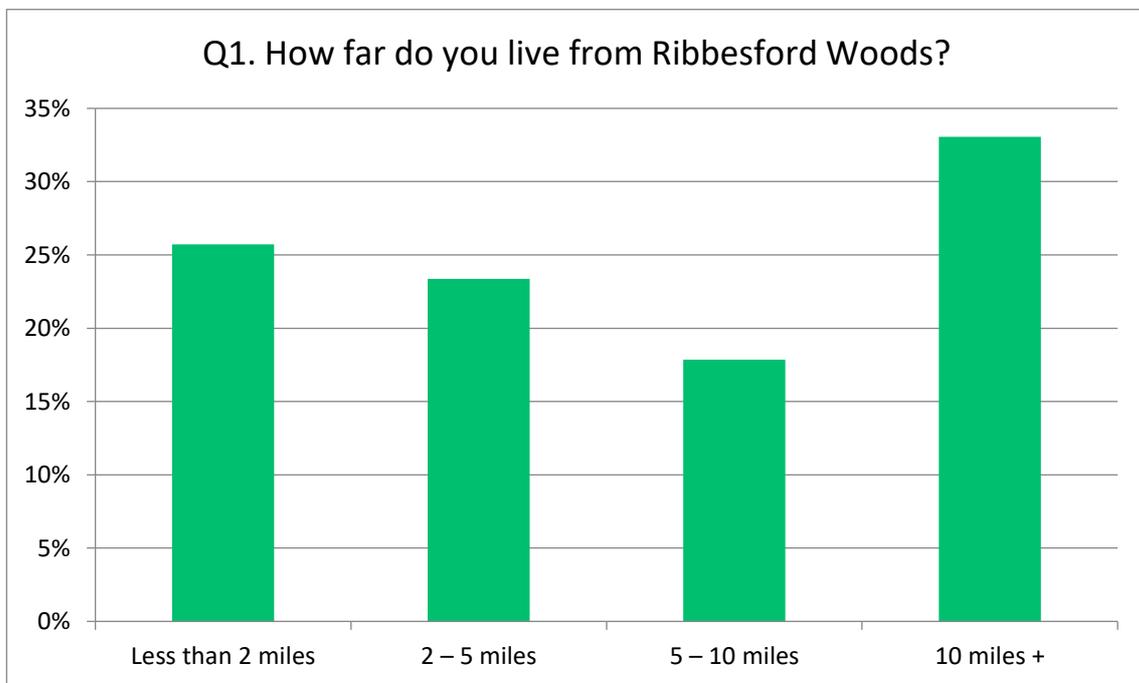
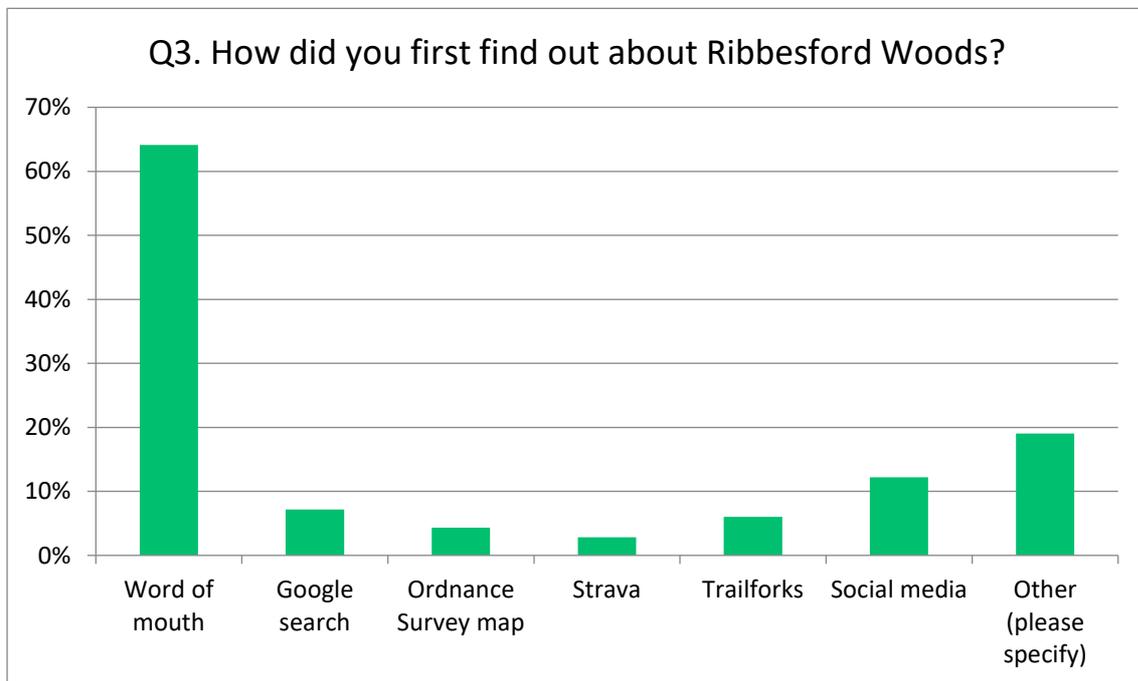
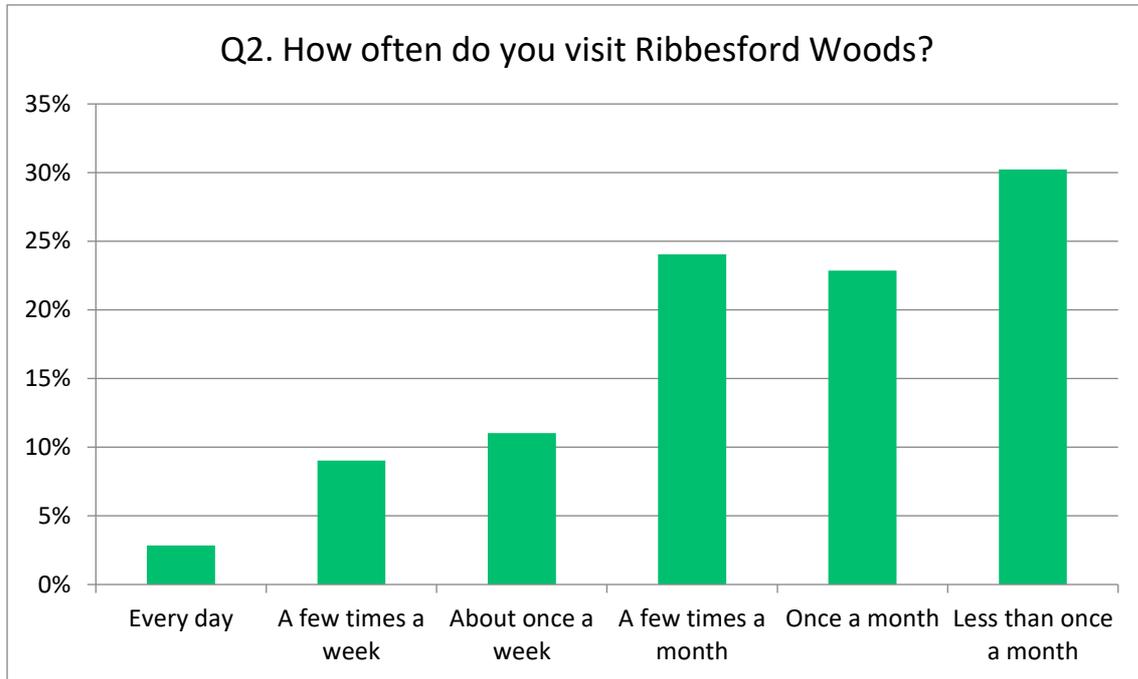


# Ribbesford Woods User Survey Results

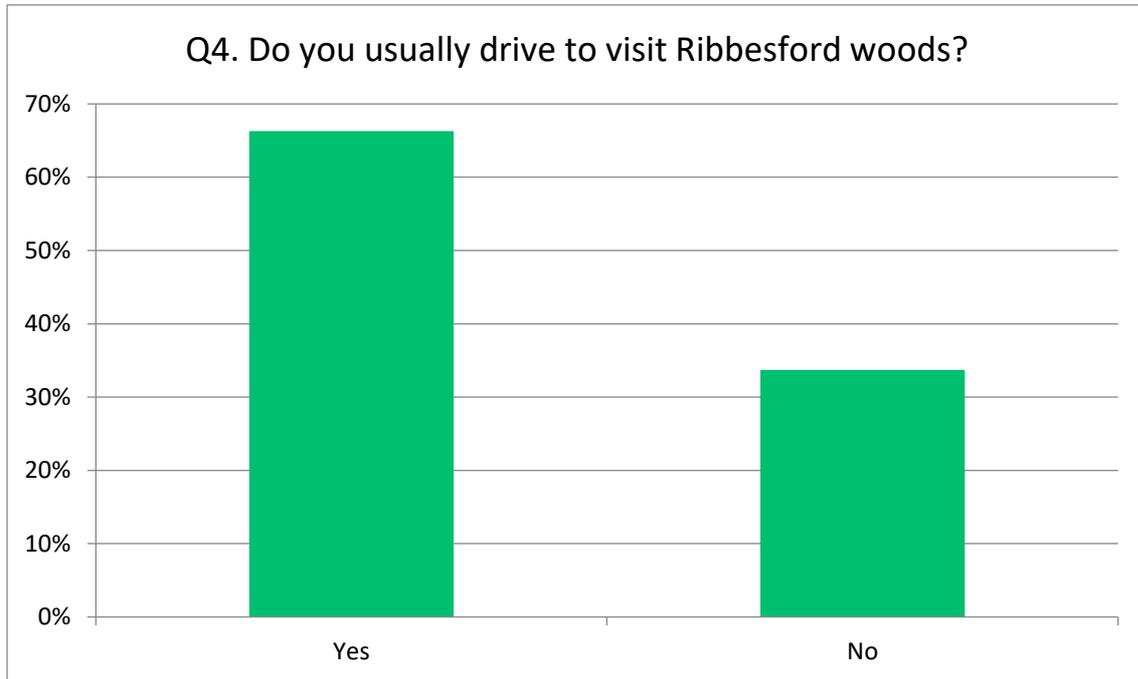
An online survey was launched on 22 February to gain a better understanding of how and why people visit Ribbesford Woods. It was shared on Facebook in groups including Ribbesford Bike Park, Wyre MTB trails and This is Bewdley. It was also advertised via posters on-site. The survey ran for 2 weeks closing on 7 March. During this time 599 people took part and the results are outlined in this report.





114 people commented “other”. Most popular comments included:

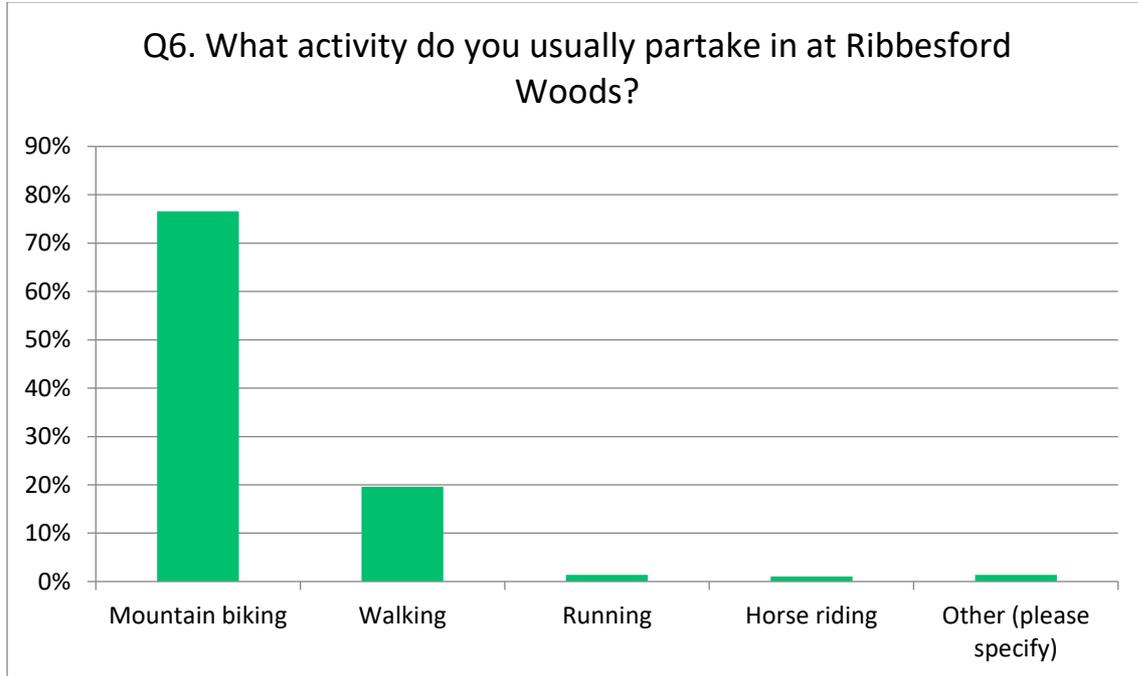
- Live locally
- Always known about it/have been visiting for a long time
- Found it whilst driving past/out walking
- Part of trail building team



**Q5. If yes, where do you usually park? (357 responses)**

The most popular comments included:

- On the verge/lay-by/roadside at top of woods (248)
- Bewdley
- Football club
- Blackstone car park
- At a friend's house
- Switchback
- Wyre Forest car park
- By the river
- Church
- Used to park at caravan park
- Bottom of the hill
- Down the road towards Bewdley
- Stables
- In villages further up
- Down the lane by the bridge
- Gospel Oak
- Get dropped off
- Bewdley Leisure Centre
- Kinver
- By the pub



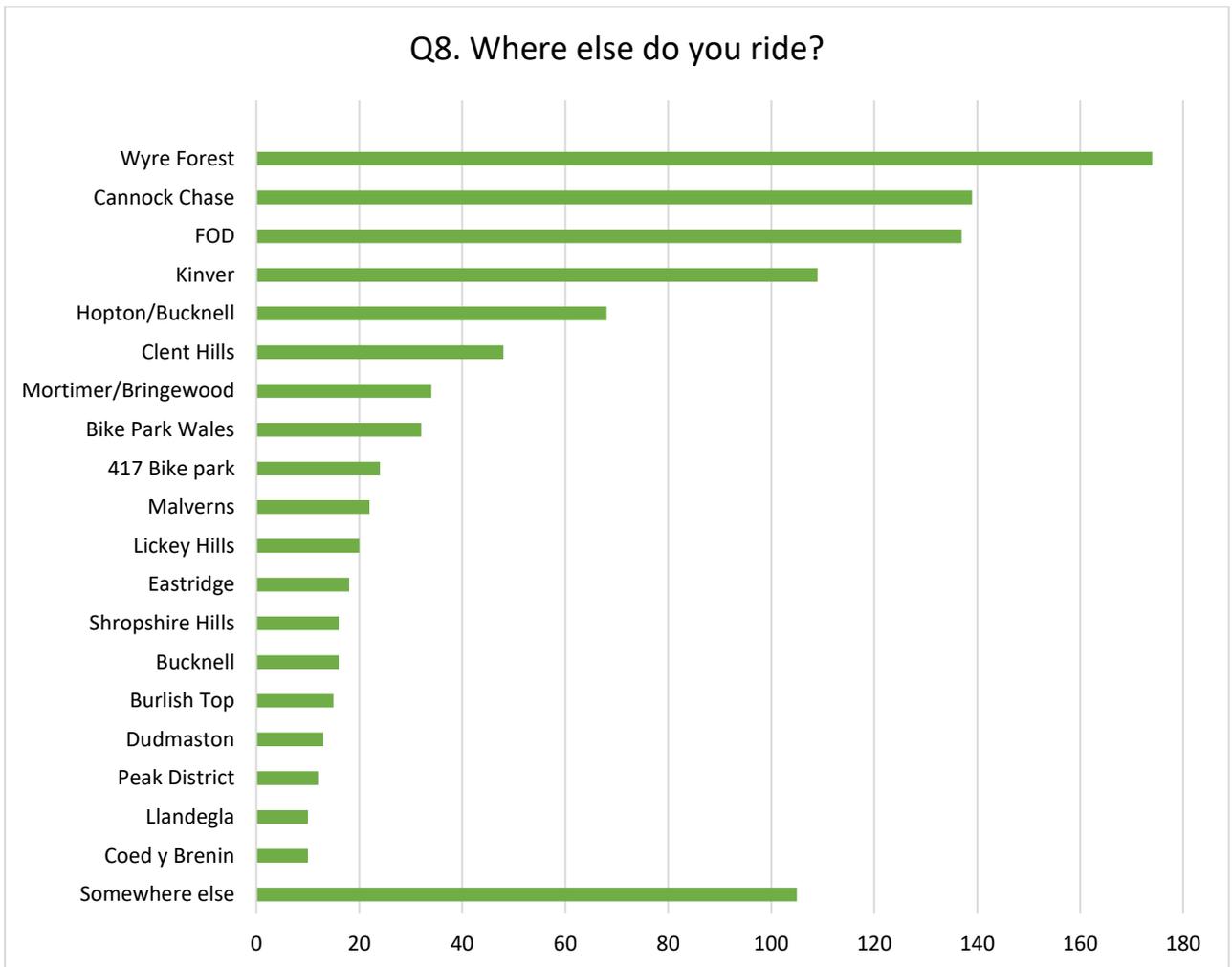
**Q7 - Q10 were only available to those that answered mountain biking to Q6.**

**Q7. Why do you choose to ride at Ribbesford Bike Park?**

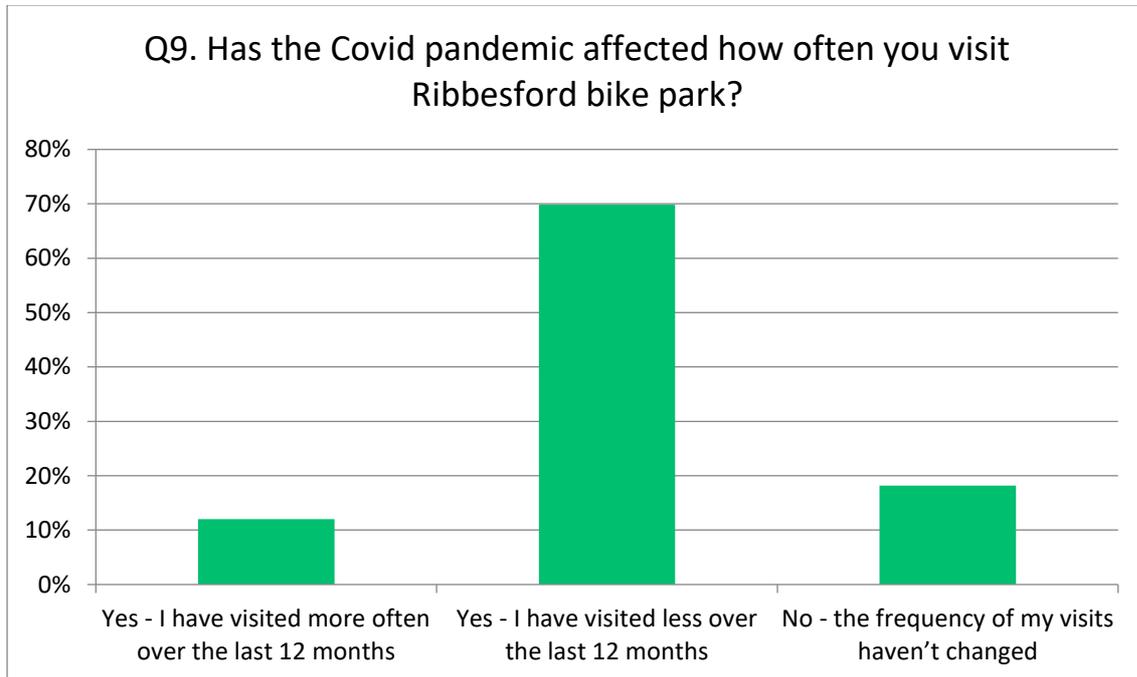
420 responses were given, the most popular recurring themes are summarised in the table below:

Reason	Number of people	Comments
<b>The trails</b>	176	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical</li> <li>• Challenging</li> <li>• No conflicts with other users</li> <li>• Mixed ability routes</li> <li>• One trail head</li> <li>• Short climb</li> <li>• Variety</li> <li>• Progressive features</li> </ul>
<b>Location</b>	158	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close to home</li> <li>• Live locally</li> <li>• Easy access</li> <li>• Convenient</li> </ul>
<b>Fun</b>	51	

<b>People</b>	48	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet up with friends</li> <li>• Nice riding community</li> <li>• Friendly atmosphere</li> </ul>
<b>Lack of facilities elsewhere</b>	43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only trail centre in the area</li> <li>• Nothing else in West Midlands / Worcester / Birmingham</li> </ul>



Other responses included: Long Mynd, Ludlow, Revolution Bike Park, Black Mountains, Wrekin, Dyfi Forest, Woburn, Baggeridge Country Park, Lake District among others.



#### Q10. Do you have any other comments?

234 people left a response. The main themes are summarised below:

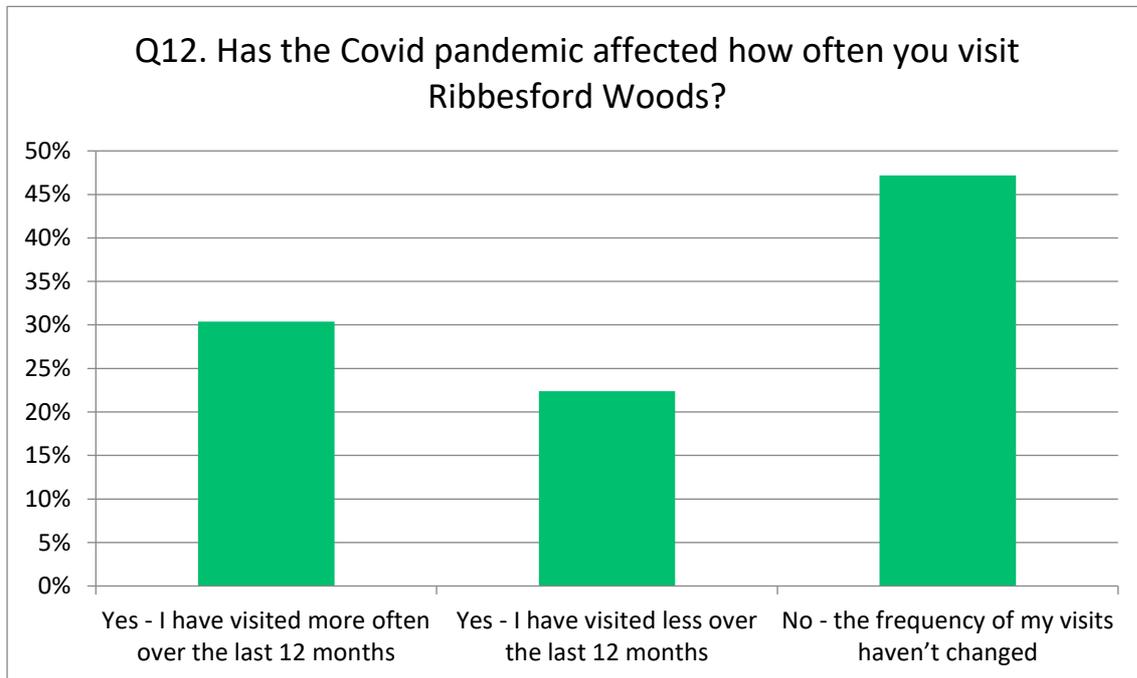
- Don't close the bike park
  - Other places will get busier
  - People will ride illegally elsewhere
  - Nowhere else locally to ride
  - Benefits of Ribbesford
- Parking is a problem
  - Suggestions were made for parking elsewhere, all of which have been investigated by Forestry England and deemed not suitable.
- Complaints about litter
- Trails need maintenance/investment
- FE need to support volunteers/I would like to volunteer
- I would be willing to pay an entry fee / car parking fee
- Problems are not only caused by MTBers - walkers use the woods too
- Better signage is needed
- Residents chose to buy their property next to a busy wood

## Q11 - 13 were only available to those who said they did an activity other than MTB

### Q11. Why do you choose to visit Ribbesford Woods?

122 responses were given, the most popular recurring themes are summarised in the table below:

Reason	Number of people	Comments
Location	58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local</li> <li>• It's near my home</li> </ul>
Quiet	35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less crowded</li> <li>• Relaxing</li> <li>• Peaceful</li> <li>• Many people mentioned "it used to be quiet"</li> </ul>
Woodland scenery	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's a nice place</li> <li>• Enjoy being in nature</li> <li>• Pretty</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Nice views</li> </ul>
Good walking paths/horse riding trails	18	



### Q13. Do you have any other comments?

65 people left a response. The main themes are summarised below:

- Complaints about cyclists
  - I feel unsafe in the woods
  - Near collisions
  - No respect for other woodland users
  - Walkers/horse riders feel intimidated/unwelcome in woods
- Parking is a problem
- Anti-social behaviour has increased
  - Foul language
  - Urinating
  - Verbal abuse
- Complaints about litter
- Complaints about dogs
  - Uncontrolled/vicious dogs
  - Increase in dog poo
- Local residents do not want to see a car park built