

A COMPARITIVE ANALYSIS OF THE FACTORS
INFLUENCING NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT BY A
UK MAINLAND AND A UK CROWN DEPENDENT WILDLIFE
TRUST – A CASE STUDY OF THE ALDERNEY WILDLIFE
TRUST AND THE ISLES OF SCILLY WILDLIFE TRUST

by

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Abstract

This dissertation compared and then analysed the different factors affecting nature reserve management. It specifically focused on the difference between a UK, based Isles of Scilly, and a Crown Dependent, based Alderney, Wildlife Trust. It investigated the different UK statuses protecting nature reserves and related what effect that had upon the factors influencing the management of nature reserves. The methods used included visitor surveying and interviews of the manager's within the two study areas. Furthermore, it questioned the opinions of Wildlife Trust Officers on this subject.

The core factors found to influence nature reserve management were conservation, visitors and education. Finance was also deemed a fundamental factor, by both directly and indirectly affecting factors influencing management.

In conclusion, it is believed that the improving of financial support for all Wildlife Trusts would enable them to achieve their aims and improve their strategies to deal with their identifying factors. This would be especially true within small organisations, such as those studied, due to lower levels of core funding.

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CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION

There is a high level of study into nature reserves, including the use of mathematical models in designing them (Williams, ReVelle and Levin, 2004) and specific factors shaping the implementation of protected area management (Togridou, Hovardas and Pantis, 2006), a specific investigation into the affects of the management of nature reserves comparing a Crown Decency and UK Wildlife Trust has not to the authors knowledge been conducted. This study was prompted by a one year work placement of the author's from Harper Adams University College, with the Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT). Through the year the difficulties of operating an environmental non-governmental organisation, with limited funding, were discovered. However, the author wished to see if this **lack of funding** affected the factors influencing the **management** of nature reserves. Alderney Wildlife Trust was chosen to help illustrate the effect of being a UK Crown dependency has upon it. The Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (IoS) (part of the UK) was believed to be of an equivalent size to allow an appropriate comparison. The findings of this report will be made available to both the aforementioned Wildlife Trusts.

Nature reserves are well-used management tools of the environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs), as well as being government designations. Their management often varies due to the different habitats that they occupy, however, there are some common issues which occur upon all nature reserves regardless of: ownership, designating body, or habitat. These include: visitor influences, funding, conservation of species and landscape work, and public education.

Resources available to all UK based nature reserves include lottery funding, Defra grants and landfill tax initiatives. However, some areas although dependent upon the UK for example for military defence, are not entitled to this funding. These are the Crown Dependences and include the Channel Island of Alderney (as part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey). Alderney has its own Wildlife Trust, which is part of the 'The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts'.

This study will compare the factors influencing the management of a UK mainland and a Crown Dependent Wildlife Trust. Due to their similarities this study will specifically examine of Trusts of Alderney and the Isles of Scilly (see section 2.1.1). Although both Trusts are based in Britain, Alderney as a Crown Dependency is not able to access the same funding as the Isles of Scilly, Consequently, this project will hope to highlight any contrasting influencing management factors between UK and Crown Dependencies. It will look into what of these factors are transferred across all Wildlife Trusts and if there are any means to combat them.

The survey work will be conducted in a range of methods including; interviews with Trust officers responsible for the management of the nature reserves within each Wildlife Trust and surveys of visitors to nature reserves within both Trusts. In addition this study will look at obtaining further information from other reserve officers from all the Wildlife Trusts across the UK. This should provide a greater background understanding of the issues across the UK and therefore highlight any issues specific to these two Wildlife Trusts.

This work will be supported by a literature study specifically looking at any influence visitors have on nature reserve management and the effect this has on other areas such as the funding.

CHAPTER 2 – STUDY AREA

2.1 Why Alderney and the Isles of Scilly?

Alderney and the Isles of Scilly are both island land-masses in a similar geographical position, being situated within the English Channel. Both are British with a similar population size. The Wildlife Trusts have a similar sized membership base. The similarities in size of the Trust and the islands make an interesting comparison between a Crown Dependency and part of the UK.

2.1.1 Wildlife

The two study areas are important areas for wildlife study, including a variety of rare, unusual and unique wildlife.

The study areas are the only places associated with the United Kingdom that have the White Toothed Shrew as a resident breeding species and therefore a UK important species. Alderney with the Greater White Toothed Shrew (*Crocidura russula*) and Isles of Scilly with the Lesser White Toothed Shrew (*Crocidura suaveolens*).

The Isles of Scilly are ornithologically well known and provide resting places for many unusual migrants. Alderney is the southern range of some of the Northern Atlantic species such as the Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) and within its waters contains some two percent of the world's population of Gannets (*Morus bassanus*) (Wetlands International, Date Unknown).

2.1.2 Wildlife Conservation

Both Alderney and the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trusts can be described as Conservation, Amenity and Recreation Trusts (CARTs), as defined by Dwyer and Hodge (1995), as they are both largely non-profit, charitable organisations that aim to generate public benefit through nature conservation and environmental improvement. Dwyer and Hodge (1995) note that CARTs own, lease, or have long term-term management responsibility for open land, upon which they pursue their aims.

2.1.3 Political Situations

Although both areas have a different UK status, there are political similarities. The Isles of Scilly are a unitary authority which has its own council. However, due to the nature of the islands all candidates run as “independents” and there is no party politics within the islands. Obviously being outside of the UK Alderney would not have the UK political parties but all its candidates also run as “independents”. Although part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, Alderney is largely self governing with some services provided by Guernsey.

2.2 Alderney

The island of Alderney and its surrounding islands and islets are the most northerly of the British Channel Islands. It is situated eight miles off the coast of mainland Europe. At three and a half miles long by one and a half miles wide it is the third largest Channel Island and has a population of 2,294 within the 2001 Census (States of Guernsey, 2002).

Alderney is part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey and is therefore a United Kingdom Crown Dependency. This means that it receives the support of the British Government in areas of Defence and Foreign policy similar to that of the Isle of Man. However, it is a self-governing body, which means that it sets its own tax levels and is not a member of the European Union (EU) and does not receive the funding support of the British Government in the form of grants or Landfill and National Lottery funding.

2.2.1 Alderney Wildlife Trust

The Wildlife Trust on Alderney was set up in May 2002 joining the United Kingdom (UK) National Wildlife Trust Network (part of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT)).

The Alderney Wildlife Trust has an approximate turnover of £66,305, and a membership of 414 individual members (taking family membership as 2.7). The Alderney Wildlife Trust's Constitution (2002) states that it is set up to, "benefit the public, advance, promote and further the conservation and protection of habitats, places of natural beauty, scientific interest and features of landscape value". It also notes the requirement to "advance the education of the public to the importance of Alderney's Wildlife", particularly the young.

Alderney Wildlife Trust currently employs one member of paid staff. The Trust also employs three voluntary members of staff, who occupy a variety of positions including Trust Ecologist and Assistant Manager.

2.3 Isles of Scilly

The Isles of Scilly are an archipelago of islands situated in the English Channel off the coast of Cornwall in the South West of the United Kingdom. Altogether there are over 400 islands of which only five are inhabited (population 2,153 (National Statistics, Date Unknown). The IoS manages 1846 hectares (to the lowest astronomical tide). Although the Isles of Scilly are also situated in the English Channel they are part of the United Kingdom and are therefore eligible for management grants and support from UK and European agencies and designations.

2.3.1 Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust

The Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (IoS) has an approximate turnover of £60,000, and a membership of approximately 400 individual members. The main objectives of the IoS as stated within their Habitat Management Plan 2003-13 (2002) are similar to those stated by the AWT however specialising as would be expected within the Scilly Isles.

Within the IoS there is currently the Senior Conservation Warden, Heathlands Project Officer, Office Administrator and a Seasonal Seabird Officer all paid; the last three positions are all completely funding based with the Senior Conservation Warden 60% funded.

2.4 Nature Reserves

The term ‘nature reserve’ is a designation that land owners and managers can bestow upon any land that they own or manage and it does not have any legal status. Nature reserves are defined by the National Parks and Access in the 1949 Countryside Act as:

Section 15 Meaning of “nature reserve”

(1) ...the expression “nature reserve” means land managed for the purpose—

(a) of providing, under suitable conditions and control, special opportunities for the study of, and research into, matters relating to the fauna and flora of Great Britain and the physical conditions in which they live, and for the study of geological and physiographical features of special interest in the area, or

(b) of preserving flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features of special interest in the area,

or for both those purposes.

(Great Britain. Parliament, 1949 p10)

Marren (2002) commented that if we lived in a pre-industrial society in which farming and wildlife existed in harmony, we might not need nature reserves at all. Marren also comments that many hold nature reserves as the embodiment of nature conservation in practise. Marren, also notes that nature reserves do not necessarily have to be set apart exclusively for wildlife.

Within the United Kingdom there are National Nature Reserve (NNR), Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Marine Nature Reserve (MNR) designations, although European directives have superseded the latter. These designations are not available to Alderney, but are in Isles of Scilly, although they are not in place.

2.4.1 Alderney Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves

The Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT) manages two Nature Reserves known as the “Longis and East Coast Nature Reserve” and the “Val du Saou Nature Reserve”. Both these reserves are managed under land management agreements with landowners. These landowners are private individuals and the States of Alderney. The Longis Nature Reserve is approximately 90 hectares and the Val du Saou Nature Reserve is approximately four hectare’s (AWT, 2005).

2.4.2 Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves

The Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust manages 1846 hectares of land spread across the Islands, bar Treco including all the uninhabited islets and rocks, this land is leased from the Duchy of Cornwall. The Trust does not have specific sites set aside as nature reserves. All marginal land such as cliff-tops are managed as protected areas or nature reserves as defined by the Countryside Act 1949.

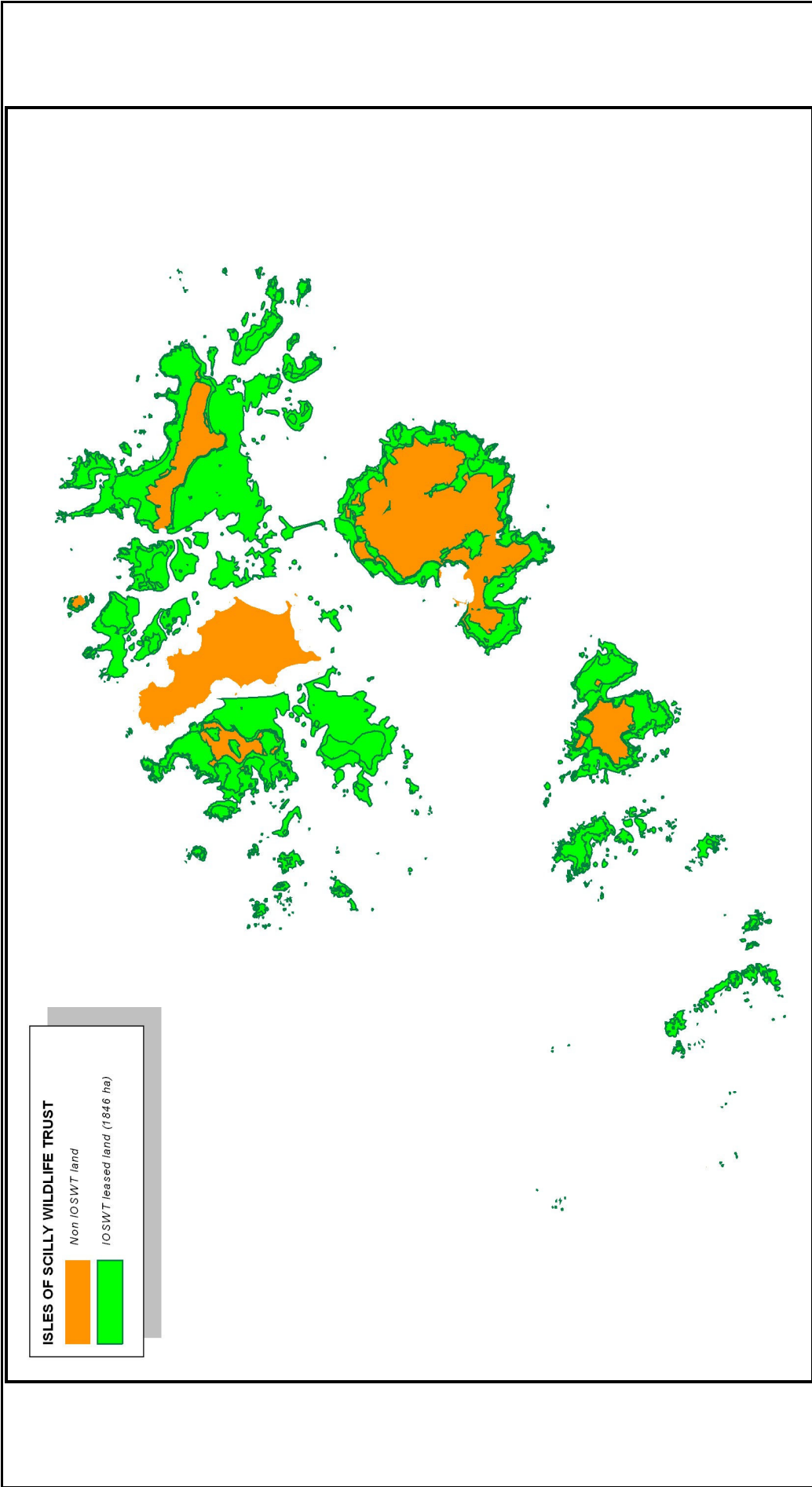


Figure 2.4.1: Map showing the areas of land managed by the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust. (Map courtesy of IoS)

CHAPTER 3 – LITERATURE STUDY

The study of literature within this area was limited due to the precise nature of the study. However, wider research into overall management of protected areas within the UK, Europe and further a field gave a wide range of information. This can be split into finance, management, designations and visitors as well as specifically upon the study areas. This research established the basis of this study.

3.1 Management and Conservation

3.1.1 Management and Conservation

Conservation and management within habitat and nature conservation are difficult tasks as there are many different stakeholders who have their own opinions on sites and the management of them.

Alexander, 2005 uses this flow chart to aid the design of management plans.

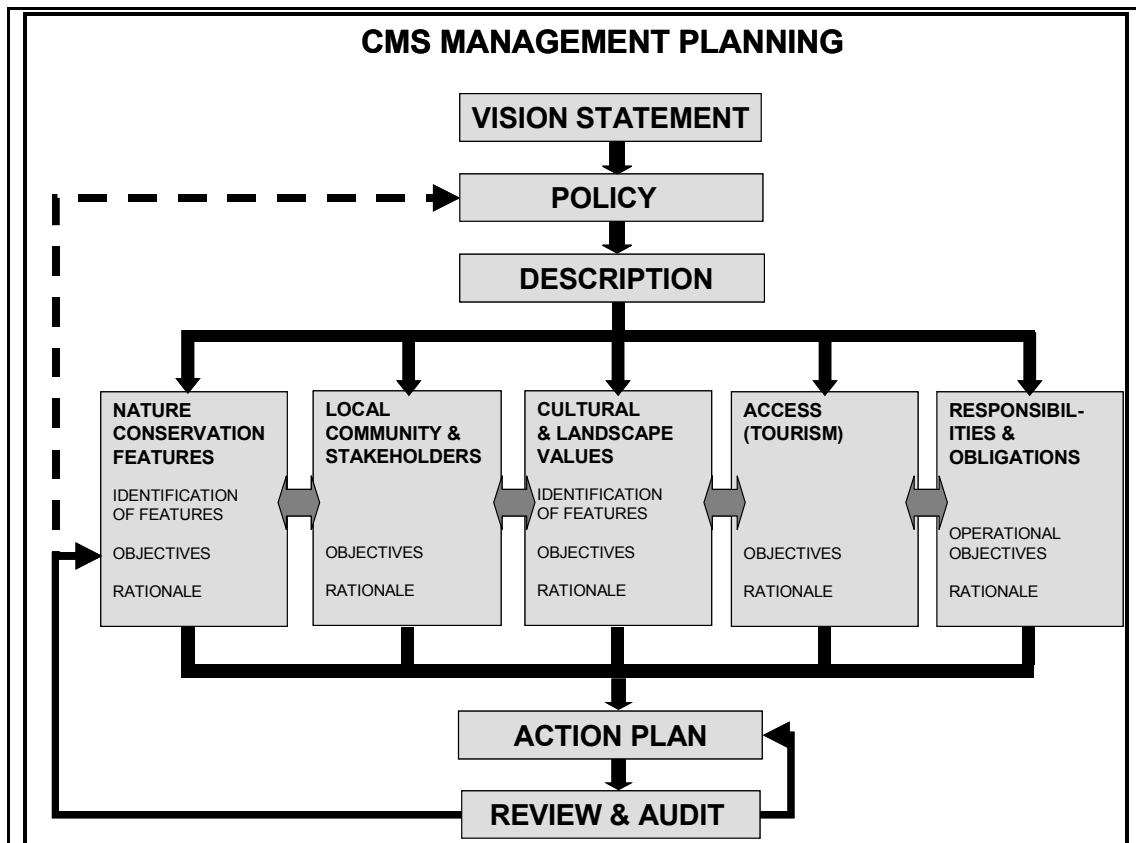


Figure 3.1.1:

CMS Management Planning showing the general areas influencing management planning. Source: Alexander, 2005

This plan demonstrates that it is important to look at the running of the whole nature reserve and the overall objectives for a site including access and species conservation.

There is often a concern over what work should be done to manage and conserve an area as, as soon as a natural habitat is managed it may no longer be considered natural, but man-made and man-managed (Bromley, 2003). This has led to a balance between wildlife and the natural environment, with what might best be termed as ‘traditional management techniques’. Even on small islands the preservation of wildlife and habitats requires “deliberate intervention” (AWT, 2003).

Before the management plan, between the AWT and the General Services Committee, had been agreed for part an area of Longis reserve (2003), the AWT established that they would be responsible for some of the work previously conducted by States officials including: the maintenance of footpaths, Brown-Tailed moth control and ragwort removal (Alderney Wildlife Trust, 2003). These examples help to show how it may be necessary to use destructive management techniques to maintain the status quo of habitats for the benefit of the people.

With the IoS leasing the land from the Duchy of Cornwall the Trust is responsible for sound management practise upon it. Therefore, within their situation of limited funding and resources they have established grazing schemes using among other hardy animals Shetland Ponies. Some of the management procedures that the IoS has used within its work can be seen as destructive such as spraying Bracken with Asulox or rolling and cutting (IoS, 2002).

3.1.2 Management and Access

Green (1996) notes that over the last thirty to forty years there has been an enormous increase in outdoor activities as a result of increased affluence, shorter worker hours and greater mobility. This has meant that access to the countryside and sites of protection has increased and so have visitor numbers and therefore management becomes particularly important.

The relationship between a habitat and all its stakeholders, whether these be dog walkers or utilities companies, must be considered. These issues were included in the Memorandum of Understanding, which set up the first Wildlife Reserve on Alderney in 2003. Among other things this instructed the Wildlife Trust to: maintain footpaths and parking areas, promote access to the foreshore for angling and recreation, not to restrict public access, and to allow full access to utilities and government officers.

There are likely to be conflicts between conservation and users of the site whether they are local residents or tourists. For instance, Xu, Chen, Lu and Fu (2006) noted that there were perceived losses within the local community due to the reserve’s restrictions on use of natural resources found upon the reserve.

Conflict can also occur between those who use the site for conservation purposes such as ornithologists and those who use a site recreationally for instance dog walkers. Just an increase in visitor numbers can cause greater footpath erosion and possible disturbance for species in the area, which is why planning for the effects of visitors is so crucial. This is especially true in organisations that rely upon public funding, as Bromley (2003) neatly commented, regarding access, “Without it, there is clearly no money”.

Facilities provided on a reserve, and how they are maintained, are important. These include not only shops and cafes, but also signs, litter-bins and the ‘necessary evil’ of toilets on site (Sutherland and Hill *eds.*, 2000). Although all these produce more work they do enable the visitor to have a more enjoyable visit.

Footpaths not only aid access but if managed properly, lead people in the direction they want to go (minimising the chance that people cut corners), and can be used to take people around sensitive areas and help minimise disturbances to ground nesting birds.

3.1.3 Management and species

If a species is to be protected by a protected area management techniques must be utilised that will help protect it, whilst also looking after the sites visitors. This is influenced by a variety of factors such as biological data, single species protection or multi-species protection and access and habitat protection.

In this age of development and since the intensification of agriculture after the Second World War, it is not possible or practical to have a reserve for every single species. An opinion is that last strong holds or habitats with large quantities of one rare species should be protected. However, sites of multiple species protection do work, yet there is disagreement about how best to select areas that require protection (McCarthy, Thompson and Williams, 2006). It is particularly relevant to look at a multi protection of species when several habitats need conserving for just one species and as such will provide dwellings for several species already. This leaves us with the question posed by McCarthy *et al.* (2006): “should reserve designs be based on the species with the most restricted distributions, those that are most threatened, or those that occur least frequently?”

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3.2 Designations

Within conservation management as a whole, there is a wide range of available designations. These range from UK designations of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and National Nature Reserves, International designations, such as Ramsar sites and European designations, for example Special Protected Areas (SPAs).

These all have varying levels of legal standing and influence on the type of management. They are all specially designed to protect areas in different ways and to protect different habitats. For instance, Ramsar is an international wetland designation (Ramsar Secretariat, 4th May 2007), whereas the AONB designation is designed to protect areas within the UK (Marren, 2002).

3.2.1 UK Designations

Within the UK there are the following six landscape and conservation designations: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Parks, National Nature Reserves (NNR), Marine Nature Reserves (MNR), Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (Marren, 2002). These are all managed to some extent but they do mark out, to the general public, areas of special “natural” interest, whether this is via a Local Nature Reserve or a National Nature Reserve. It also helps to highlight areas where the general public can go to enjoy nature whilst still having amenities to hand, such as a visitor centre to go to keep warm in the weather worsens.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest, or Areas of Special Scientific Interest in Northern Ireland, were established in 1981 as the statutory instrument for conservation in the United Kingdom. Marren (2002) comments that SSSI, “represent the best examples of wildlife habitats and geological features over the full range of natural variation.”

National Parks within the UK were established under the 1949 Countryside Act. They were designed for amenity and public access and “surprisingly never had nature conservation as a major objective except in SSSI” Marren (2002).

National Nature Reserves (NNR) are described by English Nature (now Natural England) (2000) as a public recognition, by the Government, of a site’s importance for nature conservation, with the primary management aim being to maintain and, if appropriate, enhance the nature conservation interest. Therefore, these areas are expected to help increase numbers of wildlife more than any other important wildlife site, where nature conservation has to be achieved alongside the objectives of other land users.”

NNR are managed by the respective government agencies for each country (Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)) and according to Marren (2002) NNR are, “all important examples of natural habitats or geological formations, and are also designated SSSIs”.

Marine Nature Reserves (MNR) were formed by the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act to protect any area below the water line. However, European Legislation has since been brought in and is likely to have a greater effect on marine habitats.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR) are statutory areas managed by the local authorities for amenity purposes. These areas “are not all SSSIs but must be of value locally”, according to Marren (2002).

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) were formed at the same time as the creation of National Parks. Their main designation purpose is to protect attractive scenery e.g. Mendips and Chilterns AONBs.

3.2.2 European and International Designations

There are a variety of designations by European, or International bodies that apply to the UK. These include Special Area for Conservation (SAC), Special Protected Areas (SPA) from Europe, and Ramsar from the United Nations. These all strive to protect land and marine habitats.

Any country within the EU can apply for a European Union (EU) designation; all countries may apply for international designations if they achieve the right criteria.

3.2.3 Funding and Designations

Some designations come with funding attached; so as to achieve the relevant work and some designations, where they are managed by Governmental bodies (local or national), have it as part of greater budgets. However, not all designations come with specific funding. Nevertheless they do point out that the selected area is special and protected and worth visiting. Whether, this means a visitor goes round a whole site, or just enquires at the visitor centre, if the designation helps to attract visitors, it helps to provide necessary extra revenue.

3.3 Visitor influence

Visitors are important for all nature reserves that are open to the public. If this was not so, why would these reserves be open and why would managers be concerned about maintaining equilibrium between content visitors and disturbance or damage to reserves (Keirle, 2002)?

Green (1996) tells us that the increased influx of visitors to the countryside is due to shorter working hours and increased affluence. Hence managing visitors appropriately is an important part of nature reserve management to ensure that their experience is a positive one.

Green (1996) also remarks that the management of visitors in the countryside is an important second element after the management of the resource itself.

3.3.1 Tourism and local communities

Alderney Wildlife Trust, when establishing the management of the Longis Reserve, acquired a management agreement with the States of Alderney who owned a portion of the land that was desired. When writing to the chair of the General Service Committee they stated that their, “strategy will aim to maintain the natural beauty of the area, whilst exploiting its potential as a tourism resource”. From this, it is possible to see the influence visitors are having on the management of the land.

Xu *et al.* (2006) points out that it is just as important to remember that local people are as vital as visitors to a protected area, as they have important long standing relationships with these areas, and therefore should be considered within protected area management. It is important to recognise that visitors and tourism within protected areas will affect the local people, especially as travel is becoming easier to more distance places e.g. China, or hard to reach places within the British Isles, e.g. Isles of Scilly. For example Xu *et al.* (2006) comments, 69% of respondents said that they agreed with engaging in tourism, such as the management of the Wolong Reserve in China.

It is recognised that sealing a natural area off from the outside human world is not necessarily the best way to protect the area, even though excessive human activities can cause irreversible damage (Zeng, Sui and Wu, 2005).

Keirle (2002) notes that, “Conflicts on countryside recreations sites do occur. These conflicts can be between different users of a site, the site and local communities, recreation, and conservation”. Therefore, management planning for nature reserves should take this into account. The site size and the degree, to which visitors and tourism influence the sites, will govern how much visitor and tourism acknowledgement is given within the management plan (Alexander, 2005).

The word “community” is becoming increasingly recognised within conservation e.g. Community Woods (Community Woodlands Association, Date unknown). Community involvement, even if this is just as a visitor to a site, or for educational activities, is having an increased effect. The involvement of the community in the management of the countryside is central to the work of the countryside manager, according to Peter Bromley (2003).

Not all visitor activities have a negative effect upon the environment. Green (1996) notes that although “Recreational use of natural and semi-natural ecosystems has two main

effects – trampling and disturbance.” Moderate trampling can be positive as it can restrict succession and help maintain ecosystems which could disappear”. He also argues that this recreational use can help justify and provide the necessary funding for the protection of ecosystems, as tourism can help bring prosperity and revitalise waning economies.

Small communities often look at the possibilities for promoting green tourism, as the benefits accrued can frequently help the local community as well as aid enhancing environmental protection (Farr and Rodgers, 1994).

However, as Xu *et al.* (2006) highlights, some locals consider that there are losses to them from reserve restrictions on natural resource utilizations and limitations on human activities. This is why Alexander (2005) comments that mutual levels of understanding and co-operation with stakeholders will optimise benefits for stakeholders and lead to a positive contribution towards site protection.

It can be argued that the land we manage is not always managed for the benefit of nature, but is often managed as an amenity site and is therefore managed for fewer numbers of species than once was there. Green (1996) particularly comments on this and that certain habitats, due to their obvious attractive landscape, the complements of species on them and the ability to easily access open country from them, have always been regarded as most worthy for protection, such as grasslands and heaths.

3.3.2 Harvesting the fruits of a nature reserve

This country’s landscape has been changed by human influence throughout history, particularly when clearing woodlands in order to use the land for agricultural purposes. (Rackham, 2002). Changes through agricultural use, continues right up to this day. Farr and Rodgers (1994) show the important influence agriculture has had on the UK’s landscape as, “agriculture is necessarily responsible for moulding and conserving the landscape characteristics of large areas of the inhabited islands.” An example of agricultural use to maintain habitat areas today can be found within Wildlife Trust management plans. For instance, the AWT’s Management Plan for the Longis nature reserve includes the use of pony and cattle grazing.

Grazing is, “a gradual form of vegetation removal, except at high stocking densities and therefore less likely to cause large-scale irreparable damage” (Sutherland and Hill, 2000). Obviously this works when controlled by conservation measures, as overgrazing can damage some habitats by causing a deficiency in nutrients and the sward opening up causing erosion (Green, 1996).

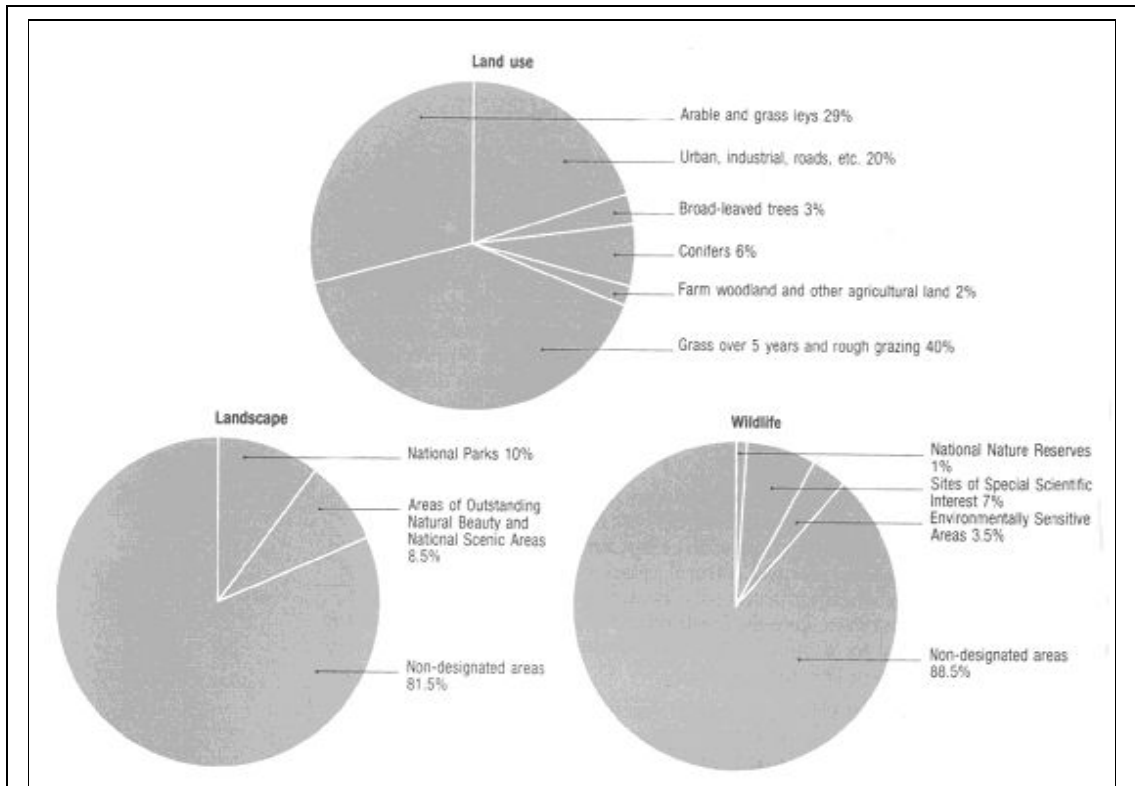


Figure 3.3.1:

Highlighting different land uses and the use of designated landscape and wildlife areas in Great Britain

Source: Tait, Lane and Carr, 2004.

3.4 Finance

For all nature conservation organisations funding is crucially important to providing resources to perform necessary work to maintain sites. During 2004/2005 35 of the 47 Wildlife Trusts generated a gross income of over one million pounds apiece (The Wildlife Trusts Networks, 2005); with The Wildlife Trusts bringing in over 100 million pounds in income in that same year.

3.4.1 Cost of Conservation

Conservation work requires funding, both to provide equipment, and to pay its staff. Even when there is only one paid team member, the costs to the trust were “approximately £1200 in capital cost, with an estimated £1500 in labour” (AWT Letter re: creation of Wildlife Reserve February, 2003).

This cost of conservation has led to an increased involvement in governmental and business organisations sponsoring, or providing grants for work to be carried out by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), including Wildlife Trust’s. For the Wildlife Trust Network this can include applying Heritage Lottery Fund (site by site basis) or UK wide corporate sponsorship deals with Volvo and Aggregate Industries (The Wildlife Trusts Networks, 2006)

Marren (2002) notes that nature reserves within Britain “provide enough rents or sales to pay for their upkeep, although admission is free bar a few”.

3.4.2 Grants and Funding

The funding of the work within conservation is wide and varied for a UK based voluntary organisation. There is not only core funding, grant aid and charging policies to consider, but also, reciprocal work, for example a farmer might provide grazing land for a Trust’s cattle, if the Trust will top the farmer’s field.

Core funding for the voluntary sectors, for example the Wildlife Trust Network, is “a financial allocation from within the organizations central funds, mostly derived from membership fees” (Bromley, 2003). This will be limited and will only allow so much work to be done. Consequently there needs to be grant aid to increase funding. Grants can be obtained from a variety of sources including government bodies: such as Natural England (Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) in Scotland and Wales), Joint Nature Conservancy Council (JNCC), Defra, and more specifically the Forestry Commission, Sports Council and English Heritage. The funding available from these organisations will vary and each organisation will have its own procedure(s) to apply for funding.

It is possible to charge entrance fees to visitors and use those charges to help pay for footpath and general maintenance and for facilities provided. This can often produce concerns about why a visitor should pay, how much they should pay and in actually collecting the money. Another approach often used is the sponsorship of sites or projects by companies or individuals, which may be in the form of materials, reciprocal work, or actual finance. However, as companies like to see results from their sponsorship quite quickly, the funding is usually for something immediate, such as a bench or signs, rather than a 5 year grazing project to slowly redevelop an area of grassland.

	(A) Non-public £'000	(B) Public £'000	Total £'000	Previous year £'000
Acquisition and development of				
(a) country parks	18	524	542	640
(b) picnic sites	12	45	57	59
(c) informal recreation facilities	235	439	674	739
Amenity tree planting, woodland management and other conservation work	1 678 ^a	3 183 ^a	4 861	1 977
Coast and countryside management services	159	1 178	1 337	887
Countryside advisory services	222	97	319	202
Information and visitor services	332	344	676	602
Provision of youth hostels	48	—	48	107
Ranger and warden services	491	2 279	2 770	1 707
Long distance routes	—	674	674	641
Recreational footpaths and bridleways	77	300	377	376
Voluntary work in the countryside	392	—	392	369
Access/management agreements	—	203 ^b	203	211
Land acquisition	464	249	713	1 033
Countryside initiative grants	200	—	200	205
Special metropolitan county abolition posts	—	240	240	429
Removal of eyesores	46	—	46	—
Countryside information and training	57	—	57	18
Other approved categories	—	203 ^c	203	260
	4 431	9 958	14 389	10 462

^a This includes grant aid of £103 609 (non-public) and £2 464 655 (public) in respect of Task Force Trees.

^b This includes grant aid of £200 000 in respect of management agreements in national parks.

^c This includes grant aid of £182 487 to the Broads Authority.

As at 31 March 1988 there were outstanding commitments to £872 569 in respect of grant assistance to be provided under Section 9 of the Local Government Act 1974.

Source: Countryside Commission (1988).

Figure 3.4.1:

Showing the relative amount of grants paid by the Countryside Commission for England and Wales for Rangers

Source: Bromley, 2003.

3.4.3 Volunteer contribution

Conservation work attracts volunteers for many reasons, whether to improve personal fitness (Green Gym (BTCV, Date Unknown), to help the environment, or to begin/continue a career in conservation.

These people are often seen as cheap labour and an easy way to get things done quickly. However, the author agrees with Bromley (2003) that, this should not be the case as voluntary involvement presents the community with the opportunity to become involved with their environment and to encourage them and their children to continue caring for it in the future.

Volunteers should be considered as a willing and able (even if to varying degrees) body of workers who should be treated as an important support to staff... It is necessary to consider a trade off between having volunteers, who don't require pay and may sustain the area in future, but may need help to maintain their enthusiasm for that area against staff who do require payment, but are maybe more skilled and possibly quicker in carrying out a job as they have a greater level of experience.

CHAPTER 4 – RESEARCH METHODS

4.1 Introduction to the research methods undertaken

Research into this study has to vary due to the nature of the study areas. Interviews of both managers of the reserves chosen and visitors to the reserves will be collected from the reserves in Alderney and the Isles of Scilly. Information provided by the officers of the Wildlife Trusts will be extremely useful, but will only give one opinion and will be qualitative data, which is extremely hard to analyse and interpret. Visitor surveys add the extra perspective of the public view of the factors influencing nature reserve management.

This research however will be limited by the effects of weather and seasonal nature of visits to the survey sites. Consequently all data will be qualitative and will provide a greater understanding of the issues.

Officers from other Wildlife Trusts within the UK will also be asked to complete a questionnaire about their reserves to help gain an even broader range of qualitative data.

All surveys, interviews and questionnaires will have similar themes and therefore questions to enable comparisons to be made.

4.2 Interviews

To establish which factors were believed to affect the management of the nature reserves within both the AWT and IoS it was felt that semi-structured face to face interviews would be best. This would then allow, where necessary, the expansion of questions to assist with the identification of these factors (see Appendix 1 for questionnaire). It was recognised when devising the questions that some of them would be specific to one Trust only.

It has been noted that within a busy industry where there is limited time, managers prefer to conduct interviews as they can reflect upon issues without the need to write anything down (Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill, 2003). Due to the questions being open ended and therefore having a wide variety of possible answers, which could require further investigation, it was felt that this form of surveying would be appropriate.

As there will only be a limited number of these semi-structured interviews with questions specific to the relevant Trust, such as questions 15 and 16, issues of bias should not affect the results. To counter any further possible issues of bias both Managers from the Trusts will receive the same level of information on the questions.

During the interviews the interviewer will take notes, and will request that at least one digital copy of the interview is made in the form of either an audio or video recording. This should help the interviewer to restudy the interview and aid with the write-up.

4.3 Visitor Surveying

Visitor opinions of the AWT and IoS Trusts will be gathered to help appreciate the affects of nature reserve management, as seen by ‘outsiders’. When conducting the survey the author will explain the point of the questionnaire and the ethical policy which the author will conduct the research by (see Appendix 2 for questionnaire).

The questionnaires will be carried out by the author, as the research will have to be carried out while visitors are upon the nature reserves managed by the two Wildlife Trusts. These questionnaires will contain a range of open and closed questions including tick boxes and ‘number in order’ questions.

The author recognises that these questions will acquire visitor’s opinions and so will be subject to bias, as the people who visit the areas may well be supportive of their local Wildlife Trust and the work they are conducting.

It is recognised that weather and/or the time of year may limit the people being surveyed at the sites. Consequently, not only will the author visit survey sites at different times of the day, the survey will be conducted at two sites. Unfortunately, the survey will be weather dependent.

4.4 Questionnaires to Officers of other Wildlife Trust’s

The current research methods, described above, are very narrow and targeted therefore surveying across the Wildlife Trust Network will provide a greater understanding of the factors which affect the management of nature reserves in general.

This research will be gathered from another questionnaire (see Appendix 3) aimed at specific Officers of all the Wildlife Trusts within the Wildlife Trust Network (RSWT) (bar AWT and IoS). Initial contact with all the Trusts (see Appendix 4) will be by telephone, where the respondent will have the opportunity to either complete the questionnaire over the phone, or to have it emailed to them so they can return it in their own time.

This could lead to bias, as the survey will not be conducted in the same way for all respondents. However, there will be no supplementary questions and so the same information should be obtained.

The people targeted by this research method will all be conducting the survey anonymously; and, to try and gain a high response rate there will be the chance for the Officers to enter a prize draw.

CHAPTER 5 - Research Findings

5.1 Introduction

This research was carried out between Christmas 2006 and Easter 2007. The results within individual comments raise particular issues and due to the nature of the areas surveyed local opinions were magnified within the research. The research conducted was considered to be qualitative, and so there is no statistical analysis. However a comparative analysis of visitor data between the two Trusts has been shown graphically. This data has been compared to data received from Officers of other Trusts who answered similar questions.

5.2 Interview results from Alderney and Isles of Scilly

Interviews with senior Officers from the two study area Wildlife Trusts were conducted by the author. These interviews were digitally recorded and neither officer saw the questions before hand therefore there was no bias within the questioning.

5.2.1 Introductory questions

Questions 1-3 were specifically used as a general introduction to the interviews to gain an understanding of the basic level of nature reserve management within both Trusts.

Within the interview with the Alderney Wildlife Trust manager it was established that they manage two reserves covering an area of approximately 100 hectares. These areas are conserved under management agreements with the local government (the States of Alderney) and a limited number of private individuals. The agreements with these private individuals are verbal agreements. However, with the States of Alderney there is a memorandum of understanding between the Wildlife Trust and the States of Alderney, over the management of the areas of States land that the Trust manages.

The Isles of Scilly Environmental Trust, which was set up in 1985 to take over the management of marginal land, was renamed as the IoS Wildlife Trust in 2001. In comparison to the AWT, the IoS Trust manages an area of land approximately 3,065 hectares over 457 islands (excluding Tresco). This land is leased from the Duchy of Cornwall and is designated as marginal land, such as heathland and cliff tops.

5.2.2 Financial

Question 4 looked at the financial aspects that affect the management of nature reserves.

The AWT spend approximately 10% of their income on the management of their nature reserves. However if time and effort, including that of volunteers, was incorporated into this figure, they believe that figure would rise substantially. This is due to around 70% – 75% of their conservation work being upon their reserves, including the use of a Grazing Animals Project.

However, within the IoS the overall management and staff time on the reserves accounts for 75% of the trusts finances. They believe that they are unique from other Wildlife Trusts in this way and feel that this is detracting from their publicity and promotional activities, as they only have the final quarter of their income to run the trust.

5.2.3 Nature reserves

Questions 5-7 look at the objectives of the nature reserves and how they facilitate the objectives of the Wildlife Trusts.

The AWT manager commented that the reason for managing each reserve differs depending upon site. However, the general reasons related to the lack of previous management, and the absence of wildlife legislation upon the island and therefore no protection for habitats or species.

The individual reason for managing Longis nature reserve was its habitat conservation value, due to the calcareous grassland and aquatic (freshwater and marine) habitats the area supports. Whereas, at the Val du Saou reserve the management agreement for this area was established to support the Countryside Interpretation Bunker that the Trust already maintained. Although this area provides a suitable area for the identification of avian migrants and is based at one of the most important areas of heathland upon the island (the Giffoine), it is of limited wildlife importance due to non-native tree planting in previous years.

The objectives for the AWT and the management of its nature reserves are specific to sites although there are some general objectives. Access and the maintenance of access was important to both sites, as was the lack of any legislative protection and therefore very limited public awareness of the importance of the island, in the terms of habitats. The Longis site's specific objectives link into its designation as they are to sustain, maintain and develop the habitats and biodiversity within the site. However, at the Val du Saou site the main objectives are to manage the site as a public access area and to reduce the impacts of previous planting of non-native trees and to encourage natural regeneration. The designation of this second site was important as it helped to build upon the island people's lack of awareness of the importance of the wildlife upon the island.

The Manager believed the nature reserves within Alderney to be a critical tool within the Trust's first, five year objectives. However, these objectives were under review as part of a strategic review of the Trust. Therefore, depending on the success of prior work to conserve habitats at the Longis reserve, the reserve may well not be as critical as it once was. If this was the case, the attention would then change from habitats such as calcareous grassland to heathland.

The IoS Trust manages its land using the objectives set out within its IoS Habitat Management Plan. However, the management of land varies from site to site depending on the objectives set out by any appointed designations, such as Scheduled Ancient Monument or Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The land that the IoS Trust manages is believed to be a critical tool to the Trust's objectives. The IoS Trust is unique in that it was first set up and then given the land to manage, rather than "finding" land to manage and then having gradually grown around it (such as the AWT), and as such as had to cope with managing a large area from the beginning.

5.2.4 Site designations

Questions 8-11 focus on the effects of the wide range of site designations which can impinge upon the management of nature reserves (as discussed within the literature study).

Although Alderney has a Ramsar site within its waters, it is not actually associated with either of the two reserves. Other than that site, because Alderney is not part of the UK or European Union, it is not eligible for any of the aforementioned designations. However, due to the habitats within the Longis site it is felt that, if Alderney was within the UK, this site would be designated as a SSSI.

Within, the IoS the Trust manages a full range of designated sites, bar National and Local Nature Reserves and World Heritage Sites. One of the sites is designated as a RIG or Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological site, and it is hoped that more of these UK designated sites will be achieved in the future. Other designations include 27 SSSIs, as well as several Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and a Heritage Coast designation. This means that the majority of the land has some form of designation and in addition to all this the whole of the IoS are within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

5.2.5 Management factors

Questions 12-14 look directly at the factors affecting the management of nature reserves.

Within Alderney's nature reserves it was felt that access around and onto the sites was an important factor. Further important factors included habitat loss and controlling of invasive species, such as bracken and bramble upon terrestrial sites and *Crassula* (New Zealand Pygmy weed) and *Myriophyllum aquaticum* (Parrots Feather) upon freshwater sites.

Furthermore it was noted that although the AWT set management targets for its work upon the nature reserves, such as three bracken cuts a year, if the time and staff/volunteer availability was not available then the work could not be done and/or not done to the target level. Instead they try to fit the resources to the situations and 'stay fluid', which is crucial for a small organisation such as this Wildlife Trust.

They try to maintain habitat management by utilising a variety of strategies, which has included the use of animals within the Alderney Grazing Animals Project (AGAP), on approximately 20 hectares of the Longis Nature Reserve. Although in operation since 2003, it is only recently that the public have had access to the grazing area, via "kissing gates". Besides the bracken cutting a selection of herbicides and cutting is used to control invasive non-native plants including within the freshwater sites.

Although the IoS want to manage for habitat protection, money is currently the greatest influence upon the management of the Trust's land. They believe that protecting and balancing the habitat correctly will result in the correct species diversity. However, if funding becomes available for specific species' management work they carry out this work, such as for the Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) recovery programme, where a seabird officer has been provided to reduce human disturbance and educate visitors about the birds.

The lack of funding limits staffing numbers. Currently one member of staff is completely funded for heathland work and this has prevented any reed bed work, which was previously being carried out.

However, they have introduced specific strategies to increase core funding which isn't specifically destined for projects. Nevertheless, with a limited population there is a limited membership base. They do not have facilities, such as car parks, where they can raise funds through parking fees. Instead they have had appeals for "Save Wild Scilly" which was successful for them and they hope to conduct a similar appeal in the near future. However, they are still limited by the lack of staff to run the appeal and often feel that they are trying to overcome the never-ending hurdle of increasing their core funding levels.

5.2.6 Effects of status within the UK/Crown Dependency

Questions 15-18 were used to investigate any differences between a Crown Dependency (AWT) and a United Kingdom Wildlife Trust (IoS).

Within Alderney there is no access to the resources available within the UK, such as grants and management advice. For instance Natural England's (English Nature's) advice/procedures do not cover nature reserves in Alderney, due to it being outside of the UK. Therefore the AWT has to produce its own management practises for the island with the support of UK literature, which makes it very island specific.

However, the AWT believe that there are positive aspects to being outside the UK They are not subject to such things as UK regulations upon management of sites and this therefore saves them time. If they were part of the UK they feel that their management work would become more formalised and possibly more strained due to limited resources. However, this could be offset by the support and grants from UK agencies.

The Isles of Scilly, as part of the United Kingdom, are eligible to receive support from UK funding sources. The Trust receives a high proportion of its funding from Natural England, and they feel that without those "lifelines" they would not be able to conduct the level of work that they do. They are therefore affected by the cuts in Natural England funding (English Nature, 2006). The IoS is aiming to apply for Higher Level Stewardship funding. If this is fully successful they feel they could increase the habitat work they are currently conducting and afford an appropriate staffing level to conduct this work. However, without this funding they will only be able to conduct limited habitat work.

The IoS have also received five years of funding from Heritage Lottery Funding to conduct the "waves of heath" project. This was provided to enable the establishment of grazing upon managed heathland. The Trust has worked with volunteers and contractors to open up areas of gorse to enable grazing to be established. The purchase of equipment and live stock needed high levels of "start up" funding. If this scheme is successful the Trust will require smaller grants to ensure the work can be on going.

5.2.7 Visitors

The purchase of equipment and live stock needed high levels of “start up” funding. If this scheme is successful the Trust will require smaller grants to ensure the work can be on going.

Within Alderney, visitors’ perceptions of the nature reserves are achieved partly by comment books situated at the reserve sites and at the tourism information centre in St. Anne, and partly through informal conversations between staff and visitors on site.

Public support and perception is critical for a small organisation within a small island community such as Alderney especially as the Wildlife Trust is privately funded by members. Any issues raised would be reviewed by the Trust and would include discussion with the particular visitor concerned if at all possible.

The IoS struggles to gain opinions from its reserves visitors, due to limited staff levels and funding for this work. However, as part of the heathland project they have had to conduct public consultation. Visitors also comment when visiting the Trust’s office, and in writing. The Trust would like to do more specific work with the public.

The IoS would like to expand their site information and education facilities. This is however, reliant upon funding levels. Although visitor feedback about facilities enables the Trust to provide evidence when applying for future grants the expansion of information and interpretation work will take time due to the need to gain funding.

5.2.8 Site facilities

Site facilities are important for visitors and therefore should be considered within the factors which affect the management of the nature reserve. To fully understand the provisions and amenities upon the two Trust’s sites questions 21 and 22 were asked.

On the Longis reserve in Alderney there are two hides that contain binoculars and information. There are also information boards around the site. On the Val du Saou reserve there is the Countryside Interpretation Centre, which provides information about the island and the wildlife. The Trust produces an Information Guide, which gives greater detail, but has to be purchase from the Tourism Centre in St Anne. Alderney Wildlife Trust still feels that there is not enough information provided but this is due to a lack of resources.

The IoS Trust provides one visitor centre upon the Quay in St Mary’s (the largest of the islands) and four bird hides situated upon the Lower and Upper Moors areas of managed land upon St Mary’s. These hides are maintained and managed by the Isles of Scilly Bird Group on behalf of the Trust.

The Trust is limited by funding restrictions upon what facilities it can supply and they feel that they have insufficient facilities for visitors to their sites. They would like to turn one bird hide into an education centre for visiting school groups. Although they have the Quay Visitor Centre, the Trust would like to develop this and are working with the AONB team to establish a larger joint visitor centre. This would enable the Trust to increase public information and education through more leaflets and publications. Furthermore staff do not feel they can give visitors enough attention due to the lack of facilities and funding.

5.2.9 Visitor Communication and Education

Questions 23 to 25 were asked to help further consider the importance of communication and education for visitors.

The main challenge within Alderney is to improve information for visitors. This includes the provision of increased information points upon the ground including extra signs. The Trust is trying to overcome this through member and visitor involvement in the strategic review currently being carried out.

Currently the main vehicle of visitor communication is via the visitor books on managed sites and in the Tourism Information Centre where the Trust office is currently situated. This provides the Trust access to both tourists and other visitors.

As part of the Trust's constitution they promote education and awareness to young people of the islands importance for nature, by encouraging school and youth group visits to their reserves. Therefore, the AWT's nature reserves are key educational resources.

Currently the IoS cannot encourage school groups to use their sites as they cannot finance activities for them. However, they do allow school and other educational groups to use their land. They are establishing an education pack for the heathland and this will complement the AONB's education pack. This lack of educational facilities is due to a deficiency of funding to provide a member of staff to produce establish the resources.

5.2.10 Added comments on nature reserve management

The IoS have gained support from their sister organisation in Cornwall, to aid them with some of their administration tasks. This link has enabled the IoS to utilise their time and funding better.

5.3 Visitor survey results

Visitor surveys were conducted within both Alderney and the Isles of Scilly by the author. Due to the timing and the weather affecting these surveys there were lower visitor levels upon the sites than at peak visitor times. This made it unfeasible to conduct statistical analysis on the results. However, it was possible to contrast and compare the results between the two Trusts.

5.3.1 Introductory Questions

Questions one to five present an understanding of the visitors surveyed (see Graphs). Within Alderney a greater number of visitors were female, whereas the reverse was true for the Isles of Scilly. There was a greater age range of visitors to the reserves within Alderney, with the majority of visitors being in the 40 – 59 age range, compared to the Scillies where a higher proportion were 60+.

The regularity of visits for Alderney was more dispersed with the highest proportion being “Every few months”. However, there were no first time visitors, whereas in the Isles of Scilly the highest proportion of visitors were visiting for the first time. The most common reasons given for visiting the sites were, “dog walking” in Alderney and “walking” in the Isles of Scilly. There was a wide range of other reasons given, including:

- Tree planting with AWT
- Visiting the Alderney Grazing Animals Project Pony
- Admiring the view and seeing what is “on the water” in the Isles of Scilly

The majority of people within both Isles of Scilly and Alderney, but particularly Alderney, knew that the land they were visiting was managed by their respective local Wildlife Trusts. In Alderney most people knew about this management work by word of mouth. Whereas, in the Isles of Scilly they knew by “other” means including mainly local knowledge, as well as being members of the Trust or attending a Trust event.

Figure 5.3.1: Question 1. Graph showing the male to female percentage ratio of visitors to the study areas within Alderney (AY) and the Isles of Scilly (IoS)

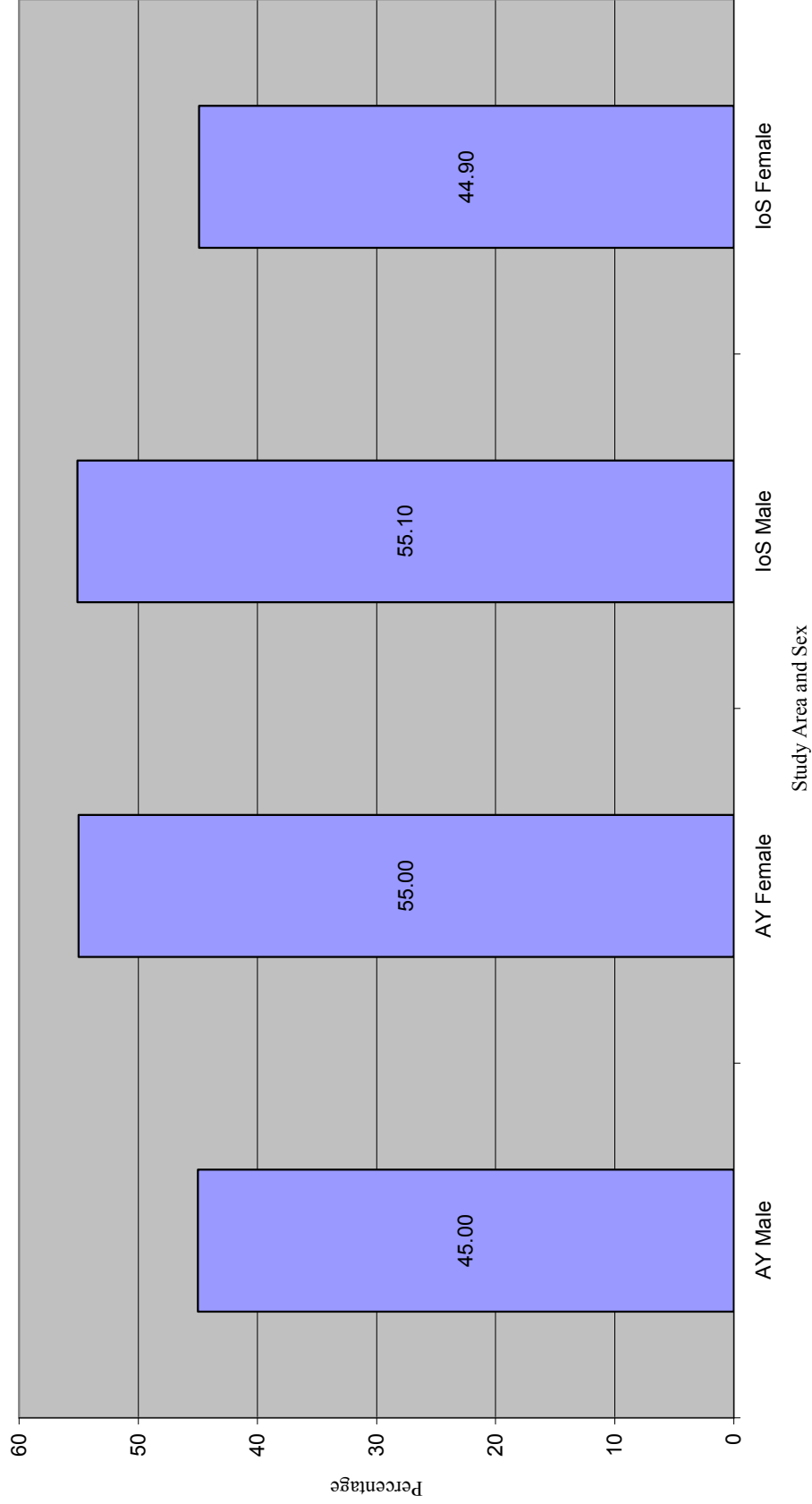


Figure 5.3.2: Question 2. Graph to showing the proportion of ages and age ranges of people visiting the study areas within Alderney (AY) and the Isles of Scilly (IoS)

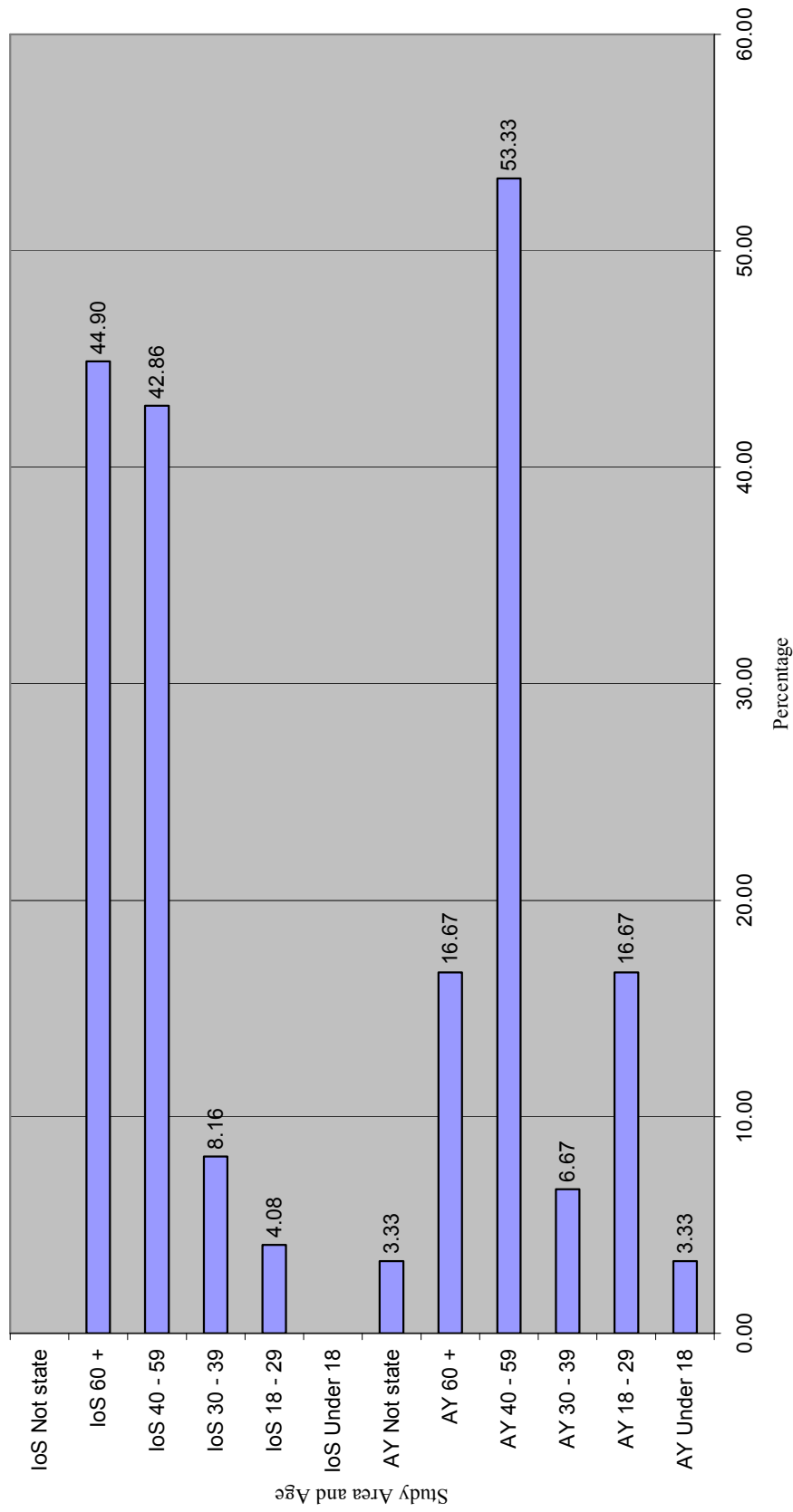


Figure 5.3.3: Question 3. Graph illustrating the regularity of site visits by people to the study areas of Alderney (AY) and the Isles of Scilly (IoS)

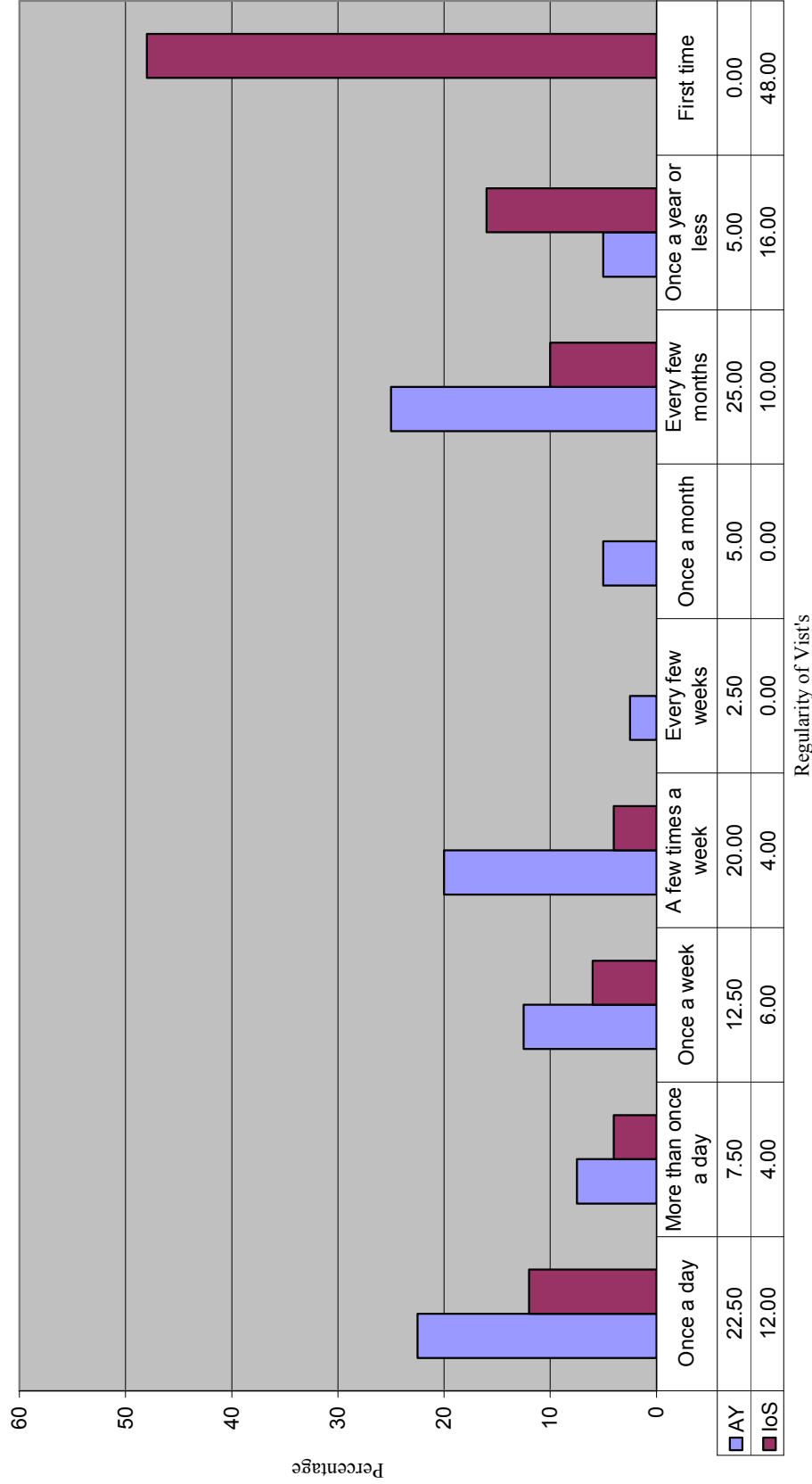


Figure 5.3.4: Question 4. Graph showing the reasons people visited the study areas of Alderney (AY) and the Isles of Scilly (IoS)

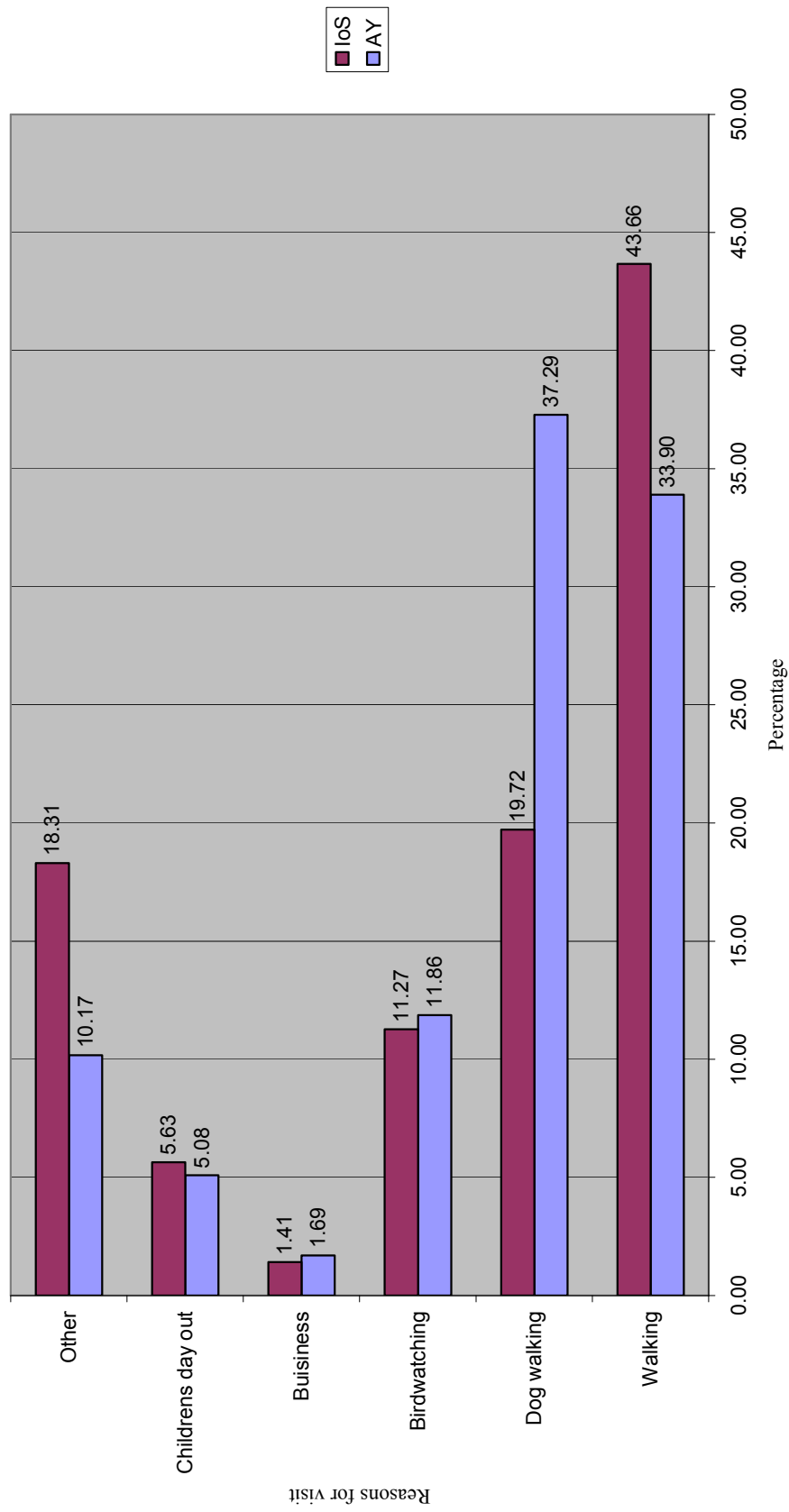


Figure 5.3.5: Question 5a. Graph showing the percentage of visitors to the study areas of Alderney (AY) and the Isles of Scilly (IoS) and who knew these sites were managed by their respective Wildlife Trusts

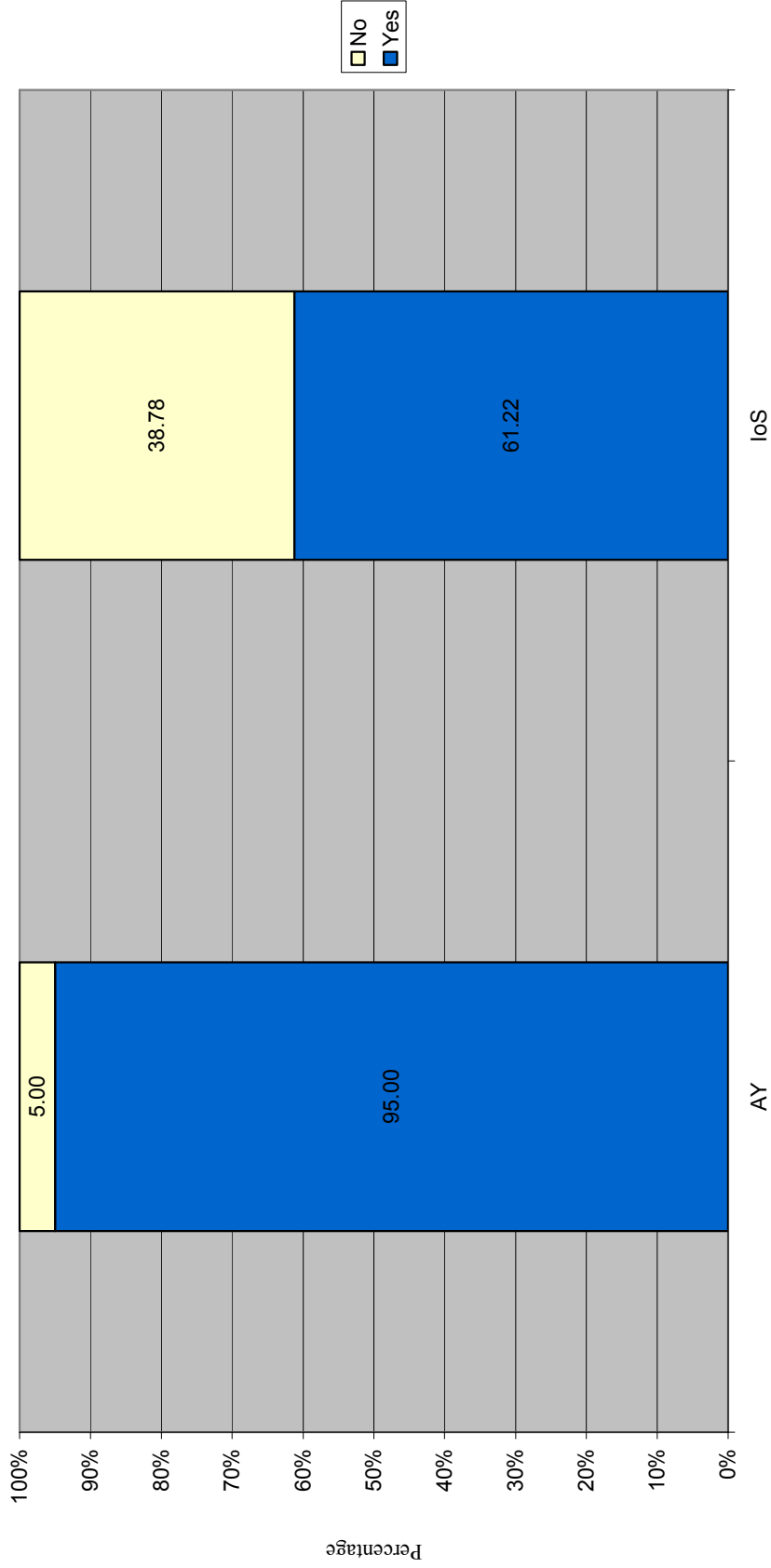
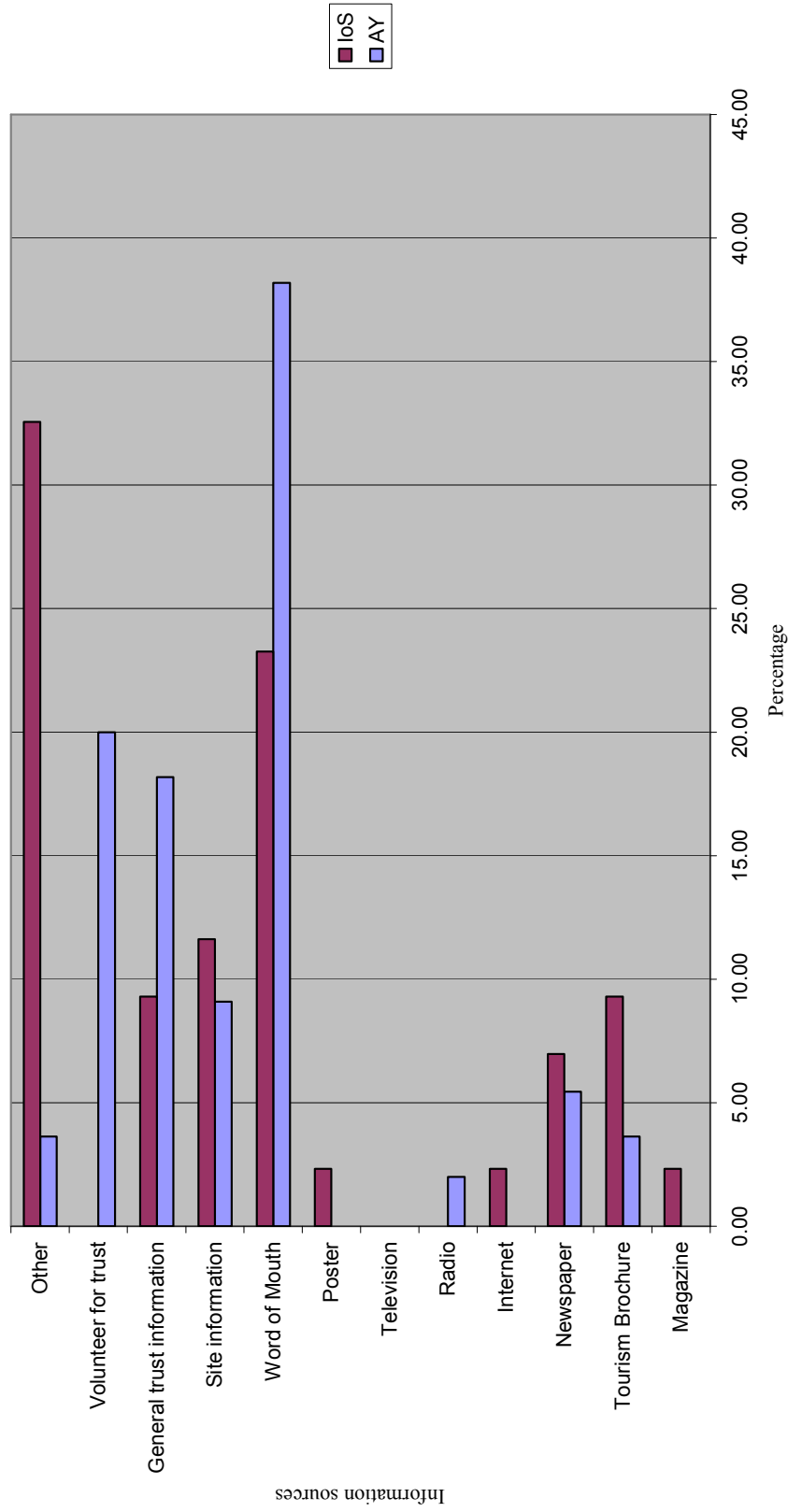


Figure 5.3.6: Question 5b. Graph showing how visitors to sites, within the study areas of Alderney (AY) and the Isles of Scilly (IoS), knew about the management of these sites



5.3.2 Site Management

Questions six to eight presented an insight into visitor opinions on the management of the areas they visited. Questions six and seven are shown in graph form (see Figures 5.3.7). However, as question eight was requesting opinions it could not be represented graphically.

Over one third of both Alderney and Isles of Scilly visitors felt the sites should be managed for a mixture of Education, Conservation, Recreation and Landscape Protection. However, 1.69% of people questioned in Alderney considered the site should not be managed at all as they believed it should be left unmanaged and to grow wild.

Visitors for both Trusts judged that Habitat Conservation should be the most important influence on management of these sites (Figure 5.3.8). 'Other influences' and 'Visitors' were deemed the two least influential effects. 'Other influences' included several negative comments, especially in Alderney where they felt that the Trust's management was "in chaos with no real direction". In the Isles of Scilly it was commented that the lack of management by the landowner, the Duchy of Cornwall, was positive and that the Trust was there just as a Quasi-Autonomous Non-Governmental Organisation (QUANGO). Positively, in the Isles of Scilly education and local opinion were felt to be important influences and local support and historical interest in Alderney (Question 8).

Within Alderney, there was a wide range of opinions of how the management of the sites could be improved. The most popular comment was that the management should be left as it was, followed jointly by 'limit management'/'let it go wild and keep paths open'/'better identification of existing paths'. Within the Isles of Scilly it was categorically believed that the management was fine as it was, with the issue of recently erected fencing being the next most important issue, included a wish to see the fencing removed, with the Trust and Duchy.

Figure 5.3.7: Question 6. Graph showing the opinions of visitors on the reason(s) for managing the study areas on Aerney (AY) and the Isles of Scilly (IoS).

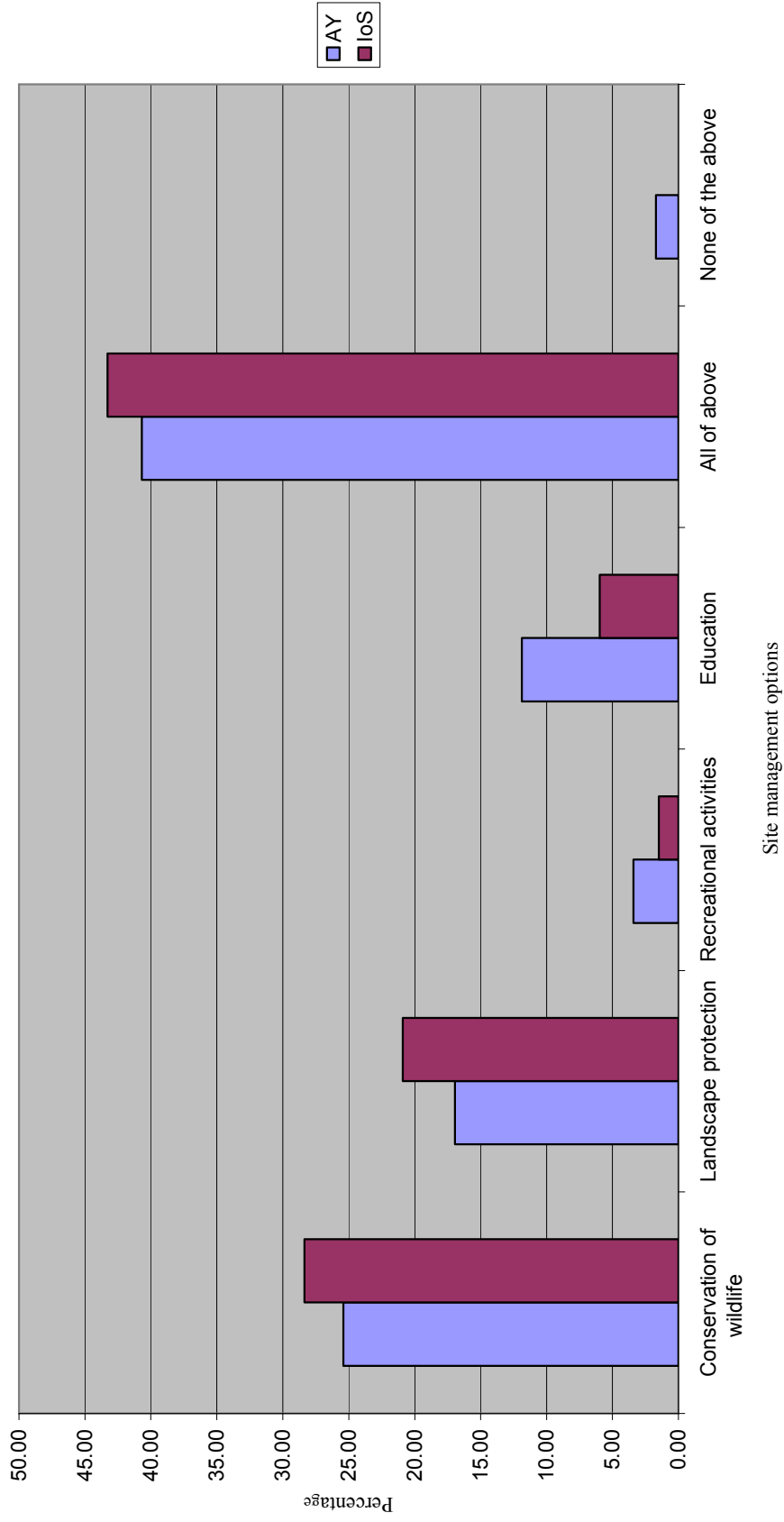
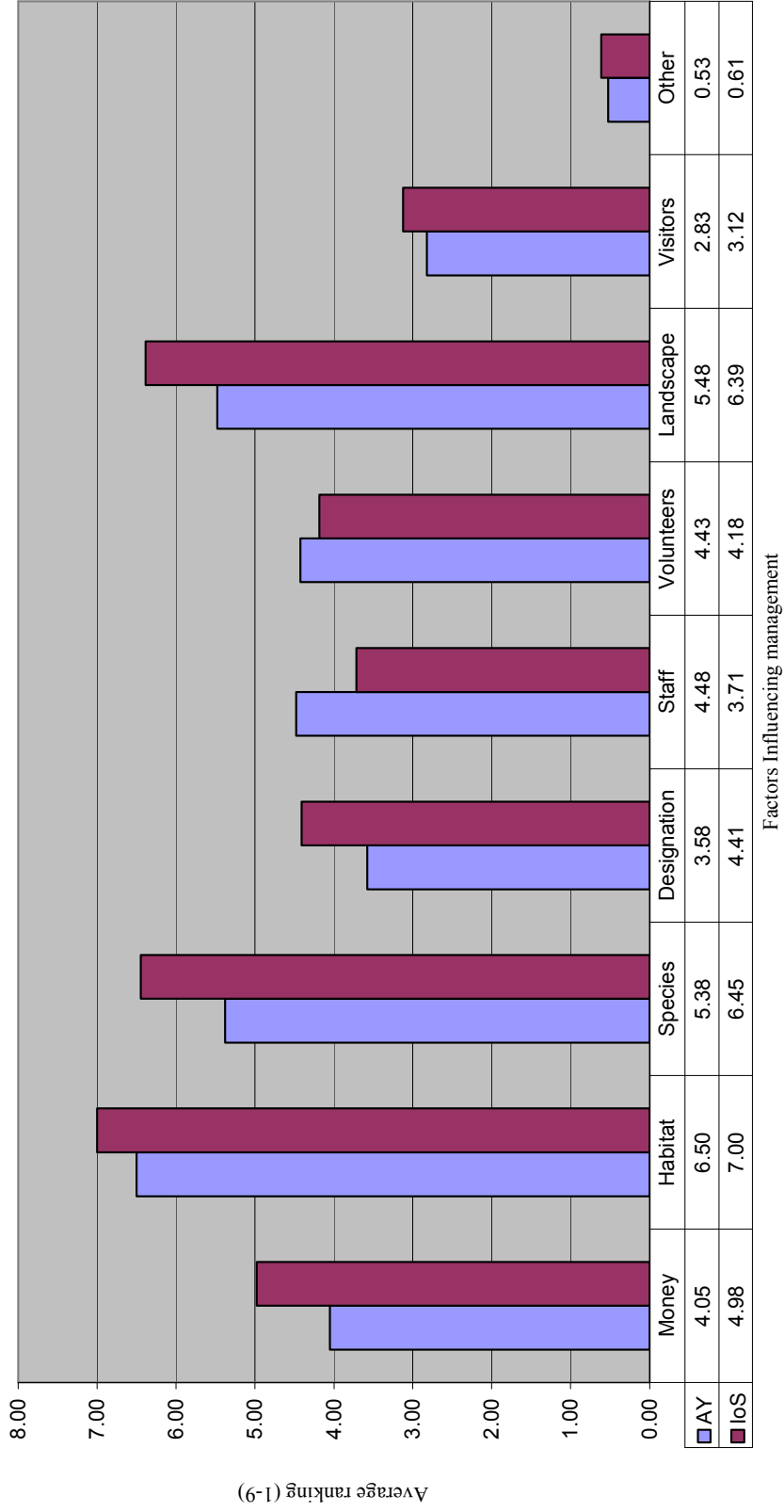


Figure 5.3.8: Question 7. Graph showing the views of visitors on the factors that have the greatest influence upon management on the study areas of Alderney (AY) and the Isles of Scilly (IoS).



5.3.3 Site provisions and admission charges

To fully understand visitors perceptions of site provisions and charging regimes, questions nine and ten were asked. Due to the nature of these questions only part (a) could be illustrated on a graph.

More than 70% of visitors asked, from both islands, felt there were sufficient site provisions. However, there was more than double the number of Alderney visitors, compared to Isles of Scilly visitors, who believed site provisions could still be improved. Within Alderney, the most requested site provisions were sign's and information points about the sites, followed by more bird hides and picnic facilities. Whereas, the main request in Isles of Scilly was more toilet facilities, followed by more site information and bird hides and visitors to both survey areas requested dog faeces bins.

Figure 5.3.10 demonstrates that approximately 90% of visitors to both study areas were quite definite that they should not have to pay to visit these sites. Those prepared to pay in Alderney, stated a price of between one and three pounds, while those visiting Isles of Scilly would pay from under one pound up to three - five pounds.

Figure 5.3.9: Question 9a. Graph showing the opinions of visitors, to sites within the study areas of Alderney (AY) and Isles of Scilly (IoS), upon whether there is sufficient provision on sites.

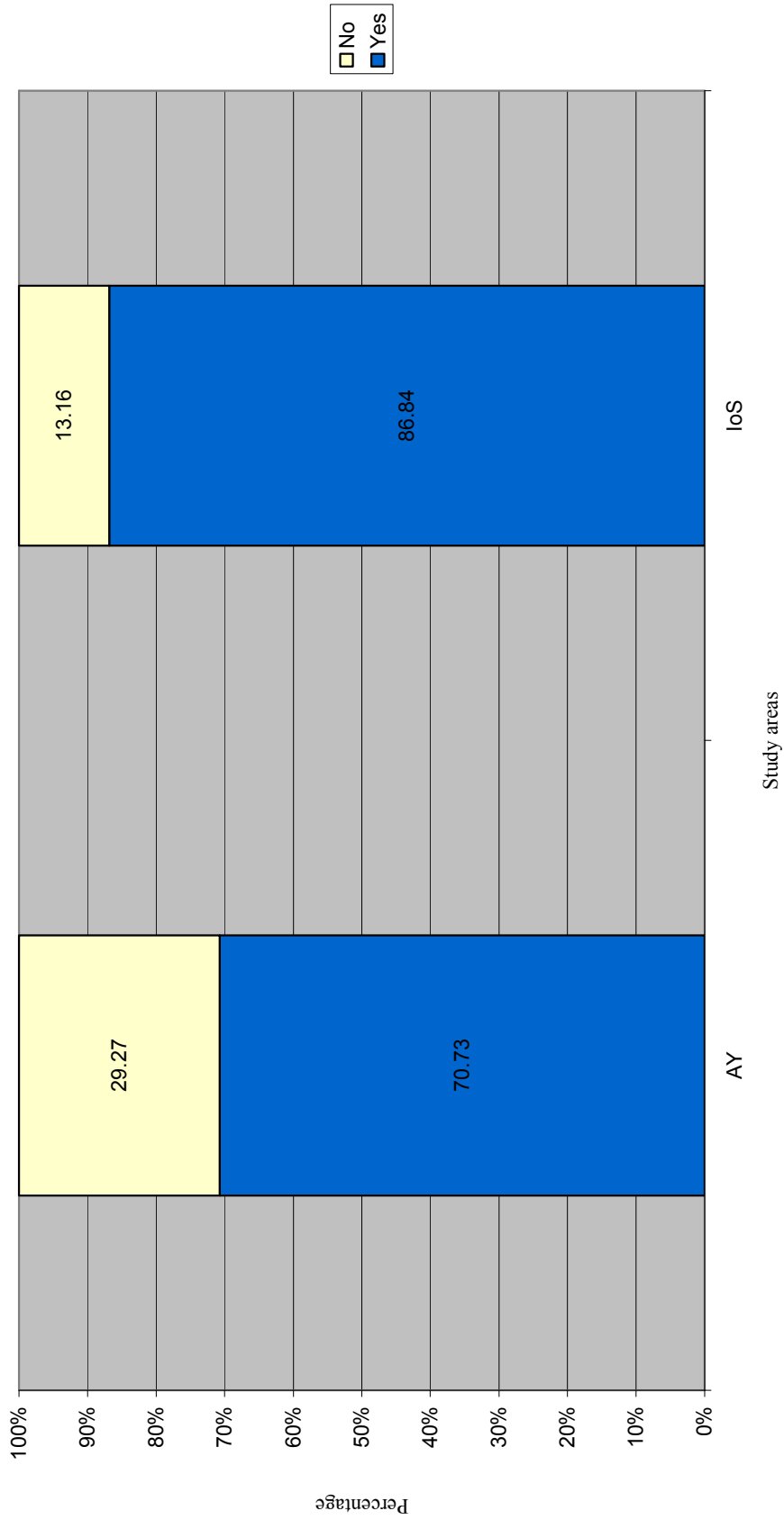
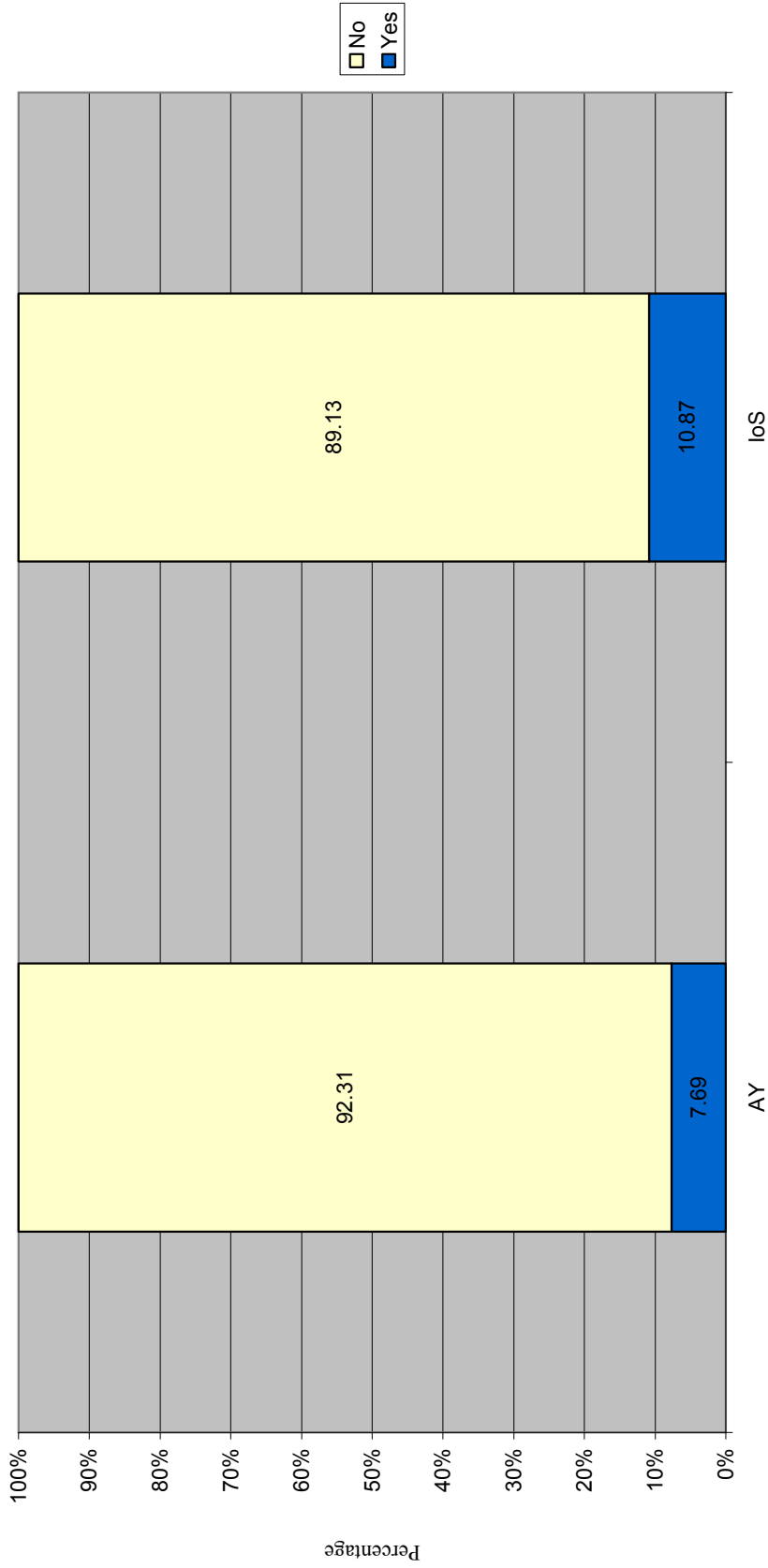


Figure 5.3.10: Question 10a. Graph showing the percentage of visitors who felt they should pay to visit the study areas within Alderney (AY) and the Isles of Scilly (IoS)



5.3.4 Educational provision

Question eleven was asked to investigate what the visitors felt about the education facilities on the sites.

Approximately half the visitors from both areas believed education levels could be improved. Those who wished for more information thought an increase in information panels, including showing the sites historically as well as for natural importance, would be beneficial. It was felt that all signs should be discreet. It was noted that educational information should be accessible to children, and as things stand, the AWT needs to improve on this.

Optimistically though, over 90% of visitors knew where they could acquire more information.

Figure 5.3.11: Question 11a. Graph showing visitor opinions of whether there was enough educational material upon sites on Alderney (AY) and the Isles of Scilly (IoS)

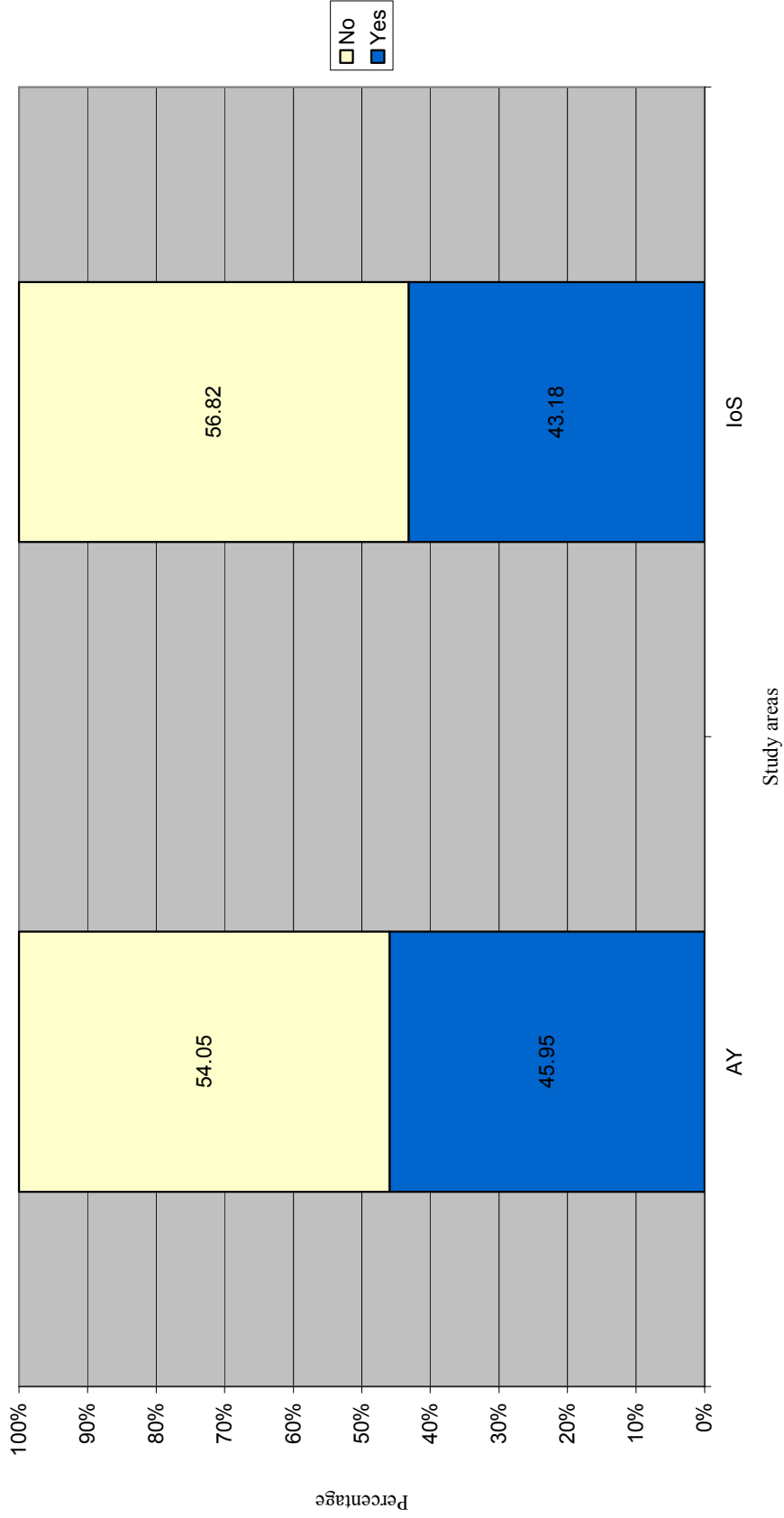
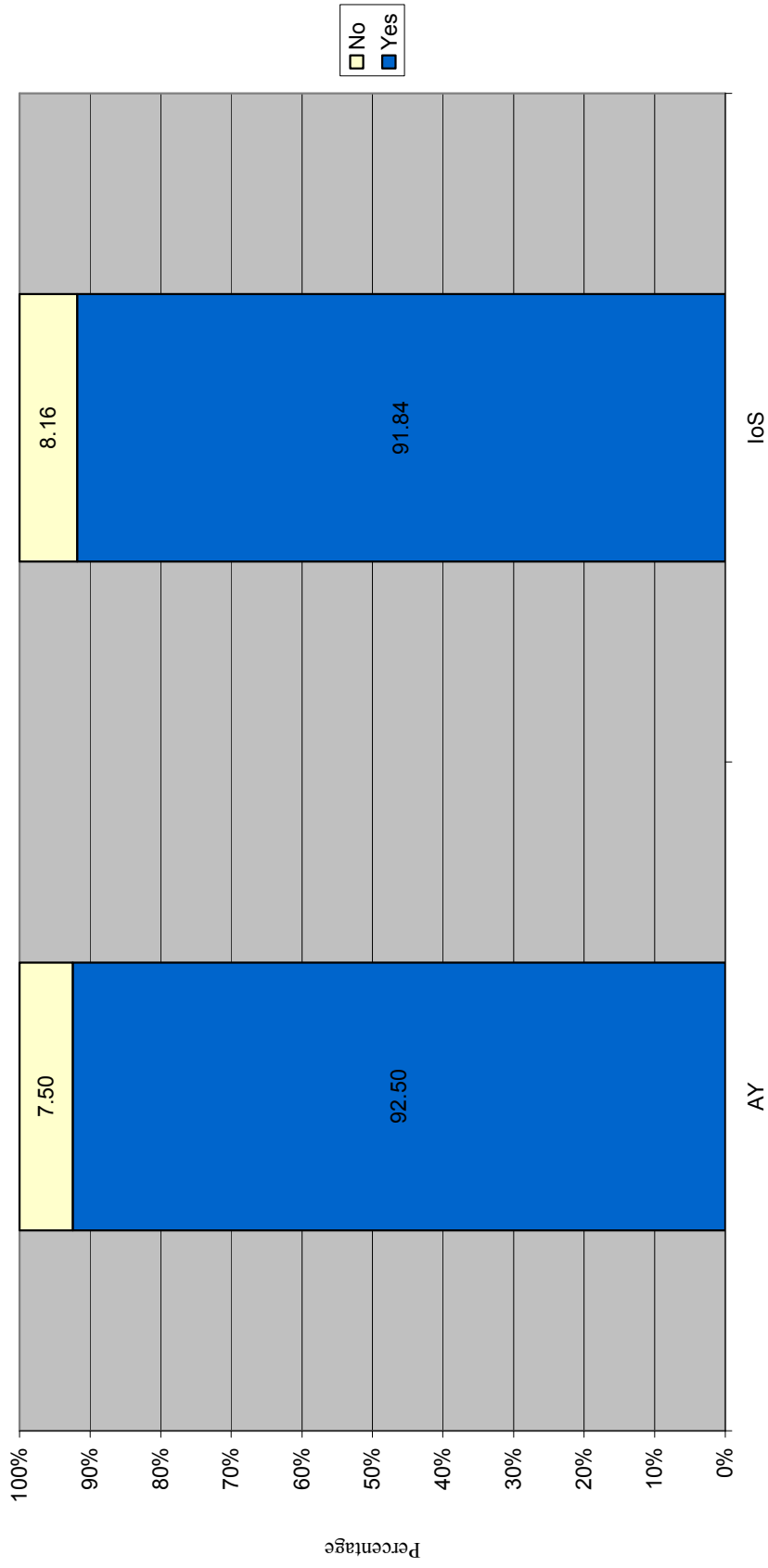


Figure 5.3.12: Question 12. Graph displaying the percentage of visitors who knew where to gain further information upon the study areas of Alderney (AY) and the Isles of Scilly (IoS)



5.3.5 Further comments

Visitors to both study areas were able to raise further points at the end of their questionnaire. On Alderney these points varied from increasing information on site steadily; putting directional maps/signs up; to the water-board improving the management the water level within the nature reserves. Furthermore, some visitors felt that the AWT hadn't contributed beneficially to the island. It was felt that there should be more government support from the States of Alderney to the AWT in its management work.

Within the Isles of Scilly, the main points raised were the issue of fencing certain areas and the general issue of rights of way. Good comments were made about the general management, within the limited parameters of the Trust, although, the suggestion of sheep grazing some sites was raised. Education was also raised, particularly upon litter, with the suggestion of having single page leaflets available on all sites and limiting the number of site information boards to keep sites natural. A suggestion was made of establishing a donation box, at all entrances to sites, rather than admission charges.

5.4 Questionnaire results

A questionnaire (Appendix 3) was sent to other UK Wildlife Trusts (see Appendix 4), to supplement the information gathered from the AWT and the IoS, to provide a greater perspective of the issues affecting the management of nature reserves within Wildlife Trusts. Unfortunately, with an overall return rate of only 31%, it is problematic to try and analyse this data as any anomaly will have a greater impact than on a larger scale study.

5.4.1 Introductory Questions

The first six questions were used to highlight the differences between Trusts. Some of the Trusts did not answer certain questions, which impacted upon the results. However, from those Trusts who did comment, the largest proportion of Trusts had less than 5,000 members (Figure 5.4.1), with the most common income amount between one and two million pounds/year (Figure 5.4.2), nearly half spending ten to twenty-five percent upon reserve management (Figure 5.4.3).

The number and area of the reserves varied greatly, with 15-30 reserves (Figure (5.4.4) and an area of 1,500-2,000 hectares (Figure (5.4.5) being the most common response. All felt that their reserves were critical tools for achieving their objectives (Question 6a). The main reasons stated for this opinion were, education (whether the general public or land-owners) and nature conservation (whether by protecting particular species/landscape, or controlling the inputs into the land). Reserves were seen as an area to encourage communication with visitors and thereby increase membership numbers and income (Appendix 5).

Figure 5.4.1: Question 1 (Introduction). Graph showing approximate membership size of Wildlife Trusts

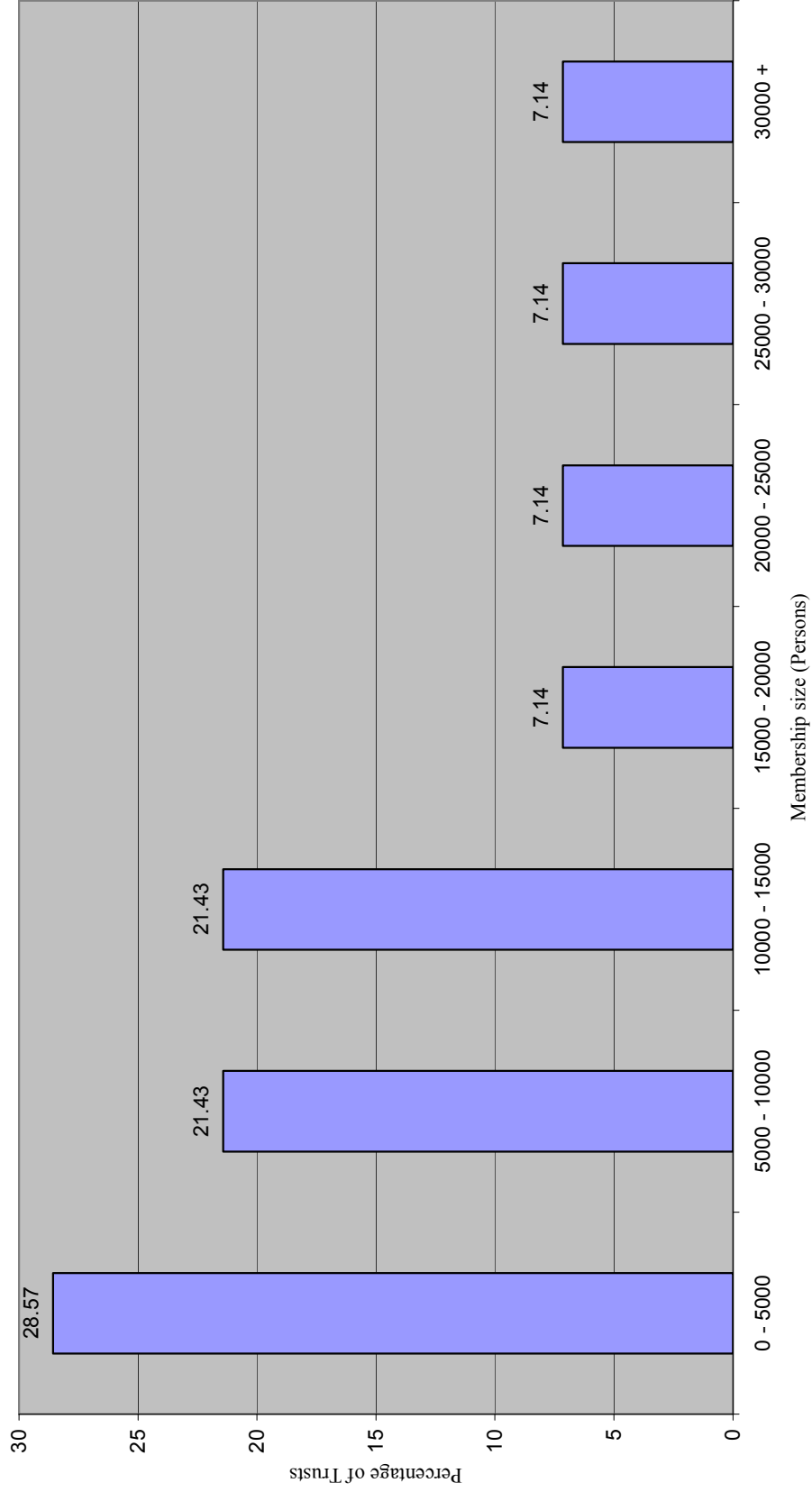


Figure 5.4.2: Question 2 (Introduction). Graph showing Wildlife Trust income

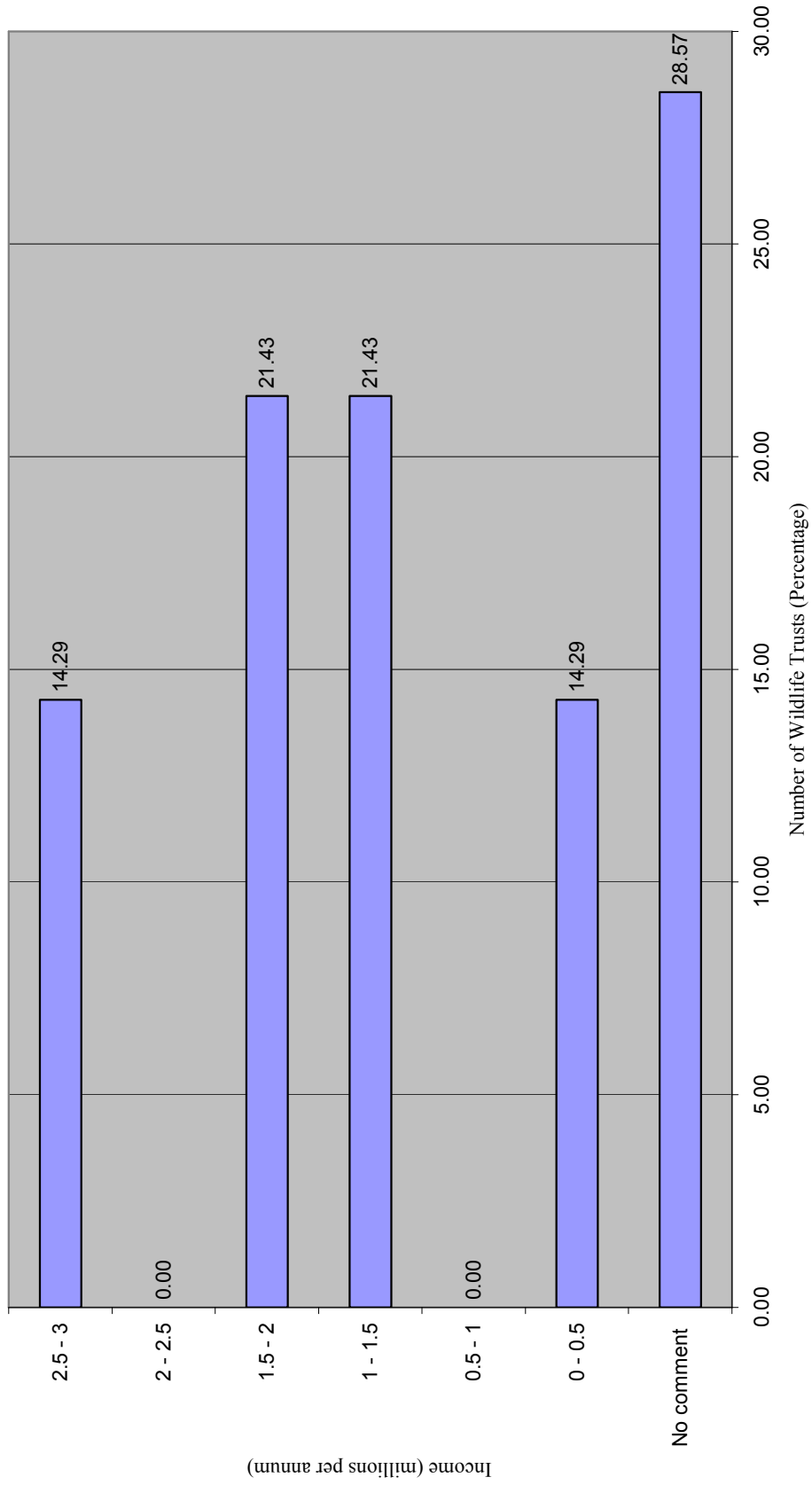


Figure 5.4.3: Question 3 (Introduction). Graph showing the number of nature reserves managed by individual Wildlife Trusts

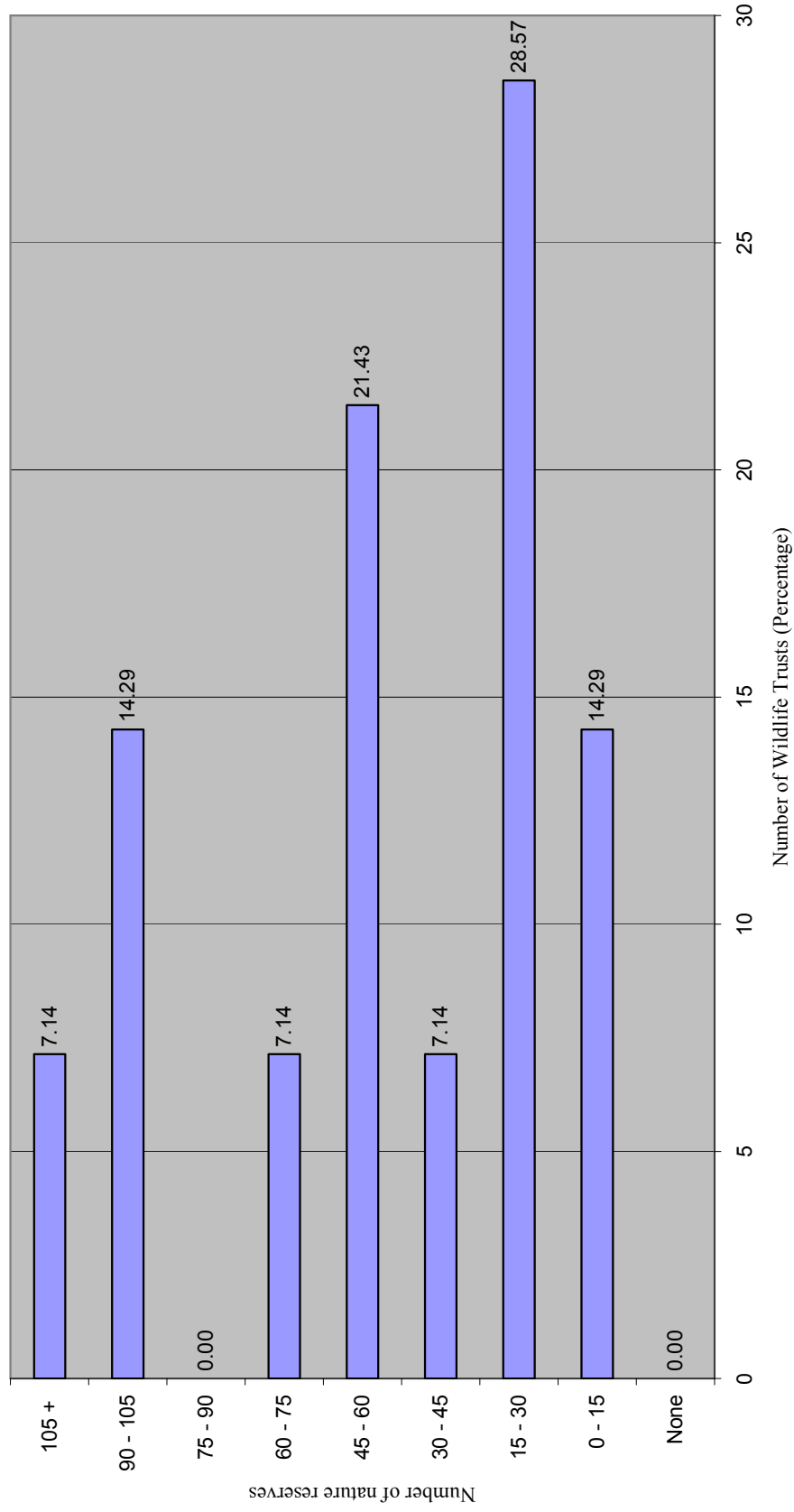


Figure 5.4.4: Question 4 (Introduction). Graph showing the area of nature reserves which are managed by Wildlife Trusts

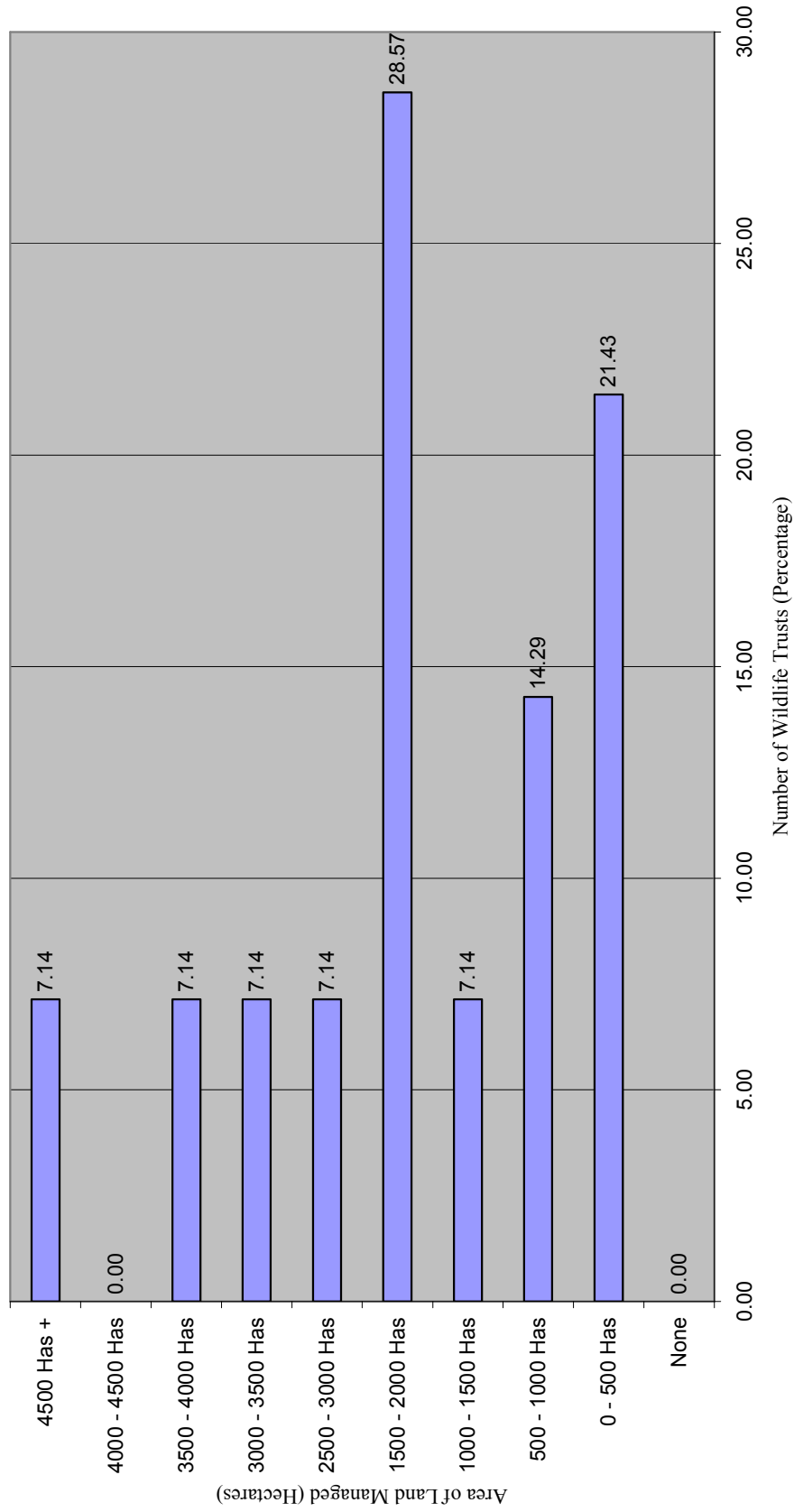
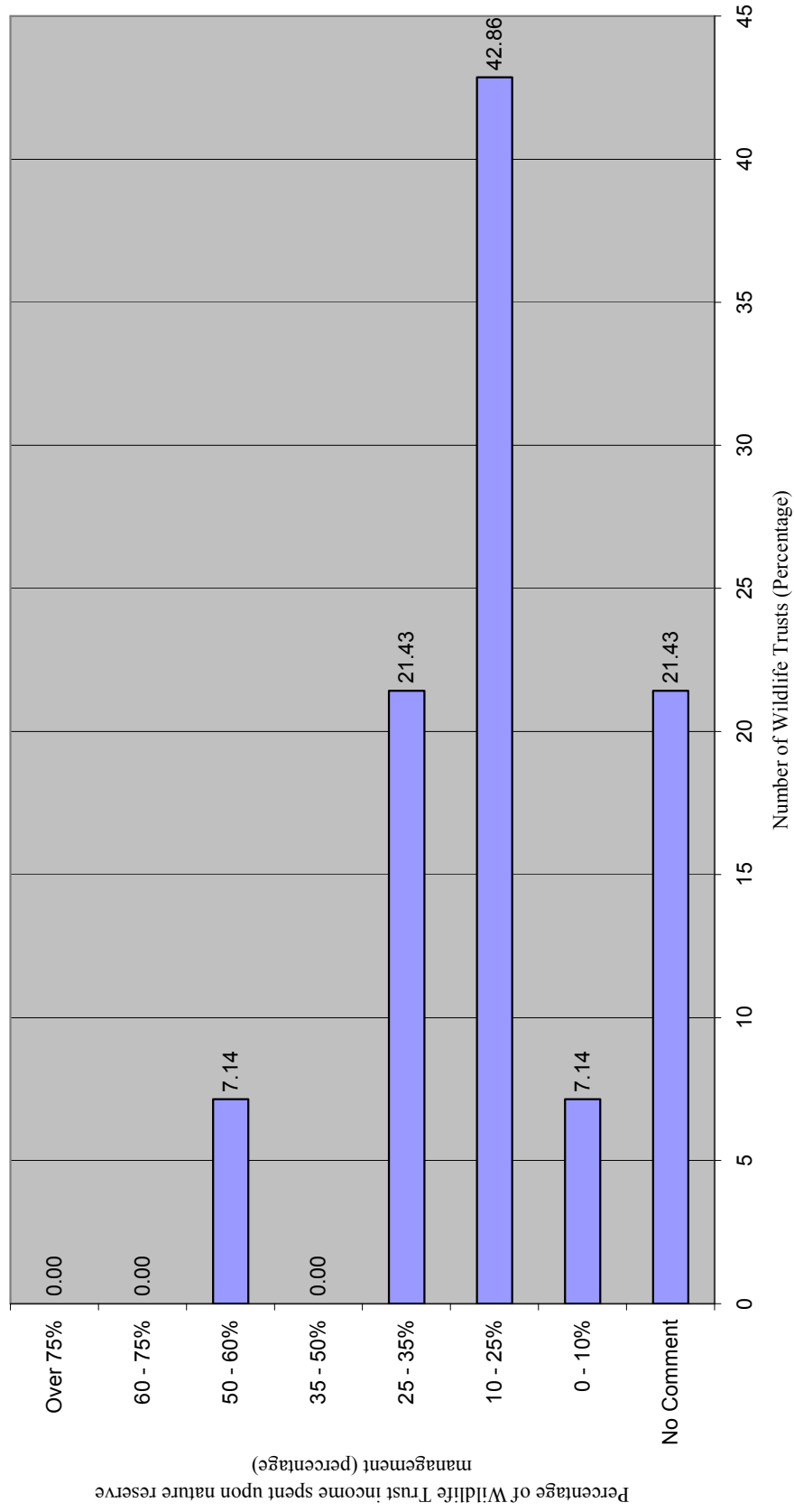


Figure 5.4.5: Question 5 (introduction). Graph showing the amount of trust income spent upon nature reserve management



5.4.2 Management Questions

Four questions were asked to aid the understanding of nature reserve management. Due to the diversity of answers it was not possible to show how many of each Trust's reserves had different statuses. Therefore, the question changed to address how many designations the different Trusts have within their reserves.

At approximately 30% of sites managed, SSSIs were the most frequent designation (Figure 5.4.6). AONBs and L/NNRs were the next most frequently designated before "Others" (including SACs and SPAs). There was limited numbers of international designations in the form of World Heritage Sites and Ramsar sites.

Trust Officers felt that Habitat Management had the greatest influence upon their overall management, followed by Species Management and then Money (Figure 5.4.7). Visitors were deemed to influence management the least after "Other" (which was only mentioned once, due to one Trust's acquisition policy).

Different Trusts applied different methods to adapt to their most influential factor (Appendix 6). One method dealt with specific management work, such as producing five year management plans, grazing schemes and monitoring. Another approach was to consider funding and staffing, such as a practical management team doing contract work, the application of grants for work and improving core income which is not targeted. Another mechanism used was the minimising of finances and energy to improve the long term sustainability of the reserves, and reducing the Trusts carbon footprint.

At 86% (Figure 5.4.8) funding was considered critically important to the management of nature reserves.

Figure 5.4.6: Question 1 (Management) Graph showing the percentage of Wildlife Trusts with specific designations which affect management of nature reserves

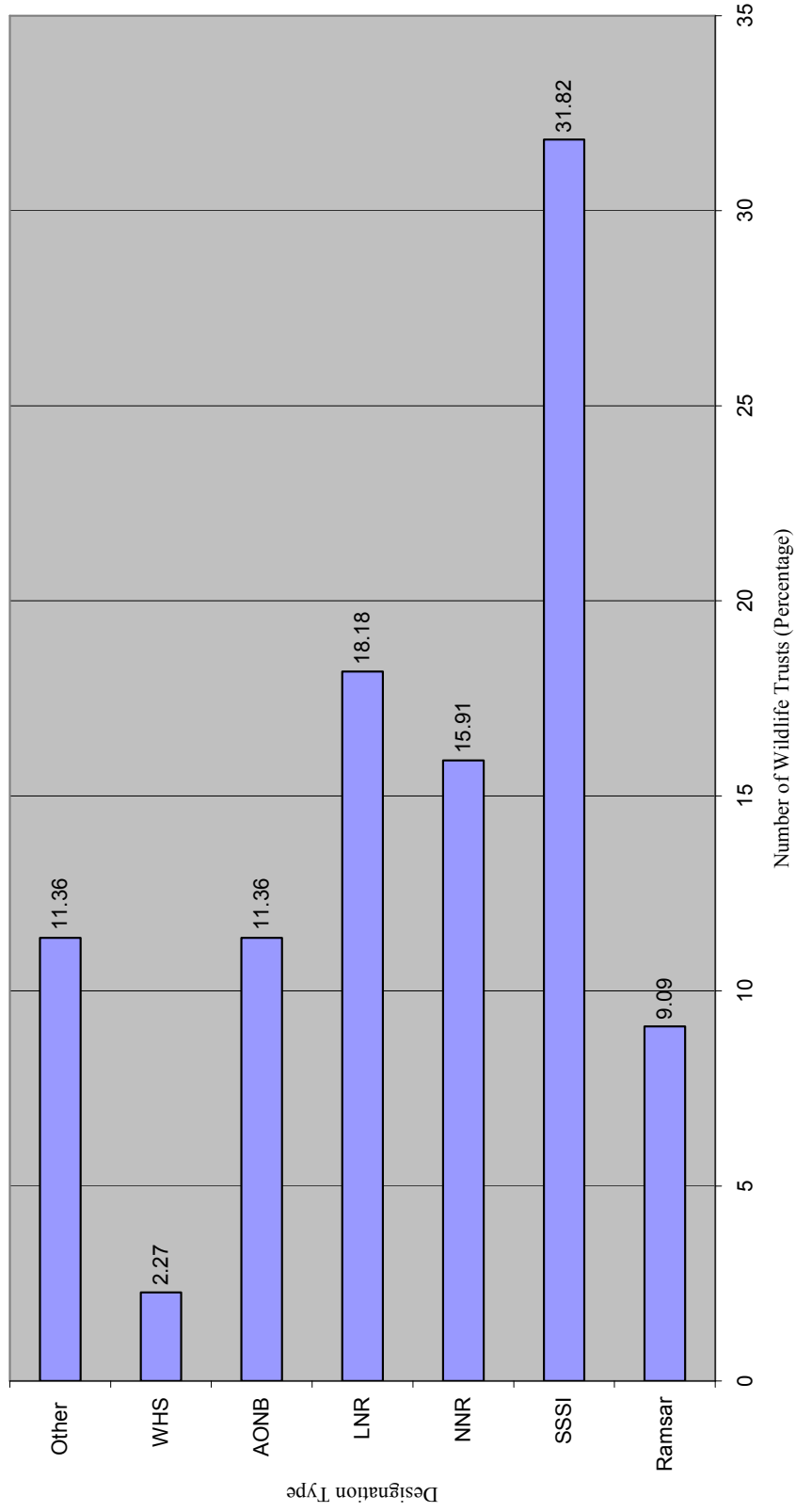


Figure 5.4.7: Question 2 (Management). Graph showing the opinions of UK Wildlife Trust Officers, on the ranking of certain factors affecting the management of their nature reserves

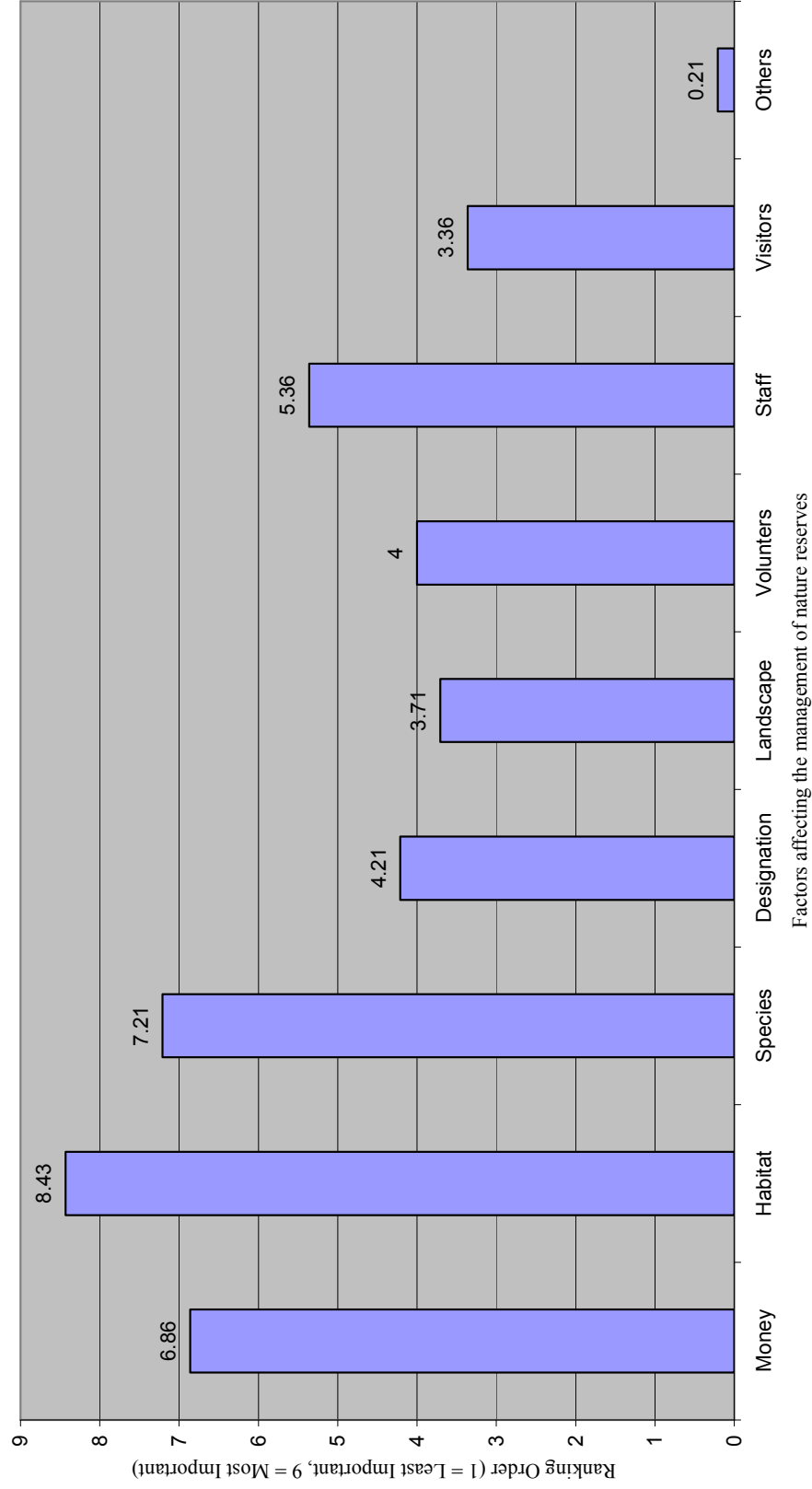
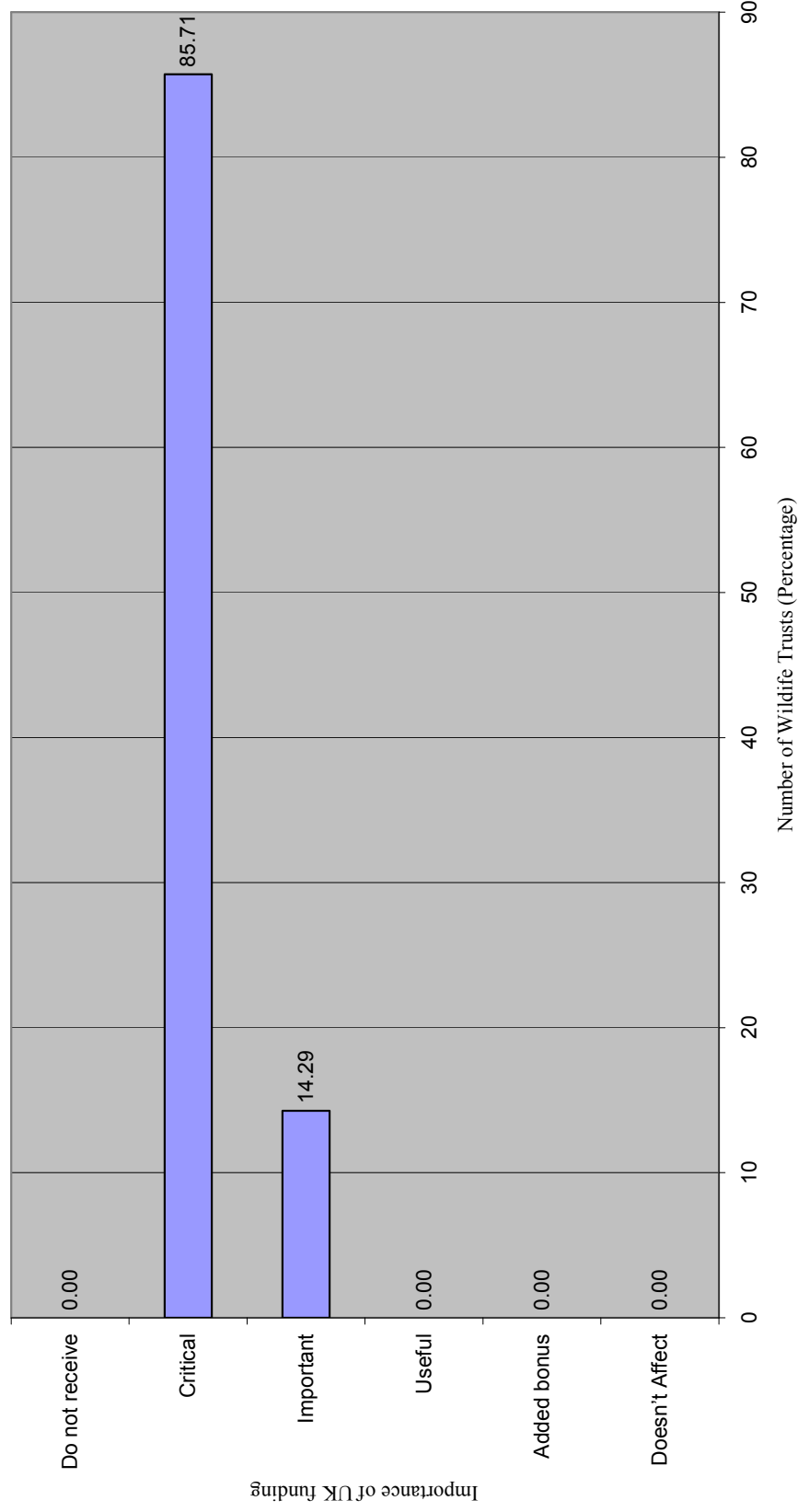


Figure 5.4.8: Question 4 (Management). Graph showing the opinions of Wildlife Trust Officers on the importance of UK funding within management of their nature reserves



5.4.3 Visitor Questions

The literature study has shown that the impact of visitors upon management is important. To gather the Officers' perspective of visitors, seven specific questions were asked.

Almost 35% of officers judged that the best way to gain a visitor's opinion was to converse with them (Figure 5.4.9). However, visitor surveys and "Others" (including member surveys, response to specific consultations on an ad hoc basis to specific management issues (e.g. tree felling), Reserve Advisory Groups) were also considered important.

After visitor feedback, "Site Information" and "Access Arrangements" were the two major areas that officers might alter (Figure 5.4.10). While, "Other" areas considered included community related events and links. However, all this was dependent upon funding.

There were a variety of facilities provided within the nature reserves, varying from basic facilities such as toilets, to staffed centres, and income generating facilities in the form of shops and café's (Figure 5.4.11). "Other" facilities noted included internet, information panels and events.

Even with a wide range of provisions on the different Trust's reserves just over 50% of Officers felt their Trust provided enough facilities. Some had mixed feelings as they believed certain reserves, within their Trust, had enough facilities, whilst others were lacking. The explanations, on sites lacking facilities, varied from funding (one Trust wished for a ranger per site, but only had four staff to cover 90+ sites), to British Wildlife, according to the public, being "boring" (and so requiring facilities to educate). Additionally, car-parking, access and the need for a prominently located visitor centre were raised.

A mixture of approaches were used to get different Trust's management plans across to visitors. Site information and interpretation was most commonly used, with the use of local press and leaflets being utilised (Figure 5.4.13). "Other" means used included membership correspondence, public exhibition in a local hall over proposed major works, and local liaison groups at major sites.

Though education and site information is noted as important, only 36% of Trusts allowed school groups to all of their sites (Figure 5.4.14). All Trusts did use their nature reserves as an educational tool. Some Trusts had specific reserves put aside for the sole purpose of education, while others were developing community links with primary schools.

Figure 5.4.9: Question 1 (Visitors). Graph showing the methods used by UK Wildlife Trusts to gain visitor perceptions of the management they conduct within their nature reserves

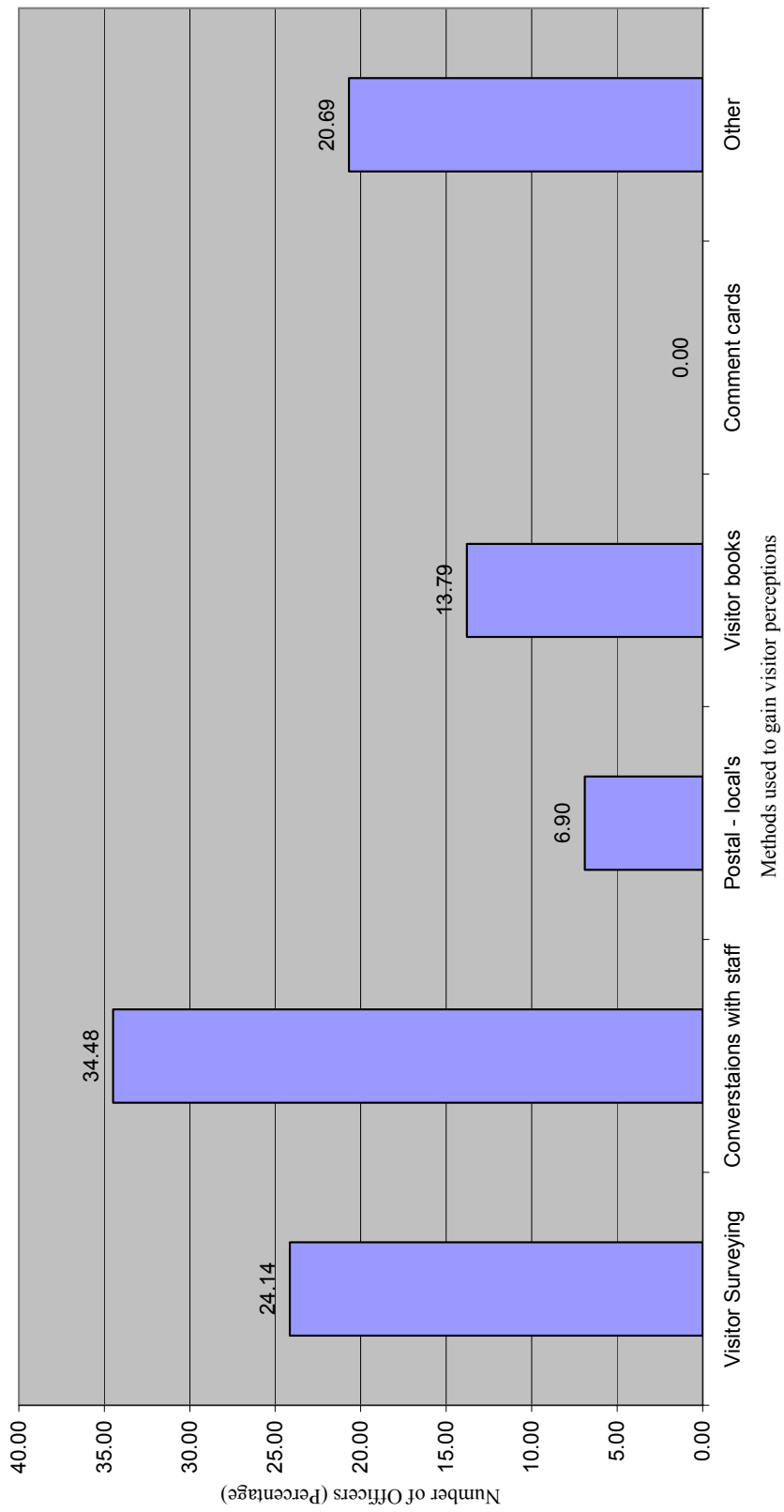


Figure 5.4.10: Question 2 (Visitors). Graph showing what management influences officers of UK Wildlife Trusts would consider changing after visitor consultation

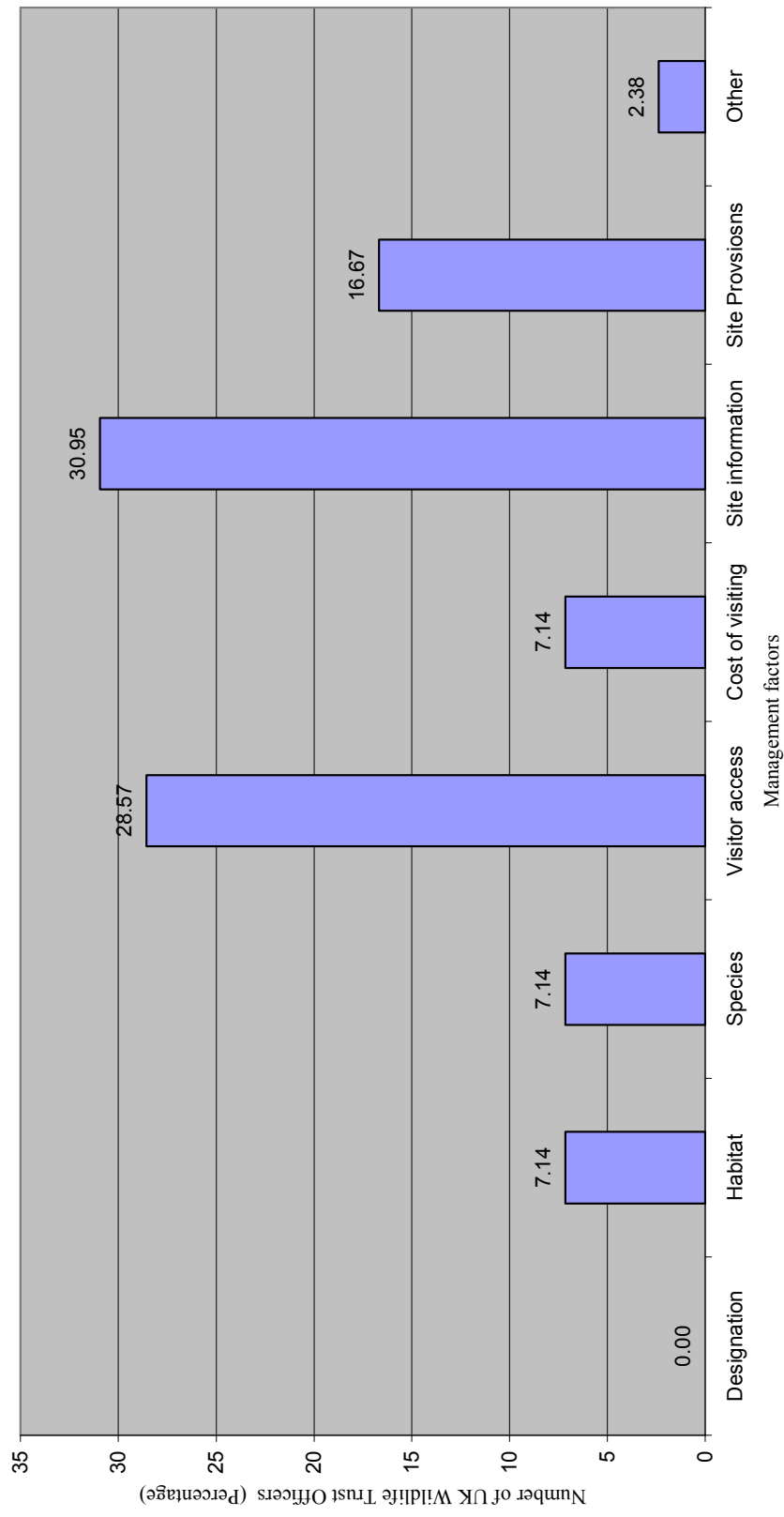


Figure 5.4.11: Question 3 (Visitors). Graph Showing the views of different UK Wildlife Trust Officers, on what provisions are provided on their reserves

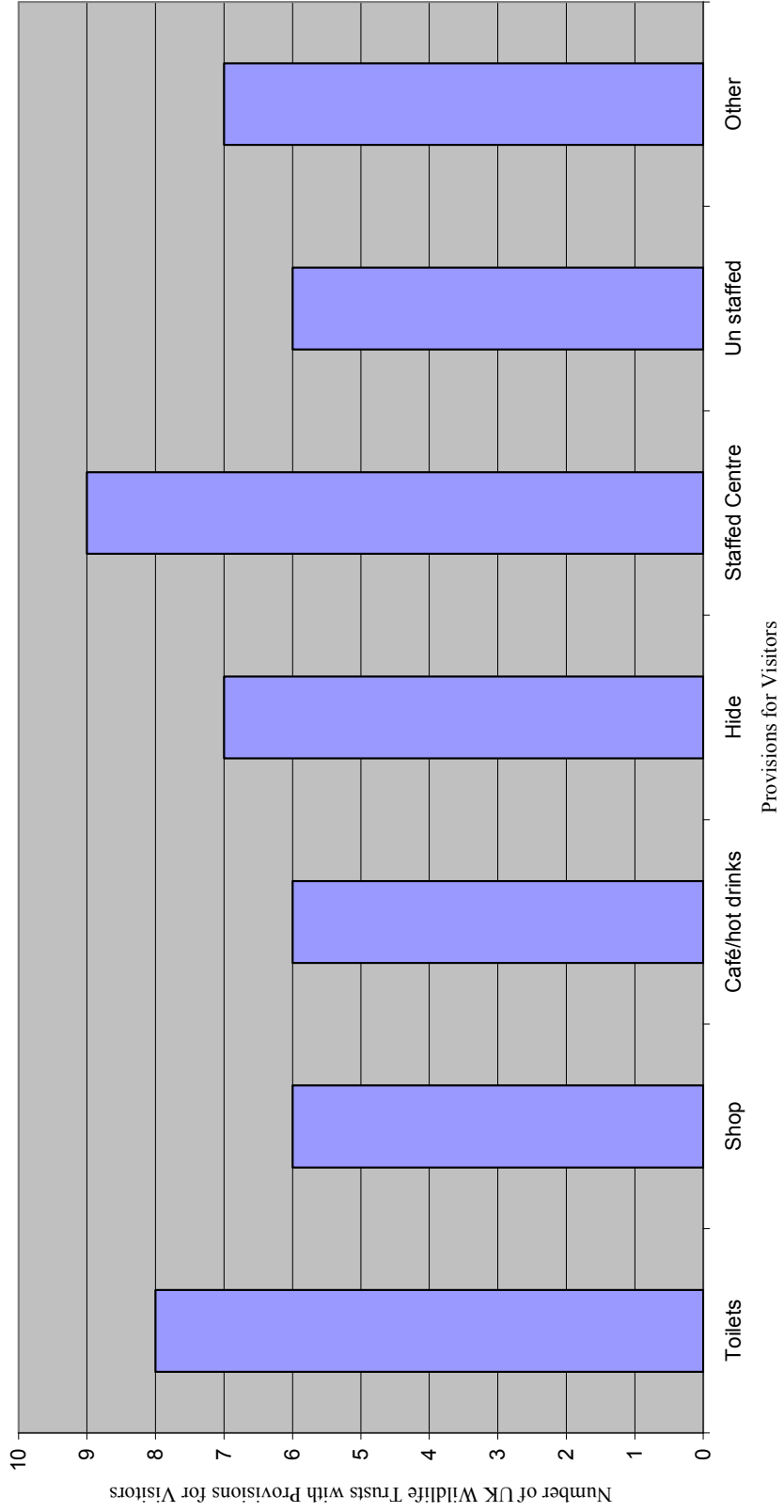


Figure 5.4.12: Question 4 (Visitors). Graph showing whether UK Wildlife Trust Officers feel they provide sufficient visitor provisions upon their nature reserves

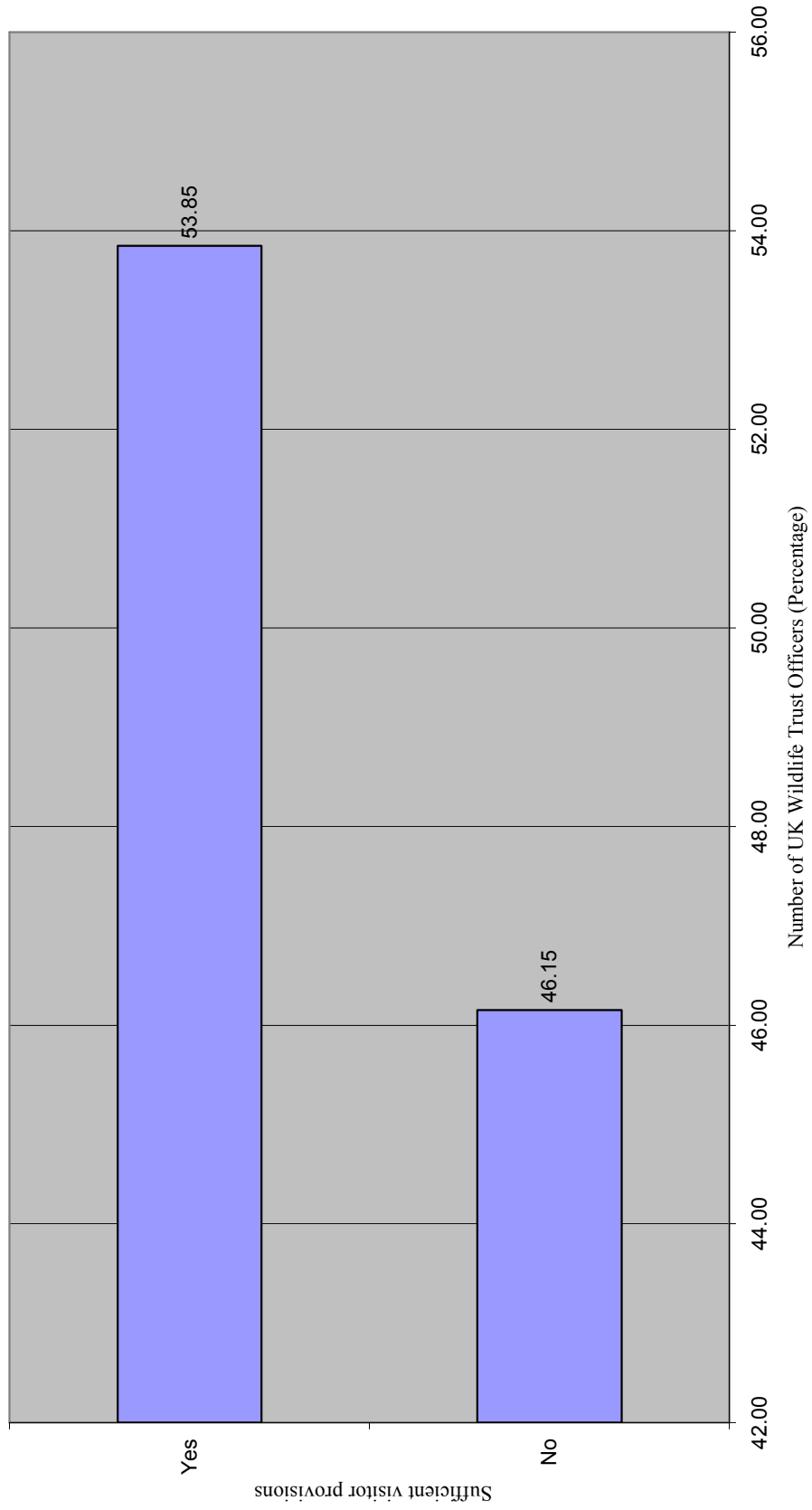


Figure 5.4.13: Question 6 (Visitors). Graph showing the methods used by UK Wildlife Trusts to communicate with visitors about the management work carried out upon their nature reserves

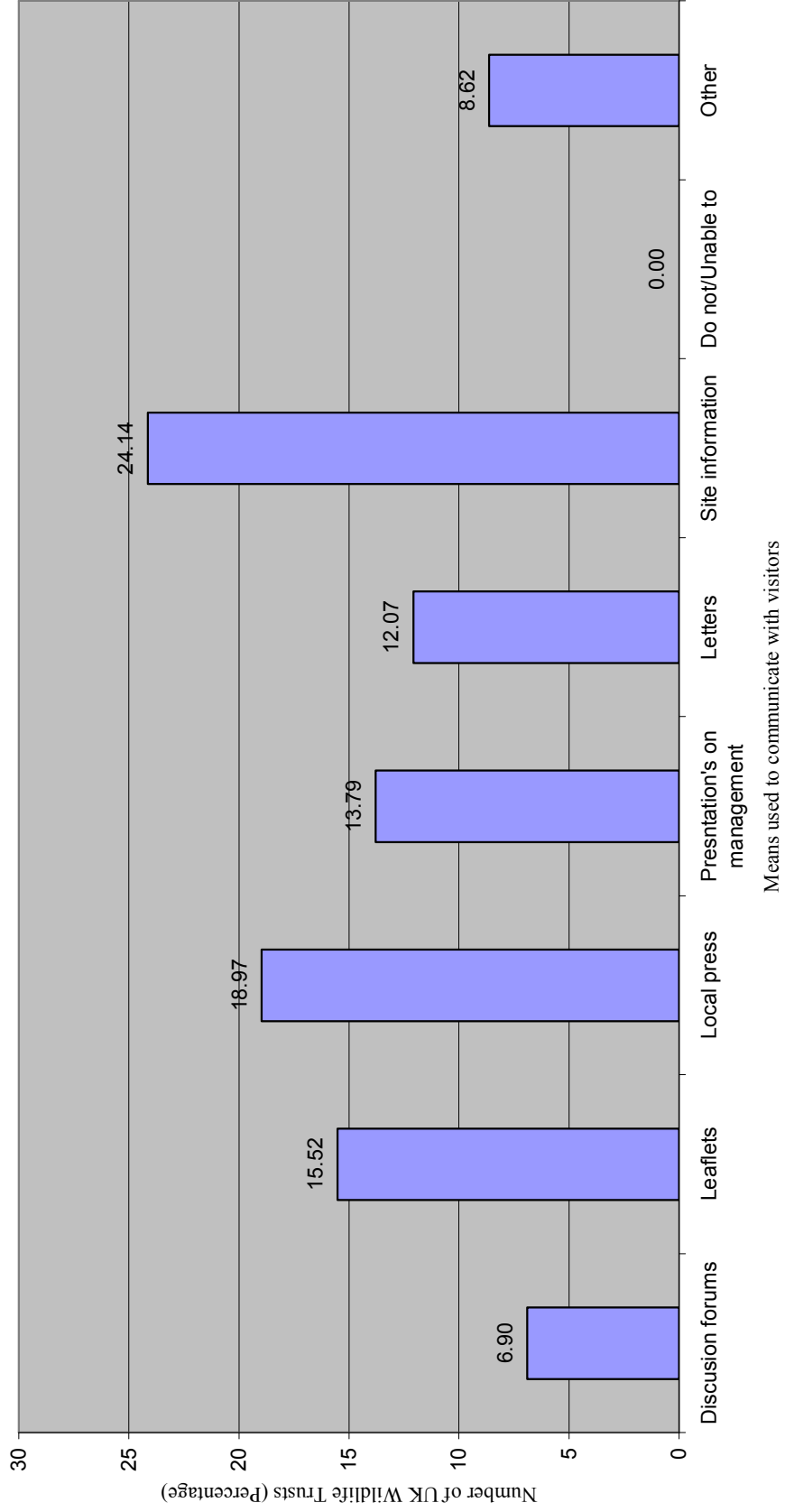
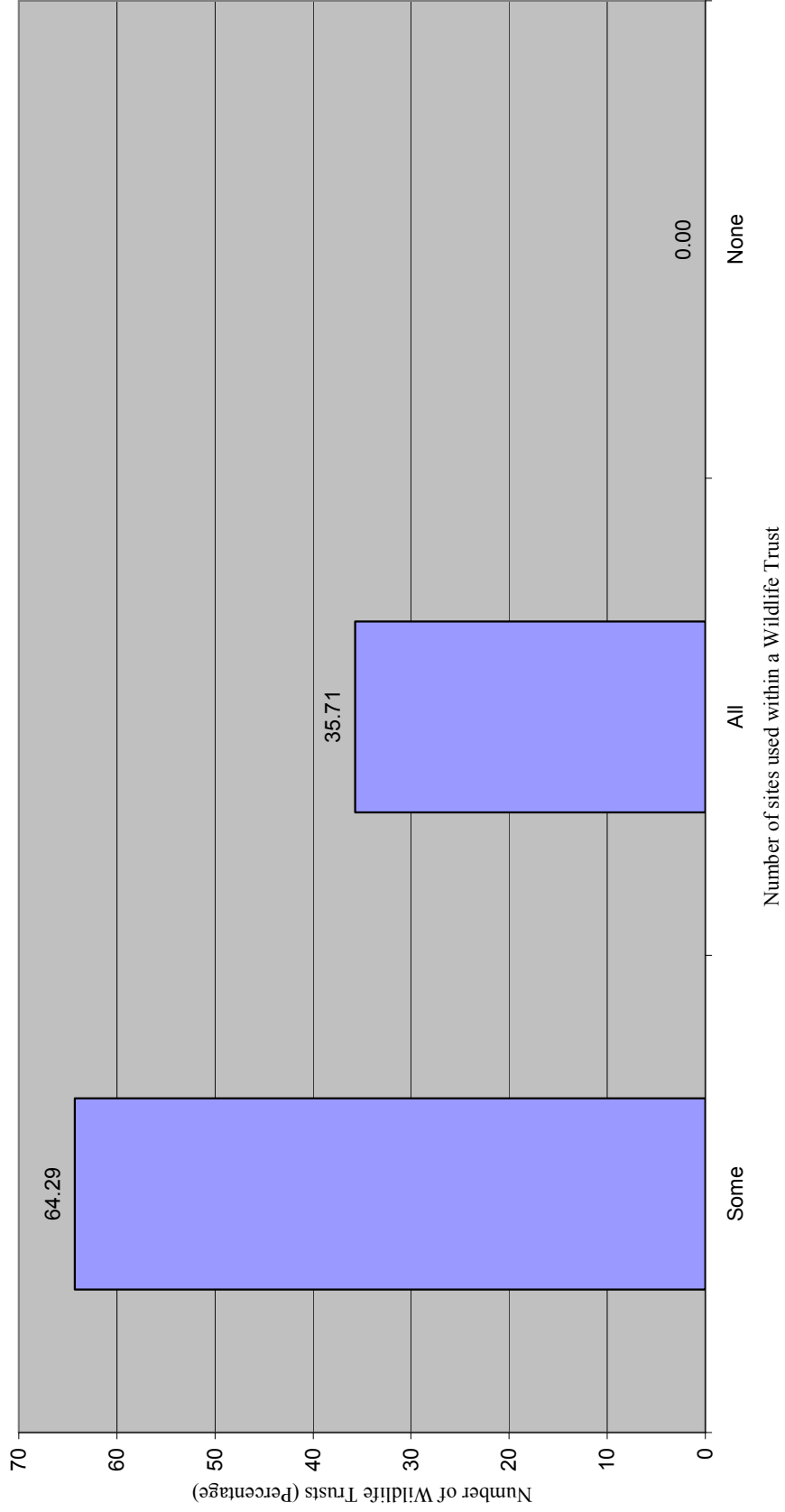


Figure 5.4.14: Question 7a (Visitors). Graph to show the percentage of UK Wildlife Trust nature reserves used for educational pursuits



6. Discussions and Interpretation

6.1 Introduction

The results suggest there are three areas influencing the management of nature reserves. These are conservation (whether habitat or specific species), visitor communication and education. All appear linked by the overriding factor of finance and the funding of the work within nature reserves.

The results show differences in the people using the sites in each area. Within the Isles of Scilly the high number of first time visitors suggests that a high number of tourists were visiting, whilst the large number dog walkers within the AWT reserves suggests local people were surveyed.

6.2 Visitors and Visitor Management

Garrod and Whitby (2005) noted that many managers will spend a “significant” proportion of their time dealing with visitors. This could be directly via conveying information or indirectly by managing the overall site. However, the results identify that visitors are relatively low and considered less influential, by those running the nature reserves, than other factors. Nevertheless, visitors do affect management to a small extent as the issue of access for the public is important on Alderney and the keeping open of footpaths is a regular activity on sites within the IoS Management Plan (IoS, 2002).

Charging is clearly unpopular for such sites where they are traditionally open common land with free access or rights of way. However in 1999, according to the SNH (2004), 15.6 million visitors visited attractions with an average admission charge of three pounds. This included people visiting countryside sites, suggesting funding could be increased in this manner. Yet, this may have been where site facilities made charging easy to manage, such as at a visitor centre and due to the nature of the sites surveyed this would not be possible. Charging is not an exclusively British issue, as Bushell (2003) noted about local residents not wishing to pay to enjoy the use of locally protected areas in New South Wales (Australia).

Furthermore Bushell (2003) comments that many of the opportunities to capture funds are better taken on site where visitors see a tangible return or benefit. To encourage this, the facilities available on site should be considered. Although there is a wide range of facilities provided across the Wildlife Trusts, both the AWT and IoS provided limited facilities and wanted to offer more, but were restricted by resources. Officers from other Trusts generally felt that they provided enough for visitors, however, those who wanted to give more felt limited by resources.

Different Wildlife Trust Officers used an assortment of means to communicate with and educate visitors upon the management work conducted upon their sites. However, this was limited within the two study areas due to lack of staffing and funding to conduct regular communication events (although the AWT is currently conducting public consultation on its strategic review). The IoS communication was found to be on a very ad-hoc basis and when questioned visitors felt that they had not been consulted over recent fencing, although the Trust state they had conducted sessions over this issue.

Dearden, Bennet and Johnston (2005), illustrate that it is not just within the UK, but also within World Conservation Union (IUCN) category I-III protected areas, that different mechanisms of public participation in protected area governance has occurred. The principles used here are similar to those used by the UK Wildlife Trusts, such as focus groups and written information.

6.3 Education

Bushell (2003), comments that an appreciation of nature is grasped better on site, rather than within an educational class. This supports the views expressed throughout the survey by Wildlife Trust Officers concerning the need and reason for education within their sites. The Trust Managers of both reserves felt there was not sufficient provision for visitors to the study areas, visitors to these sites specifically wanted more educational material. This was particularly true within the Isles of Scilly, and yet they believed that there was enough provision overall.

Due to the high level of first time visitors to the IoS sites, it was assumed that the majority were tourists, which was supported by the high level of those questioned who did not realise that the site they were visiting was managed by the IoS. This indicates that the educational facilities and communication pathways, for tourists at least, were lacking. The IoS do wish to change this, but are limited by funding. Further visitor surveying would be necessary to determine if the opinions of both locals and tourists were the same.

6.4 Conservation

With the exception of sites where access and money were raised as major issues, both visitors and the Wildlife Trust Officers agree that habitat management is the most important influence upon nature reserve management within the study areas (Figure 6.4.1). The IoS believe that if their habitat management was right then the indicator species would be present. Shafer (1990) has shown that species have a minimum habitat requirement, which necessitates a minimum area to protect a species or habitat (Shafer, 1990). Moreover, Zhou and Wang (2006) indicated that several small reserves, within a network, are possibly more beneficial than one large or several small sites. This would mean that the Trusts which have 45-60 reserves and 1500-2000 hectares are having greater beneficial impacts. However, this does not categorically work, as these areas could be pockets of land where human population growth could increase by three billion over the next 50 years (predicted by Costello and Polasky, 2004).

However, with both study areas being small islands (groups of islands), reserves will not be of a large size. In addition although the AWT, manage a specific area containing a mixture of habitats, neither Trust can be too selective over the areas it manages as they could either end up with nothing or very small fragmented areas, which have none or very low conservation value.

6.5 Financial

Garrod and Whitby (2005) comment that there are three main sources of funding within the countryside: the exchequer, public paying via a market mechanism (admission charges or sales) and then donations.

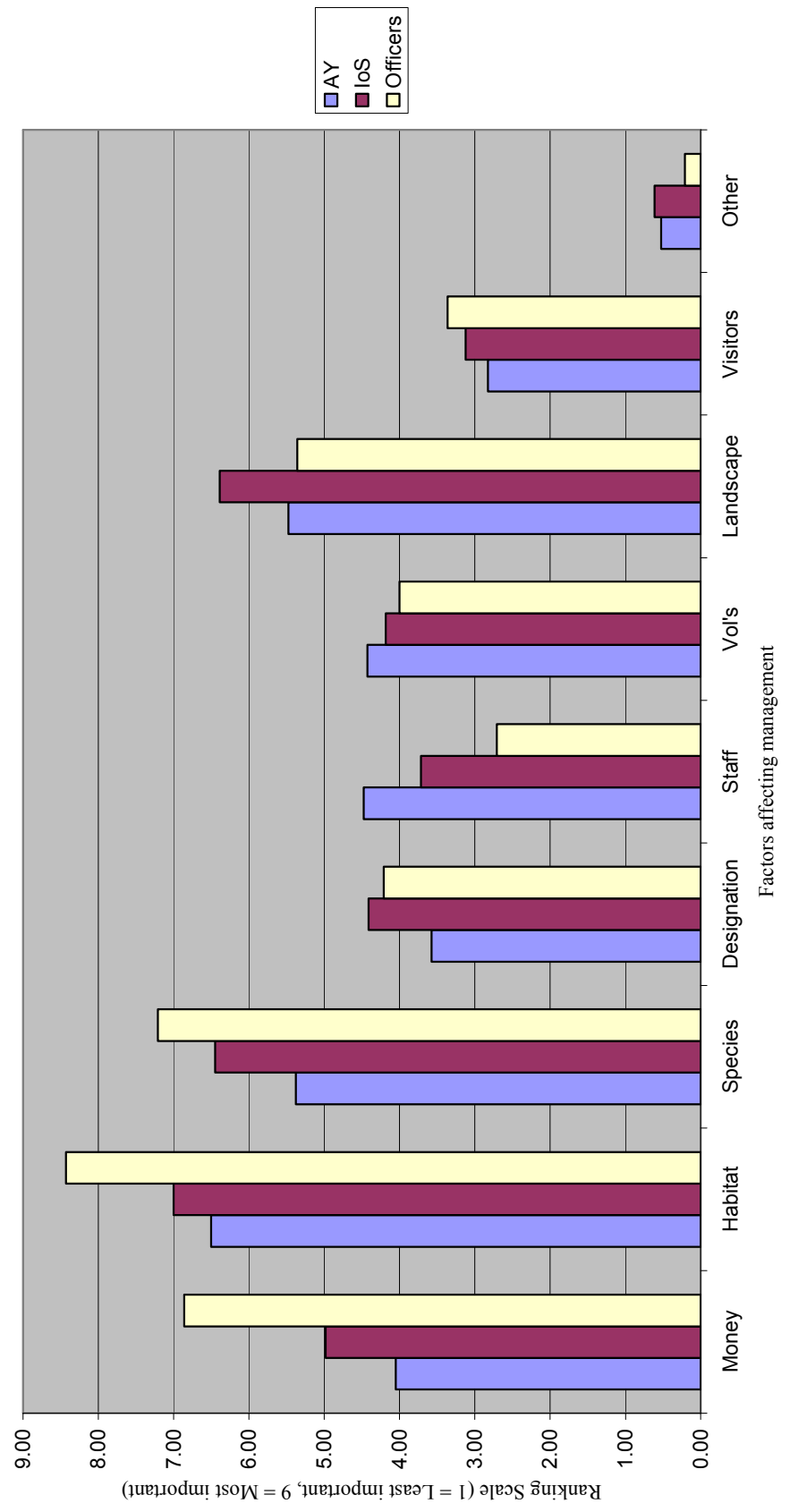
Throughout this research project the impacts of money and general resources, whether that is staffing and volunteers or provision of facilities and management work, has been significant. It underpins all other factors and all the UK Trusts deemed funding sources as

critical or important. Therefore it seems odd that Alderney does not consider it a more important issue. It is acknowledged that with more funding additional work could be done, if they could get a higher staffing level, as they would not stretch their current resources. It is possible that they have developed ways to cope better with less funding as they have never had access to UK funding. It should be noted that selling goods can contribute towards a “significant” and regular income (Dwyer and Hodge, 1996) and the AWT have a respectable facility to be able to do this.

The AWT land at Longis is partially calcareous grassland, which is noted as being of particular importance within a European context (Rodwell, Morgan, Jefferson and Moss, 2007). The AWT is conducting similar management tasks upon their land as recommended by the JNCC, but this is noted as taking up a large proportion of time and effort.

In comparison Wiltshire Wildlife Trust has been managing a wide range of grasslands but between 1995 and February 2000 they were offered 16 grants totalling £3,164,411 (Mantle, Power and Jones, 2000). This income meant that Heritage Lottery Funds contributed 75% of their nature reserves budget in 1998-99. Similarly, Heritage Lottery Funds, currently aid the Heathlands project within the IoS, however, this is not available to the AWT.

Figure 6.4.1. A comparison between Visitors and Trust Officers views on the factors affecting the management of nature reserves within the corresponding study areas on Alderney (AY) and the Isles of Scilly (IoS)



7. Conclusions and recommendations

This report looked into the factors affecting the management of nature reserves within a Crown Dependency and UK Wildlife Trust and how these factors differ. A secondary objective has looked into whether these factors are similar across all Wildlife Trusts within the RSWT.

7.1 Factors affecting the management within Alderney and Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trusts

This report established that there are different opinions of the factors affecting the management of each Trust's nature reserves. However, visitors to both sites felt that "Conservation" would be ranked higher than the Officers comments of "Access" (AWT) and "Money" (IoS). Yet, both Managers noted habitat management/conservation as the next most influential factor. Nonetheless, finance was found to link all factors affecting management, whether through a lack of resources to do the work, or facilities to run things like a visitor centre.

Currently both Trusts are looking at recruiting long-term voluntary placements to help with the running and the faster completion of work within the Trust. However, this is reliant upon willing volunteers who are able to fund themselves whilst working for that Trust.

Various strategies are needed to aid the gaining of funding, and/or more efficient working methods must be adopted (as suggested by Llewellyn and Tappin, 2003). The IoS is splitting some of its administrative work with the Cornwall Wildlife Trust; however, this is limited due to them being two separate organisations.

The AWT has not followed this strategy and it is further limited due to the need to increase revenue from government funding to provide equivalent funding to that of the UK. However, is not currently available due to the political nature of the Channel Islands.

7.2 Factors affecting management across all RSWT Trusts

The results of this study clearly show that funding is a critical tool, within nature reserve management, across all surveyed RSWT Trusts.

With the cuts in Natural England's budget (English Nature, 2006), all Trust's must now become more self-sufficient funding-wise and more conscious about their carbon footprint. Consequently, improving the sustainability of Trusts and enabling wildlife to be protected for the future.

7.3 Recommendations for the support of UK Wildlife

The fiduciary philosophy, of natural resource management, suggests that the responsibility to protect nature reserves falls upon the government (Conover and Conover 2001). Due to this policy and in order to support British wildlife, the UK government should support its dependencies and territories in doing so.

Currently, the Government supports the poorest of the UK Overseas Territories (House of Commons, 2006). However, this currently excludes Crown Dependency's such as Alderney. If the UK would also support them, then organisations such as the AWT could apply for and gain funding to purchase land and thereby protect it permanently, or fund work into the protection of migration species which also use UK waters. This would enable greater protection for UK wildlife.

The Government is presently concerned about obesity within children (BBC, 2007). They could help reduce this by increasing funding for environmental education facilities, as called for by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) (2006), as this could help encourage children to be more active and healthier. This could be through funding organisations like the Wildlife Trusts or RSPB to provide education, or funding schools to carry out education outside. Whichever way, the UK government could help encourage events within the local community/environment and at the same time make children aware of how to reduce their carbon footprint and ‘open their eyes’ not just to global impacts, but also impacts on their local environment. .

Questions still remain over whom protected areas should be managed for: the society, a resource, or future generations.

7.4 Further Study Recommendations

This study could be extended by comparing other European conservation Trust’s with UK and American Trust’s. The results from further studies could provide a greater insight into the factors affecting the management of protected areas. This could then lead to a greater overall understanding and aid the production of European and worldwide support measures for small communities.

Moreover, this study could be conducted within the height of the tourism season, so that there is an increased number of visitors (to the sites) surveyed overall. This would facilitate a true understanding of visitor’s perceptions and enable greater statistical analysis.

Word Count: 11,510

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Appendix 1

Manager's Interview

General Introduction

1. How many nature reserves does the Trust manage?
2. How many hectares do these reserves cover?
3. What brought about the Trust managing these reserves? For example, was it due to: management agreements, the purchase of land, donations of land etc?
4. How much of the Trust's income is approximately spent upon your reserves? (to the nearest £500 pound please)
5. What are the objectives of nature reserves in Alderney/Isles of Scilly?
6. Are nature reserves a critical tool for the Trust to achieve its objectives stated in its constitution?
7. Why are nature reserves a critical tool?

Site Management

8. What UK/European/International designations do your nature reserves have? For example, are they classed as any of the following: Ramsar site, SSSI, NNR, LNR, AONB, or a World Heritage Site?
9. How many of each designation do your reserves have?
10. What is the total number of designations for all your reserves?
11. If none of your reserves have been assigned an International designation, do you know why?
Furthermore, why is it that they have been designated as reserves?

12. What factors do you believe are influencing the management of your nature reserves? E.g. Money, Habitat + Species Conservation, Designation Status, Landscape Protection, Volunteer and Staff availability, Visitors, any others?
13. Which of the factors in question 12, do you feel to be the most influential? (Please state the factor that has the most positive influence and the factor that has the most negative influence).
14. What strategies have you introduced to overcome/harness your most influential factors?
15. Alderney is a UK dependent territory. What effect do you think this has on your nature reserve management work?
16. The Isles of Scilly are part of the UK. What effect do you think this has on your nature reserve management work?
17. If you were to gain, or lose UK funding sources, what affect do you believe it would have upon your nature reserve management work?

Visitors

18. How do you gain an understanding of visitors' perceptions of your reserves? For example, do you use any of the following: Visitor Surveying, Postal Questionnaires to locals, Visitor Books, Conversations with staff, Comment cards, or any other form?
19. Which method (from Q18) do you find to be most beneficial to gathering visitors' perceptions?
20. Which of the following areas of reserve management would you be prepared to change in light of visitor feedback? Site Provisions, Habitat/Species conservation, Designation Status. Visitor Access, Cost of Visiting Site, Site Information, or anything else?

21. What facilities do you provide for your visitors?

E.g. Toilets, Shop, Café/Drinks Machine, Hide, a staffed visitor/interpretation centre, or anything else?

22. Do you think that there is sufficient visitor provision on your sites for visitors? If not, why not?

23. What challenges do you face in your communication with visitors to the Trust's nature reserves?

24. How do you currently communicate with your visitors?

E.g. Through: discussion forums, letters, presentations on management work, leaflets, site information boards, the local press, don't/unable to, or anything different?

25. Do you encourage school and youth groups to use your nature reserves for educational activities?

Why do/don't you do this?

Are there any other comments that you wish to make?

Thank you for your help.

Visitor Questionnaire?

Reserve name:

1. Sex

Male Female

2. Age

Under 18 18 – 29
30 – 39 40 – 59
60 + Not stated

3. On average how frequently do you visit this site?

Once a day More than once a day
Once a week A few times a week
Every few weeks Once a month
Every few months Once a year or less
First time

4. Why do you visit this site?

Walking Business
Dog Walking Bird Watching
Children’s Day out Other (please state what)

.....
5i. Are you aware that this site is managed as a nature reserve?

Yes No

5ii. If yes, how did you become aware of this site’s management?

Magazine Tourism Brochure
Newspaper Internet
Radio Television
Poster/Advertisement Word of mouth
Site Information General Trust leaflets etc.
Volunteer for local trust Other (please state)

.....

6. Which of the following do you think the site should be managed for?

Management Area	Yes	No
Conservation of wildlife		
Landscape protection		
Recreational activities		
Education		
All of the above		
None of the above (please expand)		

.....

7. Please number the factors in RANK order of importance that you think influence the management of this Nature Reserve (1 being the least important and 9 being the most important)?

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Money | ... | Habitat Conservation | ... |
| Species Conservation | ... | Designation Status | ... |
| Staff availability | ... | Volunteer's time | ... |
| Landscape Protection | ... | Visitors | ... |
| Other(please state) | ... | | |

.....

8. How do you feel the management of this site could be improved?

.....

9a. Do you believe that there is sufficient provision for visitors?

Yes No

9b. If No, what provision should there be?

.....

10a. Do you think you should pay to visit this nature reserve?

Yes No

10b. If Yes, how much would you be willing to pay per visit?

Under £1 £1 - £3 £3 - £5
 £5 - £7 £7 +

11a. Do you think that there is enough educational material on site?

Yes No

11b. If No, what additional materials/information could be provided?

.....
.....

13. Do you know where you can gain more educational information on the site?

Yes

No

Please write any further comments that you wish to make in the box below:

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Questionnaire for Conservation Managers and Officers

General Introduction

1. How many individual members does your Trust have?

.....

2. What is the Trust's approximate income per annum?

.....

3. How many nature reserves does your Trust manage?

.....

4. How many hectares in total do the Trust's nature reserves cover?

.....

5. Approximately how much of the Trust's income is spent upon your reserves?
(to the nearest £500 pound)

.....

6a. Are nature reserves a critical tool for you achieving your objectives as a Trust?

Yes

No

6b. Why?

.....
.....

Management

1. Which of the following UK/European/International official designations do your reserves have? Please state the numbers for each designation.

Ramsar

NNR

SSSI

LNR

AONB

World Heritage Site

Other (please state what it is)

.....

2. Please identify which of the following factors are most influential on the management of your nature reserves, by numbering them 1 to 9. (1 is least influential, 9 is most influential)

- Money . . .
- Habitat Conservation . . .
- Species Conservation . . .
- Designation Status . . .
- Landscape Protection . . .
- Volunteer availability . . .
- Staff Availability . . .
- Visitors . . .
- Other (please state) . . .

.....

3. What strategies have you adopted to overcome or harness your most influential factor? (The factor identified as number 1)

.....

4. How would you describe the importance of funds, received from UK funding sources, in the delivery of your work?

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Doesn't affect work | <input type="checkbox"/> | Important | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Added bonus | <input type="checkbox"/> | Critically important | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Useful | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do not receive any | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Visitors

1. How do you gain an understanding of visitor's perceptions of your reserves?

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Visitor Surveying | <input type="checkbox"/> | Visitor Books | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conversations with staff | <input type="checkbox"/> | Comment Cards | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Postal questionnaires to local residents' | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please state) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

.....

2. Which of the following areas of reserve management would you be prepared to change in light of visitor feedback?

- Designation Status
- Habitat Conservation
- Species Conservation
- Visitor access
- Cost of visiting site
- Site information (e.g. trail leaflets)
- Site provisions (e.g. shop etc)
- Other (please state)

.....

3. Which of the following do you make available for visitors to your reserves?

- Toilets
- Shop
- Café/hot drinks
- (Bird) Hide
- Staffed centre
- Un-staffed visitor/interpretation centre
- Other (please state)

.....

4a. Do you think that there is sufficient visitor provision on your sites?

Yes

No

4b. If no please explain why.

.....
.....

5. What challenges do you face in communicating with your visitors about the Trust's nature reserves?

.....
.....

6. Please tick which of the following you use to communicate to your visitors the management work that you undertake.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Discussion Forums | <input type="checkbox"/> | Letter's | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Leaflets | <input type="checkbox"/> | Site Information | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local Press | <input type="checkbox"/> | Don't/unable to | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Presentations on Management Work | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please state) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-

7a. Do you encourage school and youth groups to use your nature reserves for educational activities?

- Some All None

7b. Why do, or don't you do this?

.....

Please write any other comments that you wish to make in the box below:

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

If you wish to be entered into a free prize draw please leave your contact details in the box below so you can be entered.

(This will not be used as part of the survey material)

Name:

Address:

Telephone number:

Appendix 4

List of all Wildlife Trusts
(bar Alderney and Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust's)

Avon	Hampshire and IoW	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough	Herefordshire	Sheffield
Berks, Bucks and Oxon	Herts and Middlesex	Shropshire
Birmingham and Black Country	Kent	Somerset
Brecknock	Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside	South and West Wales
Cheshire	Leicestershire and Rutland	Staffordshire
Cornwall	Lincolnshire	Suffolk
Cumbria	London	Surrey
Derbyshire	Manx	Sussex
Devon	Montgomeryshire	Tees Valley
Dorset	Norfolk	Ulster
Durham	North Wales	Warwickshire
Essex	Northumberland	Wiltshire
Gloucestershire	Nottinghamshire	Worcestershire
Gwent	Radnorshire	Yorkshire

Officers Survey - Question 6b comments

- We want to encourage people into the countryside and to appreciate wildlife that way people will stand up and protect wildlife because they value wildlife.
- ... to safeguard sites of nature conservation importance
- to contribute to the implementation of national, regional and local Biodiversity Action Plans and the Wildlife Trusts Conservation Plan
- to provide an educational resource and promote nature conservation to the wider public
- to provide an example to other landowners on 'best practice' for managing land for nature conservation
- to provide a focus for Trust activity to involve the public and recruit members
- One of our business plan aims : “ Protect and enhance areas of nature conservation importance and value”
- because they are natural green spaces & people want to go there – people and wildlife are key to our objectives as a Trust (nothing ground breaking there)...plus we aim to manage sustainably – also an objective
- They are the most secure way for us to ensure the survival of semi-natural habitat. They enable us to demonstrate land management practices to others. They inspire others to conserve and value wildlife. They are an oasis, from which wildlife may be able to recolonise the wider countryside if conditions become more favourable.
- Nature reserves allow us to protect local wildlife, whilst at the same time providing a place where local people can enjoy the nature. They act as a showpiece to highlight to our members the work that we do, and they also provide more strength as a local landowner to prevent controversial planning issues etc.
- For safeguarding important habitats and species, as an educational resource, for promoting best practice, for informing the public.
- The protection and management of nature reserves is a key charitable object of the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. They provide sanctuaries and protection for some of the best wildlife (habitats and species) in the county, they are also valuable for research, education and general awareness raising
- Our objectives include protecting existing wildlife in the area

- Trust works in 3 ways – Planning, education and reserves (ed + reserves overlap). Reserves raise awareness and conserve
- Direct control on impacts
- Reserves 4 nature, management examples, links, engage and therefore enthuse public
- Setting aside wild places to establish as nature reserves has always been an essential part of the Trust's work, and we now manage just under 100 land holdings covering an area of just over 1650ha. Nature Reserves are places where the enjoyment and protection of wild plants and animals can be made a priority but they also fulfil several other important roles:
 - To protect rare habitats and species against inappropriate management or development.
 - To have full control of management to ensure the needs of sensitive habitats and species can be catered for as a priority.
 - To demonstrate 'best practice' management to other landowners whilst increasing our own knowledge through monitoring programmes.
 - To provide peaceful and beautiful places for our members and the public to enjoy.
 - The Wildlife Trusts are committed to the aims of the Biodiversity Convention. Our acquisition and management activities will help achieve the targets set in the Biodiversity Action Plans.

Not all of our reserves contain rarities but each one has something special about it. Some are large, some very small; some can cope with large numbers of visitors, while others are more fragile and can only tolerate a small amount of human disturbance. The Trust's policy is to encourage visitors to come and enjoy the marvellous heritage of wildlife on as many Reserves as possible.....
 And the members particularly like being able to visit our nature reserves!!

Appendix 6

Officer Survey's – Management Question 3

- Different habitats
- Management planning - 5 years/site
- Grazing projects - management agreements with local farmers
- Monitoring - quite critically
- Invasive species - Rhodies/grey squierals ~ mainly plants
- BAP's
- Depends on habitat
- Priority habitats
- Volunteers
- Improving income - Coroparte sponsorship/grant aid/HLF
- Detailed acquisition policy
- Site management planning
- Secure funding for habitat works (esepcally on SSSI's)
- Volunteers team - around full time
- Funding for staffing - membership DON'T pay for reserves e.g. SFP, Woodland grant etc
- Practical team do contract work
- Managent Planning process
- Applying for funding grants and lottery money
- Increasing membership levels to increase core funding which isnt targeted
- Ensure funds available to employ a mamanger to keep reserves at high standard
- BAP Planning to establish priorities
- Management planning
- Identification of key habitats
- Best practise techniques and developments
- Long term sustaiability of reserves - low financially and energy so as to reduce carbon footprint