

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title	
Title: Update to the series of Regionally Important Geological Sites in Rotherham	
Directorate: Regeneration and Transport	Service area: Planning Regeneration and Transport
Lead person: Rachel Overfield	Contact number: 01709 254746
Is this a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
If other, please specify	

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening
An update to the series of Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) is proposed by the addition of one new site. Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) are a local planning designation that recognises the geological conservation interest of a site.

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
<p>Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i></p> <p>No implications are envisaged regarding the designation of the site as RIGS</p>		X
<p>Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i></p> <p>The RIGS proposed to be designated is owned by private landowner.</p> <p>The designation has no legal force. The designation recognises the substantive local nature conservation value of the site.</p> <p>The proposal may have a positive effect in encouraging more positive management of the site.</p> <p>There is a current planning application on the site. However, as it is a green belt site it will already receive strong planning protection.</p>		X
<p>Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i></p> <p>No impact on individual or group with protected characteristics has been identified. The landowners will be contacted for comment. Designation is based primarily on scientific reasoning and in accordance with national best practice (see Information on Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites (2010)). The system includes all sites that qualify.</p>		X
<p>Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal?</p>		X

<p><i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge).</i></p> <p>Some members of the public may support the proposal for designating the site as a RIGS to recognise the substantive nature conservation there.</p> <p>Landowner has been contacted who has subsequently requested further advice to inform planning application.</p> <p>The Site was selected with a methodology that has been externally verified and in line with national good practice. Further information on the implications of designation is available to landowner on request.</p>		
<p>Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i></p> <p>No effect envisaged on Council services at this time</p>		X
<p>Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i></p> <p>No affect envisaged</p>		X
<p>If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason</p>		
<p>See comments above.</p>		

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

(think about the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected)

Designation is based primarily on scientific reasoning and in accordance with national best practice (see Information on Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites (2010)). The system includes all sites that qualify.

The site was selected with a methodology that has been externally verified and in line with national good practice. Further information on the implications of designation is available to the landowner on request.

Regionally important geological sites benefits to wider communities include:

- Conserve areas with recognised geological interests:
- Contribute to local and national geodiversity and biodiversity targets
- Add to the local character and distinctiveness of an area
- Contribute to the quality of life

- **Key findings**

(think about any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)

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The site was selected with a methodology that has been externally verified. Further information on the implications of designation is available to the landowner on request.

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- **Actions**

(think about how you will promote positive impact and remove/reduce negative impact)

Further information on the implications of designation is available to the landowner on request.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	10 May 2022
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	10 May 2022
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Rachel Overfield Planning Officer

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Andy Duncan	Planning Policy Manager	24 May 2022

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	24 May 2022
Report title and date	Addition of R57 Deep Carrs Quarry to the Regionally Important Geological Sites in Rotherham
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	Delegated Officer Decision 1 July 2022
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	24 May 2022