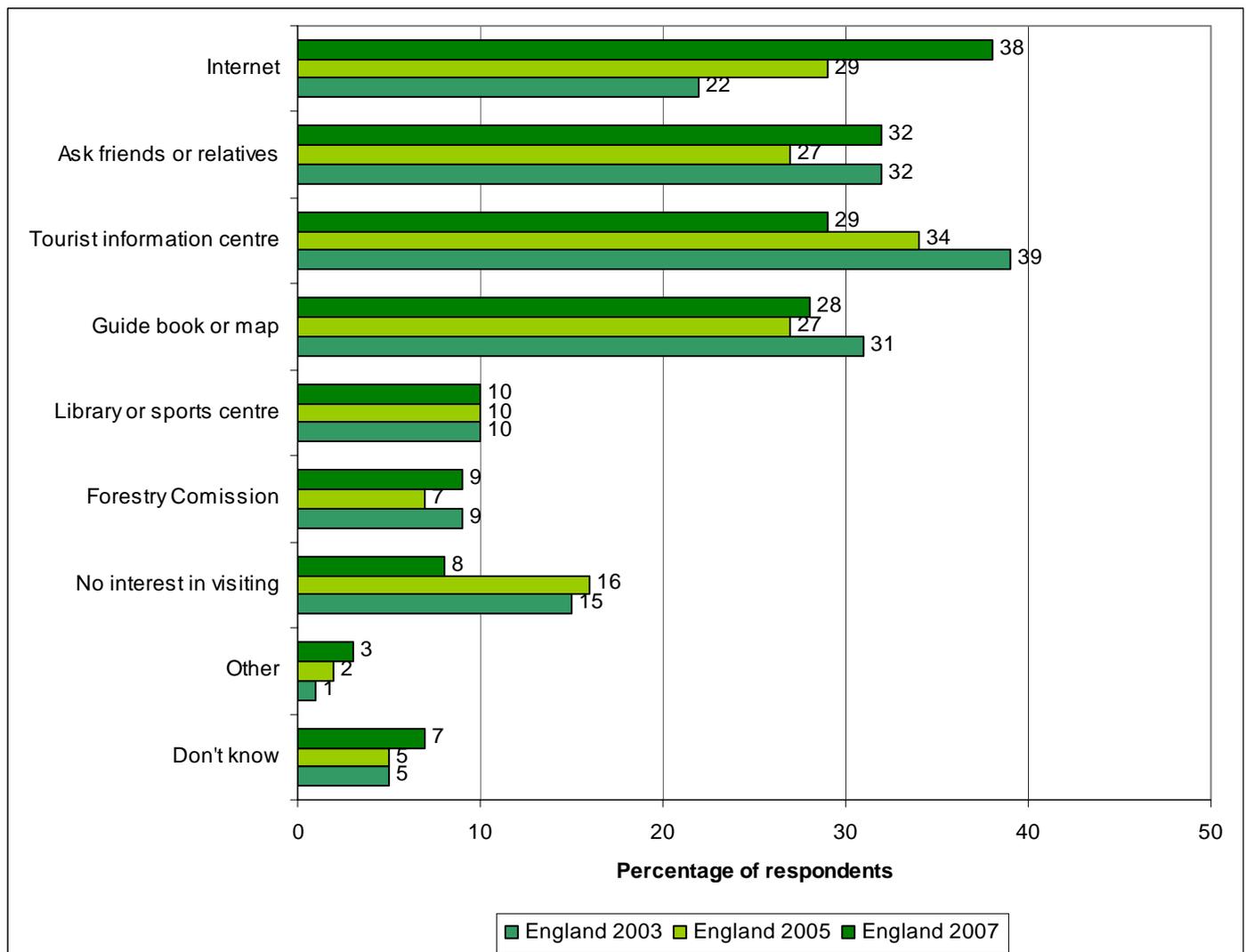
- **Car access** - access to car 21%; no access to car 16%;
- **Children** - with children 21%; without 19%.

7.5 Information about woodlands to visit

The use of the internet for information about woodlands to visit has increased in popularity from 3% in 1997 to 38% in 2007, and is now, for the first time, the single source of information most likely to be used to find out about woodland not previously visited (Figure 21).

Other common sources of information are to ask friends or relatives (32%), Tourist Information Centres (29%) and guidebooks or maps (27%). There is also a significant decrease in the proportion of respondents stating that they have no interest in visiting (from 16% in 2005 to 8% in 2007).

Figure 21: Sources of information used for woodland not previously visited (%)



Base: All respondents in England - 2003 (3,412), 2005 (3,367), 2007 (3,339)

Analysis was carried out to identify any regional or socio-demographic differences in the proportion of people who gave each of the top four responses.

Geographic comparisons

Respondents from London were more likely than those living elsewhere to say that they used 'The Internet' to find information about forests and woodlands which they had not visited before, whereas those from the South West were less likely to use the internet.

Those living in Yorkshire and Humber were most likely to use a 'Tourist information centre' to find information about forests and woodlands they had not visited before, whereas those living in London were least likely to use this resource.

'A guide book or map' was more likely to be used as a source of information by those living in London than those living elsewhere, whereas it was less likely to be used by those living in the North East, North West and the East of England. Residents of the most deprived areas (19%) were less likely than those from the least deprived areas (29%) to use a guide book or map in order to find information on woodlands they had not visited before.

Table 11: Sources of information used for woodlands not previously visited, by region (%)

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	South West	East of England	London	South East	England
The Internet	30	32	37	36	37	30	42	47	44	38
Ask friends or family	28	34	31	30	33	34	32	33	32	32
Tourist Information Centre	33	28	36	32	30	28	34	20	28	29
Guide book or map	15	21	24	25	30	33	25	34	29	27

Base: All respondents in England (3,339)

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents who used 'The Internet' to find information about woodlands they had not visited before, England overall 38%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 52%; aged 35 to 54 48%; aged 55 and over 18%;
- **Car access** - access to car 43%; no access to car 28%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 50%; C2DE 27%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 44%; not visited 19%;
- **Work status** - employed 52%; unemployed 28%.

Respondents who would 'Ask friends or family' to find information about woodlands they had not visited before, England overall 32%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 36%; aged 35 to 54 34%; aged 55 and over 29%;
- **Gender** - male 30%, female 35%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 36%; not visited 27%.

Respondents who used 'Tourist Information Centre' to find information about woodlands they had not visited before, England overall 29%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 33%; aged 35 to 54 30%; aged 55 and over 23%;
- **Car access** - access to car 32%; no access to car 22%;
- **Gender** - male 27%, female 31%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 32%; C2DE 26%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 33%; not visited 17%.

Respondents who used a 'Guide book or map' to find information on woodlands they had not visited before, England overall 27%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 23%; aged 35 to 54 27%; aged 55 and over 31%;
- **Children** - with children 24%; without 31%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 32%; C2DE 26%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 31%; not visited 17%.

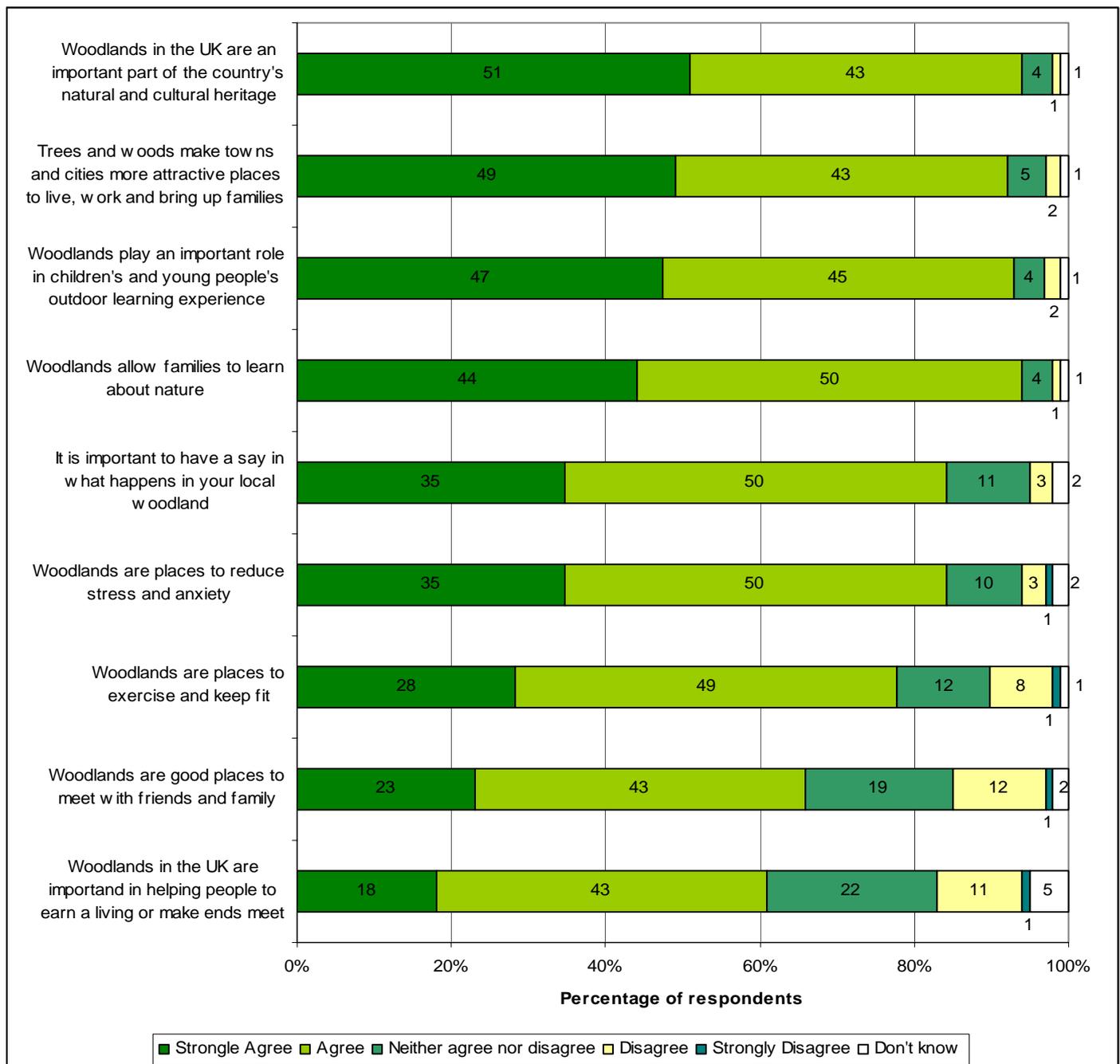
7.6 Views on the role and use of woodlands

There was strong overall agreement with a series of statements presented to the respondents regarding their views on the purpose and potential uses of woodlands.

Over 90% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that:

- Woodlands in the UK are an important part of the country's natural and cultural heritage;
- Woodlands play an important role in children's and young people's outdoor learning experience;
- Trees and woods make towns and cities more attractive places to live, work and bring up families;
- Woodlands allow families to learn about nature.

Figure 22: Level of agreement with statements (%)



Base: All respondents in England - 2007 (3,339)

Geographic comparisons

Respondents from the East of England were less likely to give agreement to the statement ‘Woodlands are places to reduce stress and anxiety’ than respondents from other parts of the country.

Those from the South East were more likely than respondents from other areas to ‘Agree’ or ‘Strongly Agree’ with the statement ‘Woodlands are places to exercise and keep fit’. Residents from the least deprived areas were more likely than those from the most deprived areas to ‘Agree’ or ‘Strongly Agree’ that ‘Woodlands are places to exercise and keep fit’.

Residents in the North East were less likely to ‘Agree’ or ‘Strongly Agree’ that ‘Woodlands in the UK are an important part of the country’s natural and cultural heritage’ than respondents who lived in other regions.

Table 12: Levels of agreement with statements regarding the role and use of forestry, by region (%)

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	South West	East of England	London	South East	England
Woodlands are places to reduce stress and anxiety	79	88	87	87	92	85	84	89	85	87
Woodlands are places to exercise and keep fit	72	81	76	79	82	77	76	76	82	79
Woodlands allow families learn about nature	93	96	94	95	96	93	94	94	95	95
Woodlands are good places to meet with friends and family	58	65	69	62	73	67	69	69	69	67
Woodlands in the UK are an important part of the country’s natural and cultural heritage	90	95	98	97	97	96	96	93	96	95
Woodlands play an important role in children’s and young people’s outdoor learning experience	92	94	93	94	95	95	95	91	94	94
Woodlands in the UK are important in helping people to earn a living or make ends meet	69	65	71	60	62	64	60	69	59	64
It is important to have a say in what happens in your local woodland	75	83	86	85	91	88	88	87	86	86
Trees and woods make towns and cities more attractive places to live, work and bring up families	92	94	92	92	94	92	92	91	94	93

Respondents in the North East and in Yorkshire and Humber were less likely than those from other regions to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that 'Woodlands play an important role in children's and young people's outdoor learning experience'.

Those living in the North East, Yorkshire and Humber, and London were more likely than those who lived elsewhere to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' with the statement 'Woodlands in the UK are important in helping people to earn a living or make ends meet'.

Respondents in the North West and North East were less likely than those from the rest of England to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that 'It is important to have a say in what happens in your local woodland'.

Socio-demographic comparisons

For each part of this question, the variables shown to be significant in the analysis are highlighted below; in the following statements, the proportion 'agreeing' refers to those respondents who answered either 'strongly agree' or 'agree':

Respondents agreeing that 'Woodlands are places to reduce stress and anxiety', England overall 87%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 82%; aged 35 to 54 87%; aged 55 and over 89%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 89%; not visited 78%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Woodlands are places to exercise and keep fit', England overall 79%:

- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 82%; not visited 69%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Woodlands allow families to learn about nature', England overall 95%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 92%; aged 35 to 54 95%; aged 55 and over 96%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 96%; without 94%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 96%; not visited 89%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Woodlands are good places to meet with friends and family', England overall 67%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 62%; aged 35 to 54 67%; aged 55 and over 73%;
- **Gender** - male 64%, female 71%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 69%; not visited 61%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Woodlands in the UK are an important part of the country's natural and cultural heritage', England overall 95%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 93%; aged 35 to 54 95%; aged 55 and over 98%;
- **Children** - with children 93%; without 97%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 98%; without 95%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 97%; not visited 89%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Woodlands play an important role in children's and young people's outdoor learning experience', England overall 94%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 91%; aged 35 to 54 94%; aged 55 and over 95%;
- **Car access** - access to car 95%; no access to car 91%;
- **Gender** - male 93%, female 95%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 96%; without 93%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 96%; not visited 87%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Woodlands in the UK are important in helping people to earn a living or make ends meet', England overall 64%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 57%; aged 35 to 54 61%; aged 55 and over 72%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 68%; C2DE 60%.

Respondents agreeing that 'It is important to have a say in what happens in your local woodlands', England overall 86%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 83%; aged 35 to 54 86%; aged 55 and over 88%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 89%; not visited 76%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Trees and woods make towns and cities more attractive places to live, work and bring up families', England overall 93%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 89%; aged 35 to 54 94%; aged 55 and over 95%;
- **Car access** - access to car 94%; no access to car 90%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 94%; C2DE 92%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 94%; not visited 87%.

Appendix 1: Cross-breaks used in analysis

Table 13 details the cross-breaks used in the analysis of this data. It also show the proportion of the weighted sample that fall into each category (e.g. with gender, 48% were male and 52% were female).

Table 13: Variables used in regression analysis

Variable	Divisions	Distribution of sample	Distribution of 16+ English population in 2001 Census ¹	Details
Geographic region	North East	5%	5%	Government Office regions
	North West	13%	14%	
	Yorkshire and Humber	10%	10%	
	East Midlands	9%	8%	
	West Midlands	11%	11%	
	East of England	11%	11%	
	London	15%	15%	
	South East	17%	16%	
	South West	10%	10%	
Rural/urban	Urban (1) Small towns & fringe (2) Villages & hamlets (3)	81% 12% 6%	81% 9% 11%	Based on respondents postcode
Deprivation	Top 85% (0) Bottom 15% (1)	81% 19%	85% 15%	Based on respondents postcode
Gender	Male (1) Female (2)	48% 52%	48% 52%	
Age	16 – 34 (1) 35 – 54 (2) 55+ (3)	31% 33% 37%	32% 35% 33%	Adults aged 16 and over were divided into 3 age classes
Social grades	ABC1 (1) C2DE (2)	50% 50%		ABC1: the chief income earner is a non-manual worker. C2DE: the chief income earner is a manual worker or is unemployed
Long-term illness or disability	No (0) Yes (1)	81% 19%		From question in survey
Work Status	Employed (1) Unemployed (2)	52% 48%	55% 45%	Unemployed included students and retired adults
Children in household	No (0) Yes (1)	70% 30%		Children under 16 in household
Cars in household	No (0) Yes (1)	30% 70%		From question in survey
Visited Woodlands	No (0) Yes (1)	24% 76%		From question in survey

Note: To aid in interpreting Table 14, the values used for each of the variables are detailed in *italics*.

¹ English adult population (16+ years) 39,237,000

Description of variables

Market Research Society (MRS) social grades:

Covers ABC1, where the chief income earner in the household is a non-manual worker and C2DE, where the chief income earner in the household is a manual worker or is unemployed.

Geographic region:

England has been divided into the nine standard Government Office Regions (GOR's): North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humber, East Midlands, West Midlands, South West, East of England, London and the South East.

Deprivation:

The deprivation ranking is taken from the Index of Multiple Deprivation, which takes into account 37 indicators in areas such as Health, Education, Employment etc. Deprivation is measured across Super Output Area (SOA's), groups of postcodes containing approximately 1,500 people, which are ranked from 1 (most deprived) to 32,482 (least deprived). This survey contrasts the responses from those resident in the most deprived 15% of SOA's with those resident in the least deprived 85% of SOA's.

Rural/urban:

The 'rural/urban' variable is based upon the official definition developed by the Office for National Statistics and published in 2004. This classifies SOA's into four strata based upon population size and density - 'urban', 'small town & fringe', 'village' and 'dispersed (hamlets and isolated dwellings)'. In this report, the last two categories have been combined and for brevity, the categories are referred to as 'urban', 'small towns and fringe' and 'villages and hamlets'.

Appendix 2: Correlation matrix of variables used in analysis

Table 14 details the correlation between the socio-demographic variables used in the regression modelling. The greater the magnitude of the correlation coefficient, the more highly correlated the variables are.

Variables which are more highly correlated include: age with children in household, work status with long term illness or disability or cars in household with MRS social grades.

For this reason, when simply analysing percentages, consideration should be taken regarding the correlation between each of the variables and the effect they may have upon the interpretation of the results.

Table 14: Correlation coefficients of variables used in regression analysis

	Gender	Age	MRS social grades	Long-term illness or disability	Work status	Children in household	Cars in household	Visited Woodlands	Rural/urban	Deprivation
Gender	1.00	0.03	-0.02	0.01	0.13	0.09	-0.10	0.00	0.02	-0.01
Age		1.00	0.04	0.33	0.36	-0.42	0.04	-0.10	0.06	-0.12
MRS social grades			1.00	0.14	0.17	0.01	-0.23	-0.18	0.03	0.22
Long-term illness or disability				1.00	0.36	-0.19	-0.20	-0.20	0.04	0.00
Work status					1.00	-0.19	-0.28	-0.18	0.03	0.05
Children in household						1.00	0.09	0.10	-0.02	0.07
Cars in household							1.00	0.26	0.07	-0.20
Visited woodlands								1.00	0.05	-0.16
Rural/urban									1.00	-0.19
Deprivation										1.00

Appendix 3: TNS Omnibus Random Location Sampling Method

(UK 2007 survey)

SAMPLING FRAME

The TNS CAPI Omnibus employs a random location methodology. 2001 Census small area statistics and the Postal Address File (PAF) were used to define sample points. These are areas of similar population sizes formed by the combination of wards, with the constraint that each point must be contained within a single Government Office Region (GOR). In addition, geographic systems were employed to minimise the drive time required to cover each area as optimally as possible. 600 points were defined south of the Caledonian Canal in Great Britain (GB), and, for UK samples, another 25 points were defined in a similar fashion in Northern Ireland.

STRATIFICATION AND SAMPLE POINT SELECTION

278 points were selected south of the Caledonian Canal for use by the Omnibus after stratification by Government Office Region and Social Grade. They were also checked to ensure they are representative by an urban and rural classification. Those points are divided into two replicates. Each set is used in alternate weeks. 16 of the points in Northern Ireland were selected and divided into four replicates. Those replicates are used in rotation to give a wide spread across the Province over time in the UK samples. Similarly the statistical accuracy of the GB sampling is maximised by issuing sequential waves of fieldwork systematically across the sampling frame to provide maximum geographical dispersion. This ensures that the sample point selection remains representative for any specific fieldwork wave.

SELECTION OF CLUSTERS WITHIN SAMPLING POINTS

All the sample points in the sampling frame have been divided into two geographically distinct segments each containing, as far as possible, equal populations. The segments comprise aggregations of complete wards. For the Omnibus alternate A and B halves are worked each wave of fieldwork. Each week different wards are selected in each required half and Census Output Areas selected within those wards. Then, blocks containing an average of 150 addresses are sampled in those areas from the PAF.

DESIGN EFFECT

As with all multi-stage sample designs, there are effects on the magnitude of the standard error of estimates that arise from a number of sources. The greatest contributors are caused negatively by the effects of clustering and weighting and positively by the effects of stratification. These are collectively known as 'design effects'. The 'design factor' is used to estimate the ratio of the standard error of these complex sample estimates to that of a simple random sample of the same size. Design factors vary from one variable to another depending on the inter-correlations that exist between that variable and the causes of variation in the size of the standard error. For example social grade tends to be correlated between households in small geographical areas and thus variables that are correlated with social grade (e.g. visits to woodland) will have larger design factors. Such design factors need to be individually calculated from actual data to obtain accurate estimates for any given variable. Common practice is the use of a 'modal' value for application to estimates. For the Omnibus TNS recommend a design factor of 1.5 be applied to the calculation of confidence limits and when testing for significance.

INTERVIEWING AND QUOTA CONTROLS

Assignments are conducted over two days of fieldwork and are carried out on weekdays from 2 p.m. – 8 p.m. and at the weekend. Quotas are set by sex (male, female housewife, female non-housewife); within female housewife, presence of children and working status, and within men, working status, to ensure a balanced sample of adults within effective contacted addresses. Interviewers are instructed to leave 3 doors between each successful interview.

Appendix 4: UK Questionnaire 2007

<p>Q1</p>	<p>You may have seen or read about UK forests, woods or trees on the television, radio or in the newspapers. From this list, can you please tell me which of these topics you have seen or read anything about in the last 12 months?</p> <p>(Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birds and other animals in woodlands Flowers and other plants in woodlands Forests and woodlands as places to visit Community woodlands / new local woodlands Tree planting Tree pests and diseases Wood for fuel / (short rotation coppice) Loss of ancient or native woodlands Restoration of ancient or native woodlands Creation of new native woodlands Public rights of access to woodlands Protests about roads or other developments on woodlands Labelling/certification of wood products Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change Other (specify) None of these
<p>Q2</p>	<p>Which of these promotions have you heard of?</p> <p>(Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Wood for Good' or other promotions for timber uses and products Autumn Colours Active Woods 'Naturally good for you' Forest Education Initiative Forest Schools None
<p>Q3</p>	<p>In the UK, public money is given to support forestry, the planting and management of all types and sizes of forests and woods, because it is believed to be of public benefit. From this list, please tell me which of the following reasons are good reasons to support forestry in this way?</p> <p>(Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support the economy in rural areas To help rural tourism To provide timber for sawmills and wood processing To provide renewable energy including wood as fuel So that the UK can buy less wood products from abroad To make woods more accessible to all in the community To help tackle climate change To provide places for wildlife to live To provide places to walk in To provide places to cycle or ride horses To provide healthy places for physical activity, relaxation and stress relief To improve the countryside landscape To create pleasant settings for developments around towns To restore former industrial land None

<p>Q4</p>	<p>How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? ((1) strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, (5) strongly disagree, and don't know)</p> <p>Woodlands are places to reduce stress and anxiety Woodlands are places to exercise and keep fit Woodlands allow families to learn about nature Woodlands are good places to meet with friends and family Woodlands in the UK are an important part of the country's natural and cultural heritage Woodlands play an important role in children's and young people's outdoor learning experience Woodlands in the UK are important in helping people to earn a living or make ends meet It is important to have a say in what happens in your local woodland Trees and woods make towns and cities more attractive places to live, work and bring up families</p>
<p>Q5</p>	<p>How much of an impact do you think climate change will have on the UK?</p> <p>Large impact Slight impact No impact at all Don't know</p>
<p>Q6</p>	<p>Would you agree or disagree with the following statements about the ways in which forests and woodlands in the UK can impact on climate change? ((1) strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, (5) strongly disagree, and don't know)</p> <p>Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood Cutting down forests and woodland makes climate change worse, even if they are replanted Using wood for fuel is better for climate change than using fuels such as coal and gas Using wood for fuel makes climate change worse because it releases carbon dioxide Using wood for building is better for climate change than using materials such as concrete and steel The UK could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees</p>
<p>Q7</p>	<p>Do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding how UK forests and woodlands should be managed in response to the threat of climate change? ((1) strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, (5) strongly disagree, and don't know)</p> <p>There is nothing that anyone could do that would make any difference No action is needed; let nature take its course A lot more trees should be planted Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates More information should be provided about the ways in which wood can be used to lessen our impact on the environment</p>
<p>Q8</p>	<p>'Forest Management' refers to all activities in woodland, including woodland creation, recreation, wildlife management and timber production.</p> <p>On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is very high and 5 is very low, how would you rate the standard of forest management in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The UK b. your local area

<p>Q9</p>	<p>a. Would you like to have more or less woodland in this part of the country?</p> <p>More Neither more nor less (<i>skip to Q10</i>) Less (<i>skip to Q10</i>) Don't know (<i>skip to Q10</i>)</p> <p>b. How much more woodland: a little more, half as much again or more than that?</p> <p>A little more About half as much again More than that Don't know</p>
<p>Q10</p>	<p>a. Do you ever use wood as a fuel in your home, either on its own or with other fuels?</p> <p>Yes No (<i>skip to Q11</i>)</p> <p>Do you get the wood by the truck load, or a few bags at a time, or gather it yourself?</p> <p>by the truck load a few bags at a time gather it yourself don't know</p> <p>Do you use wood as a fuel regularly or only occasionally?</p> <p>regularly occasionally don't know</p> <p>Is wood the main fuel for heating your home, or do you mainly use something else?</p> <p>main fuel mainly use something else don't know</p>
<p>Q11</p>	<p>a. In the last few years, have you visited forests or woodlands for walks, picnics or other recreation?</p> <p>Yes, - <i>then skip to Q11c</i> No</p> <p>b. What is the main reason why you have not visited forests or woodlands for walks, picnics or other recreation? (<i>then skip to Q13</i>)</p> <p>Not interested in going (<i>If this response, skip to Q14 instead of Q13</i>) Don't have a car Lack of suitable public transport Other personal mobility reasons (difficulty in walking, unwell, etc.) Woods are too far away Lack of facilities (play areas, picnic areas, etc.) Lack of information about woods to visit Prefer other areas of countryside Concerns that woods are not safe Other (please specify)</p>

	<p>c. Did you visit woodlands in the countryside or woodlands in and around towns or both? Woodlands in the countryside Woodlands in and around towns Both</p>
Q12	<p>How frequently did you visit forests and woodlands last summer, i.e. between April and September 2006?</p> <p>Several times per week Several times per month About once a month Less often Never</p> <p>And how often this winter, i.e. since October 2006?</p> <p>Several times per week Several times per month About once a month Less often Never</p>
Q13	<p>If you were thinking about visiting forests or woodlands that you had not visited before, which of the following sources of information would you normally use? (Multi choice)</p> <p>Ask friends/relatives Guide book or map Forestry Commission (GB) / Forest Service (NI) Tourist Information Centre Internet Library or sports centre Other (specify) No interest in visiting</p>
Q14	<p>Have you in the past 12 months... (tick all that apply)</p> <p>Been involved in an organised tree planting event Been involved in voluntary work in connection with a woodland (e.g. physical work in a wood, admin, fund raising, running a group) Become or are you a member of a community based woodland group such as a 'Community Trust' or 'Friends of Group'</p>
Q15	<p>Do you own or have the use of a car at all? Yes No</p>
Q16	<p>Do you have any long-term illness, health problems or disability which limits your daily activities or the work you can do? Yes No</p>

Q17

And which of these best describes your ethnic origin?

- White
- Chinese
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Caribbean
- African
- Other (please specify)