Appendix 4 - Coulsdon & Other Commons Risk Register

Generated on: 27 August 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 & Score | Target Date/Risk Approach | Flight path |
|---|---|-----------------------|-------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 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. | | 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. The cattle grid has now been replaced and we will be working with the CSD to introduce annual inspections. Concerns about the general situation are | Impact 12 | 31-Mar-2025 | |

Appendix 4

| | | raised at monthly client liaison meetings with CSD. Issues continue to be raised at the monthly meetings with the Assistant Property Facilities Manager (APFM). | | | |
|---------------|--|---|--|--------|---|
| 15-Jun-2022 | | 27 Aug 2024 | | Reduce | |
| Allan Cameron | | | | | |
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| Action no, Title, | Action description | | | Latest Note Date | Due Date |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--|------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| ENV-NE-COC 009a Monitoring | · | Continual monitoring of byelaw boards, cattle grids and other structures is undertaken. Approval for funding of bye law boards of £160,000 has been agreed. £80,000 for 2024 and £80,000 for 2025. | Allan Cameron | 27-Aug-2024 | 31-Mar-2025 |

| 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 002 Negative impacts of visitor pressure 24-Feb-2022 Allan Cameron | 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 | 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. 27 Aug 2024 | pood | 12 | Accept | |

| Action no, Title, | Action description | | | Latest Note Date | Due Date |
|---|--------------------|--|------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| ENV-NE-COC 002a Establish a Conservation Ranger post | post. | We are in the process of recruiting a Conservation Ranger who will monitor development applications and undertake detailed ecological surveys. | Allan Cameron | 27-Aug-2024 | 30-Jun-2025 |

| Risk no, Title, Creation date, Owner | Risk Description (Cause, Event, Impact) | Current Risk Rating & So | core | Risk Update and date of update | Target Risk Rating & | Score | Target Date/Risk Approach | Flight path |
|--|--|--------------------------|------|---|---|-------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 24-Feb-2022 | 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 | 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. 27 Aug 2024 | Uterhood part of the product of the | 6 | 31-Mar-2025 Reduce | |

| Action no, Title, | Action description | | | Latest Note Date | Due Date |
|---|--------------------|---|------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| ENV-NE-COC 004c Establish a Conservation Ranger post | post. | We are in the process of recruiting a Conservation Ranger who will monitor development applications. | Allan Cameron | 27-Aug-2024 | 30-Jun-2025 |
| | | Investigate options for obtaining support and advice from colleagues in the Environment Department's Planning and Development Division. | Allan Cameron | 27-Aug-2024 | 31-Mar-2025 |

| 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 005 Negative impacts of pests and diseases 24-Feb-2022 Allan Cameron | 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 | 8 | 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. 27 Aug 2024 | Ulerbood page to the pool of t | 6 | 31-Mar-2025 Reduce | |

| Action no, Title, | Action description | Latest Note | | Latest Note Date | Due Date |
|------------------------------------|---|---|------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| | 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 the Department Health & Safety Group and relevant corporate boards. | Allan Cameron | 27-Aug-2024 | 31-Dec-2024 |
| ENV-NE-COC 005b Inspections | Annual tree inspections undertaken by qualified personnel. | This is ongoing action. Inspections continue on a scheduled basis or if and when the need arises. | Allan Cameron | 27-Aug-2024 | 31-Dec-2024 |
| ENV-NE-COC 005c Partnerships | Active involvement with leading partners such as Forestry Commission and Natural England | This is an ongoing action. | Allan Cameron | 27-Aug-2024 | 31-Dec-2024 |
| ENV-NE-COC 005d Biosecurity | Measures in place for staff, volunteers and contractors including public messages | This is an ongoing action. | Allan Cameron | 27-Aug-2024 | 31-Dec-2024 |
| | 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 by the end of 2024. | Allan Cameron | 27-Aug-2024 | 31-Dec-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. 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. 27 Aug 2024 | Impact | 4 | 31-Oct-2024 Reduce | |

| Action no, Title, | Action description | | | Latest Note Date | Due Date |
|----------------------|--|--|------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| | Attend meetings of the local Flood Action Group. | The Head Ranger represents the CoL at meetings of the local Flood Action Group which are held periodically (every 2-3 months). | Allan Cameron | 27-Aug-2024 | 31-Dec-2024 |
| | Monitor progress of Thames Water action plan. | 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 December 2024. | | 27-Aug-2024 | 31-Dec-2024 |

| Risk no, Title, Creation date, Owner | C Description (Cause, Event, Impact) | Current Risk Rating & Score | Risk Update and date of update | Target Risk Rating & Score | Target Date/Risk Approach | Flight path |
|---|--|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| COC 001 incom Budget chargi pressures proper Event Effect inabili failure signifi | see: Potential reduction in budget and ome: reduction of income from car park rging; loss of income from rental perties. nt: Reduced budget and income. ect: Potential staff reductions and bility to provide key services; financial are; failure to achieve strategic objectives; ificant reduction in service to users; stational damage. | Impact 6 | 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. 27 Aug 2024 | Impact 6 | Accept | |

| Action no, Title, | Action description | | | Latest Note Date | Due Date |
|----------------------|--------------------|---|------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| | ε | Income targets are continually monitored and are reported monthly to the Chamberlain's Finance Business Partner. The due date of this action is the date when we will submit revised budget | Allan Cameron | 27-Aug-2024 | 31-Dec-2024 |
| review | | estimates for 2025/26. | Cameron | | |

| 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 |
|--|---|-----------------------|-------|--|----------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 24-Feb-2022 | 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. 27 Aug 2024 | Literbood | 6 | Accept | |

| Action no, Title, | Action description | Latest Note | | Latest Note Date | Due Date |
|----------------------|--|---|------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| | 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. | 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. | Allan Cameron | 27-Aug-2024 | 31-Dec-2024 |
| | 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 | 27-Aug-2024 | 31-Dec-2024 |
| change | 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 | 27-Aug-2024 | 31-Dec-2024 |