

# Equality Impact Assessment Screening Opinion

Draft Historic Environment Supplementary  
Planning Document

October 2020



## Introduction

1. It is the Council's duty under the Equality Act 2010 to undertake an Equality Impact Analysis at the time of formulating a decision, drafting a report, designing or amending a policy. This will ensure that the Council is considering and taking positive action where possible to promote access to services for all their communities, including their wider communities. The Equality Impact Assessment Screening Assessment will assess whether there is any impact upon any of the groups with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act, which are listed in the table below. If an adverse impact upon any of these groups is identified then a full Equalities Impact Assessment will be required.
  
2. The Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is intended to provide guidance about changes and alterations to historic buildings. As such it will be of use to owners of historic properties, as well as builders, trades people and developers. Guidance in this SPD will be divided into the following chapters:
  - Listed buildings
  - Conservation areas
  - Non-designated heritage assets
  - Historic parks and gardens
  - General principles
  - Sustainable energy and construction and the historic environment
  - Extending and historic building
  - The setting of historic buildings
  - Windows, doors and porches
  - Conversion of historic buildings in the countryside for residential use
  - Lighting, security and satellite communications apparatus
  - Shopfronts and signage
  - Demolition
  - Repairs and maintenance
  - Repairs and maintenance
  - Pipework and services
  - Chimneys
  - Making an application.
  
3. Key topics within this SPD will be the types of changes and repairs that will be acceptable in planning terms. It will also provide advice about how proposals can be undertaken in a way

that is sensitive to a historic building and its setting, as well as protecting the structure and fabric of a building. Links to further websites and other sources of practical advice will also be provided.

4. The Historic Environment SPD will help to implement policies contained in the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Local Plans, all of which have been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment screening. The following Local Plan policies will be implemented by the Historic Environment SPD:

Suffolk Coastal Local Plan –

SCLP11.3 Historic Environment

SCLP11.4 Listed Building Consent

SCLP11.5 Conservation Areas

SCLP11.6 Non-Designated Heritage Assets

SCLP11.8 Parks and Gardens of Historic or Landscape Interest

Waveney Local Plan

WLP8.37 Historic Environment

WLP8.38 Non-Designated Heritage Assets

WLP8.39 Conservation Areas

5. The Equality Act 2010 lists nine protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation. East Suffolk Council has added a tenth characteristic, socio-economic deprivation, in addition to the nine protected characteristics listed in the legislation. This reflects that pockets of deprivation that exist across East Suffolk.

## Screening of impact on different groups

	<b>Groups</b>	<b>Likely Impact</b> (positive/negative/no impact)	<b>Reason for your decision</b>
a	Age (Includes safeguarding issues)	Positive	The Historic Environment SPD provides guidance about disabled access to shops and businesses located in historic buildings, which

			will have a positive impact for the elderly.
b	Disability	Positive	The Historic Environment SPD provides guidance about disabled access to shops and businesses located in historic buildings, which will have a positive impact on those with a disability.
C	Gender reassignment	No impact	The Historic Environment SPD provides guidance about making changes and repairs to historic buildings. It will therefore not discriminate against this group.
D	Marriage and Civil Partnership	No impact	The Historic Environment SPD provides guidance about making changes and repairs to historic buildings. It will therefore not discriminate against this group.
E	Pregnancy and maternity	No impact	The Historic Environment SPD provides guidance about making changes and repairs to historic buildings. It will therefore not discriminate against this group.
F	Race	No impact	The Historic Environment SPD provides guidance about making changes and repairs to historic buildings. It will therefore not discriminate against this group.
G	Religion or Belief	No impact	The Historic Environment SPD provides guidance about making changes and repairs to historic buildings. It will therefore not discriminate against this group.
H	Sex	No impact	The Historic Environment SPD provides guidance about making changes and repairs to historic

			buildings. It will therefore not discriminate against this group.
I	Sexual orientation	No impact	The Historic Environment SPD provides guidance about making changes and repairs to historic buildings. It will therefore not discriminate against this group.
J	Socio-economic deprivation	No impact	The Historic Environment SPD provides guidance about making changes and repairs to historic buildings. It will therefore not discriminate against this group.

## Consultation and Engagement

6. There has been consultation during the preparation of the Historic Environment SPD. An initial informal consultation took place between the 27<sup>th</sup> September and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019, which was intended to scope the contents of the Historic Environment SPD. This included members of the public, civic societies, Suffolk Preservation Society, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coasts and Heaths, the Theatres Trust, town and parish councils and the National Trust.
7. During the preparation of the draft Historic Environment SPD there have been regular steering group meetings with colleagues in the design and conservation, development management and arboriculture and landscape teams. There has also been contact with Historic England.
8. In view of the current Covid-19 social distancing measures, the Council has set out measures to enable safe participation in the consultation and to ensure that those who wish to engage in the consultation are not disadvantaged. The Council would normally make hard copies of consultation documents available to view in libraries and in the Council's offices for those who are unable to view them online, however as this is not possible to do this at this time due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Council has put alternative measures in place. For those unable to view the consultation documents online, hard copies are being made available on request (free of charge) by post. In view of

these measures the Council does not consider that this consultation will disadvantage any of the groups covered by this EQIA screening exercise.

## Presentation in Different Languages

9. As part of an eight-week period of formal consultation, the document will be published on the Council's website, with hard copies available on request for those unable to access it online. The document may be requested in a different language. When such requests are received the Customer Services Team will be involved with ensuring this request is actioned.

## Proposed Changes

10. The Council will analyse responses received during the public consultation and will make any necessary changes as a result of comments received.

## Conclusion

11. No negative impact upon any group with protected characteristics or experiencing socio-economic deprivation was identified and therefore a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required.