



# Seasonal Wardens Report 2022



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## Executive Summary

### Greenham and Crookham Commons

- Total visitor count data indicates that fewer people visited GCC than in either 2020 or 2021. This decline in visitor numbers can be seen across the three main entrances to the common (Control Tower, Pyle Hill, Crookham Pools)
- The main exception to this is weekday morning visitors to Pyle Hill where the average number of visitors counted has increased by 30%
- Although overall visitor numbers are down the average proportion of visiting groups that have dogs, across all entrances, has increased from 55% to 63% on weekdays and from 39% to 64% at the weekends. The majority of visitors to the common are now using the site to walk their dogs
- This is further confirmed in the visitor survey data where 70% of this year's respondents stated their main activity as "dog walking" compared to 56% last year.
- This year 102 visitors completed the visitor survey undertaken on site. A further 36 people responded to the online survey.
- The number of regular visitors to the common (visiting at least weekly) has increased to 84% of all survey participants, up from 77% last year.
- 59% of survey respondents have been visiting GCC for 5+ years, dropping from 74% the previous year. These longer-term visitors seem to have been replaced by those who have visited the site for between 1-5 years (29%), possibly reflecting new visitors who found the site during the Covid lockdowns in 2020/21.
- 70% of survey respondents view GCC as both a common and a nature reserve, 25% see GCC as a common only, and 5% see GCC as a nature reserve only
- Awareness of both the roam zones and the GNB protection measures have dropped slightly this year, from 72% to 65% (roam zones) and from 84% to 81% (GNB measures).
- Visitors are starting to move away from the idea of red zones. This year only 7% of all visitors mentioned them as opposed to 18% in 2021 suggesting that the change in message towards sticking to the paths/out of certain areas is becoming more embedded.
- Awareness that BBOWT manages GCC has dropped from 44% of respondents last year to only 25% of respondents this year
- Only 28% of respondents were aware of the Greenham & Crookham Common Commission (GCCC) – no respondents were able to give an adequate response when asked what the role of the GCCC was.
- Respondents who believe that dogs should be on a short lead during the GNB season has dropped to 50% this year from 68% last year.
- Based on home postcode data collected during the surveys, most visitors to the common travel from either southern Newbury/Greenham or Thatcham. The vast majority of journeys are <10km and the average and median journey lengths are 5.88km and 4.23km respectively.
- A total of 290 interactions took place in 2022, compared with 561 in 2020 and 358 in 2021.
- 262 of these involved visitors off the main paths or the roam zones. Wardens spoke to the visitors in 203 of these occasions, with the remaining 59 being records of visitors seen off the main path but too far away to speak to.

- The firebreaks, particularly the one opposite the Control Tower, continue to be where the majority of off-path interactions take place. This issue is being considered separately by the Greenham & Crookham Commons Conservation Management Committee.
- 49% of off-path interactions involved regular (weekly or more) visitors
- 80.5% of off-path interactions involved a visitor with a dog, an increase from 67.9% in 2021
- The most common reason given for being off a main path/roam zone was that the visitor was not aware of the ground nesting bird protection measures
- Provisional results from a breeding bird survey completed by Adrian Hickman and supplemented with records from the seasonal wardens show that the number of territories on Greenham and Crookham Common have increased on 2021 for woodlark, Dartford warbler, nightingale, stonechat and meadow pipit. Number of lapwing and little ringed plover have remained stable. The number of skylark and linnet territories have fallen compared to last year.
- Results from the nightjar surveys indicate a probable increase of birds at Greenham and Crookham Commons.

## Snelsmore Common

- Total visitor count data indicates that overall fewer people visited Snelsmore than in either 2020 or 2021. However, there were some periods where the visitor count was higher this year than in 2021. These periods were 0700-0900 & 1300-1500 on weekdays and 0700-0900 on weekends.
- No cyclists were registered entering the site during any of the survey periods, weekday or weekend
- 31 surveys were conducted at Snelsmore. The sample size is small, potentially reducing the significance of the results
- As with Greenham, although visitor numbers are down the average proportion of visiting groups that have dogs, across all entrances, has increased from 42% to 72% on weekdays and from 40% to 50% at the weekends
- The most common activity for those visiting Snelsmore is dog walking, with 68% of survey respondents giving this as their main activity.
- The number of regular visitors to the common (visiting at least weekly) has increased slightly to 61% of all survey participants, up from 58% last year. Snelsmore appears to have a higher proportion of occasional visitors than GCC
- A high proportion of surveyed visitors (84%) have been visiting Snelsmore for more than 5 years, well up on the 65% of those surveyed last year
- The top facilities used by visitors to Snelsmore are the carpark (97% of visitors surveyed), easy access route (61%), other marked routes (52%), and café (32%). In contrast, none of the visitors surveyed said that they used the BBQ platforms. This is likely because they had been discouraged from doing so during the hot & dry weather this summer.
- Awareness of the green dog route has dropped from 68% of those surveyed to 61%. However, usage has remained stable with 52% of those surveyed using it.
- Awareness of the GNB protection measures has increased significantly with 87% of surveyed visitors aware that measures are in place, up from 77% last year. Understanding of the message was varied with 35% believing the message to be “keep away from nesting areas”, 26% “keep to main paths”, and 23% “keep dogs on a lead/under control”

- When asked to look at the GNB signage only 55% of visitors gave the main message that they took from it as “stick to the main paths”, indicating that the signage at Snelsmore Common needs to more clearly reflect this key message.
- Awareness that BBOWT manages Snelsmore has dropped from 48% of respondents last year to only 35% of respondents this year. None of those visitors surveyed were a current member of BBOWT
- Respondents who believe that dogs should be on a short lead during the GNB season has dropped to 58% this year from 74% last year.
- Based on home postcode data collected during the surveys, most visitors to Snelsmore travel from northern Newbury. The vast majority of journeys are <10km and the average and median journey lengths are 10.87km and 6.07km respectively. The average is pushed up by 14% of the journeys being >20km
- Results from the nightjar surveys indicate a probable increase of birds at Snelsmore Common.

## Introduction

From mid-February to mid-August 2022 three Seasonal Wardens, Zoë Burfitt, Tom Wills and David Jewsbury, were employed as part of the BBOWT West Berkshire Land Management team.

The main objective of the Seasonal Warden role is primarily to help protect ground nesting birds at Greenham and Snelsmore Commons, by engaging with visitors in whatever ways are appropriate to achieve the objective.

The primary role of the Seasonal Wardens is to help protect ground nesting birds at Greenham and Snelsmore Commons through visitor engagement to educate and promote sensitive use of the commons by ensuring sensitive nesting areas remain undisturbed by visitor access.

Whilst West Berkshire Council own the site, BBOWT is the lease holder for Greenham & Crookham Commons and in respect of wildlife conservation is responsible, along with the Greenham and Crookham Common Commission, for implementing the requirements of the Greenham and Crookham Common Act 2002.

The main provision of the Greenham and Crookham Common Act 2002 is to “**conserve the Common as a peaceful place of natural beauty and, in particular, conserve its flora, fauna and ecological features [ ...and] any part of the site which is a site of Special Scientific Interest**”.

Subject to this conservation provision, it is also a requirement of the GCC Act 2002 to promote educational activities and public awareness of the ecological significance of the Common and maintain the Common as a place for the public to visit.

## The 2022 Ground Nesting Bird Season – Summary

- Ground nesting bird signage for Greenham Common was redesigned with minor changes and produced by BBOWT's Comms Team to incorporate new branding and some suggestions made by the Seasonal Warden team.
- Five more Log Lecterns ("logterns") were installed on Greenham Common in strategic areas to communicate the ground nesting bird protection measures. There are currently 49 logterns on Greenham Common.
- New signage was installed on the Green Dog route at Snelsmore Common to inform users of the route of sensitive heathland areas. More informal paths were blocked to help reduce disturbance of potential nesting areas.
- A programme of events was re-established after two years of very few events due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with no events being run for members of the public in 2020 and four guided nightjar walks running in 2021 with attendees ranging in numbers from 4 to 16.
- The partnership with the Wildlife Crime Officer at Thames Valley Police was maintained throughout the season. The Wildlife Crime Officer attended an event at the beginning of the season and also communicated with visitors who persistently carried out activities with the potential to disturb ground nesting birds. The use of Thames Valley police logos on ground nesting bird signage caused BBOWT to receive a number of complaints. After some discussion the size and placement of the police logo was amended.

This end of season report focuses on the main issues around people and ground nesting birds at Greenham and Snelsmore Commons. The report contains recommendations from the 2022 Seasonal Wardens for the 2023 season and beyond. These recommendations are supported by evidence collected by the wardens, most of which is included within the appendices of this report and references to it are cited where appropriate.

## Evidence Collected by Seasonal Wardens in 2022

- **Seasonal Warden Interactions with visitors.** The seasonal wardens logged most of their interactions with visitors using ArcGIS Survey 123. This included data on where, when, group size, number of dogs, and activity. Since many interactions took place off the main paths, the visitor's reason for being off the main path as well as their response after being spoken to was recorded. Wardens recorded 265 incidences of visitors being off the main paths at Greenham, Crookham and Snelsmore Commons. Wardens spoke to visitors on 206 of these occasions informing them of the ground nesting bird protection measures.
- **Car Park Counts.** The number of cars in car parks was recorded whenever the opportunity arose.
- **Annual Visitor Surveys.** Annual visitor surveys were conducted in June/July and tally counts of visitor numbers took place on site at the same time. A total of 133 in person surveys were completed at Greenham, Crookham and Snelsmore Commons and online surveys had a total of 36 respondents. Further details of these can be found in Appendices D – G.
- **Visitor Behaviour Monitoring.** During the season visitor behaviour was monitored with respect to where on the Common visitors were walking and the activities they were undertaking
- **Ground Nesting Bird sightings.** To support the official GNB survey work of Adrian Hickman, Seasonal Wardens recorded sightings of specific species using ArcGIS Survey 123. The recorded data included species, location, number of adults/juveniles and activity observed. The Seasonal Warden recordings focused on Little Ringed Plover, Lapwing, Skylark, Woodlark, Meadow Pipit, Nightingale, Stonechat and Dartford Warbler.
- **Formal Nightjar surveys.** Three nightjar surveys were conducted with BBOWT staff and BBOWT volunteers.

## Greenham Common

Several species of ground nesting bird<sup>1</sup> breed on the Greenham Common heath (heather, gorse, grass and gravels) and have done so for as long as records have existed. Since 2009, BBOWT has endeavoured to communicate with visitors about the need to restrict where they walk during the bird breeding season (March-July) in order to reduce disturbance to ground nesting birds.

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<sup>1</sup> Ground nesting bird species breeding on Greenham Common include lapwing, little ringed plover, woodlark, skylark, Dartford warbler, nightingale, stonechat, meadow pipit and linnet.

This is achieved through signage, events and interacting with visitors to the Common, both in person and using social media in the form of a Facebook group named 'Greenham Grapevine'.

## Signage Changes

The ground nesting bird messaging over the years has remained constant in its approach. However, BBOWT have been working to modify the signage to make the messaging clearer and more effective in achieving its aims. Following on from feedback during the 2021 season, there were some minor changes made to gate signage (Figure 1) and onsite signage in an attempt for further emphasise the main message of “Keep to the main paths” and also promote the Roam Zone (previously known as the Green Zone) as an area where people, particularly dog walkers, could explore off the main path.

An online survey was created for visitors to the Common to provide feedback on the new signage in 2022. The survey had 15 respondents. Overall, the comments made were positive with multiple respondents commenting that the signage (particularly the gate signage) was the clear and well designed. Some respondents felt that the tone of the signs was "high-handed" and "officious", particularly in reference to the logtern sign which includes the Thames Valley Police logo. The log tern sign was subsequently adjusted to move the TVP logo to a less prominent location and reduce it in size.

Full details of these signage changes and visitor responses to the new signage can be found in Appendix A.



Figure 1: 2021 gate signage (left) compared to 2022 gate signage (right)

## Visitor Interactions

As in previous years, the Seasonal Wardens recorded all of their interactions with visitors throughout the season using Survey123. Analysis of this data shows that while the number of interactions has



decreased year on year since 2020, the percentage of interaction off the main path has increased (Table 1).

Table 1: Number of visitor interactions 2020-2022

	2020	2021	2022	Change (2020-22)
<b>Total Interactions</b>	561	358	290	-271
<b>Interactions off main path/roam zone</b>	453	312	262	-191
<b>% of interactions off main path/roam zone</b>	80.7%	87.2%	90.3%	+9.6%

Visitor interactions remain most common in the firebreaks on Greenham Common, particularly the one opposite the Control Tower (Figure 2). Opening up a path along some of the firebreaks was requested by the Greenham Parish Council. Visitor opinion gaged through the surveys show that 85% of respondents (c.85 people) felt there was adequate provision of short routes (see Appendix D). This information will be passed onto the Conservation Management Committee to make an informed decision whether some of the firebreak paths should be open to the public during the breeding season.

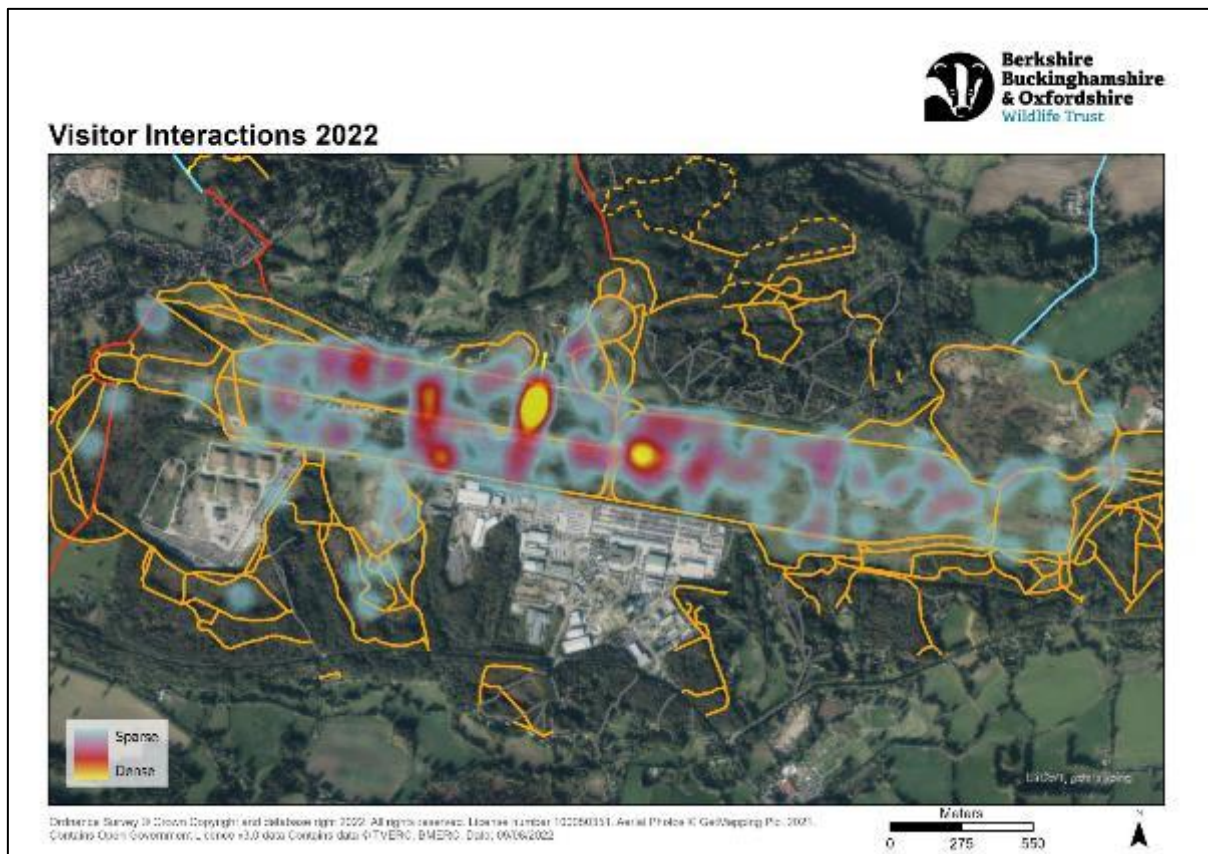


Figure 2: Heat map of visitor interaction on Greenham and Crookham Commons in 2022

Further data and analysis of these interactions can be found in Appendix B.

### Ground Nesting Birds

A formal bird survey was carried out on Greenham and Crookham Commons by Adrian Hickman in 2022, with a final report being produced later in the year. Bird records were also logged by Seasonal

Wardens on Survey123 and were consolidated into the formal survey data. At the time of writing this report, the provisional key points are as follows:

- High and provisionally record numbers of Stonechats, Dartford Warblers, Woodlarks and Meadow Pipits with 36, 16, 16 and 30 territories respectively
- Nightingale numbers recovered after dropping last season, with evidence of some birds establishing territories at the Crookham end in new patches of scrub due to habitat succession; Roam Zone scrub east of the pools; scrub south of pools on south side of Common, and in scrub south of main pool
- Skylarks continue to decline, with only two confirmed territories in the west lozenges
- Crookham pools hosted a single Reed Bunting territory the first since 2019
- Appeared to be fewer Linnets than the last few seasons. Provisional analysis of the data suggests a moderate drop from 58 to 50 territorial males/pairs. Still very common
- No Tree Pipits recorded
- A pair of Little Ringed Plovers nested on gravel north of the fire plane and probably fledged three chicks. Up to 4 Little Ringed Plovers at Crookham pools but no evidence of successful breeding
- Three-four pairs of Lapwing made at least four nesting attempts at Crookham pools. Most failed but two small chicks, possibly about a week old, were seen on the last survey visit and were still present on 25 July when judged to be about half grown

The provisional survey results with annual comparisons can be found in Appendix H.

### Nightjar Surveys

The annual BBOWT nightjar surveys were successfully conducted at 14 sites around Greenham Common (Figure 3), Snelsmore Common and Newtown Common. Surveyors included 16 BBOWT staff members and 30 volunteers. The surveys took place on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup> June and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

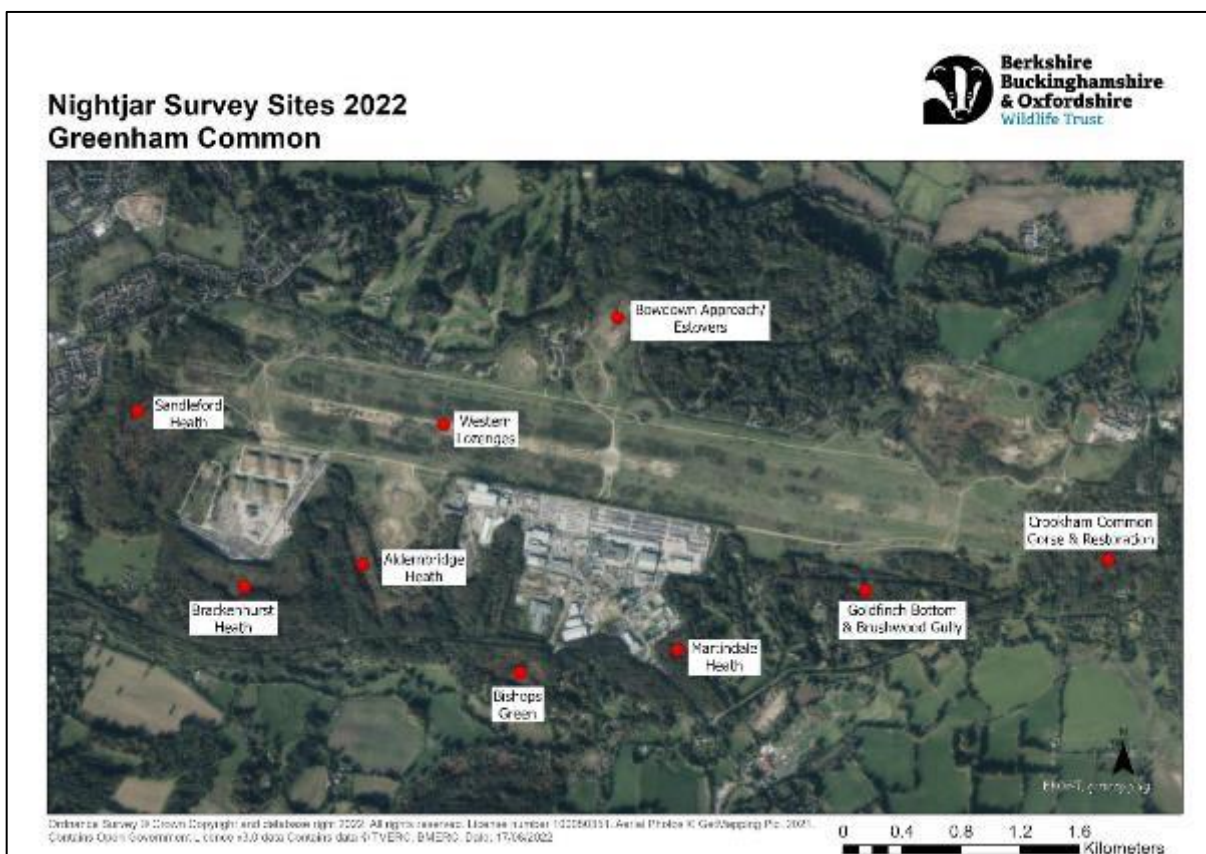


Figure 3: Nightjar Survey Sites on Greenham and Crookham Commons

Some initial analysis of the results was completed by the seasonal wardens (Table 2), however the full analysis will be completed by the BBOWT Ecology Team over winter.

*Table 2: Provisional nightjar numbers from 2022 surveys*

	Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3
Number of males after cross referencing	14	15	13
<b>Total number of nightjar</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>

It should be noted that the totals in Table 2 are a minimum number from each survey taken in isolation, however where records from different survey sites were very obviously the same bird it was not counted. A more accurate analysis would need to consider all the data as a whole and try to account for the same birds moving between different sites during the survey period.

Good numbers of nightjar were heard and seen, with all survey sites recording evidence of nightjar activity on at least one of the survey evenings.

Historically, the south western heaths at Greenham (Sandleford, Brackenhurst and Aldernbridge) have been the sites with the most nightjar activity recorded. However, in 2022 many sites recorded as much activity as these south western heaths and in some cases even more. Across the three survey evenings there were only four sites which were surveyed and recorded no activity on one occasion each – Snelsmore (survey site 1), Martindale Heath, Goldfinch Bottom and Crookham Common Restoration.

The addition of the lozenges on Greenham Common as an official survey site proved to be very positive with activity recorded on each of the survey evenings. This increase in nightjar distribution into the lozenges further highlights the success of the ground nesting bird control measures and further emphasises the important role the seasonal wardens play in helping manage the site.

There was also plenty of activity recorded at all three survey sites at Snelsmore (with the exception of survey spot 1 on the first evening) which is very encouraging as nightjar was absent at Snelsmore Common as recently as 2018.

Surveyors at Newtown Common recorded activity on all three survey evenings. A family of nightjar (two adults and a juvenile) was also seen on the 16th July suggesting at least two nesting attempts on Newtown Common, one of which was confirmed to be successful.

Full details of the survey data for each site can be found in Appendix I.

## Other Wildlife Observations

Throughout the season, a number of passage migrants and summer visitors were recorded by the wardens including wheatear, willow warbler, garden warbler (in seemingly good numbers), whitethroat and lesser whitethroat. Other notable bird sightings included a green sandpiper that was seen on a couple of occasions on the old runway path, and a kingfisher that was also seen on a couple of occasions at Crookham pools.

Silver-washed fritillary was recorded on multiple occasions in July and a grayling was recorded during a butterfly survey in the same month. Grizzled and dingy skippers were also recorded at the fireplane gravels and Crookham pools.

Adders were regularly seen during Spring at their usual location. There were also multiple sightings of both adders and grass snakes reported throughout the season.

Pool frogs appear to have expanded their range across the whole site having been seen and/or heard in most permanent ponds, most notably the small pond to the south east of Estovers and the newt ponds to the south of the fireplane gravels. They have also been heard as far east as the wildlife ponds at Crookham pools.

## Events

During the 2022 season, wardens organised and/or attended nine events in total on Greenham and Crookham Commons, and also attended an event in Hamstead Marshall giving a presentation on Greenham Common. The majority of events were very successful with good attendee numbers, however there were a couple of events with very few attendees which are highlighted below.

### **Pop-up display in Control Tower Car Park**

Before the start of ground nesting bird season, the wardens organised a pop-up display in the Control Tower car park with information about ground nesting birds and how visitors could help to protect them during the nesting season. The event was also attended by the TVP Wildlife Crime Officers (Figure 4)



*Figure 4: Seasonal Warden team and Wildlife Crime Officer at Control Tower Pop-up event*

### **Joint event with Greenham and Crookham Commons Commission**

The wardens joined representatives of the Greenham & Crookham Commons Commission (GCCC) and Natural England to increase public awareness of the GCCC and provide an understanding of its

role as guardian of the common. The wardens also raised public awareness of the measures in place to protect GNBs on Greenham Common.

### **Hamstead Marshall Presentation**

The wardens gave a presentation to the Hamstead Marshall Wildlife Group with information about the history of Greenham Common, the seasonal warden role and ground nesting birds and other wildlife that can be found on the Common.

### **Waggy Wildlife Walks**

In an attempt to engage with dog walkers who use Greenham Common, the wardens organised two 'Waggy Wildlife' walks. The purpose of these walks was to promote the Roam Zone as an alternative area for dog walking and show visitors areas which they may not be aware of. Unfortunately, there were no attendees at either event.

### **Joint event with Heathland Hounds**

A pop-up event took place by the Control Tower in partnership with Nicola Buckland from Thames Basin Heath's Heathland Hounds. As well as interacting with visitors to the Common it was also a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss different issues that both the Greenham Wardens and the Thames Basin Heaths Wardens face and brainstorm about how to interact further with dog owners. It is recommended that this partnership is maintained and that, if Heathland Hounds is in agreement, an event is organised involving both organisations to engage with dog walkers.

### **Nightjar Walks**

As in previous years, the wardens organised three guided nightjar walks. Each of these events were fully booked (16 bookings) and well attended. There was nightjar activity on both evenings, as well as woodcock and sighting of bats and glow worms.

### **Wildlife Walk**

A wildlife walk was organised in May 2022. Unfortunately, there was only one attendee but it was an otherwise successful walk with sightings of a variety of species.

### **Pond Dipping**

A pond dipping session was organised for families using the ponds west of the Control Tower. The event was fully booked (7 family bookings) and well attended with all families that attended saying that they enjoyed the session.

## **Recommendations**

A number of recommendations were made in the 2021 Warden Report. These recommendations are outlined in Table 3 in Appendix K, exploring the recommendations that required action by the 2022 wardens and how they were achieved.

### **2022 Recommendations**

- Recommend that the Greenham & Crookham Commission approve the implementation of the the ground nesting bird measures as they were this year in 2023.
- BBOWT continue to employ season wardens in 2023.

- Continue to collect data in the 2023 season through visitor activity monitoring, car park counts and visitor surveys. Review the data collection methods to ensure that the data being collected is relevant and useful and put together a data collection schedule.
- Use signage/other material as a way to provide education to visitors on why certain areas are protected
- Provide an appropriate range of additional interpretation to help people understand and care about the wildlife interests on Greenham Common
- Continue to organise regular guided walks and events for visitors.
- Develop methods to engage with dog owners about responsible dog owners and behaviour on sites, including specific events aimed at dogs and dog walkers.
- Continue to develop partnership with TVP, including running joint events with Wildlife Crime Officer. However, after consideration of the use of Thames Valley Police logo on signage is not considered appropriate and will be removed from 2023 log tern signage .
- Formalise the 2022 amendments to the signage with the production of professional produced printed materials.
- Promote and enhance accessibility in the Roam Zone as an area to explore off the main path with signage at the main access points
- Make more use of local social media channels and local contacts to promote the online visitor surveys to ensure a wider range of options are sought.

## Snelsmore Common

### Visitor Interactions

Roughly 25% of the warden's time was spent at Snelsmore Common and 18 visitor interactions were logged at this year. Most interactions were recorded because a conversation with the visitor contained useful information, rather than behaviour damaging to wildlife was seen.

Only in three cases was behaviour logged that might adversely affect wildlife on site. In two cases the visitor was on the main path but dogs were out of control running onto habitat. In one case the visitor was taking a shortcut on a minor desire line with dog to heel.

After a nightjar survey a small group of visitors were discovered with a campfire in a woodland area. Evidence of other campfires were observed during the ground nesting bird season.

Other conversations with visitors, some of which were not logged, commonly concerned litter around the rubbish bins, and overflowing dog poo bins.

### Blocking Desire Lines

Due to the large number of small trails causing habit fragmentation, desire lines have been blocked, although it is not always clear whether they have been created by people, dogs or ponies. In previous years this has been successfully achieved with brash barriers, sometime backed up by a sign. These have been maintained this year and a new technique of laying over live birch trees has been trialled to see if this creates a more permanent blockage.

Evidence for the success of these techniques can be seen as the season progresses, and bracken gradually takes the old path over (Figure 5).

Anecdotal evidence is that the public perceive these methods as being “more natural” compared to a proliferation of signs, and have a high level of acceptance by visitors. Due to the nature of the vegetation at Snelsmore along the path network, and lack of high levels of grazing these methods are easier to employ at Snelsmore compared to Greenham.

The logtorns recommended in last year’s report are now available on site, and can be put out with interpretation or other posters as required next season.

A map of blocked access points, and related habitat areas is shown in Figure 6.



*Figure 5: Vegetation growing over a blocked desire line*

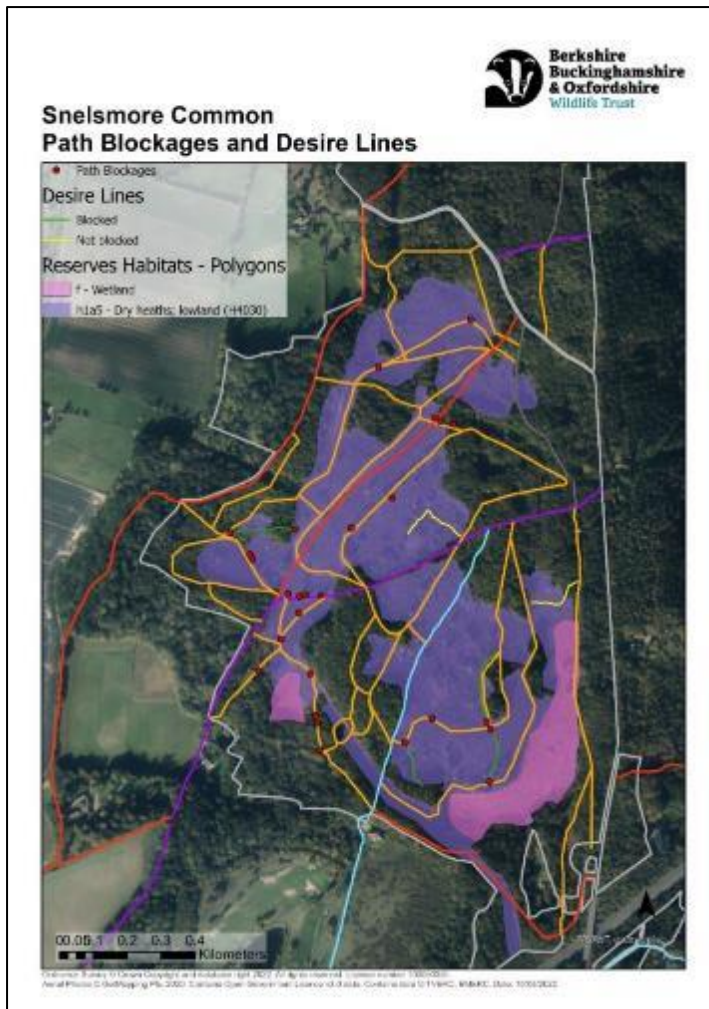


Figure 6: Path blockages, desire lines and sensitive Habitat on Snelsmore Common.

## Signage and the Green Dog Friendly Route

The main gate and Green Dog Friendly Route signs were unchanged from last year.

Concerns were raised in last year's report that the Green Dog Friendly Route passed close to good mire and heathland. As mitigation, extra signs asking for dogs to be kept on lead were added for two lengths close to more sensitive habitat. We have no evidence for how much impact these had, but from observation wear on paths in the heathland and mire areas seems light, except where dogs have accessed small pools in the valley mires.

From visitor surveys it is clear that the Green Dog Friendly Route is a popular feature of the site, because visitors believe they can let their dogs run off-lead, without damaging wildlife. Due to the rebranding within BBOWT these signs will soon require updating, which will allow an opportunity to refine their message.



## Ground Nesting Birds

Nightjars had a good season on Snelsmore, with numbers probably increasing from 2021. More details of the nightjar surveys can be found in the Greenham and Crookham Commons section of this report.

On a less positive note, Dartford warbler and tree pipit continued not to be recorded. Stonechat and meadow pipit were also not seen on the open heathland in spite of the habitat appearing suitable.

A woodlark was heard singing for several days in early June, but was probably displaced from another site and unlikely to have been paired up.

## Other Wildlife Observations

Other bird of Conservation Concern seen on site include, a cuckoo, recorded during one of the nightjar surveys, and a pair of marsh tits in July.

A pair of common buzzards nested in a scots pine along the Green Dog Route and raised three chicks.

Reptiles appear to be doing well on the site with regular sightings of adder, common lizard and slow worm.

Green tiger beetles were frequent on the sandy paths in warm conditions. A great diving beetle was found at the south pond in April, and a purple hairstreak seen low down on a car park oak in August. In June the local wolf spider *Xerolycosa nemoralis* was found on a burnt but recovering area of heathland.

## Events

During 2022 the wardens ran two public events attended by a total of 20 people.

A moth trapping and display event took place over the Jubilee weekend, assisted by two local moth recorders. Three light traps ran overnight in rainy conditions. Although nothing unusual was found, a wide range of common species were caught in good numbers. Despite the event being free and widely publicised, only four people came to see the moths. More signage or flags may be able to draw in people passing by if this event runs again.

A nightjar walk was organised in late July, to coincide with Heath Week, promoted by the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership. This event was fully booked. Nightjars were seen and heard, although noise from the A34 intruded a little.

## Recommendations

A number of recommendations were made in the 2021 Warden Report. These recommendations are outlined in Table 4 in Appendix K, exploring the recommendations that required action by the 2022 wardens and how they have been achieved.

### **2022 Recommendations**

- BBOWT continue to employ season wardens in 2023.
- Review and update Snelsmore signage based on templates used at Greenham Common.
- Continue to discourage use of desire lines primarily using living or dead wood. Prioritise blocking access points from the Green Route onto sensitive habitat, as an alternative to supplementary signs.
- Consider monitoring of Green Route usage to inform site interventions required
- Install log terns at suitable locations to convey wildlife information about the site.
- Work with café to promote BBOWT and wildlife messaging at the Snugg.
- Consider installation of bike racks at entrance to encourage sustainable transport alternatives, and work with local access forum to improve footpath links where appropriate.

## Appendices

### Appendix A – Signage Changes at Greenham Common

Ground nesting bird signage at Greenham Common has evolved over the last few years. Figure 7.1 shows the signage produced originally back in 2012 and was the main signage used on site until its review and update in 2021. Whilst the messaging has remained constant, improvements have been made in an attempt to effectively convey the messaging of keeping to the main paths during the GNB season. The understanding of red and green zones was clear to the public; it was the orange zones i.e. the paths, that were hard to convey in a map from. The 2012 signage relied on users to actually read the text to understand the full ground nesting bird messaging that was approved for implementation.

The signage was updated in 2021. Then this year (2022) prior to the start of the ground nesting bird season in march when signage is put up on site, additional changes were made based on feedback received in 2021 (see *Seasonal Wardens Report 2021 for more details*). We feel that the 2022 signage is now clearer, helps increase visitor understanding of the main message, and also has been updated to align with BBOWT's new branding (see Figures 7 to 10).



Figure 7.1. Ground nesting bird signage used from 2012 to 2020



Figure 7: Gate signage 2021



Figure 8: Gate signage 2022



Figure 9: On-site signage 2021



Figure 10: On-site signage 2022

Logtern signage was also updated with new branding (Figure 11).



Figure 11: Logtern signage 2022

### Green Zone to Roam Zone

Another change that was made for the 2022 season was renaming the 'Green Zones', the areas in which visitors are welcome to explore off the main paths. Visitor surveys in 2021 revealed that only 27% of survey respondents knew what the Green Zones were for. Surveys also revealed that some visitors believed that Green Zones were the areas where birds were protected, due to the link between 'green' and 'environmentally friendly'. In an attempt to increase visitor understanding of these zones and minimise confusion, the Green Zone was renamed as the 'Roam Zone'. New signage was developed (Figure 12) as well as online maps being updated.

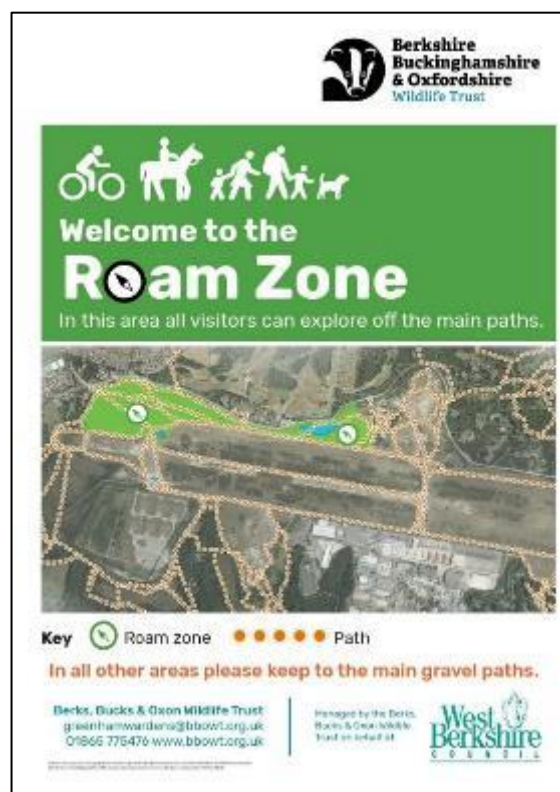


Figure 12: Roam Zone signage

## Online Signage Survey

To understand how these signage changes had been received by visitors to Greenham Common, an online survey was put together and advertised on gate signs. Respondents were shown images of all the new signage and asked for their comments. There was a total of 15 respondents.

As Table 5 shows, there were mixed responses to all the signage. For each of the signs multiple people said that they were clear and well-designed. The majority of negative comments were focused more on the ‘tone’ of the signs rather than the actual design. This suggests that the message of keep to the main paths is better understood than in previous years, even if not well received.

Multiple respondents also raised that they would like to see more educational signage informing visitor about which birds are nesting and why it is important that they are protected. It is recommended that future wardens continue to focus on educating visitors about GNBs through events, social media and signage.

Table 5: Responses to new GNB signage in an online survey

	Positive Comments	Negative Comments	Suggestions
<b>Gate Sign</b> (Figure 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearest version so far</li> <li>• Well designed</li> <li>• Informative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of TVP logo is threatening</li> <li>• Signs at entrances are too small and the text/graphics are too small</li> <li>• High-handed tone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional information about rights on the Common</li> <li>• Better wording – use ‘gravel paths’ consistently</li> <li>• Updated signage to make TVP logo smaller and less prominent</li> </ul>
<b>A4 Sign</b> (Figure 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear</li> <li>• Well designed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Stick’ is not good English – ‘keep’ would be better</li> <li>• Some signs say ‘gravel paths’ and others don’t – could be confusing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put the words ‘visitors’ and ‘dogs’ in bold</li> <li>• Information about which birds are nesting</li> <li>• Information about whether dogs should be on leads or not</li> </ul>
<b>Logtern Sign</b> (Figure 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear</li> <li>• Well designed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mention of W&amp;C Act is aggressive and inappropriate</li> <li>• Misleading and offensive</li> <li>• Too officious</li> <li>• TVP logo shouldn’t be on there</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated signage to make TVP logo smaller and less prominent</li> </ul>
<b>Roam Zone Sign</b> (Figure 12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear</li> <li>• Well designed</li> <li>• Clear and thoughtful policy</li> <li>• Great idea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some logtern signs have green band at the top – contradicts with the green on the roam zone signs</li> <li>• Patronising</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Control Tower on the maps</li> <li>• Could point out that the Roam Zones are a relaxation of CROW legislation – a more dog friendly area</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Comments</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roam Zones are not big enough</li> <li>• Phrase all the signs so it is clear that it applies to everybody, not just dog walkers e.g. birders, horse riders</li> <li>• The interests and priorities of one group should be balanced fairly with those of other groups</li> <li>• Appreciate being able to use the roam zones to wander off path</li> <li>• Education rather than nay-saying would be more productive and engaging</li> <li>• Blocking firebreaks is too much – it’s too far to walk all the way around</li> <li>• More information of which birds are nesting is needed</li> <li>• Additional monitoring and enforcement needed</li> <li>• Using TVP logo is laughable. BBOWT is making themselves look absurd. The police are not interested and polite requests rather than threats work better</li> <li>• Laminated signs are often torn or blown off – stapling is not sufficient for attaching them</li> <li>• Logterns are far better than the red posts used in previous years</li> <li>• Support inclusion of TVP logo</li> </ul>			

## Appendix B – Visitor Interactions Data Analysis (Greenham Common)

All interactions between visitors to the Common and the seasonal wardens were recorded using the ArcGIS Survey123 app. This allowed for precise locations of interactions to be recorded, along with further details such as activity, number of visitors and reasons for being off the main path.

### Number of interactions

Table 6: Number of visitor interactions on Greenham Common 2020-2022

	2020	2021	2022	Change (2020-22)
<b>Total Interactions</b>	561	358	290	-271
<b>Interactions off main path/roam zone</b>	453	312	262	-191
<b>% of interactions off main path/roam zone</b>	80.7%	87.2%	90.3%	+9.6%

Table 6 shows how the number of visitor interactions has decreased year on year since 2020. However, it can also be seen that the percentage of interactions that are taking place off the main paths or roam zones remains high and has increased over the last couple of years.

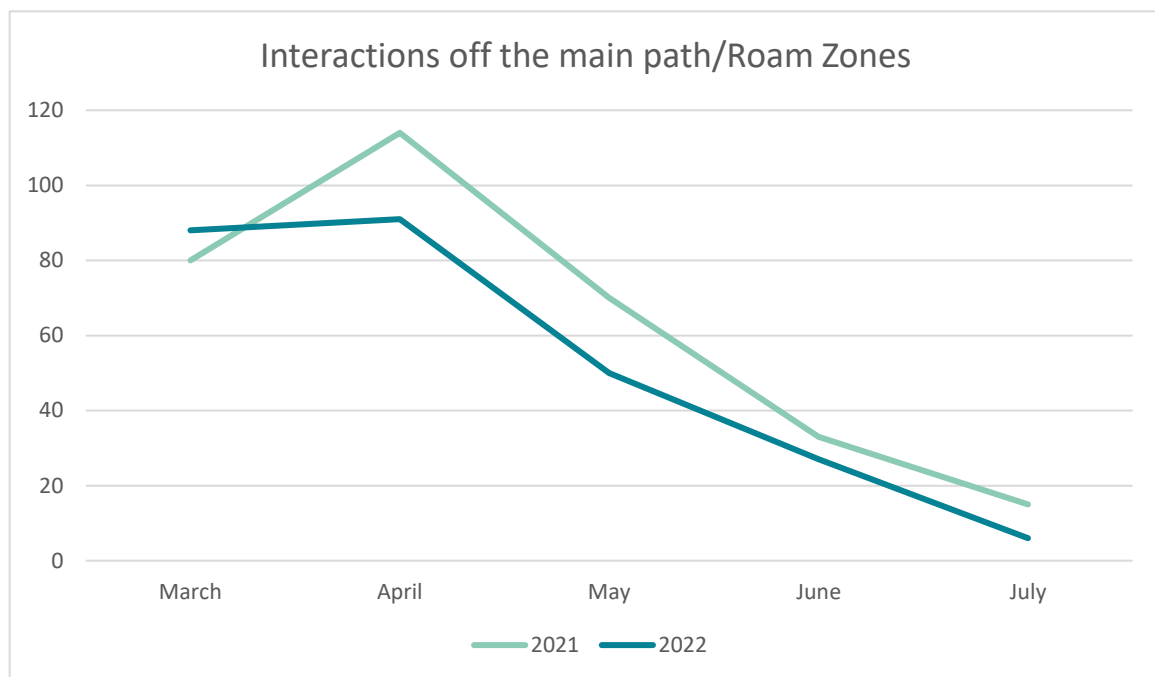


Figure 13: Number of interactions off the main paths/Roam Zone 2021 vs 2022

Figure 13 shows how the number of visitor interactions changed throughout the 2022 season. This pattern is very similar to that of 2021. It suggests that as the season progresses, increasing numbers of visitors are understanding and heeding to the protection measures. However, there are a number of factors that could influence these results such as weather conditions and total visitor numbers. It is also likely that the low number in July is a direct result of wardens undertaking other activities e.g. visitor surveys.

### Location of interactions

In 2022, the majority of interactions involved visitors who had been using the lozenges (Table 7). It is recommended that wardens continue to focus their efforts on the lozenges next season.

Table 7: Number of visitor interactions in each area of Greenham Common

	Number of interactions	% of interactions
Lozenges	244	79.22%
Main Paths	23	7.47%
Roam Zone (West)	5	1.62%
Crookham Pools	5	1.62%
Estovers East	5	1.62%
Fire Plane	4	1.3%
Sandleford Heath	2	0.65%
Brackenhurst Heath	1	0.32%
Woodland	1	0.32%
Roam Zone (East)	0	0%
Aldernbridge Heath	0	0%
Old Thornford Road West	0	0%

When looking at a heat map of all visitor interactions (Figure 14) it can be seen that the firebreaks continue to be hotspots, as was the case in 2021. There is also a hotspot to the east of the central runway cross. This was an area where wardens often interacted with visitors coming off the eastern lozenges.

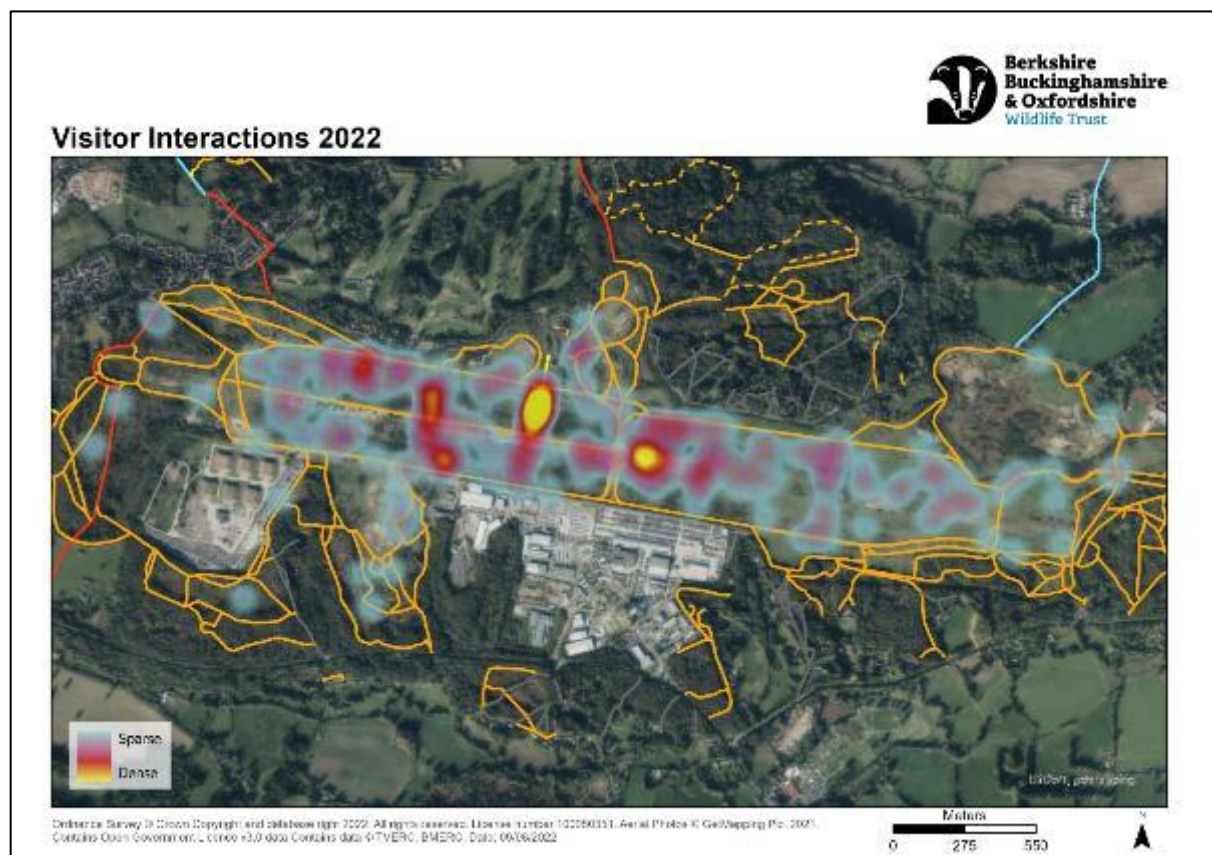


Figure 14: Heat map of visitor interactions on Greenham and Crookham Commons



## Visitor Activities

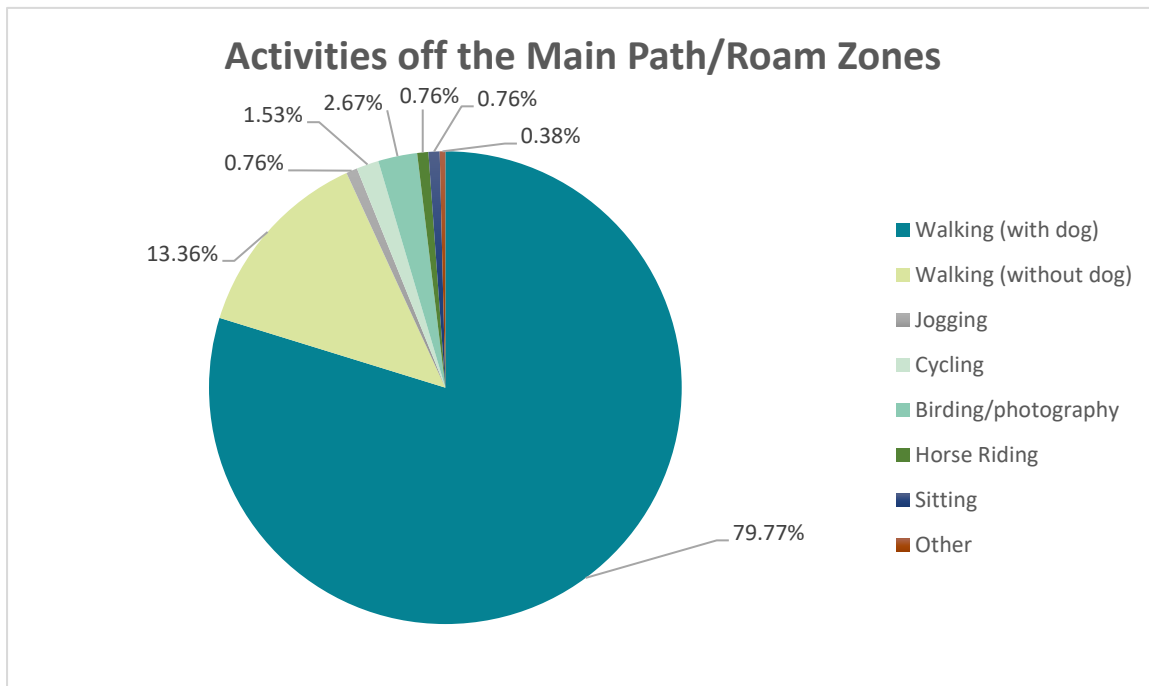


Figure 15: Visitor activities off the main paths/Roam Zones

Figure 15 shows that the vast majority of interactions off the main paths/roam zones were with walkers, the majority of those being dog walkers. This is a trend that follows on from previous years with dog walkers accounting for 61% of interactions off the main path/roam zone in 2021 and 47% in 2020. More work is needed to find ways to engage with dog walkers and also promote the Roam Zones as open areas off the main path where dogs can be walked without causing disturbance to ground nesting birds.

## Interactions with dog owners

Table 8: Number of off-path visitor interactions involving visitors with and without a dog

	With dog		Without dog	
	Number of interactions off main paths/roam zones	% of interactions off main path/roam zone	Number of interactions off main paths/roam zones	% of interactions off main path/roam zone
2021	212	67.9%	100	32.1%
2022	211	80.5%	51	19.5%
Change	-1	+12.6%	-49	-12.6%

Of all the interactions that took place off the main paths/roam zones, interactions with dog owners continue to account for a large percentage of them despite the number of interactions remaining very similar (Table 8). Interactions with dog owners remain the most common off the main path and it is vital that future wardens continue to explore ways of engaging and interacting with dog owners as it is likely that dog ownership will remain high and dog owners will continue to be the most common type of visitor to the Common.

## Types of Visitors

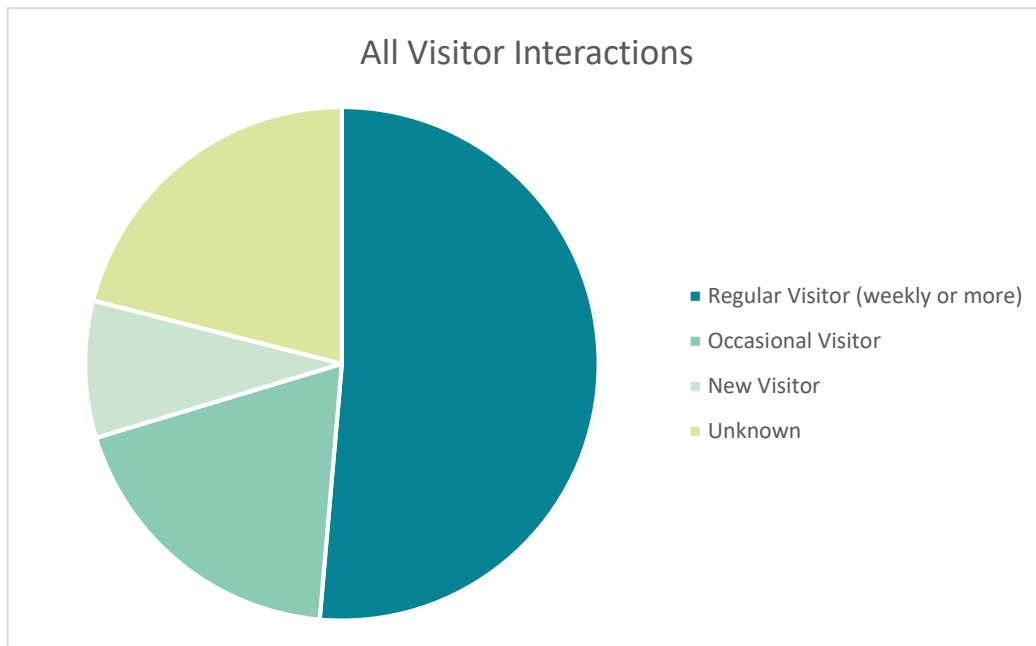


Figure 16: Types of visitors involved in interactions

As Figure 16 shows, regular visitors made up just over half of all the visitor interactions recorded by the seasonal wardens. The proportions of different types of visitors are very similar when looking at interactions with visitors that were off the main path or roam zones (Figure 17). This shows how important it is that seasonal wardens continue to explore ways to interact with regular visitors and effectively convey the message of keeping to the main paths.

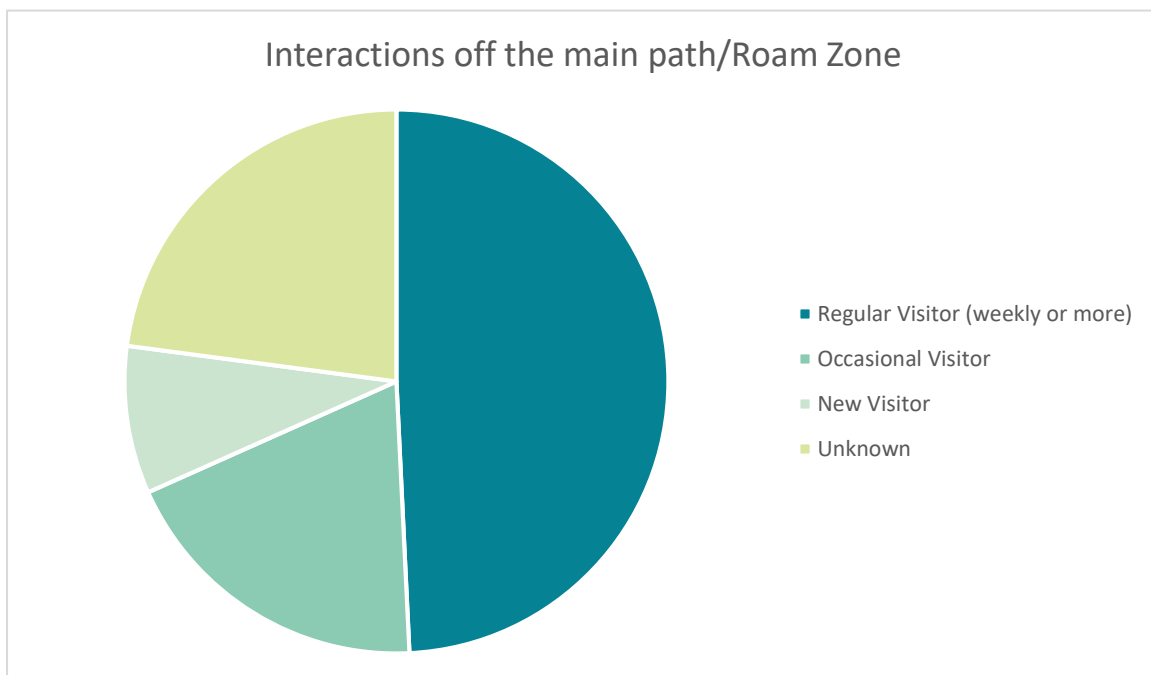


Figure 17: Types of visitor involved in interactions off the main paths/Roam Zones

## Visitor Reasons for being off main path/roam zone

As in previous years, the reasons for visitors being away from the main paths was recorded and allocated a code for analysis, see Table 9

Figure 18 shows that many times the reason was for being off the main paths was not clear. This is partly due to seasonal wardens recording every time they saw someone off the main path, even if they did not speak to them. In a quarter of interactions off the main path, the visitor(s) stated that they were not aware of ground nesting birds or the protection measures. This highlights the important role the wardens play engaging and educating members of the public.

Positively, the percentage of people that said that they hadn't seen the signs has fallen compared with 2021. There was also a large decrease in the percentage of visitors saying that they thought only red zones were protected which is to be expected with the removal of red zones for 2022. However, it does show that it can take time for new messages to be understood and accepted by long-term visitors.

Table 9: Reasons given by visitors for being off the main paths/Roam Zones

Reason Code	Reason
0	No reason given/reason unclear
1	Not aware of GNBs/protection measures
2	Thought only red zones protected
3	Open access land/common – believe that they should walk anywhere they like
4	Belief that nothing nesting in the protected areas
5	They hadn't seen the signs
6	Tradition – they have always walked the same route and aren't willing to change
7	Shortcut
8	Trying to keep away from dogs/cyclists/cattle etc.

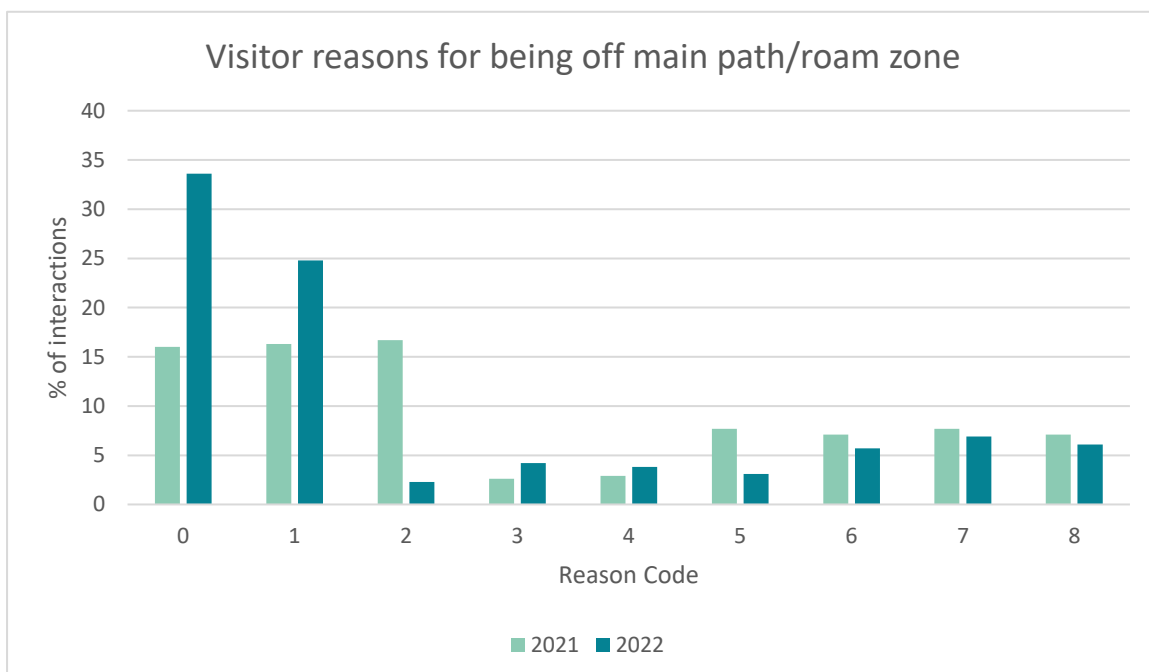


Figure 18: Percentage of interactions off the main path/Roam Zones where each reason was given – 2021 vs 2022

## Visitor Compliance

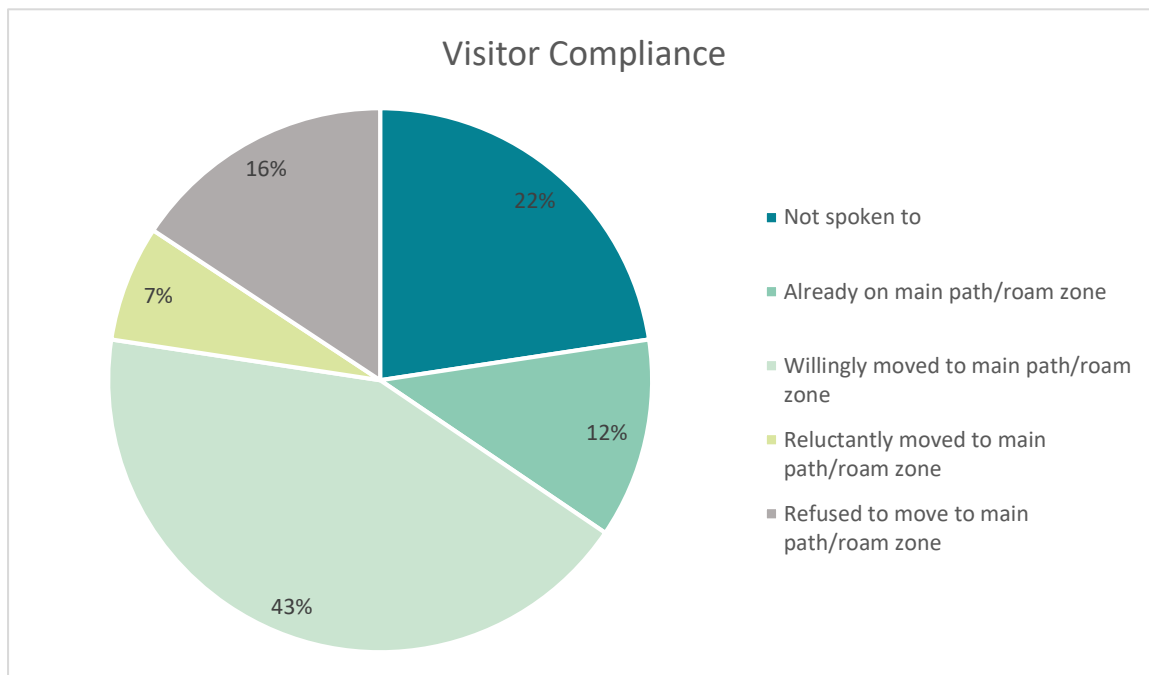


Figure 19: Visitor compliance in interactions off the main paths/Roam Zones

After engaging with visitors who have strayed from the main path, the wardens recorded how the visitor responded after the interaction. Figure 19 shows that while the majority of visitors were willing to move back to the main path there were several cases where visitors refused to do so. 90% of these interactions where the visitor refused to move to a main path involved regular visitors (at least weekly).

12% of interactions took place on a main path/roam zone after the visitor had been seen in protected areas. Where possible, the wardens would wait for the visitor to reach a main path to avoid entering protected areas themselves.

## Weekend vs Weekday

### Location of interactions

Figure 20 shows how interactions differed from weekday to weekend. While weekend interaction numbers are lower than weekday numbers, the average number of interactions per day is higher. For weekdays, the wardens averaged 2.01 interactions per day, whereas at weekends this rises to 4.78 interactions per day.

The location of interactions does not vary greatly between weekdays and weekends, with the lozenges remaining the most common location with the firebreaks continuing to be a hot spot.

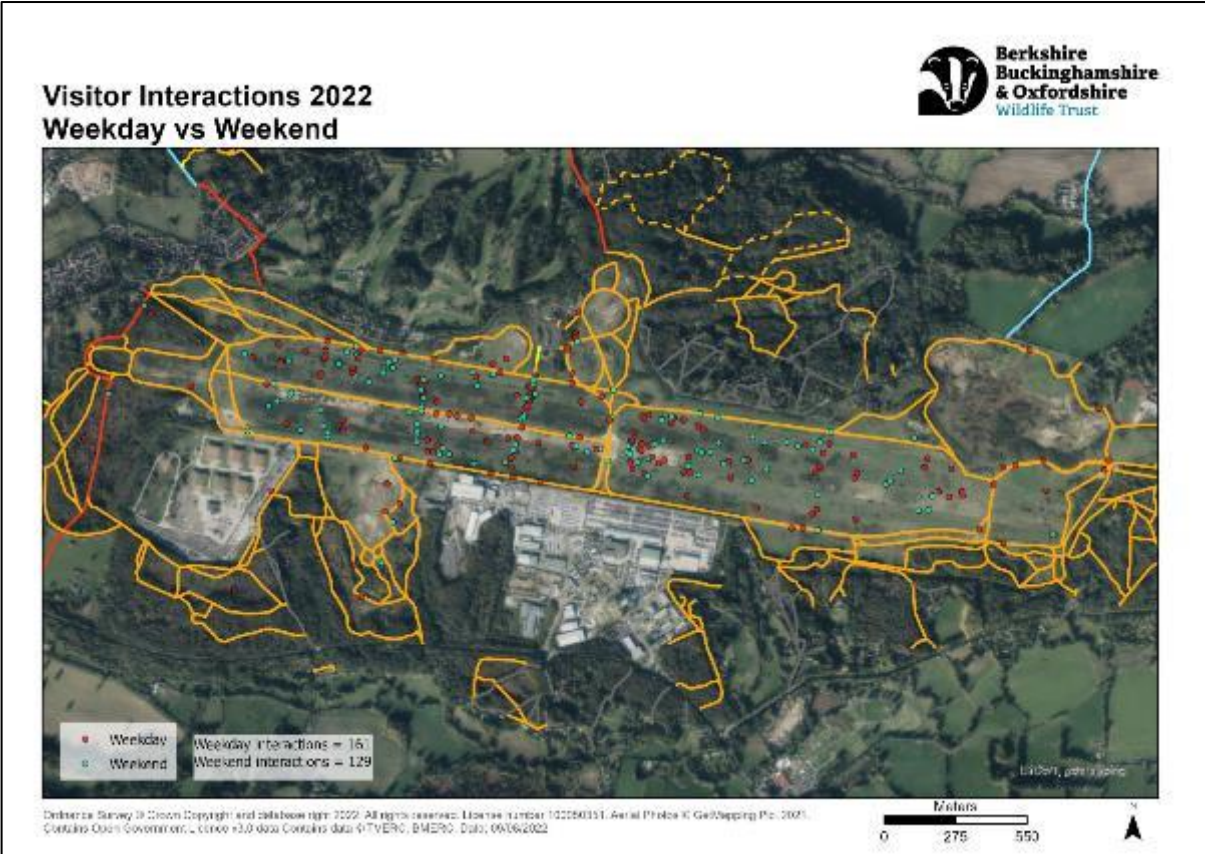


Figure 20: Location of visitor interactions – Weekday vs weekend

**Visitor Compliance – Weekday vs Weekend**

As well as studying how the location of interactions differed between weekday and weekend visitors, visitor compliance has also been analysed (Figure 21). The graph below shows the percentage of interactions where visitors willingly, reluctantly or refused to move to the main path excluding those interactions where the visitor was not spoken to or was spoken to on a main path/room zone. Although not significant, it can be seen that on weekdays a slightly higher percentage of visitors refused to move to the main path when compared to weekend visitors. A higher percentage of visitors were willing to move to main paths at the weekends.

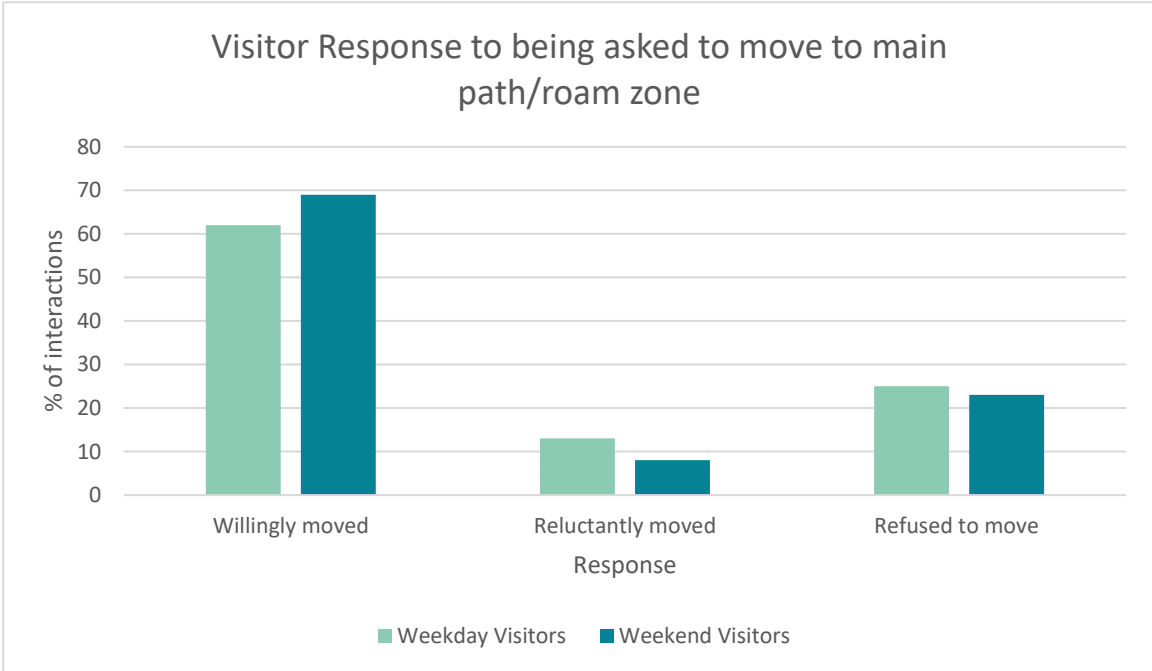


Figure 21: Visitor compliance – weekday vs weekend

Table 10: Visitor type and compliance on Greenham Common on the weekdays vs the weekends

	Weekday					
	Willingly moved		Reluctantly moved		Refused to move	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Regular (weekly or more)</b>	34	58.6%	8	66.7%	22	95.7%
<b>Occasional</b>	15	25.9%	4	33.3%	0	0%
<b>New</b>	7	12.1%	0	0%	1	4.3%
<b>Unknown</b>	2	3.4%	0	0%	0	0%
	Weekend					
	Willingly moved		Reluctantly moved		Refused to move	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Regular (weekly or more)</b>	20	37%	3	50%	15	83.3%
<b>Occasional</b>	21	38.9%	2	33.3%	2	11.1%
<b>New</b>	11	20.4%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Unknown</b>	2	3.7%	1	16.7%	1	5.6%

Table 10 provides a more in-depth look at the types of visitors and their response to being spoken to by a warden. On both weekdays and weekends, the vast majority of visitors that refused to move to the main path are regular. Regular visitors also make up the largest proportion of those who reluctantly move to the main path on both weekdays and weekends.

This data further confirms the importance of finding different ways to engage with regular visitors to the Common to try and increase understanding of the protection measures and reduce the number of visitors that routinely use protected areas of the Common and refuse to move to main paths when approached by a warden.

## Appendix C – Visitor Activity Monitoring (Greenham Common)

In order to get a snapshot of how visitors were using different zones of the site and identify any trends across the season, a series of monitoring sessions were carried out.

### Methodology

A vantage point was taken up near the Control Tower, giving views of the main path, a firebreak, part of the lozenges and part of the Roam Zone (formerly called the Green Zone). This point was the same as 2020 and 2021, allowing direct comparison with previous years. The site was monitored for 30 minutes, at approximately 4 pm on Fridays, twice monthly from March to the end of May. An extra session was conducted in August to evaluate the effect of ending of GNB protection measures.

### Visitor Location

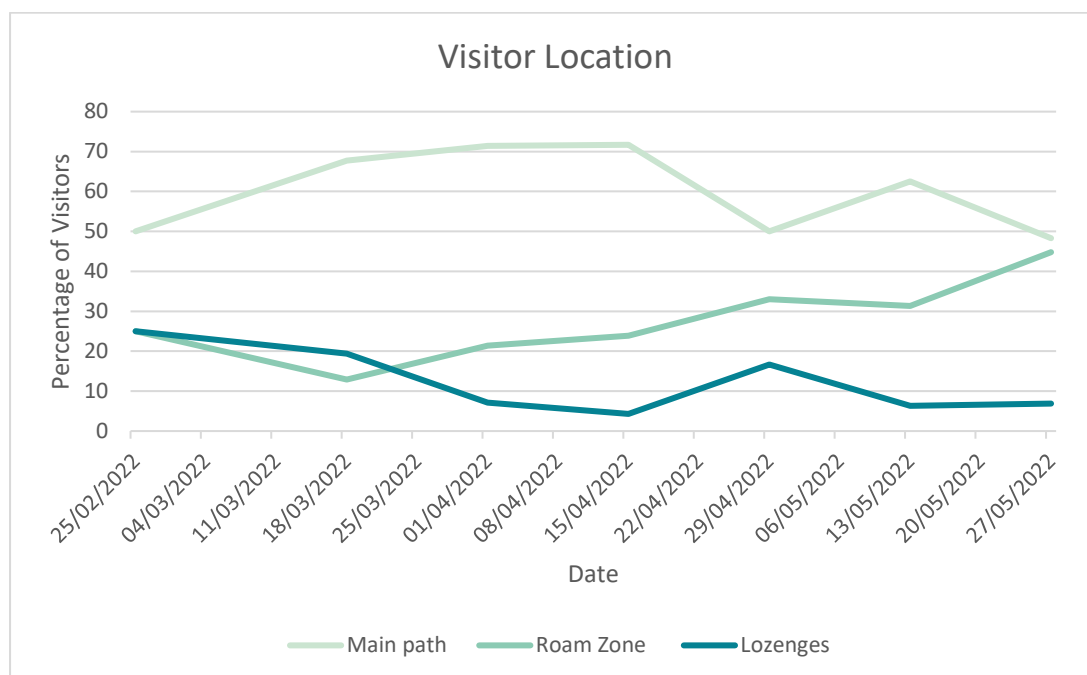


Figure 22: Visitor location during activity monitoring

Figure 22 shows the location of visitors seen versus date. The number of people on the main path is steady overall, and is always where the majority of visitors can be found. This shows that the paths are suitable for most visitors, and so the policy of asking visitors to stay on the main path is realistic.

There is a trend of visitors switching from the protected lozenge area to the roam zone as the season progresses. This is a positive sign showing that the behaviour of visitors changes during the early part of the season. It is a reasonable hypothesis that this is due to the messages conveyed by the wardens and the signage have been understood and are being followed by the majority of visitors.

A surprising finding was that, in the August monitoring session, of the 15 people observed, none had returned to using the lozenges despite ending wardening and removal of GNB signage. Although it is dangerous to draw conclusions from a single session, one idea is that the reduction in the use of the lozenges as the season progresses may be partly due to dog walker seeking out shady routes with water available.

### Comparison with Previous Seasons

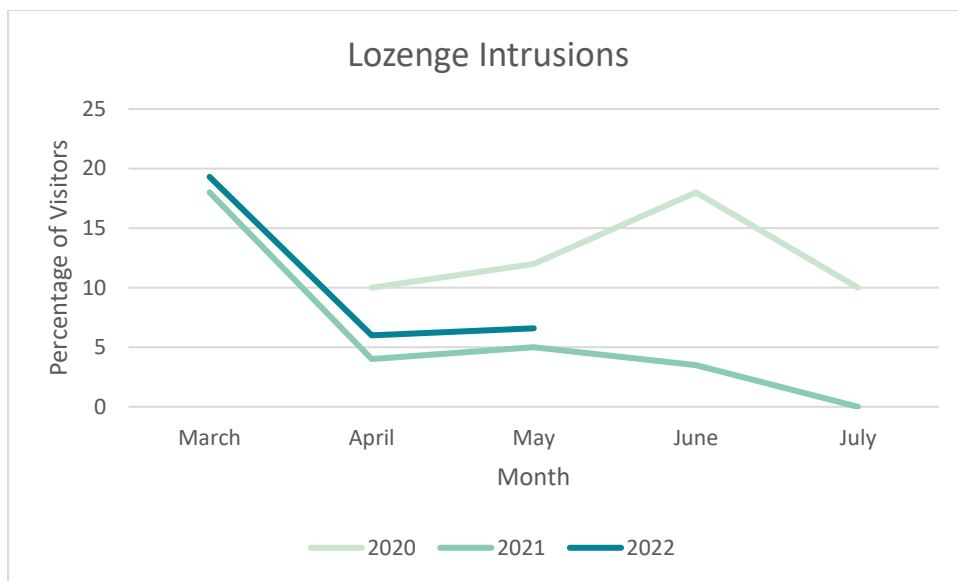


Figure 23: Monthly lozenge Intrusions during activity monitoring 2020-2021

The percentage of people using the lozenges is plotted versus date in shown in Figure 23. The large drop in the number of visitors in the lozenges seen in March last year was repeated again this year. Overall numbers using the lozenges early on in the season were lower than in 2020, and only slightly greater than last year. It is not clear that this increase is statistically significant given the small sample size. It is most likely that the level of intrusions into the lozenges dropped between 2020 (the COVID year) and 2021, and has been maintained at a similar level this year.

### Dogs

Figure 24 below plots dogs seen on and off lead, versus date.

The numbers of dogs seen during the survey period is quite unstable with particularly low numbers on 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April. This may be weather related. The second date was noted as being unseasonably cold.

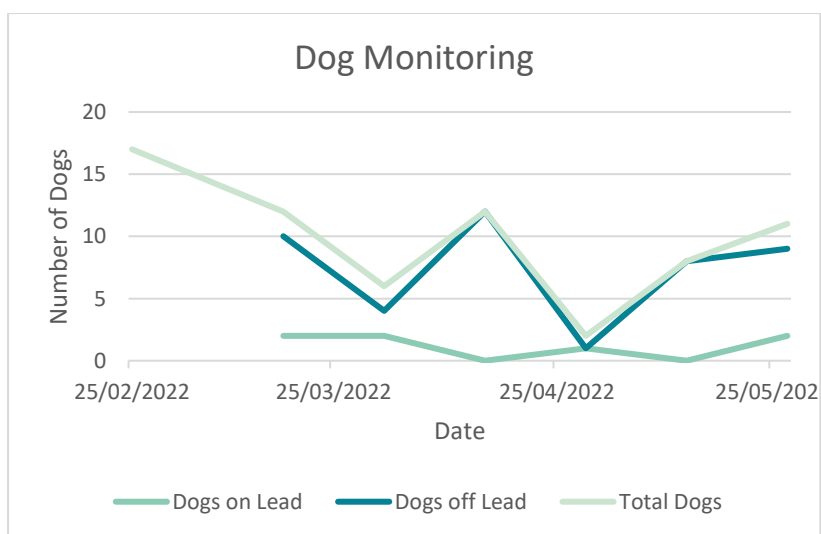


Figure 24: Dog monitoring over the GNB season



In spite of the variability of total dog numbers the overall conclusion is clear. The vast majority of dog walkers seen, have their dogs off lead. There does not seem to be a trend as the season progresses. This finding agrees with anecdotal evidence and visitor surveys that the majority of dog walkers visiting the Commons, place a high value on their dogs being able to run off lead. This again emphasises the importance of having seasonal wardens in place talking to and educating members of the public throughout the key ground nesting bird period.

## Appendix D – Visitor Surveys (Greenham Common)

In order to gain further information on visitors to Greenham and Crookham Commons (GCC) and their behaviour on site during the ground nesting bird season, visitor surveys were undertaken across a number of different timeslots across the three main site entrances (Control Tower, Pyle Hill & Crookham Pools). The surveys were carried out towards the end of the GNB season. A total of 102 visitor surveys were completed at GCC.

Where comparisons with data from 2020 are made, it is important to remember the methodology used for the 2020 visitor surveys. The visitor survey was online, advertised to visitors by a gate sign with a QR code and a link to the survey. This resulted in a much smaller dataset than in previous years and introduced a bias into the types of visitors completing the survey. More detail on this methodology and its limitations can be found in the 2020 Seasonal Warden Report. The surveys carried out in 2021 followed the same methodology as this year so any comparison is likely to be more valid

### Visitor Activity and Type

The first section of the survey focussed on visitors' reasons for visiting and the frequency of their visits. As can be seen in Table 11 the main reason given for visiting the site was to walk their dog (69.6%) followed by walking without a dog (25.5%). This means that almost 95% of all visitors coming to the site do so to come for a walk. However, the proportion of visitors walking with a dog has increased by almost 25% when compared to last year. This may be due to a general nationwide increase in dog ownership and/or wider knowledge of GCC as a safe place to walk dogs. Either way these results further emphasise the need to engage with dog owners and spread the message around effective dog management on the common.

Table 11: visitor activities on GCC

Activity Type	2022	2021	2020
Dog Walking	69.6%	56.4%	18.0%
Walking	25.5%	31.6%	26.0%
Cycling	4.9%	6.0%	14.0%
Jogging/Running	3.9%	9.4%	11.0%
Wildlife Interest	3.9%	1.7%	14.0%
Control Tower	2.9%	0.0%	6.0%
Family outing	2.0%	0.9%	7.0%
Shortcut/commuting	0.0%	2.6%	1.0%
Other	4.9%	5.1%	3.0%

Several questions were asked to try and establish the different types of visitors to GCC. The first asked visitors how long they have been visiting GCC (Table 12). As with previous years the highest proportion of visitors have been visiting GCC for 5+ years, though this has dropped from 73.5% the previous year. These longer-term visitors seem to have been replaced by those who have visited the site for between 1-5 years (28.5%), possibly reflecting new visitors who found the site during the Covid lockdowns in 2020/21.

*Table 12: how long have respondents been visiting GCC*

Visiting For	2022	2021	2020
First Visit	4.9%	3.4%	
Less than a year	7.8%	7.7%	5.0%
1-2 years	16.7%	8.6%	7.0%
3-5 years	11.8%	6.8%	17.0%
5+ years	58.8%	73.5%	71.0%

Regular visitors have been defined in previous reports as those that visit the site at least weekly. This year 84% of visitors can be classed as regular compared to 77% last year (Table 13). The other interesting result from this question is that the number of sporadic visitors (less than once a month) has increased to 10.2% from 3.4% last year.

*Table 13: GCC visit frequency*

Visit Frequency	2022	2021	2020
More than once a day	7.1%	10.3%	7.0%
Once a day	25.5%	17.2%	32.0%
More than once a week	35.7%	35.3%	39.0%
Once a week	15.3%	14.7%	12.0%
2-3 times a month	4.1%	8.6%	2.0%
Once a month	2.0%	6.9%	0.0%
Sporadically	10.2%	3.4%	7.0%

The survey also asked why visitors chose GCC over other local green spaces (Table 14). The most popular reason was again “Proximity to home” but this has continued to decline from previous years. Again, this could be due to the relaxation of Covid restrictions meaning distance from home is less of a consideration. The number of visitors choosing “Safe” and “natural beauty” has increased on last year but those citing “peaceful” has declined. Other common reasons given included openness (12%), quality of the paths (12%) and the presence of dog ponds (8%)

*Table 14: Why do visitors choose GCC over other local green spaces*

Why Greenham?	2022	2021	2020
Proximity to home	37.3%	44.0%	50.0%
Peaceful	4.9%	11.0%	5.0%
Natural beauty	16.7%	13.0%	21.0%
Safe	11.8%	7.0%	

For the first time this year visitors were also asked whether they viewed GCC as a common, a nature reserve, or both. Figure 25 shows that most surveyed visitors (70%) view the site as both, highlighting the important role common land plays in providing multiple benefits to users.

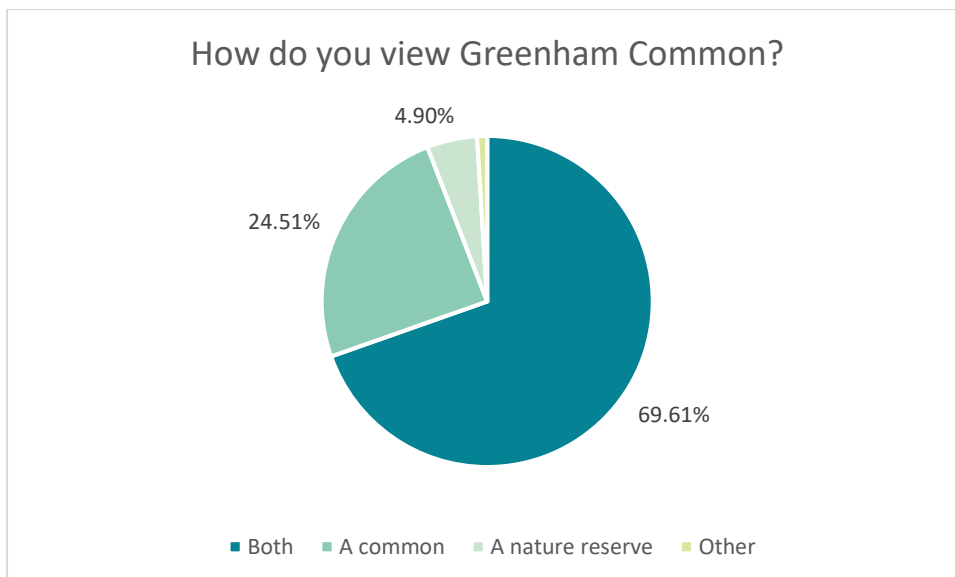


Figure 25: Do visitors see GCC as a common or a nature reserve

Another semi-regular issue that was raised with the wardens this year was the lack of a shorter circular route on the main common due to the closure of the firebreaks to protect GNBs during the breeding season. This has led to some calls for a firebreak to be opened to allow for a c.1km loop to be walked from the Control Tower. To understand whether this was a more widespread issue visitors were asked whether they thought “*there is suitable provision of circular walking routes of different lengths during the ground nesting bird season*”. The results, shown in Figure 26, show that only 15% of respondents believe that there is not suitable provision. Consequently, one of the recommendations taken forward is to improve access provision in the roam zones

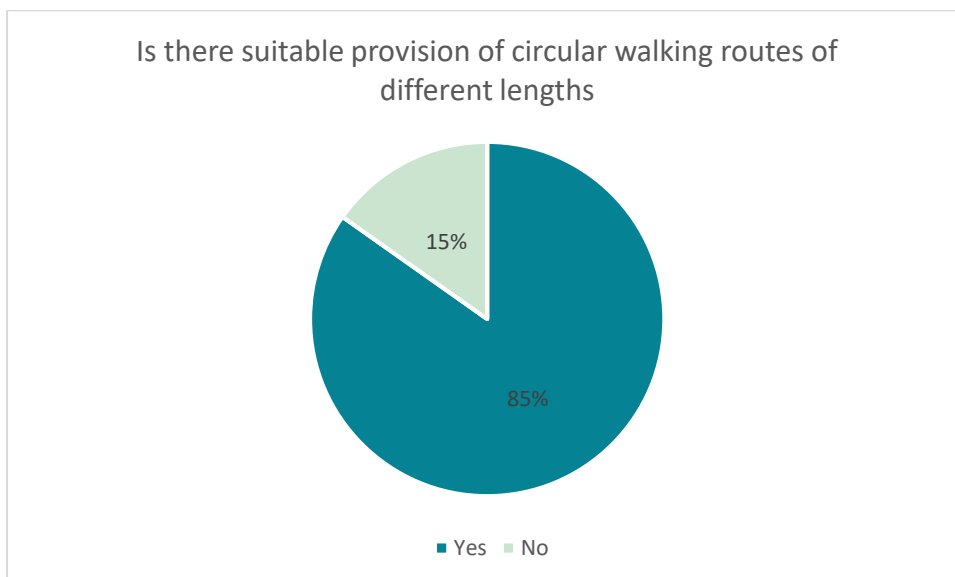


Figure 26: provision of circular walks during the GNB season

### Knowledge of GNB Protection Measures

The next section of the survey focussed on visitors’ awareness of the measures in place to protect GNBs during the nesting season. The first questions focussed on the “roam zones” (RZ) and the results are shown in Figure 27.

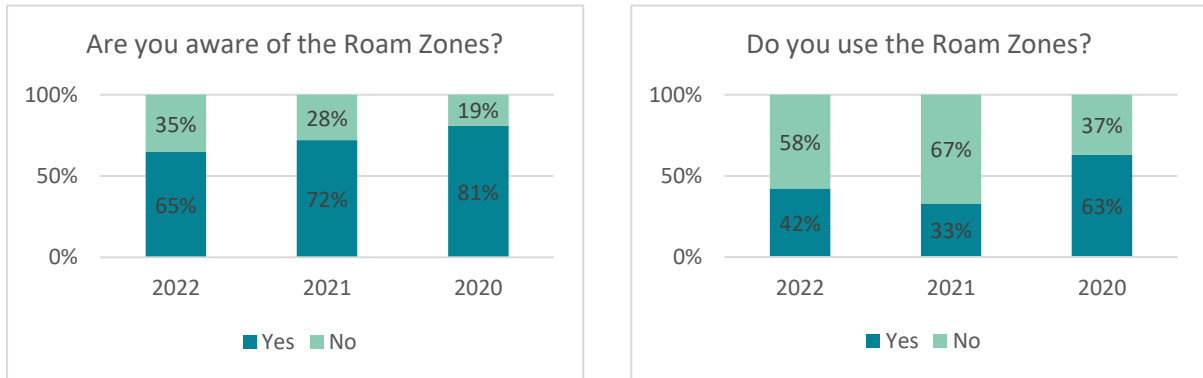


Figure 27: visitors' awareness and usage of roam zones.

Compared to last year awareness of the RZ has decreased from 72% to 65%. However, usage of the roam zones has increased from last year from 33% to 42%. This suggests that though fewer visitors were aware of the RZ when they are aware they are more likely to use them. It is recommended that the RZ signage is reviewed to make it more obvious, that more is done to promote the RZ at the main access points to the site, and further management interventions are made to open up these areas.

When asked if there were any suggestions on how to improve the RZ the most frequent responses were to have them more clearly marked, keep them free of cattle, cut down some of the scrub, and have more dog poo bins.

Visitors were also asked whether they were aware of the GNB protection measures and could they briefly describe their understanding of them. Figure 28 shows that there has been a slight decline in the proportion of visitors who are aware of the measures, dropping from 84% to 81%. When asked to describe the measures the main answers were:

- Keep to the main paths (31%)
- Keep out of certain areas (25%)
- Don't disturb the birds (12%)
- Keep dogs out of certain areas (8%)
- Stay out of red zones (7%)
- Keep dogs on leads (5%)

One encouraging aspect of this is that visitors are starting to move away from the idea of red zones. This year only 7% of all visitors mentioned them as opposed to 18% in 2021 suggesting that the change in message towards sticking to the paths/out of certain areas is becoming more embedded.

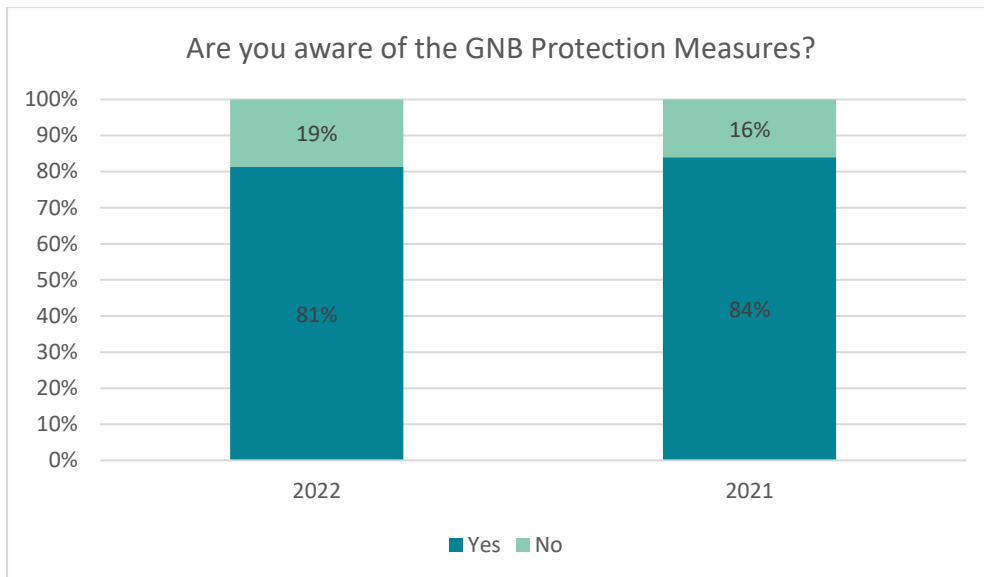


Figure 28: visitor awareness of GNB protection measures

Visitors were then shown a gate sign and logtern firebreak sign and asked what the main message they took from them was and whether they had any other comments. 83% of visitors said that main message taken from the signs was “stick to the main paths”, up from 74% last year. No other messages had a significant proportion of the responses. As an interesting side note, only 1 person responding to the survey mentioned the use of the Thames Valley Police logo, despite it being raised in other correspondences to BBOWT and the Parish council.

### BBOWT & GCCC Awareness

Respondents were asked if they knew who manages Greenham Common. The answers given can be seen below in Figure 29. The results are significantly down on last year, with only 25% of respondents being able to identify BBOWT as responsible for management of the site. 58% were unable to give an answer, 11% said West Berkshire Council, and 5% said the Greenham Common Trust.

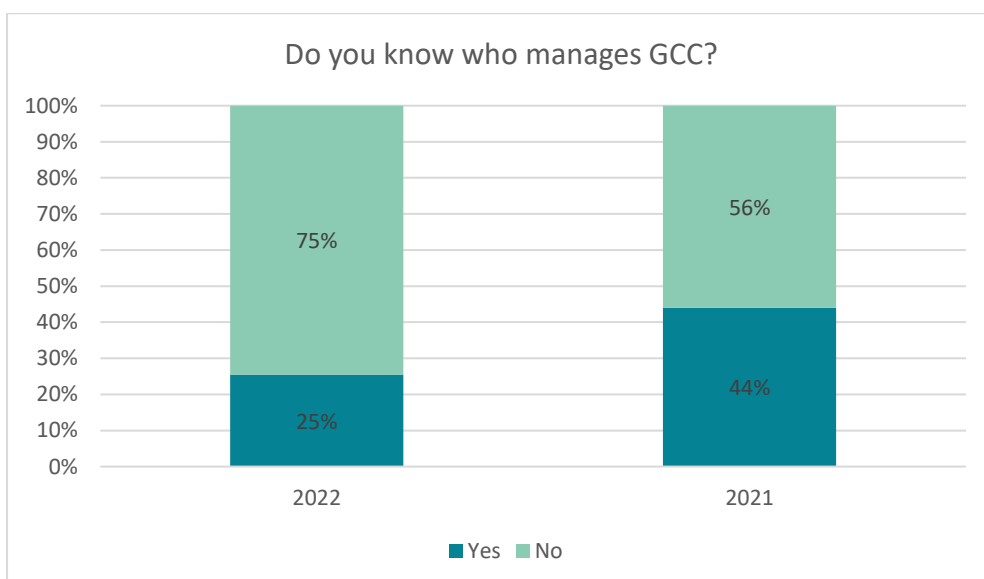


Figure 29: management of GCC

Respondents were asked whether they were currently a member of BBOWT with the results shown in Figure 30. The result is fairly consistent with last year with c.10% of respondents being BBOWT members. Of those that weren't members, 16% suggested that they would be interested in joining BBOWT in the future.

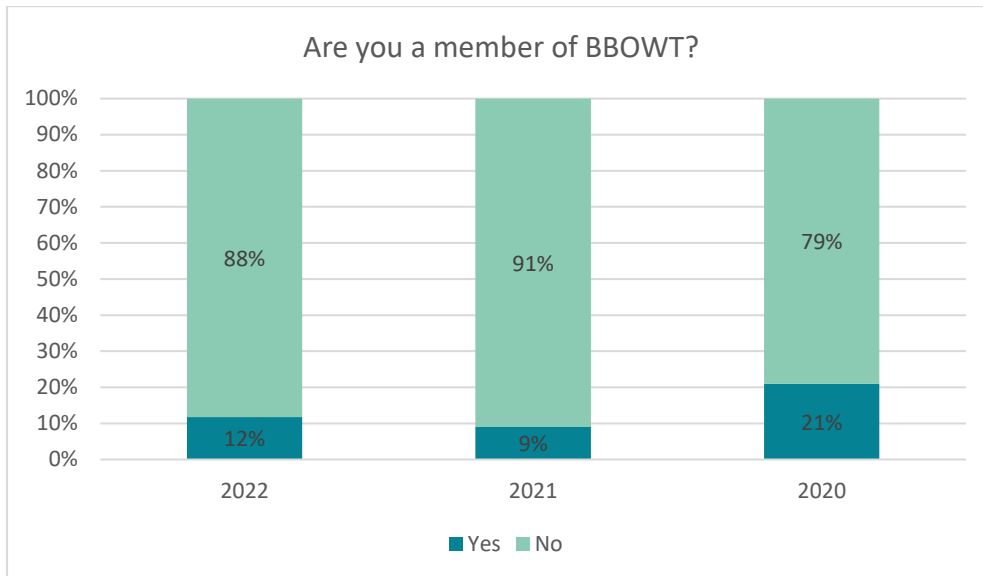


Figure 30: BBOWT membership

For the first time this year visitors were asked whether they had heard of the GCC Commission (Figure 31). 72% of respondents had not heard of the commission and of the 28% who had, none were able to give a good answer about what the commission does.

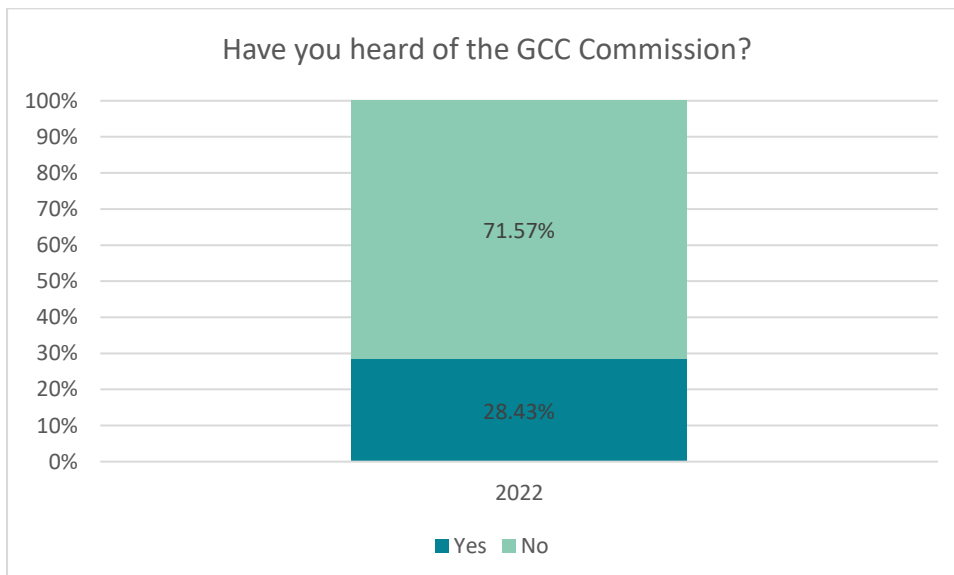


Figure 31: GCC commission awareness

### Dogs on Greenham & Crookham Common

Respondents were asked whether they thought that dogs should be on a short lead on GCC, both all year and just during the nesting season. The results of this question can be seen below in Figure 32.

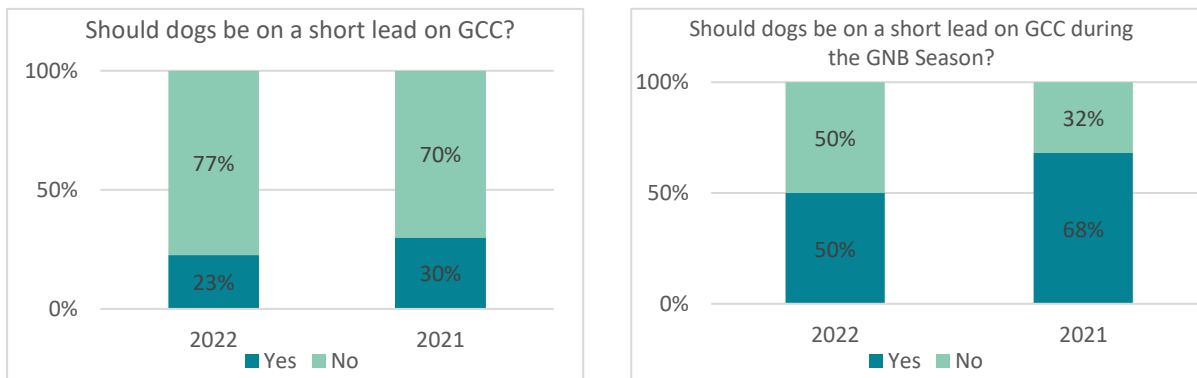


Figure 32: dogs on leads on GCC

The results suggest that the public has moved away from the idea that dogs should be on a short lead on GCC when compared to last year. The proportion of respondents who think dogs should be on a short lead all year has fallen from 30% to 23%. Other recurring comments received included “depends on the dog”, “depends on the area”, and “some kind of lead”.

When the question related to only during the GNB season the results have moved from respondents being generally in favour of dogs on short leads last year (68% yes vs 32% no) to an exact 50:50 split this year. Other recurring comments received included “depends on dog”, “dog should be under close control”, “depends on the area”, and “long lead”

#### Visitor Origin & Method of transport

Respondents were asked what mode of transport they used to get to GCC, with the results shown in Table 15. In 2022 there has been a very slight drop in the proportion of visitors arriving by car, with corresponding slight increases in those visitors arriving on foot or my public transport.

Table 15: GCC visitors mode of transport

Mode of Transport	2022	2021
Car/van	78.4%	81.2%
On foot	15.7%	12.8%
Bicycle	3.9%	5.1%
Public transport	1.0%	0.0%
Other	1.0%	0.9%

As well as mode of transport respondents were also asked to provide their home postcode. This allowed for some analysis of where visitors were coming from and the distance they were travelling. Figure 33 shows the areas around Newbury that visitors visited the site from, showing hotspots in southern Newbury and Thatcham. Some visitors also came from further afield (Reading, Basingstoke, Didcot)



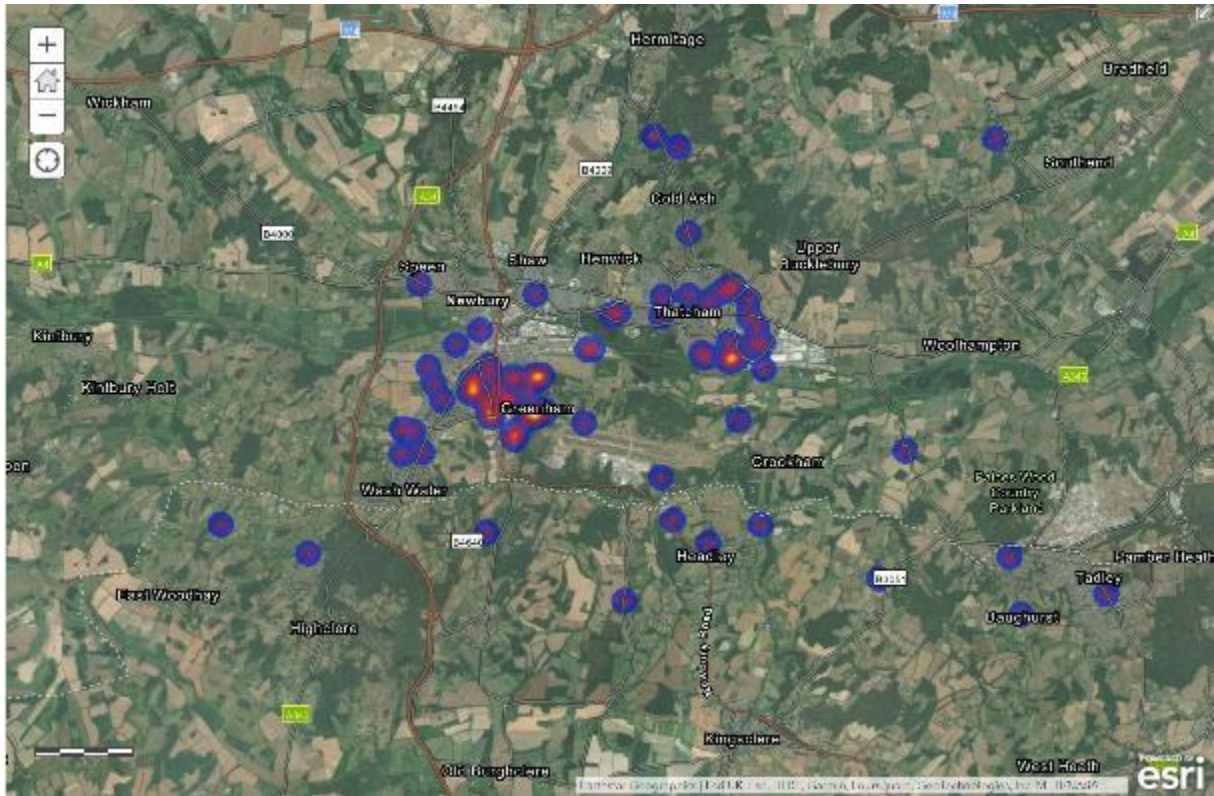


Figure 33: home locations of visitors to GCC from the Newbury area.

Figure 34 shows the length of journeys made by respondents to visit GCC. Most of the journeys were less than 10km with an average of 5.88km and a median of 4.23km

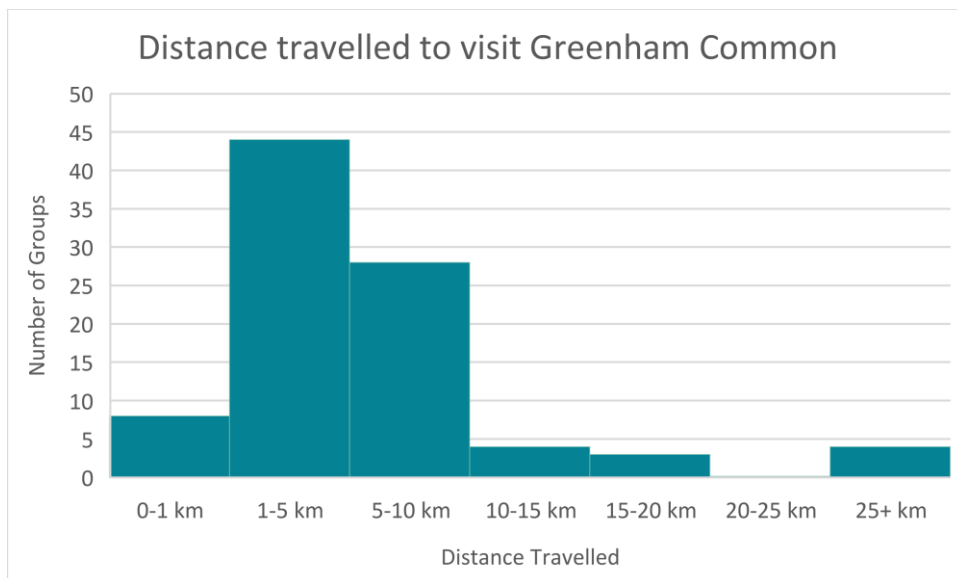


Figure 34: distance travelled to visit GCC

By breaking down the location data by entry/exit point onto site it is possible to see that certain locations favour a certain entrance. Figures 35-37 show this data mapped out. Visitors arriving at the Crookham Pools entrance tend to come from Thatcham and areas to the SE of the site, whereas visitors arriving at Pyle Hill largely come from the S Newbury and Greenham area. There does not appear to be a discernible pattern when looking at the Control Tower data

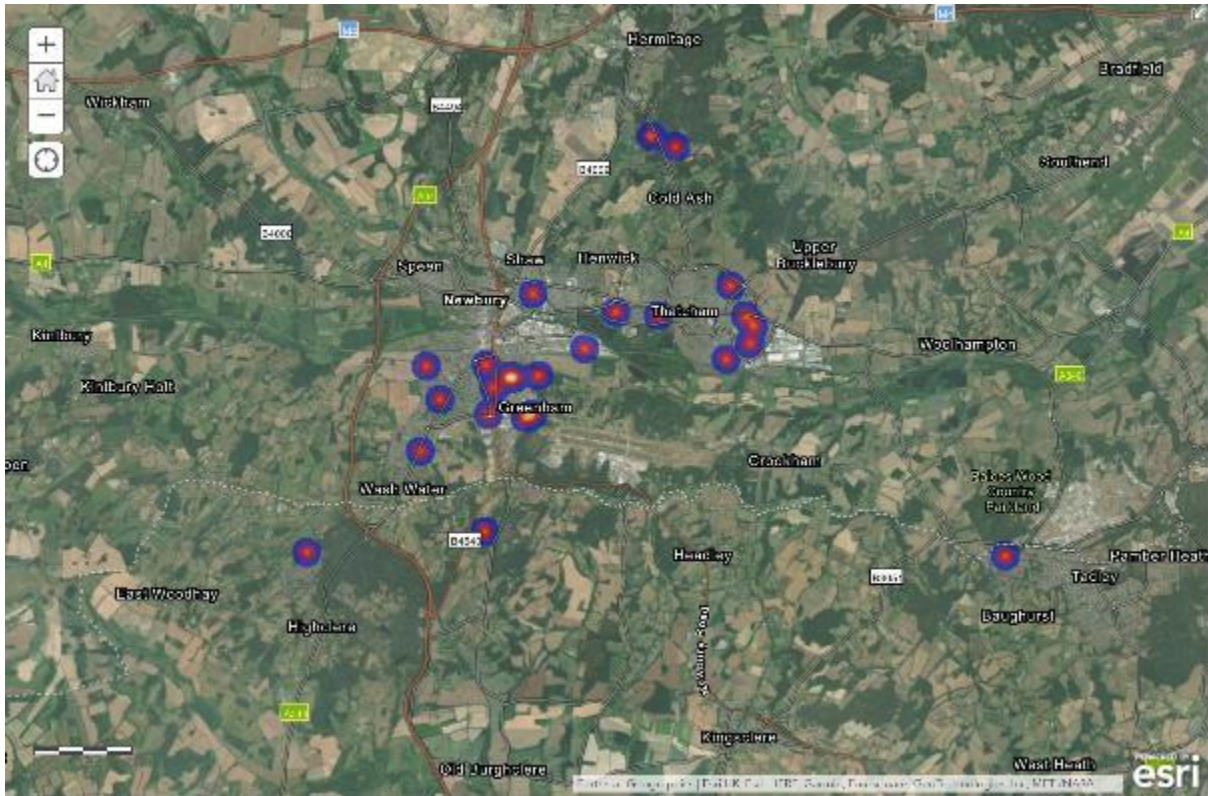


Figure 35: home locations of visitors to the Control Tower entrance from the Newbury area.

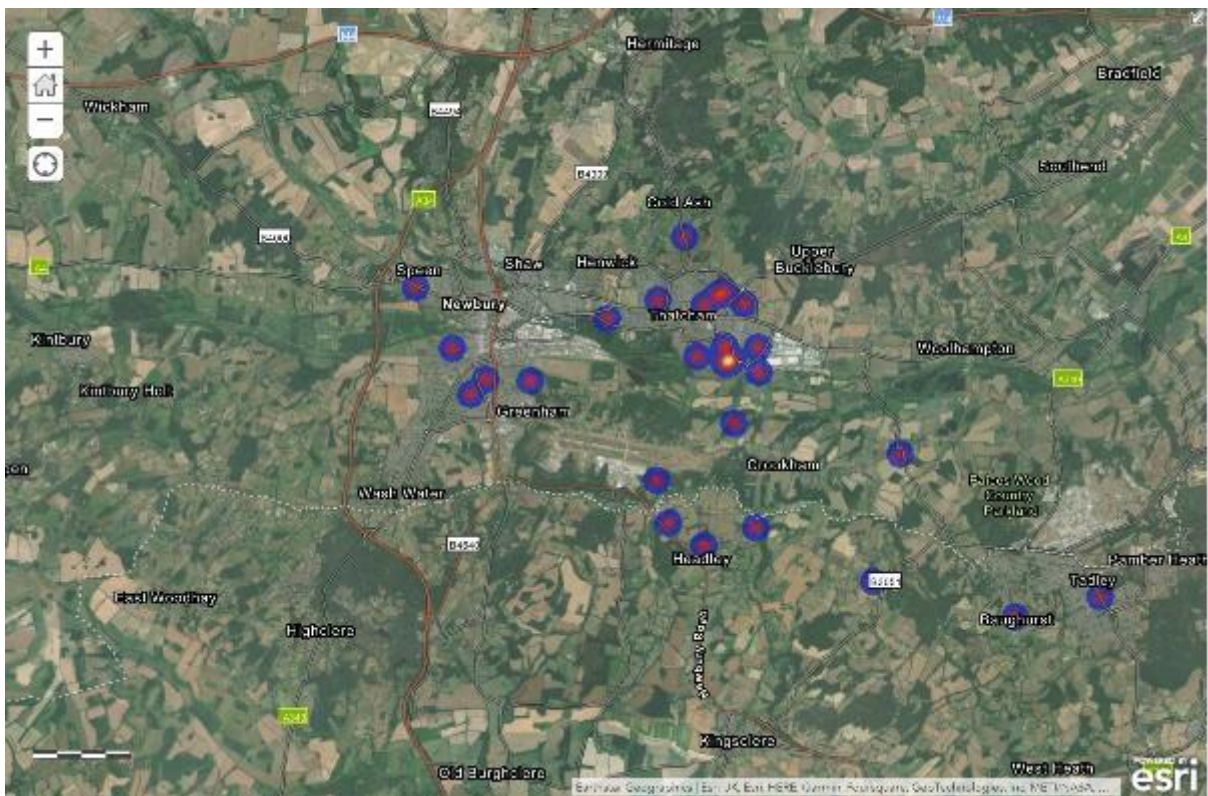


Figure 36: home locations of visitors to the Crookham Pools entrance from the Newbury area.

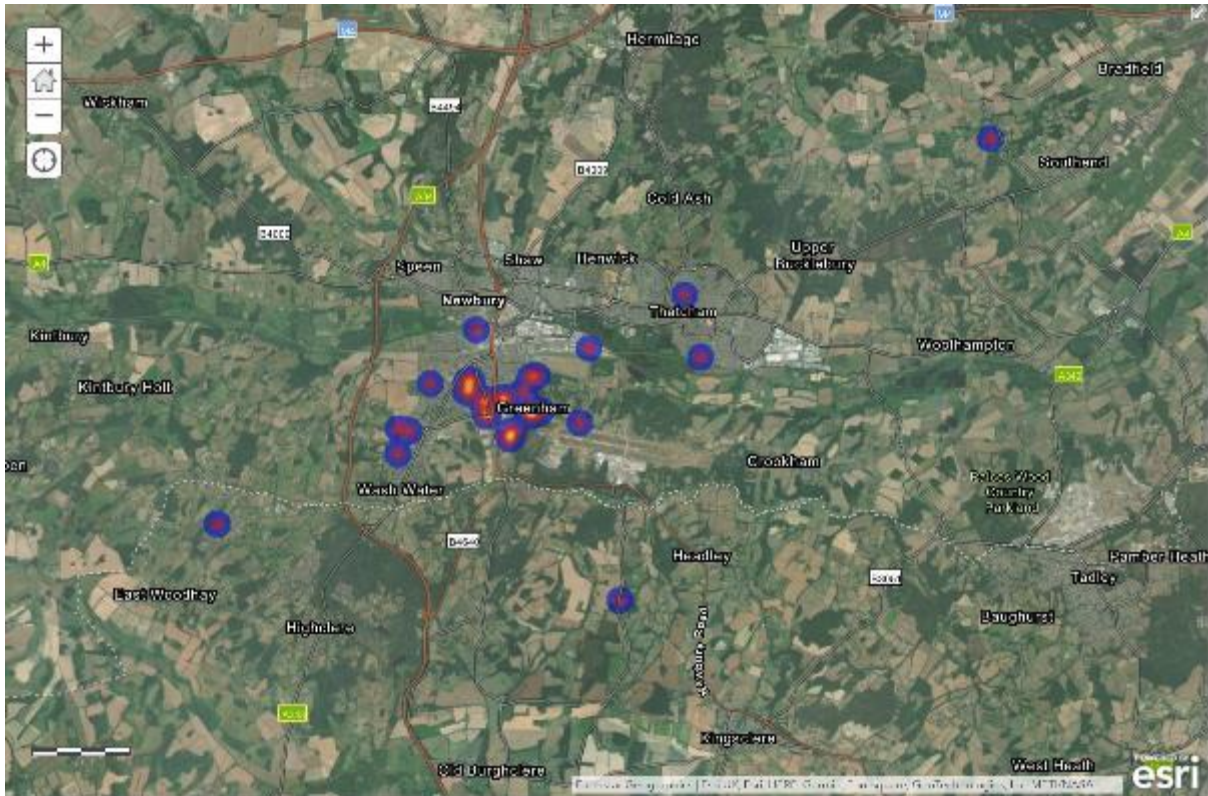


Figure 37: home locations of visitors to the Pyle Hill entrance from the Newbury area.

### Online vs in person surveys

In addition to the surveys completed onsite, the same survey was also made available online to those who requested it. The survey could be requested by talking to a member of BBOWT staff on site or through the “Greenham Grapevine” Facebook group. A recommendation will be to make online survey more widely available through local social media channels. A total of 19 responses were received and a summary of the main differences seen between these and the in-person surveys is shown below.

- 100% of online respondents listed dog walking as one of their activities
- More long-term visitors (5+ years) – 72.2% vs 58.82% in person
- More viewed Greenham as a common – 42.1% vs 24.51% in person
- 19 people felt there wasn’t a suitable provision of circular walking routes. This was a higher percentage than the inperson interviews conducted – 42.1% online vs 15.22% in person
- Higher awareness of roam zone – 83.3% vs 65% in person
- Higher usage of roam zone – 86.7% vs 42% in person
- When shown GNB signage 63.6% of online respondents quoted "Keep to main paths" as main message (83.3% in person)
- Higher awareness of who manages Greenham (60% online vs 25% in person) – though had to email BBOWT email address for survey link and logo was on survey so probably not relevant
- Higher percentage of people said they didn’t think dogs should be on a short lead all year round (94.7% vs 77.45% in person). This is to be expected as 100% of respondents were dog owners
- Similar for during the nesting season – 84.2% online said no vs 50% in person – should be noted there was no 'other' option online

## **Additional Comments**

Respondents were given the chance to make any additional comments about the site. Many respondents stated that they loved the site and that they felt it was well maintained. However, there were also a number of comments on how the site could be improved:

- More poo bins needed and they need to be emptied more
- More benches needed around the site
- Split walkers and cyclists onto different paths
- Scrapes need to be cleared of scrub to allow bird breeding
- Paths are not good enough for wheelchairs – would be good to be able to hire XC wheelchairs on site
- Car park at Pyle Hill is too small

## Appendix E – Tally Data (Greenham Common)

In order to gain an understanding of how visitor numbers to Greenham and Crookham commons are changing, tally counts have been undertaken since 2019 to identify how many people are visiting the commons and the activities they are undertaking.

In previous years, tally counts were undertaken during two-hour timeslots. In 2021 & 2022, it was decided that these timeslots would be reduced to one hour and the data would be extrapolated to make it comparable with previous years. Tally counts were undertaken throughout July within the following time periods:

- 07:00 – 09:00
- 10:00 – 12:00
- 13:00 – 15:00
- 17:00 – 19:00\*

\*this time slot was only undertaken on weekdays due to the time constraints at weekends

### **Total Visitor Numbers**

Figure 38 shows the average number of visitors counted across all of the entrances for the past 3 years of data collection. It shows that across all of the survey locations there has been a continuous decline in visitor numbers between 2020-2022. The biggest difference can be seen at the control tower location where the average number of daily visitors has dropped by c.60%. These continued drop offs from 2021 suggest that the reduced visitor numbers are not purely due to the easing of Covid restrictions between 2020 to 2021.

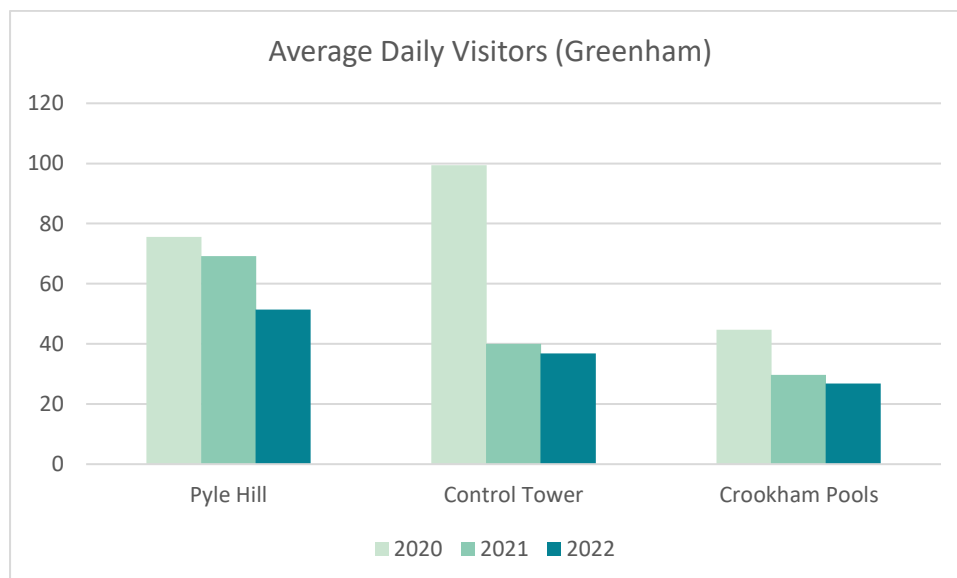


Figure 38: daily visitors to GCC by location.

Looking at the weekday average daily visitors (Figure 39), there is a similar decline in visitor numbers at both the Control Tower (CT) and Crookham Pools (CP) locations. Pyle Hill (PH) remains the most popular entrance location for weekday visitors and numbers there have remained stable between 2021-2022

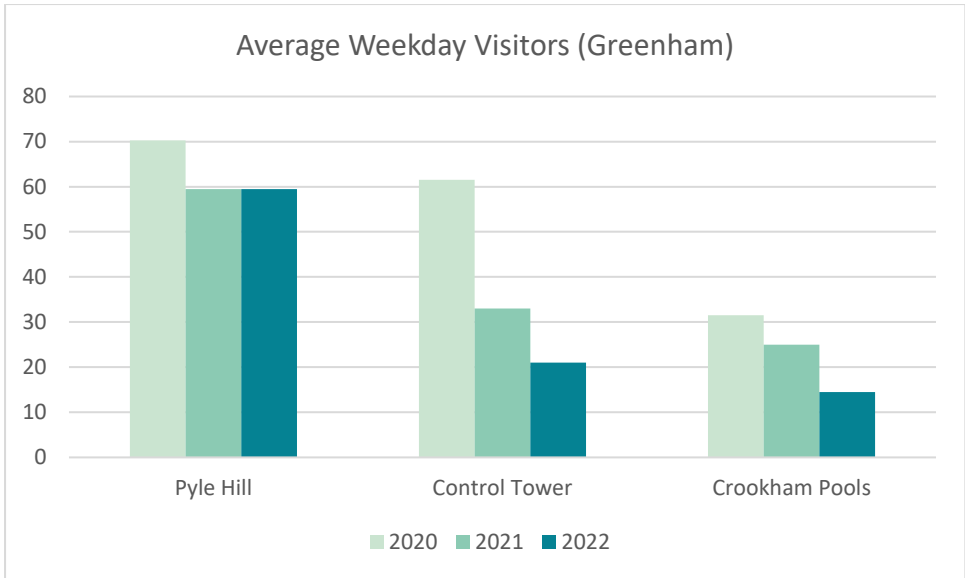


Figure 39: daily weekday visitors to GCC by location

Looking at the temporal variation of weekday visitors (Figure 40) some interesting variations can be seen. At PH the most popular times are between 0700-0900 & 1000-1200 and these buck the overall trend of decline by showing increases in the average number of visitors entering the site. At the CT the most popular time to enter the site was between 1700-1900 though a decline in visitor numbers has been recorded across all time slots. A similar pattern of declining visitor numbers is seen for the CP location, with the most popular entry period being 1300-1700. It is possible that the difference in pattern seen between PH and the other locations could be weather related. The weather in July was very hot and sunny and the only entrance that offers significant shade is PH. This may have led more visitors using this entrance rather than the more exposed CT or CP entrances.

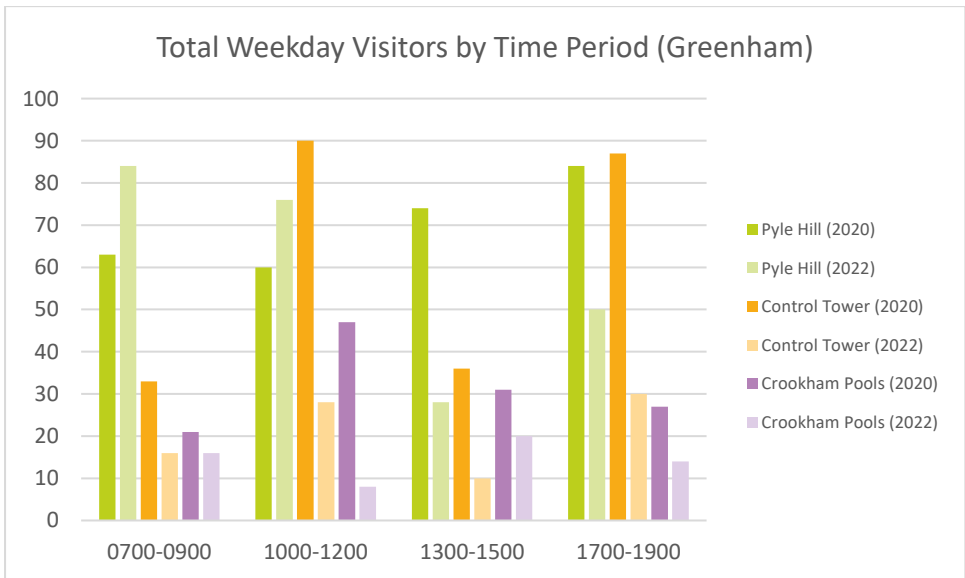


Figure 40: daily weekday visitors to GCC by location and time period

Interestingly the average daily weekend visitors (Figure 41) show almost the exact opposite trend to that seen for weekday visitors. Though numbers at all locations are down on 2020 levels, both CT and CP show a slight increase in average weekend visitor numbers. The CT location is the most popular entrance for weekend visitors. By contrast, after stable numbers between 2020-2021, average daily weekend visitor numbers at the PH entrance have halved in 2022

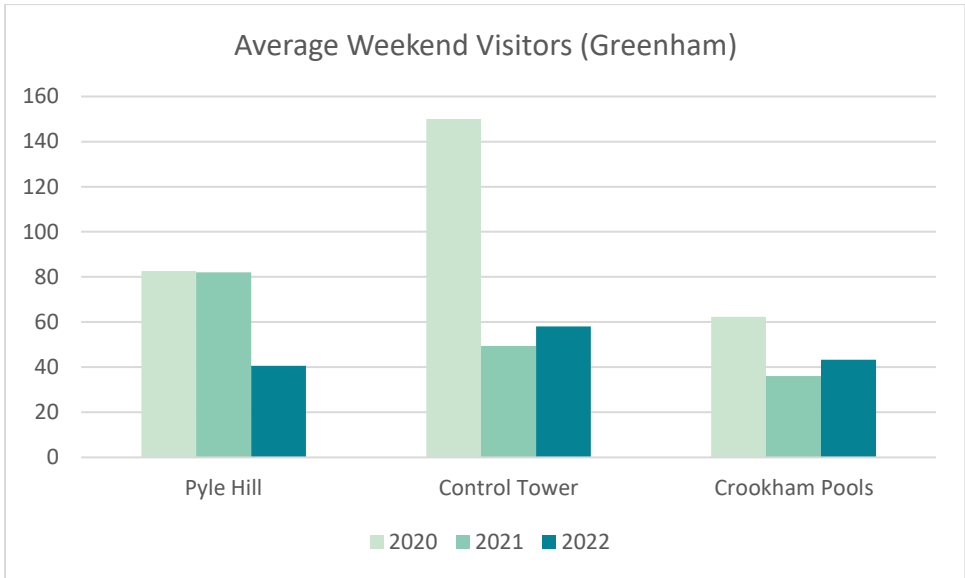


Figure 41: daily weekday visitors to GCC by location

In the temporal data the PH location shows a decline in average weekend visitor numbers (Figure 42) across all of the time periods. At CT and CP there have been significant declines in visitor numbers across the 1000-1200 and 1300-1500 but slight increases for the 0700-0900 time period. Interestingly each location has a different time period when they are most popular: 0700-0900 for CP, 1000-1200 for CT and 1300-1500 for PH.

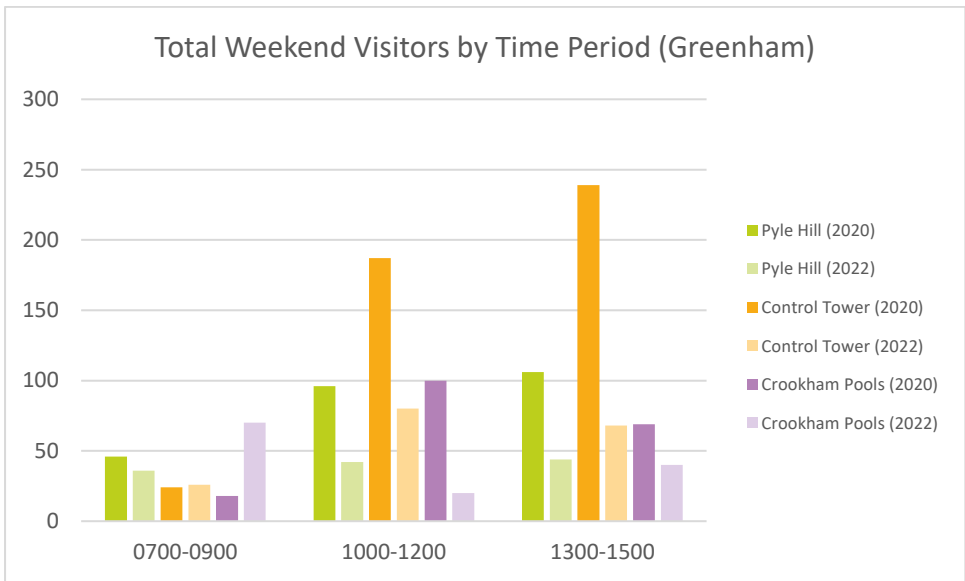


Figure 42: daily weekend visitors to GCC by location and time period

**Visitor Activity**

As well as examining how numbers of visitors have changed, it is also important to understand how visitor activity is changing. Table 16 shows how different types of weekday visitors have changed between 2020 and 2022.

Table 16: GCC weekday visitor activity 2020-2022

<b>Pyle Hill</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Change</b>
Group (with dog)	16	22	29	81%
Group (without dog)	33	23	13	-61%
Pedestrian	53	46	55	3%
Cyclist	18	15	5	-72%
Dogs	19	31	36	89%
<b>Control Tower</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Change</b>
Group (with dog)	14	3	8	-46%
Group (without dog)	16	11	4	-78%
Pedestrian	57	33	21	-63%
Cyclist	5	1	0	-100%
Dogs	22	5	10	-57%
<b>Crookham Pools</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Change</b>
Group (with dog)	12	13	6	-50%
Group (without dog)	8	6	6	-31%
Pedestrian	30	22	13	-58%
Cyclist	2	3	2	0%
Dogs	18	19	8	-58%

At the CT and CP locations there have been declines in the number of visitors across all categories (groups, pedestrians, cyclists & dogs). The picture at PH is a bit different with increases in the number of groups with dogs, pedestrians and dogs. As with the other locations there has been a decrease in the number of groups without dogs and cyclists.

It is also interesting to note that the proportion of groups that have dogs versus those without has increased at both PH and CT, with c.70% of groups coming with a dog (Figure 43). At CP the proportion has decreased slightly but was already higher in previous years. At all locations there are more groups with dogs than without. This emphasises the need to prioritise engagement with dog owners in order to further improve outcomes for GNBs.

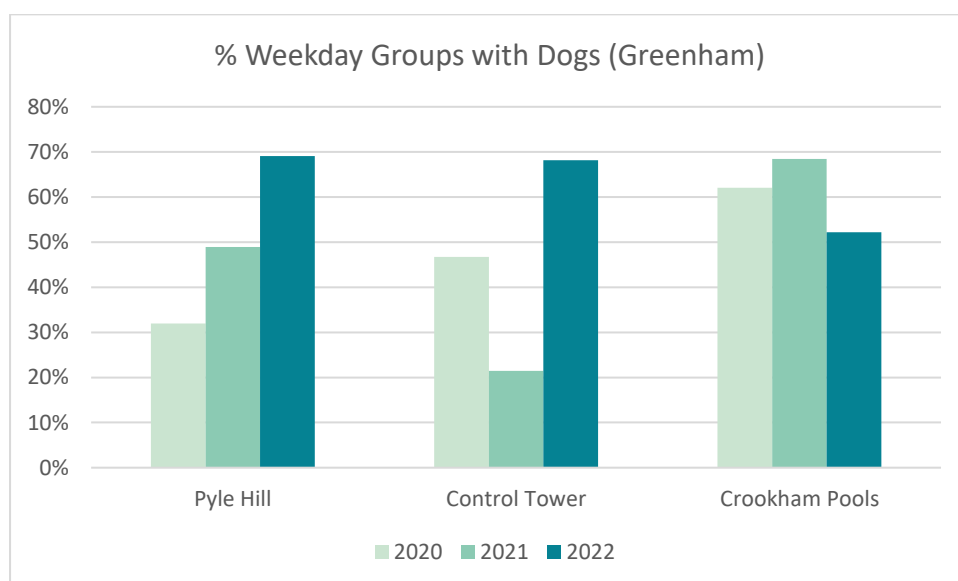


Figure 43: proportion of weekday groups with dogs



The weekend results, as shown in Table 17, do not show the same consistent decreases across all visitor groups.

At PH the number of groups with dogs and the number of dogs has increased (though much less than on weekdays) but without the corresponding increase in the number of pedestrians. The CT location shows a similar pattern with an increase in groups with dogs and number of dogs. The decreases across the other types of visitors are less pronounced than those seen at PH. CP shows a different pattern with increase in all visitor types with the exception of groups without dogs.

Table 17: GCC weekend visitor activity 2020-2022

<b>Pyle Hill</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Change</b>
Group (with dog)	16	22	17	4%
Group (without dog)	33	23	9	-72%
Pedestrian	53	46	35	-35%
Cyclist	18	15	6	-67%
Dogs	19	31	21	9%
<b>Control Tower</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>		<b>Change</b>
Group (with dog)	14	3	15	10%
Group (without dog)	16	11	11	-33%
Pedestrian	57	33	55	-4%
Cyclist	5	1	3	-33%
Dogs	22	5	24	9%
<b>Crookham Pools</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>		<b>Change</b>
Group (with dog)	12	13	17	39%
Group (without dog)	8	6	7	-8%
Pedestrian	30	22	39	31%
Cyclist	2	3	4	100%
Dogs	18	19	33	85%

The proportion of groups with dogs visiting at the weekend has increased across all locations from 2020-2022 (Figure 44). At all locations there are more groups with dogs than without. This again emphasises the need to prioritise engagement with dog owners in order to further improve outcomes for GNBS.

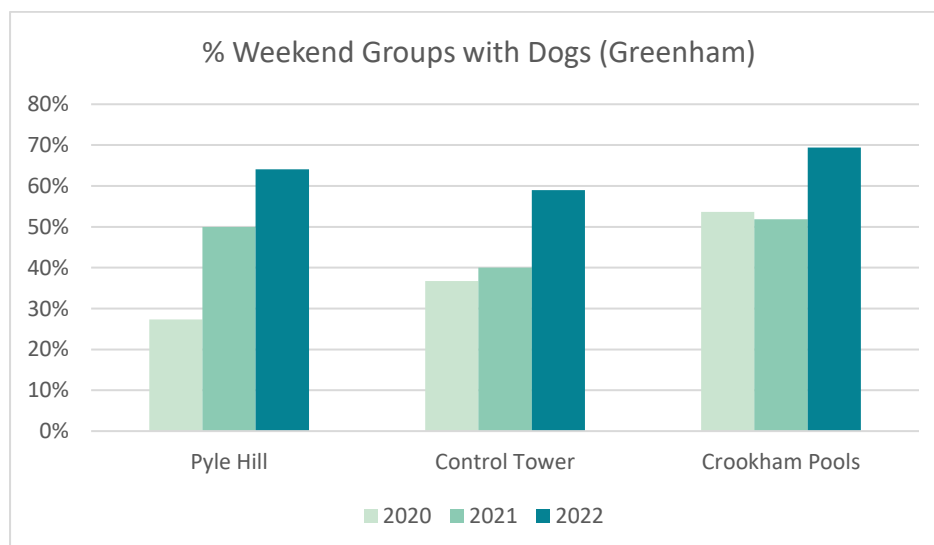


Figure 44: proportion of weekend groups with dogs

## **Conclusions**

Overall total visitor numbers at all locations across the site are down on 2020 numbers. Weekday visitors have continued to decline or remain steady at all locations compared to last year. At the weekend visitor numbers have bounced back slightly at the CT and CP sites compared to last year but numbers are down at PH. Although these reduced numbers are likely to be beneficial to GNB breeding success it is important to note that a higher proportion of visitors are coming with dogs. It is therefore essential that future wardens need to focus on engaging with dog owners and encouraging responsible dog ownership during the nesting period.

## Appendix F – Visitor Surveys (Snelmore Common)

In order to gain further information on visitors to Snelmore, and their behaviour on site during the ground nesting bird season, visitor surveys were undertaken across a number of different timeslots. The surveys were carried out towards the end of the GNB season. A total of 31 visitor surveys were completed at Snelmore.

### Visitor Activity and Type

The first section of the survey focussed on visitors' reasons for visiting and the frequency of their visits. As can be seen in Table 18 the main reason given for visiting the site was to walk their dog (69.6%) followed by walking without a dog (35%). With these being the main activities, it suggests that everyone who come to Snelmore does so to take a walk. Compared to 2021 there has also been an increase in the number of visitors who come to the site who come for a picnic/BBQ, wildlife interest and to visit the café.

Table 18: visitor activities on Snelmore

Activity Type	2022	2021
Dog Walking	68%	61%
Walking	35%	35%
Picnic/BBQ	10%	3%
Wildlife Interest	10%	6%
Visiting café	6%	0%
Other	6%	9%
Family Outing	3%	3%
Specific Event	0%	3%

Several questions were asked to try and establish the different types of visitors to Snelmore. The first asked visitors how long they have been visiting Snelmore (Table 19). As with previous years the highest proportion of visitors have been visiting Snelmore for 5+ years, though this has increased from 65% the previous year to 84% this year. The other main change seen in this year's data is that there are fewer first time visitors, dropping from 17% to 3% year on year.

Table 19: how long have respondents been visiting Snelmore

Visting For	2022	2021
First Visit	3%	17%
Less than a year	0%	6%
1-2 years	13%	6%
3-5 years	0%	6%
5+ years	84%	65%

Regular visitors have been defined in previous reports as those that visit the site at least weekly. This year 61% of visitors can be classed as regular compared to 58% last year (Table 20). This shows that the proportion of regular visitors to the site has remained stable. Another interesting thing to note is that the number of respondents who visit the site 2-3 times a month has increased from last year.

Table 20: Snelsmore visit frequency

Visit Frequency	2022	2021
More than once a day	7%	3%
Once a day	20%	13%
More than once a week	27%	32%
Once a week	7%	10%
2-3 times a month	10%	0%
Once a month	13%	13%
Sporadically	17%	13%

The survey also asked why visitors chose Snelsmore over other local green spaces (Table 21). The most popular reason was again “Proximity to home” but this has declined slightly from the previous year. Many more people cited “safe” as a key reason why they choose to come to Snelsmore increasing from 3% of respondents last year to 23% this year. Other reasons given for choosing to come to Snelsmore included the amount of shade available and the variety of routes.

When asked what had influenced the respondent’s choice of walking route, the most common responses were: children (16%), tradition (13%), the weather (13%) and dog (13%).

Table 21: Why do visitors choose Snelsmore over other local green spaces

Why Snelsmore?	2022	2021
Proximity to home	26%	29%
Peaceful	16%	13%
Natural beauty	16%	16%
Safe	23%	3%

Respondents were asked what site facilities they used/intended to use on their visit. The results are shown below in Figure 45. Almost all respondents (97%) used the car park with the next most used facilities being the marked routes and easy access routes (61% and 52% respectively). It is interesting to note that though 19% of visitors used the picnic area none used the BBQ platforms. This may be due to the hot, dry weather this summer and subsequent warnings against using disposable BBQs.

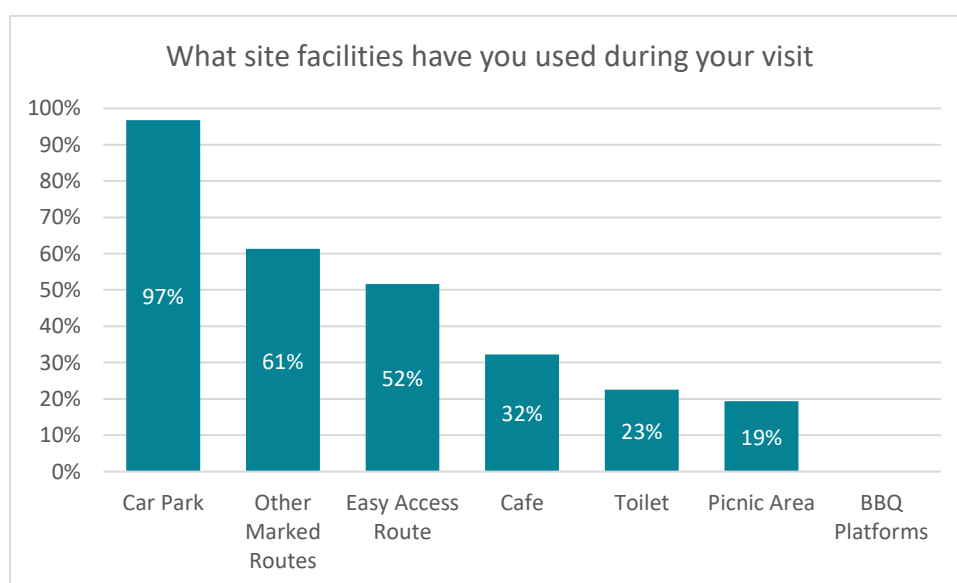


Figure 45: Site facilities used

## Awareness of GNB Protection Measures

The next section of the survey focussed on visitors’ awareness of the measures in place to protect GNBs during the nesting season. The first questions focussed on the “green dog route” (GDR) and the results are shown in Figure 46.

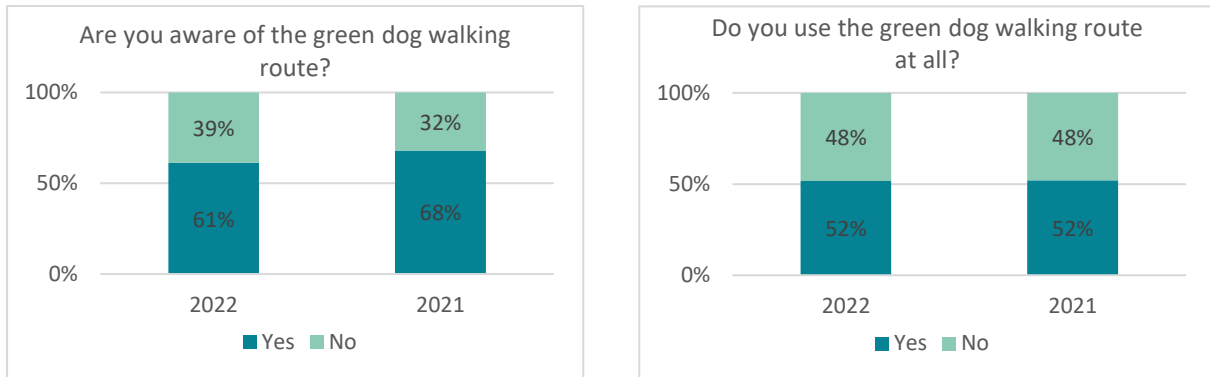


Figure 46: visitors’ awareness and usage of the green do route.

Compared to last year awareness of the GDR has decreased from 61% to 68%. However, usage of the roam zones has remained the same as last year at 52%. This suggests that though fewer visitors were aware of the GDR, when they are aware they are more likely to use them. It is recommended that the GDR signage is reviewed to make it more obvious and that more is done to promote the GDR at the main access points to the site.

Visitors were also asked whether they were aware of the GNB protection measures and could they briefly describe their understanding of them. Figure 47 shows that there has been a significant increase in the proportion of visitors who are aware of the measures, increasing from 77% to 87%. When asked to describe the measures the main answers are “keep away from nesting areas” (35%), “keep to main paths” (26%), and “keep dogs on a lead/under control” (23%) (Table 22). This continues to suggest that the main message of keeping to the main paths is not getting across so further work on making this message clear is required.

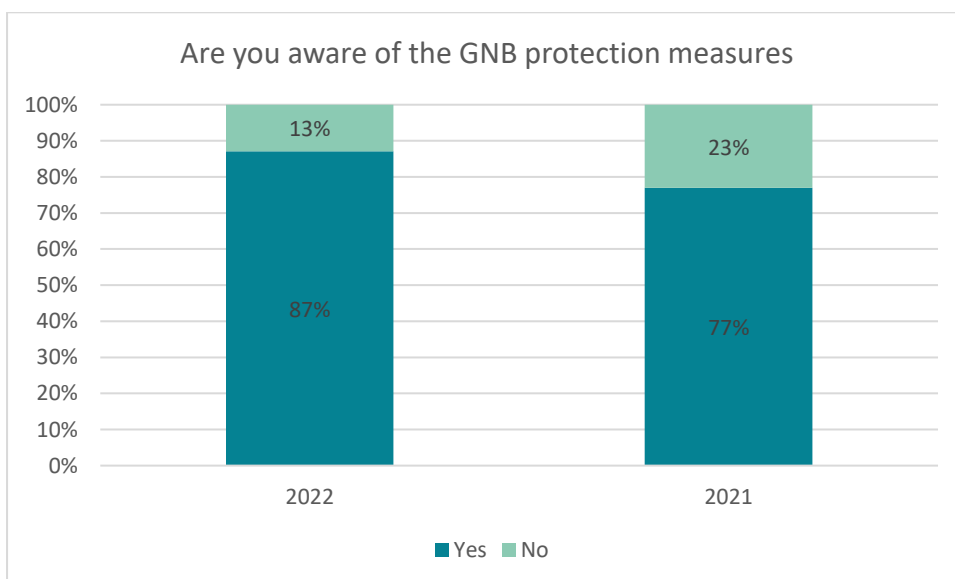


Figure 47: visitor awareness of GNB protection measures

Table 22: visitor understanding of GNB measures

GNB Measures Understanding	2022	2021
Keep away from nesting areas	35%	10%
Keep to main paths	26%	26%
Keep dogs on a lead/under control	23%	26%
Stay away from areas with signage	3%	3%
Keep away from birds	0%	6%

Visitors were then shown some of the GNB signage and asked what the main message they took from them was and whether they had any other comments (Table 23). 55% of visitors said that main message taken from the signs was “stick to the main paths”, which is the same as last year. The other messages that a significant proportion of the respondents took from the signs were “keep dogs under control” (23%) and “protect/don’t disturb GNBs” (26%). A key recommendation from this year is to review the Snelmore signage so that it more clearly presents the “stick to the main paths” message.

Table 23: messages taken from GNB signage

Main Message from Signs	2022	2021
Keep to main paths	55%	55%
Keep dogs under control	23%	0%
Stay out of certain areas	3%	13%
Protect/ don't disturb GNBs	26%	3%

### BBOWT Awareness

Respondents were asked if they knew who manages Snelmore Common. The answers given can be seen below in Figure 48. The results are significantly down on last year, with only 35% of respondents being able to identify BBOWT as responsible for management of the site.

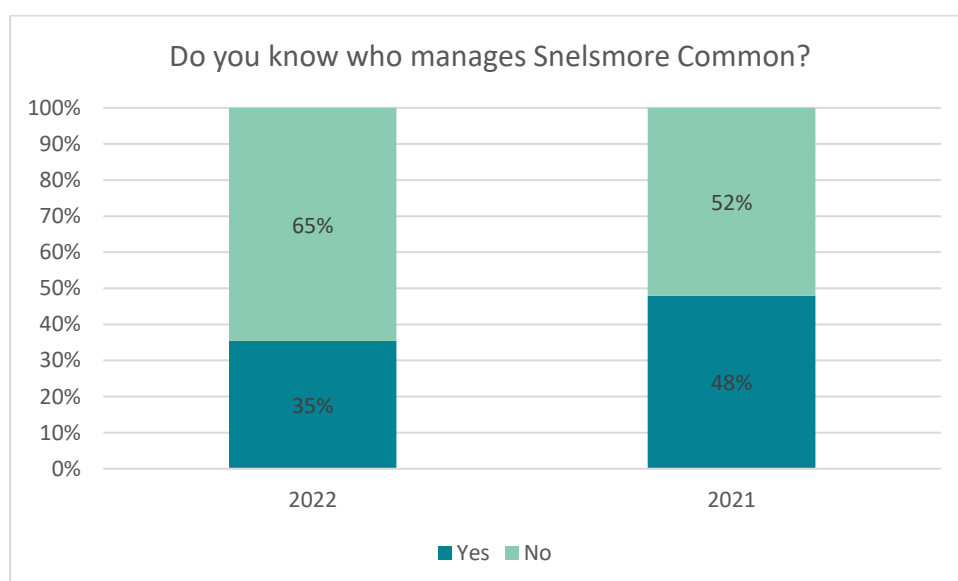


Figure 48: awareness of BBOWT management of Snelmore

As with last year none of the respondents were currently a member of BBOWT. Of those questioned 15% said that they may be interested in joining BBOWT in the future.

### Dogs on Snelsmore

Respondents were asked whether they thought that dogs should be on a short lead on Snelsmore, both all year round and just during the nesting season. The results of this question can be seen below in Figure 49.

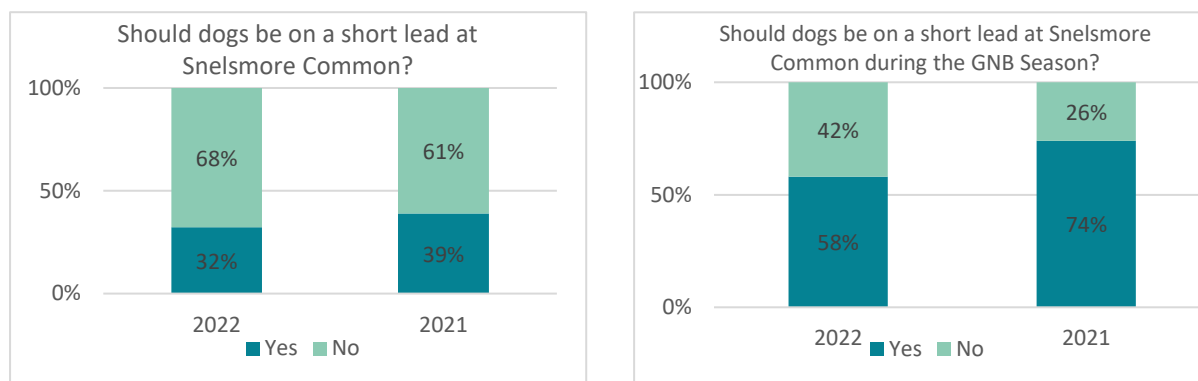


Figure 49: dogs on leads at Snelsmore

The results suggest that the public has moved away from the idea that dogs should be on a short lead on Snelsmore when compared to last year. The proportion of respondents who think dogs should be on a short lead all year has fallen from 39% to 32%. Other recurring comments received included “depends on the dog”, “around children”, and “some kind of lead”.

When the question related to only during the GNB season the have moved in the same direction, with the proportion of respondents who think dogs should be on a short lead all year has fallen from 74% to 58%. (68% yes vs 32% no). Other recurring comments received included “depends on dog”, “if beneficial to wildlife”, “depends on the area”, and “some kind of lead”

### Visitor Origin & Method of transport

Respondents were asked what mode of transport they used to get to Snelsmore, with the results shown in Table 24. In 2022 there has been a very slight increase in the proportion of visitors arriving by car, with a corresponding slight decrease in those visitors arriving on foot.

Table 24: Snelsmore visitor mode of transport

Mode of Transport	2022	2021
Car/van	97%	94%
Other	0%	0%
Public transport	0%	0%
On foot	3%	6%
Bicycle	0%	0%

As well as mode of transport respondents were also asked to provide their home postcode. This allowed for some analysis of where visitors were coming from and the distance they were travelling. Figure 50 shows the areas around Newbury that visitors visited the site from, showing a main hotspot in northern Newbury. Not shown on Figure 50, there were also visitors travelling from Oxford, Andover and Fleet.

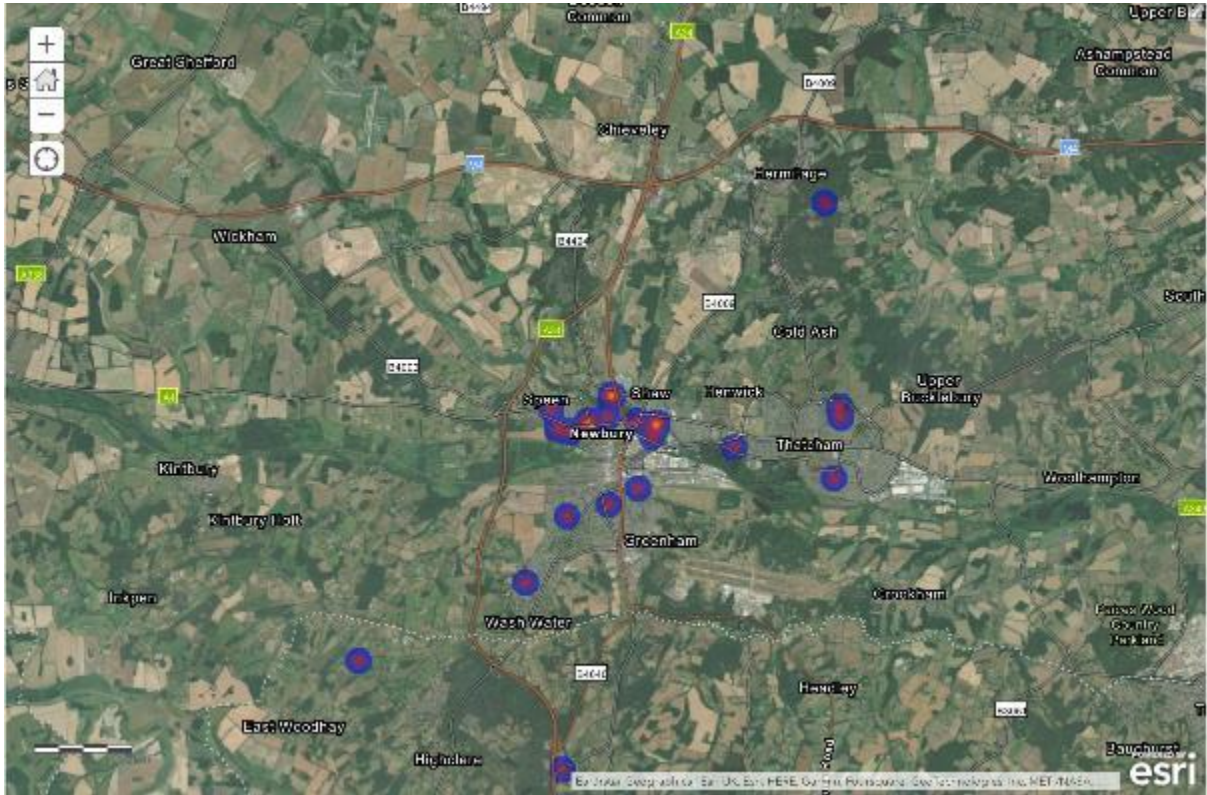


Figure 50: home locations of visitors to Snelmore from the Newbury area.

Figure 51 shows the length of journeys made by respondents to visit Snelmore. Most of the journeys were less than 10km with an average of 10.87km and a median of 6.07km

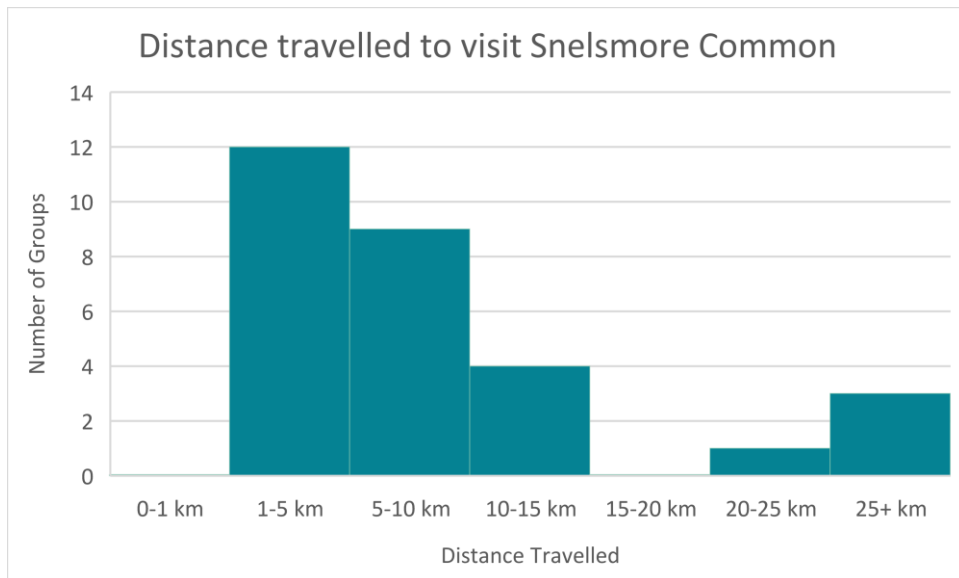


Figure 51: distance travelled to visit Snelmore

### Online vs in person surveys

In addition to the surveys completed onsite, the same survey was also made available online to those who requested it. The survey could be requested by talking to a member of BBOWT staff on site or through the “Greenham Grapevine” Facebook group. A total of 17 responses were received



and a summary of the main differences seen between these and the in-person surveys is shown below.

- Much higher percentage of dog walkers (94.1% vs 67.74% in person). Also, much higher wildlife interest (29.4% VS 9.68% in person)
- More awareness of green dog route (88.2% online vs 61% in person)
- Higher usage of green dog route (86.7% online vs 52% in person)
- Higher awareness of who manages Greenham (88.4% online vs 35% in person) – though had to email BBOWT email address for survey link and logo was on survey so probably not relevant
- Higher percentage of people said they didn't think dogs should be on a short lead all year round (93.8% vs 67.74% in person). This is to be expected as a high percentage of respondents were dog owners!
- Similar for during the nesting season – 64.7% online said no vs 41.94% in person – should be noted there was no 'other' option online

### **Additional Comments**

Respondents were given the chance to make any additional comments about the site. Most people mentioned how much they liked the site and enjoyed visiting. There were also some more negative comments and suggestions for improvements (see below). However, some of these recommendations aren't appropriate for the site, and others are outside the control of BBOWT.

- More dog bins required and need to be emptied more often
- More litter on site than previously
- Wildlife has declined on the site
- Would be good if the toilets were open outside café opening times
- Pay as you go dog washing facility would be good

## Appendix G – Tally Data (Snelsmore Common)

Visitor tally counts were undertaken at Snelsmore Common to identify trends and changes in the number of visitors to the site.

In previous years, tally counts were undertaken during two-hour timeslots. In 2021, it was decided that these timeslots would be reduced to one hour and the data would be extrapolated to make it comparable with previous years. Tally counts were undertaken throughout June and July within the following time periods:

- 07:00 – 09:00
- 10:00 – 12:00
- 13:00 – 15:00
- 17:00 – 19:00\*

\*this time slot was only undertaken on weekdays due to the time constraints at weekends

### **Total Visitor Numbers**

Figure 52 shows the total number of visitors recorded at Snelsmore over the past 3 years. Across all days the number of visitors has decreased YoY from 2020-2022. The most pronounced decline in visitor numbers has been at the weekend where numbers have dropped by c.70% since 2020. Though this decline has continued from 2021-2022, the drop in visitor numbers has been much less.

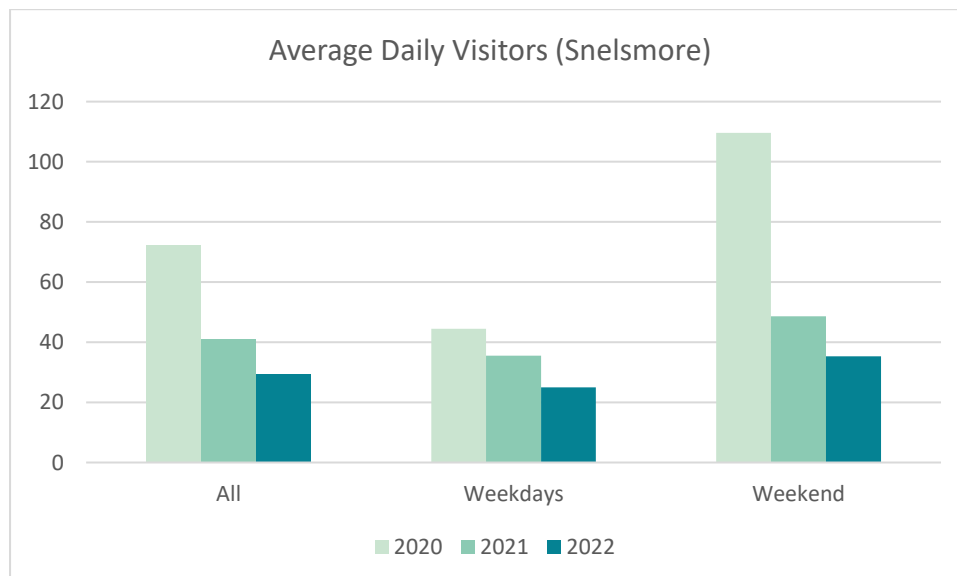


Figure 52: daily visitors to Snelsmore

Looking at the temporal variation of weekday visitors (Figure 53) numbers are down or level across all time periods when compared to 2020. There is a more mixed picture when this year's numbers are compared to 2021, with increases in visitor numbers in the 0700-0900 & 1300-1500 time periods and decreases in visitor numbers in the 1000-1200 & 1700-1900 time periods. The decrease in most pronounced in the 1700-1900 period where numbers have dropped by almost 75%.

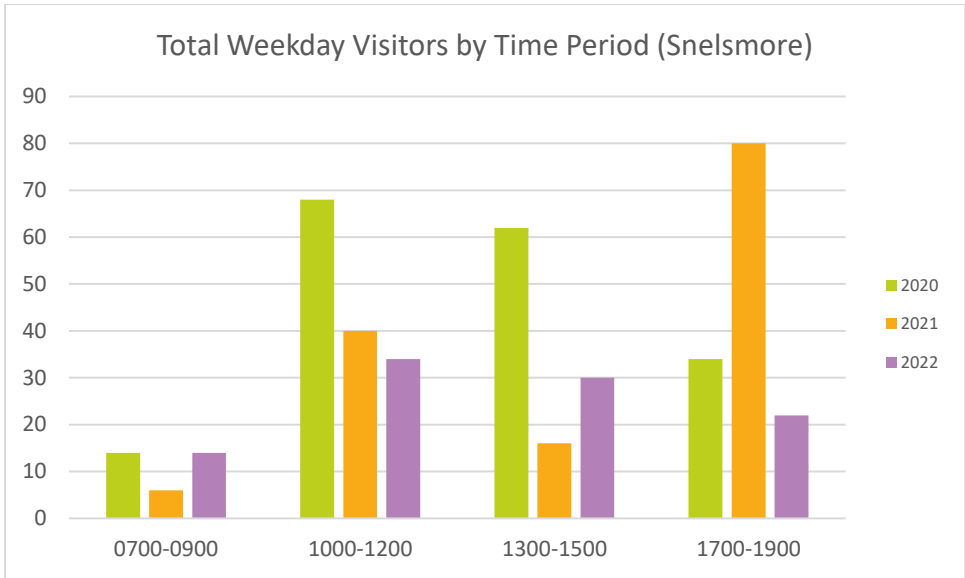


Figure 53: daily weekday visitors to Snelmore by time period

Looking at weekend visitors (Figure 54) a continuous decline from 2020-2022 is seen for the 1000-1200 & 1300-1500 time periods. The % drop offs from 2020-2022 for these periods are 72% and 80% respectively. By contrast there has been a 50% increase in visitor numbers from 2020-2022 for the 0700-0900 time period.

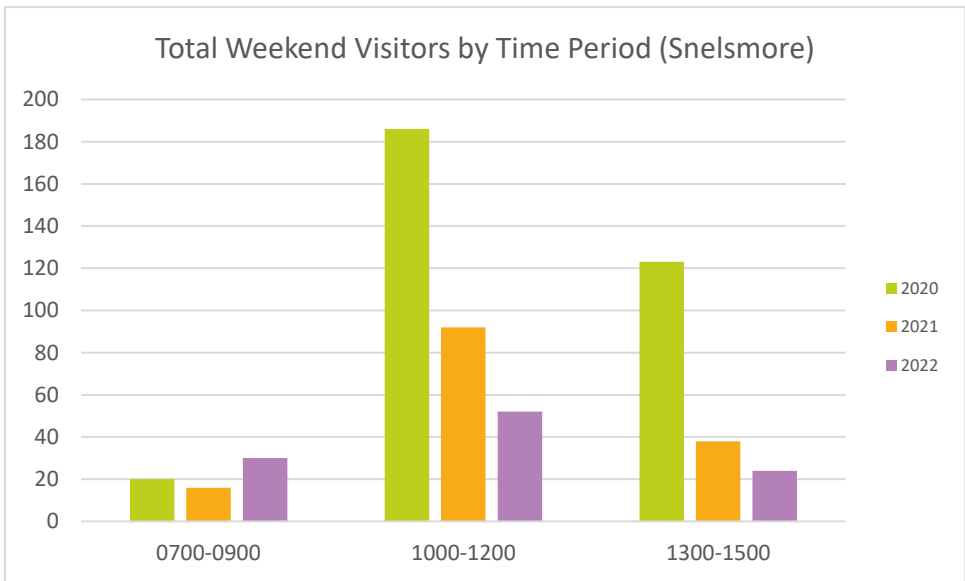


Figure 54: daily weekend visitors to Snelmore by time period

### Visitor Activity

As well as examining how numbers of visitors have changed, it is also important to understand how visitor activity is changing. Table 25 shows how different types of weekday visitors have changed between 2020 and 2022.

Table 25: Table 16: Snelsmore visitor activity 2020-2022

Weekday	2020	2021	2022	Change
Group (with dog)	16	22	11	-34%
Group (without dog)	33	23	4	-88%
Pedestrian	53	46	25	-53%
Cyclist	18	15	0	-100%
Dogs	19	31	14	-26%
Weekend	2020	2021	2022	Change
Group (with dog)	14	3	9	-33%
Group (without dog)	16	11	6	-63%
Pedestrian	57	33	35	-38%
Cyclist	5	1	0	-100%
Dogs	22	5	12	-45%

The results for weekday and weekend visitors as broadly similar with decreases across all of the group and visitor types. The most striking result is that not one cyclist was recorded entering the site across all of the recording periods.

Though visitor numbers are down the proportion of groups with dogs has increased, both on weekdays and at the weekend (Figure 55). This emphasises the need to prioritise engagement with dog owners in order to further improve outcomes for GNBs.

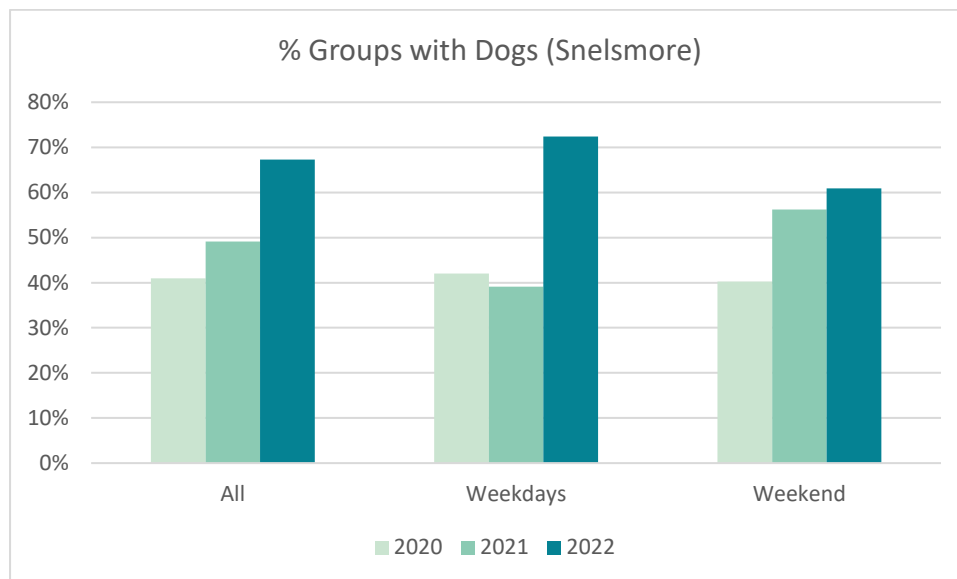


Figure 55: proportion of groups with dogs

## Conclusions

Overall total visitor numbers at all locations across the site are down on 2020 & 2021 numbers, though there have been increases in some specific time periods. Although these reduced numbers are likely to be beneficial to GNB breeding success it is important to note that a higher proportion of visitors are coming with dogs. It is therefore essential that future wardens need to focus on engaging with dog owners and encouraging responsible dog ownership during the nesting period.

Appendix H – Ground Nesting Birds on Greenham Common

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lapwing	4	13	11	5	4	5	5	5	3	6	3?	4-5	3-4
Little Ringed Plover	6	7	5	3	0	0	0	0	1	4	3	3-4	3-4
Ringed Plover	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redshank	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodlark	10	10	13	13	13	15	15	16	15	12	11	12	16
Skylark	32	31	26	22	19	14	14	14	13	9	9	6	2
Dartford Warbler	5	8	8	9	6	13	14	13	3	3	6-7	11	16
Nightingale	9	6	9	8	4	9	8	9	6	9	9	5	10
Stonechat	5	7	14	16	10	17	18	22	16	27	30?	30	36
Meadow Pipit	23	18	18	18	20	16	13	22	17	11	7+	27	30
Tree Pipit	0	0	0	1	1	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Linnet	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	56	52	-	58	50
Reed Bunting	/	/	/	/	/	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	1
Yellowhammer	/	/	/	/	/	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Greenham and Crookham Common 'targeted species' survey results from 2009-2022. Note that figures for 2022 are provisional and may be subject to change after final analysis of data.

## Appendix I – Nightjar Survey Data

Sites	Survey 1 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Survey 2 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Survey 3 24 <sup>th</sup> June
Aldernbridge/Balshill Heath	1M 1F	1M	1U
Bishops Green	1M 1F	1M 1F	2M 1F
Bowdown Approach/Estovers	1M 1U	1M 1F	1M 1U
Brackenhurst Heath	1M 1F	2M 1F	
Crookham Common Gorse & Restoration	1M 1F	1M	0
Goldfinch Bottom & Brushwood Gully	1M 1F	1M	0
Martindale Heath		0	1M 1U
Newtown Common East	1M 1U	1M 1U	1M 1F
Newtown Common West		1M	1M
Sandleford Heath	2M 1U	1M	
Snelsmore 1	0	1M	2M 1F
Snelsmore 2	1M	1M 1F	2M 1F
Snelsmore 3	2M	2M 1F	1M 1F
Western Lozenges	2M	1M	2M
<b>Total number of males</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Total number of nightjar</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>

The bird totals are a minimum number from each survey taken in isolation, although where a bird was very obviously the same it was not counted. A more accurate analysis would need to consider all the data as a whole and try to account for the same bird flying between survey points.

## Appendix J – Car Park Counts

As most visitors use a car to get to the Commons, it is a useful proxy for the activity level at the sites. The largest data sets exist for the Greenham Control Tower car park and the Snelsmore Car park. These are the most useful, being large car parks; on busy days the count is a better measure of site activity, rather than representing the maximum number of cars that can be parked at that location. The counts take place on an *ad hoc* basis, but Greenham Park Runs days have not been included in the average, so as to not bias the results.

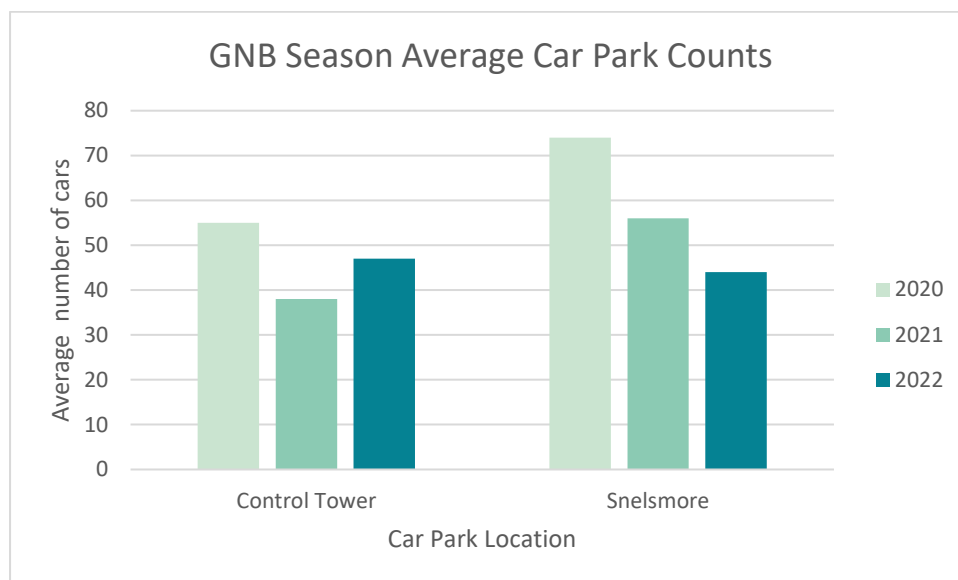


Figure 56: 2020 to 2022 comparison of car park counts

Figure 56 shows counts from the two main car parks. Comparing the two sites shows broadly similar numbers of cars at the two sites. With Snelsmore Common being a much smaller site, one would expect visitor density to be much greater there. The Wardens' experience is that this is not so. At both locations the cafés attract many visitors, who may not venture further. The picnic and barbeque areas hold the majority of visitors during periods of fine weather at weekends and bank holidays. There is no clear trend in car numbers at the Control Tower, while Snelsmore shows a decrease in cars over recent years.

Figure 57 below shows that monthly average counts at the Control Tower peaked in May. An explanation for this could be that Greenham Common, being so exposed is prone to temperature extremes, so was most comfortable for visitors in mild to warm conditions. The Common was certainly very hot during July with visitors (especially dog walkers) rare during the middle part of the day.

Figure 58 shows a similar chart for Snelsmore Common. Here no clear Monthly trend emerges, but counts here were irregular, with no counts during Mar or July, and May represented by a single count.

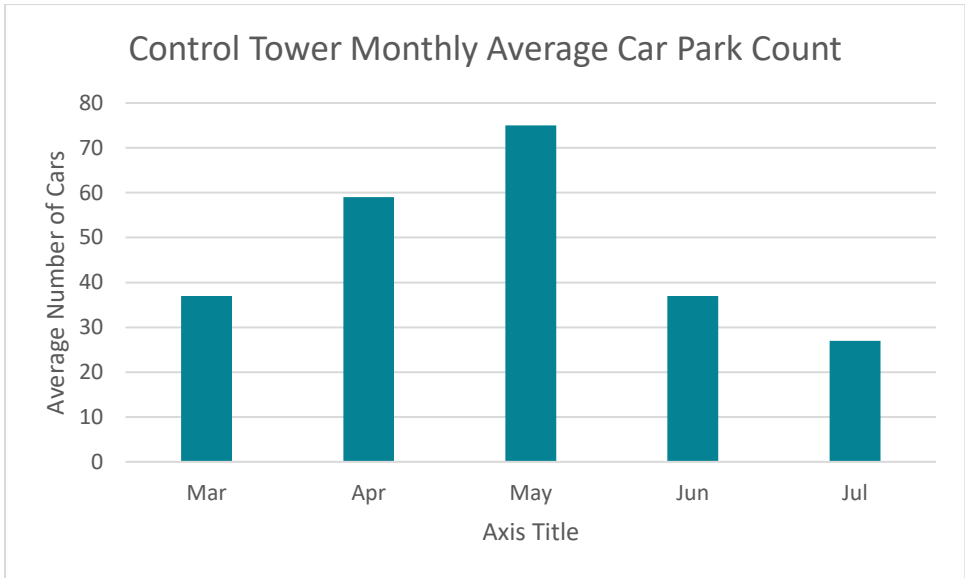


Figure 57: Average monthly car counts at the Control Tower Car Park

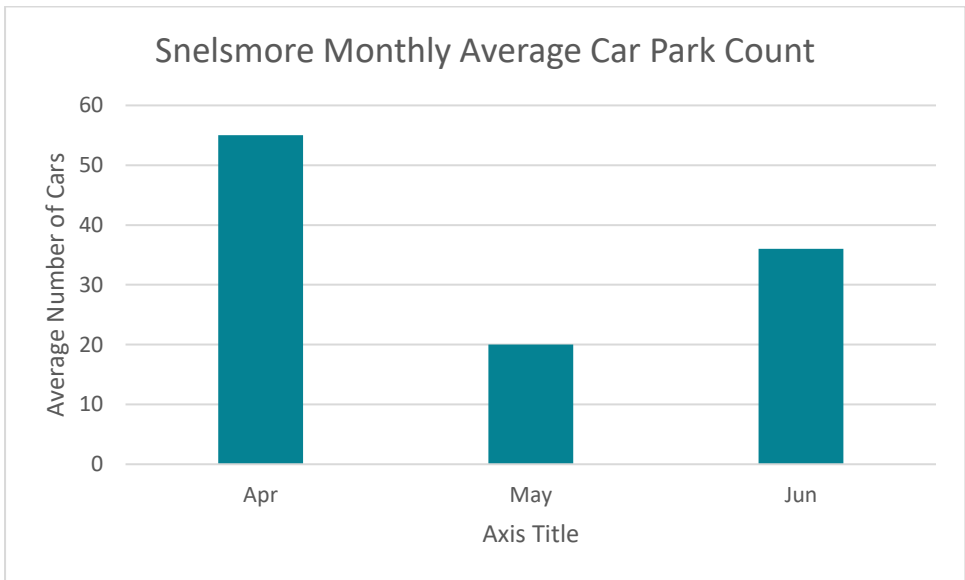


Figure 58: Average monthly car counts at Snelsmore car park

### Park Run

The Saturday morning Park Run starting at the runway cross represents the largest spikes both in activity on site and in the number of parked cars. The totals counted are shown in Table 26. Numbers were counted at the Control Tower Car Park. Venture West car park is also used by the runners, but cars here were never counted.

Date	Car Count
12th March	150
2nd April	112
21st May	148

Table 26: Park Run Car Park counts



## Appendix K – 2021 seasonal warden recommendations

### Greenham Common

Table 3: 2021 recommendations and actions taken in 2022.

Green = achieved, Yellow = partially achieved

2021 Recommendation	Actions in 2022
Continue to develop partnership with TVP and include TVP logo on some signage. Have the WCO present at some events to highlight the legislation applicable to wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TVP logo included on majority of logtern signage</li> <li>- Partnership with WCO maintained</li> </ul>
Replace the Red/Green Zone system as it continues to cause too much confusion about where people can and can't walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Red Zones removed</li> <li>- Further emphasis placed on main message of "Keep to the main paths"</li> </ul>
Use the GNB symbol as a consistent message across all signs including on small posts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GNB symbol present on gate signs, logtern signs and other onsite signage</li> </ul>
Rename the Green Zone as the Roam Zone to remove confusion about "Green" meaning nature and conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Green Zone changed to Roam Zone</li> <li>- Understanding has improved and usage is higher than in 2021</li> </ul>
Simplify the signage and interpretation at all entrances to the Common informing visitors of GNB protection measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Signage simplified further for 2022 season</li> </ul>
In addition to being on gates, the main GNB sign should be installed a little way inside entrances and on notice boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Signage repeated just inside gates</li> <li>- Continue in future seasons</li> </ul>
Use onsite signage such as logterns to help people recognise where they can and can't walk and why	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Logterns placed in strategic positions</li> <li>- Little emphasis on education – this could be explored further</li> </ul>
Include Greenham Common lozenges in future nightjar surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lozenges included in 2022 survey</li> <li>- Nightjar activity recorded every survey evening</li> <li>- Continue to include lozenges in future surveys</li> </ul>
Provide an appropriate range of additional interpretive provision to help people understand and care about Greenham Common as a nature reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Occasional posts on Greenham Grapevine Facebook group</li> <li>- Could be explored further e.g. partnership with the Control Tower</li> </ul>
Continue monitoring visitor activity sessions after the bird nesting season ends to establish how visitor behaviour changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visitor activity monitoring undertaken after the end of the nesting season</li> </ul>
Re-establish monthly programme of guided walks and events for visitors, including specific events aimed at dogs and dog walkers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Six walks were organised, though unfortunately three were not well attended</li> <li>- Review needed of how to interact with dog owners through events</li> </ul>

## Snelsmore Common

Table 4: 2021 recommendations and 2022 actions during 2022 (green = fully achieved, yellow = partly achieved, red = not achieved)

2021 Recommendation	Notes
Consider revising the purpose, and thus the signage, of the Green Route. Dogs should not be allowed to run off the path in this important part of Snelsmore Common.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small signs added to Green Dog Route informing users of more sensitive areas of the route and asking them to keep dogs to path</li> </ul>
Continue to discourage use of all desire line paths with dead hedging and brambles, alongside the covering of visible desire lines with vegetation (living and dead).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New blockages were created and existing ones maintained</li> <li>- Evidence of success with some desire lines completely overgrown</li> </ul>
Use logtern signage to interpret the site to visitors: its value to wildlife and people; the species that live there; how the site is managed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existing logterns still in place</li> <li>- There are still some areas where logterns could be used effectively to block off desire lines and interpret site.</li> </ul>
Re-establish monthly guided walks for visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While there were a couple of events on Snelsmore Common during the 2022 season, monthly guided walks did not take place</li> </ul>