



Troopers Hill

Local Nature Reserve

Management and Action Plan

Report and Update April 2006

by Rob Acton-Campbell

Friends of Troopers Hill



Contents

	Page
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Friends of Troopers Hill	3
3.0 Bristol Parks	7
4.0 Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve	8
5.0 Troopers Hill Field	10
6.0 Aims and Objectives	12
7.0 Schedules of Work to be Carried Out – Update April 2005	13
Schedule A – Ongoing Wildlife Tasks	13
Schedule B – Ongoing People Tasks	16
Schedule C – Year 1 – April 2004 to March 2005	20
Schedule D – Year 2 – April 2005 to March 2006	21
Schedule E – Year 3 – April 2006 to March 2007	24
Schedule F – Year 4 – April 2007 to March 2008	25
Schedule H – Summary, Costing and Funding	26

1.0 Introduction

Management and Action Plan April 2004 to March 2009

- 1.1 The Management and Action Plan was prepared jointly by Bristol Parks and Friends of Troopers Hill in early 2004. It was signed by Susan Acton-Campbell for the Friends of Troopers Hill and Peter Wilkinson for Bristol Parks.
- 1.2 The Plan sets out in detail the actions and tasks to be carried out by Bristol Parks and the Friends of Troopers Hill to manage and enhance the environment of the Reserve over the five years from April 2004 to March 2009. Copies can be downloaded from the Friends of Troopers Hill web site at www.troopers-hill.org.uk or can be obtained from the Friends of Troopers Hill or Bristol Parks via the contact details on the back cover of this document.
- 1.3 This second annual review reports on the progress over the past year and on the prospects for the remaining three years. The review should be read in conjunction with the original document.
- 1.4 Section 7 of this report reprints the detailed schedules of activities that were intended to be completed during the period. It describes the progress that has been made and any changes that have been considered necessary. Revisions to planned activities are also included.



Elephant Hawk Moth photographed at the June 2005 Moth Evening

2.0 Friends of Troopers Hill



- 2.1 The Friends of Troopers Hill has continued to grow in strength with well over 300 households now on the mailing list. Some changes to the constitution were agreed at the 2005 AGM to allow more people to join the committee and to give more flexibility in the roles that they carry out. Susan's excellent work as Chair was recognised by her receipt of a Bristol 'Women who Make a Difference' award.
- 2.2 Funding for the Friends of Troopers Hill was becoming a cause of concern by the summer of 2005. The £20k application to SWEET which it was hoped would fund many of the items in this Management Plan had been rejected. The bad weather on the Saturday of the Balloon Fiesta weekend also meant that our Family Fun Picnic just broke even instead of raising money towards our running costs. Since then however the situation has significantly improved. We have now received the following major grants and donations.

- £300 in two separate donations from Friends' employers.
- £100 private donation for creating a view from Troopers Hill Field.
- £2,910 from YANSEC for a wheelchair access to the chimney (D2) and benches (C12). This is through the landfill tax scheme, 10% of the money was provided by Bristol Parks.
- £789 from Cromadex, part of Akzo Nobel for a bench (E6) and creating a view from Troopers Hill Field (see page 11).



In addition money has been raised from selling donated books and from selling coffee and snacks at events and meetings. Bristol Parks have also provided support towards the cost of meeting rooms and photocopying of newsletters and funded the Bird Bonanza that was held in February.

- 2.3 The items on which the YANSEC and Akzo Nobel grants will be spent are indicated in the schedules of work. No final decision had been made at the time of writing regarding the other donations.

Some of the income from the past few months will be kept to provide working capital.

- 2.4 Work Parties have been held each month (except for December, which was rained off) with the total volunteer time for Year-2 being 258 hours. This included 44 hours at an additional Work Party held in January to plant a hedge along the fence at Greendown.

Attendances in the second half of 2005 were slightly down on the year before, but numbers have picked up this year and it has been pleasing to see several new faces.

The main focus has remained on cutting bramble from areas of broom and on fence repairs.



- 2.5 Kit has built upon David's excellent work by continuing to develop our newsletter. A new title and logo was launched in March following the production of an excellent 4-page edition in December. Kit has also increased the number of



volunteers delivering the newsletter, so we are still able to hand deliver the vast majority of those not sent by email, despite the increasing numbers.

The group web site at www.troopers-hill.org.uk continues to grow and has links to all past editions of the Newsletter as well as reports on all work parties and minutes of all the past meetings.





- 2.6 A number of events were again organised through the year and are recorded on the website. The highlights were the Moth Evening and the Bird Bonanza (above), the Flowering Plants walk led by Helen was also very successful.

For 2006 we have planned the events further ahead so that we have been able to produce an Events Leaflet which we distributed locally. Events are also advertised on the Website and in Parklife which is produced by Bristol Parks. A brass band concert is planned for 1st July. It is hoped that this will attract people who may not have visited the site before and so further raise awareness.



Hand Bird



Falcon Mask

- 2.7 The Friends of Troopers Hill remain a member of the Parks Forum and VOSCUR. We have also developed links to other LNR groups through events organised by Sally Oldfield through the Bristol Wildspace Project.
- 2.8 Staff from the MOD at Abbey Wood chose a very wet Tuesday in March to visit Troopers Hill for a Team Building Day.

Following a tour of the site with Local Nature Reserve Officer, Sally Oldfield, they set to work on a flight of steps leading up from Troopers Hill Road. Under guidance from Caroline Hollies, Bristol Parks' Community Parks Manager, the 20 strong team reset the timber steps to remove the trip hazard that had formed where the ground behind had settled (item D5). Despite the wet weather all the steps were completed by the middle of the afternoon and everyone seemed to enjoy the day. A fish and chip lunch at St Aidan's Church Hall was particularly welcome.

The Friends of Troopers Hill would like to thank everyone involved at Abbey Wood and especially David Brain for suggesting Troopers Hill and organising the day.

- 2.9 The 22nd June 2005 marked the 10th anniversary of Troopers Hill being declared a Local Nature Reserve. To celebrate some of the Friends of Troopers Hill followed the advice in our Newsletter and went for a walk on the hill. We were also fortunate to be invited to visit an 18th century bathhouse that is hidden in woodland on private land in Crews Hole. To finish the evening we toasted the LNR's first ten years with Champagne and enjoyed some excellent fish and chips from our local Fish & Chip shop, Farrows.



A video of the Bathhouse visit has been put on our website. It was also shown at a meeting of Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society and it is hoped that as a direct result of the interest generated, action will be taken to preserve the Bathhouse and make it accessible to the public.

3.0 Bristol Parks

3.1 Gary Ratcliffe our Community Parks Manager left in September to take a year's sabbatical. There was a slight delay in appointing a replacement but in November Caroline Hollies was appointed to cover the East Region in addition to the ENE Region for which she already had responsibility. Claire Adams was appointed as Caroline's assistant. This temporary arrangement has been working very well and we look forward to working with Caroline and Claire throughout the summer.

3.2 Apart from a breakdown in communications which led to the grass area at Greendown being cut in May instead of late summer as planned, the improved maintenance of Troopers Hill has been the greatest success of Year 2 of this Action Plan. The Friends of Troopers Hill would like to thank Gary, Caroline, Claire and the contractors, BCS, for their efforts. We hope that the standard will be maintained in the coming year.

3.3 An extension of the funding by English Nature and the Big Lottery Fund for the Bristol Wildspace Project has allowed Troopers Hill to continue to benefit from the support of Local Nature Reserve Officer, Sally Oldfield throughout the year. Again Sally's enthusiasm has been a major element in the



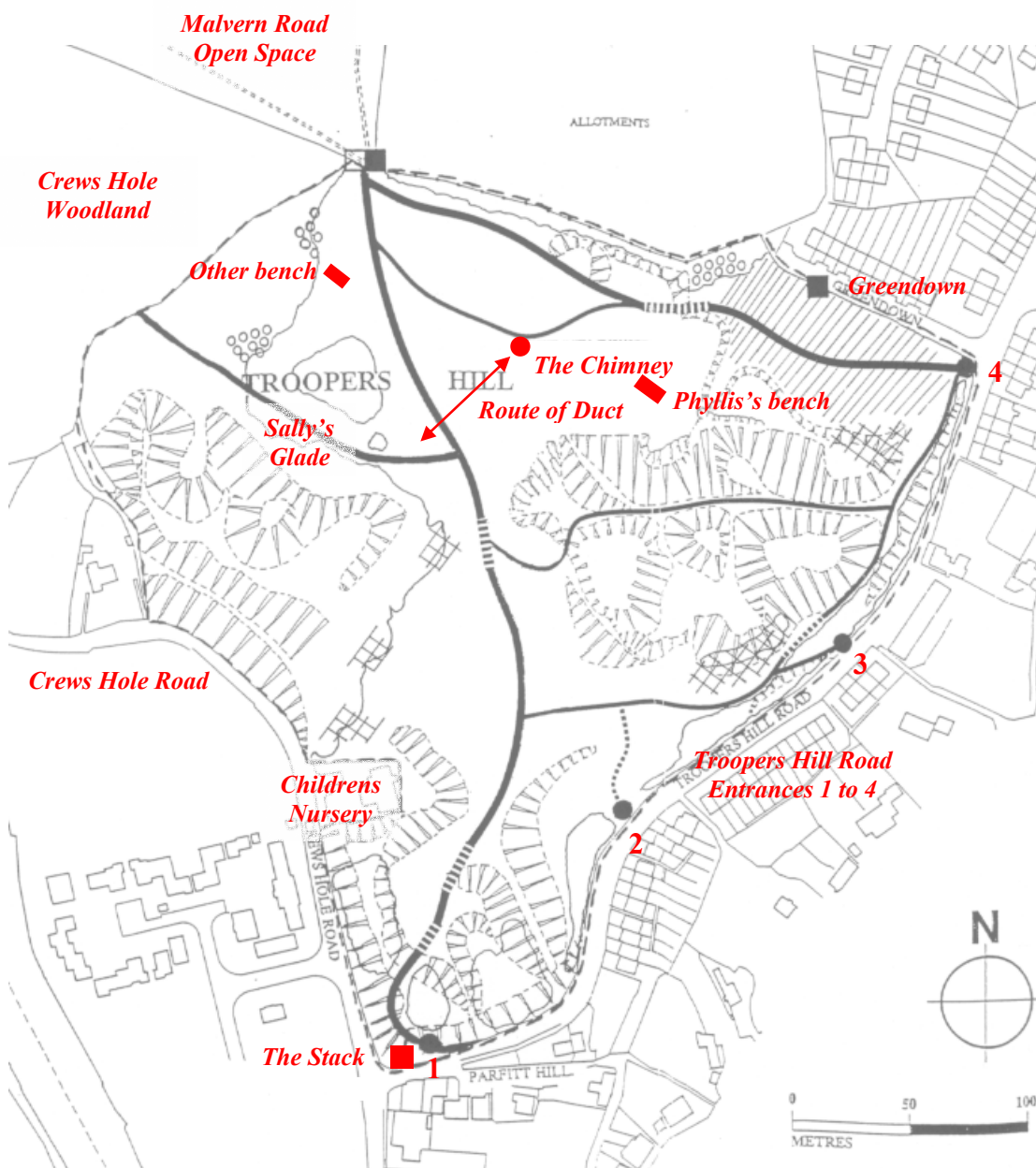
group's success. It was Sally who secured the funding for the Bird Bonanza and who arranged the moth evening and fungal foray (above). Without Sally promoting the LNR and encouraging experts to visit the site many of the benefits of LNR designation would be lost.

Although the current funding for the Wildspace Project only continues until the end of July 2006, Peter Wilkinson, Parks Service Manger, has stated that he thinks there is a positive future for the LNR programme. It is hoped that Bristol Parks will be able to put the necessary funding in place to allow the project to continue.

3.4 Bristol Parks have also applied for Lottery Funding for a new project under the title 'Nature in the City' which would start in August. This project would focus on those LNRs and proposed LNRs not managed by the Avon Wildlife Trust, including Troopers Hill. Other wildlife sites would also be included and the project would also consider the heritage of the sites. The Friends of Troopers Hill have written in support of this application and the result should be known by early June.

4.0 Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve

4.1 Site Plan



4.2 Troopers Hill remains a very popular site for children, dog walkers and for those who just want to admire the views and appreciate the environment.

4.3 As mentioned above the maintenance of the site by Bristol Parks has greatly improved. In particular the path edges have been cut more regularly than in past years, so that the paths were kept clear throughout the year. Although not covered by this plan, the improvement also extended to the paths in Crews Hole Woodland.



4.4 Three of the new signs purchased and erected last year were damaged by vandalism. One was spray painted and at the same time graffiti was painted on the chimney. The damage to two of the signs was repaired at work parties using spare parts. The other has holes caused by a ball bearing gun and although we have a spare front plate it was decided to leave the damaged sign in place as it can still be read.

4.5 We have discovered that Troopers Hill was purchased by Bristol City Council on 14th September 1956, and therefore this year marks 50 years of Council ownership.

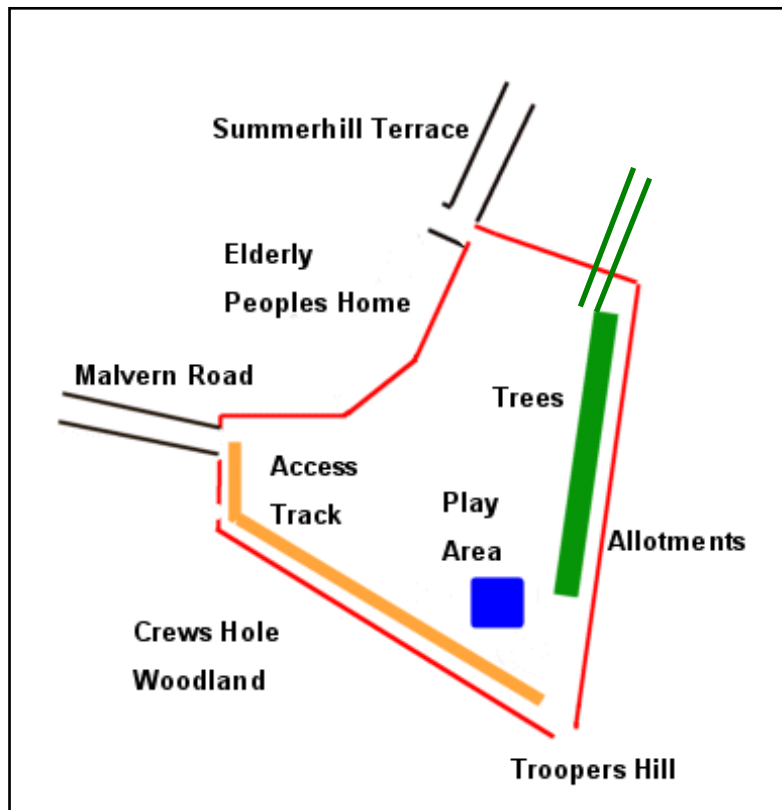
4.6 The past year has also seen more research into the flora and fauna of the site. Surveys were undertaken as part of both the Moth evening and the Fungal Foray. 92 species of moths were recorded by the Bristol and District Moth Group, while Justin Smith identified 39 species of fungi. The full results and species lists can be seen on the website.

A further moth survey and also an invertebrate survey are planned for 2006.

Troopers Hill was also surveyed by BRERC in August 2005 as part of the Bristol SNCI Favourable Condition Assessment. This report also includes a full species list; copies can be borrowed from the Friends of Troopers Hill. The assessment of the acidic grassland was that it was a grade A site. The report also noted that current management practices are supporting the communities on the site and assigned an overall grade of A+

5.0 Troopers Hill Field ~~Malvern Road Open Space~~

5.1 Site Plan



- 5.2 This area is officially known by Bristol City Council as 'Malvern Road Open Space' and this name was used in the Action Plan.

In the consultation carried out in Spring 2005 (C15) we discovered that most local people consider the area to be part of Troopers Hill and don't refer to it by any other name. Those who do differentiate have several names that they use including 'Troopers Hill Park'; 'Top of the Tump'; 'Troopers Hill Flat' and many more. The most popular names though are 'Troopers Hill Field' or simply 'The Field'. The use of Troopers Hill in the name is also historically correct since the area was part of Troopers Hill Farm; it was purchased by Bristol City Council on 24th March 1932 for use as allotments. At our 2005 AGM it was agreed that we would use the name Troopers Hill Field from now on and this name is therefore used in this update.

- 5.3 It was very clear from the consultation that the Play Area was the aspect of Troopers Hill Field that most people wanted to see improved. The current play area consists of a frame for swings – with no swings - and a slide. There is no fencing to keep out dogs. Many people also suggested that the play area should be relocated. Some wanted it removed altogether.



- 5.4 To get things moving the Friends of Troopers Hill organised a meeting on 28th July 2005 and a further meeting on Troopers Hill Field with Bristol Park's Play Officer to discuss the options.

Invitations were then sent to those who completed the survey to attend a larger meeting to discuss the way forward. There was a very disappointing turn out for this meeting with only three people turning up in addition to the organisers. The low turn out could at least in part have been explained by the very wet weather that evening but it does seem to show that this not high on people's priorities.

The situation was discussed at the Friends of Troopers Hill AGM and it was decided that as a group we would take no further action. If in the future anyone wants to start their own group to improve the play area they would have our support.

- 5.5 Provision of benches was the second most requested improvement in the survey and two concrete foundations exist from previous benches. This is also included in the Action Plan for Year 3. Following discussions at our meetings it was agreed that if benches were to be installed, then we should also try to re-establish a view. As recently as the early 1980s it was possible to see across Bristol from Troopers Hill Field and it was a popular spot to watch the balloons. Since then trees have grown up and you have to walk on to Troopers Hill to get a view. We have therefore agreed with Bristol Parks to selectively cut down a small number of the trees in Crews Hole Woodland. An area of bramble will also be cleared to create a new glade in the edge of the woodland and a new bench will be installed looking towards this area. This work will be funded by the donation received from Cromadex, part of Akzo Nobel (see page 3) and will be carried out outside the bird nesting season.



6.0 Aims and Objectives

Overall Objectives

“The aim of this Management and Action Plan is to ensure that Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve is maintained as a nature reserve, of benefit to both wildlife and people.”

Wildlife Objectives

“To maintain and where possible enhance the quality and extent of acidic grassland and heath, including its associated bare earth, on the site.”

“To maintain areas of scrub on the site, especially scrub such as broom, which is dependent on an acidic substrate. “

People Objectives

“To provide suitable facilities for quiet recreation on the site, providing that these do not conflict with nature conservation requirements.”

“To encourage community involvement in the site, to encourage active involvement in the management of the site and increased appreciation of its wildlife and history.”

- 6.1 This year has been another great success. As a result of the Friends of Troopers Hill and Bristol Parks working together the site is now better maintained and has a higher profile in the local community. The signboards erected last year at the entrances (funded through Awards for All) have proved very popular and the improved maintenance has led to favourable comments. Local residents are also taking more interest in the site and have reported the occasional incidents of damage to the Friends of Troopers Hill so that quick action can be taken. All the events held during the year have been well attended and the activities carried out at Work Parties have helped achieve the Wildlife objectives.
- 6.2 Following the grant award from YANSEC funding is now in place to complete the major item outstanding from Year-1, the provision of benches. There has been action on all the tasks scheduled for Year-2 and, as intended, the plan has been updated to take account of the views of the community. With the support of Bristol Parks we were able to bring forward the hedge planting which was planned for Year-4 and funding is already in place for benches on Troopers Hill Field which are scheduled for Year-3.
- 6.4 Section 7, over the page, includes updates and revisions to the work schedules in the April 2004 plan; items not mentioned are unaltered.

7.0 Schedules of Work to be Carried Out – Update April 2006

The original description is shown in *italics* with the update in normal text.

Schedule A – Ongoing Wildlife Tasks

A1 Eradication of Japanese Knotweed – Treatment required twice per year

This work is to be carried out by specialist contractors in accordance with Bristol City Council's policy to eradicate this pernicious weed. There are large areas of knotweed in the woodland on the western side of the Nature Reserve.

All areas of knotweed were treated at least twice and some three times during 2005. This has significantly weakened the plant and early growth this year is less than previous years. Treatment will continue this year. It has been suggested that if the knotweed is successfully eradicated then some of these areas should be kept clear as glades, rather than allowing scrub to grow. This would also allow any surviving knotweed to be visible.

A2 Hay Cut – Annually in late summer

The area of tall grassland in the north-eastern corner of the site is to be cut annually and the cuttings removed as hay. This area has more fertile soil than the remainder of the reserve and if not cut will become dominated by rank grasses and its biodiversity will decline.

Due to a breakdown in communications the change to a late summer hay cut was not implemented in 2005. Bristol Park's contractor, BCS, apologised for this error on their part. We have been assured that the hay cut will be implemented this year.

A3 Clearance of Bramble from Areas of Broom and Heather – All year

Bramble and hawthorn scrub are to be removed from the areas of broom, with the three areas shown on the map being the focus for the first year. Other areas will also be tackled in later years in accordance with recommendations from the biennial monitoring (see A7).

Areas of bramble where birds might nest will only be cut from October to early March.

Work has again concentrated on the three areas of broom started last year, Sally's Glade, an area by the steps to the stack and an area above Troopers Hill Road.

A4 Clearance of Scrub from Heathland

Some small scale scrub clearance/control will be carried out where this is encroaching on areas of heathland, again in accordance with the recommendations from the biennial monitoring (see A7). When scrub clearance is carried out goat willow and silver birch will be retained since these species are of particular value for invertebrates.

More Holm Oak saplings have been noted and will be removed this summer – this is work that can continue in the nesting season. An order has been placed by Bristol Parks for the large Holm Oak tree in Crews Hole woodland to be felled in September or October 2006.

Schedule A – Ongoing Wildlife Tasks (Continued)

A5 Clear Small Areas of Scrub – December/January

Areas of scrub as shown on the map are to be cut down in a five yearly rotation in order to promote young scrub growth. No work will be carried out in the vicinity of badger sets.

This year's efforts have again been devoted to clearing bramble from broom.

A6 Reduce Area of Bracken – June and August

The area of bracken will be reduced by cutting at June and August work parties. Work will concentrate on a 5m wide strip at the edge of the area and 3m each side of the informal path. Cutting at this time of year weakens the rhizomes since the energy used in growing is not then replaced by sugars produced by mature fronds. This method of treatment is accordance with BTCV recommendations.

The bracken was again cut at Work Parties in June and August each side of the steps from No 2 entrance, it was also cleared from the fence line in September.

Some of this work will be carried out by Bristol Park's contractors from this year onwards.

A7 Vegetation Photographic Monitoring – August in 2004, 2006 & 2008

This programme of monitoring the site will be continued and the results used to measure the success of the management regime. Any actions recommended will be incorporated into the annual review of this plan.

An additional vegetation survey was carried out by BRERC in August 2005 as part of the Bristol SSCI Favourable Condition Assessment (see page 9).

It has been agreed with Sally Oldfield that the photographic survey for 2006 will be carried out by the Friends of Troopers Hill (at the August Work Party, if the weather is suitable). The money allocated for this survey will instead be used for an invertebrate survey to be completed by David Gibbs who carried out the survey in 2000 that discovered the presence of *Nomada guttulata*.

A8 Invertebrate Surveys and Butterfly Transects – April to September

Further surveys are required to monitor the rare species found to be present at the time of the 2000 invertebrate survey and to confirm or otherwise the suspected loss of the Grayling Butterfly from the site. The results of these surveys will be used to help decide on the priorities for management of heath and scrub. Troopers Hill will be suggested to academic institutions and other bodies as a subject for research that could include these surveys. A butterfly transect will be carried during the summer of 2004 by a Bath University student.

92 species of moths were recorded by the Bristol and District Moth Group during a single evening in June 2005. This group is planning a further visit this year and David Gibbs will carry out an invertebrate survey (see above).

A9 Botanical Surveys – As appropriate for the species to be surveyed

Surveys of flora of all types will also be encouraged and again academic institutions and other bodies will be approached and the use of Troopers Hill suggested for research. A bryophyte survey was carried out in March 2004 by a specialist working with the Bristol and Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC).

Justin Smith identified 39 species of fungi, during a foray in October 2005.

A10 Mowing of Grass, Malvern Road Open Space – As required in growing season.

Consideration should be given to allowing certain areas of grass to grow and be cut for hay once or twice per year (see C15).

The consultation indicated that a lot of people use the area for ball games and therefore like all the grass to be regularly cut. The idea of a hay cut will not therefore be taken up.

Schedule B – Ongoing People Tasks

B1 Health and Safety Audit – Annually or as required.

Bristol Parks will carry out Health and Safety Audits and risk assessments of the site at least once per year. Further audits will be carried out in the event of any damage to the site due to vandalism or natural causes such as storms or fires. The Friends of Troopers Hill will receive copies of these audits and will report any circumstances brought to their attention that may affect the safety of the site.

B2 Maintenance of Definitive Footpath Surface – As required

The two definitive footpaths were surfaced in 1991 as part of a series of capital works to prevent and reverse damage caused by erosion. The surface of these paths will be regularly inspected and maintained in an acceptable condition to encourage use of the site.

B3 Clear Back Vegetation from Footpaths – ~~Twice per year~~ As required

Substantial lengths of the paths are bounded by woodland and scrub including bramble and become impassable if this is not regularly cut back. Contracts will be placed for designated lengths of paths setting suitable standards for the width to be cleared.

Bristol Parks' contractors made several visits to the site and kept all the paths clear throughout the growing season. This was a major improvement to the maintenance of the hill which it is hoped will be repeated this year.

B4 Cutting Vegetation from Footpaths – As required April to September

Minor work cutting mainly brambles is required between contractor's visits and to informal paths not covered by the contracts. This work will be undertaken at work parties by Friends of Troopers Hill Volunteers.

The increased scope of the contractors work meant that the Friends of Troopers Hill only had to deal with the occasional stray bramble.

B5 Maintenance of the Boundary Fence – As required

The boundary fence to both Troopers Hill and Malvern Road Open Space needs to be maintained to prevent motorcycle access. Sections of the fence may require replacement where the posts have rotted.

A particular problem area is along Troopers Hill road where the fence has been damaged by the activity of badgers. This area will be reviewed and consideration given to the fence being repositioned or removed altogether.

Some further repairs were necessary, particularly to the fence at Greendown. Further damage has occurred due to badger activity on Troopers Hill Road.

Schedule B – Ongoing People Tasks (Continued)

B6 Maintenance of Pedestrian Access Gates – As required

Kissing gates have been installed at the four pedestrian access points from Troopers Hill Road (probably in 1991) to allow pedestrian access while preventing use of the site by motorbikes. These will be regularly inspected and repaired as necessary to prevent future motorcycle use. In particular the gateposts need inspection for signs that they are rotting through at ground level.

At the access from the Open Space, a chicane was formed using fence posts and rails, this was broken down just before Christmas 2003 and temporary repairs were made. This gate could be removed completely once fencing is provided to the Summerhill Terrace access to the Open Space (see C10) and the fence at Malvern Rd is made secure (C11). The temporary arrangement will therefore be maintained until this is achieved.

Following the completion of items C10 and C11 to prevent motorcycle access to Troopers Hill Field, the gate between the Field and the Hill has been chained open since November 2005. Provided that there are no further problems the gate will be removed.

The pedestrian gate at Greendown was repaired by Gary Ratcliffe in June 2005, but will soon require replacement. The contractor's access gate on Greendown is also in need of repair and will require replacement in the near future.

The gate post at the entrance by the stack was partly rotten and has been broken off. The gate has been put in safe storage and a new post ordered by Caroline. Given the number of steps this entrance is the lowest risk for motorcycle abuse. It is hoped that the repairs can be completed at a Work Party.

B7 Maintenance of Dog Bins – Three times per week

This will be carried out as part of the contract covering all Bristol dog bins in accordance with the agreed standards and includes emptying the bins and replacing any that are damaged.

Use of the bins will be monitored by the Community Parks Manager and Friends of Troopers Hill to assess whether any additional bins are required. Two new bins will be installed in Year 1 (C4 & C6).

There have been no concerns raised about this issue this year.

B8 Maintenance of Existing Seats – As required

The two existing seats will be regularly be inspected and repaired/replaced as necessary. Unfortunately one of these was destroyed by fire in May 2004.

The seat that was repaired will require repainting this year.

Schedule B – Ongoing People Tasks (Continued)

B9 Inspection of Structures – Annual visual inspection

Two structures exist on the site, the well known chimney on top of the hill and the ‘stack’ at the corner of Troopers Hill Road and Crews Hole Road.

Extensive repointing of the chimney was carried out three years ago and it is not anticipated that any further work will be required in the period covered by this plan.

The stack has not however had any work carried on it for several years, except for the removal of loose stones from the top as an emergency measure in response to a call from a resident that a stone had fallen. These stones were apparently pushed into the chimney. Two sides of the base of the structure are obscured by brambles and cannot therefore be inspected in detail but appear to be in good condition.

A further survey of the stack is required now that the brambles have been cleared.

B10 Maintenance of Structures – As required following surveys

Work to the top of the stack will be required in Year 1 – see C7

B11 Removal of Hazardous or Large Items of Rubbish – As required

Friends of Troopers Hill will report any items to the Community Parks Manager.

B12 Response to Incidents of Damage/Vandalism – As required

Friends of Troopers Hill will report any damage to the Community Parks Manager.

Minor repairs will be carried out by work parties where possible. An example is the replacement of broken fence rails carried out along Green Down in December 2003.

A further risk assessment of the site will be undertaken if necessary after any major incidents.

B13 Litter picking – Every 3 or 4 months

A major ‘Spring Clean’ will be held each April in which local schools and youth groups will be invited to participate. The area covered may be extended into the adjacent Crews Hole Woodland if sufficient people participate.

Regular litter picks by both the Friends of Troopers Hill and Bristol Parks contractors will continue.

B14 Cut vegetation around Stack – 3 or 4 times/year

Following the initial clearance of vegetation from this Grade II listed structure (see D6 below) it will be cut regularly to prevent further damage and to keep this historic feature fully visible.

Schedule B – Ongoing People Tasks (Continued)

B15 Inspection and Maintenance of Steps – As required – Additional Item

The steps on Troopers Hill were installed in about 1991 and are formed from 4 inch square timbers held with wooden stakes. Some of these stakes are rotting, so the steps need to be regularly checked to ensure the timbers are secure. The Friends of Troopers Hill are regular users of the site and will report any problems to the CPM at our regular meetings.

Additionally some filling behind the steps may be necessary where the gravel or soil has settled.

This has been added as an ongoing task following the completion of the initial repairs (D5).

Schedule C – Year 1 – April 2004 to March 2005 Items Not Complete at 2005 Report

People Tasks

C5 Additional bin at the top of the Hill – Completed June 2005

The existing dog bin at the Summerhill Terrace entrance to Malvern Road Open Space is rarely used; consideration will be given to moving this to a location on the Reserve.

It was decided to leave this bin in place; an additional bin was installed at the top of the hill.

C6 Provision of Second Additional Dog Bin – Completed June 2005

Dog owners will be consulted as to the most beneficial location for this second new dog bin.

The bin was installed at the bottom (No 1) entrance from Troopers Hill Road.

C7 Inspection and Repairs to stack – Repairs scheduled for 2006 / 2007

An inspection of the top section of the stack will be carried out and the necessary remedial works undertaken (see also B9).

The inspection highlighted the presence of loose stones on top of the stack and the repairs are expected to be carried out shortly. Clearance around the stack (see D6) has also revealed that some minor repairs are required to stabilise the 'wing walls'. Budget constraints have meant postponing this work to Year 3.

C11 Repairs/improvement to Gate at Malvern Rd – Completed August 2005

The vehicle access gate at the end of Malvern Rd is damaged and requires replacement. The new gate design will be in the form of a large kissing gate that will allow wheelchair access. The gate will then also close the existing gap and prevent motorcycle access.

Due to the delay to the grant application the gate and fence were funded by Bristol Parks and installed by their contractors.

C12 Installation of 3 New Benches – Funded by YANSEC – Scheduled for 2006

Provision of additional benches was one of the most requested improvements for the Reserve in the 2002/2003 survey.

It is proposed to install benches without backs (i.e. not seats). Benches to be vandal proof as far as possible, probably steel frames with recycled plastic slats. Locations will be agreed following consultation at Friends of Troopers Hill meetings. Siting of benches on the skyline will be avoided.

The benches will be constructed at workshops in May and June 2006 and installed soon afterwards.

Schedule D – Year 2 – April 2005 to March 2006

Wildlife Tasks

Ongoing Tasks Only – See Schedule A

People Tasks

D1 Site Interpretation – Possible funding through Nature in the City

The two current information sign boards will be replaced with a single new board in the area of the chimney and/or alternative forms of interpretation elsewhere on the Reserve. Information will be given on the different types of wildlife: badgers, deer, butterflies, broom etc. This will supplement the history interpretation provided through the Year 1 History Project.

It is proposed that a local landscape artist will be involved in the design and that local schools could also become involved. Other sites in the area will be visited to gather ideas for consideration.

As noted in the 2005 report a leaflet or leaflets will be produced to provide interpretation and publicity for the site. A lot of information is being collected on the wildlife, history and geology of the site that can be used on these leaflets. The delay to this item will therefore be a benefit in the long term. The design of on site interpretation will be discussed further once the leaflets have been designed and ordered.

D2 Wheelchair access from Open Space – Funded by YANSEC – July 2006

Provided motorcycle access to the Open Space has been prevented (C10 & C11), it will be possible to completely remove the gate and fence between the Open Space and the Hill to allow unrestricted wheelchair access. Footpath improvements will also be carried in the area of the current gate and consideration will be given to providing disabled parking spaces.

April 2005 update: The opportunity to access funding through Bristol Parks' application to SWEET has been taken to combine this with the planned access path to the chimney scheduled for Year 4 (item F4) as a single project. The path to the chimney will follow the existing path to form a complete circuit at the top of the hill. Surfacing will be 'Suretrack' similar to that used by Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust. It has been decided to include 2 disabled car parking spaces in the scheme.

The path to be funded by YANSEC will include access to the chimney as F4, and as intended in the original plan. The further extension to form a circuit and the installation of parking spaces is not now included and will not be pursued. The path will extend to the 'other' bench and include the area around it.

Further consultation with Bristol Parks' Hardworks officer is required to confirm the surfacing material. Suretrack appears to require too much excavation.

Year 2 – April 2005 to March 2006 (Continued)

People Tasks (continued)

D3 Installation of access for child buggies at Greendown – Now included in F2

Provision of wheelchair access to the top of the Hill will also encourage use of the Hill by parents with child buggies. The path to the corner of Greendown and Troopers Hill Road although having several steps is suitable for use with these buggies, however, anyone doing so at present would have great difficulty in getting out onto the road.

The kissing gate at this entrance will therefore be modified to allow easier access, while still preventing motorcycle access.

Any work to this gate will now be included in the general improvements at the entrances scheduled for Year 4 following consultation in Year 3 (E2).

D4 Improve area around seats and benches – Now included in D2

The area around the existing two seats is becoming very eroded, to the point where the seats are now too high above the ground.

Two options are being considered, either creating a stoned area around the benches or repositioning the seats to allow the existing areas to recover. The bench destroyed in May 2004 may therefore be replaced in a different location.

As noted in the 2005 report no further work is planned at Phyllis's bench. Improvements to the area around the other bench will be included as part of the wheelchair access (see D2).

D5 Repairs to existing steps on informal paths – Completed March 2006

The steps will be inspected in the Spring and repairs carried out as necessary to top up the steps where they have eroded and replace rotted timber.

The steps from No 2 Entrance, which were cleared in March 2004 (item C8), are filled with soil and this had settled significantly with the increased use. Rather than bringing soil to the site, it was agreed to reset the timber at a lower level, this was carried out by staff from the MOD at Abbey Wood (see page 6).

D6 Clear area around Stack – Completed November 2004

The area around the stack requires clearing to allow it to be surveyed, this area will then require tidying and possibly fencing.

The fencing around the stack was found to be adequate.

Year 2 – April 2005 to March 2006 (Continued)

People Tasks (Continued)

D7 Paths Through Woodland – Postponed to Year-4

New paths will be cut to improve access to the woodland area on the western side of the Nature Reserve and to link to paths in Crews Hole Woodland. Paths through this area are shown on older plans of the site.

This work will be carried out in the winter to avoid disturbing nesting birds.

The woodland area is on the site of old quarries, some of which have been used for tipping in the past. There are some steep drops so the routes for any paths will have to be carefully selected. There are also large areas of Japanese Knotweed in the woodland; once this has been eradicated clearings will be left which new paths could link together and it will be easier to see possible routes.

Initial investigations into possible routes for paths will be carried out next winter with the actual work being scheduled for Year-4.

D8 Provision of New Play Area, Malvern Road Open Space – Item Deleted

Depending on the results of the consultation (see C15) the Friends of Troopers Hill will apply for grant money to install a new play area.

Although this was supported by the consultation, lack of active local support means that the Friends of Troopers Hill have decided not to pursue this further (see also pages 10 & 11).

Schedule E – Year 3 – April 2006 to March 2007

The following Year 3 Wildlife Task has been deleted

- E1 Tree/Wildflower planting, Troopers Hill Field – Item Deleted

Depending on the results of the consultation (see C15) additional trees and/or wildflowers will be planted in Malvern road Open space.

The results of the consultation showed that the majority valued this area as somewhere for ball games; there was no demand for more planting. Indeed it appears that the majority would not want the grass area available for games reduced. This item has therefore been deleted.

The following Year 3 People Task has been revised

- E6 Provision of Seats *and Restored Views* in Troopers Hill Field
– Funded by Cromadex, part of Akzo Nobel

Seats to be provided near the play area, the existing two seats from the Nature Reserve may be used, these would then be replaced with benches.

It has been agreed that benches (i.e. no back) will be provided on the existing concrete foundations. A few selected trees will be cut to restore the view (see page 11 for details).

The following Year 3 People Task has been added

- E9 Relocate Dog Bin in Troopers Hill Field

Since the gate between Troopers Hill Field and the Hill is now chained open and an additional dog bin has been installed at the top of the Hill, there is no need for the dog bin adjacent to the play area. It has been agreed with Caroline Hollies that the bin will therefore be relocated nearer to the Malvern Road entrance.

Schedule F – Year 4 – April 2007 to March 2008

The following Year 4 Wildlife Task was brought forward

F1 Plant Hedge at Green Down (following consultation) – Completed Jan 2006

Subject to receiving approval from the Greendown residents, it is proposed to plant a hawthorn/blackthorn hedge inside the existing fence along Greendown.

In the long term this hedge could be laid and form a more attractive replacement for the fence.

Following discussions about the deteriorating condition of the Greendown fence, Bristol Parks offered to fund the purchase of hedging plants this year. It is hoped that the new hedge will now have time to grow sufficiently prior to the fence needing replacement.

In accordance with the above the views of the Greendown residents were sought before the hedge was planted, the majority were in favour.

Schedule H – Summary, Costing and Funding

Item	Description	Lead Backer	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding
Ongoing Wildlife Tasks				
A1	Eradication of Japanese Knotweed – Treatment required twice per year	Community Parks Manager	£1,000	BCC
A2	Hay Cut – Annually in late summer	CPM	Maintenance	BCC
A3	Clearance of Bramble from Areas of Broom and Heather – All year	Local Nature Reserve Officer	Volunteer Labour	
A4	Clearance of Scrub from Heathland	LNRO	Volunteer Labour	
A5	Clear Small Areas of Scrub – December/January	LNRO	Volunteer Labour	
A6	Reduce Area of Bracken – June and August	LNRO	Volunteer Labour + Maintenance	
A7	Vegetation Photographic Monitoring – August in 2004✓, 2006 & 2008	LNRO	£500	BCC
A8	Invertebrate Surveys and Butterfly Transects – April to September	LNRO	Academic Research	
A9	Botanical Surveys – As appropriate for the species to be surveyed	LNRO	Academic Research	
A10	Mowing of Grass, Malvern Road Open Space – As required.	CPM	£996	BCC
Ongoing People Tasks				
B1	Health and Safety Audit – Annually or as required.	CPM	N/A	BCC
B2	Maintenance of Definitive Footpath Surface – As required	CPM	Maintenance	BCC
B3	Clear Back Vegetation from Footpaths – Twice per year (June, August) <i>As required</i>	CPM	Maintenance	BCC
B4	Cut back Vegetation from ‘Informal’ Footpaths – As required April to September	Friends of Troopers Hill	Volunteer Labour + Maintenance	
B5	Maintenance of the Boundary Fence – As required	CPM	Response	BCC
B6	Maintenance of Pedestrian Access Gates – As required	CPM	Response	BCC
B7	Maintenance of Dog Bins – Three times per week	CPM	£48/bin	BCC
B8	Maintenance of Existing Seats – As required	CPM	Response	BCC
B9	Inspection of Structures – Annual visual inspection	CPM	N/A	BCC

Schedule H – Summary, Costing and Funding (Continued)

Item	Description	Lead Backer	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding
Ongoing People Tasks (Continued)				
B10	Maintenance of Structures – As required following surveys	CPM	Response	BCC
B11	Removal of Hazardous or Large Items of Rubbish – As required	CPM	Maintenance	BCC
B12	Response to Incidents of Damage/Vandalism – As required	CPM	Response	BCC
B13	Litter picking – Every 3 or 4 months	FoTH	Volunteer Labour + Maintenance	
B14	Cut vegetation around Stack – 3 or 4 times/year	CPM	Maintenance	BCC
B15	<i>Inspection and Maintenance of Steps</i>	FoTH	Volunteer Labour	
Wildlife Tasks				
C1✓	Establish Friends of Troopers Hill Tool Store	FoTH	£921	Awards for All
C2✓	Health and Safety and First Aid Training and Equipment	FoTH	£428	Awards for All
People Tasks				
C3✓	Repairs to steps on Definitive Footpath	CPM	£500	BCC
C4✓	Provision of Dog Bin at Greendown/Troopers Hill Road Entrance	CPM	£250	BCC
C5✓	Repositioning of Dog Bin from Summerhill Terrace <i>Third New bin</i>	CPM	£250	BCC
C6✓	Provision of Second Additional Dog Bin – location to be agreed	CPM	£250	BCC
C7	Inspection✓ and Repairs to stack	CPM	TBC	BCC
C8✓	Clear Steps from No 2 Entrance	FoTH	Complete	
C9✓	Repairs to Broken Fence Rails	CPM	Response + Volunteers	BCC + FoTH
C10✓	Provision of fence at Summerhill Terrace	CPM	£1,800	BCC
C11✓	Repairs/improvement to Gate <i>and fence</i> at Malvern Rd	FoTH	£2,800	BCC
C12	Installation of 3 New Benches	FoTH	£1,150 + £130	YANSEC + Donations

Schedule H – Summary, Costing and Funding (Continued)

Item	Description	Lead Backer	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding
C13✓	Installation of Signs at Entrances	FoTH	£1,520	Awards for All
C14✓	Installation of 2 Notice Boards	FoTH		
C15✓	Consultation on the Future of Malvern Rd Open Space	FoTH	Volunteer Labour	
C16✓	‘Interpretive History Project’	LNRO	£1,500	Wildspace!
Year 2 – April 2005 to March 2006				
People Tasks				
D1	Site Interpretation	FoTH	£5,000	<i>Nature in the City?</i>
D2	Installation of wheelchair access from Open Space	CPM	£1,760.00	YANSEC
D3	Installation of access for child buggies at Greendown	Included in F2		
D4	Improve area around seats and benches	Included in D2		
D5✓	Repairs to existing steps on informal paths	FoTH	Volunteer Labour	
D6✓	Clear area around Stack	CPM	£750	BCC
D7	Paths Through Woodland	FoTH	Volunteer Labour	
D8	Provision of New Play Area, Malvern Road Open Space	Item Deleted		
Year 3 – April 2006 to March 2007				
Wildlife Tasks				
E1	Tree/Wildflower planting, Malvern Rd Open Space	Item Deleted		
People Tasks				
E2	Consultation on Improvements at Entrances to Troopers Hill Road -	LNRO		Grant 5
E3	New Path and Wheelchair access from Summerhill Terrace	FoTH		Grant 6
E4	Installation of Interpretation Near Specific Features	FoTH		Grant 7
E5	Provision of Further Benches	FoTH		Grant 6
E6	Provision of Seats <i>and Restored Views</i> in Troopers Hill Field	FoTH	£789	Akzo Nobel
E7	Install Direction Signs	LNRO	£1,000	BCC

Schedule H – Summary, Costing and Funding (Continued)

Item	Description	Lead Backer	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding
E8	Selective improvements to informal paths	FoTH	Volunteer Labour	
E9	<i>Relocate Dog Bin in Troopers Hill Field</i>	CPM	£100	BCC
Year 4 – April 2007 to March 2008				
Wildlife Tasks				
F1 ✓	Plant Hedge at Green Down (following consultation)	FoTH	Volunteer Labour	
People Tasks				
F2	Improvements to Troopers Hill Road Entrances	LNRO		Grant 5
F3	New Steps from No 2 Entrance	FoTH		Fund Raising
F4	Upgrade Path from Open Space to Chimney	FoTH	Incl in D2	YANSEC
Year 5 – April 2008 to March 2009				
Wildlife Tasks				
G1	Create Additional Glades	LNRO	Volunteer Labour	
People Tasks				
G2	Installation of Interpretive View Point	FoTH		Fund Raising
G3	Possible Fence Replacement	CPM		BCC
G4	Residents Survey	FoTH	Volunteer Labour	

For further information on Troopers Hill,
or to give your views on the management
of the reserve, please contact:

Sally Oldfield

Local Nature Reserves Officer
Bristol Parks
Department of Environment, Transport and Leisure
Colston House
Colston Street
Bristol
BS1 5AQ

Tel: 0117 922 4429

Fax: 0117 922 3744

Email: sally_oldfield@bristol-city.gov.uk

www.bristol-city.gov.uk/parks

Rob Acton-Campbell

Friends of Troopers Hill
c/o 3, Corkers Hill
St George
Bristol
BS5 8DT

Tel:0117 947 5037

Email: works@troopers-hill.org.uk

www.troopers-hill.org.uk