



PUBLIC OPINION OF FORESTRY 2007: NORTHERN IRELAND

Results from the Northern Ireland 2007 Survey of Public Opinion of Forestry, carried out on behalf of the Forestry Commission (GB) and Forest Service (NI)

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Executive Summary

2007 survey

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

This report presents results of the survey in Northern Ireland and compares, where appropriate, with the Northern Ireland 2005 and the UK 2007 and GB 2005 surveys. It highlights any differences in opinion amongst adults in Northern Ireland by geographic and socio-demographic variables (e.g. gender and age). Questions that were asked in the UK survey but not in the Northern Ireland survey are summarised in Appendix 1: UK survey: results for respondents from Northern Ireland, comparing results for the Northern Ireland sub-sample (119 interviews) with total UK results.

Some of the questions asked in the 2007 Northern Ireland survey were the same as those asked in 2005, however, a number of new questions were asked on topics such as the relationship between forestry and climate change, and forest management consultations.

Separate reports provide similar results for England, Scotland and Wales.

Forests, woodlands and trees in the media

51% of respondents had seen or read about Northern Ireland's forests, woodland and trees in the last 12 months on the television, radio or in the newspapers (up from 38% in 2005). Topics most widely recognised include 'tree planting' (28%), 'birds and other animals in woodland' (19%), and the one new topic 'forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change' (17%).

Respondents who had visited forests or woodlands recently were more likely than those who had not visited recently to have seen or read about all of the topics regarding Northern Ireland's forests, woodlands and trees.

Forest management

The majority of respondents selected at least one public benefit as a good reason to support forestry with public money (83%). The top reasons to support forestry were, 'to provide places for wildlife to live' (60%), 'to provide places to walk in' (55%) and 'to help tackle climate change' (46%).

Those in social grades ABC1 were more likely than those in social grades C2DE to select 13 of the 14 good reasons for supporting forestry with public money.

'Providing opportunities for walking' and 'providing homes for birds and other animals' were the functions of forestry rated highest for performance. The overall performance of Northern Ireland's forestry was rated positively by 60% of respondents and negatively by 7%.

Climate change

55% of respondents believe that climate change will have a large impact on Northern Ireland. There was a high degree of agreement with a set of statements regarding the ways in which forests and woodlands can impact on climate change, for example 78% of respondents agreed that 'Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the

atmosphere and store it in wood'. However 49% of respondents incorrectly agreed that 'Northern Ireland could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees'.

A set of statements was presented to the respondents to ascertain their views on the way in which Northern Ireland's forests should be managed in response to climate change. The responses received reflect a belief that forestry is a method that can be used to mitigate the effects of climate change. For example, 85% of respondents agreed that 'A lot more trees should be planted' while only 9% agreed that 'There is nothing that anyone could do that would make any difference'. 38% of respondents believe that 'Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced'.

Changes to woodland

Only 11% of respondents thought that the amount of woodland in Northern Ireland had increased in the last 20 years while 60% thought, incorrectly, that it had decreased. Similarly, 7% of respondents thought that the amount of native woodland in Northern Ireland had increased in the last 20 years and 55% thought that it had decreased.

78% of respondents would like to see more woodland in their part of the country (56% would like 'a lot more'), and only 1% would like less.

While 10% of respondents said that they were aware that the Forest Service consults on the management of local public forests, only 1% had ever been consulted. 26% of respondents would like to be consulted more on the management of their local public forest.

Wood products

16% of respondents thought that Northern Ireland produces much more wood than it uses, 6% thought that it produced the same amount as it uses, 44% correctly thought that it produces much less wood than it uses and 34% said that they did not know.

Woodland recreation

Of the 62% of respondents who had visited woodlands in the last few years, 85% had visited woodlands in the countryside and 47% had visited woodlands in and around towns. Of those respondents who had not visited forests or woodlands recently, the main reason stated for not visiting was that the respondents were 'not interested in going' (45%).

70% of woodland visitors said that they had been to a woodland or forest at least once a month in the summer of 2006 and 37% visited at least once a month in the winter of 2006/07.

64% of respondents rated their visit to forests as generally more enjoyable compared with visits to other similar outdoor recreation destinations (5% said 'generally less enjoyable').

Dog fouling (36%) and dog control (13%) were the factors most likely to decrease the respondents' enjoyment of visits to woodlands. However, 54% of respondents did not encounter any problems with other forests visitors.

'Asking friends or relatives' (45%), a 'Tourist Information Centre' (29%), a 'guidebook or map' (16%) or 'Forest Service premises or website' (9%) were the sources of information most likely to be used by adults to find out about a woodland not previously visited.

1. Introduction

Background

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

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

Some questions were asked in all four of the surveys conducted in 2007, but an increasing number are survey-specific. The Forest Service, an agency of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, collaborated with the Forestry Commission to develop a version of the questionnaire that was suitable for Northern Ireland.

This report

This report presents results from the 2007 survey in Northern Ireland and compares results, where appropriate, with the 2005 Northern Ireland survey, with the UK 2007 survey and with the GB 2005 survey. It also highlights any differences in opinion amongst adults in Northern Ireland by geographic (regional and deprivation) and socio-demographic variables (e.g. gender and age). Questions that were asked in the UK survey but not in the Northern Ireland survey are summarised in Appendix 1: UK survey: results for respondents from Northern Ireland, comparing results for the Northern Ireland sub-sample (119 interviews) with total UK results.

Further details of the breakdowns of the variables are given in Appendix 2: Cross-breaks used in analysis and Appendix 3: Correlation matrix of variables used in analysis.

A full set of tables, reporting the results of each question by the geographic and socio-demographic are available upon request and will soon be available from the Forestry Commission or Forest Service website alongside this report¹.

¹ <http://www.forestserviceni.gov.uk/> ; <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-5zyl9w>.

Separate reports present the results from the surveys undertaken in England, Scotland and Wales as well as one for the UK as a whole (which compares the 2007 results with previous surveys).

Survey design

The Northern Ireland results presented in this report are taken from the Ulster Omnibus survey carried out from 21st - 28th February 2007 by Millward Brown Ulster. The survey was based on a representative sample of around 1,000 adults (aged 16 or over) across Northern Ireland. They were selected from 45 sampling points by a stratified random selection method. More details of the sample method are given in Appendix 4: Millward Brown Ulster Sampling Method. The 2005 and 2003 Northern Ireland results, presented for comparison, are taken from similar Millward Brown Omnibus surveys.

The GB 2005 and UK 2007 data presented in this report are taken from the RSGB General Omnibus and TNS CAPI Omnibus surveys respectively, both conducted by TNS. These surveys were based on representative samples of around 4,000 adults (aged 16 or over). More details on the UK 2007 sample methods are given in Appendix 5: TNS Omnibus Random Location Sampling Method.

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 5: TNS Omnibus Random Location Sampling Method for more details).

- For questions asked to the whole Northern Ireland sample of around 1,000, the range of uncertainty around any figure should be no more than +/-4.6% (please note an assumed design factor of 1.5 has been applied).
- For responses of subgroups, i.e. questions not posed to the whole sample of respondents, the range of uncertainty is correspondingly higher. For example the uncertainty for statistics broken down by gender should be no more than $\pm 6.5\%$, the South region accounts for 38% of the sample (383 respondents), so the uncertainty should be no more than $\pm 7.5\%$, and the North region accounts for 14% of the sample (139 respondents), so the confidence interval around results should be no more than $\pm 12.4\%$.
- For questions asked to the whole UK 2007 and GB 2005 samples of around 4,000, the range of uncertainty around any figure should be no more than +/- 2.3%.
- For questions asked to the whole samples, differences of more than 5.2% between the Northern Ireland and GB/UK surveys are statistically significant and differences of more than 6.6% between the Northern Ireland 2007 survey the Northern Ireland 2005 survey are statistically significant.

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

Regression analysis

One of the main differences between this report and the preliminary report published in June, is the addition of multivariate regression analysis, reported in the 'socio-demographic comparisons' and 'geographic comparisons' sections throughout the report. Further details on the variables used, including the geographic regions, are

given in Appendix 2: Cross-breaks used in analysis and Appendix 3: Correlation matrix of variables used in analysis.

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

The geographic and socio-demographic sections only report results derived from the regression models. Each region was input into the model as a separate variable, therefore only the results from those regions identified as significant in the model are reported (e.g. if Belfast City was shown to be significant, the results from other regions are not highlighted).

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

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

2. Forests, woodlands and trees in the media

2.1 Forests, woodlands and trees in the media

Respondents were asked whether they had seen or read about Northern Ireland's forests, woods or trees on the television, radio or in the newspapers in the last twelve months.

Generally, recognition of topics was lower in the NI 2007 survey than in the UK 2007 survey; 51% of Northern Ireland survey respondents and 63% of UK survey respondents recalled at least one topic (Table 1). In part, this may be affected by the wider scope of the question asked in the UK survey. However, the topic most likely to be identified by Northern Irish respondents, 'Tree Planting', is the exception, being recognised by roughly similar proportions NI survey (28%) and UK survey (30%) respondents.

Recognition was higher in the NI 2007 survey than in the NI 2005 survey. In the NI 2005 survey, only 38% of respondents could recall at least one topic, and indeed recognition of each topic was at least marginally higher in 2007 than in 2005. Three of the four topics most commonly selected by NI 2007 survey respondents were the same as those selected by respondents in the NI 2005 survey; 'tree planting' (28%), 'birds and other animals in woodlands' (19%) and 'forests and woodlands as places to visit' (13%). The other topic most recalled by the NI 2007 survey respondents was the one new topic 'forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change' (17%).

24 respondents (2%) selected only the new 'climate change' topic, therefore on a like-for-like basis, 49% of the 2007 respondents recognised one of the topics that were presented to the 2005 respondents.

Table 1: Whether respondent has seen or read about Northern Ireland's forests¹, woods or trees in the last 12 months (%)

	GB	UK	Northern Ireland	
	2005	2007	2005	2007
Tree planting	21	30	22	28
Birds and other animals in woodland	24	34	13	19
Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change	-	35	-	17
Forest and woodland as places to visit	18	25	12	13
Protests about roads /other developments on woodland	18	23	6	12
Flowers and other plants in woodland	15	22	7	11
Public rights of access to woodland	23	24	7	10
Loss of ancient or native woodland	15	20	6	10
Restoration of ancient or native woodland	12	17	5	9
Creation of new native woodland	11	15	5	9
Wood for fuel / (short rotation coppice)	7	11	2	8
Tree pests and diseases	10	13	2	6
Community woodland / new local woodlands	-	14	2	5
Labelling/ certification of wood products	6	10	1	3
Recalling at least one topic	50	63	38	51

Base: All respondents - GB 2005 (4,000), UK 2007 (4,000), NI 2005 (1,004), NI 2007 (1,021)

¹ British forests for GB 2005, UK forests for UK 2007.

Geographic comparisons

Table 2 gives the regional breakdown for the top five most recognised categories

Respondents from Belfast (19%) and the North (24%) were more likely to have seen or heard about 'Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change'.

Respondents from the South (7%) were less likely than those elsewhere to give the response 'Forests and woodlands as places to visit'.

Those living in the North (9%) and the South (9%) were less likely than those elsewhere to have seen or heard about 'Protests about roads or other developments on woodlands'.

Table 2: Whether respondent has seen or read about Northern Ireland's forests, woods or trees in the last 12 months, by region (%)

	Belfast City	North	South	West	NI 2007
Tree planting	32	34	27	25	28
Birds and other animals in woodland	22	23	18	18	19
Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change	19	24	16	12	17
Forests and woodland as places to visit	17	22	7	14	13
Protests about roads /other developments on woodland	15	9	9	15	12
Recalling at least one topic	53	55	51	47	51

Base: All respondents (1,021)

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents who had visited forests or woodlands recently were more likely to have seen or heard about all 14 of the topics listed, than those who had not.

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

Respondents who had heard of at least one topic, NI overall 51%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 45%; aged 35 to 64 52%; aged 65 and over 60%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 57%; C2DE 45%;
- **Employment** - employed 47%; not employed 55%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 60%; not visited 36%.

Respondents who had heard of 'Tree planting', NI overall 28%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 24%; aged 35 to 64 29%; aged 65 and over 37%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 41%; without 27%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 33%; C2DE 24%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 36%; not visited 16%.

Respondents who had heard of 'Birds and other animals in woodlands', NI overall 19%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 15%; aged 35 to 64 20%; aged 65 and over 30%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 39%; without 18%;
- **Children** - respondents with children 15%; without 22%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 24%; not visited 12%.

Respondents who had heard of 'Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change', NI overall 17%:

- **Employment** - employed 14%; not employed 21%;
- **Gender** - male 19%; female 15%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 27%; without 16%;
- **Religion** - Catholic 18%, Protestant 16%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 22%; C2DE 12%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 23%; not visited 7%.

Respondents who had heard about 'Forests and woodlands as places to visit', NI overall 13%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 10%; aged 35 to 64 14%; aged 65 and over 19%;
- **Children** - respondents with children 15%; without 10%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 19%; not visited 4%.

Respondents who had heard about 'Protests about roads or other developments on woodlands', NI overall 12%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 9%; aged 35 to 64 13%; aged 65 and over 14%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 15%; not visited 7%.

3. Forest management

3.1 Benefits of forestry

The government funds forestry in Northern Ireland in many ways. Respondents were asked to select (from a list of possible public benefits) good reasons to support Northern Irish forestry with public money. Most of the respondents (83%) selected at least one benefit.

The top two good reasons to support forestry were 'to provide places for wildlife to live' (60%) and 'to provide places to walk in' (55%). Support for the one new option 'to help tackle climate change' (46%) was at a similar level to the support received in 2005 for the option it replaced, 'to help prevent greenhouse effect / global warming' (43%).

Support for each benefit was lower in the 2007 NI survey compared with the 2007 UK survey (as was also generally the case in 2005 when comparing the NI survey with the GB survey).

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

	GB	UK	Northern Ireland	
	2005	2007	2005	2007
To provide places for wildlife to live	67	72	55	60
To provide places to walk in	57	61	57	55
To help tackle climate change	-	61	-	46
To help prevent greenhouse effect/global warming	55	-	43	-
To improve the countryside landscape	53	55	47	43
To provide healthy places for physical activity, relaxation and stress relief	44	48	39	37
To support the economy in rural areas	41	45	30	29
To provide wood as a renewable fuel (pre 2007)				
To provide renewable energy including wood as fuel (post 2007)	28	37	22	24
To help rural tourism	36	38	39	33
To create pleasant settings for new and existing developments around towns	37	41	26	27
To restore former industrial land	30	34	13	17
To provide places to cycle or ride horses	35	40	23	21
So we can buy less wood products from abroad	30	37	18	19
To provide timber for sawmills & wood processing	23	26	17	19
To make woods more accessible to all in the community	36	37	24	24
At least one reason given	89	93	87	83

Base: All respondents - GB 2005 (4,000), UK 2007 (4,000), NI 2005 (1,004), NI 2007 (1,021)

Geographic comparisons

Table 4 gives the regional breakdown of the top five reasons given for supporting forestry with public money.

Respondents from Belfast (75%) less likely than those from elsewhere to give at least one reason for supporting forestry with public money.

'To provide places for wildlife to live' was more likely to be given as a reason to support forestry with public money by respondents in the North (81%), while those living in the South (53%) were less likely to give this as a response.

Respondents from Belfast (51%) and the South (51%) were less likely to think that 'To provide places to walk in' was a good reason to support forestry with public money.

'To help tackle climate change' was less likely to be given as a good reason to support forestry with public money by respondents living in the South (43%) than by those living elsewhere. This reason was also more likely to be given by those from more deprived areas (54%), than those from the least deprived areas (45%).

People living in the North were more likely than those living elsewhere to give 'To improve the countryside landscape' and 'To provide healthy places for physical activity, relaxation and stress relief' as good reasons to support forestry with public money.

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

	Belfast City	North	South	West	NI 2007
To provide places for wildlife to live	55	81	53	63	60
To provide places to walk in	51	63	51	62	55
To help tackle climate change	47	47	43	48	46
To improve the countryside landscape	35	65	42	42	43
To provide healthy places for physical activity, relaxation and stress relief	35	51	37	33	37
At least one reason given	75	89	83	89	83

Base: All respondents (1,021)

Socio-demographic comparisons

Those in social grade ABC1 were more likely than those in social grade C2DE to select 13 of the 14 good reasons for supporting forestry with public money.

For 10 of the 14 reasons those who had visited forests or woodlands in the last few years were more likely than those who had not visited recently to give them as a good reason for supporting forestry with public money.

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

Respondents who gave at least one reason, NI overall 83%:

- **Access to car** - with car 86%; without car 74%;
- **Employment** - employed 78%; not employed 89%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 87%; not visited 78%.

Respondents who gave 'To provide places for wildlife to life' as a reason to support forestry with public money, NI overall 60%:

- **Access to car** - with car 63%; without car 48%;
- **Employment** - employed 63%; not employed 58%;
- **Religion** - Catholic 63%, Protestant 58%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 66%; not visited 50%.

Respondents who gave 'To provide places to walk in' as a reason to support forestry with public money, NI overall 55%:

- **Access to car** - with car 58%; without car 44%;
- **Employment** - employed 56%; not employed 54%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 60%; C2DE 51%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 60%; not visited 48%.

Respondents who gave 'To help tackle climate change' as a reason to support forestry with public money, NI overall 46%:

- **Access to car** - with car 49%; without car 33%;
- **Employment** - employed 47%; not employed 44%;
- **Religion** - Catholic 50%, Protestant 42%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 51%; C2DE 40%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 52%; not visited 35%;

Respondents who gave 'To improve the countryside landscape' as a reason to support forestry with public money, NI overall 43%:

- **Access to car** - with car 46%; without car 35%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 47%; C2DE 40%;
- **Employment** - employed 48%; not employed 40%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 48%; not visited 37%;

Respondents who gave 'To provide healthy places for physical activity, relaxation and stress relief' as a reason to support forestry with public money, NI overall 37%:

- **Access to car** - with car 41%; without car 24%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 44%; C2DE 31%;
- **Children** - respondents with children 43%; without 34%;
- **Employment** - employed 38%; not employed 36%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 42%; not visited 29%;

3.2 Ratings of Northern Ireland's forestry

Respondents were asked to rate the performance of Northern Ireland's forestry on a number of aspects. Ratings were given on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being 'very good' and 5 being 'very poor'.

The aspects rated most highly were 'providing homes for birds and other animals' and 'providing opportunities for walking' (Table 5). These two highest-rated aspects of Northern Ireland's forestry were also considered the best reasons to support forestry with public money (see Table 3).

Across all of the categories, more respondents rated the performance positively (either '1 - very good' or '2') than negatively ('5 very poor' or '4'). The overall performance was rated positively by 60% of respondents and negatively by only 7%.

There is a degree of similarity between the responses to the 2005 and 2007 surveys, however it is noticeable that across all categories, a lower proportion of respondents answered 'don't know' in 2007 than in 2005.

Table 5: Performance rating of various functions of Northern Ireland's forestry

		(very good)		(very poor)			<i>Don't know</i>
		1	2	3	4	5	
Providing homes for birds and other animals	NI 2005	25	51	5	4	1	14
	NI 2007	29	47	7	5	1	9
Providing opportunities for walking	NI 2005	26	51	8	3	1	12
	NI 2007	23	51	9	6	1	9
Protecting the environment	NI 2005	18	46	13	5	2	17
	NI 2007	20	48	15	6	1	11
Providing Northern Ireland's timber, board and paper needs	NI 2005	8	22	21	6	1	41
	NI 2007	11	34	20	7	2	26
Supporting Northern Ireland's economy in rural areas	NI 2005	8	34	16	5	3	34
	NI 2007	11	40	18	9	2	20
Involving local communities	NI 2005	9	32	18	8	4	30
	NI 2007	7	37	19	12	3	22
Overall	NI 2005	17	47	14	3	0	19
	NI 2007	14	47	13	6	2	20

Base: All respondents - 2005 (1,004), 2007 (1,021)

Geographic comparisons

Respondents from the North (93%) and the South (87%) were more likely than those elsewhere to rate Northern Ireland's forestry as 'Good' or 'Very Good' at 'Providing homes for birds and other animals'.

Respondents from the West were less likely than those elsewhere to rate forestry in Northern Ireland as 'Good' or 'Very Good' at 'Providing opportunities for walking'.

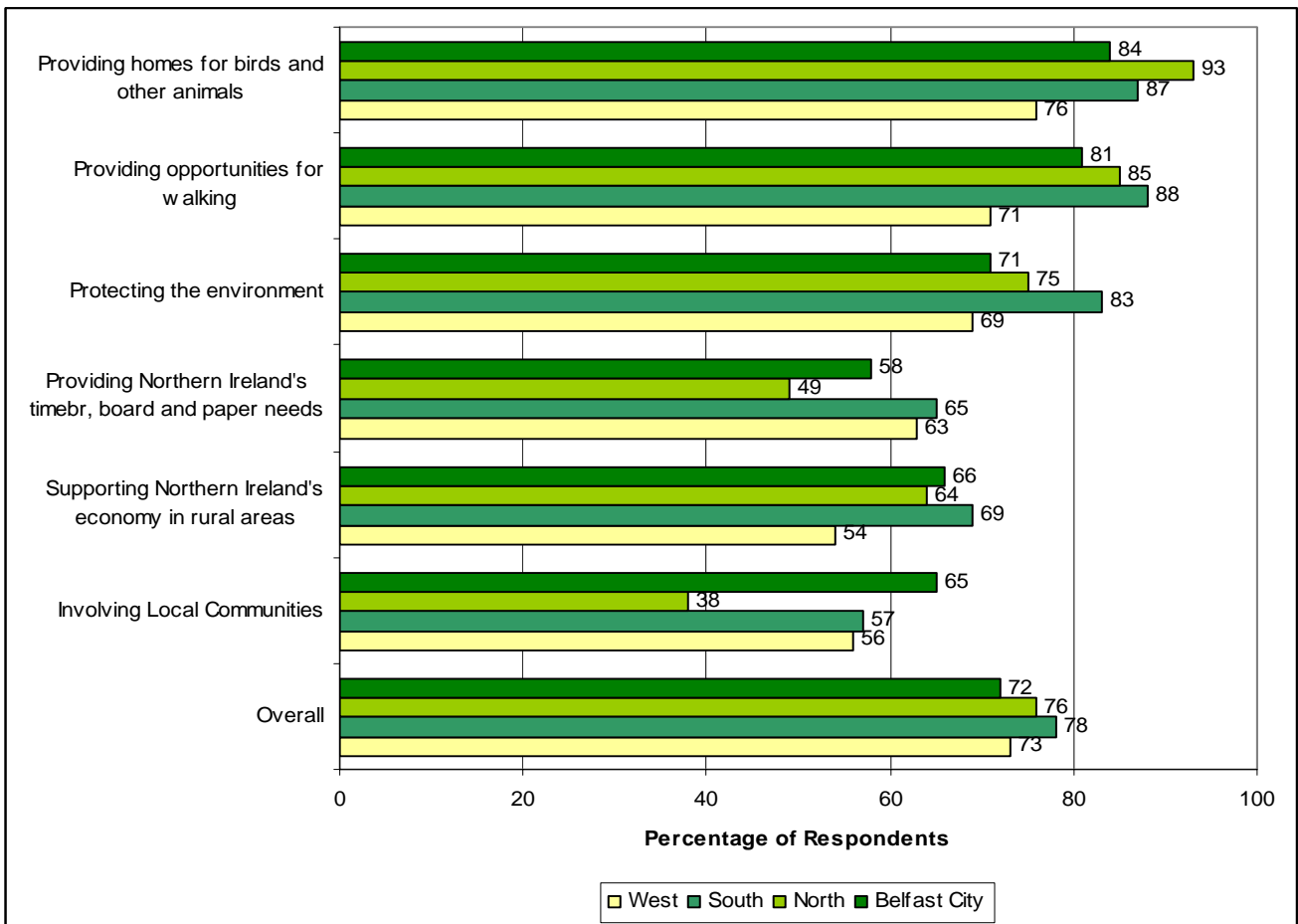
Those who live in the South were more likely than those elsewhere to give Northern Ireland's forestry's job at 'Protecting the environment' a 'Good' or 'Very good' rating.

Respondents from Belfast (66%) and the South (69%) gave a better rating to Northern Ireland's attempts at 'Supporting Northern Ireland's economy in rural areas' than those from elsewhere.

Those who lived in the North were less likely than those elsewhere to provide a rating of 'Good' or 'Very Good' to the performance of Northern Ireland's forestry at 'Involving local communities'.

Respondents from Belfast were less likely than respondents from the rest of the country to give a 'Good' or 'Very Good' rating for the overall performance of Northern Ireland's forestry.

Figure 1: Respondents that rated various functions of Northern Ireland's forestry as 'Good' or 'Very Good' in 2007, by region (%)



Base: Respondents who gave an opinion, ranging from 759 to 928

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents who rated the performance of 'Providing opportunities for walking' as 'Good' or 'Very Good', NI overall 81%:

- **Gender** - male 78%; female 85%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 84%; not visited 78%.

Respondents who rated the performance of 'Protecting the environment' as 'Good' or 'Very Good', NI overall 76%:

- **Religion** - Catholic 79%, Protestant 74%.

Respondents who rated the performance of 'Providing Northern Ireland's timber, board and paper needs' as 'Good' or 'Very Good', NI overall 60%:

- **Children** - respondents with children 63%; without 56%;
- **Gender** - male 58%; female 63%.

Respondents who rated the performance of 'Involving local communities' as 'Good' or 'Very Good', NI overall 56%:

- **Children** - respondents with children 51%; without 59%;
- **Employment** - employed 60%; not employed 52%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 64%; without 55%;

Respondents who rated the overall performance of Northern Ireland's forestry as 'Good' or 'Very Good', NI overall 76%:

- **Gender** - male 72%; female 78%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 78%; not visited 68%;

4. Climate change

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

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

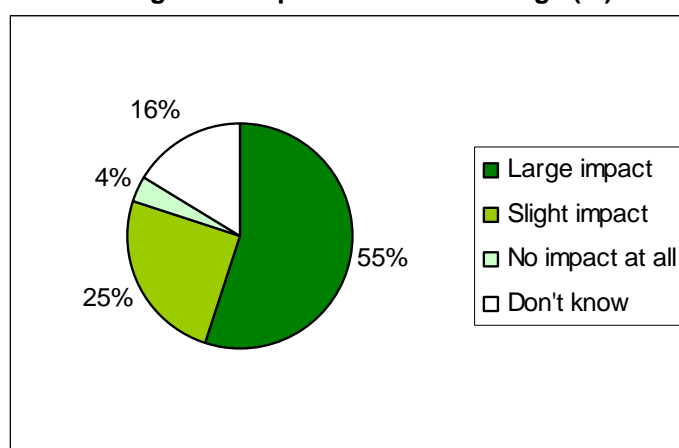
Although, on a world scale, they cover a small area (6.4% of the Northern Ireland surface area in 2007), the forests and woodlands in Northern Ireland have a role to play too.

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

4.1 Impact of climate change

The vast majority of respondents believe that climate change will have an impact on Northern Ireland, with most believing that there will be a large impact (55% of all respondents).

Figure 2: Impact of climate change (%)

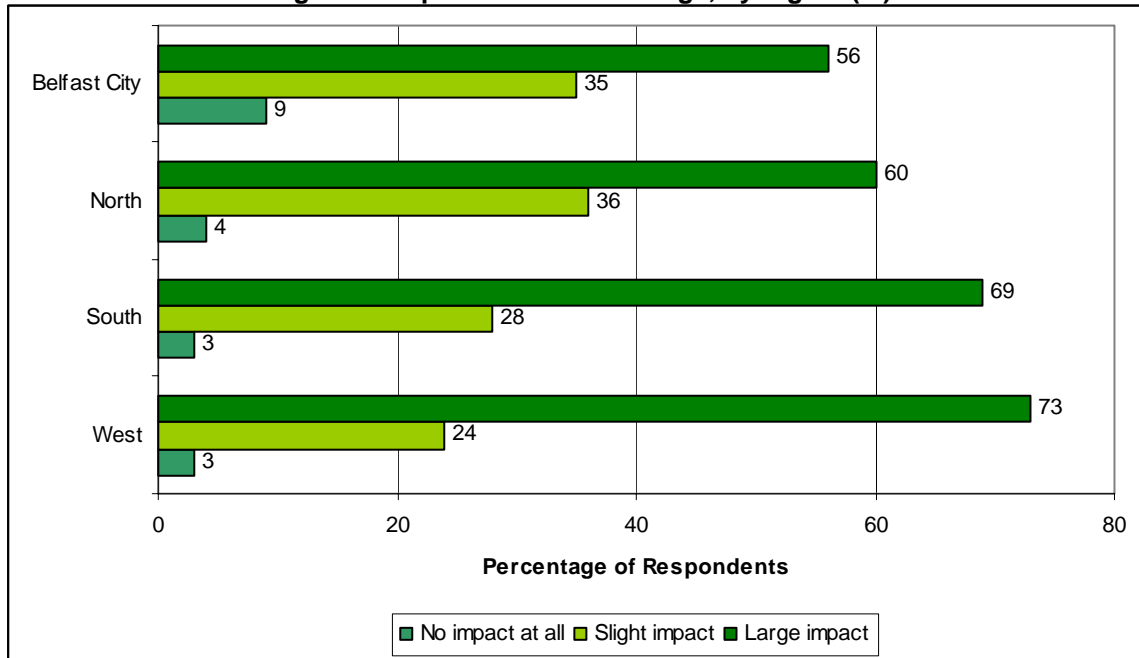


Base: All respondents (1,021)

Geographic comparisons

Respondents from Belfast were less likely than those elsewhere to believe that climate change would have a large impact on Northern Ireland (Figure 3)

Figure 3: Impact of climate change, by region (%)



Base: Respondents who gave an opinion (853)

Socio-demographic comparisons

Catholic respondents (71%) were more likely to believe that climate change would have a large impact on Northern Ireland than Protestant respondents (63%).

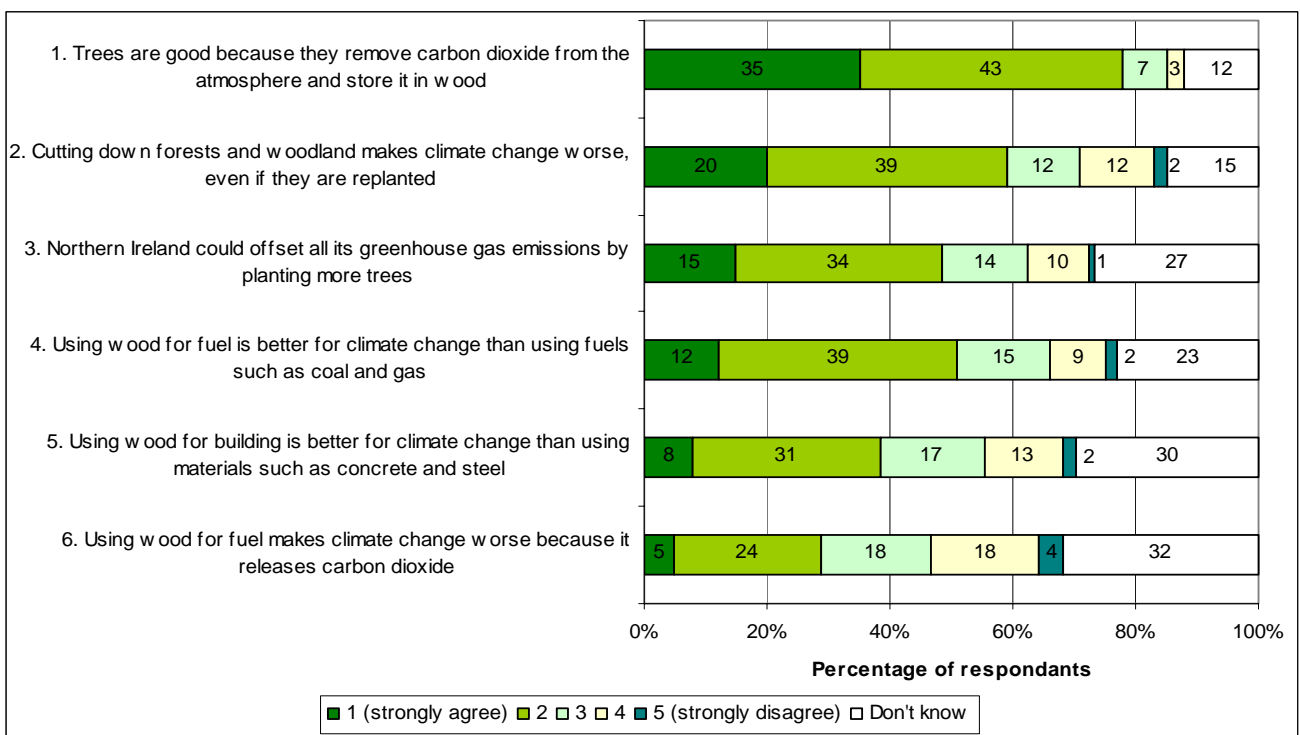
4.2 Woodlands' impact on climate change

In an attempt to gauge both the beliefs and knowledge of the public on the relationship between forests and climate change, respondents were asked for their level of agreement with a set of statements regarding the ways in which forests and woodlands in Northern Ireland can impact on climate change. Ratings were given on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being 'strongly agree' and 5 being 'strongly disagree'.

Figure 4 reveals a high level of agreement with each of the statements, with more respondents agreeing (selecting '1 - strongly agree' or '2') with each statement than disagreeing (selecting '5 - strongly disagree' or '4').

The highest level of agreement, over three-quarters of respondents, was with the statement that 'Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood' (78%). Almost three-fifths of respondents believed that 'Cutting down forests and woodland makes climate change worse, even if they are replanted' (59%).

Figure 4: Ways in which Northern Ireland forests and woodlands can impact on climate change (%)



Base: All respondents (1,021)

It is helpful to consider the numbered statements shown above in Figure 4 alongside the following common expert opinion¹:

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

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

Geographic comparisons

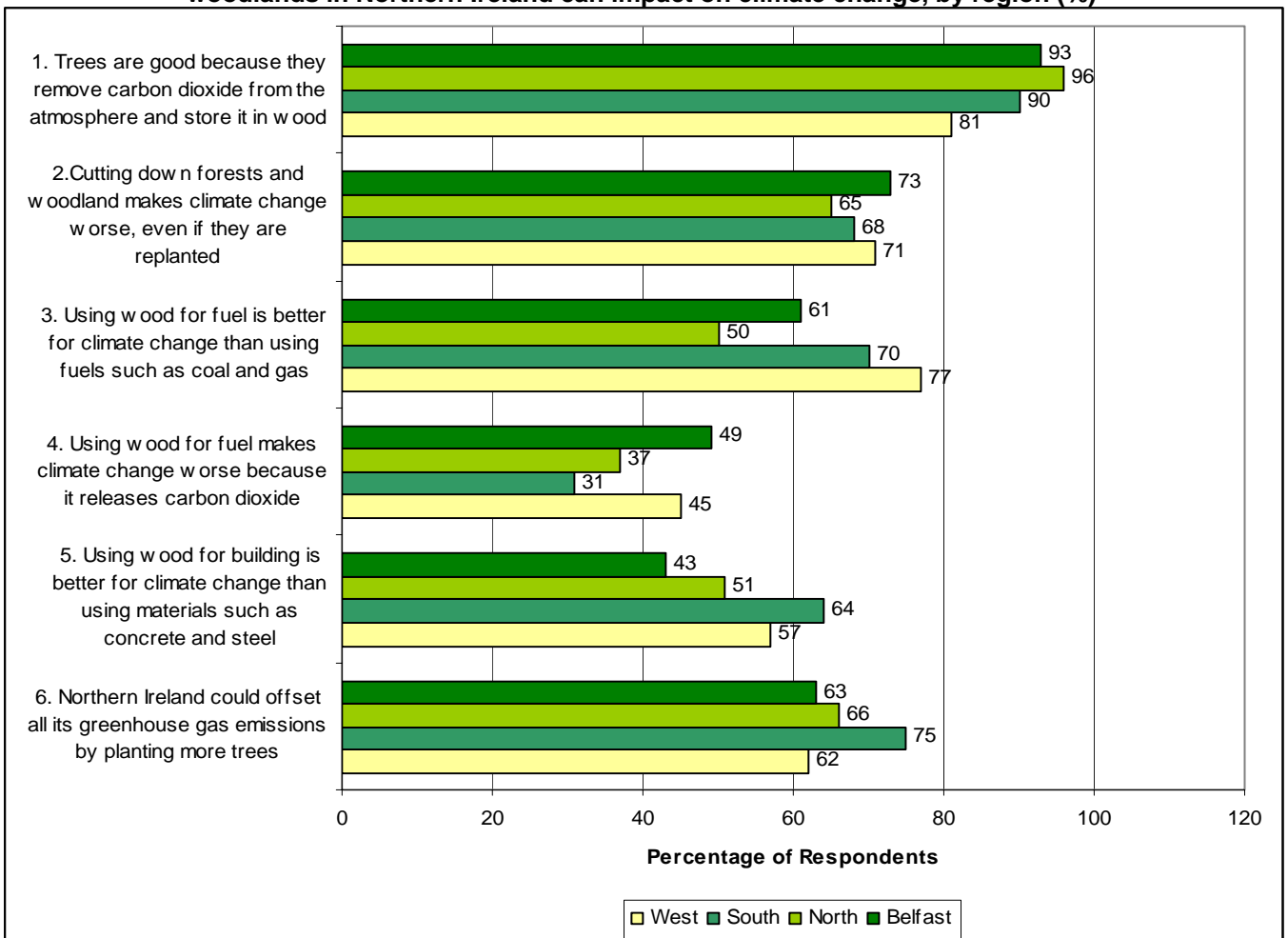
Respondents from the West were less likely than those elsewhere to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that 'Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood'.

Those living in Belfast (61%) and the North (50%) were less likely than those elsewhere to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that 'Using wood for fuel is better for climate change than using fuels such as coal and gas'.

Respondents in the South were more likely than those elsewhere to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that 'Using wood for building is better for climate change than using materials such as concrete and steel' and 'Northern Ireland could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees'.

Residents from the most deprived areas were more likely to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that 'Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood' (92%) and that 'Northern Ireland could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees' (83%), than those from the least deprived areas (88% and 62% respectively).

Figure 5: Levels of agreement with statements about the ways in which forests and woodlands in Northern Ireland can impact on climate change, by region (%)



Base: Those who gave an opinion ranging from 694 to 894

Socio-demographic comparisons

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

Respondents agreeing that 'Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere', NI overall 89%:

- **Social grade** - ABC1 91%; C2DE 88%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 90%; not visited 87%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Cutting down forests and woodland makes climate change worse, even if they are replanted', NI overall 70%:

- **Religion** - Catholic 75%, Protestant 66%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 71%; not visited 66%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Northern Ireland could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees', NI overall 67%:

- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 75%; without 66%;
- **Religion** - Catholic 75%, Protestant 61%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Using wood for fuel is better for climate change than using fuels such as coal and gas', NI overall 67%:

- **Employment** - employed 69%; not employed 64%;
- **Gender** - male 64%; female 70%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 71%; without 67%;
- **Religion** - Catholic 77%, Protestant 60%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Using wood for building is better for climate change than using materials such as concrete and steel', NI overall 55%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 54%; aged 35 to 64 56%; aged 65 and over 54%;
- **Employment** - employed 59%; not employed 51%;
- **Gender** - male 50%; female 60%;
- **Religion** - Catholic 60%, Protestant 51%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Using wood for fuels makes climate change worse because it releases carbon dioxide', NI overall 43%:

- **Access to car** - with car 49%; without car 41%;
- **Employment** - employed 45%; not employed 40%;
- **Religion** - Catholic 38%, Protestant 46%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 49%; not visited 39%.

4.3 Forest management in response to climate change

The respondents were then presented with a series of statements regarding the way in which Northern Ireland forests and woodlands should be managed in response to the threat of climate change. Ratings were given on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being 'strongly agree' and 5 being 'strongly disagree'. For most of the statements, the majority of responses were in line with most expert opinion (Figure 6).

The majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that:

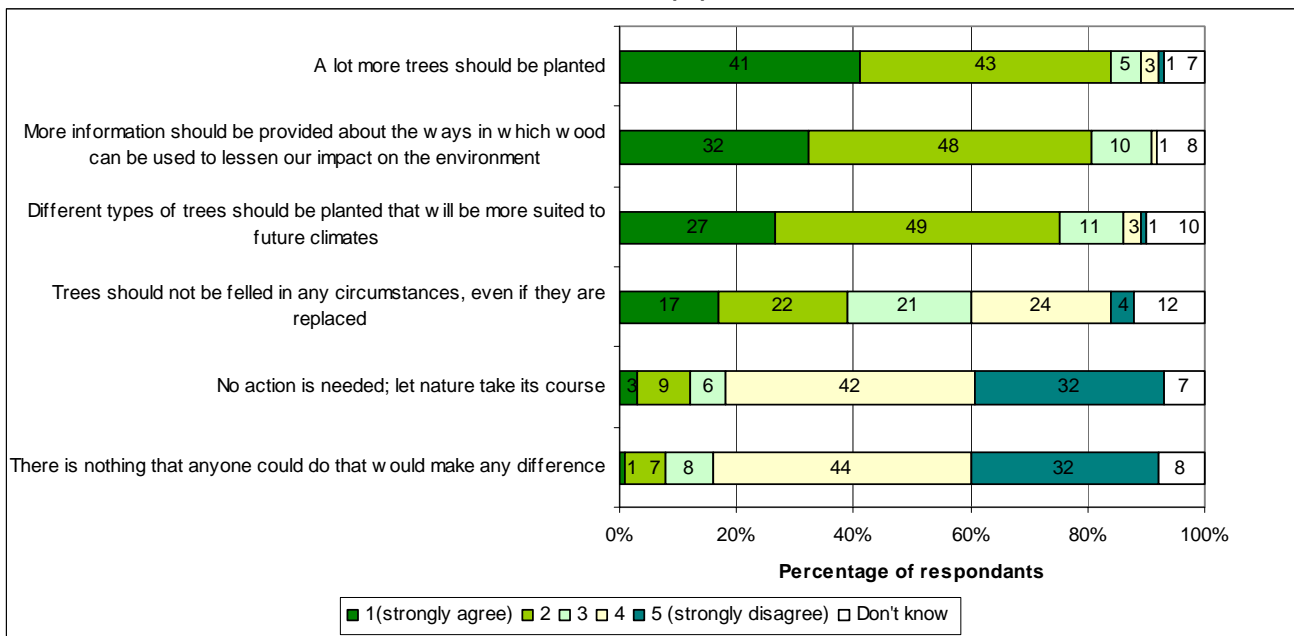
- 'a lot more trees should be planted' (85%);
- 'more information should be provided about the ways in which wood can be used to lessen our impact on the environment' (81%); and that
- 'different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates' (75%).

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

- 'there is nothing that anyone could do that would make any difference' (76%); and
- 'no action is needed; let nature take its course' (75%).

38% of respondents agreed that 'trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced' (i.e. selected '1 - strongly agree' or '2' whilst only 28% stated the converse ('5 - strongly disagree' or '4'). This result is inconsistent with the cyclical harvesting and growing pattern regularly employed in modern forest management practices, but may be a reflection on the relatively low proportion of forest cover in Northern Ireland (6.4% of the Northern Ireland surface area in 2007, compared with 11.7% across the UK).

Figure 6: Management of Northern Ireland's forests in response to the threat of climate change (%)



Base: All respondents (1,021)

Geographic comparisons

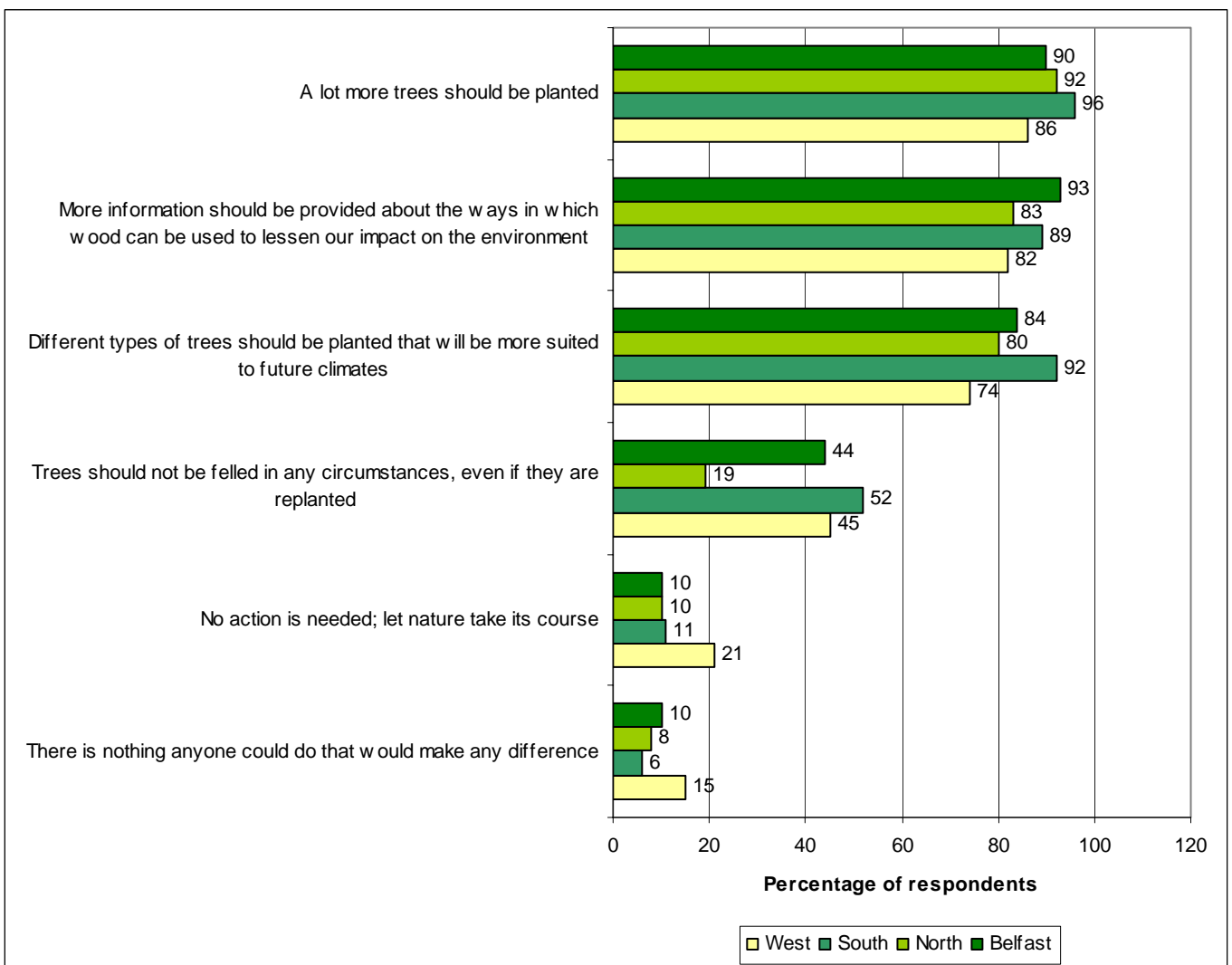
Respondents from the South were more likely than those elsewhere to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that 'A lot more trees should be planted', 'Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replanted' and 'Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates'.

Along with those from the South, respondents living in Belfast (84%) were more likely to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that 'Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates'.

Respondents from the South were also more likely than those living elsewhere to 'Disagree' or 'Strongly Disagree' that 'There is nothing anyone could do that would make any difference' and 'No action is needed; let nature take its course'.

Respondents from the North less likely than those elsewhere to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that 'Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replanted'.

Figure 7: Levels of agreement with statements about management of Northern Ireland's forests in response to the threat of climate change, by region (%)



Base: Respondents who gave an opinion ranging from 894 to 951

Residents from the most deprived areas were more likely to 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that 'Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates' (87%) than those from the least deprived areas (84%).

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents agreeing that 'There is nothing anyone could do that would make any difference', NI overall 9%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 6%; aged 35 to 64 9%; aged 65 and over 18%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 6%; C2DE 13%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 5%; not visited 16%.

Respondents agreeing that 'No action is needed; let nature take its course', NI overall 13%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 10%; aged 35 to 64 12%; aged 65 and over 21%;
- **Gender** - male 11%; female 14%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 7%; C2DE 19%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 9%; not visited 20%.

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

- **Social grade** - ABC1 94%; C2DE 89%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 96%; not visited 84%.

Respondents agreeing that 'More information should be provided about the ways in which food can be used to lessen our impact on the environment', NI overall 87%:

- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 91%; not visited 81%.

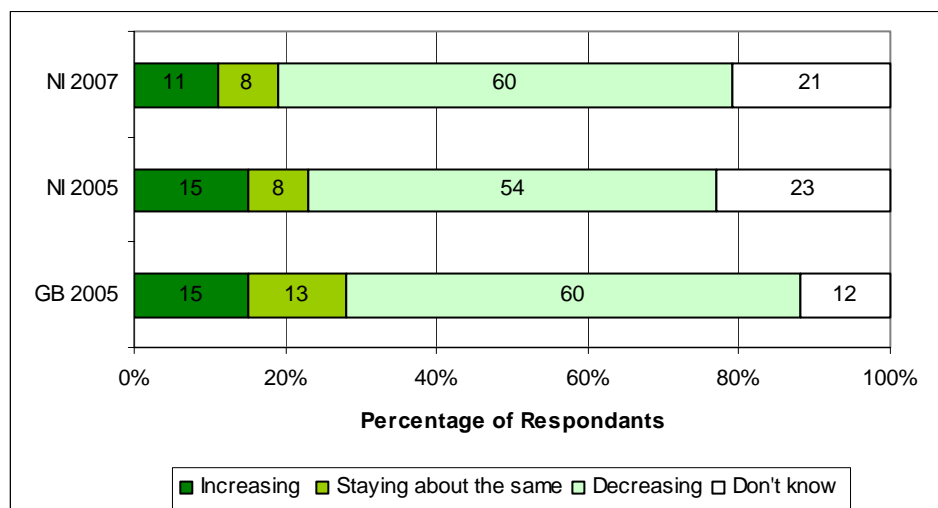
5. Changes to woodland

5.1 Perception of change in woodland area

The recorded area of woodland in Northern Ireland has increased by nearly 30%, from 67,000 hectares in 1980, to 87,000 hectares in 2007. This was in line with the UK as a whole, where the recorded total area of woodland also increased by 30% over the same period¹. Although some of the increase in GB can be attributed to improved coverage of woodlands inventories, the increase for NI is more firmly based on statistics for the Forest Service estate, which makes up 70% of the total woodland in Northern Ireland.

Respondents were asked whether they thought the total amount of woodland in Northern Ireland had been increasing or decreasing over the last twenty years. Only 11% said that the woodland area had increased, while the majority (60%) thought the area had decreased. (Figure 8). This question was not asked in the 2007 UK opinion survey.

Figure 8: Perception of change in all woodland area over last 20 years



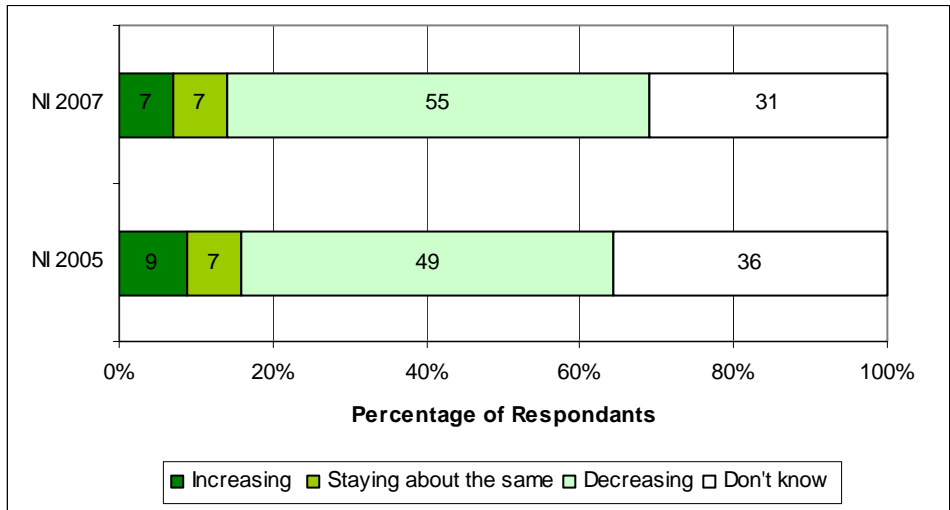
Base: All respondents - GB 2005 (4,000), NI 2005 (1,004), NI 2007 (1,021)

Respondents were also asked whether they thought the area of native woodland (such as oak and ash) in Northern Ireland had been increasing or decreasing over the same period. Over half of respondents believed the area of native woodland had decreased (55%) while almost one-third of respondents could not give an opinion (31%), similar results to those received in 2005 (Figure 9).

¹ Forestry Statistics 2007, Forestry Commission.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forstats2007.nsf/LUContentsTop?openview&RestrictToCategory=1>

Figure 9: Perception of change in native woodland area over last 20 years

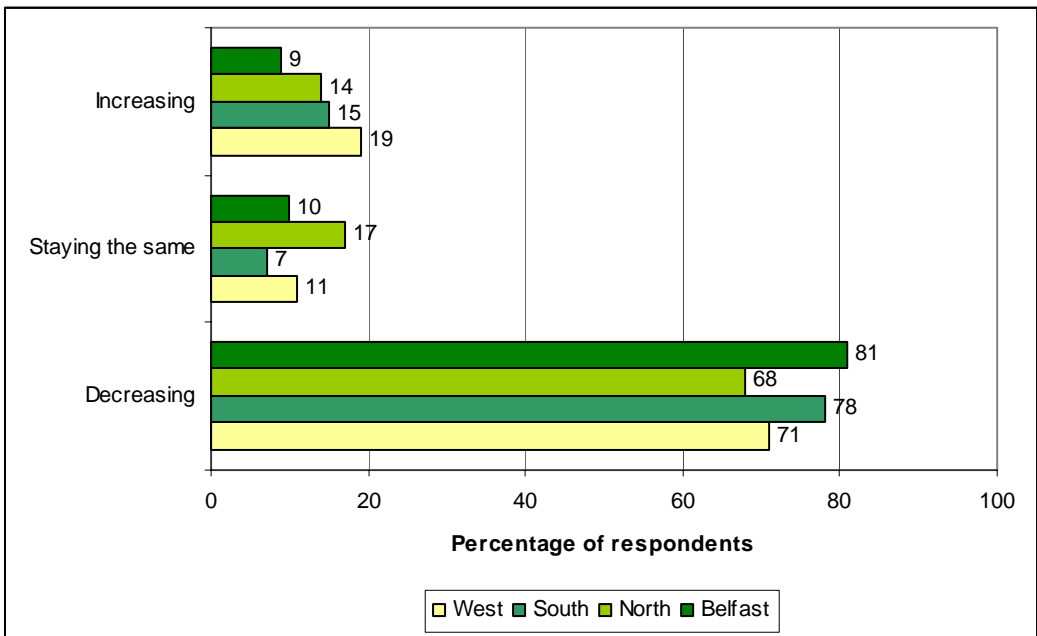


Base: All respondents - NI 2005 (1,004), 2007 (1,021)

Geographic comparisons

Respondents from Belfast (81%) were more likely than those from elsewhere to believe that the amount of woodland in Northern Ireland has been decreasing over the last 20 years.

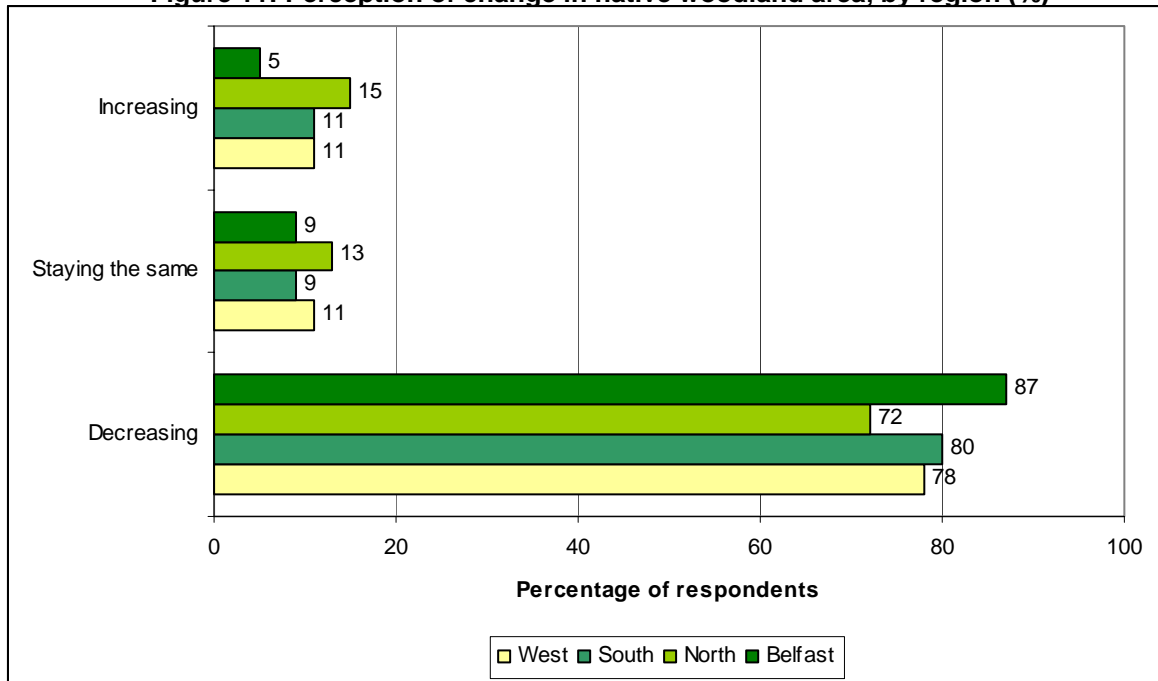
Figure 10: Perception of change in all woodland area, by region (%)



Base: Those who gave an opinion (809)

Respondents from Belfast (87%) were also more likely than those from elsewhere to believe that the amount of native woodlands in Northern Ireland had been decreasing over the last 20 years.

Figure 11: Perception of change in native woodland area, by region (%)



Base: Those who gave an opinion (701)

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents believing that the total amount of woodland in Northern Ireland has been decreasing over the last 20 years, NI overall 76%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 81%; aged 35 to 64 75%; aged 65 and over 68%.

No significant socio-demographic variables emerged from analysis of the native woodland question.

5.2 Desire for change in woodland area

Respondents were then asked whether or not they would like more woodland in their part of the country. Over three-quarters of respondents (78%) said they would like more woodland, while only 1% would like less. Over half of respondents wanted 'a lot more' woodland in their part of Northern Ireland (56%).

Table 6: Desire for more woodland (%)

	GB 2005	NI 2005	NI 2007 ¹
A lot more	-	-	56
More than half as much again	18	22	-
About half as much again	24	23	-
A little more	23	30	23
<i>More - total</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>78</i>
Neither more nor less	29	15	10
Less	2	1	1
Don't know	4	9	10

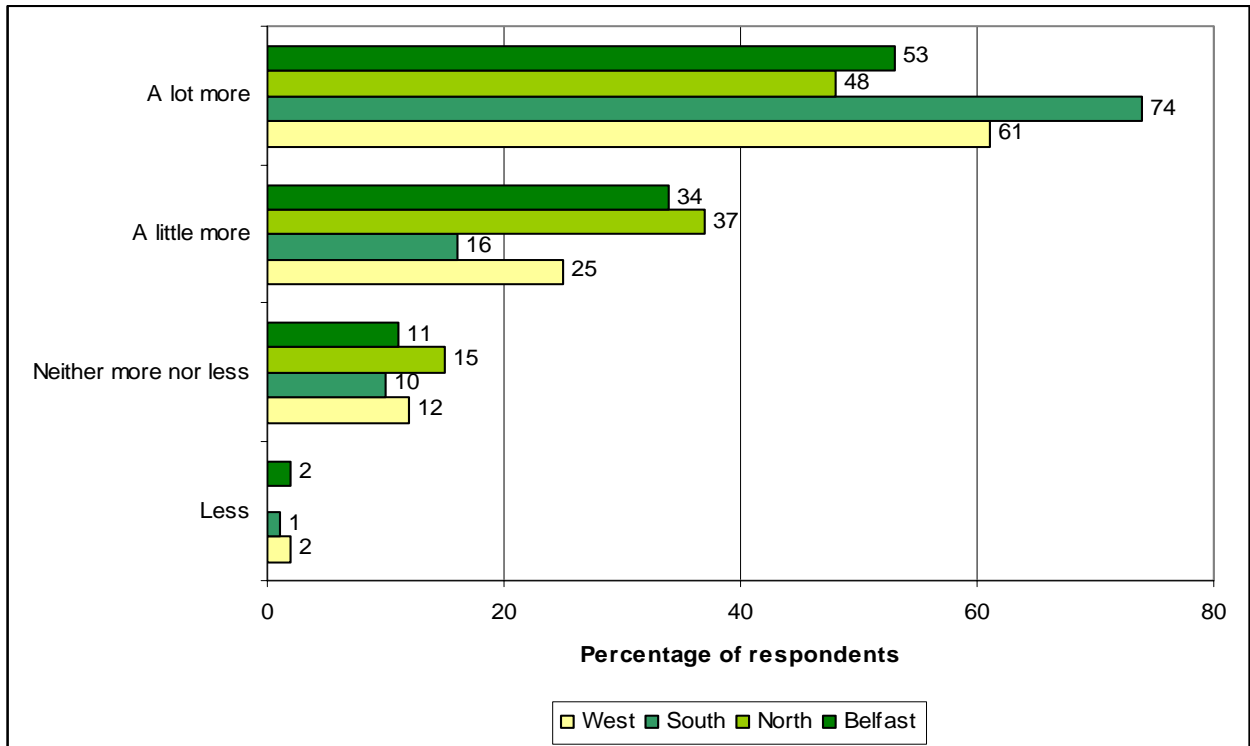
Base: All respondents - GB 2005 (4,000), NI 2005 (1,004), NI 2007 (1,021)

Note: This question was not asked in the 2007 UK opinion survey.

Geographic comparisons

Respondents from the South (74%) were more likely than those from elsewhere to desire 'A lot more' woodlands in their part of the country.

Figure 12: Desire for more woodland, by region (%)



Base: Those who gave an opinion (701)

¹ Note the response options offered in the 2007 survey differed to those in the earlier surveys.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents wanting 'A lot more' woodland in their part of Northern Ireland, NI overall 62%:

- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 69%; not visited 49%.

5.3 Forest management consultations

The UK Forestry Standard¹ encourages woodland owners to involve local communities when making decisions about changing the look or use of woodlands.

Respondents were asked whether they were aware of consultations, had ever been consulted, and would like to be consulted in the future, about the management of their local public forest.

Table 7: Public consultation on the management of your local public forest (%)

	NI 2007
Aware that the Forest Service consults on the management of your local public forest	10
Ever been consulted about the management of your local forest	1
Would want to be consulted more on the management of your local public forest	26

Base: All respondents - 1,021

Comparison with previous surveys

Similar questions were asked in the 2005 GB opinion survey, in which 6% of respondents said that they had been consulted about plans for creating, managing or using woodlands in their area.

42% of GB 2005 survey respondents said that they would like to be consulted (or consulted again in some cases) about plans for creating, managing or using woodlands in their area (77% of those who had previously been consulted and 40% of those who had not).

The GB 2005 figures are not significantly different from the UK 2003 survey. In 2003, as in 2005, 6% of respondents had been consulted about plans for creating, managing or using woodlands in their area, while 43% (79% of those who had previously been consulted and 41% of those who had not) would like to be consulted in the future. This question was not asked in surveys prior to 2003.

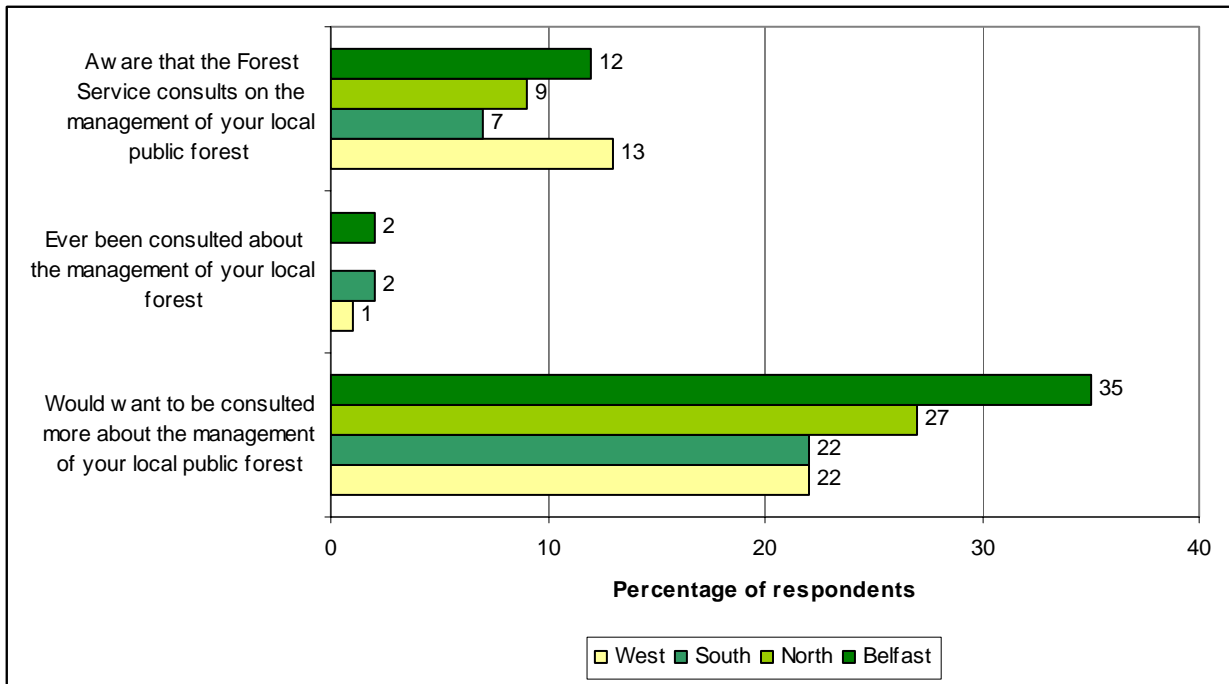
¹ FC (2004): *The UK Forestry Standard (2nd edition)*; *The government's approach to sustainable forestry*, Forestry Commission.

Geographic comparisons

Respondents from the South (7%) were less likely than those from elsewhere to be 'Aware that the Forest Service consults on the management of your local public forest'.

Those from Belfast (35%) were more likely than those from elsewhere to wish to be consulted more about the management of their local public forest.

Figure 13: Public consultation on management of your local public forest, by region (%)



Base: All respondents (1,021)

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents 'aware that the Forest Service consults on the management of their local public forest', NI Overall 10%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 6%; aged 35 to 64 11%; aged 65 and over 15%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 12%; C2DE 7%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 13%; not visited 5%.

Respondents who had been 'consulted about management of their local forest', NI Overall 1%:

- **Social grade** - ABC1 2%; C2DE 1%.

Respondents who 'would want to be consulted more often about the management of their local public forest', NI overall 26%:

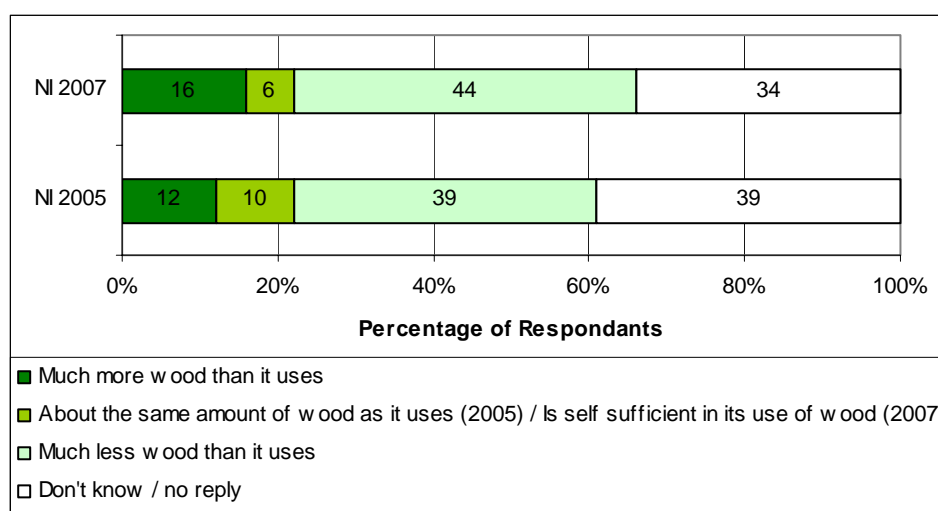
- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 21%; aged 35 to 64 30%; aged 65 and over 24%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 32%; not visited 15%.

6. Wood products

Using population data and wood production and consumption estimates it is possible to estimate that Northern Ireland produces around a third of the amount of wood that it consumes¹.

Respondents were asked whether they thought Northern Ireland produces more or less wood than it uses. Over two-fifths of respondents (44%) correctly thought that Northern Ireland produced much less wood than it uses, 16% of respondents thought Northern Ireland produced much more and 6% thought it is self sufficient in its use of wood as it uses; the remaining one-third of respondents (34%) said they did not know or did not provide an answer (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Perception of production versus usage of wood in Northern Ireland



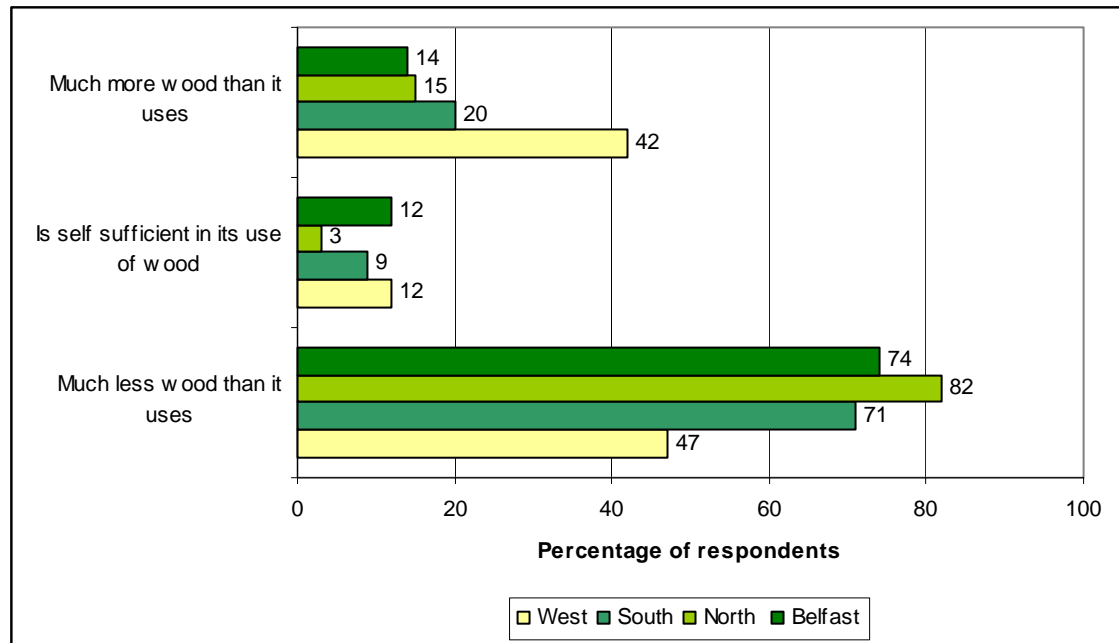
Base: All respondents 2005 (1,004), 2007 (1,021)

¹ Forestry Statistics 2007, Forestry Commission, 2007.

Geographic comparisons

Respondents who did not live in the West were more likely to correctly believe that Northern Ireland produces much less wood than it uses, while those from the West were more likely to believe it produces much more wood than it uses.

Figure 15: Perception of production versus usage of wood in Northern Ireland, by region (%)



Base: Those who gave a response (673)

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents correctly believing that 'Northern Ireland produces much less wood than it uses', NI Overall 67%:

- **Social grade** - ABC1 72%; C2DE 61%.

7. Woodland recreation

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

7.1 Visits to woodland

Although the results of the GB 2005 (65%) and NI 2005 (67%) surveys are similar, the corresponding 2007 survey results are not; 62% of respondents to the NI 2007 survey and 77% of respondents to the 2007 UK survey said that they had visited woodlands for walks, picnics or other recreation in the last few years (Table 8).

Clearly there is quite a divergence in the 2007 survey results, however it is also possible to consider the responses of the small subset of Northern Irish responses (119) within the 2007 UK survey. Although the small sample size of 119 means the results should be treated with caution, it is interesting to note that 77% of the 119 Northern Irish responses received within the UK survey claimed to have visited woodland in the last few years. This perhaps suggests that the difference in results obtained (between the UK and NI 2007 surveys) is at least partially attributable to the survey in which the question was asked. For example, the emphasis placed on the question and/or the preceding questions may have an influence on the responses received.

Table 8: Visited woodland in last few years (%)

	GB	UK	Northern Ireland	
	2005	2007	2005	2007
Visited woodland in last few years	65	77	67	62

Base: All respondents - GB 2005 (4,000), UK 2007 (4,000), NI 2005 (1,004), NI 2007 (1,021)

Geographic comparisons (including those 4 respondents who said 'don't know')

Respondents from the North (70%) and the South (68%) were more likely to have visited forests or woodlands within the last few years than those living elsewhere.

Socio-demographic comparisons (including those 4 respondents who said 'don't know')

Respondents who had visited forests or woodlands in the last few years, NI overall 62%:

- **Access to car** - with car 67%; without car 44%;
- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 67%; aged 35 to 64 63%; aged 65 and over 48%;
- **Children** - respondents with children 70%; without 58%.

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

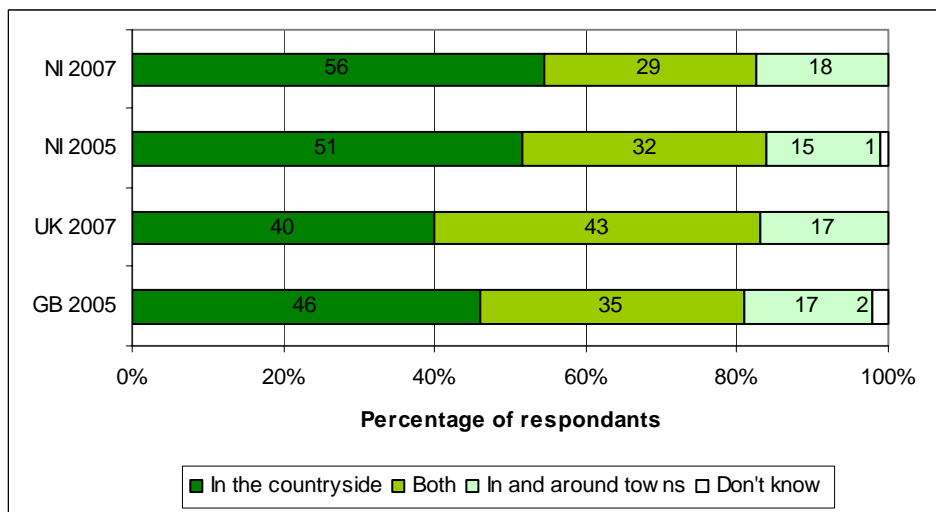
7.2 Type of woodland visited

Figure 16 shows that of the NI 2007 survey respondents who had visited woodland, 85% had visited woodland in the countryside and 47% had visited woodland in and around towns.

A divergence in results similar to that noted above in section 7.1 is also evident here, i.e. the Northern Ireland responses received in 2007 are less similar to the UK 2007 responses, than the Northern Ireland 2005 responses were to the GB 2005 survey.

The responses of the 119 Northern Ireland respondents in the 2007 UK survey ('in the countryside' (55%), 'both' (32%), 'in and around towns' (13%)) are fairly similar to the NI 2007 survey responses.

Figure 16: Type of woodland visited (%)

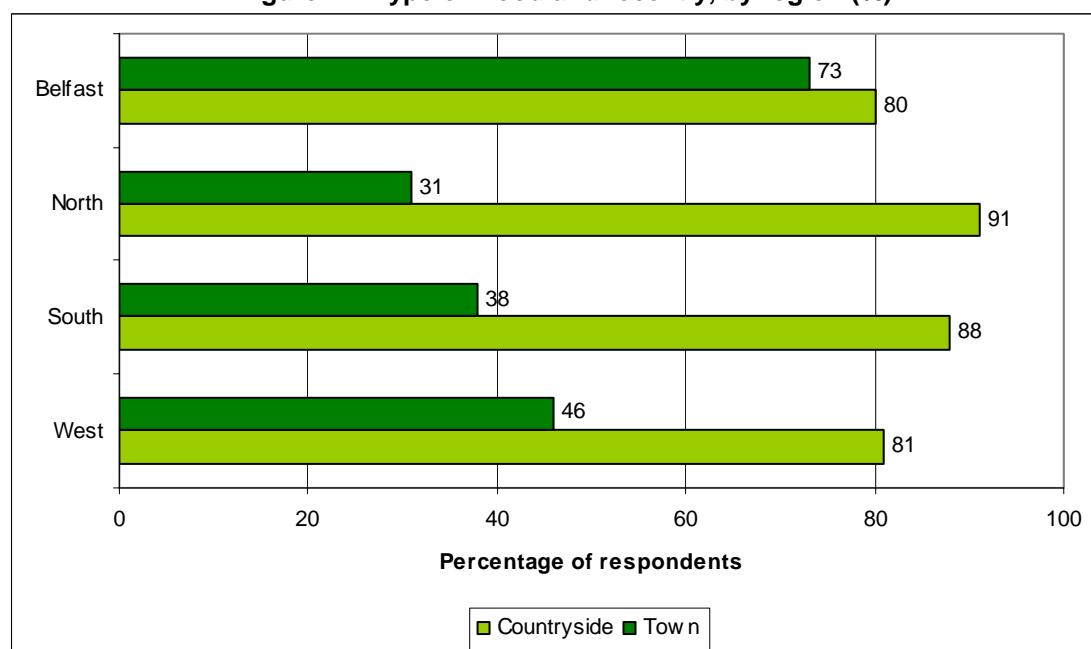


Base: Respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years - GB 2005 (2,672), UK 2007 (3,065), NI 2005 (668), 2007 (633)

Geographic comparisons (including the 2 respondents who said 'don't know' or did not provide a response)

Respondents who live in Belfast and the West were more likely to have visited woodlands in and around towns, while those in the North and South were more likely to have visited woodlands in the countryside.

Figure 17: Type of woodland recently, by region (%)



Base: All respondents who had visited forests or woodlands recently (633)

Socio-demographic comparisons (including the 2 respondents who said 'don't know' or did not provide a response)

Respondents who had visited forests or woodlands in and around towns, NI overall 47%:

- **Children** - respondents with children 51%; without 43%.

Respondents who had visited forests or woodlands in the countryside, NI overall 85%:

- **Religion** - Catholic 87%, Protestant 82%.

7.3 Reasons for not visiting woodland

Although this question asked those respondents who had not visited for their **main** reason for not visiting, multiple answers were accepted from respondents; the 384 respondents who had not visited in the last few years gave a total of 416 responses. For this reason, the NI 2007 results are not directly comparable with the GB 2005, UK 2007 or NI 2005 results.

Nevertheless, it is clear that the main reason given by respondents for not visiting remained that they were 'not interested in going' (45% of the NI 2007 survey respondents who had not visited).

Table 9: Main reason for not visiting forest/woodland in last few years

	GB 2005	UK 2007	NI 2005	NI 2007
Not interested in going	33	26	38	45
Don't have a car	13	11	14	13
Other personal mobility reasons	17	18	11	11
Woods are too far away	11	14	9	8
Prefer other areas of countryside	3	2	5	6
Concerns that woods are not safe	3	3	1	3
Lack of information	3	2	2	2
Other	11	17	20	19
Don't know / No reply	7	9	0	2

Base: All respondents who have not visited forests or woodlands recently (384)

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

Geographic comparisons

Respondents from Belfast (33%) were less likely than those living in the North (46%), South (46%) or the West (53%) to say that their main reason for not visiting forests or woodlands in the last few years was because they weren't interested in going.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents who gave their main reason for not visiting forests or woodlands as 'Not interested or going, NI overall 45%':

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 61%; aged 35 to 64 43%; aged 65 and over 24%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 20%; without 48%.

Respondents who gave their main reason for not visiting forests or woodlands as 'Other personal mobility reasons', NI overall 11%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 no-one; aged 35 to 64 5%; aged 65 and over 40%;
- **Illness or disability** - with long-term illness or disability 45%; without 6%.

Respondents who gave their main reason for not visiting forests or woodlands as 'Don't have a car', NI overall 13%:

- **Access to car** - with car 4%; without car 31%.

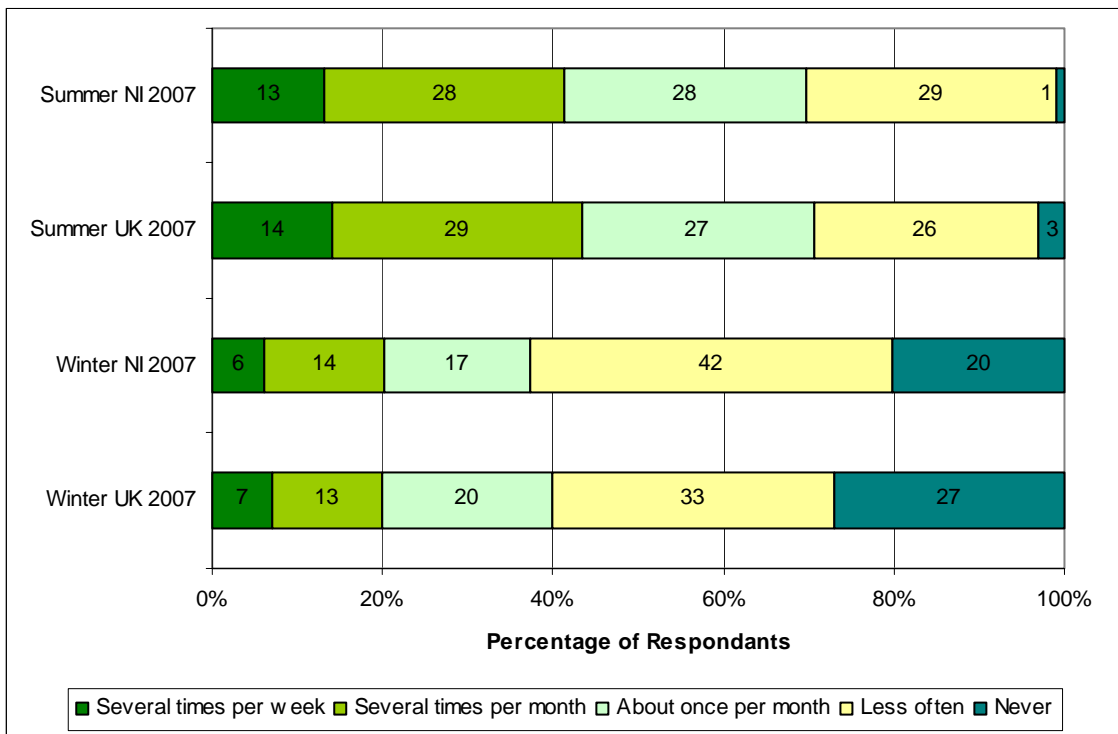
7.4 Frequency of woodland visits

Of the NI 2007 survey respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years, 70% said that they visited at least once a month in the summer of 2006 (Figure 18) and 37% said that they visited at least once a month in the winter of 2006/7.

A fifth of those NI 2007 survey respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years said that they did not visit during the most recent winter (20%) while only 1% said that they did not visit during the most recent summer.

Figure 18 indicates that the results from the NI 2007 and UK 2007 surveys are fairly similar, particularly the responses given for summer visits. A higher proportion of UK respondents did not visit during the most recent winter (27% of UK 2007 survey respondents compared to 20% of NI 2007 survey respondents). This question has not been asked in previous Northern Ireland surveys.

Figure 18: Frequency of visit in last summer and winter (%)



Base: Respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years - NI 2007 (752), UK 2007 (3,065)

By combining the information about those who had visited forests in the last few years with the frequency of visit information for the last year, it is possible to estimate the proportion of adults who have visited woodland in the last year. In this way it is estimated that 62% of adults had visited woodland during the last year, 61% in the summer of 2006, and 49% in the winter of 2006/2007.

Geographic comparisons

Residents from the most deprived areas (27%) were less likely than those from the least deprived areas (39%) to have visited at least once a month in the winter of 2006/7.

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents who visited at least once a month during the summer of 2006, NI overall 70%:

- **Access to car** - with car 71%; without car 66%.

Respondents who visited at least once a month during the winter of 2006/7, NI overall 37%:

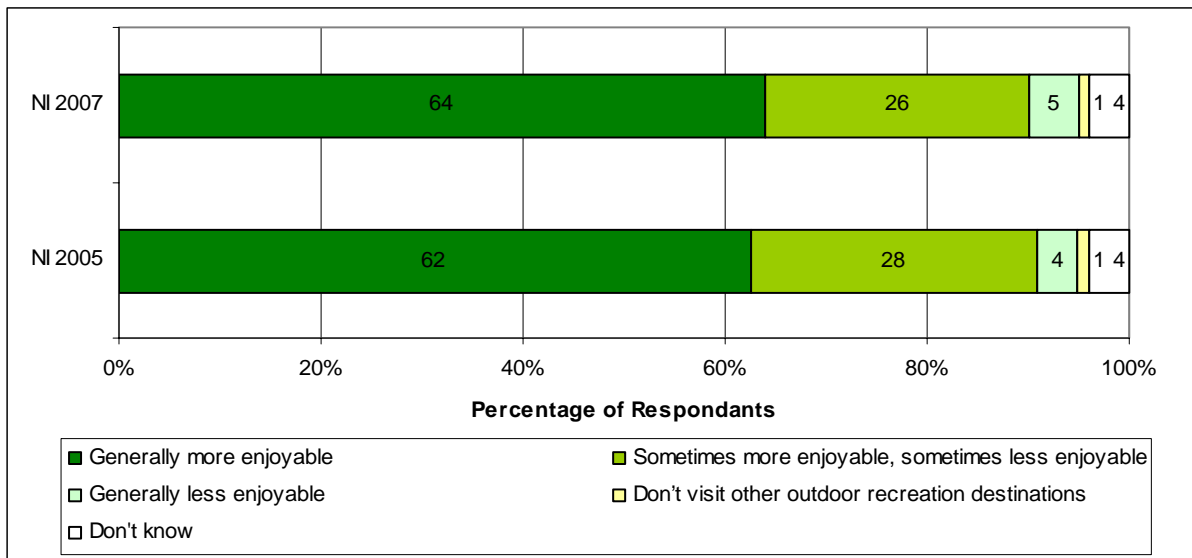
- **Access to car** - with car 40%; without car 27%.

7.5 Visitor enjoyment

Those respondents who had visited forests or woodlands were asked how they would rate their visits to forests compared with visits to other similar outdoor recreation destinations, such as country parks, gardens and nature reserves.

Almost two-thirds of respondents who had visited forests or woodlands in the last few years stated that their forest visits were generally more enjoyable than visits to other similar outdoor recreation destinations (64%), while only 5% of respondents felt that their visits were generally less enjoyable. The results obtained in 2007 were similar to those received in 2005.

Figure 19: Respondents rating of forest visits (%)



Base: All respondents who have visited forests or woodlands in last few years, NI 2005 (668), NI 2007 (633)

Respondents were also asked whether encounters with any other recreational users decreased the enjoyment of their visit. The question asked in 2007 included two new response options (dog fouling and dog control), so the results are not directly comparable with those received in 2005. Table 10 shows that the two new responses were the most likely to be selected by respondents and indicates that the results received in 2005 and 2007 for the other categories were roughly similar.

The addition of the two new categories has contributed to a large fall in the proportion of the respondents stating that they had had 'no problems with other forest visitors' (from 80% in 2005 to 54% in 2007).

Table 10: Decrease in enjoyment of woodland visit due to other recreational users (%)

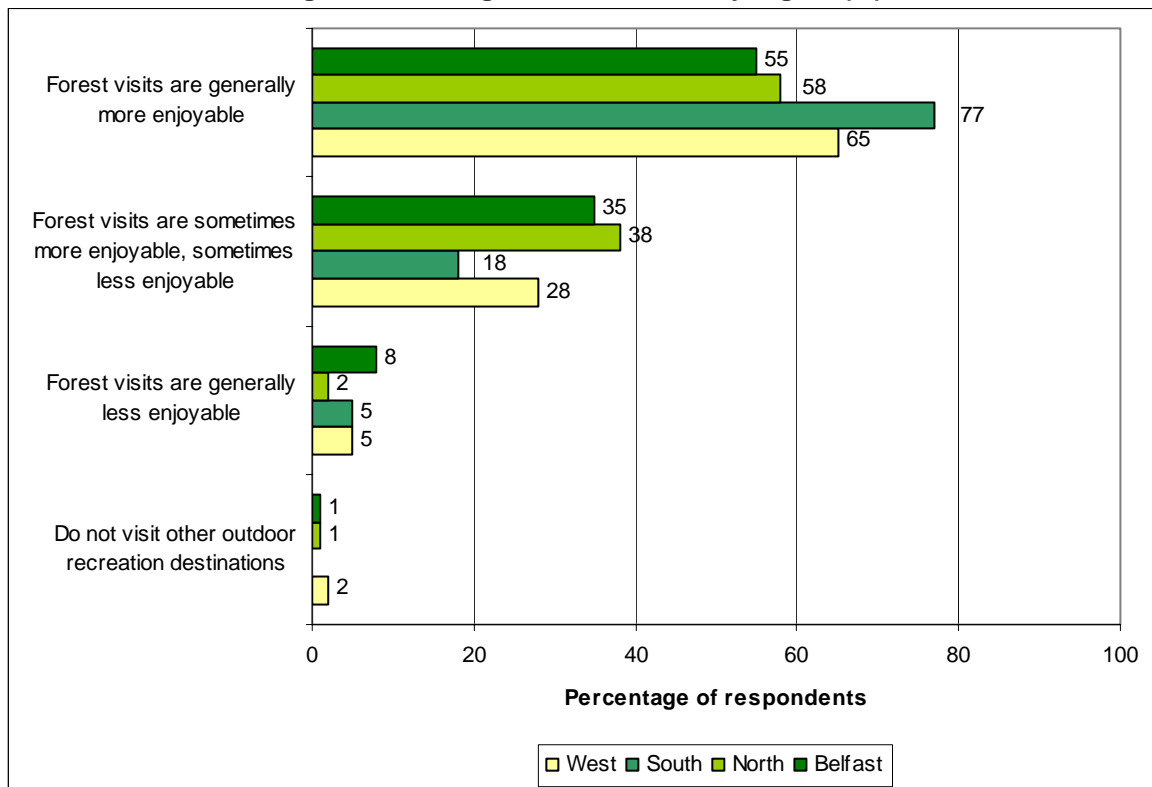
	NI 2005	NI 2007
Dog fouling	-	36
Dog control	-	13
Motor bikers	10	12
Cyclists	6	7
Children / Youths	4	5
Other motor vehicle drivers	3	3
Horse riders	2	3
Walkers	1	2
No problems with other forest visitors	80	54
Don't know	0	1

Base: All respondents who have visited forests or woodlands in last few years, NI 2005 (668), NI 2007 (633)

The following results identify, for the top three issues mentioned by respondents, those variables highlighted as significant in the regression analysis.

Geographic comparisons

Figure 20: Ratings of forest visits, by region (%)



Base: Respondents who gave a response (610)

Figure 20 shows that respondents from the South (77%) were more likely than those from elsewhere to find that their forest visits were generally more enjoyable than similar outdoor recreation destinations.

Respondents from the South were less likely to have problems with 'Motor bikers' (8%) than those from elsewhere (15%).

Residents from the most deprived areas were more likely to have had the enjoyment of their visit decreased by Dog Control (26%) than those from elsewhere (11%). Those from Belfast (18%) were similarly likely to have been upset by dog control (11% of respondents from outwith Belfast)

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents who thought their forest visits were generally more enjoyable than visits to similar outdoor recreation destinations, NI overall 67%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 59%; aged 35 to 64 70%; aged 65 and over 77%.

Respondents whose enjoyment of their visit decreased because of 'Dog Control', NI overall 13%:

- **Access to car** - with car 14%; without car 7%.

Respondents whose enjoyment of their visit decreased because of 'Motor Bikers', NI overall 12%:

- **Employment** - employed 14%; not employed 10%;
- **Gender** - male 15%; female 10%.

7.6 Information about woodlands to visit

'Asking friends/relatives' (45%), using a 'Tourist Information Centre' (29%) or 'a guide book or map' (16%) are the sources of information Northern Ireland 2007 survey respondents are most likely to be use to find out about woodlands not previously visited (Table 11).

The internet (37%) was the source most likely to be used by respondents in the UK 2007 survey, but this was not included as an option in the Northern Ireland 2007 survey. Of the small sample of 119 Northern Ireland respondents in the UK 2007 survey, 28% selected the internet.

The Northern Ireland surveys and those in GB 2005 and UK 2007 included different response options for the 'Forest Service premises and website' and the 'Forestry Commission', therefore direct comparison between these categories is not possible.

Table 11: Sources of information normally used for woodlands not previously visited (%)

	GB 2005	UK 2007	NI 2005	NI 2007
Ask friends/relatives	27	33	39	45
Tourist Information Centre	34	29	36	29
Guide book/map	28	26	16	16
Internet (<i>GB/UK surveys only</i>)	27	37	-	-
Forest Service premises or website	-	-	10	9
Forestry Commission (<i>GB</i>) / <i>Forest Service (NI)</i>	7	10	-	-
Library or Sports Centre	10	10	3	3
Other	1	2	4	6
No interest in visiting	16	8	4	1
Don't know	5	7	15	16

Base: All respondents - GB 2005 (4,000), UK 2007 (4,000), NI 2005 (1,004), NI 2007 (1,021)

The following results identify, for the top three sources of information about woodlands not previously visited, those variables highlighted as significant in the regression model.

Geographic comparisons

Respondents from the South (50%) were more likely than those from elsewhere (41%) to 'Ask friends or relatives' in order to find information about woods they had not previously visited.

Those from the North (19%) were less likely to use a 'Tourist Information Centre' to find information about woods they had not previously visited than those in the rest of the country (31%).

Respondents from the North (13%) and the South (13%) were less likely to use a guide book or map to find out about forests and woodlands they had not previously visited than those from the West (22%) or Belfast (18%).

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents who would use a 'Tourist Information Centre' to find information about forests or woodlands that they had not previously visited, NI overall 29%:

- **Access to car** - with car 32%; without car 19%;
- **Employment** - employed 32%; not employed 27%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 32%; not visited 22%.

Respondents who would use a 'Guide book or map' to find information about forests or woodlands they had not previously visited, NI overall 16%:

- **Access to car** - with car 18%; without car 10%;
- **Visited woodland** - visited forests or woodlands recently 18%; not visited 9%.

Appendix 1: UK survey: results for respondents from Northern Ireland

This appendix gives results for Northern Ireland and the UK as a whole, for questions which were asked in the 2007 UK survey but not in the Northern Ireland survey. Only 119 interviews were carried out in Northern Ireland so these results should be treated with caution. The full UK report is published separately.

Promotion Awareness

Which of these promotions have you heard of?

	Northern Ireland	UK
'Wood for Good' or other promotions for timber uses and products	3	3
Autumn Colours	2	5
Active Woods 'Naturally good for you'	4	4
Forest Education Initiative	4	7
Forest Schools	4	6
None	86	79
Don't Know	1	3

Base: UK (4,000), NI (119)

Involvement

Have you in the past 12 months been involved in...?

	Northern Ireland	UK
Been involved in an organised tree planting event	5	3
Been involved in voluntary work in connection with a woodland (e.g. physical work in a wood, admin, fundraising, running a group)	2	3
Become or are you a member of a community based woodland group such as 'Community Trust' or 'Friends of Group'	0	2
None	93	92
Don't know	0	1

Base: UK (4,000), NI (119)

Views on role of woodlands and on the standards of management

How much would you agree that...? (Where 1 is strongly agree and 5 is strongly disagree)

		1	2	3	4	5	Don't Know
Woodlands are places to reduce stress and anxiety	NI	22	65	6	5	1	2
	UK	34	51	10	3	1	2
Woodlands are places to exercise and keep fit	NI	24	55	10	9	1	1
	UK	28	50	12	8	1	1
Woodlands allow families to learn about nature	NI	34	59	3	2	0	2
	UK	43	51	4	1	0	1
Woodlands are good places to meet with friends and families	NI	20	45	22	11	1	1
	UK	22	44	19	12	1	2
Woodlands in the UK are an important of the country's natural and cultural heritage	NI	35	63	2	0	0	0
	UK	50	45	3	1	0	1
Woodlands play an important role in children's and young people's outdoor learning experience	NI	40	56	2	2	0	0
	UK	46	47	4	2	0	1
Woodlands in the UK are important in helping people to earn a living or make ends meet	NI	9	48	22	10	1	10
	UK	18	44	21	11	1	5
It is important to have a say in what happens in your local woodland	NI	27	60	8	4	0	2
	UK	34	51	10	3	0	2
Trees and woods make towns and cities more attractive places to live, work and bring up families	NI	40	53	4	1	2	0
	UK	47	45	4	2	0	1

Base: UK (4000), NI (119)

How would you rate the standard of forest management in the UK/ in your local area? (Where 1 is very high and 5 is very low)

		1	2	3	4	5	Don't Know
In the UK	NI	2	20	38	6	7	27
	UK	6	20	36	9	3	26
In your local area	NI	3	31	31	10	11	14
	UK	7	21	29	12	7	24

Base: UK (4000), NI (119)

Wood as a fuel

Do you ever use wood as a fuel in your home, either on its own or with other fuels?

	Northern Ireland	UK
Yes	15	8
No	85	91
Don't know	0	1

Base: UK (4,000), NI (119)

Do you get the wood by the truckload, or a few bags at a time, or gather it yourself?

	Northern Ireland	UK
By the truckload	5	14
A few bags at a time	54	43
Gather it yourself	41	40
Don't know	0	2

Base: Those who use wood as a fuel: UK (330), NI (18)

Do you use wood as a fuel regularly or only occasionally?

	Northern Ireland	UK
Regularly	63	31
Occasionally	37	68
Don't know	0	2

Base: Those who use wood as a fuel: UK (330), NI (18)

Is the wood the main fuel heating your home, or do you mainly use something else?

	Northern Ireland	UK
Main Fuel	0	9
Mainly use something else	100	90
Don't know	0	1

Base: Those who use wood as a fuel: UK (330), NI (18)

Appendix 2: Cross-breaks used in analysis

Table 12 details the cross-breaks used in the analysis for Northern Ireland. It also shows the proportion of the sample that fall into each category (e.g. for gender, 47% of respondents were male and 53% were female).

Table 12: Variables used in regression analysis

Variable	Divisions	Distribution of sample	Distribution of 16+ Northern Ireland pop ⁿ in 2001 Census ¹	Details (where necessary)
Geographic region	Belfast City	24%	24%	Includes most of Castlereagh and parts of Newtownabbey
	North	14%	14%	Antrim (excluding parts in Belfast)
	South	38%	35%	Armagh and Down (excluding parts in Belfast)
	West	25%	27%	Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone
Deprivation	Bottom 20 (1) Top 80 (2) Not Available (3)	15% 73% 11%	20% 80% -	From the Northern Ireland Index of Multiple Deprivation
Gender	Male (1) Female (2)	47% 53%	48% 52%	
Age	16 – 34 (1) 35 – 64 (2) 65+ (3)	35% 49% 16%	35% 35% 30%	Adults 16 and over were divided into 3 age classes
MRS social grades	ABC1 (1) C2DE (2)	49% 51%	43% 57%	ABC1: the chief income earner is a non-manual worker. C2DE: the chief income earner is a manual worker or is unemployed
Long-term illness or disability	Yes (1) No (0)	9% 91%	25% 75%	From question in survey
Work Status	Employed (1) Not employed (2)	54% 46%	51% 49%	Not employed includes students, retired adults and unemployed
Children in household	Yes (1) No (0)	36% 64%	39% 61%	Children under 16 in household
Car in household	Yes (1) No (0)	78% 22%		From question in survey
Visited woodland	Yes (1) No (0)	62% 38%		From question in survey
Denomination	Protestant (1) Catholic (2) Other / Refused (3)	57% 36% 7%	48% 39% 14%	From question in survey

Notes:

- 1.To aid in interpreting Table 13, the values used for each of the variables are detailed in italics
2. The deprivation and denomination code '3' responses shown above were included in the regression analysis.

¹ Northern Irish adult population (16 years+) 1,287,000

Description of variables

Market Research Society (MRS) social grades:

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

Geographic region:

Northern Ireland has been divided into four regions: 'Belfast City', 'North', 'South' and 'West'. Brief details of the boundaries for these regions can be found in Table 12.

Deprivation:

The deprivation ranking is taken from the Northern Ireland Multiple Index Measure, which takes into account 43 indicators in areas such as Health, Education, Employment, etc. in each Super Output Area (SOA's; groups of postcodes containing approximately 1800 people), which are ranked from 1 (most deprived) to 890 (least deprived). This survey contrasts the responses from those resident in the most deprived 20% of SOA's with those resident in the least deprived 80% of SOA's.

Appendix 3: Correlation matrix of variables used in analysis

Table 13 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.

More highly correlated variables include: age with work status, social grades with cars in household and long term illness or disability with work status. For this reason, when simply analysing percentages, consideration should be taken regarding the correlation between each of the variables and the effect they may have upon the interpretation of the results.

Table 13: Correlation coefficients of variables used in regression analysis

	Gender	Age	MRS social grades	Long-term illness or disability	Work status	Children in household	Cars in household	Visited woodlands	Denomination	Deprivation
Gender	1.00	-0.04	-0.01	0.03	0.14	0.14	0.05	0.04	-0.06	-0.02
Age		1.00	0.05	0.24	0.37	-0.29	0.06	-0.12	-0.14	-0.02
MRS social grades			1.00	0.09	0.22	-0.04	0.30	-0.12	0.05	-0.07
Long-term illness or disability				1.00	0.28	-0.13	0.08	-0.06	-0.09	-0.08
Work status					1.00	-0.14	0.22	-0.07	-0.07	-0.03
Children in household						1.00	-0.12	0.12	0.02	-0.04
Cars in household							1.00	-0.20	0.02	-0.10
Visited woodlands								1.00	0.00	0.05
Denomination									1.00	-0.03
Deprivation										1.00

Respondents from Belfast tend to have a lower religious denomination and those from the West have a higher value (where 1 = Protestant and 2 = Catholic).

Table 14: Correlation coefficients of religion denomination against region

	Belfast City	North	South	West
Denomination	-0.18	-0.15	-0.05	0.33

Note: Excludes 'Other / Refused' responses

Appendix 4: Millward Brown Ulster Sampling Method

METHODOLOGY

The Ulster Omnibus is a consumer omnibus survey that is conducted twice a month. It is a face-to-face survey amongst 1,000 adults aged 16+ years, using paper-based questionnaires.

Interviewing is carried out over 45 freshly selected sampling points. These sampling points are selected using a stratified random selection process that ensures representation in terms of regions of Northern Ireland.

Interviewers are set a quota to achieve for the interviews in each area, based on sex, age and social class. A range of standard questions are asked which include sex, age, social class, car in household, working status, presence of children, marital status, religion and ethnicity.

The questions presented in Appendix 6: Northern Ireland Questionnaire were asked in the Millward Brown Ulster Omnibus Survey carried out from 21st - 28th February 2007.

Appendix 5: TNS Omnibus Random Location Sampling Method

(UK 2007 survey)

SAMPLING FRAME

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

STRATIFICATION AND SAMPLE POINT SELECTION

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

SELECTION OF CLUSTERS WITHIN SAMPLING POINTS

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

DESIGN EFFECT

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

INTERVIEWING AND QUOTA CONTROLS

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

Appendix 6: Northern Ireland Questionnaire

<p>Q1.</p>	<p>You may have seen or read about Northern Ireland’s 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 (e.g. short rotation coppice) • Loss of ancient or native woodlands • Restoration of ancient or native woodlands • Creation of new native woodlands • Public rights of access to woodlands • Protests about roads or other developments on woodlands • Labelling/certification of wood products • Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change • Other (specify) • None of these
<p>Q 2.</p>	<p>In Northern Ireland public money is given to support forestry and 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 energy including wood as fuel • So we can buy less wood products from abroad • To make woods more accessible to all in the community • To help tackle climate change • To provide places for wildlife to live • To provide places to walk in • To provide places to cycle or ride horses in • 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 • Don’t know
<p>Q3</p>	<p>How much of an impact do you think climate change will have on Northern Ireland?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large impact • Slight impact • No impact at all • Don't know

<p>Q4</p>	<p>Would you agree or disagree with the following statements about the ways in which forests and woodlands in Northern Ireland can impact on climate change? ((1) strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, (5) strongly disagree, and don't know)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood • Cutting down forests and woodland makes climate change worse, even if they are replanted • Using wood for fuel is better for climate change than using fuels such as coal and gas • Using wood for fuel makes climate change worse because it releases carbon dioxide • Using wood for building is better for climate change than using materials such as concrete and steel • Northern Ireland could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees
<p>Q5</p>	<p>Do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding how Northern Ireland's forests and woodlands should be managed in response to the threat of climate change? ((1) strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, (5) strongly disagree, and don't know)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is nothing that anyone could do that would make any difference • No action is needed; let nature take its course • A lot more trees should be planted • Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced • Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates • More information should be provided about the ways in which wood can be used to lessen our impact on the environment
<p>Q6.</p>	<p>On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is very good and 5 is very poor, how good do you think Northern Ireland's forestry is at ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing opportunities for walking • Protecting the environment • Providing Northern Ireland's timber, board and paper needs • Providing homes for birds and other animals • Involving local communities • Supporting Northern Ireland's economy in rural areas <p>..and on the same scale, how would you rate the overall performance of Northern Ireland's forestry?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall rating
<p>Q7.</p>	<p>Do you think Northern Ireland produces more or less wood than it uses?</p> <p>Much more wood than it uses Much less wood than it uses Is self sufficient in its use of wood Don't know</p>
<p>Q8.</p>	<p>In the last 20 years, do you think the total amount of woodland in Northern Ireland has been increasing or decreasing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing • Decreasing • Staying about the same • Don't know

<p>Q9.</p>	<p>..and over the same period, do you think the amount of native woodlands such as oak and ash in Northern Ireland has been increasing or decreasing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing • Decreasing • Staying about the same • Don't know
<p>Q10.</p>	<p>a. Would you like to have more or less woodland in your part of Northern Ireland?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot more • A little more • Neither more nor less • Less • Don't know
<p>Q11.</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 • No <p>- if YES, then go to Q11b then Q12 then skip to Q14 - if NO, then go to Q13</p> <p>b. Did you visit woodlands in the countryside or woodlands in and around towns?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodlands in the countryside • Woodlands in and around towns • Both
<p>Q12.</p>	<p>a. On average how frequently did you visit forests or woodlands last summer, i.e. between April and September 2006?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several times per week • Several times per month • About once per month • Less often • Never <p>b. And how often this winter, i.e. since October 2006?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several times per week • Several times per month • About once per month • Less often • Never <p>c. How would you rate your visits to forests compared to visits to other similar outdoor recreation destinations, such as country parks, gardens and nature reserves?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest visits are generally more enjoyable • Forest visits are generally less enjoyable • Forest visits are sometimes more enjoyable, sometimes less enjoyable • Do not visit other outdoor recreation destinations • Don't know

	<p>d. During recent visits, did encounters with any of the following recreational users or situations decrease the enjoyment of your visit?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walkers • Cyclists • Horse riders • Motor bikers • Other motor vehicle drivers • Children/Youths • Dog fouling • Dog control • No problems with other forest visitors
<p>Q13.</p>	<p>What was the main reason that you did not visit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not interested in going (Go to Q15) • Don't have a car • 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 (specify)
<p>Q14.</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 • Forest Service premises or website • Tourist Information Centre • Library or Sports Centre • Other (specify) • No interest in visiting • Don't know
<p>Q15.</p>	<p>a. Are you aware that Forest Service consults on the management of your local public forest?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No <p>b. Have you ever been consulted about the management of your local forest?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No <p>c. Would you want to be consulted more on the management of your local public forest?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No

The questions below were included to enable the Forest Service to determine public opinion held by different groups about how it manages its forests. This will enable the Service to determine the effect its policies have on those groups.

Do you suffer from any disability (*long-term illness, health problems or disability which limits your daily activities or the work that you can do*)?

- Yes
- No

To which of the ethnic groups below do you belong?

- White
- Chinese
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Black African
- Black Caribbean
- Irish Traveller
- Other Ethnic Group (please specify)

To which of the following denominations do you belong?

- Protestant
- Catholic
- Other religion
- No Religion
- Refused