



Chiltern Rangers Nature Survey Young People

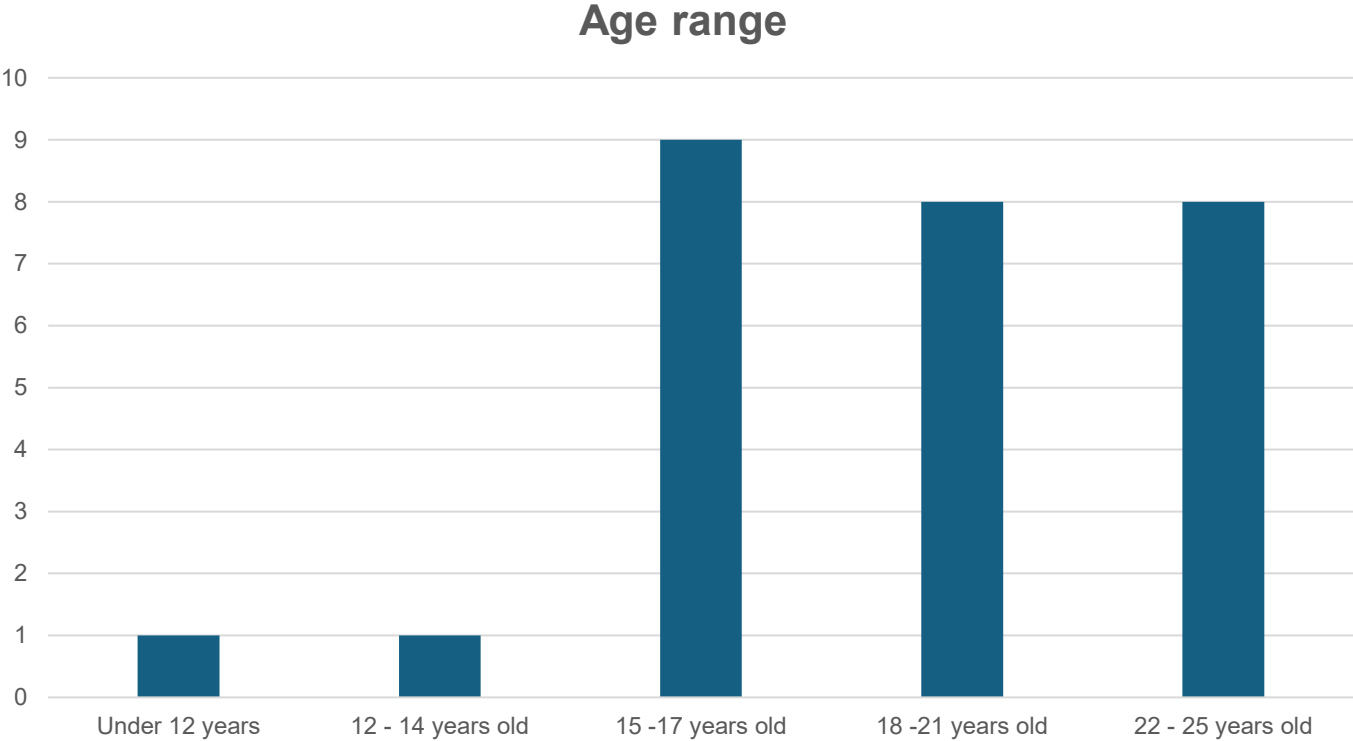
August 2025

Questions

1. How old are you?
2. Have you ever taken part in a Chiltern Rangers' event?
3. If yes, please tick which events you have taken part in (tick all that apply)
4. If other, please give details:
5. Tick the things that you think sound fun, or interesting or appealing that we might do on a Chiltern Rangers' session
6. If other, please write here including any suggestions you have.
7. What would put you off joining in a Chiltern Rangers' session? (Tick any that apply or none if it doesn't bother you)
8. If other, please write here...
9. Do you have any ideas that would improve our sessions?
10. What other activities would you like to do outdoors, for nature? Please let us have your ideas in this space:
11. How often do you spend time in nature (we mean parks, the woods, countryside walks, lakes, rivers, etc)
12. What do you usually do when you're outside (tick all that apply)
13. If other, please write here...
14. Do you learn about conservation or environmental issues at school/college?
15. Do you think it's important to protect the environment and natural places?
16. What are the reasons for your answer?
17. What worries you most about the environment today? (Tick your top 3 or 4)
18. If other, please write here
19. Would any of these ideas appeal to you? Tick as many as you like
20. Do you have any other ideas for outdoor activities?! Please share here...
21. Would Chiltern Rangers providing the correct equipment (e.g. work gloves, boots/wellies, waterproofs) help you to participate in our sessions?
22. Is there any specific kit or equipment that you think would make it easier/more appealing to join in an outdoor session with Chiltern Rangers? If yes, please say what...

Overview

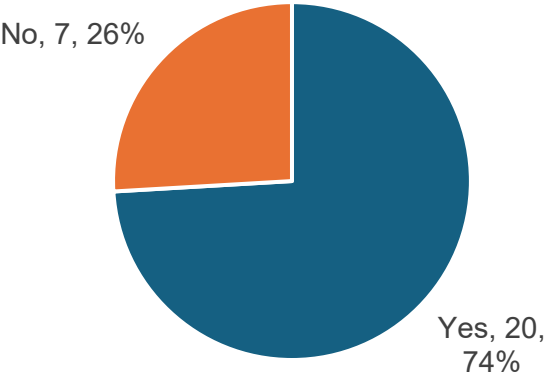
- Number of Responses 27
- Survey July 2025



How old are you?	
Under 12 years	1
12 - 14 years old	1
15 -17 years old	9
18 -21 years old	8
22 - 25 years old	8
	27

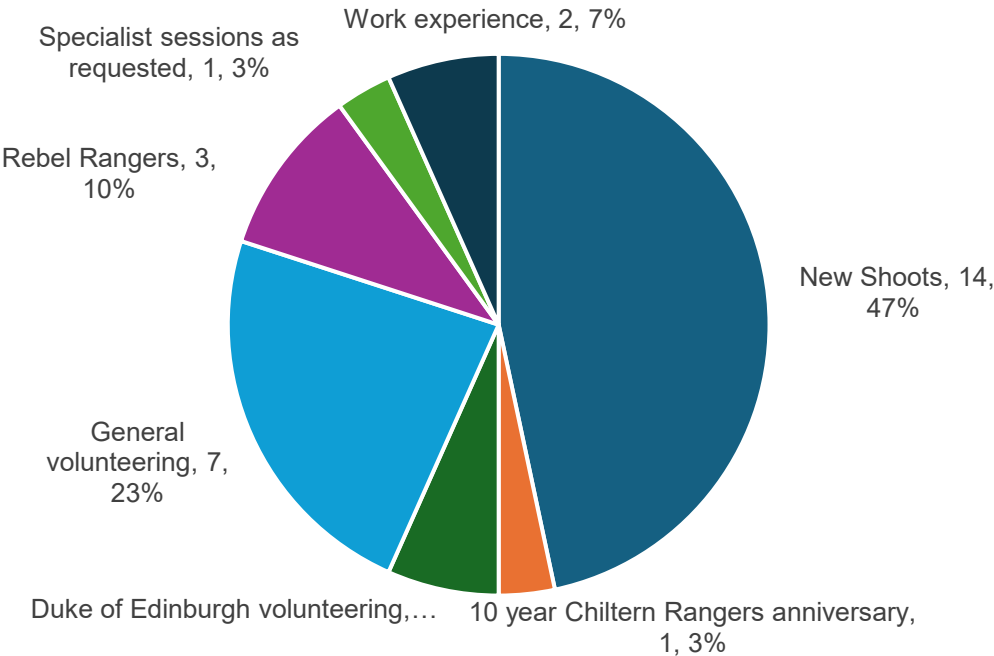
Chiltern Rangers Activities

Have you ever taken part in a Chiltern Rangers' event?



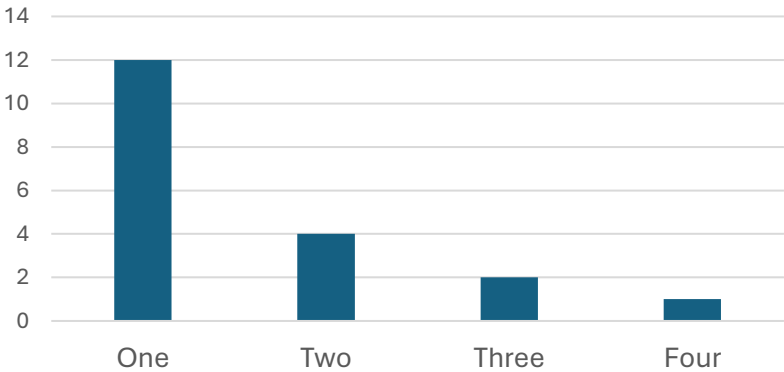
Have you ever taken part in a Chiltern Rangers' event?	
Yes	20
No	7

If yes, please tick which events you have taken part in

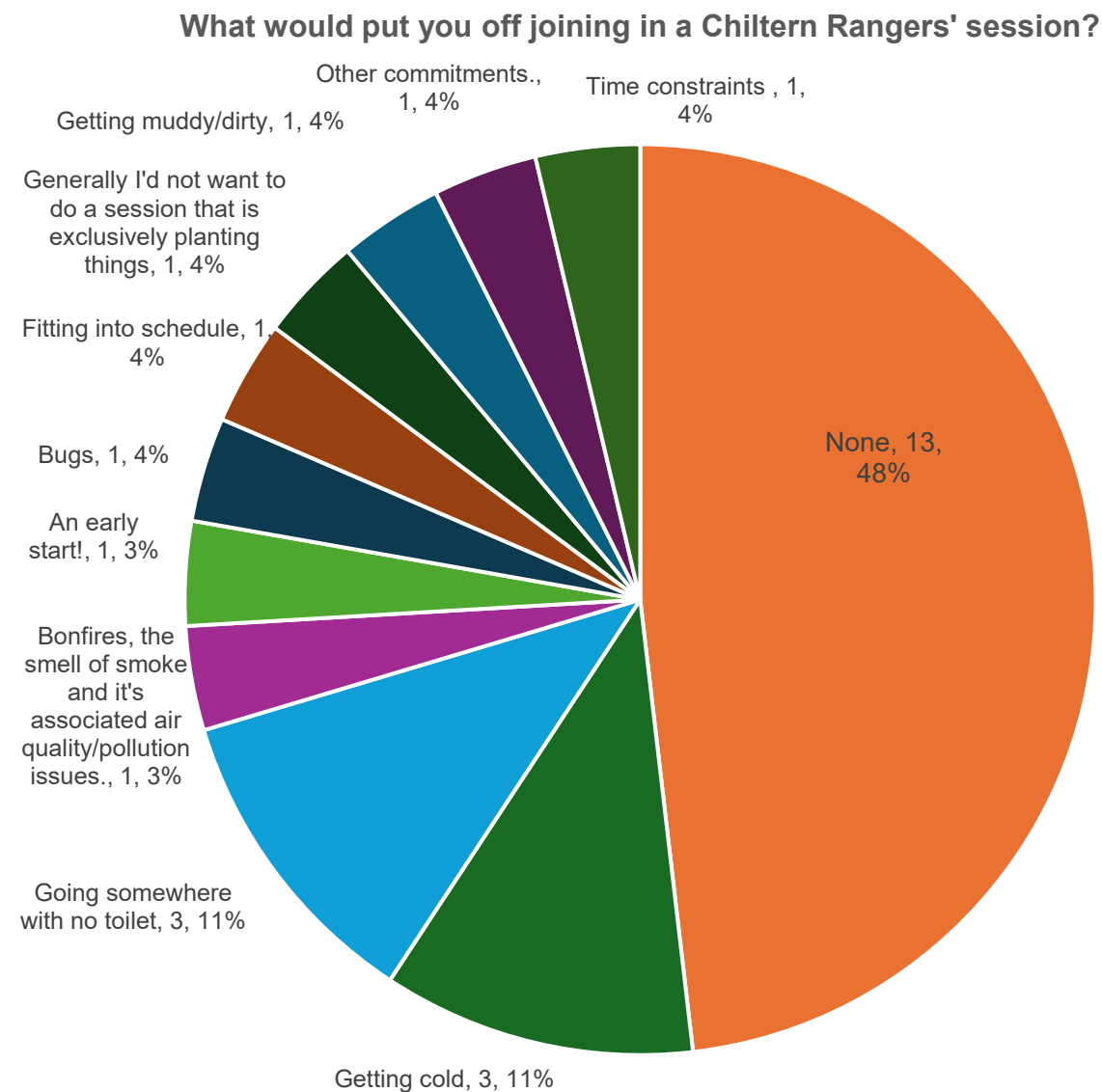


If yes, please tick which events you have taken part in	
New Shoots	10
General volunteering	2
New Shoots, Rebel Rangers, General volunteering, 10 year Chiltern Rangers anniversary	1
New Shoots, Rebel Rangers, General volunteering	1
New Shoots, Work experience, General volunteering	1
Duke of Edinburgh volunteering	1
New Shoots, General volunteering	1
Rebel Rangers, Duke of Edinburgh volunteering	1
Work experience	1
General volunteering, Specialist sessions as requested.	1

Number of Activities taken part in



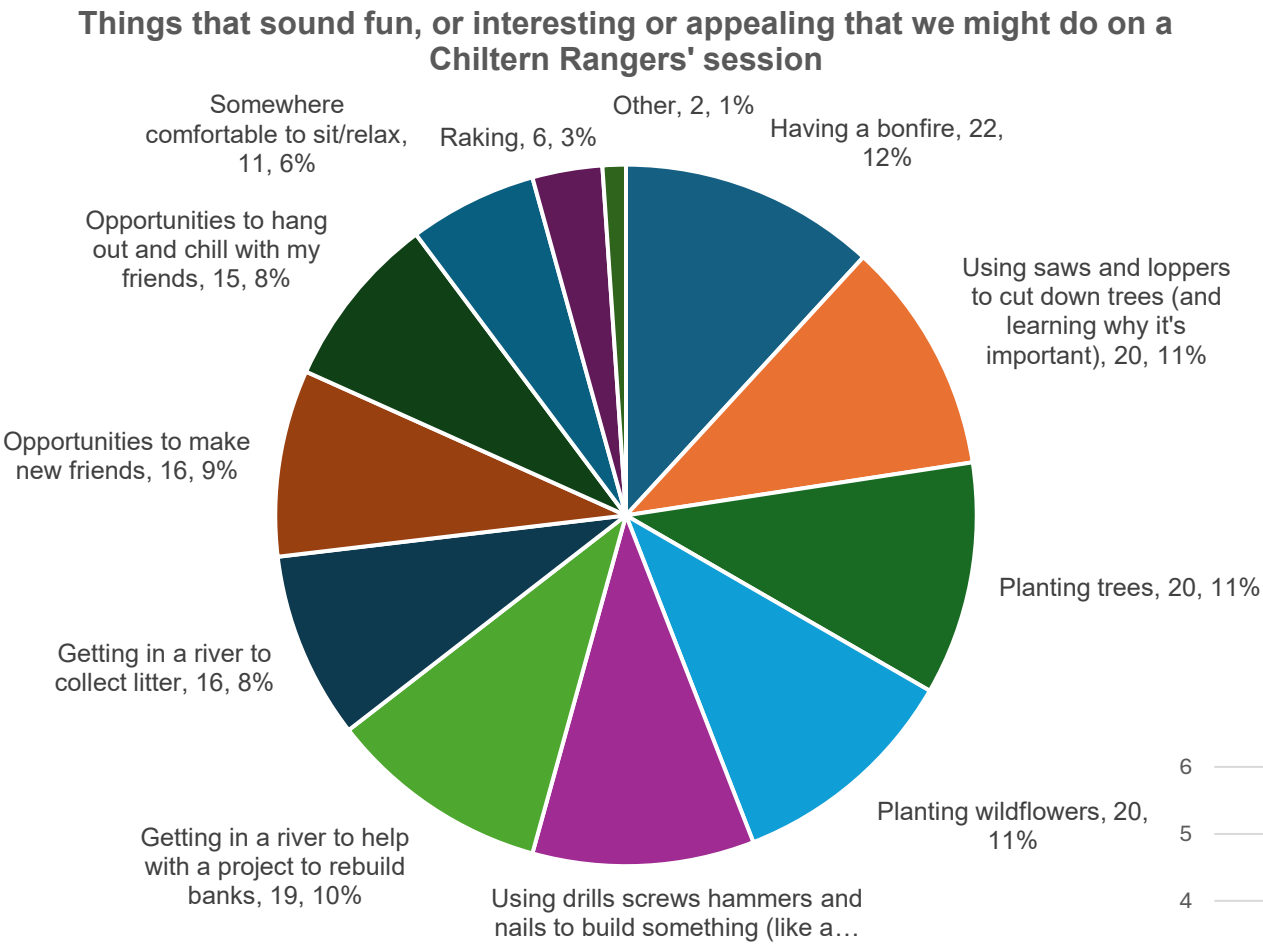
What would put you off joining



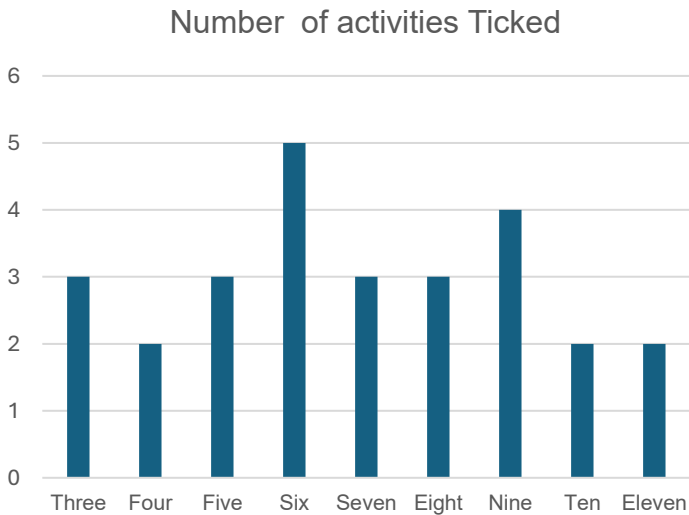
What would put you off joining in a Chiltern Rangers' session?	
None	13
Getting cold	3
Going somewhere with no toilet	3
An early start!	1
Bonfires, the smell of smoke and it's associated air quality/pollution issues.	1
Bugs	1
Fitting into schedule	1
Generally I'd not want to do a session that is exclusively planting things	1
Getting muddy/dirty	1
Other commitments.	1
Time constraints	1

Other, please write here...
An early start!
Fitting into schedule
Generally I'd not want to do a session that is exclusively planting things
Joining a close knitted group and finding it hard to socialise/join the team
Other commitments.
Spiders and creep crawlies
takes a long time to get there.
The issue of bonfires and other fires. Fires should be kept to an absolute minimum and alternatives sought in all situations to deal with brash, e.g. packing, hedge laying, log piles as is often done.

Things that sound fun, or interesting or appealing



Things that sound fun, or interesting or appealing that we might do on a Chiltern Rangers' session	
Having a bonfire	22
Using saws and loppers to cut down trees (and learning why it's important)	20
Planting trees	20
Planting wildflowers	20
Using drills screws hammers and nails to build something (like a bird box)	19
Getting in a river to help with a project to rebuild banks	19
Getting in a river to collect litter	16
Opportunities to make new friends	16
Opportunities to hang out and chill with my friends	15
Somewhere comfortable to sit/relax	11
Raking	6
Other	2



If other, please write here including any suggestions you have.
Bird ringing
Bird/butterfly identification was good
Getting in to use the material we cut back
Learning opportunities about biodiversity generally and other initiatives in the UK
More surveying.

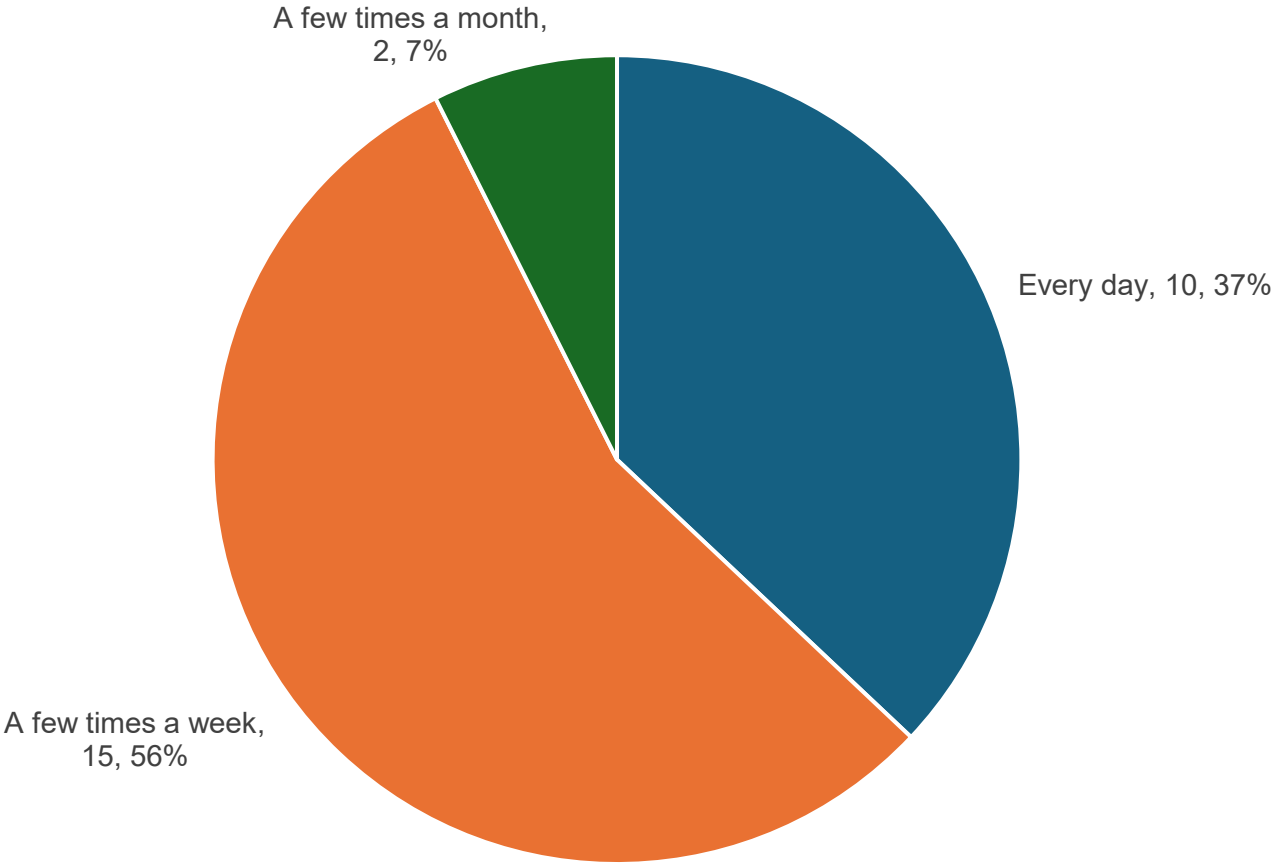
Ideas to improve the sessions and other activities

Do you have any ideas that would improve our sessions?
<u>Ice breakers</u> between volunteers to make start less awkward
Maybe include some food/ a meal after a day (or just an hour or two) of hard work. Good opportunity to do some more team bonding. Doesn't have to be anything complicated, maybe just bring a stove to cook some pasta/ do a bonfire and roast some potatoes/ sweetcorn etc.
<u>Opportunities for young people to meet and make friends.</u>
Picking up litter in local forests, learning the importance of carbon emissions and deforestation. Growing together as a community and not bullying someone because of their passion.
<u>Reaching out to groups of cubs etc</u> to get more young people engaged
<u>Regular, weekly volunteering sessions for teenagers</u> would be great. It'd provide a great opportunity for likeminded young people to meet, and would forge a great sense of community. It'd also be good in light of the end of New Shoots.
<u>Sessions dedicated to new comers or groups</u> more focused to help make new connections to others who enjoy nature too
<u>Starting the sessions in the morning at 9:30am</u>
<p><u>I found one significant issue that hindered continuation in volunteering was the lack of progression in skills development.</u> When volunteering you often do similar tasks which is great. However, there were not many opportunities to gain new qualifications/skills that would be useful e.g. for employability or satisfaction. This hindered my self--esteem. Despite volunteering for quite a few years (~5) I was never approached to develop some new skills. Whilst new staff kept coming and going and one volunteer gained an internship despite having asked to do this myself and having the funding prepared.</p> <p><u>The issue of bonfires and other fires.</u> Fires should be kept to an absolute minimum and alternatives sought in all situations to deal with brash, e.g. packing, hedge laying, log piles as is often done. Fires release significant amounts of particulate matter which is of significant concern to people's health. Fires can be detrimental to organisations public image. Fires don't just release carbon dioxide when the organic matter is burnt but a cocktail of organic compounds which have a climatic impact such as black carbon, brown carbon and methane. See Doctors and Scientists against woods smoke for more details: https://www.dsawsp.org/sources/public-places, https://www.dsawsp.org/environment/overview, https://www.dsawsp.org/health/health-effects, https://www.dsawsp.org/health/children-and-wood-smoke, https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/sep/10/pollutionwatch-bonfires-environment&ved=2ahUKEwj53pyMiOAXVkwEEAHc5jJFEQFnoECBsQAQ&usg=AOvVaw3ovfou7IEA6vCyQ-cbeY2, https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crmkwjvz9r9o bonfires release large quantities of fine particulate matter, black carbon, and volatile organic compounds that penetrate deep into the lungs, increasing risks of cardiovascular and respiratory disease. Simultaneously, these emissions act as short-lived climate forcers, accelerating atmospheric warming and degrading regional air quality. https://www.leeds.ac.uk/news-environment/news/article/4703/the-burning-question-of-bonfire-night-pollution</p>

What other activities would you like to do outdoors, for nature? Please let us have your ideas in this space:
<u>Bird ringing, tree planting, bird identification</u>
<u>Group hikes / learning walks</u> to discuss the local ecosystem.
<u>Hedge laying</u>
<u>Just learning about the local outdoors and different species of plants.</u>
<u>Nature walks</u> to see different birds, building teepees to see what it's like to live in nature and protecting injured animals if we find some.
Pond surveying
Surveying.
<u>The skills that Chiltern Rangers gave me are all very useful from a practical perspective, but it would be nice to have real-world opportunities to implement them.</u> As someone who would like to pursue conservation/ wildlife biology it would be helpful to get some experience working with stakeholders who can help make the biggest difference such as farmers - networking and having conversations with them to discuss putting aside parts of their land for effective conservation/ rewilding projects.
<u>Wide games</u>
<u>Would be good to see birds up close or butterflies or insects under a microscope?</u>

How often do you spend time in nature

How often do you spend time in nature (we mean parks, the woods, countryside walks, lakes, rivers, etc)

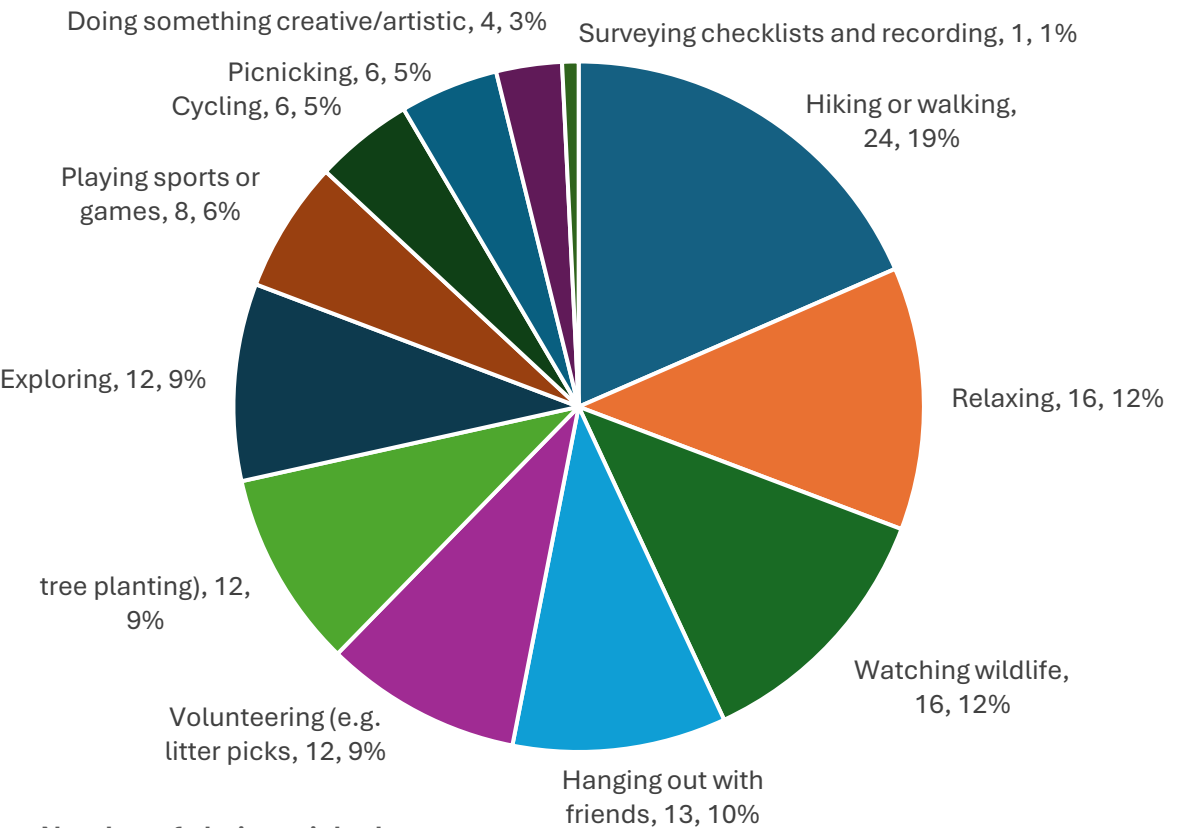


How often do you spend time in nature (we mean parks, the woods, countryside walks, lakes, rivers, etc)	
Every day	10
A few times a week	15
A few times a month	2

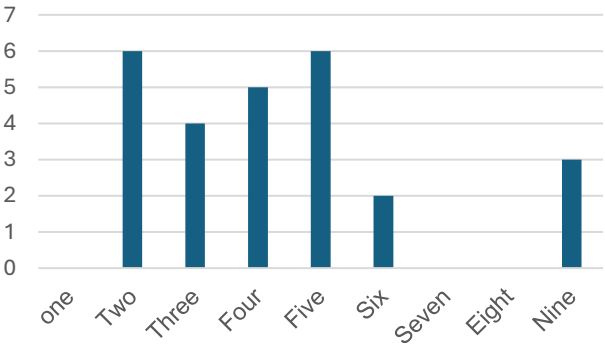
What do you usually do when you're outside

What do you usually do when you're outside (tick all that apply)
Hiking or walking, Relaxing, Volunteering (e.g. litter picks, tree planting)
Hiking or walking, Cycling, Hanging out with friends, Watching wildlife, Playing sports or games
Relaxing, Volunteering (e.g. litter picks, tree planting), Watching wildlife, Exploring
Relaxing, Hanging out with friends, Watching wildlife, Exploring
Hiking or walking, Watching wildlife
Hiking or walking, Picnicking, Relaxing, Hanging out with friends, Playing sports or games, Exploring
Hiking or walking, Cycling
Hiking or walking, Hanging out with friends
Hiking or walking, Hanging out with friends, Watching wildlife
Hiking or walking, Relaxing, Volunteering (e.g. litter picks, tree planting)
Hiking or walking, Cycling, Picnicking, Relaxing, Hanging out with friends, Volunteering (e.g. litter picks, tree planting), Watching wildlife, Playing sports or games, Exploring
Hiking or walking, Relaxing, Watching wildlife, Doing something creative/artistic
Hiking or walking, Picnicking, Relaxing, Hanging out with friends, Volunteering (e.g. litter picks, tree planting), Watching wildlife, Doing something creative/artistic, Playing sports or games, Exploring
Hiking or walking, Cycling, Picnicking, Relaxing, Hanging out with friends, Volunteering (e.g. litter picks, tree planting), Watching wildlife, Doing something creative/artistic, Exploring
Hiking or walking, Relaxing, Hanging out with friends, Volunteering (e.g. litter picks, tree planting), Doing something creative/artistic
Hiking or walking, Volunteering (e.g. litter picks, tree planting)
Hiking or walking, Relaxing, Hanging out with friends, Volunteering (e.g. litter picks, tree planting), Watching wildlife, Playing sports or games, Exploring
Hiking or walking, Volunteering (e.g. litter picks, tree planting)
Hiking or walking, Volunteering (e.g. litter picks, tree planting), Watching wildlife, Exploring
Hiking or walking, Picnicking, Watching wildlife, Playing sports or games, Exploring
Hiking or walking, Cycling, Picnicking, Watching wildlife, Playing sports or games
Relaxing, Hanging out with friends
Hiking or walking, Relaxing
Hiking or walking, Relaxing, Watching wildlife, Exploring
Hiking or walking, Volunteering (e.g. litter picks, tree planting), Watching wildlife, Exploring, Surveying checklists and recording.
Hiking or walking, Cycling, Relaxing, Hanging out with friends, Playing sports or games
Hiking or walking, Relaxing, Hanging out with friends, Watching wildlife, Exploring

What do you usually do when you're outside



Number of choices ticked

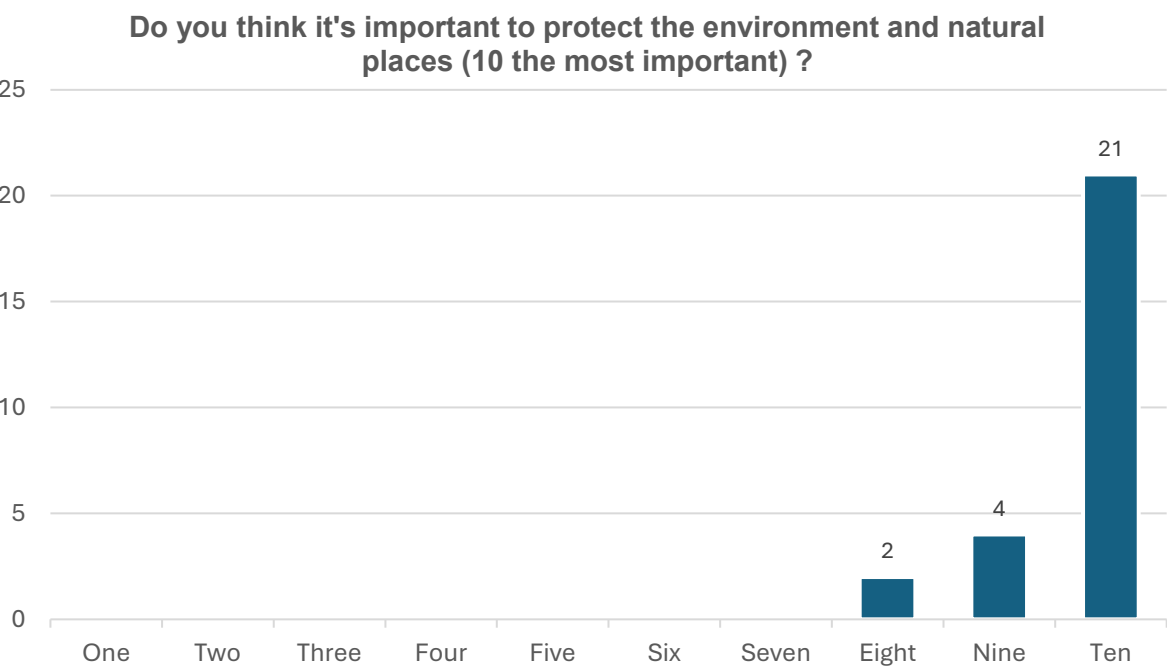


If other, please write here...

Normally I go to the park to hang out with my friends or walk my dog. I don't really 'get involved' with the nature

Protecting the Environment

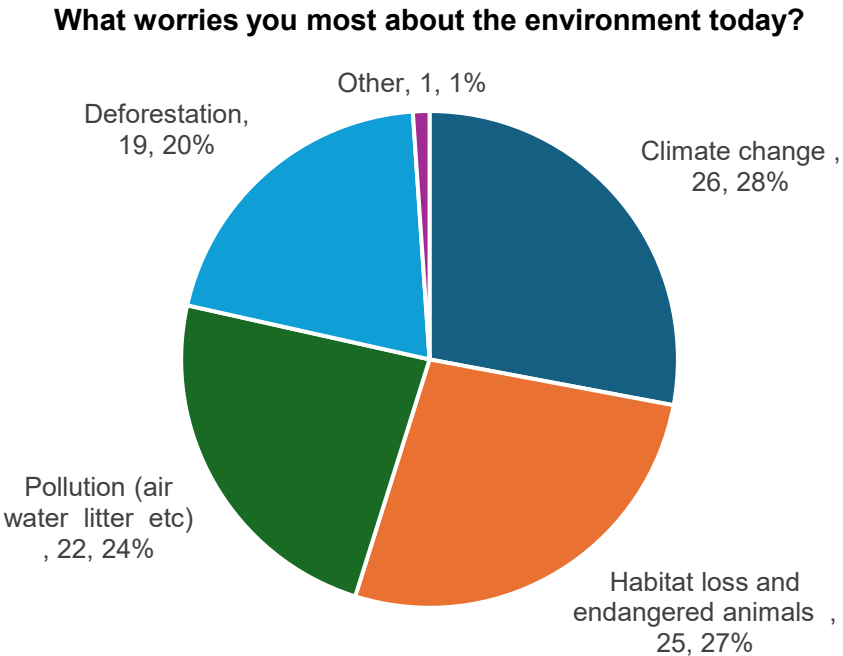
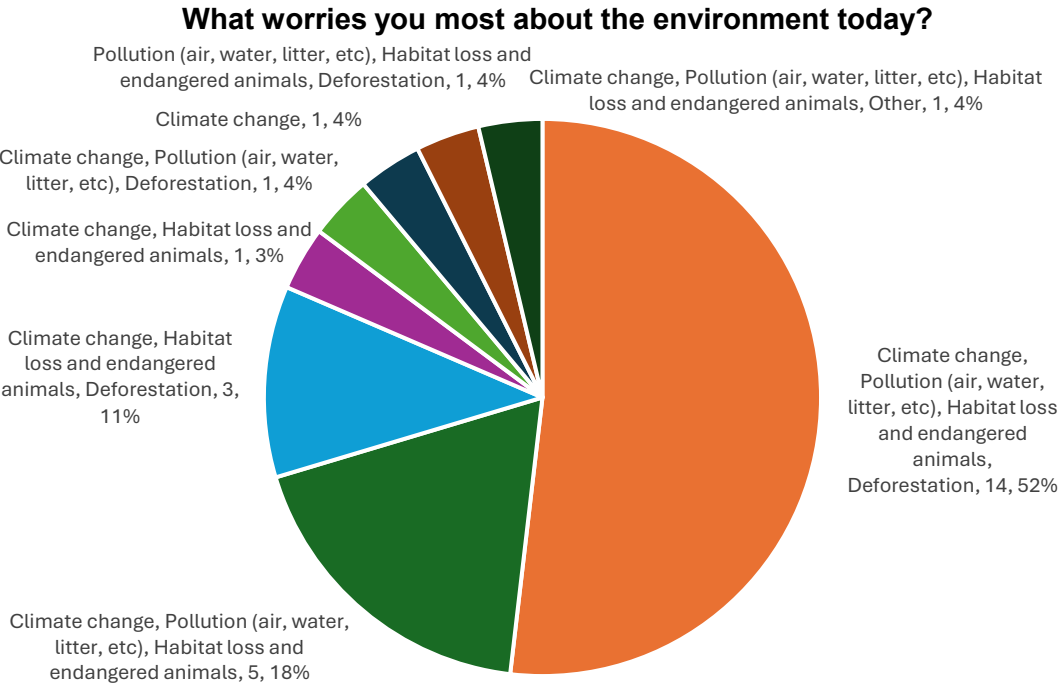
Do you think it's important to protect the environment and natural places?	
Eight	2
Nine	4
Ten	21



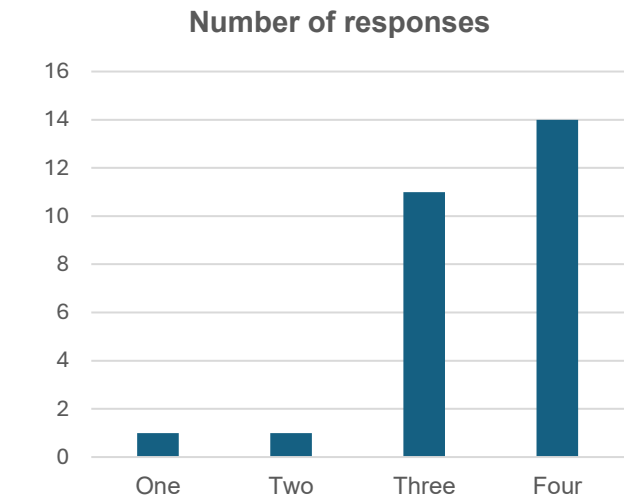
What are the reasons for your answer?
The natural world is an extension of ourselves. We can't care for ourselves as a species without caring for the environment. They go hand in hand.
Devastating worldwide ecological collapse / the UK being one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world.
To not endanger these amazing animals, to protect the world and conserve it for future generations and protecting wildlife and marine life.
I'm passionate about preserving the natural world for wildlife, it's a huge part of everyday life and people's wellbeing
I only know about our country's wildlife from other people or watching things on the topic. I know it is important to our ecosystem to protect wildlife and nature, but also is good for our mental health to be out in nature whenever possible. So I find it very important to protect it.
The natural environment surrounds us and I spend a lot of time in it, so I am keen to see it be in its best state
To keep balance within the ecosystems and to maintain high biodiversity.
Sustainable social and economic development long term + Human rights protection
We are after all part of the natural world ourselves. The world will survive anything we do to it and heal, in time. We won't, however. We'll die off before the world does.
Humans rely on our natural spaces for lots of social and economic reasons, not just for the sake of protecting the ecology. If we continue to oversee global declines in biodiversity, it will have impacts on agricultural productivity, as well as creating mental health impacts.

What worries you most about the environment today?

What worries you most about the environment today? (Tick your top 3 or 4)	
Climate change, Pollution (air, water, litter, etc), Habitat loss and endangered animals, Deforestation	14
Climate change, Pollution (air, water, litter, etc), Habitat loss and endangered animals	5
Climate change, Habitat loss and endangered animals, Deforestation	3
Climate change, Habitat loss and endangered animals	1
Climate change, Pollution (air, water, litter, etc), Deforestation	1
Climate change	1
Pollution (air, water, litter, etc), Habitat loss and endangered animals, Deforestation	1
Climate change, Pollution (air, water, litter, etc), Habitat loss and endangered animals, Other	1



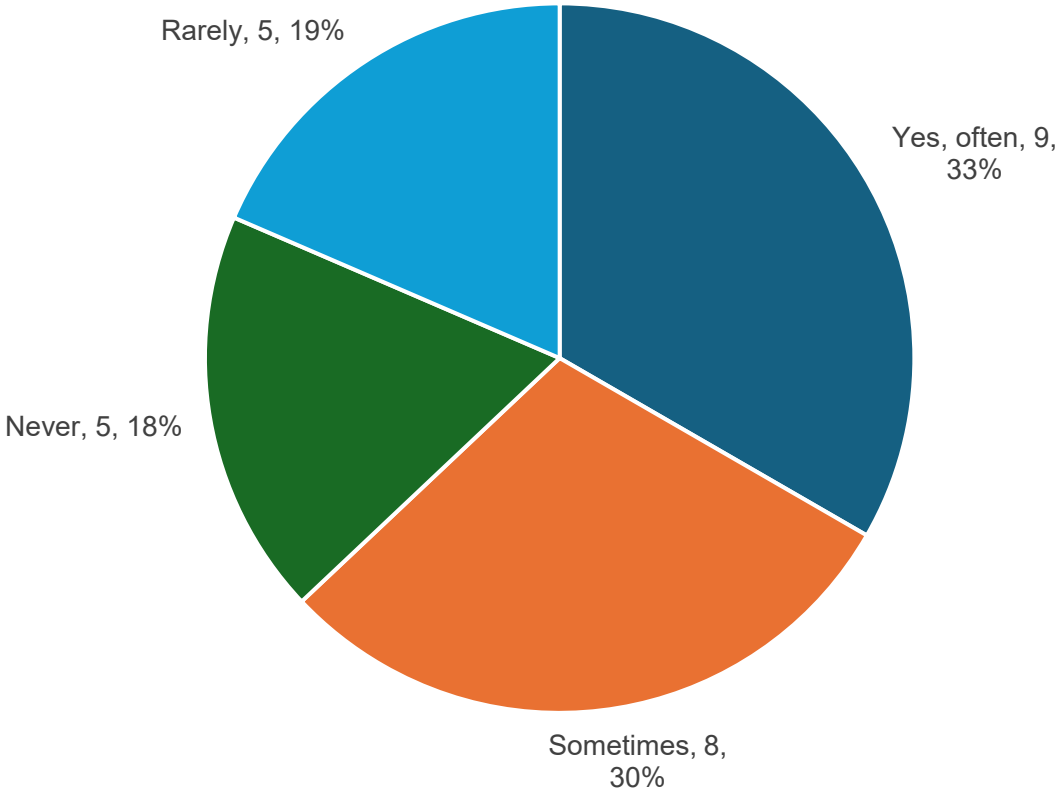
Climate change	
Climate change	26
Habitat loss and endangered animals	25
Pollution (air water litter etc)	22
Deforestation	19
Other	1



If other, please write here
Hunting and fishing animals for food.
Oil drilling, government ignorance and general public lack of knowledge
The mass consumption of water by artificial intelligence centres, as well as mass bombings by Israel, causing Eco genocide.
Urban sprawl + water insecurity

Do you learn about conservation or environmental issues at school/college

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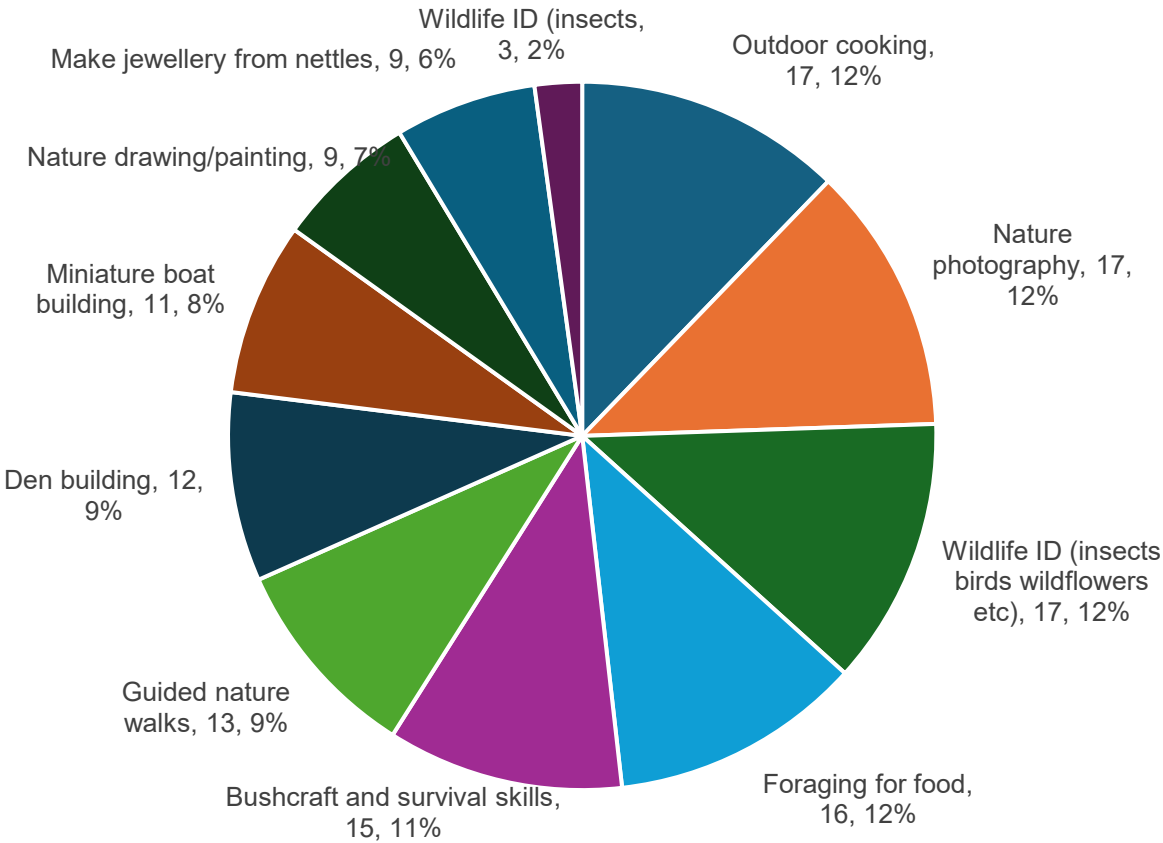


Do you learn about conservation or environmental issues at school/college?	
Yes, often	9
Sometimes	8
Never	5
Rarely	5

Would any of these ideas appeal to you?

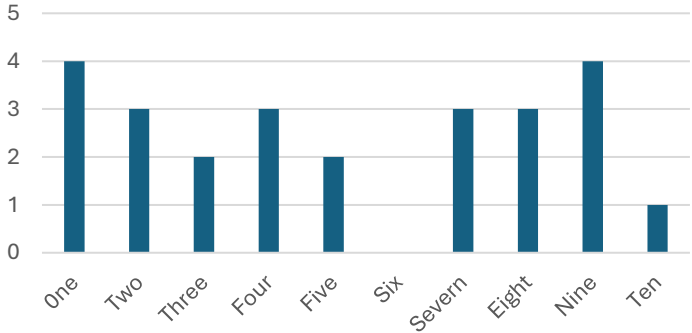
Would any of these ideas appeal to you?	
Outdoor cooking	17
Nature photography	17
Wildlife ID (insects birds wildflowers etc)	17
Foraging for food	16
Bushcraft and survival skills	15
Guided nature walks	13
Den building	12
Miniature boat building	11
Nature drawing/painting	9
Make jewellery from nettles	9
Wildlife ID (insects	3

Would any of these ideas appeal to you?



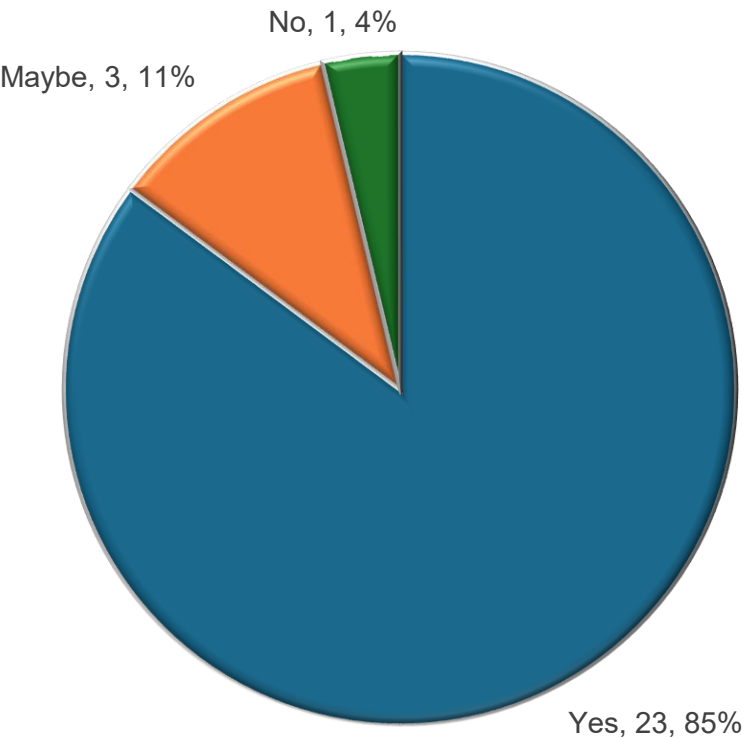
Do you have any other ideas for outdoor activities?! Please share here...
Medicinal uses of plants from our natural environment
Surveying.
Testing boats on rivers, seeing all fishes and newts and roads.
Wildlife footprint trail IDing

Number of Activities ticked



Would Chiltern Rangers providing the correct equipment (e.g. work gloves, boots/wellies, waterproofs) help you to participate in our sessions?

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Would Chiltern Rangers providing the correct equipment (e.g. work gloves, boots/wellies, waterproofs) help you to participate in our sessions?	
Yes	23
Maybe	3
No	1

Is there any specific kit or equipment that you think would make it easier/more appealing to join in an outdoor session with Chiltern Rangers? If yes, please say what...
Hiking boots
No that would be it.
Sunglasses if it's a bright day
Things to stop people getting muddy as a lot of people might not want to get dirty or ruin their own personal belongings. Maybe for girls, something to protect their hair??
Work gloves