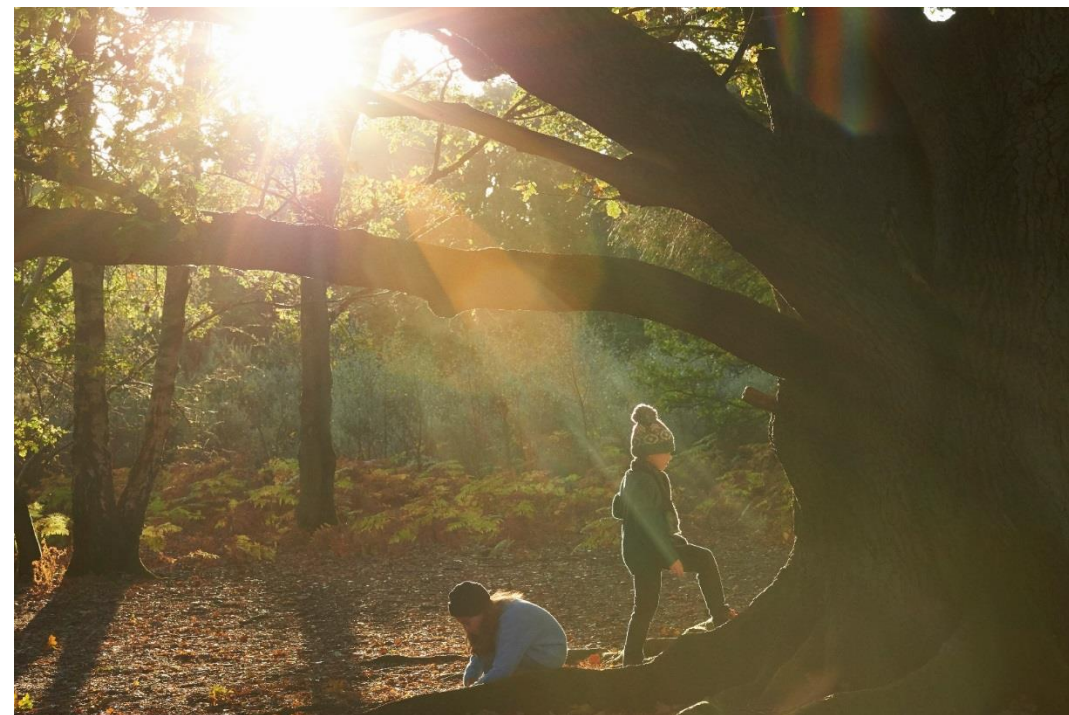


# Nature for all – using the evidence to support an equitable green recovery

**CIEEM 2020 Annual Conference 02.12.20**

Dr Cheryl Willis, Principal Adviser,  
Connecting People with Nature Programme  
Dr Beth Brockett, Senior Specialist Social Science





# The People & Nature Survey

for England

*...the world's largest survey of people's interaction with outdoor green spaces*



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

**KANTAR**

**Welcome to the People and Nature User Hub.** This page provides information about the People and Nature survey and a number of resources which are available for you to access and use.

# Overall summary of methodology

## Data Collection Method

Online survey using Kantar global online panel

c. 120k panellists in the UK

Supplemented by approved panel partners.

Total c. 1million panellists



25k adults per year in England

Representative of adult population

Allows for robust analysis by demographic/geographic sub-groups

## Questionnaire

c. 11 minute questionnaire

Online

‘Modular’ approach



Data to be calibrated to enable comparison with Monitor of Engagement with Natural Environment survey (2009-19)





Pouso et al., 2020. Maintaining contact with blue-green spaces during the COVID-19 pandemic associated with positive mental health <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/gpt3r/>



**35%** of adults had **not** visited a natural space in the last 14 days.

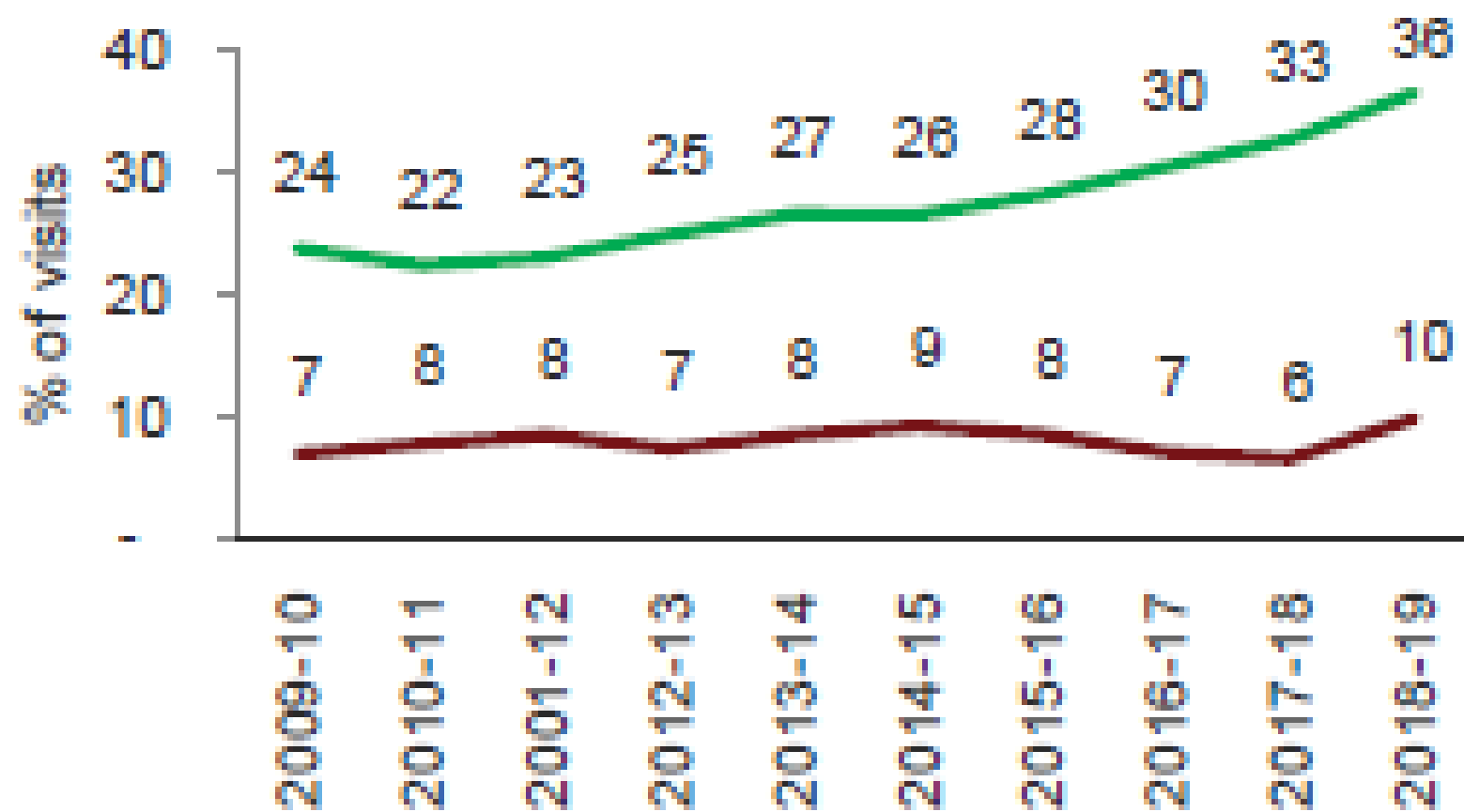
**74%** of adults have taken more time to notice and engage with everyday nature.

**31%** of adults increased the amount of time spent exercising outside.

**40%** of adults had increased the amount of time spent outside.

**Since COVID-19 restrictions were introduced, over April to June:**

The People and Nature Survey For England

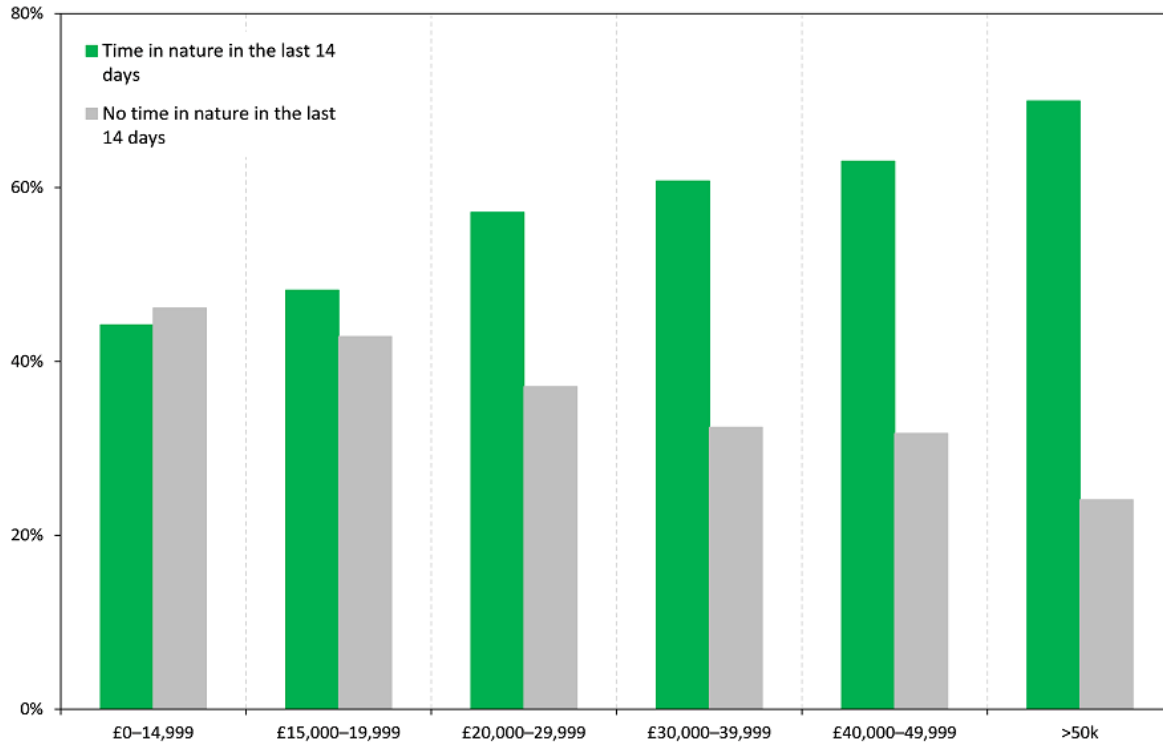


— Park in a town or city

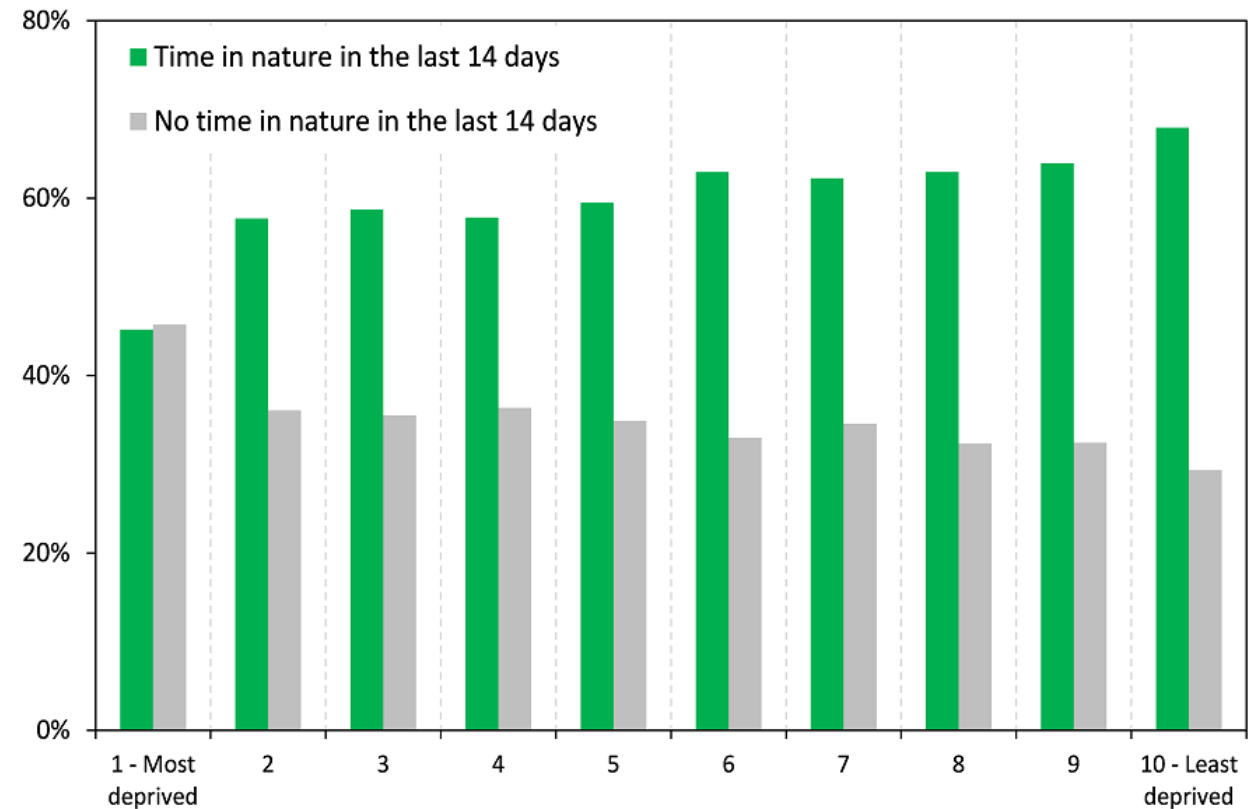
— Playing field or other recreation area

■ Time in nature in the last 14 days

■ No time in nature in the last 14 days

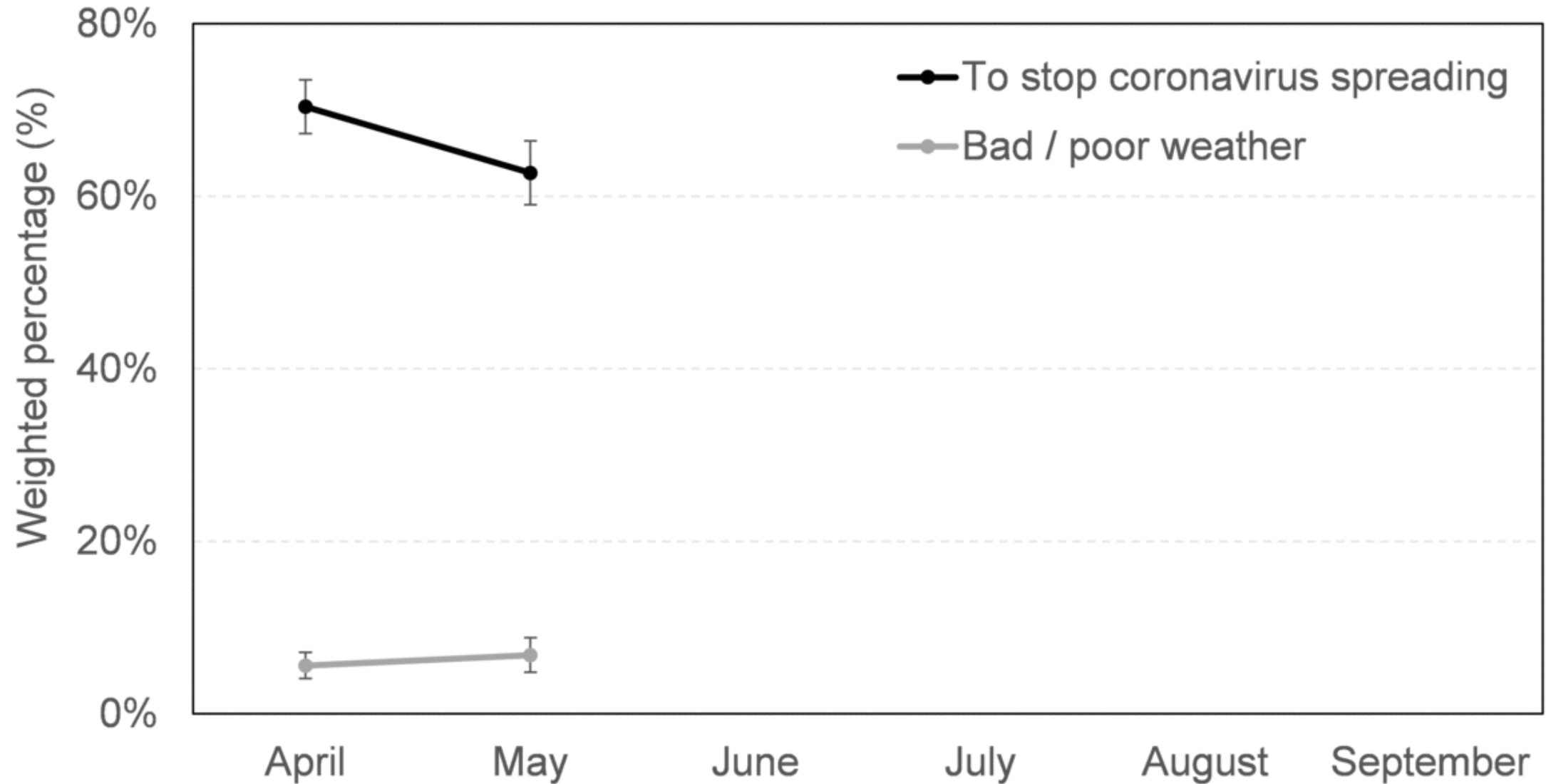


Increasing household income



Decreasing deprivation (IMD)

# Reasons for not spending time outdoors in the last 14 days, April 2020 to September 2020





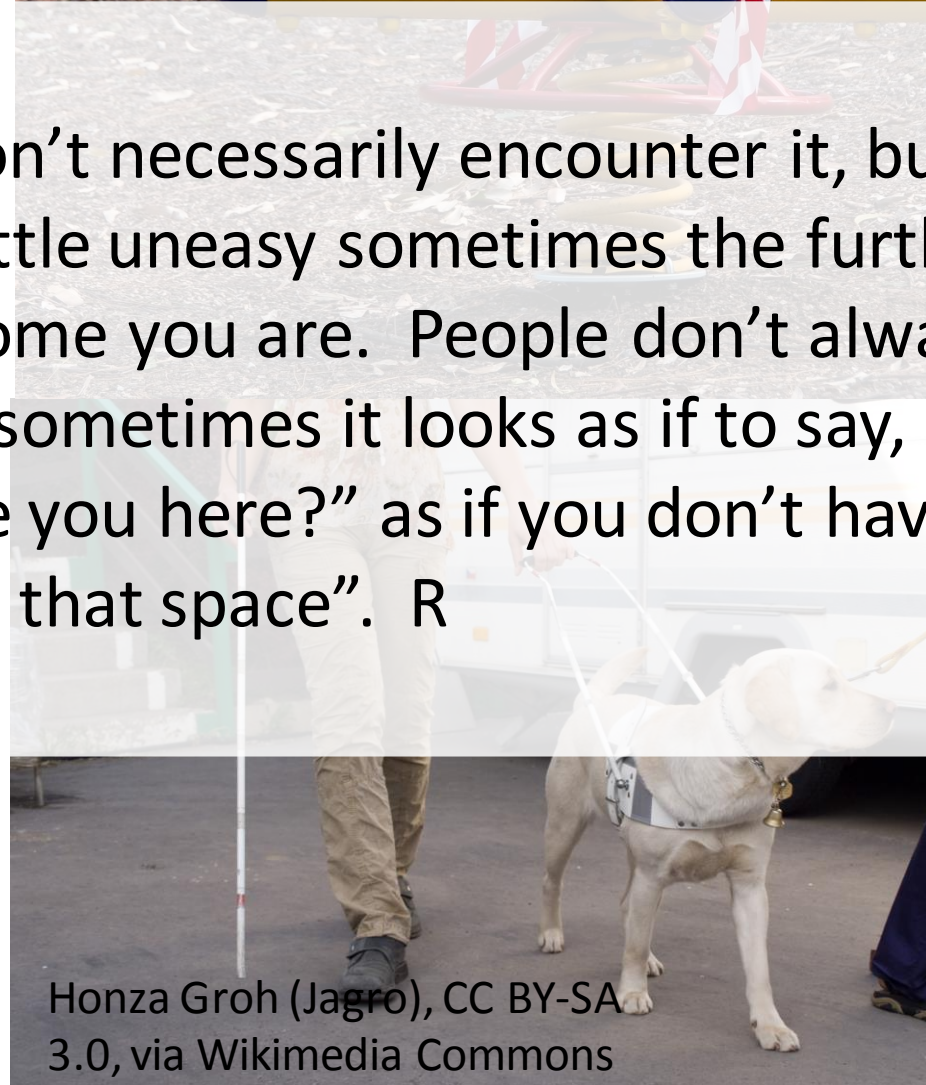
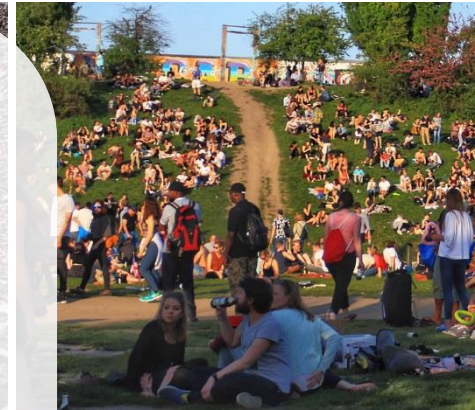


Leverhulme Centre for

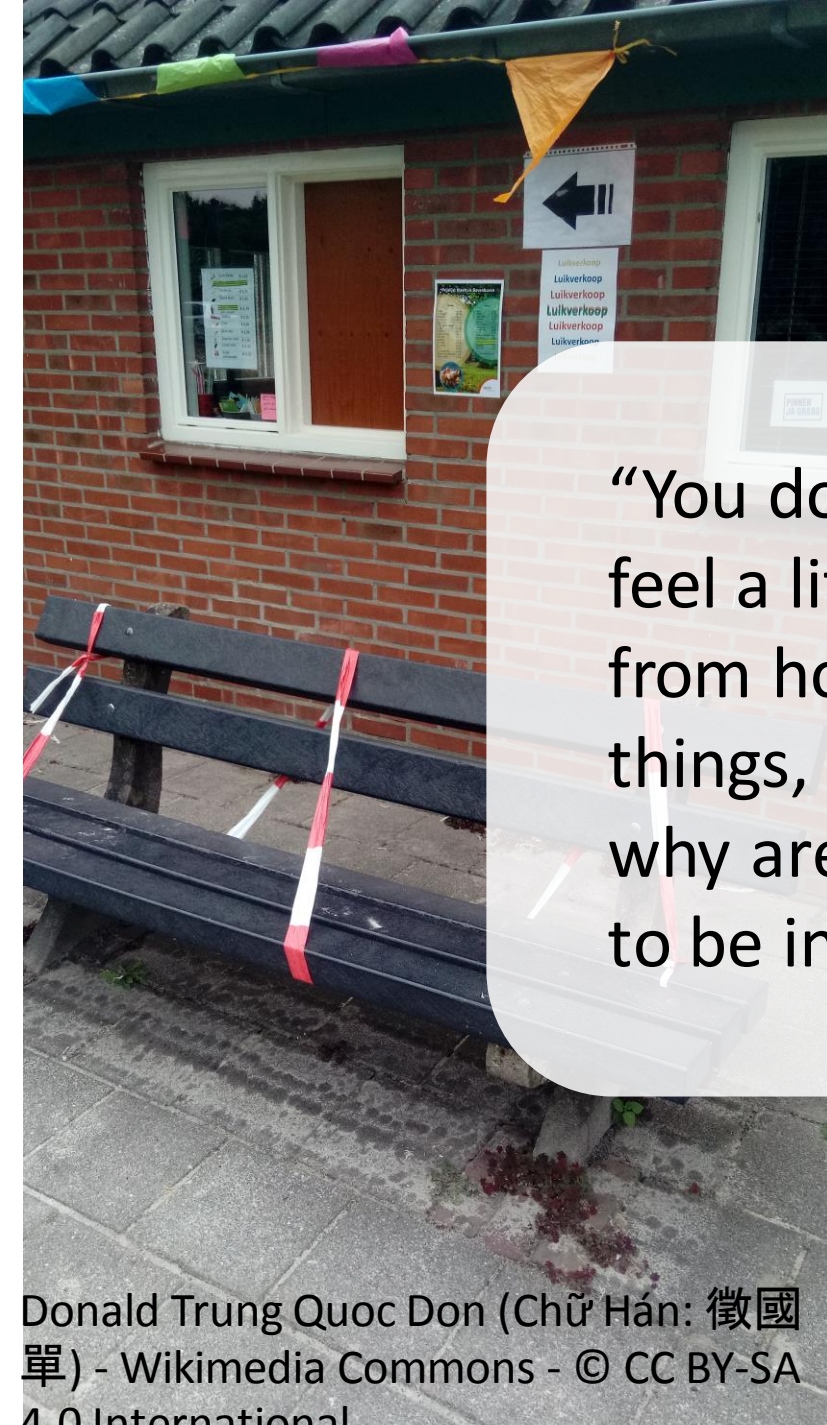
**ANTHROPOCENE  
BIODIVERSITY**

Caroline.ward@york.ac.uk

“You don’t necessarily encounter it, but you feel a little uneasy sometimes the further away from home you are. People don’t always say things, sometimes it looks as if to say, “Hmm, why are you here?” as if you don’t have a right to be in that space”. R



Honza Groh (Jagro), CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Donald Trung Quoc Don (Chữ Hán: 徵國單) - Wikimedia Commons - © CC BY-SA 4.0 International.





**46%** of adults  
believe their  
child seems  
happier when  
they have spent  
time outside.

**The People and Nature Survey  
for England**



# Children's connection with nature during CV-19





1. A growing body of scientific evidence suggests that engagement with the natural environment can have a range of psychological and physical health benefits
2. For children, this is even more important to support positive physical, social, cognitive and behavioural outcomes
3. Reducing risks of obesity, depression and boosting mood and concentration

- Some data about children's engagement with nature is captured through the People & Nature core adult survey. However, this does not ask children directly about their experiences
- On-line survey conducted continuously between 6th-18th August 2020 (inclusive)
- 1,501 children and young people took part (8-15 years old)



# Results from a new Natural England survey of children aged 8-15 across England

NATURAL  
ENGLAND

## Children's connection to nature during COVID-19

The People and Nature Survey

60%

of children spent less time outdoors since the start of coronavirus.

25%

of children spent more time outside.

14%

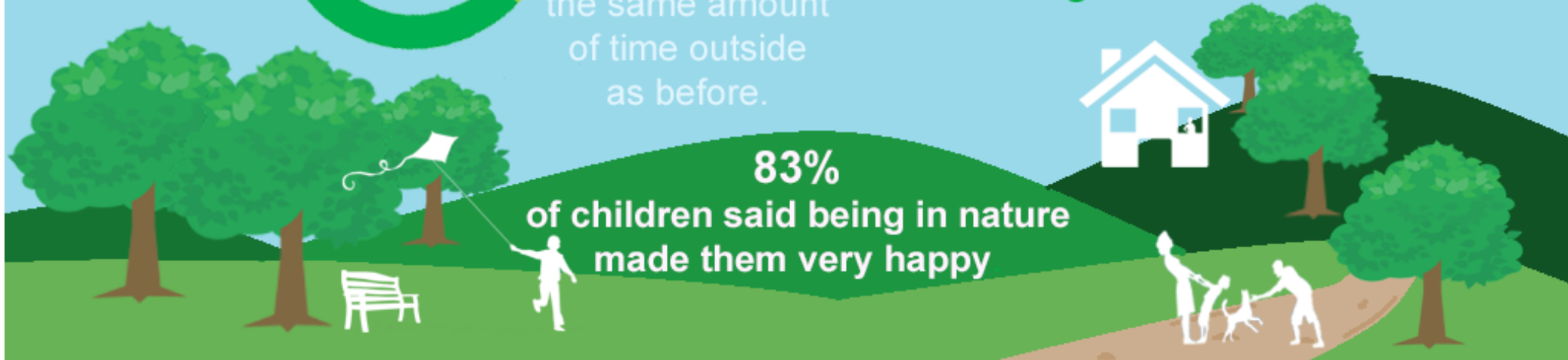
of children spent the same amount of time outside as before.

73%

of children from **lower** income households spent less time outside compared to **57%** of children from **higher** income households

83%

of children said being in nature made them very happy





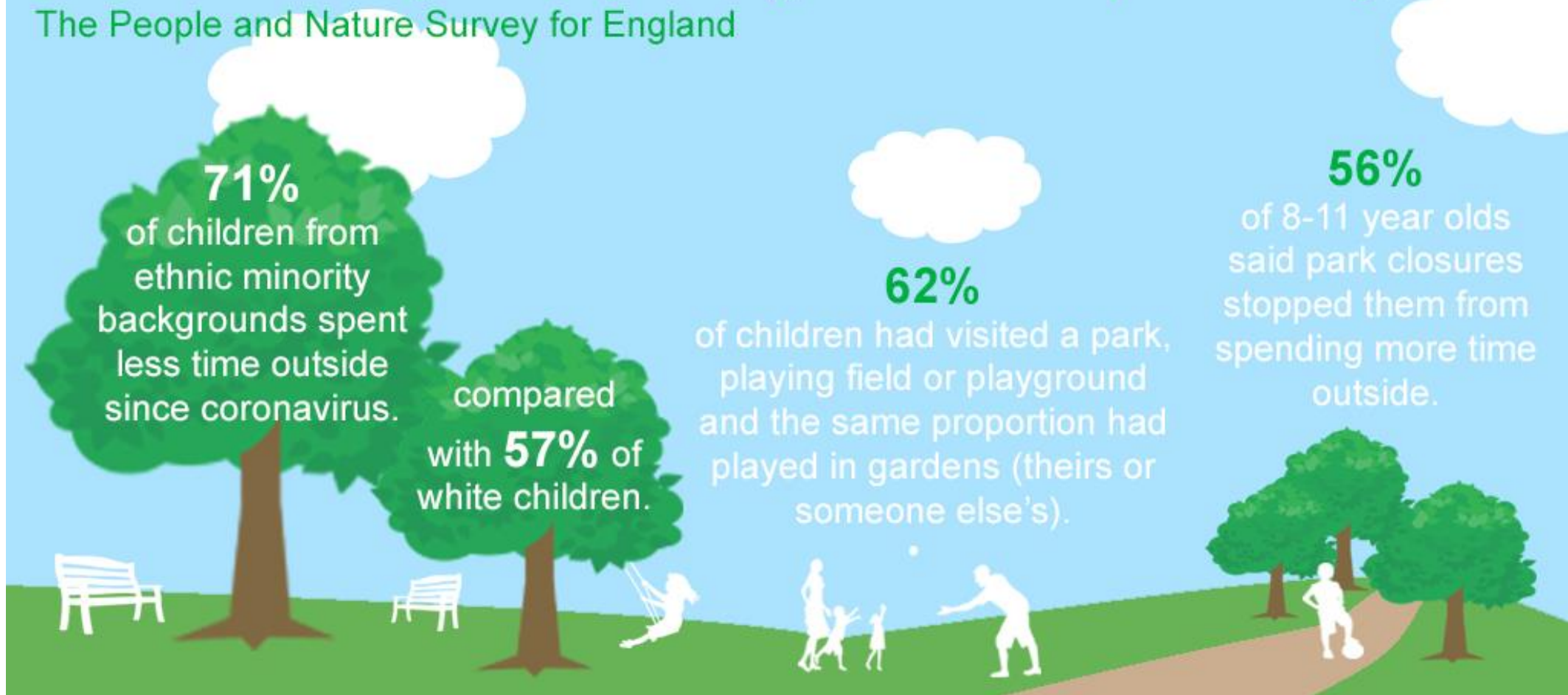
## Most children reported spending time in local parks and gardens.

The People and Nature Survey for England

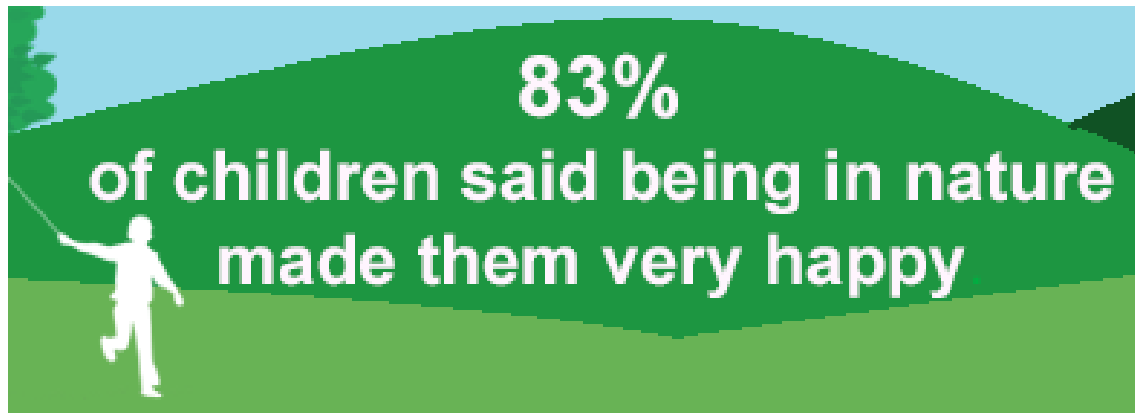
**71%**  
of children from ethnic minority backgrounds spent less time outside since coronavirus.  
compared with **57%** of white children.

**62%**  
of children had visited a park, playing field or playground and the same proportion had played in gardens (theirs or someone else's).

**56%**  
of 8-11 year olds said park closures stopped them from spending more time outside.



# The role of nature in supporting children's well-being



*“Children are telling us just how important time in nature is to their happiness and this backs up a strong weight of scientific evidence showing how essential nature is to all of our physical health and our mental wellbeing”*

(Marian Spain, Chief Executive of Natural England)

## Working to address inequalities



- Addressing these inequalities must be a central part of green recovery and Natural England is committed to making that happen.
- Our work on Green Infrastructure will help to ensure increased amounts of nature-rich places close to where children live as part of a thriving nature recovery network
- £10 million joint DfE, Natural England and Defra 'children and nature programme' is helping to improve access to and opportunities in the natural environment, particularly for children from disadvantaged backgrounds
- We will continue to work closely with partners to strengthen our efforts towards a natural environment that truly is for everyone.





For more information...



PANS User Hub (includes links to Children's Survey and all Adult Survey outputs)

<https://people-and-nature-survey-defra.hub.arcgis.com/>

Contact the PANS Team

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Thank you for listening.

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