



Troopers Hill

Local Nature Reserve

Management and Action Plan

Report and Update April 2005

by Rob Acton-Campbell

Friends of Troopers Hill



Contents

	Page
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Friends of Troopers Hill	3
3.0 Bristol Parks	5
4.0 Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve	6
5.0 Malvern Road Open Space	8
6.0 Aims and Objectives	9
7.0 Schedules of Work to be Carried Out – Update April 2005	10
Schedule A – Ongoing Wildlife Tasks	10
Schedule B – Ongoing People Tasks	12
Schedule C – Year 1 – April 2004 to March 2005	15
Schedule D – Year 2 – April 2005 to March 2006	19
Schedule H – Summary, Costing and Funding	21

1.0 Introduction

Management and Action Plan April 2004 to March 2009

- 1.1 The Management and Action Plan was prepared jointly by Bristol Parks and Friends of Troopers Hill in early 2004. It was signed by Susan Acton-Campbell for the Friends of Troopers Hill and Peter Wilkinson for Bristol Parks.
- 1.2 The Plan sets out in detail the actions and tasks to be carried out by Bristol Parks and the Friends of Troopers Hill to manage and enhance the environment of the Reserve over the five years from April 2004 to March 2009. Copies can be downloaded from the Friends of Troopers Hill web site at www.troopers-hill.org.uk or can be obtained from the Friends of Troopers Hill or Bristol Parks via the contact details on the back cover of this document.
- 1.3 This first annual review reports on the progress over the past year and on the prospects for the remaining four years. The review should be read in conjunction with the original document.
- 1.4 Section 7 of this report reprints the detailed schedules of activities that were intended to be completed during the period. It describes the progress that has been made and any changes that have been considered necessary. Revisions to planned activities are also included.



2.0 Friends of Troopers Hill



2.1 The Friends of Troopers Hill is now well into the second year since its formation. The size of the mailing list has grown steadily through that period and has received a recent boost through replies received to the Malvern Road Open Space consultation. It now includes over 200 households.

2.2 The Group received income from four sources during the past year:

- A grant of £3,269.00 from Awards for All
- Donations of £400.00 for repairs to the burnt bench
- Payment of £100.00 for leading a walk and giving a presentation.
- A small sum from sales of refreshments at meetings and events.



2.3 Details of how this money has been spent are given in the schedules of work in Section 7.

2.4 Work Parties have been held each month with the total volunteer time for Year 1 being 231 hours. The challenge for the coming year is to maintain the enthusiasm of regular attendees and to bring in new members.



2.5 Newsletters have continued to be produced every other month and the group web site at www.troopers-hill.org.uk has been further developed and includes clips from a video being put together by Bristol Video Solutions based on the Group's work.

- 2.6 A number of events were organised through the year including a Bugs and Beasties Walk; a Family Fun Day and a very successful evening walk for the Bristol Magpies. More events are planned for this year for both adults and children in order to raise awareness of the reserve, its wildlife and history. Full details of all events appear on the website and on the new sign boards at the entrances to the hill.
- 2.7 The Friends of Troopers Hill continue to develop links with other community groups. The group is an active member of the Parks Forum and has joined VOSCUR. Links have also been established with the Bristol East Allotments Association who lease the adjoining 'Farm' allotment site. Unfortunately the demise of the St George Partnership Times has removed a valuable source of publicity.



- 2.8 As part of the Wildspace! Project, Year-3 pupils from the local Air Balloon Hill Junior School took part in an arts project organised by Sally Oldfield, which included a visit to the hill. The Friends of Troopers Hill directly benefited from this project by being presented with a decorated tablecloth and gazebo. Full details of this 'School Project' can be found on the web site.

VIRGINIA SPALDING

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Virginia, our Membership Secretary and one of the founder members of the Friends of Troopers Hill. She was only 50 years old when she died on December 7th 2004 after a short, very bravely faced illness. Her cheery company will be sadly missed on work parties, as will her sharp mind and thoughtful contributions at meetings.

3.0 Bristol Parks

3.1 Gary Ratcliffe as Community Parks Manager for East Bristol has worked in consultation with the Friends of Troopers Hill throughout the year to implement this Management Plan and to provide support to Work Parties. His efforts have been greatly appreciated. Gary has reviewed the Maintenance Profile for the site with the Contractors and amendments have been agreed to bring it in line with the Plan. Items to be covered by this agreement are marked 'Maintenance' in Schedule H of this update.

3.2 The maintenance contract for Bristol East parks, including Troopers Hill has been extended for a further three years with the same contractor, BCS. There have been some problems in the past year in getting work done within a reasonable timescale of it being requested. It is hoped that with the new contract in place this will not reoccur in the next year.

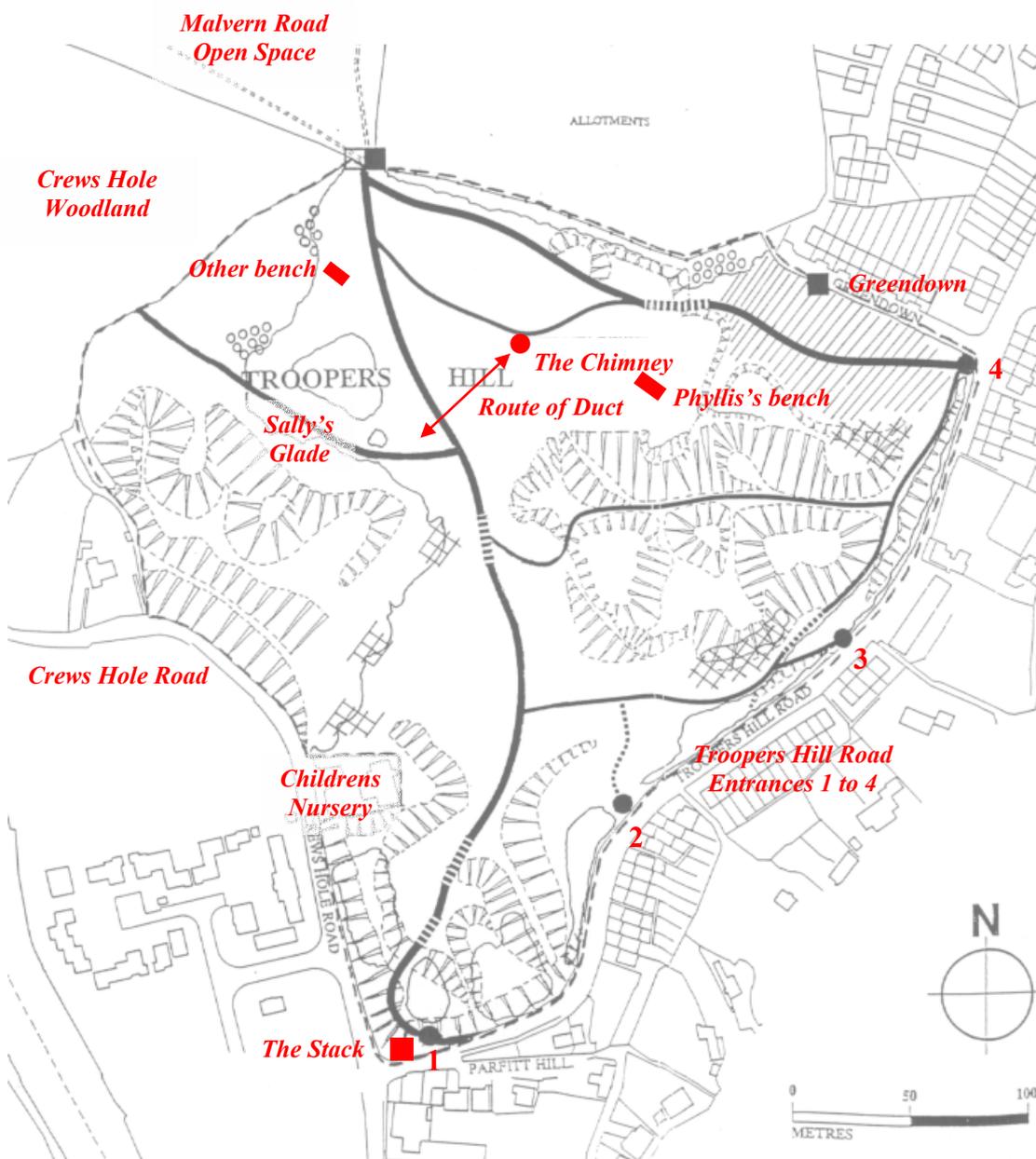
3.3 As Local Nature Reserve Officer, Sally Oldfield has continued to provide vital support to the Group. As Friends of Troopers Hill Work Party Organiser, I have liaised closely with Sally on the wildlife management tasks undertaken by the group. Sally has also played a major part in the organisation of all the events that have taken place this year. The past year would not have been the success that it was without Sally's enthusiasm and confidence that any difficulties can be overcome. Being dedicated to Local Nature Reserves Sally has been able to devote sufficient time to Troopers Hill to ensure a prompt response to all our frequent telephone and email enquiries. We have also benefited from Sally's many contacts amongst Bristol's naturalists and other wildlife groups.



3.4 As a result of a proposal put forward by Sally, Bristol Parks have approved the designation of three further Local Nature Reserves this year. Continuation of the Wildspace! Project and securing funding for LNRO post to continue once the English Nature funding comes to an end in September 2005 have been included as an objective in Bristol Parks' draft 'Service Delivery Plan' for 2005/2006. Despite this there is currently no commitment to the funding of the post. It is clear that if funding for this post to continue is not found then the current momentum behind the Friends of Troopers Hill would be lost. A particular problem would be the lack of any professional guidance on the wildlife management tasks. There would seem to be very little value in designating sites as Local Nature Reserves if the resources are not in place to ensure that the sites are managed properly for the wildlife.

4.0 Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve

4.1 Site Plan



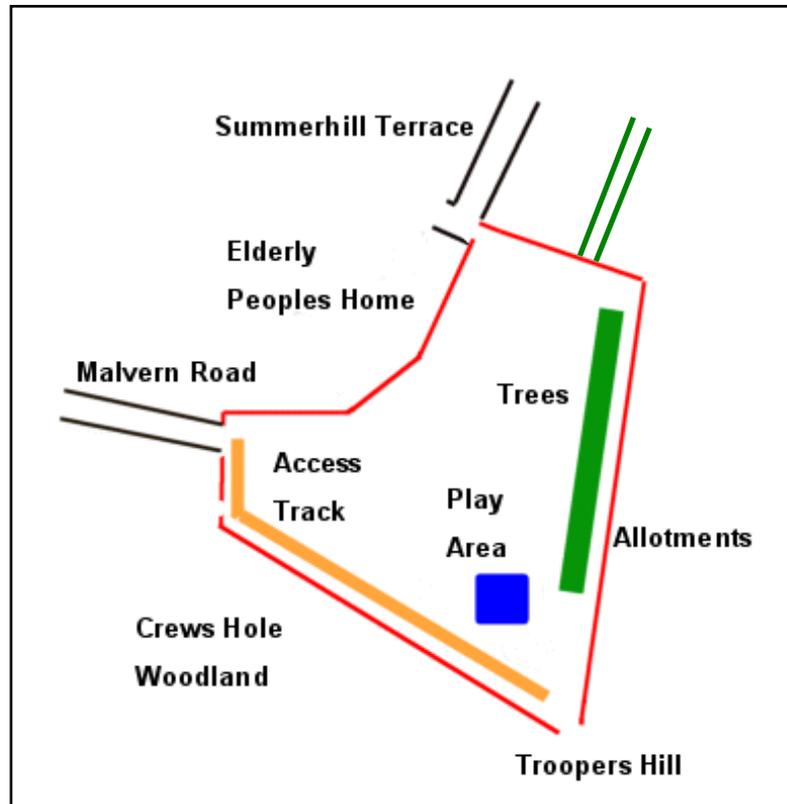
- 4.2 The Nature Reserve has continued to be used extensively by local residents, and a number of complimentary comments have been made about the improved management of the site.
- 4.3 The steps from the second entrance from Troopers Hill Road that were previously overgrown and impassable are now in frequent use.



- 4.4 The only major incident of vandalism has been the destruction of the bench by fire in May 2004. A small fire in the gorse on 14th February 2005 appeared to be an accidental result of a small ‘camp fire’.
- 4.5 Further research into the history of the site has established that the chimney predates 1826 which supports the theory that it was originally used for copper smelting. It has also been found that the name ‘Truebody’s Hill’ was used from the early 1700s until at least 1840. The first know reference to ‘Troopers Hill’ is 1830.

5.0 Malvern Road Open Space

5.1 Site Plan



- 5.2 The only remaining swing on the Open Space was destroyed in February 2005, so that only the slide remains in the play area. Nevertheless the area is extensively used for football, cricket and dog walking.
- 5.3 While the results of the consultation exercise are still being evaluated, it is clear that the majority of people value the fact that it is an open and relatively flat area of grassland that can be used for a multitude of purposes.



6.0 Aims and Objectives

Overall Objectives

“The aim of this Management and Action Plan is to ensure that Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve is maintained as a nature reserve, of benefit to both wildlife and people.”

Wildlife Objectives

“To maintain and where possible enhance the quality and extent of acidic grassland and heath, including its associated bare earth, on the site.”

“To maintain areas of scrub on the site, especially scrub such as broom, which is dependent on an acidic substrate. “

People Objectives

“To provide suitable facilities for quiet recreation on the site, providing that these do not conflict with nature conservation requirements.”

“To encourage community involvement in the site, to encourage active involvement in the management of the site and increased appreciation of its wildlife and history.”

- 6.1 The work carried out during the year by both the Friends of Troopers Hill and Bristol Parks is described in Section 7 below. Although not all of the planned tasks have been completed, the implementation of the plan in this first year is considered to be a success and the above aims and objectives have been met.
- 6.2 Section 7 also includes revisions to items scheduled for the coming year. Items not mentioned remain as described in the Management Plan.

7.0 Schedules of Work to be Carried Out – Update April 2005

The original description is shown in *italics* with the update in normal text.

Schedule A – Ongoing Wildlife Tasks

A1 Eradication of Japanese Knotweed – Treatment required twice per year

This work is to be carried out by specialist contractors in accordance with Bristol City Council's policy to eradicate this pernicious weed. There are large areas of knotweed in the woodland on the western side of the Nature Reserve.

A survey of the areas covered by this weed throughout Bristol has been carried out by Bristol Parks to establish the extent of the problem and to instigate a co-ordinated strategy for its removal. Treatment of the knotweed on the nature reserve will commence this year as part of that strategy.

A2 Hay Cut – Annually in late summer

The area of tall grassland in the north-eastern corner of the site is to be cut annually and the cuttings removed as hay. This area has more fertile soil than the remainder of the reserve and if not cut will become dominated by rank grasses and its biodiversity will decline.

This area was included in Bristol Parks Maintenance Profile as 'Recreational Turf' and was cut 3 or 4 times during the year. The Maintenance Profile has been amended for the coming year so that only 1 hay cut will be undertaken.

A3 Clearance of Bramble from Areas of Broom and Heather – All year

Bramble and hawthorn scrub are to be removed from the areas of broom, with the three areas shown on the map being the focus for the first year. Other areas will also be tackled in later years in accordance with recommendations from the biennial monitoring (see A7).

Areas of bramble where birds might nest will only be cut from October to early March.

Several of the Friends of Troopers Work Parties focused on this task and good progress was made. Birds were seen nesting on the hill from late February so this work will not be undertaken in future later than the 1st week in February.

A4 Clearance of Scrub from Heathland

Some small scale scrub clearance/control will be carried out where this is encroaching on areas of heathland, again accordance with the recommendations from the biennial monitoring (see A7). When scrub Clearance is carried out goat willow and silver birch will be retained since these species are of particular value for invertebrates.

This year's efforts have been devoted to clearing bramble from broom. A number of small saplings, and in particular those of Holm Oak were removed at the February Work Party in accordance with the recommendations of the monitoring. There is a single large Holm Oak tree in Crews Hole woodland which is probably the source of these Holm Oak saplings, Bristol Parks have agreed to fell this tree in the winter 2005/2006.

Schedule A – Ongoing Wildlife Tasks (Continued)

A5 Clear Small Areas of Scrub – December/January

Areas of scrub as shown on the map are to be cut down in a five yearly rotation in order to promote young scrub growth. No work will be carried out in the vicinity of badger setts.

This year's efforts have been devoted to clearing bramble from broom.

A6 Reduce Area of Bracken – June and August

The area of bracken will be reduced by cutting at June and August work parties. Work will concentrate on a 5m wide strip at the edge of the area and 3m each side of the informal path. Cutting at this time of year weakens the rhizomes since the energy used in growing is not then replaced by sugars produced by mature fronds. This method of treatment is accordance with BTCV recommendations.

The bracken was cut at Work Parties in June and August each side of the steps from No 2 entrance.

A7 Vegetation Photographic Monitoring – August in 2004, 2006 & 2008

This programme of monitoring the site will be continued and the results used to measure the success of the management regime. Any actions recommended will be incorporated into the annual review of this plan.

The 2004 survey highlighted the presence of the Holm Oak saplings as a particular problem (see A4 above).

A8 Invertebrate Surveys and Butterfly Transects – April to September

Further surveys are required to monitor the rare species found to be present at the time of the 2000 invertebrate survey and to confirm or otherwise the suspected loss of the Grayling Butterfly from the site. The results of these surveys will be used to help decide on the priorities for management of heath and scrub. Troopers Hill will be suggested to academic institutions and other bodies as a subject for research that could include these surveys. A butterfly transect will be carried during the summer of 2004 by a Bath University student.

The butterfly transect was completed, with 19 different species of butterfly being recorded.

A9 Botanical Surveys – As appropriate for the species to be surveyed

Surveys of flora of all types will also be encouraged and again academic institutions and other bodies will be approached and the use of Troopers Hill suggested for research. A bryophyte survey was carried out in March 2004 by a specialist working with the Bristol and Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC).

A10 Mowing of Grass, Malvern Road Open Space – As required in growing season.

Consideration should be given to allowing certain areas of grass to grow and be cut for hay once or twice per year (see C15).

Schedule B – Ongoing People Tasks

B1 Health and Safety Audit – Annually or as required.

Bristol Parks will carry out Health and Safety Audits and risk assessments of the site at least once per year. Further audits will be carried out in the event of any damage to the site due to vandalism or natural causes such as storms or fires. The Friends of Troopers Hill will receive copies of these audits and will report any circumstances brought to their attention that may affect the safety of the site.

B2 Maintenance of Definitive Footpath Surface – As required

The two definitive footpaths were surfaced in 1991 as part of a series of capital works to prevent and reverse damage caused by erosion. The surface of these paths will be regularly inspected and maintained in an acceptable condition to encourage use of the site.

B3 Clear Back Vegetation from Footpaths – ~~Twice per year~~ As required

Substantial lengths of the paths are bounded by woodland and scrub including bramble and become impassable if this is not regularly cut back. Contracts will be placed for designated lengths of paths setting suitable standards for the width to be cleared.

Bristol Parks' contractors cut back the vegetation from the main paths on two occasions during the year. The agreed changes to the Maintenance Profile should lead to more frequent clearance at path edges during the next year.

B4 Cutting Vegetation from Footpaths – As required April to September

Minor work cutting mainly brambles is required between contractor's visits and to informal paths not covered by the contracts. This work will be undertaken at work parties by Friends of Troopers Hill Volunteers.

This will continue to be undertaken by Friends of Troopers Hill Work Parties if required between the contractor's visits.

B5 Maintenance of the Boundary Fence – As required

The boundary fence to both Troopers Hill and Malvern Road Open Space needs to be maintained to prevent motorcycle access. Sections of the fence may require replacement where the posts have rotted.

A particular problem area is along Troopers Hill road where the fence has been damaged by the activity of badgers. This area will be reviewed and consideration given to the fence being repositioned or removed altogether.

Broken rails adjacent to the various entrances from Troopers Hill Road have been replaced at Work Parties using materials supplied by Bristol Parks.

Schedule B – Ongoing People Tasks (Continued)

B6 Maintenance of Pedestrian Access Gates – As required

Kissing gates have been installed at the four pedestrian access points from Troopers Hill Road (probably in 1991) to allow pedestrian access while preventing use of the site by motorbikes. These will be regularly inspected and repaired as necessary to prevent future motorcycle use. In particular the gateposts need inspection for signs that they are rotting through at ground level.

At the access from the Open Space, a chicane was formed using fence posts and rails, this was broken down just before Christmas 2003 and temporary repairs were made. This gate could be removed completely once fencing is provided to the Summerhill Terrace access to the Open Space (see C10) and the fence at Malvern Rd is made secure (C11). The temporary arrangement will therefore be maintained until this is achieved.

The chicane arrangement remains in place and has been successful in keeping all except the occasional small scooter off the reserve.

B7 Maintenance of Dog Bins – Three times per week

This will be carried out as part of the contract covering all Bristol dog bins in accordance with the agreed standards and includes emptying the bins and replacing any that are damaged.

Use of the bins will be monitored by the Community Parks Manager and Friends of Troopers Hill to assess whether any additional bins are required. Two new bins will be installed in Year 1 (C4 & C6).

The large number of people using the site resulted in the new dog bin at Greendown becoming full at Easter 2005 but otherwise the frequency with which the bins have been emptied has been adequate.

The bin next to the play area on the Open Space was lowered to make it easier to use following a request by Friends of Troopers Hill. There are still concerns however about the design of the bins which sometimes results in bags collecting in the top section giving an empty bin the appearance of being full.

The bin adjacent to Summerhill Terrace was destroyed by fire in October 2004 but replaced promptly by the contractors.

B8 Maintenance of Existing Seats – As required

The two existing seats will be regularly be inspected and repaired/replaced as necessary. Unfortunately one of these was destroyed by fire in May 2004.

By placing a notice with an appeal from ‘the bench’ for funds the Friends of Troopers Hill raised £400 for the repair of the bench with metal slats. Bristol Parks replaced missing slats on the other bench (see also D4, page 20).

Schedule B – Ongoing People Tasks (Continued)

B9 Inspection of Structures – Annual visual inspection

Two structures exist on the site, the well known chimney on top of the hill and the ‘stack’ at the corner of Troopers Hill Road and Crews Hole Road.

Extensive repointing of the chimney was carried out three years ago and it is not anticipated that any further work will be required in the period covered by this plan.

The stack has not however had any work carried on it for several years, except for the removal of loose stones from the top as an emergency measure in response to a call from a resident that a stone had fallen. These stones were apparently pushed into the chimney. Two sides of the base of the structure are obscured by brambles and cannot therefore be inspected in detail but appear to be in good condition.

Surveys of both structures were carried out in October and November 2004.

B10 Maintenance of Structures – As required following surveys

Work to the top of the stack will be required in Year 1 – see C7

B11 Removal of Hazardous or Large Items of Rubbish – As required

Friends of Troopers Hill will report any items to the Community Parks Manager.

Two scooters were dumped in Crews Hole woodland, one being stolen was removed by the police. Spoil deposited by badgers on Troopers Hill Road will also regularly be removed.

B12 Response to Incidents of Damage/Vandalism – As required

Friends of Troopers Hill will report any damage to the Community Parks Manager.

Minor repairs will be carried out by work parties where possible. An example is the replacement of broken fence rails carried out along Green Down in December 2003.

A further risk assessment of the site will be undertaken if necessary after any major incidents.

B13 Litter picking – Every 3 or 4 months

A major ‘Spring Clean’ will be held each April in which local schools and youth groups will be invited to participate. The area covered may be extended into the adjacent Crews Hole Woodland if sufficient people participate.

It has been agreed that litter picks will be made by Bristol Parks’ contractors in June and November from 2005 onwards.

B14 Cut vegetation around Stack – 3 or 4 times/year – Additional Item

Following the initial clearance of vegetation from this Grade II listed structure (see D6 below) it will be cut regularly to prevent further damage and to keep this historic feature fully visible.

Schedule C – Year 1 – April 2004 to March 2005

Wildlife Tasks

- C1 Establish Friends of Troopers Hill Tool Store – Completed July 2004

Tools will be purchased to carry out the ongoing wildlife tasks detailed in Schedule A and other tasks as appropriate by volunteers at Work Parties.

Funded by Awards for All Tools purchased included 10 pairs of loppers, 4 slashers, 2 rakes, 20 litter pickers, saws, a sledge hammer and a pickaxe.

- C2 Health & Safety and 1st Aid Training/Equipment – Completed April 2005

At least one first aider and one person with appropriate health and safety training is required on each Work Party.

Funded by Awards for All Three regular Work Party attendees are now qualified 1st aiders through their work. The money from the grant allocated for training was therefore used on additional tools.

People Tasks

- C3 Repairs to steps on Definitive Footpath – Work carried out Feb 2005

A number of the steps to the footpath have been eroded over time such that the rise at individual steps presents a risk of injury, particularly to people descending the steps. In addition erosion is now being caused at the side of the steps due to people taking the easier route on the hill slope.

An additional step was added at the worst spot and the steps were levelled by regrading the existing stone. This has removed the greatest risk, further work will be carried out by Bristol Parks as budgets allow.

- C4 Provision of Dog Bin at Greendown/Troopers Hill Road – Installed May 2004

The presence of dog mess on the site was highlighted in the 2002/3 survey as the major source of concern to users of the site. As well as being unpleasant it presents a major health hazard, particularly to young children. A recent phenomenon is dog owners bagging the dog mess, presumably to clear paths but then throwing the plastic bags into the scrub.

This new dog bin will supplement the two existing dog bins at Malvern Road Open Space.

This new bin is now very well used.

- C5 Repositioning of Dog Bin from Summerhill Terrace – Additional bin ordered

The existing dog bin at the Summerhill Terrace entrance to Malvern Road Open Space is rarely used; consideration will be given to moving this to a location on the Reserve.

It was decided to leave this bin in place; an additional bin will be installed on the reserve at the top of the hill during the next year.

Year 1 – April 2004 to March 2005 (Continued)

People Tasks (Continued)

C6 Provision of Second Additional Dog Bin – To be installed 2005

Dog owners will be consulted as to the most beneficial location for this second new dog bin.

The bin will be installed at the bottom (No 1) entrance from Troopers Hill Road in the next few months.

C7 Inspection and Repairs to stack – Repairs scheduled for 2005

An inspection of the top section of the stack will be carried out and the necessary remedial works undertaken (see also B9).

The inspection highlighted the presence of loose stones on top of the stack and the repairs are expected to be carried out shortly. Clearance around the stack (see D6) has also revealed that some minor repairs are required to stabilise the ‘wing walls’.

C8 Clear Steps from No 2 Entrance – Completed March 2004

These steps had become overgrown with bracken and bramble to the extent to which they are almost impassable. An initial clearance of bracken and bramble was required prior to the instigation of the regular cutting (see B4).

These steps are now in regular use.

C9 Repairs to Broken Fence Rails – Completed April 2005

A number of fence rails along Troopers Hill Road and Crews Hole Road are broken and require replacement.

All broken rails have been replaced except those between entrances 3 and 4, where at least one fence post has been broken. Consideration is being given to the options for this section which is close to a badger sett.

C10 Provision of fence at Summerhill Terrace – Completed September 2004

The access to the Open Space from Summerhill Terrace is unfenced, with only a row of concrete bollards to prevent vehicle access. There is nothing to prevent motorcycle access on to the area and at Christmas 2003 motorcycles used this route to access Troopers Hill having broken down part of the pedestrian chicane.

Fencing will therefore be installed across the Summerhill Terrace entrance to prevent motorcycle access to the whole area, with a kissing gate to provide pedestrian access. Wheelchair access will be provided once the footpaths have been improved (see E3).

This fence was installed by Bristol Parks.

Year 1 – April 2004 to March 2005 (Continued)

People Tasks (Continued)

C11 Repairs/improvement to Gate at Malvern Rd – Grant Application in progress

The vehicle access gate at the end of Malvern Rd is damaged and requires replacement. The new gate design will be in the form of a large kissing gate that will allow wheelchair access. The gate will then also close the existing gap and prevent motorcycle access.

Funding for this gate and replacement of the adjacent fence forms part of Bristol Parks' grant application to SWEET. As a temporary measure the damaged gate has been replaced with a new standard field gate.

C12 Installation of 3 New Benches – Grant Application in progress

Provision of additional benches was one of the most requested improvements for the Reserve in the 2002/2003 survey.

It is proposed to install benches without backs (i.e. not seats). Benches to be vandal proof as far as possible, probably steel frames with recycled plastic slats. Locations will be agreed following consultation at Friends of Troopers Hill meetings. Siting of benches on the skyline will be avoided.

Funding for these benches forms part of Bristol Parks' grant application to SWEET, which is being organised by Sally Oldfield with input from the Friends of Troopers Hill. £130 is also available as surplus from donations for the repair of the damaged bench.

C13 Installation of Signs at Entrances – Completed April 2005

Signs will be installed at each entrance, suggested wording is shown below, the signs will also include contact details for Bristol Parks and the Friends of Troopers Hill with appropriate logos.

Funded by Awards for All Combined with notice boards (C14 below)

C14 Installation of 2 Notice Boards – Completed January 2005

Vandal proof notice boards will be installed at the entrance from Malvern Road Open Space and the corner of Green Down / Troopers Hill Road. The existing vandalised sign board near the Open Space entrance will be removed at the same time.

The notice boards will be used to display posters publicising Friends of Troopers Hill events and information about the Reserve.

Funded by Awards for All
Signs including spaces for A4 notices were purchased from Wards of Barton Hill and installed at five entrances to the hill at Work Parties. These signs have been well received.



Year 1 – April 2004 to March 2005 (Continued)

People Tasks (Continued)

C15 Consultation - the Future of Malvern Rd Open Space – Completed April 2005

The existing play area on the Open Space is in a very run down state, the remainder of the area is mown grass, with a few trees. The only surfaced path is from the Malvern Road entrance to the entrance to Troopers Hill. The 2002/2003 survey was not intended to cover this area but 'the poor play area' still rated as one the main things people disliked about the hill and as one of the reasons people did not visit the site.

It is proposed that the Friends of Troopers Hill should carry out a survey of residents surrounding the Open Space (including the adjacent elderly peoples home) to establish people's views as to whether the play area should remain, and if so what type of play equipment should be provided and what age range it should be aimed at. Other questions would consider the provisions of paths, additional tree planting, wildflower/bulb planting, whether areas of grass should be hay cut and whether football pitches should be marked out.

The results of this survey will be incorporated into future revisions of this management plan.

Approximately 1700 questionnaires were distributed to local residents and almost 10% have been returned. These are now being analysed and a report will be presented at the Friends of Troopers Hill meeting in May 2005.

C16 'Interpretive History Project' – Completed March 2005

Funding is in place for this project, it is anticipated that the end result will be the installation of some form of structure or art work to illustrate the history of the site.

Funded by English Nature's Wildspace!

The project was run by Sally Oldfield with pupils from Year 3 at Air Balloon Hill Junior School. It involved visits to Troopers Hill and resulted in the presentation to the Friends of Troopers Hill of a decorated gazebo and tablecloth for use at events (see photo page 4). The project was overseen by Helen Adshead of the Avon Wildlife Trust, full details can be found on the Friends of Troopers Hill web site at www.troopers-hill.org.uk

Schedule D – Year 2 – April 2005 to March 2006

The following Year 2 People Tasks were brought forward.

D5 Repairs to existing steps on informal paths – Part Completed

The steps will be inspected in the Spring and repairs carried out as necessary to top up the steps where they have eroded and replace rotted timber.

Some repairs were made to the stakes holding the timber for the steps from No 2 entrance from Troopers Hill Road at Work Parties in May and November 2004.

D6 Clear area around Stack – Completed November 2004

The area around the stack requires clearing to allow it to be surveyed, this area will then require tidying and possibly fencing.

The fencing around the stack was found to be adequate.

The following Year 2 People Tasks have been revised.

D1 Site Interpretation – Grant Application in progress

The two current information sign boards will be replaced with a single new board in the area of the chimney and/or alternative forms of interpretation elsewhere on the Reserve. Information will be given on the different types of wildlife: badgers, deer, butterflies, broom etc. This will supplement the history interpretation provided through the Year 1 History Project.

It is proposed that a local landscape artist will be involved in the design and that local schools could also become involved. Other sites in the area will be visited to gather ideas for consideration.

In order to provide additional interpretation and publicity for the site a leaflet will also be produced to complement the on site interpretation and using input from the same artist.

D2 Wheelchair access from Open Space – Grant Application in progress

Provided motorcycle access to the Open Space has been prevented (C10 & C11), it will be possible to completely remove the gate and fence between the Open Space and the Hill to allow unrestricted wheelchair access. Footpath improvements will also be carried in the area of the current gate and consideration will be given to providing disabled parking spaces.

The opportunity to access funding through Bristol Parks' application to SWEET has been taken to combine this with the planned access path to the chimney scheduled for Year 4 (item F4) as a single project. The path to the chimney will follow the existing path to form a complete circuit at the top of the hill. Surfacing will be 'Suretrack' similar to that used by Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust. It has been decided to include 2 disabled car parking spaces in the scheme.

Schedule D – Year 2 – April 2005 to March 2006 (Continued)

Revised Year 2 People Tasks (continued)

D4 Improve area around seats and benches

The area around the existing two seats is becoming very eroded, to the point where the seats are now too high above the ground.

Two options are being considered, either creating a stoned area around the benches or repositioning the seats to allow the existing areas to recover. The bench destroyed in May 2004 may therefore be replaced in a different location.

The destroyed bench was repaired using metal slats and the existing frame following donations totalling £400 being given in response to notices ‘from the bench’ appearing on it requesting help. The brass plaque commemorating the life of Phyllis Gay was recovered by a local resident and returned to her daughter.

The fire killed the remaining grass under the seat, this area of turf was therefore removed and the loose stone under the bench regraded; no further work is planned here at present.

A video giving the story of the bench can be found on the ‘Video Project’ page of the Friends of Troopers Hill website. Phyllis’s daughter decided that the plaque should not be replaced, but the bench continues to be known as Phyllis’s bench.

Improvements to the area around the other bench will be included as part of the wheelchair access (see D2).



Schedule H – Summary, Costing and Funding

Item	Description	Lead Backer	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding
Ongoing Wildlife Tasks				
A1	Eradication of Japanese Knotweed – Treatment required twice per year	Community Parks Manager	£1,000	BCC
A2	Hay Cut – Annually in late summer	CPM	Maintenance	BCC
A3	Clearance of Bramble from Areas of Broom and Heather – All year	Local Nature Reserve Officer	Volunteer Labour	
A4	Clearance of Scrub from Heathland	LNRO	Volunteer Labour	
A5	Clear Small Areas of Scrub – December/January	LNRO	Volunteer Labour	
A6	Reduce Area of Bracken – June and August	LNRO	Volunteer Labour	
A7	Vegetation Photographic Monitoring – August in 2004✓, 2006 & 2008	LNRO	£500	BCC
A8	Invertebrate Surveys and Butterfly Transects – April to September	LNRO	Academic Research	
A9	Botanical Surveys – As appropriate for the species to be surveyed	LNRO	Academic Research	
A10	Mowing of Grass, Malvern Road Open Space – As required.	CPM	£996	BCC
Ongoing People Tasks				
B1	Health and Safety Audit – Annually or as required.	CPM	N/A	BCC
B2	Maintenance of Definitive Footpath Surface – As required	CPM	Maintenance	BCC
B3	Clear Back Vegetation from Footpaths – Twice per year (June, August) <i>As required</i>	CPM	Maintenance	BCC
B4	Cut back Vegetation from ‘Informal’ Footpaths – As required April to September	Friends of Troopers Hill	Volunteer Labour	
B5	Maintenance of the Boundary Fence – As required	CPM	Response	BCC
B6	Maintenance of Pedestrian Access Gates – As required	CPM	Response	BCC
B7	Maintenance of Dog Bins – Three times per week	CPM	£48/bin	BCC
B8	Maintenance of Existing Seats – As required	CPM	Response	BCC
B9	Inspection of Structures – Annual visual inspection	CPM	N/A	BCC

Schedule H – Summary, Costing and Funding (Continued)

Item	Description	Lead Backer	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding
Ongoing People Tasks (Continued)				
B10	Maintenance of Structures – As required following surveys	CPM	Response	BCC
B11	Removal of Hazardous or Large Items of Rubbish – As required	CPM	Maintenance	BCC
B12	Response to Incidents of Damage/Vandalism – As required	CPM	Response	BCC
B13	Litter picking – Every 3 or 4 months	FoTH	Volunteer Labour + Maintenance	
B14	<i>Cut vegetation around Stack – 3 or 4 times/year</i>	CPM	Maintenance	BCC
Year 1 – April 2004 to March 2005				
Wildlife Tasks				
C1✓	Establish Friends of Troopers Hill Tool Store	FoTH	£921	Awards for All
C2✓	Health and Safety and First Aid Training and Equipment	FoTH	£428	Awards for All
People Tasks				
C3✓	Repairs to steps on Definitive Footpath	CPM	£500	BCC
C4✓	Provision of Dog Bin at Greendown/Troopers Hill Road Entrance	CPM	£250	BCC
C5	Repositioning of Dog Bin from Summerhill Terrace <i>Third New bin</i>	CPM	£250	BCC
C6	Provision of Second Additional Dog Bin – location to be agreed	CPM	£250	BCC
C7	Inspection✓ and Repairs to stack	CPM	TBC	BCC
C8✓	Clear Steps from No 2 Entrance	FoTH	Complete	
C9✓	Repairs to Broken Fence Rails	CPM	Response + Volunteers	BCC + FoTH
C10✓	Provision of fence at Summerhill Terrace	CPM	£1,800	BCC
C11	Repairs/improvement to Gate and fence at Malvern Rd	FoTH	£2,800	SWEET application
C12	Installation of 3 New Benches	FoTH	£1,650 + £130	SWEET application + Donations

Schedule H – Summary, Costing and Funding (Continued)

Item	Description	Lead Backer	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding
C13✓	Installation of Signs at Entrances	FoTH	£1,520	Awards for All
C14✓	Installation of 2 Notice Boards	FoTH		
C15✓	Consultation on the Future of Malvern Rd Open Space	FoTH	Volunteer Labour	
C16✓	‘Interpretive History Project’	LNRO	£1,500	Wildspace!
Year 2 – April 2005 to March 2006				
People Tasks				
D1	Site Interpretation	FoTH	£5,000	SWEET application
D2	Installation of wheelchair access from Open Space	CPM	£11,000	SWEET application
D3	Installation of access for child buggies at Greendown	FoTH	£1,000	SWEET application
D4	Improve area around seats and benches	FoTH	Incl in D2	SWEET application
D5✓	Repairs to existing steps on informal paths	FoTH	Volunteer Labour	
D6✓	Clear area around Stack	CPM	£750	BCC
D7	Paths Through Woodland	FoTH	Volunteer Labour	
D8	Provision of New Play Area, Malvern Road Open Space	FoTH		Grant 4
Year 3 – April 2006 to March 2007				
Wildlife Tasks				
E1	Tree/Wildflower planting, Malvern Rd Open Space	FoTH		Fund Raising
People Tasks				
E2	Consultation on Improvements at Entrances to Troopers Hill Road -	LNRO		Grant 5
E3	New Path and Wheelchair access from Summerhill Terrace	FoTH		Grant 6
E4	Installation of Interpretation Near Specific Features	FoTH		Grant 7
E5	Provision of Further Benches	FoTH		Grant 6
E6	Provision of Seats in Malvern Rd Open Space	FoTH		Grant 6
E7	Install Direction Signs	LNRO	£1,000	SWEET application

Schedule H – Summary, Costing and Funding (Continued)

Item	Description	Lead Backer	Estimated Cost	Proposed Funding
E8	Selective improvements to informal paths	FoTH		Volunteer Labour
Year 4 – April 2007 to March 2008				
Wildlife Tasks				
F1	Plant Hedge at Green Down (following consultation)	FoTH		Fund Raising
People Tasks				
F2	Improvements to Troopers Hill Road Entrances	LNRO		Grant 5
F3	New Steps from No 2 Entrance	FoTH		Fund Raising
F4	Upgrade Path from Open Space to Chimney	FoTH	Incl in D2	SWEET application
Year 5 – April 2008 to March 2009				
Wildlife Tasks				
G1	Create Additional Glades	LNRO		Volunteer Labour
People Tasks				
G2	Installation of Interpretive View Point	FoTH		Fund Raising
G3	Possible Fence Replacement	CPM		BCC
G4	Residents Survey	FoTH		Volunteer Labour

For further information on Troopers Hill,
or to give your views on the management
of the reserve, please contact:

Sally Oldfield

Local Nature Reserves Officer
Bristol Parks
Department of Environment, Transport and Leisure
Colston House
Colston Street
Bristol
BS1 5AQ

Tel: 0117 922 4429

Fax: 0117 922 3744

Email: sally_oldfield@bristol-city.gov.uk

www.bristol-city.gov.uk/parks

Rob Acton-Campbell

Friends of Troopers Hill
c/o 3, Corkers Hill
St George
Bristol
BS5 8DT

Tel:0117 947 5037

Email: works@troopers-hill.org.uk

www.troopers-hill.org.uk