

Moving Rutland Forward

# Equality impact assessment of Rutland County Council's:

- Rights of Way Improvement Plan



**Rutland**  
County Council

## APPENDIX J – RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

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### 1 OVERVIEW

RCC is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for everyone in Rutland and strives to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity between different groups and foster good relations between groups in Rutland.

The screening report that follows considers how our Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) will impact on our community and ensure that, through its implementation, residents are not treated unfairly or discriminated against due to:

- age,
- disability,
- gender reassignment,
- marriage and civil partnership,
- pregnancy and maternity,
- race,
- religion or belief,
- sex, or
- sexual orientation.

The equality impact assessment process contains two steps:

- **Step 1: Screening** – Screening was carried out during the early stages of plan development. Through the screening process, an assessment was completed to identify whether the draft plan was likely to have a detrimental impact on any of the protected characteristics.

After public consultation on the plan (and any resulting amendments to it), feedback was reviewed to identify if any changes were required to the screening report. No changes were required and the screening assessment for the ROWIP can be found in section 2.

- **Step 2: Full equality impact assessment:** Where a screening assessment identifies potential discriminatory impacts, a full equality impact assessment is required. This was deemed not to be the case for the ROWIP and as such step two was not undertaken.

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### 2 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING

An Equality Impact Assessment Screening Tool (below) has been completed for our ROWIP and can be found below.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL			
<b>Subject Title:</b>		<b>Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2017</b>	
<b>Officer completing:</b>		<b>Stuart Crook</b>	
<b>Purpose of Report &amp; Ref:</b>		<b>To set out the council's strategy for management and improvement of the rights of way network</b>	
		Yes/No	Comments
<b>1.</b>	<b>Could the impact of the report affect one group less or more favourably than another on the basis of:</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age</li> </ul>	Yes	Older people may not consider themselves disabled but can experience the same barriers because of a general reduction in stamina, mobility and sensory acuity.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability</li> </ul>	Yes	<p>Much of the rights of way network in Rutland might currently be considered 'off limits' to those whose mobility is limited.</p> <p>The physical nature of some routes, those on steep hills for example, mean it may it might never be possible or appropriate to make them all fully accessible for everyone. However some path infrastructure, such as stiles and gates, can also</p>

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		<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Comments</b>
			be a barrier to some users. Policies in the plan reaffirm our commitment to addressing established disparities in accessibility caused by infrastructure.
	• Gender reassignment	No	
	• Marriage and civil partnership	No	
	• Pregnancy and maternity	No	
	• Race	No	
	• Religion or belief	No	
	• Sex	No	
	• Sexual orientation	No	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Is there any evidence that some groups are affected differently?</b>	Yes	Access to rights of way, like any other service, has historically been more difficult for those with restricted mobility.
<b>3.</b>	<b>If you have identified potential discrimination, are any exceptions valid, legal and/or justifiable?</b>	No	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Is the impact of the policy/guidance likely to be negative?</b>	No	Only neutral / positive impacts identified

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		<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>If so can the impact be avoided?</b>	N/A	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Are there alternatives that achieve the policy/guidance objectives without the impact?</b>	N/A	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Can we reduce the impact by taking different action?</b>	N/A	
<b>If you have identified a potential discriminatory impact you will need to complete a full equality impact assessment.</b>			
<b>8.</b>	<b>Is an EIA required?</b>	No	The net effect of the policies contained in this plan are positive, and will make the network more accessible whilst avoiding excessive urbanisation of the countryside.