

Wye Navigation Advisory Committee (WyeNAC)

Date of meeting: Friday 16 November 2018

Item

WYE NAVIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: SUMMER SURVEY REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is invited to note and comment on the summary of surveys completed in 2018.

BACKGROUND

As the navigation authority, we wish to promote the river and improve access to the river with the intention of easing pressure at existing “hot spot” locations. However, in order to help achieve sustainable management and use of the river, further data is required now and in the future to inform management decisions.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Survey locations: The table below details the ‘indicator’ survey locations. They have been selected as they include a mixture of both busy and quiet stretches. Some locations are at access points which have the added advantage of giving an insight into river use upstream and downstream. Where possible, the locations that are grouped together by colour as shown below were surveyed consecutively. These indicator sites have been used since 2015 and will be surveyed each year so that comparisons can be made.

Survey locations	River height gauge	Water temp gauge	Total no. of surveys at each site
Hay-on-Wye u/s and d/s of access point	Hay on Wye	Bewardine	2
Whitney-on-Wye	Hay on Wye	Bewardine	2
Ross-on-Wye u/s and d/s of access point	ross on Wye	Ross on wye	3
Kerne Bridge u/s and d/s of access point	Lydbrook	Lydbrook	2
Lower Lydbrook	Lydbrook	Lydbrook	3
Symonds yat East u/s and d/s of Wyedean access point	Lydbrook	Lydbrook	5
Monmouth u/s and d/s of access point	Lydbrook	Lydbrook	4
Symonds yat West	Lydbrook	Lydbrook	3

Survey periods: Four hour sessions between 0900-1300hrs and 1300-1700hrs.

Survey days: the surveys have been carried out on various days of the week beginning in June; this is to capture corporate recreational activities, school

trips and school outward bound activities that take place towards the end of the summer term in schools. The majority have been carried out during the school holidays. As agreed in the WyeNAC November 2016 meeting, weekend surveys this year were carried out at Symonds Yat East. This year, the surveys were carried out on a Sunday.

At each location the following information was recorded:

Boat data: the number of boats (excluding club rowing boats, ferries and powered passenger boats) per hour and the number of people per hour.

Variables: weather conditions, air temperature, water temperature, river height (using the most appropriate gauge as specified in the table above).

General comments: brief description of other boats in use, any observational points of interest – such as the rafting of canoes, capsizes, conduct etc.

RESULTS

A total of 40 sets of data were recorded at the eight indicator survey locations (see Appendix 1 and 2). The surveys were carried out on 16 days throughout the period 15 June – 1 September. At any one time, up to 4 sets of data may have been recorded, as would be the case when surveying at Ross and Kerne.

It is important to note that on occasions some boats may have been counted twice as it is possible to canoe past one indicator site to another within the survey period. It is also possible that boats at some sites, Symonds Yat East in particular, may be counted twice if they are doing round trips going either upstream or downstream

Similar to 2015, 2016 and 2017, the three busiest locations on average were downstream of Kerne Bridge, Lydbrook and upstream of Symonds Yat East (jointly with upstream of Hay on Wye).

In contrast, the quietest stretches were upstream of Ross, downstream of Monmouth and downstream of Symonds Yat East similar again to 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Figure 1 compares the hourly average number of canoes counted at each location over the total survey period.

Figures 2, 3 and 4 show the number of canoes at three of the busiest locations for the surveys conducted in 2018, 2017 and 2016.

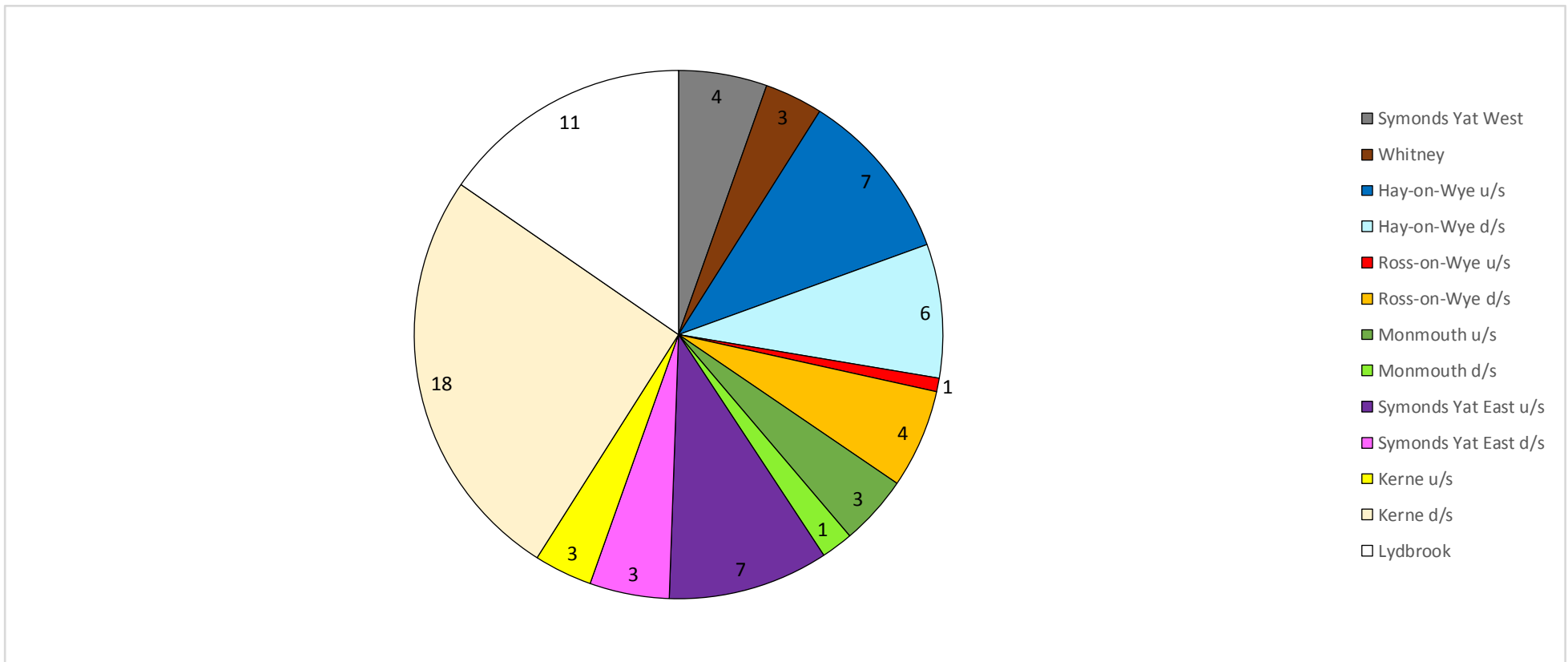


Figure 1: Average number of canoes passing each location per hour

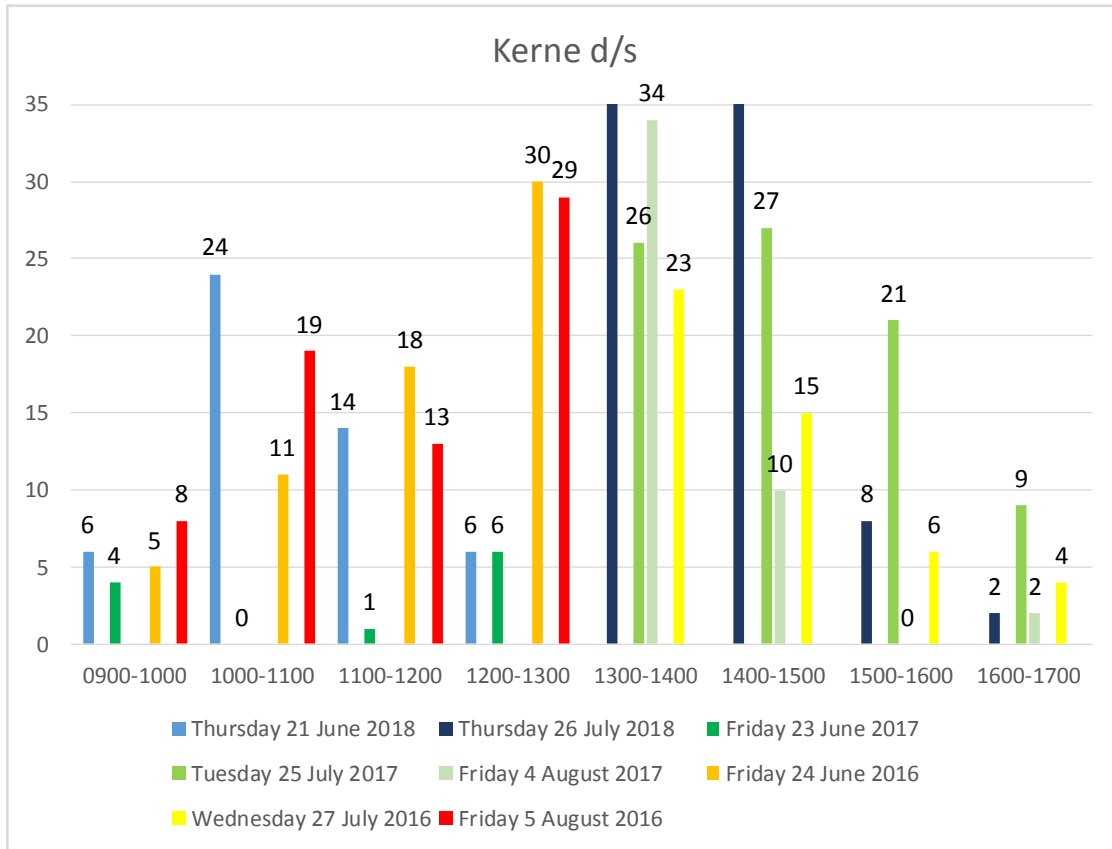


Figure 2: Number of canoes per hour downstream of Kerne

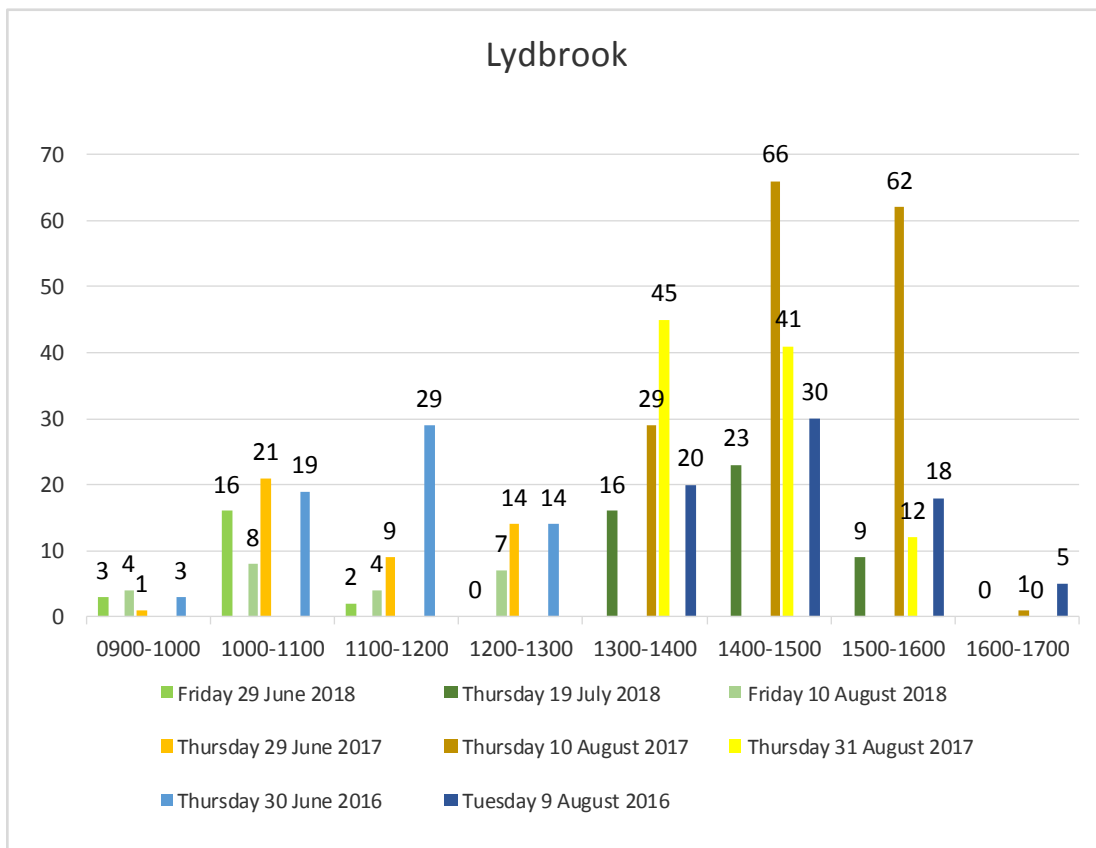


Figure 3: Number of canoes per hour downstream of Lydbrook

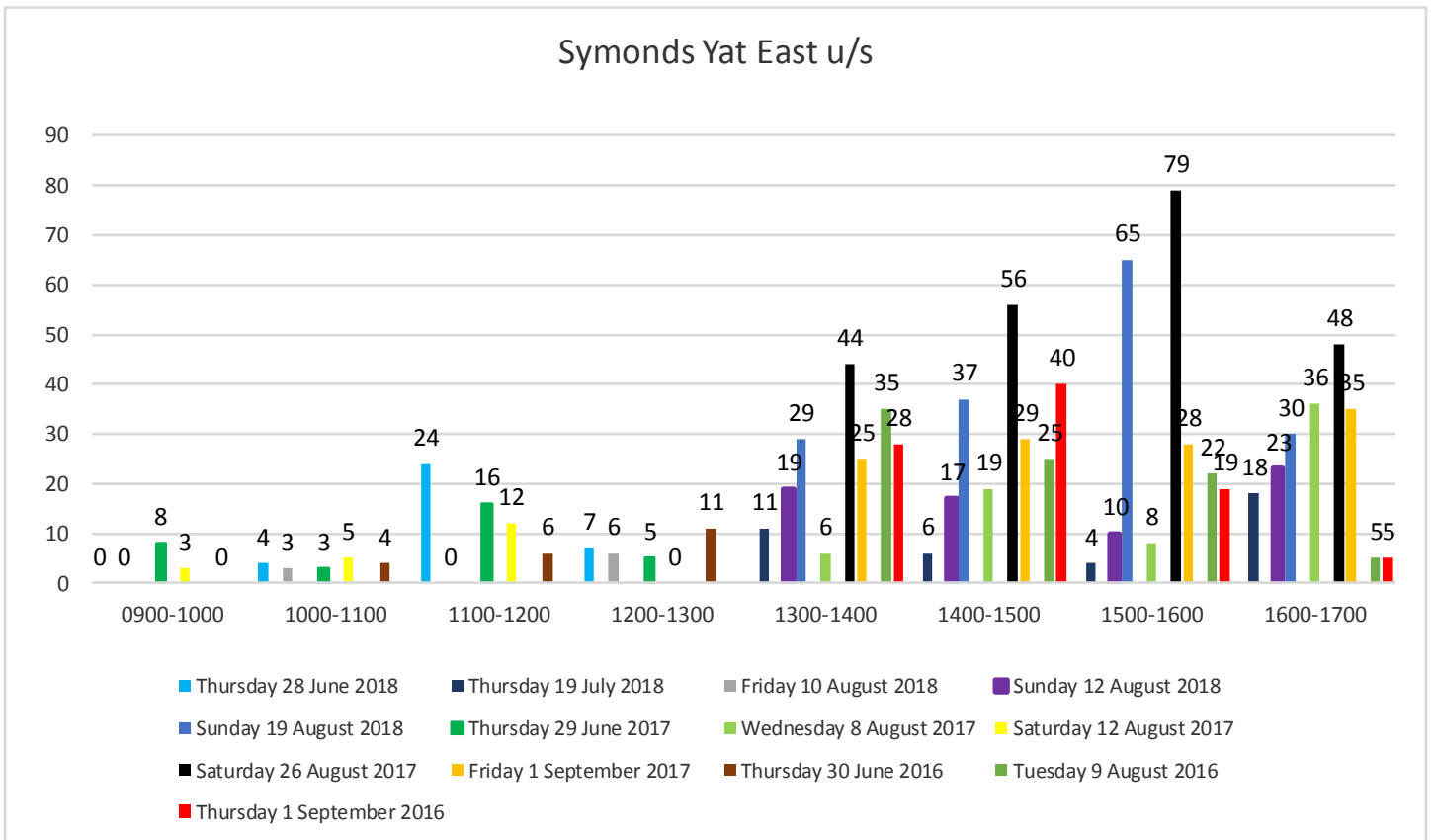


Figure 4: Number of canoes per hour upstream of Symonds Yat East

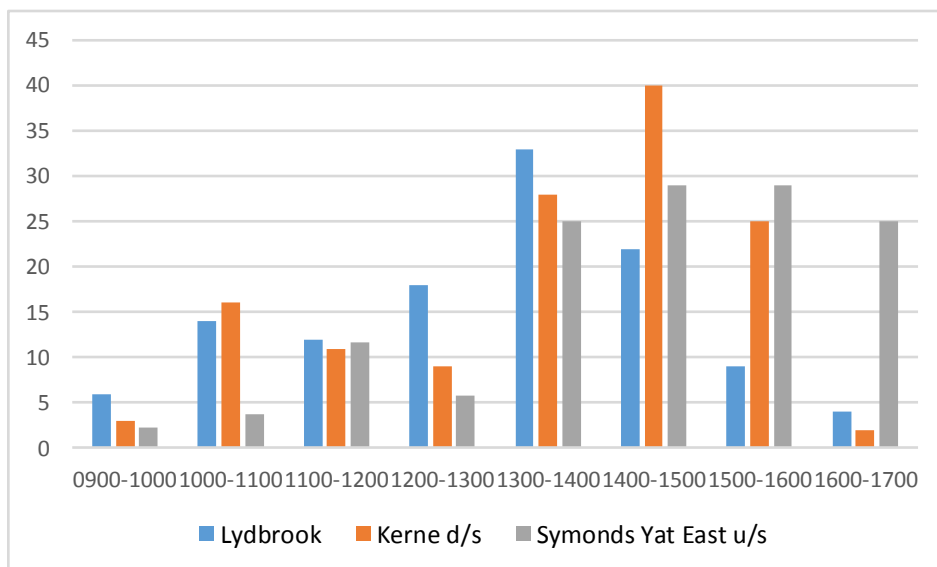


Figure 5: Number of canoes per hour at the busiest locations

Appendix 1

Survey Date - 2018			am/ pm	Location	Total Boats	Total Canoeists	total hours	water temp	river level	air temp
Wednesday	13	Jun	pm	Symonds Yat West	1	1	4	18	0.88	20
Friday	15	Jun	am	Monmouth d/s	2	3	4	22	0.85	17
Friday	15	Jun	am	Monmouth u/s	8	19	4	22	0.85	17
Thursday	21	Jun	am	kerne d/s access	50	113	4	18	0.82	20
Thursday	21	Jun	am	Kerne u/s access	13	26	4	18	0.82	20
Friday	22	Jun	am	Ross-on-Wye d/s	21	38	4	19	0.28	16
Friday	22	Jun	am	Ross-on-Wye u/s	0	0	4	19	0.28	16
Thursday	28	Jun	am	Symonds Yat East d/s	21	36	4	22	0.75	20
Thursday	28	Jun	am	Symonds Yat East u/s	35	59	4	22	0.75	20
Friday	29	Jun	am	Lower Lydbrook	45	95	4	22	0.75	21
Tuesday	3	Jul	pm	Hay-on-Wye u/s	3	6	4	23	0.26	24
Tuesday	3	Jul	pm	Hay-on-Wye d/s	13	22	4	20	0.26	25
Tuesday	3	Jul	pm	Whitney d/s	2	4	4	23.6	0.26	25
Tuesday	3	Jul	pm	Whitney u/s	15	37	4	23.6	0.26	25
Wednesday	11	Jul	pm	Monmouth d/s	6	8	4	21	0.7	27
Wednesday	11	Jul	pm	Monmouth u/s	13	19	4	21	0.7	27
Wednesday	11	Jul	pm	Symonds Yat West	39	62	4	21	0.7	27
Thursday	19	Jul	pm	Lower Lydbrook	57	132	4	21.9	0.66	27
Thursday	19	Jul	pm	Lower Lydbrook	48	109	4	21.9	0.66	27
Thursday	19	Jul	pm	Symonds Yat East d/s	12	24	4	21.9	0.66	27
Thursday	19	Jul	pm	Symonds Yat East u/s	39	83	4	21.9	0.66	27
Thursday	26	Jul	pm	Kerne u/s access	27	55	4	21.9	0.63	28
Thursday	26	Jul	pm	kerne d/s access	94	203	4	21.9	0.63	28
Thursday	26	Jul	pm	Ross-on-Wye u/s	1	2	4	24	0.11	28
Thursday	26	Jul	pm	Ross-on-Wye d/s	1	2	4	24	0.11	28
Tuesday	31	Jul	am	Whitney d/s	13	30	4	20	0.41	20
Tuesday	31	Jul	am	Whitney u/s	5	10	4	20	0.41	20
Tuesday	31	Jul	am	Hay-on-Wye u/s	27	53	4	18.5	0.3	18
Tuesday	31	Jul	am	Hay-on-Wye d/s	12	24	4	18	0.3	18
Friday	10	Aug	am	Lower Lydbrook	23	53	4	21	*u/r	13
Friday	10	Aug	am	Symonds Yat East u/s	9	16	4	19.4	u/r	13
Friday	10	Aug	am	Symonds Yat East d/s	8	15	4	19.4	u/r	13
Sunday	12	Aug	am	Symonds Yat East u/s	69	119	4	18.5	u/r	19
Sunday	12	Aug	pm	Symonds Yat East d/s	31	52	4	18.5	u/r	19
Tuesday	14	Aug	am	Ross-on-Wye u/s	6	13	4	18	u/r	19
Tuesday	14	Aug	am	Ross-on-Wye d/s	29	60	4	18	0.2	18
Sunday	19	Aug	pm	Symonds Yat East d/s	84	158	4	22	u/r	20
Sunday	19	Aug	pm	Symonds Yat East u/s	164	313	4	22	u/r	20
Thursday	23	Aug	am	Monmouth d/s	7	20	4	20	u/r	19
Thursday	23	Aug	am	Symonds Yat West	10	22	4	20	u/r	20
Thursday	23	Aug	am	Monmouth u/s	1	2	4	20	u/r	19
Thursday	30	Aug	pm	Symonds Yat West	11	22	4	16	u/r	18.5
Thursday	30	Aug	pm	Monmouth d/s	7	26	4	16	u/r	18.5
Thursday	30	Aug	pm	Monmouth u/s	26	50	4	16	u/r	19

*u/r: under range

Appendix 2: indicator survey locations

