

# Forestry Commission Equality Impact Assessment Publishing Template

## Step 10

### Name of policy, function or service

The Study of the Public Forest Estate in England

### Purpose and aim(s) of the policy, function or service

To consider the future long term sustainable role for the public forest estate making recommendations about any necessary changes to improve its ability to deliver relevant priorities in the Strategy for England's Trees Woods and Forests and contribute to other government objectives

### Who will benefit mainly from this policy, function or service?

One of the objectives of the study is for society to benefit from the improved and sustainable delivery of government priorities from the public forest estate. The beneficiaries will include those parts of society that currently or will in the future directly experience the public forest estate and wider society's benefits from the ecosystem services that the estate provides.

### Information and Data (evidence) used

The Study will include a formal public consultation, which will, among other things, seek to understand better the impact of possible different "directions" the public forest estate could take in the future.

Equality and Inclusion of Social Diversity with respect to Woods and Forests in the UK: An Evidence Review" (in draft) – by Forest Research

Spatial analysis of the population and its make-up "served" by the public forest estate within different catchment sizes around the estate and how this would appear to have changed. The tentative conclusion could be drawn is that the change in the location of the estate over a 9 year period has resulted in an improved service to the population as a whole but also to particular diversity groups including for example ethnic minorities

### Summary of Impact

Changes, either positive or negative could come from the location, nature and modus operandi of the public forest estate

**Monitoring/Evaluation**

It is proposed to review this EqIA as the study progresses: following the public consultation; as the Working Group recommendations are being prepared in winter 2009/10; and as the England National Committee recommendations are prepared in January/February 2010.

**Further Information**

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