

**Green Flag Award Scheme - Demonstration Day
Mackintosh Centre - Brixworth Country Park
18 March 2010**

Introduction to the Demonstration Day

The Green Flag Award Scheme is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in England, Wales and Scotland. The scheme is administered the Green Flag Plus Partnership namely: Keep Britain Tidy, BTCV and GreenSpace.

GreenSpace East Midlands has organised this free event, which intends to provide a day to learn about the scheme, its award categories, their criteria, site and desk assessments, mystery shopper, the schemes timetable and award ceremony, through a morning of presentations and afternoon site visits.

The Scheme welcomes applications from a variety of organisations such as:

Local authorities (including Parish Councils),
Voluntary groups,
Charities and
Trusts.

Applications are accepted for a variety of green spaces such as:

Urban and country parks,
Public gardens,
Greenways,
Allotment sites, and
Nature reserves.

Therefore this Demonstration Day is aimed at potential, new and existing applicants, who feel they would benefit from learning more about this schemes application process, its criteria and how sites are judged.

Demonstration Day's Outcomes

Greater understanding of the Green Flag Award scheme and how applications are judged will encourage the following outcomes for organisations:

- To develop an informed decision about whether to apply for an award(s) or/and whether it is timely to apply now or later.

- To determine if any aspects of their site or site management may require changing or improvement.
- To enter an application(s) of good quality.
- To develop an understanding about how the schemes criteria could be used as a quality measure in organisation plans such as open spaces strategy.
- To develop awareness that the Green Flag Award scheme can be used to raise the profile of green spaces with elected members, organisational directors and other key stakeholders

Brief Background to the Green Flag Award Scheme

The Green Flag Award Scheme is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces.

It was first launched in 1996 to recognise and reward the best green spaces in the country. The first awards were given in 1997 and, many years later; it continues to provide the high level of quality against which parks and green spaces are measured. It is also seen as a way of encouraging others to achieve high environmental standards, setting a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas.

Winning a Green Flag Award can generate excellent publicity for a site. Both the media and the public are becoming increasingly aware that a site flying a Green Flag is a high quality green space.

Awards are given on an annual basis and winners must apply each year to renew their Green Flag status. It is realised that all green spaces are different and this diversity is welcomed, with each site being judged on its own merits and suitability to the community it serves.

Since its launch, the Green Flag Award scheme has gone from strength to strength, with the number of applicants increasing every year. The vision is that by 2020, 50% of green spaces in England and Wales will be of Green Flag Award standard, amounting to around 15,000 sites.

The Green Flag Award welcomes green spaces to apply for three awards: [More](#)

- Green Flag Award
- Green Pennant Award
- Green Heritage Site Accreditation

Green Flag Award Scheme - Demonstration Day - Programme
Mackintosh Centre - Brixworth Country Park
18 March 2010

9.45 to 10am Registration and Refreshments

10am Introductions & Presentations

- Background to Brixworth Country Park, Green Flag Award winner by Chris Howe, Country Parks Officer for Northamptonshire County Council
- Background to Kingsthorpe New Churchyard Pocket Park, Green Pennant Award winner
- Background to the Green Flag Award Scheme by Michele Walde, GFA Judge Training & Development Manager, GreenSpace
- Criteria for Green Flag, Pennant Awards and Heritage Site by Michele Walde,
- A Judges Assessment by Chris Worman and Dewi Morris.

12 noon Lunch and networking opportunity

Travel to Site 1 – your own transport and car sharing – only 10 minutes

1.15pm Kingsthorpe New Churchyard Pocket Park - Guided tour by Dewi Morris focussing on what a judge is looking for in green pennant award application.

Travel back to Brixworth Country Park.

2.15 pm Brixworth Country Park, Northamptonshire County Council –

- A. Guided tour by Chris Worman focussing on what a judge is looking for including information about the scoring sheet, marking, issues over criteria etc.
- B. Followed by own time to work through Mystery Shopper evaluation form which will enable participants to see how sites are judged or you can this as free time to explore the site.

3.45pm Questions and Answers during refreshments

4pm End Day

Green Flag Award Scheme - Demonstration Day – Sites Introductions
Mackintosh Centre, Brixworth Country Park
18 March 2010

Brixworth Country Park – Gateway to Pitsford Water

Northamptonshire County Council's newest Country Park, it has stunning views over Pitsford Reservoir. Developed with Millennium Commission funding, the park is a national showpiece for accessible countryside – providing access for all irrespective of physical or mental ability and social or cultural background.

General Park Information -

- Free Admission. Car parking charge of £2.00 on pay and display basis
- Park open all day, every day. Main Car Park and toilets open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily (except Christmas Day)
- Brixworth Country Park shop open 10:00am to 4:00pm daily. Closed 25th to 31st December inclusive
- Cafe and cycle hire open on most days
- Designated picnic areas
- Circular, waymarked and hard-surfaced trails through woodlands, meadows and by reservoir
- Superb children's play and activity areas
- Wheelchair loan & electric buggy hire
- Orienteering trails
- Boules court
- Trim Trail includes pull up bars, monkey bars and hop-overs

For more information contact 01604 883 920 or visit their website [here](#). Directions – [here](#)

Kingsthorpe New Churchyard Pocket Park

The Park was formerly an overflow graveyard for the church. But sadly since its deconsecration, it had fallen into serious disrepair resulting in the site being completely overgrown with nettles rendering it inaccessible.

After the initial meeting a new committee was formed and a grant obtained from the county council. The committee met and formed an “action plan” and a timetable was set out. Work began on the 0.2 hectare pocket park on May 27th 2006. The park was officially opened by the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Lee Mason, on June 16th 2007 alongside a public opening event. Since then the park has gone from strength to strength, resulting in it being used and appreciated both by locals and visitors from further afield. Since the opening the park, as well as being a valuable resource for people to use to relax and have a restful time close to nature, it has been a valuable addition to the community spirit in this residential area and a real asset to the education of children in the area

More information, please contact Peter Gasson on 01604 712973 or visit the Pocket Park Scheme website [here](#). Map – [here](#)

Green Flag Award Scheme - Demonstration Day - Booking Form
Mackintosh Centre, Brixworth Country Park
18 March 2010

This is a free event, but there is a cancellation fee if you cancel after 10 March 2010 of £20 per person.

Your Name		Job Title	
Organisation Name		Contact Number	
Address		Email	
Additional Name		Job Title	
Invoice address (if different from above) This will only be used if you cancel your booking.			
Please let us know if you have special dietary requirements			
Please let us know if you require special support in order to help you attend this event			
Car parking - Brixworth Country Park charges for car parking – a free day passes will be provided on the Demonstration Day and is likely to be collectable on your arrival at the registration in the Mackintosh Centre.			
Postcode and Directions – NN6 9DG Direction – Park is located approximately 7 miles north of Northampton, signed posted off the A508. The nearest train (and bus) station is in Northampton. More directions in website here .			
Transport – There are site visits in the afternoon and therefore you need to provide your own transport. Maps will be provided a week before and on the day. The site visit is only about 5 miles from the country park.			

Please return your booking form by 12 March 2010 to:
 Mrs Ruth Rolls at rrolls@gsem.org.uk or
 Forum Manager, GreenSpace East Midlands Caversham Court, Church Road, Caversham,
 Reading RG4 7AD

If you have any queries, please call 01604 807 771 or email rrolls@gsem.org.uk.