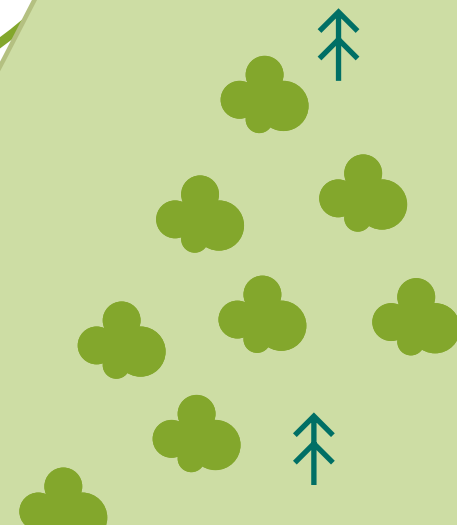


What is a
Green Heritage Site?



74



What is a Green Heritage Site?

Green Heritage Site status is a new development under the umbrella of the Green Flag Award scheme, the national standard for quality parks and green spaces. Any site that is applying for a Green Flag Award can also apply to be a Green Heritage Site.

Green Heritage Site status is sponsored by English Heritage and promotes the value of, and best practice in, the care and upkeep of parks and green spaces in England that are of local or national historic interest. Sites do not have to be on the English Heritage *Register of Historic Parks and Gardens*, but must be at least 30 years old.

Why Apply?

Green spaces are part of the heritage and culture of local people and communities. Many have a historic value centred on the landscape, trees, plant collections, bandstands, fountains, listed buildings, monuments and archaeological remains or other features of historical importance. This fabric needs active conservation and careful maintenance to ensure that it can continue to meet people's needs today while preserving its historical and cultural importance.

Applying to be a Green Heritage Site shows that you are aware of, and understand, the contribution the past makes to the present-day use of the park, and that you are aware of how much the historic environment is valued by the community. Historic open spaces provide continuity and familiarity, a focus for community events, a resource for learning and engender civic pride.

Receiving Green Heritage Site status is an excellent way to help generate community interest in your site's heritage and to show that the site has a long-term future. Well-maintained sites contribute greatly to the value of a neighbourhood, providing attractive areas that encourage inward investment, business retention, employment opportunities and an increase in tourism. Restoration of poorly maintained sites can provide a focus for regeneration.

What are the entry criteria?

Any green space that is being entered for a Green Flag Award can be considered for Green Heritage Site status, but a site must first pass the judging criteria for the Green Flag Award and must have a Conservation or Restoration Plan. This should be, or be combined with, a working document in managing the heritage aspects of the site and is likely to be based on a research programme that identifies, describes, analyses and records the site's social and landscape design origins and evolution.



Green Heritage Site

What type of 'green heritage' is eligible?

Your site does not have to be on English Heritage's *Register*. Your application will be judged on the treatment of the site's historic features and the standard of conservation within it. For instance:

- Did a landscape designer create the original design for your site?
Is this original design appreciated and enhanced in the way the site is now managed?
Have you re-instated any plants or features that were removed?
Have you adapted the original design to meet today's needs? If so, why and how?
- Are there any historic features in the site, such as ornate railings, a war memorial, a fountain, a bandstand, topiary, specimen trees, a palm house perhaps, or listed buildings? How do you care for these features? Are they explained to visitors through signs or other information?
- When planning or choosing new features or facilities for your site, how do you ensure that they enhance its historic landscape or design, rather than detract from it?
- Have you ever sought the advice of a professional landscape designer or historian, or an architect, when making changes to your site or the features within it?

Where to go for further help

You may not already have all the entry criteria in place. If not, and you would like some guidance to help you get it right and give yourself the best chance of becoming a Green Heritage Site, the sources listed below will be able to advise you:

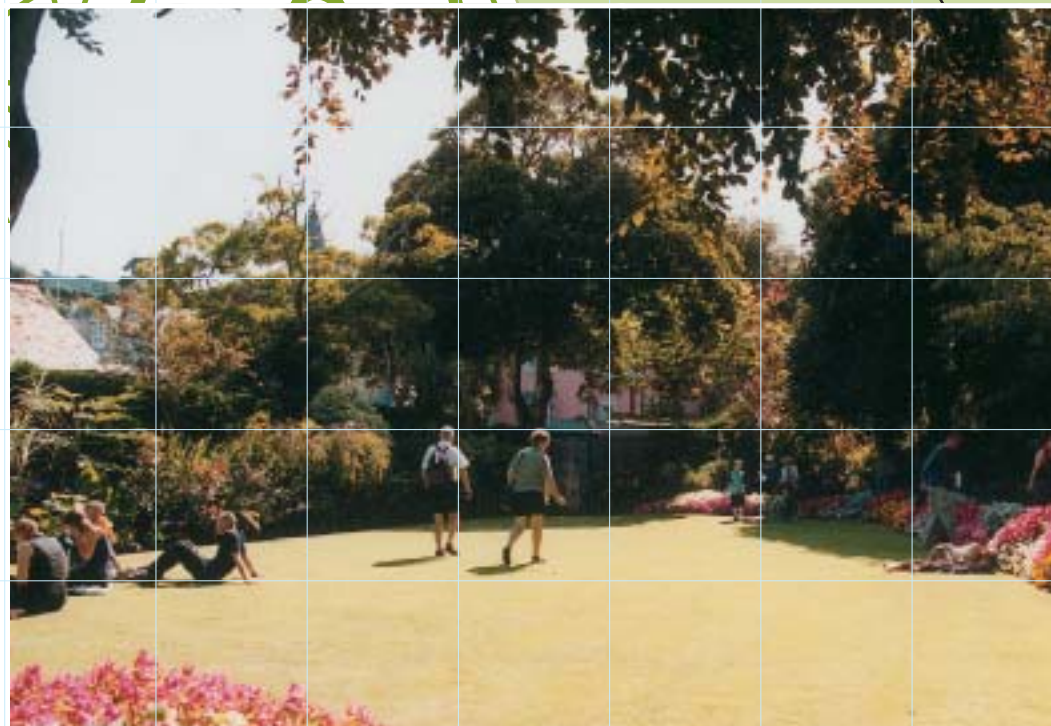
- Historic Gardens Foundation - www.historicgardens.freemove.co.uk. This website contains a useful article by John Sales entitled 'Conserving Historic Gardens' with advice on drawing up a Conservation Plan.
- Garden History Society - www.gardenhistorysociety.org
- Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings - www.spab.org.uk
- English Heritage - www.english-heritage.org.uk (English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund provide briefs for what should go in a plan; also see Mary Lockwood 'Study Methods' in Jan Woudstra and Ken Fieldhouse *The Regeneration of Public Parks* (2000))

Still interested in applying?

Entry for both the Green Flag Award and Green Heritage Site status is on the same application form (available from the Civic Trust's Liverpool office) - section 8 is the specific part for Green Heritage. You should complete the whole of the application form and send it to the address stated on the back enclosing the following:

- all the papers required for your Green Flag Award application
- a copy of your Conservation Plan
- evidence of how the site is promoted in terms of heritage
- a statement of no more than 250 words indicating why the site is special in terms of national or local historic importance

Green Heritage Site status is awarded annually, and is made to the site not to the group that manages it. For your site to retain its Green Heritage status, you will need to reapply annually. Applications must be made by the organisation that manages the land. Community groups and individuals can, however, encourage their local park managers and others to enter sites within their control.



What the judges will be looking for in your site:

There will first be an assessment of the presentation and content of your Conservation Plan and other documents supplied to back up your application to be a Green Heritage Site. As your site must also meet the Green Flag Award criteria, judges will then carry out a visit to assess your site for both Green Flag and Green Heritage status.

If your site is judged to meet both sets of criteria it will receive a Green Flag Award and will become a Green Heritage Site. To ensure that you stand the best chance of achieving Green Heritage status, you may like to consider what the judges will be looking for.

Judges score each site against a detailed checklist based on the following criteria. Any site that achieves a high enough score will become a Green Heritage Site.



1

Conservation and restoration standards

Are repairs and maintenance carried out to appropriate conservation standards?

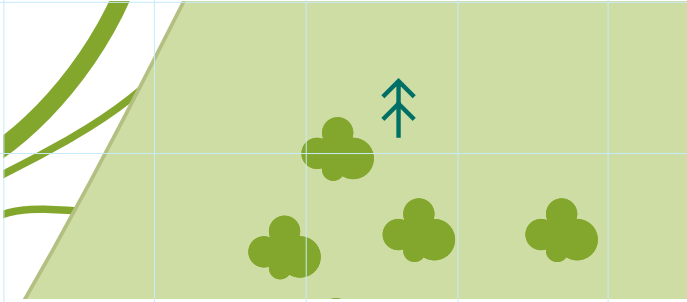
Are the right materials used in the right way to conserve historic character?

Have there been restorations or re-creations of valued historic features?

For further guidance see:

- The 1964 ICOMOS Venice Charter (www.icomos.org)
Christopher Brereton *The Repair of Historic Buildings*:
- *Advice on Principles and Methods* published by English Heritage
- Kate Clark *Informed Conservation* published by English Heritage





2

Maintaining historic character

Do the landscape's original layout and views still exist, or have they been changed or lost?

Do the style and standard of horticultural displays harmonize with the site's historic character?

Are efforts made to provide for continuity in historic collections of trees and shrubs, and to retain or replace ornamental detailing on historic buildings and other infrastructure?

Do new and replacement features conserve or enhance the site's historic character?



PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER WILLIAMS, ENGLISH HERITAGE



PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER WILLIAMS, ENGLISH HERITAGE



3

Unique features

Are unique historic features given extra care and prominence, for example by drawing particular attention to them by the way they are maintained and presented?
Is there evidence of pride in having these assets?

4

Information

Is there sufficient information to enable people to understand, appreciate and enjoy the site's heritage value?

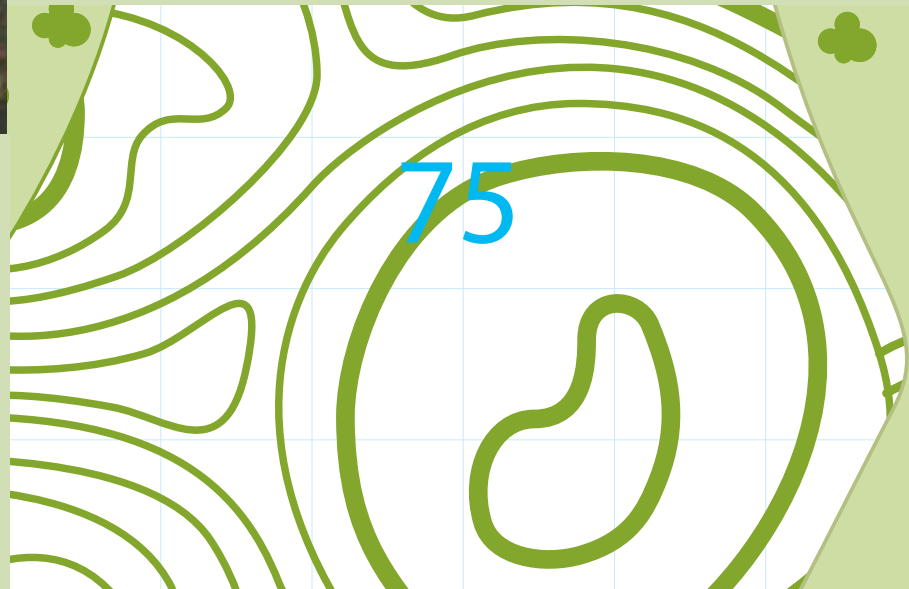
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Use and enjoyment

Are the historic features intact and in use?
Are memorials used as centres for cultural activities?
Is there clear evidence that the public enjoys the site's historic features?
For example, is there a bandstand and does it have a programme of music and other entertainment?
Are historic leisure facilities such as sports pavilions and refreshment huts maintained in a usable condition?

The ultimate test of whether a site should become a Green Heritage Site will depend on how well its heritage value has been conserved or enhanced, and how much people understand and enjoy its historic character, appearance and features.

75



Green Heritage Site



For more information see the website:
www.civictrust.org.uk or contact:

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Green Heritage Site is part of the Green Flag Award Scheme



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