

Annex 4 Community Impact Assessment Template

Part 1 - Who is submitting the proposal?

Directorate:

Service:

Name of person completing the assessment: Jessica Fawdon

Date of assessment: 27/07/2020

Part 2 - What is the proposal?

2.1	What is the name of the service, project, programme, policy or strategy being assessed?
	Creating a new Woodland/Stray for York

2.2	Briefly describe the aims and objectives of the proposal. Please explain your proposal in Plain English, avoiding acronyms and jargon. This section should explain how the proposal will impact service users, staff and/or the wider community.
	The aim of this project is to create a large new area of woodland within close proximity to the city in order to provide green amenity space for residents and visitors, and to aid the council's commitment to planting 50,000 trees by 2023. This goal comes as part of the council's wider ambition to become net carbon neutral by 2030. Users of this woodland, and the wider community surrounding it, will benefit from this project as it provides them with a space to socialise, exercise and be educated about nature and biodiversity.

2.3	Are there any external considerations? (Legislation/government directive etc.)
	<p>The council is part of the Northern Forest, an initiative which is aiming to plant 50 million trees in the north of England, as woodland cover in this region currently only accounts for 7.6% of total land cover. The motivations behind this include reducing flood risk, storing thousands of tonnes of carbon, improving the physical and mental health and creating thousands of new jobs in the area. Within the Northern Forest initiative, is the White Rose forest venture across the Leeds City Region (including York), which has the collective aim of increasing tree cover by a third in this region. As a result of this, the City of York Council has set their own target of planting 50,000 more trees by 2023, therefore driving the creation of this woodland.</p> <p>The Forestry Commission, a non-ministerial UK government department, has set the broader target of increasing the UK's woodland cover from 13% (https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/woodland-statistics/) to 19% by 2050 (https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/47692/emergency-tree-plan.pdf).</p> <p>Because the site is not being made into woodland for commercial reasons (our proposal aims to improve the environmental and community health/well-being), under Section 4 of the Localism Act 2011, the council themselves can acquire the land directly, rather than having to do so through a company instead.</p>

2.4	What outcomes do we want to achieve and for whom?
	We want to create a safe and inclusive woodland, with designated pathways and potentially some commercial facilities, so that all residents and visitors including those with Protected Characteristics can use and enjoy this space.

Step 3 - What information do we have?

3.1	What data or evidence do we have which tells us who is, or could be affected by the proposal?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally, residents and visitors of York will be positively affected by the proposal as it means they will now have a new amenity space to use - We have evidence, from data collected by the Forestry Commission, to suggest that this woodland could sequester approximately 22-30,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent over 50 years after creation. This will counterbalance the harmful emissions York releases, therefore improving air quality for York's residents and visitors. - The announcement of the UK government's increased funding for green jobs suggests that aboriculturalists may be positively affected by our proposal, as they may receive some financial support for training programmes and skills development opportunities through this new funding and the creation of our woodland. - The site of our proposal currently fully comprises of crop fields. Therefore when we create this woodland, no residents will experience eviction, or have their facilities removed.

3.2	How have we involved, or will we involve, communities and groups that could be affected?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Once the land is acquired it will need to be designed and planted. It is proposed that this is done in partnership with community groups, charitable groups and training and skills providers, both to

design the layout and infrastructure of the woodland and to manage the woodland in the long term. Options for management of the wood will be developed through engagement with a wide range of stakeholders including:-

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- Local Ward Committees
- Treemendous
- Edible York
- White Rose Forest
- Woodland Trust
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
- RSPB
- Askham Bryan College
- York College
- York Environment Forum
- Sustrans

- Further specific representative groups of individual protected characteristics will also be consulted.
- The landowner that we are purchasing the site from has been made aware of our proposals for this space. Broad public engagement has not been undertaken yet due to the commercial confidentiality of the land acquisition but after the land is secured there is proposed to be a full community based engagement to develop plans for the site and future woodland management arrangements
- As local aboriculturalists may be affected by this, we are planning to work with both York College and Askham Bryan College to identify any opportunities improve the skill sets of their students through government funding
- Potential for public engagement with local residents to help determine what kind of amenity facilities they would like to see in our woodland. Proposals such as new pedestrian connections to neighbouring residential areas and villages, cycle route connections to neighbouring residential areas and villages, fitness trails, children's outdoor play area, forest school space and a woodland café all need to be considered.

Step 4: Who might the proposal impact?

Analysis of impacts on people with protected characteristics must be rigorous.

Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts in this section.

4.1		How will the proposal impact on people with protected characteristics?		
Protected Characteristic Group	Consider the potential for adverse impacts. How might the proposal discriminate or unfairly disadvantage people?	Can these impacts be mitigated or justified? Please explain how.	Does the proposal have the potential to advance equality and foster good relations between groups?	Can benefits be maximised? If so, how?
Age	Pathways/trails going through the woodland may be uneven which may deter older generations from using them.	Can be mitigated. Need to ensure pathways are as flat/smooth as they can be by choosing appropriate routes and laying down appropriate materials. Could perhaps provide railings in parts of the path that are inevitably steeper.	If the woodland manages to accommodate for both older and younger generations, then it could become a space for different generations to come together to mutually enjoy the space. This could include space for contemplation, forest schools, nature trails, guided walks, arts events, outdoor activities.	If there is the ability to influence any events at the woodland, ensure these are age inclusive and intergenerational
Sex	Some toilet facilities may not be appropriate for the use and welfare of all groups.	Can be mitigated. Use best current design standards to ensure appropriate availability of facilities for people identifying as male, female or none	The potential commercial facilities have the opportunity to uphold and promote equality.	
Disability	Woodland pathways/trails may not be wide enough, or flat/smooth enough to accommodate for wheelchair	Can be mitigated. Woodland pathways need to be wide and smooth enough to accommodate for wheelchair access	If the woodland manages to become a fully inclusive facility, then it could become a space for all residents	If there is the ability to influence any events at the woodland, ensure these are fully inclusive

	<p>access/limited mobility.</p> <p>Commercial features, such as the possible café, would need to provide sufficient facilities for disabled people e.g. they may lack in disabled toilets, or wheelchair ramps or railings.</p>	<p>(following government/legal standards).</p> <p>Commercial facilities should be designed to be fully inclusive (again following legal standards).</p>	<p>to come together to mutually enjoy the space</p>	
Gender Reassignment	<p>The woodland's potential commercial features would need to be designed to be inclusive to all including the trans community, specifically facilities such as toilets.</p>	<p>Can be mitigated.</p> <p>The potential commercial facilities should be designed using best design standards for inclusivity.</p>	<p>If the woodland manages to be inclusive towards the transgender community, this will help to promote their equality within society.</p>	
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>If the woodland was to be used to host events related to weddings or civil partnership, these would have to be fully inclusive.</p>	<p>Can be mitigated, by ensuring all events meet standards and legislation for equality.</p>	<p>If the woodland manages to be inclusive for all types of marriage or civil partnership, this will help to promote their equality within society.</p>	
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>The woodland's potential commercial features could provide baby changing facilities so as not to discriminate against those with young babies. The pathways/trails also may not be wide or smooth/enough for push chairs to be used on them.</p>	<p>Can be mitigated against. The woodland's potential commercial facilities need to offer baby changing and breast-feeding friendly facilities. The woodland's paths also have to be wide enough and have to use suitable materials so they are smooth enough for push chairs to be used on them.</p>	<p>If the woodland manages to be inclusive towards those with new-borns, this will help to promote their equality within society.</p>	<p>If there is the ability to influence any events at the woodland, ensure these are fully inclusive</p>

Race	No adverse impacts identified			
Religion and belief	No adverse impacts identified			
Sexual orientation	No adverse impacts identified			
Carer	Woodland pathways/trails may not be wide enough, or flat/smooth enough to accommodate for wheelchair access/limited mobility. Commercial features, such as the possible café, would need to provide sufficient facilities for disabled people e.g. Changing spaces, disabled toilets, or wheelchair ramps or railings.	Can be mitigated. Woodland pathways need to be wide and smooth enough to accommodate for wheelchair access (following government/legal standards). Commercial facilities should be designed to be fully inclusive (again following legal standards).	If the woodland can become a fully inclusive space, there is the potential to enhance the quality of life for carers by providing a welcoming place to visit. This can have positive mental health impacts,	If there is the ability to influence any events at the woodland, ensure these are fully inclusive
Low income groups	The woodland will be a free to all facility enjoyed without charge Café facilities will be charged	No or low fee facilities for refreshment (e.g. picnic benches) should be provided without the need for purchase on the premises.	If the woodland manages to be inclusive towards lower income groups, this will help to promote their equality and inclusion within society.	
Veterans, Armed Forces Community	No adverse impacts identified		Woodland is known to be relaxing environment which can have positive impacts for those recovering from traumatic experiences.	If there is the ability to influence any events at the woodland, ensure these are fully inclusive

4.2	Summarise the impacts on protected groups.
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	Ultimately, our proposed project should be, and can be, inclusive towards all protected groups. In order to ensure this, particular attention needs to be given to the pathways/trails and any commercial facilities we create so that they can be equally used and enjoyed by those all people irrespective of any protected characteristic
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Step 5: So what?

The Community Impact Assessment must be able to influence the proposal and decision. This section asks how your understanding of impacts on people with protected characteristics has influenced your proposal, and how the findings of your Community Impact Assessment can be measured going forward.

5.1	What have you changed or will be changed in order to improve the impact of the proposal on equalities?
	<p>Design will consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accessibility of pathways • Accessibility of Café facilities • Provision of free activities including picnic spaces • Engagement of groups in consultation who represent people with protected characteristics

5.2	What actions have been identified going forward to improve the impact on equalities? Consider actions that mitigate adverse impacts, increase our understanding about impacts or maximise any beneficial impacts.		
	Action	To be actioned by	Due Date

	To be defined once project up and running		

5.3	How will the impact of your proposal and actions be reviewed going forward?
	Using the council's agreed project management Methodology and review processes

Please complete

We are satisfied that a full impact assessment has been carried out.

Completed by: Jessica Fawdon Date: 04/08/20

Role: Tree Strategy Analyst

Countersigned by: Will Boardman Date: 04/08/20

Role: Head of Corporate Strategy and City Partnerships