

Public Opinion of Forestry 2021: UK and England

Release date:

29 July 2021

Coverage:

United Kingdom

Geographical breakdown:

England

Issued by: Forest Research, Silvan House,
231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

Enquiries: Robert Stagg, 0300 067 5238
statistics@forestresearch.gov.uk

Statistician: Sheila Ward, 0300 067 5236

Website: www.forestresearch.gov.uk/statistics/

The Research Agency of the
Forestry Commission

Forest Research is the Research Agency of the Forestry Commission and is the leading UK organisation engaged in forestry and tree related research.

The Agency aims to support and enhance forestry and its role in sustainable development by providing innovative, high quality scientific research, technical support and consultancy services.

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Introduction

Forest Research has conducted biennial surveys of public attitudes to forestry and forestry-related issues since 1995. These surveys are used to inform and monitor policy development.

The UK Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021 was commissioned by Forest Research on behalf of the Forestry Commission, Forestry England and Defra. Results are presented for the UK and for England on:

- woodland recreation;
- engagement with forests and woodlands;
- importance of forests and woodlands;
- attitudes to forests and woodlands during coronavirus pandemic;
- climate change; and
- tree health.

A copy of the questionnaire used in this survey, giving complete wording of questions and response options, is provided in the Annex at the end of this report.

Surveys have also been run in Wales and in Scotland. Separate reports, providing results from these surveys, are available at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/public-opinion-of-forestry/.

Results for the latest survey are shown alongside results from earlier surveys, where appropriate. However it should be noted that the coronavirus restrictions that were in place in early 2021 led to a change in methodology for the latest survey, with the survey being run online for the first time (previously, face-to-face interviewing had been used). Consequently, results for the latest survey may not be fully consistent with previous surveys. Further information on the methodology is provided in the Annex.

Results from the 2021 survey are published for the first time in this release and are shown alongside results from earlier surveys, where appropriate. Figures for earlier years have not been revised from those previously released. For further details, see the Revisions section of the Annex.

As the data are obtained from a sample survey, there is a range of uncertainty (confidence interval) associated with any results produced. Any differences referred to in the text are statistically significant at the 95 per cent confidence level unless otherwise stated. For further details, see the Data Sources and Methodology and the Quality sections of the Annex.

Unless otherwise specified, this report refers to woodlands and trees in both urban and rural settings. The Glossary in the Annex provides further information on terms used.

Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions on the 2021 survey

Restrictions on people's movements came into place on 23 March 2020 as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Although some of the restrictions have changed over time, some remained in place for the rest of 2020 and early 2021. This has impacted the survey in 2 ways.

Firstly, the restrictions in place in early 2021 led to a change in methodology for the latest survey, with the survey being run online for the first time (previously, face-to-face interviewing had been used). Consequently, results for the latest survey may not be fully consistent with previous surveys. Further information on the methodology is provided in the Annex.

Secondly, requirements to stay at home (with people only being allowed outdoors for one hour a day in order to undertake exercise) and requirements to stay in local areas, both of which were in force for some of the year leading up to the survey,

may have resulted in changes to the responses provided to the survey in a variety of ways, for example:

- For some, the limitations on other activities may have increased the number of people visiting woodlands or forests and/ or the frequency of visits;
- For others, the requirement to stay in local areas and/or concern about the virus may have resulted in fewer visits.

It is not possible to quantify the extent to which any changes observed in the survey are a result of COVID-19 restrictions (either on the survey design or on the behaviour of respondents).

Key findings

In 2021:

- 69% of respondents in the UK and England had visited forests or woodlands in the last few years. Of those, 36% (in the UK and in England) reported an increase in the number of visits in the last 12 months; no change was reported by 27% (in the UK and in England) and a decrease by 37% (in the UK and in England).
- 16% of respondents in the UK (17% in England) were involved in volunteer work, organised tree planting events, community-based woodland groups or consultations associated with woodlands in the past 12 months.
- 87% in the UK and in England agreed that forests and woodlands are important to the public because they are important places for wildlife.
- 88% in the UK (87% in England) agreed that forests and woodlands are important to them personally because they provide a space to relax and de-stress.
- Around one half of respondents who had visited forests or woodlands in the last few years (51% in UK and 50% in England) reported an increase in their level of happiness when in forests and woodlands as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions that had been in place since March 2020.
- The majority of respondents who had visited woodlands (83% in the UK and 82% in England) agreed or strongly agreed that 'A lot more trees should be planted' in response to the threat of climate change.
- Around three quarters of respondents (77% in the UK and 76% in England) agreed or strongly agreed that 'action should be taken by authorities and woodland managers to protect trees from damaging pests and diseases'.

Woodland recreation

The survey asked respondents a number of questions about visits to woodland. This included whether the respondent had visited woodland in the last few years, type of woodland visited, reasons for not visiting woodlands, changes in visiting, frequency of visits, duration of visits, activities undertaken, distance travelled and management of woodland.

Proportion visiting woodland

Just over two thirds of respondents to the 2021 survey (69% in both the UK and in England) reported that they had visited forests or woodlands for walks, picnics or other recreation in the last few years. This represents a statistically significant increase from the proportions in the 2019 survey (63% for UK and 62% for England).

Table 1 Visited woodland in last few years

percent of respondents		
Year	UK	England
2003	67	66
2005	65	65
2007	77	76
2009	77	77
2011	67	68
2013	66	65
2015	56	55
2017	61	62
2019	63	62
2021	69	69

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals =

UK: 2003 (4,120), 2005 (3,892), 2007 (4,018), 2009 (2,011), 2011 (2,068), 2013 (1,927), 2015 (1,804), 2017 (2,113), 2019 (2,174), 2021 (5,119);

England: 2003 (3,412), 2005 (3,367), 2007 (3,339), 2009 (1,685), 2011 (1,733), 2013 (1,615), 2015 (1,512), 2017 (1,780), 2019 (1,831), 2021 (4,304).

Type of woodland visited

Three quarters of respondents who visited forests and woodlands in the last few years reported that they had visited 'woodlands in the countryside' (75% in both the UK and England, Table 2). Just under two thirds (63% in the UK and in England) reported visiting 'woodlands in and around towns' and around four in ten respondents (39% in the UK and 38% in England) reported visiting woodlands and forests in both locations.

Table 2 Type of woodland visited

percent of respondents

	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
UK							
Countryside	86	84	85	80	86	82	75
In and around towns	64	62	70	71	67	72	63
Both	48	47	55	51	53	53	39
England							
Countryside	84	84	85	81	85	82	75
In and around towns	61	62	68	72	67	72	63
Both	45	46	53	53	52	54	38

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

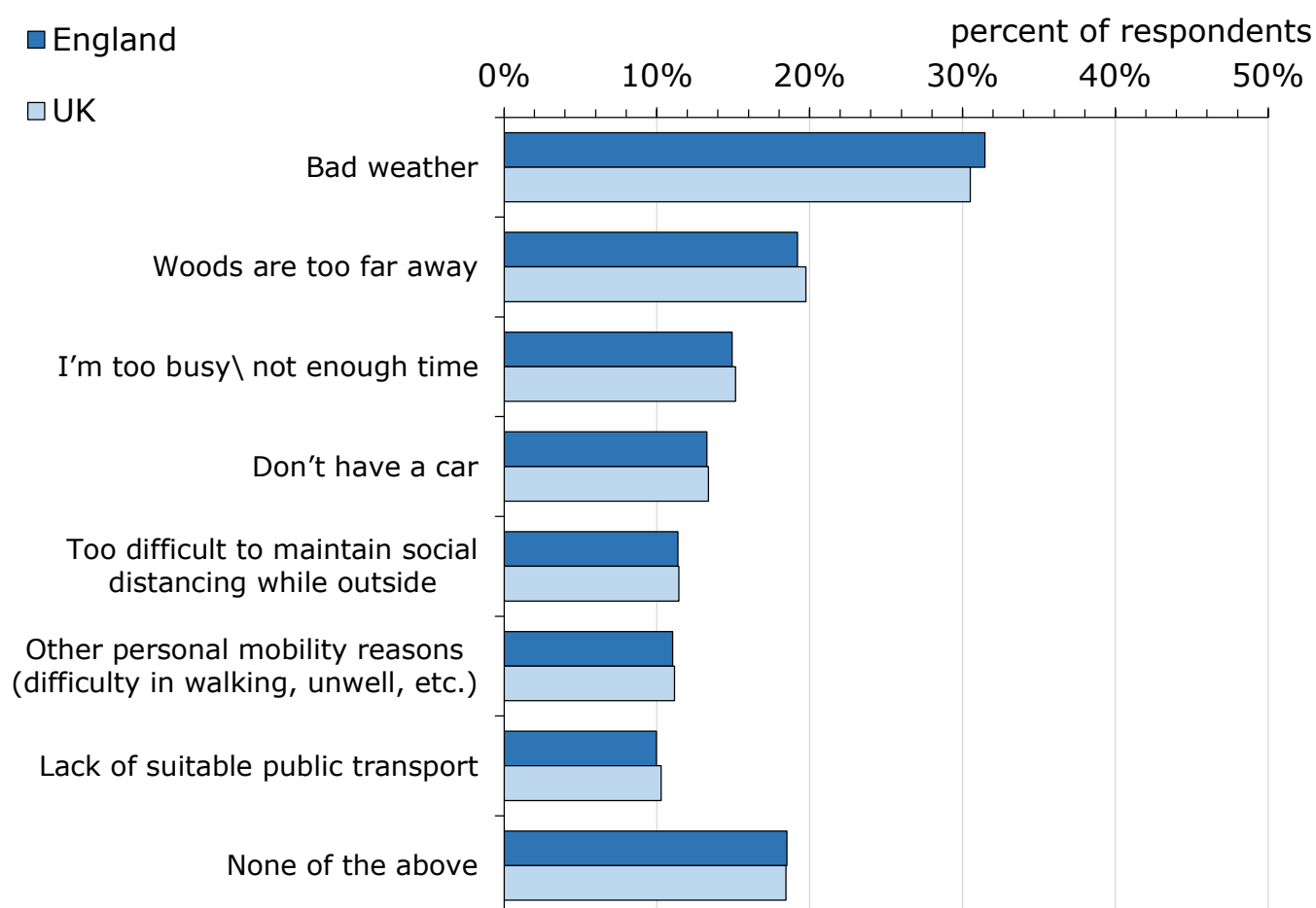
- Figures are based on all respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years: Weighted totals = UK: 2009 (1,549), 2011 (1,393), 2013 (1,272), 2015 (1,015), 2017 (1,296), 2019 (1,360), 2021 (3,557); England: 2009 (1,291), 2011 (1,170), 2013 (1,056), 2015 (826), 2017 (1,100), 2019 (1,151), 2021 (2,956).
- Responses for those who said they had been to 'both' types of woodlands have been included in individual totals.

Reasons for not visiting forests and woodlands

All respondents were asked to indicate the main reasons for them not visiting woodland or forests more often or at all (Figure 1).

Out of the response options provided, 'bad weather' was the most commonly selected reason in 2021 in the UK and in England (both 31%) for not visiting woodland. 'Woods are too far away' was reported as a reason for not visiting by 19% of respondents in the UK and 20% in England.

Figure 1 Main reasons for not visiting woodlands



Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021.

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals = UK (5,119), England (4,304).
2. Respondents could select more than one reason.
3. Chart excludes reasons selected by fewer than 10% of respondents.

Changes in visits to forests and woodlands

Three new questions were introduced in the 2021 survey to identify how visits to forests and woodlands had changed in the last 12 months, compared to the previous year. These questions were asked of respondents who reported visiting forests or woodlands in the last few years and covered the number of visits, the duration of visits and the distance travelled to visit (Table 3).

In terms of the number of visits taken to forests and woodlands in the last 12 months, 36% of respondents who had visited in the last few years in both the UK and in England reported an increase, 27% (in the UK and in England) reported no change and 37% (in both the UK and in England) reported a decrease.

Similar responses were provided for the duration of visits with 37% of respondents in the UK who had visited forests or woodlands and 36% in England reporting an increase in time spent visiting forests and woodlands in the last 12 months. No change was reported by 26% (in both the UK and in England) and 38% (in the UK and in England) reported a decrease.

Around one fifth of respondents who had visited forests or woodlands (21% in both the UK and in England) had increased the distance they travelled, 44% (in the UK and in England) reported no change and over one third (36% in the UK and 35% in England) reported a decrease.

Table 3 Changes in woodland visits in the last 12 months

percent of respondents

	Visits	Total time	Distance
UK			
Increased a lot	16	15	8
Increased a little	21	22	13
No change	27	26	44
Decreased a little	16	16	11
Decreased a lot	22	22	24
England			
Increased a lot	15	15	8
Increased a little	21	21	13
No change	27	26	44
Decreased a little	15	16	11
Decreased a lot	22	22	24

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021.

Note:

- Figures are based on all respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years: Weighted totals = UK (3,557), England (2,956).

Frequency of visits to forests and woodlands

Of the 2021 survey respondents who indicated they had visited woodlands in the last few years, almost two thirds (65% in the UK and 64% in England) said that they visited at least once a month during the previous summer (between April 2020 and September 2020) (Table 4). In both the UK and in England, 11% of respondents who had visited woodlands in the past few years said that they did not visit during summer 2020.

Table 4 Frequency of woodland visits in the previous Summer (April to September)

		percent of respondents						
		2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
UK								
	Several times per week	12	15	16	18	16	17	14
	Several times per month	24	29	31	26	30	32	28
	About once a month	26	26	26	25	31	26	23
	Less often	34	27	24	28	19	22	24
	Never	5	3	3	3	4	4	11
England								
	Several times per week	12	15	15	16	15	17	14
	Several times per month	24	29	30	25	30	32	27
	About once a month	26	25	26	26	33	26	23
	Less often	34	28	26	30	19	22	25
	Never	5	4	3	3	4	3	11

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

- Figures are based on all respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years: Weighted totals = UK: 2009 (1,549), 2011 (1,393), 2013 (1,272), 2015 (1,015), 2017 (1,296), 2019 (1,360), 2021 (3,557); England: 2009 (1,291), 2011 (1,170), 2013 (1,056), 2015 (826), 2017 (1,100), 2019 (1,151), 2021 (2,956).

Of the 2021 survey respondents who indicated they had visited woodlands in the last few years, around one half (52% in the UK and in England) said they visited at least once a month during the previous winter (between October 2020 and March

2021) (Table 5). Around one quarter of respondents (24% in the UK and in England) said they did not visit during winter 2020/21.

Table 5 Frequency of woodland visits in Winter (October to March)

		percent of respondents						
		2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
UK								
	Several times per week	7	9	11	11	10	10	12
	Several times per month	11	12	13	13	15	14	22
	About once a month	16	17	17	17	20	21	18
	Less often	36	32	36	38	30	32	24
	Never	31	29	23	20	26	22	24
England								
	Several times per week	7	9	10	9	9	10	12
	Several times per month	11	13	12	14	14	15	22
	About once a month	16	17	17	18	20	22	18
	Less often	36	32	36	39	31	33	24
	Never	31	29	23	21	26	21	24

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

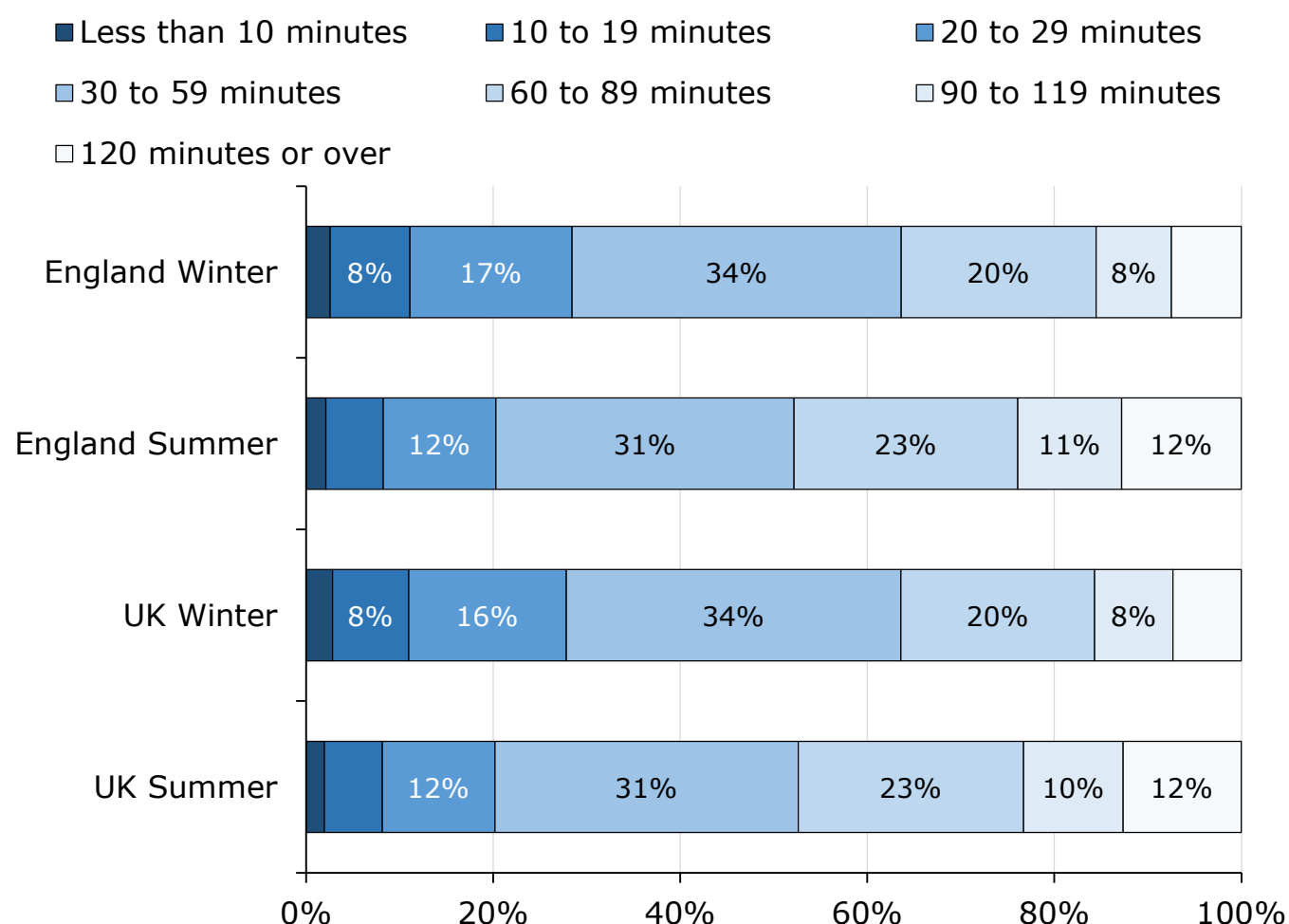
- Figures are based on all respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years: Weighted totals = UK: 2009 (1,549), 2011 (1,393), 2013 (1,272), 2015 (1,015), 2017 (1,296), 2019 (1,360), 2021 (3,557); England: 2009 (1,291), 2011 (1,170), 2013 (1,056), 2015 (826), 2017 (1,100), 2019 (1,151), 2021 (2,956).

Duration of visits to forests and woodlands

Respondents who had visited in the previous summer were asked for further information on their most recent visit to woodland in that period. Similarly, those who had visited in the winter of 2020/21 were asked about their most recent visit then.

Winter visits tended to be shorter than summer visits, with 20% of summer visits (in the UK and in England) and 27% of winter visits (in the UK and in England) lasting less than 30 minutes. In contrast, almost one half of summer visits (46% in the UK and in England) but only 35% of winter visits (in the UK and in England) lasted more than 1 hour.

Figure 2 Duration of most recent visit



Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021.

Note:

1. Summer figures are based on respondents who visited woodlands between April 2020 and September 2020: Weighted totals = UK (3,164), England (2,629).
2. Winter figures are based on respondents who visited woodlands between October 2020 and March 2021: Weighted totals = UK (2,714), England (2,247).

Activities undertaken on visits to forests and woodlands

Walking was the most commonly reported activity undertaken on visits to forests and woodlands, reported by over one half of those who had visited in summer (54% in the UK and in England) and in winter (55% in the UK and 54% in England).

Table 6 Main recreational activity undertaken on most recent visit, 2021

	percent of respondents			
	Summer UK	Summer England	Winter UK	Winter England
Walking	54	54	55	54
Dog-walking	16	15	17	16
Picnicking	5	5	3	3
Wildlife watching	4	4	4	4
Running	4	4	4	5
Other	7	7	7	8

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021.

Note:

1. Summer figures are based on respondents who visited woodlands between April 2020 and September 2020: Weighted totals = UK (3,164), England (2,629).
2. Winter figures are based on respondents who visited woodlands between October 2020 and March 2021: Weighted totals = UK (2,714), England (2,247).

Distance travelled to get to forests and woodlands

Respondents tended to travel further to visit forests and woodlands in the summer than in winter, with trips of up to 2 miles accounting for almost one half (46% in UK and 47% in England) of winter visits and over one third (39% in both the UK and in England) of summer visits.

Table 7 Distance travelled to forests and woodlands on most recent visit

Distance	percent of respondents			
	Summer UK	Summer England	Winter UK	Winter England
Less than 1 mile	15	15	19	18
1 to 2 miles	24	24	27	29
3 to 10 miles	44	43	41	40
11 to 50 miles	14	14	11	11
More than 50 miles	3	3	2	2

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021.

Note:

1. Summer figures are based on respondents who visited woodlands between April 2020 and September 2020: Weighted totals = UK (3,164), England (2,629).
2. Winter figures are based on respondents who visited woodlands between October 2020 and March 2021: Weighted totals = UK (2,714), England (2,247).

Management of woodland visited

Respondents who had visited woodlands in the last few years were then asked two questions relating to the management of woodland.

Around one third of respondents (32% in the UK and 33% in England) reported that they did not know who managed the woodlands they had visited most recently (Table 8).

Local authorities were identified as the manager by around one quarter of those who had visited woodlands (26% in the UK and in England). This represents a statistically significant increase from the levels reported in the 2019 survey (18% in the UK and 19% in England).

The National Trust (or National Trust for Scotland) was reported as the manager by 13% of those who had visited woodlands in the UK and 12% in England. Forestry England was identified as the manager by 8% in the UK and 9% in England.

Table 8 Management of woodland visited most recently

		percent of respondents			
		2015	2017	2019	2021
UK					
	Local Authority	17	18	18	26
	National Trust	22	24	21	13
	Woodland Trust	3	6	6	10
	Forestry England	16	17	10	8
	Community managed woodland	2	1	2	4
	Other	6	4	7	8
	Don't know	33	30	36	32
England					
	Local Authority	17	19	19	26
	National Trust	24	26	23	12
	Woodland Trust	4	6	5	11
	Forestry England	13	15	9	9
	Community managed woodland	3	1	2	4
	Other	6	4	6	6
	Don't know	33	29	36	33

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

- Figures are based on all respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years: Weighted totals =
 UK: 2015 (1,015), 2017 (1,296), 2019 (1,360), 2021 (3,557);
 England: 2015 (826), 2017 (1,100), 2019 (1,151), 2021 (2,956).

Respondents who had visited woodlands in the last few years were then asked how often they had visited woodland managed by Forestry England in the previous 12 months.

In 2021, 41% of respondents in the UK who had visited woodlands and 35% of those in England reported that they had not visited Forestry England woodland in

the previous 12 months (Table 9). Around one half (49% in the UK and 54% in England) reported visiting Forestry England woodlands at least once a month (Table 9).

Table 9 Frequency of visits to Forestry England woodland in last 12 months

	percent of respondents			
	UK 2019	England 2019	UK 2021	England 2021
None/ don't know	50	51	41	35
Once or twice	17	17	23	25
3-5 times	11	11	12	14
6-10 times	6	6	7	7
About once a month	7	7	7	8
About once a fortnight	2	2	3	3
About once a week	2	1	3	3
About twice a week	2	2	2	2
About once a day	2	2	1	1
About twice a day	1	1	0	0
More often	1	0	1	1

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021.

Note:

- Figures are based on all respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years: Weighted totals =
UK: 2019 (1,360), 2021 (3,557);
England: 2019 (1,151), 2021 (2,956).

Engagement with forests and woodlands

Respondents were asked two questions on engagement with forests and woodlands. These covered membership of organisations and involvement with forest issues.

In 2021, most respondents (75% in the UK and 74% in England) stated that they were not members of any of the organisations listed (Table 10).

Table 10 Membership of organisations

		percent of respondents		
		2017	2019	2021
UK				
	National Trust or National Trust for Scotland member	8	8	10
	English Heritage, Historic Scotland or Cadw in Wales member	2	2	5
	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds member	2	1	5
	Member of a wildlife trust	2	1	5
	Member of the Woodland Trust	2	1	4
	Holder of a Forestry England membership	0	0	3
	None of the above	87	88	75
England				
	National Trust or National Trust for Scotland member	9	9	11
	English Heritage, Historic Scotland or Cadw in Wales member	2	2	6
	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds member	3	1	5
	Member of a wildlife trust	3	2	5
	Member of the Woodland Trust	2	1	4
	Holder of a Forestry England membership	0	0	3
	None of the above	86	88	74

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals =

UK: 2017 (2,113), 2019 (2,174), 2021 (5,119);

England: 2017 (1,780), 2019 (1,831), 2021 (4,304).

2. Respondents could select more than one option.

Respondents were asked whether they had been involved in woodland consultations or any volunteer groups and organised events associated with woodlands. 16% of UK respondents to the 2021 survey (17% in England) said that they had been engaged with forest issues in the previous 12 months. This represents a statistically significant increase in both the UK and England figures from the 2019 level of 3%. (Table 11).

In terms of the specific types of engagement in the 2021 survey:

- 6% of respondents (in both the UK and in England) had been involved in voluntary work in connection with a woodland (e.g. physical work in a wood, administration, fund raising, running a group);
- 5% (in the UK and in England) were or had become a member of a community based woodland group (e.g. a 'Community Trust' or 'Friends of Group'); and
- 4% in the UK and 5% in England had been involved in an organised tree planting event;
- 4% in the UK and 5% in England had been involved or consulted about plans for creating/managing or using woodlands in their area.

Table 11 Involvement in forest issues in last 12 months

percent of respondents

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
UK					
Been involved in voluntary work in connection with a woodland	4	1	1	1	6
Been involved in an organised tree planting event	3	2	1	1	4
Become or are you a member of a community based woodland group	3	0	1	1	5
Been involved or consulted about plans for creating/ managing woodlands	2	0	1	1	4
None of these	90	96	97	97	84
England					
Been involved in voluntary work in connection with a woodland	4	2	1	1	6
Been involved in an organised tree planting event	3	2	1	1	5
Become or are you a member of a community based woodland group	3	0	1	1	5
Been involved or consulted about plans for creating/ managing woodlands	2	0	1	1	5
None of these	90	95	97	97	83

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

- Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals =
 UK: 2009 (2,011), 2011 (2,068), 2013 (1,927), 2015 (1,804), 2017 (2,113), 2019 (2,174), 2021 (5,119);
 England: 2009 (1,685), 2011 (1,733), 2013 (1,615), 2015 (1,512), 2017 (1,780), 2019 (1,831), 2021 (4,304).
- See questionnaire in Annex for full text of response options.

Importance of forests and woodlands

Respondents were asked two questions that assessed their level of agreement with a list of statements on the importance of forests and woodlands, firstly to the public and then to themselves.

Table 12 shows the percentage of respondents who agreed (selected 'Strongly agree' or 'Agree') with each of the statements relating to the importance of forests and woodlands to the public.

The highest levels of agreement were with the following statements:

- 'They are important places for wildlife' (87% in both UK and England); and
- 'They are places where people can relax and de-stress' (85% in the UK and 84% in England agreed).

Table 12 Importance of woodlands and forests to the public

percent of respondents who agree or strongly agree

	2019	2021
UK		
They are important places for wildlife	95	87
They are places where people can relax and de-stress	93	85
They are places where people can have fun and enjoy themselves	93	83
They are places where people can exercise and keep fit	92	81
They are places where people can learn about the environment	90	81
They make areas nicer places to live	91	81
They are places where people can learn about local culture or history	73	65
They contribute to the local economy	68	59
They bring the community together	65	57
They get people involved in local issues	63	54
England		
They are important places for wildlife	94	87
They are places where people can relax and de-stress	93	84
They are places where people can have fun and enjoy themselves	93	82
They are places where people can exercise and keep fit	92	81
They are places where people can learn about the environment	90	81
They make areas nicer places to live	90	81
They are places where people can learn about local culture or history	72	64
They contribute to the local economy	67	58
They bring the community together	65	56
They get people involved in local issues	62	54

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals =
UK: 2019 (2,174), 2021 (5,119),
England: 2019 (1,831), 2021 (4,304).

Respondents who had visited woodlands in the last few years were asked to what extent they agreed with a list of statements on why woodlands and forests are important to them (Table 13).

Most respondents in 2021 agreed (selected 'Strongly agree' or 'Agree') with most of the statements, but the highest level of agreement was with the statements that 'They are places where ...':

- '... I can relax and de-stress' (88% in UK and 87% in England); and
- '... I can have fun and enjoy myself' (83% in both UK and England).

The lowest levels of agreements in 2021 were with the following statement:

- 'They get me involved in local issues' (42% in both the UK and England).

The level of agreement with the statement "they get me involved in local issues" is similar to the level reported from the 2019 survey. There has been a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of respondents agreeing with each of the other statements between 2019 and 2021.

Table 13 Importance of woodlands and forests to individuals

percent of respondents who agree or strongly agree

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
UK						
... I can relax and de-stress	95	92	93	93	94	88
... I can have fun and enjoy myself	94	91	91	92	93	83
... I can exercise and keep fit	90	87	85	86	89	79
... I can learn about the environment	80	77	79	79	84	74
... I feel at home	75	74	75	75	79	73
... I can learn about local culture or history	64	66	66	63	66	58
... good places for me to socialise	59	60	59	54	66	57
They get me involved in local issues	34	37	36	29	43	42
England						
... I can relax and de-stress	94	92	92	93	94	87
... I can have fun and enjoy myself	93	90	91	91	93	83
... I can exercise and keep fit	89	86	85	86	89	78
... I can learn about the environment	79	76	78	78	83	73
... I feel at home	75	74	74	74	78	72
... I can learn about local culture or history	64	65	66	63	64	57
... good places for me to socialise	58	61	60	55	67	57
They get me involved in local issues	35	37	38	31	43	42

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

- Figures are based on all respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years: Weighted totals = UK: 2011 (1,393), 2013 (1,272), 2015 (1,015), 2017 (1,296), 2019 (1,360), 2021 (3,557); England: 2011 (1,170), 2013 (1,056), 2015 (826), 2017 (1,100), 2019 (1,151), 2021 (2,956).
- Full wording of each response option is available in the questionnaire, provided in the Annex.

Attitudes to forests and woodlands during coronavirus pandemic

Three questions were added to the latest survey (run in March 2021) to explore the extent to which attitudes to forests and woodlands had changed due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions that had come into place from 23 March 2020 onwards. The questions were asked of all respondents who had visited woodlands in the last few years.

When asked about their feeling of connection to forests and woodlands, 43% of respondents (in the UK and in England) reported an increase, 40% (in the UK and England) reported no change. A decrease was reported by 13% in the UK and 12% in England.

Around one half of respondents who had visited woodlands (51% in the UK, 50% in England) reported an increase in their level of happiness when in forests and woodlands. Around one third (35% in the UK and in England) reported that their level of happiness stayed about the same and 10% (in the UK and in England) reported a decrease.

Around one half of respondents who had visited woodlands (48% in the UK and in England) reported an increase in the amount of time they had taken to appreciate forests and woodlands. Around one third (33% in the UK and 32% in England) reported no change and 15% (in the UK and in England) reported a decrease.

Table 14 Have views relating to forest and woodland changed due to the coronavirus pandemic

	percent of respondents				
	Significantly increased	Some increase	Stayed the same	Some decrease	Significantly decreased
UK					
Your feeling of connection to forests and woodlands	17	27	40	8	5
Your level of happiness when in forests and woodlands	21	30	35	6	4
The amount of time you take to appreciate forests and woodlands	19	29	33	7	7
England					
Your feeling of connection to forests and woodlands	17	26	40	8	5
Your level of happiness when in forests and woodlands	21	30	35	6	4
The amount of time you take to appreciate forests and woodlands	20	29	32	8	8

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021.

Note:

- Figures are based on all respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years: Weighted totals = UK (3,557), England (2,956)

Climate change

Respondents who had visited woodlands in the last few years were asked to indicate their level of agreement 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 15).

The majority of respondents who had visited woodlands in 2021 agreed or strongly agreed that:

- 'A lot more trees should be planted' (83% in the UK and 82% in England); and
- 'Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates' (72% in both the UK and England).

Conversely, in 2021 relatively fewer respondents who had visited woodlands agreed or strongly agreed that:

- 'No action is needed; let nature take its course' (30% in both the UK and England); and
- 'Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced' (36% in the UK; 37% in England).

Table 15 Management of UK forests in response to the threat of climate change

percent of respondents who agree or strongly agree

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
UK					
A lot more trees should be planted	86	80	84	88	83
Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates	71	67	76	78	72
Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced	22	25	26	29	36
No action is needed, let nature take its course	18	22	24	26	30
England					
A lot more trees should be planted	85	78	84	88	82
Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates	71	67	76	77	72
Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced	23	26	27	30	37
No action is needed, let nature take its course	18	23	24	26	30

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

- Figures for 2021 are based on all respondents who had visited woodland in the last few years: Weighted totals =UK (3,557), England (2,956).
- Figures for earlier years are based on all respondents: Weighted totals =
UK: 2013 (1,927), 2015 (1,804), 2017 (2,113), 2019 (2,174);
England: 2013 (1,615), 2015 (1,512), 2017 (1,780), 2019 (1,831).
- These questions have been asked in previous surveys to all respondents. Given the change in base, the results for the 2021 survey are not directly comparable with earlier years.

Tree health

Respondents were presented with a series of statements relating to tree health and asked to indicate their level of agreement.

The majority of respondents to the 2021 survey agreed or strongly agreed that:

- 'Action should be taken by authorities and woodland managers to protect trees from damaging pests and diseases' (77% in the UK and 76% in England); and that
- 'Everyone should take action when visiting woodlands to help prevent the spread of damaging tree pests and diseases' (69% in both UK and England).

The proportion of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with each of these statements represents a statistically significant decrease from the level in 2019.

Relatively few respondents in 2021 agreed or strongly agreed that:

- 'There is very little that anyone can do to prevent the spread of damaging pests and diseases' (24% in both the UK and England); and that
- 'I am aware that possible tree pests and diseases can be reported using the Tree Alert app or website' (29% in both the UK and England).

Table 16 Tree health

	percent of respondents			
	2019 UK	2019 England	2021 UK	2021 England
Action should be taken by authorities and woodland managers to protect trees from damaging pests and diseases	85	85	77	76
Everyone should take action when visiting woodlands to help prevent the spread of damaging tree pests and diseases	74	74	69	69
I would be willing to look out for and report sightings of pests and diseases on trees, if appropriate information and advice was available to me	65	65	62	61
If I buy an imported tree, it is more likely to carry tree pests and diseases than a tree grown in the UK	46	46	44	44
I am aware that possible tree pests and diseases can be reported using the Tree Alert app or website	25	25	29	29
There is very little that anyone can do to prevent the spread of damaging tree pests and diseases	23	24	24	24

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

- Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals =
UK: 2019 (2,174), 2021 (5,119),
England: 2019 (1,831), 2021 (4,304).

Annex

Introduction

This annex provides background information on the statistics presented in this release. It covers the data sources and methodology used to produce the statistics, information on quality measures and on any revisions to historic data and links to further information.

Glossary

Biosecurity

A set of precautions that aim to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful organisms. These may be pests, pathogens or invasive species.

Clustering

A sampling technique where the entire population is divided into groups, or clusters, and a random sample of these clusters are selected. All (or a selection of) observations in the selected clusters are included in the sample. Cluster sampling is often used when a random sample would produce a list of subjects so widely scattered that surveying them would prove to be far too expensive.

Confidence interval

An estimated range of values that is likely to include an unknown population parameter (i.e. a fixed value for the population as a whole). The confidence interval around an estimate is derived from the sample data, and is used to indicate the reliability of the estimate.

Design factor

A factor applied in the calculation of confidence intervals to take account of the survey design (clustering, weighting, stratification) used in selecting the sample. A

design factor of 1.5 is commonly assumed by Market Research companies for omnibus surveys of the population.

Forest

In the United Kingdom, there is no formal definition of “forest”; the term is often used for large woodland areas (especially conifers) or for old Royal hunting preserves such as the New Forest or the Forest of Dean.

Forest Research (FR)

The Forestry Commission agency responsible for forestry and tree related research (including statistics).

Forestry Commission (FC)

The government department responsible for forestry matters in England. The Forestry Commission’s functions in Wales transferred to the Welsh Government and to Natural Resources Wales on 1 April 2013. The Forestry Commission’s functions in Scotland transferred to Scottish Forestry and to Forestry and Land Scotland on 1 April 2019. The Forestry Commission is supported by two agencies; Forestry England and Forest Research.

Forestry England (FE)

The Forestry Commission agency responsible for managing the national forests in England. Prior to April 2019, Forestry England was known as Forest Enterprise England.

Great Britain (GB)

England, Wales and Scotland.

Quota sampling

A method of sampling where interviewers are each given a fixed number of subjects of specified type to interview.

Statistical significance

A statistical assessment of whether observations reflect an actual pattern rather than just chance.

Stratification

A sampling technique where the entire population is divided into groups, or strata, and a random sample is selected within each group. Stratified sampling is often used to ensure that sufficient numbers from each group are included in the overall sample, particularly where results are required for each group.

United Kingdom (UK)

Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Weighting

A set of factors assigned to survey responses to ensure that the resulting weighted results are representative of the population as a whole.

Woodland

Land under stands of trees with a minimum size of 0.5 hectares and a canopy cover of at least 20% (25% in Northern Ireland), or having the potential to achieve this, including integral open space, and including felled areas that are awaiting restocking. Generally (including the UK) woodland is defined as having a minimum area of 0.5 ha.

Data sources and methodology

Background

The Forestry Commission/Forest Research 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, 2010, 2014 and 2019;
- In 2021 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 2021, but a number of questions have become survey-specific.

All surveys run until 2019 were conducted using face-to-face interviewing. The restrictions in place across the UK in early 2021 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic led to a change in methodology for all 3 surveys. The 2021 survey in Scotland changed to use telephone interviews, whilst the surveys across the UK and in Wales changed to use an online methodology.

Table A1 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 A1 Sample sizes for Public Opinion of Forestry surveys since 2001

Year	UK ¹	England ²	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	
2013	2,000	1,600	1,000	1,000	
2014					1,000
2015	2,000	1,500	1,000	1,000	
2017	2,000	1,800	1,000	1,000	
2019	2,200	1,800	1,000		1,000
2021	5,000	4,300	1,000	1,000	

Note:

1. 2001 and 2005 surveys covered Great Britain only (i.e. excluding Northern Ireland).
2. Results for England are derived from UK surveys.

Survey Design

The 2021 survey results presented in this report are taken from the Kantar OnLineBus survey carried out from the 4th to 18th March 2021. The survey was based on a representative sample of 5,119 adults (aged 16 or over) across the UK, of whom 4,304 adults were in England.

Kantar also carried out the previous 2 surveys, in 2017 and 2019, using their CAPI Omnibus. The 2009 - 2015 surveys were obtained from the GfK NOP Random Location Omnibus survey. The UK 2007 survey data were also obtained from the Kantar TNS CAPI Omnibus survey and the 2003 and 2005 survey data were

obtained from the TNS RSGB General Omnibus. These surveys had a similar sample size of 4,000 adults for UK/GB.

Restrictions that were in place in early 2021 as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic included limitations on people from different households meeting (particularly indoors). This meant that the 2021 survey could not be conducted using face-to-face interviewing, as had been used for previous surveys. The 2021 survey therefore used an online approach. The change in survey design will have led to some inconsistencies with previous surveys, but it is not possible to quantify how much of the changes observed in 2021 are a result of adopting a different survey design and how much are a result of genuine change. Care should therefore be taken when comparing the results from the 2021 survey with those for previous years.

Methodology

The Kantar OnLineBus survey was an online, self-completion survey on a sample of 5,119 UK adults aged 16 or over.

The panel is provided by the Kantar sister company Profiles. Panellists are double opt-in, meaning they have made a conscious decision to join the panel.

Respondents are invited to take part in the survey either by receiving an e mail or by logging onto the website and selecting one of the available surveys.

Quotas are set up interlocking gender / age, with previous participants of the survey excluded. The sample is stratified by region, social grade and level of education.

Questionnaire

A copy of the 2021 questionnaire is provided at the end of this release. This covers the questions requested by Forest Research. In addition, a small number of additional questions are included as standard in the omnibus surveys run by Market

Research companies (e.g. gender, age, country/region) and some of these are also used in analysing the results from the survey.

Most questions are retained from one survey to the next, to enable comparisons over time. However, changes are sometimes made to reflect changing circumstances or priorities, or to improve the wording of questions. The following changes were made for the 2021 questionnaire. The question numbers given below relate to the 2021 questionnaire:

- Questions were added in 2021 to investigate changes to woodland visits in the last 12 months, compared to the previous year. Specifically, a question on whether the number of visits to forest and woodland had changed (Q2), how the amount of time spent in forest and woodland had changed (Q3) and to see whether the distance travelled to get to forest and woodland had changed (Q4).
- Questions were added in 2021 to further investigate respondents' summer and winter visits to forest and woodland. For both summer and winter visits, respondents were asked about the duration of their most recent visit (summer: Q5b, winter: Q6b), the main recreational activity undertaken during their most recent visit (summer: Q5c, winter: Q6c) and the distance travelled to get to the forest or woodland on their most recent visit (summer: Q5d, winter: Q6d)
- In the 2021 questionnaire, a question was added to assess if attitudes to forest and woodland have changed as a result of the range of coronavirus restrictions (Q13).

Quality

The data collected in the survey are weighted, to correct for imbalances between the profiles of the sample and the population and therefore ensure that the weighted results are representative of the UK adult population. For the 2021

survey, this weighting has resulted in a decrease in the apparent number of respondents in England, from a total 4,354 adults who were interviewed to a weighted total of 4,304. The results quoted in this report are based on weighted data.

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 methodology, above, for more details) – this is known as a design factor and is commonly assumed to be around 1.5 for surveys of this type.

Confidence intervals are most commonly reported at the 95% level. This means that there is a 95% chance that the true population value lies within the confidence interval. The following provides a guide to interpreting the results in this report on the basis of a 95% confidence interval and includes an assumed design factor of 1.5:

- For questions asked in 2021 to the whole UK sample of 5,119, the range of uncertainty around any figure should be no more than $\pm 2.1\%$ ($\pm 2.2\%$ for the 4,304 respondents in England).
- 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 (3,557 respondents in the UK and 2,956 in England) should be no more than $\pm 2.5\%$ for the UK and no more than $\pm 2.7\%$ for England.
- For questions asked to whole samples, differences of more than 3.8% (UK) or 4.1% (England) between the 2021 results and 2019 results are statistically significant.

- For questions asked only to those who had visited woodland, differences of more than 4.7% (UK) or 5.1% (England) between the 2021 results and 2019 results are statistically significant.

Given the small sample sizes within the UK survey for respondents living in other parts of the UK, it is not recommended that the UK survey be used to provide results for Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. Please refer to the separate survey reports for Wales and Scotland, available at

<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/public-opinion-of-forestry/>, for relevant results.

Further quality information on FC Official Statistics is available at:

<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/>.

Revisions

Figures for 2021 are published for the first time in this release.

All figures are final. Figures for earlier years have not been revised from those previously released.

Our revisions policy sets out how revisions and errors to these statistics are dealt with, and is available at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/about-our-statistics/code-of-practice/quality-of-official-statistics/.

Further information

Accompanying tables to this release, available at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/public-opinion-of-forestry/, provide more detailed figures, showing standard breakdowns.

Figures in tables have been independently rounded, so may not add to the totals shown.

Release schedule

The UK Public Opinion of Forestry is a biennial survey, next due to run in early 2023 with results likely to be available in summer 2023.

Official Statistics

This is an Official Statistics publication. For more information about Official Statistics and the UK Statistics Authority visit www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk.

UK Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021: Questionnaire

[All]

Q1a In the last few years have you visited forests or woodlands for walks, picnics or other recreation?

(Single answer)

- Yes
- No

[Ask if answered yes to Q1a.]

Q1b Did you visit woodlands in the countryside or woodlands in and around towns or both?

(Single answer)

- Woodlands in the countryside
- Woodlands in and around towns
- Both

[All]

Q1c Which of the following, if any, are the main reasons for you not visiting woodland\forests more often or at all?

- Don't have a car
- Lack of suitable public transport
- Other personal mobility reasons (difficulty in walking, unwell, etc.)
- Woods are too far away
- Cost of visiting
- Lack of information about woods to visit
- Concerns that woods are not safe
- Woodlands are badly maintained
- Lack of confidence
- Lack of facilities (play areas, picnic areas, etc.)
- Not interested in visiting more often
- I'm too busy\ not enough time
- Prefer other areas of countryside
- Bad weather
- Too difficult to maintain social distancing while outside (e.g. because of other people or a lack of space)
- Concerns about infection (e.g. from touching gates)
- None of the above

[Ask if answered yes to Q1a.]

Q2 How has the number of visits you have taken to forests and woodlands changed in the last 12 months, compared to the previous year?

(Single answer)

- Increased a lot
- Increased a little
- No change
- Decreased a little
- Decreased a lot

[Ask if answered yes to Q1a.]

Q3 How has the total amount of time you spent visiting forests and woodlands changed in the last 12 months, compared to the previous year?

(Single answer)

- Increased a lot
- Increased a little
- No change
- Decreased a little
- Decreased a lot

[Ask if answered yes to Q1a.]

Q4 How has the distance you travel to visit forests and woodlands changed in the last 12 months, compared to the previous year?

(Single answer)

- Increased a lot
- Increased a little
- No change
- Decreased a little
- Decreased a lot

[Ask if answered yes to Q1a.]

We are now going to ask you about your visits to forests and woodlands in the last 12 months; first about last summer, and then since then.

Q5a How frequently did you visit forests and woodlands last summer, i.e. the six months between April and September 2020?

(Single answer)

- Several times per week
- Several times per month
- About once a month
- Less often
- Never

[Unless answered 'never' to Q5a. If 'never' go to Q6.]

Thinking about your most recent visit to a forest or woodland in those six months between April and September 2020...

Q5b What was the duration of your visit to the forest or woodland?

(Single answer)

- Less than 10 minutes
- 10 to 19 minutes
- 20 to 29 minutes
- 30 to 59 minutes
- 60 to 89 minutes
- 90 to 119 minutes
- 120 minutes or over
- Not applicable

Q5c What was the main recreational activity you undertook on this visit?

(Single answer)

- Walking
- Dog-walking
- Running
- Wildlife watching
- Picnicking
- Children's playground
- Woodland crafts
- Horse riding
- Climbing
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Off-road driving / motorcycling
- Off-road cycling / mountain biking
- Sightseeing / visitor attractions
- Swimming outdoors
- Other (please specify)
- None of the above

Q5d Approximately how far in miles did you travel to get to the forest or woodland?

(Single answer)

- Less than 1 mile
- 1 to 2 miles
- 3 to 10 miles
- 11 to 50 miles
- More than 50 miles

[If answered yes to Q1a]

Now thinking about your visit forests and woodlands since October 2020...

Q6a How frequently did you visit forests and woodlands this winter, i.e. the six months since October 2020?

(Single answer)

- Several times per week
- Several times per month
- About once a month
- Less often
- Never

[Unless answered 'never' to Q6a. If 'never' go to Q7.]

Thinking about your most recent visit to a forest or woodland in those six months since October 2020...

Q6b What was the duration of your visit to the forest or woodland?

(Single answer)

- Less than 10 minutes
- 10 to 19 minutes
- 20 to 29 minutes
- 30 to 59 minutes
- 60 to 89 minutes
- 90 to 119 minutes
- 120 minutes or over
- Not applicable

Q6c What was the main recreational activity you undertook on this visit?

(Single answer)

- Walking
- Dog-walking
- Running
- Wildlife watching
- Picnicking
- Children's playground
- Woodland crafts
- Horse riding
- Climbing
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Off-road driving / motorcycling
- Off-road cycling / mountain biking
- Sightseeing / visitor attractions
- Swimming outdoors
- Other (please specify)
- None of the above

Q6d Approximately how far in miles did you travel to get to the forest or woodland?

(Single answer)

- Less than 1 mile
- 1 to 2 miles
- 3 to 10 miles
- 11 to 50 miles
- More than 50 miles

[If answered yes to Q1a]

Q7 Who managed the forest or woodland you visited most recently?

(Single answer)

- Community Managed Woodland
- Forestry England
- Forestry and Land Scotland
- Natural Resources Wales
- Local Authority
- National Trust or National Trust Scotland
- Woodland Trust
- Other (specify)
- Don't know

[If answered yes to Q1a]

Q8 Thinking back about all of your visits to forests or woodlands over the last 12 months, what is your best estimate of how many times you visited a forest or woodland managed by Forestry England?

(Single answer)

- None
- Once or twice
- 3-5 times
- 6-10 times
- About once a month
- About once a fortnight
- About once a week
- About twice a week
- About once a day
- About twice a day
- More often

[All]

Q9 Are you a ...?

(Multi answer)

- Member of English Heritage, Historic Scotland or Cadw in Wales
- Holder of a Forestry England Membership
- Member of the National Trust or National Trust for Scotland
- Member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Member of a wildlife trust
- Member of the Woodland Trust
- None of the above

[All]

Q10 Have you in the past 12 months...

(Multi answer)

- 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 a member of a community based woodland group such as a 'Community Trust' or 'Friends of' group
- None of these

[All]

Q11 Now thinking specifically about forests and woodlands and why they are important to the public please tell us 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, (6) don't know

- 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

[If answered yes to Q1a]

Q12 Now thinking specifically about forests and woodlands you have visited and why they are important to you personally please tell how 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, (6) don't know

- 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

[If answered yes to Q1a]

Q13 Thinking specifically about forests and woodlands you have visited and why they are important to you personally please tell us to what extent the following changed or not due to the range of coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions that came into place from 23 March 2020 onwards.

(1) significantly increased, (2) some increase, (3) stayed the same, (4) some decrease, (5) significantly decreased, (6) not applicable

- Your feeling of connection to forests and woodlands
- Your level of happiness when in forests and woodlands
- The amount of time you take to appreciate forests and woodlands (e.g. listening to bird song, noticing butterflies)

[All]

Q14 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, (6) don't know

- 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

[All]

Q15 Would you agree or disagree with the following statements relating to tree health?

(1) strongly disagree, (2) disagree, (3) neither agree or disagree, (4) agree, (5) strongly agree, (6) don't know

- Everyone should take action when visiting woodlands to help prevent the spread of damaging tree pests and diseases (e.g. by brushing the soil from their bikes, boots, buggies and clothing between visits to parks, woodlands and gardens).
- I would be willing to look out for and report sightings of pests and diseases on trees, if appropriate information and advice was available to me.
- There is very little that anyone can do to prevent the spread of damaging tree pests and diseases.
- Action should be taken by authorities and woodland managers to protect trees from damaging pests and diseases.
- If I buy an imported tree, it is more likely to carry tree pests and diseases than a tree grown in the UK.
- I am aware that possible tree pests and diseases can be reported using the Tree Alert website.

[All]

Q16a Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more?

(Single answer)

- Yes
- No (Go to END)

[Ask if answered yes to Q16a. Others to END]

Q16b Do any of these conditions or illnesses affect your use of woodlands/forests or other greenspaces?

(Single answer)

- Yes
- No

Alice Holt Lodge

Farnham
Surrey, GU10 4LH, UK
Tel: **0300 067 5600**

**Northern Research
Station**

Roslin
Midlothian, EH25 9SY, UK
Tel: **0300 067 5900**

**Forest Research in
Wales**

Environment Centre
Wales
Deiniol Road, Bangor
Gwynedd, LL57 2UW,
UK
Tel: **0300 067 5774**

info@forestresearch.gov.uk
www.forestresearch.gov.uk

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