

Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey (2009 - 2012): Visit taking in the South Pennines

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Foreword

Natural England commission a range of reports from external contractors to provide evidence and advice to assist us in delivering our duties.

Background

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

Natural England in partnership with Pennine Prospects commissioned this study on behalf of the South Pennines Local Nature Partnership. The South Pennines is the distinctive area of uplands between the conurbations of Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and Pennine Lancashire. The study analysed data collected

between 2009-12 through the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey in order to better understand the profile of visits taken in the South Pennines and the demographics, levels of visit taking, motivations and barriers amongst people living in the surrounding South Pennines Catchment Area. Results from this study are compared with findings from earlier reports that also use the MENE data to analyse differences in access to the natural environment between social groups within the total adult English population (Natural England Data Reports, DATA003 & DATA005).

This report should be cited as:

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Further information

This report can be downloaded from the Natural England website: www.naturalengland.org.uk. For information on Natural England publications contact the Natural England Enquiry Service on 0845 600 3078 or e-mail enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk.

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1. Introduction

Natural England in partnership with Pennine Prospects commissioned this study on behalf of the South Pennines Local Nature Partnership (LNP).

The study analysed data from 2009-12 of the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) in order to better understand the profile of visits taken in the South Pennines and the demographics, levels of visit taking, motivations and barriers amongst people living in the surrounding South Pennines Catchment Area (see Figure 1 below).

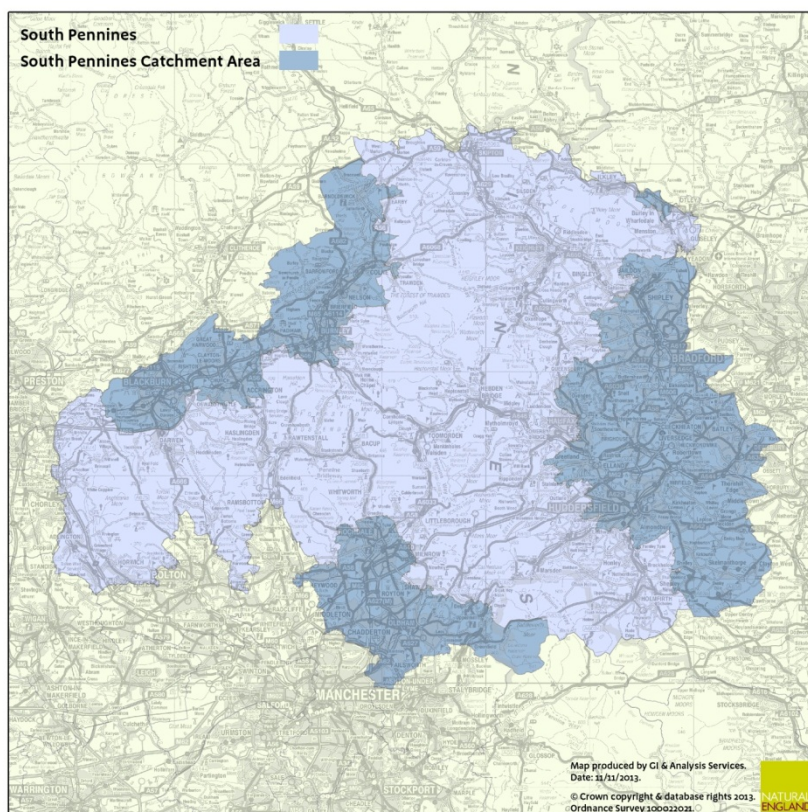
The South Pennines is the distinctive area of uplands between the conurbations of Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and Pennine Lancashire.

Pennine Prospects and the South Pennines Local Nature Partnership

Pennine Prospects is the rural regeneration company for the South Pennines lying at the core of a public, private and voluntary sector partnership that brings together six local authorities (Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Lancashire, Oldham & Rochdale), major land owners (United Utilities, Yorkshire Water and the National Trust), Natural England and voluntary sector bodies such as the South Pennines Association and Pennine Heritage.

The South Pennines Local Nature Partnership (LNP) was set up in 2012 to deliver the objectives of the Natural Environment White Paper (2011), "The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature", in the South Pennines.

Figure 1 South Pennines and South Pennines Catchment Area



Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE)

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

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

In the sections which follow, the data has been analysed as follows:

Section 3 - Analysis of all visits taken to the South Pennines during the survey period (see Figure 1). This analysis has provided details of the volume and characteristics of visits taken to this area and a profile of the people taking these visits, including residents of this area, those who live in the surrounding South Pennines Catchment Area (see Figure 1) and people from further afield. Whether or not a visit was taken within this area was determined using geocodes assigned in the MENE analysis to the main visit destination. This analysis is based on details of a sample of 457 visits taken within this area.

Section 4 - Analysis of responses provided by survey respondents who live in the local authorities shown in Figure 1 which comprise the South Pennines Catchment Area. Analysis is based on a total sample of 3,422 respondents.

Sections 5 to 7 - More detailed analysis of the characteristics, visit taking behaviours and barriers which prevent visiting amongst key population groups who live in the South Pennines Catchment Area. The groups of interest are as follows:

- *Less affluent socio-economic groups* – a focus on the least affluent members of the population who are in the DE socio-economic groupings. For comparison, results are also shown alongside those for the more affluent AB and C1C2 socio-economic groupings (see Appendix for definitions of each group).
- *Members of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population* – for comparison results are also shown for the rest of the population, not in the BAME community.
- *Residents of urban areas* – as defined using the ONS urban-rural classification. For comparison, results are also shown for the rest of the population resident in urban fringe or rural areas.

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

2. Conclusions and key findings

Conclusions

This report demonstrates that the natural environment of the South Pennines is visited by three distinct groups:

- Residents of the South Pennines.
- Residents of the former industrial towns around the South Pennines (the South Pennines Catchment Area).
- Residents of more remote areas.

The main focus of this report is on visits taken by residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area and the potential to increase visit taking amongst residents of this area.

Significant differences are revealed in the relationship between the groups and the natural environment of the South Pennines, principally that residents of the South Pennines are heavy users of the natural environment, whilst the residents of the catchment area are relatively light users.

Earlier studies show why people are attracted to the natural environment of the South Pennines and existing projects delivered by Pennine Prospects and its partners reinforce the patterns of use of this distinctive natural environment.

The findings of the study will help to shape the future public engagement programme for the South Pennines LNP; to enable new partners to be identified and develop better targeted outreach projects so that the opportunities to benefit from spending time in the natural environment are open to a wider range of individuals; helping to deliver a series of outcomes including higher levels of health and reduced inequalities.

Visiting the South Pennines

- Between March 2009 and February 2012 an average of 20 million visits were taken per year to places within the South Pennines.
- 7.1 million of these visits (36% of the total) were taken by people who live in the South Pennines. This equates to an average of 35 visits per year by each of the c.0.2 million adults who live in this area.
- 3.6 million of these visits (18%) were taken by people who live in the surrounding South Pennines Catchment Area. This equates to an average of around 3 visits per year by each of the c.1.4m adults who live in this area.
- The remaining 9 million visits taken per year to the South Pennines (46%) originate from further afield with large volumes from cities such as Leeds and Manchester.
- The nature of the visits taken by residents of these different geographic areas varies somewhat. Visits taken by residents of the South Pennines and South Pennines Catchment Area were more likely to be taken on foot, to include dog walking and the

use of paths, cycleways and bridleways while visitors from further away were more likely to take part in mountain or moorland hillwalking.

Comparing South Pennines and South Pennines Catchment Area populations

- Residents of the South Pennines take visits to the natural environment much more frequently than residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area. In the 7 days before interview an average of 42% of South Pennines residents had taken a visit compared to just 35% of residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area.
- Residents of the South Pennines are more likely than residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area to be in the most affluent socio-economic groups while, in contrast, residents of the Catchment Area are significantly more likely to be in the least affluent socio-economic groups, to be members of the BAME population and to live in urban and deprived areas.
- Amongst residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area, visit taking levels are more closely related to socio-economic group than any other demographic, with more affluent people more likely to take visits than those in the least affluent groups. Ethnicity and place of residence (i.e. urban, rural or urban fringe) are also significant factors with people from the urban and BAME populations taking far fewer visits on average.

Socio-Economic Status - residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area

- Compared to members of the most affluent AB socio-economic groups, residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area from the least affluent DE socio-economic groups were more likely to live in urban locations and areas classified as deprived.
- On average 27% of people from the least affluent DE socio-economic groups had taken a visit to anywhere in the natural environment in the 7 days prior to interview, a much lower proportion compared to ABs (48%).
- The most frequent reasons given by DE social groups for not taking visits to the natural environment more often were: too busy at work and home, health, old age and disability.
- Over half the visits to the natural environment taken by DE residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area involved a journey of less than a mile, and 79% were taken on foot. Just 12% of visits involved a journey of over 5 miles.
- DEs were more likely than those in more affluent socio-economic groups to visit parks in a town or city but were less likely to visit more rural locations such as woodland.
- 6% of visits taken by members of the least affluent DE socio-economic groups had a destination within the South Pennines, similar to the proportion of visits taken by C1C2s (7%) but slightly less than the proportion of visits taken by ABs (9%).

Ethnicity - residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area

- Nearly all of the BAME population from the South Pennines Catchment Area lived in urban areas (99%) and nearly half (48%) lived in areas classified as deprived.
- On average 24% of people in the BAME population had taken a visit to anywhere in the natural environment in the 7 days prior to interview, a much lower proportion than amongst the rest of the population (38%).
- The most frequent reasons given by members of the BAME population for not taking visits to the natural environment related to a lack of time with 17% indicating that they were too busy at work while 12% were too busy at home. A further 9% of this group indicated they had 'no particular reasons' for not taking more visits.

- The majority of visits taken by the BAME population were to places within 2 miles of home (69%). Accordingly most had an urban destination (62% of visits compared to 42% by rest of population).

Place of residence - residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area

- 41% of residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area living in urban locations were in the least affluent DE socio-economic group, a much higher proportion than amongst those living in the rural, small town and urban fringe parts of the South Pennines Catchment Area (23%).
- Urban residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area generally took fewer visits to the natural environment, with around a third (34%) taking a visit in the 7 days prior to interview, compared to 55% of people living in urban fringe and rural locations.
- Only 6% of all visits taken by urban residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area had a main destination within the South Pennines whilst almost a third (32%) of visits included a park in a town or city and 16% included a Country Park.

3. Visits to the South Pennines

The analysis in this section relates to all visits taken to the natural environment taken to places within the South Pennines (the red hatched area in Figure 1) in the period from March 2009 to February 2012. This analysis is based on a sample of 457 visits.

3.1. Volume of visits

Between 2009 and 2012 an average of **20 million visits** were taken per year to destinations within the South Pennines.

Table 1 shows the place of residence of visitors to the South Pennines by local authority. Comparing the volume of visits originating from each area with the adult population size, the greatest visits per capita were recorded in Rossendale, Bolton and Burnley.

Table 1 Place of residence of visitors to the South Pennines, by local authority

NB. Only local authority areas representing 0.5% of visits or more are shown

	Annual volume of visits taken to South Pennines (m)	% of visits taken to South Pennines	Per capita annual visits taken to South Pennines
Kirklees	4.3	21.8%	13
Bolton	4.1	20.7%	19
Burnley	1.7	8.9%	16
Pendle	1.6	8.1%	14
Bury	1.3	6.4%	9
Leeds	1.1	5.4%	2
Rossendale	0.8	4.1%	24
Calderdale	0.5	2.3%	3
Chorley	0.4	1.9%	9
Manchester	0.4	1.8%	1
Rochdale	0.3	1.7%	2
Blackburn with Darwen	0.3	1.4%	3
Barnsley	0.3	1.4%	1
Sheffield	0.3	1.3%	1
Newham	0.2	0.9%	1
Wakefield	0.2	0.8%	1
Oldham	0.2	0.8%	1
Warrington	0.2	0.8%	1
Hyndburn	0.1	0.7%	7
Sefton	0.1	0.6%	1
Bradford	0.1	0.5%	<1
South Ribble	0.1	0.5%	1
Birmingham	0.1	0.5%	<1
Cheltenham	0.1	0.5%	1
Stockport	0.1	0.5%	<1

Table 2 shows the annual volumes of visits taken to the South Pennines by people who live within this area, by people who live in the surrounding South Pennines Catchment Area and by people who live elsewhere in England. This analysis shows that just 18% of visits to the South Pennines are taken by residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area, with an average of 4 visits taken per person per year compared to 42 amongst people who live within the South Pennines. Almost half of visits taken to the South Pennines originate from elsewhere in England.

While the main focus of this report is on residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area, in the following sections comparisons are made between visitors from these three different geographic areas, highlighting differences in demographic profile and the types of visits taken.

Table 2 Place of residence of visitors to the South Pennines

NB. Only local authority areas representing 0.5% of visits or more are shown

	Annual volume of visits taken to South Pennines (m)	% of visits taken to South Pennines	Per capita annual visits taken to South Pennines
South Pennines	7.1	36%	35
South Pennines Catchment Area	3.6	18%	3
Rest of England	9.0	46%	<1

3.2. Demographic profile of visitors

Figure 2 Demographics of visitors – profile of visitors to natural environment in South Pennines compared to visit to natural environment across all England

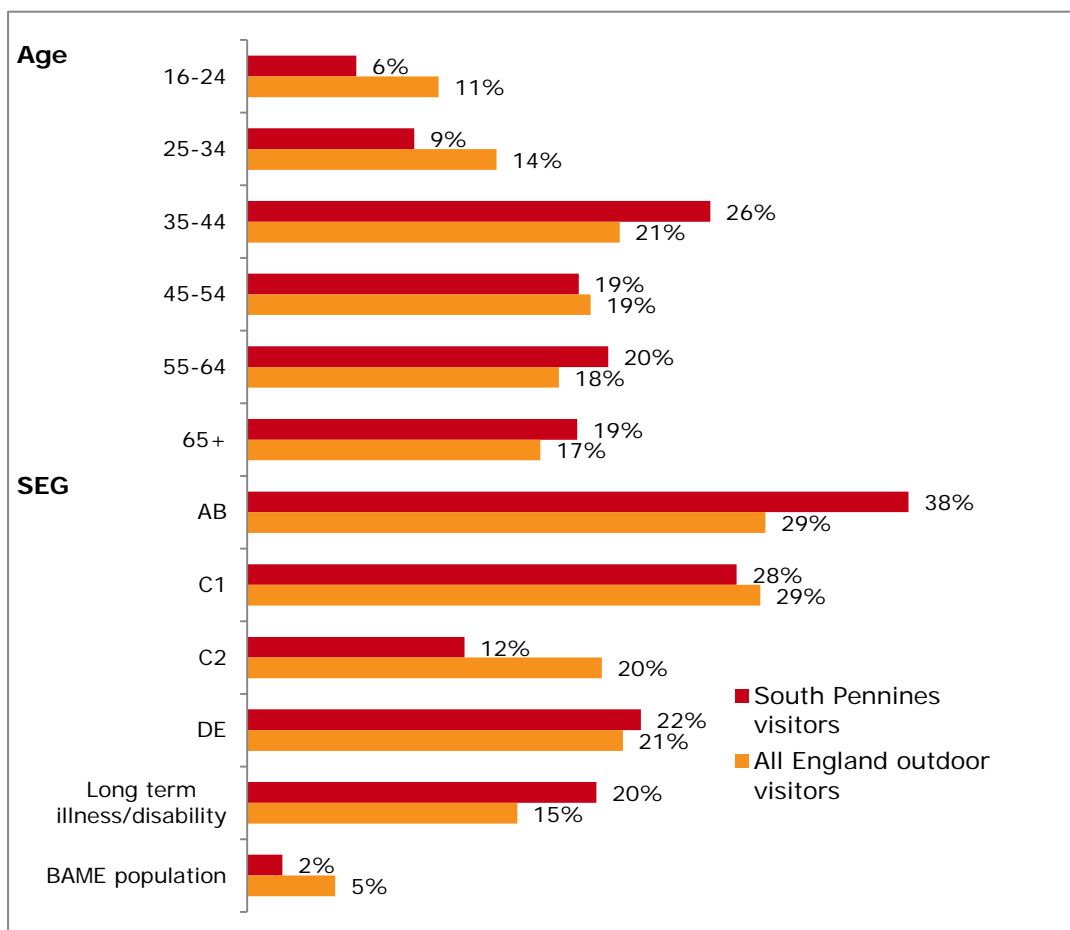


Figure 2 compares the profile of visitors to natural places in the South Pennines with the general profile of visitors to the natural environment across England as a whole. Compared to the results for England as a whole, the age profile of visitors in the South Pennines includes more people aged between 35 and 44 and 55 and over.

The socio-economic profile of visitors to the South Pennines is polarised with 38% from the most affluent AB socio-economic groups, a far larger proportion than the national average for these groups visiting the natural environment (29%), and 22% from the least affluent DE groups which is similar to the national average.

Just 2% of visits to places in the South Pennines are taken by members of the BAME population, less than half the national average (5%).

Table 3 compares the demographic profile of people taking visits in the South Pennines by place of residence. Visitors who live in the South Pennines Catchment Area are more likely to be in the oldest age group or to have a long term illness or disability.

Table 3 Demographics of visitors – profile of visitors to natural environment in South Pennines by place of residence

	Visitors to South Pennines		
	Profile of visitors who live within the South Pennines	Profile of visitors who live within the South Pennines Catchment Area	Profile of visitors who live elsewhere in England
Age			
16-24	8%	4%	6%
25-34	6%	9%	12%
35-44	27%	22%	28%
45-54	19%	10%	22%
55-64	22%	22%	18%
65+	18%	32%	14%
SEG			
AB	36%	26%	44%
C1	24%	23%	32%
C2	11%	22%	10%
DE	30%	29%	14%
Long term illness/disability	14%	31%	20%
BAME population	1%	2%	3%

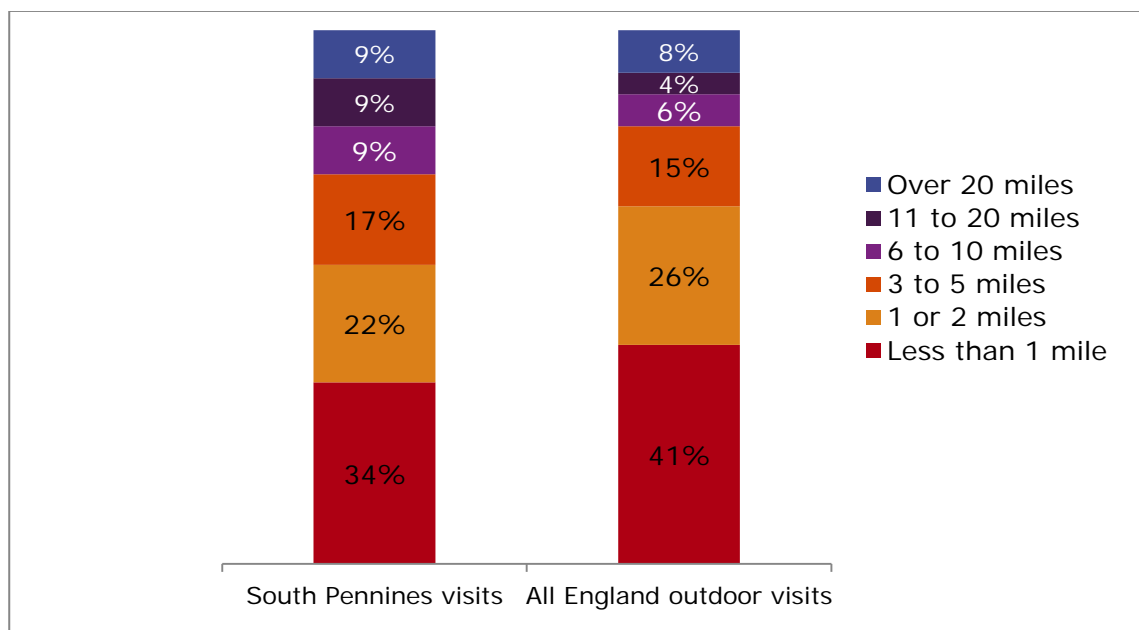
3.3. Visit details

MENE collects detailed information on the characteristics of visits taken to the natural environment. The analysis below relates to all visits with a destination within the South Pennines.

Distances travelled and transport used

As shown in Figure 3, in common with the profile for all visits taken in England, most visits taken in the South Pennines were local, starting from a location within a few miles of the destination. However it is notable that compared to the all England results, the South Pennines attracts a higher proportion of visitors from further afield, 27% from over 5 miles away compared to a national average of 18%.

Figure 3 Distance travelled on visits taken in the South Pennines



59% of visits taken in the South Pennines were made on foot while 35% involved travel by car. By comparison, across England as a whole 63% of visits to the natural environment were taken on foot and 30% were taken by car. This finding reflects the higher proportion of people travelling a longer distance (5 miles or more) to visit the South Pennines.

As shown in Table 3 below, in just under half of visits to the South Pennines taken by residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area (47%) car was the main mode of transport, a much higher proportion than amongst people living within the South Pennines who in contrast, were much more likely to take their visit on foot (87%).

Table 3 Mode of transport in visits to natural environment in South Pennines by place of residence

	Visits taken in South Pennines			
	All visitors	Visitors who live within South Pennines	Visitors who live within South Pennines Catchment Area	Visitors who live elsewhere in England
On foot	59%	87%	49%	42%
Car/van	35%	10%	47%	49%
Bicycle	3%	2%	-	4%
Train	1%	-	2%	2%
Public bus	1%	-	2%	1%
Coach trip	1%	-	-	2%

Types of place visited

In terms of the general type of environment visited, in 75% of visits taken in the South Pennines, participants described the place they visited as 'countryside' while the remaining 25% of visits were taken to green places in a town or city.

More specifically, the largest proportions of visits taken in the South Pennines included paths, cycleways or bridleways, woodland or forestry, a river, lake or canal or other open spaces in the countryside (Figure 4).

Compared to the average results across England for the types of place visited, South Pennine visits were more likely to be taken to countryside/rural places but less likely to be taken to urban parks.

Figure 4 Types of place included on visits taken in the South Pennines

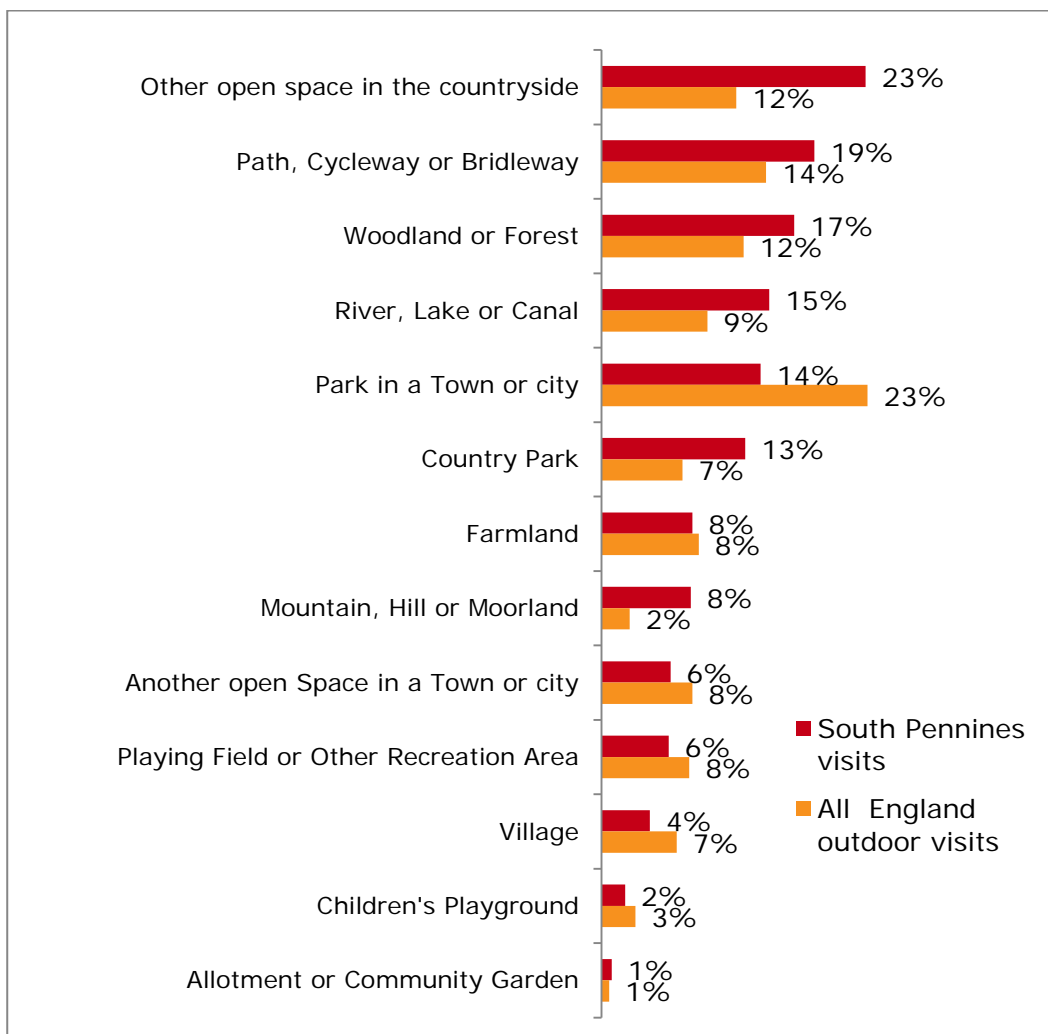


Table 4 overleaf shows the types of place included in visits taken in the South Pennines by place of residence. The most visited specific types of place amongst people living in the South Pennines Catchment area were rivers, lakes and canals, paths and cycleways, urban parks, woodland and country parks.

Table 4 Types of place included in visits taken in the South Pennines by place of residence

	Visits taken in South Pennines		
	Visitors who live within South Pennines	Visitors who live within South Pennines Catchment Area	Visitors who live elsewhere in England
River, lake or canal	8%	30%	14%
Other open space in countryside	29%	23%	19%
Path, cycleway or bridleway	29%	16%	11%
Park in a town or city	11%	12%	17%
Woodland or forest	15%	11%	21%
Country Park	4%	10%	20%
Playing field or other recreation area	4%	8%	6%
Other open space in a town or city	3%	6%	9%
Children's playground	<1%	6%	2%
Village	2%	5%	6%
Mountain, hill or moorland	4%	4%	12%
Farmland	8%	2%	11%

Activities undertaken

More than 80% of visits taken to natural places in the South Pennines involved walking (Figure 5).

The profile of activities undertaken in the South Pennines was broadly similar to the profile of visits taken across all of England.

Figure 5 Activities undertaken on visits taken in the South Pennines

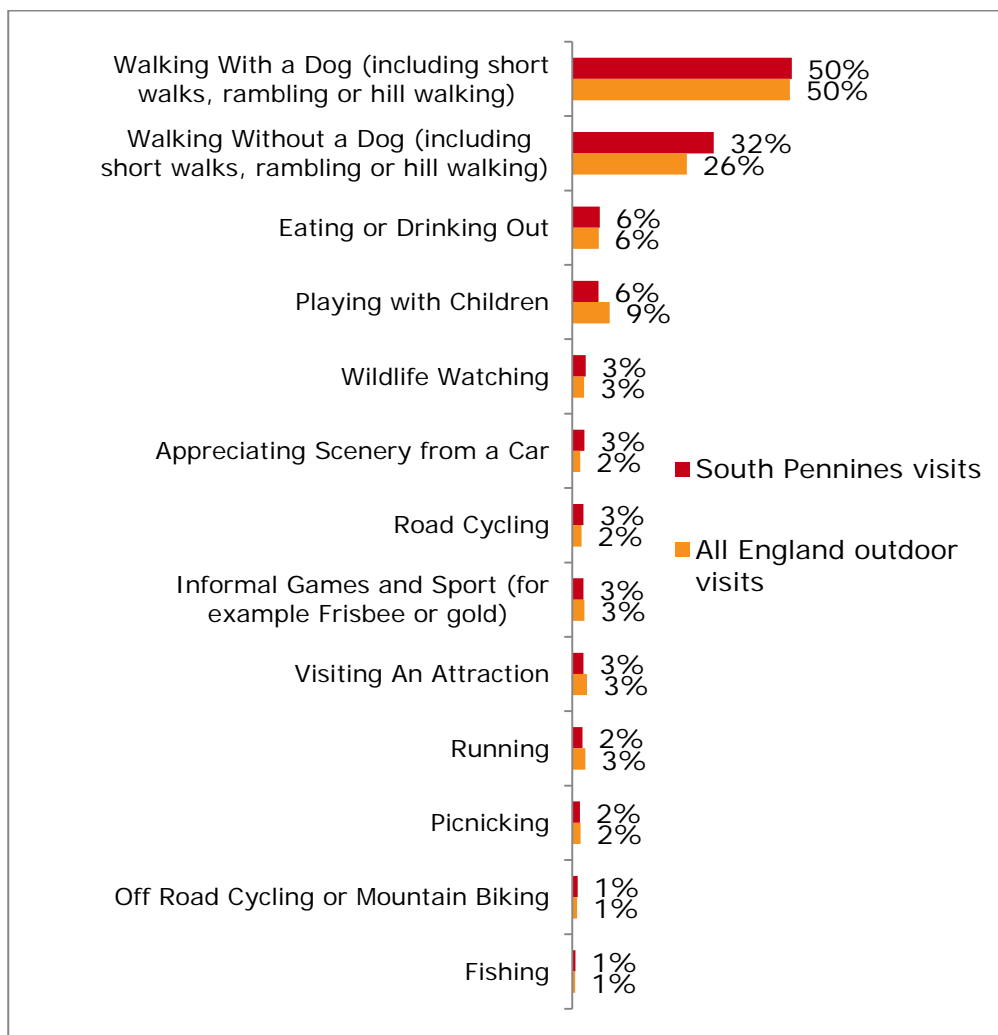


Table 5 overleaf illustrates activities undertaken during visits taken in the South Pennines by place of residence. The majority of visits taken by residents of the South Pennines involved dog walking (68%) while visitors who lived in the South Pennines Catchment Area were more likely than those from other places to walk without a dog or to take part in wildlife watching or informal games and sport.

Table 5 Activities undertaken on visits taken in the South Pennines by place of residence

	Visits taken in South Pennines		
	Visitors who live within South Pennines	Visitors who live within South Pennines Catchment Area	Visitors who live elsewhere in England
Walking without a dog	23%	40%	37%
Walking with a dog	68%	39%	41%
Wildlife watching	1%	9%	3%
Informal games and sport	1%	8%	1%
Eating or drinking out	1%	7%	10%
Playing with children	5%	4%	7%
Appreciating scenery from a car	<1%	4%	4%
Running	2%	4%	2%
Visiting an attraction	<1%	3%	4%
Fishing	<1%	2%	1%
Picnicking	1%	1%	3%
Road cycling	<1%	<1%	5%
Off road cycling/ mountain biking	2%	<1%	1%

4. Visit taking by residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area

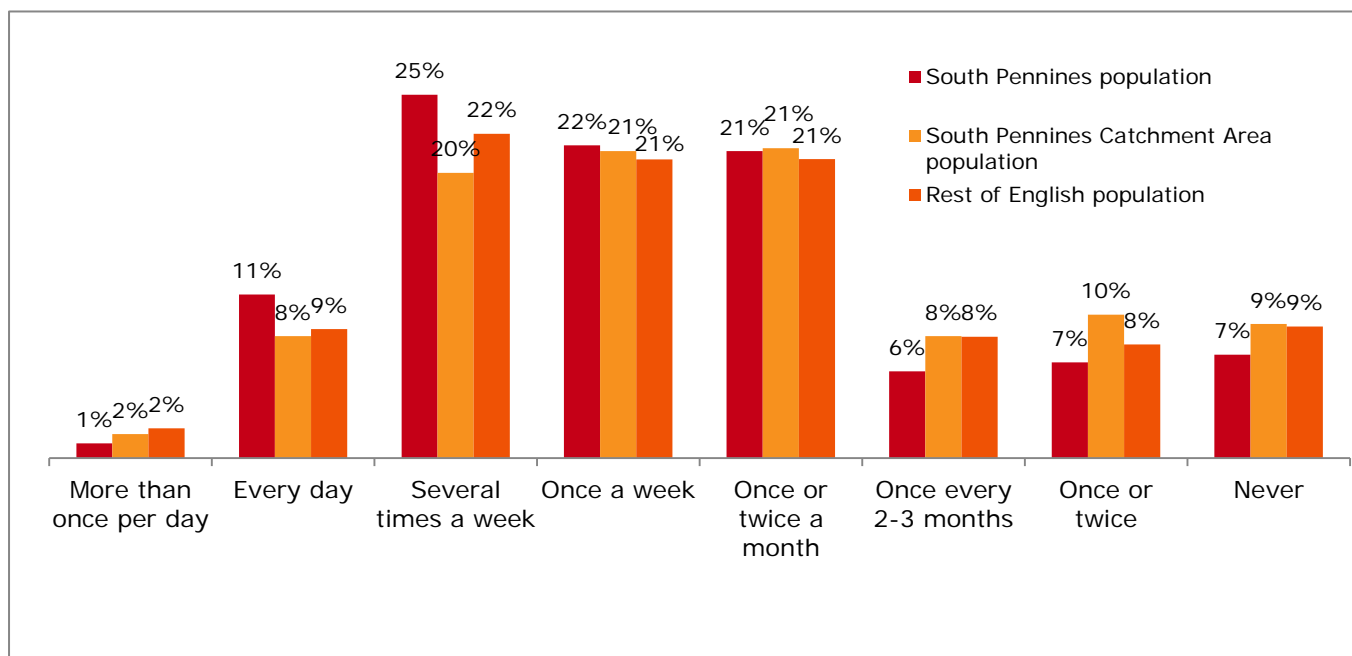
The analysis in this section relates to residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area i.e. the areas within the ten local authority areas showing in Figure 1 which surround the South Pennines.

4.1. Frequency of visiting the natural environment

Figure 6 shows the frequency of visit taking amongst residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area in the last 12 months and, for comparison by people living in the South Pennines and the rest of England.

Half of the South Pennines Catchment Population (51%) typically take visits to the natural environment at least weekly while a minority take visits much less often or never. A larger proportion of South Pennines residents take visits at least weekly (59%).

Figure 6 General frequency of visits to the natural environment in last 12 months – South Pennines catchment residents compared with the average from across England residents



MENE fieldwork is conducted in every week of the year and records the proportion of the population taking visits to the natural environment in the 7 days prior to interview. On average, over the three years of the survey, **35%** of the residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area had taken a visit to the natural environment in the 7 days before interview.

This compares to an average of **42%** amongst residents of the South Pennines and **42%** across the rest of the English adult population.

As shown in Table 6, amongst residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area the proportion taking visits in the natural environment during the 7 days prior to interview varied on the basis of a number of different demographics. While an average of 35% of the population had taken visits, the level was higher amongst members of the most affluent socio-economic groups, those who lived in rural or town/fringe areas and those who lived in the least deprived areas. However levels of visit taking were much lower amongst the BAME population and people with disabilities.

Table 6 Residents of South Pennines Catchment Areas - average percentage taking visits to the natural environment in the 7 days prior to interview by demographic group

	Any visits taken
Total adult population	35%
By sex	
Male	37%
Female	34%
By age	
16-24	33%
25-34	34%
35-44	39%
45-54	38%
55-64	39%
65+	31%
By socio-economic group	
AB	48%
C1	39%
C2	36%
DE	27%
By disability/ long term illness	
Any	25%
None	38%
By children in household	
Any	35%
None	36%
By ethnicity	
Not –BAME	38%
BAME	24%
By place of residence	
Rural	55%
Town or fringe	54%
Urban	34%
By Index of Multiple Deprivation	
10% Least Deprived	60%
Mid 11% to 89%	38%
10% Most Deprived	26%

Similarly, as shown in Table 7, amongst residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area the proportions taking visits in the last 7 days varied by local authority of residence with the highest proportions of the population taking visits amongst residents of Pendle, Hyndburn and Kirklees while fewer residents of Calderdale, Oldham, Rochdale and Bradford took visits.

Table 7 Residents of South Pennines Catchment Area - average percentage taking visits to the natural environment in the 7 days prior to interview by Local Authority of residence

	Any visits taken
Pendle	41%
Hyndburn	41%
Kirklees	39%
Blackburn with Darwen	37%
Burnley	36%
Calderdale	30%
Oldham	28%
Rochdale	23%
Bradford	23%

4.2. Profiling South Pennines Catchment Area residents

Table 8 illustrates the demographic profile of South Pennine Catchment Area residents and, for comparison, residents of the South Pennines and the rest of England.

Notably, larger proportions of the South Pennines Catchment Area population were members of the least affluent DE socio-economic group, were members of the BAME population and live in areas defined as urban and deprived.

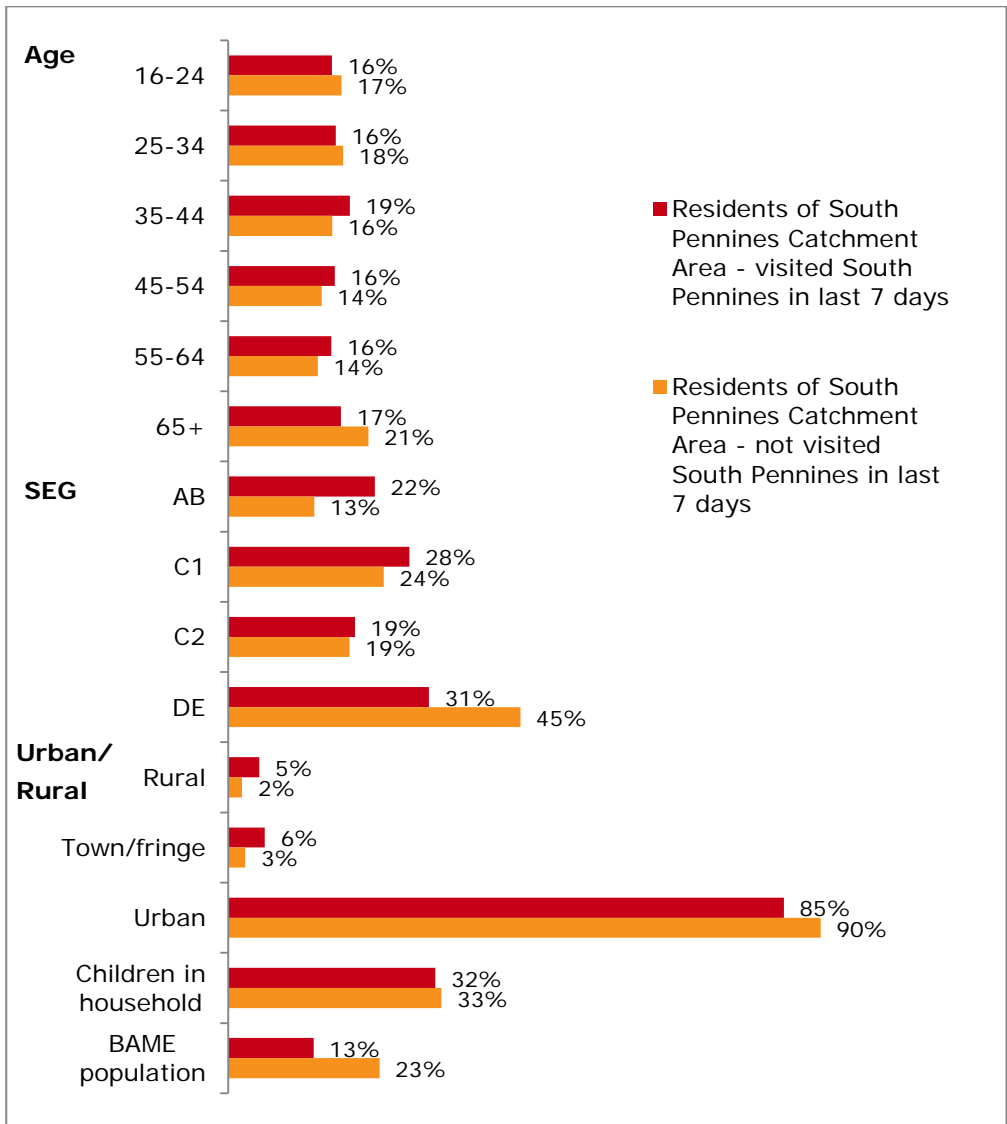
In contrast residents of the South Pennines were much more likely to be in the highest socio-economic groups, not in the BAME population and to live in rural or town/fringe locations.

Table 8 Population profiles – South Pennines, South Pennines Catchment Area and Rest of England

	Residents of South Pennines	Residents of South Pennines Catchment Area	Residents of rest of England
Sex			
Male	48%	49%	49%
Female	52%	51%	51%
Age			
16-24	12%	17%	14%
25-34	13%	17%	16%
35-44	18%	17%	19%
45-54	20%	15%	17%
55-64	15%	14%	15%
65+	22%	20%	19%
Socio-economic group			
AB	29%	16%	23%
C1	28%	25%	29%
C2	17%	19%	21%
DE	26%	40%	27%
Disability/ long term illness			
Any	18%	21%	18%
None	82%	79%	82%
Children in household			
Any	29%	32%	29%
None	71%	68%	71%
Ethnicity			
Not –BAME	96%	80%	87%
BAME	4%	20%	13%
Place of residence			
Rural	11%	3%	8%
Town or fringe	14%	5%	10%
Urban	74%	92%	81%
Index of Multiple Deprivation			
10% Least Deprived	5%	1%	9%
Mid 11% to 89%	91%	73%	80%
10% Most Deprived	4%	26%	10%

Comparing the profile of residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area who had taken a visit to the South Pennines in the 7 days before interview, with those residents that had not taken a visit, shows that those who had taken a visit were more likely to be in the more affluent AB socio-economic and to live in rural or urban fringe areas but were less likely to be members of the BAME population.

Figure 7 Demographics of residents of South Pennines Catchment Area – those visiting South Pennines in last 7 days compared to those not visiting



4.3. Relationships between visit frequency and demographics

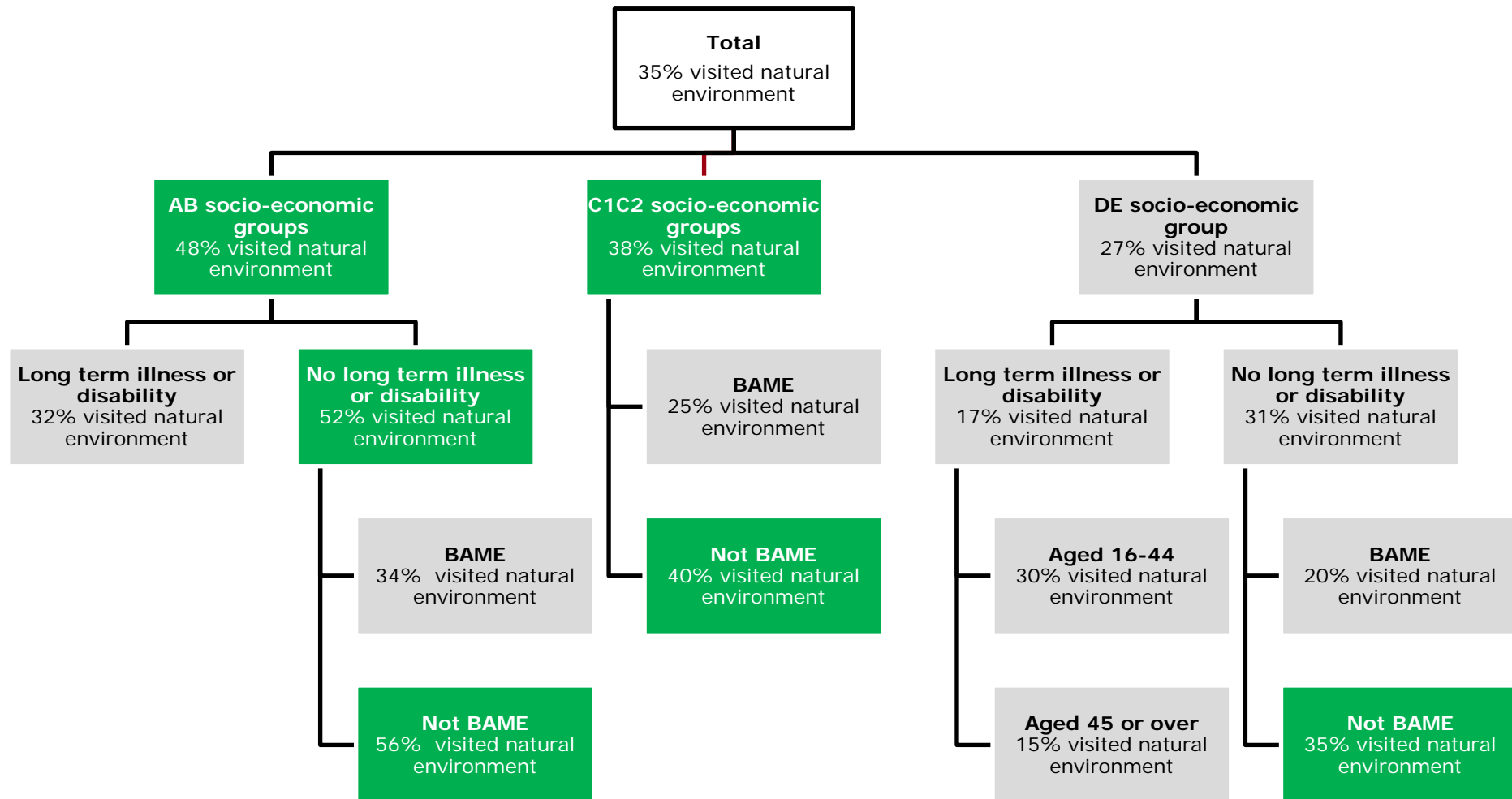
Figure 8 shows the results of a multivariate analysis which further explores the relationships between propensity to take visits to the natural environment (shown in terms of the percentage of different population groups taking visits to the natural environment in the 7 days prior to interview) and a number of different demographic 'predictor' variables. This analysis is based on all 3,422 survey respondents living in the South Pennines catchment area.

In Figure 8 the 'top' box in white is the total adult population from the South Pennines Catchment Area and shows that 35% of this group had taken visits to anywhere in the natural environment in the 7 days before interview. The 'tree' is then split to show the demographic factor that has the greatest impact on visit taking in the last 7 days, with the most statistically significant splits at the highest levels. Population groups with a level of visit taking higher or equal to the overall population average are coloured green while those with lower levels are coloured grey.

The key findings from this analysis are:

- Of the demographic factors, socio-economic status is the strongest determinant of visit taking with more affluent people significantly more likely to visit the natural environment compared to those in the least affluent groups.
- Amongst the highest socio-economic groups (ABs) whether or not someone has a long term illness or disability is the strongest determinant of visit taking, followed by ethnicity. ABs with no long term illness or disability who are in the BAME population are significantly less likely than those not in the BAME population to take visits.
- Amongst the middle socio-economic groups (C1s and C2s), ethnicity is the most significant determinant of visit taking with those in the BAME population much less likely to take visits.
- Amongst the lowest socio-economic groups (DEs) disability, age and ethnicity are all significant. While those people with no disability and not in the BAME population are as likely as the overall population average to take visits, people with a disability who are aged 45 or over are the least likely to do so.

Figure 8 Multivariate analysis – South Pennines Catchment Area population – proportion taking any visits to the natural environment in last 7 days by demographics – includes visits to any destination including within South Pennines and elsewhere



4.4. Implications of South Pennines catchment population analysis

Taking the findings outlined in this section together, it is apparent that a number of demographic variables are closely related to levels of participation in visits to the natural environment. In particular, the multivariate analysis (Figure 8), comparisons of visit taking levels shown in Table 3 and analysis of the profile of visit takers (Figure 7) have highlighted large differences related to the following demographics:

- *Socio-economic group* - members of the least affluent DE socio-economic groups visit the natural environment far less frequently than those in the more affluent groups (27% visited in last 7 days compared to 48% for ABs).
- *Ethnicity* - members of the BAME population take visits to the natural environment far less frequently than the rest of the population (24% visited in the last 7 days compared to 38% of the rest of the population).
- *Place of residence* - residents of urban areas take visits to the natural environment far less frequently than people living in urban fringe or rural areas (34% visited in the last 7 days compared to 54% of urban fringe residents and 55% of rural residents).

The following sections provide a more in-depth analysis of the responses provided by residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area with a focus on these three demographic areas.

5. Socio-economic group

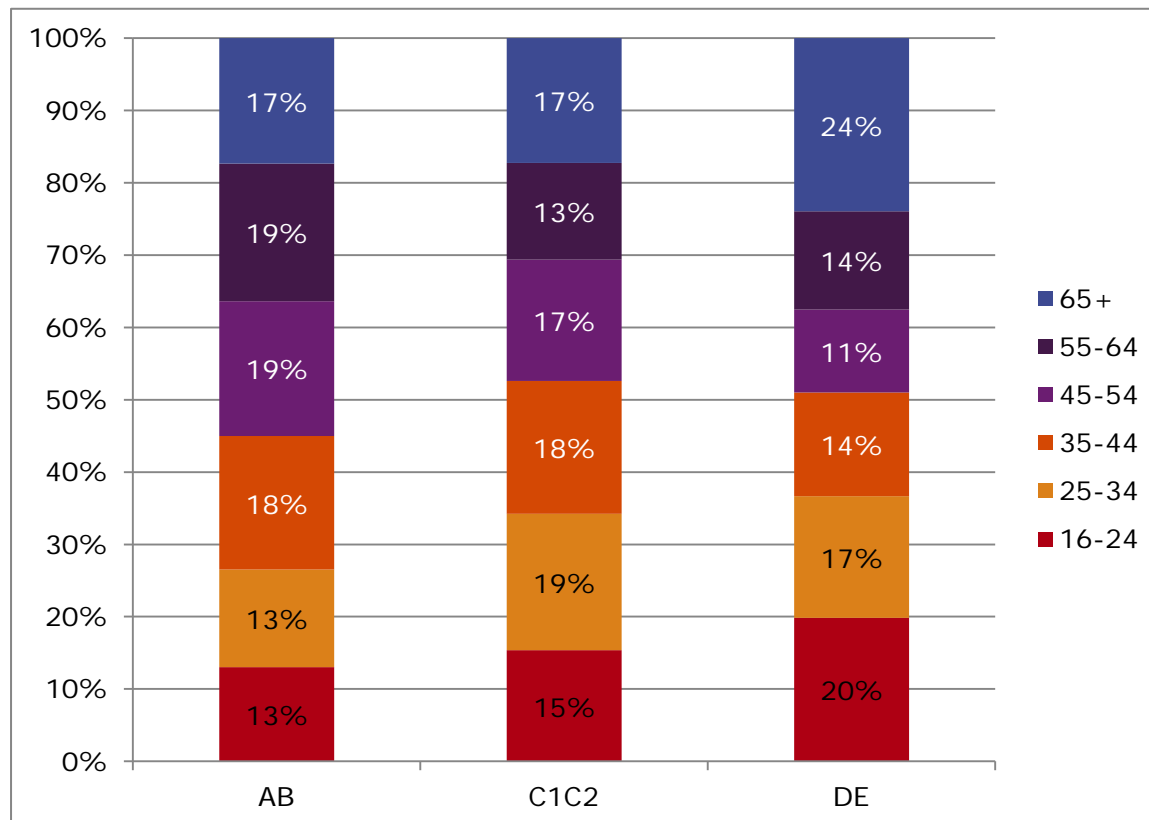
This analysis is based on the 3,422 MENE respondents resident in the South Pennines Catchment Area with a focus on the 1,620 in the DE socio-economic groups, including comparisons with the 1,388 classified as C1s or C2s and 414 in the AB groups. See Appendix 1 for details of the definitions of each socio-economic group.

5.1. Demographic profile

40% of residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area were members of the DE socio-economic groups, 44% were classified as C1s or C2s and 16% were in the most affluent AB groups. This is a less affluent profile compared with the whole of England where only 25% of the population are classified as DEs.

Compared to the more affluent socio-economic groups, the age profile of DEs was more polarised with larger proportions in the youngest and oldest age groups (Figure 9). In contrast, members of the most affluent ABs group had by far the smallest proportion of under 35 year olds (26%) compared to 34% and 37% for the C1C2 and DE socio groups respectively.

Figure 9 South Pennines Catchment Area population – Age profile by socio-economic group



As shown in Table 9, members of the DE socio-economic groups were more likely than members of more affluent groups to have a disability or long term illness. The proportion of households with children is similar across the socio-economic groups.

Table 9 South Pennines Catchment Area Population – disability and children in household by socio-economic group

	AB	C1C2	DE
Disability or long term illness	14%	17%	29%
Children in household	31%	33%	32%

5.2. Place of residence

The vast majority of residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area population live in locations classified as urban (based on the ONS urban-rural classification), this proportion is highest amongst those in the DE socio-economic group while, as shown in Figure 10, a significant minority of those in the most affluent AB groups live in less urban town, fringe or rural locations.

Also, as shown in Table 10, just over a third of DEs resident in the South Pennines Catchment Area live in areas classified as the most deprived areas in England (bottom 10% of Index of Multiple Deprivation).

Figure 10 South Pennines Catchment Area Population – Place of residence by socio-economic group

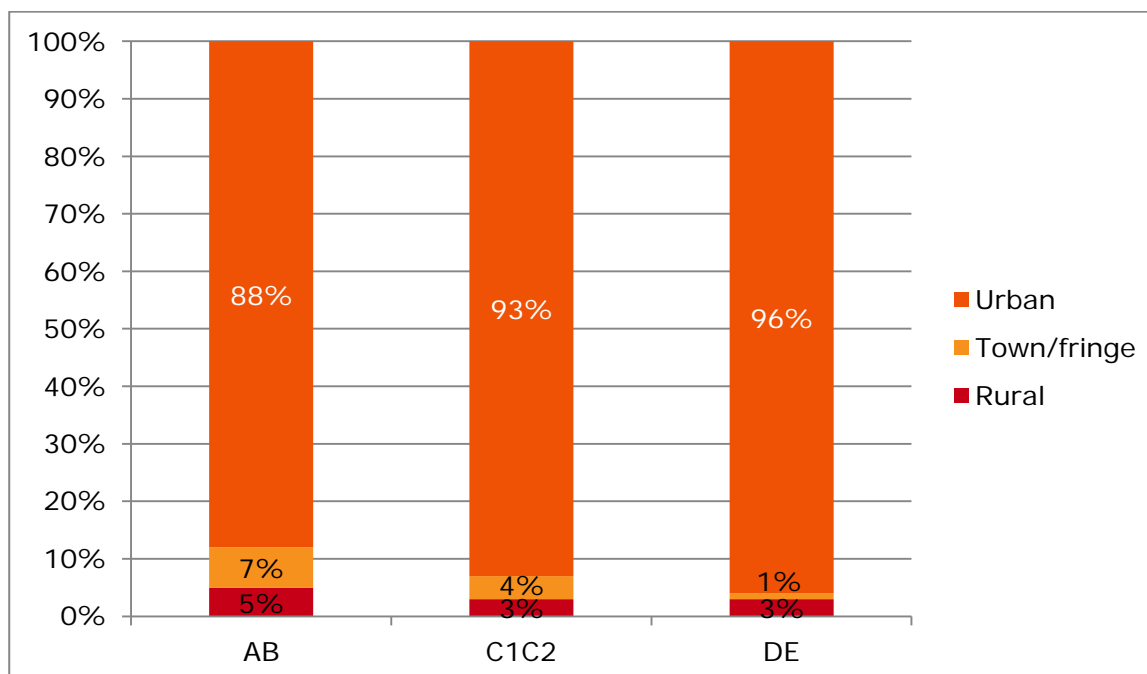


Table 10 South Pennines Catchment Area population – Index of Multiple Deprivation by socio-economic group

	AB	C1C2	DE
Bottom 10% of Index of Multiple Deprivation	13%	19%	35%
Top 10% of Index of Multiple Deprivation	3%	1%	<1%

5.3. Frequency of taking visits

Figure 11 shows levels of visit taking in the 12 months prior to interview amongst residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area, for each socio-economic group. This includes visits to any natural place, locally or further afield, within or outside of the South Pennines. Table 10 shows the percentages taking any visits in the 7 days before interview.

16% of members of the DE socio-economic groups never take visits, three times higher than amongst the C1C2 groups and eight times higher than amongst ABs. Also, as shown in Table 10, only 27% of DEs had taken any visits to the natural environment in the 7 days prior to interview, a much lower proportion than amongst either C1C2s (38%) or ABs (48%).

Figure 11 South Pennines Catchment Area Population – General frequency of visit taking in last 12 months by socio-economic group

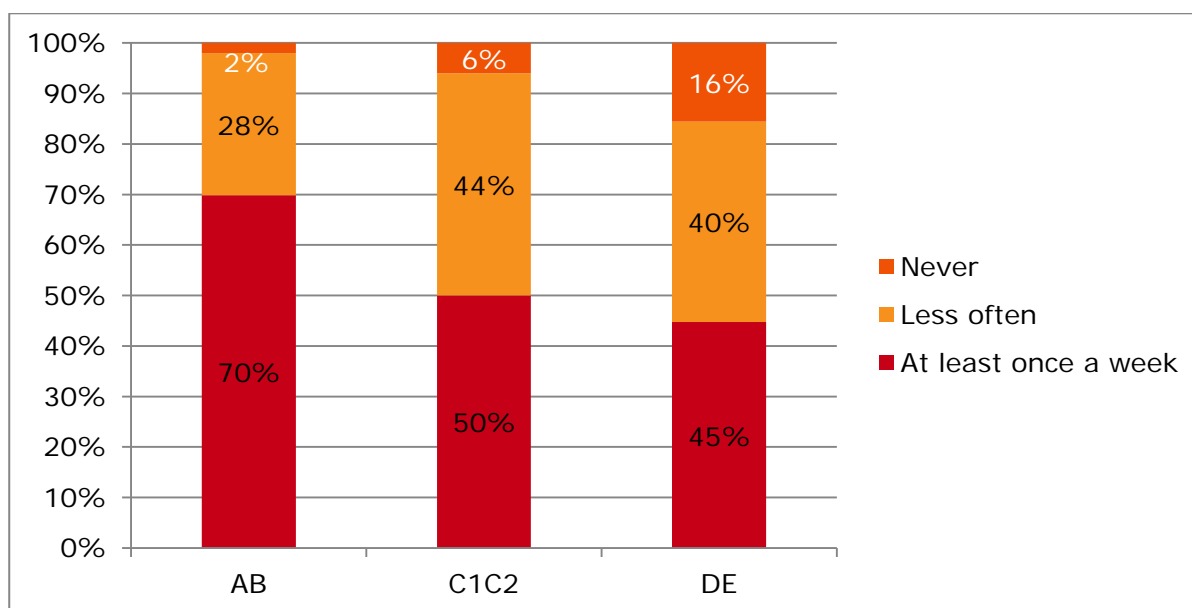
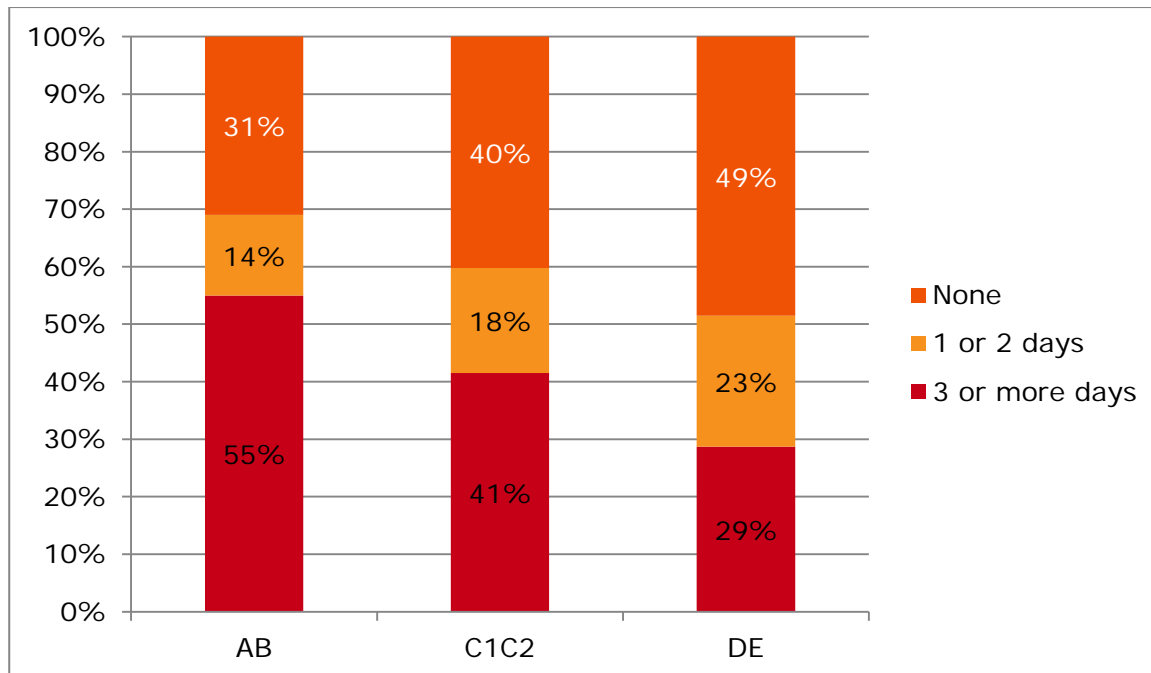


Table 11 South Pennines Catchment Area Population – visits to natural environment last 7 days

	AB	C1C2	DE
Proportion taking any visits	48%	38%	27%

MENE asks respondents to record how often they have undertaken 30 minutes or more of exercise in the last 7 days (this may include outdoor recreation or any other physical exercise). Figure 12 shows that just under half of DEs indicated that they had not exercised for this duration in the previous 7 days (49%) while 29% had undertaken exercise on 3 or more days. Members of the more affluent socio-economic groups were more likely to have undertaken exercise on a more regular basis.

Figure 12 South Pennines Catchment Area Population – Number of occasions undertook 30 minutes+ exercise in last 7 days by socio-economic group



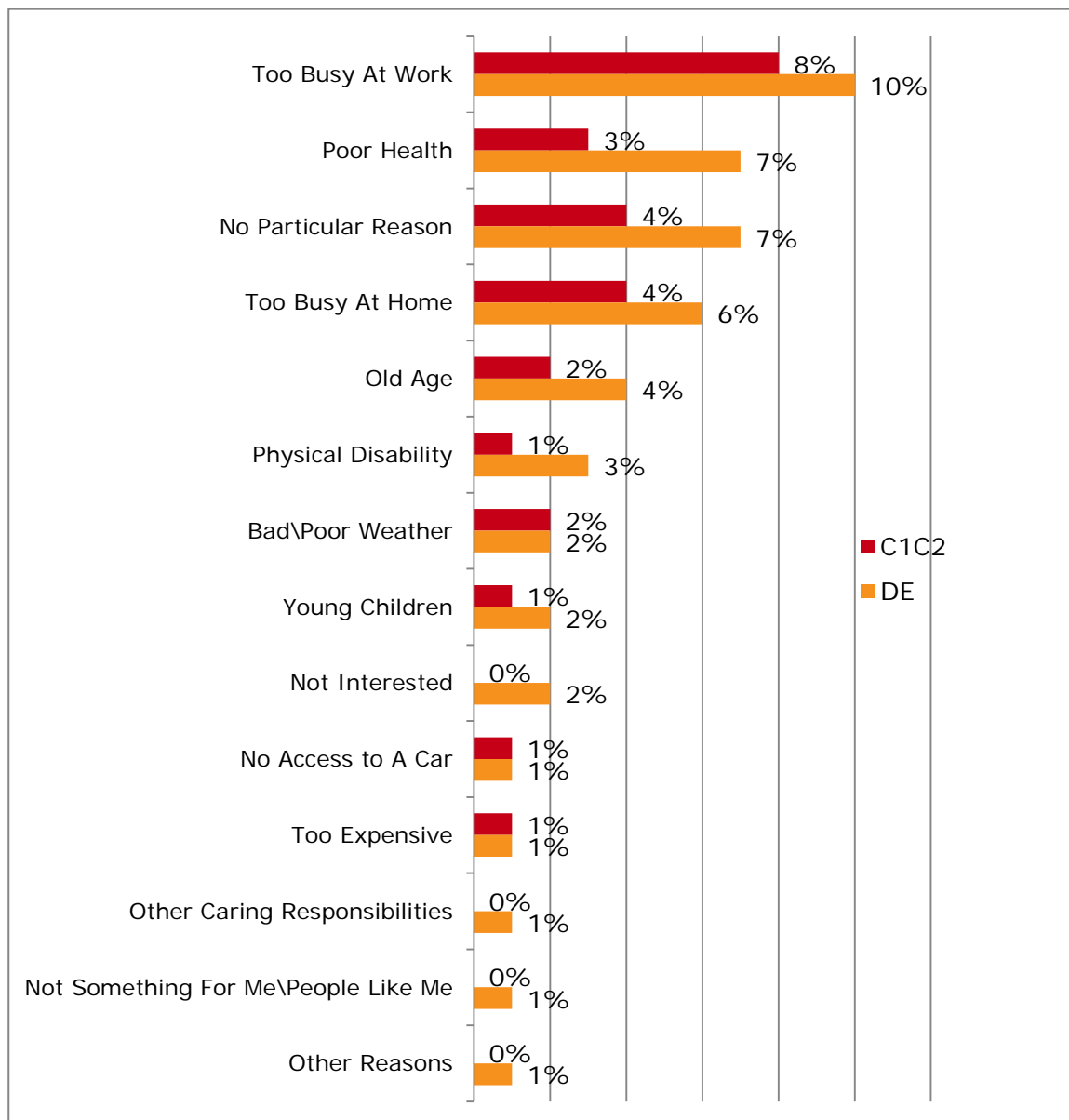
5.4. Barriers to taking visits

Figure 13 shows that DEs and C1C2s reported they were too busy at work to visit the natural environment. Other reasons mentioned frequently by DEs included health, old age and disability and being too busy at home.

A notable proportion of respondents indicated that there was 'no particular reason' for not taking visits more often. Other qualitative research undertaken by Natural England, with a small sample of families, suggests that stating 'no particular reason' may sometimes reflect a general 'disconnection' with the natural environment, which makes the outdoors a less attractive leisure option¹.

¹ Burt, J., Hunt, A., Rickinson, M., Andrews, R. & Stewart, D. *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009 -2012): visits to the natural environment by households with children.* Natural England Data Report (in press).

Figure 13 South Pennines Catchment Area Population – Barriers which prevent participation in visits to the natural environment by socio-economic group (asked only of those who normally take visits less than once a week but percentages based on full population)



5.5. Visits taken to the Natural Environment

The MENE data also provides information on the profile of visits taken by residents of the South Pennine Catchment Area including those visits taken by members of each of the socio-economic groups.

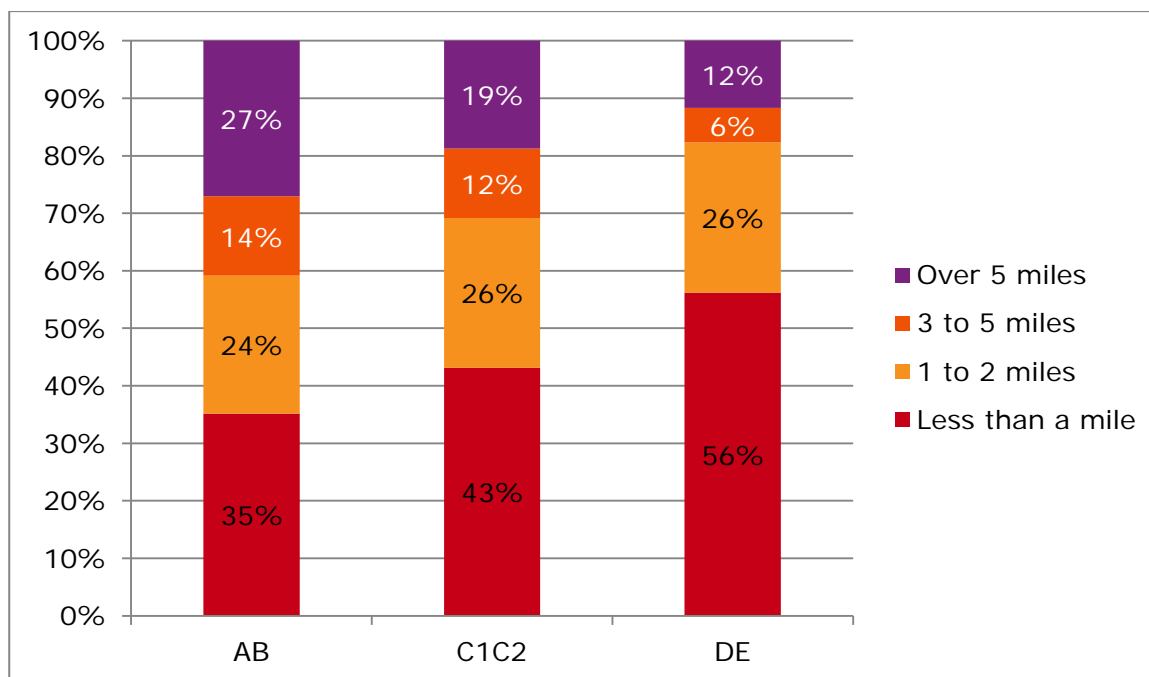
Places visited

Between March 2009 to February 2012, an estimated 7% of visits taken by residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area had a main destination within the South Pennines.

6% of visits taken by members of the least affluent DE socio-economic groups had a destination within the South Pennines, similar to the proportion of visits taken by C1C2s (7%) and slightly less than the proportion of visits taken by ABs (9%).

Figure 14 shows that over half of all visits taken by DEs resident in the South Pennines Catchment Area involved a journey of less than a mile while just 12% involved a journey of over 5 miles. By comparison those in the more affluent C1C2 (19%) and AB (27%) groups were more likely to travel further.

Figure 14 Visits taken by South Pennines Catchment Area Population by SEG – distance travelled



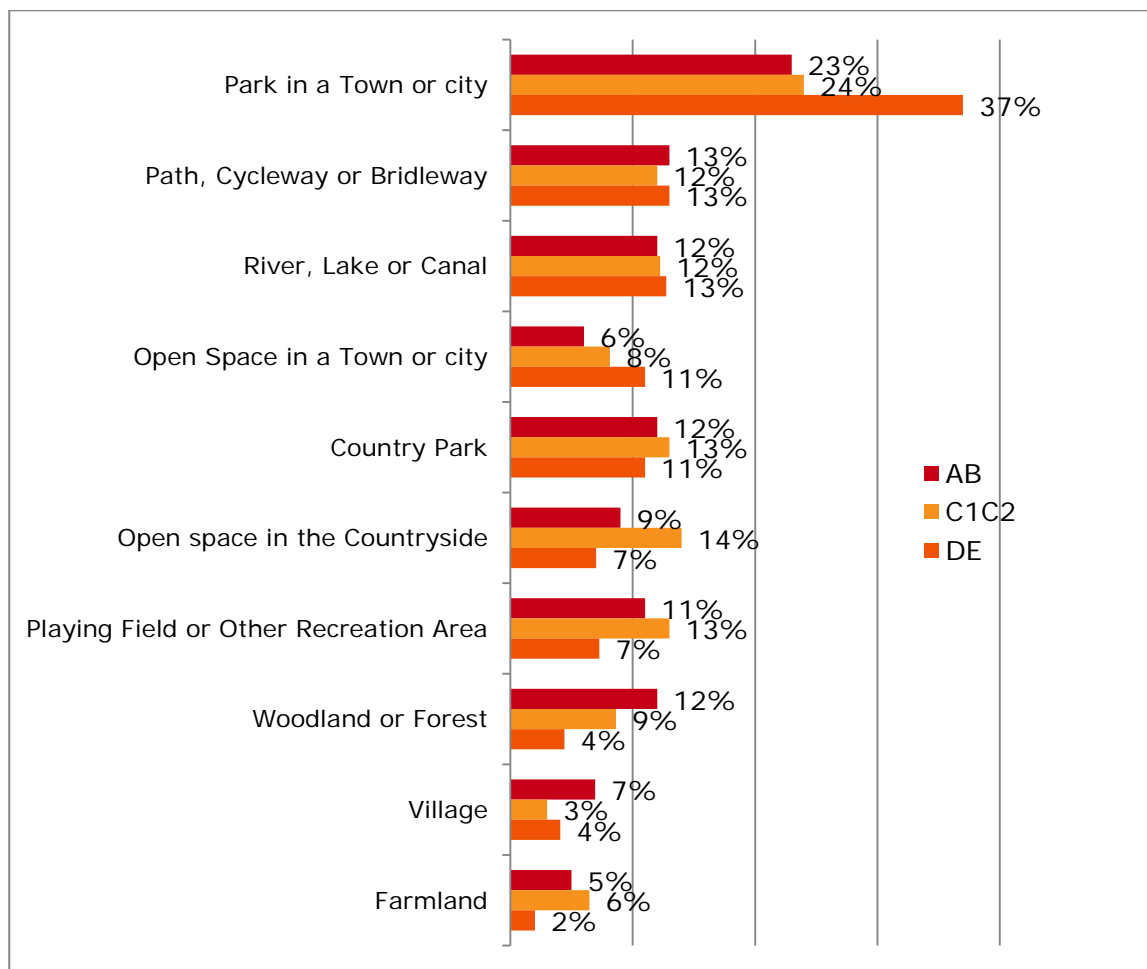
In terms of the types of place visited (Table 12), members of the less affluent DE socio-economic groups were more likely to visit places in an urban environment while the majority of visits taken by the more affluent ABs were taken in the countryside.

Table 12 Visits taken by South Pennines Catchment Area population – general type of place visited

	AB	C1C2	DE
Town or city	34%	44%	48%
Countryside	62%	52%	49%
Coastal	3%	3%	3%

Figure 15 shows that DEs were more likely than those in more affluent socio-economic groups to visit parks in a town or city while the most affluent groups were more likely to visit woodland.

Figure 15 Visits taken by South Pennines Catchment Area population by SEG – specific types of place visited



Mode of transport

Corresponding to the results relating to distances travelled, members of the least affluent socio-economic groups who generally took visits closer to home were also more likely to take visits on foot (78%) but were half as likely to travel by car (19%) compared with the AB and C1CE socio-economic groups.

Table 13 Visits taken by South Pennines Catchment Area population – main transport mode

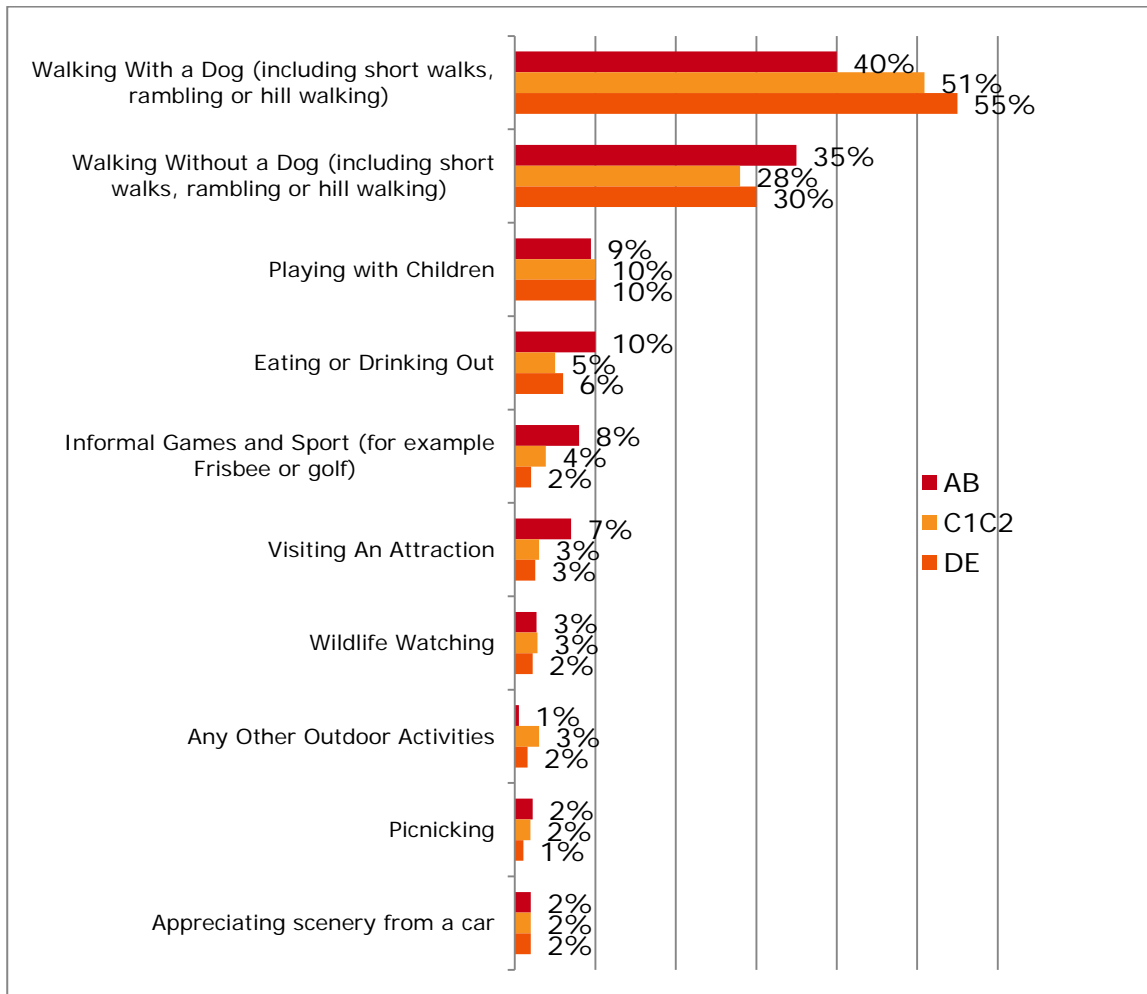
	AB	C1C2	DE
On foot	56%	61%	78%
By car	37%	35%	19%
Bicycle	3%	1%	1%
Public bus	1%	1%	2%

Activities undertaken

Amongst residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area, across all of the socio-economic groups, dog walking was the most frequently undertaken activity on visits to the natural environment. However, this activity was more likely to be undertaken by DEs while the most

affluent ABs were more likely to include walking without a dog, eating out, informal games or sport or visiting attractions as part of their visits to the natural environment.

Figure 16 Visits taken by South Pennines Catchment Area population by SEG – activities undertaken



6. Ethnicity

6.1. Population profile

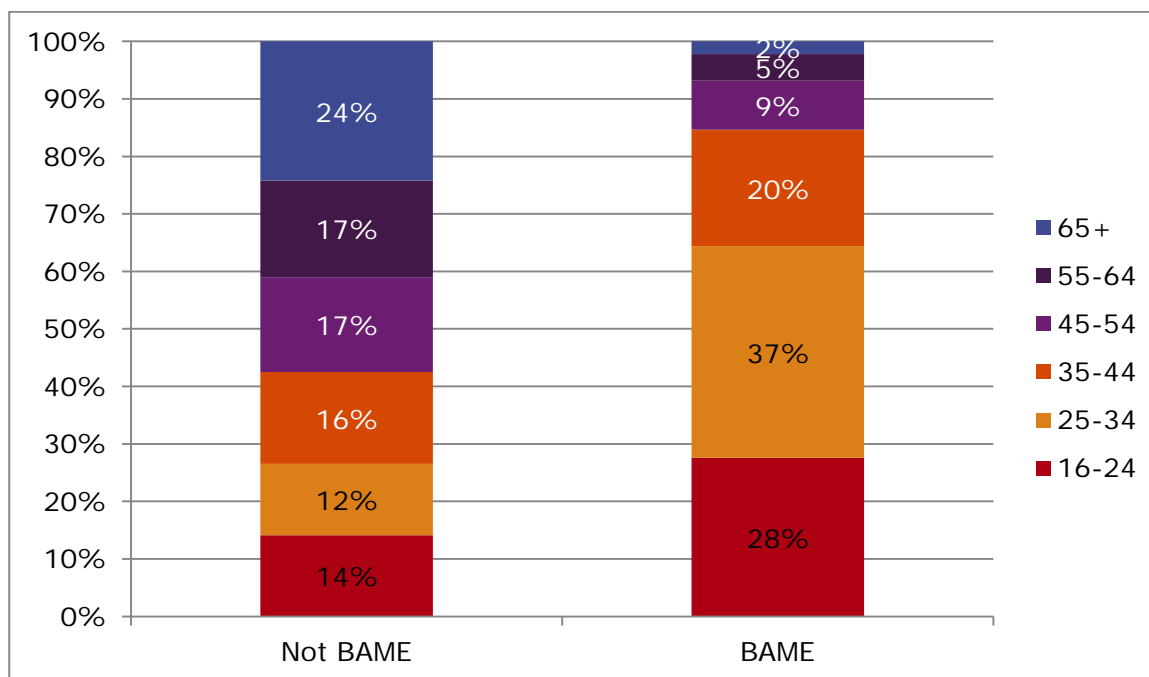
This analysis is based on the 3,422 MENE respondents resident in the South Pennines Catchment Area with a focus on the 658 respondents in the BAME population and comparisons with the 2,764 respondents **not** in the BAME population.

6.2. Demographic profile

20% of residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area were members of the BAME population, a higher proportion compared to the average for England (13%).

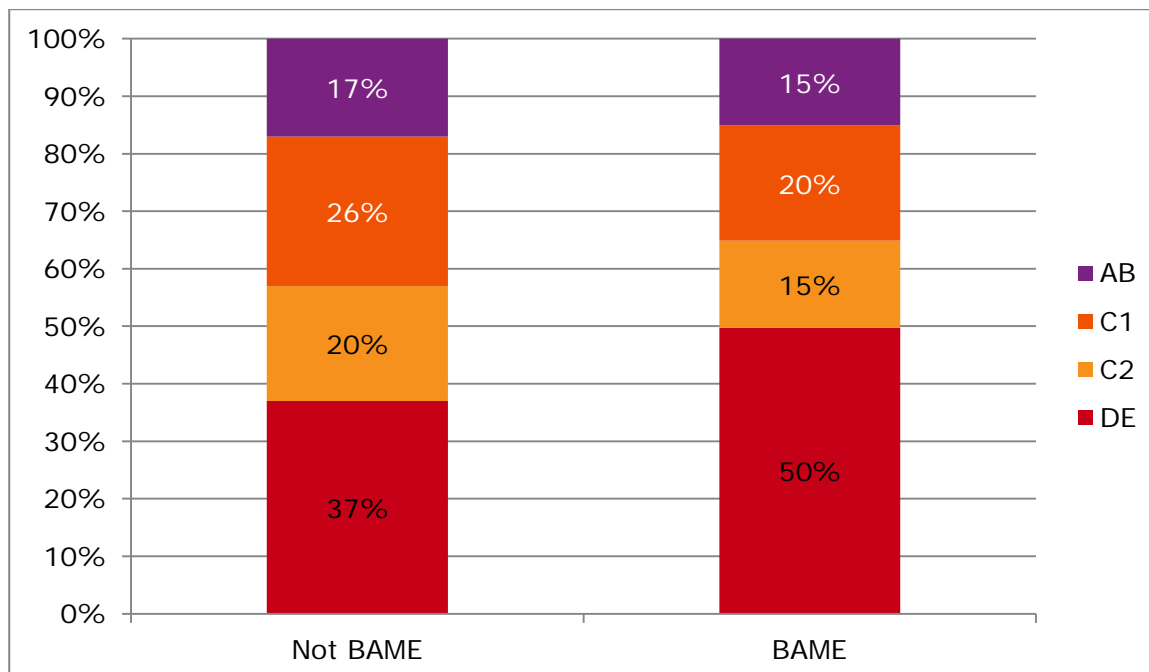
Figure 17 shows the much younger age profile of the BAME population with 85% aged under 45 – more than double the proportion within this age group in the non-BAME population (42%).

Figure 17 South Pennines Catchment Area Population – Age profile by ethnicity



In terms of socio-economic group, half of the BAME population were in the least affluent DE socio-economic groups – a higher proportion than amongst the non-BAME population (37%).

Figure 18 South Pennines Catchment Area Population – SEG profile by ethnicity



Possibly reflecting the younger age profile, members of the BAME population were much less likely to have a disability or long term illness compared to the rest of the population but more than twice as likely to have children in their household.

Table 14 South Pennines Catchment Area Population – demographics

	Not BAME	BAME
Disability or long term illness	24%	10%
Children in household	26%	57%

6.3. Place of residence

While the majority (88%) of the population from the South Pennines Catchment Area live in locations classified as urban (based on the ONS urban-rural classification), the proportion of the BAME population is even higher with almost all of this group living in urban locations (99%). Furthermore, Table 15 shows that almost half of the BAME population live in areas classified as deprived (bottom 10% in the Index of Multiple Deprivation).

Figure 19 South Pennines Catchment Area population – Place of residence by ethnicity

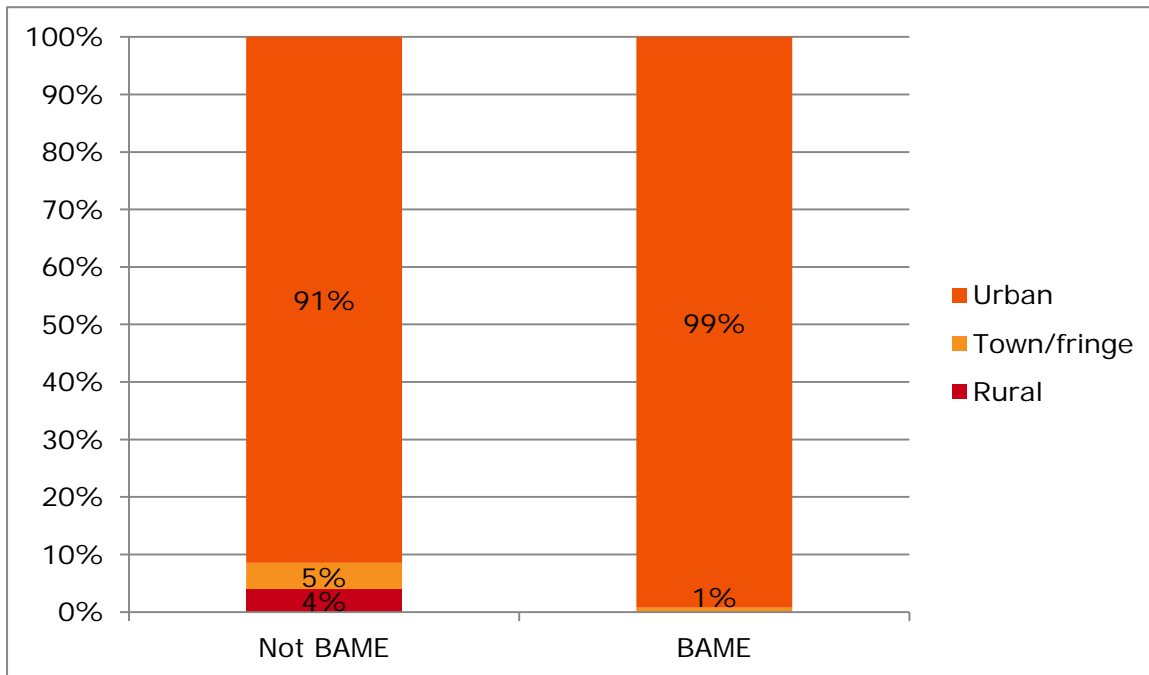


Table 15 South Pennines Catchment Area population – Index of Multiple Deprivation

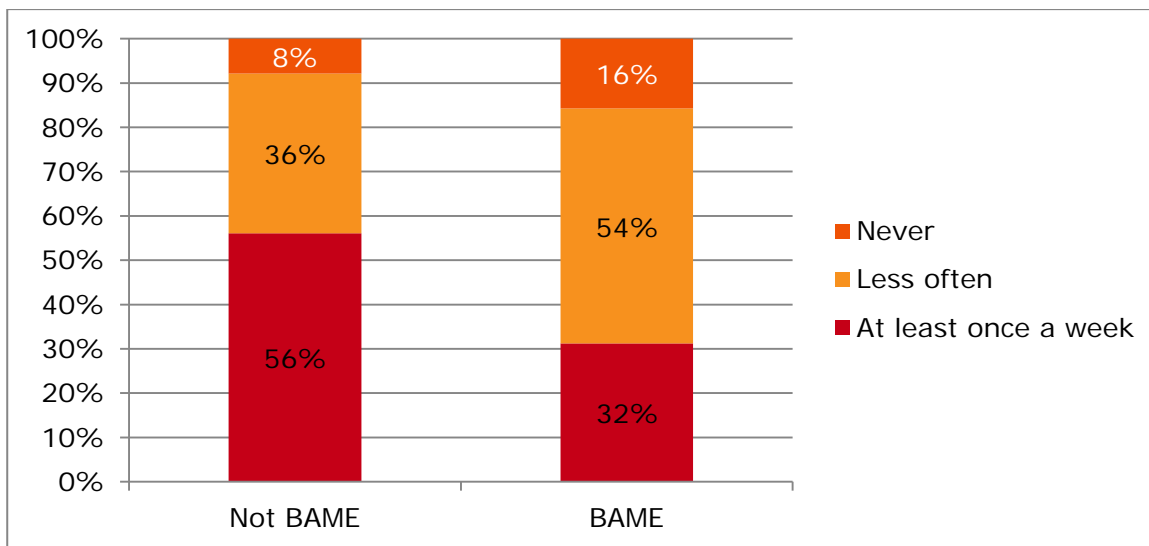
	Not BAME	BAME
Bottom 10% of Index of Multiple Deprivation	18%	48%
Top 10% of Index of Multiple Deprivation	2%	0%

6.4. Frequency of visits

Figure 20 shows the general levels of visit taking in the 12 months prior to interview by residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area, comparing members of the BAME population with the rest of the population. This includes visits to any natural place, locally or further afield, within or outside of the South Pennines.

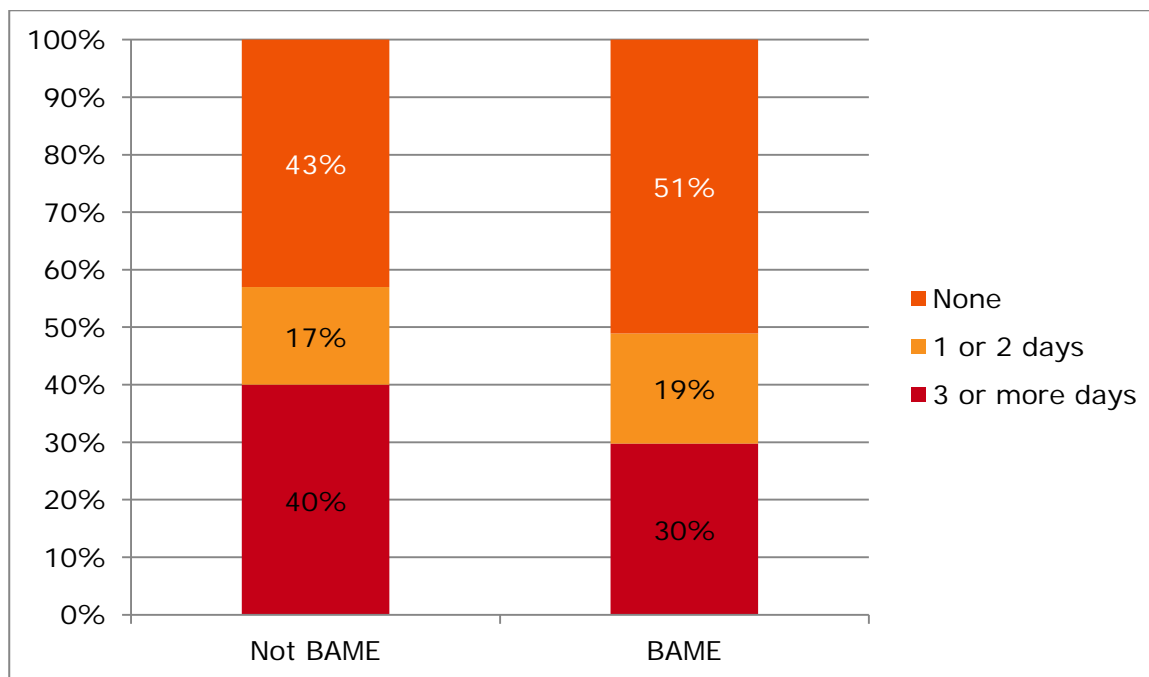
Only around a third of members of the BAME population (32%) normally took visits to the natural environment at least once a week, lower than the proportion amongst the rest of the population (56%). Furthermore, only 24% of members of the BAME population had taken a visit to the natural environment in the 7 days before interview, a lower proportion than the 38% recorded amongst the rest of the population.

Figure 20 South Pennines Catchment Area Population – General frequency of visit taking in last 12 months by ethnicity



MENE asks respondents to record how often they have undertaken 30 minutes or more of exercise in the last 7 days (this may include outdoor recreation or any other physical exercise). Figure 21 shows that around half of the BAME population indicated that they had done no exercise of this duration in the previous 7 days (51%) while 30% had undertaken exercise on 3 or more days. People not in the BAME population were more likely to have undertaken exercise on a more regular basis.

Figure 21 South Pennines Catchment Area Population – Number of occasions undertook 30 minutes+ exercise in last 7 days by ethnicity



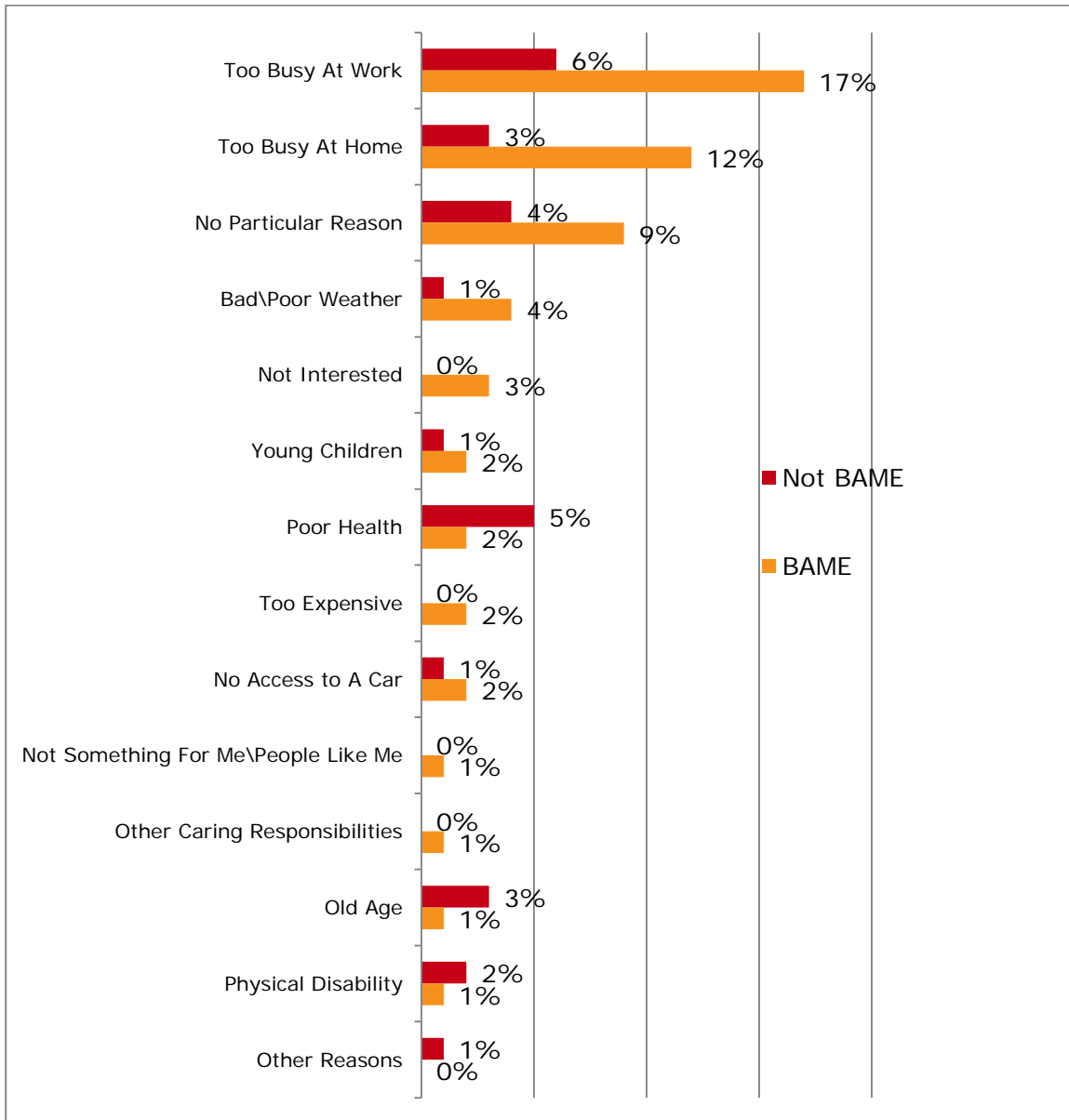
6.5. Barriers to taking visits

Figure 22 shows that amongst the BAME population living in the South Pennines Catchment Area the most frequent reasons for not taking visits to the natural environment related to a lack of time with 17% indicating that they were too busy at work while 12% were too busy at home. A further 9% of this group indicated they had ‘no particular reasons’ for not taking more visits. A notable proportion of respondents indicated that there was ‘no particular reason’ for not taking visits more often. Other qualitative research undertaken by Natural England, with a small sample of families, suggests that stating ‘no particular reason’ may sometimes reflect a general ‘disconnection’ with the natural environment, which makes the outdoors a less attractive leisure option².

Reflecting the results relating to age and long term illness and disability, members of the BAME population were less likely than the rest of the population to mention barriers relating to health or age.

² Burt, J., Hunt, A., Rickinson, M., Andrews, R. & Stewart, D. *Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (2009 -2012): visits to the natural environment by households with children.* Natural England Data Report (in press).

Figure 22 South Pennines Catchment Area Population – Barriers which prevent participation in visits to the natural environment by ethnicity (asked only of those who normally take visits less than once a week but percentages based on full population)



6.6. Visits to the Natural Environment

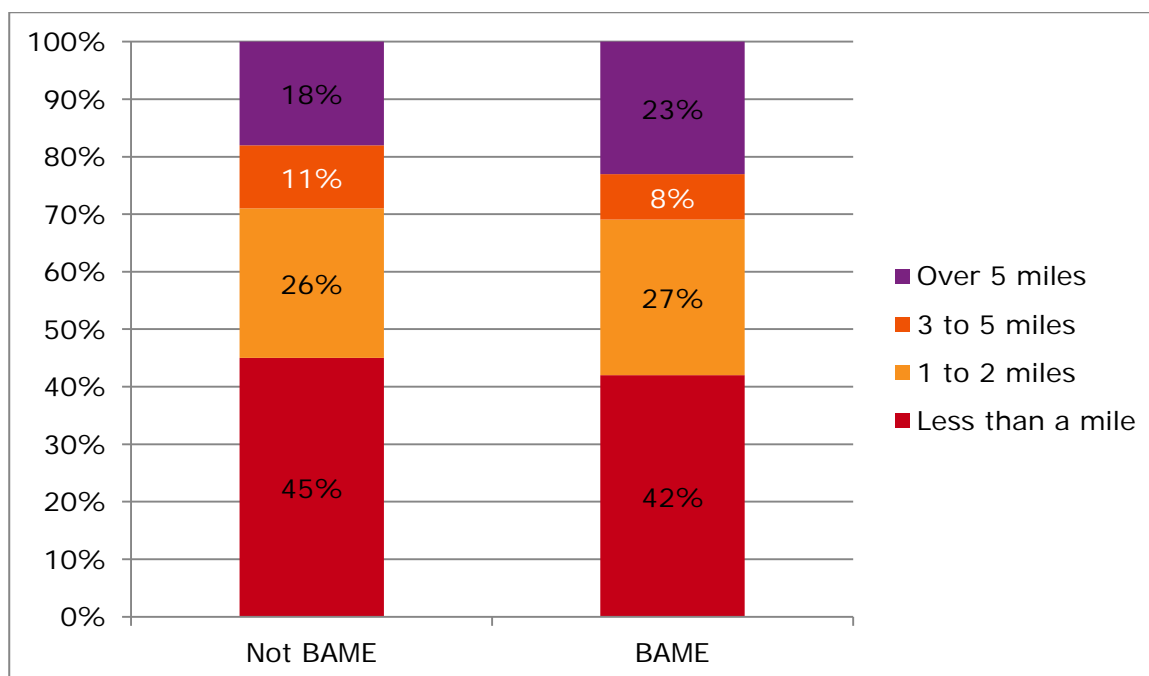
The MENE data provides information on the profile of visits taken by residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area including those visits taken by members of the BAME population as outlined below.

Places visited

Between March 2009 to February 2012, 7% of visits taken by residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area had a main destination within the South Pennines. However, only 2% of visits taken by members of the BAME population had a destination within this area compared to 8% for non-BAME population.

The majority of visits taken by both the BAME and not BAME population were taken close to home with over two thirds taken within 2 miles.

Figure 23 Visits taken by South Pennines Catchment Area population by ethnicity – distance travelled



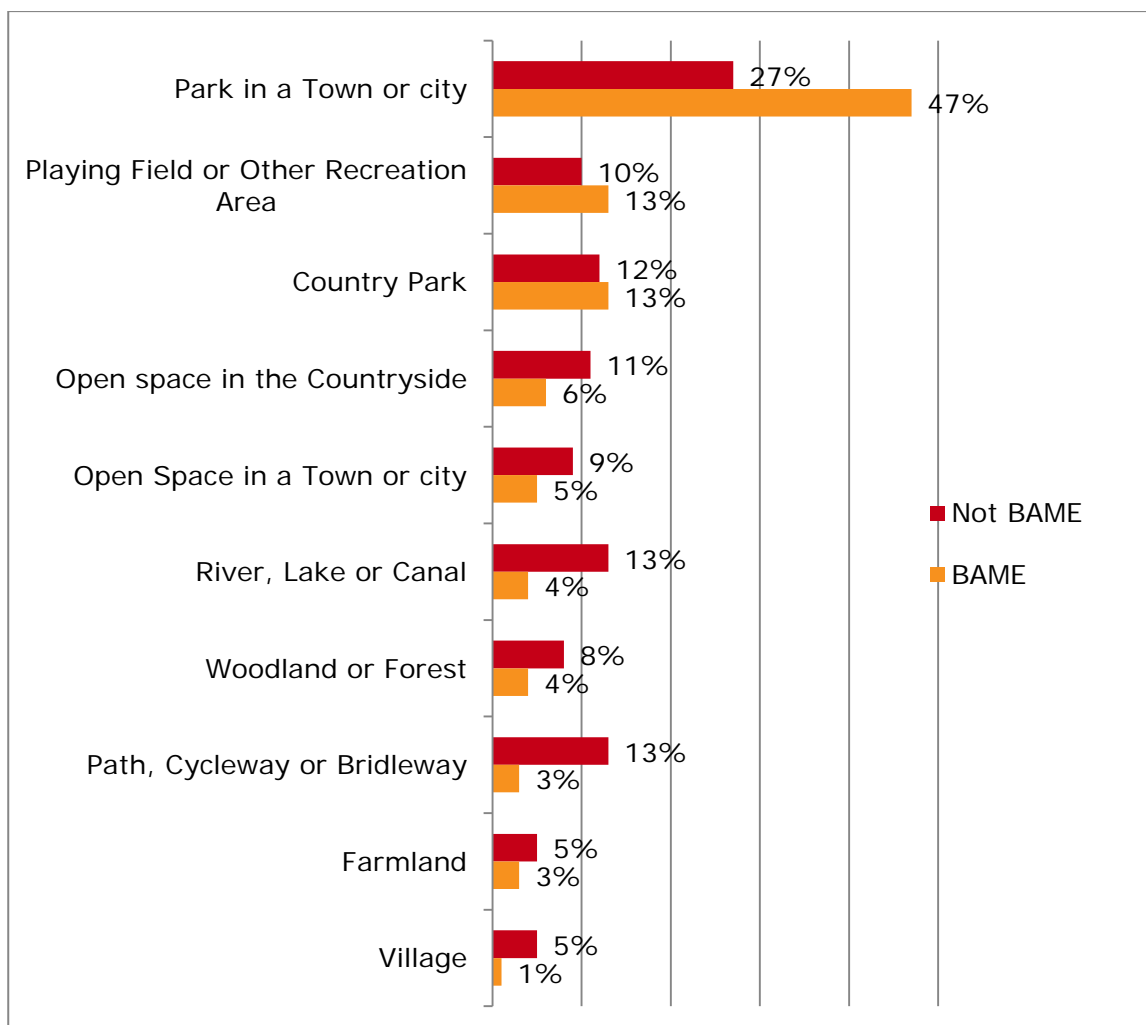
In terms of the types of place visited (Table 16), most of the visits taken by members of the BAME population took place in urban locations (61%) while only around a third (34%) were taken to places described as countryside.

Table 16 Visits taken by South Pennines Catchment Area population – general type of place visited

	Not BAME	BAME
Town or city	42%	62%
Countryside	54%	34%
Coastal	3%	3%

More specifically, Figure 24 shows that around half of visits taken by members of the BAME population were taken in an urban park (47%). Playing fields and other urban recreation areas and country parks were also included in a large proportion of visits taken by the BAME population.

Figure 24 Visits taken by South Pennines Catchment Area Population by ethnicity – specific types of place visited



Mode of transport

While just over half of visits taken by members of the BAME population were taken on foot (55%), 39% were taken by car - a higher proportion than recorded amongst the rest of the population (29%).

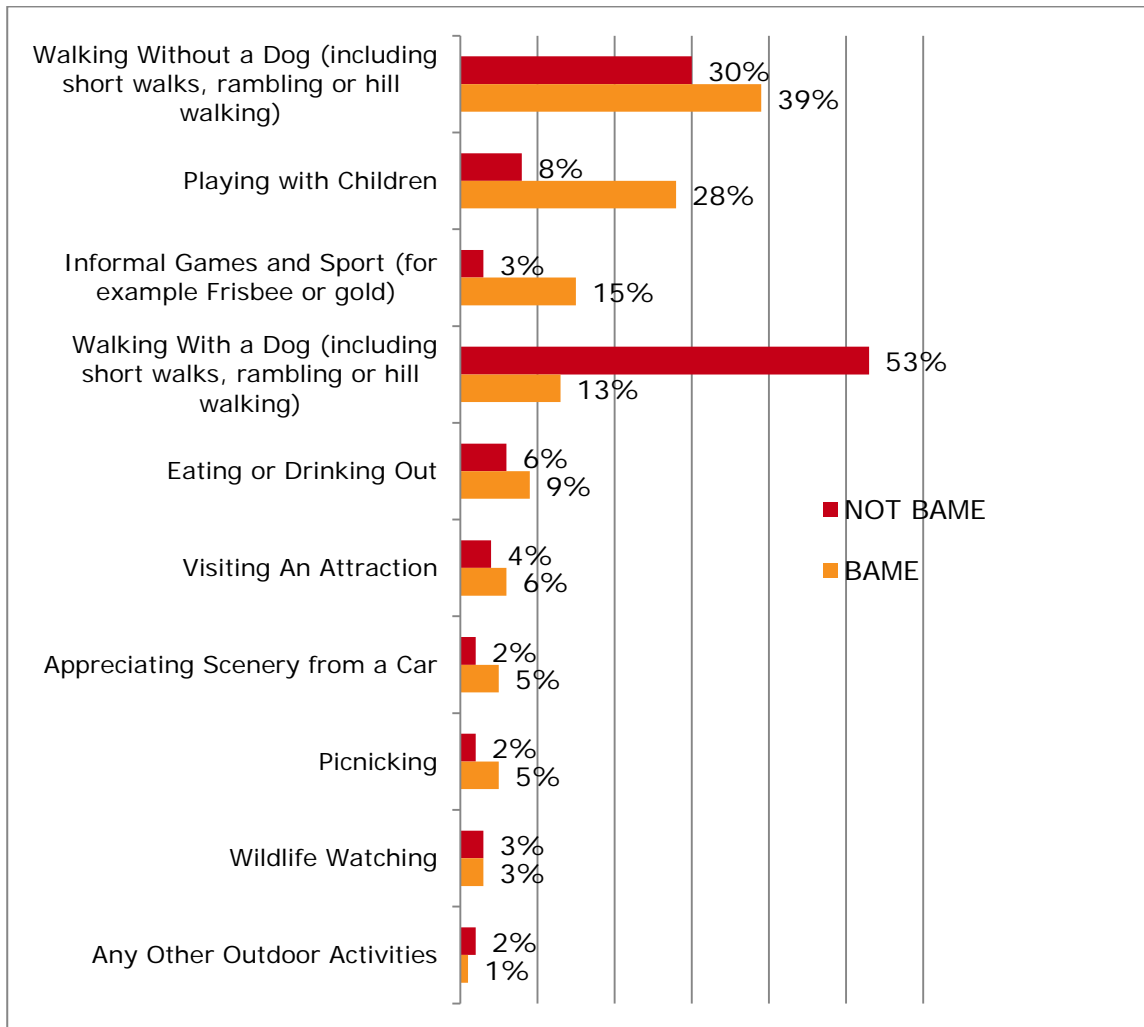
Table 17 Visits taken by South Pennines Catchment Area population – main transport mode

	Not BAME	BAME
On foot	66%	55%
By car	29%	39%
Bicycle	1%	1%
Public bus	1%	2%

Activities undertaken

Amongst members of the BAME population living in the South Pennines Catchment Area, the most frequently undertaken activities during visits to the natural environment were walking (without a dog) and playing with children. Compared to the rest of the population a lower proportion of visits taken by members of the BAME population included dog walking, a reflection of the lower levels of dog ownership found amongst this population group.

Figure 25 Visits taken by South Pennines Catchment Area population by ethnicity – activities undertaken



7. Place of residence

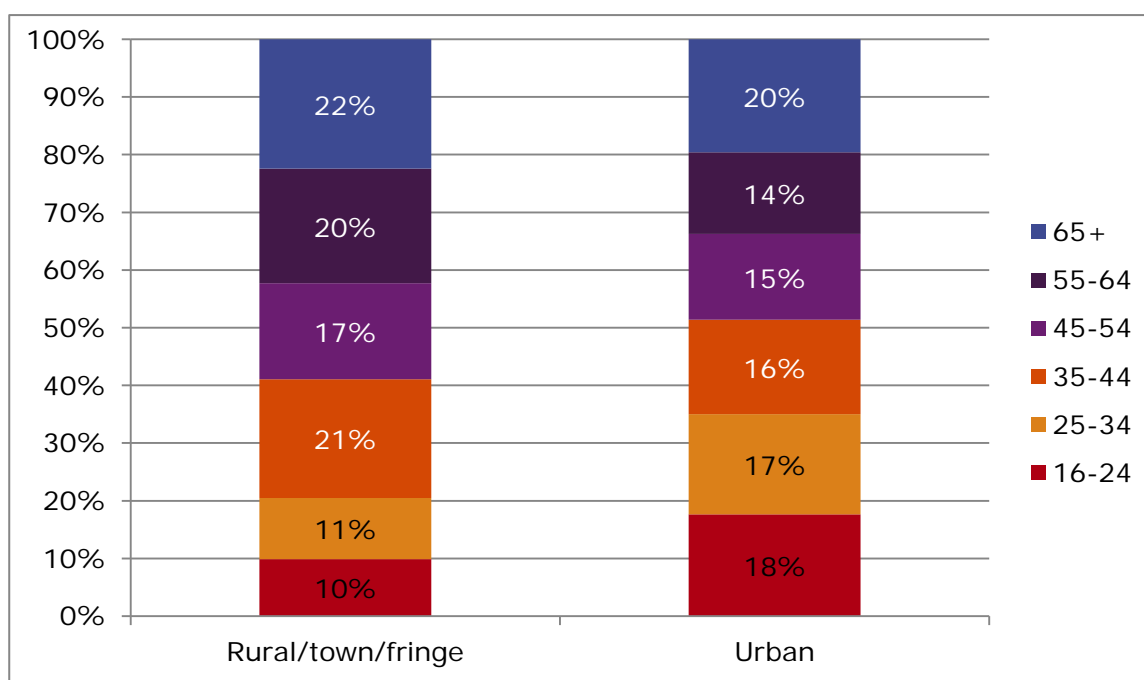
7.1. Population profile

This analysis is based on the 3,422 MENE respondent resident in the South Pennines Catchment Area with a focus on the 3,038 respondents resident in areas classified using the ONS classification as Urban, compared with the 216 respondents who live in other areas classified as a small town, urban fringe or rural.

7.2. Demographic profile

88% of residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area live in an urban area, a higher proportion than recorded across England (78%). Figure 26 shows the younger age profile of the urban population with just 34% aged 55 or over compared to 42% amongst people living in rural, small town and urban fringe areas.

Figure 26 South Pennines Catchment Area population – Age profile by place of residence



In terms of socio-economic group (Figure 27), 41% of urban residents in the South Pennines Catchment Area are in the least affluent DE socio-economic groups – a much higher proportion than amongst those living in rural, small town and urban fringe areas (22%) who are much more likely to be in the more affluent AB and C1 groups.

Figure 27 South Pennines Catchment Area population – SEG profile by place of residence

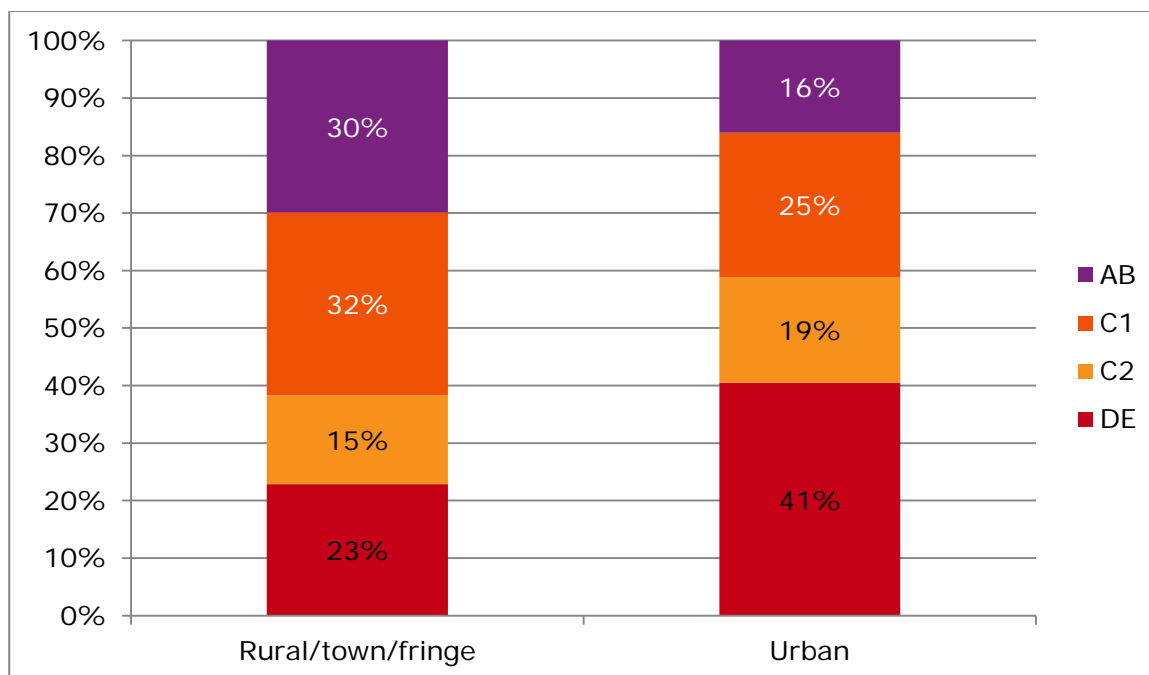


Table 18 shows that the proportions of residents of rural, small town and urban fringe locations with a disability or long term illness and/or with children in their household is similar to residents of urban areas. However more than a quarter of urban residents live in areas defined as deprived (bottom 10% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation) compared to less than 1% of those living in rural, small town and urban fringe areas.

Table 18 South Pennines Catchment Area population – demographics

	Rural/Town/Fringe	Urban
Disability or long term illness	19%	22%
Children in household	32%	32%
Bottom 10% of Index of Multiple Deprivation	<1%	27%

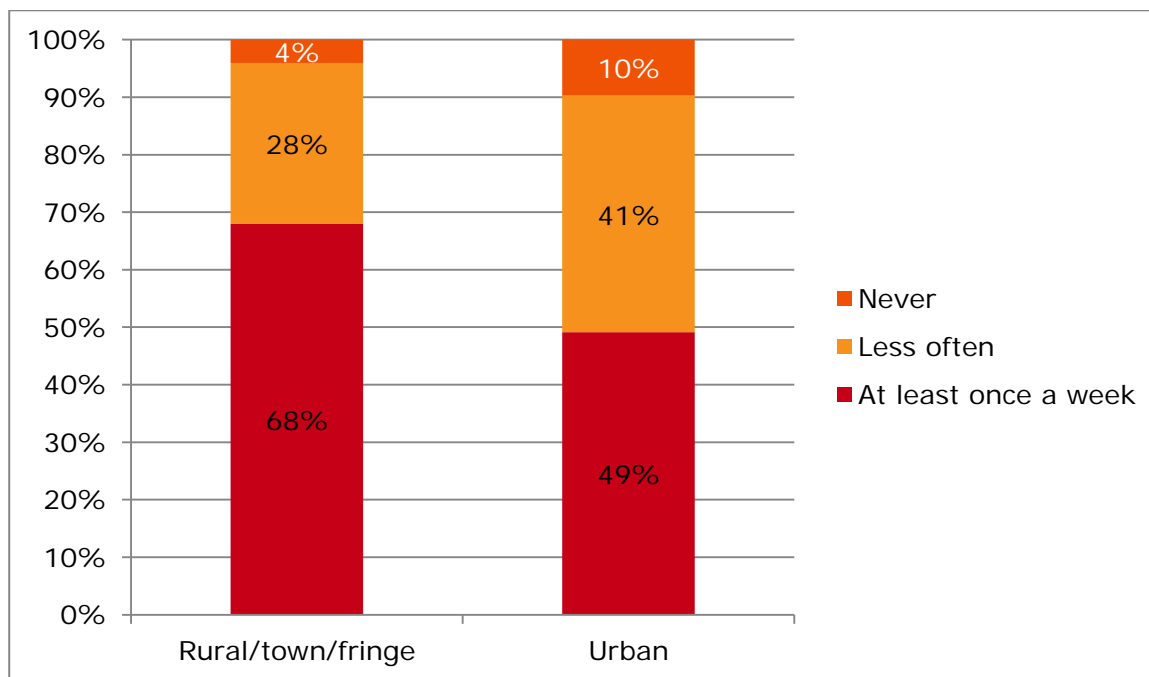
7.3. Frequency of visits

Figure 28 shows levels of visit taking in the 12 months prior to interview by residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area, comparing residents of urban areas with those living in rural, small town and urban fringe locations. This includes visits to any natural place, locally or further afield, within or outside of the South Pennines

Around half of residents of urban areas normally took visits to the natural environment at least once a week (49%), a lower proportion than amongst residents of rural, small town or urban fringe areas. Also 10% of urban residents normally never took visits to the natural environment compared to 4% of rural, small town and urban fringe residents.

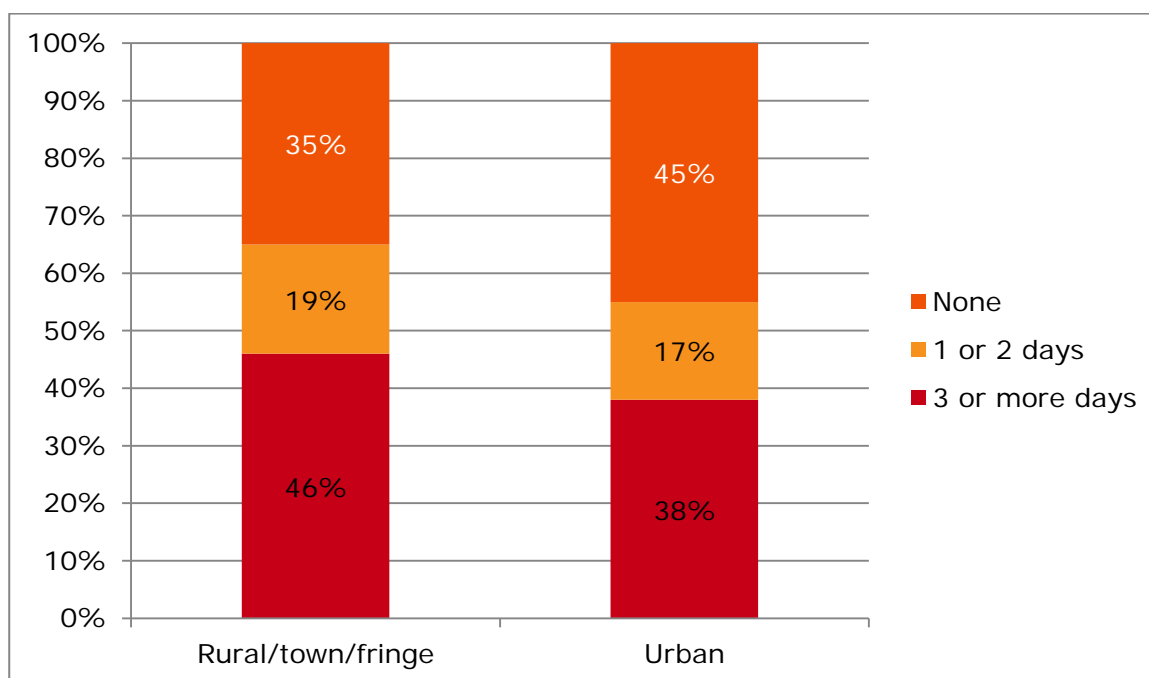
34% of residents of urban areas had taken a visit to the natural environment in the 7 days before interview, a lower proportion compared to people living in rural, small town or urban fringe areas (55%).

Figure 28 South Pennines Catchment Area population – General frequency of visit taking in last 12 months by place of residence



MENE asks respondents to record how often they have undertaken 30 minutes or more of exercise in the last 7 days (this may include outdoor recreation or any other physical exercise). Figure 29 shows that 45% of people living in urban areas indicated that they had done no exercise of this duration in the previous 7 days a larger proportion than amongst people living in rural, small town or urban fringe areas (35%).

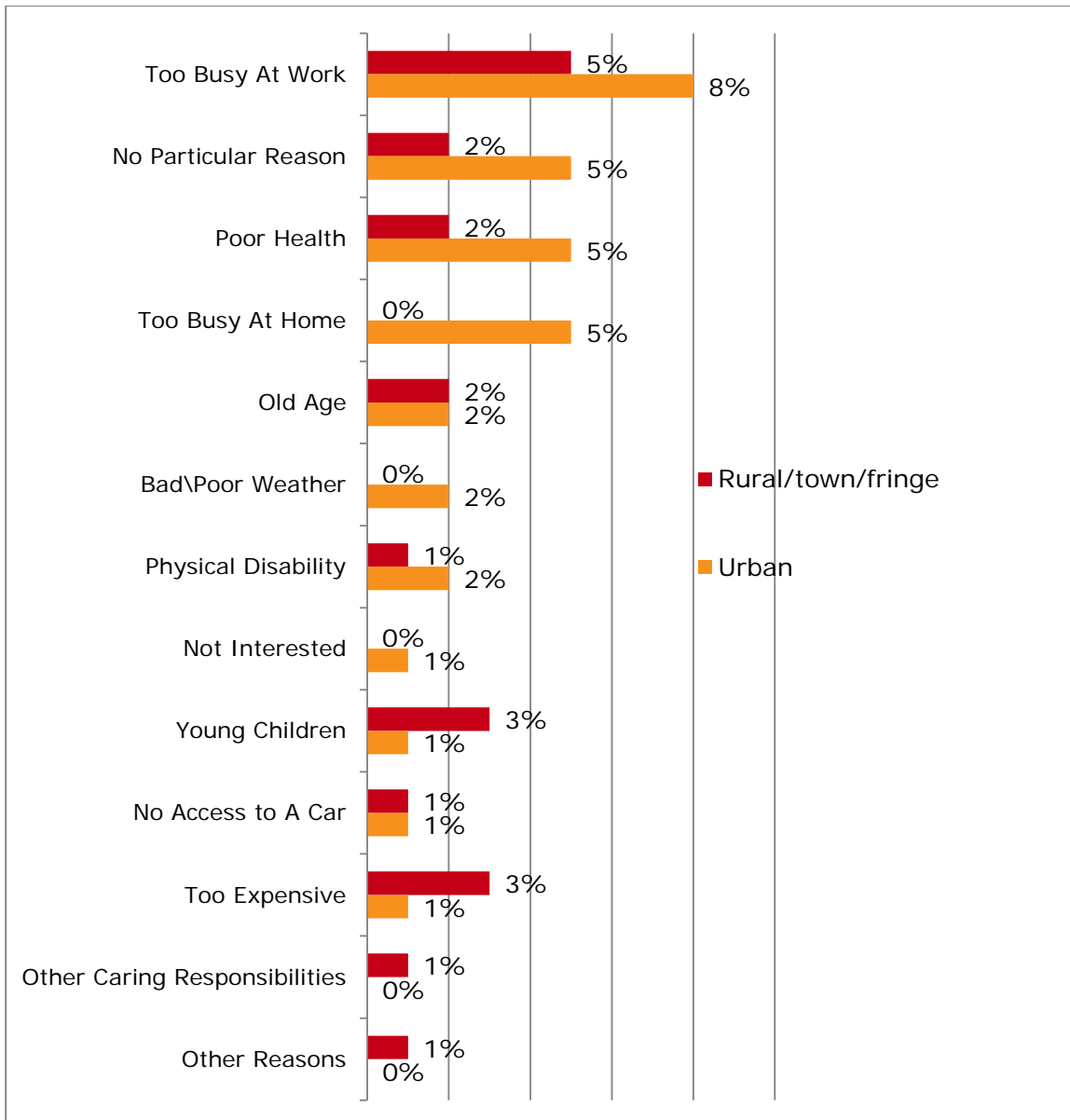
Figure 29 South Pennines Catchment Area population – Number of occasions undertook 30 minutes+ exercise in last 7 days by place of residence



7.4. Barriers to taking visits

Figure 30 shows the most frequently provided reasons given for not taking visits to the natural environment. Residents of urban areas were more likely than those living in rural or urban fringe areas to provide a number of reasons. The largest proportions stated that they were too busy at work to take more visits, that they had 'no particular reasons' for not taking more visits, that their health was poor or that they were too busy at home.

Figure 30 South Pennines Catchment Area population – Barriers which prevent participation in visits to the natural environment by place of residence (asked only of those who normally take visits less than once a week but percentages based on full population)



7.5. Visits to the Natural Environment

The MENE data provides information on the profile of visits taken by residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area including those visits taken by residents of urban areas.

Places visited

Between March 2009 and February 2012, an estimated 7% of visits taken by residents of the South Pennines Catchment Area had a main destination within the South Pennines (Figure 1). However the proportion was much higher amongst those living in rural areas (12%) than those in areas classified as urban (6%).

In terms of the distances travelled when taking visits to the natural environment, while the largest proportion of visits taken by urban residents took place within a mile of home (44%), the largest proportion of visits taken by those living in rural, small town or urban fringe areas involved a journey of between 1 or 2 miles (42%).

Figure 31 Visits taken by South Pennines Catchment Area population by place of residence—distance travelled

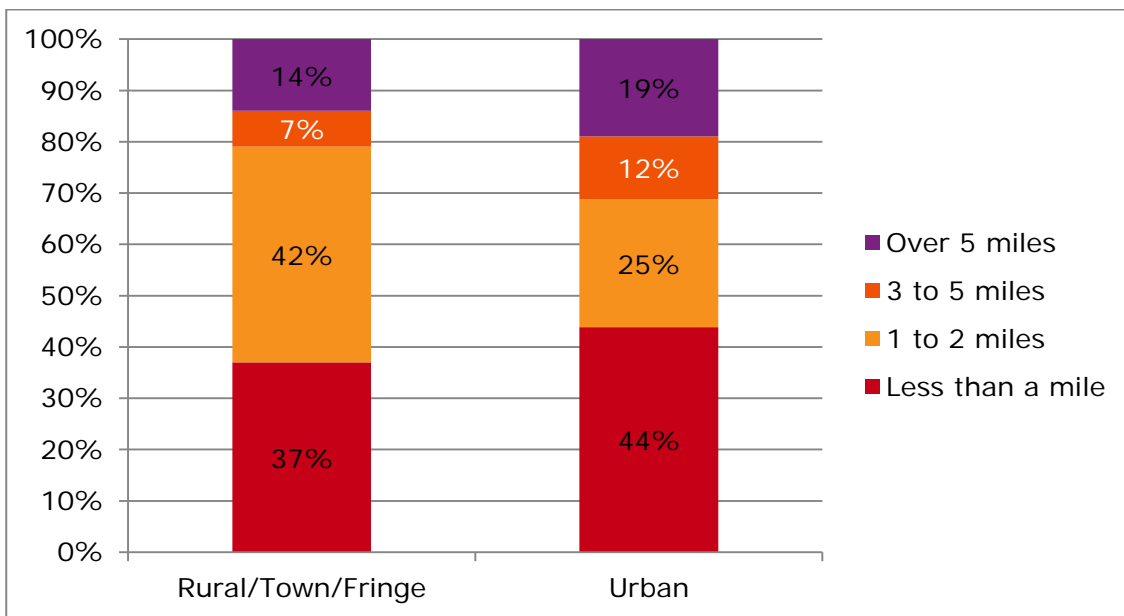


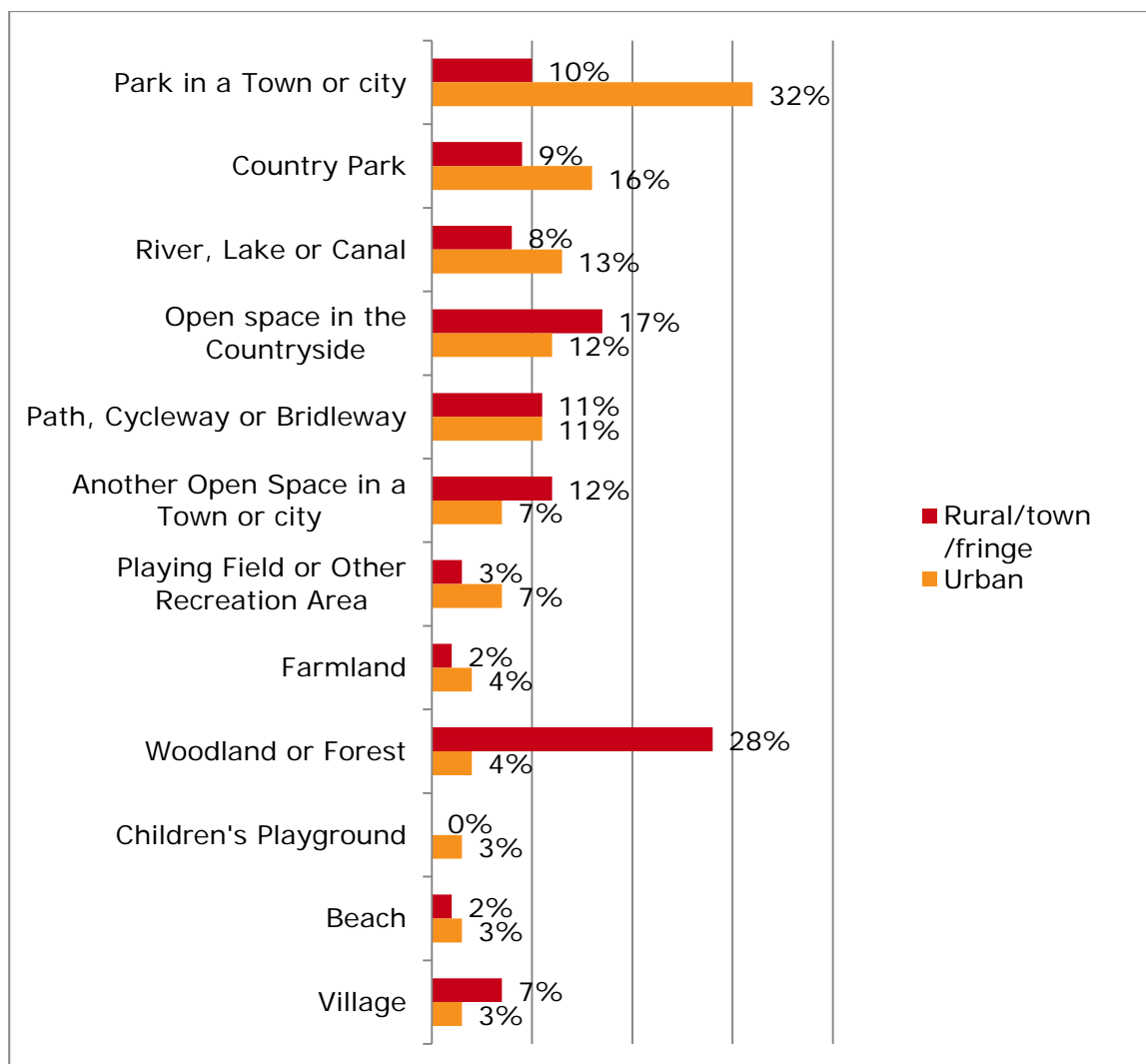
Table 19 shows that residents of urban areas within the South Pennines Catchment Area visited town/city, or countryside locations in fairly equal proportions. By comparison, the vast majority of the visits taken by those living in rural, small town and urban fringe areas took place in the countryside (89%).

Table 19 Visits taken by South Pennines Catchment Area population – general type of place visited

	Rural/Town/Fringe	Urban
Town or city	11%	46%
Countryside	89%	50%
Coastal	<1%	3%

Figure 32 shows that 32% of visits taken by residents of urban areas took place in a park in a town or city, while Country Parks were the second most visited type of place (16%). In contrast, visits taken by residents of rural, small town and urban fringe areas were much more likely to visit woodland.

Figure 32 Visits taken by South Pennines Catchment Area population by place of residence – specific types of place visited



Mode of transport

Around 2 in 3 visits taken by residents of urban areas were taken on foot (64%) while 32% of visits involved travel by car. By comparison, a larger percentage of visits taken by rural and urban fringe residents were taken on foot (76%).

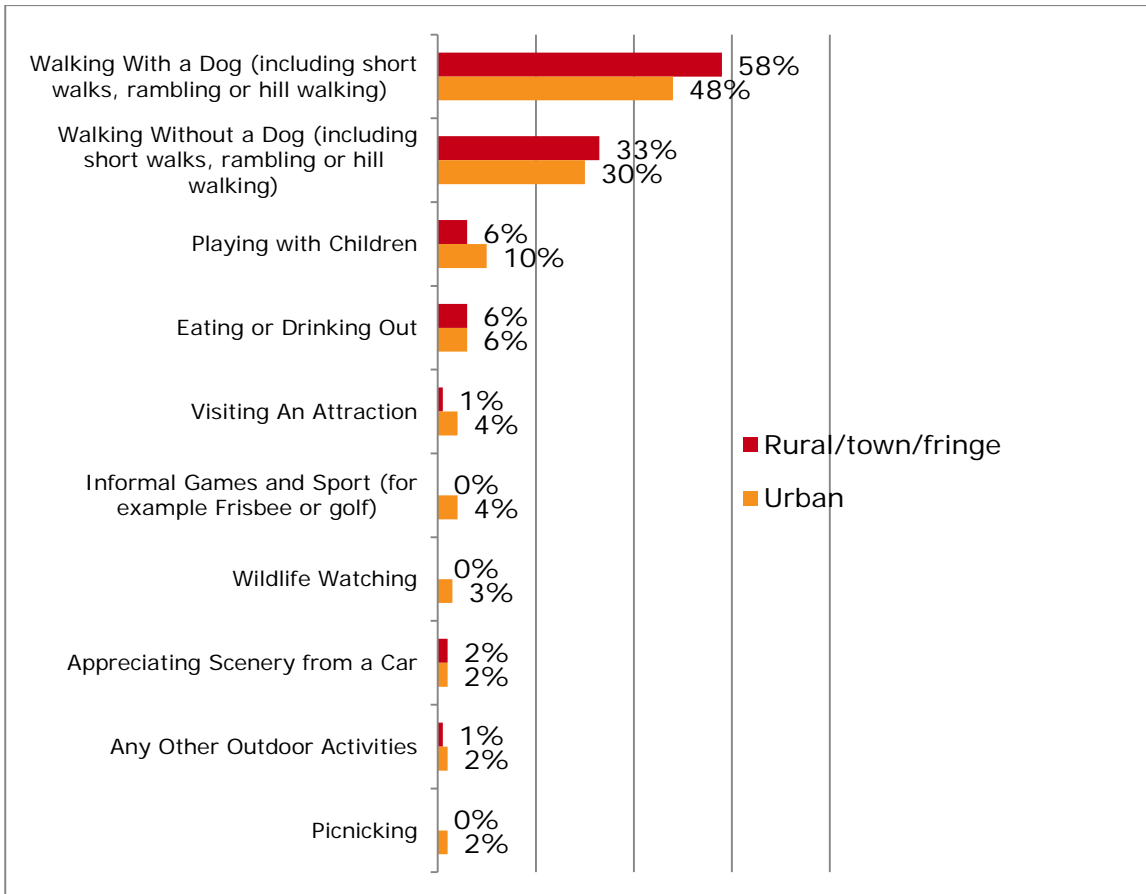
Table 20 Visits taken by South Pennines Catchment Area population – main transport mode

	Rural/Town/Fringe	Urban
On foot	76%	64%
By car	21%	32%
Bicycle	2%	1%
Public bus	0%	2%

Activities undertaken

The most frequently undertaken activities in visits taken by urban residents were dog walking (48%), walking without a dog (30%), playing with children (10%) and eating out (6%). By comparison, visits taken by rural and urban fringe residents were more likely to include dog walking (58%).

Figure 33 Visits taken by South Pennines Catchment Area population by place of residence - activities undertaken



8. Appendix 1

A UK: 3% of the population

These are professional people, very senior managers in business or commerce, or are top-level civil servants.

Retired people, previously grade A, and their widows/ widowers.

B UK: 18% of the population

Middle management executives in large organisations, with appropriate qualifications.

Principal officers in local government and civil service.

Top managers or owners of small business concerns, educational and service establishments.

Retired people, previously grade B, and their widows/ widowers.

C1 UK: 27% of the population

Junior management, owners of small establishments, and all others in non-manual positions.

Jobs in this group have very varied responsibilities and educational requirements.

Retired people, previously grade C1 and their widows/ widowers.

C2 UK: 24% of the population

All skilled manual workers, and those manual workers with responsibility for other people.

Retired people previously grade C2, with a pension from their job.

Widows/widowers, if receiving pensions from their late spouse's job.

D UK: 16% of the population

All semi skilled and unskilled manual workers, and apprentices and trainees to skilled workers.

Retired people, previously grade D, with a pension from their job.

Widows/widowers, if receiving pensions from their late spouse's job.

E UK: 12% of the population

All those entirely dependent on the state long term, through sickness, unemployment, old age or other reasons.

Those unemployed for a period exceeding 6 months (otherwise classified on previous occupation).

Casual workers and those without a regular income.

Only households without a chief wage earner are coded in this group.