



Green Flag Award 2013/2014

Name of Site – Coulsdon 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 formula which identifies the organisation and produces a colourful easy to use, practical MP with photographic evidence of site work, volunteers in action etc. MP is applicable and 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.	
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	Excellent events diary. 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.	
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

Field Assessment Feedback

Band score – 55 – 59

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
A Welcoming Place	<p>Access to the site offices is from street level. Site access is level but site landscape is undulating and hilly adding to contrasting views and landscapes but also adds new ing challenge to access. Site signage easy to access, up to date and relevant. Public information and site maps clear and easy to follow.</p> <p>The display and celebration of awards in site office is indicative of high quality of service and levels of maintenance.</p>	
Healthy, Safe and Secure	<p>The nature and undulating fields and hills of the site prove to be a challenge with a major road running through the site but despite this the quality of the facilities and levels of maintenance is extremely good. Dog bins and disposable bags are provided by site although this is a huge expense to the organisation it is resulting in no evident dog mess.</p>	<p>A review of costings on dog bag provision should be considered with a possible alternative campaign to improve message on responsible dog ownership and appropriate use of sites.</p>
Clean and Well Maintained	<p>Litter is a challenge particularly on fringes of site and along road verges but this is dealt with quickly. Maintenance and horticultural standards very good with sensitive approaches to hedgerows enhancement and biodiversity habitat improvements. Relaxed mowing regimes produce high quality wildflower meadows. Site evidently well cared for. Buildings well maintained. Additional safety methods employed to safeguard loss of equipment.</p>	

Sustainability	The use of cattle in various parts of the common offsets the use of machines demonstrating excellent landscape practices and methods of sustainability in reference to maintenance of varying diverse landscape and topography of site. Woodland management is of a high standard with some current clearance of invasive woodland to create woodland pasture and ponds network. Use of low impact vehicles, and safety foot patrols	
Conservation and Heritage	The above has also revealed an important historical aspect of the use of the site relating to WWII which should be explored and used to increase interest by providing additional public information, building on sites historical facets. Historical natural features are integral to the enjoyment of this site, site lines are good, the varying landscapes and variety all add to the visitor's enjoyment and experience.	
Community Involvement	Volunteering and community engagement on site make a major contribution to the overall improvements. Active and diverse volunteer programmes providing appropriate opportunities for all allowing volunteers to engage, take part, contribute and learn new skills. Volunteers are actively encouraged to take part in consultative forums.	
Marketing	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.	
Management	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.	

Additional Comments

As is predicted the desk assessment lays out clear objectives to maintaining and enhancing the conservation of this challenging landscape by adapting and implementing methods of care and sustainability where appropriate throughout. These methods create, enhance and safeguard the landscape and this in turn provides high quality, diverse and interesting green space whether it be open woodland pastures, tree care, ponds and waterways etc it is evident that this is healthy, vibrant site, full of wildlife and most appropriately open and accessible for the public to enjoy at every level. Furthermore, the staff are hugely enthusiastic and this must help to increase the visitors appreciation of the site.

The site based teams and all other staff members who apply their skills to maintaining the site along with the volunteers should be duly congratulated on their efforts of maintaining this fascinating and diverse common.

