

## South & South East in Bloom Heritage Garden/Estate of the Year Award 2017

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council - Nonsuch Park

<b>SECTION A – General Site Assessment</b>	<b>Max Points</b>	<b>Actual Points</b>
First Impressions, the initial visitor experience.	10	7
Signage & visitor information	10	7
<b>SECTION B- The General Landscape Quality</b>	<b>Max Points</b>	<b>Actual Points</b>
Appearance and general presentation of the site, with particular reference to the established landscape elements.	20	14
Plantings and design features Their quality, appropriateness and the added value given to the site	20	14
<b>SECTION C - Horticulture (Range and diversity of plant material including native flora)</b>	<b>Max Points</b>	<b>Actual Points</b>
Trees, shrubs, herbaceous, meadows & natural places New introductions and innovation. Seasonal colour and variation	20	13
<b>SECTION D - Horticultural Maintenance (Quality of horticultural maintenance)</b>	<b>Max Points</b>	<b>Actual Points</b>
Trees, shrubs, herbaceous, seasonal planting, meadows, natural places, ponds and water features. Management of decline and replanting.	20	14
<b>SECTION E - Maintenance of Permanent Landscape Features</b>	<b>Max Points</b>	<b>Actual Points</b>
Paths, seating, shelters, fencing, boundaries and artistic elements	10	7
Control of litter, graffiti and anti-social activities	10	8
<b>SECTION F - Environmental Sustainability (Management of natural resources)</b>	<b>Max Points</b>	<b>Actual Points</b>
Planting schemes which are achieving sustainability, reducing the use of scarce resources such as water and peat.	20	13
Recycling, effective use of own grown products, use of inorganic pest and disease controls.	20	14
<b>SECTION G - Conservation</b>	<b>Max Points</b>	<b>Actual Points</b>
Management of natural features, wildlife and flora to increase and encourage natural habitats Protection and management of sensitive areas and regeneration.	20	15

<b>SECTION H - Marketing &amp; Community Involvement (Volunteers)</b>	<b>Max Points</b>	<b>Actual Points</b>
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Use of volunteers and the effectiveness of marketing	20	16
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<b>Maximum Points Available</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Total Points Awarded</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>Award Nomination</b>	<b>Silver-Gilt</b>

**Assessors General Comments & Award Justification**

The long history of the site which has undergone so many changes leaves choice but the period chosen reflects the modern function rather than a desire to hark back to past events and times. Many of the features have been subtly modified and updated to current needs, most recently making the conversion from seasonal bedding to permanent planting. Subtle pathways for easier access, including that through the coppice area of the woodland, are appreciated. The judge feels that removing some of the Sycamore in favour of another species, such as Hazel and Sweet Chestnut. The varied mowing times benefit wildlife and so many butterflies were evidenced on the day. It was pleasing to see the Walnut tree plantation thriving, but a clear base will reduce vegetative competition during the early years and speed up establishment. The Pinetum however is more difficult to resolve the density of these mature trees means they are growing into each other as woodland and not appreciated as fine individual specimens - a problem that will increase in this historic garden. Signage on the site was excellent, appropriate and informative. Clearly the harvesting of home-felled timber and it's re-use throughout for different purposes, from kindling to benches, tables etc was appreciated. Much excellent work was attributed to volunteers, especially the Voles, without which the standard of maintenance would be much reduced. As an old Royal Palace site, the clearer definition of the palace walls would give a greater understanding of it's extent. It is understood that this is under consideration for the future. The mansion buildings are a great asset, including the museum section. Overall the site is welcoming with refreshments and visitor facilities for all ages and has great potential.

<b>Results</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Points</b>
	Certificate	0 - 77
	Bronze	78 - 108
	Silver	109 - 138
	Silver-Gilt	139 - 169
	Gold	170 - 200