



SOLWAY COAST AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Management Plan – Equalities Impact
Assessment

May 2020

www.solwaycoastaonb.org.uk
info@solwaycoastaonb.org.uk

Equality Impact Assessment

NB: The Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) requires the Council to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people from different groups. Assessing impact on equality and recording this is one of the key ways in which we can show due regard.

Section One: Description and Screening

Service/Team or Section	Solway Coast AONB Team
Lead Officer	Naomi Kay
Title	Solway Coast AONB Management Plan 2020-25
Cabinet Date (if relevant)	
Start Date	April 2020
Review Date	March 2025

Subject of the Impact Assessment

Please give a brief description of the policy, proposal or practice as appropriate (a copy of the subject can be attached or insert a web-link):

The statutory Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2020-2025. The plan sets out the objectives and actions for the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty in the Solway Coast AONB over the plan period. It also addresses actions which:

- support economic and social well-being in matters connected to the purpose of designation, and
- support understanding and enjoyment of natural beauty where these are consistent with the purpose of designation.

The Management Plan should formulate the policy of the area's three constituent local authorities in relation to the AONB.

Who are the main stakeholders? (e.g. general public, staff, members, specific clients/service users):

Constituent local authorities, government agencies, statutory undertakers, utilities, public bodies, conservation organisations, residents in and visitors to the AONB, the National Association of AONBs and designated landscapes family.

Screening

Is there any actual or potential negative or positive impact on the following protected characteristics?

Protected Characteristic	Negative Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure	Positive Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure
Age	N	Y
Disability	N	Y
Marriage and civil partnership (workplace only)	N	N
Pregnancy and maternity	N	Y
Race (ethnicity)	N	Y
Religion or Belief	N	N
Sex (gender)	N	N
Sexual orientation	N	N
Transgender	N	N

Please provide **brief** details of any potential to cause adverse impact. Record full details and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

N/A

How will this policy/proposal/practice promote our commitment to our legal responsibilities under the public sector equality duty to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
- advance equality of opportunity, and
- foster good relations between people from different groups?

The Management Plan is likely to have limited impact on the equality agenda. It is most likely to have minor beneficial impacts on disabled people (in relation to improved access), and to broadening opportunity from people of all backgrounds to engage in environmental conservation. There is a presumption that plan implementation, especially through any National Lottery funded projects, will involve attempts to diversify the audience for events and activities and for access to the Solway Coast.

Evidence

What evidence do you have to support your findings?

Please **outline** your data sets and/or proposed evidence sources, highlight any gaps and say whether or not you propose to carry out consultation. Record greater detail and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

Previous management plans for the AONB have generated work to:

- Engage young people and older people in specific projects to celebrate natural and cultural heritage
- Provide easy-access paths and trails
- Democratise school visits to the area by providing travel grants that ensure no one is prevented from participating on grounds of cost.

The new plan has similar projects and programmes that will drive similar outcomes.

The plan focuses on the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, but also on supporting greater access to the countryside, support for community action for the environment, support for sustainable tourism etc. The nature of the benefits it brings include:

- Supporting the ecosystem services on which the public rely
- Improving physical and intellectual access to the natural environment
- Encouraging community participation in nature/heritage conservation
- Enhancing the landscape and other aspects of natural beauty
- Supporting the sustainable development of local communities in ways compatible with the purpose of designation.

The Plan has a series of 'operating principles' which run through it, including:

- Open to all: there should be equality of opportunity for everyone to enjoy what this area has to offer – there is more to understand and more barriers to remove to make this possible, from limited public transport, to the need for better information or better infrastructure. The most accessible option, in relation to physical and intellectual access to the AONB, is the one that should be chosen where this does not compromise natural beauty.

It is not considered that there would be different outcomes for one group or another in society, though it might be argued that specific elements of the plan will benefit:

- people with limited mobility
- those unable to access school visits to the AONB without financial support
- those who lack the confidence to explore the natural world on their own and who may benefit from organised activities
- everyone whose spiritual and physical well-being would be enhanced by accessing and experiencing a high quality natural environment rich in natural and cultural heritage.

The plan encourages actions aimed at promoting equality. These include:

- The provision of school travel grants to democratise educational visits
- The provision of easy access routes and trails to enable greater physical access to the countryside
- The provision of online and other IT based projects which allow people virtual access to the countryside.
- Improving physical and virtual access to heritage and culture for larger and more diverse audiences
- Providing high quality interpretation of our heritage to an increasingly wider audience
- Projects which focus on using the environment to bolster people's health and wellbeing
- Creating new opportunities to increase young people's access to our natural and cultural heritage, within and beyond the school curriculum

Screening Summary

On the basis of this screening is there:	Confirm which refers (Y/N)
Evidence of actual or potential impact on some/all of the protected characteristics which will proceed to full assessment?	Y
No evidence of actual or potential impact on some/all of the protected characteristics?	

Sign Off

Lead officer sign off: Naomi Kay	Date: 31.3.20
Service equality representative sign off:	Date:

If carrying out a full assessment please proceed to section two.

If not proceeding to full assessment please return completed screenings to your service equality representative.

Section Two: Data analysis and assessment of impact

Please provide details on impacts for people with different protected characteristics relevant to your screening findings. You need to decide if there is or likely to be a differential impact for some. Highlight the positives e.g. benefits for certain groups, advancing equality, as well as the negatives e.g. barriers for and/or exclusion of particular groups. Record the evidence you have used to support or explain your conclusions. Devise and record mitigating actions where necessary.

Protected Characteristic: Age		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Record of evidence to support or explain your conclusions on impact.	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>Older people: greater accessibility both physically and virtual access to AONB.</p> <p>Young people- increased accessibility (physical and virtual) to areas of AONB.</p> <p>Young people- access to learning via educational visits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older people are more likely to have mobility and accessibility issues. Within the management plan there will be the provision of online and other IT based projects which allow people virtual access to the countryside. The management plan includes promotion of the provision of easy access routes and trails to enable greater physical access to the countryside The management plan states that the most accessible option in relation to physical and intellectual access to the AONB, is the one that should be chosen where this does not compromise natural beauty. Young people may have less control over where they are able to go or travel to, either due to parental choice/restrictions or dependence on public transport that is not always accessible or affordable in these areas all year round. The management plan 	<p>Sign off EIA and management plan</p>

<p>Young people that attend schools that are far away from AONB or schools that can't afford to visit AONB will have an opportunity to access the AONB.</p>	<p>promotes the creation of creating new opportunities to increase young people's access to our natural and cultural heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The management plan encourages the provision of school travel grants to democratise educational visits	
---	--	--

Protected Characteristic: Disability		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>People with disabilities will enjoy greater access to AONB that they may have been excluded from due to accessibility issues.</p>	<p>People with mobility/accessibility issues are more likely to have limited access to some areas because of rough terrain, narrow walkways, access via stile or gates that do not allow for those with disabilities. The management plan will have a positive impact for these groups in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the provision of online and other IT based projects which allow people virtual access to the countryside. • Promoting the provision of easy access routes and trails to enable greater physical access to the countryside • Stating that the most accessible option in relation to physical and intellectual access to the AONB is the one that should be chosen where this does not compromise natural beauty. • The management plan will Ensure high standards of management of the Rights of Way Network in the AONB, including an emphasis on promoting ease of access for all responsible and legal use 	<p>As above</p>

Protected Characteristic: Marriage and civil partnership (workplace only)		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
None	It is not felt that any of this conservation-focused plan relates either positively or negatively to any aspect of civil partnership or marriage	None

Protected Characteristic: Pregnancy and maternity		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
People who are pregnant, have pushchairs and/or small children will benefit from improved access to AONB	There are considerations to take into account regarding mobility and accessibility for people that are pregnant, use pushchairs or have small children. Greater access to AONB will mean these groups can access them more easily.	Management plan sign off.

Protected Characteristic: Race (ethnicity)		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
Potential increased opportunity to benefit from access to the landscape, events and activities.	Potential positive benefit in seeking to expand and diversify the audience for events and activities and for all the coast has to offer It is	No further action required beyond that planned to consciously reach out to new and more diverse audiences

Protected Characteristic: Religion or belief		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
None	It is not felt that any of this conservation-focused plan relates either positively or negatively to any aspect of religion and nothing in it relates to any aspect of religious belief	None

Protected Characteristic: Sex (gender)		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
None	It is not felt that any of this conservation-focused plan relates either positively or negatively to any aspect of sex (gender) and nothing in it is focused at one sex or another	None

Protected Characteristic: Sexual orientation		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
None	It is not felt that any of this conservation-focused plan relates either positively or negatively to any aspect of sexual orientation and nothing in it relates to any aspect of sexual orientation	None

Protected Characteristic: Transgender		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
None	It is not felt that any of this conservation-focused plan relates either positively or negatively to any aspect of sexual orientation and nothing in it relates to any aspect of gender identity	None

Section Three: Conclusion and Review

Summary

Please provide a brief summary of your findings stating the main impacts, both positive and negative, across the protected characteristics.

It has been found that within the management plan and as a result of the management plan the main impacts are positive regarding accessibility for the protected characteristics, including but not limited to: Age, Disability, Pregnancy and Maternity. There may be some additional positive benefits in relation to the protected characteristic of race as there is likely to be increased effort to reach wider and more diverse audiences for events and activities and to access what the coast has to offer.

Will this promote positive relationships between different communities? If so how?

This plan will, to a modest degree, promote positive relationships between different communities through the inclusive 'open to all' vision that it contains. Increased connectivity, both virtually and physically may promote positive relationships further. Educational opportunities may also promote a positive relationship between communities as school children have the opportunity to develop a positive relationship with the AONB and its communities.

Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescales for implementation
Sign off EqlA	Allerdale BC	May 2020
Sign off Management Plan	Naomi Kay	July 2020

Review

Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken? (Y/N)	N
When will this assessment be reviewed? Please also insert this date at the front of the template	Every 5 years

Sign Off

Lead officer sign off: Naomi Kay	Date: 31.3.2020
Service equality representative sign off:	Date: