

## Screening/Scoping Pro Forma

<b>Section</b>	Parks & Countryside	<b>Officer responsible for the screening/scoping</b>	Adam Owen/Phil Newcombe		
<b>Name of Policy to be assessed</b>	Countryside operations	<b>Date of Assessment</b>	21/10/08	<b>Is this a proposed new or existing policy/procedure/practice?</b>	Existing
<b>1. Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy/procedure/practice?</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The council owns 31 countryside sites. This section manages those sites</li> <li>2. There are laws pertaining to managing the land for public access, wildlife and conservation and common law</li> <li>3. There are public expectations as to how the council manages this land</li> <li>4. At present there is no countryside strategy, objectives are within the Parks and Countryside overall Service plan</li> </ol>				
<b>2. Are there any associated or specific objectives of the policy/procedure/practice? Please explain.</b>	<p>The Service Plan states broad objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure financial targets are met and services offer Value for Money.</li> <li>Contribute to a sustainable local environment</li> <li>Contribute to a safe and vibrant community</li> <li>Contribute to dynamic local economy</li> <li>Customer satisfaction. Develop and strengthen a cross cutting service education and enforcement programme with other agencies and borough services through the Safer Cleaner Greener agenda.</li> <li>Staffing. The recruitment and retention of skilled and responsive workforce.</li> <li>Prepare and manage 10 year infrastructure programme</li> <li>To ensure Health safety compliance in employment, buildings and third party users</li> <li>Seeking Partnerships</li> </ul>				
<b>3. Who is intended to benefit from this policy and in what way?</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 This policy affects everyone within Guildford Borough.</li> <li>2 Facility users, general public, residents, members, partners, clients, staff</li> <li>3 All customers may use the sites, either physically or virtually.</li> </ol>				
<b>4. What outcomes are wanted from this policy/procedures/practice?</b>	<p>That the countryside is managed to an excellent standard as defined by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Favourable conservation status (SPA, SAC, SSSI, LNR, SNCI)</li> <li>○ Green Flag</li> </ul>				

<b>5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principle threat is a reduction of budget, which directly pays for 1 FTE Trees &amp; Countryside Manager, 1 FTE Trees &amp; Woodland Officer, 4 FTE Countryside Wardens, payments to contractors, materials etc</li> <li>• Loss of s106 funding</li> <li>• Insufficient training and equipment for staff</li> <li>• Selling the land</li> </ul>		
<b>6. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•1 Users of the facilities and the general public</li> </ul>	<b>7. Who implements the policy, and who is responsible for the policy?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•2 Trees &amp; Countryside section, Parks &amp; Countryside Services</li> </ul>
<b>8. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on racial groups?</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Please explain</b> Trees & countryside believes there are significant barriers to this group in accessing this service. Racial groups are very under represented.
<b>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been no direct feedback from this consumer group</li> <li>• Visitor surveys show a trend that racial groups are under represented</li> <li>• When Countryside wardens and officer visit sites, hold events, run volunteer days this group is rarely present.</li> </ul>		
<b>9. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to gender?</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	Trees & countryside believes that some members of this group, notably females, do not like accessing countryside sites due to the perceived threat of attack.
<b>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor surveys indicate a small minority of female users are not comfortable using countryside sites</li> <li>• There is a programme of tree removal and opening of areas alongside footpaths to create a general feeling of openness and security</li> <li>• A programme of adequate on-site signage and relevant contact numbers has been initiated</li> <li>• Parks &amp; Countryside Services operates a Ranger Service who patrol the sites generating a presence in the countryside</li> <li>• The Countryside Wardens work daily in the countryside sites and are a visible presence, as well being able to check the infrastructure and security of a site.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>		
<b>10. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to disability?</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	Trees & countryside believes that some members of this group may not be able to fully access countryside sites, physically and especially virtually.

<p><b>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been some feedback from this consumer group</li> <li>• It has to be recognised that the countryside is not accessible to all, and never will be. However, where it is reasonable to do so, every effort should be made to enable access for people with disabilities.</li> <li>• The majority of sites where topography allows good physical access have well surfaced paths</li> <li>• Signage is poor and this is recognised. A programme of adequate on-site signage and relevant contact numbers has been initiated</li> <li>• Virtual access to the sites is recognised as very poor. This requires serious investment of money, time and skill, presently not available</li> <li>• There are publications for a number of the countryside sites, which are available in various formats.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>11. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to sexual orientation?</b></p>	<p>Y</p>	<p><b>N</b> Trees &amp; countryside has no reason to believe there are any barriers to this group in accessing this service.</p>
<p><b>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</b></p>	<p>There has been no feedback from this consumer group</p>	
<p><b>12. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to their age?</b></p>	<p>Y</p>	<p><b>N</b> Trees &amp; countryside believes there are some barriers to this group in accessing this service, notably youth</p>
<p><b>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been no feedback from this consumer group</li> <li>• Visitor surveys show a trend that minority groups are under represented</li> <li>• When Countryside wardens and officer visit sites, hold events, run volunteer days this group is rarely present</li> <li>• Positives – Year 10 and 11 students have instruction , education and practical experience a via parks and Countryside Service Horticultural Academy, and with project based tasks e.g. Tormead School Tree Planting.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	
<p><b>13. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to their religious belief?</b></p>	<p>Y</p>	<p><b>N</b> Trees &amp; countryside has no reason to believe there are any barriers to this group in accessing this service</p>
<p><b>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</b></p>	<p>•17 There has been no feedback from this consumer group</p>	

14. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to them having dependants/caring responsibilities?	Y	N	Trees & countryside has no reason to believe there are any barriers to this group in accessing this service
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	There has been no feedback from this consumer group It is recognised that some individuals in this group may care for individuals with restricted mobility. These issues are addressed under disability		
15. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to them have an offending past?	Y	N	Trees & countryside has no reason to believe there are any barriers to this group in accessing this service
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	There has been no feedback from this consumer group, however countryside works regularly with an organisation providing tasks for individuals on probation (Swingbridge & Surrey Probation Board)		
16. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to them being Transgender or transsexual?	Y	N	Trees & countryside has no reason to believe there are any barriers to this group in accessing this service
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	There has been no feedback from this consumer group		
17. Could the differential impact identified in 8-16 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy/procedure/practice?	Y	N	<b>Please explain</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The evidence base does identify adverse impact on racial, gender and disability user groups, with respect to this policy and procedure</li> <li>• The service is aware of the issues but further work needs to be completed to address this impact and gain a true assessment of the requirements of these groups</li> <li>• There have been many studies on the use of the countryside by these groups and it would be appropriate to review this literature and adopt best practice into management plans</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
18. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or any other reason?	Y	N	<b>Please explain for each heading (questions 8-16) on a separate piece of paper.</b>

<p><b>Business improvement</b></p> <p><b>19. Is there any concern that there are unmet needs in relation to any of the above groups?</b></p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>N</p>	<p><b>Please explain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing budget allows for very small incremental changes to occur in each financial year. However, for a significant impact to be made in a short timeframe then substantial funding is needed</li> <li>• Access improvements via new footpaths, gates, signage, leaflets, web based facilities are all required. Advertising and positive discrimination for racial, gender (female) and youth groups is needed.</li> <li>• Grant funding has been sought with some success. It is essential that the service finds its target market, addresses the needs of specific user groups and seeks funding for specific initiatives.</li> </ul>
<p><b>20. Does differential impact or unmet need cut across the equality strands (e.g. elder BME groups)?</b></p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>N</p>	<p><b>Please explain</b> As above – there is an impact, specifically, on racial, gender (female) and youth groups</p>
<p><b>21. If yes, should the full EIA be conducted jointly with another service area/contractor/partner/agency?</b></p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>N</p>	<p><b>Please explain</b> Partnership with the Surrey Wildlife Trust, adjacent LA's, Natural England and interest groups would be very beneficial. It would also work well to promote access to these sites for Healthy Living agendas.</p>
<p><b>22. Is there a missed opportunity to improve your business in relation to any of the policies, procedures or practices to promote racial, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief equality?</b></p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>N</p>	<p><b>See Q 17 - 21</b></p>
<p><b>23. Should the policy proceed to a full equality impact assessment?</b></p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>If it is not believed the issues can be fully addressed within the current Service objectives and budget then yes, a full equality assessment should be completed. However, the officers in the section are aware of the issues – primarily the reasons for not having fully addressed them relates to available resources</p>
<p><b>24. If No, are there any changes required to the policy to improve it around the equality agenda?</b></p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>N</p>	

**Signed**  
**(completing officer)**

**Date** Tuesday, 21 October 2008

**Signed**  
**(Head of Section) .....** **Date**

**Countersigned**  
**(HR representative )**

**Date** November 2008