

Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (2009-2012)

Visits to the natural environment - variations in characteristics and behaviours of social groups within the adult English population



Foreword

The Government's Natural Environment White Paper (2011) aims to strengthen connections between people and nature. However, the White Paper acknowledges that the opportunities to benefit from spending time in the natural environment are currently not open to everyone, which can contribute to health and other inequalities (The Natural Choice, Defra 2011). Natural England is committed to increasing the number and range of people who can experience and benefit from access to the natural environment, and through the Outdoors for All Programme is leading the Government's ambition that 'everyone should have fair access to a good quality natural environment'.

This report explores the data collected by the *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (2009 -2012)* for information of relevance to advancing policy and practice in Outdoors for All. It follows on from an initial report *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009 -2012): Difference in access to the natural environment between social groups within the adult English population*. Natural England Data Reports, DATA 003.

In this report the MENE data is analysed to determine in greater detail the profile of people from five groups within the English population (BAME, Urban Deprived, DE socio economic groups, people aged 65 and over and people with a disability or long term illness) and within each of these group compares the characteristics, attitudes and behaviours of those who frequently take visits to the natural environment with those who rarely take visits. Additional analysis is exploring whether demographic factors influence visits with children.

This report should be cited as:

BURT, J., STEWART, D. & PRESTON, S. 2013. *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009 -2012): Visits to the natural environment - variations in characteristics and behaviours of social groups within the adult English population*. Natural England Data Reports, DATA 005.

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Keywords - Social evidence, diversity, outdoors for all, health, public engagement, areas of deprivation, BAME, elderly, socio-economic groups, disability

Further information

This report can be downloaded from the Natural England website: www.naturalengland.org.uk.

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ISBN 978-1-78354-051-8

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1. Method

Fieldwork for MENE commenced in March 2009 and involves over 800 face to face in-home interviews per week, generating a sample of around 45,000 interviews per year, representative of the English adult population. The survey asks respondents to provide general details of their frequency of visits to the natural environment and specific details of any visits they have taken during the last 7 days. Weighting is then applied to provide results representative of all visits taken during the survey period and to obtain estimates of the total volume of visits taken each month. Some questions are asked in every week of the survey while others are asked less frequently - either once a month or once a quarter.

The analysis contained in this report is based on interviews completed over the first three years from March 2009 to February 2012. During this period, around 142,000 interviews were undertaken. Full details of the survey method and other survey outputs are provided on the Natural England website (see <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/research/mene.aspx>).

The focus of the analysis and interpretation included in this report is on members of the five specific population groups listed in the table below. Much of this analysis has explored variations in the characteristics and behaviours of members of each of these groups who take visits to the natural environment frequently (defined as typically at least one visit per week) and those who take visits rarely (defined as fewer than 3 visits per year).

The table below also provides details of the sample sizes in each of these population groups.

Table 1 Diversity group sample sizes

	Sample sizes	
	Frequent visitors (at least once a week)	Rare visitors (fewer than 3 visits per year)
BAME population – members of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic population	1,625	1,153
Aged 65+ population	3,470	2,316
People with a long term illness or disability	2,724	2,193
DE socio-economic groups - members of the D and E groups (semi and unskilled workers and long term unemployed)/	4,870	3,068
Urban deprived population - residents of areas within the bottom 10% of Index of Multiple Deprivation AND in areas defined as Urban using the ONS Rural-Urban classification.	1,460	1,005

It should be noted that all of the estimates contained in this report are based on analysis of data collected by MENE. On occasion headline results may vary from other published sources such as the Census or other national surveys - this may be due to a number of reasons, including differences in definitions used in different surveys, surveys relating to different time periods or sampling error.

Data comparisons included in this report

Throughout this report charts have been included which summarise the key differences between Frequent and Rare visitors within each of the diversity groups. The source data for these charts is provided in Appendix 1.

Results in these charts are presented as an index where a value above zero (represented by an upward bar) means that a particular category or answer option (e.g. those in a particular age group) is more common amongst Frequent visitors while a negative result (represented by a downward bar) means that a category or answer option is more common amongst Rare visitors.

The size of the bars reflect the scale of the difference between the Frequent and Rare visitors. For example, while an index of zero means that a particular answer option is **equally likely** to be provided amongst both Frequent and Rare visitors, an index of 1 means that it is twice as likely to be given by Frequent visitors and 2 means that it is three times more likely to be given by Frequent visitors. Conversely a negative index is represented by a downward bar where an index of -0.5 means that an answer is half as likely to be given by a Frequent visitor.

The charts show this indexed data for the diversity group in green while the results of a similar comparison based on the rest of the population is provided in the same chart using grey bars.

The full profile data used in this analysis is provided in Appendix 1 and should be referenced to obtain a full understanding of the indexed results.

2. Summary of key findings

Visit frequency

The key differences in the frequency of visits to the natural environment between members of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic population; people aged 65+; people with a disability or long term illness; people from DE socio-economic groups, and residents of urban deprived areas are summarised in Tables 2 and 3. It should be noted that these groups are not mutually exclusive with individuals in a group often being members of one or more other groups as well (e.g. aged 65 and over and with a disability or BAME living in an urban deprived area).

Across all of these groups the people more likely to take visits to the natural environment frequently are:

- younger people (including those with disabilities);
- people with children;
- more affluent people;

and the people more likely to be rare visitors to the natural environment are:

- people in the oldest age groups;
- people with disabilities;
- people in the lowest socio-economic groups;
- members of the BAME population.

The demographic factors that account for most of the variation in frequency of visits to the natural environment between the 5 groups are, in descending order:

- whether or not someone has a **disability**;
- whether people are members of the **BAME population** - following disability, ethnicity is the next most significant influence on frequency of visits;
- **socio-economic status** - the most significant influence for the majority of the population who do not have a disability and are not in the BAME population;
- **age** - particularly relevant amongst people with a disability or long term illness and the BAME population where frequency of visits decreases significantly with old age.

Environmental behaviours and attitudes

Analysis of how variation in frequency of visits to the natural environment between the 5 groups is associated with other environmental behaviours and attitudes has shown that:

- Those in the DE socio-economic groups, people aged 65 and over and people with a disability or long term illness who take visits frequently are more likely than rare visitors in these groups to take part in voluntary work outdoors.
- Similarly, people in the DE socio-economic groups, people aged 65 and over and people with disabilities who take visits frequently are more likely than rare visitors in these groups to have positive attitudes regarding the environment and the importance of the outdoors. By contrast, this association is weaker amongst the BAME population and residents of urban deprived areas.

- Across all of the diversity groups those who most frequently take part in outdoor visits for recreation are also more likely to choose to take routine journeys on foot or by bicycle, rather than by car.
- The analysis also highlights a **latent demand** to do more to protect the environment amongst a significant proportion of members of all of the groups. This demand is generally strongest amongst those who take visits frequently but can be constrained by a lack of knowledge of what to do or a willingness to only make changes if others are willing to do so too.

Table 2 Summary of key characteristics of each diversity group

	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic population	Residents of Urban Deprived areas	Members of DE socio-economic groups	People aged 65 and over	People with a disability or long-term illness
Size of population in England	5.4 million adults (13% of adults).	4.2 million adults (10% of adults).	11.5 million adults (28% of adults).	8.1 million adults (19% of adults).	7.4 million adults (18% of adults).
Key characteristics of group (compared to rest of the population)	Younger (majority under 45). More likely to have children. More likely to live in urban areas (esp. London). Less affluent.	Younger (majority under 35). More likely to have children. More likely to be unemployed. Less affluent.	Higher proportion with a disability or long term illness. More likely to be unemployed. More likely to live in urban / urban deprived areas.	Higher proportion with a disability or long term illness.	Older - two-thirds aged 55+. Fewer with children. Less affluent.
Environmental behaviours - key differences between group and rest of population	Less likely to take part in environmental activities – including membership of environmental organisations.	Less likely to take part in environmental activities – especially membership of environmental organisations, spending time in the garden, learning about nature.	Less likely to take part in environmental activities – especially gardening, membership of environmental organisations.	More likely to take part in environmental activities - including gardening, wildlife watching.	More likely to take part in watching/ listening to nature programmes on TV/Radio, wildlife watching.
Environmental attitudes - key differences between group and rest of population	Less positive regarding the importance of spending time outdoors and less concerned about damage to the environment.	Less positive regarding the importance of spending time outdoors or the importance of having local green spaces.	Less concerned about damage to the natural environment, spending time outdoors and having local green spaces.	More positive regarding the importance of spending time outdoors and the existence of natural places they may never visit.	More positive about taking action to prevent environmental damage. More positive about natural places they may never visit.

Table 3 Summary of visit frequencies and variations between frequent and rare visitors

	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Population	Residents of Urban Deprived areas	Members of DE socio-economic groups	People aged 65 and over	People with a disability or long-term illness
Average visits per person per year (65 visits across total population)	27 visits	40 visits	50 visits	55 visits	56 visits
% that are frequent visitors (54% across total population)	38%	43%	45%	46%	42%
Key characteristics of group members that are frequent visitors	Youngest age groups (esp. 16-24). Have children. More affluent. Live in urban fringe/rural areas.	Youngest age groups (esp. 16-24). Have children. Most affluent socio-economic groups.	Younger (esp. 16-34). Have children. Live in urban fringe/rural areas, more affluent areas, SW, SE or East.	Most affluent socio-economic groups. Live in rural areas/ more affluent areas. Live in SW, SE or East.	Youngest age groups (esp. 16-24). Have children. More affluent. Live in urban fringe/rural areas, SE.
Environmental behaviours and attitudes of group members that are frequent visitors	More likely to, walk/cycle instead of using a car, do voluntary work outdoors.	More likely to, walk/cycle instead of using a car, be members of an environmental organisation. More positive about the value of time outdoors in local green spaces.	More likely to, walk/cycle instead of using car, do voluntary work outdoors, be members of an environmental organisation. More positive about the natural environment and the importance of time outdoors.	More likely to walk/cycle instead of using car, do voluntary work outdoors, be members of an environmental organisation. More positive about the importance of time outdoors.	More likely to walk/cycle instead of using car, do voluntary work outdoors, be members of an environmental organisation. More positive about the importance of time outdoors.

Table 3 Continued

	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Population	Residents of Urban Deprived areas	Members of DE socio-economic groups	People aged 65 and over	People with a disability or long-term illness
% that are rare visitors (17% across population)	26%	27%	26%	29%	30%
Key characteristics of group members that are <u>rare</u> visitors	<p>Oldest age groups esp. 65+.</p> <p>People with a disability.</p> <p>Lowest (DE) socio-economic group.</p> <p>Urban deprived areas.</p>	<p>Oldest age groups esp. 65+.</p> <p>People with a disability.</p> <p>Lowest (DE) socio-economic group.</p> <p>Live in London or Midlands.</p>	<p>Oldest age groups esp. 65+.</p> <p>People with a disability.</p> <p>Live in London or the Midlands.</p>	<p>People with a disability.</p> <p>Live in most deprived areas.</p> <p>Live in London or the Midlands.</p>	<p>Oldest age groups esp. 65+.</p> <p>Lowest (DE) socio-economic group.</p> <p>Live in London.</p>

3. Analysis by population groups

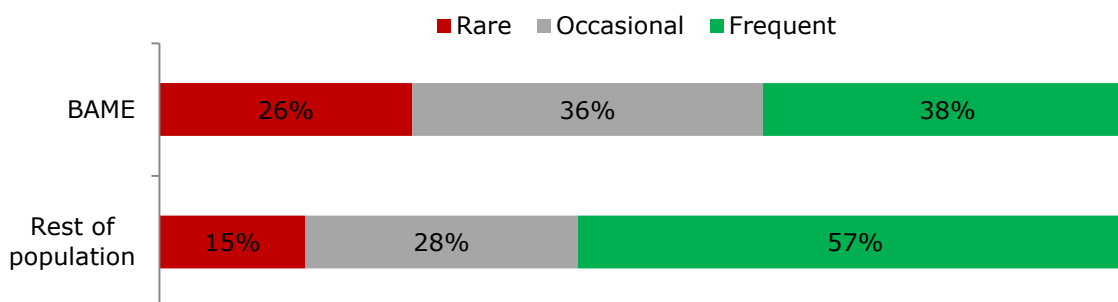
3.1. Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Population

3.1.1. Background

An estimated 5.4 million adults resident in England are in the black, Asian and minority ethnic population groups (BAME), 13% of the adult population.

Overall, 38% of the BAME population normally take visits to the natural environment at least once a week ('Frequent' in **Figure 1**) while 26% normally take fewer than 3 visits per year ('Rare' in **Figure 1**). By comparison to the rest of the adult population in England, members of the BAME population are less likely to be frequent visit takers.

Figure 1 Frequency of visits to the natural environment by the BAME population compared to the rest of the population



Considering the demographic profile of the BAME population, key differences between this group and the rest of the adult population in England are:

- around three-quarters of the BAME adult population are **aged under 45** (77%), a higher proportion than amongst the rest of the population (45%);
- a larger proportion of the BAME population are in the **family life stage** with 43% having children in their home compared to 26% for the rest of the population;
- a larger proportion of the BAME population are in the **least affluent DE socio-economic groups** (33% compared to 27% of the rest of the population);
- members of the BAME population are more likely to **live in urban areas** (90% compared to 74% of the rest of the population) and 20% live in **areas defined as deprived**, more than double the percentage amongst the rest of the population (8%);
- around half **live in London** (48%), a higher proportion than amongst the rest of the population (10%).

There is an 'overlap' between those in the BAME population and the other diversity groups:

- members of the BAME population are **more likely** than the rest of the population to be in the D or E socio-economic Groups (33%) or to live in Urban Deprived Areas (20%);

- however, members of the BAME population are **less likely** to be aged 65 and over and fewer have a disability or long term illness (8% compared to 19% in the rest of the population).

Further details of the profile of the BAME population are contained in the Appendix and Burt et al.¹

3.1.2. Comparing the profile of Frequent and Rare visitors

Comparing differences within a diversity group between those people who visit the natural environment frequently and those who rarely visit can help to inform the design of interventions which aim to increase and facilitate access.

Demographics

Figure 2 summarises the key differences between Frequent and Rare BAME visitors. Results are presented as an **index** where a value above zero (represented by an upward bar) means that a particular demographic category is **more common amongst Frequent visitors** while a negative result (represented by a downward bar) means that a demographic category is **more common amongst Rare visitors**. The size of the bars reflect the **scale of the difference** between the Frequent and Rare visitors. The full profile data used in this analysis is provided in Appendix 1.

Within the BAME population (green bars in **Figure 2**), those who frequently visit the natural environment are more likely to:

- be in the younger age groups (especially the youngest 16 to 34 group);
- be in the more affluent AB socio-economic groups;
- have children in their household.

Comparisons between the BAME population and the rest of the population show that while the overall patterns are similar, in groups not in the BAME population there are greater age, socio-economic and life stage differences between Frequent and Rare visitors (as signified by the grey bars in **Figure 2** which are longer than those in green).

¹ BURT, J., STEWART, D., PRESTON, S. & COSTLEY, T. 2013. *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009 -2012): Difference in access to the natural environment between social groups within the adult English population*. Natural England Data Reports, DATA003.

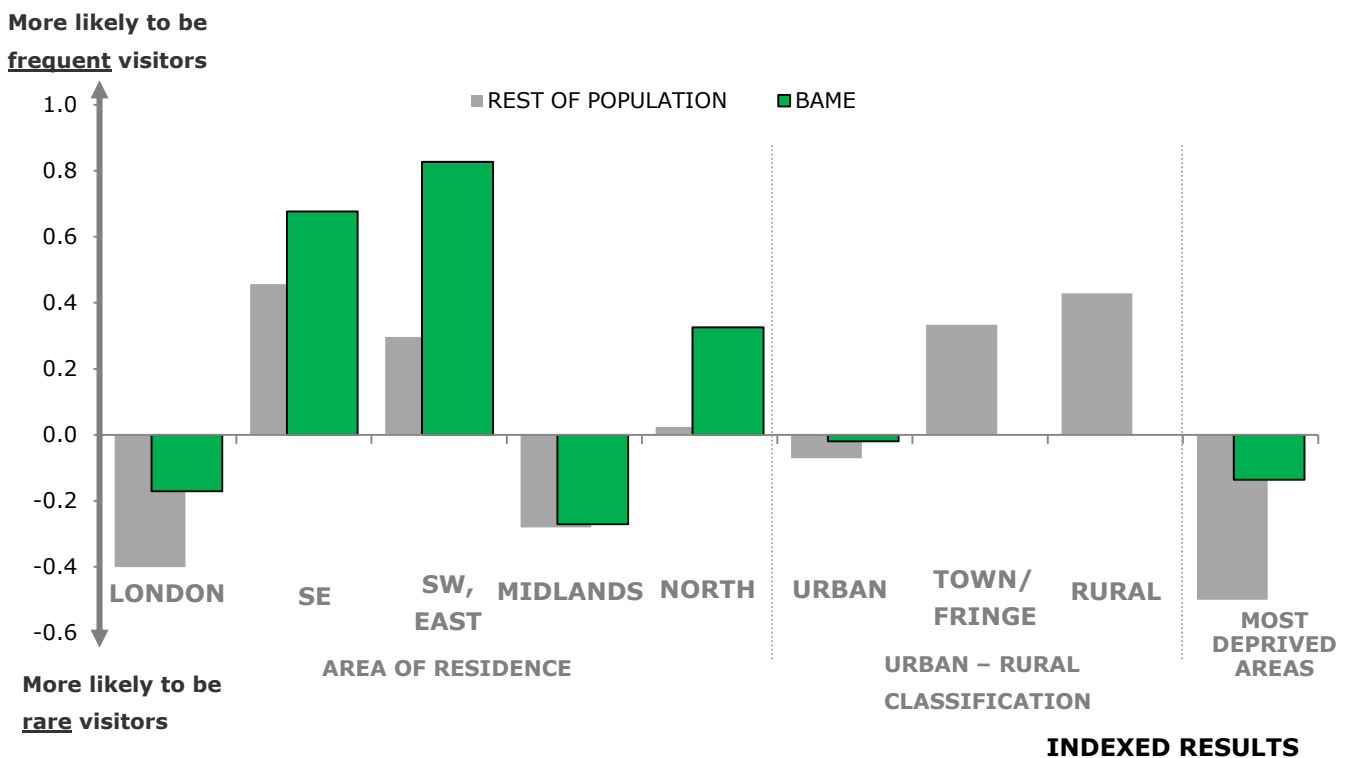
Figure 2 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - BAME and rest of population: Demographics



Place of residence

Figure 3 provides a similar comparison based on place of residence. Amongst the BAME population, Frequent visitors are more likely than Rare visitors to live in parts of England outside London or the Midlands, in particular the South West, East and North while Rare visitors are more likely to live in more deprived areas.

Figure 3 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - BAME and rest of population: Place of residence



3.1.3. Behaviours and attitudes to the natural environment

Background

As well as collecting information on visits taken to the outdoors, MENE provides details on participation in pro-environmental behaviours and attitudes towards the environment.

Members of the BAME population are **less likely** than the rest of the population to take part in pro-environmental activities (81% compared to 91%) or to have strong positive attitudes to the natural environment. Specifically:

- participation in wildlife watching and gardening are lower amongst the BAME population than amongst the rest of the population (18% compared to 38% and 31% compared to 57% respectively);
- buying seasonal or locally grown food is around half that recorded amongst the rest of the population (21% compared to 41%);
- membership of an environmental organisation is lower (3% compared to 8%);
- 27% agree strongly that *spending time out of doors is an important part of their life*, compared to 44% amongst the rest of the population;
- 26% agree strongly that they are *concerned about damage to the natural environment* compared to 36% amongst the rest of the population.

Some of the above variations may be explained by the demographic and place of residence differences between the BAME population and the rest of the population. For example, members of the BAME population are much more likely than the rest of the population to live in urban areas so their homes may be less likely to have gardens, resulting in the gardening related activities being less accessible for this group. Similarly, living in an urban area reduces

accessibility to a number of the other activities which are less frequently undertaken by the BAME population including wildlife watching and choosing to walk through green spaces when travelling to other places.

However, the lower participation amongst the BAME population in other pro-environmental activities and the lower levels of concern regarding the natural environment is less clearly related to the place of residence or demographic variations between the BAME population and the rest of the population.

More positively, when asked about **willingness to change their lifestyle** to protect the environment, members of the BAME population are **more likely** than the rest of the population to state that they 'intend to make changes' (27% compared to 16% of rest of population) or that they'd like to make changes but don't know what to do or find it too difficult (18% compared to 13% of rest of population).

Further details of differences between the BAME population and rest of the population are contained in the Appendix and described in more detail in Burt et al².

Comparing frequent and rare visitors

Figures 4 and 5 provide a summary of the key variations in pro-environmental behaviours and attitudes between Frequent and Rare BAME visitors to the natural environment. As in the demographic comparisons, results are presented as a ratio between the two visit frequency categories where a value above zero (represented by an upward bar) means that a particular activity or attitude is **more common amongst Frequent visitors** while a negative value (represented by a downward bar) means that an activity or attitude is **more common amongst Rare visitors**. The size of the bars reflect the **scale of the difference** between Frequent and Rare visitors.

Amongst the BAME population, those who frequently visit the natural environment are more likely than Rare visitors to undertake pro-environmental activities. Most notably, Frequent visitors are more likely to:

- walk through green spaces on their way to other places;
- walk or cycle instead of using their car;
- do unpaid voluntary work out of doors.

Interestingly, members of the BAME population who frequently visit the natural environment are no more likely than rare visitors to be members of an environmental organisation and are only slightly more concerned about damage to the natural environment. However members of the BAME population who take visits frequently are more likely than frequent visitors in the rest of the population to volunteer to help care for the environment.

Comparisons of BAME visitors and the rest of the population included in Figures 4 and 5 (illustrated by grey bars) show there is generally a greater variation between Frequent and Rare visitors within the rest of the population. For example amongst the rest of the population those who take visits frequently are far more likely than rare visitors to be members of an environmental organisation and be concerned for the natural environment.

² BURT, J., STEWART, D., PRESTON, S. & COSTLEY, T. 2013. *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009 -2012): Difference in access to the natural environment between social groups within the adult English population*. Natural England Data Reports, DATA003.

Figure 4 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - BAME and rest of population: Activities normally undertaken

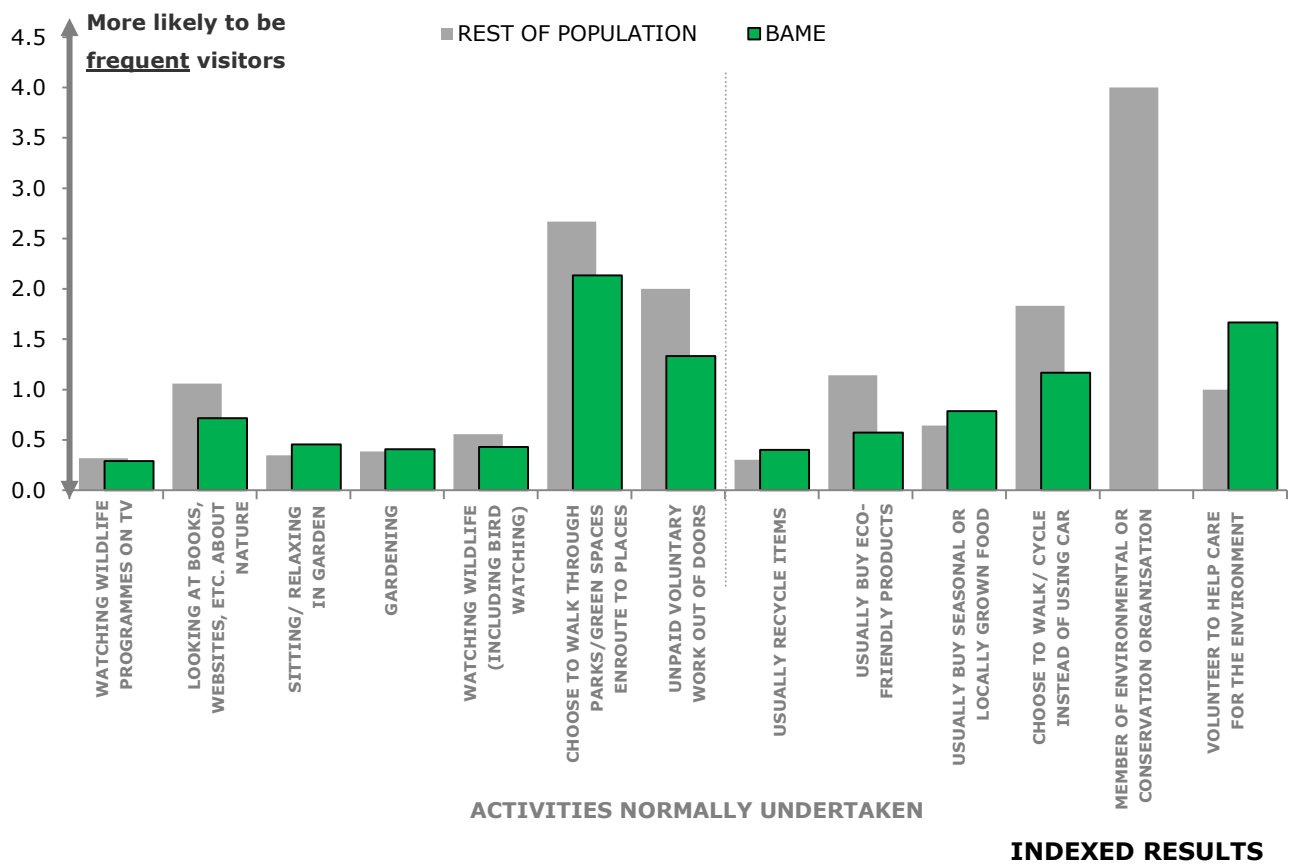
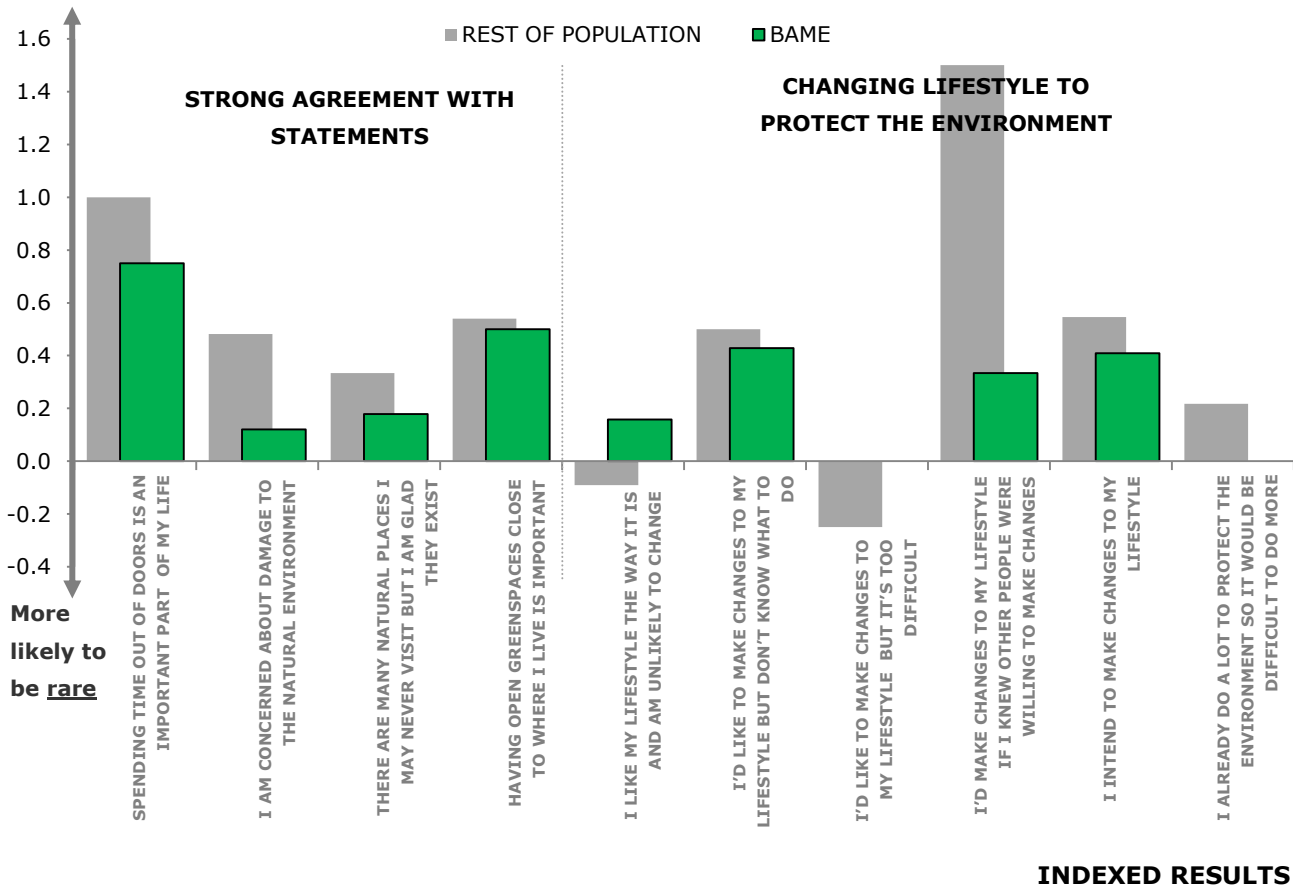


Figure 5 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - BAME and rest of population: Attitudes to the environment

More likely to be frequent visitors



3.1.4. BAME population - summary

Members of the BAME population are **more likely** than the rest of the population to live in urban areas (around half live in London) and to be aged under 45. Reflecting this younger age profile, members of the BAME population are more likely to be in the family life stage with children under 16 living at home.

Comparing the profile of members of the BAME population who take visits to the natural environment frequently against the profile of Rare participants highlights the following variations:

Table 4 Comparing Frequent and Rare BAME visitors to the natural environment

Frequent visitors –	Rare visitors –
More likely to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Younger: under 25.• With children in household.• Affluent.• Residents of relatively affluent parts of the urban fringe or rural areas (especially places outside of London and the Midlands).	More likely to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Older: Aged 45 or over, especially aged 65+.• Without children in household.• From low socio-economic groups.• Residents of the most deprived urban areas.• People with a disability or limiting illness.

The results suggest that the lower frequency of visits to the natural environment amongst the BAME population compared to the rest of the population could in part be explained by place of residence with fewer opportunities in urban areas.

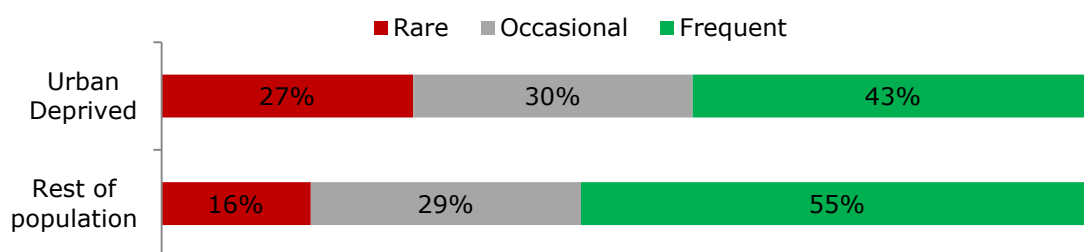
3.2. Residents of Urban Deprived areas

3.2.1. Background

An estimated 4.2 million adults resident in England live in areas defined as Urban Deprived, 10% of the adult population.

Overall, 43% of residents of Urban Deprived areas normally take visits to the natural environment at least once a week ('Frequent' in **Figure 6**) while 27% normally take fewer than 3 visits per year ('Rare' in **Figure 6**). By comparison to the rest of the adult population in England, residents of Urban Deprived areas are much **more likely** to be Rare visitors and much **less likely** to be Frequent visitors.

Figure 6 Frequency of visits to the natural environment by the Urban Deprived population compared to the rest of the population



Considering the demographic profile of residents of Urban Deprived areas, key differences between this group and the rest of the adult population in England are:

- a **younger age profile** - 42% aged 16 to 34 compared to 29% amongst the rest of the population;
- a higher proportion with **children in the household** - 35% compared to 28% for the rest of the population;
- a **much less affluent** socio-economic profile - half (51%) in the least affluent DE groups, more than double the proportion found amongst the rest of the population (25%);
- **higher rates of unemployed/not working** - 27% compared to 12% for the rest of the population;
- most people from the Urban Deprived population **live in London** (49%) or the **Midlands** (26%), a higher proportion than amongst the rest of the population.

There is a degree of 'overlap' between those living in Urban Deprived areas and the other diversity groups:

- half of residents in Urban Deprived areas are also from the DE socio-economic groups (51%) and 27% are from the BAME population;
- however, residents of Urban Deprived areas are no more likely than those living in other places to have a long term illness or disability (21% compared to 18% in the rest of the population).

For further details of the profile of the Urban Deprived population compared to the rest of the population see Appendix 1 and Burt et al³.

3.2.2. Comparing the profile of Frequent and Rare visitors

Comparing differences within a diversity group between those people who visit the natural environment frequently and those that rarely visit can help to inform the design of interventions which aim to increase and facilitate access.

Demographics

Figure 7 summarises the key differences between Frequent and Rare Urban Deprived visitors with results presented as an **index** where a value above zero (represented by an upward bar) means that a particular demographic category is **more common amongst Frequent visitors** while a negative result (represented by a downward bar) means that a demographic category is **more common amongst Rare visitors**. The size of the bars reflect the **scale of the difference** between Frequent and Rare visitors.

Within the Urban Deprived population (green bars in **Figure 7**), those who **frequently visit** the natural environment are **more likely** to:

- be in the most affluent AB socio-economic group;
- be aged under 35;
- have children in their household.

Compared to the rest of the population (grey bars), people from Urban Deprived areas who **frequently visit** the natural environment are **more likely** to be in the youngest age groups (16 to 34) with a sharp reduction in participation after the age of 34 not matched by the rest of the population.

³ BURT, J., STEWART, D., PRESTON, S. & COSTLEY, T. 2013. *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009 -2012): Difference in access to the natural environment between social groups within the adult English population*. Natural England Data Reports, DATA003.

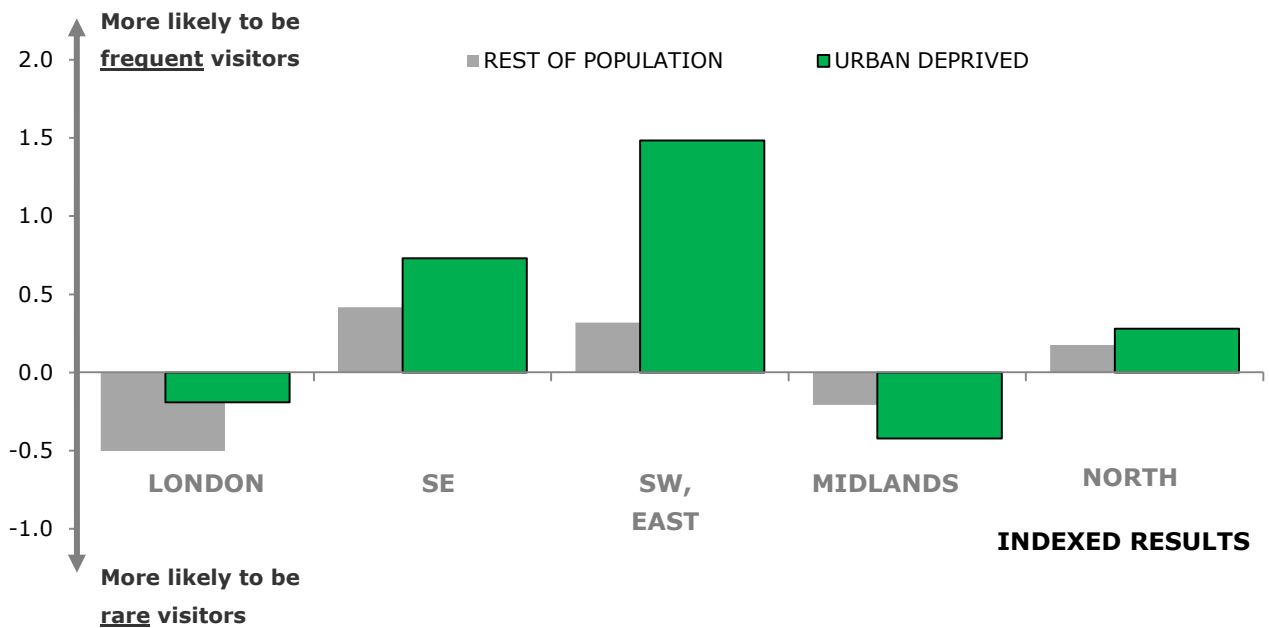
Figure 7 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - Urban Deprived and rest of population: Demographics



Place of residence

Amongst residents of the Urban Deprived population, Frequent visitors are **more likely** than Rare participants to live in areas outside London and the Midlands in particular in the South West and East (**Figure 8**).

Figure 8 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - Urban Deprived and rest of population: Place of residence



3.2.3. Behaviours and attitudes to the natural environment

Background

As well as collecting information on visits taken to the outdoors, MENE provides details on participation in pro-environmental behaviours and attitudes to the environment.

Residents of Urban Deprived areas are **less likely** than the rest of the population to take part in pro-environmental activities (79% compared to 91%) or to have strong positive attitudes to the natural environment. Specifically:

- membership of environmental or conservation organisations within the Urban Deprived population is around a quarter of that found amongst the rest of the population (2% compared to 8%);
- fewer spend time in a garden, take part in wildlife watching, watch nature programmes or look at books or websites about the natural world (35% compared to 56%, 22% compared to 37%, 43% compared to 54% and 21% compared to 31% respectively);
- residents of Urban Deprived areas are less likely to have strong positive attitudes to the natural environment and its protection;
- 28% agree strongly that *spending time out of doors is an important part of their life* compared to 43% of the rest of the population;
- 37% agree strongly that *having open green spaces close to where they live is important* compared to 50% of the rest of the population.

Some of the above variations may be explained by the demographic profile of the Urban Deprived population. For example, the urban place of residence of this group makes certain types of activity such as gardening and wildlife watching less accessible. However, lower participation in other activities such as watching television programmes about the natural world and the lower levels of concern regarding the natural environment are less clearly related to place of residence.

Further details of differences between residents of Urban Deprived areas and the rest of the population are contained in Appendix 1 and described in more detail in Burt et al⁴.

Comparing frequent and rare visitors

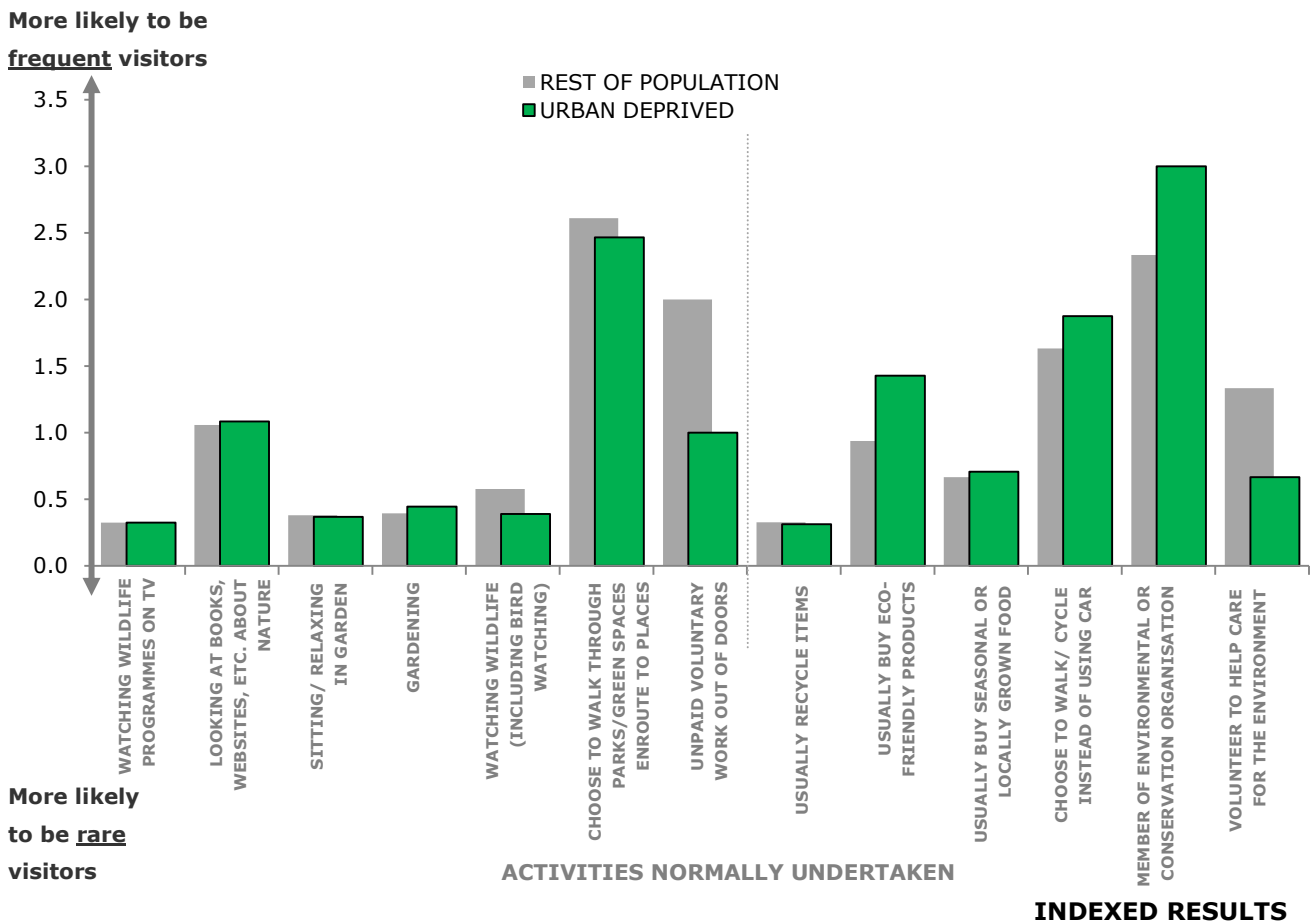
Figures 9 and 10 provide a summary of the key variations in pro-environmental behaviours and attitudes between Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment living in Urban Deprived areas. As in the demographic comparisons, results are presented as a ratio between the two visit frequency categories where a value above zero (represented by an upward bar) means that a particular activity or attitude is **more common amongst Frequent visitors** while a negative value (represented by a downward bar) means that an activity or attitude is **more common amongst Rare visitors**. The size of the bars reflect the **scale of the difference** between Frequent and Rare visitors.

⁴ BURT, J., STEWART, D., PRESTON, S. & COSTLEY, T. 2013. *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009 -2012): Difference in access to the natural environment between social groups within the adult English population*. Natural England Data Reports, DATA003.

Amongst residents of Urban Deprived areas, those who take visits frequently are more likely than Rare visitors to undertake pro-environmental activities (**Figure 9**). Most notably, **Frequent** visitors are **more likely** to:

- walk through green spaces on their way to other places;
- usually buy eco-friendly products;
- walk or cycle instead of using their car;
- be members of an environmental organisation.

Figure 9 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - Urban Deprived and rest of population: Activities normally undertaken

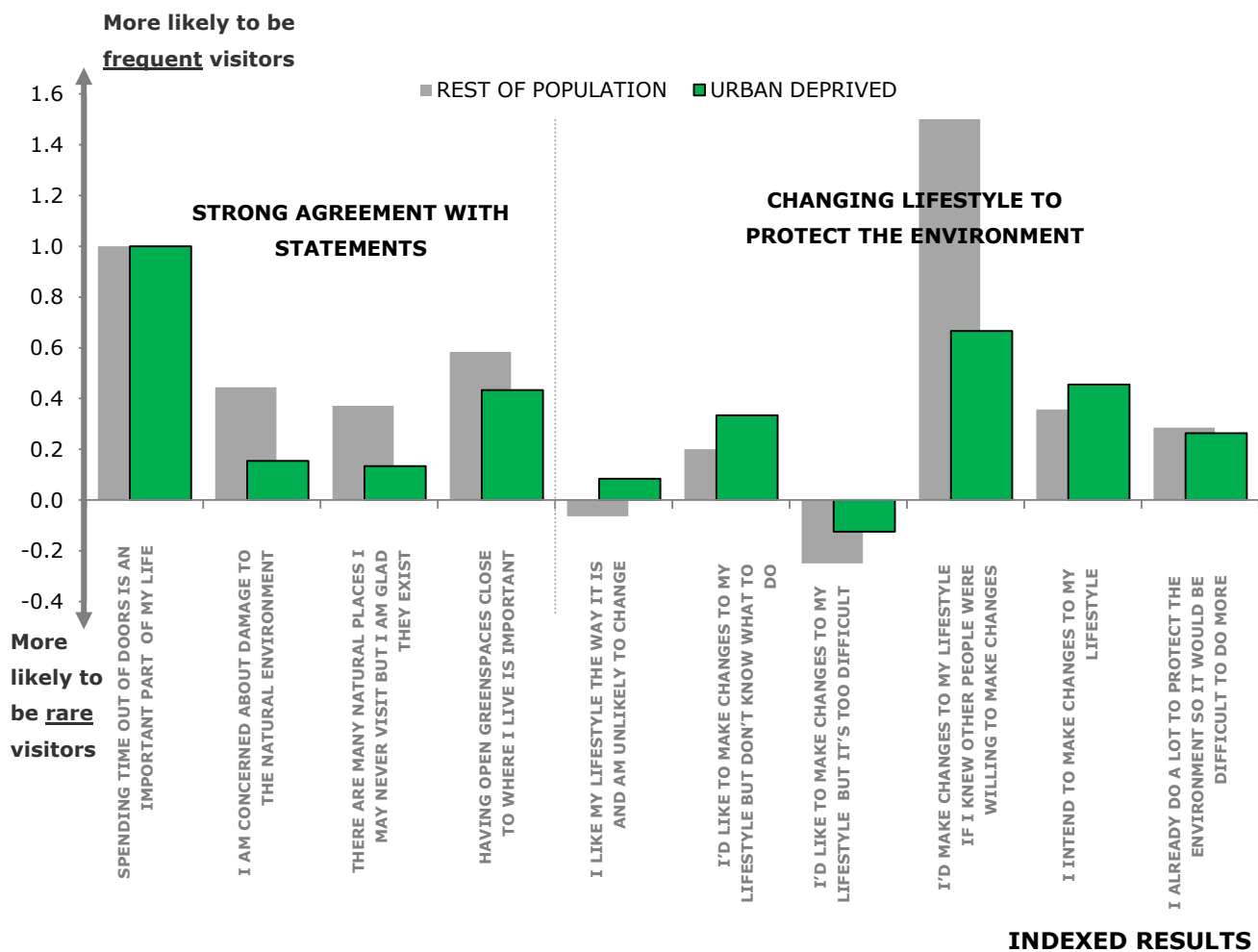


In terms of attitudes to the environment (Figure 10), **Frequent** visitors are **more likely** to agree that:

- time out of doors is an important part of their life;
- having local green spaces close to home is important;
- they would like to make changes to their lifestyle to protect the environment but don't know what to do or will only make changes if they know other people will too.

A comparison of the responses provided by Rare and Frequent visitors within the rest of the population is also included in **Figures 9** and **10** (results for rest of the population shown as grey bars). This analysis highlights some variations including a greater difference between the proportions of Frequent and Rare visitors who take part in unpaid voluntary work.

Figure 10 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - Urban Deprived and rest of population: Attitudes to the environment



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3.2.4. Urban Deprived population – summary

Residents of Urban Deprived areas are **less likely** than the rest of the population to take frequent visits to the natural environment with over a quarter visiting on fewer than 3 occasions per year. Members of this population group are also **less likely** to undertake pro-environmental behaviours such as conservation volunteering and are **less likely** to have strong positive attitudes towards the natural environment.

People who live in Urban Deprived areas are **more likely** to be in the least affluent socio-economic groups, to be unemployed and to be aged under 35.

Comparing the profile of residents of Urban Deprived areas who take visits to the natural environment frequently against the profile of Rare participants highlights the variations:

Table 5 Comparing Frequent and Rare Urban Deprived visitors to the natural environment

Frequent visitors –	Rare visitors –
<p>More likely to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affluent. • Younger, especially aged under 24. • With children in their household. 	<p>More likely to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From low income groups. • Older, especially aged 65 or over. • Without children in household. • Have a disability or limiting illness • Residents of London or the Midlands.

Taking these findings together suggests that the lower level of participation in visits to the natural environment amongst residents of Urban Deprived areas is related to an individual’s socio-economic circumstances and physical ability, with the largest differences in levels of visit taking found when comparing the highest and lowest socio-economic groups and people with and without long term illness or disability.

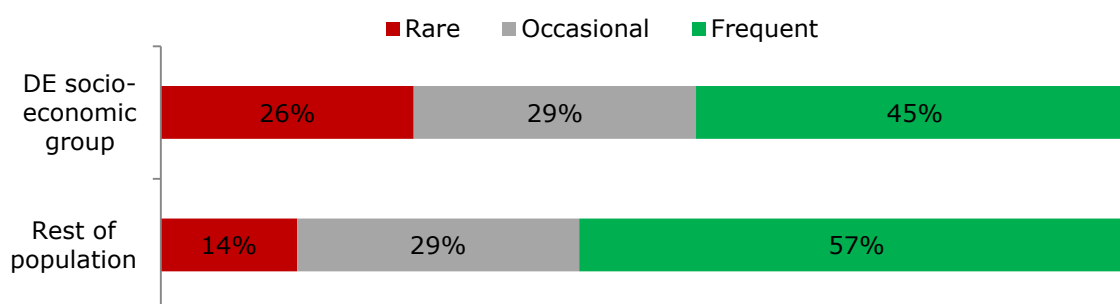
3.3. Members of DE socio-economic groups

3.3.1. Background

An estimated 11.5 million adults resident in England are in the least affluent DE socio-economic groups, representing around 28% of the adult population.

Overall, 45% of adults in the DE socio-economic groups normally take visits to the natural environment at least once a week ('Frequent' in **Figure 11**) while 26% normally take fewer than 3 visits per year ('Rare' in **Figure 11**). By comparison to the rest of the adult population in England, members of the DE socio-economic groups are more likely to be Rare visitors but less likely to be Frequent visitors.

Figure 11 Frequency of visits to the natural environment by the DE socio-economic group compared to the rest of the population



Key differences between the profile of members of the DE socio-economic group and members of other socio-economic groups are:

- **higher rates of unemployment** - 29% compared to 8% of the rest of the population;
- a more **urban** population (80% live in urban areas compared to 75% of the rest of the population);
- **slightly older** with 39% aged 55 or over compared to 32% of the rest of the population.

Compared to the rest of the population, larger proportions of the DE socio-economic groups are also members of the other diversity groups described in this report. Most notably:

- 24% are **65 or over**, compared to 17% of rest of the population;
- 27% have a **long term illness or disability**, compared to 14% of the rest of the population;
- 18% live in **Urban Deprived** areas compared to 7% of the rest of the population.

Further details of the profile of the DE socio-economic are contained in the Appendix and described in Burt et al⁵.

⁵ BURT, J., STEWART, D., PRESTON, S. & COSTLEY, T. 2013. *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009 -2012): Difference in access to the natural environment between social groups within the adult English population*. Natural England Data Reports, DATA003.

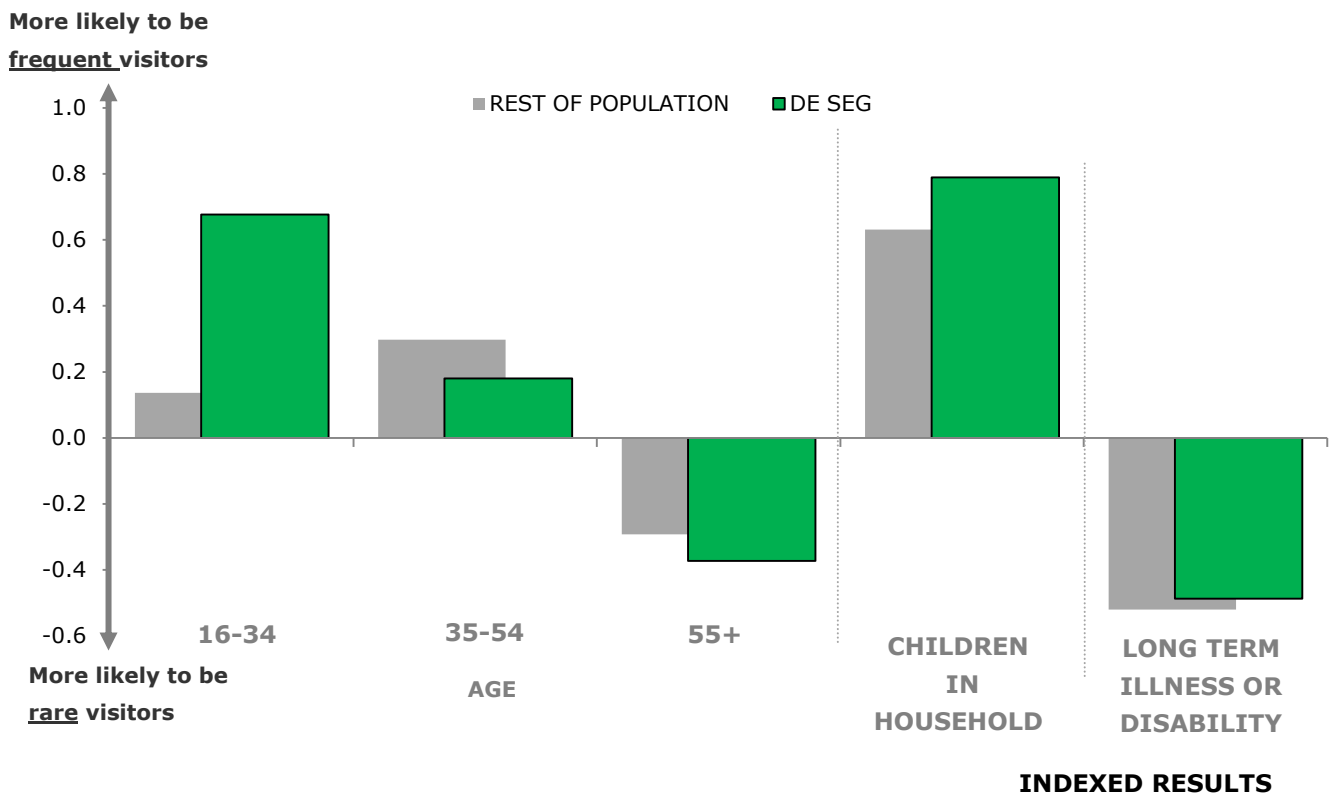
3.3.2 Comparing the profile of Frequent and Rare visitors

Comparing differences within a diversity group between those people who visit the natural environment frequently and those that rarely visit can help to inform the design and targeting of interventions which are aimed at those with the greatest need.

Demographics

Figure 12 summarises the key differences between Frequent and Rare visitors in the DE socio-economic groups with results presented as an **index** where a value above zero (represented by an upward bar) means that a particular demographic category is **more common amongst Frequent visitors** while a negative result (represented by a downward bar) means that a demographic category is **more common amongst Rare visitors**. The size of the bars reflect the **scale of the difference** between Frequent and Rare visitors.

Figure 12 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - DE socio-economic groups and rest of population: Demographics



Within the DE socio-economic group those who frequently visit the natural environment are more likely to be:

- younger, especially in the 16 to 34 age group;
- with children in their household.

In contrast, Rare visitors are more likely to be aged 65 and over and have a long term illness or disability.

Figure 12 also compares the profile of Rare and Frequent visitors with the rest of the population (results shown as grey bars). This comparison shows that the frequency at which

DE socio-economic group members visit the natural environment decreases more rapidly with age than it does within the rest of the population.

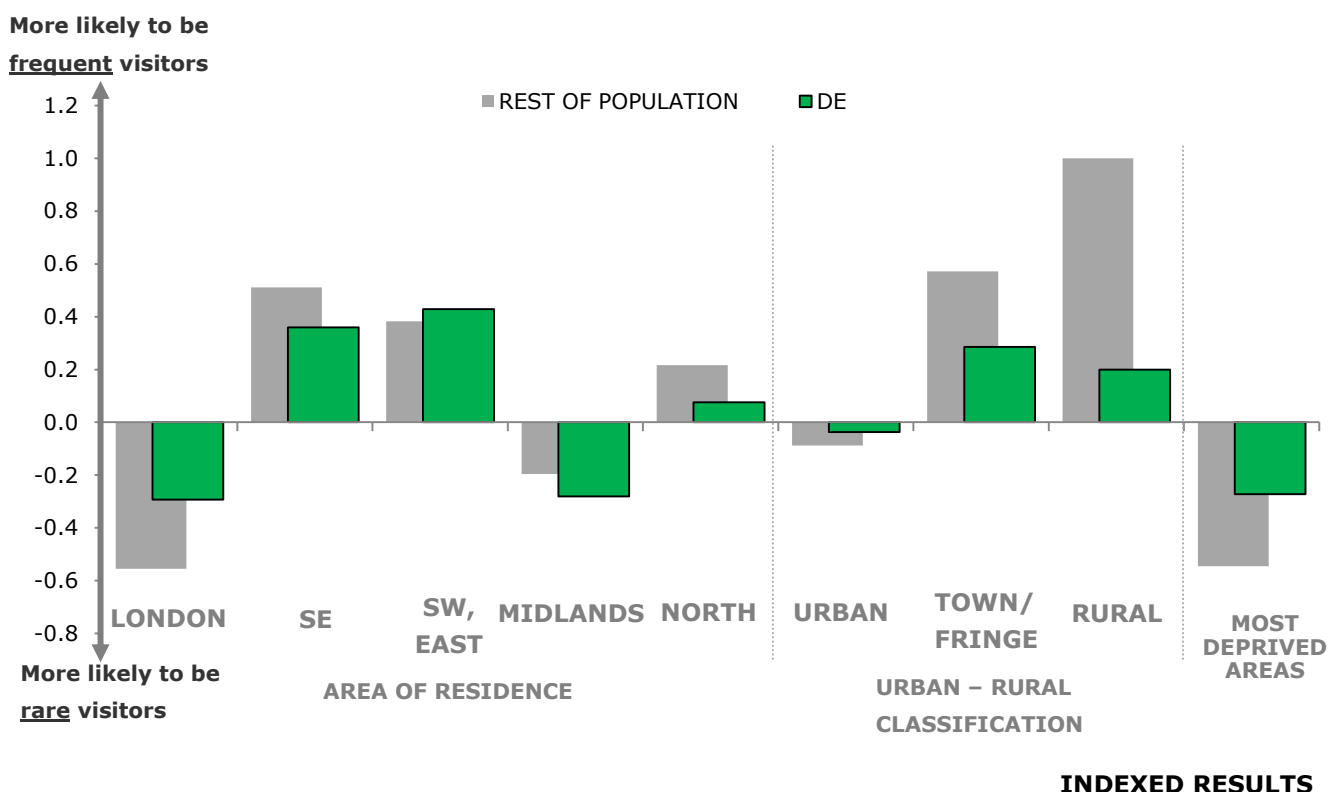
Place of residence

Figure 13 shows that amongst members of the DE socio-economic groups, **Frequent visitors** are **more likely** than Rare visitors to live in:

- the South East, South West or East of England;
- urban fringe areas, small towns or rural locations.

However they are less likely to live in more deprived areas.

Figure 13 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - DE socio-economic groups and rest of population: Place of residence



3.3.3. Behaviours and attitudes to the natural environment

Background

As well as collecting information on visits taken to the outdoors, MENE records details on participation in pro-environmental behaviours and attitudes towards the environment.

Members of the DE socio-economic groups are **less likely** than the rest of the population to take part in pro-environmental activities (82% compared to 92%) or to have strong positive attitudes to the natural environment. Specifically:

- fewer spend time in a garden, take part in wildlife watching, watch nature programmes or look at books or websites about the natural world (44% compared to 57%, 47% compared to 55%, 21% compared to 33% respectively);

- membership of environmental or conservation organisations is around a third of that found amongst the rest of the population (3% compared to 9%);
- 27% agree strongly that they are *concerned about damage to the natural environment* compared to 37% of the rest of the population;
- 32% agree strongly that *spending time out of doors is an important part of their life* compared to 45% of the rest of the population;
- 40% agree strongly that *having open green spaces close to where they live is important* compared to 52% of the rest of the population.

Further details of differences in responses provided by members of the DE socio-economic groups and the rest of the population are contained in the Appendix and described in Burt et al⁶.

Comparing the profile of frequent and rare visitors

Figures 14 and 15 provide a summary of the key variations in pro-environmental behaviours and attitudes between Frequent and Rare DE socio-economic group visitors to the natural environment. As in the demographic comparisons, results are presented as a ratio between the two visit frequency categories where a value above zero (represented by an upward bar) means that a particular activity or attitude is **more common amongst Frequent visitors** while a negative bar (represented by a downward bar) means that an activity or attitudes is **more common amongst Rare visitors**. The size of the bars reflect the **scale of the difference** between Frequent and Rare visitors.

Those members of the DE socio-economic groups who take visits **frequently** are **more likely** than Rare visitors to undertake any of the pro-environmental activities and have more positive attitudes. Most notably Frequent visitors are more likely to:

- walk through green spaces on their way to other places;
- walk or cycle instead of using their car;
- undertake unpaid voluntary work out of doors;
- usually buy eco-friendly products;
- be members of an environmental organisation;
- agree that time out of doors is an important part of their life;
- state that they intend to make changes in their lifestyle to protect the environment or that they would make changes if they knew that others would take action too.

A comparison of the responses provided by Rare and Frequent visitors with the rest of the population is also included in **Figures 14 and 15** (results shown as grey bars). This analysis shows a similar pattern of differences between frequent and rare visitors amongst DE socio-economic group and the rest of the population. Notably, members of the DE socio-economic group who take visits frequently are much more likely than Rare visitors to take part in unpaid voluntary work.

⁶ BURT, J., STEWART, D., PRESTON, S. & COSTLEY, T. 2013. *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009 -2012): Difference in access to the natural environment between social groups within the adult English population*. Natural England Data Reports, DATA003.

Figure 14 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - DE socio-economic groups and rest of population: Activities normally undertaken

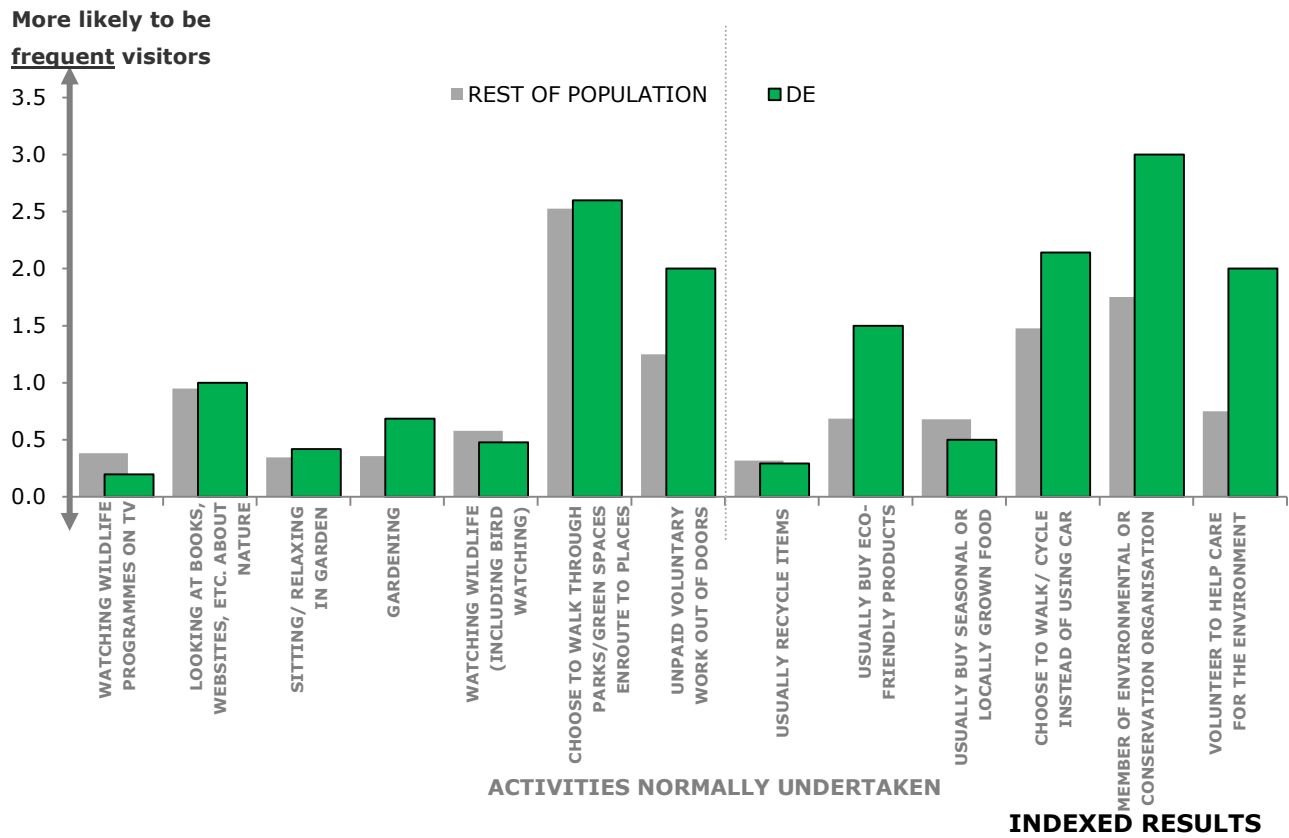
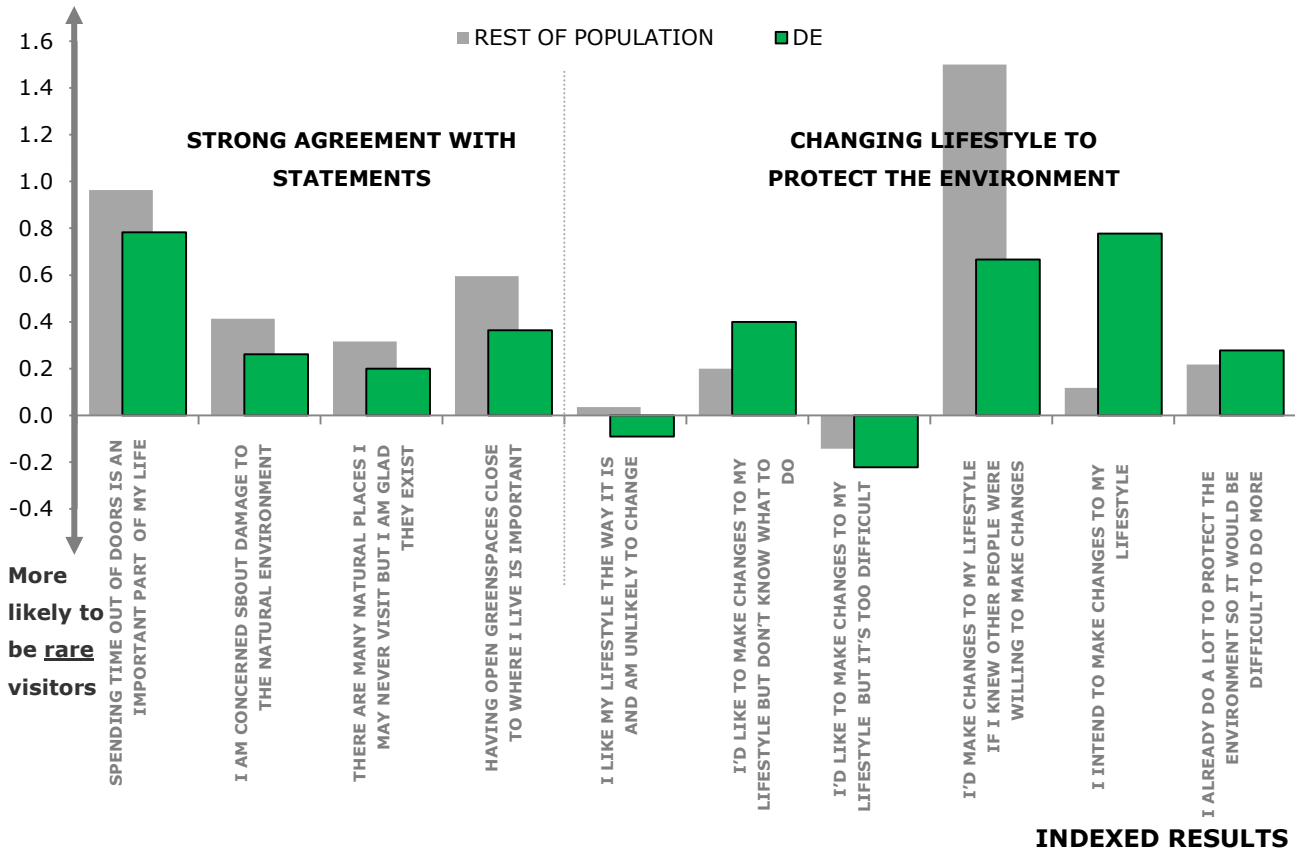


Figure 15 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - DE socio-economic groups and rest of population: Attitudes to the environment

More likely to be frequent visitors



3.3.4. DE socio-economic groups – summary

Members of the DE socio-economic groups are **less likely** than the rest of the population to take frequent visits to the natural environment with around a quarter taking fewer than 3 visits per year. Members of this population group are also **less likely** to engage with the natural environment through pro-environmental activities and **less likely** to perceive time out of doors as important or to perceive environmental protection as very important.

Comparing the profile of members of the DE socio-economic groups who take visits frequently against the profile of Rare visitors highlights the following differences:

Table 6 Comparing Frequent and Rare DE socio-economic group visitors to the natural environment

Frequent visitors –	Rare visitors –
<p>More likely to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Younger (especially under 24) • With children in household. • Residents of more affluent areas, urban fringe areas, small towns or rural areas. • Residents of the South West, South East or East of England. 	<p>More likely to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older, aged 65 or over. • People with a disability or limiting illness. • Residents of London or the Midlands and urban locations.

Overall the findings suggest that lower levels of visit taking amongst members of the DE socio-economic groups could partly be explained by the more limited availability of good quality natural greenspace to those living in urban areas (particularly deprived urban areas) and poor access to those limited greenspaces due to long term illness or disability. However the fact that participation levels are also lower than average amongst this group who live in more rural or affluent areas suggest that other factors such as attitudes to the natural environment also influence frequency of visit taking.

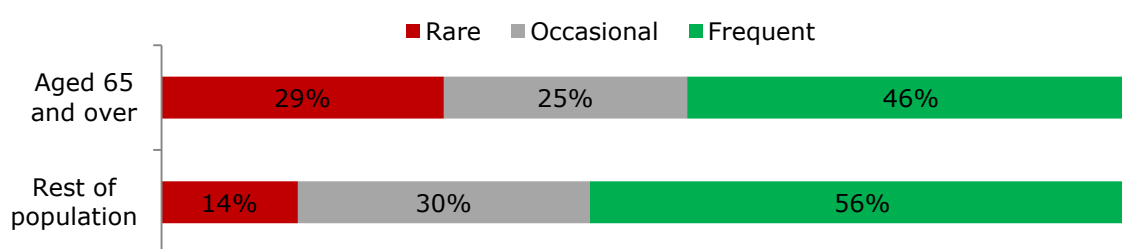
3.4. People aged 65 and over

3.4.1. Background

An estimated 8.1 million adults resident in England are aged 65 or over, 19% of the adult population in England.

As shown in **Figure 16**, almost half (46%) of people aged 65 and over normally take visits to the natural environment at least once a week ('Frequent') while 29% normally take fewer than 3 visits per year ('Rare'). By comparison to the rest of the adult population in England, people aged 65 or over are more likely to be Rare visitors but less likely to be Frequent visitors.

Figure 16 Frequency of visits to the natural environment by people aged 65 and over compared to the rest of the population



The key difference between the profile of people aged 65 and over and those in younger age groups is the larger proportion in the less affluent **DE socio-economic groups** (35% compared to 27% for younger people).

There is an 'overlap' between those in the 65 and over age group and the other diversity groups:

- people aged 65 and over are **more likely** to have a **long term illness or disability** (43% compared to 12% for younger age groups);
- however, people aged 65 and over are **less likely** to be in the other diversity groups with just 6% living in Urban Deprived areas (compared to 11% of the younger age groups) and 3% in the BAME population (compared to 16% of younger age groups).

Further details of differences between the 65 and over age group and rest of the population are contained in Appendix 1 and described in Burt et al⁷.

3.4.2. Comparing the profile of Frequent and Rare visitors

Comparing differences within a diversity group between those people who visit the natural environment frequently and those that rarely visit can help to inform the design and targeting of interventions which are aimed at those with the greatest need.

⁷ BURT, J., STEWART, D., PRESTON, S. & COSTLEY, T. 2013. *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009 -2012): Difference in access to the natural environment between social groups within the adult English population*. Natural England Data Reports, DATA003.

Demographics

Figure 17 summarises the key differences between Frequent and Rare visitors aged 65 and over with results presented as an **index** where a value above zero (represented by an upward bar) means that a particular demographic category is **more common amongst Frequent visitors** while a negative result (represented by a downward bar) means that a demographic category is **more common amongst Rare visitors**. The size of the bars reflect the **scale of the difference** between Frequent and Rare visitors.

Amongst people aged 65 and over those who take visits **frequently** are **more likely** than rare visitors to be in the most affluent AB socio-economic groups while **rare** visitors are **more likely** to have a disability or long term illnesses. This is a similar pattern to that seen amongst the rest of the population.

Figure 17 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - People aged 65+ and rest of population: Demographics



Place of residence

Figure 18 shows that amongst people aged 65 and over, Frequent visitors are more likely than Rare visitors to:

- live in the South West, South East or East of England;
- live in rural areas.

However Rare visitors are more likely to live in London and the most deprived areas.

Figure 18 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - People aged 65+ and rest of population: Place of residence



3.4.3. Behaviours and attitudes to the natural environment

Background

As well as collecting information on visits taken to the outdoors, MENE also provides details on participation in pro-environmental behaviours and attitudes to the environment.

Although frequency of visit taking is lower amongst the 65 and over age group, participation in many other pro-environmental activities is higher compared to younger people. Most notably, people aged 65 and over are **more likely** to take part in:

- watching wildlife (51% compared to 31%);
- gardening (65% compared to 50%);
- watching and listening to nature programmes (63% compared to 50%);
- buying seasonal or locally grown food (48% compared to 36%);
- looking at books, photos or websites about the natural world (35% compared to 28%).

People aged 65 and over are also **more likely** than the rest of the population to have positive attitudes towards the natural environment. Specifically:

- 47% agree strongly that *spending time out of doors (including their own garden) is an important part of life* (compared to 40% for younger people);
- 48% strongly value the existence of natural places that they may never personally visit (compared to 42% for younger people).

Further details of the responses provided by people aged 65 and over are contained in Appendix 1 and described in Burt et al⁸.

Comparing frequent and rare visitors

Figures 19 and 20 provide a summary of the key variations in pro-environmental behaviours and attitudes between Frequent and Rare visitors aged 65 and over to the natural environment. As in the demographic comparisons, results are presented as a ratio between the two visit frequency categories where a value above zero (represented by an upward bar) means that a particular activity or attitude is **more common amongst Frequent visitors** while a negative bar (represented by a downward bar) means that an activity or attitude is **more common amongst Rare visitors**. The size of the bars reflect the **scale of the difference** between Frequent and Rare visitors.

Amongst people aged 65 and over, Frequent visitors are **more likely** than Rare visitors to participate in pro-environmental activities. Most notably:

- walking through green spaces on their way to other places;
- walking or cycling instead of using the car;
- unpaid voluntary work out of doors;
- being a member of an environmental/conservation organisation;
- volunteering to help care for the environment.

In terms of attitudes towards the natural environment, Frequent visitors are **more likely** than Rare visitors to agree that *time out of doors is an important part of their life* and members of this group are more likely to be open to changing their lifestyle to help protect the environment.

Comparisons of people aged 65 and over and the rest of the population, included in **Figures 19 and 20** (rest of population illustrated by grey bars), show that for the 65 and over population there is a greater variation in the activities undertaken by Frequent and Rare visitors. For example amongst people aged 65 and over those who take visits Frequently are more likely to also take part in voluntary work out of doors or to be members of an environmental organisation.

⁸ BURT, J., STEWART, D., PRESTON, S. & COSTLEY, T. 2013. *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009 -2012): Difference in access to the natural environment between social groups within the adult English population*. Natural England Data Reports, DATA003.

Figure 19 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - People aged 65+ and rest of population: Activities normally undertaken

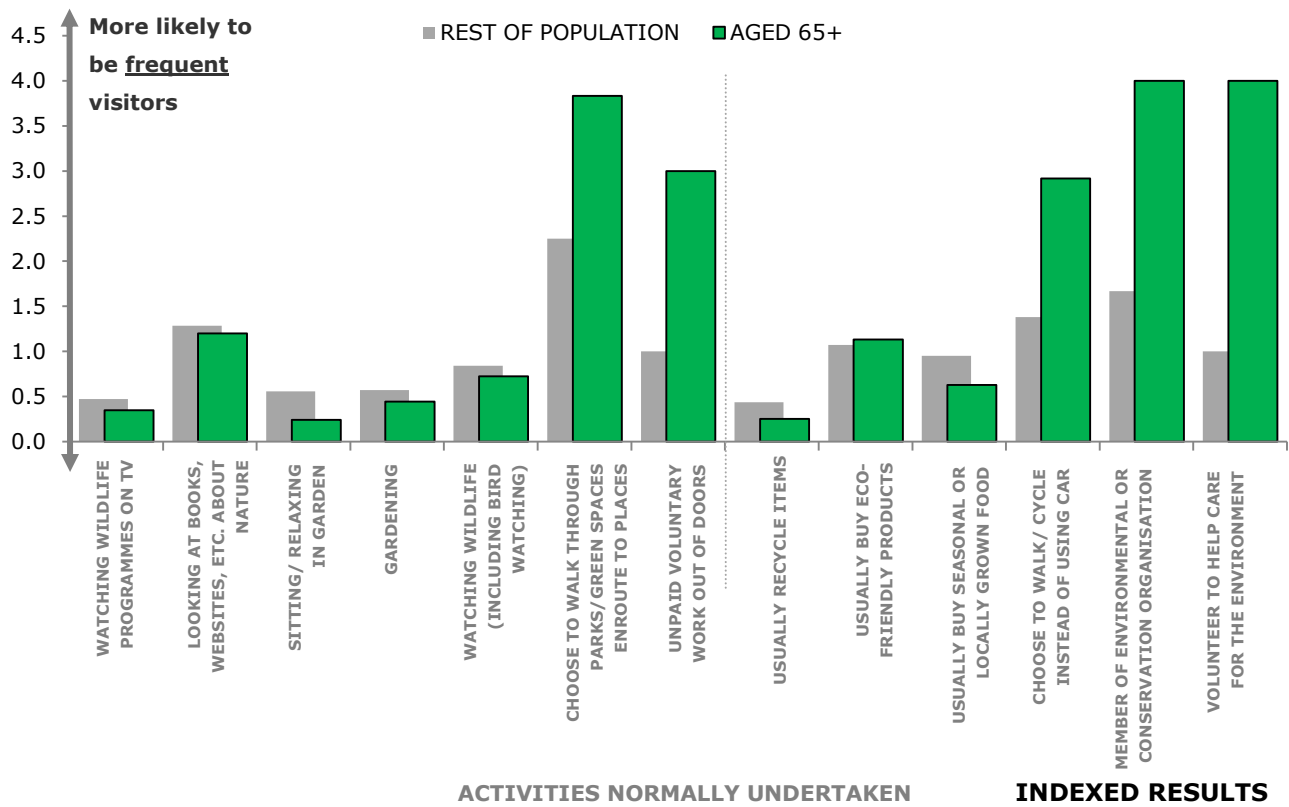
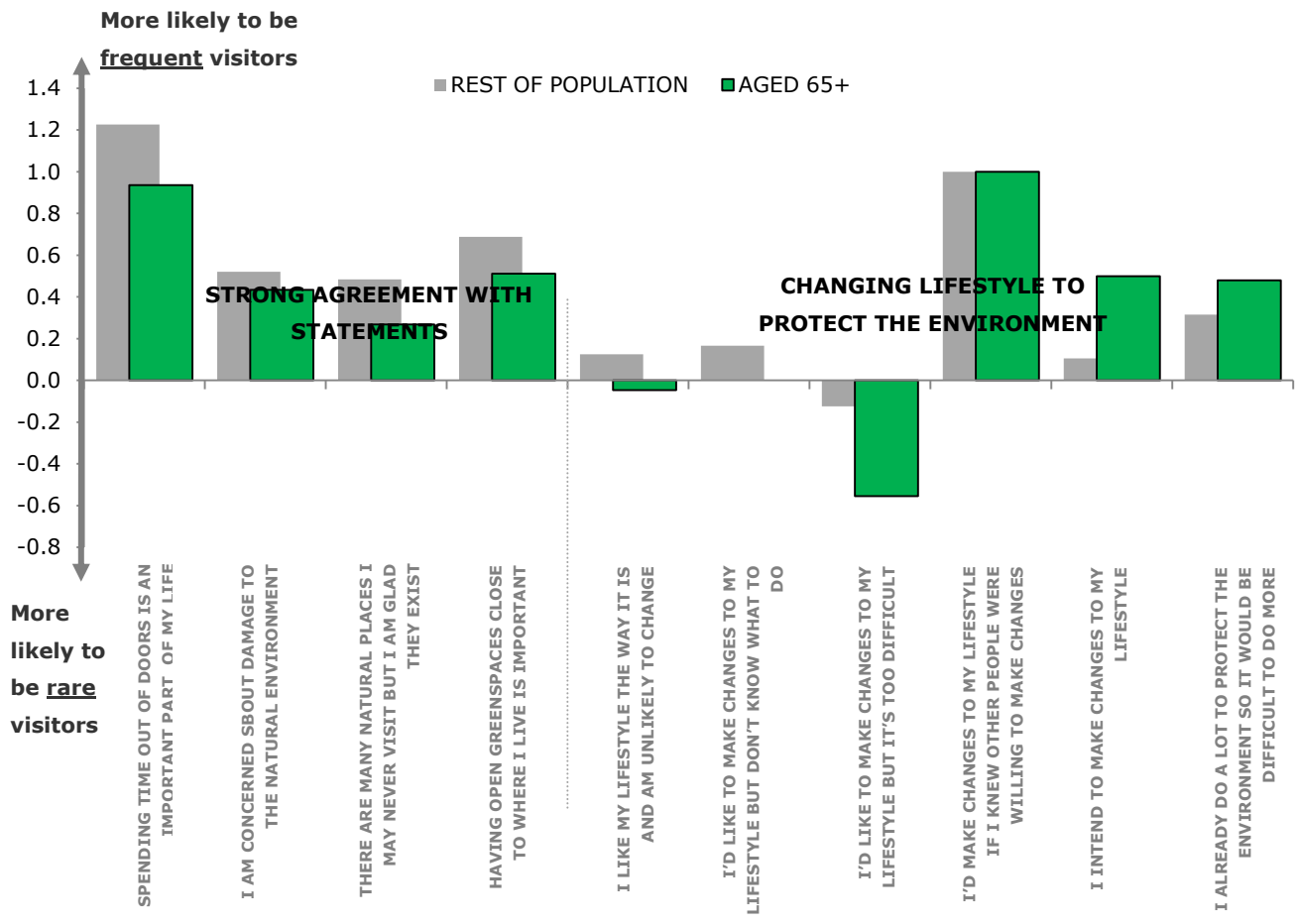


Figure 20 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - People aged 65+ and rest of population: Attitudes to the environment



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3.4.4. Aged 65 and over population – summary

Compared to younger age groups, people aged 65 and over are **more likely** to be Rare visitors to the natural environment, taking fewer than 3 visits per year. However, participation levels are polarised with almost half of this older age group defined as Frequent participants, normally taking visits at least once a week.

Members of this age group are **more likely** than younger people to participate in pro-environmental activities and tend to have more positive attitudes to the natural environment.

Table 7 Comparing Frequent and Rare aged 65 and over visitors to the natural environment

Frequent visitors –	Rare visitors –
More likely to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Affluent.• Residents of South West, South East or East of England.	More likely to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In least affluent socio-economic groups.• With a long term illness or disability.• Residents of London or the Midlands.

These findings together suggest that the lower level of participation in visiting the natural environment amongst those aged 65 and over is closely related to the high proportion of this age group with a limiting illness or disability rather than any attitudinal barrier related to interest in the natural environment.

3.5. People with a disability or long term illness

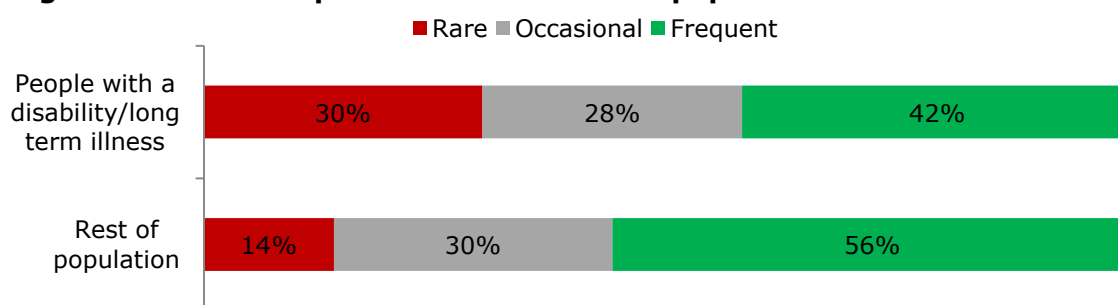
3.5.1. Background

An estimated 7.4 million adults resident in England or 18% of the population have a long term illness or disability.

Figure 21 shows that overall, 42% of the people with a long term illness or disability normally take visits to the natural environment at least once a week ('Frequent') while 30% normally take fewer than 3 visits to the natural environment per year ('Rare').

Compared to the rest of the adult population in England, people with a disability or long term illness are less likely to be Frequent visitors but more likely to be Rare visitors.

Figure 21 Frequency of visits to the natural environment by people with a disability or long term illness compared to the rest of the population



The key differences between people with a disability or long term illness and the rest of the population include the following:

- an **older age profile** with two-thirds (67%) aged 55 or over (27% for the rest of the population);
- **less affluent** with 42% in the DE socio-economic groups compared to 24% for the rest of the population;
- **less likely to have children** in their household (13% compared to 32%).

There is overlap between people with a disability or long term illness and the other diversity groups, however:

- members of this group are no more likely than the rest of the population to live in Urban Deprived areas;
- fewer are members of the BAME population (6% compared to 15% of rest of population).

For further details of the profile of people with disabilities and long term illness see Appendix 1 and further details in Burt et al⁹.

⁹ BURT, J., STEWART, D., PRESTON, S. & COSTLEY, T. 2013. *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009 -2012): Difference in access to the natural environment between social groups within the adult English population*. Natural England Data Reports, DATA003.

3.5.2. Comparing the profile of Frequent and Rare visitors

Comparing differences within a diversity group between those people who visit the natural environment frequently with those that rarely visit can help to inform the design and targeting of interventions which are aimed at those with the greatest need.

Demographics

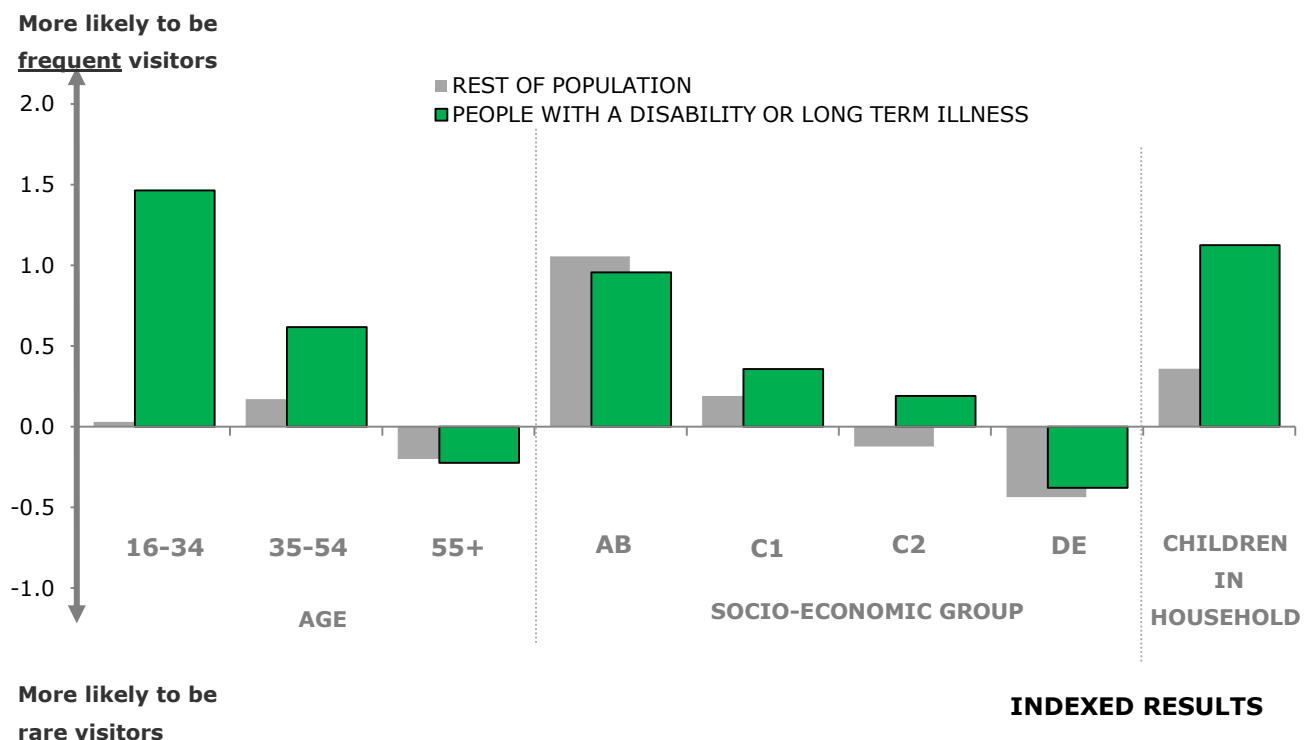
Figure 22 summarises the key differences between Frequent and Rare visitors with a long term illness or disability with results presented as an **index** where a value above zero (represented by an upward bar) means that a particular demographic category is **more common amongst Frequent visitors** while a negative result (represented by a downward bar) means that a demographic category is **more common amongst Rare visitors**. The size of the bars reflect the **scale of the difference** between Frequent and Rare visitors.

Amongst people with a long term illness or disability, those who take visits to the natural environment frequently are **more likely** than those who rarely take visits to be:

- **younger** - in particular those in the youngest 16 to 34 age group;
- **affluent** – predominantly in the AB socio-economic groups;
- **with children** in their household.

In comparison to the rest of the population (shown as grey bars), levels of visit taking by people with a disability or long term illness vary much more by age.

Figure 22 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - people with a disability or long term illness and rest of population: Demographics



Place of residence

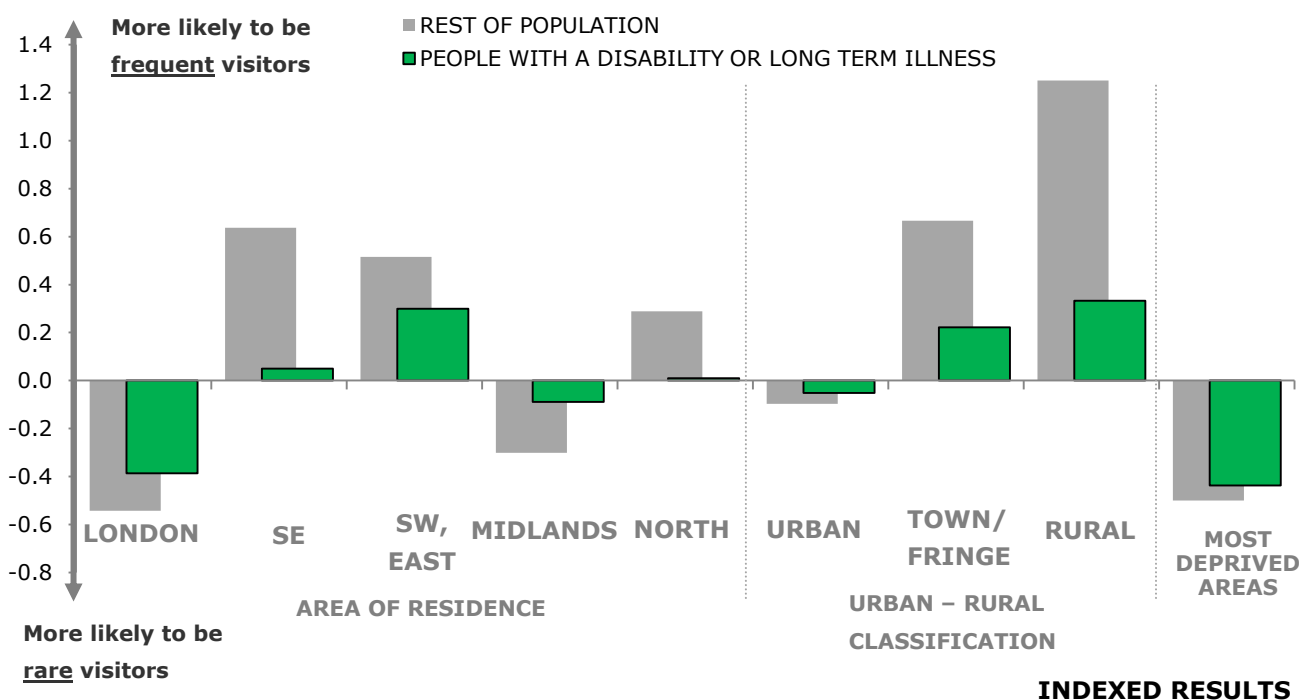
Figure 23 shows that amongst people with a disability or long term illness, Frequent visitors are more likely than Rare visitors to live in:

- the South of England, outside London;
- rural or urban fringe areas.

However, Rare visitors are more likely to live in the most deprived areas.

A comparison of the profile of Frequent and Rare visitors with no disabilities (as shown by grey bars on the chart), illustrates a broadly similar pattern although the variations are greater than amongst people with disabilities (as shown by the length of the bars).

Figure 23 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - people with a disability or long term illness and rest of population: Place of residence



3.5.3. Behaviours and Attitudes to the natural environment

Background

MENE also records participation in pro-environmental behaviours and attitudes towards the environment.

Although frequency of visit taking is lower amongst people with a disability or long term illness, participation in a number of pro-environmental activities is higher compared to the rest of the population. Most notably:

- watching and listening to nature programmes (61% compared to 51% of people with no disability or long term illness);
- wildlife watching (44% compared to 33%).

Also, attitudes tend to be more positive amongst this group. Most notably:

- 39% agree strongly that they are concerned about damage to the natural environment (33% of people with no disability or long term illness);
- 47% strongly value the existence of natural places that they may never personally visit (42% amongst people with no disability or long term illness).

It is also notable that compared to the rest of the population, a slightly larger proportion of people with a disability or long term illness state that they would like to make changes to their lifestyle to protect the environment but haven't already because 'it's too difficult' (10% compared to 7% of rest of population).

Further details of responses provided by people with a disability or long term illness are contained in Appendix 1 and described in Burt et al.¹⁰

Comparing frequent and rare visitors

Figures 24 and 25 provide a summary of the key variations in pro-environmental behaviours and attitudes between Frequent and Rare visitors with a disability or long term illness. As in the demographic comparisons, results are presented as a ratio between the two visit frequency categories where a value above zero (represented by an upward bar) means that a particular activity or attitude is **more common amongst Frequent visitors** while a negative value (represented by a downward bar) means that an activity or attitude is **more common amongst Rare visitors**. The size of the bars reflect the **scale of the difference** between Frequent and Rare visitors.

Amongst people with a disability or long term illness, Frequent visitors are **more likely** than Rare visitors to undertake pro-environmental activities. Specifically:

- walking through green spaces on their way to other places;
- walking or cycling instead of using their car;
- doing unpaid voluntary work out of doors;
- membership of an environmental/conservation organisation;
- volunteering to help care for the environment.

In terms of attitudes towards the natural environment, Frequent visitors are **more likely** than Rare visitors to agree that *time out of doors is an important part of their life* and they are more likely to indicate that they intend to make changes to their lifestyle to protect the environment, or would make these changes if they knew others were willing to change too.

Looking at the results of a comparison of Frequent and Rare visitors amongst people with no disability or long term illness (represented by grey bars), there is a similar broad pattern with Frequent visitors having more positive attitudes to the environment, changing their lifestyle to protect it and more likely to take part in pro-environmental activities.

¹⁰ BURT, J., STEWART, D., PRESTON, S. & COSTLEY, T. 2013. *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009 -2012): Difference in access to the natural environment between social groups within the adult English population*. Natural England Data Reports, DATA003.

Figure 24 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - people with a disability or long term illness and rest of population: Activities normally undertaken

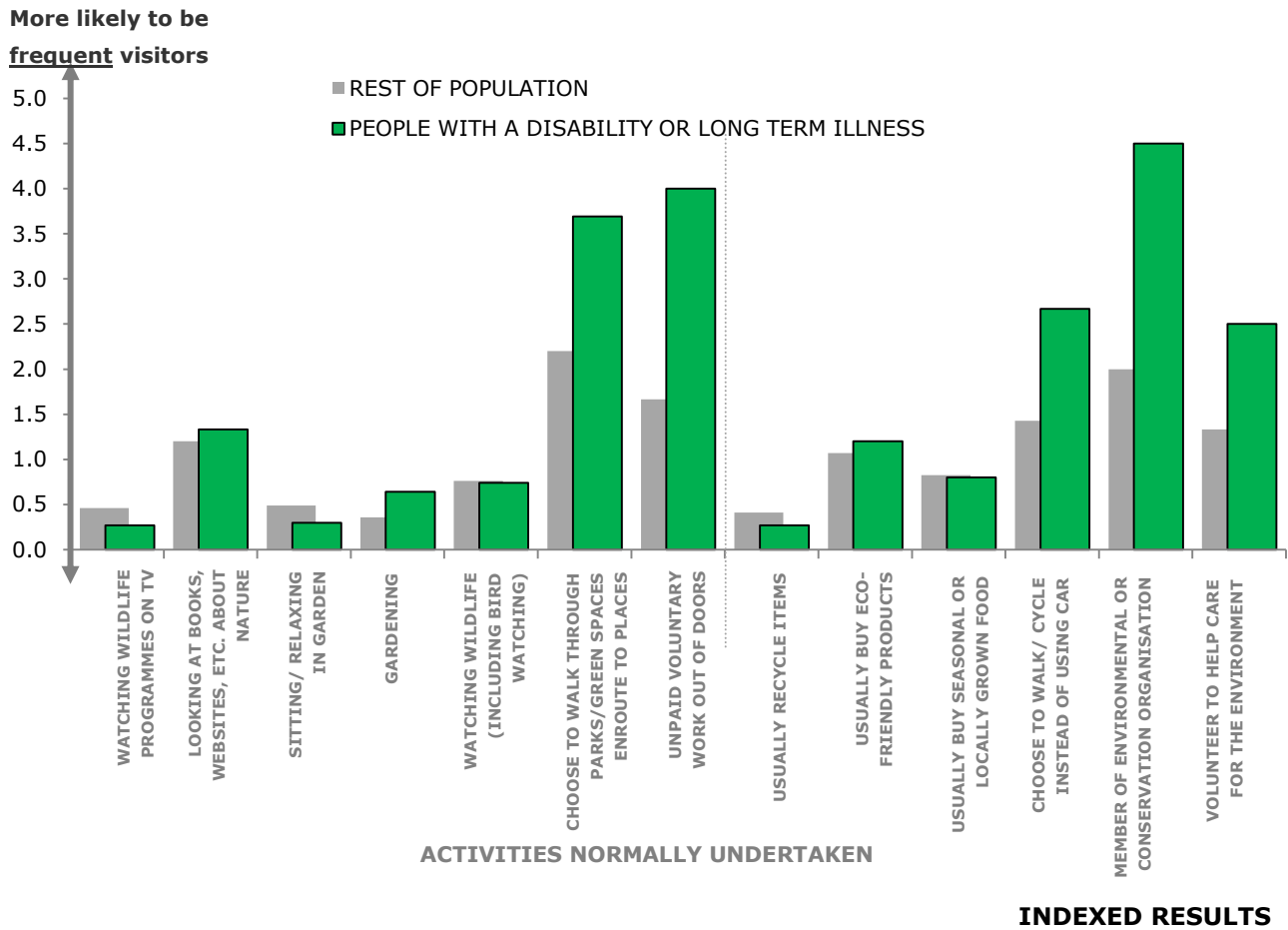


Figure 25 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors to the natural environment - people with a disability or long term illness and rest of population: Attitudes to the environment



3.5.4. People with disabilities or long term illness – summary

People with a disability or long term illness are twice as likely as the rest of the population to be Rare visitors to the natural environment. However, participation levels are polarised with around 40% of this population group defined as Frequent visitors, normally taking visits at least once a week.

Additionally, members of this group are **more likely** than people without disabilities to participate in pro-environmental activities and have more positive attitudes to spending time out of doors.

Table 8 Comparing Frequent and Rare visitors with disabilities and long term illness to the natural environment

Frequent visitors –	Rare visitors –
More likely to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Younger (especially 16 to 24)• Families with children in home• Affluent• Residents of rural, small town or fringe areas	More likely to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In least affluent socio-economic group• Older especially aged 65 or over• Residents of deprived areas

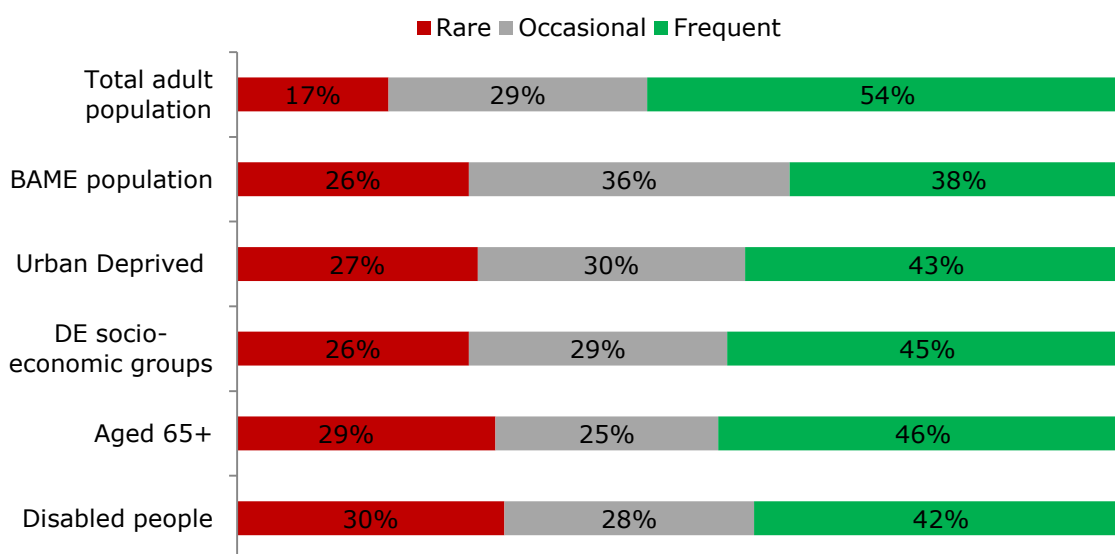
Taking these findings together suggests that the lower level of participation in visits to the natural environment amongst people with disabilities and long term illness is closely related to the individual's age and socio-economic status.

4. Overview and comparison of groups

Compared to the overall adult population, members of all the five population groups included in this report are more likely to be Rare visitors to the natural environment with at least 25% of each group in this category compared to 17% across the adult population as a whole (Figure 26).

However, within each of the 5 groups, it is also notable that more than a third of members are Frequent visitors to the natural environment, taking visits at least once a week (although proportions are lower in all 5 groups compared to the overall adult population). The most polarised group is those people 'aged 65 and over'.

Figure 26 Frequency of visits to the natural environment – total adult population and amongst each diversity group



Influence of demographics on visit frequency

The analysis described in the previous sections has identified key differences between Rare and Frequent visitors within each of the 5 population groups. Across all of these groups younger people (including those with disabilities), people with children, and more affluent people are more likely to take visits to the natural environment frequently, while those in the oldest age groups, those people with disabilities, those in the lowest socio-economic groups and members of the BAME population are more likely to be rare visitors to the natural environment.

Using multivariate analysis approaches it is possible to explore and better understand the strength of the association between membership of a diversity group and frequency of visits to the natural environment.

The 'tree diagram' (Figure 27) has been produced using CHAID¹¹ approaches. In this analysis frequency of visiting the natural environment has been used as the dependent variable (i.e. based on the 'rare', 'occasional' and 'frequent' bands). This dependent variable has been

¹¹ CHAID stands for Chi-squared Automatic Interaction Detector.

analysed against a number of demographic predictor variables collected in MENE relating to gender, age, socio-economic grouping, working status, disability, ethnicity, children in household.

Outputs from this CHAID analysis are produced as the tree diagram shown in Figure 27 with the population segmented into groups depending on whether they are significantly more or significantly less likely to be related to the dependant variable.

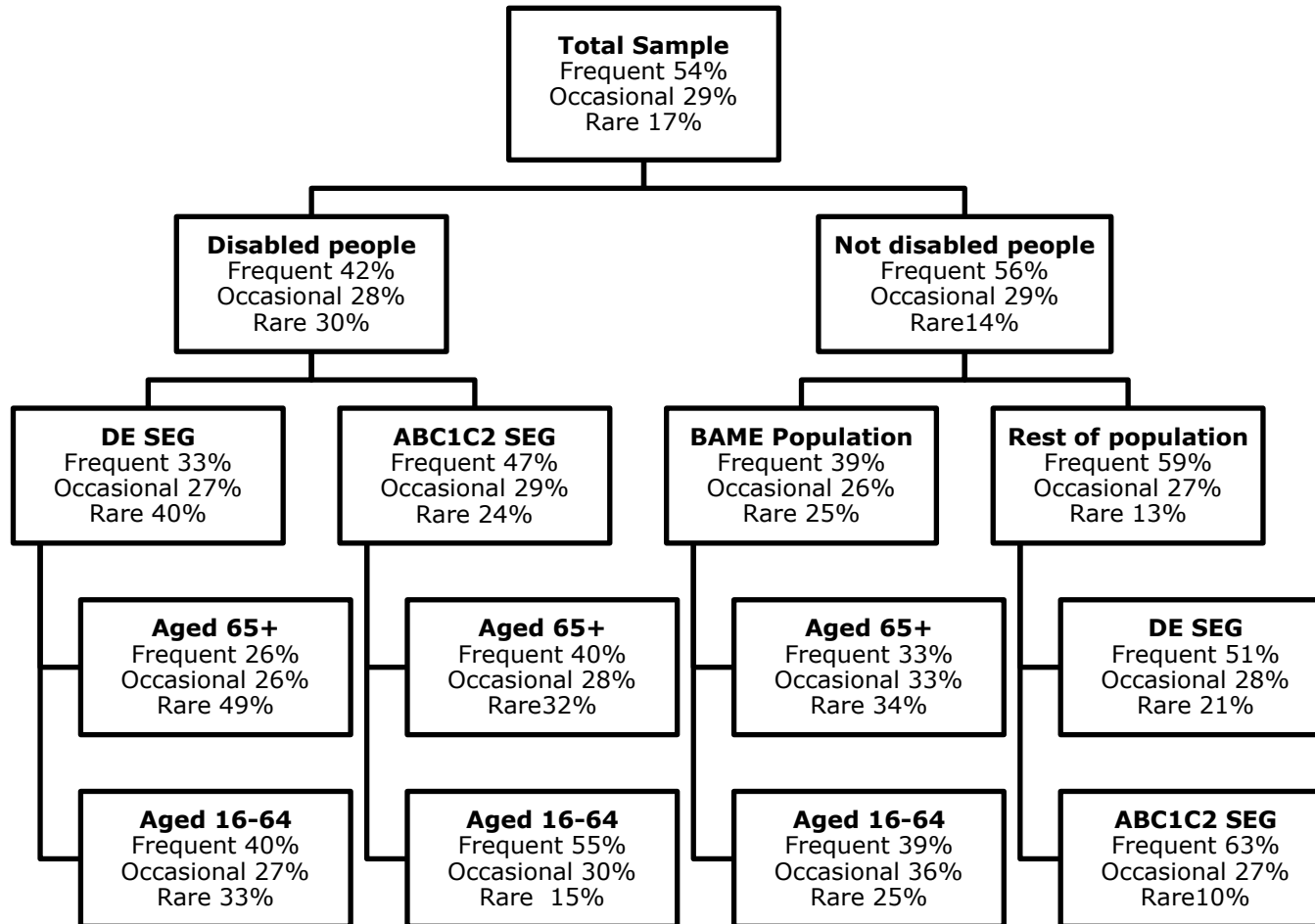
CHAID uses Pearson's Chi-square test to determine the significance of correlations between the dependant variable and the predictor variables. The variable with the highest level of correlation is represented by the first split in the decision tree.

The top level of the tree shows the data for all respondents in the study. The predictor variables are then applied to see if splitting the sample based on these predictors leads to a statistically significant discrimination in the dependent variable. If responses are not significant on their own, they are then combined with other responses until a significant discrimination is found. This becomes the first branch of the tree. If the predictor variables can be further split to show additional discrimination in the data, these then form subsequent levels in the tree diagram.

The divisions in Figure 27 show the factors that have the greatest influence on the frequency of visit-taking, with those divisions highest in the diagram having the most influence. In summary, the top 4 factors are:

- whether or not someone has a disability;
- their socio-economic status;
- whether they are members of the BAME population;
- their age.

Figure 27 Multivariate analysis – frequency of visit taking by demographic variables



This analysis reinforces the findings in this report's previous sections by highlighting:

- **Whether or not someone has a disability has the greatest influence on frequency of visits to the natural environment.** Amongst people with a disability or long term illness, socio-economic status and age have the greatest influence on visit frequency with less affluent and older people less likely to be frequent visitors (see Section 7);
- **Amongst people with no disability, whether or not someone is a member of the BAME population has the most influence on frequency of visits to the natural environment.** Amongst the BAME population, age has a significant influence on visit frequency with frequency decreasing with older age (see Section 3).
- **Amongst people with no disability and who are not in the BAME population** (a group which represents the majority (70%) of the English adult population), socio-economic status has the highest influence on the frequency of visiting the natural environment. This finding reflects the influence of socio-economic status across **all** of the diversity groups with rare visitors to the natural environment more likely to be in the least affluent groups.

Geographic variations

The comparison of where Frequent and Rare visitors live has also shown some consistent patterns. Most notably, amongst the BAME, Urban Deprived and DE socio-economic groups, frequent visitors are more likely than rare visitors to live in places outside London and the Midlands, especially in the South West of England. While this variation is also seen across the wider population, it is more pronounced amongst these population groups. This finding could be related to the accessibility of green spaces.

Pro-environmental behaviours and attitudes

Frequency of taking visits to the natural environment is strongly correlated to participation in closely related environmental activities such as walking through green spaces en-route to other places or choosing to walk rather than using a car whenever possible. This is particularly the case amongst older people and people with disabilities where the barriers which prevent frequent visits to the natural environment also restrict participation in other similarly active pursuits.

Correlations also exist between frequency of visit taking and participation in broader environmental activities such as membership of organisations and volunteering and caring about environmental protection.

These relationships appear to be particularly strong in some of the population groups:

- members of the BAME population who are Frequent visitors to the natural environment are **more likely** than Rare visitors to do unpaid voluntary work out of doors/ to help care for the environment;
- residents of Urban Deprived areas who are Frequent visitors to the natural environment are **more likely** than Rare visitors to usually buy eco-friendly products and be members of an environmental organisation;
- members of the DE socio-economic group who are Frequent visitors to the natural environment are **more likely** than Rare visitors to do unpaid voluntary

work out of doors, to buy eco-friendly products or to be members of an environmental organisation.

Similar positive relationships exist amongst people aged 65 and over and people with a disability or long term illness, with those who take visits frequently more likely to also undertake voluntary work out of doors, to help care for the environment and more likely to be members of an environmental or conservation organisation.

The analysis also suggests a latent demand to do more to protect the environment, particularly amongst the BAME population and in general amongst those who frequently take visits to the natural environment. Barriers to taking action include a lack of knowledge of what to do or a willingness to only make changes if others are also willing to do so.

5. Further research

This analysis of the MENE data has highlighted a number of areas where further research could provide additional valuable insight.

Key areas where further investigation would be of value include the following:

- Better understand the regional variations in the frequency of visit taking within the groups of interest including the higher propensity to take regular visits seen amongst BAME residents of the north.
- Better understand the relationships between visit frequency and how much people care about the environment. Exploring why the relationship between behaviours and attitudes is not consistent within population groups (e.g. varies with location and socio-economic category).
- Better understand the variations in the relationship between visit frequency and participation in pro-environmental activities (e.g. variation across types of activity and between population groups).
- Better understand the willingness of people to make changes to their lifestyle to protect the environment (i.e. latent demand). Gaining a better understanding of the relationships between the desire to do more to protect the environment, the barriers which prevent action and demographic characteristics.

While further analysis of MENE data may help to address some of the questions raised by the findings in this report, more in-depth qualitative research could also be valuable to provide a deeper understanding.

Appendix 1

Table 9 Comparing BAME population and rest of population characteristics and engagement with natural environment

	TOTAL BAME	FREQUENT BAME	RARE BAME	BAME INDEX	TOTAL REST OF POPULATION	FREQUENT REST OF POPULATION	RARE REST OF POPULATION	REST OF POPULATION INDEX
DIVERSITY GROUP								
Aged 65+	5%	4%	8%	-0.50	22%	18%	40%	-0.55
Long term illness disability	8%	6%	12%	-0.50	19%	15%	37%	-0.59
DE SEG	33%	30%	38%	-0.21	27%	22%	44%	-0.50
Urban Deprived	20%	19%	22%	-0.14	8%	7%	14%	-0.50
GENDER								
Male	53%	54%	55%	-0.03	48%	49%	44%	0.11
Female	47%	46%	45%	0.03	52%	51%	56%	-0.08
AGE								
16-34	53%	56%	48%	0.17	27%	30%	19%	0.58
35-54	36%	35%	36%	-0.04	35%	37%	26%	0.43
55+	11%	9%	16%	-0.42	38%	33%	55%	-0.40
CHILDREN IN HOME								
	43%	47%	36%	0.31	26%	30%	15%	1.00
SEG								
DE	33%	30%	38%	-0.21	27%	22%	44%	-0.50
C2	18%	17%	21%	-0.19	21%	21%	21%	-0.02
C1	31%	31%	29%	0.09	28%	30%	22%	0.36
AB	18%	21%	12%	0.76	24%	28%	13%	1.10
WORKING STATUS								
Retired	6%	5%	8%	-0.38	26%	23%	43%	-0.48
Unemployed/not working	20%	20%	21%	-0.08	13%	13%	16%	-0.19
In education	14%	16%	11%	0.47	4%	5%	2%	1.54
Working FT or PT	60%	59%	59%	-0.01	57%	60%	39%	0.54
DEPRIVATION								
Live in bottom 10% IMD	20%	19%	22%	-0.14	8%	7%	14%	-0.50
PLACE OF RESIDENCE								
North (NE, NW, Yorks)	13%	14%	11%	0.33	31%	31%	30%	0.02
Midlands	18%	14%	20%	-0.27	19%	17%	24%	-0.28
Rest of South (SW, East)	8%	11%	6%	0.83	23%	25%	19%	0.30
South East	12%	15%	9%	0.68	17%	18%	13%	0.46
London	48%	45%	54%	-0.17	10%	8%	14%	-0.40
URBAN OR RURAL								
Urban	98%	97%	99%	-0.02	79%	78%	84%	-0.07

Table 9 Continued

	TOTAL BAME	FREQUENT BAME	RARE BAME	BAME INDEX	TOTAL REST OF POPULATION	FREQUENT REST OF POPULATION	RARE REST OF POPULATION	REST OF POPULATION INDEX
Town/ fringe	1%	1%	1%	0.00	11%	12%	9%	0.33
Rural	1%	1%	1%	0.00	9%	10%	7%	0.43
ACTIVITIES								
Watching or listening to nature programmes on the TV or radio	37%	40%	31%	0.29	55%	58%	44%	0.32
Looking at books, photos or websites about the natural world	21%	24%	14%	0.71	31%	35%	17%	1.06
Looking at natural scenery from indoors or whilst on journeys	25%	29%	17%	0.71	47%	52%	27%	0.93
Sitting or relaxing in a garden	43%	48%	33%	0.45	67%	70%	52%	0.35
Gardening	31%	38%	27%	0.41	57%	61%	44%	0.39
Watching wildlife (including bird watching)	18%	20%	14%	0.43	38%	42%	27%	0.56
Choosing to walk through local parks or green spaces on my way to other places	35%	47%	15%	2.13	54%	66%	18%	2.67
Doing unpaid voluntary work out of doors	6%	7%	3%	1.33	7%	9%	3%	2.00
None of the things in the list	15%	11%	28%	-0.61	5%	3%	16%	-0.81
PRO-ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES								
I usually recycle items rather than throw them away	57%	63%	45%	0.40	79%	82%	63%	0.30
I usually buy eco-friendly products and brands	18%	22%	14%	0.57	27%	30%	14%	1.14
I usually buy seasonal or locally grown food	21%	25%	14%	0.79	41%	46%	28%	0.64
I choose to walk or cycle instead of using my car when I can	30%	39%	18%	1.17	42%	51%	18%	1.83
I encourage other people to protect the environment	21%	26%	14%	0.86	27%	31%	17%	0.82
I am a member of an environmental or conservation organisation	3%	3%	3%	0.00	8%	10%	2%	4.00
I volunteer to help care for the environment	5%	8%	3%	1.67	5%	6%	3%	1.00
None of these	19%	13%	33%	-0.61	9%	6%	23%	-0.74
ATTITUDES (% AGREE STRONGLY)								
Spending time out of doors (including my own garden) is an important part of my life	27%	35%	20%	0.75	44%	52%	26%	1.00
I am concerned about damage to the natural environment	26%	28%	25%	0.12	36%	40%	27%	0.48
There are many natural places I may never visit but I am glad they exist	30%	33%	28%	0.18	45%	48%	36%	0.33
Having open green spaces close to where I live is important	35%	42%	28%	0.50	51%	57%	37%	0.54
CHANGING LIFESTYLES								
I like my lifestyle the way it is and am not likely to change it	21%	22%	19%	0.16	30%	30%	33%	-0.09
I'd like to make changes to my lifestyle but I don't know what to do	9%	10%	7%	0.43	6%	6%	4%	0.50
I'd like to make changes to my lifestyle but it's too difficult	9%	8%	8%	0.00	7%	6%	8%	-0.25
I'd make changes to my lifestyle if I knew other people were willing to make changes	4%	4%	3%	0.33	5%	5%	2%	1.50
I intend to make changes to my lifestyle	27%	31%	22%	0.41	16%	17%	11%	0.55
I already do a lot to protect the environment so it would be difficult to do more	14%	13%	13%	0.00	27%	28%	23%	0.22
Don't know	16%	12%	28%	-0.57	10%	8%	18%	-0.56

Table 10 Comparing Urban Deprived population and rest of population characteristics and engagement with natural environment

	TOTAL URBAN DEPRIVED	FREQUENT URBAN DEPRIVED	RARE URBAN DEPRIVED	URBAN DEPRIVED INDEX	TOTAL REST OF POPULATION	FREQUENT REST OF POPULATION	RARE REST OF POPULATION	REST OF POPULATION INDEX
DIVERSITY GROUP								
Aged 65+	12%	9%	22%	-0.59	20%	17%	35%	-0.51
Long term illness disability	21%	15%	32%	-0.53	18%	14%	32%	-0.56
DE SEG	51%	48%	60%	-0.20	25%	21%	40%	-0.48
BAME	27%	23%	29%	-0.21	12%	8%	19%	-0.58
GENDER								
Male	49%	52%	46%	0.15	49%	49%	47%	0.05
Female	51%	48%	54%	-0.13	51%	51%	53%	-0.05
AGE								
16-34	42%	48%	31%	0.57	29%	31%	24%	0.29
35-54	34%	34%	34%	0.00	35%	37%	27%	0.38
55+	24%	18%	35%	-0.50	35%	32%	49%	-0.35
CHILDREN IN HOME								
Children in household	35%	40%	27%	0.48	28%	31%	19%	0.63
SEG								
DE	51%	48%	60%	-0.21	25%	21%	40%	-0.48
C2	20%	20%	21%	-0.03	21%	20%	21%	-0.04
C1	21%	22%	15%	0.45	29%	30%	25%	0.24
AB	8%	10%	4%	1.84	25%	29%	15%	0.94
WORKING STATUS								
Retired	15%	11%	26%	-0.55	24%	22%	38%	-0.43
Unemployed/not working	27%	26%	33%	-0.21	12%	12%	14%	-0.13
In education	8%	10%	4%	1.36	5%	6%	4%	0.51
Working FT or PT	49%	53%	38%	0.40	58%	60%	44%	0.36
PLACE OF RESIDENCE								
North (NE, NW, Yorks)	49%	54%	42%	0.28	26%	28%	23%	0.18
Midlands	26%	19%	34%	-0.42	18%	17%	21%	-0.21
Rest of South (SW, East)	4%	6%	2%	1.48	23%	25%	19%	0.32
South East	4%	5%	3%	0.73	17%	19%	14%	0.42
London	17%	15%	18%	-0.19	15%	11%	23%	-0.50
ACTIVITIES								
Watching or listening to nature programmes on the TV or radio	43%	45%	34%	0.32	54%	57%	43%	0.33
Looking at books, photos or websites about the natural world	21%	25%	12%	1.08	31%	35%	17%	1.06
Looking at natural scenery from indoors or whilst on journeys	27%	33%	16%	1.06	46%	51%	26%	0.96
Sitting or relaxing in a garden	48%	52%	38%	0.37	65%	69%	50%	0.38

Table 10 Continued

	TOTAL URBAN DEPRIVED	FREQUENT URBAN DEPRIVED	RARE URBAN DEPRIVED	URBAN DEPRIVED INDEX	TOTAL REST OF POPULATION	FREQUENT REST OF POPULATION	RARE REST OF POPULATION	REST OF POPULATION INDEX
Gardening	35%	39%	27%	0.44	56%	60%	43%	0.40
Watching wildlife (including bird watching)	22%	25%	18%	0.39	37%	41%	26%	0.58
Choosing to walk through local parks or green spaces on my way to other places	38%	52%	15%	2.47	53%	65%	18%	2.61
Doing unpaid voluntary work out of doors	5%	6%	3%	1.00	7%	9%	3%	2.00
None of the things in the list	13%	8%	25%	-0.68	6%	4%	17%	-0.76
PRO-ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES								
I usually recycle items rather than throw them away	59%	63%	48%	0.31	78%	81%	61%	0.33
I usually buy eco-friendly products and brands	15%	17%	7%	1.43	27%	31%	16%	0.94
I usually buy seasonal or locally grown food	24%	29%	17%	0.71	40%	45%	27%	0.67
I choose to walk or cycle instead of using my car when I can	33%	46%	16%	1.88	41%	50%	19%	1.63
I encourage other people to protect the environment	17%	21%	12%	0.75	27%	32%	17%	0.88
I am a member of an environmental or conservation organisation	2%	4%	1%	3.00	8%	10%	3%	2.33
I volunteer to help care for the environment	4%	5%	3%	0.67	5%	7%	3%	1.33
None of these	21%	16%	34%	-0.53	9%	6%	24%	-0.75
ATTITUDES (% AGREE STRONGLY)								
Spending time out of doors (including my own garden) is an important part of my life	28%	36%	18%	1.00	43%	52%	26%	1.00
I am concerned about damage to the natural environment	29%	30%	26%	0.15	35%	39%	27%	0.44
There are many natural places I may never visit but I am glad they exist	33%	34%	30%	0.13	44%	48%	35%	0.37
Having open green spaces close to where I live is important	37%	43%	30%	0.43	50%	57%	36%	0.58
CHANGING LIFESTYLES								
I like my lifestyle the way it is and am not likely to change it	26%	26%	24%	0.08	29%	29%	31%	-0.06
I'd like to make changes to my lifestyle but I don't know what to do	8%	8%	6%	0.33	6%	6%	5%	0.20
I'd like to make changes to my lifestyle but it's too difficult	8%	7%	8%	-0.13	7%	6%	8%	-0.25
I'd make changes to my lifestyle if I knew other people were willing to make changes	4%	5%	3%	0.67	5%	5%	2%	1.50
I intend to make changes to my lifestyle	15%	16%	11%	0.45	17%	19%	14%	0.36
I already do a lot to protect the environment so it would be difficult to do more	21%	24%	19%	0.26	25%	27%	21%	0.29
Don't know	17%	14%	29%	-0.52	10%	8%	18%	-0.56

Table 11 Comparing DE socio-economic group and rest of population characteristics and engagement with natural environment

	TOTAL DE	FREQUENT DE	RARE DE	DE INDEX	TOTAL REST OF POPULATION	FREQUENT REST OF POPULATION	RARE REST OF POPULATION	REST OF POPULATION INDEX
DIVERSITY GROUP								
Aged 65+	24%	19%	37%	-0.49	17%	15%	30%	-0.50
Long term illness disability	27%	21%	41%	-0.49	14%	12%	25%	-0.52
Urban Deprived	18%	16%	22%	-0.27	7%	5%	11%	-0.55
BAME	16%	12%	19%	-0.37	12%	8%	23%	-0.65
GENDER								
Male	44%	46%	42%	0.09	51%	51%	50%	0.01
Female	56%	54%	58%	-0.07	49%	49%	50%	-0.01
AGE								
16-34	32%	37%	22%	0.68	30%	31%	27%	0.14
35-54	29%	30%	25%	0.18	38%	39%	30%	0.30
55+	39%	33%	53%	-0.37	32%	30%	43%	-0.29
CHILDREN IN HOME								
Children in household	29%	34%	19%	0.79	29%	31%	19%	0.63
WORKING STATUS								
Retired	29%	24%	42%	-0.43	21%	20%	32%	-0.37
Unemployed/not working	29%	30%	28%	0.05	8%	8%	8%	0.01
In education	5%	7%	3%	1.30	6%	6%	5%	0.28
Working FT or PT	37%	40%	27%	0.46	65%	65%	55%	0.19
DEPRIVATION								
Live in most deprived areas	19%	16%	22%	-0.27	7%	5%	11%	-0.55
PLACE OR RESIDENCE								
North (NE, NW, Yorks)	31%	32%	30%	0.08	28%	29%	24%	0.22
Midlands	22%	19%	27%	-0.28	18%	16%	20%	-0.20
Rest of South (SW, East)	19%	21%	15%	0.43	22%	24%	18%	0.38
South East	14%	15%	11%	0.36	17%	19%	13%	0.51
London	15%	12%	17%	-0.29	15%	11%	26%	-0.56
URBAN OR RURAL								
Urban	80%	79%	82%	-0.04	75%	73%	80%	-0.09
Town/ fringe	8%	9%	7%	0.29	10%	11%	7%	0.57
Rural	5%	6%	5%	0.20	8%	10%	5%	1.00
ACTIVITIES								
Watching or listening to nature programmes on the TV or radio	47%	49%	41%	0.20	55%	58%	42%	0.38
Looking at books, photos or websites about the natural world	21%	26%	13%	1.00	33%	37%	19%	0.95
Looking at natural scenery from indoors or whilst on journeys	32%	38%	21%	0.81	49%	53%	28%	0.89
Sitting or relaxing in a garden	55%	61%	43%	0.42	67%	70%	52%	0.35
Gardening	44%	59%	35%	0.69	57%	61%	45%	0.36
Watching wildlife (including bird watching)	30%	34%	23%	0.48	37%	41%	26%	0.58
Choosing to walk through local parks or green spaces on my way to other places	39%	54%	15%	2.60	56%	67%	19%	2.53
Doing unpaid voluntary work out of doors	4%	6%	2%	2.00	8%	9%	4%	1.25

Table 11 Continued

	TOTAL DE	FREQUENT DE	RARE DE	DE INDEX	TOTAL REST OF POPULATION	FREQUENT REST OF POPULATION	RARE REST OF POPULATION	REST OF POPULATION INDEX
None of the things in the list	11%	6%	22%	-0.73	5%	3%	16%	-0.81
PRO-ENVIRONMENTAL BEHAVIOURS								
I usually recycle items rather than throw them away	66%	71%	55%	0.29	79%	83%	63%	0.32
I usually buy eco-friendly products and brands	16%	20%	8%	1.50	29%	32%	19%	0.68
I usually buy seasonal or locally grown food	29%	33%	22%	0.50	42%	47%	28%	0.68
I choose to walk or cycle instead of using my car when I can	32%	44%	14%	2.14	43%	52%	21%	1.48
I encourage other people to protect the environment	19%	23%	13%	0.77	29%	33%	19%	0.74
I am a member of an environmental or conservation organisation	3%	4%	1%	3.00	9%	11%	4%	1.75
I volunteer to help care for the environment	4%	6%	2%	2.00	6%	7%	4%	0.75
None of these	18%	12%	30%	-0.60	8%	5%	21%	-0.76
ATTITUDES (% AGREE STRONGLY)								
Spending time out of doors (including my own garden) is an important part of my life	32%	41%	23%	0.78	45%	53%	27%	0.96
I am concerned about damage to the natural environment	27%	29%	23%	0.26	37%	41%	29%	0.41
There are many natural places I may never visit but I am glad they exist	34%	36%	30%	0.20	46%	50%	38%	0.32
Having open green spaces close to where I live is important	40%	45%	33%	0.36	52%	59%	37%	0.59
CHANGING LIFESTYLES								
I like my lifestyle the way it is and am not likely to change it	30%	30%	33%	-0.09	28%	29%	28%	0.04
I'd like to make changes to my lifestyle but I don't know what to do	7%	7%	5%	0.40	6%	6%	5%	0.20
I'd like to make changes to my lifestyle but it's too difficult	8%	7%	9%	-0.22	7%	6%	7%	-0.14
I'd make changes to my lifestyle if I knew other people were willing to make changes	4%	5%	3%	0.67	5%	5%	2%	1.50
I intend to make changes to my lifestyle	14%	16%	9%	0.78	18%	19%	17%	0.12
I already do a lot to protect the environment so it would be difficult to do more	21%	23%	18%	0.28	26%	28%	23%	0.22
Don't know	15%	12%	23%	-0.48	9%	7%	18%	-0.61

Table 12 Comparing people aged 65+ and rest of population characteristics and engagement with natural environment

	TOTAL AGED 65+	FREQUENT AGED 65+	RARE AGED 65+	AGED 65+ INDEX	TOTAL REST OF POPULATION	FREQUENT REST OF POPULATION	RARE REST OF POPULATION	REST OF POPULATION INDEX
DIVERSITY GROUP								
DE Socio-economic group	35%	27%	48%	-0.44	26%	22%	40%	-0.45
Long term illness disability	43%	32%	58%	-0.45	12%	10%	19%	-0.47
Urban Deprived	6%	4%	10%	-0.60	11%	9%	18%	-0.50
BAME	3%	2%	5%	-0.60	16%	11%	29%	-0.62
GENDER								
Male	45%	49%	38%	0.28	48%	49%	51%	-0.03
Female	55%	51%	62%	-0.17	52%	51%	49%	0.03
SEG								
DE	35%	27%	48%	-0.44	27%	22%	40%	-0.46
C2	18%	17%	18%	-0.06	21%	21%	22%	-0.07
C1	23%	25%	20%	0.26	28%	30%	25%	0.19
AB	25%	32%	14%	1.18	24%	28%	12%	1.26
WORKING STATUS								
Retired	93%	92%	95%	-0.03	26%	23%	7%	2.23
Unemployed/not working	1%	0%	1%	-0.59	13%	13%	25%	-0.49
In education	0%	0%	0%	-	4%	5%	6%	-0.13
Working FT or PT	6%	8%	4%	0.86	57%	60%	62%	-0.04
DEPRIVATION								
Live in most deprived areas	6%	4%	11%	-0.64	8%	7%	18%	-0.61
PLACE OF RESIDENCE								
North (NE, NW, Yorks)	31%	31%	30%	0.03	31%	31%	24%	0.28
Midlands	19%	16%	24%	-0.31	19%	17%	23%	-0.24
Rest of South (SW, East)	26%	30%	22%	0.36	23%	25%	14%	0.82
South East	15%	17%	13%	0.37	17%	18%	12%	0.59
London	8%	5%	12%	-0.53	10%	8%	27%	-0.70
URBAN OR RURAL								
Urban	71%	69%	73%	-0.05	74%	72%	84%	-0.14
Town/ fringe	12%	12%	11%	0.09	10%	11%	5%	1.20
Rural	10%	12%	8%	0.50	8%	10%	3%	2.33
ACTIVITIES								
Watching or listening to nature programmes on the TV or radio	63%	70%	52%	0.35	50%	53%	36%	0.47
Looking at books, photos or websites about the natural world	35%	44%	20%	1.20	28%	32%	14%	1.29
Looking at natural scenery from indoors or whilst on journeys	49%	59%	31%	0.90	43%	48%	21%	1.29
Sitting or relaxing in a garden	68%	72%	58%	0.24	63%	67%	43%	0.56
Gardening	65%	75%	52%	0.44	50%	55%	35%	0.57
Watching wildlife (including bird watching)	51%	62%	36%	0.72	31%	35%	19%	0.84
Choosing to walk through local parks or green spaces on my way to other places	39%	58%	12%	3.83	54%	65%	20%	2.25
Doing unpaid voluntary work out of doors	7%	12%	3%	3.00	7%	8%	4%	1.00
None of the things in the list	5%	2%	12%	-0.83	7%	4%	21%	-0.81

Table 12 Continued

	TOTAL AGED 65+	FREQUENT AGED 65+	RARE AGED 65+	AGED 65+ INDEX	TOTAL REST OF POPULATION	FREQUENT REST OF POPULATION	RARE REST OF POPULATION	REST OF POPULATION INDEX
PRO-ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES								
I usually recycle items rather than throw them away	79%	84%	67%	0.25	75%	79%	55%	0.44
I usually buy eco-friendly products and brands	26%	32%	15%	1.13	25%	29%	14%	1.07
I usually buy seasonal or locally grown food	48%	57%	35%	0.63	36%	41%	21%	0.95
I choose to walk or cycle instead of using my car when I can	31%	47%	12%	2.92	42%	50%	21%	1.38
I encourage other people to protect the environment	29%	36%	20%	0.80	26%	30%	14%	1.14
I am a member of an environmental or conservation organisation	10%	15%	2%	6.50	7%	8%	3%	1.67
I volunteer to help care for the environment	6%	10%	2%	4.00	5%	6%	3%	1.00
None of these	11%	5%	21%	-0.76	11%	7%	27%	-0.74
ATTITUDES (% AGREE STRONGLY)								
Spending time out of doors (including my own garden) is an important part of my life	47%	60%	31%	0.94	40%	49%	22%	1.23
I am concerned about damage to the natural environment	37%	43%	30%	0.43	34%	38%	25%	0.52
There are many natural places I may never visit but I am glad they exist	48%	52%	41%	0.27	42%	46%	31%	0.48
Having open green spaces close to where I live is important	53%	62%	41%	0.51	48%	54%	32%	0.69
CHANGING LIFESTYLES								
I like my lifestyle the way it is and am not likely to change it	40%	40%	42%	-0.05	26%	27%	24%	0.13
I'd like to make changes to my lifestyle but I don't know what to do	3%	3%	3%	0.00	8%	7%	6%	0.17
I'd like to make changes to my lifestyle but it's too difficult	7%	4%	9%	-0.56	8%	7%	8%	-0.13
I'd make changes to my lifestyle if I knew other people were willing to make changes	2%	2%	1%	1.00	5%	6%	3%	1.00
I intend to make changes to my lifestyle	5%	6%	4%	0.50	20%	21%	19%	0.11
I already do a lot to protect the environment so it would be difficult to do more	32%	37%	25%	0.48	23%	25%	19%	0.32
Don't know	10%	7%	16%	-0.56	11%	8%	22%	-0.64

Table 13 Comparing people with long term illnesses or disabilities and rest of population characteristics and engagement with natural environment

	TOTAL DISABILITY	FREQUENT DISABILITY	RARE DISABILITY	INDEX	TOTAL REST OF POPULATION	FREQUENT REST OF POPULATION	RARE REST OF POPULATION	REST OF POPULATION INDEX
DIVERSITY GROUP								
DE Socio-economic group	42%	34%	55%	-0.38	24%	21%	37%	-0.43
Aged 65+	46%	37%	61%	-0.39	14%	13%	20%	-0.35
Urban Deprived	12%	9%	16%	-0.44	10%	8%	16%	-0.50
BAME	6%	4%	8%	-0.50	15%	10%	27%	-0.63
GENDER								
Male	44%	48%	39%	0.24	50%	50%	50%	-0.01
Female	56%	52%	61%	-0.15	50%	50%	50%	0.01
AGE								
16-34	8%	10%	4%	1.46	35%	36%	35%	0.03
35-54	25%	30%	18%	0.62	38%	38%	33%	0.17
55+	67%	60%	78%	-0.22	27%	26%	33%	-0.20
CHILDREN IN HOME								
Children in household	13%	17%	8%	1.13	32%	34%	25%	0.36
SEG								
DE	42%	34%	55%	-0.38	24%	21%	37%	-0.44
C2	18%	19%	16%	0.19	21%	21%	23%	-0.12
C1	22%	24%	18%	0.36	30%	31%	26%	0.19
AB	19%	23%	12%	0.96	24%	28%	13%	1.06
WORKING STATUS								
Retired	55%	48%	68%	-0.29	16%	17%	21%	-0.22
Unemployed/not working	20%	20%	21%	-0.02	12%	12%	15%	-0.19
In education	1%	2%	0%	2.36	7%	7%	6%	0.25
Working FT or PT	24%	30%	11%	1.78	65%	64%	58%	0.11
DEPRIVATION								
Live in most deprived areas	12%	9%	16%	-0.44	10%	8%	16%	-0.50
REGION OF RESIDENCE								
North (NE, NW, Yorks)	36%	36%	35%	0.01	27%	29%	22%	0.29
Midlands	21%	20%	22%	-0.09	19%	16%	24%	-0.30
Rest of South (SW, East)	21%	24%	18%	0.30	21%	24%	16%	0.51
South East	13%	13%	13%	0.05	17%	19%	12%	0.64
London	9%	7%	12%	-0.39	16%	12%	27%	-0.54
URBAN OR RURAL								
Urban	76%	74%	78%	-0.05	77%	74%	82%	-0.10
Town/ fringe	10%	11%	9%	0.22	9%	10%	6%	0.67
Rural	7%	8%	6%	0.33	7%	9%	4%	1.25
ACTIVITIES								
Watching or listening to nature programmes on the TV or radio	61%	66%	52%	0.27	51%	54%	37%	0.46
Looking at books, photos or websites about the natural world	33%	42%	18%	1.33	29%	33%	15%	1.20
Looking at natural scenery from indoors or whilst on journeys	47%	57%	29%	0.97	44%	49%	23%	1.13
Sitting or relaxing in a garden	65%	70%	54%	0.30	63%	67%	45%	0.49

Table 13 Continued

	TOTAL DISABILITY	FREQUENT DISABILITY	RARE DISABILITY	INDEX	TOTAL REST OF POPULATION	FREQUENT REST OF POPULATION	RARE REST OF POPULATION	REST OF POPULATION INDEX
Gardening	54%	64%	39%	0.64	53%	57%	42%	0.36
Watching wildlife (including bird watching)	44%	54%	31%	0.74	33%	37%	21%	0.76
Choosing to walk through local parks or green spaces on my way to other places	41%	61%	13%	3.69	54%	64%	20%	2.20
Doing unpaid voluntary work out of doors	6%	10%	2%	4.00	7%	8%	3%	1.67
None of the things in the list	7%	2%	15%	-0.87	7%	4%	20%	-0.80
PRO-ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES								
I usually recycle items rather than throw them away	79%	85%	67%	0.27	75%	79%	56%	0.41
I usually buy eco-friendly products and brands	25%	33%	15%	1.20	26%	29%	14%	1.07
I usually buy seasonal or locally grown food	44%	54%	30%	0.80	37%	42%	23%	0.83
I choose to walk or cycle instead of using my car when I can	29%	44%	12%	2.67	43%	51%	21%	1.43
I encourage other people to protect the environment	30%	39%	19%	1.05	25%	29%	15%	0.93
I am a member of an environmental or conservation organisation	7%	11%	2%	4.50	7%	9%	3%	2.00
I volunteer to help care for the environment	4%	7%	2%	2.50	5%	7%	3%	1.33
None of these	11%	6%	22%	-0.73	10%	7%	27%	-0.74
ATTITUDES (% AGREE STRONGLY)								
Spending time out of doors (including my own garden) is an important part of my life	43%	56%	28%	1.00	41%	49%	24%	1.04
I am concerned about damage to the natural environment	39%	46%	31%	0.48	33%	37%	24%	0.54
There are many natural places I may never visit but I am glad they exist	47%	53%	39%	0.36	42%	45%	32%	0.41
Having open green spaces close to where I live is important	52%	62%	39%	0.59	48%	55%	33%	0.67
CHANGING LIFESTYLES								
I like my lifestyle the way it is and am not likely to change it	32%	29%	36%	-0.19	28%	29%	27%	0.07
I'd like to make changes to my lifestyle but I don't know what to do	6%	6%	4%	0.50	7%	6%	5%	0.20
I'd like to make changes to my lifestyle but it's too difficult	10%	6%	12%	-0.50	7%	6%	6%	0.00
I'd make changes to my lifestyle if I knew other people were willing to make changes	3%	4%	2%	1.00	5%	5%	2%	1.50
I intend to make changes to my lifestyle	11%	14%	7%	1.00	19%	19%	17%	0.12
I already do a lot to protect the environment so it would be difficult to do more	29%	33%	24%	0.38	24%	26%	19%	0.37
Don't know	10%	8%	14%	-0.43	11%	8%	23%	-0.65