

**Blaenau Gwent Equality Impact Assessment 2018**

**Statutory duties under The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949**

<b>Name of Policy:</b>	Designation and declaration of five Local Nature Reserves; Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodland, Central Valley, Garden City, Parc Bryn Bach and Sirhowy Hill Woodlands.	<b>Person(s) completing this form:</b>	Liz Hancocks
<b>Department:</b>	Regeneration & Community Services	<b>Division:</b>	Community Services / Technical Services / Green Infrastructure
<b>Start Date of Assessment:</b>	04/11/19	<b>Tel No:</b>	01495 355702

**Q.1. Please outline the purpose of the policy or practice: (include the aims, objectives, expected outcomes and any key emerging themes from the policy; you may want to outline any key priorities / objectives outlined in the policy or practice)**

Local Nature Reserves are important for people and for nature.

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 says that “For a site to become a Local Nature Reserve it must have natural features of special interest to the local area, and the authority must either have a legal interest in the land or have an agreement with the owner to manage the land as a reserve.” Local Authorities have the power to designate Local Nature Reserves on any land in their area, provided that the power is exercised in consultation with NRW.

**Q.2. Is the policy or practice new, existing, or under review:**

**Q.2.1. Is this policy or practice subject to any of the following processes:**

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. <i>A Financial Efficiency Saving</i> | 2. <i>A Policy</i>                |
| 3. <i>A Report</i>                      | 4. <i>Decision Making Process</i> |
| 5. <i>Business or service plan</i>      |                                   |

New

1. No  
3. Yes  
5. No

2. No  
4. Yes

**Q.3. Potential Positive, Adverse or Neutral effects on Protected Characteristics:**

<u>Protected Characteristic</u>	<u>Positive, Negative, Neutral</u>	<u>Relevance of the Policy or Practice</u>
Age	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public

<i>Disability</i>	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public however improvements could be made to improve access for disabled people
<i>Gender Reassignment</i>	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public
<i>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership</i>	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public
<i>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</i>	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public
<i>Race</i>	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public
<i>Religion &amp; Belief</i>	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public
<i>Sex</i>	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public
<i>Sexual Orientation</i>	Neutral	Local Nature Reserves are open to all members of the public
<i>Welsh Language</i>	Neutral	Any printed or published communications related to Local Nature Reserves will be bi-lingual and consider the heritage of the nature reserve.

**Q.3.1. Overall evaluation on the potential impact on each protected characteristic:**

No impact or improvements anticipated.  
Local Nature Reserve management plans and the community groups managing the sites will take into account each of the protected characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010.  
Further work is required to ensure that Local Nature Reserves are meeting Equality requirements, particularly with regards to access for disabled people.

**\* Please ensure that relevant arrangements are made for the publishing of this assessment on the Equality section of the website.**