

# Public Opinion of Forestry 2011, UK and England

Results from the UK Survey of  
Public Opinion of Forestry

28 July 2011

## Official Statistics:

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## Executive Summary

### 2011 survey

In 2011, three separate public opinion of forestry surveys were undertaken - across the UK (2,068 interviews), Wales (1,003 interviews) and Scotland (1,018 interviews).

This report presents the results from the UK survey (2,068 interviews), including results for respondents in England (1,733 interviews). Where appropriate, the report also highlights changes over time by comparing the results with those from previous surveys.

Separate reports provide results for Wales and Scotland.

### Woodland recreation

Around two thirds of respondents (67% in the UK and 68% in England) had visited a woodland or forest in the last few years, a significantly lower proportion than in 2009 (77% in both the UK and England) or 2007 (77% in the UK and 76% in England) but similar to the results in 2005 and 2003. Of those respondents who had not visited, around one third (33% in the UK and 36% in England) gave their main reason for not visiting as 'I'm too busy/not enough time'. This was also the most commonly stated reason for not visiting more often by those who had visited (36% in the UK and in England).

Around two thirds of woodland visitors had been to a woodland or forest at least once a month in the summer of 2010 (69% in the UK and 68% in England). 39% (in the UK and in England) visited at least once a month in the winter of 2010/11.

Of those adults who had visited woodlands in the last few years, 84% (in the UK and in England) visited woodlands in the countryside and 62% (in the UK and in England) visited woodlands in and around towns.

The most common activity undertaken by those who visited woodland in the last few years was exercise (66% in the UK and 65% in England).

### Importance of forestry

When asked about what was important to the public generally at least 95% (in the UK and in England) agreed with the statements that woodlands 'are important places for wildlife', 'are places where people can relax and de-stress' and 'are places where people can have fun and enjoy themselves'.

When presented with statements relating to how woodlands were important to themselves, the majority of respondents agreed that woodlands 'are places where I can relax and de-stress', 'are places where I can have fun and enjoy myself' and 'are places where I can exercise and keep fit'.

## Engagement with Forest Issues

Around four-fifths of respondents (83% in the UK and 82% in England) agreed that 'woods are good places for children to learn about the outdoors', while three quarters (75% in the UK and 74% in England) thought "playing in woods is good for children's health".

8 per cent of respondents in the UK and in England said that, in the last 12 months, they had been involved with woodland voluntary work (4% in the UK and in England), a tree planting event (3% in the UK and in England), a community based woodland group (2% in the UK and in England) or been involved or consulted about plans for managing or using woodland in their area (2% in the UK and in England).

## Climate change

When asked about the ways in which forests and woodlands can impact on climate change, around four fifths of respondents (82% in the UK and 83% in England) agreed that 'Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood' and around three quarters (73% in the UK and 74% in England) agreed that 'planting more trees can help us cope with climate change by providing shade and reducing the effects of flooding'.

A set of statements was presented to respondents to ascertain their views on the way in which UK forests should be managed in response to climate change. The responses received reflect a general belief that forestry is a method that can be used to mitigate the effects of climate change. For example, 90% of respondents (in the UK and in England) agreed that 'A lot more trees should be planted' while only 13% (in the UK and in England) agreed that 'There is nothing that anyone could do that would make any difference'.

## Wood as a fuel

12% of respondents (in the UK and in England) said that they used wood as a fuel in their home, either on its own, or with other fuels. Of those that did not, around one half (51% in the UK and 53% in England) stated that they do not have the facilities (e.g. open fire/ chimney).

# 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, 2007 and 2010;
- In 2011 three separate surveys were carried out for the UK, for Scotland and for Wales. Some questions were asked in all three of the surveys conducted in 2011, 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 survey.

**Table 1: Sample Sizes for Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys since 2001**

Approximate number of adults interviewed

Year	UK <sup>1</sup>	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
2001	2,000		1,000	1,000	
2003	4,000	3,400	1,000	1,000	
2005	4,000	3,400	1,000	1,000	1,000
2007	4,000	3,300	1,000	1,000	1,000
2009	2,000	1,700	1,000	1,000	
2010					1,000
2011	2,000	1,700	1,000	1,000	

Note:

1. 2001 and 2005 surveys covered Great Britain only (i.e. excluding Northern Ireland).

## 1.2 This report

This report presents the views of the respondents to the UK survey, and highlights any changes over time by comparing the 2011 results with previous surveys. The report gives results for respondents in England, obtained from the UK survey, as well as for respondents in the UK as a whole. Respondents in England accounted for 84% of the UK respondents in 2011.

Separate reports are available for Scotland and for Wales giving the results of the separate surveys in each country.

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 report<sup>1</sup>.

### 1.3 Survey design

The 2011 survey results presented in this report are taken from the GfK NOP Random Location Omnibus survey carried out from the 24<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011. The survey was based on a representative sample of 2,068 adults (aged 16 or over) across the UK, of whom 1,733 adults were in England. They were selected from within 175 randomly selected sample points across the UK. More details of the sample method are given in Appendix 1: GfK NOP Method.

The 2009 survey was also obtained from the GfK NOP Random Location Omnibus survey.

The UK 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 1: GfK NOP Method for more details).

- For questions asked in 2011 to the whole UK sample of 2,068, the range of uncertainty around any figure should be no more than  $\pm 3.2\%$  ( $\pm 3.5\%$  for the 1,733 respondents in England). In previous years when the UK sample was larger (i.e. around 4,000) the range of uncertainty should be no more than  $\pm 2.3\%$ .
- 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 asked only to those who visited woodland (around 1,400 respondents in the UK) should be no more than  $\pm 3.9\%$ .
- For questions asked to whole samples, differences of more than 4.6% (UK) or 5.0% (England) between the 2011 results and 2009 results are statistically significant.

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

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

## 2 Woodland Recreation

### 2.1 Proportion visiting woodland

In 2011, around two thirds of respondents in the UK (67%) and in England (68%) said they had visited forests or woodlands in the last few years for walks, picnics or other recreation, representing a significant decrease over the results in 2007 and 2009 but similar to the results in earlier years.

**Table 2: Visited woodland in last few years**

Year	Percent of respondents	
	UK	England
2003	67	66
2005	65	65
2007	77	76
2009	77	77
2011	67	68

Weighted base: All respondents:

UK - 2003 (4,120), 2005 (3,892), 2007 (4,018), 2009 (2,011), 2011 (2,068);

England - 2003 (3,412), 2005 (3,367), 2007 (3,339), 2009 (1,685), 2011 (1,733).



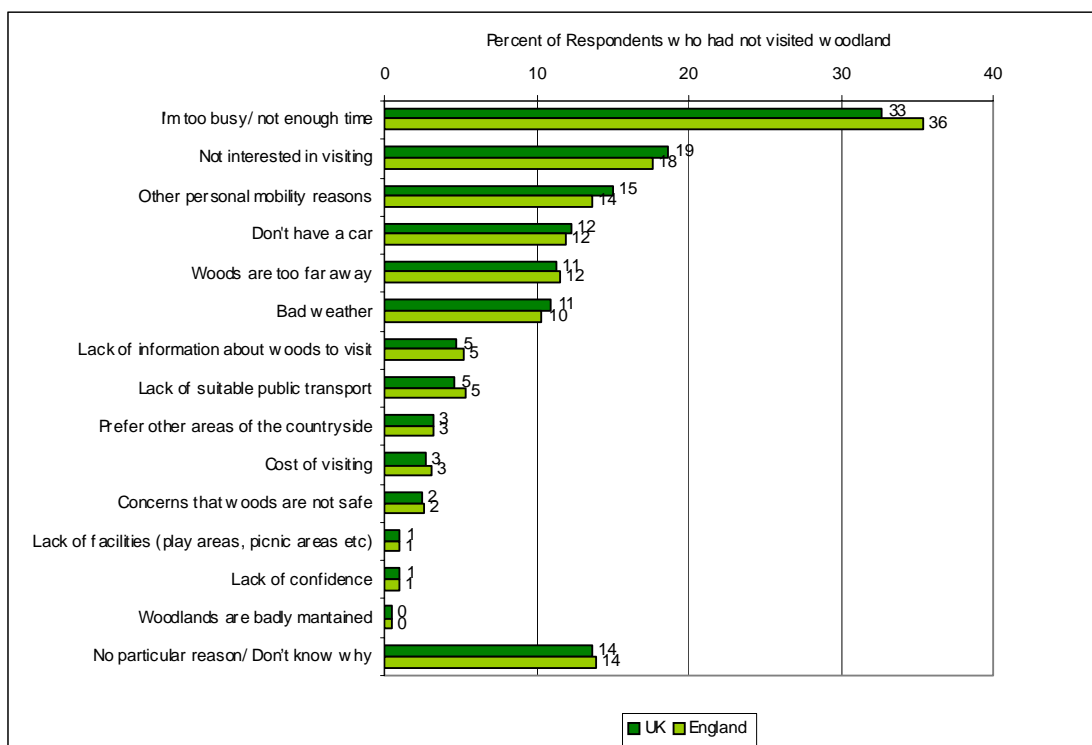
## 2.2 Reasons for not visiting woodland

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

### 2.2.1 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 (33% of those in the UK; 36% of those in England). Other common answers included 'Not interested in visiting' (19% for the UK, 18% for England) and 'Other personal mobility reasons' (15% for the UK, 14% in England).

**Figure 1: Main Reasons for not visiting Woodland in the last few years**



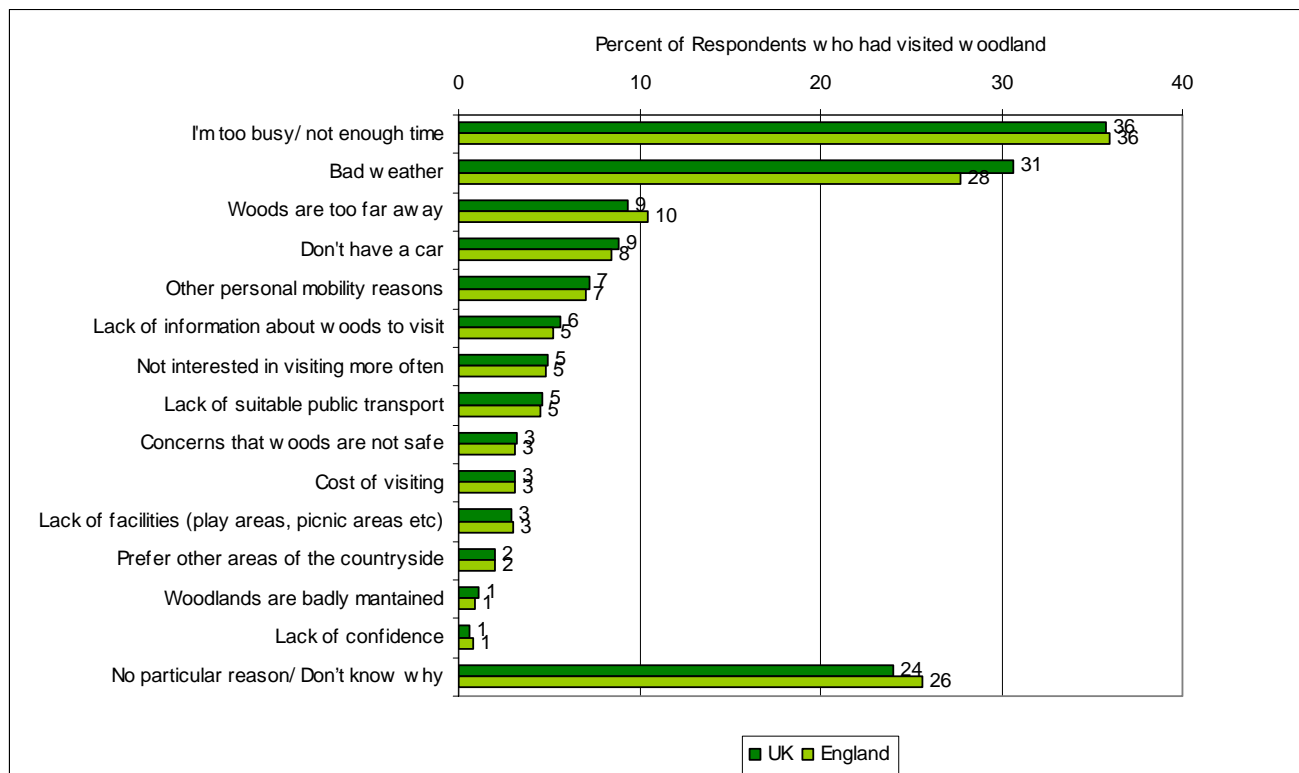
Weighted base: 2011 survey - Respondents who had not visited woodland in the last few years: UK (675), England (563)

NOTE – Respondents could give more than one option.

## 2.2.2 Reasons for not visiting woodland more often

Of those respondents who had visited woodlands, the most commonly stated reasons for not visiting more often were 'I'm too busy/not enough time' (36% for the UK and for England) and 'bad weather' (31% for the UK, 28% in England).

**Figure 2: Main Reasons for not visiting woodland more often**



Weighted base: 2011 survey - All respondents who had visited woodlands: UK (1,393); England (1,170)

NOTE – Respondents could give more than one option.

## 2.3 Frequency of Woodland Visits

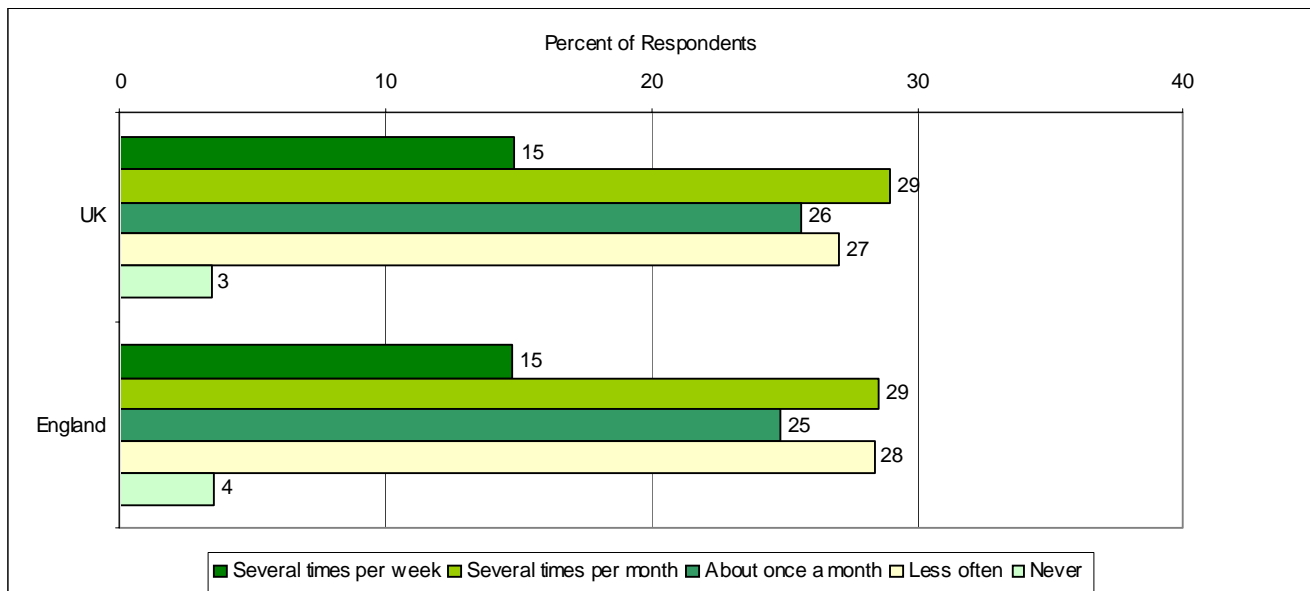
Of the respondents who had visited woodlands in the last few years, around two thirds (69% in the UK and 68% in England) said that they visited at least once a month during summer 2010 (between April and September 2010). Few respondents who had visited woodlands in the past few years said that they did not visit during summer 2010 (3% in the UK and 4% in England).

**Table 3: Frequency of visits in Summer (April to September)**

Frequency	Percent of respondents			
	UK		England	
	2009	2011	2009	2011
Several times per week	12	15	12	15
Several times per month	24	29	24	29
About once a month	26	26	26	25
Less often	34	27	34	28
Never	5	3	5	4

Weighted base: All respondents who had visited woodlands: UK - 2009 (1,549), 2011 (1,393); England – 2009 (1,291), 2011 (1,170)

**Figure 3: Frequency of visits in Summer (April to September 2010)**



Weighted base: 2011 survey - All respondents who had visited woodlands: UK (1,393); England (1,170)

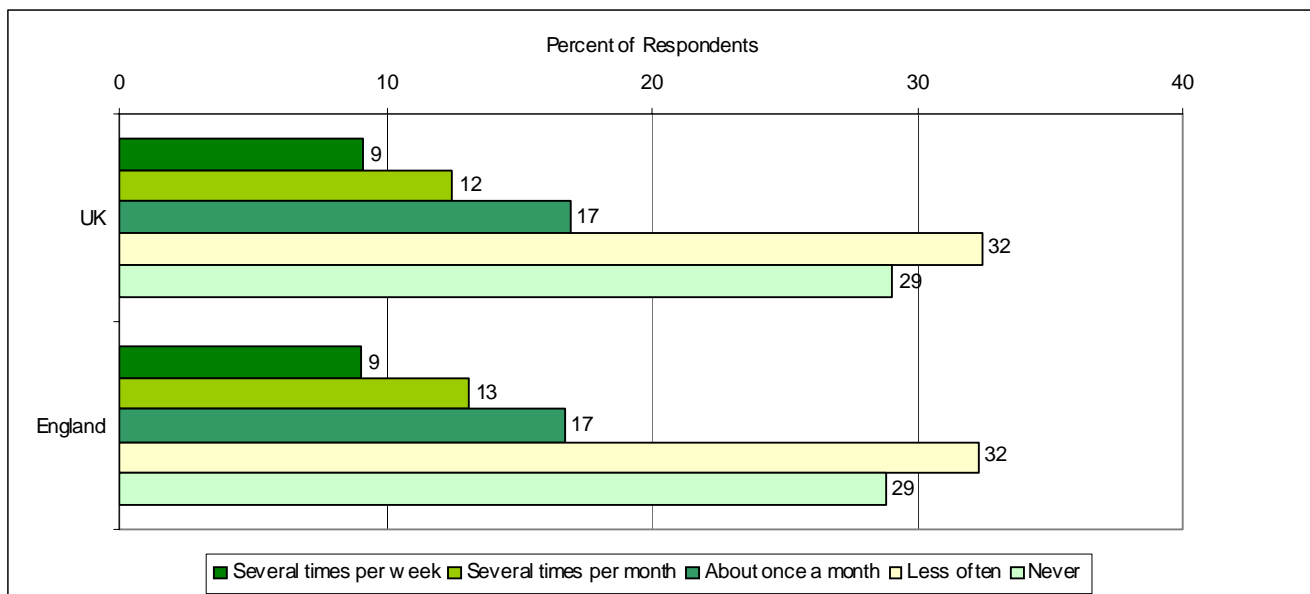
Of the respondents who had visited woodlands in the last few years, 39% (for both the UK and England) said they visited at least once a month during winter 2010/11 (between October 2010 and March 2011). Almost one third of respondents (29% for both UK and England respondents) said they did not visit during the winter.

**Table 4: Frequency of visits in Winter (October 2010 to March 2011)**

Frequency	Percent of respondents			
	UK		England	
	2009	2011	2009	2011
Several times per week	7	9	7	9
Several times per month	11	12	11	13
About once a month	16	17	16	17
Less often	36	32	36	32
Never	31	29	31	29

Weighted base: All respondents who had visited woodlands: UK - 2009 (1,549), 2011 (1,393); England – 2009 (1,291), 2011 (1,170)

**Figure 4: Frequency of visits in Winter (October 2010 to March 2011)**



Weighted base: 2011 survey - All respondents who had visited woodlands: UK (1,393); England (1,170)

## 2.4 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% for both UK and England) than 'woodlands in and around towns' (62% for UK and for England). In addition, nearly half of respondents (47% in UK and 46% in England) reported visiting woodlands and forests in both locations.

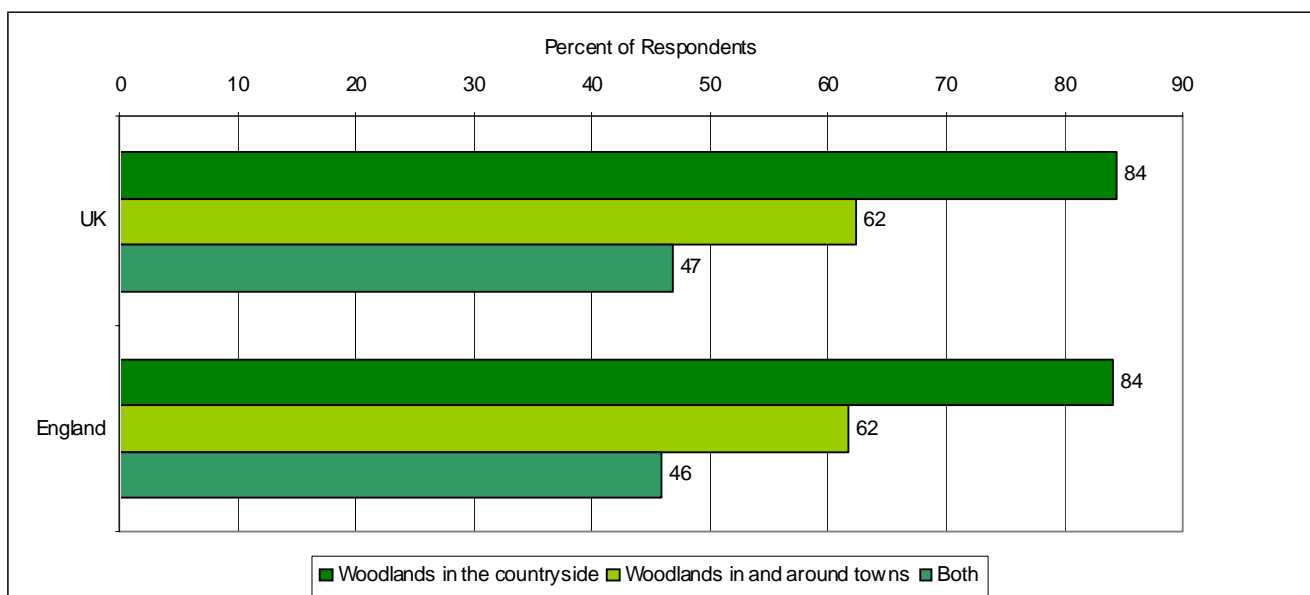
**Table 5: Type of woodland visited (urban/rural)**

Type of woodland	Percent of respondents			
	UK		England	
	2009	2011	2009	2011
Woodlands in the countryside	86	84	84	84
Woodlands in and around towns	64	62	61	62
Both	48	47	45	46

Weighted base: All respondents who had visited woodlands: UK - 2009 (1,549), 2011 (1,393); England – 2009 (1,291), 2011 (1,170)

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'.

**Figure 5: Type of woodland visited (urban/rural)**



Weighted base: 2011 survey - All respondents who had visited woodlands: UK (1,393); England (1,170)

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'.

## 2.5 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 in 2011 was exercise e.g walking, running, mountain biking (cited by 66% of those in the UK and 65% of those in England who had visited woodlands). Other popular activities included dog walking, relaxing/spending time thinking, watching nature, playing with children and having a picnic or barbecue (all mentioned by around one third of respondents in both the UK and in England).

These results differ from the 2009 survey, when exercise was mentioned by around three quarters of respondents in both the UK and in England, and relaxing/spending time thinking and watching nature were both stated by over one half of respondents in the UK and in England.

**Table 6: Activities undertaken on visit**

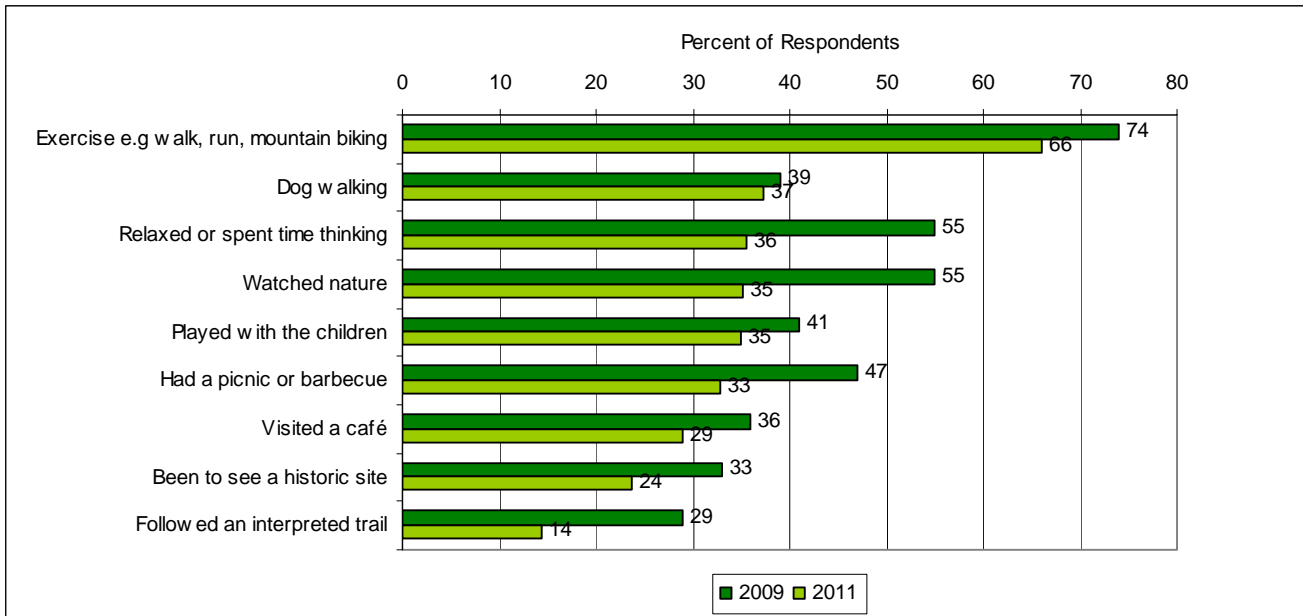
Activity	Percent of respondents			
	UK		England	
	2009	2011	2009	2011
Exercise e.g walk, run, mountain biking	74	66	74	65
Dog walking	39	37	38	37
Relaxed or spent time thinking	55	36	53	36
Watched nature	55	35	55	36
Played with the children	41	35	40	34
Had a picnic or barbecue	47	33	45	32
visited a café	36	29	36	29
Been to see a historic site	33	24	31	24
Followed an interpreted trail	29	14	29	14
Been to enjoy sculpture or arts and crafts	16	9	16	10
Been on a guided walk or talk	16	8	14	8
Been to see an ancient trees	16	6	16	6
Attended an organised event in a wood that involved physical activity	12	6	11	6
Attended cultural event or activity	10	6	10	6
Horse riding	6	4	6	3
Volunteered	5	3	4	2
Other	4	6	3	6
None of these	1	1	1	1

Weighted base: All respondents who had visited woodlands: UK - 2009 (1,549), 2011 (1,393); England – 2009 (1,291), 2011 (1,170)

NOTE- Respondents could select more than one option.

Figures 6a and 6b provide a comparison of the 2009 and 2011 results for the most popular activities recorded by UK (figure 6a) and England (figure 6b) respondents.

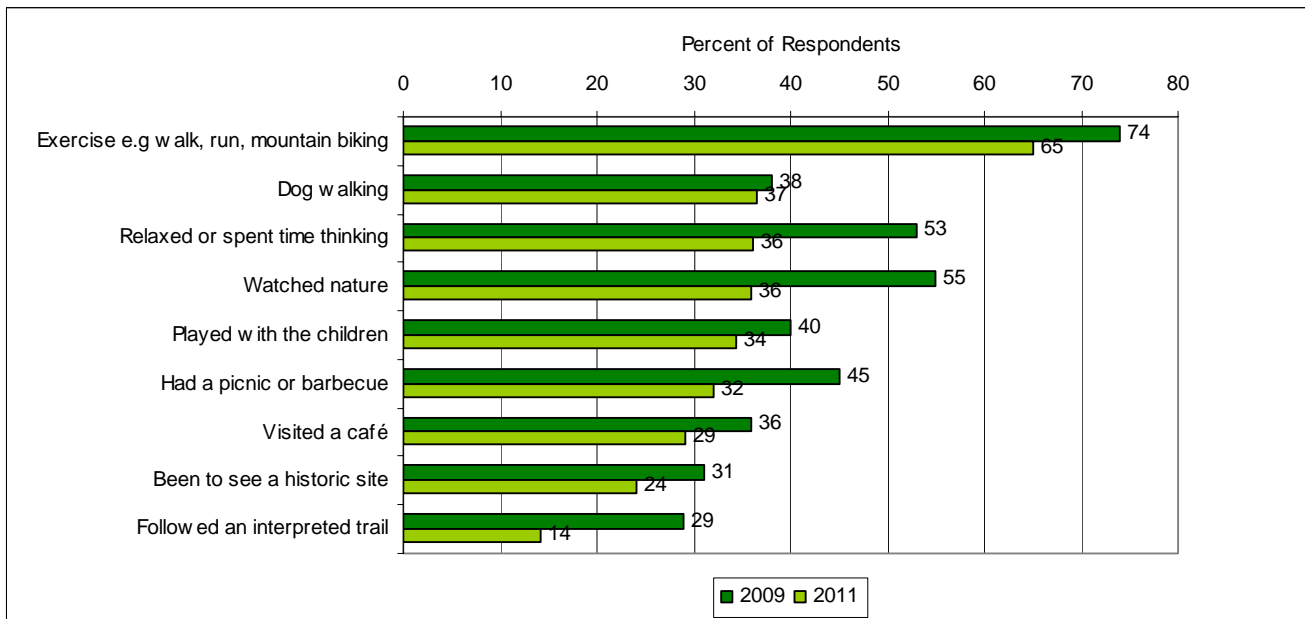
**Figure 6a: Most popular activities undertaken on visit, UK**



Weighted base: All UK respondents who had visited woodlands: 2009 (1,549); 2011 (1,393)

NOTE- Respondents could select more than one option. Excludes less popular activities.

**Figure 6b: Most popular activities undertaken on visit, England**



Weighted base: All England respondents who had visited woodlands: 2009 (1,291); 2011 (1,170)

NOTE- Respondents could select more than one option. Excludes less popular activities.

## 3 Importance of forestry

Respondents were asked 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.

### 3.1 Importance of Woodland and Forests to the Public

Table 7 shows the percentage of respondents who agreed (selected 'Strongly agree' or 'Agree') with each of the statements relating to importance of woodland to the public.

The highest levels of agreement were with the following statements:

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

The lowest levels of agreements were with the following statements:

- 'They bring the community together' (54% in the UK and 55% in England agreed);
- 'They get people involved in local issues' (57% in the UK and in England agreed).

**Table 7: Reasons woodlands and forests are important to the public**

Reason	Percent of respondents who agree or strongly agree			
	UK		England	
	2009	2011	2009	2011
They are important places for wildlife	97	97	97	97
They are places where people can relax and de-stress	95	95	95	95
People can have fun and enjoy themselves	94	95	94	95
They are places where people can exercise and keep fit	..	94	..	94
They make areas nicer places to live	96	90	93	91
People can learn about the environment	91	90	91	89
People can learn about local culture or history	69	71	68	71
They contribute to the local economy	59	60	57	60
They get people involved in local issues	63	57	63	57
They bring the community together	50	54	51	55

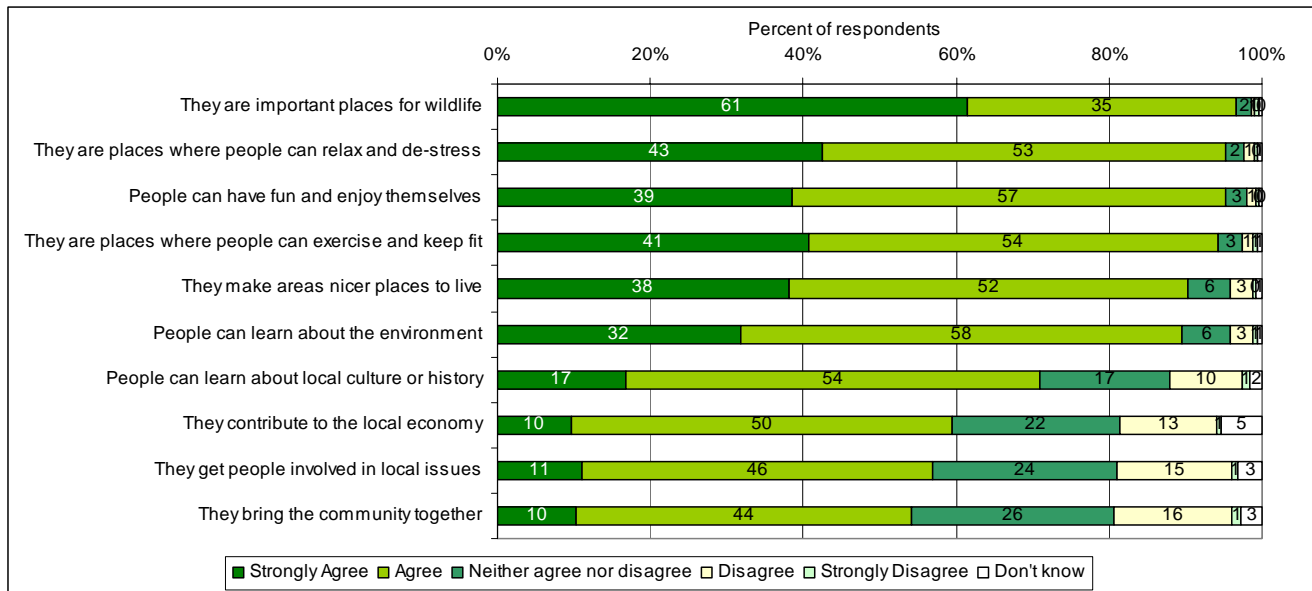
Weighted base: All respondents: UK - 2009 (2,011), 2011 (2,068); England – 2009 (1,685), 2011 (1,733)

.. Denotes data not available (statement not included in 2009 survey).



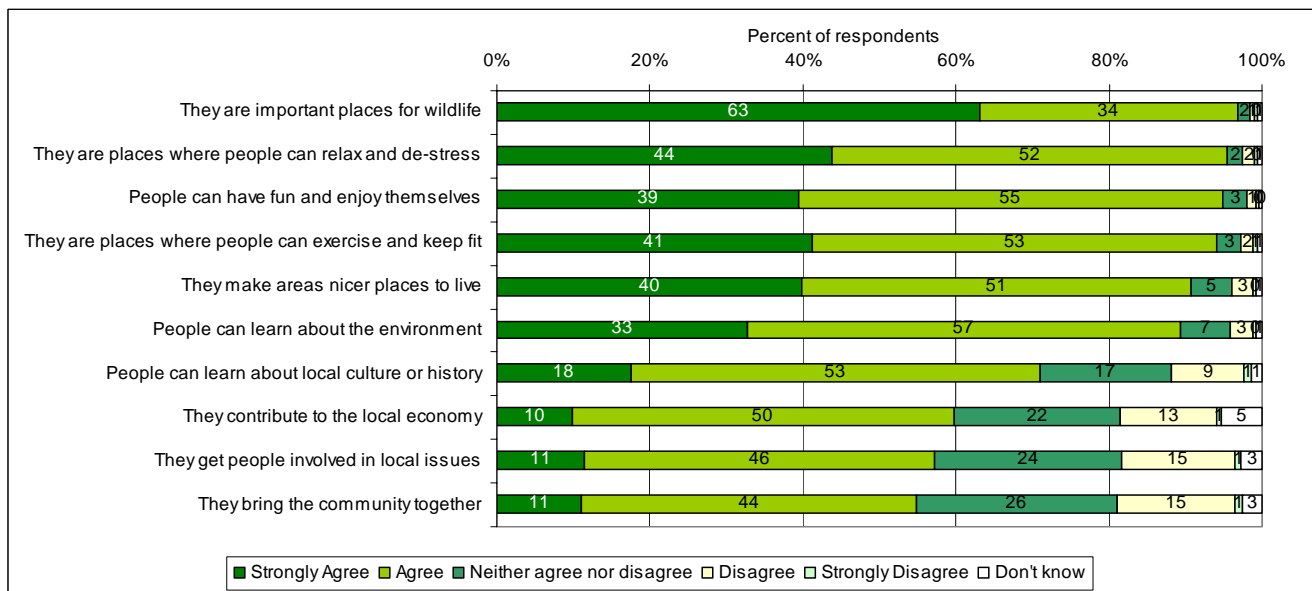
Figures 7a and 7b summarise the full range of responses to the 2011 survey by respondents in the UK (figure 7a) and England (figure 7b).

**Figure 7a: Reasons woodlands and forests are important to the public, UK**



Weighted base: 2011 survey - All respondents in UK (2,011)

**Figure 7b: Reasons woodlands and forests are important to the public, England**



Weighted base: 2011 survey - All respondents in England (1,733)

### 3.2 Importance of woodland to individual respondents

Respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years (chapter 2) were also asked to state their level of agreement with a list of statements as to why woodlands and forests are important to themselves personally.

As shown in table 8, the majority 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 places where I can relax and de-stress' (95% in the UK and 94% in England agreed)
- 'They are places where I can have fun and enjoy myself' (94% in the UK and 93% in England agreed)
- 'They are places where I can exercise and keep fit' (90% in the UK and 89% in England agreed)

The lowest levels of agreements were with the following statements:

- 'They get me involved in local issues' (34% in the UK and 35% in England agreed)
- 'They are good places for me to socialise' (59% in the UK and 58% in England agreed)

**Table 8: Reasons woodlands and forests are important to the public**

Percent of respondents who agree or strongly agree

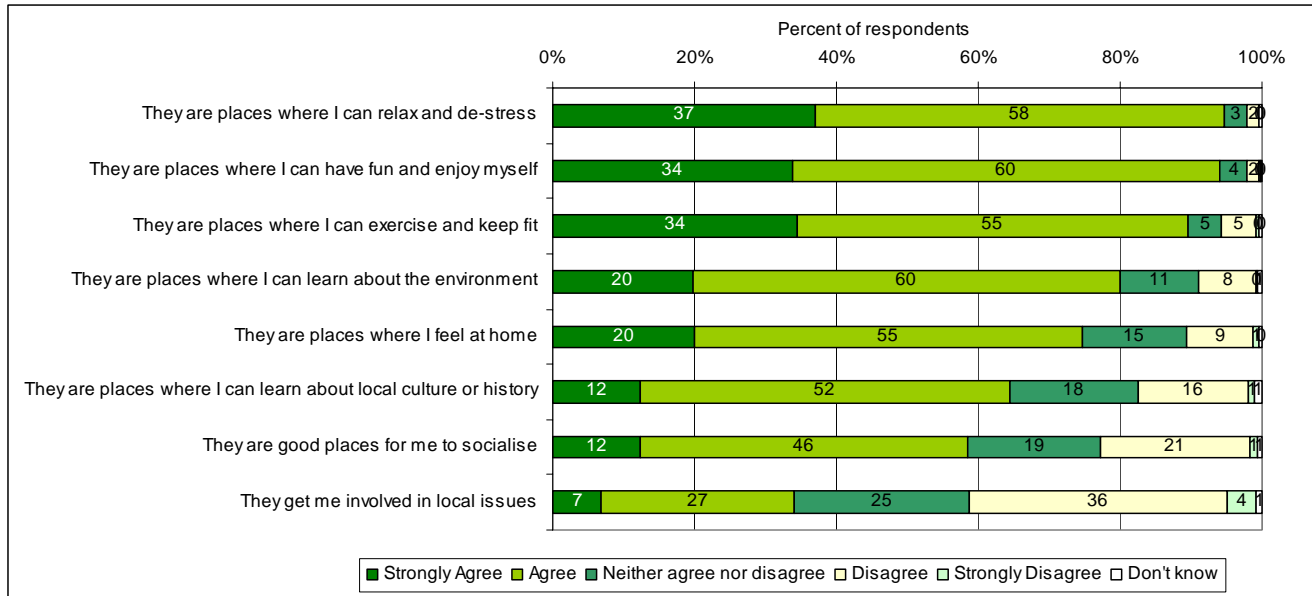
Reason	UK		England	
	2009	2011	2009	2011
They are places where I can relax and de-stress	94	95	94	94
They are places where I can have fun and enjoy myself	91	94	90	93
They are places where I can exercise and keep fit	84	90	84	89
They are places where I can learn about the environment	80	80	81	79
They are places where I feel at home	69	75	69	75
They are places where I can learn about local culture or history	..	64	..	64
They are good places for me to socialise	50	59	51	58
They get me involved in local issues	33	34	34	35

Weighted base: All respondents who had visited woodlands: UK - 2009 (1,549), 2011 (1,393); England - 2009 (1,291), 2011 (1,170)

.. Denotes data not available (statement not included in 2009 survey).

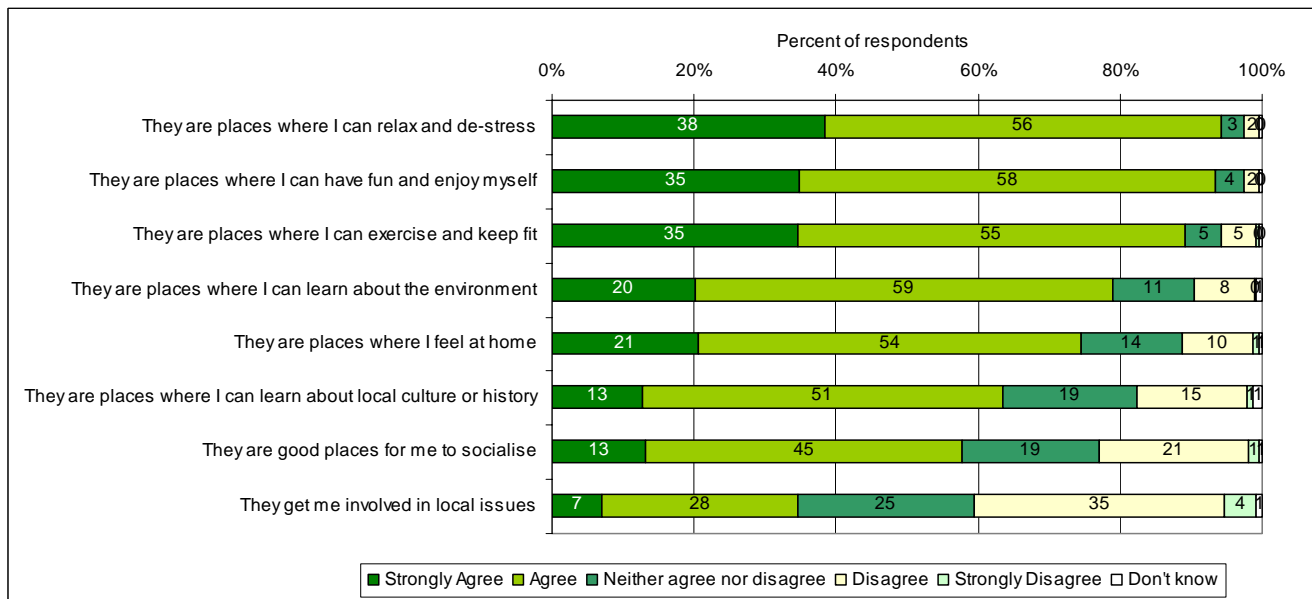
Figures 8a and 8b summarise the full range of responses to the 2011 survey by respondents in the UK (figure 8a) and England (figure 8b).

**Figure 8a: Reasons woodlands and forests are important to the respondent, UK**



Weighted base: 2011 survey – All respondents who had visited woodlands: UK (1,393)

**Figure 8b: Reasons woodlands and forests are important to the respondent, England**



Weighted base: 2011 survey - All respondents who had visited woodlands: England (1,170)

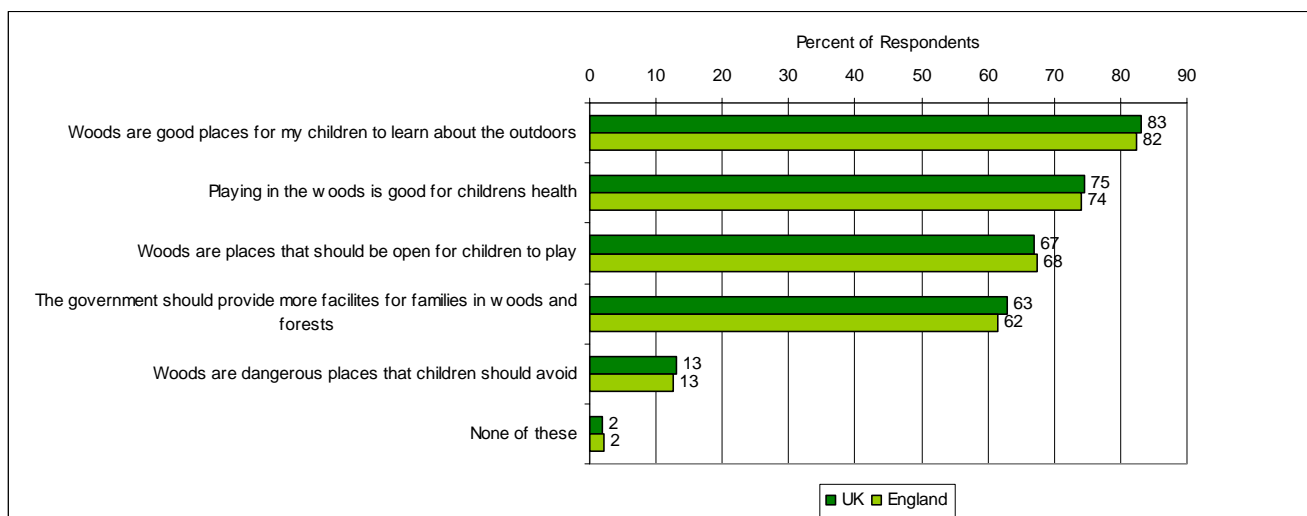
## 4 Engagement with Forest Issues

### 4.1 Children in woods and forests

In the 2011 survey, all respondents were asked to state if they agreed with a list of statements about children and woodlands.

Around four fifths of respondents (83% in the UK and 82% in England) agreed that 'Woods are good places for my children to learn about the outdoors' while three quarters (75% in the UK and 74% in England) agreed that 'playing in the woods is good for children's health'. Around two thirds (67% in the UK and 68% in England) said 'Woods are places that should be open for children to play' and around three fifths (63% in the UK and 62% in England) thought 'the government should provide more facilities for families in woods and forests'. Few respondents (13% in both the UK and in England) said that 'Woods are dangerous places that children should avoid'.

**Figure 9: Level of agreement to statements about children and woods**



Weighted base: 2011 survey - All respondents in UK (2,068) and in England (1,733)

NOTE- Respondents could select more than one option.

## 4.2 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 9 shows that, in the previous 12 months, 8 per cent of respondents to the 2011 survey (in both the UK and in England) said that they had been involved with:

- voluntary work in connection with a woodland (4% in the UK and in England);
- an organised tree planting event (3% in the UK and in England);
- a community based woodland group (2% in the UK and in England);
- or consulted about plans for creating/managing or using woodland (2% in the UK and in England).

**Table 9: Engagement with woodland consultations, organised events, volunteering or a woodland community group in the last 12 months**

Been involved in	Percent of respondents			
	UK		England	
	2009	2011	2009	2011
Been involved in voluntary work in connection with a woodland (e.g physical work in a wood, admin, fund raising , running a group)	3	4	3	4
Been involved in an organised tree planting event	3	3	2	3
Become or are you a member of a community based woodland group such as a 'Community Trust' or 'Friends of Group'	3	2	2	2
Been involved or consulted about plans for creating/managing or using woodlands in your area	3	2	3	2
None of these	91	92	91	92

Weighted base: All respondents: UK - 2009 (2,011), 2011 (2,068); England – 2009 (1,685), 2011 (1,733)

## 5 Climate change

### 5.1 Woodlands' impact on 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.

Table 10 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' (82% in the UK and 83% in England agreed);
- 'Planting more trees can help us cope with climate change by providing shade and reducing the effects of flooding' (73% in the UK and 74% in England agreed);
- 'The UK could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees' (56% in the UK and 58% in England agreed).

The lowest levels of agreement were with the following statements:

- 'Using wood for fuel makes climate change worse because it releases carbon dioxide' (36% in the UK and 37% in England agreed);
- 'Using wood for building is better for climate change than using materials such as concrete or steel' (42% in the UK and 43% in England agreed).

**Table 10: Ways in which forests and woodlands can impact on climate change**

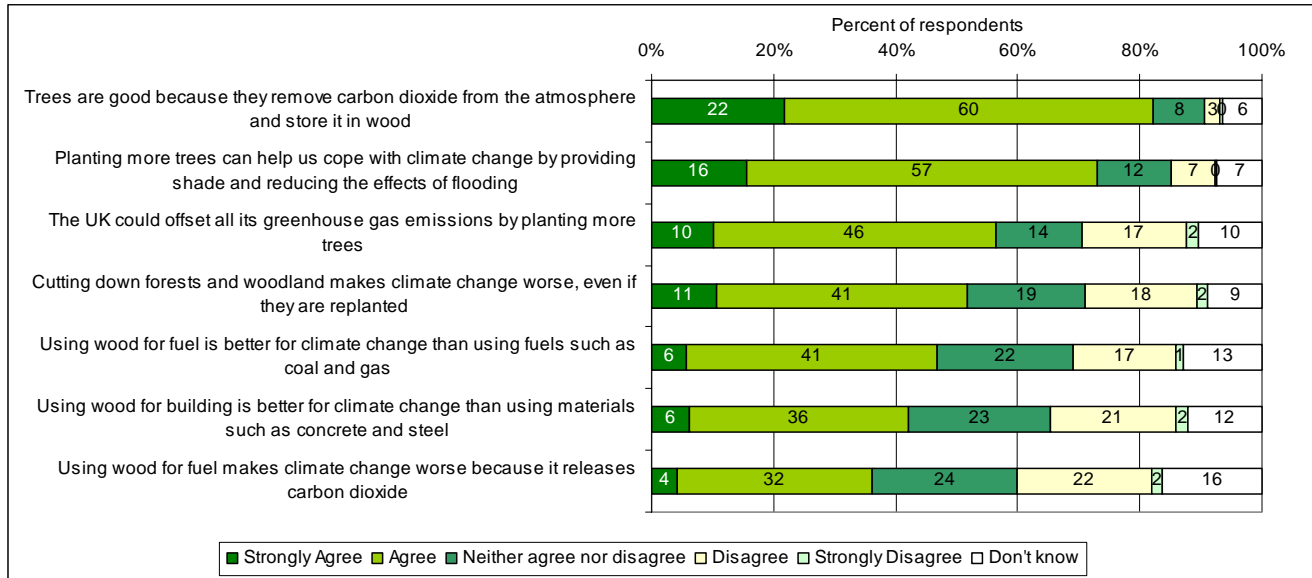
Percent of respondents who agree or strongly agree

	UK		England	
	2009	2011	2009	2011
Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood	84	82	85	83
Planting more trees can help us cope with climate change by providing shade and reducing the effects of flooding	67	73	67	74
The UK could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees	49	56	49	58
Cutting down forests and woodland makes climate change worse, even if they are replanted	52	52	53	53
Using wood for fuel is better for climate change than using fuels such as coal and gas	48	47	47	47
Using wood for building is better for climate change than using materials such as concrete and steel	43	42	42	43
Using wood for fuel makes climate change worse because it releases carbon dioxide	36	36	36	37

Weighted base: All respondents: UK - 2009 (2,011), 2011 (2,068); England – 2009 (1,685), 2011 (1,733)

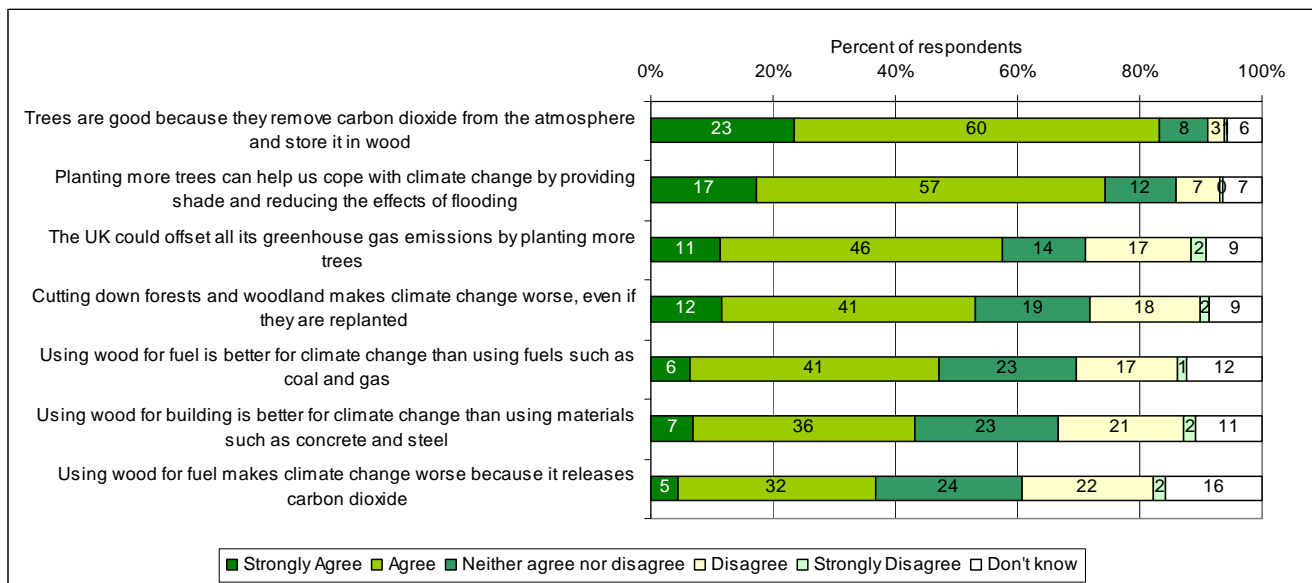
Figures 10a (UK) and 10b (England) summarise the full range of responses to the 2011 survey.

**Figure 10a: Ways in which forests and woodlands can impact on climate change, UK**



Weighted base: All respondents in UK 2011 (2,068)

**Figure 10b: Ways in which forests and woodlands can impact on climate change, England**



Weighted base: All respondents in England 2011 (1,733)

## 5.2 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.

Table 11 shows that the majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that:

- 'A lot more trees should be planted' (90% in both the UK and in England);
- 'More information should be provided about the ways in which wood can be used to lessen our impact on the environment' (86% in both the UK and in England); and that
- 'Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates' (74% in both the UK and in England).

Conversely, few respondents agreed or strongly agreed that:

- 'There is nothing anyone could do that would make any difference' (13% in both the UK and in England);
- 'No action is needed; let nature take its course' (21% in the UK and 20% in England);
- 'Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced' (21% in both the UK and in England);

**Table 11: Management of UK forests in response to the threat of climate change**

Percent of respondents who agree or strongly agree

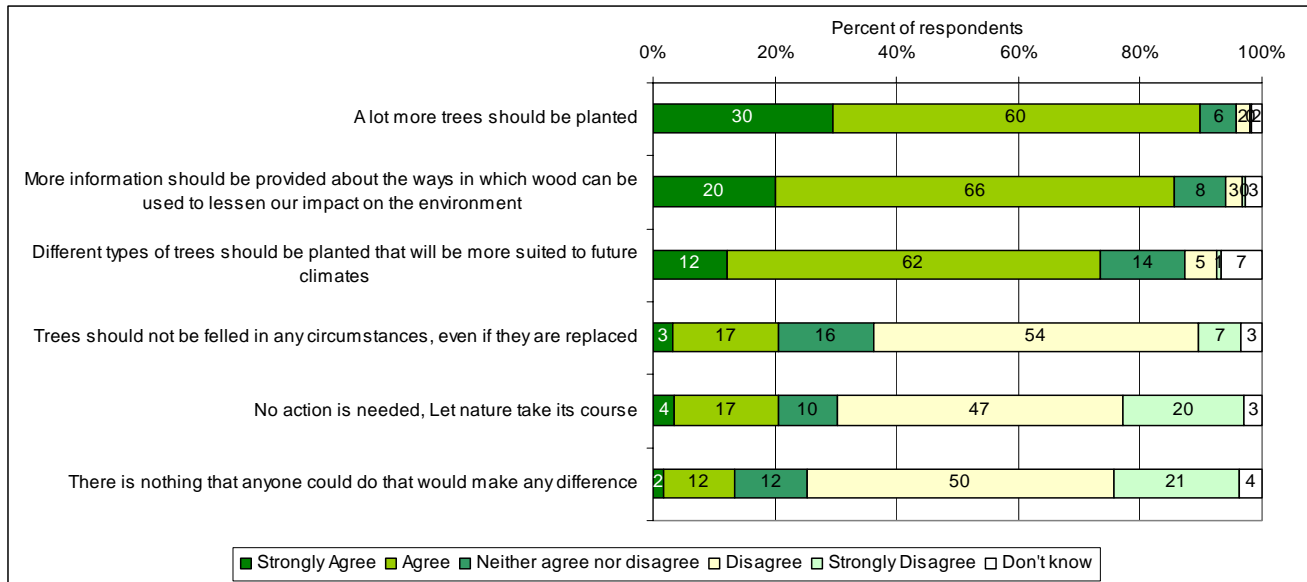
	UK		England	
	2009	2011	2009	2011
A lot more trees should be planted	92	90	92	90
More information should be provided about the ways in which wood can be used to lessen our impact on the environment	86	86	86	86
Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates	70	74	70	74
Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced	17	21	17	21
No action is needed, Let nature take its course	16	21	16	20
There is nothing that anyone could do that would make any difference	13	13	13	13

Weighted base: All respondents: UK - 2009 (2,011), 2011 (2,068); England – 2009 (1,685), 2011 (1,733)



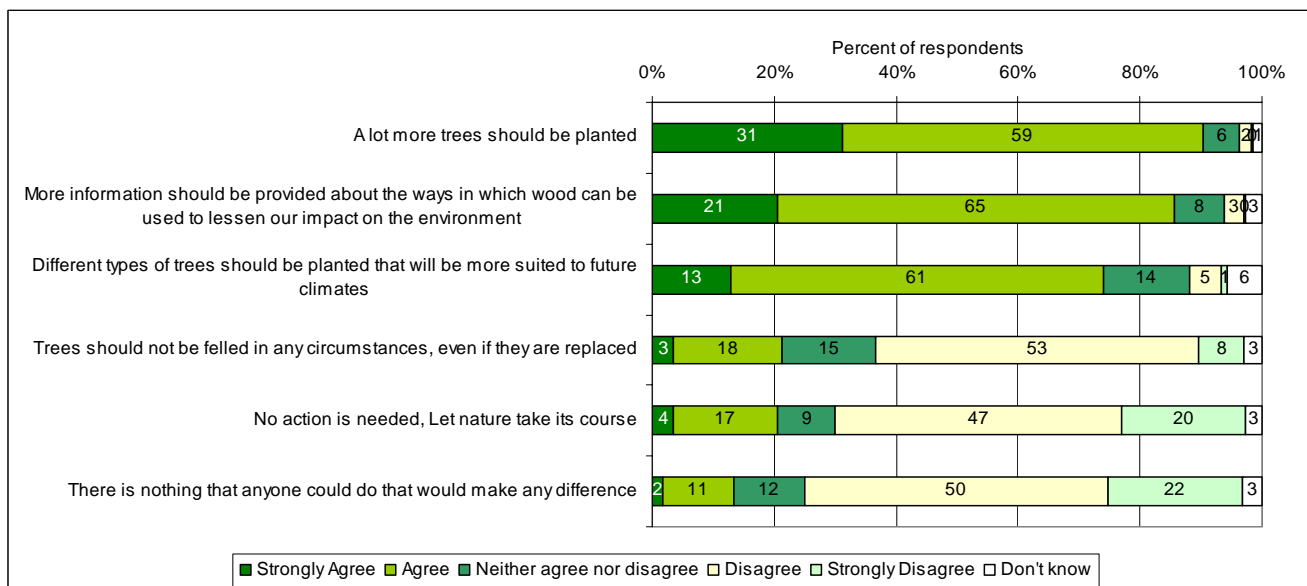
Figures 11a (UK) and 11b (England) summarise the full range of responses to the 2011 survey.

**Figure 11a: Management of UK forests in response to the threat of climate change, UK**



Weighted base: All respondents in UK 2011 (2,068)

**Figure 11b: Management of UK forests in response to the threat of climate change, England**



Weighted base: All respondents in England 2011 (1,733)

## 6 Wood as a Fuel

### 6.1 Prevalence of using wood as a fuel

All respondents were asked to state whether or not they use wood as a fuel in their home, either on its own or with other fuels.

Around one in eight respondents in the UK and in England (12%) reported that they use wood as a fuel.

**Table 12: Use of wood as a fuel in the home**

Year	Percent of respondents	
	UK	England
2007	8	8
2009	11	10
2011	12	12

Weighted base: All respondents in – UK 2007 (4,018), 2009 (2,011), 2011 (2,068); England 2007 (3,339), 2009 (1,685), 2011 (1,733)

Respondents who said they used wood as a fuel were asked three further questions. The following was reported in 2011:

- Around two fifths of respondents (38% in the UK and in England) who used wood as a fuel gathered their wood themselves while most of the remainder either bought it 'a few bags at a time' (36% in the UK and 33% in England) or received it by the truck load (20% in the UK and 22% in England);
- The majority (61% in the UK and 60% in England) said they use wood as a fuel occasionally while the remainder would class themselves as regular users;
- 11% of wood fuel users (in the UK and in England) said they use wood as the main fuel for heating their home, while the rest mainly use something else.

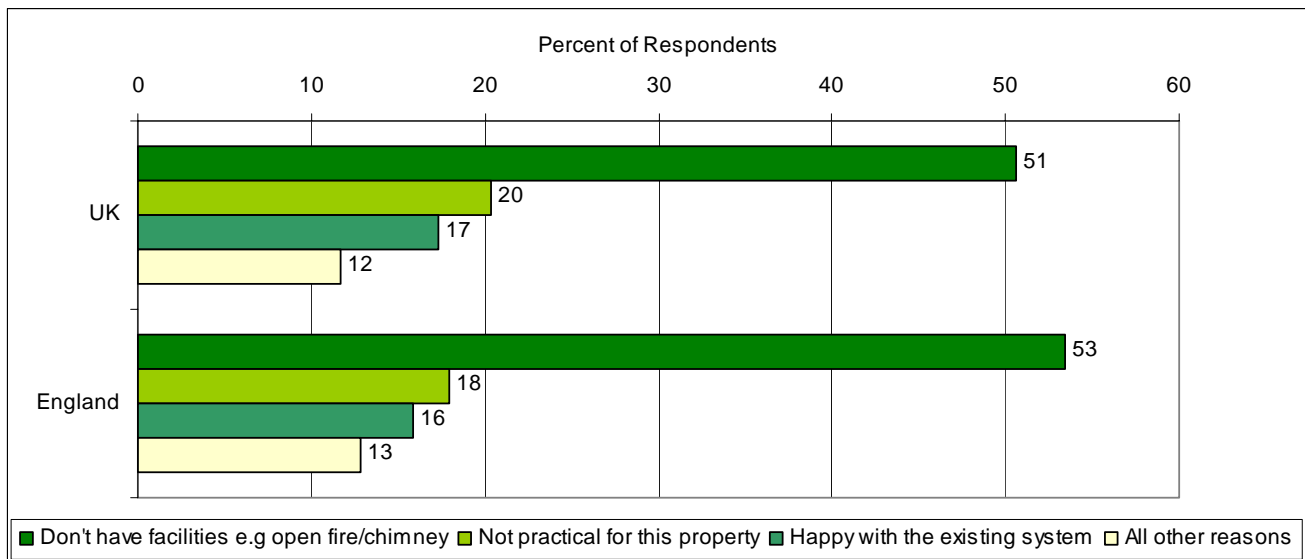
## 6.2 Reasons for not using wood as a fuel

Respondents who said they did not use wood as a fuel were asked to give the main reason why not.

The most common reasons cited by respondents who do not use wood as a fuel, either on its own or with other fuels, were:

- 'Don't have facilities e.g. open fire/ chimney' (51% in the UK and 53% in England),
- 'Not practical for this property' (20% in the UK and 18% in England) and
- 'Happy with the existing system' (17% in the UK and 16% in England).

**Figure 12: Reasons that respondents do not use wood as a fuel in their home**



Weighted base: 2011 survey - All Respondents who do not use wood as a fuel: UK (1,811), England (1,525).

NOTE- Respondents could select more than one option.

## Appendix 1: GfK NOP Method

### UK 2011 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 2: UK Questionnaire 2011

<b>Q1</b>	<p><b>[All]</b></p> <p><b>a. In the last few years have you visited forests or woodlands for walks, picnics or other recreation?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No</li> </ul> <p><b>b. Which of the following, if any, are the main reasons for you not visiting woodland/forests more often or at all?</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not interested in visiting more often</li> <li>• Don't have a car</li> <li>• Lack of suitable public transport</li> <li>• Other personal mobility reasons (difficulty in walking, unwell, etc.)</li> <li>• Woods are too far away</li> <li>• Lack of facilities (play areas, picnic areas, etc.)</li> <li>• Lack of information about woods to visit</li> <li>• Prefer other areas of countryside</li> <li>• Concerns that woods are not safe</li> <li>• Woodlands are badly maintained</li> <li>• Cost of visiting</li> <li>• Lack of confidence</li> <li>• I'm too busy/ not enough time</li> <li>• Bad weather</li> <li>• None of the above</li> </ul> <p><b>[Ask if answered yes to Q1a. Others to Q4]</b></p> <p><b>c. Did you visit woodlands in the countryside or woodlands in and around towns or both?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodlands in the countryside</li> <li>• Woodlands in and around towns</li> <li>• Both</li> </ul>
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<b>Q2</b>	<p><b>[If answered yes to Q1a]</b>  <b>How frequently did you visit forests and woodlands last summer, i.e. between April and September 2010?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several times per week</li> <li>• Several times per month</li> <li>• About once a month</li> <li>• Less often</li> <li>• Never</li> </ul> <p><b>[If answered yes to Q1a]</b>  <b>And how often this winter, i.e. since October 2010?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several times per week</li> <li>• Several times per month</li> <li>• About once a month</li> <li>• Less often</li> <li>• Never</li> </ul>
<b>Q3</b>	<p><b>[If answered yes to Q1a]</b>  <b>Thinking of your visits to woodlands / forests over the past few years / what activities have you taken part in?</b>          (multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise e.g. walk, run, mountain biking</li> <li>• Dog walking</li> <li>• Horse riding</li> <li>• Been on a guided walk or talk</li> <li>• Followed an interpreted trail</li> <li>• Been to enjoy sculpture or arts and crafts</li> <li>• Been to see an ancient tree</li> <li>• Been to see a historic site</li> <li>• Attended an organised event in a wood that involved physical activity</li> <li>• Visited a cafe</li> <li>• Had a picnic or barbecue</li> <li>• Played with the children</li> <li>• Watched nature</li> <li>• Relaxed or spent time thinking</li> <li>• Volunteered</li> <li>• Attended cultural event or activity (e.g. exhibition, performance or ceremony)</li> <li>• None</li> <li>• Other (specify)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Q4</b></p>	<p><b>[ALL]</b>  <b>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.</b>  <b>I think woodlands and forests are important to the public because:</b>          (1) strongly disagree, (2) disagree, (3) neither agree or disagree, (4) agree, (5) strongly agree, and (6) don't know</p> <p>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>
<p><b>Q5</b></p>	<p><b>[If answered yes to Q1a Others to Q6]</b>  <b>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.</b>  <b>Woodlands and forests are important to me because:</b>          (1) strongly disagree, (2) disagree, (3) neither agree or disagree, (4) agree, (5) strongly agree, and (6) don't know</p> <p>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 get me involved in local issues          They are places where I feel at home</p>



<b>Q6</b>	<p><b>[All]</b></p> <p><b>Do you agree with any of the following statements?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woods are dangerous places that children should avoid,</li> <li>• Woods are good places for children to learn about the outdoors,</li> <li>• Woods are places that should be open for children to play,</li> <li>• There should be more facilities for families in woods and forests,</li> <li>• Playing in woods is good for children's health.</li> <li>• None of these</li> </ul>
<b>Q7</b>	<p><b>[All]</b></p> <p><b>Have you in the past 12 months...</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Been involved or consulted about plans for creating/ managing or using woodlands in your area.</li> <li>• Been involved in an organised tree planting event</li> <li>• Been involved in voluntary work in connection with a woodland (e.g. physical work in a wood, admin, fund raising, running a group)</li> <li>• Become or are a member of a community based woodland group such as a 'Community Trust' or 'Friends of' group</li> <li>• None of these</li> </ul>

<b>Q8</b>	<p><b>[All]</b>  <b>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?</b></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"> <li>• Trees are good because they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in wood</li> <li>• Cutting down forests and woodland for timber makes climate change worse, even if they are replanted</li> <li>• Using wood for fuel is better for climate change than using fuels such as coal and gas</li> <li>• Using wood for fuel makes climate change worse because it releases carbon dioxide</li> <li>• Using wood for building is better for climate change than using materials such as concrete and steel</li> <li>• The UK could offset all its greenhouse gas emissions by planting more trees</li> <li>• Planting more trees can help us cope with climate change by providing shade and reducing the effects of flooding</li> </ul>
<b>Q9</b>	<p><b>[All]</b>  <b>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?</b></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"> <li>• There is nothing that anyone could do that would make any difference</li> <li>• No action is needed; let nature take its course</li> <li>• A lot more trees should be planted</li> <li>• Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced</li> <li>• Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates</li> <li>• More information should be provided about the ways in which wood can be used to lessen our impact on the environment</li> </ul>

Q10	<p><b>[All]</b></p> <p><b>a. Do you ever use wood as a fuel in your home, either on its own or with other fuels?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes</li><li>• No (Go to Q10e)</li></ul> <p><b>[Ask if answered yes to Q10a]</b></p> <p><b>b. Do you get the wood by the truck load, or a few bags at a time, or gather it yourself?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• by the truck load</li><li>• a few bags at a time</li><li>• gather it yourself</li><li>• Other</li></ul> <p><b>[Ask if answered yes to Q10a]</b></p> <p><b>c. Do you use wood as a fuel regularly or only occasionally?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• regularly</li><li>• occasionally</li></ul> <p><b>[Ask if answered yes to Q10a]</b></p> <p><b>d. Is the wood the main fuel for heating your home, or do you mainly use something else?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• main fuel</li><li>• something else</li></ul> <p><b>[After Q10d, skip to Q11]</b></p> <p><b>[Ask If answered no to Q10a]</b></p> <p><b>e. What is the main reason that you do not use wood as a fuel in your home?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Never thought about it</li><li>• Happy with the existing system/ other fuels</li><li>• Not practical for this property</li><li>• Concerned about cost</li><li>• Concerned about efficiency</li><li>• Concerned about ease of use</li><li>• Concerned about environmental issues</li><li>• Do not own property</li><li>• Lack of local help/suppliers</li><li>• Don't have facilities (e.g. open fire/ chimney)</li><li>• Other (specify)</li></ul>
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Q11	<p><b>[ALL]</b></p> <p><b>a. Do you consider yourself to have any of the following disabilities or health problems?</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobility disability</li> <li>• Visual impairment</li> <li>• Hearing impairment</li> <li>• Mental health problem</li> <li>• Physical disability</li> <li>• Other</li> <li>• None of the above</li> </ul> <p><b>[Ask all with a disability. Others to Q12]</b></p> <p><b>b. Does your disability affect your use of woodlands/ forests or other greenspaces?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• No (Go to Q12)</li> </ul> <p><b>[Ask if answered yes to Q11b. Others to Q12]</b></p> <p><b>c. If so, in which of the following ways?</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Multi choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of public transport to the woodland/forest or other green space</li> <li>• Lack of suitable paths around the woodland/forest or other green space</li> <li>• Lack of accessible facilities, eg toilets, cafe, visitor centre etc</li> <li>• Lack of suitable activities at the woodland/forest or other green space</li> <li>• Lack of information to help inform a visit to the woodland/forest or other green space</li> <li>• Lack of information at the woodland/forest or other green space</li> <li>• Lack of information in a suitable format for your disability</li> <li>• Attitude of staff at the woodland/forest or other green space</li> <li>• The cost of reaching the woodland/forest or other green space</li> <li>• Cost once at the woodland/forest or other green space</li> <li>• Other (specify)</li> </ul>
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<b>Q12</b>	<p><b>[ALL]</b>  <b>And which of these best describes your ethnic origin?</b> (one answer)</p> <p><b>1. White</b>  Includes:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British</li> <li>• Irish</li> <li>• Gypsy or Irish Traveller</li> <li>• Any other White background</li> </ul> </p> <p><b>2. Mixed / multiple ethnic groups</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White and Black Caribbean</li> <li>• White and Black African</li> <li>• White and Asian</li> <li>• Any Other Mixed / multiple ethnic background</li> </ul> </p> <p><b>3. Asian / Asian British</b>  Includes:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian</li> <li>• Pakistani</li> <li>• Bangladeshi</li> <li>• Chinese</li> <li>• Any Other Asian background</li> </ul> </p> <p><b>4. Black / African / Caribbean / Black British</b>  Includes:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African</li> <li>• Caribbean</li> <li>• Any Other Black / African / Caribbean background</li> </ul> </p> <p><b>5. Other ethnic group</b>  Includes:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arab</li> <li>• Any other ethnic group</li> </ul> </p>
<b>Q13</b>	<p><b>[ALL]</b>  <b>a - Do you have children under 16 years old?</b>  <b>Yes</b>  <b>No</b></p>