



**Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve
Bristol City Council
Green Flag Award 2007/2008**

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 75-79

Desk Assessment Feedback

Band score 20-24

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Presentation	The document is well set out and clear, containing all the essential elements required of a management plan.	Consideration could be given to a section that aligns the contents with the eight Green Flag criteria.
Health, Safety & Security	General H&S issues are covered adequately. H&S handbook for volunteers with agreement manages expectations and gives a clear indication that Bristol Parks values the involvement and safety of volunteers. Organised healthy lifestyle activities for the local community are available via health walks and 'green gym' style work parties.	Greater detail on the systems in place covering duty of care to the public and staff would be helpful, as would information on the processes in place for reporting, monitoring and responding to H&S issues / incidents, low level crime and potential fires.
Maintenance of equipment, buildings & landscape	Inspection and management schedules are documented.	

Litter, cleanliness, vandalism	It is pleasing to note the positive attitude displayed from regular visitors by their clearing up of litter.	Include evidence of policy regarding responsible dog ownership / dog fouling- particularly education. More detailed information is needed concerning routine maintenance schedules.
Environmental Sustainability	Long term investment in this area is paying dividends and there is clear evidence of real commitment to sustainability.	
Conservation of heritage & nature	It is particularly pleasing that the heritage value of this locally important site has been recognised and that clear political support exists for its conservation. Much thought has gone into ensuring that Troopers Hill is both preserved and developed and the support of the Friends group in ensuring that the site retains its unique identity should be applauded.	
Community Involvement	Community engagement is clearly one of the strengths of the management plan. The Parks Forum is a firm platform from which new initiatives can be discussed and launched. The post of Local Nature Reserve Officer [with the support of FOTH] appears crucial to the continuing success of involving the local community in the conservation, development, enjoyment and cultural heritage of Troopers Hill.	
Marketing Strategy	There is a well thought out and effective marketing strategy in place strongly supported by a partnership approach. An array of quality promotional methods are used to consult with and involve the public. Particular mention is made of the excellent FOTH web site.	Consider strongly site capacity in future developments and the suggested need for a 'brown' tourist sign over a more typical highway directional sign.
Overall management	Troopers Hill appears to be managed for people and nature involving people in the process. Management of the site is evidently highly effective and the future looks positive with the support of politicians, external agencies, FOTH and support officers within Bristol Parks.	

Additional comments

Troopers Hill management plan evidence suggests it is well deserving of a Green Flag Award

Field Assessment Feedback
 Band score 50-54

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
A Welcoming Place	Access points are open and inviting. Notice space at main entrance – regularly updated / replaced by FOTH.	Map of site at all access points clearly showing all access / exit points and any potential hazards. Consider site capacity in relation to new directional signage. Regular highway signs may be more appropriate than a brown tourist / destination sign.
Healthy, Safe and Secure	Health & Safety Handbook for volunteers plus appropriate H&S training for an appointed volunteer re work parties on site.	Cliff edge signs Risk assessment re hidden cliff edges with special regards to public, especially children / youths. Bramble acts as a good ‘safety barrier’ where there are hidden edges or drops. The judges felt that a notice where the path narrowed due to erosion / badger activity could have had at the very least a notice stating that the “path ahead narrows”, for example. This would have given warning to those unfamiliar with the site of the condition of the path until the situation is rectified.
Clean and Well Maintained	Regular visitors help with litter clearance.	Dedicated site ranger would be advantageous re regular site presence / point of contact and response works, for example prompt repair of benches Consider multi purpose bins ie for dog waste and litter if in the future pressure is exerted to increase the number of bins on site.
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EMAS registered plus action plan ▪ EARS in all departments ▪ CEDREC legislation database plus access to current index of environmental legislation. Shows clear evidence of real commitment to sustainability.	

	Arisings available to allotments for composting	
Conservation and Heritage	Active Friends group regularly meet to participate in vegetation management work parties.	The wildlife interest of the site is comprehensively covered so it would be nice to see more information and educational material / activities concentrating on geology and land use changes and social history of the area for example. Consider an information panel showing the old tar works where the new houses now stand and information / image at the old engine house showing what the complete chimney structure looked like.
Community Involvement	A variety of events and activities are organised by both the Friends and LNRO. Managing expectation of volunteers via a written Agreement between Bristol Parks and FOTH regarding all aspects of managing Troopers Hill. Wheelchair friendly path laid to view point.	Consider tactile trail / tactile maps, in particular where there are panoramic views.
Marketing	Marketing is covered by an array of quality publications. Excellent web site designed and managed by the Friends group with a comprehensive and diverse index of information / publications plus links to Bristol Parks web site.	Take advantage of the proximity of the river, tea shop, for example and links to nearby walking routes – inform would-be visitors of a ‘whole package’
Management	Site is successfully managed for flora, fauna and people via a 5 year work plan in partnership with a comprehensive list of stakeholders.	Investigate current best practice re Knotweed eradication.

Additional Comments

Troopers Hill LNR is recognised as a site of special interest – remnant heathland and a natural haven for children and adults. Support is solid and the lynchpin in safeguarding this green space for future generations. This support is also an important component in the application for Green Flag status.

