

Condition Assessments: How?



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The skills and understanding needed for carrying out Condition Assessments are vital for anyone working with or responsible for a historic designed landscape, but Condition Assessments for use by Historic England and others are a specialist task most appropriately undertaken by professionals. The Landscape Partnership Scheme has hired X to undertake condition surveys of 10 landscapes, but this is a big task so they would value assistance from you as volunteers.

The process HE require is complex and daunting! We've done a simplified form for you which should be manageable, and we'll run through this in a minute, but first of all let's run through the HE process so we can be aware of what the professionals will be dealing with.

As you can see from Chris Laine's face (HE Landscape Architect), it's daunting.

Condition

Consider each of these features and elements where present

CONDITION – SURVIVAL/DEVELOPMENT (Consider the following separately; effects of built development directly on the registered area, within the setting, and on views and vistas within, to and from the site)		
Optimal (good)	Intact and complete; the integrity of overall design remains	1
Generally satisfactory (fair)	Some features lost, influence of sympathetic development, development outside the registered area, change in views	2
	Significant impact on setting	3
Generally unsatisfactory (poor)	Loss of significant features, harm to setting, views and vistas	4
	Catastrophic harm from development, loss and fragmentation	5
Extensive problems (very bad)	Loss of significant features, harm to setting, views and vistas	6
	Catastrophic harm from development, loss and fragmentation	7
Extensive problems (very bad)	Loss of significant features, harm to setting, views and vistas	8
	Catastrophic harm from development, loss and fragmentation	9
Extensive problems (very bad)	Loss of significant features, harm to setting, views and vistas	10
	Catastrophic harm from development, loss and fragmentation	10

CONDITION – COMPONENT HERITAGE FEATURES & ELEMENTS		
Optimal (good)	No heritage features or elements in poor condition or at risk	1
Generally satisfactory (fair)	Some features or elements (minor or undesignated) in poor condition or at risk	2
	Some features or elements vulnerable	3
Generally unsatisfactory (poor)	Features and elements in poor condition or at risk, but not detrimental to significance	4
	Multiple key features and elements in poor condition or at risk	5
Extensive problems (very bad)	Features and elements in poor condition or at risk, but not detrimental to significance	6
	Multiple key features and elements in poor condition or at risk	7
Extensive problems (very bad)	Features and elements in poor condition or at risk, but not detrimental to significance	8
	Multiple key features and elements in poor condition or at risk	9
Extensive problems (very bad)	Features and elements in poor condition or at risk, but not detrimental to significance	10
	Multiple key features and elements in poor condition or at risk	10

SECTION TWO – OVERALL CONDITION		
Optimal (good)		1
Generally satisfactory (fair)		2
		3
Generally unsatisfactory (poor)		4
		5
Extensive problems (very bad)		6
		7
Extensive problems (very bad)		8
		9
Extensive problems (very bad)		10
		10

CONDITION – NEGLECT		
Optimal (good)	No signs of neglect	1
Generally satisfactory (fair)	Some neglect of difficult to manage features, or inappropriate conservation approach	2
	General lack of management	3
Generally unsatisfactory (poor)	General lack of management	4
	Features and core elements neglected to point of near loss	5
Extensive problems (very bad)	Features and core elements neglected to point of near loss	6
	Universal neglect seriously harming significance	7
Extensive problems (very bad)	Features and core elements neglected to point of near loss	8
	Universal neglect seriously harming significance	9
Extensive problems (very bad)	Features and core elements neglected to point of near loss	10
	Universal neglect seriously harming significance	10

PARKS AND GARDENS HERITAGE AT RISK SITE ASSESSMENT v.4 1st SEPTEMBER 2017 Page 2 of 4

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Page 2 starts to get complicated. The form is based on a sliding scale that they use to help with a scoring system.
 Page 2 looks at Condition.

First of all it considers: **CONDITION – SURVIVAL/DEVELOPMENT**

- You have to consider the effects of built development on each of the following: directly on the registered area, within the setting, and on views and vistas within, to and from the site.
- You have to judge the condition as: Optimal (good) or Generally satisfactory (fair) or Generally unsatisfactory (poor) or Extensive problems (very bad)
- This sliding scale takes you from:
 - Intact and complete; the integrity of overall design remains [i.e. it is still pretty recognisable as the landscape originally designed], to...
 - Some features lost, influence of sympathetic development, development outside the registered area, change in views [i.e. it is still pretty recognisable as the landscape originally designed but there are some bits sadly lost, and some bits sadly added], to...
 - Significant impact on setting [i.e. the setting (views, atmosphere etc) have been significantly changed by negative development so the site itself may look the same

but its context is damaged], to...

- Loss of significant features, harm to setting, views and vistas [i.e. some important features have been lost as well as the setting has been damaged so the landscape is looking pretty sad], to...
- Catastrophic harm from development, loss and fragmentation [i.e. the landscape is really very damaged by development, features having been lost, and it having been fragmented perhaps by being split into different owners and/or uses]

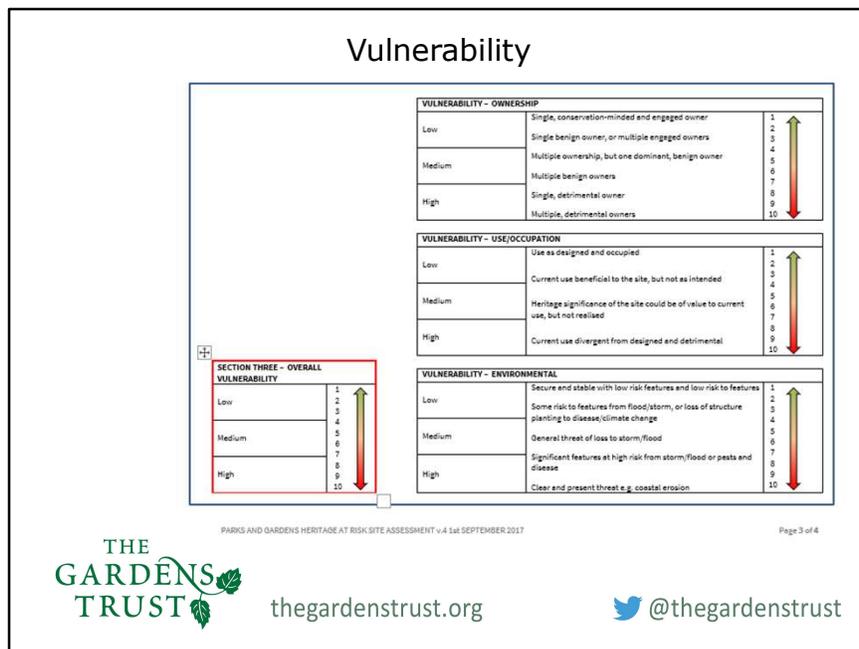
Then it considers CONDITION – COMPONENT HERITAGE FEATURES & ELEMENTS

- You have to look at a range of individual landscape features (from avenues to terraces).
- Again, you judge the condition, with the sliding scale taking you from:
 - No heritage features or elements in poor condition or at risk, to...
 - Some features or elements (minor or undesignated) in poor condition or at risk [i.e. some of the less important features are in poor condition or at risk of deteriorating], to...
 - Some features or elements vulnerable [i.e. some of the features may be in danger of being lost or deteriorating], to...
 - Features and elements in poor condition or at risk, but not detrimental to significance [i.e. some of the features are in poor condition or look likely to become so, but this is not crucial to what's really important about the site], to...
 - Multiple key features and elements in poor condition or at risk [i.e. many of the site's most important features are in poor condition or look likely to become so]

Then it considers CONDITION – NEGLECT

Again, you judge the condition, with the sliding scale taking you from:

- No signs of neglect [hurray!], to...
- Some neglect of difficult-to-manage features, or inappropriate conservation approach [i.e. some of the trickier features (i.e. sensitive plantings or fiddly buildings) are neglected, or looked after inappropriately (e.g. with the wrong type of render for repairs), to...
- General lack of management [oh dear!], to...
- Features and core elements neglected to point of near loss [historic landscapes are very fragile – we all know from our own gardens that it doesn't take many years of neglect to lose a garden entirely], to...
- Universal neglect seriously harming significance [pretty catastrophic neglect to the point where the landscape is very hard to appreciate or understand]



Page 3 looks at Vulnerability

First of all it considers: **VULNERABILITY – OWNERSHIP**

- You have to judge the vulnerability as: Low, Medium or High
- This sliding scale takes you from:
 - Single, conservation-minded and engaged owner, to...
 - Single benign owner, or multiple engaged owners [multiple owners can be tricky, but not if they are working together], to...
 - Multiple ownership, but one dominant, benign owner, to...
 - Multiple benign owners, to...
 - Single, detrimental owner, to...
 - Multiple, detrimental owners [when a landscape is split into different ownerships and they all do the wrong thing it can end up being destroyed in a multitude of different ways, which is obviously harder to resolve than just one error!]

Then it considers: **VULNERABILITY – USE/OCCUPATION**

- This sliding scale takes you from:
 - Use as designed and occupied [ideal to find a landscape used as it was designed, e.g. a C18 estate still used as a single working family home, or a public park still used

as such], to...

- Current use beneficial to the site, but not as intended [so perhaps a C18 estate is now used as a school], to...
- Heritage significance of the site could be of value to current use, but not realised [e.g. an C18 landscape was managed primarily for livestock but it is now used as an eco-spa who let scrubland takeover but then buy in their beef dinners], to...
- Current use divergent from designed and detrimental [e.g. medieval monastic landscape now used for military training ground]

Then it considers: VULNERABILITY – ENVIRONMENTAL

- This sliding scale takes you from:
 - Secure and stable with low risk features and low risk to features [e.g. a simple landscape with trees and meadows that can adjust to climate change], to...
 - Some risk to features from flood/storm, or loss of structure planting to disease/climate change [eg an area low-lying ornamental garden next to a river that could get flooded, plus a box parterre], to...
 - General threat of loss to storm/flood {e.g. the whole garden is next to a river}, to...
 - Significant features at high risk from storm/flood or pests and disease [e.g. the landscape's key features regularly get battered by floods and/or are a particular type of tree species with a disease spreading nearby], to...
 - Clear and present threat e.g. coastal erosion [e.g. garden is on edge of a cliff!]

Management and Trend

SECTION FOUR – OVERALL MANAGEMENT		
Active	1	↑ ↓
	2	
	3	
	4	
Benign	5	
	6	
	7	
	8	
	9	
Detrimental	10	

MANAGEMENT – PLAN (a Conservation Management Plan or others plans known or apparent)		
Active	Is a Conservation Management Plan in place and being implemented?	1
		2
		3
	Is there a plan in place but little or no evidence of implementation?	4
Benign		5
		6
	A management plan is not present, but some policies/framework are informing management	7
		8
Detrimental	No plan and/or divergent management policies	10

SECTION FIVE – TREND		
↑ ↓	Rapid	↑ ↓
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	Improving	1
		2
		3
	Stable	4
		5
		6
	Unknown	7
		8
		9
	Declining	10
		Rapid
	Slow	

MANAGEMENT – ACTION/MAINTENANCE		
Active	Apparent and positive across the whole site	1
		2
	Positive management of key features	3
		4
Benign	All site maintained	5
		6
	Inappropriate management of key features	7
		8
Detrimental	Whole site management impacting on significance	10

NOTES:

OVERALL RISK ASSESSMENT	AT RISK	VULNERABLE	LOW/NOT AT RISK
Name of assessor	Date of assessment		

PARKS AND GARDENS HERITAGE AT RISK SITE ASSESSMENT v.4 1st SEPTEMBER 2017

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Page 4 looks at Management

First of all it considers: MANAGEMENT – PLAN (a Conservation Management Plan or others plans known or apparent)

- You have to judge the management as: Active, Benign, Detrimental
- This sliding scale takes you from:
 - Is a Conservation Management Plan in place and being implemented?, to...
 - Is there a plan in place but little or no evidence of implementation?, to...
 - A management plan is not present, but some policies/framework are informing management, to...
 - No plan and/or divergent management policies

Then it considers: MANAGEMENT – ACTION/MAINTENANCE

- This sliding scale takes you from:
 - Apparent and positive across the whole site, to...
 - Positive management of key features, to...
 - All site maintained, to...
 - Inappropriate management of key features, to...
 - Whole site management impacting on significance, to...

Then page 4 turns to Trend.

- You need to consider a sliding scale from Improving to Stable to Unknown to Declining

The form finishes with scope to make notes, and your overall conclusion as to whether the site is

- AT RISK or
- VULNERABLE or
- LOW/NOT AT RISK

Ultimately, it is HE that will make the decision about whether or not a site is 'At Risk'. And added to the HAR Register. As such, your Condition Assessments will be verified – first by the GCLP's appointed consultants and secondly by HE's landscape architect. Your observations and assessments will be invaluable in helping to record the current surviving condition of the designed landscapes and constituent features at GCLP's Priority Parklands and highlight those that would benefit from more detailed assessment by HE.

**GREENSAND COUNTRY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP
HISTORIC PARKLAND HERITAGE ASSETS
VOLUNTEER CONDITION ASSESSMENT FORM**



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So that's the form that the professionals use ... it's horrendous! We've done a version for the Greensand team that is simpler to follow. Let's run through it now. Perhaps if this isn't clear to read on the screen, you can run through your printed copies at the same time.

SECTION 1: SITE INFORMATION

QUESTION	ANSWER	ADDITIONAL NOTES IF APPROPRIATE
Name of park and garden (and National Heritage List for England number if known or coordinates if not)		
Name and contact details of surveyor		
Name and contact details of person responsible for the site if known		
Is the park and garden within a Conservation Area?		



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This page gives basic information on the site:

- Name of park or garden. If you know the National Heritage List for England number, include it. You can find it by going to the Heritage List on the HE website and then searching on the site name – the List entry will come up, and will have its number at the top.
- Name and contact details of surveyor – this is you!
- Name and contact details of person responsible for the site if known
- Is the park and garden within a conservation area? – you may know this already, perhaps if the site has a CMP or similar, otherwise you can find it out from the local authority. It may even be on their website.

SECTION 2: CONDITION
A. Condition – Survival / Development
Please scale 1-10.
1-3 = Optimal (good) = Intact and complete; the integrity of overall design remains
3-6 = Generally satisfactory (fair) = Some features lost; influence of sympathetic development; development outside the registered area; change in views
6-8 = Generally unsatisfactory (poor) = Significant impact on setting loss of significant features; harm to setting, views and vistas
8-10 = Extensive problems (very bad) = Catastrophic harm from development, loss and fragmentation

QUESTION		RATE 1-10 AS ABOVE	ADDITIONAL NOTES IF APPROPRIATE
Effects on the registered area by built development <i>(See Note 1. below)</i>			
Effects of built development within the setting <i>(See Note 2. below)</i>			
Effects of built development on views and vistas within and from the site <i>(See Note 3. below)</i>			
Effects of built development on views and vistas to the site			

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This section is all about how intact the park or garden has survived and concentrates on the effects of the built environment.

The notes at the bottom of the page will help you, and are written here:

Notes (on the bottom of this page on the form)

1. Any buildings or structures built inside or close to the boundaries of the park or garden that have a negative or detrimental impact.
2. 'Setting' definition: *The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced, its local context, embracing present and past relationships to the adjacent landscape.* (Historic England)
The setting is site specific and can extend from metres to miles. Positive or negative factors to consider include land use and character, activities, noise, smells etc.
3. A general description of the views' and vistas' condition - their

actual location and character can be detailed in Section B's 'Views and Vistas'.

B. Condition - Individual Heritage Features and Elements
Please rate 1-10:
1-3 = Optimal (good) = Feature not in poor condition or at risk
3-6 = Generally satisfactory (fair) = Feature vulnerable
6-8 = Generally unsatisfactory (poor) = Feature in poor condition or at risk, but not detrimental to significance
8-10 = Extensive problems (very bad) = Feature in poor condition or at risk in way that is detrimental to significance

HISTORIC FEATURE	RATE 1-10 AS ABOVE	ADDITIONAL NOTES IF APPROPRIATE
Avenues (Please name and give location):		
Cultivated or display gardens , including flower borders, shrubberies, arboretum, etc. – are they still flourishing or have they been simplified or neglected (Please name and give location):		
Designed water , e.g. canals, rills, lakes, fishponds, dewponds, cascades, reservoirs etc. (Please name and give location):		
Drives or paths , including entrances and associated features like gates and lodges (Please name and give location):		
Garden buildings and structures , e.g. follies and eye-catchers, temples, obelisks, grottoes, icehouses, bridges etc. – also brief comment on the principal building. (Please name and give location):		



The following 4 pages list all the different types of features you may come across in your landscape park or garden.

Any not covered by this list, add them in the boxes at the end. If unsure where to include a feature or not, always write a note about it in the right-hand column.

For large sites, section the ground up into distinct areas, mark these areas on a large-scale map and maybe add numbers or letters onto the map to show the position of the features you survey.

Note about Modern features:

If gates, fences, buildings, sculptures etc. have replaced previous historic features then they can be recorded as modern replacements fulfilling the same role and design element. However, modern features can be poorly situated or create other management issues affecting the site, e.g. visual impacts, excessive wear along new routes/desire lines, etc.

- Avenues- e.g. are there missing trees, lack of tree management meaning everything is too bushy?

- Cultivated or display gardens (e.g. flower borders, shrubberies, arboretum) – e.g. are the flower borders full of weeds? Is the arboretum overgrown?
- Designed water (e.g. canals, lakes, fishponds) – e.g. are the canal edges so overgrown that you can't properly see its lines, is the lake full of silt?
- Drives or paths (entrances, associated features such as gates)
- Garden buildings and structures (e.g. follies, eyecatchers, temples, obelisks, icehouses) – e.g. is the temple crumbling? Is the icehouse overgrown? Is the obelisk threatened by trees?

	Grass cover , e.g. is parkland area degraded scrub or sub-divided into paddocks and/or overgrazed, is parkland now planted as woodland, is parkland ploughed for arable use, are lawns occupied by marquees or temporary development? (Please name and give location):		
	Natural water , e.g. ponds, rivers (Please name and give location):		
	Shrubs and hedges , E.g. are they missing? Should they be there at all? Are they in poor condition and require gapping up? (Please name and give location):		
	Clumps and groups of trees , also condition and extent of open-grown parkland trees (Please name and give location):		
	Terraces and steps (Please name and give location):		
	Views and vistas E.g. both internal and external to the site (Please name and give location):		

- Grass cover – this is all about whether the grass is in the right place! E.g. is the parkland just degraded shrub rather than fresh grass, is it ploughed for arable, is the lawn full of marquees
- Natural water (e.g. not designed like the canals – a natural lake, pond, river) – is the river full of pollution, are the lake edges overgrown with reeds?
- Shrubs and hedges – are they missing?!
- Clumps and groups of trees – are they healthy and well-maintained?
- Terraces and steps – are they crumbling? Overgrown?
- Views and vistas – both in and out and inside! Can you still see them, or are they full of buildings or overgrown with trees and scrub?

	Woodland and shelter belts <i>(Please name and give location):</i>		
	Other design elements and structures, such as... Earthworks , e.g. ridge-and-furrow, hollow ways, deserted medieval village, garden archaeology <i>(Please name and give location):</i>		
	Statuary, urns and memorials <i>(Please name and give location):</i>		
	Pools and Fountains <i>(Please name and give location):</i>		
	Gates and gateways <i>(internal to gardens)</i> <i>(Please name and give location):</i>		
	Boundaries , E.g. railings, fences, walls, balustrades, ha-has <i>(Please name and give location):</i>		

- Woodland and shelter belts – are these still intact or are many trees lost?

Then it itemises lots of other kinds of features:

- Earthworks (so archaeology-type things, lumps and bumps)
- Statuary and urns – are they broken or missing?
- Pools and fountains – working? Cracked?
- Gates and gateways within the garden – still there, or just gaps? Hanging properly? Broken?
- Boundaries, e.g. fences, walls, railings – are they there? Are they broken? Are they covered in ivy?
- Walled garden – is it still productive, or is it repurposed as a tennis court? Are the walls and paths intact.

<p>Walled garden E.g. is it repurposed or is it still productive, are the walls intact, and internal structures intact and in use (Please name and give location):</p>		
<p>Historic games areas, e.g. bowling alleys, cricket pitches, sports pitches, etc. (Please name and give location):</p>		
<p>Historic estate or farm areas E.g. stable yards, model farm/home farm, kennels, barns, etc. (Please name and give location):</p>		
<p>Other features not otherwise included (Please name and give location):</p>		

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Note about Modern features:
If gates, fences, buildings, sculptures etc. have replaced previous historic features then they can be recorded as modern replacements fulfilling the same role and design element. However, modern features can be poorly situated or create other management issues affecting the site, e.g. visual impacts, excessive wear along new routes/desire lines, etc.

- Historic games areas, e.g. bowling alleys, cricket pitches – are they still visible? Are they covered in scrub?
- Historic estate or farm areas, e.g. stable yard, model farm – is it still in use? Are the structures still there?
- Other features – go to town!

C. Condition – neglect
Please rate 1-10.
1-3 = Optimal (good) = No signs of neglect
3-6 = Generally satisfactory (fair) = Some neglect of difficult-to-manage features, or inappropriate conservation approach
6-8 = Generally unsatisfactory (poor) = General lack of management, features and core elements neglected to point of near loss
8-10 = Extensive problems (very bad) = Universal neglect seriously harming significance

RATE 1-10 AS ABOVE	ADDITIONAL NOTES IF APPROPRIATE

D. Condition – Overall (cumulative assessment of the entire site based on information in A-C above)
Please rate 1-10.
1-3 = Optimal (good) = No heritage features or elements in poor condition or at risk
3-6 = Generally satisfactory (fair) = Some features or elements (minor or undesignated) in poor condition or at risk
6-8 = Generally unsatisfactory (poor) = Some features or elements vulnerable Features and elements in poor condition or at risk, but not detrimental to significance
8-10 = Extensive problems (very bad) = Multiple key features and elements in poor condition or at risk

RATE 1-10 AS ABOVE	ADDITIONAL NOTES IF APPROPRIATE



This section deals with Condition – Neglect

It's neglect of the site as a whole.

Again, a rating.

1-3 = Optimal (good) = No signs of neglect

3-6 = Generally satisfactory (fair) = Some neglect of difficult-to-manage features, or inappropriate conservation approach

6-8 = Generally unsatisfactory (poor) = General lack of management, features and core elements neglected to point of near loss

8-10 = Extensive problems (very bad) = Universal neglect seriously harming significance

Then there is Condition – Overall (this is how you feel about the condition of the whole site having thought about the individual features)

1-3 = Optimal (good) = No heritage features or elements in poor condition or at risk

3-6 = Generally satisfactory (fair) = Some features or elements (minor or undesignated) in poor condition or at risk

6-8 = Generally unsatisfactory (poor) = Some features or elements vulnerable

Features and elements in poor condition or at risk, but not detrimental to significance

8-10 = Extensive problems (very bad) = Multiple key features and elements in poor

condition or at risk

SECTION 3: VULNERABILITY
A. Vulnerability - Ownership
Please rate 1-10.
1-4 = Low = Single, conservation-minded and engaged owner; single benign owners; or multiple engaged owners.
5-7 = Medium = Multiple ownership, with one dominant and benign owner; multiple benign owners
8-10 = High = Single detrimental owner; multiple detrimental owners.

RATE 1-10 AS ABOVE	ADDITIONAL NOTES IF APPROPRIATE

B. Vulnerability - Use / Occupation
Please rate 1-10.
1-4 = Low = Use as designed, occupied.
5-7 = Medium = Current use beneficial to the site but not as intended; heritage significance of the site could be of value to current use but is not realized.
8-10 = High = Current use is divergent from designed and is detrimental

RATE 1-10 AS ABOVE	ADDITIONAL NOTES IF APPROPRIATE



This section is about Vulnerability. First of all, Ownership.

1-4 = Low = Single, conservation-minded and engaged owner; single benign owners; or multiple engaged owners.

5-7 = Medium = Multiple ownership, with one dominant and benign owner; multiple benign owners

8-10 = High = Single detrimental owner; multiple detrimental owners.

Then Use/Occupation.

1-4 = Low = Use as designed, occupied.

5-7 = Medium = Current use beneficial to the site but not as intended; heritage significance of the site could be of value to current use but is not realized.

8-10 = High = Current use is divergent from designed and is detrimental

C. Vulnerability – Environmental
Please rate 1-10.
1-4 = Low = Secure and stable with low risk features and low risk to features
5-7 = Medium = some risk to features from flood/storm, or loss of structure planting to disease or climate change; General threat of loss to storm or flood.
8-10 = High = Significant features at high risk from storm, flood, pests or disease; Clear and present threat, e.g. collapse of bank.

RATE 1-10 AS ABOVE	ADDITIONAL NOTES IF APPROPRIATE

Note: Those sites who are actively planning for a rise in temperatures, drought and/or flooding issues will score higher than those who have not. (e.g. diversifying tree stock or implementing reduced water use plans)

D. Vulnerability – Overall (cumulative assessment of the entire site based on information in A-C above)
Please rate 1-10.
1-4 = Low
5-7 = Medium
8-10 = High

RATE 1-10 AS ABOVE	ADDITIONAL NOTES IF APPROPRIATE



C. Environmental. Factors such as climate change will affect all parks and gardens, but how well are they being managed to combat the changes in climate?

The environmental vulnerability.

1-4 = Low = Secure and stable with low risk features and low risk to features

5-7 = Medium = some risk to features from flood/storm, or loss of structure planting to disease or climate change; General threat of loss to storm or flood.

8-10 = High = Significant features at high risk from storm, flood, pests or disease; Clear and present threat, eg collapse of bank.

And Overall vulnerability, having thought about the previous sections on environmental vulnerability, use/occupation and ownership, and the effect they have when combined.

1-4 = Low

5-7 = Medium

8-10 = High

D. Work out the average score across Sections A-C for Vulnerability and make notes, as before

Note: Those sites who are actively planning for a rise in temperatures, drought and/or flooding issues will score higher than those who have not. (e.g. diversifying tree stock or implementing reduced water use plans)

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SECTION 4: MANAGEMENT

A. Management – Conservation Management Plan or other plans
 Please rate 1-10.
 1-4 = Active = A Conservation Management Plan is in place and being implemented
 5-7 = Benign = A plan is in place but little or no evidence of implementation, or a management plan is not present but some policies or framework are informing management.
 8-10 = Detrimental = No plan and/or divergent management policies or Unknown = it is not known by volunteer whether a CMP exists

RATE 1-10 AS ABOVE	DETAILS OF PLANS (NAMES, DATES, AUTHOR)	ADDITIONAL NOTES IF APPROPRIATE

B. Management – action /maintenance
 Please rate 1-10.
 1-4 = Active = Apparent and positive action or maintenance across the whole site; positive management of key features.
 5-7 = Benign = Whole site is maintained but inappropriate management of key features
 8-10 = Detrimental = Whole site management impacting on significance.

Rating 1-4	DETAILS OF PLANS (NAMES, DATES, AUTHOR)	ADDITIONAL NOTES IF APPROPRIATE

C. Management – Overall (cumulative assessment of the entire site based on information in A-B above)
 Please rate 1-10.
 1-4 = Active
 5-7 = Benign
 8-10 = Detrimental

RATE 1-10 AS ABOVE	ADDITIONAL NOTES IF APPROPRIATE



This section is on Management, and first Conservation Management Plans and whether there is one for the site – obviously if a site has a CMP and it is being used, it is more secure than ones when the people managing it are just making it up on a day-to-day basis.

1-4 = Active = A Conservation Management Plan is in place and being implemented
 5-7 = Benign = A plan is in place but little or no evidence of implementation, or a management plan is not present, but some policies or framework are informing management.
 8-10 = Detrimental = No plan and/or divergent management policies
 or Unknown = it is not known by volunteer whether a CMP exists
 If you have bibliography details of the CMP (i.e. who wrote it, when) then that’s great, but it’s not essential.

Then on whether action is being properly taken to properly maintain the site, in your opinion.

1-4 = Active = Apparent and positive action or maintenance across the whole site; positive management of key features.
 5-7 = Benign = Whole site is maintained but inappropriate management of key

features

8-10 = Detrimental = Whole site management impacting on significance.

SECTION 5: TREND
 (Please tick whichever applies)

Improving rapidly.....

Improving slowly.....

Stable.....

Unknown.....

Declining slowly.....

Declining rapidly.....

NOTES:

OVERALL RISK ASSESSMENT:
 (Please tick whichever applies)

At Risk.....

Vulnerable.....

Low / Not at Risk.....

Completed by:

Date:



And finally you need to think about trend, about whether this is a site on the up, or on the decline.

Improving slowly.....

Improving rapidly.....

Stable.....

Unknown.....

Declining slowly.....

Declining rapidly.....

And then, the exciting part, you need to make an overall conclusion in your opinion. Is this site:

At Risk.....

Vulnerable.....

Low / Not at Risk.....

?

If you have doubts about whether to include a feature, management strategy or potential vulnerability, write notes in the right hand column. If no information is given, a decision about whether something is important can't be made.

😊 😐 😞

A condition survey will be quite subjective, but looking at your scores across the different items will flag up any problem areas.

📄

Your condition surveys will be passed on to Twigs and Fiona who will submit a report to Chris.

🧠

Chris will decide the final HAR grading.

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A reminder in case you're feeling daunted, 'Ultimately, it is HE that will make the decision about whether or not a site is 'At Risk'. And added to the HAR Register. As such, your Condition Assessments will be verified – first by the GCLP's appointed consultants and secondly by HE's landscape architect. Your observations and assessments will be invaluable in helping to record the current surviving condition of the designed landscapes and constituent features at GCLP's Priority Parklands and highlight those that would benefit from more detailed assessment by HE.'



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Thank you for bearing with me through that long and not very jolly presentation.

Filling in the form is a lot more fun than just learning about it hypothetically ... and look how happy all your material will make Chris Laine from Historic England as he goes off to find out more about all those sites you said were At Risk!

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