

The Social Aspects of Wild Boar in the Forest Of Dean

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**University
of Worcester**

The Social Aspects of Wild Boar in the Forest Of Dean

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Acknowledgements

The presence of wild boar in the Forest of Dean frequently causes highly polarised, conflicting and emotive opinions and attitudes. As a result it seems wise to treat all those who have assisted with the gathering and collation of the data within this report as confidential. However, we thank them for all their time and assistance.

We also thank all those who completed the questionnaire, either on-line, by post or at one of the discussion workshops. We thank too all those who willingly took the time to answer our interview questions. The resulting information and data has been invaluable in providing a better understanding of the impact of boar on residents in the Forest of Dean.

Abbreviations and Definitions

Defra - Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs

Rooted - area of ground/vegetation dug-over by boar (using their snouts), see rooting (below)

Rooting - activity of boar during foraging. Normally seen as the loosening/turning-over of the top 5-15cm of turf. The most identifiable and obvious sign of boar presence and activity

Sounder - Group of wild boar, consisting of one or more (related) females and offspring. At breeding periods includes a single male.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 A Brief History of Boar in Britain

Wild boar *Sus scrofa* are native to the British Isles, being present after the last ice age and prior to the closure of the land bridge with the continent approximately 9,000 years BP (Yalden 1999). Yalden (1999) estimated that in the Mesolithic period there may have been up to 1 million wild boar in Britain. Boar were recorded as being plentiful in the forest of Dean during the 12th and 13th Century, only being hunted by nobility (Hart 2005). No records exist of population numbers but the population was sufficiently large to withstand 512 boar being despatched to Royal households during the 12th Century (Hart 2005).

The last free-living wild boar in Britain were extirpated approximately 700 years ago. The location of the last 'genuine' wild boar is not clear, Rackham (1986, 1980) suggests the Forest of Dean, along with the Forest of Pickering as the last refuges. In the Forest of Dean records exist showing King Henry III ordering 200 wild boar for Christmas dinner in 1251, with a further dozen being ordered in 1260. In 1282 records show that no boar could be found in the Forest of Dean for the King's table (Hart 2005).

As boar were an important species for hunting there are historical records of a number of attempts at re-establishing them within hunting preserves and parks. Wild boar farms were even present in the 17th Century (Goulding, *et al.* 2008; Yalden 1999). This has led to confusion as to the date of their ultimate disappearance. However, it is generally accepted that free-living boar were absent from the UK wild from the end of the 16th Century (Goulding, *et al.* 2008; Yalden 1999).

An increase in wild boar farming in the 1980's as a result of farm diversification lies at the heart of this species re-emergence within the UK.

1.2 Re-emergence of Boar in the UK

The principle 'sources' of emerging free-living wild boar populations are from:

- 1 animals escaping from wild boar farms due to storm-damaged fences;
- 2 illegal 'liberations' of farmed boar;
- 3 *dumps* of farmed animals (i.e. of bankrupt stock).

By 1998 there were viable populations of free-living wild boar back in the British countryside (Goulding *et al.* 2003; Defra 2005). Re-emerged populations have appeared in numerous locations; however most of these have been temporary (Wilson 2014). The two best known locations are on the Kent/Sussex boarder

and Forest of Dean (Wilson 2014; Defra 2008, 2005). There is also at least one population in Scotland. Defra (2008) estimated the total population of free-living wild boar in the UK to be just under 1,000.

1.3 Re-emergence of Boar in the Forest of Dean

Escapees in the Forest of Dean did not appear until 1999. The first was of 15 animals at Chase and Penyard, near Ross-on-Wye, in December 1999 (Figure 1.1)(Defra 2005; Wilson 2004). Further animals were illegally dumped at Staunton in November 2004 (Figure 1.1). This was reported as 40 animals by Defra (2008) but actually involved 60 individuals.

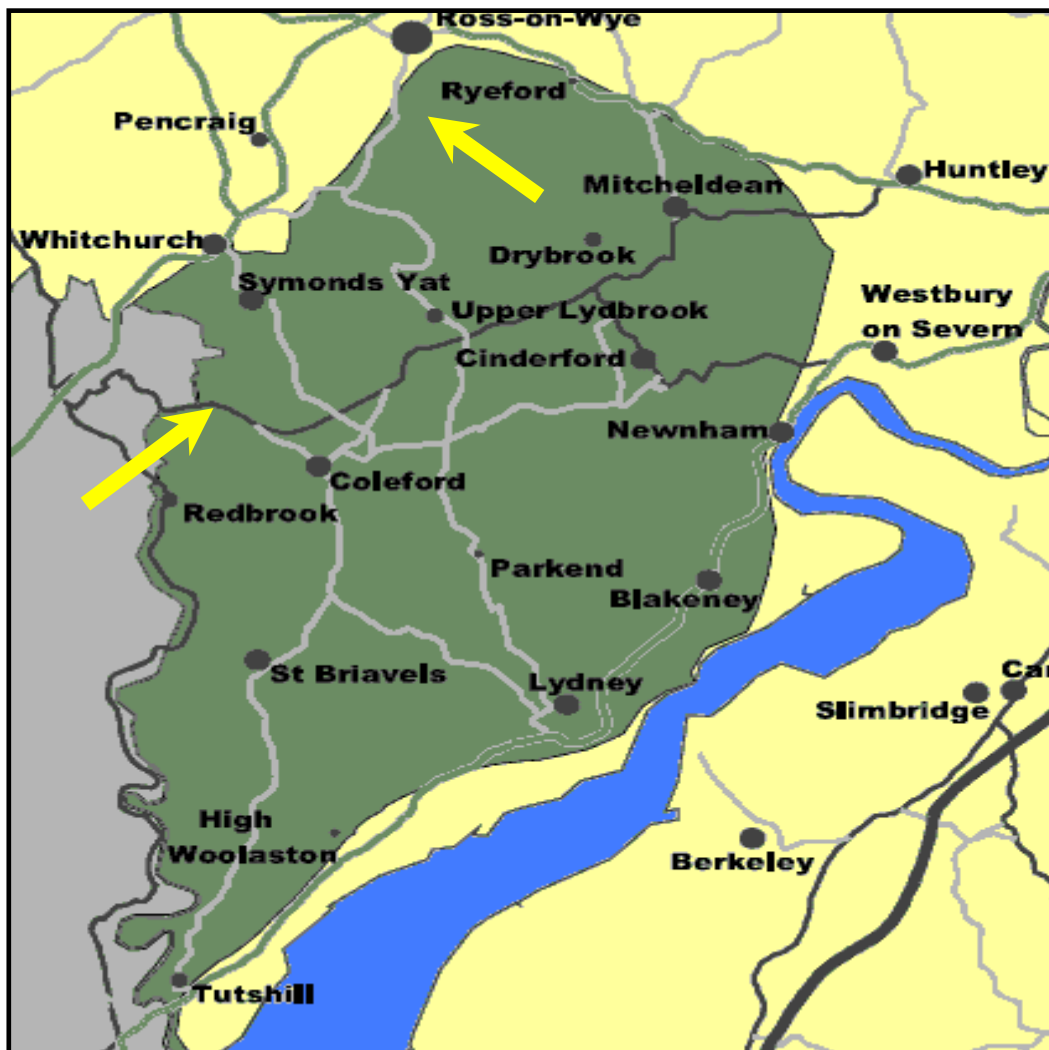


Figure 1.1 Locations (indicated by arrows) of the re-emergence of wild boar in the Forest of Dean (base map sourced from <http://www.royalforestofdean.info/maps/>).

Initially these two populations were made up of relatively tame animals; there are numerous tales of people hand feeding the boar. It has been reported

anecdotally that on at least one occasion the boar were rounded-up with an opportunity for their capture.

In 2008 Defra estimated the population of wild boar in the Forest of Dean to be "*maybe in excess of 50 animals*" (Defra 2008). Data from thermal imaging undertaken for the Forestry Commission in January 2013 and February 2014 gave "a *minimum*" number of 535 and 819 respectively. In February 2015, the thermal imaging data gave a minimum population figure of 1,039 individuals.

The two founder populations have expanded and met. Boar have been recorded in much of the main part of the Forest. They are known to have crossed the River Wye into Gwent and individuals have been seen as well out of this immediate area (although these may not have originated from the Dean). However, some of the larger forested areas on the edge of the Dean, such as Newent Woods have yet to have boar activity recorded within their boundaries.

1.4 Legislation and Status of Wild Boar

Wild boar are listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Variation (England) Order 2010. This means that release of captive or farmed individuals into the wild is prohibited without a license. Previous to this amendment they were almost a legal 'non-entity', only being listed under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976. This Act requires a license to be issued by Trading Standards if individuals are to be kept in captivity, including on wild boar farms.

Wild boar are not currently listed under game legislation and therefore there are no formalised legal requirements covering the use of firearms or a closed season. The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) state that "*the minimum calibre which is accepted by most police forces is .270 and 130 grain bullet and a minimum muzzle energy of 2600ft/lbs.*" The advice they provide goes on to say:

"This should be regarded as the absolute minimum and larger calibre rifles should be used if possible. The 9.3 calibre rounds are very popular on the continent and are well proven for wild boar. It could be argued that .375 and larger calibres should also be allowed for wild boar.

12 bore or larger shotguns using only a single projectile (rifled slug) can also be suitable for wild boar in certain conditions."

(BASC n.d.)

Defra (2008, 2005) referred to the re-emerging free-living wild boar as 'feral wild boar'. Although from farmed-stock and thus meet the dictionary definition requirement of 'feral' some consider these populations as a returning native species (Goulding 2011).

The genetic 'purity' of the re-emerged UK populations of wild boar has been reviewed (Goulding 2001). Standards for farming wild boar specify that farmed individuals must be hybrids with a minimum of 70% purity. Frantz *et al.* (2012) found that boar from the Forest of Dean differed genetically from both continental wild individuals and domestic pigs, indicating that this population had a mixed wild boar/domestic pig ancestry.

1.5 The European Perspective

Wild boar, also known as the Eurasian pig, has one of the widest geographic distributions of all terrestrial mammals. This species' range has been greatly expanded by human activities (Oliver & Leus 2008). It is the ancestor of most domestic pig breeds and there is evidence that domestication occurred independently in several different parts of its range (Oliver & Leus 2008; Larson *et al.* 2005). Over-hunting, coupled with habitat fragmentation and land-use change has resulted in the fragmentation of this species' range and its disappearance in some parts. However, this species remains widely distributed and is frequently locally abundant (Oliver & Leus 2008).

In Europe, populations of wild boar have shown a marked increase during the latter part of the 20th Century and to date in the 21st Century (Appollonio *et al.* 2010a and authors therein). This is generally attributed to milder winter conditions as well as changes in agricultural practice, supplementary feeding and poor management. Boar are now ranked second in numbers of large ungulates in Europe (estimated to be nearly 3 million). In many countries boar are seen as a pest of agriculture and forestry, in Italy and France are the cause of 90% of the damage to agriculture and forestry (Appollonio *et al.* 2010b) and in some countries their range expansion is taking them into close proximity of urbanisation, e.g. Berlin and Marseille.

Generally across Europe there is a very different culture of hunting than that found in the UK; hunting of wild boar is culturally and economically important in many countries (Appollonio *et al.* 2010a and authors therein). Methods used to hunt wild boar include night shooting at bait stations, drive hunting, stalking, fixed-point hunting and wild boar coursing. Depending on the country the open season varies, with some not having such, others being fixed whilst some use an analysis of game-records from previous years to set the following years dates (Appollonio *et al.* 2010a and authors therein).

Supplementary feeding is used frequently in many areas to ensure populations are present for subsequent years, although in some countries this practice is illegal. However, data would indicate that often such practice is unnecessary as annual game-bags can exceed annual population estimates (e.g. Baratoš *et al.* 2010; Wawrzyniak *et al.* 2010). In some countries damage caused to agricultural crops by wild boar requires compensation to be paid by the licensees

of the hunting areas (Appollonio *et al.* 2010a and authors therein) as a result extensive fences using specialist netting are erected in many districts to prevent wildlife accessing agricultural areas.

Whilst the economic impacts relating to agriculture and transport have received some attention the social impacts of wild boar in European countries are less well documented (recognition of increasing tensions as boar increasingly enter the peri-urban fringe but none relating to communities' perceptions, anxieties and/or fears with respect to boar).

2.0 Scope of this Study

The tender for this project was issued in December 2013 and was as a result of the re-emergence of wild boar within the Forest of Dean (as outlined in Section 1.3 above). The West England Forest District of the Forestry Commission were aware that the population of boar has been increasing year on year, with a perceived corresponding increase in the impact on amenity grasslands, farmland, private gardens, etc. Equally, despite the evidence that some people like to see wild boar, considering them beneficial to the Forest and Forest of Dean area, there is also evidence that others are resentful and/or fearful of their presence. However, as with the impact on grasslands, etc., the real risks to people living in or using the Forest for recreation, etc., has not been quantified.

The research requirement of this project was to independently and objectively investigate, analyse and evaluate data on three principal areas: impacts of boar on public safety, impacts of boar on resident communities (in terms of disruption/damage to amenity areas, private lands, etc.) and the economic impacts of the presence of boar. Data would be both on facts (of incidents/events) and feelings, e.g. on the perceived levels of risk. Once collated the results are to be used to inform a serious debate on what the real public safety, impacts and economic benefits and/or losses are and to inform the future management of wild boar on the public forest estate.

It is worth stating that this project was not gathering views on the manner by which the Forestry Commission (or others) are conducting management, nor debating whether to manage or not to manage the wild boar.

3.0 Methods

A range of methods were utilised by which to gather information on the impacts of boar on public safety, impacts of boar on resident communities and the economic impacts of the presence of boar. All conformed to the expectations of such methods (Newing 2011) and were approved by the Ethics Committee of the Institute of Science and the Environment, University of Worcester.

A questionnaire (Appendix 1) was prepared and made available on-line via a project website, both for completion on-line, or to be down-loaded, completed and submitted by post. The availability of this questionnaire was publicised in the local press as well as using social media. Four open discussion workshops were also organised at venues across the Dean. The questionnaire was made available to participants and, in addition, notes were made of the discussions that took place.

A list of stakeholder organisations was prepared, representing those different interests that might be impacted by the presence and activity of wild boar. Contact was made with lead individuals within each, by letter, email or telephone. Structured interviews were conducted both via telephone and in-person, or targeted questionnaires were distributed and returned via email or post.

All Parish Councils within the area, and on the edges of the area, known to have boar present were contacted requesting their support in publicising this research to their parishioners. Members of the research team attended Parish Council meetings of those that expressed an interest to provide more information and allow the Councils to have any questions they had answered.

The Forestry Commission's incident reporting database was also interrogated for any incidents involving wild boar that had been directly reported to the Forestry Commission back to April 2013.

In addition, any information or contacts which the research team became aware of during the course of their other activities were followed-up to increase the data available for evaluation.

Resources were not available to undertake proportionally representative data collection. It was thus necessary to focus data collection to maximise the understanding of the impacts and/or perceived impacts of the wild boar. As a result the results need to be viewed in this respect, without such they could show a skewed picture of the impacts of boar within the Forest of Dean leading to incorrect interpretation.

4.0 General Results

The questionnaire for this project received 488 completed questionnaires electronically via the website, with a further 43 paper-based questionnaires being submitted, either at the open discussion events or to the University by post. (Those received after the end of May 2015 have not been included in the analysis/report). This gave a total of 531 questionnaires that were submitted; questionnaires obviously completed by individuals from outside the Forest of Dean are excluded from this number as well as being excluded from the analysis. No questionnaires were spoiled and thus none were required to be excluded from the analysis, although not all respondents provided a response to every question, thus explaining the variation in response numbers in subsequent sections.

4.1 Seeing Boar

Of the respondents the vast majority, 91.5%, had seen wild boar, either individual animals, in sounders or both. This is higher than the 72.9% of residents who reported seeing boar to Clayton and Dutton in 2009/2010 (Stannard 2010).

The time at which boar were seen varied considerably, with some respondents only reporting seeing them during one or two time periods, whilst others seeing them more extensively (Figure 4.1). These results are similar to the data gathered by Clayton and Dutton in 2009/2010 (Stannard 2010), the low sightings at dawn perhaps reflecting the lower number of people moving around the Forest at this time.

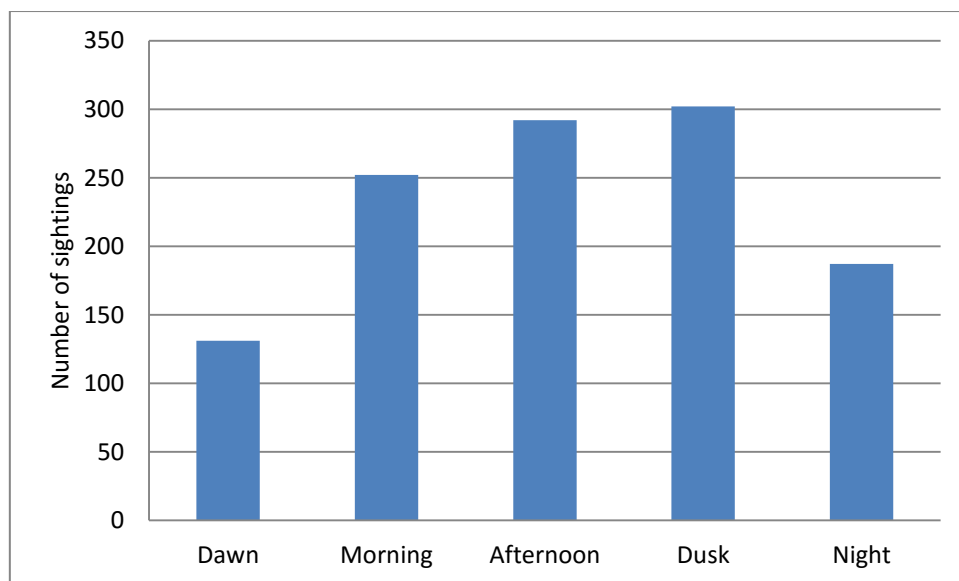


Figure 4.1 Time periods at which wild boar were observed in the Forest of Dean by questionnaire respondents.

Wild boar were seen by respondents within the forest almost equally when either walking/cycling (378 occasions) or when driving (375 occasions)(Figure 4.2). However, boar were also seen both on the fringes of built-up areas (266 respondents) and within built-up areas (116 respondents) (Figure 4.2).

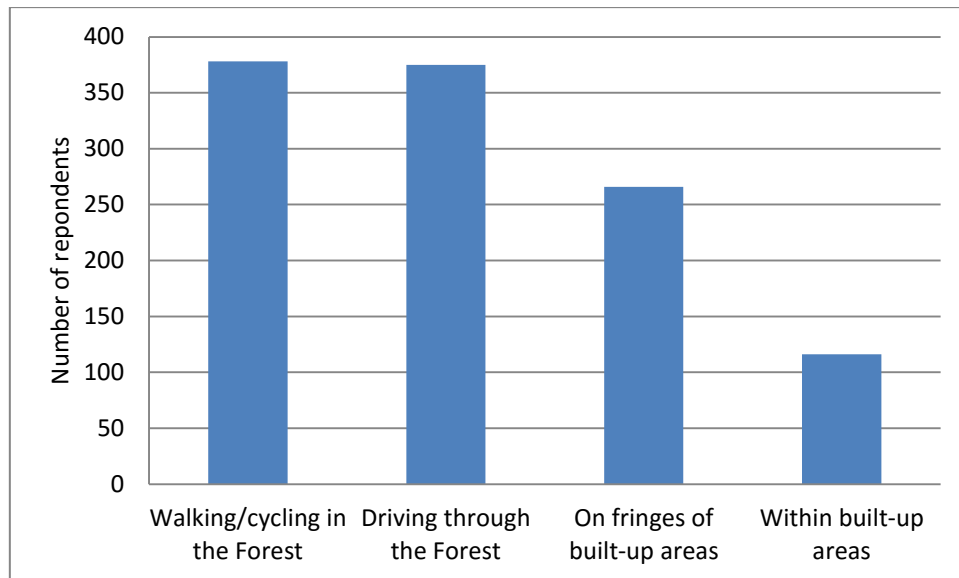


Figure 4.2 Location of boar observations by respondents to the questionnaire.

4.2 Proximity of Boar

The vast majority of respondents, 67%, think that wild boar lived less than a mile from their home, with 23% considering they were between one to three miles from their home and only 10% believe them to be more than three miles from their homes (Figure 4.3).

4.3 Observing Boar

Only a minority of respondents, 16.3%, say they make any specific efforts to observe wild boar, at least 15 of whom had been involved in hunting or shooting wild boar. Thus, excluding those that might just make such efforts in order to hunt them, only 14% of respondents (72 individuals) say they make any deliberate attempt to observe wild boar within the Forest of Dean. However, this contradicts those who say they actively try and see wild boar when visiting the Forest (Figure 4.4) where 41% and 34% said they strongly agreed or agreed with the statement *"I actively try and see wild boar when visiting the Forest"*.

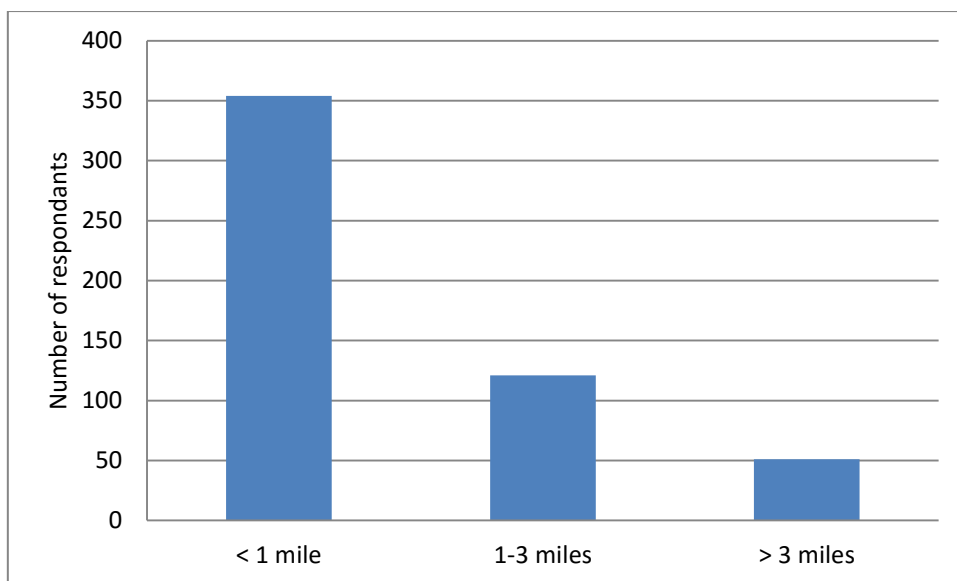


Figure 4.3 Distance respondents thought wild boar lived from their homes.

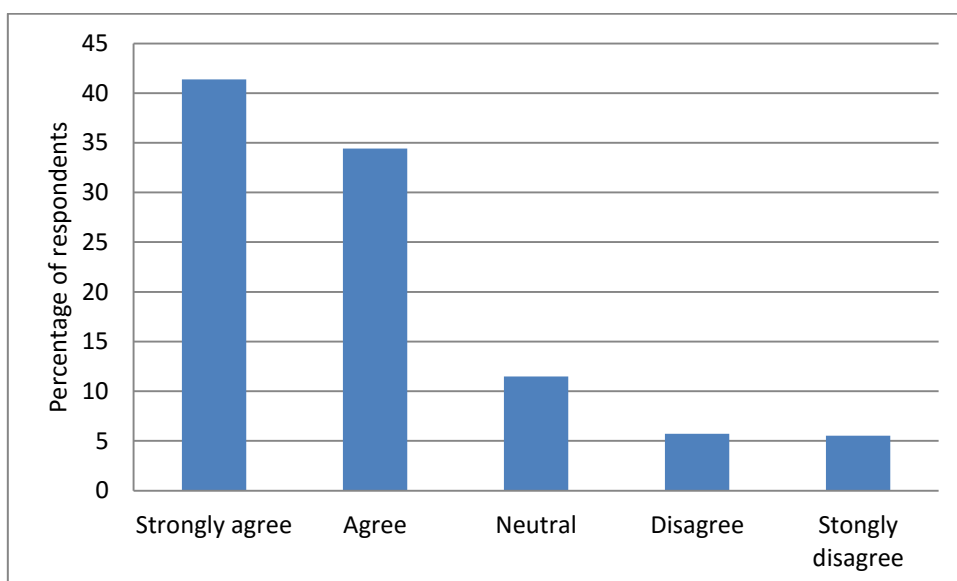


Figure 4.4 Percentage of respondents who actively try and see wild boar when visiting the Forest.

4.4 Feeding Boar

No respondent said they deliberately feed the wild boar, although 82 claimed to know people who do deliberately feed boar within the Forest of Dean (Figure 4.5). The vast majority of respondents strongly agreed that wild boar should not be fed food scraps (Figure 4.6), although 3% disagreed/strongly disagreed with this and a further 1.6% were neutral.

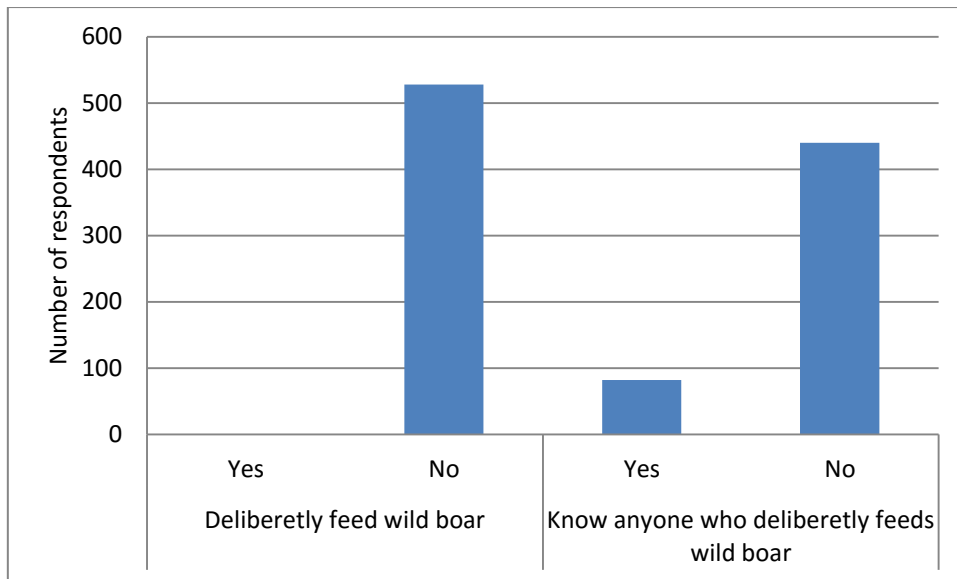


Figure 4.5 Number of respondents who say they do not deliberately feed the wild boar and the number who say they know people who do deliberately feed boar.

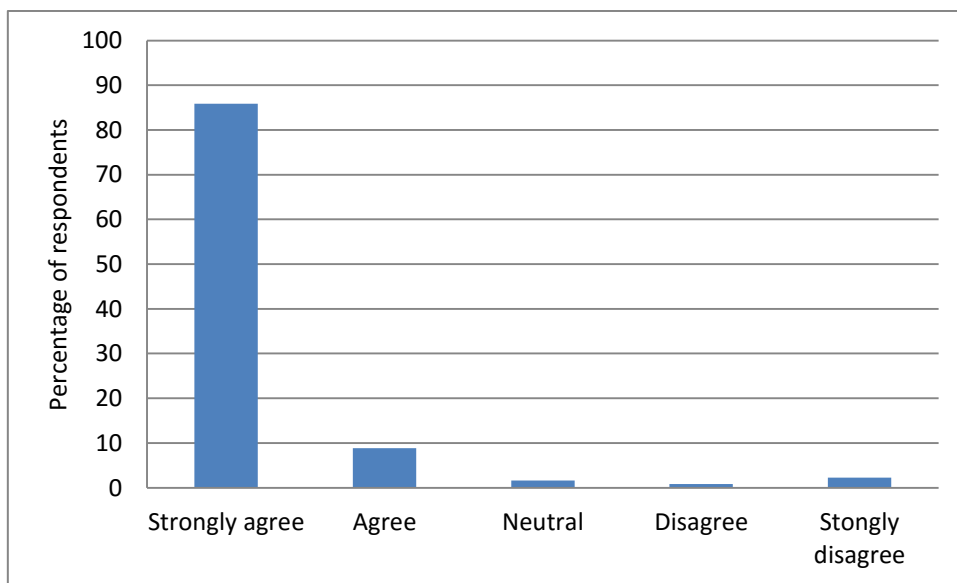


Figure 4.6 Percentage of respondents agreeing that wild boar should not be fed food scraps.

4.5 Knowledge about Boar

The majority of respondents claim to know about wild boar, strongly disagreeing (23%) or disagreeing (43%) with the statement “*I don’t know much about wild boar*” (Figure 4.7). An additional 22% were neutral on this statement (Figure 4.7).

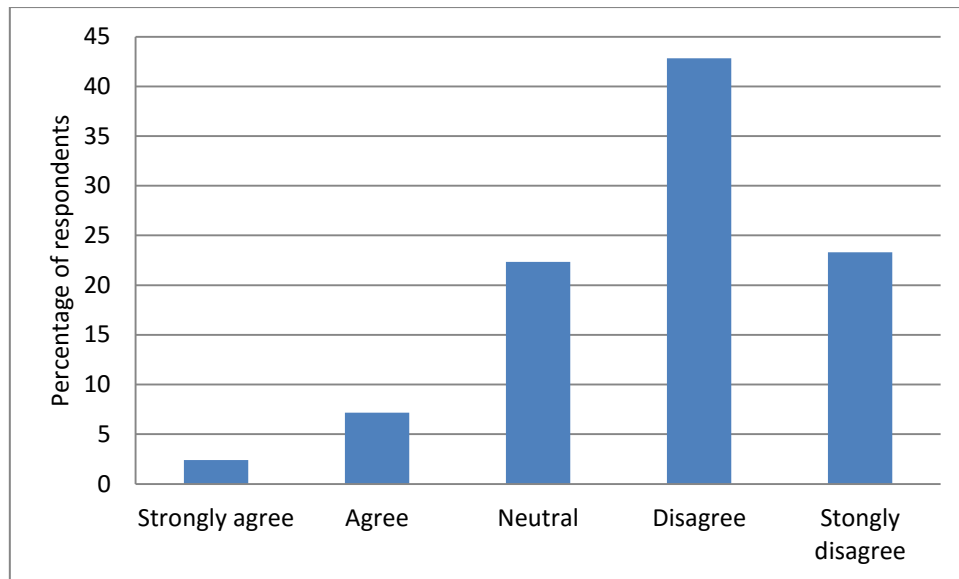


Figure 4.7 Percentage of respondents disagreeing with the questionnaire statement “*I don’t know much about wild boar*”.

4.6 Freedom to Roam

Figure 4.9 shows that many respondents strongly agree/agree (39%/13%) that wild boar have too much freedom to roam near residential dwellings. With fewer disagreeing/strongly disagreeing (19%/18%). These data reflect the responses as to whether boar should be able to roam freely throughout the Forest of Dean (Figure 4.9).

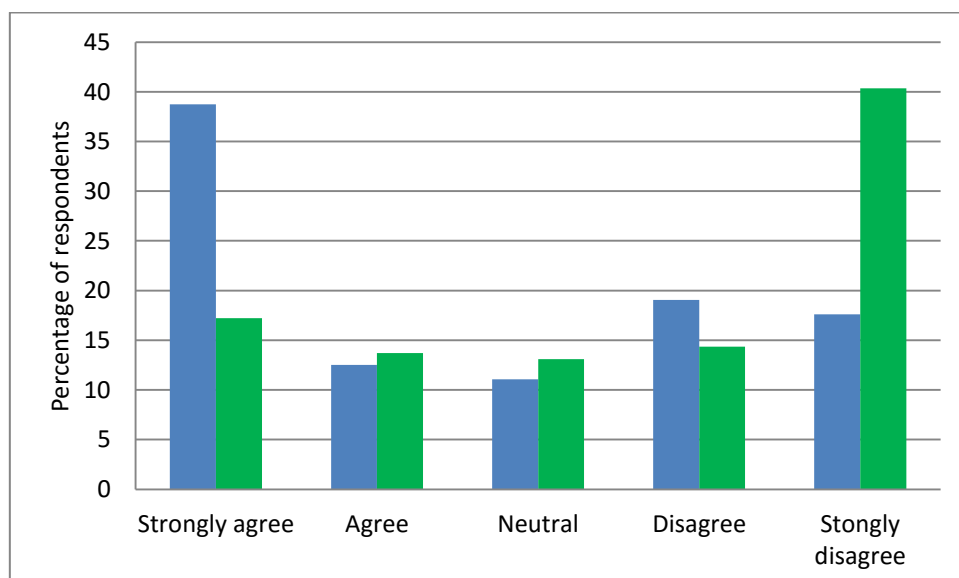


Figure 4.8 Wild boar have too much freedom to roam near residential dwellings (■) and wild boar should be able to roam freely throughout the Forest of Dean (■).

4.7 Management of Boar

For the questions “*wild boar should be eradicated from the Forest of Dean*”, and “*wild boar should be managed to avoid over population*” conflicting results were obtained (Figure 4.10). Thirty-one percent of respondents strongly agreed with eradication, and a further 22% agreed. In contrast 34% and 33% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed with the management of boar to avoid overpopulation (Figure 4.10).

A total of 40% strongly agreed/agreed that they had a good understanding of how wild boar are managed within the Forest of Dean, in contrast a total of 33% strongly disagreed/disagreed (Figure 4.11). A further 25% were neutral on this statement. This potentially means 58% of respondents lack an understanding of how wild boar are managed within the Dean. This reflects the anecdotal information reported to the project team during the course of this project.

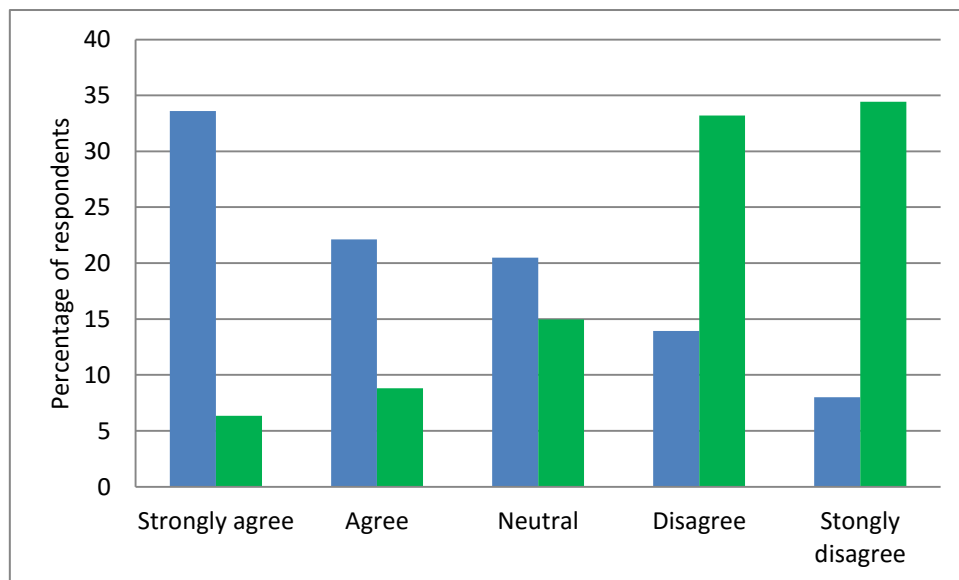


Figure 4.9 Wild boar should be eradicated from the Forest of Dean (■) and wild boar should be managed to avoid over population (■).

In 2009/2010 data collected by Clayton and Dutton found that 80% of residents who responded to their questionnaire did not support total eradication of boar. Only 13% of resident respondents supporting total eradication (Stannard 2010). In addition, only 60% of respondents in 2009/2010 were supportive of management in light of public safety or to prevent the spread of disease, with less support for management to reduce property damage and to prevent livestock escapes (Stannard 2010).

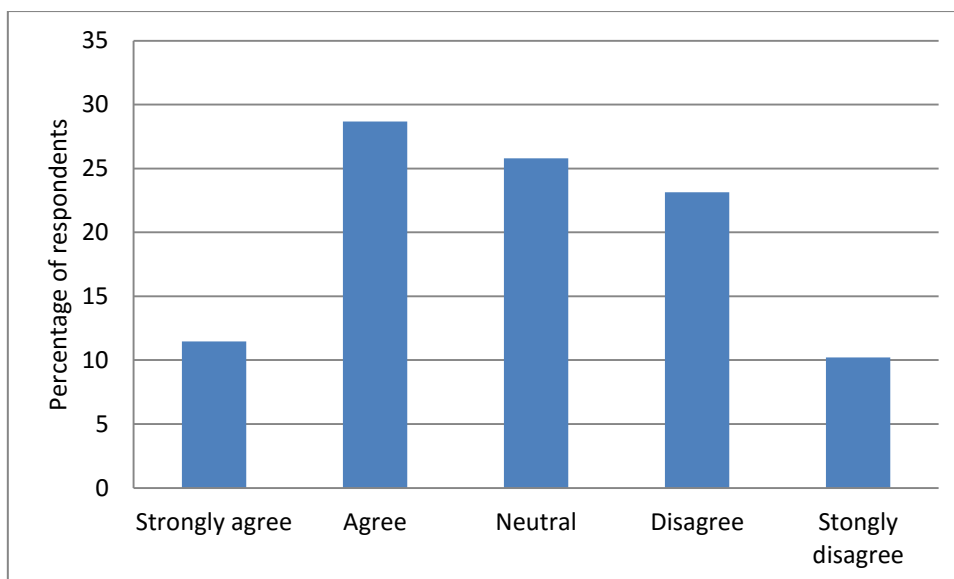


Figure 4.10 I have a good understanding of how wild boar are managed in the Forest of Dean.

4.8 Provision of Information

Only 9% and 15% strongly agreed and agreed that they were satisfied with the provision of information about wild boar in the Forest (Figure 4.12). Twenty-three percent and 33% of respondents were unsatisfied with the provision of such information with a further 18% being neutral (Figure 4.12). Again this reflects the anecdotal information reported to the project team during the course of this project.

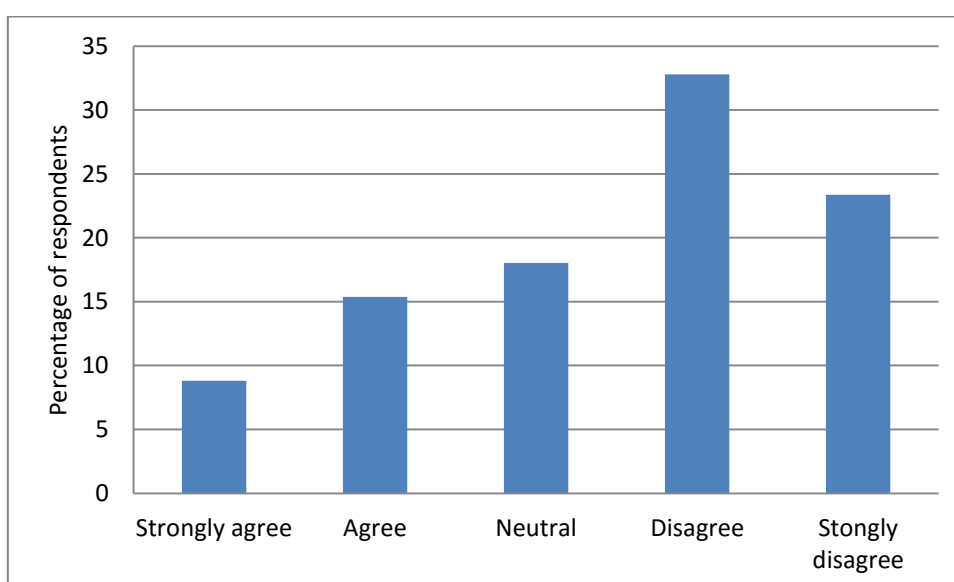


Figure 4.11 I am satisfied with the provision of information about wild boar in the Forest of Dean.

4.9 Discussion

The first few general results are unsurprising, with 91% agreeing that they've seen boar within the past two years and that sightings are being recorded in both the urban fringes and within urban environments as well as in the forest areas, albeit at lower frequencies. Possibly as a result of this the majority feel that boar lived within 1 mile of their home. The information on whether people are making special efforts to see boar is contradictory.

Interestingly, a large percentage (66%) felt they have a good knowledge about boar. However, the project team became very much aware that there was a very strong lack of understanding of origin of boar within the Dean and indeed their ecology and behaviour. It maybe that generally it is felt that understanding is greater as some understanding exists (perhaps compared with other wildlife issues in which no one has an interest) but this understanding maybe based on factually incorrect information or indeed a paucity of information.

The level of understanding is perhaps exemplified by some of the comments and results. Over 50% were of the opinion that boar had too much freedom to roam near residential dwellings and that boar should not be allowed to roam freely. In addition a frequent comment was that people did not necessarily want the boar culled, just moved out of the area. These would seem to indicate a noticeable lack of understanding of ecology, population dynamics, status (as a wild animal) and management.

Forty percent agreed that they had a good understanding of how boar are managed in the Dean, which means 60% do not. And management will no doubt continue to be an issue, strong conflicting result were recorded with 53% in favour of eradication, yet 67% disagreeing with population management to avoid overpopulation. It may of course be that some of these 67% misconstrued the question and favour eradication over population management.

Perhaps the result that should be of most concern from these general results is that only 24% were satisfied with the provision of information about wild boar in the Forest. Fifty-four percent not being satisfied with the information being made available.

5.0 Public Safety

5.1 Boar-People Incidents

Of those who responded to the questionnaire, 24% reported that they'd fallen as a result of walking along grass verges rooted by wild boar (Figure 5.1). In addition, several narratives reported people falling on footpaths and forest tracks, also due to rooting by boar (Appendix 2).

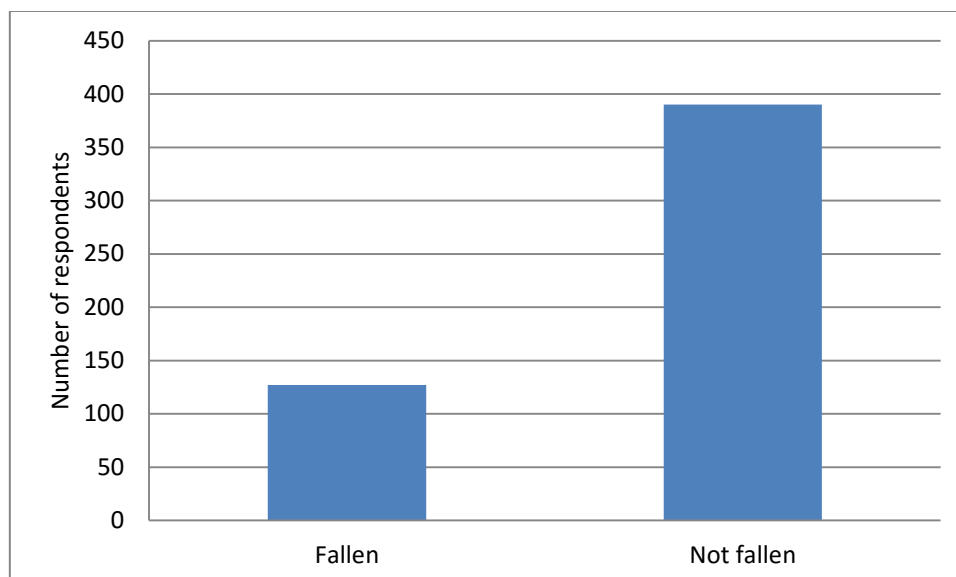


Figure 5.1 Number of respondents reported having fallen whilst walking along grass verges rooted by wild boar.

Twenty-three percent of respondents reported that they'd been chased by wild boar (Figure 5.2). From those that provided further details (Appendix 2), those with dogs were chased the most frequently, although for almost as many it was unclear as to what activity was being undertaken or whether the respondents were accompanied by dogs (Figure 5.3). The Forestry Commission database (April 2013-May 2015) only records one such incident, where grandchildren of a home-owner were chased by boar that had got into his garden.

Two respondents were chased when endeavouring to get a closer look at, or take photographs of the wild boar (Appendix 2). Similar incidents were reported to the project team. In addition, two respondents reported that they'd been 'threatened' or 'menaced' by boar approaching them whilst in the forest, although not chased. The Forestry Commission database (April 2013-May 2015) also holds a report where boar approached a person but did not chase them.

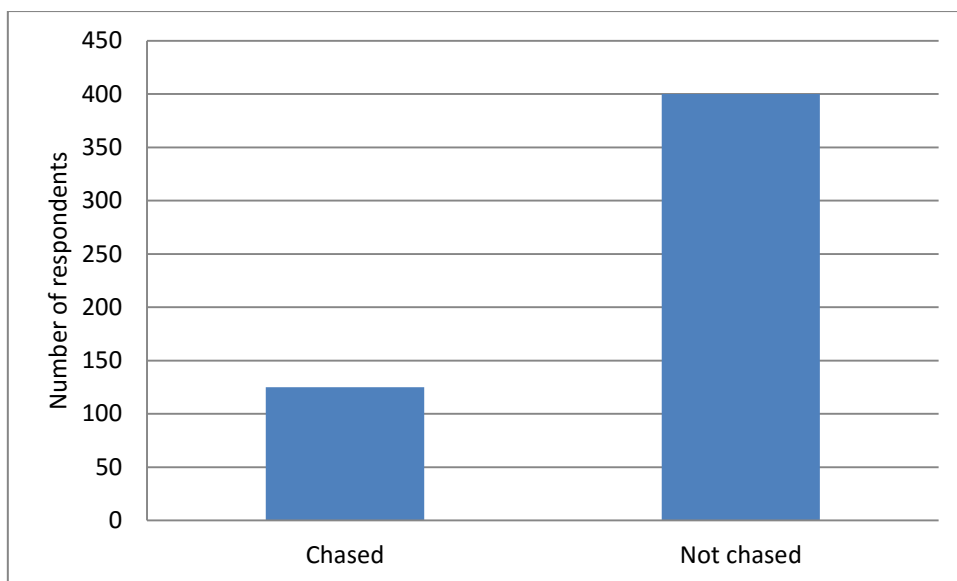


Figure 5.2 Number of respondents reported having been chased by wild boar.

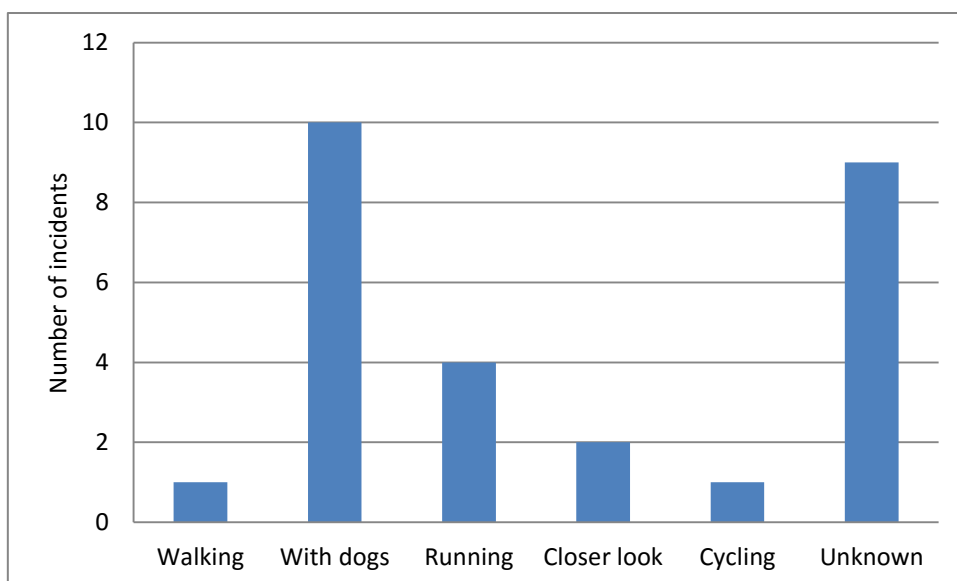


Figure 5.3 Number of chase incidents and the activity of those that were chased, taken from those narratives where details were provided.

Some of those who reported their dogs being chased (see Section 5.2) also reported that when calling their dogs back that the boar followed and started to approach them as well. Some reported that shouting and waving their arms prevented the boar getting too close, others that once the boar had 'moved' them sufficiently from their area they stopped and returned from where they'd come (Appendix 2).

Two respondents ticked that they had *"been knocked over by wild boar whilst on foot/bike"*. One failed to give any further details of this incident, the second reported that *"I was riding along cycle track to Parkend early in the morning going fairly quick rounded the bend and was confronted by around ten boar I put on my brakes and skidding going over my handle bars hurting my shoulder. It was late August around 8am"*.

Pedal-a-Bike-Away reported that none of their customers had had any negative experiences with boar, only on occasion reporting that they'd seen them. They did not think that any of their customers were visiting the area with the express purpose of seeing boar. Dean Forest Cycles also reported that none of their customers had reported negative experiences, although they believed customers were using the cycle paths with the hope of seeing boar, but rarely get a sighting as boar keep away because of the noise [made by cyclists].

Of the campsites that responded to a request for information all were aware of the reports of people having incidents with boar, especially when accompanied by dogs. However, three (Broadstone Farm, Rushmere Farm, and Bracelands) reported that none of their guests had had incidents with wild boar. Indeed, they were of the belief that many visitors came to stay with the specific intention or hope of seeing boar in the Forest.

In contrast, Bearse Farm reported that in early June 2015 a family who had gone out for a walk (on a shortcut between Rhodes Farm and Bream) returned because there had been a number of wild boar on the path. There had been no incident, just the visitors were too scared to carry on their walk. Deanwood Holidays had not had any incidents recently but in 2013 there were three occasions when a very large boar charged at people; one was an older lady who was chased, (*"she hit the boar with her stick and then with a dog lead but it kept coming so she ran away, she got back to the caravan site in quite a state"*), the second was a young man, who was also chased. On both occasions the visitors had dogs but they said that the dogs had not attacked or gone near the boar. On the third occasion the boar (which they think was the same one) ran at one of the site owners, he was *"on his own and the boar just attacked"*.

5.2 Boar-Dog Incidents

Of those who responded to the question *"had your dog(s) chased by wild boar?"* on the questionnaire, 25% said they dogs had been chased by boar (Figure 5.4a). Only 4% of respondents had had dogs injured by wild boar (Figure 5.4b) according to responses to the question *"had your dog(s) injured by wild boar?"*.

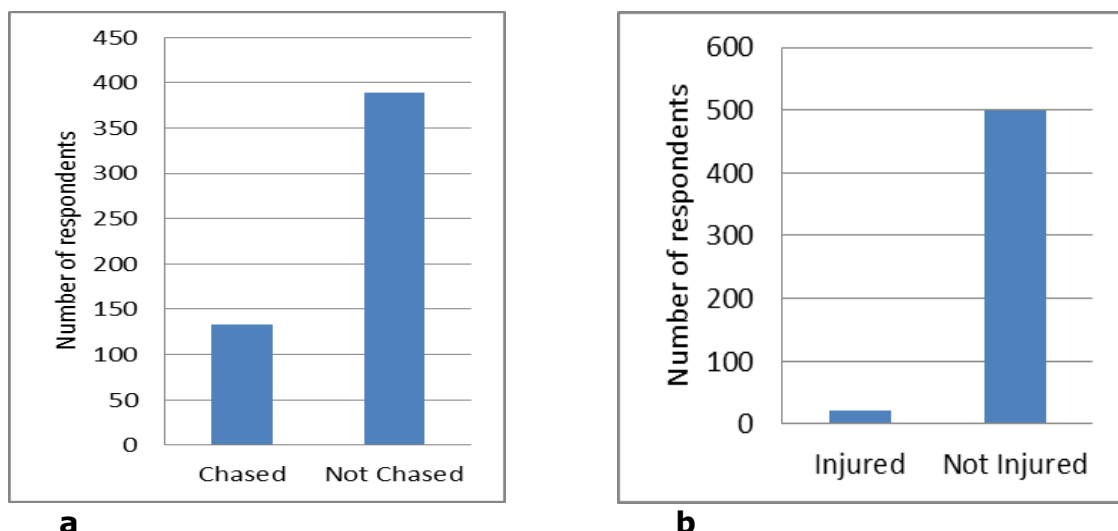


Figure 5.4 **a.** The number of respondents saying their dogs had been chased by wild boar, **b.** The number of respondents saying their dogs had been injured by boar.

The number of incidents of dogs being attacked and/or injured by boar reported direct to the Forestry Commission between April 2013 and May 2015 totalled seven, with an additional incident recorded but not being directly reported. All these incidents were recorded from February 2014 to May 2015, with no incidents recorded from April 2013 to February 2014. Only one incident actually reported that veterinary treatment was required, although in other reports this was implicit from the phrasing of the reports, i.e. "*...was eventually found badly injured.*". No reports of dogs being chased by wild boar (but uninjured) were recorded by the Forestry Commission in the same period.

Of the dogs injured and reported to the Forestry Commission (and where the data is provided) all but one (a border collie) were terrier breeds. From the narratives provided by questionnaire respondents (Appendix 2) breeds included terriers, springer spaniels/spaniels, collies, a Labrador and German shepherd, although terriers were the most common breed mentioned. However, most narratives that provided information on boar-dog incidents failed to give details of the breed of dog involved.

The nature of incidents at which dogs received injuries from boar differed. Some are a result of dogs disturbing boar in undergrowth and either being chased and injured or being injured immediately. Others gave details of boar emerging from the forest and injuring dogs that were walking down tracks or paths. One or two narratives mention dogs either chasing boar or wanting to 'play' with the boar (Appendix 2). It is unclear how many of the incidents involved dogs on leads or under close control (which is Forestry Commission policy) compared to those involving dogs free-roaming as only a few narratives mentioned whether their dogs were on leads/under close control.

Not all veterinary surgeries were willing or had the time to provide information on the number of boar-injured dogs they'd treated. Sundean Vets said they'd not had any incidents in the last few years and before that there had only been one or two. No records of these were available and the staff who had dealt with these were no longer at the surgery (pers comm R. Wordsworth, practice nurse). Severn Side Vets reported having only a maximum of five such cases in the last year, one being a minor wound cleaning, another requiring the dog to have stitches (pers comm A. Phillips, veterinary surgeon). Dr N. Horniman (pers comm, Clinical Director, Pets Barn Veterinary Group) said it was difficult to put numbers to how many had been injured by boar but there are definitely not many cases where dogs have been badly hurt.

Several questionnaire narratives (Appendix 2) report dogs chasing boar and boar piglets. Severn Side Vets, reported that on two occasions in the period January to June 2015 people have brought in injured piglets they have found, these have had to be humanely put-to-sleep (pers comm A. Phillips, veterinary surgeon).

Some of those who reported their dogs being chased also reported that when calling their dogs back that the boar followed and started to approach them as well. Some reported that shouting and waving their arms prevented the boar getting too close, others that once the boar had 'moved' or their dogs them sufficiently from their area they stopped and returned from whence they came.

5.3 Boar-Horse Incidents

Eleven percent of questionnaire respondents had had their horses spooked by wild boar in the forest (Figure 5.5), but only two horses were reported as having been injured. Incidents on which narrative has been received (Appendix 2) generally involved the presence of boar making horses jumpy and less manageable whilst riding through the forest. One respondent had to dismount and lead the horse away for approximately a mile before he calmed sufficiently; this rider claims never to have ridden in the forest again.

Another reported: "*Riding my horse in my local woods, I came across one boar that stood in our path, ...[my] horse was not worried at first as she had been kept with some pet pigs in the past but then three more appeared over the bank, it was then that one squeal and ran at us which spook my horse, she turned quickly and took off with fright. I have been riding in this local woods since I was a child and had never had experienced anything like that before. I never thought that the boar would be so close to my village at about 9.30 am in the morning.*" Another rider reported that she felt the need to sell her horse as it had become too flighty to be ridden in the forest and one wrote "*I have been chased by them whilst riding my horses on 6 separate occasions*".

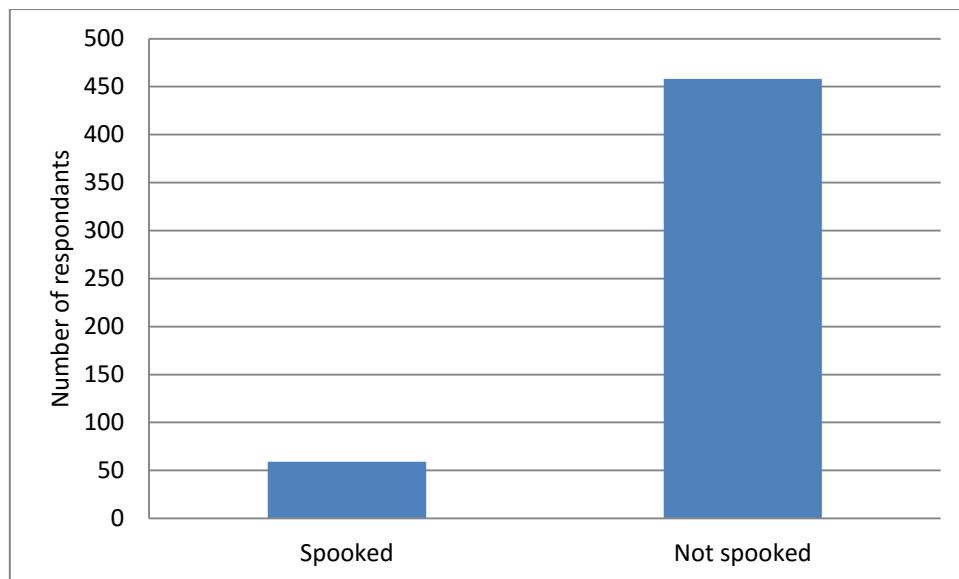


Figure 5.5 Number of questionnaire respondents reporting horses being spooked.

Other reported incidents are perhaps more serious: *"In June 2 yrs ago wild boar entered my horse paddock via a brook, my mare was terrified of them, having checked her late the previous night I went to the paddock early the next morning to find her in a dreadful state, the vet was called and she had to be put down as the result of a twisted gut following a colic attack, while I cannot prove the boar were responsible the coincidence was too great to be ignored and I am convinced that it was the cause of her having colic as a result of the stress the boar would have caused her."*

5.4 Boar-Vehicle Collisions

Boar-vehicle collisions, or the threat thereof, is one of the major concerns of the residents of the Forest of Dean. Forty-nine respondents (9%) had experienced such collisions (Figure 5.6), the severity of which varies considerably. The frequent circumstances involve boar appearing in the road, from the forest, with no warning and the driver having insufficient time to take avoiding action (Appendix 2).

"March 2015 at 22:15 hrs driving home from work two large and five or six piglets came out of woods near to Forest Church. I actually ran over one with both front and rear wheel on near side when I stopped and got out of car not a boar in sight."

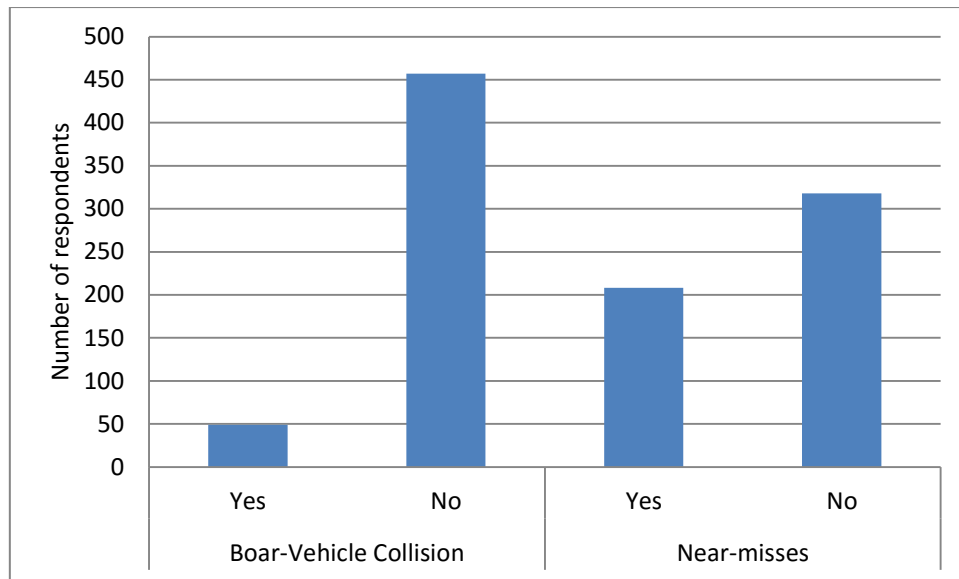


Figure 5.6 Number of respondents who experienced boar-vehicle collisions and the number who had near-misses with boar in their vehicles.

"Boar ran out of the forest at Worral Hill at 1.45pm and damaged side of my car, November 2014. Weather was lovely. Police came I had an incident number. Too expensive to go through my insurance so ended up with my husband getting all the parts needed and repairing it myself."

The Forestry Commission only had three boar-vehicle collisions reported to them and listed on their database between April 2013 to June 2015. However, 13 boar-vehicle collisions had been recorded in 2010 within the Forest of Dean.

Near misses tended to occur in similar circumstances (Appendix 2), with 208 respondents (39%) reporting such (Figure 5.6). Drivers reporting the need to brake sharply and take other avoiding action, some respondents noted that they'd had several near misses over the last few years.

In addition, to these incidents it was reported to the project that five ambulances had been involved in boar-vehicle collisions in the last year and one police vehicle. Full details on the events and amount of damage in these incidents was unobtainable.

5.5 Boar-Induced Anxiety and Fear

The project team received numerous reports of individuals experiencing anxiety and/or fear as a result of the presence of boar within the Forest of Dean. However, no specific details could be obtained.

Of the questionnaire respondents 21 included narrative describing their concerns, anxieties and fears. A number claim to be too scared to go into the woods alone or go walking unaccompanied by other adults. One respondent even wrote *"I would not have moved here some 18 months ago had I known about the Boar issue"* (Appendix 2).

A number of organisations who support vulnerable people were approached to endeavour to obtain a more quantifiable picture of the level of anxiety. These were: Age Concern, Forest of Dean Pensioners Association, Two rivers Housing, Crossroads Care, Foxes Bridge Day Centre and Gloucestershire Care Providers Association. Generally they had no record of any complaints, concerns or issues pertaining to wild boar. The Forest of Dean Pensioners Association did say that many people are afraid to venture out walking outside of town during the night due to the boar and their activity. However, this was more a general statement rather than focused on the members of their association.

The Forestry Commission's database (April 2013-June 2015) contain two records of boar accessing the grounds of schools. One where the gates had been left open (during the summer vacation), the second when the gates had been closed. Concern was raised as to the safety implications when pupils were present.

In 2009/2010 data collected by Clayton and Dutton found that of those who responded, 11.7% were concerned, 7.6% were scared and 4.2% felt threatened when seeing wild boar. In contrast, 35.7% were excited and 40.5% were interested when seeing boar (Stannard 2010).

5.6 Perceived Health and Safety Issues

The questionnaire contained a number of questions to assess the perception of respondents to a range of health and safety issues relating to the presence of wild boar in the Forest of Dean.

Figure 5.7 shows the perceived likelihood of personal injury caused by wild boar when visiting the Forest during daylight and at dusk/night. Generally the risk rating was considered to be non-existent (35%), very low (24%) or low (14%) during daylight. At dusk/night the risks were considered to be higher, high risk raising from 8% to 17% and very high risk from 5% to 16% (Figure 5.7).

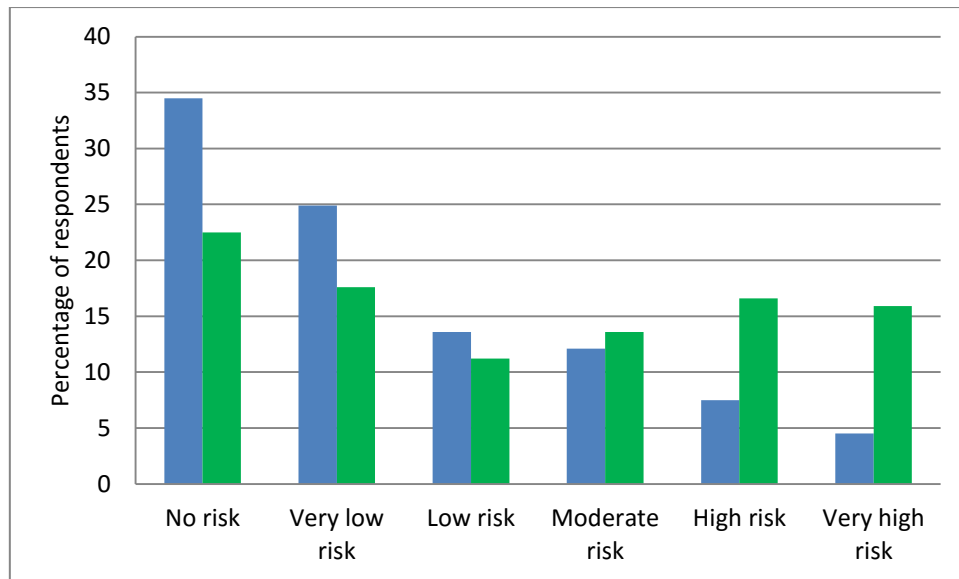


Figure 5.7 The perceived likelihood of personal injury caused by wild boar when visiting the Forest during daylight (■) and at dusk/night (■).

Similar perceptions were shown for the likelihood of personal injury caused by wild boar when walking in built-up areas of your parish during daylight and at dusk/night (Figure 5.8). Effectively the level of risk was considered negligible or very low/low, but there was a perceived increase in risk between daylight and dusk/night.

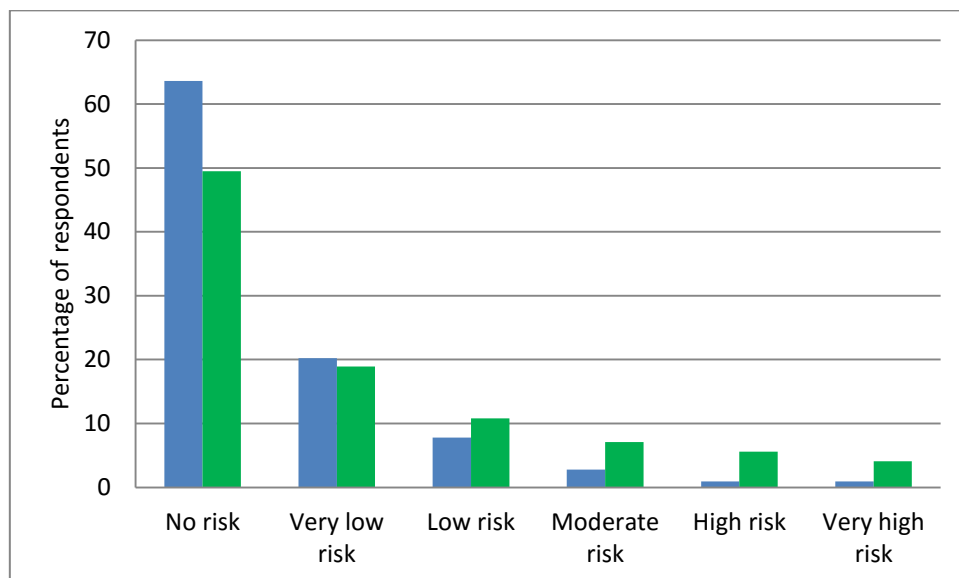


Figure 5.8 The perceived likelihood of personal injury caused by wild boar when walking in built-up areas in your parish during daylight (■) and at dusk/night (■).

The perceived likelihood of involvement in a vehicle collision with a wild boar when travelling in a vehicle through the Forest during the day was considered to be a relatively low risk. Those that considered risk at night to be high effectively

tripled and those that considered the risk at night to be very high increase over five times (Figure 5.9). This reflects the worry of hitting a wild boar with a vehicle (Figure 5.10), where the total of those who strongly agree/agree is 44%.

The perceived likelihood of wild boar causing injury to children playing in the Forest during the day was relatively low, but higher than that to children playing in built-up areas (Figure 5.11). Likewise the perceived likelihood to elderly people visiting the forest during daylight, walking in built-up areas during daylight and walking in built-up areas during dusk/night were low (Figure 5.12). Although the perceived risk was higher (albeit by a few percent) when visiting the Forest during the day and walking at dusk/night in built-up areas (Figure 5.12).

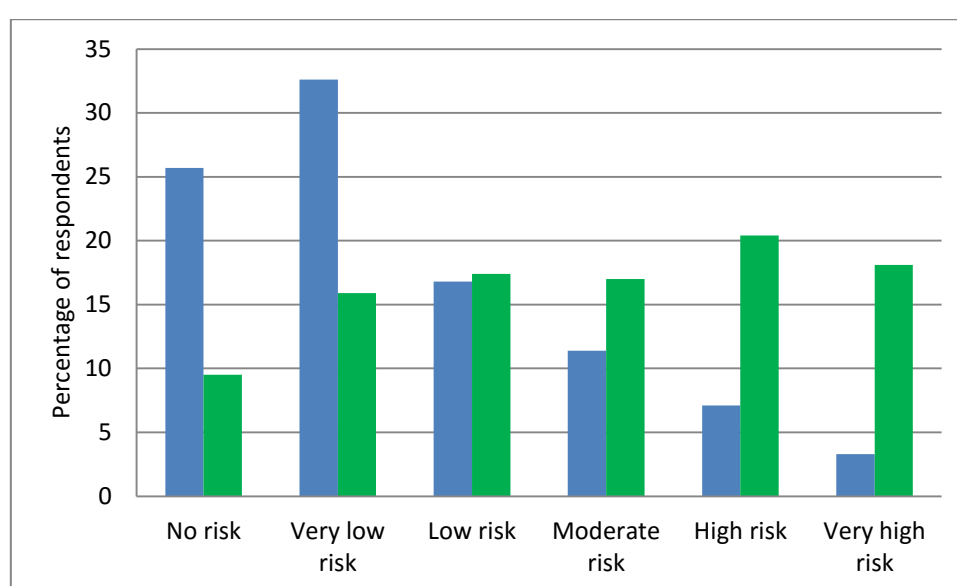


Figure 5.9 The perceived likelihood of your involvement in a vehicle collision with a wild boar when travelling in a vehicle through the Forest during the day (■) and during dusk/night (■).

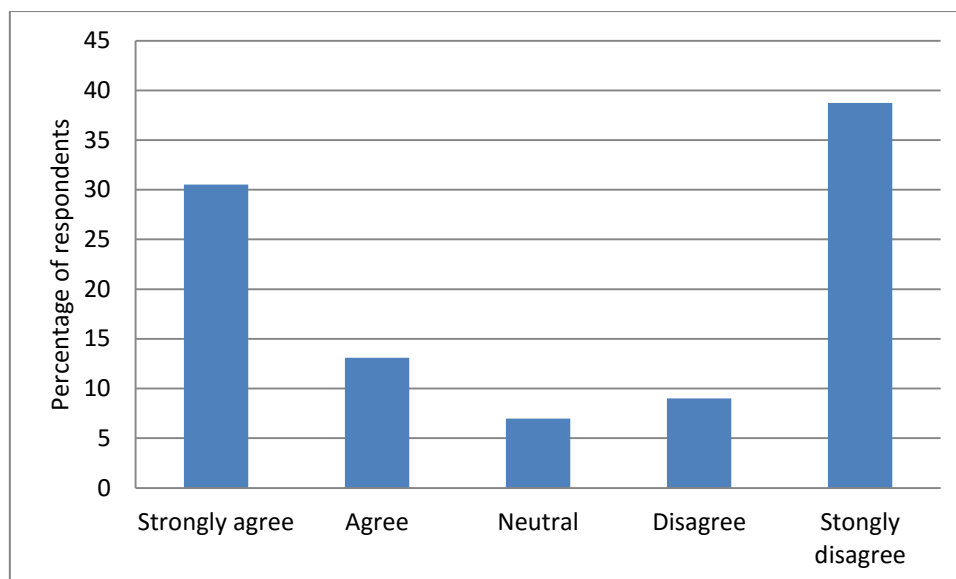


Figure 5.10 Percentage of respondents who are worried about hitting a wild boar with a vehicle.

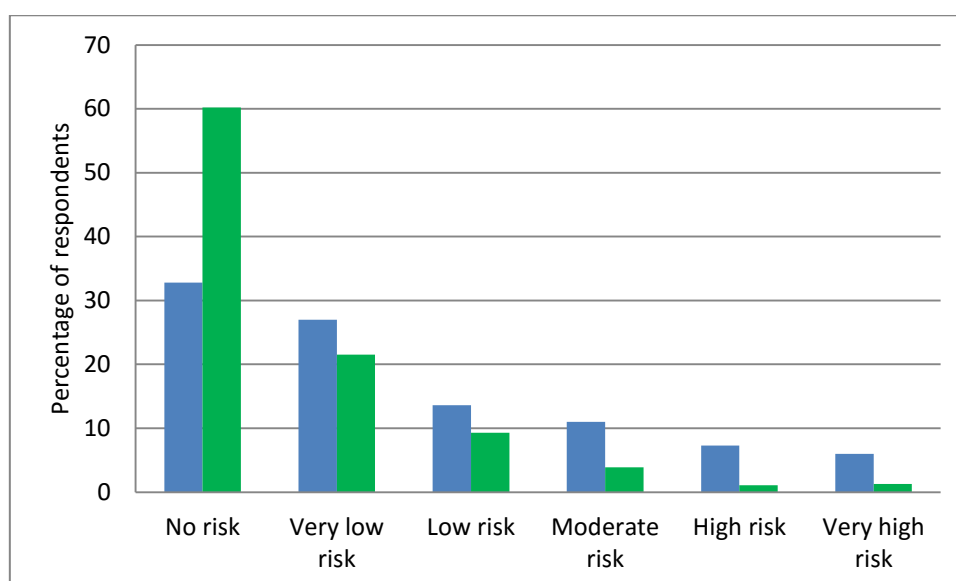


Figure 5.11 The perceived likelihood of wild boar causing injury to children playing in the forest during the day (■) and in built-up areas of your parish during the day (■).

Figure 5.13 shows the percentage of respondents who agree that wild boar stop them letting children they care for play in the Forest unsupervised. Although the percentage that strongly agree (12%) and agree (16%) is lower than those that strongly disagree (24%) and disagree (14%). The Forestry Commission had two reports of individuals being concerned about children and boar on their database.

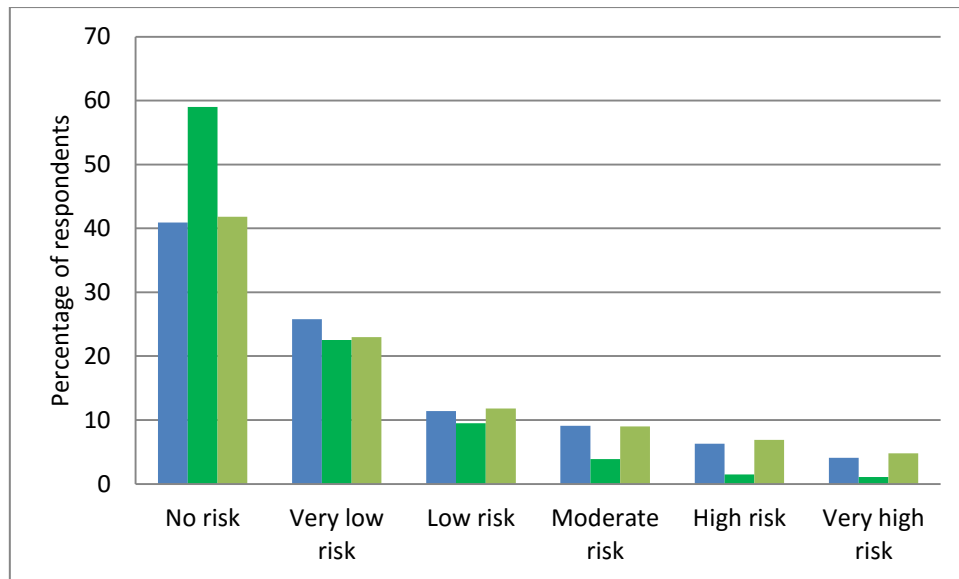


Figure 5.12 The perceived likelihood of injury wild boar causing injury to elderly people: visiting the forest during daylight (■), walking in built-up areas of your parish during daylight (■), walking in built-up areas of your parish during dusk/night time (■).

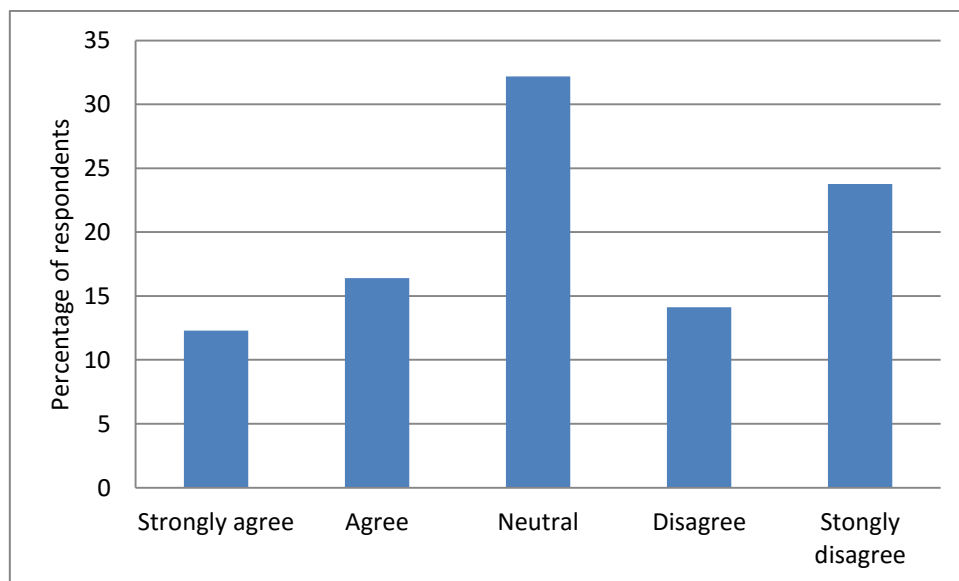


Figure 5.13 Percentage of respondents saying that wild boar stop them letting children they care for play in the forest unsupervised.

Similarly a low percentage of respondents (28% strongly agree/agree combined) allow anxiety about wild boar to prevent them from going out in the evening (Figure 5.14).

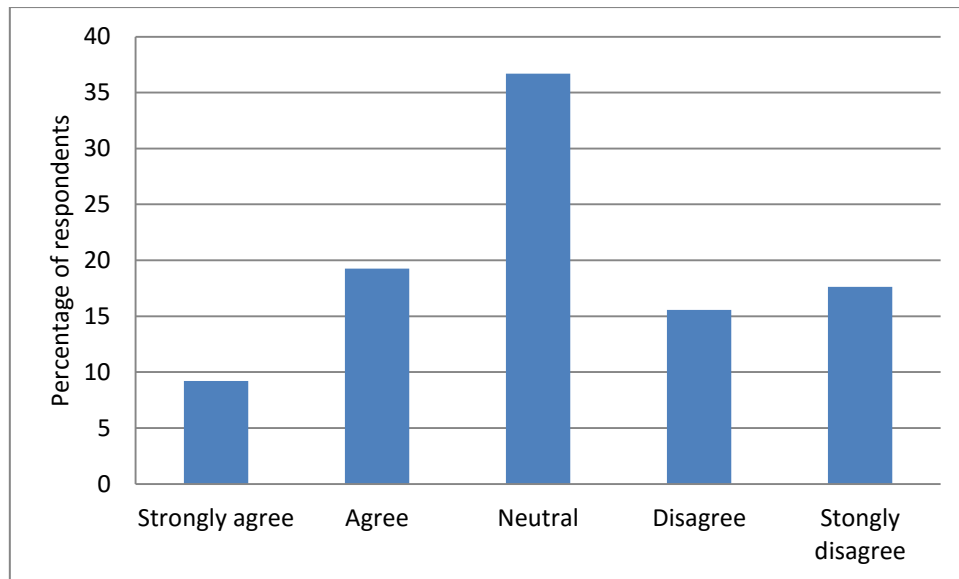


Figure 5.14 Percentage of respondents who's anxiety about boar prevents them from going out in the evenings.

The perceived likelihood of injury to dogs being walked 'off-the-lead' in the Forest during daylight is less than the perceived risk of doing so at dusk/night (Figure 5.15). The high risk being 12% compared to 21%, and very high risk being 15% compared to 27% between daylight and dusk/night. Interestingly the moderate risk was perceived to be higher during daylight compared to at dusk/night (18% versus 15%).

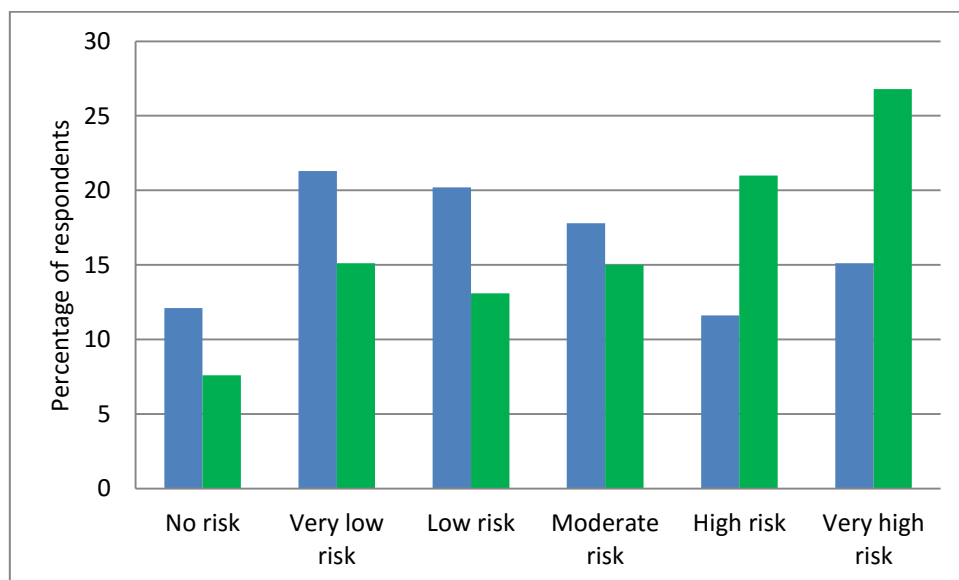


Figure 5.15 The likelihood of injury to dogs being walked 'off-the-lead' in the forest during daylight (■) during dusk/night (■).

The perceived risk of horses being spooked by wild boar was relatively constant, being lowest at no risk (12%) and highest for very low risk (20%). With the

perceived high risk and very high risk being 15% and 17% respectively (Figure 5.16).

The likelihood of wild boar spreading disease to either people living in/near the Forest, or to dogs/livestock living in/near the Forest is also perceived to be insignificant by the majority of respondents (Figure 5.17). However, 39 boar are known to have tested positive for tuberculosis, 17 of which were found in the High Meadow/English Bicknor area.

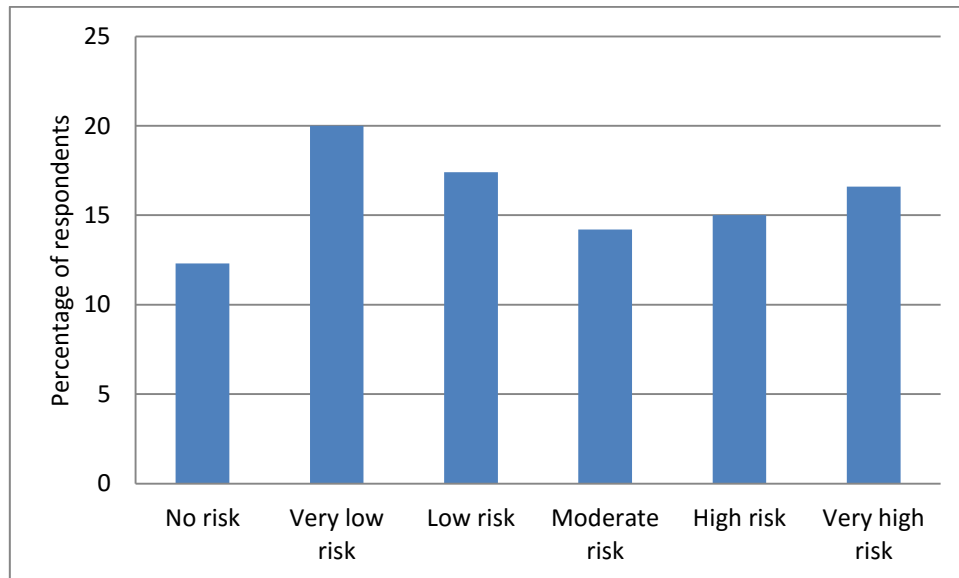


Figure 5.16 The likelihood of horses being spooked in the forest by wild boar.

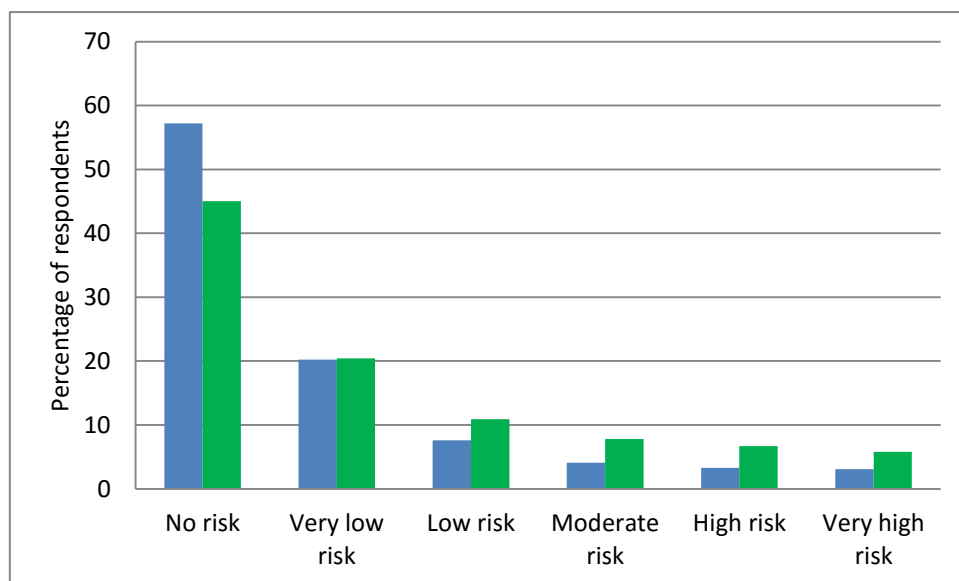


Figure 5.17 The likelihood of wild boar spreading disease to: people living in/near the forest (■), dogs/livestock living in/near the forest (■).

Results are similar for the respondents who are concerned about contracting a disease from wild boar (Figure 5.18). The vast majority strongly disagreeing, disagreeing or being neutral.

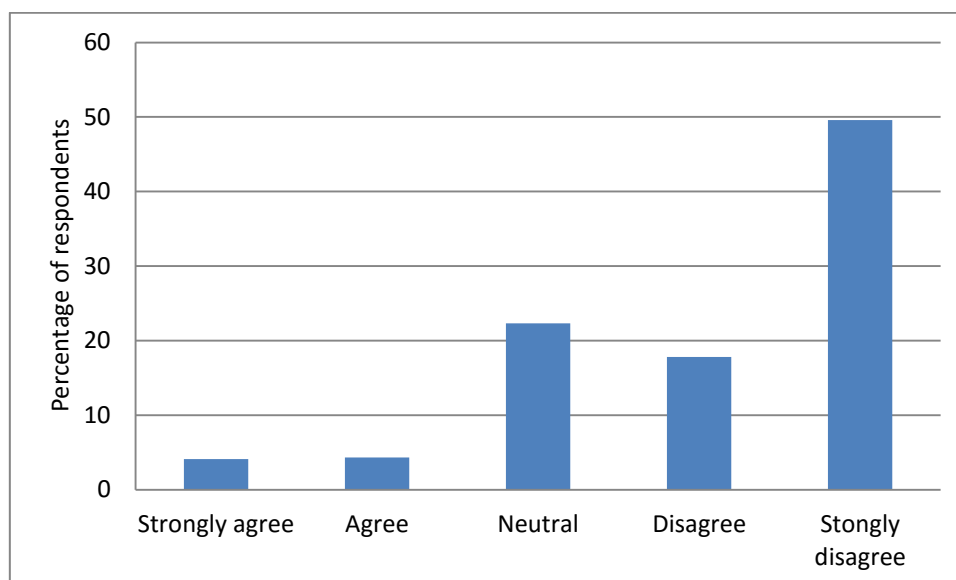


Figure 5.18 Percentage of respondents concerned about contracting a disease from wild boar.

5.7 Discussion

A large proportion of people reported that they had fallen as a result of boar rooting of road verges. However, the policy of Highways is not to repair such unless it covers formal footways, although they are amenable to repairing verges which are regularly used as paths if reported (see Section 6.4). This was not restricted to road-verges, several narratives reported falls on footpaths and forest tracks.

Some would argue that walking in any part of the countryside people need to be aware of differing and changing ground conditions due to animal activity, forestry operations, erosion, etc. The Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group (n.d.) published guiding principles and good practice for safe access to the countryside. These include a risk control matrix which takes account of the location and terrain, the skills, self-reliance and personal responsibility of visitors and the type of hazard management required. Perhaps there is a need for a discussion regarding expectations of management versus personal responsibility? The Forestry Commission already conducts regular trail checks for formal trails but cannot be expected to check all paths within the Forest.

Again, a large proportion of respondents to the questionnaire reported being chased by wild boar. This was supported by the narratives, data on the Forestry

Commission database and information from business owners. This perhaps needs to be viewed in the context of the total number of visitors and visits to the Dean, unfortunately such data, and the activities in which visitors participate, was not forthcoming for this project. Furthermore, obtaining data on the use of the Forest by local residents (the subject of this project) would be difficult, especially to disentangle from the general visitor information. Local residents are likely to use the Forest more than occasional visitors and tourists. Thus they are more likely to encounter boar with the potential for more 'chase' incidents.

The data would indicate that chase incidents are mainly correlated with the presence of dogs, with 25% saying their dogs had been chased by boar. The Forestry Commissions policy is for dogs to be 'under close control', this does not necessarily mean 'on-the-lead' at all times. There is a significant issue of dog walking detrimentally impacting on wildlife (Steven et al, 2011; Banks & Bryant 2007).

It is unknown as to the training level and obedience of dogs involved in any incident, although free-running dogs are frequently observed within forested areas. Boar are generally displaying natural behaviour in protecting themselves, and their young, by chasing what they determine to be predators out of the immediate area. For those incidents recorded where people report being 'menaced' by boar moving towards them it needs to be considered that boar do not have good eyesight and thus moving toward an object/person to get a 'clearer look' is not uncommon. This does not necessarily constitute threatening behaviour, although it is perhaps frequently misconstrued as such. This would seem to contradict the information that a large proportion of respondents claim to have a good knowledge about boar (Section 4.5).

Despite the large proportion of dogs being chased by boar few incidents of dogs being injured were reported; this in no way lessens the distress to those whose dogs are injured. Some anecdotal evidence has been reported that some behaviour changes (by people) are occurring in terms of the timing of dogs being walked, the areas they are being walked and their freedom to be free-running. To put this into context it would be invaluable to compare such incidents with others, e.g. dog-adder, dog-deer and dog-vehicle within the Forest. Time and data did not allow this in the case of this project.

Boar-horse incidents were of great concern to those involved in them. Again such should to be examined in the context of the number of horses using the Forest in the areas where boar are present. Generally it is the opinion of many owners and those in the equine world that horses are naturally fearful of pigs and will spook; boar falling into the same category. However, a Fellow of the British Horse Society consulted by the project team felt strongly that this was not the case, the response of horses to boar being more down to the training of the horse and attitude of the rider.

Public safety is naturally a significant issue with the presence of a wild animal such as boar. Mayer (2013) collated data on 412 wild boar/feral swine attacks on people that had been recorded between 1825-2012, with 70% of the records being from between 2000 and 2012. Cases were compiled from the United States (24%), India (19%), Papua New Guinea (6%) Germany (5%) and England (5%). Most of the incidents were recorded in rural locations (73%), however, the numbers of attacks in suburban and urban areas have been increasing since the mid-1990s.

The majority of the attacks occurred in daylight hours, and although recorded throughout the year there was a seasonal skew towards the winter (33%), with summer seeing fewer attacks (17%)(Mayer 2013). Most of the attacks (76%) occurred under non-hunting circumstances with 82% involving solitary boar, when attacks occurred with a sounder or group only one or two of the boar actually attacked (Mayer 2013).

Of the 665 human 'victims', 69% of them received some sort of injury. Only 3% of injuries occurred when the victim was retreating or running away when being charged by the boar (Mayer 2013). Defra (2005) reported that only two of the twelve attacks in England actually resulted in physical contact between the boar and the victim.

In 18% of the attacks people were accompanied by an animal (dogs, camels, horses, domestic pig, oxen), with dogs being the most common (71%). Seventy-nine percent of the animals involved escaped with no injury, 12% were injured and 10% died, either at the scene or of their injuries. In some cases where dogs were attacked the people became 'victims' once they tried to intervene between their dog and the boar (Mayer 2013). Only a small proportion of these boar-dog attacks occurred whilst the dog was on a lead.

Mayer (2013) reported that the threats of boar-dog attacks were highlighted by several sources in England. Boar may perceive dogs as predators, this behaviour may be influenced by dogs being used to flush or hunt boar. In England the Hunting Act 2004 prohibits the use of dogs for hunting, although they can be used to flush quarry.

The data collected by this project contrast with the data compiled by Myers (2013). Only two known reports exist of people being injured by boar in the Forest of Dean, and none were reported to this study. Of the incidents in which injuries resulted one is known to have involved a dog being chased by boar, the dog's owner being in-the-way (the other was as a result of someone hand-feeding a boar and was 'gored' by a tusk when the boar turned its head having been poked by a stick).

The involvement of animals, particularly dogs, is reflected in the incidents reported to this study. Perhaps this should be seen as a warning to those

walking dogs in the forest, especially those who allow their dogs to roam off-the-lead and those tempted to intervene if their dogs are actually attacked.

Forty-nine reports of boar-vehicle collision were recorded, with another three on the Forestry Commission's database and six being reported anecdotally to the project team. The severity of these, and financial costs incurred (see Section 7.2.2), varied considerably. The capacity for higher numbers of boar-vehicle collisions can be seen by the number of near-misses reported (208). However, in the context of local, regional and national accident statistics involving deer and other wild animals, and 'accidents' not involving wild animals (and excluding vehicle-vehicle collisions) the number of incidents are low. The Deer Initiative (n.d.) estimates 74,000 deer-vehicle collisions occur per year across the UK, resulting in up to 700 human injuries and 10-20 human fatalities.

The RoadSafety Partnership of Gloucestershire County Council reported that in 2014 in the Forest District the number of road casualties was 164; 130 being slight, 28 being serious and 6 fatalities. Table 5.1 shows the number of road traffic collisions, by parish, within the Forest of Dean from 2012-2014. Considering the number of boar-vehicle collisions reported to this study occurred over several years the actual number per year is currently small in comparison.

Potentially the number of boar-people, boar-dog, boar-horse and boar-vehicle incidents may increase as the proximity of boar to human residential areas seems to be increasing (see Section 4.2). Certainly, the omnivorous nature of boar will mean the availability of food, from compost heaps, etc., (see Section 6.1) and the opinion of some that it is acceptable to feed boar (see Section 4.4) can lead to greater interaction as it is likely that boar will be attracted to any area where food is available. Consideration needs to be given by all stakeholders within the Dean as to the best approach to managing and reducing such incidents.

It is difficult to have any meaningful discussion regarding boar-induced anxiety and fear. However, the perceived risks of different boar-caused issues vary. These data need to be compared to the real risks presented in this report and again, stakeholders need to consider the best approach to managing such perceptions.

The likelihood of wild boar spreading disease to either people living in/near the Forest, or to dogs/livestock living in/near the Forest was perceived to be insignificant. This matches the findings of the risk assessments conducted by Defra (2008) on both exotic and endemic disease. The recorded increase in boar numbers, and the recent tuberculosis results, might alter such assessments.

Table 5.1 Number of road traffic collisions within the Forest of Dean
2012-2014, by parish.

Parish	Slight	Serious	Fatal	Total
Alvington	0	1	0	1
Awre	7	5	4	16
Alyburton	3	0	0	3
Cinderford	24	5	2	31
Coleford	23	4	0	27
Drybrook	13	0	2	15
Hewelsfield and Brockweir	1	0	0	1
Littledean	6	1	0	7
Lydbrook	3	1	0	4
Lydney	17	9	0	26
Mitchledean	11	2	0	13
Newland	10	1	1	12
Newnham	1	0	0	1
Ruspidge and Soudley	7	0	0	7
St Briavels	3	0	0	3
Staunton	1	0	0	1
Tidenham	11	4	1	16
West Dean	21	12	1	34
Total:				218

6.0 Impacts on Resident Communities

6.1 Boar Impact on Gardens

The most identifiable and obvious sign of the presence and activity of wild boar is rooting, the loosening and turning-over of the top 5-15cm of turf. Although this behaviour occurs in all habitats it is most obvious on grassed areas, lawns, pitches and playgrounds, forest rides and road verges.

Of the questionnaire respondents 111 reported having had boar damage to their gardens (Figure 6.1). Generally this seems to be to lawns and fences/walls. The selection of narratives below gives a flavour of the issues, although not all are negative as a result of the damage.

"...the beautiful lawn at the back of our house, grass verges and other gardens in this residential area have been damaged by boars. This includes areas well away from woodland."

"Damage to our next door neighbours garden last year. they have caused some more damage in the last month"

"Our gardens have been destroyed (we now have a cattle grid)..."

"...in our garden and on our drive. Lawn recovered well and I don't mind them at all"

"...the boar made my neighbours garden look like the Somme. Not a blade of grass was left. Awful. They broke through fence and walked through the brook to get in."

"On occasion wild boar have dug up the verges, banks and forest surrounding our property. We have a boar proof fence and hedge so haven't suffered any damage to garden (yet)".

One homeowner to whom the project team spoke noted that the boar had rooted his grass paths and areas. However, he was far more concerned as to the extensive loss of vegetables, etc., by the activity of deer.

Raiding of garden rubbish piles/compost (uncontained)(38 respondents), raiding of compost in bins (28 respondents) and raiding of other household bins (32 respondents) is another factor that impacted on residents (Figure 6.2). With two respondents writing that boar were *"Bowling the food compost bin like a football to try & get inside"* and *"...digging up compost buried in the garden leaving huge holes."*

The Forestry Commission's database listed seven incidents of boar causing damage to gardens, with an additional two where boar entering gardens but doing no damage.

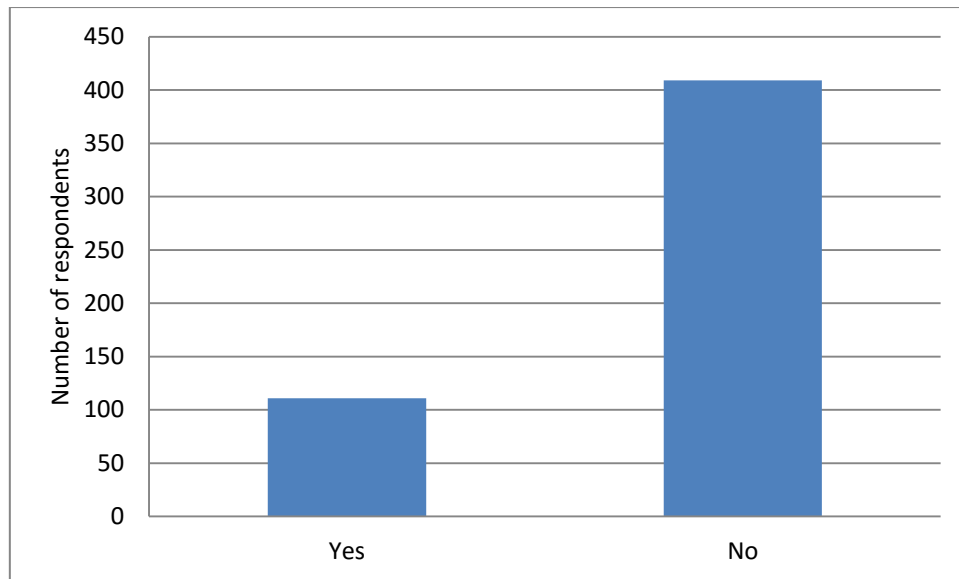


Figure 6.1 Number of respondents experiencing damage to gardens by wild boar.

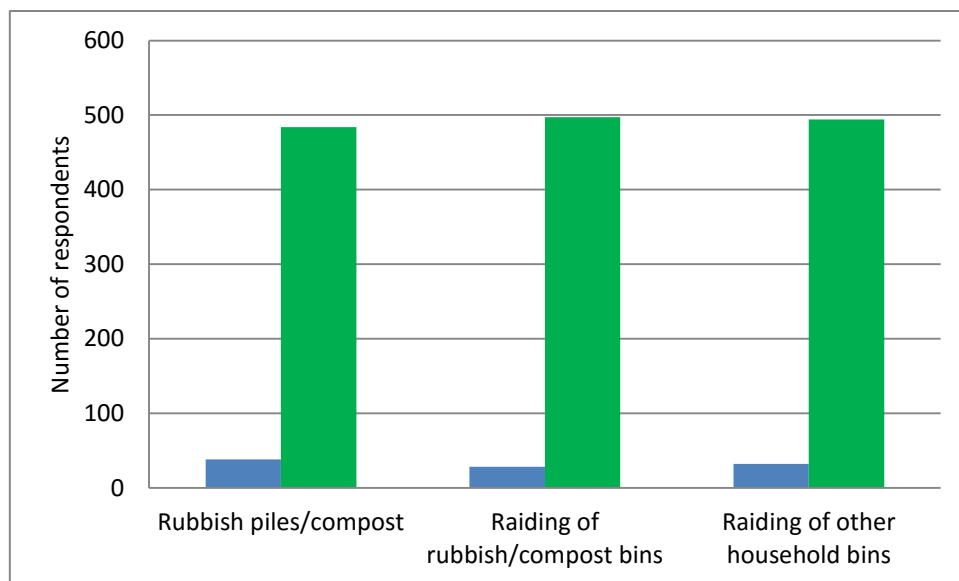


Figure 6.2 Number of respondents experiencing raiding of garden rubbish/compost piles, garden rubbish/compost in bins and raiding of other household bins; Yes (■), No (■).

6.2 Boar Impact on Amenity Land

Second perhaps only to the impact on road verges, the impact of the activity of boar on amenity land, particularly to play grounds and playing fields, is seen as a significant issue within the Forest of Dean. Twenty-four percent (123) of respondents experienced damage to amenity land (parks/pitches) that they either manage or are involved in managing (Figure 6.3).

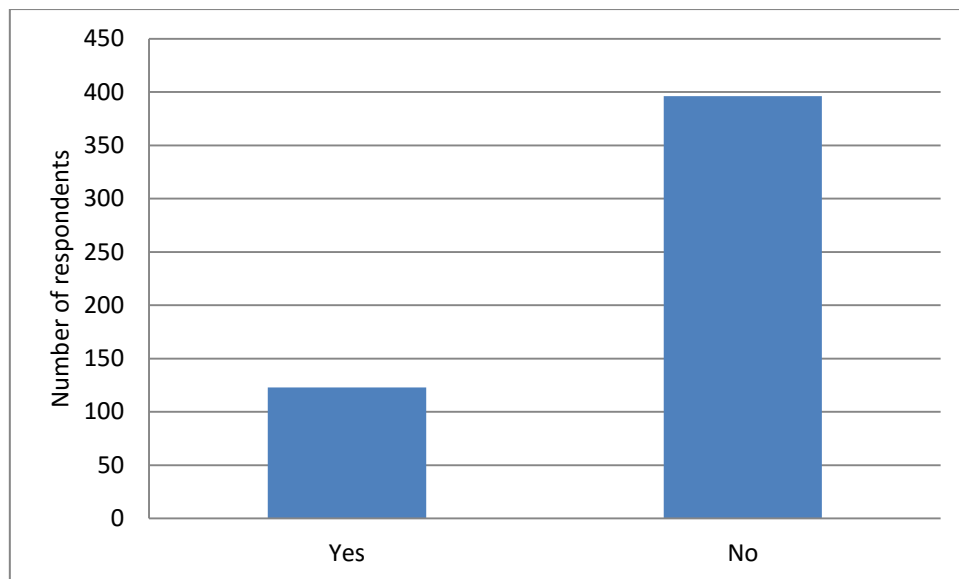


Figure 6.3 Number of respondents experiencing damage to amenity land (parks/pitches) that they manage/are involved in managing.

Narratives describe the damage of football and cricket grounds *"Cricket has been played on Cut and Fry Green at Yorkley since 1880 but over the last week or so boar have turned the pitch into a war zone by digging up the grass in search of food. It is now not possible to play ANY cricket until the boar can be removed and contained. The area is too large to fence and anyway the cricket club - Yorkley Star Cricket Club rely on the free roaming sheep to keep the grass down so fencing is not an option."*

The Forestry Commission's database (April 2013-June 2015) listed three reports of damage to amenity land, including to the cricket pitch and playground at Oldcroft.

6.3 Boar Impact on Forested Land

Generally much of the impact of boar on forested land goes un-noticed and un-recorded. Rooting impact is more difficult to identify when under the canopy and on un-grassed turf, rooting activity often being indistinct unless individuals clearly know what signs they are examining. As with road verges the impact on grassed woodland rides is obvious and frequently seen as extensive and detrimental.

One anecdotal report received by the project team involved a newly planted area of forestry being rooted-up by the activity of boar. The actual date of this, the extent (in area or number of trees involved) was not available.

6.4 Impact on Road Verges and Highways

The rooting impact by boar on road verges is one of the most obvious and certainly extensively commented upon issues by questionnaire respondents as well as many who were spoken to during this project (see Section 5.1 and Figure 5.1). The Highways Authority have observed an increase in the impact on road verges and highways in the previous 12 months. Three years ago most impact was observed in the central area of the Dean, however, this is now recorded further afield.

The policy of the local Highways Department is not to repair damage to road verges. However, if rooting activity by boar has resulted in a (metaled or similar) footway being obstructed work will be undertaken to clear these. In the last year such boar rooting was cleared from four sites: Fancy Road in Parkend, Whitecroft to Parkend, Blakeney Hill, near the village hall in Yorkley. Such impact is low as the estimate of the percentage of rural roads with footways is five percent.

It was disclosed that if a verge, showing regular use by pedestrians (in terms of a worn path within the vegetation) was impacted by boar activity similar maintenance would be considered to that undertaken on formal footways. However, to date no such requests had been made.

Annual grip (cut-off-drain) clearance is undertaken, normally in the autumn (ready for winter). In addition, reactive clearance is undertaken as blockages are observed or reported, at a best estimate this can be approximately 50yr⁻¹. However, not necessarily all such events are as a result of the activity of boar.

Sub-surface drains are rarely an issue as they are not that common in the rural areas where gripes are the norm. Silt caused by boar activity was considered not to cause any additional work over that which is normal. Such drains also receive an annual clearance, sometimes twice a year in the worst areas. Such impact, however, cannot be attributed to boar activity.

Silt on road surfaces was not considered to be an issue. No increase in road sweeping has been required and it was not considered to cause an increase in road accidents. If, however, soil falls onto the road surface it is removed once reported in a similar manner to the clearance of footways.

It was noted that activity by wild boar and highways has not been raised as an issue, except with regards to soil on footways/roads, in any Parish Council meetings. However, all such Councils are aware of the policy regarding the repair of road verges.

One concern of the Highways Department was the safety issues surrounding the fact that numerous drivers would stop in dangerous locations to observe/

photograph boar if boar were seen on road verges/near the forest edge. This concern was reflected by one of the respondents in their additional narrative *"One further comment, on the A1436 at Brierley there are boar in the wood next to the road and people are stopping in their cars to take photographs also crossing this very busy road, it is an accident just waiting to happen."*

6.5 Livestock Escapes and Losses

Thirty-nine of the 531 respondents (7%) reported having had livestock either escape or lost as a result of the activity of wild boar (Figure 6.4). This is an increase over the 1% of respondents who reported such in to Clayton and Dutton in 2009/2010 (Stannard 2010).

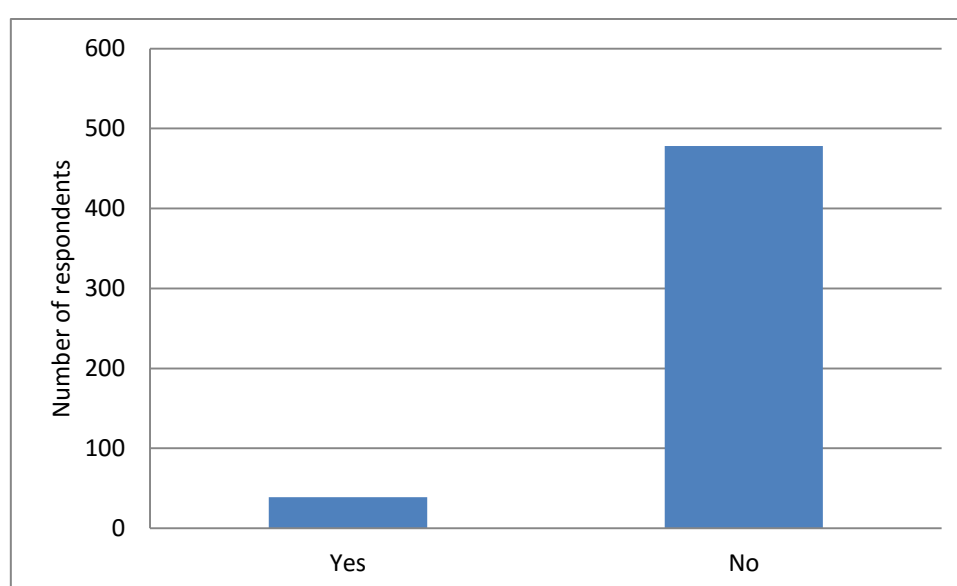


Figure 6.4 Number of respondents reporting livestock escapes or losses as a result of activity by wild boar.

Events reported by respondents ranged from chickens escaping after damage to hedges was caused by boar, livestock escapes (daily) at Edge End and the terrorising of livestock (including donkey's and horses) by their presence. One report was of *"the boar lifted a fence with their snouts between my farm and crown woodland, then lifted a 12ft galvanised gate off its hinges at the entrance to my feed passage in my cattle feeding shed to eat the maize put in the feeders for my cattle. I heard the noise in the shed and went to investigate, the cattle were going mad, they hate the smell of boar, me and my son re-hung the gate then run and fetched the high powered rifle and shot them, 6 in total... ..late evening in December. My cattle were very nervous and wild but none were injured"*.

One report claimed that boar *"have attacked and eaten the lambs this year and chase the sheep off their grazing"*. The evidence for this is unclear, although

they have been observed by one of the project team opportunistically taking a grey squirrel when foraging in the woods. They have also been recorded as having part-consumed a stillborn foal and the carcass of a deer that was a victim of a deer-vehicle collision.

6.6 Damage to Farm and Business Properties

Thirty-seven percent (194) of respondents had experienced damage to fences, 16% (85) reported damage to or loss of crops and 23% (123) recorded 'other' property damage (Figure 6.5). Much of the narrative provided with the questionnaires was relating to boar breaching fences or hedges and subsequently damaging pasture, grassland or crops (Appendix 2). One respondent reported that in *"Spring 2012 extensive damage to my work premises with total destruction of grassed archery and air gun ranges effectively making them unusable for that summer with the associated disruption to business. Extensive remedial work and reseeded required... We have suffered boar damage again this spring but so far it has been isolated incidents and hopefully will not result in the same level of damage as before"*.

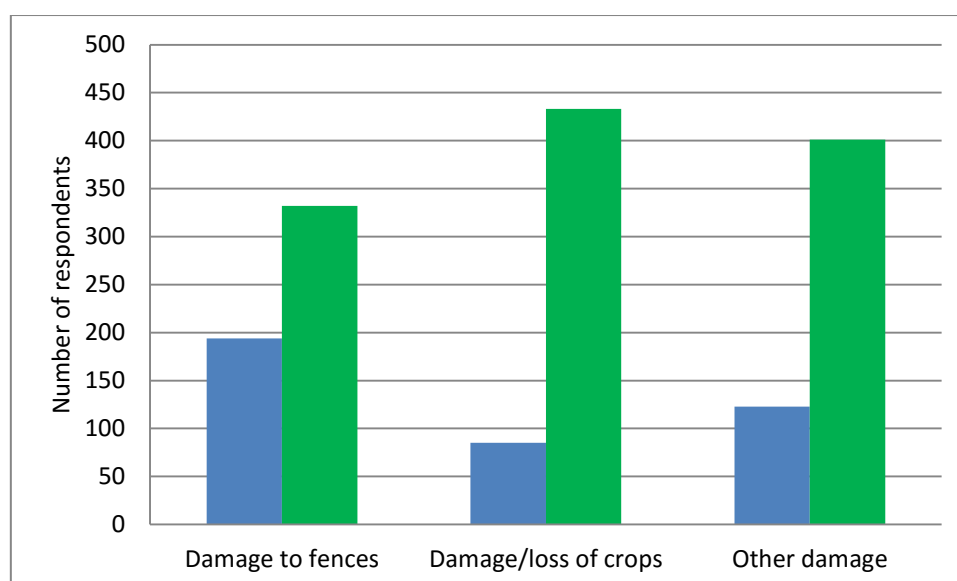


Figure 6.5 Number of respondents reporting damage to fences, damage to/or loss of crops and 'other' damage; Yes (■), No (■).

One third of an acre of maize is known to have been lost to boar foraging in 2012. Extensive loss of pasture due to boar rooting has also been reported by a number of people with the Forestry Commission having a single report of such damage at Plump Hill on their database.

A number of landowners and businesses interviewed had experienced damage as a result of boar activity. Precious Pets have experienced serious damage to their

grounds over the last three years as a result of boar. They have owned the business 7 years and only started seeing boar 3 years ago but now they are seeing them on a regular basis, a couple of boar a day any time of the day, not just dawn/dusk. Littledean Poultry Green Ltd had a lot of problems 2 years ago with boar coming onto their property and causing a lot of damage to grassed areas and fencing (increasing risk of sheep escaping although none did). They then invested in more (some electric) fencing and this has therefore stopped the boar getting in. However, Celtic Cattery have boar on their doorstep, they frequently come and cause damage to the grass verge near the house but they have a secure fence and have never had a problem with them inside their boundary.

The attitude of golf courses in the Dean varied. The Bells Hotel & Forest of Dean Golf and Bowls Club had had some problems when boar got through a broken fence. However, the (normal) fence and cattle grid usually keeps them out and they said they more problems with sheep than boar and they were not that concerned. In contrast, the Lydney Golf Club, although not having experienced damage to date, are extremely concerned about boar presence near to their club, boar have been spotted by the lakes/railroad just 500m from their site. The economic cost if they did get onto the course would be significant. The site has 9 greens each costing £15,000, they are now 4/5 years old and there would be an immediate cost of corrective works but as it actually takes long time for greens to mature there would be a long term social impact in addition. The Forest Hills Golf Club had had some issue with boar but advice from Forestry Commission wildlife rangers, and maintaining fences has so far prevented this being too excessive.

Camping and caravan sites had varied experience of boar impact. Neither Broadstone Farm or Bearse Farm have had incidents or damage to property involving wild boar. Nor has Bracelands which is fenced and gated (closed at night). Rushmere Farm have experience boar intrusion and damaged ground and rhododendron two-three times this year already (January-June 2015). Boar have got onto their site every year and messed up the grounds; *"it's not costly to put right, but it takes time and it is a nuisance"*. Yorkley Wood have had incidents with boar rooting on the site but they have now re-enforced the fencing on their 13½ acre site.

6.7 Raiding of Animal Feed

Only one report of boar raising animal feed was submitted *"the boar lifted a fence with their snouts between my farm and crown woodland, then lifted a 12ft galvanised gate off its hinges at the entrance to my feed passage in my cattle feeding shed to eat the maize put in the feeders for my cattle. I heard the noise in the shed and went to investigate, the cattle were going mad, they hate the smell of boar, me and my son re-hung the gate then run and fetched the high*

powered rifle and shot them, 6 in total... ..late evening in December. My cattle were very nervous and wild but none were injured".

However, other incidents have been reported to the project team, including boar 'breaking into' sheds to feed on pony nuts.

6.8 Attitudes Regarding Boar Damage

Generally a large number of respondents (59%) thought that boar cause damage to public property in the Dean (Figure 6.6). Only a few percent fewer (53%) thought boar cause a lot of damage to private property (Figure 6.7).

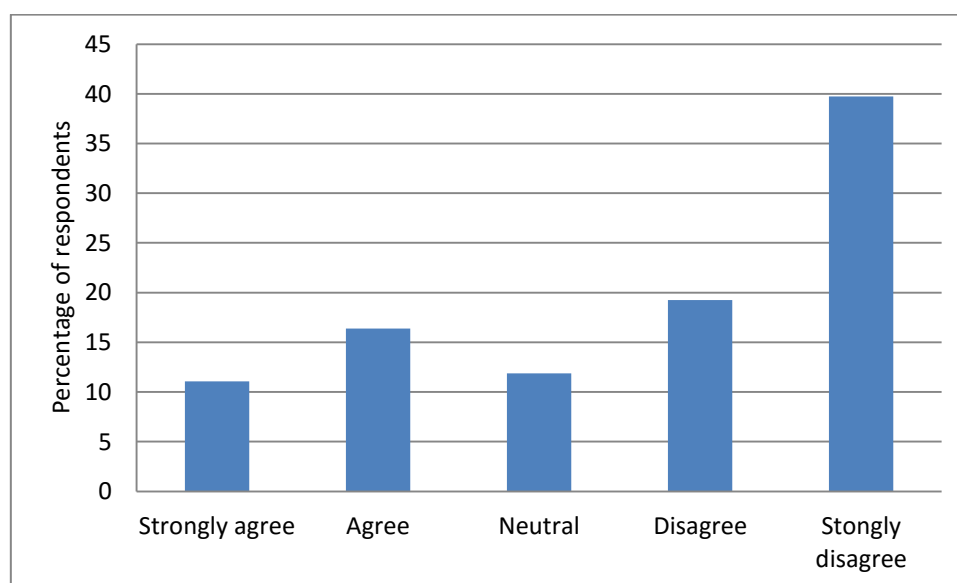


Figure 6.6 Percentage of respondents agreeing with the statement *"wild boar cause little damage to public property in the Dean"*.

6.9 Perceived Risks of Damage to Property

Generally the perceived risk of the likelihood of wild boar causing damage to fences and hedges and to gardens was no risk or very low/low. Only a total of 34% of respondents thought there was any risk to fences/hedges with 10% perceiving this to only be a moderate risk (Figure 6.8). The data for the perceived risk of damage to gardens was similar, albeit the high/very high risk was perceived to be less and the no/very low/low risk was slightly higher.

In contrast the perceived risk of damage caused by boar to local play grounds and playing fields was higher (Figure 6.9), again the results were very similar to one another. These findings reflect the strong feelings amongst residents as recorded in Section 6.2.

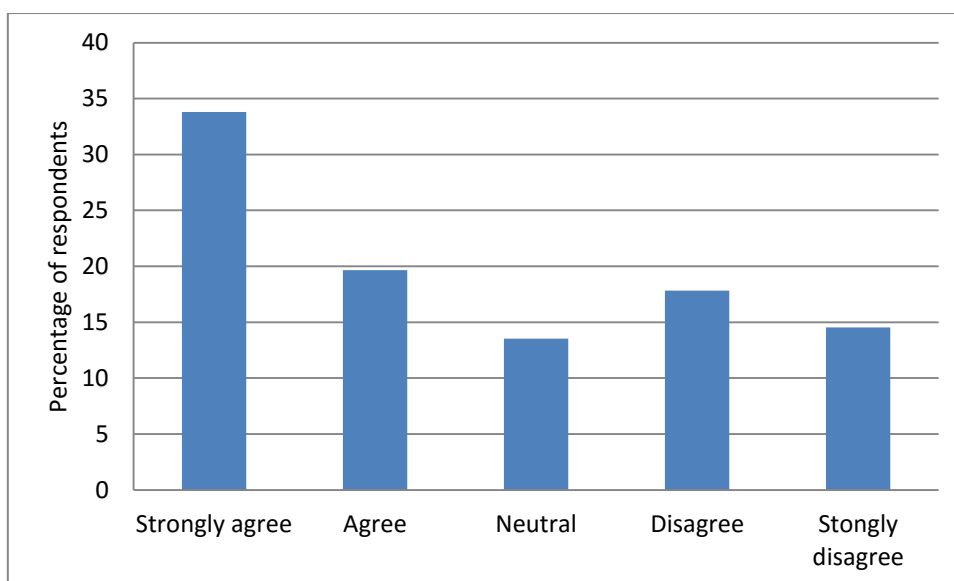


Figure 6.7 Percentage of respondents agreeing with the statement “wild boar cause a lot of damage to private property”.

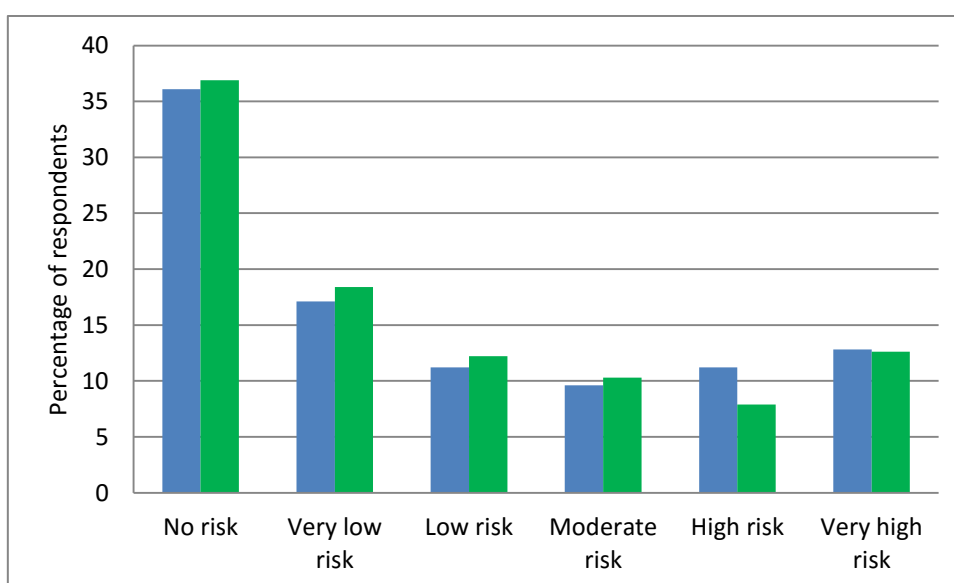


Figure 6.8 The perceived likelihood of wild boar causing damage to your fences/hedges (■), to your garden (■).

The perceived likelihood risk of wild boar causing damage to churchyards varied considerably from no risk (22%), low risk (12%), moderate risk (13%) and very high risk (19%)(Figure 6.10). In meetings with one or two of the Parish Councils concern was also be raised regarding the potential for such damage and the capacity of churchyard boundaries in preventing access by boar.

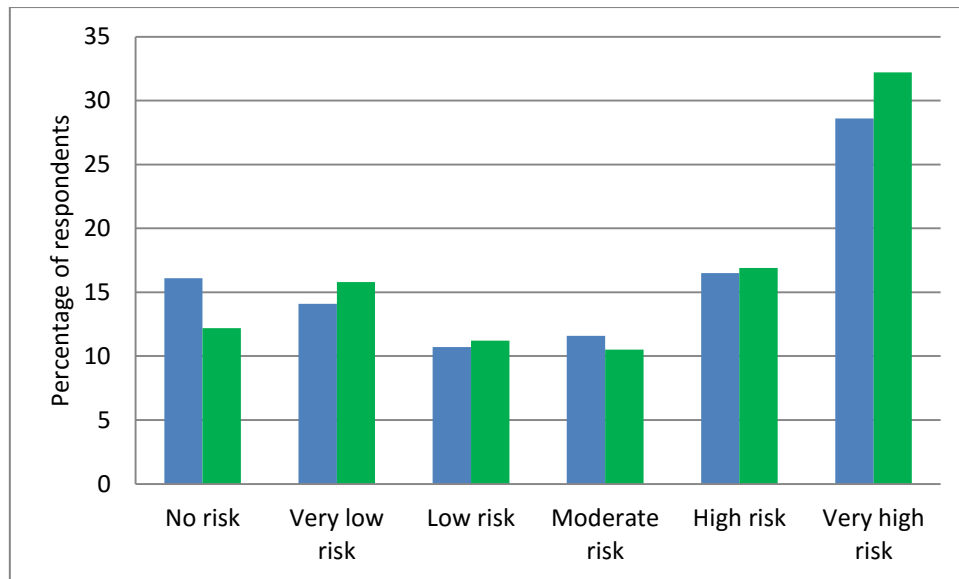


Figure 6.9 The perceived likelihood of wild boar causing damage to your local play-grounds (■), local playing fields (■).

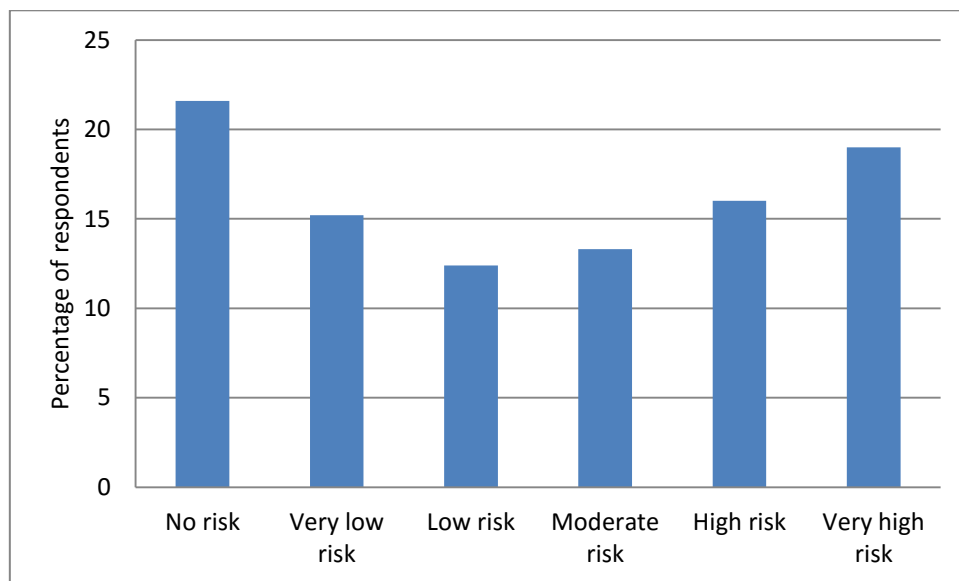


Figure 6.10 The perceived likelihood of wild boar causing damage to your local churchyards.

There was no such variation in the perceived likelihood of damage to road verges by wild boar activity (Figure 6.11). Fifty-four percent of respondents perceived such damage to be of very high risk, all other perceived risk fell below 10% other than high risk at 11%, reflecting the results in Section 5.1 and Section 6.4.

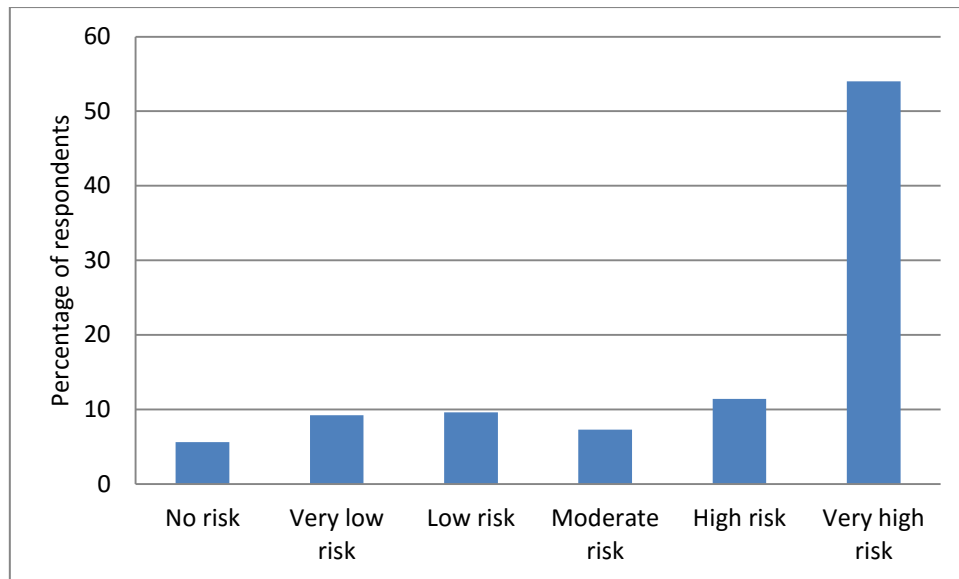


Figure 6.11 The perceived likelihood of wild boar causing damage to road verges.

The perceived risk of damage to farmers crops by wild boar only varied by 3½% between risk ratings, other than the very high risk which was considered to be 23% (Figure 6.12). The perceived likelihood of injury to livestock was considered to be much less of a risk (Figure 6.13) as was the livestock escaping as a result of damage to fences (Figure 6.13).

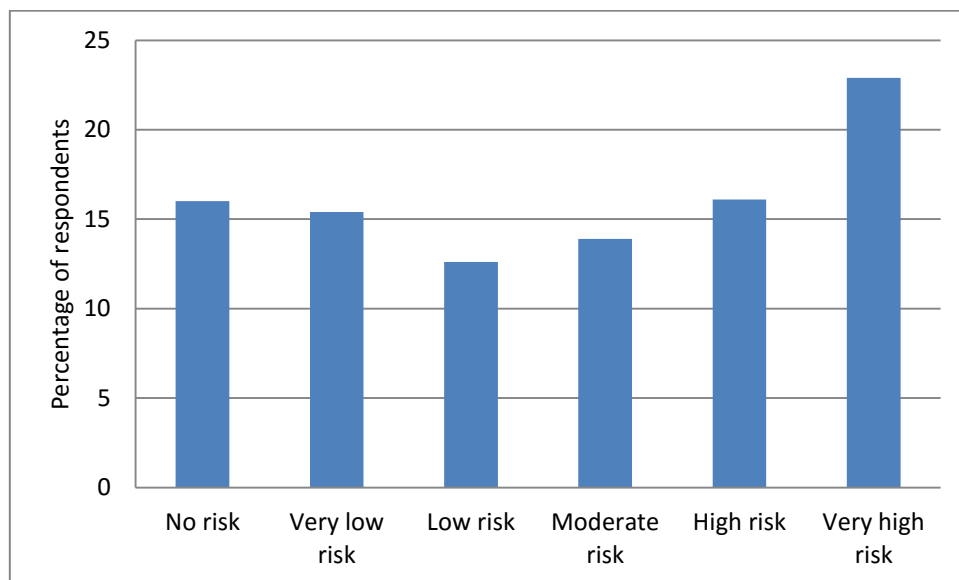


Figure 6.12 The perceived likelihood of wild boar causing damage to farmers crops.

The Forestry Commission's database contained one report (April 2015) of a complaint regarding the growing boar numbers locally and their potential impact on their market garden business.

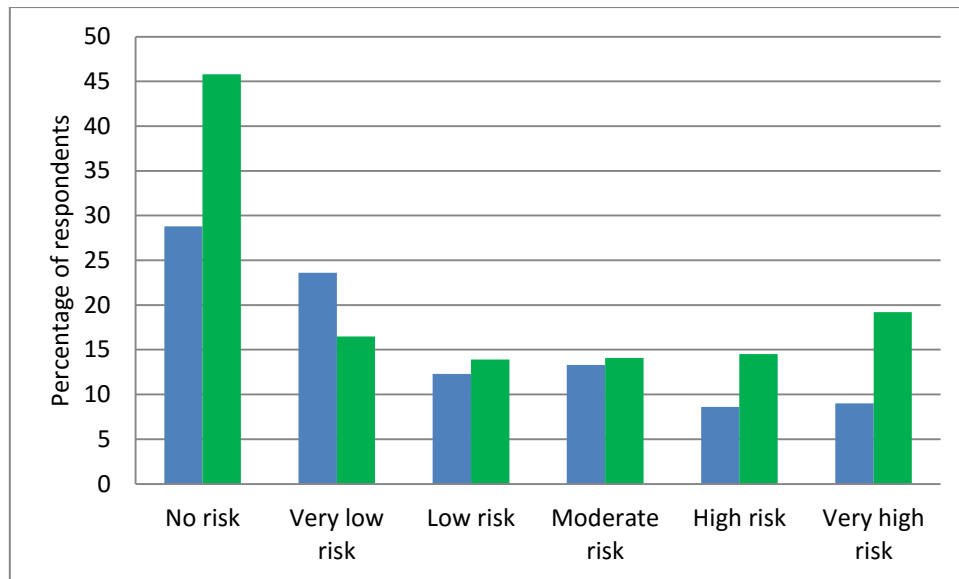


Figure 6.13 The perceived likelihood of livestock being injured by wild boar (■), farmer's fences being damaged and allowing livestock to escape (■).

6.10 Discussion

The number experiencing impact in some categories was relatively low, although a large proportion (21%) did experience damage to private gardens and 24% reported damage to amenity land they managed/were involved with its management. This contrasts with that reported by Clayton and Dutton in 2009/2010 who found that only 4.7% of respondents had suffered damage to property as a result of boar (Stannard 2010).

The greatest issue seemed to be with damage to fences (37%) but it could not clearly be ascertained as to whether these were to both private gardens and farm/business properties. For the one narrative that claimed that boar "*have attacked and eaten the lambs this year...*", the evidence for this is unclear, and it is perhaps unlikely that boar will take lambs that are fit and healthy. However, they have been observed by one of the project team opportunistically taking a grey squirrel when foraging in the woods. They have also been recorded as having partly consumed a stillborn foal and the carcass of deer involved in deer-vehicle collision.

Low numbers of reports in no way lessen the emotional impact and frustration (e.g. of damage to a cherished garden), nor indeed the financial costs. Interestingly the perceptions of damage varied considerably, and at times contradicted the actual data collected.

From the responses and discussions that the project team had with residents there frequently seemed to be an unwillingness to take responsibility for

preventing or reducing the likelihood of boar impacts. This may of course be partly due to the cultural history (the Dean and private properties not necessarily being fenced) and partly due to expectations that the boar can be removed rather than remedial action being taken (53% of respondents were supportive of total eradication, see Section 4.7). There is certainly financial implication, with many suggesting that the prevention of boar ingress would be too costly.

The precautionary principle would suggest that prevention of damage would be more desirable than remedial action once the damage has occurred. In Scotland it is not unfamiliar to see even private gardens fenced against deer ingress rather than suffer deer damaged. In areas with high badger numbers the RSPCA and other organisations recommend securing bins against raiding by badgers, similar action could be taken against boar in the Dean.

For businesses, a detailed costs-benefit analysis would seem to be the sensible approach. What are the implications of different levels of damage on business continuity? What is the likelihood of such damage actually occurring? An example of this is the fencing of Beechenhurst Lodge (see Section 7.2.3) area by the Forestry Commission. It is perhaps unfair to expect the Forestry Commission to undertake the principal control of boar populations and, at this time, it is unlikely that eradication is achievable even if there was a clear mandate for this to occur (see Section 4.7).

7.0 Economic Impacts

7.1 Economic Benefits

7.1.1 Local Trade – Butchers

All the butchers contacted within the Forest of Dean area were willing to participate in answering interview questions with the exception of one business. Of the 10 businesses interviewed, four did not deal with wild boar, neither butchering carcasses themselves or selling pre-made sausages. The reasons cited were that the meat was too expensive, lack of demand and there would be waste as demand would be difficult to predict.

A fifth business only sold pre-made sausages that they sourced from Wye Valley Bacon and Sausage, Coleford, selling approximately 60wk⁻¹. They had sold wild boar joints in the past but it was viewed as a novelty and although customers said they enjoyed it they wouldn't bother again.

The remaining five businesses all sold boar, both as sausages and joints, most had been doing so for only the last two-three years, one business had been so doing for six-seven years. Some butchers sourced pre-made sausages (again from Wye Valley Bacon and Sausage), selling cuts from carcasses when they were available. One butcher's sold sausages for £8.50kg⁻¹ and commented that they could not keep-up with demand.

The other butchers sourced carcasses from local dealers and prepared a range of products, sausages, cuts, burgers, steaks, diced, etc., 'in-house'. Carcasses cost £250-£400 depending on size; it was commented that pigs were approximately £100 less for the same weight. None were willing to reveal their overall profit from the sale of wild boar meat but generally profit margin was given as 30-40% (gross). It was made clear, however, that there were significant costs associated with handling and preparing the meat as well as wastage due to damage where shot and resulting spoiling.

A couple of butchers found sourcing boar carcasses difficult, with seasonal availability. Others had good relationships with local dealers and seemed to be able to source relatively easily. All boar were sourced from the Dean and were wild animals shot on private land within the area; customers were considered to be keen on the local provenance. All were very specific that they only purchased carcasses with the appropriate paperwork and health check (*Trichinella* test). Some had been offered carcasses but when requesting traceable paperwork the 'dealers' disappeared. One butcher estimated that over 50% of boar available in local pubs and restaurants was illegal and did not have the traceability or health paperwork.

A number commented that they were unable to source direct from the Forestry Commission; this was seen as a negative. Butchers were aware of the Forestry Commission selling the boar shot for population management purposes under a national contract, thus not being available for local consumption nor the benefits remaining local. One butcher stated that he thought the Forest of Dean (including the Forestry Commission) failed to make enough of the speciality of the boar, a lot more could be done to market the boar as something distinctive about the area, not just in terms of meat but also general tourism. All involved in selling boar meat felt it made a valuable contribution to the local economy.

Wye Valley Bacon and Sausage were contacted but due to time constraints were unable to provide precise information. However, all boar in which they deal are sourced from the Dean area, shot when causing damage to farmer's properties/crops. The annual number processed is between 30 and 40 individuals and the Trichinella test is always undertaken; there has never been a positive case. This is not the main business but an additional side-line income stream. No details on costs or income were forthcoming.

7.1.2 Local Trade – Hunters

Little information could be gathered on the number and/or activity (in financial terms) of licensed hunters within the Forest of Dean area. Such information could be considered both commercially sensitive as well as highly sensitive to the scrutiny of protesters and animal activists.

Information on the number of hunters licensed to shoot wild boar from the licensing authority, would give some indication. However, the number thereof will not necessarily be an indication of number operating commercially, many may have acquired a license in order to shoot on their own property rather than for commercial gain.

7.1.3 Income from Culling - Forestry Commission

The overall 'venison' income for West England Forest District in 2014/2015 was £120,000 derived from the sale of deer and boar carcasses into the human food chain. This was primarily through a national contract but include a small percentage of local sales. The total number of carcasses handled was 1,588, of which 361 were boar. Not all of these animals went into the human food chain.

In 2014, 265 carcasses were sold to the game dealer holding the current contract. One hundred and one carcasses were not sold as they were either diseased (unspecified disease), injured in boar-vehicle collisions, found dead or otherwise not fit for human consumption.

Assuming equal income for both deer and boar carcasses, and that a similar ratio of deer carcasses enter the food chain as boar, the income from boar culling in 2014/2015 was approximately £27,311.

7.1.4 Tourism Income

Despite the efforts of the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Tourism Association in circulating information requests to their membership, little information on the benefits (or costs) of boar to the tourism economy has been forthcoming. Owners of a number of differing accommodation types anecdotally reported that some of their guests visited with the hope or specific intention of seeing wild boar, *"The visitors to our holiday cottage are from all parts of England, and are thrilled at experiencing boar, hoping to see them on their walks or rides in the woods. (We love them to)." Similar reports were received from some of the camping and caravan sites. However, no quantifiable data as to the economic benefits could be obtained.*

7.1.5 Perception of Economic Benefits

Forty-five percent of respondents perceived (25% strongly agreed, 20% agreed) that wild boar contribute to boosting tourism, with 34% disagreeing (18% disagreeing, 16% strongly disagreeing)(Figure 7.1).

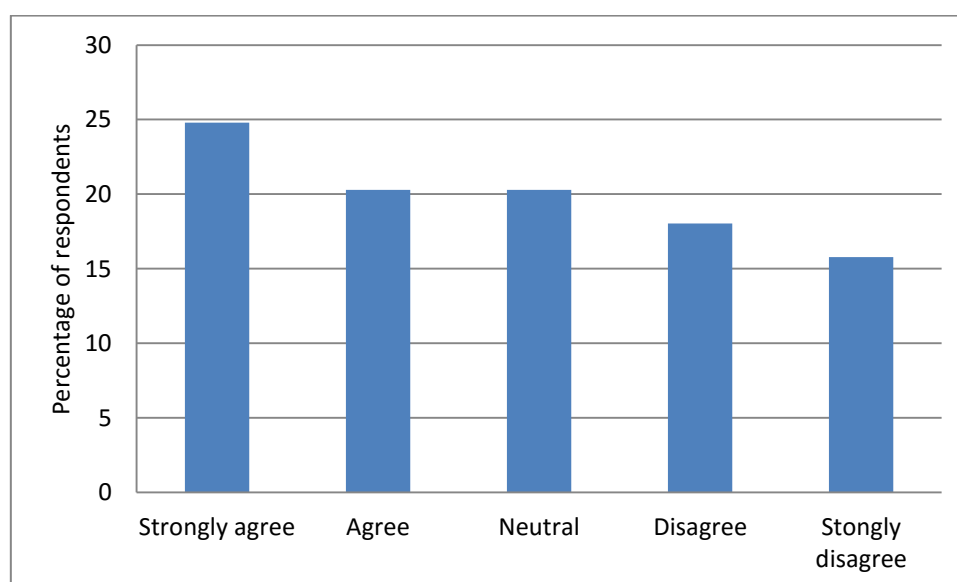


Figure 7.1 Percentage of respondents who perceive wild boar contribute to boosting tourism within the area.

Fewer respondents perceived that people visited the area specifically because of the presence of wild boar (Figure 7.2). Only 33% agreed (22% strongly agreeing, 11% agreeing) and 41% disagreeing (12% disagreeing, 29% strongly disagreeing). This contrasts with the anecdotal information (see Section 7.1.4).

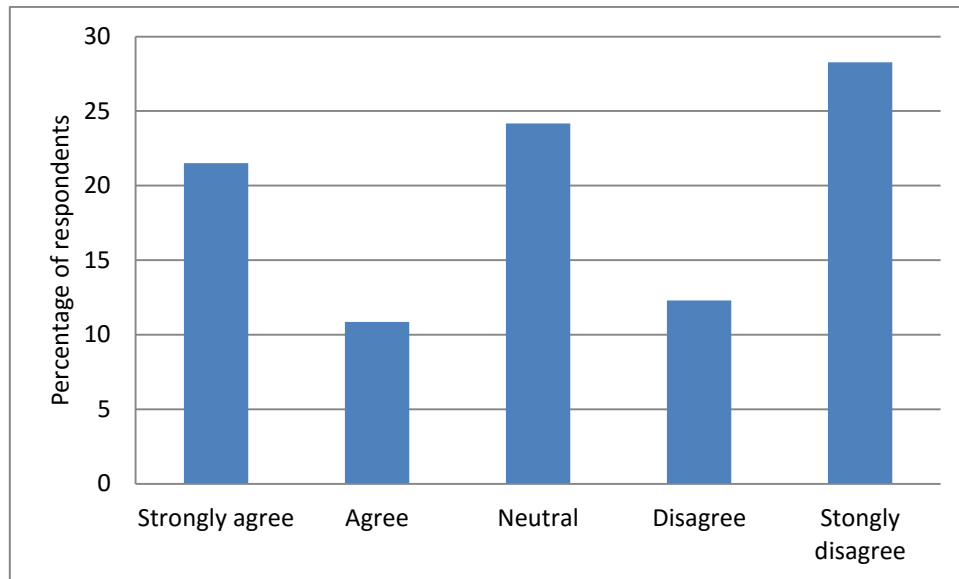


Figure 7.2 Percentage of respondents who perceive people visit the area specifically because of the presence of wild boar.

Generally it was strongly perceived that hunting wild boar benefits the local economy with 54% agreeing (26% strongly agreeing, 28% agreeing) and only 27% disagreeing (14% disagreeing, 13% strongly disagreeing)(Figure 7.3). However, in contrast far fewer perceived that wild boar contributed to the local economy via meat sales with 49% disagreeing (16% disagreeing, 33% strongly disagreeing) and only 33% agreeing (20% strongly agreeing, 13% agreeing) (Figure 7.4).

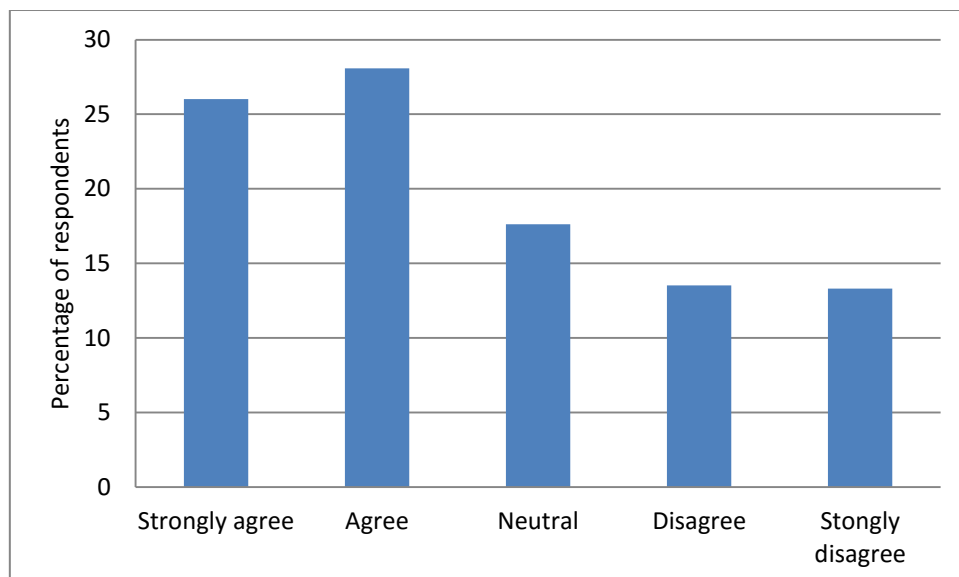


Figure 7.3 Percentage of respondents who perceive hunting wild boar benefits the local economy.

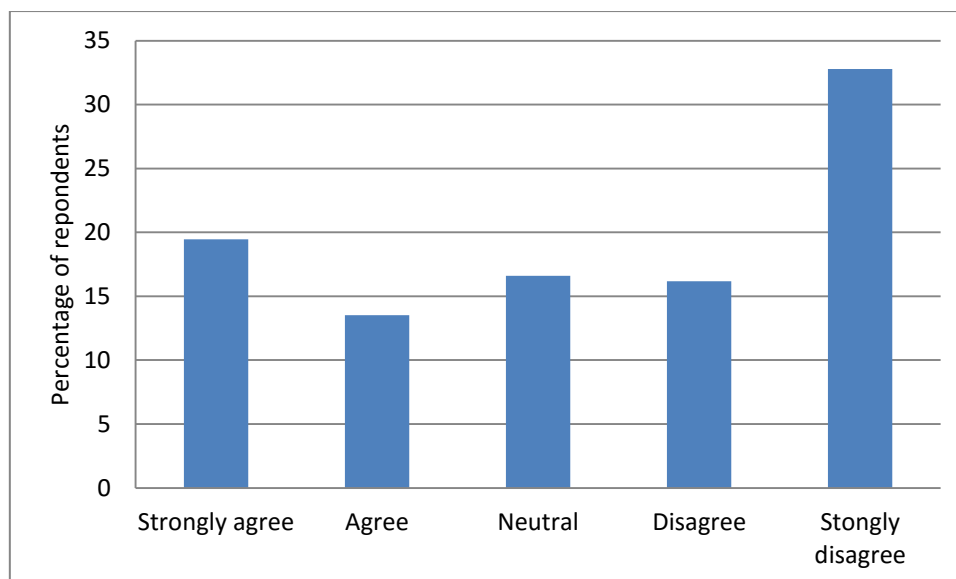


Figure 7.4 Percentage of respondents who perceive wild boar contribute to the local economy via meat sales.

7.2 Economic Costs

7.2.1 Veterinary Costs

No veterinary surgery gave information on the likely costs of treatment to dogs, each case being very different. Of those cases where information was received as to the nature and extent of treatment costs ranged from £100 to £5,000 (Table 7.1). However, indirect economic costs have also resulted. One case reported involved a dog going missing for two days (March 2013) after being chased by wild boar with young at Nags Head Lodge, Coalway. Lost dog organisations and local people took the time to help search for her.

No information was received on any costs that had been incurred in the treatment of other animals, e.g. horses.

7.2.2 Costs of Boar-Vehicle Collisions

Only 13 respondents provided details of the boar-vehicle incident, with only 8 providing details of the costs incurred. Damage ranged from minor to severe, with vehicles being written-off, costs ranged from £130-£3,000 (Table 7.2).

Some respondents commented that they were concerned that their vehicle insurance premiums would increase having made a claim for a boar-vehicle collision.

Table 7.1 Costs of veterinary treatment to dogs injured by wild boar in the Forest of Dean (for cases where details have been provided).

Breed	Treatment	Cost
Unspecified	Six hour op to remove contaminated skin and sew her back together and pin leg	on-going but estimated to be >£2,000
Springer Spaniel	Break to back leg and cuts in to belly. Leg was operated on and pinned back together	around £3,000
Spaniel	Damaged leg	£100
Unspecified	Practically skinned under-neath chest and left with a fractured leg. Dog spent a week in intensive care in Quedgely Animal Hospital	£5,000
Unspecified	Bruising and abrasions to ribs and belly	£100
Unspecified	Gored in the testicles	£300

Table 7.2 Details of boar-vehicle collision reported by questionnaire respondents.

Incident Details	Insurance Claim?	Cost
Driving home from work at 20mph I had slowed down at crossroads when boar ran out and hit my car	Yes	£1,500
A wild boar ran down off the bank at Brierley on the Monmouth Road at about 5.35pm one evening in January smashing into our car. The car took 1 month to repair	Yes	£2,500
Killed smallish boar, damage to front of car	Yes	?
Slight damage to my truck and the boar was OK	?	?
Boar were too close to avoid them without driving into trees. My bumper got a big hole in it which is now held together with cardboard and duck-tape because we cannot afford to buy a new one or claim on insurance	No	?
I hit a wild boar on a motorcycle near Parkend, it just bolted out of the verge. Luckily I managed to stay on but had there been a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction at the time I	?	£130

Table 7.2 continued. Details of boar-vehicle collision reported by questionnaire respondents.

Incident Details	Insurance Claim?	Cost
would have hit head on. My travelling speed was 50mph at the time and I probably hit the animal at 40mph as I only had time to react and steer in a split second.		
Driving up Iver Plump Hill, Mitcheldean, two boar ran in front of me causing severe damage to my car and myself as I banged my head	?	£2,800
Hit a wild boar on the road, stood no chance, five ran out of the scrub (10pm)	?	£1,000
My husband has had two car accidents both involving wild boar. One four weeks ago when he swerved so as not to hit one, which wrote off his classic car. The police were involved as there was damage to a wall as well as his vehicle	?	?
The second was around 14 months ago when he hit a small boar		
March 2015 at 22:15hrs driving home from work two large and five or six piglets came out of woods near to Forest Church I actually ran over one with both front and rear wheel on the near side. My Freelander 2 was in garage for nearly six weeks	?	£2,900
Boar ran out of the forest at Worrall Hill at 1.45pm and damaged side of my car, November 2014. Too expensive to go through my insurance so ended up getting all the parts needed and repairing it myself	No	£500
At approx. 10pm on Friday 2nd January 2015 I was driving my son and daughter in law past the Forest of Dean college at Five Acres, Berry Hill at approx. 30mph when a large male boar ran out of the wood straight into my car. The boar died immediately. The boar caused considerable damage paid by the insurance company. However, I paid £250 excess and no doubt my premium will increase later in the year	Yes	approx. £3,000
Worrall Hill, January 2015, 7pm. Wild boar ran across road, vehicle written-off (air bag deployed and irreparable damage to front of car). Luckily had another car to use	?	?

7.2.2 Costs of Boar Impact on Gardens

Few details of the costs of repairing damage to gardens were reported. Of those reported costs ranged from approximately £70-£180 for repair to damaged lawns, to £2,000-£3,000 for the erection of new fencing and repair to damage. One report was of spending “*almost £5,000 supplementing our beech hedges with walls and barbed wire fencing to keep them out of the garden*”. However, it is unclear as to whether these costs were for materials only or whether they include labour, perhaps both.

7.2.3 Costs of Boar Impact on Amenity Land

Even fewer details were forthcoming on the costs of boar impact on amenity land, despite promises by individuals and organisations. One report was of a cost of £3,000 to repair the damage to Sling football pitch, another of a cost of £900 of sand to re-lay (twice) the football pitch at Soudley Village Hall. It was also reported that the replacement of fences Soudley Village Hall cost £7,000 to replace with boar resistant fencing.

The Forestry Commission erected a 2km long specialist boar-proof fence around Beechenhurst as a cost of £23,000 (materials and labour) following numerous occasions of rooting damage and some boar-people interactions over several years. This was mainly to reduce any potential future health and safety issues but also to reduce the labour time (and costs) of making remedial repairs.

7.2.4 Costs of the Impact on Local Highways

The clearance of soil covered footways as a result of boar rooting activity at Fancy Rd in Parkend, Whitecroft to Parkend, Blakeney Hill, near the village hall in Yorkley totalled £4,500.

Costs of other ‘management’ by the Highways Authority could not be separated from those of ongoing day-to-day or annual management. Other than the clearance of footways the costs incurred as a result of boar activity were considered to be negligible.

7.2.5 Costs of Livestock Escapes and Losses

No data on the costs of such incidents was submitted to this study or were obtainable by the project team.

7.2.6 Costs of Damage to Farm and Business Properties

As with information on the costs of damage and repair to gardens few details of the costs of repairing damage to farm and business properties were reported. Of those reported, costs ranged from approximately £400-£3,000 (Table 7.3).

Table 7.3 Details of the damage to farm and business properties reported and associated costs of repair (where provided).

Details of Damage	Cost
Extensive damage to my work premises with total destruction of grassed archery and air gun ranges effectively making them unusable for that summer with the associated disruption to business. Extensive remedial work and reseeded required	estimated £800
We have suffered boar damage again this spring but so far it has been isolated incidents and hopefully will not result in the same level of damage as before	
Summer/Autumn 2013, fences breached on our own property. Paddocks torn up and ditches damaged. Electric fencing damaged leading to horses escaping their enclosure but contained within property boundaries	approx. £400
Boar bashed through hedge to get into our field. New fencing had to be put in	?
Twenty-one night-time visits with costs to repair damage to property in Ruspidge. Trapped main culprit and dealt with by local licenced ranger.	£1,400
Had to fence our land, the boar chased my husband many times out of our fields. We had them when they were first dropped on the Staunton Road, our fields are not far from there, we suffered terrible damage and they scared my old horse to death	£3,000
Serious damage to grounds over the last three years as a result of boar. It is difficult to put an exact economic cost to the damage but it was at least 10/12 hours per week spent by staff on site on flattening uprooted turf and re-turfing. This manpower is a drain on resources for a small business	?
A lot of damage to grassed areas and fencing two years ago (increasing risk of sheep escaping although none did). Invested in more (some electric) fencing and this has stopped the boar getting in. The cost of repair wasn't great but that it was quite an inconvenience.	?

7.2.7 Costs of Crop Loss and Damage

No data on the costs of such incidents was submitted to this study or were obtainable by the project team. It has been reported that the loss (to boar foraging) of the 1/3 acre of maize in 2012 cost £1,500 plus the repair to the field boundaries.

7.2.8 Costs to the Forestry Commission

The Forestry Commission employ four Wildlife Rangers who cover the Forest of Dean area, the average salary of which is £35,000. Crudely one-third of any Wildlife Ranger's time is allocated to boar management. This is based on a self-imposed culling window of 1st September to 31st March of each year during which the rangers are also undertaking other duties including deer management. Thus the approximate salary cost for boar management is: $£35,000 \times 0.33 \times 4 = £46,200$ (K. Stannard pers comm).

In addition to the salary costs to the Forestry Commission, there are the annual costs of the provision of equipment, vehicles, larder provision and maintenance, etc. A properly equipped Wildlife Ranger costs approximately £12,000 per annum (including vehicle provision (4x4 trucks and quadbike) and firearms). Using the same crude pro-rata calculation of time allocation the costs of equipping the Wildlife Rangers is: $£12,000 \times 0.33 \times 4 = £15,850$ (K. Stannard pers comm).

The provision of the larder, its running costs and maintenance are also critical. A new larder was required in 2015 and cost almost £400,000 as a capital cost. Again this is used for both deer and boar, but it was noted that the need to replace the existing larder facility only arose as a result of the boar management (K. Stannard pers comm). Electricity running costs are between £500-£600 per month, principally for running the chillers. The disposal of larder waste (including carcasses not passed fit for human consumption) costs £0.32 per kilogramme for uplift and incineration under the Animal By-products (Enforcement)(England) Regulations 2013. This totals between £300 and £1,200 a month depending on time of year; for 2014/15 this totalled to £4,852 for the old larder. Again this includes all of the deer as well as the boar waste (K. Stannard pers comm).

In addition to the above there are additional costs including unquantifiable costs involved including fencing, management time, additional capital expenditure. The annual survey of wild boar, including analysis of reproductive tracts and on-going development of a population model for boar, is an additional annual charge of around £35,000 from Forest Research (K. Stannard pers comm).

Using the figures above, K. Stanndard (pers comm) estimates that the cost of wild boar management in the Forest of Dean is no less than £65,000 per annum.

This ignores the unquantifiable additional costs and those associated with the work conducted by Forest Research.

It is worth highlighting that all costs given above are estimated 'ball-park' figures as expenditure is not recorded at the level of detail presented.

7.3 Discussion

It is difficult to fully evaluate the economic benefits versus the costs of the presence of boar within the Forest of Dean. The commercial sensitivity of much of the information and/or the unwillingness to reveal such information is a hindrance. From the details provided by the Forestry Commission there is a significant imbalance between the estimated income of £27,311 and the estimated costs of £65,000 + £35,000.

The economic costs of boar presence and activity are relatively easy to identify, damage to property and remedial action, measures to prevent ingress, costs of boar-vehicle collisions, veterinary costs, etc. Also, the individuals suffering such costs are normally clearly identifiable. However, the economic benefits, and those that do benefit, are more difficult to ascertain. Some tourism businesses do benefit, as do some of the butchers within the area. Although hunting boar was seen to contribute to the local economy, meat sales were not. Perhaps this is due to the knowledge that the boar shot by the Forestry Commission are largely sold into national contract rather than local economy, and that it is felt that information on the income generated is not publicised?

Some respondents commented that they were concerned that their vehicle insurance premiums would increase having made a claim for a boar-vehicle collision. Advice from an NFU agent is that this would depend on an individual's personal policy (whether 'no claims' protected or not). It would be unlikely that insurance claims *per se* would increase with an increase in boar-vehicle collision claims without a dramatic increase in the number of claims.

8.0 Boar in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, and in the Netherlands

8.1 Baden-Württemberg

Approximately 38% of Baden-Württemberg is wooded and has similar 'open access' for recreation as the UK, although there are some areas where access is restricted either for nature conservation, but more frequently for hunting, wild boar, and red and fallow deer being the main game. People visiting the wooded areas are restricted to walking tracks and must keep their dogs on leads at all times (BELV, 2011).

Location	Size	Human population	Boar population	Road type	Landscape character
Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, England	111km ²	35,000	Minimum 1,039	Two A roads, four B roads and several lanes	Three towns (Lydney, Cinderford, Coleford), several villages and hamlets set within the forest itself, some pasture farmland
Baden-Württemberg, Germany	140km ²	54,461	Was extirpated returned approximately 70+yrs ago	Two 'freeway type roads' and a mixture of smaller roads, tracks and lanes.	A large town within a forested area, some small hamlets in amongst the forest edges, including pasture farmland

8.1 Boar and Boar-Incidents in Baden-Württemberg

Across Germany wild boar have been increasing in numbers due to mild winters and new restrictions on hunting (Crossland 2009). This is reflected across the continent, for example in Poland wild boar populations have increased by 150% in the past 10 years (Day, 2015). These increases in populations have an impact on the human populations in the areas boar occur, boar-people incidents are inevitable (Day, 2015). Wild boar interaction cause a variety of impacts from pasture and arable field damage, incidents with people and pets, damage to gardens and general nuisance (Crossland 2006; Day 2015; Nicholson 2012; Koch 2013). There have been reports of joggers being chased, boar gaining access into living rooms, rampaging through villages. Confrontations are commonplace in most areas of Germany (Crossland 2009).

It is not dissimilar in Baden-Württemberg, with negative boar-people interaction. With the boar population having returned and increased in the past 70 years, boar damage cornfields, meadows and pasture regularly, as well as boar-vehicle collisions, incidents with pets, people and raiding of bins (Nicholson 2012; Koch 2013; Licoppe *et al*, 2013). Gravestones have been seriously damaged whilst boar have been rooting and digging in cemeteries (Licoppe *et al*, 2013).

Wildlife-vehicle collisions occur across Germany, 200,000 collisions involving wildlife occurred in 2012. These included 20 fatalities, 15 people seriously injured and half a billion euros in insurance losses. Twenty percent of the wildlife involved was also killed in the collisions. In Hesse, neighbouring Baden-Württemberg, wildlife-vehicle collisions account for a third of all road traffic collisions (Koch 2013). In Baden-Württemberg they have constructed wildlife passes, small bridges, culverts and viaducts especially for use by wildlife. These have been implemented in the past 3-16 years to try and counter the high numbers of wildlife-vehicle collisions (Georgii *et al*. n.d).

Boar are managed in a variety of ways across Germany from driven shoots, private shooting parties, high seat shooting using baits through to individuals using dogs. Areas are managed in three ways, by the Hunting District System, by Wildlife Management Requirement or a Tenancy System. The Hunting District System is where those holding the hunting rights oversee year-round population monitoring. The Wildlife Management Requirement is where hunters are expected to preserve wildlife habitats, only removing as much of the population as population increases allow, whilst avoiding diseases and wildlife-vehicle collisions negative impacts on farming and forestry (BELV 2011; Kolodziej 2012). The Tenancy System often involves large tracts of forest and arable land whereby the individual holding the shooting rights (officially known as the 'Pächter') is responsible for minimising the amount of damage caused by the boar. Failure to do so means the payment of compensation to the farmer and/or forester.

Hunters lease areas of private land making them liable for compensation on behalf of the landowner. In Baden-Württemberg leasing of cornfields and meadows is unprofitable for the hunters as the compensation payments exceed the price of the leases. There are calls by the hunters to lease roadside zones to assist in lowering the number of boar-vehicle collisions; as yet the local Government Departments have not discussed this opportunity (Koch, 2013; Licoppe *et al*, 2013).

In Baden-Württemberg boar are managed by the Württemberg Federal Department, they have an over-sight role across the area, managing all hunting bags from private hunters and those working the public (Federal) land (Licoppe *et al*, 2013).

8.2 Boar in the Netherlands

Wild boar roam freely in the Netherlands but with numbers increasing they have begun to appear in suburban and peri-urban areas as well as occurring in the wider landscape and nature areas. The boar are drawn to the urban areas by waste and human composting practices. In addition, visitors and locals are known to be feeding and getting too close to boar, therefore habituating the boar to humans (Buijs, 2014; Stikvoort, 2012).

Those that manage the wild boar populations are aware that the boar not only present an ecological management issue but also a social one. It is recognised that the boar are a potential threat to human safety, particularly as a result of habituation caused by feeding (Buijs, 2014; Stikvoort, 2012). Boar damage gardens and local amenity land and cause boar-vehicle collisions.

There is a mixture of feelings and perceptions of the people in Netherlands, with some are content to live alongside the boar and others wanting fencing and active culling (Buijs, 2014). As boar are known to devastate agricultural land many farmers consider the boar a pest species (Stikvoort, 2012).

Boar management tools utilised in the Netherlands include fencing and culling (Buijs, 2014), although some are against any sort of management of the boar. However, little is done to discourage or stop locals and tourists feeding the boar (Buijs, 2014). Many people have fenced their own gardens against the boar out of desperation, costing large amounts of money in electric and wire fencing (Buijs, 2014).

In general people feel a lack of consultation regarding boar management issues (Buijs, 2014) and many people are concerned about the lack of information regarding wild boar and their management. Buijs (2014) recommended that this was resolved with the local residents being consulted and information distributed to better inform them with regard to the management and the wild boar themselves.

8.3 Discussion of the information from Baden-Württemberg and the Netherlands with the situation and findings from the Forest of Dean

Information from Baden-Württemberg and the Netherlands reflect the growing issues relating to increasing wild boar populations across the European continent (Appollonio *et al.* 2010a and authors therein). Generally it would seem the situation within the Forest of Dean mirrors that in Baden-Württemberg albeit to a reduced extent at present. The existing distribution of boar within the Dean is restricted (although expanding from the central source), and thus currently has negative impacts on fewer residents, communities and businesses.

One significant difference is the hunting and compensation culture in Baden-Württemberg (which is common in many continental areas). Despite the restricted hunting (Crossland 2009) it is likely that hunting pressure is greater than that currently within the Forest of Dean, especially on the public forest estate. Despite this greater hunting pressure it appears not to be sufficient to prevent population increases. However, in some countries supplementary feeding of boar is known to occur to ensure a population exists from year-to-year for hunting which might counteract population management attempts.

The lack of information and/or consultation on management and boar recorded in the Netherlands also reflect the findings of this study. Many felt the information available to be insufficient (see Section 4.8), although the nature of the information felt lacking was less clear.

In the UK boar are classified as a 'wild' animal, not owned by anyone, and thus no compensation is available; this was an issue raised by some respondents and individuals spoken to by the project. This is similar to other animals such as deer, badgers, foxes, etc., and certainly deer, and to a lesser extent badgers, can cause significant damage (and financial costs) if in collision with vehicles.

The strategy of creating wildlife passes, bridges, etc., especially for the use by wildlife far more common on the continent than the UK, even to very large scales. Certainly such strategies are worth consideration for the reduction of boar-vehicle collisions.

Many comment that the highly visible signs of the rooting on road verges by wild boar are not observed on the continent. However, members of the project team observed such in the Provence region of France in September 2015. Such signs maybe less due to the higher hunting pressure, and possible behavioural responses of boar to such pressure.

9.0 Summary Comments

There are, without doubt, significant impacts on the residents of the Forest of Dean by the presence and activity of wild boar. However, the significance of these varies widely, and can be both negative and positive.

Perhaps the main issue identified by this project is the lack of satisfaction with the provision of information on wild boar. This is highlighted by the results of the questionnaire but also came across strongly when the project team spoke to residents, business proprietors, etc. There was extreme dissatisfaction with the Forestry Commission and District Council with what was felt to be poor and/or a lack of communication that exacerbates the frustration experienced by the negative impacts of boar. It is also unclear to many why the District Council abdicates any responsibility for providing information and the management of boar and passes all enquiries, etc., to the Forestry Commission. This reflects the situation recorded in the Netherlands.

Dissatisfaction is increased with what is perceived as misinformation and disinformation. Much of this maybe more as a result of what is seen as a lack of provision of information. However, incidents such as the misrepresentation of the minimum numbers calculated by thermal imaging as actual numbers is unhelpful.

Local media, especially the local newspapers, are also culpable in perpetuating some of the issues, such as anxiety and fear, with sensationalistic reports that frequently contradict one another. Mayer (2013) also reported that the media were quick to highlight the attacks and the threat of attacks; the English media were mentioned in particular to be sensationalistic. Clayton & Dutton (in prep) reviewed media articles in 2010 and found both national and local media were sensationalistic, with few reports being neutral in nature.

Greater awareness and more accurate, clear and detailed information on the risks and benefits would be invaluable in managing the expectations, fears and issues of residents. Better information and education on adapting behaviour, expectations of individual responsibility, etc., would allow many to overcome any concerns regarding the presence of boar.

It is not the remit of this report to comment on the management of wild boar in the Forest of Dean. However, the lessons from Baden-Württemberg and other European countries would indicate that tough decisions are required to ensure the boar within the area do not become more of an issue to resident communities (and visitors). In particular in respect to negative boar-people incidents, boar-vehicle collisions, impacts on amenity areas, etc., although other negative impacts should not be discarded as unimportant.

A sustainable (in financial/resource terms) population management strategy that is acceptable to residents and external stakeholders and communicated would seem to be an essential requirement for the management of boar and the expectations of resident communities. However, as can be seen from the crude calculations from data provided by the Forestry Commission, currently the financial costs of wild boar management seriously outweigh any economic benefits.

10.0 Best Practice Guidance for Co-Existing with Wild Boar

The best practice guidance presented below are taken from the literature, especially Mayer (2013), from practice undertaken in Europe/abroad, and developed from observations within the UK combined with the knowledge and experience of the project team.

This information should be taken as general guidance rather than guaranteed strategies for co-existence. Generally the precautionary principle should be followed when both preventing property damage and when using the open forest. As highlighted previously, individual responsibility is a key factor.

10.1 Avoidance of Property Damage/Livestock Escapes/Etc.

- Fence areas likely to be sensitive to the impact of boar, ideally using a boar-specific fence such as that used at Beechenhurst;
- Undertake regular fence checks, especially following stormy weather, and undertake regular proactive maintenance;
- Consider the use of temporary fencing in areas that are only sensitive at specific times, but be aware these are likely to be less effective than permanent, boar-specific fencing;
- Ensure secure storage of animal feeds to prevent raiding by wild boar;
- Ensure gates at entrances through boar-fencing are closed after use;
- Maintain cattle-grids at entrances through boar-fencing to ensure they are effective;
- Secure rubbish/compost bins to prevent raiding by wild boar;
- Reduce the time bins are 'curb-side' waiting for collection to reduce the likelihood of raids by boar;
- Stop composting/dumping in the forest and especially in the urban/forest interface, this includes dumping of garden waste 'over-the-fence', to reduce the likelihood of attracting boar into the area;
- Stop any feeding of wild boar.

10.2 Reduction of Risk When Using the Open Forest

- Be cautious when walking through the open forest, especially when alone, and stick to well defined routes away from dense thickets/understory vegetation;
- Be vigilant when walking/running through the forest and along road verges and the possibility of already uneven terrain being more hazardous due to the activities of boar;

- Be cautious when walking through the open forest with dogs, especially when 'off-the-lead';
- Do not 'surprise' a boar or sounder, ensure any animals are aware of your presence;
- Do not approach a wild boar, attempt to pat/touch or feed any wild boar;
- Do not approach an obviously injured or wounded boar, call the Forestry Commission Wildlife Rangers (e.g. via the Police);
- Do not call dogs 'back' if they are being chased by wild boar;
- Do not intervene if dogs are attacked by wild boar;
- Do not block the path of a moving boar;
- If a boar approaches back away slowly and carefully;
- Do not threaten or chase a wild boar;
- Be aware of speed when riding, e.g. a mountain bike, on forest tracks and the potential for 'meeting' boar on your route;
- Be aware of speed when driving on forest roads and the possibility of a boar-vehicle collision;

In addition to the above Mayer (2013) offers the following guidance. The authors of this report do not necessarily recommend them as actions other than as a last resort which, considering the current data, is an exceedingly unlikely occurrence:

"Defensive Strategies Lastly, again based on an overall review of the attacks in this study, there are several ways that one can avoid being involved in or reduce the severity of an attack by a wild pig. These are as follows":

"Be cautious and alert to the potential sudden presence of wild pigs when traveling through areas that these animals inhabit."

"If wild pigs are encountered, either detour around the animals, giving them a wide berth, or, if they are too close, slowly back away while being careful not to make any sudden or potentially threatening movements."

"Should a wild pig begin an aggressive approach from a far distance, try to out run the animal; however, wild pigs can run faster than humans, so trying to outrun them may be futile if the pig persists in the chase over a long distance. If a wild pig charges at you at a close distance, climb a tree or other elevated object to get out of the animal's reach, getting at least 6 feet off of the ground; these animals can't climb, but large wild pigs can work their way up a tree trunk, "walking" up the trunk with their front legs, to reach objects that are 4-5 feet above the ground level."

"If evasion or escape is not possible, turn and face the animal and prepare to aggressively fight back with anything at your disposal; under hunting circumstances, victims have fought back with weapons being used for harvesting game (e.g., guns, bows/arrows, spears); for the non-hunting circumstances, victims used a variety of items that they had with them to fend off the attacking pig(s) (e.g., camera tripod, hammer, bicycle, chair, machete, parang, shovel, cane, dog leash)."

"While fighting back, try to stay on your feet and avoid being knocked to the ground; people who fall or are knocked down during a mauling attack sustain injuries to multiple parts of the body, and these injuries are more likely to be fatal."

"If you fall or are knocked down, get onto your back with your feet facing the animal, start kicking rapidly with your feet against the end of the snout or head, making sure that one of your foot doesn't get caught in the pig's mouth."

"Continue to fight back until the animal breaks off the attack; most wild pig attacks on humans last less than one minute in duration; if the animal tires of the attack and attempts to leave, do not try to pursue the animal or inadvertently block its potential escape route."

"Seek immediate medical care for any wounds sustained in the attack; in rural areas, victims should use good and immediate wound treatment, and seek medical attention at the nearest hospital upon their return to a developed area."

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Appendix 1

Survey of Public Interaction with and Perceptions of Wild Boar in the Forest of Dean

Worcester University are undertaking research exploring public interaction with, and perceptions of, wild boar in the Forest of Dean. We would be very grateful if you could spare 15 minutes to complete the following questions. Please be reassured that all responses are voluntary and that all the surveys will be stored and analysed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2003. Your anonymity will be protected in any publications or presentations. Your consent to participate is implied in completing the form; you are free to answer as few or as many questions as you wish.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact us by email (fodboar@worc.ac.uk), telephone (01905 855237) or by post (FoD Boar, c/o ISE, University of Worcester, Henwick Grove, Worcester WR2 6AJ). An electronic copy of this questionnaire is available to download or complete on-line at: www.fodboar.ac.uk.

Copies of the findings of this research will be provided to your local library and each Parish Council within the Dean by the autumn of 2015. Many thanks, we greatly appreciate your time.

Sightings of Wild Boar

Have you seen a Wild Boar within the Forest of Dean during the past 2 years Yes ☐ No ☐

If 'YES' on roughly how many occasions during the past 2 years have you seen a Wild Boar in each of these locations:

- | | | |
|--|----------------------|-----------|
| a) whilst walking/cycling or riding in the Forest of Dean? | <input type="text"/> | occasions |
| b) whilst driving through the Forest of Dean? | <input type="text"/> | occasions |
| c) on the fringes of built-up areas of your parish? | <input type="text"/> | occasions |
| d) within built-up areas of your parish? | <input type="text"/> | occasions |

On the occasion(s) of the sightings were they of (tick all that apply)

Individual animals ☐
Group(s) of animals ☐

What time of day did most sightings take place? (tick all that apply)

Dawn ☐
Morning ☐
Afternoon ☐
Dusk ☐
Night ☐

How close do you think wild boar live to your home? (tick ONE answer only)

Less than a mile from my home ☐
1-3 miles from my home ☐
More than 3 miles from my home ☐

Have you ever deliberately fed wild boar? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you know of anyone else who deliberately feeds wild boar? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you make any specific efforts to observe wild boar? Yes ☐ No ☐

Have you ever hunted or been involved in shooting wild boar in the Dean area? Yes ☐ No ☐

Incidents involving Wild Boar

Have you ever experienced any of the following as a result of boar activity/presence:

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. A boar-vehicle collision? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. A near miss with a boar whilst driving? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Damage to fences/hedges caused by wild boar? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Livestock escapes as a result of damage by wild boar? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Damage to crops caused by wild boar? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Damage to your lawn / garden caused by wild boar | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Damage to amenity land (parks/pitches) you manage/are involved in managing? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Damage to property (other than those above)? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Raiding of garden rubbish piles / compost heaps (i.e. not contained)? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Raiding of garden rubbish in bin / compost in bin (i.e. in a container)? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Raiding of other household rubbish bins? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Been chased by wild boar? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. Been knocked over by wild boar whilst on foot / bike? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. Fallen as a result of walking along grass verges dug-up by wild boar? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. Had your dog(s) chased by wild boar? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16. Had your dog(s) injured by wild boar? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. Had your horse(s) spooked by wild boar? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18. Had your horse(s) injured by wild boar? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19. Had a pet (other than dog/horse) injured by wild boar? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20. Had an incident with a wild boar which is not covered by these questions? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

If you have answered **YES** to any of **Questions 1 to 20** we would like you to provide further detailed information on the accompanying form. If you are willing to be involved in possible follow-up questions please provide your telephone number (and if you have one an email address) on the accompanying form.

Perceptions of risk about Wild Boar

Please state your perceived degree of risk for each of the following scenarios on a scale of '0 to 5' with '0' being 'no risk' and '5' being 'very high risk'

Please circle the number that best describes your assessment of risk		No risk	Very low risk	low risk	Moderate risk	High risk	Very high risk
The likelihood of personal injury caused by wild boar when:							
a)	visiting the Forest during daylight	0	1	2	3	4	5
b)	visiting the Forest during dusk/night time	0	1	2	3	4	5
c)	walking in built-up areas of your parish during daylight	0	1	2	3	4	5
d)	walking in built-up areas of your parish during dusk/night time	0	1	2	3	4	5
The likelihood of your involvement in a vehicle collision with a wild boar:							
a)	When travelling in a vehicle through the Forest during the day	0	1	2	3	4	5
b)	When travelling in a vehicle through the Forest during dusk/night time	0	1	2	3	4	5
The likelihood of injury to other people caused by wild boar:							
a)	Children playing in the Forest during the day	0	1	2	3	4	5
b)	Children playing in built-up areas of your parish during the day	0	1	2	3	4	5
c)	Elderly people visiting the Forest during daylight	0	1	2	3	4	5
d)	Elderly people walking in built-up areas of your parish during daylight	0	1	2	3	4	5
e)	Elderly people walking in built-up areas of your parish during dusk/night time	0	1	2	3	4	5
The likelihood of injury to 'other animals' caused by wild boar:							
a)	Dogs being walked 'off the lead' in the Forest during daylight	0	1	2	3	4	5
b)	Dogs being walked 'off the lead' in the Forest during dusk/night time	0	1	2	3	4	5
c)	Horses being spooked	0	1	2	3	4	5
d)	Livestock being injured	0	1	2	3	4	5
The likelihood of wild boar spreading disease to:							
a)	people living in/near the Forest	0	1	2	3	4	5
b)	dogs/livestock living in/near the Forest	0	1	2	3	4	5
The likelihood of wild boar causing damage to:							
a)	your fences / hedges	0	1	2	3	4	5
b)	your garden	0	1	2	3	4	5
c)	local play grounds	0	1	2	3	4	5
d)	local playing fields	0	1	2	3	4	5
e)	local churchyards	0	1	2	3	4	5
f)	road verges	0	1	2	3	4	5
g)	farmers crops	0	1	2	3	4	5
h)	farmer's fences allowing livestock to escape	0	1	2	3	4	5

Attitudes towards Wild Boar

Please read each of the following statements and tick the most appropriate box:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The presence of wild boar in the Forest of Dean makes me feel connected to nature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wild boar cause a lot of damage to private property	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wild boar contribute to boosting tourism within the local area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I don't know much about wild boar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have a good understanding of how wild boar are managed in the Forest of Dean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wild boar cause little damage to public property in the Dean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wild boar have too much freedom to roam near to residential dwellings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wild boar should not be fed food scraps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm concerned about contracting a disease from wild boar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People visit the area specifically because of the presence of wild boar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wild boar stop me from letting children I care for play in the Forest unsupervised	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hunting wild boar benefits the local economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I worry about hitting a wild boar with a vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wild boar should be able to roam freely throughout the Forest of Dean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anxiety about wild boar prevents me from going out in the evenings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wild boar contribute to the local economy via meat sales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I actively try to see wild boar when visiting the Forest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some degree of human interference is necessary to manage wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wild boar should be eradicated from the Forest of Dean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All living things have the right to co-exist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am kept awake by dogs barking because of wild boar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I've a good understanding of how to behave in the presence of wild boar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I know who to contact if I have any concerns about wild boar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wild boar should be managed to avoid over population	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I rarely think about the presence of wild boar in the Forest of Dean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm very interested in the debate on the future of wild boar in the Forest of Dean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I enjoy eating locally sourced wild boar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I know how to report an incident with a wild boar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm satisfied with the provision of information about wild boar in the Forest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to see more wild boar living in the Forest of Dean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If a wild boar is approaching you it is best to retreat very slowly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It's exciting to think I may see a wild boar when walking in the Forest of Dean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

About you

Please state your gender:

Male ☐

Female ☐

Please state your age:

15-24 ☐

25-34 ☐

35-44 ☐

45-54 ☐

55-64 ☐

65-74 ☐

75+ ☐

Please describe your current employment status (time/title)

Do you live in the Forest of Dean Area most of the year?

No ☐

Yes ☐

(If 'Yes' please state nearest village)

Please read each of the following statements and tick the most appropriate box:

During childhood I spent a lot of free time exploring the natural world

I have spent the majority of my lifetime living within rural areas

I have spent the majority of my lifetime working within rural areas

Which of the following do you own?

Dog(s) ☐

Horses ☐

Farmed Animals ☐

Please provide your post code

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you would be willing to participate in follow-up questions please provide an EMAIL, postal ADDRESS or TELEPHONE NUMBER where we may contact you:

If you have further comments or issues of which you would like to make us aware please make a note here or send an email to: fodboar@worc.ac.uk

If you have any concern about any aspect of this study you should ask to speak to the researcher(s) who will do their best to answer your questions on 01905 855237. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally about any aspect or about the way you have been dealt with during the study, you can do this through contacting the Secretary to the University of Worcester Ethics Committee, Mr Kevin Pickess, on 01905 857536.

FoD Boar, c/o ISE, University of Worcester, Henwick Grove, Worcester WR2 6AJ

If you answered 'YES' to any questions from 1 to 20 on incidents involving wild boar, we would like to gather some more detailed information about the incident(s) you had. To the best of your knowledge please provide as much information for each incident as possible:

Location	Nature of Incident	Incident Details:
Date (or month/year)	(e.g. people-boar, dog-boar, horse-boar, vehicle-boar, livestock escape,	What actually happened?
Time (or day/evening/night)	property damage, bin raiding, etc.)	number of people/horses/dogs involved?
Weather		Injuries (e.g. to people/ dogs/horses)?
		Costs (recovery/repair/vets bill, replacement costs, etc.)?
		Inconvenience (e.g. number of days without vehicle)
		Involvement of police, other authorities

[illegible]

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Appendix 2

Narratives from Questionnaire Respondents

Narratives are presented in subject groups matching, where possible, the main aspects discussed in the body of the report. Narratives have been presented 'verbatim' with no editing or alteration. For those narratives from paper questionnaires these have been typed verbatim, where handwriting was illegible ??? have been used to indicate such.

Where a narrative includes information relevant to more than one subject it has been presented within each subject group to which it relates hence there is considerable repetition of narratives.

At the end of the Appendix two extensive narratives are presented as they were received.

SEEING BOAR

I came across a sounder crossing the road near Lydbrook about 2 years ago. I naturally stopped and they all got over the road in one piece

walking in russell's enclosure, april 2014, approx. 6p.m. from stone edge down the hill towards Stonyhill Green. there is a gate at the bottom of the hill. we heard boar coming towards us through the undergrowth. we guessed that it were boar coming towards and hurried towards the gate and passed through it. we then saw the boar emerging from the north. we tried to count them but they milling around. our best guess was approx. in numbers from babies one large male who stood staring at us from 20 m away. we watch them for approx. 5 minutes before continued with our walk.

I regularly see the boar around Coleford, it is usually when I am walking my dog, but also when they come onto the neighbouring farms and the damage is significant at times. They are also coming around the rubbish bins in the mornings and are getting bolder at coming nearer to my house.

Came upon a sow with piglets on top of the slag heap off Whitecroft Road, Bream. We started to back off, and they ran away.

Got off bus by cannop and two walked me home in the dark no problems

large family group of boar on forest road to Braceland campsite - at dusk. Single boar at Cannop ponds, roaming pincic site during day - summer. Large boar on forest road towards Chrstchurch cabins - morning (9-10am) see twice

I have seen boar on many occasions whilst driving along the A4136 between Drybrook and Monmouth/Redbrook. The number above is an estimate and I have only lived in the Forest for 1 year, so this number would be higher based on 2 years. The most memorable, and scary occasion was around 11pm one night in July 2014 as I was turning right onto the A4136 from Scowles Road near Coleford when at least 20 were

strolling across the road from one field to the other yards from the junction. If I had not put my full beam headlights on I am certain I would not have seen them in time and had a collision. I came to a stop to let them cross, but it was very difficult to see them until they were in front of the car. They also kept changing direction and I was very nervous about driving on, but also keeping still in case they approached the car. The weather was clear and dry. all other occasions they have been crossing the A4136 individually or in small groups of 2 or 3, mostly at dusk/night, but I have seen them by the verge of the A4136 during the day. I have also had damage to my garden, which I believe to be boar (although could be badger!). I feel very privileged to have seen so many boar in such a short space of time as I know people who have lived in the Forest for 10 years or more and have never had a sighting, but I am very concerned about the way they wander across roads and cause damage to property, animals, etc. I feel they do have too much freedom and the balance between their well being and that of the people in the Forest has not quite been met.

Freedom to walk unafraid in the area. Traditional confidence has been lost for many reasons, but the presence of wild boar makes it more difficult. Undue influence is being exercised by people who do not live in the area. The FoD is a very small forest, with villages an integral part of the forest. Speech House/Cannop crossroads 14 wild boar noon Spring 2014. Driving dusk, from Bream autumn 2014, Green opposite my house February 2015

TERRAIN/ROOTINGS

I walk my dogs regularly in the area, and wear walking boots because of the terrain, but there have been occasions when I have had to walk over particularly rough ground caused by the boar rooting. I avoid it whenever I can.

The boar have repeatedly dug up grassland verges and forest close to where I live the ground becomes very muddy and slippery I fell twice over the winter months due to this

I haven't personally but in the village where I live they are coming in and rutting up the verges so we have to walk on the road to the forest to walk our dogs etc.

Our local children's play area, the beautiful lawn at the back of our house, grass verges and other gardens in this residential area have been damaged by boars. This includes areas well away from woodland.

Had to roll and reseed acres of land on our farm. Tripped over on verge on Symonds Yat Road. Confronted by boar with young, extremely frightening. Now too unnerved walk in our own farm woodland !!

Lots of interaction with boar. Been chased about 3 times. All these times I had a dog but I observed the rules and did everything by the book, yet still got chased. One time a big boar stamped his foot and charged at me and my dog. I have twisted my ankle whilst road running (don't like running on my own in the woods anymore) on grass verges dug up by boar. My 4 year old is very scared to go in parts of the wood where we have previously encountered boar. Don't remember any of the dates, but I reported the one incident to the Forestry Commission.

A near miss in Brierley, Glos. Feb. 2015. Extensive damage to our garden fence at Brierley, Easter 2013. Also damage to garden & lawn at the same time & digging up compost buried in the garden leaving huge holes, costing us over £2000 for new fencing. Bowling the food compost bin like a football to try & get Inside. A large boar came out of the undergrowth on the very edge of our property & went for my husband & it was only by shouting & waving his hands that it turned away, this incident happened last summer in the afternoon, children play in that area & luckily it was an adult he chased a child would not have stood a chance. We cannot walk on the grass verges now as they are so unsafe, anyone doing so could easily twist an ankle & fall into the road. One further comment, on the A1436 at Brierley there are boar in the wood next to the road & people are stopping in their cars to take photographs also crossing this very busy road, it is an accident just waiting to happen.

My wife and I live on Ruardean Hill, on the edge of the woods and are often visited by the wild boar. Although they never come within our boundary lines, they do chew the verges outside the property often. We observe the boar at least once a week. Three adult boar and a dozen or more young currently. Verges are torn up at night, however we can view the boar through our upstairs windows into the woods, here we see the boar in the day too.

The roadside verges are constantly dug up by Boar.

summer/autumn 2013 fences breached on our own property, Paddocks torn up and ditches damaged. Electric fencing damaged leading to horses escaping their enclosure but contained within property boundaries. Costs approx £400. Roadside verge torn up overnight.

Driving home from work at 20mph I had slowed down at crossroads when boar ran out and hit my car £1500 insurance claim fell in woods where I walk three times daily dog chased by 5 boar by Cannop Landfill site

17 -- road verges. Seen family of wild boar (including piglets) in our garden and on our drive. Lawn recovered well and I don't mind them at all.

Often meet individual and small groups of boar when dog walking. Sometimes the boar chase the dog & sometimes the dog chases the boar. I've had a 'stand-off' on more than one occasion. Boar are very close to the built up part of the village & must be out at night rooting up verges etc because the public areas of the village look like badly ploughed fields, where previously there were pleasant green spaces. Frequently have to walk in the road because the verges are unwalkable. Too many boar in such a small area, in my opinion.

Coalway, footpaths dug up

Last year out riding wild boar on bridlepath spooked horses which made them bolt. Also all grass around village is churned up every year by boar. Looks such a mess.

Both Yorkley Football and Cricket grounds damaged badly. Football team had to find new venue. All verges damaged, no safe place to get off road if needs be when walking

No major incident thus far. I was driving near Bream and a sow with piglets suddenly appeared and crossed the road into Lydney Park estate. Happily I was observing speed limits and was able to stop in time. When out walking in the Elwood area my dog was chased and came towards me with boar in tow. Luckily having presumably moved us from the vicinity of her young, she stopped and no harm came to either of us but I was badly spooked. Boar have been in our local area for the past 18 months. My horse went bananas a few weeks ago. No sight of a boar but the verge had been dug up and I think my horse was just reacting to the smell of them. Again no harm done other than both of us being spooked.

Damage to footpaths rendering them uneven for walking. Rooting up of wild daffodils in woodland.

football ground in our village, next door's fence and garden, the verges in our village, the grass outside our front door, driving home piggles ran across the road (30 yards ahead not dangerous) I do not have pets or livestock so could only answer no to those question

walking with a 2 & 3 year old mother boar and babies each on either side of path. frankly very frightening. Used to be able to walk without fear in the forest, now the boar have to be considered - can't relax with little ones. Boar are bloody big...have wrecked the verges. nearly fell and twisted ankle.

I have encountered the boar on so many occasions at different times of the day whilst walking my dogs, whom they have chased, for no reason that I am now afraid to go out on my own with them. We always used to be able to walk freely in our forest but that has stopped in recent years as the boar have become less afraid of people and their population has significantly increased. We have also had considerable and frequent damage to our verges that we have given up repairing it. On one occasion our orchard was seriously damaged when they broke down a fence, it was a big expense to replace it.

Boar have turned over the grass verges outside my house, have also turned over the grass on my driveway (outside my property)

Near miss near Brierly on main road when a large group of young tried to cross road at dusk (about 8pm end of April 2015). Caused both lanes of traffic to stop suddenly. Regularly seen on this stretch of the road. Damage - digging on edge of paths on edge of our parish on main road between Staunton and Monmouth.

Grass verge on driveway to our property which is Forest Commission owned all dug up and stumbled on uneven ground caused by boar.

Damage to grass outside of our property a couple of months ago, as riding bikes in the Forest of Dean I have been chased before by a male boar. I'm annoyed with the mess they made on Yorkley cricket AND football pitch as well as other grass areas.

I regularly fall over on paths that have been dug up by boar as I am disabled. I carriage drive in the FOD and my horse and dog have been challenged by boar on numerous occasions as we drive deep in to the forest.

Clearwell village outskirts. Damage to lawn. Unsure of date: probably 2013. I think the damage occurred overnight. I recall seeing other evidence of boar activity along the road verges earlier in the week, and was surprised as we are not right in 'boar territory'. The damage was typical boar behaviour: turning over the turf, although not particularly significant - possibly an area approx 1m². The lawn was actually out the front, alongside the road i.e. a verge which I mow as part of my garden. My main garden is within a gate, so not accessible by boar. The damage was minimal, and fixed by myself by turning the turf back over and stamping down. It has fully recovered and no costs were incurred. I am not worried about the impact of that incidence, but it indicated that boar wander as far as our house and I would mind if the whole verge was dug up. It also reminded me that I should be careful to ensure the gate is closed at all times.

I am afraid to say that I most dislike the very aggressive reaction made by some human boar defendants to any complaints the local people have regarding the destruction caused by boars. I feel it strongly deters a two-way discourse and understanding on both sides. The worse occasion of my involvement with boar, was driving from Cinderford towards Speech House, May/June 2013 at about 11pm. By pure luck out of the corner of my eye I noticed movement at the edge of the wood and luckily I stopped. Out of the wood ran an adult boar straight in front of the car. The whole episode was over in a split second. There was 4 in the car, there would have been obvious damage and 4 very shocked passengers. Question 14 on page 2 asked if I have fallen as a result of walking along grass verges and I have not, but my granddaughter and I became lost while walking through Speech House woods and needed to walk back along the main Speech house road to the car park. This was not a pleasant experience made worse by the badly rutted, muddy verges made by the boars. I understand your desire to introduce boar into the forest, but I also have a desire to see un-rutted verges and playing fields I am sorry to say the boar are changing the beautiful landscape to its detriment

Concerning damage to property, the boar have on several occasions dug up grass immediately outside our house (we live on a Forestry Commission track). It is unsightly, as on almost every other road through the forest. I was walking my daughter's dog, when she was chased away by a huge boar. As she was running back to me, the boar too was heading straight towards me. However, it did stop when she was at a safe distance from it. Although neither my 12 year old spaniel nor I have actually been chased by boar, we have come across them at quite close quarters on many occasions (that is within 20, even 15m....and some 16 or 17 times). At my age I don't want to be frightened and anxious about my dog or my own safety. Luckily I have never had my little granddaughter with me on these occasions

BOAR-PEOPLE INCIDENTS - CHASED

I was charged at twice by a boar while walking in Highmeadow woods (roughly April 2014). Darren Scales info@rocklodge.co.uk 01594 836191

Fences pushed over, dogs chased - had to drop the leads, chased while out on a run, boar hit side of car

Lots of interaction with boar. Been chased about 3 times. All these times I had a dog but I observed the rules and did everything by the book, yet still got chased. One time a big boar stamped his foot and charged at me and my dog. I have twisted my ankle whilst road running (don't like running on my own in the woods anymore) on grass verges dug up by boar. My 4 year old is very scared to go in parts of the wood where we have previously encountered boar. Don't remember any of the dates, but I reported the one incident to the Forestry Commission.

Menaced, face to face by large adult. In hills above wench ford. Nobody dared move, very worrying. October 2014

Boar chased my dog after it was spooked in long bracken a couple of times, Early morning both times. Have been chased by boar while Dog on lead also.

Numerous incidents of being chased, property damage to friends gardens etc

Had an accident with a large boar while driving along Cannop towards Mireystock . I had slight damage to my truck and the boar was OK . April 2014 at night . Myself and my partner were chased by a wild boar on 28th August

Chased on 2 occasions by Boar that have had piglets, in spring time

During 2012 saw group of young boar at side of track. Whilst walking quietly and slowly to get closer to observe them, 'mum' decided to intervene and charged through the bushes at me. I ran, she continued. I looked behind and she was still coming. Took ages for her to give up!

10. Near speculation -Mireystock to Cannop ponds road on the way to work in the morning about 8 months ago. 15. My lawn verge between house and main A4136. 21. Chased in area around Spruce ride/mallards pike lake in summer. 23. Cannops ponds area last winter and others.

My family and I were out walking our 3 dogs at Linear Park and we were walking along a track that had the woods on one side of it. We suddenly heard a tremendous noise coming through the woods at us, really loud and we could see a massive boar charging at us. We all ran including the dogs and the boar got to the tree line and stopped. When we saw it wasn't following us we stopped and we saw it had a number of babies with it too so it was only protecting its young. This was around March 2014 no one was hurt the dogs were fine so no probs

Charged 3 times by a sow with piglets when trying to get away - dogs on lead

I was running in the forest near our village and came around the corner to see a boar and about 6 little boar. The large boar saw me and started to run in my direction so I carried on running in the opposite direction.

Question 12 Female with small piglets going under Forestry Commission fencing to gain access to dense cover. Question 21 Charged by female with half grown piglets. I was crouched down on the ground watching the group approx. 12m away. When she was aware I was there she appeared unsure about the situation for a few moments, then she charged. When she was approx. 2m from me I just stood up raised my arms and she immediately stopped, turned and ran away. I do not consider this the boar's fault as I must of considered me a threat she was only trying to protect her young. On other occasions I have been as close to other groups with piglets and have not been charged. I do not consider these animals as a threat, but an enhancement to the Forest. Long may they remain there.

About 18 months ago on my way to work in the morning approx 10 adolescent boar ran in front of my car near Speculation Car Park. They were too close to avoid them without driving into trees so I hit them. My bumper got a big hole in it which is now held together with cardboard and duck tape because we cannot afford to buy a new one or claim on insurance. I was very shaken up. Over the last two years I have been chased by boar on numerous occasions both when I have been walking with my two sons and when on my own running in the woods near my house (Hawkwell, Drybrook). If I see deer they run off scared the boar don't run away they come towards you and they are very big!!! I am now too scared to run in the woods on my own or go walking with my young sons on my own. You can contact me on

Nags head nursery Parkend chased by boar while out for a walk .Last year early afternoon

Over Easter walking on aylburton common my 13 year old dog was charged and attacked whilst walking in front of us on the path. We were on private woodland on aylburton common. The boar dropped our dog after shaking her like a rag doll and charged my wife. She climbed a tree whilst I fought the boar off with a large branch. My wife jumped down from the tree and grabbed our dog and ran. The boar tried to track back along the path to get to my wife and dog again. I threw the branch at it and it ran back into the woods. My dog was practically skinned underneath her chest and left with a fractured leg. She spent a week in intensive care in a quedgey animal hospital resulting in a £5000 vet bill. Police were informed due to public safety.

I use to walk my dogs along the logging road near broadwell. I no longer do this because my dogs and I were chased by boar. I've seen the boar walking alone north road broadwell.

Approximately 2 weeks ago I was walking at about 15.00hrs with the smallest of my 6 dogs and she was on a lead. We came across 3 teenage girls who were terrified of moving because there was a whole family of Boar in the undergrowth. I decided to go back along the long pathway that I had walked on at which point the family of Boar came running out of the undergrowth and started chasing me and continued chasing me for approx 200 yards with me dragging my poor little dog along behind me. I couldn't run anymore and so I picked my dog up and turned to face the Boar and they stopped

running, stared at me and then went quietly off into the undergrowth. I was petrified.....I see at least 1 Boar most days now. This all happens in the woods at Mile End both sides of the road. I don't like the idea of culling, especially when there are babies about but something needs to be done.

We walk everyday in the woods through different areas. Speculation. Speech house. Cannop ponds etc with our dogs. Been chased and charged multiple times. Our 6 month German Shepherd was hit and dragged 10 meters or so on one occasion. We encounter boar weekly in all different areas. Most of which just run off. When they have young (there is no breeding season and breed all year round) they are very hostile and will charge anything they see. With or without animals. It's only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured.

Children have been caused by the boar when on a walk with me

I was walking in the woods with my terrier, he went down an embankment out of sight then came yelping back out followed by a boar, I ran the boar came so far after us but was stopped by a fence

Aggressively approached (not chased as such) by single and groups of boar on multiple occasions and had to use aggressive gestures for boar to move away.

I was charged at by a male boar, but my wife had the presence of mind to blow a whistle, and it simply veered off and ran downhill.

Damage to gardens, verges and football pitch. On too many times to count we have encountered wild boar in the forest whilst out walking with the dog, and have been chased by boar ourselves.

Charged at by boar out running in woods near mile end, twice. They are very often out by the rec at mile end where they have caused damage, dogs were chased behind the tip, this year and last.

I met a mother and her young while cycling. I stopped to watch them. The mother chased me away from her young.

Hilliersland, I have been chased and had my dogs chased on numerous occasions whilst walking. Stock escapes daily at Edge end because of damage caused by wild boar. Maize fields are ruined at Edge end by wild boar - a lot of flora and fauna are damaged by boar i.e. doo mouse habitat

BOAR-CYCLIST INCIDENTS

I was riding along cycle track to parkend early in the morning going fairly quick rounded the bend and was confronted by around ten board I put on my breaks and skidding going over my handle bars hurting my shoulder. It was late august around 8am

Very near boar-bicycle collision. In the woods near Yorkley. No actual collision, but a very near miss on one occasion and at least two more near misses at other times over the past two years.

I meet a mother and her young while cycling. I stopped to watch them. The mother chased me away from her young.

Incident 1: out walking my dogs in Hope wood near Longhope with my pregnant wife (July 2014). My dogs disturbed a mother with piglets, the dogs did not chase but got too close (my dogs are used to livestock and do not chase) and the mother charged them. One dog was injured as it ran away, it received a two inch gash on its tail that needed butterfly stitches, no cost incurred as I treated the injury myself. The mother then proceeded to block our way by standing in the path with its hackles raised in an obviously defensive/ aggressive posture. We called the dogs away and slowly retreated the way we came to avoid further confrontation. Incident 2: out running in Hope Wood with one dog (April 2015). As I ran I disturbed a group of boar that included a mother and piglets that I hadn't noticed hiding in the undergrowth. The piglets scattered in different directions and the mother boar chased my dog onto the path and, in a manner similar to incident one, occupied the path in an obviously aggressive/defensive way and stood its ground meaning I had to call my dog and slowly retreat away. No injuries this time though. Anecdotally I have seen one boar knocked over dead on the road between longhope and Huntley. Additionally I have spoken to a cyclist who accidentally rode into a boar. He was injured from the crash but the boar ran away.

Damage to grass outside of our property a couple of months ago, as riding bikes in the Forest of Dean I have been chased before by a male boar. I'm annoyed with the mess they made on Yorkley cricket AND football pitch as well as other grass areas.

BOAR-DOG INCIDENTS

Our 13 yr old dog was attacked whilst walking on Sunday 29 March in Aylburton Common Woods. She is deaf and didnt hear the boar coming (we didnt hear it either). She was thrown around like a rag doll fracturing her leg and tearing the skin from her chest and shoulder. The boar charged us and i hid in a tree. My husband confronted boar with huge branch. It turned to charge my husband again then went back for the dog who was lying motionless on her back in the mud. I ran to grab the dog and we ran back to the car carrying the dog. The vet wasnt sure she would survive. She had a 6 hour op to remove contaminated skin and sew her back together and pin leg. Not sure she will be able to use leg again due to stretched ligaments and muscles. Cost ongoing but estimated over £2000.00. Lydney park estate and forestry commission informed.

Various times over the past 2 - 3 years have encountered wild boar in and around the forest whilst walking our dogs. If we or the dogs see them first then the dogs will not approach the boar. However if the dogs are in the forest and come across the boar they will not chase them but come back to us which on some occasions has meant that the boar chase the dogs into our path.

Boar attacked my springer spaniels breaking her back leg and cuts in her belly. Her leg was operated on and pinned back together. This happened a year ago in the forest around northern united cinderford. It cost around £3000 in vet bills. Police and forestry comission informed.

2 incidents of boar attacking dogs. Both severely injured requiring me medical attention. One of the dogs never completely recovered. First incident in 2012 the second in 2013.

Walking with the dogs on 2 occasions a boar with piglets appeared on the forest track ahead of me. When the sow ran in my direction I turned with the dogs and decided to take a different route. I walk in the forest every day

Horse spooked And became very nervous at presence of boar close by. I had to get off as would otherwise have most likely been thrown. Managed to lead horse away for about a mile by which time he had calmed down. Have never ridden in forest again. *Dogs (2) chased once but came back to me and fortunately the two boar chasing them stopped when they saw me and I was able to put dogs on lead. Boar disappeared after a few minutes.*

Fences pushed over, *dogs chased - had to drop the leads*, chased while out on a run, boar hit side of car

my small dog was bumped and injured when she was out of my sight for 5 mins

Lots of interaction with boar. Been chased about 3 times. All these times I had a dog but I observed the rules and did everything by the book, yet still got chased. One time a big boar stamped his foot and charged at me and my dog. I have twisted my ankle whilst road running (don't like running on my own in the woods anymore) on grass verges dug up by boar. My 4 year old is very scared to go in parts of the wood where we have previously encountered boar. Don't remember any of the dates, but I reported the one incident to the Forestry Commission.

Dogs have chased wild boar

We own holiday cottages near Mitcheldean and manage the grass area known as Shapridge Common. In the past 2 years this has been damaged by boar making mowing difficult. Although we keep our dog under close control because we are worried about the boar, he escaped from us and chased 2 sows and piglets in .Flaxley Woods. One boar took the piglets away and the other ran towards are dog. However, nor very far and it did not attack our dog, just warns it off. Adjacent to the Common our neighbour has 2 pigs and the boar have jumped the fence and mated with one of the pigs producing cross breed offspring.

At April time last year at about 6pm, I was walking my dog up a ride at Soudley Ponds in the Forest when a very large boar burst out of the undergrowth behind me and grunted, stamping his foot and advancing slowly towards us. Another boar then joined him and I backed away slowly and then ran! They came a little way after us but there was

obviously a large family group with them so they stayed near them. I was very shaken but we were unhurt and the dog seemed puzzled!

Dog gored by a huge boar tusk Car mobbed by 14 various sized boar on road to my house Twice experienced aggression from boar scraping hooves in ground and snorting at me They've dug up the edge of my garden many a time outside the fences

3 board chased one of my collies because the dog was stupid enough to run into the group thinking they would play

Driving home from work at 20mph i had slowed down at crossroads when boar ran out and hit my car £1500insurance claim fell in woods where i walk three times daily dog chased by 5 boar by cannop land fill site

Boar chased my dog after it was spooked in long bracken a could times, Early morning both times. Have been chased by boat while Dog on lead also.

4th April my little dog was chased by a boar around twelve am I've seen two sows in this area of the food. I was alarmed by the attack, I blew my whistle and set of my personal alarm, which haunted the boar

March 2015, the dogs spooked a group of boar before we saw them. The boar ran away but as we called the dogs back straight away, the boar turned and ran towards the dogs and us. We walked away quickly and the boar disappeared.

I encounter boar daily and have stopped walking my dogs together in the forest because of them, now walking all three dogs separately. My dogs have been attacked by boar and I have been chased by them whilst riding my horses on 6 separate occasions. Our gardens have been destroyed (we now have a cattlegrid) and the verges and playing fields have been devastated. They have attacked and eaten the lambs this year and chase the sheep off their grazing.

Boar in the garden occurred about 3 years ago, 2 boar came in and snouts up some of the garden, and removed the garden gate ro leave the property. Not at all concerned that we were there! The incident with the dogs was September time 3 years ago, a group of boar were near the track in the woods and one hog backed boar charged at the dogs. Screaming and shouting by myself made him back off.

Dog disturbed a sow and her humbugs at Foxes Bridge, Cinderford. He thought she was playing, but once we got hold of him she went off back to her little ones. Never had any problems with boar as long as you are sensible

Often meet individual and small groups of boar when dog walking. Sometimes the boar chase the dog & sometimes the dog chases the boar. I've had a 'stand-off' on more than one occasion. Boar are very close to the built up part of the village & must be out at night rooting up verges etc because the public areas of the village look like badly ploughed fields, where previously there were pleasant green spaces. Frequently have to

walk in the road because the verges are unwalkable. Too many boar in such a small area, in my opinion.

my dog went to say "hello" to a boar and it gently nudged her away (although it's so big and my dog so old that she fell over!). It then left, with its piglets! Not surprising that it got defensive, but not overly so. The dog was fine and now listens to us when we say stop!

Summer a couple of years ago. My dog was off her lead (tend to keep her on mostly now) she saw a boar before I did. It ran away in to the heathland and she went in, but soon came out when 3 sows obviously gave her chase.

chased last July whilst walking the dog at Broadwell, opposite Barn Hill Road. The boar had several piglets with her on a path opposite to a row of houses. Luckily I ran on to the road with dog and she stayed in wood.

March 2013, my dog went missing for 2 days after being chased by wild boar with young at Nags Head Lodge at Coalway. Lost Dog & various local people & organisations took the time to help look. She eventually came out of hiding 2 days later & followed someone out to the road.

My family and I were out walking our 3 dogs at Linear Park and we were walking along a track that had the woods on one side of it. We suddenly heard a tremendous noise coming through the woods at us, really loud and we could see a massive boar charging at us. We all ran including the dogs and the boar got to the tree line and stopped. When we saw it wasn't following us we stopped and we saw it had a number of babies with it too so it was only protecting its young. This was around March 2014 no one was hurt the dogs were fine so no probs

Charged 3 times by a sow with piglets when trying to get away - dogs on lead

While out walking my dog we regularly come across them. She will at first chase them off and that is normally the end of the matter, but there has been occasions when they have turned and chased my dog who then hides behind me for protection. On those occasions I have just raised my hands and roared loudly at them. So far to date this has always worked.

I was walking my dog last Saturday in Kidnall Woods near Pillowell at around 1700hrs when a Boar charged my dog and threatened to charge me when I attempted to retrieve my dog from danger. A family of around 8-10 Boar were grazing close by in the adjacent wood. A Very disturbing event and I worry for the safety of pets and young children innocently walking or playing in the woods. Something needs to be done to limit the numbers and movement of Boar. I would not have moved here some 18 months ago had I known about the Boar issue.

Dogs chased Berry Hill Woods July 2013, May 2014. Car / Boar near misses - Mireystock x 2 and Staunton road x 1 2014

March 2015 dog chased by boar but boar went off as it neared me

Dog injured when tossed by adult boar

Not my dog but B&B guests dog.

March 2015 in forest below Bixhead. Dogs disturbed a sow with very young piglets. Chased dogs from nest then quickly returned to guard young. No injuries to dogs or boar.

January early morning. Boar and several young on Pillowell recreation ground. Seemed aggressive and ran towards the dog and me. Need to cull them. The area has been trashed.

I was walking my dogs at Cannop Ponds when I heard rummaging in the ferns ahead. I was wary but my elderly bearded collie who was partially deaf was unaware and kept walking. A medium sized boar (I assumed female with young because of the snuffling and squealing in the ferns behind her). suddenly shot out of the ferns and ran at my dogs. The younger one backed off quickly but my elderly dog did not move with the result the boar ran into her side. My dog looked confused but did not react so the boar backed off into the ferns. I was not brave enough to try and pass the clump where her babies were so we turned round and went back the way we had come. This must have been around Spring 2013.

Hit boar at roadside at night, about 4 years ago. Old retriever attacked twice, puncture wounds. Spaniel chased boar, and was attacked, damaged leg £100 vet bill, Springtime, afternoon. Jack Russell bowled over by 2 boar one

Was looking after my sisters lab and it barked at a mother boar with tiny babies. She chased him away but no harm done. I have come across boar on numerous occasions when walking my dogs off lead but never had a problem.

08.05.15, by the sculptor trail, i was walking down track with dogs on lead, boar in woods noticed me charged abit grunting, stopped then walking parallel to me, till i went out of sight, very unnerving!

2013 dog was off lead and ran in to a gorse bush, unknown to me a boar and babies were in there, dog yelped and ran off chased by mother boar..dog was not injured so guess she only butted him...i take full responsibility for my dog being off lead as she was only protecting young as all animals would...dog stays on lead always now.

Over Easter walking on aylburton common my 13 year old dog was charged and attacked whilst walking in front of us on the path. We were on private woodland on aylburton common. The boar dropped our dog after shaking her like a rag doll and charged my wife. She climbed a tree whilst I fought the boar off with a large branch. My wife jumped down from the tree and grabbed our dog and ran. The boar tried to track back along the path to get to my wife and dog again. I threw the branch at it and it ran back into the woods. My dog was practically skinned underneath her chest and left with a fractured leg. She spent a week in intensive care in quedgey animal hospital resulting in a £5000 vet bill. Police were informed due to public safety.

I use to walk my dogs along the logging road near broadwell. I no longer do this because my dogs and I were chased by boar. I've seen the boar walking alone north road broadwell.

Approximately 2 weeks ago I was walking at about 15.00hrs with the smallest of my 6 dogs and she was on a lead. We came across 3 teenage girls who were terrified of moving because there was a whole family of Boar in the undergrowth. I decided to go back along the long pathway that I had walked on at which point the family of Boar came running out of the undergrowth and started chasing me and continued chasing me for approx 200 yards with me dragging my poor little dog along behind me. I couldn't run anymore and so I picked my dog up and turned to face the Boar and they stopped running, stared at me and then went quietly off into the undergrowth. I was petrified.....I see at least 1 Boar most days now. This all happens in the woods at Mile End both sides of the road. I don't like the idea of culling, especially when there are babies about but something needs to be done.

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Not sure exact date time approx spring 2014, was walking in woods afternoon time, dog ran off in front but quickly stopped as family of boar were crossing path. Large boar looked at dog who was still and started to walk towards the dog but stopped when dog came back as we called him. Boar continued to watch until rest of family had crossed (about 2 large and 3 babies) we were all stood watching until they all went off into woods. 07500804209. Myself and three friends were all pregnant but went for a walk with my dog, around 6pm, may 2013. Dog ran off around corner then quickly came running back being chased by 2 boar, the dog continued to run past us but boar stopped and turned around when happy dog was not a threat and far enough away from them!

I was walking in the woods with my terrier, he went down an embankment out of sight then came yelping back out followed by a boar, I ran the boar came so far after us but was stopped by a fence

I have encountered the boar on so many occasions at different times of the day whilst walking my dogs, whom they have chased, for no reason that I am now afraid to go out on my own with them. We always used to be able to walk freely in our forest but that has stopped in recent years as the boar have become less afraid of people and their population has significantly increased. We have also had considerable and frequent damage to our verges that we have given up repairing it. On one occasion our orchard was seriously damaged when they broke down a fence, it was a big expense to replace it.

Spring 2012 dog ran into undergrowth and disturbed a Sow and piglets, as a result dog was rolled by Sow, dog suffered bruising and abrasions to ribs and belly. Cost were £100 + for vet to X-ray and excises blood from swollen bruising. Location Ruardean enclosure, above Herbert lodge, Ruardean Woodside. Andy.arkell@ymail.com

In June 2 yrs ago wild boar entered my horse paddock via a brook, my mare was terrified of them, having checked her late the previous night I went to the paddock early the next morning to find her in a dreadful state, the vet was called and she had to be put down as the result of a twisted gut following a colic attack, while I cannot prove the boar were responsible the coincidence was too great to be ignored and I am convinced that it was the cause of her having colic as a result of the stress the boar would have caused her. I was chased by a female boar last July while riding a horse down a path in Soudley village near the primary school, she came out of the wood where I then saw she had some piglets and pursued me frightening the horse which rushed away from her. I have come across numerous boar while riding and my horse has always shown fear and stress. While walking with my dog in the wood in the evening last July I was chased by a very large male boar which ran at me from the wood to the path, I stood still and made as much noise as possible but it still approached, as it came nearer I took cover in the wood nearest to me and it seemed to lose sight of me as I hid behind a large tree, I knew I couldn't outrun it and was terrified. This resulted in my having to go far out of my way on the walk as I dare not go near to where the boar had been. It had returned to the herd of other boar and piglets. On several occasions while driving at night I have had to take avoiding action to avoid both individuals and groups of boar.

Charged at by boar out running in woods near mile end, twice. They are very often out by the rec at mile end where they have caused damage, dogs were chased behind the tip, this year and last.

Mid April between Edge End and Worrall Hill deep down in the forest on one of the main paths. Our dog went ahead of us and headed into the old bracken and was chased out by 2 boar followed by their young. Our dog ran away from us and couldn't get back to us, he managed to dodge the boar but was chased aggressively by them. He eventually got back to us and we ran away from them in the opposite direction!!! Pretty scary!!

Dogs chased...this is a consistent problem and now means I drive my dogs to the arboretum for a walk where it is enclosed and boar free rather than stepping out my front door to walk them..which is why I moved here. As a consequence, if I can't enjoy the forest safely, why continue to live here? Secondly, the boar made my neighbours garden look like the Somme. Not a blade of grass was left. Awful. They broke through fence and walked through the brook to get in.

May 2014 fog chased boat then was chased by boar

300 vet bill where my dog was gored in the testicles. Ruardean Woodside woods, May, Friday early evening

Incident 1: out walking my dogs in Hope wood near Longhope with my pregnant wife (July 2014). My dogs disturbed a mother with piglets, the dogs did not chase but got too close (my dogs are used to livestock and do not chase) and the mother charged them. One dog was injured as it ran away, it received a two inch gash on its tail that needed butterfly stitches, no cost incurred as I treated the injury myself. The mother then proceeded to block our way by standing in the path with its hackles raised in an obviously defensive/ aggressive posture. We called the dogs away and slowly retreated the way we came to avoid further confrontation. Incident 2: out running in Hope Wood with one dog (April 2015). As I ran I disturbed a group of boar that included a mother and piglets that I hadn't noticed hiding in the undergrowth. The piglets scattered in different directions and the mother boar chased my dog onto the path and, in a manner similar to incident one, occupied the path in an obviously aggressive/defensive way and

stood its ground meaning I had to call my dog and slowly retreat away. No injuries this time though. Anecdotally I have seen one boar knocked over dead on the road between Longhope and Huntley. Additionally I have spoken to a cyclist who accidentally rode into a boar. He was injured from the crash but the boar ran away.

March 2015, one of the dogs discovered a nesting sow. Quite understandably she got a bit cross with the dog and chased her approx 5 m before returning to the nest. Dog returned to me.

6 years ago in May on Blaize Bailey a sow suddenly appeared on the track and started to chase our 2 terriers who hadn't even noticed her. We retreated rapidly and fortunately the dogs came to call and the sow went back up the bank. We ride in Flaxley Woods and one of our horses, who is generally very chilled out and takes no notice of deer, squirrels etc., is often very edgy and spooky now, this is due to the boar as we generally see fresh digging on those days - other days he is his normal self.

saw a family of wild boar walking through the forest with their little ones. We had our pet dog with us. They did not bother us. We just stood and watched. They did not chase our dog either

Concerning damage to property, the boar have on several occasions dug up grass immediately outside our house (we live on a Forestry Commission track). It is unsightly, as on almost every other road through the forest. I was walking my daughter's dog, when she was chased away by a huge boar. As she was running back to me, the boar too was heading straight towards me. However, it did stop when she was at a safe distance from it. Although neither my 12 year old spaniel nor I have actually been chased by boar, we have come across them at quite close quarters on many occasions (that is within 20, even 15m....and some 16 or 17 times). At my age I don't want to be frightened and anxious about my dog or my own safety. Luckily I have never had my little granddaughter with me on these occasions

My dog has chased a piglet. The dog was off the lead and the piglet ran across the path in front of us, the dog then gave chase the piglet escaped. Since this incident I have kept the dog on an extension lead to avoid this happening again.

Living very close to woodland the boar will come along our boundary fence frequently. Walking the dogs every day twice a day the boar are spotted on average 2 times a week. Signs of their presence i.e. ground dug over, occur every day. We have on 3 occasions been followed by adult boar, only running off if we shout and wave! our dogs have come across boar off lead but not so far injured. Local areas, verges, fields have been dug over frequently by boar. People/Dogs & boar - 2/3 times a fortnight

Hillersland, I have been chased and had my dogs chased on numerous occasions whilst walking. Stock escapes daily at Edge end because of damage caused by wild boar. Maize fields are ruined at Edge end by wild boar - a lot of flora and fauna are damaged by boar i.e. doo mouse habitat

Brierley - 2014-am-dry-sunny- 2 boar on the verge of public footpath - I backed away with my dog on a lead the dog coming the other way got thrown into the air and had to

get rushed to the vets. Tidenham Chase - 2015 - dry-sunny- 1 boar + 4 piglets ran straight out in front of my car. Speech House lake - 2014 - XMas - turn the corner - family of boar ran at me

BOAR-HORSE INCIDENTS

In the winter I have seen several large groups of adult boar running at speed in the high meadow woods while exercising my horses in the mornings. This spooks the horses. I'm a competent rider so thus far have been fortunate not to have had an accident. The boar have crossed the road into Beaulieu wood and caused damage to our gardens and verges on the kymin.

I am quite frequently confronted by boar when horse riding in the Yorkley area. Luckily I am a competent rider and usually able to control my horse so I am able to change direction and avoid close contact.

Saw in bushes which made horse very jumpy

Horse spooked and became very nervous at presence of boar close by. I had to get off as would otherwise have most likely been thrown. Managed to lead horse away for about a mile by which time he had calmed down. Have never ridden in forest again. Dogs (2) chased once but came back to me and fortunately the two boar chasing them stopped when they saw me and I was able to put dogs on lead. Boar disappeared after a few minutes.

Last summer, can't remember exactly when, riding on Blakeney Hill came across small group of boar, horse took fright, span round & galloped off. Managed not to fall off, by some miracle, & stopped after few minutes. Horse very frightened, now extremely wary of riding in Forest incase of accident.

boar threatened to chase horse so horse ran away, can't remember date time etc, during day early summer

I encounter boar daily and have stopped walking my dogs together in the forest because of them, now walking all three dogs separately. My dogs have been attacked by boar and I have been chased by them whilst riding my horses on 6 separate occasions. Our gardens have been destroyed (we now have a cattlegrid) and the verges and playing fields have been devastated. They have attacked and eaten the lambs this year and chase the sheep off their grazing.

East wood nr Tidenham autumn 2013 boar came on to track behind pony and loped away spooking pony. Numerous subsequent occasions pony v anxious in areas with boar rooting - boar not seen

Last year out riding wild boar on bridlepath spooked horses which made them bolt. Also all grass around village is churned up every year by boar. Looks such a mess.

cost us £3000 to fence our land from the boar, they chased my husband many times out of our fields we had them when they were first dropped on the staunton road. our fields are not far from there, we suffered terrible damage and they scared my old horse to death.

Riding my horse in my local woods, I came across one boar that stood in our path, at first my horse was not worried at first as she had been kept with some pet pigs in the past but then three more appeared over the bank, it was then that one squeal and ran at us which spooked my horse, she turned quickly and took off with fright. I have been riding in this local woods since I was a child and had never had experienced anything like that before. I never thought that the boar would be so close to my village at about 9.30 am in the morning.

At various times of the day/year the boar have run out of the undergrowth in the forest at Oldcroft/Yorkley/Viney Hill/Blakeney and spooked my otherwise non spooky horse. What used to be relaxing rides in the forest are now scary in case we come across boar. People I know are not riding out any more for fear of their horse bolting because of boar. A friend was unseated and was airlifted to Frenchay with head injuries after her horse was spooked by a boar.

Our ponies can sense the boar and become jumpy and do a 180 degree turn. As far as we have not fallen off. Clanna Woods and Speech House/Mallards Pike

In June 2 yrs ago wild boar entered my horse paddock via a brook, my mare was terrified of them, having checked her late the previous night I went to the paddock early the next morning to find her in a dreadful state, the vet was called and she had to be put down as the result of a twisted gut following a colic attack, while I cannot prove the boar were responsible the coincidence was too great to be ignored and I am convinced that it was the cause of her having colic as a result of the stress the boar would have caused her. I was chased by a female boar last July while riding a horse down a path in Soudley village near the primary school, she came out of the wood where I then saw she had some piglets and pursued me frightening the horse which rushed away from her. I have come across numerous boar while riding and my horse has always shown fear and stress. While walking with my dog in the wood in the evening last July I was chased by a very large male boar which ran at me from the wood to the path, I stood still and made as much noise as possible but it still approached, as it came nearer I took cover in the wood nearest to me and it seemed to lose sight of me as I hid behind a large tree, I knew I couldn't outrun it and was terrified. This resulted in my having to go far out of my way on the walk as I dare not go near to where the boar had been. It had returned to the herd of other boar and piglets. On several occasions while driving at night I have had to take avoiding action to avoid both individuals and groups of boar.

I regularly fall over on paths that have been dug up by boar as I am disabled. I carriage drive in the FOD and my horse and dog have been challenged by boar on numerous occasions as we drive deep in to the forest.

6 years ago in May on Blaize Bailey a sow suddenly appeared on the track and started to chase our 2 terriers who hadn't even noticed her. We retreated rapidly and fortunately the dogs came to call and the sow went back up the bank. We ride in Flaxley Woods and one of our horses, who is generally very chilled out and takes no notice of deer,

squirrels etc., is often very edgy and spooky now, this is due to the boar as we generally see fresh digging on those days - other days he is his normal self.

BOAR-VEHICLE COLLISIONS

Fences pushed over, dogs chased - had to drop the leads, chased while out on a run, boar hit side of car

I did damage to my car when hitting a dead boar left in road after an earlier collision. This was early in morning on my way to work on the Gloucester- Monmouth main road approx half a mile north of Staunton. I have seen packs of boar in road at various times on my regular journey between Blakeney (home) and Monmouth (work),

A wild boar ran down off the bank at Brierley on the Monmouth Road at about 5.35pm one evening in January this year smashing into our car. It caused £2500 pounds of damage to the car and the car took 1 month to repair. Luckily the people in the car behind stopped so they could confirm to the insurance company of the sequence of events. The boar got up and ran off. Police were not involved.

Driving home from work at 20mph i had slowed down at crossroads when boar ran out and hit my car £1500 insurance claim fell in woods where i walk three times daily dog chased by 5 boar by cannop land fill site

11pm in February 2015, Mile End. Killed smallish boar, damage to fron of car, claimed on insurance, no costs to myself

Had an accident with a large boar while driving along cannop towards mireystock . I had slight damage to my truck and the boar was OK . April 2014 at night . Myself and my partner were chased by a wild boar on 28th August

About 18 months ago on my way to work in the morning approx 10 adolescent boar ran in front of my car near Speculation Car Park. They were too close to avoid them without driving into trees so I hit them. My bumper got a big hole in it which is now held together with cardboard and duck tape because we cannot afford to buy a new one or claim on insurance. I was very shaken up. Over the last two years I have been chased by boar on numerous occasions both when I have been walking with my two sons and when on my own running in the woods near my house (Hawkwell, Drybrook). I f I see deer they run off scared the boar don't run away they come towards you and they are very big!!! I am now too scared to run in the woods on my own or go walking with my young sons on my own. You can contact me on

I hit a wild boar on a motorcycle near Parkend. Luckily only 2/3 grown but gave me no chance to avoid it, it just bolted out of the verge. It hit the radiator on the moto and then went under the back of the bike causing extensive damage to motorcycle. Boar died on the side of the road, luckily I managed to stay on moto but had there been a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction at the time I would have hit head on. My travelling speed was 50mph at the time and I probably hit the animal at 40mph as I only had time to react and steer in a split second. They have no place in a modern populated

environment! Time October 2012, direct cost of incident £130 and the pig's life, could have been mine. No police involvement.

Hit boar at roadside at night, about 4 years ago. Old retriever attacked twice, puncture wounds. Spaniel chased boar, and was attacked, damaged leg £100 vet bill, Springtime, afternoon. Jack Russell bowled over by 2 boar one

On my way home work at approximately 945pm. Driving up Iwer plump hill in Mitcheldean. 2 boar ran in front of me causing severe damage to my car and myself as I banged my head. Cost if damage was £2800!!!

About 2 months ago I was driving on the Cinderford to Coleford road at about dusk when I came across the an accident just by Dilke hospital where a car had hit a boar which appeared to be dead in the middle of the road.

Hit a wild boar on the road, stood no chance 5 ran out of the scrub did £1000 damage to my car. 10 p.m,

My dad had serious accident a few months ago where he was driving at night and a wildboar ran into the road and he crashed into a lamppost. His car was written off and he had minor injuries

Front of car damaged in collision with boar, common land next to house in centre of village regularly uprooted, hedges damaged, verge in front of house regularly uprooted, faeces regularly on driveway & paths. Not able to walk dog off lead in forest by house at the moment as lots of boar within 500yards! Saw mother & 11 piglets this week.

My husband has had two car accidents both involving wild boar. One 4 weeks ago when he swerved so as not to hit one, which wrote off his classic car. The second was around 14 months ago when he hit a small boar. The police were involved in the more recent incident as damage to a wall as well as his vehicle was sustained.

Damage to vehicle,Alvington

my husband has hit one in his car once and has lots of them run out in front of his car very often

Once passed a car that had collided with a boar at night on the Cinderford to Speech house road, about 1/3 mile before Speech House

March 2015@2215 Hrs driving home from work two large and five or six piglets came out of woods near to Forest Church I actually ran over one with both front and rear wheel on near side when I stopped and got out of car not a boar in sight . My Freelander 2 was in garage for nearly six weeks being repaired costing £2900 boar should be eradicated

a car struck a boar on the Monmouth road. They dragged it to the verge from the road. It was a full-sized animal. We live as if there has always been boar - they are now a regarded aspect of our forest. The visitors to our holiday cottage are from all parts of England, and are thrilled at experiencing boar, hoping to see them on their walks or rides in the woods. We love them to.

I live near the woods, have a dog but am nervous when out walking they have been seen loads of times. I have seen them in woods in afternoon a family of them. My husband came home the other night, it was dark, they walked into the road he hit one cause damage to eh car the boar was ok. I think something should be done, they are just too many

Boar ran out of the forest at Worrall Hill at 1.45pm and damaged side of my car, November 2014. Weather was lovely. Police came I had an incident number. Too expensive to go through my insurance so ended up with my husband getting all the parts needed and repairing it myself. Cost to me was £150. Really annoyed as through no fault of my own boar ran into me and I ended-up paying the bill! (was approx £500 of damage)

At approx 10pm on Friday 2nd January 2015 I was driving my son and daughter in law past the Forest of Dean college at five Acres, Berry Hill at approx 30mph when a large male boar ran out of the wood straight into my car. The boar died immediately. I phoned the police to report the incident. The boar caused considerable damage (approx £3000) paid by the insurance company. However, I paid £250 excess and no doubt my premium will increase later in the year.

vehicle-boar, Worrall Hill January 2015, 7pm. Wild boar ran across road, vehicle wrote-off (air bag deployed, loss of ??? and irreparable damage to front of car - the boar was not found). Police called. Luckily had another car to use. People-boar Five Acres, March 2015 hoglets and 2 adult boar crossed track 20 yards ahead: we were by boar starting to come towards us.

Brierley - 2014-am-dry-sunny- 2 boar on the verge of public footpath - I backed away with my dog on a lead the dog coming the other way got thrown into the air and had to get rushed to the vets. Tidenham Chase - 2015 - dry-sunny- 1 boar + 4 piglets ran straight out in front of my car. Speech House lake - 2014 - XMas - turn the corner - family of boar ran at me

BOAR-VEHICLE NEAR MISSES

Near miss with wild boar one at night time at 3pm in May 2014, it ran out into the middle of the road and had to brake harshly, it then just stood in front of the car and then walked off into the wood (symonds yat East). Another in the morning in February 2015 at 7:45 one ran out of the woods quickly and straight across onto the other side of the road. I had to brake harshly and the car behind very nearly crashed into me (Mile End)

A near miss in Brierley, Glos. Feb. 2015. Extensive damage to our garden fence at Brierley, Easter 2013. Also damage to garden & lawn at the same time & digging up compost buried in the garden leaving huge holes, costing us over £2000 for new fencing.

Bowling the food compost bin like a football to try & get Inside. A large boar came out of the undergrowth on the very edge of our property & went for my husband & it was only by shouting & waving his hands the it turned away, this incident happened last summer in the afternoon, children play in that area & luckily it was an adult he chased a child would not have stood a chance. We cannot walk on the grass verges now as they are so unsafe, anyone doing so could easily twist an ankle & fall into the road. One further comment , on the A1436 at Brierley there are boar in the wood next to the road & people are stopping in their cars to take photographs also crossing this very busy road, it is an accident just waiting to happen.

Dog gored by a huge boar tusk Car mobbed by 14 various sized boar on road to my house Twice experienced aggression from boar scraping hooves in ground and snorting at me They've dug up the edge of my garden many a time outside the fences

Have had a couple of near misses in the car at night, but am always on the lookout for wildlife, so no collisions have occurred.

My granddaughter lives in Sling and I drive there 2/3 times a week from Littledean. I have had 4 near misses whilst driving there 2 at Speech House and 2 near Sling, the last time was April 27th 2015 at about 4:30 when a Boar and 5 piglets ran out of wood in front of my car.

group of boar walked into the road along Brierley which caused me to brake hard and swerve it happened in late March of this year.

10. Near speculation -Mireystock to cannop ponds road on the way to work in the morning about 8 months ago. 15. My lawn verge between house and main A4136. 21. Chased in area around Spruce ride/mallards pike lake in summer. 23. Cannops ponds area last winter and others.

Ran across path of car near Speech House enforcing quick braking but not emergency braking

Dogs chased Berry Hill Woods July 2013, May 2014. Car / Boar near misses - Mireystock x 2 and Staunton road x 1 2014

No major incident thus far. I was driving near Bream and a sow with piglets suddenly appeared and crossed the road into Lydney Park estate. Happily I was observing speed limits and was able to stop in time. When out walking in the Elwood area my dog was chased and came towards me with boar in tow. Luckily having presumably moved us from the vicinity of her young, she stopped and no harm came to either of us but I was badly spooked. Boar have been in our local area for the past 18 months. My horse went bananas a few weeks ago. No sight of a boar but the verge had been dug up and I think my horse was just reacting to the smell of them. Again no harm done other than both of us being spooked.

Only had near miss while boar ran across road, at night on bream road.

I have had to avoid wild boar on several occasions, while driving through the forest.

In June 2 yrs ago wild boar entered my horse paddock via a brook, my mare was terrified of them, having checked her late the previous night I went to the paddock early the next morning to find her in a dreadful state, the vet was called and she had to be put down as the result of a twisted gut following a colic attack, while I cannot prove the boar were responsible the coincidence was too great to be ignored and I am convinced that it was the cause of her having colic as a result of the stress the boar would have caused her. I was chased by a female boar last July while riding a horse down a path in Soudley village near the primary school, she came out of the wood where I then saw she had some piglets and pursued me frightening the horse which rushed away from her. I have come across numerous boar while riding and my horse has always shown fear and stress. While walking with my dog in the wood in the evening last July I was chased by a very large male boar which ran at me from the wood to the path, I stood still and made as much noise as possible but it still approached, as it came nearer I took cover in the wood nearest to me and it seemed to lose sight of me as I hid behind a large tree, I knew I couldn't outrun it and was terrified. This resulted in my having to go far out of my way on the walk as I dare not go near to where the boar had been. It had returned to the herd of other boar and piglets. On several occasions while driving at night I have had to take avoiding action to avoid both individuals and groups of boar.

My husband has hit one in his car once and has lots of them run out in front of his car very often

Near miss near Brierly on main road when a large group of young tried to cross road at dusk (about 8pm end of April 2015). Caused both lanes of traffic to stop suddenly. Regularly seen on this stretch of the road. Damage - digging on edge of paths on edge of our parish on main road between Staunton and Monmouth.

Near miss early evening. Ran out of forest across the road in front of car. Swerved and braked to avoid

Near miss - Littledean to Soudley Road multiple near misses when Boar have emerged from the brush and run next to/across car with no warning. Damaged fences at Soudley Village Hall. Cost £7000 to replace fencing with Boar resistant fencing. Dug up Soudley Village Hall football field (twice). Cost £900 in sand to flatten football pitch. Dug up our own front lawn over night.

I have seen boar on many occasions whilst driving along the A4136 between Drybrook and Monmouth/Redbrook. The number above is an estimate and I have only lived in the Forest for 1 year, so this number would be higher based on 2 years. The most memorable, and scary occasion was around 11pm one night in July 2014 as I was turning right onto the A4136 from Scowles Road near Coleford when at least 20 were strolling across the road from one field to the other yards from the junction. If I had not put my full beam headlights on I am certain I would not have seen them in time and had a collision. I came to a stop to let them cross, but it was very difficult to see them until they were in front of the car. They also kept changing direction and I was very nervous about driving on, but also keeping still in case they approached the car. The weather was clear and dry. All other occasions they have been crossing the A4136 individually or in small groups of 2 or 3, mostly at dusk/night, but I have seen them by the verge of the

A4136 during the day. I have also had damage to my garden, which I believe to be boar (although could be badger!). I feel very privileged to have seen so many boar in such a short space of time as I know people who have lived in the Forest for 10 years or more and have never had a sighting, but I am very concerned about the way they wander across roads and cause damage to property, animals, etc. I feel they do have too much freedom and the balance between their well being and that of the people in the Forest has not quite been met.

Parkend/Lydney road near miss as boar in the road

Boar jumped from undergrowth into road in front of me. Luckily I was far enough back to put my brakes on and stop. If closer would probably have caused distress and damage to my car and others as there were more vehicles behind me.

need to be eradicated. Speech House to Barracks - group of boar crossing at dusk. Needed to stop quickly. Luckily no other vehicles in vicinity. Primrose Hill Mense ongoing

I am afraid to say that I most dislike the very aggressive³ reaction made by some human boar defendantes to any complaints the local people have regarding the destruction caused by boars. I feel it strongly deters a two-way discourse and understanding on both sides. The worse occasion of my involvement with boar, was driving from Cinderford towards Speech House, May/June 2013 at about 11pm. By pure luck out of the corner of my eye I noticed movement at the edge of the wood and luckily I stopped. Out of the wood ran an adult boar straight in front of the car. The whole episode was over in a split second. There was 4 in the car, there would have been obvious damage and 4 very shocked passengers. Question 14 on page 2 asked if I have fallen as a result of walking along grass verges and I have not, but my granddaughter and I became lost while walking through Speech House woods and needed to walk back along the main Speech house road to the car park. This was not a pleasant experience made worse by the badly rutted, muddy verges made by the boars. I understand your desire to introduce boar into the forest, but I also have a desire to see unrutted verges and playing fields I am sorry to say the boar are changing the beautiful landscape to its detriment

BOAR-INDUCED ANXIETY AND FEAR

Had to roll and reseed acres of land on our farm. Tripped over on verge on Symonds Yat Road. Confronted by boar with young, extremely frightening. Now too unnerved walk in our own farm woodland !!

Lots of interaction with boar. Been chased about 3 times. All these times I had a dog but I observed the rules and did everything by the book, yet still got chased. One time a big boar stamped his foot and charged at me and my dog. I have twisted my ankle whilst road running (don't like running on my own in the woods anymore) on grass verges dug up by boar. My 4 year old is very scared to go in parts of the wood where we have previously encountered boar. Don't remember any of the dates, but I reported the one incident to the Forestry Commission.

Menaced, face to face by large adult. In hills above wench ford. Nobody dared move, very worrying. October 2014

I was walking my dog last Saturday in Kidnall Woods near Pillowell at around 1700hrs when a Boar charged my dog and threatened to charge me when I attempted to retrieve my dog from danger. A family of around 8-10 Boar were grazing close by in the adjacent wood. A Very disturbing event and I worry for the safety of pets and young children innocently walking or playing in the woods. Something needs to be done to limit the numbers and movement of Boar. I would not have moved here some 18 months ago had I known about the Boar issue.

No major incident thus far. I was driving near Bream and a sow with piglets suddenly appeared and crossed the road into Lydney Park estate. Happily I was observing speed limits and was able to stop in time. When out walking in the Elwood area my dog was chased and came towards me with boar in tow. Luckily having presumably moved us from the vicinity of her young, she stopped and no harm came to either of us but I was badly spooked. Boar have been in our local area for the past 18 months. My horse went bananas a few weeks ago. No sight of a boar but the verge had been dug up and I think my horse was just reacting to the smell of them. Again no harm done other than both of us being spooked.

About 18 months ago on my way to work in the morning approx 10 adolescent boar ran in front of my car near Speculation Car Park. They were too close to avoid them without driving into trees so I hit them. My bumper got a big hole in it which is now held together with cardboard and duck tape because we cannot afford to buy a new one or claim on insurance. I was very shaken up. Over the last two years I have been chased by boar on numerous occasions both when I have been walking with my two sons and when on my own running in the woods near my house (Hawkwell, Drybrook). If I see deer they run off scared the boar don't run away they come towards you and they are very big!!! I am now too scared to run in the woods on my own or go walking with my young sons on my own. You can contact me on

08.05.15, by the sculptor trail, i was walking down track with dogs on lead, boar in woods noticed me charged abit grunting, stopped then walking parallel to me, till i went out of sight, very unnerving!

They are frequently heard outside our house and we purposefully do not leave our home in the evening, and ensure we are home in the evening unless absolutely necessary. We understand that we are a minority in the Forest of Dean though as we dont live in a built up area but actually in the woods with about 5 other houses. We have a gated property for this reason.

I use to walk my dogs along the logging road near broadwell. I no longer do this because my dogs and I were chased by boar. I've seen the boar walking alone north road broadwell.

Approximately 2 weeks ago I was walking at about 15.00hrs with the smallest of my 6 dogs and she was on a lead. We came across 3 teenage girls who were terrified of moving because there was a whole family of Boar in the undergrowth. I decided to go back along the long pathway that I had walked on at which point the family of Boar

came running out of the undergrowth and started chasing me and continued chasing me for approx 200 yards with me dragging my poor little dog along behind me. I couldn't run anymore and so I picked my dog up and turned to face the Boar and they stopped running, stared at me and then went quietly off into the undergrowth. I was petrified.....I see at least 1 Boar most days now. This all happens in the woods at Mile End both sides of the road. I don't like the idea of culling, especially when there are babies about but something needs to be done.

walking with a 2 & 3 year old mother boar and babies each on either side of path. frankly very frightening. Used to be able to walk without fear in the forest, now the boar have to be considered - cant relax with little ones. Boar are bloody big...have wrecked the verges. nearly fell and twisted ankle.

I have encountered the boar on so many occasions at different times of the day whilst walking my dogs, whom they have chased, for no reason that I am now afraid to go out on my own with them. We always used to be able to walk freely in our forest but that has stopped in recent years as the boar have become less afraid of people and their population has significantly increased. We have also had considerable and frequent damage to our verges that we have given up repairing it. On one occasion our orchard was seriously damaged when they broke down a fence, it was a big expense to replace it.

We live on Bradley Hill and the boar here are as common as the Oak. We see them on a daily basis and it is only a matter of time before someone or someones pet is seriously hurt by them. They are a nuisance and I don't feel comfortable walking my dogs out. I don't think enough is being done to control them. They should be put in a large enclosure, eg Blaize Bailey and managed. The Forestry are not doing enough to manage them which is a general opinion of the people of Blakeney and Soudley

Mid April between Edge End and Worrall Hill deep down in the forest on one of the main paths. Our dog went ahead of us and headed into the old bracken and was chased out by 2 boar followed by their young. Our dog ran away from us and couldn't get back to us, he managed to dodge the boar but was chased aggressively by them. He eventually got back to us and we ran away from them in the opposite direction!!! Pretty scary!!

Dogs chased...this is a consistent problem and now means I drive my dogs to the arboretum for a walk where it is enclosed and boar free rather than stepping out my front door to walk them..which is why I moved here. As a consequence, if I can't enjoy the forest safely, whys continue to live here? Secondly, the boar made my neighbours garden look like the Somme. Not a blade of grass was left. Awful . They broke through fence and walked through the brook to get in.

My son stepped out of garden gate onto footpath and started walking, within a cpl seconds he felt breath on back of his legs a there was a sow, there was another sow with around 11 piglets, one of our dogs ran in between he and the sow and my son was able to run away, I witnessed this and phoned my son and told him to keep running as the 2 sows and piglets started up the path after he and the dogs, he looped back down the road and was extremely shaken

I live near the woods, have a dog but am nervous when out walking they have been seen loads of times. I have seen them in woods in afternoon a family of them. My husband came home the other night, it was dark, they walked into the road he hit one cause damage to the car the boar was ok. I think something should be done, they are just too many

wild boar should be allowed to roam freely - yes but in MUCH smaller numbers. Anxiety prevents me from going out - I am more cautious when running in the Forest, it is a worry, but it hasn't stopped me yet. I actively try and see boar - I did look out in the past, but no need anymore as they have become a more common sight. I am an animal lover and I have been privileged to see wild boar in our forest, it is very. Over the last 3 years however sightings are much more frequent and in more unlikely places and in board daylight. The excitement of seeing the boar is slowly being taken over with concern. We had two sows and their 10 piglets on our land two years ago. They caused no harm but caused worry for our land and upsetting our livestock. I feel the population is not being controlled and that the Forestry Commission has previously been too relaxed about the boar situation, hence is now feels out of control. I have been to a 'boar management' meeting via the NFU which was very informative but also shocking when we were presented with the research, numbers and statistics from Germany, France and the US. I were the only person representing the leisure user of the forest, everyone else were farmers/landowners. I think more information is needed to the public to understand the severity of the situation. I am keen to be assured that whatever is being done to reduce the numbers of boar is the most considerate, humane and well organised action and that it is carried out by well sourced, intelligent and animal caring professional rangers with a target record second to none. Perhaps more also ought to be done to clamp down on poachers who obstruct the Forestry Commissions work. (maybe the fly-tipping brigade could be naled at the same time!)

Freedom to walk unafraid in the area. Traditional confidence has been lost for many reasons, but the presence of wild boar makes it more difficult. Undue influence is being exercised by people who do not live in the area. The FoD is a very small forest, with villages an integral part of the forest. Speech House/Cannop crossroads 14 wild boar noon Spring 2014. Driving dusk, from Breem autumn 2014, Green opposite my house February 2015

vehcile-boar, Worral Hill January 2015, 7pm. Wild boar RAN ACROSS ROAD, VEHICLE WROTE-OFF (AIR BAG DEPLOYED, LOSS OF ??? AND IRRAPARABLE DAMAGE to front of car - the boar was not found). Police called. Luckily had another car to use. People-boar Five Acres, March 2015 hogletts and 2 adult bnoar crossed track 20 yards ahead: we were by boar starting to come towards us.

BOAR IMPACT ON GARDENS

In the winter I have seen several large groups of adult boar running at speed in the high meadow woods while exercising my horses in the mornings. This spooks the horses. I'm a competent rider so thus far have been fortunate not to have had an accident. The boar have crossed the road into Beaulieu wood and caused damage to our gardens and verges on the kymin.

Damage to amenity land, grass verges around my and neighbours property. Broken down boundary wall to neighbours garden. Frequent & recent.

Our local children's play area, the beautiful lawn at the back of our house, grass verges and other gardens in this residential area have been damaged by boars. This includes areas well away from woodland.

A near miss in Brierley, Glos. Feb. 2015. Extensive damage to our garden fence at Brierley, Easter 2013. Also damage to garden & lawn at the same time & digging up compost buried in the garden leaving huge holes, costing us over £2000 for new fencing. Bowling the food compost bin like a football to try & get Inside. A large boar came out of the undergrowth on the very edge of our property & went for my husband & it was only by shouting & waving his hands that it turned away, this incident happened last summer in the afternoon, children play in that area & luckily it was an adult he chased a child would not have stood a chance. We cannot walk on the grass verges now as they are so unsafe, anyone doing so could easily twist an ankle & fall into the road. One further comment, on the A1436 at Brierley there are boars in the wood next to the road & people are stopping in their cars to take photographs also crossing this very busy road, it is an accident just waiting to happen.

Damage to our next door neighbors garden last year. they have caused some more damage in the last month.

Dog gored by a huge boar tusk Car mobbed by 14 various sized boars on road to my house Twice experienced aggression from boars scraping hooves in ground and snorting at me They've dug up the edge of my garden many a time outside the fences

Numerous incidents of being chased, property damage to friends gardens etc

I encounter boars daily and have stopped walking my dogs together in the forest because of them, now walking all three dogs separately. My dogs have been attacked by boars and I have been chased by them whilst riding my horses on 6 separate occasions. Our gardens have been destroyed (we now have a cattle grid) and the verges and playing fields have been devastated. They have attacked and eaten the lambs this year and chase the sheep off their grazing.

Boar in the garden occurred about 3 years ago, 2 boars came in and snouts up some of the garden, and removed the garden gate to leave the property. Not at all concerned that we were there! The incident with the dogs was September time 3 years ago, a group of boars were near the track in the woods and one hog backed boar charged at the dogs. Screaming and shouting by myself made him back off.

17 -- road verges. Seen family of wild boar (including piglets) in our garden and on our drive. Lawn recovered well and I don't mind them at all.

10. Near Speculation -Mireystock to Cannop Ponds road on the way to work in the morning about 8 months ago. 15. My lawn verge between house and main A4136. 21. Chased in area around Spruce ride/mallards pike lake in summer. 23. Cannop Ponds area last winter and others.

May 2014 and again September 2014 damage to lawns. Approx £70 plus work input.

Several incidents in our garden. 1) 12 wild boar in one group standing their ground even when I tried to get them out of the garden 2) Three wild boar running within 2 yards of me when gardening 3) We have spent almost £5000 supplementing our beech hedges with walls and barbed wire fencing to keep them out of the garden.

football ground in our village, next door's fence and garden, the verges in our village, the grass outside our front door, driving home piggles ran across the road (30 yards ahead not dangerous) I do not have pets or livestock so could only answer no to those question

Neighbours have had garden damaged and the park also

We had the hedge at the rear of our home damaged by boar around November last year we have now got a fence behind it. I am a volunteer for the Friends of Pan Tod maintenance team. We regularly have to repair areas

I have encountered the boar on so many occasions at different times of the day whilst walking my dogs, whom they have chased, for no reason that I am now afraid to go out on my own with them. We always used to be able to walk freely in our forest but that has stopped in recent years as the boar have become less afraid of people and their population has significantly increased. We have also had considerable and frequent damage to our verges that we have given up repairing it. On one occasion our orchard was seriously damaged when they broke down a fence, it was a big expense to replace it.

Front garden dug up by Boar, surrounding areas also dug by boar

Boar destroyed my lawn just two weeks ago

Dogs chased...this is a consistent problem and now means I drive my dogs to the arboretum for a walk where it is enclosed and boar free rather than stepping out my front door to walk them..which is why I moved here. As a consequence, if I can't enjoy the forest safely, why continue to live here? Secondly, the boar made my neighbours garden look like the Somme. Not a blade of grass was left. Awful . They broke through fence and walked through the brook to get in.

Near miss - Littledean to Soudley Road multiple near misses when Boar have emerged from the brush and run next to/across car with no warning. Damaged fences at soudley Village Hall. Cost £7000 to replace fencing with Boar resistant fencing. Dug up Soudley Village Hall football field (twice). Cost £900 in sand to flatten football pitch. Dug up our own front lawn over night.

We have around 4 acres surrounding our house. On one occasion, 3 wild boar went across our drive. When I tried to photograph them they ran off. On another occasion, we

found a wild boar on a side lawn in our grounds. It was turning up the turf. We successfully chased it off. They haven't returned.

a friends lawn on Primrose Hill. Several local football pitches

Wild boar is a misnomer, what we have in the Forest of Dean are feral pigs probably iron age swine x with Tamworth pigs that are domesticated stock that have either escaped, released deliberately or introduced by the Forestry Commission. If Defra persist in classifying them as wild boar (classified as dangerous animals) who holds the dangerous animals licence? Feral pigs broke through the hedge, and turned over a quarter of an acre of lawned area, around dawn on a September day in 2013. When I drove the pigs away I was confronted by a large boar that was reluctant to leave having kept pigs for many years I was equipped with a stout stick and a large piece of plywood which was sufficient to persuade him to leave

On occasion wild boar have dug up the verges, banks and forest surrounding our property. We have a boar proof fence and hedge so haven't suffered any damage to garden (yet)

BOAR IMPACT ON AMENITY LAND

Primrose Hill playing fields currently resemble a bomb site. Lydney Town Council is currently trying to repair the damage (how stupid is that?) having refused to fence the mead against the boar

Damage to amenity land, grass verges around my and neighbours property. Broken down boundary wall to neighbours garden. Frequent & recent.

Our local children's play area, the beautiful lawn at the back of our house, grass verges and other gardens in this residential area have been damaged by boars. This includes areas well away from woodland.

We own holiday cottages near Mitcheldean and manage the grass area known as Shapridge Common. In the past 2 years this has been damaged by boar making mowing difficult. Although we keep our dog under close control because we are worried about the boar, he escaped from us and chased 2 sows and piglets in Flaxley Woods. One boar took the piglets away and the other ran towards our dog. However, not very far and it did not attack our dog, just warned it off. Adjacent to the Common our neighbour has 2 pigs and the boar have jumped the fence and mated with one of the pigs producing cross breed offspring.

Both Yorkley Football and Cricket grounds damaged badly. Football team had to find new venue. All verges damaged, no safe place to get off road if needs be when walking

Cricket has been played on Cut & Fry Green at Yorkley since 1880 but over the last week or so boar have turned the pitch into a war zone by digging up the grass in search of food. It is now not possible to play ANY cricket until the boar can be removed and contained. The area is too large to fence and anyway the cricket club - Yorkley Star Cricket Club rely on the free roaming sheep to keep the grass down so fencing is not an

option. There would seem to be no answer to the problem until the boar disappear. The cricket club are not the only area within our Forest of Dean to suffer as the local football clubs have now had the expense of erecting fencing.

football ground in our village, next door's fence and garden, the verges in our village, the grass outside our front door, driving home piggles ran across the road (30 yards ahead not dangerous) I do not have pets or livestock so could only answer no to those question

They have turfed up an entire woodland park area. Now it's too dangerous/muddy/hazardous for children to play. It's the Mesne at the top of primrose hill in Lydney.

Saw a huge lone boar going through an overturned bin in the village of Bream ,when driving at night .My village recreation ground has been badly damaged my boar...Pillowell..the next village Yorkley rec damaged, and now the cricket pitch in Yorkley damaged badly...outside my wall which I now all dug up by boar...throughout the village many places dug up by boar...

Front of car damaged in collision with boar, common land next to house in centre of village regularly uprooted, hedges damaged, verge in front of house regularly uprooted, faeces regularly on driveway & paths. Not able to walk dog off lead in forest by house at the moment as lots of boar within 500yards! Saw mother & 11 piglets this week.

We had the hedge at the rear of our home damaged by boar around November last year we have now got a fence behind it. I am a volunteer for the Friends of Pan Tod maintenance team. We regularly have to repair areas

Near miss - Littledean to Soudley Road multiple near misses when Boar have emerged from the brush and run next to/across car with no warning. Damaged fences at soudley Village Hall. Cost £7000 to replace fencing with Boar resistant fencing. Dug up Soudley Village Hall football field (twice). Cost £900 in sand to flatten football pitch. Dug up our own front lawn over night.

Damage to grass outside of our property a couple of months ago, as riding bikes in the Forest of Dean I have been chased before by a male boar. I'm annoyed with the mess they made on Yorkley cricket AND football pitch as well as other grass areas.

This year boar have turned over the lawn on the land adjacent to our pub three times, we have also scared them off several times. The land is on the edge of our car park and open to the forest so they are able to cross the brook on to it. We do not own the land but rent it from the Forestry Commission in Parkend

a friends lawn on Primrose Hill. Several local football pitches

need to be eradicated. Speech House to Barracks - group of boar crossing at dusk. Needed to stop quickly. Luckily no other vehicles in vicinity. Primrose Hill Mense ongoing

DAMAGE TO FARM AND BUSINESS PROPERTIES

Had to roll and reseed acres of land on our farm. Tripped over on verge on Symonds Yat Road. Confronted by boar with young, extremely frightening. Now too unnerved walk in our own farm woodland !!

Fences pushed over, dogs chased - had to drop the leads, chased while out on a run, boar hit side of car

Spring 2012 extensive damage to my work premises with total destruction of grassed archery and air gun ranges effectively making them unusable for that summer with the associated disruption to business. Extensive remedial work and reseeded required with an estimated cost of £800.00. We have suffered boar damage again this spring but so far it has been isolated incidents and hopefully will not result in the same level of damage as before.

summer/autumn 2013 fences breached on our own property, Paddocks torn up and ditches damaged. Electric fencing damaged leading to horses escaping their enclosure but contained within property boundaries. Costs approx £400. Roadside verge torn up overnight.

Boar bashed through hedge to get into our field. Damaged the fur kid badly and continued to come into the field. New fencing had to be put in. Also had a huge Bihar outside my gate my dogs were barking but the boar was just peering through the gate at them. When I went out the boar was not frightened me and I had difficulty shewing him away from the other side of the gate. He was not frightened of me or my dogs and reluctantly, eventually did move away.

chased last July whilst walking the dog at Broadwell, opposite Barn Hill Road. The boar had several piglets with her on a path opposite to a row of houses. Luckily I ran on to the road with dog and she stayed in wood.

The boar lifted a fence with their snouts between my farm and crown woodland, then lifted a 12ft galvanised gate off its hinges at the entrance to my feed passage in my cattle feeding shed to eat the maize put in the feeders for my cattle. I heard the noise in the shed and went to investigate, the cattle were going mad, they hate the smell of boar, me and my son re- hung the gate then run and fetched the high powered rifle and shot them, 6 in total. Location Clements End, late evening in December. My cattle were very nervous and wild but none were injured.

21 nighttime visits £1400 to repair damage to property in Ruspidge, trapped main culprit and dealt with by local licenced ranger. April time last year

cost us £3000 to fence our land from the boar, they chased my husband many times out of our fields we had them when they were first dropped on the staunton road. our fields are not far from there, we suffered terrible damage and they scared my old horse to death.

Question 12 Female with small piglets going under Forestry Commission fencing to gain access to dense cover. Question 21 Charged by female with half grown piglets. I was crouched down on the ground watching the group approx. 12m away. When she was aware I was there she appeared unsure about the situation for a few moments, then she charged. When she was approx. 2m from me I just stood up raised my arms and she immediately stopped, turned and ran away. I do not consider this the boar's fault as I must of considered me a threat she was only trying to protect her young. On other occasions I have been as close to other groups with piglets and have not been charged. I do not consider these animals as a threat, but an enhancement to the Forest. Long may they remain there.

We regularly have boar forcing their way onto our land through fences and hedges. they do damage to grassland, young coppice and the wild daffodils that grow within our fields. To my knowledge they are not fed locally, but are not particularly wary of humans. We have had groups of upto 20 boar at any one time (mixed ages). The Forestry commission is thoroughly uninterested, assuming you can even get hold of the person/people required.

In April boar repeatedly appeared in the field behind our house. Three adults and a litter of babies was the most we saw at one time. Once the owners put a fence up (which had apparently been previously dislodged) the boar made no effort to get back into the field. The field also often had walkers, and almost always horses, sheep and pheasants that were never phased by the boar's presence.

though I have never seen a wild boar hear them very frequently at night. They return night after night and churn up the ground immediately outside my back gates which lead on to Forestry land. I used to use the back gate regularly but I fell on the uneven ground and now keep the gates locked. I am 91 years old and I feel strongly that my freedom to exit my property however I choose is adversely affected. I feel the term 'wild' applied to the boar is somewhat misleading They were introduced to the Forest as irresponsibly released farmed animals. Their numbers are increasing at an alarming rate and I understand from friends who regularly walk dogs that the number of sightings are increasing daily. I spent a very happy childhood and most of my adult life here and it grieves me to see the damage these animals cause.

Popes Hill nr Newnham, various times of year but more in spring and winter, evening/nighttime rooting up of verges and orchard, damage to hedging and letting chickens out

Hillersland, I have been chased and had my dogs chased on numerous occasions whilst walking. Stock escapes daily at Edge end because of damage caused by wild boar. Maize fields are ruined at Edge end by wild boar - a lot of flora and fauna are damaged by boar i.e. doo mouse habitat

LIVESTOCK ESCAPES AND LOSSES

We own holiday cottages near Mitcheldean and manage the grass area known as Shapridge Common. In the past 2 years this has been damaged by boar making mowing difficult. Although we keep our dog under close control because we are worried about the boar, he escaped from us and chased 2 sows and piglets in Flaxley Woods. One boar took the piglets away and the other ran towards our dog. However, not very far and it

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We live on a smallholding in Woolaston. On Sunday 4th of May A sow and 9 piglets wandered into our front field, disturbing the three horses present. The also caused horses in another field to trash their electric fence. No costs were involved - just mild trauma. The sow also charged one of our dogs, but backed off when the others joined in.

Family Gloucester old spot was viciously attacked by a wild boar. Left bleeding with a huge vet bill. My family hired someone qualified to shoot boar, this was done and it's now sausages.

A group of boar regularly chased my old donkeys around their field a few years ago, they caused lots of damage & I often worried about the donkeys as they were quite old & could get injured

Damage and destruction of fencing. Are animals fields are getting turfed up regularly. They scare our animals mainly our horses. They have chased or stalked one of our horses at least within the last 6 months. Menises on the roads they cause so much damage the vehicles fear of people are traveling quickly could cause death to someone. They are dangerous to the sheep on the forest, walker, dogs and horses and we have domestic pigs so do not need wild ones!!!! They do nothing but make a mess and the Forest of Dean is slowing going down hill which was once a beautiful place and although some areas still are beautiful boar are ruining the area.

Popes Hill nr Newnham, various times of year but more in spring and winter, evening/night time rooting up of verges and orchard, damage to hedging and letting chickens out

Hillersland, I have been chased and had my dogs chased on numerous occasions whilst walking. Stock escapes daily at Edge end because of damage caused by wild boar. Maize fields are ruined at Edge end by wild boar - a lot of flora and fauna are damaged by boar i.e. doo mouse habitat

TOURISM AND BOAR

a car struck a boar on the monmouth road. Theyr dragged it to the verge from the road. It was a full-sized animal. We live as if there has always been boar - they are now a regarded aspect of our forest. The visitors to our holiday cottage are from all parts of

POSITIVE COMMENTS

absolutely no trouble from them ...they always run away when they see me...the one that chased my dog stopped when its saw me and I have taught the dog not to go near them. I like them!

17 -- road verges. Seen family of wild boar (including piglets) in our garden and on our drive. Lawn recovered well and I don't mind them at all.

Question 12 Female with small piglets going under Forestry Commission fencing to gain access to dense cover. Question 21 Charged by female with half grown piglets. I was crouched down on the ground watching the group approx. 12m away. When she was aware I was there she apperaed unsure about the situation for a few moments, then she charged. When she was approx. 2m from me I just stood up raised my arms and she immediately stopped, turned and ran away. I do not consider this the boars fault as I must of considered me a threat she was only trying to protec her young. On other occasions I have been as close to other groups with piglets and have not been charged. I do not consider theses animals as a threat, but an enhancement to the Forest. Long may they remain there.

No incidents whatsoever they are harmless stunning animals who just want to live their lives in peace

Question 29 I spend lots of time observing boar using scientific methods and have never had any aggression what so ever shown to me - I have even been very close to birth nests. All the boar I view will run away if/wehn they see a human even those with dogs.

Never caused damage or problems. We always watch from a safe distance and they normally walk off when they spot us.

Several boar and their young were crossing the road when driving took a little while for them to all get off the road but no issue. See them regularly whilst walking my dogs - only once had one come towards us but soon chnged its mind and ran off. I like them and do believe that generally they leave humans alone unless scared.

England, and are thrilled at experiencing boar, hoping to see them on their walks or rides in the woods. We love them to.

OTHER ISSUES

Often boar will either be in the road or more risky run across to join the group, same or slightly more risky than sheep in the road

Saw a huge lone boar going through an overturned bin in the village of Bream ,when driving at night .My village recreation ground has been badly damaged my boar...Pillowell..the next village Yorkley rec damaged, and now the cricket pitch in Yorkley damaged badly...outside my wall which I now all dug up by boar...throughout the village many places dug up by boar...

boar interested in bins around Christmas period

In April boar repeatedly appeared in the field behind our house. Three adults and a litter of babies was the most we saw at one time. Once the owners put a fence up (which had apparently been previously dislodged) the boar made no effort to get back into the field. The field also often had walkers, and almost always horses, sheep and pheasants that were never phased by the boar's presence.

the boar dig everything and make a mess

We live on Bradley Hill and the boar here are as common as the Oak. We see them on a daily basis and it is only a matter of time before someone or someones pet is seriously hurt by them. They are a nuisance and I don't feel comfortable walking my dogs out. I don't think enough is being done to control them. They should be put in a large enclosure, eg Blaize Bailey and managed. The Forestry are not doing enough to manage them which is a general opinion of the people of Blakeney and Soudley

various incidents over 2 yrs

March 2015@2215 Hrs driving home from work two large and five or six piglets came out of woods near to Forest Church I actually ran over one with both front and rear wheel on near side when I stopped and got out of car not a boar in sight . My frelander 2 was in garage for nearly six weeks being repaired costing £2900 boar should be eradicated

This survey is flawed - I do not own a dog or horse as such I have had to answer no. Your survey will disproportionately have more people answering no to those questions, as you have not filtered out non dog/horse owners!

Location: park end, group of 15 walking across trail in forest Location: park end: large group sitting in road Location: viney hill damage to verges Location: yorkley damage to verges and lawns Location viney hill, damage to village green Location, Lydney group of three running through campsite

Damage and destruction of fencing. Are animals fields are getting turfed up regularly. They scare our animals mainly our horses. They have chased or stalked one of our horses at least within the last 6 months. Menises on the roads they cause so much damage the vehicles fear of people are traveling quickly could cause death to someone. They are dangerous to the sheep on the forest, walker, dogs and horses and we have domestic pigs so do not need wild ones!!!! They do nothing but make a mess and the Forest of Dean is slowing going down hill which was once a beautiful place and although some areas still are beautiful but are ruining the area.

I live in Blakeney at the top of the hill and see Boar on a daily basis. I walk, ride & cycle in the woods. They come out of the woods and down the hill very regularly. I am not totally opposed to the boar but do feel the numbers should be kept low and they maybe should be contained to a specific area. That way if people wanted to see them they could, numbers could be managed but they could still roam that area. People complain about bikes & horses making a mess but the Boar have trashed many many paths. The bluebells have all been dug up and have not been anywhere near as plentiful as previous years.

though I have never seen a wild boar hear them very frequently at night. They return night after night and churn up the ground immediately outside my back gates which lead on to Forestry land. I used to use the back gate regularly but I fell on the uneven ground and now keep the gates locked. I am 91 years old and I feel strongly that my freedom to exit my property however I choose is adversely affected. I feel the term 'wild' applied to the boar is somewhat misleading They were introduced to the Forest as irresponsibly released farmed animals. Their numbers are increasing at an alarming rate and I understand from friends who regularly walk dogs that the number of sightings are increasing daily. I spent a very happy childhood and most of my adult life here and it grieves me to see the damage these animals cause.

I have seen boar on many occasions whilst driving along the A4136 between Drybrook and Monmouth/Redbrook. The number above is an estimate and I have only lived in the Forest for 1 year, so this number would be higher based on 2 years. The most memorable, and scary occasion was around 11pm one night in July 2014 as I was turning right onto the A4136 from Scowles Road near Coleford when at least 20 were strolling across the road from one field to the other yards from the junction. If I had not put my full beam headlights on I am certain I would not have seen them in time and had a collision. I came to a stop to let them cross, but it was very difficult to see them until they were in front of the car. They also kept changing direction and I was very nervous about driving on, but also keeping still in case they approached the car. The weather was clear and dry. all other occasions they have been crossing the A4136 individually or in small groups of 2 or 3, mostly at dusk/night, but I have seen them by the verge of the A4136 during the day. I have also had damage to my garden, which I believe to be boar (although could be badger!). I feel very privileged to have seen so many boar in such a short space of time as I know people who have lived in the Forest for 10 years or more and have never had a sighting, but I am very concerned about the way they wander across roads and cause damage to property, animals, etc. I feel they do have too much freedom and the balance between their well being and that of the people in the Forest has not quite been met.

wild boar should be allowed to roam freely - yes but in MUCH smaller numbers. Anxiety prevents me from going out - I am more cautious when running in the Forest, it is a worry, but it hasn't stopped me yet. I actively try and see boar - I did look out in the past, but no need anymore as they have become a more common sight. I am an animal lover and I have been privileged to see wild boar in our forest, it is very. Over the last 3 years however sightings are much more frequent and in more unlikely places and in board daylight. The excitement of seeing the boar is slowly being taken over with concern. We had two sows and their 10 piglets on our land two years ago. They caused no harm but caused worry for our land and upsetting our livestock. I feel the population is not being controlled and that the Forestry Commission has previously been too relaxed about the boar situation, hence is now feels out of control. I have been to a 'boar management' meeting via the NFU which was very informative but also shocking when we were presented with the research, numbers and statistics from Germany, France and the US. I were the only person representing the leisure user of the forest, everyone else were farmers/landowners. I think more information is needed to the public to understand the severity of the situation. I am keen to be assured that whatever is being done to reduce the numbers of boar is the most considerate, humane and well organised action and that it is carried out by well sourced, intelligent and animal caring professional rangers with a target record second to none. Perhaps more also ought to be done to clamp down on poachers who obstruct the Forestry Commissions work. (maybe the fly-tipping brigade could be naled at the same time!)

the questions have been phrased to support retention of ther boar population therefore this consensus is flawed

need to be eradicated. Speech House to Barracks - group of boar crossing at dusk. Needed to stop quickly. Luckily no other vehciles in vicinity. Primrose Hill Mense ongoing

Freedom to walk unafraid in the area. Traditional confidence has been lost for many reasons, but the presence of wild boar makes it more difficult. Undue influence is being exercised by people who do not live in the area. The FoD is a very small forest, with villages an integral part of the forest. Speech House/Cannop crossroads 14 wild boar noon Spring 2014. Drving dusk, from Breem autumn 2014, Green opposite my house February 2015

Wild boar is a misnomer, what we have in the Forest of Dean are feral pigs probably iron age swine x with Tamworth pigs that are domesticated stock that have either escaped, released deliberately or introduced by the Forestry Commission. If Defra persist in clasifying them as wild boar (classified as dangerous animals) who holds the dangerous animals licence? Feral pigs broke through the hedge, and turned over a quarter of an acre of lawned area, around dawn on a September day in 2013. When I drove the pigs away I was confronted by a large boar that was reluctant to leave having kept pigs for many years I was equipped with a stout stick and a large peice of plywood which was sufficient to persuade him to leave

I am afraid to say that I most dislike the very aggressive³ reaction made by some human boar defendantes to any complaints the local people have regarding the distruction caused by boars. I feel it strongly deters a two-way discourse and understanding on both sides. The worse occassion of my involvement with boar, was driving from Cinderford towards Speech House, May/June 2013 at about 11pm. By pure luck out of the corner of my eye I noticed movement at the edge of the wood and luckily I stopped. Out of the wood ran an adult boar straight in front of the car. The whole

episode was over in a split second. There was 4 in the car, there would have been obvious damage and 4 very shocked passengers. Question 14 on page 2 asked if I have fallen as a result of walking along grass verges and I have not, but my granddaughter and I became lost while walking through Speech House woods and needed to walk back along the main Speech house road to the car park. This was not a pleasant experience made worse by the badly rutted, muddy verges made by the boars. I understand your desire to introduce boar into the forest, but I also have a desire to see unrutted verges and playing fields I am sorry to say the boar are changing the beautiful landscape to its detriment

ISSUES WITH THE QUESTIONNAIRE

the questions have been phrased to support retention of the boar population therefore this consensus is flawed

NARRATIVE FROM QUESTIONNAIRE '43'

Answers 1-20 are 'No', as personally I have not experienced these things but I know people who have:

1. My farrier hit a boar with his LR when visiting me in the morning on the road from Parkend
2. Cases have been reported in the local press of people having their gardens trashed by the boars
3. No escape for new born lambs in Oldcroft in March this year, as they were being eaten by the boars! Mick Holder, Chairman of the Commoners' Association, who said the 'problem is getting worse'
6. Same as 3.
7. Footballs fields and recently our cricket field at Yorkley.
- 12 Again, seen reports in the local press about people being chased. A Couple of weeks ago a friend of mine had a boar walk towards her and her dog and it looked threatening, but it was on its own, so eventually backed off. My friend thought it would have been a different story if the boar had piglets with her.
20. A few years ago I had a very lovely ride and rive competition horse. When the boars moved over to this part of the forest he became very frightened and got very spooky, even just picking up their smell. He was so panicked by the presence of the boars, that he started bolting with me and life was becoming very unpleasant and dangerous. After the 6th time of being carted on this horse I had to consider my safety and decided he could not live in the FOD anymore and I made the heart-breaking decision to sell him. He is now in Devon, where there are no wild boars. I lost a wonderful horse that I had put years of training into and unfortunately, I also lost my nerve. Many, many horses are fearful of pigs and will panic when they smell or see them.

We are privileged to live in this lovely part of the country and it has wonderful to be able to keep off the busy road and ride in safety off-road in the forest. However, I have heard of many riders who have had to give up riding because of the fear of meeting the boars.

Attitudes towards wild boar:

- Visitors do come to the FOD to see the wild boar, but mainly they visit to cycle, horse ride, carriage drive, walk, run, visit Go Ape etc. Friends who visit tell me that they are now fearful of entering the forest with their children to do these activities. Also, older people have stopped walking their dogs in the forest for the same reason and I know of riders who have stopped riding in the forest because it is now unsafe for them.
- Public property in the Dean is being badly damaged by the wild boar. Eg. Football pitches, cricket fields and open areas which were lovely green spaces, which have been ploughed by the boar.
- I think there are people who visit the area specifically to see the boar, but mainly for other activities (see first item)
- As the boar have been introduced again to the forest, they should be hunted (that's why they were here years ago). The population now is out of control as they have no natural predators
- As they are here we may as well use them as a food source as their sausages are very tasty, so because of this, they do contribute to the local economy.
- Within reason some living creatures can co-exist, but they all have to be managed and they have to be able to co-exist with the people who live and work in the forest. There are far too many of the boars now, upsetting the way people have been living in the forest.
- I have no idea if dogs barking at night are caused by the boar.

NARRATIVE FROM QUESTIONNAIRE '38'

Note we no longer go into the forest because of the boar

The likelihood of wild boar spreading disease to: - Farm animals movements are controlled to prevent spread of disease. Foot and Mouth devastated the forest in early 2000 farmers are concerned that boar could spread the disease.

Wild boar contribute to boosting tourism within the local area (strongly disagree) – after exposure to boar many never return

People visit the area specifically because of the presence of wild boar (agree) – yes until the encounter aggressive behaviour

Wild boar should be able to roam freely throughout the Forest of Dean (strongly disagree) – would agree if numbers were very low

Wild boar should be eradicated from the Forest of Dean (neutral) – but numbers must be much lower

I rarely think about the presence of wild boar in the Forest of Dean (strongly disagree) – think about them every day walk along forest boundary

It's exciting to think I may see a wild boar when walking in the Forest of Dean (strongly disagree) – depends if you have dogs!

Midday over last 3 years once or twice a year spring, summer and autumn
Our well trained and obedient dogs will in the presence of boar piglets attack them.
Because of the high risk of seen boar in Maiscot woods we now only walk on the boundary.
We object strongly we no longer been able to walk our dogs off lead in the forest
Within 300m of the Christchurch/Symonds Yat Rock road groups of up to 30 boar are regularly seen

Questions you haven't asked:

Wild boars are considered dangerous animals under dangerous wild animals act 1976. If I want to keep boar I need licence fences etc

1. do you think it reckless of Defra and Forestry Commission to allow Boar in very large numbers to roam freely around residential properties
Animal rights activists are involved with protecting the boar

2. are you more frightened of the animal rights activists than the boar
Answer Yes! I have in previous employ had experience of intimidation and colleagues had letter bombs. Other companies (Huntingdon Life Sciences) had car bombs planted)

3. Would you attend a public meeting where animal activists are likely to attend.
Answer No!
Because of online threats to Councillors I have decided to no longer stand on the Parish Council!

Tourism – seen boar once or twice a year us great seen them twice a week on dog walks got to dangerous for us. I meet many tourists who get frightened by standoff with boar and don't return!

Wild Boar Research Team
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