

# Equality Impact Assessment Summary

<b>Name of policy, function or service</b>
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Guidance on the Design of Recreation Facilities Setting the standard – First edition
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<b>Purpose and aim(s) of the policy, function or service</b>
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<p>This is an internal publication for use by FCS field staff, recreation foresters, project officers, engineers and others who may have limited background knowledge in design but are at the front line for providing and managing outdoor facilities on the National Forest Estate to</p>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster a consistent approach to design, management and maintenance of recreation facilities on the NFE.</li> <li>• Reinforce the Forestry Commission Scotland brand.</li> <li>• Continue to give visitors a positive experience at each recreation facility on the NFE.</li> <li>• Promote sharing of good practice.</li> </ul> |
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<b>Who will benefit mainly from this policy, function or service?</b>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitors to the National Forest Estate who experience facilities that look good and work well.</li> <li>• FCS staff who will be better equipped to make decisions concerning design, management and maintenance of recreation facilities on the NFE.</li> </ul> |
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<b>Information and Data (evidence) used</b>
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<p>A Working Group was set up to gather background information, prepare a Brief and appoint a consultant to write the Guidance. Drafts of the Guidance were circulated for comment to a range of staff responsible for design, management and maintenance of recreation facilities on the NFE.</p>
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<p>The final draft was also used for training purposes on an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) course run for FCS staff.</p>
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<p>Forest visitor satisfaction is monitored through annual surveys at a range of recreation facilities and events managed by FCS. The Forestry Commission Forest Visitor Surveys Report 2005 also provides visitor analysis in the GB context.</p>
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<b>Summary of Impact</b>
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<p>The Guidance for the Design of Recreation Facilities, through its outcomes on the NFE will have the following impact:</p>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adherence to the first principle of the Scottish Landscape Charter 2008, endorsed by the Scottish Government<br/>'All landscapes are important and everybody has a right to live in and enjoy the benefits of good quality surroundings'.</li> <li>• Increased customer satisfaction with the quality of recreation facilities on the NFE.</li> <li>• Increased FCS staff confidence in provision of recreation facilities to an acceptable standard throughout the NFE.</li> </ul> |
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**Monitoring/Evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation of design standards will be carried out by continuation of

- An annual programme of Forestry Commission Forest Visitor Surveys.
- A programme of internal support visits to Forest Districts by Head Office staff.
- Sharing of good practice.

**Further Information**