

**BS16 Wildlife:
Green
Spaces Audit**

Initial Report

April 2021

Foreword

This report seeks to set out some basic information relating to wildlife habitats in the larger, often public, spaces in or bordering BS16. It also attempts to capture both the existing activity and proposed plans of ‘custodians’ of these spaces. Although we are not dealing here with domestic and community gardens, we acknowledge that these are probably even more significant for both the abundance and variety of wildlife in BS16 than are the larger green spaces. Every window box counts. Hopefully, both larger and smaller green spaces can be made more wildlife productive in future years.

The information gathered and distributed in this report will contribute to the achievement of the three aims set out for the BS16 Wildlife Group.

The BS16 Wildlife Group’ three aims are:

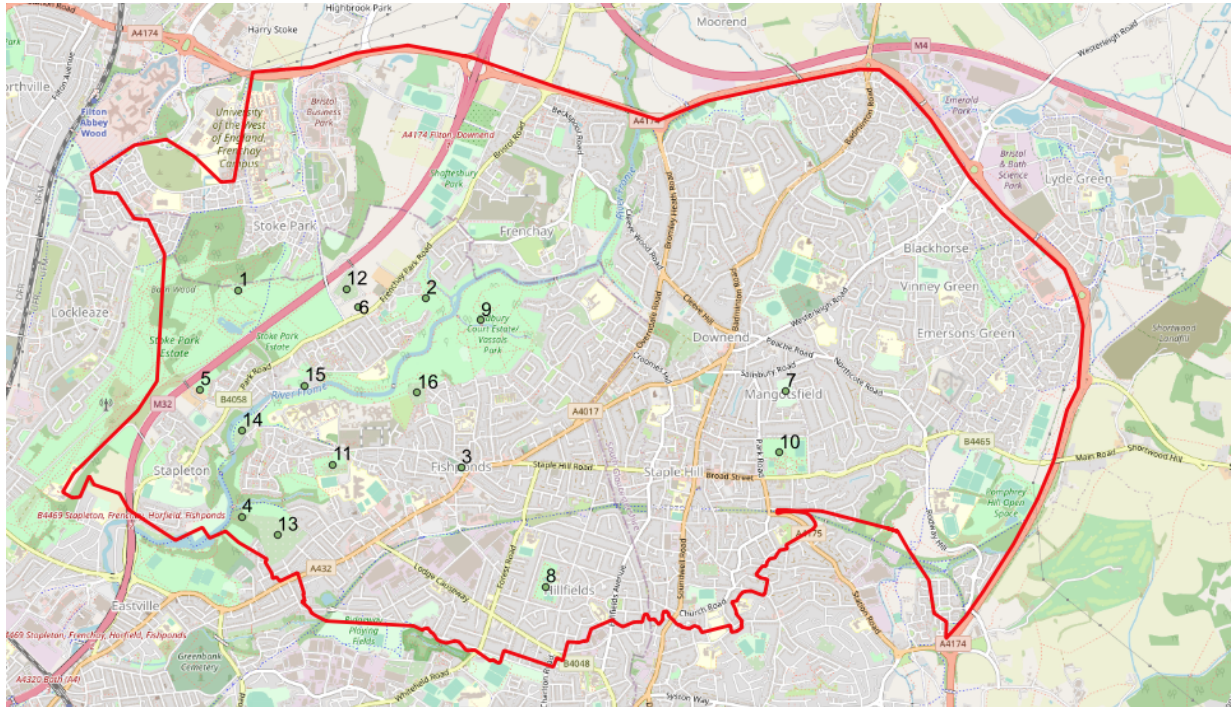
- a) To make local people more aware of the wildlife around them**
- b) To help make the BS16 area of Bristol more hospitable to a wide range of wild creatures and native plants**
- c) To collaborate with other agencies and groups in order to further the first two aims**

**Contact BS16 Wildlife Group on
bs16.wildlifegroup@gmail.com**

See also the BS16 Wildlife Group Facebook on www.facebook.com/groups/bs16wildlifegroup

There follows a summary of responses from groups and organisations supporting the larger green spaces in and near BS16. These responses will provide ideas about what to do in 2021 and beyond.

Map:



1. Stoke Park
2. Begbrook Green Park
3. Fishponds Park
4. Eastville Park
5. Elm Tree Farm
6. Grow Wilder
7. Hillfields Park
8. Hill House Park
9. Oldbury Court Estate

10. Page Park
11. Snowdon Road Allotments
12. Stapleton Allotments
13. Thingwall Park Allotments
14. Wickham Hill Allotments
15. College Road Allotments
16. Snuff Mills

1. Stoke Park

No information yet.

2. Begbrook Green Park

No information yet.

3. Fishponds Park

No information yet.

4. Eastville Park

Contact: friendsofeastvillepark@gmail.com

Eastville Park, containing the walkway from Broom Hill along the Frome to the lake, is a haven for wildlife.

Birds:

Corvids: Crow, Jackdaw, Rook, Jay, Magpie

Waterfowl: Mallard, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Coot, Moorhen, Cormorant

Waders: Grey Heron

Gulls: Black-backed Gull, Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull

Pigeons: Wood Pigeon, Feral Pigeon, Collared Dove

Birds of Prey: Kestrel, Tawny Owl, Peregrine Falcon, Sparrowhawk

Passerines: Robin, House Sparrow, Pied Wagtail, Yellow Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Bullfinch, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Nuthatch, Wren, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Greenfinch, Treecreeper, Willow Warbler

Other: Green Woodpecker, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Kingfisher

Mammals:

Badger, Fox, Grey Squirrel, Rabbit, Brown Rat, Field Vole, Bats

5. Elm Tree Farm

Contact: info@elmtreefarm.org

Elm Tree Farm is a Care Farm - a working farm which supports and offers opportunities to adults with learning disabilities and/or autism. Our main site, where most of our work takes place, is approximately 12 acres and we have a couple of grazing fields in the local area that increase our size to around 47 acres. On our main site we have several grazing paddocks for our livestock (cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, two ponies, lots of chickens and various small animals), around two acres of market garden space where we produce organically grown veg and a small plant nursery that grows and sells cut flowers. Whilst we are not certified organic, we use organic methods wherever possible - our soil is fed using our own compost and well rotted manure along with comfrey tea made on site, we do not use any artificial fertilisers. We also do not use any pesticides or herbicides, preferring to use natural methods and barriers to control weeds and encouraging biodiversity to balance pests.

Our site has lots of bird life - robins, house sparrows, swallows, various tits and house martins nest here regularly. We are close to the Stoke Park estate, so are often visited by buzzards. Our most recent sighting was of redwings feeding in the pony paddock behind our farmhouse. We

have a lot of rodents on site - mainly field mice and shrews. As we grow our own veg and run a veg box scheme, we feel fortunate to not have larger wildlife such as rabbits and badgers on site, although there is evidence of badger activity in one of our grazing fields. We do have foxes, which means we have to manage security for our poultry very carefully; we mostly try to tolerate the foxes but we do try to discourage neighbouring households from feeding them on our land. From time to time we find slowworms around the place, there are lots of butterflies (and associated caterpillars!) and recently we were thrilled to find frogspawn and newts in a small pond in the veg garden.

We have a small workshop, where the people we support make lots of recycled wood products, among them lots of bird boxes and other wildlife friendly garden items such as hedgehog boxes, so we use those in various places around the site. There are also plans to install more ponds around the site. We have lots of trees around the site and many, many wild corners where things are left undisturbed, providing habitats and homes for wildlife year round. We work hard to grow in harmony with nature, which means we also accept that a certain percentage of our crops will be lost to our local wildlife.

Contact: info@elmtreefarm.org

6. Grow Wilder

No information yet.

7. Hillfields Park

No information yet.

8. Hill House Park

No information yet.

9. Oldbury Court Estate

No information yet.

10. Page Park

No information yet.

11. Snowdon Road Allotments

No information yet.

12. Stapleton Allotments

No information yet.

13. Thingwall Park Allotments

Contact:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thingwallparkallotments>

Species that can be found here:

Mammals: Fox, Badger, Field Mice, Squirrels in plum season, Voles, Rats, Hedgehogs

Bats on shared border with park – Pipistrelle, Noctule, Serotine

Birds: Robin, Blue Tits, Great Tits, Long-Tailed Tits, Sparrows, Chaffinch, Crow, Magpies, Jay, Starlings, Flocks of Goldfinch 30 – 40 in winter, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker, Tawny Owl, Pigeons, Black Cap, Fieldfares and Redwings in winter, Wren, Pied Fly Catcher

in autumn, Blackbird, Song thrush. Occasional visit from Sparrow Hawk and Peregrine

Amphibians: Frogs, Newts, Toads

Reptiles: Slow Worms

Butterflies: Peacock, Comma, Red Admiral, Cabbage White, Orange- Tipped, Painted Lady

Other Insects: Different varieties of bees (bumbles bees, honey bees, tree bumble bees), Beetles

Plants: Greater Mullein, Bramble, Dandelion, Evening Primrose, Teasel, Poppy and huge variety of flowers grown by tenants, mixed hedge, grapes, Bramble

Worms

Trees: Ash, Elder, Apple, Plum, Pear, Holly. Yew, Oak, Bay, Buddleia, Birch, Willow, Ash, Rose, Cherry, Apricot, Peach

14. Wickham Hill Allotments

No information yet.

15. College Road Allotments

No information yet.

16. Snuff Mills

No information yet.