Coulsdon and Other Commons Risk Register

Generated on: 28 February 2024



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 & S	Score	Target Date/Risk Approach	Current Risk score change indicator
ENV-NE-COC 009 Decline in condition of assets	Cause: Poor condition of buildings and other structures, combined with inadequate planned and/or reactive maintenance, reduced CWP budget and limited capital programme. Event: Structures deteriorate to an unsafe condition. 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 updated the previous audit of byelaw boards which was carried out by the City Surveyor's Department (CSD) in 2019. Since the 2019 audit, a further eight boards have been found defective and removed. In the last five years, there have been three near-misses where boards have collapsed. Funding has now been approved to replace the byelaw boards in the 2024/25 financial year. For the cattle grids, the CSD should undertake annual inspections but these		12	31-Mar- 2025	

		have not been carried out for some years. The local team monitors the grids and reports any concerns to CSD.		
15-Jun-2022 Allan Cameron		Concerns about the general situation are raised at monthly client liaison meetings with CSD. Issues continue to be raised at the monthly meetings with the Assistant Property Facilities Manager (APFM). 23 Feb 2024	Reduce	Constant

Action no	Action description		Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-COC 009a	Monthly site infrastructure checks.	Continual monitoring of byelaw boards, cattle grids and other structures is undertaken. This is an ongoing action.		31-Mar- 2025

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002 Negative	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.	Impact		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. 23 Feb 2024	Impact	12	Accept	Constant

Action no	Action description	Latest Note	Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-COC 002a	£ 1	We are in the process of recruiting a Conservation Ranger who will monitor development applications and undertake detailed ecological surveys.		30-Jun- 2024

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ENV-NE-COC 004 Negative impacts of development and encroachment 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.	Impact		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. 23 Feb 2024	Impact	6	31-Mar- 2025	Constant

Action no	Action description		Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-COC 004c	Recruit to the vacant Conservation Ranger post.			30-Jun- 2024
ENV-NE-COC 004d		Investigate options for obtaining support and advice from colleagues in the Environment Department's Planning and Development Division.	 	31-Mar- 2025

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ENV-NE-COC 005 Negative impacts of pests and diseases	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); Ash Dieback; foot and mouth disease; and neospora. 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		Ash Dieback: The 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. 23 Feb 2024	Impact	6	31-Mar- 2025	Constant

Action no	Action description			Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-COC 005a	Ensure staff training is kept updated to enable timely identification of pest and knowledge of correct treatment/prevention.			23-Feb- 2024	30-Sep- 2024
ENV-NE-COC 005b	Annual tree inspections undertaken by qualified personnel.	This is ongoing action. Inspections continue on a scheduled basis or if and when the need arises.		23-Feb- 2024	30-Sep- 2024
ENV-NE-COC 005c	Active involvement with leading partners such as Forestry Commission and Natural England	This is an ongoing action.		23-Feb- 2024	30-Sep- 2024
ENV-NE-COC 005d	Measures in place for staff, volunteers and contractors including public messages	This is an ongoing action.	Allan Cameron	23-Feb- 2024	30-Sep- 2024
ENV-NE-COC 005e		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.		23-Feb- 2024	01-Aug- 2024

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ENV-NE-COC 008 Pollution	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.	Impact	8	The Head Ranger attends meetings of the local multi-agency Flood Action Group where this is a standing agenda item. Thames Water has now accepted responsibility and liability for the drainage structures and the resulting pollution of the site. They have committed to develop an action plan to resolve the problem by October 2024. We continue to report any issues to the Environment Agency and Thames Water. 23 Feb 2024	Impact	4	31-Oct- 2024	Constant

Action no	Action description		Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-COC 008a		The Head Ranger represents the CoL at meetings of the local Flood Action Group which are held periodically (every 2-3 months).	 	31-Dec- 2024
ENV-NE-COC 008c		Thames Water has now accepted responsibility and liability for the drainage structures and the resulting pollution of the site. They have committed to develop an action plan to resolve the problem by October 2024. The Head Ranger will continue to monitor progress of Thames Water's action plan.		31-Oct- 2024

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ENV-NE-COC 001 Budget pressures 24-Feb-2022 Allan Cameron	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		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. Car parking income was lower than estimated during 2022/23 (52% of estimated levels). The Assistant Director is currently reviewing income generation opportunities for The Commons. We will review the current and target risk scores again when the 2024/25 budgets are confirmed. 23 Feb 2024	Impact	6	Accept	Constant

Action no	Action description		 Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-COC 001a		F	 	31-Dec- 2024

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	Current Risk score change indicator
006 Adverse impacts of extreme weather and	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 are unable to reduce this risk but work on site continues to mitigate the impact of extreme weather events should they happen. 23 Feb 2024	Impact	6	Accept	Constant

Action no	Action description			Latest Note Date	Due Date
	Review and update Fire Management plan bi-annually. Habitat fire management and monitoring policies and plans in place which link to staff training and local emergency services.	Detailed fire maps have been completed and shared with the fire services. The next review of the Fire Management Plan will be undertaken in 2024 by an external contractor appointed by the CoL's Fire Safety Advisor.		23-Feb- 2024	30-Sep- 2024
006b	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	23-Feb- 2024	30-Sep- 2024
ENV-NE-COC 006c	Understand the potential impacts of climate change on Coulsdon Common. Engage in climate change research and debate.	Officers engage in ongoing research and dialogue.	Allan Cameron	23-Feb- 2024	30-Sep- 2024