

Equality Impact Assessment Form

Part 1 – Initial Screening

1. People responsible for completing the assessment:

Alison Darlow – Senior Specialist, Social and Economic Evidence Team

2. Name of the policy, strategy or project:

Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) will provide ongoing trend data on people's engagement with the natural environment in England by commissioning an external research agency to undertake a sample survey of the population. The survey would provide information to underpin the delivery of Outcome 2 as well as producing information of value to other areas of work (for example HLS targeting, green infrastructure and futures).

4. Who will be the beneficiaries of the policy/strategy/project?

The project will support the development of policy and practice of people based interventions, and in particular projects under Outcome 2. The beneficiaries of the project will be key internal (for instance Policy and Futures, Regulatory Services, Evidence, Corporate Planning) and external stakeholders (for instance Defra, the Forestry Commission, local authorities, regional bodies).

5. Has the policy/strategy/project been explained to those it might affect directly or indirectly?

Yes – we have undertaken extensive internal and external consultation on the scope and implications of the project with those that the project may affect directly/indirectly.

6. Have you consulted on this policy/strategy/project?

The project has been through the specialist review process as part of Natural England Project Management lifecycle. We have consulted with the Access and Recreation Group, the Outcome 2 Group/Community of Practice and have included pieces in Two Weeks in Natural England and Cascade Briefing.

7. Please completed the following table and give reasons/comments for where:

(a) The policy/strategy/project could have a positive impact on any of the equality target groups or contributes to promoting equality, equal opportunities and improving relations within equality target groups.

(b) The policy/strategy/project could have a negative impact on any of the equality target groups, i.e. disadvantage them in any way.

If the impact is high, or the policy will impact significant amounts of people, a full EqIA should be completed.

Equality Target Group	a) Positive impact		b) Negative impact		Reason/Comment
	High	Low	High	Low	
Men		✓		✓	The survey will use a quota sampling approach so that respondents will be broadly representative of the population in England as a whole. Sample size will be sufficient to undertake analysis by gender.
Women		✓		✓	The survey will use a quota sampling approach so that respondents will be broadly representative of the population in England as a whole. Sample size will be sufficient to undertake analysis by gender.
Asian or Asian British people Black or Black British people White people (including Irish people) Chinese people Mixed Race people Other racial/ethnic group (please specify)		✓		✓	The survey will use a quota sampling approach so that respondents will be broadly representative of the population in England as a whole. Sample size will be sufficient to undertake analysis by BME groups.
Disabled and deaf people		✓		✓	The survey will use a quota sampling approach so that respondents will be broadly representative of the population in England as a whole. Sample size will be sufficient to undertake analysis by people with a disability or long term limiting illness.
Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual people		✓		✓	No expected differential impact on gay, lesbian and bisexual people.
Transgen		✓		✓	No expected differential impact on transgender people.

der people					
Older people (50+)		✓		✓	The survey will use a quota sampling approach so that respondents will be broadly representative of the population in England as a whole. Sample size will be sufficient to undertake analysis for older people.
Younger people (17-25) and children		✓		✓	The survey will use a quota sampling approach so that respondents will be broadly representative of the population in England as a whole. Sample size will be sufficient to undertake analysis for younger people. Children are not included in the scope of the survey.
Working patterns (P/T or part year)		✓		✓	The survey will be undertaken in people's homes and there may difficulties in targeting respondents that work full time. This should e minimised however by interviewing at different times of the day. In addition employment type should be one of the quotas for interviewers to ensure results are broadly representative of the population in England as a whole. Sample size will be sufficient to undertake analysis for younger people. Children are not included in the scope of the survey.
Faith groups (please specify)		✓		✓	The survey would not impact negatively or positively on faith groups.

8. Please give a brief description of how this policy/strategy/project benefits the equality target groups identified in the above table, i.e. promotes equality?

This project promotes equality in the following ways:

- The project has been specifically designed to monitor use of the natural environment for three of the diversity groups identified within Outdoors for All (BME groups, people with a disability and long term limiting illness and inner city residents). It will provide the key means of monitoring progress on the targets set out in Outdoors for All.
- The survey will have sufficient sample size to undertake analysis by the three key diversity groups at the national and regional levels after one year of data collection. The survey is will be repeated fir three years and so we will be able to identify trends in use of the natural environment for these groups.
- We will have full socio economic details of respondents (including age, gender, ethnicity, economic circumstances, life stage) and so we will be able to undertake more in-depth analysis of how these groups use sand engage with the natural environment. This analysis will be used in the design, development and monitoring and evaluation of key interventions.

9. If there is a negative impact on any equality target group, is the impact intended or legal?

No significant negative impact on any equality target group.

10. What actions could be taken to amend the policy/strategy/project to minimise the negative impact?

Contractors will be required to have in place appropriate quality procedures (eg adherence to Market Research Society Code of Conduct)

They will also be required to have in place the facility to undertake interviews in languages other than English and also in British Sign Language. This will be a formal requirement as set out in the Business Design Specification.

Interviews will also be undertaken at different times of day/days of the week to ensure those working full time are fully represented in the survey sample.

As set out above the survey will adopt a quota sampling approach. This involves setting broad quotas on the basis of age, gender, ethnicity, disability and economic status to ensure the sample is broadly representative of the population as a whole. Interviewing will also take place at a range of sampling points to ensure that it is representative in terms of types of geographies and places.

11. If there is no evidence that the policy/strategy/project promotes equality, equal opportunities or improves relations within equality target groups, what amendments could be made to achieve this?

N/A

12. How will the policy/strategy/project be implemented including any necessary training?

The project will be implemented by contracting an external research agency to undertake the survey for a period of three years. See point 10.

Full assessment necessary? No

Is this Policy/Strategy/Project:

A new policy/strategy/project **Yes**

A change to an **existing** policy/strategy/project **No**

An existing policy/strategy/project **No**

Is this Equality Impact Assessment:

Predictive **Yes**

Retrospective **No**

Date completed: 23 October 2008

Signed by Line/Project Manager: Alison Darlow

Approved by Senior Management /Project Management Team:

Signed by Diversity lead within OD: Jo Collinge