

Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape Management Plan 2026 – 2031

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

1.0 Overview

Equality Impact Assessments (EqIA) are a statutory requirement on public authorities¹ and other bodies carrying out public functions. The requirement is included within s149 (Public Sector Equality Duty) of the 2010 Equality Act.

An EqIA is a tool to assess whether a decision, policy, service or function pays 'due regard' to the Public Sector Equality Duty, which requires public bodies to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations

1.1 Protected Characteristics

The Equality Act 2010 offers protection from different types of discrimination, harassment and victimisation on the grounds of a range of people's characteristics. These 'protected characteristics' are:

Age: This refers to a person having a particular age or being within an age group.

Disability: A person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Includes: Physical/sensory disability; Mental Health; Learning disability.

Sex: This refers to a person being either male or female.

Gender reassignment: This means proposing to undergo, undergoing or having undergone a process to reassign your sex. A person does not need to have undergone medical treatment or surgery in order to be protected from gender reassignment discrimination. Transgender: Anyone whose gender identity is not the same as the sex recorded on their original birth certificate. Gender identity is a term used by some to describe someone's sense of their gender

Marriage and civil partnership: Marriage is a union between a man and a woman or between a same-sex couple. Same-sex and heterosexual couples can also have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must not be treated less favourably than married couples (except where permitted by the Equality Act)

Pregnancy and maternity: Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.

¹ [Equality Act 2010](#)

Race: It refers to a group of people defined by their colour, nationality (including citizenship), ethnic or national origins. Includes, Asian, Black and White minority ethnic groups inc. Eastern Europeans, Irish people and Gypsy Travellers.

Religion or belief: “Religion” means any religion, including a reference to a lack of religion. “Belief” includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief (for example, Atheism). Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition. The category includes, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and non-religious beliefs such as Humanism.

Sexual orientation: This is whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes.

1.2 Additional Characteristics

In line with guidance produced by Westmorland and Furness Council², consideration will also be given to additional characteristics:

Armed forces families: the Armed Forces Covenant requires councils to consider the needs of those who serve, or have served, and their families, in relation to education, healthcare and housing. By including them as a locally adopted protected characteristic, the council will extend consideration of the needs of serving personnel, veterans and their families across all of its functions.

Care Experience: Care Experience refers to any person who is/has experience of child protection or children’s social services at any point in their lives. This includes current children in care, current care leavers and adults aged over 24 who no longer receive support from children’s social care.

Rurality: Rurality tests whether a decision/policy/service/function consider whether there is likely to be a different impact in rural areas because of differing circumstances or needs. Access to services and transport are two important considerations for example.

Socio-economic inequality: Socio-economic inequality tests whether a decision/policy/service/function consider whether there is likely to be a differential impact on people from a particular income group, especially if lower income households are more likely to be adversely impacted.

2.0 The Evidence Baseline

Sources of evidence to inform an EqlA can be both quantitative and qualitative. Data gained through consultation should be used alongside national datasets, particularly the most recent census data available from ONS.

It is accepted that in certain areas there may be little or no data available, especially in relation to religion and belief, sexual orientation and gender reassignment. This information can be difficult to obtain quickly and any gaps in data may show a need for more targeted consultation.

The National Landscape ‘State of’ Report has been compiled as part of the Management Plan Review process. The report includes stat on demographics provided by Natural England and ONS relating to the ‘Access for All’ programme outcomes. In the context of the Management Plan, the information included within the ‘State of’ report is considered sufficient however where gaps in data prevent

² [Equality Impact Assessments Guidance Notes](#)

assessment (or reduce the confidence in assessment) the intention is to explore more targeted consultation with relevant groups.

2.1 Demographic data

The following is high level demographic data on the National Landscape;

Indicator	Data Source	Results																																	
Population	Natural England PLTOF Data Release	Based on data provided within the PLTOF Data release, using information from the 2021 National Census Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape has a population of 7400 with a density of 98 people per km², significantly below the national average of 278 people per km². The previous Management Plan reports, taken from the 2016 Census gave a figure of 7070. This represented a decrease of 480 from the previous 2011 Census. In a national context, Arnside & Silverdale contains the 7th smallest population of any Protected Landscape and the 6th smallest of the National Landscapes.																																	
Age Distribution	Natural England PLTOF Data Release	Average age within Arnside & Silverdale is given as 53. In a national context, Arnside and Silverdale has the oldest average population of any Protected Landscape. The national average for National Landscapes is 47 and for National Parks 48. The average for England is 41. Schools capacity, provided as part of the PLTOF data release is given as 88%, slightly below the 89% average for England and slightly above the 85% figure for predominately rural areas. Estimated population age distribution by gender within The National Landscape – figures derived from ONS 'best fit' data. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age (yrs)</th><th>Female</th><th>Male</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>0-10</td><td>229</td><td>236</td></tr> <tr><td>11-20</td><td>315</td><td>324</td></tr> <tr><td>21-30</td><td>177</td><td>220</td></tr> <tr><td>31-40</td><td>232</td><td>119</td></tr> <tr><td>41-50</td><td>401</td><td>347</td></tr> <tr><td>51-60</td><td>662</td><td>579</td></tr> <tr><td>61-70</td><td>763</td><td>654</td></tr> <tr><td>71-80</td><td>719</td><td>721</td></tr> <tr><td>81-90</td><td>299</td><td>224</td></tr> <tr><td>90+</td><td>113</td><td>49</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Age (yrs)	Female	Male	0-10	229	236	11-20	315	324	21-30	177	220	31-40	232	119	41-50	401	347	51-60	662	579	61-70	763	654	71-80	719	721	81-90	299	224	90+	113	49
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Ethnicity	Natural England PLTOF Data Release	Data for ethnicity of population is provided within the PLTOF data release, using information from the 2021 Census. All values are rounded to the closest 1% so figures may not add up to 100%. Ethnicity data for Arnside and Silverdale; <table><tr><th></th><th>Asian, Asian British, Asian Welsh</th><th>Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean, African</th><th>Mixed, Multiple Ethnic Groups</th><th>White</th><th>Other Ethnic Groups</th></tr><tr><td>Arnside & Silverdale</td><td>0%</td><td>0%</td><td>1%</td><td>99%</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>Protected Landscape (average)</td><td>1%</td><td>0%</td><td>2%</td><td>96%</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>England</td><td>10%</td><td>4%</td><td>3%</td><td>81%</td><td>2%</td></tr></table>		Asian, Asian British, Asian Welsh	Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean, African	Mixed, Multiple Ethnic Groups	White	Other Ethnic Groups	Arnside & Silverdale	0%	0%	1%	99%	0%	Protected Landscape (average)	1%	0%	2%	96%	0%	England	10%	4%	3%	81%	2%
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Arnside & Silverdale	0%	0%	1%	99%	0%																					
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Indices of deprivation, Levels of deprivation	Natural England PLTOF Data Release	Data has been provided on deprivation indices, produced through DEFRA analysis. The index is split into equal groups or ‘deciles’, each decile representing 10% of the index. Decide 1 represents the most deprived 10% while decile 10 represents the least deprived 10%. For this dataset, the % quantity within each decile is relative to the national average. For example, if a certain area shows 20% within decile 1 there would be twice as many people within an area falling into the most deprived decile compared to the national average. The modal decile for Arnside & Silverdale is 9, meaning that the modal (most often) population within the National landscape is within the top 20% of least deprived areas nationally based on the index. Proportion of the population living in each decile of deprivation within Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape <table><tr><th>Decile</th><th>Proportion of populations within decile</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>11%</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>13%</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>14%</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>41%</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>20%</td></tr></table> Within a national context, Protected Landscapes tend to have lower levels of deprivation than average with the majority of the data showing population falling within the top 40–50% of the index (least deprived).	Decile	Proportion of populations within decile	1	0%	2	0%	3	0%	4	0%	5	11%	6	0%	7	13%	8	14%	9	41%	10	20%		
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Disability	ONS	Based on 2021 Census data, 12% of people self-identified as having a disability. No information is available on the types or severity of disability amongst respondents.
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2.2 Visitor Data

Visitor data for the landscape is sparse. Data exists for the number of visitors to local visitor attractions and this gives a very broad indication of total number of visitors to the area. However, visitors attractions do not collect data on demographics.

Improvements in understanding of visitors to the area is listed as a specific Management Plan Action: Action 6d - Improve understanding of visitor numbers, perceptions, behaviours and their economic and social contributions to the landscape. Use the information to inform the principles of a visitor management plan.

The development of a visitor management plan will require targeted consultation and will seek involvement from a wide range of audiences and equality groups. This lack of data on visitor demographics and socio-economics is recognised as a data gap.

3.0 EqlA Process

3.1 Assessing the impacts

Within the context of the Management Plan review, the core intent of the EqlA is to assess whether or not the objectives and actions within the draft plan have an impact on people within any of the protected groups.

Impacts could be:

Positive - where the impact could be beneficial to one or more equality target groups. This benefit may be in line with the impact on the wider population, or it may be differential; that is, the positive impact on one particular group of individuals or equality target group is likely to be greater than on another.

Negative or adverse - where the impact could disadvantage one or more equality target group. This disadvantage may be in line with the impact on the wider population, or it may be differential; in other words the negative impact on one particular group of individuals or equality target group is likely to be greater than on another.

The process can also be used to identify unmet needs or requirements and whether or not these needs can be addressed.

3.2 Assessment criteria

Based on the assessment, the following criteria will be used:

Notation		Outcome
+	Action is considered to have a positive impact to protected group/s.	Continue
N	Action is considered to be neutral/no effect	Continue

-	Action is considered to have a minor adverse impact	Review, improve and mitigate
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Due to the context and content of the Management Plan, actions that are designed to fulfil aspects of the designation purpose such as Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Landscape are inherently neutral, i.e. an action to restore or enhance a specific wildlife habitat does not contain any bias and pathways for adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics cannot be readily identified.

It is accepted that some actions, particularly those targeting specific groups, such as Youth Education are by their nature exclusionary (in that only those of certain age groups will be engaged).

3.3 Screening format

The screening will take the form of a series of tables, in which each Management Plan action is assessed for impacts on the protected characteristics described above. Where relevant, explanation will be provided on the pathways for impact and/or justification for the decision.

4.0 EqlA Screening

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

5.0 EqlA Screening Conclusion

Based on the screening process, the Objectives and Actions included with the Draft Management Plan are considered to have either neutral or positive impact on people with protected characteristics. Impacts will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, primarily through the Access for All outcomes (PLTOF Target 10) and any project-level monitoring where this has been identified within the project level engagement plans.

A significant number of actions are considered to have positive impacts, particularly actions relating to Events, interpretation of Landscape, improvements to physical accessibility and those which remove (physical and non-physical) barriers to experiencing the Landscape.

Sustainable Economy and Farming & Land use actions provide benefits for issues of rurality, an additional consideration within this process. Actions improve access to services, public transport provision and housing affordability and availability within the Landscape.

Several actions are either neutral or positive in principle but will require an engagement plan at the project stage to ensure representation of protected groups.

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