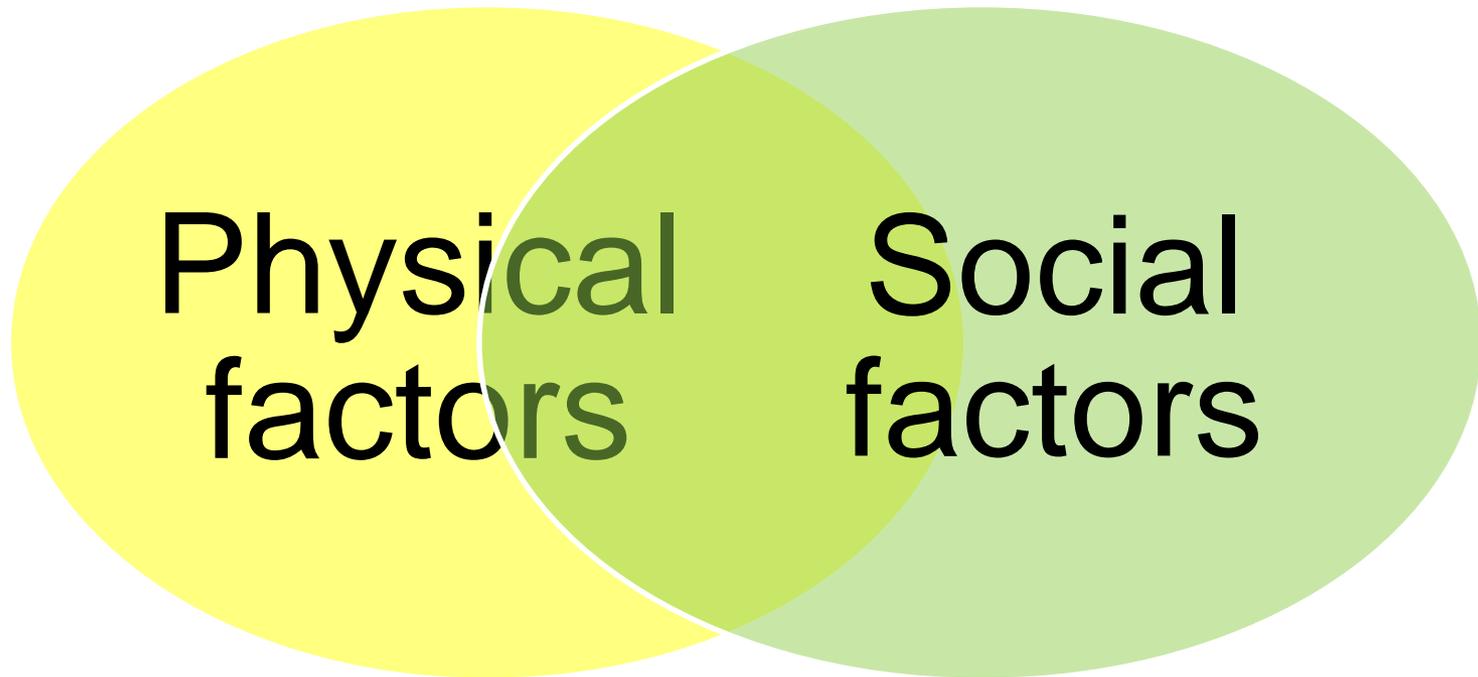


Accessibility

Why accessibility is important to outdoor recreation sites and what legislation says

What is accessibility?

- **The fact of being able to be reached or obtained easily**
 - **The quality of being easy to understand**
-
- **Cambridge English Dictionary**



Accessibility

Will I get muddy?



Where does the path go to?



Is this for people like me?

Can I physically get along the path?

Will my children like it?

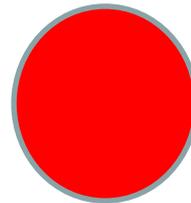
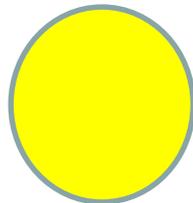
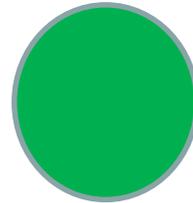
Will I get lost?

Is it safe for me and my family?

Am I welcome?

Who can't use the outdoors?

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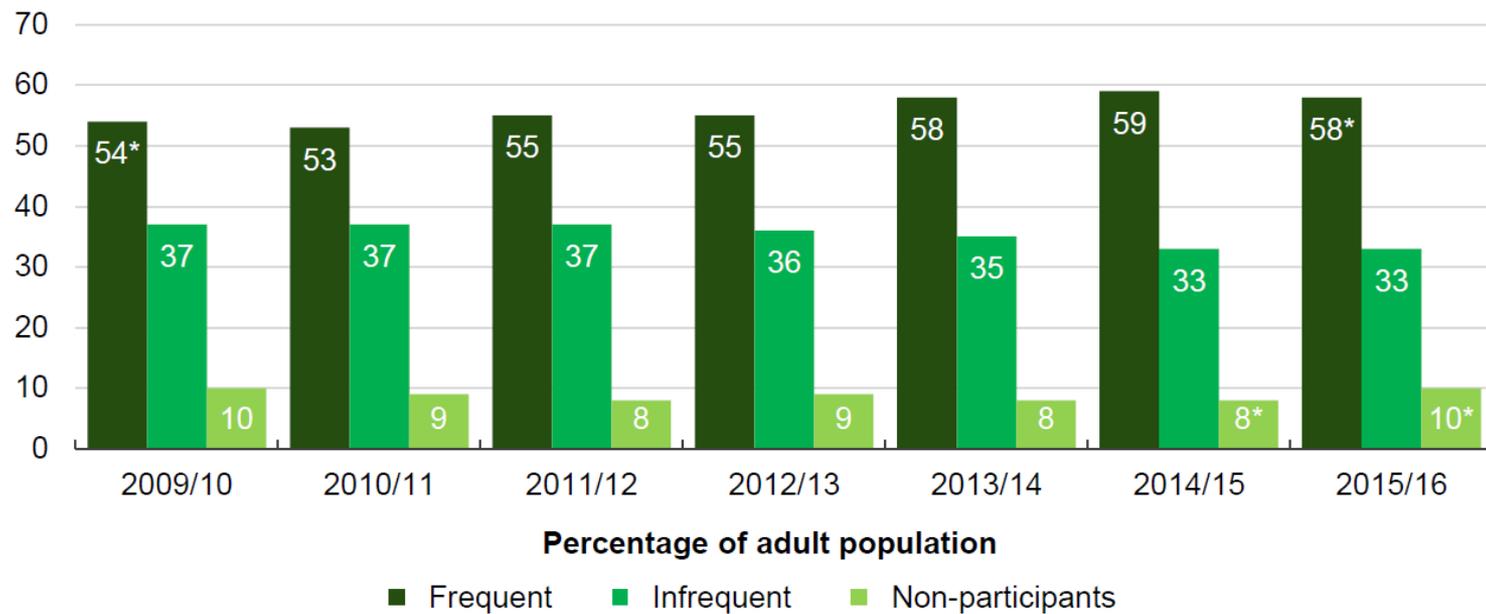
Who can't use the outdoors?

We estimate about 20% of England's population cannot access many green outdoor places because of man-made barriers





Frequency of participation in visits to the natural environment (MENE)

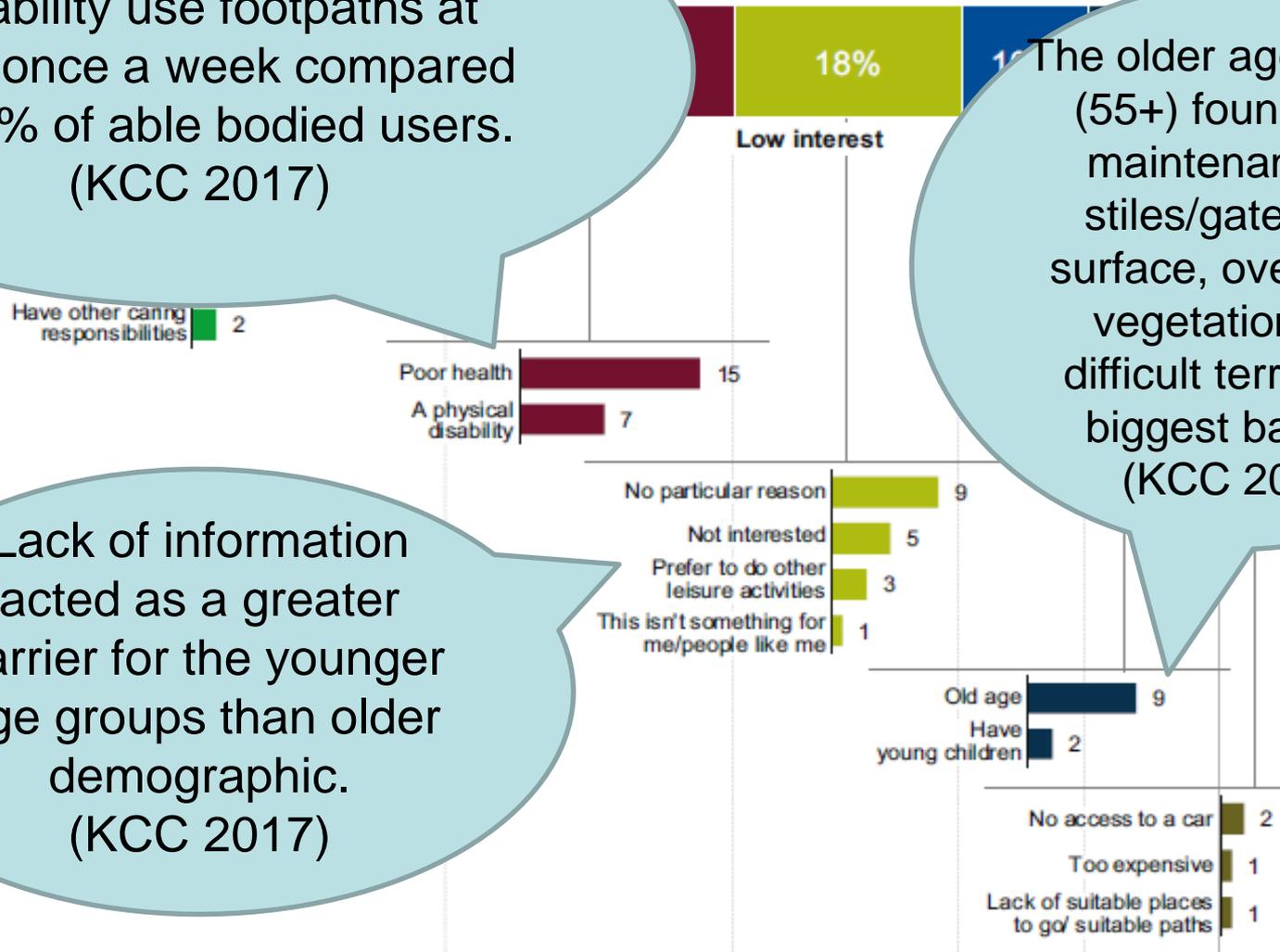


Reasons why people don't visit the environment

Only 11% of people with a disability use footpaths at least once a week compared to 38% of able bodied users. (KCC 2017)

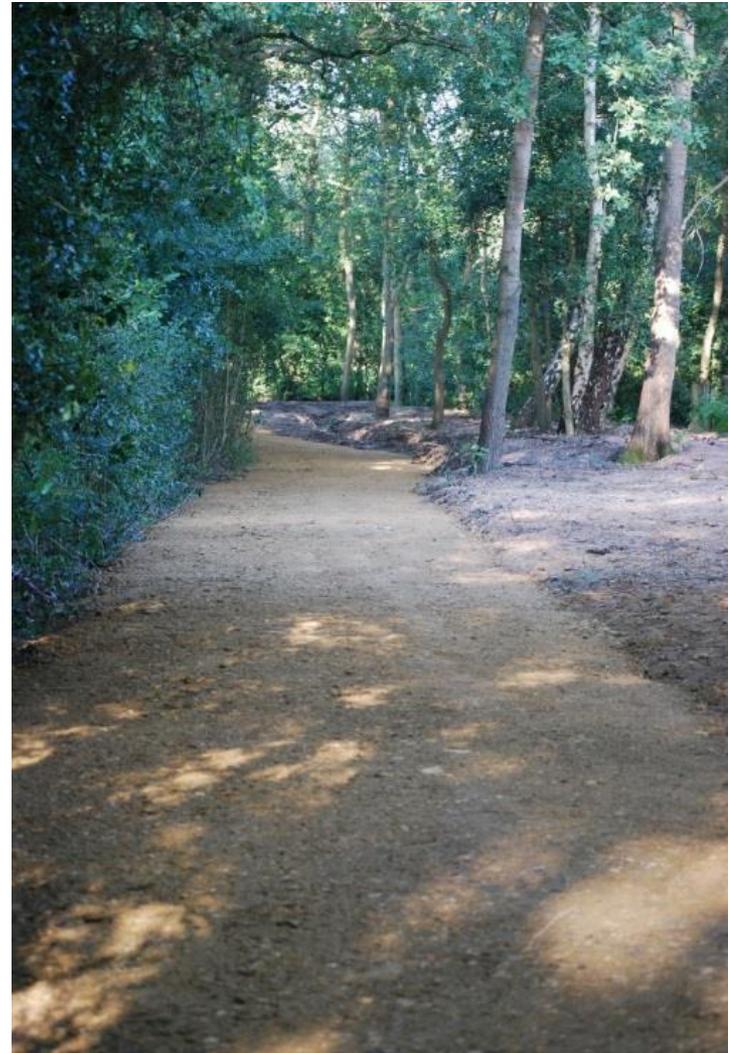
The older age groups (55+) found poor maintenance of stiles/gates and surface, overgrown vegetation and difficult terrain the biggest barriers (KCC 2017)

Lack of information acted as a greater barrier for the younger age groups than older demographic. (KCC 2017)



Why address accessibility?

- Policy - increase participation in outdoor recreation thereby increasing the benefits delivered
- Reduces conflict and negative impacts of public access
- Legal duty



- **Industrial strategy grand challenges**

Ensure that people can enjoy at least 5 extra healthy, independent years of life by 2035, while narrowing the gap between the experience of the richest and poorest

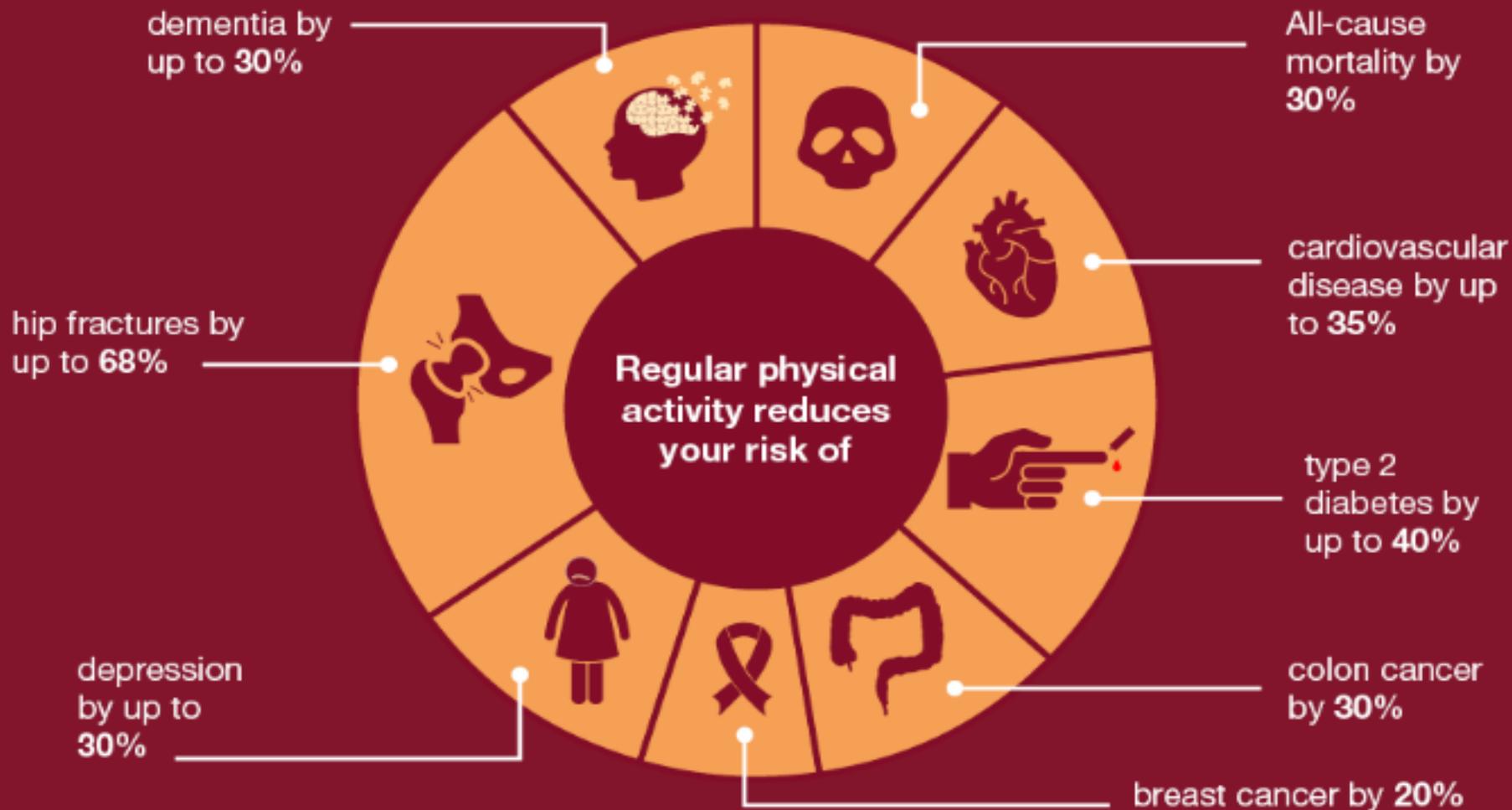
- **25 year Environment Plan**

We will conserve and enhance the beauty of our natural environment, and make sure it can be enjoyed, used by and cared for by everyone.

- **DCMS: Sporting Future: a new Strategy for an active nation**

five key outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development.

What are the health benefits from physical activity?



Mental health benefits



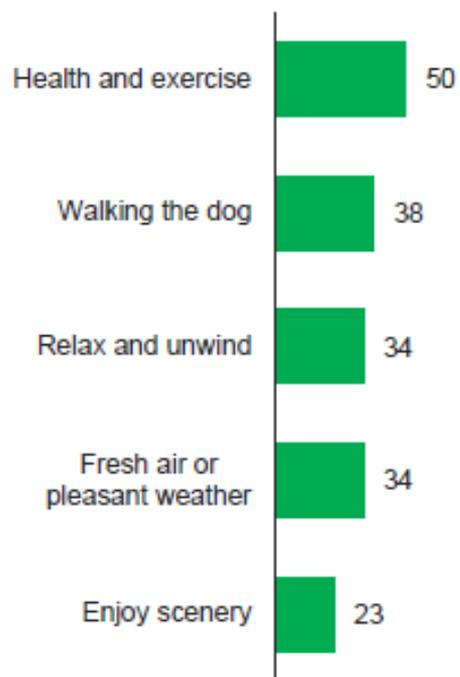
Spending 20 to 30 minutes in surroundings that made a person feel connected to nature was found to lower stress hormones by about 10 per cent, enough to improve their feeling of wellbeing. After half an hour, the benefits continued to accrue but at a sharply reduced rate.

Mental health benefits

More frequent visits to the countryside and urban green-space are positively associated with higher well-being scores, but visits to urban green-space are more strongly associated with lower anxiety, whilst countryside visits associate with higher life satisfaction.



Reasons for visiting the natural environment



Top 5 motivations for visiting the natural environment

Note that respondents can select more than one motivation so the sum of all responses totals more than 100%

The General Equality Duty

People with protected characteristics must not be unlawfully discriminated against

- **age**
- **disability**
- **gender reassignment**
- **pregnancy and maternity (which includes breastfeeding)**
- **race**
- **religion or belief**
- **sex**
- **sexual orientation.**

The general equality duty applies to ‘public authorities’.

Public authorities must, in the exercise of their functions, have **due regard** to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.

Take steps to meet the needs of people with certain protected characteristics where these are different from the needs of other people.

Encourage people with certain protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

[The Essential Guide to the Public Sector Equality Duty](#)

If it only affects a small number of people.....

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Having regard to the aims of the general equality duty is no less important when the numbers of people with a protected characteristic are small, especially where the potential impact on that group is significant.



Putting it together: accessibility and women, links to life stages

Women's participation rates

Pregnancy

Parents

Teenagers

Cyclists

Horse riders



A tool for England - MENE dashboard



Monitoring Engagement with the Natural Environment

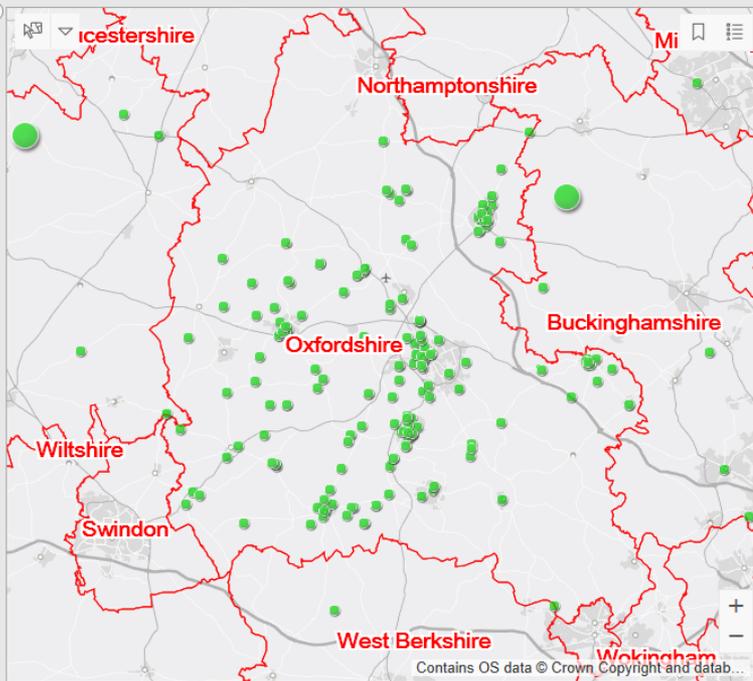
mene@naturalengland.org.uk



- Homepage
- Summary
- Frequency and barriers
- Places
- Travel
- Motivations
- Spend

Y0910 Y1011

- Northumberland
- Nottingham
- Nottinghamshire
- Oldham
- Oxfordshire
- Peterborough
- Plymouth
- Poole
- Portsmouth
- Reading
- Redbridge
- Redcar and Cleveland



Sample size	Use with caution (<100)	Indicative (100-200)	
526		Significant (>200)	

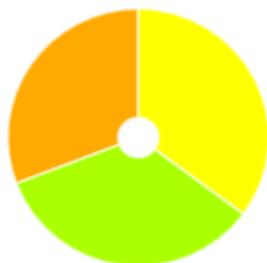
All visits undertaken in the last 7 days		
Total (000s)	Average per person (Local Authority)	Average per person (National)
1,175.86	2.24	1.32
Average duration (minutes) (from your local authority)		vs national
122		-33.7
Average duration (minutes) (to your local authority)		vs national
113.3		-42.3

Selected visits	
Estimated visits (000s) (from your local authority)	52,126.28
Estimated visits (000s) (to your local authority)	Proportion of all visits
39,301.15	1.81 %

MENE dashboard

Respondent demographic *(select segment to filter)*

984



- 35-54 35.14%
- 55+ 34.04%
- 16-34 30.81%

Age

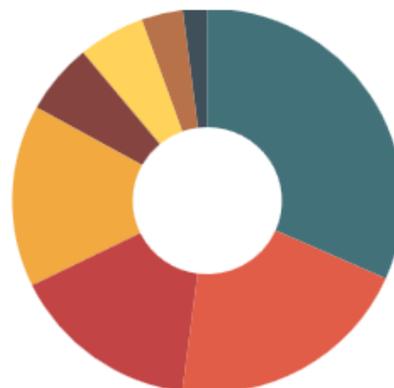
Sex

Ethnicity

SEG

Frequency of visits *from your local authority* (000s)

183



- Several times a week 31.62%
- Once or twice a month 20.43%
- Every day 15.69%
- Once a week 15.31%
- Never 5.95%
- Once every 2-3 months 5.53%

Barriers to visiting *from your local authority* (000s)

12



The outdoors, for everyone?

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