



Green Flag Award 2013/2014

Name of Site – Ashted Common

Managing Organisation – City of London

Bandscores

Desk Assessment	0-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-30			
Field Assessment	20-29	30-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-70
Overall score	30-44	45-54	55-59	60-65	66-69	70-74	75-79	80+

Status – PASS

Overall band score – 80+

Desk Assessment Feedback

Band score – 25-30

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Presentation	A standard presentation of summary MP from the City of London is applied to all the sites under their management. This result is a recognisable MP formula which identifies the organisation and produces a colourful easy to use and practical MP with photographic evidence of site work, volunteers in action etc. The well laid out MP is applicable, easy to understand highlighting concise practical actions points which translate to the field. Describes both reactive and planned objectives, forward thinking and ambitious.	Consider including appendices with relevant information such as examples of species lists, expenditure and consultation results where applicable.
Health, Safety & Security	Frequent references to H&S awareness and how this is implemented, prioritising where necessary and applying high levels of public safety focus when using site. Good	

	relationship with SNT units.	
Maintenance of equipment, buildings & landscape	Well planned, well documented and costed. Value of site is sensitive and associated maintenance work needs to be of a high standard. City of London procurement policy rules encourage use of local tradesmen and businesses where specialist maintenance of infrastructure is required including those relating to landscapes improvements and best practice ensuring high levels of expertise is sustained. Equipment - Regular inspections and reports carried out and documented. Repairs undertaken as required including some out of hours maintenance.	
Litter, cleanliness, vandalism	Clear and well applied policy on zero litter tolerance which translates to immediate action particularly around site fringes and high residential areas. Residential licence agreements are excellent example of engaging locals to help maintain site cleanliness.	
Environmental Sustainability	Well documented examples of traditional methods applied to site managements overall in woodlands, scrub, flower meadows, hedgerows etc and the long term benefits this brings.	Research other non chemical methods of bracken and other invasive weed controls.
Conservation of heritage & nature	Site and infrastructure is highly valued and the importance of this is the essence on which the MP is created. Sensitive land management methods and the long-term conservation and protection of the site is the basis of all objectives within the MP.	
Community Involvement	Is at every level and volunteers are valued as assets to the sites. The MP celebrates the contribution volunteers make, they are consulted widely and their views taken on board.	A few examples of the results of public consultations would be beneficial to the MP.
Marketing Strategy	Good use of City of London Website. Listed events in MP help to promote the common and its use. The user map has excellent interpretation information	
Overall management	Very thorough process. The MP is a live and applicable document and is easy to translate the information of the everyday practices with clear objectives, planned and reactive process, visionary and inclusive and this is well applied to the overall management process.	

Additional comments

The summary MP is an enjoyable document to read. It is also a balanced, thorough, well laid out plan which states clear objectives, action plans and reasons as to why certain practices used on the common maintain and conserve the site for public enjoyment. Furthermore the long term preservation of such a high value site with associated biodiversity, leisure and educational components needs good and proscriptive management methods to ensure protection for the future. Some investigation on the internet brought up wild life species records. Links to other sites would be useful, such as the United Kingdom Butterfly monitoring scheme.

Field Assessment Feedback

Band score – 57-59

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
A Welcoming Place	Access is level, safe, inviting and very attractive. Signage at site entrances is appropriate and interesting. Public information and site maps clear and easy to follow. Very impressive.	Consider introductory information, interpretation and possible site maps at Ashted train station.
Healthy, Safe and Secure	The quality of the facilities is of a very high standard. General comfortable feeling of safety at all times throughout site. Dog bins and disposable bags are provided by sites, although this is a huge expense to the organisation it is resulting in no evident dog mess.	A review of costings on dog bag provision should be considered with possible alternative campaign to improve message on responsible dog ownership and appropriate use of sites.
Clean and Well Maintained	No evident litter at any time throughout site. Maintenance provision and standards where very high employing sensitive and appropriate methods of throughout in the many varying landscapes, scrub, trees care, meadows etc resulting in a hugely attractive, evidently sensitive and well cared for site. Buildings of a high standard and sensitive to landscape setting.	
Sustainability	The use of cattle in various parts of the common offsets the use of machines. Excellent methods of sustainability in reference to maintenance of varying diverse landscape with clear objectives to improvements for biodiversity. Woodland management is of the highest standards with due care given to monitoring and safeguarding valuable veteran trees throughout. Use of low impact vehicles, ranger foot patrols all contribute to sustainable methods of care.	

Conservation and Heritage	<p>Natural features are integral to the enjoyment of this site and as such are well cared for and enhanced at every level. The wild fauna and landscapes features are of a high standard, site lines are good, the varying landscapes and variety of such all add to the visitor's enjoyment and experience.</p> <p>The common has a varied and far reaching history including Roman settlements, the archaeology of which enhances the sites historical and heritage value. Historical 'Coal posts' in situ and celebrated as a unique historical assist.</p>	
Community Involvement	<p>Volunteers are seen as an asset to the site and are consulted at every level. Active and diverse volunteer programmes providing appropriated opportunities for all are on offer which allows volunteers to engage, take part, contribute and learn new skills. A waiting list of volunteers is indicative of the popularity and level of provision on offer. Volunteers are actively engaged to take part in consultative forums.</p>	
Marketing	<p>The City of London website is informative and interesting with good links for information on sites, site provision, access and locations. Education information very appropriate, with exceptional quality information on biodiversity.</p>	<p>Judges felt improved information at train station would be helpful.</p>
Management	<p>The overall management of the site is excellent. The implementation of the MP objectives, duty of care and traditional sensitive methods of management evident on site ensure the landscape and diverse ecology of the common are maintained at every level.</p>	

Additional Comments

The desk assessment lays out objectives to maintaining and enhancing the conservation of this sensitive landscape by adapting and implementing traditional methods of care and sustainability where appropriate throughout the common. These methods have created, enhanced and safeguarded this unique landscape whether it be open woodland pastures, tree care, ponds and waterways etc it is evident that this is a very special site which is healthy, vibrant, full of wildlife and most appropriately open and accessible for the public to enjoy. The site based teams and volunteers should be congratulated on their efforts of looking after this beautiful landscape so well.

