
A Big Conversation about National Parks:
the findings of our survey



Introduction

National Parks bring pleasure to the many people who live in them and who visit them.

The Campaign for National Parks works to protect and enhance these precious places. We think that National Parks are inspiring and breathtaking areas of our country. They are part of our cultural heritage, are important for wildlife, contain beautiful landscapes and benefit the nation. They are living and working landscapes and more than 100 million people visit the Parks in England and Wales each year.

However, we would not claim they are perfect.

2016 is Campaign for National Parks' 80th anniversary. While we will celebrate our achievements during those eight decades, we also want to look ahead. We want to make sure that the Parks continue to be protected, but also that they remain relevant, used, lived in and loved for the next 80 years. And to make sure that is the case we wanted to involve as many people as possible in a Big Conversation about National Parks.

We wanted to hear from people what they liked about the Parks, but also, and perhaps more importantly, what they thought might make the Parks even better. Within that conversation, we wanted to hear from the people who visit the Parks regularly, but we also wanted to hear from people who live in the Parks who might have a different perspective on what changes they think might be needed.

This report gives an overview of the responses we received.

Methodology and limitations

To gather views we launched a simple online survey in early March 2016. The survey was open for eight weeks and we promoted it through our [Council members](#) and the media, but predominantly and most widely through social media. We got 9,858 responses during that time, of which 29 were in response to the Welsh version of the survey.

We are conscious that while promoting the survey through social media has been successful in terms of gathering a large number of responses, it has been self-selective. While we endeavoured to promote the survey to a wide range of audiences, and in particular younger audiences, we know we had limited success with this. So consideration will be given to whether further scoping work would be a valuable addition.

The approach we chose to take for this first, scoping stage was purposefully high level and aimed to gather as many responses as possible. Many of the issues raised in responses, however, are complex and far reaching, and Campaign for National Parks may not be the right organisation to tackle some of them. As well as the survey results, we will consider a range of external and internal issues to inform our next steps. To date, however, the data has informed discussions with our advisory Council and will also inform discussions with our Board of trustees.

It is also worth noting that during the time the survey was live concerns were raised by some organisations that it was anti-shooting and field sports. This was certainly not our intention, indeed we went into the exercise with an open mind and a desire to hear what people thought. We did include multiple choice answers but this was based on advice received that if we only included open questions and text boxes we would receive fewer responses. We highlighted, however, that other activities and changes could be added using the 'other' option and it is clear that those who raised these concerns encouraged their members and supporters to respond to the survey and do just that.

Survey results

Part 1

What do people enjoy about the Parks at the moment?

Question: What do you love most about the features of National Parks? Respondents were able to pick up to three options.

The answers below are from those who responded 'yes' to the first question, do you live or work in a National Park at the moment? For this group of respondents, 'views and landscape' (45%) and 'wildlife' (39%) were the two favourite features of National Parks.

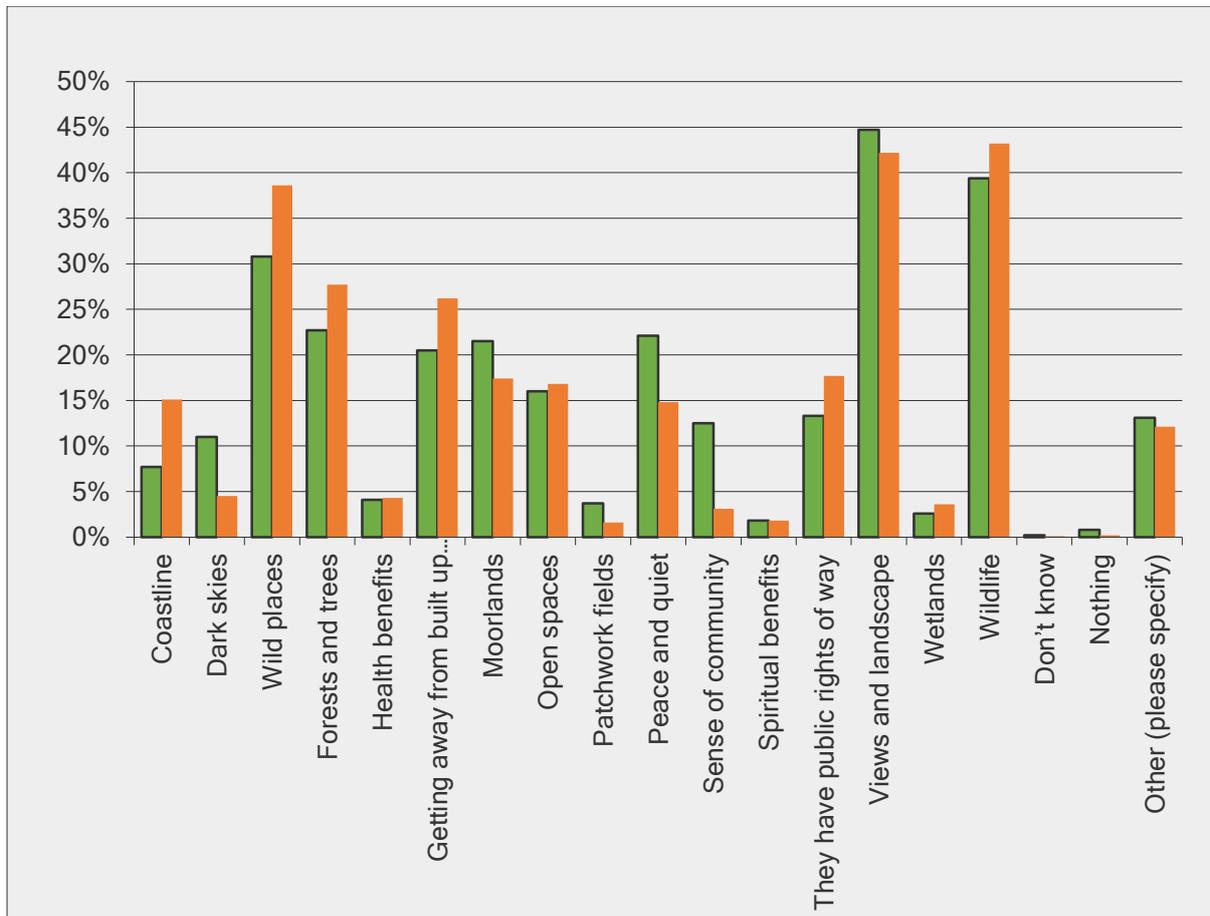
| 1.1 Favourite features – those who live or work in a National Park | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Answer options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Views and landscape | 44.7% | 827 |
| Wildlife | 39.4% | 730 |
| Wild places | 30.8% | 570 |
| Forests and trees | 22.7% | 421 |
| Peace and quiet | 22.1% | 409 |
| Moorlands | 21.5% | 398 |
| Getting away from built up environments | 20.5% | 379 |
| Open spaces | 16.0% | 296 |
| They have public rights of way | 13.3% | 246 |
| Other (please specify) | 13.1% | 242 |
| Sense of community | 12.5% | 232 |
| Dark skies | 11.0% | 204 |
| Coastline | 7.7% | 143 |
| Health benefits | 4.1% | 75 |
| Patchwork fields | 3.7% | 69 |
| Wetlands | 2.6% | 48 |
| Spiritual benefits | 1.8% | 33 |
| Nothing | 0.8% | 15 |
| Don't know | 0.2% | 3 |
| Answered question | | 1851 |

The answers below are responses from those who answered 'no' to the first question and therefore do not live or work in a National Park at the moment. But they then said they had visited a Park within the last five years. As with respondents who lived or worked in the Parks, respondent's top two favourite features were 'wildlife' (43%) and 'views and landscape' (42%).

| 1.2 Favourite features – those who do not live or work in a National Park but have visited in the last 5 years | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Answer options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Wildlife | 43.2% | 3126 |
| Views and landscape | 42.2% | 3057 |
| Wild places | 38.6% | 2794 |
| Forests and trees | 27.7% | 2005 |
| Getting away from built up environments | 26.2% | 1897 |
| They have public rights of way | 17.7% | 1284 |
| Moorlands | 17.4% | 1258 |
| Open spaces | 16.8% | 1220 |
| Coastline | 15.1% | 1091 |
| Peace and quiet | 14.8% | 1074 |

| | | |
|------------------------|-------|------|
| Other (please specify) | 12.1% | 878 |
| Dark skies | 4.5% | 327 |
| Health benefits | 4.3% | 308 |
| Wetlands | 3.6% | 259 |
| Sense of community | 3.1% | 227 |
| Spiritual benefits | 1.8% | 131 |
| Patchwork fields | 1.6% | 119 |
| Nothing | 0.2% | 12 |
| Don't know | 0.1% | 5 |
| Answered question | | 7242 |

1.3 Favourite features – comparing those who live or work in a National Park and those who do not but have visited in the last 5 years



Question: If you use the National Parks for recreational activities, what are your favourite things to do? Respondents could pick up to three activities.

The answers below are for those who said they lived or worked in a National Park at the moment. The most popular recreational activity was walking (59%) and then 'other'. A range of activities were specified under 'other'. Within other, 701 people (38% of total respondents to question) referred to shooting and 130 specified 'green laning'/ legal trail riding.

| 1.4 Recreational activities – those who live or work in a National Park | | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Answer options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Walking | 58.8% | 1088 |
| Other (please specify) | 49.4% | 914 |
| Observing wildlife | 39.1% | 724 |
| Angling and fishing | 18.7% | 346 |
| Cycling / mountain biking | 16.6% | 307 |
| Taking photographs | 14.7% | 273 |
| Horse riding | 12.5% | 231 |
| Visiting historical buildings | 7.3% | 136 |
| Camping | 7.1% | 131 |
| Holidays with friends and/or family | 6.0% | 111 |
| Exercise like swimming or running | 5.6% | 104 |
| Climbing | 4.7% | 87 |
| Touring by car | 4.3% | 79 |
| Backpacking | 3.6% | 67 |
| Volunteering opportunities (eg footpath maintenance and conservation work) | 3.5% | 65 |
| Kayaking/canoeing | 3.4% | 63 |
| Picnicking | 3.3% | 62 |
| Activities organised for children/ families | 2.7% | 50 |
| Mass sporting events | 2.1% | 38 |
| I don't use them for recreational activities | 1.8% | 33 |
| Caravanning | 1.6% | 29 |
| Geocaching (treasure hunt app) | 0.9% | 17 |
| Youth hostelling | 0.4% | 7 |
| Answered question | | 1851 |

The answers below are responses from those who answered 'no', they do not live or work in a National Park at the moment. But they have visited a Park within the last five years. Again, walking came out as the most popular recreational activity. Within 'other', 2,736 respondents (38%) stated shooting and 817 stated 'green laning' or legal trail riding was one of their three favourite activities in a National Park.

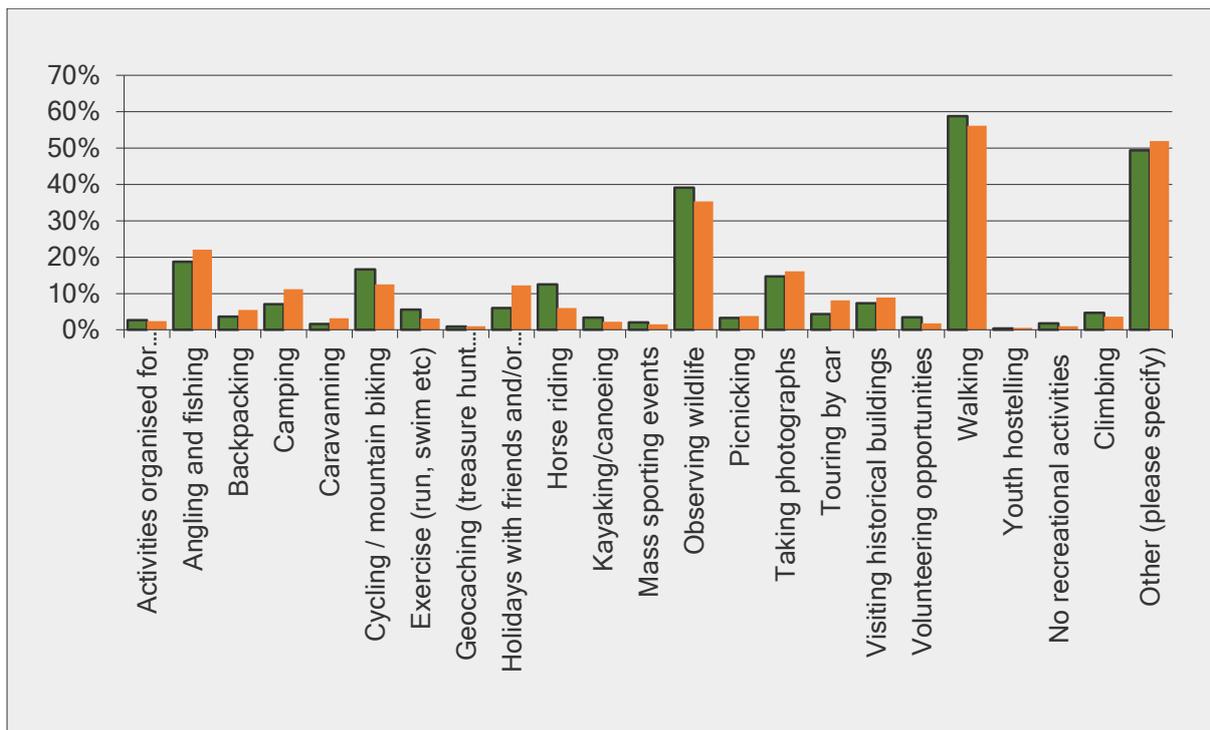
| 1.5 Recreational activities – those who do not live or work in a National Park but have visited in the last 5 years | | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Answer options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Walking | 56.1% | 4062 |
| Other (please specify) | 51.9% | 3758 |
| Observing wildlife | 35.3% | 2556 |
| Angling and fishing | 22.1% | 1597 |
| Taking photographs | 16.1% | 1163 |
| Cycling / mountain biking | 12.5% | 907 |
| Holidays with friends and/or family | 12.2% | 886 |
| Camping | 11.2% | 808 |
| Visiting historical buildings | 8.9% | 647 |

| | | |
|--|------|------|
| Touring by car | 8.1% | 587 |
| Horse riding | 6.0% | 433 |
| Backpacking | 5.5% | 396 |
| Picnicking | 3.8% | 278 |
| Climbing | 3.6% | 261 |
| Caravanning | 3.2% | 232 |
| Exercise like swimming or running | 3.1% | 223 |
| Activities organised for children/ families | 2.4% | 177 |
| Kayaking/canoeing | 2.2% | 157 |
| Volunteering opportunities (eg footpath maintenance and conservation work) | 1.8% | 127 |
| Mass sporting events | 1.5% | 108 |
| Geocaching (treasure hunt app) | 1.0% | 69 |
| I don't use them for recreational activities | 1.0% | 69 |
| Youth hostelling | 0.6% | 41 |
| Answered question | | 7242 |

1.6 Recreational activities – comparing those who live or work in a National Park and those who do not but have visited in the last 5 years

NB. Green bar – responses from those who live and/or work in the Parks

Orange bar – responses from those who do not live or work in a Park but have visited in the last five years



An overview

The table below compares the data set out on the previous pages to consider whether there are similarities or differences between the views of those who live or work in a Park and those who are visitors.

It is interesting to note how much similarity there is between the answers from the two groups of respondents.

| 1.7 What people like about National Parks | | |
|--|--|---|
| | Those who live or work in a Park (1,851 responses) | Do not live or work in a Park but have visited in last five years (7,242 responses) |
| Favourite features | Views and landscape (45%) | Wildlife (43%) |
| (people picked top 3) | Wildlife (39%) | Views and landscape (42%) |
| | Wild places (31%) | Wild places (39%) |
| | | |
| Favourite recreational activities | Walking (59%) | Walking (56%) |
| (people picked top 3) | Observing wildlife (39%) | Other – specifically shooting (38%)* |
| | Other – specifically shooting (38%)* | Observing wildlife (35%) |
| | Angling and fishing (19%) | Angling and fishing (22%) |

As highlighted in the section about the background to the survey, we want to make sure that the National Parks remain relevant, used, lived in and loved for the next 80 years. We are therefore, we wanted to make sure younger people engaged with the survey. In analysing the results we have also been interested in understanding whether younger people have differing views to the majority.

The responses for those who stated they were 34 years old or younger were very similar to the priorities set out above. In relation to favourite features, wildlife and views and landscape again came our top for both those who live or work in a Park and those who visit. For those who live or work in a Park, however, rather than wild places coming in the top three forests and trees were chosen by 36% of respondents (of 196 responses).

Regarding favourite activities, again there were many similarities with walking, observing wildlife and shooting being popular. The fourth favourite activity for those visiting the Park was camping (22% of 688 respondents).

Part 2

Could the Parks be made to be even better?

We know the National Parks are visited by millions of people every year. But we wanted to ask people what, if anything, they thought might make the Parks even better. As before, we provided some options for people to choose from but the list was not exhaustive and people were given the option of 'other' and asked to specify alternative views.

Question: What, if any, changes would you like to see to National Parks in the future?

Respondents could tick all the answers they felt were applicable.

The answers below are for those who said they lived or worked in a National Park at the moment. The most popular response was 'better conservation of wildlife' (38%), followed by 'better internet/ telephone connectivity' (34%).

| 2.1 Changes to National Parks in the future – those who live in a Park at the moment | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Answer options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Better conservation of wildlife | 38.1% | 698 |
| Better internet / telephone connectivity | 34.4% | 629 |
| More support for land managers (inc financial) | 33.5% | 614 |
| Better rural services, such as post offices, pubs, and local shops | 32.5% | 595 |
| Make them wilder | 27.9% | 510 |
| More affordable housing | 25.2% | 461 |
| Other (please specify) | 24.5% | 449 |
| More employment opportunities | 23.6% | 432 |
| More frequent public transport | 19.0% | 347 |
| I like them the way they are at the moment | 18.0% | 330 |
| Quieter/ more tranquil | 16.4% | 301 |
| More affordable public transport | 16.3% | 298 |
| Less traffic noise | 16.0% | 293 |
| Slower speed limits | 15.2% | 278 |
| Fewer signs and sign posts | 14.5% | 265 |
| Fewer people visiting | 14.4% | 264 |
| Cheaper / more car parking | 10.3% | 189 |
| Less farming | 8.1% | 148 |
| Visitor's centres | 5.5% | 101 |
| More activities for children | 4.9% | 89 |
| Information on what National Parks or how to get there | 4.7% | 86 |
| More varied activities to do | 4.6% | 84 |
| More signs and sign posts | 3.5% | 64 |
| Other activities | 2.9% | 54 |
| Cheaper activities | 2.0% | 36 |
| Less conservation of wildlife | 1.3% | 23 |
| Fewer rural services | 0.4% | 8 |
| Answered question | | 1831 |

We also gave respondents an opportunity to provide longer responses to this question and received various comments, all of which will be part of our considerations, including the following examples:

- *“Rebalance from big parks for city people to a focus on a precious way of life and environment. Living areas not 'snow dome' landscapes for the wealthy retired from cities nor the play thing of the green left.”*

- *“Less interference for residents”*
- *“Less constant promotion. There are too many tourists and cars. There should be frequent park and rides outside small villages such as Edale and cars access for residents only. It is a motorway or hikers and cyclists at peak times.”*
- *“Tired of National Parks as a Disneyland for townies!”*
- *“Better education about the countryside for city dwellers”*
- *“More education so that those that visit understand them and therefore look after them better.”*
- *“Raised awareness amongst visitors of their responsibilities such as adherence to the Country Code and similar”*
- *“Better understanding of the needs of residents”*
- *“More education the national parks cover areas of land used in rural industry first and leisure second”*

The answers below are responses from those who answered ‘no’, they do not live or work in a National Park at the moment. But they have visited a Park within the last five years. The most popular response was, again, ‘better conservation of wildlife’ (39%), followed by ‘make them wilder’ (29%).

| 2.2 Changes to National Parks in the future – those who do not live in a Park at the moment but have visited in the last 5 years | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Answer options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Better conservation of wildlife | 38.9% | 2782 |
| Make them wilder | 29.4% | 2101 |
| More support for land managers (inc financial) | 26.7% | 1910 |
| I like them the way they are at the moment | 26.5% | 1893 |
| Better rural services, such as post offices, pubs, and local shops | 23.3% | 1665 |
| More employment opportunities | 15.3% | 1097 |
| Better internet / telephone connectivity | 13.4% | 959 |
| Cheaper / more car parking | 13.4% | 956 |
| More affordable housing | 11.4% | 813 |
| Quieter/ more tranquil | 11.2% | 798 |
| Slower speed limits | 11.1% | 795 |
| More frequent public transport | 10.8% | 770 |
| Less traffic noise | 9.7% | 695 |
| Information on what National Parks are or how to get there | 8.8% | 628 |
| More affordable public transport | 8.6% | 616 |
| Fewer signs and sign posts | 8.3% | 593 |
| Fewer people visiting | 7.1% | 508 |
| Other activities | 6.5% | 467 |
| Visitor’s centres | 6.3% | 448 |
| Less farming | 6.0% | 429 |
| More varied activities to do | 5.3% | 380 |
| More signs and sign posts | 5.1% | 368 |
| More activities for children | 3.3% | 239 |
| Cheaper activities | 2.9% | 210 |
| Less conservation of wildlife | 0.9% | 64 |

| | | |
|------------------------|-------|------|
| Fewer rural services | 0.4% | 26 |
| Other (please specify) | 25.9% | 1851 |
| Answered question | | 7148 |

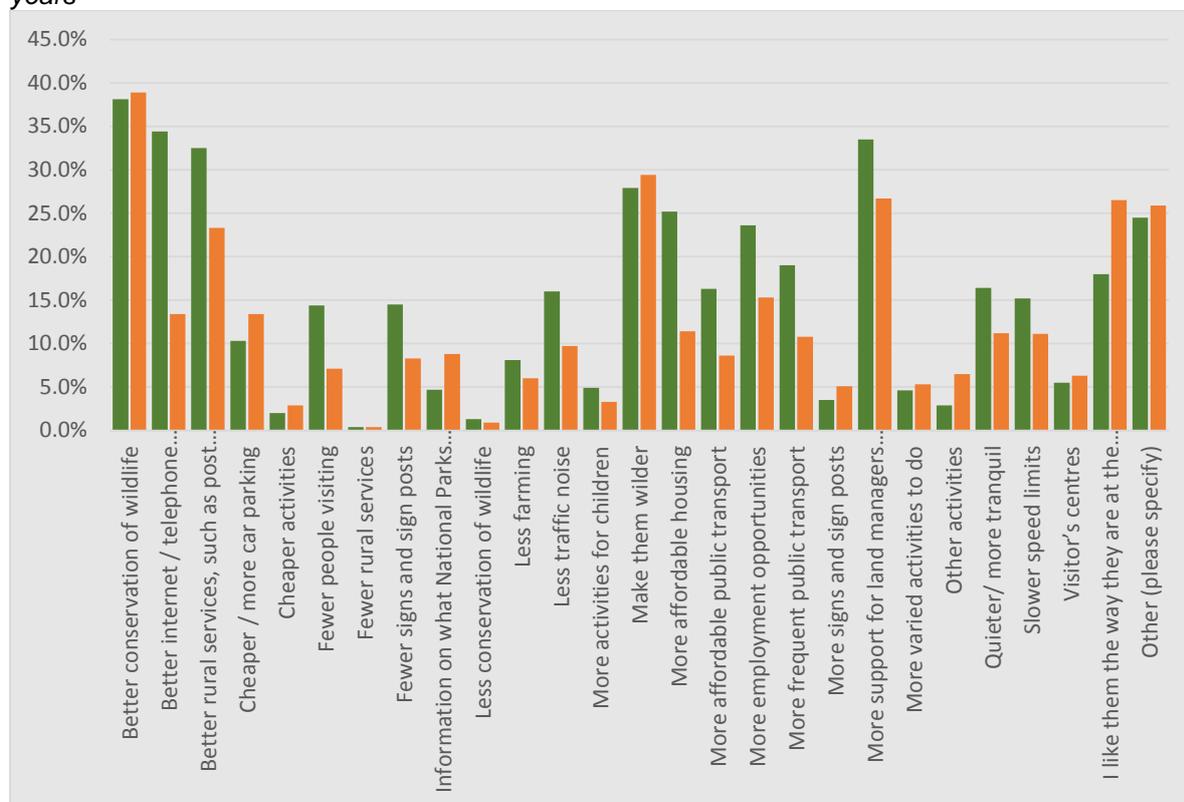
Again, respondents were able to provide longer responses to this question if they wanted to. We received various comments including the following examples:

- *“Ration the number of people entering.”*
- *“To maintain access for ALL user groups whether on foot or on wheels. If necessary implement an 'organic' vehicle use restriction system which temporarily closes routes if ground conditions are deemed inappropriate and are susceptible to damage.”*
- *“More education as walkers seem to think that the national parks are for them and them alone. Some can be extremely abusive as they as they are ignorant of the status of the road's and tracks. Proper signs as in the Isle of Man would educate and also stop confusion as to the status of rights of way and should also stop uneducated riders riding on footpaths and bridleways.”*
- *“Less urban influences on decision making.”*
- *“Better promotion of local businesses.”*
- *“Stop turning wild areas into city parks.”*
- *“Visitors to pay to access private land.”*
- *“Prevent them from being too user friendly! i.e. the mud need not be clean!”*
- *“More authority and focus on nature conservation rather than on economic development and tourism. Stricter rules for visitors to limit impacts e.g. similar to many European or New Zealand standards.”*
- *“More efforts to get into the towns and cities to encourage greater understanding of the countryside and how urban dwellers can be responsible in the rural environments.”*

2.3 Changes to National Parks – comparing those who live or work in a National Park and those who do not but have visited in the last 5 years

NB. Green bar – responses from those who live and/or work in the Parks

Orange bar – responses from those who do not live or work in a Park but have visited in the last five years



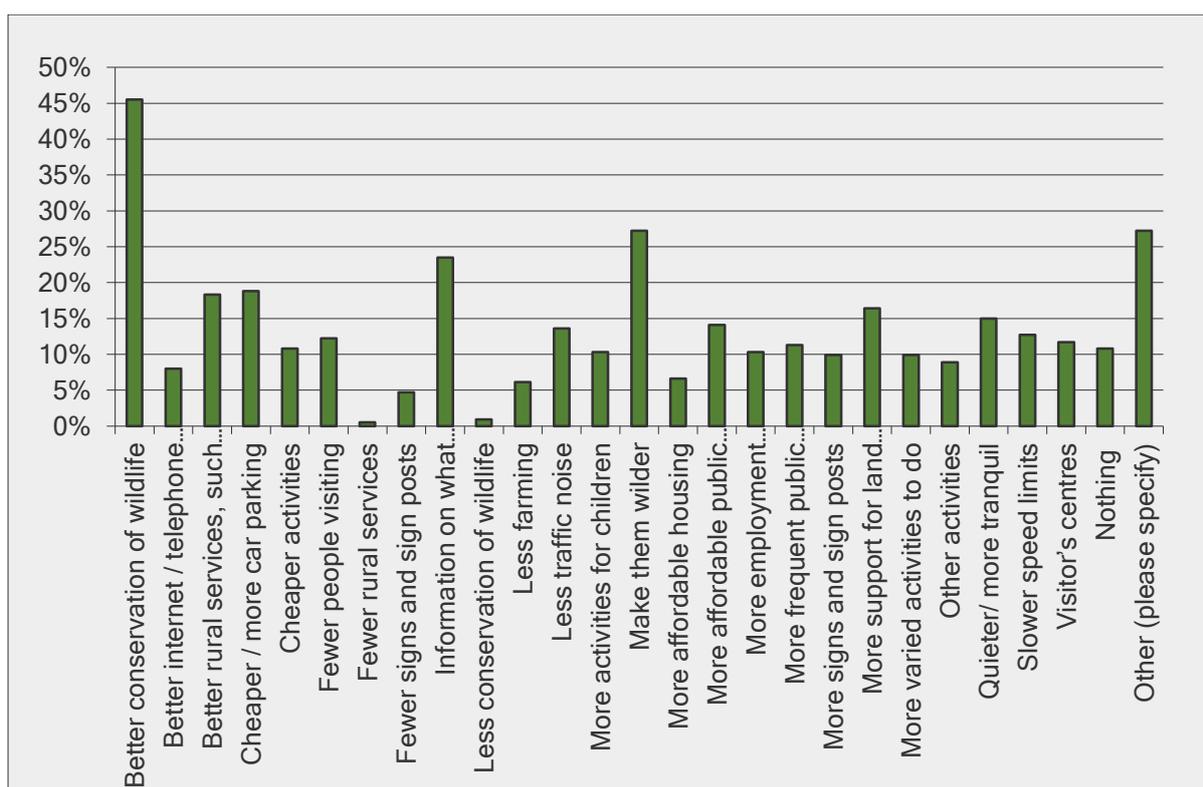
Question: What, if any, changes would make you more likely to visit National Parks in the future? Respondents were able to tick all that were applicable.

We asked respondents who did not live or work in a National Park at the moment whether they had visited a National Park in the last five years. The vast majority (97%) said yes, but 248 people said they had not (3%). We asked those who had not visited in the recent past what might make them more likely to visit in the future and got the response below. 'Better conservation of wildlife' and 'make them wilder' were again the most popular responses with 46% and 27% of respondents indicating those options.

| 2.4 Changes to National Parks – those who have not visited in the last 5 years | | |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Better conservation of wildlife | 45.5% | 97 |
| Make them wilder | 27.2% | 58 |
| Other (please specify) | 27.2% | 58 |
| Information on what National Parks are or how to get there | 23.5% | 50 |
| Cheaper / more car parking | 18.8% | 40 |
| Better rural services, such as post offices, pubs, and local shops | 18.3% | 39 |
| More support for land managers (inc financial) | 16.4% | 35 |
| Quieter/ more tranquil | 15.0% | 32 |
| More affordable public transport | 14.1% | 30 |

| | | |
|--|-------|-----|
| Less traffic noise | 13.6% | 29 |
| Slower speed limits | 12.7% | 27 |
| Fewer people visiting | 12.2% | 26 |
| Visitor's centres | 11.7% | 25 |
| More frequent public transport | 11.3% | 24 |
| Cheaper activities | 10.8% | 23 |
| Nothing | 10.8% | 23 |
| More activities for children | 10.3% | 22 |
| More employment opportunities | 10.3% | 22 |
| More signs and sign posts | 9.9% | 21 |
| More varied activities to do | 9.9% | 21 |
| Other activities | 8.9% | 19 |
| Better internet / telephone connectivity | 8.0% | 17 |
| More affordable housing | 6.6% | 14 |
| Less farming | 6.1% | 13 |
| Fewer signs and sign posts | 4.7% | 10 |
| Less conservation of wildlife | 0.9% | 2 |
| Fewer rural services | 0.5% | 1 |
| Answered question | | 213 |

2.5 Changes to National Parks – those who have not visited in the last 5 years



An overview

The table below compares the data set out on the previous pages to consider whether there are differences or similarities between the views of those who live or work in a Park and those who are visitors in relation to what people think would improve the Parks.

It is interesting to note how much similarity there is between the answers from the three groups of respondents.

| 2.6 Comparing changes | | |
|--|--|---|
| Those who live or work in a Park (1,831 responses) | Do not live or work in a Park but have visited in last five years (7,148 responses) | Do not live or work in a Park and not visited in last five years (213 responses) |
| Better conservation of wildlife (38%) | Better conservation of wildlife (39%) | Better conservation of wildlife (46%) |
| Better internet/ telephone connectivity (34%) | Make them wilder (29%) | Make them wilder (27%) |
| More support for land managers (inc funding) (34%) | More support for land managers (including funding) (27%) | Other (27%) |
| Better rural services (33%) | Like them as they are (26%) | Information about the Parks and how to get there (24%) |

Again, we considered whether responses from younger people (34 and below) within these three broader groups were different from the themes and issues being raised by the majority. We only received responses to this question from 22 people who do not live or work in a Park and have not visited one in the last five years. And for those who have visited in the last five years the top four responses were the same as those set out in the table.

There was, however, a difference in the issues raised by the 196 respondents who live or work in a Park compared with those in the first column in the table above. For this, admittedly relatively small group of respondents, 'better internet/ telephone connectivity came fifth (23%) and was replaced in second by 'make them wilder' (32%).

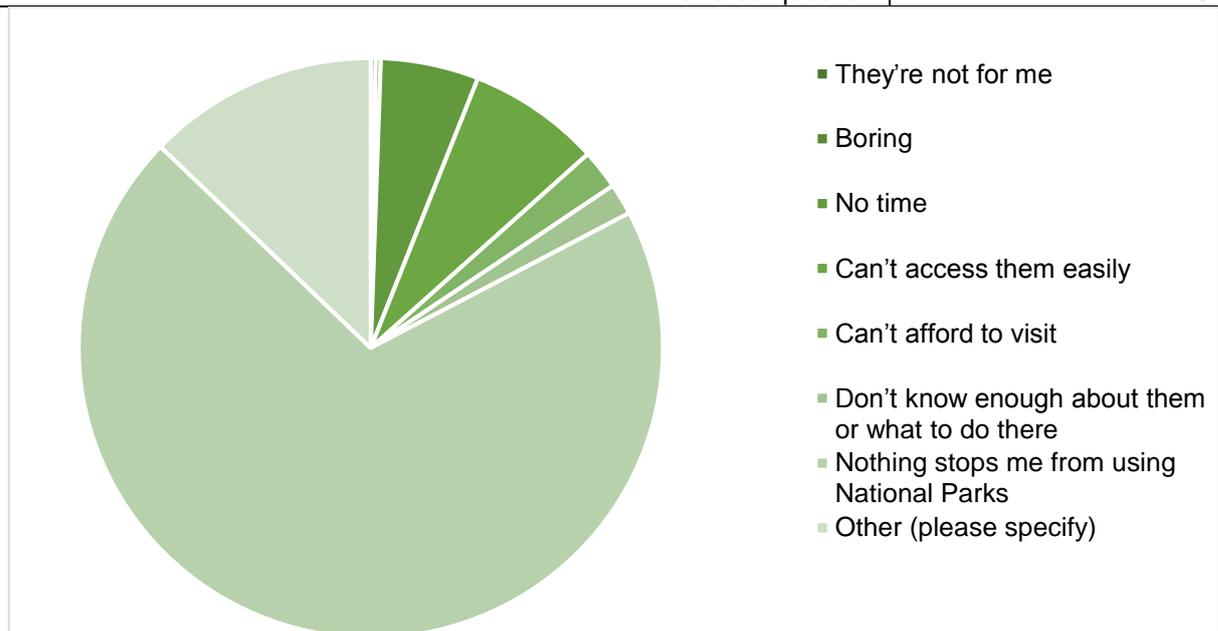
Part 3

Are people prevented from visiting the National Parks?

We wanted to understand whether there were any barriers to people visiting the Parks. However, in light of the high rate of responses from people who live or work in the National Parks or have visited them within the last five years, it was unsurprising to see that the vast majority of respondents said nothing stopped them from using the Parks.

Question: What, if anything, stops you from using National Parks? Respondents were able to tick all applicable answers.

| 3.1 What stops people from using National Parks? - All respondents | | |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Nothing stops me from using National Parks | 76.0% | 6962 |
| Can't access them easily | 8.0% | 730 |
| No time | 5.9% | 538 |
| Can't afford to visit | 2.4% | 222 |
| Don't know enough about them or what to do there | 1.9% | 176 |
| They're not for me | 0.3% | 27 |
| Boring | 0.3% | 26 |
| Other (please specify) | 13.9% | 1273 |
| Answered question | | 9157 |



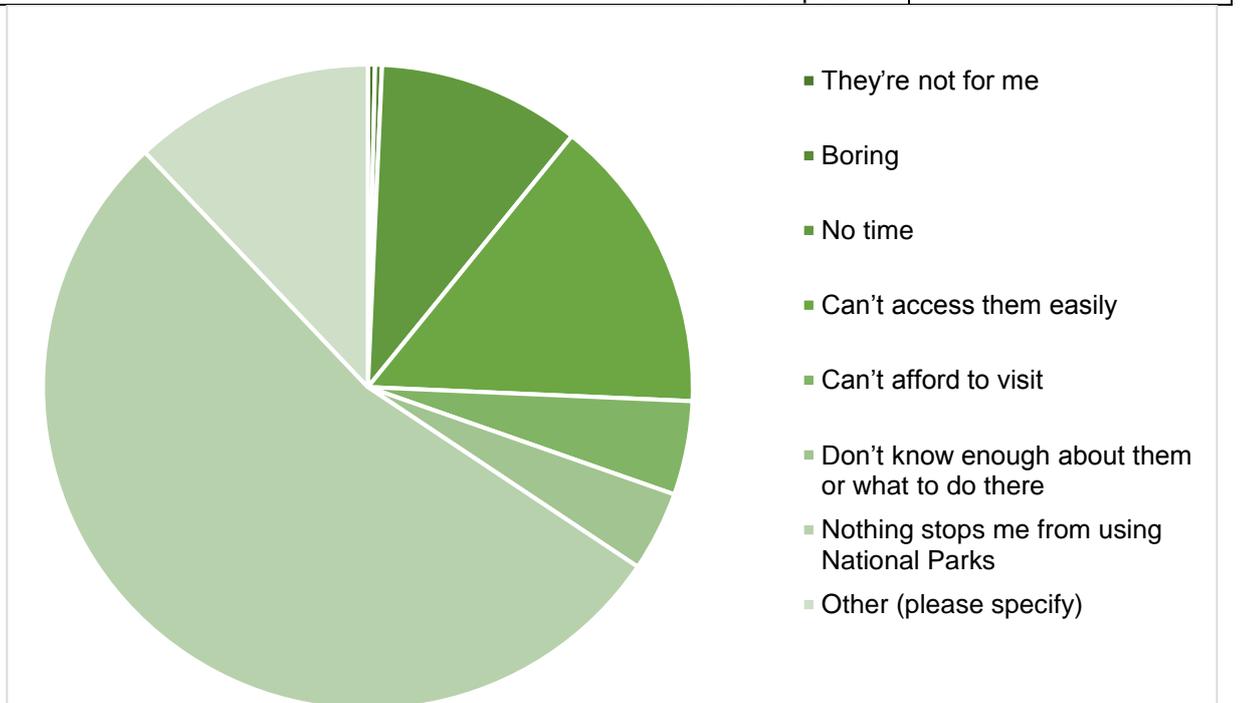
Those who indicated 'other' were asked to specify what prevented them. A wide range of issues were raised but the most frequent other reason indicated (referred to by 268 respondents, equivalent of 9%) was the closure of Byways Open to All Traffic and hostility those wanting to use green lanes faced from other user groups. The impact of other user groups more generally was also raised (186 respondents), as were restrictions on activities other than off-roading people wanted to pursue (this included naturism, wild camping, shooting and canoeing) (148 respondents) and the condition of the Parks in terms of lack of wildlife (142 respondents).

Examples of some of the comments we received from respondents, some of which echo concerns about the Parks being very busy raised in response to previous questions, were:

- *“Too many traffic jams getting there and back again (due to the nature of the A roads within the parks.”*
- *“At peak times they could not be further away from many preconceived ideas of what a national park should be. Rather than peace and tranquillity there are traffic jams, stressed tourists and creaking infrastructure.”*
- *“Nothing stops me visiting some, but with better public transport I would visit more of the parks.”*
- *“Often very little wildlife. Nature is never a priority in our National Parks.”*

We also explored whether younger respondents highlighted any specific barriers. The table and graph below set out responses from those who indicated in their responses they were 34 years or under. Again the majority of respondents said nothing prevented them from visiting the Parks but 17% did indicate they can't access them easily. Analysis of the 14% who indicated 'other' highlighted a range of issues, including the cost of accessing them. But the most popular reason stated under other, which was raised by 43 respondents, was the closure of Byways Open to All Traffic and hostility of other users towards people using routes for green laning.

| 3.2 What stops people from using National Parks? – Those 34 years or younger | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Nothing stops me from using National Parks | 61.5% | 556 |
| Can't access them easily | 17.1% | 155 |
| No time | 11.6% | 105 |
| Can't afford to visit | 5.4% | 49 |
| Don't know enough about them or what to do there | 4.6% | 42 |
| They're not for me | 0.4% | 4 |
| Boring | 0.4% | 4 |
| Other (please specify) | 13.8% | 125 |
| Answered question | | 904 |



Part 4

Appropriate development in the Parks?

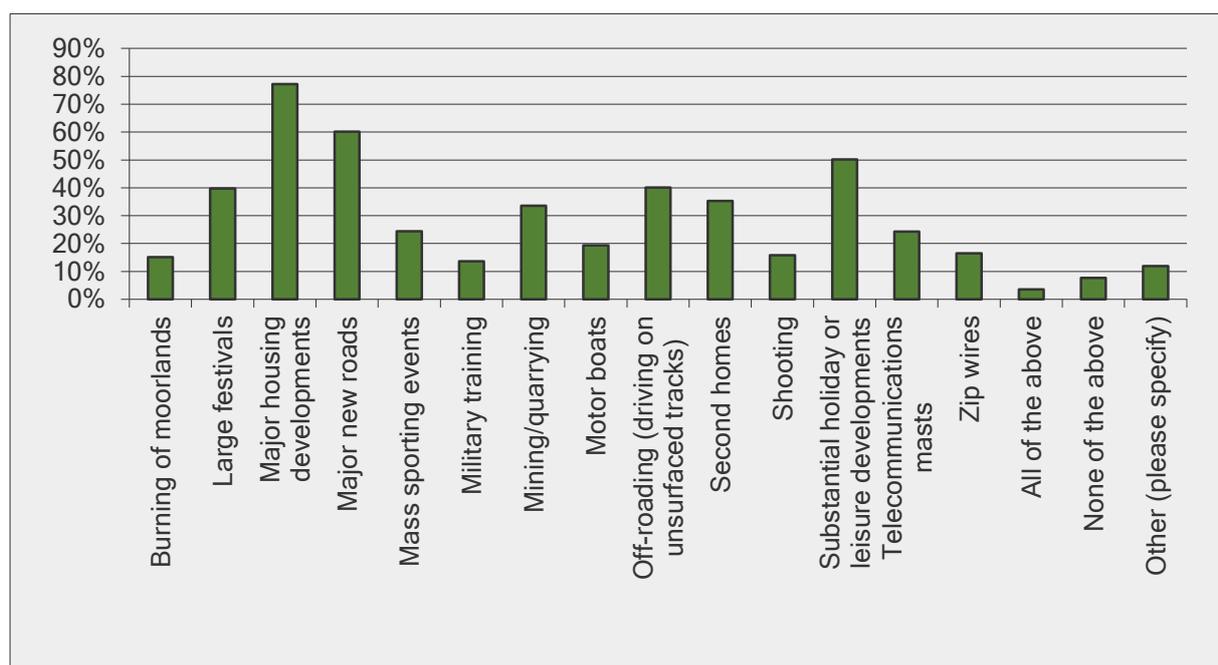
National Parks are living and working landscapes but they are also afforded additional protections through the planning system in light of them being national assets. Campaign for National Parks wants National Parks to be protected against inappropriate development which would compromise their beauty and special qualities. But, we recognise that people may have differing views on what would constitute 'inappropriate development' and wanted to seek people's views on this through the survey.

The responses we received echoed our views that major housing developments (chosen by 77% of respondents), major new roads (60%) and substantial holiday or leisure developments (50%) should be prevented in National Parks.

Question: Do you think any of the below should be prevented in National Parks? Respondents were able to tick all applicable responses or specify others.

| 4.1 What should be prevented in National Parks? All respondents | | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Major housing developments | 77.2% | 7035 |
| Major new roads | 60.2% | 5488 |
| Substantial holiday or leisure developments | 50.2% | 4574 |
| Off-roading (driving on unsurfaced tracks) | 40.1% | 3658 |
| Large festivals | 39.7% | 3619 |
| Second homes | 35.3% | 3218 |
| Mining/quarrying | 33.6% | 3062 |
| Mass sporting events | 24.4% | 2223 |
| Telecommunications masts | 24.3% | 2213 |
| Motor boats | 19.3% | 1759 |
| Zip wires | 16.5% | 1502 |
| Shooting | 15.8% | 1436 |
| Burning of moorlands | 15.1% | 1373 |
| Military training | 13.6% | 1235 |
| All of the above | 3.5% | 319 |
| None of the above | 7.7% | 699 |
| Other (please specify) | 11.9% | 1081 |
| Answered question | | 9111 |

4.2 What should be prevented in National Parks? All respondents



We again looked at these responses to consider whether there was a difference in opinion between those who live and/or work in a Park compared to those who just visit. We also considered whether younger respondents (34 and below) had different opinions.

Interestingly, there was very little difference in opinion and the following were the top three most popular responses for all groups:

1. Major housing developments
2. Major new roads
3. Substantial holiday or leisure developments

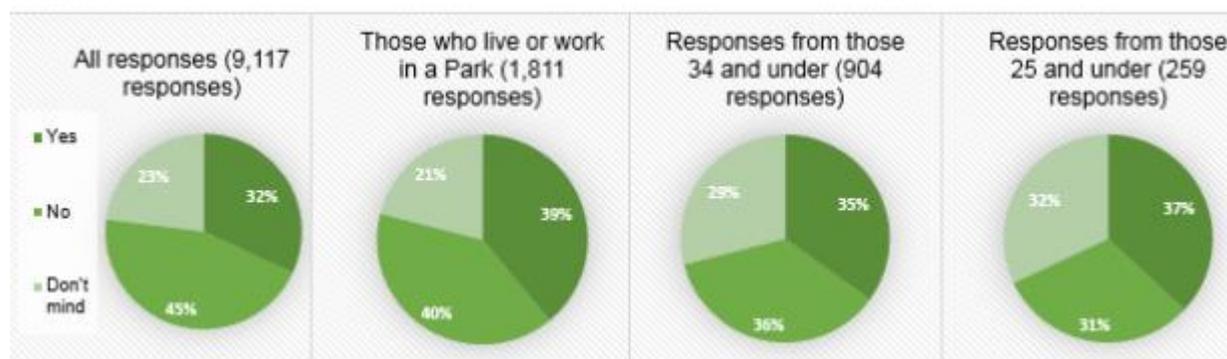
We are also aware that development related to the production of energy can be very controversial within National Parks so asked a question explicitly about that issue.

Question: Do you think development related to energy production should be allowed in our Parks?

In considering the responses to this question, which was purposefully binary, we have again looked to see if different groups of respondents had differing opinions.

| 4.3 Should development related to energy production be allowed? | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | All responses (9,117 responses) | Those who live or work in a Park (1,811 responses) | Responses from those 34 and under (904 responses) | Responses from those 25 and under (259 responses) |
| Yes | 32% | 39% | 35% | 37% |
| No | 45% | 40% | 36% | 31% |
| Don't mind | 23% | 21% | 29% | 32% |

4.4 Do you think development related to energy production should be allowed within the Parks?



Of those who said they thought energy infrastructure should be allowed in the Parks (2,924), they were then asked what types of development they believed was appropriate in a National Park. The following were the top answers although 'all of the above' was included as an option and was chosen by 11% of respondents.

- Small scale/ micro hydro (76%)
- Individual solar panels on buildings (72%)
- Wind turbines (44%)

The three types of energy production listed above were the top three for respondents who supported energy production in the Parks for all of the groups in the table.

Those who said they did not support development related to energy production in the Parks (4,071) were asked 'why not'. A range of reasons were given including the comments below:

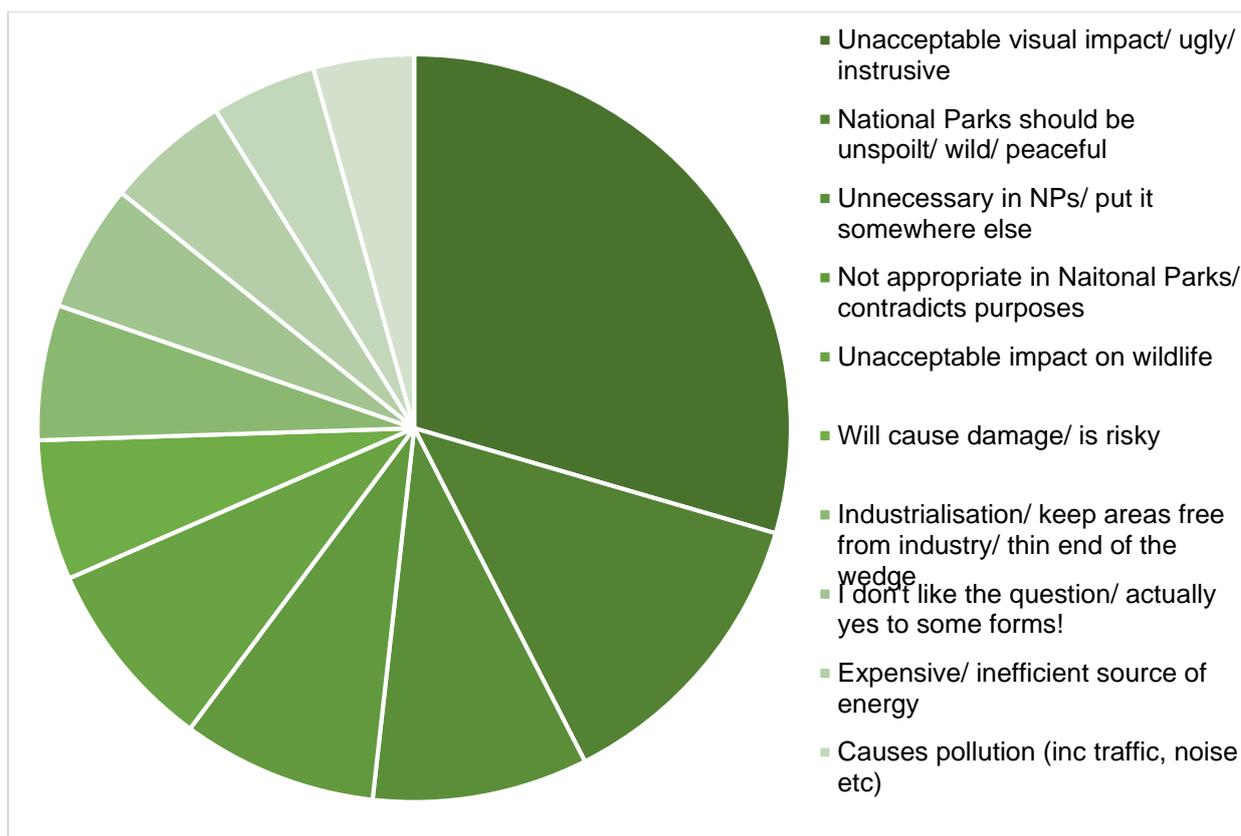
- *"It industrialises the landscape, spoils views, destroys the natural wildness and feeling of getting back to nature, destroys habitats and brings in people who do not care about the environment eg bikes on associated tracks causing noise and destruction."*
- *"No' on precautionary principle, strongly opposed to wind farms and large hydro schemes but small developments may be acceptable in the right place."*
- *"Because this is likely to include wind turbines which are unsightly and ineffective. (We need more nuclear stations in designated locations)."*
- *"They should be natural, peaceful places without any form of development, no matter what the development is for."*
- *"It would ruin the 'get away from it all' that you go there for."*
- *"Because national parks are special landscapes conserved for their beauty, wildness and tranquillity. Today, more than ever we need such places to restore our batteries, relieve the stresses of modern living and to feel close to nature with its healing properties. Letting in development simply destroys all that, and there are other places more suitable for such things."*

We analysed all the responses to understand what themes emerged. The reasons people gave for thinking development related to energy production should be prevented in National Parks are set out in the table and graph below.

| 4.5 Why should energy production be prevented in National Parks? | | |
|--|------------|---------------------|
| Reasons given | Response % | Number of responses |
| Unacceptable visual impact/ ugly/ intrusive | 29.5 | 1491 |

| | | |
|---|------|-----|
| National Parks should be unspoilt/ wild/ peaceful | 13.0 | 655 |
| Unnecessary in NPs - put it somewhere else | 9.3 | 467 |
| Not appropriate in National Parks/ contradicts purposes | 8.4 | 423 |
| Unacceptable impact on wildlife | 8.3 | 418 |
| Will cause damage/ is risky | 6.1 | 306 |
| Industrialisation/ keep areas free from industry/ 'thin end of the wedge' | 5.8 | 295 |
| I don't like the question/ actually yes to some forms of energy production! | 5.5 | 278 |
| Expensive/ inefficient source of energy | 5.3 | 269 |
| Causes pollution (inc traffic, noise etc) | 4.5 | 228 |
| Detrimental to others/ future generations | 0.9 | 43 |
| Impact on recreational users/uses | 0.8 | 41 |
| Impact on resident population/ farming | 0.7 | 37 |
| Fracking shouldn't be allowed anywhere | 0.6 | 31 |
| Unnecessary | 0.6 | 29 |
| Impact on tourism | 0.4 | 20 |
| Spoil natural heritage | 0.2 | 11 |
| Lack of strategy on energy/ reduce use | 0.1 | 6 |

4.6 Why should energy production be prevented in National Parks?

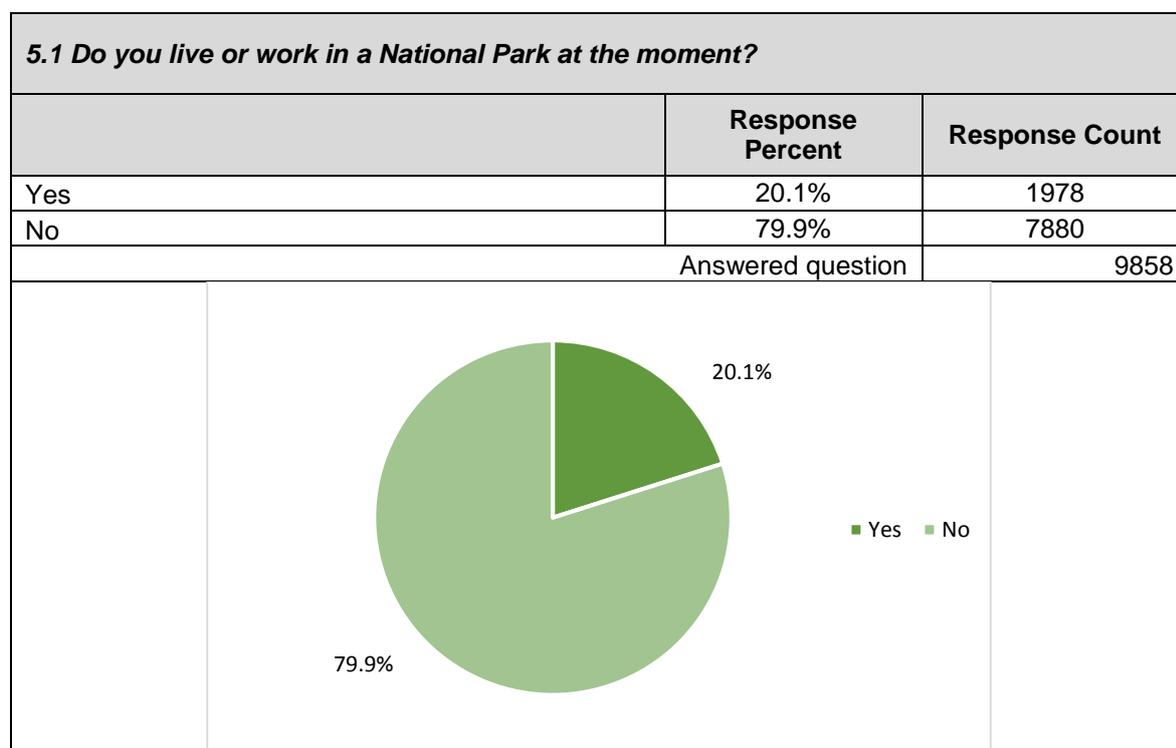


Part 5

Demographic and background information about respondents

Headline messages from responses to the questions about the demographic and background of respondents were:

- 20% of respondents (1,978 out of 9,858) lived or worked in a National Park at the time they completed the survey. Of the 80% who did not live or work in a Park, 97% of them had visited a National Park within the last five years.
- 79% of people who answered this question (8,891) were male
- The vast majority of respondents (89%) described themselves as white, with 7% preferring not to say
- 51% of respondents were aged between 45 and 64 years old. But due to the high volume of responses, we had 2,084 responses from people aged 44 and below and, within that group, 261 aged 25 or below.



| 5.2 Did you have a particular National Park(s) in mind when you answered these questions? | | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Yes | 41.9% | 3755 |
| No | 58.1% | 5204 |
| Answered question | | 8959 |

For those who answered 'yes', they were then asked which Park(s) they had in mind. People could tick as many as were relevant.

| 5.3 Which Park? | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Brecon Beacons / Bannau Brycheiniog | 16.2% | 610 |

| | | |
|---|-------|------|
| Broads | 5.1% | 192 |
| Cairngorms | 13.1% | 495 |
| Dartmoor | 20.9% | 788 |
| Exmoor | 23.7% | 894 |
| Lake District | 34.4% | 1296 |
| Loch Lomond and the Trossachs | 9.3% | 352 |
| New Forest | 15.7% | 592 |
| North York Moors | 26.6% | 1001 |
| Northumberland | 15.1% | 568 |
| Peak District | 37.2% | 1401 |
| Pembrokeshire Coast / Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro | 7.6% | 285 |
| Snowdonia / Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri | 16.1% | 608 |
| South Downs | 14.3% | 539 |
| Yorkshire Dales | 29.2% | 1099 |
| Answered question | | 3765 |

5.4 How often do you visit a National Park in the UK?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| I live/ work in one | 17.3% | 1548 |
| Every day | 3.2% | 285 |
| Once a week | 8.8% | 788 |
| 2-3 times a month | 14.8% | 1321 |
| Once a month | 15.9% | 1423 |
| Every 3 months | 18.1% | 1620 |
| Every 6 months | 11.3% | 1012 |
| Once a year | 6.6% | 592 |
| Every 2-3 years | 2.0% | 175 |
| Every 4 + years | 1.2% | 106 |
| Never | 0.8% | 69 |
| Answered question | | 8939 |

5.5 What is your gender?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Female | 17.5% | 1550 |
| Male | 79.0% | 7009 |
| Prefer not to say | 3.5% | 308 |
| Answered question | | 8867 |

5.6 How old are you?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Under 16 years old | 0.1% | 7 |
| 16- 25 years old | 2.8% | 252 |
| 26-34 years old | 7.3% | 645 |
| 35-44 years old | 13.3% | 1180 |
| 45-54 years old | 24.7% | 2193 |
| 55-64 years old | 25.6% | 2276 |
| 65-74 years old | 18.8% | 1672 |
| 75 years or older | 3.5% | 315 |
| Prefer not say | 3.8% | 336 |
| Answered question | | 8876 |

5.7 Which of the following best describes your ethnic group?

| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| White | 88.9% | 7874 |
| White and Black Caribbean | 0.2% | 16 |
| White and Black African | 0.1% | 10 |
| White and Asian | 0.4% | 31 |
| Indian | 0.1% | 10 |
| Pakistani | 0.1% | 12 |
| Bangladeshi | 0.0% | 4 |
| Chinese | 0.1% | 6 |
| Black African | 0.1% | 9 |
| Black Caribbean | 0.1% | 10 |
| Arab | 0.1% | 9 |
| Prefer not to say | 7.2% | 642 |
| Other ethnic group (please describe) | 2.5% | 224 |
| | Answered question | 8857 |