

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: Rotherham Local Wildlife Sites 2025 Boundaries Update

Directorate:
Regeneration and Environment

Service area:
Planning, Regeneration and Transport

Lead person:
Rachel Lindsay

Contact number:
01709 254746

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

Addition of two new Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) in the borough following site assessment against published criteria and endorsement from the LWS Panel. LWS are a local planning designation that recognises the substantive nature conservation value 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</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 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 in the long term.</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 are RMBC. Designation is based primarily on scientific reasoning and in accordance with national best practice. The system includes all sites that qualify.</p>

<p>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></p>		<p style="text-align: center;">x</p> <p>No public concerns raised.</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 style="text-align: center;">x</p> <p>No effect envisaged on Council services at this time</p>
<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 style="text-align: center;">x</p> <p>No affect envisaged</p>
<p>If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason</p>		
<p>See comments above.</p> <p>Rotherham's Local Wildlife Sites 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 Wildlife Site series identifies sites of substantive nature conservation value in accordance with Defra best practice. The Council's Cabinet approved the adoption of the Rotherham Local Wildlife Site system and the initial series of site boundaries in 2008 (17 December 2008, minute 139).</p> <p>The Local Site 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 2024 two new sites were proposed by the Local Wildlife Sites Panel as candidate Local Wildlife Sites. Both sites are allocated as Greenbelt in the Local Plan. The data for each site was then assessed against the Rotherham Local Wildlife Site selection criteria (see Rotherham Local Wildlife Sites System https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/691/local-wildlife-system-parts-1-and-2).</p> <p>The assessment confirmed that both sites demonstrated substantive nature conservation value by meeting at least one of the selection criteria and the Local Wildlife Sites Panel has endorsed the Local Wildlife Sites' selection which is based upon the agreed, published criteria. It is now proposed that the two new sites and boundaries of three existing sites are added to the existing Local Wildlife Site series. Designation of sites would be taken in accordance with the Delegation Scheme as set out in the Council's Constitution.</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 two 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)
Further information on the implications of designation is available to the landowner on request.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	
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Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	
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Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	
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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 Manager	29 November 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	22 November 2024
Report title and date	Rotherham Local Wildlife Sites 2025 Boundaries 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 7 February 2025
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	29 November 2024