

# Skye Edge Fields Improvements 2022 - Consultation 1

## Report



### 1. Background

Parks and Countryside Services have received Public Health Funding to make improvements to sites across the city that will benefit people's health and wellbeing. As part of this Skye Edge Fields has been allocated funding which will be used alongside other funds to help deliver improvements.

The proposals are to create attractive, welcoming and secure entrances and boundaries, and resurface more of the most frequently used paths.

If these proposals are implemented, they would:

- help secure the entrances and boundaries against illegal access by vehicles
- help make Skye Edge Fields feel safer and be a more attractive and welcoming place to visit
- help deter fly tipping
- improve the surfaces of the paths
- make it easier for visitors to find their way around

### 2. Consultation aim

To ensure the proposals develop in line with community interest and need we need to hear the opinions and preferences of local people and park users.



The online survey was the first of two consultations about these proposals.

The aim of this first consultation was to:

- gather views on Skye Edge Fields as it currently is
- understand how people use the site
- introduce the proposals to improve the site
- introduce the reasons for these proposals

The feedback from this first consultation will help us to design the entrances, and boundaries, and identify which paths to prioritise for resurfacing.

The aim of the second consultation is to:

- gain feedback to improve and finalise the designs for the entrances and boundaries

### 3. Consultation method

We created an online survey which was open for completion between 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022. To increase awareness of this consultation we promoted it through our online media streams, and forwarded it to community anchors such as local housing associations, ward council members and local organisations such as Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust and Manor Castle Development Trust. Paper copies were made available on request and a letter drop took place to houses around the two green spaces between White's Lane and Eaton Place.

### 4. Summary of Main Findings

#### 4.1. Overall Picture

There were 98 responses to this survey with all but one person from the S2 area. Two thirds (60) of those that responded were women, over two thirds of people (63) were between 35 and 54 years old, and only three people responded that were below the age of 24. The ethnicity of respondents broadly represents that of the local community with 78% of respondents being from a white background.

Overall half of people (57%) who responded visited Skye Edge Fields at least once a week.



Walking (including dog walking) was the most popular activity chosen by people (64%) with exercise (35%) and enjoyment of views (36%) also popular choices. 30% of people also use the site as a green route between neighbouring areas.

Only 17% of people feel that Skye Edge Fields is a safe place and only 12% feel it is welcoming. This compares with half those who answered (49%) feeling that it is unsafe and nearly two third (64%) feeling that it is not welcoming.

Only a quarter of people (27%) think the site is not easy to get around, with nearly half (45%) feeling that it is easy to get around.

Only 12% of people said they played football on the site and half the people who answered, thought the football pitch was not good.

Most people (81%) do not think Skye Edge Fields is well maintained, with only 6% feeling that it is.

Results showed that the entrances to the south and west are the most used; those on Skye Edge Avenue and the top of Boundary Road, the large Manor Oaks entrance, and Fitzwalter Road. This usage was also reflected in the entrances which people thought would benefit most from improvements with the large Manor Oaks entrance by far the most popular choice of those mentioned above.

The entrances and boundaries around the playing fields were chosen most (6 of the top 7 most popular choices) as places where vehicles enter the site illegally, with the large Manor Oaks Road entrance and surrounding boundaries also high on the list. (It should be remembered that where entrances are more overlooked it may lead to a higher instance of choice).

Three quarters of people (68) who answered think it is a good idea to improve White's Lane green space and two thirds thought it is a good idea to improve Eaton Place (55 people). White's Lane is managed by Great Places and the grass is cut. Eaton Place does not currently get maintained.

From the list of potential future priorities for Skye Edge Fields, play equipment for young children (5-12 years) ranked highest, followed closely by improved lighting. Walking/running routes, an 'All Wheels' Park (for skate, scoot & BMX) and play equipment for younger children, were also popular choices.



## 3.2. Positives

From the responses given the following positives are apparent:

- The views and green space that the site offers, are really valued.
- Walking, exercise and relaxing were the most popular activities chosen. This suggests that the framework for these healthy activities is already in place.
- Over half the respondents that visit Skye Edge Fields visit the space frequently, doing so at least once a week.

## 4.2. Negatives

From the responses given the following negatives are apparent:

- Skye Edge Fields does not feel safe or welcoming.
- It is not regarded as a well-maintained site.
- Littering and fly-tipping are significant problems.
- Illegal access by 4 wheeled vehicles (inc. quads) and motorbikes is a significant problem.
- There is no functional 'park furniture' e.g. play area, benches or bins.
- People are deterred from visiting the site because of the issues listed above.

## 5. Conclusion and Next Steps

This was the first of two consultations and the responses have broadened our understanding of the site and how it is used, enabling us to move forward with more detailed design proposals for the entrances and boundaries.

Responses supported the thoughts of council officers that work closely with the site, that antisocial behaviour is a big problem and prevents some people from using the site and the number and type of activities that people can take part in.

The responses suggest that the quality of Skye Edge Fields is at a level where many respondents feel comfortable visiting the space frequently and regularly.

The essential elements for a well-used community green space already exist. Improvement to the security of the site and increasing the quality of the boundaries and entrances will help



make the site feel more welcoming and well maintained (help reduce the need for so much clearing of fly-tipping and repairs associated with illegal vehicle access).

No young people took part in this consultation. Due to the nature of the proposals, it is not thought that this has negatively affected the quality of the results; young people will benefit in similar ways to adults from a cleaner, more secure and welcoming site. We will however use the second consultation as an opportunity to try to engage with pupils from the local primary school, especially with reference to the improved green spaces between White's Lane and Eaton Place. Opportunities to engage young people in the design of elements of the entrances and signage will also be explored.

The simple message from this survey is:

**Skye Edge Fields is valued and has great potential but to increase the number of people visiting it needs to be cleaner and feel safer and more welcoming.**

## 6. Questions

1: How often do you visit Skye Edge Fields?

Option	Total	Percent
Daily	15	15.31%
Several times a week	24	24.49%
About once a week	16	16.33%
About once a month	12	12.24%
Every other month or so	9	9.18%
About every six months	10	10.20%
Once a year or less	6	6.12%
Never	5	5.10%
Not Answered	1	1.02%

2: What are your main reasons for visiting Skye Edge Fields?

Option	Total	Percent
Walking/Dog Walking	63	64.29%
Exercise	34	34.69%
Socialising	7	7.14%
Playing Football	13	13.27%
Running	9	9.18%
Cycling/BMX	12	12.24%
Skateboarding	2	2.04%



<b>Scooter</b>	9	9.18%
<b>As a cut through/green route</b>	29	29.59%
<b>Relaxing/Views</b>	35	35.71%
<b>Wildlife watching</b>	13	13.27%
<b>Picnics</b>	8	8.16%
<b>None of the above</b>	12	12.24%
<b>Not Answered</b>	1	1.02%

### 3: Overall what is the one thing you most like about Skye Edge Fields?

49 comments referred to the stunning **views** over the city:

- *“The views are absolutely beautiful, it feels like being on top of the world”*
- *“The views across the city are wonderful!”*

21 comments referred to the enjoyment of **open space**:

- *“Beautiful open space”*
- *“The space , nature ,fresh air”*

20 comments referred to the enjoyment of **nature, wildlife or the green environment**:

- *“huge slice of nature in the heart of the city”*

10 comments referred to the convenience of it being **local**:

- *“open green space so close to local amenities”*

7 comments referred it being a **quiet and relaxing environment**:

- *“The sense of peace you get up there, its so quiet”*
- *“its quiet as and relaxing if you need space to clear your head”*

7 comments referred to the space being used for **play**:

- *“It’s close to our home allowing our kids to play freely”*

### 4: How do you feel about the following statements about Skye Edge Fields?

#### **Skye Edge Fields is safe place to visit**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	16	16.33%



Disagree	33	33.67%
Neither agree or disagree	34	34.69%
Agree	15	15.31%
Strongly Agree	2	2.04%
Not Answered	1	1.02%

### Skye Edge Fields is a welcoming place

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly disagree	20	20.41%
Disagree	42	42.86%
Neither agree or disagree	23	23.47%
Agree	11	11.22%
Strongly Agree	1	1.02%
Not Answered	2	2.04%

### Skye Edge Fields is easy to get around

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly disagree	6	6.12%
Disagree	20	20.41%
Neither agree or disagree	28	28.57%
Agree	35	35.71%
Strongly Agree	9	9.18%
Not Answered	1	1.02%

### Skye Edge Fields has a good football pitch

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly disagree	11	11.22%
Disagree	36	36.73%
Neither agree or disagree	30	30.61%
Agree	18	18.37%
Strongly Agree	2	2.04%
Not Answered	1	1.02%

### Skye Edge Fields is well maintained

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly disagree	44	44.90%
Disagree	35	35.71%
Neither agree or disagree	12	12.24%
Agree	5	5.10%





<b>Strongly Agree</b>	1	1.02%
<b>Not Answered</b>	2	2.04%

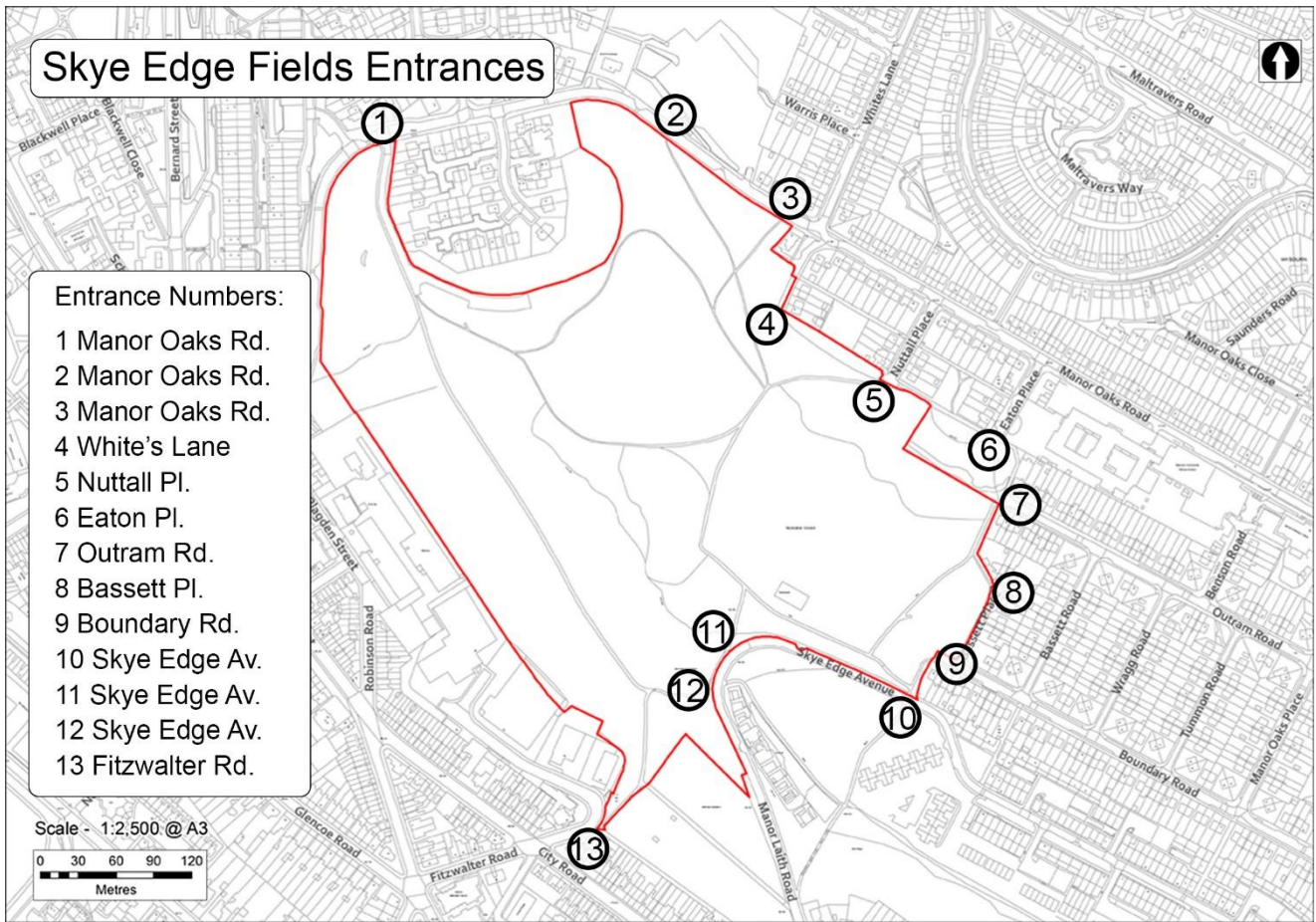
5: To help us prioritise investment and improvements we need to understand which entrances are used most often.

**Please tell us which entrances to Skye Edge Fields you use most? Refer to the numbers on the map so that we are clear which entrances you mean.**

<b>Option</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>1 Manor Oaks Rd.</b>	28	28.57%
<b>2 Manor Oaks Rd.</b>	7	7.14%
<b>3 Manor Oaks Rd.</b>	7	7.14%
<b>4 White's Lane</b>	8	8.16%
<b>5 Nuttall Pl.</b>	10	10.20%
<b>6 Eaton Pl.</b>	11	11.22%
<b>7 Outram Rd.</b>	14	14.29%
<b>8 Bassett Pl.</b>	7	7.14%
<b>9 Boundary Rd.</b>	25	25.51%
<b>10 Skye Edge Av.</b>	45	45.92%
<b>11 Skye Edge Av.</b>	27	27.55%
<b>12 Skye Edge Av.</b>	32	32.65%
<b>13 Fitzwalter Rd.</b>	31	31.63%
<b>None of the above</b>	3	3.06%
<b>Not Answered</b>	1	1.02%

6: Which entrances to the site do you feel would benefit most from improvement?





Item	Ranking
<b>1 Manor Oaks Rd.</b>	1.92
<b>13 Fitzwalter Rd.</b>	1.15
<b>10 Skye Edge Av.</b>	1.10
<b>2 Manor Oaks Rd.</b>	0.92
<b>9 Boundary Rd.</b>	0.91
<b>12 Skye Edge Av.</b>	0.83
<b>7 Outram Rd.</b>	0.80
<b>11 Skye Edge Av.</b>	0.76
<b>5 Nuttall Pl.</b>	0.68
<b>6 Eaton Pl.</b>	0.61
<b>4 White's Lane</b>	0.59
<b>3 Manor Oaks Rd.</b>	0.57
<b>8 Bassett Pl.</b>	0.23
<b>None of the above</b>	0.15

7: There are two green spaces off the ginnel between Eaton Place and White's Lane. The proposal is to make these spaces more inviting places to visit and improve the biodiversity by adding native planting.

**Eaton Place and White's Lane - This is a good idea for White's Lane green space**

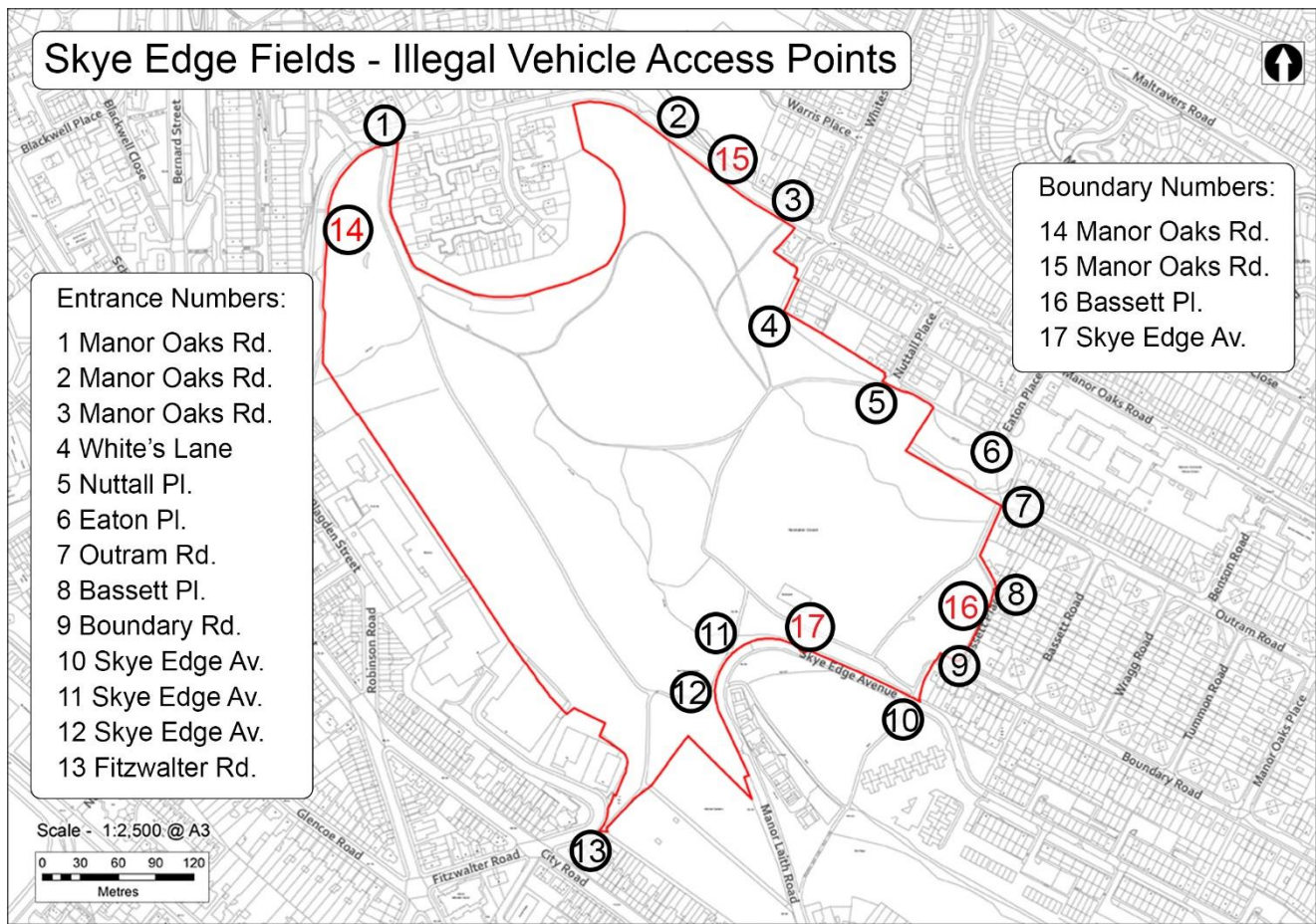
Option	Total	Percent
Strongly disagree	5	5.10%
Disagree	1	1.02%
Neither agree or disagree	19	19.39%
Agree	38	38.78%
Strongly Agree	30	30.61%
Not Answered	5	5.10%

**Eaton Place and White's Lane - This is a good idea for Eaton Place green space**

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly disagree	0	0.00%
Disagree	9	9.18%
Neither agree or disagree	18	18.37%
Agree	37	37.76%
Strongly Agree	18	18.37%
Not Answered	16	16.33%

8: To help us produce designs that will best deter illegal access by vehicles we need to understand which areas are most at risk. Please tell us which areas vehicles use to access the site illegally?





Option	Total	Percent
<b>1 Manor Oaks Rd.</b>	27	27.55%
<b>2 Manor Oaks Rd.</b>	11	11.22%
<b>3 Manor Oaks Rd.</b>	13	13.27%
<b>4 White's Lane</b>	12	12.24%
<b>5 Nuttall Pl.</b>	14	14.29%
<b>6 Eaton Pl.</b>	10	10.20%
<b>7 Outram Rd.</b>	17	17.35%
<b>8 Bassett Pl.</b>	12	12.24%
<b>9 Boundary Rd.</b>	35	35.71%
<b>10 Skye Edge Av.</b>	31	31.63%
<b>11 Skye Edge Av.</b>	26	26.53%
<b>12 Skye Edge Av.</b>	22	22.45%
<b>13 Fitzwalter Rd.</b>	12	12.24%
<b>14 Manor Oaks Rd.</b>	18	18.37%
<b>15 Manor Oaks Rd.</b>	17	17.35%
<b>16 Bassett Pl.</b>	19	19.39%
<b>17 Skye Edge Av.</b>	32	32.65%
<b>None of the above</b>	3	3.06%
<b>Other (please provide details later, on the 'Anything else to share?' page)</b>	7	7.14%

Not Answered	17	17.35%
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### Additional info on vehicles access (and other antisocial behaviour)

- *“Occasional cars and quad bikes but main problem is motor bikes”*
- *“Skye Edge is often used to ride these vehicles which is really off putting and brings the appeal of the area down. At present there is nothing to prevent vehicles entering the fields.”*
- *Entrances near Wybourn Primary School are... “...not in an acceptable state for children walking to and from school.”*
- *“Skye Edge isn’t maintained to the same standard as nearby Cholera Monument Grounds or Norfolk Park”*

9: what are the top three things you feel would be most important for future projects on Skye Edge Fields to include?

Item	Ranking
Young children (5-12 years) play equipment	0.96
Improved lighting	0.91
Walking/Running routes	0.63
'All Wheels' Park (for skate, scoot & BMX)	0.59
Toddler play (1-4 years) equipment	0.55
Refreshments (Café, kiosk or mobile unit)	0.48
Teenage play equipment	0.36
Multi-Use Games Area	0.31
Other (please provide details later, on the 'Anything else to share?' page)	0.30
Toilet facilities	0.22
Information boards on wildlife and heritage	0.22
Picnic Areas	0.13
Youth shelter	0.09
None of the above	0.00

10: Is there anything else you'd like to comment on that may help us with the proposals to improve the entrances, boundaries and paths, make Skye Edge





Fields feel safer and more welcoming, and deter fly tipping and illegal access by vehicles?

- *"I have never used this field because the entrances feel intimidating and make me want to avoid the field even though I leave less 500 metered away. It is not welcoming. If it received the investment I would use it regularly for exercise and for my children to play and use it."*
- *"...had no idea how nice it was on top of the hill for years because I was too scared to venture off the paths"*
- *"I've stopped taking my dog and child as it's full of glass, fires and motorbikes etc."*
- *"It is a place with huge potential. The views are wonderful, but the area isn't safe for families"*
- *"it can be a bleak and intimidating place to go"*
- *"The Fields are beautiful but very underutilised"*

Fly tipping is mentioned 22 times:

- *"flytipped rubbish is everywhere and youths on motorbikes dominate the environment"*

Litter and Rubbish are mentioned 28 times:

- *"I am put off from visiting by the amount of rubbish/flytipping there often is."*
- *Provide..."More litter/recycling bins and regular collections."*

Fires and burning are mentioned 8 times:

- *"Remove the burned out shelter - it adds nothing except to degrade the area"*

Cameras and CCTV are mentioned 12 times:

- *"CCTV installation might be a good deterrent to vandals/anti-social behaviour"*

Lighting is mentioned 12 times:

- *"Most important things would be to increase lighting"*



- *“Lighting on the paths would ... be beneficial”*

Areas to have picnics were mentioned 7 times:

- *“it could become a wonderful place to walk or take a picnic.”*

Seating and benches were mentioned 10 times:

- *“benches around the area would be great for the space, and it would mean that myself and my young family would be able to enjoy the walks and nature.”*

Play was mentioned 18 times:

- *“The estate I live on is full of children yet we cant take our children to our nearest field due to there been absolutely nothing for them to do on it. We have to go on busses and spend money”*
- *“there are lots of children in the area who have no park within walking distance so are just playing out on the roads which is dangerous”*
- *“The area, is lacking in activities for teenagers / youths”*

Hope for the future:

- *“Viewing points over the town centre would be a welcome addition.”*
- *“More people using it will make it feel more welcoming”*
- *“Appearances and perception are important to attract people to the site.”*
- *“Really hope it flourishes into a lovely place:)”*
- *“Skye Edge Fields has so much potential and with the right actions can become a really useful and valuable resource”*

## 14: Gender

Option	Total	Percent
Male	32	32.65%
Female	60	61.22%
Other	1	1.02%



Not Answered	5	5.10%
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## 16: Age

Option	Total	Percent
Under 16	1	1.02%
16-18	0	0.00%
19-24	2	2.04%
25-34	28	28.57%
35-44	35	35.71%
45-54	12	12.24%
55-64	9	9.18%
65+	4	4.08%
Not Answered	7	7.14%

## 17: Ethnicity

Option	Total	Percent
English/Welsh/Scottish/British/Northern Irish	72	73.47%
Irish	1	1.02%
Gypsy/Irish Traveller	0	0.00%
Roma	0	0.00%
Other White background	5	5.10%
Indian	1	1.02%
Pakistani	0	0.00%
Bangladeshi	0	0.00%
Chinese	3	3.06%
Other Asian background	1	1.02%
Caribbean	2	2.04%
Somali	1	1.02%
Other African	0	0.00%
Other Black background	0	0.00%
Yemeni	0	0.00%



<b>Other Arab</b>	0	0.00%
<b>White and Black Caribbean</b>	3	3.06%
<b>White and Black African</b>	0	0.00%
<b>White and Asian</b>	0	0.00%
<b>Other Mixed background</b>	0	0.00%

- Keep in touch with the Parks and Countryside Service

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