Coulsdon and Other Commons Risk Register (excluding completed actions)

Report Author: Joanne Hill **Generated on:** 28 August 2022



Rows are sorted by Risk Score

Risk no, Title, Creation date, Owner	Risk Description (Cause, Event, Impact)	Current Risk Rating & Score	Risk Update and date of update	Target Risk Rating & Score	Target Date/Risk Approach	Flight path
ENV-NE-COC 009 Maintenance of buildings and other structures	Cause: Inadequate level of service provided by City Surveyor's Department to maintain buildings and other structures. Event: Structures become unsafe or unusable. Effect: Potential serious injury to a member of the public, or member of staff; disruption to service delivery/performance; financial loss; reputational damage as a result of legal action and/or negative publicity.	Impact 16	The key issues at Coulsdon Common are: • The large, wooden corporate image (byelaw) boards located across the site, and • The cattle grids on Farthing Downs. The local team has undertaken an update of the previous audit of byelaw boards which was carried out by the City Surveyor's Department (CSD) in 2019. Since this audit, a further eight boards have been found defective and removed. For the cattle grids, the CSD should undertake annual inspections but these have not been carried out for some years. The local team monitor the grids and report any concerns to CSD. Concerns about the general situation are raised at quarterly client liaison meetings with CSD.	Impact	30-Jun-2023	
15-Jun-2022			26 Aug 2022		Reduce	

Allan Cameron								
Action no, Title,	Action description	Latest Note					Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-COC 009a Monitoring	Monthly site infrastructure checks.					Allan Cameron	26-Aug-2022	30-Jun-2023

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	Cause: The sites are more popular than in previous years, linked to people enjoying local natural environments which are free of charge. Increased population and housing in the local area. Event: Long-term environmental damage, with a particular focus on protected landscapes and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which are not designed for such high visitor numbers. Effect: Ecological and environmental damage; reputational damage; loss of grants related to preservation; increased spend required to maintain sites/mitigate damage.	Likelihood	12	We are seeing a continual increase in visitor numbers and general population growth which we cannot influence. Therefore, we accept that we cannot reduce the possibility of the risk occurring. However, we continue to encourage people to use the sites responsibly. 26 Aug 2022	kelihood	12	Accept	

Action no, Title,	Action description			Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-COC 002a Establish a Conservation Ranger post	post.	We will recruit a Conservation Ranger who will monitor development applications and undertake detailed ecological surveys.	Allan Cameron	26-Aug-2022	31-Oct-2022

Risk no, Title, Creation date, Owner	Risk Description (Cause, Event, Impact)	Current Risk Rating &	& Score	Risk Update and date of update	Target Risk Rating &	Score	Target Date/Risk Approach	Flight path
ENV-NE-COC 004 Local Planning Issues 24-Feb-2022 Allan Cameron	Cause: Pressure on Planning Authorities to meet housing targets; failure to monitor and challenge housing and other development plans; lack of partnership working with Planning Authorities and inclusion in Local Development Plans; lack of resources to employ specialist support or carry out necessary monitoring/research. Event: Large housing or other developments on land affecting the sites. Effect: Increase in visitor numbers and general recreation pressure; potential decline in biodiversity due to disturbance and habitat quality; increase in air, light and noise pollution; decrease in water availability; increased hydrological pollution risk; increased traffic on local road network.	Likelihood	8	Local plans continue to be developed and are scrutinised and commented on by officers when required. Staffing capacity is currently unable to manage the volume of work associated with commenting on local plans. However, we now have funding to recruit a full-time Conservation Ranger which will provide greater capacity for responding to these issues and enable us to be more proactive. 26 Aug 2022	Likelihood	6	31-Mar-2024 Reduce	

Action no, Title,	Action description			Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-COC 004c Establish a Conservation Ranger post	post.	We will recruit a Conservation Ranger who will monitor development applications.	Allan Cameron	26-Aug-2022	31-Oct-2022

Risk no, Title, Creation date, Owner	Risk Description (Cause, Event, Impact)	Current Risk Rating &	& Score	Risk Update and date of update	Target Risk Rating &	Score	Target Date/Risk Approach	Flight path
Diseases and Other Pests	Cause: Inadequate biosecurity; purchase or transfer of infected plants, soil and animals. 'Natural' spread of pests and diseases from neighbouring areas e.g. Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) and foot and mouth disease. Event: Sites become infected by animal, plant or tree diseases. Effect: Service capability disrupted; ineffective use of staff resources; reputational damage; loss of species; temporary site closures and associated access; increased costs for reactive maintenance; threat to existing conservation status of sites, particularly those with woodland habitats.	Impact	8	Ash Dieback: Cost of future Ash Dieback management is unknown; local risk budgets are not resourced sufficiently to meet costs. Local tree safety inspections deal with immediate risk, but we are unable to predict with any certainty the condition of trees and their likelihood of infection over the next two to three years. 26 Aug 2022	Likeliho	6	31-Mar-2025 Reduce	

Action no, Title,	Action description	Latest Note		Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-COC 005a Staff training	Ensure staff training is kept updated to enable timely identification of pest and knowledge of correct treatment/ prevention.	Ongoing. Training needs are reviewed at regular team meetings, and proactively promoted via HSIG and other corporate boards. Needs are also reviewed at six-monthly divisional Health and Safety meetings.	Allan Cameron	26-Aug-2022	31-Mar-2023
ENV-NE-COC 005b Inspections	Annual tree inspections undertaken by qualified personnel.	Ongoing. Inspections continue on a scheduled basis or if and when the need arises.	Allan Cameron	26-Aug-2022	31-Mar-2023
ENV-NE-COC 005c Partnerships	Active involvement with leading partners such as Forestry Commission and Natural England	This is ongoing.	Allan Cameron	26-Aug-2022	31-Mar-2023
	Measures in place for staff, volunteers and contractors including public messages	This is ongoing.	Allan Cameron	26-Aug-2022	31-Mar-2023
	Review The Commons' Tree Safety Policy tri-annually.	The Commons' Tree Safety Policy is reviewed every three years. It was last reviewed in July 2021 and will be reviewed again in July 2024.	Allan Cameron	26-Aug-2022	01-Aug-2024

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ENV-NE-COC 008 Pollution 15-Jun-2022 Allan Cameron	Cause: Continual pollution of Coulsdon Common through defective drainage infrastructure owned by Surrey County Council and managed by Thames Water. Event: High rainfall leads to prolonged periods of pollution from two soakaways located on Stites Hill Road. Contamination of site with sanitary toxic and foul waste. Effect: Health and safety implications for visitors; reduction in quality of land within a National Nature Reserve (NNR); reputational damage and potential legal liability for the CoL.		8	The Head Ranger attends meetings of the local multi-agency Flood Action Group where this is a standing agenda item. Head Ranger is seeking clarity from Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department regarding our liabilities in respect of accepting pollution on our land. We are unable to reduce the possibility of the risk occurring but report any issues to the Environment Agency and Thames Water. 26 Aug 2022	Impact	Accept	

Action no, Title,	Action description	Latest Note		Latest Note Date	Due Date
	8	Head Ranger represents the CoL at meetings of the local Flood Action Group which are held periodically (every 2-3 months).	Allan Cameron	26-Aug-2022	31-Mar-2023
		Awaiting clarification from City Solicitors regarding our liabilities in respect of accepting pollution on our land. We have appointed a QC for advice on the pollution issue and are awaiting their response.	Allan Cameron	28-Aug-2022	30-Sep-2022

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	Cause: Potential reduction in budget and income: reduction of income from car park charging; loss of income from rental properties. Event: Reduced budget and income. Effect: Potential staff reductions and inability to provide key services; financial failure; failure to achieve strategic objectives; significant reduction in service to users; reputational damage.	Impact	6	The Target Operating Model process is yet to be concluded and associated budget reductions are yet unknown. This is beyond our control and we are unable to reduce the risk in the foreseeable future. However, a Countryside Stewardship grant has been secured until 2026 and two vacant properties have been rented out, one with a long-term tenant until 2027, and the other on a rolling residential annual contract. These help to offset previous budget cuts.	Likelihood	6		
24-Feb-2022				26 Aug 2022			Accept	
Allan Cameron								

Action no, Title,	Action description	Latest Note		Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-COC 001a Risk review	Keep risk under regular review.	This risk is kept under regular review.	Allan Cameron	26-Aug-2022	31-Mar-2023

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ENV-NE- COC 006 Climate and Weather 24-Feb-2022 Allan Cameron	Causes: Severe wind events, prolonged precipitation or restricted precipitation. May be climate change influenced Event: Severe weather/climate impacts; fire, flood and storm events (potentially increasing in frequency). Effect: Service capability disrupted; increased demand for staff resources to respond to incidents and maintain site safety; loss of species; temporary site closures and associated access; increased costs for reactive management; injury or death to staff, visitors, contractors and volunteers; damage/loss of rare/fragile habitats and species.	Impact	6	We accept this risk but work on site continues to mitigate the impact of extreme weather events should they happen. 26 Aug 2022	Likelihood	6	Accept	

Action no, Title,	Action description			Latest Note Date	Due Date
006a Fire	Review and update Fire Management plan biannually. Habitat fire management and monitoring policies and plans in place which link to staff training and local emergency services.		Allan Cameron	28-Aug-2022	30-Sep-2022
ENV-NE-COC 006b Storms	Storm monitoring and management and closure policies are in place at the site and linked to high staff awareness and training.	The sites continue to monitor and respond to warnings of extreme weather.	Allan Cameron	26-Aug-2022	31-Mar-2023
006c Climate	Understand the potential impacts of climate change on Coulsdon Common. Engage in climate change research and debate.	Ongoing research and dialogue.	Allan Cameron	26-Aug-2022	31-Mar-2023