



PUBLIC OPINION OF FORESTRY 2005: ENGLAND

**Results of the 2005 Public Opinion of Forestry survey
in England, carried out on behalf of the Forestry
Commission.**

November 2005

Prepared by:

Harvey Snowling and Clare Daly
Economics & Statistics
Forestry Commission
Silvan House
231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh EH12 7AT
United Kingdom

Enquiries:

Harvey Snowling: +44 (0)131 314 6218
Harvey.Snowling@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Website:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics>

Contents

Executive Summary	3
1. Introduction	5
2. Forests, woodlands and trees in the media	7
2.1 <i>Forests, woodlands and trees in the media</i>	7
2.2 <i>Promotions of forests, woodlands, trees and wood products</i>	11
3. British forest management	12
3.1 <i>Benefits of forestry</i>	12
3.2 <i>Ratings of British forestry</i>	16
4. Changes to woodland	20
4.1 <i>Perception of change in woodland area</i>	20
4.2 <i>Desire for change in woodland area</i>	21
4.3 <i>Public consultations over woodland change and use</i>	22
5. Awareness of certified symbols on wood products	25
6. Forestry Commission and other organisations	28
6.1 <i>Awareness of organisations</i>	28
6.2 <i>Forestry Commission</i>	31
6.3 <i>Forestry Commission activities</i>	33
6.4 <i>Performance of the Forestry Commission</i>	35
7. Woodland recreation	38
7.1 <i>Access to woodland</i>	38
7.2 <i>Visits to woodland</i>	40
7.3 <i>Reasons for not visiting woodland</i>	42
7.4 <i>Frequency of woodland visits</i>	43
7.5 <i>Owners of woodlands visited</i>	45
7.6 <i>Information about woodlands to visit</i>	47
7.7 <i>Choosing a woodland to visit</i>	51
7.8 <i>Woodland recreation facilities</i>	54
7.9 <i>Woodland Products</i>	56
Appendix 1: Cross-breaks used in analysis	58
Appendix 2: RSGB Random location sampling method	60
Appendix 3: GB Questionnaire	61

Executive Summary

2005 survey

In 2005, four separate public opinion of forestry surveys were undertaken - in Great Britain (4,000 interviews), Scotland (1,000 interviews), Wales (1,000 interviews) and Northern Ireland (1,000 interviews).

This report summarises the results of respondents living in England from the main GB survey. It also highlights any differences in opinion amongst adults in England by government office regions and socio-demographic variables (e.g. gender and age).

Forests, woodlands and trees in the media

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

18% were aware of at least one promotion or initiative related to woodlands and trees.

British forest management

89% agreed with at least one reason for supporting forestry with public money. The top reasons were 'to provide places for wildlife to live' (67%), 'to provide places to walk in' (57%), 'to help prevent the greenhouse effect and global warming' (56%), and 'to improve the countryside landscape' (53%).

The top two reasons were also the aspects for which British forestry performance was rated most highly – 'providing homes for birds and other animals' and 'providing opportunities for walking'.

Changes to woodland

Despite the increases in woodland area in recent decades, only 15% of adults had perceived an increase, with the majority (60%) perceiving a decrease.

Two-thirds of respondents (65%) would like more woodland in their part of the country. Of those who desired more woodland, 34% wanted a little more woodland, 38% about half as much again, and 27% more than half as much again.

6% of respondents had been consulted about plans for creating, managing or using woodlands and 41% would like to be consulted in future (77% of those who had been consulted before and 40% of those who had not).

Awareness of certified symbols on wood products

44% of respondents had been shopping for wood products in the last few years. Of these, 37% recognised the FSC certification symbol and 8% recognised the PEFC symbol. Both symbols indicate that the wood came from a sustainably managed source.

Forestry Commission and other organisations

60% of those surveyed had heard of the Forestry Commission. Only the National Trust (81%) and the Environment Agency (63%) received higher recognition.

Of those respondents who had heard of the Forestry Commission, 59% thought that it was a government department or agency, and 25% thought that it was an independent body. 84% of adults thought that the FC operated in England, 58% in Scotland and 60% in Wales.

Most of the respondents who had heard of the Forestry Commission were aware that it 'improves woodland habitats for wildlife' (89%) and 'lets the public walk in its woods and forests' (88%). Fewer were aware that it 'runs cabins and campsites for forest holidays' (46%) or 'gives grants to private woodland owners' (39%).

53% of respondents who were aware of the Forestry Commission rated its performance in managing/protecting FC woodlands as '1 (very good)' or '2' (on a scale from '1 (very good)' to '5 (very poor)'). Similarly, 32% rated the Forestry Commission as '1 (very good)' or '2' at encouraging other landowners to protect and expand Britain's woodlands.

Woodland recreation

36% of respondents said that there was a forest or woodland that they can access easily without use of a car.

65% of respondents had visited forests or woodlands for walks, picnics or other recreation in the last few years. 82% of these had visited woodlands in the countryside and 52% had visited woodlands in and around towns. 36% visited both urban and rural woodlands.

Of those respondents who had not visited forests or woodlands in the last few years, 33% gave their main reason for not visiting as 'not being interested', and 16% did not visit because of 'personal mobility reasons'.

59% of woodland visitors visited at least once month in the summer of 2004. 25% said that they visited at least once a month in the winter 2004/5.

43% of visitors thought that they had visited a forest or woodland owned by the National Trust, 35% the Forestry Commission and 30% a local authority woodland.

34% of respondents said they would use tourist information centres to find information about woodlands they have not visited before. 29% would use the internet, 28% guidebooks or maps and 27% would ask friends or relatives.

Those respondents interested in visiting woodlands felt that wildlife (63%), peace and quiet (60%), attractive scenery (57%) and a safe environment (52%) were the most important factors when choosing to visit woodland.

When visiting woodland for a day out, the facilities respondents would most like to see are toilets (66%), car park (54%), nature trails (47%), picnic areas (45%) and signposted walks for all abilities (45%).

27% of woodland visitors had collected forest products.

1. Introduction

Background

The Forestry Commission has conducted similar biennial surveys of public attitudes to forestry and forestry-related issues since 1995. In the initial surveys, a representative sample of 2,000 adults across Great Britain (GB) was surveyed.

Since 2001, the GB survey has been supplemented by surveys in Scotland and Wales, each interviewing 1,000 adults, to provide additional information tailored to each country's needs after devolution, taking account of the priorities in each country's forestry strategy¹.

In 2003, the main survey was extended to include Northern Ireland, and the sample size increased to 4,120 adults. This provided information of public attitudes across the UK, enabled regional reporting in England and improved the precision of the survey's results for Scotland and Wales.

For 2005, the main survey reverted to GB, now with a sample size of around 4,000 adults and a new supplementary survey of 1,000 adults in Northern Ireland was introduced.

Therefore, with the increased interest in country-level and regional information and the requirement for continued high-quality coherent information for the UK, the scope of the survey was increased to four separate surveys:

- A representative survey of around 4,000 adults across GB
- A representative survey of around 1,000 adults across Scotland
- A representative survey of around 1,000 adults across Wales
- A representative survey of around 1,000 adults across Northern Ireland

Core sets of questions were asked in all 4 surveys, other questions were survey-specific.

This report

This report gives results of the respondents in England from the GB survey. It also highlights any differences in opinion amongst adults in England by government office region and socio-demographic variables (e.g. gender and age). We also refer to MRS social grades in socio-demographic comparisons. The population is divided into two groups: 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 not employed. Further details of these and other breakdowns are given in Appendix 1.

Separate reports are available for GB (which compares the 2005 results with previous surveys), and more detailed reports of the separate surveys carried out in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

¹ England forestry strategy – A new focus for England's woodlands, Forestry Commission, Cambridge, 1999

Survey design

The information presented in this report is taken from the RSGB General Omnibus survey carried out from 23rd February – 1st March 2005 by TNS on behalf of the Forestry Commission. The survey was based on a representative sample of 4,000 adults (aged 16 or over) across Great Britain (3,367 of the respondents were from England). They were selected from a minimum of 260 sampling points across GB by a random location method. More details of the sample method are given in Appendix 2.

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 2).

- For questions asked to the whole sample of 3,367 in England, the range of uncertainty around any figure should be no more than +/-2.5%.
- For responses of subgroups such as regions, the range of uncertainty is higher (e.g. for the North East (199 respondents) the range of uncertainty is no more than +/- 10.5% and for the North West (562 respondents) the range of uncertainty is no more than +/- 6.5%).

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

We have also used multivariate regression models to look at the relationship between responses and socio-demographic information (e.g. gender and age) or geographic region. The models identify variables that are statistically significant (i.e. they result in more than chance variation). Some of the variables found to be significant in the regression may not have seem significant when simply comparing percentages, because some other correlated variable may have been acting in the opposite direction. Further details of the variables used in the regression modelling and the correlations between them are given in Appendix 1.

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 a range of topics relating to British forests, woods or trees on the television, radio or in the newspapers in the last twelve months. Half of the respondents in England (50%) had seen or read about at least one topic. Respondents in England had mostly heard about 'birds and other animals in woodlands', 'public rights of access to woodlands' and 'tree planting' (Table 1).

Recognition of most topics remained roughly the same between 2003 and 2005.

Table 1: Whether respondent has seen or read about British forests, woods or trees in the last 12 months, by region (%)

	N. East	N. West	Yrks/Hmbr	E. Mids	W. Mids	East of Eng	London	S. East	S. West	England 2005	England 2003
Birds and other animals in woodland	31	22	21	25	27	36	16	21	34	25	22
Public rights of access to woodlands	23	22	19	21	26	28	15	21	32	23	19
Tree planting	23	21	20	25	22	30	16	19	23	22	23
Protests about roads or other developments on woodlands	17	16	17	20	22	30	14	15	24	19	21
Forests and woodlands as places to visit	24	18	15	19	23	24	12	15	27	19	19
Flowers and other plants in woodlands	14	13	13	16	15	26	10	14	22	15	15
Loss of ancient or native woodland	13	15	13	14	17	20	11	11	19	14	15
Restoration of ancient or native woodland	10	12	12	12	12	19	8	10	13	12	12
Creation of new native woodlands	13	10	11	15	12	15	8	8	14	11	12
Community woodlands/ new local woodlands	13	9	9	14	13	15	6	6	14	10	10
Tree pests and diseases	9	12	11	9	9	15	7	9	14	10	9
Selling public woodlands	8	9	8	10	7	12	7	8	11	9	9
Wood for fuel/ (short rotation coppice)	7	6	7	8	6	10	5	7	9	7	8
Labelling / certification of wood products	7	7	5	5	5	11	5	6	9	6	7
Timber transport	5	6	6	3	5	9	5	4	5	5	5
At least one topic	54	48	45	54	51	62	38	46	60	50	48

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

NOTE: In the England 2003 survey, respondents were asked about UK forestry

Regional comparisons

Respondents from the East of England were more likely than other regions to have recalled at least one topic (62%) and those from Yorkshire and the Humber¹ were less likely (45%) (Figure 1). Recognition of each topic was generally lower in London.

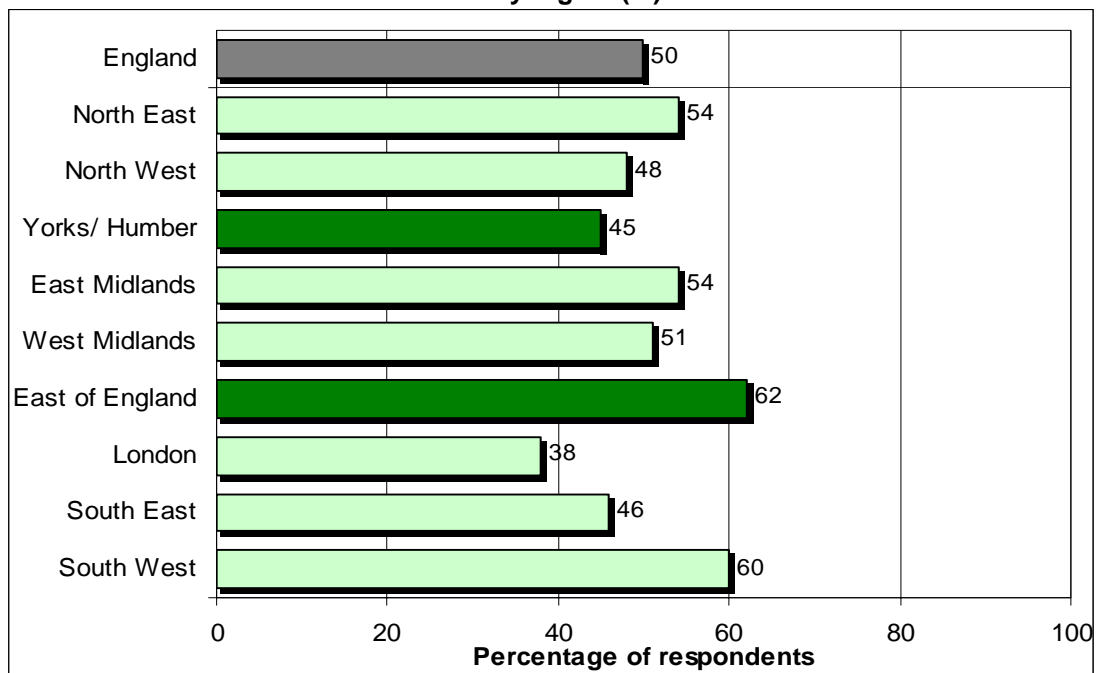
In particular, respondents from Yorkshire and the Humber were less likely to recall having seen or read about 'birds and other animals in woodlands' (21%), 'flowers and other plants in woodlands' (13%) and 'forests and woodlands as places to visit' (15%) than other regions (Table 1). Respondents from Yorkshire and the Humber and the East Midlands were also less likely to recall having seen or read about 'public rights of access to woodlands' than other regions.

Respondents from the East of England were more likely than other regions to have seen or read about 7 of the 15 topics in the last 12 months (e.g. 36% of respondents from the East of England recalled having seen or read about 'birds or other animals in woodlands').

Respondents from the East of England and the North West were more likely than those from other regions to recall having seen or read about 'tree pests and diseases' (12%). Those from the East of England and the West Midlands were more likely to have see or read about 'protests about roads or other developments on woodlands'.

Respondents from the East of England, the East Midlands and the West Midlands were more likely than those from other regions to have seen or read about 'community woodlands/ new local woodlands'. Respondents from the East of England, the West Midlands, the North West and London were more likely to have seen or read about 'loss of ancient or native woodland'.

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



Base: All respondents in England (3,367)

NOTE: Dark green indicates statistically significant variable in multivariate model

¹ Although a lower proportion of adults from London recalled at least one topic, some other correlated variable may be acting to cause this to be insignificant (see Appendix 1).

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents who were older, those with no children in their household and those in social grades ABC1 were more likely to have seen or read about at least one topic relating to British forests, woods or trees (Figure 2). This was also true for those who live in a rural location, those with a long-term illness or disability, those who were aware of the Forestry Commission, those who had visited woodlands in the last few years and those who had access to a car.

When considering each topic individually, adults who were aware of the Forestry Commission and had visited forests or woodlands recently were more likely to have seen or read about each of the 15 topics. For example, 32% of respondents who were aware of the Forestry Commission had seen or read about 'public rights of access to woodlands', compared with 9% of those who were not aware of the Forestry Commission.

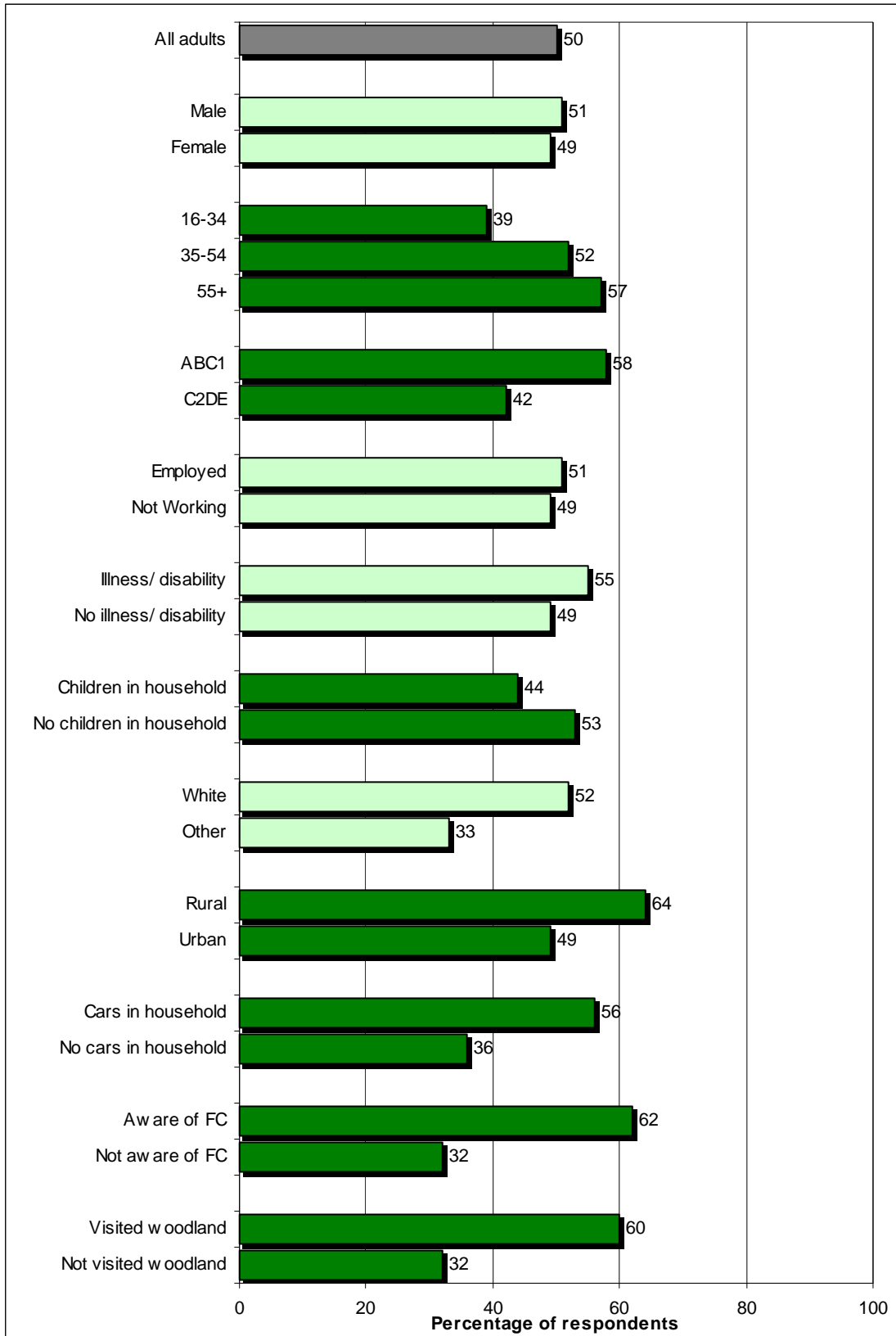
Respondents who lived in rural locations were more likely than those who lived in urban locations to have recalled 12 of the 15 topics. For example, 24% of those in rural areas had seen or read about 'loss of ancient or native woodland', compared with 13% of those in urban areas.

Those respondents aged over 35 years old and those with access to a car were more likely to have recalled 12 of the 15 topics. For example, 13% of 16-34 year-olds, 22% of 35-54 year olds and 28% of those aged 55+ had seen or read about 'tree planting'. Also, 23% of those with access to a car recalled 'forests and woodlands as places to visit', compared with 10% of those without access to a car.

Adults in social grades ABC1 were more likely than those in grades C2DE to have seen or read about 9 of the 15 topics. For example, 27% of ABC1s recalled having seen or read about 'public rights of access to woodlands', compared with 18% of C2DEs. Similarly, those without children in their household were more likely to have seen or read about 6 of the 15 topics. For example, 24% of those without children recalled having seen or read about 'public rights of access to woodlands', compared with 19% of those with children.

Males were more likely than females to recall seeing or reading about 'community woodlands/ new local woodlands', 'wood for fuel / (short rotation coppice)' and 'timber transport'. Respondents with a long-term illness or disability were more likely than those without to have seen or read about 'tree planting' and 'selling public woodland'.

Figure 2: Respondents who have seen or read about at least one topic, by socio-demographic variables (%)



Base: All respondents in England (3,367)

NOTE: Dark green indicates statistically significant variable in multivariate model

2.2 Promotions of forests, woodlands, trees and wood products

A number of promotions and initiatives in England and throughout GB are aimed at enhancing public understanding and awareness of woodlands, wood products and related issues. A further media-related question asked respondents about their awareness of five such promotions. Over four-fifths of respondents (82%) had not heard of any of the promotions listed, with less than one in ten respondents being aware of any one promotion (Table 2).

The promotions and initiatives used in the 2005 survey were different from previous years, so no comparison is possible between 2005 and earlier surveys.

Table 2: Proportion of respondents who had heard of promotions, by region (%)

	N. East	N. West	Yrks/Hmbr	E. Mids	W. Mids	East of Eng	London	S. East	S. West	England
Forest Education Initiative	9	8	6	6	7	11	7	7	8	8
Forest Schools	4	5	4	4	5	7	5	6	4	5
Autumn Colours	5	4	3	2	5	4	4	5	6	4
'Wood for Good' or other promotions for timber uses and products	3	3	2	1	6	9	4	3	3	4
Active Woods 'Naturally good for you'	4	3	2	2	5	7	4	2	3	3
At least one promotion	19	15	14	13	20	22	19	18	18	18

Base: All respondents in England (3,367)

Regional comparisons

Respondents from the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, and the East Midlands were less likely than those from other regions to have heard of at least one of the promotions (Table 2).

Adults from the East of England were more likely than those from other regions to recall having heard of the 'Forest Education Initiative' and 'Forest Schools'. Those from Yorkshire and the Humber were less likely to recall having heard of 'Autumn Colours'.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Younger respondents, those with a long-term illness or disability and those of non-white ethnic origin were more likely to have heard of at least one of the promotions. For example, 19% of respondents of non-white ethnic origin had heard of at least one of the promotions, compared with 17% of those of white ethnic origin.

Similarly, respondents who were aware of the Forestry Commission (20% of those aware, 13% of those not aware), and those who had visited forests and woodlands recently (21% visited recently, 10% not visited recently) were more likely to have heard of at least one of the promotions.

3. British 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 (89%) of respondents in England selected at least one benefit.

The top four good reasons to support forestry with public money were 'to provide places for wildlife to live', 'to provide places to walk in', 'to help prevent the greenhouse effect and global warming' and 'to improve the countryside landscape' (Table 3).

Support for each benefit was slightly lower in the 2005 survey than the 2003 survey.

Table 3: Whether respondent believes public benefits are good reasons to support forestry with public money, by region (%)

	N. East	N. West	Yrks/Hmbr	E. Mids	W. Mids	East of Eng	London	S. East	S. West	England 2005	England 2003
To provide places for wildlife to live	71	69	73	72	69	64	50	62	78	67	71
To provide places to walk in*	69	60	61	60	55	52	41	56	69	57	61
To help prevent the 'greenhouse effect' and global warming	62	63	58	60	52	58	42	49	63	56	58
To improve the countryside landscape	59	60	56	56	50	54	35	47	64	53	57
To provide healthy places for physical activity, relaxation and stress relief	45	46	49	45	40	46	35	41	58	44	-
To support the economy in rural areas	57	44	47	40	35	44	30	38	52	42	46
To create pleasant settings for developments around towns	40	44	40	33	35	42	27	30	50	38	41
To help rural tourism	39	42	43	37	32	35	25	34	44	37	42
To make woods more accessible to all in the community	38	42	40	30	29	36	26	35	47	36	41
To provide places to cycle or ride horses	34	39	40	34	32	35	24	29	49	35	40
To restore former industrial land	38	38	35	24	26	33	20	29	36	31	35
So that the Britain can buy less wood products from abroad*	29	35	33	25	25	32	21	23	44	30	33
To provide wood as a renewable fuel	33	35	29	25	24	28	20	27	38	29	32
To provide timber for sawmills and wood processing	21	31	27	20	17	26	18	19	33	24	28
At least one reason	97	90	91	95	89	89	79	87	91	89	91

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

*The wording differed slightly in the 2003 survey

Regional comparisons

Respondents from the North East and East Midlands were the most likely to select at least one reason to support forestry with public money and those from London were the least likely (Table 3). Support for all benefits was generally lower in London than all other regions.

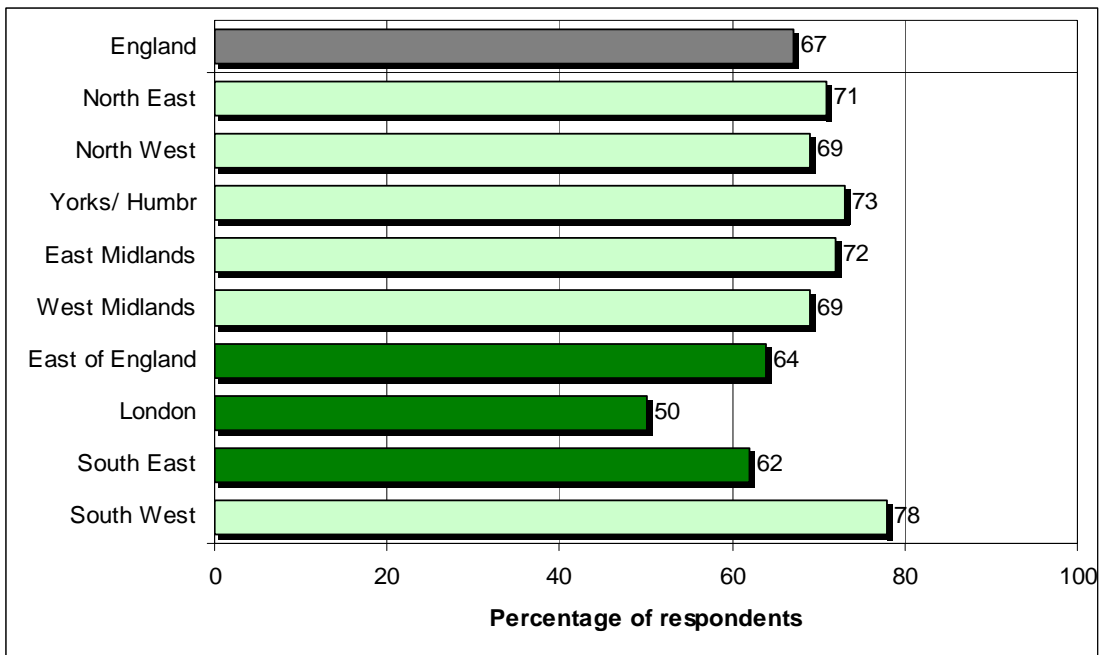
Considering only the top six benefits, those surveyed in London, the East of England and the South East were less likely than those from other regions to consider 'to provide places for wildlife to live' (Figure 3) and 'to provide places to walk in' as good reasons.

Respondents from the South West were more likely than those from other regions to say that 'to provide healthy places for physical activity, relaxation and stress relief' was a good reason to support forest with public money. Those from London, the West Midlands and the South East were less likely to say that 'to prevent the greenhouse effect and global warming' was a good reason.

Those from the North East were more likely, and those from the South East and West Midlands less likely, to say that 'to support the economy in rural areas' was a good reason to support forestry with public money.

Respondents from London, the South East, the West Midlands and the East of England were all less likely to support spending public money 'to improve the countryside landscape'.

Figure 3: Support for public spending on forestry to provide places for wildlife to live, by region (%)



Base: All respondents in England (3,367)

NOTE: Dark green indicates statistically significant variable in multivariate model

Socio-demographic comparisons

Older respondents were more likely than younger respondents to support public spending on forestry. 84% of those aged 16-34 years old selected at least one of the reasons listed as a good reason to support forestry with public money, compared with 90% of those aged 35-54 years old and 92% of those aged 55 years and over.

Respondents who were aware of the Forestry Commission (96% of those aware of the FC, 79% of those unaware), those who had visited forests or woodlands in the last few years (95% of those who had visited woodland recently, 77% of those who had not), those who had a long-term illness or disability (91% with a long-term illness or disability, 88% without) and those in social grades ABC1 (92% of those in social grades ABC1, 86% of those in social grades C2DE) were all more likely to have supported at least one of the reasons.

Considering only the socio-demographic variations in the top six benefits, respondents who were aware of the Forestry Commission were more likely to consider each of the top six benefits as a good reason to support forestry with public money. For example, 56% of those aware of the FC supported spending public money 'to provide healthy places for physical activity, relaxation and stress relief', compared with 28% of those unaware of the FC.

Similarly, respondents in social grades ABC1 and those who had visited forests or woodlands recently were also both more likely to support spending on each of the top six benefits. For example, 58% of those in social grades ABC1 supported using public money 'to improve the countryside landscape, compared with 48% of those in C2DE.

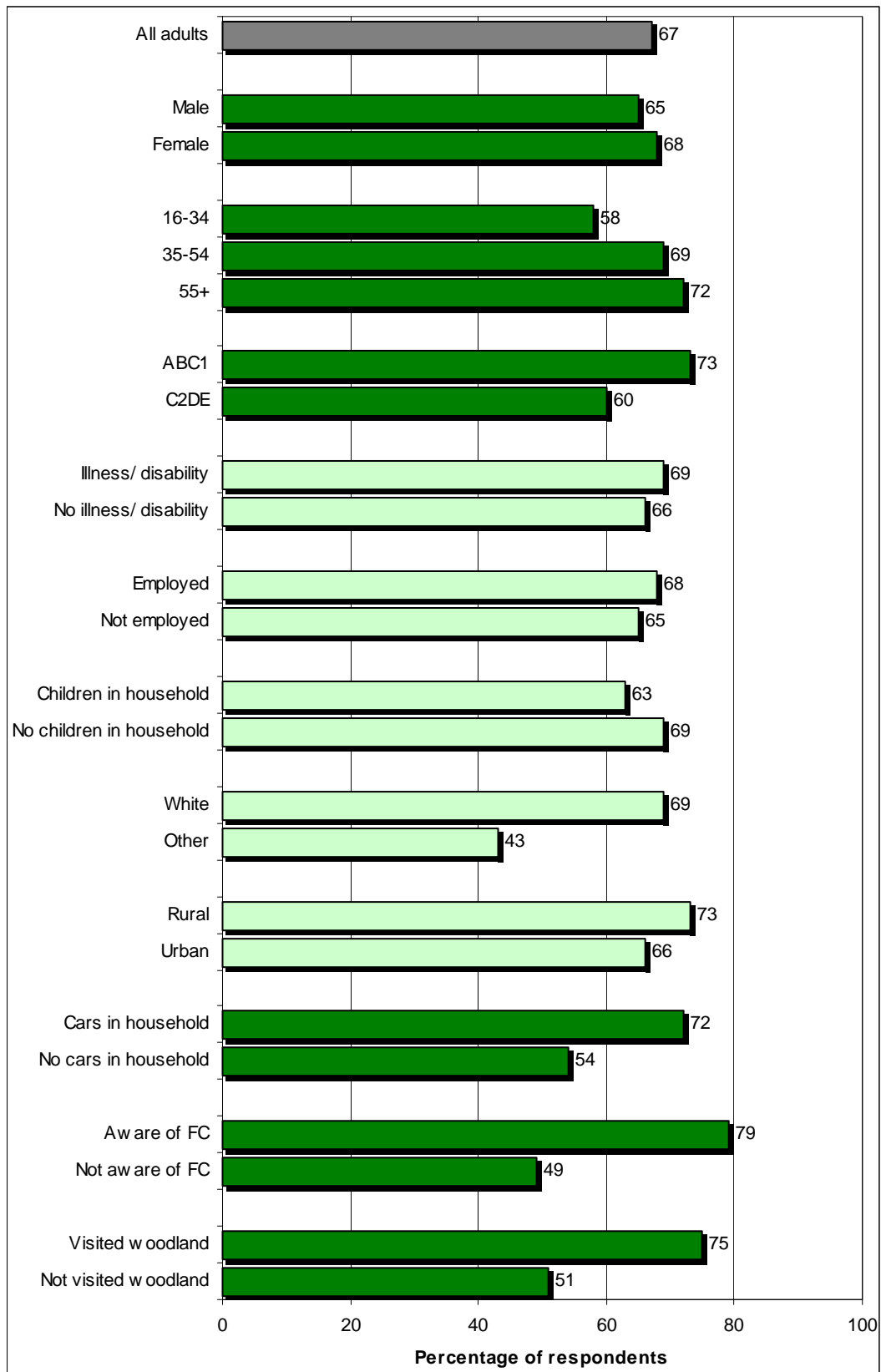
Respondents living in urban locations were more likely than those in rural locations to support spending public money on forestry 'to help prevent the greenhouse effect and global warming'. Those not in employment were more likely than those in employment to say that spending public money on forestry 'to support the economy in rural areas' and 'to improve the countryside landscape' were good reasons.

Respondents without children in their household were more likely than those with children to support spending public money 'to help prevent the greenhouse effect and global warming', 'to improve the countryside landscape' and 'to provide places to walk in'. For example, 59% of those without children in their household supported spending public money on forestry 'to provide places to walk in', compared with 52% of those with children.

Those with access to a car were more likely than those without access to a car to support spending public money on forestry 'to provide places for wildlife to live', 'to help prevent the greenhouse effect and global warming' and 'to support the economy in rural areas'.

Older respondents were more likely than younger respondents to support spending public money on forestry 'to provide places for wildlife to live' (Figure 4), 'to provide places to walk in', and 'to improve the countryside landscape'.

Figure 4: Support for public spending on forestry to provide places for wildlife to live, by socio-demographic variables (%)



Base: All respondents in England (3,367)

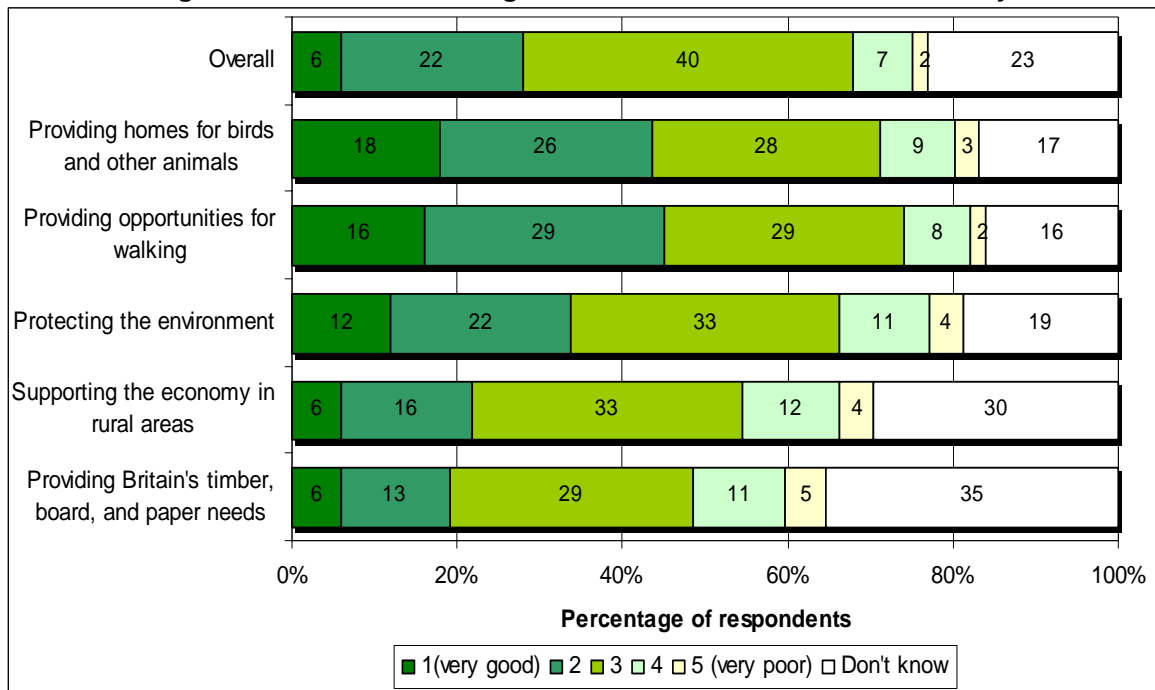
NOTE: Dark green indicates statistically significant variable in multivariate model

3.2 Ratings of British forestry

Respondents were asked to rate the performance of British forestry on a number of aspects. Ratings were given on a scale of 1 (very good) to 5 (very poor). Those rated most highly were 'providing homes for birds and other animals' and 'providing opportunities for walking' (Figure 5). These two highest-rated aspects of British forestry were also considered the best reasons to support forestry with public money (see Table 3).

It should be noted that in some cases a large proportion of respondents said that they could not give a rating as they didn't know enough about particular aspects of forestry. This was especially so when asking about British forestry 'providing Britain's timber, board and paper needs' and 'supporting the economy in rural areas' (35% and 30% respectively said that they did not know).

Figure 5: Performance rating of various functions of British forestry



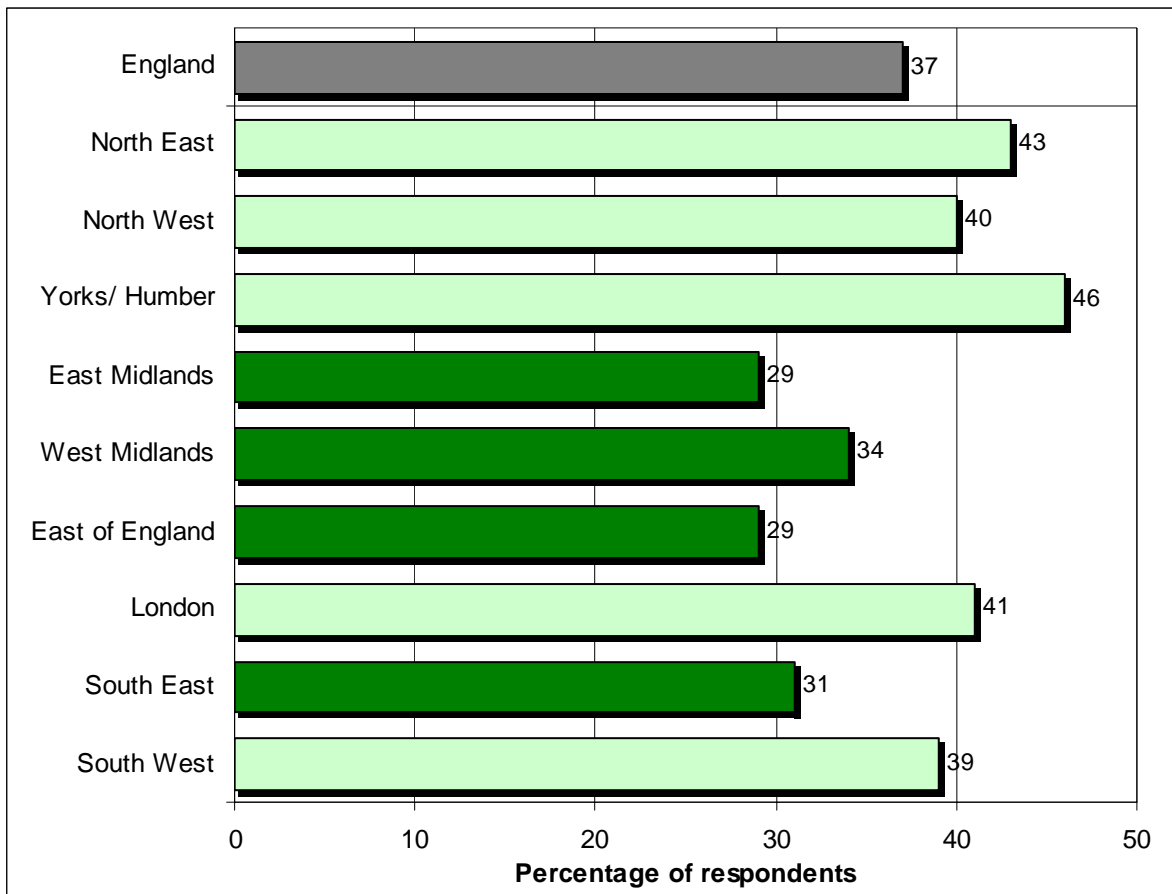
Base: All respondents in England (3,367)

Regional comparisons

The comparisons that follow consider only those who gave an opinion about the performance of British forestry. Respondents who said they did not know are excluded from this analysis and, for ease of comparison, only those rating a particular aspect of forestry as '1 (very good)' or '2' are considered here. In Figure 6 and in all proportions quoted, percentages relate to the proportion of respondents who had an opinion.

Figure 6 shows the overall performance rating of British forestry by region. Respondents from the East Midlands, East of England, the South East and the West Midlands were all less likely than those from other regions to rate the overall performance of British forestry as '1 (very good)' or '2'.

Figure 6: Overall performance rating of forestry as '1 (very good)' or '2', by region



Base: Respondents in England who gave an opinion (2,583)

NOTE: Dark green indicates statistically significant variable in multivariate model

Respondents from the East Midlands and the North West were more likely than those from other regions to rate British forestry highly on 'providing homes for birds and other animals'. Respondents from London and the West Midlands were less likely than from those other regions to rate 'providing opportunities for walking' highly.

A higher proportion of respondents from the North East and the North West gave 'providing Britain's timber, board, and paper needs' a '1 (very good)' or '2' rating.

Respondents from the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber were more likely to rate British forestry highly at 'protecting the environment'. Those from London, the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber and were more likely to give a high rating to British forestry in 'supporting the economy in rural areas'.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Figure 7 shows that older respondents, those aware of the Forestry Commission and those not in employment were all more likely to give a high overall rating for British forestry.

Those in social grades ABC1 were more likely to rate British forestry highly at 'providing opportunities for walking' (49%), 'providing homes for birds and other animals' (47%) and 'protecting the environment' (36%) than those in social grades C2DE (40%, 41% and 31% respectively).

Respondents who were aware of the Forestry Commission were more likely to rate British forestry highly at 'providing homes for birds and other animals' and 'providing opportunities for walking' than those unaware of the FC. For example, 51% of those aware of the FC rated British forestry as '1 (very good)' or '2' at 'providing homes for birds and other animals', compared with 33% of those unaware of the FC.

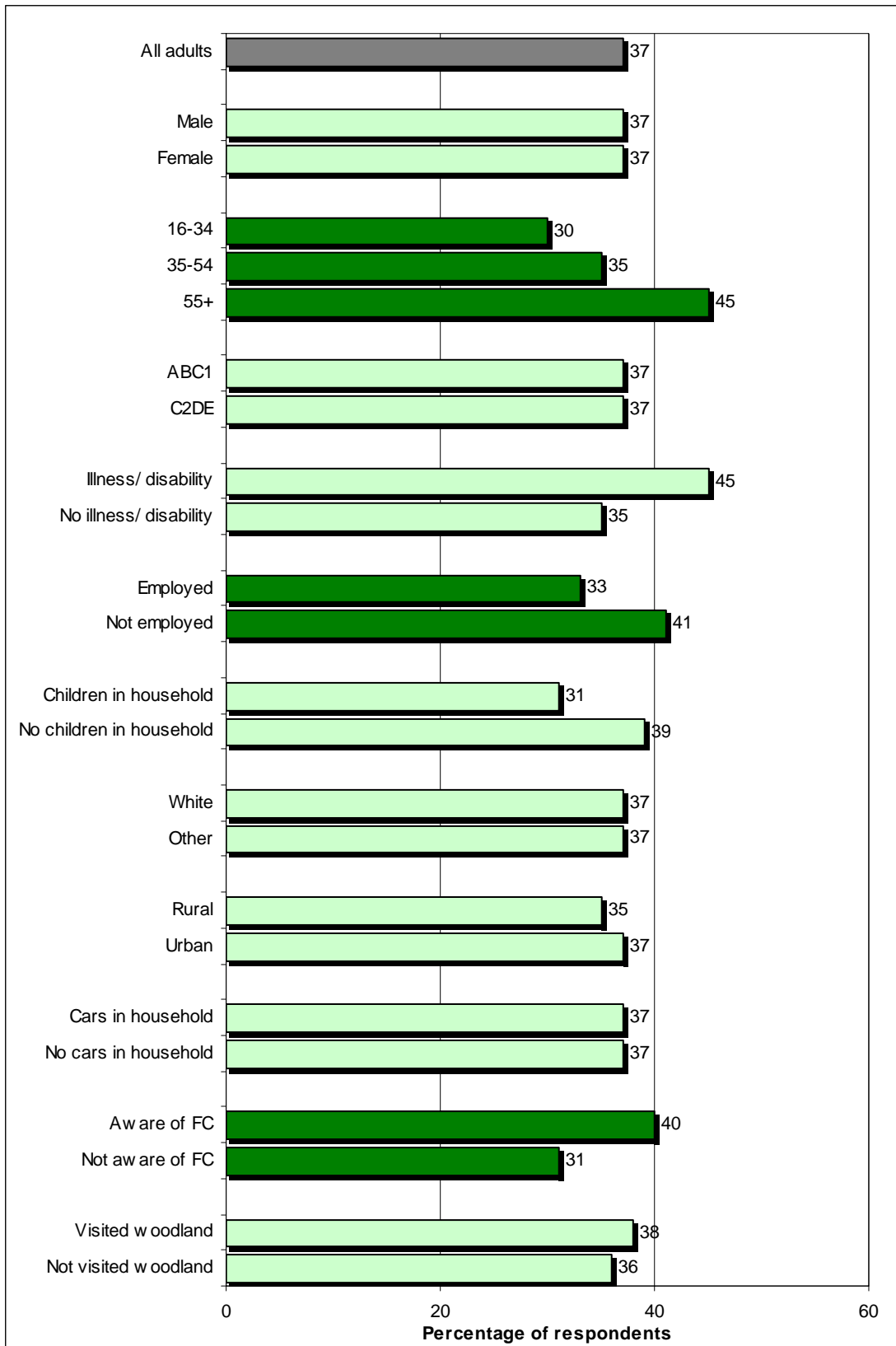
Males were more likely than females to rate British forestry highly at 'supporting the economy in rural areas'. 24% of males and 20% of females rated 'supporting the economy in rural areas' as '1 (very good)' or '2'.

Those in employment were more likely than those not in employment to rate British forestry highly at 'providing opportunities for walking', 'protecting the environment', and 'supporting the economy in rural areas'.

Older respondents gave a higher rating to 'providing homes for birds and other animals', 'protecting the environment' and 'supporting the economy in rural areas'. For example, 35% of those aged 16-34 years old, 43% of those aged 35-54 years old and 52% of those aged 55 years and over rated British forestry as '1 (very good)' or '2' at 'providing homes for birds and other animals'.

Respondents without children in their household were more likely to rate 'providing opportunities for walking' as '1 (very good)' or '2' (46% of those without children compared with 41% of those with children). Those of non-white ethnic origin were more likely to rate 'protecting the environment' highly (36% of non-white respondents gave a rating of '1' or '2', compared with 34% of white respondents). Respondents who had visited forests or woodlands recently were more likely to rate 'providing opportunities for walking' as '1 (very good)' or '2' (51% of those who had visited recently compared with 32% of those who had not).

Figure 7: Proportion of adults giving overall rating for forestry as '1 (very good)' or '2', by socio-demographic variables



Base: Respondents in England who gave an opinion (2,583)

NOTE: Dark green indicates statistically significant variable in multivariate model

4. Changes to woodland

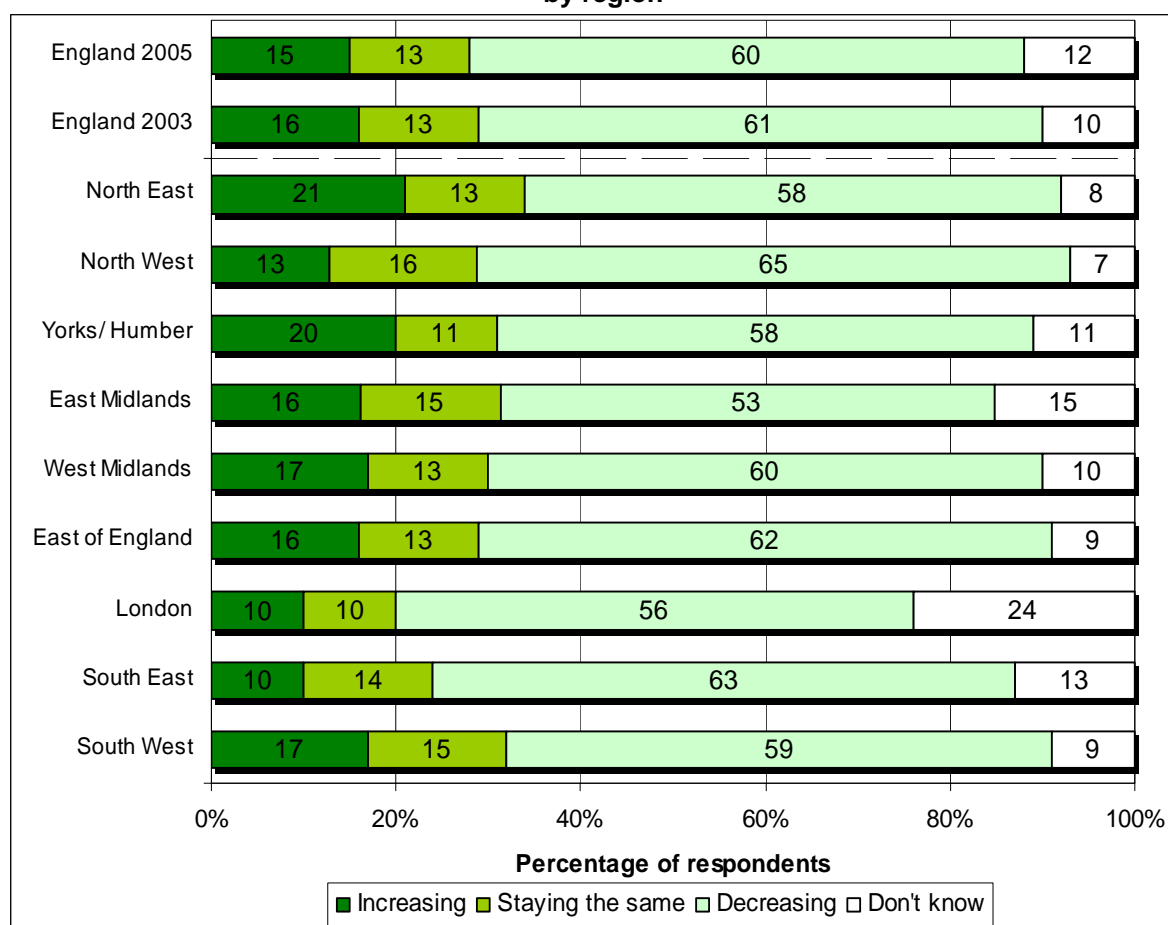
4.1 Perception of change in woodland area

Over the last few decades, the recorded area of woodland in England has been steadily increasing from 948 thousand hectares in 1980 to 1,115 thousand hectares in 2004¹. Although some of this increase can be attributed to improved coverage of woodland inventories, it is clear that total woodland area has increased over the last 20 years. Increases in woodland area have occurred in all regions of England².

Respondents were asked whether they thought the area of woodland in Britain had been increasing, decreasing or staying about the same over the last twenty years. Only 15% of English adults correctly said that woodland area had increased, while 13% thought that it had stayed about the same, and the majority, 60% thought that woodland area had decreased (Figure 8).

Perception of change in woodland in the 2005 survey was similar to that in the 2003 survey.

Figure 8: Perception of change in woodland area over last 20 years, by region



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

¹ Forestry statistics 2004, Forestry Commission, Edinburgh, 2004

² National inventory of woodland and trees: England, Forestry Commission, Edinburgh, 2001

Regional comparisons

Of those who gave an opinion, respondents from Yorkshire and the Humber were more likely than those from other regions to have said they thought that the woodland area in Britain had increased over the last 20 years.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Considering only those respondents in England who gave an opinion, males, older adults and those who were aware of the FC were more likely to think that the amount of woodland area in Britain had increased in the last 20 years. For example, 21% of males thought that the woodland area was increasing, compared with 13% of females.

4.2 Desire for change in woodland area

Respondents were then asked whether or not they would like more or less woodland in their part of the country. Around two-thirds of respondents in England (65%) would like more woodland, whereas only 2% would like less (Table 4).

Of those who wanted more woodland in their part of the country, over one-quarter (28%) said they would like to see more than half as much again.

Table 4: Desire for more woodland in respondent's part of the country (%)

	N. East	N. West	Yrks/Hmbr	E. Mids	W. Mids	East of Eng	London	S. East	S. West	England 2005	England 2003
More than half as much again	18	19	23	19	18	16	16	14	20	18	20
About half as much again	24	30	23	25	32	26	18	23	19	25	24
A little more	26	22	18	22	19	33	24	20	21	22	22
More – total	69	72	64	68	68	75	59	57	59	65	67
Neither more nor less	26	24	31	25	26	21	28	34	36	28	29
Less	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	3	*	2	2
Don't know	3	2	4	6	3	3	12	5	5	5	2

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

* fewer than 0.5%

Regional comparisons

Of those who gave an opinion, the majority of respondents from all regions wanted to see an increase in the amount of woodland in their area.

Of those who wanted more woodland, respondents in the West Midlands, South East and the North West wanted a greater increase in woodland.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Of the respondents who gave an opinion, those who had visited forests or woodlands in the last few years (75% of those who had visited forests or woodlands, 57% of those who had not), those who were employed (73% of those employed and 64% of those not

employed) and those who were aware of the Forestry Commission (72% of those aware of the Forestry Commission, 64% of those not aware) were more likely to want increases in woodland area.

Of those who wanted to see more woodland, younger respondents and males (22% of males wanted to see more than half as much woodland again, compared with 15% of females) wanted larger increases.

4.3 Public consultations over woodland change and use

Involvement of local communities is recommended when making decisions about changing the look or use of woodlands.

Respondents were asked if they had ever been consulted about plans for creating, managing or using woodlands in their area. Only 6% of respondents in England said they had been consulted (Table 5).

Table 5: Whether respondent had ever been consulted about plans for creating, managing or using woodlands in their area (%)

	Yes	No	Don't know
England 2005	6	92	3

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

Respondents were then asked if they would like to be consulted (or consulted again) about plans for creating, managing or using woodlands in their area. A total of 41% (77% of those who had previously been consulted and 40% of those who had not) said they would like to be consulted in the future (Table 6).

Table 6: Whether respondent would like to be consulted (again) about plans for creating, managing or using woodlands in their area (%)

	Yes	No	Don't know
England 2005	41	54	5

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

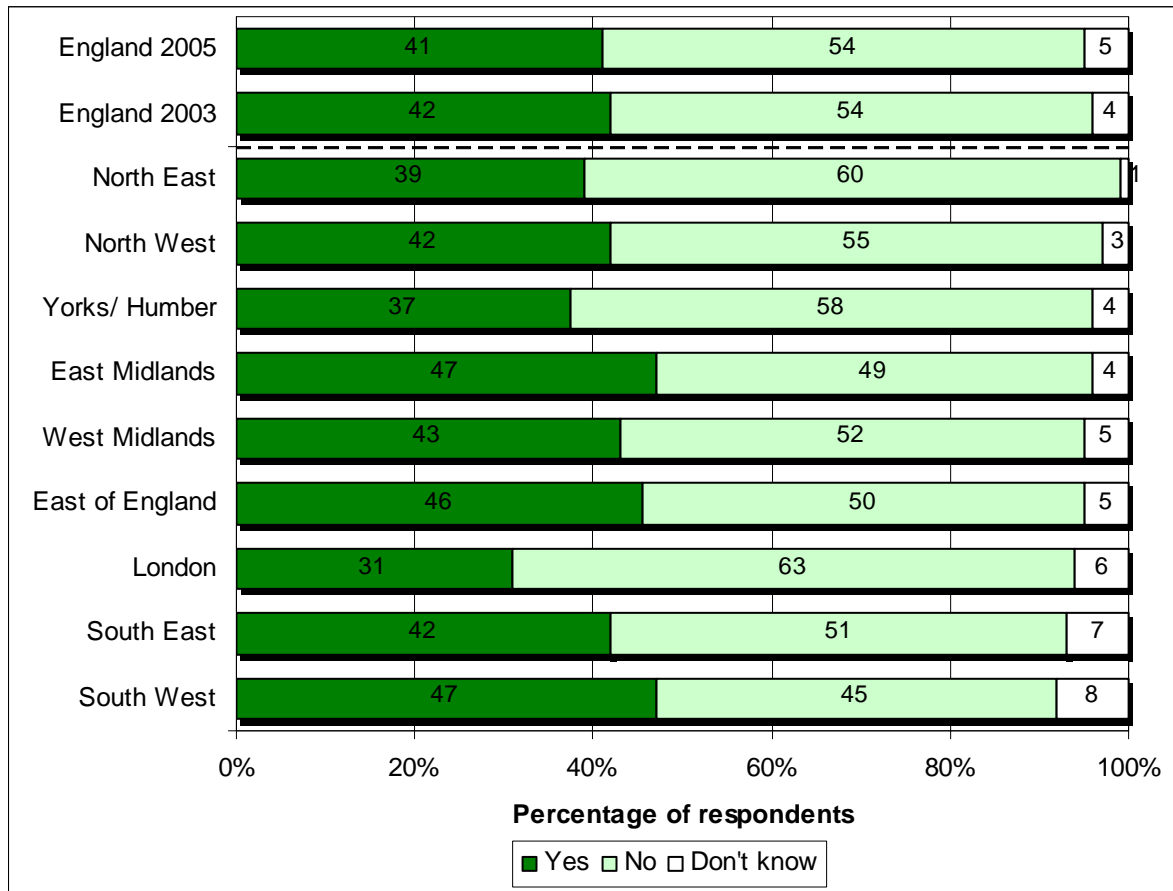
Regional comparisons

Respondents from the East of England and the North West were more likely than those from other regions to have been consulted about plans for creating, managing or using woodlands in their area.

Those from Yorkshire and the Humber¹ were less likely than those from other regions to want to be consulted in the future about plans for creating, managing or using woodland in their area (Figure 9).

¹ Although a lower proportion of adults from London responded 'yes', some other correlated variable may be acting to cause this to be insignificant (see Appendix 1)

Figure 9: Whether respondent would like to be consulted (again) about plans regarding woodland in their area, by region



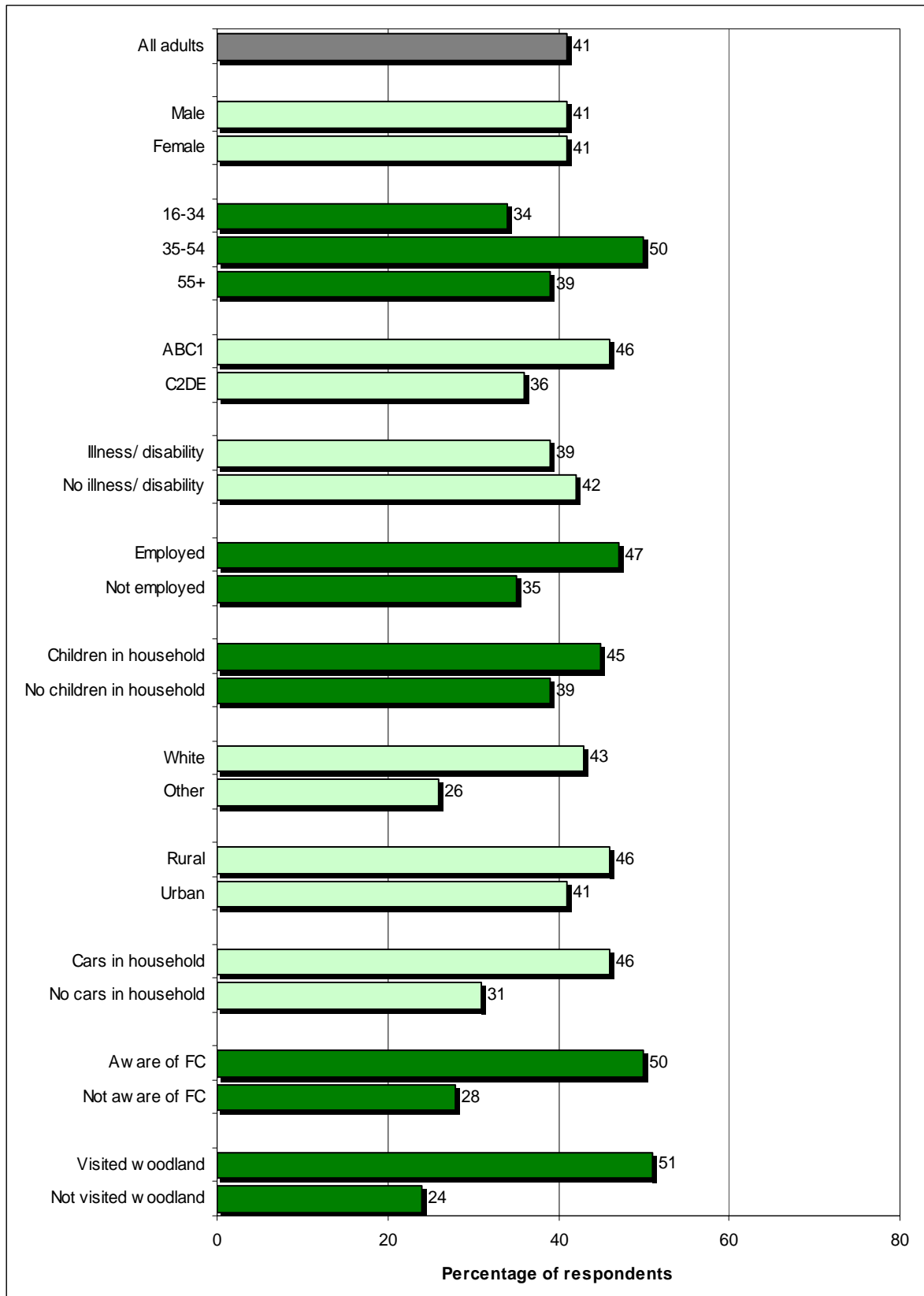
Base: All respondents in England (3,367)

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents living in urban locations were more likely than those in rural locations to say that they had been consulted about plans for creating, managing or using woodlands in their area. Similarly, those who had visited woodlands recently, those who were aware of the Forestry Commission and those who were of a non-white ethnic origin were more likely to say that they had been consulted about plans for creating, managing or using woodlands in their area.

Figure 10 shows that significantly more respondents aged 35-54 (50%) said that they would like to be consulted in the future about plans for creating, managing or using woodland in their area, compared with respondents aged both 16-34 (34%) and 55 or above (39%). Similarly, adults who were in employment, those who had children in their household, those who had visited woodlands recently and those who were aware of the Forestry Commission were all more likely to say that they would like to be consulted about woodlands plans in the future.

Figure 10: Whether respondent would like to be consulted (again) about plans regarding woodland in their area, by socio-demographic variables



Base: All respondents in England (3,367)

NOTE: Dark green indicates statistically significant variable in multivariate model

5. Awareness of certified symbols on wood products

Around 25% of all woodland in England is certified as being sustainably managed¹. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) are two schemes that certify woodlands as well as wood and wood products originating from sustainably managed woodland. Each scheme has a logo, which is displayed on certified products.

Almost half of those surveyed (44%) had been shopping for wood products in the last few years (Table 7).



Table 7: Whether respondent had been shopping for wood products in the last few years

	Yes	No	Don't know
England 2005	44	54	2

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

37% of those who had been shopping for wood products in the last few years said that they recognised the FSC symbol, and 8% said that they recognised the PEFC symbol. 59% did not recollect having seen either symbol (Table 8).

Table 8: Respondents who had seen the FSC or PEFC logos on wood products

	England 2005	England 2003
FSC logo 	37	31
PEFC logo 	8	8
None	56	61
Don't know	3	4

Base: Respondents in England who had been shopping for wood products - 2005 (1,485), 2003 (1,614)

Regional comparisons

Respondents in Yorkshire and the Humber (50%) and the North East (49%) were more likely than those in other regions to have been shopping for wood products in the last few years (Table 9).

Of those who had been shopping for wood products, the FSC logo was more likely to be recognised by those living in the South East (44%).

There were no regional variations for the proportion of respondents recognising the PEFC logo.

¹ UK indicators of sustainable forestry, Forestry Commission, Edinburgh, 2002

Table 9: Respondents who had seen the FSC or PEFC logos on wood products, by region

	N. East	N. West	Yrks/Hmbr	E. Mids	W. Mids	East of Eng	London	S. East	S. West	England 2005	England 2003
Been shopping in last few years	49	44	50	43	45	49	34	43	46	44	47
<i>Percentage of those who had been shopping for wood products</i>											
FSC logo	39	36	34	40	33	36	34	44	39	37	31
PEFC logo	11	7	8	7	8	9	7	7	7	8	8
None	53	59	64	55	61	56	54	49	53	56	61
Don't know	4	3	-	1	3	4	7	6	4	3	4

Base: Respondents in England who had been shopping for wood products in the last few years - 2005 (1,485), 2003 (1,614)

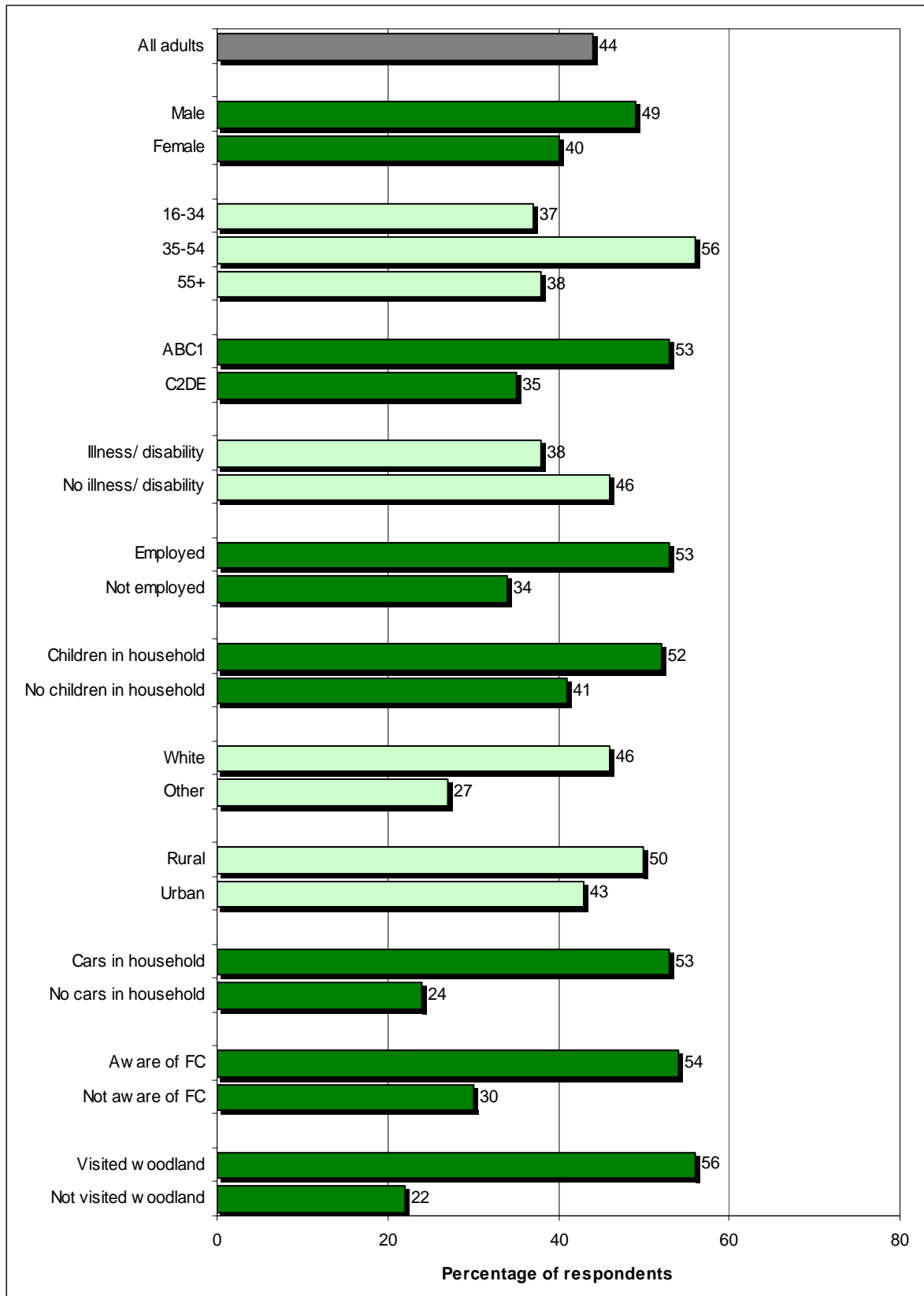
Socio-demographic comparisons

Males were more likely than females to have been shopping for wood products in the last few years (49% of males compared with 40% of females). Similarly, those in social grades ABC1, those with children in their household, those with a car, those who were employed, those who had a long-term illness or disability, those who were aware of the Forestry Commission and those who had visited woodlands in the last few years were also more likely to have been shopping for wood products in the last few years (Figure 11).

Respondents with children in their household were more likely than those with no children in their household to recognise the FSC logo (42% of those with children in their household recognised the FSC logo compared with 34% of those without children). Similarly, those who were aware of the Forestry Commission, those who had a long-term illness or disability, those who had visited forests or woodlands in the last few years and those aged under 55 years old were also more likely to recognise the FSC logo.

The PEFC logo was more likely to be recognised by males (9% of males compared with 6% of females) and those in social grades C2DE (6% of social grades ABC1 compared with 10% of social grades C2DE).

Figure 11: Whether a respondent has been shopping for wood products in the last few years, by socio-demographic variables



Base: All respondents in England (3,367)

NOTE: Dark green indicates statistically significant variable in multivariate model

6. Forestry Commission and other organisations

6.1 Awareness of organisations

The National Trust (81%) was the most recognised organisation from the list in Table 10. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of respondents recognised the Environment Agency, while 60% had heard of the Forestry Commission. Around one in ten (9%) respondents had not heard of or did not know if they had heard of any of the organisations listed in the survey.

Table 10: Respondents who had heard of various organisations¹

	N. East	N. West	Yrks/Hmbr	E. Mids	W. Mids	East of Eng	London	S. East	S. West	England 2005	England 2003
National Trust	85	82	83	87	80	84	61	80	90	81	82
Environment Agency	65	62	66	67	52	73	48	64	75	63	62
Forestry Commission	64	60	67	62	58	69	35	59	73	60	61
Woodland Trust	54	48	47	50	48	65	38	51	66	51	49
Countryside Agency	29	28	37	42	27	41	23	37	45	34	32
English Nature	29	31	32	35	23	43	26	37	52	34	33
National Forest	37	34	35	42	42	35	24	32	34	34	35
Tree Wardens	26	18	22	18	18	31	13	19	26	20	20
Community Forests	17	12	11	10	10	15	9	11	15	12	10
Forest Research	11	9	8	7	9	12	12	9	14	10	9
Forest Enterprise	15	7	8	5	8	14	5	9	11	9	9
None/ Don't know	3	10	6	7	8	3	20	10	3	9	7

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

Forest Research (10%) and Forest Enterprise (9%) were the least widely known of all the organisations.

The proportion of respondents aware of each organisation in 2005 was similar to that in 2003.

¹ It should be noted that the level of awareness may be overstated, as some respondents may think they recognised a similar name (e.g. National Forest is similar to 'National Trust' or 'national forest estate')

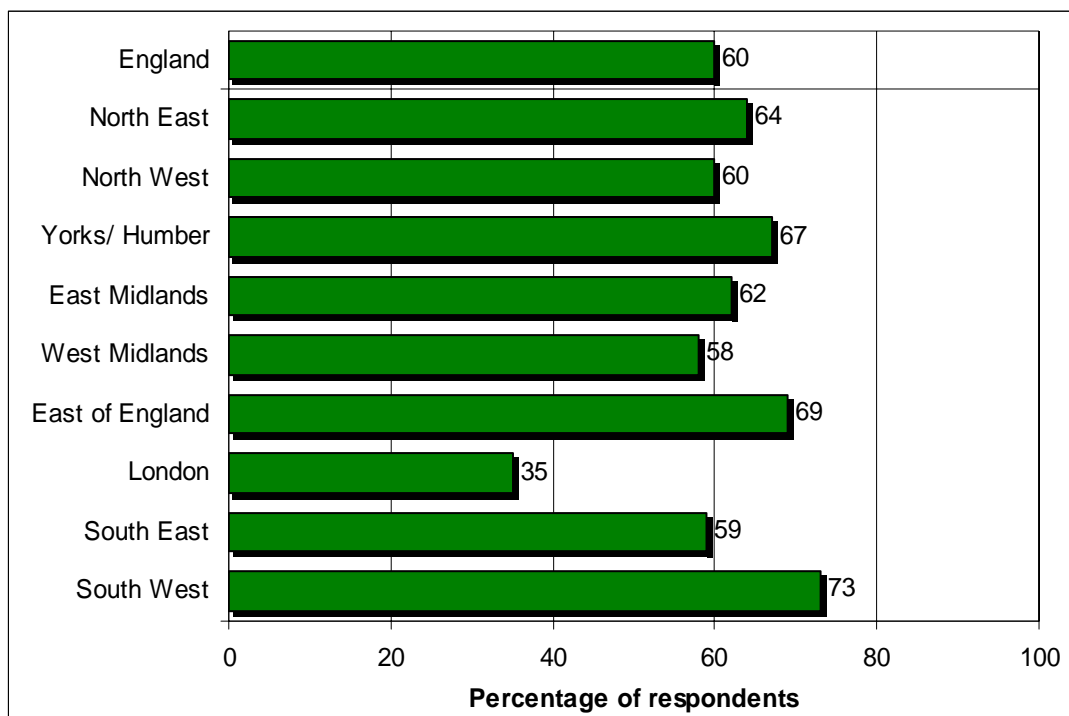
Regional comparisons

Respondents from the North West and London were less likely than those from other regions to be aware of at least one of the organisations.

There are many regional and socio-demographic differences in the level of awareness of other organisations, however, in the following comparisons, only the awareness of the Forestry Commission is reported.

Respondents from London were less aware of the Forestry Commission than those from other regions (Figure 12). Just over a third of respondents from London (35%) were aware of the Forestry Commission, compared with 58%-73% in other regions.

Figure 12: Respondents who were aware of the Forestry Commission, by region



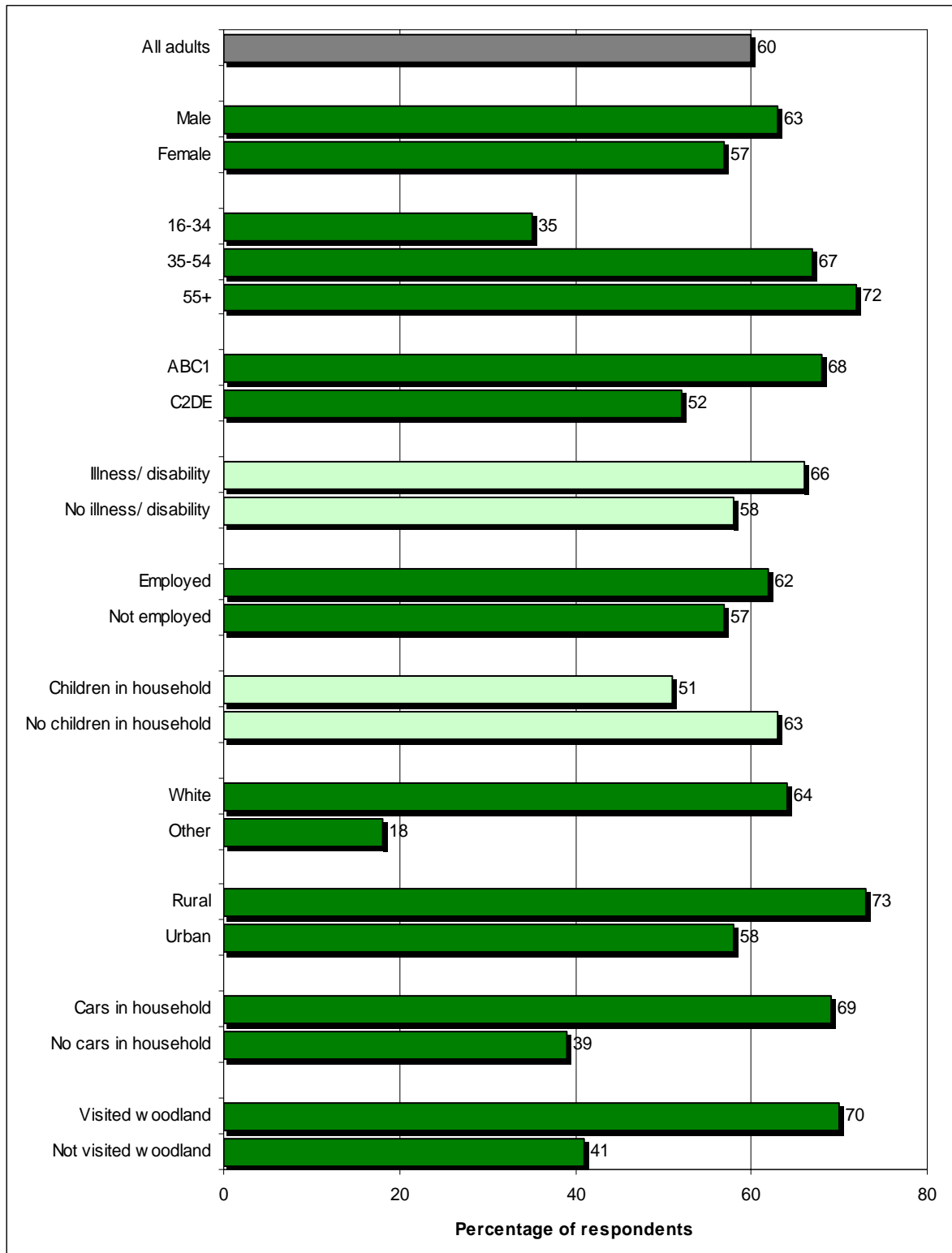
Base: All respondents in England (3,367)

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents who were 35 years old or over were more likely than younger respondents to be aware of at least one organisation. Similarly, those who had a long-term illness or disability, those who had visited forests or woodlands recently, those who had access to a car and those who were of white ethnic origin were also more likely to be aware of at least one organisation.

Looking at the Forestry Commission, Figure 13 shows that there were significant differences for all socio-demographic groups, with the exception of those with/without children in their household. For example, males (63%) were more likely than females (57%) to have heard of the Forestry Commission.

Figure 13: Proportion of adults who are aware of the Forestry Commission, by socio-demographic variables



Base: All respondents in England (3,367)

NOTE: Dark green indicates statistically significant variable in multivariate model

6.2 Forestry Commission

The Forestry Commission is the government department responsible for forestry in Great Britain, acting mainly through National Offices in England, Scotland and Wales. Respondents were asked what sort of organisation they thought the Forestry Commission was.

Over half of the respondents in England who had heard of it (59%) correctly identified the Forestry Commission as a government department, 25% thought that it was an independent body and 11% said that they did not know its status (Table 11).

Responses for 2005 were similar to those for 2003.

Table 11: Perception of status of Forestry Commission (%)

	N. East	N. West	Yrks/Hmbr	E. Mids	W. Mids	East of Eng	London	S. East	S. West	England 2005	England 2003
Government department or agency	52	62	60	61	61	58	51	61	62	59	59
Independent body	32	24	22	20	24	26	35	25	25	25	25
Body representing woodland owners	7	2	1	4	2	2	2	3	2	3	2
Private company	2	3	3	2	2	3	-	2	-	2	2
Don't know	7	10	13	13	11	10	13	10	11	11	11

Base: Respondents in England who had heard of the Forestry Commission - 2005 (2,005), 2003 (2,074)

Regional comparisons

There were few regional differences. Respondents from London were more likely to believe that the Forestry Commission is an independent body, while those from the North East were more likely to believe that the Forestry Commission is a body representing private woodland owners.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Males, older respondents, those in social grades ABC1 and those in employment were more likely to believe that the Forestry Commission is a government department or agency. This is also true for respondents who had visited forests or woodlands recently and those who had access to a car.

Younger respondents were more likely than older respondents to think that the Forestry Commission is an independent body.

Those in social grades C2DE and those with children in their household were more likely to believe it is a body representing private woodland owners.

The scope of the Forestry Commission

Respondents who had heard of the Forestry Commission were asked where they thought it operated. The vast majority (84%) said that the Forestry Commission operated in England, while 58% said that it operated in Scotland and 60% in Wales (Table 12).

Table 12: Perception of where Forestry Commission operates (%)

	N. East	N. West	Yrks/Hmbr	E. Mids	W. Mids	East of Eng	London	S. East	S. West	England 2005	England 2003
England	86	81	82	84	78	87	82	86	87	84	85
Scotland	69	62	56	53	59	57	54	55	63	58	66
Wales	59	64	56	52	64	57	56	59	68	60	63
Don't know	6	9	13	10	10	9	5	10	7	9	9

Base: Respondents in England who had heard of the Forestry Commission - 2005 (2,005), 2003 (2,074)

Regional comparisons

Of respondents who were aware of the Forestry Commission, those from the West Midlands were less likely to think that the Forestry Commission works in England and respondents from the North East were more likely to think the Forestry Commission works in Scotland (Table 12).

Respondents from the South West, West Midlands, North West and North East were more likely than those from other regions to think the Forestry Commission works in Wales.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Of respondents who were aware of the Forestry Commission, males were more likely than females to correctly state that the Forestry Commission works in England, Scotland and Wales. This is also true for those who had visited forests or woodlands in the last few years and those without a long-term illness or disability.

Respondents in social grades ABC1 and those with cars in their household were more likely to believe that the FC works in both England and Wales. For example, 65% of those in social grades ABC1 thought that the Forestry Commission works in Wales compared with 53% in social grades C2DE.

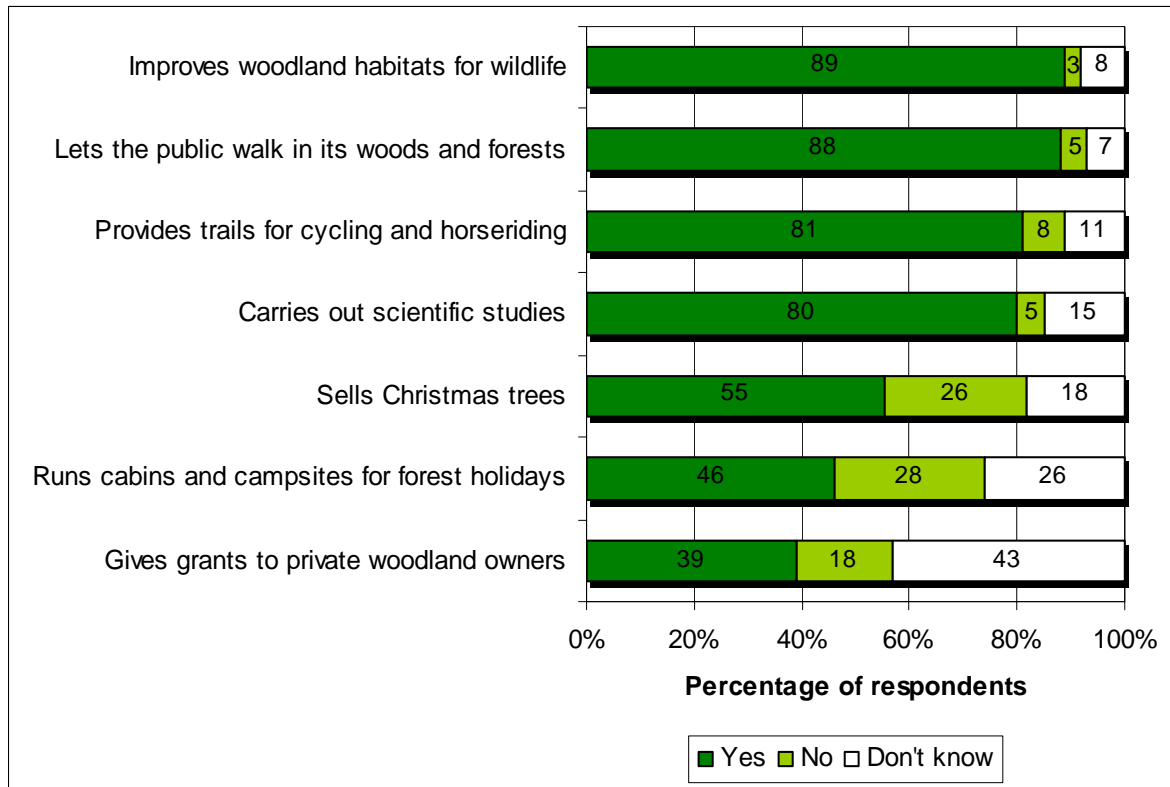
Respondents with children in their household (89%) were more likely than those with no children in their household (81%) to believe that the FC works in England.

Respondents aged over 55 years old were less likely than those in younger age groups to think that the FC works in Scotland (85% of those aged 16-35 years old, 86% of those aged 35-54 years old and 81% of those aged over 55 years old).

6.3 Forestry Commission activities

Figure 14 shows that most respondents showed a good awareness of some of the range of Forestry Commission activities¹. A high proportion of those surveyed was aware that the Forestry Commission 'improves woodland habitats for wildlife' (89%) and 'lets the public walk in its woods and forests' (88%). Fewer were aware that the Forestry Commission 'sells Christmas trees' (55%), 'gives grants to private woodland owners' (46%) and 'runs cabins and campsites for forest holidays' (39%).

Figure 14: Perception of activities carried out by the Forestry Commission



Base: Respondents in England who had heard of the Forestry Commission (2,005)

Regional comparisons

Table 13 lists the perception of activities carried out by the Forestry Commission as a proportion of respondents in each region who had heard of the Forestry Commission. The table lists only those who were aware that the Forestry Commission carried out the activities.

The same two activities ('improves woodland habitats for wildlife' and 'lets the public walk in its woods and forests') were identified by the highest proportion of respondents in all regions.

Respondents from the West Midlands were more likely than those from other regions to be aware that the FC 'provides trails for cycling and horse-riding', and those from the South East were less likely to know that the FC 'runs cabins and campsites for forest holidays'.

¹ It should be noted that the level of awareness may be overstated, as some respondents may have guessed that the 'correct' response to every activity listed was "yes".

Those from London, the South East and the East Midlands were less likely than respondents from other regions to know that the Forestry Commission 'sells Christmas trees'. Those from the North West and the East of England were more likely to be aware that that it 'carries out scientific studies'.

Respondents from the East Midlands, London, the North West and the West Midlands were all more likely than those from other regions to know that the Forestry Commission 'gives grants to private woodlands owners'.

Table 13: Perception of activities carried out by the Forestry Commission, by region (%)

	N. East	N. West	Yrks/Hmbr	E. Mids	W. Mids	East of Eng	London	S. East	S. West	England 2005	England 2003
Improves woodland habitats for wildlife	88	92	88	87	90	91	86	86	86	89	90
Lets the public walk in its woods and forests	88	90	88	85	95	89	85	84	92	88	89
Provides trails for cycling and horseriding	86	81	79	80	87	80	75	80	79	81	82
Carries out scientific studies	78	85	74	79	80	84	80	78	76	80	80
Sells Christmas Trees	68	55	56	50	65	56	44	46	62	55	57
Runs cabins and campsites for forest holidays	55	46	44	43	49	46	48	36	50	46	49
Gives grants to private woodland owners	38	44	35	49	42	36	47	34	30	39	38

Base: Respondents in England who had heard of the Forestry Commission - 2005 (2,005), 2003 (2,074)

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents who had visited forests and woodlands recently were more likely than non-visitors to be aware that the Forestry Commission carries out each of the activities listed.

For the three activities that were most widely known ('improves woodland habitats for wildlife', 'lets the public walk in its woods and forests' and 'provides trails for cycling and horse-riding') there were few socio-demographic differences.

Respondents who were not employed and those who had access to a car were more likely to think that the Forestry Commission 'improves woodland habitats for wildlife'. For example, 90% of those with access to a car were aware that the Forestry Commission 'improves woodlands habitats for wildlife' compared with 83% of those without a car.

Those who had visited forests and woodlands recently, those aged over 55 years old and those of white ethnic origin were more likely to know that the FC 'lets the public walk in its woods and forests'.

Those who had visited forests and woodlands recently and those of white ethnic origin were more likely to be aware that the FC 'provides trails for cycling and horse-riding'.

Of the other activities carried out by the Forestry Commission, younger respondents, those with a long-term illness or disability and those with a car in their household were more likely to know that the Forestry Commission 'gives grants to private woodland owners'.

Younger respondents, those with children in their household and those living in an urban location were less likely to be aware that the Forestry Commission 'sells Christmas trees'. For example, 33% of those aged 16-34 years old, 50% of those aged 35-54 years old and 70% of those aged over 55 years old believed that the Forestry Commission 'sells Christmas trees'.

Respondents who were in social grades ABC1, those who lived in an urban location and those who had access to a car were all more likely to know that the Forestry Commission 'carries out scientific research'. For example, 73% of respondents from a rural location knew that the Forestry Commission 'carries out scientific research' compared with 80% from an urban location.

Older respondents and those who were not in employment were both more likely to know that the Forestry Commission 'runs cabins and campsites for forest holidays'. For example, 41% of those who were employed knew that the Forestry Commission 'runs cabins and campsites for forest holidays' compared with 50% of those who were not employed.

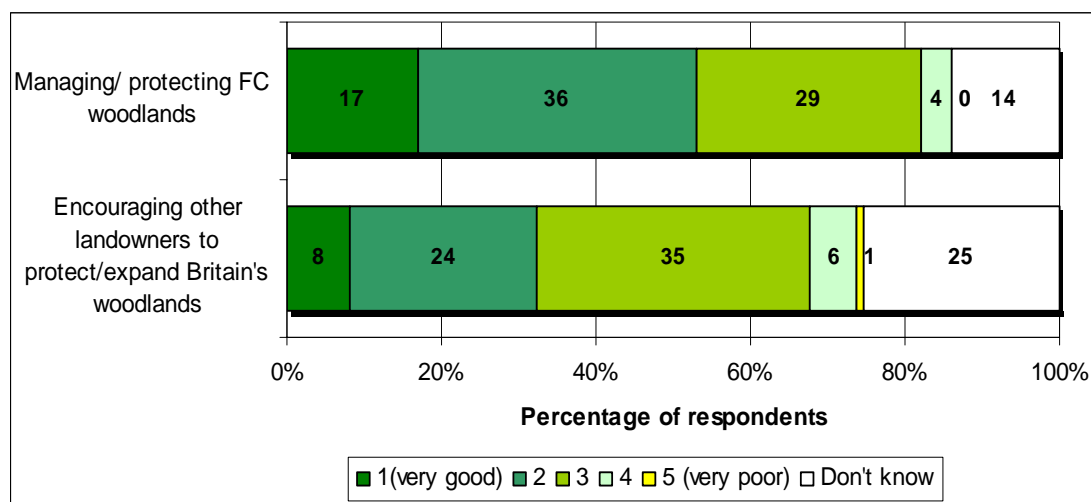
6.4 Performance of the Forestry Commission

Respondents who had heard of the Forestry Commission were asked to rate the performance of the FC in managing and protecting its woodland and in encouraging other landowners to protect and expand Britain's woodlands. Performance was rated on a scale of 1 (very good) to 5 (very poor).

More than half of respondents (53%) who were aware of the Forestry Commission rated its performance in managing and protecting FC woodlands as '1 (very good)' or '2' (Figure 15).

Almost one-third (32%) gave ratings of '1(very good)' or '2' for the Forestry Commission's work with other landowners. However, 25% of respondents said that they could not rate the Forestry Commission on this activity.

Figure 15: Rating of the Forestry Commission performance



Base: Respondents in England who had heard of the Forestry Commission (2,005)

Regional comparisons

Respondents who said they did not know are excluded from the following analysis, and for ease of comparison, only those rating the particular aspect of the Forestry Commission's performance as '1 (very good)' or '2' are considered here.

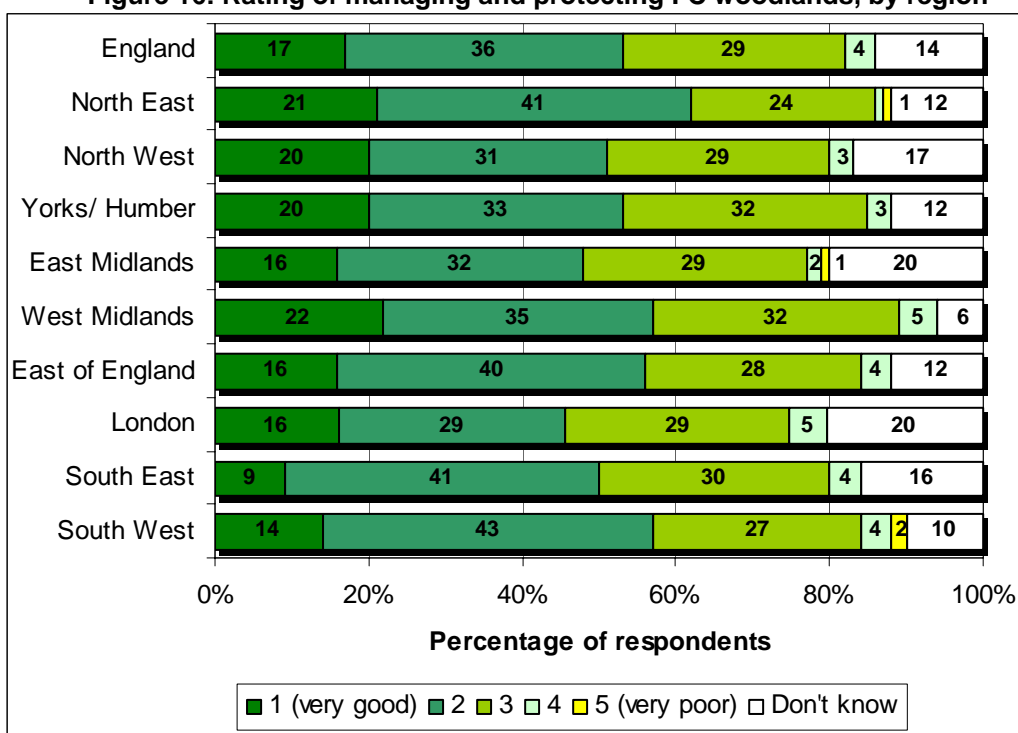
There were no statistically significant regional variations in the number of respondents rating the Forestry Commission as '1 (very good)' and '2' at 'managing and protecting FC woodlands' (Figure 16) and 'encouraging other landowners to protect and expand Britain's woodlands' (Figure 17). However, it should be noted that a large proportion of respondents replying 'don't know' in many regions may suggest that many people do not feel that they have the knowledge to give a fair rating on these issues.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents who had visited forests and woodlands recently and older respondents were more likely to rate the Forestry Commission highly on both 'managing and protecting FC woodlands' and 'encouraging other landowners to protect and expand Britain's woodlands'. For example, 47% of those aged 16-34 years old and 50% of those aged 35-54 years old rated 'managing and protecting FC woodlands' as '1 (very good)' or '2' compared with 59% of those aged over 55 years old.

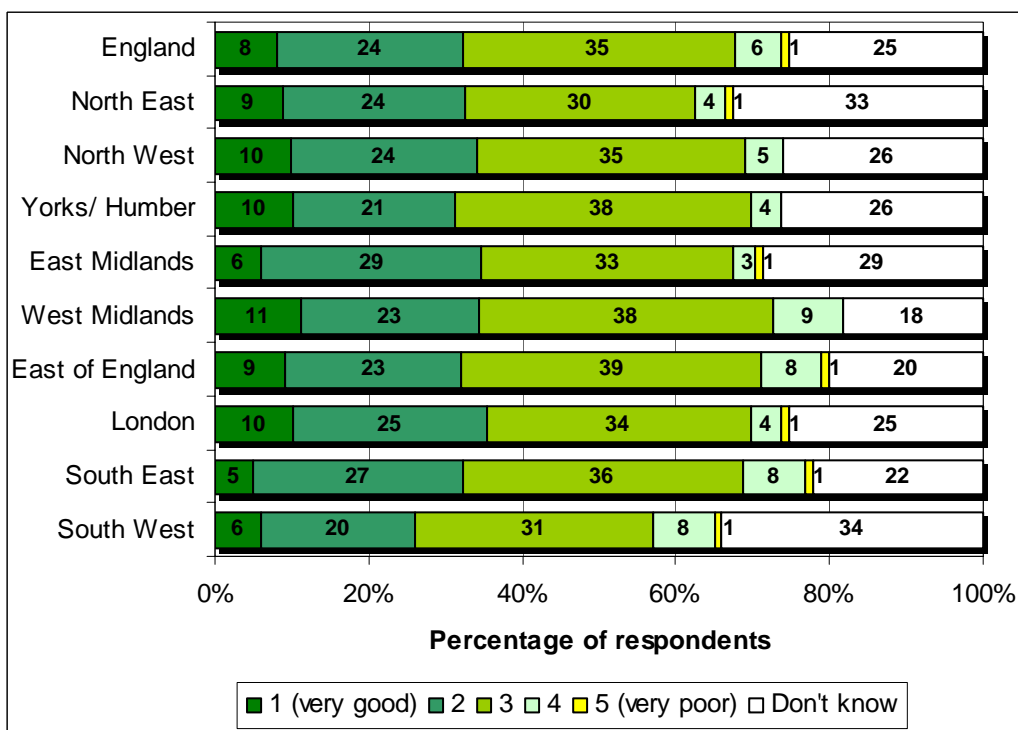
Respondents with children in their household and those of white ethnic origin were all more likely to rate the Forestry Commission highly at 'managing and protecting FC woodlands'.

Figure 16: Rating of managing and protecting FC woodlands, by region



Base: Respondents in England who had heard of the Forestry Commission (2,005)

Figure 17: Rating of encouraging other landowners to protect and expand Britain's woodlands, by region



Base: Respondents in England who had heard of the Forestry Commission (2,005)

7. Woodland recreation

The creation and improvement of public access to woodlands for recreation is one of the aims of forestry policy.

7.1 Access to woodland

Over a third of those surveyed in England (36%) said that there was a forest or woodland that they could get to easily without using a car or other transport, while 60% said that there was no easily accessible woodland (Table 14).

Table 14: Whether respondent has access to woodland without use of a car or other transport (%)

	Yes	No	Don't know
England 2005	36	60	4

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

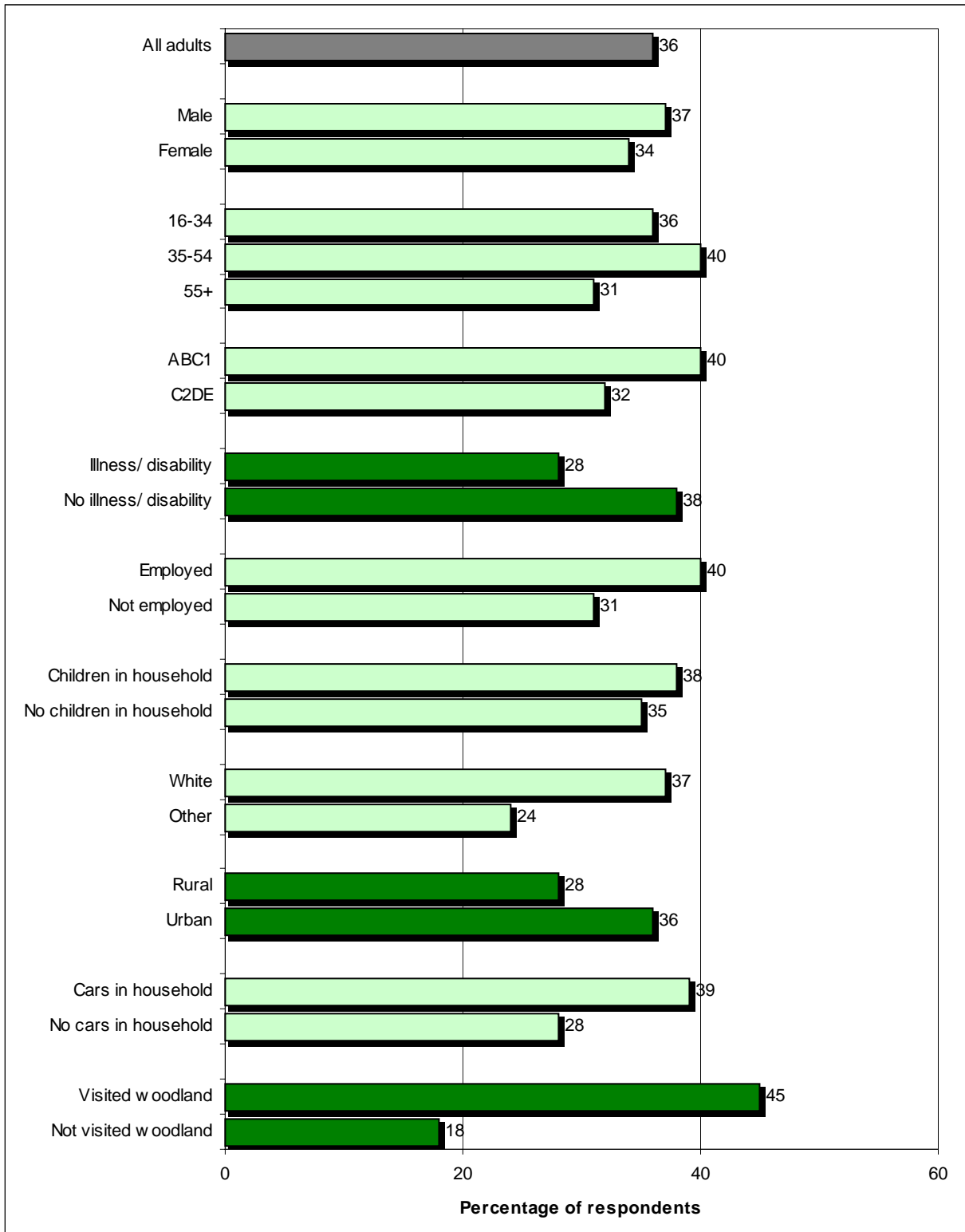
Regional comparisons

Respondents from the North West and the West Midlands were more likely than those from other regions to have a forest or woodland that they could access without the use of a car or other transport.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Figure 18 shows that those who had visited forests or woodlands recently, those living in urban areas and those without a long-term illness or disability said that they could easily get to woodland without using a car or other transport.

Figure 18: Whether respondent has access to woodland without use of a car or other transport, by socio-demographic variables



Base: All respondents in England (3,367)

NOTE: Dark green indicates statistically significant variable in multivariate model

7.2 Visits to woodland

Around two-thirds of respondents (65%) said that they had visited woodlands for walks, picnics or other recreation in the last few years (Table 15).

Most of those who had visited woodland said that they had visited woodlands in the countryside (82% in total) and half said that they had visited woodlands in and around towns (52% in total). Just less than half of woodland visitors (46%) had only visited woodlands in the countryside, while 16% had only visited woodlands in and around towns. Around a third had visited both rural and urban woodlands (36%).

Table 15: Woodlands visited in the last few years, by region (%)

	N. East	N. West	Yrks/Hmbr	E. Mids	W. Mids	East of Eng	London	S. East	S. West	England 2005	England 2003
Visited woodlands in the last few years	67	67	68	69	63	71	50	61	73	65	66
Respondents who had visited woodland (%)											
Visited woodlands in the countryside	43	41	54	52	46	46	30	44	57	46	49
Visited woodlands in and around towns	15	20	8	15	18	16	28	14	11	16	16
Both	42	39	35	33	36	37	33	38	29	36	34
Don't know	1	1	2	-	-	1	9	4	4	2	2

Base: All respondents - 2005 (3,367), 2003 (3,412). All respondents who had visited woodland - 2005 (2,239), 2003 (2,285)

Regional comparisons

Respondents from the South East (61%) were less likely than those from other regions to have visited forests or woodlands in the last few years. However, it should be noted that respondents from London had the lowest proportion of visitors to woodlands, with only half of them having done so (Table 15).

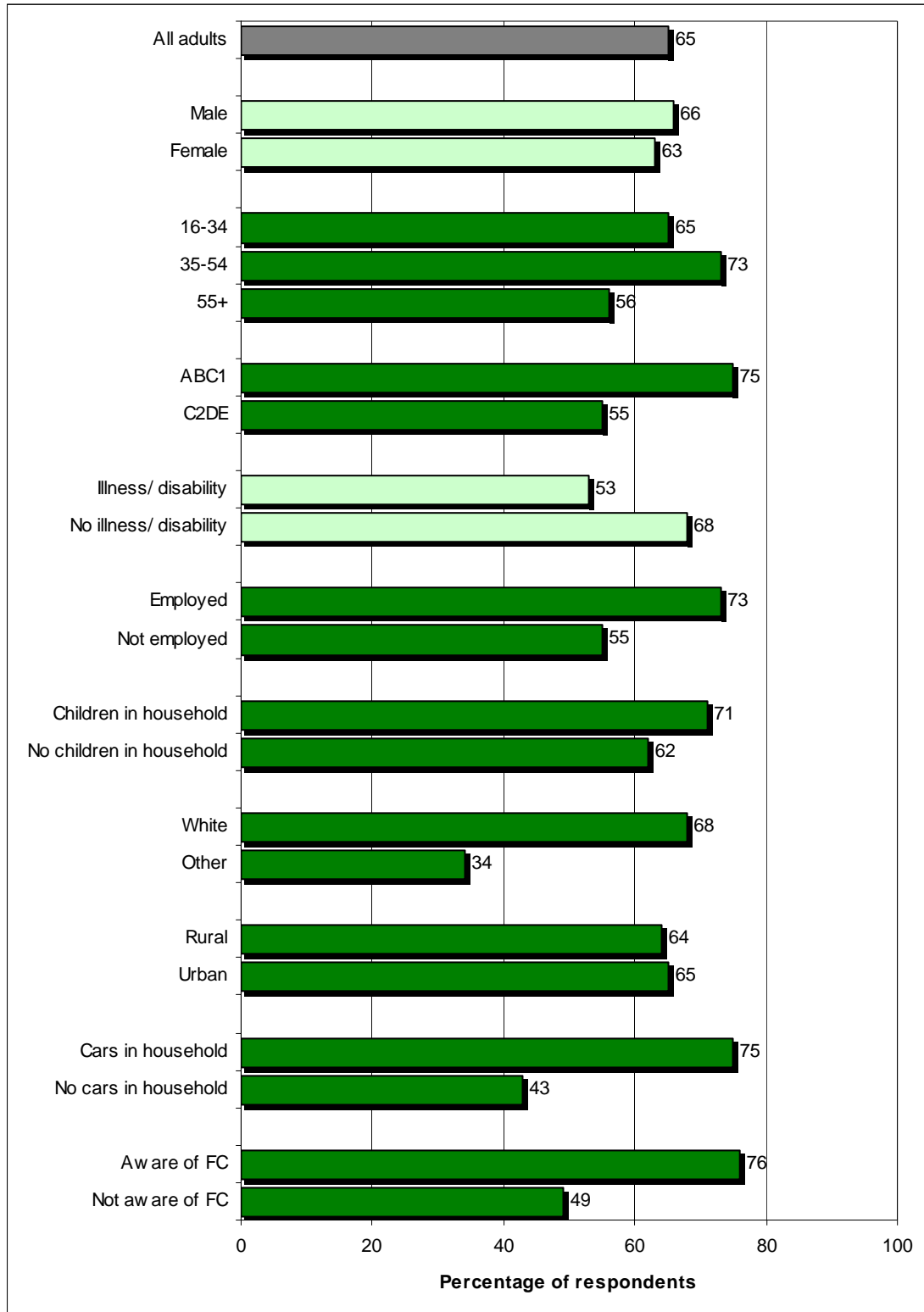
Those from the North West and London were more likely to have visited forests and woodlands in and around towns, and less likely to have visited woodlands in the countryside. Respondents from Yorkshire and the Humber were more likely to have visited woodlands in the countryside, and those from the South West were less likely to visit woodlands in and around towns.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents who were employed, aged 35-54 years old, had children in their household, and lived in a urban areas were all more likely to have visited forests or woodlands in the last few years (Figure 19). This was also true for those without a long-term illness or disability, those in social grades ABC1, those aware of the Forestry Commission, those who had access to a car and those of white ethnic origin.

Respondents who were in social grades ABC1, those who were aware of the Forestry Commission and those who had access to a car were all less likely to have visited forests or woodlands in the countryside. Younger respondents, females and those living in urban areas were all more likely to have visited woodlands in and around towns.

Figure 19: Whether respondent has visited woodland in the last few years, by socio-demographic variables



Base: All respondents in England (3,367)

NOTE: Dark green indicates statistically significant variable in multivariate model

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. Table 16 shows that the main reasons for not visiting a forest or woodland were that the respondent was not interested in going (33%), there were personal mobility reasons (16%), the woods were too far away or they didn't have a car (12% each).

Table 16: Main reason for not visiting forest/woodland in last few years, by region (%)

	N. East	N. West	Yrks/Himbr	E. Mids	W. Mids	East of Eng	London	S. East	S. West	England 2005	England 2003
Not interested in going	23	43	30	28	33	30	41	30	17	33	29
Other personal mobility reasons	15	14	26	24	25	14	5	12	28	16	13
Woods are too far away	11	16	11	17	6	15	11	7	13	12	16
Don't have a car	23	11	14	9	10	10	10	13	10	12	13
Lack of time	8	6	6	1	4	5	4	5	8	5	8
Concerns that woods are not safe	1	1	-	4	3	5	5	5	3	3	2
Lack of information	1	3	-	7	3	-	5	4	3	3	3
Prefer other areas of countryside	-	1	4	1	4	5	3	6	3	3	3
Lack of suitable public transport	2	1	3	-	2	-	2	1	5	2	-
Lack of facilities	2	1	-	2	2	1	1	2	-	1	2
Other	11	1	4	-	3	4	2	2	3	3	6
Don't know	2	4	4	8	6	11	9	13	8	8	5

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

Regional comparisons

For all regions apart from the South West, the main reason for not visiting woodland was that the respondent was not interested in going (Table 16). Those from the North West (43%) and London (41%) more likely than respondents from other regions to give this as their main reason.

The reason that 'woods are too far away' was less likely to be given by respondents from the West Midlands (6%) and the South East (7%). Respondents from the North East (23%) were more likely than those from other regions to say that they don't visit forests or woodlands because they 'don't have a car'.

Socio-demographic comparisons

The reason 'not interested in going' was more likely to be given by males (42% of males, 25% of females) and younger respondents (44% of 16-34 year olds, 38% of 35-54 year olds, 22% of 55 years and over). This was also the case for those with children in their household (37% with children in their household, 31% without), those without a long-term illness or disability (39% without a long-term illness, 17% with) and those who were not aware of the Forestry Commission (38% of those not aware of the FC, and 25% of those aware of the FC).

Older respondents, those who were aware of the Forestry Commission, those who had a long-term illness or disability, and those who were not in employment were more likely to state that their main reason for not visiting was due to 'other personal mobility reasons'.

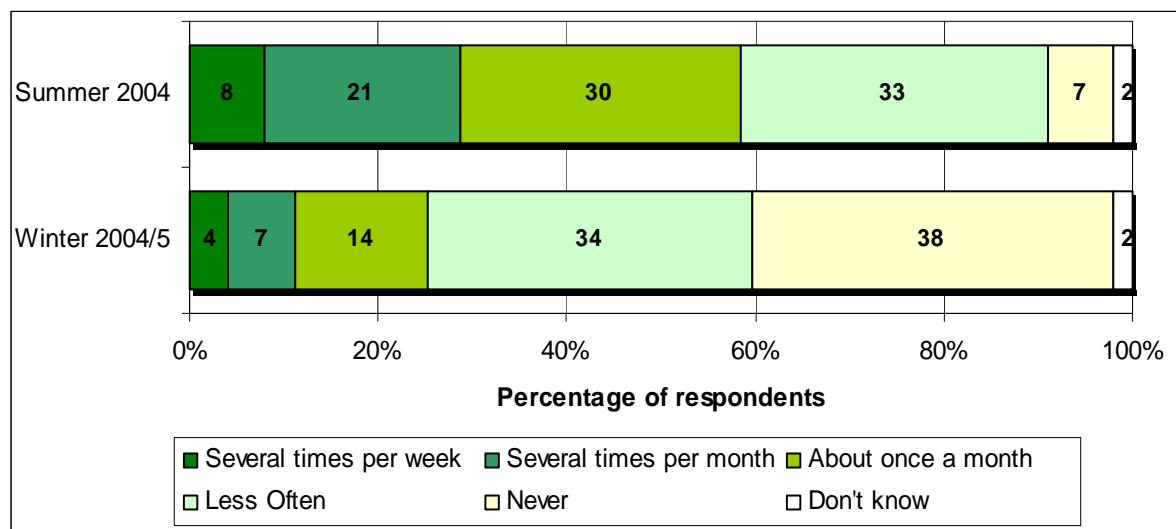
Younger respondents, females, those with children in their household, those with a long-term illness or disability, those of white ethnic origin, and not surprisingly those without a car were all more likely to state their main reason was that they 'don't have a car'

7.4 Frequency of woodland visits

Of the respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years, 59% said that they visited at least once a month in the summer of 2004 (Figure 20). Less than half as many (25%) said that they visited at least once a month in the winter of 2004/5.

Over one-third (38%) of those who had visited woodland in the last few years said that they did not visit during the most recent winter. Only 7% said that they did not visit during the most recent summer.

Figure 20: Frequency of woodland visits during both summer 2004 and winter 2004/5



Base: Respondents in England who had visited a woodland in the last few years (2,239)

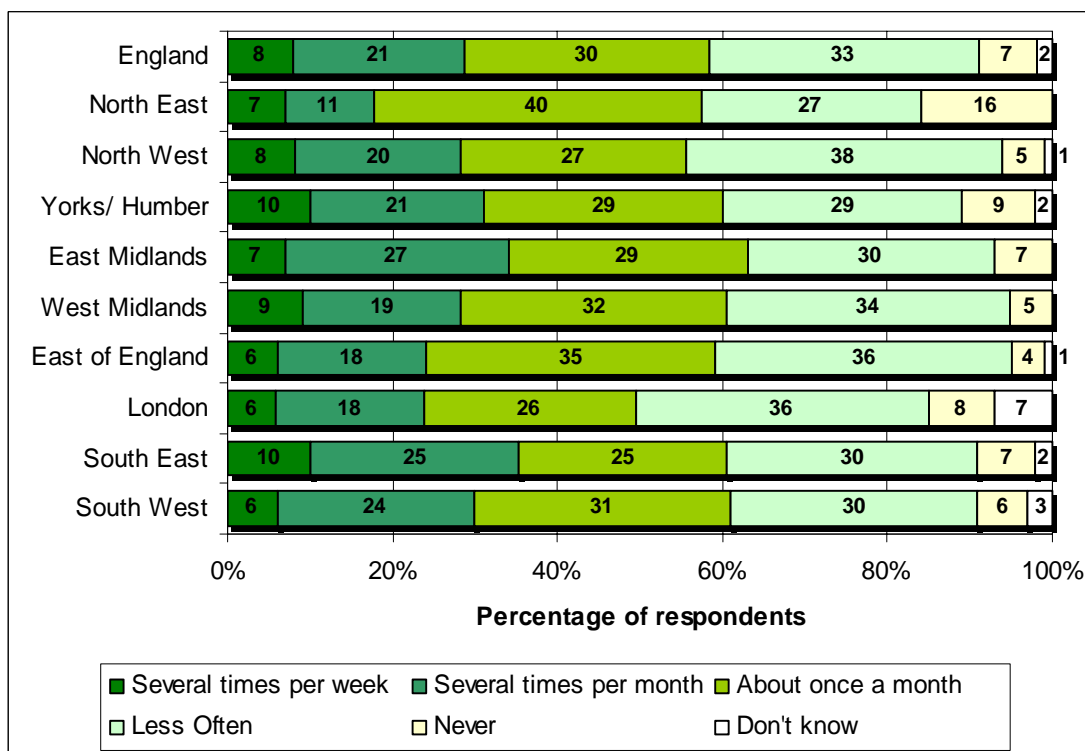
Regional comparisons

The comparisons that follow consider only respondents who were able to give the frequency of their visits. Respondents who said they did not know are excluded from this analysis. For ease of comparison, only those respondents visiting forests and woodlands at least several times per month are compared.

Respondents from the South East and the East Midlands were the most frequent visitors to forests and woodlands during summer 2004, with 35% of those from the South East and 34% of those from the East Midlands visiting forests or woodlands at least several times a month (Figure 21).

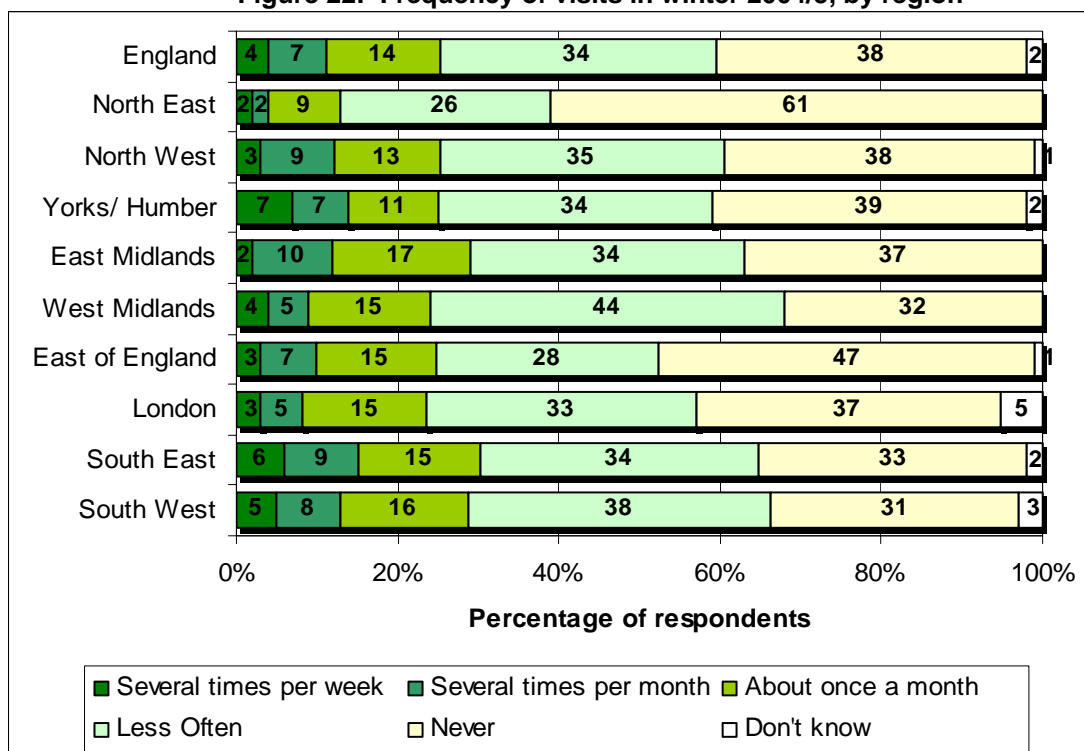
Respondents from the North East were less likely than those from other regions to visit forests or woodlands during winter 2004/5, with only 4% of respondents visiting at least several times per month (Figure 22).

Figure 21: Frequency of visits in summer 2004, by region



Base: Respondents in England who had visited a woodland in the last few years (2,239)

Figure 22: Frequency of visits in winter 2004/5, by region



Base: Respondents in England who had visited a woodland in the last few years (2,239)

Socio-demographic comparisons

There were few socio-demographic variations in the frequency of woodland visits. Respondents with a car in their household were more likely to have visited forests and woodlands during both summer 2004 and winter 2004/5. Respondents aged over 35 years old were more likely than younger respondents to have visited forests or woodlands during winter 2004/5 (9% of those aged 16-34 years old, 12% of those aged 35-54 years old and 11% of those aged over 55 years old visited during winter 2004/5).

7.5 Owners of woodlands visited

Almost half (47%) of the woodland area in England is personally owned. A further 18% is owned or managed by the Forestry Commission, 15% by businesses, 7% by local authorities and 7% by charities.¹

Woodland visitors were asked who they thought owned the land they had visited in the last few years. Woods and forests managed by the National Trust (43%) and the Forestry Commission/Forest Enterprise (35%) had been visited by the largest proportion of the respondents (Table 17) and local authority woodlands were visited by about a third (30%) of the woodland visitors. Nearly one-fifth (17%) did not know who owned any of the sites they visited.

Table 17: Ownership of woodlands visited in last few years, by region (%)

	N. East	N. West	Yrks/Hmbr	E. Mids	W. Mids	East of Eng	London	S. East	S. West	England 2005	England 2003
National Trust	47	49	38	46	40	40	37	37	50	43	43
Forestry Commission/ Forest Enterprise	50	38	35	27	33	42	20	33	38	35	38
Local Authorities	31	34	23	30	32	29	44	30	18	30	32
Private Owners	16	11	23	25	12	20	13	20	20	18	19
Woodland Trust	19	17	9	16	19	27	18	18	19	18	17
Other Voluntary Bodies	2	2	1	4	3	8	3	5	3	3	4
None/ Don't know	11	16	23	14	15	14	22	20	17	17	18

Base: Respondents in England who had visited a woodland in the last few years - 2005 (2,239), 2003 (2,285)

Regional comparisons

Of those who had visited forests or woodlands in the last few years, respondents from Yorkshire and the Humber (23%) were more likely than those from other regions to say that they did not know who owned any of the forests or woodlands they had visited (Table 17).

Woodland visitors from the South East (37%), Yorkshire and the Humber (38%) and the East of England (40%) were less likely than those from other regions to have visited forests owned by the National Trust.

¹ Forestry statistics 2004, Forestry Commission, Edinburgh, 2004

Woodland visitors from the North East (50%) were more likely, and those from London (20%) and the East Midlands (27%) were less likely to say they had visited woodlands managed by the Forestry Commission/Forest Enterprise.

Those from London (44%) were more likely than those from other regions to say that they visited local authority woodlands, while those from the South West (18%) were less likely to say they visited local authority woodlands.

Those from the West Midlands (12%) and the North East (16%) were less likely to say that they had visited woodlands owned by private owners, while woodland visitors from the East Midlands (25%) were more likely.

Woodlands owned by the Woodland Trust were more likely to be visited by respondents from the East of England (27%). Those from the East of England were also more likely to have visited a forest or woodland owned by an 'other voluntary body'.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Woodland visitors who were male, older, in social grades ABC1, were aware of the Forestry Commission and had access to a car were all more likely to know who they thought owned any of the forests or woodlands they have visited in the last few years.

Older respondents were more likely than younger respondents to have visited forests or woodlands owned by the Forestry Commission, while those aged 35-54 years old were more likely to have visited those owned by the National Trust. For example, 19% of those aged 16-34 visited woodland owned by the Forestry Commission, compared with 39% of those aged 35-54 and 47% of those aged 55 years or over.

Respondents in social grades ABC1 and those who were aware of the Forestry Commission were more likely to have visited woodland owned by the National Trust, the Forestry Commission or private woodland owners. For example, 49% of those in social grades ABC1 visited woodland owned by the National Trust, compared with 36% of those in C2DE.

Respondents with access to a car were more likely than those without access to a car to have visited woodland owned by local authorities, the Forestry Commission or the National Trust. For example, 32% of those with a car visited woodlands owned by local authorities, compared with 27% of those without a car.

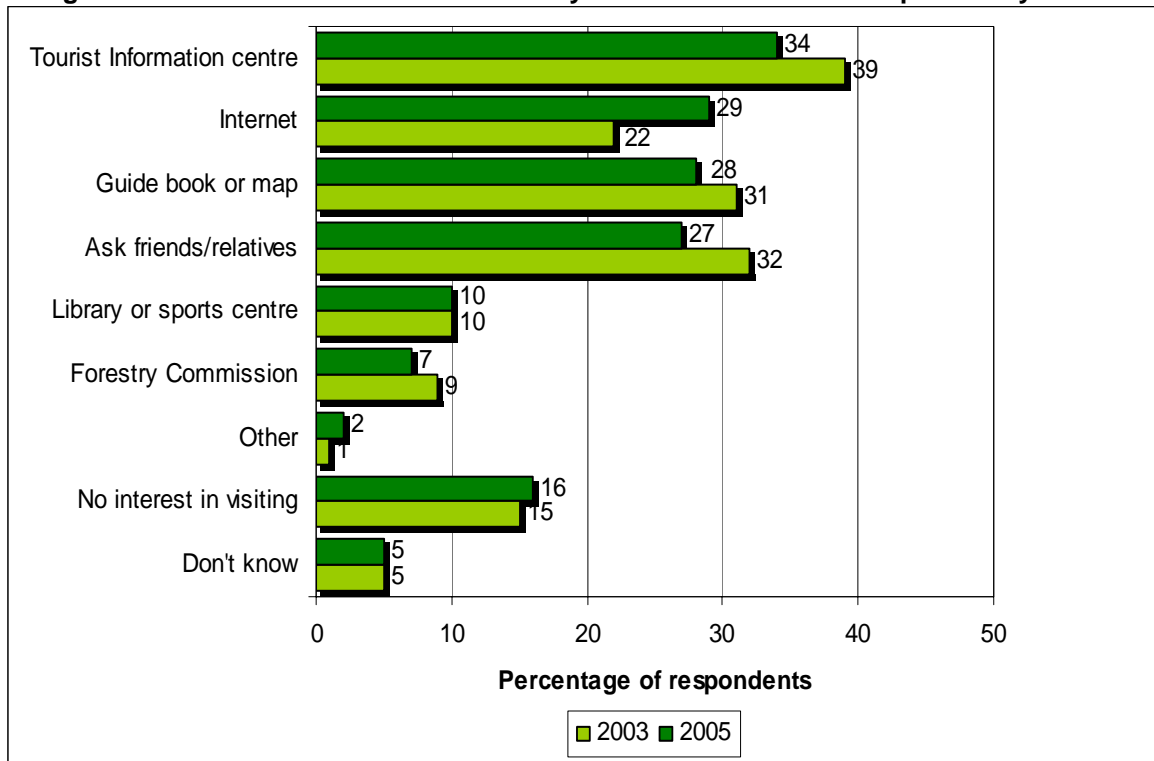
Males (22%) were more likely than females (14%) to have visited forests or woodlands owned by private woodland owners and those from urban areas (33%) were more likely than those from rural areas (11%) to visit local authority woodland.

7.6 Information about woodlands to visit

Figure 23 shows that the sources of information most likely to be used to find out about woodlands not previously visited were tourist information centres (34%), the internet (29%), guidebooks or maps (28%) and asking friends or relatives (27%).

A greater proportion of respondents in 2005 (29%) said they would consult the internet compared with 2003 (22%).

Figure 23: Sources of information normally used for woodlands not previously visited



Base: All respondents in England (3,367)

Regional comparisons

Table 18 shows that in all regions except London and the South West, tourist information centres were the most widely used source of information to find out about woodland not previously visited. In the South West and London, a higher proportion of respondents would consult guidebooks or maps. In particular, respondents in the North East (47%) were the most likely to consult tourist information centres and those from London the least likely (21%). Similarly, respondents from the East Midlands were less likely than those in other regions to use guidebooks or maps to find information about forests or woodlands they have not visited before.

Those from London were more likely to ask friends or relatives, and those from London, the East of England and the North East were all more likely than those from other regions to use libraries or sports centres.

The Forestry Commission was most likely to be used by respondents from the East of England (12%) and least likely by those from the East Midlands (4%).

There were no regional variations in the number of respondents consulting the internet, while respondents from Yorkshire and the Humber were more likely than those from other regions to have no interest in visiting new forests or woodlands.

Table 18: Sources of information normally used for woodlands not previously visited, by region (%)

	N. East	N. West	Yrks/Hmbr	E. Mids	W. Mids	East of Eng	London	S. East	S. West	England 2005	England 2003
Tourist information centre	47	36	40	39	33	38	21	29	36	34	39
Internet	31	30	28	34	24	36	26	28	26	29	22
Guidebook or map	22	28	27	23	30	35	28	24	38	28	31
Ask friends/ relatives	32	27	25	29	30	27	26	24	26	27	32
Library or sports centre	18	7	9	6	8	14	13	11	9	10	10
Forestry Commission	8	6	7	4	8	12	6	7	8	7	9
Other	-	2	2	1	1	2	3	3	1	2	1
No interest in visiting	12	18	16	10	16	11	23	17	13	16	15
None/ Don't know	3	5	7	5	4	3	6	5	5	5	5

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

Socio-demographic comparisons

Males were more likely than females to consult the internet or the Forestry Commission, and females were more likely than males to ask friends or relatives, use tourist information centres or use libraries or sports centres. For example, 23% of males said they would ask friends or relatives, compared with 31% of females.

Adults who were aware of the Forestry Commission were more likely to use guidebooks or maps, tourist information centres, the internet and, not surprisingly, the Forestry Commission. For example, 42% of those aware of the FC said they would use tourist information centres, compared with 22% of those not aware of the FC.

Respondents in social grades ABC1 were more likely to use the internet (40% ABC1 compared with 19% C2DE) and less likely to use libraries or sports centres. (9% ABC1 compared with 12% C2DE). Those with a long-term illness or disability were more likely to use tourist information centres or the Forestry Commission.

Respondents who had access to a car were more likely to use guidebooks or maps, or tourist information centres. For example, 32% of those with access to a car said they would consult guidebooks or maps, compared with 20% of those without a car. Those in employment were more likely to use the internet, and less likely to use libraries or sports centres, or the Forestry Commission.

Figure 24 shows that significantly fewer respondents aged over 55 years old would use the internet as a source of information (35% of those aged 16-34 years old, 39% of those aged 35-54 years old and only 14% of those aged over 55 years old). However, fewer respondents aged less than 35 years old would use tourist information centres (25% of

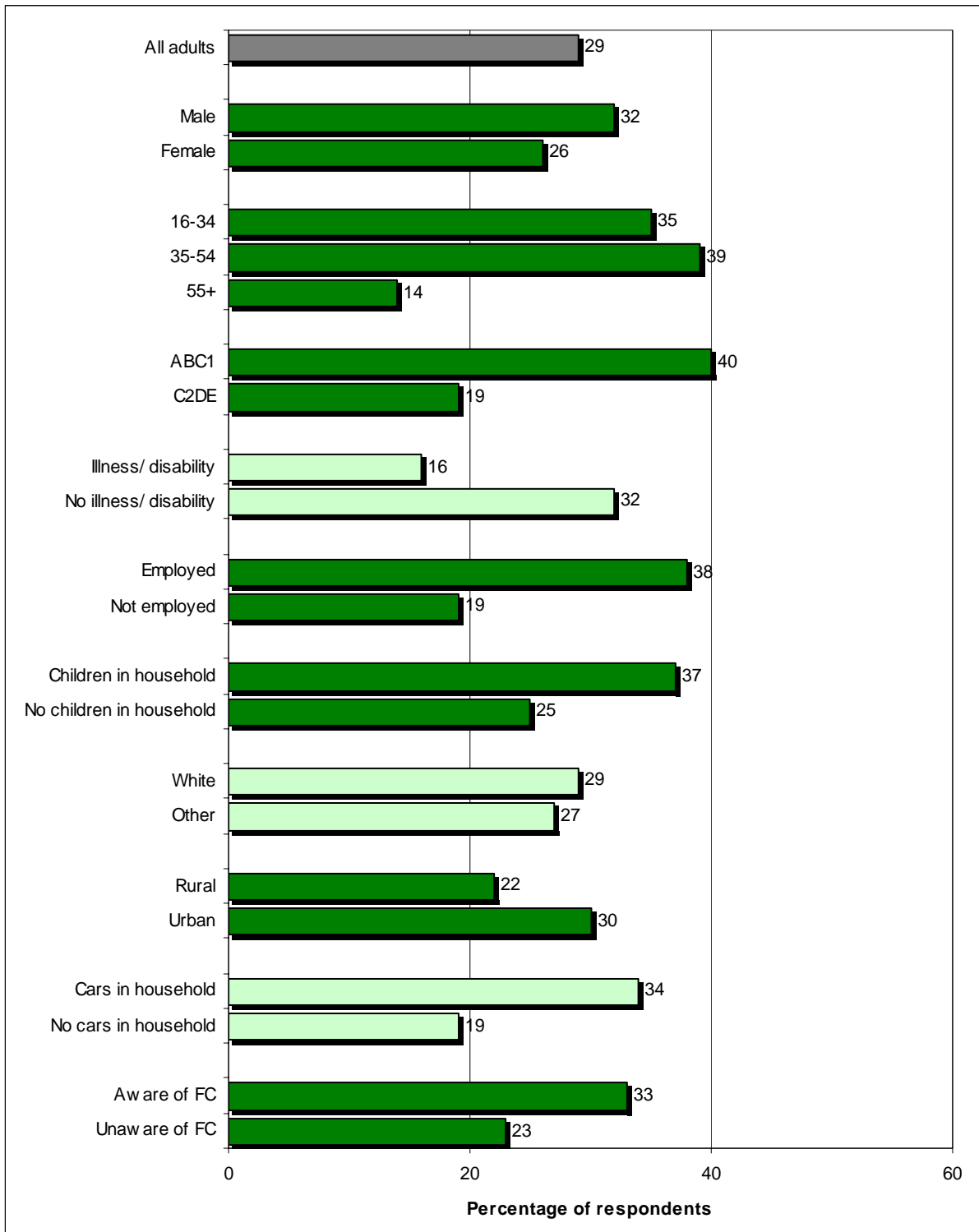
those aged 16-34 years old compared with 38% of those in both the 35-54 years old and over 55 years old age groups).

Older respondents were more likely than younger respondents to consult guidebooks or maps, or the Forestry Commission, and less likely to ask friends or relatives. For example, 23% of those aged 16-34 years old, 29% of those aged 35-54 years old and 32% of those aged 55 years and over would use guidebooks or maps.

Respondents of white ethnic origin were more likely than non-white respondents to ask friends or relatives (28% white compared with 18% of non-white) and less likely to use libraries or sports centres (9% of white compared with 18% of non-white).

Those respondents with children in their household and those who live in more urban locations were more likely to consult the internet (Figure 24).

Figure 24: Proportion of respondents who would use the internet as a source of information on woodlands not visited before, by socio-demographic variables



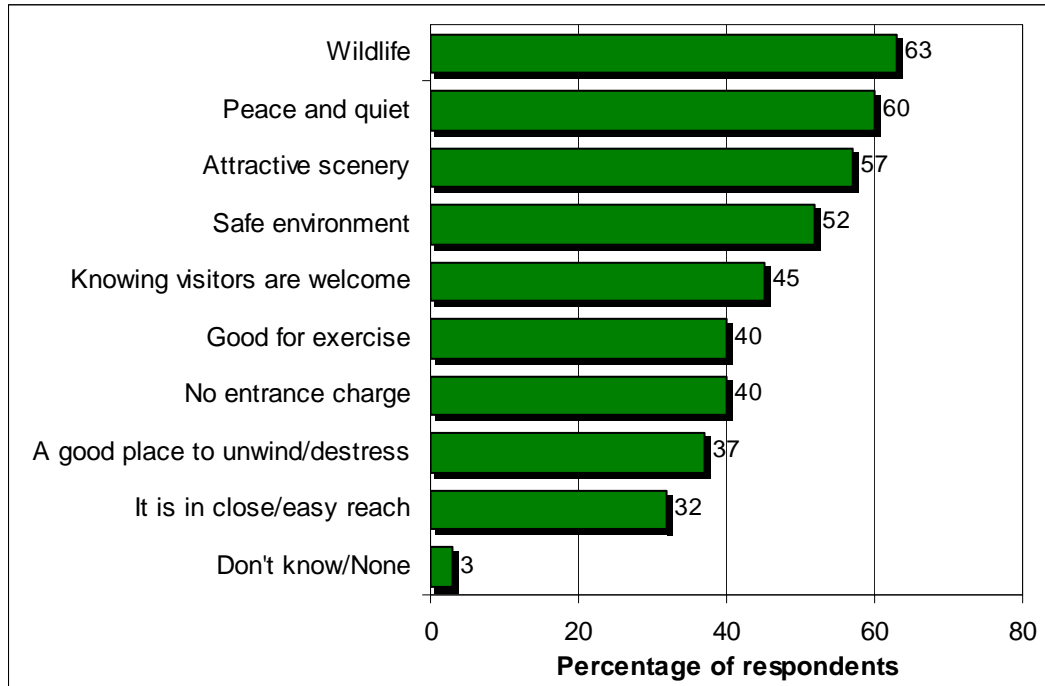
Base: All respondents in England (3,367)

NOTE: Dark green indicates statistically significant variable in multivariate model

7.7 Choosing a woodland to visit

Respondents were asked to identify (from a list) the factors that were important to them when choosing to visit woodland. Wildlife (63%), peace and quiet (60%), attractive scenery (57%) and a safe environment (52%) were the most frequently stated reasons (Figure 25).

Figure 25: Factors important when choosing to visit a woodland



Base: Respondents in England interested in visiting woodland (2,831)

Regional comparisons

Of the respondents who were interested in visiting woodlands, in all regions except London the same five factors were the most important when choosing a woodland to visit – ‘wildlife’, ‘peace and quiet’, ‘attractive scenery’, ‘safe environment’ and ‘knowing that visitors are welcome there’. In London, an important factor was that there was ‘no entrance charge’ (Table 19). All factors were generally mentioned by fewer respondents in London than in other regions.

Table 19: Factors important when choosing to visit woodland, by region (%)

	N. East	N. West	Yrks/Hmbr	E. Mids	W. Mids	East of Eng	London	S. East	S. West	England 2005	England 2003
Wildlife	66	71	67	66	62	62	54	53	71	63	64
Peace and quiet	55	66	62	60	58	59	53	59	63	60	64
Attractive scenery	59	67	63	51	50	54	50	54	66	57	62
Safe environment	55	61	55	53	49	50	45	49	56	52	56
Knowing that visitors are always welcome there	58	53	50	46	40	48	26	40	54	45	46
Good for exercise	44	48	42	36	35	37	29	38	48	40	41
No entrance charge	39	50	38	37	34	37	35	39	47	40	40
A good place to unwind/ de-stress	36	46	42	38	29	33	27	33	44	37	40
It is in close/ easy reach	33	43	31	26	25	32	27	28	35	32	33
Don't know	*	1	3	1	1	1	5	4	2	2	2
None	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	*	2	1	1

Base: Respondents in England interested in visiting woodland - 2005 (2,831), 2003 (2,811)

*Fewer than 0.5%

Respondents from London, the South East and the West Midlands were all less likely than those from other regions to say that both 'wildlife', and 'knowing that visitors are welcome there' were important factors when choosing to visit a woodland.

Those from the North West were more likely to think 'peace and quiet' (66%), a 'safe environment' (61%) and 'it is in close/ easy reach' (43%) were important factors.

Respondents from London, the East Midlands, the West Midlands, the East of England and the South East were all less likely than those from other regions to think that 'attractive scenery' and woodlands being 'good for exercise' were important factors when choosing to visit woodland.

Respondents from the North West, the South East and London were more likely to say that 'no entrance charge' was an important factor. Respondents from London, the West Midlands, the East of England and the South East were all less likely to think that woodlands being 'a good place to unwind/ de-stress' was an important factor.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Of the respondents who were interested in visiting forests or woodlands, those who were aware of the Forestry Commission were more likely to think that each of the factors that were listed were important in choosing to visit a woodland. For example, 45% of those who were aware of the FC felt that 'no entrance charge' was an important factor in choosing to visit a forest or woodland, compared with 31% of those who were not aware of the FC.

Respondents who had visited forests or woodlands recently were more likely to think that all factors, excluding 'no entrance charge', were important when choosing to visit a forest or woodland. For example, 40% of those who had visited forests and woodlands recently

thought that finding 'a good place to unwind/de-stress' was an important factor, compared with 28% of non-visitors.

Those in social grades ABC1 were more likely than those in social grades C2DE to think that 'attractive scenery' was an important factor (62% ABC1 compared with 52% C2DE) but less likely to think that 'wildlife' (61% ABC1 compared with 66% C2DE) and having a 'safe environment' (50% ABC1 compared with 55% C2DE) were important.

More females than males said that 'knowing that visitors are welcome there' (47% female compared with 43% male) and a 'safe environment' (56% female compared with 48% male) were important when choosing to visit woodland.

Older respondents were more likely to think that 'peace and quiet' and 'wildlife' were important factors. For example, 51% of those aged 16-34 years old, 62% of those aged 35-54 years old and 65% of those aged over 55 years old thought 'peace and quiet' was an important factor in choosing a woodland to visit. Respondents aged 16-34 years old (36%) were less likely than those in the older age groups (50% of those aged 35-54 years old, 48% of those aged 55 years and over) to say that it was important 'knowing visitors are welcome there'.

Respondents living in urban locations were more likely than those from rural locations to think that 'attractive scenery', 'wildlife', 'knowing that visitors are welcome there', 'no entrance charge', 'good for exercise' and woodlands being 'a good place to unwind/de-stress' were important factors in choosing to visit a woodland. For example, 38% of urban respondents said that a woodland being 'a good place to unwind/de-stress' was an important factor, compared with 28% of rural respondents.

Those respondents with children in their household were less likely to think that 'peace and quiet' (53% of those with children compared with 63% of those without) and more likely to think that a 'safe environment' (60% of those with children compared with 49% of those without children) were important factors.

Respondents with a long-term illness or disability were more likely than those without a long-term illness to think that a forest or woodland 'is in close/easy reach' and it is 'a good place to unwind and de-stress' are important factors.

7.8 Woodland recreation facilities

Respondents were asked which facilities they would most like to see when visiting woodland on a day out. The most requested facilities were 'toilets' (66%), 'car park' (54%), 'nature trails' (47%), 'picnic areas' (45%) and 'sign posted walks for all abilities' (45%) (Table 20).

Table 20: Facilities that respondents would most like to see when visiting a woodland for a day out, by region (%)

	N. East	N. West	Yrks/Hmbr	E. Mids	W. Mids	East of Eng	London	S. East	S. West	England 2005	England 2003
Toilets	75	68	69	74	68	71	52	59	72	66	69
Car park	59	60	55	57	49	62	37	50	64	54	57
Nature trails	53	50	51	54	43	51	31	41	59	47	53
Picnic areas	66	48	49	48	44	48	32	37	50	45	52
Signposted walks suitable for all abilities	54	45	48	52	43	50	29	40	55	45	51
Information about the woodland	46	38	45	39	28	45	26	33	43	37	41
Children's play area	39	31	32	31	29	32	25	26	30	30	36
Café/ restaurant/ kiosk	41	40	40	38	34	36	28	27	31	34	34
Long walks (min. 2 miles)	36	25	35	23	19	27	20	27	32	26	30
Cycle trails	24	26	26	30	19	23	16	21	28	23	28
Minimum facilities to ensure peace and quiet	22	25	30	19	18	22	14	21	23	22	28
Accessible forest rangers	30	25	26	21	16	22	15	15	22	21	18
Shops with gifts and souvenirs	19	15	15	12	14	15	11	10	11	13	12
Organised events/ education activities/ guided walks	27	23	22	18	14	21	16	14	21	19	-
No interest in visiting	8	14	9	8	12	9	18	11	4	11	-
None/ Don't know	4	4	8	1	6	3	9	8	9	6	7

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

The proportion of respondents wanting each facility was slightly lower in 2005 compared with the 2003 survey.

Regional comparisons

In all regions, toilets were the most popular facilities people wanted to see when on a day out to a forest or woodland. However, respondents from London and the South East were less likely than those from other regions to request toilets at woodlands they were visiting. Respondents from London and the South East generally had lower levels of demand for all facilities (Table 20),

Respondents from London, the West Midlands and the South East were less likely than those from other regions to say they wanted car parks and nature trails at the woodland.

Respondents from the South West were more likely than those from other regions to demand nature trails.

Those from the North East were more likely to want picnic areas. Those from London and the South East were less likely, and those from the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber were more likely to want a café, restaurant or kiosk. Respondents from the South East and London were less likely to want a 'shop with gifts and souvenirs'.

Respondents from London and the South East were less likely to want 'signposted walks suitable for all abilities'. Those from the West Midlands, London, the East Midlands, the North West, and the East of England were less likely to want 'long walks (minimum 2 miles)'. Those from the West Midlands, the South East and London were less likely to want 'organised events, education activities or guided walks'.

Respondents from the South West were more likely and those from London and the West Midlands less likely to want 'cycle trials' at woodlands they would visit for a day out.

Respondents from the North East were less likely to demand children's play areas. Those from Yorkshire and the Humber were more likely to demand 'minimum facilities to ensure peace and quiet'.

'Accessible forest rangers' were more likely to be wanted by those from the North East, while 'information about woodland' was less likely to be wanted by those from London, the West Midlands and the South East.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents who had visited forests or woodlands in the last few years were more likely to want each of the 14 listed facilities when visiting a woodland for a day out. For example, 77% of those who had visited forests or woodlands recently wanted toilets at the site, compared with 46% of non-visitors.

Females were more likely than males to want to see 6 of the 14 facilities, including 'children's play areas', 'toilets' and 'picnic areas'. For example, 33% of females wanted children's play areas, compared with 27% of males.

Those in social grades C2DE were more likely than those in social grades ABC1 to want 'children's play areas', 'toilets', 'cafés, restaurants or kiosks', 'shops with gifts and souvenirs', 'picnic areas' and 'accessible forest rangers'. Those in social grades ABC1 were more likely to want 'information about woodland'.

Those aware of the Forestry Commission were more likely to want 12 of the 14 facilities, including 'long walks (minimum 2 miles)' and 'car park' (66% of respondents who were aware of the FC would like to see a car park when they visit a woodland for a day out, compared with 37% of those unaware of the FC).

Respondents with a long-term illness or disability were more likely than those without a long-term illness to want 8 of the 14 facilities, including 'car park' and 'signposted walks suitable for all abilities'.

Respondents with children in their household were more likely than those without children to want to see 'toilets', 'picnic areas', 'organised events, education activities or guided walks', and needless to say, 'children's play areas'. They were also less likely to want to see 'long walks (minimum 2 miles)' than those without children.

Older respondents were more likely than younger respondents to want to see 'signposted walks suitable for all abilities', 'car park', 'toilets' and 'minimum facilities to ensure peace and quiet'. For example, 44% of those aged 16-34 years old, 59% of those aged 35-54 years old and 58% of those aged over 55 years old would like a car park. Younger respondents were more likely to want to see cycle trails (27% of those aged 16-34 years old, 25% of those aged 35-54 years old and 18% of those aged 55 years and over). A greater number of respondents aged 35-54 years old (29%) wanted 'long walks (minimum 2 miles)' compared with those aged 16-34 years old and 55 years old and over (both 25%).

7.9 Woodland Products

Respondents who had visited forests or woodlands in the last few years were finally asked whether they had gathered any forest products during these visits. This question was not asked in surveys before 2005.

Over a quarter (27%) of these respondents had gathered at least one product, with 13% collecting items for eating or drinking and 14% collecting decorative, floral and craft products (Table 21).

Table 21: Products that respondents had collected from forests or woodlands in the last few years (%)

	N. East	N. West	Yrks/Hmbr	E. Mids	W. Mids	East of Eng	London	S. East	S. West	England
Items for eating or drinking (such as berries, fungi, nuts, flowers and sap)	16	12	11	17	12	17	13	9	12	13
Decorative floral and craft products (such as foliage, branches, stems moss, lichen and weld)	14	18	13	16	15	9	10	11	14	14
Items for seasonal, cultural or religious us (such as holly, ivy and hazel wands)	11	11	8	4	13	7	4	10	10	9
Medicinal and dietary supplements (such as St John's wort, meadowsweet and hawthorn)	1	3	4	*	-	2	2	2	1	2
Nothing/Don't Know	69	69	75	68	71	74	78	78	72	73

Base: All respondents in England, excluding those who had not visited woodland in the last few years (2,239)

*Fewer than 0.5%

Regional Comparisons

Of those respondents who had visited forests or woodlands in the last few years, there were few regional variations in the proportion gathering any products during these visits.

A higher proportion of respondents from the North West (18%) and a lower proportion from the East of England (9%) gathered 'decorative, floral and craft products'.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Of those respondents that had visited forests or woodlands recently, females, those who were aware of the Forestry Commission and those with a long-term illness or disability were more likely to have gathered products from forests or woodlands. 30% of females, 25% of males; 29% of those aware of the FC, 24% of those unaware of the FC; and 37% of those with a long-term illness or disability, 26% of those without a long-term illness gathered at least one product from forests or woodlands.

Older respondents were more likely to have gathered 'items for eating and drinking' – 9% of those aged 16-34 years old, 14% of those aged 35-54 years old and 16% of those aged 55 years and over.

Females were more likely than males to gather 'decorative, floral and craft products' (16% of females compared with 11% of males) and 'items for seasonal, cultural or religious use' (10% of females compared with 8% of males), as were those respondents who were aware of the Forestry Commission.

Respondents with children in their household were more likely than those without children to gather 'decorative, floral and craft products' (16% of those with children in their household compared with 13% of those without).

Those with a long-term illness or disability were more likely to gather 'items for eating or drinking', 'medicinal and dietary supplements' and 'decorative, floral and craft products'. For example, 19% with a long-term illness or disability gathered decorative floral and craft products compared with 13% without a long-term illness or disability.

Appendix 1: Cross-breaks used in analysis

Table 22 details the cross-breaks used in the analysis of this data. It also shows the proportion of the weighted sample that fall into each category (e.g. with gender, 49% were male and 51% were female).

Table 22: Variables used in regression analysis

Variable	Divisions	Distribution of sample	Distribution of 16+ English pop ⁿ in 2001 Census ¹	Details
Geographic region	North East	6%	5%	Government Office Regions
	North West	17%	14%	
	Yorkshire and Humber	12%	10%	
	East Midlands	9%	8%	
	West Midlands	11%	11%	
	East of England	10%	11%	
	London	13%	15%	
	South East	14%	16%	
	South West	9%	10%	
Gender	Male (1) Female (2)	49% 51%	48% 52%	
Age	16-34 (1) 35-54 (2) 55+ (3)	30% 35% 35%	32% 35% 33%	Adults 16 and over were divided into 3 age classes
Social Grades	ABC1 (1) C2DE (2)	51% 51%		ABC1: the chief income earner is a non-manual worker. C2DE the chief income earner is a manual worker or is unemployed ²
Long-term illness or disability	Yes (1) No (2)	20% 80%		From question in survey
Work status	Employed (1) Not working (2)	52% 48%	55% 45%	Not working includes students, retired adults and unemployed
Children in household	Yes (1) No (2)	32% 68%		Children under 16 in household
Ethnicity	White (1) Other (2)	90% 10%		From question in survey
Location	Rural (1) Urban (2)	9% 91%		From RSGB ranking of population of sampling point
Car in household	Yes (1) No (2)	69% 31%		From question in survey
Aware of the Forestry Commission	Yes (1) No (2)	60% 40%		From question in survey
Visited Woodland	Yes No	65% 35%		From question in survey

Note: To aid in interpreting Table 24, the values used for each of the variables are detailed in italics.

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

² Social grade is defined by the working status and income of the chief income earner in the household.

Correlation matrix of variables used in analysis

Table 23 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: car in household, long-term illness or disability, social grades and work status; age, children in household and work status; location, age and ethnicity; and car in household and ethnicity.

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 significance of the results.

Table 23: Correlation coefficients of variables used in regression analysis

	Gender	Age	MRS social grades	Long-term illness or disability	Work status	Children in household	Ethnicity	Location	Car in household
Gender	1.00	-0.02	0.01	0.03	0.10	-0.12	-0.09	-0.02	0.10
Age		1.00	0.04	-0.32	0.34	0.44	-0.20	-0.07	-0.06
MRS social grade			1.00	-0.13	0.20	-0.01	0.02	0.05	0.24
Long-term illness or disability				1.00	-0.36	-0.19	0.06	-0.01	-0.15
Work status					1.00	0.19	-0.04	-0.02	0.29
Children in household						1.00	-0.09	-0.03	0.08
Ethnicity							1.00	0.09	0.11
Location								1.00	0.07
Car in household									1.00

Appendix 2: RSGB Random location sampling method

A unique sampling system has been developed by Taylor Nelson Sofres for its own use. Utilising 1991 UK Census small area statistics and the post code address file, GB south of the Caledonian Canal has been divided into 600 areas of equal population. From these 600 areas a master sampling frame of 300 points has been selected to reflect the country's geographical and socio-economic profile. The areas within each Standard Region were stratified into population density bands, and within band in descending order by percentage of population in socio-economic groups I and II.

To maximise the statistical accuracy of Omnibus sampling, sequential waves of fieldwork are allocated systematically across the sampling frame so as to ensure maximum geographical dispersion. The 300 primary sampling units are allocated to 12 sub-samples of 25 points each; with each sub-sample in itself being a representative drawing from the frame. For each wave of Omnibus fieldwork, a set of sub-samples is selected so as to provide the number of sample points required (typically c. 139 for 2,000 interviews). Across sequential waves of fieldwork all sub-samples are systematically worked, thereby reducing the clustering effects on questionnaires asked for two or more consecutive weeks.

Each primary sampling unit is divided into two geographically distinct segments, each containing, as far as possible, equal populations. The segments comprise aggregations of complete postcode sectors. Within each half (known as the A and B halves) postcode sectors have been sorted by the percentage of the population in socio-economic groups II and I. One postcode sector from each primary sampling unit is selected for each Omnibus, alternating on successive selections between the A and B halves of the primary sampling unit again to reduce clustering effects. For each wave of interviewing each interviewer is supplied with two blocks of 70 addresses drawn from different parts of the sector. Addresses are contacted systematically with three doors being left after each successful interview.

To ensure a balanced sample of adults within effective contacted addresses a quota is set by sex (male, female housewife, female non-housewife); within female housewife, by presence of children and working status; and within men, by working status.

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 Taylor Nelson Sofres recommend a design factor of 1.5 be applied to the calculation of confidence limits and when testing for significance.

Appendix 3: GB Questionnaire

<p>Q1.</p>	<p>You may have seen or read about British 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 style="text-align: right;">(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 woodland • Restoration of ancient or native woodland • Creation of new native woodlands • Selling public woodlands • Public rights of access to woodlands • Protests about roads or other developments on woodlands • Labelling/certification of wood products • Timber transport • None of these
<p>Q2.</p>	<p>Which of these promotions have you heard of?</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 Britain, 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 style="text-align: right;">(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 wood as a renewable fuel • So that Britain can buy less wood products from abroad • To make woods more accessible to all in the community • To help prevent the "greenhouse effect" and global warming • 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>On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is very good and 5 is very poor, how good do you think British forestry is at ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing opportunities for walking • Protecting the environment • Providing the Britain's timber, board and paper needs • Providing homes for birds and other animals • Supporting the economy in rural areas <p>...and using the same scale, how would you rate the overall performance of British forestry?</p>
<p>Q5.</p>	<p>In the last 20 years, do you think the amount of woodland in Britain has been increasing or decreasing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing • Decreasing • Staying about the same
<p>Q6.</p>	<p>a. Have you ever been consulted about plans for creating, managing or using woodlands in your area?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No <p>b. Would you like to be consulted (again) about plans for creating, managing or using woodlands in your area?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No
<p>Q7.</p>	<p>a. Would you like to have more or less woodland in this part of the country?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More • Neither more nor less <i>(skip to Q8)</i> • Less <i>(skip to Q8)</i> <p>b. How much more woodland: a little more, half as much again or more than that?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A little more • About half as much again • More than half as much again

<p>Q8.</p>	<p>a. Have you been shopping for wood products at all in the last few years?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No <i>(skip to Q9)</i> <p>b. Have you ever seen either of these logos on wood products such as furniture? [show symbols]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSC Yes/No • PEFC Yes/No • None
<p>Q9.</p>	<p>Which of these have you heard of? (Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countryside Agency • English Nature • Forestry Commission - <i>if not, then skip to Q12</i> • Forest Enterprise • Forest Research • National Trust • Woodland Trust • National Forest • Community Forests • Tree Wardens • Environment Agency • None
<p>Q10.</p>	<p>Thinking about the Forestry Commission, do you think that it is ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A government department or agency • An independent body • A body representing private woodland owners • A private company <p>... and which part or parts of Britain do you think that it works in? (Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England • Scotland • Wales

<p>Q11.</p>	<p>I am now going to read out a number of forestry activities and for each one I would like you to say whether you think it is something done by the Forestry Commission. So do you think the Forestry Commission ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lets the public walk in its woods and forests • Provides trails for cycling and horse-riding • Improves woodland habitats for wildlife • Runs cabins and campsites for forest holidays • Sells Christmas trees • Gives grants to private woodland owners • Carries out scientific studies <p>On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is very good and 5 is very poor, how would you rate the Forestry Commission's overall performance in...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing and protecting Forestry Commission woodlands • Encouraging other landowners to protect and expand Britain's woodlands
<p>Q12.</p>	<p>Are there any forests or woodlands that you can get to easily, without using a car or other transport?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No
<p>Q13.</p>	<p>a. In the last few years, have you visited forests or woodlands for walks, picnics or other recreation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes - <i>then skip to Q13c</i> • No <p>b. And what is the MAIN reason why you have not visited forests or woodlands for walks, picnics or other recreation? (then skip to Q17)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not interested in going (<i>If this response, skip to Q19 instead of Q17</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>c. Did you visit woodlands in the countryside or woodlands in and around towns, or did you visit both?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visited woodlands in the countryside • Visited woodlands in and around towns • Visited both

<p>Q14.</p>	<p>How frequently did you visit forests and woodlands last summer, i.e. between April and September 2004?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several times per week • Several times per month • About once a month • Less often • Never
<p>Q15.</p>	<p>And how often this winter, i.e. since October 2004?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several times per week • Several times per month • About once a month • Less often • Never
<p>Q16.</p>	<p>Which of these types of woodland owners do you think own any of the forests or woodlands you have visited in the last few years?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities • National Trust/ National Trust for Scotland • Woodland Trust • Other voluntary bodies • Forestry Commission/Forest Enterprise • Private owners • None
<p>Q17.</p>	<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?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask friends/relatives • Guide book or map • Forestry Commission • Tourist Information Centre • Internet • Library or sports centre • Other (specify) • No interest in visiting - <i>Skip to Q19</i>

<p>Q18.</p>	<p>And which of the following are important to you when choosing to visit a woodland? (Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is in close/ easy reach • Knowing that visitors are welcome there • Attractive scenery • Wildlife • Peace and quiet • A good place to unwind / de-stress • Good for exercise • Safe environment • No entrance charge • None
<p>Q19.</p>	<p>a. If you were going to a woodland for a day out, which of these facilities would you like to see there? (Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposted walks suitable for all abilities • Long walks (minimum 2 miles) • Car park • Information about the woodland • Minimum facilities to ensure peace and quiet • Nature trails • Cycle trails • Picnic areas • Children's play area • Toilets • Café/restaurant/kiosk • Shop with gifts and souvenirs • Accessible forest rangers • Organised events/education activities/guided walks • None <p>b. In the last few years, have you gathered any of the following products from forests or woodlands? (Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items for eating or drinking (such as berries, fungi, nuts, flowers and sap) • Medicinal and dietary supplements (such as St. John's wort, meadowsweet and hawthorn) • Decorative, floral & craft products (such as foliage, branches, stems, moss, lichen & weld) • Items for seasonal, cultural or religious use (such as holly, ivy & hazel wands) • Other • Nothing

Q20.	Do you own or have the use of a car at all? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes• No
Q21.	Do you have any long-term illness, health problems or disability which limits your daily activities or the work you can do? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes• No
Q22.	And which of these best describes your ethnic origin? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• White• Chinese• Indian• Pakistani• Bangladeshi• Caribbean• African• Other (please specify)