

# Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment: a pilot for an indicator of visits to the natural environment by children - interim findings from Year 1 (March 2013 to February 2014)

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# Foreword

Natural England commission a range of reports from external contractors to provide evidence and advice to assist us in delivering our duties.

## Background

The Natural Environment White Paper sets out the Government's ambition to strengthen connections between people and nature, and in particular 'for every child to be able to experience and learn in the natural environment'. The White Paper acknowledges that the opportunities to benefit from spending time in natural environments are currently not open to everyone, which can contribute to health and other inequalities.

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee inquiry into the Natural Environment White Paper called for DEFRA to set a target to increase public engagement with nature and for the Department for Health and the Department for Education to define measurements which demonstrate how greater public engagement with nature delivers gains in public health and educational attainment.

So Natural England in partnership with the Department for Food and Rural Affairs, Public Health England, English Heritage and King's College London launched a 2 year pilot to develop a national indicator for children's access to the natural environment to help respond to these ambitions and challenges. This Project is part of Natural England's Outdoor Learning Programme.

The aim of this pilot is to test the development and delivery of quantitative indicators of the scale and scope of children's access to the natural environment.

The results from Year 1 are published in this report and, for the first time, begin to quantify the proportions of all children in England visiting natural environments at different frequencies (for example, weekly, monthly), who they are visiting with and what sorts of places they are visiting – for example the percentage of all children in England visiting particular types of sites and whether there are links between frequency of visiting and any demographic factors.

The pilot is ongoing until 2015. Meanwhile data from this pilot has become part of the DEFRA Indicator Set to help assess the impact of the Natural Environment White Paper and Biodiversity 2020 programme, and has also been included in the Office of National Statistics' indicator set for national wellbeing in children. Natural England is working with partners to ensure the sustainability of this survey work beyond the pilot.

This report should be cited as:

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**Further information**

This report can be downloaded from the Natural England website: [www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england). For information on Natural England publications contact the Natural England Enquiry Service on 0845 600 3078 or e-mail [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk).

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# 1. Summary

This report provides the results for the first year of a two year pilot to test the development of a new national indicator to quantify visits to the natural environment by children (aged under 16) living in England. The pilot involved the addition of questions to the existing Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (MENE). The new survey asked participants (adults over the age of 16) details of any visits to the natural environment taken by each of the children in their household. This allowed the survey to report on the proportions of children from the population taking visits to the natural environment at certain frequencies (e.g. every day, once a week, etc.) and hence generated robust estimates of the total number of children in England who had taken visits to the natural environment.

Unless otherwise stated, all the findings in this report are expressed as a percentage of the 10.2 million children (under 16) living in England and are average monthly figures derived from 12 months of data (March 2013 – February 2014). All findings referred to in this report are statistically significant and representative of the English population.

## Key findings:

- Over the survey period and on average:
  - 88% of all children in England (c 9 million) visited the natural environment at least once in the preceding 12 months.
  - 70% of children (c 7 million children) visited the natural environment at least once a week.
  - 12% (c 1.3 million) rarely visited the natural environment (stated that they normally 'never' took visits in the previous 12 month period).
- There was a clear link between the frequency at which children visited the natural environment and both their ethnicity and socio economic status. On average:
  - 73% of children who were not from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (non-BAME) households visited the natural environment at least once a week compared to 56% of children in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) households .
  - 77% of children from relatively high income households (socio-economic groups A and B) visited the natural environment at least once a week compared to 64% of children from lower income households (socio-economic groups D and E)<sup>1</sup> .
- Adults were very important mediators of children's visits:
  - The results show a strong association between the frequency of visits taken by the adults to the natural environment and children living in the same household.

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<sup>1</sup> See definition of socio-economic groups in Appendix.

In households where adults frequently visited the natural environment (i.e. at least once a week), 80% of children were also frequent visitors. By contrast, in households where adults rarely (or never) visited the natural environment the proportion of children frequently visiting the natural environment was 39%.

- Every month, on average, three quarters of children (76%) visited the natural environment with adults from their own household. Adults not resident in the household also made an important contribution to enabling children to visit the natural environment; for example in an average month 15% of children took visits with their grandparents and 14% visited with other family members.
  - Every month, on average, 7% of all children (0.7m) visited natural environments with their schools.
  - Every month, on average almost a quarter of children (22%) took visits to natural environments without adults present.
- Local green space was the primary destination for children visiting the natural environment, regardless of ethnicity or socio-economic status. The results highlighted the importance of relatively 'managed' local green space to all households, for example in an average month 47% of all children (4.8 million) visited local urban parks.

The large survey sample size also allows for analysis of results on a regional basis. For example:

- Children living in the North East were more likely to take visits at least once a week than children living in the West Midlands or London (74%, 64% and 62% respectively).
- The types of places visited by children also varied by region and seemed to reflect regional characteristics. For example, a higher than average proportion of children living in the South West visited woodland and the coast; children from the North East were also more likely to visit the coast; and children from the East Midlands were more likely to visit country parks.

These results and those from the ongoing year 2 pilot, including a more detailed regional analysis, will be collated into a final report in 2015.

## 2. Background

### 2.1 Introduction

The Natural Environment White Paper (2011) sets out Government's ambition to strengthen connections between people and nature, and in particular *'for every child to be able to experience and learn in the natural environment'* (1.) The White Paper acknowledges that the opportunities to benefit from spending time in natural environments are currently not open to everyone, which can contribute to health and other inequalities.

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee inquiry into the Natural Environment White Paper has since called for DEFRA to set a target to increase public engagement with nature and for the Department for Health and the Department for Education to define measurements which demonstrate how greater public engagement with nature delivers gains in public health and educational attainment.

So Natural England in partnership with DEFRA, English Heritage and King's College London piloted the development of a national indicator for children's access to the natural environment to help respond to these ambitions and challenges. The aim of this work was to test development and delivery of quantitative indicators for the scale and scope of children's access to the natural environment. This work is already part of the DEFRA Indicator Set to assess the Natural Environment White Paper and Biodiversity 2020 performance.

### 2.2 Approach

Investigation into possible methodologies highlighted that a bespoke and representative survey of children's engagement with the natural environment would be cost prohibitive. However a preliminary review of existing social data sets suggested that Natural England's existing Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (MENE) could offer a cost effective way to capture additional data that could provide baseline and indicator data for children's visits to the natural environment, including the frequency and destination of visits, motivations for visits and how visits were enabled - for example through parents/carers, non-resident family and friends, schools and community groups etc. As MENE is run throughout England with a sample that is representative of the English population, it would also be possible to look for relationships related to demographic factors such as region of residence, age of parents, age of children, socio-economic status and ethnicity.

The existing MENE survey collects comprehensive data on the visits adults make to the natural environment. This includes data on any adult visits that are taken with children from their household. However the existing MENE survey does not capture information on visits being taken by children without any adults present or those being taken with adults who do not live in the children's household.

It was identified that inclusion of a relatively small set of additional questions in the MENE survey would enable it to report on the proportions of children from the population taking visits to the natural environment at certain frequencies (e.g. every day, once a week, once a month,

etc.) and hence generate a robust estimate of the total number of children in England who had taken visits to the natural environment.

New questions would also return information to allow a better understanding of where these visits were taken (e.g. parks, woodlands or heritage sites, for both local and distant visits) and the broad motivations for the visit (for play, for exercise, etc.). Questions could also identify, in broad terms, who these visits were taken with - whether with adults from their own household, with other adults (such as teachers, Scout Leaders, or non-resident family members) or without any adults present (including children on their own and with other children.)

A new question set could therefore provide evidence on the proportions of children taking visits in different social contexts and hence help target and monitor future interventions aimed at supporting children in outdoor activities. For example, the proportion of children taking visits with schools could be tracked over time to monitor for impact of any large scale school-based interventions.

For consistency, the definition of 'natural environment' and 'visit' were kept the same as for the main MENE survey. (Natural environments include open spaces in and around cities and towns - including parks, canals and nature areas; coast and beaches; and wider countryside such as farmland, woodland, hills and rivers. Visits are defined as anything from a few minutes to all day; and include time spent close to home or further afield - the definition of visits does not include time spent in household gardens.)

The need and proposed approach for the pilot was endorsed by the Strategic Research Group for Learning in Natural Environments (an expert advisory group chaired by Natural England, comprising of senior researchers from more than 20 UK universities and institutions working in the area of outdoor learning.)

### **2.3 Methodology**

Adults were interviewed about the visiting behaviour of each child in their household in the month prior to interview, across the period March 2013 - February 2014, with data collected for up to a maximum of 3 children per household. (It was recognised that parents/carers would not have full knowledge of all visits taken by their children, however advice during development was that any bias resulting from this would be relatively constant at a set sampling frequency, so any measure of change observed would be valid.)

The new question set (Appendix 2) was included in MENE on a monthly basis (March 2013 to February 2014) and generated information on visit taking by 5,179 children aged under 16. This sample size allowed for robust and representative comparisons including analysis of seasonal variation and comparisons between different population groups and between English regions.

Unless otherwise stated, findings are expressed as percentages of all children in England (10.2m under 16) and are average monthly figures. All findings are statistically significant at the 95% levels of confidence.

### 3. Proportions of children visiting at different frequencies

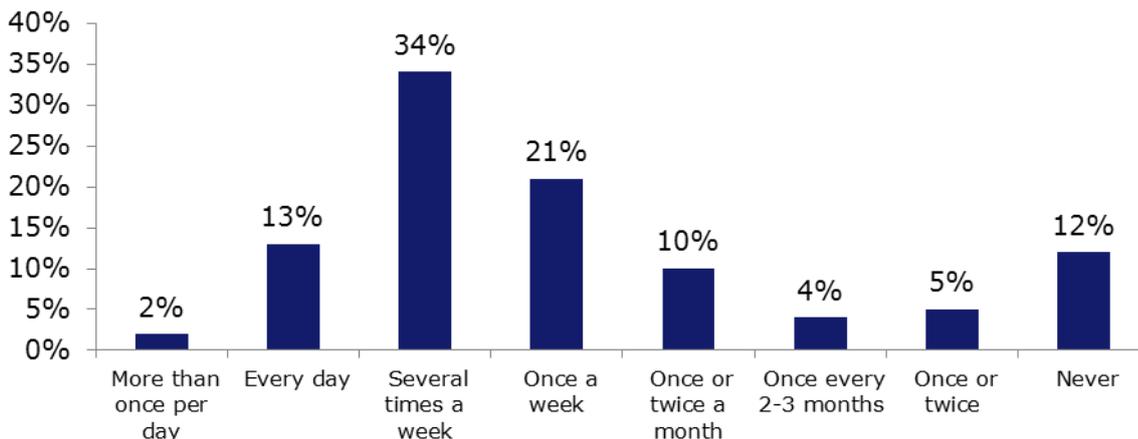
#### 3.1 Frequency of visiting during the previous 12 months

Figure 1 shows that over the survey period an average of:

- 88% of all children (around 9 million of the 10.2 million children aged under 16 living in England) had visited the natural environment in preceding 12 months.
- 70% of all children (c 7 million) normally took visits at least once a week.
- 12% of all children (c 1.3 million) normally never visited the natural environment.

**Figure 1 - Frequency of visits to the natural environment during previous 12 months (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)



When compared to the results recorded for the overall English adult population for the previous 12 month period (MENE March 2012 to February 2013), as shown in Table 1, the percentage of children who visited the natural environment at least once a week was higher than recorded amongst adults (70% compared to 55%).

**Table 1 - Frequency of visits to the natural environment during previous 12 months (comparison of % of children and % of adults)**

Base: All children (5,179), All adults from MENE 2012/13 survey (10,544)

	Children aged under 16	Adults aged 16 and over
Every day	15%	11%
Several times a week	34%	23%
Once a week	21%	21%
Once or twice a month	10%	20%
Once every 2 or 3 months	4%	8%
Once or twice	5%	8%
Never	12%	9%

There is a strong association between the frequency of visits to the natural environment taken by the adults and children living in the same household. In those households where adults normally visited frequently, 80% of children were also likely to visit frequently, however in households where adults normally never visited or visited rarely only 39% of children took frequent visits.

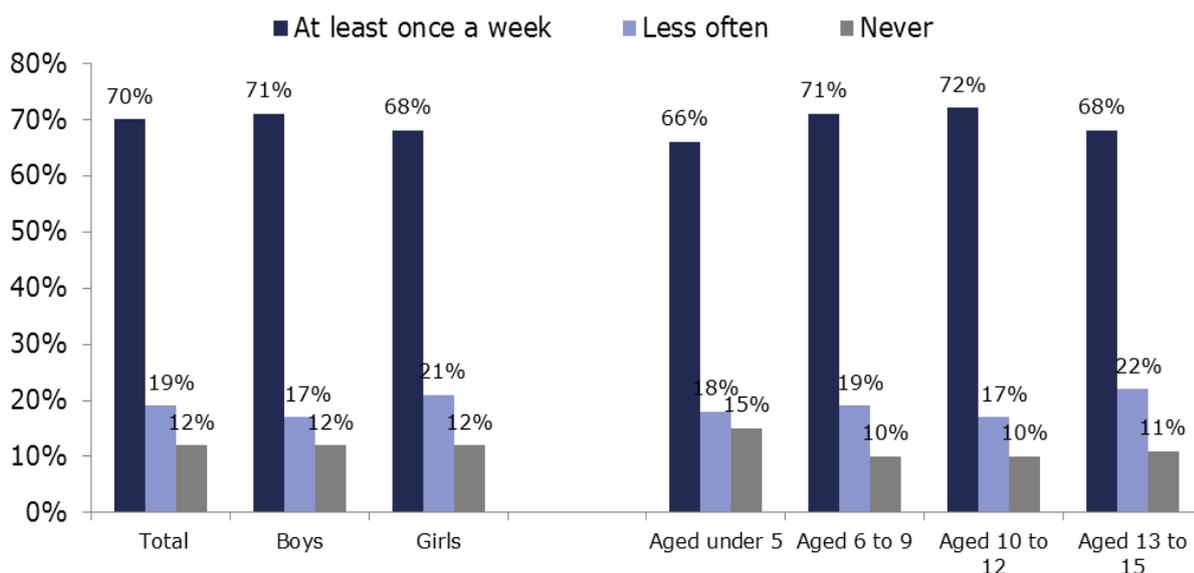
### 3.2 Variations by gender and age

There appeared to be little link between either gender or age and the frequency of children's visits to the natural environment (Figure 2).

The proportion of children taking visits to the natural environment at least once a week was slightly higher amongst boys and also slightly higher amongst children aged between 10 and 12. Frequency of visit taking was lowest amongst the youngest age group (under 5s).

**Figure 2 - Frequency of visits to the natural environment during previous 12 months by gender and age of children (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)



### 3.3 Variations by ethnicity and Socio-Economic Group (SEG)

The ethnicity and income of households were the factors that had most significant effect on the frequency of children's visits to the natural environment (Table2):

- The percentage of children taking visits at least weekly was significantly higher amongst those not in the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population (73%) compared to those in the BAME population (56%) The percentage who normally never visited (in the 12 months prior to survey) was higher among the BAME population (18% compared to 11% amongst the non-BAME population).
- The percentage of children taking visits at least weekly was significantly higher amongst members of the most affluent, AB SEG (77%) compared to the least affluent DE SEG (64%). The percentage who normally never visited was higher among the least affluent DE SEG population (14%) compared to the most AB SEG (11%).

**Table 2 - Frequency of visits to the natural environment during last 12 months by ethnicity and socio-economic group of children (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)

	Ethnicity		Socio-economic group			
	BAME	Not BAME	AB	C1	C2	DE
At least once a week	56%	73%	77%	69%	70%	64%
Less often	26%	16%	12%	20%	18%	21%
Never	18%	11%	11%	10%	13%	14%

### 3.4 Regional variations

Region of residence also had some effect on the frequency of children's visits to the natural environment (Table 3):

- The percentage of children taking visits at least weekly was highest in the North East (74%) and South East (73%).
- Conversely, the percentage of children normally taking visits less often than once a week or never was highest in London (37%) and the West Midlands (36%).

**Table 3 - Frequency of visits to the natural environment during last 12 months by region of residence (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)

	North East	North West	Yorkshire	East Midlands	West Midlands	South West	East England	London	South East
At least once a week	74%	69%	72%	67%	64%	71%	71%	63%	73%
Less often	12%	19%	15%	22%	21%	17%	18%	23%	18%
Never	14%	12%	13%	10%	15%	13%	12%	14%	9%

## 4. Proportions of children visiting in different social contexts

### 4.1 Frequency of visits - previous month

Respondents were surveyed monthly and asked about the visits taken by their children to the natural environment during the preceding month. Therefore the results in this section of the report are presented as averages across the 12 survey months (rather than providing an overall annual figure as in section 3).

#### Three contexts:

Visits were recorded for three group composition types or social contexts:

- **Visits taken with adults who live in the same household as the child (e.g. parents/guardians).**
- **Visits taken with other adults (i.e. those who don't live in same household as the child, including non-resident parents and grandparents).**
- **Visits taken with no adults present.**

Figure 3 shows that in an average month:

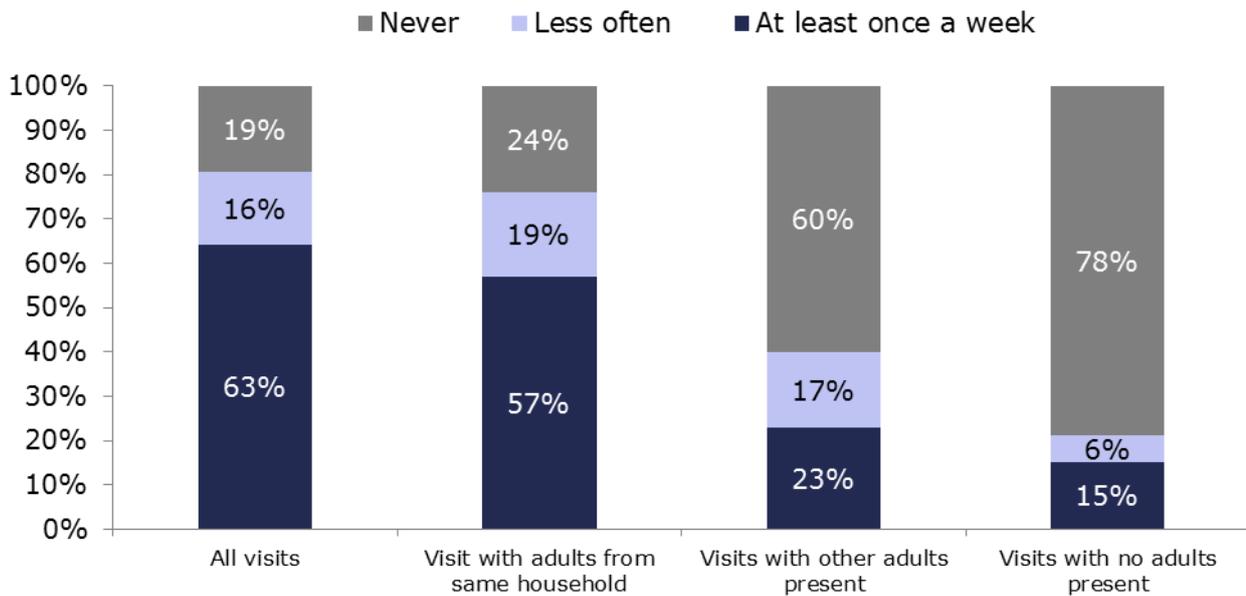
- 79% of all children visited the natural environment.
- 63% of all children visited at least once a week.
- 76% of children visited the natural environment with adults who live in their household (57% at least once a week).
- 40% of children visited the natural environment with other adults (23% at least once a week).
- 22% of children visited the natural environment with no adults present (15% at least once a week).

These results highlight that:

- Most children's visits to the natural environment are mediated by the adults in their household.
- A significant number of children's visits are mediated by other adults.
- Relatively few children are making visits to the natural environment without an adult present.

**Figure 3 – Average frequency of visits to the natural environment during last month and by context (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)



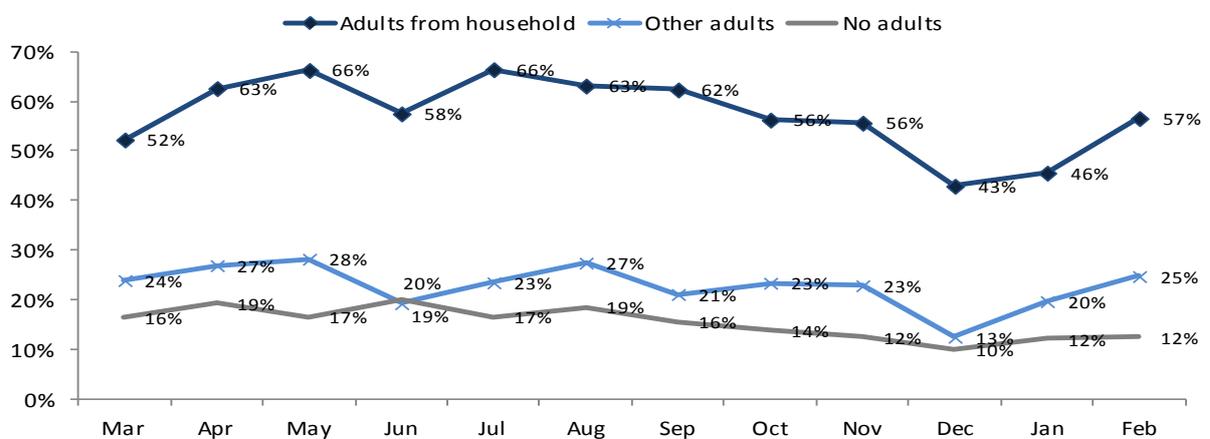
#### 4.2 Variations by season

Figure 4 shows the average proportion of children taking visits to the natural environment, *at least once a week*, each month between March 2013 and February 2014 for each of the different group composition types.

The results show minor seasonal variation for all three group composition types, with the proportion taking frequent visits being lowest over the winter period.

**Figure 4 – Proportion of children taking visits to the natural environment at least once a week by context and month**

Base: All children by month (monthly sample ranging from 388 to 493 children)



### 4.3 Variations by gender and age

Table 4 compares the percentages of children visiting the natural environment at least once a week by age and context.

These results highlight that:

- Children aged between 10 and 12 were the most likely to take frequent visits.
- Visits with no adults increased significantly with the age of children and was slightly higher amongst boys.
- Visits with adults from the same household decreased when children were aged over 9.

**Table 4 – Percentage of children visiting the natural environment at least once a week during last month by party composition and age of children (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)

	% visiting	% visiting with adults from same household	% visiting with other adults present	% visiting with no adults present
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	65%	57%	23%	17%
Female	63%	58%	21%	13%
<b>Age</b>				
Under 5	62%	61%	22%	4%
6 to 9	66%	62%	24%	13%
10 to 12	68%	56%	23%	26%
13 to 15	64%	44%	19%	38%

### 4.4 Variations by ethnicity and Socio-Economic Group (SEG)

Table 5 compares the percentages of children visiting the natural environment at least once a week by party composition, ethnicity and SEG.

Children in the BAME population were generally less likely to take frequent visits to the natural environment in an average month; this was observed across all three contexts explored. This is similar to the result for overall visits in the previous 12 months (section 3.3).

In an average month it was children from the most affluent AB SEG who were most likely to frequently visit the natural environment (70% AB compared to 61% DE). This is also similar to the result for overall visits in the previous 12 months (section 3.3).

This trend was also observed for those visits taken with adults who live in the same household, however there was no significant variation for those visits taken with other adults or without adults present. This is further explored in sections 5.1 and 5.2.

**Table 5 - Percentage of children visiting the natural environment at least once a week during last month by party composition, ethnicity and socio-economic group (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)

	<b>% visiting</b>	<b>% visiting with adults from same household</b>	<b>% visiting with other adults present</b>	<b>% visiting with no adults present</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>				
BAME	53%	48%	16%	12%
Not BAME	67%	60%	25%	17%
<b>Socio-economic group</b>				
AB	70%	65%	24%	16%
C1	66%	60%	23%	16%
C2	64%	56%	23%	14%
DE	61%	53%	22%	15%

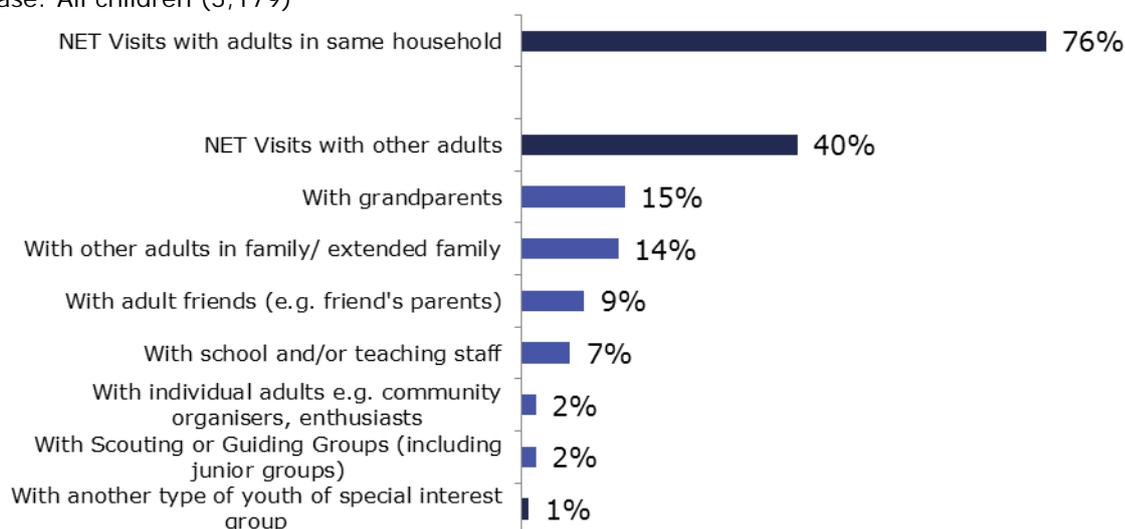
## 5. Who are children visiting the natural environment with?

Section 4 (see Fig. 3) highlighted that in an average of 76% of all children take visits to the natural environment with adults who live in their household each month and 40% take visits with other adults (Figure 5a). 22% take visits with no adults present (Figure 5b).

This section presents further details on who these visits were taken with.

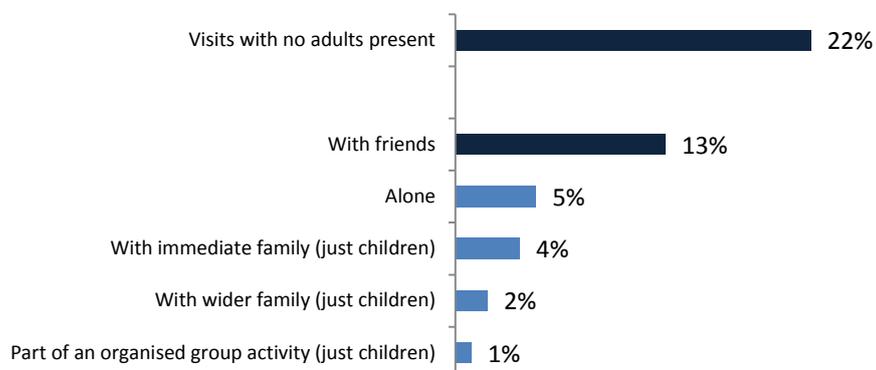
**Figure 5a – Who accompanied children on visits to the natural environment in the previous month – visits taken with adults (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)



**Figure 5b – Who accompanied children on visits to the natural environment in the previous month – visits taken with no adults in group (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)



## 5.1 Variations by gender and age

Table 6 below shows the results of a comparison of who visits were taken with in the 3 different contexts by age and gender:

- Overall 12 month and monthly figures did not show any significant link between age or gender and visit frequency, however analysis by context did show that boys were slightly more likely than girls to take visits to the natural environment with no adults present (23% and 20% respectively), with 7% taking visits on their own compared to 4% of girls.
- Adults reported that around a tenth of school age children (c.1m) took visits with their schools (9% of 6 to 9 year olds, 11% of 10 and overs).
- Smaller proportions took visits with Scouting or Guiding groups (3% of 6 to 12 years olds, 2% of 13 – 15 year olds).
- The role of grandparents in mediating visits decreased with the age of children, with 18% of children aged under 5 taking visits with grandparents compared to 8% of those aged 13 to 15.

**Table 6 - Who visits to the natural environment have been taken with in previous month by gender and age of children (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)

	Gender		Age			
	Boy	Girl	Under 5	6 to 9	10 to 12	13 to 15
<b>Adults in same household</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b>Other adults</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<i>Grandparents</i>	15%	14%	18%	16%	12%	8%
<i>Other family</i>	14%	14%	13%	16%	15%	11%
<i>Adult friends</i>	8%	10%	7%	9%	11%	11%
<i>School</i>	7%	8%	5%	9%	10%	7%
<i>Individual adults</i>	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	3%
<i>Scouting or Guiding groups</i>	2%	1%	-	3%	3%	2%
<i>Other group</i>	1%	1%	-	1%	2%	2%
<b>No adults present</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>53%</b>
<i>Friends</i>	14%	13%	1%	7%	26%	38%
<i>Alone</i>	7%	4%	1%	4%	9%	14%
<i>Immediate family</i>	3%	4%	2%	4%	6%	5%
<i>Wider family</i>	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%
<i>Organised group</i>	1%	1%	-	1%	2%	3%

## 5.2 Variations by ethnicity and Socio-Economic Group (SEG)

Table 7 shows the proportions of children visiting the natural environment are generally lower amongst those in the BAME population and least affluent DE SEG.

Comparison by context highlighted some additional insight, for example:

- Children in the most affluent AB SEG were also almost twice as likely to visit the natural environment with their schools as those in the less affluent C2 and DE groups (11% v 6%). A similar trend was evident for visits with Scouting or Guiding groups. (Interpretation of this finding was not possible within the current analysis.)
- Visiting with grandparents was significantly higher among children from the non-BAME population (17% non-BAME v 6% BAME)
- Visiting with friends (with no adults present) was also higher among children in the non-BAME population (15% non-BAME vs 8% BAME).

**Table 7 - Who visits to the natural environment have been taken with in previous month by ethnicity and socio-economic group (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)

	Ethnicity		Socio-economic group			
	BAME	Not BAME	AB	C1	C2	DE
<b>Adults in same household</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>71%</b>
<b>Other adults</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>37%</b>
<i>Grandparents</i>	6%	17%	18%	15%	14%	13%
<i>Other family</i>	12%	15%	14%	14%	14%	14%
<i>Adult friends</i>	8%	9%	11%	9%	8%	8%
<i>School</i>	6%	7%	11%	7%	6%	6%
<i>Individual adults</i>	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
<i>Scouting or Guiding groups</i>	1%	2%	4%	3%	1%	1%
<i>Other group</i>	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%
<b>No adults present</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<i>Friends</i>	8%	15%	17%	13%	15%	11%
<i>Alone</i>	5%	5%	6%	5%	6%	5%
<i>Immediate family</i>	5%	3%	3%	4%	3%	4%
<i>Wider family</i>	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%
<i>Organised group</i>	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%

## 6. Destination of children's visits

### 6.1 Locality

Details of the places visited by children during the previous month were analysed, including the different types of place visited in both the child's 'local area' and a wider, non-local geographic area (Appendix 2 for questionnaire wording).

Figure 6 shows:

- Children were significantly more likely to visit local places than places further away.
- Places visited most often by children were urban parks (47% of children), playgrounds (29%), playing fields (26%) and County Parks (16%).
- The highest proportion of visits by children to non local destinations were to urban parks (11% of children) and the beach/other coastline (9%).

**Figure 6 – Types of places visited in previous month - local area and not in local area (% of all children)**

Base: All children (5,179)

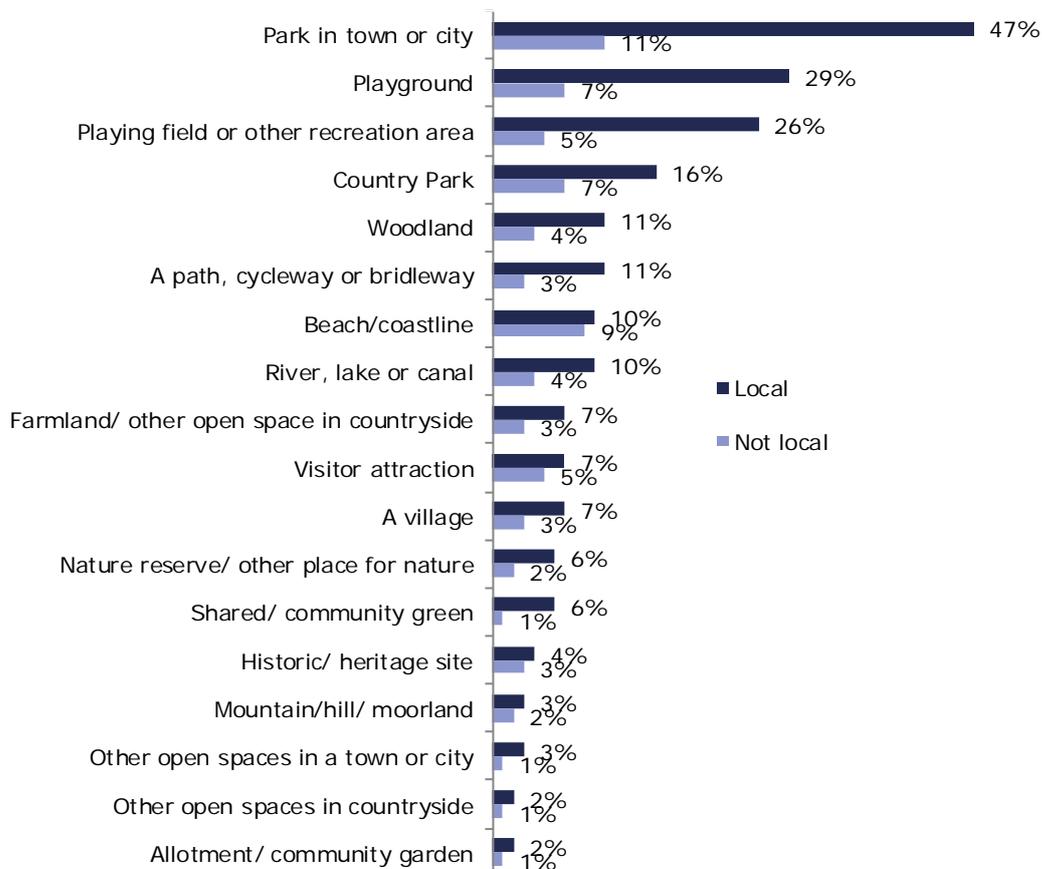


Table 8 shows the types of places children visited in the natural environment by context or who they were taken with. The importance of urban parks was consistent in all contexts and for both local and non-local areas.

**Table 8 - Types of places visited in the previous month by group composition/context (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)

	Visits with adults from same household		Visits with other adults present		Visits with no adults present	
	Local	Not local	Local	Not local	Local	Not local
<b>Total</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Park in town or city	40%	8%	14%	3%	9%	1%
Playground	24%	6%	9%	2%	4%	-
Playing field or other recreation area	20%	4%	8%	2%	5%	-
Country Park	13%	5%	5%	2%	2%	-
Woodland	9%	3%	3%	1%	1%	-
A path, cycleway or bridleway	9%	3%	3%	1%	2%	-
Beach/coastline	8%	8%	3%	3%	1%	-
River, lake or canal	8%	3%	3%	1%	1%	-
Farmland/ other open space in countryside	6%	3%	2%	1%	1%	-
Visitor attraction	6%	4%	2%	1%	-	-
A village	5%	3%	2%	1%	1%	-
Nature reserve/ other place for nature	4%	2%	2%	1%	-	-
Shared/ community green	4%	1%	1%	-	1%	-
Historic/ heritage site	4%	3%	1%	1%	-	-
Mountain/hill/ moorland	2%	2%	1%	1%	-	-
Other open spaces in a town or city	2%	1%	1%	-	1%	-
Other open spaces in countryside	1%	-	-	-	-	-
Allotment/ community garden	2%	-	1%	-	-	-

Given the importance of local spaces, Table 9 presents the results relating to places visited in the child's local area, ranked in descending order to help show the relative importance of different types of place for each of the visit contexts. This comparison illustrates that:

- Parks in towns and cities were the most visited type of place for all visit types.
- Visits taken without adults were more likely than those taken with adults to take place in a shared garden or community green (6<sup>th</sup> most visited local place in visits without adults compared to 13<sup>th</sup> most when visit included adults from the household.)
- Visits without adults present were less likely to include woodland (10<sup>th</sup> most visited local place in visits without adults compared to 5<sup>th</sup> most visited with adults from household).

**Table 9 - Types of local places visited in the previous month by visit context – ranked from highest to lowest proportion of children visiting. Colouring used to highlight variations.**

Base: All children (5,179)

Local places visited	All visits	Visits with adults from same household	Visits with other adults present	Visits with no adults present
Park in a town or city	1	1	1	1
Children's playgrounds	2	2	2	3
Playing field	3	3	3	2
Country park	4	4	4	4
Woodland	5	5	7	10
A path, cycleway or bridleway	6	6	8	5
River, lake, canal	7	7	5	8
Beach or coastline	8	8	6	9
Farmland or another open space	9	9	10	12
A village	11	11	11	7
Visitor attraction	10	10	9	14
A shared\ community green	12	13	13	6
Nature reserve or other space	13	12	12	13
Historic\heritage	14	14	14	15
Other open spaces in a town or	15	15	15	11
Mountain, hill or moorland	16	16	16	16
An allotment or community garden	17	17	17	17

## 6.1 Variations by gender and age

There were no significant differences in the types of local places visited by gender, although there were some minor variations by age (Table 10). Notable results included:

- Parks in towns and cities were the most visited type of place amongst boys and girls and across all age groups.
- Usage of playgrounds decreased by age from 31% of under 5s to 16% aged 13 to 15.

**Table 10 - Types of local places visited in previous month by gender and age of children (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)

	Gender			Age		
	Boy	Girl	Under 5	6 to 9	10 to 12	13 to 15
<b>Total local</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>74%</b>
<b>Woodland</b>	11%	11%	9%	12%	13%	10%
<b>Farmland/ other countryside</b>	7%	8%	8%	7%	7%	7%
<b>Beach/coastline</b>	10%	10%	9%	11%	10%	11%
<b>Mountain/hill/ moorland</b>	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%
<b>Visitor attraction</b>	7%	7%	7%	8%	7%	6%
<b>Historic/ heritage site</b>	4%	5%	4%	6%	5%	4%
<b>Nature reserve/ other place for nature</b>	6%	5%	6%	6%	6%	5%
<b>A village</b>	7%	7%	5%	7%	8%	8%
<b>A path, cycleway or bridleway</b>	10%	11%	8%	12%	14%	13%
<b>Other open spaces in a town or city</b>	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%	4%
<b>Other open countryside</b>	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%
<b>River, lake or canal</b>	10%	10%	10%	11%	11%	8%
<b>Country Park</b>	17%	16%	16%	16%	18%	16%
<b>Park in town or city</b>	47%	48%	48%	49%	48%	44%
<b>Playground</b>	29%	29%	31%	34%	29%	16%
<b>Playing field or other recreation area</b>	27%	24%	19%	31%	32%	28%
<b>Allotment/ community garden</b>	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%
<b>Shared/ community green</b>	6%	7%	5%	7%	7%	7%

## 6.2 Variations by ethnicity and Socio-Economic Group (SEG)

Comparing the types of local places children visit in the natural environment by ethnicity and SEG showed that:

- Members of the BAME population and the least affluent DE SEG were generally least likely to take visits to any of the nominated places in the natural environment.
- However the frequency of visits to local urban parks was relatively consistent across all the population groups.

**Table 11 - Types of local places visited in previous month by ethnicity and socio-economic group of children (% of children)** Base: All children (5,179)

	Ethnicity			Socio-economic group		
	BAME	Not BAME	AB	C1	C2	DE
<b>Total local</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Park in town or city</b>	46%	48%	46%	49%	46%	48%
<b>Playground</b>	22%	31%	33%	31%	28%	26%
<b>Playing field or other recreation area</b>	14%	29%	35%	27%	26%	20%
<b>Country Park</b>	12%	18%	19%	21%	15%	13%
<b>Woodland</b>	3%	13%	16%	13%	10%	8%
<b>A path, cycleway or bridleway</b>	4%	13%	16%	13%	10%	7%
<b>Beach/coastline</b>	4%	12%	12%	10%	10%	9%
<b>River, lake or canal</b>	3%	12%	14%	12%	8%	8%
<b>Farmland/ other open countryside</b>	2%	9%	11%	9%	7%	5%
<b>Visitor attraction</b>	3%	8%	11%	7%	7%	5%
<b>A village</b>	2%	8%	12%	7%	6%	4%
<b>Nature reserve/ other place for nature</b>	2%	7%	10%	6%	4%	4%
<b>Shared/ community green</b>	3%	7%	9%	8%	6%	5%
<b>Historic/ heritage site</b>	2%	5%	8%	6%	2%	4%
<b>Other open spaces in a town or city</b>	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%
<b>Mountain/hill/ moorland</b>	1%	3%	4%	3%	2%	2%
<b>Allotment/ community garden</b>	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%
<b>Other open countryside</b>	1%	2%	3%	1%	2%	1%

### 6.3 Variations by region

Comparing the types of local places children visit in the natural environment by region shows some variations including:

- A higher proportion of children living in the South West visited woodland (16%) or the coast (19%).
- Children from the North East were also more likely to visit the coast (26%).
- Children from the East Midlands were more likely to visit country parks (24%).

**Table 12 - Types of local places visited in previous month by region (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)

	North East	North West	Yorkshire	East Midlands	West Midlands	South West	East England	London	South East
<b>Total local</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>Park in town or city</b>	42%	48%	49%	42%	50%	39%	58%	48%	47%
<b>Playground</b>	33%	24%	32%	33%	25%	30%	29%	26%	31%
<b>Playing field or other recreation area</b>	26%	22%	30%	26%	21%	31%	28%	18%	31%
<b>Country Park</b>	14%	17%	18%	24%	12%	14%	18%	11%	19%
<b>Woodland</b>	12%	8%	13%	14%	11%	16%	13%	4%	13%
<b>A path, cycleway or bridleway</b>	15%	11%	14%	9%	10%	16%	11%	5%	12%
<b>Beach/coastline</b>	26%	9%	10%	3%	2%	19%	9%	4%	16%
<b>River, lake or canal</b>	12%	19%	19%	13%	9%	11%	11%	5%	12%
<b>Farmland/ other open space in countryside</b>	11%	7%	10%	9%	5%	11%	9%	2%	7%
<b>Visitor attraction</b>	10%	4%	7%	9%	6%	8%	8%	6%	7%
<b>A village</b>	9%	5%	8%	10%	5%	12%	7%	3%	6%
<b>Nature reserve/ other place for nature</b>	8%	4%	6%	6%	6%	7%	6%	4%	7%
<b>Shared/ community green</b>	7%	5%	6%	6%	3%	8%	5%	6%	8%
<b>Historic/ heritage site</b>	9%	4%	5%	5%	3%	5%	3%	5%	4%
<b>Other open spaces in a town or city</b>	3%	3%	4%	4%	5%	3%	4%	3%	3%
<b>Mountain/hill/ moorland</b>	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	5%	1%	1%	4%
<b>Allotment/ community garden</b>	3%	3%	3%	2%	1%	3%	1%	3%	3%
<b>Other open spaces in countryside</b>	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%

#### 6.4 Children's motivations for visits

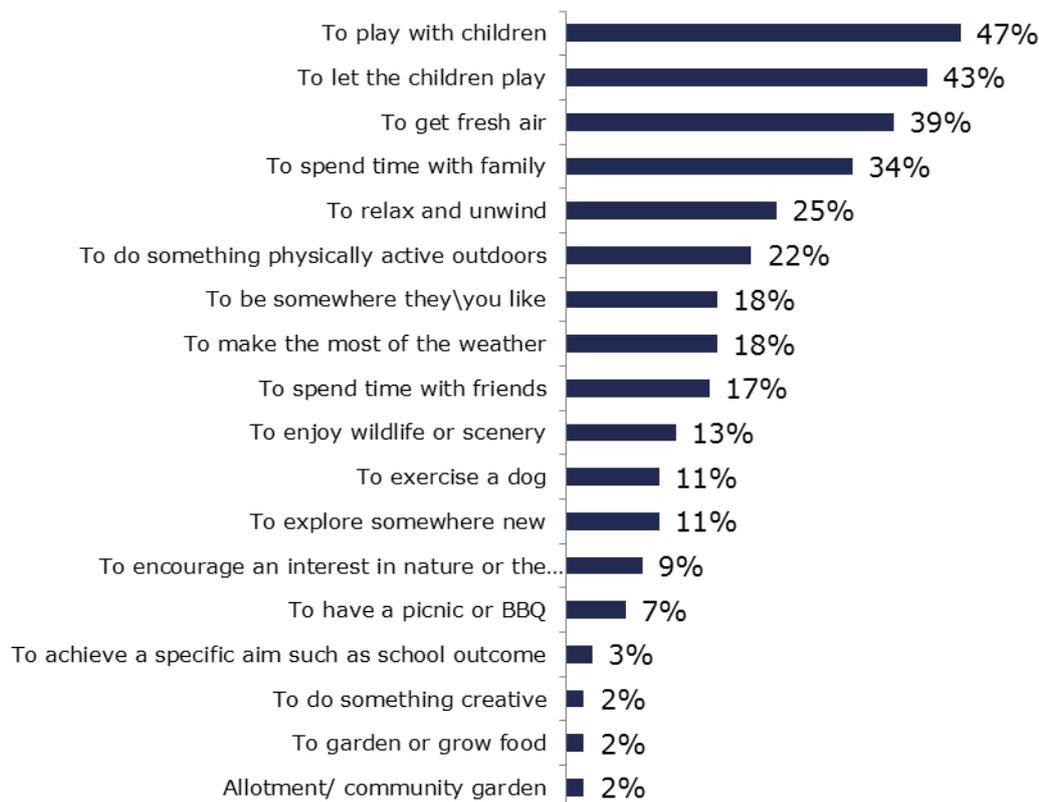
As MENE is an adult survey, the motivations for children's visits to the natural environment were those reported by the adult surveyed in the household for each of the 3 contexts explored. It is recognised that parents/carers would not always have full knowledge of all visits taken by their children including their children's motivations, however any bias resulting from this were considered to be relatively constant at a set sampling frequency, so information obtained in this way (including motivations) was thought to be valid.

Figure 6 shows that play was the dominant reason given by adults for the visits they took with children to the natural environment. 47% of children took visits that were motivated by adults wanting to play with their children and 43% took visits where the motivation was 'to let the children play'.

Other significant motivations provided by adults for the visits they took with children included getting fresh air (39% of children), spending time with family (34%), relaxing and unwinding (25%) and doing something physically active (22%).

**Figure 6 – Reasons for visits taken to the natural environment during the previous month (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)



Reasons for visits were analysed for the different contexts; those visits taken with adults from the household, visits with other adults and visits without adults present (Table 13).

Across all of the contexts play was most likely to be the most important motivation, followed by getting fresh air.

**Table 13 - Reasons for visits taken to the natural environment during the previous month by party composition (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)

	All visits	Visits with adults from same household	Visits with other adults present	Visits with no adults present
To play with children	47%	36%	15%	11%*
To let the children play	43%	38%	17%	
To get fresh air	39%	33%	14%	7%
To spend time with family	34%	31%	8%	n/a
To relax and unwind	25%	19%	7%	5%
To do something physically active outdoors	22%	17%	7%	4%
To make the most of the weather	18%	14%	6%	3%
To be somewhere they/ you like	18%	12%	6%	4%
To spend time with friends	17%	13%	7%	n/a
To enjoy wildlife or scenery	13%	11%	4%	n/a
To explore somewhere new	11%	8%	4%	1%
To exercise a dog	11%	9%	3%	2%
To encourage an interest in nature or the environment	9%	8%	3%	2%**
To have a picnic or BBQ	7%	6%	2%	-
To garden or grow food	2%	2%	1%	n/a
To do something creative	2%	2%	1%	-

Table 14 presents the results of the reasons for taking visits to the natural environment ranked in descending order to make it easier to compare the relative importance of different motivations for each of the visit contexts.

This comparison shows some variations in the reasons for visits taken with different contexts. Key findings include:

- Play was consistently the most likely motivation in all contexts, followed by getting fresh air.
- Adults reported that children's visits taken without adults were more likely than those taken with adults to be motivated by the desire to do something creative or to enjoy nature or the environment, but they were less likely to be motivated by the desire to do something physically active.

**Table 14 - Types of local places visited in previous month by party composition – ranked from highest to lowest proportion of children visiting. Colouring used to highlight variations.**

Base: All children (5,179)

Reasons for visits	All visits	Visits with adults from same household	Visits with other adults present	Visits with no adults present
To play	1	1	1	1
To get fresh air	2	2	2	2
To relax and unwind	3	4	4	3
To do something physically active	4	3	3	11
To make the most of the weather	5	6	6	6
To enjoy wildlife or scenery	7	7	7	7
To explore somewhere new	8	8	8	9
To exercise a dog	9	10	10	8
To encourage an interest/enjoy nature or the environment	10	9	9	5
To have a picnic or BBQ	11	11	11	10
To garden or grow food	12	12	12	12
To do something creative	13	13	13	4

## 6.5 Variations by gender and age

Table 15 compares the reasons for visits taken to the natural environment by gender and age of children. Key findings included:

- A larger proportion of girls compared to boys were reported as taking visits to get fresh air, to spend time with family or friends or to relax and unwind. Boys were more likely to take visits to do something physically active.
- For the 13 to 15 age group, play becomes far less important and visits are more likely to be motivated by other reasons such as relaxing and unwinding.

**Table 15 - Reasons for visits taken to the natural environment during the previous month by gender and age of children (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)

	Gender			Age		
	Boy	Girl	Under 5	6 to 9	10 to 12	13 to 15
To play with children	47%	47%	49%	50%	49%	37%
To let the children play	43%	44%	48%	52%	40%	22%
To get fresh air	38%	41%	40%	39%	38%	37%
To spend time with family	33%	35%	34%	36%	36%	28%
To relax and unwind	23%	26%	22%	25%	27%	29%
To do something physically active outdoors	23%	20%	15%	24%	31%	25%
To make the most of the weather	17%	19%	16%	19%	18%	17%
To be somewhere they/you like	17%	18%	14%	19%	22%	20%
To spend time with friends	16%	18%	12%	19%	21%	20%
To enjoy wildlife or scenery	13%	13%	12%	15%	14%	10%
To explore somewhere new	11%	11%	10%	12%	12%	9%
To exercise a dog	10%	11%	7%	12%	15%	14%
To encourage interest in nature of the environment	9%	9%	8%	11%	11%	6%
To have a picnic or BBQ	6%	7%	6%	7%	8%	6%
To achieve a special aim such as school education outcome	3%	3%	2%	5%	4%	4%
To garden or grow food	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	1%
To do something creative like photography or painting	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%

## 6.6 Variations by ethnicity and Socio-Economic Group (SEG)

Comparing the reasons for taking visits to the natural environment by ethnicity and SEG (Table 16) showed that:

- A greater range of reasons for visits were provided for children from non-BAME households and children from households in the most affluent socio-economic groups, which is thought to reflect the higher frequency of visits by these groups of children.
- The proportions of children taking visits for particular reasons were higher in the non-BAME and AB groups –for example 25% of those in the non-BAME group cited ‘to do something physically active’ compared to 11% in the BAME population; and 34% in the AB group v 16% in the DE group.
- Differences by ethnicity and SEG were less significant for responses relating to play and relaxation. These motivations were consistently important across all population groups.
- A difference in visits taken to exercise a dog (14% of children in the non- BAME population compared to 1% in the BAME population) is thought to reflect low levels of dog ownership among BAME communities.

**Table 16 - Reasons for visits taken to the natural environment during the previous month by ethnicity and socio-economic group (% of children)**

Base: All children (5,179)

	Ethnicity			Socio-economic group		
	BAME	Not BAME	AB	C1	C2	DE
<b>To play with children</b>	43%	48%	50%	49%	44%	47%
<b>To let the children play</b>	38%	45%	46%	43%	42%	43%
<b>To get fresh air</b>	36%	40%	43%	44%	36%	36%
<b>To spend time with family</b>	28%	36%	43%	37%	32%	30%
<b>To relax and unwind</b>	25%	25%	27%	28%	22%	23%
<b>To do something physically active outdoors</b>	11%	25%	34%	24%	20%	16%
<b>To make the most of the weather</b>	12%	19%	22%	19%	16%	16%
<b>To be somewhere they/you like</b>	11%	20%	20%	19%	17%	16%
<b>To spend time with friends</b>	15%	18%	21%	18%	15%	16%
<b>To enjoy wildlife or scenery</b>	8%	14%	17%	16%	10%	10%
<b>To explore somewhere new</b>	8%	12%	15%	13%	11%	8%
<b>To exercise a dog</b>	1%	14%	11%	14%	11%	9%
<b>To encourage an interest in nature of the environment</b>	6%	10%	15%	11%	7%	7%
<b>To have a picnic or BBQ</b>	5%	7%	6%	7%	7%	6%
<b>To achieve a special aim such as school education outcome</b>	2%	3%	5%	4%	2%	3%
<b>To garden or grow food</b>	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%
<b>To do something creative like photography or painting</b>	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%

## 7. Summary of conclusions

This pilot study has begun to quantify, for the first time, the scale and scope of children's access to natural environments and to identify who children visit with and where they go. The conclusion from the Year 1 pilot is that, despite its limitations, this methodology has produced some very useful data that can help to inform the development of public policy and drive up standards of practice, particularly in relation to children's health and learning. For example, data from the pilot has already been adopted into the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs indicator set monitoring delivery of commitments in the Natural Environment White Paper including *'for every child to be able to experience and learn in the natural environment'* and, the indicator set being used by the Office of National Statistics to monitor children's well-being.

The results are also significant in highlighting social inequalities in how children are accessing natural environments, showing a link between the frequency at which children visit the natural environment and both their ethnicity and socio economic status.

Adults emerge as extremely important mediators of children's visits to natural environments, with children being more likely to visit more frequently when the adults in their household are also frequent visitors. Analysis of MENE data has previously revealed that adults are also more likely to be frequent visitors to the natural environment when there are children in their household (2). Evidence of a positive circle of influence in the visiting behaviour of children and adults in a household can be used to informing future intervention strategies supporting improvements in public health, wellbeing and outdoor learning.

On this basis the pilot is continuing into a second year with a final report and more detailed analysis being delivered in 2015.

## 8. References

1. The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature, HM Government CM8082 (2011)
2. Hunt, A., Rickinson, M., Burt, J., Andrews, R. and Stewart, D. Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009 -2012): visits to the natural environment by households with children. Natural England Data Report (in press)
3. Measuring National Well-being: Measures of Well-being for Children and Young People Consultation Response. ONS (2014)

# Appendix 1 – Definition of Socio Economic Groups

## A

These are professional people, very senior managers in business or commerce, or are top-level civil servants.

Retired people, previously grade A, and their widows/ widowers.

## B

Middle management executives in large organisations, with appropriate qualifications.

Principal officers in local government and civil service.

Top managers or owners of small business concerns, educational and service establishments.

Retired people, previously grade B, and their widows/ widowers.

## C1

Junior management, owners of small establishments, and all others in non-manual positions.

Jobs in this group have very varied responsibilities and educational requirements.

Retired people, previously grade C1 and their widows/ widowers.

## C2

All skilled manual workers, and those manual workers with responsibility for other people.

Retired people previously grade C2, with a pension from their job.

Widows/widowers, if receiving pensions from their late spouse's job.

## D

All semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers, and apprentices and trainees to skilled workers.

Retired people, previously grade D, with a pension from their job.

Widows/widowers, if receiving pensions from their late spouse's job.

## E

All those entirely dependent on the state long term, through sickness, unemployment, old age or other reasons.

Those unemployed for a period exceeding 6 months (otherwise classified on previous occupation).

Casual workers and those without a regular income. Only households without a chief wage earner are coded in this group.

See <http://www.nrs.co.uk/nrs-print/lifestyle-and-classification-data/social-grade/> for further details.

# Appendix 2 – Questionnaire

## **MENE CHILDREN'S INDICATOR QUESTIONS – 20 MARCH 2013**

### **INITIAL QUESTIONS TO RECORD NUMBER, GENDER AND AGE OF ALL CHILDREN – INCLUDED IN INITIAL OMNIBUS SURVEY SCREENING SECTION**

**SCREEN 1** How many children aged under 16 live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_

*IF NO CHILDREN SKIP WHOLE SECTION.*

**SCREEN 2** Is this child?

- Male
- Female

**SCREEN 3** How old is this child? \_\_\_\_\_

**REPEATED FOR ALL CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD**

### **NEW SECTION – ASK IF 1 OR MORE CHILDREN AT Q1 IN SCREENING SECTION**

**INTRODUCTION READ BY INTERVIEWER:**

You indicated that one or more children aged under 16 live in your household. We would now like to ask you some questions about the activities your child(ren) take part in. We are particularly interested in activities that take place in green or natural environments.

**IF MORE THAN 3 CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD READ OUT:**

You indicated that there are X children aged under 16 living in your household however to save time we will only ask you about 3 of your children who have been randomly selected. The children we would like to ask about are: **DETAILS OF GENDER AND AGE OF RANDOMLY SELECTED CHILDREN TO BE LISTED (E.G. YOUR BOY AGED 5, YOUR GIRL AGED 11).**

First of all/Next please answer the following questions regarding **INSERT DETAILS OF CHILD TO BE ASKED ABOUT (NOTE GENDER AND AGE DATA TO BE LINKED TO SUBSEQUENT VISIT DATA TO ALLOW ANALYSIS ON THIS BASIS)**

**NE1 Thinking about the last 12 months, how often, on average, has this child spent some of their leisure time outside?**

By outside we are focusing on natural environments or green spaces. These can be in green spaces very close to your home, in and around towns and cities as well as in the wider countryside. The time could involve anything from just a few minutes outside, to 30 minutes in the local park, to a day trip made from home or when on holiday.

**Note that this does not include:**

- routine trips taken for non-leisure purposes such as shopping or getting somewhere;
- time spent in your own garden

**SHOW SCREEN. SINGLE CODE.**

More than once per day  
Every day  
Several times a week  
Once a week  
Once or twice a month  
Once every 2-3 months  
Once or twice  
Never - *IF NEVER SKIP TO END*

**NE2** More specifically, during the last month (i.e. during SPECIFY MONTH) how often if at all has this child spent some of their leisure time outside in green spaces accompanied by you or another adult who lives in your home? This could include a parent, guardian, other children aged 16 or over or other adults who live with you.

**Again, note that this does not include:**

- routine trips taken for non-leisure purposes such as shopping or getting somewhere;
- time spent in your own garden

**INTERVIEWER NOTE: ENSURE THAT RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS NE2 TO NE4 RELATE TO THE VISITS TAKEN BY THE CHILD WHICH WERE TAKEN WITH AN ADULT (AGED 16 OR OVER) WHO LIVES WITH THEM.**

**SHOW SCREEN. SINGLE CODE.**

More than once per day  
Every day  
Several times a week  
Once a week  
Two or three times  
Once  
No visits

***IF NO VISITS SKIP TO NE5***

**NE3** Please indicate which of the following type(s) of places were visited by this child **while with you or another adult who lives in your home**? Please select from both the list of local places and those farther afield.

By local we mean within walking distance or a short drive.

**SHOW SCREEN. RANDOMISE ORDER WITHIN LOCAL AND NOT LOCAL SETS. CODE ALL MENTIONED.**

**Local places**

**RANDOMISE ORDER:**

Woodland or forest (including woodland adventure spaces)  
Farmland or another open space in the countryside  
Beach or coastline  
Mountain, hill or moorland  
River, lake, canal  
Country park  
Park in a town or city  
Children's playgrounds and adventure playgrounds  
Playing field or other recreational area  
An allotment or community garden  
A shared/ community green space  
Visitor attraction (such as wildlife park, city or open farm, zoo)  
Historic/ heritage site (including archaeological sites and historic estates and gardens)  
Nature reserve or other space for nature  
A village  
A path, cycleway or bridleway

**ALWAYS AT END:**

Other open spaces in a town or city  
Other open spaces in the countryside

**Places not in your local area**

**RANDOMISE ORDER:**

Woodland or forest (including woodland adventure spaces)  
Farmland or another open space in the countryside  
Beach or coastline  
Mountain, hill or moorland  
River, lake, canal  
Country park  
Park in a town or city  
Children's playgrounds and adventure playgrounds  
Playing field or other recreational area  
An allotment or community garden  
A shared/ community green space  
Visitor attraction (such as wildlife park, city or open farm, zoo)  
Historic/ heritage site (including archaeological sites and historic houses set within in gardens)  
Nature reserve or other space for nature  
A village  
A path, cycleway or bridleway

**ALWAYS AT END:**

Other open spaces in a town or city  
Other open spaces in the countryside

**NE4** And which of the following best describe the reasons for taking these visits? **Please provide your answers in relation to the purpose for the visit/motivations of the adult/s who took the visits with the child.**

Select all of the reasons which relate to the visits taken during the last month with you or other adults who live in your home.

**SHOW SCREEN. RANDOMISE ORDER. CODE ALL MENTIONED.**

To spend time with family  
To spend time with friends  
To exercise a dog  
To relax and unwind  
To enjoy wildlife or scenery  
To be somewhere they/you like  
To get fresh air  
To make the most of the weather  
To do something physically active outdoors  
To encourage an interest in nature or the environment  
To garden or grow food  
To have a picnic or BBQ  
To let the children play  
To play with children  
To explore somewhere new  
To do something creative like photography or painting

Other (specify)

**NE 5** Next, please indicate how often during the last month (i.e. during SPECIFY MONTH) has this child spent some of their leisure time outside in natural and other green open spaces **accompanied by adults who don't live in this household?** This could include visits taken with other relations, school trips or trips with a youth group.

**Again, note that this does not include:**

- routine trips taken for **non-leisure purposes** such as shopping or getting somewhere;
- time spent in your **own garden**

**INTERVIEWER NOTE: ENSURE THAT RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS NE5 TO NE8 RELATE ONLY TO THE VISITS TAKEN BY THE CHILD WHICH WERE TAKEN WITH ADULTS (AGED 16 OR OVER) WHO DO NOT LIVE IN THE RESPONDENT'S HOUSEHOLD**

**SHOW SCREEN. SINGLE CODE.**

More than once per day  
Every day  
Several times a week  
Once a week  
Two or three times  
Once  
No visits

***IF NO VISITS SKIP TO NE9***

**NE6 Which of the following best describes who took part in these visits? Select all of the answers which apply.**

- Taken with grandparents
- Taken with other adults in your family (including extended family and grown up brothers/ sisters, aunts/uncles etc)
- Taken with schools and/or teaching staff
- Taken with adult friends ( including your children's friend's families)
- Taken with Scouting or Guiding groups (includes junior groups such as Brownies or Cubs)
- Taken with another type of youth group, special interest group or community group ( e.g. WATCH group, DoE awards or faith group)
- Taken with other individual adults such as community organisers, enthusiasts, specialists
- Other (specify)

**NE7** Please indicate which of the following type(s) of place were included in these visits taken by this child **while with adults who don't live in your household**? Please select from both the list of local places and those farther afield.

By local we mean within walking distance or a short drive.

**SHOW SCREEN. RANDOMISE ORDER WITHIN LOCAL AND NOT LOCAL SETS. CODE ALL MENTIONED.**

**AS NE3**

**NE8** And which of the following best describe the reasons for taking these visits? **Please provide your answers in relation to the purpose of the visit/motivations of the adult(s) who took your child on the visits.**

Select all of the reasons which relate to the visits taken during the last month with adults who don't live in your home.

**SHOW SCREEN. RANDOMISE ORDER. CODE ALL MENTIONED.**

- To spend time together with family who don't live in your household
- To spend time with friends
- To exercise a dog
- To relax and unwind
- To enjoy wildlife
- To be somewhere they like
- To get fresh air
- To make the most of the weather
- To do something physically active outdoors
- To encourage an interest in nature or the environment
- To garden or grow food
- To have a picnic or BBQ
- To let the children play
- To play with children
- To explore somewhere new
- To do something creative like photography or painting
- To achieve a specific aim such as a school's education outcome

- Other (specify)
- Don't know

**NE 9** Next, please indicate how often during the last month (i.e. during SPECIFY MONTH) has this child spent some of their leisure time outside in natural and other green open spaces where **no adults were present?** This could include visits taken alone or with other children but no adults.

**Again, note that this does not include:**

- routine trips taken for **non-leisure purposes** such as shopping or getting somewhere;
- time spent in your **own garden**

**INTERVIEWER NOTE: ENSURE THAT RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS NE9 TO END ONLY RELATE TO THE VISITS TAKEN BY THE CHILD WHERE NO ADULTS (AGED 16+) WERE PRESENT**

**SHOW SCREEN. SINGLE CODE.**

- More than once per day
- Every day
- Several times a week
- Once a week
- Two or three times
- Once
- No visits

***IF NO VISITS SKIP TO END***

**NE10 Which of the following best describes who took part in these visits? Select all of the answers which apply.**

- Taken by the child on their own
- Taken with their friends (under 16)
- Taken with children in the immediate family ( also under 16 and who live in the household)
- Taken with children from the wider family (who are under 16)
- Taken with other children but as part of an organised group activity
- Other (specify)

**NE11** Please indicate which of the following type(s) of place were included in these visits where **no adults were present?** Please select from both the list of local places and those farther afield.

By local we mean within walking distance or a short drive.

**SHOW SCREEN. RANDOMISE ORDER WITHIN LOCAL AND NOT LOCAL SETS. CODE ALL MENTIONED.**

**AS NE3**

**NE12** And which of the following best describe the reasons for taking these visits? **Please provide your answers in relation to the child's own reasons for taking these visits**

Select all of the reasons which relate to all of the visits taken during the last month by this child when no adults were present.

**SHOW SCREEN. RANDOMISE ORDER. CODE ALL MENTIONED.**

- To play
- To exercise a dog
- To relax and unwind
- To let off steam
- To get some space
- To enjoy nature or the environment
- To be somewhere they like
- To get fresh air
- To make the most of the weather
- To do something physically active outdoors
- To garden/ grow food
- To have a picnic/BBQ
- To explore somewhere new
- To do something creative like (photography or painting)
- To achieve a specific purpose such as homework for school or Scout challenge etc
  
- Other (specify)
- Don't know

**REPEAT NE1 TO NE12 FOR UP TO 3 CHILDREN**