

Valleys Regional Park Green & Open Space Survey

Data report

Date of issue: September2020





Contents

1.	About this report
2.	Survey results
	2.1 Before the lock down occurred, how often were you accessing and using open and green spaces?
	2.2 If the answer above is less than once a month please tell us why: (please tick all that apply)
2	2.3 Which open and green spaces did you use?
2	2.4 Please name some of your favourite places to visit
	2.5 Prior to the lock down, if you did access open and green spaces, how long would you spend there?10
2	2.6 How would you get there?10
	2.7 If you were accessing open and green spaces prior to lock down, what were your main reasons for doing so?1
2	2.8 During lockdown, how often did you use outdoor, open and green spaces? 12
2	2.9 How does this compare with before lock down?
2	2.10 While in lock down, what type of outdoor space did you use?1
	2.11 Have open and green spaces become more or less important to you during ock down14
	2.12 Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: appreciate the open and green spaces near my home
	2.13 Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: have become more aware of wildlife15
	2.14 Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: would like more open and green spaces near my home15
E	2.15 Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: Being able to access open and green spaces has helped my personal/mental
	nealth15
E	2.16 Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: Being able to access open and green spaces has enabled me to continue my exercising routines
E	2.17 Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: Being able to access open and green spaces has enabled me to start exercising outines
	2.18 Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: do not have a garden/outdoor space at home so enjoy accessing my local area 17
E	2.19 Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: Being able to access open and green spaces has helped me/my children to access more relaxing/play opportunities







1. About this report

The survey was launched on 21 July 2020 and closed on 18 September 2020.

During the live period the survey was shared by members of Valleys Regional Park.

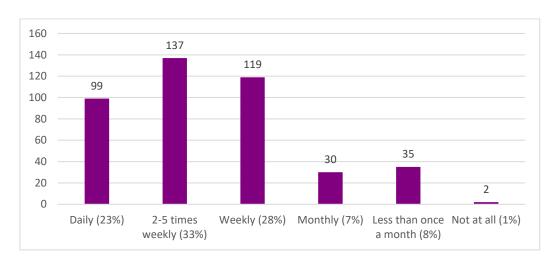
There were a total of 426 online completions. 12 were completed in Welsh and 414 in English.

An earlier version of this survey was initially launched in Bridgend County only. Where questions were identical with the present survey, the results have been merged to provide a broader dataset.

2. Survey results

2.1 Before the lock down occurred, how often were you accessing and using open and green spaces?

422 responses were received to this question.



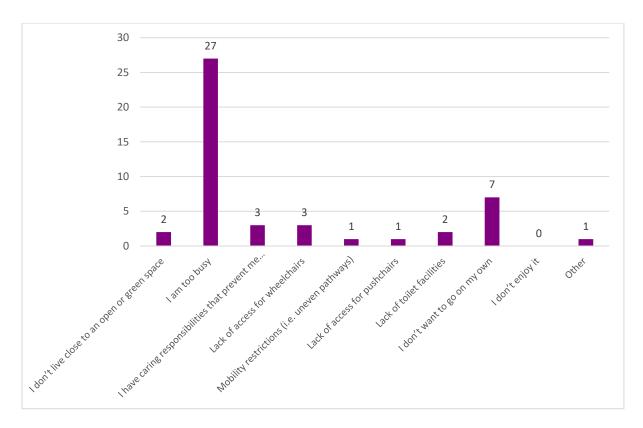
23% of respondents stated that before lockdown they used open and green spaces daily, followed by 33% two to five times per week and 28% weekly.

2.2 If the answer above is less than once a month please tell us why: (please tick all that apply)

This was a multiple choice question meaning that respondents could select multiple responses.







Of the respondents that said they used open and green spaces less than once per month the most common reasons given for this were, I am too busy followed by I don't want to go on my own, I have caring responsibilities that prevent me accessing open or green spaces and lack of access for wheelchairs.

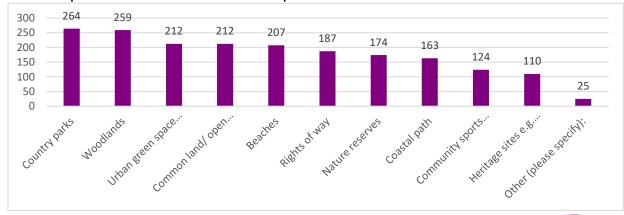
One respondent chose other and made the following comment:

• Can't drive. Vision impaired. Not all places accessible by public transport

2.3 Which open and green spaces did you use?

This was a multiple choice question meaning that respondents could select multiple responses.

1937 responses were received to this question.







The most common responses were Country Parks, woodlands followed by urban green space near my home and common land/open access.

25 respondents provided comments when they selected other, these comments have been themed in the table below, some comments contained multiple themes:

Theme	
Canal/river walks	6
Cycle track	4
Public footpaths/Rights of way	3
My garden	3
Coal tips and colliery sites	3
Mountains	2
Country lanes	2
National Trust sites	1
Local farm land	1
Local allotments	1
Llanharan opencast	1
Lady Windsor Site Ynysybwl	1

The most common themes were canal/river walks followed by cycle tracks.

2.4 Please name some of your favourite places to visit

244 respondents provided comments when they selected other, some comments contained multiple places and have been themed in the table below:

Place	
Bryngarw House/park	21
Craig Gwladus	21
Brecon Beacons	20
Local woodlands/forests	14
Local common	14
Ogmore/Ogmore beach/sand dunes	14
Margam Park	12
Local coastal paths	12
Cwmcarn	12
Aberavon	11
Local area/ footpaths	11
Southerndown	11
Rest Bay	10
Parc Slip	10
Kenfig nature reserve/pool	10
Pembrey country park	9
Dare Valley country park	8
Porthcawl	7





Lacalachal	7
Local canal	7
Dyffryn gardens	7
Local mountain/meadow	6
Taff trail	6
Newport wetlands	6
Penalita park	6
Llansteffan	6
Burryport	6
Afan argoed/forestry	5
The local valleys	5
Rhossilli	5
Parc cwm Darren.	5
Pen Y Fan	5
Aberdare park	4
Barry sidings	4
Black mountains	4
Playing/sports fields	4
Sirhowy	4
National trust/heritage sites	4
Millennium coast path	4
Mynydd Mawr	4
Dinefwr park	4
Blorenge mountains	3
Tremains woodland	3
Local cycle paths	3
Treherbert woods	3
Twmbarlwm	3
Penarth pier and headland walk	3
Newbridge fields	3
newton beach/dunes	3
Parc Howard,	3
Ynysyngharad park	3
Maesteg Park	3
Lady Windsor Colliery site	3
Castle Coch/forest fawr	3
Cosmeston lakes	3
Barry	2
Beechwood Park	2
Sker	2
Penllaergaer country park	2
Rhigos	2
Roath aprk	2
North Wales	2
Laugharne/Laugharne castle	2
Llyn Llech Owain	2
Light Licon Owalii	





Formbill	
Fernhill	2
Bryn Bach park	2
Bute park	2
Bwlch	2
Caerphilly castle	2
Cardiff bay	2
Cyfartha park	2
Merthyr Mawr	2
14 locks	1
Abergwili museum	1
Bargoed Woodland Park	1
Blackpill	1
Belle Vue park	1
Blaen Bran Community Wood	1
Blaencuffin Canyon	1
Brechfa forest	1
Botanic gardens	1
Waunfawr park	1
Y Gweria	1
Whitford Sand	1
Ystrad Mynach park	1
Whitford Sand	1
Wentwood forest	1
Allotment	1
Sandy water park	1
Saundersfoot	1
Singleton park	1
ST Fagans	1
Sugarloaf mountain	1
Taff Bargoed park	1
The Wenallt	1
Three cliffs	1
The Northern Meadows, Cardiff	1
Tredegar park	1
Thompsons Park Cardiff	1
Valeways walking routes	1
Penycoedcae	1
Penpych woodland	1
Pennard Castle	1
Pink Bay	1
Pontypool park	1
Pwll waun cynon	1
Port Eynon	1
Port Rubin beach	1
Pontypool Park Shell Grotto and Folly	1
•	





	4
Pontypool park	1
Rudry	1
Nash point	1
Neath abbey	1
Nicholaston	1
Oldcastle	1
Parc Gwladys	1
Llanmadoc	1
Llanharan opencast	1
LLandegfeth Reservoir	1
Llantwit Major beach	1
Nant y Gleisiad	1
Mynydd Meio	1
Mynyddislwyn Grug	1
Mynydd y gaer	1
Morgan Jones Park Caerphilly	1
Mynydd Maen	1
Eaglebush valley	1
Dunraven bay	1
Dryslwyn Castle	1
Forest farm	1
Ferryside beach	1
Foel Penderyn	1
Gwryne valley	1
Graig cefn park rspb	1
Harold Finch memorial park	1
Craig y llyn	1
Jacksons Bay Barry,	1
Henllys Nature Reserve	1
Langland	1
Mewslade	1
Mid Wales	1
Brynmawr	1
Camarthen park	1
Car gof	1
Carmel woods	1
Cefn Bryn	1
Cefn Machen forestry	1
Cenarth falls	. 1
Cefn Sidan	. 1
Clyne gardens	<u>'</u> 1
Clydach lakes	1
Coed Garthmaelwg	1
Coity castle	1
Cold Knap	1
- Co.a raidp	•



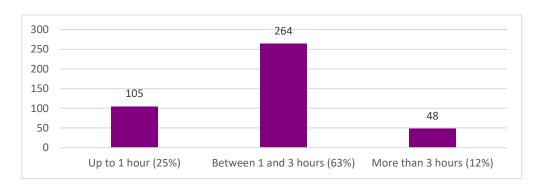


Court Colman	1
Cwm Saebren woods	1
Cwm Ivy Woods	1
Cwmbran boating lake	1
Cwmparc	1
Pendine	1

The most common places were Bryngarw House/park and Craig Gwladus followed by the Brecon Beacons.

2.5 Prior to the lock down, if you did access open and green spaces, how long would you spend there?

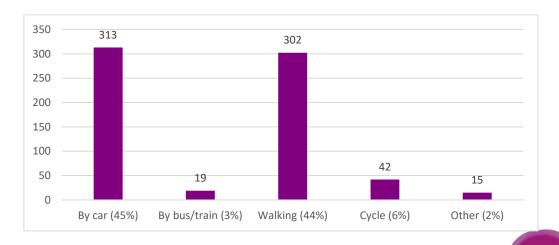
417 respondents answered this question.



63% of respondents stated that they spent between one and three hours in open and green spaces, followed by 25% who stated up to one hour and then 12% who stated more than three hours.

2.6 How would you get there?

This was a multiple choice question meaning that respondents could select multiple responses.





The most common responses were by car, followed by walking and then cycle.

15 comments were made by respondents who chose 'other'. These comments have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

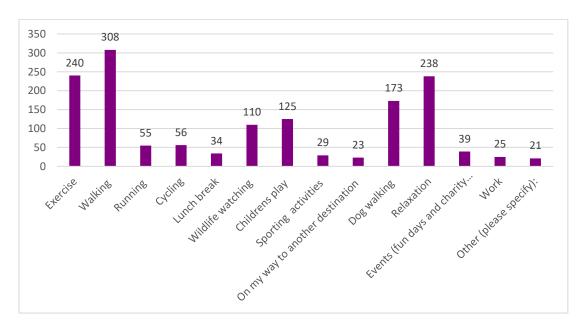
Theme	
Run/ as part of a running route	5
On horseback	3
Lift with friends	2
Wheelchair	2
Van	1
Motorcycle	1
Car walk or bike	1

The most common themes were run/as part of a running route followed by on horseback and then lift with friends and wheelchair.

2.7 If you were accessing open and green spaces prior to lock down, what were your main reasons for doing so?

This was a multiple choice question meaning that respondents could select multiple responses.

1476 responses were received to this question.



The most common responses for reasons for accessing open and green spaces were walking, followed by exercise and then relaxation.

21 comments were made in 'other', these have been themed in the table below. Some comments contained multiple themes:



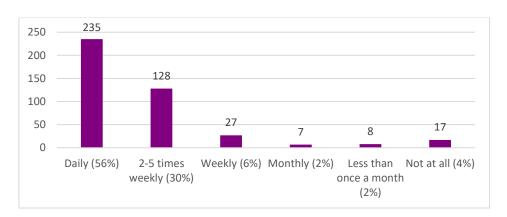


Theme	
Photography/painting	6
Conservation activities/volunteering/ litter picking	6
Meeting friends/family	3
Appreciating nature/views	2
Welsh language chat at Parc Slip with Menter Bro	
Ogwr	1
Fishing	1
Horse riding	1
Mental health	1
Place of work	1
Religious outings	1

The most common themes were photography/painting and conservation activities/volunteering/litter picking followed by meeting friends/family.

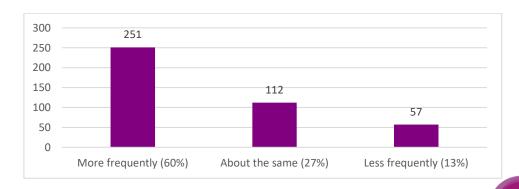
2.8 During lockdown, how often did you use outdoor, open and green spaces?

422 responses were received to this question.



56% of respondents stated that in lock down they were using open and green spaces daily, followed by two to five times a week (30%) and weekly (6%).

2.9 How does this compare with before lock down?

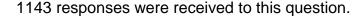


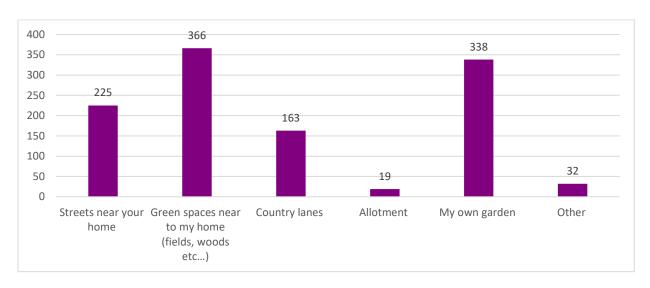


60% of respondents stated that they used open and green spaces more frequently since lockdown, followed by 27% who said about the same and then 13% who said less frequently.

2.10 While in lock down, what type of outdoor space did you use?

This was a multiple choice question meaning that respondents could select multiple responses.





When asked what type of outdoor space respondents were using the most common responses was green spaces near to my home (fields, woods etc.) followed by my own garden and then streets near my home.

Where respondents selected other there were 31 comments made, some comments contained multiple themes and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	
Canal/river walks	8
Beach/coastal areas	5
Mountains in the local area	5
Rights of way/public footpaths	5
Woodlands	4
Former colliery sites in my local areas	3
Cycle paths	2
Local park/common	2
Place of work	1
Was shielding	1
Cardiff Bay Barrage and Taff Trail	1
Bridleways	1

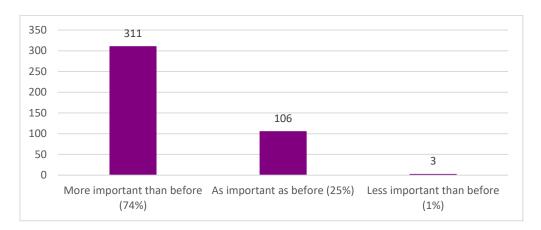




The most common themes were canal/river walks followed by beach/coastal areas, mountains in the local area and rights of way/public footpaths.

2.11 Have open and green spaces become more or less important to you during lock down

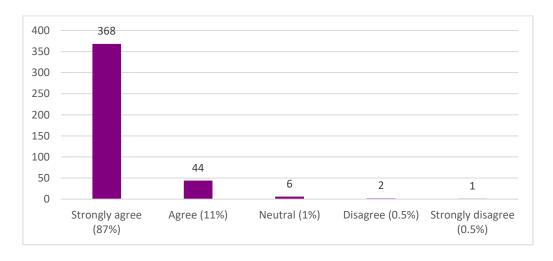
420 responses were received to this question.



74% of respondents stated that open and green spaces had been more important during lockdown, followed by 25% who stated as important and before. 1% stated that open and green spaces were less important to them during lockdown.

2.12 Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: I appreciate the open and green spaces near my home

421 responses were received to this question



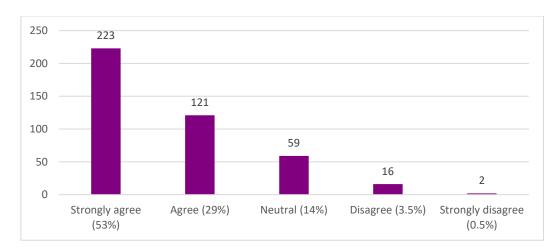
87% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement I appreciate the open and green spaces near my home.





2.13 Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: I have become more aware of wildlife

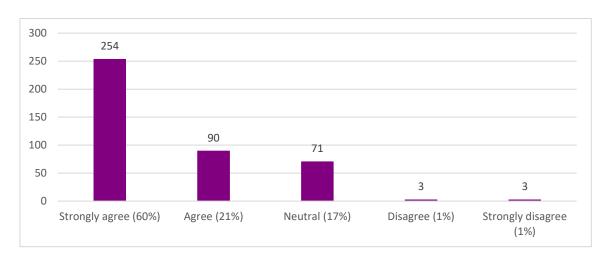
421 responses were received to this question



53% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement I have become more aware of wildlife and a further 29% agreed with the statement.

2.14 Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: I would like more open and green spaces near my home

421 responses were received to this question

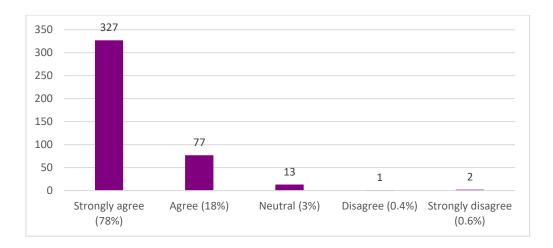


60% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement I would like more open and green spaces near my home and a further 21% agreed with the statement.

2.15 Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: Being able to access open and green spaces has helped my personal/mental health



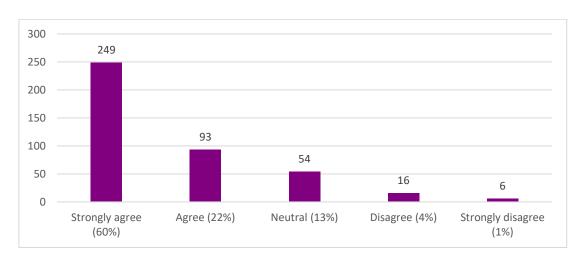




78% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement being able to access open and green spaces has helped my personal/mental health and a further 18% agreed with the statement.

2.16 Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: Being able to access open and green spaces has enabled me to continue my exercising routines

418 responses were received to this question

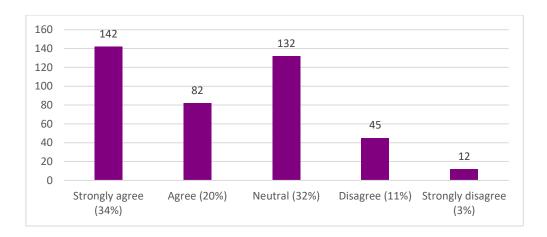


60% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement being able to access open and green spaces has enabled me to continue my exercising routines and a further 22% agreed with the statement.

2.17 Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: Being able to access open and green spaces has enabled me to start exercising routines



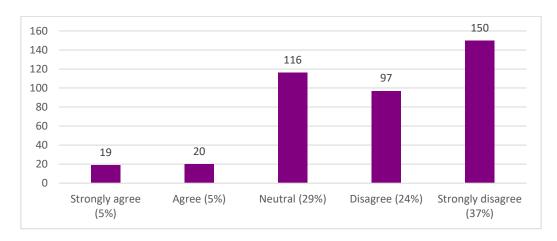




34% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement being able to access open and green spaces has enabled me to start exercising routines and a further 20% agreed. 32% gave a neutral response to this statement.

2.18 Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: I do not have a garden/outdoor space at home so enjoy accessing my local area

402 responses were received to this question

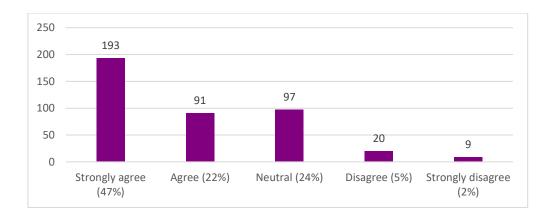


37% of respondents strongly disagreed with the statement I do not have a garden/outdoor space at home so enjoy accessing my local area and a further 24% disagreed. 29% gave a neutral response to this statement.

2.19 Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: Being able to access open and green spaces has helped me/my children to access more relaxing/play opportunities







47% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement being able to access open and green spaces has helped me/my children to access more relaxing/play opportunities and a further 22% agreed. 24% gave a neutral response to this statement.

2.20 Please provide additional comments below

88 respondents answered this question. The comments were made to this question have been themed in the table below:

Theme	
Outdoor spaces vital to mental health/wellbeing	12
Have found more places/footpaths in my local area since lockdown	10
Very lucky to have outdoor and green spaces near to my home	8
Areas should be protected/Council wants to build on green spaces	7
Have always been interested in/accessing outdoor and green spaces	7
Need better access i.e. for wheelchairs, mobility scooters, prams and	6
footpaths	
Appreciate outdoor and green spaces more since lockdown	5
Accessing outdoor and green spaces made a positive difference during	5
lockdown	
Watching/enjoying wildlife more	5
I have a garden	4
Children able to go outside and play	4
Too busy/did not feel safe during lockdown	4
Outdoor spaces are good for exercise	3
Unable to access during lockdown/missed visiting some places	3
Electric bike hire would enhance exercise and travel	1
Need more off road riding for horses	1
Need more open and green spaces	1
Prefer wider outdoors	1
Outdoor spaces need more maintenance	1

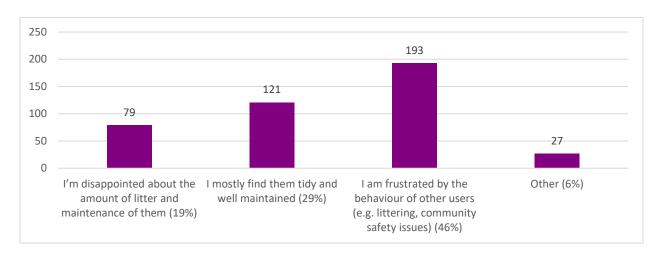




The most common themes were outdoor spaces vital to mental health/wellbeing followed by have found more places/footpaths in my local area since lockdown and then very lucky to have outdoor and green spaces near to my home.

2.21 How would you describe the outdoor and green spaces you access?

420 responses were received to this question.



46% stated that they were frustrated by the behaviour of other users followed by mostly find them tidy and well maintained (29%) and then disappointed about the amount of litter and maintenance of them (19%).

6% of respondents stated 'other' and were able to provide comments. 26 comments were received, these have been themed in the table below:

Theme	
Increase in littering/fly tipping	6
They are often over manicured/cut too often	5
Dog walkers not clearing up after them	3
Mountain bikers/motorcycles are noisy and cause damage	3
They are unmaintained/need improvements	2
Disappointed with the wild flowers	1
Council does not celebrate local green space unless it's a park or other	1
micro managed environment	
Disappointed with the closure of parks	1
The areas are well maintained	1
Nettles need cutting back on coastal path gates	1
Sometimes the stiles are obstructed and route posts removed	1
People should learn to respect and appreciate where they live	1

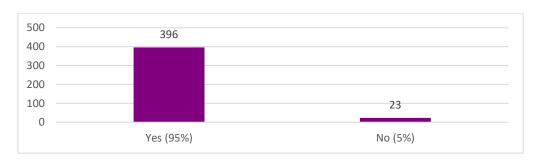
The most common themes were increase in littering/fly tipping followed by they are often over manicured/cut too often and then dog walkers not clearing up after them and mountain bikers/motorcycles are noisy and cause damage.





2.22 In the future, do you think you will use open and green spaces more?

419 responses were received to this question

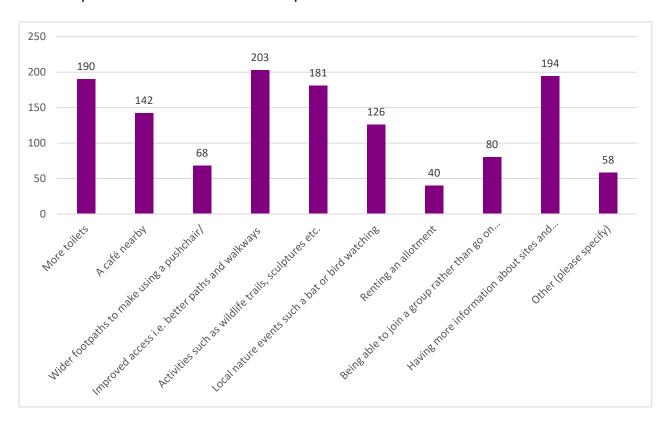


95% of respondents stated that in the future they believed they would use open and green spaces more.

2.23 What would encourage you to use outdoor and green spaces more? (please tick all that apply)

This was a multiple choice question meaning that respondents could select multiple responses.

1282 responses were received to this question.



When asked what would encourage respondents to use open and green spaces more the most common responses were improved access i.e. better paths and





walkways followed by having more information about sites and opportunities and more toilets.

58 respondents selected other and made a comments. Some comments contained multiple themes and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	
Better access i.e. improved footpaths and wheelchair/mobility scooter	8
access	
Less people means you feel safer, have more personal space, encourage	8
more wildlife	
Reduce litter/more bins	8
More dog bins	4
Having more time	4
better maintenance of sites	3
Better way-marking of trails/signage/linking trails	3
Cheap/improved car parking	3
More promotion of green spaces/create an established green	3
network/increase membership to community woodland	
Cycle route/mountain bike trails	2
Happy with how they	2
I have always used green spaces in my local area	2
Improved public transport links	
More benches	2
More chances to access water	2
More toilets	2
Better access to historical sites	1
Charge people from England a tourist tax to stop saturation.	1
Hand sanitiser stations	1
More green spaces	1
Picnic areas	
Tree swings	1

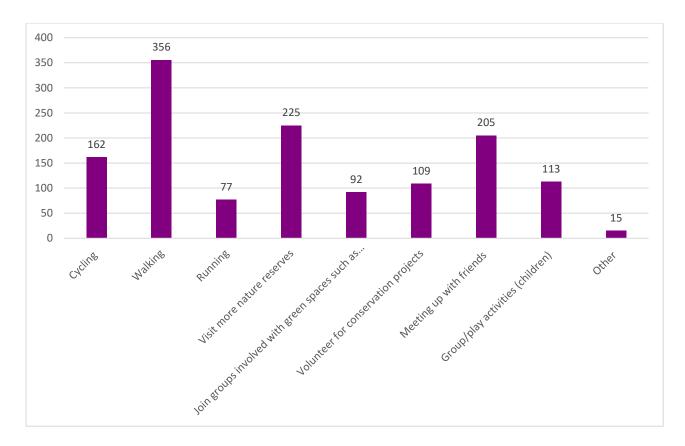
The most common themes were better access i.e. improved footpaths and wheelchair/mobility scooter access followed by less people means you feel safer, have more personal space, encourage more wildlife and then reduce litter/more bins.

2.24 What activities would you like to do more of in open and green spaces?

This was a multiple choice question meaning that respondents could select multiple responses.







When asked what they would like to do more of in open and green spaces the most common responses were walking, followed by visit more nature reserves and then meeting up with friends.

15 respondents selected other and provided comments, some comments contained multiple themes and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	
Dog walking/exercises	4
Horse riding	3
Fishing	2
Photography	2
Mindfulness	1
Kayaking	1
Hiking	1
Use my Wheelchair and Hand cycle machine	1
Eating/picnics	1
Wild swimming in rivers/lakes etc.	1

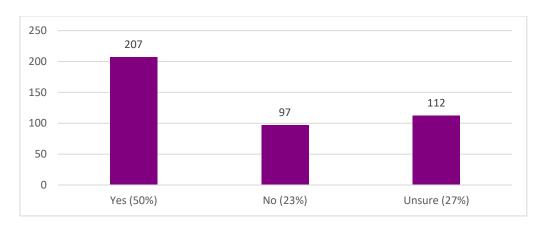
The most common themes were dog walking/exercises followed by horse riding and then fishing and photography.





2.25 Would you consider becoming a volunteer and taking part activities such as litter picking and tree planting in open and green spaces?

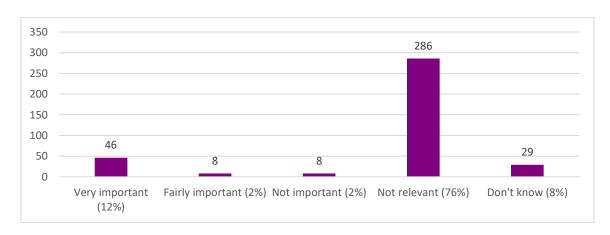
416 respondents answered this question.



50% of respondents stated that they would be interested in becoming a volunteer and take part in activities such as litter picking and tree planting in open and green spaces.

2.26 If you run a business, how important is access to the countryside to your business?

377 respondents answered this question.



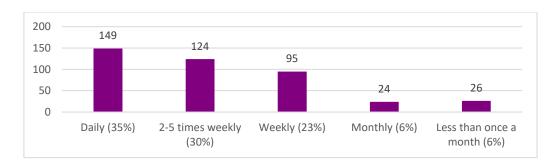
When asked how important open and green spaces were to those who run a business 76% of respondents stated not relevant. 12% stated very important.

2.27 Before lock down how often did you use your garden and/or outdoor space?

418 respondents answered this question.



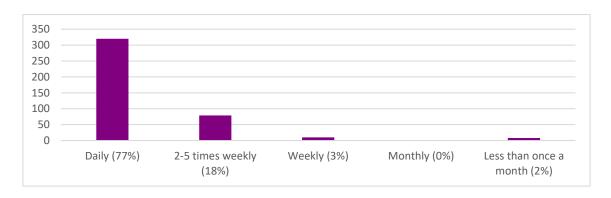




35% respondents stated that they used their garden daily before lockdown, followed by 30% two to five times per week and then 23% who stated weekly.

2.28 During the lock down how often do you use your garden and/or outdoor space?

417 respondents answered this question.



77% of Respondents stated that during lockdown they used their garden and outdoor space daily followed by 18% two to five times per week.

2.29 In the future, do you think you will use your garden and/or outdoor space more?

413 respondents answered this question.



82% of respondents stated that they would use their garden and outdoor space more in the future.



2.30 Please tell us about your garden and how you have used it during lock down:

225 respondents answered this question. Some comments contained multiple themes and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	
Have made improvements	33
Was used for children's play/games	33
Have started growing vegetables	32
Relaxing	28
Eating/Barbecuing	24
Mental wellbeing/used as an escape/get fresh air	22
Gardening	22
Sitting	22
Feeding/listening/watching the birds and enjoying wildlife	21
Socialise with family/friends/chatting to neighbours	18
More planting	18
Spend time with animals/pets	15
Have made the garden more wildlife friendly/Installed a pond	14
Reading	12
Have used the garden more	12
Used to exercise	11
I do not have a garden/I did not use the garden	11
Sunbathing	4
Home schooling	3
Did not like using garden because of noisy neighbours/people	
entering garden through rights of way	3
Working	3
Depends on the weather	2

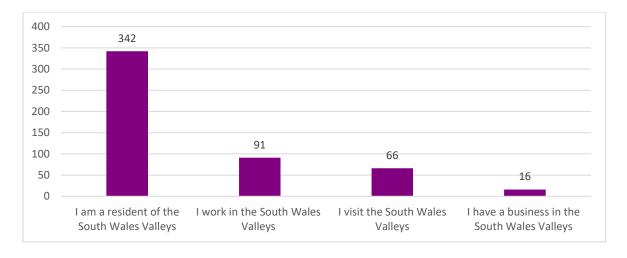
The most common themes were have made improvements followed by used for children's play/games and have started growing vegetables.

2.31 Where do you live within the South Wales Valleys? (Please tick all that apply)

This was a multiple choice question meaning that respondents could select multiple responses.



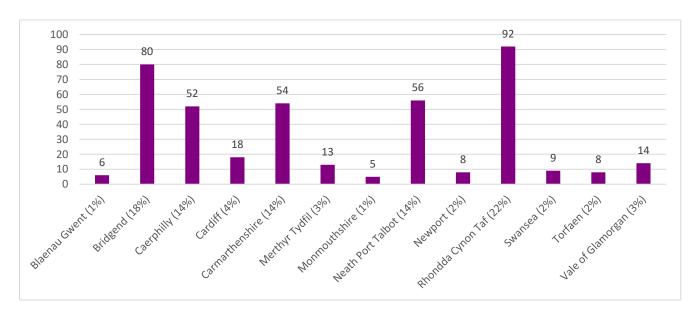




The majority of respondents said they are a resident of the South Wales Valleys.

2.32 Which local authority area do you live in?

415 responses were received to this question.



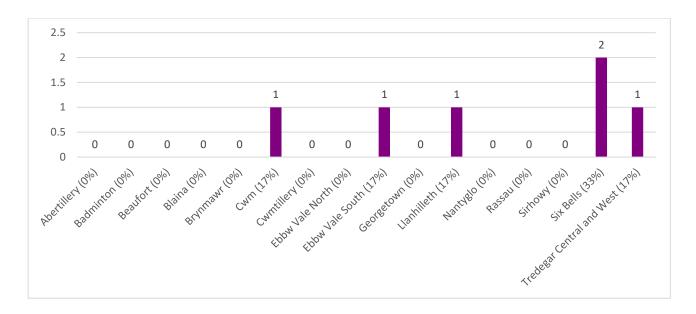
The most common local authority chosen was Rhondda Cynon Taf (22%), followed by Bridgend (18%), Neath Port Talbot (14%), Carmarthenshire (14%) and Caerphilly (14%).

When respondents answered which local authority they lived in they were asked to specify the ward within their authority.

2.32.1 Blaenau Gwent

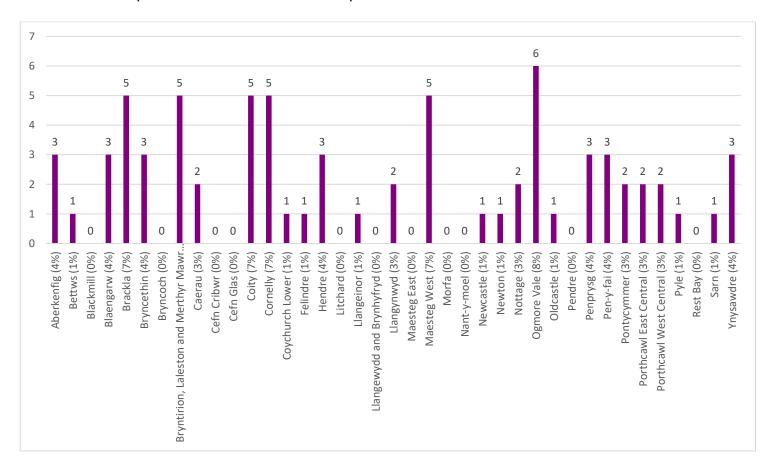






The most common ward chosen in Blaenau Gwent was Six Bells (33%) followed by Tredegar Central and West (17%)

2.32.2 Bridgend



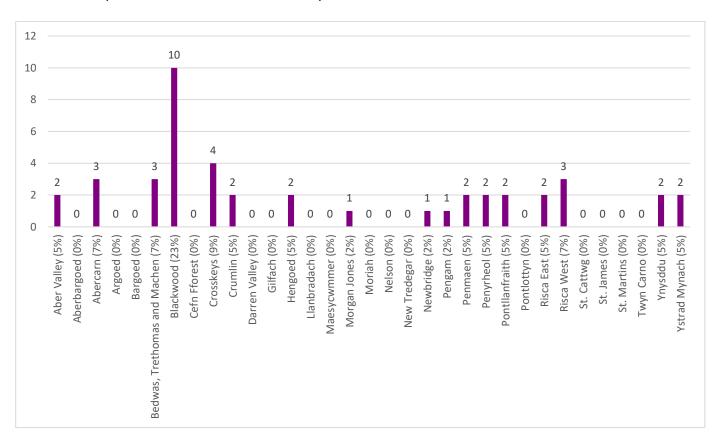




The most common ward chosen in Bridgend was Ogmore Vale (8%) followed by Brackla (7%), Bryntirion, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr (7%), Coity (7%), Cornelly (7%) and Maesteg West (7%).

2.32.3 Caerphilly

44 responses were received to this question.

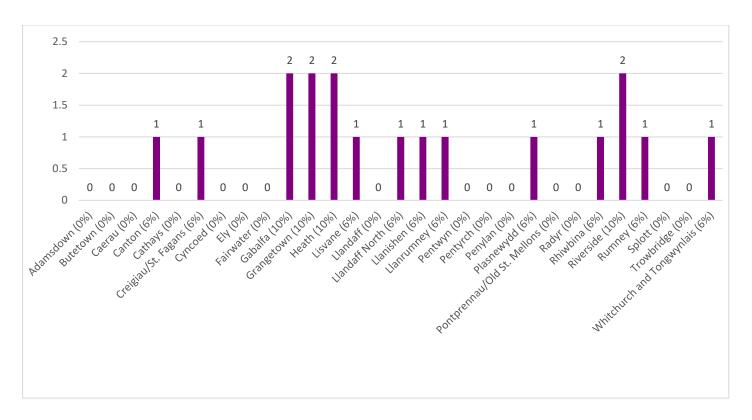


The most common ward chosen in Bridgend was Blackwood (23%) followed by Crosskeys (9%) and Risca West (7%).

2.32.4 Cardiff



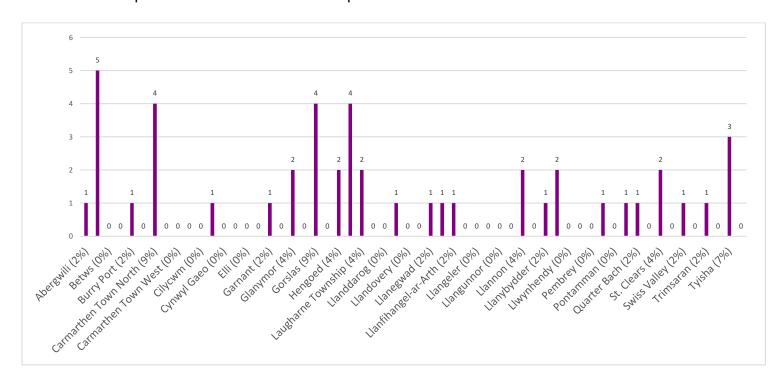




The most common wards chosen were Gabalfa (10%), Grangetown (10%), Heath (10%) and Riverside (10%).

2.32.5 Carmarthenshire

46 responses were received to this question.

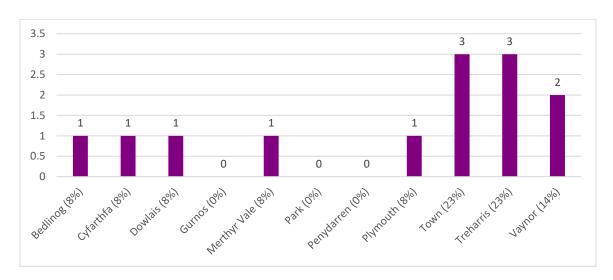


The most common ward chosen was Ammanford (11%) followed by Carmarthen Town North (9%), Gorslas (9%) and Kidwelly (9%).



2.32.6 Merthyr

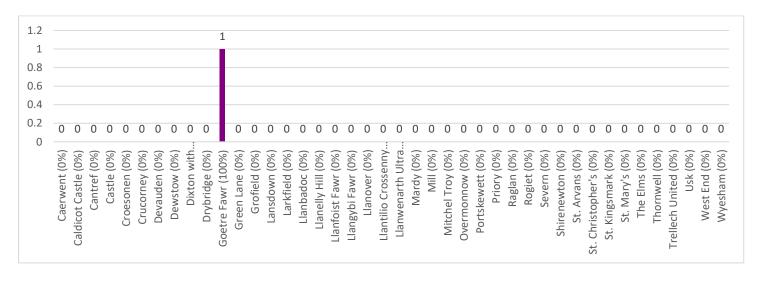
13 responses were received to this question.



The most common wards chosen wereTown (23%) and Treharris (23%0 followed by Vaynor (14%).

2.32.7 Monmouthshire

1 response was received to this question.

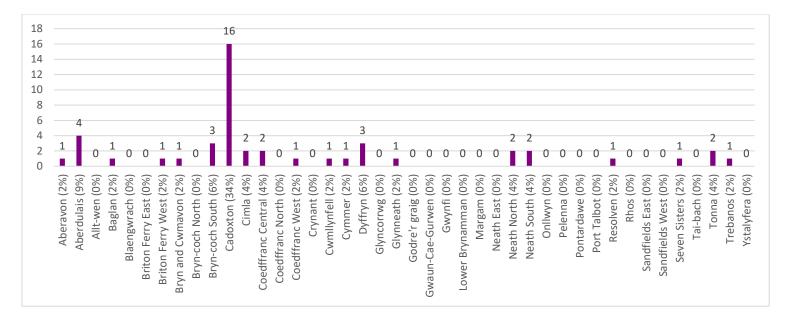


The only ward chosen Goetre Fawr (100%).

2.32.8 Neath Port Talbot



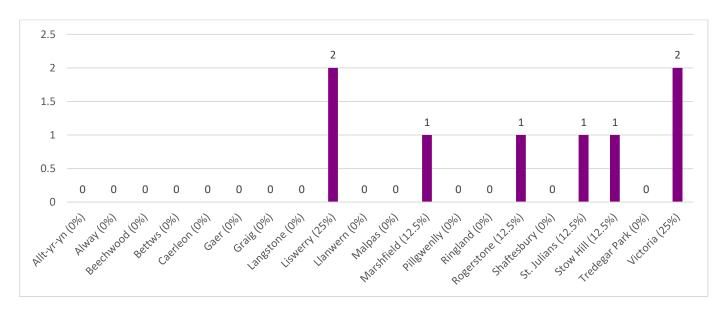




The most common ward chosen was Cadoxton (34%) followed by Aberdulais (9%) and Dyffryn (6%).

2.32.9 Newport

8 responses were received to this question.

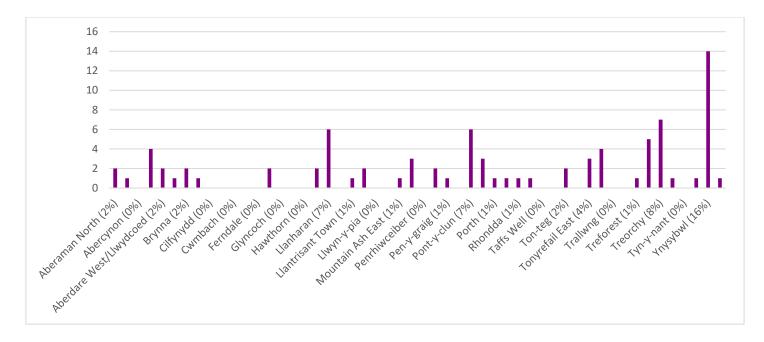


The most common wards chosen were Liswerry (25%) and Victoria (25%).

2.32.10 Rhondda Cynon Taf



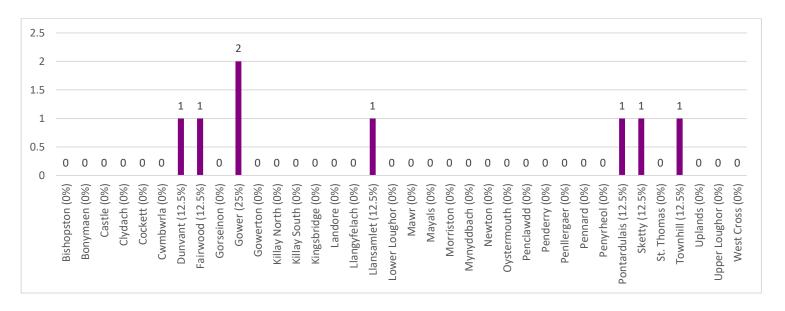




The most common ward chosen was Ynysbwl (16%) followed by Treorchy (8%), Llanharan (7%) and Pont-y-clun (7%).

2.32.11 Swansea

8 responses were received to this question.

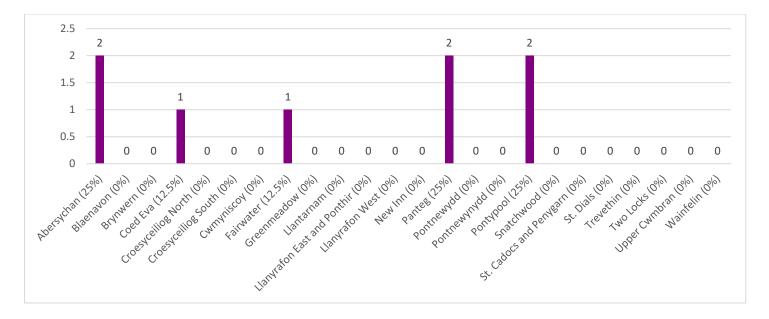


The most common ward chosen was Gower (25%).

2.32.12 Torfaen



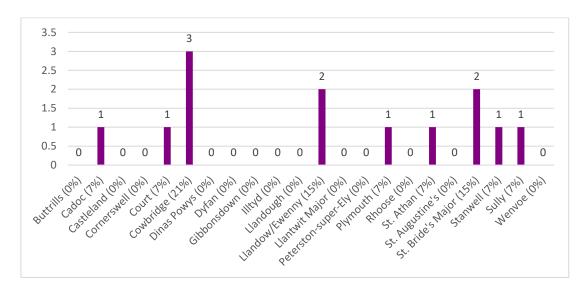




The most common wards chosen were Abersychan (25%), Panteg (35%) and Pontypool (25%).

2.32.13 Vale of Glamorgan

14 responses were received to this question.

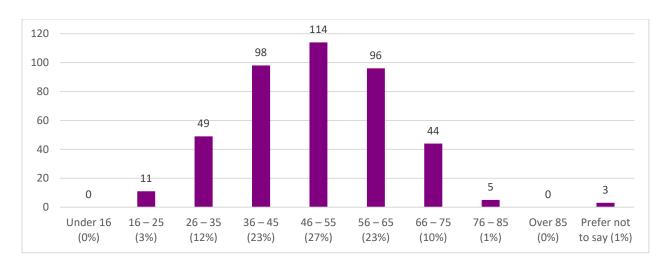


The most common ward chosen was Cowbridge (21%) followed by Llandow/Ewenny (15%) and St Bride's Major (15%).

2.33 Please tell us your age:







The majority of respondents were aged 46-55 (27%), followed by 36-45 (23%) and 56-65 (23%).



