

Appendix 4 Consultation responses summary

Source: A consultation survey conducted from 6th to 28th June 2021, asking the public their views on restrictions on lighting fires and BBQs in certain parks and green spaces in the city, and specifically bottle-digging in Port Meadow.

There were 205 responses in total. The results can be found at the end of this summary.

Consultation summary

Based on evidence from the police, fire and rescue service, and Oxford City Council, the parks with the highest prevalence of fire damage were:

- Port Meadow, Burgess Field and Wolvercote Common
- Angel and Greyhound Meadow
- Rivermead Nature Reserve
- South Park.

Bottle-digging is specific to Port Meadow.

Respondents were asked how big a problem these issues were in each area. There was a significant response rate for each area, although each area had a large of Don't Know responses due to the very local nature of the parks.

		Very or fairly big problem	Not a big problem or no problem	% of those who expressed a view considered it a problem.
Port Meadow, Wolvercote Common and Burgess Field	Burning logs	157	10	94%
	Ground BBQs	163	9	94%
	Standing BBQs	99	41	59%
	Bottle-digging	119	15	87%
South Park	Burning logs	107	18	83%
	Ground BBQs	113	12	89%
	Standing BBQs	70	35	50%
Angel and Greyhound Meadow	Burning logs	46	8	83%
	Ground BBQs	51	7	86%
	Standing BBQs	37	17	54%
Rivermead Nature Reserve	Burning logs	37	4	89%
	Ground BBQs	37	6	84%
	Standing BBQs	27	12	56%

Respondents were asked if fire lighting had got better or worse in the last twelve months.

	Better	Stayed the same	Worse	% of those who expressed a view thought it had worsened.
Port Meadow, Wolvercote Common and Burgess Field	3	6	150	94%
South Park	2	21	66	74%
Angel and Greyhound Meadow	2	8	25	71%
Rivermead Nature Reserve	2	5	19	73%

Respondents were asked for their views on a number of statements.

Statements	Strongly or	Neither	Strongly or	% of those who
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	somewhat disagree		somewhat agree	expressed a view strongly or somewhat agreed
Ban log fires	8	0	197	96%
Ban ALL Bbqs	23	4	178	87%
Ban damaging Bbqs	96	16	93	45%
Ban bottle digging	8	18	179	87%

With regards to bottle-digging in Port Meadow, respondents were asked if the issue had got better or worse.

	Port Meadow
Better	4
Stayed the same	29
Worse	72
% of those who expressed a view thought it had worsened.	69%

All areas' responses found that burning logs and ground BBQs were a big or fairly big problem. Just under half of respondents thought BBQs on a stand were less of a problem.

Nearly three-quarters of respondents in South Park, Angel and Greyhound Meadow and Rivermead Nature Reserve felt the issues had got worse over the last 12 months. In Port Meadow, Wolvercote Common and Burgess Field, this rose to 94% of all respondents who expressed an opinion.

There was support for banning log fires and BBQs except those on stands. Only 45% of respondents who expressed an opinion on the issue supported banning BBQs on a stand.

Bottle digging was thought to be a big or fairly big problem in Port Meadow and had worsened in the last 12 months, with 87% of respondents supporting a ban.

Respondents were asked if there were any other areas they would like included. The areas are listed below with the number of times they were mentioned.

	Quantity
Trap Grounds	19
Adjacent to Port Meadow	15
All areas	15
Astons Eyot	5
None	4
Cotteslowe Park	4
Headington Hill Park	4
The Spinney	3
University Parks	3
Shotover	2
Cherwell	1
Fiddlers Island	1
Sunnymead park	1
The Kidneys	1
Total	78