
Public Rights of Way in Cornwall



RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

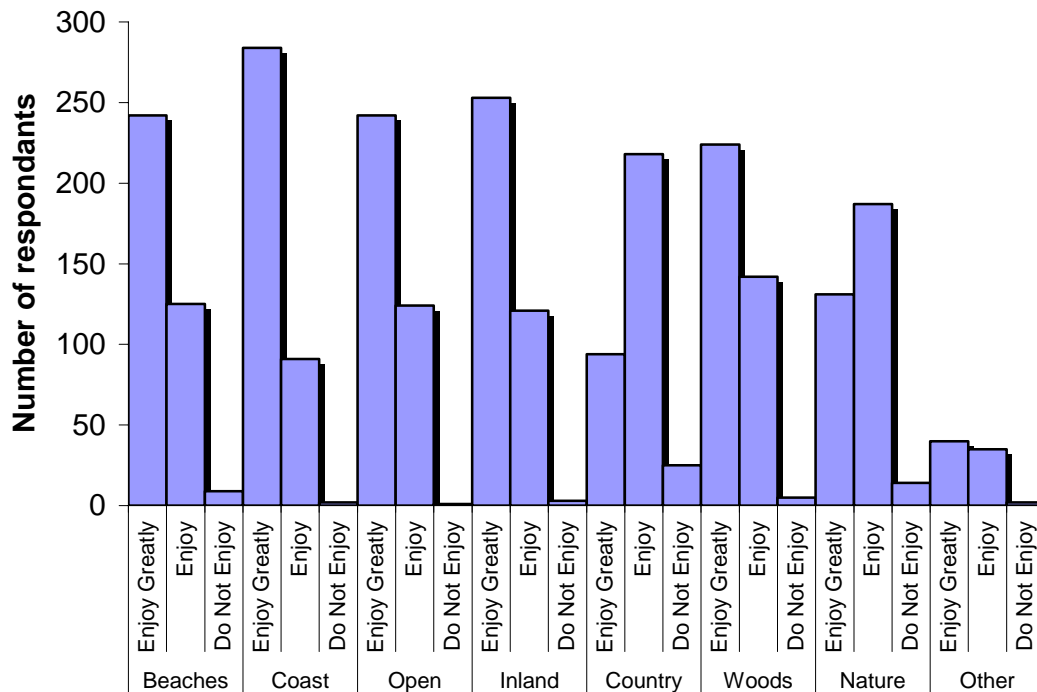
USERS QUESTIONNAIRE

January 2006

Sally Lewis

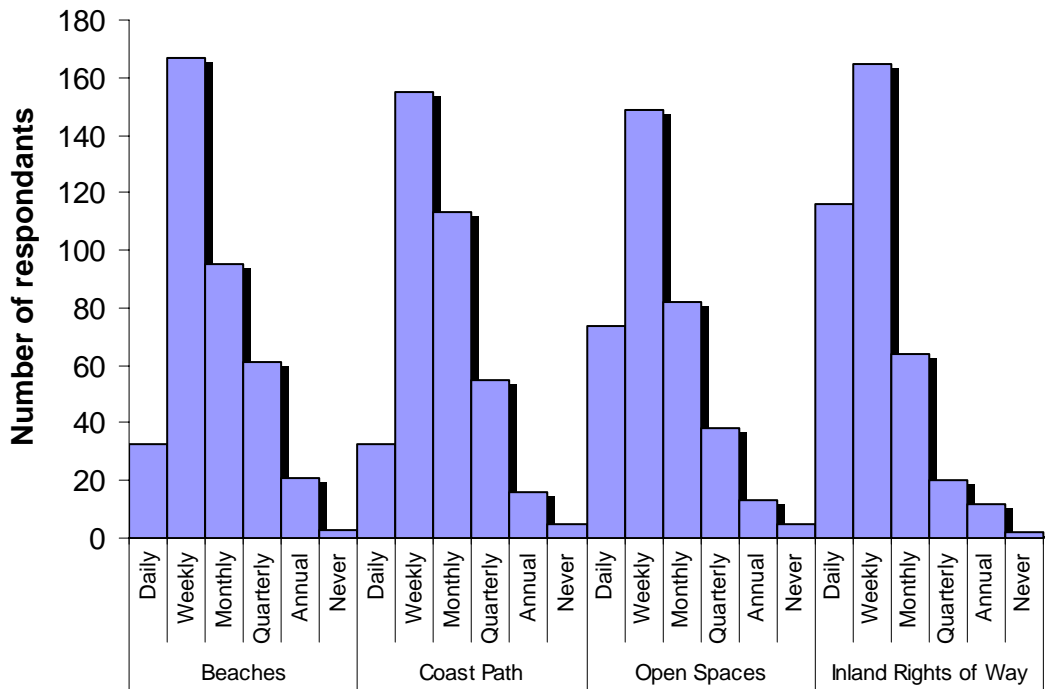
1. Which aspects of the countryside in Cornwall do you most enjoy visiting?

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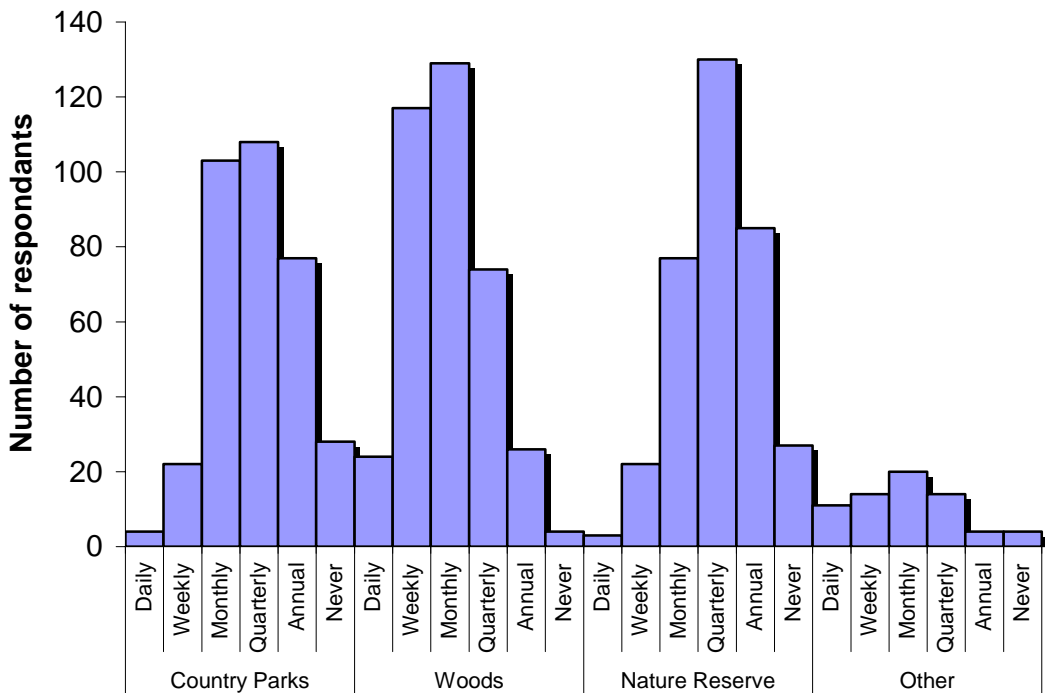


Results show that the Coast Paths were the aspect of the Cornish countryside that the majority of respondents (71.6%) enjoyed greatly, with 61% feeling the same about beaches and 63% greatly enjoying the inland rights of way. Country parks were enjoyed least (6.32%) but overall respondents seem to enjoy all of the options, with no aspect 'not enjoyed' by more than 10%

How often do you visit each of the following types of coast and countryside in Cornwall?

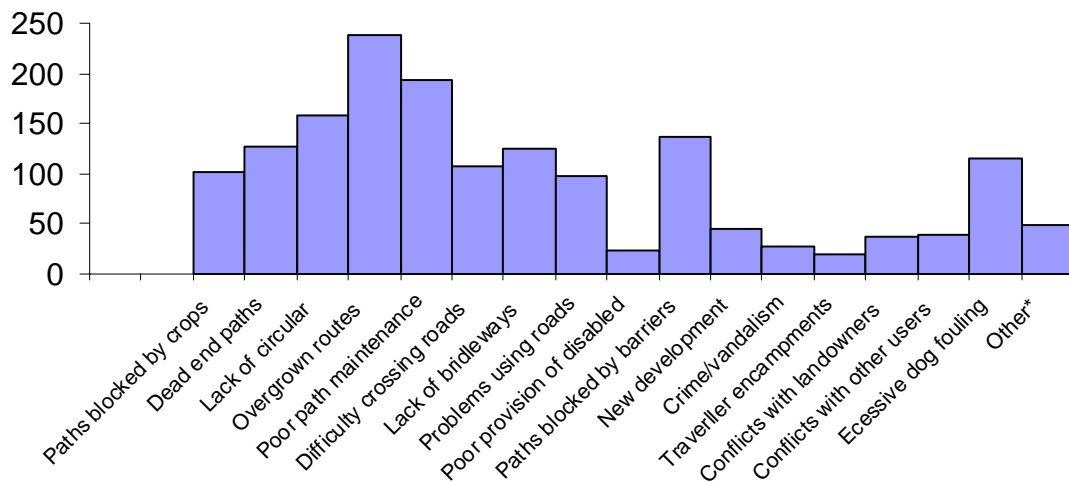


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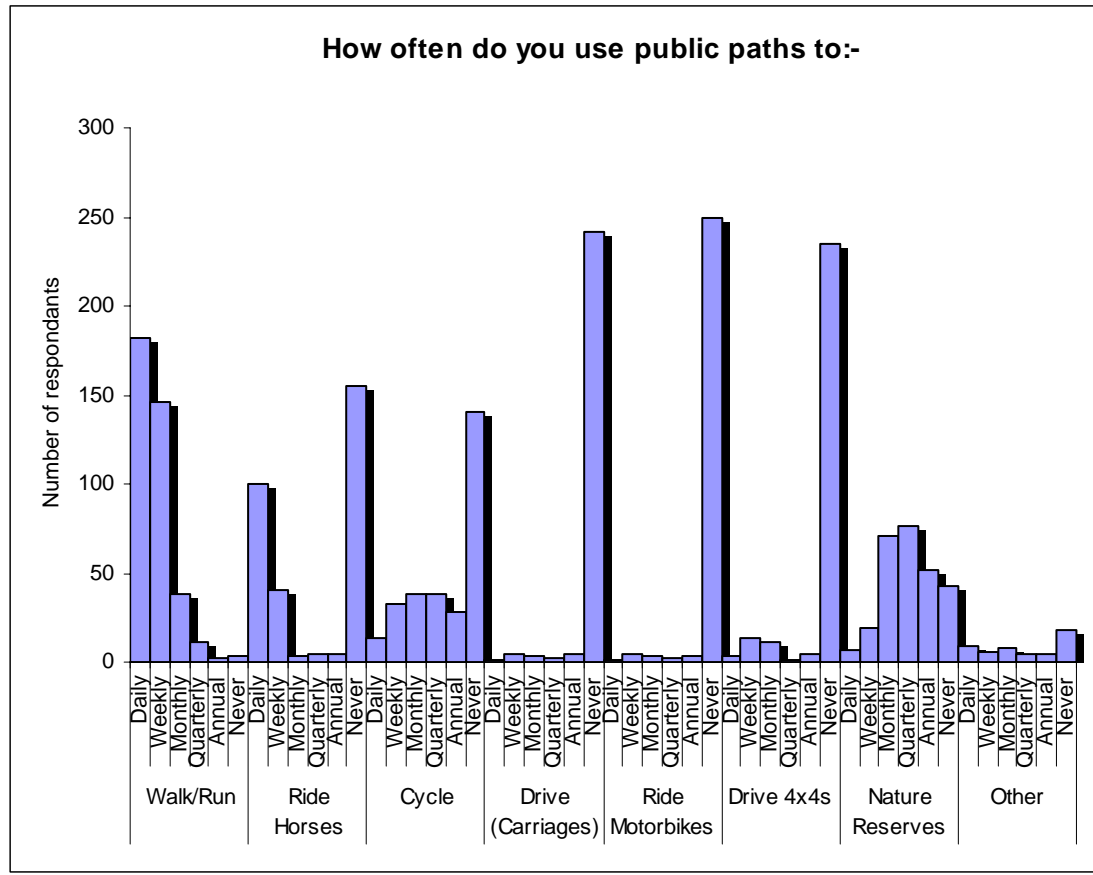
3. In the last year which of the following have been an issue for you in the Cornish countryside?

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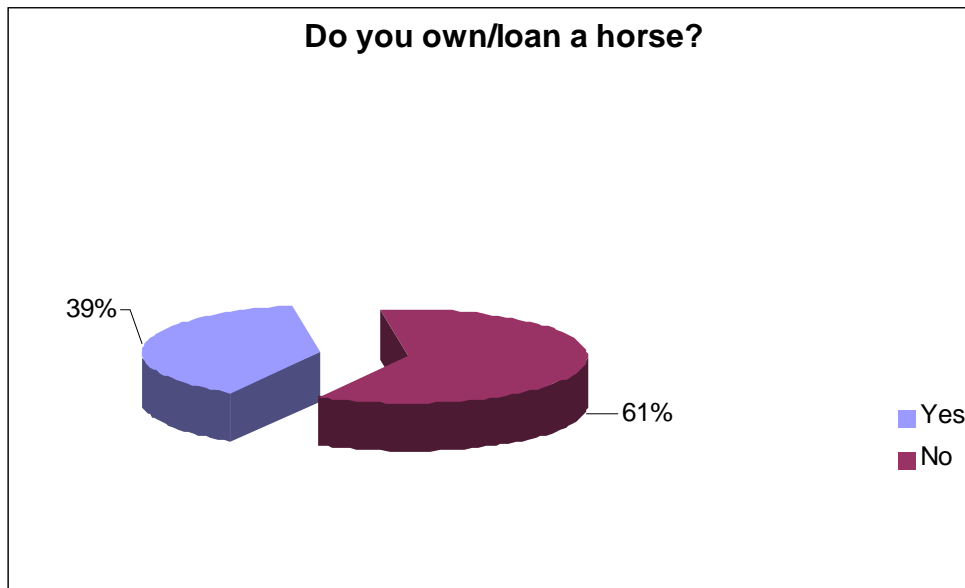
The responses to this question were interesting in that all respondents gave at least one choice in their answer and there was a significant proportion (12.15%) who answered 'Other', with no further details available. The major issue appeared to be that of overgrown routes (60.2% response,) followed by difficulties finding/following routes (49.62%). The issues apparently causing least concern were poor provision for disabled people, (5.82%), and traveller encampments (4.8%). The number of choices selected by respondents varied greatly, but the numbers involved indicate that a range of issues cause concern.

4. How often do you use public paths to:-



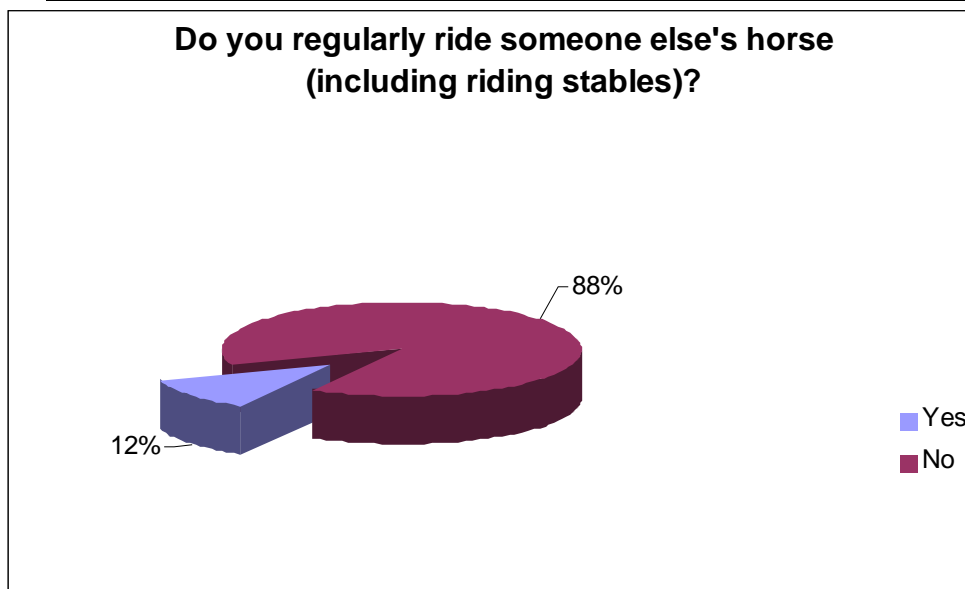
This question provided a range of responses at each end of the scale. Respondents were allowed to select as many options as they wished, and many did not answer for each category. By a large margin, public paths are used most often for daily walking or running (46.07%) and cycling was the next most popular daily choice cited. Using public paths to access nature reserves was not a popular daily choice, but was given most often as a choice for monthly (9.62%) and quarterly (17.97%) use. The results for those categories never accessed by paths was quite clearly riding motorbikes (63.54%), driving horse-powered carriages (61.51%) and driving 4x4s (60.82%)

5. Do you own/loan a horse?



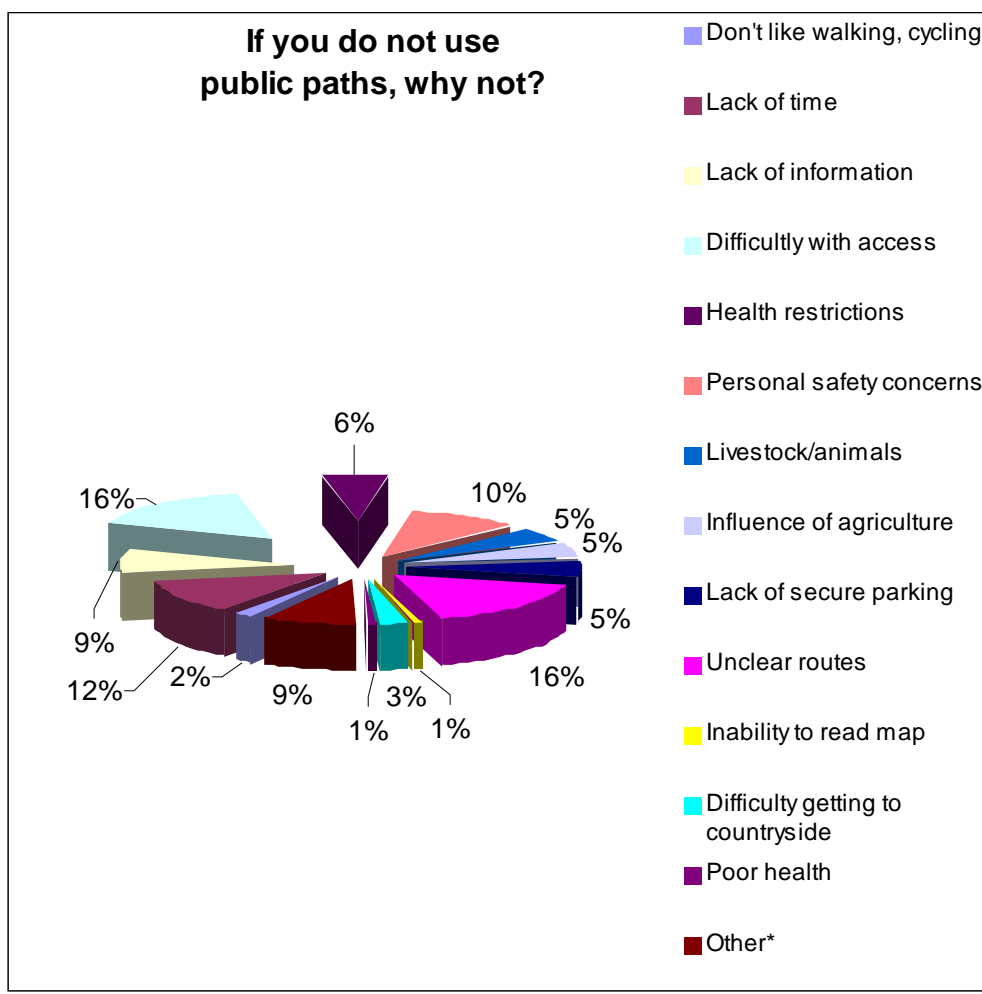
The majority of respondents in this survey do not own/loan a horse (61%) and this ties in with the results from the last question in which only 10.12% of respondents said they use public paths to ride on a weekly basis.

6. Do you regularly ride someone else's horse (including riding stables)?



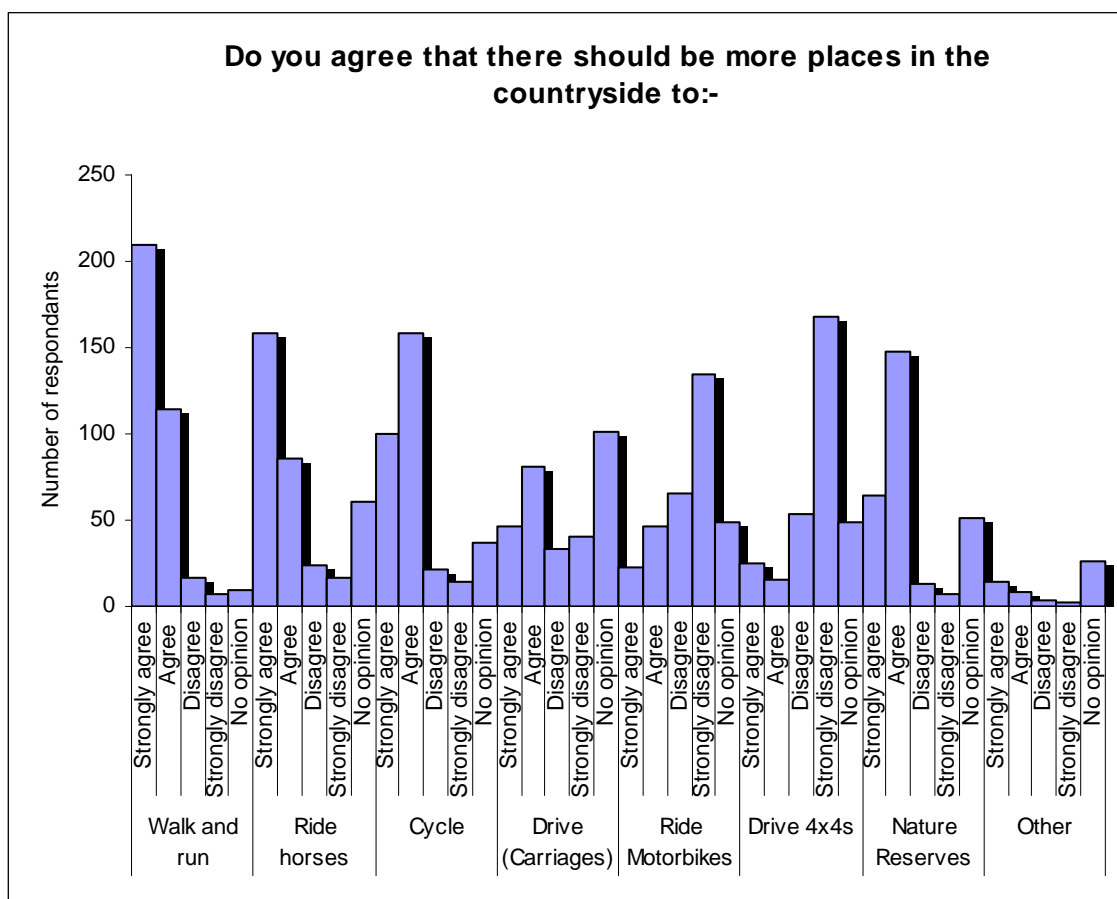
The minority (12%) ride someone else's horse, including riding stables, which relates to other responses within this survey relating to horse riding.

7. If you do not use public paths, why not?



Just 29.62% of the survey participants responded to this question, reflecting that overall the sample do tend to use public paths, and for a variety of purposes. Of the answers given, the most frequently cited reasons for not using public paths were difficulty with access and lack of time, (each 16%), which were 4.8% of the total potential sample. The reasons for not using public paths which were given least were

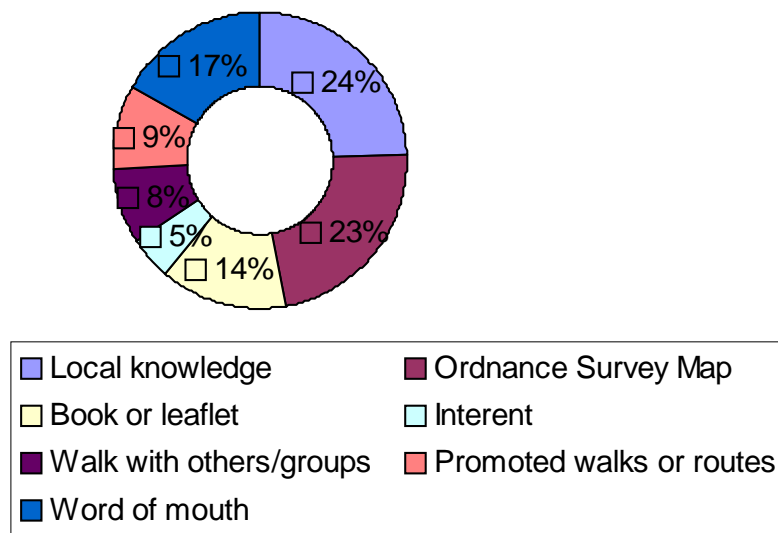
8. Do you agree that there should be more places in the countryside to:-



The majority strongly agreed that there should be more places in the countryside to walk and run, with a considerable number of respondents (21.77%) saying that they strongly agree that there should be more places for riding horses and agree that there should be more places for cycling. There was a significant number (42.78%) who strongly disagreed that there should be more places to drive 4x4s. 10.12% of respondents strongly disagreed that there should be more places to drive (horse powered) carriages and the same number agreed that there should be more places to walk and run.

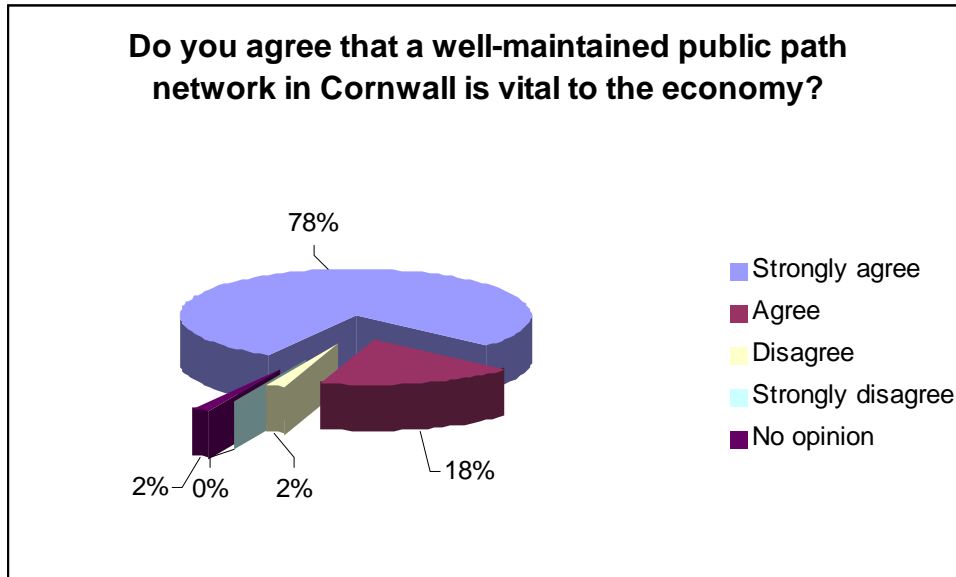
9. How do you find out about where you can go in the countryside?

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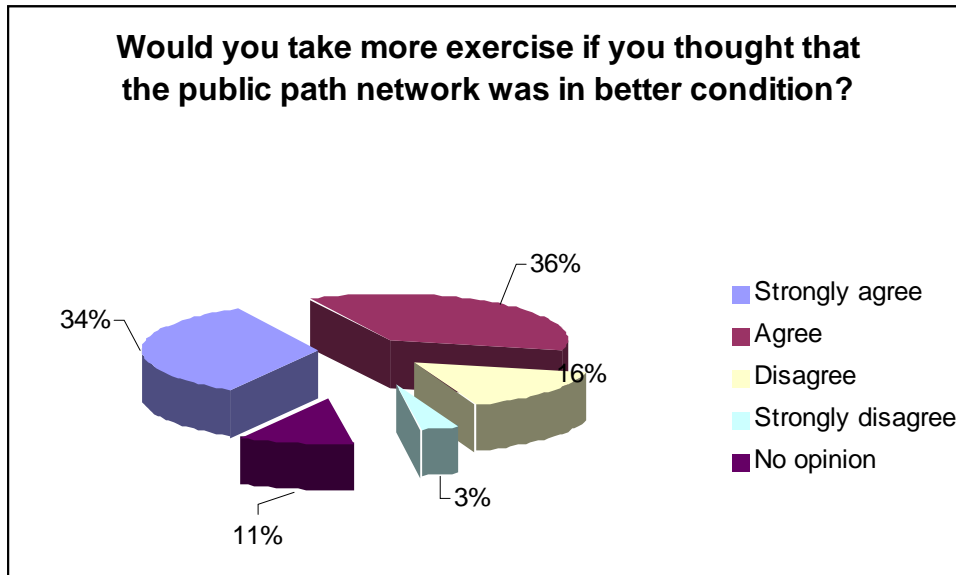
The highest response to the question said that they rely upon local knowledge to find out about where to go in the countryside (24%,) closely followed by 23% who use Ordnance Survey maps. The internet was the least popular option for getting information, and 8 and 9% find out through walking with other/groups or on promoted walks or routes.

10. Do you agree that a well-maintained public path network in Cornwall is vital to the economy?



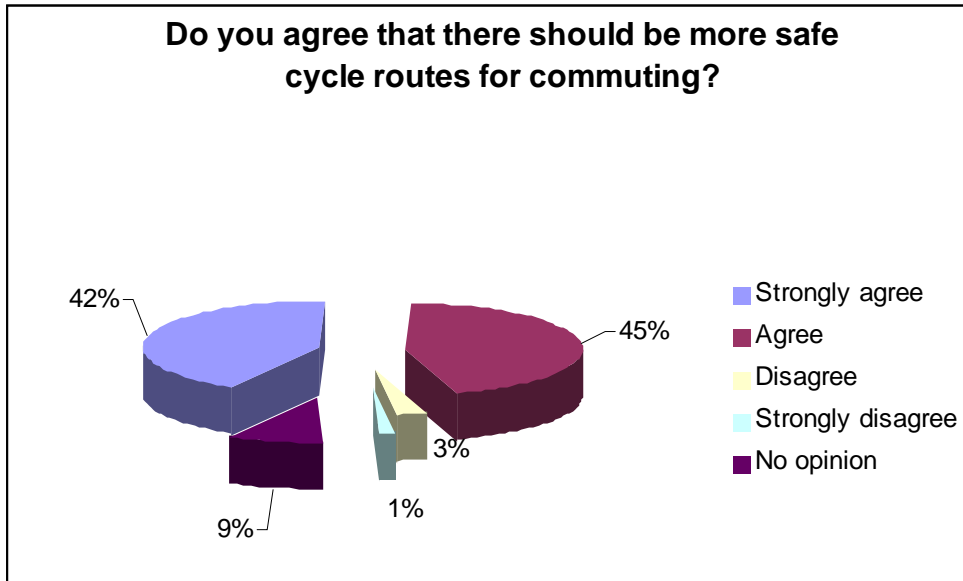
Only 2% of the respondents gave 'no opinion' as their answer to this question. The majority of the respondents in the countryside users survey (78%) strongly agree that a well maintained public path network is vital to the economy, with a small minority of 2% disagreeing. No respondents strongly disagreed with this issue.

11. Would you take more exercise if you thought that the public path network was in better condition?



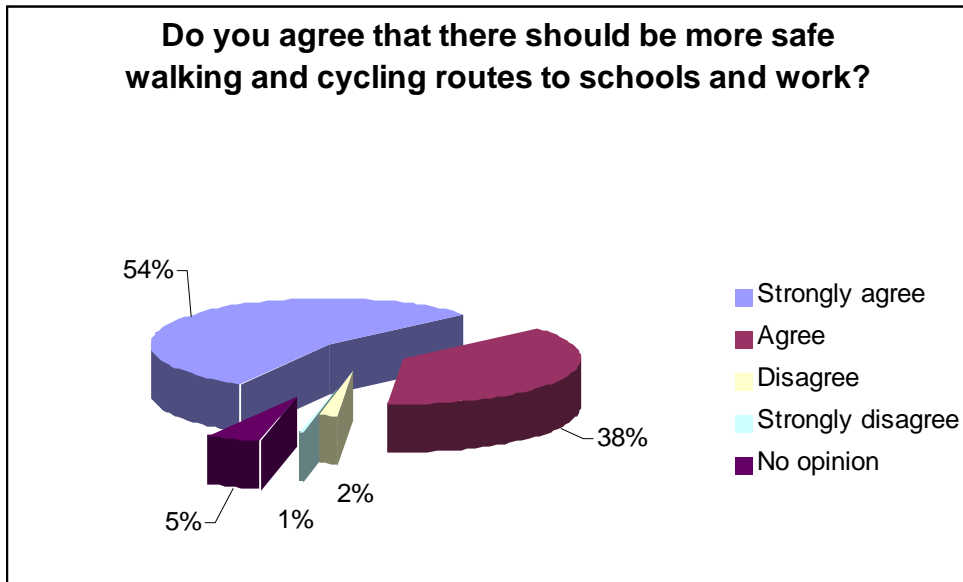
A combined response of 70% of respondents said they were exercise more if the public path network were in better condition. 19% disagreed or strongly disagreed that this would be the case. However, 11% of respondents held no opinion on this matter.

12. Do you agree that there should be more safe cycle routes for commuting?



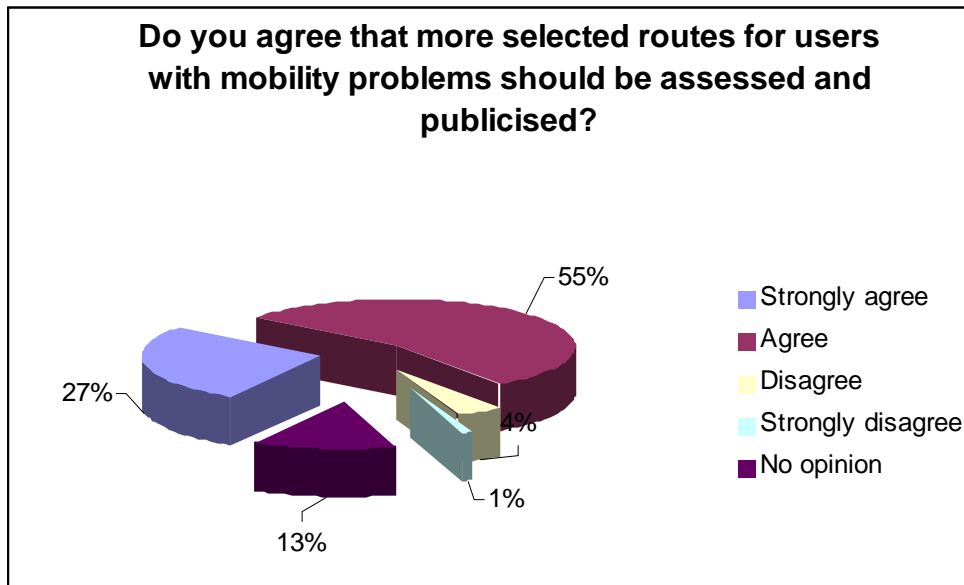
A strong majority of a combined 87% agreed or strongly agreed that there should be more safe cycle routes for commuting, and although 9% held no opinion on this matter the minority of 4% who disagree/strongly disagree indicate that this is a matter of great concern to the users

13. Do you agree there should be more safe walking and cycle routes to schools and work?



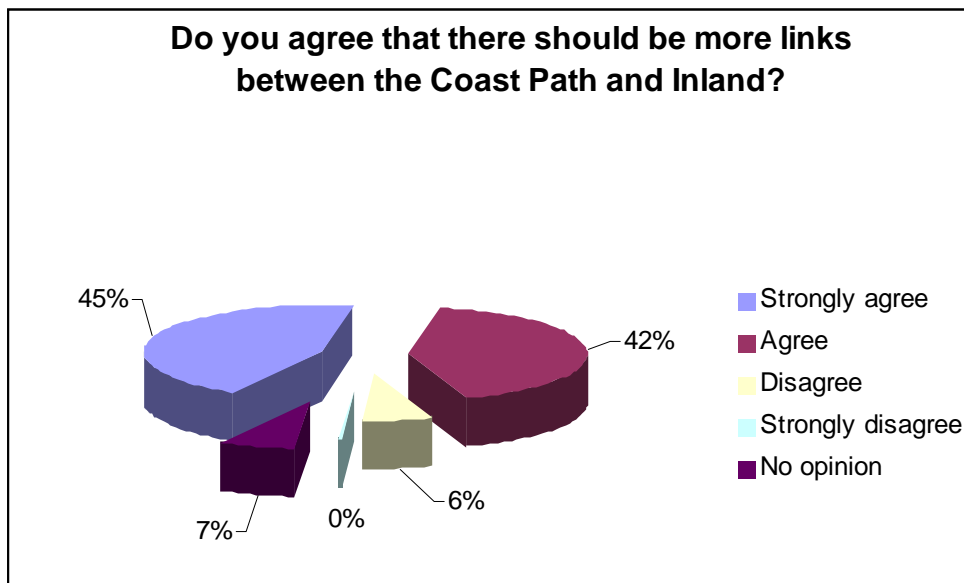
As found in the last question on cycle routes for commuting, a large majority either strongly agreed or agreed (a combined total of 92%) that there should be more safe routes for both walking and cycling to schools and work. 5% held no opinion on this matter and the minority who disagreed or strongly disagreed totalled just 3%.

14. Do you agree that more selected routes for users with mobility problems should be assessed and publicised?



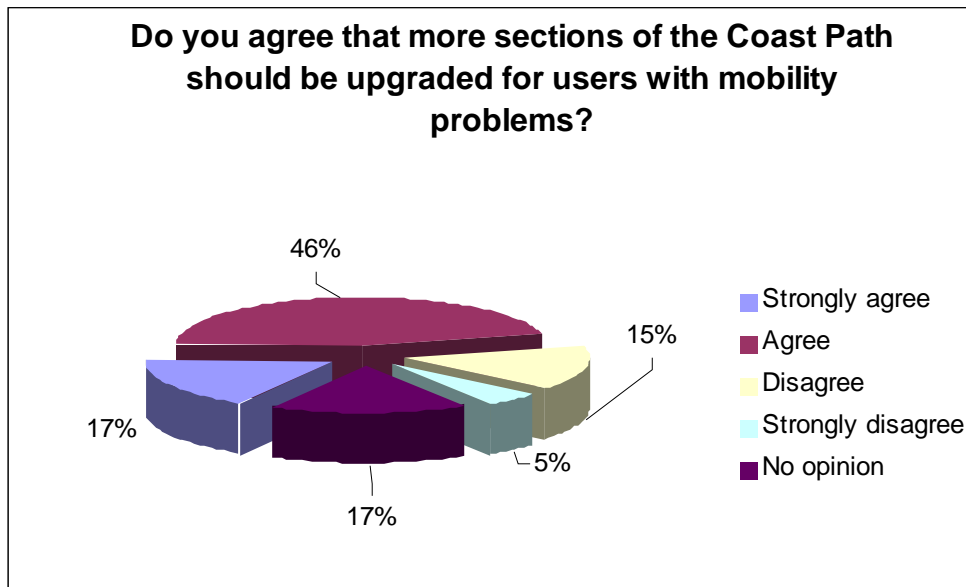
A strong majority of respondents were in agreement to a greater or lesser degree (82%) that more selected routes for users with mobility problems should be assessed and publicised. 1% strongly disagreed with subject. These results may be viewed with interest in light of the demographic breakdown of this group, i.e that 4.5% of respondents consider themselves disabled and 6.58% as having a long-term illness. It appears that concern over routes for those with mobility problems is not just felt by those potentially affected by such provision.

15. Do you agree that there should be more links between the Coast path and inland?



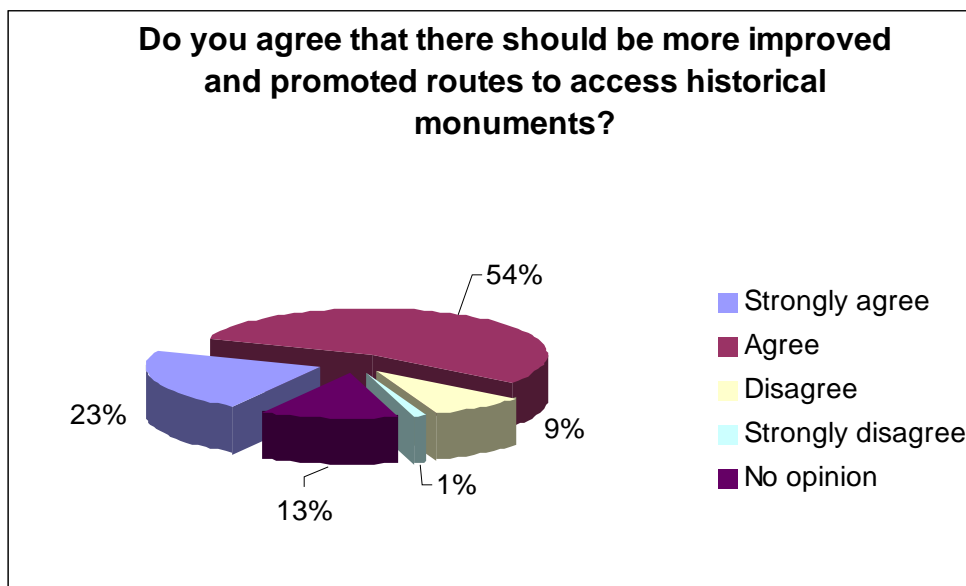
Almost 90% of respondents were positive about more links between the Coast Path and inland being established, (45% strongly agreed; 42% agreed.) No respondents strongly disagreed with this suggestion.

16. Do you agree that more sections of the Coast Path should be upgraded for users with mobility problems?



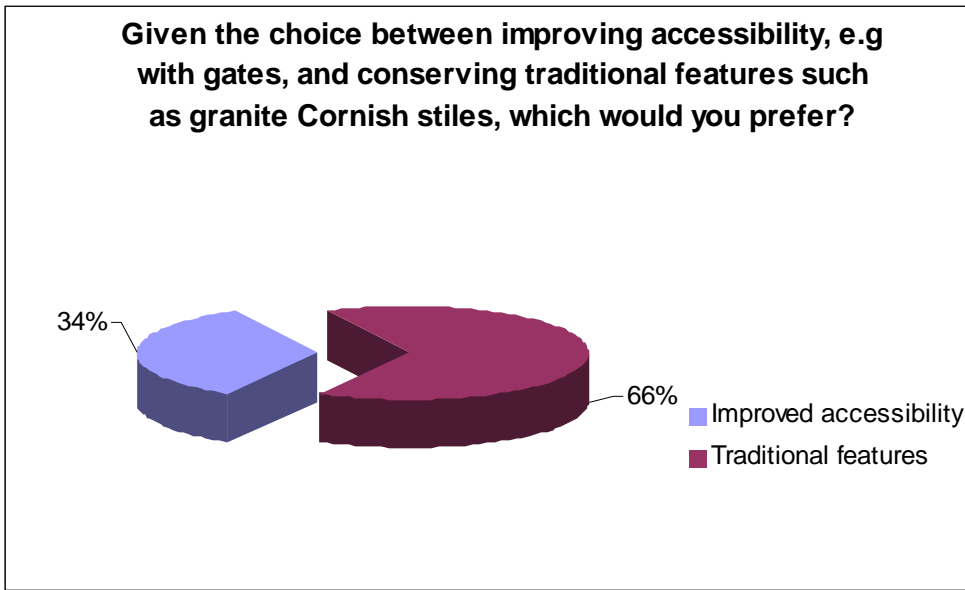
The response to this question was more varied but the majority response was in favour of upgrading sections of the Coast Path. 20% either strongly disagreed or disagreed, but 17% offered no opinion on the subject.

17. Do you agree that there should be more improved and promoted routes to access historical monuments?



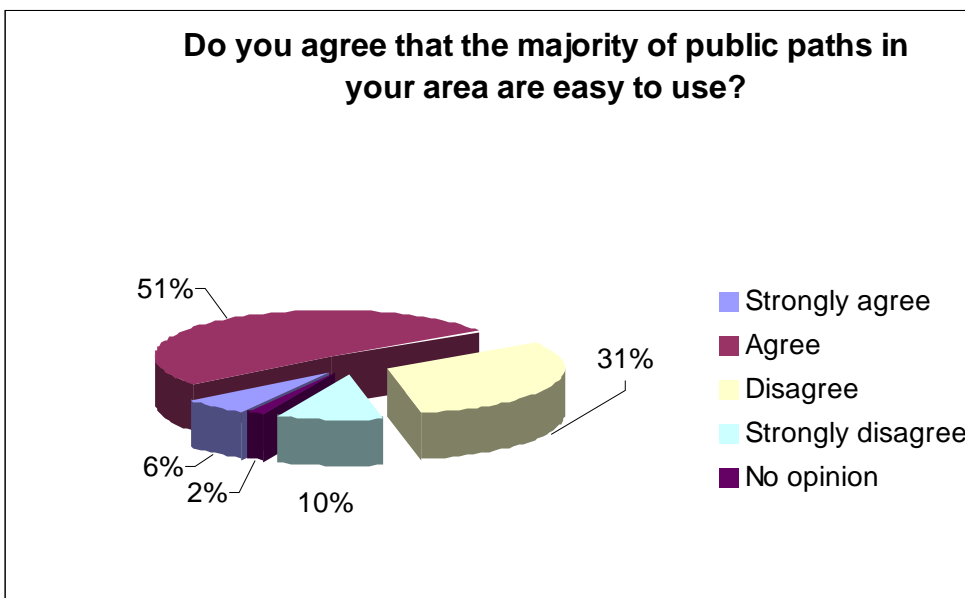
Just under 25% of respondents strongly agreed that there should be more improved and promoted routes to access historical monuments, and 10% were in disagreement with this issue. Overall, the majority (77%) were in favour.

18. Given the choice between improving accessibility, e.g with gates, and conserving traditional features such as granite Cornish stiles, which would you prefer?



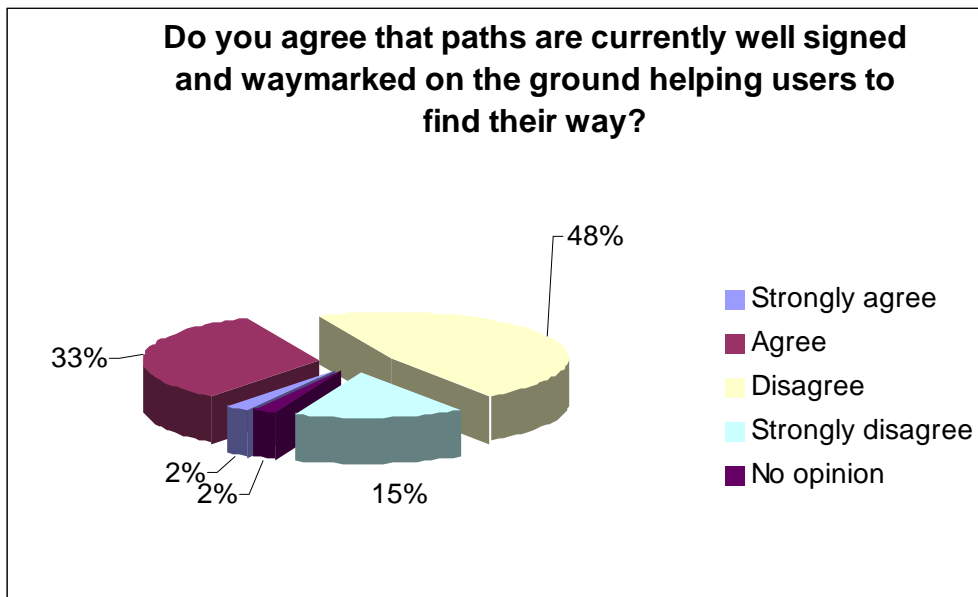
Approximately two thirds of the survey group consider it is more important to conserve traditional features, and just over one third would prefer improving accessibility.

19. Do you agree that the majority of public paths in your area are easy to use?



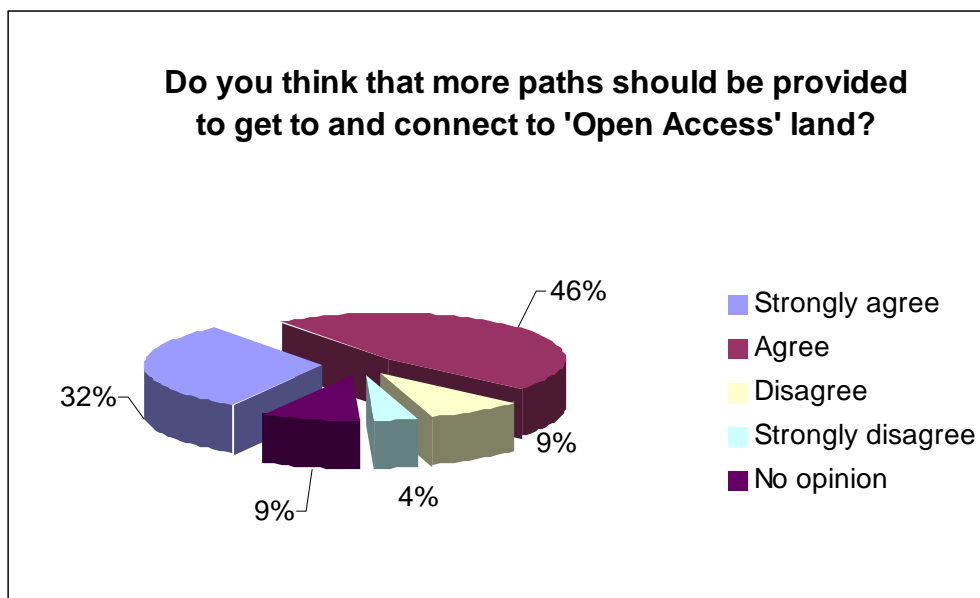
Although the majority of respondents (57%) of respondents find that the majority of public paths are easy to use, (either strongly agreeing/agreeing,) a considerable minority (41%) disagree. It would be helpful to correlate these findings with the home location of each respondent to give a more detailed breakdown of the satisfaction with public paths in each area of the county.

20. Do you agree that paths are currently well signed and waymarked on the ground helping users to find their way?



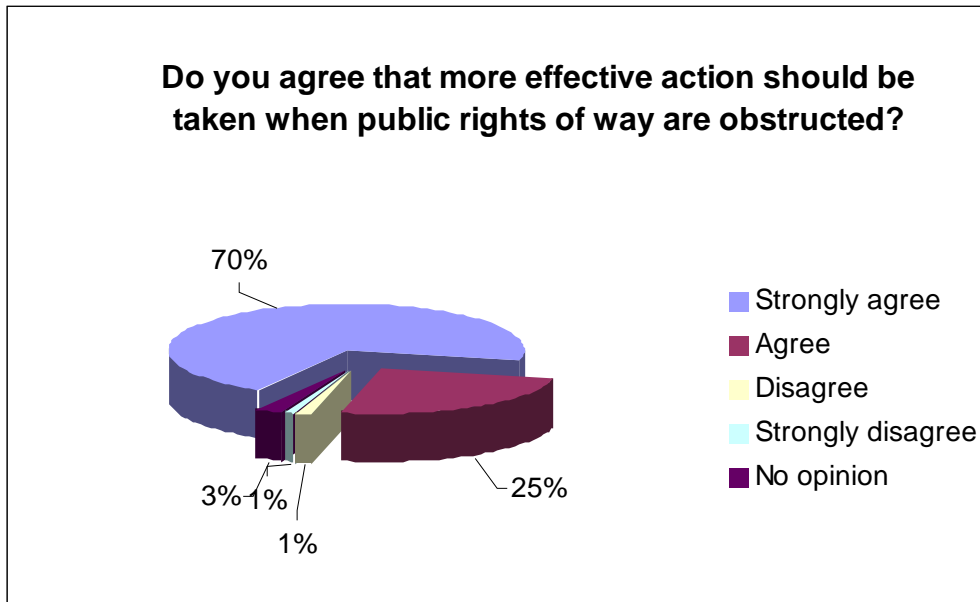
A majority of 63% of respondents either strongly disagree or disagree about the quality of signage on paths, and only 2% strongly agree that paths are currently well signed or waymarked.

21. Do you think that more paths should be provided to get to and connect to 'Open Access' land?



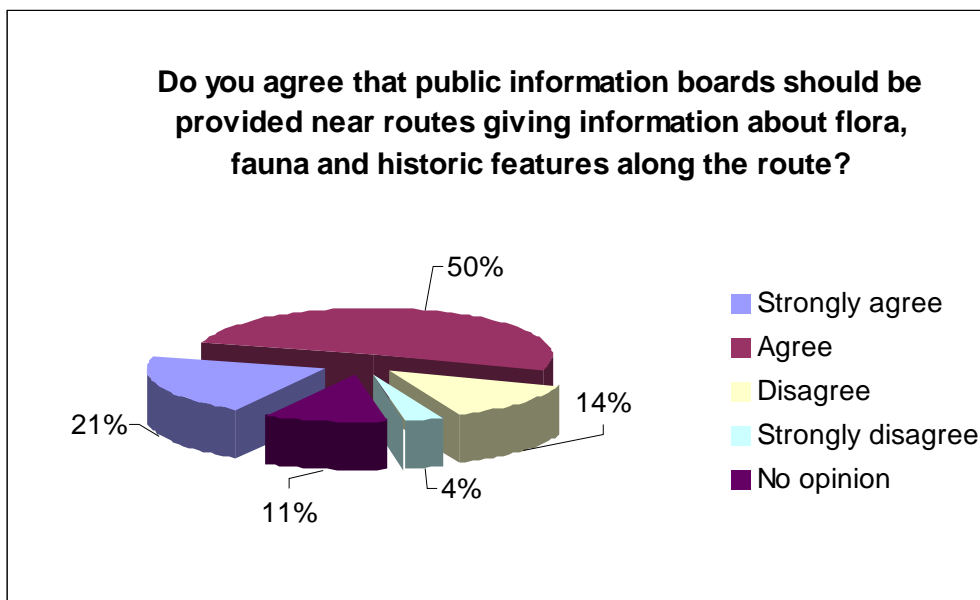
A large majority of respondents think that more paths should be provided to 'Open Access' land (46% agree, 32% strongly agree.) Although a minority of 9% of the group held no opinion on this matter, those who disagreed were 13%.

22. Do you agree that more effective action should be taken when public rights of way are obstructed?



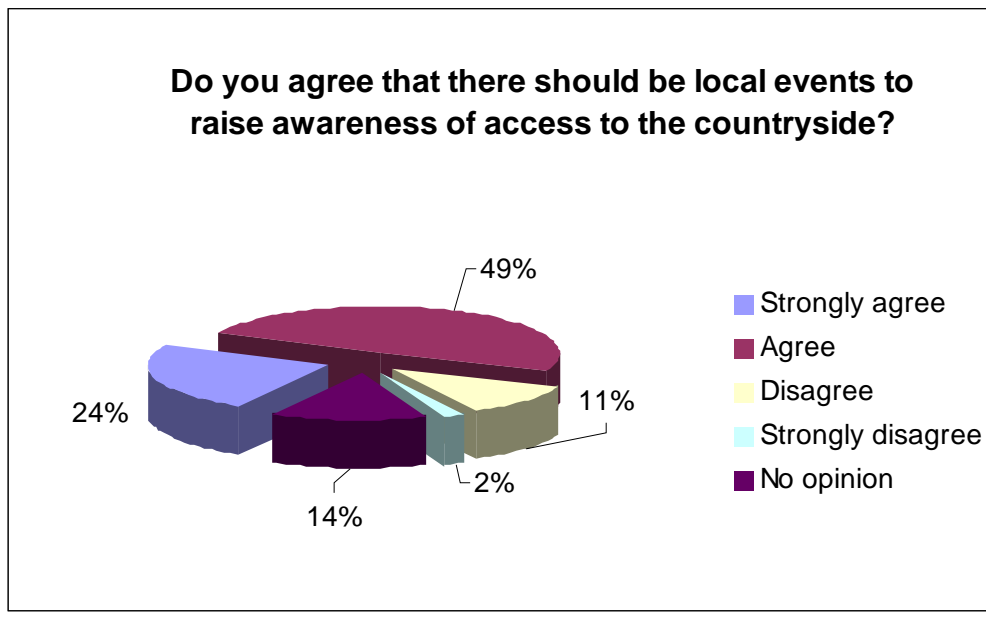
A large majority of respondents (70%) were in strong agreement that more effective action should be taken and a further quarter agreed with this, giving a clear message regarding obstruction of public rights of way. In the minority, just 1.95% either disagreed or strongly disagreed, and 2.53% held no opinion.

23. Do you agree that information boards should be provided near routes giving information about flora, fauna and historic features along the route?



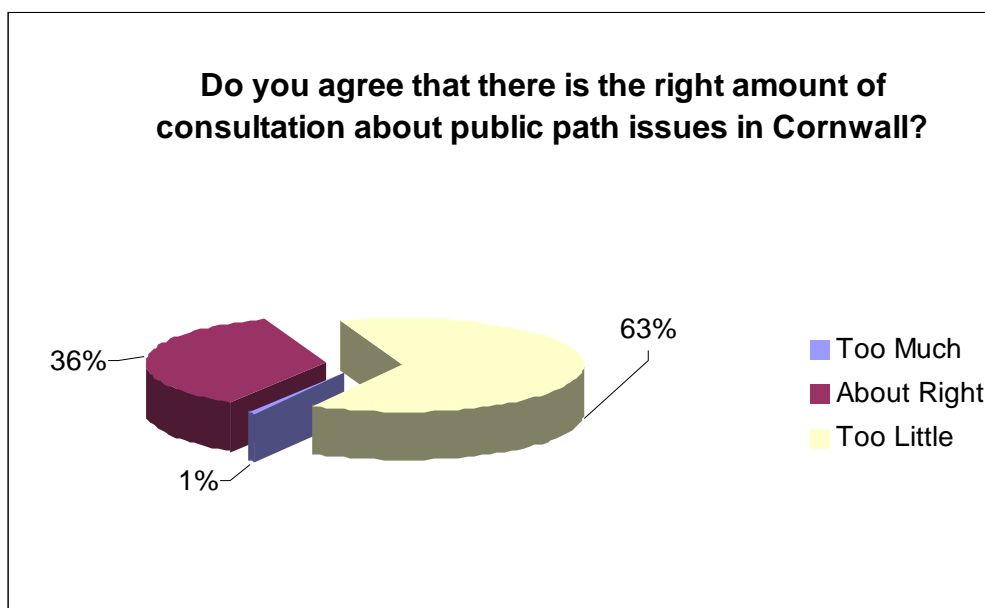
Public information boards are considered by almost three quarters of the respondents to be a good thing, and less than a fifth of the survey had any disagreement with the suggestion.

24. **Do you agree that there should be local events to raise awareness of access to the countryside?**



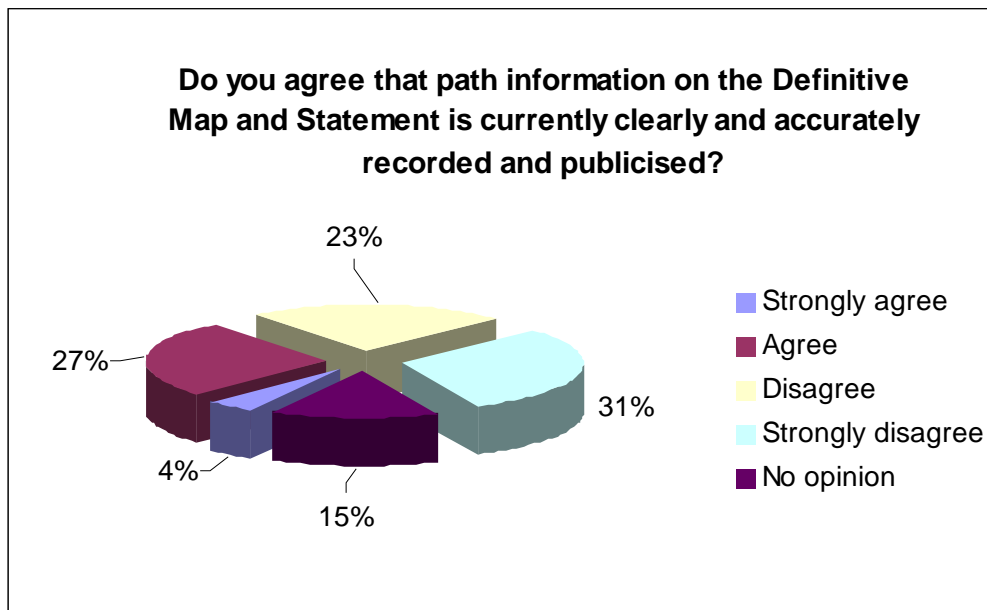
Just under half of the survey felt that there should be local events to raise access awareness but overall just under 75% felt positively about this. The proportion of respondents who gave 'no opinion' as their answer was low but significant at 14%.

25. **Do you agree that there is the right amount of consultation about public paths in Cornwall?**



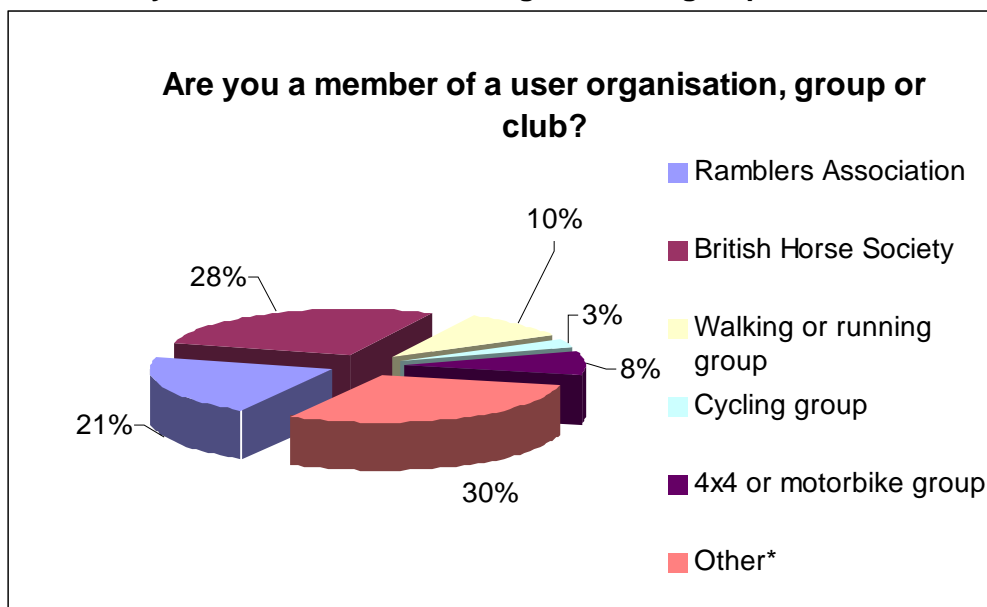
Just under two thirds of respondents consider there is too little consultation about public path issues in Cornwall and just over one third feel the existing consultation process is 'about right.' A very small minority of just 1% felt there was already too much consultation undertaken.

26. **Do you agree that path information on the Definitive Map and Statement is currently clearly recorded and publicised?**



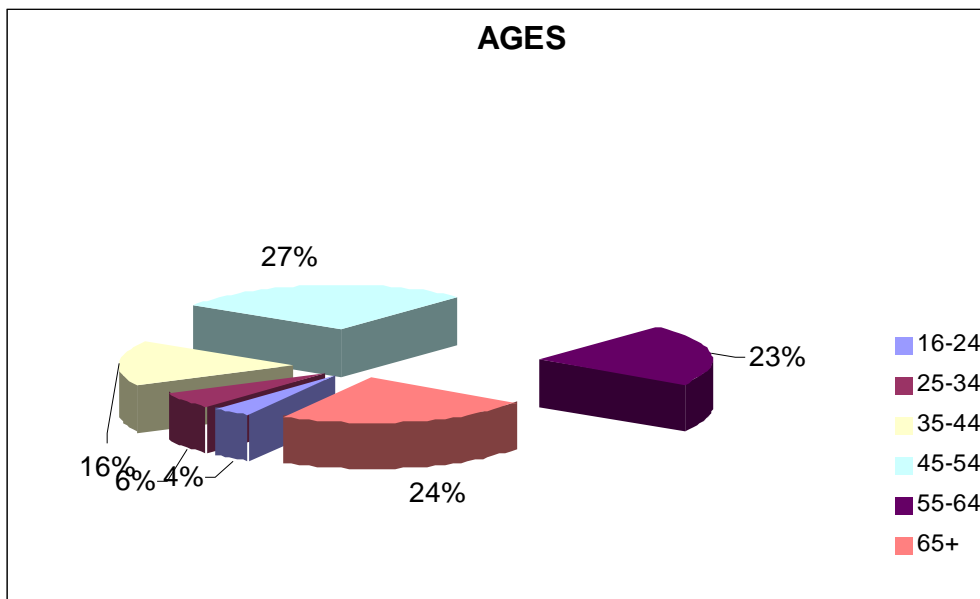
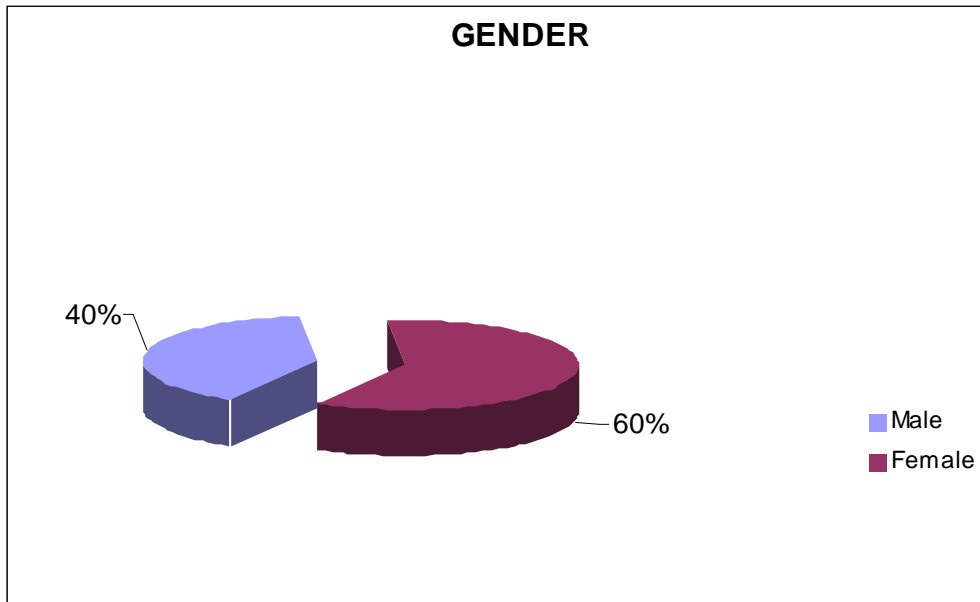
A broad range of responses was given to this question, and the majority opinion given was that path information is not currently clearly and accurately recorded and publicised (54% either strongly disagreed or disagreed.) Only a little over a quarter of respondents agree with the statement given, although 15% gave no opinion.

27. **Are you a member of a user organisation, group or club?**

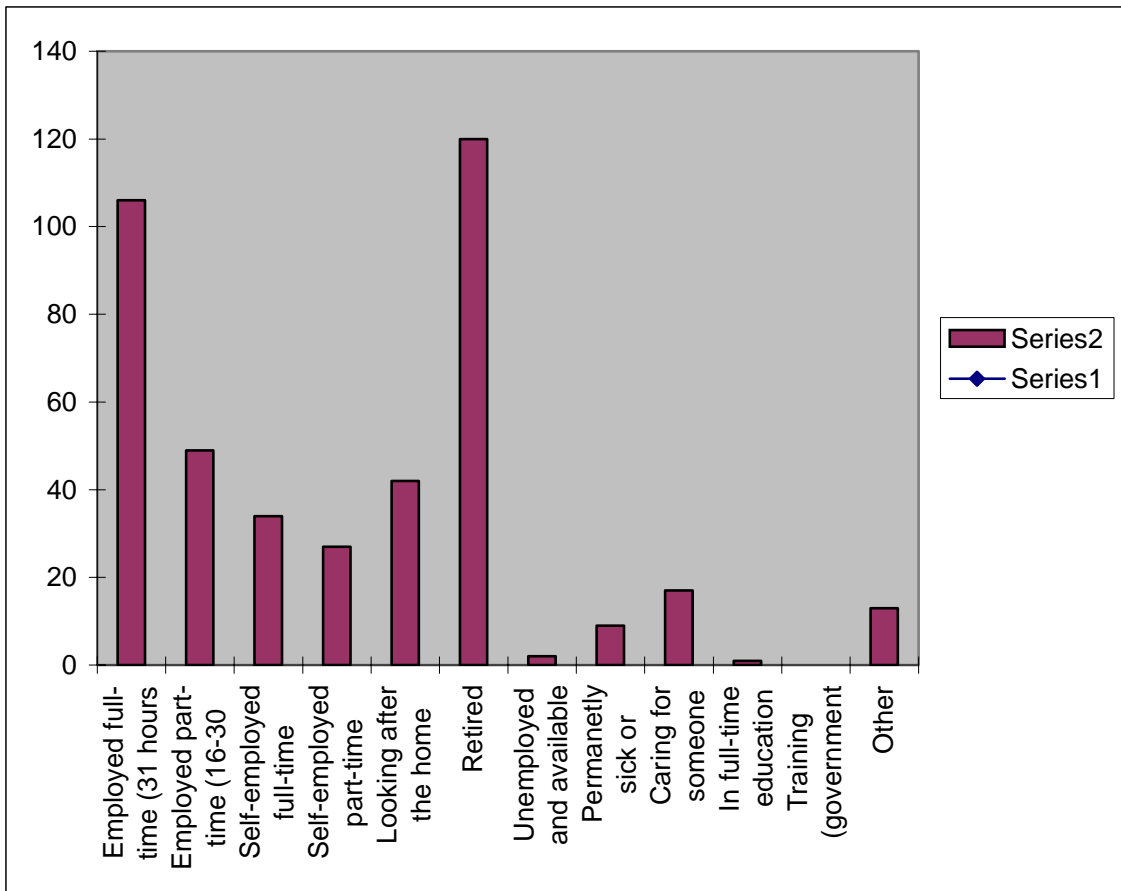


Of the total respondents, 59.4% answered this question (n 235.) This suggests that the other 160 either declined to respond or are not members of a user organisation, group or club. Of the responses received, just under one third stated they belonged to 'other' but no details were given. The further 70% of respondents fell into one (or more) of 5 categories, the largest being membership of the Ramblers Association (21%) and the British Horse Society (28%.)

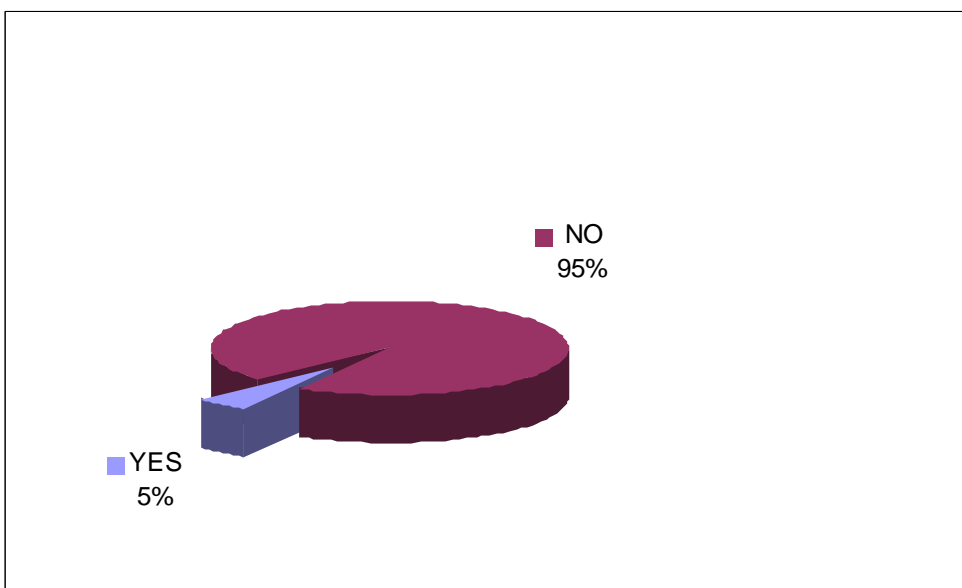
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE PARTICIPANTS – USERS



Which of these activities describes what you are doing at present?



Do you consider yourself to be disabled?



Do you suffer from a limiting long-term illness?

