



# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT STAGE ONE – Initial Screening





## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT STAGE ONE – Initial Screening

POLICY OR FUNCTION TO BE ASSESSED		Is the policy/function:	
Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation – ‘Taking the Actions Forward’		EXISTING	
		Yes	
Lead Officer	Assessment Team	Date of Stage One Initial Screening	
Guy Belcher	Guy Belcher, Christine Leonard, Melanie Jones, Ellis Selway	14/10/09	
1. Who defines or defined this policy/function?	<p>The strategy assists the authority in meetings its statutory duty under the 2006 Natural Environment &amp; Rural Communities Bill to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity in all its activities.</p> <p>The Nature Conservation Strategy Officer group produced the NCS in partnership with The Local Wildlife Trust. The strategy was adopted in 2006 by the City Councils Environmental Scrutiny Committee.</p>		
2. Who implements it?	The Nature Conservation Strategy Implementation Group oversees, prioritises and coordinates the work of City Council departments, partner organisations and stakeholders.		

<p>3. Describe the aim, objective or purpose of the policy or function</p>	<p>The vision of the Strategy is that over the next 20 years Cambridge will see a 'net gain' in biodiversity, both within the city and the surrounding countryside, including the extent and quality of priority habitats and populations of priority species. Wildlife habitats will be protected, enhanced and where possible expanded and linked. The very best wildlife habitats will form part of a much wider ecological network that will link the whole city and beyond. Everyone who visits, lives or works within Cambridge will have access to high quality natural green spaces within walking distance of their home or place of work, and there will be a greater awareness and understanding of the value of biodiversity.</p>
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4. Are there any related objectives? If so, what are they?

**Medium Term Objectives**

- Promote Cambridge as a sustainable City, in particularly by reducing carbon dioxide emissions and the amount of waste going into landfill in the City and Sub-region.
- Maintain a healthy, safe and enjoyable city for all, with thriving and viable neighborhoods.
- Lead the growth of Cambridge to achieve attractive, sustainable new neighborhoods, including affordable housing, close to a good range of facilities, and supported by transport networks so that people can opt not to use the car.

**Service Objectives**

- To promote sustainable lifestyles and sustainable development in Cambridge
- To seek to ensure the effective engagement of all sections of the community in the planning and environmental processes
- To use the Council’s environmental, planning and transport policies to promote health and safety in the community
- To establish a robust statutory policy framework to support integrated environmental, planning and transport decision making in development
- To conserve (protect and enhance) the distinctive historic and natural environments of the City
- To promote an integrated approach to achieving more sustainable transport in Cambridge
- To maintain and where possible increase the role of walking and cycling as a key modes of travel in the City
- To support the sustainable development of a prosperous local economy

**Performance Indicator**

- **National Indicator (NI) 197** Improved local biodiversity - Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented

<p>5. What are the current priorities associated with this policy/function?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure that site designated for nature conservation receive protection and are managed in a favorable ecological condition. This will be achieved through the adoption of cross-departmental Conservation Management Plans, which engage the local community.</li> <li>• Recognise the ecological services that Cambridge biodiversity offers residents against the adverse impacts of climate change. For example natural habitats can provide flood storage, help regulate temperatures within urban areas and improve air quality.</li> <li>• To ensure that all Cambridge residents have access to high quality, safe natural green spaces and the opportunity to be involved in conservation management and to learn about their natural environment.</li> </ul>
<p>6. What outcomes are wanted from this policy/function?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number and area of quality, accessible natural green space for people and wildlife within the city.</li> <li>• Increase the number of people experiencing and engaging with local wildlife.</li> <li>• To see an overall net gain in biodiversity across the City,</li> </ul>

<p>7. Who are the main stakeholders?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City Council</li> <li>• All who visit, live and work in Cambridge.</li> <li>• The biodiversity, resident or migrant that make use of the City</li> </ul> <p>Partners include:</p> <p>Natural England (formerly English Nature), the Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Cambridge Natural History Society, Cambridge Past Present &amp; Future (formerly Cambridge Preservation Society), the University &amp; Colleges, University Botanic Garden, major developers, Cambridgeshire Horizons, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, private landowners, Conservation Volunteers, Friends Groups, Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Partnership.</p>
<p>8. What outcomes do stakeholders want from this policy/function?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone who visits, lives or works within Cambridge will have access to high quality natural green spaces within walking distance of their home or place of work, and there will be a greater awareness and understanding of the value of biodiversity.</li> <li>• The city and its wildlife will be better adapted to meet the challenge of increased extreme weather events due to our changing climate.</li> <li>• The importance of designated conservation sites and the wider network of public open spaces will be recognised and sensitive management undertaken to enhance their value.</li> </ul>

<p>9. Is the policy/function corporate and far-reaching?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The policies, identified actions and projects will have city wide, long term impacts for the city's wildlife and population.</p>
<p>10. What number of people may be affected or impacted upon by the implementation of the policy/function?</p>	<p>All who visit, live and work in Cambridge and its surrounding area.</p> <p>Biodiversity does not recognize authority boundaries and many species will be international in their wanderings. For example, Cambridge is fortunate to host breeding swifts for three months of the year. Cambridge fledged chicks will travel through Europe and down as far as South Africa.</p>
<p>11. Are key elements of people's lives affected by this policy/function eg finance, accommodation, welfare?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The physical and mental health benefits of accessible natural green spaces and the ability to experience wildlife on a daily basis are widely recognised.</li> <li>• The presence of quality natural greenspace has been demonstrated to improve the desirability of both residential and business areas with knock on effects for house prices and the wider economy.</li> </ul>

<p>12. Are there any criteria, requirements or aspects of this policy/function that could contribute to inequality?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing land use pressures mean that some areas of the city lack opportunities for natural greenspace.</li> <li>Despite complying with the DDA legislation on Local Nature Reserves some sites, or parts of sites, will remain inaccessible due to the potential conflict with nature conservation concerns.</li> <li>Promotional materials may not reach all communities or be in an accessible format or language</li> <li>Events and volunteer opportunities may not be tailored to the needs of all of the community</li> </ul>		
<p>13. Could the policy/function discriminate against any group(s) either directly or indirectly?</p>	<p>Potentially through lack of appropriate engagement and promotion of service to the whole community.</p>		
<p>14. Are there any concerns that the policy/function could have a <b>differential impact</b> in terms of equality?</p> <p>If Yes, please indicate what your concerns are for each</p>	<p><b>Ethnicity</b> Including Gypsies &amp; Travellers</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Sites and opportunities for engagement may not be promoted appropriately to all audiences.</p> <p>Current site users and event participants may not reflect full ethnicity mix found within the City.</p>



<p>category.</p> <p>Please substantiate your concerns with any existing evidence.</p>	<p><b>Disability</b> Including Mental Health</p>	Y	<p>Sites and opportunities for engagement may not be promoted appropriately to all audiences.</p> <p>Some sites and events may be restrictive due to access issues.</p> <p>Some complaints have been received about LNR accessibility.</p>
	<p><b>Gender</b> Including Transgender</p>	Y	<p>Sites and opportunities for engagement may not be promoted appropriately to all audiences.</p> <p>Some sites may have anti social issues or safety concerns that currently exclude some users.</p>
	<p><b>Sexual Orientation</b></p>	Y	<p>Sites and opportunities for engagement may not be promoted appropriately to all audiences.</p>
	<p><b>Religion or Belief</b></p>	Y	<p>Sites and opportunities for engagement may not be promoted appropriately to all audiences.</p> <p>Current site users and event participants may not reflect full belief mix found within the City.</p>
	<p><b>Age</b> Young-Elderly</p>	Y	<p>Sites and opportunities for engagement may not be promoted appropriately to all audiences.</p> <p>Some sites may have anti social issues or safety concerns that currently exclude some users.</p>

<p>15. Of the groups who might be expected to benefit from the intended outcomes, are there any that do not?</p>	<p>Current users of the service do reflect a broad mix of age ranges from both sexes. For example the weekly conservation volunteer group bring individuals with different backgrounds, who share a common interest.</p> <p>However, we have limited knowledge of LNR and other natural greenspace non-users.</p>	
<p>16. Do your answers reveal there is <b>potential or actual differential or adverse impact</b> of this policy/function?</p>	<p>Yes. There is potential differential or adverse impact due to the potential lack of appropriate promotion and out reach to all possible service users.</p>	
<p>17. Can any differential impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality for one group, or for any other reason?</p> <p>Please give details.</p>	<p><b>Ethnicity</b> Including Gypsies &amp; Travellers</p>	<p>No</p>
	<p><b>Disability</b> Including Mental Health</p>	<p>Not every site or part of a natural greenspace can be made accessible to all. Sites should have reasonable and appropriate access for all provision, whilst maintaining a natural feel and value for biodiversity.</p>
	<p><b>Gender</b> Including Transgender</p>	<p>No</p>
	<p><b>Sexual Orientation</b></p>	<p>No</p>
	<p><b>No</b></p>	<p>No</p>

	<b>Age</b> Young-Elderly	No	
<b>18. Does the policy/function meet the statutory duty to promote good relations?</b>  If Yes, please detail how.			
<b>19. Should this policy or function proceed to a STAGE 2 PARTIAL EIA?</b>	YES		
	If Yes, is there enough evidence to proceed straight to a <b>STAGE 3 FULL EIA?</b>		
	NO		
<b>Date set for:</b>	<b>STAGE 2 PARTIAL EIA</b> July / August 2010	or	<b>STAGE 3 FULL EIA</b>
<b>Signature of Lead Officer</b>		<b>Date EIA completed</b>	
Name and Position : Guy Belcher Nature Conservation Projects Officer			
<b>EIA checked by</b>		<b>Date</b>	
Name and Position			
<b>STAGE ONE EIA completed and located at:</b>			
<b>Ongoing monitoring arrangements, and review date:</b>			