

Green spaces in BS7



Foreword

This audit aims to document the green spaces and how they support the wildlife around them in the post code district of BS7. Custodians for each individual green space were contacted and information gathered about what is done to promote wildlife on site and any future plans. Initially, only public green spaces were contacted and domestic gardens, although very important for wildlife, were not taken into consideration for this audit.

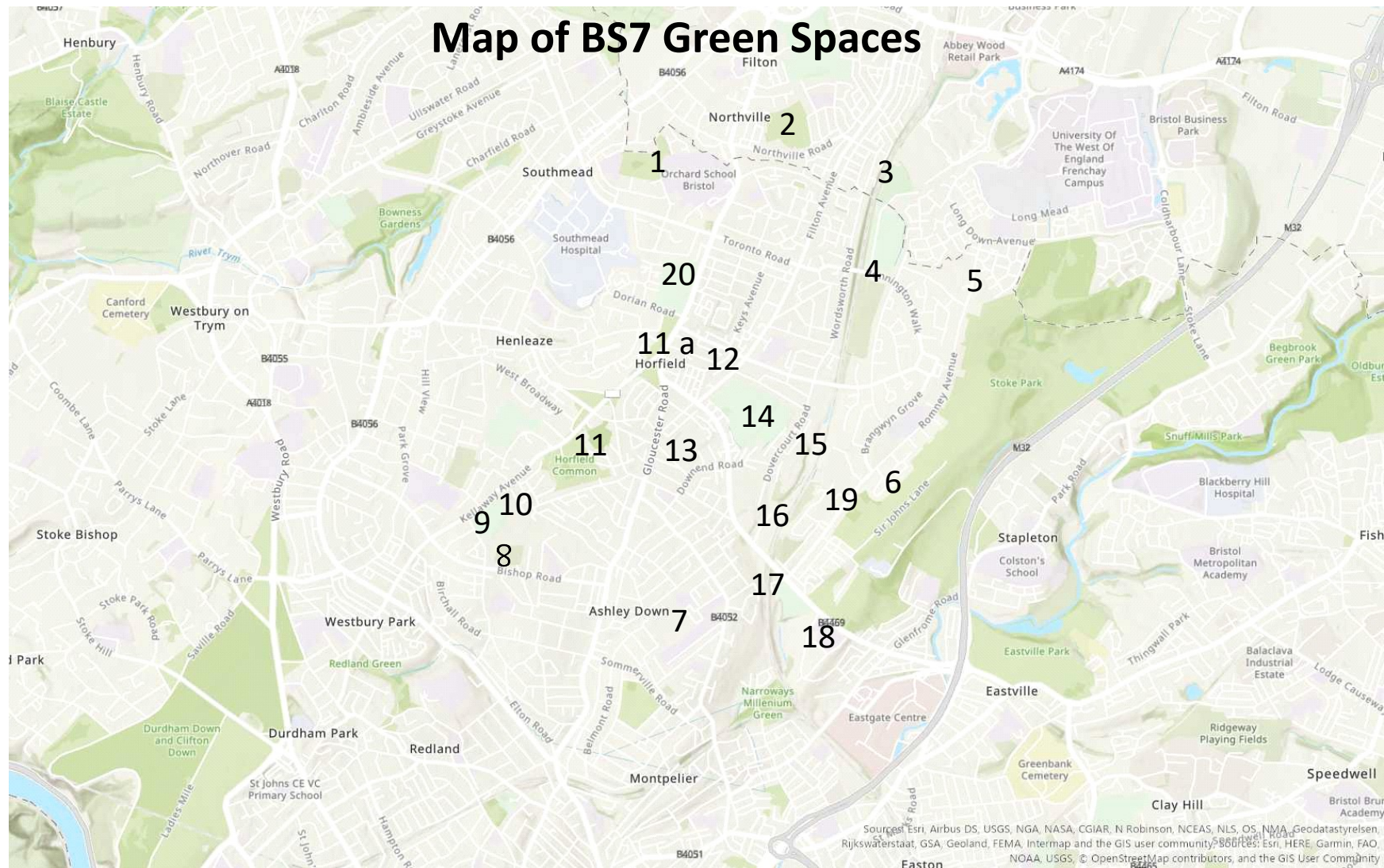
This report forms part of a wider, community led project documenting all green spaces across Bristol. The general aims of the project are to make local people more aware of the wildlife around them; to help make Bristol more hospitable to a wide range of wild creatures and native plants and to collaborate with other agencies and groups in order to further the first two aims.

This initial audit was co-ordinated by Annabel Barnett as a project within UWE's Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science degree program. It will be the task of others to complete and up-date the report in future years and, more importantly, strive to make this part of the city more wildlife friendly. It is hoped that an active and effective BS7 Wildlife Group will emerge to promote 'wilding' and collaborate with similar groups across the city.

For more information about the city-wide project, contact mywildbedminster@virginmedia.com .

Ben Barker (Secretary BS3 Wildlife Group and Convenor Bristol-wide Wildlife Groups). 29/03/2021.

Map of BS7 Green Spaces



1– Monks Park

2– Millennium Green

3– Bishopston Rugby Club

4– Lockleaze Sports Centre

5– The Vench

6– Purdown

7– Gloucestershire Cricket Club

8– Golden Hill Allotments

9– Horfield Community Orchard

10– Redland Green School Field

11 and 11a– Horfield Common

12– Wessex Avenue Allotments

13– Memorial Stadium

14– Muller Road Recreation Ground

15– Dovercourt Road Allotments

16– Horfield Allotments

17– Ashley Down Allotments

18– Fairfield High School

19– Gainsborough Square

20– Horfield Leisure Centre

Green Spaces

Monks Park- BS7 0UL

Monks park is a local public park, used for recreational purposes. The park is managed by Bristol City Council. No information was available on current custodians for Monks park. The park is accessible to all ages and all levels of mobility. Information about possible future development was available through a Bristol City Council publication. It states that there is a proposition to plant some 'additional native shrubs and wildflower meadows' (Bristol City Council, 2008.)

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/AGSP2010/4Horfield.pdf>

Millennium Green- BS7 0RS

Millennium Green is a green space situated in BS7. The green space is situated outside a residential area, with recreational uses such as children's outdoor games and dog walking. No custodian was contactable.

Bishopston Rugby Club- BS7 9XY

Bishopston Rugby Club contains a large rugby pitch. This green space is used for rugby training and rugby games. The Bishopston Rugby Club was contacted on several occasions, with no response.

<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/bishopstonrfc/>

Lockleaze Sports Centre- BS7 9XF

Lockleaze Sports Centre contains green spaces made up of several sports pitches. It is located near train tracks and residential areas. The sports centre was contacted, and a response was given. Lockleaze Sports Centre have not had any wildlife sightings, no wildlife surveys have taken place and there are no active conservation projects ongoing, or planned for the future.

<https://www.lockleazesportscentre.co.uk/>

The Vench- BS7 9TB

The Vench is an adventure playground and community centre. The Vench was contacted, and no response given. The main use of the land at the Vench is recreational, including children's outdoor play areas.

<https://thevench.co.uk/>

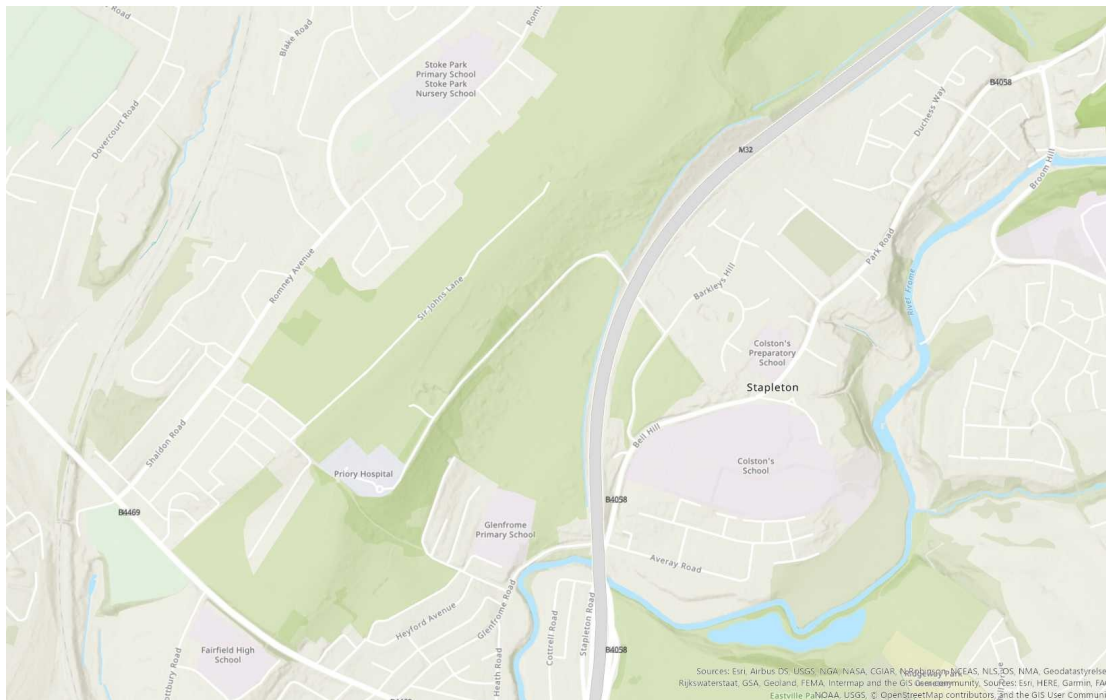


Figure 1- Map of Purdown and surrounding areas

Purdown- BS7 9TH

Purdown is a big open green space that links with Stoke Park in Lockleaze. The park is mainly used for recreational purposes, including dog walking, family activities and sports.

There are volunteers that try to promote wildlife at Purdown, and have organised educational activities to look at the wildlife. A survey was carried out in 2015, this was a volunteer led survey with the aim of stopping a housing development on Purdown.

There is an aim of taking further species surveys in the future, and the volunteers would like to do this with some support. Purdown has good connectivity to Stoke Park, this is very positive for the wildlife on both sites as it provides a larger range of habitat for them.

The Volunteers are the 'Friends of Purdown', and have a Facebook group linked below.

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

Gloucestershire Country Cricket Club-

BS7 9LU

Gloucestershire County Cricket Club grounds are based in BS7. The main use of the green space is as a cricket ground. The club however is committed to being environmentally considerate. They have the intent of becoming the most sustainable cricket club in the country. This year the club has: Installed 13 electric vehicle charging points, Installed a further 125 bike racks, purchased electric mowers (replacing older petrol models,) continued their zero to landfill policy for all waste, swapped electricity supply to being only from renewable sources, and changed their catering partner to Fosters who specialise in high quality, local food with a minimal carbon footprint. Though Gloucestershire County Cricket Club has not stated what they do to directly support the wildlife in the area, they are making sustainable steps to help the environment.

<https://www.gloscricket.co.uk/>

Golden Hill Allotments– BS7 8QF

Golden Hill Allotments are well managed, community allotments based in BS7. There have been many wildlife sightings at Golden Hill. Individual plots are used at the Golden Hill allotment site, some containing ponds. There is a community garden which contains a large pond. The custodian for the community garden is currently running a project to re introduce frogs to the large pond, as there has been a problem with Newts eating frogspawn. The custodian also runs ‘learning and play’ sessions in the community garden.

There is no particular advice given to promote certain types of wildlife in the allotments, nor any plan for this to be in place in the future. There are individuals who cover over crops on the allotments due to the wildlife present, primarily foxes and badgers causing the issue. There have been bird sightings onsite, including pigeons, magpies and possibly a bird of pray.

Wildlife Sightings at Golden Hill Allotments	
Hedgehogs	Damselflies
Foxes	Millipedes
Badgers	Centipedes
Mice	Red Admiral butterflies
Dragonflies	Small tortoiseshell butterflies
Slowworms	Large white butterflies
Frogs	Gatekeeper butterflies
Newts	Ringlet butterflies
Sticklebacks	Speckled Wood butterflies
Water boatmen	Holly Blue butterflies
Pond skaters	Magpie moths

Table 1– Wildlife sightings at Golden Hill Allotments.

Horfield Common— BS7 0XJ

Horfield Common is public land, containing green spaces, 12 tennis courts, the Ardagh bowling club, the Ardagh community trust café, a summer house, a craft room and gardens. The commons main use is recreational, with dog walking, running, children's sports, group sports and tree climbing taking place.

The Friends of Horfield Common community group and the Ardagh community trust have set up over 30 nesting boxes for various species of birds. They routinely fill birdfeeders onsite. There is an area of the common which is a 'no dog zone', this zone contains a picnic area. On this part of the common, the local afterschool club built a bug hotel to attract and help insects in the area. Wildflowers have been planted here to attract pollinators. In the Ardagh area of the common, native hedgerows have been planted to provide shelter and food for wildlife, the hedgerow contains wild rose, rowan and elder.

Within the common, there are 20 small and large flower beds, containing a large variety of plants, including borage, sedum and lavender. These plants were picked to promote native bee and pollinator species in the area.

There are multiple species on site, including grey squirrels, foxes, badgers, blackbirds, blue tits, robins, jays, crows, magpies, sparrows, wren, starlings, bullfinch, goldfinch, herring gulls, toads and frogs.

There are future plans to turn a car park near the Ardagh part of the common in to a sitting area for the café, which will include raised flower beds containing wildflowers. The plan also includes raised flower beds to grow food, including herbs. There will be a small orchard of fruit trees, bird boxes, hedgehog houses and a 'living wall' feature on the side of the café. A comprehensive tree survey was completed on the common, and is linked below.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/126850650686957/>

https://bristoltrees.space/Tree/sitecode/HORFCO?fbclid=IwAR1K65DxWp-Yk0sQikCcJRVd_W321WSAOC20wvc_tclqd2HG-VsCK4ORz8U

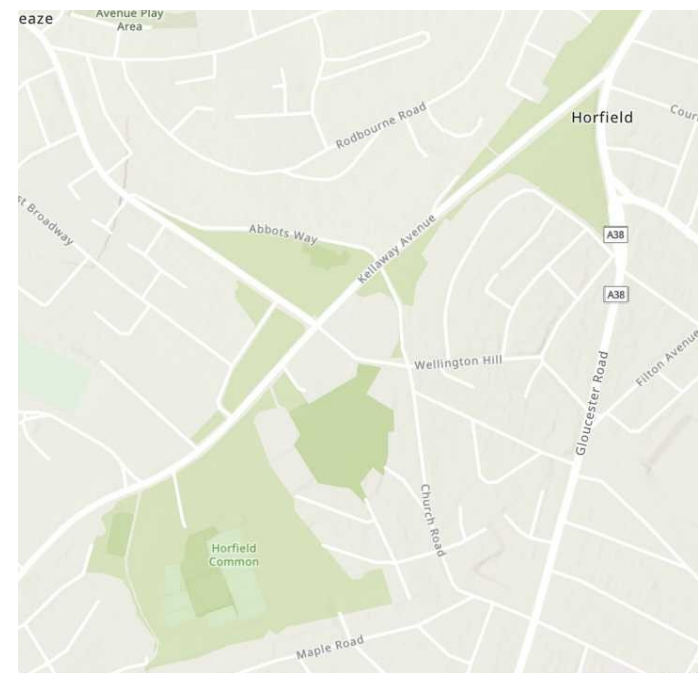


Figure 2— Map of Horfield Common sites.

Wildlife sightings on Horfield Common				
Birds	Mammals	Insects	Plants	Reptiles & Amphibians
Sparrow Hawk	Grey Squirrel	Dragonflies	Dandelions	Grass snake
Peregrine	Fox	Large White butterflies	Cats ear	Common frog
Blackbird	Badger	Small White butterflies	Plantain	Common toad
Song thrush	Hedgehog	Holly Blue butterflies	Cuckoo flower	Palmate newt
Fieldfare	Bats	Peacock butterflies	Pineapple weed	Slow worms
Redwing	Weasel (From a long time ago.)	Red Admiral butterflies	Daisies	
Blue Tit		Comma butterflies	Nettles	
Great Tit		Orange Tip butterflies	Mallow dock	
Long tailed Tit		Garden Tiger moth	Spear thistle	
Gold Finch		Hummingbird Hawk moth		
Jay				
Crow				
Magpie				
Wood Pigeon				
Collard Dove				
Pied Wagtail				
Starling				
Robin				
Dunnock				
House Sparrow				
Chaffinch				
Fire Crest				
Green Woodpecker				
Herring Gull				
Black Headed Gull				

Table 2– Wildlife sightings on Horfield Common.

Redland Green School Playing Fields— BS7

Redland Green School itself is based in BS6, but the school own playing fields which are situated in BS7. The school have stated that the playing fields are maintained for the use of sports. Including summer and winter games, such as rugby and football. The grass must be maintained for this, so it is cut to differing lengths during the year.

However, the school have said that they try to manage the site with biodiversity in mind. Therefore, they have a regime in place for short and long grass sites and rotational hedge cutting takes places over a 3 year period. This allows fruit trees and wild flowers to grow.

There have been sightings of badgers, foxes, mice and voles. There are also several uncommon plants on site, such as wild chicory. The school have stated that camera traps could be deployed onsite if it is of interest.

<https://www.redlandgreen.bristol.sch.uk/>

Memorial Stadium— BS7 0BF

The custodian for Memorial Stadium was contacted, no response was given. The stadium is a football stadium based in BS7, with a capacity of 12,300 people. The pitch is a natural grass pitch.

<https://www.bristolrovers.co.uk/>

Muller Road Recreation Ground— BS7 9RQ

No custodian was identified for Muller Road Recreation Ground, however comments were found in the Bristol City Council paper linked below. The recreation ground is a large open space, used for recreational purposes. There is a football pitch, hard surfaced games court and a bowling green. Dog walking also occurs on the recreation ground.

In the paper, it states that there is a proposal for changes to the recreation ground. These include, dog free zones, wild flower meadow planting around the perimeter and to alter the entrance to prevent motorbike access. (Bristol City Council, 2008.)

<http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/AGSP2010/4Horfield.pdf>

Dovercourt Road Allotments- BS7 9SJ

Dovercourt Road Allotments are based in BS7, and have 45 allotment plots. The custodian for the allotments is Bristol City Council. A representative for the allotments was contacted and they have stated that there are no specific guidelines on promoting wildlife on site, though some tenants do more than others. However, some tenants grow their crops organically, and encourage wildlife through the use of bird boxes and bug hotels. A few tenants actively protect against Deer, with all tenants protecting against pigeons and squirrels.

There have been no specific wildlife surveys on site. But regular sightings of deer, squirrels, pigeons, rats, field mice, cats, voles and slow worms.

There are no specific future plans to promote wildlife at Dovercourt Road Allotments.

https://www.bristol.gov.uk/museums-parks-sports-culture/allotment-finder/-/journal_content/56/20195/ALLOTMENT-UPRN-340832/ALLOTMENT-DISPLAY

Horfield Community Orchard-

No response was given by Horfield Community Orchard, however some information was found on their website, which is listed below. The Community Orchard is volunteer led and was set up in 1998. The project is now ran as an independent community food project. Over 100 fruiting trees have been planted onsite. In 2018 a year long Orchard Learning programme took place at Horfield Community Orchard, and similar projects are to take place this year.

<http://www.community-orchard.org.uk/>

Horfield Allotments– BS7 9SG

Regular sightings of foxes, wild cats, slow worms, black birds, robins, wrens, pigeons, slugs, snails, rats, and a variety of other insects.

Awaiting more information.

Ashley Down Allotments— BS7 9LL

Ashley Down Allotments are situated by the Muller Road in BS7. The custodian for the Muller road site is managed by a community organisation called the Ashley Down Allotments Association. The custodian contacted, stated that there is a lot of encouragement for helping the wildlife on site.

At Ashley Down allotments, new plot holders are provided with a general 'wildlife sheet.' This is to provide support for individual plot holders. The allotments have a Facebook page, where they regularly post wildlife advice, for example how to identify the entire lifecycle of a ladybird larvae, or other insects such as butterflies and damsel flies. This is to encourage people to take note of the wildlife surrounding them, and to take care to protect it.

The custodian has ran a pond improvement course, and now there are 35 small ponds on site. New mixed hedges have recently been added and maintenance on existing hedges completed to help the biodiversity onsite. There are designated thicket areas onsite designed as 'wildlife areas.' These are to encourage wildlife such as foxes to breed. Nest boxes are present onsite, though the custodians do not provide them.

The custodians do not insist on people growing crops organically, but encourage the use of organic production. The site is ran as plastic free as possible, with cardboard being preferred over the use of plastic sheeting. There is a yearly skip provided at the allotment, to remove old items and keep the site as clean as possible.

There are yearly butterfly surveys done onsite, and a hedgehog survey completed in 2016. The result from the survey showed no presence of hedgehogs at the Ashley Down Allotments.

The future plans for the Ashley Down Allotments currently include reducing the number of bonfires on site and using camera traps to capture the wildlife present.

Wildlife sightings include, foxes, badgers, blackbirds, robins, newts, dragonflies, damsel flies, and a variety of species of butterflies including red admirals.

<https://sites.google.com/site/ashleydownallotments/Home>



Figure 3— Aerial image of Ashley Down Allotments.

Fairfield High School– BS7 9NL

The Fairfield High School was contacted with no response given. The school has a large play field onsite. This will be mainly used for recreational and educational purposes such as ‘break times’ and sports.

<https://fairfield.excalibur.org.uk/>

Horfield Leisure Centre- BS7 0XW

Horfield Leisure Centre was contacted for information for this audit, no response has been given. The leisure centre is ran by ‘Everyone Active’ and is situated on the Dorian road, Southmead.

https://www.everyoneactive.com/centre/Horfield-Leisure-Centre/?utm_source=Web&utm_medium=GoogleBusiness

Gainsborough Square– BS7 9XA

Gainsborough Square is a small open green space, in the centre of a square of shops and residential homes. The Square has numerous juvenile trees planted on site, with a path running through the square. A Bristol City Council representative was contacted with no custodian identified.



Figure 4– Aerial image of Gainsborough Square.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all custodians who have contributed to this audit about green spaces in the postcode district BS7. The report will contribute to the care and protection of the wildlife and biodiversity in the Bristol area. Available websites for all custodians can be found underneath the information for each green space in the report.

References

Bristol Park Forum report, (2008.) Ideas and Options Paper– Horfield and Lockleaze Area Green Space Plan. *Bristol City Council*. [Online.] URL- <http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/AGSP2010/4Horfield.pdf> [Accessed 10 March 2021.]

All maps and aerial imagery taken from ArcPro GIS.