

To qualify as an SNCI/Wildlife Site, a site must demonstrate clearly that it is of substantive biodiversity interest, using the above criteria. Each site must be of significant importance for biodiversity in the context of the individual unitary area. Evaluation must be done in a standardised manner.

Whilst it is not appropriate to have absolute cut-off points for these criteria, as a guide, to qualify as an SNCI the site must score strongly on at least one of criteria 1 – 11 (scientific criteria); **in addition to the site having either**

- 2 or more strong criteria; or
- 1 strong and 3 or more other criteria; or
- 5 or more moderate or strong criteria

| Site Name and Number: Brislington Meadows | | | | BC, HH, JS & JW 10/12/10 | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--------|----------|--------------------------|-----|-------|
| | Criteria | Strong | Moderate | Weak | Nil | NOTES |
| 1 | Naturalness | | √ | | | |
| 2 | Size | | √ | | | |
| 3a | Diversity – species | √ | | | | |
| 3b | Diversity – habitats | √ | | | | |
| 4a | Rarity – species | √ | | | | |
| 4b | Rarity – habitats | | √ | | | |
| 5 | Fragility | √ | | | | |
| 6 | Irreplaceability | √ | | | | |
| 7 | Typicalness | | √ | | | |
| 8 | Geographical position | | | √ | | |
| 9 | Important populations | | | √ | | |
| 10a | BAP species | √ | | | | |
| 10b | BAP habitats | √ | | | | |
| 11 | Age / continuity | √ | | | | |
| 12 | Community/amenity value | √ | | | | |
| 13 | Physical access | | √ | | | |
| 14 | Visual access | | √ | | | |
| 15 | Educational value | | √ | | | |
| 16 | Landscape or aesthetic value | √ | | | | |
| 17 | Area lacking in natural habitats | | √ | | | |
| 18 | Recorded history | | √ | | | |

Supporting Notes

1. Naturalness

Areas of semi-natural habitat, some of which have been effected by disturbance, mainly through inappropriate management/use, however there are also areas where there is an absence of human disturbance.

2. Size

The site is 22ha.

3a. Diversity – species

A high number of species have been recorded, including at least 80 grassland species, 19 butterfly species, 26 bird species, slow worm, and several mammal species including moles, hedgehogs, and badgers.

3b. Diversity – habitats

The habitats present include both neutral and damp grassland, scrub, hedgerows, a stream, and a small area of open mosaic habitat on previously developed land. There are also a number of veteran trees.

4a. Rarity – species

There are records for the Nationally scarce Ivy broomrape, and also for locally scarce Slender rush.

4b. Rarity – habitats

Damp grassland and unimproved neutral grassland are both locally rare habitats.

5. Fragility

Large parts of the site have been included in the Bristol City Council Site Allocations Options Document, allocated for development.

6. Irreplaceability

Because of the veteran trees present, and the large area of habitat, it would not be possible to recreate such an area of these habitats elsewhere within Bristol.

7. Typicalness

The site provides reasonable examples of degraded semi-natural habitats.

8. Geographical Position

The site is weakly linked to Eastwood Farm SNCI.

9. Important Populations

There are no known important populations of notable of BAP species using the site. However this would be better informed if surveys of invertebrate and bat populations were carried out.

10a. BAP species

UK BAP species recorded on the site include: Bullfinch, House sparrow, Song thrush, Dunnock, and Slow worm, and Bristol BAP species include Hedgehog.

10b. BAP habitats

Parts of the site may meet the criteria for the UK BAP habitat Lowland Meadow (according to a survey carried out by BRERC in 2008).

11. Age/Continuity

Much of the site is made up of remnant meadows with their original field boundaries (indicated by the veteran trees). It is believed that these fields have a history dating back over 400 years.

12. Community/Amenity Value

The site is highly valued by local residents for the natural green space and contact with nature that it provides, and there is a local group called Friends of Victory Park that promote its use. It is used by local residents, dog walkers, runners, walking groups, local schools, and scout groups.

13. Physical Access

There is good physical access to most of the site, either through public open space or public rights of way. However surfaced paths are restricted to Victory Park.

14. Visual Access

Visual access is restricted to views from the adjacent industrial area and residential properties along the boundary.

15. Educational Value

Broomhill Junior School is immediately adjacent to the Northern end of the site.

16. Landscape or aesthetic value

The site is highly valued for the 'semi-rural' feel of the landscape, and the presence of veteran trees.

17. Area lacking natural habitats

The site is one of only a few semi-natural areas within the wider Brislington area.

18. Recorded history

Surveys have been carried out on the site in 1993, 2004 and 2008 (Copies of these surveys are held by BRERC). There are also individual species records (also held by BRERC) from 1995, and 2000.