

The EqIA Publishing Template

Impact Assessment Summary

1. Name of policy, function or service.

Bedgebury 5 year strategy and development plan. This is a partial assessment.

2. Purpose and aims of the policy, function or service.

The purpose of this strategy is to give a clearly defined development path for Bedgebury and the activities the site provides over the next five years. It will set the aims and objectives for all subsequent documents that relate to delivery across a wide range of activities and demonstrates how these relate to key policy and strategic documents. It prioritises our work for the next five years and will determine actions that facilitate the deployment of resources to deliver a better quality of life for those people directly associated with Bedgebury or who visit the site.

It is based on the aims and objectives of the Governments strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests (ETWF) (2007), the subsequent Delivery Plan (2008) and local authority strategies and development plans. The Main objectives are in line with ETWF: Sustainable Resource, Climate Change, Natural Environment, Quality of Life, Business and Markets.

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

The beneficiaries of the work of Bedgebury are many and varied and the strategy is aimed at all stakeholders as well as giving direction to staff who deliver the activities and services. We work in partnership with a large number of organisations and bodies from regional and sub regional levels, right down to very local communities.

The key stakeholders for each area of our work:

Recreation – the general public, target groups (youth, women, elderly etc.), activity clubs, national organisations, Sports Development units, site based groups.

Education – schools, teachers, youth groups, colleges, general public.

Environment and Conservation – conservation NGO's such as Environment Agency, Wildlife Trust; Local Authorities; Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Countryside Management Projects (CMP) projects, international bodies (RHS, Royal Botanical Gardens Edinburgh, Flora and Fauna etc.), British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Local Planning office.

Social engagement – Primary Care Trusts, representative bodies, local authority social services, Territorial Army, probation services, local community groups and pro-active organisations, .

These stakeholders represent and cover contractors and neighbours through to local communities within the immediate catchment area, which covers the counties of Kent and East Sussex along with some of the southern London Boroughs.

4. Information and Data (evidence) used.

Include information of evidence collected to undertake the impact assessment. This can be a summary of information or a comprehensive list. Include information on any consultations undertaken and the associated findings.

There has been a great deal of data and evidence collected and collated over the years.

The delivery of Sport England award in 2006 was supported by a comprehensive breakdown of regional demographics as well as clear identification on partners and organisations across the six strands of diversity along with a market needs analysis.

Information was also been drawn from the By All Means Project (BAMS) that was hosted by the FC at Bedgebury. BAMS was a part of Natural England's (Countryside Agency) Diversity Review and fed into DEFRA's Outdoors for All policy. BAMS investigated methods of giving people with disabilities access to countryside and outdoors activities.

Ongoing bi-annual surveys in partnership with Sport England and Forest Research have improved our ongoing knowledge of the site visitor profile and focus groups involving people from target groups have taken place.

Regular reviews of customer feedback inform on changes of direction and improvement to service.

Regular consultation with partner organisation covering specific activities is conducted to ensure delivery is inclusive.

We are aware of some gaps in our knowledge of some groups and these will be reviewed with the intent of maximising local knowledge.

5. Summary of Impact.

Provide a summary of the impact both negative and positive and outline of any remedial action or justifications for impact.

Provide information about any modifications made to the policy, process or service as a result of the assessment and/or consultation, or alternative or additional measures.

This assessment concludes that the Strategy and Development Plan for Bedgebury has either a positive or neutral impact within all our areas of business with a low impact across the six strands of diversity.

However individual assessments will be conducted should any possible negative impact be identified in our areas of work.

6. Monitoring or Evaluation.

Provide a brief summary of how the policy, function or service will be monitored and evaluated in terms of equality.

The document and list of actions will be reviewed annually and will set the priorities for the annual business plan for the cost centre. The business plans will be reviewed quarterly.

7. Further Information.

Insert contact details of the individual who can supply additional information and a copy

of the completed Equality Impact Assessment.

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