

South Copeland Resident Research

SEPTEMBER 2023

FOR PUBLICATION

.YONDER

Programme of work

Surveying

Between 6 and 14 June 2023, Yonder oversaw a survey of 187 residents (16+) interviewed in person across the wards of Millom and Millom Without. The interviews were conducted by Red Research, on behalf of Yonder.

Quotas and weights were employed to ensure a demographically representative sample of the area's adult (16+) population.

Accounting for the change to the Search Area

The Search Area for South Copeland changed its boundary due to Local Government Reorganisation. The South Copeland Search Area now covers the electoral division of Millom and Millom Without. Drigg and Carleton, and Irton with Santon, which were previously part of the Mid Copeland Search Area are now part of the South Copeland Search Area. This addition increased the population by c.700 residents. By recording respondents' parish council, data from the former Search Area could be compared with the revised Search Area.

Depth interviews

Yonder conducted ten depth interviews with residents from across the wards Millom and Millom Without.

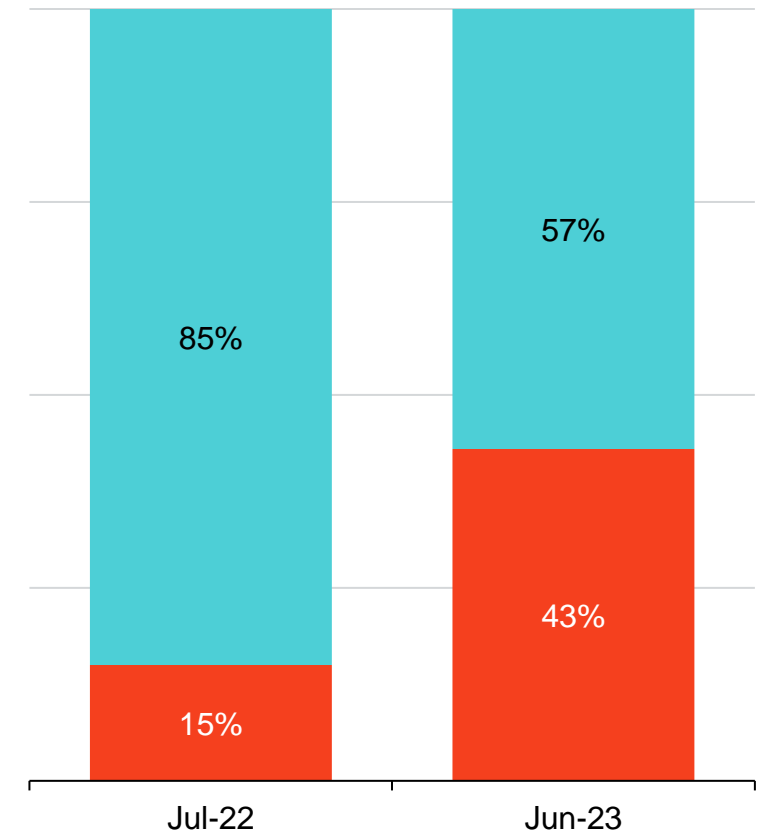
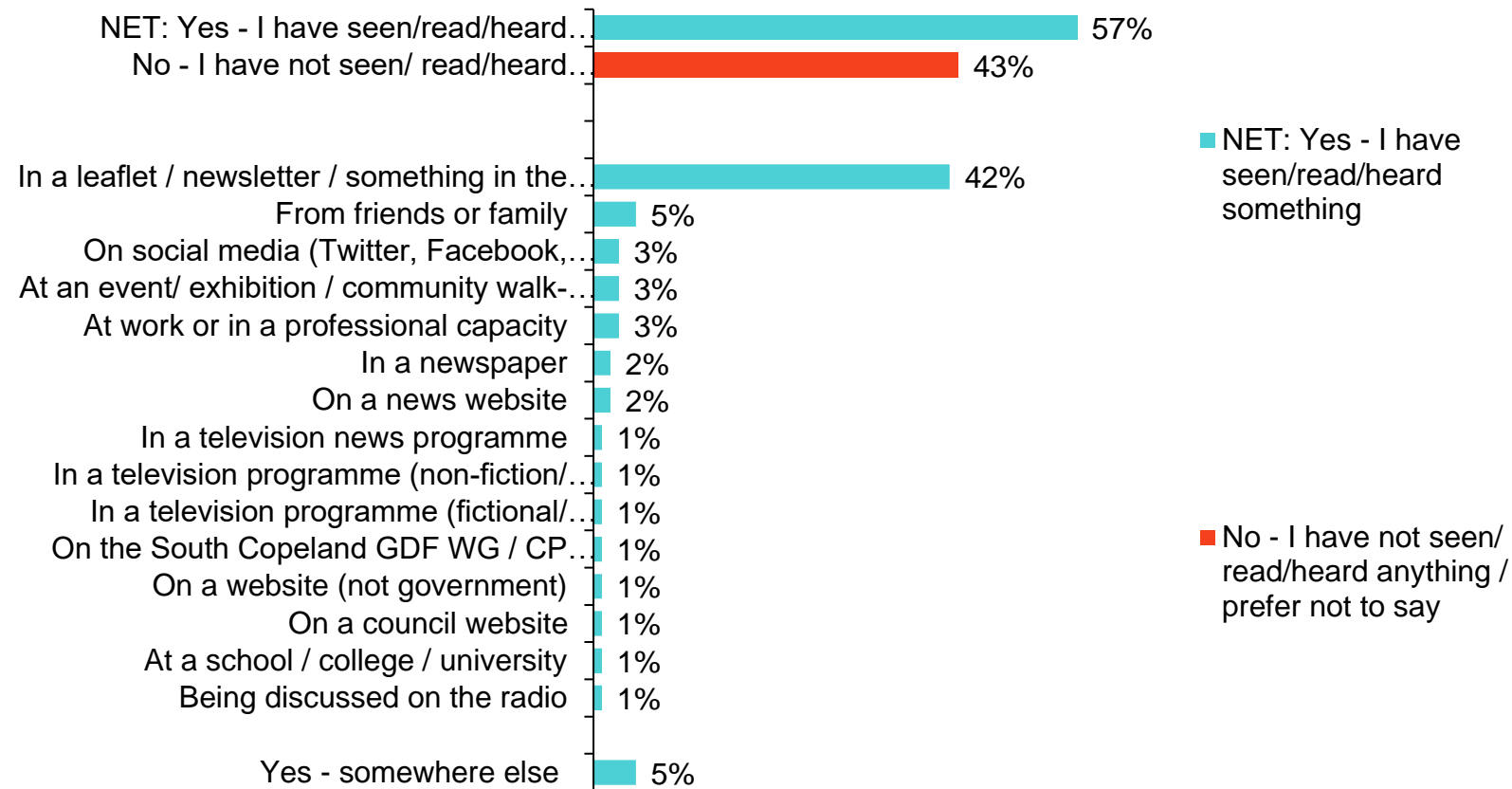
Each interview utilised a flexible discussion guide. Interviews were conducted over the phone and lasted approximately 30 minutes.

Each interview was moderated by an experienced Yonder researcher.

Awareness and understanding

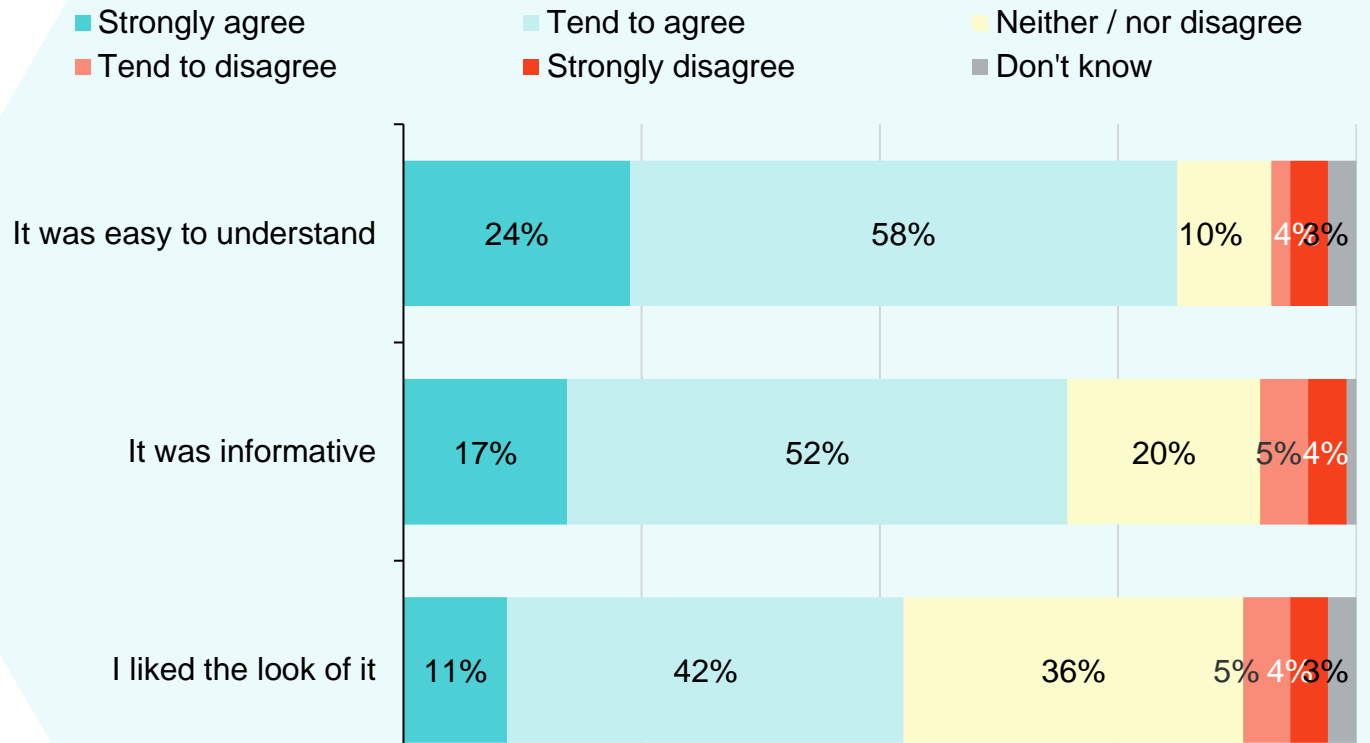
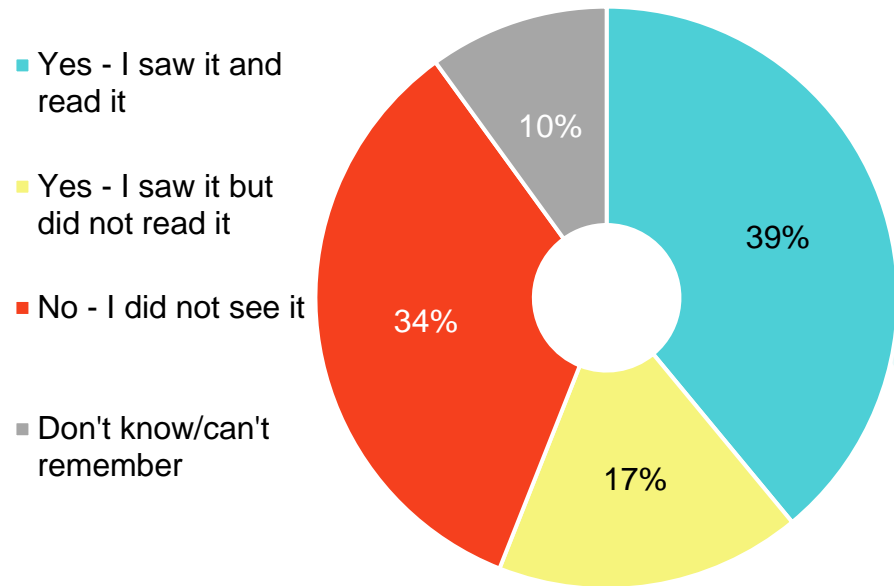
57% recalled seeing, reading, or hearing something in the past year. Two-in-five (42%) attributed their awareness to a leaflet or newsletter

Q. Before today, have you seen or read or heard anything about radioactive waste or geological disposal or a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) anywhere over the past year? If so, where?



When prompted, two-in-five claimed that they had seen and read the newsletter. Of those, a majority agreed that it was easy to understand and informative

Q. I would now like to show you the front page of the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership Newsletter. Do you recall seeing and/or reading this in the last year?



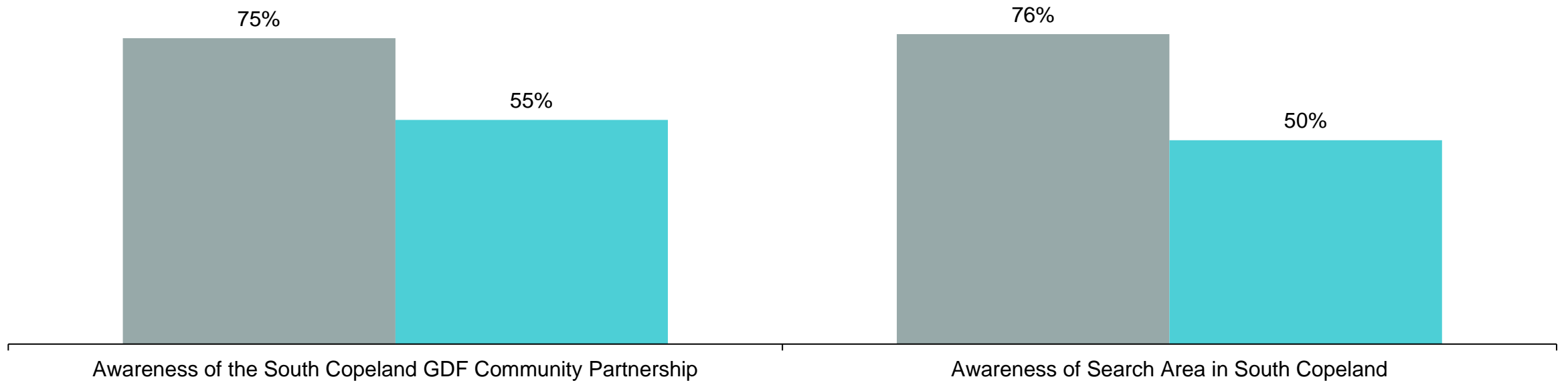
Awareness of the Community Partnership and the South Copeland Search Area had decreased since 2022

Q. Before today, were you aware or unaware of the following? A South Copeland GDF Community Partnership has been formed to engage locally on whether the local area could be a suitable location for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for higher activity radioactive waste and covers the electoral wards of Millom and Millom Without.

Q. Before today, were you aware or unaware of the following? A Search Area has been identified for further investigation of its suitability for a GDF, which covers the electoral division wards of Millom and Millom Without as well as areas underneath the seabed off the coast of Copeland.

[% of residents saying they were aware]

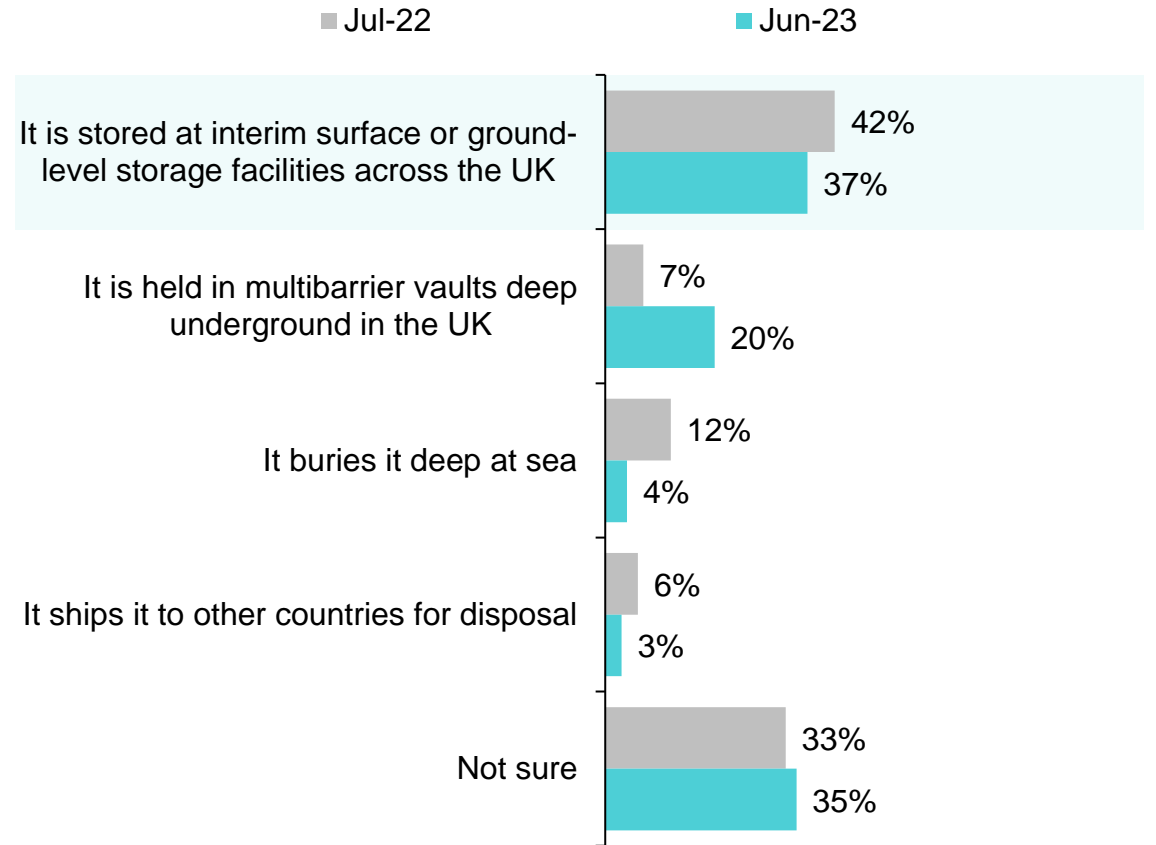
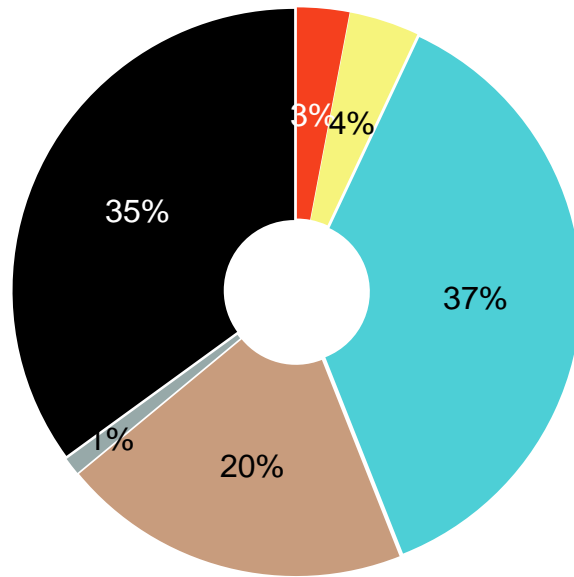
■ Jul-22 ■ Jun-23



37% of respondents were aware of the UK's current storage method, though 35% admitted they were not sure

Q. What best describes your understanding of how the UK currently manages, stores or disposes of its radioactive waste?

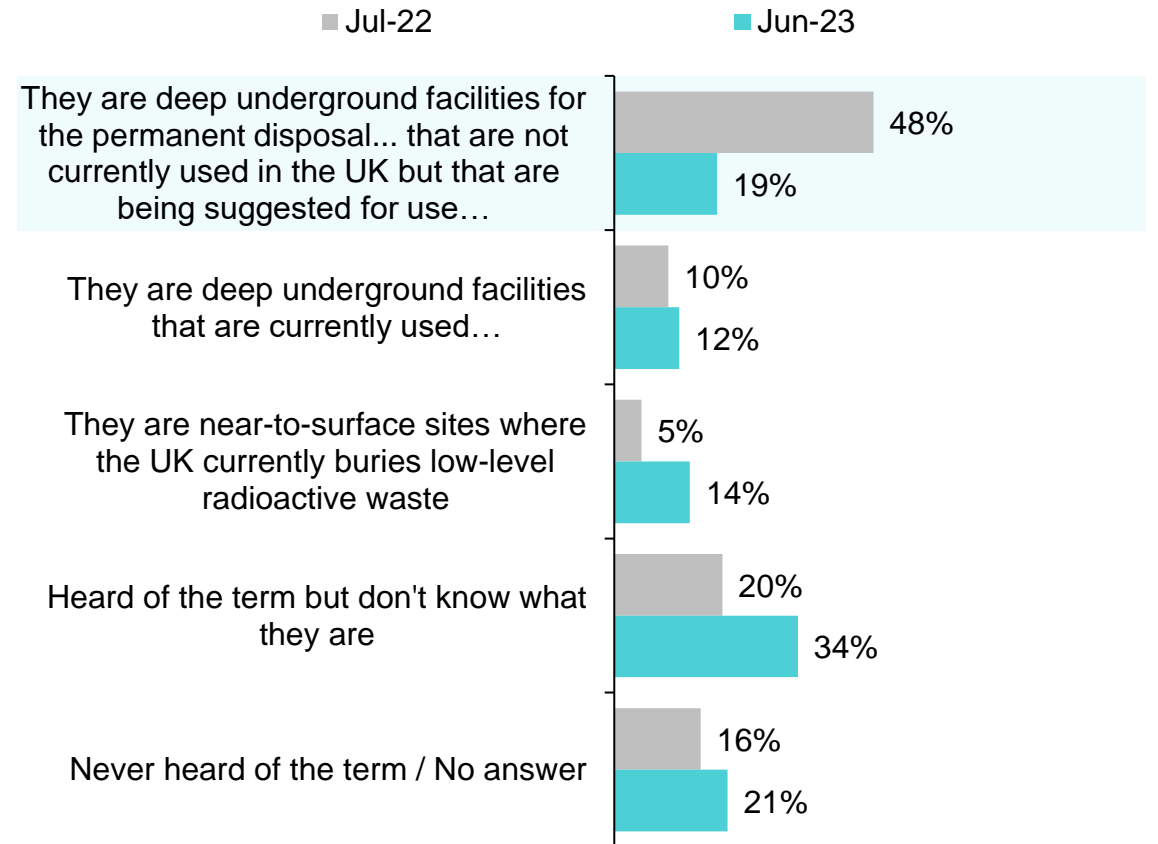
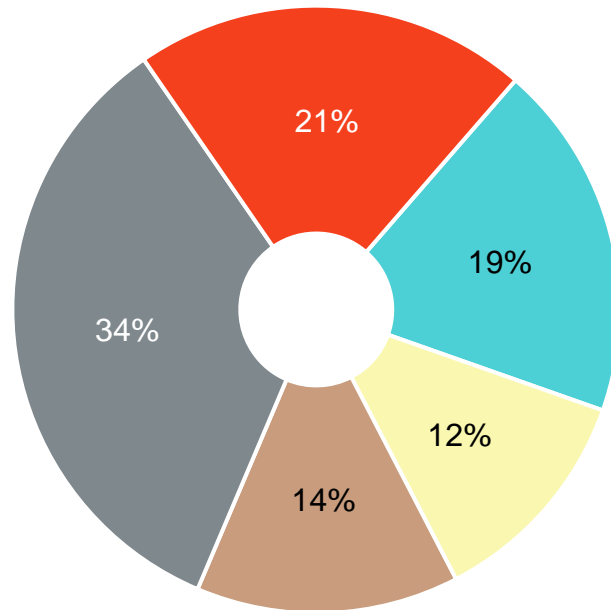
- It ships it to other countries for disposal
- It buries it deep at sea
- It is stored at interim surface or ground-level storage facilities at sites across the UK
- It is held in vaults deep underground in the UK
- Other
- Not sure



One-in-five (19%) were able to identify the accurate description of a GDF

Q. Which, if any, of the following statements best describes what you know (if anything) about Geological Disposal Facilities?

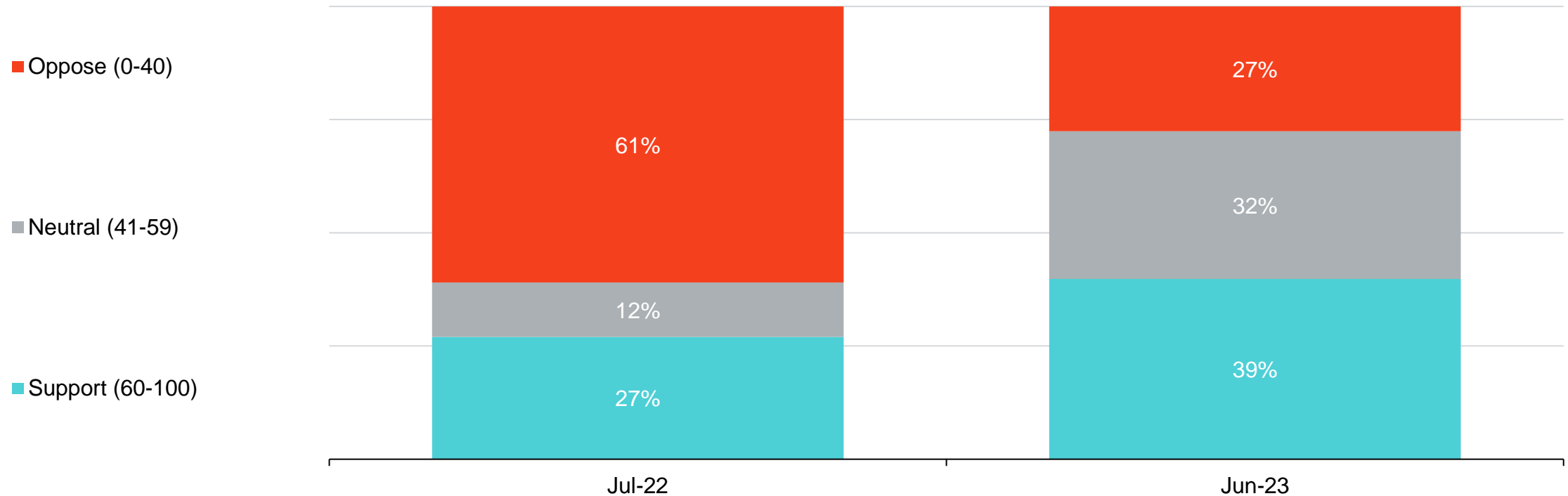
- They are deep underground facilities for the permanent disposal of radioactive waste that are not currently used in the UK
- They are deep underground facilities that are currently used in the UK for the permanent disposal of radioactive waste
- They are near-to-surface sites where the UK currently buries low-level radioactive waste
- Heard of the term but don't know what they are
- Never heard of the term / No answer



Geological disposal

39% supported a GDF in the South Copeland Search Area, whilst 27% opposed it. One-in-three were neutral. NET support stood at +11

Q. Please imagine that the government proposed to construct the surface facilities for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) within the South Copeland Search Area – which covers parts of the wards of Millom and Millom Without as well as areas underneath the seabed off the coast of Copeland.*



NET support:

-34%

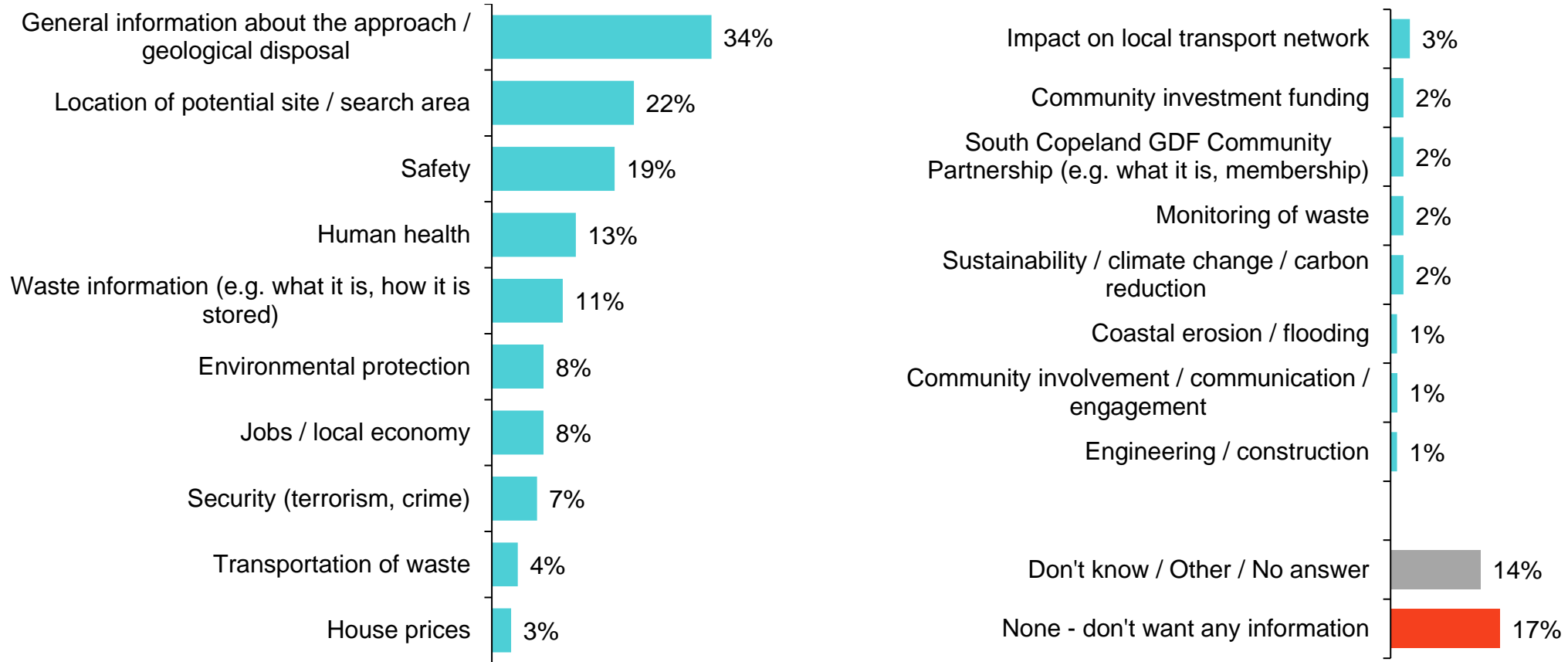
+11%

*Question wording changed to reflect revised boundaries
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Information needs

Residents primarily wanted information about the approach, the location of the potential site and safety

Q. What kind of information would you like to receive regarding geological disposal and the siting process?*



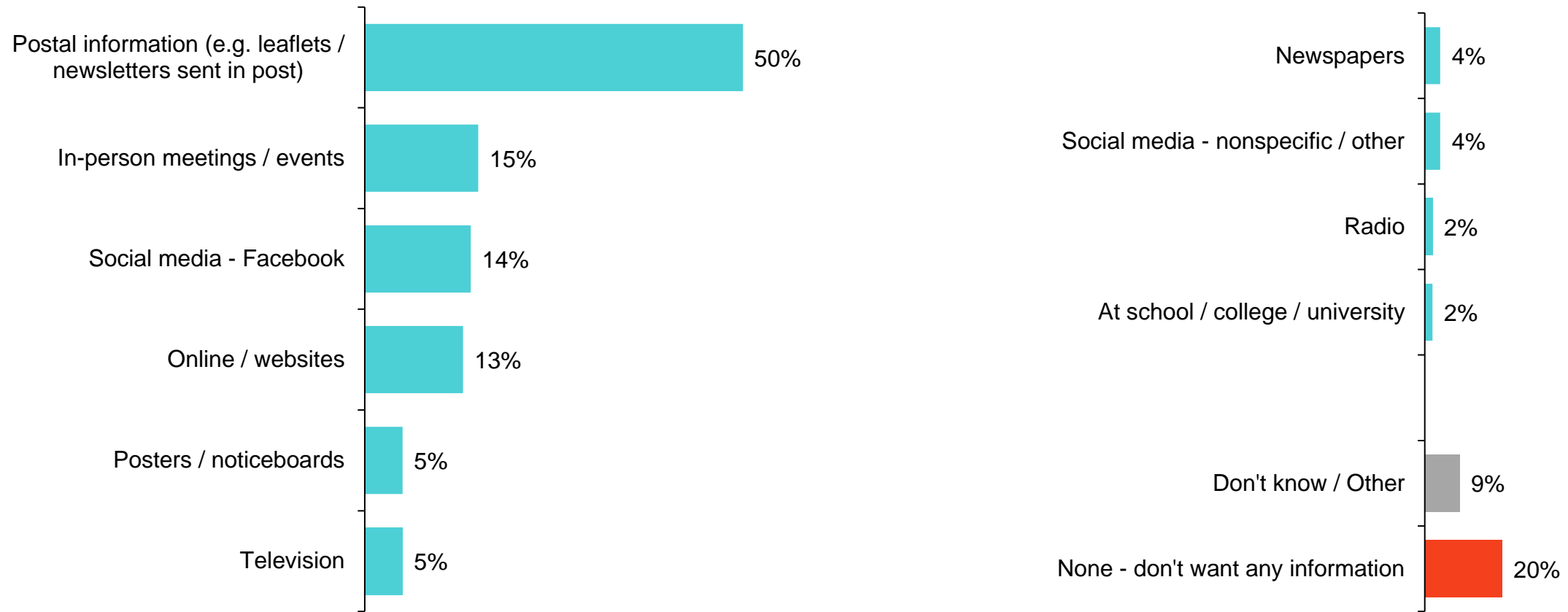
*Note: question was open-ended. Respondents' spontaneous answers have been grouped into consistent themes for the purpose of analysis.

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Base: total respondents (187)

Half wanted to receive information via the post. 15% wanted more information via in-person meetings / events and 14% cited Facebook

Q. How would you like to receive information about geological disposal and the siting process?*



*Note: question was open-ended. Respondents' spontaneous answers have been grouped into consistent themes for the purpose of analysis.

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Base: total respondents (187)

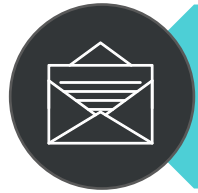
Participants wanted to receive more information through local events, online forums, postal information, and social media platforms



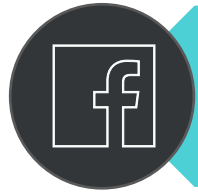
In-person events



Online forums



Postal information



Social media

“ ”

“Do *local forums*, advertising. Say we'll be here on such and such a date. If you are interested, if you want any questions answered, please come.”

“The best way to do something like that is *through the web*.”

“Not everybody's got computers. A lot of old people live here as well. Just put [it] *through the letter box*.”

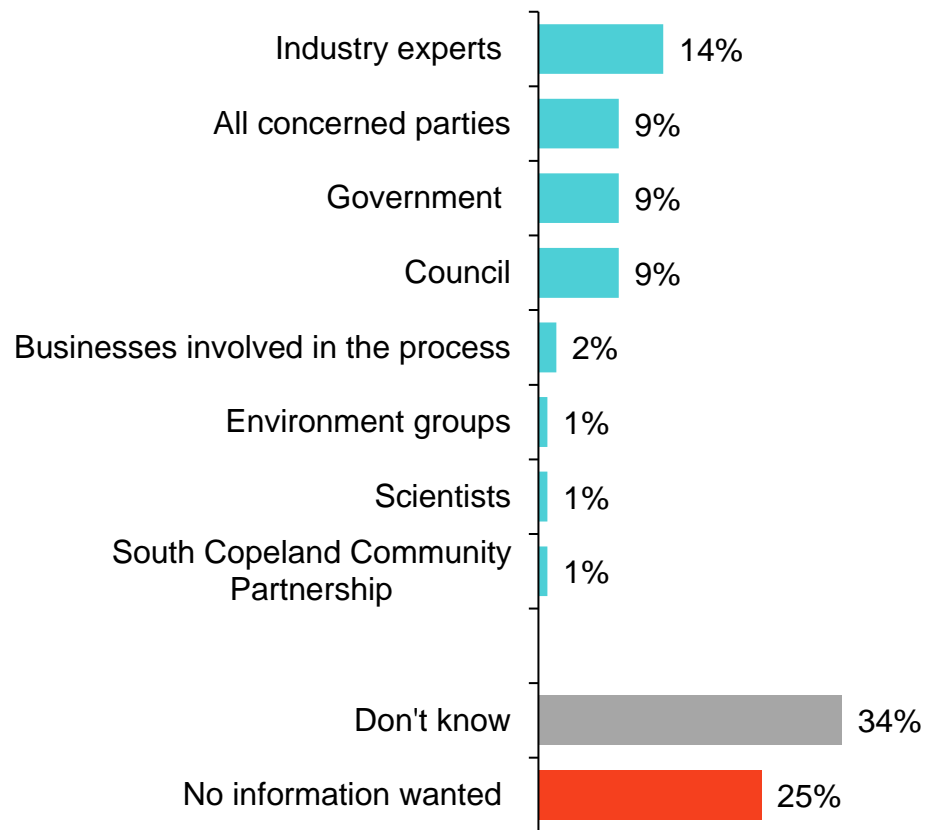
“Probably *through the post* would be the best because then people can take it in at their own speed, their own pace.”

“*Post, social media*.”

“I know friends who go to the *meetings* and go on *Facebook*.”

Interviewees emphasised the importance of hearing from experts

Q. What kinds of organisations or people would you like to hear from regarding geological disposal and the siting process?*



“If you listen to somebody who works at **Sellafield**, especially in the offices, they **know what they're talking about**.”

“I don't put much faith in the government. It would be **Sellafield** and any company that stores the nuclear waste for them.”

“People from **Sellafield** and hopefully, I could trust the government, but they lie as well.”

“**Sellafield** PLC. They're used to it, they've done it for many years, so, they're probably the **world leaders**.”

“**Independent** people who **know everything there is to know** about the nuclear industry.”

*Note: question was open-ended. Respondents' spontaneous answers have been grouped into consistent themes for the purpose of analysis.

South Copeland Resident Research 2023

Base: total respondents (187)

Appendix

Methodology

Survey methodology

Between 6 and 14 June 2023, Yonder oversaw a survey of 187 residents (16+) interviewed in person across the wards of Millom and Millom Without. The interviews were conducted by Red Research, on behalf of Yonder.

Quotas were employed to ensure the resident sample was representative of the relative populations of the two wards. Weighting was then employed to ensure the sample was representative in terms of the age and sex profile of the population in question.

With a sample of 187 and a 95% confidence interval, a margin of error of +/-7% is expected (though confidence intervals do vary depending on the values involved).

Yonder is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. For more information, see www.yonderconsulting.com.

Qualitative methodology

Between 21 July and 17 June, Yonder conducted ten depth interviews with residents from across the wards Millom and Millom Without.

Each interview utilised a flexible discussion guide that covered: knowledge of the current approach to radioactive waste management, views of geological disposal, awareness of the South Copeland Community Partnership and preferences for how the Community Partnership communicates with the local community.

Interviews were conducted over the phone and lasted approximately 30 minutes. Each interview was moderated by an experienced Yonder researcher.

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