

**GBDVS 2017
Methods and performance
Report**



GB Day Visits 2017 Methods and Performance

This report section provides details of the approaches followed in the 2017 Great Britain Day Visits Survey (GBDVS) and the work undertaken to develop these methods.

GBDVS measures participation in Tourism Day Visits taken to destinations in the UK (including Northern Ireland) by the residents of England, Scotland and Wales.

GBDVS is jointly sponsored by the statutory tourist boards of England and Scotland and Visit Wales (the Tourism Department of the Welsh Government).

Introduction

The Great Britain Day Visit Survey (GBDVS) was commissioned jointly by VisitEngland (VE), VisitScotland (VS) and Visit Wales (the Tourism Department of the Welsh Government).

The survey aims to measure the volume, expenditure and profile of Tourism Day Visits taken by GB residents to destinations in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Fieldwork is undertaken on a weekly basis, commenced in January 2011 and will continue until at least the end of December 2018.

While previous surveys have been conducted with similar objectives (most recently the 2005 England Leisure Visits Survey and 2002/3 GB Day Visits Survey), GBDVS represented a significant change in terms of the survey methods used and the approach followed to define a Tourism Day Visit.

Scope

This report section provides details of the methods used in GBDVS 2017, including the work undertaken to develop the survey approach.



Survey method

This section of the report outlines the survey methods used in GBDVS 2017, including details of why an online approach was followed and the steps taken to maximise the accuracy of the survey outputs.

Summary of approach

Fieldwork for the seventh year of GBDVS took place from January to December 2017. During this period some **35,118** interviews were conducted using an online survey method with the sample drawn from the Lightspeed and Research Now online panels. Respondents provided details of their leisure participation with a focus on visits taken during the previous week. Full details were collected for some **33,691** visits which lasted 3 hours or more and in subsequent analysis a sub-set of **20,564** of these visits were defined as Tourism Day Visits, taken outside of the participants' usual environment. Furthermore, **6,203** of these visits were defined as Activities Core to Tourism.

Design considerations

2009 and 2010 Pilot Surveys

Prior to the start of GBDVS fieldwork in 2011, during 2009 and 2010 VisitEngland and the English Tourism Intelligence Partnership (ETIP) commissioned a series of pilot surveys which aimed to determine the best approach for a new Tourism Day Visits Survey.

This pilot exercise involved the parallel testing of identical question-sets through the Kantar TNS in-home, telephone and online omnibus surveys. Fieldwork was conducted over identical periods allowing a direct comparison of the results collected using each mode. Alternative question wording was also used to test the impacts of asking respondents about alternative time periods and using different question wording.

Following this piloting, it was recommended that an online data collection approach would represent a cost effective yet suitably robust approach for a future longitudinal survey of Tourism Day Visits.

Issues to address

While the 2009 and 2010 piloting established that an online approach could be a viable option for the new GBDVS survey, prior to the launch of the main study in 2011 it was necessary to conduct further scoping and developmental work to ensure that the final approach would collect robust data. Where possible the approach used in GBDVS needed to address the drawbacks and weaknesses often associated with online research as described below under the following headings:

- Bias
- Replicability
- Consistency
- Reliability

Bias

The main possible sources of bias in a survey conducted online are as follows:

- Coverage of the universe
- Recruitment
- Response
- Mode effect

During the first year of GBDVS approximately 77% of UK households were estimated to have an internet connection from home (based on ONS data from 2011) but this coverage varies considerably by demographic group.

Eurobarometer data, based on a quasi probability sample, illustrates this with, for example, in excess of 75% under 55s having access to the Internet from home compared to only 32% of over 65s. A similar skew is seen by education level, with over 80% of adults who completed or are still in further education (after 18 years old) having access at home compared to only 38% of those who left school at or before 16 years.

When sampling from an online panel while it is possible to correct for the broad demographic skews, it must be accepted that there may be a difference in attitudes and behaviours between, for example, older people who have internet access and those who do not, even after correcting for education, gender and so on.

This previous point is also true for the potential difference between those people who join an online survey panel and those who do not, and further to this, between panel members who complete a particular survey and those who do not.

Together these three points generate a combined bias that is difficult to measure and hence difficult to correct for.

In addition to coverage and response bias, mode effect must also be considered. By presenting a survey as an online questionnaire for self completion, this can lead to different experiences across respondents due to factors such as connection speed, computer set up, respondent literacy, respondent eyesight and so on. Again, it is virtually impossible to measure the resultant bias.

To minimise the effects of these types of bias the following steps have been taken in GBDVS:

- Ensuring the panel source being used is of high quality with recognised best practice in recruitment and panel management.
- Minimising the number of sample sources used.
- Designing a sample to correct for known skews in demographics profile.
- Keeping the questionnaire as simple as possible and ensure it works for all browsers and connection types.
- Running an offline survey in parallel for validation purposes.

Replicability

This means that in every month of GBDVS there is a need to replicate the survey conditions as closely as possible. Many online research providers are now moving to alternative approaches to panel recruitment and sampling, for example with the use of survey routers and river sampling. Depending upon the design and control, these can introduce an element of uncertainty that means the conditions cannot be replicated.

However the panels used for GBDVS follow a constant recruitment approach with as little change to sourcing and process as possible. More details on these panel sources are provided later in this report.

Consistency

In order to achieve a high level of consistency over time, a sample plan was designed at the outset of GBDVS 2011 to ensure that in each month the same proportion of responses were achieved from each of the panels used and from each broad demographic group.

Whilst the sample plan can demonstrate a consistent approach, this can be a challenge to achieve in practice for a number of reasons. The variability in response rates across demographic groups, changes in workloads and hence exclusions across panels and over time, unpredictable issues in fielding surveys and so on may lead to changes in the sample profile from month to month. Kantar TNS, in partnership with their panel partners, have taken every measure to minimise this.

Consistency in the questionnaire was managed by making no significant changes to the questionnaire throughout the 2011 to 2015 period.

In 2016, changes were implemented to improve the questionnaire. (See page 233 for more information.)

Reliability

In surveys of this nature it is common place to measure and report upon the accuracy of results by calculating the statistical standard errors associated with key results. However, it is important to note that when using an online survey approach it is questionable whether these types of calculation are valid. This is an area which has been investigated in detail by AAPOR (the American Association for Public Opinion Research). In summary, they suggest that “reporting a margin of sampling error associated with an opt-in or self identified sample is misleading”. This is because whilst “a sample selected at random has known mathematical properties that allows for the computation of sampling error... surveys based on self-selected volunteers do not have that sort of known relationship to the target population and are subject to unknown, non-measurable biases”.

The mixed mode approach used in GBDVS during 2011 allowed for some validation of data collected online and a measure of some of the biases inherent in an online panel. Later in this report information on the standard errors that would be associated with a survey with a similar effective sample size which was undertaken using an approach not using a self selecting sample are included for information. When using these estimates it is important to take account of the AAPOR recommendations.

Scoping, planning and piloting stages

Prior to the start of main GBDVS fieldwork in January 2011 the following initial stages were undertaken to verify certain key elements of the approach:

- Consultation with survey stakeholders
- Cognitive test interviews
- Online omnibus pilot

Further details of each of these stages is provided.

Consultations with survey stakeholders

The purpose of this stage was to ensure that potential future users of the GBDVS results could provide their input in key areas such as questionnaire coverage and the definition of a Tourism Day Visit. These consultations were undertaken during October 2010 and included discussions with members of the English Tourism Intelligence Partnership and representatives of a number of organisations including VisitBritain, the National Parks Authority, North West Development Agency and Natural England.

Scoping, planning and piloting stages

Cognitive test interviews

Two days of cognitive test interviewing were undertaken in early November 2010 with 10 interviews conducted in London and 10 conducted in Edinburgh. In both locations a range of respondents in different age groups, in different socio-economic groups and with different levels of educational qualifications were included in the sample. All of the respondents were regular Internet users.

In each interview respondents were asked to complete the draft GBDVS questionnaire on a computer. Respondents were encouraged to take as much time as they needed to complete the questions and, if necessary, ask for help if they required clarification.

The researcher observed the questionnaire completion to determine which questions took particularly long to complete or where sections were completed more quickly and/or with less care than expected.

Following the questionnaire completion, respondents were asked to provide their general views regarding the questionnaire and then asked about specific areas of interest including their interpretation of what types of visit should be recorded by respondents when completing the questionnaire.

As a result of these interviews a number of changes were made to the survey including the following:

- Large banks of rating scale type questions were split over multiple screens

- Wherever possible wording was shortened and simplified
- Certain more complex questions were split into a series of simpler questions
- A question regarding visit motivations was removed as it added little useful data over that collected regarding activities undertaken
- Respondents taking multiple visits were allowed to 'name' each of their visits to help them to subsequently recall the details when the visit was asked about later in the survey

Online omnibus pilot

Following the cognitive testing stage, a final draft version of the questionnaires was produced and included in a wave of the Kantar TNS online omnibus. A total of 1,267 GB residents were interviewed between the 18th and 22nd November 2010.

The purpose of this piloting was to test the questionnaire wording in a situation which reflected the main survey methods and to test levels of incidence and questionnaire duration. A question was also included in the survey following the Day Visit questions asking respondents to provide feedback on the questions they had just answered. This pilot wave confirmed the effectiveness of the questionnaire and an average interview length of around 15 minutes.

Sample

Sample sources

During 2017, a total of 35,118 online participants took part in GBDVS during 52 weeks of surveying, slightly above the target sample of 35,000 interviews. Weighting was used to ensure that results for these months and the whole year remained comparable to other years.

Year of GBDVS fieldwork	Total sample of interviews achieved
2011	38,083
2012	35,262
2013	35,085
2014	34,990
2015	35,664
2016	32,391
2017	35,118

The Lightspeed Panel, has been the main source of sample for the survey since fieldwork commenced in 2011. However at the outset of the survey although this panel was one of the largest available in the UK, it was not large enough to provide sufficient sample to achieve the required volume of interviews across a year.

This was partly due to the disproportional regional design whereby 5,000 interviews were required in each of Scotland and Wales. To address this shortfall, during 2011 and 2012 Lightspeed worked with a panel partner, Research Now to provide all of the sample for respondents living in Scotland and Wales (while all English sample was from the Lightspeed Panel).

For the 2013 survey, the increased size of the Lightspeed Panel since 2011 made it possible for all respondents to be taken from this source. To prevent any impact on the continuity of data, the transition from using a mix of Research Now and Lightspeed panel sources to only Lightspeed was managed carefully with a gradual transition over the January to October 2013 period.

However, from 2016 the weekly sample size contacted for the survey increased from 673 to 1,000. Of this total 673 respondents continued to be asked the GBDVS questions, forming the sample for this study while others were used as part of piloting of an online method for the GBTS study.

This change was made to facilitate the online piloting of GBTS to ensure that sufficient sample sizes were asked different versions of GBTS questions. Making this change meant that instead of all respondents being sourced from the Lightspeed panel a wider range of panel partners were used than in previous years.

Ensuring panel quality

The Lightspeed Panel is managed by Lightspeed Research, a sister company to Kantar TNS and also part of the Kantar Group. At the beginning of 2011 when GBDVS commenced, the Lightspeed Panel contained around 321,000 individuals all of whom had actively opted to join. This total reached around 457,000 in 2017.

Key panel quality measures which have been put in place by Lightspeed Research include the checks shown in the table on the right hand side.

Further quality procedures used include the removal of inactive panellists who do not respond to surveys for more than 12 months and ensuring that respondents are not over used by limiting the number of surveys they complete to a maximum of 3 per month and 24 in a 12 months' period. Research Now have agreed to a Service Level Agreement to ensure that similar quality measures are implemented in the work they conduct for Kantar TNS.

<p>Ensuring respondents are who they say they are</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>IP GeoFencing</i> – using the respondents IP address to ensure that they are where they say they are. ▪ <i>Proxy Detection</i> – detecting if a proxy server is being used to mask the respondent's real IP address and past fraudulent activity.; ▪ <i>Postal Address Verification</i> – verifying the respondent's postal address against an address directory. ▪ <i>CAPTCHA</i> – technology which prevents automated programs from registering to the panel. ▪ <i>E-mail Address Verification</i> – checks that e-mail addresses are only included once on our database – all respondents must verify their e-mail address during a double opt in registration process. ▪ <i>Machine ID</i> – technology which blocks survey respondents who attempt to complete the same survey multiple times from the same computer (e.g. using a different identity).
<p>Ensuring responses are valid and properly thought out</p>	<p>Procedures in place to ensure that respondents have properly engaged with the survey and taken time to provide considered responses. This includes the following checks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Survey Speedsters</i> – respondents who rush through the survey are identified by comparing survey completion times to the norm; ▪ <i>Grid Speedsters</i> – similar checks are used to identify respondents who rush through completion of grid questions (e.g. rating scales); ▪ <i>Trap Questions</i> – the addition of survey questions with obvious answers to determine whether a respondent is fully engaged with the survey; ▪ <i>Respondent Satisfaction</i> – feedback is obtained from respondents and assessed to help determine the quality of the survey.

Recontacting respondents

GBDVS has had an annual target of 35,000 interviews with 52 broadly equal sized weekly waves of fieldwork to be completed to achieve around 650 to 700 interviews per week. In 2016 this was increased to 1000 per week for the purposes of GBTS online piloting although the same volumes of respondents continued to be asked GBDVS questions, forming the sample for this study.

In selecting the most appropriate quotas, the demographics likely to be correlated to levels of participation in Tourism Day Visits were considered and the effectiveness of approaches taken in other surveys relating to tourism and leisure were taken into account. Also, given the online approach to be followed, the demographic variables correlated to levels of use of the Internet were also taken into account as described in more detail later in this report (see Section regarding offline survey outputs on page 247).

Demographic quotas

Whilst using a panel partner to achieve the target number of interviews over the course of a year helped achieve the demographic and geographic quotas, it was necessary to include some respondents in more than one wave of the survey. Measures were put in place to minimise the incidence of recontact and to ensure a gap of at least 4 months between each contact.

Evidence suggests there is very little likelihood of introducing bias through this level of recontact and any resultant conditioning. Kantar TNS have conducted research in the past and concluded that for most surveys an 8 week exclusion period led to no measurable conditioning effect. Furthermore the information being collected in GBDVS is factual rather than attitudinal or a measure of awareness. Future behaviour in Tourism Day Visits is very unlikely to be affected by the interview.

However in designing the sampling approach it was also important to minimise the number of quotas used as having too many quota cells would lead to inefficient use of sample and low effective sample sizes.

As such, having taken all of these factors into account, when fieldwork commenced in January 2011, gender, age, working status and the age of completing education were set as quota targets in each survey wave. During the first three months of fieldwork in 2011 while the quotas based on gender, age and working status could be achieved consistently, achieving the targets relating to the education quota was found to be impossible. While around half of the GB population completed education aged 16 or under, the somewhat lower representation of this group within the online population (c.20%) meant that it was very difficult to achieve this particularly quota target.

By the end of March 34% of respondents were in this quota group against a target of 49%.

It was therefore decided, in consultation with the client group, to implement a revised series of quotas and to subsequently address the variations related to education status in the weighting stages (as discussed later in this report). As such, from April 2010 the education status quota was removed and a quota was set on socio-economic status with a target reflecting the GB population of 52% of respondents in the ABC1 socio-economic groups and 48% in the C2DE groups.

The table in the following page illustrates these weekly targets.

Demographic quotas

Table 1.1 Quota targets		Typical weekly target	
Gender	N	%	
Male	329	49	
Female	345	51	
Age			
16-34	206	31	
35-54	224	33	
55-64	95	14	
65+	148	22	
Working status			
Working full or part time	351	52	
Not working (including retired, unemployed)	322	48	
Socio-economic group			
ABC1	365	54	
C2DE	308	46	
Total	673	100	

The annual sample size is divided by 52 to calculate an ideal weekly target. This is to ensure as even a spread as possible across the year, but there is some flexibility each week to ensure the target of 673 interviews is achieved. Future weeks are then reconciled slightly.

The table in the next page illustrates the final sample composition in 2011 to 2017 on the basis of each of the quota targets, including the original age of completing full time education target. In all years all of the targets were achieved or were within 1 or 2 percentage points from target.

Demographic quotas

Table 1.2 – Achieved sample	Final sample profile 2011		Final sample profile 2012		Final sample profile 2013		Final sample profile 2014		Final sample profile 2015		Final sample profile 2016		Final sample profile 2017		Population	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Gender																
Male	18566	49	17312	49	17225	49	17,154	49	17483	49	15879	49	17091	49	49	
Female	19517	51	17950	51	17860	51	17,836	51	18181	51	16512	51	18027	51	51	
Age																
16-34	12063	31	11180	32	11172	32	11169	32	11389	32	9909	31	10702	30	32	
35-54	13100	35	12096	34	11628	33	11909	34	12136	34	10677	33	11685	33	34	
55-64	5560	15	5020	14	4913	14	4888	14	4982	14	4608	14	5011	14	14	
65+	7360	19	6966	20	7096	20	7024	20	7157	20	7197	22	7720	22	20	
Working status																
Working full or part time	23231	61	20993	60	20891	60	21310	61	21457	60	19446	60	21093	60	60	
Not working (including retired, unemployed)	14852	39	14269	40	14194	40	13953	39	14207	40	12967	40	14063	40	40	
Socio-economic status																
ABC1	20468	54	18436	52	18328	52	18124	52	18470	52	17330	54	19098	54	52	
C2DE	17615	46	16826	48	16757	48	16866	48	17194	48	15061	46	16020	46	48	
When stopped full time education																
16 years or younger	12604	33	11015	31	10948	31	10868	31	10677	30	9792	30	10484	30	49	
17-19 years	10323	27	10095	29	10193	29	10480	30	10679	30	9639	30	10422	30	21	
20 years or older	12421	33	11908	34	11767	34	11488	33	11831	33	10885	34	11768	34	22	
Still studying	2735	7	2244	6	2177	6	2154	6	2477	7	2075	6	2444	7	8	
Total	38083	100	35262	100	35085	100	34990	100	35664	100	32391	100	35118	100	100	

Geographic quotas

To ensure geographic representivity in the survey sample, the outgoing sample (i.e. invitations to participate in the survey) were stratified on the basis of NUTS II geography taking into account urban/rural classification of areas. This geography divides England into 30 regions, Scotland into 4 regions and Wales into 2 regions.

As described in more detail in the next section, the GBDVS questionnaire collected details of participation in visit taking during the week prior to interview. As such during the 2017 survey, key details were recorded for 105,936 Leisure Day Visits and, of this total, full details were recorded for those 35,118 Leisure Day Visits which lasted at least 3 hours in duration. A subset of 20,564 of these visits were subsequently classified as Tourism Day Visits, defined as not taken on a regular basis and located outside of the participant's 'usual environment'. Finally, a further 6,203 were classified as Activities Core to Tourism (a classification introduced in 2016).

The table on the next page illustrate the sample sizes for each of these types of visit by the country of residence of respondents during the 2011 to 2017 surveys.

Final visit sample sizes

Table 1.3– Visit sample sizes by country of residence

	2011			2012			2013			2014			2015			2016				2017			
	Leisure Day Visits	3 hours+ Leisure Day Visits	Tourism Day Visits	Leisure Day Visits	3 hours+ Leisure Day Visits	Tourism Day Visits	Leisure Day Visits	3 hours+ Leisure Day Visits	Tourism Day Visits	Leisure Day Visits	3 hours+ Leisure Day Visits	Tourism Day Visits	Leisure Day Visits	3 hours+ Leisure Day Visits	Tourism Day Visits	Leisure Day Visits	3 hours+ Leisure Day Visits	Tourism Day Visits	Activities Core to Tourism	Leisure Day Visits	3 hours+ Leisure Day Visits	Tourism Day Visits	Activities Core to Tourism
GB Total	140,148	35,182	20,442	126,054	33,788	20,689	114,494	30,960	19,146	113,417	31,075	19,096	114,339	30,991	18,732	102,066	32,764	19,806	6,033	105,936	33,691	20,564	6,203
England	97,066	24,897	14,950	83,822	23,085	14,544	79,359	21,750	13,801	79,191	22,020	13,857	81,500	22,222	13,796	72,464	23,651	14,791	4,416	75,643	24,132	15,079	4,516
Scotland	22,203	5,308	2,633	21,224	5,471	3,004	17,503	4,640	2,534	17,116	4,585	2,528	16,483	4,486	2,425	15,093	4,586	2,412	763	15,514	4,795	2,712	838
Wales	20,879	4,977	2,859	21,008	5,232	3,141	17,632	4,570	2,811	17,110	4,470	2,711	16,356	4,283	2,511	14,509	4,186	2,332	854	14,779	4,212	2,773	849

Survey administration and questionnaire

Since the survey commenced in January 2011, the GBDVS data collection has been conducted through a series of weekly surveys. In each week, an appropriate quantity of sample has been sourced from the online panel and e-mails are sent to these panellists inviting them to participate.

This invitation contains the name of the survey, the survey length (15 minutes), the incentive for survey completion and a link to the survey. Invites are always sent on a Monday morning with most respondents completing the questionnaire within a 48 hours period. After selecting the link, the respondent signs-in using his or her password, thereby preventing others with access to that mailbox from completing the questionnaire.

A copy of the survey questionnaire is provided at the end of this section. This questionnaire is presented to respondents in an online electronic format. Benefits of this approach includes automated routing and the ability to include checks where responses were outside of expected ranges (for example in relation to amounts of money spent on a visit).

Using this questionnaire respondents are asked to record details of their general leisure participation, leisure activities they had undertaken during the previous week (focusing on 3+ hours duration visits) and key information about their demographics and place of residence and work or study. While the sample coverage contains only residents of GB (i.e. England, Scotland and Wales), visits taken to any location in the UK could be recorded in the questionnaire, including places in Northern Ireland.

Focusing upon leisure participation during the previous week helps to ensure that the responses provided are more accurate than if a longer recall period was used.

To avoid an excessively long questionnaire length, details of a maximum of 3 visits lasting three hours or more could be recorded in Section 3 of the questionnaire. The weighting approach took account of this cap to ensure that the final aggregated data set was representative of all visits taken.

Note that question numbers 2 and 3 were only included in the 2011 survey, Q13a was added from 2012 and questions regarding disabilities amongst members of the visit party (Q61) and the respondent's sexual orientation and ethnicity (Q62 & Q63) were added in 2013. The TRI*M questions (Q31-Q34) were removed in 2015.

GBDVS methodological changes in 2016 and reweighting of 2011 – 2015 data

Questionnaire improvements

At the start of 2016, improvements were implemented to make the survey more engaging and easy to complete. The primary reason for making these changes was to ensure that the survey could just as easily be completed on a mobile device as on a PC.

It was agreed with the GBDVS sponsors that these changes should be made to allow for the increasing demand from respondents to participate in the survey using a mobile device. Evidence from the first 5 years of GBDVS surveying suggested that whilst an increasing proportion of respondents wanted to complete the survey using a mobile phone, levels of drop out were higher amongst this group due to certain questions not being suited to smaller screens.

Reweighting of 2011 to 2015 estimates

Parallel testing undertaken in early 2016 found that the combined effect of these changes was an increase in levels of visits reported by respondents of around **+15%**.

To take account of this change and maintain comparability of trends, the data from the past years in this report have all been revised to take into account this increase of +15%..

All data for 2011 to 2015 as previously published is referred to as 'historical' while the figures which include the 15% adjustment are referred to as 'reweighted'.

The changes made involved the simplification of certain questions by, for example, reducing the number of answer options provided and splitting questions with long lists of answer options over a number of screens/sub-questions.

It was expected that these improvements would make the questionnaire easier to complete and more engaging for all respondents including both those using a mobile device and those completing using a PC.

Questionnaire revisions

Piloting of the GBDVS 'sister' survey the Great Britain Tourism Survey (GBTS) using an online approach commenced in January 2016. It was agreed that the most efficient and cost effective way to conduct this online test was to add the GBTS questions to the ongoing GBDVS survey.

In practice this change involved the introduction of a number of the GBTS introductory/ screener questions to be asked prior to the existing GBDVS questions and the removal of a historic GBDVS question regarding overnight trips as it had become redundant due to the additions. With these changes some minor 'tweaking' was also required in the wording of questions to make the text clear and to ensure consistency between the two surveys.

As part of the GBTS online piloting some respondents received a questionnaire which had more significant changes to ordering, for example asking all of the GBTS questions of respondents prior to GBDVS. However, none of the data from the respondents in these survey cells was used in production of final GBVDS data.

Table 1.4 – GBDVS - Summary of questionnaire content

Question No.	Question (N.B. exact wording is not used below)
	SECTION 1 - GENERAL LIFE AND ACTIVITIES SECTION
1	When most recently returned from an overnight trip in the UK
2 (2011 SURVEY ONLY)	How often normally undertake routine shopping for groceries, other routine shopping, other leisure activities like playing sport, gym, walking, hobbies.
3 (2011 SURVEY ONLY)	How often normally undertake leisure activities – see list of 15 categories in Table 1.2 below.
4	When most recently took part in any of the 15 activity categories – answer options include last week.
	SECTION 2 – LEISURE DAY VISITS IN PREVIOUS WEEK
5	Number of leisure visits taken in previous week involving any of 15 activities as determined at Q4
6	Activities undertaken during each visit
8	Duration of trip
	SECTION 3 - 3+ HOUR LEISURE DAY VISITS IN PREVIOUS WEEK (questions asked only for visits lasting 3+ hours. A maximum of 3 visits asked about per respondent – selected randomly when more have been taken)
13	General type of place visited
13a (INCLUDED FROM 2012)	General type of place visited – single main place if more than one chosen at Q13
13b	Region of main visit destination
11	Main destination - village, town or city
12	London borough visited
14	Type of place visit started from (home, work, other)
15	Name of village, town or city visit started from
16	Total distance travelled during visit (round trip from start to finish)
17	Single main form of transport used
18	Single main activity undertaken during visit
19	Detailed activity/activities undertaken during visit (list of 48 answer options)

Table 1.4 (continued) – GBDVS - Summary of questionnaire content

Question No.	Question (N.B. exact wording is not used below)
	SECTION 1 - GENERAL LIFE AND ACTIVITIES SECTION
Q20-Q22	Inclusion of secondary destination(s) in visit
Q23	Visit duration – overall, time spent travelling, time in different destinations
Q24-Q25	Party composition
Q61	Whether any members of visit party had a disability (INCLUDED FROM 2013)
Q26-Q28	Visit expenditure - items purchased, amounts spent
Q29	Regularity take visit i.e. to same place to do same activity
Q30	Frequency take visit i.e. to same place to do same activity
(Only 2011 to 2013)	SECTION 4 – VISITOR EXPERIENCE (asked only for visits involving certain activities, used form TRI*M analysis in England only)
Q31	Overall experience of destination
Q32	Likelihood to recommend destination
Q33	Likelihood to revisit destination
Q34	Rating of destination compared to others in UK
	SECTION 5 – CLASSIFICATION QUESTIONS
Q40	Region of residence
Q40b	London borough live in
Q41	Village, town or city live in
Q45-Q47	Place work in if different from place of residence
Q48-Q50	Place study in if different from place of residence
Q51-Q52	Place(s) take part in routine shopping, other routine activities
Demographic questions	Children in household Marital status Car access Working status Age when stopped full time education Socio-Economic Grade Internet usage (hours per week) Sexual orientation (Q62, INCLUDED FROM 2013) Ethnicity (Q63, INCLUDED FROM 2013)

Data preparation and analysis

Data quality checks

The general quality checks in place to ensure the validity of panel respondents and the responses they provide are described on page 224. In addition to these general checks, a number of further checks were implemented either as part of the GBDVS questionnaire script, whereby respondents were asked to validate their own responses at certain points, or post fieldwork when checks were conducted by the Kantar TNS study team to identify then correct or remove invalid responses.

The following quality checks were included within the survey script:

- Question 5 – number of visits taken - if respondents indicated that they had taken more than one leisure visit within a single day, a subsequent question was asked to ensure that these were actually separate outings (i.e. with the participant returning to their home/ workplace/ holiday accommodation) between visits rather than just separate stages of a single longer trip
- Question 23 – visit duration - if the sum of the durations spent at different stages of the visit varied from the previous response at Question 8 regarding total trip duration, respondents were asked to confirm or re-enter their response
- Question 27 – expenditure – if respondents claimed to have spent £500 or more on any single expenditure category they were asked to confirm or re-enter their response

Data preparation and analysis

In the processing of the annual data, further quality checks and edits were undertaken as follows:

- Region visited – question 13b asks respondents to indicate where they visited, selecting answers from a list of Government Office Regions while question 11 recorded the name of the specific village, town or city visited. Post fieldwork, responses to question 11 were profiled at a number of geographic levels including Local Authority, Country and Government Office Region. Where the region of the village, town or city selected at question 11 did not match the region selected by the same respondent at question 13, responses were manually checked and corrected where possible. Also where a response of Don't Know was provided at question 13b, the response from question 11 was used to determine the region visited
- Visit Expenditure - where the reported total expenditure for an individual visit exceeded £5,000 this visit was removed from the data as it was felt that the data was either unreliable or would have an undesirably disproportionate impact on the grossed estimates of total visits. Also, all other visits with a reported spend of over £500 were manually reviewed and any answers considered not to be viable were removed
- Very large expenditure weights – similarly if following the above removal of visit spend outliers, the expenditure of visit weight for any individual visit still exceeded 500 (i.e. meaning that this single visit contributed £0.5m or more to grossed estimates) this visit would be removed from the data

Distance travelled

Question 16 asks respondents to indicate the total distance they travelled during their trip, selecting their response from a list of distance bands.

During 2011, an analysis was undertaken to determine the accuracy of responses to this question by taking data on the start and end points of visits to derive the actual distances between these points. Full details of this exercise and its outcomes are provided in the appendix.

In summary, this comparison found that the distances provided by respondents were often inaccurate with the claimed distance typically lower than the real distance travelled. To improve the accuracy of responses at this question, from January 2012, a change was made to the question to increase the number of distance bands available to respondents who claimed to have travelled more than 100 miles. The change made involved the replacement of the original single answer option of 'over 100 miles' with 5 new bands - '101 to 149 miles', '150 to 200 miles', '201 to 250 miles', '251 to 300 miles' and 'over 300 miles'. Also from January 2012 the 'don't know' answer option was made more prominent to ensure that respondents with no idea of the distance travelled on their visit provided this response rather than a guessed distance.

Given the above, the data collected at question 16 should be treated as indicative of total distances travelled. Accordingly when results from this question are presented they are labelled 'claimed distances'.

Defining Tourism Day Visits

The World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) defines a Tourism Day Visit as a same day visit taken for leisure purposes outside of the participants 'usual environment'. However, there is no definitive UNWTO definition of 'usual environment'. Instead, recognising the impact of national variations in factors such as population density and transport accessibility, UNWTO recommend that national tourism organisations determine their own definitions of 'usual environment', taking account of the following criteria:

- The frequency of trip – UNWTO propose that places frequently visited within an individual's 'current life routine' should be considered as their 'usual environment'. This includes usual places of work or study and other regularly visited places such as the homes of friends or relatives or shopping centres, even if they are some distance from home or in a different administrative area
- The duration of trip – UNWTO propose that countries should take account of the duration of visits when determining a definition of usual environment. No specific recommendations such as minimum durations are provided
- The crossing of administrative borders and distance from usual place of residence – recognising the varying scale of administrative areas in different countries and the fact that individuals live at different distances from borders, UNWTO recommend that the crossing of administrative borders and distance from home should be considered together when establishing the limits of an individual's usual environment

These criteria were all taken into account in the design of the GBDVS questionnaire and subsequent decisions regarding how best to analyse Tourism Day Visits as discussed in the next page.

Defining Tourism Day Visits

GBDVS captures headline data on the volume of visits from home involving any of the activities listed in the table below. Any participation in the above activities, outside of the respondent’s home but in any place within the UK could be considered to be a Leisure Day Visit. When more than one activity was undertaken within a single trip away from home (e.g. undertaking outdoor leisure activities and going out for a meal), this would be treated as a single Leisure Day Visit and the main activity undertaken was also recorded.

Table 1.6 – Leisure activities included in definition of Leisure Day Visit

Visiting friends or family for leisure
'Special' shopping for items that you do not regularly buy
Going out for a meal
Going on a night out to a bar, pub and/or club
Going out for entertainment – to a cinema, concert or theatre

Table 1.6 (continued) – Leisure activities included in definition of Leisure Day Visit

Undertaking outdoor leisure activities such as walking, cycling, golf, etc.
Taking part in other leisure activities such as hobbies, evening classes, etc. (outside of your home)
Taking part in sports, including exercise classes, going to the gym, etc.
Watching live sporting events (not on TV)
Going to visitor attractions such as a historic house, garden, theme park, museum, zoo, etc.
Going to special public event such as a festival, exhibition, etc.
Going to special events of a personal nature such as a wedding, graduation, christening, etc.
Going on days out to a beauty or health spa/centre, etc.
Going on general days out/ to explore an area
Going on day trips/excursions for other leisure purpose not mentioned above

Respondents provided information on the volume of Leisure Day Visits taken and then full details of any Leisure Day Visits lasting 3 hours or more. Further filters based on the regularity of visit and place visited were then applied to these visits to define the subset of Tourism Day Visits:

- **Regularity** - the participant must indicate that the visit (i.e. same activity in same place) is not undertaken 'very regularly' (i.e. as recorded at question 29)
- **Place** - the destination of the visit must be different from the place (i.e. city, town, village or London borough) where the participant lives. If the visit is taken from a workplace, the destination must be in a different place from the workplace. However this rule is not applied when the visit has involved watching live sporting events, going to visitor attractions or going to special public events

The definitions were agreed by the survey sponsors following a significant amount of discussion and testing of alternative definitions. The final definition meets the UNWTO recommendations by taking account of the activity undertaken (i.e., as listed above), visit duration (at least 3 hours overall), how regularly the trip is taken and the place visited.

Defining Activities Core to Tourism

In addition to 3+hours and Tourism Day Visits sections, a new section allowing a better view of the volume and expenditure of the touristic activities in the UK was added: the Activities Core to Tourism section.

Effectively, this new section is a subset of the Tourism Day Visit and includes only respondents that undertook certain activities as seen in the table on the right hand side.

Like with the TDV section, the definition of this new section was agreed by the survey sponsors following a significant amount of discussion.

Table 1.7 – Leisure activities included in definition of Activities Core to Tourism

Going out for entertainment (i.e. concert or theatre)

Undertake outdoor leisure activities such as walking, cycling, golf etc.

Watch live sporting event (not on TV)

Going to visitor attractions such as a historic house, garden, theme park, museum, zoo, etc.

Going to a special public event such as a festival, exhibition, etc.

Going to special public event such as a festival, exhibition, etc.

Going to special events of a personal nature such as a wedding, graduation, christening, etc.

Going on general days out/ to explore an area

But excluding going to the cinema

Weighting development

As described previously, quotas are used in the GBDVS data collection stage to increase the representivity of the survey sample on the basis of certain key demographics and by geography. However to correct for any remaining biases and further increase the representivity of the survey, data weights are also applied during the processing of each month's results.

The outputs of this process include estimates of the total volume of Tourism Day Visits taken by the GB adult population and results representative of the adult population and the visits they have taken over the study period. The following sections describe the weighting stages applied and some of the key considerations when each of the stages were developed.

Demographic weighting

This stage of weighting is applied to correct for variations between the demographic distribution of respondents and the GB population. Table 1.2 illustrates how the fieldwork quotas applied ensured that the sample was representative of the wider population in terms of a number of broad gender, age, working status and socio-economic groups. However when the profile of survey data set is compared with the population profile on the basis of other demographic variables, certain groups can be seen to be over or under represented. For example when age and gender are interlocked there is an under representation of males aged 16 to 24 but over representation of males aged 65 and over.

Similarly, as discussed previously, the sample contains a lower proportion of people who terminated education aged 16 years or over than is found in the GB population and, as might be expected given the survey mode, most panelists are very regular Internet users (93% accessing on a daily basis compared to 60% amongst the GB adult population).

In developing the weighting solution it was important to take account of these variations between the sample population and GB population profile. The review undertaken to develop a weight solution also found that the demographics most correlated to levels of visit taking included age, socio-economic group, age of terminating education and car ownership and data from the offline surveying indicated that certain groups were more likely than others to use the Internet very frequently (more details are provided later in the report).

As such, based on the results of this review, during 2011 a large number of alternative weighting solutions were tested to find the best balance between increasing the representivity of the survey data and maintaining an acceptably high level of weighting efficiency (i.e. data is 'lost' when weighting is applied to data and increasing the number of weighting factors will typically have a negative effect on weighting efficiency). Each of these solutions was reviewed and discussed in detail with the client group to determine the most appropriate solution for the ongoing survey.

Weighting development

Following this process it was decided that the following series of demographic weights should be applied to each month's data:

- Gender (male/female), age (16-24/25-44/45-64/65+) and region (GOR x 11) interlocked
- Social grade
- Age terminated education

By applying this combination of weights the overall weighting efficiency has been found to be around 70% on average.

This means that while a total of 35,118 interviews were conducted in GBDVS during 2017, the effective sample size is around 25,000. The weighting targets used are provided in the tables in this page and the next one (figures in thousands) the overall sum of these weights is 49.236 million, reflecting the size of the GB adult population.

Table 1.8 Social grade and TAE weighting targets ('000s)

	Social Grade
AB	11,370
C1	14,067
C2	10,342
DE	13,457
	Terminal Age Education
16 years or younger	24,188
17-19 years	10,635
20 years or older	10,961
Still Studying	3,453

Weighting development

Table 1.9 Age x Gender x Region weighting targets ('000s)

East Midlands Male 16-24	284	South West Male 16-24	322
East Midlands Male 25-44	580	South West Male 25-44	650
East Midlands Male 45-64	585	South West Male 45-64	685
East Midlands Male 65+	346	South West Male 65+	460
East Midlands Female 16-24	269	South West Female 16-24	293
East Midlands Female 25-44	584	South West Female 25-44	641
East Midlands Female 45-64	593	South West Female 45-64	721
East Midlands Female 65+	423	South West Female 65+	575
East of England Male 16-24	334	West Midlands Male 16-24	339
East of England Male 25-44	782	West Midlands Male 25-44	705
East of England Male 45-64	748	West Midlands Male 45-64	685
East of England Male 65+	455	West Midlands Male 65+	415
East of England Female 16-24	308	West Midlands Female 16-24	325
East of England Female 25-44	774	West Midlands Female 25-44	710
East of England Female 45-64	769	West Midlands Female 45-64	699
East of England Female 65+	564	West Midlands Female 65+	522
London Male 16-24	455	Yorkshire and the Humber Male 16-24	363
London Male 25-44	1,442	Yorkshire and the Humber Male 25-44	709
London Male 45-64	827	Yorkshire and the Humber Male 45-64	664
London Male 65+	390	Yorkshire and the Humber Male 65+	382
London Female 16-24	440	Yorkshire and the Humber Female 16-24	344
London Female 25-44	1,368	Yorkshire and the Humber Female 25-44	703
London Female 45-64	861	Yorkshire and the Humber Female 45-64	677
London Female 65+	512	Yorkshire and the Humber Female 65+	486

Table 1.9 Age x Gender x Region weighting targets ('000s)

North East Male 16-24	175	Scotland Male 16-24	319
North East Male 25-44	329	Scotland Male 25-44	682
North East Male 45-64	344	Scotland Male 45-64	688
North East Male 65+	197	Scotland Male 65+	375
North East Female 16-24	163	Scotland Female 16-24	306
North East Female 25-44	334	Scotland Female 25-44	704
North East Female 45-64	355	Scotland Female 45-64	732
North East Female 65+	252	Scotland Female 65+	504
North West Male 16-24	447	Wales Male 16-24	193
North West Male 25-44	907	Wales Male 25-44	358
North West Male 45-64	887	Wales Male 45-64	390
North West Male 65+	508	Wales Male 65+	247
North West Female 16-24	427	Wales Female 16-24	182
North West Female 25-44	898	Wales Female 25-44	369
North West Female 45-64	912	Wales Female 45-64	408
North West Female 65+	652	Wales Female 65+	311
South East Male 16-24	500		
South East Male 25-44	1,115		
South East Male 45-64	1096		
South East Male 65+	646		
South East Female 16-24	469		
South East Female 25-44	1,133		
South East Female 45-64	1,131		
South East Female 65+	823		

Visit weighting

In many of the data outputs from GBDVS, the weighted base represents all of the visits taken by GB residents over the period of interest (i.e. month, quarter or year). To obtain data at this level, further weights must be applied in addition to the demographic weights.

The approaches followed to apply this visit level weighting are very similar to those followed in previous surveys of Day Visits (e.g. ELVS in 2005 and GBDVS in 2002) and in other ongoing monitors of leisure participation such as the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment which is undertaken by Natural England.

In summary the following steps are followed:

- The total claimed number of trips is calculated for each respondent (TCT). That is the total number of trips of 3 hours duration taken in the previous week, as recorded at question 8
- The total number of trips with details given is calculated for each respondent (TDT). That is the number of trips asked about in Section 3 of the questionnaire (Q13 to Q30) which is capped at a maximum of 3
- The Trip Correction Factor (TCF) for each respondent is calculated as follows: $TCF = TCT / TDT$
- The Calendar Month Factor (CMF) is calculated as the total days in the reporting month divided by the number of days reported by each respondent as falling into that month
- The Total Visit Weight (TVW) is calculated for each respondent as the product of their Demographic Weight (DW), Trip Correction Factor (TCF) and Calendar Month Factor (CMF)
- The estimate of the total number of visits taken in each month by the GB adult population is the sum of the Total Visit Weights

Following this process weighted estimates of the volume of visits taken and the profile of these visits have been produced for each month. Quarterly and annual results have then been obtained by combining these estimates.

Expenditure of visit weighting

GBDVS visit based results are also presented in terms of the expenditure of expenditure made during visits. To obtain results at this level, a further weight is applied to each visit recorded using responses to question 27 regarding total visit spend. In summary, the Total Visit expenditure Weight (TVVW) is obtained by multiplying the Total Visit Weight (TVW) by total visit spend.

Offline survey

Undertaking GBDVS using an online survey method represented a significant change from the approaches followed in previous surveys regarding leisure and tourism participation. Indeed GBDVS is one of the largest monitors undertaken using an online approach with most other surveys conducted by the public sector in the UK continuing to administered through 'traditional' face to face or telephone survey methods.

Given this innovative nature of the GBDVS approach, during the first year of fieldwork it was felt important that some parallel offline surveying was undertaken. The purpose of this parallel data collection was to provide a measure of the validity of the data collected online and thereby identify measures that could be taken to increase the robustness of data. Comparison of the data collected online and offline focused upon the following key areas:

- Mode effect – i.e. differences in the data collected through the interviewer administered approach traditionally used in surveys of this nature to an online self completion approach
- The effect of the online sample being dominated by people who regularly access the Internet
- Details of visits report – comparing the profile of visits reported using each mode

Approach

6 waves of offline surveying were undertaken on the following dates to achieve a total sample of 6,363:

- w/b 21st February 2011 – 1,009 interviews
- w/b 23rd May 2011 – 1,255 interviews
- w/b 27th July 2011 - 1,026 interviews
- w/b 8th August 2011 – 980 interviews
- w/b 10th October 2011 – 1,052 interviews
- w/b 12th December 2011 – 1,041 interviews

In each survey wave a shortened version of the GBDVS questionnaire was included in the Kantar TNS in-home omnibus. To minimise the mode effect the questions were worded identically and scripted in a self completion format, allowing interviewers to hand their CAPI tablet computer to the respondent to allow them to complete the questionnaire themselves.

The profile of this sample was in line with the standard in-home omnibus quotas (based on gender, age and working status) and the data were subsequently weighted using an identical approach to that used for the online data.

Offline survey

Mode effect

Comparing the weighted data collected online with the weighted data collected offline, we see that in the offline approach details of around a third (34%) fewer 3 hours+ visits are recorded overall. A similar difference is found if this comparison is based only on those respondents who access the Internet daily.

These differences provide an indication of the scale of the mode effect i.e. when demographic and internet usage variations are controlled for through the application of weights and focusing the analysis on regular Internet users only, most of the remaining difference in the results is likely to relate to differences in how responses are given when completing the survey in different ways.

For example the lower volume of visits typically recorded in the off line survey may relate to respondents abbreviating their responses as they feel under pressure to complete the survey quickly as an interviewer is present. However, while the online survey provides respondents with more time to provide a full and considered response, its self completion nature could lead to respondents misunderstanding questions so potentially providing invalid responses.

Sample profile

As shown in the table below by definition, all of those who responded to the main GBDVS online in 2011 had internet access while in the parallel offline surveying 24% of respondents had no access to the Internet. Also, over the course of 2011, 78% of the online survey interviews were conducted with respondents who claimed to access the Internet on a daily basis some for many hours per day, this compared with 53% of the offline sample.

Table 1.10 sample profile by internet usage	Full GBDVS online sample	Off-line sample
No Internet access	-	24%
Any Internet access	100%	76%
Daily Internet access	78%	53%

The data collected in the off-line survey could be used to compare the demographic profile of daily Internet users with those people who accessed the Internet less frequently or never. This comparison found that age, gender, working status and age of completing education were all found to be correlated to whether or not an individual accessed the Internet daily. Most significantly, daily internet users were more likely to be male, aged under 45, working and to have completed education aged 17 or over.

These findings reinforced the importance of using these demographic variables as survey quotas and in the final weighting solution to counteract for some of the potential biases caused by the high proportion of daily Internet users in a sample drawn from an online panel.

Offline survey

Further results comparison

As mentioned above, the off-line approach provides estimates of the volume of 3 hours+ visits taken which are around a third higher than obtained from the online approach. Following a review it has been concluded that most of this difference is likely to be a mode effect rather than related to the sample profile.

The off-line survey waves also collected details regarding general frequency of participation in leisure activities and the profile of day visits (i.e. destination type, activities undertaken, etc.).

In summary a comparison of this range of different results illustrated the following:

- In results where respondents were asked whether or not they had undertaken a particular leisure activity and frequency of participation in this activity (i.e. at questions 3 and 4), respondents in the online survey were consistently more likely to report participation than those interviewed in the off-line interviewer administered approach. This is similar to the overall higher levels of reporting of visit participation and is also likely to be related to how respondents complete the questionnaire i.e. with online respondents taking more time to complete responses than those conducting the interviewer administered questionnaire
- However it is notable that in results relating to the profile of visits taken – for example the places visited, activities undertaken and distances travelled - the results obtained in the online and off-line surveying were very similar. This similarity was also found in the piloting of different methods undertaken by ETIP in 2009 and 2010

Further outputs from the off-line surveying (including data tables and further charts illustrating comparisons of the data collected using the different modes) are available separately.

Accuracy of results

The previous sections of this report have outlined the many measures taken to ensure that the data collected in GBDVS are as accurate as possible and that subsequent analysis stages provide results which are as representative as possible of the GB adult population.

Normally in a large survey of this nature the confidence intervals associated with key results are calculated to provide an indication of the accuracy of these findings. However, as discussed previously, in any survey conducted through an online panel approach, rather than being selected at random the respondents 'opt-in' to the survey. Therefore the approaches normally followed to calculate confidence intervals cannot be relied upon to provide a complete measure of the accuracy of the survey findings and only indicative estimates of the accuracy of GBDVS can be provided.

GBDVS 2017 involved some 35,118 interviews and the weighting solution used was estimated to have an efficiency of around 70%. On that basis the effective total sample size was estimated at around 25,000.

The table on the right hand side illustrates the margins of error that would be associated with results obtained with this total effective sample and with the equivalent national samples if data collection was undertaken using a pure random probability sampling approach.

Table 1.11 Margin of error at 95% levels of confidence with a Simple Random Sample			
	All Respondents	In England	In Scotland and Wales
Effective sample size	25,000	17,500	3,500
Result			
10% or 90%	+/- 0.31%	+/- 0.37%	+/- 0.99%
20% or 80%	+/- 0.42%	+/- 0.50%	+/- 1.33%
30% or 70%	+/- 0.48%	+/- 0.57%	+/- 1.52%
40% or 60%	+/- 0.51%	+/- 0.61%	+/- 1.62%
50%	+/- 0.52%	+/- 0.62%	+/- 1.66%

By comparison Natural England's MENE survey which also collects details of frequency of leisure participation through weekly waves of fieldwork and a 7 day diary approach has an annual effective sample size of around 28,000 interviews. The data collected in this survey is used to obtain an estimate of total annual visits to the natural environment, following a very similar weighting and grossing approach to that applied in GBDVS.

As this survey is conducted using an in-home interviewing approach with respondents selected to participate in the survey it is possible to calculate the complex standard errors associated with key results. As such it has been estimated that the total estimate of volume of visits obtained from MENE are accurate to within a range of around +/-2%.

Further details

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The statutory tourist boards and Visit Wales (the Tourism Department of the Welsh Government) jointly sponsor the Great Britain Day Visits Survey.