

# TROOPERS' HILL



*... is wearing out!*



BRISTOL  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL



LEISURE SERVICES  
P A R K S

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
THURSDAY 28TH FEBRUARY



## A SPECIAL PLACE

Troopers' Hill, with its lone chimney dominating the skyline, is a well known Bristol landmark and a place of special importance for its history and its wildlife. It is also a popular and much appreciated open space for local people, providing spectacular views over the city and beyond.

## MONUMENT TO A BYEGONE ERA

The famous chimney was built in 1863 as a vent for the sulphurous smoke produced by William Butler's Tar Distillery at the bottom of the hill. It is the last surviving monument to an era when the Avon valley was a major part of the industrial heartland of Bristol. As such, it stands as a vivid reminder of the area's thriving industrial past.

Troopers' Hill was also mined for coal and clay and it is the spoil from these old workings that gives the hill its unique, pock-marked character.

## UNUSUAL WILDLIFE TOO

Over the spoil heaps and scars left from its industrial past, an unusual heath-like vegetation has colonised Troopers' Hill. The acidic soils on the Hill are rare in Bristol and favour plants like ling and bell heather, which are found nowhere else in the city. Among the other rare plants to be found here are tiny annuals such as soft knotted trefoil that thrive in the loose soils at the bottom of spoil heaps and gullies. The Hill also has the only known colony of grayling butterflies in the City.

## MANY PROBLEMS TO SOLVE

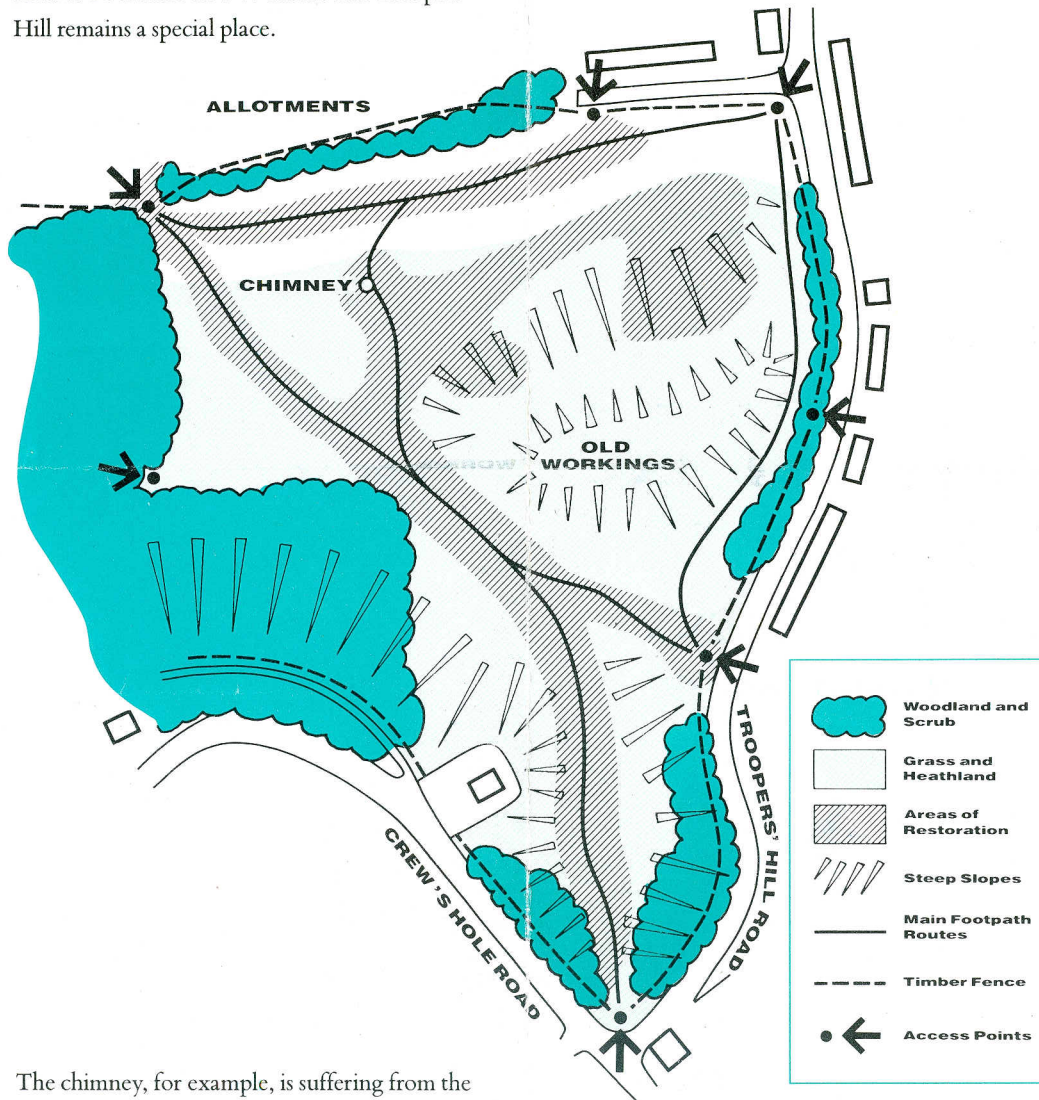
Sadly, the Hill and its famous chimney are showing serious signs of wear and tear which threaten their special character. These problems need to be tackled now to ensure that Troopers' Hill remains a special place.

The chimney, for example, is suffering from the effects of age and pollution and the stone and brickwork urgently need repair.

The Hill itself is also beginning to wear away, mainly because of an increase in use by both

people and motorbikes. The many footpaths and tracks that cross the Hill are getting wider and deeper — and are acting as channels for

rainwater. As a result, the fabric of the Hill is wearing away, threatening both the unique landscape and its vegetation.



## A PLAN OF ACTION

To tackle the problems of Troopers' Hill, Bristol Development Corporation (BDC) and Bristol City Council wish to carry out a restoration scheme. The scheme is due to start before the end of March and will involve:

- repairing the stone and brickwork on the chimney and fitting a door to the opening at the bottom.
- building a new fence around the perimeter of the hill, between all the main entrance points.
- providing new gates at the main entrance points that will allow people to pass through easily, but not motorbikes.
- repairing all the main footpaths to prevent further erosion.
- re-seeding and restoring the seriously worn areas of the Hill.

A plan showing the main proposals is included on this leaflet.

## MORE HELP IS NEEDED

The complete restoration of Troopers' Hill will take years to achieve and access to small parts of the hill will have to be restricted until the vegetation has recovered. If the scheme is to be totally successful it will need the support of local people. Hopefully, some individuals and groups will be interested in keeping in touch with developments. Organisations like the Avon Wildlife Trust and the Groundwork Trust have already expressed an interest in getting involved in the long term management of the Hill.

## COME AND FIND OUT MORE

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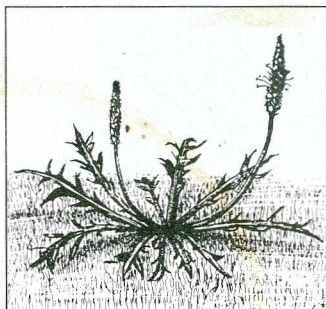
The BDC and the City Council would like to give local people an opportunity to hear more about their plans and to air their views. Two public meetings have been arranged:

ON **THURSDAY 28TH FEBRUARY**  
AT **3.00PM AND 7.30PM**  
AT **THE SCHOOL ROOM, ST GEORGE  
BAPTIST CHURCH, SUMMERHILL  
ROAD, ST GEORGE**

If you already use Troopers' Hill, or are interested in its history and wildlife, or simply wish to find out more about the restoration scheme, why not come along.



*Bell Heather*



*Buck's-horn Plantain*

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