

# Equality Impact and Needs Assessment Form



NB: Use the electronic MS Word template. Add additional rows and increase box size as required. Make sure your final document is suitable for publishing.

## A) Description

Name of service, function, policy (or other) being assessed

Gem Bridge – River Walkham Crossing.

Directorate or organisation responsible (and service, if it is a policy)

Waste, Engineering and Transport – Engineer & Design Group

Date of assessment (DD/MM/YY)

05/02/2010

Date next assessment due (3 years)

05/02/2013

Names and/or job titles of people carrying out the assessment

Ben Naylor – Project Engineer

Name and Signature of Accountable person (e.g. Head of Service)

Nick Bott.

Date EINA Form approved by accountable person (e.g. Head of Service)

1. What are the aims or main purpose of the service, function or policy? What does it provide and how does it provide it?

Gem Bridge will provide cycle, pedestrian and wheelchair access across the River Walkham Valley . This will form part of the existing National Cycle Network Route 27 between Tavistock and Plymouth.

2. Location or any other relevant information (such as profile of the area)

The bridge will span 200m across the steep sided valley and the Walkham River at

an height of 24m above river level.

3. List any key policies or procedures to be reviewed as part of this assessment.

Rights of way improvement plan

4. Who is intended to benefit from the service, function or policy?

Cyclists, pedestrians, wheelchair users and the partially ambulant.

5. Who are the stakeholders? What is their interest?

Devon County Council- Owner and Promoter  
EU and SWRDA – Joint funders.

6. Are there any concerns at this stage which indicate the possibility of inequalities/negative impacts? For example: complaints, comments, research, outcomes of a scrutiny review. Please describe:

None

**B) Relevance – Note: if not relevant, do not complete this form**

Select **all** that apply:

7. Service or function that people use.
8. Discretion is exercised, or potential for people to experience different outcomes or level of satisfaction.
9. Employment policy – where discretion is not exercised.
10. Employment policy – where discretion is exercised (e.g. recruitment or disciplinary process).
11. Concerns at a local, regional or national level of discrimination/inequalities.
12. Major change such as the closure, removal or transfer of a service/provision.
13. Community and regeneration strategies, local area agreements and organisational or directorate/partnership strategies/plans.

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**Scale of relevance**

Low

Medium

Medium

High

High

High

High

Section C  
applies

Sections C &  
E apply

Other:

State why it is relevant:

How relevant (high, medium or low?):

**Initial Screening:**

Mark an 'X' in the box to confirm            If not relevant, please explain why not (refer to

which strands are relevant to the review. Ensure they are assessed against in Section D. pages 25-30 of the Toolkit for guidance). Do not say “everyone is treated equally/fairly” or similar.

Age		There will be no system or mechanism in place to disallow people according to their age.
Disability		The bridge will be an improvement to the existing arrangement with regard to access for disabled users, especially wheelchair and partially ambulant and partially sighted users.
Gender (men and women)		There will be no system or mechanism in place to disallow people according to their gender.
Race/ethnicity		There will be no system or mechanism in place to disallow people according to their race or ethnicity.
Religion/belief		There will be no system or mechanism in place to disallow people according to their religion or beliefs.
Sexual orientation		There will be no system or mechanism in place to disallow people according to their sexual orientation.
Trans-gender		There will be no system or mechanism in place to disallow people if they are Trans-gender.
Other (state below)		People on low incomes will not be affected, because the bridge will be free at the point of access.

Any other (such as Human Rights, people on low incomes and specific sub-strands requiring particular focus such as Travellers and Gypsies, Deaf people):

Encouraging cycling and Walking is of especial benefit to people on low incomes.

### C) Information

14 What information (monitoring or consultation data) have you got and what is it telling you? *Required where relevance is Medium or High.*

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out. The report concluded that the development of the scheme is likely to have a short term, slight adverse impact on pedestrians/Walkers accessing the PRow and users of the A386 due to minor traffic restrictions, during construction.

The long term operational effects of the bridge are anticipated to be beneficial to the local communities by providing opportunities for leisure, exercise and improved wheelchair access and encouraging economic growth via visitor spending.

### D) Assessment

15 Describe any NEGATIVE impacts (actual or potential):

Strand/community	Impact ( <i>how</i> they may be affected). Include assessment of risk (likelihood and severity).

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16 Describe any POSITIVE impacts:

Strand/community	Impact ( <i>how they may be affected</i> )
Wheelchair users	Provide access at gradients of not greater than 1:20 to the valley crossing and cycle path either side where currently the un-surfaced steep valley sides would prohibit wheelchair users. The bridge will have a smooth surface comprising of 6mm and 3mm grit, which will provide good grip and smooth running for wheelchairs.
Partially ambulant	Provide access to the valley crossing and cycle path either side where currently the un-surfaced steep valley sides would be problematic and unsafe for partially ambulant users. The bridge will have a smooth surface comprising of 6mm and 3mm grit, which will provide good grip and there will be rest areas at the viewpoints along the bridge. Approach fencing will guide people onto the bridge.
Partially sighted	Provide access to the valley crossing and cycle path either side where currently the un-surfaced steep valley sides would be problematic and unsafe for partially sighted users. The bridge will have a smooth surface comprising of 6mm and 3mm grit, which will provide good grip and a smooth surface with no trip hazards. There will be a 1.4m high parapet both sides of the bridge and around viewing areas. Approach fencing will guide people onto the bridge.

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17 Provide any information about NEUTRAL impacts that have been identified (there is neither a positive or negative impact):

Strand/community	Why there is 'no differential impact'
Agoraphobics	People with agoraphobia or those who are nervous about heights have an alternative to crossing via Gem Bridge, they can walk round to Grenofen bridge and cross the Walkham river there.
Horse Riders	Horses and Horse riding will not be accommodated on the new bridge. This is a positive impact for the less able, especially those in wheelchairs. Horse riders will be able to cross the river by an alternative means that will be identified in a separate scheme. This route is not available to the less able.

**E) Consultation**

18 Did you carry out any consultations? *Required where relevance is High.*

YES

19 Who was consulted? Include your findings in 15, 16 and 17 above.

Local Community (Public Exhibition)  
Planning Application through DNP.

20 Describe other research, studies or information used to assist with the assessment and include your findings above:

Department for Transport, Transport Strategy and Planning (2004). The Future White Paper CM 6234, Chapter 6 Walking and cycling: A positive Choice.

**F) Conclusions**

	<b>Action/objective/target OR Justification</b>	<b>Resources required</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>I/R/S/O</b>
a)	Promotion of route for pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair users through usual channels; Including, DCC website, Sustrans web site information leaflets.	Marketing team	Prior to completion of bridge construction and beyond	S
b)				
c)				
d)				

(I) Taking immediate effect.

(R) Recommended to Council/Directors through a Committee or other Report\*.

(S) Added to the Service Plan.

(O) Added to the Fair for All Programme (as an organisational improvement)\*\*

