

Public Opinion of Forestry 2009, England

Results for England from the
UK 2009 survey of Public
Opinion of Forestry

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Prepared by: Natalie Jamieson and Gilly Diggins
Economics & Statistics, Forestry Commission,
231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

Enquiries: Jackie Watson 0131 314 6171
statistics@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Statistician: Gilly Diggins 0131 314 6218

Website: www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics

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Executive Summary

2009 survey

In 2009, three separate public opinion of forestry surveys were undertaken - across the UK (2,011 interviews), Wales (1,002 interviews) and Scotland (1,040 interviews).

This report presents the results from England residents (1,685 interviews) from the UK survey and, where appropriate, highlights changes over time by comparing the results with those from previous surveys. It highlights any differences in opinion amongst adults in England by geographic variables (i.e. regional and degree of rurality) and socio-demographic variables (e.g. gender and age).

Some of the questions asked in the 2009 UK survey were the same as those asked in 2007 (and in earlier years); however, a number of new questions were asked on topics such as child safety in woodlands and who the Government should look to for forestry advice.

Separate reports provide similar results for the UK, Wales and Scotland.

Forests, woodlands and trees in the media

77% of respondents had seen or read about forests, woodlands or trees on the television, radio or in the newspapers in the last 12 months. The most common response, given by 48% of respondents, was 'Birds and other animals in woodlands'.

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

Forest management

98% of respondents selected at least one public benefit as a good reason to support forestry with public money; the top three reasons given were 'to provide places for wildlife to live', 'to help tackle climate change' and 'to provide places for recreation'. In general, support for each benefit was higher in 2009 than in previous years.

Respondents who were working, had visited forests or woodlands recently and who were in social grades ABC1 were all more likely than those who were not working, had not visited forests or woodlands or who were in social grades C2DE to give the majority of options as being good reasons for supporting forestry with public money.

When asked about what was important to the public generally (not specially linked to public money) at least 90% agreed with the statements that woodlands 'are important places for wildlife', 'are places where people can relax and de-stress', 'are places where people can have fun and enjoy themselves', 'make areas nicer places to live' and 'are places where people can learn about the environment'. When presented with similar statements relating to how woodlands were important to themselves, at least 90% of respondents agreed with the same topics except 'they are places where I can learn about the environment.'

The Forestry Commission had the most support as the organisation who should have the most influence as a source of forestry advice for the government (70% of respondents indicated this). Environmental organisations and trusts interested in wildlife (60%) followed as the second most popular group.

Climate change

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 84% of respondents agreed that 'Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood'. However, 50% of respondents incorrectly agreed that 'The UK could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees'.

A set of statements was presented to respondents to ascertain their views on the way in which UK forests should be managed in response to climate change. The responses received reflect a general belief that forestry is a method that can be used to mitigate the effects of climate change. For example, 91% of respondents agreed that 'A lot more trees should be planted' while only 13% agreed that 'There is nothing that anyone could do that would make any difference'.

Wood as a fuel

10% of respondents said that they used wood as a fuel in their home, either on its own, or with other fuels. Of these, 58% classified themselves as an occasional user, while only 12% use it as the main fuel for heating their home.

Woodland recreation

77% of respondents had visited a woodland or forest in the last few years, a significantly higher proportion than in 2005 (65%) or 2003 (66%) but similar results to 2007 (76%). Of those respondents who had not visited, 31% gave their main reason for not visiting as 'I'm too busy/not enough time'. Those who had visited also gave this reason for not visiting more often (40%).

60% of woodland visitors had been to a woodland or forest at least once a month in the summer of 2008 (down from 68% in the 2007 survey). 33% visited at least once a month in the winter of 2008/09 (down from 40% in the 2007 survey).

Of those adults who had visited woodlands in the last few years, 84% visited woodlands in the countryside and 61% visited woodlands in and around towns. One third of visitors reported visiting National Trust woodlands (34%) while 26% reported visiting Forestry Commission woodland.

The most common activities undertaken by those who visited woodland in the last few years was exercise (74%), watching nature (55%) and relaxing or spending time thinking (53%).

96% of those who had visited woodland agreed that they would visit the woodland or forest they visited most often again, while 94% said they would recommend it as a place to visit to a friend or relative.

Engagement with Forest Issues

9 per cent of respondents said that, in the last 12 months, they had either been involved with a community based woodland group (2%), woodland voluntary work (3%), a tree planting event (2%) or been involved or consulted about plans for managing or using woodland in their area (3%).

Around four-fifths of respondents who have children under the age of 15 agreed that 'woods are good places for children to learn about the outdoors', while 7 in 10 thought 'playing in woods is good for children's health'. Two-fifths would be unhappy if their children played alone in woods without an adult present, while 8% thought woods are dangerous places that children should avoid.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Forestry Commission has conducted biennial surveys of public attitudes to forestry and forestry-related issues since 1995. The surveys have evolved since then as follows:

- In the initial surveys, a representative sample of 2,000 adults across Great Britain (GB) was surveyed;
- In 2001, with more interest in country-level results within GB, additional questions were asked of representative samples of 1,000 adults in each of Scotland and Wales;
- Information has also been collected for Northern Ireland in the past through UK wide surveys in 2003 and the separate Northern Ireland surveys (1,000 adults) carried out in 2005 and 2007;
- In 2009 three separate surveys were carried out for the UK, Scotland and Wales. Some questions were asked in all three of the surveys conducted in 2009, but an increasing number of questions have become survey-specific.

The table below is a summary of the previous surveys and presents the approximate number of adults interviewed for each country. England results are a subset of the UK or GB survey.

	2003	2005	2007	2009
UK	4,000 adults	No survey	4,000 adults	2,000 adults
GB	No survey	4,000 adults	No survey	No survey
England	3,412 adults	3,367 adults	3,339 adults	1,685 adults
Wales	1,000 adults	1,000 adults	1,000 adults	1,000 adults
Scotland	1,000 adults	1,000 adults	1,000 adults	1,000 adults
Northern Ireland	No survey	1,000 adults	1,000 adults	No survey

1.2 This report

This report presents the views of the respondents in England to the UK survey, and highlights any changes over time by comparing the 2009 results with previous surveys. It also highlights any differences in opinion amongst adults in England by region, degree of rurality and by socio-demographic variables (e.g. gender and age).

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

West and London. The remaining two regions (East Anglia and the South East) are not standard GORs¹.

As the majority of respondents to the UK survey resided in England (84%), the England results presented here are similar to the results for the UK as a whole. Separate reports present the results from the surveys undertaken across the UK and in Wales and Scotland.

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

1.3 Survey design

The England 2009 survey results presented in this report are taken from the GfK NOP Random Location Omnibus survey carried out from the 5th to 10th March 2009. The survey was based on a representative sample of 2,011 adults (aged 16 or over) across the UK. They were selected from within 175 randomly selected sample points. More details of the sample method are given in Appendix 3: GfK NOP Method.

The England 2007 survey data were obtained from the TNS CAPI Omnibus survey while the 2003 and 2005 survey data were obtained from the TNS RSGB General Omnibus. These surveys, which had a higher sample size of 4,000 adults for UK/GB, employed a different survey design so comparisons should be taken with care.

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

- For questions asked in 2009 to the whole England sample of 1,685, the range of uncertainty around any figure should be no more than $\pm 3.6\%$. In previous years when the England sample was larger (i.e. around 3,300) the range of uncertainty should be no more than $\pm 2.5\%$.
- For responses of subgroups, i.e. questions not posed to the whole sample of respondents, the range of uncertainty is correspondingly higher. For example the uncertainty for statistics broken down by gender should be no more than $\pm 5.1\%$; the North East region accounts for 6% of the sample (103 respondents), so the uncertainty should be no more than $\pm 14.5\%$, and the South East accounts for

¹ East Anglia in this report is the standard GOR "East of England" minus Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex. The South East reported in this report is the standard GOR "South East" plus Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex.

² <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-5zyl9w>

23% of the sample (384 respondents) so the confidence interval around results should be no more than $\pm 7.5\%$.

- For questions asked to whole samples, differences of more than 4.4% between the 2009 results and earlier results (i.e. 2007 or 2005) are statistically significant.

Results are shown as percentages. These have been individually rounded so may not always sum to the totals provided.

1.4 Regression analysis

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

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

The geographic and socio-demographic sections only report results derived from the regression models. Each region was input into the model as a separate variable, therefore only the results from those regions identified as significant in the model are reported. Similarly the level of rurality was entered as three separate dummy variables to indicate whether the location was urban, rural or mixed urban/rural.

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. See Appendix 2: Correlation matrix of variables used in analysis.

2 Forests in the media

2.1 Forests, woodlands and trees in the media

Respondents were asked whether they had seen or read about UK forests, woods or trees on the television, radio or in the newspapers in the last twelve months. The most commonly identified topic was 'Birds and other animals in woodlands' with nearly half of all respondents (48%) having seen or read something about this in the last 12 months (Table 1). The other topics commonly identified in 2007 ('Forests as a place to visit', 'Tree planting' and 'Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change') remain high on the list in 2009.

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

	2003	2005	2007	2009
Birds and other animals in woodlands	22	25	34	48
Tree planting	23	22	30	45
Forests and woodlands as places to visit	19	19	25	39
Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change ¹	.	.	35	38
Flowers and other plants in woodlands	15	15	22	33
Cycling or mountain biking ²	.	.	.	32
Public rights of access to woodlands	19	23	24	31
Protests about roads or other developments on woodlands	21	19	23	31
Tree pests and diseases	9	10	13	28
Loss of ancient or native woodlands	15	14	20	27
Restoration of ancient or native woodlands	12	12	17	21
Community woodlands/new local woodlands	10	10	14	21
Wood for fuel/ (short rotation coppice)	8	7	11	20
Creation of new native woodlands	12	11	15	19
Live music ²	.	.	.	16
Labelling/certification of wood products	7	6	10	13
At least one topic	48	50	64	77

Base: All respondents in England - 2003 (3,412), 2005 (3,367), 2007 (3,339), 2009 (1,685)

1- New topic in 2007.

2- New topic in 2009.

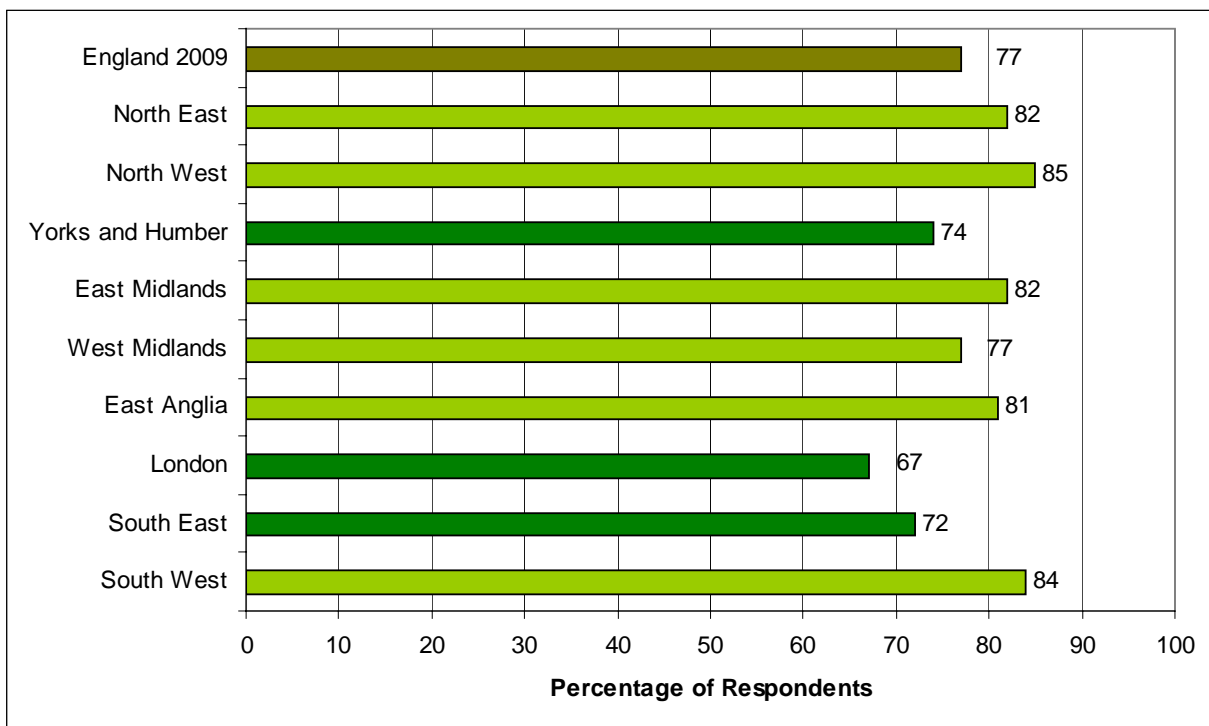
Overall in 2009, there was an increase in recognition across all topics, with a significantly larger proportion of respondents (77%) having seen or read about at least one topic than in 2007 (64%). However, as new topics have been introduced in

2009 we need to compare the same topics year on year. Thus, if we remove the topics 'cycling or mountain biking' and 'live music' that were introduced in 2009, on a like-for-like basis, 75% of respondents in 2009 recognised at least one of the topics in comparison with 64% in 2007.

Geographic comparisons

As shown in Figure 1, respondents in London, the South East and Yorkshire and the Humber were less likely than those living elsewhere to have recalled at least one topic. In addition, respondents from mixed rural/urban areas (74%) were less likely to have seen or read about one of the topics than those in other areas.

Figure 1: Respondents who have seen or read about at least one topic about forests or woodlands in the last 12 months, by region (%)



Base: All respondents in England (1,685)

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

Table 2 presents the proportion of respondents by region for the top five most recognised categories. Respondents who reside in the North West (59%) and those living in rural areas (62%) were more likely than those living elsewhere to have seen or heard about 'Birds and other animals in woodlands'.

Respondents living in the North East were more likely to have heard about 'Tree planting' (58%), compared with those in other regions and those in the South East who were least likely to have heard about the topic (37%).

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

	North East	North West	Yorks/Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East Anglia	London	South East	South West	England
Birds and other animals in woodlands	55	59	43	54	46	53	38	45	53	48
Tree planting	58	50	40	50	49	47	38	37	50	45
Forests and woodlands as places to visit	42	45	39	45	42	47	28	34	46	39
Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change	47	47	31	41	40	30	32	32	48	38
Flowers and other plants in woodlands	31	42	29	38	28	34	24	32	38	33
At least one topic	82	85	74	82	77	81	67	72	84	77

Base: All respondents in England 2009 (1,685)

Residents in London (28%) and the South East (34%) were least likely to have seen or heard about 'Forests and woodlands as places to visit'.

Those in Yorkshire and the Humber, London and the South East were least likely to have heard about 'Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change'. Those living in mixed urban/rural areas were less likely to have seen or heard about 'Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change' (34%) and 'Flowers and other plants in woodlands' (31%) than those in other areas.

Socio-demographic comparisons

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

Respondents who had seen or read about at least one of the topics, England overall 77%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 (71%); aged 35+ (80%);
- **Social grade** - ABC1 82%; C2DE 71%;
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 82%, not visited 60%;
- **Working status** – working 76%, not working 78%.

Respondents who had seen or heard about 'Birds and other animals in woodlands', England overall 48%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 54 (44%); aged 55+ (57%);
- **Marital Status** – married 47%, not married 49%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 54%; C2DE 42%;
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 54%, not visited 30%.

Respondents who had seen or heard about 'Tree Planting', England overall 45%:

- **Social grade** - ABC1 49%; C2DE 40%;
- **Disability/health problem** – with disability/health problem 48%, without 44%;
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 50%, not visited 28%.

Respondents who had seen or heard about 'Forests and woodlands as places to visit', England overall 39%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 (32%); aged 35 + (42%);
- **Social grade** - ABC1 48%; C2DE 29%;
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 48%, not visited 29%.

Respondents who had seen or heard about 'Forests and woodlands helping to tackle climate change', England overall 38%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 (31%); aged 35+ (41%);
- **Social grade** - ABC1 45%; C2DE 31%;
- **Index of Deprivation** –15% most deprived (27%), other (40%);
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 43%, not visited 21%.

Respondents who had seen or heard about 'Flowers and other plants in woodlands', England overall 33%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 54 (27%), aged 55+ (43%);
- **Social grade** - ABC1 39%; C2DE 26%;
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 38%, not visited 16%;
- **Index of Deprivation** –15% most deprived (22%), other (35%).

3 Forest management

3.1 Benefits of Forestry

In the UK, public money is used to support forestry for public benefit. Respondents were asked to select the reasons why they believed public money should be used to support forestry in such a way. In 2009, 98% of respondents agreed that there was at least one reason why public money should be used to plant new woodlands and manage existing woodland for public benefit.

Table 3: Whether respondent believes public benefits are good reasons to support forestry with public money (%)¹

	2003	2005	2007	2009
To provide places for wildlife to live	71	67	72	80
To help tackle climate change	.	.	62	68
To help prevent the 'greenhouse effect' and global warming	58	56	.	.
To provide places for recreation (such as walking, cycling, horse-riding) ²	77	60	63	63
To improve the countryside landscape	57	53	56	61
To provide places for families to play ⁴	.	.	.	59
To support the economy in rural areas	46	42	45	55
To provide places for relaxation and stress-relief ³	.	44	48	54
To provide renewable energy including wood as fuel	32	29	37	51
To make woods more accessible to all in the community	41	36	38	48
To provide places for learning ⁴	.	.	.	48
To improve the appearance of towns and cities ⁵	41	38	41	44
So that the UK can buy less wood products from abroad	33	30	32	42
To restore former industrial land	35	31	34	37
To provide timber for sawmills and wood processing	28	24	27	28
At least one reason	93	89	93	98

Base: All respondents in England - 2003 (3,412), 2005 (3,367), 2007 (3,339), 2009 (1,685)

NOTE – Respondents could give more than one option.

- 1- Change in question wording, to 'for public benefit' from 'because it is believed it is believed to be of public benefit' in 2009 may prompt a positive response.
- 2- Responses to 'To provide places to walk in' and 'To provide places to cycle or ride horses in' from previous years were amalgamated to match new category in 2009.
- 3- Wording in previous surveys was 'To provide healthy places for physical activity and stress release'.
- 4- New topic in 2009.
- 5- Wording prior to 2009 'To create pleasant settings for new and existing developments around towns'.

The most popular reasons for supporting forestry with public money are 'To provide places for wildlife to live' (80%), 'To help tackle climate change' (68%) and 'To provide places for recreation' (63%) (Table 3). In general, a higher proportion supported each of the reasons given in the list than in previous years.

Geographic comparisons

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

	North East	North West	York/Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East Anglia	London	South East	South West	England
To provide places for wildlife to live	82	86	81	86	82	78	65	79	85	80
To help tackle climate change	66	70	68	75	63	61	67	68	72	68
To provide places for recreation (such as walking, cycling, horse-riding)	67	68	65	75	65	58	46	64	68	63
To improve the countryside landscape	61	63	61	73	63	61	46	62	65	61
To provide places for families to play	65	64	61	65	53	48	51	55	69	59
At least one topic	97	97	96	100	98	96	96	98	100	98

Base: All respondents in England 2009 (1,685)

Respondents from London (65%), East Anglia (78%) and the South East (79%) were less likely than those living elsewhere to give "To provide places for wildlife to live" as a reason to support forestry with public money.

Those in the East Midlands (75%) were most likely to give "To help tackle climate change" as a reason to support forestry with public money than other areas. Those in urban areas (69%) were also more likely to give this as a reason.

Respondents from London (46%), East Anglia (58%) and the South East (64%) were less likely than respondents in other English regions to give "To provide places for recreation" as a reason.

Respondents in the East Midlands were the most likely to give "To improve the countryside landscape" as a reason for supporting forestry with public money (73%), while those in London (46%) were least likely to have cited this.

Respondents from East Anglia (48%), West Midlands (53%) and the South East (55%) were least likely to cite 'provide places for families to play' as a good reason.

Socio-demographic comparisons

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

Respondents who gave at least one reason to support forestry with public money, England overall 98%:

- **Age group** - aged 35 to 54 (97%), aged 16 to 34 or 55+ (98%).
- **Visited woodland** – visited recently 99%, not visited 93%;
- **Working status** – working 98%, not working 96%.

Respondents who gave 'To provide places for wildlife to live' as a good reason to support forestry with public money, England overall 80%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 (75%), aged 35+ (82%);
- **Ethnic group** – white 82%, not white 65%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 85%; C2DE 74%;
- **Visited woodland** – visited recently 84%, not visited 66%;
- **Working status** – working 83%, not working 75%.

Respondents who gave 'To help tackle climate change' as a good reason to support forestry with public money, England overall 68%:

- **Age group** - aged 35 to 54 (77%), aged 16 to 34 or 55+ (63%).
- **Marital status** - married 72%, not married 62%
- **Social grade** - ABC1 75%; C2DE 61%;
- **Visited woodland** – visited recently 73%, not visited 51%;
- **Working status** – working 73%, not working 60%.

Respondents more likely to give 'To provide places for recreation' as a good reason to support forestry with public money, England overall 63%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 (57%); aged 35+ (66%);
- **Ethnic group** – white 66%, not white 40%;
- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived (48%), other (66%);
- **Social grade** - ABC1 69%; C2DE 57%;
- **Visited woodland** – visited recently 69%, not visited 44%;
- **Working status** – working 67%, not working 58%.

Respondents more likely to give 'To improve the countryside landscape' as a good reason to support forestry with public money, England overall 61%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 (53%), aged 35+ (65%);
- **Children** – at least one child in household 56%, no children 63%;
- **Visited woodland** – visited recently 65%, not visited 49%.

Respondents more likely to give 'To provide places for families to play' as a good reason to support forestry with public money, England overall 59%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 to 34 (54%), aged 35+ (61%);
- **Children** – at least one child in household 63%, no children 56%;
- **Ethnic group** – White 60%, not white 44%;
- **Gender** – male 54%, female 63%;
- **Marital status**- married 63%, not married 52%;
- **Visited woodland** – visited recently 63%, not visited 44%.

3.2 Importance of forestry to the public and individuals

New questions included in the 2009 survey asked respondents to state their level of agreement with a set of statements regarding the purpose and use of woodlands and forests. Respondents were asked to indicate their opinion twice, once for the importance of woodlands and forests to the public and again for the importance to them personally.

The statements here differ slightly from the questions asked in 3.1 as they are asking for opinion on the importance of forests and woodland generally, rather than asking why public money should be used to support the use of them.

3.2.1 Importance of Woodland and Forests to the Public

Figure 2 shows the level of agreement by respondents with each of the statements relating to importance of woodland to the public.

Over 50% of respondents agreed (selected 'Strongly agree' or 'Agree') with each of the statements and many more respondents agreed with the statements than disagreed (selected 'strongly disagree' or 'disagree').

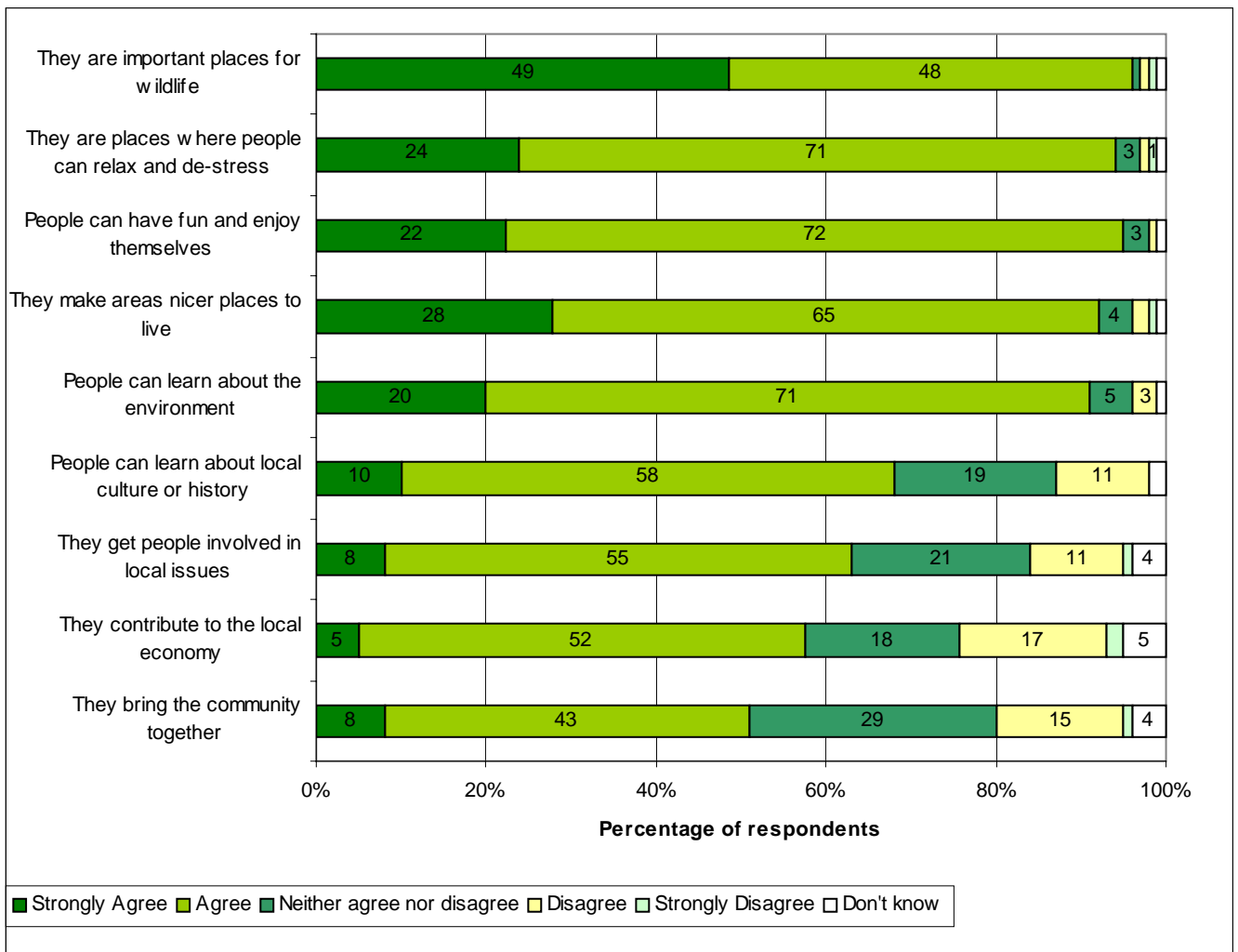
The highest levels of agreement were with the following statements:

- 'They are important places for wildlife' (97% agreed);
- 'They are places where people can relax and de-stress' (95% agreed);
- 'They are places where people can have fun and enjoy themselves' (94% agreed).

The lowest levels of agreements were with the following statements:

- 'They bring the community together' (51% agreed);
- 'They contribute to the local economy' (57% agreed).

Figure 2: Reasons woodlands and forests are important to the public



Base: All respondents in England 2009 (1,685)

Geographic comparisons

Table 5 shows that respondents from the North West were less likely to agree that forests and woodlands were important to the public as 'They are important places for wildlife' (95%).

Those from the North West, East Midlands and East Anglia were less likely to agree with the statement 'They are places where people can relax and de-stress' than those in other areas. Those from urban areas (93%) were also less likely to agree with this statement than those from other areas.

When asked if 'They are places where people can have fun and enjoy themselves', respondents from Yorkshire and the Humber (97%) and the West Midlands (98%) were more likely than those from other regions to agree with this statement.

Respondents from the North West (89%) were less likely to agree that 'they make areas nicer places live' while respondents from mixed urban/ rural areas were less likely (64%) to agree that 'they are places where people can learn about local culture or history'.

Respondents in East Anglia were more likely to agree with the statement 'they get people involved in local issues e.g. planning processes, volunteering etc' (82%), while respondents in the North East were more likely to agree that 'They contribute to the local economy' (71%) than those in other regions.

The highest levels of agreement with the statement 'they bring the community together' were from respondents in London (62%), the North West (55%) and the South East (52%).

Table 5: Levels of agreement to why woodlands and forests are important to the public, by region (%)

	North East	North West	Yorks/Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East Anglia	London	South East	South West	England
They are important places for wildlife	98	95	98	98	100	98	93	98	96	97
They are places where people can relax and de-stress	95	91	94	92	96	93	92	97	97	95
They are places where people can have fun and enjoy themselves	94	92	97	93	98	96	93	94	93	94
They make areas nicer places to live	94	89	91	95	92	94	91	95	94	93
They are places where people can learn about the environment	95	89	92	91	93	91	93	90	88	91
They are places where people can learn about local culture or history	66	70	71	69	68	65	71	67	60	68
They get people involved in local issues e.g. planning processes, volunteering etc	63	66	58	64	58	82	65	63	56	63
They contribute to the local economy	71	54	66	53	54	56	59	56	52	57
They bring the community together	46	55	45	44	49	56	62	52	45	51

Base: All respondents in England 2009 survey (1,685)

Socio-demographic comparisons

The following results identify those variables highlighted as significant in the regression model. These show results for the proportions that agreed and therefore selected “Strongly agree” or “Agree” for each of the statements.

Respondents who said ‘They are important places for wildlife’ is a reason why forests are important to the public, England overall 97%:

- **Disability/health problem** – with disability/health problem 98%, without 97%;
- **Ethnic group** – white 98%, not white 91%;
- **Marital status** – married 98%, not married 95%;
- **Social grade** - ABC1 98%, C2DE 96%.

Respondents who said ‘They are places where people can relax and de-stress’ is a reason why forests are important to the public, England overall 95%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 – 34 (92%), aged 35+ (96%);
- **Marital status** – married 97%, not married 91%;
- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived (95%), other (94%);
- **Social grade** - ABC1 96%; C2DE 93%.
- **Visited woodland** – visited recently 96%, not visited 90%.

Respondents who said ‘They are places where people can have fun and enjoy themselves’ is a reason why forests are important to the public, England overall 94%:

- **Working status** – working 95%, not working 94%;
- **Ethnic group** – white 95%, not white 89%;
- **Social grade** – ABC1 96%, C2DE 93%;

Respondents who said ‘They make areas nicer places to live’ is a reason why forests are important to the public, England overall 93%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 – 34 (89%), aged 35+ (94%);
- **Children** – at least one child in household 91%, no children 94%;
- **Working status** – working 94%, not working 92%;
- **Ethnic group** – white 94%, not white 85%;
- **Visited woodland** – visited recently 94%, not visited 88%.

Respondents who said ‘They are places where people can learn about the environment’ is a reason why forests are important to the public, England overall 91%:

- **Gender** – male 88%, female 93%;

Respondents who said ‘They are places where people can learn about local culture or history’ is a reason why forests are important to the public, England overall 68%:

- **Gender** – male 65%, female 71%;
- **Social grade** – ABC1 66%, C2DE 70%;

Respondents who said 'They get people involved in local issues e.g. planning processes, volunteering etc', England overall 63%:

- **Gender** – male 59%, female 66%;
- **Age group** – aged 16-54 (61%), aged 55+ (67%);
- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived (67%), other (62%);
- **Visited woodland** – visited recently 65%, not visited 57%

Respondents who said 'They contribute to the local economy' is a reason why forests are important to the public, England overall 57%:

- **Age group** - aged 16 – 34 (61%), aged 35+ (55%);
- **Gender** – male 54%, female 60%;
- **Social grade** – ABC1 54%, C2DE 61%;

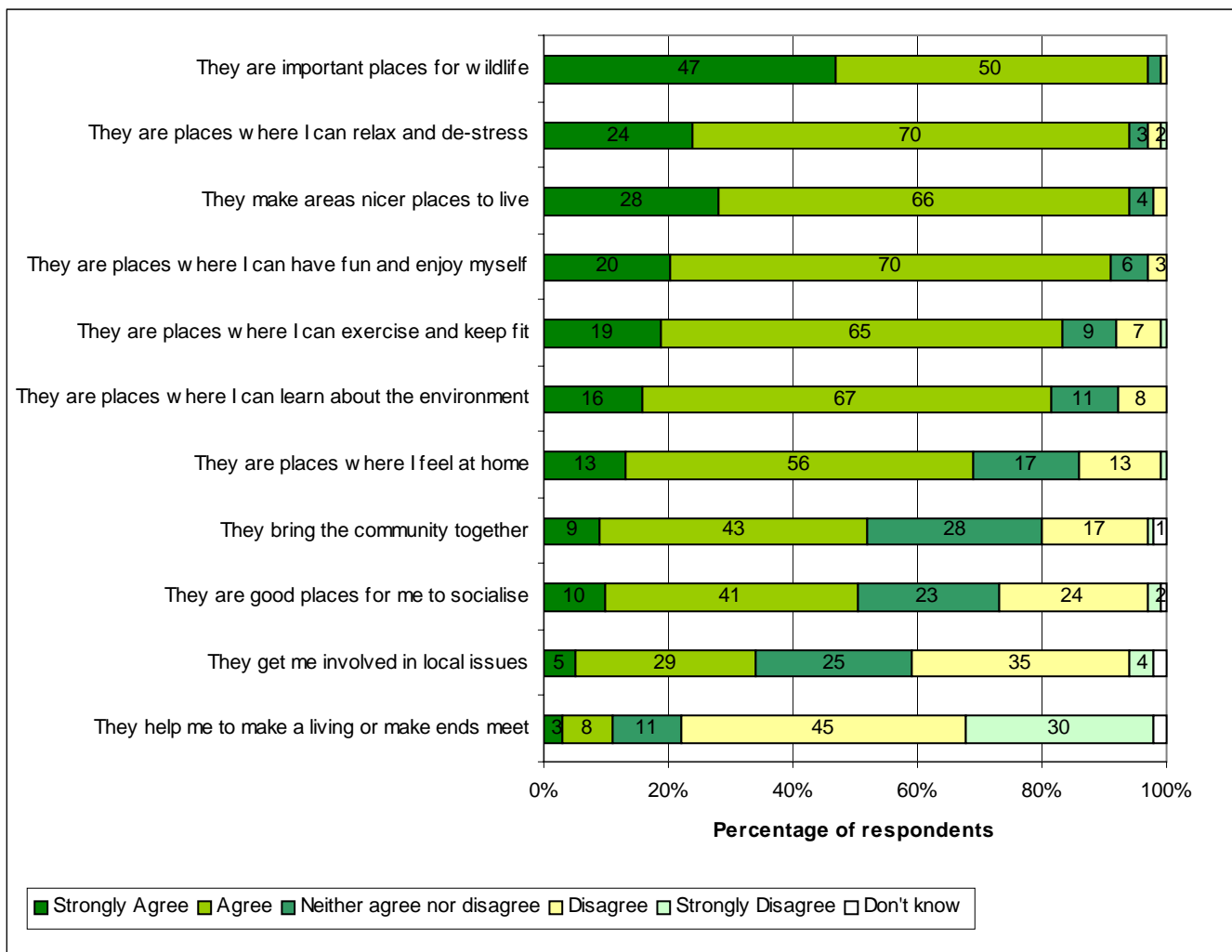
Respondents who said 'They bring the community together' is a reason why forests are important to the public, England overall 51%:

- **Age group** – aged 16-54 (51%), aged 55+ (53%);
- **Gender** – male 48%, female 55%;
- **Social grade** – ABC1 47%, C2DE 56%;
- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived (61%), other (50%);
- **Visited woodland** – visited recently 53%, not visited 47%;

3.2.2 Importance of woodland to individual respondents

Later in the survey, respondents were asked if they had visited woodland in the last few years (chapter 6). Those who had visited were also asked to state their level of agreement with a list of reasons as to why woodlands and forests are **important to themselves**.

Figure 3: Reasons woodlands and forests are important to the respondent



Base: All respondents who visited woodlands in the last few years (1291)

As shown in figure 3, over 50% of respondents who had visited woodlands in the last few years agreed (selected 'Strongly agree' or 'Agree') with **most** of the statements but the statements that had the highest level of agreement were as follows:

- 'They are important places for wildlife' (97% agreed)
- 'They are places where I can relax and de-stress' (94% agreed)
- 'They make areas nicer places to live' (93% agreed)

The lowest levels of agreements were with the following statements:

- 'They help me to make a living or make ends meet' (12% agreed)
- 'They get me involved in local issues' (34% agreed)

Geographic comparisons

Table 6: Levels of agreement to why woodlands and forests are important to the respondent, by region (%)

	North East	North West	Yorks/ Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East Anglia	London	South East	South West	England
They are important places for wildlife	100	93	99	96	99	98	93	98	97	97
They are places where I can relax and de-stress	95	94	93	95	92	98	91	94	94	94
They make areas nicer places to live	94	91	92	97	93	98	95	91	94	93
They are places where I can have fun and enjoy myself	91	87	98	89	93	97	95	87	91	90
They are places where I can exercise and keep fit	88	81	85	88	84	93	84	78	87	84
They are places where I can learn about the environment	86	80	83	79	79	83	78	80	81	81
They are places where I feel at home	70	66	75	69	62	75	60	71	74	69
They bring the community together	45	58	46	50	45	64	60	55	44	52
They are good places for me to socialise	37	48	56	53	47	52	64	45	58	51
They get me involved in local issues	26	28	36	33	21	47	47	38	26	34
They help me to earn a living or make ends meet	5	5	9	16	6	19	18	16	7	12

Base: All respondents who visited forests in the last few years (1,291)

Respondents, who had visited woodlands in the last few years, from Yorkshire and the Humber (99%) were more likely than those from other regions to agree (select 'Strongly agree' or 'Agree') that woodlands and forests are important to them

personally as 'They are important places for wildlife'. Respondents from urban areas (95%) were less likely to agree with this statement.

The highest level of agreement with the statement 'they are places where I can have fun and enjoy myself' was in Yorkshire and the Humber (98%), East Anglia (97%), London (95%) and the West Midlands (93%). Respondents in the South East were the least likely to agree that 'they are places where I can exercise and keep fit' (78%), while those in rural areas (92%) were more likely to agree with this statement than those in other areas.

Respondents in the East Midlands (62%) were less likely to agree that 'they are places where I feel at home' as were those from urban areas (65%). Respondents in East Anglia (64%), London (60%), the North West (58%) and the South East (55%) agreed that 'they bring the community together', a higher level than those in other regions.

When asked if respondents felt that woodlands and forests got them 'involved in local issues', those who had visited woodland in East Anglia, London and the South East were most likely to agree, while those from mixed urban/rural areas were less likely to agree (26%). 64% of respondents from London agreed that 'they are good places for me to socialise' compared with 37% from the North East.

The highest levels of agreement with 'they help me to earn a living or make ends meet' were in East Anglia, London, the East Midlands and the South East. Those living in mixed urban/rural areas were less likely (6%) than those in other areas to agree with this statement.

Socio-demographic comparisons

The following results identify those variables highlighted as significant in the regression model. These show results for the proportions that agreed and therefore selected "Strongly agree" or "Agree" for each of the statements.

Respondents who agreed 'They are important places for wildlife', England overall 97%:

- **Ethnic Group** – white 98%, not white 91%;
- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived 99%, other 97%;
- **Marital Status** – married 98%, not married 96%.

Respondents who agreed 'They are places where I can relax and de-stress', England overall 94%:

- **Age** – aged 16-34 (91%), 35+ (95%);
- **Marital Status** – married 96%, not married 91%;
- **Children**- at least on child in household 92%, no children 95%.

Respondents who agreed 'They make areas nicer places to live', England overall 93%:

- **Children** – at least one child in household 89%, no children 95%;
- **Ethnic Group** – white 94%, not white 87%.

Respondents who agreed 'They are places where I can have fun and enjoy myself', England overall 90%:

- **Age group** – aged 16-54 (93%), aged 55+ (87%);
- **Ethnic Group** – white 91%, not white 88%.

Respondents who agreed 'They are places where I can exercise and keep fit', England overall 84%:

- **Disability/health problem** – with disability/health problem 76%, without 85%;
- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived (89%), other (83%).

Respondents who agreed 'They are places where I can learn about the environment', England overall 81%:

- **Gender** – male 76%, female 84%;
- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived (90%), other (79%).

Respondents who agreed 'They are places where I feel at home', England overall 69%:

- **Sex** – male 64%, female 73%;
- **Age group** – aged 16-34 (58%), 35+ (74%);
- **Ethnic group** – white 70%, not white 53%;
- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived (71%), other (69%).

Respondents who agreed 'They bring the community together', England overall 52%:

- **Gender** – male 47%, female 57%;
- **Social grade** – ABC1 47%, C2DE 58%;
- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived (64%), other (50%).

Respondents who agreed 'They are good places for me to socialise', England overall 51%:

- **Gender** – male 45%, female 56%;
- **Social Grade** – ABC1 55%, C2DE 47%.

Respondents who agreed 'They get me involved in local issues', England overall 34%:

- **Social Grade** – ABC1 36%, C2DE 31%;
- **Ethnic group** – white 32%, not white 51%.

Respondents who agreed 'They help me to earn a living or make ends meet', England overall 12%:

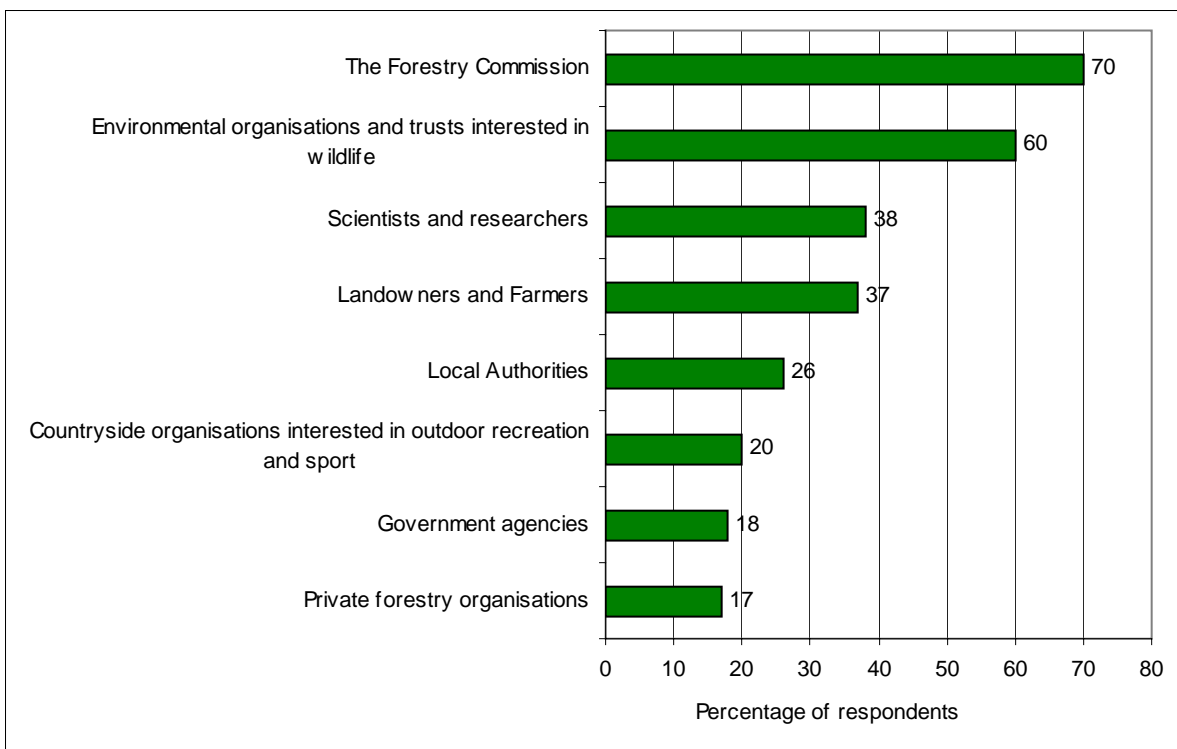
- **Social grade** – ABC1 9%, C2DE 15%;
- **Work Status** – working 14%, not working 8%;
- **Married** – married 13%, not married 9%.

3.3 Sources of forestry advice for the Government

In attempt to discover who the public think should have the most influence on forestry advice for the Government, a new question was added to the 2009 survey. Respondents were asked to rank their top three from a list of public bodies and other groups based on order of importance (Most Important, Second Most Important and Third Most Important).

Overall, when taking all choices into account, the Forestry Commission is shown as having the most support as a source of forestry advice for the government (Figure 4) with 70% of respondents rating the organisation as either their first, second or third choice. The second most popular option was 'Environmental organisations and trusts interested in wildlife' (60%), followed by 'Scientists/Researchers' (38%) and 'Landowners and Farmers' (37%).

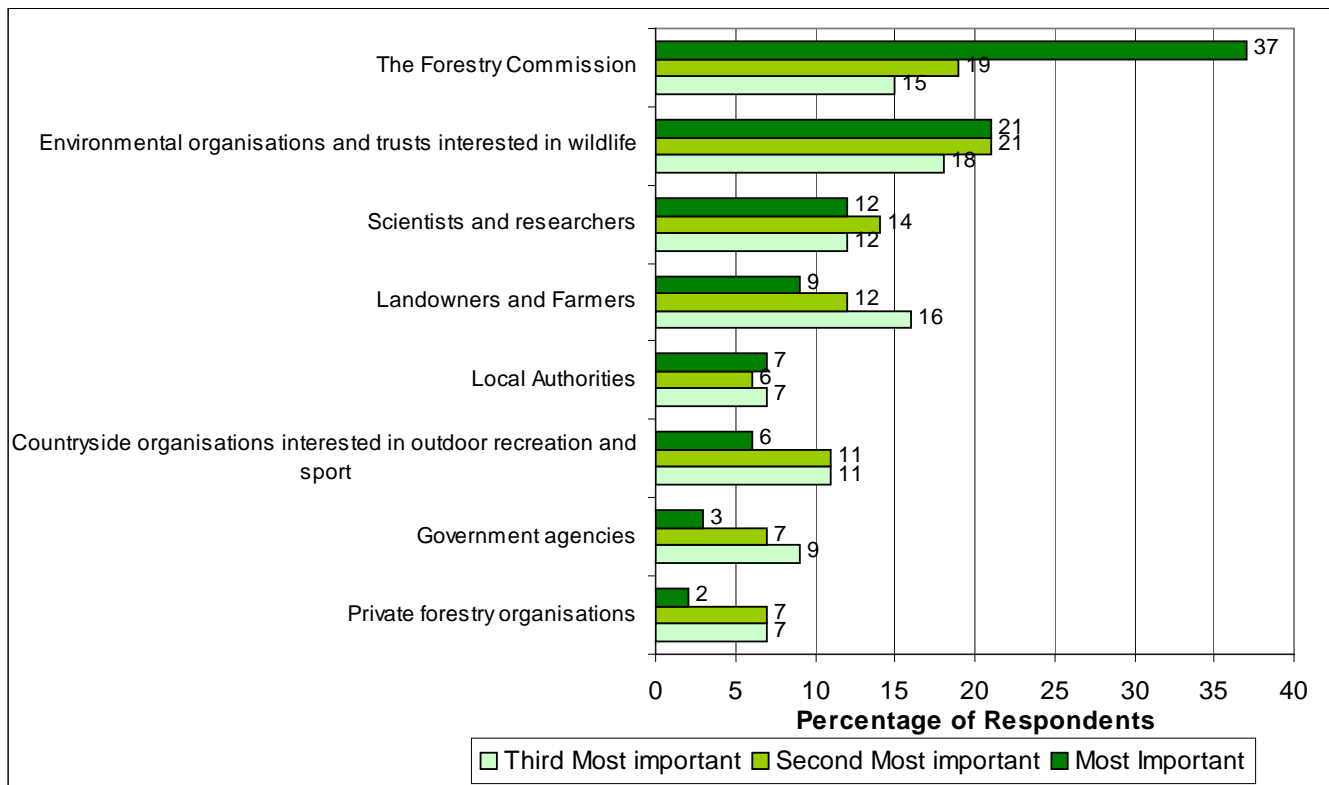
Figure 4: Who should have influence as a source of forestry advice for the government overall (% of respondents who rated groups as their first, second or third choice)



Base: All respondents in England 2009 (1,685)

When looking at individual choices, 37% of respondents ranked the 'Forestry Commission' as their top choice, followed by 'environmental organisations and trusts interested in wildlife' (21%) and 'scientists and researchers' (12%). 'Environmental organisations and trusts interested in wildlife' were the most popular second and third choices.

Figure 5: Who should have the most influence as a source of forestry advice



for the government by first, second and third choice (% of respondents)

Base: All respondents in England 2009 (1,685)

Geographic comparisons

Table 7: Who should have influence as a source of advice for the government overall by region (% of respondents who rated groups as their first, second or third choice)

	North East	North West	Yorks/ Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East Anglia	London	South East	South West	England
The Forestry Commission	84	73	72	66	71	59	55	75	78	70
Environmental Organisations and trusts interested in wildlife	51	59	59	67	61	67	57	64	55	60
Scientists and Researchers	45	35	35	32	40	41	34	40	48	38
Landowners and Farmers	37	41	42	49	41	40	25	30	43	37

Base: All respondents in England 2009 (1,685)

Those respondents in the North East were most likely to rank the Forestry Commission as a source of forestry advice for Government (84%) (ranked as either 'Most Important', 'Second Most Important', 'Third Most Important') than other parts of England. In contrast, respondents in London, the East Midlands and East Anglia were least likely to cite the Forestry Commission. Those living in urban areas (67%) were less likely to have ranked the Forestry Commission as important as a source of forestry advice for Government compared with respondents living in other areas.

Those in London (25%) and the South East (30%) were least likely to rank the group 'Landowners and Farmers' as important compared with other regions as were those from urban areas (34%).

Socio-demographic comparisons

The following results identify those variables highlighted as significant in the regression model.

Respondents who indicated, through one of their three choices, that the 'The Forestry Commission' should have influence as a source of forestry advice for the Government, England overall 70%:

- **Age Group** – aged 16–34 (56%), 35+ (77%);
- **Social Grade** – ABC1 76%, C2DE 65%;
- **Working status** – working 72%, not working 68%;
- **Ethnic Group** – white 73%, not white 49%.

Respondents who indicated, through one of their three choices, that 'Environmental Organisations and trusts interested in wildlife' should have influence as a source of forestry advice for the Government, England overall 60%:

- **Social Grade** – ABC1 65%, C2DE 56%;
- **Age Group** – aged 16–34 (57%), 35+ (62%);
- **Children** – at least one child in household 65%, no children 58%;
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 64%, not visited 48%.

Respondents who indicated, through one of their three choices, that 'Scientists and Researchers' should have influence as a source of forestry advice for the Government, England overall 38%:

- **Social Grade** – ABC1 44%, C2DE 32%;
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 41%, not visited 31%;
- **Gender** – male 41%, female 36%.

Respondents who indicated, through one of their three choices, that 'Landowners and Farmers' should have influence as a source of forestry advice for the Government, England overall 37%:

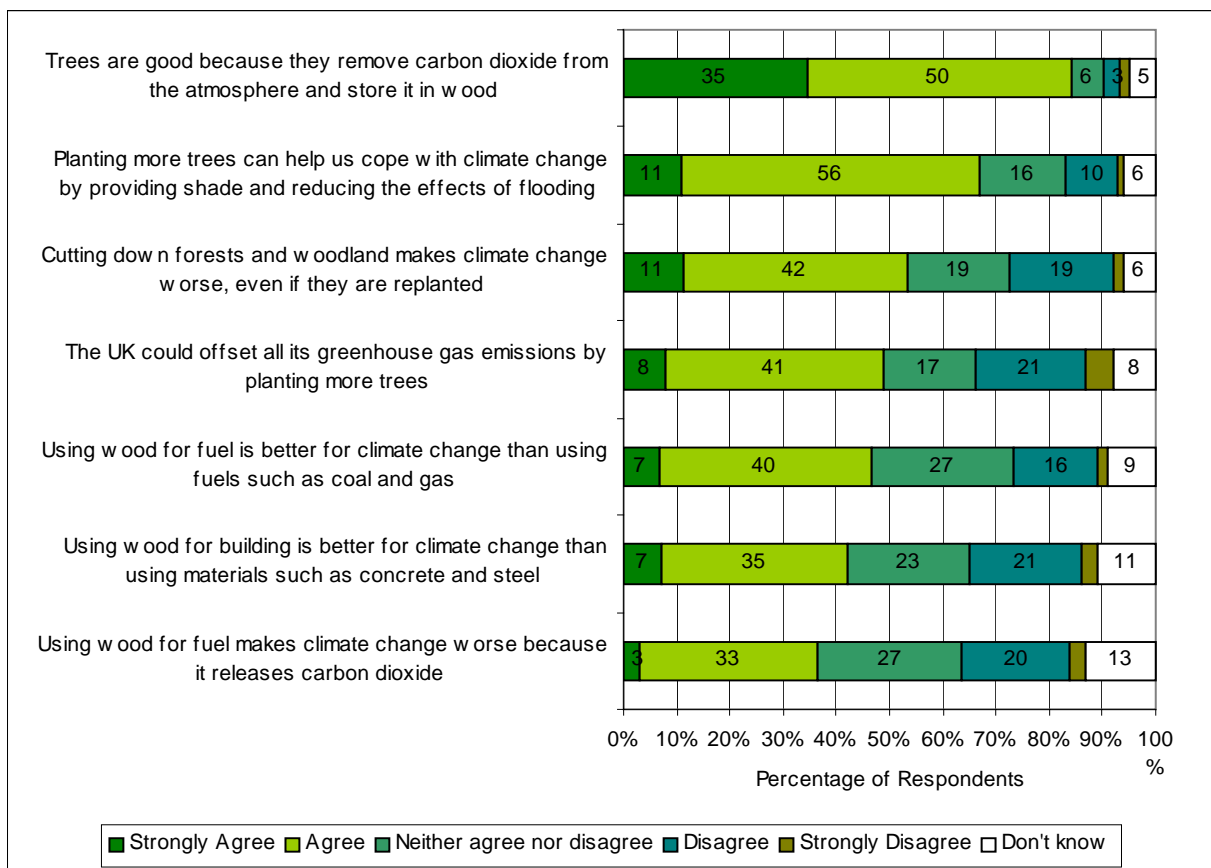
- **Children** – at least one child in household 29%, no children 41%;
- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived (43%), other (36%);
- **Disability/health problem** – with disability/health problem 46%, without 35%.

4 Climate change

4.1 Woodlands' impact on climate change

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

Figure 6: Ways in which forests and woodlands can impact on climate change (%)



Base: All respondents in England - 2009 (1,685)

Figure 6 shows that the highest levels of agreement, where respondents selected 'Strongly agree' or 'Agree', were with the following statements:

- 'Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood' (84% agreed);
- 'Planting more trees can help us cope with climate change by providing shade and reducing the effects of flooding' (67% agreed);
- 'Cutting down forests and woodland makes climate change worse, even if they are replanted' (54% agreed).

The lowest levels of agreement were with the following statements:

- 'Using wood for fuel makes climate change worse because it releases carbon dioxide' (37% agreed);
- 'Using wood for building is better for climate change than using materials such as concrete or steel' (42% agreed).

It is helpful to consider the numbered statements shown above in figure 6 alongside the following common expert opinion³:

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

³ Statements and principles from the Forestry Commission 'Forestry and climate change' website:
<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-6umkar>

Geographic comparisons

Table 8: Levels of agreement with statements about ways in which forests can impact on climate change, by region (%)

	North East	North West	Yorks/Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East Anglia	London	South East	South West	England
Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood	81	89	77	81	84	88	80	88	88	84
Planting more trees can help us cope with climate change by providing shade and reducing the effects of flooding	66	66	64	68	59	58	78	70	61	67
Cutting down forests and woodlands for timber makes climate change worse, even if they are replanted	55	51	45	48	54	53	66	55	48	54
The UK could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees	48	52	47	46	46	55	62	47	43	50
Using wood for fuel is better for climate change than using fuels such as coal and gas	62	40	42	46	46	57	50	45	49	47
Using wood for building is better for climate changes than using materials such as concrete and steel	46	40	39	47	44	49	41	37	49	42
Using wood for fuel makes climate change worse because it releases carbon dioxide	29	35	31	39	32	49	51	35	27	37

Base: All respondents in England 2009 (1,685)

Respondents from the North West were most likely to agree with the statement 'Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood' (89%) than those in other parts of the country. Respondents from urban areas were less likely than those from other areas to agree with this statement (82%).

Respondents in London were more likely than those in other regions to agree with the statement 'Planting more trees can help us cope with climate change by providing

shade and reducing the effects of flooding' (78%). Those from the West Midlands (59%) and East Anglia (58%) were less likely to agree with this statement.

Those in London were also most likely to agree with the statements 'Cutting down forests and woodlands for timber makes climate change worse, even if they are replanted' (66%). This is in contrast with those in rural areas (42%) who were less likely to agree with this statement in comparison with others.

Respondents in London (62%), East Anglia (55%) and the South East (47%) were more likely to agree with the statement 'The UK could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees' than those in other regions in England.

Those respondents in the North East were more likely to agree with the statement 'Using wood for fuel is better for climate change than using fuels such as coal and gas' (62%). Those in rural areas (57%) were also more likely to agree with this statement.

Around half of respondents from London (51%) and East Anglia (49%) agreed that 'Using wood for fuel makes climate change worse because it releases carbon dioxide', and are the regions most likely to agree with the statement.

Socio-demographic comparisons

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

Respondents agreeing that 'Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood', England overall 84%:

- **Children** – at least one child in household 81%, no children 86%;
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 87%, not visited 76%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Planting more trees can help us cope with climate Change, by providing more shade and reducing the effects of flooding', England overall 67%:

- **Age Group** – aged 16–54 (64%), 55+ (73%).

Respondents agreeing that 'Cutting down forests and woodland for timber makes climate change worse, even if they are replanted', England overall 54%:

- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived (61%), other (52%);
- **Working status** – working 52%, not working 56%.

Respondents agreeing that 'The UK could offset greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees', England overall 50%:

- **Social grade** – ABC1 41%, C2DE 59%;
- **Ethnic Group** – white 47%, not white 66%;
- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived (66%), other (46%);
- **Working status** – working 46%, not working 52%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Using wood for building is better for climate Change, than using materials such as concrete and steel', England overall 42%:

- **Age Group** – aged 16–34 (36%), aged 35+ (45%);
- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived (47%), other (41%);
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 44%, not visited 34%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Using wood for fuel makes for climate change Worse because it releases carbon dioxide', England overall 37%:

- **Social grade** – ABC1 34%, C2DE 39%;
- **Ethnic Group** – white 35%, not white 50%;
- **Gender** – male 41%, female 32%;
- **Children** – at least on child in household 40%, no children 35%.

There were no significant socio-demographic variables to the statement 'Using wood for fuel is better for climate change than using fuels such as coal and gas'.

4.2 Forest management in response to climate change

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

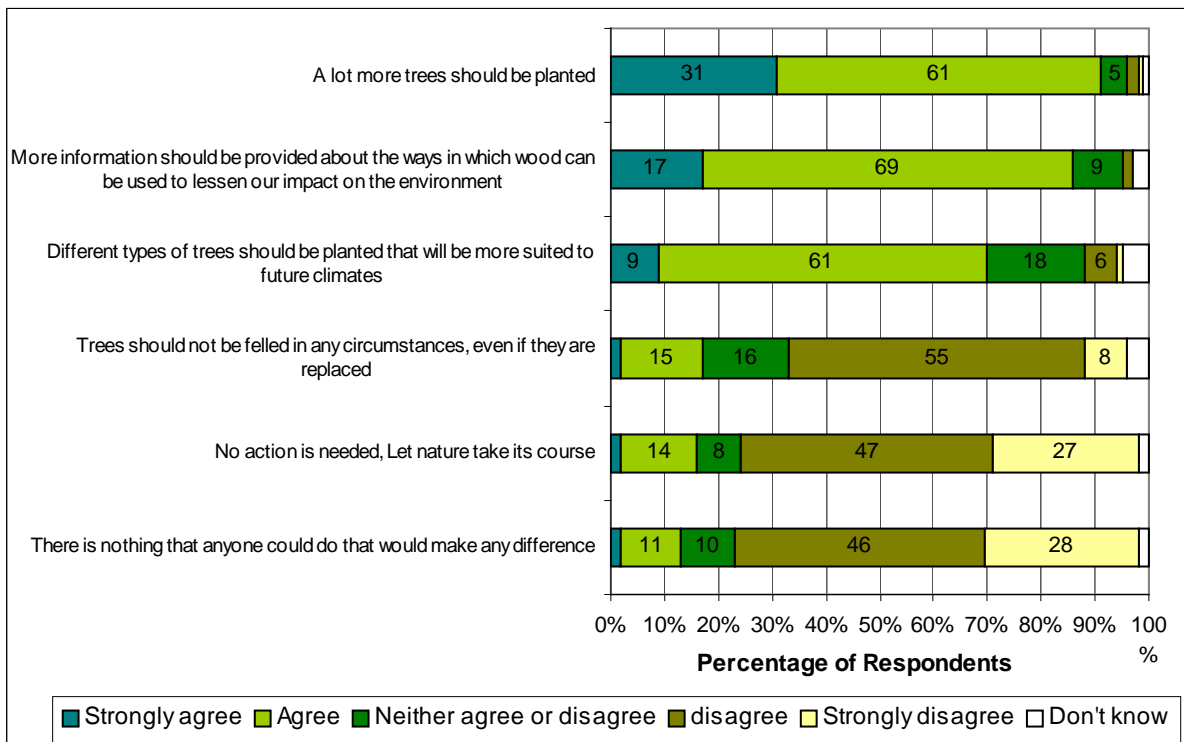
The majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that:

- 'A lot more trees should be planted' (91%);
- 'More information should be provided about the ways in which wood can be used to lessen our impact on the environment' (86%); and that
- 'Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates' (70%).

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

- 'There is nothing anyone could do that would make any difference' (74%);
- 'No action is needed; let nature take its course' (74%);
- 'Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced' (62%).

Figure 7: Management of UK forests in response to the threat of climate change (%)



Base: All respondents in England 2009 (1,685)

Geographic comparisons

Table 9: Levels of agreement with statements about the management of woodlands in response to Climate Change, by region (%)

	North East	North West	Yorks/Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East Anglia	London	South East	South West	England
A lot more trees should be planted	89	90	94	92	90	94	89	95	86	91
More information should be provided about the ways in which wood can be used to lessen our impact on the environment	84	83	86	89	83	84	84	89	90	86
Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates	73	71	70	70	65	67	74	73	63	70
Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced	16	18	17	14	13	22	41	11	9	18
No action is needed; let nature take its course	13	19	16	17	15	16	17	14	13	16
There is nothing that anyone could do that would make any difference	13	13	10	15	13	21	19	13	7	13

Base: All respondents in England 2009 (1,685)

Respondents in the South East (95%) were more likely than those in other regions to 'Strongly agree' or 'agree' with the statement 'A lot more trees should be planted', while those in East Anglia (22%) or London (41%) were most likely to say 'Trees should not be felled in any circumstance, even if they are replaced'.

Those living in urban areas were more likely to agree that 'Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates' (73%) than those in other areas.

With the statement that had the lowest level of agreement nationally, 'There is nothing anyone could do that would make any difference', those in East Anglia were most likely to agree (21%).

Socio-demographic comparisons

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

Respondents agreeing that 'A lot more trees should be planted', England overall 91%:

- **Age** – aged 35-54 (93%), aged 16-34 or 55+ (90%);
- **Social grade** – ABC1 91%, C2DE 92%;
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 93%, not visited 86%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates', England overall 70%:

- **Social grade** – ABC1 69%, C2DE 72%.

Respondents agreeing that 'Trees should not be felled in any circumstances', even if they are replaced', England overall 18%:

- **Age** – aged 16-34 (24%), 35+ (15%);
- **Ethnic Group** – white 15%, not white 43%;
- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived (35%), other (15%);
- **Gender** – male 17%, female 19%;
- **Social grade** – ABC1 11%, C2DE 25%;
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 15%, not visited 28%.

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

- **Age** – aged 16-54 (13%), aged 55+ (20%);
- **Ethnic Group** – white 15%, not white 23%;
- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived (26%), other (14%);
- **Social grade** – ABC1 12%, C2DE 20%;
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 11%, not visited 22%.

Respondents agreeing that 'There is nothing anyone could do that would make any difference', England overall 13%:

- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived (20%), other (12%);
- **Social grade** – ABC1 11%, C2DE 17%;
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 11%, not visited 21%.

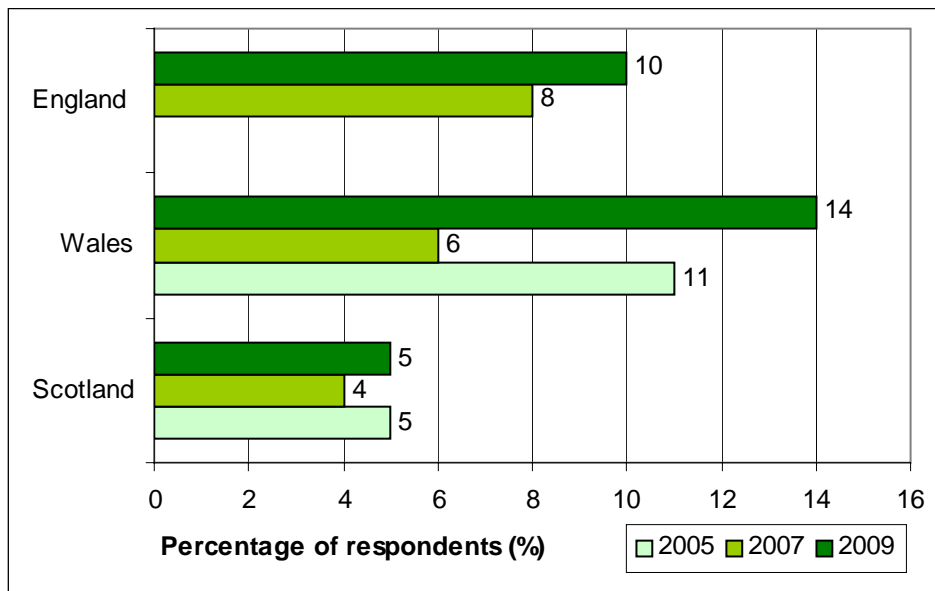
There were no significant socio-demographic variables to the statement 'More information should be provided about the ways in which wood can be used to lessen out impact on the environment'.

5 Wood as a Fuel

5.1 Prevalence of using wood as a fuel

As in 2007, all respondents to the UK survey were asked to state whether or not they use wood as a fuel in their home, either on its own or with other fuels. The same questions were also placed in the Scotland and Wales opinion surveys in 2007 and 2009. Prior to 2007, wood fuel questions were added to the 2005 Wales opinion survey and in a wood fuel consumption study in Scotland (2004/05).

Figure 8: Use of wood as a fuel in the home (%)



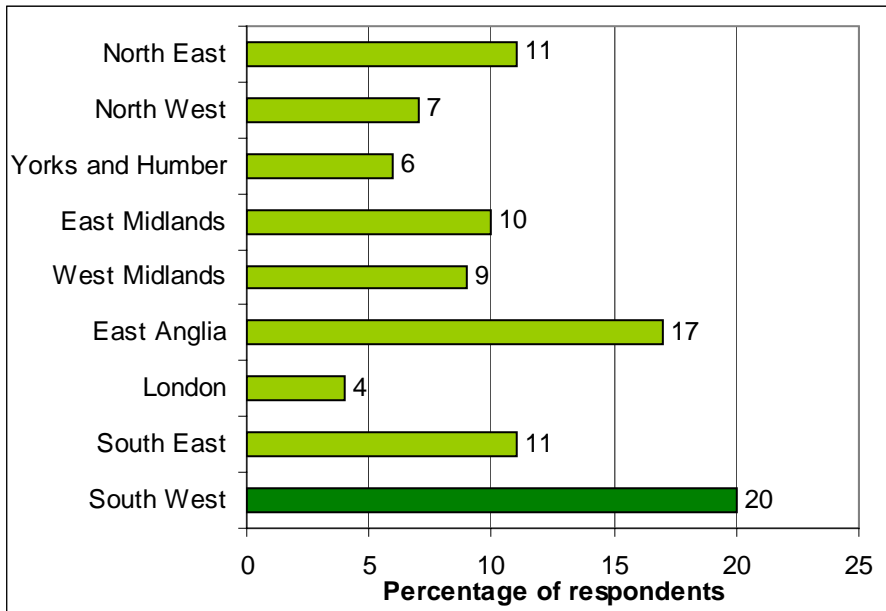
All respondents in – England 2009 (1,685), England 2007 (3,339), Wales 2009 (1,002), Wales 2007 (953), Wales 2005 (1,001), Scotland 2009 (1,040), Scotland 2007 (1,007), Scotland 2004/5 wood fuel consumption study (4,006)

Geographic comparisons

Respondents in the South West were the most likely to use wood as a fuel in their home (20%) compared with 10% of respondents in England.

Respondents living in rural areas were more likely (19%) than those living in other areas to use wood as a fuel.

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



Base: All respondents in England 2009 survey (1,685)

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

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents using wood as a fuel in their home, England overall 10%:

- **Age** – aged 16-34 6%, aged 35+ 12%;
- **Social grade** – ABC1 12%, C2DE 7%;
- **Ethnic Group** – white 11%, not white 2%;
- **Disability/health problem**–with disability/health problem 6%, without 11%.

Respondents who said they used wood as a fuel were asked three further questions. The following was reported:

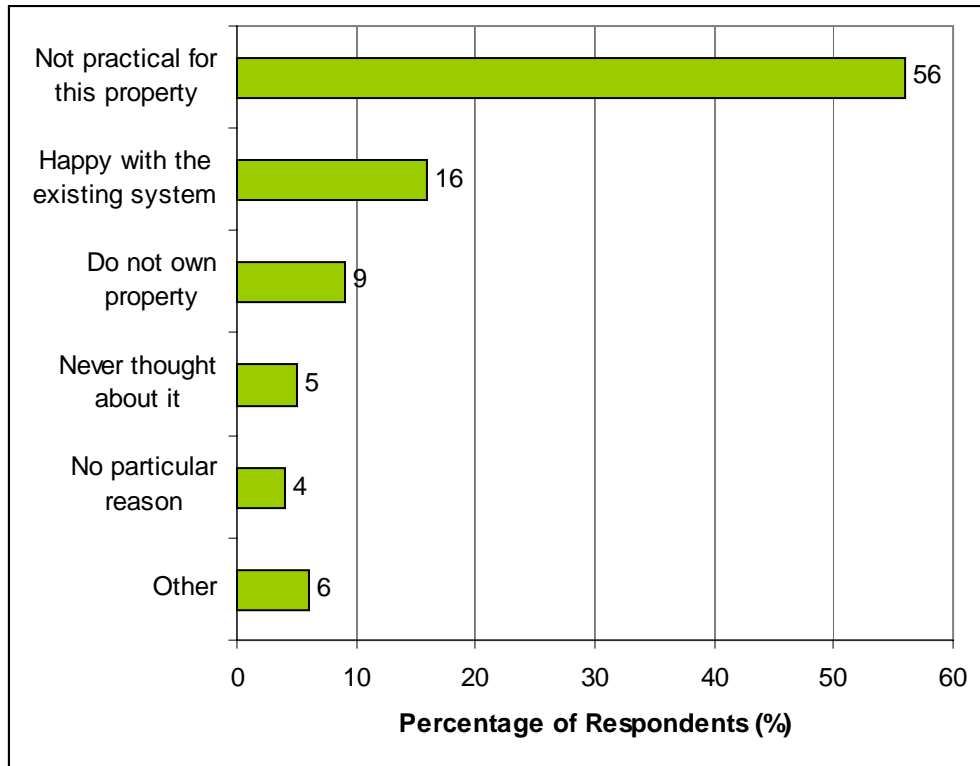
- Four in ten respondents (42%) who used wood as a fuel gathered their wood themselves while the rest bought it 'A few bags at a time' (30%) or received it by the truck load (18%);
- The majority (58% of those who reported using wood as a fuel) said they use wood as a fuel occasionally while 42% would class themselves as regular users;
- 12% of wood fuel users said they use wood as the main fuel for heating their home, while the rest mainly use something else.

As there were only 167 respondents who used wood as a fuel, no regional or socio-demographic analyses were carried out on subsequent questions.

5.2 Reasons for not using wood as a fuel

In 2009, respondents who said they did not use wood as a fuel were asked to give the main reason why they did not use wood as a fuel.

Figure 10: Reason respondents do not use wood as a fuel in their home (%)



Base: All Respondents who do not use wood as a fuel (1,518)

The most common reasons cited by respondents who do not use wood as a fuel, either on its own or with other fuels, were that it was not practical for their property (56%), followed by 'Happy with the existing system' (16%) and that they did not own the property (9%).

6 Woodland Recreation

6.1 Proportion visiting woodland

In 2009, just over three-quarters (77%) of respondents said they had visited forests or woodlands in the last few years for walks, picnics or other recreation, representing a significant increase over the results in 2005 but similar to the results in 2007.

Table 10: Visited woodland in last few years (%)

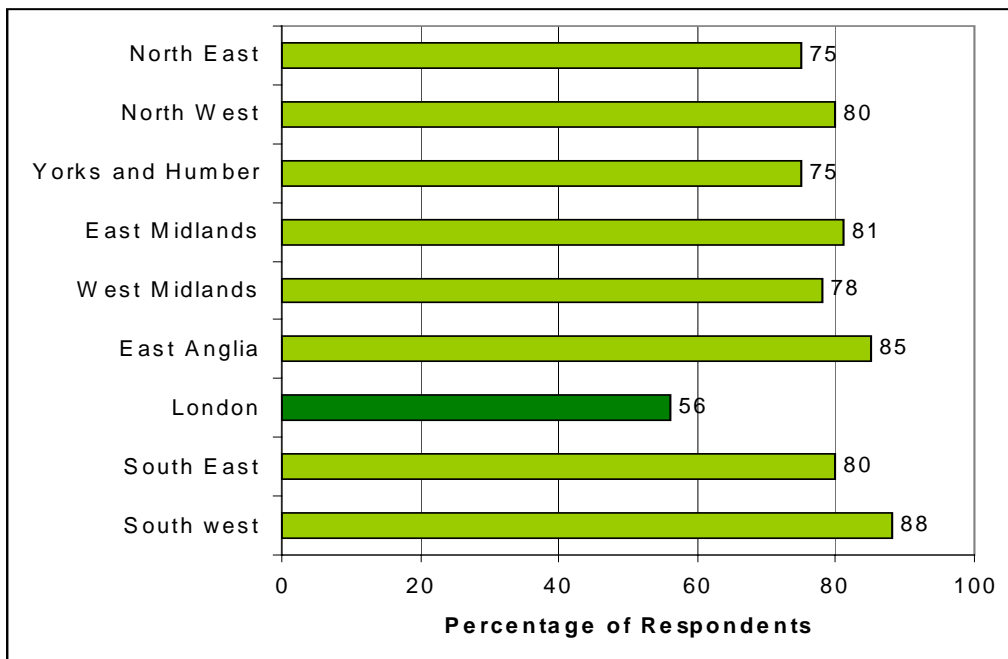
	England 2003	England 2005	England 2007	England 2009
Visited Woodland in last few years	66	65	76	77

Base: All respondents in England 2003 (3,412), 2005 (3,367), 2007 (3,339) and 2009 (1,685)

Geographic Comparisons

Figure 11 shows that respondents living in London were significantly less likely (56%) than those from the rest of England to have visited forests or woodlands in the last few years.

Figure 11: Visited woodlands in last few years, by region (%)



Base: All respondents in England in 2009 (1,685)

Note: Dark green indicates significant variable in multivariate analysis

Socio-demographic Comparisons

The variables shown to be significant in the regression analysis are highlighted below.

Respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years, England overall
77%;

- **Social grade** – ABC1 85%, C2DE 68%;
- **Ethnic Group** – white 80%, not white 51%;
- **Marital Status** – married 80%, not married 71%;
- **Age** – aged 16-54 (80%), aged 55+ (69%);
- **Working status** – working 83%, not working 67%.
- **Disability/health problem**–with disability/health problem 64%, without 80%.

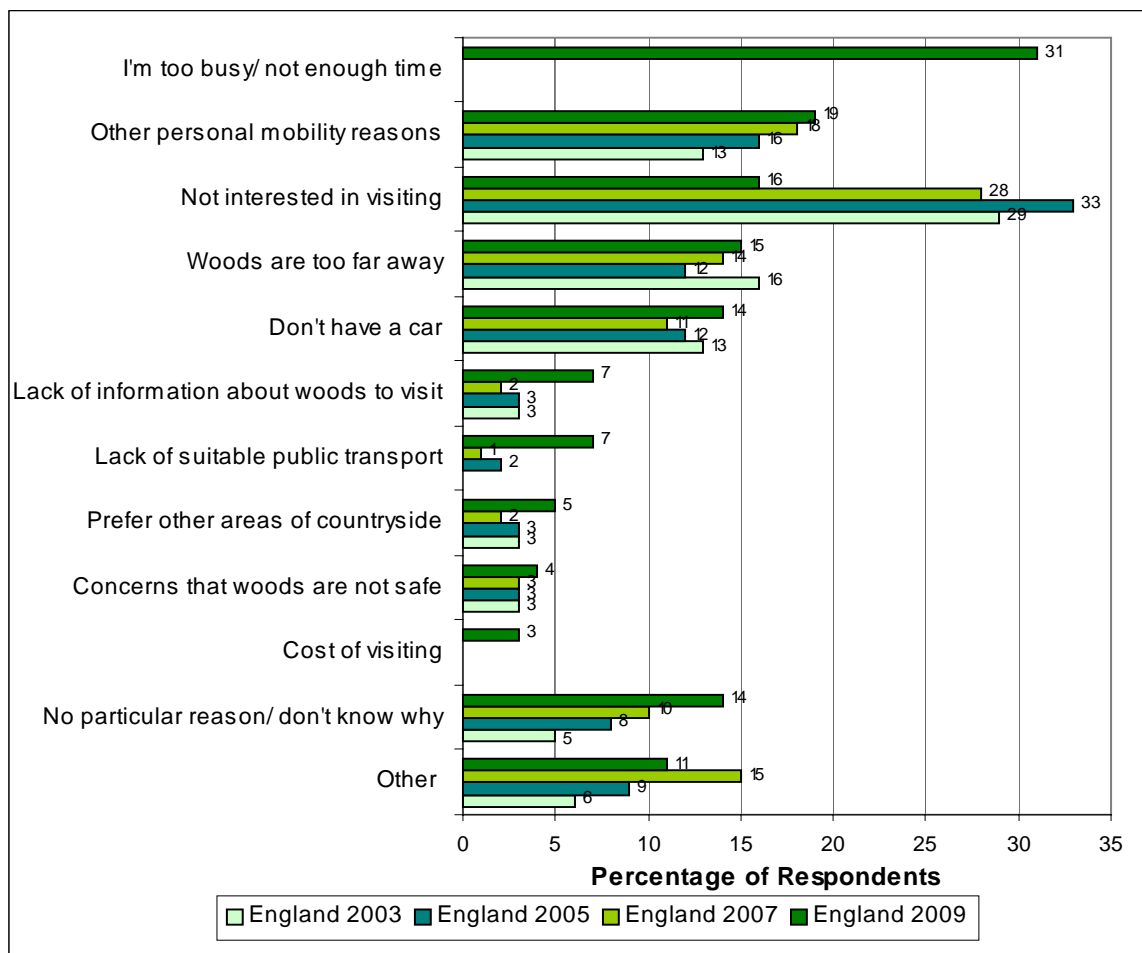
6.2 Reasons for not visiting woodland

All respondents were asked to state their main reasons for not visiting woodland more often or at all.

6.2.1 Reasons for not visiting woodland at all

For those who had not visited woodland or forests in the last few years, 'I'm too busy/not enough time', was the most commonly cited reason for not doing so (31%). Other common answers included 'Other personal mobility reasons' (19% of respondents), 'Not interested in visiting' (16%), 'Woods are too far away' (15%) and 'Don't have a car' (14%).

Figure 12: Main Reasons for not visiting Woodland in the last few years (%)¹



Base: Respondents in England who had not visited woodland in the last few years 2003 (1,127), 2005 (1,128), 2007 (785), 2009 (395)

NOTE – Respondents could give more than one option.

1- New categories for 2009 are "I'm too busy/ not enough time" and "cost of visiting". Inclusion of these new categories has had an impact on the choices respondents make for other categories and on the comparability with previous years.

Geographic Comparisons- for those who have not visited

Those respondents who had not visited woodland in the last few years from the East Midlands, West Midlands, London and the South East were less likely than those from other parts of the country to state that 'personal mobility reasons' was the main reason for not visiting.

Respondents from the West Midlands were more likely to say they were 'not interested in visiting' (29%).

Table 11: Main reasons why respondents who have not visited woodland in the last few years, don't visit, by region (%)

	North East	North West	Yorks/ Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East Anglia	London	South East	South West	England
I'm too busy/not enough time	10	35	19	55	23	21	38	27	36	31
Other Personal mobility reasons	41	36	25	4	16	35	7	16	27	19
Not Interested in visiting	14	10	12	14	29	9	16	17	20	16

Base: All respondents who have not visited woodland in the last few years (395)

Socio-demographic Comparisons -those who had not visited

The variables shown to be significant in the regression analysis are highlighted below.

Respondents who said the main reason they had not visited was 'I'm too busy/ not enough time', England overall 31%;

- **Age** – aged 16-54 (45%), aged 55+ (12%);
- **Work Status** – working 50%, not working 21%;
- **Social grade** – ABC1 40%, C2DE 26%;
- **Ethnicity** – white 25%, not white 49%.

Respondents who said the main reason they had not visited was 'Personal Mobility reasons' England overall 19%;

- **Age** – aged 16-54 (2%), aged 55+ (40%);
- **Disability/health problem**–with disability/health problem 51%, without 6%.

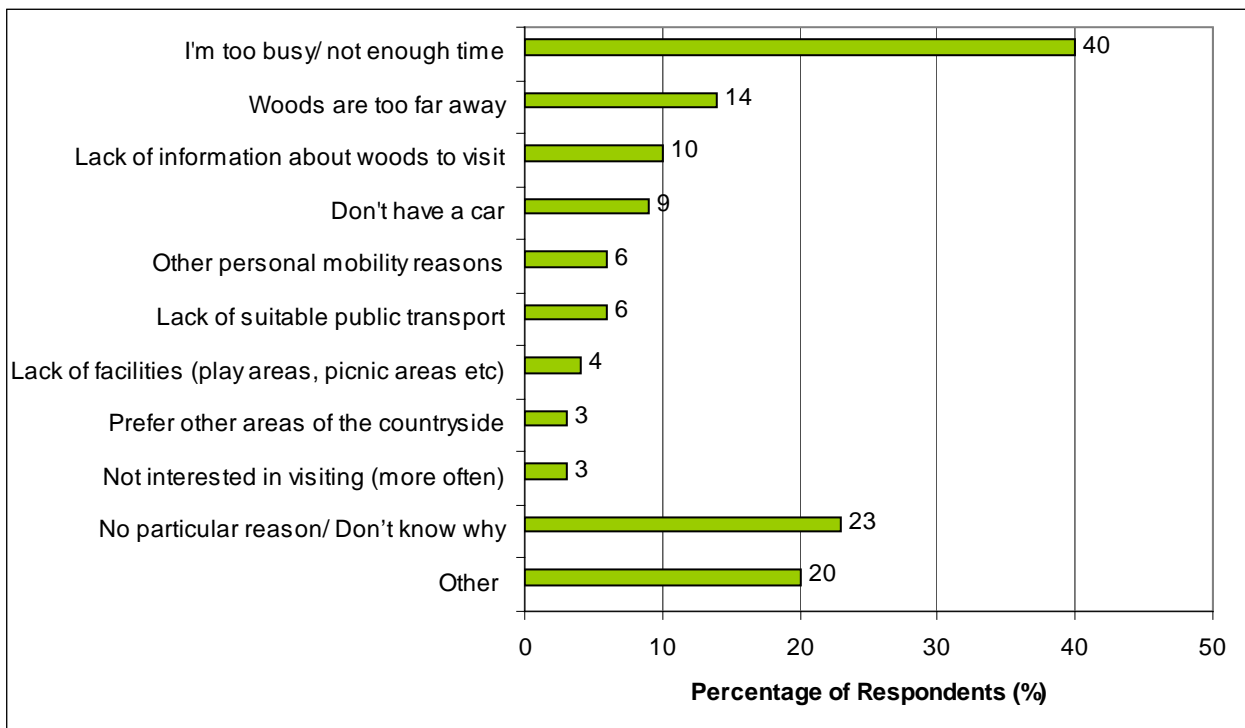
Respondents who said the main reason they had not visited was 'Not interested in visiting', England overall 16%;

- **Age** – aged 16-34 (23%), aged 35+ (13%);
- **Gender** – male 20%, female 11%.

6.2.2 Reasons for not visiting woodland more often

Of those respondents who had visited woodlands, 40% stated 'I'm too busy/ not enough time' as their main reason for not visiting more often, followed by 23% stating 'no particular reason/ don't know why'. Respondents who had visited were also likely to say 'Woods are too far away' (14%), 'Lack of information about woods to visit' (10%) and 'Don't have a car' (9%) as reasons why they didn't visit more often.

Figure 13: Main Reasons for not visiting Woodland more often (%)



Base: All respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years (1,291)

NOTE – Respondents could give more than one option.

Geographic Comparisons- for those who have visited

For those respondents who have visited in the last few years, respondents in East Anglia were less likely than those in other regions to cite 'I'm too busy/not enough time'. Those in the North East were most likely to cite this reason.

A fifth of respondents from the West Midlands (22%) said that the 'woods are too far away' and were more likely than respondents from other regions to state this as the main reason for not visiting woodlands more often. Those from urban areas were also more likely to state this as a reason (17%).

Respondents from the West Midlands (16%) and London (15%) were most likely to say their main reason for not visiting woodlands is that there is a 'Lack of information about woods to visit'.

Those living in urban areas were more likely to state 'Don't have a car' as a reason for not visiting woodland more often.

Table 12: Main reasons why respondents who have visited woodland in the last few years don't visit more often, by region (%)

	North East	North West	Yorks/Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East Anglia	London	South East	South West	England
I'm too busy/not enough time	44	39	39	42	43	21	40	39	41	40
Woods are too far away	8	14	12	14	22	10	19	11	9	14
Lack of information about woods to visit	5	12	8	10	16	7	15	10	5	10
Don't have a car	11	8	8	6	13	4	10	9	11	9

Base: All respondents who have visited woodlands in the last few years (1,291)

Socio-demographic Comparisons -those who had visited woodlands

The variables shown to be significant in the regression analysis are highlighted below.

Respondents who said the main reason they did not visit more often is that 'I'm too busy/not enough time', England overall 40%;

- **Age** – aged 16-54 (46%), 55 years+ (26%);
- **Disability/health problem**–with disability/health problem 20%, without 43%;
- **Social grade** – ABC1 44%, C2DE 34%;
- **Work Status** – working 54%, not working 27%.

Respondents who said the main reason they did not visit more often is that 'the woods are too far', England overall 14%;

- **Age** – aged 16-34 (20%), 35+ (11%);
- **Disability/health problem**–with disability/health problem 16%, without 13%;
- **Index of Deprivation** –15% most deprived (25%), other (12%);
- **Gender** – male 11%, female 16%;
- **Social grade** – ABC1 15%, C2DE 12%.

Respondents who said the main reason they did not visit more often is that there is a 'Lack of information about woods to visit', England overall 10%;

- **Age** – aged 16-34 (14%), 35+ (9%);
- **Children** – at least one child in household 13%, no children 9%.

Respondents who said the main reason they did not visit more often is that they 'Don't have a car', England overall 9%;

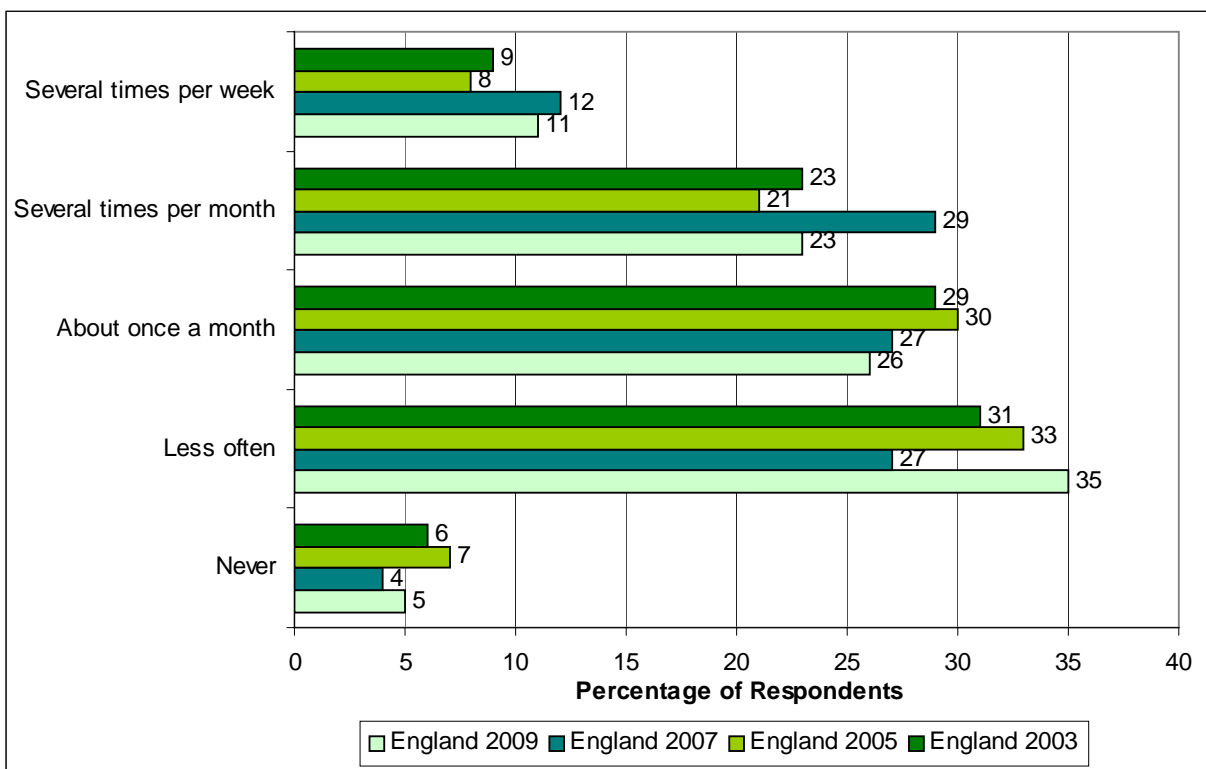
- **Age** – aged 16-34 (13%), 35+ (7%);
- **Index of Deprivation** – 15% most deprived (19%), other (8%);
- **Work Status** – working 5%, not working 18%.
- **Ethnicity** – white 10%, not white 6%.
- **Marital Status** – married 4%, not married 19%.

6.3 Frequency of Woodland Visits

Of the respondents who had visited woodlands in the last few years, 60% said that they visited at least once a month during summer 2008 (between April and September 2008). This compares with 33% who said they visited at this rate during the winter 2008/9 (between October 2008 and March 2009) (figure 15).

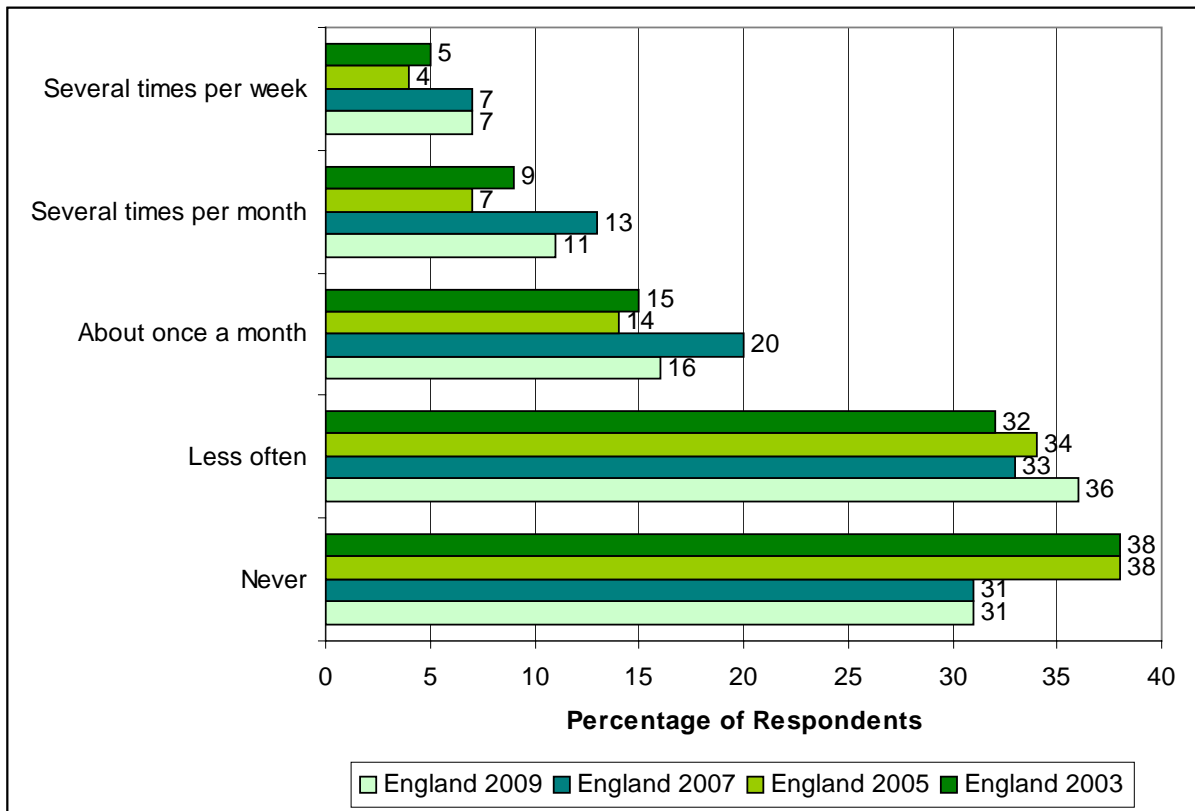
Only 5% of respondents who had visited woodlands in the past few years said that they did not visit during the summer 2008. However, almost a third of respondents (31%) said they did not visit during the winter.

Figure 14: Frequency of visits in Summer (April to September 2008)



Base: All respondents who had visited woodlands (1,291)

Figure 15: Frequency of visits in Winter (October 2008 to March 2009)



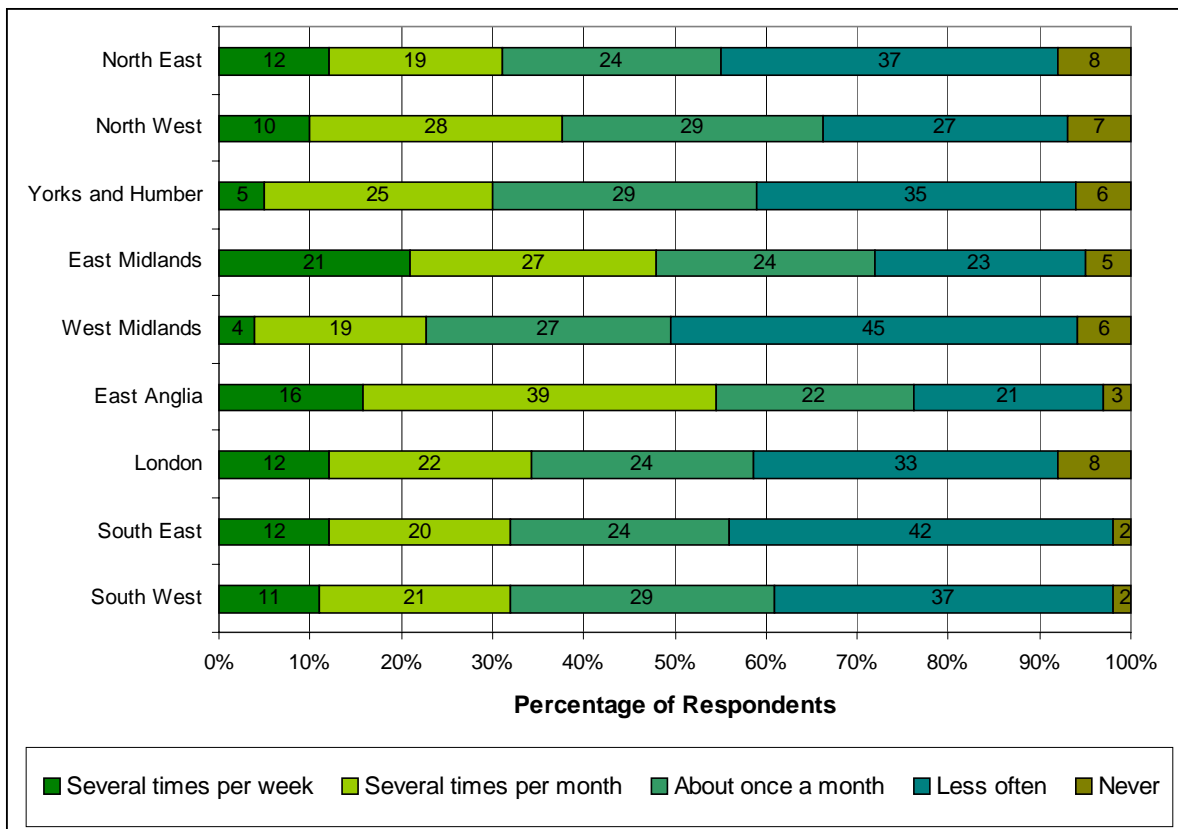
Base: All respondents who had visited woodlands (1,291)

Geographic Comparisons- Summer months

Respondents in East Anglia, the East Midlands and the North West are more likely than those who live elsewhere to visit woods frequently in the summer, with a higher percentage of them visiting at least once a month (76%, 72% and 66% respectively) than respondents in other regions in England. This compares with the West Midlands where only 48% of respondents make summer visits at least once a month.

Those in rural areas were more likely to visit woodlands frequently (73%) than those in other areas.

Figure 16: Frequency of visits in summer, by region (%)

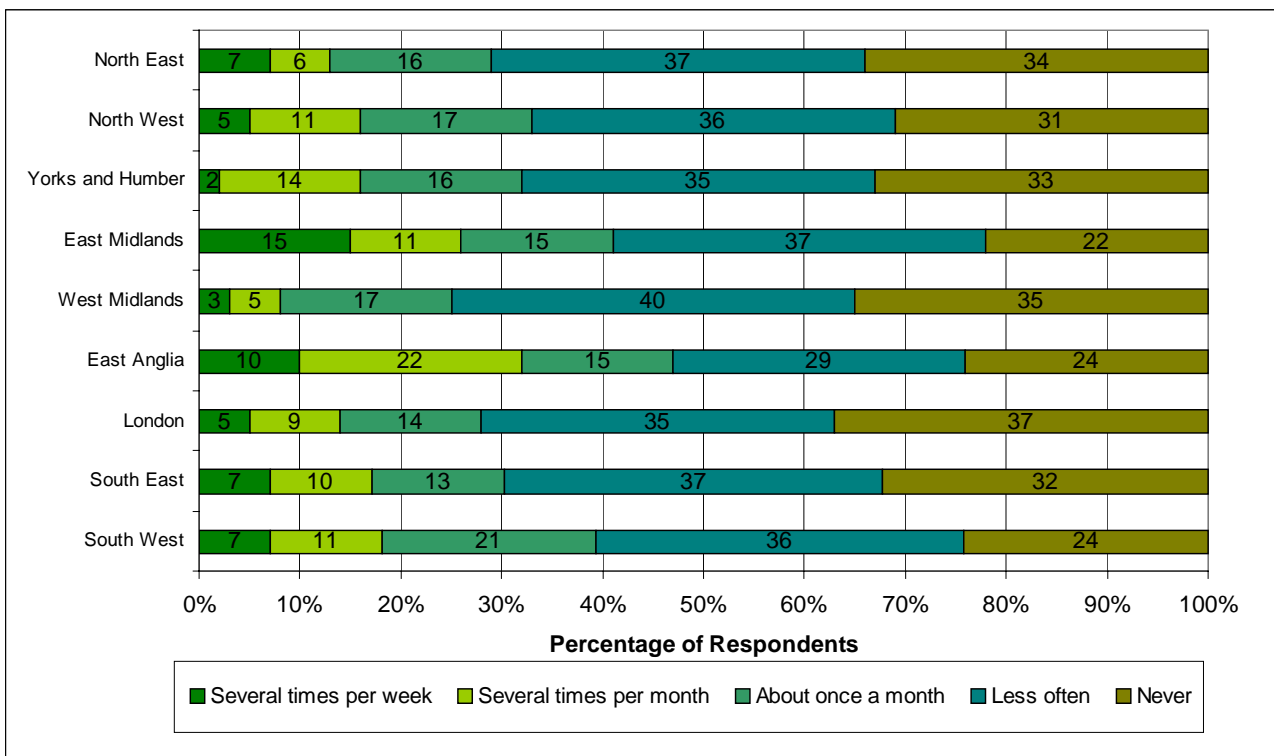


Base: Respondents who had visited woodlands in the last few years (1,291)

Geographic Comparisons- Winter months

Respondents from the West Midlands were also the least likely to visit during the winter, with 25% of respondents visiting at least once a month. Those in rural areas were also more likely to visit frequently (47%) than those in other areas.

Figure 17: Frequency of visits in Winter, by region (%)



Base: All respondents who had visited woodlands in the last few years (1,291)

Socio-demographic Comparisons

Respondents who had visited woodlands 'at least once a month' during the summer, England overall 60%:

- **Marital Status** – married 64%, not married 53%;
- **Children** – at least one child in household 65%, no children 57%;
- **Disability/health problem**–with disability/health problem 52%, without 62%;
- **Ethnic Group** – white 61%, not white 47%.

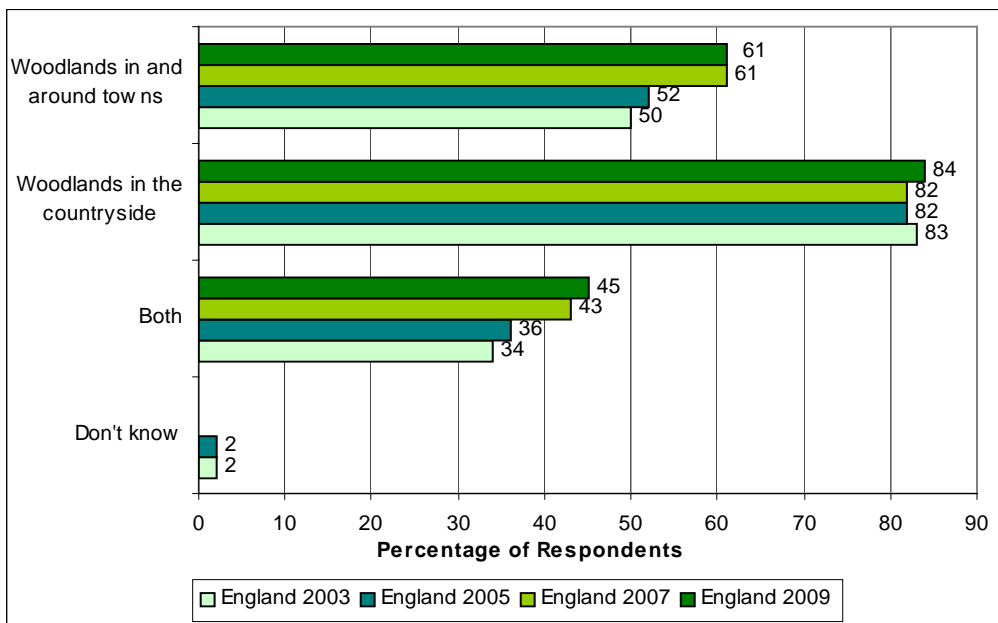
Respondents who visited woodlands 'at least once a month' during winter, England overall 31%:

- **Ethnic Group** – white 35%, not white 13%.

6.4 Type of woodland visited

Respondents who had visited woodlands and forests in the last few years were more likely to visit ‘woodlands in the countryside’ (84%) than ‘woodlands in and around towns’ (61%). In addition, nearly half of respondents (45%) reported visiting woodlands and forests in both locations. This pattern is similar to previous years, although the proportion of respondents reporting visiting woodlands in and around towns is significantly higher than it was in 2005 (61% in 2009 in comparison with 52% in 2005).

Figure 18: Type of woodland visited (urban/rural)



Base: All respondents who visited woodland in the last few years 2003 (2,285), 2005 (2,239), 2007 (2,554), 2009 (1,291)

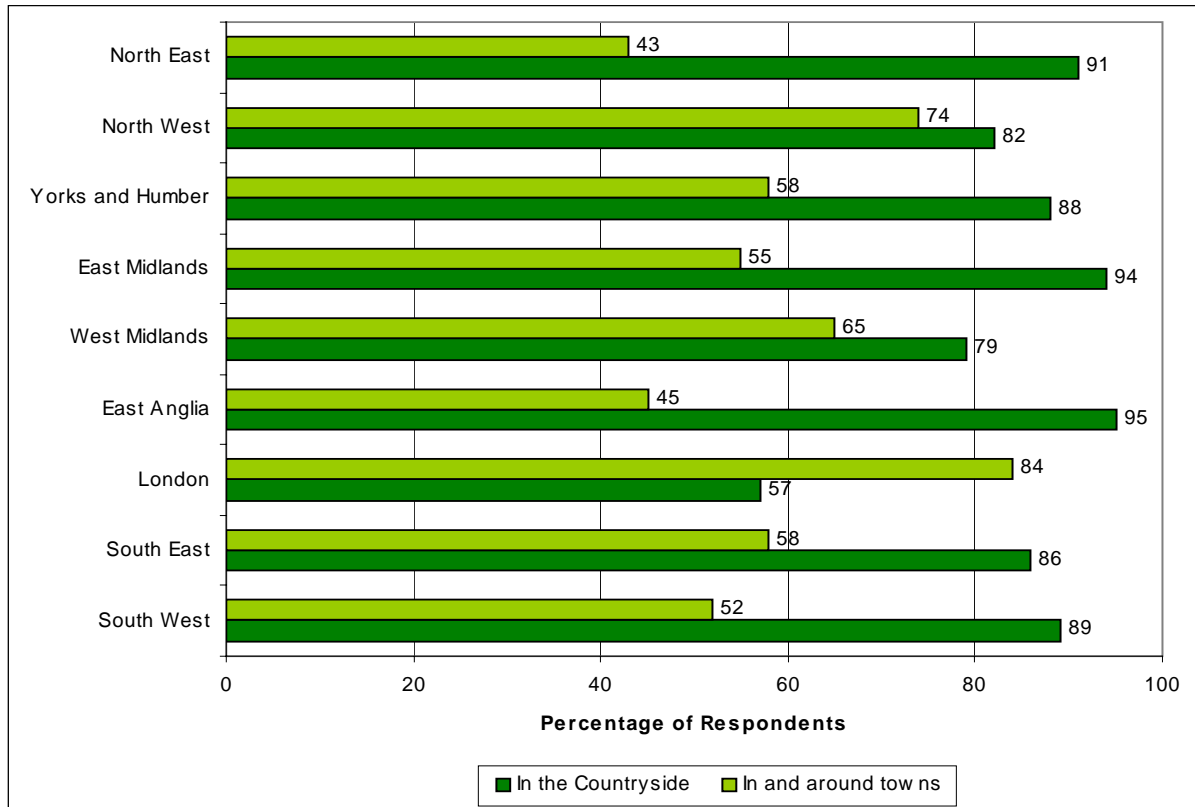
NOTE – Responses for those who said they had been to ‘both’ types of woodlands have been included in totals for ‘Woodlands in and around towns’ and ‘Woodlands in the Countryside’.

Geographic Comparisons

Respondents from London and the West Midlands who had visited woodland were less likely to have visited woodlands in the countryside compared with those in other regions in England, with 57% and 79% making visits to countryside woodlands respectively.

Respondents in the North East were least likely to have visited woodlands in and around towns (43% of those who had visited woodlands). This compares with those in London, the North West and West Midlands who were most likely to have visited these types of woodland (84%, 74% and 65% respectively).

Figure 19: Type of woodland visited, by region (%)



Base: All respondents who visited woodland in the last few years (1,291)

NOTE – Responses for those who said they had been to ‘both’ types of woodlands have been included in totals for ‘Woodlands in and around towns’ and ‘Woodlands in the Countryside’.

Respondents from rural areas were more likely to have visited woodlands in the countryside (96% of respondents who had visited woodland) than those from other areas (82%). In contrast, respondents from urban areas were more likely to have visited woodlands in and around towns (71% compared with 50% of respondents from other areas).

Socio-demographic Comparisons

Respondents who had visited woodland in the countryside, England overall 84%:

- **Ethnic Group** – white 86%, not white 56%;
- **Social grade** – ABC1 86%, C2DE 81%.

Respondents who had visited woodland in and around the town, England overall 61%:

- **Children** – at least one child in household 68%, no children 58%;
- **Marital Status** – married 58%, not married 67%.

6.5 Management of woodlands visited

In order to gauge who manages the woodland visited and if the public are aware of who manages them, respondents who had visited woodlands in the last few years were asked to state whether the woodlands they visited were managed by the National Trust, Forestry Commission or the Woodland Trust.

Table 13: Whether respondents knew who managed the forests or woodlands they visited, by region (%)

	North East	North West	York/ Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East Anglia	London	South East	South West	England
National Trust	42	36	38	38	29	36	28	34	28	34
Forestry Commission	37	26	25	36	22	46	15	23	26	26
Woodland Trust	9	24	12	15	8	8	7	15	16	14
Other	9	14	13	13	19	30	9	16	15	15
Don't know	26	35	32	26	38	15	51	34	35	34

Base: All respondents who visited woodland in the last few years (1,291)

NOTE: Respondents could select more than one option

Of those who had visited woodlands in the last few years, 34% reported that they had visited woodlands managed by the National Trust. A quarter (26%) also reported visiting Forestry Commission managed woodlands and 14% cited the Woodland Trust as managing the woodlands that they visited. One third (34%) said that they did not know who managed the woodlands they had visited.

Geographic Comparisons

Respondents from mixed urban/rural areas were less likely to cite visiting National Trust woodland (29%) compared with those for other areas.

Respondents who had visited woodland London were less likely than those from other parts of the country to cite having visited Forestry Commission managed woodland (15%). Those from rural areas (44%) were more likely to have said they visited Forestry Commission woodland.

Respondents who had visited woodland in the North West were most likely to cite visiting Woodland Trust woodlands than those in other parts of England.

Respondents living in London were more likely than those in other regions to not know who managed the woodlands they had visited (51%). This compares with 15% of respondents in East Anglia.

Socio-demographic Comparisons

The variables shown to be significant in the regression analysis are highlighted below.

Respondents who said that the National Trust managed the woodlands they visited, England overall 34%;

- **Age** – aged 16-34 years (27%), 35+ (37%);
- **Social Grade** – ABC1 37%, C2DE 29%.

Respondents who said that the Forestry Commission managed the woodlands they visited, England overall 26%;

- **Age** – aged 16-34 years (10%), 35+ (33%);
- **Sex** – male 31%, female 22%;
- **Marital Status** – married 32%, not married 16%;
- **Children** – at least one child in the household 19%, no children 30%.

Respondents who said that the Woodland Trust managed the woodlands they visited, England overall 14%;

- **Age** – aged 16-34 years (12%), 35+ (16%);
- **Marital Status** – married 11%, not married 15%.

Respondents who didn't know who managed the woodlands they visited, England overall 34%;

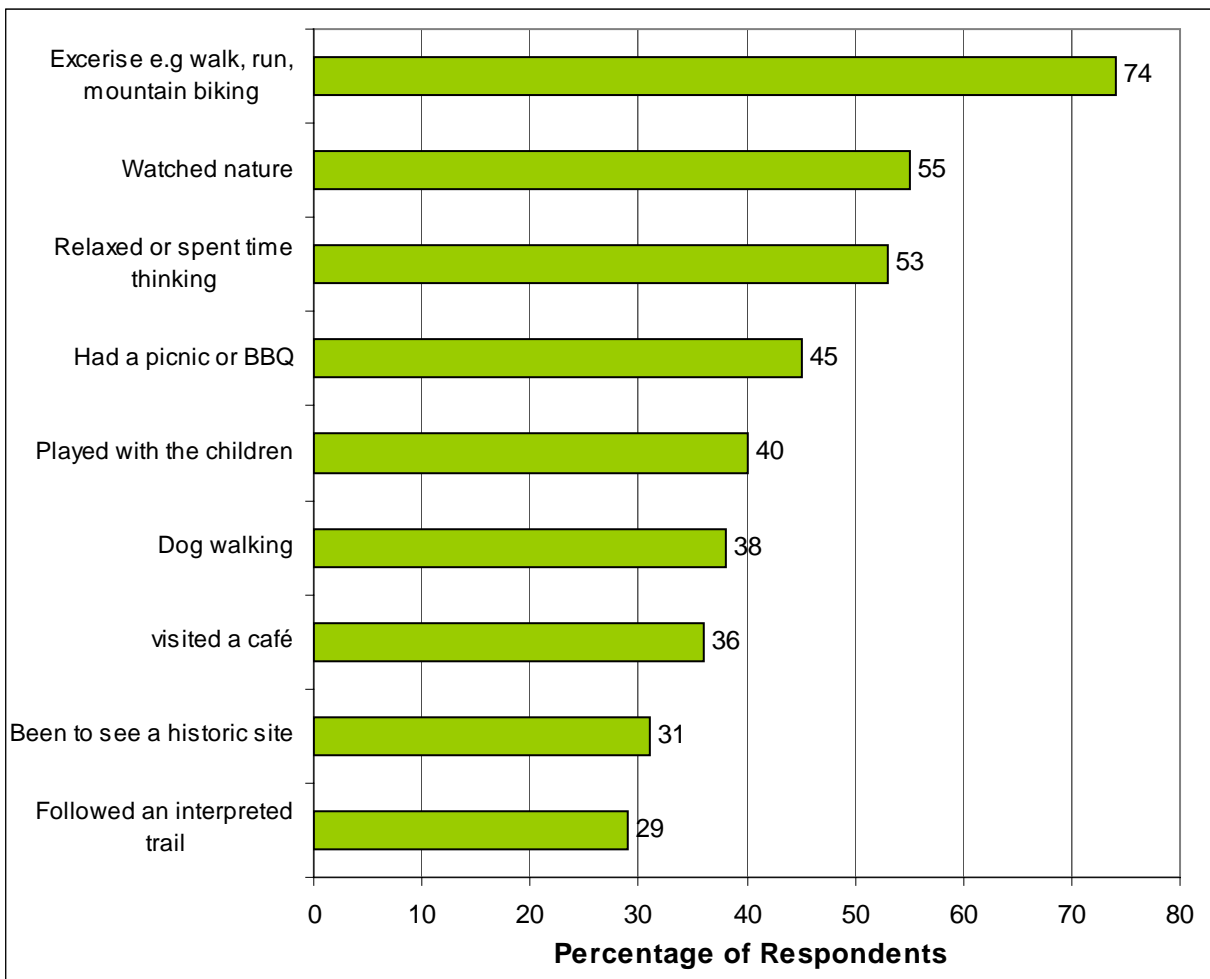
- **Age** – aged 16-34 years (50%), 35+ (27%);
- **Marital Status** – married 29%, not married 43%.

6.6 Participation in activities during woodland visit

Respondents who had visited woodlands in the last few years were asked to state what activities, if any, they had taken part in during their visit.

The most popular activity undertaken was 'exercise e.g. walking, running, mountain biking' (cited by 74% of those who visited), followed by watching nature (55%) and relaxing/spending time thinking (53%). Other popular activities included having a picnic or BBQ (45%) and playing with children (40%).

Figure 20: Activities undertaken on visit (%)



Base: All respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years (1,291)

NOTE- Respondents could select more than one option.

Geographic Comparisons

Respondents from South East England (70%) and Yorkshire and the Humber (64%) were the least likely to have reported exercising during their visits to woodlands and forests. Those in rural areas (84%) were also more likely to have reported undertaking exercise.

Respondents living in South East England, were the least likely to say they had 'relaxed or spent time thinking' (47%) compared with respondents from other regions.

Those from rural areas (56%) were more likely to say they 'had a picnic or BBQ' than those in other areas.

Those in the North East were more likely than others to have played with children when on visits to woodland.

Table 14: Proportion of respondents who took part in the 5 most popular activities, by region (%)

	North East	North West	Yorks/Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East Anglia	London	South East	South West	England
Exercise e.g. walk, run, mountain biking	81	73	64	77	70	82	73	70	83	74
Watched nature	56	59	60	56	59	50	54	51	54	55
Relaxed or spent time thinking	51	53	60	50	56	52	59	47	55	53
Had a picnic or BBQ	55	37	47	47	45	56	49	40	45	45
Played with the children	51	40	44	39	39	46	35	35	43	40

Base: All respondents who visited woodland in the last few years (1,291)

NOTE- Respondents could select more than one option.

Socio-demographic Comparisons

Respondents who had taken part in 'Exercise e.g walk, run, mountain biking', England

overall 74%:

- **Gender** – male 77%, female 70%;
- **Social Class** – ABC1 78%, C2DE 68%;
- **Work Status** – working 77%, not working 67%;
- **Disability/health problem** – with disability/health problem 64%, without 75%;
- **Ethnic group** – white 74%, not white 65%.

Respondents who had 'watched nature', England overall 55%:

- **Age group** – aged 16-34 (47%), 35+ (59%);
- **Social grade** – ABC1 59%, C2DE 51%.

Respondents who have 'relaxed or spent time thinking', England overall 53%:

- **Social grade** – ABC1 58%, C2DE 48%;
- **Work Status** – working 58%, not working 45%;
- **Age group** – aged 16-54 (57%), 55+ (44%).

Respondents who 'had a picnic or BBQ', England overall 45%:

- **Gender** - male 40%, female 49%;
- **Age group** – aged 16-54 (51%), 55+ (31%).
- **Children** – at least one child in household 56%, no children 39%.

Respondents who 'played with the children', England overall 40%:

- **Gender** – male 33%, female 46%;
- **Age group** – aged 16-34 (34%), 35+ (42%);
- **Children** – at least one child in household 68%, no children 24%;
- **Ethnic group** – white 40%, not white 30%;
- **Marital Status** – married 45%, not married 29%.

6.7 Satisfaction with woodland visits

Respondents who had visited woodlands in the last few years were asked to consider the woodland or forest they visited most often and state their level of agreement (on a 5 point scale from 'Strongly agree' to 'Strongly disagree') with the following:

- 'You would visit again';
- 'You would recommend it as a place to visit to a friend or relative'.

The proportion of respondents who 'agreed' (either 'Strongly agreed' or 'Agreed') are shown in table 15. In England, almost all respondents said they would visit the forest again (96%). Similarly the vast majority said they would 'recommend it as a place to visit to a friend or relative' (94%).

Geographic Comparisons

Respondents in the West Midlands were more likely to say they would visit again than those in other regions. Respondents in East Anglia were more likely to say they would recommend the woodland or forest they visited to a friend or relative than those in other parts of the country.

Table 15: Level of agreement with satisfaction statements

	North East	North West Yorks/ Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East Anglia	London	South East	South West	England
You would visit again	99	97	96	96	99	98	94	98	96
You would recommend it as a place to visit to a friend or relative	92	92	93	91	96	100	94	95	94

Base: All respondents who visited woodland in the last few years (1,291)

7 Engagement with Forest Issues

7.1 Community Engagement

Respondents were asked whether they had been involved in woodland consultations or any volunteer groups and organised events associated with woodlands in the last 12 months.

Table 16 shows that in the last 12 months 9 per cent of respondents said that they had been involved with:

- Or consulted about plans for creating/managing or using woodland (3%);
- In voluntary work in connection with a woodland (3%);
- A community based woodland group (2%);
- An organised tree planting event (2%).

Table 16: Engagement with woodland consultations, organised events, volunteering or a woodland community group in the last 12 months (%)

	England 2009
Been involved or consulted about plans for creating/ managing or using woodlands in your area	3
Been involved in voluntary work in connection with a woodland (e.g physical work in a wood, admin, fund raising , running a group)	3
Become or are you a member of a community based woodland group such as a 'Community Trust' or 'Friends of Group'	2
Been involved in an organised tree planting event	2
At least one of these	9
None of these	91

Base: All respondents in England (1,685)

Socio-demographic comparisons

Respondents involved in at least one of the activities listed in the last 12 months, England overall 9%:

- **Social group** – ABC1 11%, C2DE 6%;
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 10%, not visited 3%.

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

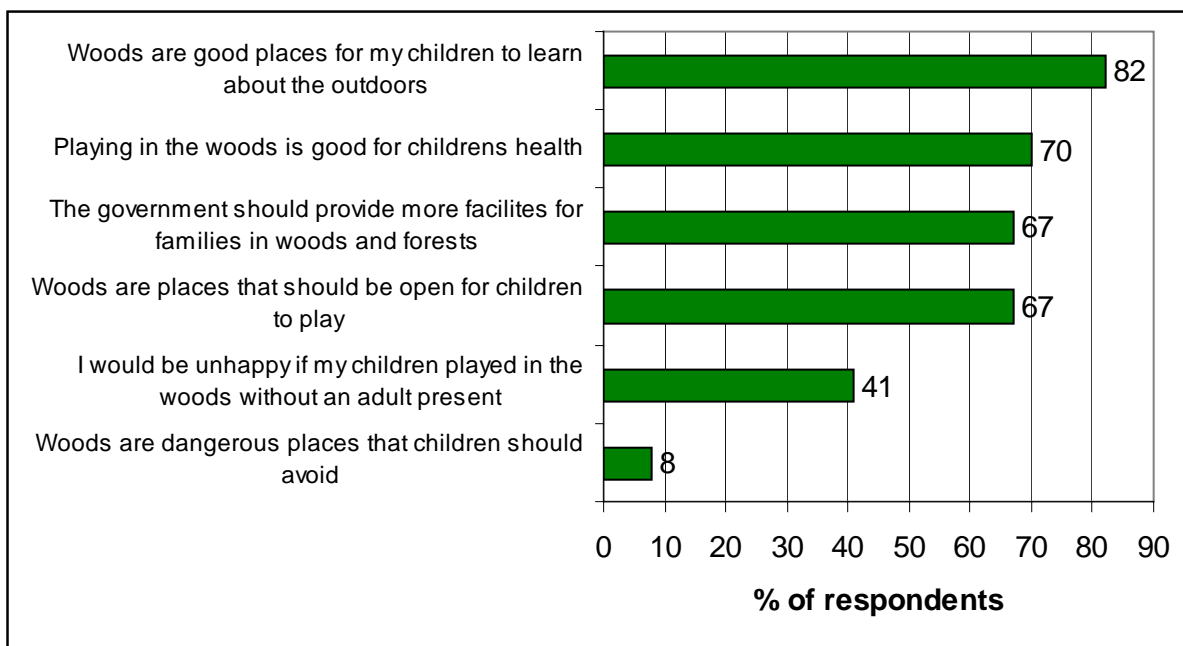
7.2 Children in woods and forests

Respondents with children under 15 years old were asked to state if they agreed with a list of statements about children and woodlands.

Four fifths (82%) of respondents with children under the age of 15 agreed that 'Woods are good places for my children to learn about the outdoors' while 70% agreed that 'playing in the woods is good for children's health'. Around two thirds (67%) said 'the government should provide more facilities for families in woods and forests'.

The majority of respondents (67%) thought 'Woods are places that should be open for children to play'. However, two fifths (41%) said 'I would be unhappy if my children played in the woods without an adult present' while one in ten (8%) said that 'Woods are dangerous places that children should avoid'.

Figure 21: Level of agreement to statements about children and woods (%)



Base: All respondents with children under 15 years old (498)

Geographical comparisons

Respondents with children under 15 years old living in London and Yorkshire and the Humber were the least likely to say 'woods are good places for children to learn about the outdoors' (61% and 76% respectively).

Respondents in urban areas were less likely to say that 'playing in woods is good for children's health' (64%), compared with those from rural and mixed urban/rural areas.

Respondents from Yorkshire and the Humber, West Midlands and London were less likely than respondents from other regions to say 'woods are places that should be open for children to play' (62%, 61% and 42% respectively). In contrast those from rural areas were more likely to agree with this statement (87%).

Table 17: Agreement to statements about children and woods, by region (%)

	North East	North West	Yorks/ Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East Anglia	London	South East	South West	England
Woods are good places for children to learn about the outdoors	92	81	76	80	89	100	61	91	91	82
Playing in the woods is good for children's health	77	63	66	66	63	92	55	77	91	70
Woods are places that should be open for children to play	74	68	62	66	61	96	42	79	83	67
Government should provide more facilities for families in the woods and forests	65	67	70	73	67	75	50	75	67	67
I would be unhappy if my children played in woods without an adult present	28	41	54	54	38	43	33	39	43	41
Woods are dangerous places that children should avoid	11	1	10	18	10	5	7	4	7	8

Base: All respondents in England with children under 15 (498)

Those living in London were less likely to say 'the government should provide more facilities for families in woods and forests' (50%).

54% of respondents from both Yorkshire and the Humber and the East Midlands said 'I would be unhappy if my children played in woods without an adult present', which is

higher than in other regions. Respondents from the East Midlands (18%) were more likely to say 'woods are dangerous places that children should avoid' compared with responses from other regions.

Socio-demographic Comparisons

Respondents who said 'woods are good places for children to learn about the outdoors', England overall 82%:

- **Gender** – Male 78%, Female 86%;
- **Age group** – aged 35-54 (87%), 16-34 or 55+ (77%);
- **Social grade** – ABC1 89%, C2DE 76%;
- **Ethnic group** – white 87%, not white 60%;
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 89%, not visited 59%.

Respondents who said 'Playing in woods is good for children's health', England overall 70%:

- **Age group** – aged 16-34 (63%), 35+ (75%);
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 75%, not visited 70%;
- **Ethnic group** – white 74%, not white 50%.

Respondents who said 'woods are places that should be open for children to play', England overall 67%:

- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 74%, not visited 40%.

Respondents who said 'the government should provide more facilities for families in woods and forests, England overall 67%:

- **Age group** – aged 16-34 (60%), 35+ (71%);
- **Visited Woodland** – visited recently 70%, not visited 50%.

Respondents who said 'I would be unhappy if my children played in woods without an adult present', England overall 41%:

- **Gender** – male 32%, female 48%;
- **Social grade** – ABC1 45%, C2DE 38%;
- **Work Status** – working 38%, not working 50%.

There were no significant socio-demographic variables to the statement 'woods are dangerous places that children should avoid'.

Appendix 1: Cross-breaks used in analysis

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

Table A: Variables used in regression analysis

Variable	Divisions	Distribution of sample (%)	Distribution of 16+ English population in 2001 Census ⁴	Details
Geographic region	North East	6	5	Mostly Government Office regions, see below
	North West	12	14	
	Yorkshire and Humber	11	10	
	East Midlands	10	8	
	West Midlands	10	11	
	East Anglia	4	5	
	London	14	15	
	South East	20	22	
	South West	13	10	
Rural/urban	Urban (1) Not urban (0)	58 42		Based on respondent's postcode, see below
	Mixed (1) Not mixed(0)	29 71		
	Rural (1) Not rural(0)	13 87		
Age	16 – 34 (1) not 16-34 (0)	31 69	32 68	Adults aged 16 and over were divided into 3 age classes
	35 – 54 (1) not 35 – 54 (0)	37 64	35 65	
	55+ (1) not 55+(0)	33 67	33 67	

⁴ English adult population (16+ years) 39,237,000

Variable	Divisions	Distribution of sample (%)	Distribution of 16+ English population in 2001 Census ⁵	Details
Deprivation	15% most deprived(1) Other(0)	16 84		Index of multiple deprivation based on respondent's postcode, see below
Gender	Male (1) Female (2)	47 53	48 52	
Social grade	ABC1 (1) C2DE (2)	51 49		See below
Disability or health problem	Yes (1) No (0)	81 19		From question 15 of the survey
Work Status	Working (1) Not working (0)	55 45		
Children in household	Yes (1) No (0)	34 36		Children under 16 in household
Marital Status	Married (1) Not married (0)	62 38		
Ethnic Group	White (1) Non White (0)	89 11	92 8	From question 15 of the survey
Visited Woodlands	No (0) Yes (1)	23 77		From question 9 of the survey

Note: To aid in interpreting the values used for each of the variables are detailed in brackets.

⁵ English adult population (16+ years) 39,237,000

Description of variables

Market Research Society (MRS) social grades:

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

Geographic region:

England has been divided into the nine Regions: North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humber, East Midlands, West Midlands, South West, East Anglia, London and the South East. Please note that East Anglia in this report is the standard Government Office Region (GOR) "East of England" minus Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex. The South East reported in this report is the standard GOR "South East" plus Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex.

Deprivation:

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

Rural/urban:

Covers "urban" constituencies where population density is greater than 7 persons per hectare and "rural" constituencies where population density is less than 7 persons per hectare.

Appendix 2: Correlation matrix of variables used in analysis

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

Variables which are more highly correlated include: disability with age or children with age.

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 B: Correlation coefficients of variables used in regression analysis

	Visited woodland	Gender	Age	Social grade	Urban/ rural	Working status	Marital status	Children in household	Disability	Ethnicity	Deprivation
Visited woodland	1	0.02	-0.07	-0.19	0.14	0.18	0.10	0.05	-0.13	0.24	-0.14
Gender		1.00	-0.02	0.01	-0.01	-0.11	-0.09	0.12	-0.02	0.04	0.01
Age ¹			1.00	-0.02	0.09	-0.30	0.06	-0.42	0.36	0.18	-0.07
Social grade				1.00	0.00	-0.14	-0.12	0.10	0.12	-0.04	0.24
Urban/ rural ¹					1.00	0.04	0.07	0.00	0.01	0.22	-0.22
Working status						1.00	0.20	0.18	-0.34	-0.02	-0.13
Marital status							1.00	0.16	-0.14	0.01	-0.08
Children in household								1.00	-0.21	-0.10	0.06
Disability									1.00	0.05	0.11
Ethnicity										1.00	-0.13
Deprivation											1.00

1- For simplicity, the age and urban/rural characteristics have been entered into to the correlation matrix as single variables, whereas in the regression analysis each is entered as three dummy variables as specified in table A.

Appendix 3: GfK NOP Method

UK 2009 survey

The GfK NOP Random Location Omnibus employs a quota sample of individuals with randomly selected sampling points. The sample design is essentially a 3-stage design, sampling first parliamentary constituencies, and then output areas within those selected constituencies and finally respondents within the output areas. The sample is based on 175 sampling points.

Stratification of parliamentary constituencies

The first-stage sampling units for the survey are parliamentary constituencies, which are initially stratified by government office region. In Scotland, a further stratification is by the Strathclyde Region and the rest of Scotland while in Wales, the South East is stratified separately from the rest of Wales. Within each Standard Region, constituencies are classified into four urban/rural types (Metropolitan county, other 100% urban (greater than 7 persons per hectare), mixed urban/rural and rural. Within each of the resultant 46 cells, as a final stratification, constituencies are listed in order of the percentage of people resident in households whose head is in socio-economic Groups 1, 2, 3, 4 or 13 (approximates to Social Grades A&B).

Selection of parliamentary constituencies

When all the constituencies have been listed in the above way, the electorate of each constituency is entered on the list and a cumulative total of electors by constituency is formed. From the file of constituencies, a sample of 175 must be drawn thus the total number of cumulative electors (N) on the list is divided by 175 and a random number between 1 and $N/175$ is selected.

This random number identifies an elector, in the cumulative total of electors, and the constituency this elector is in becomes the first selected constituency in the sample. To obtain the other 174 constituencies, the sampling interval $N/175$ is added on 174 times to the initial random number to select the 175 constituencies required.

The Selection of Output Areas

Within each selected constituency, an output area is selected for each wave of the Omnibus. These output areas are selected at random, but with some stratification control so that the sample of areas drawn is representative of the sample of constituencies and therefore of the United Kingdom in demographic terms. The variables used for stratification are age, sex, social class, and geodemographic profile (Mosaic classification). Once the areas have been selected, the profile of the aggregated set of areas is checked against the national profile to ensure that is representative. Each area is a small area, containing in average around 150

households. Each output area is therefore homogenous, with the people living within it being fairly similar in social grade terms.

Therefore, when quotas are set for interviewing within each output area, the variables we control for are age and sex within working status. No quota is set for social grade, as the selection of areas ensures that the sample is balanced in this respect. This procedure is repeated for each wave of the Omnibus, producing a different sample of areas for each week of fieldwork.

The Selection of Respondents

For each selected output area, a list of all residential addresses is taken from the Postal Address File (PAF), which is used by the interviewer to identify the households at which they can interview. In addition to the address listing for an output area, the interviewer is also given a quota sheet in order to target certain groups in terms of age and sex within working status. Each interviewer must interview 12 people within an output area, and the quotas are different for each area in order to reflect the demographic profile of that area.

Appendix 4: UK Questionnaire 2009

<p>Q1</p>	<p>[All]</p> <p>You may have seen or read about UK forests, woods or trees on the television, radio or in the newspapers. From this list, can you please tell me which of these topics you have seen or read anything about in the last 12 months?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds and other animals in woodlands • Flowers and other plants in woodlands • Forests and woodlands as places to visit • Community woodlands / new local woodlands • Tree planting • Tree pests and diseases • Wood for fuel / (short rotation coppice) • Loss of ancient or native 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 • Live music • Cycling or mountainbiking • Other (specify) • None of these
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<p>Q2</p>	<p>[All]</p> <p>“In the UK, public money is given to plant new woodland and to manage existing woodland for 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 provide timber for sawmills and wood processing • To provide renewable energy including wood as fuel • So that the UK can buy less wood products from abroad • To make woods more accessible to all in the community • To help tackle climate change • To provide places for wildlife to live • To provide places for recreation (such as walking, cycling, horse-riding) • To provide places for relaxation and stress release • To provide places for families to play • To provide places for learning • To improve the countryside landscape • To improve the appearance of towns and cities • To restore former industrial land • None of these
<p>Q3</p>	<p>[All]</p> <p>Would you agree or disagree with the following statements about the ways in which forests and woodlands in the UK can impact on climate change?</p> <p>(1) strongly disagree, (2) disagree, (3) neither agree or disagree, (4) agree, (5) strongly agree, and (6) 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 for timber makes climate change worse, even if they are replanted • Using wood for fuel is better for climate change than using fuels such as coal and gas • Using wood for fuel makes climate change worse because it releases carbon dioxide • Using wood for building is better for climate change than using materials such as concrete and steel • The UK could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees • Planting more trees can help us cope with climate change by providing shade and reducing the effects of flooding

<p>Q4</p>	<p>[All] Do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding how UK forests and woodlands should be managed in response to the threat of climate change? (1) strongly disagree, (2) disagree, (3) neither agree or disagree, (4) agree, (5) strongly agree, and (6) 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>Q5</p>	<p>[All] Have you in the past 12 months... (Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Been involved or consulted about plans for creating/ managing or using woodlands in your area. • Been involved in an organised tree planting event • Been involved in voluntary work in connection with a woodland (e.g. physical work in a wood, admin, fund raising, running a group) • Become or are you a member of a community based woodland group such as a 'Community Trust' or 'Friends of Group' • None of these
<p>Q6</p>	<p>[All] Who do you think should have the most influence as a source of forestry advice for the Government? Please select your top 3 based on order of importance (select most important, second most important and third most important).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental organisations and trusts interested in wildlife • Countryside organisations interested in outdoor recreation and sport • Landowners and farmers • Private forestry organisations • Government agencies • Local Authorities • Scientists and researchers • The Forestry Commission

<p>Q7</p>	<p>[All]</p> <p>a - Do you have children less than 15 years old?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No <p>[Ask If answered yes to Q7a]</p> <p>b. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woods are dangerous places that children should avoid, • I would be unhappy if my children played in woods without an adult present, • Woods are good places for children to learn about the outdoors, • Woods are places that should be open for children to play, • The Government should provide more facilities for families in woods and forests, • Playing in woods is good for children's health. • None of these
<p>Q8</p>	<p>[All]</p> <p>a. Do you ever use wood as a fuel in your home, either on its own or with other fuels?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No (Go to Q8e) <p>[Ask If answered yes to Q8a]</p> <p>b. Do you get the wood by the truck load, or a few bags at a time, or gather it yourself?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by the truck load • a few bags at a time • gather it yourself • Other (specify) <p>[Ask If answered yes to Q8a]</p> <p>c. Do you use wood as a fuel regularly or only occasionally?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regularly • occasionally <p>[Ask If answered yes to Q8a]</p> <p>d. Is the wood the main fuel for heating your home, or do you mainly use something else?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • main fuel • Something else (specify) <p>[After Q8d, skip to Q9]</p>

	<p>[Ask If answered no to Q8a]</p> <p>e. What is the main reason that you do not use wood as a fuel in your home?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never thought about it • Happy with the existing system • Not practical for this property • Concerned about cost • Concerned about efficiency • Concerned about ease of use • Concerned about environmental issues • Do not own property • Lack of local help/suppliers • Other [specify]
<p>Q9</p>	<p>[All]</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>b. Which of the following, if any, are the main reasons for you not visiting woodland/forests more often or at all?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not interested in visiting more often • Don't have a car • Lack of suitable public transport • Other personal mobility reasons (difficulty in walking, unwell, etc.) • Woods are too far away • Lack of facilities (play areas, picnic areas, etc.) • Lack of information about woods to visit • Prefer other areas of countryside • Concerns that woods are not safe • Woodlands are badly maintained • Cost of visiting • Lack of confidence • I'm too busy/ not enough time • Other (please specify)

	<p>[Ask If answered yes to Q9a Others to Q11]</p> <p>c. Did you visit woodlands in the countryside or woodlands in and around towns or both?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodlands in the countryside • Woodlands in and around towns • Both <p>[If answered yes to Q9a]</p> <p>d. Thinking of the woodland/ forest you have visited most often, please state your agreement with the following: (1) Strongly disagree, (2) disagree, (3) neither agree nor disagree, (4) agree, (5) strongly agree, (6) Don't know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You would visit again. • You would recommend it as a place to visit to a friend or a relative. <p>[If answered yes to Q9a]</p> <p>e. Do you know who managed the woodlands you have visited? (Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry Commission • Woodland Trust • National Trust • Other • Don't know
<p>Q10</p>	<p>[If answered yes to Q9a]</p> <p>How frequently did you visit forests and woodlands last summer, i.e. between April and September 2008?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several times per week • Several times per month • About once a month • Less often • Never <p>[If answered yes to Q9a]</p> <p>And how often this winter, i.e. since October 2008?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several times per week • Several times per month • About once a month • Less often • Never

<p>Q11</p>	<p>[ALL] Now thinking specifically about woodlands and forests and why they are important to the public please indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements. I think woodlands and forests are important to the public because: (1) strongly disagree, (2) disagree, (3) neither agree or disagree, (4) agree, (5) strongly agree, and (6) don't know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They contribute to the local economy • They are places where people can relax and de-stress • They are places where people can exercise and keep fit • They are places where people can have fun and enjoy themselves • They are places where people can learn about the environment • They are places where people can learn about local culture or history • They are important places for wildlife • They bring the community together • They make areas nicer places to live • They get people involved in local issues
<p>Q12</p>	<p>[If answered yes to Q9a Others to Q14a] Now thinking specifically about woodlands and forests you have visited and why they are important TO YOU PERSONALLY please indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements. Woodlands and forests are important to me because: (1) strongly disagree, (2) disagree, (3) neither agree or disagree, (4) agree, (5) strongly agree, and (6) don't know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They help me to earn a living or make ends meet • They are places where I can relax and de-stress • They are places where I can exercise and keep fit • They are places where I can have fun and enjoy myself • They are good places for me to socialise • They are places where I can learn about the environment • They are places where I can learn about local culture or history • They are important places for wildlife • They bring the community together • They make areas nicer places to live • They get me involved in local issues • They are places where I feel at home

<p>Q13</p>	<p>[If answered yes to Q9a] Thinking of your visits to woodlands / forests over the past few years / what activities have you taken part in? (multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise e.g. walk, run, mountain biking • Dog walking • Horse riding • Been on a guided walk or talk • Followed an interpreted trail • Been to enjoy sculpture or arts and crafts • Been to see an ancient tree • Been to see a historic site • Attended an organised event in a wood that involved physical activity • Visited a cafe • Had a picnic or barbecue • Played with the children • Watched nature • Relaxed or spent time thinking • Volunteered • Attended cultural event or activity (e.g. exhibition, performance or ceremony) • None • Other (specify)
<p>Q14</p>	<p>[ALL] a. Do you consider yourself to have any of the following disabilities or health problems? (Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility disability • Visual impairment • Hearing impairment • Mental health problem • Physical disability • Other • None of the above <p>[Ask all with a disability Others to Q15] b. Does your disability affect your use of this site or other greenspaces?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No

Q15	<p>[ALL]</p> <p>And which of these best describes your ethnic origin? (one answer)</p> <p>A. White</p> <p>1. Any White background</p> <p>B. Mixed</p> <p>2. White and Black Caribbean 3. White and Black African 4. White and Asian 5. Any Other Mixed background, (please specify)</p> <p>C. Asian or Asian British</p> <p>6. Indian 7. Pakistani 8. Bangladeshi 9. Any Other Asian background, (please specify)</p> <p>D. Black or British Black</p> <p>10. Caribbean 11. African 12. Any Other African background, (please specify)</p> <p>E. Chinese or other ethnic group</p> <p>13. Chinese 14. Any Other, (please specify)</p>
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