



Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment – The national survey on people and the natural environment

Headline report 2019:

Analysis of latest results (March 2018 to
February 2019) and ten years of the survey
from 2009 to 2019

September 2019

For further information see:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/monitor-of-engagement-with-the-natural-environment-survey-purpose-and-results>



Foreword

Natural England produces a range of reports providing evidence and advice to assist us in delivering our duties.

Since 2009, Natural England has carried out the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey. The data enables Natural England, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), partners and data users to:

- Understand how people use, enjoy and are motivated to protect the natural environment;
- Monitor changes in use of the natural environment over time, at a range of different spatial scales and for key groups within the population;
- Inform on-the-ground initiatives to help them link more closely to people's needs, and;
- Evaluate the impact and effectiveness of related policy initiatives.

National Statistics Designation Statement

The statistics derived from MENE have been designated as National Statistics. This status means that statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is Natural England's responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

These statistics last underwent a full assessment against the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) in 2014. See [Assessment Report 269 Statistics on Engagement with the Natural Environment](#). **Since that assessment by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics and have made the following improvements:**

- Implemented a thorough quality checking process and in partnership with suppliers to ensure the quality assurance procedure is robust.

- Changed elements of our reports and data releases so that statistics are more accessible for users. We have developed a dashboard that will provide local level data analysis, as well as making improvements so that data is easier to download and use.

For information on improvements we have made to the MENE data series please see the MENE Technical Report [LINK](#).

Once designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed. For further details see <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/Code-of-Practice/>

MENE review

This report provides the results from the tenth and final year of the MENE survey. Over the last 18 months Natural England has been working with Defra and stakeholders to review MENE to ensure data collection incorporates the developing knowledge base, innovations in method and asks questions to help meet future evidence and policy needs. A new people and nature survey, which builds on MENE, will begin collecting data in 2020.

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Introduction

The MENE headline report

This report presents the headline findings for the tenth and final year of MENE fieldwork (from March 2018 to February 2019). It includes analysis of ten years of data (from 2009 to 2019) as appropriate. Further analysis is available in the accompanying Excel file – [CLICK HERE](#)

Background

MENE aimed to better understand the relationship between people and the natural environment.

The objectives of the survey were to:

- Provide estimates of the number of visits to the natural environment by the adult population (16 years and over) residing in England.
- Measure the extent of participation in visits to the natural environment and identify the barriers and drivers that shape participation.
- Provide robust information on the characteristics of visitors and visits to the natural environment.
- Measure other ways of using and enjoying the natural environment.
- Identify patterns in use and participation for key groups within the population and at a range of spatial scales.

Since 2009, 468,370 adults from across England participated in face-to-face interviews for MENE.

Survey scope

The main focus of the survey was to understand people's experiences of the natural environment – where they go, what they do, why and how they benefit from these 'visits'.

The survey defined visits to the natural environment as shown in the box below. The wording used aimed to make clear that 'visits' included time spent in urban nature close to home, as well as more rural and wild places.

"Now I am going to ask you about occasions in the last week when you spent your time out of doors.

By out of doors we mean open spaces in and around towns and cities, including parks, canals and nature areas; the coast and beaches; and the countryside including farmland, woodland, hills and rivers. This could be anything from a few minutes to all day. It may include time spent close to your home or workplace, further afield or while on holiday in England.

However this does not include:

- *routine shopping trips or;*
- *time spent in your own garden."*

In addition to understanding these 'visits' to the natural environment, the survey aimed to capture other ways of engaging with the natural world. This included questions about time spent in the garden, volunteering, watching nature programmes on television, environmental attitudes and other pro-environmental behaviours.

A note on statistical significance

Please note that any trends or variations between results highlighted in the text are statistically significant unless stated otherwise. This means that differences between results – for example comparisons of two population groups – are unlikely to be the result of sampling error or chance.

Questionnaire change and calibration exercise

Between 2015/16 and 2016/17, a number of changes were made to MENE. Questions related to visits taken by respondents, the place visited and activities undertaken were changed, resulting in a loss in the comparability for these measures. A calibration exercise was undertaken to allow for the subsequent three years of results to be compared with those from previous years.

This change primarily impacted upon visit based results (i.e. volumes of visits and visit characteristics) while other respondent based results (e.g. proportions of population taking visits in last year) were not affected.

All of the visit based results for the 2016-2019 period have been presented using this calibration approach to enable comparability. See the MENE technical report for full details.



Further publications from the survey

This report forms one part of a larger family of outputs from the survey.

Published alongside this report are:

- A Technical Report providing full details of the survey methodology.
- Data tables in Excel providing more detailed survey results (note links to this file in related report sections).
- A Thematic Report providing a summary of some of the key insights and learnings obtained from MENE over its 10 years.
- A Local Authority Interactive Dashboard.
- SPSS, .CSV and Excel data files that allow detailed analysis of the MENE dataset.

Please see GOV.UK for further outputs from the survey:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/monitor-of-engagement-with-the-natural-environment-survey-purpose-and-results>

Further data for each of the headline areas features in this report is available in the accompanying Excel file – [CLICK HERE](#).

Headline results



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Summary of key statistics for 2018/19

Between March 2018 and February 2019, adults living in England took nearly 4 billion visits to the natural environment. This equates to around 90 visits per year per person or 1.7 visits per week (based on a population of 44.9 million¹).

Two thirds of adults (65%) reported that they normally spent time in the natural environment at least once a week and 89% agreed with the statement ‘*spending time out of door is an important part of my life.*’

Nine in ten adults agreed that they were concerned about damage to the natural environment. This has remained at a fairly constant level over the last decade (88% in 2009/10). For the last five years, we have tracked awareness and concern about biodiversity loss in England. This has increased significantly over this time, from 49% adults both aware of biodiversity loss and concerned about it in 2014/15, rising to 62% in 2018/19.

Further data for each of the headline areas is available in the accompanying Excel file [CLICK HERE](#)

Figure 1 Summary of key 2018/19 statistics

▲ Arrows indicate statistically significant increase since baseline (2009/10 for all items except biodiversity loss, which was introduced in 2014/15) .

Visiting the natural environment

Total annual visits	3,988 million	▲
Average annual visits per person	90	▲
Average visits per person per week	1.7	▲
% visit at least once a week	65%	▲
% visit less than once a month or never	16%	
% choose to walk through local parks or green spaces on way to other places	56%	▲
% choose to walk or cycling instead of using car when they can	44%	▲
% enjoy wildlife in their garden	39%	

Motivations for visiting the natural environment

(% of visits taken. Note: Total is over 100% as more than one reason can be selected)

Health and exercise	56%	▲
Relaxing and unwinding	38%	▲
Time with family	21%	
To entertain children	15%	

Caring for and protecting the natural environment

% “ <i>Spending time out of doors is an important part of my life.</i> ” (agree)	89%
% “ <i>I am concerned about damage to the natural environment.</i> ” (agree)	90%
% <i>Aware and concerned about the consequences of biodiversity loss in England</i>	62%
% undertaken any pro-environmental behaviours	87%

Benefits from visiting the natural environment

% who agree in relation to last visit...

“ <i>I enjoyed it</i> ”	97%
“ <i>It made me feel calm and relaxed</i> ”	88%
“ <i>It made me feel refreshed and revitalised</i> ”	90%
“ <i>I felt close to nature</i> ”	80%



Visits to the natural environment – where people go, what they do and how they benefit.

1.

Our green and natural places are getting busier, especially in towns and cities.

The annual total of visits to the natural environment increased from an estimated 2.9 billion visits in 2009/10 to almost 4 billion in 2018/19 (Figure 2).

This change reflects an increase in the population (a 7% increase between 2009 and 2019¹) as well as an increase in the average number of visits taken per person per week (from 1.3 to 1.7).

Figure 2 shows the total number of visits to green spaces in towns and cities almost doubled in the ten years to 2018/19.

Figure 3 shows that in 2018/19, visits to green spaces in towns and cities comprised 52% of all taken, up 11 percentage points since 2009/10. The proportions of visits to the coast and countryside decreased over time absolute visit numbers remained fairly constant.

In interpreting trend data relating to the volumes of visits taken, users should note that we have applied a calibration factor to results from 2016 onwards, to enable year-on-year comparisons after changes in question wording. See further details on page 4 and a full explanation in the MENE technical report.

Figure 2 Estimated annual visits to natural environment, total and by type of place visited (Billions, 2009/10 to 2018/19)

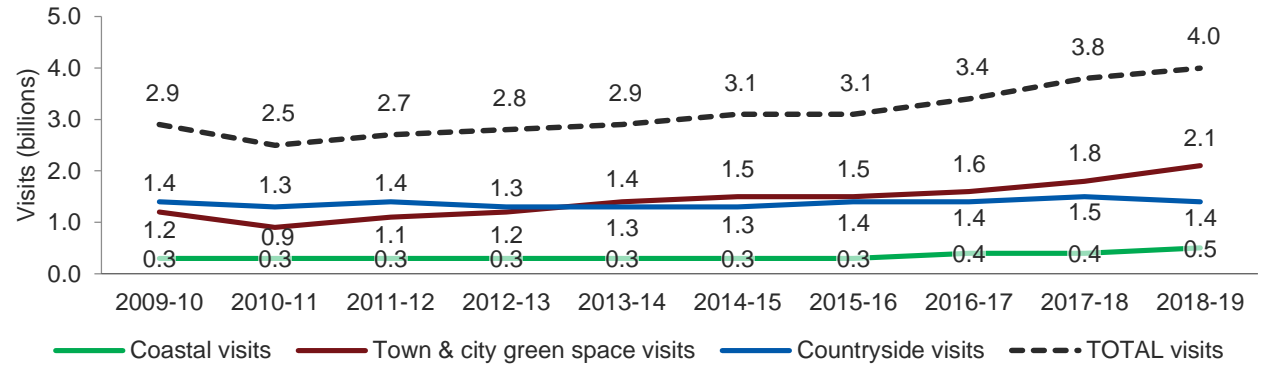
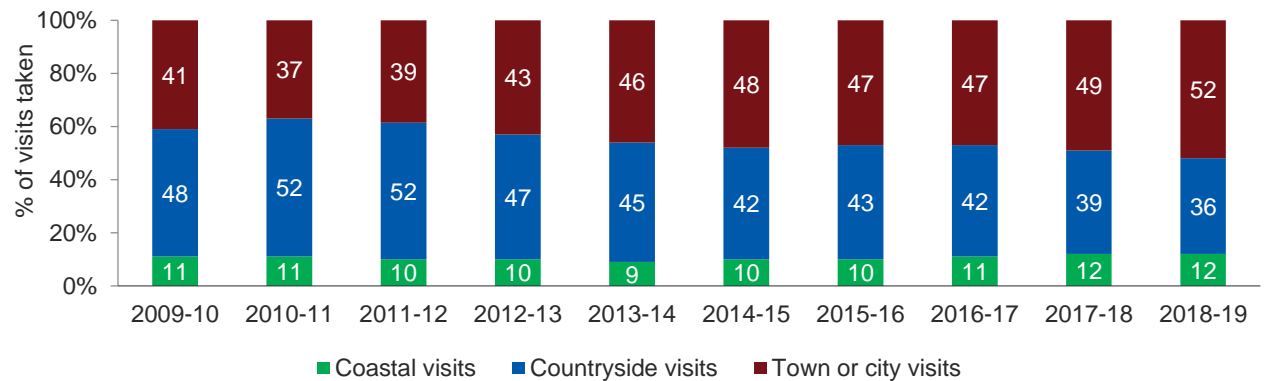


Figure 3 Percentage of visits to natural environment by general type of place visited (% of visits taken to natural environment, 2009/10 to 2018/19)



Q2 Which of the following best describes where you spent most of your time on this visit?

2.

Parks and playing fields are the natural places with the greatest growth in visitors over the last decade.

Figure 4 illustrates the specific types of place included in visits taken in 2018-19.

By far the largest share of all visits were taken in parks in towns and cities (36% of all visits equalling around 1.5 billion visits).

Figure 5 shows how the share of visits taken to different types of place changed over the ten years from 2009 to 2019.

Over the ten years to 2018/19, an increasing share of visits were taken to parks in towns and cities and playing fields while the share of visits to woodland and farmland decreased marginally. In volume terms, the number of visits to farmland decreased from 209 million in 2009/10 to 142 million in 2018/19. Visits to woodland increased marginally from 317 million to 369 million.

Figure 4 Places included on visits to the natural environment (% of visits 2018/19)

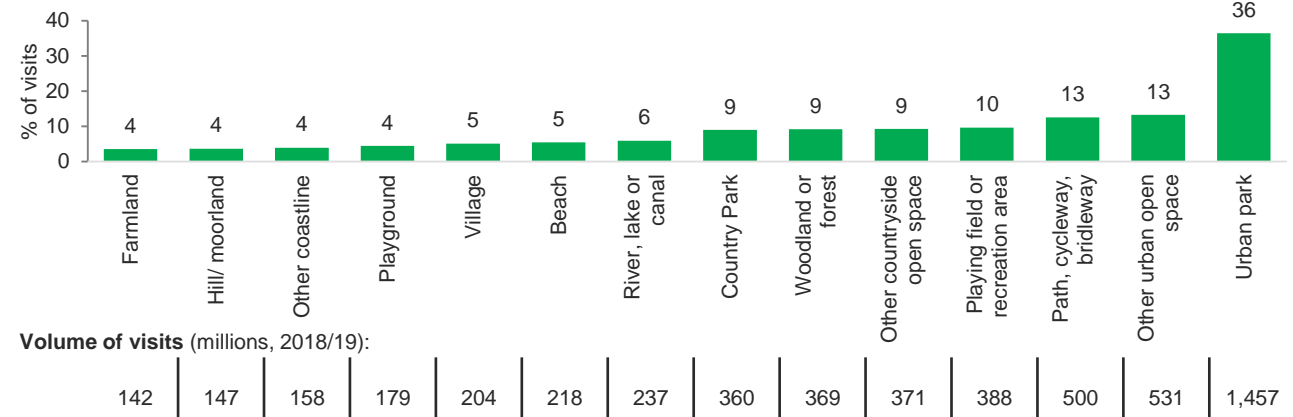
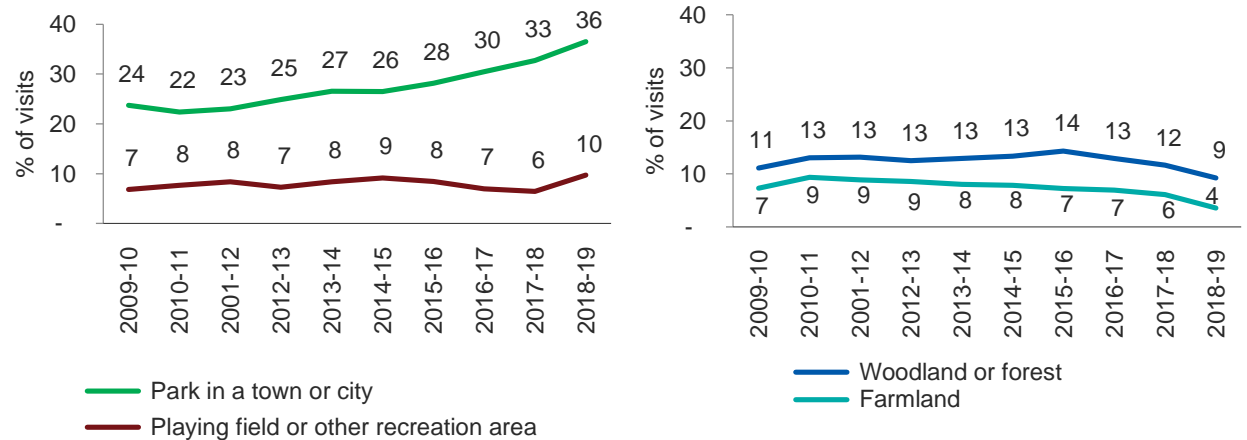


Figure 5 Places included on visits to the natural environment – greatest increases and decreases in share of visit (% of visits 2018/19)



Q5 Which of the following list of types of place best describe where you spent your time during this visit?

3.

Natural places are visited for a diversity of reasons and provide many benefits to those who visit.

Figure 6 shows the range of reasons for visiting different types of place in 2018/19.

Visits to playing fields, woodland, rivers and other inland waterways were more likely to be motivated by health and exercise compared to other destinations. Time with family and relaxation were associated with visits to the beach.

Figure 7 shows proportions of adults strongly agreeing with statements relating to the outcomes they experienced from the places they visited.

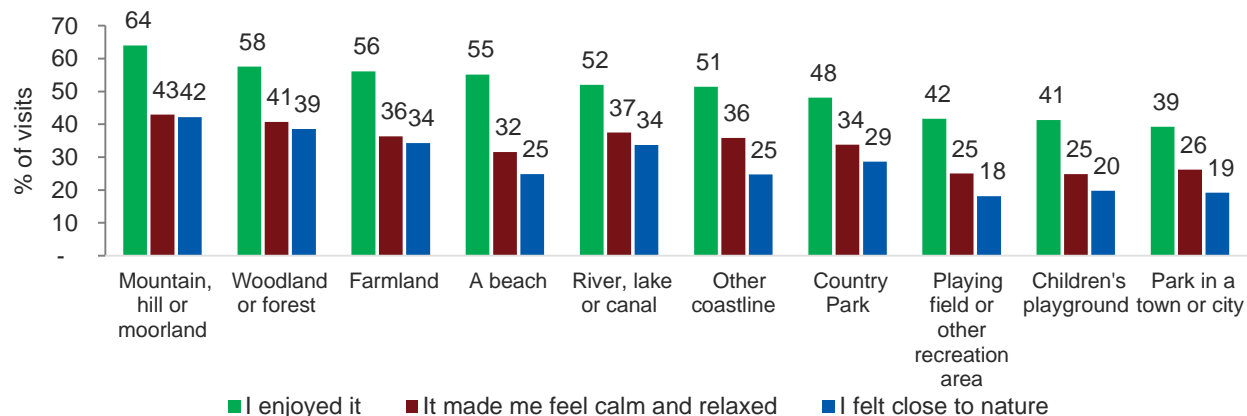
Visits to more rural locations, such as mountain and hills, woodland, farmland and beaches, tended to result in the highest levels of enjoyment, relaxation and feeling close to nature.

Figure 6 Visit motivations by place visited (% of visits 2018/19)

	Park in town or city	Playing field or recreation area	Woodland or forest	Country Park	River, lake or canal	Beach
Motivations						
Health/exercise	57%	79%	70%	57%	68%	61%
Relax & unwind	42%	49%	40%	40%	46%	47%
To exercise a dog	35%	50%	53%	39%	42%	32%
Enjoy scenery	25%	43%	34%	39%	46%	49%
Time with family	22%	30%	28%	27%	27%	36%

Q12 Which of the following, if any, best describe your reasons for this visit?

Figure 7 Positive visit outcomes by place visited
(% of visits 'strongly agree' with statements cumulative data 2009/10 to 2018/19)



E1) Thinking of this visit, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

4.

Having local green spaces was important to nearly everyone, yet perceptions of quality and accessibility varied across the population.

In 2018/19, the majority of the population (94%) agreed that having open green spaces close to home was important (see data in accompanying Excel).

Since 2013/14, respondents have rated their local greenspaces on the basis of their perceptions of accessibility and quality.

Figure 8 shows that the vast majority agreed that local greenspaces were within easy walking distance, of a high enough standard to want to spend time there and easy to get into and around. However less than a third agreed strongly and this proportion has declined over time.

Figure 9 shows that people strongly agreeing that 'my local greenspaces are within easy walking distance' are more likely to be aged between 35 and 64, those from white backgrounds, those who live in the most affluent areas and those who live in more rural areas.

Figure 8 Perceptions of local green spaces – Strongly Agree, Agree and Disagree responses (see accompanying Excel for full range of responses provided) (% of adults, 2013/14 to 2018/19)

My local greenspaces are...

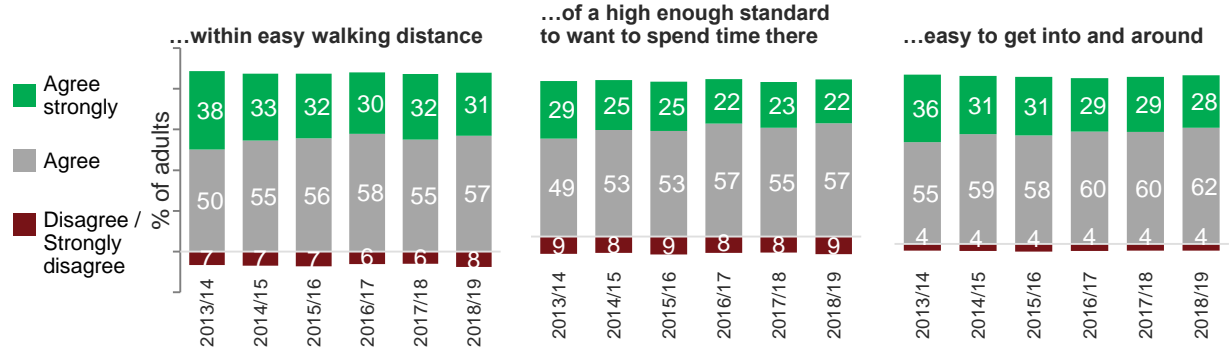


Figure 9 Local greenspaces are 'within easy walking distance' Strongly Agree responses (% of adults, 2018/19)

By age



By ethnicity



By Index of Multiple Deprivation



By ONS Rural – Urban classification



E6 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements relating to your nearest greenspace areas?

5.

Most visits to nature were taken on foot and, over time, visits close to home have increased the most.

In 2018/19, 44% of visits were taken within 1 mile of respondent's homes, 24% were within 1 to 2 miles and 17% were within 3 to 5 miles (see accompanying Excel for full data).

Figure 10 shows how over the last decade, the total number of visits taken within a mile has increased, while visits of other distances have remained relatively constant.

Figure 11 shows that in 2018/19, almost two thirds of visits were taken on foot, with almost a third by car. Very few reported using public transport or bicycle to get to natural places (Figure 11). These proportions have been constant over the last decade (see accompanying Excel).

Figure 12 shows that the average distance travelled on journeys taken by car has decreased somewhat over time from around 15 miles to just over 10.

Figure 10 Visits to natural environment by distance (Billions, 2009/10 to 2018/10)

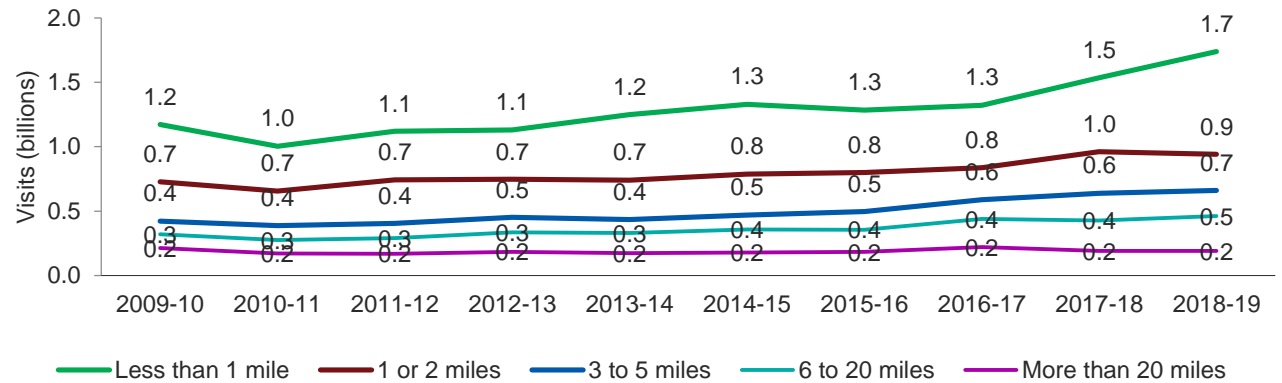
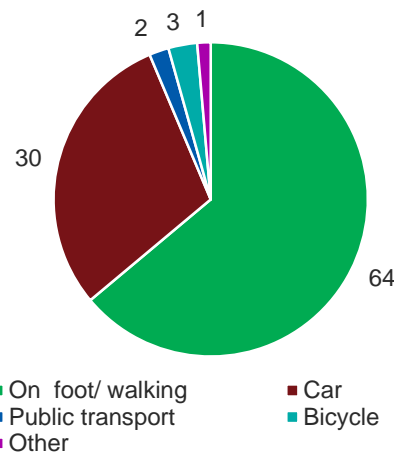
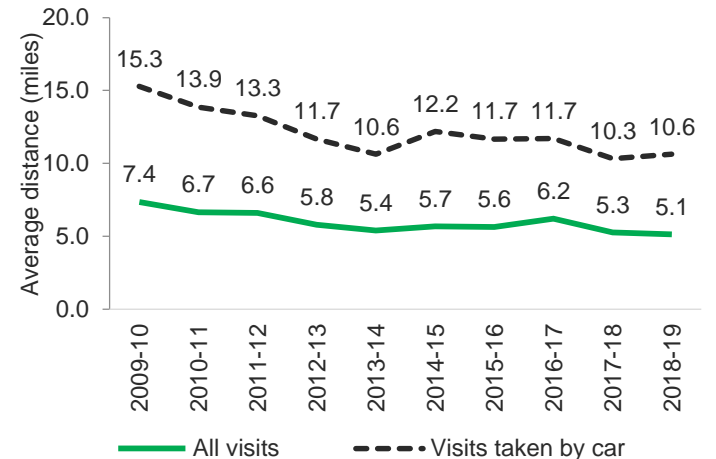


Figure 11 Percentage of visits to natural environment by transport mode (% of visits taken to natural environment 2018/19)



Q11 What form of transport did you use on this journey?

Figure 12 Average distance travelled on visits – total and those taken by car average distance in miles , 2009/10 to 2018/19)



Q8 Approximately how far, in miles, did you travel to reach this place? By that I mean the one way distance from where you set off to the place visited.

6.

The natural environment was the setting for a wide range of activities.

Figure 13 shows that the majority of visits to the natural environment taken in 2018/19 involved walking, with similar proportions walking with or without a dog.

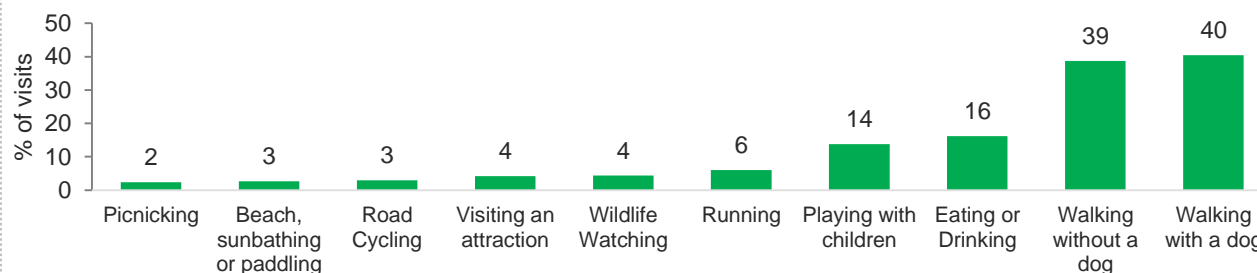
Other popular activities included eating and drinking out, playing with children, running and wildlife watching.

Figure 14 illustrates the range of reasons for visiting. Health and exercise was the motivation for the majority of visits.

Visits to the natural environment which included wildlife watching, visiting attractions or running tended to result in the highest levels of enjoyment, relaxation and feeling close to nature (Figure 15).

Note that in interpreting trend data relating to the volumes of visits taken, users should be aware of method changes in 2016 which may impact on the comparability of results. See page 4 and in detail in the MENE technical report.

Figure 13 Activities undertaken on visits to the natural environment (% of visits 2018/19)



Q4 Which of these activities, if any, did you undertake?

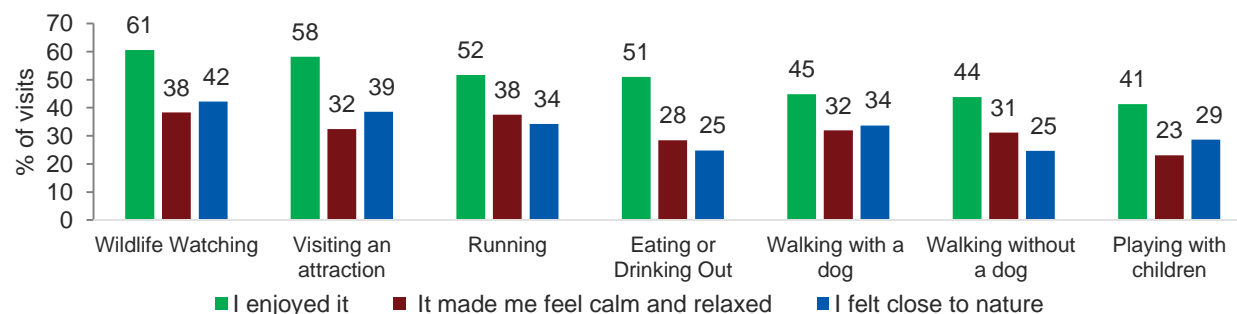
Figure 14 Reasons for visits by activities undertaken (% of visits 2018/19)

	Walking a dog	Walking without a dog	Eating & drinking out	Playing with children	Running	Wildlife watching	Visiting an attraction*
Health/exercise	68%	59%	47%	55%	92%	64%	24%
Relax & unwind	53%	30%	37%	45%	59%	53%	37%
Enjoy scenery	34%	26%	31%	28%	30%	43%	36%
Time with family	27%	11%	32%	60%	13%	37%	33%

Q12 Which of the following, if any, best describe your reasons for this visit?

* Only includes visits to attraction within visits to the outdoors (see survey scope on page 3)

Figure 15 Positive visit outcomes by activities undertaken (% of visits 'strongly agree' with statements cumulative data 2009/10 to 2018/19)



E1 Thinking of this visit, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

7.

Health and exercise was the most common reason for spending time outside, with a substantial increase over the last decade.

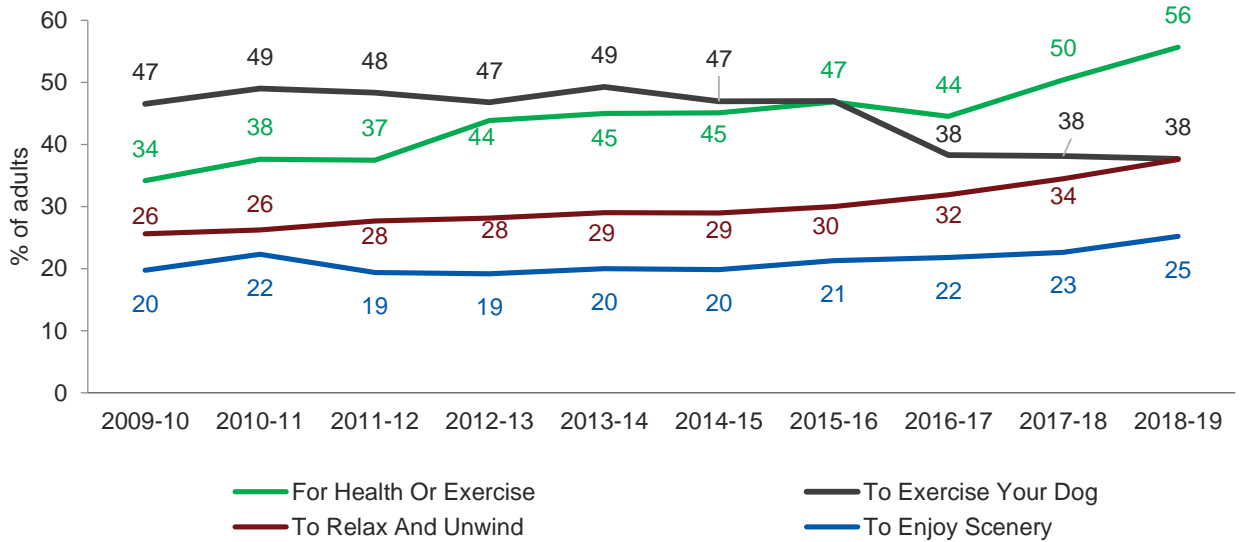
Figure 16 shows how the reasons people provide for spending time in the natural environment has changed over the course of the survey.

There has been a notable increase in the share of visits taken for health or exercise reasons – rising from around a third of visits in 2009/10 to over half in 2018/19.

During this period relaxation and enjoying scenery also increased in importance as reasons for taking visits while the proportion of visits taken to exercise a dog declined. In absolute terms the numbers of visits taken for dog walking has remained fairly consistent.

Figure 17 shows how health and exercise is more likely to be a motivation for older people. The proportion of visits motivated by health and exercise also varied by place visited, with paths, playing fields and other open spaces having the highest proportions of these visits.

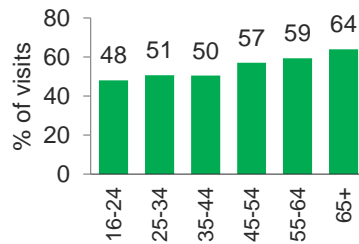
Figure 16 Reasons for taking visits to natural environment (% of adults, 2009/10 to 2018/19)



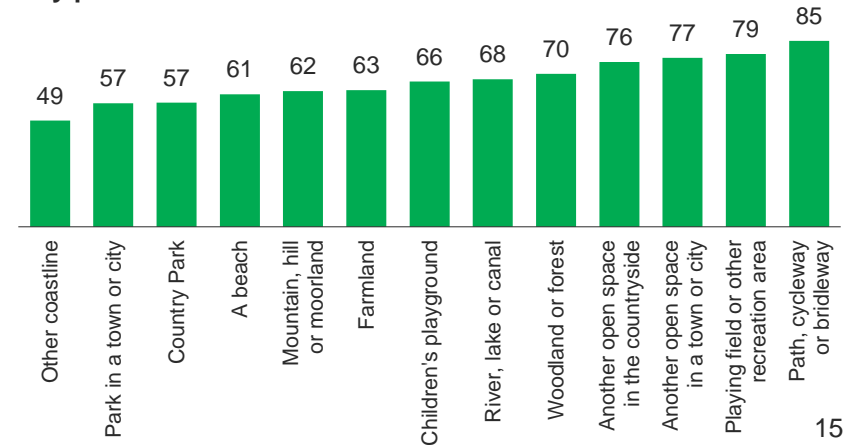
Q12 Which of the following, if any, best describe your reasons for this visit?

Figure 17 Percentage of visits taken for health or exercise (% of adults, 2018/19)

By age



By place visited



8.

100 million visits were taken to National Parks each year on average and 170 million visits within Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Figure 18 shows the age and social economic groups for visitors to National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and for comparison, all visits to the natural environment (i.e. including areas outside these designated areas). This shows that visitors to National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are more likely to be older and from more affluent socio-economic groups.

Figure 19 shows that visitors to National Parks and AONBs are also more likely to own or have access to a car (more than 9 in ten visitors). Note that the proportion of visitors to the natural environment who have access to a car (83%) is higher than the proportion of people with access to a car across the entire English population (76%).

This suggests that there is more to be done to enable people without cars to access natural environments, generally, as well as in National Parks and AONBs.

Figure 18 Visitors to National Parks and AONBs by age and socio-economic group (% visits, 2009/10 to 2018/19 combined)

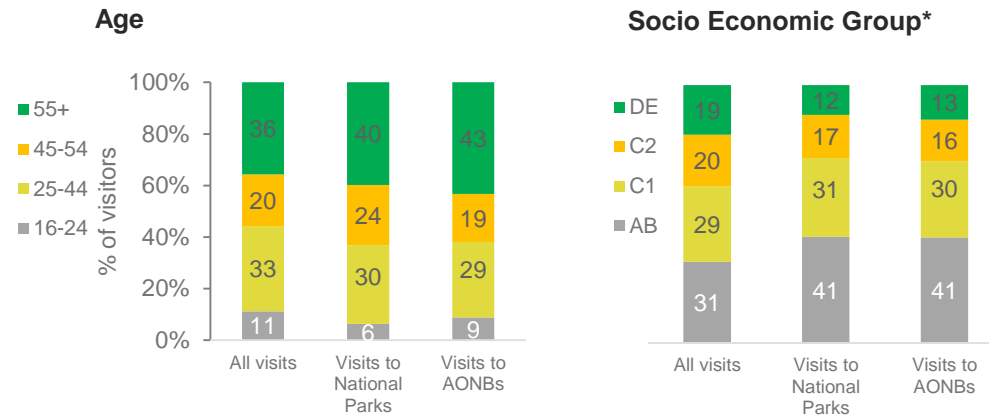
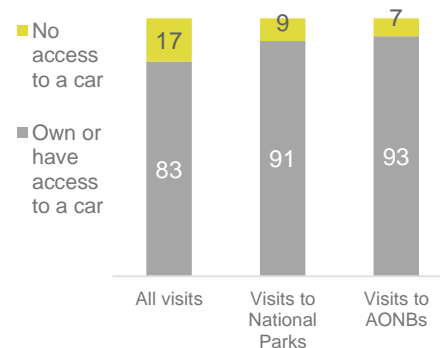


Figure 19 Visitors to National Parks and AONBs by car access or ownership (% visits, 2009/10 to 2018/19 combined)



*Socio-economic groups are defined as:
 AB - Higher & intermediate managerial, administrative, professional occupations.
 C1 - Supervisory, clerical & junior managerial, administrative, professional occupations.
 C2 - Skilled manual occupations.
 DE - Semi-skilled & unskilled manual occupations or unemployed.



How often do adults in England spend time outdoors?

9.

There's a notable increase in adults spending time outdoors at least once a week, up from 54% to 65% over the decade.

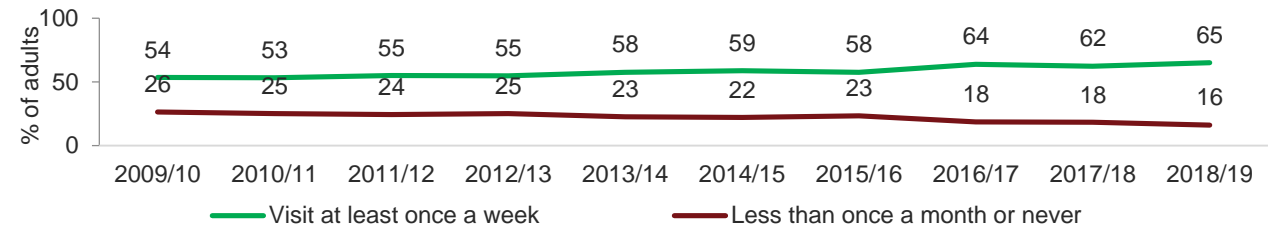
In 2018/19, 16% adults spent time outside at least daily, 26% several times a week and 23% once a week (see Excel for full details). Figure 20 shows the proportion spending time outside weekly has increased.

The proportion of the population who visit nature infrequently (less than once a month or never) has decreased by ten percentage points over the ten year period to 16% in 2018/19. Of this, 6% never visit, a decrease from 10% in 2009/10 (see Excel for details).

Figure 21 shows how frequency varied across key demographics, with larger proportions of infrequent visitors in the oldest age groups, lower socio economic groups and people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds.

Figure 22 shows that people who spend time outside infrequently are more likely to report poor health and lower levels of life satisfaction.

Figure 20 Frequency of visits (% of adults, 2009/10 to 2018/19)



Q17 Now thinking about the last 12 months, how often, on average, have you spent your leisure time out of doors, away from your home?

Figure 21 Frequency of visits by key demographics (% adult population – 2018/19)

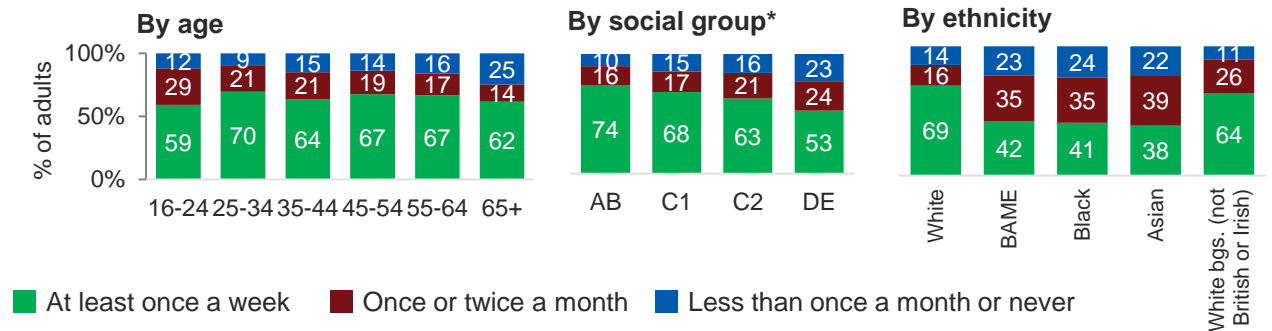
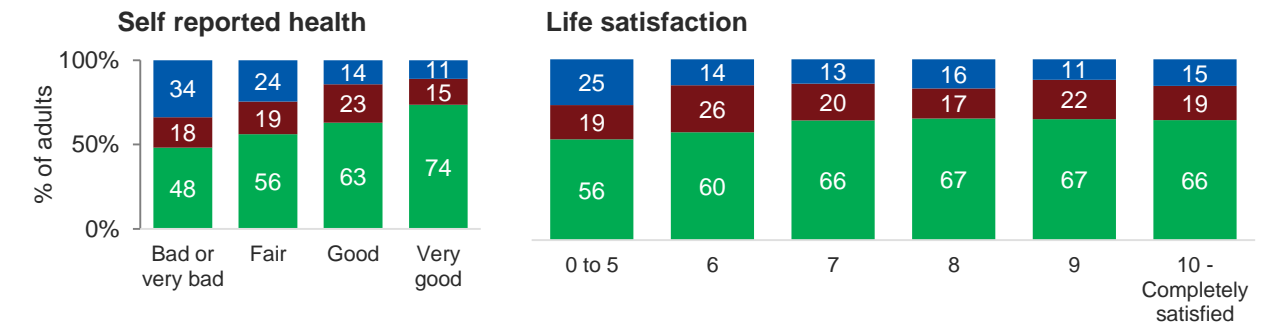


Figure 22 Frequency of visits by health & life satisfaction (% of adults in each group – 2018/19)



**Social groups are defined as follows: AB=Higher & intermediate managerial, administrative, professional occupations, C1=Supervisory, clerical & junior managerial, administrative, professional occupations, C2=Skilled manual occupations, DE=Semi-skilled & unskilled manual occupations, Unemployed and lowest grade occupations

10.

The proportion of the population spending time outside every week varied by population group and spatially across the country.

The MENE data was analysed on the basis of where people live according to the ONS Rural-Urban Classification². Figure 23 shows that the proportion of people spending time outside frequently was highest in towns and the urban fringe and lowest in urban areas.

Figure 2 (page 9) shows that urban greenspaces had the highest overall numbers of visitors. This suggests that these are the most used spaces because of the sheer numbers of people living in the 'catchment area'. Figure 23 suggests that on a 'per capita' basis it is people living in towns and the peri-urban fringe that most frequently go outside.

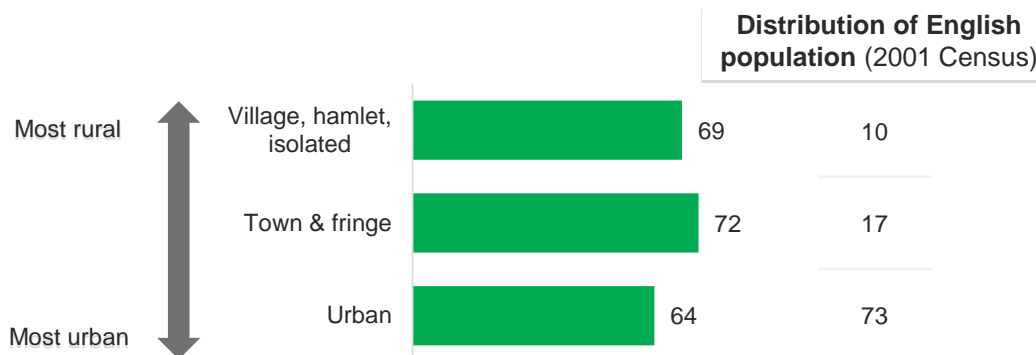
Figure 24 shows that adults in the most deprived areas are least likely to spend time outside once a week.

Figure 25 (overleaf) illustrates variations across the country. To explore geographical variation more fully we have published a new Local Authority interactive dashboard and a full list of statistics for local authorities in the Excel sheet.

To access the Local Authority Dashboard please [CLICK HERE](#).

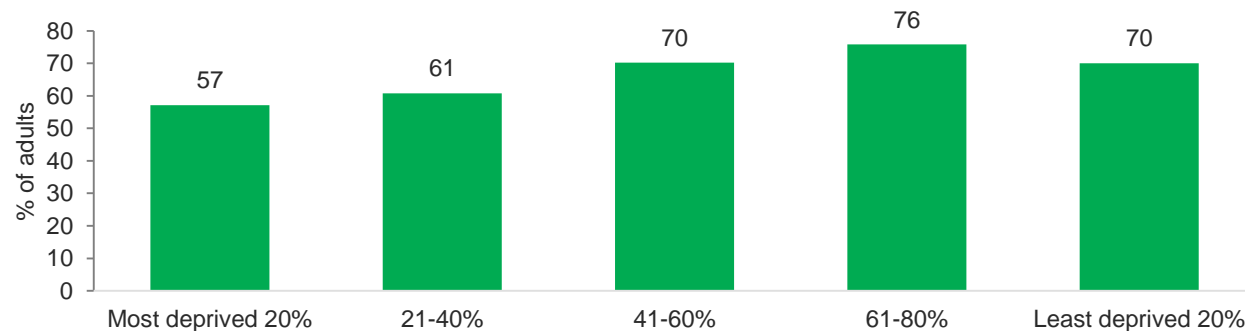
To access statistics for local authorities [CLICK HERE](#).

Figure 23 Proportion of population visiting at least once a week by ONS Rural – Urban classification (% adult population, 2018/19)



Q17 Now thinking about the last 12 months, how often, on average, have you spent your leisure time out of doors, away from your home?

Figure 24 Proportion of population visiting at least once a week by Index of Multiple Deprivation % adult population, 2018/19)



Q17 Now thinking about the last 12 months, how often, on average, have you spent your leisure time out of doors, away from your home?

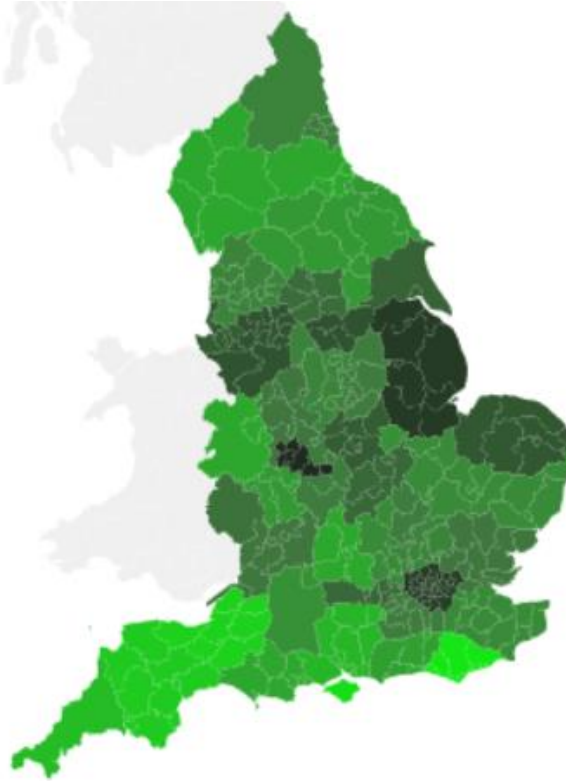
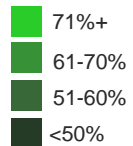
Figure 25 Proportion of population visiting at least once a week by county (% adult population, countries 2009/10 to 2018/19 combined)

'Top 10' counties

East Sussex	76%
Isle Of Wight	75%
Somerset	73%
Devon	72%
Cornwall and Isles Of Scilly	70%
Hampshire	69%
Durham	67%
Oxfordshire	67%
Shropshire	67%
Dorset	67%

'Bottom 10' counties

Merseyside	55%
Leicestershire	55%
Norfolk	54%
Cheshire	53%
South Yorkshire	53%
Greater Manchester	53%
Inner London	49%
Outer London	48%
Lincolnshire	48%
West Midlands	45%



Q17 Now thinking about the last 12 months, how often, on average, have you spent your leisure time out of doors, away from your home?



Environmental attitudes and behaviours

11.

Nine in ten adults in England were concerned about damage to the natural environment.

In 2018/19, the proportion of adults that agreed with the statement “*I am concerned about damage to the natural environment*” was 90%. This has remained at a fairly constant level over the last decade (88% in 2009/10).

The proportion who strongly agreed was highest in 2018/19 at 37% (see accompanying Excel for data).

Figure 26 shows the spatial variation of people who are strongly concerned about damage to the natural environment. A similar pattern is shown on Figure 27, which shows the proportion of people who agree that spending time outdoors is an important part of their life.

Figure 26 “*I am concerned about damage to the natural environment*” by region (% strongly agree, 2018-19)

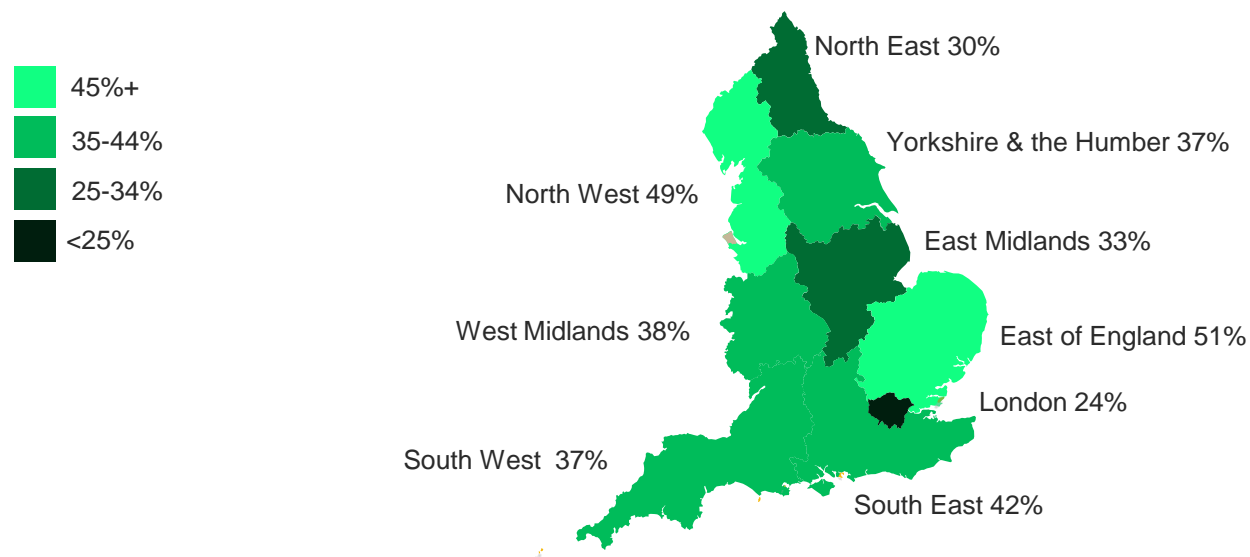
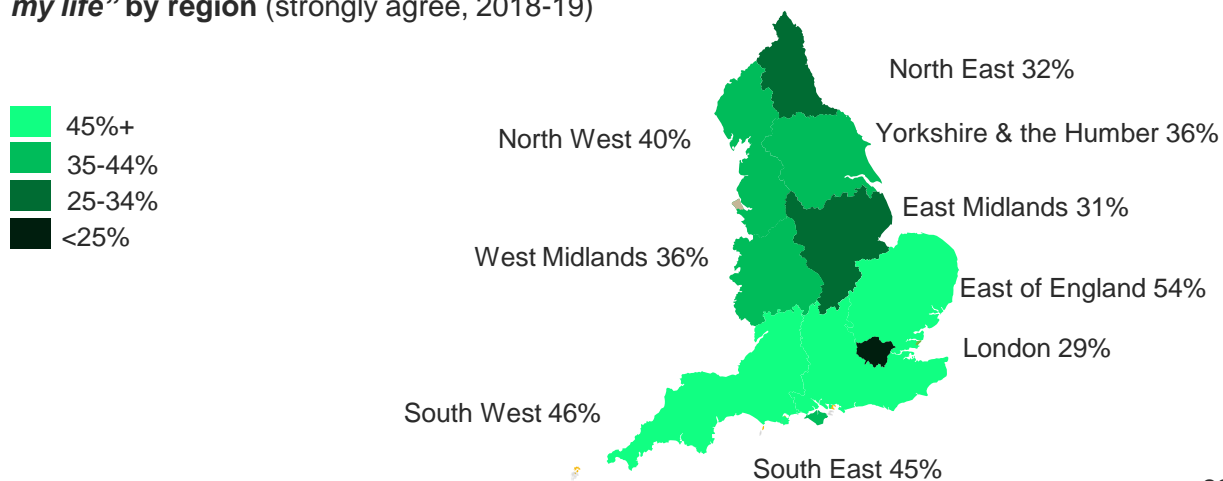


Figure 27 “*Spending time out of doors is an important part of my life*” by region (strongly agree, 2018-19)



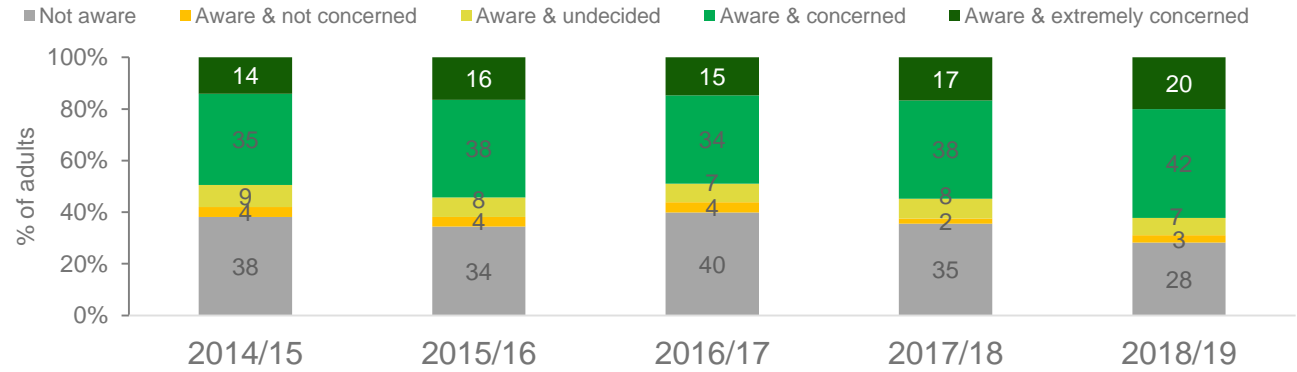
12.

Public awareness and concern about biodiversity decline was at a high, up 13 percentage points in five years.

MENE has tracked awareness and concern for biodiversity decline since 2014. Figure 28 shows levels of awareness of, and concern about, biodiversity decline in England. This has increased significantly over this time, from 49% adults both aware of biodiversity loss and concerned about it in 2014/15, rising to 62% in 2018/19.

Figure 29 shows people's intentions to change their lifestyles to protect the environment. In 2018/19, 34% stated they intend to make changes, or would like to, with younger people more likely than older people to be included in these groups. 54% stated that they were not likely to make changes; this group was more likely to include over 65s.

Figure 28 Awareness and concern at Biodiversity loss (% of adults 2014/15 to 2018/19)



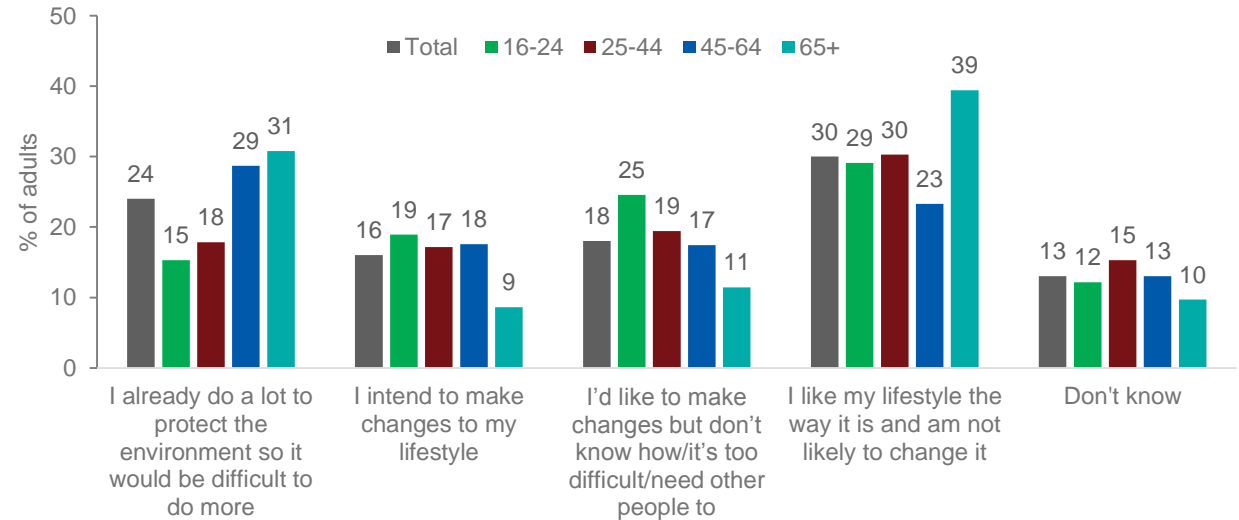
Q1c NEW Thinking about the variety of life in England in the next 50 years, which of the following statements do you most agree with?

Q2 NEW How concerned are you about the consequences of a loss of variety of life in England?

- **Not aware** – expect variety of life in England to 'not change' or be 'more varied' at Q1a
- **Aware & undecided** – expect variety of life in England to be less varied at Q1a and neither concerned nor unconcerned or don't know at Q2
- **Aware & Not concerned** – expect variety of life in England to be less varied at Q1a and either not at all concerned or not concerned at Q2.
- **Aware & concerned** - expect variety of life to be less varied in England at Q1a and concerned at Q2.
- **Aware & extremely concerned** - expect variety of life to be less varied in England at Q1a and extremely concerned at Q2.

Note: the results of this indicator differ from the England biodiversity awareness indicator published by Defra as the latter related to levels of awareness and engagement rather than awareness and concern.

Figure 29 Changing lifestyle to protect environment – by age (% of adults 2018/19)



E5 Which of these statements best describes your intentions?

13.

Most of the population takes at least one action to protect the environment

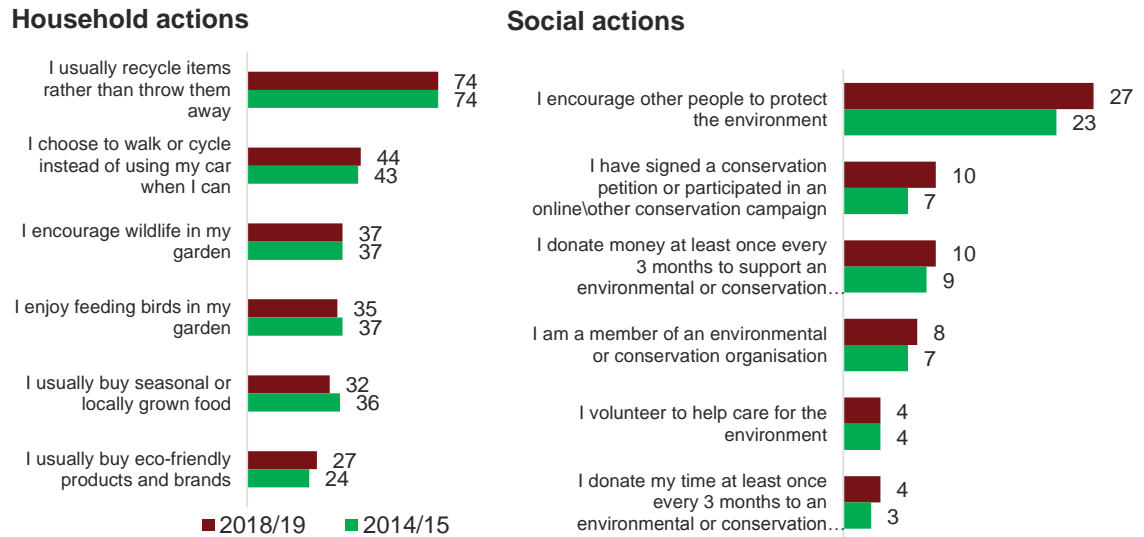
The MENE survey asks about participation in 12 actions that are commonly acknowledged as helping to protect the environment. Overall, 87% undertook one or more of these pro-environmental actions. Levels of participation in the activities recorded have remained at fairly constant levels over time (Figure 30), with ‘household actions’ such as recycling, the most common.

In 2018/19, 35% of adults took part in one or more ‘social actions’ to support environmental protection or nature conservation (encouraging others, signing a petition, donating money, joining a membership organisation or volunteering time), broadly unchanged over time (34% in 2014/15).

Figure 29 (page 23) compares overall levels of involvement in such ‘social actions’ by age, ethnicity and levels of deprivation. This shows that older people, those from white backgrounds and those living in the least deprived areas were more likely to have undertaken one or more of this group of activities.

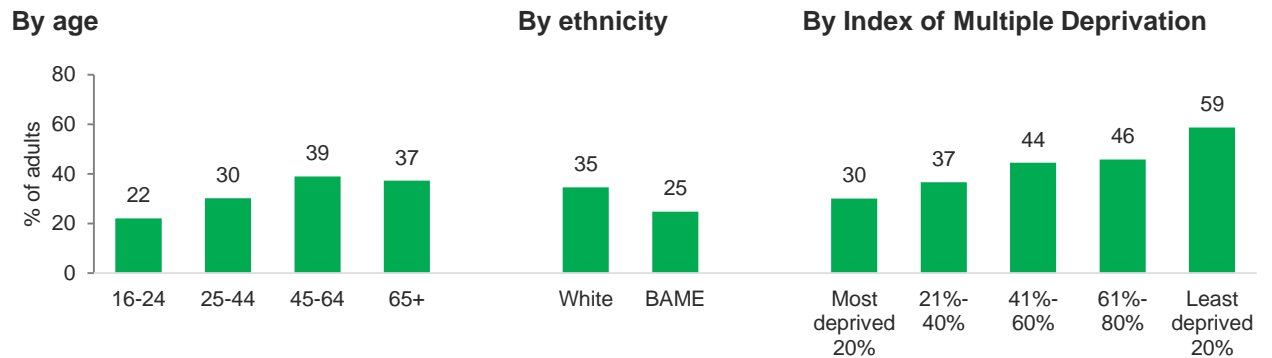
As illustrated on the previous page (Figure 27), many people, especially in the younger age groups would like to do more to protect the natural environment but need more information or support. This suggests that there is an opportunity to increase levels of participation.

Figure 30 Pro-environmental activities undertaken (% of adults, 2018/19 and 2014/15)



E4 Thinking about the last 12 months, which of the following environment-related activities did you do? Please choose all that apply.
E8 Thinking about your garden or communal garden, which of the following statements, if any, do you agree with?

Figure 31 Net social actions (% of adults who undertook one or more of the social actions listed in Figure 30 by age, ethnicity and IMD, 2018/19)





References

References

1. ONS 2018. Population Estimates. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates>
2. ONS 2011. Rural – Urban Classifications. Available at: www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/geography/geographicalproducts/ruralurbanclassifications
3. Department of Transport. 2019. National Travel Survey for England 2018. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-travel-survey-statistics>

