

FHMCC Castlehill Woods Survey

Background

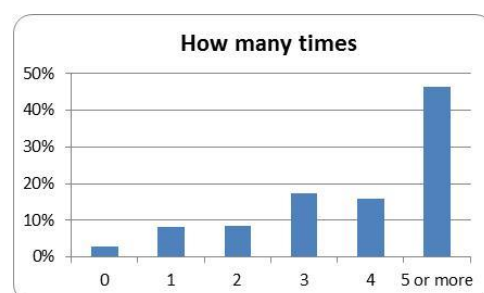
Forehill, Holmston and Masonhill Community Council recently conducted a survey with local residents to find out their views on Castlehill Woods – including how often they visited it, why they visited it and what would encourage them to use the woods more.

Results

A total of 209 people completed the survey by post or online.

About how many times in the average week do you engage in 30 minutes or moderate activity (ie. brisk walking, light bicycling)?

On average the highest percentage of respondents (97 people, 46%) said they engage in moderate activity 5 times or more in an average week.

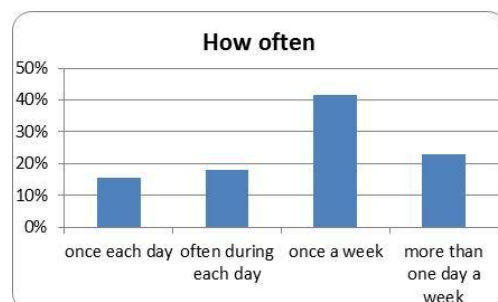


How often do you visit Castlehill Woods in week?

Over a third of respondents said they used the woods at least once a week (78 people, 41%).

Around a fifth of participants (43 people, 21%) said they used the woods more than one day a week.

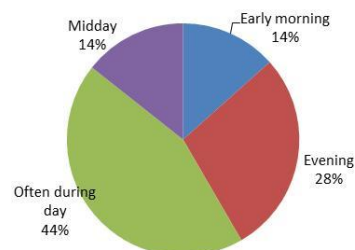
188 responses received.



At what time of day are you typically in Castlehill Woods?

The most popular time of day for visiting the woods was often during the day (92 people, 44%).

Less people visited early morning or midday (29 people, 14%).



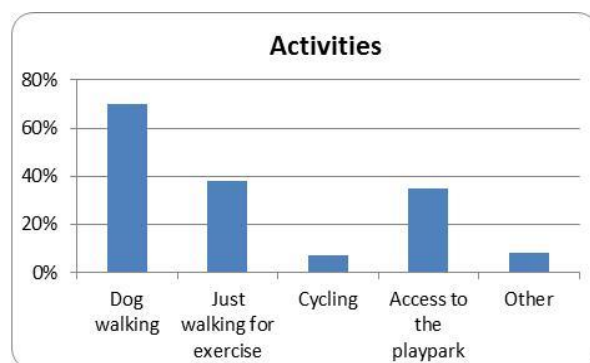
What activities do you do in Castlehill Woods?

The most popular activity amongst those who responded was dog walking (98 people, 70%).

The next most popular answers were just walking for exercise and access to playpark.

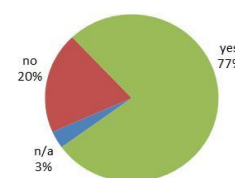
Other activities included going various times for various reasons and taking grandchildren out.

188 responses received



Do dark nights and mornings dissuade you from using Castlehill Woods?

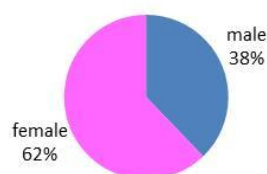
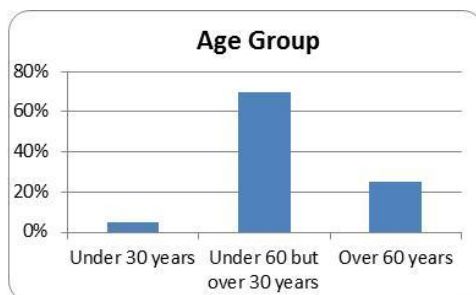
The highest percentage of people who took part in the survey (161 people, 77%) said that dark nights and mornings would dissuade them from using the woods.



What age profile are you? / What is your gender?

The majority of respondents (146 people, 70%) were aged over 30 years but under 60 years of age. Only 5% of respondents were under 30 years of age.

More females (130 people, 62%) completed the survey compared to males.



If you don't use Castlehill Woods much, what would encourage you to visit more?

Participants were given a list of options and asked to choose which ones would encourage them to visit the woods more. The most popular answer was more lighting (90 people, 64%). A full list of responses is shown in table below.

Option	Percentage
Better surfaces to the path	34%
Reduce muck and puddles from the path	41%
Maintenance and cut back of woods and over growth	38%
More dog phoo bins to encourage picking up	26%
More lighting	64%

140 responses received

Do you have a disability, how does that affect you and use of Castlehill Woods?

The highest percentage of respondents were fit and healthy (175 people, 84%). The remaining participants said they were a bit slower at getting around, used a walking aid or were a wheelchair user.

Do you have company when you are using Castlehill Woods?

The survey asked what company people had when they were using the woods.

Almost half of all respondents (101 people, 48%) said they usually had their own company.

The table shows all responses.

Option	Percentage
No I usually just have my own company	48%
I'm usually with a friend or two	10%
I'm usually in a small group	3%
I'm usually with family members	37%

Additional comments

A few people who filled in a paper copy of the survey had some additional comments – please see below:-

- The trees are very overgrown and if you have look at the taller trees branches are due to fall off (from a good height) - this is an accident waiting to happen
- I do not understand why you have sent this out when SAC have already been in the woods and cut back well into the woods. What a mess you have made!! There is a large road which is more than enough to walk on, why would you chop away at holly bushes and other bushes? Leave the wooded area alone and maintain the road only.
- There is a wider issue to tree maintenance in the streep of woodland surrounding the walled garden estate. This land is privately owned and no maintenance is carried out leading to a number of trees that should be removed or pruned. The land owner should be held to account for this - public funds should not be used for this land ! SAC need to take him on!
- Nervous taking children ; CCTV would provide security at park ; youths drinking and groups of boys are intimidating - they stole daughters chute and sons balls from garden and left chute in the park
- Need to leave woods as a genuine natural area for wildlife. For residents some dead/broken trees need to be dealt with
- never use woods - too dangerous - gangs of young people
- I can't really use the woods at all as I am 92 years old and bad with arthritis. When we arrived in Ayr 42 years ago we loved a walk in the woods when all the flowers were in bloom but alas it has changed days, old age doesn't come alone.