

Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) Initial Screening Report

For ***South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC Planning Framework***
(Supplementary Planning Document)

February 2021

1. Introduction

This Initial Screening Statement has been prepared to help determine the need for an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) for the following document:

**‘*South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC Planning Framework*’ SPD – February 2021
Consultation Draft**

Public consultation will take place on this document between **8th February 2021 and 24th March 2021**.

It is intended that the ***South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC Planning Framework*** will become a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Its purpose will be to provide the information necessary to enable planning officers and developers to understand necessary steps to ensure compliance with the Habitats Regulations 2017, as amended (‘the Habitats Regulations’). The SPD also sets out a recommended developer contribution that would contribute to the avoidance or mitigation of adverse impacts on internationally protected species and habitats that arise from development within the Bradford District. The SPD is in support of policies in the adopted Local Plan Core Strategy / draft Local Plan.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Bradford Council is fully committed to ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to play an active and positive role in considering the planning issues which affect them and the District as a whole.

The production of an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is a proactive approach to ensuring it meets its general duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Religion & Belief
- Race
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Reassignment
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Low income/low wage

The first stage in undertaking an EqIA is to carry out an **Initial Screening** process. This seeks to determine whether a full EqIA should be undertaken through the completion of a series of questions. If the work is deemed to potentially cause an adverse impact or discriminate against different groups within the community then an EqIA should be undertaken.

This report completes the initial screening process stage as outlined above. However, it should be noted that this report is not final and that it will be amended to reflect the comments of consultees, including equality groups, if necessary.

3. Initial Screening

An initial screening has been carried out and it identifies no negative impacts upon the identified characteristics. The results of the initial screening can be found in the Appendix to this report.

The screening does highlight a number of likely positive effects the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC Planning Framework SPD may have on those living, working or visiting Bradford District will benefit from improved recreation areas, pathways and signs, and the wider community will benefit from the protection offered to the habitat and species of the Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation. Developers will benefit from guidance.

Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation –

It is very unlikely that there would be any differential adverse impact on any sections of the community through this SPD. Overall impact would be to improve access to the wider countryside and enhance existing green spaces for all recreational users.

No inequalities are identified and this is not considered to be an appropriate strategy in which to promote racial, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief equality.

Advance equality of opportunity between different groups -

The strategy will enable and support the enhancement of local green spaces, improved signage and pathways which used by the public free of charge. Improvements could increase equality of opportunity for access to the green space. This impact is positive and will not lead to an adverse impact on socio economic disadvantage.

The strategy also includes an education budget to develop educational material for children and community groups which provides engagement opportunities with the appropriate protected characteristics.

Foster good relations between different groups

The SPD has been developed through a workshop involving representatives including: Landowners and managers including Yorkshire Water, Statutory consultees including Natural England, RSPB and Historic England, special interest local groups such as walking groups and friends of the moors and Council officers from relevant departments including Planning, legal, Countryside, and Parks and Greenspaces. This represented a diverse section of the community representing various interests.

<p>1. Describe the aims, objectives or purpose of the function/policy, practice, procedure or decision and who is intended to benefit.</p>	<p>To produce planning guidance for new developments that are likely to have a significant impact on the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC. It will benefit those living, working or visiting Bradford District will benefit from improved recreation areas, pathways and signage / interpretation boards and the wider community will benefit from the protection offered to the habitat and species of the Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation. Developers will benefit from guidance on how adverse impacts on the SPA can be avoided.</p>		
<p>The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have “due regard” to the need to:-</p> <p>(1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;</p> <p>(2) advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and</p> <p>(3) foster good relations between different groups (see guidance notes)</p>	<p>2. What is the level of impact on each group/protected characteristics in terms of the three aims of the duty?</p> <p>Please indicate high (H) medium (M), low (L), no effect (N) for each.</p>	<p>3. Identify the risk or positive effect that could result for each of the group/protected characteristics?</p>	<p>4. If there is a disproportionately negative impact what mitigating factors have you considered?</p>
<p>Age</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Positive Impact – See Text in Main Report</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Disability</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>As Above.</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Race</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Religion/Belief</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Sexual Orientation</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>N</p>

Sex	N	As above	N
Marriage and civil partnership	N	As above	N
Any other area	N	As Above	N

Appendix.

Initial Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Template

The following is an Equalities Impact Assessment Screening of the guide using Bradford Council's template.

Area to be assessed: (i.e. name of policy, function, procedure, practice or a financial decision)	South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC Planning Framework SPD	
Is this existing or new function/policy, procedure, practice or decision?	New supplementary planning guidance to support key policies in the Local Plan	
What evidence has been used to inform the assessment and policy? (please list only)		
<p>This guide has been created by collaborating with several key stakeholders in the District to ensure that it is supported by the parties and individuals who have an interest in the moors. A workshop took place to inform the preparation of the draft guide including representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners and managers including Yorkshire Water • Statutory consultees including Natural England, RSPB and Historic England • Special interest local groups such as walking groups and friends of the moors • Council officers from relevant departments including Planning, legal, Countryside, and Parks and Greenspaces. <p>The South Pennine Moors are designated in accordance with European legislation, The planning policy requirement for developer contributions and other checks are found within the adopted Bradford Core Strategy Policy SC8: Protecting the South Pennine Moors which was informed by the Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Core Strategy, and this document provides further detail as to why these are in place and how they should be implemented.</p>		
5. Has there been any consultation/engagement with the appropriate protected characteristics?	YES	NO x
6. What action(s) will you take to reduce any disproportionately negative impact, if any?		
As stated above it is not considered that the Guide will create disproportionately negative impacts for protected characteristic groups.		
7. Based on the information in sections 2 to 6, should this function/policy/procedure/practice		

or a decision proceed to Detailed Impact Assessment? (recommended if one or more H under section 2)	YES	NO X
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