



Key contacts

Bristol Park Volunteers

July 2026, Edition 1.5

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Introduction

This is a directory containing 14 contacts that offer guidance and support to volunteers working to improve Bristol's parks and green spaces. Each contact has a separate page giving details about the overall team or project; how they work with park and green space and parks volunteers; how to contact them and what support they offer.

Who is this directory for? This directory was developed for park volunteers who have completed the Bristol City Council Parks Health and Safety Training to lead or co-lead work parties. Other parks and green space volunteers and active citizens working to improve green spaces should also find the document useful.

What is the purpose of this directory? Parks Friends of Groups fed back (September 2023 Parks Forum) that it is not clear who to go to for support and information. Many organisations, teams and projects offer similar, sometimes overlapping support for park groups. ParkWork; Your Park; Park Rangers – what's the difference? This directory aims to clarify what support is offered by whom, so Bristol Parks, active citizens and parks volunteers can work together better.

Ways of working with Volunteers - support and collaboration:

Contacts in this directory work with residents in a variety of ways to maintain and improve Bristol's parks and green spaces. Ways of collaborative working and support are listed in the table below. Support offered by each team is at the bottom of each contact page.

Ways of working with parks volunteers and groups:

- Work sessions / hands-on help
- Tools and kit
- Permission
- Advice and guidance
- Site visits
- Sources of seeds, plants and / or trees
- Networking



Bristol City Council (BCC) Parks Volunteering Team

What does the Parks Volunteering Team do?

Bristol Parks Volunteer Team aim to improve the volunteering experience of citizens involved with parks and green spaces. We work closely with the operations teams and with colleagues in this directory. The team develop and communicate volunteer recruitment processes and offer training, support and guidance.

How do Bristol Parks Volunteering Team work with Volunteers?

The Parks Volunteer team are your first point of contact for any questions regarding volunteering in Bristol parks and green spaces. The team provide Parks Health and Safety training for Lead Volunteers and access to other training opportunities such as first aid and mental health awareness. They share news, success and learning through regular newsletters.

Volunteer contact: Nic Ferris

Role: Volunteer Coordinator

Available: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Work area / project: Volunteer Manager for Park Lead Volunteers; Parks Health and Safety Trainer; Communication; Support for **East and Central** Park Groups, projects and staff-led park sessions.

Contact: parkvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk / nicola.ferris@bristol.gov.uk

Volunteer contact: Hayley Swift

Role: Volunteer Coordinator

Available: Monday, Thursday, Friday

Work area / project: Volunteer Manager for Park Lead Volunteers; Parks Health and Safety Trainer; Communication; Support for **South and North** Park Groups, projects and staff-led park sessions.

Contact: parkvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk / Hayley.swift2@bristol.gov.uk

Main support offered: Networking; advice and guidance; site visits.

More information online:

Bristol City Council website parks volunteer pages: [Volunteer in your local park or green space](#)



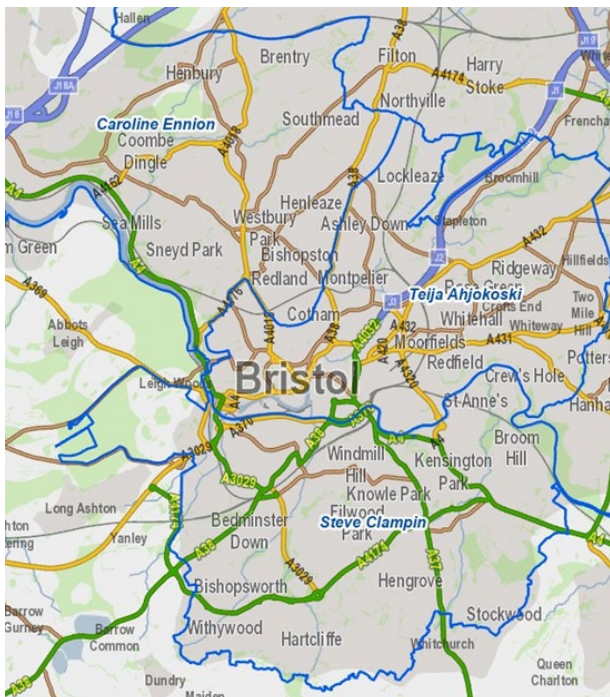
BCC Parks Operational Coordinators

Bristol Park Operations (Ops):

There are three area-based Parks Operations teams based in Bristol depots:

1. North – Sea Mills depot: Ops Coordinator, Aimee Bowden-Poole
2. East and Central – Eastville depot: Ops Coordinator, Mary O-Connell (until Sept 2026)
3. South – Cater Road, Bishopsworth depot: Ops Coordinator, Steve Clampin

Operational Coordinators manage day-to-day operations for over 600 parks and green spaces in Bristol. This includes managing Fix It teams that respond to maintenance issues, working with event organisers, BCC events team, Parks Volunteer Team, volunteers and friend groups.



How do Park Operational Coordinators work with Volunteers?

Park Operations (Ops) Coordinators work with Lead Volunteers to discuss and agree improvement plans and practical work sessions.

Lead Volunteers (1 or 2 per group) must send activity health and safety plans and risk assessments to Park Ops Coordinators in good time for activities to be signed off.

Parks Ops Coordinators also work with BCC Site Permissions team, who offer guidance in running events in our parks and green spaces.

Lead Volunteers: Not sure who your Operations Coordinator is? Contact: parkvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk

Main support offered: Sign off / permission; advice and guidance; site visits

More online information: [BCC Parks and open spaces](#)

Report issues; make enquiries; get involved, find a play park or café: [FixMyStreet](#)

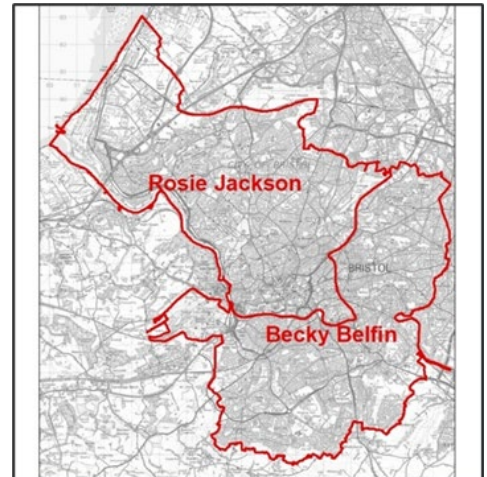


BCC Nature Conservation Officers

What do the Nature Conservation Officers do?

The Nature Conservation Team work in parks and green spaces across the city to ensure that space is being managed for nature. They work closely with the operational teams and volunteer friends of groups to improve habitats and identify opportunities for increasing biodiversity.

1. Rosie Jackson
Nature Conservation officer
North and Central Bristol
2. Jacob Hill (covering Becky Belfin, 2026)
Nature Conservation officer
South and East Bristol



How do the Nature Conservation Officers work with Volunteers?

Rosie and Jacob offer advice to your group regarding how best to improve your park and green space for nature. Rosie leads on wildlife monitoring survey volunteering in parks and green space.

Contact:

- Jacob Hill, Nature conservation support for South and East groups
- Rosie Jackson, Nature conservations support for North and Central groups
- nature.parks@bristol.gov.uk

Main support offered: Site visits; advice and guidance

More online information:

Managing green spaces for nature: [Managing green spaces for nature \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/managing-green-spaces-for-nature)

Monitor Wildlife in parks: [Monitor wildlife in our parks \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/monitor-wildlife-in-our-parks)



BCC Park Rangers

What do Park Rangers do?

Rangers ensure Estates are a safe, welcoming and a well-presented environment for visitors. They deliver site management plan aims and objectives, including carrying out practical improvement work, habitat and conservation management, woodland management and grounds maintenance tasks. They encourage and promote the use of Estates and green spaces by coordinating and delivering events, activities and volunteering opportunities.

How do Park Rangers work with volunteers?

Park Rangers and Gardeners lead conservation, gardening and estate management work sessions with volunteers in Bristol's three larger estates: Ashton Court; Blaise Estate and Stoke Park. You do not have to be a trained volunteer lead to get involved in staff led sessions:

1. Ashton Court Ranger-led sessions:

10am to 12noon, Monday and Thursday

2. Ashton Court gardening group:

10.30am – 12.30pm, Tuesday and Thursday

3. Stoke Park Ranger-led sessions:

10am – 12.30pm Thursday weekly, 10am to 12.30pm and first and third Saturday of the month

4. Blaise Estate ranger -led sessions:

10am – 12 noon, Wednesdays

Contact:

- Julian Smart and Mark Cox, Ashton Court Ranger
- Tom Thorn, Ashton Court garden group and Ranger
- Ash Kent and Michelle Mateo, Stoke Park Rangers
- Nic Brownlie and Ian Brown, Blaise Estate Rangers
- Contact: parkvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk

Main support offered: Practical work sessions

More online information: [Get involved in your local park or green space \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/get-involved-in-your-local-park-or-green-space)



Blaise Nursery and Plant Donation Scheme

Blaise Nursery:

Blaise Nursery is located on a 10-acre site just down the road from Blaise Estate, Kingsweston Road, BS11 0XF. 1.5 million plants are grown in glasshouses and polytunnels every year. The nursery supplies Bristol City Council and other local authorities with plants and have a shop which sells plants and gardening products to the public. There is an onsite café open 9.30am to 4:30pm on weekdays and 10am to 3.30pm on weekends. Open from 1 March to mid December.

Blaise Nursery Plant Donation scheme:

The Blaise plant donation scheme started during the covid-19 lockdown. In Spring 2020 - 2025, community groups and organisations who donate their produce were given the opportunity to order a range of free veg bulbs, seeds and plug plants to support growing initiatives across the city. The 2 rounds of delivery are in March and May of each year and can provide groups with a significant resource boost for their growing projects. The project is well underway for 2026. If funding is agreed for 2027, plant scheme members will be contacted in early 2027.

Volunteer contact: parkvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk

More online information: Blaise Nursery Webpage: [Blaise Plant Nursery](#)

Main support offered: Plants

BCC Managing for Nature Programme

Around 15% of council land is currently managed for the benefit of nature, our target is to increase this to 30% by 2030. Our Green Recovery Fund project is boosting biodiversity by managing more of Bristol's green spaces for nature working alongside partner organisations and communities (funded by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority).

Our Green Recovery Fund project will:

- **Improve** the ecological condition of existing green spaces through better management
- **Create** new habitats that improve connectivity for wildlife and implement 'wildlife-friendly' practices across a wider area
- **Engage** more people with their local natural green spaces, increasing contact with and enjoyment of nature

You can find out more about the Managing for Nature programme on our [website](#). We are keen to support as many people as possible to get involved in taking action for nature. We have volunteering opportunities across the city with Managing for Nature Ranger, Nicky.

Managing for Nature Ranger

What does the Managing for Nature Ranger do? The Managing for Nature Ranger, Nicky Hodges, delivers habitat and conservation management works at sites of nature conservation interest across the city. She runs a seasonal programme of practical conservation work, woodland management and habitat monitoring tasks.

How does the Managing for Nature Ranger work with volunteers? Nicky runs twice weekly Nature Nurture volunteer sessions with people who want to bring some love and care to local nature reserves and other wildlife-rich green spaces across Bristol. At sites with an active Friends of group, the sessions co-ordinate with group plans. Some sites don't yet have an active Friends of Group.

Tuesdays: 10am to 12.30pm. Optional – continue to 2.45pm. Sites in South or East Bristol

Sites include Eastwood Farm, Callington Road local nature reserve, Sturminster Road and Saltwell Valley open spaces, St Anne's Wood and Nightingale Valley, Coombe Brook valley, Crox Bottom.

Fridays: 10am – 12.30pm. Optional – continue to 1.45pm. Sites in North Bristol

Sites include Lawrence Weston Moor, Saltmarsh Drive Open Space, Elderberry Walk orchard, Okebourne Road open space, Shirehampton Park, Napier Miles and Kingsweston Estate/ Penpole Woods. **Contact:**

- Nicky Hodges: Nicky.hodges@bristol.gov.uk 07831 814600

More online information: Volunteer with a Roving Ranger: [Get involved in your local park or green space \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#)

Main offer: Practical work sessions

Updated July 2026

BCC ParkWork



What does ParkWork do?

ParkWork is a BCC service run by Joe McKenna that offers training and skills development for people who need additional support to secure permanent employment, while improving the maintenance and management of Bristol's parks.

How does ParkWork work with Volunteers?

Joe and his ParkWork volunteers visit parks in Bristol to support volunteer groups with their activities. If you need help with a project in your park or green space, contact Joe on the phone number below and he will arrange a time for ParkWork to come to your site.

Joe can offer practical support for fledgling groups to gain confidence and grow – including leading work sessions, creating work plans and lending tools. Joe is available to support Friends of Groups on Mondays to Fridays and the occasional Saturday.

Contact:

- Joe McKenna
- joe.mckenna@bristol.gov.uk
- 07469400689

Main support offered:

Practical work sessions; tools and kit; site visits; training; guidance and advice

More online information:

ParkWork Facebook: [Facebook](#)



BCC One Tree Per Child

What does One Tree Per Child do?

One Tree Per Child is a Bristol City Council volunteer programme focused on tree planting and tree maintenance in Bristol parks and green spaces.

How does One Tree Per Child work with Volunteers?

The One Tree per Child volunteer group meets every Wednesday throughout the year – increasing to two or three days a week during the planting season, between December and March. All training and tools are provided. Experience is not necessary as our experienced leaders guide volunteers through each weekly task.

As well as tree planting and tree maintenance, the team also delivers tree-themed assemblies and workshops to primary schools in Bristol.

Volunteer contact:

- Holly Paton
- Tree Bristol Officer
- onetreeperchild@bristol.gov.uk

How to report a problem with a tree:

Let us know about any tree issues, including overhanging branches, fallen trees or trees causing an obstruction: [Report a problem with a tree - bristol.gov.uk](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/report-a-problem-with-a-tree)

Main support offered:

Practical work sessions; tools and kit; site visits; training; site visits; guidance and advice; trees; networking

More online information:

- BCC Webpages: [One Tree Per Child \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/onetreeperchild)
- One Tree Per Child Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OneTreePerChildBristol>



BCC Community Development

What do the Community Development team do?

Bristol City Council Community Development team work alongside people to support them to take action on things they care about. The community development team work in key areas across the city and have a dedicated webpage [here](#).

Emily Wilder works in the Community Development team and leads on parks and green spaces. Her role includes community projects on housing and highways land. Emily works closely with the Parks Service and can help you navigate council processes.



How does the Community Development Team work with residents?

Their role is to support you to build confidence, community connections and resources that enable you to bring your ideas to life. They do this by linking you with organisations and other people within your community who might have similar interests. Community Development officers can support you to connect with and communicate with decision makers in the council.

Resident contact:

- Emily Wilder
- Community Development Practitioner for Parks and Green Spaces
- Emily.wilder@bristol.gov.uk

Main support offered:

Guidance and advice; project development; network building; site visits

More online information:

- Community Development Facebook Page: [Facebook](#)
- Community development webpage: [Get involved in your community \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/get-involved-in-your-community)

Bristol Waste



What does Bristol Waste do?

Bristol Waste are a recycling, waste collection and street cleansing company and run the 3 recycling centres in the city. Bristol Waste Company work in partnership with the people of Bristol and the Council to help residents and business recycle more and throw away less.

How do Bristol Waste work with Volunteers?

Bristol Waste's community engagement team work with schools and community groups. The team offer guidance and lend litter picking kit. Bristol Waste can supply your group with litter pickers and waste bags and would like to hear back about how you get on. Here is all the information that you need: [Get involved - do a litter pick](#)

Litter Collection:

1. On public land or highways:

Please use Bristol Waste Bags. If you need more than 30 bags, you can collect from St Philips Reuse and Recycling Centre. Under 30 bags can be posted. [Request extra bags for your litter pick – Bristol Waste Company](#). Book a collection on a Monday/Wednesday/Friday between 8:30am and 3:30pm, and let them know via [Hello@bristolwastecompany.co.uk](mailto>Hello@bristolwastecompany.co.uk) as advance notice is required.

2. On housing land: Get in touch with your housing officer:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/housing/council-tenants/housing-officers-for-council-tenants>

3. In Parks: Please note, if a litter pick takes place on Bristol Parks managed land, volunteers should follow Bristol Parks litter pick risk assessment and process. Arrange collection with Bristol Parks Operations Team (see page 6).

4. The bags can also be used to pick up leaves from streets near parks that blow onto the roads.

Contact:

- Community Engagement Team
- [Hello@bristolwastecompany.co.uk](mailto>Hello@bristolwastecompany.co.uk)

Main support offered: Guidance and advice; site visits; tools

More online information:

- Request litter Collection: [Litter collection – Bristol Waste Company](#)
- Report litter picking results: [Litter picking results form – Bristol Waste Company](#)



Your Park Bristol and Bath

What does Your Park do?

Your Park Bristol and Bath (Your Park) is an independent charity working to improve access to parks, so that more Bath and Bristol residents experience the transformative health and wellbeing benefits of green spaces. Your Park have 3 key areas of work:

1. Increasing access
2. Health and Wellbeing
3. Creating and enhancing spaces for nature

How does Your Park work with Volunteers?

- Wild and Well networks connect people to parks and green spaces for health and wellbeing benefits. W&W operates in Hartcliffe, Withywood, Stockwood, Newtown and Barton Hill, with a new network planned soon.
- Roots to Wellbeing groups support people experiencing mental health difficulties, or are lonely or isolated, to connect to nature in parks. Volunteers support programme leaders to deliver 18-week programmes of craft and nature-based activities..
- Our Access team support park groups to make their parks and activities more inclusive.
- Team Days and Corporate Volunteering: Get in touch with Ainsley if your park group has tasks suitable for teams.

Contacts:

- Suzi Brooke-Davies, Roots to Wellbeing Lead - roots@yourpark.org.uk
- Ainsley, Team Days Coordinator - teamdays@yourpark.org.uk
- Miranda, Access and Community Lead - access@yourpark.org.uk

Main support offered: Practical work sessions; training; site visits; guidance and advice; networking

More online information:

- Your Park Website: [Your Park Bristol & Bath](#)
- Your Park Facebook: [Your Park Facebook](#)
- Your Park Instagram: [Your Park Instagram](#)

Team Wilder



What does Team Wilder do?

Team Wilder inspires and empowers people to act for nature, locally. Team Wilder is supported by Avon Wildlife Trust and enables local action with free, site specific, professional advice for gardens, community spaces and schools.

How does Team Wilder work with Volunteers?

Team Wilder have a variety of resources on their website that are designed to help community groups that are working to protect and improve nature in their local area. For example, you can get free advice from the Team Wilder Community Ecologist. They also have resources to help set up and establish new community groups and a map showing local community groups.

Resident contact:

- Sophie Bancroft
- Team Wilder Communications and Engagement Officer
- communications@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

Main support offered:

Guidance and advice; site visits; tools and kit; training; seeds and plants; networking

More online information:

Team Wilder website: <https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/team-wilder>

Bristol Parks Forum



What does Bristol parks Forum do?

Bristol Parks Forum (BPF) is as an umbrella organisation for community park groups and organisations in the city with an interest in their local parks and green spaces.

BPF is currently the only ‘community voice’ that is dedicated to all of Bristol’s green spaces.

BPF shares news and information; and hosts quarterly in person meetings for community groups.

How does Bristol Parks Forum work with Volunteers?

The BPF website has information for parks and green space groups and offers practical advice where it can. BPF helps facilitate the sharing of information and best practice between parks groups and organisations, so that groups can learn from each other. BPF also coordinates responses from parks and green spaces groups to local and national consultations and campaigns. BPF works closely with the City Council’s Parks Department, and with Your Park Bristol and Bath. The BPF Vision for Bristol Parks and Green Spaces in 2030 can be accessed from the website below. There is a BPF Facebook group for members to use for information sharing and mutual advice.

Contact:

- Bristol Parks Forum Volunteer Committee
- info@bristolparksforum.org.uk

Main support offered: Advice and guidance; networking

More online information:

Bristol Parks Forum website: [Bristol Parks Forum – for community park groups in Bristol](#)



GoodGym

What does GoodGym do?

GoodGym is a community of people who get fit by doing good. We run, walk and cycle to support isolated older people and community projects in our area. We do this to achieve our mission of building happier, healthier and better connected communities.

How does GoodGym work with Volunteers?

GoodGym encourages anyone to come and give it a try. We're inclusive and there's no requirement to pay or have volunteered before. You can visit our website where you'll find all upcoming sessions listed, or request help from your local GoodGym group. We take on low-skill practical tasks that require some elbow grease and love if it helps improve the environment too. Because we have sessions running every week, we're always on the look out for more ways to help - if you've got a task that needs regular upkeep, even better!

Contact:

- Mel Young
- Bristol Volunteer Area Coordinator
- getinvolved@goodgym.org

Main support offered: Networking; practical work sessions; guidance and advice

More online information:

Good Gym website: [GoodGym | Request practical support for a community organisation](#)

Taking Action – 6 Guides

Bristol City Council Community Development team have produced a pack of ‘Quick Guides’ for active citizens and volunteers.

These guides (also referred to as process maps) set out steps to take, who to contact and who to work with to run activities, events and get backing for bigger plans to improve parks and green spaces.

Community Parks Quick Guides can be found here:

[Set up and run a Friends of Park group](#)

Community Parks quick guides include:

- Community Asset Transfers - [pdfCommunity asset transfers \(pdf, 96 KB\)](#)
- Community Events - [pdfCommunity events \(pdf, 128 KB\)](#)
- Small scale projects - [pdfSmall scale projects \(pdf, 208 KB\)](#)
- Large projects and play facilities - [pdfLarge projects and play facilities \(pdf, 84 KB\)](#)
- Large scale tree planting - [pdfLarge scale tree planting projects \(pdf, 88 KB\)](#)
- Street trees and sponsorship - [pdfStreet trees and tree sponsorship \(pdf, 82 KB\)](#)

Using Bristol's Pinpoint mapping tool:

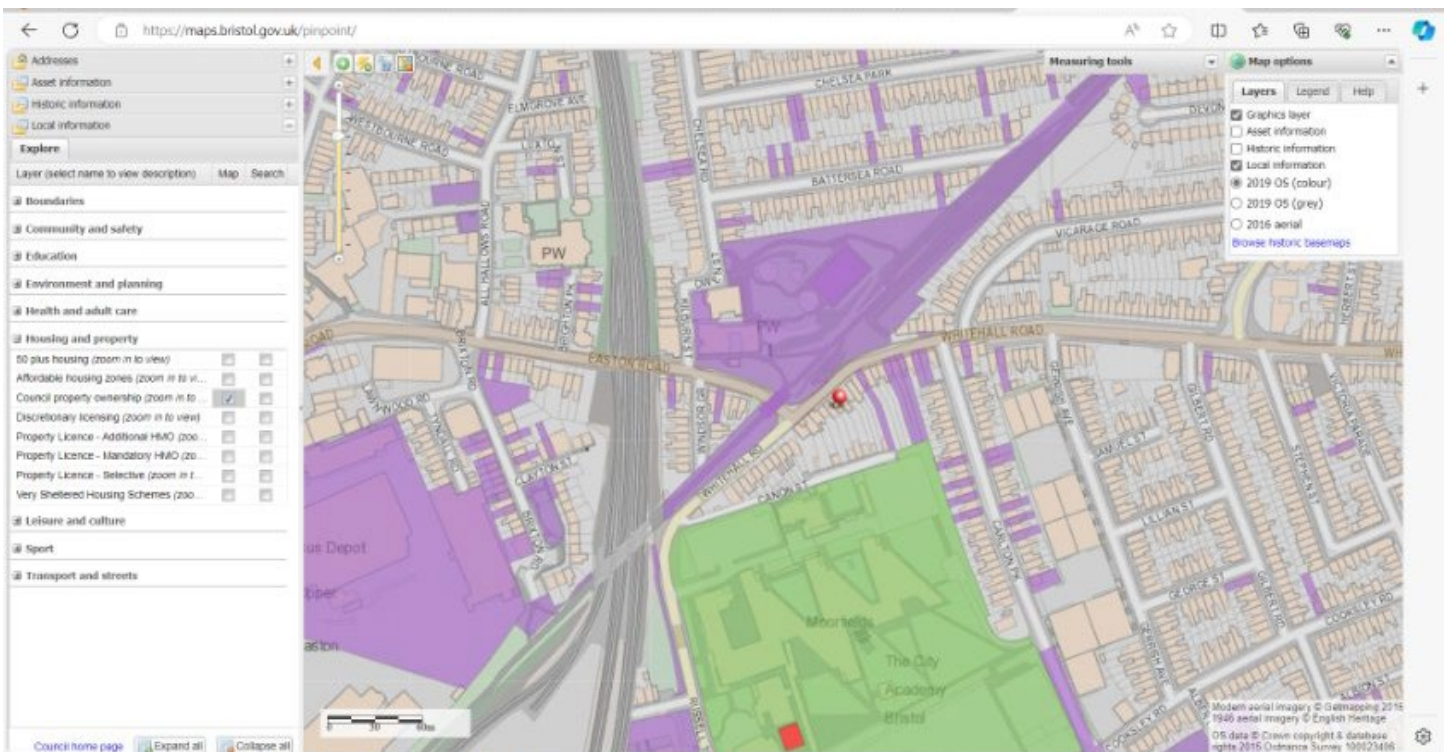
Know Your Place – Pinpoint mapping tool is online software that you can use to find out information about Bristol and our cities green spaces.

Find an online guide on how to use Pinpoint here:

[Pinpoint_user_guide \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/pinpoint/)

To find out who owns land in Bristol follow these steps:

1. Go to [Bristol - Pinpoint local information](#)
2. Put in an address near the area you want to find out about
3. Tick “Local Information”
4. Tick “Housing and Property”
5. Tick “Council Property Ownership”





Parks Community UK

Parks Community UK website provides a free online knowledge hub and network for Friends of parks and green space community groups across the country.

Parks Community UK aims to celebrate, support and empower community park and green space volunteers to be effective and resilient.

The websites 2 most popular pages are the Park Group [Case Studies](#) and [Advice Guides](#).

Parks Community UK operates within the movement of thousands of parks and green space Friends and community groups, managed by [The National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces](#), the movement's umbrella organisation.

- Parks Community UK website: [Parks Community UK website](#)
- Parks Community UK case studies: <https://parkscommunity.org.uk/case-studies/>
- 'How to Guides' For Parks Friends groups including organising events, funding and site maintenance: <https://parkscommunity.org.uk/how-to-guides/>

Document Amendments:

Bristol Parks Volunteer team have collated the information for this directory with sign off from the organisations, teams and individuals featured.

This is a live document and will be sent out for review in April and September each year.

The first version of the directory was published October 2024.

To suggest updates email: parkvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk