



TROOPERS HILL Local Nature Reserve

Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is a picturesque, wild and romantic space overlooking the River Avon. The reserve offers fantastic views of the dynamic city of Bristol, whilst creating a dramatic vista of its own. The tall chimneys and deep gullies reveal a tantalising glimpse of Bristol's industrial history, surpassed only by the importance of this unique site to UK nature conservation.

Troopers Hill has been an LNR since 1995 and supports the only significant area of lowland acidic grassland and heathland in the Bristol area. The rare plants and wildlife provide a great opportunity for nature-watching while the expanse of grassland offers a welcome breath of fresh air.

The rocky crags and gullies are a natural children's playground while the stunning views can be enjoyed by everyone. Walk through the adjacent woodland or sit and enjoy a picnic. Fly a kite or just enjoy the wind in your hair.

The stimulating mix of terrain and blend of vegetation allows everybody, of any age or ability, to enjoy what the hill has to offer.

Discover something new in this peaceful community wilderness.

History and the landscape

The pennant sandstone of Troopers Hill makes this a very different landscape to parts of the west of Bristol which have underlying limestone rock. The wonderful red colours of the sandstone can be seen exposed on various parts of the hill, sometimes fading to grey. The sandstone has allowed acid soil to develop which supports the locally rare grassland and heathland.

In the 1600s the hill was part of a huge Royal hunting forest. Some of the plants on the hill may well be remnant populations of plants that were once more locally widespread.

The tall chimney on top of the hill is thought to have been used for copper smelting in the late 1700s. Later, in the 1800s, coal and fireclay were mined from the hill. The lower chimney is the remains of an engine-house for the coal mine. The Gully is one of the sites on the hill where pennant sandstone was quarried.

Butlers Tar Distillation Works dominated the scenery at the foot of the hill from 1843 to 1981. The nearby industry may have contributed to the acid conditions.

As Bristol's urban sprawl spread, the steep slopes and tipped quarry waste deterred builders from developing Troopers Hill and the site was purchased by Bristol City Council for everyone to enjoy in 1956.

Friends of Troopers Hill

Friends of Troopers Hill are a group of local residents sharing an interest in Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve.

We work closely with Bristol Parks to:

- Maintain and improve the natural environment of Troopers Hill
- Provide a friendly community focus for people who care about Troopers Hill
- Carry out practical conservation work to look after Troopers Hill
- Organise public events throughout the year

New volunteers are always welcome at our regular work parties and meetings.

Visit our website www.troopers-hill.org.uk for a list of events, our latest newsletter, photos, videos and discussions.

Please help us to care for Troopers Hill.

For further information on History and geology and other leaflets available, please contact us at:

www.troopers-hill.org.uk