

Troopers Hill Area - Timeline



[Green Flag](#)
[RHS Park Award](#)
[RHS IYN](#)
 Ownership
 Monarch
 County

2024	Second winter of gorse work funded by BCC Climate and Ecological Emergency Community Grant					
	First edition of 'Super Trooper' Newsletter					
2023	Campaign to purchase Blackswarth Road Wood 20 years of Friends of Troopers Hill	5*	O			Charles III
	Events restart after pandemic					
2022	Path to chimney resurfaced Survey 20 years on - repeat of 2002 survey to get people's opinions of Troopers Hill	5*	O			
	Coronavirus restrictions continue					
2021	Funding secured & new slide installed Troopers Hill Field	5*	O			
	Art Competition & new flag to celebrate 25 years as a Local Nature Reserve					
2020	Coronavirus pandemic - most public activities & events cancelled from mid-March. Ways to Nature Project - works completed including new path on Troopers Hill Field. Old Sneed Park declared as a LNR 7th April 2020 (now 13) Bristol City Council declares an ecological emergency			Covid		
2019	New fencing on TH Rd, Fungi interpretation board & habitat management as part of Ways to Nature. St George Strollers 200th walk. Red slide removed due to rust	5*	O			
	Ways to Nature' Project grants awarded by NLHF, ECT, IET.					
2018	Troopers Hill Rd Traffic calming. Bristol City Council declare a Climate Emergency	5*	O			
	Consultation & 1st stage application to NL Heritage Fund for Ways to Nature project					
2017	Natural Learners Project starts	5*	O			
	New Play Area. Geology Interpretation board. Works to upper chimney (scaffolding)					
2016	Consultation & design for play area. St George Strollers 100th walk. Avon New Cut, Lamplighters Marsh, Narrowways and The Northern Slopes designated as LNRs (now 12 in Bristol) Bristol is European Green Capital. Troopers Hill was declared as an "Orion Class" Dark Sky Discovery Site	5*	O			
2015	Troopers Hill awarded Gold in new RHS park award scheme.	5*	O			
2014	Works to outside of Upper Chimney (using ropes) Bristol Wild City Project ends.	G	O			
	Troopers Hill awarded 7th Green Flag (BCC then stop Green Flag entries). Works to both chimneys. Stepping Forward 'Experiencing Troopers Hill' incl Audio Trail					
2013	Main 'Stepping Forward' Project incl work to steps, 2 extra interpretation boards.		O			
2012	Revised Management Plan. Air Balloon Primary School Jubilee Walk to Troopers Hill (600 teachers & pupils)		O			
2011	FoTH receive 'Thriving' in first IYN entry. St George Strollers formed, first walk 11th May.		T			
2010	Troopers Hill designated a Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site					
2009	Mine shaft works. Troopers Hill Rd falling earth bank removed Bristol Wild City Project starts					
2008	Improvements to Greendown entrance & new fencing. Callington Rd designated as an LNR (now 8 in Bristol)					
2007	End of Nature in the City Project. New Management Plan adopted. Troopers Hill awarded a Green Flag for the 1st time. New interpretation board by chimney. Wheelchair path to chimney Badock's Wood, Eastwood Farm Manor Woods Valley designated as LNRs (now 7)					
2006	Hedge planted at Greendown, 21 Jan End of Wildspace! Project, launch of Nature in the City led by Sally Oldfield.					

2005	Centenary of Air Balloon School Friends of Troopers Hill visit to the Bathhouse to celebrate 10 years as an LNR First 2 dog waste bins installed on Troopers Hill LNR
2004	Management and Action Plan launched, Awards for All Lottery Grant awarded New entrance signs installed with clip frames for posters
2003	Formation of Friends of Troopers Hill
2002	LNR officer (Sally Oldfield) appointed funded by Wildspace! through English Nature and the Lottery Survey of local households to get their opinions of Troopers Hill
2000	2000 First D Gibbs Invertebrate survey. 1999 New Management Plan by Wessex Ecological Consultancy adopted.
1996	Avon County Council abolished, 1st April Royate Hill designated as LNR Troopers Hill Designated as Local Nature Reserve (LNR) 22nd June (one of three, the first in Bristol, others
1995	were Lawrence Weston Moor & Stockwood Open Space). 2 interpretation signs installed. Major fire on Troopers Hill 17th Aug. BDC dissolved.
1994	1994 30th Dec Colliery chimney at bottom of Troopers Hill listed Grade II Start of photographic monitoring
1992	1992 BDC funded management plan
1991	1991 Resurfacing of paths, erection of perimeter fence. 'Action Days' run by Avon Wildlife Trust
1990	1989 Bristol Development Corporation (BDC) established covering the Avon Valley, including Troopers Hill 1987 Crews Hole Methodist Church closed 1983 Bristol City Council Avon Valley Development Brief and Conservation Policy adopted 1982 Tar Works site cleared 1981 Tar Works closed
1980	1977 4th March, Chimney on top of Troopers Hill listed Grade II 1976 St George Church demolished (this was the third church on the site) 1974 Tar Works Sublimed naphthalene plant closed as explosion risk after Flixborough Avon County Council established 1st April
1970	1970 1 April Ownership of Bristol & West Tar Distillers passed to British Steel 1968 Flood to 6 inches below 1894/1960 level 10 July
1960	1962 Southwestern Gas Board become sole owner of Bristol & West Tar Distillers 1960 Flood to 1894 record level 5 Dec
1956	1956 14th Sept Freehold of Troopers Hill purchased by Bristol City Council for £600 21st Dec Troopers Hill Woodland purchased by BCC from the estate of EW Smith for use as a tip for £2,120.
1952	1952 Formation of Bristol & West Tar Distillers - Southwestern Gas Board own 25%
1948	1948 3rd April Troopers Hill sold by J W Ballard to Frank Viner for £600
1945	1945 End of World War II 11 April - Good Friday Raid destroys St Phillips bridge, cutting power supply & stopping all trams permanently, the trams were scrapped at Kingswood depot
1941	1941
1939	1939 Start of World War II
1936	1936 21st April Joseph John Ballard (owner of Troopers Hill) dies
1932	1932 24th March Allotments including Troopers Hill Field purchased by BCC for £3,165
1928	1928 9th & 10th Oct Bristol Tolzey Court hearings grant right of way on road to Apricot, Rosary & Hillside Cottages
1925	1925 Great Western Cotton Factory goes into liquidation
1924	1924 5th Sept Troopers Hill sold by B E Somers (son of Thomas & Elizabeth) to Joseph John Ballard for £515. Stone & Tinson's Muriate of Ammonia Works closed - incorporated into Tar Works
1920	1920 30th Sept Freehold of Troopers Hill offered for sale by auction (20 acres or thereabouts) 1918 End of the Great War (World War I)
1914	1914 Start of the Great War (World War I)
1910	

Bristol City Council	Elizabeth II	City and County of Bristol
F Viner	George VI	County of Avon
J W Ballard	E VIII	City and County of Bristol
Joseph J Ballard	George V	
B E Somers		

1908	Troopers Hill Fireclay mine closed	B E Somers	Edward VII	City and County of Bristol
1905	Little St Aidan's and adjoining school closed - bought by the Tar Works			
1904	Conham Chemical Works closed - incorporated into Tar Works Bull Inn rebuilt in new location	Elizabeth Somers	Victoria	Gloucestershire
1900	William Butler dies 6 October Tramline extension opened to Hanham, St Philip's power station switched on to power all trams St George becomes part of the City and County of Bristol			
1897	School pupils walk over Troopers Hill - Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebration George Lacey killed in a major fire at Butlers Tar Works			
1896	Troopers Hill Fireclay mine employs 9 underground workers			
1895	Opening of electrified tramline to Kingswood (power station at Beaconsfield Rd depot)			
1894	River flood 15 Nov			
1890	1889 William Butler retires. Temp Smallpox hospital moved to quarry at Holmes Hill. 1888 Temporary smallpox hospital on Troopers Hill 1886 Troopers Hill leased to Bristol Fireclay Co by Elizabeth Somers 1885 Celebration on Troopers Hill for the election of Handel Cossham as MP (3/4,000 people)			
1880	1882 'a most disorderly scene' - Salvation Army vs Bristol secularists on Troopers Hill 1880 OS map uses name of Troopers Hill, this name was authorised by 3 local residents Third St George church completed First record of Troopers Hill Fireclay mine.			
1878	22 Dec Fire destroys second St George Church Mass meeting of striking GW Cotton Mill workers on Troopers Hill			
1876	Tramline to St George (World's End Public House) opened (horse drawn)			
1875	Bristol Tramways Co formed with William Butler as chairman			
1873	St George Local Board formed. Visit to Troopers Hill by Cotswold Naturalists' Field Club led by Handel Cossham			
1870	1863 Tar Works Fire - Works sold to William Butler 1862 Thomas Somers dies, his wife Elizabeth becomes owner of Troopers Hill 1861 Start of the American Civil War (to 1865) - cotton famine closes GW Cotton Factory	T Somers	Victoria	Gloucestershire
1860	1860 Crews Hole Wesleyan Chapel built (later used as industrial works, now housing) - foundation stone laid 10 Sept 1860 by Archibald Vickers, Manager Great Western Cotton Factory			
1850	1853 Crews Hole Methodist Church built (corner Troopers Hill Rd & Crews Hole Rd). James Michell sets up business to reprocess old copper slag.	Dr Benjamin Somers	William IV	Gloucestershire
1848	Dr Benjamin Somers, owner of Troopers Hill dies			
1846	St George church rebuilt to designs of J Hicks (second church)			
1845	'Troopers Hill' shown on Tithe Map Troopers Hill coal mine closed by this date			
1843	Crews Hole Tar Works established by IKB with local financiers. William Butler became manager Elizabeth Emra dies 10th Oct a few days after the birth of her eighth child			
1841	GWR opened from Bristol to Paddington			
1840	1840 Lander's Electoral Map shows 'Truebody's Hill' GWR opened from Bristol to Bath Patent for preserving timber with creosote by John Bethell			
1838	Great Western Cotton Factory opens in Barton Hill			
1835	Construction of the Great Western Railway starts			
1834	Distribution of slave compensation money to slave owners			
1833	The Abolition of Slavery Act is passed by the British Parliament Scenes in our Parish published in NY, Elizabeth Emra marries Marcus Holmes.			
1832	Complete version of Scenes in our Parish published in UK (with second series)			
1831	Bristol Riots 31st October, fires in Queen's Sq seen from St George by E Emra			
1830	1830 OS map published using the name 'Troopers Hill' Scenes in our Parish by a Country Parson's Daughter (Elizabeth Emra) first series published in UK.	George IV	William IV	Gloucestershire
1828	Brass Company sells Crews Hole abandoned site for £1,880 to Dr Benjamin Somers			
1826	Drawing commissioned by GW Braikenridge shows Troopers Hill Chimney OS surveyor uses the name 'Troopers Hill' on preliminary drawing for new OS map - first recorded use	Bristol Brass Company	George IV	Gloucestershire
1820	1820 Bristol brass company ceases copper production 1819 Crews Hole Pottery closes 1815 Napoleon defeated at Waterloo in June, ending the Napoleonic Wars 1813 'Truebody's Hill' offered for sale. 1812 Anthony Ammat builds Crews Hole Pottery (it was beside the river opposite Lamb Hill)			

- 1810 Kennet and Avon canal completed linking Bristol to the Thames
Revd John Emra becomes vicar of St George (to 1842)
- 1809 Completion of Floating Harbour and Feeder Canal
Manufacture of copper and brass ceases at Warmley
- 1807 25 March, transatlantic slave trade abolished by the British Parliament
- 1805 Battle of Trafalgar on 21 October
- 1804 Elizabeth Emra born 20th Nov
- 1803 Maule's map shows Copper Works at the base of the Hill, lower chimney/engine house is not shown,
Troopers Hill colliery probably established after this time.
- 1800 1800 Sale of glassworks (the glassworks was near the bottom of Strawberry Lane)
- 1796 Joan Day book states Elton & Tyndall lease ends
- 1790 Troopers Hill Chimney built around this time for Elton & Tyndall Copper Works?
- 1789 Harfords' & Bristol Brass Company buys Warmley works
- 1788 First public mtg of Bristol Abolitionists.
- 1784 St George civil parish formed
- 1783 Treaty of Paris ends American War of Independence
Crews Hole (and Conham?) Copper Works leased by Elton and Tyndall
Brass company abandon Crews Hole site
- 1780 1780 Copper Smelting moved to Warmley and Crews Hole site leased to various businesses
- 1777 William King, glassmaker dies
- 1774 William Reeve bankrupt, Arnos Vale and Black Castle sold
- 1770 1769 Benjamin Donn's map shows 'The Cupolas' (copper smelters), also Lead Works below the Hill
- 1768 William Champion bankrupt, Warmley Company auctioned.
- 1766 Crews Hole bottle glasshouse advertised for sale occupied by William King & Co
- 1760 Troopers Hill Chimney built around this time for Leadworks shown on Donn's later map?
- 1758 25 March Sir Abraham Elton III sells 'Harris's Hill alias Truebody's Hill' to the Bristol Brass Company (10 acres) (Elton annals report this as 1753)
- 1756 First St George church completed
- 1754 49 copper smelting furnaces reported at Crews Hole
- 1752 Sept - change to Gregorian (New Style) calendar
3 March St George Church foundation stone laid
- 1751 Ecclesiastical parish of St George created
- 1750 William Reeve (1713-1778), manager of Crews Hole copper works builds Black Castle
- 1749 Council complains of waste copper slag obstructing river, manufacture of copper slag blocks started to dispose of this waste material
- 1746 William Champion leaves the Bristol brass company and founds rival 'Warmley Company'
- 1745 Sir Abraham Elton, 3rd Baronet (1703–1761) bankrupt 12 March
- 1742 Sir Abraham Elton, 2nd Baronet (b1679) dies 20 Oct
- 1740 1738 George Whitefield and John Wesley preach at Hanham Mount
- 1733 A Elton (II) & Thomas Coster promote idea of a *brass* statue to William (III) in Queens Square
- 1728 River Avon Navigation opened from Bristol to Bath
- 1728 Sir Abraham Elton, 1st Baronet (b1654), of Clevedon Court dies 9 Feb
- 1725 Crews Hole producing 150T copper/year from 24 furnaces employing 33 men
- 1720 1720 Share price of South Sea Company (& then other companies) collapses (South Sea Bubble)
- 1717 Abraham Elton created a baronet in reward for his services in the rebellion of 1715
- 1713 South Sea Company granted monopoly (the Asiento) to supply African slaves to the islands in the "South Seas" and South America
- 1712 Crews Hole Copper Works established by Bristol Brass & Wire Company under the control of John Coster and his son Thomas
- 1710 1708 Abraham Darby 'Active Man' (Manager) of the brass company moves to Coalbrookdale to pursue iron smelting.
- 1704 Harris's Hill alias Truebody's Hill' (10 acres) purchased by Abraham Elton from Lancelot Dobson

Bristol Brass Company	George III	
Sir Abraham Elton III	George II	
Sir Abraham Elton II	George I	
Sir Abraham Elton	Anne	
Gloucestershire		

