Have your say on the future of Cannock Chase National Landscape

Summary of findings

The online survey ran from 7 May 2024 until 19 June 2024. It was promoted to everyone on the National Landscape Partnership, in our enewsletter and on social media.

Who took part?

We had 217 responses.

The majority of respondents (60%) described themselves as local residents. 23% were recreational users, and 6% visitors to the area. 50% of the respondents are aged between 45 and 65 years. 31% are aged over 65 years. 19% are under 45 years. 6 people considered themselves to be a member of a minority ethnic community, and 40 people responded that they have health issues or disability that limits their daily activities.

The findings

Q1. We asked "when you think of Cannock Chase National Landscape, what features or activities are important to you?

The 5 most important features or activities for people are (in ascending order):

1. Seeing wildlife (88%)
2. Peace and tranquillity (86%)
3. Great views and wide open spaces (84%)
4. Opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding (79%)
5. Forests (78%)

The 5 least important features or activities for people are (in descending order):

1. Meeting people / social (23%)
2. Timber production (16%)
3. Volunteering (12%)
4. Other (11%)
5. Food production (5%)

Q2. We then asked people "What one thing do you MOST value about Cannock Chase?"

The top 4 answers are:

1. Nature/wildlife

2. Recreation (walking, horse riding, cycling)
3. Beauty, peace and tranquillity
4. Open space / green space

Q3. We asked people how concerned they are about 5 issues relating to nature

Q3: How concerned are you about the following issues and topics relating to nature?

Answered: 217   Skipped: 0
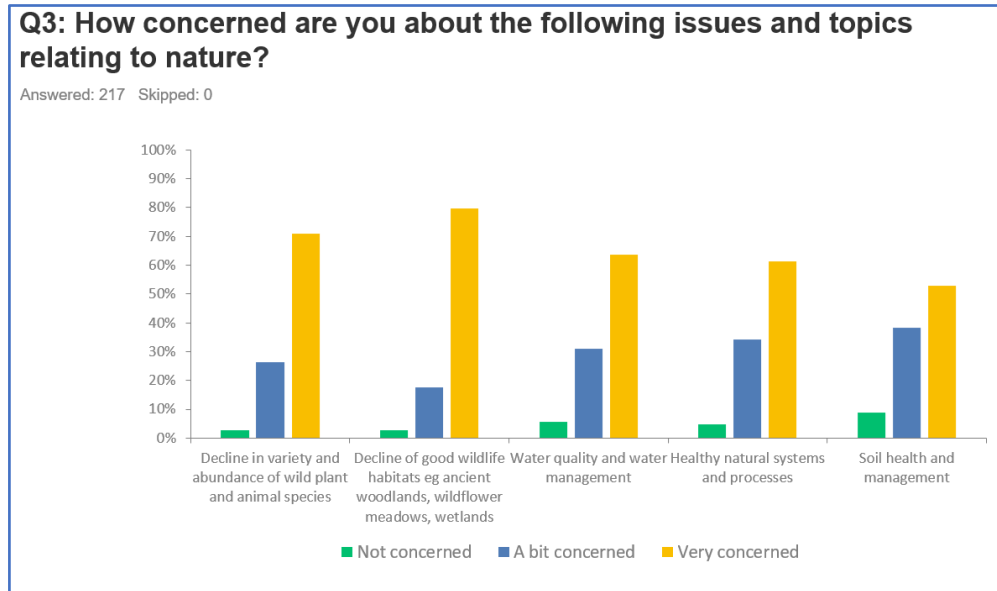
Q4. The most frequently raised issues/concerns in relation to nature are:

1. Numbers of visitors and the impacts they have
2. More should be done to protect nature
3. Protection and management of deer

Q5. We asked people how concerned they are about 5 issues relating to climate

Q5: How concerned are you about the following issues and topics relating to climate?

Answered: 216   Skipped: 1
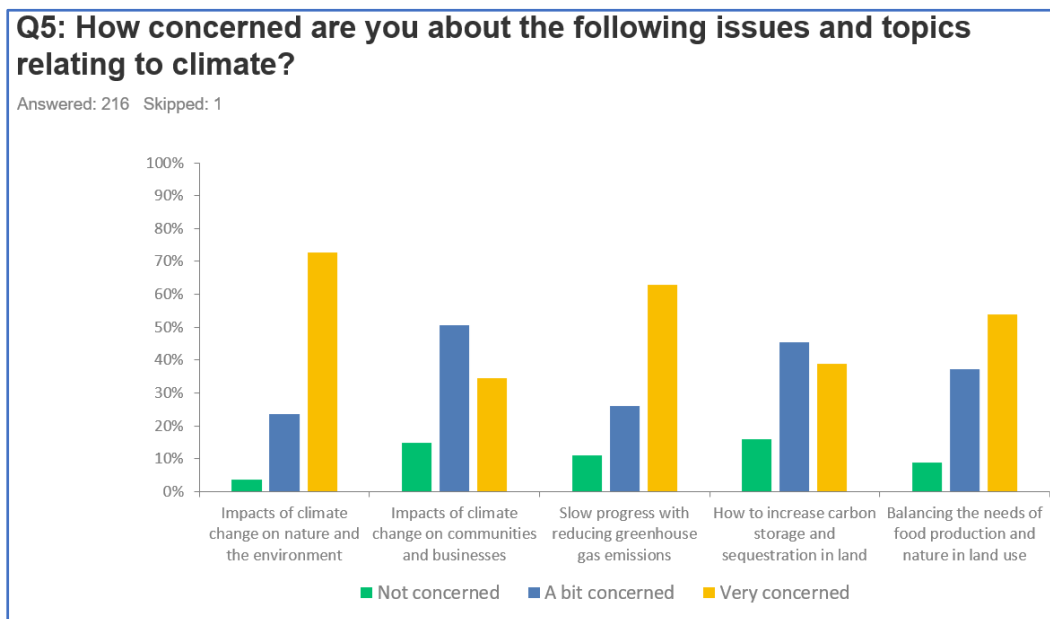
Q6. The most frequently raised issues/concerns in relation to climate are:

1. More action is needed
2. A global issue / not relevant or a priority for Cannock Chase
3. Maintaining forests and trees to capture and store carbon

Q7. We asked people how concerned they are about 5 issues relating to people

Q7: How concerned are you about the following issues and topics relating to people?

Answered: 217   Skipped: 0
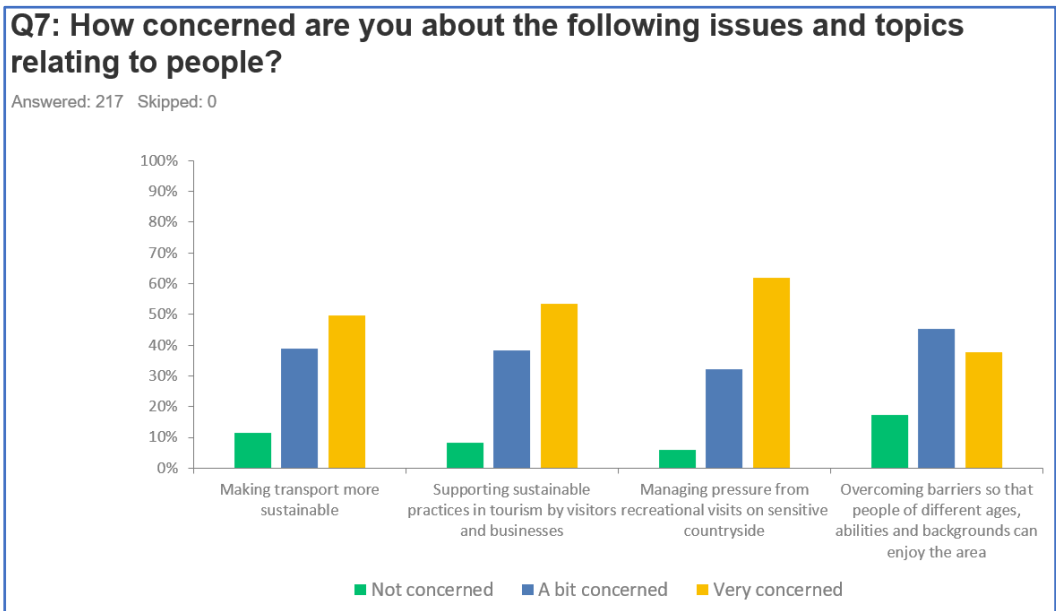
Q8. The most frequently raised issues/concerns in relation to people are:
1. Education to raise awareness of the importance and sensitivity of the Chase and change behaviours
2. Accessibility for all
3. Too many visitors/need to control visitor numbers

Q9. We asked people how concerned they are about 5 issues relating to place

Q9: How concerned are you about the following issues and topics relating to place?

Answered: 217   Skipped: 0
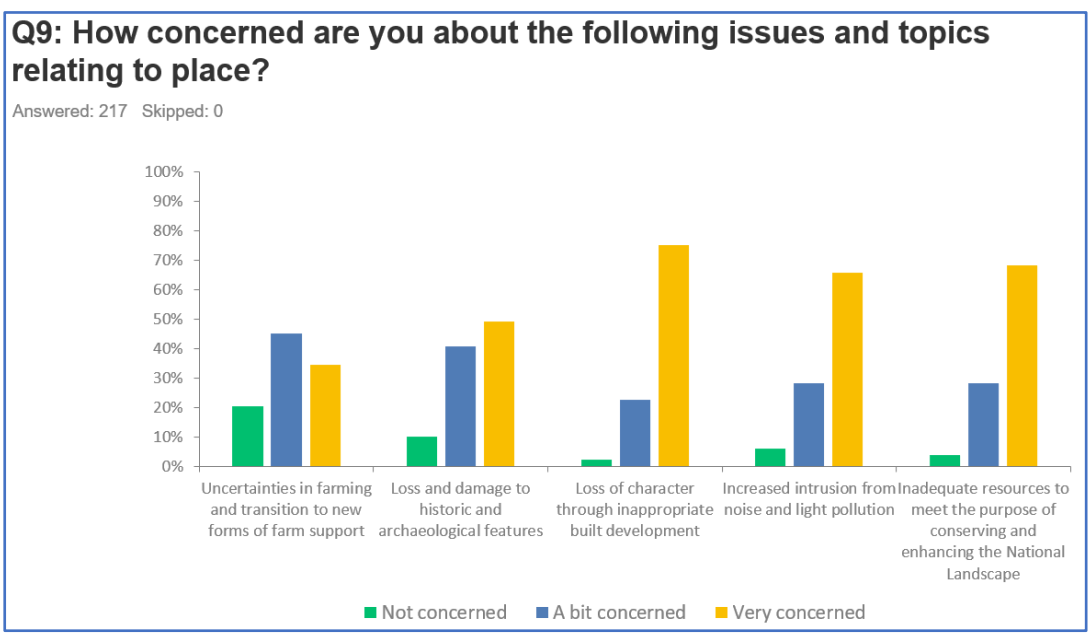
Q10. The most frequently raised issues/concerns in relation to place are:
1. Development pressure/encroachment
2. Support for farmers and sustainable land management
3. Need for more resources to look after the Chase

Q11. We asked people to prioritise a range of challenges facing the Chase. The top 5 priorities (in ascending order) are:
1. Helping nature to thrive
2. Adapting to climate change
3. Improving environmental quality (soils, air and water)
4. Protecting the landscape from growth and development
5. Conserving heritage

The bottom 5 priorities (in descending order) are:
1. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
2. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
3. Tackling intrusion from noise and light pollution
4. Supporting opportunities for including young people
5. Supporting volunteering opportunities

Q12. We asked people to think about the way things are done now on the Chase, and to tell us if there is anything that we could do differently.

The 3 most frequently mentioned topics are:

1. Visitor management (eg, more wardens/rangers, litter collection, better signage, users keeping to designated routes)
2. Conservation / land management (eg, more trees, better tree management, more/less grazing, more nature)
3. Car parks (eg, removing parking on verges, reviewing parking charges, improving car park condition).