



INTRODUCING
TROOPERS HILL



Local Nature Reserve



A Special Place for Wildlife

TROOPERS HILL LOCAL NATURE RESERVE is one of Bristol's most unusual places for wildlife. A dramatic hillside that has been quarried and mined in the past, Troopers Hill contains a fascinating mix of history, wild plants and animals.



Old Quarry Workings, Troopers Hill

With heather and broom, rocky crags, spoil heaps and gullies, and stunning views, Troopers Hill is one of the most spectacular wildlife spots in the city.

In recognition of its importance to wildlife, Troopers Hill was designated a Local Nature Reserve by Bristol City Council in July 1995. This special designation means that Troopers Hill is protected for future generations to enjoy.

So why not use this guide to discover this nature reserve with a difference.

Geology

Troopers Hill's geology is unusual in Bristol. Most of the city lies on carboniferous limestone, but Troopers Hill is dominated by pennant sandstone.



Rock Outcrops

The sandstone was quarried in the past, which explains the strange hummocky landscape that can be seen today. In places, the sandstone can be seen on the

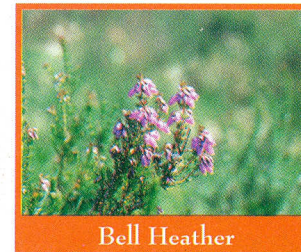
surface, both as natural outcrops and old quarry faces.

The sandstone has resulted in acid soils, which are rare in Bristol.

This has encouraged a wealth of plants to flourish, that are found nowhere else in the city.

Heathland

Ling and bell heather, more commonly found in places like Exmoor and Dartmoor, thrive on the acid soils on Troopers Hill. Look out for their purple flowers in late summer.



Bell Heather

Grassland

The grassland on Troopers Hill is unique to Bristol. Only plants that tolerate the acid soils survive. Look out for heath

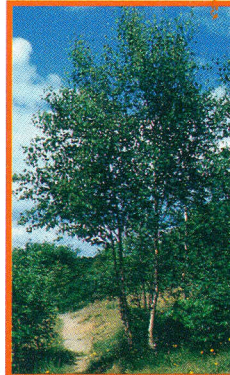
bedstraw and sheeps sorrel. The grassland is also home to three different types of grasshopper including the mottled grasshopper which is rare in the city.

Woodland and Scrub

The lower slopes and richer soils on Troopers Hill are covered in scrubby areas and woodland. Trees and shrubs present include hawthorn, silver birch, oak, broom and gorse.

The broom and gorse are easily recognised by their attractive yellow flowers. The

woodland and scrub are alive with birds including woodpeckers, blackcaps, whitethroats and jays. The scrub is also home to the dark-bush cricket.



Silver Birch

Grayling Butterfly



Troopers Hill is the only place in Bristol where the rare grayling butterfly can be found.

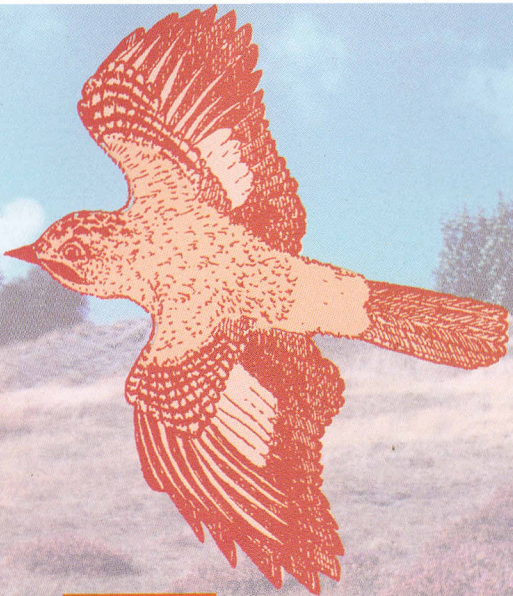
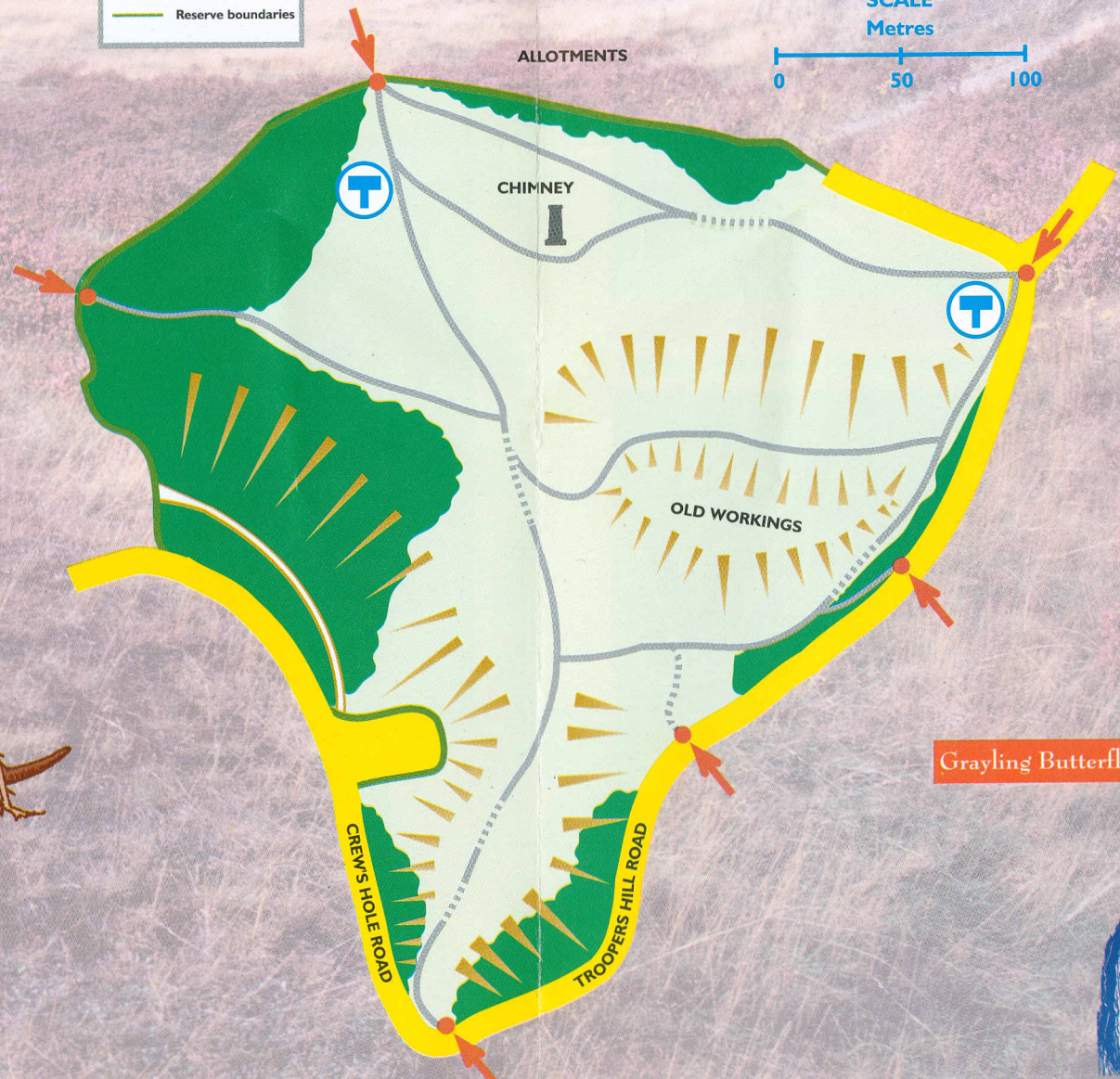
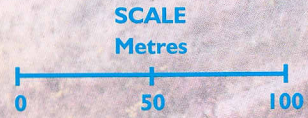
The grayling likes rocky ground and is ideally suited to the south-facing cliffs on Troopers Hill. Its grey-brown colour and habit of sitting with its wings tightly

closed means it is perfectly camouflaged against the bare ground on which it settles

The best time to see the grayling is in July and August.

Key

-  Access points
-  Footpath
-  Reserve signs
-  Woodland & scrub
-  Grass and heathland
-  Steps
-  Steep slope
-  Reserve boundaries



Jay



Heath Bedstraw



Dark Bush Cricket



Grayling Butterfly

History

Troopers Hill has a fascinating history that has shaped its appearance today. The famous chimney was built in 1863 as a vent for sulphurous smoke produced by William Butler's Tar Distillery at the bottom of the hill.



Chimney

Troopers Hill was also quarried for pennant sandstone and mined for coal, fire clay and iron at various times in its past. Quarrying for pennant sandstone is thought to have started in medieval times and continued to the twentieth century.

Several deep coal mines run under the hill and a small amount of open-cast mining was done on the hill in the early 1900s. But, throughout its history, Troopers Hill has remained open land. Old newspaper reports indicate that donkeys

were kept on Troopers Hill in the nineteenth century, and as a result the hill was known as Donkey Island.

Your Chance to Get Involved

Troopers Hill needs care and attention to keep it at its best for wildlife and to make sure it can be enjoyed by local people.

If you have enjoyed your visit to Troopers Hill and would like to get involved in helping to look after the hill, or to carry out surveys of the wildlife, please fill in the form below. Everyone is welcome.



Learning about Wildlife

Please send me more information on how I can help look after Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve.

Your name.....

Address.....

Telephone number.....

**Return to: Nature Conservation officer, Leisure Services Directorate
Colston House, Colston Street, Bristol BS1 5AQ**

Keep it Special

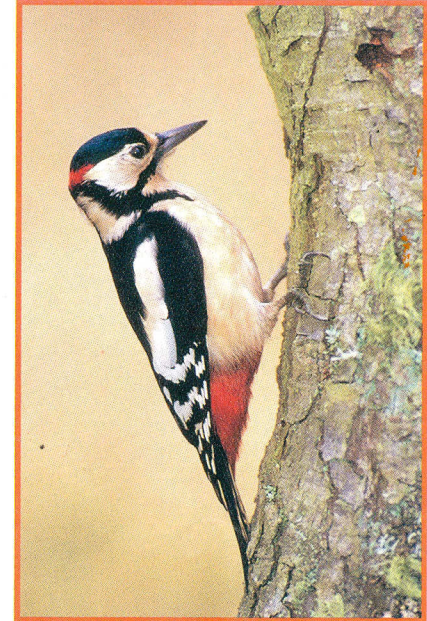
This nature reserve is of special importance for wildlife. When visiting, please help to keep it special by treating it with the respect it deserves. Please don't pick the wild flowers and take your litter home with you. Thank you.

Bristol City Council Leisure Services Directorate

The purpose of the Leisure Services Directorate is to improve the quality of life for people in Bristol through sport, play, culture and care for the environment.

The directorate is committed to nature conservation, and is working with local people to care for wildlife in our parks and open spaces.

The directorate is responsible for the designation and management of local nature reserves. Other local nature reserves can be found at Lawrence Weston Moor, Stockwood Open Space and Royate Hill.



Woodpecker



Gorse

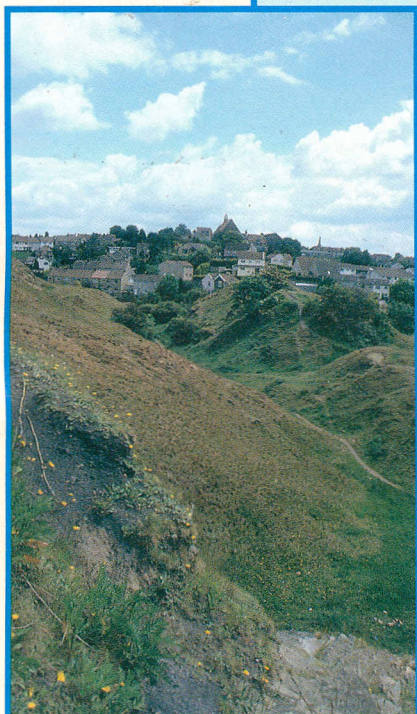


Grasshopper

Caring for the Reserve

TROOPERS HILL LOCAL NATURE RESERVE is owned and managed by Bristol City Council Leisure Services Directorate.

The reserve is looked after for the benefit of wildlife and the enjoyment of local people.



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