

# Appendix 9

## Kingfisher Group

- 1 **Final design of interpretation board**
- 2 **Malago Memories**
- 3 **R. Beinart**

# Welcome to The Hidden Malago

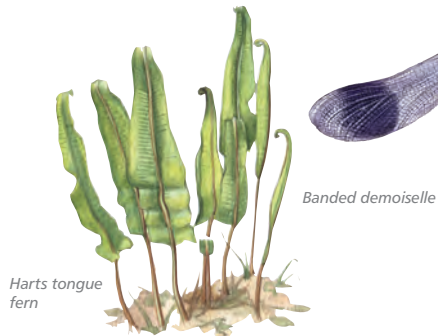


Kingfisher

The river Malago springs from Dundry Hill and flows down to the Avon New Cut, appearing and disappearing as it winds its way secretly through South Bristol.

## Factories and floods

Bedminster was a small settlement on the banks of the Malago 1000 years ago. The river flowed through open countryside, past market gardens, providing power and water for mills. The advent of the Industrial Revolution made huge demands on the river Malago, with many large mills, factories and tanneries using the water, changing the course of the river, and pouring waste into it. Serious flooding has occurred several times in the past. 1880 floods led to the creation of the early 1900s relief culvert, which starts inside the railings on St John's Lane.

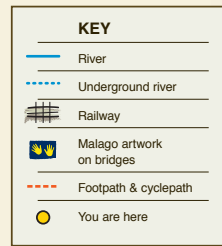


Harts tongue fern

Banded demoiselle



Moorhen



Pipistrelle bat



Goldcrest

## Watery wildlife

The fast flowing water is home to sticklebacks and minnows. Mallard ducks and moorhens visit, and sometimes nest here. Dragonflies and damselflies frequent the river on warm, still days and if you are lucky you may catch a flash of blue and orange as a kingfisher darts past.



Hawthorn branch with flowers and fruit

## Tales from the riverbank

This peaceful corridor, with its trees and shade loving plants, provides vital food, drink and shelter for a wealth of local wildlife. Slow-worms and woodmice, spiders, beetles and bugs flourish here. Small birds scuttle about the undergrowth. Wrens, goldcrests and the rare firecrest can be spotted, with plenty of noise from nesting magpies above, and the more tuneful songs of the blackbird, song thrush and robin. Patches of sunlight attract orange-tip and comma butterflies, and at night the insects provide food for bats.

## Looking after our river

The Kingfishers are a group of local people actively involved in helping to look after this stretch of river. Please help them by taking litter home with you and not allowing your dog to disturb wildlife.



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Illustrations: Abi Stubbs



Enjoy the Malago Greenway – for people and wildlife

Find out more  
www.southbristolriverscapes.org.uk  
www.windmill-hill.org.uk



Sat 15<sup>th</sup> August

you are invited to

1:30-4:30 pm

drop in to Windmill Hill city farm

and share your memories

of the Malago & Bedminster  
Past & Present

Bring your story, an object, a photo or just you!

Tea and cake provided

FOR MORE INFO ON THE PROJECT PLEASE CONTACT ROWAN ON 07737344318  
OR EMAIL: [Rowan.matthiessen@gmail.com](mailto:Rowan.matthiessen@gmail.com)

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>>> Rebecca Beinart <[rbeinart@hotmail.com](mailto:rbeinart@hotmail.com)> 07/05/2009 19:33 >>>

Dear Kathy and Helen,

The walks went really well. Here's a few lines for your bulletin:

On 11th & 18th of April, two groups of adventurers took a bus out to Hartcliffe and climbed Dundry Slopes, to find the source of the river Malago. Their guides were artists Rebecca Beinart and Pete Harrison, herbalist Max Drake, and local campaigner Maggie Hughes. The journey started with mugwort tea, a wayside herb that is said to protect travellers. We then followed the Malago north through Withywood & Bishopsworth, hearing about the river's turbulent history. In Bedminster, Maggie appeared in her garden, and told us stories over her garden fence. The journey ended at the Avon New Cut, where we gazed through binoculars over the Avon to see water from the Malago Spring being poured into the outlet.

Best wishes,  
Reb