

# Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2025: UK and England

Release Date:

10 July 2025

Coverage:

England and UK

Geographical breakdown:

None

Issued by: Forest Research,  
Northern Research Station, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9SY

Enquiries: Official Statistics Team, 0300 067 5238  
[statistics@forestresearch.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@forestresearch.gov.uk)

Website: [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/statistics](http://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, data, technical support and consultancy services.

# Contents

Introduction.....	4
Key findings.....	6
1. Woodland recreation.....	8
2. Engagement with forests and woodlands.....	28
3. Importance of forests and woodlands .....	32
4. Attitudes to forests and woodlands through and since the coronavirus pandemic ..	36
5. Climate change.....	38
6. Tree health .....	40
7. Annex 1 .....	44
8. Annex 2 .....	54

## Introduction

Forest Research (and previously the Forestry Commission) 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 2025 survey 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 since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic;
- climate change; and
- tree health.

A copy of the questionnaire used in this survey, giving complete wording of the questions and response options, is provided in Annex 2 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 on Forest Research's [Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys homepage](#).

Results for 2025 are published for the first time in this release and are shown alongside results from earlier surveys, where appropriate. Since 2021, surveys have been conducted online; prior to this, surveys were conducted face-to-face. For details on any revisions for earlier years, see the Revisions section 7.3 of the Annex.

As the data are obtained from a sample survey, there is a range of uncertainty (margin of error, or 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.

Unless otherwise specified, this report refers to woodlands and trees in both urban and rural settings. The Glossary in Annex section 7.7 provides further information on terms used.

The results quoted in this report are presented as proportions, which are percentages calculated from the weighted totals of respondents. Proportions (weighted percentages) throughout the report and accompanying data set have been independently rounded, so may not add to the totals shown.

## Key findings

In 2025:

- Seventy percent (70%) of respondents in the UK (69% in England) had visited forests or woodlands in the last few years. Of these, 32% in the UK (33% in England) reported an increase in the number of visits in the last 12 months; no change was reported by 49% (in the UK and in England) and a decrease reported by 17% (in the UK and in England).
- Twenty-seven percent (27%) of respondents in the UK (28% 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.
- Eighty-five percent (85%) in the UK and in England agreed that forests and woodlands are important because they are important places for wildlife.
- Eighty-five percent (85%) in the UK and England agreed that forests and woodlands they have visited are important to them personally because they provide a space to relax and de-stress.
- Around three-fifths (61%) of respondents who had visited forests or woodlands in the UK (62% in England) in the last few years reported an increase in their level of happiness when in forests and woodlands since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- Around three-quarters of respondents who had visited woodlands (76% in the UK and 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 (76% in the UK and England) agreed or strongly agreed that “action should be taken by authorities and woodland managers to protect trees from damaging pests and diseases”.

# 1. 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.

## 1.1. Proportion visiting woodland

Just over two-thirds of respondents to the 2025 survey (70% in the UK and 69% England) reported that they had visited forests or woodlands for walks, picnics or other recreation in the last few years (Table 1). For both the UK and England, this represents a statistically significant decrease from the proportions reported in the 2023 survey (74% in both the UK and in England).

**Table 1: Proportion of respondents who visited woodland in the last few years, UK and England, 2017 to 2025**

Year	UK	England
2017	61	62
2019	63	63
2021	69	69
2023	74	74
2025	70	69

Footnote:

- Results are based on all respondents. Weighted totals: UK: 2017 (2,113), 2019 (2,174), 2021 (5,119), 2023 (11,055), 2025 (10,259); England: 2017 (1,780), 2019 (1,831), 2021 (4,304) 2023 (9,297), 2025 (8,641).



## 1.2. Type of woodland visited

Around two-thirds of respondents who visited forests and woodlands in the last few years reported that they had visited “woodlands in the countryside” (67% in both the UK and in England) (Table 2a and 2b). Almost two-thirds (65% in both the UK and in England) reported visiting “woodlands in and around towns” and around a third of respondents (33% in the UK and 34% in England) reported visiting woodlands and forests in both locations.

**Table 2a: Proportion of respondents and type of woodland visited, UK, 2017 to 2025**

Type of woodland	2017	2019	2021	2023	2025
In the countryside	86	82	75	82	67
In and around towns	67	72	63	70	65
Both	53	53	39	54	33

Footnote:

1. Results are based on all respondents. Weighted totals: UK: 2017 (2,113), 2019 (2,174), 2021 (5,119), 2023 (11,055), 2025 (10,259); England: 2017 (1,780), 2019 (1,831), 2021 (4,304), 2023 (9,297), 2025 (8,641).
2. Results for 2023 and 2025 exclude those who answered “don’t know/can’t recall”.

Table 2b: Proportion of respondents and type of woodland visited, England, 2017 to 2025

Type of woodland	2017	2019	2021	2023	2025
In the countryside	85	82	75	82	67
In and around towns	67	72	63	70	65
Both	52	54	38	53	34

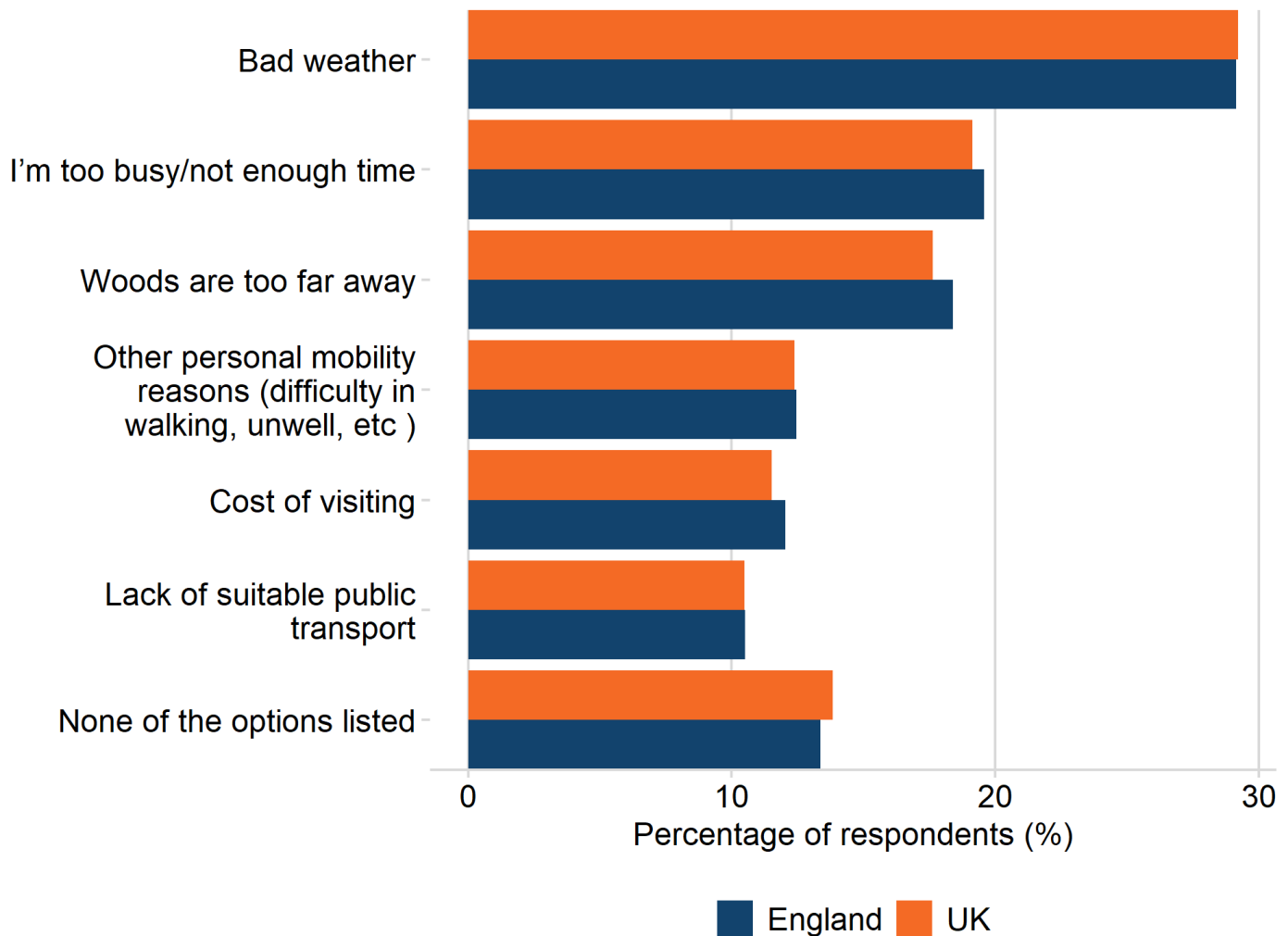
Footnote:

1. See Table 2a for more information.

### 1.3. Reasons for not visiting 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” (29% in both the UK and England) and “I’m too busy/not enough time” (19% in the UK and 20% in England) were the most commonly selected reasons for not visiting woodland in 2025 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Proportion of respondents and main reasons for not visiting woodlands, UK and England, 2025



Footnote:

1. Results are based on all respondents. Weighted totals: 10,259 (UK); 8,641 (England).
2. Respondents could select more than one reason.
3. Chart excludes reasons selected by fewer than 10% of respondents. See accompanying data set for breakdown of all responses.

## 1.4. Changes in visits to forests and woodlands

Respondents who reported visiting forests or woodlands in the last few years were asked how their visits to forests and woodlands had changed in the last 12 months, compared to the previous year. They were asked about the number of visits, the duration of visits and the distance travelled to visit.

In terms of the number of visits taken to forests and woodlands in the last 12 months, 32% of the respondents in the UK (33% in England) to the 2025 survey who had visited in the last few years, reported an increase (Table 3a and 3b), 49% in both the UK and England reported no change, and 17% (in both the UK and in England) reported a decrease.

Similar responses were provided for the duration of visits with 32% of respondents (in the UK and in England) who had visited forests or woodlands reporting an increase in the time they spent there during the last 12 months. No change in woodland visit duration was reported by 49% in the UK and 48% in England. Though 18% in both the UK and England reported a decrease in woodland visit duration.

Twenty-six percent (26%) of respondents who had visited forests or woodlands in the UK (28% in England) had increased the distance they travelled, 59% reported no change in the UK and 58% in England, while 13% (in both the UK and in England) reported a decrease.

Table 3a: Proportion of respondents and change in woodland visiting habits in the last 12 months, UK, 2025

<b>Change</b>	<b>Number of visits</b>	<b>Total duration</b>	<b>Distance travelled</b>
Increased a lot	9	9	7
Increased a little	23	23	19
No change	49	49	59
Decreased a little	12	13	9
Decreased a lot	5	5	4
Don't know	1	1	2

Footnote:

1. Results are based on respondents who had visited woodlands. Weighted totals: 7,150 (UK), 5,982 (England).

Table 3b: Proportion of respondents and change in woodland visiting habits in the last 12 months, England, 2025

<b>Change</b>	<b>Number of visits</b>	<b>Total duration</b>	<b>Distance travelled</b>
Increased a lot	10	9	8
Increased a little	23	23	20
No change	49	48	58
Decreased a little	12	13	9
Decreased a lot	5	5	4
Don't know	1	1	2

Footnote:

1. See Table 3a for more information.

## 1.5. Frequency of visits to forests and woodlands

Of the 2025 survey respondents who indicated they had visited woodlands in the last few years, over two-thirds (70% in the UK and 69% in England) said that they visited at least once a month during the previous summer (between April 2024 and September 2024) (Table 4a and 4b). In both the UK and in England, 2% of respondents who had visited woodlands in the past few years said that they did not visit during summer 2024.

**Table 4a: Proportion of respondents and frequency of woodland visits in the previous summer (April to September), UK, 2017 to 2025**

Frequency	2017	2019	2021	2023	2025
Several times per week	16	17	14	9	13
Several times per month	30	32	28	25	29
About once a month	31	26	23	26	28
Less often than once a month	19	22	24	31	26
Never	4	4	11	4	2
Don't know	[x]	[x]	[x]	5	1

Footnote:

- Results are based on respondents who had visited woodlands. Weighted totals:  
UK: 2017 (1,296), 2019 (1,360), 2021 (3,557), 2023 (8,186), 2025 (7,150);  
England: 2017 (1,100), 2019 (1,151), 2021 (2,956), 2023 (6,864), 2025 (5,982).
- [x]: data not available (option not included in that year's survey).



**Table 4b: Proportion of respondents and frequency of woodland visits in the previous summer (April to September), England, 2017 to 2025**

<b>Frequency</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2025</b>
Several times per week	15	17	14	9	13
Several times per month	30	32	27	25	28
About once a month	33	26	23	26	28
Less often than once a month	19	22	25	32	27
Never	4	3	11	4	2
Don't know	[x]	[x]	[x]	4	2

Footnote:

1. See Table 4a for more information.

Of the 2025 survey respondents who indicated they had visited woodlands in the last few years, almost three-fifths (58% in the UK and in England) said they visited at least once a month during the previous winter (between October 2024 and March 2024) (Table 5a and 5b). In both the UK and England, 11% of respondents said they did not visit woodland during winter 2024/25.

**Table 5a: Proportion of respondents and frequency of woodland visits in the previous winter (October to March), UK, 2017 to 2025**

<b>Frequency</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2025</b>
Several times per week	10	10	12	7	10
Several times per month	15	14	22	16	22
About once a month	20	21	18	20	26
Less often than once a month	30	32	24	34	29
Never	26	22	24	16	11
Don't know	[x]	[x]	[x]	7	2

Footnote:

1. Results are based on respondents who had visited woodlands. Weighted totals: 2017 (1,296), 2019 (1,360), 2021 (3,557), 2023 (8,186), 2025 (7,150); England: 2017 (1,100), 2019 (1,151), 2021 (2,956), 2023 (6,864), 2025 (5,982).
2. [x]: data not available (option not included in that year's survey).

**Table 5b: Proportion of respondents and frequency of woodland visits in the previous winter (October to March), England, 2017 to 2025**

<b>Frequency</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2025</b>
Several times per week	9	10	12	7	9
Several times per month	14	15	22	16	22
About once a month	20	22	18	20	27
Less often than once a month	31	33	24	35	29
Never	26	21	24	17	11
Don't know	[x]	[x]	[x]	5	2

Footnote:

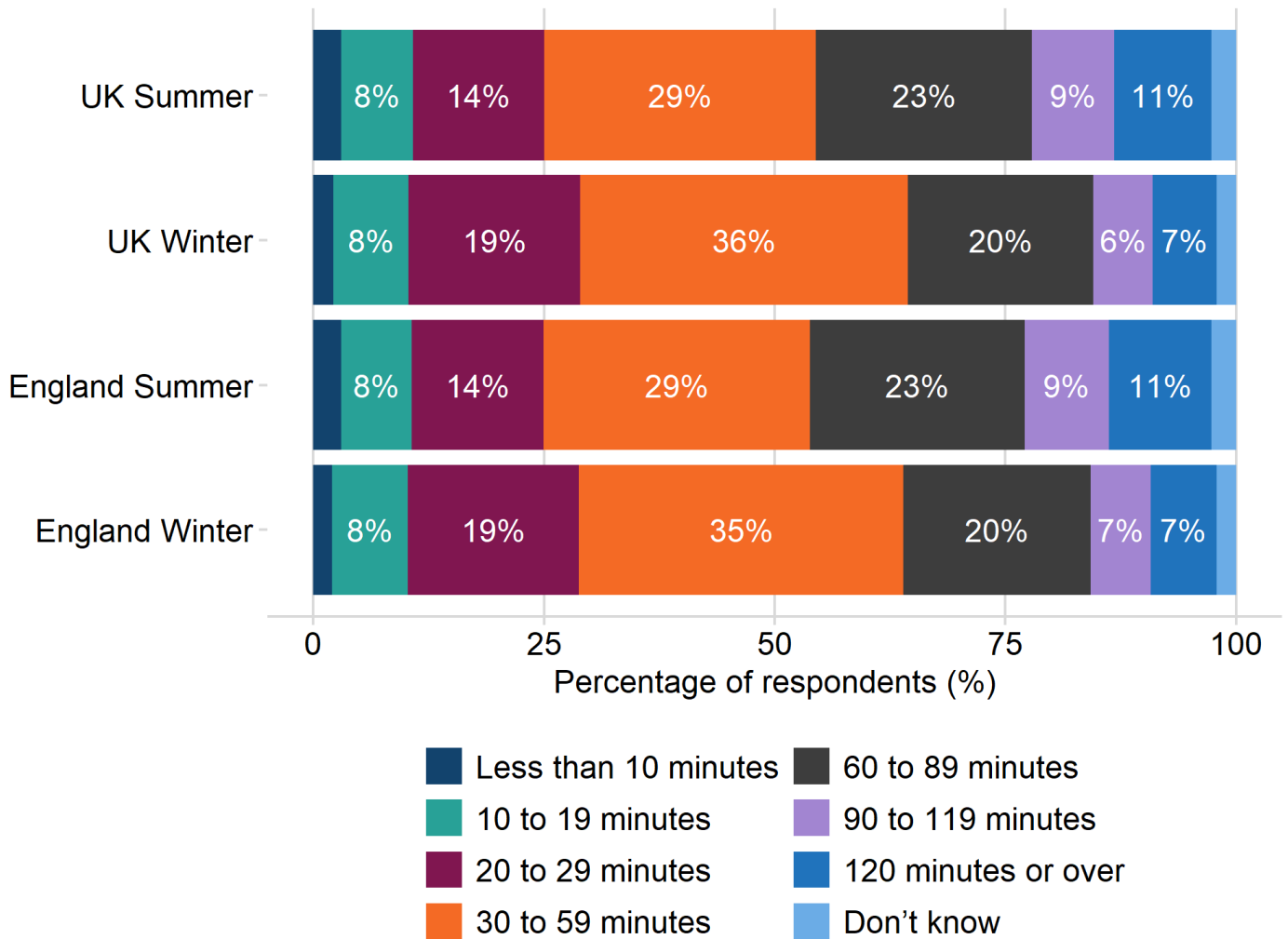
1. See Table 5a for more information.

## 1.6. Duration of visits to forests and woodlands

Respondents who had visited woodlands during the previous summer were asked to provide further details about their most recent visit during that season. Similarly, those who had visited in the winter of 2024/25 were asked about their most recent winter visit.

Winter visits tended to be shorter than summer visits. In both the UK and England, 25% of summer visits and 29% of winter visits lasted less than 30 minutes. In contrast, 43% of summer visits lasted more than one hour, compared to only around a third of winter visits (33% in the UK and 34% in England).

Figure 2: Proportion of respondents and duration of their most recent woodland visit, UK and England, 2025



Footnote:

1. Results for summer are based on respondents who visited woodlands between April 2024 and September 2024. Weighted totals: 6,982 (UK), 5,838 (England).
2. Results for winter are based on respondents who visited woodlands between October 2024 and March 2025. Weighted totals: 6,361 (UK), 5,302 (England).

## 1.7. Activities undertaken on visits to forests and woodlands

Walking was the most-commonly reported activity undertaken on visits to forests and woodlands, reported by almost two-thirds of those who had visited in summer (64% in the UK and 65% in England) and by almost one half of respondents in winter (49% in the UK and in England) (Table 6).

**Table 6: Proportion of respondents and main recreational activity undertaken on most recent visit to forests and woodlands, UK and England, 2025**

Activity	UK Summer	UK Winter	England Summer	England Winter
Dog-walking	15	19	14	19
Picnicking	3	4	3	4
Running	4	4	4	4
Walking	64	49	65	49
Wildlife watching	4	5	4	6
Other	10	19	10	19

Footnote:

1. Results for summer are based on respondents who visited woodlands between April 2024 and September 2024. Weighted totals: 6,982 (UK), 5,838 (England).
2. Results for winter are based on respondents who visited woodlands between October 2024 and March 2025. Weighted totals: 6,361 (UK), 5,302 (England).

## 1.8. 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 around one third (36% in both the UK and England) of winter visits and around one third as well (34% in the UK and 33% in England) of summer visits (Table 7).

**Table 7: Proportion of respondents and distance travelled to forests and woodlands on most recent visit, UK and England, 2025**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>UK Summer</b>	<b>UK Winter</b>	<b>England Summer</b>	<b>England Winter</b>
Less than 1 mile	12	13	11	13
1 to 2 miles	22	23	22	23
3 to 10 miles	43	40	43	41
11 to 50 miles	17	17	18	18
More than 50 miles	3	3	3	3
Don't know	3	3	3	3

Footnote:

1. Results for summer are based on respondents who visited woodlands between April 2024 and September 2024. Weighted totals: 6,982 (UK), 5,838 (England).
2. Results for winter are based on respondents who visited woodlands between October 2024 and March 2025. Weighted totals: 6,361 (UK), 5,302 (England).

## 1.9. 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.

Over one quarter of respondents (27% in both the UK and 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 21% of those who had visited woodlands in the UK (22% in England).

The National Trust (or National Trust for Scotland) was reported as the manager by 14% of those who had visited woodlands (both in the UK and in England). The Woodland Trust was identified as the manager by 14% in both the UK and England, while Forestry England was identified as the manager by 11% in England.



**Table 8: Manager of woodland on respondents' most recent visit, UK and England, 2025**

<b>Manger</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>England</b>
Community Managed Woodland	4	4
Forestry England	10	11
Forestry and Land Scotland	4	3
Natural Resources Wales	4	3
Local Authority	21	22
National Trust or National Trust Scotland	14	14
Woodland Trust	14	14
Other (specify)	2	2
Don't know	27	27

Footnote:

1. Results are based on respondents who had visited woodlands. Weighted totals: 7,150 (UK), 5,982 (England).

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 2025, 28% of respondents in the UK who had visited woodlands and 23% of those in England reported that they had not visited Forestry England woodland in the previous 12 months (Tables 9a and 9b). Around 11% in the UK and 13% in England reported visiting Forestry England woodlands at least once a month.

**Table 9a: Proportion of respondents by frequency of visits to Forestry England woodland in last 12 months, UK, 2021 to 2025**

<b>Frequency</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2025</b>
More often than twice a day	1	[low]	[low]
About twice a day	[low]	[low]	[low]
About once a day	1	1	[low]
About twice a week	2	1	1
About once a week	3	1	1
About once a fortnight	3	2	2
About once a month	7	6	7
6-10 times	7	4	7
3-5 times	12	12	20
Once or twice	23	28	32
None	41	45	28

Footnote:

1. Results are based on respondents who had visited woodlands. Weighted totals:  
UK: 2021 (3,557), 2023 (8,186), 2025 (7,150); England: 2021 (2,956), 2023 (6,864), 2025 (5,982).
2. [low]: less than 0.5%

**Table 9b: Proportion of respondents by frequency of visits to Forestry England woodland in last 12 months, England, 2021 to 2025**

<b>Frequency</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2025</b>
More often than twice a day	1	[low]	[low]
About twice a day	[low]	[low]	[low]
About once a day	1	1	1
About twice a week	2	1	1
About once a week	3	1	1
About once a fortnight	3	2	2
About once a month	8	7	8
6-10 times	7	5	8
3-5 times	14	13	21
Once or twice	25	32	35
None	35	38	23

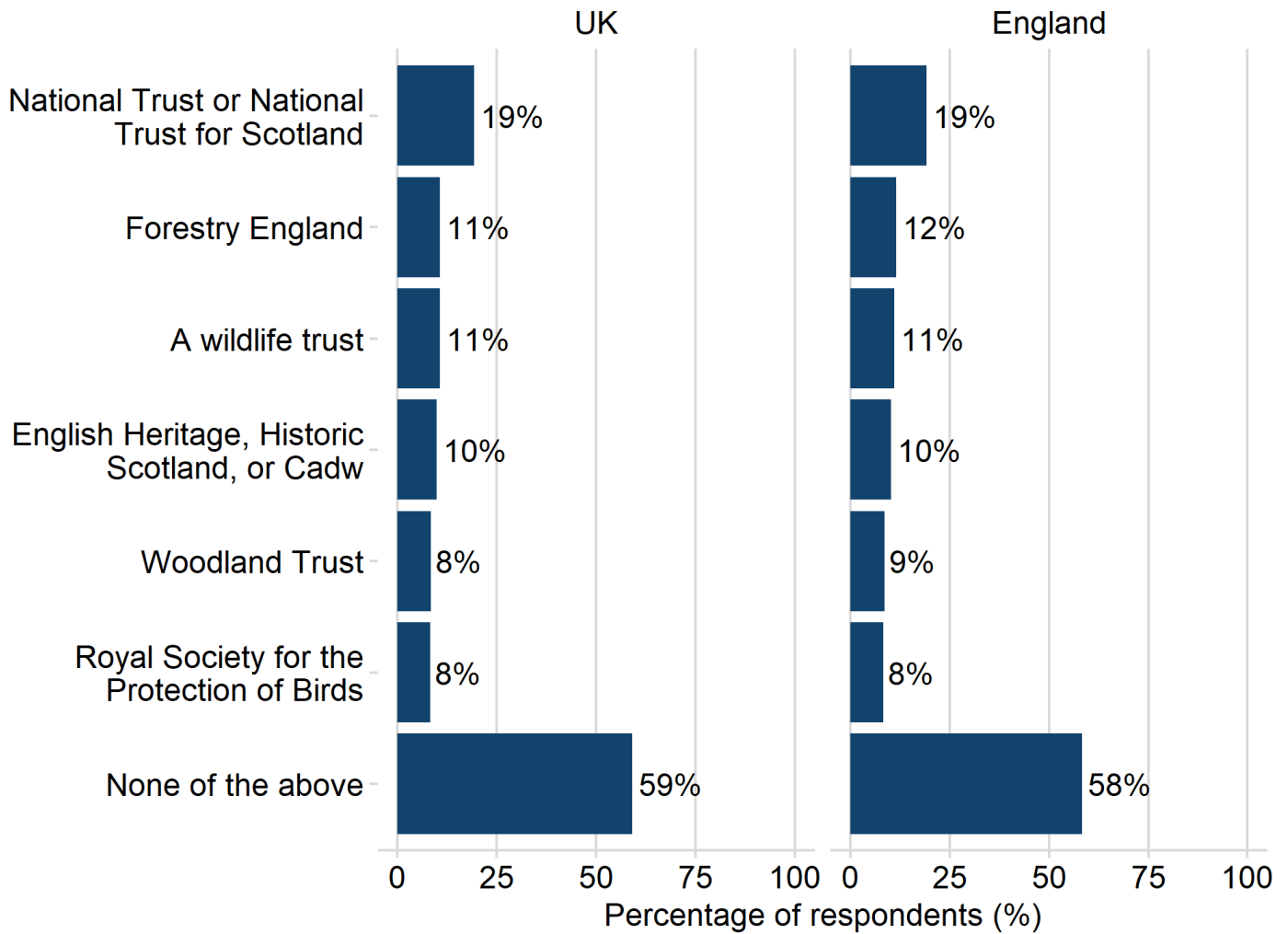
Footnote:

1. See Table 9a for more information.

## 2. 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 2025, around three-fifths of respondents (59% in the UK and 58% in England) stated that they were not members of any of the organisations listed (Figure 3). Of the organisations we listed, the National Trust (or National Trust for Scotland) had the highest membership (19% in both the UK and in England).

Figure 3: Proportion of respondents and membership of organisations, UK and England, 2025



Footnote:

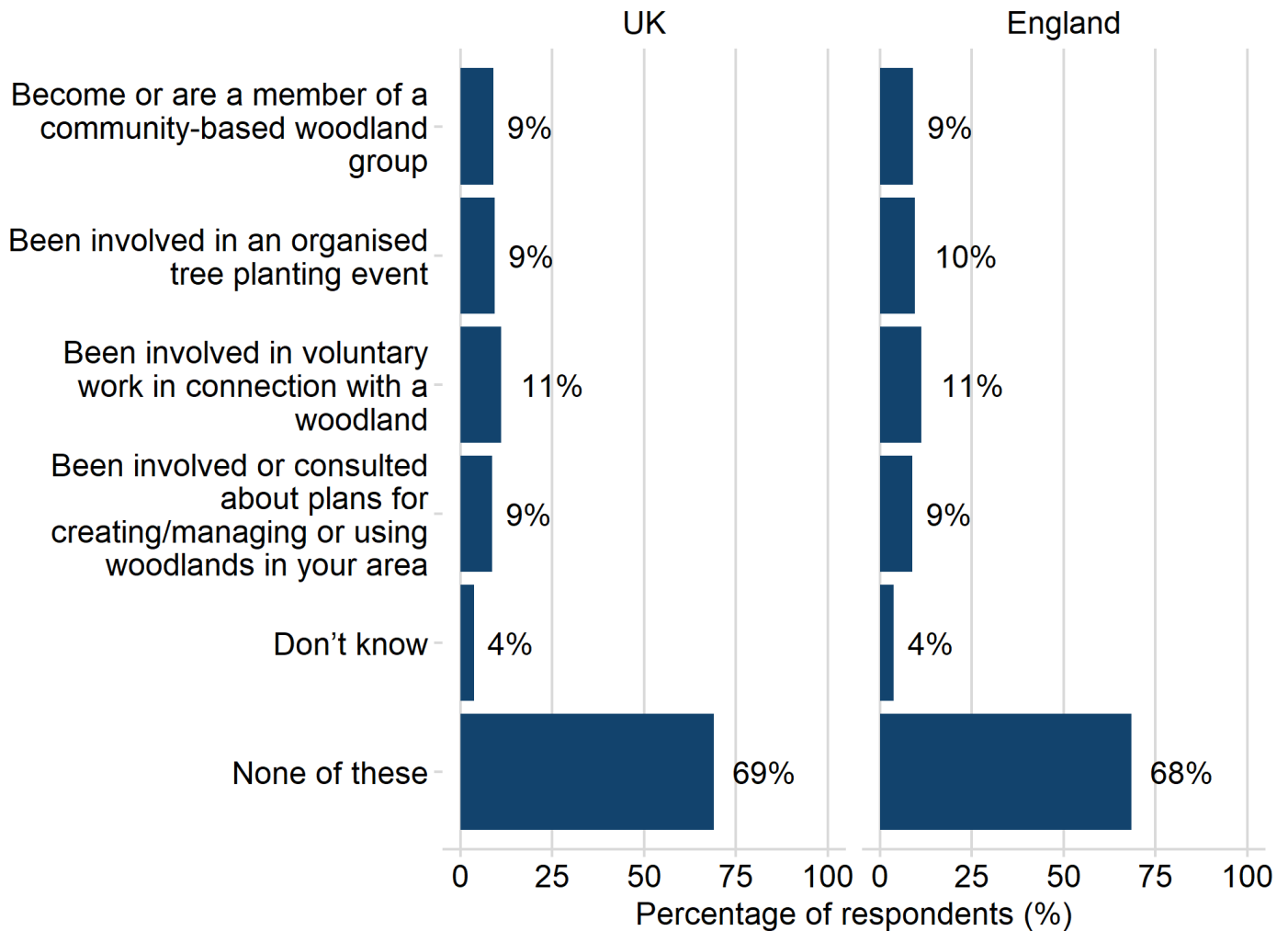
1. Results are based on all respondents. Weighted totals: 10,259 (UK); 8,641 (England).

Respondents were asked whether they had been involved in any of a selection of activities supporting forest issues, listed in Figure 4. In 2025, just over one quarter (27%) of respondents in the UK (28% in England) said that they had been engaged with at least one of the forest issues listed in the previous 12 months.

In terms of the specific types of engagement reported in the 2025 survey:

- 9% of respondents in the UK (10% in England) had been involved in an organised tree planting event;
- 11% of respondents in 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);
- 9% (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
- 9% (in the UK and in England) had been involved or consulted about plans for creating/managing or using woodlands in their area.

Figure 4: Proportion of respondents and involvement in forest issues in last 12 months, UK and England, 2025



Footnote:

1. Results are based on all respondents. Weighted totals: 10,259 (UK); 8,641 (England).

### 3. 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.

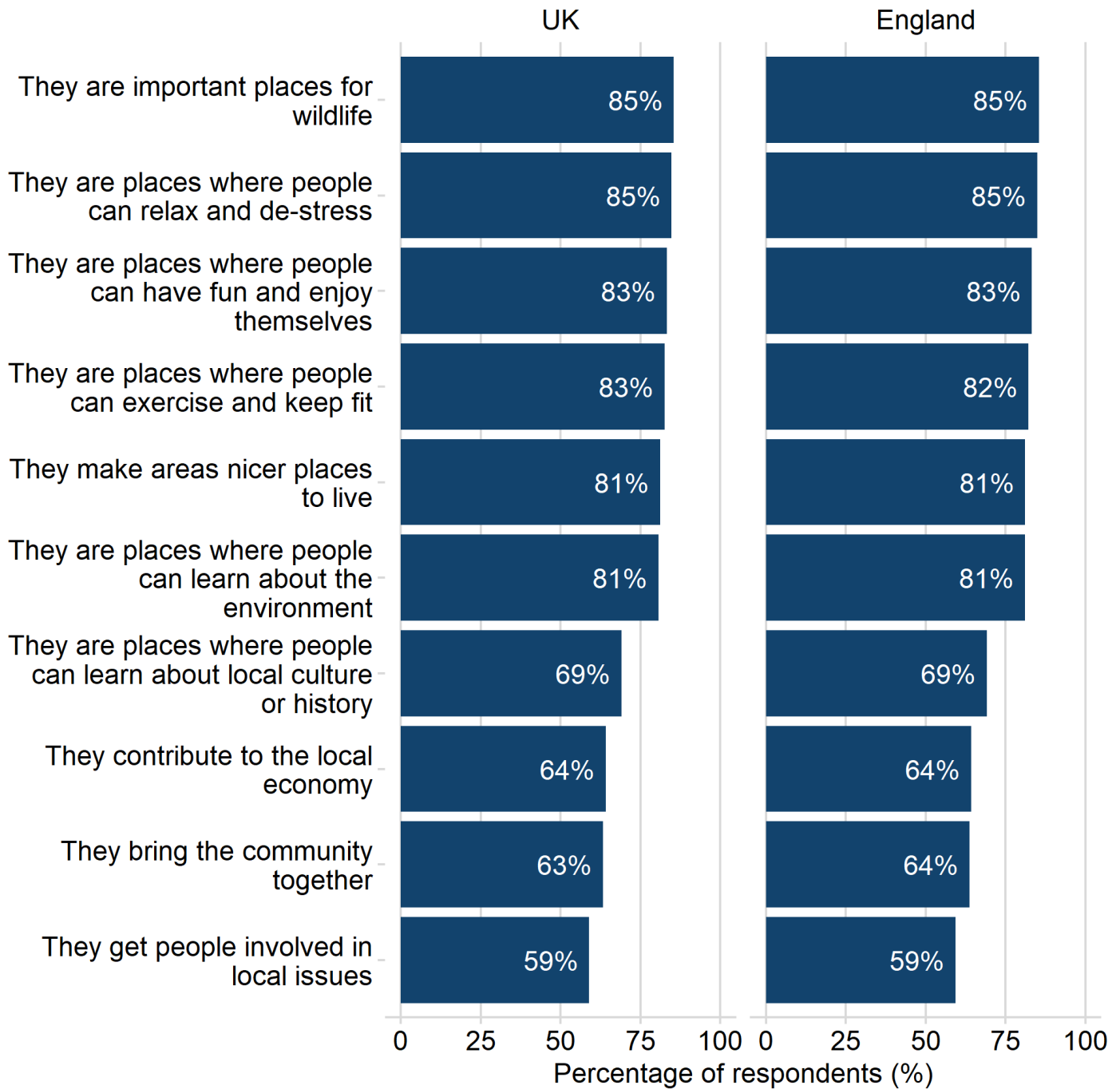
Figure 5 shows the percentage of respondents who agreed (in the UK and in England, respectively) with each of the statements relating to the importance of forests and woodlands to the public.

The highest levels of agreement (including those who selected “Strongly agree” and “Agree”) were with the following statements:

- “They are important places for wildlife” was selected by 85% of respondents in both UK and in England; and
- “They are places where people can relax and de-stress” (85% in the UK and in England agreed).



Figure 5: Proportion of respondents in agreement with statements on importance of woodlands and forests to the public, UK and England, 2025



Footnote:

1. Results are based on all respondents. Weighted totals: 10,259 (UK); 8,641 (England).

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 personally.

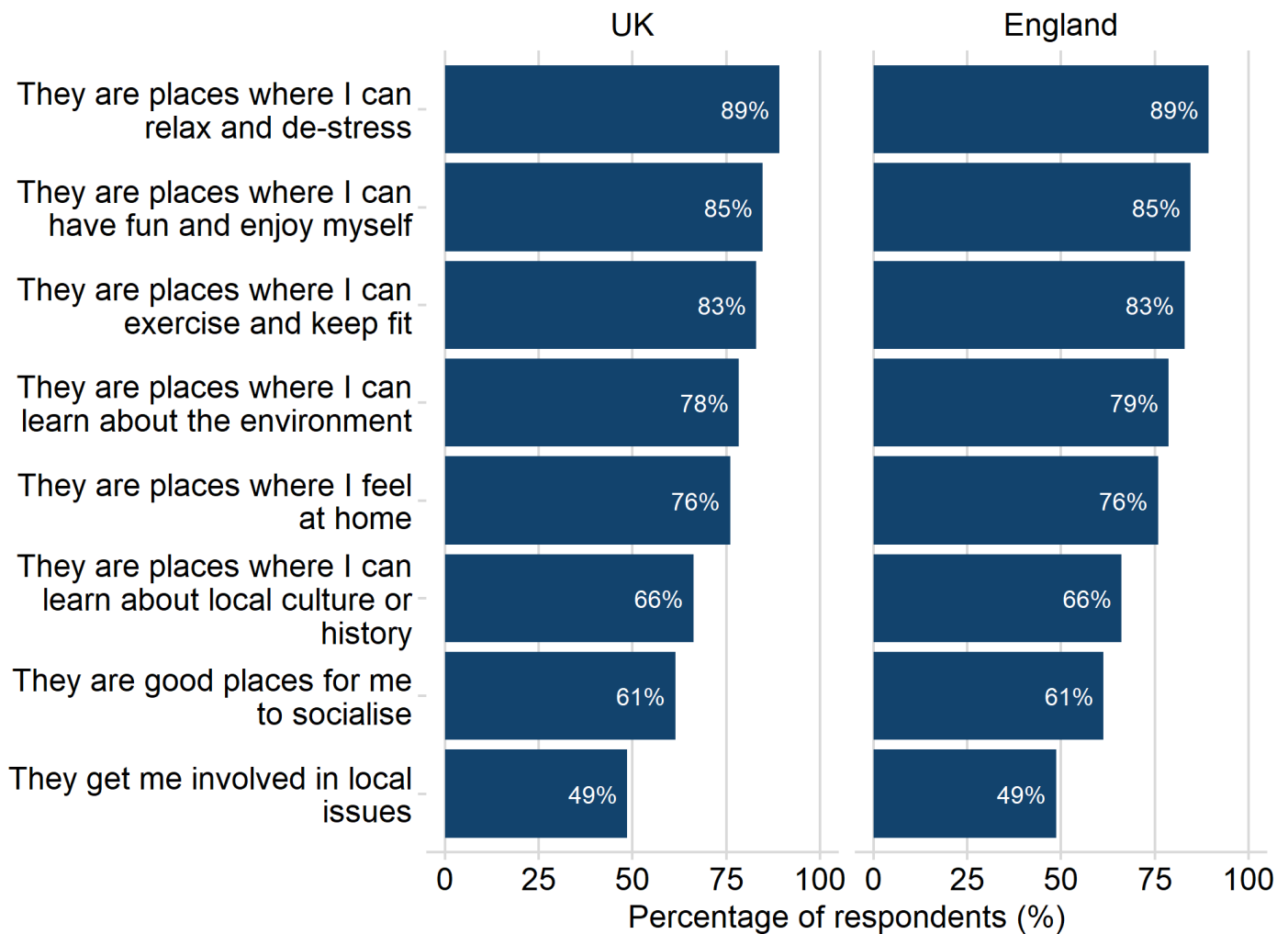
Most respondents in 2025 agreed (selected “Strongly agree” or “Agree”) with most of the statements, but the highest level of agreement was with the following statements (Figure 6):

- “They are places where I can relax and de-stress” (89% in both the UK and England); and
- “They are places where I can have fun and enjoy myself” (85% in both the UK and England).

The lowest levels of agreements in 2025 were with the following statement:

- “They get me involved in local issues” (49% in both the UK and in England).
- “They are good places for me to socialise” (61% in both the UK and in England)

Figure 6: Proportion of respondents in agreement with statements on importance of woodlands and forests to individuals, UK and England, 2025



Footnote:

1. Results are based on respondents who had visited woodlands. Weighted totals: 7,150 (UK), 5,982 (England).
2. The result for "They are places where I can relax and de-stress" is not a direct estimate. See section 7.2.3 for more information on how these results were produced.

## 4. Attitudes to forests and woodlands through and since the coronavirus pandemic

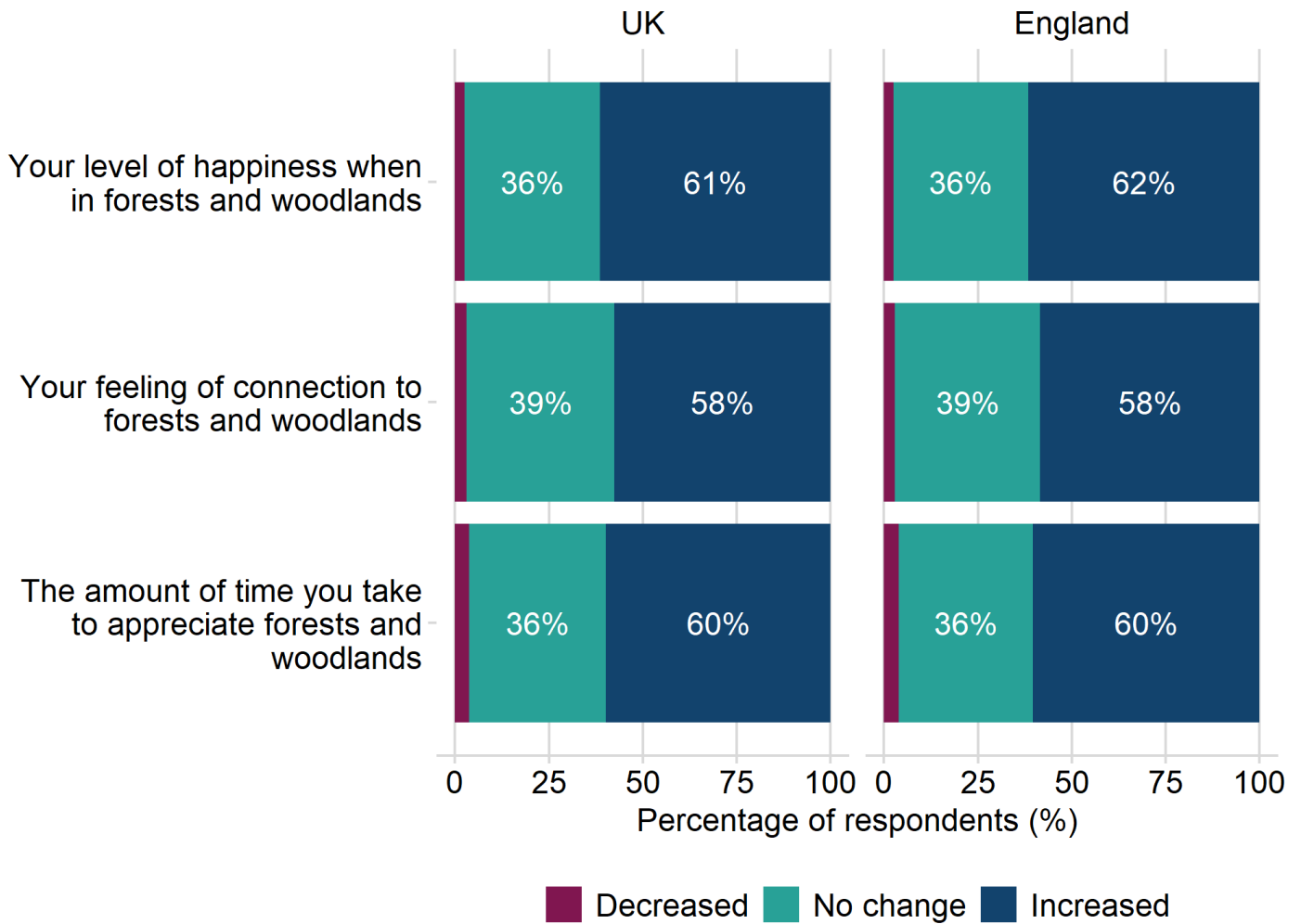
Three questions were added to the 2021 survey to explore the extent to which attitudes to forests and woodlands had changed due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions that had come into place from 23 March 2020 onwards. These questions were asked again in the 2023 and 2025 surveys, to explore changes in public attitudes to forests and woodlands before (2019 survey), during (2021 survey) and after the pandemic (2023 and 2025 surveys). All respondents who had visited woodlands in the last few years were asked these questions.

When asked about the amount of time they had taken to appreciate forests and woodlands, 60% of respondents (both in the UK and in England) reported spending more time appreciating forest and woodlands since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 (Figure 7). Over one-third (36% in the UK and in England) reported no change and 4% (in the UK and in England) reported a decrease.

When asked about their feeling of connection to forests and woodlands, 58% of respondents (in the UK and in England) reported an increase, 39% (in the UK and England) reported no change, and 3% (in both the UK and in England) reported a decrease.

Around three-fifths (61%) of respondents who had visited woodlands in the UK (62% in England) reported an increase in their level of happiness when in forests and woodlands. Just over one third (36% in the UK and in England) reported that their level of happiness stayed about the same while few reported a decrease (3% in both the UK and in England).

Figure 7: Proportion of respondents and views of forest and woodlands since the coronavirus pandemic, UK and England, 2025



Footnote:

1. Results are based on respondents who had visited woodlands. Weighted totals: 7,150 (UK), 5,982 (England).

## 5. Climate change

Respondents 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.

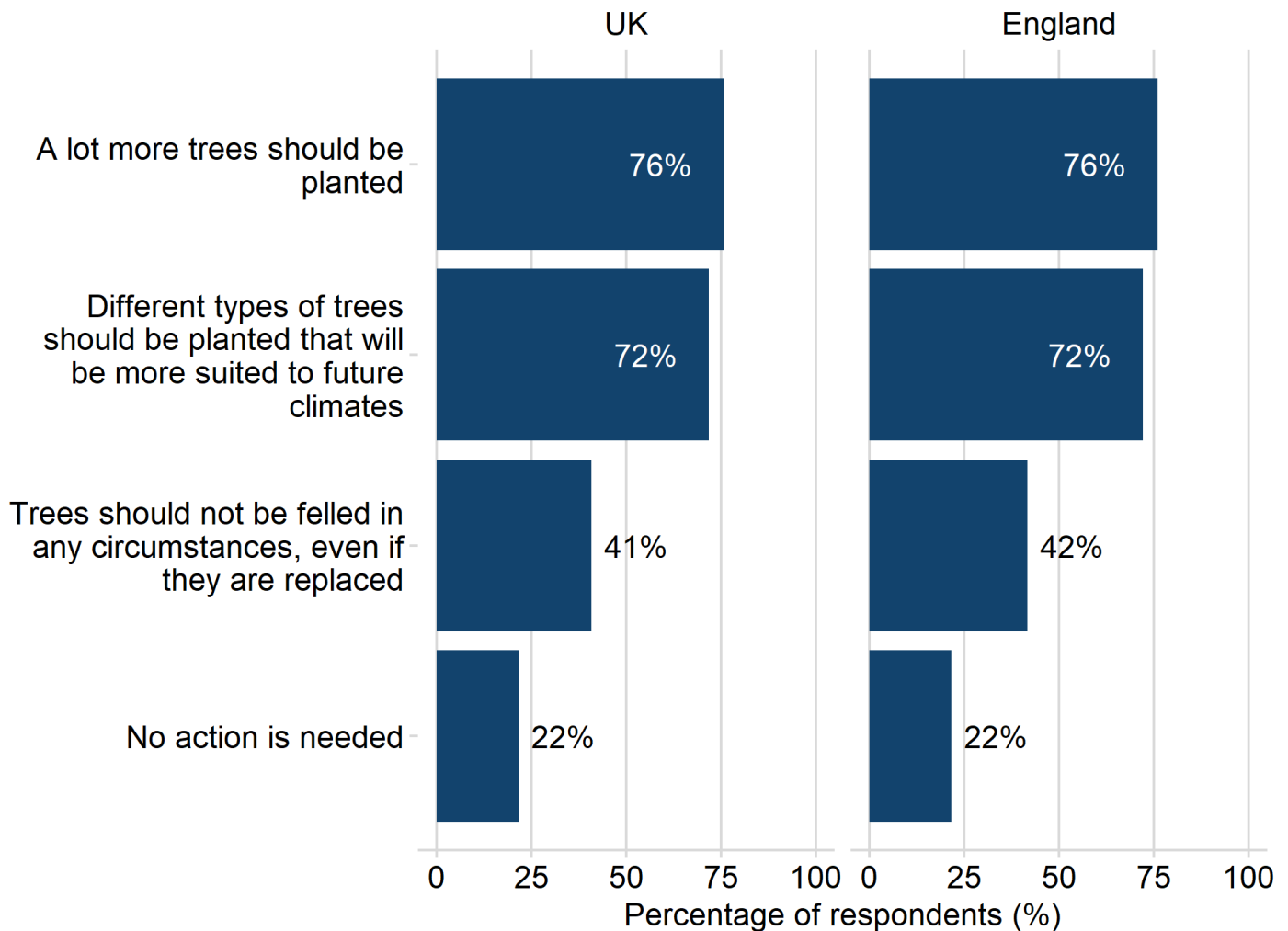
The majority of respondents in 2025 agreed or strongly agreed that (Figure 8):

- “A lot more trees should be planted” (76% in both the UK and 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 2025, relatively fewer respondents agreed or strongly agreed that:

- “No action is needed” (22% in the UK and in England); and
- “Trees should not be felled in any circumstances, even if they are replaced” (41% in the UK and 42% in England).

Figure 8: Proportion of respondents in agreement with statements on management of UK forests in response to the threat of climate change, UK and England, 2025



Footnote:

1. Results are based on all respondents. Weighted totals: 10,259 (UK); 8,641 (England).

## 6. Tree health

Respondents were asked to report their level of knowledge of tree health and diseases (Table 10). The majority of respondents reported a “Low level of knowledge” across the UK and England.

**Table 10a: Proportion of respondents’ reported level of knowledge of tree pests and diseases, UK, 2025**

Level of knowledge	2025
High level of knowledge	8
Reasonable level of knowledge	29
Low level of knowledge	57
Don’t know	7

Footnote:

- Results are based on all respondents. Weighted totals: 10,259 (UK); 8,641 (England).

**Table 10b: Proportion of respondents’ reported level of knowledge of tree pests and diseases, England, 2025**

Level of knowledge	2025
High level of knowledge	8
Reasonable level of knowledge	29
Low level of knowledge	56
Don’t know	7

Footnote:

- See Table 10a for more information.



Respondents were presented with a series of statements relating to tree health and asked to indicate their level of agreement (Table 11). The majority of respondents to the 2025 survey agreed or strongly agreed that:

- “Action should be taken by authorities and woodland managers to protect trees from damaging pests and diseases” (76% in both the UK and in England); and that
- “Everyone should take action when visiting woodlands to help prevent the spread of damaging tree pests and diseases” (74% in both UK and England).

Around one third of the respondents in 2025 agreed or strongly agreed that:

- “There is very little that anyone can do to prevent the spread of damaging pests and diseases” (30% 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” (35% in the UK and 36% in England). This represents a statistically significant increase in awareness of the Tree Alert app/website compared with 2023.

**Table 11a: Proportion of respondents in agreement with statements on issues related to tree health and diseases, UK, 2021 to 2025**

<b>Statement</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2025</b>
Action should be taken by authorities and woodland managers to protect trees from damaging pests and diseases	77	82	76
Everyone should take action when visiting woodlands to help prevent the spread of damaging tree pests and diseases	69	69	74
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	62	64	65
If I buy an imported tree, it is more likely to carry tree pests and diseases than a tree grown in the UK	44	38	49
I am aware that possible tree pests and diseases can be reported using the Tree Alert app or website	29	17	35
There is very little that anyone can do to prevent the spread of damaging tree pests and diseases	24	15	30

Footnote:

1. Results are based on all respondents. Weighted totals: UK: 2021 (5,119), 2023 (11,055), 2025 (10,259); England: 2021 (4,304) 2023 (9,297), 2025 (8,641).

**Table 11b: Proportion of respondents in agreement with statements on issues related to tree health and diseases, England, 2021 to 2025**

<b>Statement</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2025</b>
Action should be taken by authorities and woodland managers to protect trees from damaging pests and diseases	76	82	76
Everyone should take action when visiting woodlands to help prevent the spread of damaging tree pests and diseases	69	69	74
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	61	65	66
If I buy an imported tree, it is more likely to carry tree pests and diseases than a tree grown in the UK	44	38	50
I am aware that possible tree pests and diseases can be reported using the Tree Alert app or website	29	17	36
There is very little that anyone can do to prevent the spread of damaging tree pests and diseases	24	16	30

Footnote:

1. See Table 11a for more information.

## 7. Annex 1

### 7.1. 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.

### 7.2. Data sources and methodology

#### 7.2.1. Background

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

- In the initial surveys, a representative sample of 2,000 adults across Great Britain (GB) were 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 (approximately 1,000 adults) carried out in 2005, 2007, 2010, 2014 and 2019;
- In 2023, four separate surveys were carried out; for the UK (from which England results were derived), for Wales, for Scotland and for Northern Ireland;
- In 2023, the sample size for the survey carried out for the UK (and England) increased;

- In 2025, three separate surveys were carried for the UK (and England), for Wales and for Scotland. Some questions were asked in all of the surveys conducted in 2025, 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 (COVID-19) pandemic led to a change in methodology for the three conducted that year. 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. For the 2023 survey, Scotland and Northern Ireland changed to an online methodology, meaning all surveys from 2023 were conducted online. Consequently, results for the 2021, 2023 and 2025 surveys may not be fully consistent with previous surveys.

A summary of the previous surveys, including the approximate number of adults interviewed for each country, is shown in Table A1. Results for England are a subset of the UK survey.

Table A1: Approximate sample sizes for the Public Opinion of Forestry surveys, UK, 2001 to 2025

Year	UK <sup>1</sup>	England <sup>2</sup>	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
2001	2,000	[x]	1,000	1,000	[x]
2003	4,000	3,400	1,000	1,000	[x]
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	[x]
2010	[x]	[x]	[x]	[x]	1,000
2011	2,000	1,700	1,000	1,000	[x]
2013	2,000	1,600	1,000	1,000	[x]
2014	[x]	[x]	[x]	[x]	1,000
2015	2,000	1,500	1,000	1,000	[x]
2017	2,000	1,800	1,000	1,000	[x]
2019	2,200	1,800	1,000	[x]	1,000
2021	5,000	4,300	1,000	1,000	[x]
2023	11,100	9,300	1,000	1,000	1,000
2025	10,300	8,800	1,000	1,000	[x]

Footnote:

1. 2001 and 2005 surveys covered Great Britain only (i.e., excluding Northern Ireland).
2. Results for England are derived from UK surveys.
3. [x]: data not available (no survey that year).

### 7.2.2. Survey methodology

The 2023 survey results were taken from a YouGov survey. Kantar carried out the previous three surveys, using their CAPI Omnibus in 2017 and 2019 and their OnLineBus in 2021. The 2009 to 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.

The 2025 results presented in this report were gathered by Survation during fieldwork which took place between 6 March and 24 March 2025. The 2025 survey was conducted via an online panel, with differential response rates from different demographic groups taken in account. Participants received an invitation by email to participate in the online survey.

Survation is an MRS (Market Research Society) company partner and member of the British Polling Council; data collection was digital and fieldwork was conducted according to MRS standards.

Survation interviewed a sample of 10,281 adults (those aged 16+) in the UK and England. Data were weighted by age, sex, region, highest level of qualification, and household income to minimise bias and ensure the sample was representative. Targets for the weighted data were derived from the Office for National Statistics. Each respondent is assigned a weight which reflects the number of people that they represent in the population.

### 7.2.3. Questionnaire

A copy of the 2025 questionnaire is provided at the end of this release, in Annex 2. This covers the questions requested by Forest Research. In addition, a small number of demographic questions are included as standard in the survey conducted by

Survation. Variables such as age, sex, region, household income and highest level of education were included.

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.

For 2025, a new question was introduced to assess public knowledge of tree health issues. Q14 asks respondents "What would you say is your level of knowledge of tree pests and diseases?" with response options of "High level of knowledge", "Reasonable level of knowledge", "Low level of knowledge" and "Don't know". As a result of this new item, all subsequent questions have been renumbered.

For Q12 the option of "They are places where I can relax and de-stress" was not included. As this option has had the highest response in previous years this was derived from the results of Q11 by only considering respondents who had selected this option and had visited woodlands. This only impacts Figure 6 in this report.

### 7.2.4. Design effect

All results are subject to the effects of chance in sampling, so a range of uncertainty (margin of error, or confidence interval) should be associated with any result from the survey. The confidence intervals use a design effect to take into account the effect of clustering, weighting and stratification in the survey design.

The Survation survey uses a quota sampling approach, which means that the likelihood of individuals within the population being interviewed cannot be measured. Due to the survey design, a design effect of 1.5 should be applied to confidence intervals calculated for data from this survey, which is commonly assumed for surveys of this type.



Confidence intervals are 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 2025 to the whole UK sample of 10,281, the range of uncertainty around any figure should be no more than  $\pm 1.4\%$  ( $\pm 1.6\%$  for the 8,758 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 (7,151 respondents in the UK and 6,068 in England) should be no more than  $\pm 1.7\%$  for the UK and no more than  $\pm 1.9\%$  for England.
- For questions asked to whole samples, differences of more than 2.0% (UK) or 2.2% (England) between the 2025 results and 2023 results are statistically significant.
- For questions asked only to those who had visited woodland, differences of more than 2.4% (UK) or 2.6% (England) between the 2025 results and 2023 results are statistically significant.

Given the small sample size of respondents living in Wales (weighted total = 481), Scotland (857) and Northern Ireland (279) in the UK survey, it is not recommended that the UK survey be used to provide results for these countries. Instead, please refer to the separate survey reports for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland for relevant results.

### 7.3. Revisions

Results for 2025 are published for the first time in this release. All results are final. Results for earlier years have not been revised. [Our revisions policy](#) sets out how revisions and errors to these statistics are dealt with.

### 7.4. Further information

[Accompanying tables to this release](#), provide more detailed figures, showing standard breakdowns. Weighted proportions have been independently rounded, so may not add to the totals shown.

### 7.5. Release schedule

The UK and England Public Opinion of Forestry survey is a biennial survey, next due to run in early 2027 with results likely to be available in summer 2027.

### 7.6. Official Statistics

This is an Official Statistics publication. Visit the [UK Statistics Authority](#) for more information about Official Statistics.

## 7.7. 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.

### Proportion

A weighted percentage.

### 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.

## 8. Annex 2

### 8.1. Introduction

This annex provides the full 2025 questionnaire.

### 8.2. Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2025: UK/England Questionnaire

[All.]

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

(Single answer)

- Yes, I have
- No, I have not

[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
- Don’t know/can’t recall

[All.]

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

(Multi-answer)

- 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
- Don't know

[Ask if answered "Yes" to Q1a.]

Q2 How, if at all, has the number of visits you have taken to forests and woodlands changed in the last 12 months (i.e., since 1 March 2024), compared to the previous year?

(Single answer)

- Increased a lot

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

[Ask if answered "Yes" to Q1a.]

Q3 How, if at all, has the total amount of time you spent visiting forests and woodlands changed in the last 12 months (i.e., since 1 March 2024), compared to the previous year?

(Single answer)

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

[Ask if answered "Yes" to Q1a.]

Q4 How, if at all, has the distance you travel to visit forests and woodlands changed in the last 12 months (i.e., since 1 March 2024), compared to the previous year?

(Single answer)

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



- Decreased a lot
- Don't know

[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, if at all, did you visit forests and woodlands last summer, i.e., the six months between April and September 2024?**

(Single answer)

- Several times per week
- Several times per month
- About once a month
- Less often than once a month
- Never
- Don't know

[If answered "Never" to Q5a, go to Q6.]

Thinking about your most recent visit to a forest or woodland in those six months between April and September 2022...

**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
- Don't know

**Q5c Which, if any, 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)
- Don't know

**Q5d Approximately how far in miles did you travel to get to the forest or woodland? (If you're not sure, please select your best estimate.)**

(Single answer)

- Less than 1 mile
- 1 to 2 miles
- 3 to 10 miles
- 11 to 50 miles
- More than 50 miles
- Don't know

[If answered "Yes" to Q1a.]

Now thinking about your visit forests and woodlands since October 2022...

**Q6a How frequently, if at all, did you visit forests and woodlands this winter, i.e., the six months between October 2024 and March 2025?**

(Single answer)

- Several times per week
- Several times per month
- About once a month
- Less often than once a month
- Never
- Don't know

[If answered "Never" to Q6a, go to Q7.]

Thinking about your most recent visit to a forest or woodland since October 2024...

**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
- Don't know

**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)
- Don't know

**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
- Don't know

[If answered "Yes" to Q1a.]

**Q7 Who, if anyone, 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.]

Thinking back about all of your visits to forests or woodlands over the last 12 months (i.e., since 1 March 2024)...

**Q8 How many times, if any, did you visit a forest or woodland managed by Forestry England? (If you are not sure please select your best estimate)**

(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 than twice a day

[All.]

**Q9 Which, if any, of the following organisations are you a member of?**

(Multi-answer)

- English Heritage, Historic Scotland, or Cadw
- Forestry England

- National Trust or National Trust for Scotland
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- A wildlife trust
- Woodland Trust
- None of the above

[All.]

Q10 Which, if any, of the following have you done in the past 12 months (i.e., since 1 March 2024)?

(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
- Don't know

[All.]

Now thinking specifically about forests and woodlands...

Q11 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

- 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.]

Now thinking specifically about forests and woodlands you have visited...

**Q12 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
- 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.]

Thinking specifically about forests and woodlands you have visited...

**Q13 How has each of the following changed, if at all, from before the start of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic (March 2020) compared to now?**

- (1) significantly increased, (2) some increase, (3) stayed the same, (4) some decrease, (5) significantly decreased
- 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.]

Thinking about managing UK forests and woodlands in response to climate change...

**Q14 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
- No action is needed
  - 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 What would you say is your level of knowledge of tree pests and diseases?**

- High level of knowledge
- Reasonable level of knowledge
- Low level of knowledge
- Don't know

**Q16 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements relating to tree health?**

- (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 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]

**Q17a 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
- Don't know

[Ask if answered "Yes" to Q17a, else to END.]

**Q17b Do any of these conditions or illnesses affect your use of woodlands/forests or other greenspaces?**

(Single answer)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/not sure

**Alice Holt Lodge**

Farnham

Surrey, GU10 4LH, UK

**Tel: 0300 067 5600**

**Northern Research Station**

Roslin

Midlothian, EH25 9SY, UK

**Tel: 0300 067 5600**

**Forest Research in Wales**

Talybont Research Office

Cefn Gethiniog

Talybont-on-Usk

Brecon

Powys, LD3 7YN, UK

**Tel: 0300 067 5709**

[info@forestresearch.gov.uk](mailto:info@forestresearch.gov.uk)

[www.forestresearch.gov.uk](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk)

Forest Research will consider all requests to make the content of our documents available in alternative formats.

Please send any such requests to: [research.info@forestresearch.gov.uk](mailto:research.info@forestresearch.gov.uk)

© Crown copyright 2025