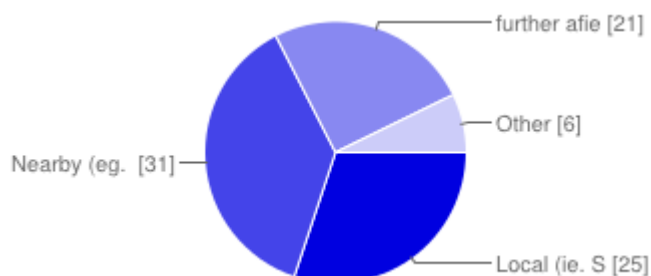


## 86 responses

### Summary

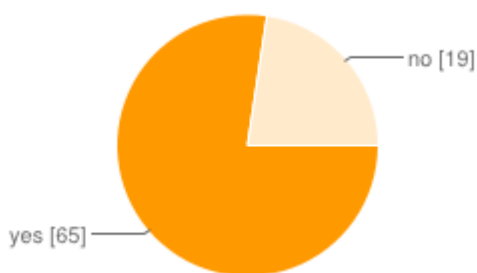
#### Where have you come from?



Local (ie. Shire/Slaley)	25	30%
Nearby (eg. Tynedale)	31	37%
further afield	21	25%
Other	6	7%

#### Dukesfield Arches

#### Did you already know this built structure (The Arches) was here?



yes	65	77%
no	19	23%

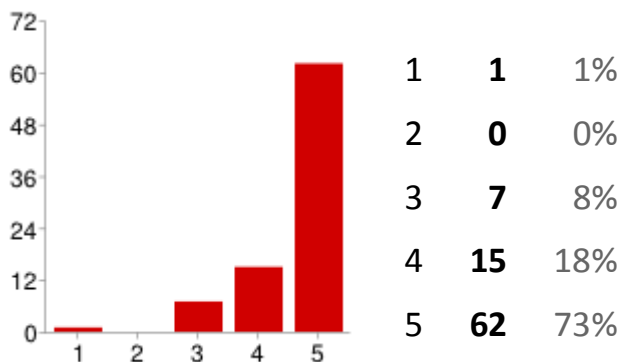
#### What did you think it was?

lead smelter Smelter arch - or way of getting ore to works Lead smelting mill Buildings involved in lead smelting Part of the lead mining structures along the Allendale to Blaydon route Gothic Arches of Dukesfield smelt mill Important smelt mill. On seeing it I would have thought water transfer but it looks very ornate for such a functional activity. Smelting mill Dont know. a smelt mill Lead smelting site Without the notice board I would have been mystified by the gothic arches Smelt mill and ancillary structures Smelt mill (well informed first vist) I knew it was part of a smelt mill but did not know much more eg age etc. Lead mining heritage Dukesfield Smelt Mill arches The remains of a lead smelter I knew about the Dukesfield arches and that there was a lead smelting industry based there as I have written a book about the 'Shire and published/researched a book by Dr Stafford Linsley "Life & Times of Thomas Dixon". A bridge over the stream to carry something to do with lead mining. Earlier on we thought it may have been a folly because of an older name on a map. A smelt mill for lead production from mines up on the moors. Yes! I was more or less right! (after reading inside) Thought horizontal flues were carried over the top of the

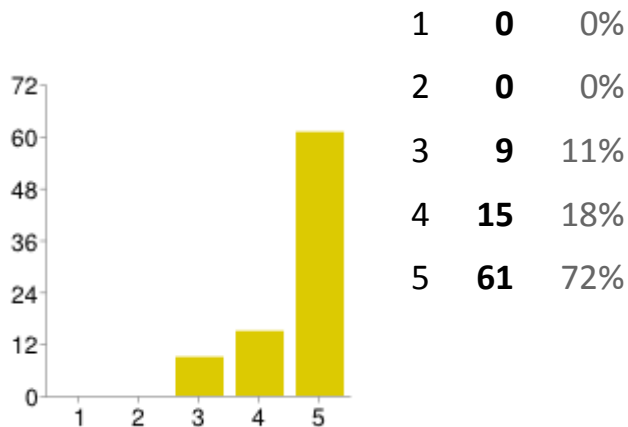
Arches Old bridge Vaulted arches early lead smelting mill site. highly important Wonderfully interesting Don't know - an aquaduct? (viaduct) Been on a walk and information on the mill was in our book, found it fascinating. Thank you. Supporting structure for smelt mill flue(s) Know it was a smelt mill Lead processing works An industrial building I've just read that it's the remains of a lead smelting mill. As I approached I thought it was a folly! As part of the group North East Explored, we knew of the existence of the smelt mill, but was good to hear and see the dig for ourselves; interesting people and knowledge, lots of respect for the project Something to do with lead smelting smelting workshop Smelt Mill Flues Lead smelting Smelt mill, flue support, chimney base Very informative and a good, well sorted project knew it was something to do with lead smelting but not exactly what An archeological dig to discover more about the old Smelt mill and its workings Originally a railway arch An old smelt mill for lead smelting mill The fine stonework and pointed gothic arch suggest decorative rather than industrial purpose. OS map shows 'folly plantation' just beyond - was it just a folly? otherwise the horizontal platform leading to a drop suggests a lead for a water wheel Chimney support for lead smelting 18th/19th ccentury lead mill lead smelting works some industrial building Arches that carried fumes away from the smelting building Thought it was a lime kiln Bridge Iron works Initially thought it was a church - now know its part of lead smelt mill Smelt Mill Wheel Pit Flues Chimneys Leats Smelt Mill Lead smelting complex Bridge going nowhere ! smelt mill industrial complex smelt mill Smelt mill remains but not when first went. thought could be part of a railway as with the arch in weardale Arches support for fluej Lead smelting industry I know what it was. D.V. Fairless Resting Hill Allenheads But now more likely to be found at: 11 Shilburn Road, Allendale. Tel. 0143 683845 The mystery of the pig of lead with R.W. cast into it. Lead furnace lead smelting mill

**We are planning to put some information at the Arches to tell you more about what this place was. We'd like to know whether this would help you appreciate this special place.**

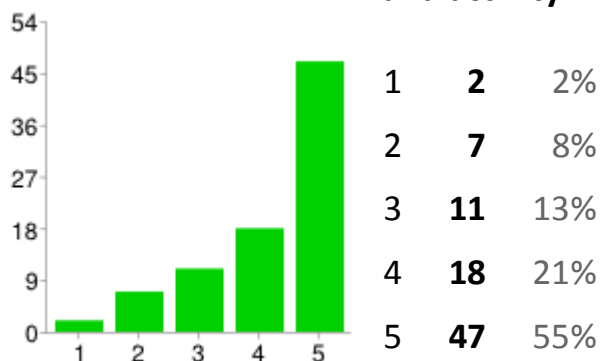
**A This is the site of Dukesfield Smelt Mill. Today this valley is tranquil woodland. Two hundred and fifty years ago the scene was utterly different. Here was a massive industrial complex where lead ore was turned into bars of lead.**



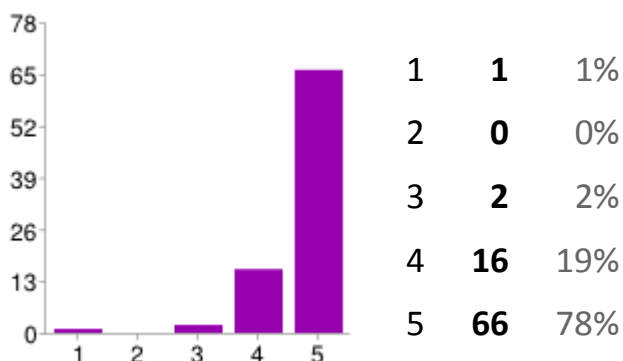
**B Generations of local people worked here. Dukesfield Smelt Mill made lead for over two hundred and fifty years – from about 1670 to 1835.**



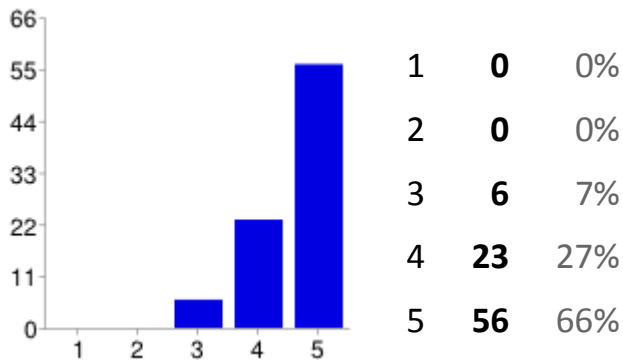
**C For all that time this was a hive of movement, noise, smell and activity.**



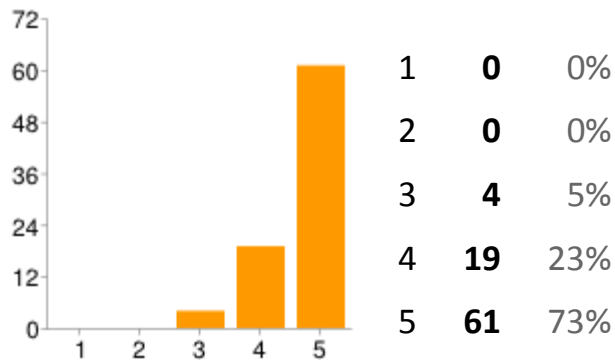
**D Thousands of tons of lead ore came here on the backs of ponies from the distant North Pennine lead mines. Thousands of pieces of lead left here on ponies or carts to be sold from Blaydon on the banks of the River Tyne.**



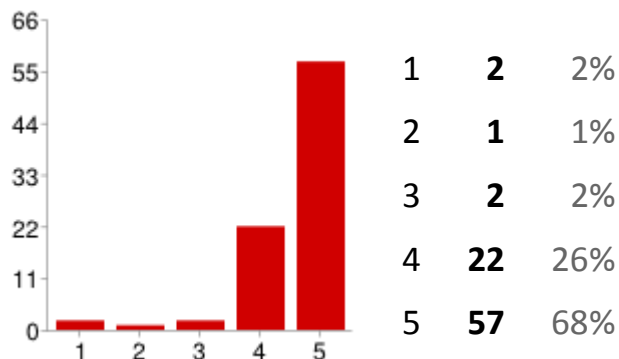
**E Waterwheels powered the furnaces in the mills here**



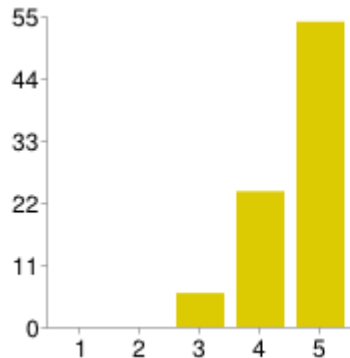
**F Fumes and smoke, heavy with lead, billowed from the furnaces. This was costly, as lead was lost and the environment poisoned. Horizontal flues were built to contain the fumes and channel them to vertical chimney stacks. Much lead was deposited in the flues and was reclaimed. Today the mill and the flues have all gone. What is left are these arches which carried the flues to the chimneys.**



**G This is a very important historical monument. We are still not sure exactly when the arches were built but they are amongst the earliest lead mill flues ever built in Britain.**

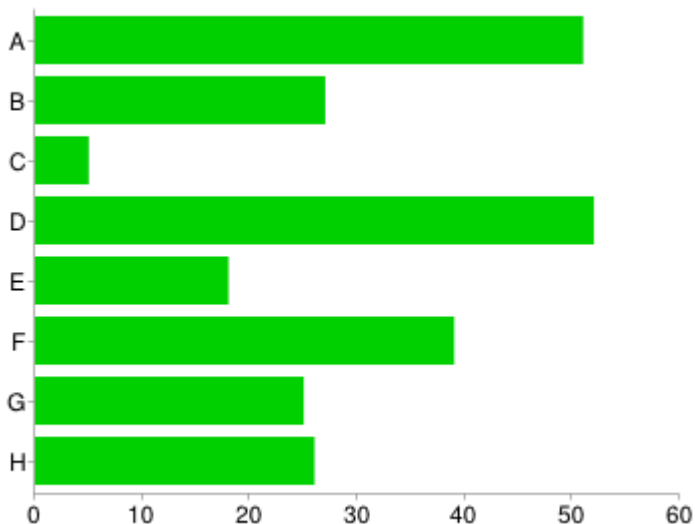


H Pennine lead contained a small amount of silver. One of the buildings here was the silver refinery, where silver was extracted from the lead. An early nineteenth century plan shows there were at least four buildings here, but we don't know which one was the refinery.



1	0	0%
2	0	0%
3	6	7%
4	24	29%
5	54	64%

Of these eight statements above, which THREE are most important to you?



A	51	21%
B	27	11%
C	5	2%
D	52	21%
E	18	7%
F	39	16%
G	25	10%
H	26	11%

Is there anything else you would like to share with the project? E.g. Can you remember the chimneys before they were demolished, or do you have old photos of Dukesfield or family members who were Smelters or Carriers?

Been coming here since 1957, did not know the reason for this structure after asking locals no Only been once, long before the project, can't remember much No but it would be interesting to have some visualisation of the sykes that are visible above this valley & the many others in the area. Also local place names. e.g. Carriers Way mention the teams of ponies - human interest I have already passed on what I have but I'm afraid there seem to be very little available. The new National Trail 'The Pennine Journey' now runs past here - there is very little information on the PJ website sorry no I would like to see the whole site excavated and left open rather like the Roman remains. I remember the sawmill opposite

the chimneys in the 60s No photos, just memories of sheltering from the rain when on the pony. It felt spooky. No. Not personally but I'm sure local families e.g Swallows will. Family member who worked here but unfortunately no info. I find all these statements very interesting (above) and the information found here Today very good - I like the way no statements claim what is unknown \*references to talks given would also be interesting didn't know this was here Site overview/map indicating interesting features

### **Do you have any questions about this place or the people who worked here?**

no What social impact to the local people did it have, given lead is poisonous and silver very valuable (Theft? Where did this go, how was its storage and sale controlled)? Did work forces move about or was it very localised? Where there different tools or ways to extract the ore at different places or through time? Why did it stop producing ore? Is the land contaminated? The design and construction of the arches must have been expensive and complicated -who paid /made money from these and what sort of figures are you talking? My family has lead smelters from Catton -did the areas interlink at all and if so how? What is the actual extraction process and has it changes much over time. What did they use lead for then? How did all the workforce travel to and from the site and where from - or were they all based near the site? It will be such a shame to cover over all that has been unearthed. It's all so interesting - lots of questions. Did people who worked here live on site? How far afield did they come from? What was the lead used for and where did it go? Was lead for export? More on the routes the pack horses took. Where did they all live? Where is the dam? Why build the arches instead of a flue/bank? Where did all the workers live? Plans for a miniature model/reconstruction? Have you any idea of the number of people who worked here? Were they all men or did women have to work here too? I am sure there was child labour too as they sent small children up the flues to scrape off the deposits. Did this happen here and if so what age were they, do we know and were they just boys? Were the workers at the Smelt Mill and the Carriers smallholders too? Daily life of workers. Were women involved? Where did workers live? On what basis were they paid? Was work dangerous? How can this work be consolidated and viewed with interpretation for a wider audience? Please don't fill in pit - fence it off if necessary. Such a waste of hard work! Where did the workers live? What ages were they? It seems such a pity to fill the excavations. Could simple buildings be erected? Further funding? it would be interesting to know more about where people lived and something about the working conditions How did the water get from the dam to the wheel - it seems as though it would have had to go uphill! What was the lead used for? Where did they live? re C - hard to visualise - are there any records indicating the number of workers? Suggest F above would be better if broken up Why did it close? Lots, but nobody knows the answers...yet. We think it is a pity it is going to be reburied and not displayed.

**Thank you for your help. We will take account of everyone's views when deciding what to do next**