



**EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EqIA)
FOR THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE 2015**

Name of project / proposal:	New Forest National Park Management Plan update, 2015
Contact names	David Illsley, Nick Evans
Department	Strategy and Planning, New Forest National Park Authority
Date	6 August 2015

Purpose of the project / proposal

The National Park Management Plan update is a statutory document prepared by the National Park Authority, but closely involving all the main organisations with responsibilities and interests in the National Park. These comprise: Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Hampshire County Council, National Park Authority, Natural England, New Forest District Council, Test Valley Borough Council, Wiltshire Council, Verderers of the New Forest.

It brings together a range of proposed actions by these and other organisations that will help to deliver the two statutory purposes and duty of the National Park, as required by the Environment Act 1995. The Plan focuses on objectives and actions for the forthcoming five years (2015-20). It also summarises recent changes in national policy and gives examples of recently completed partnership projects.

Consultation

Has a consultation been carried out? Yes

Extensive public consultation has been carried out on both an initial draft of the Plan (9 week 'Call for Views' consultation) and revised draft (6 week formal consultation). The consultations were widely advertised to organisations, communities and residents, including circulation to around 300 organisations, discussion with specific interest groups, website information, posters on public notice boards, press coverage and public drop-in sessions.

It is hoped that the Plan will be endorsed by all the main partner organisations and published in autumn 2015. A copy of the final document will be lodged with the Secretary of State.

The Plan has also been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment) and Habitats Regulations Screening Report

Equality impacts: statutory considerations

Impact

Age	none
Disability	none
Gender Reassignment	none
Marriage and civil partnership	none
Pregnancy and maternity	none
Race	none
Religion and belief	none
Gender	none
Sexual orientation	none

Other policy considerations

Poverty	none
Rurality	none
Other factors	none

Has any medium or high impact been identified? Yes No

Why do you consider the project / proposal will have low or no impact?

The objectives in the Management Plan are strategic in nature, relate to the Park as a whole and apply equally to everyone whether living, working or visiting the National Park.

The actions relating to conserving the National Park are concerned with improving the condition of habitats, species, landscape and cultural heritage and so will have long-term benefits for all those using the area. Actions relating to understanding and enjoying the Park, and to the socio-economic well-being of communities, take an inclusive approach and are designed to enable the widest possible range of groups and individuals to engage with and gain benefit from the National Park.