

# Visits to the Natural Environment

## Monthly update – 7 March 2012



7 March 2012

During January 2012, the adult population in England (aged 16 and over) took an estimated 225 million visits to the natural environment. This is 12 million visits more than the 213 million visits taken in December 2011 and a significant increase on the 200 million visits taken in January 2011. On average, 39 percent of the adult population visited the natural environment in the previous seven days during January 2012. A total of 2.7 billion visits were taken between February 2011 and January 2012.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment in the 12 month period from February 2011 to January 2012.

- The volume of visits in January 2012 was much higher than the December 2011 figure (225 and 212.6 million visits respectively).
- The volume of visits in January 2012 was also significantly higher than in January 2011 (199.7 million) and January 2010 (204.0 million). With Britain experiencing one of the warmest winters on record, the exceptionally mild weather is likely to have contributed to the increase in visits during the month when compared to previous years.

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

- In January 2012, around half of visits were taken to places in the countryside (49 percent), a lower proportion compared to all visits taken in the 12 months from February 2011 to January 2012 (52 percent).
- Towns and cities accounted for 42 percent of visits in January 2012, a higher proportion than the 12 months from February 2011 to January 2012 (38 percent). Nine percent were taken in coastal locations.

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

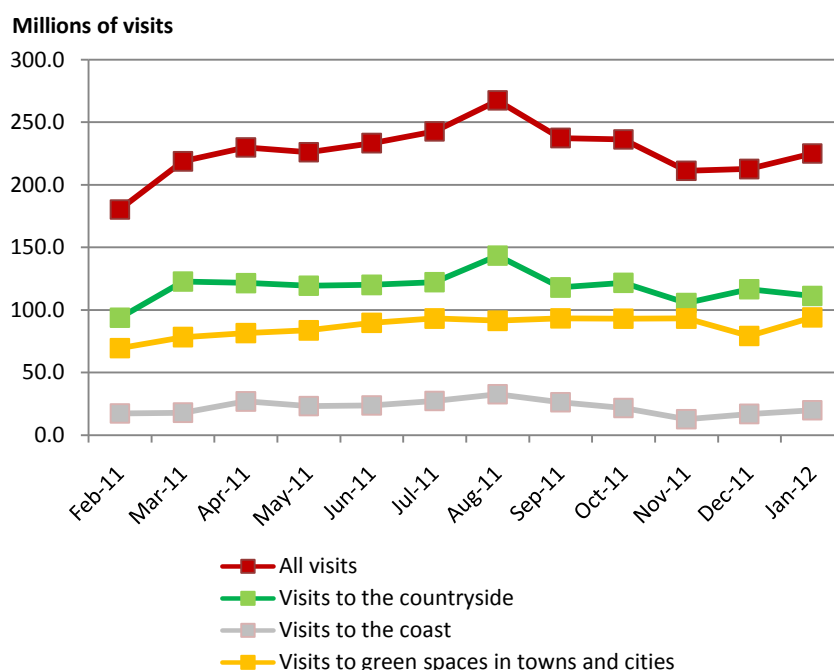


Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).

	Jan 2012	Feb 2011 – Jan 2012
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	111.1 (49.4%)	1415.1 (52.0%)
Town and city	94.1 (41.8%)	1040.4 (38.2%)
Coast	19.8 (8.8%)	265.9 (9.8%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	50.1 (22.3%)	621.9 (22.9%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	40.0 (17.8%)	421.8 (15.5%)
Woodland/forest	29.5 (13.1%)	351.8 (12.9%)
Another open space in the countryside	27.3 (12.1%)	324.3 (11.9%)
Playing field or other recreation area	23.2 (10.3%)	225.9 (8.3%)
Another open space in town or city	22.7 (10.1%)	319.7 (11.8%)
Farmland	20.0 (8.9%)	242.5 (8.9%)
River, lake, canal	13.7 (6.1%)	253.2 (9.3%)
Country park	13.1 (5.8%)	200.1 (7.4%)
Village	10.7 (4.7%)	198.4 (7.3%)
Beach	9.3 (4.2%)	157.7 (5.8%)
Other coastline	9.1 (4.0%)	90.6 (3.3%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	5.2 (2.3%)	72.3 (2.7%)
Children's playground	5.2 (2.3%)	77.4 (2.8%)
Allotment/community garden	1.8 (0.8%)	20.5 (0.8%)

Respondent base: Jan 2012 (N=4,858), Feb 2011 to Jan 2012 (N=47,664)  
 Note percentages for specific type of place may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one type of place per visit.

Table 2 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken.

- During January 2012, 55 percent of visits involved walking with a dog, while 27 percent of visits involved walking without a dog.
- Other significant activities included playing with children and running.
- Compared to the overall February 2011 to January 2012 period, a higher proportion of the visits taken in January 2012 involved walking with a dog (55 percent compared to 51 percent).

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

- In January 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 eight percentage points higher than during December 2011 (31 percent), six percentage points higher than the January 2011 figure (33 percent) and five higher than January 2010 (34 percent).

The average duration of visits in January 2012 was 1 hour and 36 minutes and the average distance travelled was 4.0 miles. Both of these values are less than the averages for the overall February 2011 – January 2012 period, reflecting the closer to home profile of visits taken in the winter months.

One in five (20 percent) of visits taken in January 2012 involved expenditure with the average spend per visit being £13. This is less than the 12 month average (£27), associated with the fact that those visits most likely to incur expenditure such as going to the seaside, occur less frequently in winter.

**Table 2- Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

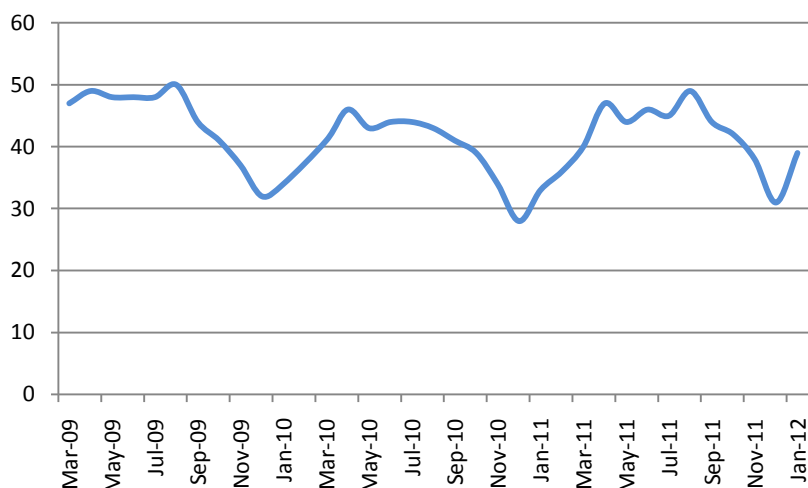
	Jan 2012	Feb 2011 – Jan 2012
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	123.6 (54.9%)	1,378.9 (50.7%)
Walking, not with a dog	61.3 (27.2%)	727.1 (26.7%)
Playing with children	16.2 (7.2%)	249.0 (9.2%)
Running	9.7 (4.3%)	86.2 (3.2%)
Eating or drinking out	8.2 (3.6%)	159.5 (5.9%)
Wildlife watching	5.1 (2.3%)	78.6 (2.9%)
Road cycling	4.6 (2.1%)	56.6 (2.1%)
Visiting an attraction	3.8 (1.7%)	86.7 (3.2%)
Informal games and sport	3.7 (1.7%)	75.8 (2.8%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	3.0 (1.3%)	51.6 (1.9%)
Off road cycling/mountain biking	2.8 (1.3%)	29.2 (1.1%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	2.0 (0.9%)	52.3 (1.9%)
Horse riding	1.9 (0.9%)	31.6 (1.2%)
Picnicking	1.3 (0.6%)	59.0 (2.2%)
Fieldsports	1.0 (0.5%)	8.7 (0.3%)
Fishing	0.8 (0.3%)	16.1 (0.6%)
Watersports	0.4 (0.2%)	13.1 (0.5%)
Swimming outdoors	0.1 (0.0%)	11.4 (0.4%)

Respondent base: Jan 2012 (N=4,858), Feb 2011 to Jan 2012 (N=47,664)

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

**Figure 2 - Percentage of adult population taking visits in the previous 7 days by month, Mar 2009 – Jan 2012.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

Percentage of adult population



**Table 3 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Jan 2012	Feb 2011 - Jan 2012
<b>Average duration of visits</b>	1 hour 36 minutes	1 hour 57 minutes
<b>Average distance travelled to reach visit destination</b>	4.0 miles	6.0 miles
<b>Percentage of visits involving any expenditure</b>	20%	26%
<b>Average expenditure per visit (excluding visits with no spend)</b>	£13	£27

Respondent base for distance and duration: Jan 2012 (N=4,858), Feb 2011 to Jan 2012 (N=47,664)

Respondent base for expenditure: Jan 2012 (N=863), Feb 2011 to Jan 2012 (N=10,604)

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 natural environment, defined as 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. For more information go to: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/research/mene.aspx>

# Visits to the Natural Environment

Monthly update – 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012



4<sup>th</sup> April 2012

During February 2012, the adult population in England (aged 16 and over) took an estimated 191 million visits to the natural environment. This is 34 million visits less than the 225 million visits taken in January 2012 and the lowest number of visits taken since March 2011. On average, 37 percent of the adult population visited the natural environment in the previous seven days during February 2012. A total of 2.7 billion visits were taken between March 2011 and January 2012.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment in the 12 month period from March 2011 to February 2012.

- The volume of visits in February 2012 was much lower than the January 2012 figure (190.8 and 225.0 million visits respectively).
- However, the volume of visits in February 2012 was higher than in February 2011 (180.4 million) and February 2010 (187.0 million). February typically has a lower number of visits than other months, with the higher February 2012 figure most likely due to a milder start to the year.

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

- In February 2012, just over half of visits were taken to places in the countryside (51 percent), a similar proportion compared to all visits taken in the 12 months from March 2011 to February 2012 (52 percent).
- 41 percent of visits were taken in towns and cities in February 2012, a higher proportion to the 12 months from February 2011 to January 2012 (38 percent), while 10 percent were taken in coastal locations.

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

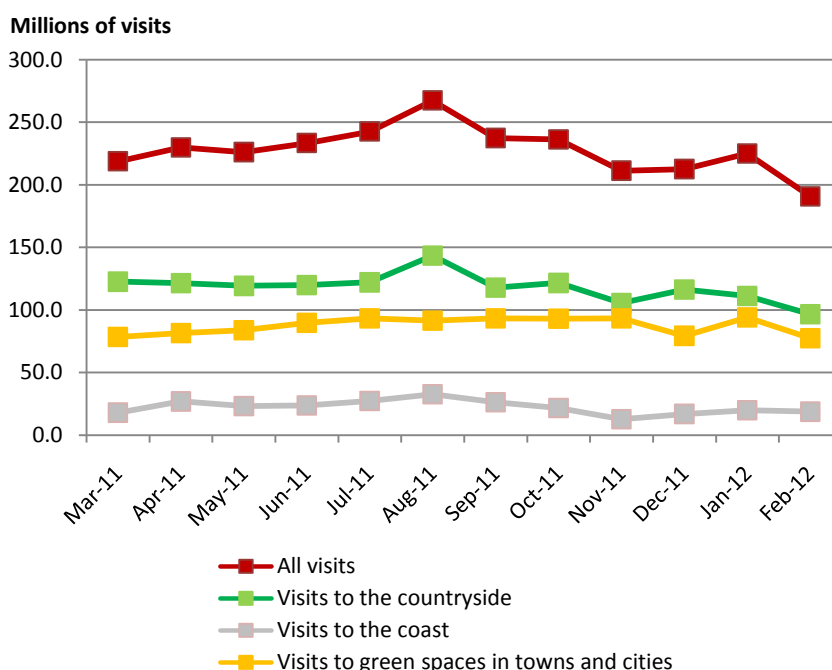


Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).

	Feb 2012	Mar 2011 – Feb 2012
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	96.7 (50.6%)	1418.1 (51.9%)
Town and city	77.4 (40.6%)	1048.3 (38.3%)
Coast	18.7 (9.8%)	267.4 (9.8%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	44.8 (23.5%)	629.1 (23.0%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	31.9 (16.7%)	429.6 (15.7%)
Another open space in the countryside	25.1 (13.2%)	322.3 (11.8%)
Woodland/forest	24.8 (13.0%)	357.5 (13.0%)
Another open space in town or city	20.1 (10.5%)	219.7 (8.0%)
River, lake, canal	18.7 (9.8%)	261.5 (9.6%)
Playing field or other recreation area	17.2 (9.0%)	229.2 (8.4%)
Farmland	13.0 (3.8%)	242.6 (8.8%)
Village	11.3 (5.9%)	193.7 (7.1%)
Beach	9.0 (4.7%)	154.9 (5.7%)
Country park	7.4 (3.9%)	195.4 (7.2%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	7.4 (3.9%)	76.2 (2.8%)
Children's playground	6.9 (3.6%)	80.2 (2.9%)
Other coastline	6.3 (3.3%)	91.5 (3.3%)
Allotment/community garden	0.7 (0.4%)	20.4 (0.7%)

Respondent base: Feb 2012 (N=3,961), Mar 2011 to Feb 2012 (N=48,115)

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

Table 2 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken.

- During February 2012, 55 percent of visits involved walking with a dog, while 26 percent of visits involved walking without a dog.
- Other significant activities included playing with children and eating or drinking out.
- Compared to the overall March 2011 to February 2012 period, the proportions undertaking the various activities on a visit were similar to those recorded in February 2012.

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

- During February 2012, an average of 37 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment in the previous 7 days.
- This is one percentage point lower than in January 2012 (39 percent), slightly higher than the February 2011 figure (36 percent) and three percentage points higher than February 2010 (34 percent).

The average duration of visits in February 2012 was 1 hour and 38 minutes and the average distance travelled was 4.6 miles. Both of these values are less than the averages for the overall March 2011 – February 2012 period, reflecting the closer to home profile of visits taken in the winter months.

Just over a quarter (26 percent) of visits taken in February 2012 involved expenditure with the average spend per visit being £6. This is significantly less than the 12 month average (£30).

**Table 2- Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

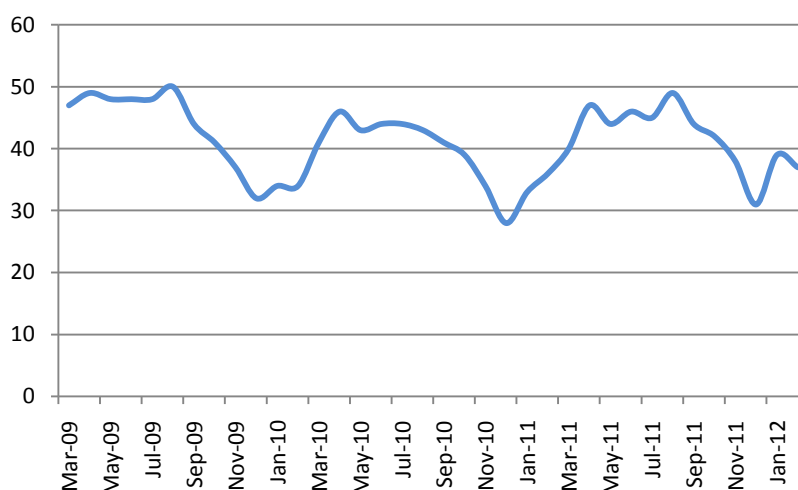
	Feb 2012	Mar 2011 – Feb 2012
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	104.2 (54.6%)	1,383.8 (50.6%)
Walking, not with a dog	49.1 (25.7%)	727.1 (26.6%)
Playing with children	14.6 (7.7%)	252.9 (9.2%)
Eating or drinking out	9.9 (5.2%)	161.0 (5.9%)
Running	6.3 (3.3%)	86.2 (3.2%)
Wildlife watching	4.8 (2.5%)	79.1 (2.9%)
Visiting an attraction	4.0 (2.1%)	86.5 (3.2%)
Informal games and sport	3.1 (1.6%)	75.2 (2.8%)
Horse riding	3.0 (1.5%)	33.6 (1.2%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	2.7 (1.4%)	51.3 (1.9%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	2.1 (1.1%)	51.8 (1.9%)
Road cycling	1.4 (0.7%)	55.4 (2.0%)
Fishing	1.2 (0.6%)	16.7 (0.6%)
Picnicking	0.9 (0.5%)	58.8 (2.2%)
Fieldsports	0.7 (0.4%)	9.0 (0.3%)
Swimming outdoors	0.4 (0.2%)	10.8 (0.4%)
Watersports	0.3 (0.2%)	13.0 (0.5%)
Off road cycling/mountain biking	0.2 (0.1%)	27.9 (1.0%)

Respondent base: Feb 2012 (N=3,961), Mar 2011 to Feb 2012 (N=48,115)

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

**Figure 2 - Percentage of adult population taking visits in the previous 7 days by month, Mar 2009 – Feb 2012.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

Percentage of adult population



**Table 3 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Feb 2012	Mar 2011 - Feb 2012
<b>Average duration of visits</b>	1 hour 38 minutes	1 hour 57 minutes
<b>Average distance travelled to reach visit destination</b>	4.6 miles	6.0 miles
<b>Percentage of visits involving any expenditure</b>	26%	26%
<b>Average expenditure per visit (excluding visits with no spend)</b>	£6	£30

Respondent base for distance and duration: Feb 2012 (N=3,961), Mar 2011 to Feb 2012 (N=48,115)

Respondent base for expenditure: Feb 2012 (N=849), Mar 2011 to Feb 2012 (N=10,587)

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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 – March 2011



2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011

During March 2011, the adult population in England (aged 16 and over) took an estimated 219 million visits to the natural environment. This represents a four percent decrease on the 229 million visits recorded in March 2010. On average, 40 percent of the adult population took a visit to the natural environment in the previous seven days during March 2011. A total of 2.47 billion visits were taken in the 12 months from April 2010 to March 2011.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment in the 12 month period from April 2010 to March 2011.

- Visits were lowest in November and December 2010 (178 and 168 million respectively) and February 2011 (180 million).
- Visits were highest in April and May 2010 (242 million and 232 million respectively).
- The volume of visits in March 2011 is higher than in February. This is in keeping with previous years where visits have increased as the year progresses into spring; weather improves; and hours of daylight increase.

Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Apr 2010 to Mar 2011 (millions of visits). Base: Minimum of 3,400 respondents per month

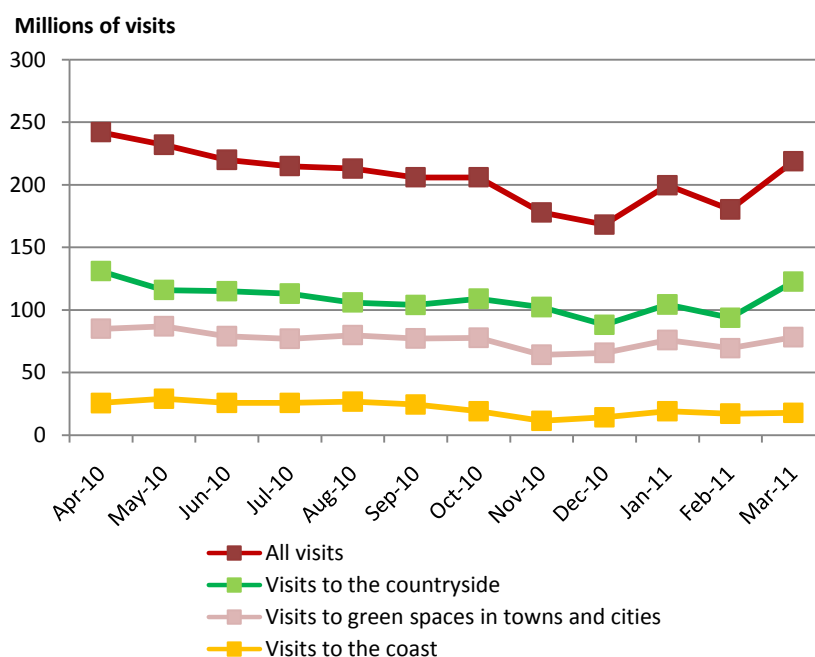


Table 1 illustrates the estimated volume of visits by type of place visited during March 2011, and over the 12 months from April 2010 to March 2011.

- In March 2011, over half of visits were taken to places in the countryside (56 percent), a higher proportion than that recorded across all visits taken in the 12 months from April 2010 to March 2011.
- 36 percent of visits were taken to open spaces in towns and cities and eight percent were taken to the coast.

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

	Mar 2011	Apr 2010 – Mar 2011
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	122.6	1305.2
Town and city	78.3	916.8
Coast	17.9	257.0
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	46.6	556.2
Woodland/forest	34.4	34.4
Path, cycleway, bridleway	28.9	342.4
Another open space in the countryside	28.0	305.9
River, lake, canal	24.5	236.3
Farmland	19.6	218.9
Country park	17.3	177.9
Playing field or other recreation area	15.4	194.5
Village	15.0	151.8
Another open space in town or city	14.7	187.9
Children's playground	8.3	79.2
Other coastline	6.8	88.9
Mountain, hill, moorland	5.8	61.1
Beach	5.6	153.5
Allotment/community garden	2.5	16.6

Respondent base: Mar 2011 (N=4,411), Apr 2010 to Mar 2011(N=46,903)

Table 2 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken.

- During March 2011, 51 percent of visits involved walking with a dog, while a quarter of visits (27 percent) involved walking without a dog.
- Other significant activities included playing with children, eating and drinking out and running.
- By comparison, similar proportions of the visits taken in the April 2010 to March 2011 period involved dog walking (51 percent) and playing with children (nine percent) and slightly more eating out (six percent).

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

- During March 2011, an average of 40 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment in the previous 7 days.
- This proportion represents a return to that last recorded during October 2010, and is higher than that recorded in January 2011 (33 percent) and February 2011 (36 percent).

As table 3 shows, the average duration of visits in March 2011 was 1 hour and 44 minutes and the average distance travelled on visits was 5.0 miles. Both of these values are less than the averages for April 2010 to March 2011, reflecting the closer to home profile of visits taken prior to the Easter holiday period and the summer months.

22 percent of visits in March 2011 involved any expenditure with an average spend per visit of £23.

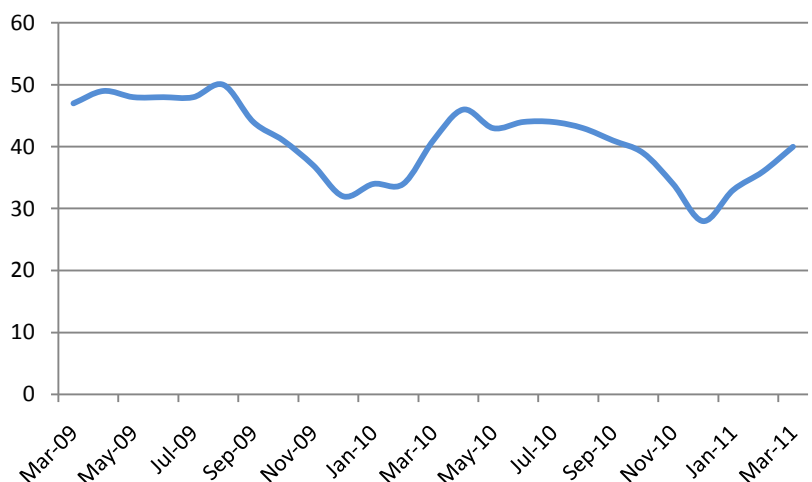
**Table 2 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits).**

	Mar 2011	Apr 2010 – Mar 2011
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	112.4	1261.4
Walking, not with a dog	59.7	654.4
Playing with children	18.8	213.3
Eating or drinking out	10.6	137.9
Wildlife watching	6.6	71.0
Running	6.4	74.5
Informal games and sport	5.1	65.8
Visiting an attraction	4.9	86.1
Road cycling	4.0	49.2
Appreciating scenery from your car	3.7	47.3
Horse riding	3.4	27.1
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	2.5	49.9
Picnicking	2.2	44.3
Off road cycling/mountain biking	2.0	25.6
Fishing	1.2	15.0
Fieldsports	1.1	10.5
Watersports	1.0	15.6
Swimming outdoors	0.2	13.0

Respondent base: Mar 2011 (N=4,411), Apr 2010 to Mar 2011 (N=46,903)

**Figure 2 - Percentage of adult population taking visits to in the previous 7 days by month, Apr 2010 to Mar 2011.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

**Percentage of adult population**



**Table 3 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Mar 2011	Apr 2010 - Mar 2011
<b>Average duration of visits</b>	1 hour 44 minutes	1 hour 57 minutes
<b>Average distance travelled to reach visit destination</b>	5.0 miles	6.4 miles
<b>Percentage of visits involving any expenditure</b>	22%	25%
<b>Average expenditure per visit (excluding visits with no spend)</b>	£23	£27

Respondent base for distance and duration: Feb 2011 (N=4,411), Mar 2010 to Feb 2011 (N=46,903). Respondent base for expenditure: Feb 2011 (N=901), Feb 2010 to Jan 2011 (N=10,613)

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# Visits to the Natural Environment



## Monthly update – April 2011

6<sup>th</sup> June 2011

During April 2011, the adult population in England (aged 16 and over) took an estimated 230 million visits to the natural environment. On average, 47 percent of the adult population took a visit to the natural environment in the previous seven days, the highest proportion recorded in the last 12 months. A total of 2.46 billion visits were taken in the 12 months from May 2010 to April 2011.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment in the 12 month period from May 2010 to April 2011.

- Visits were lowest in November and December 2010 (178 and 168 million respectively) and February 2011 (180 million).
- Visits were highest in May 2010 and April 2011 (232 million and 230 million respectively).
- The volume of visits in April 2011 is higher than in March. As in previous years, this reflects improved weather conditions, the timing of the Easter holiday period and a number of other bank holidays falling within this month.

Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, May 2010 to Apr 2011 (millions of visits). Base: Minimum of 3,400 respondents per month

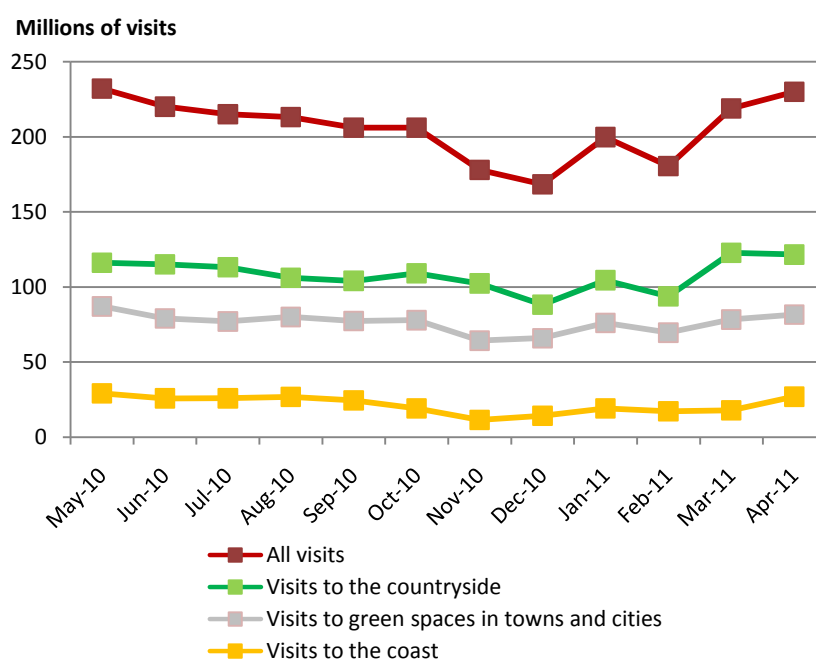


Table 1 illustrates the estimated volume of visits by type of place visited in April 2011 and over the 12 months from May 2010 to April 2011.

- In April 2011, just over half of visits were taken to places in the countryside (53 percent), an equal proportion to that recorded across all visits taken in the 12 months from May 2010 to April 2011.
- The proportion of visits to coastal areas was higher in April 2011 (12 percent) than for the May 2010 to April 2011 period (10 percent).
- 35 percent of visits were taken to open spaces in towns and cities.

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

	Apr 2011	May 2010 – Apr 2011
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	121.5	1295.7
Town and city	81.5	913.3
Coast	26.9	258.3
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	51.9	551.9
Path, cycleway, bridleway	38.5	345.5
Woodland/forest	28.7	324.1
River, lake, canal	28.5	247.2
Another open space in the countryside	25.8	300.3
Farmland	22.1	212.9
Beach	19.2	157.1
Country park	18.8	177.1
Playing field or other recreation area	16.9	195.4
Village	16.5	153.6
Another open space in town or city	16.0	190.2
Other coastline	9.9	90.3
Children's playground	8.1	79.0
Mountain, hill, moorland	4.6	59.1
Allotment/community garden	0.7	16.1

Respondent base: Apr 2011 (N=3,545), May 2010 to Apr 2011(N=45,766)

Table 2 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken.

- During April 2011, 46 percent of visits involved walking with a dog, while a quarter of visits (27 percent) involved walking without a dog.
- Other significant activities included playing with children, eating and drinking out and visiting an attraction.
- A higher proportion of the visits taken in the May 2010 to April 2011 period involved dog walking (51 percent) and slightly less playing with children (nine percent) and eating out (six percent).

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

- During April 2011, an average of 47 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment in the previous 7 days.
- Notably, this is the highest proportion recorded over the past twelve months, including the summer months of June and July 2010 (44 percent each).

The average duration of visits in April 2011 was 2 hours and 25 minutes and the average distance travelled was 8.5 miles. Both of these values are higher than the averages for May 2010 to April 2011, reflecting the increased propensity for visits to be taken further afield during the Easter holiday period and on bank holidays.

37 percent of visits in April 2011 involved any expenditure and the average spend per visit was £39. Both of these values were higher than the 12 month average.

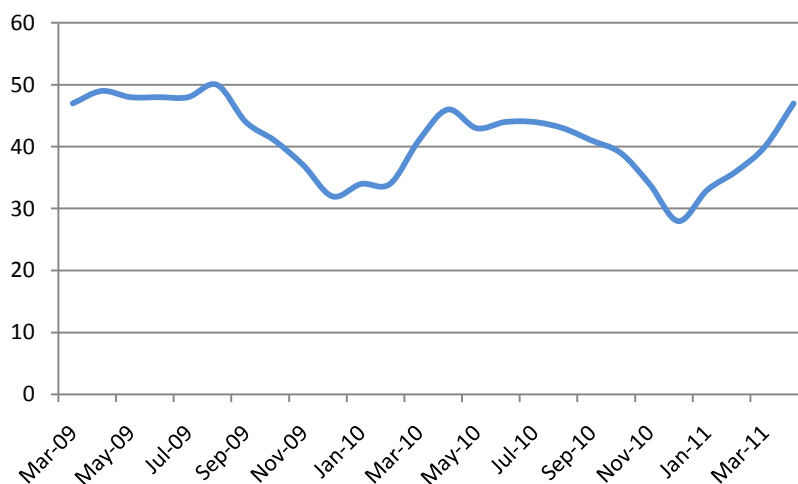
**Table 2- Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits).**

	Apr 2011	May 2010 – Apr 2011
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	105.4	1250.8
Walking, not with a dog	62.0	652.4
Playing with children	27.1	215.0
Eating or drinking out	19.8	143.7
Visiting an attraction	10.3	86.7
Picnicking	9.1	47.8
Wildlife watching	8.9	72.5
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	8.0	52.8
Informal games and sport	6.6	65.5
Appreciating scenery from your car	6.4	49.0
Road cycling	5.8	49.9
Running	5.5	72.8
Off road cycling/mountain biking	4.2	27.0
Horse riding	4.1	28.0
Fishing	1.6	15.7
Swimming outdoors	1.4	13.8
Fieldsports	1.1	10.9
Watersports	1.1	15.8

Respondent base: Apr 2011 (N=3,545), May 2010 to Apr 2011 (N=45,766)

**Figure 2 - Percentage of adult population taking visits to in the previous 7 days by month, Apr 2010 to Mar 2011.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

Percentage of adult population



**Table 3 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Apr 2011	May 2010 - Apr 2011
<b>Average duration of visits</b>	2 hours 25 minutes	1 hour 59 minutes
<b>Average distance travelled to reach visit destination</b>	8.5 miles	6.5 miles
<b>Percentage of visits involving any expenditure</b>	37%	26%
<b>Average expenditure per visit (excluding visits with no spend)</b>	£39	£28

Respondent base for distance and duration: Apr 2011 (N=3,545), May 2010 to Apr 2011 (N=45,766). Respondent base for expenditure: Apr 2011 (N=897), May 2010 to Apr 2011 (N=10,591)

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 natural environment, defined as 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 about the survey visit: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/research/mene.aspx>



# Visits to the Natural Environment



## Monthly update – May 2011

6<sup>th</sup> July 2011

During May 2011, the adult population in England (aged 16 and over) took an estimated 226 million visits to the natural environment. This is three percent lower than the 232 million visits in May 2010, and 17 percent lower than the 273 million visits in May 2009. On average, 44 percent of the adult population visited the natural environment in the previous seven days during May 2011. A total of 2.46 billion visits were taken between June 2010 to May 2011.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment in the 12 month period from June 2010 to May 2011.

- Visits were lowest in November and December 2010 (178 and 168 million respectively) and February 2011 (180 million).
- Visits were highest in April 2011 and May 2011 (230 million and 226 million respectively).
- The volume of visits in May 2011, although large relative to other recent months, was lower than in April. This reflects the Easter holiday period and a number of public holidays, such as the Royal Wedding, that fell during April.

Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Jun 2010 to May 2011 (millions of visits). Base: Minimum of 3,400 respondents per month

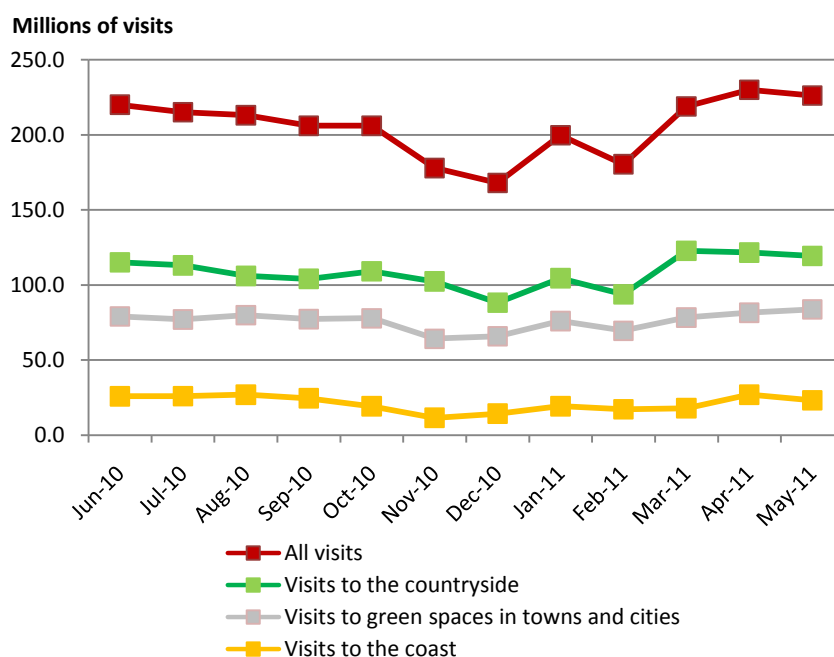


Table 1 illustrates the estimated volume of visits by type of place visited in May 2011 and over the 12 months from June 2010 to May 2011.

- In May 2011, just over half of visits were taken to places in the countryside (53 percent), an equal proportion to that recorded across all visits taken in the 12 months from June 2010 to May 2011.
- 37 percent of visits were taken to open spaces in towns and cities and one in ten visits (10 percent) were taken to the coast in May 2011.

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

	May 2011	Jun 2010 – May 2011
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	119.3	1299.0
Town and city	83.7	910.0
Coast	23.1	252.3
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	55.8	557.1
Woodland/forest	33.6	325.3
Path, cycleway, bridleway	32.7	350.9
River, lake, canal	28.7	253.9
Another open space in the countryside	26.1	299.5
Another open space in town or city	19.7	192.8
Playing field or other recreation area	17.5	195.3
Farmland	15.7	214.4
Country park	15.6	176.2
Beach	13.0	153.9
Village	12.8	157.1
Mountain, hill, moorland	9.5	60.7
Other coastline	9.4	89.2
Children's playground	6.1	77.7
Allotment/community garden	1.6	15.6

Respondent base: May 2011 (N=3,710), Jun 2010 to May 2011(N=45,883)

Table 2 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken.

- During May 2011, 48 percent of visits involved walking with a dog, while three in ten visits (29 percent) involved walking without a dog.
- Other significant activities included playing with children, eating or drinking out and watching wildlife.
- A higher proportion of the visits taken in the June 2010 to May 2011 period involved dog walking (51 percent) and slightly less walking without a dog (27 percent).

**Table 2 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits).**

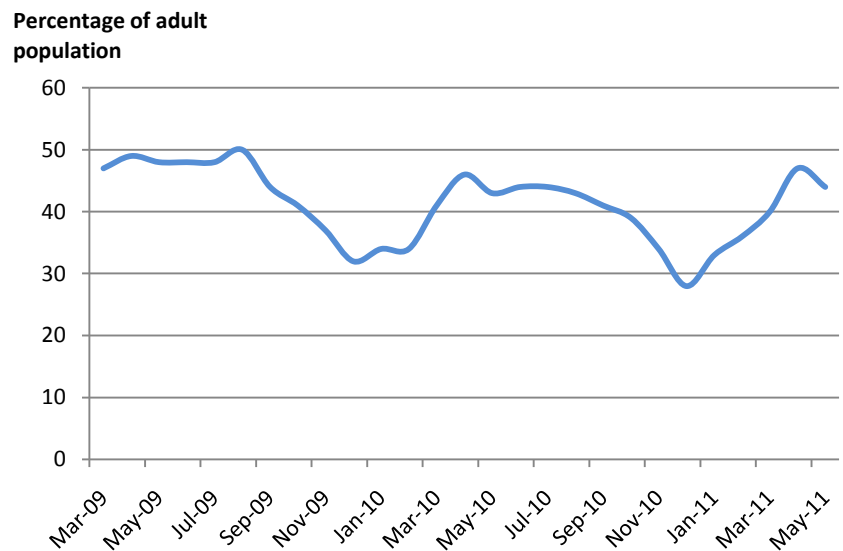
	May 2011	Jun 2010 – May 2011
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	107.9	1247.0
Walking, not with a dog	65.8	656.2
Playing with children	21.1	216.4
Eating or drinking out	14.1	144.1
Wildlife watching	8.0	73.7
Informal games and sport	7.9	65.8
Visiting an attraction	7.7	86.8
Running	6.6	70.6
Road cycling	5.5	50.2
Picnicking	5.3	47.8
Appreciating scenery from your car	5.0	49.4
Horse riding	3.7	28.5
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	3.0	48.8
Off road cycling/mountain biking	3.0	27.8
Fishing	1.4	15.9
Watersports	1.4	15.3
Fieldsports	0.9	10.4
Swimming outdoors	0.5	12.9

Respondent base: May 2011 (N=3,710), Jun 2010 to May 2011(N=45,883)

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

- During May 2011, an average of 44 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment in the previous 7 days.
- This is the same proportion as that recorded during the summer months of June and July 2010 (44 percent each).

**Figure 2 - Percentage of adult population taking visits to in the previous 7 days by month, Apr 2010 to Mar 2011.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month



The average duration of visits in May 2011 was 2 hours and 4 minutes and the average distance travelled was 6.1 miles. The average duration of visits is higher than for the June 2010 – May 2011 period reflecting the longer daylight hours and milder weather compared to the autumn/winter months.

Around a quarter of visits (27 percent) in May 2011 involved any expenditure and the average spend per visit was £21. The latter value was lower than the 12-month average (£27).

**Table 3 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	May 2011	Jun 2010 - May 2011
<b>Average duration of visits</b>	2 hours 04 minutes	1 hour 59 minutes
<b>Average distance travelled to reach visit destination</b>	6.1 miles	6.4 miles
<b>Percentage of visits involving any expenditure</b>	27%	26%
<b>Average expenditure per visit (excluding visits with no spend)</b>	£21	£27

Respondent base for distance and duration: May 2011 (N=3,710), Jun 2010 to May 2011 (N=45,833), Respondent base for expenditure: May 2011 (N=929), Jun 2010 to May 2011 (N=10,608)

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# Visits to the Natural Environment



## Monthly update – June 2011

3 August 2011

During June 2011, the adult population in England (aged 16 and over) took an estimated 233 million visits to the natural environment. This is six percent higher than the 220 million visits in June 2010, however it is eight percent lower than the 253 million visits in June 2009. On average, 46 percent of the adult population visited the natural environment in the previous seven days during June 2011. A total of 2.47 billion visits were taken between July 2010 and June 2011.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment in the 12 month period from July 2010 to June 2011.

- Visits were lowest in November and December 2010 (178 and 168 million respectively) and February 2011 (180 million).
- Visits were highest in June 2011 and April 2011 (233 million and 230 million respectively).
- The volume of visits in June 2011 was the highest recorded in the last 12 months, reflecting the good weather and longer daylight hours during the month.

Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Jul 2010 to Jun 2011 (millions of visits). Base: Minimum of 3,400 respondents per month

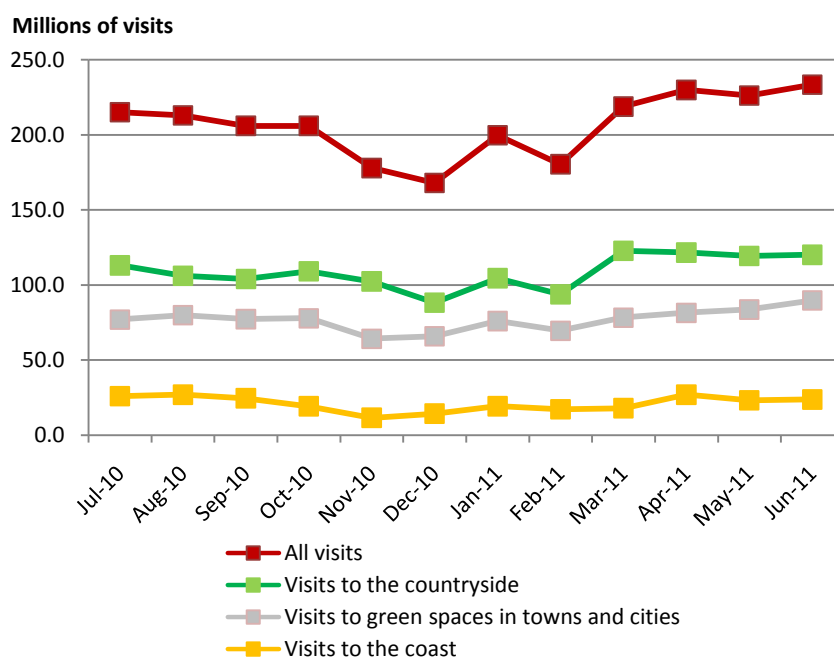


Table 1 illustrates the estimated volume of visits by type of place visited in June 2011 and over the 12 months from July 2010 to June 2011.

- In June 2011, just over half of visits were taken to places in the countryside (51 percent), a lower proportion to that recorded across all visits taken in the 12 months from July 2010 to June 2011 (53%).
- 38 percent of visits were taken to open spaces in towns and cities and one in ten visits (10 percent) were taken to the coast in June 2011.

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

	Jun 2011	Jul 2010 – Jun 2011
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	120.0	1304.0
Town and city	89.7	920.8
Coast	23.7	250.1
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	57.6	567.0
Path, cycleway, bridleway	34.8	359.7
Woodland/forest	24.6	325.2
Another open space in the countryside	21.1	289.6
River, lake, canal	17.5	248.0
Farmland	16.8	216.6
Playing field or other recreation area	21.1	198.3
Another open space in town or city	14.5	191.0
Country park	21.0	179.4
Village	18.8	166.6
Beach	14.9	153.0
Other coastline	8.2	86.9
Children's playground	6.0	76.1
Mountain, hill, moorland	5.8	60.3
Allotment/community garden	2.9	16.8

Respondent base: Jun 2011 (N=4,451), Jul 2010 to Jun 2011 (N=46,792)

Table 2 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken.

- During June 2011, 45 percent of visits involved walking with a dog, while a quarter of visits (26 percent) involved walking without a dog.
- Other significant activities included playing with children, eating or drinking out and taking part in informal games and sport.
- A higher proportion of the visits taken in the July 2010 to June 2011 period involved dog walking (51 percent) whereas a similar proportion involved walking without a dog (27 percent)

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

- During June 2011, an average of 46 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment in the previous 7 days.
- This is two percentage points higher than the figure recorded during both June and July 2010 (44%) but one percentage point lower than the Easter holiday month of April 2011 (47 percent).

The average duration of visits in June 2011 was 2 hours and 10 minutes and the average distance travelled was 7.0 miles. The average duration of visits is higher than for the July 2010 – June 2011 period reflecting the longer daylight hours and milder weather compared to the autumn/winter months.

Around a quarter of visits (27 percent) in June 2011 involved expenditure and the average spend per visit was £23. The latter value was lower than the 12-month average (£26).

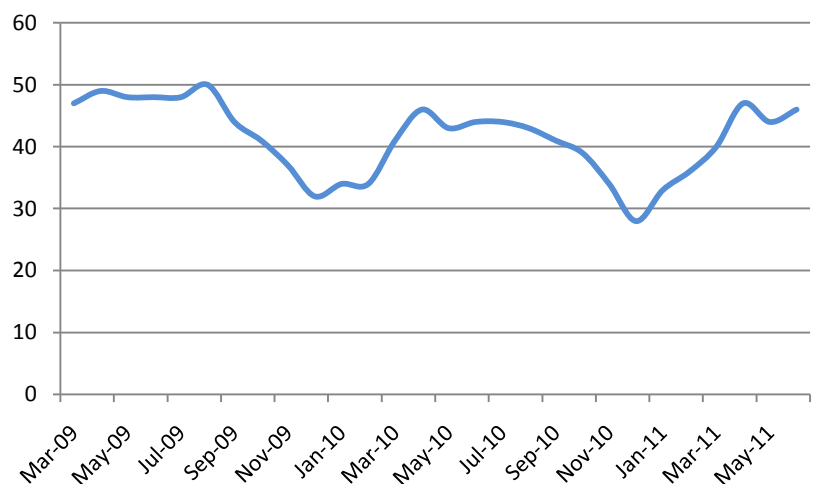
**Table 2 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits).**

	Jun 2011	Jul 2010 – Jun 2011
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	104.5	1254.4
Walking, not with a dog	60.9	658.4
Playing with children	22.7	218.5
Eating or drinking out	14.8	145.0
Informal games and sport	9.9	67.5
Running	9.4	74.4
Visiting an attraction	9.1	86.8
Picnicking	8.1	49.5
Road cycling	6.9	51.2
Wildlife watching	6.2	74.2
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	6.0	48.4
Appreciating scenery from your car	4.8	50.1
Off road cycling/mountain biking	2.2	27.2
Watersports	2.0	15.4
Swimming outdoors	1.7	12.6
Horse riding	1.6	27.9
Fishing	1.6	15.0
Fieldsports	0.7	10.2

Respondent base: Jun 2011 (N=4,451), Jul 2010 to Jun 2011 (N=46,792)

**Figure 2 - Percentage of adult population taking visits in the previous 7 days by month, Mar 2009 – Jun 2011.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

Percentage of adult population



**Table 3 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Jun 2011	Jul 2010 - Jun 2011
<b>Average duration of visits</b>	2 hours 10 minutes	1 hour 58 minutes
<b>Average distance travelled to reach visit destination</b>	7.0 miles	6.4 miles
<b>Percentage of visits involving any expenditure</b>	27%	26%
<b>Average expenditure per visit (excluding visits with no spend)</b>	£23	£26

Respondent base for distance and duration: Jun 2011 (N=4,451), Jul 2010 to Jun 2011 (N=46,792)  
Respondent base for expenditure: Jun 2011 (N=874), Jul 2010 to Jun 2011 (N=10,634)

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# Visits to the Natural Environment

## Monthly update – July 2011



12<sup>th</sup> September 2011

During July 2011, the adult population in England (aged 16 and over) took an estimated 243 million visits to the natural environment. This is eleven percent higher than the 215 million visits in June 2010, however it is four percent lower than the 253 million visits in July 2009. On average, 45 percent of the adult population visited the natural environment in the previous seven days during July 2011. A total of 2.5 billion visits were taken between August 2010 and July 2011.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment in the 12 month period from August 2010 to July 2011.

- Visits were lowest in November and December 2010 (178 and 168 million respectively) and February 2011 (180 million).
- Visits were highest in June and July 2011 (233 million and 243 million respectively).
- The volume of visits in July 2011 was the highest recorded in the last 12 months, reflecting longer daylight hours and the popularity of this month for holidays and short breaks, particularly in light of the start of the school holidays.

Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Jul 2010 to Jun 2011 (millions of visits). Base: Minimum of 3,400 respondents per month

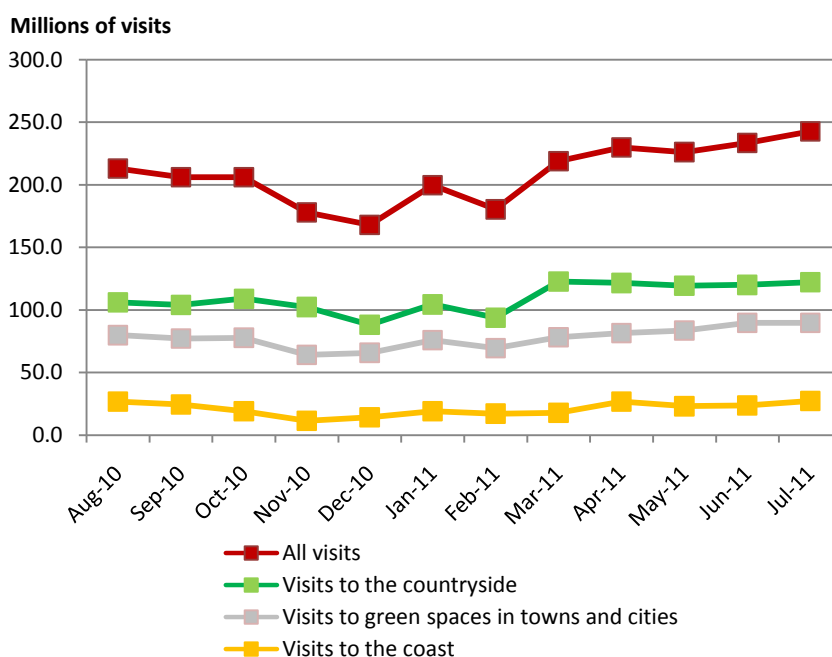


Table 1 illustrates the estimated volume of visits by type of place visited in July 2011 and over the 12 months from August 2010 to July 2011.

- In June 2011, half of visits were taken to places in the countryside (50 percent), a lower proportion to that recorded across all visits taken in the 12 months from August 2010 to July 2011 (52%).
- 38 percent of visits were taken to open spaces in towns and cities and around one in ten visits (11 percent) were taken to the coast.

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

	Jul 2011	Aug 2010 – Jul 2011
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	122.1	1313.1
Town and city	93.2	251.6
Coast	27.3	937.0
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	55.2	571.8
Path, cycleway, bridleway	44.0	376.5
River, lake, canal	28.4	256.5
Farmland	28.3	228.3
Woodland/forest	27.3	327.1
Another open space in the countryside	23.5	285.2
Village	22.6	176.1
Playing field or other recreation area	19.5	204.2
Another open space in town or city	18.8	194.4
Country park	17.4	184.2
Beach	13.7	150.9
Other coastline	7.9	86.7
Children's playground	6.6	77.1
Mountain, hill, moorland	6.3	58.5
Allotment/community garden	2.7	17.2

Respondent base: Jul 2011 (N=3,477), Aug 2010 to Jul 2011 (N=45,775)

Table 2 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken.

- During July 2011, 47 percent of visits involved walking with a dog, while just over a quarter of visits (27 percent) involved walking without a dog.
- Other significant activities undertaken included playing with children, eating or drinking out and visiting an attraction.
- A higher proportion of the visits taken in the August 2010 to July 2011 period involved dog walking (51 percent) and/or visiting an attraction (5% compared to 3% in July 2011).

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

- During June 2011, an average of 45 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment in the previous 7 days.
- This is one percentage point higher than the figure recorded during both June and July 2010 (44%) but one percentage point lower than in June 2011 (46 percent).

The average duration of visits in July 2011 was 2 hours and 14 minutes and the average distance travelled was 7.0 miles. The average duration of visits is higher than for the August 2010 – July 2011 period reflecting the longer daylight hours and milder weather compared to the autumn/winter months.

Around a quarter of visits (29 percent) in July 2011 involved any expenditure and the average spend per visit was £36. The latter value was higher than the 12-month average (£26).

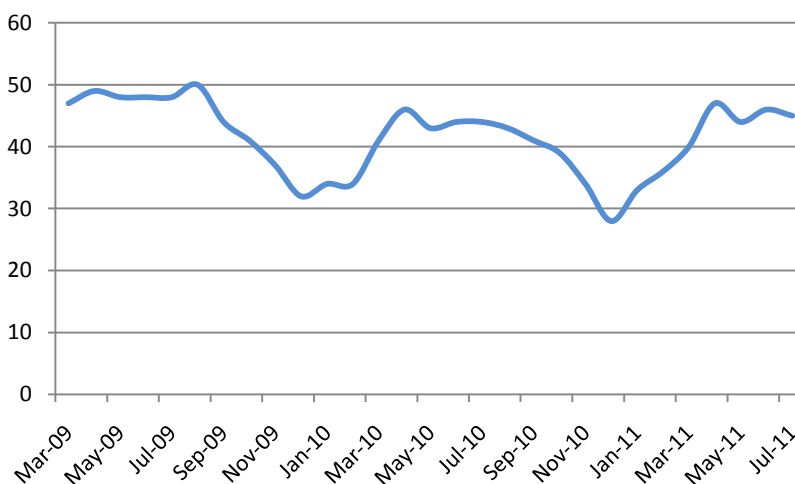
**Table 2 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits).**

	Jul 2011	Aug 2010 – Jul 2011
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	113.7	1,275.7
Walking, not with a dog	64.4	665.1
Playing with children	23.9	221.8
Eating or drinking out	19.2	148.6
Visiting an attraction	11.0	87.0
Informal games and sport	8.8	69.3
Picnicking	8.5	49.3
Running	7.9	94.9
Wildlife watching	7.8	75.1
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	5.8	46.9
Road cycling	5.5	50.9
Appreciating scenery from your car	4.4	48.8
Off road cycling/mountain biking	2.9	26.6
Horse riding	2.5	27.3
Swimming outdoors	1.9	11.6
Watersports	1.7	16.3
Fishing	1.6	14.6
Fieldsports	0.4	9.4

Respondent base: Jul 2011 (N=43,477), Aug 2010 to Jul 2011 (N=45,775)

**Figure 2 - Percentage of adult population taking visits in the previous 7 days by month, Mar 2009 – Jun 2011.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

**Percentage of adult population**



**Table 3 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Jul 2011	Aug 2010 - Jul 2011
<b>Average duration of visits</b>	2 hours 14 minutes	1 hour 57 minutes
<b>Average distance travelled to reach visit destination</b>	7.0 miles	6.3 miles
<b>Percentage of visits involving any expenditure</b>	29%	25%
<b>Average expenditure per visit (excluding visits with no spend)</b>	£36	£26

Respondent base for distance and duration: Jul 2011 (N=3,477), Aug 2010 to Jul 2011 (N=45,775)  
Respondent base for expenditure: Jul 2011 (N=918), Aug 2010 to Jul 2011 (N=10,644)

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 natural environment, defined as the green open spaces in and around towns and cities as well as the wider countryside and coast.

To find out more about the survey 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 – August 2011



3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011

During August 2011, the adult population in England (aged 16 and over) took an estimated 267 million visits to the natural environment. This is ten percent higher than the 243 million visits in July 2011; it is also twenty five percent higher than the 213 million visits in August 2010. On average, 49 percent of the adult population visited the natural environment in the previous seven days during August 2011. A total of 2.6 billion visits were taken between September 2010 and August 2011.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment in the 12 month period from September 2010 to August 2011.

- The volume of visits in August 2011 was the highest recorded in the last 12 months.
- Although 25 per cent more visits were taken in August 2011 than in August 2010, the volume of visits taken was similar to that recorded during August 2009 (271 million visits).
- These variations may relate to weather conditions, with fewer days of rainfall in August 2009 and 2011 than in 2010.

Table 1 illustrates the estimated volume of visits by type of place visited in August 2011 and over the 12 months from September 2010 to August 2011.

- In August 2011, over half of visits were taken to places in the countryside (54 percent), a similar proportion to that recorded across all visits taken in the 12 months from September 2010 to August 2011 (53%).
- 9 per cent of August visits were taken to a beach, a higher proportion than over the overall September 2010 to August 2011 period (6 per cent).

Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Sep 2010 to Aug 2011 (millions of visits). Base: Minimum of 3,400 respondents per month

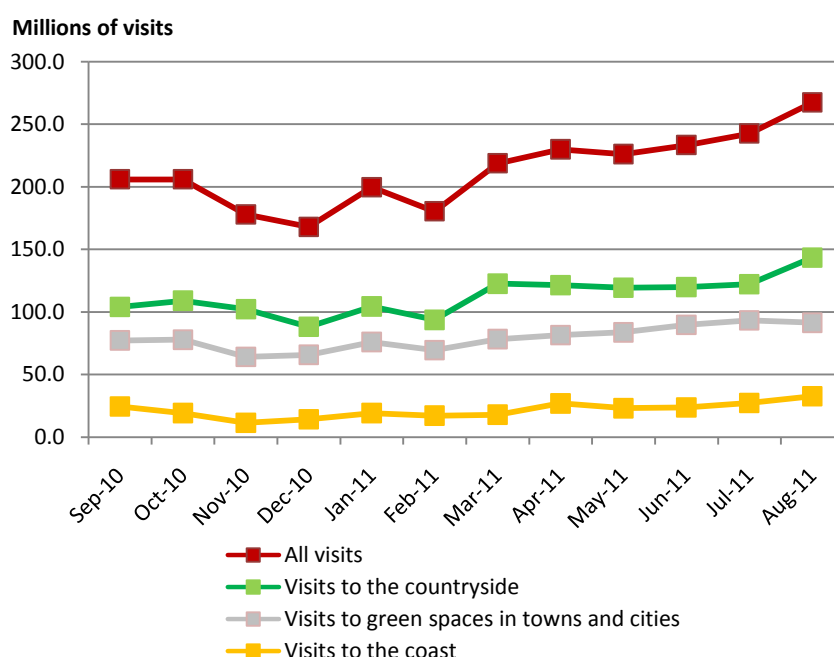


Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).

	Aug 2011	Sep 2010 – Aug 2011
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	143.4 (53.6%)	1350.4 (52.8%)
Town and city	91.4 (34.2%)	948.4 (37.1%)
Coast	32.6 (12.2%)	257.3 (10.1%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	60.0 (22.4%)	575.5 (22.5%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	37.5 (14.0%)	382.1 (14.9%)
Another open space in the countryside	35.3 (13.2%)	297.3 (11.6%)
Woodland/forest	30.7 (11.5%)	332.4 (13.0%)
River, lake, canal	30.4 (11.4%)	261.1 (10.2%)
Farmland	25.2 (9.4%)	236.1 (9.2%)
Beach	24.4 (9.1%)	157.3 (6.2%)
Playing field or other recreation area	23.4 (8.8%)	208.3 (8.1%)
Country park	18.7 (7.0%)	181.0 (7.1%)
Another open space in town or city	18.1 (6.8%)	196.4 (7.7%)
Village	16.7 (6.2%)	179.3 (7.0%)
Other coastline	10.2 (3.8%)	87.7 (3.4%)
Children's playground	7.4 (2.8%)	73.8 (2.9%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	7.3 (2.7%)	58.9 (2.3%)
Allotment/community garden	2.5 (0.9%)	18.6 (0.7%)

Respondent base: Aug 2011 (N=3,527), Sep 2010 to Aug 2011 (N=45,733)

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

Table 2 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken.

- During August 2011, 48 percent of visits involved walking with a dog, while just over a quarter of visits (26 percent) involved walking without a dog.
- Other significant activities included playing with children, eating or drinking out and visiting an attraction.
- Compared to the overall September 2010 to August 2011 period, a higher proportion of the visits taken in August 2011 involved picnicking (5 per cent compared to 2 per cent) or playing with children (12 per cent compared to 9 per cent).

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

- During August 2011, an average of 49 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment in the previous 7 days.
- This is four percentage points higher than the figure recorded during July 2011 (45 per cent) and six percentage points higher than in August 2010 (43 per cent).

The average duration of visits in August 2011 was 2 hours and 26 minutes and the average distance travelled was 8.5 miles. The average duration of visits is higher than recorded for the overall September 2010 – August 2011 period reflecting the longer daylight hours, milder weather and longer distance journeys likely to be taken in the August holiday period.

Around a third of visits (30 percent) in August 2011 involved expenditure with the average spend per visit being £39. This is significantly higher than the 12-month average (£27).

**Table 2 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

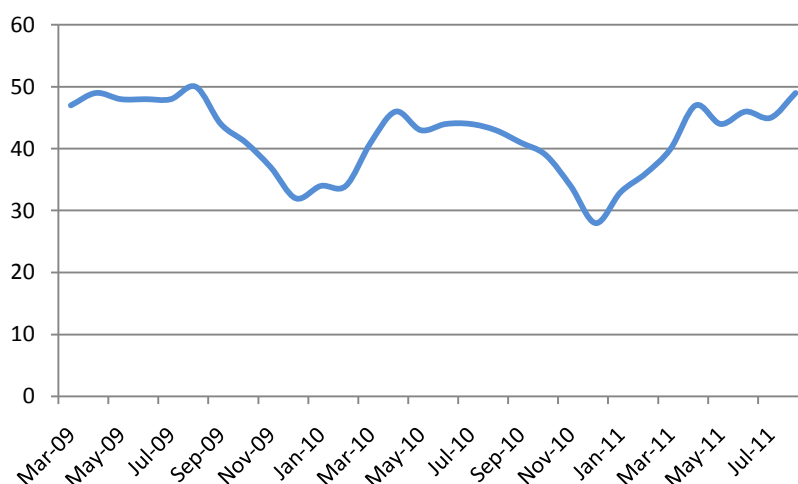
	Aug 2011	Sep 2010 – Aug 2011
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	129.4 (48.4%)	1309.2 (51.2%)
Walking, not with a dog	70.1 (26.2%)	674.0 (26.4%)
Playing with children	31.7 (11.9%)	226.0 (8.8%)
Eating or drinking out	18.3 (6.8%)	149.5 (5.8%)
Visiting an attraction	13.9 (5.2%)	88.3 (3.5%)
Picnicking	12.6 (4.7%)	55.2 (2.2%)
Informal games and sport	9.5 (3.6%)	72.9 (2.9%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	9.0 (3.4%)	48.4 (1.9%)
Wildlife watching	8.8 (3.3%)	73.9 (2.9%)
Running	8.0 (3.0%)	75.5 (3.0%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	6.4 (2.4%)	48.3 (1.9%)
Road cycling	6.2 (2.3%)	53.3 (2.1%)
Horse riding	3.8 (1.4%)	28.6 (1.1%)
Off road cycling/mountain biking	3.5 (1.3%)	27.0 (1.1%)
Fishing	2.7 (1.0%)	15.4 (0.6%)
Swimming outdoors	2.4 (0.9%)	11.6 (0.5%)
Watersports	1.3 (0.5%)	16.5 (0.6%)
Fieldsports	0.5 (0.2%)	9.3 (0.4%)

Respondent base: Aug 2011 (N=3,527), Sep 2010 to Aug 2011 (N=45,733)

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

**Figure 2 - Percentage of adult population taking visits in the previous 7 days by month, Mar 2009 – Aug 2011.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

**Percentage of adult population**



**Table 3 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Aug 2011	Sep 2010 - Aug 2011
<b>Average duration of visits</b>	2 hours 26 minutes	1 hour 57 minutes
<b>Average distance travelled to reach visit destination</b>	8.5 miles	6.3 miles
<b>Percentage of visits involving any expenditure</b>	30%	24%
<b>Average expenditure per visit (excluding visits with no spend)</b>	£39	£27

Respondent base for distance and duration: Aug 2011 (N=3,527), Sep 2010 to Aug 2011 (N=45,733)

Respondent base for expenditure: Aug 2011 (N=905), Sep 2010 to Aug 2011 (N=10,611)

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# Visits to the Natural Environment

## Monthly update – September 2011



7<sup>th</sup> November 2011

During September 2011, the adult population in England (aged 16 and over) took an estimated 237 million visits to the natural environment. This is 11 percent lower than the 267 million visits taken in August 2011, however, it is 13 percent higher than the 206 million visits in September 2010. On average, 44 percent of the adult population visited the natural environment in the previous seven days during September 2011. A total of 2.6 billion visits were taken between October 2010 and September 2011.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment in the 12 month period from October 2010 to September 2011.

- The volume of visits in September 2011 was lower than the August 2011 figure (237.4 and 267.3 million visits respectively), returning to a similar level as in June 2011 (233.4 million).
- The volume of visits in September 2011 was higher than in both September 2010 (206.0 million) and September 2009 (226.0 million).
- These variations may relate to unusually high temperatures towards the end of the month in 2011.

Table 1 illustrates the estimated volume of visits by type of place visited in September 2011 and over the 12 months from October 2010 to September 2011.

- In September 2011, around half of visits were taken to places in the countryside (50 percent), a slightly lower proportion to that recorded across all visits taken in the 12 months from October 2010 to September 2011 (53 percent).
- 39 percent of visits were taken in towns and cities in September 2011, while 11 percent were taken in coastal locations.

Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Oct 2010 to Sep 2011 (millions of visits). Base: Minimum of 3,400 respondents per month

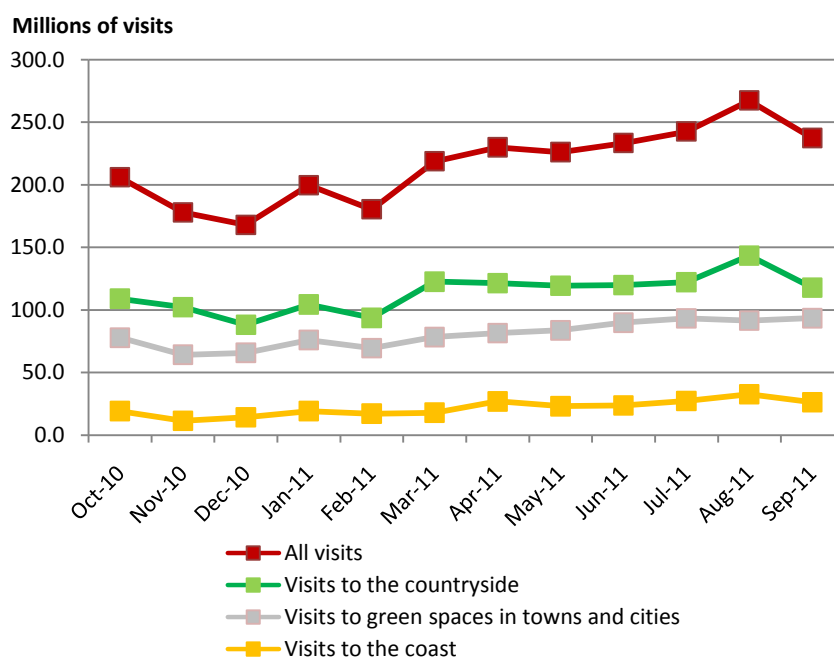


Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).

	Sep 2011	Oct 2010 – Sep 2011
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	117.9 (49.6%)	1364.3 (52.7%)
Town and city	93.4 (39.3%)	964.6 (37.3%)
Coast	26.2 (11.0%)	259.1 (10.0%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	58.3 (24.5%)	584.9 (22.6%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	34.0 (14.3%)	384.7 (14.9%)
Woodland/forest	29.8 (12.6%)	340.8 (13.1%)
Another open space in the countryside	28.0 (11.8%)	296.2 (11.4%)
Farmland	23.4 (9.9%)	243.7 (9.4%)
Playing field or other recreation area	21.6 (8.8%)	208.3 (9.1%)
River, lake, canal	20.5 (8.6%)	259.5 (10.0%)
Village	20.3 (8.6%)	189.1 (7.3%)
Another open space in town or city	19.2 (8.1%)	201.6 (7.8%)
Country park	18.7 (7.9%)	184.2 (7.1%)
Beach	14.9 (6.3%)	154.9 (6.0%)
Other coastline	9.6 (4.0%)	88.3 (3.4%)
Children's playground	8.2 (3.5%)	75.9 (2.9%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	7.1 (2.9%)	59.5 (2.3%)
Allotment/community garden	2.0 (0.8%)	19.5 (0.8%)

Respondent base: Sep 2011 (N=4,418), Oct 2010 to Sep 2011 (N=45,759)

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

Table 2 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken.

- During September 2011, 48 percent of visits involved walking with a dog, while just over a quarter of visits (26 percent) involved walking without a dog.
- Other significant activities included playing with children and eating or drinking out.
- Compared to the overall October 2010 to September 2011 period, a higher proportion of the visits taken in September 2011 involved playing with children (11 percent compared to nine percent).

**Table 2 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Sep 2011	Oct 2010 – Sep 2011
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	114.5 (48.2%)	1322.4 (51.1%)
Walking, not with a dog	61.3 (25.8%)	681.6 (26.3%)
Playing with children	25.6 (10.7%)	230.1 (8.9%)
Eating or drinking out	16.0 (6.7%)	151.5 (5.9%)
Visiting an attraction	9.0 (3.4%)	88.7 (3.4%)
Wildlife watching	7.5 (3.2%)	76.8 (3.0%)
Informal games and sport	7.4 (3.1%)	73.0 (2.8%)
Picnicking	6.9 (2.9%)	57.8 (2.2%)
Running	6.7 (2.8%)	76.7 (2.9%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	6.5 (2.7%)	50.0 (1.9%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	5.9 (2.5%)	49.8 (1.9%)
Road cycling	5.1 (2.1%)	52.7 (2.0%)
Off road cycling/mountain biking	3.5 (1.0%)	27.0 (1.0%)
Fishing	2.3 (1.0%)	15.9 (0.6%)
Horse riding	2.2 (0.9%)	29.2 (1.1%)
Watersports	2.2 (0.9%)	17.2 (0.7%)
Swimming outdoors	1.7 (0.7%)	12.2 (0.5%)
Fieldsports	0.7 (0.3%)	9.3 (0.4%)

Respondent base: Sep 2011 (N=4,418), Oct 2010 to Sep 2011 (N=45,759)

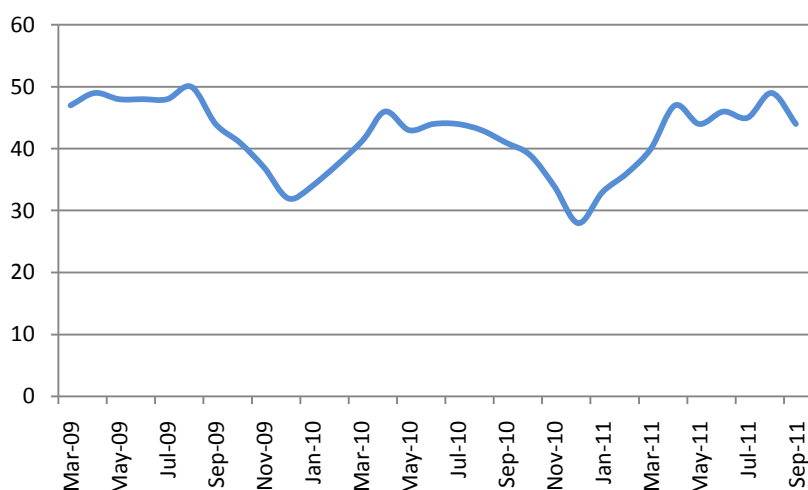
Note percentages for activity may total more than 100 because respondents could select more than one activity per visit.

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

- During September 2011, an average of 44 percent of the adult population took one or more visits to the natural environment in the previous seven days.
- This is five percentage points lower than the figure recorded during August 2011 (49 percent) and at the same level as was recorded in May 2011 (44 percent).

**Figure 2 - Percentage of adult population taking visits in the previous 7 days by month, Mar 2009 – Sep 2011.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

**Percentage of adult population**



The average duration of visits during September 2011 was 2 hours and 8 minutes and the average distance travelled was 6.6 miles. The average duration of visits is slightly higher than found during October 2010 – September 2011 period but lower than the August 2011 duration of 2 hours and 26 minutes reflecting the changing seasons.

**Table 3 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Sep 2011	Oct 2010 - Sep 2011
<b>Average duration of visits</b>	2 hours 8 minutes	1 hour 57 minutes
<b>Average distance travelled to reach visit destination</b>	6.6 miles	6.2 miles
<b>Percentage of visits involving any expenditure</b>	27%	25%
<b>Average expenditure per visit (excluding visits with no spend)</b>	£23	£27

Respondent base for distance and duration: Sep 2011 (N=4,418), Oct 2010 to Sep 2011 (N=45,759)  
Respondent base for expenditure: Sep 2011 (N=895), Oct 2010 to Sep 2011 (N=10,614)

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 natural environment, defined as 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 about the survey visit: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/research/mene.aspx>

# Visits to the Natural Environment

Monthly update – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011



## 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011

During October 2011, the adult population in England (aged 16 and over) took an estimated 236 million visits to the natural environment. This is 1 million visits less than the 237 million visits taken in September 2011; however, it is fifteen percent higher than the 206 million visits in October 2010. On average, 42 percent of the adult population visited the natural environment in the previous seven days during October 2011. A total of 2.6 billion visits were taken between November 2010 and October 2011.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment in the 12 month period from November 2010 to October 2011.

- The volume of visits in October 2011 was slightly lower than the September 2011 figure (236.3 and 237.4 million visits respectively), returning to a similar level as in June 2011 (233.4 million).
- The volume of visits in October 2011 was higher than it was in both October 2010 (206.0 million) and October 2009 (218.0 million).
- These variations may relate to unusually high temperatures that many parts of England experienced during the month.

Table 1 illustrates the estimated volume of visits by type of place visited in October 2011 and over the 12 months from November 2010 to October 2011.

- In October 2011, around half of visits were taken in the countryside (51.5 percent), a slightly lower proportion to that recorded across all visits taken in the 12 months from November 2010 to October 2011 (52.6 percent).
- In total, 39 percent of visits were taken in towns and cities in October 2011, higher than recorded across all visits during the 12 months from November 2010 to October 2011 (37 percent). Coastal locations accounted for nine percent of visits.

Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Nov 2010 to Oct 2011 (millions of visits). Base: Minimum of 3,400 respondents per month

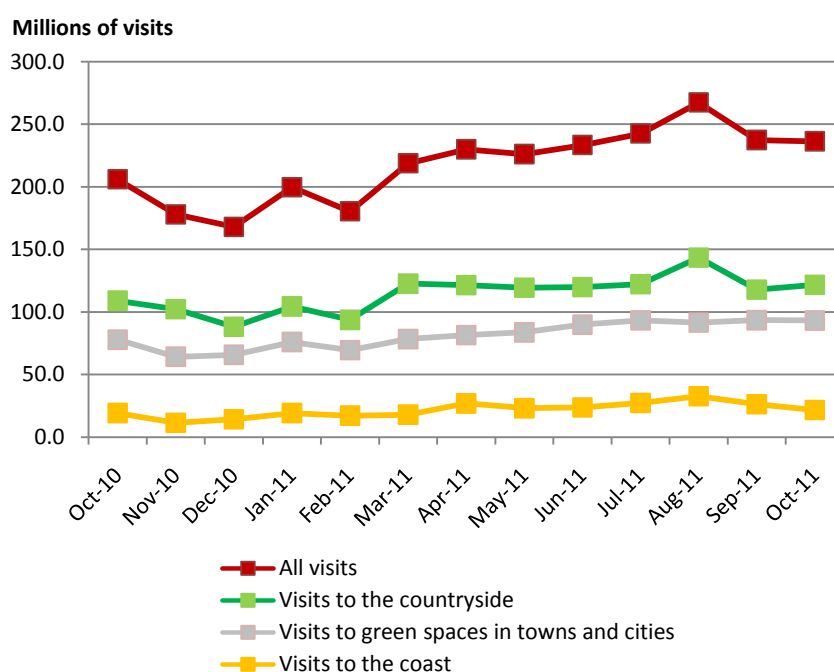


Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).

	Oct 2011	Nov 2010 – Oct 2011
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	121.6 (51.5%)	1376.9 (52.6%)
Town and city	93.1 (39.4%)	979.8 (37.4%)
Coast	21.6 (9.1%)	261.5 (10.0%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	50.1 (21.2%)	590.4 (22.6%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	33.9 (14.3%)	390.8 (14.9%)
Woodland/forest	30.9 (13.1%)	341.8 (13.1%)
Another open space in the countryside	28.5 (12.1%)	297.9 (11.4%)
Farmland	24.8 (10.5%)	245.4 (9.4%)
Playing field or other recreation area	19.6 (8.3%)	217.1 (8.3%)
River, lake, canal	16.1 (6.8%)	253.1 (9.7%)
Village	20.8 (8.8%)	195.4 (7.5%)
Another open space in town or city	18.9 (8.0%)	204.2 (7.8%)
Country park	19.9 (8.4%)	193.0 (7.4%)
Beach	13.4 (5.7%)	158.8 (6.1%)
Other coastline	7.7 (3.3%)	89.7 (3.4%)
Children's playground	7.6 (3.2%)	75.9 (2.9%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	8.3 (3.5%)	64.9 (2.5%)
Allotment/community garden	1.0 (0.4%)	19.1 (0.7%)

Respondent base: Oct 2011 (N=3,964), Nov 2010 to Oct 2011 (N=46,290)

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

Table 2 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken.

- During October 2011, 50 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 November 2010 to October 2011 period, a higher proportion of the visits taken in October 2011 involved walking without a dog (28 percent compared to 27 percent).

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

- During October 2011, around 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 figure recorded during September 2011 (44 percent) and seven percentage points lower than that recorded during August 2011 (49 percent).

The average duration of visits in October 2011 was 1 hour and 50 minutes and the average distance travelled was 5.6 miles. The average duration of visits is lower than the September 2011 duration of 2 hours and 8 minutes reflecting the shorter daylight hours and shorter distance journeys likely to be taken now schools are back from holidays.

Around three in ten (28 percent) visits in October 2011 involved expenditure with the average spend per visit being £25. This is identical to the 12-month average (£25).

**Table 2 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

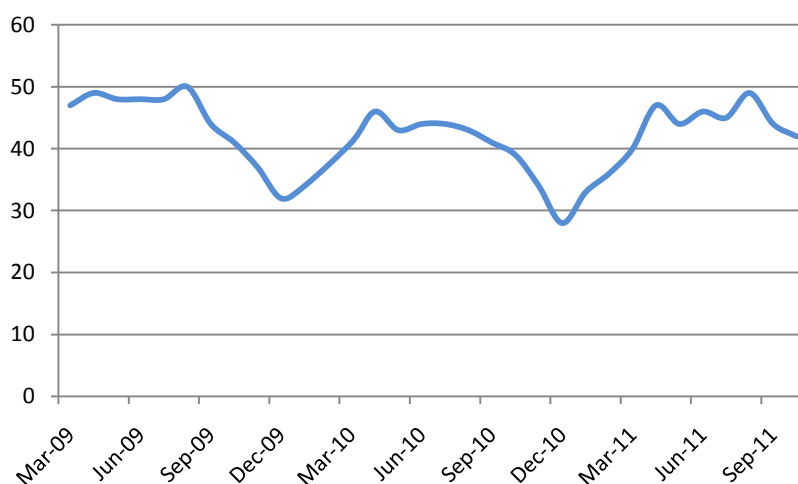
	Oct 2011	Nov 2010 – Oct 2011
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	118.8 (50.3%)	1,329.6 (50.8%)
Walking, not with a dog	66.9 (28.3%)	696.3 (26.6%)
Playing with children	20.6 (8.7%)	233.4 (8.9%)
Eating or drinking out	12.3 (5.2%)	152.9 (5.8%)
Visiting an attraction	5.4 (2.3%)	85.6 (3.3%)
Wildlife watching	5.0 (2.1%)	75.6 (2.9%)
Informal games and sport	4.8 (2.0%)	71.6 (2.7%)
Picnicking	2.3 (1.0%)	57.9 (2.2%)
Running	7.2 (3.0%)	77.3 (3.0%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	3.5 (1.5%)	50.8 (1.9%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	3.9 (1.7%)	50.7 (1.9%)
Road cycling	4.7 (2.0%)	54.0 (2.1%)
Off road cycling/mountain biking	2.7 (1.1%)	27.5 (1.1%)
Fishing	1.1 (0.5%)	15.2 (0.6%)
Horse riding	4.2 (1.8%)	30.7 (1.2%)
Watersports	0.9 (0.4%)	13.1 (0.5%)
Swimming outdoors	0.3 (0.1%)	12.3 (0.5%)
Fieldsports	0.5 (0.2%)	8.9 (0.3%)

Respondent base: Oct 2011 (N=3,964), Nov 2010 to Oct 2011 (N=46,290)

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

**Figure 2 - Percentage of adult population taking visits in the previous 7 days by month, Mar 2009 – Oct 2011.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

Percentage of adult population



**Table 3 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Oct 2011	Nov 2010 - Oct 2011
<b>Average duration of visits</b>	1 hour 50 minutes	1 hour 56 minutes
<b>Average distance travelled to reach visit destination</b>	5.6 miles	6.1 miles
<b>Percentage of visits involving any expenditure</b>	28%	25%
<b>Average expenditure per visit (excluding visits with no spend)</b>	£25	£25

Respondent base for distance and duration: Oct 2011 (N=3,964), Nov 2010 to Oct 2011 (N=46,290)

Respondent base for expenditure: Oct 2011 (N=849), Nov 2010 to Oct 2011 (N=10,593)

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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 – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012



4<sup>th</sup> January 2012

During November 2011, the adult population in England (aged 16 and over) took an estimated 211 million visits to the natural environment. This is 25 million visits less than the 236 million visits taken in October 2011 but higher than the 178 million visits in November 2010. On average, 38 percent of the adult population visited the natural environment in the previous seven days during November 2011. A total of 2.6 billion visits were taken between December 2010 and November 2011.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment in the 12 month period from December 2010 to November 2011.

- The volume of visits in November 2011 was slightly lower than the October 2011 figure (211.3 and 236.3 million visits respectively), returning to a similar level as that in March 2011 (218.8 million).
- The volume of visits in November 2011 was higher than in November 2010 (177.9 million) when the poor winter weather was likely to have impacted on outdoor visits.

Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Dec 2010 to Nov 2011 (millions of visits). Base: Minimum of 3,400 respondents per month

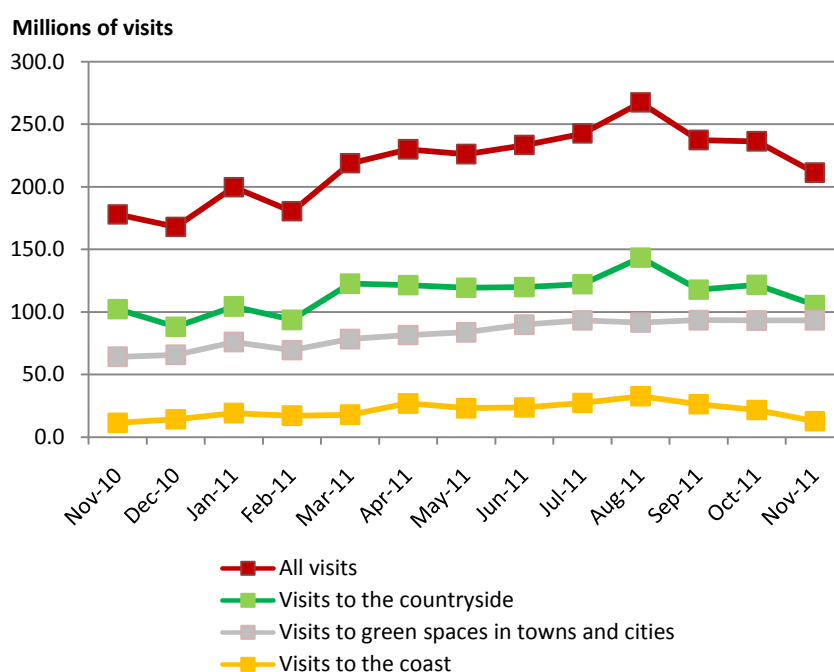


Table 1 illustrates the estimated volume of visits by type of place visited in November 2011 and over the 12 months from December 2010 to November 2011.

- In November 2011, around half of visits were taken to places in the countryside (50 percent), a slightly lower proportion to that recorded across all visits taken in the 12 months from December 2010 to November 2011 (52 percent).
- 44 percent of visits were taken in towns and cities in November 2011, a higher proportion than in the 12 months from December 2010 to November 2011 (38 percent), while 10 percent were taken in coastal locations.

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

	Nov 2011	Dec 2010 – Nov 2011
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	105.5 (49.9%)	1380.1 (52.1%)
Town and city	93.2 (44.1%)	979.8 (38.0%)
Coast	12.7 (6.0%)	262.7 (9.9%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	50.5 (23.9%)	601.3 (22.7%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	43.3 (20.5%)	406.2 (15.3%)
Woodland/forest	27.8 (13.1%)	344.1 (13.0%)
Another open space in the countryside	27.3 (12.9%)	302.5 (11.4%)
Playing field or other recreation area	19.5 (9.2%)	216.1 (8.2%)
River, lake, canal	18.3 (8.6%)	256.7 (9.7%)
Village	17.8 (8.4%)	199.2 (7.5%)
Another open space in town or city	16.9 (8.0%)	206.6 (7.8%)
Country park	14.0 (6.6%)	196.9 (7.4%)
Farmland	13.3 (6.3%)	243.6 (9.1%)
Beach	6.4 (3.0%)	157.3 (5.9%)
Children's playground	5.9 (2.7%)	78.6 (3.0%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	4.6 (2.2%)	66.9 (2.5%)
Other coastline	3.5 (1.7%)	88.4 (3.3%)
Allotment/community garden	0.6 (0.3%)	19.0 (0.7%)

Respondent base: Nov 2011 (N=3,767), Dec 2010 to Nov 2011 (N=46,616)

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

Table 2 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken.

- During November 2011, 56 percent of visits involved walking with a dog, while 24 percent of visits involved walking without a dog.
- Other significant activities included playing with children and eating or drinking out.
- Compared to the overall December 2010 to November 2011 period, a higher proportion of the visits taken in November 2011 involved walking with a dog (56 percent compared to 51 percent).

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

- During November 2011, an average of 38 percent of the adult population reported taking one or more visits to the natural environment in the previous 7 days.
- This is four percentage points lower than during October 2011 (42 percent) but four percentage points higher than the November 2010 figure (34 percent) and close to November 2009 (37 percent).

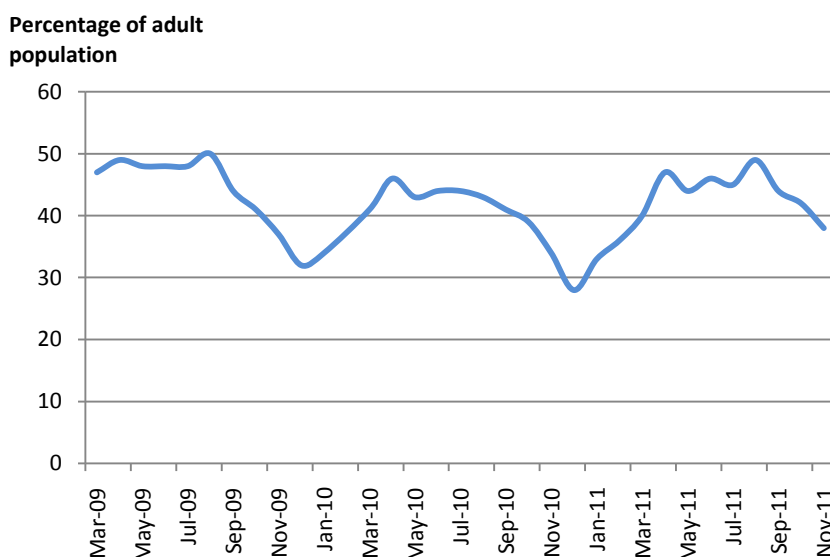
The average duration of visits in November 2011 was 1 hour and 42 minutes and the average distance travelled was 5.1 miles. The average duration of visits is lower than recorded for the overall December 2010 – November 2011 period and also lower than the October 2011 duration of 1 hour and 50 minutes reflecting the shorter daylight hours.

Around one in five (20 percent) visits in November 2011 involved expenditure with the average spend per visit being £20. This is less than the 12 month average (£25).

**Table 2- Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

	Nov 2011	Dec 2010 – Nov 2011
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	117.5 (55.6%)	1,345.9 (50.8%)
Walking, not with a dog	55.1 (26.0%)	707.6 (26.7%)
Playing with children	15.2 (7.2%)	237.6 (8.9%)
Eating or drinking out	10.2 (4.8%)	155.8 (5.8%)
Running	6.8 (3.2%)	78.8 (3.0%)
Informal games and sport	5.9 (2.8%)	74.3 (2.8%)
Wildlife watching	4.7 (2.2%)	76.4 (2.9%)
Visiting an attraction	4.0 (1.9%)	85.8 (3.2%)
Road cycling	3.3 (1.6%)	54.3 (2.0%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	2.6 (1.2%)	51.1 (1.9%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	1.9 (0.9%)	51.5 (1.9%)
Off road cycling/mountain biking	1.4 (0.7%)	27.9 (1.0%)
Picnicking	1.0 (0.5%)	58.3 (2.2%)
Fishing	1.0 (0.5%)	15.9 (0.6%)
Horse riding	0.6 (0.3%)	29.5 (1.1%)
Watersports	0.4 (0.2%)	13.3 (0.5%)
Swimming outdoors	0.2 (0.1%)	11.8 (0.4%)
Fieldsports	0.2 (0.1%)	8.5 (0.3%)

**Figure 2 - Percentage of adult population taking visits in the previous 7 days by month, Mar-2009 to Nov-2011**



**Table 3 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Nov 2011	Dec 2010 - Nov 2011
<b>Average duration of visits</b>	1 hour 42 minutes	1 hour 57 minutes
<b>Average distance travelled to reach visit destination</b>	5.1 miles	6.1 miles
<b>Percentage of visits involving any expenditure</b>	20%	25%
<b>Average expenditure per visit (excluding visits with no spend)</b>	£20	£25

Respondent base for distance and duration: Nov 2011 (N=3,767), Dec 2010 to Nov 2011 (N=46,616)  
Respondent base for expenditure: Nov 2011 (N=861), Dec 2010 to Nov 2011 (N=10,602)

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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 – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012



6<sup>th</sup> February 2012

During December 2011, the adult population in England (aged 16 and over) took an estimated 213 million visits to the natural environment. This is 2 million visits more than the 211 million visits taken in November 2011 and a significant increase on the 168 million visits taken in December 2010. On average, 31 percent of the adult population visited the natural environment in the previous seven days in December 2011. In total 2.7 billion visits were taken between January 2011 and December 2011.

Figure 1 illustrates the monthly volume of visits taken to the natural environment in the 12 month period from January 2011 to December 2011.

- The volume of visits in December 2011 was slightly higher than the November 2011 figure (212.6 and 211.3 million visits respectively).
- The volume of visits in December 2011 was higher than in December 2010 (168 million) and December 2009 (199 million). With Britain experiencing one of the warmest winters on record, the exceptionally mild weather is likely to have contributed to the increase in visits during the month when compared to previous years.

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

- In December 2011, over half of visits were taken to places in the countryside (55 percent), a slightly higher proportion compared to all visits taken in the 12 months from January 2011 to December 2011 (52 percent).
- In December 2011, 37 percent of visits were taken in towns and cities, a similar proportion to the 12 months from January 2011 to December 2011 (38 percent), while eight percent were taken in coastal locations.

Figure 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by month and type of place visited, Jan 2011 to Dec 2011 (millions of visits). Base: Minimum of 3,500 respondents per month

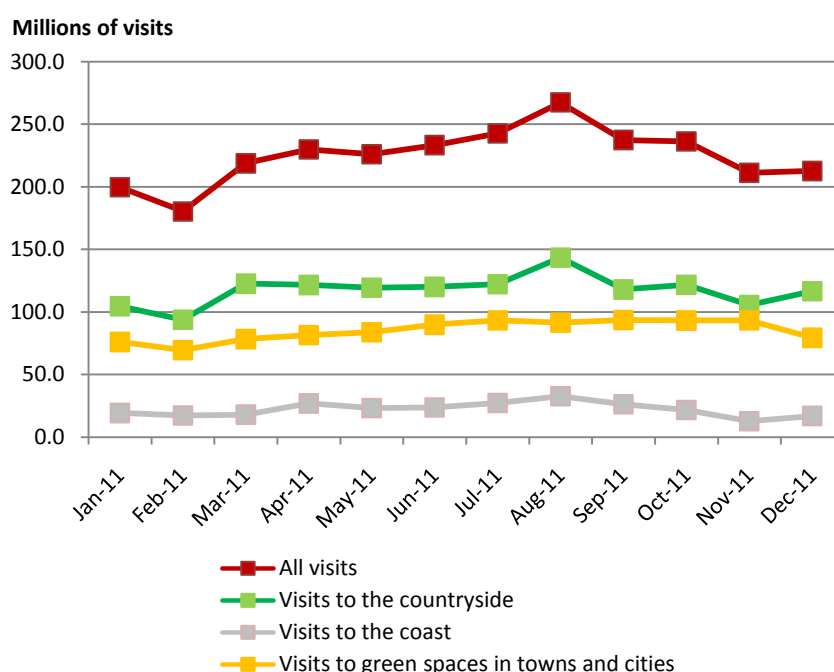


Table 1 - Volume of visits to the natural environment by place visited (millions of visits and percentage of total).

	Dec 2011	Jan 2011 – Dec 2011
<b>By general type of place</b>		
Countryside	116.4 (54.8%)	1408.3 (52.2%)
Town and city	79.3 (37.3%)	1022.3 (37.9%)
Coast	16.9 (7.9%)	265.3 (9.8%)
<b>By specific type of place</b>		
Park in a town or city	48.2 (22.7%)	612.4 (22.7%)
Woodland/forest	35.5 (16.7%)	351.6 (13.0%)
Another open space in the countryside	31.0 (14.6%)	319.1 (11.8%)
Path, cycleway, bridleway	30.3 (14.2%)	414.4 (15.4%)
Farmland	20.3 (9.5%)	242.2 (9.0%)
Another open space in town or city	20.1 (9.5%)	214.1 (7.9%)
River, lake, canal	16.4 (7.7%)	252.8 (9.4%)
Playing field or other recreation area	14.2 (6.7%)	220.7 (8.2%)
Country park	13.5 (6.4%)	199.0 (7.4%)
Beach	11.0 (5.2%)	158.6 (5.9%)
Village	10.5 (4.9%)	198.1 (7.3%)
Mountain, hill, moorland	4.6 (2.1%)	69.0 (2.6%)
Children's playground	4.0 (1.9%)	79.0 (2.9%)
Other coastline	3.1 (1.5%)	88.2 (3.3%)
Allotment/community garden	1.4 (0.7%)	19.7 (0.7%)

Respondent base: Dec 2011 (N=4,026), Jan 2011 to Dec 2011 (N=46,342)

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

Table 2 shows the volume of visits by type of activity undertaken.

- During December 2011, 62 percent of visits involved walking with a dog, while 24 percent of visits involved walking without a dog.
- Other significant activities included playing with children and eating or drinking out.
- Compared to the overall January 2011 to December 2011 period, a higher proportion of the visits taken in December 2011 involved walking with a dog (62 percent compared to 51 percent).

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

- During December 2011, an average of 31 percent of the adult population took one or more visits to the natural environment in the previous seven days.
- This is seven percentage points lower than during November 2011 (38 percent) but three percentage points higher than the December 2011 figure (28 percent) and similar to December 2009 (32 percent).

**Table 2- Volume of visits to the natural environment by activity (millions of visits and percentage of total).**

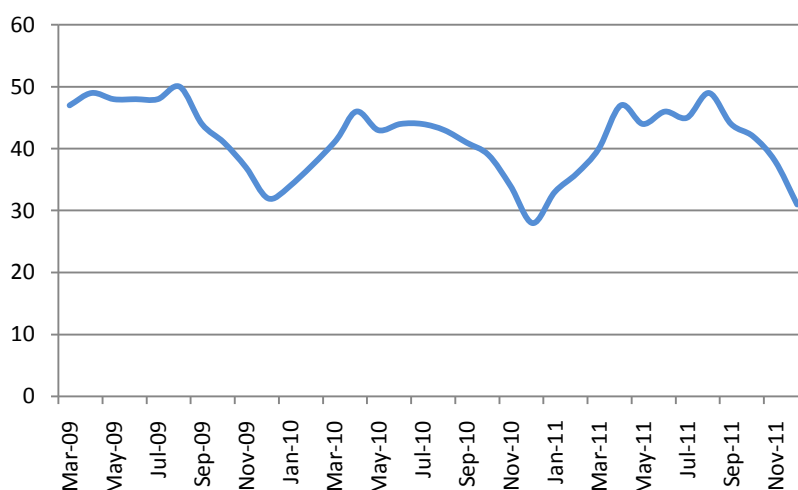
	Dec 2011	Jan 2011 – Dec 2011
<b>Activity</b>		
Walking, with a dog	131.9 (62.0%)	1,374.4 (51.0%)
Walking, not with a dog	51.2 (24.1%)	717.1 (26.6%)
Playing with children	15.4 (7.2%)	243.2 (9.0%)
Eating or drinking out	7.7 (3.6%)	157.2 (5.8%)
Running	6.0 (2.8%)	82.5 (3.1%)
Wildlife watching	5.8 (2.7%)	79.0 (2.9%)
Visiting an attraction	3.2 (1.5%)	85.4 (3.2%)
Informal games and sport	2.6 (1.2%)	75.8 (2.8%)
Horse riding	2.6 (1.2%)	30.8 (1.1%)
Appreciating scenery from your car	2.4 (1.1%)	52.0 (1.9%)
Road cycling	2.3 (1.1%)	55.4 (2.1%)
Visits to the beach, sunbathing, paddling in the sea	1.6 (0.8%)	51.2 (1.9%)
Fieldsports	1.0 (0.5%)	8.9 (0.3%)
Off road cycling/mountain biking	0.8 (0.4%)	27.8 (1.0%)
Picnicking	0.6 (0.3%)	58.6 (2.2%)
Watersports	0.3 (0.1%)	13.4 (0.5%)
Fishing	0.2 (0.1%)	15.8 (0.6%)
Swimming outdoors	- (-%)	11.7 (0.4%)

Respondent base: Dec 2011 (N=4,026), Jan 2011 to Dec 2011 (N=46,342)

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

**Figure 2 - Percentage of adult population taking visits in the previous 7 days by month, Mar 2009 – Nov 2011.** Base: Minimum of 3,200 respondents per month

**Percentage of adult population**



**Table 3 - Visit duration, distance travelled and expenditure during visits**

	Dec 2011	Jan 2011 - Dec 2011
<b>Average duration of visits</b>	1 hour 30 minutes	1 hour 56 minutes
<b>Average distance travelled to reach visit destination</b>	3.7 miles	6.0 miles
<b>Percentage of visits involving any expenditure</b>	18%	25%
<b>Average expenditure per visit (excluding visits with no spend)</b>	£36	£27

Respondent base for distance and duration: Dec 2011 (N=4,026), Jan 2011 to Dec 2011 (N=46,342)

Respondent base for expenditure: Dec 2011 (N=846), Jan 2011 to Dec 2011 (N=10,586)

The average duration of visits in December 2011 was 1 hour and 30 minutes and the average distance travelled was 3.7 miles. Both of these values are less than the averages for the whole of 2011, reflecting the closer to home profile of visits taken in the winter months.

Around one in five (18 percent) of visits taken in December 2011 involved expenditure with the average spend per visit being £36. This is more than the 12 month average (£27).

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 natural environment, defined as 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 about the survey visit: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/research/mene.aspx>