

# Visits to the Natural Environment

## Monthly update – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012 (revised)

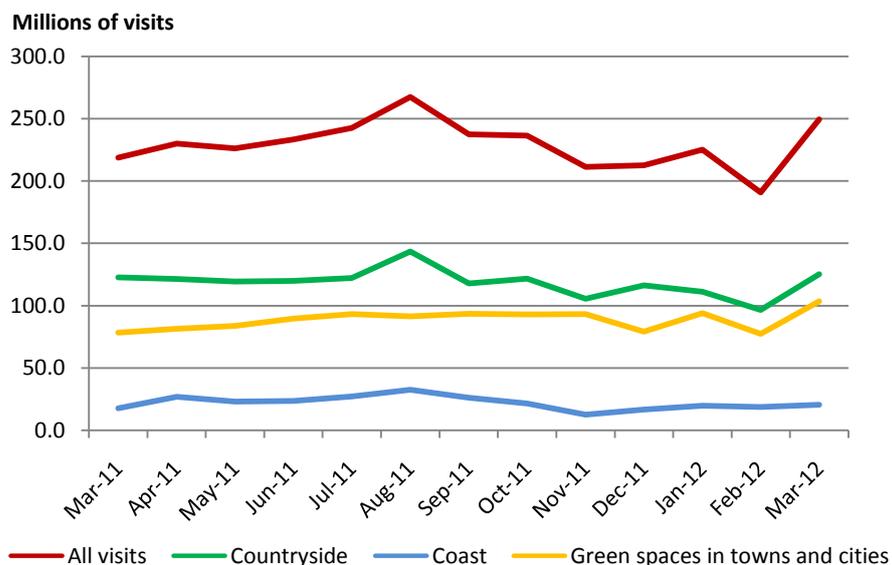


During March 2012, the adult population in England (aged 16 and over) took an estimated 249 million visits to the natural environment. This is 59 million visits more than the 191 million visits taken in February 2012 and the second highest number of visits taken since April 2011. A total of 2.8 billion visits were taken between April 2011 and March 2012.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment from April 2011 to March 2012.

- The volume of visits in March 2012 was much higher than the February 2012 figure (249.3 and 190.8 million visits respectively).
- The volume of visits in March 2012 was higher than in March 2011 (218.8 million) and March 2010 (229.0 million) but is lower than the March 2009 figure (284.0 million). The March 2012 figure is most likely to be higher than previous years due to the milder weather this year.

**Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Apr 2011 to Mar 2012 (millions of visits).** Base: Minimum of 3,400 respondents per month



**Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Mar 2012	Apr 2011 – Mar 2012
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	125.2 (50.2%)	1,420.7 (51.4%)
Town and city	103.5 (41.5%)	1,073.5 (38.8%)
Coast	20.6 (8.3%)	270.1 (9.7%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	62.6 (25.1%)	645.1 (23.3%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	37.3 (14.9%)	438.0 (15.8%)
Another open space in the countryside	28.8 (11.6%)	323.1 (11.6%)
Woodland/forest	27.8 (11.1%)	350.1 (12.7%)
Playing field or other recreation area	23.5 (9.4%)	237.3 (8.6%)
River, lake, canal	23.1 (9.3%)	260.3 (9.4%)
Farmland	20.7 (8.3%)	243.7 (8.8%)
Another open space in town or city	19.4 (7.8%)	224.3 (8.1%)
Country park	19.3 (7.7%)	197.4 (7.1%)
Village	13.8 (5.5%)	192.5 (7.0%)
Beach	11.7 (4.7%)	160.9 (5.8%)
Children's playground	9.1 (3.6%)	81.0 (2.9%)
Other coastline	6.0 (2.4%)	90.7 (3.3%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	5.0 (2.0%)	75.5 (2.7%)
Allotment/community garden	1.8 (0.7%)	19.6 (0.7%)

Note percentages for specific type of place may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one type of place per visit.

Respondent base: Mar 2012 (N=4,312), Apr 2011 to Mar 2012 (N=48,016)

**Table 2 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Mar 2012	Apr 2011 – Mar 2012
<b>Average duration of visits</b>	1 hour 49 minutes	1 hour 58 minutes
<b>Average distance</b>	5.2 miles	6.0 miles
<b>Average expenditure per visit</b>	£23.50	£30

Respondent base for distance and duration: Mar 2012 (N=4,312), Apr 2011 to Mar 2012 (N=48,016)

Respondent base for expenditure: Mar 2012 (N=865), Apr 2011 to Mar 2012 (N=10,551)

Table 1 illustrates the estimated volume of visits by type of place visited in March 2012 and over the 12 months from April 2011 to March 2012.

- In March 2012, just over half of visits were taken to places in the countryside (50 percent), a similar proportion compared to all visits taken in the 12 months from April 2011 to March 2012 (51 percent).
- 42 percent of visits were taken in towns and cities in March 2012, a higher proportion than the 12 months from April 2011 to March 2012 (39 percent), while eight percent were taken in coastal locations.

The average duration of visits during March 2012 was 1 hour and 49 minutes and the average distance travelled was 5.2 miles.

These values are less than the yearly average, reflecting the closer to home profile of visits taken in March.

Just over a fifth (22 percent) of visits taken in March 2012 involved expenditure, with the average amount spent per visit being £23.50. This is slightly less than the 12 month average (£30).

Table 3 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken.

- During March 2012, 48 percent of visits involved walking with a dog, while 28 percent of visits involved walking without a dog.
- Other significant activities included playing with children and eating or drinking out.
- Compared to the overall April 2011 to March 2012 period, a slightly lower proportion of visits in March 2012 involved walking with a dog.

**Table 3 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Mar 2012	Apr 2011 – Mar 2012
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	119.8 (48.1%)	1,391.2 (50.4%)
Walking, not with a dog	70.0 (28.1%)	738.1 (26.7%)
Playing with children	24.7 (9.9%)	258.7 (9.4%)
Eating or drinking out	12.7 (5.1%)	163.1 (5.9%)
Running	8.6 (3.4%)	88.7 (3.2%)
Wildlife watching	8.1 (3.2%)	80.1 (2.9%)
Informal games and sport	7.1 (2.8%)	77.3 (2.8%)
Visiting an attraction	6.1 (2.4%)	87.6 (3.2%)
Road cycling	5.7 (2.3%)	57.2 (2.0%)
Picnicking	3.9 (1.6%)	60.4 (2.2%)
Horse riding	3.9 (1.6%)	34.1 (1.2%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	3.8 (1.5%)	51.3 (1.9%)
Off road cycling/mountain biking	3.1 (1.2%)	29.1 (1.0%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	2.5 (1.0%)	51.8 (1.9%)
Fieldsports	2.2 (0.8%)	10.0 (0.4%)
Fishing	1.4 (0.6%)	16.9 (0.6%)
Watersports	0.8 (0.3%)	12.8 (0.5%)
Swimming outdoors	0.4 (0.2%)	11.0 (0.4%)

Respondent base: Mar 2012 (N=4,312), Apr 2011 to March 2012 (N=48,016)

Note percentages for activity may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one activity

Figure 2 shows how the proportion of adults taking visits in the last 7 days has varied since March 2009.

- During March 2012, an average of 43 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment in the previous 7 days.
- This is six percentage points higher than in February 2012 (37 percent), and higher than the figures for March in 2011 (40 percent) and 2010 (41 percent) but lower than in 2009 (47 percent).

**Figure 2 - Percentage of adult population taking visits in the previous seven days by month, Mar 2009 – Mar 2012.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

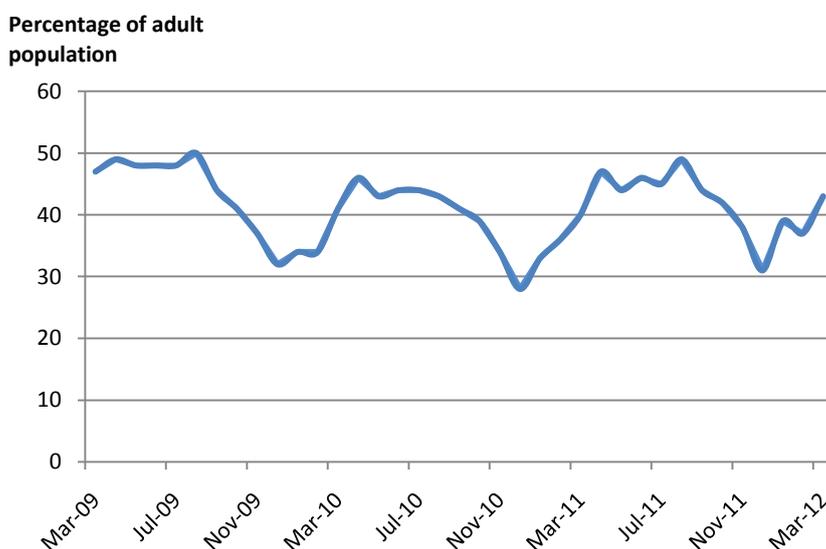
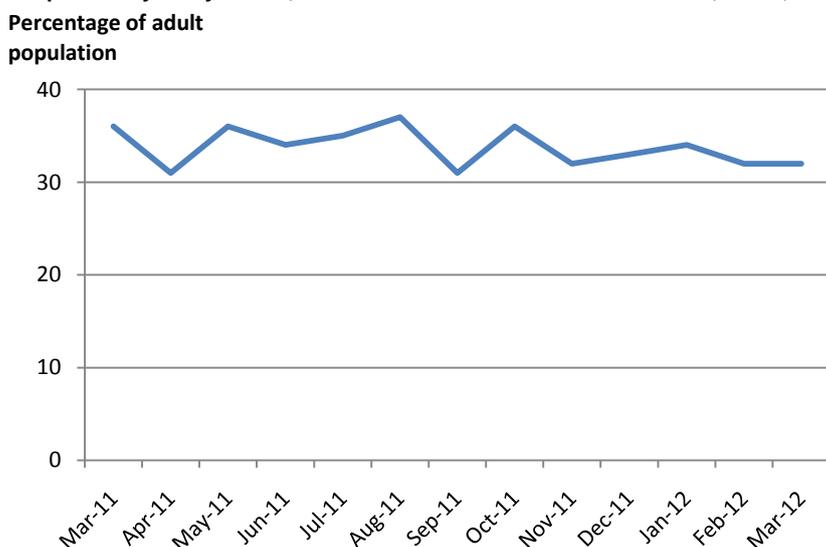


Figure 3 shows how the proportion of adults claiming to visit the natural several times a week or more over the previous year, has varied since March 2011.

- During March 2012, 32 percent of the English adult population reported that on average they had usually visited the natural environment several times a week or more over the previous year.
- This is four percentage points lower than in March 2011 (36 percent). As the figure shows, there has been little variability over the last 12 months.

**Figure 3 - Percentage of adult population visiting several times a week or more over the previous year by month, Mar 2011 – Mar 2012.** Base: Minimum of 800 respondents per month



The Monitor of Engagement with the Natural environment (MENE) survey is undertaken weekly across England. It focuses on people's use and enjoyment of green open spaces in and around towns and cities as well as the wider countryside and coast. It excludes time spent in private gardens. To find out more visit: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/research/mene.aspx>

For questions about this statistical release please contact: **Stephen Herbert: MENE@naturalengland.org.uk**

## Notice about revision to the March 2012 release of MENE Official Statistics

20 June 2012

Natural England is today issuing a revised set of official statistics for its March 2012 release of the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey. This revision is necessary to correct a number of statistics that were not updated in full following the February 2012 release.

The results in question are those contained in tables 1, 2 and 3 below. In the tables that follow, the corrected figures appear in bold. A revised monthly release for March 2012 that reflects these revisions can be found on the MENE pages on the Natural England website under **Results for Year 4**<sup>1</sup>.

Natural England wishes to apologise the users of its MENE data for any inconvenience caused by this previously undetected error. For questions about this notice please write to Stephen Herbert at MENE@naturalengland.org.uk

Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).	Original Mar 2012	Original Apr 2011 – Mar 2012	Corrected Mar 2012	Corrected Apr 2011 – Mar 2012
<b>By general type of place</b>				
Countryside	125.2 (50.2%)	1420.7 (51.4%)	125.2 (50.2%)	1420.7 (51.4%)
Town and city	103.5 (41.5%)	1073.5 (38.8%)	103.5 (41.5%)	1073.5 (38.8%)
Coast	20.6 (8.3%)	270.1 (9.7%)	20.6 (8.3%)	270.1 (9.7%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>				
Park in a town or city	62.6 (25.1%)	645.1 (23.3%)	62.6 (25.1%)	645.1 (23.3%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	37.3 (14.9%)	438.0 (15.8%)	37.3 (14.9%)	438.0 (15.8%)
Another open space in the countryside	28.8 (11.6%)	323.1 (11.6%)	28.8 (11.6%)	323.1 (11.7%)
Woodland/forest	27.8 (11.1%)	350.1 (12.6%)	27.8 (11.1%)	350.1 (12.7%)
<b>Another open space in town or city</b>	23.5 (9.4%)	237.3 (8.6%)	<b>19.4 (7.8%)</b>	<b>224.0 (8.1%)</b>
River, lake, canal	23.1 (9.3%)	260.3 (9.4%)	23.1 (9.3%)	260.3 (9.4%)
<b>Playing field or other recreation area</b>	20.7 (8.3%)	243.7 (8.8%)	<b>23.4 (9.4%)</b>	<b>237.3 (8.6%)</b>
<b>Farmland</b>	19.4 (7.8%)	224.3 (8.1%)	<b>20.6 (8.3%)</b>	<b>243.7 (8.8%)</b>
<b>Village</b>	19.3 (7.7%)	197.4 (7.1%)	<b>13.8 (5.5%)</b>	<b>192.5 (7.0%)</b>
<b>Beach</b>	13.8 (5.5%)	192.5 (7.0%)	<b>11.6 (4.7%)</b>	<b>161.0 (5.8%)</b>
<b>Country park</b>	11.7 (4.7%)	160.9 (5.8%)	<b>19.3 (7.7%)</b>	<b>197.4 (7.1%)</b>
<b>Mountain, hill, moorland</b>	9.1 (3.7%)	80.1 (2.9%)	<b>5.0 (2.0%)</b>	<b>75.5 (2.7%)</b>
<b>Children's playground</b>	6.0 (2.4%)	90.7 (3.3%)	<b>9.1 (3.6%)</b>	<b>81.0 (2.9%)</b>
<b>Other coastline</b>	5.1 (2.0%)	75.5 (2.7%)	<b>6.0 (2.4%)</b>	<b>90.7 (3.3%)</b>
Allotment/community garden	1.8 (0.7%)	19.6 (0.7%)	1.8 (0.7%)	19.6 (0.7%)

Table 2 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits	Original Mar 2012	Original Apr 2011 – Mar 2012	Corrected Mar 2012	Corrected Apr 2011 – Mar 2012
<b>Average duration of visits</b>	<b>1 hour 50 minutes</b>	1 hour 58 minutes	<b>1 hour 49 minutes</b>	1 hour 58 minutes
Average distance	5.2 miles	6.0 miles	5.2 miles	6.0 miles
<b>Average expenditure per visit</b>	<b>£24</b>	<b>£30</b>	<b>£23.50</b>	<b>£30</b>

<sup>1</sup> Please see <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/research/mene.aspx#results>

<b>Table 3 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).</b>	<b>Original Mar 2012</b>	<b>Original Apr 2011 – Mar 2012</b>	<b>Corrected Mar 2012</b>	<b>Corrected Apr 2011 – Mar 2012</b>
<b>Activity</b>				
Walking, with a dog	104.2 (54.6%)	1,383.8 (50.6%)	<b>119.9 (48.1%)</b>	<b>1,391.2 (50.4%)</b>
Walking, not with a dog	49.1 (25.7%)	727.1 (26.6%)	<b>70.0 (28.1%)</b>	<b>738.1 (26.7%)</b>
Playing with children	14.6 (7.7%)	252.9 (9.2%)	<b>24.7 (9.9%)</b>	<b>258.6 (9.4%)</b>
Eating or drinking out	9.9 (5.2%)	161.0 (5.9%)	<b>12.7 (5.1%)</b>	<b>163.0 (5.9%)</b>
Running	6.3 (3.3%)	86.2 (3.2%)	<b>8.7 (3.5%)</b>	<b>88.6 (3.2%)</b>
Wildlife watching	4.8 (2.5%)	79.1 (2.9%)	<b>8.4 (3.3%)</b>	<b>80.0 (2.9%)</b>
Visiting an attraction	4.0 (2.1%)	86.5 (3.2%)	<b>6.0 (2.4%)</b>	<b>87.5 (3.2%)</b>
Informal games and sport	3.1 (1.6%)	75.2 (2.8%)	<b>7.1 (2.9%)</b>	<b>77.3 (2.8%)</b>
Horse riding	3.0 (1.5%)	33.6 (1.2%)	<b>3.4 (1.5%)</b>	<b>34.1 (1.2%)</b>
Appreciating scenery from your car	2.7 (1.4%)	51.3 (1.9%)	<b>3.8 (1.5%)</b>	<b>51.3 (1.9%)</b>
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	2.1 (1.1%)	51.8 (1.9%)	<b>2.5 (1.0%)</b>	<b>51.8 (1.9%)</b>
Road cycling	1.4 (0.7%)	55.4 (2.0%)	<b>5.7 (2.3%)</b>	<b>57.0 (2.0%)</b>
Fishing	1.2 (0.6%)	16.7 (0.6%)	<b>1.4 (0.6%)</b>	<b>16.9 (0.6%)</b>
Picnicking	0.9 (0.5%)	58.8 (2.2%)	<b>3.9 (1.6%)</b>	<b>60.4 (2.2%)</b>
Fieldsports	0.7 (0.4%)	9.0 (0.3%)	<b>2.2 (0.9%)</b>	<b>10.0 (0.4%)</b>
Swimming outdoors	0.4 (0.2%)	10.8 (0.4%)	<b>0.4 (0.2%)</b>	<b>11.0 (0.4%)</b>
Watersports	0.3 (0.2%)	13.0 (0.5%)	<b>0.8 (0.3%)</b>	<b>12.8 (0.5%)</b>
Off road cycling/mountain biking	0.2 (0.1%)	27.9 (1.0%)	<b>0.3 (1.2%)</b>	<b>29.0 (1.0%)</b>

# Visits to the Natural Environment

## Monthly update – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012

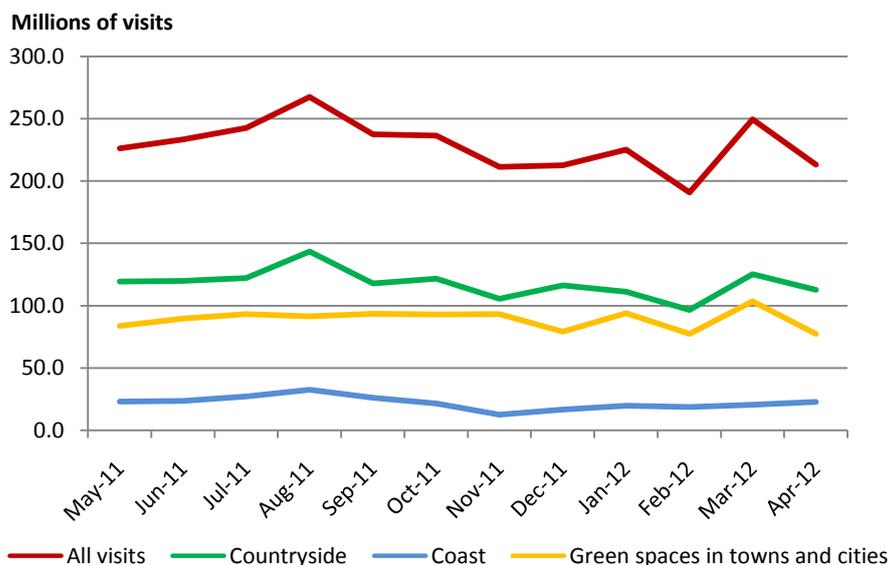


During April 2012, the adult population in England (aged 16 and over) took an estimated 213 million visits to the natural environment. This is 36 million visits less than the 249 million visits taken in March 2012 and the lowest number of visits recorded for the month of April since the survey began in March 2009. A total of 2.75 billion visits were taken between May 2011 and April 2012.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment from May 2011 to April 2012.

- The 213 million visits taken in April 2012 is 36 million lower than the 249.3 million visits taken in March 2012.
- The volume of visits in April 2012 was lower than in April 2011 (229.9 million), April 2010 (242 million), and April 2009 (257 million).
- Between March and April 2012 visits to green space in towns and cities and the countryside fell by 26 million and 12.5 million respectively, while visits to the coast were up 2.3 million.

**Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, May 2011 to April 2012 (millions of visits).** Base: Minimum 3,400 respondents per month



**Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Apr 2012	May 2011 – Apr 2012
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	112.7 (53%)	1,412 (51.3%)
Town and city	77.5 (36%)	1,069.5 (39%)
Coast	22.9 (11%)	266.1 (9.7%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	45.7 (21.4%)	639.0 (23.3%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	40.6 (19.1%)	440.0 (16.0%)
Another open space in the countryside	32.5 (15.2%)	330.0 (12.0%)
Woodland/forest	31.3 (14.7%)	353.4 (12.9%)
Farmland	24.0 (11.3%)	245.6 (8.9%)
River, lake, canal	22.2 (10.4%)	243.9 (9.3%)
Another open space in town or city	18.9 (8.9%)	227.3 (8.3%)
Country park	17.8 (8.3%)	196.3 (7.2%)
Village	17.2 (8.1%)	193.2 (7.0%)
Beach	14.5 (6.8%)	156.2 (5.7%)
Playing field or other recreation area	11.4 (5.3%)	231.8 (8.4%)
Other coastline	9.5 (2.0%)	90.3 (3.3%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	8.8 (4.1%)	79.7 (2.9%)
Children's playground	8.4 (3.9%)	81.3 (3.0%)
Allotment/community garden	0.7 (0.3%)	19.6 (0.7%)

Note percentages for specific type of place may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one type of place per visit.

Respondent base: Apr 2012 (N=3,590), May 2011 to Apr 2012 (N=48,061)

**Table 2 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Apr 2012	May 2011 – Apr 2012
Average duration of visits	2 hours 5 minutes	1 hour 54 minutes
Average distance	7.4 miles	5.9 miles
Average expenditure per visit	£32.37	£29.35

Respondent base for distance and duration: Mar 2012 (N=3,590), Apr 2011 to Mar 2012 (N=48,061)

Respondent base for expenditure: Mar 2012 (N=858), Apr 2011 to Mar 2012 (N=10,512)

Table 1 illustrates the estimated volume of visits by type of place visited in April 2012 and over the 12 months from May 2011 to April 2012.

- In April 2012, just over half of visits were taken to places in the countryside (53 percent), a similar proportion compared to all visits taken in the 12 months from May 2011 to April 2012 (51 percent).
- 36 percent of visits were taken in towns and cities in April 2012, a lower proportion than the 12 months from May 2011 to April 2012 (39 percent), while 11 percent of visits were taken in coastal locations.

The average duration of visits during April 2012 was 2 hours and five minutes and the average distance travelled was 7.4 miles. These values are higher than the yearly average, reflecting the fact that visits were taken further from home as the weather improved.

Just over a fifth (22 percent) of visits taken in April 2012 involved expenditure, with the average spent per visit at £32. This is slightly higher than the 12 month average (£29).

Table 3 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken during April 2012, and for the period May 2011 to April 2012.

- During April 2012, 46 percent of visits involved walking with a dog (99 million visits), while 31 percent of visits involved walking without a dog (65 million visits).
- Other significant activities included playing with children (nine per cent of visits or 19 million visits in total) and eating or drinking out (seven per cent of visits or 14.6 million visits in total).
- Compared to the overall May 2011 to April 2012 period, a lower proportion of visits in April 2012 involved walking with a dog, and a higher proportion involved walking without a dog.

**Table 3 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Apr 2012	May 2011 – Apr 2012
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	98.7 (46.4%)	1,384.6 (50.4%)
Walking, not with a dog	65.5 (30.7%)	741.6 (27.0%)
Playing with children	19.4 (9.1%)	250.9 (9.1%)
Eating or drinking out	14.6 (6.8%)	157.8 (5.7%)
Wildlife watching	10.3 (4.8%)	82.0 (3.0%)
Visiting an attraction	9.1 (4.3%)	86.4 (3.1%)
Running	5.6 (2.8%)	89.2 (3.2%)
Road cycling	5.1 (2.4%)	56.5 (2.1%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	4.7 (2.2%)	49.6 (1.8%)
Informal games and sport	4.5 (2.1%)	75.3 (2.7%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	4.0 (1.9%)	47.8 (1.7%)
Picnicking	3.9 (1.8%)	55.3 (2.0%)
Horse riding	1.9 (0.9%)	31.9 (1.2%)
Fishing	1.0 (0.5%)	16.2 (0.6%)
Swimming outdoors	0.9 (0.5%)	10.5 (0.4%)
Fieldsports	0.8 (0.4%)	9.8 (0.4%)
Off road cycling/mountain biking	0.7 (0.3%)	25.5 (1.0%)
Watersports	0.5 (0.3%)	12.3 (0.4%)

Respondent base: Apr 2012 (N=3,590), May 2011 to Apr 2012 (N=48,061)

Note percentages for activity may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one activity

Figure 2 shows how the proportion of adults taking visits in the last 7 days has varied since March 2009.

- During April 2012, an average of 39 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment in the previous seven days.
- This is four percentage points lower than in March 2012 (43 percent), and lower than the figures for April in 2011 (47 percent), 2010 (46 percent), and 2009 (49 percent).

**Figure 2 - Percentage of adult population taking visits in the previous seven days by month, Mar 2009 – Apr 2012.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

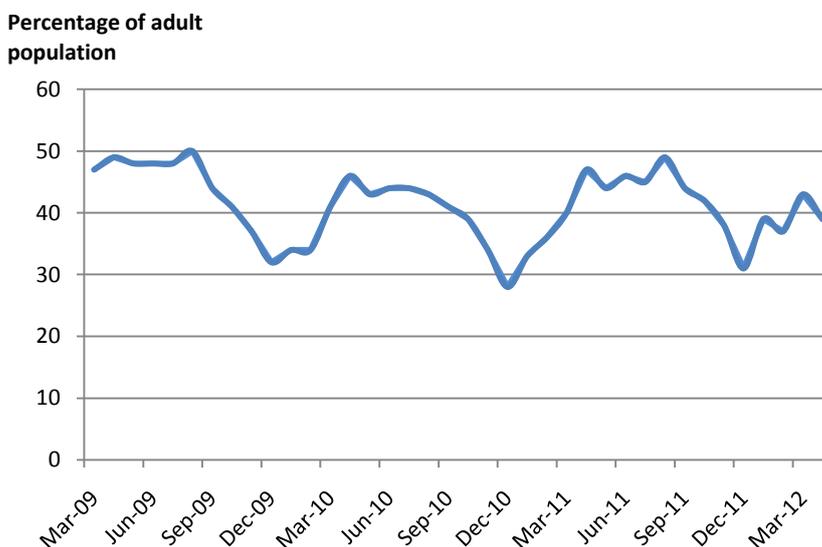
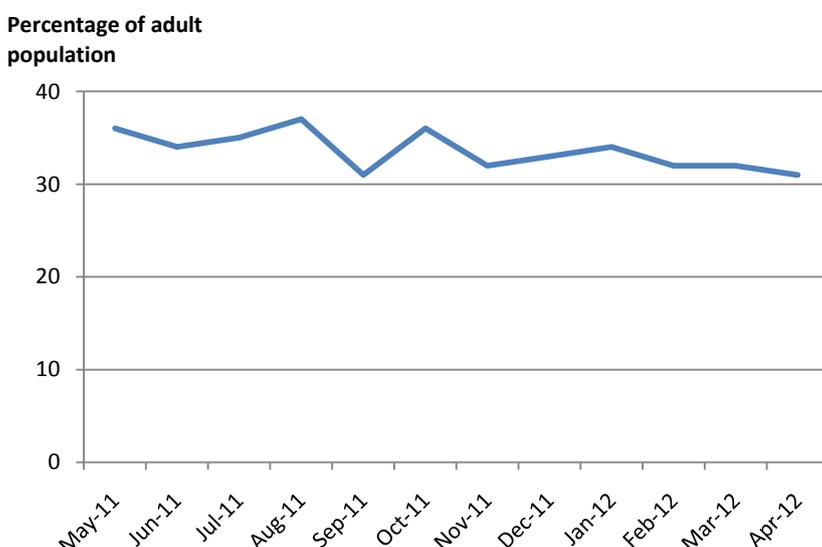


Figure 3 shows how the proportion of adults claiming to visit the natural several times a week or more over the previous year, has varied since May 2011.

- During April 2012, 31 percent of the English adult population reported that on average they had usually visited the natural environment several times a week or more over the previous year.
- As the figure shows, there has been little variability since October 2011 when the proportion was 36 percent.

**Figure 3 - Percentage of adult population visiting several times a week or more over the previous year by month, May 2011 – Apr 2012.** Base: Minimum of 800 respondents per month



The Monitor of Engagement with the Natural environment (MENE) survey is undertaken weekly across England. It focuses on people's use and enjoyment of the green open spaces in and around towns and cities as well as the wider countryside and coast. It excludes time spent in private gardens. To find out more visit: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/research/mene.aspx>

For questions about this statistical release please contact: **Stephen Herbert: MENE@naturalengland.org.uk**

# Visits to the Natural Environment

## Monthly update – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012

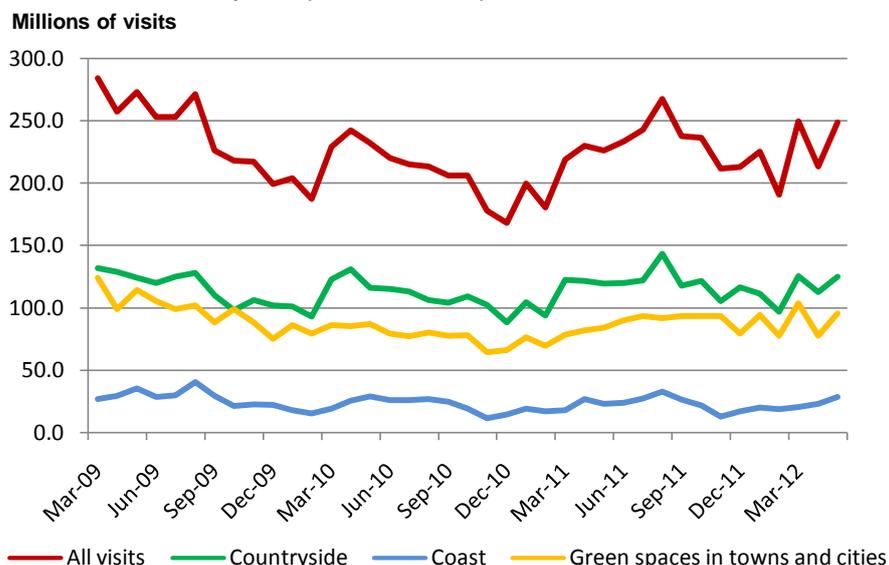


During May 2012, the adult population in England (aged 16 and over) took an estimated 249 million visits to the natural environment. This is 36 million visits more than the 213 million visits taken in April 2012 and higher than the 226 million visits taken during May 2011. A total of 2.76 billion visits were taken to the natural environment between June 2011 and May 2012.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment since March 2009.

- The 249 million visits taken in May 2012 is 36 million higher than the 213 million visits taken in April 2012.
- The volume of visits in May 2012 was higher than in May 2011 (226 million), May 2010 (232 million), but lower than May 2009 (273 million).
- Between April and May 2012 visits to green space in towns and cities and the countryside increased by 17.7 million and 12.2 million respectively, and visits to the coast were up 5.8 million.

**Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Mar 2009 - May 2012 (millions of visits).** Base: Minimum 3,400 respondents per month



**Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	May 2012	June 2011 – May 2012
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	124.9 (50.2%)	1,417 (51.2%)
Town and city	95.2 (38.2%)	1,081 (39%)
Coast	28.7 (11.6%)	272 (9.8%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	59.9 (24.1%)	638.9 (23.1%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	49.1 (19.8%)	440.1 (15.9%)
Woodland/forest	39.4 (15.8%)	353.4 (12.8%)
Another open space in the countryside	35.6 (14.3%)	329.7 (11.9%)
River, lake, canal	30.0 (12.1%)	253.9 (9.2%)
Farmland	26.0 (10.5%)	245.5 (8.3%)
Beach	21.6 (8.7%)	156.2 (5.6%)
Country park	19.2 (7.7%)	196.3 (7.1%)
Another open space in town or city	18.9 (7.6%)	227.3 (8.2%)
Playing field or other recreation area	18.1 (7.3%)	231.7 (8.4%)
Village	16.9 (6.8%)	193.2 (7.0%)
Other coastline	9.0 (3.7%)	90.3 (3.3%)
Children's playground	8.6 (3.5%)	81.3 (2.9%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	7.9 (3.2%)	79.6 (2.9%)
Allotment/community garden	0.8 (0.4%)	19.6 (0.7%)

Note percentages for specific type of place may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one type of place per visit.

Respondent base: May 2012 (N=4,455), June 2011 to May 2012 (N=48,806)

**Table 2 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	May 2012	June 2011 – May 2012
Average duration of visits	2 hours 10 minutes	1 hour 56 minutes
Average distance	6.6 miles	5.9 miles
Average expenditure per visit	£23.25	£29.56

Respondent base for distance and duration: May 2012 (N=4,455), June 2011 to May 2012 (N=48,806)

Respondent base for expenditure: May 2012 (N=884), June 2011 to May 2012 (N=10,467)

Table 1 illustrates the estimated volume of visits by type of place visited in May 2012 and over the 12 months from June 2011 to May 2012.

- In May 2012, just over half of visits were taken to places in the countryside (50.2 percent), a similar proportion compared to all visits taken in the 12 months from June 2011 to May 2012 (51.2 percent).
- Between April and May 2012, visits to the beach were up 7.1 million on the previous month, while visits to woodland were up 8.1 million. In addition, visits to playing fields and recreation grounds increased by 6.7 million visits as the weather started to improve.

The average duration of visits during May 2012 was 2 hours and ten minutes and the average distance travelled was 6.6 miles. These values are higher than the yearly average, reflecting the fact that visits were taken further from home as the weather improved.

A quarter of visits taken in May 2012 involved expenditure, with the average spent per visit at £23.25. This is slightly lower than the 12 month average (£29.56).

Table 3 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken during May 2012, and for the period June 2011 to May 2012.

- During May 2012, 48 percent of visits involved walking with a dog (119 million visits), while 29 percent of visits involved walking without a dog (71.6 million visits).
- Other significant activities included playing with children (eight per cent of visits or 19.3 million visits in total) and eating or drinking out (six per cent of visits or 14.9 million visits in total).

**Table 3 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	May 2012	Jun 2011 – May 2012
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	1,191 (47.9%)	1,395 (50.4%)
Walking, not with a dog	71.6 (28.8%)	747.4 (27.0%)
Playing with children	19.3 (8.1%)	249.9 (9.0%)
Eating or drinking out	14.9 (6.0%)	158.6 (5.7%)
Wildlife watching	8.8 (3.5%)	82.8 (3.0%)
Visiting an attraction	8.7 (3.5%)	87.4 (3.2%)
Running	7.2 (2.9%)	89.2 (3.2%)
Informal games and sport	6.2 (2.5%)	73.5 (2.7%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	5.6 (2.3%)	50.4 (1.8%)
Road cycling	5.4 (2.2%)	56.4 (2.0%)
Picnicking	5.1 (2.1%)	55.1 (2.0%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	4.5 (1.8%)	49.1 (1.8%)
Off road cycling/mountain biking	2.9 (1.2%)	25.4 (0.9%)
Horse riding	2.4 (1.0%)	30.6 (1.1%)
Fieldsports	1.2 (0.5%)	10.0 (0.4%)
Watersports	1.2 (0.5%)	12.2 (0.4%)
Fishing	1.1 (0.5%)	15.9 (0.6%)
Swimming outdoors	0.9 (0.4%)	10.9 (0.4%)

Note percentages for activity may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one activity  
Respondent base: May 2012 (N=4,455), Jun 2011 to May 2012 (N=48,806)

Figure 2 shows how the proportion of adults taking visits in the last 7 days has varied since March 2009.

- During May 2012, an average of 44 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment in the previous seven days.
- This is five percentage points higher than in April 2012 (43 percent), but consistent with the results from May 2011, and May 2010. However it is significantly lower than the proportion of the population who reported taking visits over the previous seven days in May 2009 (48 percent).

**Figure 2 - Proportion of adult population taking visits over the previous seven days by month, Mar 2009 – May 2012.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

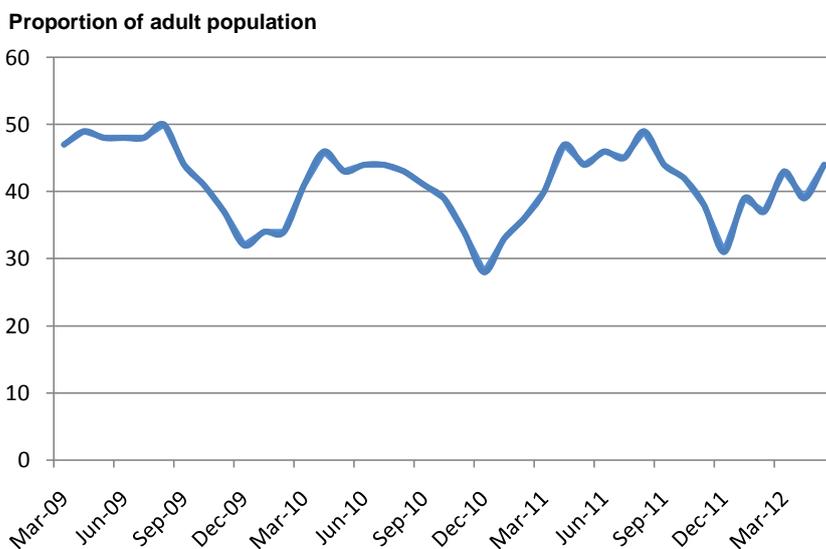
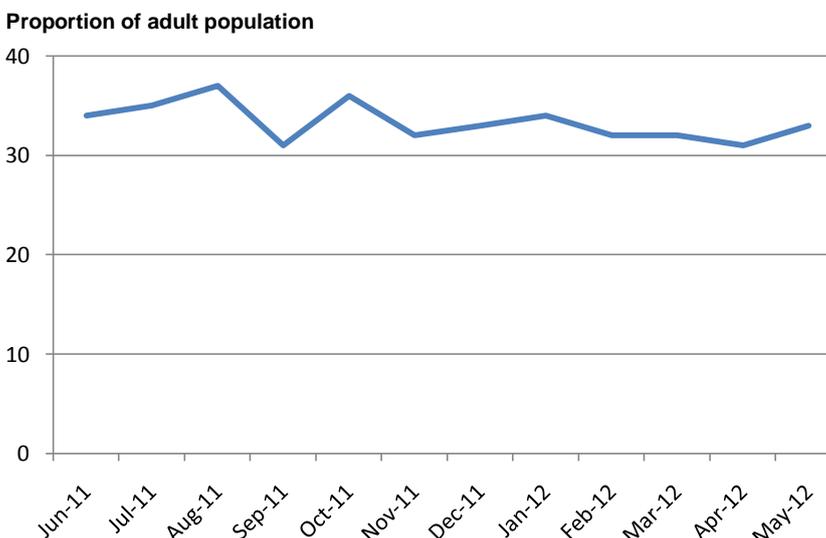


Figure 3 shows how the proportion of adults claiming to visit the natural several times a week or more over the previous year, has varied since June 2011.

- During May 2012, 33 percent of the English adult population reported that on average they had usually visited the natural environment several times a week or more over the previous year.
- As figure 3 shows, there has been little variability since October 2011 when the proportion was 36 percent.

**Figure 3 - Proportion of adult population visiting several times a week or more over the previous year by month, Jun 2011 – May 2012.** Base: Minimum of 800 respondents per month



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# Visits to the Natural Environment

## Monthly update – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2012



During June 2012, the adult population in England took an estimated 235.3 million visits to the natural environment. This is 13.5 million visits lower than the 248.8 million visits taken in May 2012, but higher than the 233.4 million visits taken during June 2011. A total of 2.77 billion visits were taken to the natural environment between July 2011 and June 2012.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment since March 2009.

- The 235 million visits taken in June 2012 was higher than the 233 million visits taken in June 2011 and the 220 million taken in June 2010. The Diamond Jubilee and Spring Bank holidays in June likely gave visitors extra free time to spend outdoors.
- Despite these bank holidays, visits in June 2012 were lower than May 2012. The weather had its part to play here: June 2012 was the equal wettest on record, with an almost complete absence of warm, settled spells.

**Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, March 2009 – June 2012 (millions of visits).** Base: Minimum 3,400 respondents per

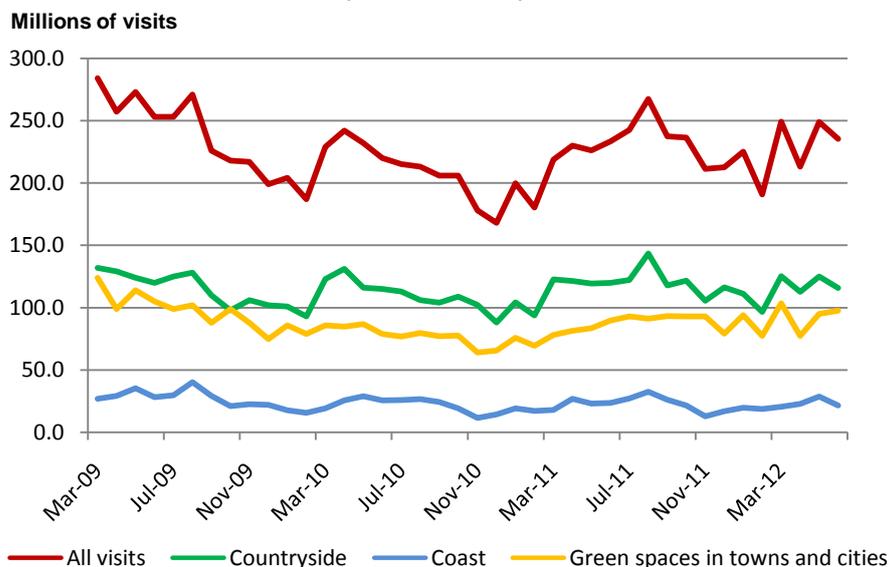


Table 1 shows the estimated volume of visits by type of place in June 2012 and over the 12 months from July 2011 to June 2012.

- In June 2012, just under half of visits were taken to places in the countryside, a similar proportion compared to all visits taken in the 12 months from July 2011 to June 2012.
- Between May and June 2012 visits to all types of place decreased except for visits to open spaces in towns and cities which increased by 22 percent.
- During June 2012, visits to the beach felt the biggest effects of the wet weather, and were down 86 percent on the previous month.

**Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Jun 2012	Jul 2011 – Jun 2012
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	115.8 (49%)	1,413 (51%)
Town and city	97.8 (42%)	1,089 (39%)
Coast	21.5 (9%)	270 (10%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	61.0 (25.9%)	646.5 (23.3%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	37.1 (15.8%)	459.0 (16.6%)
Woodland/forest	34.3 (14.6%)	369.0 (13.3%)
Another open space in the countryside	27.3 (11.6%)	345.6 (12.5%)
Another open space in town or city	23.0 (9.8%)	235.0 (8.5%)
Farmland	20.1 (8.6%)	259.2 (9.4%)
River, lake, canal	19.1 (8.1%)	256.9 (9.3%)
Country park	17.8 (7.7%)	196.6 (7.1%)
Playing field or other recreation area	17.6 (7.5%)	228.9 (8.3%)
Village	17.6 (7.5%)	196.3 (7.1%)
Beach	11.6 (4.9%)	161.6 (5.8%)
Other coastline	8.1 (3.5%)	90.0 (3.2%)
Children's playground	6.8 (2.9%)	84.6 (3.1%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	5.1 (2.2%)	77.5 (2.8%)
Allotment/community garden	1.7 (0.7%)	17.7 (0.6%)

Note percentages for specific type of place may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one type of place per visit.

Respondent base: Jun 2012 (N=3,697), Jul 2011 to Jun 2012 (N=48,052)

Table 2 shows the average duration, distance, and expenditure for visits taken in June 2012 and over the 12 months from July 2011 to June 2012.

- In June 2012, visits were longer and taken further from home than the yearly average. Overall 28 percent of visits incurred expenditure with £23.03 being the average amount spent

**Table 2 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Jun 2012	Jul 2011 – Jun 2012
Average duration of visits	2 hours 13 minutes	1 hour 57 minutes
Average distance	6.1 miles	5.9 miles
Average expenditure per visit	£23.03	£29.55

Respondent base for distance and duration: Jun 2012 (N=3,697), Jul 2011 to Jun 2012 (N=48,052)  
Respondent base for expenditure: Jun 2012 (N=967), Jul 2011 to Jun 2012 (N=10,560)

Table 3 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken during June 2012, and for the period July 2011 to June 2012.

- During June 2012, 48 percent of visits involved walking with a dog, while 26 percent of visits involved walking without a dog.
- Between May 2012 and June 2012 visits involving informal games and sport increased by 10 percent, while visits involving running increased by 50 percent.
- Conversely visits taken to walk the dog decreased 5 percent, while walking visits without a dog were down by 14 percent.

**Table 3 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Jun 2012	Jul 2011 – Jun 2012
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	113.3 (48.1%)	1,404 (50.7%)
Walking, not with a dog	61.8 (26.3%)	747.4 (27.0%)
Playing with children	20.3 (8.6%)	247.5 (8.9%)
Eating or drinking out	14.1 (6.0%)	159.0 (5.7%)
Running	10.9 (4.6%)	91.4 (3.3%)
Wildlife watching	7.1 (3.0%)	83.7 (3.0%)
Visiting an attraction	7.8 (3.3%)	86.0 (3.1%)
Informal games and sport	6.8 (2.5%)	70.5 (2.9%)
Road cycling	5.0 (2.2%)	54.5 (2.0%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	4.1 (1.7%)	50.4 (1.8%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	3.6 (1.5%)	47.8 (1.7%)
Picnicking	3.2 (1.4%)	55.1 (1.8%)
Off road cycling/mountain biking	2.2 (1.0%)	25.4 (1%)
Watersports	2.0 (0.9%)	12.2 (0.4%)
Horse riding	1.2 (0.5%)	30.2 (1.1%)
Fishing	1.8 (0.8%)	16.2 (0.6%)
Swimming outdoors	1.2 (0.5%)	10.5 (0.4%)
Fieldsports	0.6 (0.2%)	9.9 (0.4%)

Note percentages for activity may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one activity  
Respondent base: Jun 2012 (N=3,697), Jul 2011 to Jun 2012 (N=48,052)

Figure 2 shows how the proportion of adults taking visits in the last seven days has varied since March 2009.

- During June 2012, an average of 42 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment in the previous seven days.
- This is two percentage points lower than the proportion taking visiting during May 2012, and the lowest recorded figure for June since 2009, when the figure stood at 48 percent.

**Figure 2 - Proportion of adult population taking visits over the previous seven days by month, March 2009 – June 2012.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

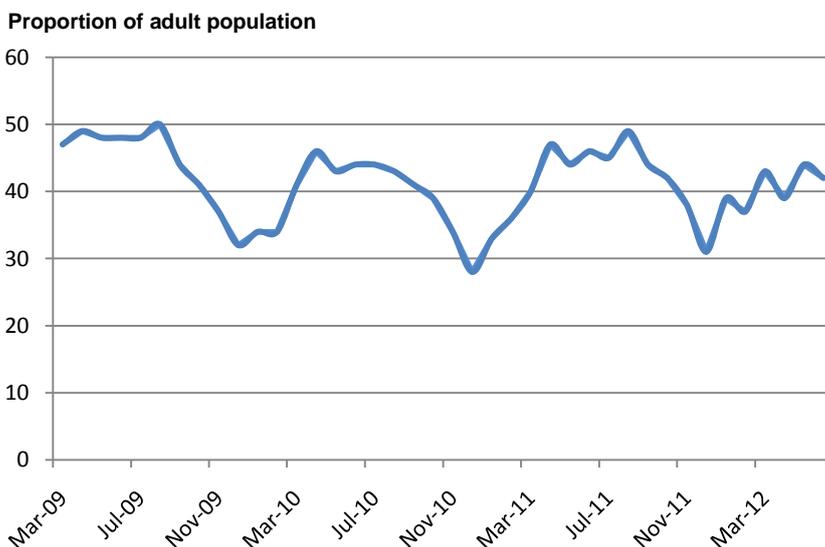
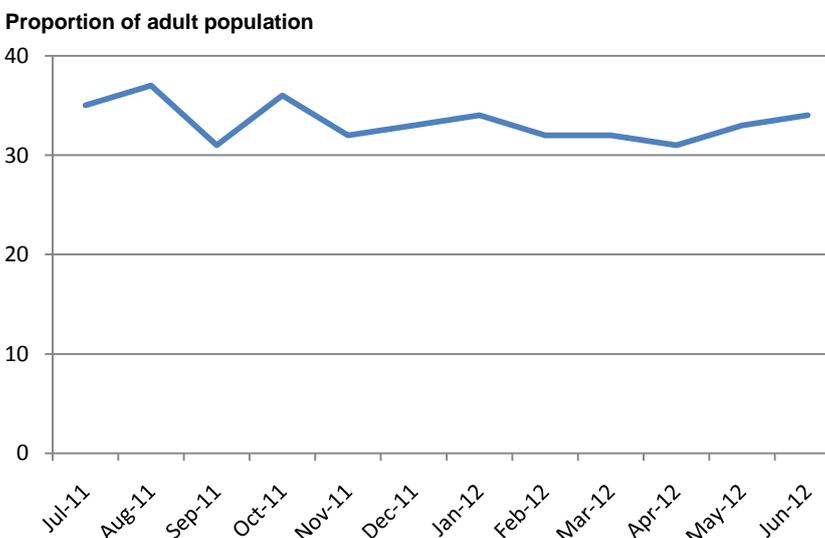


Figure 3 shows how the proportion of adults claiming to visit the natural several times a week or more over the previous year has varied since July 2011.

- During June 2012, 34 percent of the English adult population they usually visited the natural environment several times a week or more over the year.
- As figure 3 shows, there has been little variability since October 2011 when the proportion was 36 percent.
- In June 2012, nine percent of adults reported they had never visited the natural environment over the previous year.

**Figure 3 - Proportion of adult population visiting several times a week or more over the previous year by month, July 2011 – June 2012.** Base: Minimum of 800 respondents per month



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# Visits to the Natural Environment

## Monthly update – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012



During July 2012, the adult population in England took an estimated 230.9 million visits to the natural environment. This is 4.4 million visits lower than the 235.3 million visits taken in June 2012, and 11.17 million lower than the 242.6 million visits taken during July 2011. A total of 2.77 billion visits were taken to the natural environment between August 2011 and July 2012.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment since March 2009.

- The 230.9 million visits taken in July 2012 is lower than the 235.3 million visits taken in June 2012 and the 242.6 million visits taken in July 2011.
- For the first time since October 2009, the volume of visits to green spaces in towns and cities exceeded those to the countryside.
- Between June and July 2012, visits to green spaces in towns and cities increased by 3.5 percent, while visits to the countryside dropped by 13 percent.

**Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, March 2009 – July 2012 (millions of visits).** Base: Minimum 3,400 respondents per month

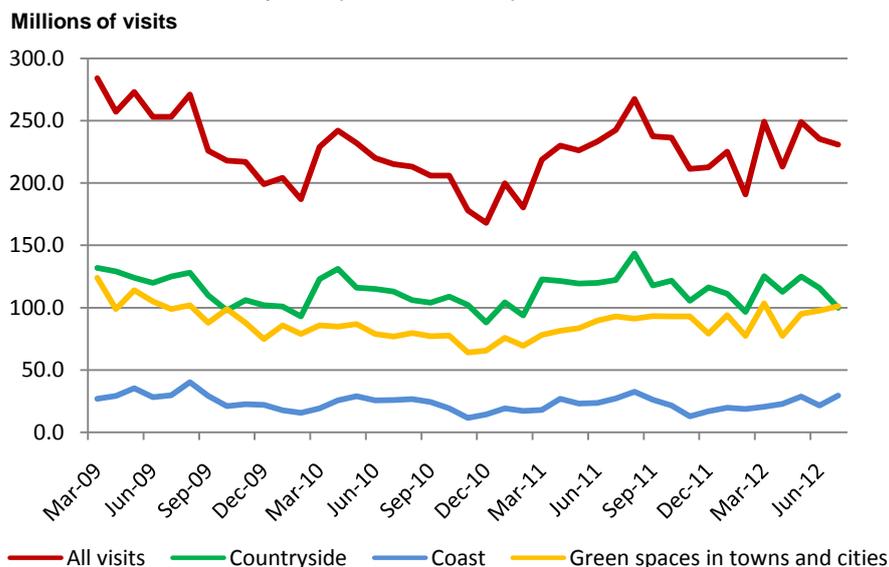


Table 1 shows the estimated volume of visits by type of place in July 2012, and over the 12 months from August 2011 to July 2012.

- In July 2012, the proportion of visits to green spaces in towns and cities was at its highest level since October 2009.
- Visits to locations with water increased with the arrival of warmer weather. Between June and July 2012 visits to beaches increased by 46 percent, and there were 22 percent more visits to rivers, lakes and canals.
- Conversely during July 2012 trips to rural locations significantly decreased, with visits to villages down 36 percent; woodland visits down 30 percent; and paths and bridleways down 27 percent.

**Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Jul 2012	Aug 2011 – Jul 2012
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	100.0 (43.3%)	1,391 (51%)
Town and city	101.3 (43.9%)	1,097 (39%)
Coast	29.6 (12.8%)	272 (10%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	60.9 (26.4%)	652.2 (23.6%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	27.3 (16.1%)	442.4 (16.0%)
Another open space in the countryside	26.8 (11.8%)	348.9 (12.6%)
Woodland/forest	23.8 (14.8%)	365.4 (13.3%)
River, lake, canal	23.4 (8.3%)	251.4 (9.1%)
Farmland	20.5 (8.7%)	251.4 (9.1%)
Another open space in town or city	17.8 (10.0%)	234.0 (8.5%)
Playing field or other recreation area	17.6 (7.6%)	223.0 (8.1%)
Country park	17.1 (7.6%)	196.3 (7.1%)
Beach	17.0 (5.0%)	164.9 (6.0%)
Village	11.3 (7.7%)	185.0 (6.7%)
Other coastline	8.1 (3.5%)	89.1 (3.2%)
Children's playground	6.8 (2.2%)	83.9 (3.0%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	6.8 (2.2%)	78.0 (2.8%)
Allotment/community garden	1.6 (0.7%)	16.7 (0.6%)

Note percentages for specific type of place may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one type of place per visit.

Respondent base: Jul 2012 (N=3,612), Aug 2011 to Jul 2012 (N=48,187)

Table 2 shows the average duration, distance, and expenditure for visits taken in July 2012 and over the 12 months from August 2011 to July 2012.

- In July 2012, visits were longer and taken further from home than the yearly average. Overall 34 percent of visits incurred expenditure with £43.42 being the average amount spent

**Table 2 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Jul 2012	Aug 2011 – Jul 2012
Average duration of visits	2 hours 36 minutes	1 hour 59 minutes
Average distance	7.8 miles	5.9 miles
Average expenditure per visit	£43.42	£30.19

Respondent base for distance and duration: Jul 2012 (N=3,612), Aug 2011 to Jul 2012 (N=48,187)  
Respondent base for expenditure: Jul 2012 (N=884), Aug 2011 to Jul 2012 (N=10,526)

Table 3 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken during July 2012, and for the period August 2011 to July 2012.

- During July 2012, dog walking decreased by 11 percent compared to June 2012, and was 11 percent lower compared to July 2011.
- Visits typically associated with families and children increased between June and July 2012 as the warmer weather and school holidays began, especially picnicking visits which doubled, from 3.2 million to 6.9 million visits.
- Over the same period, visits to an attraction were up 32 percent; informal games were up 27 percent; and visits to play with children were up 11 percent.

Figure 2 shows how the proportion of adults taking visits in the last seven days has varied since March 2009.

- During July 2012, an average of 42 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment over the previous week.
- This is three percentage points lower than the proportion taking visiting during July 2011, two percentage points lower than the figure in July 2010; and six percentage points lower than the figure from July 2009.

Figure 3 shows how the proportion of adults claiming to visit the natural several times a week or more over the previous year has varied since August 2011.

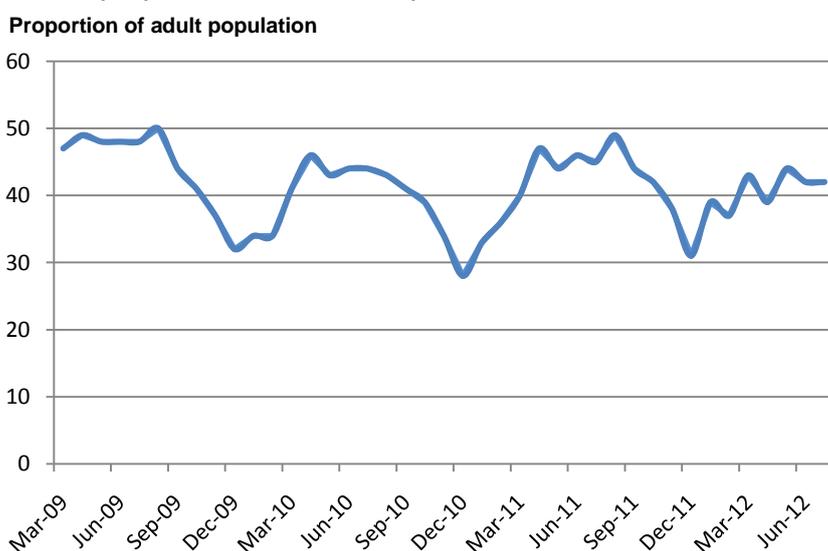
- During July 2012, 33 percent of the English adult population said they usually visited the natural environment several times a week or more over the year.
- As figure 3 shows, there has been little variability since October 2011 when the proportion was 36 percent.
- In July 2012, ten percent of adults reported they had never visited the natural environment over the previous year.

**Table 3 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

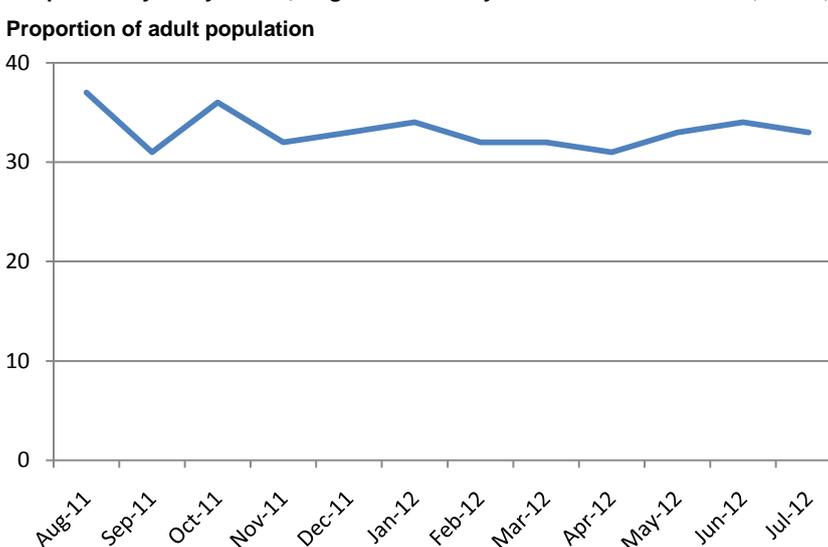
	Jul 2012	Aug 2011 – Jul 2012
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	100.4 (43.5%)	1,391 (50.4%)
Walking, not with a dog	63.0 (27.7%)	747.0 (27.6%)
Playing with children	22.7 (9.9%)	246.4 (8.9%)
Eating or drinking out	14.7(6.4%)	153.4 (5.6%)
Visiting an attraction	10.3 (4.5%)	85.4 (3.1%)
Informal games and sport	8.6 (3.8%)	70.3 (2.6%)
Running	7.6 (3.3%)	91.0 (3.3%)
Picnicking	6.9 (1.4%)	55.1 (1.8%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling	5.7 (2.5%)	48.5 (1.8%)
Road cycling	5.5 (2.4%)	54.5 (2.0%)
Wildlife watching	5.1 (2.2%)	81.1 (2.9%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	3.7 (3.0%)	48.6 (1.8%)
Swimming outdoors	2.5 (1.1%)	11.1 (0.4%)
Off road cycling/mountain biking	2.5 (1.1%)	25.0 (0.9%)
Horse riding	2.1 (0.9%)	30.0 (1.1%)
Fishing	1.6 (0.7%)	16.2 (0.6%)
Watersports	1.1 (0.6%)	11.5 (0.4%)
Fieldsports	1.1 (0.6%)	10.5 (0.6%)

Note percentages for activity may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one activity  
Respondent base: Jul 2012 (N=3,612), Aug 2011 to Jul 2012 (N=48,167)

**Figure 2 - Proportion of adult population taking visits over the previous seven days by month, March 2009 – July 2012.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month



**Figure 3 - Proportion of adult population visiting several times a week or more over the previous year by month, August 2011 – July 2012.** Base: Minimum of 800 respondents per month



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# Visits to the Natural Environment

## Monthly update – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2012



During August 2012, the adult population in England took an estimated 242.8 million visits to the natural environment. This is 11.9 million visits higher than the 230.9 million visits taken during July 2012. A total of 2.77 billion visits were taken to the natural environment between September 2011 and August 2012, half of which were taken to the countryside.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment since March 2009.

- The 242.8 million visits taken in August 2012 is higher than the 230.9 million visits taken in July 2012.
- August is typically one of the months where visit activity is greater. There were 242.8, 267.3, 213, and 271 million visits in August 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 respectively.
- Between July and August 2012, visits to green spaces in towns and cities fell by 3 percent, while visits to the countryside rose by 13 percent.

**Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Mar 2009 – Aug 2012 (millions of visits).** Base: Minimum 3,400 respondents per month

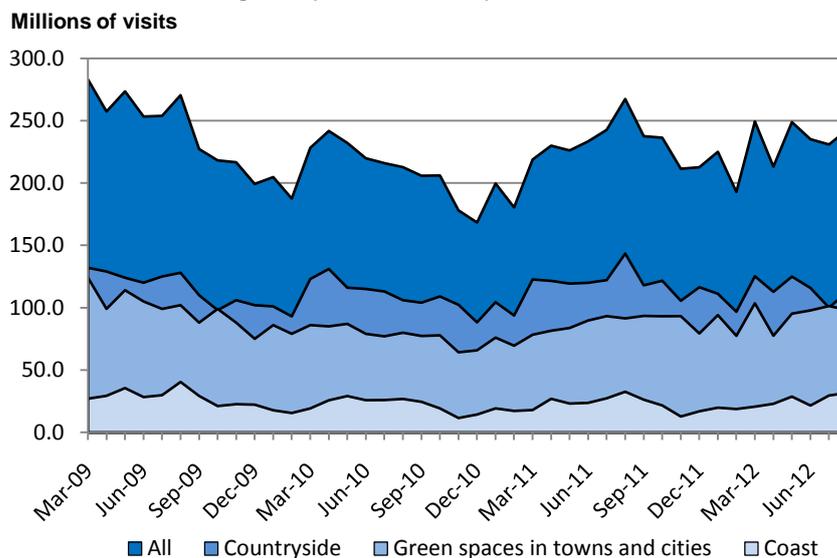


Table 1 shows the estimated volume of visits by type of place during August 2012, and over the period from September 2011 to August 2012.

**Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Aug 2012	Sep 2011 – Aug 2012
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	112.9 (46%)	1,361 (50%)
Town and city	98.2 (40%)	1,104 (40%)
Coast	31.2 (13%)	271 (10%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	65.1 (26.4%)	657.3 (23.6%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	33.9 (14%)	438.8 (16.1%)
Another open space in the countryside	23.4 (9.7%)	337.0 (12.3%)
River, lake, canal	20.9 (8.6%)	242.4 (8.9%)
Another open space in town or city	20.7 (8.5%)	236.7 (8.7%)
Woodland/forest	20.3 (8.4%)	355.1 (13.0%)
Beach	20.0 (8.2%)	161.1 (5.9%)
Country park	19.4 (8.1%)	197.0 (7.2%)
Playing field or other recreation area	17.2 (7.1%)	217.0 (7.9%)
Farmland	14.4 (5.9%)	240.5 (8.8%)
Other coastline	10.4 (4.3%)	89.3 (3.3%)
Village	10.3 (4.2%)	178.6 (6.5%)
Children's playground	8.3 (3.4%)	84.9 (3.1%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	7.8 (3.2%)	78.5 (2.9%)
Allotment/community garden	1.8 (0.8%)	16.0 (0.6%)

Note percentages for specific type of place may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one type of place per visit.

Respondent base: Aug 2012 (N=4,599), Sep 2011 to Aug 2012 (N=49,219)

**Table 2 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Aug 2012	Sep 2011 – Aug 2012
Average duration of visits	2 hours 42 minutes	2 hours
Average distance	8.4 miles	5.9 miles
Average expenditure per visit	£25.61	£29.06

Respondent base for distance and duration: Aug 2012 (N=4,599), Sep 2011 to Aug 2012 (N=49,219)  
Respondent base for expenditure: Aug 2012 (N=946), Sep 2011 to Aug 2012 (N=10,567)

Table 2 shows the average duration, distance, and expenditure for visits taken in August 2012 and over the 12 months from September 2011 to August 2012.

- In August 2012, visits were shorter though taken further from home than the yearly average. Overall 28 percent of visits incurred expenditure with £29.06 being the average amount spent.

Table 3 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken during August 2012, and for the period September 2011 to August 2012.

- Visit activity in and around beaches increased between July 2012 and August 2012. Notably visits involving watersports doubled, while those involving paddling in the sea or swimming at the beach increased by 42 percent.
- Visits typically associated with the family increased between July and August 2012 as the warmer weather and school holidays continued. Notable increases included visiting an attraction which was up 35 percent, and playing with children which increased by 25 percent.

**Table 3 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

Activity	Aug 2012	Sep 2011 – Aug 2012
Walking, with a dog	102.1 (42.0%)	1,364 (50.0%)
Walking, not with a dog	63.8 (26.3%)	740.1 (27.1%)
Playing with children	28.6 (11.8%)	243.6 (8.9%)
Eating or drinking out	18.8 (7.8%)	154.0 (5.6%)
Visiting an attraction	14.0 (5.8%)	85.5 (3.1%)
Running	8.3 (3.4%)	91.4 (3.3%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling	8.0 (3.3%)	47.5 (1.7%)
Wildlife watching	8.0 (3.3%)	80.3 (2.9%)
Picnicking	7.6 (3.1%)	43.6 (1.6%)
Road cycling	6.9 (2.9%)	55.3 (2.0%)
Informal games and sport	5.5 (2.3%)	66.4 (2.4%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	3.8 (1.6%)	44.8 (1.6%)
Horse riding	3.2 (1.3%)	29.2 (1.1%)
Off road cycling/mountain biking	3.1 (1.3%)	24.6 (0.9%)
Swimming outdoors	2.2 (0.9%)	10.9 (0.4%)
Watersports	2.0 (0.8%)	12.1 (0.4%)
Fishing	1.8 (0.8%)	15.3 (0.6%)
Fieldsports	1.4 (0.6%)	11.4 (0.4%)

Note percentages for activity may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one activity  
Respondent base: Aug 2012 (N=4,599), Sep 2011 to Aug 2012 (N=42,219)

Figure 2 shows how the proportion of adults taking visits in the last seven days has varied since March 2009.

- During August 2012, an average of 44 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment over the previous week.
- This is the greatest proportion of the population taking one or more visits to the natural environment over the previous seven days since September 2011.

**Figure 2 - Proportion of adult population taking visits over the previous seven days by month, Mar 2009 – Aug 2012.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

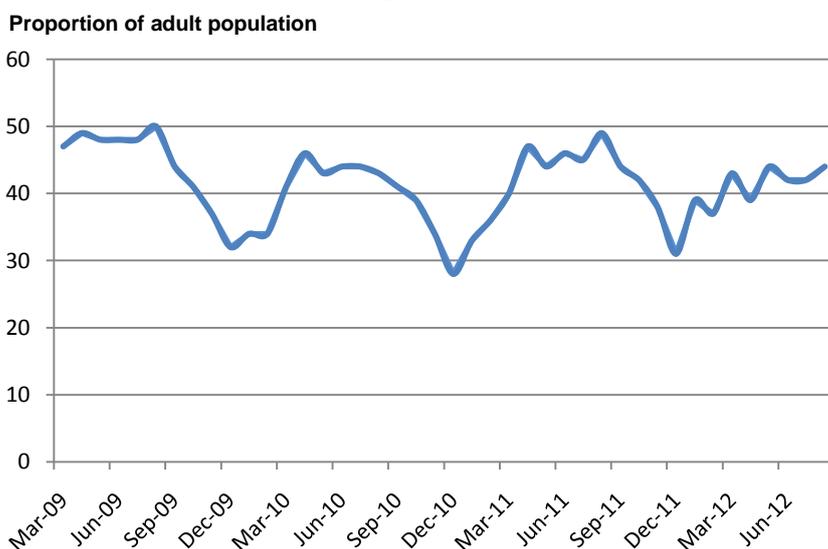
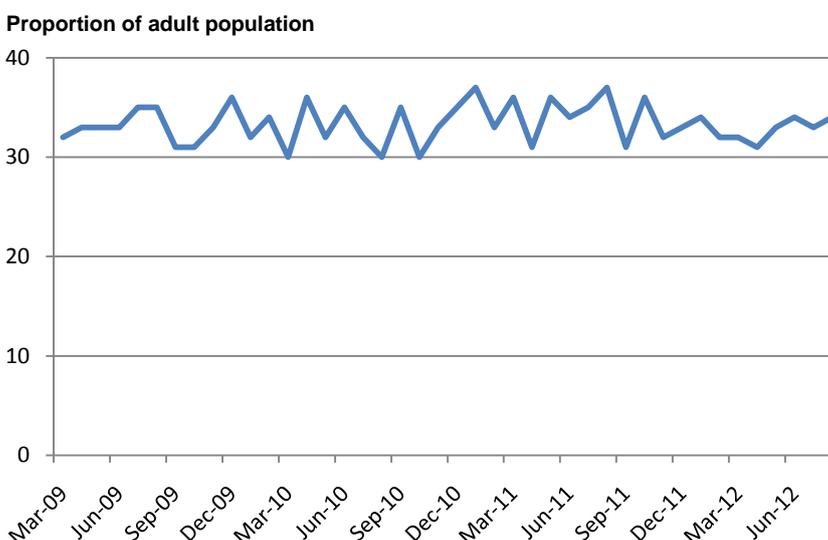


Figure 3 shows how the proportion of adults claiming to visit the natural several times a week or more over the previous year has varied since March 2009.

- During August 2012, 34 percent of the English adult population said they usually visited the natural environment several times a week or more over the year.
- As figure 3 shows, there has been nothing in the way of a long term trend in the data since the series began, with most values varying little from the median of 33 percent.

**Figure 3 - Proportion of adult population visiting several times a week or more over the previous year by month, Sep 2011 – Aug 2012.** Base: Minimum of 800 respondents per month



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For questions about this statistical release please contact: **Stephen Herbert: MENE@naturalengland.org.uk**

# Visits to the Natural Environment

## Monthly update – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012

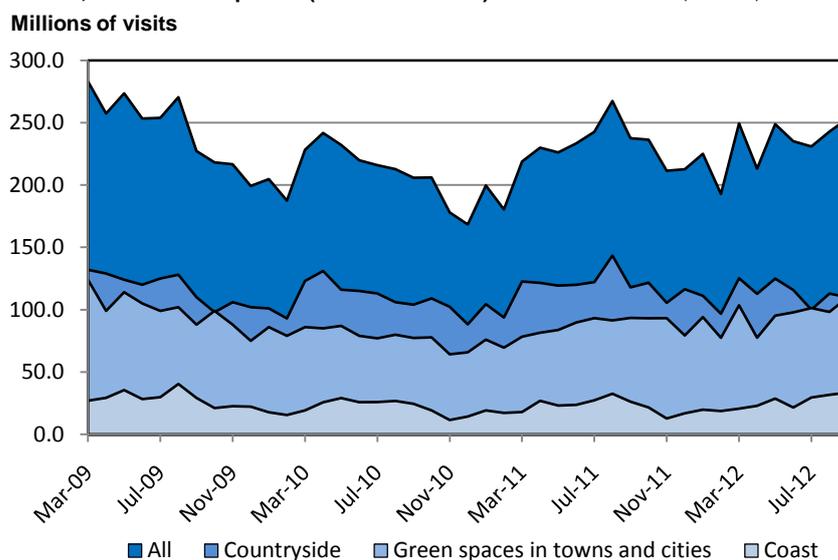


During September 2012, the adult population in England took an estimated 253.2 million visits to the natural environment. This is 10.4 million visits higher than the 242.8 million visits taken during August 2012. A total of 2.75 billion visits were taken to the natural environment between October 2011 and September 2012 - just under half of which were taken to the countryside.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment since March 2009.

- Visits to the natural environment generally fall between August and September each year as the summer holiday period ends. The trend in 2012 however reveals an increase of 10.4 million visits between the two months – most notably due to an 11.5 million increase in visits to urban parks.
- Also, visits in September 2012 were significantly higher than in September 2009 (226 million); 2010 (206 million); and 2011 (237.4 million).

**Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Mar 2009 – Sep 2012 (millions of visits).** Base: Minimum 3,400 respondents per month



**Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Sep 2012		Oct 2011 - Sep 2012	
<b>By general type of place</b>				
Countryside	110.0	(43.0%)	1,353	(49.0%)
Town and city	109.7	(43.0%)	1,120	(41.0%)
Coast	33.5	(13.0%)	278	(10.0%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>				
Park in a town or city	59.2	(23.4%)	658.2	(24.0%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	26.0	(10.3%)	430.8	(15.7%)
Another open space in the countryside	26.4	(10.4%)	335.5	(12.2%)
River, lake, canal	15.8	(6.2%)	237.7	(8.6%)
Another open space in town or city	30.8	(12.2%)	248.3	(9.0%)
Woodland/forest	30.0	(11.8%)	355.3	(12.9%)
Beach	21.7	(8.6%)	167.3	(6.1%)
Country park	16.0	(6.3%)	194.4	(7.1%)
Playing field or other recreation area	22.8	(9.0%)	218.2	(7.9%)
Farmland	18.1	(7.1%)	235.3	(8.6%)
Other coastline	12.0	(4.7%)	91.7	(3.3%)
Village	10.5	(4.1%)	168.9	(6.1%)
Children's playground	8.5	(3.4%)	85.3	(3.1%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	4.4	(1.7%)	248.3	(9.0%)
Allotment/community garden	1.4	(0.6%)	15.4	(0.6%)

Percentages for specific type of place exceed 100 because respondents could select more than one place per visit. Respondent base: Sep 2012 (N=3,473), Oct 2011 to Sep 2012 (N=48,274).

**Table 2 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Sep 2012	Oct 2011 - Sep 2012
Average duration of visits	2 hours 31 minutes	2 hours 2 minutes
Average distance	7.9 miles	6.0 miles
Average expenditure per visit	£21.39	£28.95

Respondent base for distance/duration: Sep 2012 (N=3,473), Oct 2011 to Sep 2012 (N=48,274). Respondent base for expenditure: Sep 2012 (N=873), Oct 2011 to Sep 2012 (N=10,545).

Table 1 shows the estimated volume of visits by type of place during September 2012 and over the period from October 2011 to September 2012.

- In September 2012, coastal visits were at the highest level since August 2009.
- Overall, visits to rural locations fell slightly between August and September 2012, although woodland visits increased by 47 percent and farmland visits increased by 26 percent. In urban areas, visits to playing fields increased by 32 percent, whereas visits to allotments fell by 24 percent.
- Visits to remote countryside and to rivers and lakes all fell between August and September 2012.

Table 2 shows the average duration, distance, and expenditure for visits taken in September 2012 and over the 12 months from October 2011 to September 2012.

- In September 2012, visits were longer and taken further from home than the yearly average. Overall, 27 percent of visits incurred expenditure with £21.39 being the average amount spent.

Table 3 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken during September 2012, and for the period October 2011 to September 2012.

- Visits to the natural environment involving walking increased by 23.5 million between August 2012 and September 2012, while fishing also increased markedly from 1.8 million visits to 3 million visits.
- Visits involving eating or drinking out declined by 2.8 million between August and September 2012 however, as did activities associated with school holidays such as picnicking and playing with children, which declined by 2.8 million and 4.4 million visits respectively.

**Table 3 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Sep 2012	Oct 2011 Sep 2012
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	121.0 (47.8%)	1,370 (49.8%)
Walking, not with a dog	68.5 (27.0%)	747.9 (27.2%)
Playing with children	24.2 (9.6%)	241.9 (8.8%)
Eating or drinking out	16.1 (6.3%)	154.1 (5.6%)
Visiting an attraction	10.7 (4.2%)	87.2 (3.2%)
Running	6.5 (2.6%)	91.0 (3.3%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling	5.3 (1.5%)	46.3 (1.7%)
Wildlife watching	3.7 (1.5%)	76.6 (2.8%)
Picnicking	4.8 (1.9%)	41.5 (1.5%)
Road cycling	6.7 (2.6%)	56.9 (2.1%)
Informal games and sport	5.0 (2.0%)	64.0 (2.3%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	3.3 (1.3%)	42.2 (1.5%)
Horseriding	3.9 (1.5%)	30.9 (1.1%)
Offroad cycling/mountain biking	2.9 (1.1%)	25.3 (0.9%)
Swimming outdoors	1.6 (0.6%)	10.9 (0.4%)
Watersports	2.0 (0.8%)	11.9 (0.4%)
Fishing	3.0 (1.2%)	16.1 (0.6%)
Fieldsports	0.8 (0.3%)	11.5 (0.4%)

Percentages for specific type of activity exceed 100 because respondents could select more than one activity per visit. Respondent base: Sep 2012 (N=3,473), Oct 2011 to Sep 2012 (N=48,274).

Figure 2 shows how the proportion of adults taking visits in the last seven days has varied since March 2009.

- During September 2012, an average of 44 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment over the previous week – the same proportion as in August 2012.
- Seasonal variation is marked, as Figure 2 illustrates, however in September typically around 44 percent of adults take at least one visit to the natural environment over the previous week.

**Figure 2 - Proportion of adult population taking visits over the previous seven days by month, Mar 2009 – Sep 2012.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

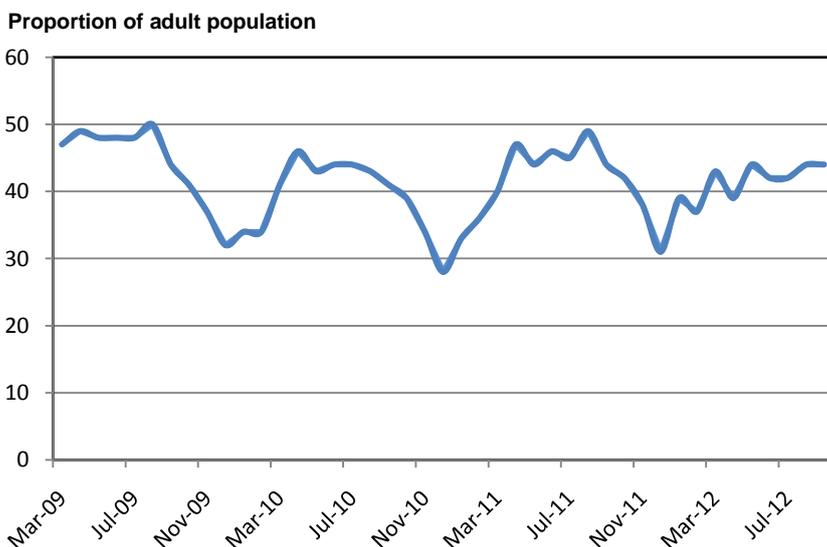
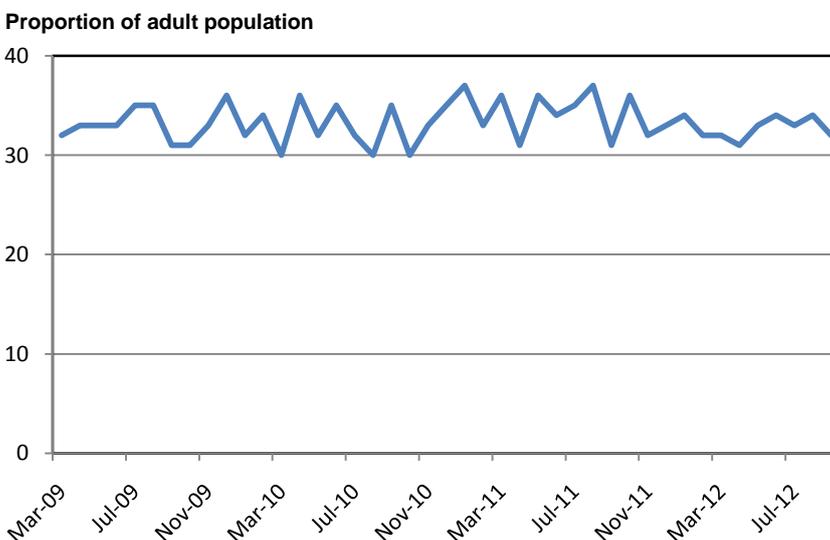


Figure 3 shows how the proportion of adults claiming to visit the natural environment several times a week or more over the previous year has varied since March 2009.

- During September 2012, 32 percent of the English adult population said they usually visited the natural environment several times a week or more over the course of the previous year.
- As figure 3 shows, there has been nothing in the way of a long term trend in the data since the series began, with most values varying little from the median of 33 percent.

**Figure 3 - Proportion of adult population visiting several times a week or more over the previous year by month, Mar 2009 – Sep 2012.** Base: Minimum of 800 respondents per month



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For questions about this statistical release please contact: **Stephen Herbert: MENE@naturalengland.org.uk**

# Visits to the Natural Environment

## Monthly update – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012

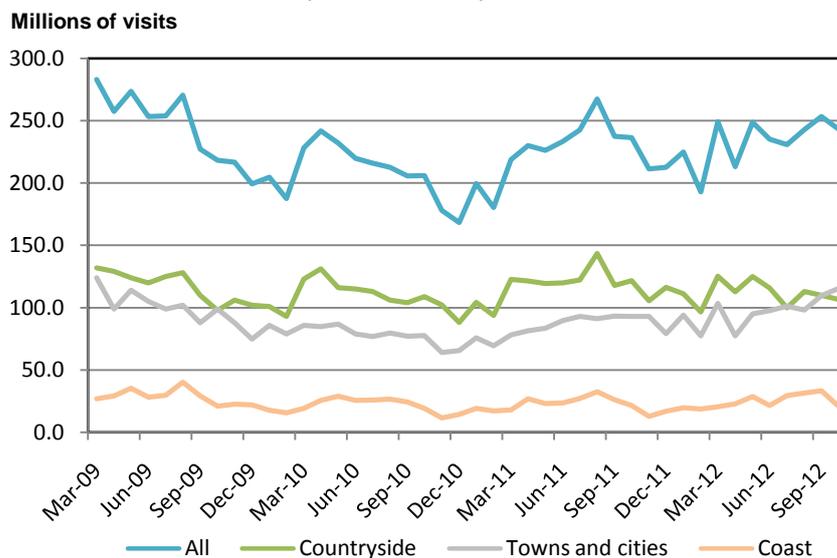


During October 2012, the adult population in England took an estimated 243.1 million visits to the natural environment. This was 10.1 million visits lower than the 253.2 million visits taken during September 2012. A total of 2.76 billion visits were taken to the natural environment between November 2011 and October 2012, half of which were taken to the countryside.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment since March 2009.

- Visits to the natural environment generally fall between September and October and that trend continued in 2012 where the volume of visits fell by 10.2 million between the two months.
- October visits have varied considerably between years from a low in 2010 (206 million) to the current high of 2012 (243 million visits). This is in contrast to Met Office figures which suggest that October 2012 was provisionally the coldest in England since 2003.

**Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Mar 2009 – Oct 2012 (millions of visits).** Base: Minimum 3,400 respondents per month



**Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Oct 2012	Nov 2011 - Oct 2012
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	106.7 (43.9%)	1,338 (48.5%)
Town and city	115.6 (47.6%)	1,143 (41.5%)
Coast	20.7 (8.5%)	277 (10.1%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	59.3 (24.4%)	667.4 (24.2%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	31.3 (12.9%)	428.3 (15.5%)
Another open space in the countryside	26.4 (10.9%)	333.4 (12.1%)
River, lake, canal	23.0 (9.5%)	244.6 (8.9%)
Another open space in town or city	21.7 (8.9%)	251.1 (9.1%)
Woodland/forest	28.2 (11.6%)	352.8 (12.8%)
Beach	13.4 (5.5%)	167.4 (6.1%)
Country park	15.4 (6.3%)	189.9 (6.9%)
Playing field or other recreation area	18.6 (7.7%)	217.2 (7.9%)
Farmland	16.7 (6.9%)	227.1 (8.2%)
Other coastline	7.4 (3.0%)	91.4 (3.3%)
Village	14.4 (5.9%)	162.5 (5.9%)
Children's playground	7.1 (2.9%)	84.8 (3.1%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	4.4 (1.8%)	72.0 (2.6%)
Allotment/community garden	2.1 (0.9%)	16.5 (0.6%)

Percentages for specific type of place exceed 100 because respondents could select more than one place per visit. Respondent base: Oct 2012 (N=3,617), Nov 2011 to Oct 2012 (N=47,927).

**Table 2 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Oct 2012	Nov 2011 - Oct 2012
Average duration of visits	2 hours 12 minutes	2 hours 4 minutes
Average distance	6.9 miles	6.1 miles
Average expenditure per visit	£37.85	£29.99

Respondent base for distance/duration: Oct 2012 (N=3,617), Nov 2011 to Oct 2012 (N=47,927). Respondent base for expenditure: Oct 2012 (N=917), Nov 2011 to Oct 2012 (N=10,613).

Table 1 shows the estimated volume of visits by type of place during October 2012 and over the period from November 2011 to October 2012.

- In September 2012 visits to towns and cities fractionally exceeded visits to the countryside – but by October 2012 the difference had risen to nearly 9 million visits in favour of urban areas.
- Between September and October 2012, visits to coastal locations fell from 13 percent of all visits to nine percent.
- Between September and October 2012, visits to rivers, lakes, canals and villages all rose. The use of paths, cycleways and bridleways also rose by 20 percent during the same period.

Table 2 shows the average duration, distance, and expenditure for visits taken in October 2012 and over the 12 months from November 2011 to October 2012.

- In October 2012, visits were longer and taken further from home than in October 2011. Overall, 30 percent of visits incurred expenditure, with £37.85 being the average amount spent.

Table 3 shows the volume of visits by type of activity during October 2012 and for the period November 2011 to October 2012.

- Between September and October 2012, visits to the natural environment that included watching wildlife increased by 1.4 million. Visits involving walking with a dog also increased by over 12 million.
- Visits involving running increased by just over three million from 6.5 to 9.6 million, while visits involving informal sports and games increased by nearly two million between September and October 2012.
- In contrast road cycling fell by 1.8 million, off-road cycling by 0.8 million, water sports by 1.2 million, and fishing visits by 1.9 million following September 2012.

**Table 3 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Oct 2012	Nov 2011 to Oct 2012
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	133.4 (54.9%)	1,385 (50.3%)
Walking, not with a dog	60.4 (24.9%)	741.5 (26.9%)
Playing with children	18.6 (7.6%)	239.9 (8.7%)
Eating or drinking out	17.2 (7.1%)	159.0 (5.8%)
Visiting an attraction	8.8 (3.6%)	90.6 (3.3%)
Running	9.6 (3.9%)	93.6 (3.4%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling	3.0 (2.1%)	45.9 (1.7%)
Wildlife watching	5.1 (2.1%)	76.7 (2.8%)
Picnicking	3.2 (1.3%)	42.4 (1.5%)
Road cycling	4.9 (2.0%)	57.1 (2.1%)
Informal games and sport	7.0 (2.9%)	66.2 (2.4%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	4.5 (1.8%)	42.8 (1.6%)
Horseriding	3.3 (1.4%)	30.0 (1.1%)
Offroad cycling/mountain biking	2.0 (0.8%)	24.6 (0.9%)
Swimming outdoors	0.8 (0.3%)	11.3 (0.4%)
Watersports	0.8 (0.3%)	11.8 (0.4%)
Fishing	1.1 (0.4%)	16.1 (0.6%)
Fieldsports	1.4 (0.6%)	12.4 (0.4%)

Percentages for specific type of activity exceed 100 because respondents could select more than one activity per visit. Respondent base: Oct 2012 (N=3,617), Nov 2011 to Oct 2012 (N=47,927).

Figure 2 shows how the proportion of adults taking visits in the last seven days has varied since March 2009.

- During October 2012, an average of 42 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment over the previous week – exactly the same proportion as in October 2011.
- Seasonal variation is obvious, as Figure 2 illustrates however in October typically around 41 percent of adults take at least one visit to the natural environment over the previous week.

**Figure 2 - Proportion of adult population taking visits over the previous seven days by month, Mar 2009 – Oct 2012.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

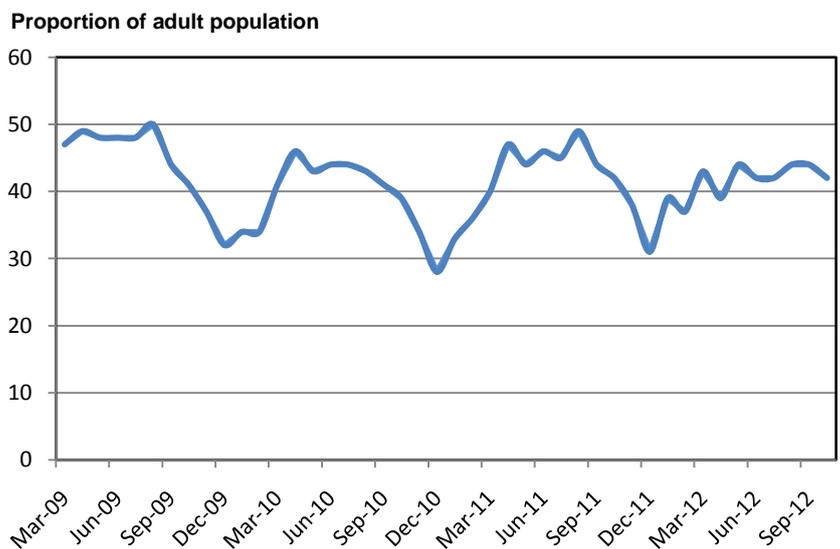
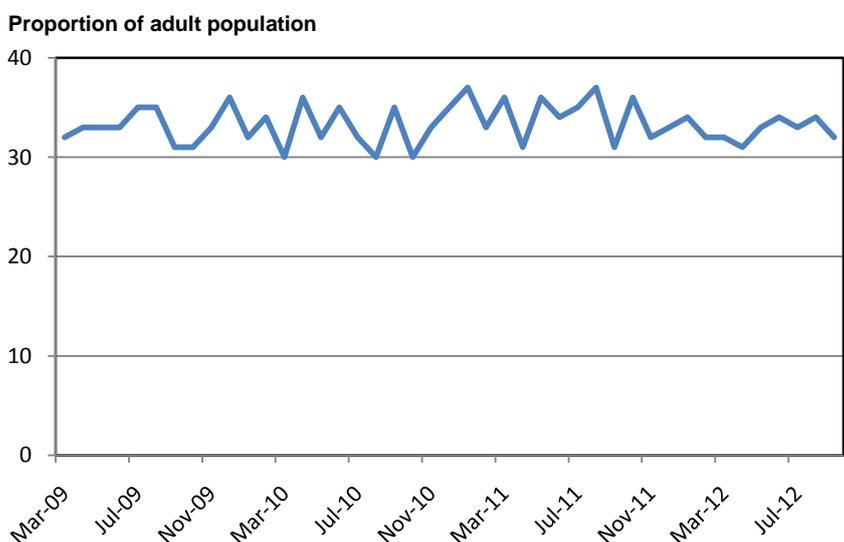


Figure 3 shows how the proportion of adults claiming to visit the natural environment several times a week or more over the previous year has varied since March 2009.

- During October 2012, 33 percent of the English adult population claimed that they usually visited the natural environment several times a week or more over the previous year.
- As figure 3 shows, the monthly trend has been rather static since the series began, with most values varying little from the median of 33 percent.

**Figure 3 - Proportion of adult population visiting several times a week or more over the previous year by month, Mar 2009 – Oct 2012.** Base: Minimum of 800 respondents per month



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For questions about this statistical release please contact: **Stephen Herbert: MENE@naturalengland.org.uk**

# **Notice about revision to the December 2012 release of MENE Official Statistics**

## **18 December 2012**

Natural England is today issuing a revised set of official statistics for its December 2012 release of the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey. This revision is necessary to correct a small number of statistics that were incorrectly reported in the first version of the October data. In addition a small number of edits have been made to the commentary to clarify the period of time covered under the bullets next to tables 1 and 3.

The following results have been revised:

### **Specific types of place for the period October 2012.**

- Proportion of visits taken that included 'paths, cycleways and bridleways' - revised upwards from 2.9 percent to 12.9 percent.
- Volume of visits taken that included 'other open spaces in a town or city' - revised downwards from 31.7 million to 21.7 million.

### **Specific types of place for the period November 2011 – October 2012.**

- Volume of visits taken that included 'other open spaces in the countryside' - revised downwards from 334.4 million to 333.4 million.
- Volume of visits taken that included 'mountain, hill or moorland' - revised upwards from 25.1 million to 72.0 million.

### **Specific activities for the period October 2012.**

- Volumes of visits involving 'playing with children' - revised downwards from 19.6 million to 18.6 million.
- Volumes of visits involving 'visiting an attraction' - revised downwards from 10.7 million to 8.8 million.
- Proportion of visits involving 'visiting an attraction' - revised downwards from 4.2 percent to 3.6 percent.

### **Specific activities for the period November 2011 October 2012.**

- Volumes of visits involving 'visiting an attraction' - revised upwards from 87.2 million to 90.6 million.

A monthly report for October 2012 data that reflects these revisions can be found on the MENE pages on the Natural England website under **Results for Year 4**.

Natural England wishes to apologise the users of its MENE data for any inconvenience caused by these previously undetected errors. For questions about this notice please write to Stephen Herbert at [MENE@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:MENE@naturalengland.org.uk)

# Visits to the Natural Environment

## Monthly update – 16 January 2013

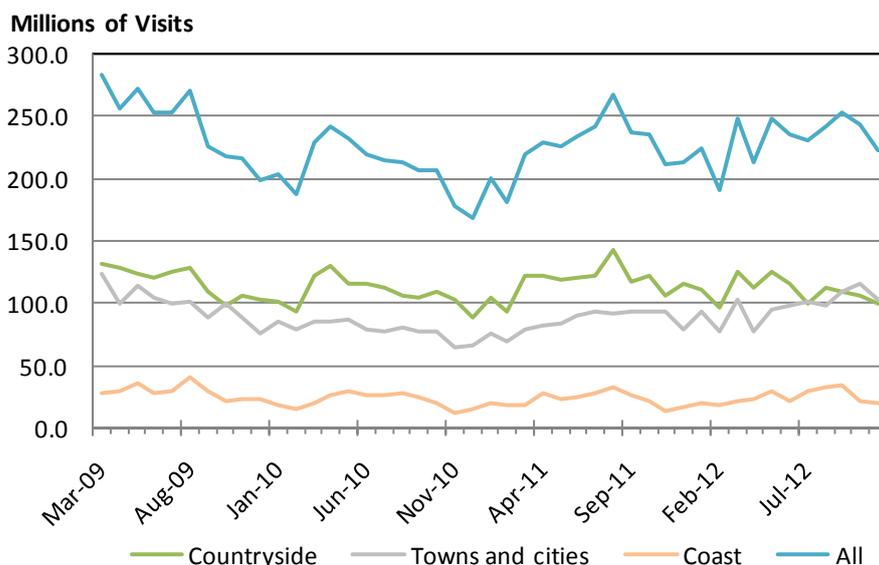


During November 2012, the adult population in England took an estimated 222.7 million visits to the natural environment. This was 20.4 million visits lower than the 243.1 million visits taken during October 2012. A total of 2.77 billion visits were taken to the natural environment between December 2011 and November 2012, half of which were taken to the countryside.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment since March 2009.

- Visits to the natural environment generally fall between October and November and that trend continued in 2012 where the volume of visits fell by 20.4 million between these two months.
- November visits have varied considerably between years from a low in 2010 of 178 million visits to the current high of 2012 of 223 million visits. Whilst extremely wet, November 2012 was characterised by high pressure and mild weather. In contrast, November 2010 was the coldest November since 1993 with strong northerly winds and snowfall

**Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Mar 2009 – Nov 2012 (millions of visits).** Base: Minimum 4,273 respondents per month



**Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Nov 2012	Dec 2011 Nov 2012
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	100.0 (44.9%)	1,332 (48.1%)
Town and city	103.1 (46.3%)	1,153 (41.7%)
Coast	19.6 (8.8%)	284 (10.3%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	55.6 (25.0%)	616.9 (22.3%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	37.8 (17.0%)	384.9 (13.9%)
Another open space in the countryside	22.6 (10.1%)	306.1 (11.1%)
River, lake, canal	19.0 (8.5%)	226.3 (8.2%)
Another open space in town or city	17.5 (7.9%)	234.2 (8.5%)
Woodland/forest	31.5 (14.1%)	324.8 (11.7%)
Beach	11.2 (5.0%)	161.0 (5.8%)
Country park	14.5 (6.5%)	175.8 (6.4%)
Playing field or other recreation area	14.6 (6.6%)	197.7 (7.1%)
Farmland	22.7 (10.2%)	213.8 (7.7%)
Other coastline	6.4 (2.9%)	87.9 (3.2%)
Village	13.1 (5.9%)	144.7 (5.2%)
Children's playground	5.5 (2.5%)	78.9 (2.9%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	5.7 (2.6%)	67.3 (2.4%)
Allotment/community garden	2.4 (1.1%)	16.0 (0.6%)

Note percentages for specific type of place may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one type of place per visit.

Respondent base: Nov 2012 (N=4,273), Dec 2011 to Nov 2012 (N=48,433)

**Table 2 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Nov 2012	Dec 2011 Nov 2012
Average duration of visits	1 hours 55 minutes	2 hours 5 minutes
Average distance	5.1 miles	6.1 miles
Average expenditure per visit	£22.16	£30.19

Respondent base for distance and duration: Nov 2012 (N=4,273), Dec 2011 to Nov 2012 (N=48,433)

Respondent base for expenditure: Nov 2012 (N=837), Dec 2011 to Nov 2012 (N=10,589)

Table 1 shows the estimated volume of visits by type of place during November 2012 and over the period from December 2011 to November 2012.

- In November 2012 urban visits fractionally exceeded rural visits by 3.1 million – continuing the trend from the previous month.
- Between October and November 2012, visits to farmland increased by 36 percent. The use of paths, cycleways and bridleways also rose by over 20 percent. Visits to children's playgrounds, playing fields and other recreational areas all fell by 22 percent.

Table 2 shows the average duration, distance, and expenditure for visits taken in November 2012 and over the 12 months from December 2011 to November 2012.

- In November 2012, visits were longer than in November 2011. Overall, 19 percent of visits incurred expenditure, with £22.16 being the average amount spent.

Table 3 shows the volume of visits by type of activity during November 2012 and for the period December 2011 to November 2012.

- Between October and November 2012, all activities undertaken fell apart from road cycling which increased by 12.8 percent - representing a year-on-year increase since 2009.
- Typically for November, declines were particularly marked for picnicking - down from 3.1 to 0.7 million, visits to the beach - down from nearly 3 million to 1.1 million, and horse riding which fell from 3.3 million visits to 1.6 million visits.

Figure 2 shows how the proportion of adults taking visits in the last seven days has varied since March 2009.

- During November 2012, an average of 37 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment over the previous week - similar to November 2011 and 2009 but higher than November 2010.
- Seasonal variation is obvious, as Figure 2 illustrates however in November typically around 36.5 percent of adults take at least one visit to the natural environment over the previous week.

Figure 3 shows how the proportion of adults claiming to visit the natural environment several times a week or more over the previous year has varied since March 2009.

- During November 2012, 30 percent of the English adult population claimed that they usually visited the natural environment several times a week or more over the previous year.
- As figure 3 shows, there has been nothing in the way of a long term upward or downward trend in the data since the series began.

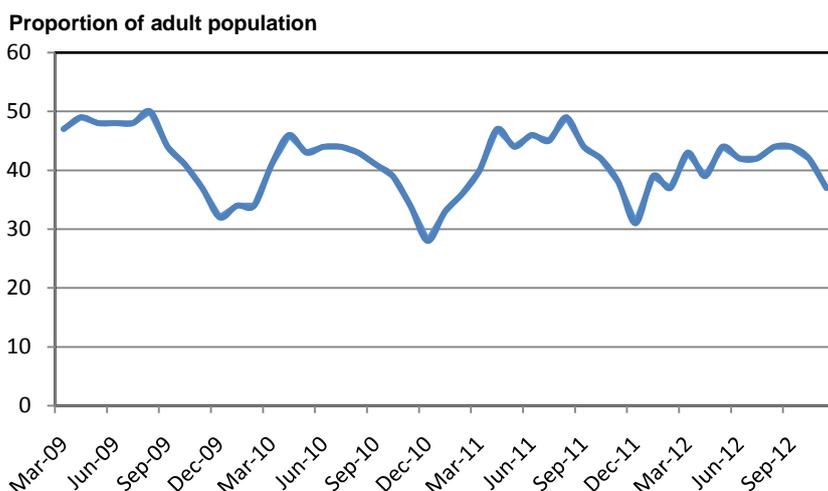
**Table 3 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Nov 2012	Dec 2011 Nov 2012
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	113.2 (50.8%)	1,267.7 (45.8%)
Walking, not with a dog	56.5 (25.4%)	686.4 (24.8%)
Playing with children	14.0 (6.3%)	224.7 (8.1%)
Eating or drinking out	14.7 (6.6%)	148.8 (5.4%)
Visiting an attraction	6.1 (2.7%)	86.6 (3.1%)
Running	7.6 (3.4%)	86.9 (3.1%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling	1.2 (1.8%)	44. (1.6%)
Wildlife watching	4.0 (1.8%)	72. (2.6%)
Picnicking	0.7 (0.3%)	42.1 (1.5%)
Road cycling	5.5 (2.5%)	59.2 (2.1%)
Informal games and sport	4.7 (2.1%)	60.3 (2.2%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	3.1 (1.4%)	40.2 (1.5%)
Horsingriding	1.6 (0.7%)	29.5 (1.1%)
Offroad cycling/mountain biking	2.0 (0.9%)	23.2 (0.8%)
Swimming outdoors	0.7 (0.3%)	11.9 (0.4%)
Watersports	0.8 (0.3%)	12.1 (0.4%)
Fishing	0.8 (0.4%)	15.9 (0.6%)
Fieldsports	1.1 (0.5%)	12.2 (0.4%)

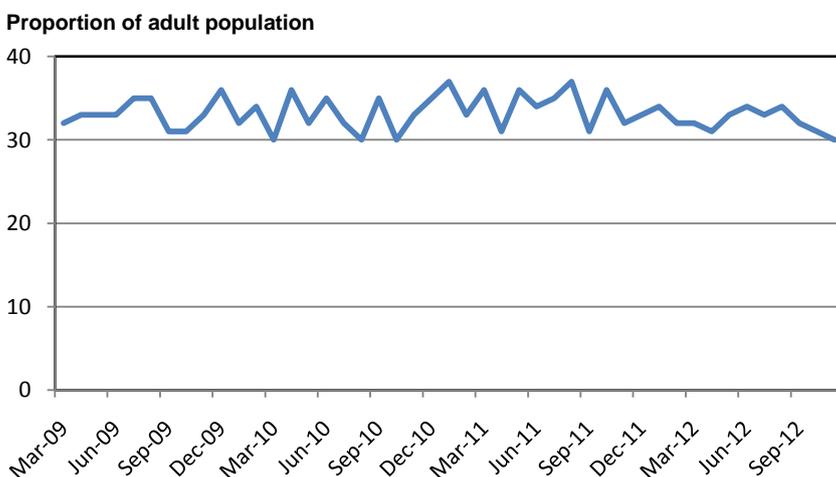
Respondent base: Nov 2012 (N=4,273), Dec 2011 to Nov 2012 (N= 48,433)

Note percentages for activity may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one activity

**Figure 2 - Proportion of adult population taking visits over the previous seven days by month, Mar 2009 – Nov 2012.** Base: Minimum of 4273 respondents per month



**Figure 3 - Proportion of adult population visiting several times a week or more over the previous year by month, Mar 2009 – Nov 2012.** Base: Minimum of 837 respondents per month



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For questions about this statistical release please contact: **Stephen Herbert: MENE@naturalengland.org.uk**

# Visits to the Natural Environment

## Monthly update – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013

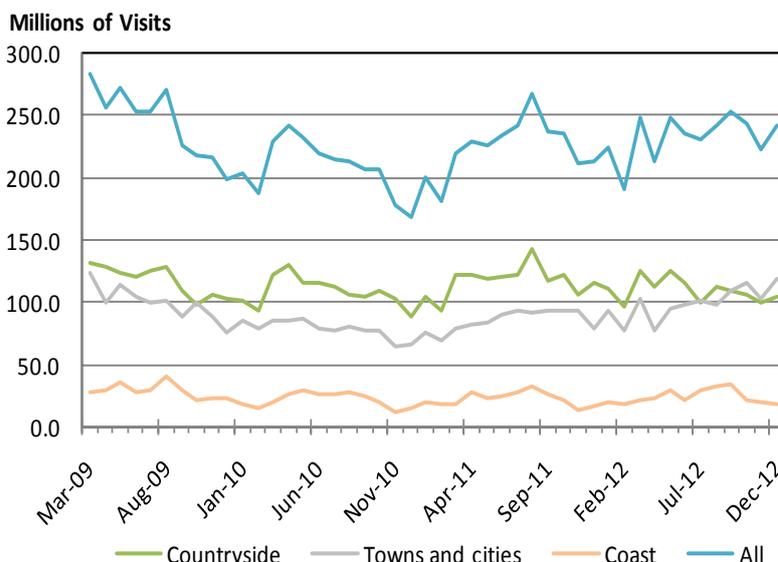


During December 2012, the adult population in England took an estimated 241.5 million visits to the natural environment. This was 18.8 million visits higher than the 222.7 million visits taken during November 2012. A total of 2.8 billion visits were taken to the natural environment between January 2012 and December 2012, half of which were taken to the countryside.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment since March 2009.

- Visits to the natural environment generally fall or increase slightly between November and December every year, but in 2012 the volume of visits increased by 18.8 million between these two months.
- December visits have varied considerably between years from a low of 168 million in 2010 to the current high of 241 million visits in 2012. Provisional Met Office figures suggest that December 2012 was the wettest December since 1978 receiving 173 percent of average December rainfall. It was however a sunny month with 125 percent of average sunshine hours.

**Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Mar 2009 – Dec 2012 (millions of visits).** Base: Minimum 3,331 respondents per month



**Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Dec 2012	Jan 2012 Dec 2012
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	103.9 (43.0%)	1320 (47.2%)
Town and city	118.9 (49.2%)	1,192 (42.6%)
Coast	18.7 (7.7%)	286 (10.2%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	62.5 (25.9%)	631.2 (22.6%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	45.4 (18.8%)	400.1 (14.3%)
Another open space in the countryside	22.7 (9.4%)	297.8 (10.6%)
River, lake, canal	15.3 (6.3%)	225.2 (8.1%)
Another open space in town or city	18.6 (7.7%)	232.7 (8.3%)
Woodland/forest	28.4 (11.8%)	317.8 (11.4%)
Beach	7.6 (3.1%)	157.6 (5.6%)
Country park	18.9 (7.8%)	181.2 (6.5%)
Playing field or other recreation area	17.1 (7.1%)	200.5 (7.2%)
Farmland	17.7 (7.3%)	211.2 (7.6%)
Other coastline	7.8 (3.2%)	92.6 (3.3%)
Village	17.7 (7.3%)	152.0 (5.4%)
Children's playground	5.4 (2.2%)	80.2 (2.9%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	7.0 (2.9%)	69.8 (2.5%)
Allotment/community garden	1.7 (0.7%)	16.3 (0.6%)

Note percentages for specific type of place may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one type of place per visit.

Respondent base: Dec 2012 (N=3,331), Jan 2012 to Dec 2012 (N=47,738)

**Table 2 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Dec 2012	Jan 2012 Dec 2012
Average duration of visits	1 hours 42 minutes	2 hours 6 minutes
Average distance	4.3 miles	6.2 miles
Average expenditure per visit	£18.07	£28.68

Respondent base for distance and duration: Dec 2012 (N=3,331), Jan 2012 to Dec 2012 (N=47,738)

Respondent base for expenditure: Dec 2012 (N=747), Jan 2012 to Dec 2012 (N=10,490)

Table 1 shows the volume of visits by type of place during December 2012 and over the period from January 2012 to December 2012.

- In December 2012 urban visits exceeded rural visits by 15 million visits continuing a trend in favour of visits to urban areas that started in September 2012.
- Between November and December 2012, visits to villages, country parks, mountains and hills all rose. The use of open spaces, allotments and farmland all fell in the same period.

Table 2 shows the average duration, distance, and expenditure for visits taken in December 2012 and over the 12 months from January 2012 to December 2012.

- In December 2012, visits were longer and taken further from home than in December 2011. 30 percent of visits incurred expenditure, with £18.07 being the average amount spent, compared with December 2011 where 18 percent of visits incurred a spend of £36.25.

Table 3 shows the volume of visits by type of activity during December 2012 and for the period January 2012 to December 2012.

- Between November and December 2012, visits to the natural environment that included watching wildlife increased by one million. Visits involving walking with a dog also increased by just under 21 million.
- Between November and December 2012, visits involving running increased by over half a million visits from 7.5 to 8.1 million, while visits involving walking without a dog increased by 4.2 million.
- In contrast water sports fell from 0.8 to 0.3 million visits; and fishing fell from a peak of 3 million visits in September 2012 to 0.4 million visits.

**Table 3 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Dec 2012	Jan 2012 Dec 2012
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	134.2 (55.6%)	1,270. (45.4%)
Walking, not with a dog	60.7 (25.1%)	695.9 (24.9%)
Playing with children	14.6 (6.0%)	223.9 (8.0%)
Eating or drinking out	13.2 (5.4%)	154.3 (5.5%)
Visiting an attraction	4.8 (2.0%)	88.2 (3.2%)
Running	8.1 (3.4%)	89. (3.2%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling	1.1 (2.1%)	43.5 (16%)
Wildlife watching	5.0 (2.1%)	71.2 (2.5%)
Picnicking	0.5 (0.2%)	42. (1.5%)
Road cycling	5.6 (2.3%)	62.6 (2.2%)
Informal games and sport	2.8 (1.1%)	60.4 (2.2%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	3.2 (1.3%)	41. (1.5%)
Horseriding	1.6 (0.6%)	28.4 (10%)
Offroad cycling/mountain biking	1.2 (0.5%)	23.7 (0.8%)
Swimming outdoors	0.0 (0.0%)	11.9 (0.4%)
Watersports	0.3 (0.1%)	12.2 (0.4%)
Fishing	0.4 (0.2%)	16.1 (0.6%)
Fieldsports	0.8 (0.3%)	11.9 (0.4%)

Respondent base: Dec 2012 (N=3,331), Jan 2012 to Dec 2012 (N=47,738)

Note percentages for activity may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one activity

Figure 2 shows how the proportion of adults taking visits in the last seven days has varied since March 2009.

- During December 2012, an average of 35 percent of the English adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment over the previous week. In December 2011 this was 31 percent.
- Seasonal variation is obvious, as Figure 2 illustrates however in December typically around 31.5 percent of adults take at least one visit to the natural environment over the previous week.

**Figure 2 - Proportion of adult population taking visits over the previous seven days by month, Mar 2009 – Dec 2012.** Base: Minimum of 3,331 respondents per month

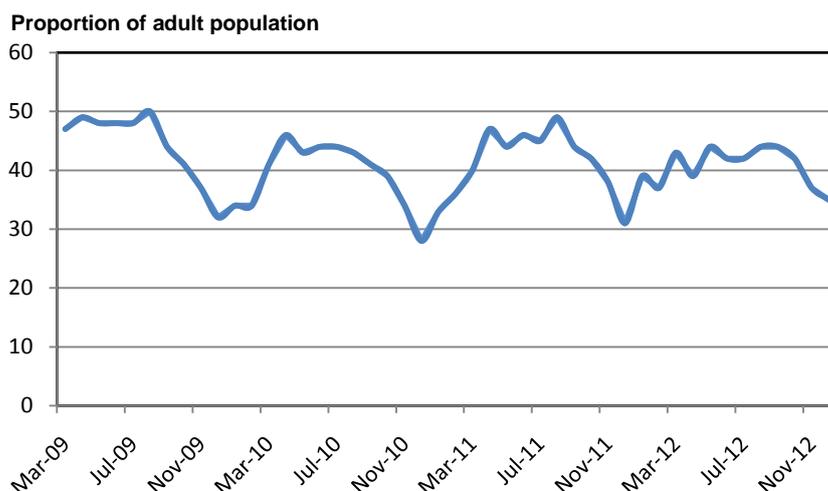
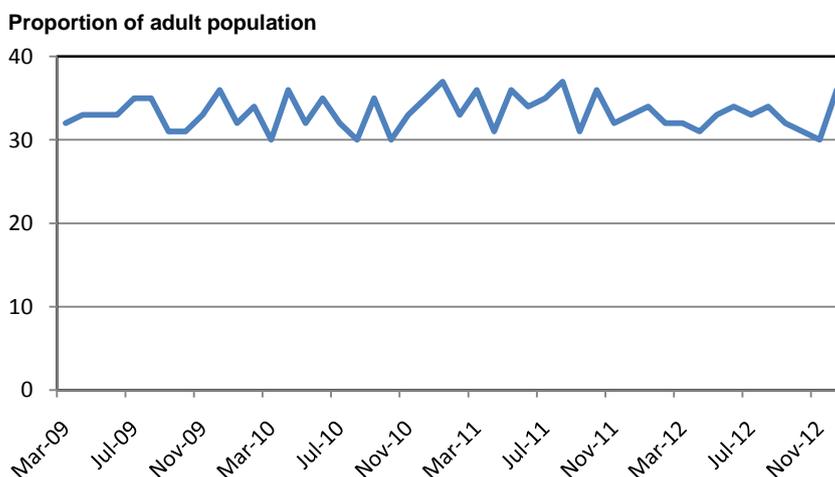


Figure 3 shows how the proportion of adults reporting visits to the natural environment several times a week or more over the previous year has varied since March 2009.

- During December 2012, 36 percent of the English adult population reported that they usually visited the natural environment several times a week or more over the previous year.
- As figure 3 shows, there has been nothing in the way of a long term trend in the data since the series began, with most values varying little from the median of 33 percent.

**Figure 3 - Proportion of adult population visiting several times a week or more over the previous year by month, Mar 2009 – Dec 2012.** Base: Minimum of 747 respondents per month



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For questions about this statistical release please contact: **Stephen Herbert: MENE@naturalengland.org.uk**

# Visits to the Natural Environment

## Monthly update – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013

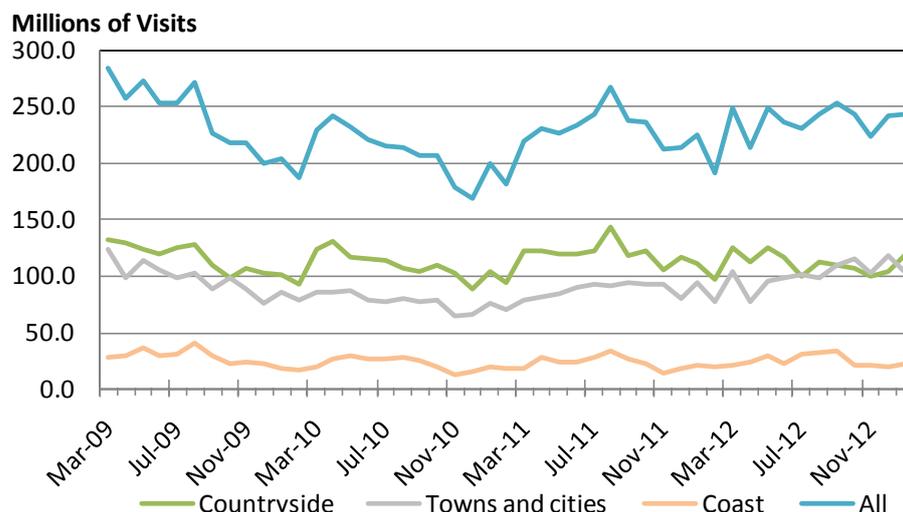


During January 2013, the adult population in England took an estimated 243.3 million visits to the natural environment. This was 1.8 million visits higher than the 241.5 million visits taken during December 2012. A total of 2.8 billion visits were taken to the natural environment between February 2012 and January 2013, half of which were taken to the countryside.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment since March 2009.

- Visits to the natural environment increased between December and January. The percentage increase in January 2013 was low at 0.7 percent compared to the 18.9 percent increase from December 2010 to January 2011.
- January visits have varied considerably between years from a low of 199.7 million in 2011 to the current high of 243.3 million visits in 2013. Provisional Met Office figures suggest that January 2013 was slightly colder than average, receiving 83 percent of the long-term average sunshine. January 2013 was also a drier month, receiving less than the long-term average rainfall.

**Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Mar 2009 – Jan 2013 (millions of visits).** Base: Minimum 4397 respondents per month



**Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Jan 2013	Feb 2012 Jan 2013
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	118.8 (48.8%)	132.8 (47.2%)
Town and city	102.2 (42.0%)	120.0 (42.6%)
Coast	22.3 (9.2%)	28.8 (10.2%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	64.8 (26.6%)	64.9 (22.9%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	43.2 (17.8%)	40.3 (14.3%)
Another open space in the countryside	20.3 (8.3%)	29.4 (10.5%)
River, lake, canal	18.5 (7.6%)	22.9 (8.2%)
Another open space in town or city	22.3 (9.2%)	23.2 (8.2%)
Woodland/forest	32.4 (13.3%)	32.7 (11.4%)
Beach	11.0 (4.5%)	15.2 (5.7%)
Country park	16.6 (6.8%)	18.4 (6.6%)
Playing field or other recreation area	17.1 (7.0%)	19.4 (6.9%)
Farmland	22.1 (9.1%)	21.3 (7.6%)
Other coastline	8.7 (3.6%)	9.2 (3.3%)
Village	10.9 (4.5%)	15.1 (5.4%)
Children's playground	5.1 (2.1%)	8.1 (2.8%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	5.9 (2.4%)	7.4 (2.5%)
Allotment/community garden	2.0 (0.8%)	1.5 (0.6%)

Note percentages for specific type of place may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one type of place per visit.

Respondent base: Jan 2013 (N=4,397), Feb 2012 to Jan 2013 (N= 47,277)

**Table 2 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Jan 2013	Feb 2012 Jan 2013
Average duration of visits	1 hours 40 minutes	2 hours 6 minutes
Average distance	4.0 miles	6.2 miles
Average expenditure per visit	£29.03	£30.05

Respondent base for distance and duration: Jan 2013 (N=4,397), Feb 2012 to Jan 2013 (N= 47,277)

Respondent base for expenditure: Jan 2013 (N=851), Feb 2012 to Jan 2013 (N= 10,478)

Table 1 shows the volume of visits by type of place during January 2013 and over the period from February 2012 to January 2013.

- In January 2013 rural visits exceeded urban visits by 16.6 million visits reversing a trend in favour of visits to urban areas that started in September 2012.
- Between December 2012 and January 2013, visits to the beach, farmland and rivers, lakes and canals all rose. Visits to villages, mountains, hills and country parks all fell in the same period.

Table 2 shows the average duration, distance, and expenditure for visits taken in January 2013 and over the 12 months from February 2012 to January 2013.

- In January 2013, visits were slightly longer and taken the same distance from home than in January 2012. 17 percent of visits incurred expenditure, with £29.03 being the average amount spent, compared with January 2012 where 20 percent of visits incurred a spend of £12.50.

Table 3 shows the volume of visits by type of activity during January 2013 and for the period February 2012 to January 2013.

- Between December 2012 and January 2013, visits to the natural environment that included water sports nearly tripled to one million. Visits involving horse riding also increased by 1.9 million. Visits involving off road cycling and mountain biking increased by 0.8 million from 1.2 to two million visits.
- In contrast visits that involved appreciating scenery from a car fell from 3.2 to 1.7 million visits - the lowest number of visits since December 2010. Beach visits fell from 1.1 to 0.8 million visits and visits that involved eating out fell from 13.1 to 10.3 million visits.

Figure 2 shows how the proportion of adults taking visits in the last seven days has varied since March 2009.

- During January 2013, an average of 38 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment over the previous week. In January 2012 this was 39 percent.
- Seasonal variation is obvious, as Figure 2 illustrates however in January typically around 36 percent of adults take at least one visit to the natural environment over the previous week.

Figure 3 shows how the proportion of adults reporting visits to the natural environment several times a week or more over the previous year has varied since March 2009.

- During January 2013, 40 percent of the English adult population reported that they usually visited the natural environment several times a week or more over the previous year.
- The proportion claiming to normally visit the natural environment several times a week or more stood at its highest level since the MENE survey began in March 2009.

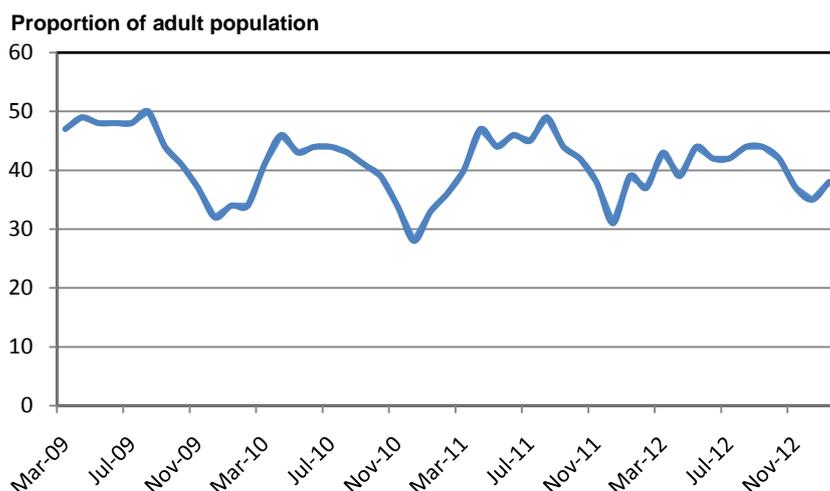
**Table 3 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Jan 2013	Feb 2012 Jan 2013
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	131.1 (53.9%)	1,277.5 (45.4%)
Walking, not with a dog	66.3 (27.3%)	700.9 (24.9%)
Playing with children	13.8 (5.7%)	221.5 (7.9%)
Eating or drinking out	10.3 (4.2%)	156.5 (5.6%)
Visiting an attraction	3.8 (1.6%)	88.2 (3.1%)
Running	6.6 (2.7%)	85.8 (3.0%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling	0.8 (1.6%)	42.3 (1.5%)
Wildlife watching	3.9 (1.6%)	70.1 (2.5%)
Picnicking	0.5 (0.2%)	41.2 (1.5%)
Road cycling	5.1 (2.1%)	63.0 (2.2%)
Informal games and sport	3.3 (1.4%)	60.0 (2.1%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	1.7 (0.7%)	39.7 (1.4%)
Horsingriding	3.5 (1.5%)	30.0 (1.1%)
Offroad cycling/mountain biking	2.0 (0.8%)	22.9 (0.8%)
Swimming outdoors	0.4 (0.2%)	12.2 (0.4%)
Watersports	1.0 (0.4%)	12.7 (0.5%)
Fishing	0.4 (0.2%)	15.8 (0.6%)
Fieldsports	0.5 (0.2%)	11.4 (0.4%)

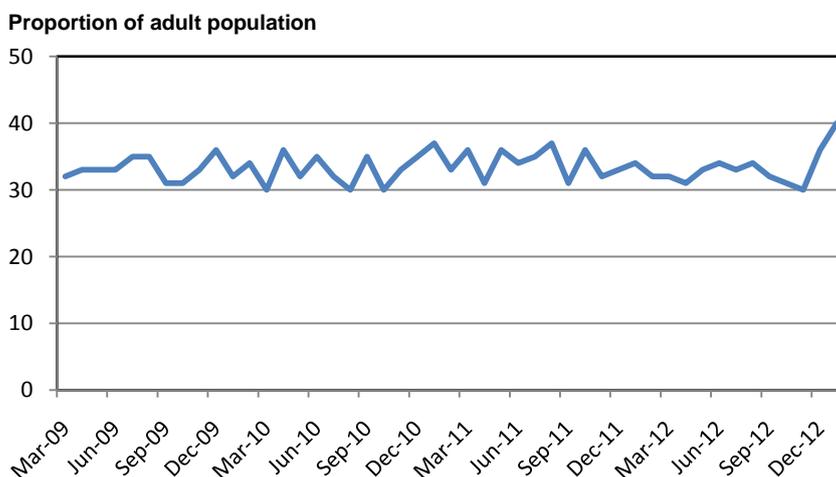
Respondent base: Jan 2013 (N=4,397), Feb 2012 to Jan 2013 (N= 47,277)

Note percentages for activity may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one activity

**Figure 2 - Proportion of adult population taking visits over the previous seven days by month, Mar 2009 – Jan 2013.** Base: Minimum of 4,397 respondents per month



**Figure 3 - Proportion of adult population visiting several times a week or more over the previous year by month, Mar 2009 – Jan 2013.** Base: Minimum of 851 respondents per month



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# Visits to the Natural Environment

## Monthly update – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013



During February 2013, the adult population in England took an estimated 224.7 million visits to the natural environment. This was 18.6 million visits lower than the 243.3 million visits taken during January 2013. A total of 2.8 billion visits were taken to the natural environment between March 2012 and February 2013, half of which were taken to the countryside.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment since March 2009.

- Visits to the natural environment generally fall between January and February, and 2013 saw a fall of 7.7 percent, the smallest percentage fall since 2010.
- Visits in February have varied considerably between years from a low of 180.4 million in 2011 to the current high of 224.7 million visits. Provisional Met Office figures suggest that February 2013 was a dry month with some snow showers. The temperature was 1.2 degrees below average and strong south-easterly winds - making it feel very cold.

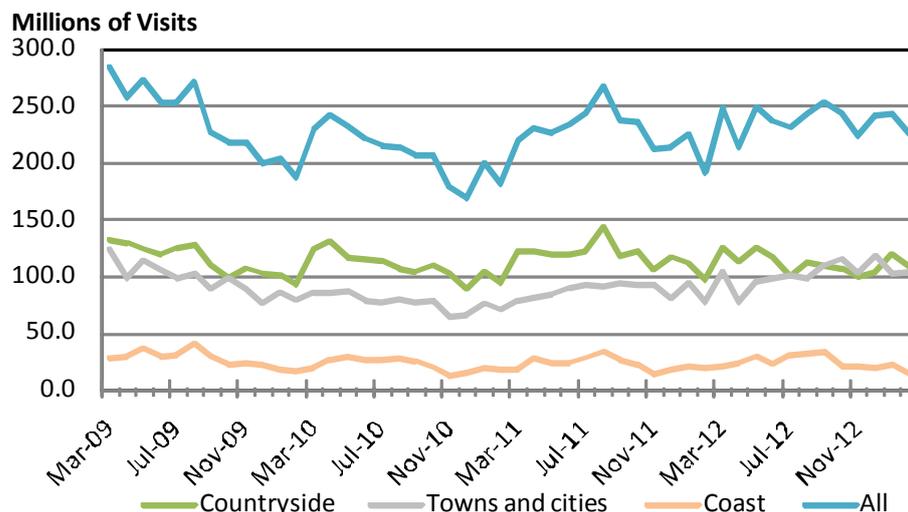
Table 1 shows the estimated volume of visits by type of place during February 2013 and over the period from March 2012 to February 2013.

- Since 2010, rural visits in February have exceeded urban visits. In 2011 there were 24 million more rural visits than urban visits. In 2013 rural visits exceeded urban visits by 4.8 million, the smallest margin for any February.
- Between January and February 2013, visits to allotments nearly tripled with open spaces in the countryside and children's playgrounds also recording increases. Visits to the beach and other

Table 2 shows the average duration, distance, and expenditure for visits taken in February 2013 and over the 12 months from March 2012 to February 2013.

- In February 2013, visits were longer and taken further from home than in January 2013. Overall, 16 percent of visits incurred expenditure, with £18.98 being the average amount spent.

**Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Mar 2009 – Feb 2013 (millions of visits).** Base: Minimum 3433 respondents per month



**Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Feb 2013	Mar 2012 Feb 2013
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	108.2 (48.2%)	1,339 (47.0%)
Town and city	103.4 (46.0%)	1,226 (43.0%)
Coast	13.1 (5.8%)	283 (9.9%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	51.5 (22.9%)	652.6 (22.9%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	35.8 (15.9%)	407.2 (14.3%)
Another open space in the countryside	28.9 (12.9%)	299.2 (10.5%)
River, lake, canal	18.4 (8.2%)	229.7 (8.1%)
Another open space in town or city	19.2 (8.5%)	231.3 (8.1%)
Woodland/forest	26.6 (11.8%)	322.5 (11.3%)
Beach	7.0 (3.1%)	157.3 (5.5%)
Country park	13.7 (6.1%)	191.1 (6.7%)
Playing field or other recreation area	15.0 (6.7%)	192.2 (6.7%)
Farmland	20.7 (9.2%)	221.0 (7.8%)
Other coastline	2.9 (1.3%)	88.9 (3.1%)
Village	12.6 (5.6%)	153.4 (5.4%)
Children's playground	6.5 (2.9%)	79.7 (2.8%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	4.5 (2.0%)	67.6 (2.4%)
Allotment/community garden	5.2 (2.3%)	20.9 (0.7%)

Note percentages for specific type of place may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one type of place per visit.

Respondent base: Feb 2013 (N=3,433), Mar 2012 to Feb 2013 (N= 46,749)

**Table 2 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Feb 2013	Mar 2012 Feb 2013
Average duration of visits	1 hours 53 minutes	2 hours 7 minutes
Average distance	4.7 miles	6.2 miles
Average expenditure per visit	£18.98	£26.56

Respondent base for distance and duration: Feb 2013 (N=3,433), Mar 2012 to Feb 2013 (N= 46,749)

Respondent base for expenditure: Feb 2013 (N=861), Mar 2012 to Feb 2013 (N= 10,490)

Table 3 shows the volume of visits by type of activity during February 2013 and for the period March 2012 to February 2013.

- Between January and February 2013 visits to the natural environment that included picnicking more than doubled to 1.2 million. Perhaps surprisingly, visits to the beach and swimming outdoors also showed large percentage increases to 1.4 and 0.7 million visits respectively.
- In contrast horse riding fell by 1.6 million. Off-road cycling and water sports both fell by 0.3 million.

Figure 2 shows how the proportion of adults taking visits in the last seven days has varied since March 2009.

- During February 2013, an average of 40 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment over the previous week. This continues a steady increase from February 2010 (34 percent), 2011 (36 percent) and 2012 (37 percent).
- Seasonal variation is obvious, as Figure 2 illustrates however in February typically around 36.8 percent of adults take at least one visit to the natural environment over the previous week.

Figure 3 shows how the proportion of adults claiming to visit the natural environment several times a week or more over the previous year has varied since March 2009.

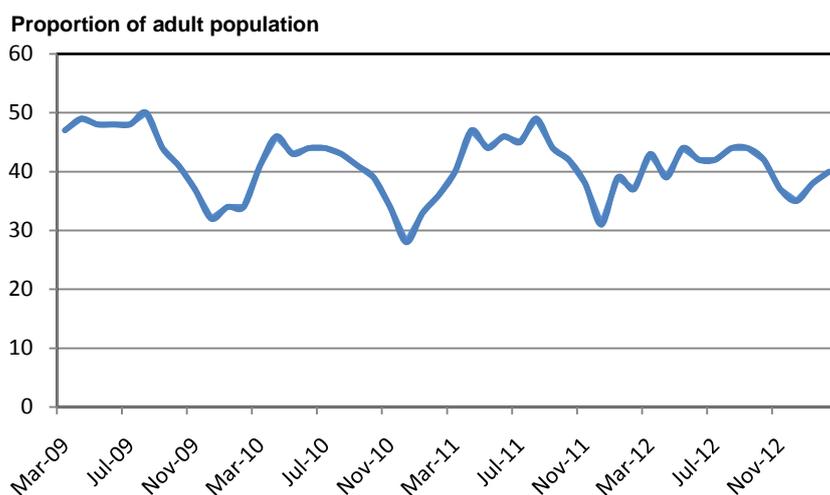
- During February 2013, 32 percent of the English adult population reported that they usually visited the natural environment several times a week.
- As figure 3 shows, this represents a marked fall from January 2013 when the figure was 40 percent. The long term trend in the data since the series began shows most values vary little from the median of 33 percent.

**Table 3 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

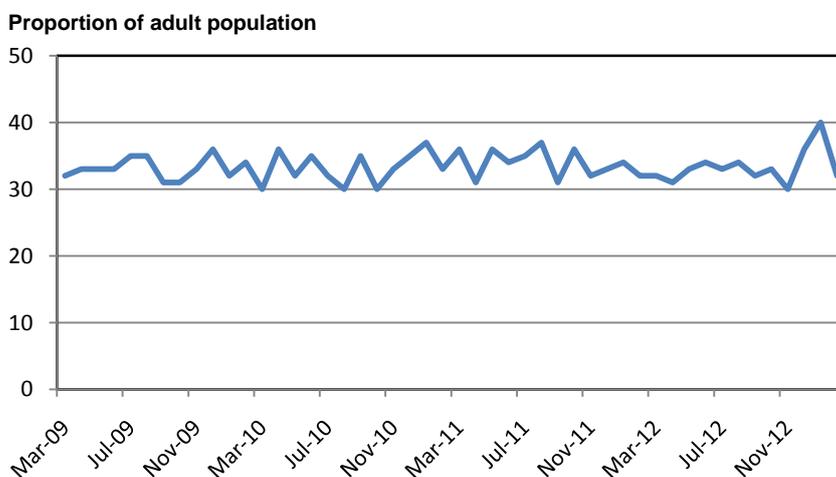
	Feb 2013	Mar 2012 Feb 2013
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	116.8 (52.0%)	1,290.1 (45.3%)
Walking, not with a dog	59.4 (26.4%)	711.2 (25.0%)
Playing with children	13.9 (6.2%)	220.8 (7.8%)
Eating or drinking out	11.7 (5.2%)	158.3 (5.6%)
Visiting an attraction	5.9 (2.6%)	90.2 (3.2%)
Running	7.5 (3.3%)	87. (3.1%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling	1.4 (2.4%)	41.6 (1.5%)
Wildlife watching	5.3 (2.4%)	70.6 (2.5%)
Picnicking	1.2 (0.6%)	41.5 (1.5%)
Road cycling	4.7 (2.1%)	66.3 (2.3%)
Informal games and sport	4.0 (1.8%)	60.9 (2.1%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	2.2 (1.0%)	39.3 (1.4%)
Horseriding	2.0 (0.9%)	28.9 (1.0%)
Offroad cycling/mountain biking	1.7 (0.8%)	24.4 (0.9%)
Swimming outdoors	0.7 (0.3%)	12.6 (0.4%)
Watersports	0.6 (0.3%)	13.1 (0.5%)
Fishing	0.5 (0.2%)	15.1 (0.5%)
Fieldsports	0.6 (0.3%)	11.4 (0.4%)

Respondent base: Feb 2013 (N=3,433), Mar 2012 to Feb 2013 (N= 46,749)  
 Note percentages for activity may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one activity

**Figure 2 - Proportion of adult population taking visits over the previous seven days by month, Mar 2009 – Feb 2013.** Base: Minimum of 3433 respondents per month



**Figure 3 - Proportion of adult population visiting several times a week or more over the previous year by month, Mar 2009 – Feb 2013.** Base: Minimum of 861 respondents per month



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