

Impact Assessment Summary

Name of policy, function or service

Insert the name of the policy, process or service. Include information about whether this is a Partial Impact Assessment.

Restoration and expansion of open habitats from woods and forest in England: developing Government policy.

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

Insert a brief outline of the purpose of the policy, process or service and provide outline details of main aim(s).

Develop a clear rationale to guide removal of inappropriate plantations and woodland where other key Biodiversity Action Plans habitat can be restored or enhanced and where the environmental benefits outweigh the costs.

Biodiversity benefits are the main objective.

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

Outline briefly who the policy, process or service is aimed at, for example, customers, and staff and identify any specific groups where appropriate.

People wishing to expand or restore open habitat from woodland or forest, woodland managers and owners, timber producers and processors, users of potential and restored open habitat sites, staff of Natural England and Forestry Commission using relevant delivery mechanisms.

Users of potential open habitat and restored open habitat.

Non-users who care about biodiversity.

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.

Public Opinion of Forestry Survey.

Study of preferences in woodland.

Survey of Forestry Commission regional staff on differential responses from equality groups – none recorded.

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.

Provided good practice is followed with high quality local engagement there appears to be little potential impact on factors such as landscape and quality of life and access and recreation. Therefore it is unlikely that there will be significant differential impact on equality groups.

Monitoring/Evaluation

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

We will re-visit this EqIA once the formal public consultation has completed.

We will apply an outcomes focussed framework for evaluation. One of the proposed indicators is based on the number and attitude of community groups involved in restoration projects or woodland on potential open habitat. When we review the policy in 2012 we will look for evidence of differential involvement by equality groups in these groups.

Policy proposes a requirement for good quality local engagement in decision making. When we review the policy in 2012 we will look for evidence of differential involvement by equality groups in these processes.

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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