



**Guildford Borough Council Development Plan  
Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance Strategy  
Supplementary Planning Document**

**Equalities Impact Assessment**

**July 2017**

**If you would like this document in a different format, different language, Braille, large print or audio, please contact the Planning Policy Team on 01483 444471.**

## Screening/Scoping Pro Forma

<b>Service</b>	Planning Policy, Planning Services	<b>Officer responsible for the screening/scoping</b>	Dan Knowles		
<b>Name of the activity to be assessed</b>	Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance Strategy 2016	<b>Date of Assessment</b>	16/08/2017	<b>Is this a proposed new or existing activity?</b>	Review and update to existing strategy
<b>1. Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the activity?</b>	To produce planning guidance for new developments that are likely to have a significant impact on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA).				
<b>2. Are there any associated or specific objectives of the activity? Please explain.</b>	To avoid adverse effects on the SPA arising primarily from recreational use of the SPA by occupants of new residential development up to 5 km from SPA boundary. To support saved policy NRM6 of the South East Plan.				
<b>3. Who is intended to benefit from this activity and in what way?</b>	Those living, working or visiting the Borough of Guildford will benefit from improved recreation areas (Suitable Alternative Natural Green space), and the wider community will benefit from the protection offered to the habitat and species of the Special Protection Area. Developers will benefit from guidance on how adverse impacts on the SPA can be avoided.				
<b>4. What outcomes are wanted from this activity?</b>	The protection of three rare bird species which inhabit the SPA and in so doing, to improve the quality and quantity of alternative recreational open space available to the public.				
<b>5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?</b>	Climate changes and annual fluctuations in weather, bird disease, heath fires, vandalism, development in other adjoining local authorities.				
<b>6. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the activity?</b>	Natural England, RSPB, house builders, Guildford borough residents, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey County Council, other SPA affected local authorities.	<b>7. Who implements the activity, and who is responsible for the activity?</b>	Guildford Borough Council (Planning Services, Parks and Countryside Service), Surrey Wildlife Trust, Natural England.		

<p><b>8. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact on racial groups?</b></p>	<p><b>N</b></p>	
<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>None of the proposals have implications for racial bias. The Strategy relates to all new residential development irrespective of builder or occupant of the new dwellings. The strategy does specifically address traveller accommodation, but treats it in the same way as other forms of housing.</p>	
<p><b>9. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact on grounds of gender?</b></p>	<p><b>N</b></p>	
<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>The strategy does not address gender and none of the policies are likely to impact differentially on men, women or transgender people.</p>	
<p><b>10. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact on those who have a disability?</b></p>	<p><b>Y</b></p>	<p>Some of the proposals to improve access to SANG could have a positive impact by improving access for people with disabilities. The strategy requires SANGs to take disabled access into consideration.</p>
<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>Improved access, provision of car parks near to SANGS, boardwalks etc. all improve access for people with disabilities.</p>	
<p><b>11. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact on grounds of sexual orientation?</b></p>	<p><b>N</b></p>	
<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>The strategy does not address sexual orientation and none of the policies are likely to impact differentially on people of different sexual orientations.</p>	



<p><b>12. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact on grounds of age?</b></p>	<p><b>N</b></p>	<p>Some of the proposals to improve access to SANG could have a positive impact by improving access to the countryside for people with mobility issues, including the elderly. However, this is not considered a cause for concern.</p>
<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>Improved access, provision of car parks near to SANGS, boardwalks etc. all improve access for people with mobility issues.</p>	
<p><b>13. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact on grounds of religious belief?</b></p>	<p><b>N</b></p>	
<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>The strategy does not address religious belief and none of the policies are likely to impact differentially on people of different sexual orientations.</p>	
<p><b>14. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact on those who have caring responsibilities?</b></p>	<p><b>N</b></p>	
<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>The strategy does not address dependents and caring responsibilities and none of the policies are likely to impact upon people with such.</p>	
<p><b>15. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact on grounds of marital status or civil partnership?</b></p>	<p><b>N</b></p>	
<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>The strategy does not address marital status or civil partnerships and none of the policies are likely to impact upon people with such.</p>	

<p><b>16. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact due a woman's pregnancy or maternity?</b></p>		<p><b>N</b></p>	
<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>The strategy does not address pregnancy or maternity and none of the policies are likely to impact pregnant people or parents specifically.</p>		
<p><b>17. Are there concerns that the activity <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to gender reassignment?</b></p>		<p><b>N</b></p>	
<p><b>What existing evidence, local or national, actual or presumed, do you have to support your response?</b></p>	<p>The strategy does not address gender and none of the policies are likely to impact gender reassigned people specifically.</p>		
<p><b>18. Could any differential impact identified in 8-17 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this activity?</b></p>		<p><b>N</b></p>	<p>It is very unlikely that there would be any differential adverse impact on any sections of the community. Overall impact would be to improve access to SANGs and the wider countryside for all recreational users.</p>
<p><b>19. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one or more of the protected groups or any other reason?</b></p>			<p>No adverse impact identified.</p>
<p><b>20. If the activity is of a strategic nature, could it help to reduce inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage?</b></p>	<p><b>Y</b></p>		<p>The strategy will enable and support the provision of new public open spaces (SANGs) which can be used by the public free of charge. SANGs must be distributed across the borough, which will increase equality of opportunity for access to the countryside. This impact is positive and will not lead to an adverse impact on socio economic disadvantage.</p>

<p><b>21. Is there any concern that there are unmet needs in relation to any of the above protected groups?</b></p>		<p><b>N</b></p>	<p>No concerns, but there are opportunities to further improve access to identified recreational open spaces for people with disabilities</p>																						
<p><b>22. Does 'differential impact' or 'unmet need' cut across one or more of the protected groups (e.g. elder BME groups)?</b></p>			<p>No differential impact or unmet need identified.</p>																						
<p><b>23. If yes, should a full EIA, if necessary, be conducted jointly with another service area or contractor or partner or agency?</b></p>			<p>Not applicable.</p>																						
<p><b>24. Is there a missed opportunity to improve this activity to meet the general duties placed on public bodies to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those who do not?</b></p>		<p><b>N</b></p>	<p>No inequalities are identified and this is not considered to be an appropriate strategy in which to promote racial, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief equality.</p>																						
<p><b>25. Should the policy proceed to a full equality impact assessment? Please use the scoring process in the right hand column to guide you.</b></p>		<p><b>N</b></p>	<p>0 – no possible relevance or adverse impact          1 – extremely low relevance and adverse impact          2 – relatively low relevance and adverse impact          3 – medium relevance and adverse impact          4 - relatively high relevance and adverse impact</p> <p>0-11 points - low adverse impact, no need for full EIA          12-20points - medium adverse impact, full EIA required          21-27 points - high adverse impact, full EIA required</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="752 1289 2029 1412"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>Disability</th> <th>Mat</th> <th>Gender</th> <th>Marriage</th> <th>Race</th> <th>Trans</th> <th>Sexuality</th> <th>Religion</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>Low</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Age	Disability	Mat	Gender	Marriage	Race	Trans	Sexuality	Religion	Total	Impact	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Low
Age	Disability	Mat	Gender	Marriage	Race	Trans	Sexuality	Religion	Total	Impact															
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Low															



<b>26. If a full EIA is not required, are there any changes required to the proposal to improve it around the equality agenda?</b>			None identified.
<b>27. How will any actions identified in 20. to 26. above be taken forward?</b>			Not applicable.

**Signed**



**(completing officer)**

Dan Knowles

**Date** 16/07/2017

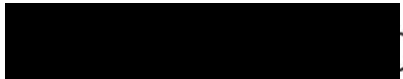
**Signed**



**(Planning Policy Manager)** Stuart Harrison

**Date** 16/07/2017

**Countersigned**



**(member of Equality Action Group)**

Sarah-Jane Grant

**Date** 16/07/2017