

Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment: a pilot to develop an indicator of visits to the natural environment by children

Results from years 1 and 2 (March 2013 to February 2015)

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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. The views in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of Natural England.

Background

The Natural Environment White Paper (2011) 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 education.

So Natural England in partnership with the Department for Food and Rural Affairs, Public Health England, Historic England (previously 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 pilot is part of Natural England's Outdoor Learning and Outdoors for

All Programmes. The aim of this pilot was 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 of the pilot have been published (HUNT et al. 2015).

This report combines data from both year 1 and 2 of the pilot. The results confirm that we can quantify and monitor the proportions of all children in England visiting natural environments: at different frequencies (for example the % of all children visiting weekly or monthly); who they are visiting with (% visiting on their own or accompanied by friends and family etc.) what sorts of places they are visiting (% children visiting woodlands, urban parks, heritage sites etc.); and associations between the frequency of children's visits and demographics such as household income and ethnicity.

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Further information

This report can be downloaded from the Natural England website:

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1. Summary

Background

There are clear links between positive health outcomes and access to natural environments across all socio-economic groups, so The Marmot Review set out the role of increasing access to the natural environment, and early interventions with children, within strategies to address health inequalities (1).

Since 2009, information on how the adult population in England uses the natural environment has been collected through the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey (MENE), funded by Natural England, with support from Defra and the Forestry Commission. However there was no similar dataset available for children, despite increasing concern about their disconnection from the natural environment.

This report summarises the findings of a two year pilot to develop a national indicator for children's visits to the natural environment in England. The pilot aimed to quantify, for the first time, the scale and scope of children's visits to the natural environment and to identify who children visit with and where they go.

Adult participants in the MENE survey were asked new questions about the visits taken by the children in their household (children were not interviewed directly). 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.), the types of greenspace visited and who they went with. This also allowed generation of robust estimates of the total number of children in England who took visits to the natural environment at certain frequencies.

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. Results of year 1 were published in 2015 (2). As there was considerable alignment between the results across the two pilot years so, unless otherwise stated, the findings are expressed as average monthly figures derived from two years of data collected from March 2013 to February 2015.

Headline findings:

Many children frequently visited the natural environment, but a sizeable minority never or rarely visited

On average:

- Around 9 million children in England visited the natural environment in the preceding 12 months (88% of all children in England).
- 70% of children (c 7 million children) visited the natural environment frequently (at least once a week).
- 12% of children (c 1.3 million) never visited the natural environment in the previous 12 month period.

- Regional variations were apparent e.g. more children living in the North East took frequent visits (78%) compared to children living in the West Midlands (64%) or London (62%).

The frequency of children's visits to the natural environment was linked to ethnicity and socio-economic status

On average:

- Children from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) households were less likely to frequently visit the natural environment (56%) compared to children from non-Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (non-BAME) households (74%).
- Children from higher income households (socio-economic groups A and B) were more likely to visit frequently (77%) than children from lower income households (socio-economic groups D and E) (65%) (A definition of socio-economic groups is given at Appendix 1).

There were strong links between adult and child visiting behaviours

The results show a strong association between the frequency of visits taken by adults to the natural environment and children living in the same household.

- In households where the adults were frequent visitors to the natural environment, most children (82%) were also frequent visitors. In households where the adults rarely (or never) visited the natural environment, the proportion of children visiting frequently halved to 39%.
- In an average month:
 - 75% of all children visited the natural environment with adults from their own household.
 - 15% of all children took visits with their grandparents and a similar proportion visited with other non-resident family members.
 - 8% of all school-aged children (6-15) visited natural environments with their schools.
 - Children in the most affluent AB socio-economic group were around twice as likely to visit the natural environment with their school as those in the less affluent C2 and DE groups (10% vs 6%).
 - 22% of children took visits to the natural environment without any adults present (i.e. on their own or with other children).

Most children's visits were to local natural environments

Local natural environments were important to all groups studied regardless of ethnicity or socio-economic status:

- In an average month, nearly half of all children visited local urban parks (48%/4.9m).

Regional variations

The survey sample size also allowed for analysis on a regional basis. For example:

- Children living in the North East and South East were more likely to take visits to the natural environment at least once a week (78% and 75% respectively) compared to children living in the West Midlands or London (65% and 62% respectively).
- The types of places visited by children also varied by region. 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; children from the East Midlands and South East were more likely to visit country parks.

The results of this study are important in that they highlight clear social inequalities in how children are accessing natural environments and show a correlation between the frequency at which children visit the natural environment and both their ethnicity and socio-economic status. The results also illustrate that adults are 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 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 (3). This growing evidence of the strong relationships between the visiting behaviours of adults and children within households will be useful in informing future intervention strategies to support improvements in public health, wellbeing and outdoor learning.

On the basis of Year 1 findings (2) data from the pilot have already been adopted by the Office for National Statistics as part of their indicator set for children's well-being and by DEFRA as part of their development of an indicator set for monitoring delivery of the Natural Environment White Paper and Biodiversity 2020. The data set is also being used by Public Health England to complement their public health outcomes data. As a result, the pilot question set has now been adopted into the ongoing MENE survey. We hope the findings will be useful and of interest for organisations and individuals working to increase access to local natural environments as a way to improve outcomes for children.

2. Background

2.1 Introduction

The 2010-2015 Coalition Government's 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*' (4). 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.

Natural England in partnership with DEFRA, Historic England 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 develop and evaluate quantitative indicators for the scale and scope of children's access to the natural environment.

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 population¹, it would also be possible to analyse the influence of 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 until March 2013 the existing MENE survey did 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.

¹ Note the survey coverage includes individual households but not communal residences such as university halls of residence or care homes.

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 - 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)².

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.)

2.2 Methodology

Adults were interviewed about the visiting behaviour of each child in their household in the month prior to interview, 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 and over the two year pilot period, generated information on visit taking by 10,235 children aged under 16 (5,179 in Year 1 from March 2013 to February 2014 and 5,056 in Year 2 from March 2014 to February 2015). 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 children aged under 16) and are average monthly figures derived from two years of data collected from March 2013 to February 2015.

² See appended questionnaire for full details of definitions used in survey. While these are designed to be clear for respondents it is possible that individual understanding of what is meant by 'natural environment', 'visits' and other terms used could vary between respondents.

3. Proportions of children visiting at different frequencies

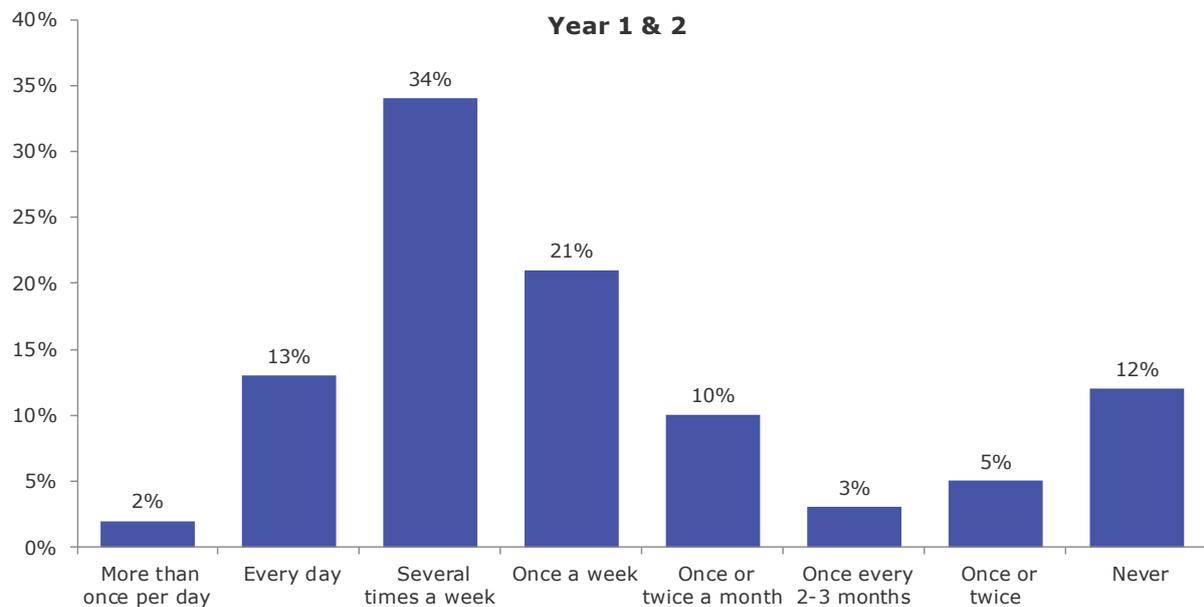
3.1 Frequency of visiting during the previous 12 months

Figure 1 shows that over the two year 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 in the preceding 12 months.

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

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

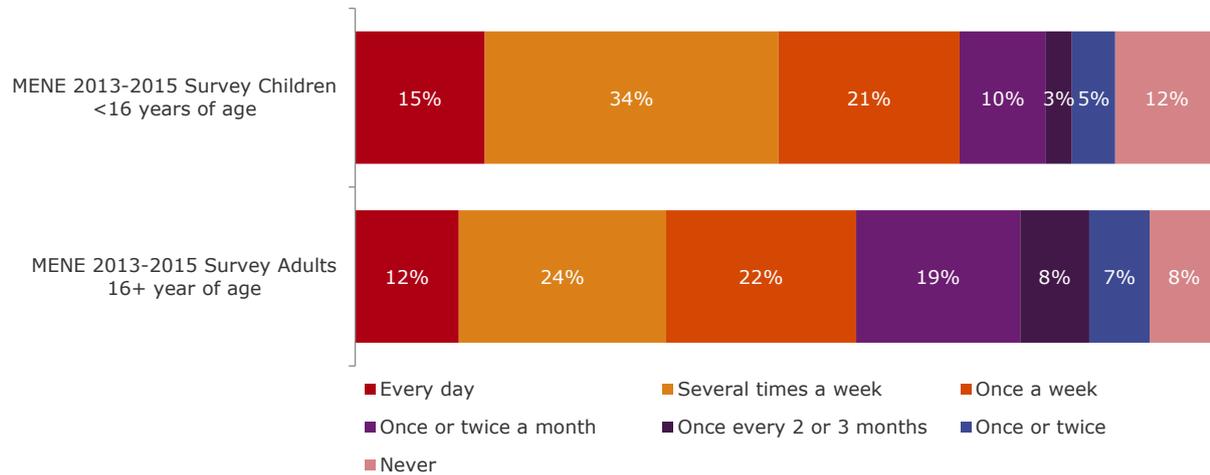


Note: sum of percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding

When compared to the results recorded for the overall English adult population for the same 12 month period, as shown in Figure 2, the percentage of children who visited the natural environment at least once a week was higher than recorded amongst adults (70% compared to 58%).

Figure 2 - Frequency of visits to the natural environment over the 12 months prior to interview (comparison of % of children and % of adults)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)
All adults surveyed over same period (n=21,081)



Note: sum of percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding

There was 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, children were also likely to visit frequently, however in households where adults normally never visited or visited rarely (once or twice in a year), children took less frequent visits (82% v 39%).

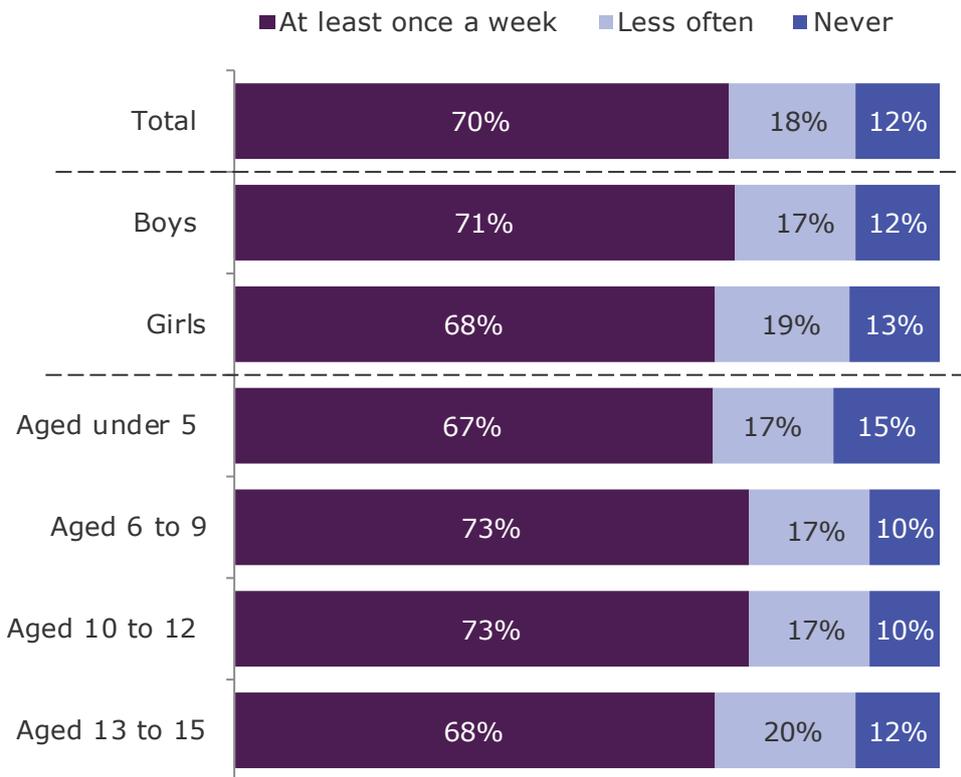
3.2 Variations by gender and age

Gender and age were not strong predictors for the frequency of children's visits to the natural environment (Figure 3).

Across the two year study, the proportion of children taking visits to the natural environment at least once a week was slightly higher amongst boys than girls. Looking at the proportion of visit taking by age, the proportion was slightly higher amongst children aged between 6 and 12, and was lowest amongst the youngest and oldest age groups (under 5s and 13-15).

Figure 3 - Frequency of visits to the natural environment during previous 12 months by gender and age of children (% of children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)



Note: sum of percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding

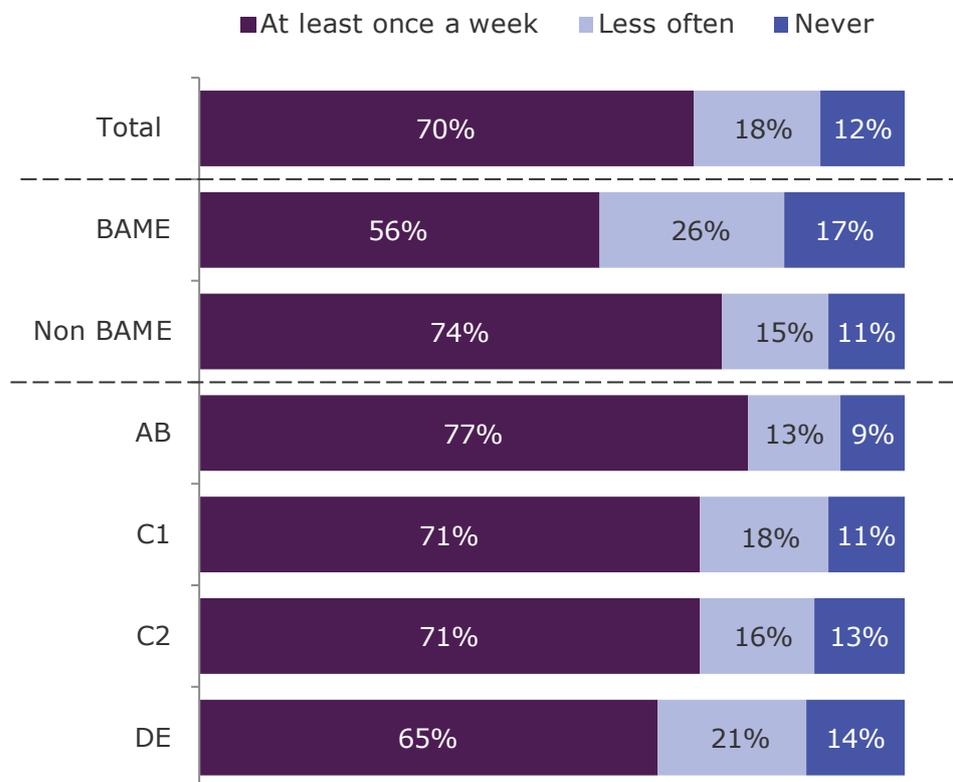
3.3 Variations by ethnicity and Socio-Economic Group (SEG)

Ethnicity and household income were the factors most strongly related to the frequency of children’s visits to the natural environment (Figure 4):

- The percentage of children taking visits at least weekly was noticeably higher amongst those not in the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (non-BAME) population (74%) compared to those in the BAME population (56%). The percentage who never visited (in the 12 months prior to survey) was higher among the BAME population (17% compared to 11% amongst the non-BAME).
- The percentage of children taking visits at least weekly was also higher amongst members of the most affluent, AB SEG compared to the least affluent DE group (77% compared to 65%). The percentage who never visited was higher among the least affluent DE SEG population compared to those in AB groups (14% compared to 9%).

Figure 4 - Frequency of visits to the natural environment during last 12 months by ethnicity and socio-economic group of children (% of children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)



Note: sum of percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding

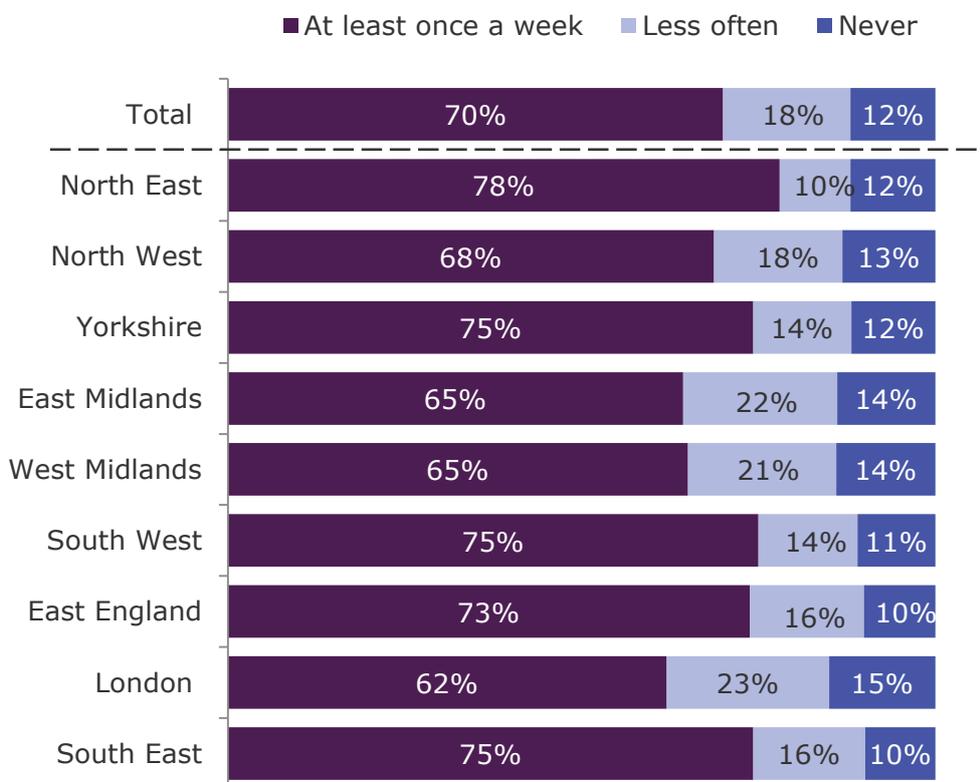
3.4 Regional variations

There was some evidence of regional variation in the frequency of children’s visits to the natural environment (Figure 5):

- The percentage of children taking visits at least weekly was highest in the North East (78%), Yorkshire (75%) and the South East (75%).
- Compared to the total, the percentage of children normally taking visits less often than once a week or never was higher in London (38%), the West Midlands (35%) and the East Midlands (35%).

Figure 5 - Frequency of visits to the natural environment during last 12 months by region of residence (% of children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)



Note: sum of percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding

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 the children living in their household to the natural environment during the preceding month. The results in this section of the report are presented as averages across the 24 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 6 shows that in an average month:

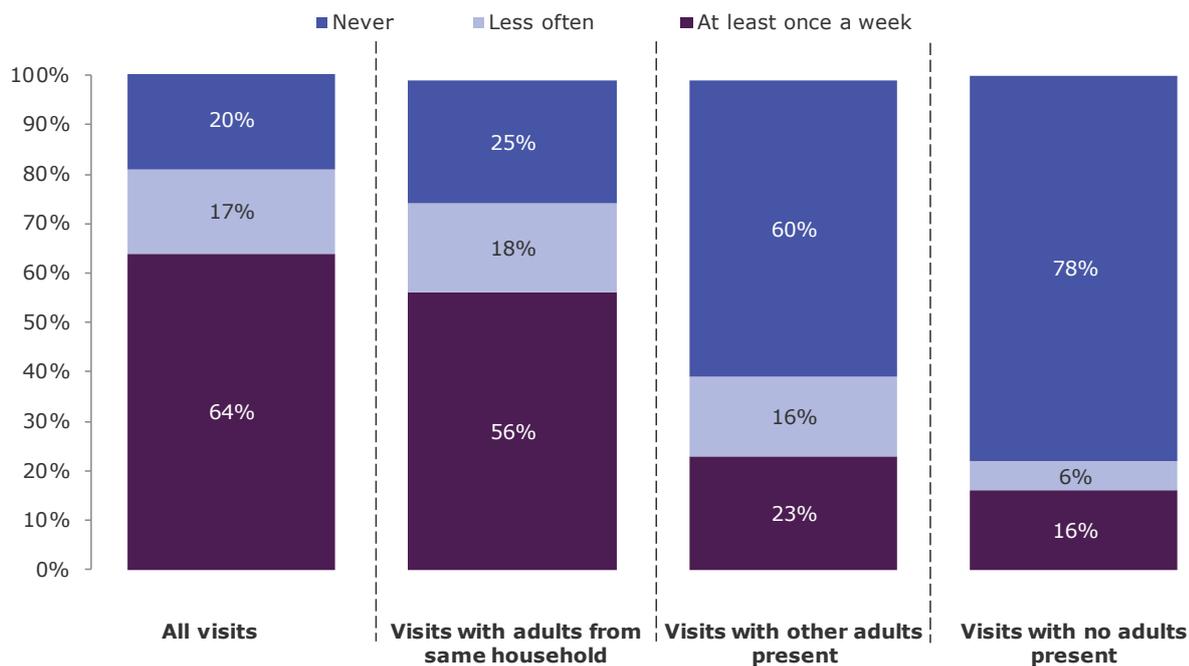
- 80% of all children visited the natural environment.
- 65% of all children visited at least once a week.
- 75% of all children visited the natural environment with adults who live in their household (56% visited at least once a week).
- 40% of all children visited the natural environment with other adults (23% visited at least once a week).
- 22% of all children visited the natural environment with no adults present (16% visited 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 high 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 6 - Average frequency of visits to the natural environment during last month and by context over the two year pilot study period (% of children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)



Note: sum of percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding

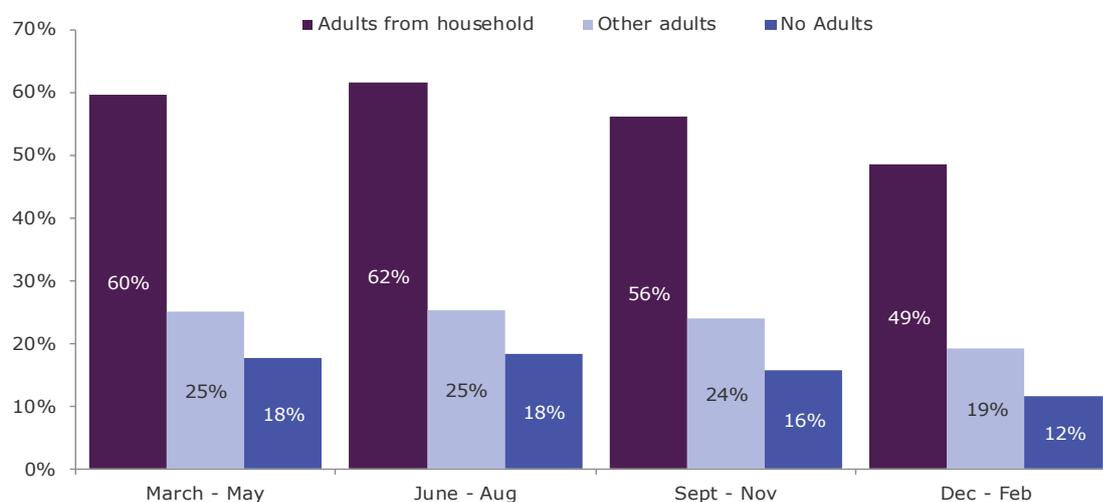
4.2 Variations by season

Figure 7 shows the average proportion of children taking frequent visits to the natural environment each quarter over the two year period, for each of the different group composition types.

The results show seasonal variations for all three contexts – as might be expected, the lowest proportions taking frequent visits occur in the winter (between December to February).

Figure 7 - Proportion of children taking visits to the natural environment at least once a week by context and quarter

Base: All children per quarter (March-May n=1,425 in 2013, n=1,282 in 2014; Jun-Aug n=1,229 in 2013, n=1,187 in 2014; Sept-Nov n=1,223 in 2013, n=1,294 in 2014; December-February n=1,292 in 2013, n=1,293 in 2014)



4.3 Variations by gender and age

Table 1 compares the percentages of children visiting the natural environment at least once a week by age and context.

These results highlight that:

- Children between 6 and 12 were the most likely to take frequent visits.
- Visits with no adults increased 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 and visits with no adults increased.

Table 1 - 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 in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

	All visits	Visits with adults from same household	Visits with other adults present	Visits with no adults present
	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2
Gender				
Male	65%	57%	24%	18%
Female	62%	56%	23%	14%
Age				
Under 5	62%	59%	23%	3%
6 to 9	67%	62%	25%	14%
10 to 12	66%	54%	25%	27%
13 to 15	62%	41%	20%	36%

Note: sum of percentages equals to more than 100% as children may have taken more than one type of visit

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

Table 2 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 and was most prominent in visits with adults from the same household and visits with other adults present.
- 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 vs 60% DE).
- A similar trend was also observed for those visits taken with adults who live in the same household, however there were no notable variations for those visits taken with other adults or without adults present. This is further explored in sections 5.1 and 5.2.

Table 2 - 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 in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

	All visits	Visits with adults from same household	Visits with other adults present	Visits with no adults present
	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2
Ethnicity				
BAME	51%	47%	18%	12%
Non BAME	67%	59%	25%	17%
Socio-economic group				
AB	70%	64%	26%	16%
C1	65%	59%	23%	14%
C2	64%	55%	23%	16%
DE	60%	52%	22%	17%

Note: sum of percentages equals to more than 100% as children may have taken more than one type of visit

4.5 Variations by region of residence

Table 3 compares the percentages of children visiting the natural environment at least once a week by region of residence.

Throughout the two year study, children in the North East were more likely to frequently visit the natural environment in an average month (70%).

Children in London, the West Midlands and East Midlands were generally less likely to take frequent visits to the natural environment in an average month across the three contexts (58%, 58% and 59% respectively).

Table 3 - Percentage of children visiting the natural environment at least once a week during last month by region of residence (% of children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

	All visits	Visits with adults from same household	Visits with other adults present	Visits with no adults present
	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2
North East	70%	58%	30%	21%
North West	64%	57%	23%	19%
Yorkshire	66%	58%	24%	17%
East Midlands	59%	52%	21%	13%
West Midlands	58%	52%	19%	13%
South West	67%	59%	26%	19%
East England	67%	61%	24%	14%
London	58%	53%	22%	14%
South East	67%	60%	24%	16%

Note: sum of percentages equals to more than 100% as children may have taken more than one type of visit

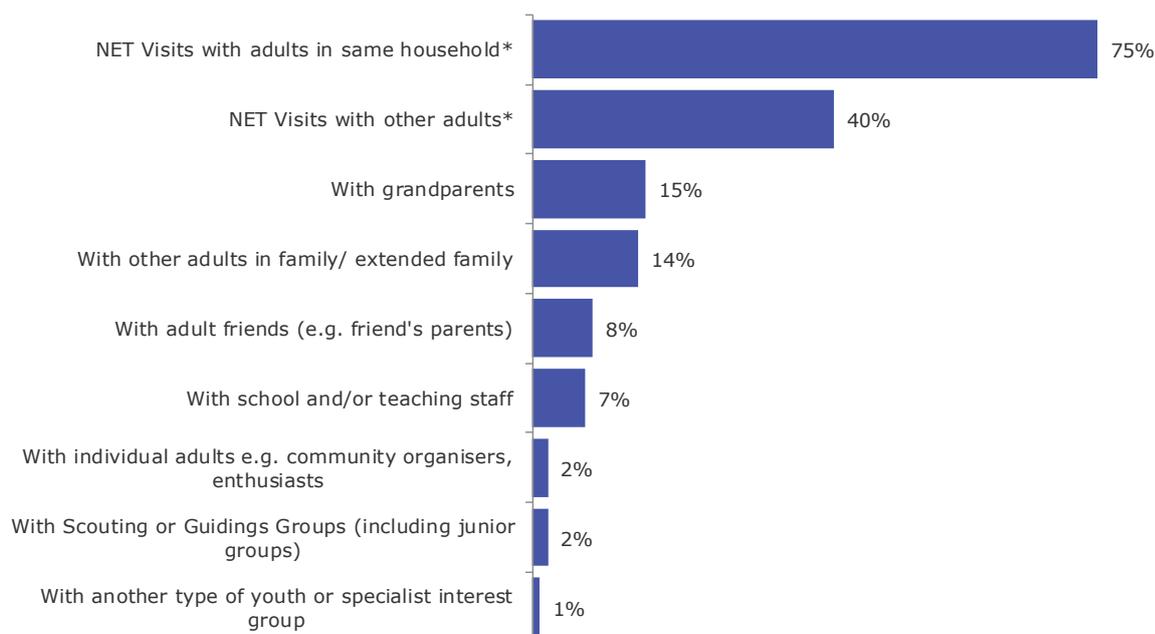
5. Who are children visiting the natural environment with?

Section 4 highlighted that over the two year pilot, an average of three-quarters of all children (75%) took visits to the natural environment with adults who live in their household each month and 40% took visits with other adults (Figure 8a). On average, a fifth (22%) also took visits with no adults present (Figure 8b).

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

Figure 8a - With whom visits to the natural environment were taken with in the previous month – visits taken with adults (% of all children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

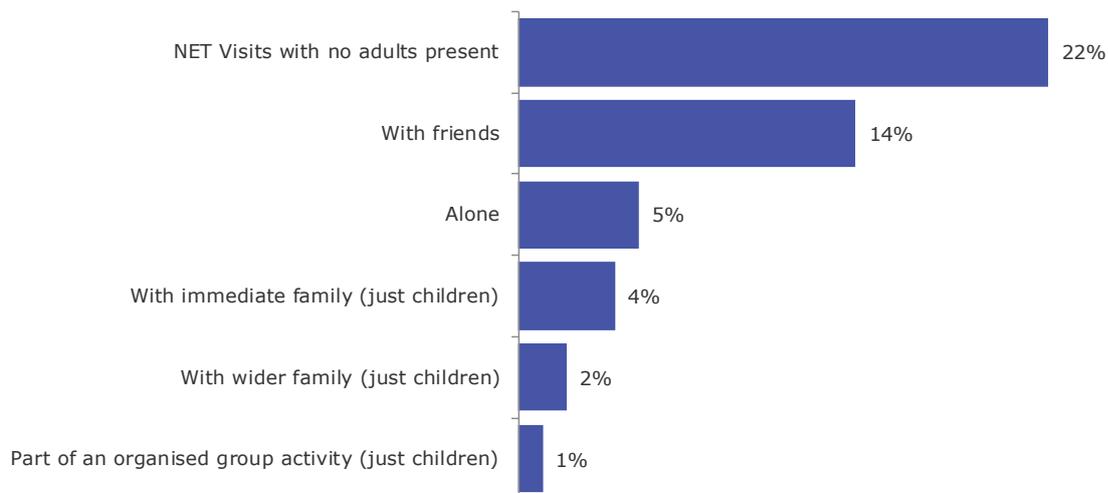


* "Net Visits" includes all frequency of visits to the natural environment within the last month apart from those who "never" took any visits.

Note: the sum of percentages may equal more than 100% as children may have taken more than one type of visit

Figure 8b - With whom visits to the natural environment were taken with in the previous month – visits taken with no adults in group (% of children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)



As highlighted in Figure 8a and Figure 8b, adults within the household were the most frequently cited mediators for children to visit the natural environment, however a high proportion of children visited with non-resident family members (40%), particularly grandparents (15%). Furthermore, a relatively low proportion of children visited the natural environment with their schools or other community based groups.

5.1 Variations by gender and age

Table 4 below shows the results of a comparison of who visits were taken with in the three different contexts by age and gender:

- Overall, the annual and monthly figures did not show much in the way of variation by age or gender, 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 (24% compared to 20%).
- Almost a fifth of children aged under 5 took visits with grandparents (18%) however, as might be expected, the role of grandparents in mediating visits decreased as the age of children increased.
- 8% of all school-aged children (6-15) visited natural environments with their schools. We cannot interpret what sort of activities this reflects, however insight (5) suggests this is likely to reflect one-off residential visits rather than routine use of local green spaces. Smaller proportions took visits with Scouting or Guiding groups (3% of 6 to 12 years olds).

Table 4 - With whom visits to the natural environment have been taken with in previous month by gender and age of children (% of children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

	Gender		Age in years			
	Boy	Girl	Under 5	6 to 9	10 to 12	13 to 15
	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2
Adults in same household	75%	75%	76%	81%	75%	65%
Other adults	40%	40%	38%	44%	44%	35%
<i>Grandparents</i>	15%	15%	18%	16%	12%	7%
<i>Other family</i>	14%	15%	14%	17%	16%	11%
<i>Adult friends</i>	8%	9%	6%	9%	11%	9%
<i>School</i>	7%	8%	5%	8%	9%	7%
<i>Individual adults</i>	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	3%
<i>Scouting or Guiding groups</i>	2%	1%	*	3%	3%	3%
<i>Other group</i>	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%
No adults present	24%	20%	3%	18%	38%	52%
<i>Friends</i>	15%	13%	1%	8%	25%	38%
<i>Alone</i>	7%	4%	1%	5%	10%	13%
<i>Immediate family</i>	4%	4%	1%	5%	7%	5%
<i>Wider family</i>	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%
<i>Organised group</i>	2%	1%	*	1%	2%	3%

* represents <0.5%. Note: sum of percentages equals to more than 100% as children may have taken more than one type of visit

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

Table 5 shows the proportions of children visiting the natural environment were generally lower amongst those in the BAME population and least affluent DE SEG.

Comparison by context did highlight some additional insight, for example:

- Children in the most affluent AB SEG were around twice as likely to visit the natural environment with their school as those in the less affluent C2 and DE groups (10% vs 6%). More affluent socio-economic groups were also more likely to visit with Scouting or Guiding groups.
- Visiting with grandparents was noticeably higher among children from the non-BAME population (18% non-BAME vs 5% BAME).
- Visiting with friends (with no adults present) was also higher among children in the non-BAME population (15% non-BAME vs 8%).

Table 5 - With whom visits to the natural environment have been taken with in previous month by ethnicity and socio-economic group (% of children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

	Ethnicity		Socio-economic group			
	BAME	Non BAME	AB	C1	C2	DE
	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2
Adults in same household	67%	77%	82%	78%	73%	70%
Other adults	29%	43%	47%	40%	39%	37%
<i>Grandparents</i>	5%	18%	19%	16%	14%	12%
<i>Other family</i>	13%	15%	14%	14%	15%	15%
<i>Adult friends</i>	7%	9%	10%	9%	8%	8%
<i>School</i>	6%	7%	10%	7%	6%	6%
<i>Individual adults</i>	2%	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%
<i>Scouting or Guiding groups</i>	1%	2%	4%	3%	1%	1%
<i>Other group</i>	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
No adults present	18%	23%	23%	20%	23%	22%
<i>Friends</i>	8%	15%	15%	13%	15%	12%
<i>Alone</i>	5%	6%	6%	4%	7%	5%
<i>Immediate family</i>	5%	4%	3%	3%	4%	5%
<i>Wider family</i>	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
<i>Organised group</i>	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%

5.3 Variations by region of residence

Table 6 shows the proportions of children visiting the natural environment in the different contexts and by region of residence. Generally, the proportion of children visiting the natural environment was lower amongst those who live in London and the West Midlands. Also:

- Children in the North East were more likely to visit the natural environment with their grandparents or with friends (no adults present); children in London were the least likely to visit with grandparents or friends (no adults present).
- Children in the South East were generally more likely to visit the natural environment with adult friends and with their school than children in the North.

Table 6 - With whom visits to the natural environment have been taken with in previous month by region of residence (% of all children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

	North East	North West	Yorkshire	East Midlands	West Midlands	South West	East England	London	South East
	Yr1/2	Yr1/2	Yr1/2	Yr1/2	Yr1/2	Yr1/2	Yr1/2	Yr1/2	Yr1/2
Adults in same household	71%	73%	74%	75%	72%	76%	80%	72%	79%
Other adults	48%	39%	45%	43%	35%	44%	37%	36%	41%
<i>Grandparents</i>	23%	17%	19%	19%	13%	16%	14%	6%	15%
<i>Other family</i>	22%	14%	17%	13%	14%	14%	13%	14%	14%
<i>Adult friends</i>	6%	8%	8%	7%	6%	9%	8%	10%	11%
<i>School</i>	7%	5%	6%	7%	5%	8%	7%	9%	7%
<i>Individual adults</i>	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%
<i>Scouting or Guiding groups</i>	*	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%
<i>Other group</i>	1%	2%	1%	1%	*	2%	1%	2%	1%
No adults present	26%	24%	23%	20%	19%	26%	20%	20%	22%
<i>Friends</i>	17%	16%	17%	12%	12%	17%	14%	9%	13%
<i>Alone</i>	8%	6%	5%	6%	3%	8%	5%	5%	5%
<i>Immediate family</i>	2%	5%	4%	2%	4%	4%	3%	5%	4%
<i>Wider family</i>	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
<i>Organised group</i>	1%	1%	1%	*	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%

* represents <0.5%. Note: sum of percentages equals to more than 100% as children may have taken more than one type of visit

6. Destination of children's visits

6.1 Locality

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

Figure 9 shows:

- Children were more likely to visit local places than places further away.
- Places visited most often by children were urban parks (48%), playgrounds (28%), playing fields (26%) and country parks (16%).
- The highest proportion of visits by children to 'non-local' destinations was to urban parks and the beach/other coastline (11% and 8% respectively).

Figure 9 - Types of places visited in previous month – local area and not in local area (% of all children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

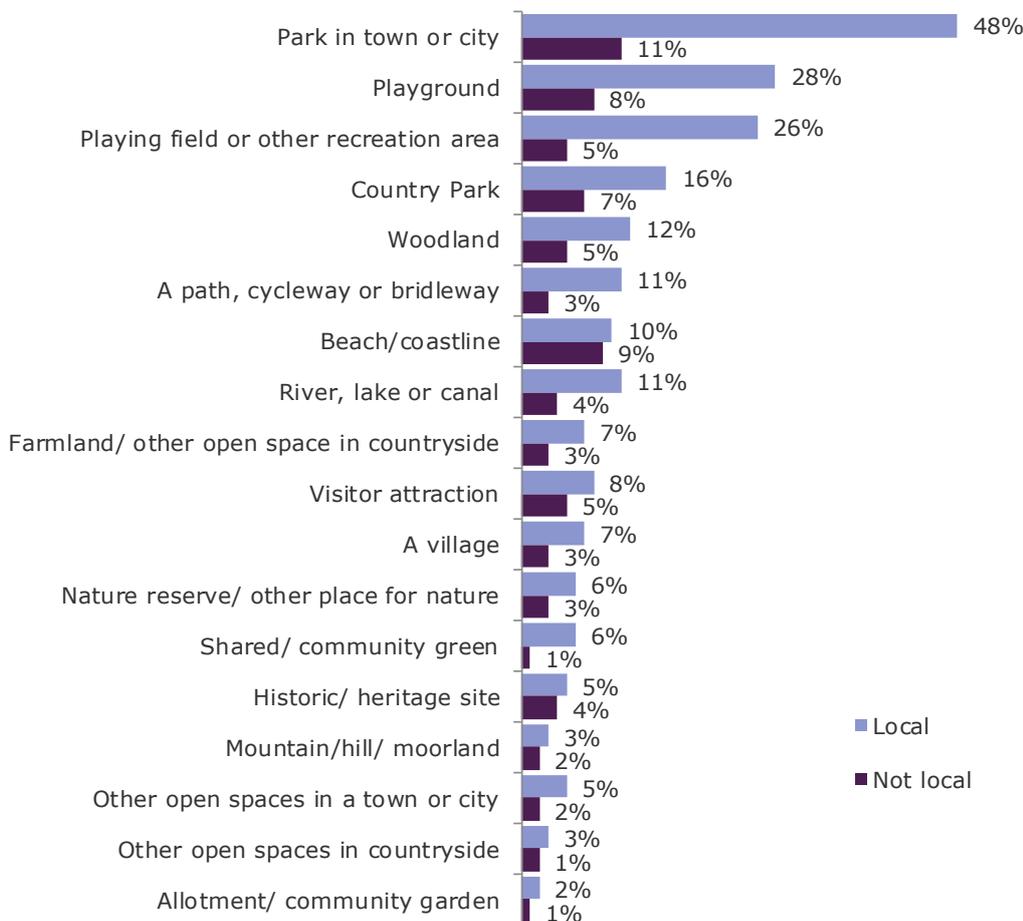


Table 7 shows the types of places children visited in the natural environment by context. The importance of urban parks was consistent in all contexts and for both local and non-local areas.

Table 7 - Types of places visited in previous month by context (% of all children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

	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
	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2
Total	68%	26%	32%	12%	19%	3%
A path, cycleway or bridleway	9%	3%	3%	1%	2%	*
A village	5%	2%	2%	1%	1%	*
Allotment/ community garden	2%	*	1%	*	*	*
Beach/coastline	8%	8%	3%	2%	1%	*
Country Park	13%	5%	5%	2%	2%	1%
Farmland/ other open space in countryside	6%	3%	2%	1%	1%	*
Historic/ heritage site	4%	3%	1%	1%	*	*
Mountain/hill/ moorland	3%	2%	1%	1%	*	*
Nature reserve/ other place for nature	5%	2%	2%	1%	*	*
Other open spaces in a town or city	3%	1%	2%	*	1%	*
Other open spaces in countryside	2%	1%	1%	*	*	*
Park in town or city	40%	8%	15%	3%	9%	1%
Playground	24%	6%	9%	2%	4%	*
Playing field or other recreation area	20%	4%	8%	2%	5%	1%
River, lake or canal	9%	3%	3%	1%	1%	*
Shared/ community green	4%	1%	1%	*	1%	*
Visitor attraction	6%	4%	2%	2%	*	*
Woodland	10%	4%	3%	1%	1%	*

* represents <0.5%. Note: sum of percentages equals to more than 100% as children may have taken more than one type of visit

Table 8 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 other open spaces in town.
- Visits without adults present were less likely to include a visit a visitor attraction compared to visits with adults in the same household. Woodland was 5th most visited local place with adults from the same household compared to 10th in visits without adults.

Table 8 - Types of local places visited in previous month by visit context – ranked from highest to lowest proportion of children visiting. Colouring used to highlight variations

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

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	6	10
A path, cycleway or bridleway	6	6	8	5
River, lake, canal	7	7	7	6
Beach or coastline	8	8	5	7
Visitor attraction	9	9	9	15
Farmland or another open space	10	10	10	12
A village	11	11	11	11
Nature reserve or other space	12	12	12	14
A shared\community green	13	13	14	8
Other open spaces in a town or city	14	14	13	9
Mountain, hill or moorland	15	15	15	17
An allotment or community garden	16	16	16	13
Historic\heritage	17	17	17	16

6.2 Variations by gender and age

As shown in Table 9, parks in towns and cities were the most visited type of place amongst both boys and girls and across all age groups. Visits to playgrounds decreased by age from 31% in under 5s to 15% in of 13 to 15 years olds.

Table 9 - Types of local places visited in previous month by gender and age of children (% of children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

	Gender		Age in years			
	Boy	Girl	Under 5	6 to 9	10 to 12	13 to 15
	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2
Total local	75%	74%	71%	79%	76%	73%
A path, cycleway or bridleway	11%	11%	9%	12%	14%	13%
A village	7%	7%	6%	7%	7%	7%
Allotment/ community garden	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%
Beach/coastline	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Country Park	16%	15%	16%	17%	17%	15%
Farmland/ other open space in countryside	7%	7%	8%	7%	6%	6%
Historic/ heritage site	5%	4%	4%	6%	5%	4%
Mountain/hill/ moorland	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%	4%
Nature reserve/ other place for nature	6%	5%	6%	7%	6%	5%
Other open spaces in a town or city	5%	4%	4%	5%	5%	6%
Other open spaces in countryside	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%
Park in town or city	48%	46%	48%	51%	49%	44%
Playground	29%	27%	31%	35%	27%	15%
Playing field or other recreation area	28%	23%	20%	30%	31%	28%
River, lake or canal	11%	10%	11%	12%	11%	9%
Shared/ community green	6%	5%	5%	7%	7%	6%
Visitor attraction	8%	7%	8%	9%	7%	5%
Woodland	12%	11%	11%	14%	12%	11%

Note: the sum of column percentages may equal more than 100% as children may have taken more than one type of visit

6.3 Variations by ethnicity and Socio-Economic Group (SEG)

Comparing the types of local places children visited 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 types of natural environment listed.
- However the frequency of visits to local urban parks was relatively consistent across all the population groups.

Table 10 - Types of local places visited in previous month by ethnicity and socio-economic group of children (% of children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

	Ethnicity		Socio-economic group			
	BAME	Non BAME	AB	C1	C2	DE
	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2
Total local	63%	77%	81%	76%	74%	70%
A path, cycleway or bridleway	4%	13%	18%	13%	10%	7%
A village	2%	8%	13%	8%	6%	4%
Allotment/ community garden	1%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%
Beach/coastline	3%	12%	13%	11%	9%	8%
Country Park	11%	18%	21%	20%	15%	12%
Farmland/ other open space in countryside	2%	9%	13%	9%	6%	5%
Historic/ heritage site	2%	5%	9%	5%	3%	3%
Mountain/hill/ moorland	1%	4%	6%	3%	3%	2%
Nature reserve/ other place for nature	3%	7%	10%	7%	5%	4%
Other open spaces in a town or city	3%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%
Other open spaces in countryside	1%	3%	4%	3%	3%	2%
Park in town or city	46%	49%	48%	50%	48%	47%
Playground	19%	31%	37%	31%	27%	24%
Playing field or other recreation area	14%	29%	34%	28%	27%	20%
River, lake or canal	4%	13%	16%	11%	10%	8%
Shared/ community green	3%	7%	9%	7%	6%	4%
Visitor attraction	4%	9%	12%	9%	7%	5%
Woodland	3%	15%	19%	14%	11%	8%

Note: the sum of column percentages may equal more than 100% as children may have taken more than one type of visit

6.4 Variations by region

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

- Children in London took a noticeably lower number of total visits to local places (66%) compared to other regions, specifically playing field (16%), country park (10%), woodland (5%) and path/cycleway (5%).
- A higher proportion of children living in the South West visited woodland (18%) or a playing field (34%) compared to other regions.
- Children from the North East were also more likely to visit the coast than other regions (27%).

Table 11 - Types of local places visited in previous month by region (% of children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

	North East	North West	Yorkshire	East Midlands	West Midlands	South West	East England	London	South East
	Yr1/2	Yr1/2	Yr1/2	Yr1/2	Yr1/2	Yr1/2	Yr1/2	Yr1/2	Yr1/2
Total local	76%	71%	77%	74%	71%	78%	80%	66%	79%
A path, cycleway or bridleway	17%	9%	13%	11%	10%	17%	11%	5%	14%
A village	11%	4%	8%	8%	5%	12%	8%	2%	7%
Allotment/ community garden	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Beach/coastline	27%	9%	8%	2%	2%	20%	8%	4%	17%
Country Park	15%	15%	15%	22%	12%	14%	20%	10%	21%
Farmland/ other open space in countryside	9%	6%	8%	8%	5%	11%	10%	3%	8%
Historic/ heritage site	8%	3%	5%	5%	3%	6%	3%	4%	6%
Mountain/hill/ moorland	5%	3%	3%	2%	3%	7%	2%	1%	4%
Nature reserve/ other place for nature	11%	4%	5%	6%	6%	8%	7%	4%	8%
Other open spaces in a town or city	6%	4%	5%	5%	7%	6%	4%	3%	5%
Other open spaces in countryside	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	4%	3%	1%	4%
Park in town or city	46%	49%	51%	43%	50%	42%	54%	47%	49%
Playground	35%	24%	32%	31%	25%	31%	29%	23%	33%
Playing field or other recreation area	28%	21%	31%	26%	22%	34%	30%	16%	33%
River, lake or canal	12%	10%	11%	13%	12%	13%	11%	6%	13%
Shared/ community green	6%	4%	5%	5%	4%	9%	6%	5%	8%
Visitor attraction	10%	5%	7%	8%	6%	11%	9%	6%	9%
Woodland	15%	8%	13%	12%	12%	18%	15%	5%	15%

Note: the sum of column percentages may equal more than 100% as children may have taken more than one type of visit

6.5 Children's reasons for visits

As MENE is an adult survey, the reasons for the children's visits to the natural environment were those reported by the adult in the household for the visits taken by children in 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 reasons, however any bias resulting from this was considered to be relatively constant at a set sampling frequency, so information obtained in this way (including reasons) was considered valid.

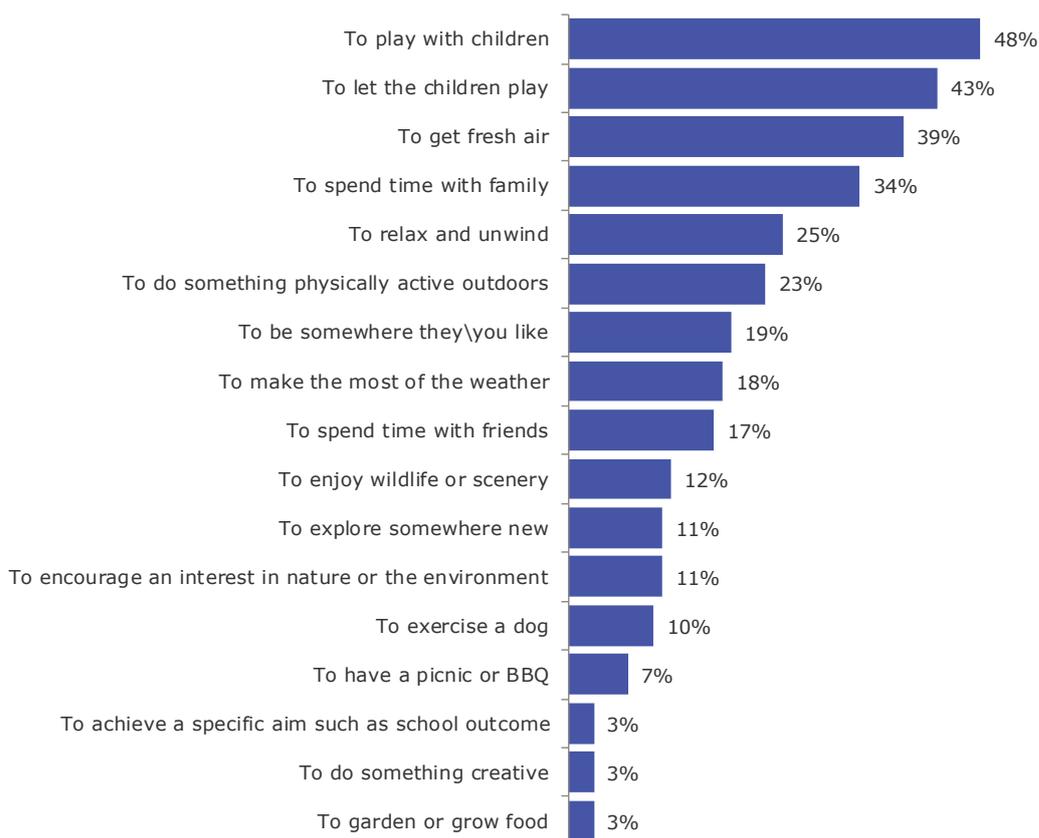
Figure 10 shows that play was the dominant reason given by adults for the visits they took with children to the natural environment. Forty-eight per cent of children took visits that were motivated by adults wanting 'to play with their children' and 43% took visits where the reason was 'to let the children play'.

Other frequently cited reasons provided by adults for the visits they took with children included getting fresh air (40%), spending time with family (35%), relaxing and unwinding (25%) and doing something physically active (24%).

Figure 10 - Reasons for visits taken to the natural environment during the previous month (% of children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

**Note: sum of percentages may not equal 100% as respondents selected all reasons that applied*



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 12).

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

Table 12 - Reasons for visits taken to the natural environment during the previous month by party composition (% of children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

	All visits	Visits with adults from same household	Visits with other adults present	Visits with no adults present
	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2
To play with children	48%	36%	16%	11%
To let the children play	43%	37%	17%	n/a
To get fresh air	39%	33%	13%	7%
To spend time with family	34%	31%	9%	n/a
To relax and unwind	25%	19%	7%	5%
To do something physically active outdoors	23%	18%	8%	5%
To be somewhere they/ you like	19%	13%	6%	5%
To make the most of the weather	18%	15%	6%	3%
To spend time with friends	17%	14%	7%	n/a
To enjoy wildlife or scenery	12%	11%	4%	2%
To explore somewhere new	11%	8%	4%	1%
To encourage an interest in nature or the environment	11%	8%	4%	n/a
To exercise a dog	10%	9%	3%	2%
To have a picnic or BBQ	7%	6%	2%	*
To garden or grow food	3%	2%	1%	*
To do something creative	3%	2%	1%	*

* represents <0.5%. Note: sum of percentages may not equal 100% as respondents selected all reasons that applied

N/A represents an answer code not asked for these visits

Table 13 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 with other adults or without adults were more likely than those taken with adults in the same household to be taken to enjoy nature or the environment.

Table 13 - Motivation for visits taken to the natural environment in previous month by party composition – ranked from highest to lowest proportion of children visiting. Colouring used to highlight variations.

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

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 do something physically active	3	3	4	3
To relax and unwind	4	4	3	4
To make the most of the weather	5	5	5	5
To explore somewhere new	6	6	6	7
To exercise a dog	7	7	7	9
To enjoy wildlife or scenery	8	8	9	6
To encourage an interest/enjoy nature or the environment	9	9	8	8
To have a picnic or BBQ	10	10	10	10
To do something creative	11	11	11	11
To garden or grow food	12	12	12	12

6.6 Variations by gender and age

Table 14 compares the reasons for visits taken to the natural environment by gender and age of children. Key findings included:

- Boys were more likely to take visits to do something physically active (25% compared to and girls were more likely to take visits to spend time with family (36% compared to 33%).
- For the 13 to 15 age group, play became far less important and visits were more likely to be motivated by other reasons such as relaxing and unwinding.

Table 14 - Motivation for visits taken to the natural environment during the previous month by gender and age of children (% of children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

	Gender		Age in years			
	Boy	Girl	Under 5	6 to 9	10 to 12	13 to 15
	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2
To play with children	49%	46%	48%	53%	50%	37%
To let the children play	43%	42%	48%	52%	40%	21%
To get fresh air	39%	40%	39%	42%	39%	36%
To spend time with family	33%	36%	35%	38%	33%	28%
To relax and unwind	25%	25%	21%	26%	27%	29%
To do something physically active outdoors	25%	21%	17%	27%	30%	26%
To make the most of the weather	18%	19%	17%	21%	19%	16%
To be somewhere they/you like	18%	19%	15%	21%	22%	20%
To spend time with friends	17%	18%	12%	20%	21%	20%
To enjoy wildlife or scenery	13%	12%	12%	14%	13%	9%
To explore somewhere new	11%	11%	11%	12%	11%	9%
To exercise a dog	10%	11%	7%	11%	14%	14%
To encourage an interest in nature of the environment	11%	11%	10%	13%	12%	10%
To have a picnic or BBQ	7%	8%	8%	8%	8%	6%
To achieve a special aim such as school education outcome	4%	3%	3%	5%	4%	4%
To garden or grow food	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%
To do something creative like photography or painting	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%

Note: the sum of percentages may equal to more than 100% as respondents selected all reasons that applied

6.7 Variations by ethnicity and Socio-Economic Group (SEG)

Comparing the reasons for taking visits to the natural environment by ethnicity and SEG (Table 15) showed that:

- A greater range of reasons for visits were provided by 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 . This reflects findings of other studies (3, 7).
- The proportions of children taking visits for particular reasons were higher in the non-BAME and AB groups – for example:
 - o A higher proportion of children in the non-BAME group made visits 'to do something physically active' (27% vs 12% BAME).
 - o Compared to the DE group, a higher proportion of children in the AB group made visits 'to do something physically active ' (35% vs 16%).
- Differences by ethnicity and SEG were less marked for responses relating to play and relaxation. These reasons were consistently important across all population groups.
- A difference in visits taken to exercise a dog (13% of children in the non-BAME population compared to 1% in the BAME population) is thought to reflect lower levels of dog ownership among BAME communities.

Table 15 - Motivation for visits taken to the natural environment during the previous month by ethnic and socio-economic group (% of children)

Base: All children in Year 1 and Year 2 of pilot study (n=10,235)

	Ethnicity		Socio-economic group			
	BAME	Non BAME	AB	C1	C2	DE
	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2	Yr 1/2
To play with children	43%	49%	50%	50%	46%	46%
To let the children play	38%	44%	45%	44%	41%	41%
To get fresh air	34%	41%	44%	45%	38%	35%
To spend time with family	26%	37%	42%	38%	33%	29%
To relax and unwind	24%	25%	27%	29%	24%	21%
To do something physically active outdoors	12%	27%	35%	27%	22%	16%
To make the most of the weather	11%	20%	22%	21%	17%	15%
To be somewhere they/you like	12%	20%	20%	21%	18%	16%
To spend time with friends	14%	18%	21%	19%	16%	15%
To enjoy wildlife or scenery	8%	14%	17%	18%	11%	9%
To explore somewhere new	7%	12%	16%	14%	10%	8%
To exercise a dog	1%	13%	12%	12%	11%	8%
To encourage an interest in nature of the environment	7%	12%	17%	13%	10%	8%
To have a picnic or BBQ	5%	8%	9%	9%	7%	6%
To achieve a special aim such as school education outcome	2%	4%	6%	4%	3%	2%
To garden or grow food	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%
To do something creative like photography or painting	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%

Note: the sum of percentages may equal to more than 100% as respondents selected all reasons that applied

7. Summary of conclusions

This pilot study aimed to quantify, for the first time, the scale and scope of children's visits to the natural environment, to identify whom children make visits with and where they go. The conclusion from the two-year 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 indicator sets monitoring delivery of commitments in the New Environment White Paper including '*for every child to be able to experience and learn in the natural environment*' (4) and the indicator set being used by the Office for National Statistics to monitor children's well-being (6). Data is also being used by Public Health England to complement their public health outcome measures. As a result, the question set has been adopted into the core MENE survey.

The results are of significance in that they highlight clear social inequalities in how children are accessing natural environments, showing a clear link between the frequency at which children visit the natural environment and both their ethnicity and socio-economic status.

The results also show, as expected, that adults are 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 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 (3). This growing evidence of strong relationships between the visiting behaviours of adults and children within households will be useful in informing future intervention strategies to support improvements in public health, wellbeing and outdoor learning.

8. References

1. The Marmot Review (2010) *Fair society, healthy lives: strategic review of health inequalities in England post-2010*.
2. Hunt, A., Burt, J. and Stewart, D.; 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) NECR166.
3. Stewart, D and Costley; Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009-2012): Analysis of data related to visits with children DATA004.
4. The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature, HM Government CM8082 (2011).
5. Rickinson, M., Hunt, A., Rogers, J. and Dillon, J. (2012) School Leader and Teacher Insights into Learning Outside the Classroom in Natural Environments. NECR097.
6. Measuring National Well-being: Measures of Well-being for Children and Young People Consultation Response. ONS (2014).
7. Hunt, A., Rickinson, M., Andrews, R., Stewart, Burt, J and Dillon, J. (in press) Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment - analysis of visits to the natural environment by households with children (2009-13) NECR.

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 NES

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