

BS6 Green Space Audit

December 2021

This is a first audit of wildlife-friendly open spaces in BS6, following similar audits in other postcode areas of Bristol.

In September 2020, Bristol City Council (BCC), Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT) and others declared an ecological emergency in the city in response to the depleted and worsening state of nature. BCC's [Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2021-2025](#) 'Space for Nature – Nature Recovery Network' provides for action to recognise and strengthen the contribution that individual sites and locations make to the existing ecological network to deliver benefits for wildlife, people and place. Action areas include food growing, ponds and waterways, trees and woodland and support for citizen (that's you and me) action to manage existing space to benefit nature. Funding streams for this are:

- Community Grants to support action by citizens
- Bristol Future Parks Scheme to invite support and investment to progress nature recovery projects

Avon Wildlife Trust's 10 year strategy for nature recovery – '[Bringing Wildlife Back](#)' includes 'Team Wilder' which aims to get far more people involved in action for nature. AWT plans to offer training to people to lead and take action in their own communities. This could include help to set up projects and get others involved. Within the city, AWT

promises support for nature-enhancing activity, including to create or strengthen wildlife corridors across Bristol. The strategy also encourages action so that people of colour, low income households and LGBTQ+ people feel welcome in green spaces and able to engage in action to support wildlife.

In January 2021, we set out proposals for developing community-led wildlife groups across the city. The aim was to conduct a preliminary audit of Bristol's green spaces by the end of 2021 and for all fourteen Bristol postal districts to have an active and functioning wildlife group. These groups aim to:

- raise local awareness of wildlife;
- encourage green space custodians to improve habitats; and
- collaborate with others to promote wildlife at a neighbourhood level.

BS6wildlife@gmail.com is a dedicated email address set up to share information with lead contacts for all the green spaces listed. Further steps towards growing a BS6 wildlife group will follow.

BS6 is a leafy area of North Bristol, with relatively large gardens and many wildlife-rich allotment sites. The largest area of inter-connecting wildlife-friendly green centres around historic Redland Green. The Severn Beach line provides a wildlife corridor through the area. In addition to the spaces mentioned in this audit, there are several school sites, including Redland Green and Cotham secondary schools, North Bristol Post-16 Centre, Cotham Park, St Barnabas, Henleaze and Westbury Park primary schools. Two large sports grounds in BS6 are Golden Hill Sports Ground and Redmaids High School Golden Hill Sports Ground.

This report was prepared by Nicky Hodges. Photos also by Nicky Hodges. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this audit. Further updates in 2022.

BS6 Green Spaces Key

1. Albany Green
2. Birchall Road Allotments
3. Clyde Park
4. Cotham Gardens & Redland Grove / Lovers Walk
5. Cranbrook Rd Allotments
6. Golden Hill Sports Ground
7. The Granny's Down
8. Horfield Common - top edge
9. Kersteman Rd allotments
10. Malmesbury Close allotments
11. Metford Road allotments & Metford Road community orchard
12. Montpelier Park
13. Montpelier Station, Severn Beach Line
14. Redland Green
15. Redland Green allotments
16. Redland Parish Church & Churchyard
17. Redland Station, Seven Beach line
18. Redmaids High School Golden Hill Sports Ground
19. St Andrews Park



Map produced by Glenn Taylor

Albany Green [1]

This small inner city play area is nestled between houses and the Star and Garter pub. It has a multi-use games area. The Montpelier Parks group has been set up to look at ways to improve the parks for the enjoyment of everyone. This includes fundraising for the provision of play and leisure equipment, celebrating the history of the parks and encouraging wildlife.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/432358964092573/>

Birchall Road Allotments [2]

This is one of several allotment sites run by Horfield & District Allotment Association - their other sites lie in BS7. The Birchall Road site is enclosed by houses on all sides. It was created out of a former waste site in the 1930s. The website has a dedicated wildlife page, with suggestions on wildlife-friendly ways of gardening. Badgers have been seen on the site. info@horfieldanddistrictallotments.co.uk

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



Bishopston, Redland and Cotham Community Partnership

The BCR Community Partnership (BCR CP) promotes the involvement of local people and community groups in the neighbourhoods around Bishopston, Cotham and Redland in the city of Bristol, UK. It has a [Facebook](#) page. It covers much of the BS6 area. info@bcrp.org.uk
<https://bcrp.org.uk/>

Clyde Park, Redland, Bristol BS6 6RS [3]

This is a small private park maintained by the Clyde Park residents association. No contact identified.



Cotham Gardens and Redland Grove/ Lover's Walk) [4]

Friends of Cotham Gardens group holds workparty days to maintain and clean the park and the Lovers' Walk/ Redland Grove green space - activities include litter picking, bramble clearance and graffiti removal. Redland & Community Amenities Society supports the group and has a private Facebook group. They identify tree planting as an activity for which they would welcome volunteers. See rcas.org.uk. Contact info@rcas.org.uk



Cranbrook Rd Allotments (0.69ha) [5]

This has 25 plots. It is run by the council. The site is part of the Redland Green Allotment Association (See Redland

Green allotments). It adjoins Kersteman Road allotments.

Golden Hill Sports Ground [6]

The sports ground is owned by Golden Hill Sports & Social Club, a registered sports charity which incorporates Golden Hill Cricket Club, Golden Hill Sonics Junior Football Club and a host of community based social groups. It is a large flat grassed site.

<https://www.goldenhillsports.com/> or

<https://www.facebook.com/Golden-Hill-Sports-Ground-216607021723146/>

The Granny's Down [7]

This triangle of land on the other side of Westbury Road from the Durdham Downs lies with BS6 but, as part of the Downs, is looked after by The Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge (FOD+AG). This is a multi-interest group of volunteers working to protect and enhance the Downs and Gorge for the benefit of all users. We do this through a range of activities such as regular winter litter picking, summer monitoring of butterflies and monitoring of the

goats in the Gully. We also try to improve our knowledge of the area and pass on this understanding and appreciation through a series of articles, walks, talks and our quarterly newsletter.

A [tree trail illustrated leaflet](#) provides information about The Granny's Down and its various mature trees. It was produced in memory of, and based on original research undertaken by Richard Bland, a naturalist who observed and recorded wildlife on the Downs for decades.

www.friendsofthedowns.org

[@fodagbristol](https://www.facebook.com/fodagbristol)

Horfield Common [8]

Horfield Common mainly lies within BS7. The top part runs into BS6.

Kersteman Rd allotments (1.28ha) [9]

Kersteman Road has a site representative and is fully tenanted by keen gardeners who all contribute to its attractive appearance. Many colourful sheds and

allotment plots have created a wonderful communal garden feel. Kersteman has a carefully managed communal compost area. The insect life, numerous bird, butterfly and moth species, as well as the badgers and foxes benefit from the wildlife corridor created by the plots and the compost area. The site is part of the Redland Green Allotment Association.

Malmesbury Close allotment [10]

This is a small site tucked away behind houses, with just 10 plots. allotments@bristol.gov.uk

Metford Road allotments (1.83ha) [11]

This site runs down the opposite side of the valley from Redland Green allotments and has gate entry from the dip in Redland Green. It has 117 plots, five of which are given over to the Metford Road community orchard. Led by the voluntary site representatives, the site has been managed to favour native biodiversity for 15 years. The site has hosted several groups to support environmental education: the local junior school; a group in residential rehabilitation from alcohol dependency; and Duke of

Edinburgh volunteers. There are 7 small ponds. Less common birds observed on the site include jay, song thrush, greater spotted and green woodpeckers, blackcap, nuthatch, long-tailed tit, firecrest and sparrowhawk.

Recent activities to encourage wildlife include:

- Bat roosting boxes erected by Cub scouts
- Tit boxes & mason bee hotels hung
- Clearing of old flytipping - 2 skiploads
- Plantings:
 - 50 understorey trees (in anticipation of ash loss to Chalara)
 - Perennial pollinator patches
 - Comfrey to support scarlet tiger moth
 - Alder buckthorn to support brimstone butterflies
 - Goat willow to provide early nectar for queen bumblebees
 - 14m of new mixed hedge (by Duke of Edinburgh volunteers)

Metford Road community orchard [11]

At the end of the Allotments north of the stream at Redland Green is a wonderful wild green place, the Metford Road Community Orchard. It is steep, full of all kinds of fruit trees and bushes, has glorious views, and is home to masses of butterflies, other insects, slow worms and frogs. Members pay a subscription and contribute at least 16 hrs/year work and in return gain a share of the produce. Communal work days are held on the first Sunday of the month, plus ad hoc days as needed. Produce is sold at Whiteladies Road market. Activities to support wildlife include:

- Organic & permaculture practices
- Hedge laying & maintenance
- Wildflower meadow
- On-site ponds - frogs and newts
- Winter-flooded Cran river wild edge
- Solitary bee nest

For further information see <http://mrco.wikidot.com> or <https://www.facebook.com/pg/MRCOorchard/> or contact mrco Bristol-membership@yahoo.com

Montpelier Park [12]

Montpelier park is a small park with a children's play area and lots of colourful street art. Montpelier Parks Group has been set up to look at ways to improve the parks for the enjoyment of everyone. This includes fundraising for the provision of play and leisure equipment, celebrating the history of the parks and encouraging wildlife.



and Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1539.

montpelierparksgroup@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/432358964092573/>

Montpelier station [13]

The Severn Beach line provides a wildlife corridor through BS6 and beyond, as well as a sustainable way for people to visit different green spaces across Bristol and beyond. At both Montpelier there are [Incredible Edible Bristol](#) growing boxes. Sparrows and other birds in trees on the embankment are audible. On the other side of the walkway to the station footbridge is a private allotment site with a vineyard. It's a short walk to Montpelier Park. <https://discoversevernbeachline.co.uk/map/montpelier>

Redland Green [14]

Redland Green is a registered village Green. It has been a village green for hundreds of years. This gives it great protective status for its continuance as a green space and wildlife habitat. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book

The aim of the Redland Green Community Group is to preserve and maintain Redland Green Park for the enjoyment of present and future generations of people and wildlife by involving the local community, neighbours, stakeholder groups and users of the park in various activities and meetings to this end. The site includes a mix of woodland, scrub and grassland habitats. A hedgerow planted in 2012 contains a mix of traditional hedgerow species, including hawthorn, hazel, holly, wych elm, guelder and dog rose, spindle, dogwood and wayfaring tree. The four allotment sites of Redland (Redland Green, Metford Road, Cranbrook Road and Kersteman Road) provide a large connected area of green space contiguous with the Green.

Wildlife in the area include foxes, badgers, grey squirrels and bats. Birds recorded in the area include song thrushes, blackbirds, tits, magpies and great spotted woodpeckers. Sadly, hedgehogs have not been recorded for quite some time. Yarrow has been spotted growing in the field maple hedge. Meadow cranesbill, wild geranium, yarrow and wild carrot growing in wildflower meadow by steps to

Metford Rd. Activities over the last few years include:

- [Redland Green Tree Trail app](#)
- Care and preservation of veteran trees
- In 2019, the group put up [16 bird boxes](#) - these are cleaned out and monitored
- Nest cams installed and [bird box survey app](#)
- Bulb planting to create flowering meadows
- Hazel & hawthorn hedge laying
- Litter picking and 'deep clean'
- [Website](#) lists trees, animals and plants seen on or near Redland Green (including on the adjoining allotments)

For more information, contact:

<https://sites.google.com/site/redlandgreencommunity/>



Redland Green allotments (1.82ha) [15]

Redland Green allotments has 110 plots. It is a mainly steeply sloped site adjoining Redland Green and across the Cram river valley from Metford Road Allotments - the only stretch of the river that remains unculverted in the area. The trees along the river are important contributors to available habitat and food sources. The wilder edge of the allotment site is home to a pair of nesting sparrowhawk, badgers, foxes and smaller creatures. Many of the allotmenters grow organically and have created small ponds which attract frogs, newts and invertebrates. Slow worms and toads are also found. Butterflies spotted include Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Large and Small Cabbage White, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Peacock, Gatekeeper, Ringlet, Brimstone, Painted Lady, Marbled White and Orange Tip.

The Redland Green Allotment Association is an independent trading organisation which covers the four allotment sites around Redland Green (Redland Green, Metford Road, Cranbrook Road and Kersteman Road). It provides a forum for communicating, disseminating



information and representation across the 4 sites.

Redland Green Church - churchyard [16]

Whilst the front of the churchyard is maintained as a restful garden, the remainder has been managed as a partly controlled wild area where nature can be itself. A record of wildlife has been kept since 2012, last updated November 2021. It lists 62 wildflower species, 21 tree varieties, mammals, 21 bird species, amphibians (frogs, toads), 7 butterfly species, and various other bees and insects as well as many lichen. A list is available.

Redland station [17]

The Severn Beach line provides both a wildlife corridor and a sustainable way for people to visit different green spaces across Bristol and beyond. Redland station has [Incredible Edible Bristol](#) growing boxes. Redland station looks out to Cotham Park. The Discover Severn Beach Line shows green spaces close to each stop along the line.



Redmaids High School Golden Hill Sports Ground [18]

This is a large grassed sports ground belonging to the private Redmaids High School. The school hasn't yet been contacted about any wildlife-related activities or plan.

St Andrews Park (4.4ha) [19]

St. Andrew's Park with its many mature trees is one of the city's classic Victorian neighbourhood parks, laid out at the same time as the housing development around it. Friends of St Andrews Park wildlife group co-ordinate wildlife-related activities in the park, with a regular e-newsletter. Recent activities include:

- Tree trail & series of information boards
- Full list of all tree and hedge species in the park
- Blog on lichen in the park
- Pond maintenance work parties
- Dead hedge
- Wildflower meadow areas creation & maintenance
- New pollinator friendly flower garden
- Trial of no glyphosate
- Plans for a new food growing area
- Occasional bird watching and other tours

<http://friendsofstandrewspark.ning.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friends.of.standrews.park>



Sustainable Redland website

In 2021, the formal structure of Sustainable Redland was dissolved, with no plans to initiate new events or projects for the time being. The website is still available and provides information about past activities and initiatives set up by the group, including Whiteladies Road Market and Metford Road community orchard.

<http://sustainableredland.org.uk/>

