



# Equality Impact Assessments

## Section 2: Collecting information

What evidence is available about the needs of relevant groups? Please consider demographic data, including census information, research, consultation and survey reports, feedback and complaints, case law, others knowledge and experience. Please refer to the list of evidence on the EqIA page of the intranet.

Details	Source of Evidence
Sence Valley experience - a significant number of complaints were received when car park charging was introduced at this location. These did not focus on charging in principle but rather the method of payment. Complaints were made about potential discrimination of those who do not own a mobile phone and those who are not 'tech savvy' and did not understand the full cost of using the app to make payment. Some complaints made on behalf of those perceived to be discriminated against.	Forestry England staff and project team at Sence Valley where mobile-only car park charging was introduced in Summer 2021.
Statistics on who owns a mobile phone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>95% of households have mobile phones in the UK - as of 2018 (latest data, stable trend).</li> <li>Smartphone ownership - 88% of all adults (16+), 78% of 55+ (from 2021)</li> <li>Smartphone usage - 16-24 = 99%, 25-34=98%, 35-44=95%, 45-54=87%, 55-64=65%, 65+=65% (2020, increasing trend)</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.statista.com/statistics/289167/mobile-phone-penetration-in-the-uk/">https://www.statista.com/statistics/289167/mobile-phone-penetration-in-the-uk/</a>  <a href="https://www.statista.com/statistics/956297/ownership-of-smartphones-uk/">https://www.statista.com/statistics/956297/ownership-of-smartphones-uk/</a>  <a href="https://www.statista.com/statistics/300402/smartphone-usage-in-the-uk-by-age/">https://www.statista.com/statistics/300402/smartphone-usage-in-the-uk-by-age/</a>
Statistics on who owns a mobile phone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>93% of households have mobile phones in the UK - data collected between April 2020 to March 2021.</li> <li>Smartphone ownership - 88% of all adults (16+), 78% of 55+ (from 2021)</li> <li>Smartphone usage - 16-24 = 99%, 25-34=98%, 35-44=95%, 45-54=87%, 55-64=65%, 65+=65% (2020, increasing trend)</li> </ul>	Percentage of homes and individuals with technological equipment - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) <a href="https://www.statista.com/statistics/956297/ownership-of-smartphones-uk/">https://www.statista.com/statistics/956297/ownership-of-smartphones-uk/</a> <a href="https://www.statista.com/statistics/300402/smartphone-usage-in-the-uk-by-age/">https://www.statista.com/statistics/300402/smartphone-usage-in-the-uk-by-age/</a>

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<p>Statistics on visitor profile with the New Forest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 83% on a short visit from home (76% summer, 86% winter)</li> <li>• 26% visited on a daily basis</li> <li>• Typical visitor duration was 95mins</li> <li>• 90% arrived by car/van/other motor vehicle</li> <li>• 20% of 'short visit from home' visitors had postcodes within the National Park. 62% of lived within a 5km radius of the New Forest</li> <li>• 10% visited more than once per day, 32% visited every day, 12% visited most days.</li> </ul>	<p>Footprint Ecology Report: Recreation use of the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar - New Forest visitor survey 2018/19</p>
<p>New Forest District Council economic profile:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28.5% of New Forest residents are 65+ (2017)</li> <li>• The New Forest overall is one of the least deprived local authority areas in England (ranked 255<sup>th</sup> out of 326 - 1 is the most deprived)</li> <li>• There are 6 neighbourhoods identified as being within the 10%, 20% and 30% most deprived in England. Two in New Milton, and one each in Pennington, Blackfield, Buttsash, and Totton.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://newforest.gov.uk/media/591/new-forest-economic-profile-2018/pdf/new-forest-economic-profile-2018.pdf?m=63726604276063000">https://newforest.gov.uk/media/591/new-forest-economic-profile-2018/pdf/new-forest-economic-profile-2018.pdf?m=63726604276063000</a></p>
<p>Learning disabilities - requirements for a driving licence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning difficulties, e.g., dyslexia, do NOT need to report to DVLA as they are not deemed to affect driving safety.</li> <li>• Mild learning disabilities must be reported to DVLA with a covering letter/form from GP - allowed to drive after DVLA assessment.</li> <li>• Severe Learning Disabilities - likely to be refused licence.</li> </ul>	<p>DVLA <a href="https://www.gov.uk/learning-disabilities-and-driving">https://www.gov.uk/learning-disabilities-and-driving</a></p>

From your research above have you identified any gaps in evidence? If so, what are the gaps?

As appropriate please describe the consultation/engagement undertaken including details of the groups involved and the methods used.

N/A

Are there any other groups to be consulted?

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Once the introduction of charging is in the public domain The New Forest National Park Access Forum will be consulted.

## Section 3: Impacts

Has the research and consultation identified any potential for impacts on the following groups:

Protected characteristic	Yes	No	Please explain
Age	X		People over the age of 55 are 10% less likely to own/use a mobile phone and are therefore less likely to be able to pay using their phone, some of these individuals may be able to access the internet at home or ask someone to access on their behalf.
Disability	X		Learning disability: Signage, charging rates and penalties will be designed to be clear and easy to understand for all. An assumption is that someone able to have a driving licence will be capable of understanding the system. Mobility: Blue badge holders can currently park for free at local council and at all National Trust car parks. It is understood that Forestry England does not accept Blue Badges at Visitor Centres and a EQIA is in place for this. It will need to be determined if the same will apply in the New Forest. Deaf/hard of hearing/speech impaired: consider any potential impacts.
Gender Reassignment (where a person is living as the opposite gender to their birth)		X	This personal information would not be relevant to car park charging.
Race, ethnicity, nationality or origins (including gypsies or travellers, refugees or asylum seekers)		X	Car parks do not allow overnight stays and there is no usage of the car parks by the travelling community.

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Religion or belief (including non-belief)		X	We do not believe that there are any Forestry England car parks in the New Forest used as convenient places to park to attend church services.
Sex/Gender		X	This personal information would not be relevant to car park charging.
Sexual orientation		X	This personal information would not be relevant to car park charging.
Marriage and civil partnership		X	This personal information would not be relevant to car park charging.
Youth groups		X	Coach/minibus parking by youth groups will be managed through the existing permissions system.
Rurality	X		The majority of those visiting the car parks come from within the NFDC postcodes and as such are not in heavily rural locations.
Socio-economic disadvantage	X		<p>Asking people to pay to park somewhere they have never had to pay before will have a financial impact.</p> <p>As the New Forest district is one of England's least deprived areas, there is an assumption that most local people who currently use Forestry England's car parks would be able to afford to pay a parking charge. There is, however, a high proportion of locals over 65, and 6 neighbourhoods on the southern and eastern edges of the New Forest are amongst the most deprived in England.</p> <p>Additional charges for visiting the New Forest could dissuade tourists from lower socio-economic backgrounds. However, Forestry England's car parks in the New Forest are currently unusual amongst comparable landowners nationwide for not charging, so it can be assumed that car park charging is likely to be factored into budgeted into a trip.</p>

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			A local New Forest Membership will be available to purchase for £75 per year which equates to just over 20 pence per day. There is also plans in the future to allow for a direct debit payment, however this could take up to 3 years.
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Is there any evidence that the policy may:

	Yes	No	No Evidence
Result in less favourable treatment for particular groups?	X		
Give rise to direct or indirect discrimination?	X		
Give rise to unlawful harassment or victimisation?		X	

If yes to any of the above, please give details:

Protected characteristics

Age: People over the age of 55 are % less likely to own/use a mobile phone and are therefore less likely to be able to pay this way.

Disability:

Other

Rurality:

Socio-economic disadvantage:

**How will the policy, practice or project be modified to mitigate this less favourable treatment?**

Awareness of the scheme and its requirements will be well publicised and promoted through a variety of methods in order to reach as many different groups as possible.

Signage, charging rates and penalties will be designed to be clear and easy to understand for all user groups.

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An annual membership scheme will be made available and targeted at local, regular visitors. This will offer parking at a discounted rate and will cover all New Forest car parks.

Payment up until midnight on the day of a visit. Which could be completed using a could computer or by a family member, friend or carer with access to the internet on any device allowing browsing.

Tariffing has been designed with other local tariffs in mind. There will be variable rates for length of stay, starting with 1hrs, to suit both short stay local visitors and long stay daytrip/holiday visitors.

GENERAL NOTE: There is no data held on the number of car park users who fall into each protected category, so we cannot establish the scale of this impact for different groups. The changes will affect all car park visitors.

## Section 4: Meeting our General Equality Duty

You must complete the following sections:

**Which aspects of the policy, practice or project seek to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation?**

Providing prior information about the introduction of charges in different mediums, providing reasonable adjustment by offering multiple ways to pay, having relatively low charging rates with a discounted membership scheme.

**Which aspects of the policy, practice or project seek to advance equality of opportunity between people which share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not?**

All visitors will have to pay for parking, and all methods of payment will be available to all visitors.

**Which aspects of the policy, practice or project seek to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not?**

All visitors will have to pay for parking, and all methods of payment will be available to all visitors.

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## Section 5: Outcome of assessment

Please detail the outcome of the assessment:

No major change	X
Adjust the policy	
Continue the policy	
Stop and remove the policy	
Please detail recommendations, including any action required to address any negative impacts identified:	

## Section 6: Monitoring

Describe how you will continue to monitor the equality impact of this policy, practice or project e.g. performance indicators used, other monitoring arrangements, who will monitor progress, criteria used to measure achievement of outcomes:

Once the project has been made public, we will keep a log of queries including relating to payment by mobile phone and via the payment portal. This will be used to highlight any unforeseen barriers to access.

When and how is the policy, practice or project due to be reviewed?

After 12 months, payment methods will be reviewed, and additional payment methods or processes may be determined.

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## Section 7: Sign-off

<b>Date sent to Wellbeing and Inclusion Manager:</b>	17/09/24
<b>Comments</b>	Discussion with the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] took place on the 27th September 2024, where [REDACTED] was happy to approve the EQI.
<b>Date signed off</b>	27/09/24

Please insert name and title of the Senior Manager who has signed off this Equality Impact Assessment:

<b>Name</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Title</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Date approved</b>	27/09/24

Please send draft Equality Impact Assessment to the Wellbeing and Inclusion Manager at [diversity@forestryengland.uk](mailto:diversity@forestryengland.uk)