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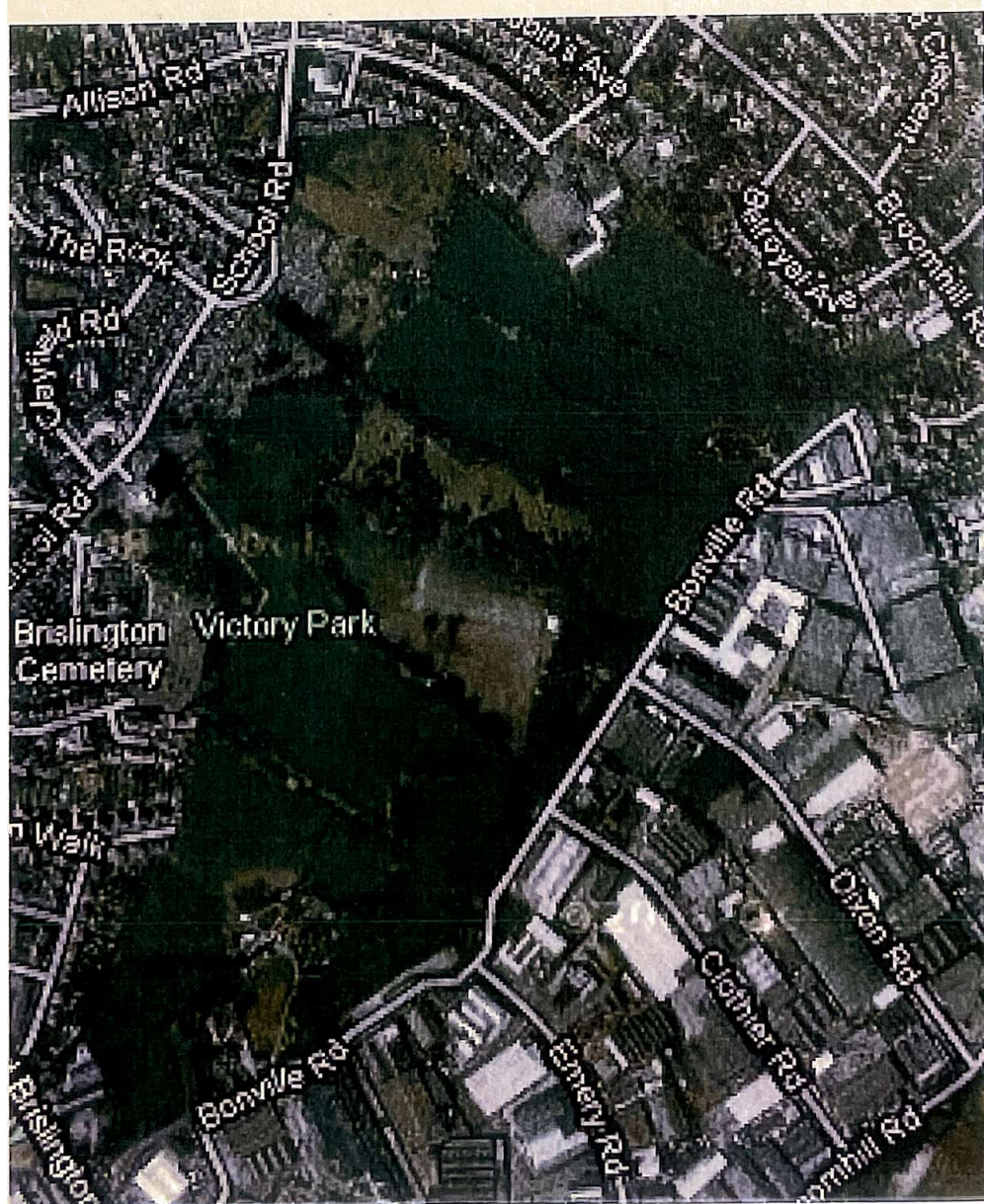
Friends of
Victory
Park



SITE REFERENCE: BSA1201

SITE ADDRESS: Land at Broom Hill

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP AREA: NP12 BRISLINGTON



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Site Allocations and Development Options Document

June - October 2010

No of pages 50

Section 1**Organisation** Friends of Victory Park

Chair	Liz Venn	Vice Chair	Sharon Wagg
Treasurer	Heidi Taylor	Secretary	Laura Weeks
Members	Frank Ewens	Sam Critchley	Angie Yeo
	Jan Wren	Debbie Hurst	Kath Roberts
	James McPhail		

Email: victorypark@live.co.uk**Section 2****Site Ref:** BSA1201

My comments are about:

We would oppose any development on this land so we choose **Option C****We believe that Brownfield sites should be developed before considering any Greenfield sites.**

INTRODUCTION

Victory Park in Brislington, Bristol was donated by Cook-Hurle in 1921 to celebrate peace after the First World War. Today it is an oasis of calm in a busy part of Bristol. It is a wonderful open space, with a wealth of natural heritage, a popular playground, and three football pitches. Enclosed by beautiful fields, mature allotments and ancient hedgerows, the park has a "*semi-rural*" feel and is free for all to enjoy.

A great place to walk and run, enjoy a picnic, and pick blackberries, the park is a haven for wildlife and is linked to nearby green spaces by a series of public footpaths. It is surrounded by fields over 400 years old, trees that affect the skyline and large interrupted hedgerows.

Victory Park is used by local residents, dog walkers, and runners, footballers, walking groups, local schools, scout groups and people interested in the environment. The Friends of Victory Park want to get more people using the park and enjoying it for what it is - a beautiful open space.

We have attached a map detailing field numbers Appendix 1.



PREVIOUS USE

Victory Park and its surrounding green fields were for many years made up of farms and their associated use. During the decades the green spaces have been eroded, given over to housing and industrial development. The present layout of the fields have existed for many years and the residents of Brislington have made use of these green spaces for walking for leisure and to improve health, walking dogs, running, taking a uncomplicated look at nature and walking to school and work by foot. Some residents have given verbal replies to the time they have been using the fields and meadows:

Miss V Britton Hardwick Close 23 years

Marie Parry Robertson Drive 2 years

Colin Carey Manworthy Road 53 years (see appendices 1a)

Mark Norley Green Park Road 23 years

Glen Robson School Road 15 years

Janet Peacock School Road 70 years

Mrs Brice School Road 3 years

Mrs Peacock Glenarm Road 3years

Sean Ashmead Jersey Avenue 30 years

Derek Kirby West Town Lane 8 Years

Margaret Collins Alison Road 35 years

Nichola and Gary Burt 22 years

Dianne and Mike Appleyard Clayfield Road 18 years

Vicky Gunter Sutton Avenue 40 years

Sam Citchley West Town Lane 20 years

Deborah Hurst Oakenhill Cottages 2.5 years

Neil Arthur Alison Road 20 years

Laura Weeks School Road 23 years

Frank Ewens Glenarm Walk 6years

"This area proved invaluable to me after knee replacements. I used the fields in question as part of my rehabilitation programme, each day extending the distance walked in a pleasant and less polluted environment. Eventually walked from St Annes through the fields and on to Hicks Gate".

Dave Bassett Glenarm Walk a resident for over 50 years has written to say he remembers going on nature walks in the fields with his teachers, Miss Brown and Mr May whilst a pupil at Holymead school.

(Letter attached appendices 1b)

Laura Weeks School Road

"I moved to Broomhill 23 years ago and started playing in the fields. Often I played hide and seek in the meadows with my brothers, we use to play in field 8 where there used to be a hollow tree trunk which gave endless enjoyment. I helped the horse owners in field 12 for a number of years.

I moved to my present address 12 years ago and now have children of my own, we often walk through the fields with our two dogs, and my son loves walking in fields 3, 7, 8 and 9. He loves the small wooded area in field 8 and the bomb crater in field 9".



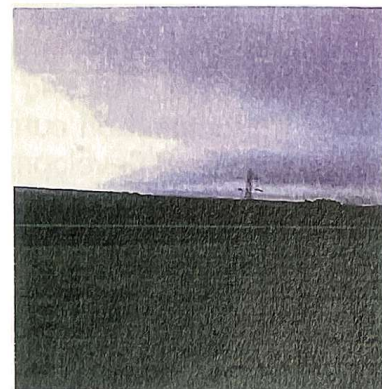
(Taken around 1990 in field 12 you can see the meadows in the background))



(field 8)



long field (15)



taken in field 4

Holymead Infants School have used these fields in the past and would probably use the area in future to enhance and enrich the education of their pupils.

Even today pupils from Brislington Enterprise College use the fields in order to get to school by a safer and more pleasant route.

E-mail from Michele Rumph

"Hi sharon, thanks for the email, I have lived in Broomhill and Brislington all my life, I was born in Guernsey ave 46 years ago in a house where my mum lived as a child. The fields surrounding victory park were and are still used regularly by me and my wife and family all of our life, we played in them as children forty years ago, picnics, bird watching, flying kites climbing trees and I have done this with my children and still do today, we use the fields every day to walk in with our dog and still use them for other pursuits. Also my mum and neighbour who are 67 and 70 used them when they were children and still walk there today, I will be taking our dog for a walk there in a few minutes, these fields are a treasured part of our family life and it would be criminal to build on them, cheers mike".

The fields beyond Victory Park have been used on a regular basis.

This can be seen in the number of informal "permissive" footpaths across the fields as shown in the aerial picture (Appendices 1c) and the photographs below. These "permissive" paths have been in use in excess of 20 years to allow them this formal title.



QUALITY OF LIFE

The impact on current school provision and health services will be enormous if the proposed developments go ahead. Also, the quality of life for both the proposed new families and current families will be severely compromised.

The 48.5 acres of proposed development for 926 dwellings will mean a density that is too great for the area as a whole and for the identified acreage specifically.

The loss of Brislington Meadows which is an SNCI area (Site of Nature and Conservation Interest), means that its current use as a social space to promote physical and emotional well-being will be lost forever.

In the Bristol City Council 'Quality of Life in your Neighbourhood Survey Results 2009' Brislington East was in the bottom two of areas for low uptake of respondents taking exercise at least 5 times a week' with only a 24% uptake. The survey results also state 'Brislington East shows a continuing decline in the uptake of exercise since 2006'. At a time when Central Government is keen to promote, and people become more aware of, the value and necessity of regular exercise to promote health, the dispersal of local green space will not empower local residents to make positive lifestyle choices.

Brislington East also has a higher obesity rate compared to Brislington West.

There is no environmental impact or carbon footprint when using a local space which can be accessed by foot.

Any assessment made against Government guidelines and targets will not deliver a positive outcome when analysing the environmental/health/social impact of this proposed dispersal of community valued meadow land.

Local nurseries, primary schools and secondary schools will not be able to cope with an immediate influx of education-aged children. There are two local primary schools – both of which are popular with the current residents and one secondary school.

One of the schools is currently oversubscribed. Any new children to the area will be faced with long journeys to schools that are a distance from where they live. This does not promote a sense of community when education is away from your local area and again potentially brings carbon footprint concerns and increased traffic and pollution.

Provision for teenagers in Brislington East is currently very poor – we do not have any local youth provision - this causes problems for some residents currently living near Victory Park. This situation will not improve when increased numbers of teenagers join the area.

All new residents will need health care provision – thus putting more strain on Doctors, Dentists, and Community Nursing. Elderly Persons Services and other

linked health care services. The increase in population will necessitate extra GPs and Surgeries from which they will work. This will put extra pressure on land availability and finances to deliver these services

The quality of life for new residents could be questioned as the proposal residential sites would be adjacent to commercial premises and the problems of noise etc would be detrimental to the quality of life of the residents.

Some of these businesses are 24 hour and the impact of the heavy traffic and unavoidable noise will not be conducive to a residential lifestyle.

The increased residential properties may bring with it a problem associated with pet ownership, an increased cat population could have an effect on the wildlife and the problems of dog fouling already exists in Brislington maybe magnified and increasing health risks in the area.

In conclusion, it would seem that a gain for a few will mean a great loss for many.



CONGESTION AND POLLUTION

Brislington and the surrounding areas which border the main A4 Bath Road already suffer from congestion which at certain times of the day becomes stationary. There is not one single measure which will solve the problem of traffic congestion and pollution which in turn adds to the climate changes due to increased emissions. One of the measures would be to reduce the volume of traffic.

In East and West Brislington people are concerned about the effect of the volume of traffic.

From the Sustainable Community Profile 80.3% and 66.8% of people who responded from East and West Brislington respectively said that air quality and traffic pollution was a problem in the neighbourhood. The Bristol figure was 63.5%

Noise from Traffic was also a problem with 47.7% of respondents in West Brislington had noise concerns about traffic.

In the Neighbourhood Partnership Statistical Profile there is a greater dependency upon the car to travel to work than the Bristol average.

According to the 2001 Census the average car ownership for each household is about 1.1. This is much the same today according to statistics produced by the Office for National Statistics.

The future development of green space in Brislington by building in excess of 900 houses would have several consequences.

- ✚ Put over another 900 cars into the already over loaded road system
- ✚ Create more congestion on the roads.
- ✚ Increase the emissions from traffic. 80% of all traffic emissions are from cars.
- ✚ Have a detrimental effect upon climate change due to increased emissions.
- ✚ Slower response times for emergency vehicles.
- ✚ Congestion on the already overloaded Bath Road would encourage drivers to seek alternative routes through Brislington creating rat runs which would endanger the residents in particular the young and elderly.
- ✚ Brislington is already used by way of The Feeder, Guildford Road, School Road and Broomhill Road to avoid the main A4.
- ✚ Longer journey times for workers going to and from work.

FLOODING

Brislington has had a long history of flooding at times of excessive rain. Still at times the run off rain water causes minor flooding in Brislington Village. Brislington Brook is unique in Bristol being the only Rapid Response Catchment Area in Bristol.

This by the Environment Agency definition means *"where a river or stream reacts very rapidly to rainfall and generates large flood depths or velocities of water that pose an extreme threat to life"*.

There have been cases of severe flooding in Brislington, 25th June 1959, 1968 when the flooding of Brislington was probably the worst experienced and in 1997.

Climate change may well increase the risk of flooding in the future and we as a community must be prepared to take action to negate these changes. At present the Brislington Brook is a zone 2 risk of flooding but this may significantly change with an increase in volume.

In the Neighbourhood Partnership Statistics 70.2 % of East Brislington and 60.2 % of West Brislington said the state of the local river was a problem which is higher than the Bristol 54.4%

At present Brislington Brook drains a great deal of South Bristol collecting runoff water from Whitchurch down to Callington Road at Tesco store where it joins with the runoff water from Hengrove Park and the length of Airport road. If the brook were to receive more storm water runoff lower down the brook from this point it could well have consequences in regard to the Rapid Response Catchment area.

There is concern that should more green space be taken for development it would add to the problems of climate change by the increased emissions and we would lose the effect of plants on the atmosphere.

In Brislington the brook travels through a narrow culvert and should there be an increased volume of water below Brislington Village this would have consequences for the village itself.

The river level at Brislington was 0.09 metres at 04:00 on 29/09/2010 the typical river level for this location is between 0.01 and 0.18 metres. The highest river level recorded at this location is 1.37 metres on 06/07/2006.

It is the unusual event that causes the most at risk situations and the building on the green fields surrounding Victory Park could well create storm water runoff that Brislington Brook would be unable to contain.

As the LLFA for this area it would be better to prepare and complete Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments for the 22 June 2011 before decisions on development takes place.

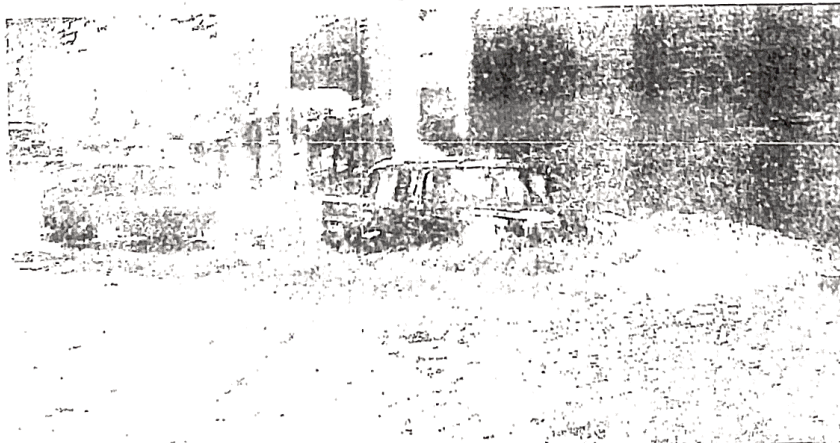
Should we lose this natural drainage area or change it significantly and increase the volume of run off without the capacity to handle it due to greater areas of hard standing with the building of houses, industrial units and the necessary roads needed to facilitate the new structures, the risk of flooding would be increased.

THE GREAT FLOOD



In the centre of Birlington village: a double-decker becomes a single-decker in seven feet of water.

Picture: Bob 'n' Bob



This was Froome's Str. at the height of last night's storm.

A boat goes to the rescue of a bus...

by PETER THOMPSON

At five past midnight I watched as two power boats, one a fire service craft, the other private, rescued 18 people from the top deck of the No. 1 Bristol-Bath bus.

Around them in Birlington village square were cars which had disappeared beneath the swirling flood waters.

The depth of the water was such that the passengers, driver and conductor had no difficulty stepping from the top-deck emergency door into boats.

The problem had come in getting the driver to the top deck. Eventually, the conductor, kicked the front window to permit him to climb in.

I met one of the boats on Birlington Hill as it brought "ashore" the conductor and six of the passengers.

The conductor, Mr. T. Gregory, of 1, Worcester Villa, Bath, told me they had left Bristol at 10.00, arrived at Birlington at 10.25 and turned straight back to the depot for instructions. The orders given them were to attempt to get through.

In a room of the White Hart Hotel, a passenger, Mr. M. C. J. Hill, of Keynsham, told me how, as they entered the square, he had seen water up to the level of a Smith, of Bath.

Mr. Rex Kay, of Ford, said: "All we did was sit tight on the deck. The water rising all the time as didn't have a clue what was being done to rescue us."

"We were near a filling station but only of the way still above the petrol pump were merged, as were a number of cars, and this, must have been the cause of the hazard to the square," commented Mr. Hill.

ALLOTMENTS

There are two allotment sites that will be affected if a development goes ahead, Chalet Gardens and The Park. Chalet Gardens is a sought after site that started in the 1970's, it is nicely landscaped with mature trees, toilets, water supply, level plots, wood chalets and communal grassed areas. The Park Allotments is a sloping site with water supply, it has some land dedicated to grazing. This is a popular site, both allotment sites are adjacent to Brislington Meadows. There is a Pylon situated on The Park Allotments carrying overhead power lines.

Principle points of objection to the scheme: ALLOTMENTS

This statement reflects the objections and statements of fact of allotment holders that cover two sites within the areas off School Road – The Park Allotments and the acclaimed “best practice” site Chalet Gardens.

These sites are statutory owned council land set aside for cultivation along with the adjacent field 1. This field is currently used as instructed by Bristol City Council as a horse paddock – but was until recent years in allotment cultivation.

In Bristol's Adopted Local Plan, which is still current because Bristol has not adopted its successor yet, policy NE1 states:

NE1

- “(I) “The distribution and variety of open spaces throughout the city will be maintained and, where possible, enhanced.*
- (II) Sites which are important for nature conservation, recreation, historic landscape interest, landscape quality, visual amenity, community or outdoor leisure-related use, or providing setting or relief to the built environment, defined on the Proposals Map, will be protected as open space.*
- (III) Development involving an unacceptable loss of important open space (designated in section II and defined on the Proposals Map), or which would have a significant adverse effect on the interest, use, amenity, character or accessibility of such open space, will not be permitted.*
- (IV) Where sites are not defined as open space on the Proposals Map, and are not subject to any other designation or proposal, account will be taken of the need to protect open space interests and uses in determining planning applications. Particular attention will be paid to the amenity and nature conservation value of undefined open space sites.”*

Policy NE1 also contradicts the further development outside the Allotments relating to Brislington Meadows - Sites of Nature Conservation Interest. This is another breach of NE1 and all that it stands for. This redevelopment of this area also

contradicts the DEFRA report recently released - 'Making Space for Nature'
<http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/2010/09/24/nature-news/>

It is clear that Bristol City Council recognise these facts within NE1. This example from Eastleigh suggests just this and is what everyone within these sites expects as a minimum if the site redevelopment occurs:
[http://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/meetings/Published/C00000254/M00001626/AI00004935/\\$PS306.DOCA.ps.pdf](http://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/meetings/Published/C00000254/M00001626/AI00004935/$PS306.DOCA.ps.pdf)

If this local authority wants to dispose of allotment land and the authority wishes to sell a statutory allotment site it must have the consent of the Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions.

If these sites are developed, you have to recreate them somewhere else nearby. Recreating them still needs approval from the Secretary of State, Department Communities and Local Government, because it means closing a site, even if they intend to open an alternative.

The Secretary of State will first want to be satisfied of certain conditions as follows:

- ✚ the allotment is either not necessary and is surplus to requirements; Can this be said of these sites?
- ✚ the council will give displaced plot holders adequate alternative sites, unless this is not necessary or is not practicable; Would you say this is highly unlikely within an overdeveloped urban setting to find appropriate land?
- ✚ the council has taken the number of people on the waiting list into account; and
- ✚ the council has actively promoted and publicised the availability of allotment sites and has consulted the NSALG. Has this happened? Has any effort been made to inform that the reallocated pasture with Park allotments has been made available this year?

Government guidance also requires allotment authorities to consult with plot holders before they apply for disposal. If the application goes ahead, it will be dealt with by the respective Government Office for the Region. Nothing has been discussed to date.

If the application is successful, and allotment holders are displaced, the allotment authority is expected to provide one or more suitable alternative sites which should not normally be more than three-quarters of a mile from the centre of demand. They must be suitable for spade cultivation – what chance is there that this is possible in Brislington.

Two national organisations are looking into this site redevelopment. The National Allotment Association and Landshare are both looking into the implications and misuse of the land in a way that this contradicts Bristol City Council's own policy.

SWCAA <http://www.allotmentssouthwest.org.uk/index.php?page=is-your-allotment-under-threat>

NSALG <http://www.nsalg.org.uk/page.php?article=459&name=useful+information>

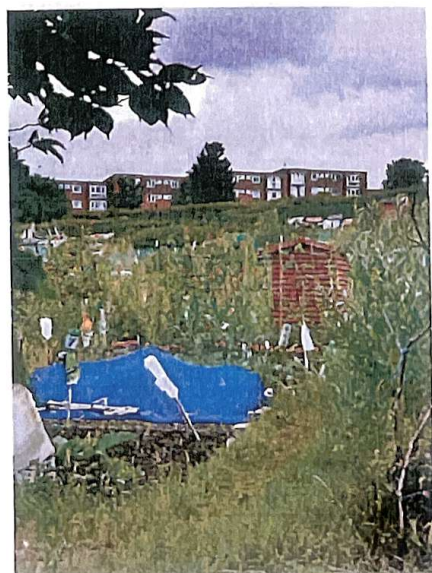
Landshare are also interested to pursue the cause <http://www.landshare.net/groups/>

Recent studies show that on average, for every 100 established plots there are now 49 people on waiting lists. So this 'recreation' is highly unlikely to occur either locally if at all. In total contradiction to the Councils own rules.

Why if the public are crying out for allotment space is Bristol City Council intending to remove yet more available land? I know for a fact that new entrants are taking plots that have recently come available within Park Allotments.

If the council had any integrity after investing in the Allotments last year, (new fencing) they should look to promote and encourage outdoor activities and small scale food production - rather than remove and ruin years of hard work and simple pleasure.

The Chalet Garden Allotments



The Park Allotments

Environment/Nature

Report for Victory Park fields (formally known as Brislington Meadows SNC1 to include 'Bonville Road' open spaces.

Bristol City Council Biodiversity Action Plan Introduction

"Bristol's wildlife and wild places help bring the experience of the natural world to many people such contact is inspiring and promotes good physical and mental health, listening to bird song or seeing the seasons change is relaxing and a welcome contrast to the hustle and bustle of city life.....but Biodiversity is vulnerable to habitat loss, neglect, development, pollution and other pressures" such as fragmentation".

This "semi rural" (to quote BCC) setting surrounding Victory Park, far from being of "low value/interest" on a local, city and national level has been awarded an SNC1 status, one of eighty-eight in this city.

A study to inform the Parks and Greens spaces strategy team in 2008 revealed that "Natural green space is the most highly valued contact with nature".

This substantial site of 48.5 acres is a fine example in general although areas need attention and better management to improve quality of the whole.

This site contains several UK priority habitats:

Lowland Meadow

Part of the species rich grassland chapter 5 in BCC BAP objective 3 target 4 states *"develop Bristol meadow project to raise awareness of existing locations through web and other literature and encourage access"*

Hedgerows

Using government guidelines most hedgerows contain 6 (possibly more on closer inspection) different species making them valuable.

The hedgerows especially within the Mosaic setting of the medieval fields 8, 9, 12 and field 15, which often borders Victory Park are at least 480 years old, using Hooper's Rule. One separating field 8/9 was dated as such by Ken Taylor and colleague Steve of the Brislington Community Archaeology Project in October 2010. (Appendix 2a)

To quote Leicestershire County Councils Hedgerow survey under the Community Heritage Initiative *"Old Hedgerows are important because they support a much greater diversity of plants and animals thanks to their longevity. There may also be relics of ancient woodlands and frequently support plants and animals that are*

typical to these habitats. Old hedges often have features such as banks, ditches trees and deadwood habitats that add to their wildlife value”.

The veteran trees within this habitat on Brislington Meadows are Oak, Ash (Field 15 open space/Bonville Road), Oak Field Maple (Victory Park/field 15), Oak (field 8, 9 and 12).



This document is included in this report and is Appendices 2b, 2c and 2d also enclosed is a C.D. of plants found on site.)

Species Rich Grassland scrub

The Neutral grassland present in fields 8, 9, and 12 is a rare habitat type and a UK BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) priority habitat that needs to be seriously looked and work done to prevent encroachment especially blackberry and risk of over grazing.

In the Bristol Biodiversity Action Plan target of objective/aims:

“To measure favourable conservation status of all known species rich grassland sites outside BCC control by 2013”. Fields 1 to 7 should be included in this target as could be greatly improved with positive conservation management.

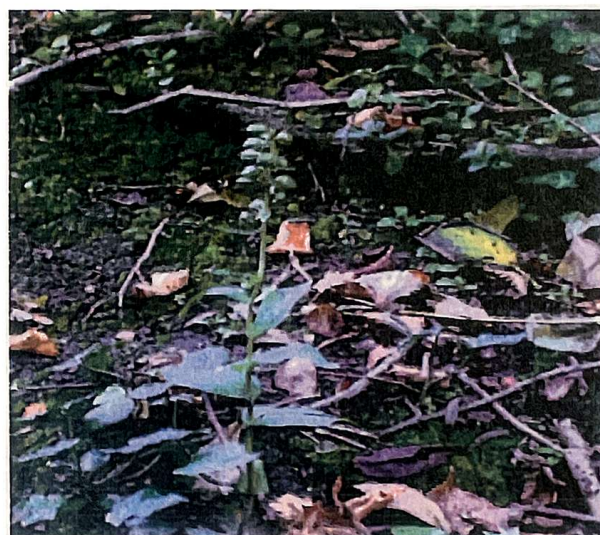
Target of objective 2

“No net loss in the existing habitat resource all BCC species rich grasslands to be in favourable conservation status by the year 2025”.

Under species rich grasslands habitat actions - chapter 5

"Ensure that development does not lead to net loss of species rich grassland habitat and enhances the extent where possible introduce appropriate management onto all BCC species rich grassland to ensure in favourable conservation status by 2015".

It has come to our attention that in the 1993 survey of the site, data is of limited value regarding assessment of changes in grassland community status as five fields were not entered, area 12 one of the most interesting sites that contains neutral, area 17 and 18 which are species rich. Also the neutral grassland areas 8 and 9 fails to get a particular mention in this survey especially of merit due to large population of Devils Bit Scabious in area 9 (pictured below left) and Broadleaf Helleborine Orchid (pictured below right) in field 8.



In both 1993 and 2004 surveys, the same numbers of grassland species were recorded but this does not accurately record the variation in data i.e.

- 1) Recording of neutral grassland species Tormentil potentilla Erecta 1993 but not in 2004
- 2) 1993 data recorded Acid Grassland species creeping soft grass Holcus Mollis again absent in 2004.

Open mosaic habitat (**check this re page 1 introduction chapter 5 marked in green**)

Objective 2

"to enhance awareness and enjoyment of these habitats".

Target *"to make planners and other professionals aware of the special interest of open mosaic habitat, the threats it faces and the potential for habitat restoration and creation of new sites".*

"Large areas of this habitat type have been lost in Bristol in recent decades" indeed UK wide and in the Bristol BAP it aims to "assess planning applications to ensure that no development has a net adverse impact on good quality mosaic habitat".

To *"ensure all BCC owned open mosaic habitat SNC1's in favourable conservation status by 2015".*

To *"Develop programme of awareness raising to include public events/publications".*

Certainly true of the 48.5 acres on this site particularly undervalued is field 15. Bristol City Council conservatorium department have confirmed that this field needs closer inspection in the summer of 2011 due to the species rich nature of field 15.

Butterflies

Numerous butterflies and moths most notable species of merit are three Red Admiral butterflies seen by Debbie Hurst in July 2010. Included in this report is a log of butterflies seen in a 20-30 minute walk in field 15. (Appendix 2E)

Moths including Silvery



Bees

Three different species of the Bumblebee and various Honey Bee, these three species can be seen in abundance on fine summer days feeding on the various wildflowers present in this field, including Evening Primrose, Red Clover, Thistle and many others.

Bees are nationally indeed on a world-wide scale an endangered species and urgently need natural feeding habitat free from insecticides to survive. Without this vital pollinating gem we will all perish.



Bats

UK protected species

In the summer months field 15, field 12 and Victory Park at dusk are regular feeding areas for these nocturnal creatures. It is hard to find the roosts of these animals but one is present at Oakenhill Farm and specialists to ascertain where the roosts are. Bats need darkness to feed and should this development takes place the necessary increase in street lighting will encroach on this darkness attracting the insects they feed on towards this conventional light source away from the natural darkness especially relevant to field 15.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations 1994 anyone who kills, injures or disturbs bats, obstructs access to bat roosts or damages or disturbs bat roosts (even when unoccupied by bats) is guilty of an offence. Prior to commencing work parties should ensure that no bats or bat roosts will be affected. If it is suspected that a bat or bat roosts is likely to be affected by any proposed works, Natural England should be consulted.

Slow worms

There are slow worms on the allotments and in the meadows. *UK BAP states*

"A declining species and a good 'indicator' species for a declining taxonomic group, a threatened habitat type or a pressing conservation issue (UK BAP stage 1 Guidelines 3.3.4.v). Recent declines due to brownfield site loss and continuing development pressure in countryside; Hilton-Brown and Oldham (1991) show declines in south central England and south west Scotland with a patchy distribution generally e.g. absent or rare in north-west England, scarce in eastern and northern England and most of Scotland, widespread, but not common in Wales, the Midlands, central and south-east England and common only in the south-west. There were no increases anywhere within the range. Baker, Suckling and Carey (2004) found declines in slow worm status in all regions of England apart from the north west, with the biggest declines in the Midlands. Development pressure continues to increase, particularly in the areas where it was already declining, along with a general tidying up of rough areas in the countryside. This is an "indicator" species for pressing conservation issues and could be linked with common lizard in a widespread reptile plan. Advise monitoring plan for stage 3, plus requirements to take the species into account in planning process."

Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs, partially protected species. One of the major threats to this much loved animal is road kill. Should this development take place the increase of traffic to School Road, Bonville Road and new roads that might be created would have an adverse effect on the population alongside the loss of habitat especially the scrub in the "open spaces" and hedgerows.

There are **Birds of Prey** on many areas of this site

Barn Owl

Field 15 is a favoured hunting site due to the abundant presence of field mice. Field 12 is also an area where they have been heard and seen as is the area of trees near the allotments. The barn owl is red listed on many bird conservation lists INCLUDING SCHEDULE 1 LISTING WITH THE W.C.A.(WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION)

Kestrel Seen regularly in field 15 during the summer 2010 and hunting in field 12 at dusk mid October 2010.

This bird is on the Birds of Conservation Concern amber list.

Sparrowhawk

Seen in the area of medieval fields and wood area around allotments.

Buzzard

As above. To build on these fields of 48.5 acres would remove the prey for these majestic birds that are a wonder to see, inspiring.

House Sparrow

UK priority species, UK BAP review 2007, Red listed in UK, birds of conservation concern.

There are healthy groups in field 15 and gardens of Oakenhill Farm and Cottages. This is due to the abundance of caterpillar in field 15 and grass seeds as this field is allowed to mature until August when the grasses are cut for hay. There are also healthy groups in the medieval fields and nearby cemetery.

Badger

UK protected species, there are various sets scattered over this site from field hedgerows to scrub. Throughout this site you can see evidence of their presence from the large tunnels in the scrub and hedgerows to the scratching for worms in field 15, 17, 18 and Victory Park football pitches.





Song Thrush

UK BAP priority species, seen on this site. Further evidence of the rich habitat is shown in a survey carried out between 2006 and 2010 by Mr. Tim Sheppard. (Appendices 2F and C.D. showing in detail)

The following information has been taken from the RSPB Website "*There are currently serious concerns over the song thrush population in the UK, with anecdotal reports of population declines since at least 1950.*

The long term monitoring carried out by the British Trust for Ornithology shows that the population has been in a major decline since 1970. This decline has been most pronounced on farmland, where the population has decreased by about 70%. Because of this decline, the song thrush is red listed as a bird of serious conservation concern".

Orchid

It is also important to note that in field 15 during summer 2010 a single southern marsh orchid was seen in the end section near the veteran Ash by Deborah Hurst.

Scrub

On this site there are areas where the scrub (now a rapidly dwindling habitat nationwide as well as in Bristol) needs management to avoid encroachment on other habitats within this site. However the most extensive areas and species rich within this site lie in the 'open spaces' that lie on the **Bonville Road** site of this site, any neglect (lack of management within these areas and therefore public inaccessibility is not the fault of the general public but those in charge of these increasingly important sites and Bristol City Council have, I believe to accept this criticism as it 'holds the land title' Bristol Open Space Value Assessment' and in the same document under value criteria it states:

Landscape Significance

"The site is part of the substantial Brislington Meadows agriculture area it provides some trees that impact the skyline" and continues under

Nature Conservation Significance

"The site is designated as a SNC1 - it is part of the Brislington Meadows SNC1, the ecologically more important areas of the meadows are unimproved neutral grassland and semi improved grassland. This space does not contain this habitat but offers scrub and tree cover.

Sustainability Significance

"Strategic Planning, consider the site as a contiguous part of Brislington Meadows and it is likely that the site would be assessed as part of the greater whole". Thereby recognising perhaps by default SCN1 status.

In the year of international Biodiversity 2010 a positive use of this decreasing habitat, and backed up by the high priority status of green infrastructure network sites would be able to develop it as a *"corridor"* from the Brislington Meadows site, particularly the species rich field 15 towards Eastwood Park far.

This could be done with the help of the local community which would enhance public awareness of this site and appreciation of its diverse habitats and species contained within them of particular merit would be to gain the help of local schools which would develop children's value of the natural world with all its wonders and important educational significance. This introduces to children at a highly impressionable stage in their lives a sense of other an important first step to valuing their local community/environment, combating vandalism, and their society in general. An example of this strategy working is the community maintenance of the Coronation Road project that cleared and significantly improved the river bank on that side of the river, in Southville BS3.

In conclusion, the significance of sites of special scientific interest has been expanded to include SNC1's to reflect the importance of local sites, and, Bristol BAP *"has adopted"* those indicators in the England Biodiversity strategy (DEFRA 2002) as a city that locally and nationally rightly takes pride in its *"Green"* policy, this is particularly relevant.

Planning policy statement 9 (PPS9) biodiversity and geological conservation sets out Government aims to achieve a minimal impact on biodiversity and enhancement where possible. *"To conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife by sustaining, and where possible improving the quality and extent of natural habitats and the populations of maturely occurring species they support"*

Applied to this *"substantial site"* at 48.5 acres, Brislington Meadows SNC1, to include Bonville Road open spaces, could be considered for SNA status of which Bristol only has 3, The Gorge, The Downs and Blaise. This area of Bristol was once a thriving agriculture area and what little is left should be preserved as a historical link to that past for future generations. See 1886 ordnance survey map Appendix ?

To destroy this SNC1 by building 926 homes /industrial warehouses, not needed as a high percentage of the trading estate, Bonville Road is empty/derelict and has been for up to 15 years would achieve none of those aims set out in PPS9 and endorsed under the Bristol Parks Wildlife Strategy and Parks and Green Space Strategy 2008 in 5 proposed actions in the Bristol BAP.

Cross cutting themes chapter under land use types. Chapter 4.

Many thanks for your consideration of the value past, present and future of Brislington Meadows SNC1 to include Bonville Road Open Spaces.

Friends of Victory Park and the Community at Large



(Taken in fields 7/8)

HISTORY



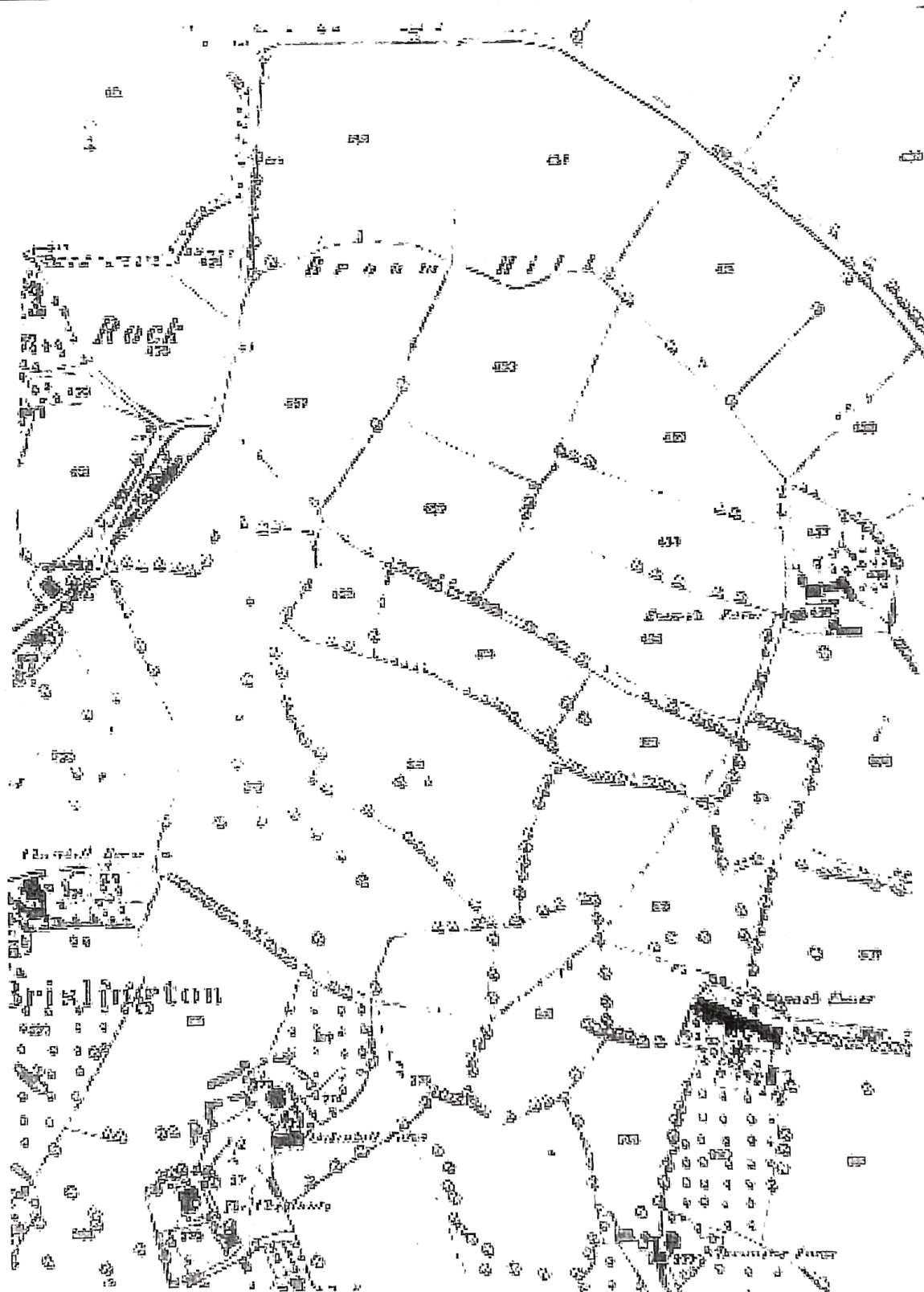
List of our projects

Fields around Victory Park

Project coordinator: **Doreen Lindegaard**

These fields are a window into Brislington's rural past, and they lie close to the heart of our community.

The map below was published in 1886 and shows the rural character of what was then the village of Brislington (notably said to have been one of the prettiest in Somerset). At first glance it presents a confusing picture of fields, but a closer examination reveals an intriguing structure...



From the Rock (top left) a footpath runs in an almost straight line, diagonally to the southeast (four o'clock). To the north of this path the fields are large, open, and fairly regular in shape. To the south they are smaller, cluttered with trees (both in the fields and along the hedgerows), and are much more irregular.

It seems likely that the fields to the north of the footpath were created in a single spate of hedge building, and are probably the product of the enclosure of Brislington Common (Broomhill) in 1780. The hedgerows to the south may be the living survival of Brislington's medieval past.

Such ancient field patterns are relatively rare. They were usually located close to the centre of the community, and were therefore the first to be developed as the community grew. This process took its toll on Brislington's medieval fields, and this cluster may be all that is left. We cannot be sure without further research.

It is possible to estimate the age of hedgerows such as these, using a simple technique called Hooper's Rule, and these fields offer an excellent opportunity to test the method against two neighbouring field systems of significantly differing date (some 230 years to the north of the footpath, and perhaps 600 years to the south).

Bristol City Council has published a proposal to develop almost the whole of these fields, replacing them with housing or industrial units (or a mixture of both). Their ideas can be found in their .pdf document [Options for site allocations](#) (also available in print at libraries).

These fields also offer much of ecological - not to mention recreational - value, and the [Friends of Victory Park](#) are interested in assessing the full impact of wholesale development. The Friends are keenly involved in ensuring that Bristol City Council do not overlook the site's importance to the local community.

The deadline for public comment on these proposals is 5pm on October 29th 2010, so if you are interested in the history and archaeology of this site please contact the project coordinator (above). Alternatively, contact the [Friends of Victory Park](#) to discuss wider issues (you can also email the Council directly at bdf@bristol.gov.uk).

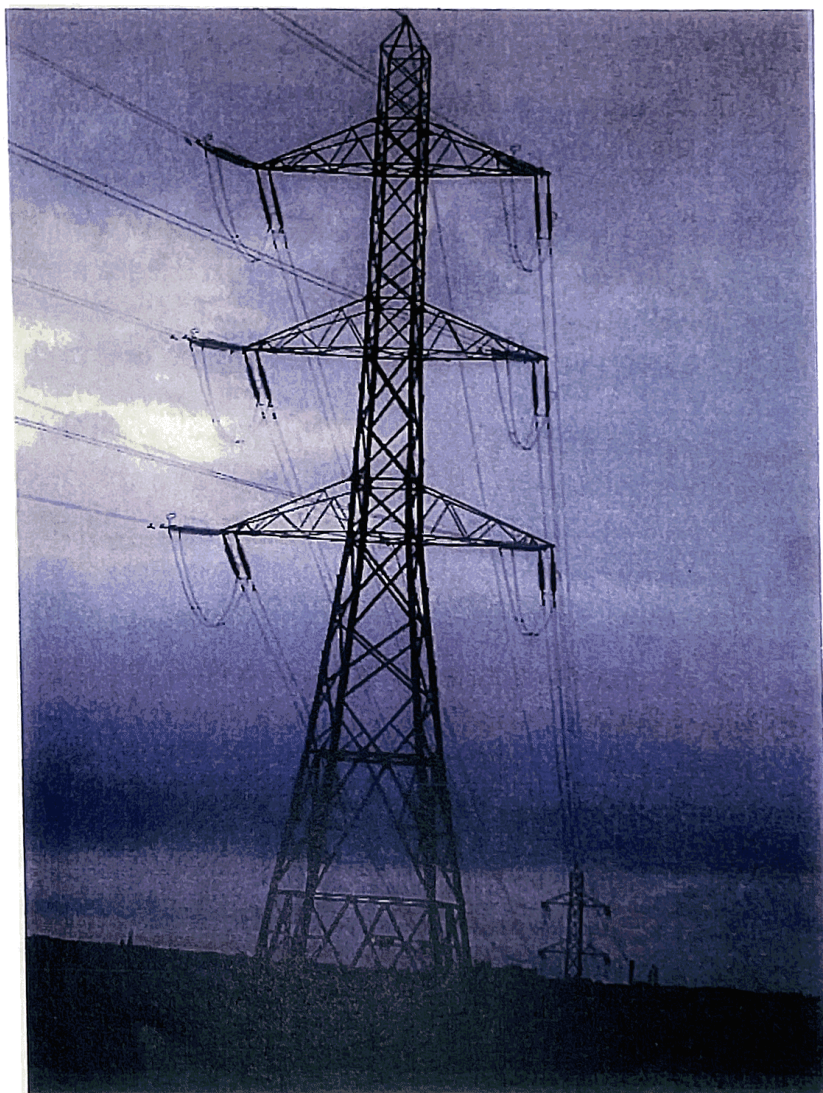
BCAP is strictly impartial in all matters of politics, religion, etc, etc, but we are not disinterested as there is plenty of archaeological interest at this site. It may contain many as yet undiscovered clues to the story of how our community has changed - for better and for worse - through the centuries.

Credits

Map — 1886 Ordnance Survey map reproduced with kind permission of [Bristol Reference Library](#) (derivative image © Ken Taylor 2010).

PYLONS

There are pylons that may have any effect on possible development on this green space.



PETITONS AND LETTERS

We have collected a number of petitions and letters as attached.

FUTURE USE

This area could be of great importance to the future residents and school pupils of the future. With such a wealth of wildlife and plant life on their doorstep it will be an invaluable area for recreational and educational activities.

The proposal to set up a nature trail for the fields has been made by the group with the intention of creating a signed trail which could be used for recreation, education for schools and organizations within the local community.

Future events have been proposed which include a Christmas Day walk. In the past residents of a certain age will remember sitting in front of the television, some possibly the radio to listen to the Queens speech. That is not the case today. Let's encourage parents, adults and the community to take some exercise on Christmas Day. These green fields would be an ideal place to take such a walk.

At Easter use the Easter Egg Hunt to help children to take exercise whilst learning about nature and their locality and the rewards such a space can bring in terms of health and relaxation.

The programme Walk 4 Life is an excellent way to help people of all ages to take regular exercise and this green space could become a valuable part of that programme which could include a structured walk from Keynsham through to Monarchs way in St Annes.

It was suggested that given advice and support from other organizations it would be possible to create a community supported agricultural project in the form of a community farm on the green space. This would create a community farm supplying organic (Soil Association certified) local, seasonal produce that has community engagement and environmental sustainability at its heart, building social capital for the future. The produce would enhance the understanding of the community of the fragility of the world we live in as well as related health issues.

There is no doubt the fields have the potential to be used as an outside classroom with the adjoining school to the extent that pupils could be involved in growing produce

There is great potential for the area to be used for events in future. These events could include horse riding, walking, cycling and many more.



There is already a group set up The Friends of Victory Park and this group has the potential to be involved in the care of these fields.

The community does have a sense of ownership of these fields by the daily use they make of the area and many would testify to this feeling of loss should they be lost forever.

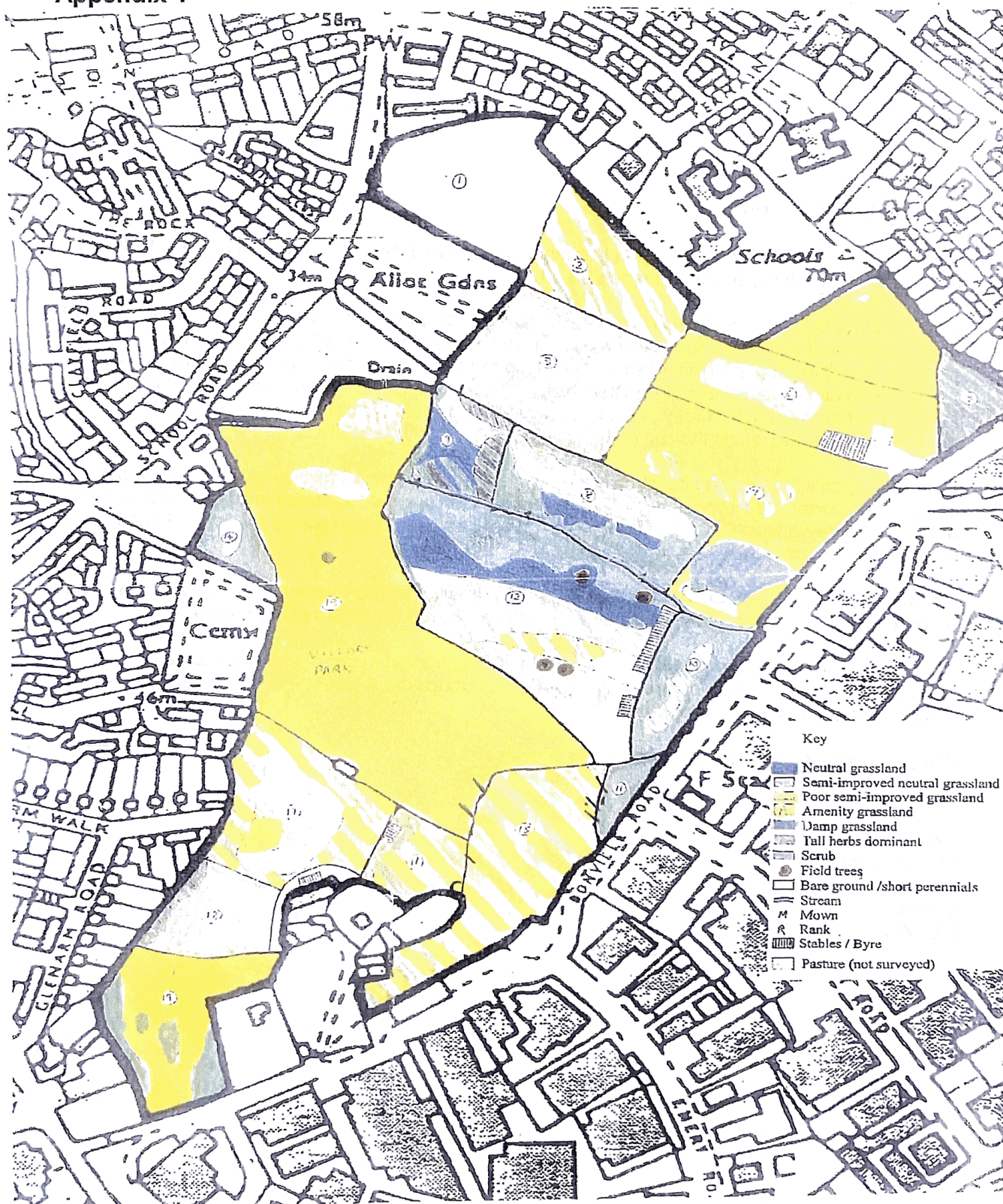
CONCLUSION

Having set out our objections and our plans for the future we feel that the community as a whole is not in favour of developing this site for commercial or residential use. We have presented with this statement a petition and letters of concern from many residents and the general public at large that are worried about the loss of green space in the city.

We are advised that many others including commercial organisations have voiced their opinions individually. We believe a more detailed study of the use of these areas is required since it is our evidence which suggest these areas are used on a regular basis.

Brislington Meadows SNCI (ST625708)

Appendix 1



1A

A 1

1A

To whom it may concern

My name is Colin Carey, I have lived in Brislington all my life (fifty seven years), during this lifetime I have used the open space site reference BSA 1201.

From a very early age myself and friends have used this country site for recreation and relaxation, we have played on the site and observed many beautiful sights of wildlife, which still occur today. When we were young we engaged in bird spotting and logged our findings many species of bird we would not see such as Woodpeckers, Buzzards, Sparrow Hawks, Blackcaps, members of the Tit and Finch families but these are there today. During the last 20 plus years the insect life has increased together with the bird life as the two go hand in hand.

I walk this open space on an almost daily basis with a large number of fellow nature lovers; this is indeed an important open space not just for us but also for the wildlife. It was in this area I first saw bats at dusk, these were Pipistrelle bats, which can still be seen today as they live in two large oak trees on the proposed site.

This area is an important wildlife corridor into our gardens it also provides a barrier against noise and air pollution between two roads saturated with traffic and noise from the industrial estate.

An open space which supports us and our wildlife is so important in today's life of stress and pressure just one sighting of nature can make a day so much more pleasurable so please preserve this area for me and future generations.

It is countryside on our doorstep -absolutely priceless

Colin Carey
25 Manworthy Road
Brislington
Bristol
BS4 4PP

1B

1B

Date 11/10/10

To

John Douglass
Principal Planning Officer
Site Allocations
Freepost BS6529
Bristol
BS1 5BR

Insert your address here including your post code

MR D W BASSETT MSc
19 GLENARM WALK
BRISLINGTON BS4 4LS

SITE REFERENCE: BSA1201

SITE ADDRESS: Land at Broom Hill

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP AREA: NP12 BRISLINGTON

Dear Sirs

I wish to object to proposals to develop housing or industrial units on the above mentioned site. I have ticked overleaf some additional points I wish to make in support of my objection.

I HAVE BEEN RESIDENT IN BRISLINGTON FOR OVER 50 YEARS.

I ATTENDED HOLLYWOOD RD INFANTS IN THE LATE 50'S AND DISTINCTLY REMEMBER GOING ON NATURE WALKS WITH MISS BROWN & MR MAY AS SCHOOL TEACHERS INTO THE FIELDS IN QUESTION. HERE WE TOOK SLOW BERRIES, HAWTHORN BERRIES (FOR OUR PEASHOOTERS!) AND LOOKED FOR SLOW WORMS (WHICH ARE ABUNDANT IN THIS AREA)

IN RECENT YEARS I HAVE ACQUIRED A DOG AND STILL FREQUENT THESE FIELDS REGULARLY WITH FOND MEMORIES!

THESE FIELDS ARE A DEFINITE ASSET TO ALL IN THE COMMUNITY AND MUST REMAIN VILLAGE GREEN STATUS

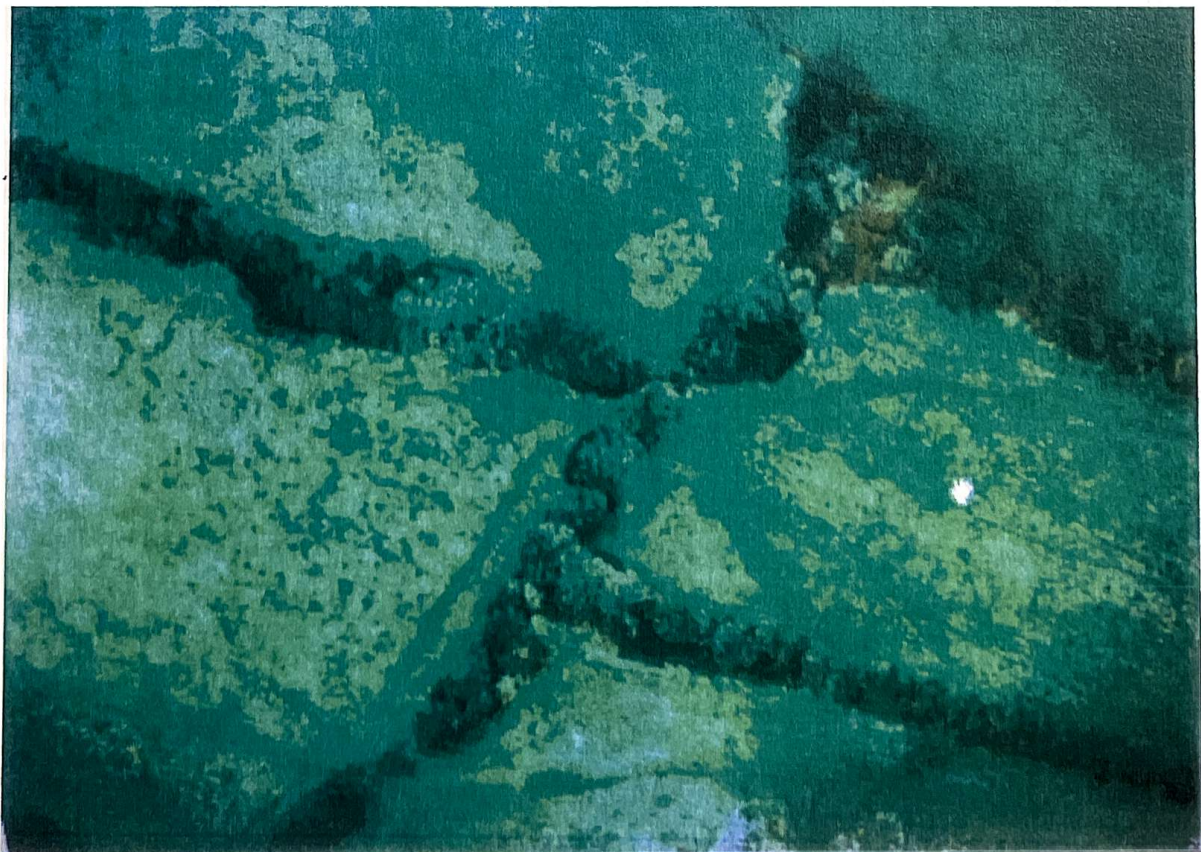
Yours faithfully

DW Bassett 11/10/10

Name & Signature

P.S I STILL GET SLOW WORMS IN MY GARDEN WHICH I SUSPECT HAVE MIGRATED FROM THE AREA IN QUESTION, AND AS AN ENDANGERED SPECIE SHOULD NOT BE LOST.

Appendix 1C



APPENDICES 2A

Statement from BRISLINGTON COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

These fields are a living link with Brislington's rural past. They are an important local amenity and an irreplaceable part of the local heritage (the vast majority of which has already been destroyed by development).

Members of BCAP selected a hedge at random (the middle of which is at approximately ST 624710) and surveyed it using a process based on Hooper's Rule. The estimated age of the hedge is consistent with the theory that the hedges south of the public footpath running from the Rock towards Ironmould Lane may be medieval. There are around fifteen hedgerows with marked similarities with this hedge, and taken together they are likely to comprise a field pattern directly threatened by the Site Allocation development proposals.

Anecdotal evidence indicates the fields north of the footpath would, if Hooper's Rule were applied, yield a much younger date than those to the south. They too appear to form a pattern, and current age approximations are in keeping with the theory of their dating to the 1780 enclosure of Brislington Common.

In view of the dating evidence, and the high value of medieval hedgerows and field patterns, we would strongly recommend that - if any development is to take place in these fields - it should be structured in a strictly sequential process.

As an extension of the work on hedge ST 624710, BCAP members also applied the strict test prescribed in The Hedgerows Regulations 1997, and determined that the relevant section of the hedge contains seven of the woody species in Schedule 3, designating it an "important hedgerow" under the terms of the Environment Act 1995 (section 97). This Act provides a measure of legal protection for this hedge. It is imperative that similar surveys be taken of other threatened hedgerows, particularly those south of the footpath.

KEN TAYLOR

CHAIR

BRISLINGTON COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

APPENDICES 2B

Brislington Meadows SNCI

Survey of four fields by Dr Helena Crouch, Libby Houston and Dr Margaret Webster,

(all members of Bristol Naturalists' Society, the Botanical Society of the British Isles [BSBI] and Somerset Rare Plants Group) on 15 October 2010. This is late in the season for surveying grassland – it is likely that more species would be seen earlier in the season, especially grasses.

Field 9 (ST624710)

A small square field S of the public footpath, S-facing and sloping down to a small stream. This field appears on an 1886 map and may be Medieval. It is grazed by horses, but not heavily so, and is species-rich unimproved neutral grassland with patches of scrub. There is much Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), and also Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*). A single plant of Broad-leaved Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*) was found by the stream (at ST62469 71004). This is thought to be the first record for this orchid in this 10km square since before 1970.

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckoo-flower
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky Mouse-ear
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Common Male-fern
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash

<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow
<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	Burnet Saxifrage
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Oak
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	Hoary Ragwort

<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common ragwort
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sowthistle
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentless Mayweed
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell

Field 8 (ST625710, ST625709, ST626709)

This larger rectangular field also slopes down to the stream and is SW-facing. The field is more tightly grazed by horses in places, but is still species-rich, with areas of scrub and a band of trees and scrub by the stream.

(ST625710)

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common ragwort

<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle
(ST625709)	
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue Fern
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady Fern
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Buddleia
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy Bittercress
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's Nightshade
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler-fern
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Common Male-fern
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Autumn Hawkbit
<i>Odontites vernus</i>	Red Bartsia
<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>	Water-pepper
<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft Shield-fern
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Wood Dock
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common Figwort

<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious

(ST626709)

<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent
<i>Epilobium tetragonum</i>	Square-stalked Willowherb
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass
<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Fleabane
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime

Field 7 (ST626709, ST627709)

The lower, sloping southern part of this large field is undergrazed, yet still species-rich, and has areas of scrub. Like Fields 8 and 9, it slopes down to a small stream. The upper (northern) part of the field is flatter, more open and clearly damp: there are patches of Jointed Rush (*Juncus articulatus*).

(ST626709)

<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False-brome
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear

<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's Nightshade
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved Willowherb
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell

(ST627709)

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed Rush
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Taraxacum agg</i>	Dandelion
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Yellow Oat-grass
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese Knotweed

(At ST62777096, just invading inside the fence on the SE side of this field – invasive weed)

Field 15 (ST625706)

This large field is grazed by horses and has public footpaths well used by children walking home from school. Despite being undergrazed, it is still species-rich grassland. There are three very large Oak trees at the SE side near where the footpaths meet the road and an immense Ash N of these.

<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy

<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover

Dr H.J. Crouch, BSBI Botanical Vice-County Recorder for North Somerset,

20.10.10

APPENDICES 2C

Brislington Meadows SNCI: individual trees

Fourteen trees, all but two within hedgerows, were measured by botanist Libby Houston with Debbie Hurst on 9th and 18th October 2010, and on 15th October with Dr Helena Crouch and Dr Margaret Webster, and recorded as veterans or interesting near-veterans, following the Veteran tree rule-of-thumb trunk diameters reference list given in Appendix 10 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook: a standard procedure for local surveys in the UK (Defra 2007).

Trees recorded included 11 English Oak (*Quercus robur*), 2 Field Maples (*Acer campestre*) and one Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). All details are given in the accompanying spreadsheet. A hand-held GPS was used to plot the tree locations, and its degree of accuracy is also included.

It should be noted that this does not pretend to be a comprehensive record of all interesting trees in the area, given limitations on time available. Trees were recorded in the hedgerows bounding Fields 9, 8, 12 and 15, and in the open grassland of Field 12. One English Oak was recorded, and two noted, by the boundary stream between Victory Park and the allotments. The largest English Oak was found in Field 12. The largest Ash, in the 'truly ancient' category, was recorded on the east side of Field 15, within the western edge of Bonville Road open space.

Trunk circumference was measured at breast height, and diameter calculated from that. Measurement was unavoidably fairly rough, where scars or hollows or bulging outgrowths were present, or where the tree was growing on a bank with one side higher than the other, or where ivy growth had no gap for the tape. This is indicated on the spreadsheet by 'circa' – 'c.'

It was interesting that many oak trees we recorded - or noted - seemed of similar size, either just below (e.g. 0.96m) or just over (e.g. 1.13m) 1 metre – the Veteran tree rule-of-thumb diameter for a 'potentially interesting' oak was largest for any species, at 1.02m.

Calculating the age of a coppice tree cannot be as straightforward as a maiden. A coppice stool will clearly be more ancient than its regenerating stems, but there is no rule-of-thumb diameter guideline here. In the case of the two coppiced Field Maples, one stem was measured and its diameter calculated. The age could then only be given as 'over' the final figure – which itself suggested a 'truly ancient' tree.



The larger of the two Field Maples recorded, in the hedgerow between
Victory Park and Field 15. *L. Houston. 9.10.2010*

Libby Houston, 20.10.2010

APPENDIX 2D

Common Name	Taxonomic Name	Description/Notes	Circumference: metres	Diameter: metres*	Age status*	Approx Age: years	Location	GPS: ST	Accuracy: ± metres	Date
English Oak (1) [also (2) & (3)]	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Maiden: 2nd and largest/oldest of 3 oaks along bank. The other 2 are also fine old maidens but roughly estimated at less than 1.02m diameter.	c.3.56	c.1.13	Old: 'potentially interesting'	140	Streambed between Park and allotments: on bank on Park side, opposite allotment fence	62367 71065	6	18.10.10
English Oak (4)	<i>Quercus robur</i>	May be old pollard	c.4.34	c.1.38	Old: 'potentially interesting'	170	NW corner of Field 9, by gateway	62486 71085	5	18.10.10
English Oak (5)	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Maiden	c.3.54	c.1.13	Old: 'potentially interesting'	140	In hedgerow on N side Field 9	62501 71076	3	18.10.10
English Oak (6)	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Maiden	c.3.07	c.0.97	Old: near 'potentially interesting'	120	Hedgerow, by gateway between E side of Field 9, W side Field 8	62516 71063	6	15.10.10
English Oak (7)	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Maiden	c.3.06	c.0.97	Old: near 'potentially interesting'	120	Hedgerow on N side Field 8	62627 71011	5	18.10.10
English Oak (8)	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Maiden, on W side gateway to Field 12; oak on E side has interestingly contorted form	c.4.75	c.1.51	Old: 'potentially interesting'	190	On streambank, N side Field 12, on W side gateway/gap to Field 8	62617 70931	6	18.10.10
English Oak (9)	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Maiden: old pollard?	c.5.10	c.1.62	Old: 'valuable'	200	In open field, in S half Field 12	62543 70887	5	18.10.10
English Oak (10)	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Maiden: pollard	c.4.60	c.1.46	Old: 'potentially interesting'	180	In open field, in S half Field 12, c.18m W of Oak No.9	62525 70887	3	18.10.10
English Oak (11)	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Maiden	c.3.42	c.1.08	Old: 'potentially interesting'	130	Hedgerow on W side Bonville Road Open Space, N side of gateway/gap to Field 15	62592 70727	5	15.10.10
English Oak (12)	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Maiden	c.3.03	c.0.96	Old: near 'potentially interesting'	120	Hedgerow on W side Bonville Road Open Space, S side of gateway/gap to Field 15	62592 70722	8	15.10.10
English Oak (13)	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Maiden	c.3.01	c.0.96	Old: near 'potentially interesting'	120	On bank in hedgerow, on W side Bonville Road Open Space (E of Field 15)	62595 70703	5	15.10.10
Field Maple (1)(a)	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Either: 3-stem coppice or maiden + 2-stem coppice: measurement (a) of possible maiden	c.1.53	c.0.49	[Old: 'valuable']	200	Hedgerow between Park & N end Field 15	62518 70757	7	09.10.10
Field Maple (1)(b)	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Either: 3-stem coppice or maiden + 2-stem coppice: measurement (b) of central stem	c.2.84	c.0.90	Old: 'truly ancient'	200	Hedgerow between Park & N end Field 15	62517 70957	7	18.10.10
Field Maple (2)	<i>Acer campestre</i>	3-stem coppice: N stem measured	c.2.64	c.0.84	Old: 'truly ancient'	200	Hedgerow between Park & W side Field 15	62499 70728	8	09.10.10
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Maiden	c.4.69	c.1.50	Old: 'truly ancient'	200-300	Hedgerow on W side Bonville Road Open Space (NE of Field 15)	62596 70736	5	09.10.10

*Categories of 'potentially interesting', 'valuable' and 'truly ancient' devised by Read (2000) in relation to maximum trunk sizes recorded by Mitchell (1974) for each species. Taken from: Veteran tree rule of thumb trunk diameters, Appendix 10 in Defra (2007) *Hedgerow Survey Handbook*. A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK. Defra, London. © Crown copyright 2007.

APPENDICES 2E

BUTTERFLY SURVEY JUNE 2010

Large white	numerous
Small White	numerous
Silver Y	1
Common Blue	numerous
Holy Blue	4
Small Copper	3
Ringlet	1
Meadow Brown	5
Gate Keeper	5
Wall	2
Speckled Wood	4
Peacock	3
Small tortoise shell	2
Red Admiral	3
Comma	3
Clouded Yellow	1
Cinnabar	3
Brown Argus	4
Scotch Argus	1
Small Blue	1
Small Heath	2
Large Heath	1
Dark Green Fritillary	possible