



# Joint Local Access Forum (JLAF)

for Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire

## **Briefing for the JLAF on the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) Report – from Rennie Dickins, Public Rights of Way Team Leader in South Gloucestershire. November 2010.**

Below is a link to some research into use of the 'natural environment'. There are many graphs and statistics and it is unprecedented research on behalf of Natural England, Defra and the Forestry Commission. The research included interviews with 48,514 people during 2009-10. This large sample size provided the opportunity to analyse the results nationally and also locally, and also for key groups within the population such as specific age groups, members of ethnic minorities and differences between residents of rural and urban areas.

The research was born out of the Diversity Review undertaken by the Countryside Agency / Natural England.

Natural England, Defra and the Forestry Commission commissioned a new survey called Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) to provide baseline and trend data on how people use the natural environment in England. The annual report presents the main findings from the first year of the survey.

### **Background**

Although there is a growing evidence base about the benefits that people derive from contact with the natural environment, there is a lack of information about how and why people currently engage with the natural environment. In the past, a series of surveys have been carried out by Government and its partners to track participation in leisure day visits. The Leisure Day Visits Survey Series ( ELVIS , undertaken in 1994, 1996, 1998, 2002/03 and 2005) collected information on the extent of participation in leisure day visits and provided estimates of the volume of visits. Whilst these surveys included 'days out' in the countryside, they did not provide up to date and robust information on people's day to day use and enjoyment of the natural environment. Natural England, Defra and the Forestry Commission therefore commissioned TNS Research International to undertake this survey.

The survey was commissioned in order to:

- Understand how people use, enjoy and are motivated to protect the natural environment.
- Provide data that monitors changes in use and enjoyment of the natural environment over time at a range of different spatial scales and for key groups within the population.

The Natural England Project Manager is Ben Nichols. [Ben.Nichols@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Ben.Nichols@naturalengland.org.uk)

The research can be found at:

<http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/NECR049>

 Printed on Recycled Paper

---

**The JLAF is a statutory body established by the three councils shown below, to provide advice as to the improvement of public access to land in the area of Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area. Its views do not necessarily represent those of the three councils.**

**Bath & North East  
Somerset Council**



**South Gloucestershire  
Council**