



**Troopers Hill Nature Reserve
Bristol City Council
Green Flag Award 2010/2011**

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	Management plan clearly laid out and integrated. Website user-friendly and very informative	No comments.
Health, Safety & Security	Various systems in place including community police officer and volunteer rangers as well as RA process for all users.	On site contact information?
Maintenance of equipment, buildings & landscape	City Council policies in place including assest management plan to prioritise works.	Clarify if this is now in-house or part contractor maintenance. Are there on site staff or is this shared with other parks.
Litter, cleanliness, vandalism	Clear policy on bins which is clearly constantly under review and feedback acted upon.	No comment

Environmental Sustainability	Herbicide used on knotweed. EMAS applies to much of management	How are other areas controlled ? Cut back by hand tools?
Conservation of heritage & nature	As previous report notes the site is most heavily influenced by its LNR status and presence of UKBAP habitats. Clear consideration given to management of all habitats. Ongoing photo record and on-line oral history record notable	Continue the information of wildlife and plants.
Community Involvement	Very active Friends group who have and active role in the creation and implementation of the management plan. Site actively used by other groups both local and city wide.	How active are the friends on site practical works?
Marketing Strategy	Good selection of leaflets covering key aspects of the site for different interest groups. Informative and up to date website with newsletter and user forum as well as publicly available links to management plan.	The methods of leaflet distribution. Surveys on user groups? What do users they want from troopers Hill? Does the diversity of the groups reflect the area?
Overall management	Clear and practical statements of intent. A strong partnership approach to site management shown. Compartmental approach to site management provides clear guidelines.	No comments.

Additional comments

Attractive well illustrated report and plan. A professional approach.

Field Assessment Feedback
Band score 55-59

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
A Welcoming Place	The entrance from Troopers Hill Road is much improved with a new kissing gate and many of the entrances have good signage and information boards.	<p>The information board at the Malvern Road entrance is particularly helpful as it also provides data on the Parks and Local Police personnel for emergencies and general contacts.</p> <p>Details about the active Friends Group and some special site events are also included. This would be excellent for all the entrances.</p>
Healthy, Safe and Secure	The co-operation between the Parks staff, the Manager based at Netham Park, the friends and the local police Force is preventing and reducing any anti-social problems to the advantage of all.	Improvements to the condition of the long and steep section of steps on the south - east corner of the NR is advisable when funding permits.
Clean and Well Maintained	The site is clean with almost minimal dog fouling or litter. Litter is also collected regularly.	<p>The continued efforts by the Parks Staff and the Friends group to educate the visitors to take their litter home is a positive move that should be encouraged. The regular presence of members of the Friends group and their effective formal and informal communications with the Community Park Keeper to deal with vandalism and litter incidents is clearly an effective system</p> <p>Some extra bins near the entrances or near seats are helpful, and especially near the Malvern Road entrance, as is planned</p>
Sustainability	Herbicides are used in a minimal way and only for the eradication of Japanese Knotweed infestations on a few limited areas, with this being spot	Litter and any material from the clearance work not re-usable on site is collected by the Parks Service and taken to a re-cycling sorting Depot

	<p>treatments, rather than overall spraying.</p> <p>Jamie mentioned right at the start that the mallow was sprayed on that bank by the entrance by the flag (Troopers Hill rd entrance?) though it was clearly very limited across the site.</p>	<p>as part of the city-wide service and policy.</p>
Conservation and Heritage	<p>Plant and fauna conservation is well covered by detailed surveys which are used as a working guide to the maintenance. Indeed conservation issues drive much of the work on the site</p>	<p>Extra interpretive data might be good beside the Chimney and the other industrial building which is due for re-instatement.</p> <p>The clearance of the site has allowed the Heather to re colonise areas and this needs to continue on the existing areas.</p>
Community Involvement	<p>The ‘friends are in some ways the ‘crown’ in the management of the site. They are a very positive, strong and hard working group of enthusiasts, always looking for areas of positive improvements and organisation of specific special events to increase the use and enjoyment of the Nature Reserve.</p>	<p>The group has regular work parties, a mailing list of 200+, a voice and presence on a city wide parks forum and access to methods of funding new or essential conservation projects.</p> <p>The consultations with users and local residents to feed into plans should be applauded and encouraged to continue.</p>
Marketing	<p>Well marketed by a range of interesting well designed leaflets covering different facets of the history and nature of the site.</p> <p>A vast and detailed web site is an excellent introduction to this unusual site.</p>	<p>The efforts of the ‘Friends in designing and running their web site and distributing newsletters and leaflets is to be recommended and praised, as are their innovative applications for national and government funds to further the work on site and the publicity materials.</p>
Management	<p>The careful management between the Bristol Parks Service and the Friends Group has achieved great results in reclaiming a very ravaged and post – industrial site back to its natural condition, even to the extent of the rare butterfly and moth populations.</p>	<p>Some work on clearance of trees and scrub is now almost at its limit in areas, otherwise the site could appear denuded and public and local support would be lost. The further work on site is now at a critical stage in decisions on how to balance work by encouraging the natural flora, not</p>

		<p>spoiling attractive views and not urbanising the site to become 'park-like'. As such, careful consideration regarding materials to be used in 'refurbishments' needs to be given. The balanced approach of the parks and friends to maintenance according to need rather than to a set and rigid programme seems to promise a very successful future for the on-going progress of troopers Hill.</p>
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Additional Comments

The Troopers Hill site can be difficult to find for the first time visitor, therefore it would be of great assistance if signs were located for directions to the Reserve on Crews Hole Road, the A431 and A420.