

Appendix 6: Derbyshire LNRS Farmers, Landowners and Land Managers Survey - Results

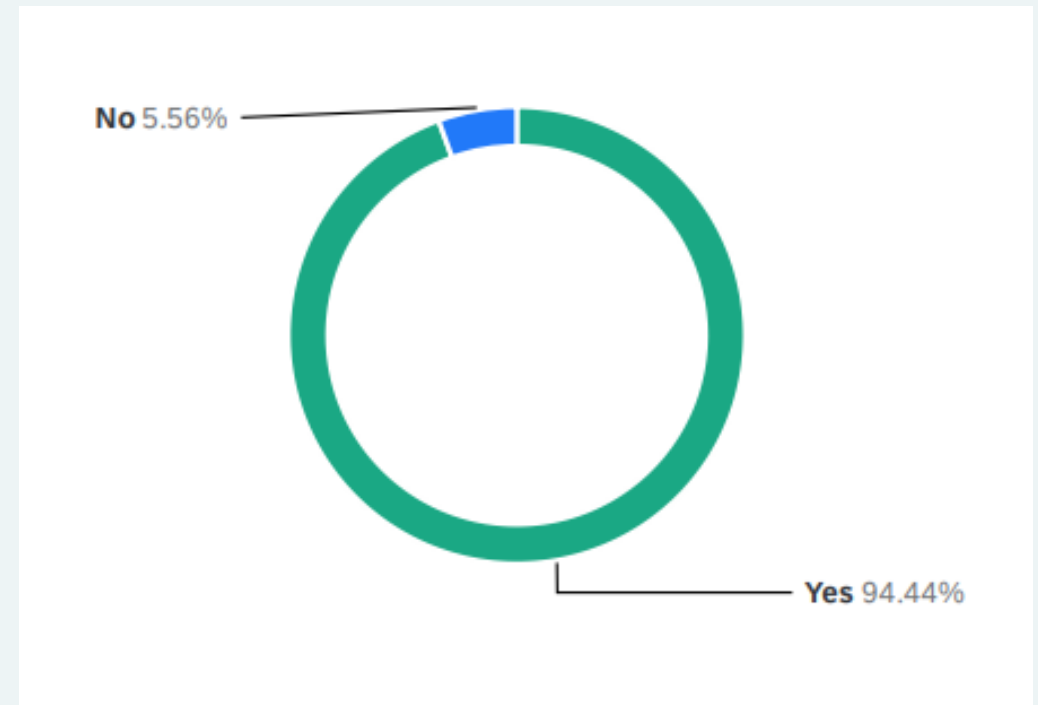


30.11.24

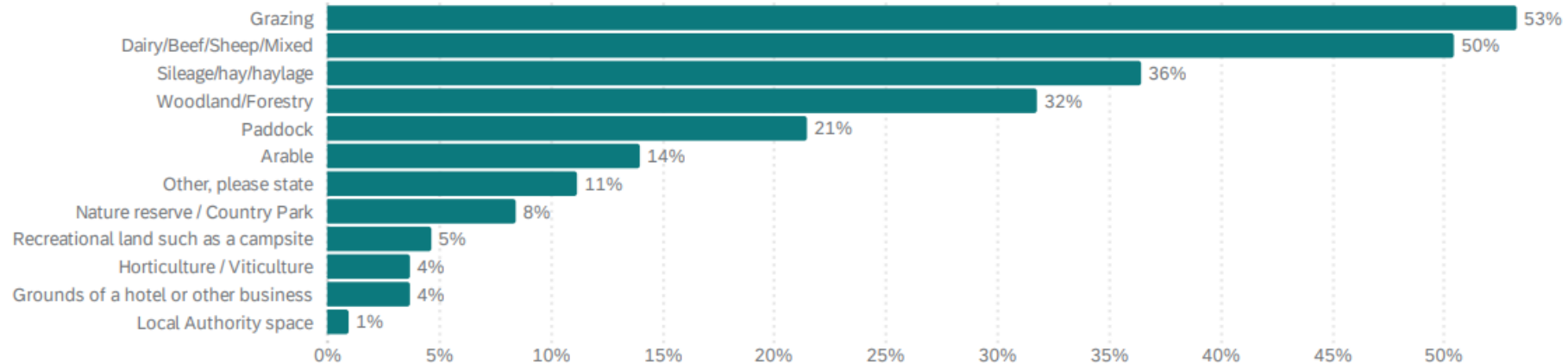
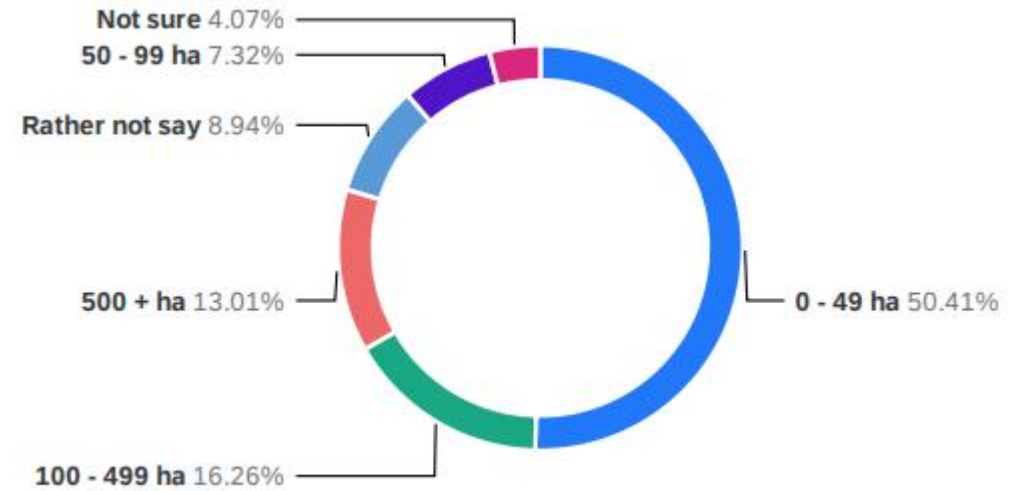
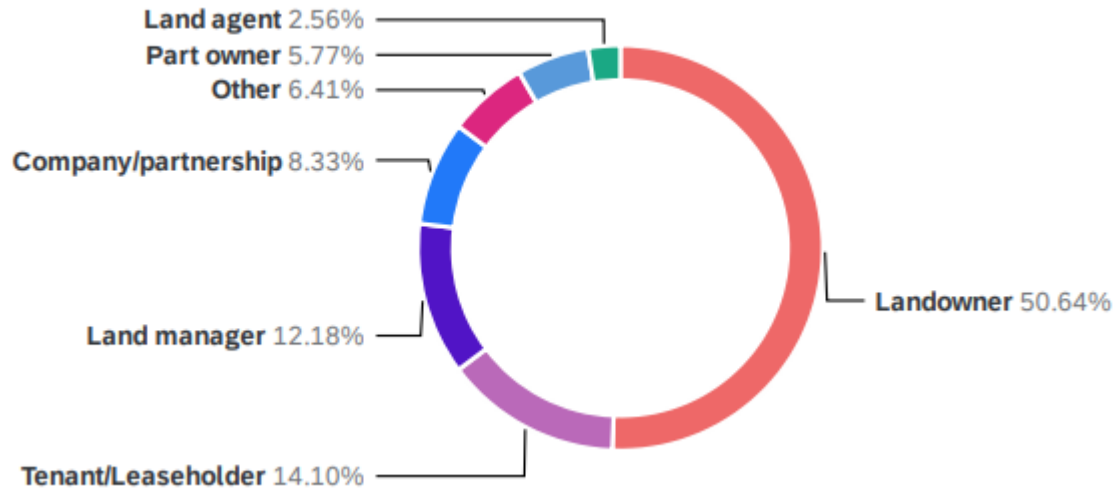
Farmers, Landowners and Land Managers survey

- The survey was opened between 10.10.24 – 30.11.24
- Attempts to access the survey **203**
- Respondents that gave consent for using the data provided for strategy development and dissemination – **158** or 95% of respondents
- Response quality - 99%

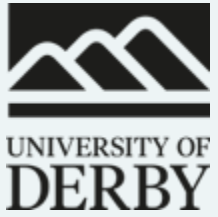
Are you interested in improving nature on your land?



Sample: descriptive data



Biggest challenges in farming/land management next 3 years



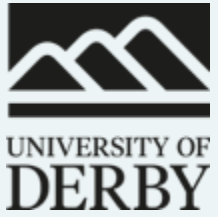
- Economic: *profitability loss; supplier and buyer pricing; subsidy and grants are confusing, delayed and difficult to access. Lack of resources (money and staff).*
- Climate change related: *changing weather; increasing floods; solar farm development; excessive rainfall creating wet land, foot rot in sheep.*
- Policy: *lack of continuity in governmental support; uncertainty about funding mechanisms and support programmes for farmers.*
- Bridging the boundaries between agriculture, landscape recovery, nature recovery and community.
- Information and skills gaps: *‘there is no funding available to support the regeneration of the ancient woodland that we own. Little advice and support available either.’ Poor public perception of forestry (lack of understanding) and misinformation.*

Large landowners vs smallholders/small family farms

*‘Government support and grants are focussed on large landowners not smallholders/small family farms. This means that when it comes to sustainability and land management activities (including rewilding of small patches of woodland, hedgerow and stonewall maintenance) the **cost is fully down to the individual and often prohibitive**. The physical environment in which we operate is often second priority to the natural environment so there are barriers to maintenance of outbuilding and repurposing of buildings for modern farming practices and animal welfare IF your farm is less than 25 acres or if you have only sheep and not cattle (e.g. there is a cowshed grant to improve living conditions but nothing at all for other animals like sheep which small holders are more likely to have). I think because of all of this, **traditional farm structures for smaller family farms are either chopped up and sold piecemeal or are turned into residential rather than commercial outfits**. I really believe small holders have a large part to play in environmental stewardship and we just supported to do that’.*

Policy design to reflect specifics of large vs small family farms

Main drivers of success in farming/land management next 3 years

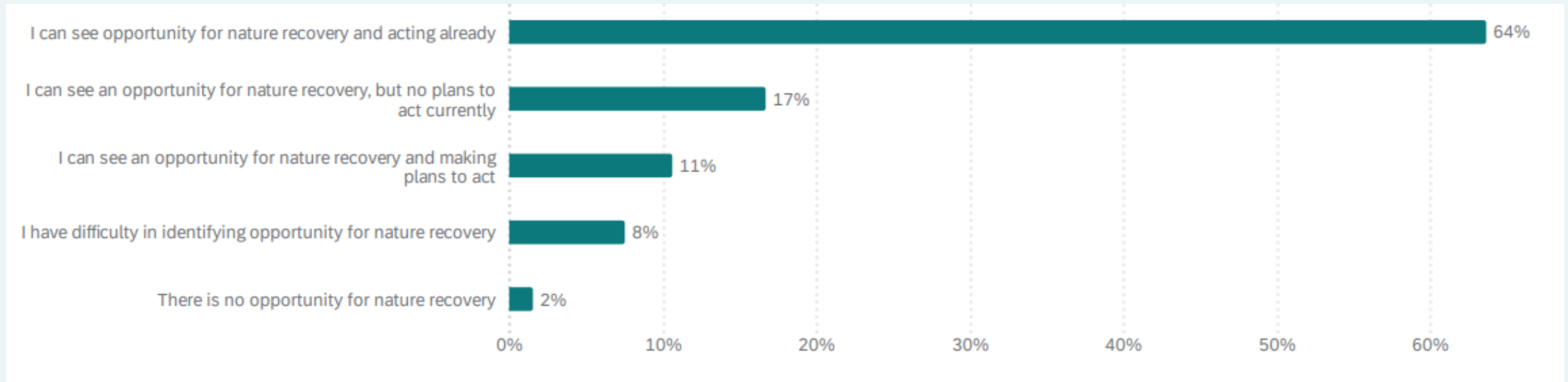


- Economic: *governmental subsidies of appropriate focus and level; Efficiency is paramount it usually goes with improved profitability and reduces carbon footprint. Green finance markets. Business management - cost awareness and control, maximising **agri-environment income** to fund sustainable farming practices*

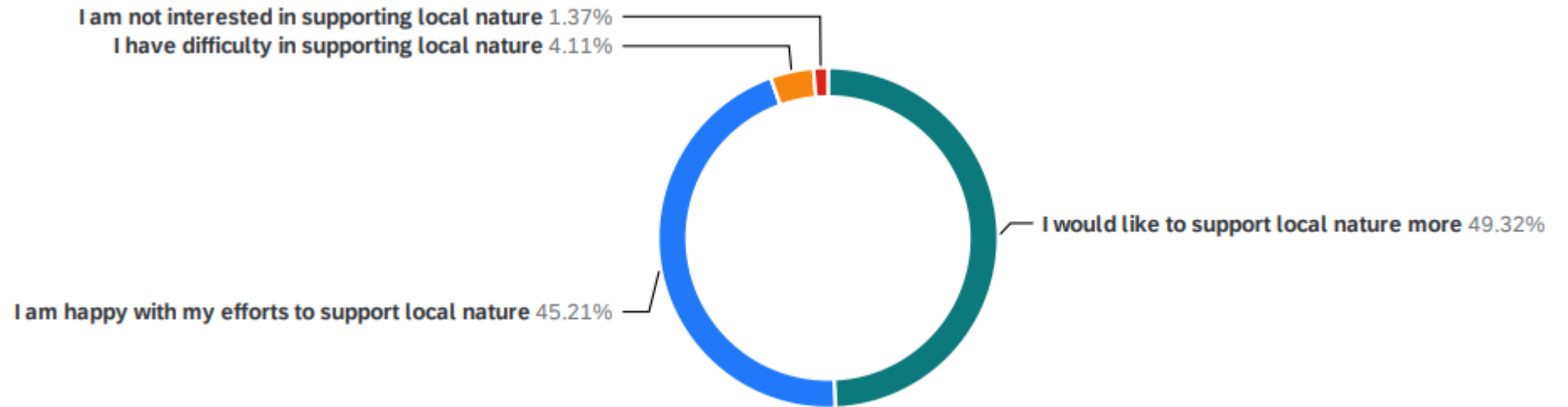
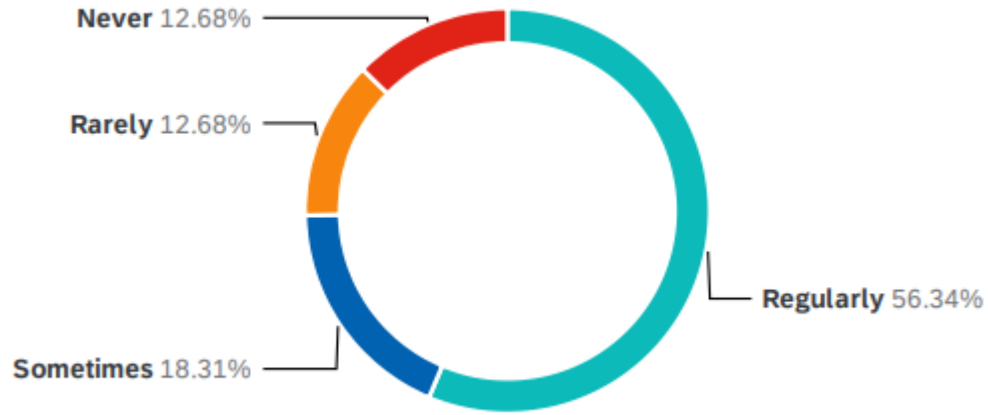
“Government support is a red herring, there isn’t the money to truly support farming, and a lot of its schemes are poorly thought out and don’t achieve their intended outcome”.

- Innovation and technology adoption: *“New technology is an important part of this but so is tried and tested methods that have gone on for years.”*
- Knowledge sharing
- Skills development: *“Green skills in farming would be beneficial but it’s a really long-term outlook so there does need to be a balance to support current systems before moving straight to green”.*
- Tailored support programmes to support sustainable farming and land management
- Collaborative working among different farmers and landowners to deliver landscape-scale benefits.

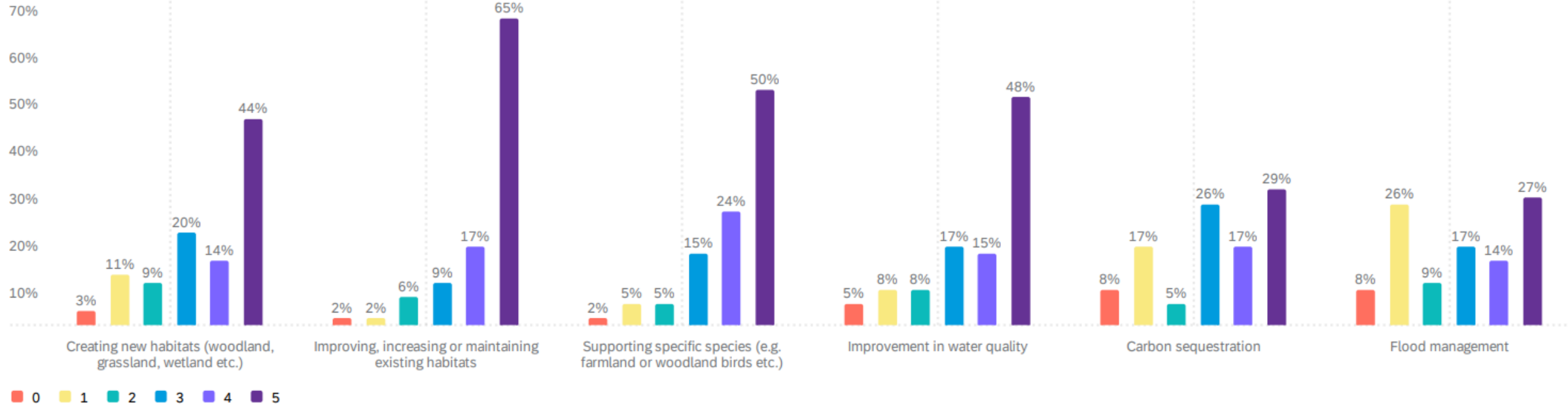
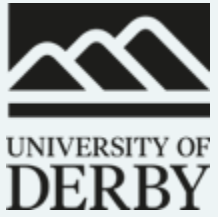
Opportunities for Nature Recovery on your Land



Engagement with nature-based solutions



Likelihood of engagement with Nature Recovery Initiatives



Species and Habitats: Present



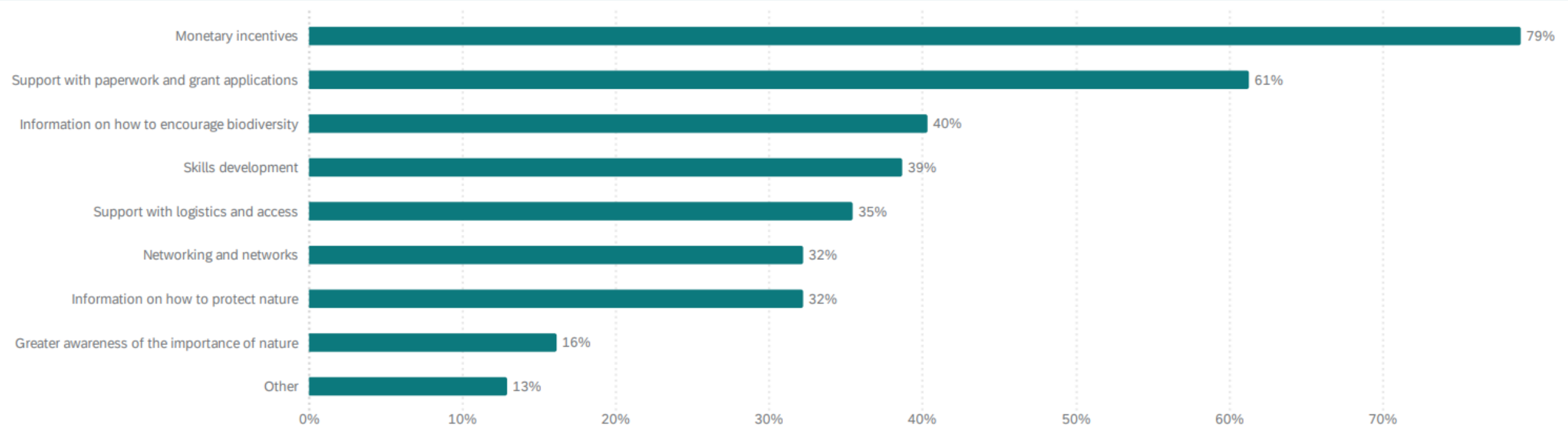
Species and Habitats: Future



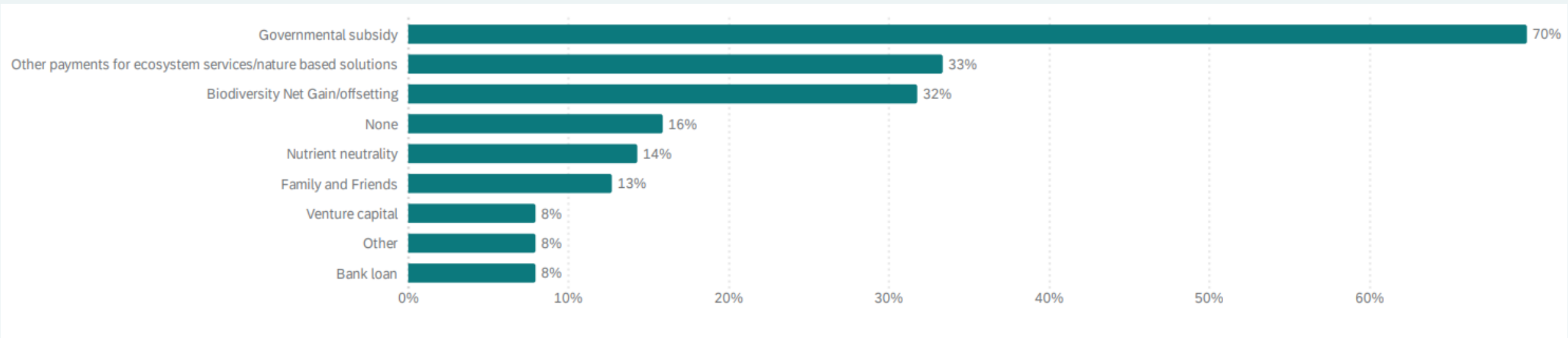
Interest in supporting other Nature Recovery Initiatives

- Continue the *organic* and *regenerative* land management practices.
- Connecting people with nature; nature-based health and wellbeing.
- Advising and supporting farmers and farmers facilitation groups.
- Improving diversity of plants in grassland.
- Wildfire Mitigation / fuel load management.
- Vermin and predator control.
- Biodiversity increase, and removal of invasive species.

Q15: Which of the following would help you to get more involved in nature recovery, conservation and protection activities going forward?



Q18: Sources of finance for nature recovery



Q20: What would you like to see the nature recovery strategy achieve from your perspective?



- *“Promote improved farming practices. Restore boundaries. Increase tree cover - hedges and agroforestry not rewilding and mass planting”.*
- *“Targeted funding to identified land for nature continuity or public access”.*
- *“Knowledge support and advice, possible funding support for new landowners”.*
- *“A greater recognition of the work farmers do to protect, enhance and restore nature on their farms”.*
- *“More young people involved via education and employment opportunities”.*
- *“Support local employment and farming, sustainable communities and empower land managers”.*



THANK YOU

Dr Polina Baranova
Associate Professor of Strategy and Sustainability
Derby Business School
University of Derby
p.Baranova@derby.ac.uk