Forest Research

Public Opinion of Forestry 2021: Wales

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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

Surveys of public attitudes to forestry and forestry-related issues have been conducted by Forest Research (and previously the Forestry Commission) since 1995, generally on a biennial basis. These surveys are used to inform and monitor policy development.

This publication presents results for Wales from the Welsh Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021, commissioned by Forest Research on behalf of the Welsh Government, on:

- benefits and disadvantages of woodlands;
- benefits and disadvantages of street trees;
- urban trees;
- woodland recreation;
- community engagement;
- awareness of logos;
- tree health;
- wood as a fuel; and
- accessibility.

Fieldwork for the survey was undertaken in March 2021 and a copy of the questionnaire used in this survey, giving complete wording of questions and the response options available, is provided in the Annex at the end of this report.

Surveys have also been run across the UK (to provide results for the UK and for England) and in Scotland. Separate reports, providing results from these surveys, are available at https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/public-opinion-of-forestry/.

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

The main findings in 2021 are:

- Most respondents (92%) believed the woodlands near them provide at least one benefit for the local community. Around one half (52%) believed that there was at least one woodland-related issue that disadvantaged the local community.
- Around four in five respondents (82%) believed that street trees provide at least one benefit for the local urban area. Three in five respondents (60%) believed that there was at least one disadvantage.
- Almost two thirds of respondents (63%) had visited forests or woodlands in the last 12 months. Around one third of respondents (34%) reported a decrease in the amount of time spent visiting forests or woodlands in the last 12 months.
- Almost all respondents (98%) who had visited forests or woodlands in the last 12 months agreed they would visit again and 96% would recommend the woodland/forest to a friend or relative.
- One third of respondents (33%) who had visited woodland had gathered products from forests or woodlands in the last 12 months.
- Almost two thirds of respondents (63%) said there was a woodland or forest they could get to easily without using a car or other transport.
- 4% of respondents had been consulted about plans for creating, managing or using woodlands in their area and around one half (51%) would like to be consulted in future.
- 88% of respondents indicated that they were not aware of plans for a new National Forest in Wales.
- Almost two thirds of respondents (63%) recognised the FSC logo on wood products.

- On tree health, 84% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that 'action should be taken by authorities and woodland managers to protect trees from damaging pests and diseases'.
- Around one in five respondents (19%) use wood as a fuel, most commonly in the form of wood logs.
- Around one third of respondents (32%) reported having a long-term physical or mental health condition or illness. Of these, around one half (49%) said that it affected their use of woodlands/forests or other green spaces.

Benefits and disadvantages of woodlands

The survey asked respondents two questions about the benefits and disadvantages of nearby woodlands (urban and/or rural) for the local community.

Benefits of woodlands

Most respondents to the 2021 survey (92%) believed the woodlands near them provide at least one benefit for the local community (Table 1).

As in previous years, the most commonly selected benefit in 2021 was 'they provide places for wildlife to live' (85%). 'They improve the landscape' (78%), 'they provide places for relaxation and stress relief' (78%) and 'they provide places for recreation' (77%) were also selected as benefits by over three quarters of respondents.

Table 1 Benefits of woodlands for the local community

percent of respondents

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
They provide places for wildlife to live	62	70	77	83	85
They improve the landscape	55	56	63	71	78
They provide places for relaxation and stress relief	46	49	57	63	78
They provide places for recreation (e.g. walking, cycling, horse-riding etc.)	58	61	68	67	77
They help to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere helping to reduce the impact of climate change	36	45	54	59	74
They help reduce air and noise pollution	29	28	43	52	66
They help soak up water in rainy weather	..	27	39	48	65
They are accessible to all in the community	38	35	42	48	64
They can be used by local schools and other educational groups	39	41	47	56	62
They are an important resource for us all	..	28	44	47	58
They help attract visitors to the area	40	37	49	52	48
They give people in the community the opportunity to work together	18	18	24	32	27
They support the local economy	19	20	25	29	24
They provide timber and other wood products	..	..	25	26	24
They provide firewood	21	14	20	22	18
Other	2	1	0	0	1
At least one benefit identified	94	94	96	97	92

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals = 2013 (1,012), 2015 (1,022), 2017 (1,035), 2019 (1,001), 2021 (1,014)
2. Respondents could select more than one benefit.
3. There have been some changes to the wording of the question and the response options over time.

4. .. denotes data not available (option not included in that year's survey).

Disadvantages of woodlands

In 2021, around one half of respondents (52%) believed that there was at least one woodland-related issue that disadvantaged the local community (Table 2).

The most commonly identified disadvantages in 2021 were that ‘the woodlands near us are used for fly tipping’ (selected by 23% of respondents in 2021) and ‘we can't control what happens in our local woodlands’ (19%).

Table 2 Disadvantages of woodlands for the local community

percent of respondents

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
The woodlands near us are used for fly tipping	..	..	22	26	23
We can't control what happens in our local woodlands	8	12	9	10	19
The woodlands near us can't be easily accessed	1	3	3	2	13
Woodlands near us provide a place for criminal activity to occur	12	12	15	15	11
The woodlands don't provide enough local jobs	7	6	6	6	10
The woodlands near us aren't good for wildlife	1	1	1	1	7
It's really difficult to get firewood and timber from our local woodlands	5	3	2	3	5
The woodlands near us aren't nice places to visit	2	2	2	2	3
Woodland operations and visitors create noise pollution	1	2	2	2	3
Woodland operations create carbon dioxide contributing to making climate change worse	1	2	2	2	3
Timber lorries make me feel unsafe walking/driving on the roads	3	8	7	6	2
Timber lorries/visitors to woodlands make the roads busy	3	7	7	5	2
The woodlands near us get in the way of developments around the community	1	1	1	2	2
Managing woodlands pollutes the air/water/soil	1	2	1	1	2
The woodlands near us make our landscape worse	0	1	1	1	1
Other	3	3	0	2	3
At least one reason	39	38	43	47	52

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents (2013-2019)/ all respondents who have woodland nearby (2021): Weighted totals =
   2013 (1,012), 2015 (1,022), 2017 (1,035), 2019 (1,001), 2021 (969)
2. Respondents could select more than one disadvantage.
3. .. denotes data not available (option not included in that year's survey). 0 denotes less than 0.5%.

Benefits and disadvantages of street trees

Questions relating to the benefits and disadvantages of trees located in/along streets for the local urban area (town or city) have been included in the survey since 2013.

Benefits of street trees

Around four in five respondents (82%) to the 2021 survey believed that street trees provide at least one benefit for the local urban area (Table 3).

As in previous years, the most commonly selected benefits were ‘they make the area look more attractive’ (selected by 70% of respondents in 2021) and ‘they provide places for birds and wildlife to live’ (64%).

Table 3 Benefits of street trees for the local urban area

percent of respondents

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
They make the area look more attractive	62	71	73	72	70
They provide places for birds and wildlife to live	43	50	61	62	64
They remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere reducing the impact of climate change	28	31	44	53	60
They help people to feel more relaxed and calm	25	30	42	44	55
They offer a connection with the seasons and nature	..	..	37	40	55
They enhance the appeal and performance of shopping areas in the town/ city	22	29	29	35	54
Their shade helps to cool the area during summer	24	30	36	42	49
They help reduce air and noise pollution	23	20	32	42	48
They help to soak up water in rainy weather	21	24	34	39	47
They create pleasant places to meet and mix with people	20	27	28	37	43
It is just a benefit knowing that they are there	19	15	25	25	41
They provide health benefits	19	18	34	34	40
They offer a connection with the seasons and nature and act as natural classrooms	20	29	..	..	..
They act as natural classrooms	..	..	22	28	29
They increase property values and inward investment into the community	13	12	20	19	22
They produce useful by-products	7	8	13	19	22
They help to improve road safety	6	6	8	12	11
Other	0	1	0	0	1
At least one reason	88	91	92	93	82

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals = 2013 (1,012), 2015 (1,022), 2017 (1,035), 2019 (1,001), 2021 (1,014)
2. Respondents could select more than one benefit.
3. .. denotes data not available (option not included in that year's survey). 0 denotes less than 0.5%.

Disadvantages of street trees

In 2021, 60% of survey respondents selected at least one disadvantage of street trees from the response options provided (Table 4).

The most commonly selected disadvantages in 2021 were ‘The trees are not properly looked after’ (24%) and ‘Falling leaves and branches make a mess and are a health and safety hazard’ (23%).

Table 4 Disadvantages of street trees for the local urban area

percent of respondents

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
The trees are not properly looked after	..	11	15	15	24
Falling leaves and branches make a mess and are a health and safety hazard	27	34	33	35	23
We can't control what happens to the trees	7	5	8	10	17
Street trees damage buildings and cause subsidence	17	18	18	26	13
Street trees reduce light to nearby houses and buildings	13	10	11	15	12
Trees hide views	10	12	9	14	10
Carrying out work to the trees causes disruption and mess	6	6	7	9	8
The trees in the urban areas near us aren't good for wildlife	1	2	2	1	7
Trees cause interference to TV reception and effectiveness of solar panels	7	6	5	9	6
The trees make the roads less safe	..	9	8	7	6
Trees in urban areas near us provide opportunities for criminal activity and vandalism[4]	4	4	5	4	5
The trees get in the way of developments in or around the urban area	1	3	2	2	3
Trees harbour pests	4	5	3	5	2
The trees make the urban landscape worse	1	1	1	1	2
Other	2	1	0	1	7
At least one reason	56	58	56	65	60

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents (2013-2019)/ all respondents who have street trees nearby (2021): Weighted totals =
   2013 (1,012), 2015 (1,022), 2017 (1,035), 2019 (1,001), 2021 (894)
2. Respondents could select more than one disadvantage.
3. .. denotes data not available (option not included in that year's survey).

4. In 2019 the wording was changed to include 'vandalism'.

Urban trees

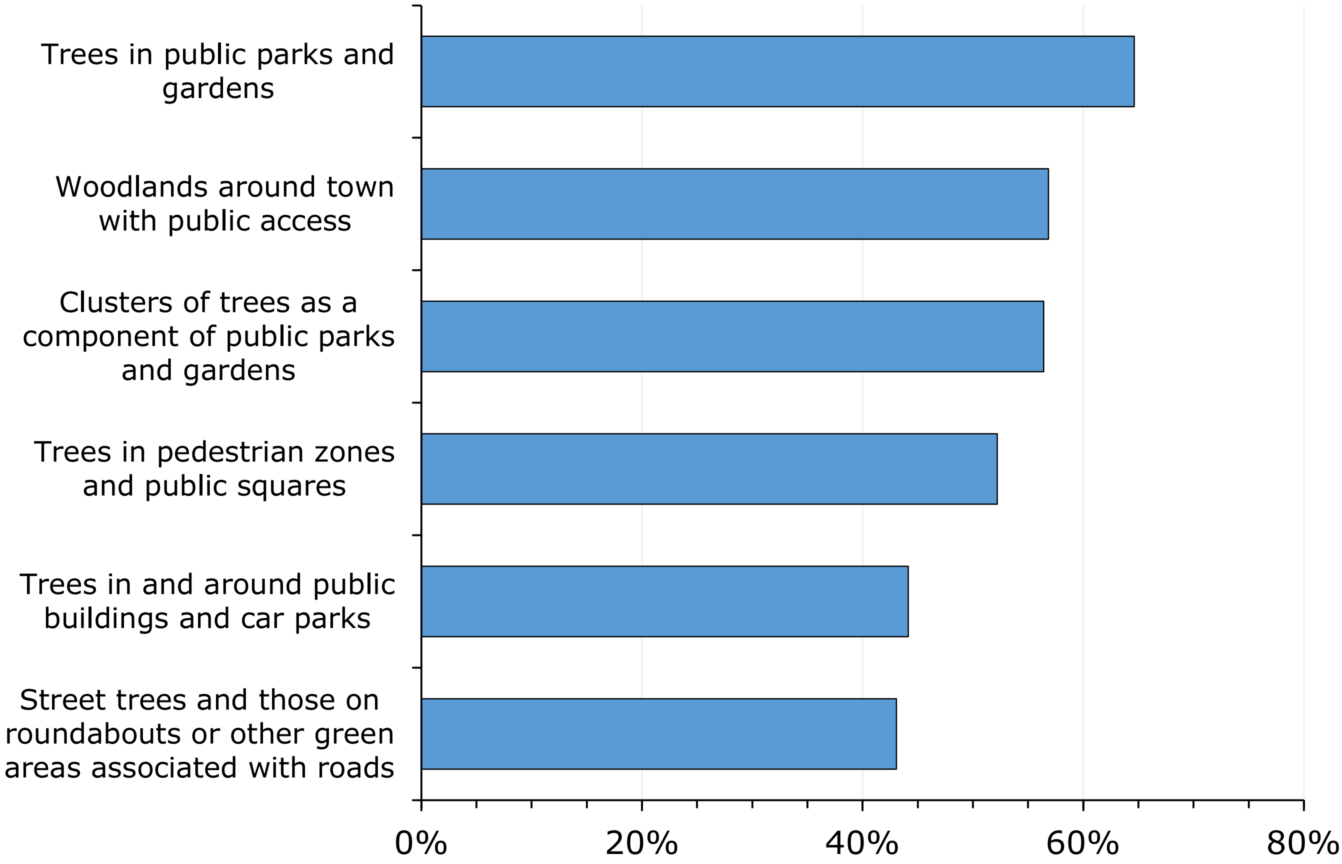
Questions relating to urban trees were introduced in 2017. The questions include street trees, but also have wider coverage that includes trees and woodlands in other urban areas.

Targeting of public resources

Respondents to the survey were first asked about priorities for targeting public resources for looking after urban trees and woods.

Around two thirds (65%) of respondents indicated that public funding should be allocated to 'trees in public parks and gardens'. Over one half of respondents indicated that 'woodlands around town with public access' (57%), 'clusters of trees as a component of public parks and gardens' (56%) and 'trees in pedestrian zones and public squares' (52%) should be funded.

Figure 1 Priorities for spending of public resources on urban trees



Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted total = 1,014.

Support for urban trees

Respondents were asked if they would be prepared to support urban trees in various ways.

Overall, the percent of respondents willing to take part in activities to support urban trees fell in 2021 (Table 5). However, as with previous years, respondents were relatively more likely to undertake activities such as 'raising concerns with the Local Authority if you notice a problem with trees' and 'planting and tending trees in your garden or communal outside area' (both 41% in 2021).

Table 5 Activities to support urban trees

percent of respondents

	2017	2019	2021
Raising concerns with the Local Authority if you notice a problem with trees	67	69	41
Planting and tending trees in your garden or communal outside area	60	62	41
Participating in community planting programmes	48	46	37
Watering newly planted trees in public areas during periods of dry weather	49	50	31
Monitoring the health and condition of public trees	48	50	27
Accepting higher council taxes which will be used for community tree programmes	26	23	21

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals = 2017 (1,035), 2019 (1,001), 2021 (1,014)

Woodland recreation

The 2021 survey asked respondents several questions about their visits to woodland. This included whether the respondent had visited woodland, whether the amount of time spent visiting woodland had changed, the activities undertaken, if they foraged, reasons for not visiting, type of woodland visited, visitor satisfaction, management of the woodland visited, frequency of visits, reasons for choosing to visit and access to woodland.

These questions do not distinguish whether the woodlands visited were located in Wales or elsewhere.

Proportion visiting woodland

The proportion of respondents visiting forests or woodlands for walks, picnics or other recreation in the last 12 months was 63% in 2021. This represented a statistically significant decrease from the level reported for the 2017 and 2019 surveys but was similar to the level in 2015 (Table 6).

Table 6 Visits to woodland in the last 12 months

percent of respondents

Year	%
2015	64
2017	72
2019	77
2021	63

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals = 2015 (1,022), 2017 (1,035), 2019 (1,001), 2021 (1,014)

Changes in the amount of time spent visiting woodland

For the first time in 2021, respondents were asked if the amount of time spent visiting woodland had changed in the last 12 months, compared to the previous year.

Around one third of respondents (34%) reported a decrease in the amount of time spent visiting forests or woodlands in the last 12 months (Table 7). A further 32% of respondents reported 'no change' and 28% reported an increase in time spent visiting woodland.

Table 7 Changes in the amount of time spent visiting woodland, compared to the previous year

percent of respondents

	2021
Increased a lot	13
Increased a little	15
No change	32
Decreased a little	10
Decreased a lot	24
Don't know	5

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted total = 1,014.

Type of woodland visited

Respondents who had visited woodland in the last 12 months were asked about the type of woodland on their most recent visit.

Of the respondents to the 2021 survey who had visited woodland or forests in the last 12 months, 55% had visited woodlands in the countryside on their most recent visit and 41% had visited woodlands in and around towns (Table 8).

Table 8 Type of woodland visited

	2015	2017	2019	2021
Woodlands in the countryside	64	66	51	55
Woodlands in and around towns	36	34	48	41
Other	..	..	..	3

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on respondents who had visited woodlands: Weighted totals = 2015 (654), 2017 (746), 2019 (767), 2021 (635)
2. .. denotes data not available (option not included in that year's survey).

Woodland activities

The majority of respondents in the 2021 survey who had visited woodland or forests in the last 12 months did so to walk recreationally (74%). Dog walking was undertaken by 42% of visitors (Table 9).

There was a statistically significant decrease between 2019 and 2021 for several activities, including walking (without a dog), picnicking, sightseeing and children's playground. These differences may have resulted (to some extent) from the Coronavirus restrictions that were in place during the 12 month recall period.

Table 9 Activities undertaken in woodland in the last 12 months

percent of respondents

Activity	2019	2021
Walking (without a dog)	89	74
Dog-walking	43	42
Wildlife watching	28	29
Picnicking	32	17
Sightseeing/ visitor attractions	27	16
Running	13	12
Children's playground	25	9
Off-road cycling/mountain biking	12	8
Woodland crafts	5	4
Climbing	5	4
Fishing	4	2
Swimming outdoors	4	2
Horse riding	3	1
Hunting	1	1
Off-road driving/motorcycling	1	0
Other	2	3

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on respondents who had visited woodlands: Weighted totals = 2019 (767), 2021 (635)
2. Respondents could select more than one activity.

Foraging in woodland

Respondents who had visited woodland or forests in the last 12 months were asked if they had gathered/ foraged any products from the forest during their visits.

One third of respondents (33%) who had visited woodland in the last 12 months, had gathered products from forests or woodlands. The most popular woodland products gathered were decorative, floral and craft products (18%) and items for eating and drinking (16%).

Table 10 Gathered woodland products in the last 12 months

percent of respondents

Product	2019	2021
Decorative, floral and craft products (such as foliage, branches, stems, moss, lichen and weld)	23	18
Items for eating or drinking (such as berries, fungi, nuts, flowers and sap)	22	16
Items for seasonal, cultural and religious use (such as holly, ivy and hazel wands)	15	13
Medicinal and dietary supplements (such as St. John’s wort, meadowsweet and hawthorn)	2	2
None of the above	59	67

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on respondents who had visited woodlands: Weighted totals = 2019 (767), 2021 (635)
2. Respondents could select more than one product.

Reasons for not visiting woodlands

Respondents who had not visited woodland in the last 12 months were asked to state their main reasons for not doing so.

One fifth of respondents (20%) indicated they did not visit due to concerns over catching coronavirus (Figure 2). Similar proportions cited personal mobility reasons (19%) and because the woodland was too far from their home (18%).

In 2021, 27% of respondents also selected the ‘Other’ response option and gave reasons for not visiting other than those listed. Most of the reasons given referenced the restrictions that were in place as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Table 11 Reasons for not visiting woodlands in the last 12 months

percent of respondents

	2021
I'm concerned about catching coronavirus	20
Personal mobility reasons	19
The woods are too far away from my home	18
I can't drive/ I don't have access to a car so visiting is difficult	12
It's too difficult to maintain social distancing at the woodland or forest	9
Lack of facilities	6
Lack of suitable public transport to the forest or woodland	6
I'm too busy/ I don't have enough time to go	5
Not interested in visiting	5
I prefer other areas of the countryside	5
I'm concerned that woods are not safe	4
Lack of information about the woods/ which woods to visit	4
Lack of confidence	3
Cost of visiting	2
Woodlands are badly maintained	1
Other	27
At least one reason	87
Don't know/ no particular reason	13

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021.

Note:

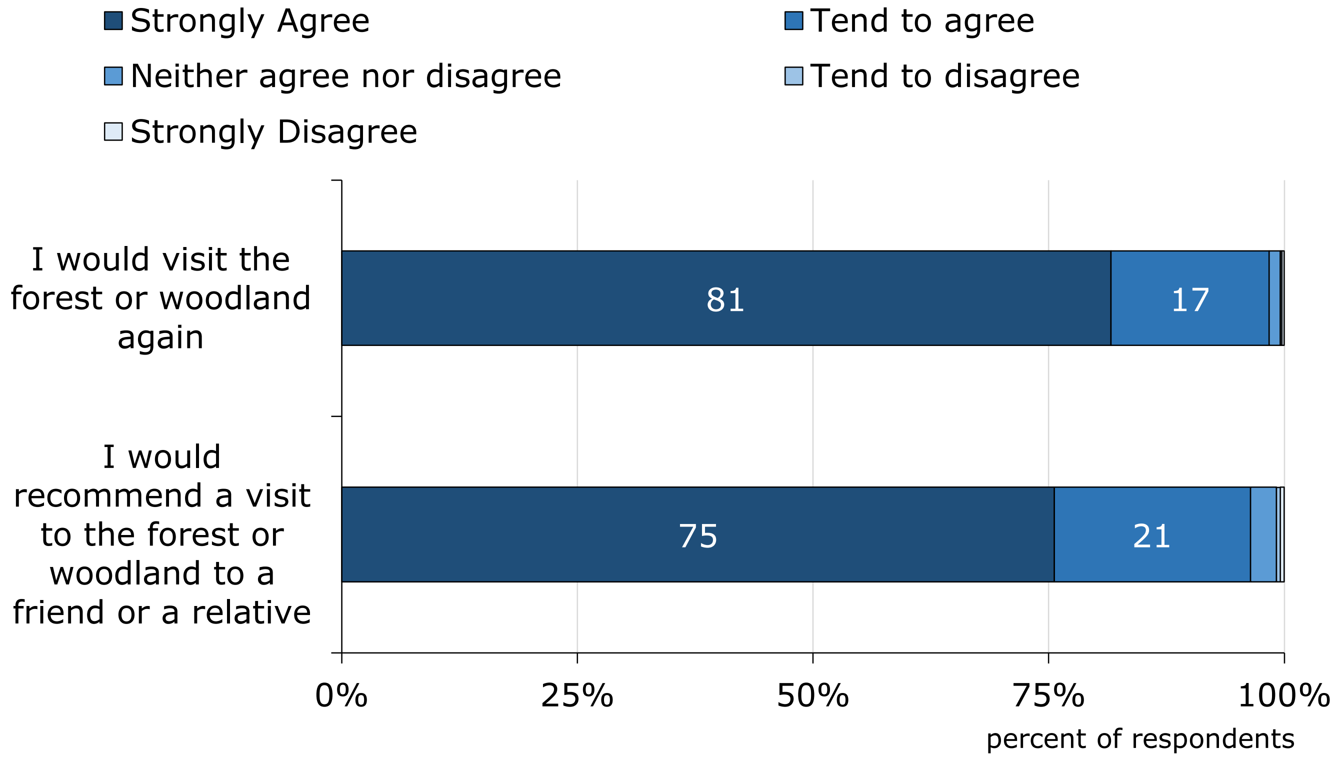
1. Figures are based on respondents who had not visited woodlands: Weighted total = 341.
2. Respondents could select more than one reason.
3. Full wording of each response option is available in the questionnaire, provided in the Annex.

Satisfaction with woodland visited

Respondents who had visited woodland or forests in the last 12 months were asked for their views on the woodland or forest that they had visited most recently.

Almost all (98%) agreed (giving a response of 'agree' or 'strongly agree') that they would visit woodland again and 96% agreed that they would recommend the woodland/ forest to a friend or relative (Figure 2).

Figure 2 Level of satisfaction with most recently visited woodland



Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021.

Note:

1. Figures are based on respondents who had visited woodlands: Weighted total = 635

Management of woodlands visited

Respondents to the 2021 survey who had visited woodlands were asked to state who managed the woodland that they had visited most recently. As the survey did not ask about the location of woodlands visited, it is not clear whether these woodlands were in Wales.

Natural Resources Wales was cited as the manager of the woodland most recently visited by 19% of respondents. This proportion has increased significantly from the 2019 survey, where 4% of respondents reported that the woodland was managed by Natural Resources Wales. As with the 2019 survey, most respondents (40%) did not know who managed the woodland (Table 12).

Table 12 Management of most recently visited woodland

percent of respondents

Management	2017	2019	2021
Natural Resources Wales	5	4	19
Forestry Commission	12	12	11
Community managed woodland	5	4	9
National Trust	12	10	7
Woodland Trust	8	9	6
Other	17	15	9
None of the above	8	6	..
Don't know	31	40	40

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on respondents who had visited woodlands: Weighted totals = 2017 (746), 2019 (767), 2021 (635)
2. .. denotes data not available (option not included in that year’s survey).

Reasons for choosing to visit woodlands

Respondents to the 2021 survey who had visited woodlands were asked what they thought was important to them in choosing to visit the woodland they had been to most recently.

The most important factors identified were ‘Peaceful and quiet’ (68%), ‘Free to visit (i.e. no entrance charge)’ (68%), and ‘A good place to unwind/de-stress’ (64%) (Table 13).

Table 13 Reasons for choosing to visit woodlands

percent of respondents

	2015	2017	2019	2021
Peaceful and quiet	52	60	62	68
Free to visit	36	38	41	68
A good place to unwind/de-stress	41	49	51	64
Convenient distance	55	59	64	62
Attractive scenery	51	64	59	60
Good for exercise	46	53	53	60
Clear and accessible tracks and paths	34	42	39	52
Enough space to maintain social distancing	..	..	..	47
Safe environment	36	45	43	47
Knowing that visitors are welcome there	28	37	35	47
The Wildlife	44	57	49	45
Dogs are welcome	43	44	47	37
Clear signage	19	20	17	19
A variety of activities	11	18	14	19
Knowing I can access gates and stiles with my group	22	23	21	18
Good facilities	..	..	27	17
Opportunities to collect woodland produce	4	8	7	13
Opportunities for learning	..	..	15	11
Other	1	0	1	3
None of the above	1	0	0	..

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on respondents who had visited woodlands: Weighted totals = 2015 (654), 2017 (746), 2019 (767), 2021 (635)
2. Respondents could select more than one reason.
3. .. denotes data not available (option not included in that year's survey). 0 denotes less than 0.5%.
4. Full wording of each response option is available in the questionnaire, provided in the Annex.

Access to woodland

Almost two thirds of respondents (63%) to the 2021 survey said there was a woodland or forest they could get to easily without using a car or other transport (Table 14).

Table 14 Access to woodland without the use of a car or other transport

percent of respondents

Year	%
2005	59
2009	63
2011	60
2013	59
2015	64
2017	65
2019	73
2021	63

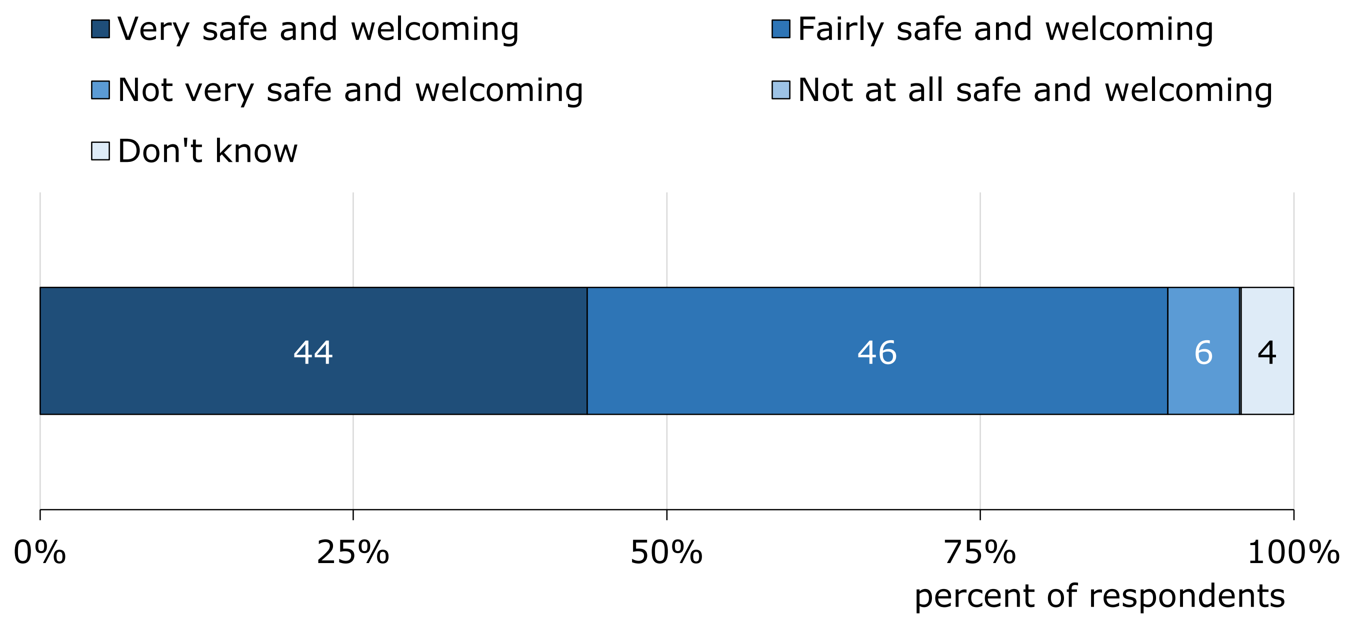
Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals = 2005 (1,001), 2009 (1,002), 2011 (1,002), 2013 (1,012), 2015 (1,022), 2017 (1,035), 2019 (1,001), 2021 (1,014)

Respondents who reported that they had access to woodlands without the use of a car or other transport were then asked to rate how safe and welcoming that woodland is. The vast majority (90%) of respondents gave a rating of 'very safe and welcoming' or 'fairly safe and welcoming' (Figure 3).

Figure 3 How safe and welcoming is accessible woodland?



Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021.

Note:

1. Figures are based on respondents who had access to a forest or woodland easily without using a car: Weighted totals = 643.

Community Engagement

Respondents were asked a set of questions relating to how they engage with woodland and forest issues through public consultation, learning activities and volunteer groups.

Public consultation

In the 2021 survey, 4% of respondents reported having been consulted about plans for creating, managing or using woodlands in their area (Table 15). Around one half of respondents (51%) indicated that they would like to be consulted in the future.

Table 15 Public consultation about plans for woodlands

percent of respondents

	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Have you ever been consulted	4	4	5	3	6	5	5	4	4
Would you like to be consulted in future	19	43	32	27	28	37	39	44	51

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

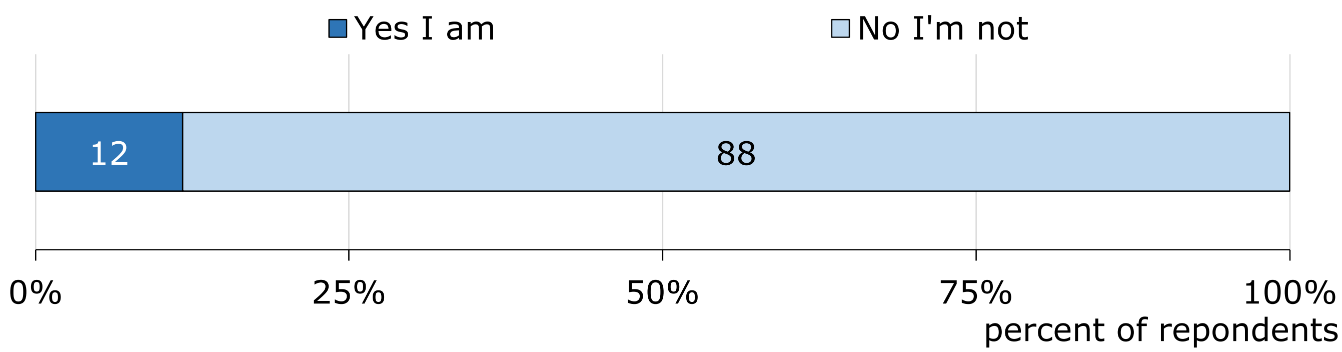
Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals = 2005 (1,001), 2007 (953), 2009 (1,002), 2011 (1,002), 2013 (1,012), 2015 (1,022), 2017 (1,035), 2019 (1,001), 2021 (1,014)

Awareness of plans for a National Forest in Wales

For the first time in the 2021 survey, respondents were asked if they were aware of plans to create a new National Forest in Wales. Most respondents indicated they were not aware of the plans (88%) (Figure 4).

Figure 4 Awareness of plans for a National Forest in Wales



Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted total = 1,014.

Organised Learning Activities

Respondents were asked whether they or any member of their family had attended any organised learning activities or events associated with woodlands in the last 12 months (Table 16).

In 2021, around one in ten respondents (11%) said that they or a member of their family had attended at least one such event or activity. Only 5% of respondents or their family members attended school trips to learn about woodland. This represents a significant decrease from the proportion reported in 2019 (12%). It is likely that the COVID-19 restrictions in place in the 12 month recall period resulted in a reduction to the number of organised learning activities available and the number of places on events for the most recent survey.

Table 16 Woodland learning activities attended

percent of respondents

	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
School trip	11	10	11	18	10	12	5
Forest school	..	..	..	..	3	9	5
An organised tree planting	3	2	4	4	1	1	4
Guided walk or talk	7	4	5	7	4	5	3
Organised course or training	4	2	3	4	1	3	3
Other	1	2	1	2	0	1	0
None of these	81	83	82	73	80	76	67
At least one	19	17	18	27	20	21	11

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals = 2009 (1,002), 2011 (1,002), 2013 (1,012), 2015 (1,022), 2017 (1,035), 2019 (1,001), 2021 (1,014)
2. Respondents could select more than one option.
3. .. denotes data not available (option not included in that year’s survey).

4. 2021 figures shown in this table exclude the 23% of respondents who reported "don't know" to this question.
5. Full wording of each response option is available in the questionnaire, provided in the Annex.

Conservation and Volunteering

Respondents were asked if they had been involved in voluntary work in connection with woodlands in the last 12 months or if they were a member of a community group involved in conservation and/or management of local woodlands.

Overall, 6% of respondents to the 2021 survey said yes to one (or both) of these areas of involvement (Table 17).

Table 17 Involvement in voluntary work or community group

percent of respondents

	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Involved in voluntary work	3	2	3	5	5	5	4
Member of a community-based woodland group	3	2	2	3	4	4	4
Either (or both) of the above	5	4	4	6	6	6	6

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals = 2009 (1,002), 2011 (1,002), 2013 (1,012), 2015 (1,022), 2017 (1,035), 2019 (1,001), 2021 (1,014)

Awareness of logos

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

HETAS is the official body recognised by government to approve biomass and solid fuel heating appliances, fuels and services, including the registration of competent installers and servicing businesses. HETAS has a logo, which is displayed on approved products.

In the 2021 survey, respondents were asked if they had seen the FSC, PEFC and HETAS logos on wood products. 63% of respondents to the 2021 survey recognised the FSC logo, 12% had seen the PEFC logo and 6% reported having seen the HETAS logo (Table 18).

The level of recognition for the FSC logo in 2021 (63%) represented a statistically significant increase from the level reported in 2019 (55%), but was similar to the 2017 level (62%).

Table 18 Awareness of logos on wood products

percent of respondents

	FSC	PEFC	HETAS
2005	25	12	..
2009	36	12	..
2011	47	15	..
2013	49	11	..
2015	52	10	6
2017	62	14	9
2019	55	15	11
2021	63	12	6

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals = 2005 (1,001), 2009 (1,002), 2011 (1,002), 2013 (1,012), 2015 (1,022), 2017 (1,035), 2019 (1,001), 2021 (1,014).
2. .. denotes data not available (option not included in that year's survey).

Tree health

Respondents were presented with a series of statements relating to tree health and asked to indicate their level of agreement (Table 19).

Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that:

- ‘Action should be taken by authorities and woodland managers to protect trees from damaging pests and diseases’ (84% in 2021);
- ‘Everyone should take action when visiting woodlands to help prevent the spread of damaging tree pests and diseases’ (65% in 2021).
- ‘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’ (63% in 2021); and

Conversely, few respondents agreed or strongly agreed that:

- ‘There is very little that anyone can do to prevent the spread of damaging pests and diseases’ (15% in 2021);
- ‘I understand what is meant by biosecurity’ (40% in 2021).

Table 19 Tree health

percent of respondents who agree or strongly agree

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Action should be taken by authorities and woodland managers to protect trees from damaging pests and diseases	81	90	90	85	84
Everyone should take action when visiting woodlands to help prevent the spread of damaging tree pests and diseases	66	69	69	69	65
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	63	68	63	71	63
I understand what is meant by biosecurity	26	28	26	37	40
There is very little that anyone can do to prevent the spread of damaging tree pests and diseases	21	27	22	21	15

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals =
   2013 (1,012), 2015 (1,022), 2017 (1,035), 2019 (1,001), 2021 (1,014).

Wood as a fuel

In the 2021 survey, all respondents were asked a series of questions relating to the use of wood as a fuel in their home, either on its own or with other fuels.

Respondents were first asked about whether they used wood as a fuel in their home and, if so, the form of wood used (Table 20). Most respondents (81%) reported that they did not use wood for fuel. Of those that did, wood logs were the most commonly reported form used (15% of all respondents).

Table 20 Use of wood as a fuel in the home

percent of respondents

	2015	2017	2019	2021
Wood logs	12	12	14	15
Waste wood	5	5	5	8
Foraged, gathered or found	4	5	4	6
Wood briquettes/ heat logs	2	3	3	4
Wood pellets	1	1	1	2
Wood chips	1	0	1	2
Don't know	0	1	2	2
None of these	86	85	82	81

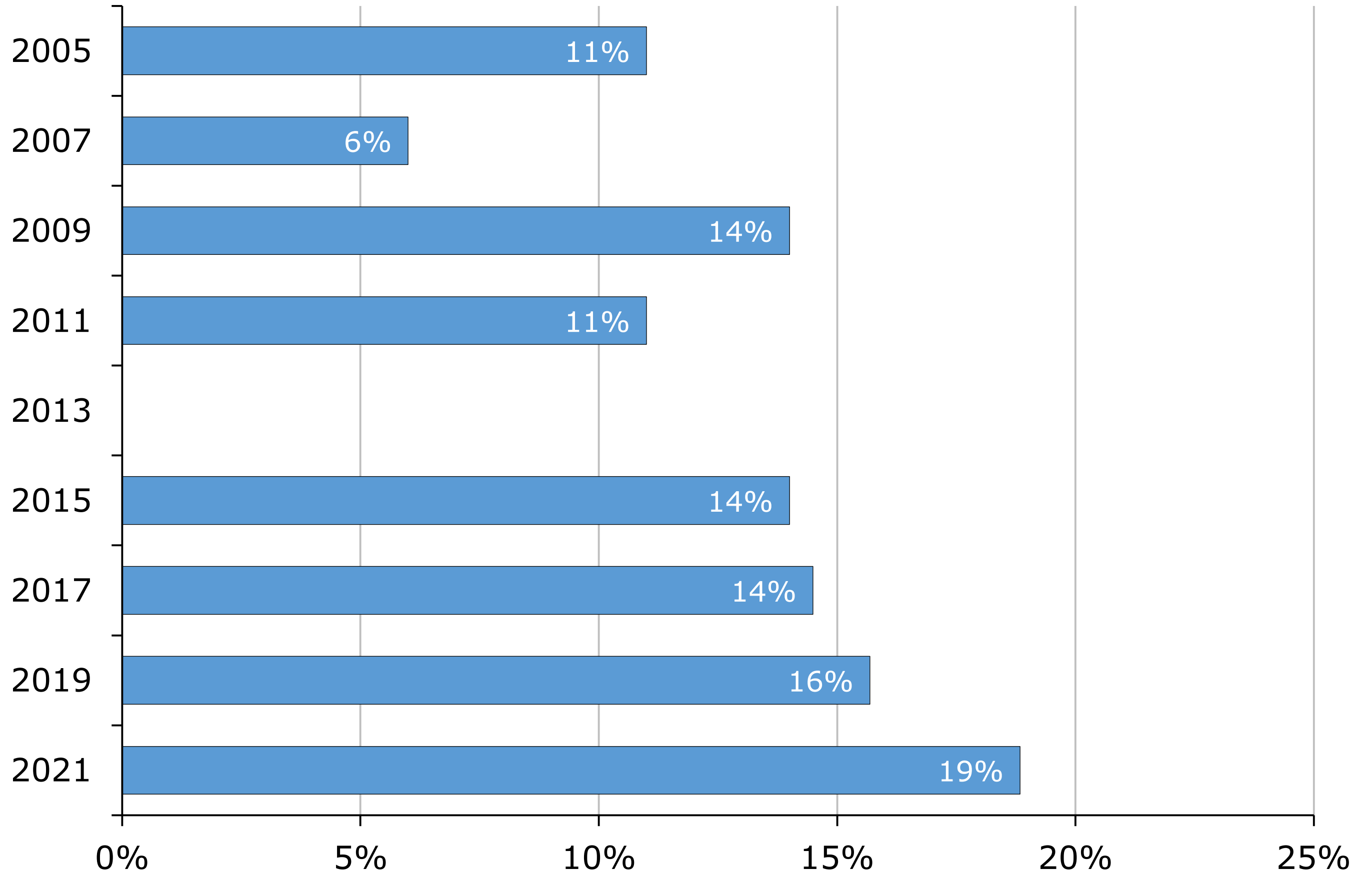
Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals = 2015 (1,022), 2017 (1,035), 2019 (1,001), 2021 (1,014)
2. Respondents could select more than one form of wood used.

Surveys in 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2011 asked about the use of wood as a fuel in the home (without asking for information on the type of wood used). In the 2021 survey, 19% of respondents reported that they use wood as a fuel (Figure 5).

Figure 5 Use of wood as a fuel in the home



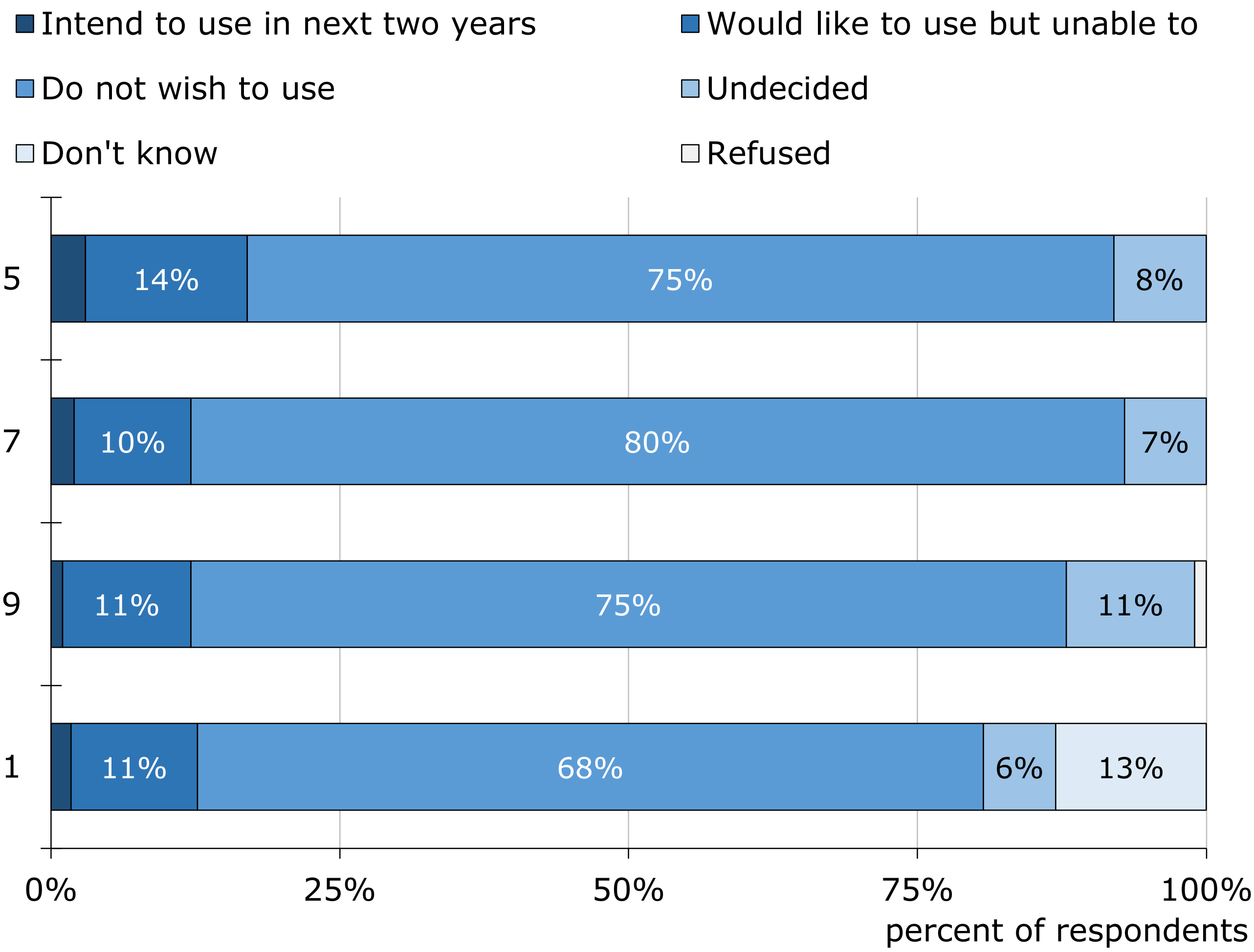
Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents: Weighted totals – 2005 (1,001), 2007 (953), 2009 (1,002), 2011 (1,002), 2015 (1,022), 2017 (1,035), 2019 (1,001), 2021 (1,014)
2. Questions on woodfuel were not included in the 2013 survey.

Respondents who said that they did not currently use wood as a fuel in their home were then asked whether they were likely to do so in the future. Around two thirds (68%) reported that they did not wish to use wood for fuel in the future and a further 11% said that they would like to use wood for fuel but were unable to do so (Figure 6).

Figure 6 Future use of woodfuel



Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents who do not use woodfuel: Weighted totals = 2015 (881), 2017 (880), 2019 (824), 2021 (576)

Respondents who currently use woodfuel, or who would like to do so in future, were asked about what attracted them to wood as a fuel (Table 21).

In 2021, 63% of respondents who use or would like to use woodfuel indicated they are attracted to wood as a fuel because they enjoy having a wood fire. 39% indicated they are attracted to woodfuel so that they can control heating costs.

Table 21 Attraction of using woodfuel

percent of respondents

Attraction	2015	2017	2019	2021
I enjoy having a wood fire	..	..	..	63
Control of heating costs	14	14	15	39
Have access to free source of wood	20	18	18	33
Fuel security/ off grid heating	7	5	5	32
Reliable local supply	9	13	10	28
Cheaper than other fuels	45	36	31	23
Cutting and gathering firewood keeps me fit	3	7	7	23
Firewood around house looks attractive	19	27	31	17
Environmental benefits	15	21	19	17
Other	29	31	34	6

Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents who use woodfuel or would like to use woodfuel: Weighted totals =
   2015 (292), 2017 (258), 2019 (262), 2021 (264)
2. .. denotes data not available.
3. Respondents could select more than one response option.

Finally, respondents who intend to use woodfuel in the next 2 years and those who would like to use woodfuel but are unable to do so were asked about the factors that were preventing them from using woodfuel.

‘Happy with way I heat home/ cook’ was selected by the largest proportion of respondents (38%). ‘I'm unable to make modifications to my current home to use firewood (e.g. renting, living with parents, in a flat etc.)’ and ‘I don't wish to do major building work’ were each selected by 21% of respondents.

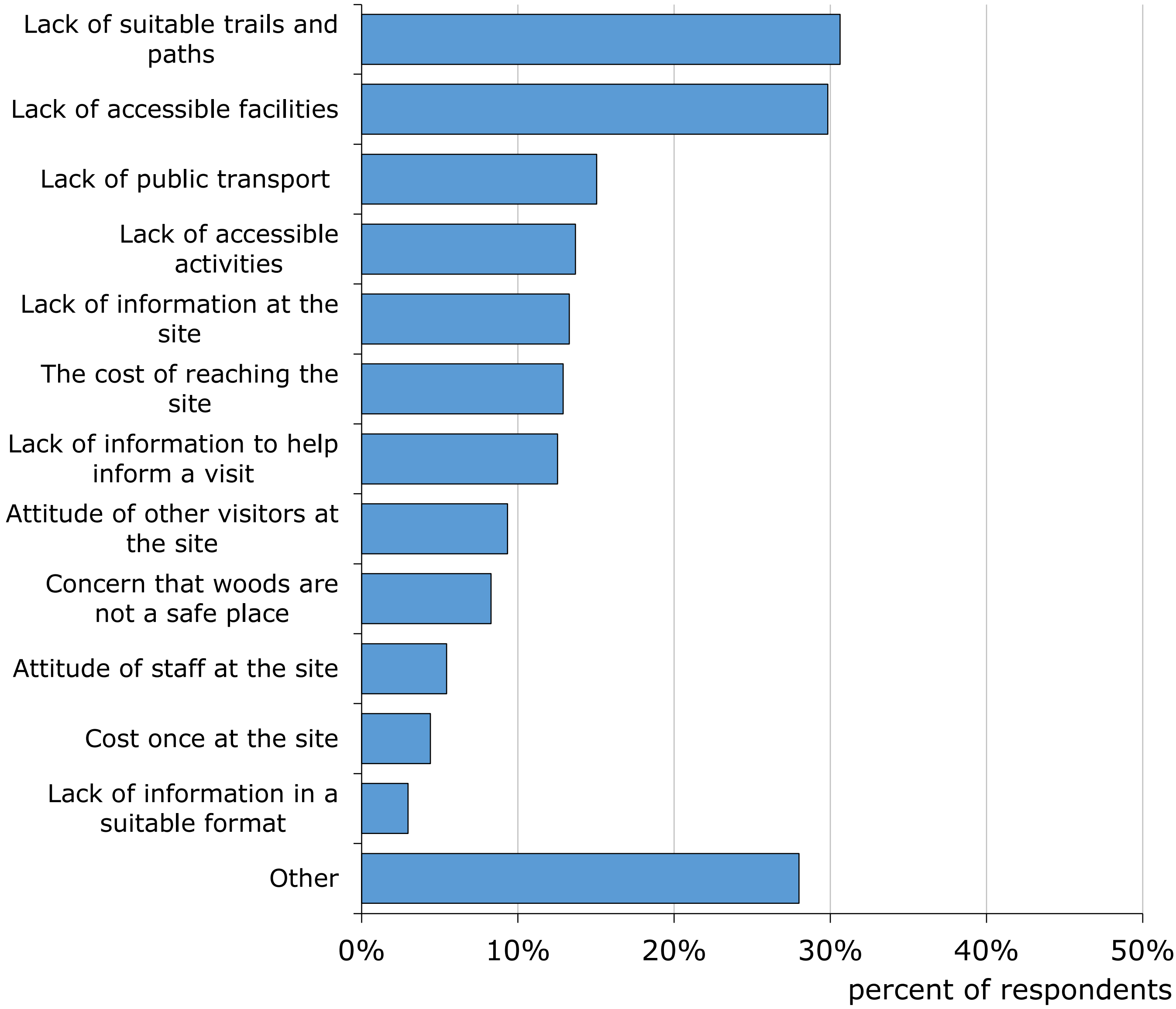
Accessibility

Since the 2017 survey, all respondents have been asked whether they had any long term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses (i.e. lasting or expecting to last 12 months or more) and, if so, whether this had affected their use of woodlands, forests or greenspaces.

In 2021, around one third of respondents (32%) reported that they had a long term physical or mental health condition or illness, similar to the level reported in 2017 and 2019. Of those with a condition/illness, around one half (49%) said that their condition affected their use of woodlands/forests or other greenspaces.

Respondents whose condition or illness affected their use of woodlands/forests or other green spaces were then asked to identify how their visit was affected (Figure 7). The most commonly identified factors were a lack of suitable paths around the woodland/forest or other green space (31%) and a lack of accessible facilities (30%). Over a quarter of respondents (28%) gave other responses that were not included within the response options listed. Mobility or health issues were the most frequently mentioned responses within this category.

Figure 7 How condition/ illness affects use of woodlands/ forests or other green spaces



Source: Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021.

Note:

1. Figures are based on all respondents who have a condition or illness that affects their use of woodlands/ forests or other green spaces: Weighted total = 154.
2. Respondents could select more than one factor.
3. Full wording of each response option is available in the questionnaire, provided in the Annex.

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.

FSC

Forest Stewardship Council.

Great Britain (GB)

England, Wales and Scotland.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

The organisation responsible for advising the Welsh Government on the environment, created on 1 April 2013.

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.

Street trees

Trees in and along streets in urban areas (towns or cities).

United Kingdom (UK)

Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Urban trees

Trees and woodland located in towns or cities. Includes street trees, as well as trees in urban woods, parks, gardens and other urban areas.

Weighting

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

Welsh Government

The executive branch of the devolved government in Wales.

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.

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 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 YouGov RealTime and YouGov Wales Omnibus. The fieldwork for the 2021 survey took place between 10 March and 17 March 2021. A total of 1,014 interviews were completed and analysed.

Previous surveys were obtained from the Beaufort Research Wales Omnibus Survey. These surveys used face-to-face interviewing.

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 Omnibus sample is designed to be representative of the adult population resident in Wales aged 18 and over.

This survey has been conducted using an online interview administered to members of the YouGov Plc UK panel of 800,000+ individuals who have agreed to take part in surveys. Emails are sent to panellists selected at random from the base sample. The e-mail invites them to take part in a survey and provides a generic survey link. Once a panel member clicks on the link they are sent to the survey that they are most required for, according to the sample definition and quotas.

Invitations to surveys don’t expire and respondents can be sent to any available survey. The responding sample is weighted to the profile of the sample definition to provide a representative reporting sample. The profile is normally derived from census data or, if not available from the census, from industry accepted data.

Questionnaire

A copy of the 2021 questionnaire is provided at the end of this release. This covers the questions requested by Forest Research and the Welsh Government. In addition, a small number of 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 questions on felling and the rate of replanting were removed for the 2021 survey.
- New questions have been added on how the amount of time spent visiting woodlands or forests changed in the last 12 months (Q3b) and to assess the awareness of any plans for a new National Forest in Wales (Q7);
- Amendments have been made to the wording of some questions and response options, to provide additional clarification to respondents in an online survey.

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 Welsh adult population. For the 2021 survey, this weighting did not affect the total apparent number of respondents (1,014). However, it has resulted in an increase in the apparent number of respondents who visited woodlands, from a total of 627 adults who were interviewed to a weighted total of 635. The results quoted in this report are based on weighted data and sample sizes shown in footnotes to tables and figures are weighted totals.

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 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 assuming a design factor of 1.5:

- For questions asked in 2021 to the whole Welsh sample of 1,014, the range of uncertainty around any figure should be no more than ±4.6%.
- 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 (635 respondents) should be no more than ±5.8%.
- For questions asked to whole samples, differences of more than ±6.5% between the 2021 results and 2019 results are statistically significant.
- For questions asked only to those who had visited woodland, differences of more than ±7.9% between the 2021 results and 2019 results are statistically significant.

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.

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 Wales 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.

Wales Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2021: Questionnaire

[ASK ALL]

Q1a – From this list, please tell me which of the following benefits you think that woodlands near you provide for your local community?

(Please select all that apply. If there aren't any woodlands near you please select the "Not applicable" option)

- They support the local economy
- They help attract visitors to the area
- They provide firewood
- They provide timber and other wood products
- They are accessible to all in the community
- They provide places for wildlife to live
- They provide places for recreation (e.g. walking, cycling, horse-riding, etc)
- They provide places for relaxation and stress relief
- They improve the landscape
- They are an important resource for us all
- They can be used by local schools and other educational groups
- They help soak up water in rainy weather
- They help reduce air and noise pollution
- They remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, slowing climate change
- They give people in the community the opportunity to work together
- Other (please specify)
- Don’t know
- Not applicable – there aren’t any woodlands near me

[ASK ALL]

Q1b – Which, if any, of the following woodland-related issues apply to your local community?

(Please select all that apply. If there are no woodland-related issues that apply to your local community please select the "Not applicable option)

- The woodlands don't provide enough local jobs
- It's really difficult to get firewood and timber from our local woodlands
- The woodlands near us can't be easily accessed (e.g. limited footpaths, private land, etc)
- The woodlands near us aren't good for wildlife (e.g. not enough wildlife, not enough variety of wildlife, etc)
- The woodlands near us aren't nice places to visit
- The woodlands make our landscape worse
- The woodlands near us are used for fly-tipping
- The woodlands get in the way of developments around the community (e.g. the building of new homes, etc)
- We can't control what happens in our local woodlands
- Managing woodlands pollutes the air, water or soil
- Woodland operations and visitors create noise pollution
- Woodland operations create carbon dioxide making climate change worse
- Timber lorries / visitors to woodlands make the roads busy
- Timber lorries make me feel unsafe walking/driving on the roads
- Woodlands near us provide a place for criminal activity to occur
- Other (please specify)
- Don't know
- Not applicable – there are no woodland related issues in my local community

[ASK ALL]

For the following question, by "street trees", we mean trees in urban areas planted by or on behalf of the city.

Q2a – Thinking about the nearest urban area (i.e. the nearest town or city), what benefits do you think street trees in this urban area provide?

(Please select all that apply. If there aren't any street trees in your nearest urban area please select the "Not applicable" option)

- They make the area look more attractive
- They help people to feel more relaxed and calm
- They provide health benefits
- They provide places for birds and wildlife to live
- They help reduce air and noise pollution
- They remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, reducing the impact of climate change
- They are just a benefit knowing they are there
- They help to improve road safety
- Their shade helps to cool the area during summer
- They increase property values and inward investment into the community
- They help to soak up water in rainy weather
- They offer a connection with the seasons and nature
- They act as natural classrooms (i.e. helping people learn about nature)
- They create pleasant places to meet and mix with people
- They produce useful by-products (e.g. leaf mulch for soil)
- They enhance the appeal and performance of shopping areas in the town/ city
- It is just a benefit knowing that they are there
- Other (please specify)
- Don’t know
- Not applicable – There aren’t any street trees in my nearest urban area

[ASK ALL]

Still thinking about the nearest urban area (i.e. the nearest town or city) to you…

Q2b – Which, if any of the following tree-related issues apply to your local area?

(Please select all that apply)

- The trees in the urban areas near us aren't good for wildlife
- The trees make the urban landscape worse
- The trees get in the way of developments in or around the urban area
- We can't control what happens to the trees
- Carrying out work to the trees causes disruption and mess
- Trees in urban areas near us provide opportunities for criminal activity and vandalism
- Street trees reduce light to nearby houses and buildings
- Falling leaves and branches make a mess and are a health and safety hazard
- Street trees damage buildings and cause subsidence
- Trees cause interference to TV reception and effectiveness of solar panels
- Trees hide views
- Trees harbour pests
- The trees are not properly looked after
- The trees make the roads less safe
- Other (please specify)
- Don't know
- Not applicable – I don't have any street trees in my nearest urban area

[ASK ALL]

Still thinking about the nearest urban area (i.e. the nearest town or city) to you…

Q2c – In which of the following areas would you like public funding to be allocated when it comes to woodlands and urban trees?

(Please select all that apply)

- Street trees and those on roundabouts or other green areas associated with roads
- Trees in and around public buildings and car parks
- Trees in pedestrian zones and public squares
- Trees in public parks and gardens
- Clusters of trees as a component of public parks and gardens
- Woodlands around towns with public access
- Other
- Don’t know
- Not applicable – I wouldn’t want public money spent on looking after urban trees or woods

[ASK ALL]

Still thinking about the nearest urban area (i.e. the nearest town or city) to you…

Q2d – In which, if any, of the following ways would you be prepared to support trees?

(Please select all that apply. If you wouldn't be prepared to support trees please select the "Not applicable" option)

- Participating in community planting programmes
- Watering newly planted trees in public areas during periods of dry weather
- Accepting higher council taxes, the funds from which will be used for community tree programmes
- Planting and tending trees in my garden or my communal outside area
- Monitoring the health and condition of public trees
- Raising concerns with the Local Authority if you notice a problem with trees
- None of these
- Don't know
- Not applicable – I wouldn't be prepared to support trees

[ASK ALL]

Thinking about the last 12 months (i.e. since February 2020)…

Q3a –Have you visited forests or woodlands (i.e. for walks, picnics or other recreation)?

- Yes I have
- No, I haven't
- Don't know/ can't recall

[ASK ALL]

Q3b – How has the amount of time you spent visiting woodlands or forests changed in the last 12 months, compared to the previous year?

- Increased a lot
- Increased a little
- No change
- Decreased a little
- Decreased a lot
- Don’t know

[IF YES AT Q3a, GO TO Q3c; IF NO AT Q3a, GO TO Q3e]

[ASK IF YES AT Q3a]

You previously mentioned that you have visited a forest or woodland in the last 12 months (i.e. since February 2020)...

Q3c – Which, if any, of the following recreational activities have you participated in when visiting forests or woodland in the last 12 months?

(Please select all that apply)

- Walking (without a dog)
- 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)
- Don't know/ can't recall

[ASK IF YES AT Q3a]

Still thinking about ANY trips to forest or woodland the In the last 12 months (i.e. since February 2020)...

Q3d – Which, if any, of the following have you gathered from forests or woodlands during this time?

(Please select all that apply. If you didn't gather anything please select the "Not applicable" option)

- Items for eating or drinking (e.g. herbs, berries, fungi, nuts, flowers and sap, etc)
- Medicinal and dietary supplements (e.g. St. John's wort, meadowsweet and hawthorn, etc)
- Decorative, floral and craft products (e.g. foliage, branches, stems, moss, lichen, mistletoe and weld, etc)
- Items for seasonal, cultural or religious use (e.g. holly, ivy, hazel wands, etc)
- Other (please specify)
- Don't know

[NOW GO TO Q4a]

[ASK IF NO AT Q3a]

You previously mentioned that you didn't visit any forests or woodlands in the last 12 months (i.e. since February 2020)...

Q3e – Which, if any, of the following are the main reasons for you <u>not visiting</u> woodland/forests more often or at all?

(Please select all that apply)

- I'm just not interested in visiting
- I can't drive/ I don't have access to a car so visiting is difficult

- Lack of suitable public transport to the forest or woodland
- Personal mobility reasons (e.g. difficulty in walking, unwell, not pushchair friendly, etc.)
- The woods are too far away from my home
- Lack of facilities (e.g. play areas, picnic areas, toilets, etc.)
- Lack of information about the woods/ which woods to visit
- I prefer other areas of the countryside (e.g. the beach, parks, lakes, etc)
- I’m concerned that woods are not safe (e.g. risk of crime, anti-social behaviour etc.)
- Woodlands are badly maintained
- The cost of visiting is too high (e.g. entrance fee, refreshments, car parking, travel costs etc.)
- Lack of confidence (e.g. in visiting new places, going on my own, getting lost etc.)
- I’m too busy/ I don’t have enough time to go
- It’s too difficult to maintain social distancing at the woodland or forest (e.g. because too many other people are visiting, there is a lack of space on the path etc)
- I'm concerned about catching coronavirus (e.g. from touching gates, using the toilet etc.)
- Other (please specify)
- Don’t know
- Not applicable - there is no particular reason why I didn't visit a forest or woodland in the last 12 months

[NOW GO TO Q5a]

[ASK IF YES AT Q3a]

Thinking about your most recent visit to forest or woodlands...

Q4a –Did you visit forests or woodlands in the countryside or in and around towns?

(Please select the option that best applies)

- Woodlands in the countryside
- Woodlands in and around towns
- Other
- Don't know/ can't recall

[ASK IF YES AT Q3a]

Still thinking about your most recent visit to forest or woodlands...

Q4b –To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

(1 Strongly agree, 2 Tend to agree, 3 Neither agree nor disagree, 4 Tend to disagree, 5 Strongly disagree, 6 Don't know)

- I would visit again.
- I would recommend it as a place to visit to a friend or a relative

[ASK IF YES AT Q3a]

Still thinking about your most recent visit to forest or woodlands...

Q4c – Which one, if any of the following organisations manage (i.e. look after) the forest or woodland you visited?

- Forestry Commission
- Natural Resources Wales
- Woodland Trust
- National Trust
- Community Managed Woodland
- Other (please specify)
- Don’t know

[ASK IF YES AT Q3a]

Still thinking about your most recent visit to forest or woodlands...

Q4d –Which, if any, of the following factors were important to you when choosing which forest or woodland to visit?

(Please select all that apply)

- Convenient distance (i.e. it's close/ easy to reach from my house)
- Knowing that visitors are welcome there (i.e. it's open to the public)
- Good facilities (e.g. toilets, café, playgrounds, etc)
- Attractive scenery
- The wildlife
- Peaceful and quiet
- A good place to unwind/ de-stress
- Good for exercise
- Safe environment
- Free to visit (i.e. no entrance charge)
- Clear signage (e.g. welcoming, good directions on getting around etc.)
- Clear and accessible tracks and paths
- A variety of activities (e.g. bird watching, trails, adventure parks etc.)
- Dogs are welcome
- Knowing I can access gates and stiles with my group (e.g. pushchairs, dogs, wheelchairs or if you have a disability)
- Opportunities to collect woodland produce (e.g. nuts, berries, moss, firewood, etc.)
- Opportunities for learning
- Enough space to maintain social distancing
- Other (please specify)
- Don’t know

[ASK ALL]

Now thinking about forest and woodland in general...

Q5a – Is there a forest or woodland that you can get to on foot from where you live (i.e. without using a car or any other form of transport)?

- Yes, there is
- No, there isn't
- Don't know

[ASK IF YES AT Q5a]

You previously mentioned that there is a forest or woodland that you can access without a car or transport...

Q5b – How would you rate this forest or woodland in terms of how safe and welcoming it feels?

(Please select the option that best applies. If there is more than one forest/ woodland that you can access on foot, please think about the one nearest to you)

- Very safe and welcoming
- Fairly safe and welcoming
- Not very safe and welcoming
- Not at all safe and welcoming
- Don't know

[ASK ALL]

Q6a – Have you ever been consulted about plans for creating, managing or using forests or woodlands in your local area?

- Yes, I have
- No, I haven’t
- Don’t know/ can’t recall

[ASK IF YES AT Q6a]

Q6b – Do you feel that you have ever influenced decisions about creating, managing or using forests or woodlands in your local area?

- Yes, I have
- No, I haven’t
- Don’t know/ can’t recall

[ASK ALL]

Q6c – Would you like to be consulted in future about plans for creating, managing or using forests or woodlands in your local area?

- Yes, I would
- No, I wouldn’t
- Don’t know

[ASK ALL]

Q7 – Are you aware of any plans for a new National Forest in Wales?

- Yes, I am
- No, I’m not

[ASK ALL]

Thinking about the last 12 months (i.e. since February 2020)...

Q8 – Have you and/or anyone in your family attended any of the following organised learning activities or events to do with woodlands?

(Please select all that apply)

- School trip
- Forest school
- Guided walk or talk
- Organised course or training event (e.g. dry stone walling, fencing, making bird boxes, woodland management, etc.)
- Organised tree planting event
- Other (please specify)
- Don’t know/ can’t recall

[ASK ALL]

Still thinking about the last 12 months (i.e. since February 2020)...

Q9a – Have you been involved in voluntary work in connection with woodlands (e.g. physical work in a wood, administration, fund raising, running a group, etc.)?

- Yes, I have
- No, I haven’t
- Don’t know/ can’t recall

[ASK ALL]

Q9b – Are you a member of any community groups that are involved in the conservation and/or management of local woodlands?

- Yes, I am GO TO Q9c
- No, I'm not GO TO Q10
- Don't know/ can't recall GO TO Q10

[ASK IF YES AT Q9b]

You previously mentioned that you are part of a community group involved in the conservation or management of local woodlands...

Q9c – What is the name of your group(s)?

(Please write your answer(s) in the box below. If you would rather not share your answers with us please use the "Prefer not to say" box provided)

____

Prefer not to say

[ASK ALL]

Q10 – Have you ever seen any of these logos on wood products? (Please select one option on each row)

- FSC
  Yes
  No
  Don't know/ can't recall
- PEFC
  Yes
  No
  Don't know/ can't recall
- HETAS
  Yes
  No
  Don't know/ can't recall

[ASK ALL]

Q11 – To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

(1 Strongly agree, 2 Tend to agree, 3 Neither agree nor disagree, 4 Tend to disagree, 5 Strongly disagree, 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 washing shoes/ boots, bikes etc before and after their visit and by brushing soil & plant material from clothes)
- 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 on how to do this
- 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
- I understand what is meant by the term "biosecurity"

[ASK ALL]

For the following question, we are interested to know whether you use any types of wood fuel indoors. If you use wood fuel outdoors, please do not include this in your answer. This can be wood fuels used either on their own or alongside other fuel such as gas.

Q12a – Do you use any of the following types of wood fuel indoors (e.g. for heating your home, cooking, hot water etc.)?

(Please select all that apply. If you don't use any wood fuel indoors at home please select the "Not applicable" option).

- Wood logs
- Wood pellets
- Wood briquettes / heat logs
- Waste wood (e.g. waste and off-cuts from industrial, manufacturing, DIY or renovation work, etc.)
- Foraged, gathered or found branch wood from felled or fallen trees
- Wood chips
- None of these
- Don’t know
- Not applicable – I don’t use any wood fuel indoors at home

[ASK IF 'Not applicable' AT Q12a]

Q12b – Which of these statements best applies to you?

- I intend to use wood as a fuel for indoor purposes in the next two years
- I would like to use wood fuel for indoor purposes but am unable to do so in the next two years
- I do not wish to use wood fuel for indoor purposes in the next two years
- I'm undecided whether I intend to use wood fuel for indoor purposes in the next two years
- Don't know

[ASK IF 1-6 AT Q12a OR 1-2 AT Q12b]

Q12c – Which, if any, of the following reasons why you use/ are you attracted to using firewood?

(Please select all that apply)

- It's cheaper than other fuels
- The environmental benefits
- I have access to a free source of wood
- I have a reliable local supply
- Control of heating costs
- It gives/ will give me fuel security/ off grid heating
- Firewood around the house looks attractive
- Cutting and gathering firewood keeps me fit
- Other (please specify)
- Don't know

[ASK IF 1-2 AT Q12b

You previously mentioned that you do not currently use wood fuel indoors at home, but that you would like to do so in the next two years (i.e. late February 2023)...

Q12d – Which, if any, of the following reasons are preventing you from using firewood currently?

(Please select all that apply)

- I'm unable to make modifications to my current home to use firewood (e.g. renting, living with parents, in a flat etc.)
- The cost of firewood
- I don't know where to get firewood
- There's no place to store firewood in my current home
- Too much manual work involved (e.g. chopping wood, starting fire etc.)
- I don't wish to do the major building work needed to use firewood indoors
- I'm happy with the way I heat my home/ cook for now
- I live in a chimney "smoke-free" zone
- Other (please specify)
- Don't know

[ASK ALL]

Q13a – Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

- Yes, limited a lot
- Yes, limited a little
- No
- Prefer not to say

[ASK IF YES AT Q13a]

Q13b – Does your health problem or disability affect your use of woodlands, forests, or other greenspaces?

(Please select the option that best applies. If you would rather not share your experiences, please select the "Prefer not to say" option)

- Yes, they do
- No, they don’t
- Don’t know
- Prefer not to say

[ASK IF YES AT Q13b]

Q13c – In which, if any, of the following ways does your health problem or disability affect your use of woodlands, forests, or other greenspaces?

(Please select all that apply)

- Lack of public transport to the woodlands, forests or other green space
- Lack of suitable trails and paths around the woodland/ forest or other green space
- Lack of accessible facilities (e.g. toilets, cafe, visitor centre etc.)
- Lack of accessible activities (e.g. wildlife watching, trails, playgrounds etc.)
- Lack of information available to help inform a visit (e.g. information online about accessibility, facilities, paths etc.)
- Lack of information at the woodland, forest or greenspace (e.g. lack of signage, maps, staff etc.)
- Lack of information in a suitable format for my disability (i.e. braille signs, accessible website etc.)
- The attitude of staff (i.e. staff treat me differently, discriminate against me because of my disability)
- The attitude of other visitors (i.e. visitors treat me differently, discriminate against me because of my disability)
- The cost of reaching the woodland, forest or other green space (e.g. public transport, taxis, petrol etc.)
- The cost once at the woodland, forest or other green space (e.g. entrance fee, refreshments, activities etc.)
- Concern that woodlands, forests or green spaces are not safe places
- Other (please specify)
- Don’t know

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