

Equality Impact Assessment Summary

Name of policy, function or service

Heritage, Landscape and Cultural Value of Welsh Woodlands and Trees Policy Position.

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

This policy, written by Forestry Commission Wales (FCW), has been developed on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). Its purpose is to define WAG's position on the heritage, landscape and cultural value of Welsh woodlands and trees, as a response to their Woodlands for Wales strategy document (2009). It sets out the evidence and suggested agenda for action for all those concerned with the heritage, landscape and cultural value of woodlands and trees in Wales.

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

The audiences for this Policy Position are policy makers, heritage managers, woodland owners and managers, relevant grant giving bodies, planning authorities and other organisations and individuals with an interest in the heritage, landscape and cultural value of woodlands and trees.

Beneficiaries will be:

- The people of Wales who have, or will develop an interest in the heritage, landscape and cultural value of woodlands and trees.
- Land managers with woodlands and trees which have or have the potential to have a heritage, landscape or cultural value. Raising their level of awareness of the importance and value of woodlands and trees and actions that can be taken to contribute towards increasing their landscape and heritage value.
- Communities and individuals across Wales who are able to access and appreciate sites and landscapes of cultural and heritage value. People will benefit in a number of ways including improving their health and well-being through access to and appreciation of these sites and landscapes; increasing the opportunities for learning and development.
- Private woodland owners and grant providers will benefit through clarification of WAG's aims and objectives for the heritage, landscape and cultural value of woodlands and trees.

Information and Data (evidence) used

A full EqIA has been undertaken for the Woodlands for Wales strategy. The results of this can be accessed here: [Woodlands for Wales - WAG Equality Impact Assessment](#).

A summary of how E&D evidence is reflected in the Heritage, Landscape and Cultural Value of Welsh Woodlands and Trees policy position is found in appendix 2 of the document itself.

FCW will develop programmes and guidance to manage and promote the landscape heritage and cultural value of woodlands and trees.

Summary of Impact

The outcomes of this policy will have positive benefits for the people of Wales including those included in the six diversity strands.

However specific projects which will arise from the *Woodlands for Wales* Action Plan and FCW corporate work programmes may require more focused EqIAs to consider impacts and give opportunities to increase access and promote diversity. Local consultations may be appropriate in some instances.

Although no evidence relating to sexual orientation is available and limited evidence on religion or belief there is no evidence there will be specific negative impacts of this policy position on any of the six diversity strands.

Monitoring/Evaluation

Monitoring will take place through the Woodlands for Wales Action plan monitoring procedures

FCW will continue to fund public opinion and public access surveys related to forestry and the use of woodlands and forests.

Further Information

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