



Woods in and Around Towns (WIAT) Evaluation: Baseline Survey

Final Report

March 2007

Prepared for Forestry Commission Scotland

by

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1. BACKGROUND

The Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT) initiative aims to increase the contribution of woodland to quality of life in Scotland's urban and post-industrial areas. Five objectives have been identified for the WIAT initiative:

1. Increase recognition of the benefits of urban woods and greenspace networks.
2. Identify priority areas for targeting resources.
3. Improve the quality of existing urban woods for people and wildlife.
4. Increase the creation of woods around towns, on derelict and under-utilised land and on land associated with new development.
5. Demonstrate effectiveness and value for money.

The WIAT area is nominally defined as woods contained by or intersecting a 1-km buffer around towns with populations of 2000 or more.

The WIAT programme has a set of quantitative progress indicators that are used to report progress of the programme to the National Committee for subsequent distribution within Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and to partners (see Table 1.1). These data are gathered by FCS conservancy staff and collated centrally.

Table 1.1 WIAT programme progress indicators

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of urban woodland brought into active management. • Area of urban woodland created. • Area of registered vacant and derelict land restored to woodland. • Area of woods in and around towns added to the National Forest Estate. • Area of partnership woodland managed by FES. • Number of access improvements achieved. • Number of urban school pupil visits to woods facilitated. • Number of community consultations within the WIAT area. • Number of participants in health schemes. • Increase in the proportion of woodland in areas of high deprivation. • Progress in meeting the Space for People standard. • Number of urban local authorities with LFFs.
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In 2006 FCS commissioned OPENspace research centre to collect data in addition to these progress indicators, to help evaluate the effectiveness of the programme. The collection of this data will provide an evidence base against which to assess the impact of WIAT programme investment on target communities in terms of changes to the quality of their local environment and their attitudes to the WIAT programme and the local environment. This is aimed particularly at evaluating if the programme of work is achieving objectives 1, 3 and 5 listed above.

In order to create the evidence base, data was collected from two selected communities where WIAT programme investment is imminent, and a third, comparable, community where no WIAT investment is planned. A repeat phase of data collection, following the period of WIAT activity within the relevant two communities, will allow for evaluation of the impact of the programme against the baseline and in comparison with the third, 'control' community.

2. PROJECT AIM AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The aim of the project has been to create a baseline dataset of people's attitudes, perceptions and values towards their local open space and woodlands, within selected communities in Scotland. This is to provide the baseline against which the impact of WIAT programme investment on target communities, in terms of changes to the quality of their local environment and their attitudes to the WIAT programme and the local environment, can be measured. The project is the first phase of a longitudinal study that will contribute to the overall evaluation of the WIAT programme.

The research questions to be addressed were as follows:

- What are local people's attitudes, perceptions and values associated with their local open space/woodlands?
- How are local people using their local open space/woodlands?
- How often do local people use their local open space/woodland?
- What needs to change to increase use and quality of their experience of local open space/woodlands?

3. METHODOLOGY

The work involved the following stages:

3.1 A brief review of recent relevant literature was undertaken to ensure that the research was up-to-date in terms of theory and methods.

3.2 A questionnaire was designed by OPENspace for a survey of adults living in the case study communities, to address the research questions, to be robust and reliable as well as relatively short and easy to administer.

3.3. A brief checklist and survey methodology was developed to provide an independent evaluation of the quality of the neighbourhood and local woodland or green space environment. This was designed to be an 'expert' survey, rather than one based on local people's perceptions.

3.4 Three case study sites were chosen in discussion with FCS officers, all located in areas classified under the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2006 as within the top 15% of deprivation. Two were communities where WIAT intervention was scheduled for 2006/7, one in Glasgow and one in Aberdeen; the third, in Glasgow, was a control community with no local woodland or planned WIAT intervention.

3.5 Progressive Partnership were sub-contracted to administer the questionnaire. A quota sampling method was used, based on age, gender, ethnicity and socio-economic status, with a minimum sample of N=100 for each community.

3.6 OPENspace undertook the independent environmental audits of the case study sites, based on a single day's site visit and survey of environmental quality in each case.

3.7 Progressive Partnership coded and entered the data into an SPSS database, and provided a summary and descriptive statistics based on the data. OPENspace undertook some additional statistical analysis before producing the final report.

3.8 OPENspace produced an analysis of the environmental surveys and combined this with the commentary on the questionnaire survey and analysis to create this final report.

3.9 Appendices include: the questionnaire used for the survey; a comparison of the profile of the questionnaire sample and the 2001 census data for each community; the postcodes for the survey communities covered in the questionnaire; the environmental audit checklist; and the key to the spatial analysis of a typical path experience. The SPSS database of the questionnaire survey findings is provided as a separate, electronic file for FCS. The dataset of contact details for any participants who have consented to being contacted again in future surveys has been provided as a separate file for storage and use in compliance with the Data Protection Act. Care must be taken to ensure that it continues to be stored and used in compliance with this Act.

4. DESIGN OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE.

The survey questionnaire was designed to be robust and reliable as well as relatively short and easy to administer. It is included in Appendix A. It was structured in the following way:

The introductory section recorded basic demographic data relevant to the sample quota, i.e. the respondent's age, ethnicity, gender, and the occupation of the chief 'wage-earner' in the household.

Section A asked about the neighbourhood in general and people's satisfaction with their overall quality of life and local environment, without reference to woods or FCS.

Section B asked about the amount of outdoor physical exercise people undertake in a typical week. Although this does constitute a full set of physical activity measures according to National Institute of Clinical excellence (NICE) recommendations, it was necessary to keep the questionnaire short and this will allow at least some measure of change over time to be assessed.

Section C asked about the quality of local woodlands and their influence on people's quality of life.

Section D asked 10 questions about people's attitudes, perceptions and values associated with their local woodlands

Section E asked how often people visit Scottish woodlands, including local woodlands; what they do in local woodlands, how they travel there and how long it takes to get there; whom they visit with; whether they visited such places as a child; and whether they have been consulted before about their local woods. The format for the questions on frequency of visits to local woodlands followed the format of the Omnibus Public Opinion Survey of Forestry used by FC, to allow for ready comparison of data.

Section F asked (17 questions) how important different factors are in determining people's use of local woodlands, attempting to ascertain what needs to change to increase use and the quality of people's experience of their local woodlands.

Section G asked socio-demographic questions to ascertain respondents' socio-economic group; any registered disability; the number of children in the household; whether the respondent owns a dog; whether the respondent has access to a car or motor vehicle; how long the respondent has lived in the neighbourhood; and whether they were prepared to be recontacted in a future survey, in which case name, address and telephone number were requested, ensuring compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Comments on the questionnaire's strengths and weaknesses, and possible additional questions for future surveys, are included in the final section of this report

5. DESIGN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT TOOLS

A prime requisite was for a replicable methodology that could be independently repeated in five years time and that would allow changes in environmental quality to be assessed and mapped for comparison with questionnaire data on perceptions and usage. In order to capture different qualities of the environment, a mixed methodology was employed, using checklists, mapping and description. The audits were designed to be carried out by a professional with experience in evaluation of environmental quality (in this case, landscape architects).

5.1 Environmental audit checklist

An environmental audit checklist for on-site observation and evaluation of environmental quality was drawn up based on two existing audit tools: one developed by OPENspace for woodland sites and another by CABE for urban green spaces¹. Criteria from each were combined into one audit tool to include the following aspects of the environment: neighbourhood, access/signage, woodland quality, facilities, use, maintenance/management, security/safety. The criteria are scored using a 5 point scale (where 5 = best and 1= worst). The checklist is included in Appendix D.

5.2 Spatial analysis of typical path experience

In order to capture something of the experience of moving through a site, a spatial analysis of a typical path was undertaken drawing on a technique developed by OPENspace². This technique graphically captures qualities of enclosure using key symbols to represent tree coverage, topographic qualities and visual experiences. This technique is designed to record the dynamic experience of moving through the site but the result is a symbolic representation rather than an exact survey of what is on the ground. Appendix E shows the key to the symbols used to record the path experience.

¹ CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) 2004. *Green Space Strategies*, A good practice guide, London: CABE

² Ward Thompson, C., Aspinall, P., Bell, S., Findlay, C., Wherrett, J. and Travlou, P. 2004. *Open Space and Social Inclusion: Local Woodland Use in Central Scotland*, Edinburgh: Forestry Commission

5.3 Site Description

Individual sites have also been described within their wider neighbourhood context, providing an impression of the overall qualities of each site, and allowing for additional information from Forest Rangers to be integrated into the data. The description is structured around three key categories known to influence visitor perception and usage: woodland experience, access/signage, evidence of use and abuse.

6. SELECTING THE COMMUNITIES

The initial criteria for choice of the communities for survey was based on:

- communities in the top 15% of multiple deprivation indices
- geographically spread to represent different types of urban locations

Two of the communities were chosen based on:

- areas where WIAT financed activity is imminent through Local Authority & FES WIAT investment

In addition, a community was chosen based on:

- an area where WIAT financed activity is not imminent or planned, to act as a 'control'

The WIAT financed activity proposed focused on woodland management proposals, since these are likely to constitute the majority of the WIAT programme and the effects of investment will be visible most quickly in such cases.

One of the challenges in analysing changes in attitudes, perceptions and values over time in relation to an environmental intervention is that there will be many other variables, both personal and societal, that will also change over the same period of time and which will have an influence on people's responses to surveys. While questionnaire surveys can pick up some data on people's individual circumstances, the broader changes in society that might affect attitudes to woodlands and woodland use are harder to capture. For this reason, a 'control' community was used, where there is no WIAT activity planned. This will allow future surveys to pick up changes in attitudes and use that reflect broader societal influences, independent of any changes that might be attributed to local investment in woodlands.

Based on recommendations from Forestry Commission officers, three communities were chosen, complying with the above criteria. The two communities where WIAT investment is planned are Drumchapel in Glasgow (referred to hereafter as Drumchapel) and the combined areas of Seaton, Auchmill and Woodside in Aberdeen (referred to hereafter as Aberdeen). These both contained adequately sized communities in the top 15% SIMD category and within 500m of woods earmarked for WIAT activity. The control site, where no WIAT activity is planned, is Milton in Glasgow (referred to hereafter as Milton).

7. ADMINISTERING THE QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

Progressive Partnership were used as sub-contractor to gather the questionnaire data and to input and collate it. It was agreed that a household survey, achieved by interviewing people in their homes, would be used to collect the data.

In order to identify which streets to use for the survey, maps of the areas selected for WIAT investment were analysed and the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2006 areas were superimposed. It was essential that the people that were surveyed were within the top 15% of deprived areas. However, more affluent areas were frequently found next to these very deprived areas, which meant it was essential to accurately identify the postcodes that fell within the necessary areas. It was also essential that participants in Aberdeen and Drumchapel were within 500m of woodlands where WIAT intervention was planned. This criterion was chosen based on the Woodland Access Standard³ and reflects the maximum recommended distance from people's homes for green space to be used on a regular basis.

Census Output Areas (OAs) were identified on the SCROLL website (www.scroll.gov.uk), to identify postcodes in the top 15% SIMD category and within 500m of a woodland planned for WIAT intervention (see Appendix C). These postcodes provide the basis for any future resurvey of the communities for comparison.

SCROLL Census 2001 data on gender, age and socio-economic grouping (SEG) were used to calculate quotas for the data sample, to ensure that the respondents were fully representative of the population in each of the three communities. It was not possible to obtain census data on ethnicity within these small areas, based on OAs. Minority ethnic group quotas were therefore based on separate statistics. For Glasgow communities, these were based on NHS Greater Glasgow Ethnic group profiles⁴ and for Aberdeen on the Registrar General's summary⁵.

333 respondents were interviewed, face to face in their homes, between 20th November and 7th December 2006, using the questionnaire in Appendix A. The profile of respondents and results of the survey are reported in section 9.

8. UNDERTAKING THE ON-SITE ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITS

In each location at least two sites were audited using the three environmental audit tools described in section 5. The audits were carried out by two landscape architects and provide a 'snapshot' and professional evaluation of the environmental quality of each site on the day of surveying.

The environmental audits were carried out between November and December 2006, in poor weather conditions and with trees bare of leaves. This undoubtedly had a significant impact on the quality of the path experience through woods and green spaces.

³ Woodland Trust. 2004. *Space for People: Targeting action for woodland access*. (www.woodland-trust.org.uk/publications)

⁴ NHS Greater Glasgow Area. 2005. *Ethnic Group Profile from the 2001 census*. GGNHSB Information Services, September 2005

⁵ General Register Office. 2003. *2001 Census: Key Statistics – Aberdeen City*. General Register Office for Scotland

9. RESULTS FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

9.1 Profile of respondents

The following tables show the profile of respondents to the questionnaire survey

Seaton, Auchmill & Woodside - Aberdeen				
Age			Gender	
16-24	21		Male	55
25-34	24		Female	63
35-44	18			
45-54	21		Socio- Economic Grouping	
55-64	16		AB	4
65+	18		C1	20
	118		C2	16
Indian or African ethnicity		4	DE	78

Drumchapel - Glasgow				
Age			Gender	
16-24	28		Male	55
25-34	20		Female	55
35-44	22			
45-54	17		Socio- Economic Grouping	
55-64	12		AB	2
65+	11		C1	13
	110		C2	13
Indian or African ethnicity		0	DE	82

Milton- Comparison Area				
Age			Gender	
16-24	15		Male	50
25-34	14		Female	55
35-44	18			
45-54	17		Socio- Economic Grouping	
55-64	16		AB	1
65+	25		C1	15
	105		C2	13
Indian or African ethnicity		2	DE	76

Summary of ethnic profile across total sample	
Ethnicity	Sample
Scottish	306
Other British	11
Irish	2
Any other White background	6
Indian	2
African	4
Refused	2

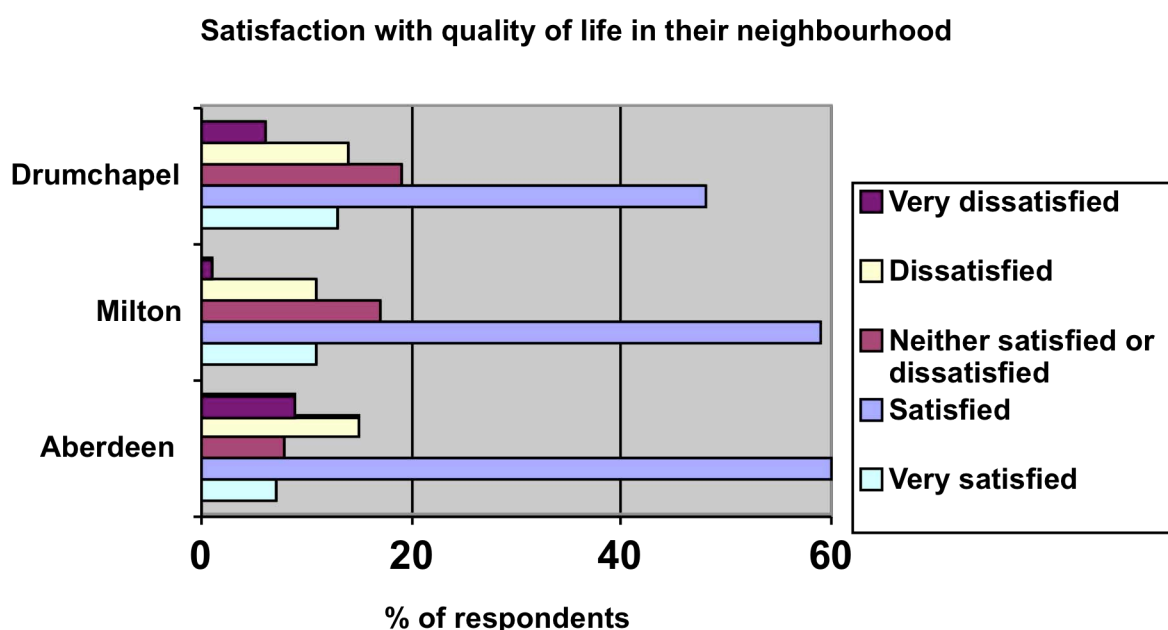
Appendix B shows the comparison between the sample profile and the 2001 census population for each community. The Aberdeen and Drumchapel samples are each a 4% sample of the community as a whole; the Milton sample is an 8% sample of the community as a whole. In all cases, there is no significant difference between the

proportion in the sample, based on age, gender or socio-economic group, and that of the population for the community as a whole. This means that the sample is representative of the community in each case.

The majority of the respondents, 64%, had been living in their current neighbourhood for over ten years. 26% of the respondents were employed full time, matched by an equal proportion of respondents who were unemployed (26%). 12% of respondents were registered disabled. 31% of respondents had children under 16 years old living in the house, and most did not have access to a motor vehicle (64%). Only 24% of respondents owned a dog.

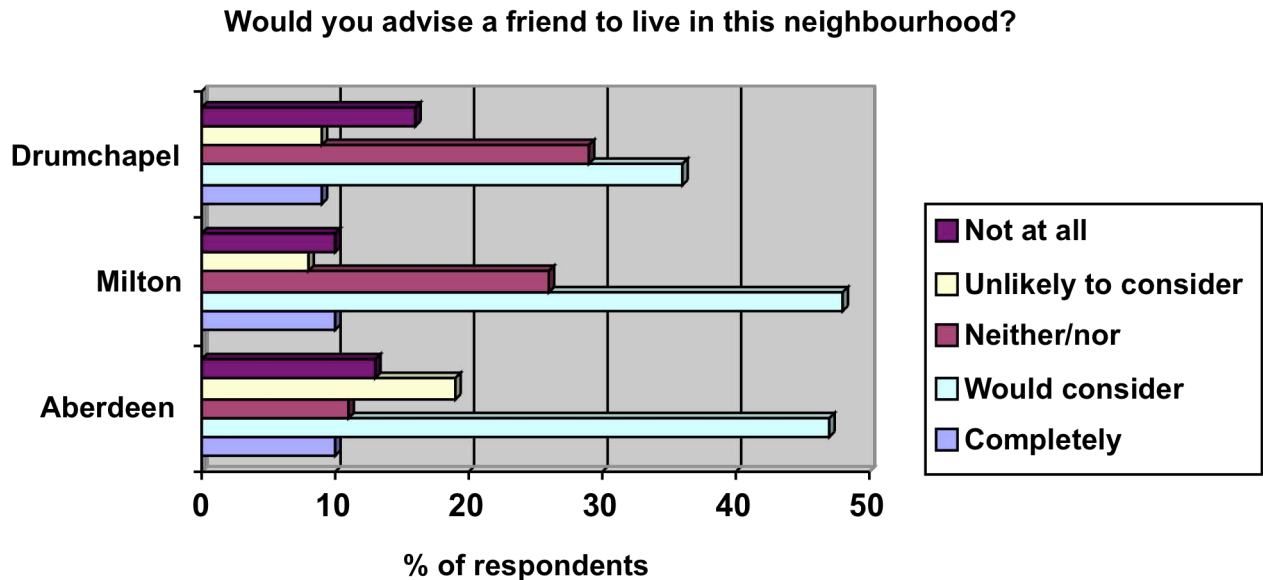
8 of the respondents (2%) had been consulted about their views on local woodlands in the last 12 months.

9.2 Section A: Quality of life and physical environment in the neighbourhood



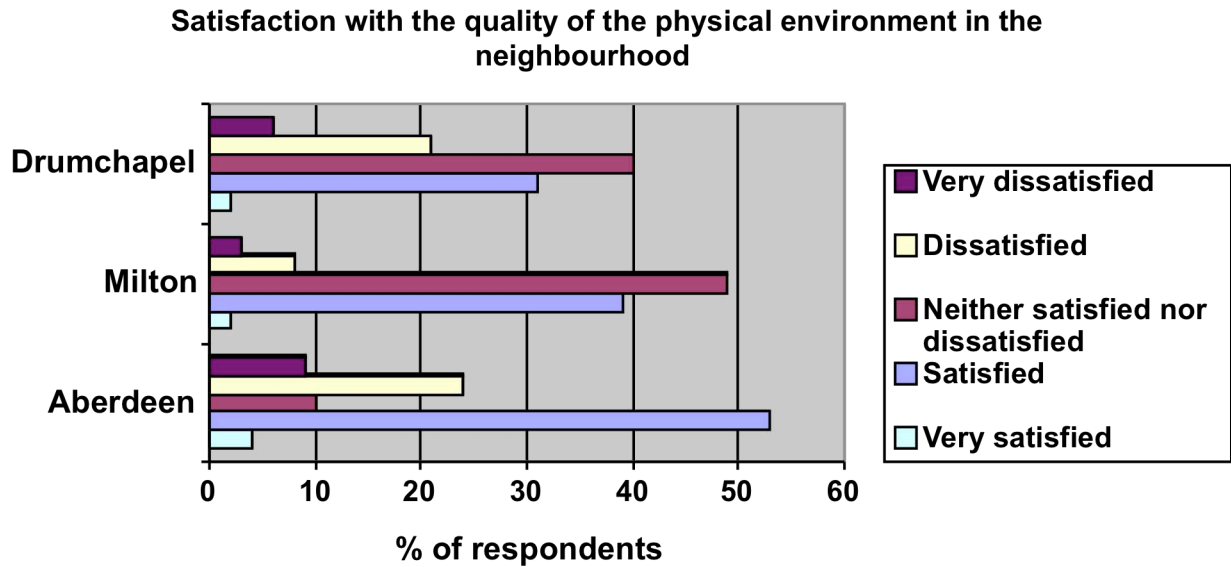
Overall, the majority of people (56%) were “satisfied” with their quality of life in their neighbourhood, and 10% were “very satisfied”. There were significant differences between communities (Chi-square = 32.6, $p < 0.01$, df 16), with respondents in Aberdeen more likely to be generally dissatisfied with their quality of life than respondents in Milton. In terms of gender differences, women were more likely to be “very satisfied” with their quality of life than men. Respondents that were aged 35-44 were less likely to be generally satisfied than respondents aged 65+ years and more likely to be generally dissatisfied than respondents aged 16-24 or 65+. There were no significant differences by Socio-economic group (SEG) regarding satisfaction with the quality of life in the neighbourhood.

There was a significant relationship between respondents' satisfaction with their physical environment and satisfaction with the quality of life in their neighbourhood. Not surprisingly, those who are very satisfied with their neighbourhoods are also more likely to advise a friend to live there (Chi-square 371.7, $p < 0.001$, df 16).



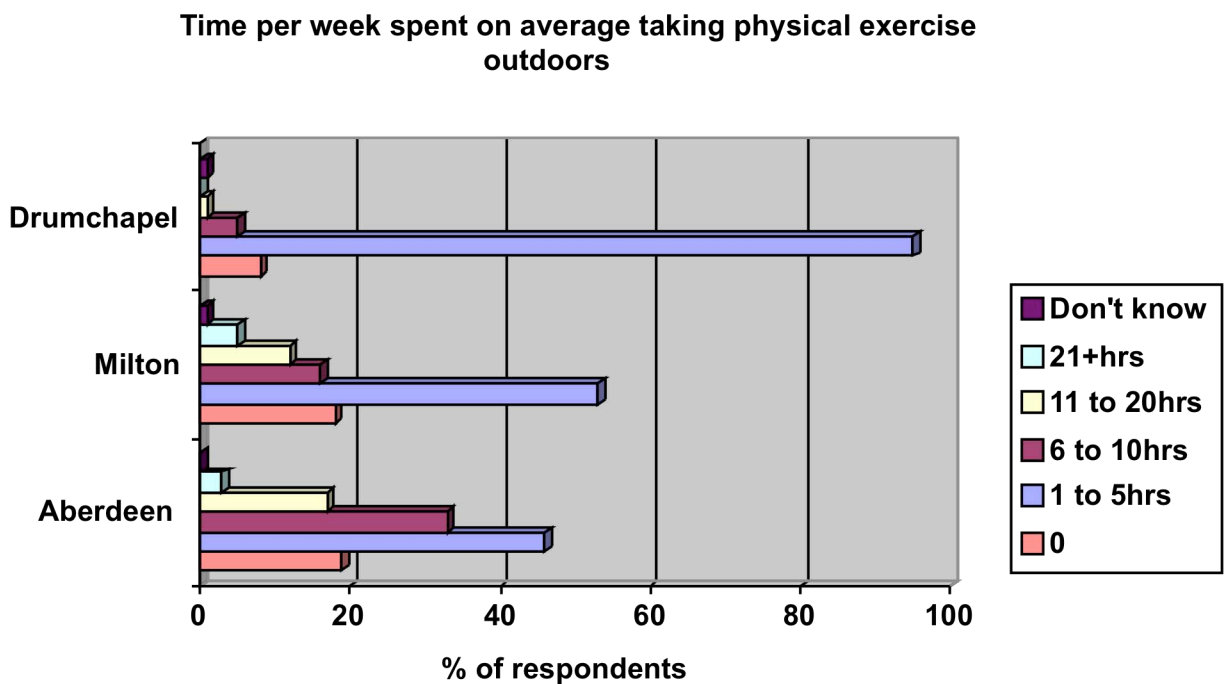
Most people would advise or consider advising a friend to live in their neighbourhood (50% in Drumchapel, 57% in Aberdeen, 60% in Milton). Again, there were significant differences between communities (Chi-square=27.468, $p < 0.05$, df 16). Although respondents in Aberdeen were generally less likely to consider recommending their neighbourhood, it was respondents in Drumchapel who were most negative, with over 16% not at all prepared to consider advising a friend to live in the neighbourhood. Women were more unlikely to consider advising a friend to live in the neighbourhood than men. Respondents aged 25-34 years old were most likely to consider advising a friend to live in the neighbourhood.

Respondents who visited Scottish woodlands in the last 12 months were more unlikely to consider advising a friend than those that did not, however this involves exploring small sample sizes and so may not be a reliable relationship.



44% of respondents overall were generally satisfied with the quality of the physical environment in their neighbourhood and 32% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. There were significant differences between communities (Chi-square 66.6, $p < 0.001$, df 16). Respondents in Aberdeen were more likely to be satisfied but those in Milton were less likely to be dissatisfied with their physical environment.

9.3 Section B: the amount of outdoor physical exercise people undertake in a typical week



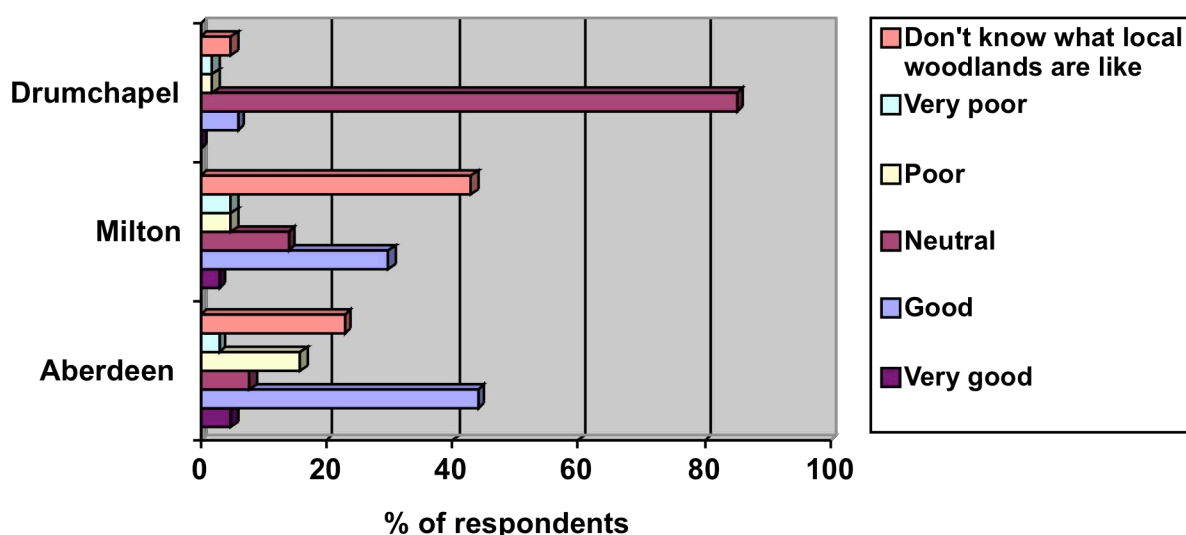
The majority of respondents (59%) spent 3 hours or more per week taking physical exercise outdoors, including walking; 18% spent about 2 hours per week, 10% took

about 1 hour per week and 14% took virtually no outdoor exercise at all in a typical week. There were significant differences between communities in terms of their levels of outdoor exercise (Chi-square = 63.2, $p < 0.001$, df 8). 49% of respondents in Drumchapel took outdoor physical exercise for 2 hours or less per week and only 6% took more than 5 hours per week, whereas 32% of those in Milton and 45% of those in Aberdeen took more than 5 hours of physical outdoor exercise per week. Presumably those spending more than 20 hours per week on outdoor exercise, and possibly some of those spending more than 10 hours per week, were doing so as part of their working day.

There is a correlation between the average time respondents spent on a visit to their local woodlands in the last twelve months, when grouped into three categories – up to 30 minutes, 30 minutes – 2 hours, and over 2 hours - and the amount of physical exercise people took outdoors (Chi-square = 22.4, $p < 0.05$, df 10)

9.4 Section C: Quality and importance of local woodlands in relation to quality of life

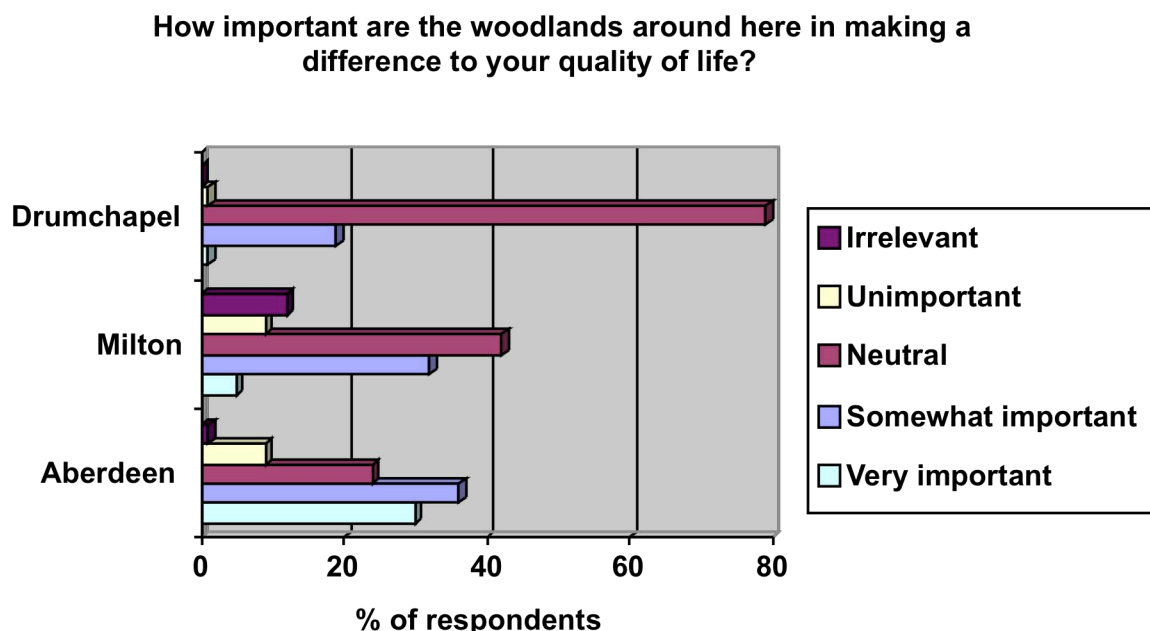
What do you think about the quality of your local woodlands?



There were significant differences in responses on the quality of local woodlands by area (Chi-square = 236.7, $p < 0.001$, df 20). Respondents in Aberdeen were more likely to state that the quality of their local woodlands was good or very good (49%), but also more likely to state that the quality of their local woodland was poor or very poor (19%).

86% of Drumchapel respondents were neutral about the quality of their woodlands and none thought them very good. 43% of Milton respondents did not know what their local woodlands were like, not surprisingly, since there are no immediately local woodlands. It is not clear which woods are being referred to by respondents in Milton who thought them good or very good (33%).

The neutral responses are likely to be partly explained by the low proportion of respondents who had visited Scottish woodlands in the last 12 months. Respondents who had visited were more likely to judge the quality of their local woodlands positively (53% of them did) or negatively (22% of them did). Respondents who did not own dogs were less likely to know what their local woodlands were like than those that did, although this is based on small sample sizes.



There were significant differences in communities' responses on the importance of local woodlands to quality of life (Chi-square = 146.2, $p < 0.001$, df 16). 66% of Aberdeen respondents thought woodlands important or very important for quality of life.. Although only one Drumchapel respondent thought woodlands unimportant, 80% were neutral about them, significantly more than those in Milton who were neutral.

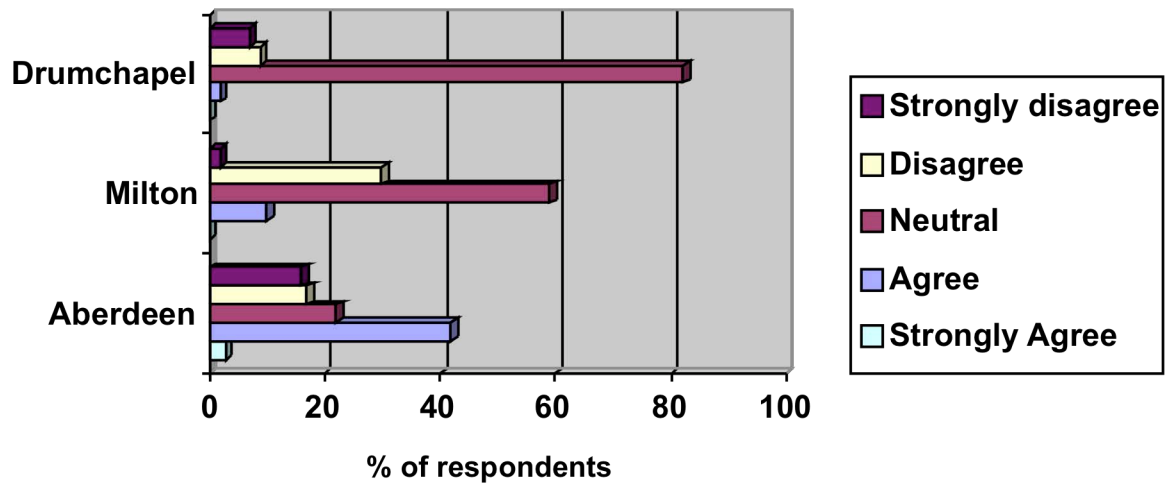
Respondents who had visited Scottish woodlands in the last 12 months were more likely to judge their local woodlands as being important to their quality of life than those that had not. Those who knew how long it took to get to their local woodlands, were also more likely to believe in the importance of the local woodlands as making a difference to their quality of life.

9.5 Section D: people's attitudes, perceptions and values associated with their local woodlands

This section covers people's responses to statements about different aspects of their local woodlands. As there are no woodlands in the immediate locality of Milton, it is not clear which woodlands the Milton respondents are referring to and this may explain why they were neutral on many questions, although there were often more neutral respondents from Drumchapel, where there are local woodlands, than from Milton. Those respondents who had visited their local woodlands in the last 12

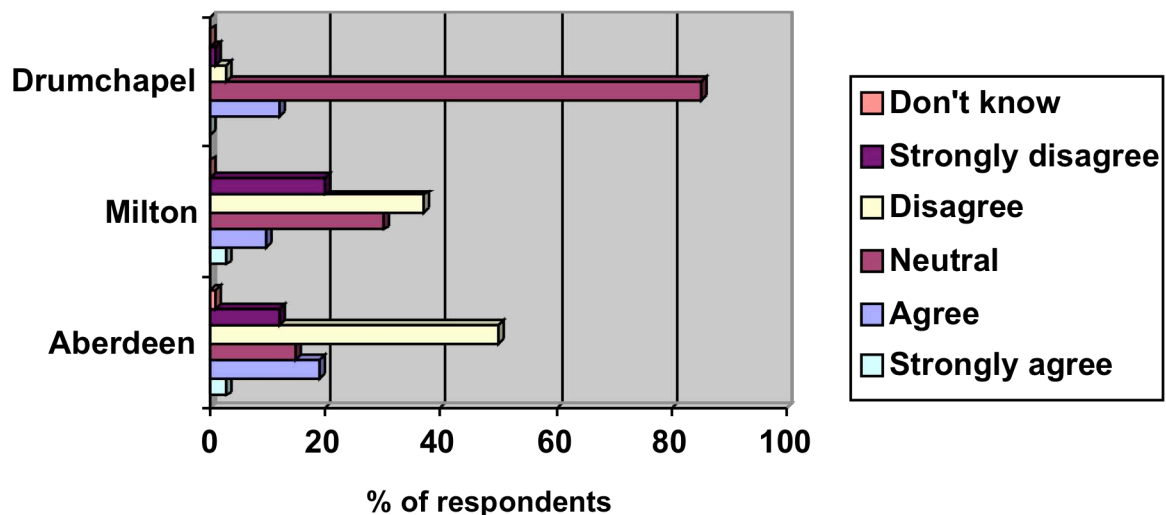
months were more likely to be positive about aspects of their local woodlands or to have a negative, rather than neutral, response, compared with those who had not.

Statement D1: The local woodlands are free from litter



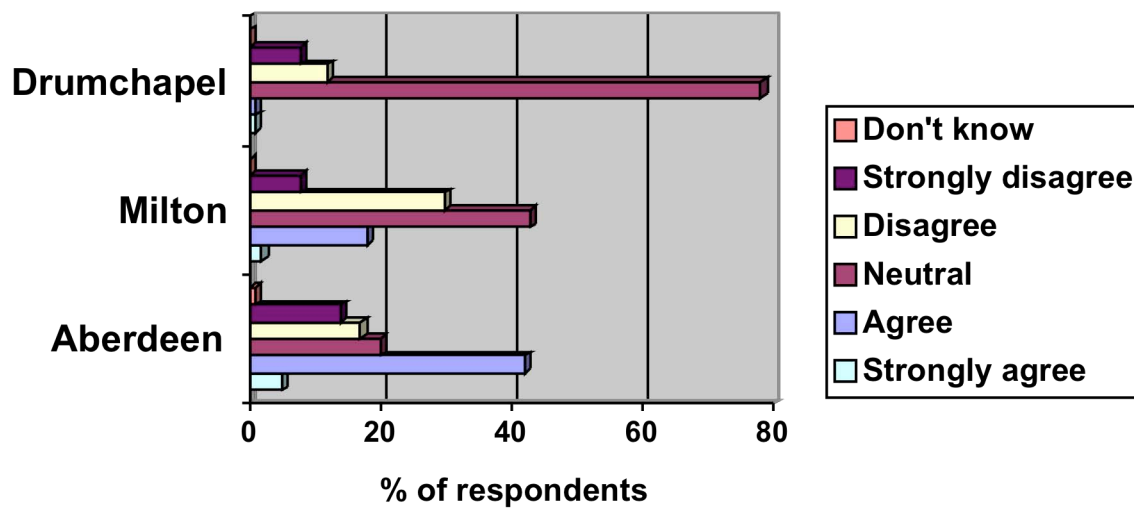
Women were more likely to think there is litter in their local woodlands than men.

Statement D2: It is difficult to get into the woodlands



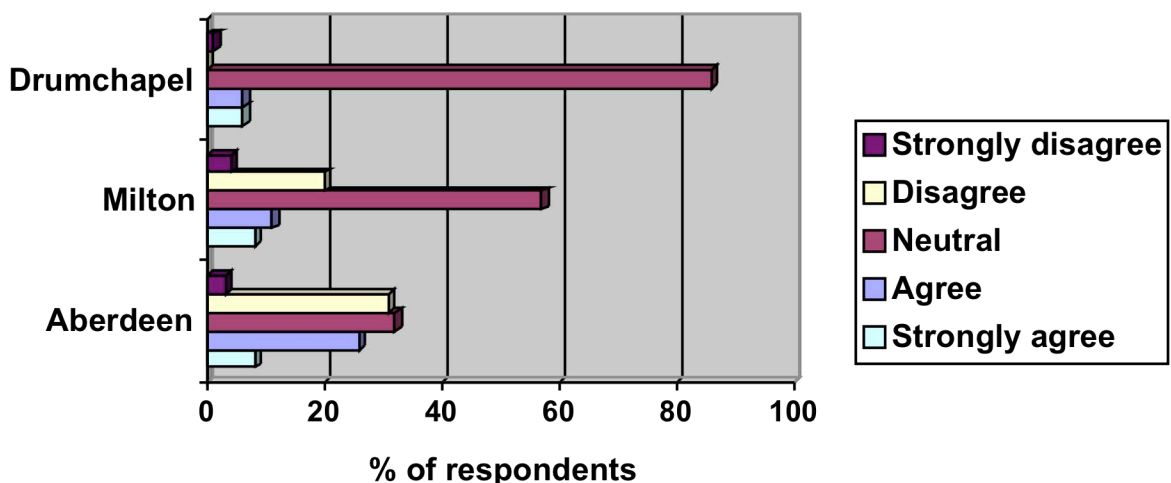
Most of the respondents in Aberdeen (50%) and Milton (37%) disagreed with this statement. However, the majority of respondents in Drumchapel were neutral (85%), which was a significantly higher amount than in the other areas.

Statement D3: I feel safe in the woodlands



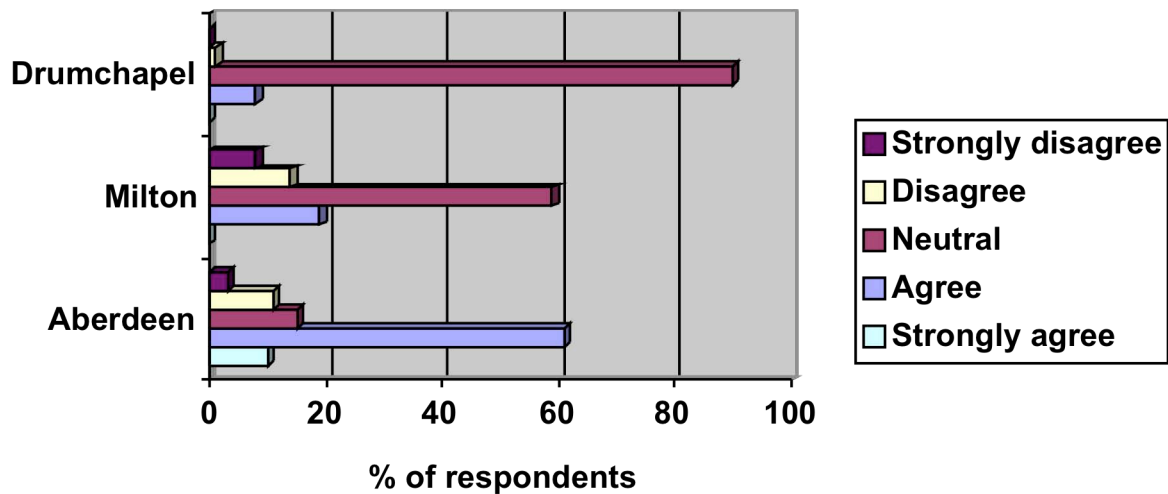
Respondents in Aberdeen were significantly more likely to feel safe in local woodlands (47% did) than in those in Milton or Drumchapel. People who had visited Scottish woodlands in the last 12 months were more likely to agree to feeling safe in the woods (48%) (Chi-square = 50.5, $p < 0.001$) than those that had not (16%). Frequency of visits to woodlands as a child was also significantly correlated with responses on safety (Chi-square = 68.8, $p < 0.005$).

Statement D4: Poorly maintained paths make it difficult to visit the wood



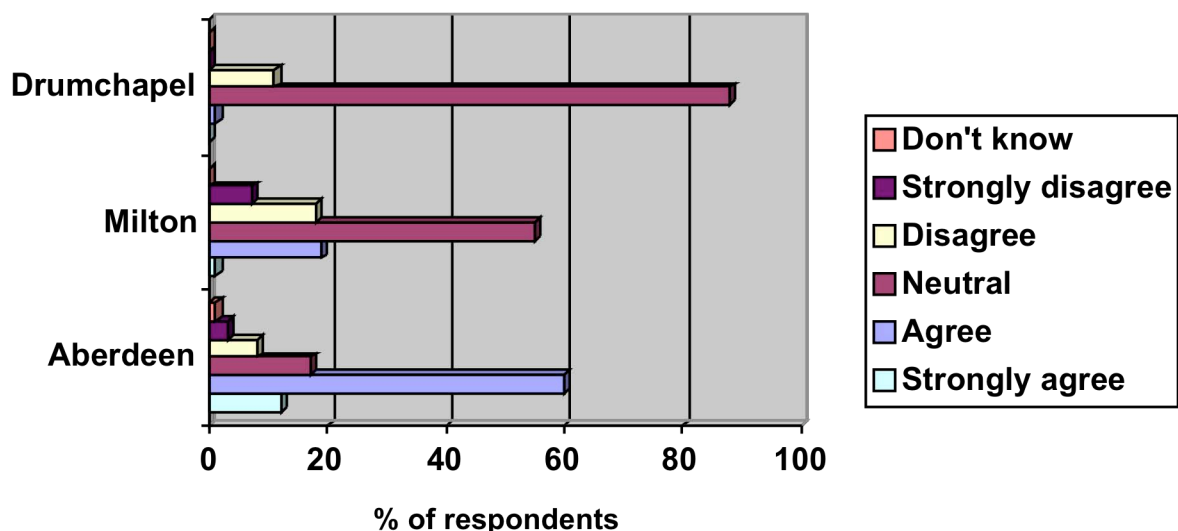
Respondents in Aberdeen were significantly more likely to generally agree or disagree with the statement than those in Milton or Drumchapel, perhaps because more of them were woodland visitors

Statement D5: I feel at peace in the woodlands



The majority of people in Aberdeen agree that they feel at peace in the woodlands (71%), while the majority of respondents in Milton (59%) and Drumchapel (90%) felt neutral towards the statement. People that had visited Scottish woodlands in the last 12 months were more likely to feel at peace in their woodlands than those that had not.

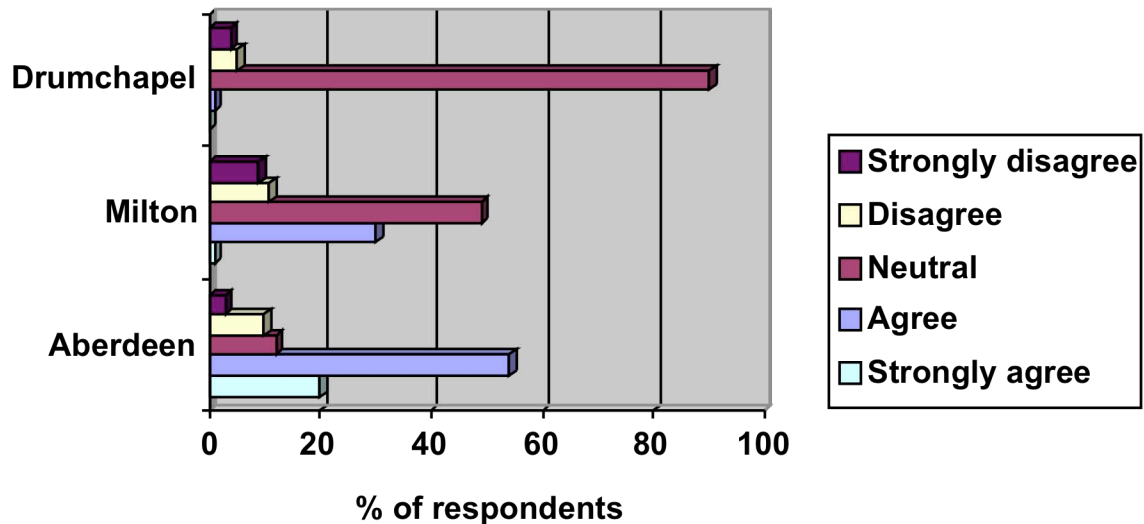
Statement D6: I can pursue healthy activities in the woodlands



72% of respondents in Aberdeen generally agreed with the statement, a significantly higher response than respondents from Milton or Drumchapel. More respondents in Milton and Drumchapel disagreed with the statement than agreed.

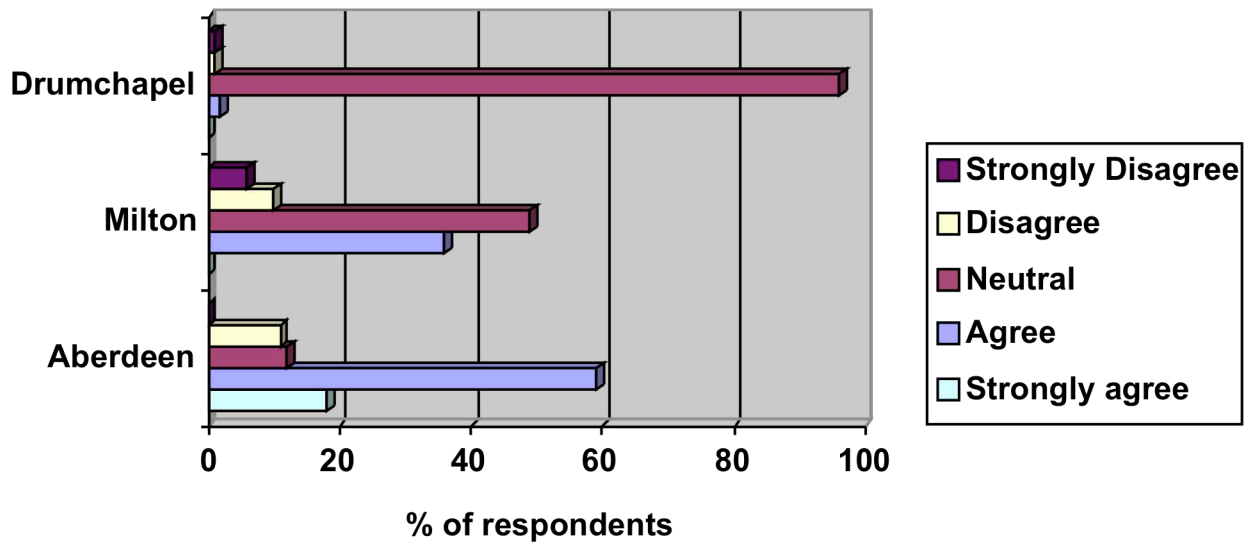
It will be interesting to explore the relationship between this response and section B (the amount of outdoor physical activity people undertake) before and after WIAT intervention.

Statement D7: The woodlands provide a place to visit with family and friends



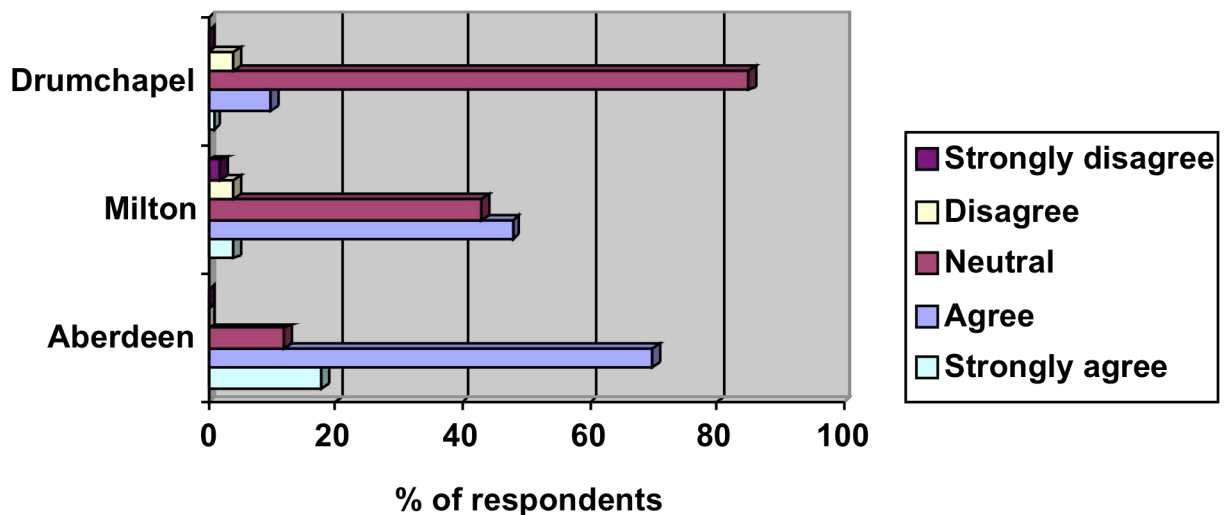
The responses to this question demonstrate clearly how most Drumchapel respondents are neutral (90%) or negative about the value of local woodlands as a place for social recreation. Respondents in Milton were most likely to disagree with the statement (20%), significantly more than those respondents in Drumchapel. Access to a car or private motor vehicle was significantly associated with agreement that woodlands provide a place to visit with family and friends (Chi-square 8.6, $p=0.01$, $df\ 2$). Respondents who had not visited woodlands within the last 12 months were most likely to answer this question neutrally (60% of them did).

Statement D8: I can see and enjoy wildlife in the woodlands



Responses to this question are very similar in pattern to those for the previous question. Again, those respondents who had recently visited Scottish woodlands were more likely to agree that they can see and enjoy wildlife in the woodlands (70% of them did), whereas those that had not been to woodlands in the last 12 months, were more likely to answer the question neutrally (63% of them did) than those that had.

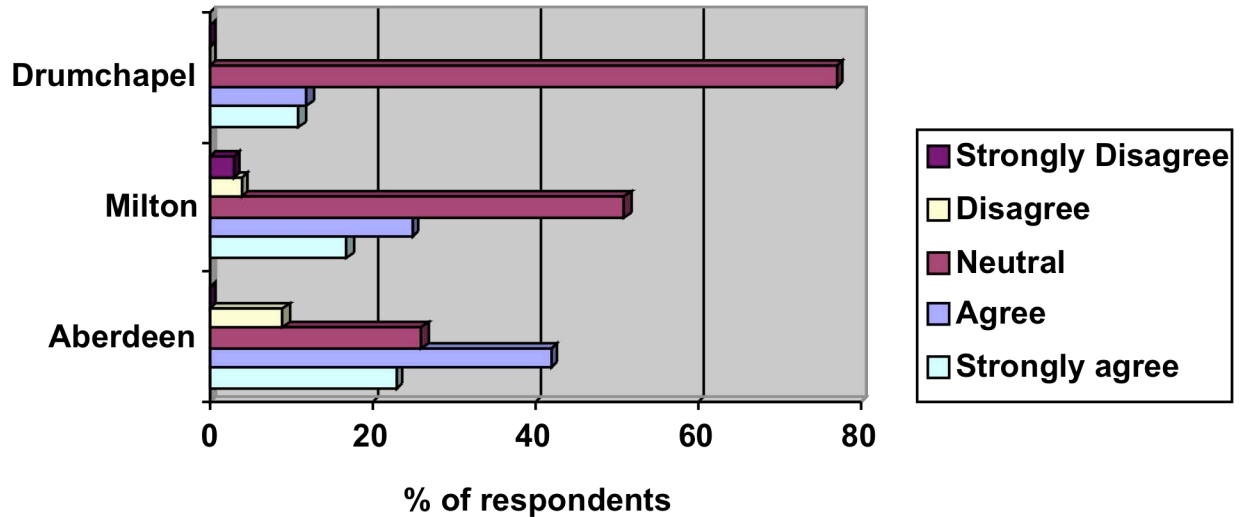
Statement D9: I like the natural appearance of the woodlands



The majority of respondents from Aberdeen (88%) and Milton (51%) agreed with this statement, while those from Drumchapel still primarily answered the question neutrally (85%). The majority of respondents that had visited Scottish woodlands in last 12 months agreed that they liked the natural appearance of the woodlands (85%

of them did), significantly higher than those that had not visited woodlands in the last 12 months.

Statement D10: There is a lack of good facilities in the woodlands

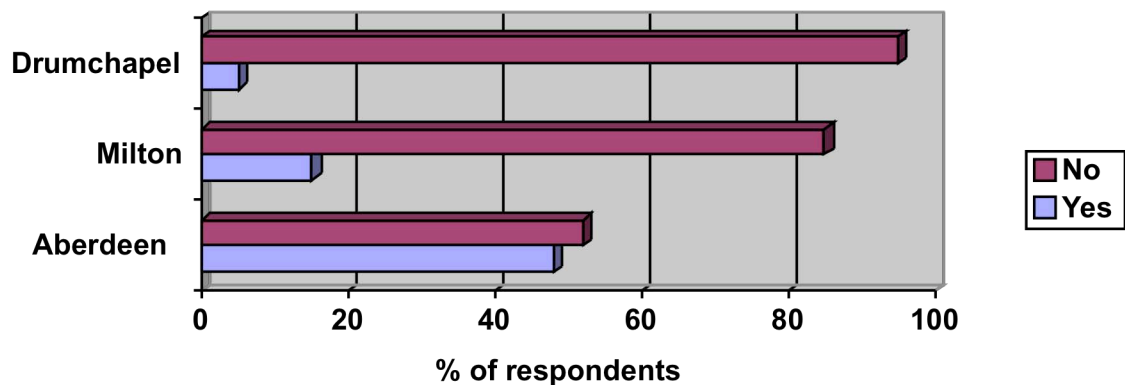


Just over half of respondents (51%) answered neutrally to this question. As found in previous questions, people who had not visited woodlands in the last 12 months were more likely to answer the question neutrally (58% of them did) than those that had visited woodlands.

9.6 Section E: patterns of visiting woodlands

This section asked how often people visit Scottish woodlands, including local woodlands; what they do in local woodlands, how they travel there and how long it takes to get there; whom they visit with; whether they visited such places as a child; and whether they have been consulted before about their local woods

Have you visited Scottish woodlands in the last 12 months?



The majority of respondents had not visited Scottish woodlands in the last 12 months (76%). This is a high proportion of the respondents and must be taken into account in reflecting on the responses to questions about local woodlands.

Nearly half of the Aberdeen respondents (48%) had recently visited Scottish woodlands, while only 15% of respondents from Milton and 6% of respondents from Drumchapel had.

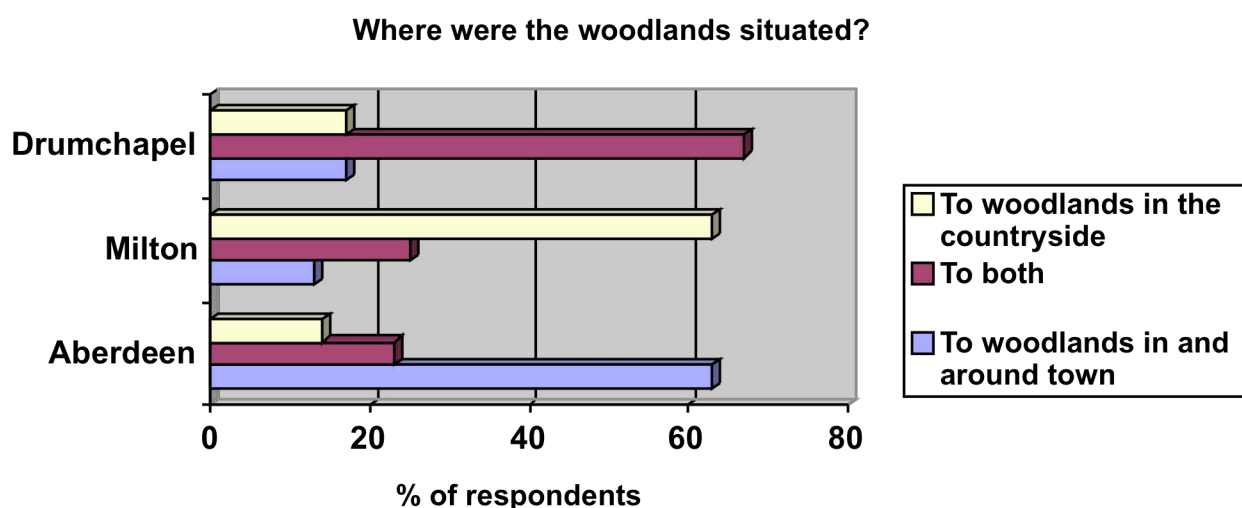
There were no significant differences by gender in relation to whether respondents had visited Scottish woodlands in the last 12 months. Respondents aged 65+ were less likely to have visited than respondents aged 35-64. Unemployed respondents were also significantly less likely to have visited the woods in the last 12 months than those in SEG category A, B, C1, C2 or D.

There was a significant relationship between access to a private car or motor vehicle and having visited Scottish woodlands in the last 12 months (Chi-square 13.011, $p < 0.001$, df 1), where lack of access to a car was most strongly associated with not visiting.

People who had visited the woodlands in the last 12 months were more likely to have made a positive or negative statement regarding their physical environment than those that had not.

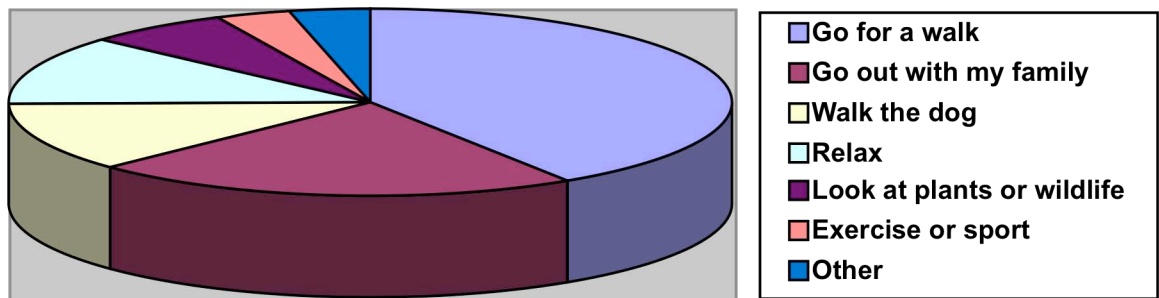
Questions E2-E8: details of recent visits to local woodlands

The following details about the visits are based on the small overall sample that had visited woodlands recently (N=79)



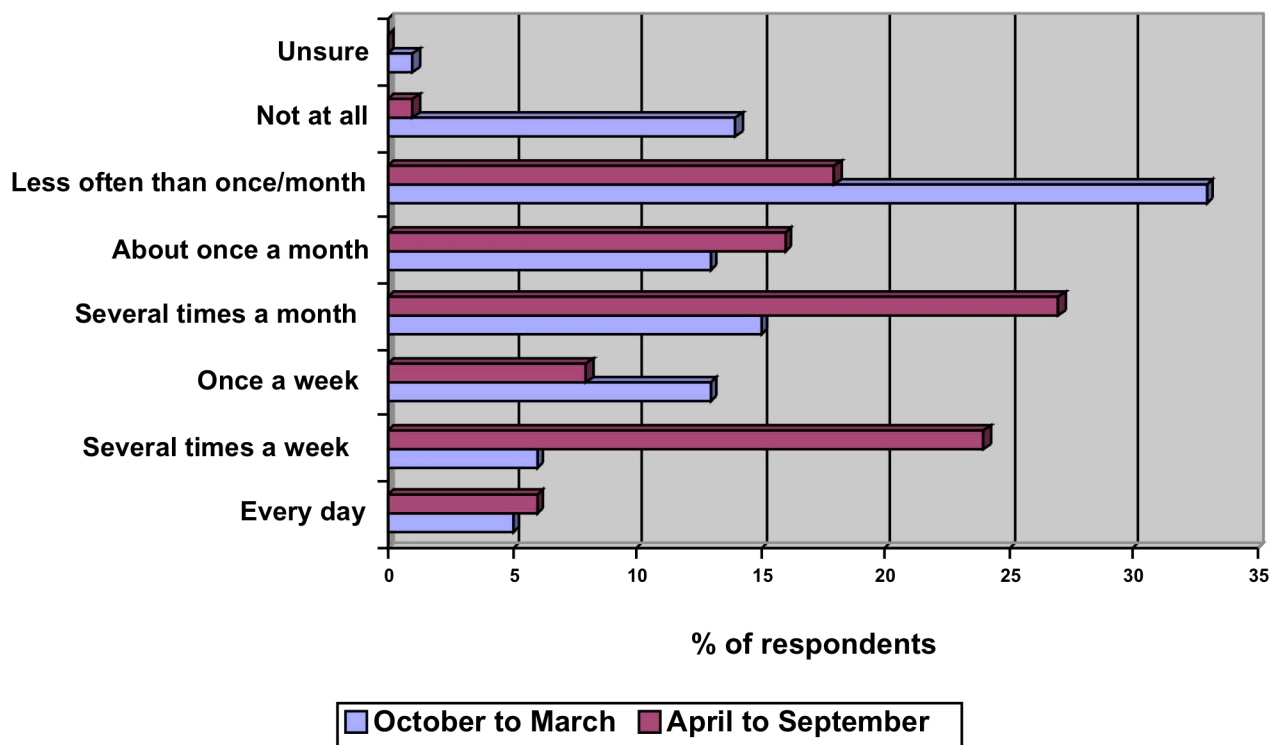
These responses illustrate how Milton respondents mostly visited woodlands in the countryside, perhaps reflecting the lack of woodlands local to their community, while the few in Drumchapel who have visited woodlands recently are most likely to have visited both town and countryside woodlands and those in Aberdeen mostly visit woodlands in and around town.

What kinds of activities do you pursue when visiting your local woodlands?



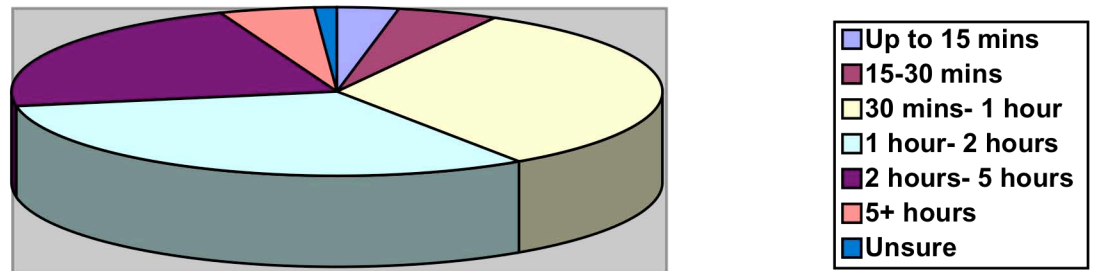
There were few significant differences between the areas in the activities respondents pursued when visiting woodlands woodlands.

Frequency of visiting woodlands



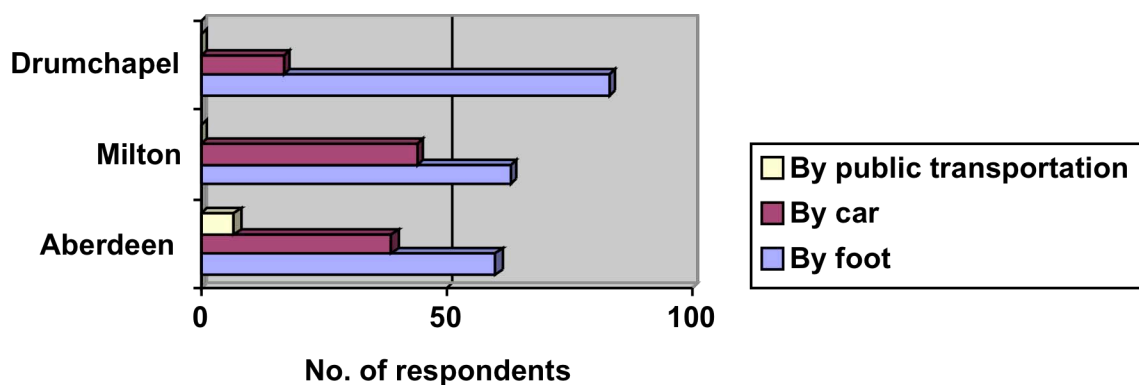
Nearly half of the respondents who visited the woodlands last winter (October to March), visited less often than once a month, if at all (48%). 11 respondents (14%) did not visit the woodlands in the winter months at all. Frequency of use increased in the summer months (April to September), with respondents often visiting several times a month (21 no., 27%), if not several times a week (19 no., 24%).

On average, during the last 12 months, how long did you spend at your local woodlands?



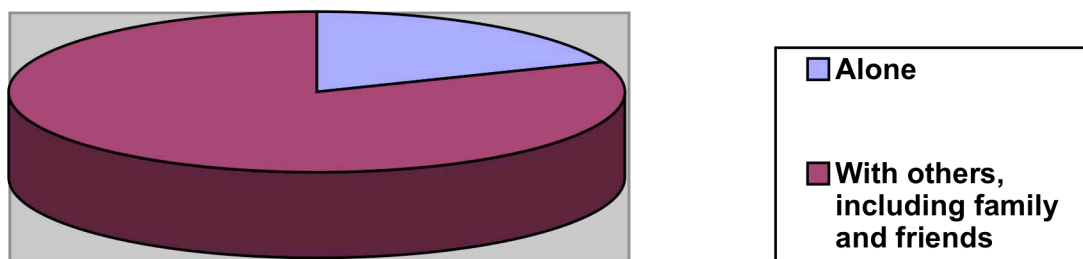
Most of the respondents' woodland visits lasted for between 30mins and 2 hours. Few respondents spent less than half an hour or more than 5 hours in the woodlands.

How do you get to you local woodlands?



The majority of the respondents that had visited the woodland in the last 12 months had got to them by foot (49), 30 by car and 4 by public transportation. Given that the car ownership level for respondents as a whole is 36%, this is perhaps not surprising. Even where there are no local woodlands, as in Milton, most respondents who visited woodlands got there by foot. Car ownership in Milton is lowest of the three communities (at 17%), and perhaps poor access to transport is a limiting factor in woodland visits for this community. 39% of Drumchapel respondents had regular access to a car or motor vehicle and 50% of Aberdeen respondents.

Whom do you usually go to woodlands with?



Most respondents (64 no.) had visited woodlands with others, including family and friends. There were no significant differences by area.

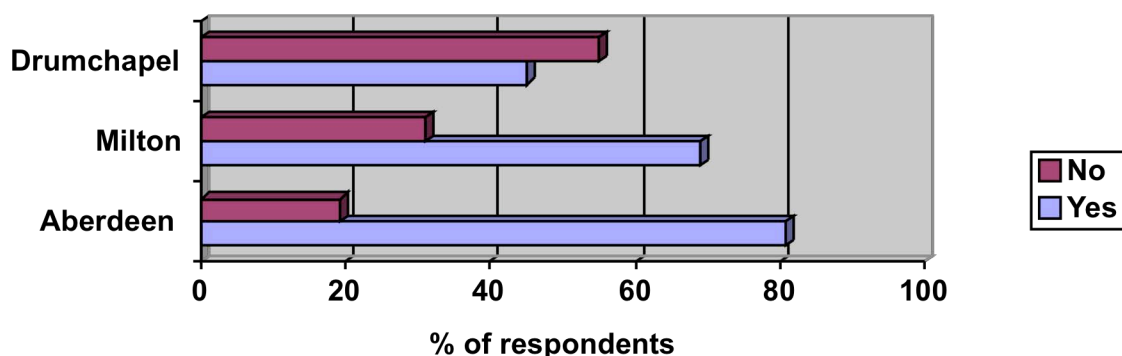
Questions E9 – E12: what people know about their local woodlands



Subsequent questions were asked of all respondents, whether or not they had visited in the last 12 months. Most respondents in Milton (68%) and Aberdeen (67%) found it easy to get to their local woodland. However, most respondents in Drumchapel were unsure. This is perhaps surprising given that there are local woodlands in Drumchapel and none in Milton. Very few respondents felt it was difficult to get to the local woodlands (9%), although those in Aberdeen found it more so than in Drumchapel or Milton. Respondents aged 65+ were more likely to say they found it very difficult to get to their local woodland than those aged 16-44 years old.

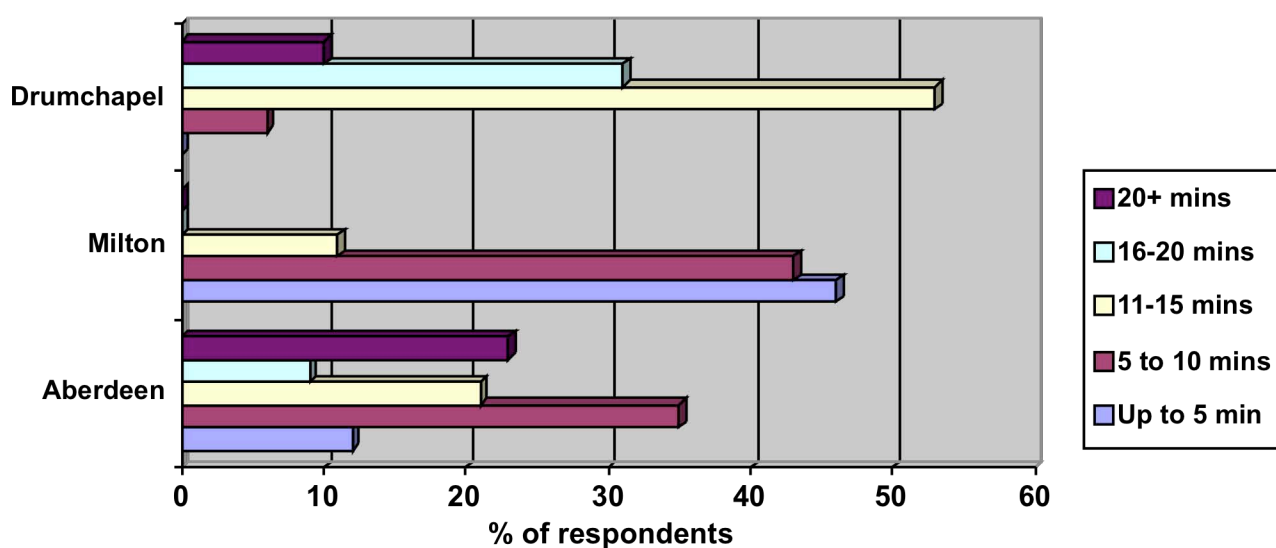
Of the respondents who had visited Scottish woodland in the last 12 months, 89% of them said they thought it was easy to get to their local woodland.

Do you know how long it takes to get to your local woodlands from where you are?

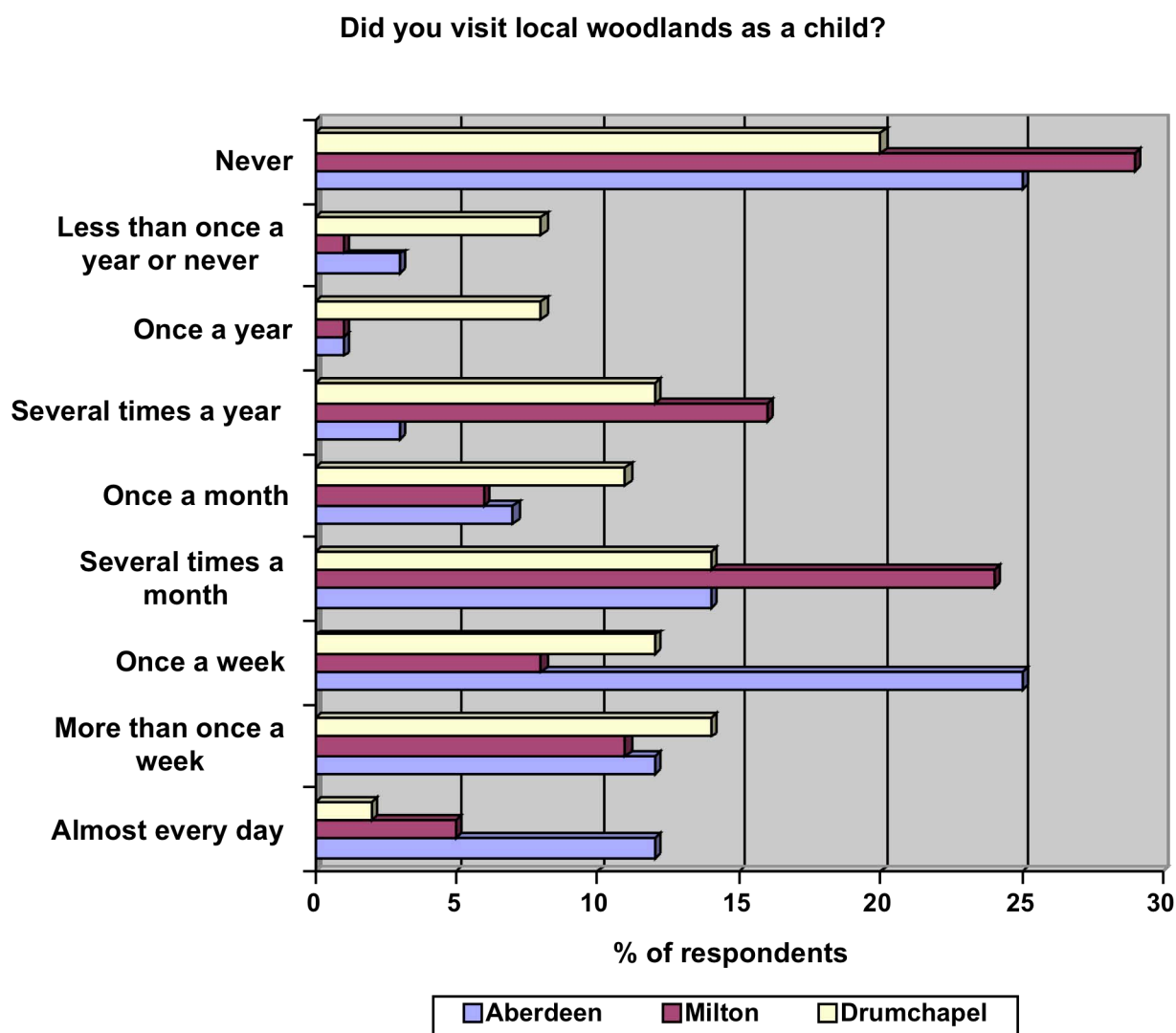


The majority of respondents know how long it would take to get to their local woodland from where they live (65%). 55% of respondents in Drumchapel did not know how long it would take, significantly more than those in Milton or Aberdeen. Those respondents who could estimate how long it takes to get to their local woodland were more likely to rate getting there as easy or very easy than those who did not know.

How long does it take to get to your local woodlands?



Approximately half of respondents (51%) considered it took up to 10 minutes to get to their local woodlands; 25% stated 11-15 minutes; 11% stated 16-20 minutes and 13% over 20 minutes. Intriguingly, respondents in Milton consider they need the least amount of time to get to woodlands, despite the lack of woodlands within 500 m of their homes, while most Drumchapel respondents considered it would take 11 minutes or more. It would be very valuable to explore which woodlands the Milton respondents (only 15% of whom visited woodlands in the last 12 months) and the Drumchapel respondents (only 6% of whom had visited in the last 12 months) had in mind.



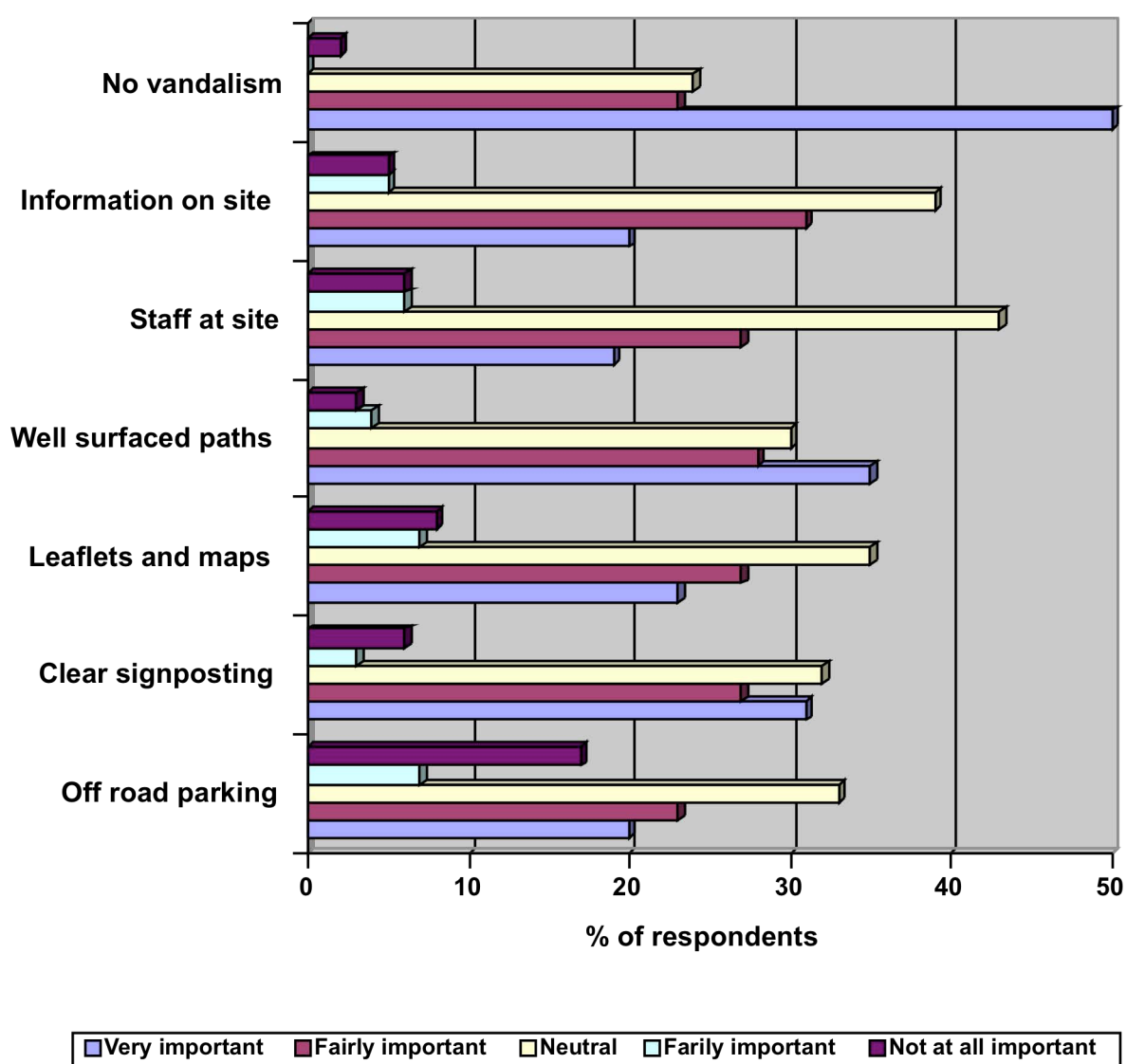
76% of respondents visited woodlands as children. Women were less likely than men never to have visited the woodlands as a child. Interestingly, those respondents who visited woodlands the most frequently as children (almost every day, once a week) were more likely to have visited Scottish woodlands in the last 12 months. This reflects earlier findings from other OPENSspace research on patterns of woodland use in central Scotland urban communities⁶.

⁶ Ward Thompson, C., Aspinall, P., Bell, S., Findlay, C., Wherrett, J. and Travlou, P. 2004. *Open Space and Social Inclusion: Local Woodland Use in Central Scotland*, Edinburgh: Forestry Commission

9.7 Section F: Factors likely to determine woodland use

This section attempted to explore how important different factors are in determining people's use of local woodlands, attempting to ascertain what needs to change to increase use and the quality of people's experience of their local woodlands.

Importance of facilities in determining use of the woodland



The majority of respondents felt that having no signs of vandalism was an important determinant in using their local woodlands (74%). 99% of respondents in Aberdeen and 78% of respondents in Milton felt that this was important. In contrast, only 42% of respondents in Drumchapel felt this was important, significantly lower than in Aberdeen and Milton. There were very few significant differences in responses according to gender, age or SEG. However, younger people (16-24 years) were more likely to answer neutrally than 25-54 year olds.

Respondents in Aberdeen were significantly more likely to feel that well surfaced paths were important to them in determining their use of the woodlands (97%), than those in Milton or Drumchapel. Women were more likely to feel that this was important than men. Having well-surface paths in woodlands was also more important for respondents that had visited woodlands in the last 12 months.

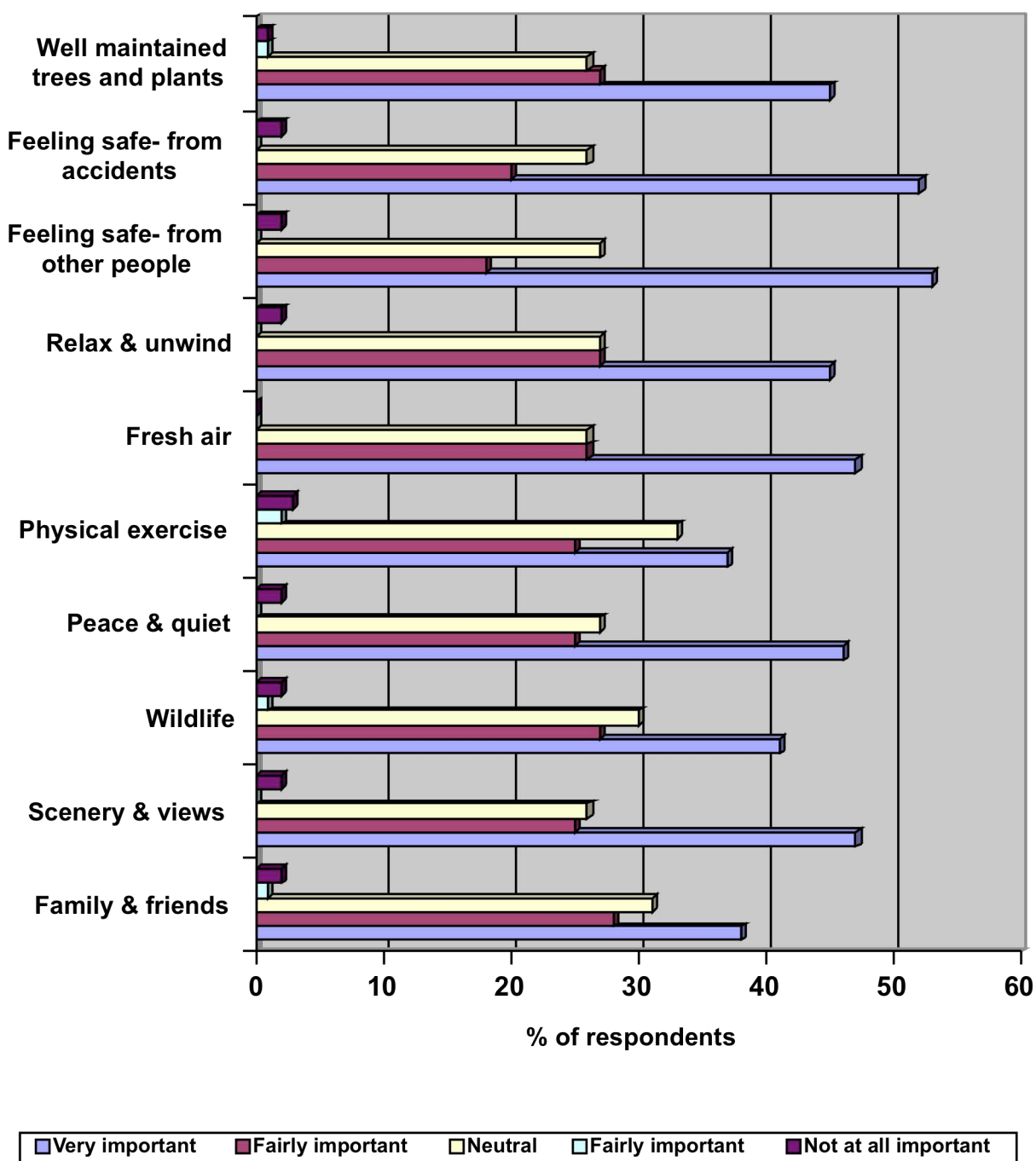
Clear signposting on paths was also important to over half of respondents (58%). Again, this was more important to the respondents in Aberdeen (92%) than respondents in Milton or Drumchapel. As in many previous questions, the respondents in Drumchapel were more likely to neutrally answer this question (60%) than the respondents in the other areas. Respondents in Milton were most likely to find clear signposting on paths unimportant (25%), significantly higher than for those respondents in Aberdeen or Drumchapel. Younger respondents (16-24) were less likely to feel signposting on paths were important than the other age groups. Those who had visited woodlands in the last 12 months, felt clear signposting on paths to be more important than those that had not.

It is primarily the respondents in Aberdeen and those that have been to woodlands in the last 12 months who felt strongly about having accessible staff.

Off road parking was the factor that respondents were least interested in. Not surprisingly, responses were significantly associated with access to a private car or motor vehicle (Chi-square = 43.5, $p < 0.001$, df 2). Respondents in Milton were the most likely to feel that this was not important at all, probably because they have such low access to private vehicles.

There were a further ten questions to gauge the importance of potential and existing attributes in encouraging greater use of woodland areas. However, the responses were very similar, suggesting that respondent fatigue was a limiting factor. It is difficult, therefore, to place a great significance on these results.

Importance of the following in determining use of the woodlands:



There were similar patterns from all of the communities in response to all of the factors. Respondents in Aberdeen were likely to consider these factors of greater importance than respondents in Milton or Drumchapel.

There were several significant gender differences, with women being likely to find the following factors more important than men in determining their use of the woodlands;

- Being able to spend time with family and friends
- Being able to enjoy scenery and views
- Getting peace and quiet
- Feeling safe from undesirable other people
- Feeling safe from having an accident, and
- Well maintained trees and plants.

9.8 Conclusions from survey

The majority of respondents are satisfied with their quality of life and the physical environment in their neighbourhood. Those who are happy with their physical environment are more likely to be happy with their quality of life in their neighbourhood and to advise a friend to live in the neighbourhood.

Most of the respondents (76%) had not visited Scottish woodlands in the last 12 months. This is a very high proportion of the sample, and is no doubt key in understanding some of the responses to the later questions regarding attitudes and use of the current woodlands. Respondents who had visited Scottish woodlands in the last 12 months were significantly more likely to have made a positive or negative statement about the woodlands. In other words, they were more likely to express an opinion than provide a neutral response.

33% of respondents were not sure how to get to their local woodlands - this was especially the case in Drumchapel, where people were significantly more likely to not know how to get to their woodlands than those in Milton or Aberdeen.

More respondents in Milton and Drumchapel disagreed with the statement that woodlands are places for pursuing healthy activities than agreed, and the majority in Milton (55%) and Drumchapel (88%) answered neutrally to this statement. It will be interesting to explore the relationship between this response and section B (the amount of outdoor physical activity people undertake) before and after WIAT intervention.

Bivariate correlations reveal some interesting relationships between attitudes to the local neighbourhood and responses about woodlands that would repay further statistical analysis. Respondents' satisfaction with the quality of the physical environment in their neighbourhood was significantly associated with feeling safe in local woodlands ($p < 0.001$), feeling at peace in Woodlands ($p < 0.005$), considering woodlands places where one can pursue healthy activity, visit with family and friends, enjoy wildlife and the natural appearance of the woods (all $p < 0.001$). Responses to these statements are also highly correlated ($p < 0.001$) with satisfaction with the quality of local woodlands. The responses relating to whether one would advise a friend to live in the neighbourhood were also significant (although at $p < 0.05$) with the first four of these statements and significant at $p < 0.01$ with considering woodlands places to enjoy wildlife.

10.1.1 Milton Park (See Fig 2 over)
(Environmental Audit Checklist reference: 10.4.1)

Park Experience:

The park experience offered is poor visually and in terms of amenities available: perimeter fencing is dilapidated, creating a poor impression from outside, and a large bowling area has been fenced off with a high security fence, creating a “forbidden” ambience to the grounds. The “welcome” sign comprises a list of prohibitive actions. A small playground, nearby picnic tables and football pitch offer most scope for local use. The species mix is very limited comprising beech, rowan, poplar and lots of dogwood.

Access/Signage

The park is tucked away, bordered by housing on all sides and was difficult to find. Local residents appeared to not know of its presence or referred to it as the “old bowling” green. Wide tarmac paths and flat terrain facilitate disabled access.

Evidence of Use and Abuse

There was no-one in the park on the day of the site visit. Local dog walkers appeared only to use local streets. There was no evidence of abuse although there was some dog fouling on the streets.



Fig 2
Site 1. Milton Park

10.1.2 Possil Loch and Canal (see Fig 3 below)

(Environmental Audit Checklist reference 10.4.2)

The tow path alongside the Grand Union Canal provides access to Possil Loch, an area of marsh and bog, supporting a willow carr and a bird sanctuary. There are very few trees on the site allowing full views across the marsh to the farmland of Summerston and neighbouring hills.

Path Experience

The path experience on the day of the visit was not particularly rich; however, at a different time of the year, with more wildlife in abundance, this would change. The Canal path dips down from the road and is enclosed by terrain on either side offering very poor visibility out of the site. Challenges to feelings of personal security are further exacerbated by a derelict building at the start of the tow path which appears to attract anti-social activities. The roofline of a nearby industrial estate to the East is visible from the path but there are no views out to aid personal surveillance. The experience changes on entry to Possil Park, where the terrain is flat and there are expansive views to open countryside which improve the sense of security. Noise from the nearby road is very intrusive. The path experience is mostly along a straight grass verged route which offers little spatial variety.



Access/Signage

Access and signage is poor. There is no signage from nearby roads to indicate either the presence of a tow path or Possil Loch. The tarmac path alongside the canal is negotiable by disabled visitors but the barrier and gradient at the entrance present difficulties. A kissing gate makes access to Possil Park difficult although the flat hoggan path, whilst narrow, could be negotiable for some people with disabilities.

Evidence of Use and Abuse

One sole dog walker was present on the day of the visit, plus two individuals loitering in the vicinity of the derelict building. Tracks at Possil Park indicate evidence of some biking. Litter, dog fouling and fly-tipping were not evident.

10.1.3 Other areas of open space

The residential heart of Milton is generally characterised by tidy areas of mown grass in amongst the residential streets, populated with trees here and there. See photograph 1, Fig 4 over.

To the centre of the development there is a large area of derelict ground, part of an old school grounds, with a dilapidated boundary fence, contributing to a general air of dereliction. See photograph 2, Fig. 4.

A large area of common ground exists to the north of the tower blocks with paths to nearby stables in Bishopbriggs, a distinctly more affluent area. This comprises mostly grassland with odd scrub species. There was no evidence of use or abuse on the day. See photograph 3, Fig 5 over.

To the South is a large area of playing fields adjacent to a local school and community centre. This offers little visual amenity appearing bleak and desolate. See photograph 4, Fig 5.



1- Typical residential treatment



2- Central derelict site

Fig 4
Milton open space



3- Open common



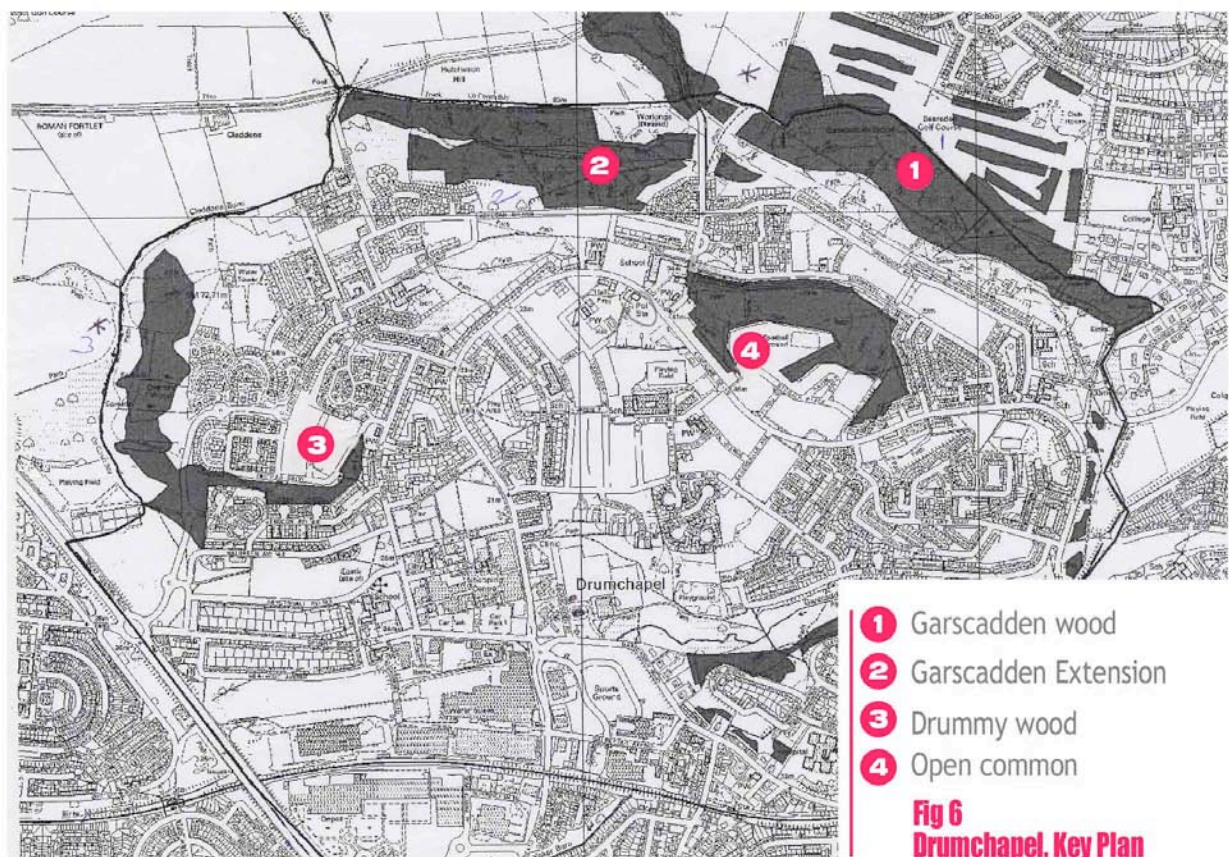
4- Playing fields

Fig 5
Milton open space

10.2 Drumchapel: Garscadden Woods and Extension, Drummy Wood and central open space

Date of Visit: 17 November 2006

Drumchapel is a large housing estate and area of high social deprivation in north Glasgow, currently undergoing regeneration. High rise flats are being replaced with single, two-storey residences, a new sports centre has recently opened, and there are a number of community buildings, new schools and housing association offices in the area. Four areas were visited: Garscadden Woods and Extension on the northern boundary of Drumchapel (numbered 1 & 2 in Fig 6 and fully audited) and two further sites, Drummy Wood in the west (no. 3) and a central open space (no 4). The site visit was carried out on a very wet day with very few pedestrians in evidence.



10.2.1 Garscadden Woods and Extension

Woodland Type

Site 1: Garscadden Wood Ancient Woodland (See Fig 7), (Environmental Audit Checklist reference 10.4.3)

This woodland is distinguished by wide expanses of bracken (a potential fire hazard), hazel coppice and ancient and densely planted oak trees, providing a rich tonal landscape at the time of visit. There is some understorey, comprising bramble, hawthorn and rose.



Site 2: Garscadden Extension (see Fig 8), (Environmental Audit Checklist reference 10.4.4)

This is a recent woodland, planted approximately 10 years ago, with a very wide mix of species including larch, pine, ash, rowan, birch, hazel and hawthorn.

Woodland Experience

The woodland experience offered by Garscadden Wood is much richer than that in the Extension, in part owing to the maturity of the woodland. Garscadden Wood also offers a wider range of spatial experiences and, although not evident on the day, supports a wider range of wildlife, including the Purple Hairstreak Butterfly, which relies on the Oak. A schematic spatial analysis of a walk through the woods appears in Fig. 7 above. The Extension site comprises mostly straight paths with wide grass verges and woodland species further removed from the path.

Both Woodlands are on steep gradients, with the ground rising up steeply from within the residential areas, and provide a strong visual amenity within the community. Views from the site are mostly filtered views to the nearby housing, occasionally opening up to provide expansive views of the Estate and woodland edge to the south of Drumchapel.

Access and signage

In both woodlands, paths are steep and eroded in places making access very difficult. Paths have been skimmed with bitumen but this is now breaking up. Waymaking is poor and, whilst posts indicate the direction of graded routes, there is no integrative signage at either entrance to explain this. There is no signage within Drumchapel indicating access to the woods and access by bus appeared poor. Parking was available in residential streets.

Evidence of Use and Abuse

A group from “Leg-it-Around Drumchapel” were observed walking in Gascadden Wood (including a blind walker) but otherwise the site was empty. One dog walker was observed in the Extension site. There was evidence of motorbike usage in both sites and of horses in Gascadden wood. Both sites suffer from fly-tipping at access points and camp fires and bottles were also in evidence. Locally these woods are perceived as unwelcoming and dangerous owing to the murder of two children here over ten years ago.

Area 3: Drummy Wood (See Fig 8)

This area was characterised by new low rise housing with a bleak central expanse of open grass with woodland to the western edge. Access to the wood was not clear. A number of tarmac paths cut through fenced off sections of the wood but sense of personal security was poor. Access was not pursued owing to two males loitering in the area and increasing darkness.

Area 4: Open Common Land (See Fig 9)

Mostly comprising open grassland, this wide expanse of open space is flat and uninviting, with no clear path networks, and sparsely planted. Derelict fencing, poor road surfacing, litter, fly-tipping and bonfires are all in evidence. Lighting is very poor and overall sense of personal security was low. Drumchapel High School, a new community centre, and an old church are in close proximity.



Garcadden Wood Extension. Site 2



Drummy Wood
Site 3

Fig 8
Drumchapel



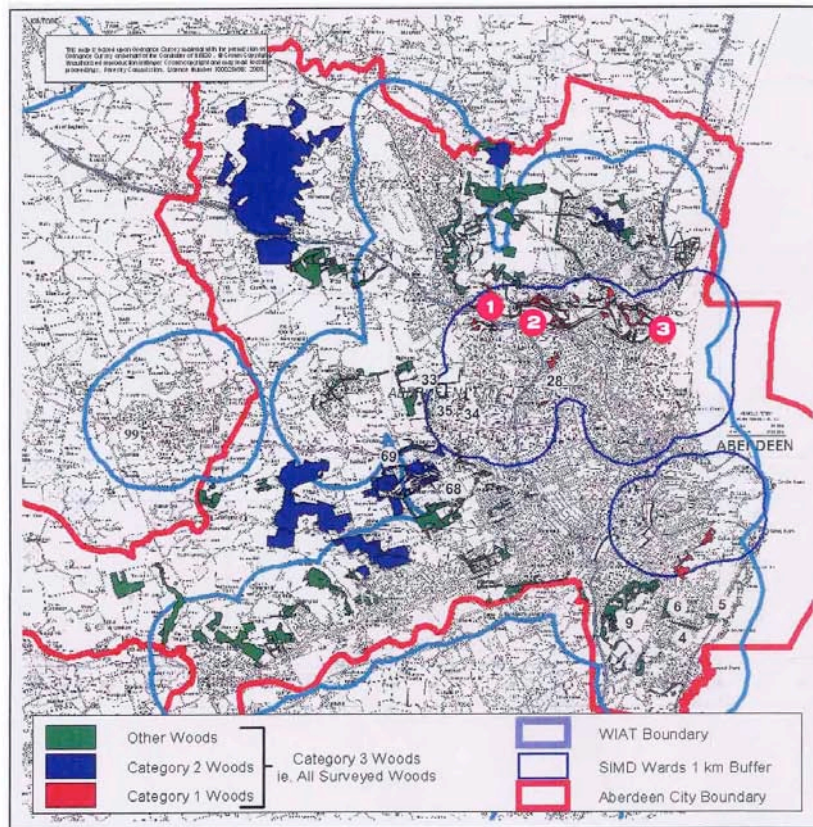
Open common

Fig 9
Site 4. Drumchapel

10.3 Aberdeen: Auchmill, Pearsley and Woodside, and Seaton Park

Date of visit: 29 November 2007

Three sites were visited in north Aberdeen on a sunny but cold day: open space on the boundary of Auchmill Golf Course (Site 1, Fig 10), Pearsley and Woodside (Site 2, Fig 10) and Seaton Park (Site 3, Fig 10.). The River Don acts as a social divide with the most deprived area of social housing falling to the south and a more affluent, private residences to the North.



Woodland name	Ref no	Area (ha)
Auchmill community woodland	1	8.8
Pearsley & Woodside	2	8.2
Seaton	3	32.0

Fig 10
Aberdeen sites 1-3
Key plan

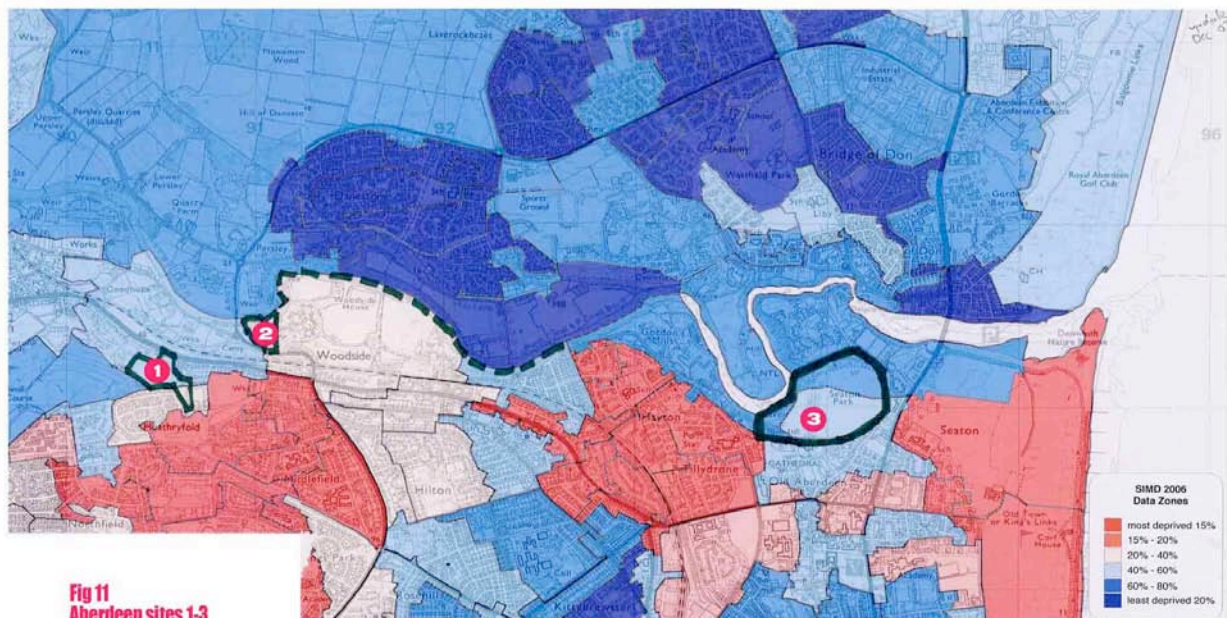


Fig 11
Aberdeen sites 1-3

10.3.1 Auchmill Community Woodland

(Environmental Audit Checklist ref. 10.4.5)

Auchmill is located in an area of high deprivation, characterised by low rise residential social housing bordering Auchmill Golf Course. See Fig 11 over.

Path experience

Owing to the steep terrain, the site offers good views across Aberdeen to the coast. In other aspects the path experience offered is poor. Straight mown grass strips offer little spatial variety. The planting is immature (10 years old), comprising a range of mixed species and with, wide grass verges, feels removed from the walker.

Access and Signage

It was extremely difficult to locate this site, with access tucked away behind the back of a community building. Access to the woodland area is via a pocket park bordered by low rise social housing. A self-made path has been made along the main desire line to local shops. Existing paths are grass mown and appear to have been designed with golfers in mind rather than walkers. Access for disabled people, beyond the pocket park, is very limited, owing to poor surfacing and steep gradients.

Evidence of Use and Abuse

There were no other walkers present. Evidence was noted of bonfires, fly-tipping at access points and of bike tracks.

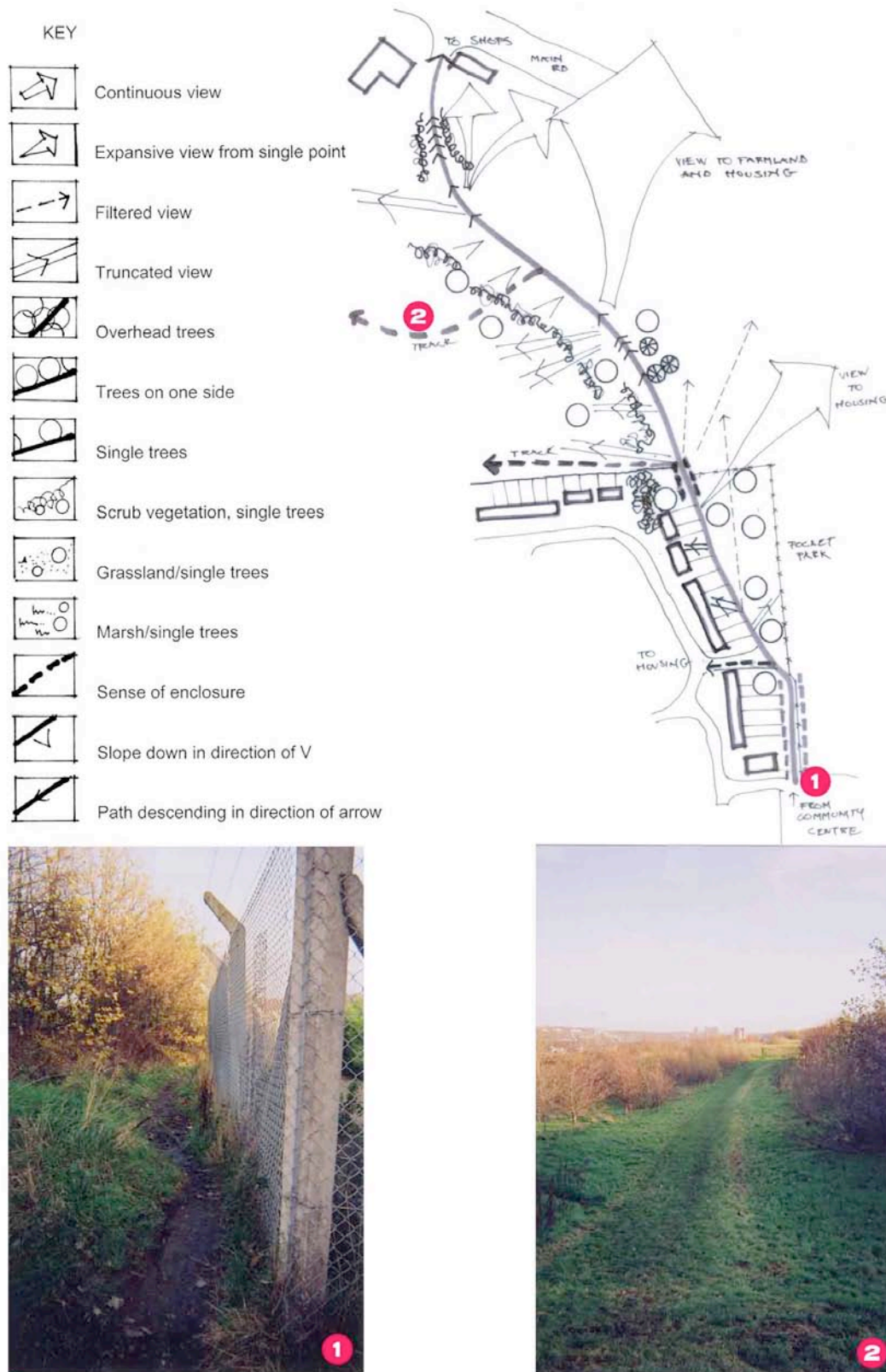


Fig 11
Aberdeen site 1
Auchmill community woodland

10.3.2 Pearsley and Woodside (See Fig 12 over)

This site is bound by a busy road and cemetery to the South, the River Don to the North and West, and large expanses of mown grass to the East. There is very little housing nearby: an old people's home (but with no access) and small area of council housing to the East, with some properties boarded up.

Path Experience

The walk offers exceptional views down a steep gradient to the river and sluice. En route are number of historical artifices including the old sluice and remnants of an old building. The woodland species is rich comprising oak, beech and birch but with very little understorey evident in Winter.

Access and Signage

Access is via a walled memorial garden, where parking is available. Signage is provided along the main entrance path but there is no integrative map showing where paths go. Disabled access at the beginning of the route is generally good with wide paths and hogging surfacing (still to settle). As the route commences into the woodland area access becomes difficult owing to a path barrier and changes in surfacing and width of path.

Evidence of Use and Abuse

One jogger was present during lunchtime. There was no evidence of anti-social use.

General Comments

Further along the riverside housing density increases but access becomes more difficult, with a key access point, Jacob's Ladder, barricaded off owing to erosion of steep steps. Further East housing density increases further, characterised by high rise tower blocks. River side access is again very restricted, down several steps with no clear paths.



Fig 12
Aberdeen site 2
Pearsley & Woodside

10.3.3 Seaton Park (See Fig. 13), (Environmental Audit Checklist reference 10.4.6)

Seaton Park is bound by the River to the West, tower blocks in the East, University Halls of Residence to the North and the Cathedral and Conservation area to the South. The busiest route is between the University Halls of Residence and the Cathedral Entrance, providing access to the University Buildings and illustrated below. The Park is reputed to be unsafe, particularly at night.

Park Experience

Seaton Park is a traditional city Park offering a rich range of experiences (football, play, canoeing) and generally in good condition. There are good views from the upper stretches down to the river.



Access/Signage

Steep gradients down to the river make disabled access difficult. However paths are easily accessible from several entrance points and surfaced in tarmac. Signage is poor: posts indicate various destinations but there is no overall map showing the park facilities or routes. Sense of personal security during the day is adequate but the route up to the University residences is along a “tunnelled” path falling between steep gradients, with no views out. There is no lighting. There are several entrance pedestrian points and one main car park.

Evidence of use and abuse

The park appears to be well used. Large numbers of students cross the main route between the university buildings and halls of residence. Two groups of footballers were evident as were families in a new playground. There was no evidence of vandalism or misuse with the exception of the public toilets alongside the river where there was evidence of loitering.

10.4 WIAT Environmental Audit Checklist surveys

10.4.1 Milton Park

10.4.2 Possil Loch, Milton

10.4.3 Garscadden Wood, Drumchapel

10.4.4 Garscadden Wood Extension, Drumchapel

10.4.5 Auchmill Community Wood, Aberdeen

10.4.6 Seaton Park, Aberdeen

WIAT Environmental Audit Checklist Score 1 to 5 (1= Poor, 5 = Excellent) 10.4.1 Milton Park		
1 Neighbourhood	Score	Comments
1.1 Building type and range (housing, shops, community centre, sports, police)	2	Housing only (4 storey flats, 2 storey), no shops, one school, several tower blocks.
1.2 Quality of fabric (shop frontages/housing/gardens)	2	Average, some unkept gardens/communal spaces
1.3 Presence of graffiti, litter, vandalism, dog fouling	1	Dog fouling high, litter high
1.4 Condition of street/roads	3	Asphalt and lighting ok but not new.
Total Score		
2 Access/signage	8	
2.1 Ease of access (no of entrances, well located, within walking distance/presence of road with zebras/signals)	1	Only one entrance off side road, very poorly located, local resident unaware it was a 'park'.
2.2 Path network (surface quality, range, radial/perimeter, dual use)	2	There is no path network, just one main spine (asphalt, quality ok). No steep gradients
2.3 Disability access	4	Wide, asphalt path
2.4 Parking/Bus routes	3	Bus routes nearby/roadside parking
2.5 Signage (lead in/lead through, welcoming/informative)	0	Authoritarian, uninviting
Total Score	10	
3 Woodland Quality		
3.1 Path experience (views/enclosure/variety of scale/orientation)	1	No variety, enclosed by housing all around, views very limited, flat.
3.2 Age/species mix/diversity	2	Beech, rowan, poplar, maple, hedge planting/dogwood
3.3 Boundaries	0	Dilapidated fence to roadside.
3.4 Sensory appeal: richness/presence of water/topographic interest	1	Bowling green separated with high security – no longer used, very poor diversity of species – mostly grass. Mixed shrub planting on housing boundaries.
Total Score	4	
4 Facilities		
4.1 Presence of toilets, picnic, café, cycle tracks, health/fitness, play, educational, ranger provision	2	Picnic tables, football, playground, potential for bowling

5 Use		
5.1 Observed use	0	Dog walkers walk on street not here!
5.2 Evidence of use: motor bikes/off-road cars etc.	0	Might be used for football/play
Total Score	0	
6 Maintenance/Management		
6.1 Litter, dog fouling, vandalism	3	Clean, tidy, no litter
6.2 Fabric of furniture/signage	1	Very poor fencing/old play equipment
6.3 Evidence of species/path edge management	0	
6.4 Evidence of development	0	
Total Score	4	
7 Security/Safety		
7.1 Evidence of anti-social behaviour	0	
7.2 Self-surveillance possible via visibility in/out	4	Overlooked by housing, road nearby – good views in and out
7.3 Sense of personal security	2	Alone
Total Score	6	

WIAT Environmental Audit Checklist Score 1 to 5 (1= Poor, 5 = Excellent) 10.4.2 Possil Park and Forth and Clyde Canal, Milton		
1 Neighbourhood	Score	Comments
1.1 Building type and range (housing, shops, community centre, sports, police)	2	Industrial edges canal, some housing
1.2 Quality of fabric (shop frontages/housing/gardens)	2	
1.3 Presence of graffiti, litter, vandalism, dog fouling	2	Graffiti/litter evident at entrance to canal
1.4 Condition of street/roads	3	
Total Score	9	
2 Access/signage		
2.1 Ease of access (no of entrances, well located, within walking distance/presence of road with zebras/signals)	2	Access from road, but not very evident there's something there. Very busy road but signals in place
2.2 Path network (surface quality, range, radial/perimeter, dual use)	3	Along canal = 4 In Marsh = 3
2.3 Disability access	3	Gradients at start but asphalt path ok
2.4 Parking/Bus routes	3	No parking other than in nearby residential, bus routes good
2.5 Signage (lead in/lead through, welcoming/informative)	1	Very poor – no lead in or information
Total Score	12	
3 Woodland Quality		
3.1 Path experience (views/enclosure/variety of scale/orientation)	3	Views along canal limited to housing/industrial. Views open up at Marsh to surrounding countryside. Probably better at another time of year.
3.2 Age/species mix/diversity	2	Hawthorn, poplar, blackthorn, alder
3.3 Boundaries	1	Very poor – busy road runs along side marsh, canal not evident from road.
3.4 Sensory appeal: richness/presence of water/topographic interest	3	Traffic noise intrusive. Potentially richer in spring/summer/autumn owing to wildlife.
Total Score	9	
4 Facilities		
4.1 Presence of toilets, picnic, café, cycle tracks, health/fitness, play, educational, ranger provision	0	

5 Use		
5.1 Observed use	1	Sole dog walker, 2 dubious individuals
5.2 Evidence of use: motor bikes/off-road cars etc.	1	Some bike tracks but access difficult at Marsh entrance
Total Score	2	
6 Maintenance/Management		
6.1 Litter, dog fouling, vandalism (low means high evidence of)	1	Very high at entrance
6.2 Fabric of furniture/signage	0	
6.3 Evidence of species/path edge management	0	
6.4 Evidence of development	0	
Total Score	1	
7 Security/Safety		
7.1 Evidence of anti-social behaviour	1	Some bottles hung on fence at start, two men hanging around
7.2 Self-surveillance possible via visibility in/out	0	Alone = 0 especially along canal since low down (better in Marsh) road more prominent
7.3 Sense of personal security	0	
Total Score	1	

WIAT Environmental Audit Checklist Score 1 to 5 (1= Poor, 5 = Excellent) 10.4.3: Drumchapel: Garscadden Wood		
1 Neighbourhood	Score	Comments
1.1 Building type and range (housing, shops, community centre, sports, police)	3	Undergoing regeneration: mostly low rise council housing, flats under demolition, new sports centre (but access poor), shops, schools, police, HA's in evidence.
1.2 Quality of fabric (shop frontages/housing/gardens)	3	New housing, tidy gardens, demolition in evidence – public open spaces less cared for.
1.3 Presence of graffiti, litter, vandalism, dog fouling	3	Public green spaces suffer from broken fences, some litter.
1.4 Condition of street/roads	4	
Total Score	13	
2 Access/signage		
2.1 Ease of access (no of entrances, well located, within walking distance/presence of road with zebras/signals)	3	Woodland walks accessible from roads. Lack of buses. No zebra's. Access on east periphery less desirable.
2.2 Path network (surface quality, range, radial/perimeter, dual use)	2	Eroded, uneven surface, narrow, steep gradients
2.3 Disability access	0	Steep gradients/uneven surfaces but open on roadside (blind man walking with Paths to Health group). Access would be impossible unaided.
2.4 Parking/Bus routes	1	No official parking but roadside available. No immediate bus access.
2.5 Signage (lead in/lead through, welcoming/informative)		New stone walls/bronze relief. Green and yellow routes indicated but not keyed into overall plan/sign.
Total Score	7	
3 Woodland Quality		
3.1 Path experience (views/enclosure/variety of scale/orientation)	5	Lots of interest, topographic changes, winding route, up and down, variety of spatial experiences
3.2 Age/species mix/diversity	5	Ancient wood: oak, hazel coppice, some berries (rose, hawthorn, blackthorn). Some birch.
3.3 Boundaries	3	Quality varies – not very appealing on eastern edge (litter), very discrete. Fenced off. But woodland has strong visual presence owing to gradients.

3.4 Sensory appeal: richness/presence of water/topographic interest	5	Very rich – streams also present.
Total Score	18	
4 Facilities		
4.1 Presence of toilets, picnic, café, cycle tracks, health/fitness, play, educational, ranger provision	1	Paths to health walkers evident
5 Use		
5.1 Observed use	1	Dog walkers and health group
5.2 Evidence of use: motor bikes/off-road cars etc.	2	Motor bike tracks, horses, beer cans/bottles/firepits
Total Score	3	
6 Maintenance/Management		
6.1 Litter, dog fouling, vandalism (low score means high evidence)	2	Litter
6.2 Fabric of furniture/signage	1	Very little to evaluate only waymarkers
6.3 Evidence of species/path edge management	1	Some coppice management
6.4 Evidence of development	1	Entrances have recently been revamped
Total Score	5	
7 Security/Safety		
7.1 Evidence of anti-social behaviour	2	Given population density might expect more, some evidence of drinking
7.2 Self-surveillance possible via visibility in/out	1	Very poor since high up and well away from roads, housing.
7.3 Sense of personal security	0	Alone = 0 With dog or other person: 4 Path safety is significant problem owing to erosion.
Total Score	3	

WIAT Environmental Audit Checklist Score 1 to 5 (1= Poor, 5 = Excellent) 10.4.4 Garscadden Wood Extension, Drumchapel		
1 Neighbourhood	Score	Comments
1.1 Building type and range (housing, shops, community centre, sports, police)	3	Mostly new housing.
1.2 Quality of fabric (shop frontages/housing/gardens)	4	Well looked after.
1.3 Presence of graffiti, litter, vandalism, dog fouling	3	Graffiti on public utility boxes.
1.4 Condition of street/roads	5	
Total Score	15	
2 Access/signage		
2.1 Ease of access (no of entrances, well located, within walking distance/presence of road with zebras/signals)	3	Access easier than Area 1 – since off major roads but no pedestrian crossings.
2.2 Path network (surface quality, range, radial/perimeter, dual use)	0	Very poor, narrow for people, hardcore eroded, particularly bad on steep gradients, potholes. 0
2.3 Disability access	0	
2.4 Parking/Bus routes	1	No obvious bus stop, roadside parking only
2.5 Signage (lead in/lead through, welcoming/informative)	1	New wall 2006 with environmental bronze sign. No information.
Total Score	5	
3 Woodland Quality		
3.1 Path experience (views/enclosure/variety of scale/orientation)	3	Less topo interest. Straight paths, less variety of spatial experience, wide grass verges – woodland further removed
3.2 Age/species mix/diversity	3	20 year old plantation, very mixed, larch, pine, ash, rowan, birch, hazel, hawthorn
3.3 Boundaries	3	Housing boundary on one side, open countryside on other.
3.4 Sensory appeal: richness/presence of water/topographic interest	3	Less rich than area 1.
Total Score	12	
4 Facilities		
4.1 Presence of toilets, picnic, café, cycle tracks, health/fitness, play, educational, ranger provision	0	Only route markers but no information as to where routes go.

5 Use		
5.1 Observed use	0	
5.2 Evidence of use: motor bikes/off-road cars etc.	2	Horses, dogs, bear cans, motorbikes
Total Score	2	
6 Maintenance/Management		
6.1 Litter, dog fouling, vandalism	4	Better than Area 1 (east)
6.2 Fabric of furniture/signage	1	Waymarking posts only
6.3 Evidence of species/path edge management	0	
6.4 Evidence of development	1	New entrance walls 2006
Total Score	6	
7 Security/Safety		
7.1 Evidence of anti-social behaviour	2	Some drinking
7.2 Self-surveillance possible via visibility in/out	1	Views in or out very limited.
7.3 Sense of personal security	0	Alone = 0 With another = 4
Total Score	3	

WIAT Environmental Audit Checklist Score 1 to 5 (1= Poor, 5 = Excellent) 10.4.5 Auchmill Community Wood, Aberdeen		
1 Neighbourhood	Score	Comments
1.1 Building type and range (housing, shops, community centre, sports, police)	2	Low rise council housing, several shops, community centre
1.2 Quality of fabric (shop frontages/housing/gardens)	3	Reasonably maintained
1.3 Presence of graffiti, litter, vandalism, dog fouling	1	Fire pit/bottles but no dog fouling
1.4 Condition of street/roads	3	
Total Score	9	
2 Access/signage		
2.1 Ease of access (no of entrances, well located, within walking distance/presence of road with zebras/signals)	1	Access from car park at community centre is non-existent (via make shift path alongside building). Access from Estate via pocket park is better.
2.2 Path network (surface quality, range, radial/perimeter, dual use)	0	No surfacing to paths in young forest area. Mown turf only and don't follow desire line to local shops. Tarmac path via pocket park.
2.3 Disability access	0	Steep gradient to local shops, path surfacing not negotiable for w/chairs
2.4 Parking/Bus routes	1	Unofficial parking in local community centre
2.5 Signage (lead in/lead through, welcoming/informative)	0	None provided
Total Score	2	
3 Woodland Quality		
3.1 Path experience (views/enclosure/variety of scale/orientation)	1	Very poor – straight mown paths do not follow desire lines. Views across to Aberdeen on north/east side. Otherwise fairly enclosed. Main path follows housing fence line.
3.2 Age/species mix/diversity	2	10 year old mixed planting.
3.3 Boundaries	2	Bordered by housing on south, golf course to west, and shops to east
3.4 Sensory appeal: richness/presence of water/topographic interest	2	Richness lacking, gradient allows for views out.
Total Score	7	
4 Facilities		
4.1 Presence of toilets, picnic, café, cycle tracks, health/fitness, play, educational, ranger provision	0	Small pocket park on entry. Mown grass and shrub species. No evidence of facilities.

5 Use		
5.1 Observed use	0	No use observed – no-one present on sunny day
5.2 Evidence of use: motor bikes/off-road cars etc.	1	Evidence of bike tracks. Edges being used for anti-social activities, fire pit/bottles
Total Score	1	
6 Maintenance/Management		
6.1 Litter, dog fouling, vandalism	1	Some litter
6.2 Fabric of furniture/signage	1	Steps in poor condition
6.3 Evidence of species/path edge management	0	
6.4 Evidence of development	0	Ranger advised funding obtained for new path access to shops and
Total Score	2	
7 Security/Safety		
7.1 Evidence of anti-social behaviour	1	Firepit and bottles
7.2 Self-surveillance possible via visibility in/out	1	On southern boundary overlooked by housing. Elsewhere views out very limited
7.3 Sense of personal security	1	Alone
Total Score	3	

WIAT Environmental Audit Checklist Score 1 to 5 (1= Poor, 5 = Excellent) 10.4.6 Aberdeen: Seaton Park		
1 Neighbourhood	Score	Comments
1.1 Building type and range (housing, shops, community centre, sports, police)	5	Very mixed, nearby university, cathedral/conservation zone, Mote House, high rise on borders, plus 2 storey, university residential blocks
1.2 Quality of fabric (shop frontages/housing/gardens)	5	Suburban, well maintained
1.3 Presence of graffiti, litter, vandalism, dog fouling	5	None noted
1.4 Condition of street/roads	5	
Total Score	20	
2 Access/signage		
2.1 Ease of access (no of entrances, well located, within walking distance/presence of road with zebras/signals)	4	Good no of entrances (major and minor), sign posted from main road, on bus routes, no zebra's noted. Access from nearby tower blocks is poor.
2.2 Path network (surface quality, range, radial/perimeter, dual use)	5	Good – both perimeter and through park. Granite kerb/new asphalt)
2.3 Disability access	2	Only perimeter of park at Cathedral entrance is easily accessible. Steep gradients down into park. Steep steps up to hall of residences.
2.4 Parking/Bus routes	4	Parking within park, 1 car park removed, access for kayakers difficult, bus routes good
2.5 Signage (lead in/lead through, welcoming/informative)	2	Welcome sign but no information
Total Score	17	
3 Woodland Quality		
3.1 Path experience (views/enclosure/variety of scale/orientation)	5	Lots of variety, good views from high up down to river, range of species, and spatial experiences (eg river, park, woodland edge)
3.2 Age/species mix/diversity	4	200 year old beech, sycamore on horseshoe boundary (but no understory), woodland to north is ancient oak, beech, elm.
3.3 Boundaries	3	Very mixed Off TillyDrove Ave – 5 – attractive boundary wall, hedge planting. Elsewhere entrances more obscure/hard to find owing to blocked roads

3.4 Sensory appeal: richness/presence of water/topographic interest	5	Good views, water, interesting heritage in form of cathedral and mote house
Total Score	17	
4 Facilities		
4.1 Presence of toilets, picnic, café, cycle tracks, health/fitness, play, educational, ranger provision	3+	Picnic tables, benches litter bins, toilets, dog bins, used by kayakers but access difficult. Landing in place. Lots of open space for ball games. New playground.
5 Use		
5.1 Observed use	4	Lots of students crossing park to residences, two groups of footballers out, children in playground, dog walkers along river. Around 20 cars in car park
5.2 Evidence of use: motor bikes/off-road cars etc.	0	
Total Score	4	
6 Maintenance/Management		
6.1 Litter, dog fouling, vandalism	0	Some litter
6.2 Fabric of furniture/signage	4	Brand new benches, life buoy and landing at river
6.3 Evidence of species/path edge management	4	
6.4 Evidence of development	0	More House to be developed
Total Score	8	
7 Security/Safety		
7.1 Evidence of anti-social behaviour	0	
7.2 Self-surveillance possible via visibility in/out	3	4 on boundaries/2 within park
7.3 Sense of personal security	3	Alone
Total Score	6	

10.5 Audit Summary

The total numerical score in the table below shows Milton, the control site, to be lowest in environmental quality and this equates with the qualitative evaluation. Whilst the neighbourhood in Milton is mostly well kept, the population is falling and there is an air of desolation to some open spaces. Drumchapel, undergoing residential refurbishment and growth, is distinguished by the presence of the woodland, visually prominent on a ridge to the north of the development, and creating a valuable visual amenity. Aberdeen has a higher environmental quality overall, with Seaton Park scoring a high score, sited in an attractive residential zone (part Conservation Zone) adjacent to the University. Auchmill Community Wood has the lowest overall audit score owing primarily to poor access and signage, and lack of quality woodland experience.

Audit summary

Site	Neighbourhood	Access/Signage	Woodland Quality	Facilities	Use	Maintenance	Security	Total
Milton Park	8	10	4	2	0	4	6	34
Milton: Possil Loch and Canal	9	12	9	0	2	1	1	34
Drumchapel: Garscadden Woods	13	7	18	1	3	5	3	50
Drumchapel: Garscadden Extension	15	5	12	0	4	6	3	45
Aberdeen: Auchmill Community Wood	9	2	7	0	1	2	3	24
Aberdeen: Seaton Park	20	17	17	3	4	8	6	75

11. COMMENTARY ON BASELINE SURVEY AND SUBSEQUENT WIAT EVALUATION

11.1 Design of the questionnaire. The survey questionnaire was designed to be robust and reliable as well as relatively short and easy to administer.

11.1.1 Strengths

The survey succeeded in providing a representative profile of respondents from each of the three communities targeted. This suggests the format of the questionnaire is generally appropriate and accessible to respondents from different backgrounds and circumstances.

The question on whether you would advise a friend to live in the neighbourhood was a useful one, revealing people's attitude perhaps better than a generic one about satisfaction with quality of life in the neighbourhood

11.1.2 Weaknesses

Although the questionnaire was kept as short as possible, the questions in section F, which attempted in particular to find out what needs to change to increase use and quality of people's experience of local open space/woodlands, proved problematic. The responses to the final ten questions in this section – the final section before the concluding socio-demographic questions – were very similar, suggesting respondent fatigue.

We recognise that it is not always clear what areas people classify as woods, nor which woods they count as their local ones in responses (especially in Milton, where there are no woodlands within 500m of people's homes). A future survey using the questionnaire would benefit from the addition of at least one question to elucidate this, asking people to name the woods in their neighbourhood, and to name any that they visit locally (which may not be the same).

There is only one respondent from the two Glasgow communities surveyed who agreed to make their details available for contacting in future, follow-up surveys. This is unfortunate; it is only in Aberdeen that sufficient respondents (32 in number) are available to allow a meaningful follow-up of a cohort of residents.

11.2 Choice of communities

Communities were sampled where the WIAT-financed activity proposed focused on woodland management proposals, since these were likely to constitute the majority of the WIAT programme in the near future. However, it is recommended that subsequent projects should also include baseline surveys and long-term evaluation where woodland creation is proposed.

It was only possible to sample three communities for the baseline survey in this study. Given the diversity of communities in Scotland where WIAT activity is likely to happen, there would be great benefit in extending the baseline to two or three other communities where WIAT funded work is planned and possibly one other control community (where no WIAT activity is planned) outside of Glasgow.

11.3 Administering the questionnaire survey. The quota sampling technique for administering the questionnaire was an effective way of ensuring the profile of respondents matched that of the community being targeted. The identification of streets for inclusion in the survey, based on SIMD maps and proximity to WIAT sites, required combining of different map data and GIS skills. Development of survey quotas for each community, based on 2001 census data output areas, was complex and it required experienced surveyors in the field, used to an interviewing protocol that ensures the quotas were met. All of this suggests it is best to use a professional market survey contractor to carry out the surveys.

11.4 Including young people

We considered the issue of including young people in the questionnaire survey. This is to be recommended in principle but was not possible to achieve within the budget. The best method for including young people of secondary school age in the survey would be to collect a separate sample using the local high school(s) as the location for the survey. This would, however, involve administration of parental consent forms, modification of some aspects of the questionnaire, arrangements with the

schools etc., which are time-consuming and could not realistically be encompassed within this project. We strongly recommend that FCS consider options for funding a survey of young people in parallel with the current project, to maximise the value of both.

11.5 Including local people in environmental auditing

The environmental audit tools were designed to be carried out by a professional with experience in evaluation of environmental quality (in the case of this project, landscape architects) but the on-site checklist could equally be adapted for use by non-experts, for example as part of a local community audit. It would need explanatory notes but the principle would be the same and would allow for comparison of expert outsiders' and locals' perceptions of environmental quality.

The spatial analysis tool is less suitable for use by the lay person. On the other hand, the site description, under the three broad categories identified - woodland experience, access/signage, evidence of use and abuse - could be adapted for use in community audits.

One valuable way of engaging local communities would be to train them in using an adapted version of the on-site checklist and audit to document the quality of their environment on a regular basis. This would provide a monitoring service of change over time in their local woods and in their neighbourhood in general, relevant to their own quality of life and perceptions. The Environmental Audit checklist from Appendix D could be modified for community audit use and accompanied by description and photographs.

11.6 Spatial analysis of the typical path experience through the woods/green space

The spatial analysis of the typical path experience is a technique that requires expertise in site analysis and graphic recording techniques and is therefore not suitable as a community audit tool. However, it is a valuable way of recording the experience of using a wood or green space and therefore allows a good basis for comparison with changes (such as improvement in views and a sense of openness or enclosure) that might result from a WIAT-funded management intervention. We therefore recommend it is repeated in any re-survey of the communities.

11.7 Undertaking environmental audits in summer as well as winter

Since the environmental audits were carried out between November and December 2006, in poor weather conditions and with trees bare of leaves, it is recommended that the sites be re-assessed in Summer 2007, if they have not already been modified by WIAT interventions.

11.8 Repeating the surveys

It is recommended that the surveys are repeated after two to three years, i.e. in 2009 or 2010, to capture community responses and make an independent audit of the quality of the environment, including a survey of the woodlands where WIAT interventions have been carried out. The repeat surveys should be carried out at least six months after the completion of any WIAT work, to allow time for the community to become accustomed to changes and for any novelty to wear off.

Ideally, a further set of surveys would be carried out after another two to three years, to assess the long-term effect of interventions.

12. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 Conclusions

These data are primarily of interest because they provide a baseline. It is the change in perceptions, attitudes and behaviour over time that will provide the most useful results, when these surveys are re-administered. However, there are interesting patterns observable from the data for the three communities at present that reflect the variability of such communities in different locations in Scotland and even within Glasgow.

The data demonstrate significant differences in communities' perceptions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to their environment and local woodlands at present. They provide the basis for interesting analyses of existing relationships between perceptions and use of woodlands, and the role local woodlands currently play in people's quality of life. They also suggest that it would be valuable to replicate the survey in a further set of communities, to increase the sample base and provide an even better basis for understanding the influence, if any, that WIAT interventions have on communities and their quality of life.

The predominantly neutral response of the Drumchapel respondents to many questions relating to their local woodlands reflects the fact that most (95%) have not visited them in the last twelve months. It will be interesting to observe whether this pattern changes after the WIAT interventions. The Milton responses relate to woodlands further away than 500m from people's homes but suggest that the community have more experience of woodlands than those in Drumchapel, despite this distance. Those in Aberdeen are more familiar with their local woodlands than either of the Glasgow communities, but this knowledge is associated with negative as well as positive perceptions of the quality and value of the woodlands. Again, it will be interesting to observe whether this pattern changes after the WIAT interventions.

It would be valuable to make further analyses of the existing data to explore current relationships between perceptions, values and use of local woodlands. The time available for this project limited the amount of analysis that could be undertaken. However, the richness of the data, the size of the sample, and the fact that the questionnaire survey data represents some of the most deprived communities in Scotland offers much of benefit for future investigation. There would be considerable value in further data mining and analysis.

12.2. Recommendations for further work

a) Add two new questions to the questionnaire in Section E:

E2a - What is the name of any local woodlands you have visited in the last 12 months?

E9a - Can you name any woods in or near your neighbourhood?

- b) Repeat the on-site surveys in summer 2007, assuming the woods have not already been significantly modified by WIAT interventions, to capture the experience with trees in leaf.**
- c) Adapt the environmental audit checklist and train local communities to undertake regular (6-monthly or annual) on-site audits and collate and store results.**
- d) Add more communities into the survey, including where new woodlands are proposed, and one, non-Glasgow control community**
- e) Develop a questionnaire survey to include young people in the survey, designed to be administered through local schools.**
- f) Repeat the questionnaire surveys and environmental audits and surveys within 2-3 years, i.e. in 2009 or 2010, and ideally within another 2-3 years after that.**
- g) Continue to use professional surveyors to administer the questionnaire surveys based on a quota sample, to ensure a representative profile of respondents is obtained**
- h) Take advantage of the existing data gathered to undertake further analysis of existing communities' perceptions, values and use of local woods and green spaces.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was led by Catharine Ward Thompson and undertaken by Jenny Roe and Susana Alves, with assistance from Peter Aspinall, Katherine Southwell and Omar Mohamed, all based in OPENSspace research centre, and David Watkins at the School of the Built Environment, Heriot-Watt University. Amy Homes and Leah Turner of Progressive Partnership undertook the survey, data input and initial analysis. The project was supervised by Max Hislop (Forest Research) on behalf of Brent Meakin, Forestry Commission Scotland. Bob Frost, Development Officer (West), Central Scotland Conservancy, Paul Cookson, Glasgow City Council, Woodland Officer and Steven Webley, Aberdeen Woodlands Project Officer, FCS, helped locate case study sites, provided maps and supplementary information and guidance on site visits.

APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRE

**APPENDIX B: COMPARISON OF QUESTIONNAIRE SAMPLE AND 2001
CENSUS DATA FOR EACH COMMUNITY - not available in PDF version**

**APPENDIX C: THE POSTCODES FOR THE SURVEY COMMUNITIES COVERED
IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE - not available in PDF version**

APPENDIX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT CHECKLIST

APPENDIX E: KEY TO SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF TYPICAL PATH EXPERIENCE

APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRE



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Classification

Age		Gender		Location	
16-24	1	Male	1	Aberdeen – Seaton	1
25-34	2	Female	2	Aberdeen – Woodside	2
35-44	3			Aberdeen – Auchmill	3
45-54	4			Glasgow – Milton	4
55-64	5			Glasgow – Drumchapel	5
65+	6				
Ethnicity		Occupation of Chief Wage Earner		Social Class	
<u>A. White</u>				AB	1
Scottish	1			C1	2
Other British	2			C2	3
Irish	3			D	4
Any other White background (specify) _____	4			E	5
<u>B. Mixed</u>					
Any mixed background (specify) _____	5				
<u>C. Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British</u>					
Indian	6				
Pakistani	7				
Bangladeshi	8				
Chinese	9				
Any other Asian background (specify) _____	10				
<u>D. Black, Black Scottish, or Black British</u>					
Caribbean	11				
African	12				
Any other black background (specify) _____	13				
<u>E. Other ethnic background</u>					
Any other background (specify) _____	14				

Interviewer's Declaration

I declare that I have carried out this interview in full, in accordance with the instructions and briefing material from Progressive.

Interviewer's Signature _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Respondent's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Postcode: _____

Introduction : Good morning/afternoon I am..... from Progressive Partnership an independent research company, who are carrying-out a survey to find out what you think about your local environment and wonder if you would mind answering some questions. The interview should take no more than 15 minutes.

Firstly, to make sure I am interviewing in the correct area, can you please tell me if your postcode is on this list? **Showcard A**

WRITE IN POSTCODE: _____

A1. How satisfied are you with your quality of life in this neighbourhood? Showcard B

Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
1	2	3	4	5

A2. Would you advise a friend to live in this neighbourhood? Showcard C

Completely	Would consider	Neither / nor	Unlikely to consider	Not at all
1	2	3	4	5

A3. How satisfied are you with the quality of the physical environment in this neighbourhood? Showcard B

Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
1	2	3	4	5

B1. How much time per week, on average do you spend taking physical exercise outdoors, including walking?

_____hrs/week

If necessary interviewer can now reveal: This survey is on behalf of partnerships working on a scheme called woodlands in and around towns

C1. What do you think about the quality of your local woodlands? Showcard D

Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor	Don't know what my local woodlands are like
1	2	3	4	5	6

C2. How important are the woodlands around here in making a difference to your quality of life? Showcard E

Irrelevant	Unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat important	Very important
1	2	3	4	5

D1. The following statements relate to different aspects of your local woodlands. Please, score each statement according to your level of agreement. *Showcard F*

	<i>Tick start, rotate, read out</i>	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
D1	The woodlands are free from litter	1	2	3	4	5
D2	It is difficult to get into the woodlands	1	2	3	4	5
D3	I feel safe in the woodlands	1	2	3	4	5
D4	Poorly maintained paths make it difficult to visit the woodlands	1	2	3	4	5
D5	I feel at peace in the woodlands	1	2	3	4	5
D6	I can pursue healthy activities in the woodlands	1	2	3	4	5
D7	The woodlands provide a place to visit with family and friends	1	2	3	4	5
D8	I can see and enjoy wildlife in the woodlands	1	2	3	4	5
D9	I like the natural appearance of the woodlands	1	2	3	4	5
D10	There is a lack of good facilities in the woodlands	1	2	3	4	5

E1. Have you visited Scottish woodlands in the last 12 months?

	Code	Route
Yes	1	Go to E2
No	2	Go to E9

E2. Were those visits mainly;

<i>Read out, Single Code</i>	Code
To woodlands in the countryside	1
To woodlands in and around town	2
To both	3

E3. What kinds of activities do you pursue when visiting your local woodlands?

SPONTANEOUS - MULTICODE

	Code
Go for a walk	1
Walk the dog	2
Go out with my family	3
Exercise or sport	4
Relax	5
Look at plants or wildlife	6
Participate in an event	7
Other (specify)_____	8

E4. How frequently did you visit woodlands last winter i.e. between October and March? *Showcard G*

	Code
Every day	1
Several times a week	2
Once a week	3
Several times a month	4
About once a month	5
Less often	6
Not at all	7
Unsure	8

E5. How frequently did you visit woodlands this Summer i.e. between April and September? *Showcard G*

	Code
Every day	1
Several times a week	2
Once a week	3
Several times a month	4
About once a month	5
Less often	6
Not at all	7
Unsure	8

E6. On average during the last 12 months how long did you normally spent at your local woodlands? *Showcard H*

	Code
Up to 15 minutes	1
Over 15minutes – 30 minutes	2
Over 30 minutes – 1 hour	3
Over 1 hour – 2 hours	4
Over 2 hours – 5 hours	5
More than 5 hours	6
Unsure	7

E7. How do you get to your local woodlands? *Multi-code*

	Code
By foot	1
By car	2
By public transportation	3
By bicycle	4
Other (Please specify)	5

E8. Do you usually go to the woodlands?

Read out, single code

	Code
Alone	1
With others, including family and friends	2

ASK ALL

E9. How easy is it to get to your local woodland from where you live? *Showcard I*

Very easy Easy Not sure Difficult Very Difficult
1 2 3 4 5

E10. Do you know how long it takes to get to your local woodlands?

	Code	Route
Yes	1	Go to E10.1
No	2	Go to E11

E10.1 How long does it take to get to your local woodlands? *SPONTANEOUS*

	Code
Up to 5 minutes	1
5 to 10 minutes	2
11 – 15 minutes	3
16 to 20 minutes	4
Over 20 minutes	5

E11. Did you visit local woodlands as a child? *Showcard J*

	Code
Almost every day	1
More than once a week	2
Once a week	3
Several times a month	4
Once a month	5
Several times a year	6
Once a year	7
Less than once a year or never	8
Never	9

E12. Have you been consulted about your views on local woodlands in the last 12 months?

	Code
Yes	1
No	2

APPENDIX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT CHECKLIST

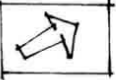
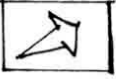
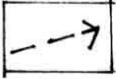

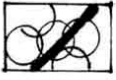
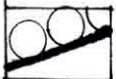
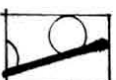


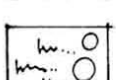

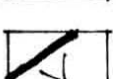

Developed by OPENspace

WIAT Audit Tool 1 to 5 (1= Poor, 5 = Excellent)		
1 Neighbourhood	Score	Comments
1.1 Building type and range (housing, shops, community centre, sports, police)		
1.2 Quality of fabric (shop frontages/housing/gardens)		
1.3 Presence of graffiti, litter, vandalism, dog fouling		
1.4 Condition of street/roads		
Total Score		
2 Access/signage		
2.1 Ease of access (no of entrances, well located, within walking distance/presence of road with zebras/signals)		
2.2 Path network (surface quality, range, radial/perimeter, dual use)		
2.3 Disability access		
2.4 Parking/Bus routes		
2.5 Signage (lead in/lead through, welcoming/informative)		
Total Score		
3 Woodland Quality		
3.1 Path experience (views/enclosure/variety of scale/orientation)		
3.2 Age/species mix/diversity		
3.3 Boundaries		
3.4 Sensory appeal: richness/presence of water/topographic interest		
Total Score		
4 Facilities		
4.1 Presence of toilets, picnic, café, cycle tracks, health/fitness, play, educational, ranger provision		
5 Use		
5.1 Observed use		
5.2 Evidence of use: motor bikes/off-road cars etc.		
Total Score		

6 Maintenance/Management		
6.1 Litter, dog fouling, vandalism		
6.2 Fabric of furniture/signage		
6.3 Evidence of species/path edge management		
6.4 Evidence of development		
Total Score		
7 Security/Safety		
7.1 Evidence of anti-social behaviour		
7.2 Self-surveillance possible via visibility in/out		
7.3 Sense of personal security		
Total Score		

Appendix E: Key to spatial analysis of typical path experience

KEY

	Continuous view
	Expansive view from single point
	Filtered view
	Truncated view
	Overhead trees
	Trees on one side
	Single trees
	Scrub vegetation, single trees
	Grassland/single trees
	Marsh/single trees
	Sense of enclosure
	Slope down in direction of V
	Path descending in direction of arrow