

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 | |
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| Title: Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites Series Update | |
| Directorate: Regeneration and Environment | Service area: Planning, Regeneration and Transport |
| Lead person: Rachel Lindsay | 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 |
|--|
| Addition of three new Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) to the series of RIGS in the borough following site assessment against published criteria and endorsement from the Local Geological Sites Panel. RIGS are a local planning designation that recognises the geological 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 style="text-align: center;">x</p> <p>No implications are envisaged regarding the proposed new site designations</p> |
| <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 style="text-align: center;">x</p> <p>The designations have no legal force. The designations recognise the substantive geological interest of the sites.</p> <p>The proposals may have a positive effect in encouraging more positive management of these sites.</p> |
| <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 style="text-align: center;">x</p> <p>No impact on individual or group with protected characteristics has been identified. The landowners have been contacted for comment, one owner has noted the proposed designation but raised no objections . Designation is based primarily on scientific reasoning and in accordance with national best practice. The</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | system includes all sites that qualify. |
| Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <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> | | X No public concerns raised. |
| 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> | | X No effect envisaged on Council services at this time |
| 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> | | X No affect envisaged |

If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason

See comments above.

Rotherham's Local Geological Sites System form part of Rotherham's 'Local Site system' and are included in the Non-Statutorily Protected Sites designation shown on the Local Plan Policies Map (adopted June 2018). Rotherham's Local Geological Sites including RIGS identifies sites of geological interest. Regionally Important Geological Sites have been protected for many years from the Unitary Development Plan to the current adopted Rotherham Local Plan.

The Local Sites system is intended to be comprehensive and allows for the inclusion of new sites and changes to existing sites throughout the plan period. As a result of evidence and analysis, new information has become available prompting an update to the existing series. During 2023 and 2024, three new sites were proposed by the Local Geological Sites Panel as candidate RIGS. The data for each site was then assessed against the published local RIGS selection criteria (see <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/402/regionally-important-geological-site-methodology-selection-and-boundary-update-2010-document>).

The assessment confirmed that the sites demonstrated substantive geological interest by meeting at least one of the selection criteria and the Local Geological Sites Panel has endorsed the sites' selection which is based upon the agreed, published criteria. It is now proposed that the three sites are added to the existing RIGS series. Designation of sites would be taken in accordance with the Delegation Scheme as set out in the Council's Constitution.

The landowners have been contacted as regards this proposed designation, with the only

comments being received from Network Rail. Their comments have been reflected in the report and they did not object to the designation.

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)

- **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)

- **Actions**

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

| | |
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| Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis: | n/a |
| Date to complete your Equality Analysis: | n/a |
| Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title): | n/a |

5. Governance, ownership and approval

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

| Name | Job title | Date |
|------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Winsze Lam | Assistant Planning Policy Manger | 12 June 2024 |

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 | 15 May 2024 |
| Report title and date | Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites Series Update |
| 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 13 August 2024 |
| Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk | 13 June 2024 |