

Open Space Audit

Desk based assessment

Date and time of audit:

Time spent surveying:

Name of surveyor:

Site ID:

Site name:

Open space typology:

+3 Number indicates the increase or decrease in score. In some cases different increases are given depending on condition, in which case all options have been included.

Functionality scores are highlighted in yellow

Condition scores are highlighted in green

Designations

National

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| ☐ Listed building | ☐ +3 |
| ☐ Scheduled Monument | ☐ +3 |
| ☐ SSSI | ☐ +3 |
| ☐ Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens | ☐ +3 |

Regional

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| ☐ Site of Importance for Nature Conservation/Local Wildlife Site | ☐ +2 |
| ☐ Biodiversity Opportunity Areas | ☐ +2 |
| ☐ B-Line | ☐ +2 |

Access

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| ☐ Public right of way | ☐ +3 |
| ☐ Sustrans Routes | ☐ +3 |

Local – Statutory

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| ☐ Conservation Area | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Local Nature Reserve | ☐ +1 |

Other

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| ☐ Within a Flood Risk Zone | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Has the site achieved a Green Flag Award? | ☐ +3 |
| ☐ Has the site achieved a Green Flag Community Award? | ☐ +3 |
| ☐ Has the site achieved a Green Heritage Award? | ☐ +3 |
| ☐ Contain Priority Habitat? | ☐ +1 |

Survey site access (e.g. access to whole site/ access to part of site/ no access to site):

Is the site still an open space? If not, please describe below:

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(To be completed by auditors)



1. Welcoming place

Site access:

Please tick which option applies from the following list:

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| ☐ Freely accessible to public | ☐ +5 | ☐ Restricted access: members/tenants only | ☐ +3 |
| ☐ Freely accessible to public: opening hours | ☐ +4 | ☐ Restricted access: other (please state) | ☐ +2 |
| ☐ Freely accessible to public: de-facto access | ☐ +1 | ☐ No Public access | ☐ 0 |

Are there any areas which are fenced from public access? ☐

Comment:

Please score each of the following - use the guidance note to help where necessary:

- | | |
|---|---|
| To what extent are the entrances well presented? | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |
| To what extent are the boundaries well defined and maintained? | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |
| What is the overall quality of access and accesses within and through the open space? | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |
| What is the overall quality of access and accesses for people travelling to open space? | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |
| What is the overall provision of signage? | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |

2. Health, safety and security

Play provision:

(This will be repeated on each individual play area within each site (where there is more than one. The scores will feed into the overall scores for the site but can also be extracted to assess play provision across the study area).

Is there play equipment on site (including natural play)?

What play activities are provided for?

Tick those which apply.

- | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ☐ How many separate items of equipment? | ☐ Not scored | ☐ Balancing | ☐ +1 | ☐ Loose parts | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Is it for under 5 years? | ☐ +1 | ☐ Rocking | ☐ +1 | ☐ Touching | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ 5-11 years? | ☐ +1 | ☐ Rotating | ☐ +1 | ☐ Viewing | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Over 11 years? | ☐ +1 | ☐ Sliding | ☐ +1 | ☐ Noise making | ☐ +1 |
| | | ☐ Swinging | ☐ +1 | ☐ Counting | ☐ +1 |
| | | ☐ Jumping | ☐ +1 | ☐ Waterplay | ☐ +1 |
| | | ☐ Climbing / agility | ☐ +1 | ☐ Social play | ☐ +1 |
| | | ☐ Crawling / hiding | ☐ +1 | | |

Is there impact absorbing surfacing around the equipment? ☐ +1

Are there benches within enclosure/adjacent to equipment? ☐ +1

Are there litterbins within enclosure/adjacent to equipment? ☐ +1

Is there a play area notice at the entrance stating dog free, children only and emergency contacts? ☐ +1

Overall condition of play equipment? ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5

Play facilities appropriately located? ☐ +1 or +2 or +3

Play facilities designed for the site / integrated into the landscape? ☐ +1 or +2 or +3

Inclusive play – access? ☐ 0 or +1 or +2 or +3

Inclusive play - equipment and wider play offer? ☐ 0 or +1 or +2 or +3

Areas to retreat and observe? ☐ 0 or +1 or +2 or +3

Challenging / exciting play offer? ☐ 0 or +1 or +2 or +3

Imaginative play offer? ☐ 0 or +1 or +2 or +3

Encouraging teenage play through good design? Including young women and girls ☐ 0 or +1 or +2 or +3

Encourages natural play? ☐ 0 or +1 or +2 or +3

Is there other provision for play on site?

Please tick and score the quality of those that are on site - use the guidance note to help where necessary.

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- | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| ☐ Trim trail / obstacle courses | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 | ☐ BMX track | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |
| ☐ Wheels / skate park | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 | ☐ Gym | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |
| ☐ Multi Use Games Area | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 | ☐ Other | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |

Please state if other:

Informal recreation provision and amenities:

Is there evidence the green space is being used for informal recreation? Please tick those which apply.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| ☐ Walking | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Dog walking | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Informal children's play (not play equipment) | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Young people hanging out | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Sitting/ relaxing | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Desire lines (unplanned worn routes) | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Skateboarding (not formal skate park) | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Cycling (not formal BMX track) | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Food growing | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Other | ☐ +1 |

Please state if other:

Overall provision for informal recreation? ☐ +1+2+3

What is the condition of basic amenities?

Please tick and score those that are on site - use the guidance note to help where necessary.

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------|---|
| ☐ Toilets | ☐ +3 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 | ☐ Seating | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |
| ☐ Cafe | ☐ +3 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 | ☐ Personal rescue equipment | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |
| ☐ Litter +/- dog bin | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 | ☐ Cycle parking | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |
| ☐ Other | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 | | | |

Please state if other:

Community safety/sense of security:

Please tick those which apply.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| ☐ Is there natural surveillance into the site from surrounding properties? | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Do the approaches feel open and secure? | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Is there a flow of people through the green space (to achieve self-surveillance)? | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Is lighting provided? | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Is there CCTV? | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Is there connection to other green spaces by active travel routes (walking/cycling)? | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Is dog fouling evident onsite? | ☐ -1 |

Active recreation/ sport provision:

Please tick those which apply.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| ☐ Grass pitches | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |
| ☐ Artificial pitches (e.g. Astro turf) | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |
| ☐ Tennis courts | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |
| ☐ Walking/ jogging | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |
| ☐ Water activities (other than play areas) | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |
| ☐ Bowls | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |
| ☐ Other | ☐ +1 | ☐ +1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5 |

Please state

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3. Clean and well maintained

Please score each category - use the guidance note to help where necessary.

Is graffiti evident?	☐	-1
Is vandalism evident?	☐	-1
Overall cleanliness?	☐	+1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5
Overall condition of planted areas	☐	+1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5
Overall condition of grass areas	☐	+1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5
Overall condition of footpaths	☐	+1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5
Quality of water and associated edge treatment	☐	+1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5
Are there any buildings or other built features on site? Tick if yes and please list these:	☐	Not scored
Please note their overall condition:	☐	+1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5

Allotments:

Estimated number of plots in use. Please tick which applies.

0 – 25%	☐	+1
26 – 50%	☐	+2
51 – 75%	☐	+3
76 – 100%	☐	+4

Estimated total number of plots:

.....

Overall condition of allotment site:

☐	+1 or +2 or +3 or +4 or +5
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4. Sustainability

Is there evidence of sustainable management practices? Please refer to the guidance note for examples of what is included.	☐	+1
Does the site contain SuDS/Swales?	☐	+1

Does the green space provide features such as tree planting, shrubs and/ or hedgerows which provide a buffer for/ absorb noise or air pollution from:

☐ Nearby traffic	☐	+1
☐ Nearby industry	☐	+1
☐ Other	☐	+1
Is there evidence of tree/ woodland management?	☐	+1

5. Nature conservation and heritage

Is there an indication that natural features are being managed for nature conservation? Tick if yes - refer to guidance note to help if necessary.	☐	+1
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Vegetation cover/ type – please refer to guidance note to help.

Total number of types:	1 or 2 types	☐	+1	3 – 5 types	☐	+2	Over 5 types	☐	+3
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☐ Wildflower areas	☐	☐ Woodland/ group of trees	☐
☐ Amenity grassland (i.e. grass cut regularly)	☐	☐ Newly planted trees	☐
☐ Semi-natural grassland (e.g. grass left to grow with pathways cut through)	☐	☐ Edible planting (e.g. herbs, community garden, micro allotment, growing space)	☐
☐ Shrubs	☐	☐ Scattered trees	☐
☐ Hedges	☐	☐ Veteran or significant individual trees	☐
☐ Formal/ annual bedding	☐	☐ Orchard	☐
☐ Ornamental planting (herbaceous or mixed flowering planted areas)	☐	☐ Scrub	☐
☐ River, stream or canal	☐	☐ Other vegetation type	☐
☐ Pond/ lake	☐		
☐ Marginal vegetation	☐	Please state:	
☐ Ditch	☐	Built heritage feature	
		Please state:	

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Are invasive species present, such as Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed? ☐ -1

Please tick if yes to each question below:

Does the green space contribute to the setting of the immediate local area (important in local views etc.) ☐ +1

Does the green space form part of a wider network of green spaces and corridors (i.e. is it connected to other sites via pedestrian/ cycle routes or green corridors)? ☐ +1

Is the open space visually attractive? ☐ +1

What threats/ disturbances/ issues are affecting the attractiveness of the site? Tick those which apply.

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| ☐ Noise pollution | ☐ -1 | ☐ Motorcycle scrambling and mini-bikes | ☐ -1 |
| ☐ Air and water pollution | ☐ -1 | ☐ Fly tipping | ☐ -1 |
| ☐ Intrusive buildings | ☐ -1 | ☐ Flooding | ☐ -1 |
| ☐ Erosion | ☐ -1 | ☐ Excessive lighting | ☐ -1 |
| ☐ Lack of landscape management/ maintenance (e.g. litter, overgrown, poor quality paths/ signage etc.) | ☐ -1 | ☐ Dog fouling | ☐ -1 |
| | | ☐ Evidence of anti-social behaviour | ☐ -1 |
| | | ☐ Invasive species (e.g. Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, giant hogweed etc.) | ☐ -1 |
| ☐ Other | ☐ -1 | | |

Please state:

6. Community involvement

Please tick if yes to each question below:

Is there any evidence of an active community group? Please refer to guidance note for examples of evidence. ☐ +3

Is there a permanent public noticeboard on site? ☐ +1

If so, are up to date notices displayed? ☐ +1

Are there any temporary notices on site informing users about current developments? ☐ +1

If so, are they up to date? ☐ +1

Does the site offer educational interest (e.g. nature conservation interest or local historic significance)? ☐ +1

Is there a built facility on site which is being used by the local community for education? ☐ +1

Is there evidence that a natural feature on site is being used by the local community for education? ☐ +1

7. Marketing and culture: community, leisure and culture facilities

Are any of the following social and cultural facilities located on or adjacent to green space? Tick those which apply.

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ☐ Community centre | ☐ +1 | ☐ Local shops | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Youth centre | ☐ +1 | ☐ Sports changing rooms | ☐ +1 |
| ☐ Arts or cultural venue | ☐ +1 | ☐ Indoor sport hall/ leisure centre | ☐ +1 |
| | | ☐ Other social facility/ business facility | ☐ +1 |

Please tick if yes to each question below:

Is there a dedicated outdoor performance area within the green space? ☐ +1

Does the green space contain public art? ☐ +1

Is there a school immediately adjacent to the green space? ☐ +1

Does the green space feature any recognisable landmark features of local importance? ☐ +1

Is there a programme of cultural or other community activities? ☐ +1

8. Potential themes for enhancement (not scored)

Please indicate which of the following benefits/ services should be prioritised for future management or enhancement. Please tick as many boxes as relevant and refer to guidance note for help if necessary.

Note: this question goes on to the next page.

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Access

- ☐ Better links to active travel routes
- ☐ Better links to natural green corridors
- ☐ Better links to other nearby open space
- ☐ Improve paths
- ☐ More paths
- ☐ Separate walking and cycling paths

Comments: access enhancements (text box)

Natural habitats/ biodiversity

- ☐ Trees
- ☐ Wildflowers / grassland
- ☐ Hedgerows
- ☐ Wetland / ponds
- ☐ Ornamental / other wildlife planting

Comments: natural habitats/ biodiversity enhancements (text box)

Character setting

- ☐ Improved signage and interpretation
- ☐ Benches to take advantage of views
- ☐ Access improvements
- ☐ Recreational facilities
- ☐ Natural features
- ☐ Vegetation management

Comments: character setting enhancements (text box)

Educational interest

- ☐ For habitats
- ☐ For species
- ☐ For heritage features
- ☐ Other, please state:

Comments: educational enhancements (text box)

Flood mitigation

- ☐ Habitat attenuation (e.g. seasonal wetlands)
- ☐ SuDS/ swales
- ☐ Re-naturalise / enhance watercourse

Comments: flood mitigation (text box)

Children's play

- ☐ For infants
- ☐ For juniors
- ☐ For teenagers
- ☐ Natural play
- ☐ Outdoor gym
- ☐ Multi Use Games Area
- ☐ Skate park

Comments: children's play enhancements (text box)

Sports / other organised activities

- ☐ Grass pitches
- ☐ Artificial pitches
- ☐ Other, please state

Comments: sports enhancements (text box)

Informal recreation

- ☐ Walking
- ☐ Dog walking
- ☐ Relaxation / seating areas
- ☐ Other, please state

Comments: informal recreation enhancements (text box)

Amenity / facilities

- ☐ Benches
- ☐ Bins
- ☐ Gates
- ☐ Entrances
- ☐ Pathways
- ☐ Toilets
- ☐ Café / kiosk

Comments: amenity / facilities enhancements (text box)

Productive landscape

- ☐ Allotments/mini allotments
- ☐ Community gardens
- ☐ Edible planters
- ☐ Orchard trees

Comments: productive landscape (text box)

Built heritage

- ☐ War memorials
- ☐ Bridges
- ☐ Buildings
- ☐ Statues
- ☐ Other, please state

Comments: built heritage enhancements (text box)

Safety / sense of security

- ☐ Natural surveillance
- ☐ Approaches
- ☐ Self-surveillance
- ☐ Lighting
- ☐ CCTV
- ☐ Connection to other active travel routes
- ☐ Dog fouling
- ☐ Other, please state

Comments: safety/security enhancements (text box)

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