

# Equality Impact Assessment

**Service Area:** Place

**Head of Service:** Nina Lake

**Lead Officer:** Mark Saunders

**Date of Assessment:** 17/05/2021

**Person responsible for completing the assessment:** Mark Saunders

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## **Name of policy/function/project/service area to be assessed:**

Braunton Burrows Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Mitigation Strategy

**Brief description of proposal to be assessed:** The Strategy is the final part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) which supports the North Devon and Torridge Local Plan. The HRA assesses the potential impacts of the Local Plan on the Districts European Protected Habitats. The HRA for Braunton Burrows SAC includes ecological condition assessments, visitor behaviour surveys and a fully costed mitigation strategy. The Strategy is a statutory requirement and is necessary to ensure delivery of Local Plan development can continue within the identified Zone of Influence. The Strategy does not introduce new policy and further guidance will be provided to inform applicants of the requirement for developer contributions. The HRA is a material consideration in planning decisions and planning appeals.

**Proposed implementation date of project/proposal:** 17 May 2021

## **Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:**

| Provision                                                                                       | Current Arrangement                                     | Proposed Arrangement                                                                  | Comment                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Strategic measures to mitigate the impact of increasing visitor numbers on Braunton Burrows SAC | Interim strategy and costs approved by S&R in July 2019 | Continuation of current arrangement with increase in costs per unit from £100 to £190 | The delivery of the strategy will be monitored to ensure sufficient funds are secured and effective delivery of the mitigation onsite. |

**Impact:**

**Summarise any positive impacts or benefits, any negative impacts (i.e. potential for discrimination, disadvantage or disproportionate treatment) and any neutral impacts and the evidence you have taken into account to reach this conclusion. Be aware that there may be positive, negative and neutral impacts within each characteristic.** (NOTE: please refer to the Equality Strategy for the characteristics) Where an impact is unknown, state so, and identify what steps will be taken to address any gaps in data:

Addressing existing visitor impact issues and preventing further degradation of habitats is for the benefit of all people (residents and visitors) in the relevant areas. The main benefits will be to ensure visitors, and in particular those with dogs are informed of the importance of the site and its ecological sensitivities. Reducing the effects of dog fouling, dog nuisance behaviour and provision of specific dog friendly routes will improve the experience of the area for all visitors. There are not considered to be any negative equality impacts arising.

**Consideration of Alternatives:**

**Describe what alternatives have been considered and/or what actions will be taken to remove or minimise any potential negative effect identified above (attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data, reports, etc):**

N/A

**Consultation:**

**Brief description of any consultation with stakeholders and summarise how it has influenced the proposal. Please attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data or reports:**

The Strategy has been developed with engagement of Natural England and Christies Estate.

**Funding Considerations:**

The Councils Senior Solicitor will propose a legal agreement to fund a Christies Estate appointed 60% FTE Engagement Officer.

**Date approved by Head of Service:** 17/05/2021

**Reporting and Publication:**

**Equality Impact Assessments will be published on North Devon Council's website.**

**The completion of an Equality Impact Assessment is an ongoing process. Impacts will be continually reviewed during projects and the decision making process and the Assessment will be updated accordingly and published.**

**A further assessment will also be undertaken between 6 to 12 months following the implementation of the policy, project, decision or service change has been implemented.**

**Please also confirm the date on which you will be re-considering the project/report and submitting a further EIA if applicable.**

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**Monitoring Arrangements:**

**Briefly describe the monitoring arrangements/systems that will be put in place to monitor the effects of this proposal.**

The Strategy will be monitored to ensure effective delivery of mitigation resulting in improvement of habitat condition. The rate of developer contributions will also be monitored to ensure that sufficient funds are available to deliver the Strategy over the specified time frames.

**Date approved by Head of Service:** 17/05/2021

**Corporate and Community Services Use Only:** Date of publication to NDC Website: 25/05/2021