



This chapter sets out the criteria for core facilities and services sites must demonstrate to be eligible to be considered as an Accredited site.

Sites must demonstrate all 15 Essential criteria and 10 Desirable criteria. These criteria form the core of the Application form for the scheme and should be considered alongside the Evidence requirements (see Chapter 4)

Ref No:	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	Ref No:
1	Area		1
1A1	At least 10 hectares (25 acres) in size		
1A2	Must have an identifiable boundary		
2	Accessibility		2
2A1	Readily accessible to the population which it is intended to serve	Green transport policy or plan for the site	2B1
2A2	Entry free of charge	Additional facilities for less able visitors e.g. easy going trails, accessible seats and picnic benches, relevant site information in an accessible format, play equipment	2B2
2A3	Evidence of a Site access plan in place that has been developed following an access audit and addresses the requirements of the DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) to ensure indoor and outdoor facilities provided are inclusive and accessible Evidence of commitment to Equality Standards or equivalent level of delivery	Evidence of progress towards the next level of equality standards or equivalent level of delivery	2B3

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Ref No:	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	Ref No:
3	Character		3
3A1	Must predominantly consist of natural or semi-natural landscape, e.g. woodland, grassland, wetland, heathland, parkland	Management and promotion of the site's biodiversity, geo-diversity and historical environment	3B1
3A2	Less than 5% total area of buildings		
4	Facilities		4
4A1	Easily followed paths, bridleways and cycle paths, e.g. waymarked or with a leaflet	Outdoor recreation facilities e.g. water sports, adventure sports	4B1
4A2	Toilets on site or within 2 minutes walking distance	Promoted self-guided health promoting activities	4B2
		Visitor centre	4B3
		Play facilities	4B4
		Catering provision	4B5
		Cycle or horse trails	4B6
		Art or sculpture	4B7
5	Links to local communities and neighbourhoods		5
5A1	Opportunities for the local community to have an influence over the management and development of the site	Outreach programme to engage and involve local people	5B1
		Active promotion to less represented sectors of the community	5B2
		Outreach programme to engage and involve local schools and lifelong learning delivery	5B3
6	Links to the wider countryside		6

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Ref No:	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	Ref No:
		Links from the site to the rights of way network, permissive access routes or other adjoining public open space or open access areas Connectivity between site and where people live	6B1
7	Management		7
7A1	Daily staff presence	Permanent staff presence during the daytime	7B1
7A2	Up to date management plan	Opportunities for community involvement in practical or management tasks	7B2
		Annual Action Plan / Work Plan	7B3
		Achieved or working towards Green Flag Award (GFA) status	7B4
8	Activities		8
8A1	Available for public or educational events	Programme of walks or events	8B1
		Programme of activities and events that promote healthy living and environmental awareness	8B2
9	Information and interpretation		9
9A1	Clear entrance signage	More detailed information and interpretation about the site and other issues	9B1
9A2	Information about where visitors can go and what they can do	Brown and white tourist directional signs	9B2
		Shown on OS map	9B3