

Inner City Bristol:

An Audit of Green Space in BS1 and BS2



Report created on 27/04/2021
All images have been taken from Google Maps.

Foreword

My Wild Bedminster is part of the Avon Wildlife Trust's view to document the greenspace within Bristol city postcodes. This project is community led by enthusiastic volunteers, with the aim to provide local people with information on the wildlife of the area, how to encourage biodiversity, and how they can get involved in community projects.

The aim of this initial audit is to document the wildlife within the postcodes of BS1 and BS2. Greenspace was firstly identified using google maps, followed by contacting custodians of the greenspace to see what was going on in that greenspace; whether there were species of interest at the site, whether there were active wildlife groups in the area, whether there was conservation work being done, and whether there were any plans for work to be done.

This first audit only involves public greenspace, such as parks and religious grounds, but information from the public about what is going on in gardens is welcomed to build an inclusive map of species distribution across Bristol.

This audit was conducted by Maisie Weaver, a student at the University of the West of England, as part of a Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science degree program. The project is ongoing and will be the task of others to keep these records up to date for years to come. Although there are wildlife groups for different greenspaces within the postcodes audited, it is hoped that groups could be created to encompass entire postcode districts, and build a network of wildlife support across the city.

For more information about this project, contact by email:

mywildbedminster@virginmedia.com

Ben Barker (Secretary of BS3 Wildlife Group and Convenor of Bristol-wide Wildlife Groups)

Social Media Platforms:

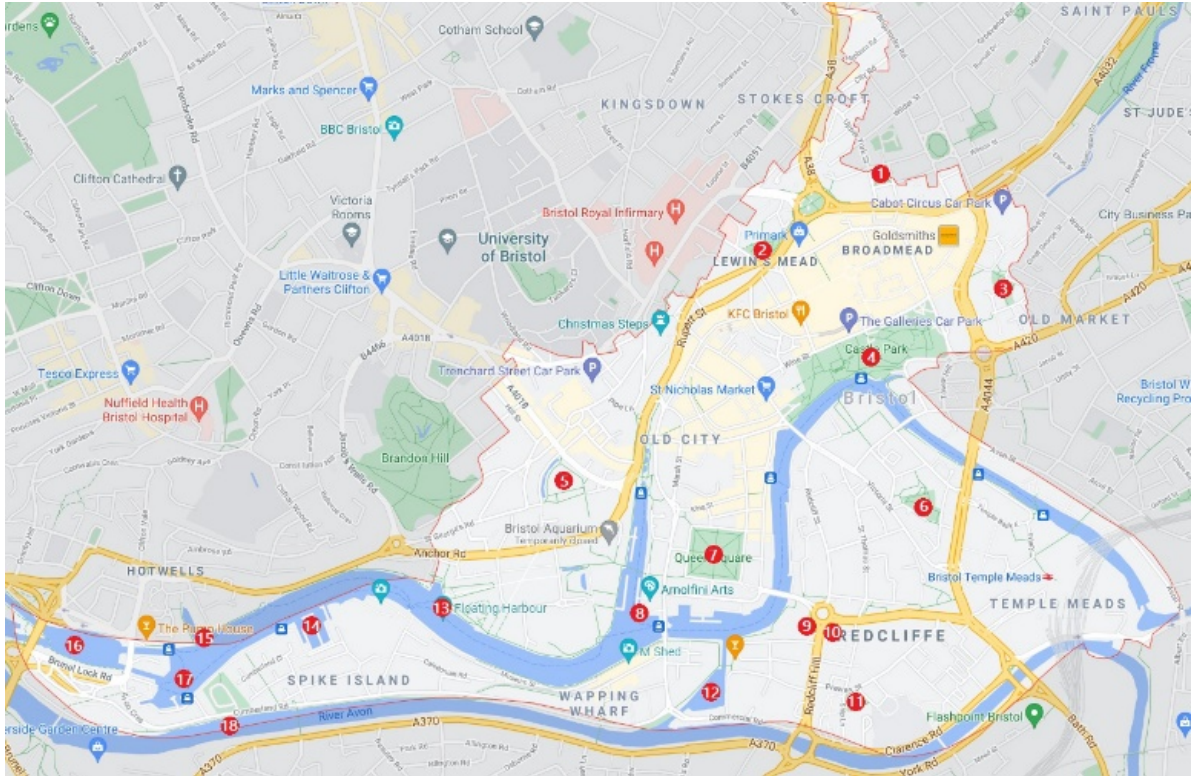


@mywildbedminster



BS3 Wildlife Group

BS1



- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Brunswick Square | 7 Queen Square | 13 Floating Harbour |
| 2 St James' Park | 8 Arnolfini | 14 Bristol Marina |
| 3 St Matthias Park | 9 Quaker Burial Ground | 15 Pooles Wharf Marina |
| 4 Castle Park | 10 St Mary Redcliffe Church | 16 Cumberland Basin |
| 5 College Green and Cathedral | 11 Somerset Square | 17 Bristol Harbour and Underfall Yard |
| 6 Temple Gardens and Church | 12 Bathurst Basin | 18 Avon New Cut |



Brunswick Square

A small public square, divided into triangles by asphalt paths. The triangles contain rose beds.

It is maintained by Bristol City Council, who cut the grass and maintain the rose beds. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site.

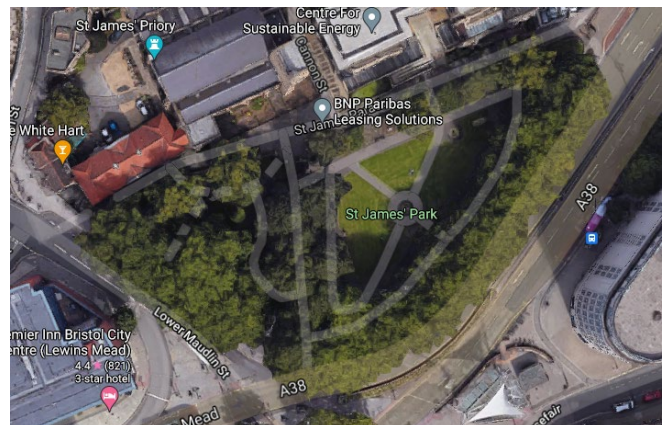
<https://www.parksandgardens.org/places/brunswick-square-bristol>

St James' Park

A small triangular public park divided by paths. The main area is grass, bordered by shrubs and plane trees.

It is maintained by Bristol City Council. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site.

<https://www.parksandgardens.org/places/st-james-park-kingsdown>



St Matthias Park

A small park in the city centre. The site consists of open grassland, rows of plane trees, flower beds and shrubberies.

It is maintained by Bristol City Council, who cut the grass and keep the park tidy. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site.

<https://www.parksandgardens.org/places/st-matthias-park>

Castle Park

A large park, containing the ruins of Bristol castle's keep. It is also home to a garden for medicinal plant growth which is maintained by St Mungo's Broadway, and seven silver birch trees to commemorate the D-Day landings. They run a tree trail to spot some interesting types of tree. Peregrine Falcons are well known to nest near the park, and have been doing so for over 10 years. It is maintained by Bristol City Council, who cut the grass and keep the park tidy. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site. <https://www.parksandgardens.org/places/castle-park>



College Green and Cathedral

A triangular patch of grass in the city centre. Young trees have been planted around the edge.

It is maintained by Bristol City Council, who cut the grass and keep the park tidy. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site.

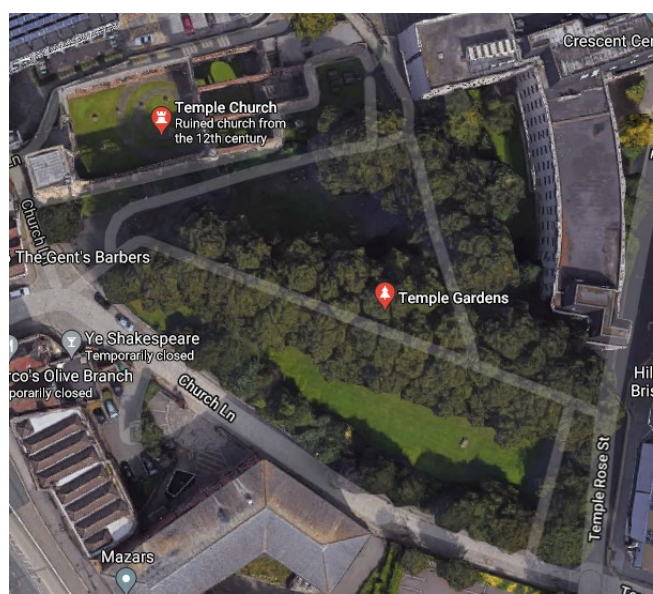
<https://www.parksandgardens.org/places/college-green-bristol>

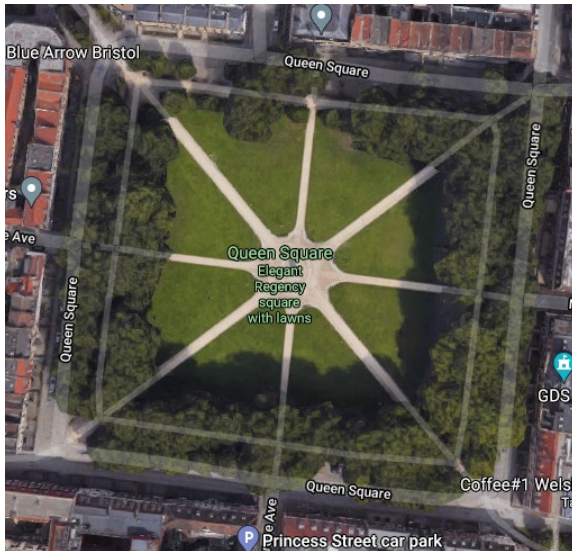
Temple Gardens and Church

Within the churchyard are lime trees, a number of flower beds including rose beds, and individual trees including copper beech. Shrub borders have been planted, with plants including Philadelphus, Holly, Box and Privet, as well as ivy on the ground.

It is an English Heritage site, but unknown who maintains it. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site.

<https://www.parksandgardens.org/places/temple-church-and-gardens-bristol>





Queen Square

A large open square of grass, bordered by plane trees.

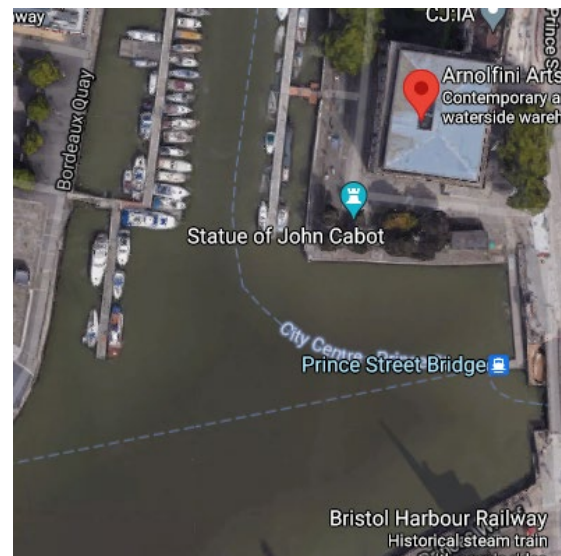
It is maintained by Bristol City Council, who cut the grass and keep the park tidy. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site.

<https://www.parksandgardens.org/places/queen-square-bristol>

Arnolfini

An arts centre, on the side of the harbour, which is full of wildlife. Cormorants are frequently spotted from here, as well as other seabirds including Herring Gulls and Black-Headed Gulls.

<https://arnolfini.org.uk/>



Quaker Burial Ground

A site containing raised beds of scented plants to create a sensory garden for the blind.

Bristol City Council are responsible for the site, but local residents are known to care for the site, tending plants and mowing grass.

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/hermits-cave-quaker-burial-ground>

St Mary Redcliffe Church

A large flat grass patch bordered by trees. The

Parish office was contacted for information, however none has been provided as of yet.

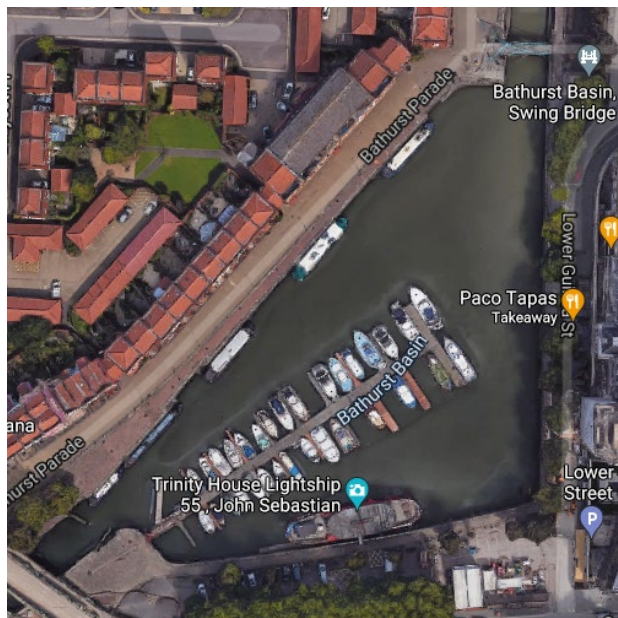
<https://www.stmaryredcliffe.co.uk/>

Somerset Square

Contains some large old trees, as well as lime trees.

Historic England are associated with the Square, but it is maintained by Bristol City Council, who cut the grass and keep the park tidy. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site.

<https://www.parksandgardens.org/places/somerset-square>



Bathurst Basin

The Friends of Bathurst Basin (FOBB) planned to set up a reed bed in 2020, however this has been put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This will be overseen by Avon Wildlife Trust, but will be maintained by FOBB. Otters have been spotted in the basin since 2010, and have been spotted as far down as Netham Lock. The Avon Bat Group say 16 of the 17 UK bat species have been found in the Avon area including Bathurst Basin.

<https://www.fobb.org.uk/>

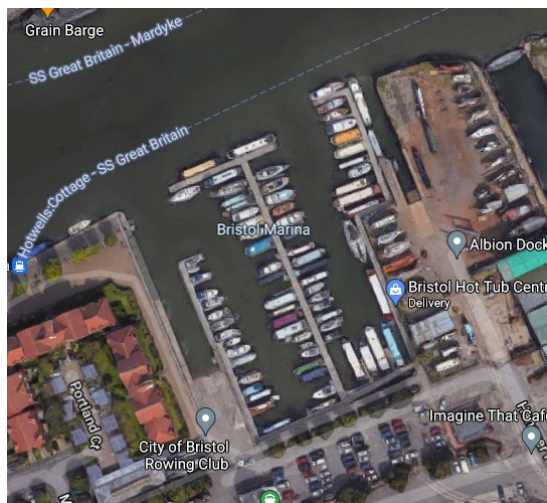
Floating Harbour

They offer two nature trails for people to follow, one around the docks and one on Brandon Hill. The water in the harbour may look dirty but is anything but, being tested weekly to ensure safety for humans and animals alike. Due to the water being of high quality, it is home to many different fish, including Bream, Roach and Eels.

Kestrels, House Martins, Mute Swans, Mallards, Herring Gulls, Lesser Black-Backed Gulls, Black-Headed Gulls, and Cormorants are birds known to frequent the floating harbour.

Due to this site being a harbour, many non-native plants are found here, with seeds carried on ships from all over the world. Different plant species around the floating harbour are Mexican Fleabane, Fig Trees, Bellflowers, Red Valerian, Yellow Flag Iris and Hemlock Water Dropwort.

<http://www.bristolfloatingharbour.org.uk/>



Bristol Marina

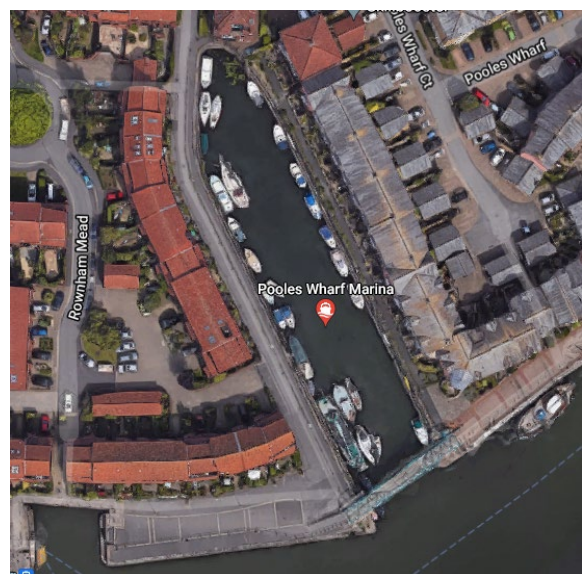
It is maintained by Bristol Marina. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site.

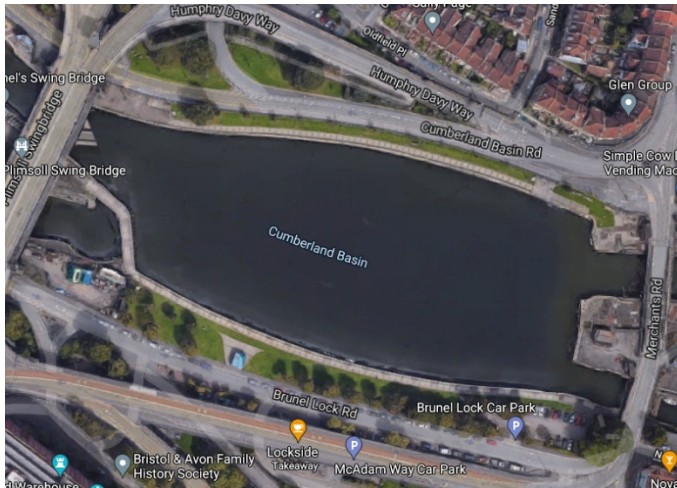
<https://www.bristolmarina.co.uk/>

Pooles Wharf Marina

It is maintained by Bristol City Docks. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site.

<https://bristolcitydocks.co.uk/pooles-wharf-2/>





Cumberland Basin

Kestrels nest in the Avon Gorge and on buildings near Cumberland Basin, and are often seen flying over. It is maintained by Bristol City Docks. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site.

<https://bristolcitydocks.co.uk/cumberland-basin/>

Bristol Harbour and Underfall Yard

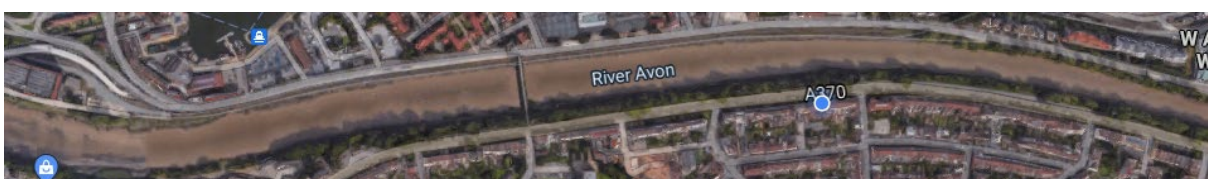
It is maintained by Bristol City Council and Underfall Yard. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site.

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/streets-travel/bristol-harbour>



Avon New Cut

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC) organise on a variety of different subjects including the trees and geology of the area, and organise bat walks where people can use acoustic detectors. They also organise volunteer clean-ups of the area when the vegetation has died back in the colder months. Due to the proximity of the Avon New Cut to the road a lot of litter appears that needs to be cleared up, which is a good opportunity to spot wildlife. Volunteer work has been almost on total hold for the past year due to the pandemic, but they hope to resume soon. A member of FrANC will co-ordinate the maintenance of 'Butterfly Corner' – the triangle of wasteland which runs alongside the Metrobus route where it passes between the two bonded warehouses on the north side of the Ashton Swing Bridge. The area is rich in wildlife, butterflies, and moths. The Avon New Cut is known as a wildlife corridor, and species lists can be found on their informative website.



<https://www.franc.org.uk/>

A side note

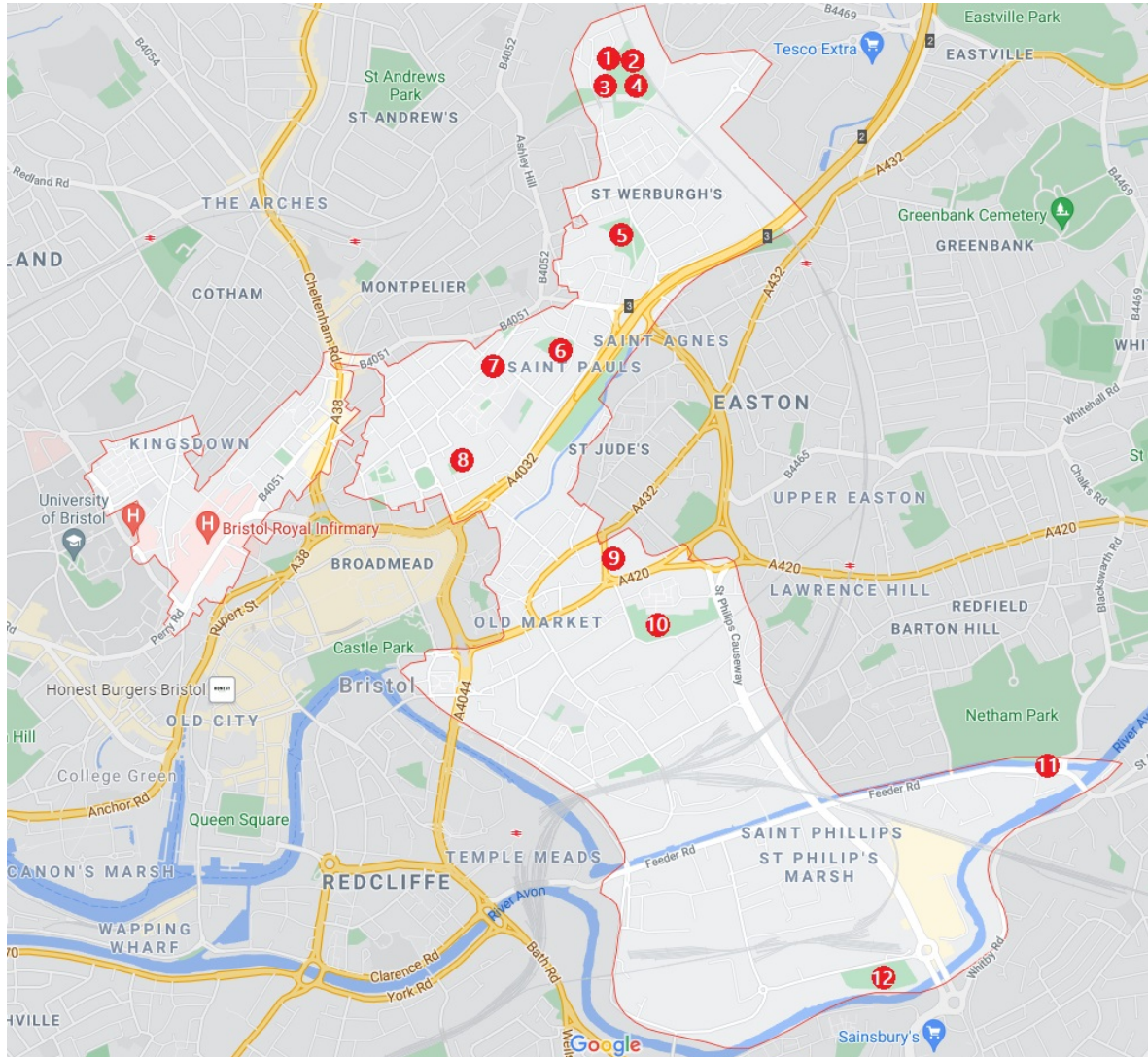
I personally live on Coronation Road which runs parallel to the Avon New Cut, and for a location so close to a city centre I was surprised to see so much wildlife. You have to look a little closer than you would in the countryside, but it is there nevertheless. In April alone, I have noticed;

Birds; Magpies, Wood Pigeons, Collared doves, Blackbirds, Blue Tits, Herring Gulls, Robins, and a Wren.

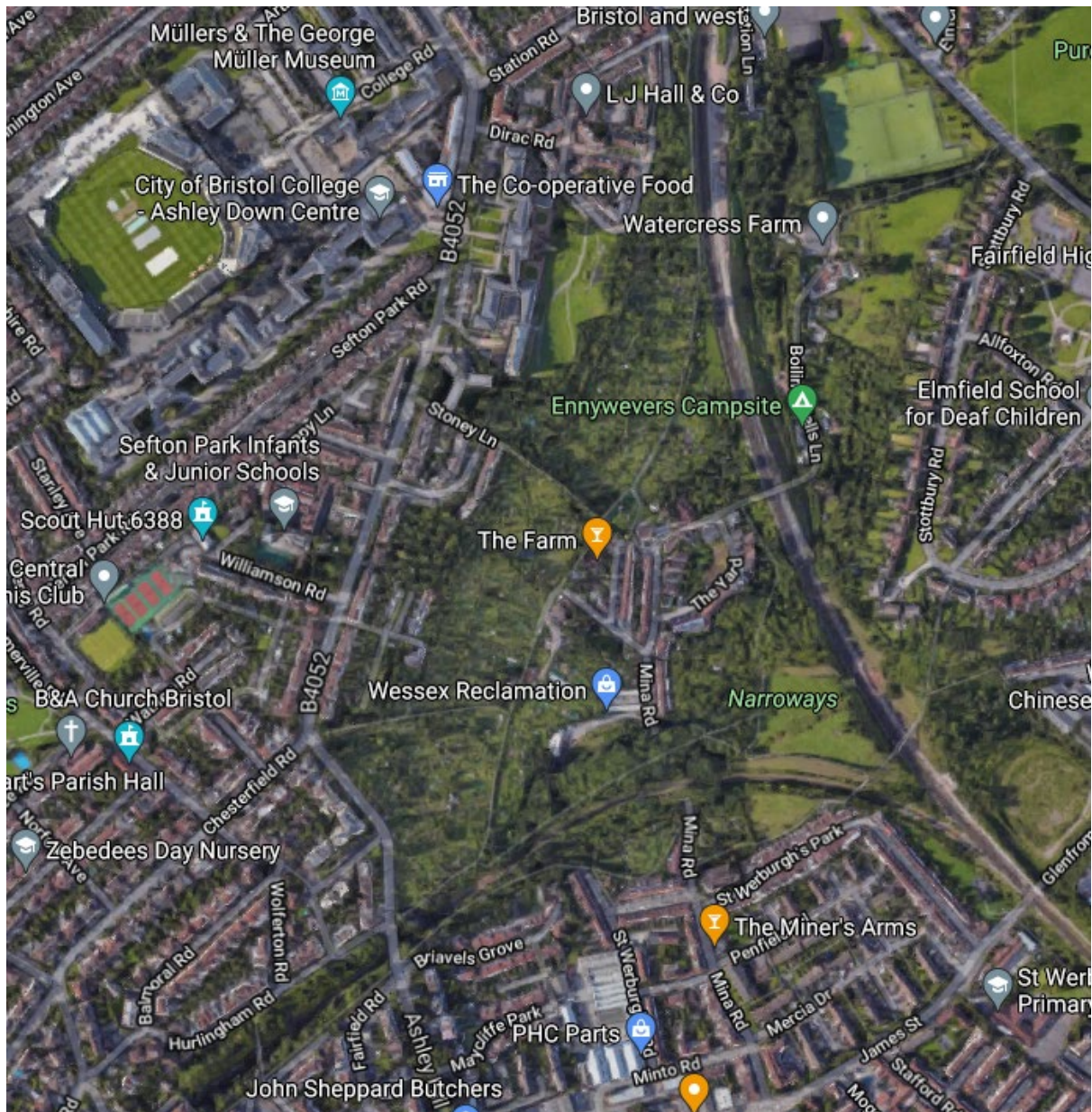
Invertebrates; Brimstone butterfly, Peacock butterfly, 7-spot ladybird, 16 spot ladybird, Rose chafer

Mammals; a Fox, Grey squirrels

BS2



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|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1 St Werburgh's City Farm | 5 Mina Road Park | 9 Trinity Community Garden |
| 2 The Garden | 6 St Agnes Park | 10 Newtown Park, Bristol and Bath Railway Path |
| 3 Ashley Vale Action Group | 7 Dalrymple Road Park | 11 Netham Lock |
| 4 Narrowways | 8 St Pauls Park | 12 Sparke Evans Park |



St Werburgh's City Farm

They have a community garden, and run various community engagement programmes revolving around it. It is a sloped site, with a mix of different flowering, vegetable and fruit plants, which attract invertebrates including butterflies and bees (unfortunately no detail on which species). They run volunteer programmes in animal care and conservation.

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

The Garden

They have lots of interesting plants, such as mulberry, ginkgo biloba and oriental quince. They have foxes, badgers, frogs, newts, dragonflies, and slow worms. They recommended getting in touch with Narrowways which neighbours their site, saying they do some amazing work.

<http://www.thegardenbristol.org/>

Ashley Vale Action Group – Wildgoose Space

Have been contacted for information as recommended by a different site, but have not had any information yet. There is also limited information online.

<http://www.wildgoosespace.org.uk/avag/>

Narrowways

There is the Narrowways Nature Reserve and the Narrowways Millennium Green. Both are proudly managed by a team of volunteers, and the trust is happy for the word to be spread about volunteer recruitment.

They do volunteer days, walks and talks, which have been reduced due to the pandemic, but small teams of volunteers have still been working to maintain the site.

Throughout the summer months, butterfly transects are walked once a week record all the species for BRERC.

Around the site there are wildlife corridors to Stoke Park and Purdown. The trust supposes that this could possibly be the cause of Roe Deer being spotted.

During the pandemic, there has been a lot of erosion, fence damage, and fires. The trust says that the site was quite undiscovered before COVID-19 and supposes it may have been better off that way due to the damage that has been done. People who visit the site need to take more care to not disturb the wildlife that calls it their home.

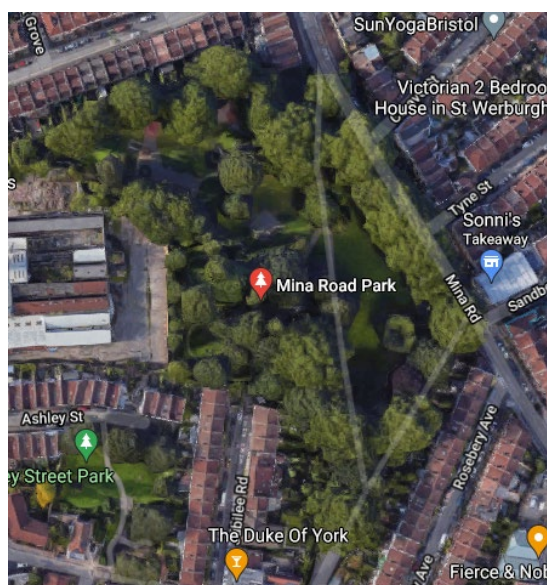
Aside from the Ash Wood, the trust has planted trees and hedgerows which are important refuges for wildlife and provide landing spots for birds, but the site is largely unmanaged to let nature take its course.

Bluebells and primrose which were never there before have been noticed recently but the reason why is not known.

An area of the site was fenced off until recently, it was owned privately and has been reclaimed by Narrowways. It is relatively untouched land, and the trust thinks that more places should have areas that limit public access for nature to thrive.

According to the trust, you are most likely to see magpies than any other bird at the site.

<https://narrowways.wordpress.com/about/>



Mina Road Park

There are shrubberies and flowerbeds surrounding a grassy area, and many mature trees. It is maintained by Bristol City Council, who cut the grass and keep the park tidy. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site. Friends of Mina Road Park have been contacted, however do not have any information to include just yet.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/224072746078728>

St Agnes Park

There is large open grass area, and shrubberies. The paths are flanked with plane trees. It is maintained by Bristol City Council, who cut the grass and keep the park tidy. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site.

<https://www.parksandgardens.org/places/st-agnes-park>



Dalrymple Road Park

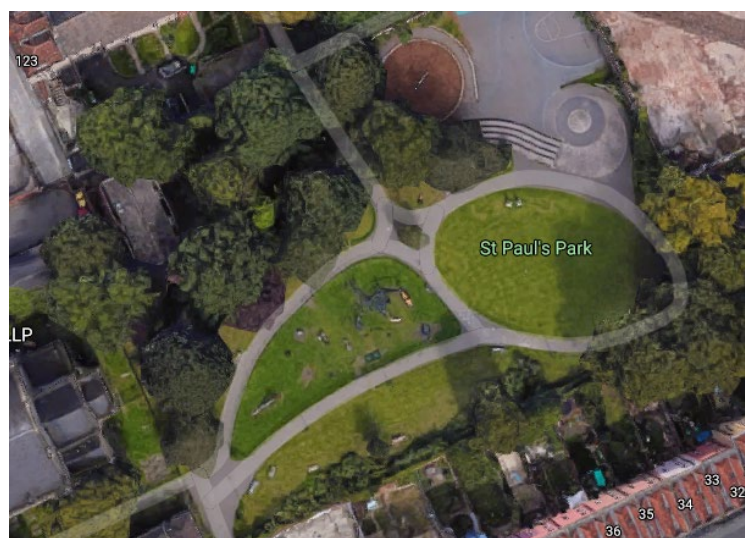
Residents in the area have done activities such as bulb planting, as well as general maintenance. It is maintained officially by Bristol City Council, who cut the grass. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site.

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/dalrymplepark/posts/>

St Pauls Park

It is maintained by Bristol City Council. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site.

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/museums-parks-sports-culture/st-pauls-park>





Trinity Community Garden

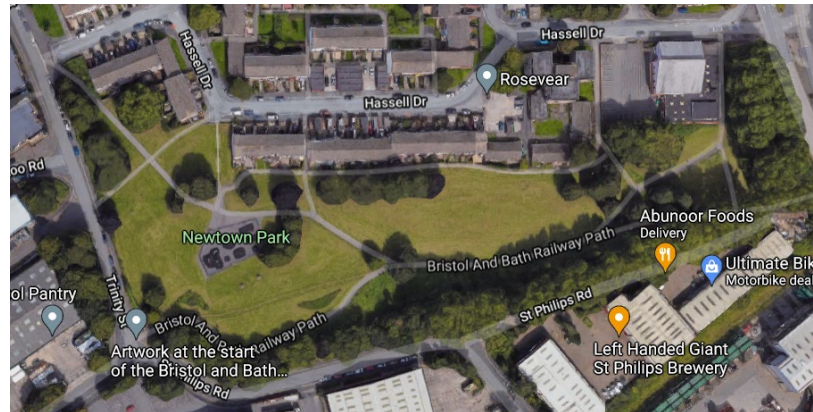
Host organic food growing workshops and medicinal plant workshops. They also offer volunteer opportunities for gardening and environmental education.

<https://www.trinitybristol.org.uk/activities/garden>

Newtown Park, Bristol and Bath Railway Path

Have been contacted for information but none has been presented as yet.

<http://www.bristolbathrailwaypath.org.uk/home.shtml>



Netham Lock

Maintained by the Canal and River Trust, who have been contacted for information, but none has been presented yet.

0117 977 6590

Sparke Evans Park

A rectangular park on the northern bank of the River Avon, lined with trees. There is a rose garden. There are tufted ducks, mallards, coots and moorhens known to frequent the park. It is maintained by Bristol City Council. It is unknown yet if there are any records of this site.

<https://www.parksandgardens.org/places/sparke-evans-park>



Other organisations who were contacted

BRERC – The Environmental Records Centre for the West of England

<https://www.brerc.org.uk/>

They always encourage people to submit their wildlife sightings to BRERC – “and feel free to pass that message on!”

Bristol Harbour Office

0117 903 1484

Bristol City Council

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/>

Avon Gardens Trust

<https://www.avongardenstrust.org.uk/>

Avon Wildlife Trust

<https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/>

Trees of Bristol

<https://bristoltrees.space/Tree/>

Forest of Avon Trust

<https://forestofavontrust.org/>

Bristol & Bath Parks Foundation

<https://www.bristolbathparksfoundation.org.uk/>

Bat Conservation Trust

<https://www.bats.org.uk/>

Bristol Museums

<https://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/>

Unfortunately, due to a lack of responses from custodians, the report is largely incomplete. Hopefully over the coming months and years we can build a picture of the wildlife in the city.

Many thanks to all custodians who have given information and contributed to this audit of the Inner-City Green Space.