

Review of Trails and Routes

3 questions for LAF members
25th September 2008

The logo for Natural England, featuring the words "NATURAL ENGLAND" in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a bright yellow rectangular background.

NATURAL
ENGLAND



Trails and routes are...

- ***Mainly traffic-free routes for walking, cycling or horse riding that typically:***
 - ***have a name***
 - ***can be enjoyed over a series of days as well as for short trips***
 - ***are promoted as an attraction to visitors as well as local people.***

***so ‘strategic’ recreational routes’: national or regional
not small local routes & not the entire Rights of Way network***

Review Aim & Context

To identify a sustainable, customer focused and prosperous future for 'strategic recreation routes', including National Trails, and to define Natural England's role in relation to them.

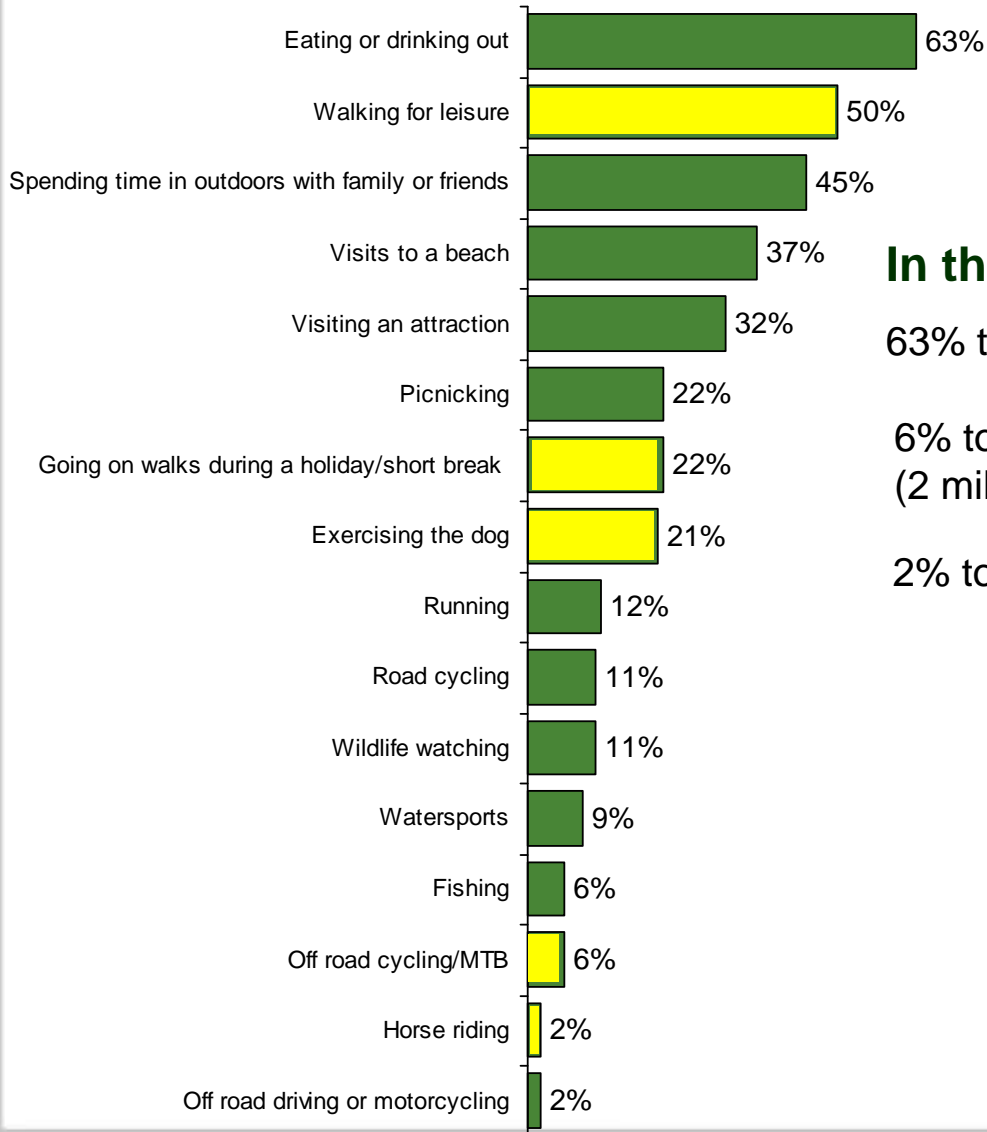
- **Health agenda with focus on physical activity and obesity**
- **Development of rural tourism to support communities & environment**
- **Coastal Access will be a National Trail plus spreading room**
- **Long tradition of national agencies developing and funding National Trails**
- **Other 'strategic recreational routes' devised locally and regionally**
- **Difficult financial times for everyone**



Themes

- **Users**: What is the experience people seek? Levels of awareness? how many users and who are they?? potential new users? What would encourage people to use them more?
- Are National Trails **any different** to the other strategic recreational routes?
- **Management & funding** - how can we do things better?, what are the options? what are their implications and consequences for users and stakeholders?

Leisure participation amongst adult population



In the 12 months prior to the survey:

63% took part in leisure walking (26 million).

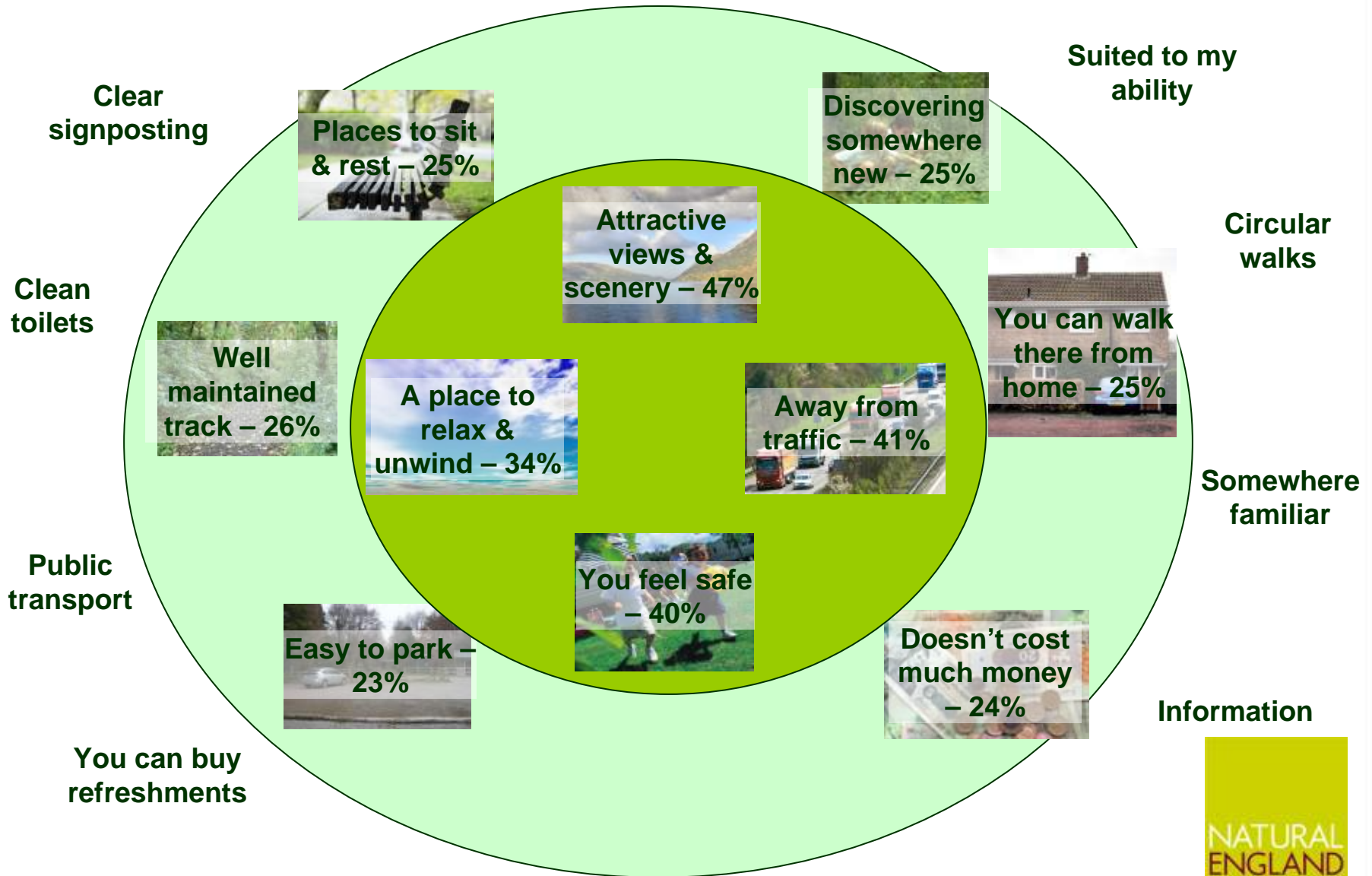
6% took part in off-road mountain biking or cycling (2 million)

2% took part in horse riding (1 million)

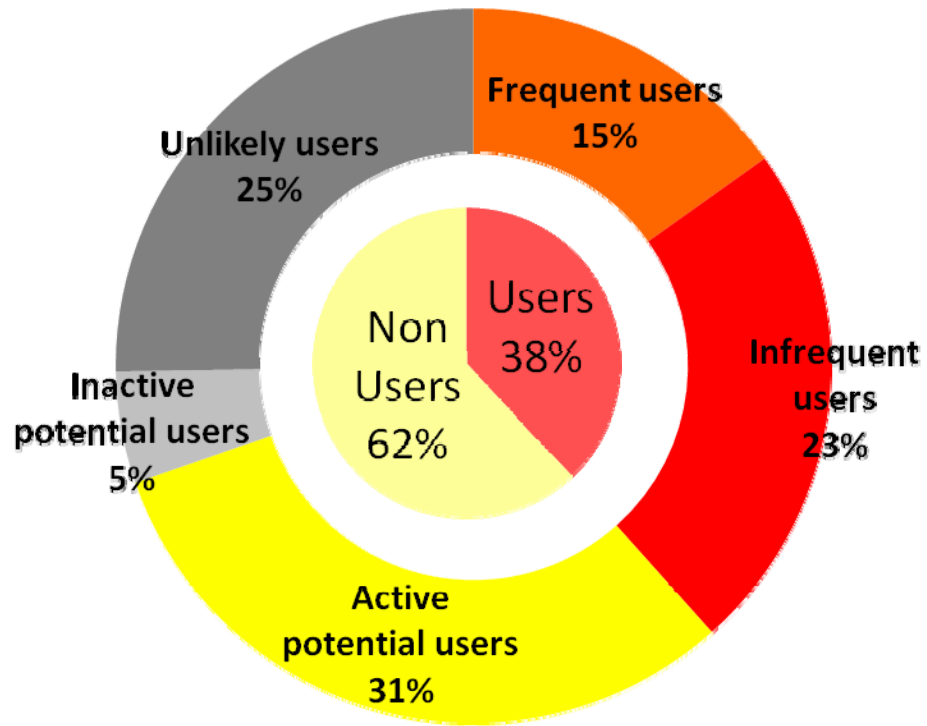
Base: All respondents (1,787)



Choosing a place to walk – important factors



Trails and routes: users and potential users





Increasing the use of Trails and Routes

Main reasons for not using routes more often...



What would make people more likely to use routes in future...

	<u>Users (38%)</u>	<u>Non-users (62%)</u>
 <p>Increasing local use</p>	<p>Something - 65%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve path conditions More parking on paths More printed information More circular routes Better signposting 	<p>Something - 42%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More printed information Better signposting Good places to eat & drink Better choice of routes in local area
 <p>Increasing use outside of local area</p>	<p>Something - 51%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More routes connecting interesting places More printed and on-line information about routes and accommodation 	<p>Something - 31%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More routes connecting interesting places More printed and on-line information about routes and accommodation

Your feedback

- How can we encourage more people to use trails and routes?
- How can we ensure greater effectiveness for all our investments?
- What changes would you like to see in Natural England's role and why?