

Supplementary Information

1. Appendix 1 - Geocache Hunting Questionnaire

Question 1: What is your Age?

- ☐ 16 - 29
- ☐ 30 – 45
- ☐ 46 – 60
- ☐ Over 60
- ☐ Other

Question 2: Education Level?

- ☐ O - Level
- ☐ A – Level
- ☐ A – Level / Degree
- ☐ Post-Graduation
- ☐ Other _____

Question 3: Locality?

Question 4: Are you an active geocacher?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other _____

Question 5: How many geocaches approximately have you logged in so far? (no. logged)

Question 6: How often do you usually geocache?

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Several times a week
- ☐ Once per week
- ☐ Once or twice per month
- ☐ Less often
- ☐ Other _____

Question 7: If you do geocaching, how many caches do you log in one session?

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2 – 5
- ☐ 6 – 10
- ☐ 11 – 20
- ☐ 20 or more

Question 8: Do you usually geocache alone or with someone?

- ☐ Alone
- ☐ With Others
- ☐ Both Equally

Question 9: Where did you most commonly log more caches from the following areas? (More than one can be selected)

- ☐ Urban built up areas/ residential areas
- ☐ Industrial and commercial areas
- ☐ Urban Green areas (e.g. Parks and recreational areas)
- ☐ Woodland areas
- ☐ Sandy beaches
- ☐ Rocky shores
- ☐ Sports and leisure areas
- ☐ Agricultural land
- ☐ Valleys and watercourses
- ☐ Coastal areas
- ☐ Inland wetlands
- ☐ Other _____

Question 10: How do you normally travel to each cache?

- ☐ Walking
- ☐ Car
- ☐ Bike
- ☐ Bus
- ☐ Other _____

Question 11: Why do you like geocaching?

- ☐ Experiencing Nature
- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Physical activity
- ☐ Solving puzzles and riddles
- ☐ Spending time with family
- ☐ Discovering new and interesting places
- ☐ Other _____

Question 12: Which type of cache would you go for?

- ☐ Traditional
- ☐ Traditional, Difficult terrain
- ☐ Multi cache
- ☐ Mystery
- ☐ Special event

Question 13: How do you choose on which geocache to go for next when geocaching in Malta?

- ☐ Preferred cache type
- ☐ Selections according to geocache characteristics (e.g. difficulty, night cache,...)
- ☐ Cache is close to home or work
- ☐ Cache is located in an interesting environment which is selected specifically
- ☐ Other

Ratings

Description: Please rate the following statements: Preferably I select geocaches if they have the following characteristics: (Rating 1: Not Preferable to Rating 10: Most Preferable)

Natural experience (e.g. Nature reserve (forests) or Animal reserve (bird life))

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Not preferable

Most Preferable

Visiting a lost place (e.g. Abandoned industrial or residential building)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Not preferable

Most Preferable

A historical site (e.g Capital city, museum, heritage site)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Not preferable

Most Preferable

Cultural experiences (e.g. Church, monument)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Not preferable

Most Preferable

Location close to urban infrastructure (shopping center)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Not preferable

Most Preferable

Description of personal experiences or interest

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Not preferable

Most Preferable

Hotel area

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Not preferable

Most Preferable

Recreational opportunity (e.g. sports, playground)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Not preferable

Most Preferable

Relation to water sports (e.g. Beaches, pool area)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Not preferable

Most Preferable

Conclusion

Overall Experience

How would you rate your geocaching experience so far?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Bad

Good

Short log of your overall experience

Did you know most of the places you visited before geocaching?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Some of them not all
- ☐ Other

Would you visit the same locations again without geocaching?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe
- ☐ Other

If, yes what would you be doing there?

- ☐ Eating or drinking out
- ☐ Reading
- ☐ Camping
- ☐ Walking/Trekking
- ☐ Swimming
- ☐ Other Outdoor sports (cycling, Football)
- ☐ Fishing
- ☐ Spending time with relatives
- ☐ Other

Can you share with us a brief description of your overall experience?

Text for feedback

2. Appendix 2 - Geocache Placement Questionnaire

Question 1: What is your Age?

- ☐ 16 – 29
- ☐ 30 – 45
- ☐ 45 – 60
- ☐ Other _____

Question 2: Education Level

- ☐ O – Level
- ☐ A – Level
- ☐ Degree
- ☐ Post graduate
- ☐ Other _____

Questions 3: Locality:

Questions 4: Which cache do you own? (Geocache ID number please)

Question 5: Reason for location of the geocache?

- ☐ Close to where I live / work
- ☐ Area was under appreciated
- ☐ For advertisement purposes
- ☐ Other _____

Question 6: Do these characteristics apply to your cache and its location? (more than one can be ticked)

- ☐ Visiting a lost place (e.g. abundant industry or residential building)
- ☐ Urban location (e.g. Forests, nature reserves)
- ☐ Historical site (e.g. capital city, museum, heritage site)
- ☐ Cultural Experience (e.g. Monuments, Church)
- ☐ Close to urban infrastructures (e.g. shopping center)
- ☐ Place of Personal experience or interest
- ☐ Presence of other geocaches
- ☐ Hotels/Motels
- ☐ Recreational area (e.g. swings, playground)
- ☐ Relation to water sports (e.g. canoeing, water polo)
- ☐ Other _____

Question 7: Which of the following land types matches the description of your geocache location? Multiple Choice

- ☐ Urban built up areas/ residential areas
- ☐ Industrial and commercial areas
- ☐ Urban Green areas (e.g. Parks and recreational areas)
- ☐ Woodland areas
- ☐ Sandy beaches
- ☐ Rocky shores
- ☐ Sports and leisure areas

- ☐ Arable Land
- ☐ Orchards (Places with permanent crops (Olive, vines, etc)
- ☐ Valleys and watercourses
- ☐ Coastal areas
- ☐ Inland wetlands
- ☐ Other _____

Conclusion

Overall Experience

How would you rate the finders' potential geocaching experience?

	1	2	3	4	5	

Difficult Easy

Give a reason for your Answer?

Did you visit the geocaching location before placing the Geocache there?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other _____

Would you revisit the area again without geocaching?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Other _____

3. Appendix 3 – Descriptive analysis of the geocache environment data

Table 3-1 – The number and density of geocaches within nationally designated protected areas (CDDA).

Designation Code	Designation	Number of Geocaches	Geocache Density Geocaches/K m ²
MT04	Nature Reserve (Islands)	1	934.5803
MT07	Site of Scientific Importance	1	740.7407
MT08	List of Historical Trees Having an Antiquarian Importance	1	1538.462
MT12	Protected Beaches	3	4477.619
MT14	National Park	4	40.08916
MT10	Special Areas of Conservation - National Importance	6	404.8584
MT06	Tree Protection Area	13	119.9705
MT03	Bird Sanctuary	37	50.4046
MT02	Area of Ecological Importance/Site of Scientific Importance	46	65.10509
MT01	Area of Ecological Importance	54	6.128452
MT13	Special Protection Areas	70	0.911821
MT11	Special Areas of Conservation - International Importance	101	5.399429
MT15	Area of High Landscape Value	126	5.249345

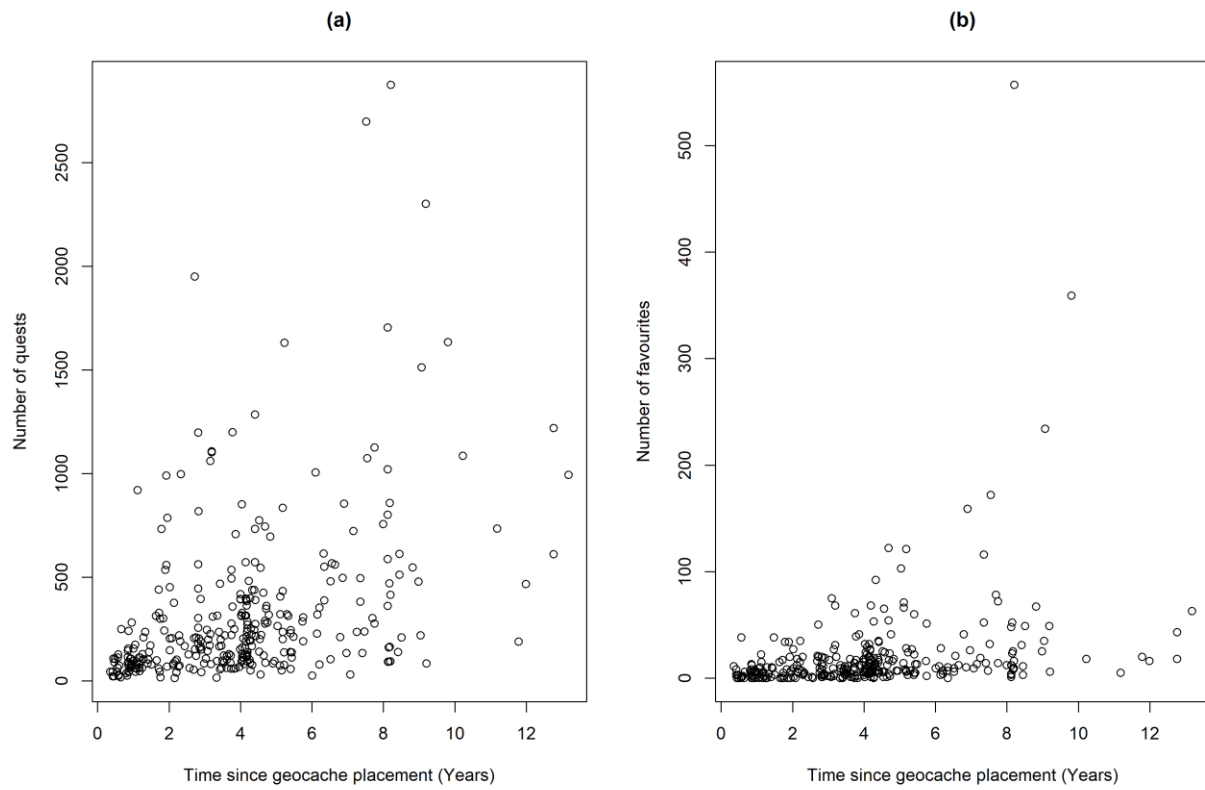


Figure 3-1 – Influence of the time since geocache placement on the number of (a) quests and (b) favourites.

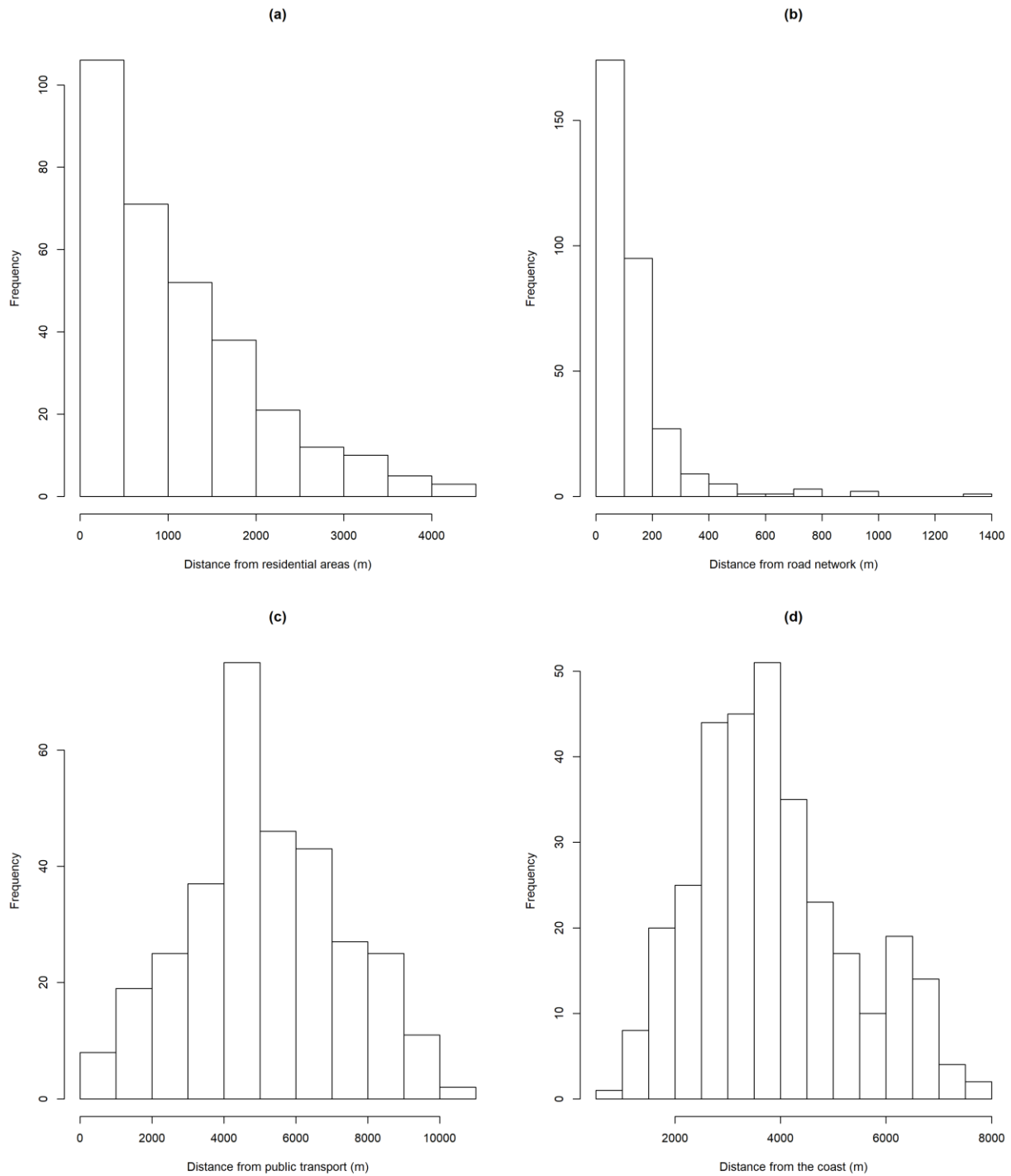


Figure 3-2 - Descriptive analysis of geocache distance from (a) residential areas, (b) road network, (c) public transport and (d) the coast.

4. Appendix 4 - Descriptive analysis of the geocache hunter questionnaire respondents' population

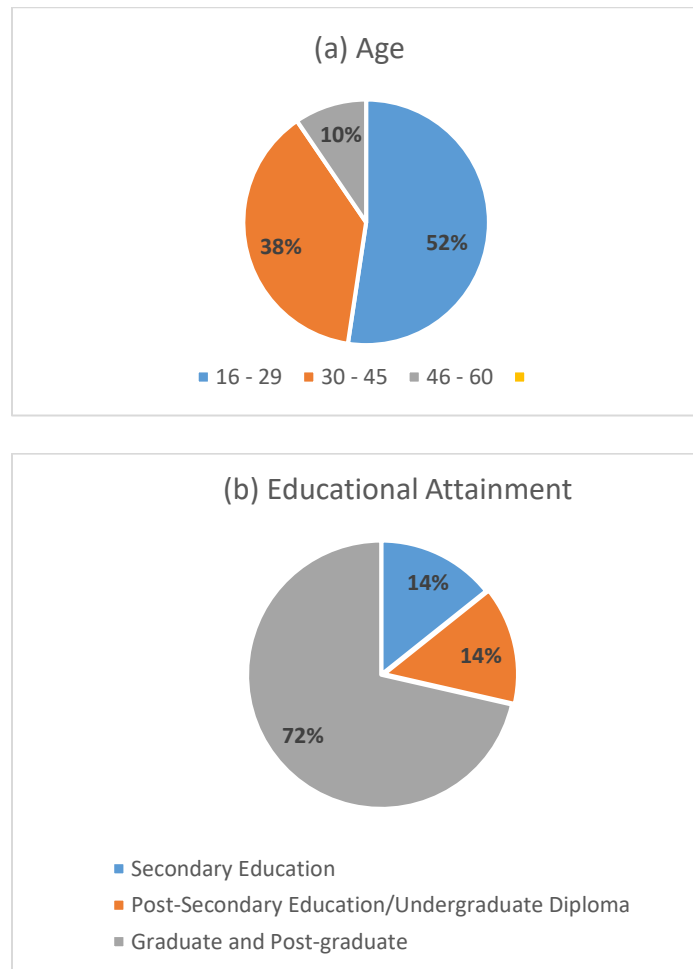


Figure 4-1 - Distribution of geocache hunter questionnaire respondents according to the (a) age and (b) educational attainment.

5. Appendix 5 - Descriptive analysis of the geocache placer questionnaire respondents' population

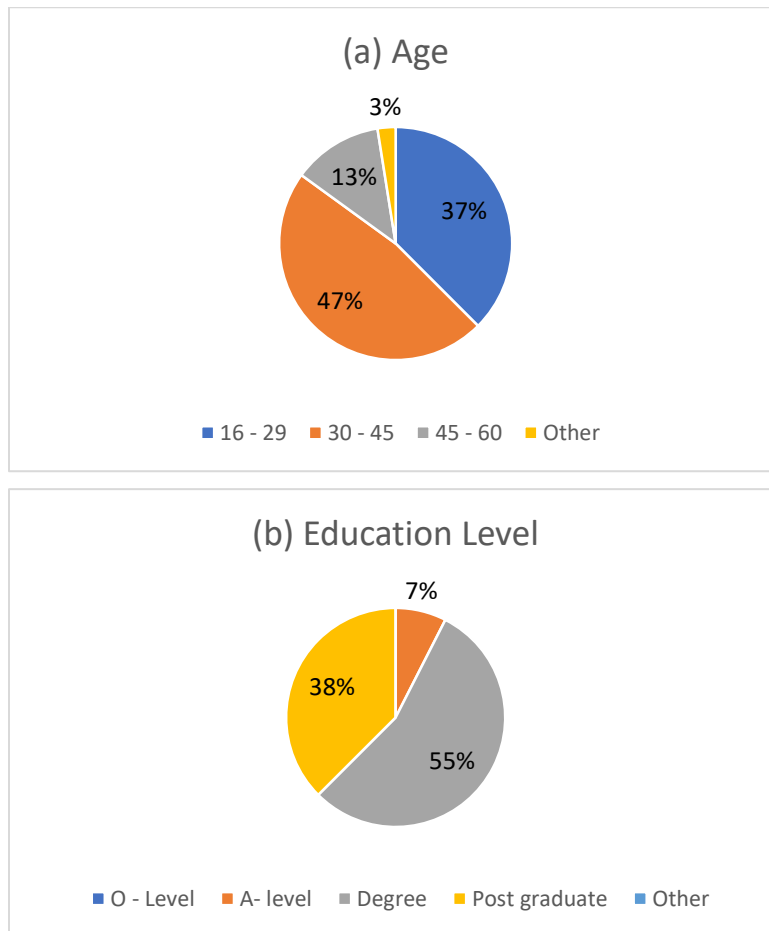


Figure 4-5-1 - Distribution of geocache placer questionnaire respondents according to the (a) age and (b) educational attainment.