Parks & Green Spaces Strategy Typology Quality Assessment Advisory Note

Typology: - Natural Green Space

Date ..... Assessed by .....

Version 6

Name of Park/Green Space \_

Natural green spaces are generally areas which are managed specifically with nature conservation and habitat management in mind, although public enjoyment of these areas and the wildlife in them, along with the learning experiences that this can bring, should also be an important aspect of the management of these areas. This can include volunteering opportunities as appropriate to the site. Typical examples of commonly found urban natural green spaces can include woodland, wetland and meadow habitats. Some of these sites may have specific designations eg Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) or Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) whilst others may be designated as Local Nature Reserves, but this may not always be the case.

Do not score individual questions. Simply tick each as poor, fair, good etc. Then enter a maximum of 10 points for each of provision, condition and maintenance based on the following: -

	Very Poor	F	Poor		Fa	ir	Good	Very good	Excellent	Exceptional	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		1	10

Issues to consider when making the assessment: -

	Provision (the user experience & quality of facilities)							
		Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Exceptional
1	are the entrances appropriate in regard to the context of the site?							
2	Does the site include one or more of the following habitats: - woodland, grassland, scrub, hedgerows and wetland?							
3	Does current recreational use of the site reflect the ecological fragility, size, location, topography and demand?							
4	user experience of the site, does it have the 'feel' of an area rich in wildlife (e.g. birdsong, ancient trees, wildflowers)?							
5	Is the boundary suitable for the site (e.g. informal style fencing, trees or hedge)?							
6	Are any hedges, shrubs, trees etc suitable for the location (generally native or wildlife-friendly species)?							

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Exceptional	
Overall Score for Provision (1-10)	1	2 3	4 5 6	5 7	,	3 9		10
site?								
but not detracting from the 'natural' feel of the								
10 Is any site furniture appropriate for public use								
9 Is the area clearly signposted and are there notice boards and other relevant information (eg species, management, access etc) in appropriate locations?								
bridleways, cycle routes etc.) avoid disturbance to sensitive habitats?								
<ul> <li><sup>7</sup> access to all users (including wheelchair users on the main accesses, as far as topology allows), whilst still of a design and materials that are in keeping with the informal nature of natural green space?</li> <li>8 Does the access network (footpaths,</li> </ul>								

Condition (cyclical maintenance) ie the standard of										
of items	Very Poor		Poor		Fair		Good	Very good	Excellent	Exceptional
with the designation as a nature conservation										
area?										
Does the area including entrances look										
attractive and well-managed or dingy and										
unattractive?										
Is there potential for species or habitat										
enhancement schemes?										
Is appropriate cyclical habitat management										
being carried out (e.g. scrub removal,										
coppicing, hedgelaying) as appropriate to the										
habitat types?										
Are the fences, barriers and gates in a safe and										
sound condition (if applicable) and any										
missing/rotten timbers/materials replaced?										
Is any hedging dense & healthy or is it gappy										
and in poor health (opportunities may present										
themselves for hedgerow management i.e.										
hedgelaying or coppicing to rejuvenate 'rural'										
style hedges)?										
Is woodland (if present) managed in such a way										
as to encourage species diversity including										
ground flora (eg selective thinning, coppicing,										
retention of dead wood, shrub layer										
management for diversity)?										
Are paths free of potholes, puddles and trip										
hazards and are loose materials on paths (eg										
stone, wood chip) topped up regularly or is the										
clearly readable, and site furniture safe, secure									1	1
and in a good and usable condition, or are there										
slats missing from benches, graffiti or dirty										
bins?										
Overall score for Condition (1-10)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	3 9	) 1
	Very Poor		Poor		Fair		Good	Very good	Excellent	Exceptional

Maintenance (how well-managed is the area in							
terms of regular maintenance?)	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Exceptional
Is the site free from dog fouling, glass, litter and fly tipping?							
Is the area well-maintained in relation to its status as a wildlife habitat, balanced against good public access and user-experience?							
Is the grass cut appropriately to the maintenance regime including grass paths							
Is any appropriate regular habitat management including scrub management and hay/silage cut carried out in the appropriate season and to the full extent?							
Are any built structures maintained in accordance with the grounds maintenance specification, and in a way that is optimum for managed habitats and to be appreciated by users?							
Do trees appear to be well managed with pruning operations carried out in accordance with the Arboricultural contract specification, and are young trees watered and staked with the stakes checked and ties loosened?							
Are hedges maintained in keeping with the site's status as a nature conservation area?							

	Overall score for maintenance (1-10)	1 Very Poor	2	3 Poor	4	5 Fair	6	7 Good	8 Very good	9 Excellent	Exceptional	10
10	Are bins being emptied regularly, or are they full or overflowing and are benches and any other furniture being regularly maintained (ie preservative application, cleaning)?											
	painted? Are notice boards and user-information clean of dirt and graffiti and is information shown up to date and relevant, including any events or 'Friends Group' or other conservation group that is actively involved in the management of											
8	Have any fences or barriers been regularly											