

*Outdoor recreation:
changing pressures, new opportunities*

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Outdoor recreation: changing pressures, new opportunities - Some Themes

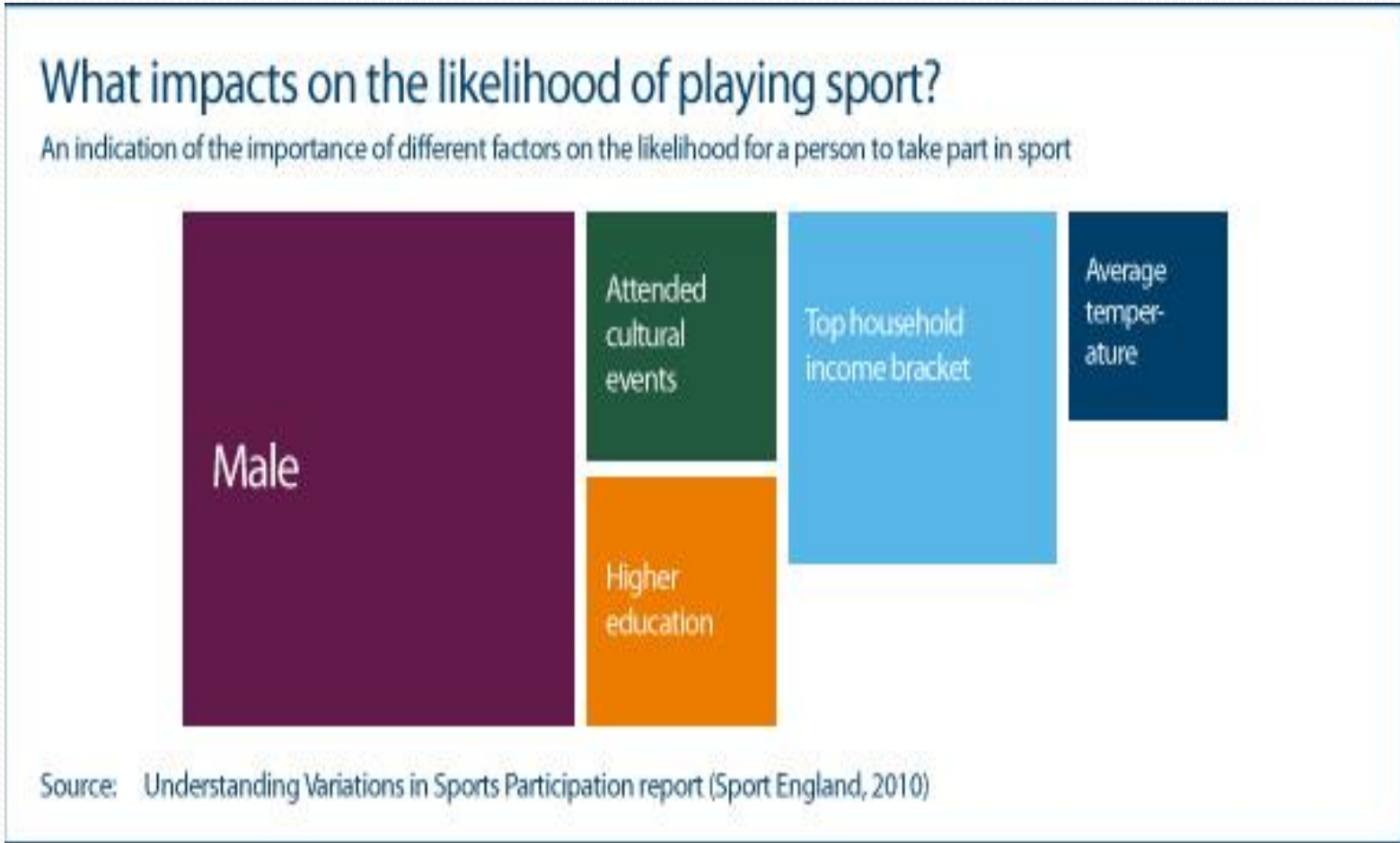
- Current trends?
 - Social and demographic issues
 - Understanding different people - different activities - different places.
- Why do we do what we do?
 - Ecosystem Services
 - Managing conflicts - between multiple uses, environmental protection.
 - Creating places fit to live, work and play - sustainable communities
- Are we achieving what we want to achieve?
 - Changes in society and culture
 - Changes in organisational structures and political direction
 - Monitoring trends
 - Evaluating initiatives

Current trends - People

Good work on participation - needs to stay consistent in order to identify trends (NE & FC 2013, SNH 2013, CCW & FCW 2011, CAAN 2009 and 2010, COFORD, 2006)

- Huge numbers of people still engaging with the natural environment - MENE (NE& FC, 2013) suggests 41% of the English adult pop. visited the natural environment during previous 7 days.
- Trends suggest figures are variably `stable` in England, Wales & Scotland - possibly still increasing in Northern Ireland and the Republic.
- But still significant differences, reflecting socio-economic and demographic factors.
- Overall levels of participation were significantly higher amongst people aged 25 to 64, those in employment, those living in rural areas and those in the AB socio-economic groups¹.
- Conversely, overall levels of participation were significantly lower amongst those aged 65 and over, members of the Black and Minority Ethnic population, those living in urban areas and members of the DE socio-economic groups.

Factors which influence participation in sport



(Sport England 2010)

Current trends - Places

- 47% visits were to the countryside, 43% were to green spaces within towns and cities , while 10% were to coastal locations (NE, 2013).
- In Scotland, since 2004, the proportion of visits made to some types of destination has decreased. However, local parks and open spaces have recorded an overall increase of nine percentage points and account for 32% of all visits in 2004 and 41% in 2012 (SNH, 2013)
- 66% of visits taken within two miles of home, highlighting the importance of accessible local green space (NE, 2013).

Scottish Natural Heritage - Scottish Recreation Survey - Annual Summary Report 2012

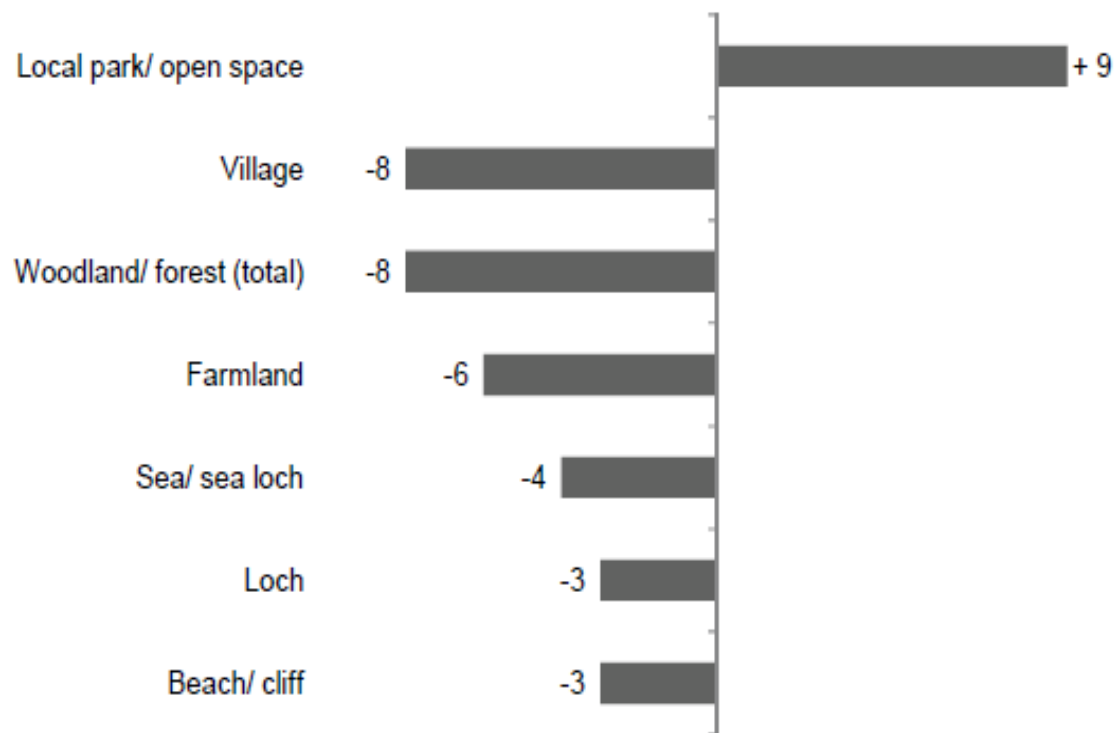


Figure 4. Variations in visits to specific destinations (all destinations visited) 2004 to 2012 (percentage point differences)

Current Trends - Activities?

- Walking remains the most popular activity - 76% of all visits - half of all visits were taken with dogs (MENE, NE, 2012).
- Some activities increasing? E.g. 81,000 increase in people cycling since 2010/11 (Sport England).
- In Wales, between 2008 and 2011, there were significant increases in the proportions undertaking road cycling, wildlife watching, visiting playgrounds and informal games on visits, (CCW 2011)

Why do we do what we do?

- We justify public intervention in outdoor recreation provision on several grounds:
 - Citizens' rights - through tradition and custom, and statute. What happens when these change?
 - Public management required to manage multiple use in the private landscape - often regarding recreation as a `problem` to be managed. Better understood now - but concerns remain - landowners' anxieties, environmental impacts, etc.
 - Outdoor recreation as a `welfare good` - ecosystem services - health benefits, economic value, etc.
 - Contribution to the creation of sustainable communities - green infrastructure, etc.
- But also private and voluntary sector provision - a multitude of agencies. Does this mean the increasing commodification of outdoor recreation opportunities? Does this matter? How would we know?

Ecosystem Services

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment typology:

<p>Provisioning Services</p> <p>e.g. food, fresh water, fuel, wood, genetic resources</p>	<p>Regulating services</p> <p>e.g. climate regulation, disease regulation, flood regulation</p>	<p>Cultural services</p> <p>e.g.. spiritual, recreation and tourism, aesthetic, inspirational, educational.</p>
<p>Supporting services</p> <p>those needed for the provision of the other services, e.g. soil formation, nutrient cycling, primary production</p>		

Green Infrastructure

Defined in the **Natural Environment White Paper** (2011) as..

“a term used to refer to the living network of green spaces, water and other environmental features in both urban and rural areas.

(Defra (2011) - www.defra.gov.uk/news/2011/10/11/more-green-spaces/.)

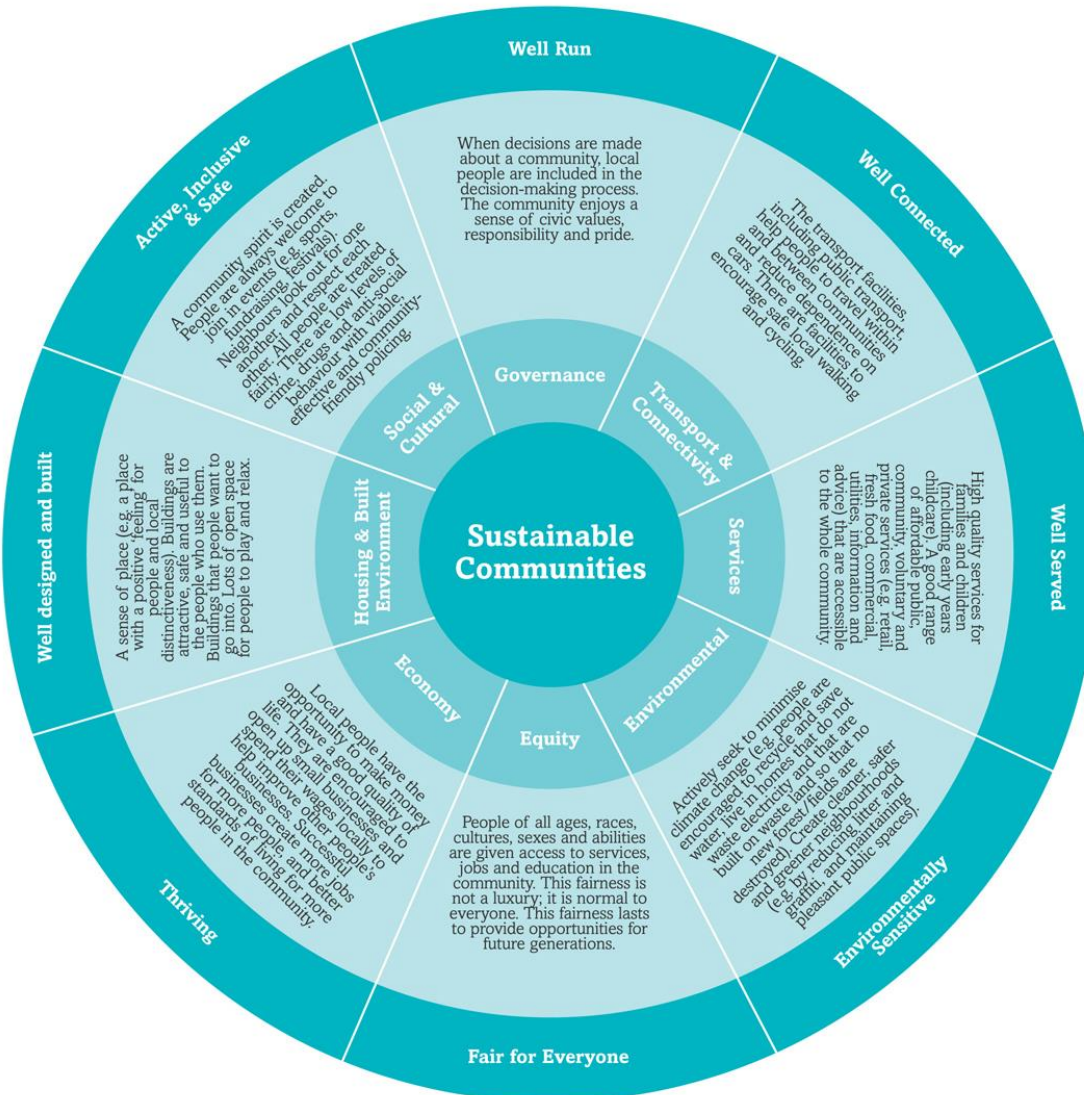
Defined in the **National Planning Policy Framework** (2011) as

“a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities’ - DCLG (2011) -

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/making-the-planning-system-work-more-efficiently-and-effectively/supporting-pages/national-planning-policy-framework>)

Sustainable Communities are:

- Well run
- Well connected
- Well served
- Environmentally sensitive
- Fair for everyone
- Thriving
- Well designed and built
- Active, inclusive and safe.





Research Questions?

Trends in demand and supply?

- Qualitative research into attitudes to outdoor recreation, particularly the social and psychological barriers to taking part in recreation and physical activity across the lifespan.
- To what extent is outdoor recreation, particularly in new activities , supply or demand led?
- Does changing supply - either through new rights or new organised facilities - affect demand?

What will be the impacts of changes to society and culture?

- Changing lives of families, children and young people.
- Aging population
- Increasing cultural diversity
- Advances in technology
- Environmental and climate change

The changing nature of children's lives?

- On average, Britain's children watch more than 17 hours of television a week: that's almost two-and-a-half hours per day, every single day of the year. Despite the rival attractions of the Internet, this is up by 12% since 2007. British children are also spending more than 20 hours a week online, mostly on social networking sites.
- As children grow older, their 'electronic addictions' increase. Britain's 11–15-year-olds spend about half their waking lives in front of a screen: 7.5 hours a day, an increase of 40% in a decade.
- In a single generation since the 1970s, children's 'radius of activity' – the area around their home where they are allowed to roam unsupervised – has declined by almost 90%.
- Fewer than a quarter of children regularly use their local 'patch of nature', compared to over half of all adults when they were children.
- Fewer than one in ten children regularly play in wild places; compared to almost half a generation ago.
- Children spend so little time outdoors that they are unfamiliar with some of our commonest wild creatures. According to a 2008 National Trust survey, one in three could not identify a magpie; half could not tell the difference between a bee and a wasp; yet nine out of ten could recognise a Dalek.

(Statistics cited in Moss, 2012)

What will be the impact of changes in organisation and political directions?

- More opportunities provided by the private and NGO sectors?
- Outsourcing of public recreation management?
- Increasing privatisation (commodification?) of facilities, land, etc. - or new rights (coastal access? access to water?)

Monitoring and Evaluation?

- How do we know if we are succeeding - what would `success` look like?
- Can we/should we continue to justify public intervention in the provision of outdoor recreation?
- How do we know what works (or not)?
 - Effectiveness and efficiency
 - Outputs or outcomes?

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