

A Management Plan for Clifton and Durdham Downs

DRAFT



The Society of
Merchant Venturers

January 2012

Clifton and Durdham Downs Management Plan

**This document has been reviewed by
Richard Bevan - Manager, Parks Estates, Play, Cemeteries
and Crematoria**

&

**Robert Westlake - Downs Ranger
Vicki Abel - Parks Projects Officer**

January 2012

On behalf of Bristol City Council & The Downs Committee

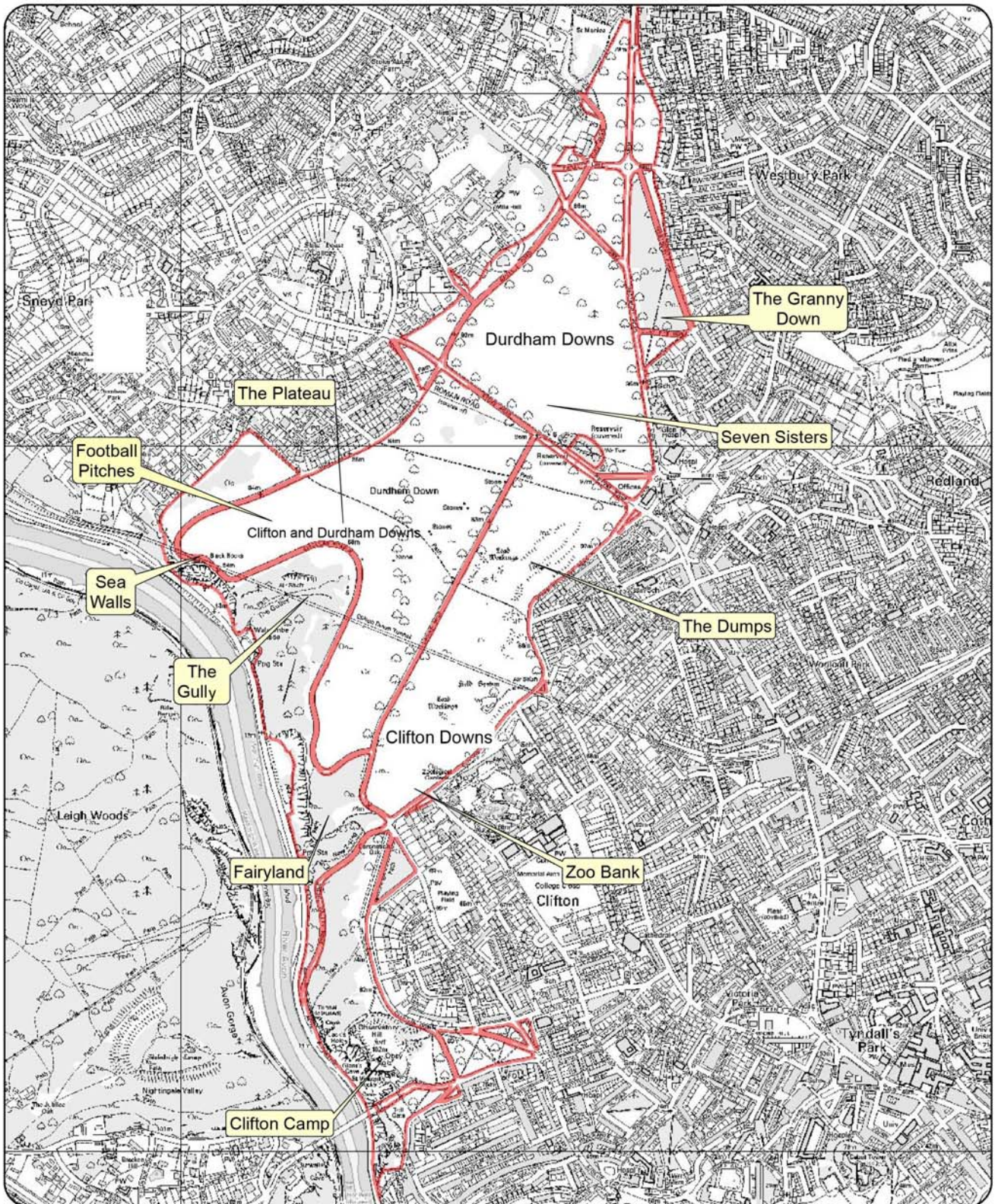
**Bristol Parks
Bristol City Council
4th Floor
Brunel House
St George's Road
Bristol
BS1 4UA**

For further information about Bristol Parks

Tel. 0117 922 3719

or

www.bristol.gov.uk/parks



Bristol City Council
Neighbourhoods

Clifton and Durdham Downs Site Map

The provision of information by Bristol City Council does not imply a right to reproduce or commercially exploit such information without the Council's express prior written permission. Reproduction or commercial exploitation of information provided by the Council without its express permission may be an infringement of copyright.

The council is unable to grant permission to reproduce or re-use any material that is the property of third parties. Permission to reproduce or re-use such material must be obtained from the copyright holders.

© Crown Copyright and database right 2011.
 Ordnance Survey 100023406.

ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

Scale : @A4 1:13,979
 Date: 26/09/2011

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOODS DIRECTORATE

Environmental and Leisure Services
 Colston 33 Phone: 0117 922 3719
 Colston Avenue bristolparks@bristol.gov.uk
 Bristol BS1 4UA www.bristol.gov.uk/parks

Foreword

By the Lord Mayor, Master and Executive member with responsibility for parks and green spaces.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Reason for Producing a Management Plan
- 1.2 The Purpose of The Plan
- 1.3 The Process Used To Produce The Plan
- 1.4 The Life of The Plan
- 1.5 Vision and Themes
 - 1.5.1 Vision
 - 1.5.2 Themes

2.0 Policy Context

- 2.1 The Corporate Plan
 - 2.1.1 Parks and Green Spaces Strategy (2009)
 - 2.1.2 Area Green Space Plans
- 2.2 Bristol Strategic Context
- 2.3 The Downs Policy
- 2.4 The Downs Committee
 - 2.4.1 The Structure of The Downs Committee
 - 2.4.2 The Powers and Constraints of The Downs Committee
- 2.5 The Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project
- 2.6 The Commoners
- 2.7 The Green Flag Award

3.0 Site Description

- 3.1 Name of The Site
- 3.2 Location
- 3.3 Ownership
- 3.4 Site Summary
- 3.5 History of The Site
- 3.6 Heritage Values
 - 3.6.1 Landscape Character Assessment
- 3.7 Natural Heritage
 - 3.7.1 Woodland, Trees and Scrub

3.9 Built Heritage

- 3.9.1 Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- 3.9.2 Listed Buildings
- 3.9.3 Non Listed Buildings
- 3.9.4 Park Furniture

3.10 Legal Agreements

- 3.10.1 Licenses / Management Agreements

4.0 Community Use

- 4.1 Consultation
- 4.2 Community Groups
 - 4.2.1 Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge
- 4.3 Visitor Facilities
- 4.4 Access
- 4.5 Sport
- 4.6 Events
- 4.7 Children and Young People
 - 4.7.1 Children's Playground
- 4.8 Educational Use
 - 4.8.1 Downs 150 Project
- 4.9 Oral History Project
- 4.10 Interpretation and Promotion
 - 4.10.1 Publications
 - 4.10.2 Interpretation Panels
 - 4.10.3 Displays
 - 4.10.4 Publicity
 - 4.10.5 Web Pages

3.7.2 Habitats

3.7.3 Species

3.8 Cultural Heritage

5.0 Management and Resources

5.1 People With Responsibilities For The Downs

5.2 The Downs Ranger Team

5.3 Specifications

5.4 Resources

5.4.1 Expenditure and Income

5.5 Standards

5.6 Bristol Parks Forum

5.7 Byelaws and Enforcement

5.8 Sustainability

5.9 Risk Assessments

6.0 Monitoring and Review

7.0 A 5 Year Work Plan

Appendices

1. Local and National Policies

2. The Downs Byelaws

3. Index of Environmental Legislation

4. EMAS

Foreword

We are passionate about The Downs and want to make sure they continue to be well looked after and maintained so that present and future generations can enjoy them and all they have to offer.

The Downs are an environmental haven for wildlife as well as a vast open space for sporting activities and recreational purposes. The Downs Committee (a joint committee of City Councillors and Merchant Venturers) is responsible for The Downs and the tens of thousands of people who visit every year. We take this responsibility very seriously, which is why we developed the initial management plan – the first of its kind since the Committee was established under the 1861 Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act and will continue to regularly review the plan as a working document.

The management proposals in the plan are crucial for ensuring - and securing - the long-term sustainable future of The Downs. Over the years thousands of local people have taken part in consultation exercises to help develop our plans and it is vital that local people continue to get involved in delivering our long-term vision for one of Bristol's most popular green spaces.

Councillor Geoffrey Gollop

Lord Mayor and Chairman of the Downs Committee

Giles Clarke

Master, Society of the Merchant Venturers

Councillor Gary Hopkins

Executive Member for Targeted Improvements

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Reason for Producing a Management Plan

The Clifton and Durdham Downs are known to the people of Bristol and the surrounding area as 'The Downs' and have a special place in the hearts and minds of anyone that has ever visited the site. Some people think that The Downs are 'natural' and that they have changed little over the centuries. However, the landscape features of The Downs are largely the result of the activities of mankind, i.e. the past and present use and management of the site. There are paintings from the 19th century and photographic evidence from the 20th century to prove that it has changed even within living memory and that it is still changing today in reaction to present management and to the changing demands of the public.

One of the more obvious but insidious changes that early paintings and photography shows is the way that scrub and other woody plants have expanded at the expense of grassy open spaces and views. The Downs Committee wants to make informed decisions about managing the landscape of The Downs in the longer term. They realise that the future landscape will be the direct result of the management and use of the area by the public and therefore they commissioned this Management Plan for Clifton and Durdham Downs.

The plan sets out to describe the site today and to explain why it looks and works the way that it does. It seeks to identify the current and sometimes conflicting demands made of The Downs by the users and it proposes a management regime that will maximise the access and recreational value of The Downs in a sustainable way.

1.2 The Purpose of The Plan

The Downs have been preserved for the people of Bristol as a place for public use and enjoyment and exist for the benefit of everyone, through the enactment of the Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861. Copy available to view at Bristol Parks Office, Brunel House and on the Council website at www.bristol.gov.uk/thedowns. Two extracts that explain the purpose of the Downs very clearly are: -

"...said Manor of Clifton...improvement and preservation of the said land and for best ensuring the public use and enjoyment thereof..."

"Durdham Down...and shall for ever hereafter remain open and unenclosed, and as a place for the public resort and recreation of the citizens and inhabitants of Bristol..."

Fundamentally The Downs were reserved for public access and recreation in 1861. However, society and its demands change with time and the management of The Downs must react to those changing demands.

The Downs are a significant heritage for the citizens of Bristol and it is important to ensure that the inheritance is 'handed on' in a healthy and sustainable condition for future generations.

Therefore the plan will: -

- Assist The Downs Committee to look at the long-term management of the site.
- Provide continuity by providing a stable plan when personnel change (staff, management and committee members retire or move on).
- Enable the committee to identify significant projects that are presently beyond their financial resources so that additional capital and revenue funding can be sought, (possibly from outside organisations).
- Provide sound aims with which to approach other organisations and council departments with a view to working together to achieve mutual objectives.
- Allow parks officers to prepare a rolling 5-year work plan that will be reviewed annually to manage the site in the medium term.
- Enable the in house team to prepare detailed 3-month work plans that will be implemented through ongoing maintenance and manage the site in the short term.

- Inform all interested user groups and individuals about the long-term future of The Downs and explain to them both the daily maintenance regime and the reasons behind any major changes.

Other useful advantages include: -

- Everyone i.e. Bristol City Council, The Downs Committee, Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project, contractors, community groups and outside institutions can work together to the same ends.
- Consultation with service users gives validity to decision making.
- It provides open and 'transparent' decision-making.
- It will help to address and hopefully resolve conflict created by different demands.
- Enable The Downs Committee to retain Green Flag status.

1.3 The Process Used to Produce the Plan

A large number of surveys have been carried out over the years in order to establish how the Downs are used, local attitudes towards the site and knowledge of the sites' wildlife. Further consultation with stakeholders identified six key themes that encompass management issues on the Downs - enjoyment, access, landscape, wildlife, anti social behaviour and management and resources. All these themes have been used throughout the process of developing the management plan and have been used as the headings for the aims of the Management Plan and 5 Year Work Plan. A detailed description of the consultation carried out since 2001 was included in the initial Downs Management Plan 2007 which can be viewed at www.bristol.gov.uk/thedowns.

1.4 The Life of the Plan

- The initial Downs Management Plan was adopted by The Downs Committee in January 2007.

- The plan was reviewed and re-printed in January 2012.
- The plan contains a 5-year work plan that will be reviewed and updated annually with stakeholders and key members of staff.
- The implementation and monitoring of the plan will be the responsibility of the Estate Manager.
- The plan will continue to be reviewed and re-printed every 5 years.

1.5 Vision and Themes

1.5.1 Vision

It is to those that went before us that tribute should be paid for their foresight in recognising that the Downs would be lost if decisive action was not forthcoming.

Their vision and the Act of 1861 gave the Downs to the citizens of Bristol, in perpetuity, as a place of recreation to be enjoyed by all, now and long into the future.

It is our collective responsibility to ensure that this precious legacy is protected, persevered and enhanced, and in a manner that is fully sustainable.

The Downs Management Plan will allow the Downs Committee to make informed decisions about managing this unique landscape and ensure that this vision is in safe hands.

1.5.2 Themes

The key themes for the Downs were developed through extensive consultation with local people and stakeholders. Within these themes a set of objectives have been identified which set out clear management targets (see section 7.0 Five Year Work Plan). Both the themes and objectives may develop and alter as the local environment and strategic contexts change. Reviewing and investigating these issues will be an ongoing process throughout the lifetime of the plan.

Enjoyment

To secure Durdham Down and Clifton Down as places for public recreation and to ensure that The Downs continue to be a great asset to present and future generations of Bristolians as a place for enjoyment.

Access

To ensure that The Downs are accessible to all within the natural constraints of the site.

Landscape

To ensure that The Downs landscape retains its strong character and remains in good condition.

Wildlife

To ensure semi-natural wildlife habitats are both maintained and enhanced and provide maximum opportunities for education and enjoyment of The Downs.

Antisocial behaviour

To ensure that antisocial behaviour is controlled and its impact reduced.

Management and Resources

To ensure that The Downs are well managed, and well resourced, balancing all the various public uses with the heritage value of the site.

2.0 Policy Context

This section provides some strategic context within which the management plan has been produced and provides an example of how actions and aims within the management plan are both guided by, and relate back, to wider strategies. The city council is guided by a Corporate Plan, The Bristol Partnership Community Strategy and other key strategic documents. National and local strategies provide guidance and help to steer and formulate objectives.

2.1 The Corporate Plan

The Corporate Plan sets out what, within available resources, Bristol City Council plan to achieve over the next three years towards the delivery of the longer-term vision for the city. The corporate Plan can be viewed at www.bristol.gov.uk/corporate-plan.

2.1.1 Parks and Green Spaces Strategy (2009)

The Parks and Green Space Strategy (P&GSS) outlines a 20-year investment programme for the future provision of green space and the facilities and services that should be provided. Its core vision is to create a city with good quality, attractive, enjoyable and accessible green spaces which meet the diverse needs of all Bristol citizens and visitors.

The P&GSS can be viewed at: <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/agsp>

The P&GSS has eight objectives:

1. Raise the quality of parks and green spaces.
2. Encourage greater use and enjoyment of Bristol's parks and green spaces by all sectors of the community.
3. Contribute to the wider planning of the urban fabric of the city by providing a range of good quality parks and green spaces, which play a significant role in meeting the needs of balanced and sustainable communities and enhancing the urban landscape, to help make Bristol a green and sustainable city.
4. Protect needed green space from development.
5. Rectify shortage in particular types of green space across the city to ensure all residents have access to formal, informal, natural, sports and children & young people's spaces.
6. Provide a clear basis for beneficial investment in green spaces - identifying those areas of Bristol where investment and improvements in green space are most needed - helping the council 'spend better'.
7. Encourage active and healthy life-styles and promote social inclusion.
8. Encourage community participation in the improvement and management of green spaces.

The following table shows how the policies in the PGSS relate to The Downs Management Plan.

| Ref | Policy Detail | The Downs Management Plan Response |
|-----------|---|--|
| NG | Natural Green Space | |
| NG2 | Improve maintenance and management regimes ensuring optimum conditions for wildlife alongside attractive, welcoming and easily accessible places for people to enjoy. | <p>Management and maintenance regimes are in place to provide optimum conditions for wildlife to flourish. Areas of previously mown grass are left to grow and only cut as hay after seed heads have fallen. Areas around many trees and copses are not mown creating ideal habitats for insects and small mammals. The policy on woodlands is for minimum intervention, trees fall and natural regeneration allowed to take place.</p> <p>Football pitches will be given over to wildflowers while being rested.</p> |
| NG5 | Create new habitats for wildlife to remedy shortfalls in natural green space. | <p>The Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project embarked on a large scale limestone grassland restoration project to link up small patches of grassland to create a much larger, more viable area. In June 2011 a herd of six feral goats were introduced to help restore the wildflower-rich grassland and help rare plants by controlling scrubby re-growth.</p> <p>The Downs now have the largest area of un-improved limestone grassland in Bristol.</p> <p>In areas such as Zoo Banks, the Downs Ranger's Team have worked hard to sensitively manage areas of scrub. This ensures that valuable limestone grassland isn't lost to encroachment.</p> |
| AS | Active Sports Space | |
| AS4 | Support clubs and individuals by providing the right facilities and encourage participation in outdoor sport. | 32 football pitches are marked out and maintained. Changing rooms are provided but at present are only suitable for single gender use. It is an aspiration to upgrade the changing rooms and to encourage mixed gender use. The changing rooms are subject to ongoing improvements and have recently benefitted from decorative improvements, a new boiler and improved safety lighting. |
| AS5 | Enhance the wider park environment for informal sport. | The nature of the Downs and its landscape offers many opportunities for informal sport including rock climbing, playing frisbee, having a kick about and jogging. An informal jogging trail has been created and is maintained and improved with the possibility of providing plans showing measured running routes in the future. |

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| | | Hurdle fences have been constructed in areas where jogging was causing erosion and damaging sensitive meadow areas. Following a successful trial the hurdles were extended to ensure further areas were protected. |
| LM | Land Management Policies | |
| LM4 | Provide good quality accessible toilets at main traditional parks and sports grounds, meeting the British Toilet Association standard. | There are currently three public toilet blocks on the Downs as well as the toilets in the tea room. The Public toilets on the Downs meet the Standard of the BTA and are DDA compliant. Public toilet provision across the city is currently under review. |
| LM6 | Develop the role of on-site parks staff and dog wardens to tackle problems of dogs' mess and uncontrolled dogs through education, encouragement and enforcement. | Key members of parks staff have received training to enable them to educate, encourage and as necessary issue fixed penalty notices for uncontrolled dogs and fouling. |
| LM8 | Build into our green space planning measures to adapt to, and mitigate, the effects of climate change; including trees for shade, drought-resistant planting and water storage. | Trees are replaced when they reach the end of their life or become diseased. The larger and more mature trees provide shade at various locations across the Downs. The number and quality of trees on the Downs contribute to the mitigation of decline in urban air quality and development of urban hot spots. |
| LM9 | Adopt sustainability targets in the management of Bristol's parks and green spaces. | The management plan seeks to undertake a range of sustainability measures, which form part of the Parks and Estates EMAS commitment. |
| D | Delivery Policy | |
| D1 | Support participation and involvement in parks and green spaces through consultation, participation in active management of spaces, volunteering, education and outreach activities. | BCC support and work in partnership with the Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge to increase consultation and community participation in a variety of events and activities. The Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project runs a programme of events and activities to enable visitors to discover, learn more about and enjoy the wildlife and landscape of the Downs. Walks, talks, courses, family events and children's events are on offer. Formal education sessions are also run for school and play scheme groups. A series of nature trails leaflets and information panels further enhances these experiences. |
| D2 | Increase use and enjoyment of spaces through a range of activities including providing health and exercise related | The need to provide and increase the use and enjoyment of the Downs has to be carefully balanced with the protection of its natural assets and wildlife. However a |

opportunities, events, festivals and improved information provision.

large number and range of events and activities are held on the Downs throughout the year which are supported by the Downs Team. Officers from the Events Team will assess the environmental impact of proposed events on the Downs.

In addition the Downs are protected by the following policies from the Local Plan:

- Policy NE2 Principal Landscape Features

Prominent or strategically important landscape features which make a significant contribution to the landscape character of the city, including green hillsides....gorges....will be protected.

- Policy NE5 Sites of Nature Conservation Interest

i) Sited of Nature Conservation Interest set out in the schedule and defined on the proposals map will be protected , having regard to the relative significance of their designation.

ii) Development which is likely to have an adverse effect on the nature conservation objectives or the integrity of a ...designated Special Area for Conservation...will not be permitted.

- Policy NE9 Historic Landscapes

Historic parks and gardens and other designed landscapes of national and local importance will be protected. Development which would adversely affect the character or appearance of historic landscapes and, in the case of nationally important sites, their settings, will not be permitted.

2.1.2 Area Green Space Plans

The Downs are included in the Area Green Space Plan for Henleaze, Westbury-on-Trym and Stoke Bishop. An area green space plan is both a spatial and investment plan for each Neighbourhood Partnership Area in the city.

Each plan sets the foundations for green space provision for the next 20 years and will outline where different types of facilities and space - such as children's playgrounds, young people's facilities, sports facilities, toilets etc - are to be located. Each plan will apply the standards and policies set out in the Parks and Green Space Strategy and ensure that the significant investment anticipated for green spaces is prioritised with the help of stakeholders and communities.

The Area Green Space Plan for Henleaze, Westbury-on-Trym and Stoke Bishop can be viewed at <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/agsp>

2.2 Bristol Strategic Context

This management plan complements the wider strategic context of Bristol City Council and its partners. It seeks to achieve the objectives of the strategic framework by translating those policies that are appropriate to the management of The Downs.

The management of the Downs has been governed and guided by local policies, strategies and Local Plan designations. These are listed in Appendix 1 along with regional and national policies that have guided the development of the The Downs Management Plan.

2.3 The Downs Policy

The policy that underpins everything concerning the management of the Downs is encapsulated in the subtitle of the Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861: which sets out the whole purpose of the existence of The Downs under the Act. That is: -

‘To enable the Corporation of the City of Bristol... to secure DURDHAM DOWN and CLIFTON DOWN as places for Public Recreation’.

The following wording within the preamble to the Act gives a little more detail.

- ‘...and both the same Downs have from time immemorial been open and largely resorted to as places of recreation for the inhabitants of Bristol and its neighbourhood, and it is expedient that they should be so maintained’.
- ‘...and shall ever hereafter remain open and unenclosed, and as a place for the public resort and recreation...’
- ‘...improvement and preservation of the said land and for best ensuring the public use and enjoyment thereof.’

The Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861 (copy available to view at Bristol Parks Office, Brunel House and on the Council’s website www.bristol.gov.uk/thedowns) sets out that a joint committee, to be called The Downs Committee, should be set up to be responsible for managing The Downs.

2.4 The Downs Committee

The committee has annual elections and meets 5 times a year. All meetings are open to the public to attend and they report their proceedings yearly to the Council and the Society respectively.

The Right Honourable Lord Mayor chairs the meeting. In his/her absence the Master of the Society of Merchant Venturers chairs the meeting.

2.4.1 The Structure of the Downs Committee

The act sets out the make-up of The Downs committee: -

- ‘...required, to nominate a Joint Committee for the management of both the said Downs, which Committee shall be called “The Downs Committee, and shall consist of the Mayor and six Members of the Council of the said city to be elected by the said Council, and of the Master and six Members of the Society (*of Merchant Venturers*) to be elected by the said Society, and five shall be a quorum of the committee...’
- ‘They shall cause entries or minutes as the case may be, of all their orders or proceedings to be entered in a book or books, to be kept for such purpose, which book or books shall be open at all reasonable times for the inspection of any member of the Council or Society respectively, without payment or fee; and such entries shall be signed by the chairman of the meeting at which such orders and proceedings were made; and such entries or minutes when so signed, shall be received as prima facie evidence of all such orders and proceedings in all Courts and places, and before all Judges, Justices and others whomsoever’.
- ‘They shall report their proceedings yearly to the Council and Society respectively’.

2.4.2 The Powers and Constraints of the Downs Committee

The act also sets out the powers of the committee: -

- ‘They may from time to time suggest for the approval of the Corporation and the Society respectively, such rules and Bye-Laws as they may deem expedient for carrying this Act into execution; and they shall carry into effect such Rules and Bye-Laws as shall be made.’
- ‘It shall be lawful for the Corporation acting by the Council of the said city, ...to make such rules and Bye-Laws as they shall think proper, and from time to time to alter or amend the same, for regulating, improving, and preserving Durdham Down and the Portion of Clifton Down coloured pink in the said plan, for enforcing such orders as the joint committee hereinafter mentioned may make in pursuance of this Act’.

- ...with the consent of the Commoners or others interested therein, to purchase or regulate the exercise of all commonable rights or other rights which may interfere with the enjoyment of either of the said Downs by the public; and that the Corporation and Society should participate in the management of both the said Downs.'
- '...it shall not be lawful for either the Corporation or the Society, after the passing of this Act to open or to work any new quarry upon the surface of Clifton Down, other than in the part coloured yellow in the said plan unless with the consent of the joint committee hereinafter mentioned, and subject to the said rules and byelaws it shall not be lawful for the Corporation to open or to work any new quarry upon the surface of Clifton Down'.
- 'They may open new roads in and over the said Downs, and from time to time may close the same, and they may close or divert any of the existing roads or ways, subject however as to any such last-mentioned roads or ways to any rights of way which may exist therein'.
- 'They may prevent all obstructions and nuisances, and from time to time remove any encroachments on the said Downs; they may erect thereon temporary fences for improving and preserving the turf and preventing injury thereto by carriages or horses and may from time to time direct what parts of the said Downs shall or shall not be used by carriages or horses' Note: - By section 256 of the Road Traffic Act 1960 a motor vehicle or trailer is deemed to be a carriage within the act of Parliament.
- 'They may drain, plant, and improve the said Downs, may inclose parts thereof for ornamental purposes only, and may appropriate portions thereof for particular purposes of recreation and exercise'.

There are also powers regarding the closing and filling of quarries – a number of which have been filled since 1861.

2.5 The Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project

The Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project was launched in 1999. It consists of a partnership of organisations who are working together to secure the outstanding wildlife interest of the Avon Gorge, Clifton and Durdham Downs. The Project also aims to raise awareness and understanding of this unique location and its importance for people and wildlife.

The Project holds regular steering group meetings which are attended by representatives of the partner organisations: Downs Committee, Bristol City Council, Bristol Conservation and Science Foundation, Bristol Zoo Gardens, Natural England, the Society of Merchant Venturers and the University of Bristol. The Project is co-ordinated by one of the Bristol City Council's Nature Conservation Officers and attended by the Downs Ranger.

The Project's roles include:

- surveying and monitoring the wildlife of the gorge and Downs,
- habitat management,
- delivery of a wildlife education programme.

The Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project is responsible for the implementation of the nature conservation and wildlife education actions within the Clifton and Durham Downs Management Plan and A Management Plan for the Bristol side of the Avon Gorge (2010). Downs Committee provide funding to support all of three of the Project's roles, thus allowing delivery of actions within the management plans.

As the Avon Gorge and Downs are contiguous sites, the two management plans are written so that some actions are complementary and shared.

The Project produces an Annual Review which is presented to Downs Committee each year.

2.6 The Commoners

The Commoners today have the right to graze sheep on Durdham Down but not Clifton Down. From 1851 - 1925 they employed a shepherd to look after their sheep but this has not been the case for over 80 years. At present the rights are maintained by tethering at least one sheep (with guardian) on the Downs for one day every 10 years.

There are presently 13 individuals and organisations that have grazing rights on the Downs with rights to graze a total of 1885 sheep.

- Badminton School Ltd.
- Bristol Corporation.
- Bristol University
- Clifton Theological College
- F.O.Wills, Esq.
- George James Esq.
- "Holmwood"
- Hornby's Dairies Ltd

- M.A. Wilson Esq.
- Personal representative of Hardwick Lloyd Hardwick Esq.
- Personal representative of Harold Gotch Robinson Esq.
- R.S. Redwood Esq.
- Trustees of St. Monica's Homes

The Commoners meet once per year.

2.7 The Green Flag Award

The Green Flag award scheme is a measure of the quality of the provision and management of parks and green spaces. It is an annual award that is administered by The Civic Trust. Applications are made in January when the management plan for the site is submitted for evaluation. If the management plan gains sufficient marks then an assessment of the site is made by (usually) two independent judges who evaluate the site using the following criteria: -

- A welcoming place;
- Healthy, safe and secure;
- Well-maintained and clean;
- Sustainability;
- Conservation and heritage;
- Community involvement;
- Marketing;
- Management.

The prestigious Green Flag was awarded to The Downs in 2007 and has been retained in subsequent years.

3.0 Site Description



| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Bristol City Council Neighbourhoods</p> <p>Clifton and Durham Downs Aerial View</p> | <p>The provision of information by Bristol City Council does not imply a right to reproduce or commercially exploit such information without the Council's express prior written permission. Reproduction or commercial exploitation of information provided by the Council without its express permission may be an infringement of copyright.</p> <p>The council is unable to grant permission to reproduce or re-use any material that is the property of third parties. Permission to reproduce or re-use such material must be obtained from the copyright holders.</p> |
| <p>© Crown Copyright and database right 2011. Ordnance Survey 100023406.</p> <p>ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE</p> <p>Scale : @A4 1:16,500 Date: 26/09/2011</p> |  <p>NEIGHBOURHOODS DIRECTORATE</p> <p>Environmental and Leisure Services Colston 33 Phone: 0117 922 3719 Colston Avenue bristolparks@bristol.gov.uk Bristol BS1 4UA www.bristol.gov.uk/parks</p> |

3.1 Name of the Site

The site is known as Clifton and Durdham Downs or 'The Downs'.

3.2 Location

See Map 2 Aerial View
Grid reference ST 567748
Area 178 Ha (442 acres)

3.3 Ownership

Durdham Down is owned by Bristol City Council and Clifton Down is owned by the Society of Merchant Venturers.

3.4 Site Summary

The Downs is a 178 Hectare (442 acre) plateau running roughly 3 kilometres along the north east – south west axis and approximately one kilometre wide at the widest point. It is bounded on the western boundary by the precipitous Avon Gorge. The north west and eastern boundaries have highways along most of their length with mainly very large 19th century houses and villas. Two major roads cross the site, the A4018 and Stoke Road. Ladies Mile is a road that almost forms a 'spine' down the centre of the site. It is well used by cars taking a short cut to avoid negotiating the road traffic islands at Blackboy Hill.

The majority of the site is fairly level grassland crossed by avenues of trees and roads. Football is played on a large part of the site in winter but there are also large areas of wildflower rich limestone grassland that are allowed to grow long during the summer months. The edge of the Gorge is very steep and whilst there are rocky and open grassy areas, large areas are clad with mainly self-sown deciduous trees and scrub forming secondary woodland. There is also a large amount of scrub and tree growth mainly in the south and eastern part of the site although a programme of work to reduce this will be implemented. Many ornamental trees have been planted in a naturalistic way in the north east. The most formal part is at the southern end where promenades were constructed and planted with both native and ornamental trees from the 1860s onwards.

3.5 History of The Site

Clifton and Durdham Downs are common land, and as such are a surviving rural fragment within Bristol's modern urban landscape. Their early history has been interpreted from a limited number of archaeological finds, and from Anglo Saxon charters and medieval deeds. By comparison the modern history is more certain and is supported by a particularly rich visual archive including numerous paintings, drawings and postcards.

The recent history of Clifton and Durdham Downs is in essence the history of change to their immediate surroundings. Threatened by rapid expansion of the city in the 19th century, farsighted and timely protection in the public interest secured the Downs in perpetuity. As the size of the surrounding population increased beyond recognition, Bristol's reliance on the Downs fundamentally evolved from agricultural need to social and recreational wants.

For further information about the varied history of the Downs please visit www.bristol.gov.uk/thedowns - Clifton and Durdham Downs: A Landscape History.

3.6 Heritage Values

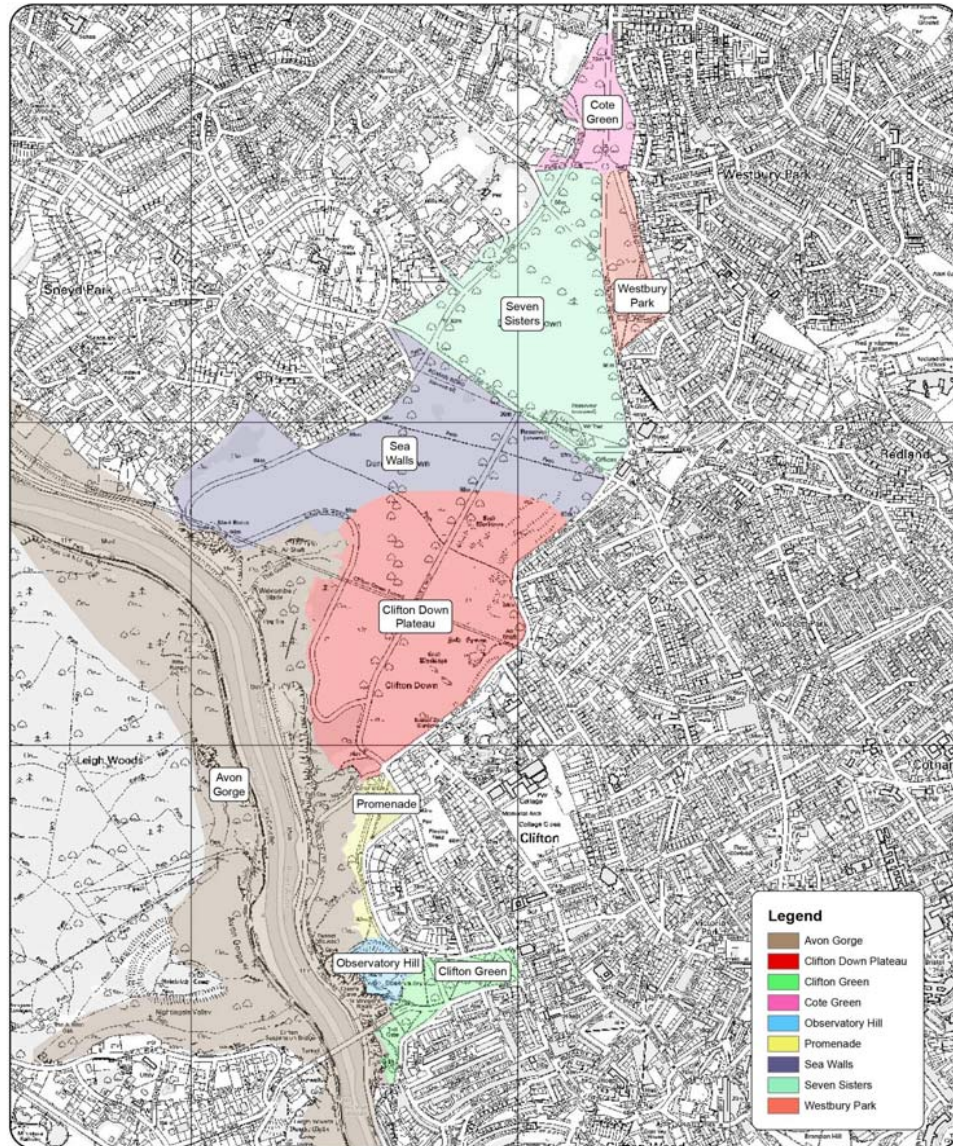
3.6.1 Landscape Character Assessment

A Landscape Character Assessment has been carried out on the Downs. Note that most of the information relating to The Gorge is outside the scope of this management plan. However, part of the 'Avon Gorge Sides' is included within The Downs. A separate assessment has been made of the Avon Gorge and there is an overlapping Management Plan for the Gorge which is available to view at www.bristol.gov.uk/thedowns. The immediate result of the assessment was to identify nine separate character areas within the area of The Downs.

- Cote Green
- Westbury Park
- Seven Sisters
- Seawalls
- Clifton Down Plateau
- Promenade
- Observatory Hill

- Clifton Green
- Avon Gorge (only part of which is encompassed by the 1861 Act and is included in this management plan)

Each of the 9 areas identified was then subjected to a 'Strengths, Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats' (SWOT) analysis. A number of recommendations from this were included in the consultation process and have subsequently been incorporated into the 5-year work plan.



Bristol City Council
Neighbourhoods

Landscape Character
Appraisal

The provision of information by Bristol City Council does not imply a right to reproduce or commercially exploit such information without the Council's express prior written permission. Reproduction or commercial exploitation of information provided by the Council without its express permission may be an infringement of copyright.

The council is unable to grant permission to reproduce or re-use any material that is the property of third parties. Permission to reproduce or re-use such material must be obtained from the copyright holders.

© Crown Copyright and
 database right 2011.
 Ordnance Survey 100023406.

ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

Scale: @A4 1:14,544
 Date: 12/10/2011



NEIGHBOURHOODS
 DIRECTORATE

Environmental and Leisure Services
 Colston 33 Phone: 0117 922 3719
 Colston Avenue bristolparks@bristol.gov.uk
 Bristol BS1 4UA www.bristol.gov.uk/parks

3.7 Natural Heritage

Clifton and Durdham Downs lie on an extensive Carboniferous Limestone ridge, running northeast from Clevedon to north Bristol. This ridge has been split by the River Avon, which has cut sharply through the Carboniferous Limestone to form the deep, narrow Gorge that contrasts with the flat-topped form of the adjacent Downs plateau.

The Tickenham Ridge chiefly comprises limestone sediments that were compressed and uplifted, about 290 million years ago, forming a series of parallel folds across the Bristol district.

Subsequent erosion processes have since exposed the summits of the earlier upland landscape. The shallow calcareous soils covering much of The Downs plateau have developed through weathering of the underlying Carboniferous Limestone. The soil type has in turn influenced the types and patterns of vegetation that naturally establish, and consequently the nature and intensity of historic human land use.

At about 7500-5000BC the edges of The Downs and Gorge were likely to have been covered by 'wildwood' (*Micklewright and Frost, 1987*). In the places where the slopes were too steep, or soil too thin, to support woodland vegetation, a sparser herbaceous/ grassland flora is likely to have established. Remnants of the historic woodland and grassland communities are still evident today in parts of the Gorge slopes.

3.7.1 Woodland, Trees and Scrub

Overview

Whilst the character of Clifton and Durdham Downs has changed, trees are still a major feature. The tree landscape as seen today is dominated by the early plantings of The Downs Committee, which started in the 1880's.

Early planting included the formation of tree avenues along Westbury Road, Stoke Road, Saville Road and Ladies Mile (which in themselves now form one of the distinct features of the Downs).

Woodland planting can be found towards the gorge on the western boundaries of The Downs, and areas of scrubland can now be found in the western sections and to the north of Clifton Down Road.

Woodland

Woodland is the dominant vegetation type on the western boundary of The Downs, concentrated on the slopes of the Avon Gorge. Elsewhere on The Downs the plateau, smaller clumps of woodland have developed from maturing scrub. The area of woodland on The Downs has increased significantly over the last century as grazing by domestic animals ceased allowing woodland to colonise the ground.

Native tree and scrub species predominate with species suited to the calcareous (alkaline) soils. Ash, field maple, whitebeam, hazel and wych elm are common with occasional oak, hornbeam and beech. Non-native sycamore and holm oak also freely regenerate having been introduced to the area in the 19th century. Austrian Pine was planted in the gully and elsewhere on the gorge to 'beautify' the Downs in the late 1880s in line with current thinking at that time.

The majority of woodland on The Downs is subject to minimal management interventions at present. Trees have been allowed to mature and die, and where there is no significant health and safety issue, areas have been left to regenerate naturally. However, where close to roads, site boundaries and pathways, trees are periodically inspected and worked on to reduce risk to site users and neighbours.

In future the same approach to tree risk zoning needs to be applied to woodland areas, whereby inspection cycles will range from two to five years (see 7.3.8). There is also a need to look more carefully at the management needs of the woodland on The Downs to reflect landscape, wildlife and recreational interest (see actions in section 7.3 of the 5 Year Work Plan).

Work Plan

There has been the selective removal of trees and shrubs in the Gully as part of restoration works to open up this area and help link fragmented areas of valuable limestone grassland - helping to encourage the spread of gorge rarities such as dwarf and fingered sedge. Future restoration works in the Gully are guided by the Avon Gorge Management Plan 2010 (see www.bristol.gov.uk/thedowns). The Avon Gorge Management Plan will guide the management of those parts of The Downs (covered by the Downs Act) that are considered an integral part of the gorge, and as such there is some overlap between the two plans and shared actions.

Number and Distribution of Trees

There are over 2294 trees growing on The Downs plateau. This does not include woodland trees along the broad and densely wooded edges of the Avon Gorge.

Elm was originally planted predominantly, with substantial quantities of horse chestnut and lime. However the species mix has changed in the past 30 years as the result of elm disease killing most of the elm population.

The majority of the present trees on The Downs are young to middle-aged and in good health. Older trees include grazed hawthorn (possibly 100-200 years of age), one remaining Huntington elm and trees from the original avenue plantings that include many beech trees.

Current Maintenance Regimes and Costs

The Council is currently assessing all areas of The Downs and will divide it into areas called Location Risk Zones (LRZ). The grade depending on the number of persons who are likely to come in contact with a risk per day due to their geographic location, e.g. close to the highway compared to the middle of a wood with no paths. The LRZ is independent of any risks that may be present on the site.

Currently, in order to pro-actively manage the trees the Downs Ranger and an Arboricultural Officer undertake two annual visits to identify any urgent tree work that needs to be undertaken.

Pests and diseases:

Elm disease has already altered the landscape of large areas of the country including the Downs by killing so many trees. The effects of such pests and diseases are most dramatic where there are large numbers of a single species of tree. At present there are a variety of diseases affecting horse chestnuts around the country. At the current time these diseases are not showing increased mortality in the older horse chestnuts

In the short term the situation will be monitored. In the long term it would be beneficial to ensure that the tree species planted on The Downs in future is varied to avoid 'monoculture' type problems.

Outline Plan for Tree Management

Dutch Elm Disease -

In the past there were a number of elms growing on The Downs. It is a tree that is suited to the site but unfortunately Dutch Elm Disease (DED) became widespread across the country in the mid 1970s and 'decimated' the elm population in Britain. There are a few elm trees left on The Downs, some of which are re-growth (suckers) from the stumps of trees that have been felled in the past. Many of these suckers are now infected with DED and should be removed in order to reduce the incidence of both the disease (which is a fungus) and the population of a beetle that transmits it. It is believed that there are not many elm trees growing in the immediate area surrounding The Downs and it may be possible to eradicate or at least substantially reduce the incidence of DED so as to allow elms to once again be planted on The Downs in the future. Therefore the following actions are proposed.

All previously infected trees where re- growth is showing symptoms of the disease, will be identified and removed and the stumps either ground out or treated with Amcide, Garlon or Roundup.

All remaining Elm trees will be mapped and then inspected during the main infection period, which is from June to September. The in house staff will ensure a swift response if infection is found, the trees will be removed and disposed of within 4/6 weeks to keep the fungus carrying beetle population low (see 7.3.10).

Avenue Plantings:

In order to retain the tree avenue it will be necessary to replant at some time. It is possible to replant gaps created in the existing avenues where trees have been lost. This would mean using the existing tree species as replacements. However this can look odd if the ages (sizes)

and types of trees in an avenue are significantly different. The alternatives are to fell and replant in situ or to plant a replacement avenue beside the existing ones. The existing trees to be removed as they become unsustainable.

- Continued inspection and proactive management of The Downs Tree Stock in line with the risk management strategy (see 7.3.8).
- Prepare a tree-planting plan for The Downs to include options for replanting with existing or new species to fill gaps within existing avenue planting and / or phased felling and replanting of the horse-chestnut avenues (see 7.3.9).

Note that the whole of the area of The Downs is a conservation area.

Scrub

Scrub is an important component of The Downs landscape. It includes all stages from scattered bushes in grassland to closed canopy vegetation, dominated by shrubs and tree saplings. Low dense scrub is of maximum value for most invertebrates and nesting birds.

In Britain, most of the landscape would be woodland if not for the activities of man. Scrub is a natural progression between grassland to woodland. If it is not managed scrub will eventually develop into woodland.

Available records show that The Downs has 'always' been managed by grazing cattle and sheep. This means that it would have been predominantly grassland with a few Hawthorn or Gorse shrubs. In the past, scrub was managed (kept in check) by grazing.

To help understand how scrub, in all its guises, should be managed, all existing and historic scrub / woodland areas have been surveyed and detailed management proposals drawn up reflecting landscape character, wildlife and recreational interests of people (see 7.3.1).

Benefits of Scrub

- As a landscape feature to frame views or block intrusive views such as cars.
- To provide variation and relief from the very open grassland landscape on the plateau.
- To provide habitat for insects, birds and plants that do not inhabit open grassland.
- To provide warmth, shelter, and variations in grassland habitats by acting as a windbreak and casting shade. This also applies to humans visiting The Downs.

Scrub Management

Scrub is a transitional landscape and will disappear if not managed. The spaces between the woody plants are just as important as the woody plants themselves. This is true from both a landscape and wildlife perspective. If it is not managed, the spaces in between the shrubs disappears first (loss of some herbaceous species) and then the larger woody types (trees) dominate with a consequential loss of some small woody species and herbs.

The existing landscape character will be lost and the diversity of wild species will be diminished if scrub is not managed. It can be demonstrated that there has been considerable scrub encroachment in the past by looking at original paintings, and old postcards. The use of aerial photography between 1941 and 2004 shows that it is still encroaching today.

In order to manage the existing scrub and ensure that it does not develop into woodland a mapping and recording exercise was completed and used to inform The Downs Committee of the best way to manage the scrub in the future. Clearance works have been completed at Circular Road. Phased works are under way (September 2011) on the Zoo banks and at the Iron Age Fort (see 7.3.1, 7.3.2 and 7.3.7).

3.7.2 Habitats

The Downs Plateau

The majority of The Downs is covered in grassland. The grassland is of varied nature conservation interest, owing to the past management it has received.

Relatively large areas of unimproved calcareous grassland can be found on The Downs – these are grasslands, which have not been fertilised, ploughed or treated with herbicides. They are the richest botanically and as such are of the highest nature conservation value. They contain a range of characteristic species including harebell (locally uncommon), wild thyme, kidney vetch (locally uncommon), stemless thistle, yellow wort (locally uncommon) dropwort (locally scarce), bee orchid (locally uncommon) and common spotted orchid.

Also present are a number of areas of semi-improved grassland - these are grasslands that have had low or ineffective treatments or fertilisers or herbicides. Perennial rye grass is more abundant, the herb species listed above are either absent or present in very small numbers, but other species such as ladies bedstraw, bird's foot trefoil and salad burnet survive and may be abundant.

The large expanse of surviving unimproved and semi-improved grassland is exceptionally unusual and these areas of The Downs are of very high nature conservation value. It is of note that The Downs are recognised as containing one of the biggest extents of calcareous grassland, outside of the Mendips. Their wildlife value is increased by the proximity to the valuable habitats of the Avon Gorge (see below).

Large areas of the unimproved grassland are managed as a hay / wildflower meadow cut that is designed to allow as many of the plants as possible to flower and set seed. This allows them to reproduce through seed, attracts associated insects and creates an attractive landscape feature. A number of fixed quadrats were set up in 2003 to monitor any changes in the species of plant population. In 2006 it was agreed to move away from this system and to monitor species over wider areas of hay cut to inform the management of those areas. Not all the unimproved grassland is managed in this way. This is because there are calls for other uses / activities on The Downs and long grass may either prevent those uses e.g. sport or it can form a barrier to free and easy access, especially when it is wet. The previous plan set out to explore if it was possible to increase the amount of meadow area without interfering with other users of the Downs , in order to create larger continuous areas of wildflower meadow. As a result the area of wildflower meadow was successfully increased, with new areas created towards Stoke Road. A further review of meadow management on the Downs should be conducted during the lifetime of this plan to investigate if further potential exists to create new areas of meadow in carefully selected areas (see 7.4.1 and 7.4.2).

In 2009 and 2010 measures were undertaken to enhance the meadow near Whitetree Roundabout, by importing hay rich in hay rattle from other areas of the Downs with the aim of getting hay rattle established here. The hay rattle is known to suppress grasses giving wildflowers a competitive advantage. The success of the scheme needs to be monitored and reviewed.

Mowing is one way to maintain flower rich grasslands and associated wildlife. Grazing is another and was how the Downs was managed historically.

Some areas of wildflower meadow have suffered from erosion by joggers and hurdles have been erected to limit this problem. These hurdles need to be maintained in the long term to contain this problem and the situation monitored to determine if further prevention action is needed.

The remaining areas of grassland are improved, they have been ploughed up, reseeded with rye grass or received heavy applications of herbicides or fertilisers in the past. They are dominated by perennial rye grass with herbs presently restricted to common species such as creeping buttercup and common daisy. They can be considered of low nature conservation interest.

The other vegetation types found on The Downs are scrub and secondary woodland. The Scrub contains some valuable old hawthorn shrubs and a good variety of woody species including dogwood and wild privet. The tree species are a mixture of native and introduced species and in places are isolated specimen trees but elsewhere have formed patches of secondary woodland. The ground flora is not diverse and is generally dominated by ivy.

The Downs (Gorge side)

The Gorge is regarded as one of the top five botanical sites in the country; supporting an outstanding range of 27 nationally rare and scarce plant species, associated with the limestone grassland communities present on the rocky outcrops and grassy slopes.

On the area of the Gorge that falls within the remit of this plan, known as the Gully plant species present include: Bristol onion (Red Data Book Species (RDB)) for which the Avon Gorge is only British Mainland site, Bristol rock-cress (RDB species) for which the Gorge is only British site, Dwarf sedge (Nationally Scarce), Honewort (RDB species), Bristol whitebeam (RDB) – endemic to Gorge, Compact brome (RDB) Wilmott's whitebeam (RDB endemic), Dwarf mouse - ear (Nationally scarce), spring cinquefoil (Nationally scarce) fingered sedge (Nationally scarce) and Nit grass (RDB).

While once widespread on the gorge, the limestone grassland has become scarce due to the encroachment of scrub and trees following the cessation of grazing in the 1920s. The Avon Gorge Management Plan sets out the long term management of the nature conservation interest of the gorge.

As part of the overall management of the gorge, work has been undertaken in the Gully to restore limestone grassland here where it existed before. This has been achieved by linking up small isolated pockets of grassland throughout the removal of trees and scrub. In June 2011 a small herd of six feral goats were introduced to help control the scrubby regrowth. The goats were chosen because they are good at controlling scrubby vegetation and suit the steep and difficult terrain.

Prior to their introduction the few rare whitebeams that occur in the gully were fenced to protect them from browsing. A fenced exclusion area was also provided to allow for the growth of new whitebeam seedlings.

A monitoring programme has been put in place (see 7.4.3 and 7.4.6) to measure and record the effects of grazing and rare plant recovery. The goat grazing is planned for an initial period of 5 years, after which it will be reviewed.

Secondary woodland (areas that at some time in the past has been cleared of trees) is also present and supports mature ash with scattered yew, wych elm, pendunculate oak and holm oak. Pine trees are also present, small leaved lime occurs to the west of the area, where there are also scattered Bristol Whitebeam. The understory includes hazel, English elm, dog rose and field maple.

The Avon Gorge Management Plan recognises that there is the on-going need to make safe, or remove dangerous trees where they occur next to roads or footpaths. Otherwise currently woodland management on the gorge side is not considered an immediate priority. However to help understand how the woodland should be managed in future, further studies are needed to enable management proposals to be drawn up reflecting its landscape character, wildlife and amenity value.

It is proposed to consider further areas of the Downs where additional grazing may be feasible and to look at possible alternatives in terms of types of livestock that might best meet the requirements for scrub control on the Downs. (See 7.4.4)

3.7.3 Species

Flora – please see descriptions above.

Bristol rock cress and compact brome (RDB species) also occur at Observatory Hill. Other locally uncommon species present include fiddle dock, basil thyme, Pale St. John's Wort, squirrel tailed fescue, fern grass, carline thistle, heath grass, yellow rattle, wild clary and common storks bill.

Fauna

Invertebrates

24 species of butterfly have been recorded on The Downs plateau including marbled white, meadow brown, small copper, ringlet and holly blue. Small and chalkhill blue have been recorded in the Gully. Other invertebrates present include burnet, cinnabar, vapourer and silver Y moths, dark and speckled bush crickets, field and meadow grasshoppers and Common darter and Emperor dragonflies.

The Avon Gorge is nationally recognised for its invertebrate populations – it is identified as a Grade A site (of national importance for invertebrate conservation), in the Invertebrate Site Register. The Gully is listed separately as a Grade B site in its own right. Species present include Silky Wave Moth (for which the Gorge is only one of three sites in the country where it is found), *Abida secale* (a large chrysalis snail) – nationally scarce, the Hill Cuckoo-bee (nationally scarce) and the lesser bulb fly (nationally scarce).

Birds

The Downs support a large number of bird species. Over 65 different kinds of birds use The Downs. Breeding birds include common birds like blackbirds, robins and chiffchaffs as well as green woodpecker, song thrushes, gold crests, and bullfinches. Other birds that regularly use The Downs include rooks, herring and lesser black-backed gull, sparrow hawk and winter migrants such as redwing, and fieldfares. Peregrine falcons may be viewed from the Peregrine watch point on The Downs.

It is not certain what effects the present management regimes will have in the long term on the flora and fauna of The Downs and therefore a monitoring programme is being implemented to inform the managers' decision making for future maintenance (see 7.4.3).

3.8 Cultural Heritage

The driving forces that created The Downs as a place of public recreation were increasing urbanisation, population rise and increasing concerns about the physical and mental health of the population in the mid 19th century.

Very little has changed and these same forces are the ones that drive the need to manage The Downs as well as possible, to fulfil the recreational needs of the population and to preserve The Downs for future generations. Demands will change e.g. cars replaced carriages, horse racing is no longer popular on The Downs and play equipment and board skating have been invented.

Present day social and cultural activities include casual sport, organised sport, kite flying, picnicing, dog walking, informal play, horse riding, educational workshops and activities and many organised events.

As the role of the Friends Group evolves it is proposed to utilise volunteers to monitor the varied, multiple and sometimes conflicting ways that visitors use the Downs (see 7.6.2).

3.9 Built Heritage

3.9.1 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

There are two scheduled ancient monuments on the Downs. One is the Roman Road on Durdham Down (BS88) and the other is the Clifton Down Camp, Clifton (BS29), an Iron Age fort with overlying medieval Fields System.

Their condition was assessed in 2006 by Melanie Barge of English Heritage (EH). EH have allocated all scheduled ancient monuments into low, medium and high-risk categories. The Iron Age Camp is medium risk.

The Iron Age camp has well-preserved ramparts especially on the northern side and is at medium risk of damage from the roots of trees and shrubs. Therefore in the long-term the aim is to return the whole area of the scheduled ancient monument to grassland. The first objective is to remove as much scrub as possible and to return the area to grass with trees.

Existing large trees will have already done irredeemable damage and so it is not necessary to fell them. However, they must be managed in such a way that they never blow over and create more damage through wind-blow lifting the root-plates from the soil. The trees will be managed for the rest of their natural life but will never be replaced.

The major issues are: -

- Scrub and trees need to be removed and the ramparts allowed to revert to grassland to prevent any further damage to the monument through root activity.

- Lack of provision of interpretation boards / leaflets. There is nothing to inform the public that they are walking through a protected prehistoric fortified enclosure/hill fort. This can lead to inappropriate activities such as eroding the banks through the use of 'mountain' bikes, due to a lack of understanding and appreciation of the Ancient Monument.

Restrictions for working on the ancient monuments are that the scrub can be removed by hand without the need for scheduled consent.

In March 2010 the Downs Committee endorsed a proposed scheme of works to manage scrub at Clifton Camp. This scheme of proposed works was then part of a public consultation exercise to explain to the public the need for the removal of vegetation and scrub and how this will help to retain and conserve Clifton Camp as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Information panels were produced to explain the damage caused by scrub and tree growth around the SAM, the process for scrub removal and the historical and archaeological importance of Clifton Camp. Please see actions 7.3.3 and 7.3.4 of the work plan. The panels will be installed as part of an overall improvement to all Interpretation panels once funding becomes available.

Part of the consultation process in October 2010 include a Geophysical survey of Clifton Camp by Archeoscan assisted by twelve Year 7 students from Ashton Park school. There were also guided walks on the ecology and archaeology of the site throughout the week long consultation. Follow up survey sessions were held in May 2011 as part of the Downs 150 Celebrations which also involved members of FoDAG and resulted in the completion of the geo physics survey of Clifton Camp. The report can be viewed at www.bristol.gov.uk/thedowns.

The Roman road on Durdham Down (Via Julia)

This short section of well-preserved upstanding earthwork is considered to be low risk. It is currently well managed under grassland and has no issues relating to it. However, it is important that in the future there is no disturbance of the soil through planting or provision of seats etc. This also applies to the unscheduled portions of the road that are known to exist and are believed to be in good condition.

3.9.2 Listed Buildings

There are the following listed buildings / structures on the Downs. All are the responsibility of The Downs Committee (or English Heritage) to maintain unless indicated otherwise in brackets below:

- Alderman Proctor's Drinking Fountain – Clifton Down - ST5662, 7385
- Clifton Observatory (Private ownership) – ST5657, 7326
- Drinking fountain - approx 40m south of Towerhirst on Clifton Down - ST 5596, 7475
- Drinking fountain - approx 30m NW of No.12 Gloucester Row - ST 5677, 7321
- Drinking fountain - Stoke Road - ST 5712, 7496
- K6 telephone kiosk ST5677, 7318 - near junction with Sion Place (British Telecom)

- Memorial to the 79th Regiment – Clifton Green -ST5696, 7328
- Monument to William Pitt, Earl of Chatham – Clifton Green - ST5698, 7328
- Railway tunnel ventilation tower (Railtrack) – Clifton Down ST5697, 7431

3.9.3 Non Listed Buildings and Structures

There are also the following non-listed buildings/structures on The Downs. All are the maintenance responsibility of The Downs Committee to maintain unless indicated otherwise in brackets below:

- Changing Rooms – Stoke Road – ST5710, 7501
- Drinking Fountain - Pembroke Road – ST5703 - 7431
- Lectern - Sion Hill – ST5662, 7301
- Shelter (Maintained by the Old Sneed Park Residents Association) - Stoke Road – 5723, 5723, 7486
- Shelter - White Tree Westbury Road – 5729, 7577
- Tea Rooms (Leased out to a private company until 2025) - Stoke Road – ST5708, 7502
- The Downs Haven Shelter – The top of Blackboy Hill – ST5734, 7489
- The Pound – Depot – ST5687, 7427
- Thomas Memorial – The top of Blackboy Hill – ST5735, 7481
- Toilets - Sea Walls – ST5595, 7477
- Toilets - Stoke Road – ST5719, 7494
- Toilets - Suspension Bridge Road – 5666, 7320
- War Memorial, Stoke Hill – 5661, 7530
- Water Tower – Stoke Road (Bristol Water) – ST5717, 7497

3.9.4 Park Furniture

At present there are varying types and styles of park furniture around the Downs, including seats, signs, bins etc. Since 2008 park seats have been standardised with a design replicating an elegant style previously installed at the Downs and redundant seats removed as they come to the end of their life (see 7.3.5 and 7.3.6).

3.10 Legal Agreements

There are various way-leaves, easements and underground services, which have been granted to statutory undertakers relating to gas, electricity, water access etc.

3.10.1 Licenses / Management Agreements

- Four Ice cream vans 3-year lease held with one concession holder.
- One Tearoom. A 21 year lease from 2004 – 2025
- One mobile catering concession at Parry's Lane. A 3-year lease.
- Light refreshments are also available at the Observatory Tower.
- The permanent car park for the Zoo is licensed from the Downs Committee.
- There is also an annual agreement with the Zoo to use a grass area on the Downs for car parking on up to c.68 days per year.

4.0 Community Use

4.1 Consultation

Three consultation exercises were completed prior to the initial Downs Management Plan being written in 2001, 2004 and 2006. The themes for the 2006 survey were drawn from the results of the 2001 and 2004 surveys and explored users' views on particular issues raised in the preceding surveys. The findings of the 2006 survey on options for inclusion in a 5 year work plan were incorporated into the original Downs Management Plan.

More recently in October 2010 a week long consultation event was held in order to engage and inform the public about the proposed work to manage scrub and vegetation around Clifton Camp and to increase people's understanding and perception of the significance of Clifton Camp. An important part of this consultation exercise was the production of 2 information panels regarding the Clifton Camp area one about its historical and archaeological importance and one regarding the process of managing scrub in such a sensitive area.

4.2 Community Groups

4.2.1 Friends of The Downs and Avon Gorge (FoDAG)

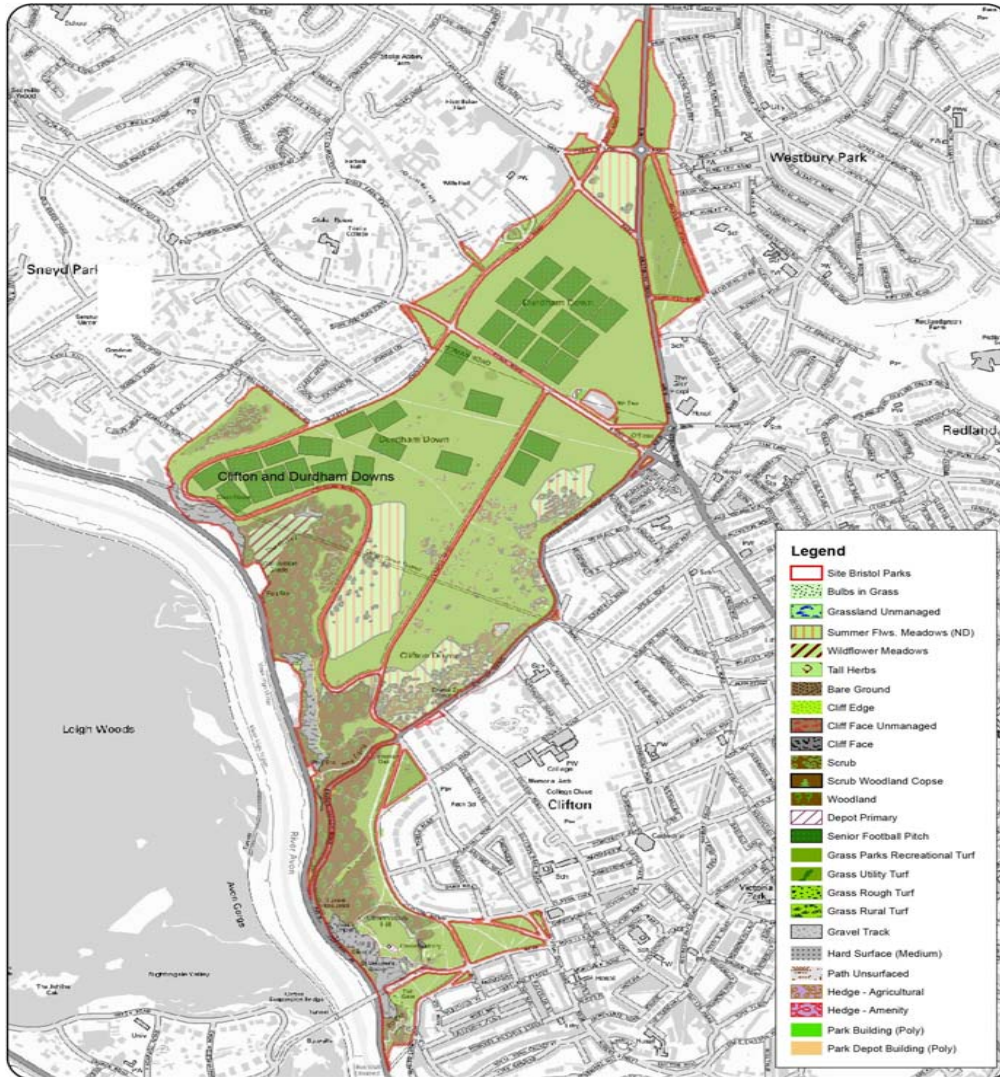
The Friends of The Downs and Avon Gorge (FoDAG) were formed in 2008. The group are actively involved in many events and ongoing activities that include deep litter collections, regular butterfly and mammal surveys, assistance in monitoring the feral goats and various walks activities and educational events held throughout the year. FoDAG has over 100 members and the main aims of the group are:

- to initiate, promote, support and conduct activities that will: enhance the overall and several distinct environments within the Downs and Gorge and : deepen understanding of the history, natural history and evolving social use of the Downs and Gorge and:
- to provide argued and, where appropriate and possible, evidence based commentaries and position papers, as and when requested, on all aspects of the Downs and Gorge use; both on long term issues or as contemporary needs arise.

In 2011 FoDAG were instrumental in the organisation of a Victorian themed picnic held on the Downs to celebrate the 150 years since the signing of the Downs Act in 1861. The event was supported by The Downs Committee and BCC. As part of these celebrations members of FoDAG were also involved in a project with local schools to create an anthology of children's writing about the Downs and display of childrens artwork.

Insert more photos of Downs 150 event or other activities undertaken by FoDAG.

4.3 Visitor Facilities



Bristol City Council
Neighbourhoods

Clifton and Durham Downs
Asset Plan

The provision of information by Bristol City Council does not imply a right to reproduce or commercially exploit such information without the Council's express prior written permission. Reproduction or commercial exploitation of information provided by the Council without its express permission may be an infringement of copyright.

The council is unable to grant permission to reproduce or re-use any material that is the property of third parties. Permission to reproduce or re-use such material must be obtained from the copyright holders.



© Crown Copyright and
database right 2011.
Ordnance Survey 100023406.

ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

Scale : @A4 1:14,000
Date: 26/09/2011



NEIGHBOURHOODS
DIRECTORATE

Environmental and Leisure Services
Colston 33 Phone: 0117 922 3719
Colston Avenue bristolparks@bristol.gov.uk
Bristol BS1 4UA www.bristol.gov.uk/parks

The original function of The Downs was similar to a country park i.e. countryside on the edge of the urban area. Now it is totally within the urban city boundary but the 'country park' function remains unchanged. Therefore, the facilities are in keeping with its function.

- Car parking is usually very easy and is available on most of the highways surrounding and crossing the site. In the summer months there is additional car parking available for the Zoo between Ladies Mile and Zoo Banks.
- 1 tearoom (with toilets)
- 1 mobile food kiosk
- 4 ice cream pitches
- 3 public toilets
- Football changing rooms
- Interpretation / information boards
- A range of leaflets and nature trails
- 1 children's play area
- Trim Trail
- 3 shelters
- 2 drinking fountains (Proctors and Seawalls)
- c.300 benches, 1 litter bin, and 21 dog waste bins
- Web sites to help visitors plan their visit

Note: - In response to public opinion 8 dual use bins were introduced in 2009/10.

The existing café at Stoke Road is very popular all year round. It is also close to one of the public toilets, the sports changing rooms and the events area. A number of leaflets regarding the Downs can be picked up from here. It is one of the very heavily used areas on The Downs. Therefore it has been decided to investigate if better use can be made of the facilities in this area through a review of the buildings (see 7.1.7).

The second heavily used area is Sea Walls where there are views of the Gorge, interpretation signs and a second public toilet. It has also been decided to investigate if better facilities can be provided at this area in future. This would require the agreement of the Secretary of State due to the wording on the 1861 Downs Act (see 7.1.8 and 7.1.9.and 7.1.10).

4.4 Access

The Downs are 'open' and accessible to the public at all times (small areas may be fenced off for events for short periods of time). This is a fundamental right enshrined by law in the Downs Act 1861 and underlined by the fact that the land is designated as Open Access Land under the CRow Act 2000.

Signage from the surrounding area

The Parks and Green Space Strategy (see section 2.1.1) includes a concept of 'major parks'. That is those areas that serve the whole community of the city and surrounding area. It is considered that all destination parks should eventually be signposted through the use of brown information / directional signs. The Downs is considered to be one of the destination parks and will be included in this initiative (see 7.2.7).

Disabled Access

At present whilst The Downs are easily accessible by everyone, there is no specific assistance for the disabled except for toilets at Stoke Road, Seawalls, and Suspension Bridge Road however, see 7.2.1, 7.2.3 and 7.2.6. An officer in the Equalities Department of Bristol City Council has made initial inspection of The Downs from an access point of view. The recommendations are that the following should be looked at more closely :-

- Road crossings – safety and frequency
- Seating and signage – not frequent enough so that visitors know the availability and location of facilities.
- Location of attractions and a lack of extensive interpretation.
- A TRO is to be applied for, this will permit parking for the disabled at selected locations.

Roads

The Downs are surrounded and criss-crossed by a number of roads including Ladies Mile Road (See map 4) Many drivers ignore the 30 MPH Speed limits. This detracts from the enjoyment of many users of the Downs because of :-

- Worries about the safety of children and dogs
- Noise of traffic
- Intrusion into the landscape through parking

Therefore it has been agreed to investigate ways to control traffic and parking issues on the Downs. FoDAG carry out surveys of traffic movements and parking around the Downs and regularly update the Downs Committee (see 7.5.2. and 7.5.3.)

Paths

The majority of the footpaths are adopted highway and are maintained by Bristol City Council Highways section. The Downs Committee maintains the paths that are not adopted highways.

Many of the surfaced footpaths on Durdham Downs are near or within the gradient standard of the Council adopted Environment Access Standards. Clifton Down though has steeper gradients but there are either none or only occasional steps and there are only a few locations where there are tactile dropped kerbs. The unevenness of the path at the edge of The Gorge, where there are outstanding views may be a deterrent to some visitors. However, the path is risk assessed regularly and is considered to be safe (see 7.2.4 and 7.2.5).

Cycling

There is one, off road cycle path that runs from Saville Road to Stoke Road adjacent to the Water Tower. There is a byelaw prohibiting cycling on all footpaths, woodland and the grass areas of The Downs. However, people do access the Downs by cycle and there is a demand for safe cycle parking (see 7.2.2).

Public Transport

The Downs can be reached easily by the local bus network or by trains to Clifton Down station.

Cars/Motor Cycles

The Downs can be accessed by car or motorcycle. There is plenty of legal on-the-road parking available and temporary designated grassland parking for the Zoo and some of the major events. Temporary parking areas are identified by signs and boundary fencing or ropes. There is a byelaw prohibiting driving onto or parking on all footpaths and the grass areas of The Downs (see 7.5.5).

Horse Riding

Horse riding is permitted on parts of The Downs but is prohibited on the areas that are used for football and in the area from Bridge Valley Road to the Suspension Bridge. Horse riding is allowed on the perimeter of the Plateau area (around the football pitches) except on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

4.5 Sport

Formal Sport

Over the past 200 years or so, many different organised sports have been played on The Downs including boxing, horse racing, polo (before 1897), croquet (1903) cricket (<1819 – 1945), tennis (1920) and baseball 1937. The only one now catered for is football (see 7.6.3 and 7.6.4).

However, whilst rock climbing is 'informal', sponsored abseiling is only allowed twice per month and must be booked through the events licensing officer.

The Downs has its own football league that plays on Saturdays. The league has existed for over 100 years and plays nowhere else. In addition, The University also play football on the Downs, usually on Wednesdays.

There are 32 pitches available for play at any one time. 31 are normally marked out with one rested. Their condition is acceptable to the league but could not be compared to professionally constructed pitches. The surface undulates with the 'natural' ground levels and in places the soil is very thin. It is necessary at times to top-dress them or to raise small areas where sinkage occurs (see 7.6.3). The short turf also suits some of the natural flora. Under the present maintenance regime it is not possible for most of them to flower and therefore it has been decided to investigate ways of satisfying both the footballers and the wildlife enthusiasts. Areas currently managed as meadows could be extended or consideration given to additional areas not currently maintained for sports use (see 7.4.2). Changing rooms located close to the café are provided. However, at present they are only suitable for single gender use (see 7.1.2).

Informal Sport

If there are people on The Downs then there will be informal sporting activity. This is at the heart of what The Downs are for. There may be family groups playing with a Frisbee, impromptu teams of students playing football, organised teams training, and individuals jogging around the area. Jogging is so popular that an informal jogging trail has been created around The Downs through pressure of use. Some people consider it to be unsightly and possibly damaging the flora. Hurdles have been erected in some sensitive areas to prevent erosion and protect rare plants. These hurdles need to be maintained and the situation monitored to determine if further action is needed (see 7.6.1).

There are no facilities for these activities other than the toilets, drinking fountains and tearoom / mobile catering unit. The natural feel of The Downs is one of its main attractions. There are other sites in the city that provide for e.g. BMX bikes, or floodlit multiplay areas.

Individuals can rock climb or abseil on the rock face of the gorge from The Downs. However, organisations often hold abseiling events for charity. These groups are charged the charity rate for this.

4.6 Events

The Downs is an ideal venue for many events and they have been held on The Downs for over 200 years. Events are undoubtedly popular and an important element in the social and recreational use of The Downs. Events are also an important fund raising exercise. (See section 5.4). However, consultation has shown that whilst some people consider that events should be expanded, which could mean more people

more often on The Downs, others considered that there are already too many at present. This view is often concerned with traffic, parking, noise and what is seen as damage. At present there are no music events held on The Downs due to concerns over noise.

In 2010 there were over 25 official events held over the year (not including AGWP events). They range in size and complexity from large events, such as Funderworld, a caravan and motoring show and Race For Life with 7-8,000 plus spectators, down to company picnics with everything in-between.

A family picnic was held in May 2011 to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the signing of the Downs Act. This was a major event involving a range of activities and performances for which a working party consisting of members of FoDAG, Downs Committee Members and BCC officers was put together to organise. It is hoped that the picnic will continue as a yearly event.

Insert photos of larger events here

All potential event organisers must first apply to the council's events team for a licence. If they are small or regular events then The Lord Mayor and the Master of the Merchant Venturers have delegated powers to agree. The Downs Committee is then kept informed. Large events are discussed at The Downs Committee.

There is usually a fee for all events based on whether it is a local or national charity or for profit organisation. There is also a refundable bond to cover the cost of any reinstatement works that may be required due to the events taking place.

4.7 Children and Young People

The Downs itself meets much of the informal play needs of children. The Downs offers a wide range of natural play opportunities including trees, shrubs, rocks and mounds. The Downs is also used as a play area for informal activities, including flying kites and softball games. With such a rich and varied landscape The Downs are able to meet the needs of most active play needs.

Local schools such as the Dyslexic school that do not have their own grounds, often use The Downs for sport.

4.7.1 Children's Playground

The Downs playground was constructed in the mid 1980s and is located in the small quarry to the south of Observatory Hill. It is a small to medium sized equipped area that caters for children mostly 8 years and below. Its style and manufacture fits well into the environment and it provides experiences to children that are not available within the natural landscape although the play area is now beginning to reach the end of its life span. The Downs committee have recently commissioned a Landscape Architect to draw up a design for a new play area (see 7.1.11)

A trained playground inspector inspects each playground weekly and these are recorded on a database. Faults are dealt with on a priority basis with serious issues being resolved as soon as possible. All of Bristol City Council's playgrounds are independently inspected each year (see 7.6.29).

4.8 Educational Use

The Downs are one of Bristol's best known and loved green spaces. It is important that people have the opportunity to increase their understanding and enjoyment of the Downs, its wildlife, landscape, geology, history and archaeology.

The potential for both formal and informal educational use of The Downs is huge. The present education wildlife programme is a highly popular, important and integral part of the Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project (see section 2.5). Its role is to raise awareness of the importance of The Gorge and Downs, as well as creating opportunities to enable people of all ages to discover, learn more about and enjoy the wildlife and landscape of the sites. The project focuses on the Bristol side of the gorge and Downs, but works closely with the National Trust, which manages Leigh Woods on the North Somerset side.

In 2001 the Project employed the Avon Gorge & Downs Biodiversity Education Officer to co-ordinate the programme. The post is part-funded by Downs Committee and Bristol Zoo Gardens / Bristol Conservation and Science Foundation. Since 2008 a summer education officer has been employed to meet the seasonal demand during the peak spring and summer period and to increase the number and diversity of people participating in education events and activities. The paid members of staff are supported by a dedicated team of volunteers who give hundreds of hours a year supporting the educational activities.

This exceedingly popular education programme consists of walks, talks, courses, family events, children's holiday activities and events for special interest groups. Formal education sessions are also run for pupils from pre-school groups, primary and secondary schools and higher education groups. Sessions are also provided for play schemes. Groups from across the City have visited for a session, enabling children who've never visited the Downs before to explore and learn more about this special site. The project also promotes the site, to the public, at community events such as the Bristol Festival of Nature and the recent Downs 150th anniversary picnic. To date over 70,000 people have taken part in one of the AGDWP activities.

The wildlife education programme has also been responsible for producing a number of interpretive materials including a range of leaflets, information panels, exhibits and a web site (see section 4.10)

The popularity of the present wildlife education program demonstrates the demand and need for the provision of educational programmes for The Downs. It is important that it is both continued and further developed and it is recognised that the programme would need to expand in the future to meet the interest and demand from the public.

During the stakeholder meetings for the previous Downs management plan, it was identified that there was great interest in the history and archaeology of the Downs. To tie in with the Downs 150th celebrations a steering group was set up to plan a range of activities to celebrate the rich history of the Downs. It should be investigated whether a further heritage / history education programme can be set up (see 7.1.5).

4.8.1 Downs 150 Project

In June 2011 BCC were awarded £22,300 from the HLF towards the Downs 150 Project which celebrated 150 years since the signing of the Downs Act. The project involved a series of community activities and events that were developed and delivered by a working group made up of BCC officers, FoDAG members, the Avon Gorge & Downs Biodiversity Education Officer and members of the Downs Committee.

The range of activities included a Victorian themed picnic with an array of activities and entertainment, an Oral History Project (see 4.9), the production of two trail leaflets and a temporary exhibition, a geo physics survey of Clifton Camp involving Year Seven children from Ashton Park school and the creation of an interactive website.

4.9 Oral History Project

In 2011 an Oral History Project took place working with the local community and schools to collect oral histories and develop learning activities for schools and the wider community. The project involved the collection of oral histories from a number of individuals and several workshops were held in schools to develop an interactive Downs History Game which when played will help children to develop an in depth understanding of the various influences that have shaped the Downs over time. This project also involved the creation of an interactive web site, a post event exhibition and a bound copy of the oral history transcripts. The web site can be accessed through the BCC Downs web page www.bristol.gov.uk/thedowns.

4.10 Interpretation and Promotion

Currently, the main information that is available on The Downs is concentrated on natural or wildlife issues. It is understood and accepted that there is much more to The Downs than these issues alone and it is an objective of this management plan to produce an integrated interpretation and promotional plan for The Downs incorporating the rich social history, amenity horticulture, architecture, archaeology and geology of the site which has so much to 'say' about the history of Bristol and heritage value of the site (see 7.1.4 and 7.1.5).

Ideally, what is required is an overview of all existing interpretation and marketing formats, materials and subjects together with the cost and resources available so that an interpretation and promotion plan for the whole area can be created (see 7.1.6).

4.10.1 Publications

There are a number of leaflets available relating to wildlife that have been produced through the AGDWP.

- 'Discover the Wildlife of the Avon Gorge and Downs' leaflets (available in regular, large print, audio and CD versions)
- The Downs Meadow Trail Leaflet
- The Downs Bird Trail Leaflet (re-written in 2010)
- The Downs Tree Trail leaflet
- The Downs Lichen Trail leaflet
- Peregrines of the Avon Gorge

Leaflets are available from the Downs Tea Room, Libraries, selected visitor attractions and tourist information. (They can be downloaded from www.avongorge.org.uk and www.bristol.gov.uk/thedowns)

A local wildlife author, Geraldine Taylor, has written a number of books about the wildlife of the Downs. The Bristol Downs – a natural history year was incredibly popular. The Avon Gorge and Downs Biodiversity Education Officer acted as natural history consultant for this publication.

4.10.2 Interpretation Panels

In 2004, a set of eight wildlife, one history and one geology interpretation panel were installed on the Downs Their locations are:

- Seawalls (three) depicting wildlife, history and geology.
- Wildflower meadow, Circular Road
- Peregrine watch point

- Observatory (two)
- Blackboy Hill
- Clifton Suspension Bridge.

In 2011 two new panels explaining the introduction of the goats were installed in the Gully.

There are also five general information panels with a map that need updating and replacing (see 7.1.4).

Interpretation panels were produced to explain the damage caused by scrub and tree growth around the Clifton Camp SAM, the process for scrub removal and the historical and archaeological importance of Clifton Camp (see actions 7.3.3 and 7.3.4). The panels will be installed as part of an overall improvement to all Interpretation panels once funding becomes available.

4.10.3 Displays

The following displays have been developed to promote the wildlife and landscape of the Downs.

- A travelling display about the wildlife of the site and the work of the Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project was developed. It is taken to community events and libraries.
- An exhibit at Bristol Zoo Gardens showcases some of the rare plants, celebrates the wildlife of the gorge and Downs and promotes the work of the Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project.
- The Brunel Garden on the Clifton Suspension Bridge was developed in 2006 and has proven to be popular with tourists and locals alike. The garden showcases the rare plants of the Avon Gorge and provides information about them.
- There is also a display of the gorge's rare plants at the University of Bristol's Botanic gardens.
- The Downs diary, a monthly guide to the wildlife that can be seen at The Downs, is displayed at the Downs Tea Rooms (Café Retreat) and in a cabinet adjacent to the interpretation panel (at the top of Blackboy Hill). It is also displayed at the Zoo.

4.10.4 Publicity

There is a good relationship with the media regarding the work of the Avon Gorge & Downs Wildlife Project. The AGDWP issue regular press releases to highlight events and the launch of new leaflets, displays etc. These result in articles in local newspapers and generate radio interviews. The media also contact AGDWP to ask if there are new stories or anything they would like to promote when they're running articles on a particular theme i.e., Spring watch TV series. Articles are also written, from time-to-time, for local magazines.

4.10.5 Web-pages

The Bristol Parks website features web pages about The Downs. These pages contain general information of interest to the non-specialist Downs user about the layout and management of the site, activities, events, history and features.

Attached to these pages is a selection of PDFs, incorporating background technical, historical and consultative information of high quality covering landscape, history and wildlife, which can be easily downloaded.

There is limited information about wildlife on these pages, instead there are efficient links directly to the Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project (AGDWP) web site www.avongorge.org.uk. The project also has Facebook and Flickr pages. The Facebook page is a particularly good tool for promoting the work of the project and for advertising events.

A new interactive web site will be created as part of the Oral History project in 2012.

5.0 Management and Resources

5.1 People With Responsibilities For The Downs

Overall responsibility for the management of The Downs rests with The Downs Committee see section 2.6.

The day-to-day management of The Downs rests within the operations section of Bristol Parks. The Parks Operations Manager is responsible for all the parks and green spaces in the whole city. He/she is responsible for the delivery of the council's policies regarding parks and green spaces. The Downs is part of the Estates section within Bristol Parks and is within the remit of the Parks Estates, Play, Cemeteries and Crematoria Manager. The Estates Manager is responsible for day to day management of all the Estates including the Downs. The Downs Ranger reports to the Estates Manager and is responsible for monitoring the quality of the work, implementing the Management Plans and reporting to the Downs Committee on progress with planned works through the Downs Rangers Report.

The maintenance of the existing play area is carried out by in-house inspection teams. The play area has one regular weekly check and the results are entered onto an electronic pro-forma that is then 'filed' at Head Office (see 7.6.29). These teams manage all routine maintenance and any repairs due to wear and tear or vandalism. In addition, there is a more rigorous annual inspection that is carried out by an independent engineer. The Children's play area is considered to be poor in quality and in 2011 the Downs Committee agreed to look at improvements.

All tree works are presently dealt with through The Downs Ranger, carrying out joint inspections twice a year with the arboricultural staff (see 7.3.8, 7.3.9 and 7.3.10). The arb. staff then provide specifications for the agreed works and let the contracts. The funding is held in The Downs Ranger's revenue budget.

The maintenance and operation of the three public toilets are the responsibility of the Cleansing Department. The Downs Ranger liaises directly with the responsible officer on matters of common interest.

There are other specialist officers that the operations section can call on for advice on subjects such as ecology or landscape. These officers include the Nature Conservation Officer and members of the AGWP.

The Parks administration staff manage the sport bookings and events are managed through the Events section in close consultation with The Downs Ranger.

Contractors may be employed from time to time to carry out works such as rope access work, clearing woodland from the Gully or specialist work to buildings, paths or fences, surveying and monitoring of wildlife etc.

Some specialist wildlife conservation work and education is carried out by members of the AGWP.

5.2 The Downs Ranger Team

The Downs Ranger is based on site and is responsible for an in-house team of rangers. The site-based staff have their own depot on site. The team is supported by the Head gardener (2.5 days per week).

One of The Downs Ranger's most important priorities is to organise, develop and train the ranger team to meet the long-term aims of the management plan. The team must simultaneously continue to maintain the grounds to their present standard of quality and use. Therefore, in order to make the transition to new working methods as easy as possible, the grounds will be maintained and inspected to the present grounds maintenance specifications.

5.3 Specifications

(Copies are available at the Bristol Parks Office, Brunel House.)

The present grounds maintenance specifications were used to manage the contract before 1st January 2007. They use performance or standards based criteria for monitoring the contract. The Downs Ranger - will continue to monitor and report on the success of the operations and check the work on site (see 7.6.30).

5.4 Resources

Grounds Maintenance

Is carried out to a specification that was originally agreed in 2007. No changes have been made to the specifications but these are due to be reviewed in 2012/13 as part of the 5 Year Work Plan (see 7.6.5). The specification is now managed directly through an in house team of rangers.

Buildings and Structures

Finance for the repair and maintenance of buildings and structures is funded separately through budgets held by Environment and Leisure Dept, Housing and the Property Services Dept. (see sections 3.9.2 and 3.9.3).

Client Support

In addition to The Downs Ranger, who has control of the day to day site management, there is technical and administrative support e.g. arboriculture, natural environment officers to carry out surveys or consultations provided through Bristol Parks. Support for archaeology, planning etc. is also supplied through council officers.

Education Officer

Explained in 4.8.

People and their skills

The formation of FoDAG has provided an invaluable source of volunteers for assistance in various projects and at events. In addition significant volunteer contributions continue to be provided by the Probation Service.

Examples of where volunteers can assist include (See 7.6.12, 7.6.14 and 7.6.15) : -

- 'Tree wardens' to identify diseased trees or those damaged through storms so that safety works can be carried out swiftly. They can also check on newly planted trees to see that they are firmly staked and watered.
- The provision of plant lists and animals identified on particular areas.
- Monitoring flora and fauna.
- Support ing the AGWP educational programme
- The provision of guided walks and talks.
- Volunteer Rangers to report on incidents of antisocial behaviour. They don't necessarily have to get involved to be effective. Their presence alone may deter people from being antisocial.
- Working parties e.g. litter picking, scrub bashing.
- Research into historical facts about buildings or structures or visitor surveys.

5.4.1 Expenditure and Income

The gross figure also includes £5,000 that is used to carry out works through contractors that lie within the SSSI area on the Bristol side of the Gorge.

| Expenditure | 2011/12 |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Employees | £257,550 |

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Premises | £70,110 |
| Supplies and Services | £76,690 |
| Transport | £31,500 |
| Central Charges | £12,28 |
| | |
| Gross Expenditure | £451,130 |
| Total Income | £189,040 |
| Net expenditure | £262,090 |

Events raise a considerable part of revenue funding every year. It is set against expenditure and is included in the net figure that it costs to manage The Downs every year. If the budget target for events income is surpassed then the additional income is placed in the reserves fund.

Events have been reviewed to ensure maximum income for the site. Alternative locations around the Downs are considered to minimise excessive wear to traditional event locations.

Income raised through Sport (football) becomes part of the Downs Committee budget.

1. Downs Football League
2. University league

TOTAL £43,300

Additional (new) expenditure and resources

These can be categorised as either financial or as people and their skills.

Financial

Capital expenditure can be sought through

- Section 106 contributions (see 2.3.1).
- Grant aid from a number of bodies including the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- The sponsorship of leaflets/notice boards etc. (The council is presently working to produce a city wide policy and a guide to sponsorship).

- Donations of materials e.g. wood for seats or sand for football pitches.
- Landfill tax credits for work to football pitches c.£100,000
- Seat donations at £650 each
- Tree donations at £200 + each

In August 2011 The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded £22,300 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Downs Act with a series of community activities and events including an oral history project, a history trail and associated leaflets, and a temporary exhibition of historical information panels.

5.5 Standards

The main measure of standards is carried out through the implementation of the contract documentation, which is available to view at Bristol Parks Office, Brunel House. The specification details the quality and frequency of work tasks which is monitored and recorded by The Downs Ranger. Risk assessments are carried out by The Downs Ranger on a biannual basis and are filed on site at The Downs Depot (see 7.6.18).

5.6 Bristol Parks Forum

Bristol Parks Forum is a network of individual community groups and organisations that are working to improve parks and green spaces or have an interest in them. It is supported by Bristol Parks but acts independently. It has around 80 members representing many different neighbourhoods and green spaces across Bristol. Membership is free. For Bristol Parks, the Forum acts as an important consultative body with regard to strategic decision making; including allocation of resources. The Forum provides a networking opportunity for its members to share ideas and experiences regarding community improvements to parks and green spaces. The Friends of Avon Gorge and the Downs are active members of the Parks Forum.

The Forum meets four times a year, including an annual conference and its members publish a quarterly newsletter.

5.7 Byelaws and Enforcement

The present byelaws, made under section 5 of the Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861, were last confirmed on 11th June 1998. The byelaws are available to view on The Downs web site www.bristol.gov.uk/thedowns . The Downs Ranger enforces them during the normal

course of his duties. In addition, the City Council security services provides regular security patrols in a vehicle and on foot every day from April to the end of October. Local Police also assist in the management of the bye laws.

The fact that the byelaws are not being rigorously enforced is something that has been identified as an issue and that is to be addressed in the 5-year work plan. (see 7.6.13). It is intended to ask the grounds maintenance workforce to enforce the byelaws during their normal working hours. This was seen as one possible benefit of terminating the present contract and taking up the 'in house' option. Initiatives to raise bye law awareness were introduced in 2010. This includes, a wheel clamping scheme, large banners about barbecue use, refocusing the activities of the out of hours security team and joint initiatives with the Ranger team and security to educate and inform visitors with a series of leafleting campaigns.

There is a secluded area of The Downs known as Fairyland since Victorian times. Both men and women sometimes use it for antisocial practices. This is not acceptable to most people, especially those with young children and therefore it has been agreed to manage the area in such a way as to make it less secluded, increase the ecological interest and enforce the byelaws more vigorously in future (see 7.5.1).

5.8 Sustainability (Including Pesticides Policy & EMAS)

Bristol City Council is committed to improving the local environment and helping to protect it for the future. We recognise that our wide range of activities and services have positive and negative impacts upon the environment, and that we have a leading role to play in creating a sustainable city. To achieve this goal an Environmental Policy is in place and an environmental management system was implemented in 2006 called EMAS ('Environment Management Audit Scheme'). EMAS is an independently verified system that ensures that significant environmental impacts are monitored and managed, and overall environmental performance is continually improved. The Environment and Leisure Department is EMAS registered, as part of the corporate system (see 7.6.16).

The council subscribes to a quarterly database that is available on the intranet called CEDREC to enable departments to keep up to date with legislation.

Headline targets of the Environmental Policy and EMAS actions relevant to operations on the Downs are listed in Appendix 4.

5.9 Risk Assessments

A new risk assessment system has recently been adopted by the Parks Service and The Downs Ranger will carrying out on going assessments in line with the new system. This will be a continuous process .

The key risks to all persons on the Downs have been identified as: -

- Uneven ground
- Cliff edges – some are fenced and some not
- Trees
- Vandalised equipment, e.g. seats

Key risks to staff are: -

- Using machinery
- Lone working
- Working at height
- Dogs
- When enforcing byelaws

Bristol Parks have a Health & Safety Support Pack that they use to ensure that all works carried out on site by volunteer groups are carried out safely. (Copies available to view at Brunel House). This involves training individuals to carry out risk assessments in advance of the work, and how to give a talk on tool use before every work party starts work. No work should be carried out unless such a trained person is present on site.

The condition and safety of all the trees is a separate process that is part of the biennial condition check. Note that there is also a biannual check of trees carried out by The Downs Ranger, with an Arboricultural Officer, to agree the next priorities of the tree works programme. The Downs Ranger also carries out ad hoc checks on the play equipment.

Buildings, fencing and hard surfaces are checked as part of the contract inspections and are recorded on inspection sheets that are filed at Brunel House.

Trained personnel inspect rock faces and steep banks over highways and the children's play area annually.

All records are filed at the staff depot on The Downs and at Brunel House.

6.0 Monitoring and Review

5 Yearly

- Downs Committee will review the whole management plan document (see 7.6.32).
- SSSIs and SNCIs to be checked for favourable conservation status. SSSI survey undertaken by Natural England. SNCI survey undertaken by Bristol Parks. The cycle of re-surveys for favourable condition status of SNCIs is subject to determination (first time audit of all city SNCIs is ongoing), it is expected to be 5 yearly for meadow habitat and 10 yearly for woodland habitat.

Biannual

- All listed buildings and structures inspected by Property Section from Central Support Services (see 7.6.21).
- Non-listed buildings and structures inspected by Technical Services Manager and any findings linked to Departmental Asset Manager Plan process (see 7.6.20).
- Condition of trees to be checked and recorded (see 7.3.4, 7.3.8, 7.3.9, 7.3.10).
- Monitor satisfaction of site users through user surveys (see 7.6.2).

Annual

- Downs Committee reports to Council and Society of Merchant Venturers (see 7.6.34).
- Downs Committee will review the 5-year work plan and set out a new 5-year plan (see 7.6.19).
- Avon Gorge and Downs Project produces an annual review of the project (see 7.6.23).
- Seek to retain green flag status (see 7.6.9).
- Parks Operations Manager and Technical Services Manager review the Departmental Asset Management Plan for the maintenance of buildings and structures (see 7.6.24).
- Elm trees checked for elm disease by staff on site (see 7.3.10).

- Monitor income and expenditure against annual budgets (see 7.6.25).
- Monitor and record the number of events (see 7.6.26).
- Monitor and record the number of football games (and income generated). (See 7.6.27).
- Review EMAS action plan (see 7.6.31).
- Risk assessments carried out by The Downs Ranger (see 7.6.18).

5-times per year (Committee meetings)

- Downs Committee monitor the implementation of the 5-year plan through the regular Downs Ranger's reports at the committee meetings. (see 7.6.33).

Monthly

- Monthly spending monitored by District Coordinator and Downs Ranger against annual budget (see 7.6.25).
- Downs Ranger formally monitors quality of work against specifications (see 7.6.28).

Weekly

- Playground checks carried out weekly by the inspector and filed in the play section (see 7.6.29).
- Informal grounds maintenance quality inspections carried out by the Downs Ranger (see 7.6.30).

Daily

- Goats checked by the Downs Rangers Team (see 7.4.4).

7.0 A 5-Year Work Plan

During the process of consultation on the proposed Downs Management Plan it was decided to deal with concepts through 6 key themes i.e.

- **Enjoyment**
- **Access**
- **Landscape**
- **Wildlife**
- **Antisocial behaviour**
- **Management and Resources**

The work programme will be subject to change from outside influences including pressure from site users, from the results of surveys or monitoring and the availability of finance. Therefore it should be reviewed annually so that it remains a 5-year programme. Some objectives have been identified as being desirable but they cannot be scheduled to implement at present until finance has been identified e.g. 7.1.7 and 7.1.8.

Source of funding:

E= Existing resources, e.g. officer wages

R = Downs Revenue budget (LD2), or other Revenue budget(s) as indicated

C = combination of Capital / Grant / Downs Reserves. Many of the costs shown are estimates. There are 3 bands of estimation. <£5K, £5-50K and >£50K

DR = Downs Ranger

CPM = Community Parks Manager

MO= Marketing Officer

POM = Parks Operations Manager

NCO = Nature Conservation Officer

SAO = Senior Arboricultural Officer

CDO = Community Development Officer

PPYO = Parks Play and Youth Officer

STAO = Strategic Access Officer

CWC = Coordinator Walking and Cycling

EO = Education Officer

TSM = Technical Services Manager

PEO = Parks Events Officer

| No | Objective | Lead officer | Y1 2012/ 2013 | Y2 2013/ 2014 | Y3 2014/ 2015 | Y4 2015/ 2016 | Y5 2016/ 2017 | Cost band £ | Source EE / R / C |
|--------------|--|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 7.1.0 | Enjoyment | | | | | | | | |
| 7.1.1 | Produce an events policy in line with a citywide approach to events. [Achieved] | PEO | | | | | | <£5k | E |
| 7.1.2 | Investigate how to improve the existing changing facilities for sport on the Downs with provision for both genders. | DR | | # | | | | <£5k | E |
| 7.1.3 | Continue to support and develop the existing Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project Education Programme. | EO | # | # | # | # | # | £20 – 50K per annum | E/ R / C |
| 7.1.3a | Engage with new groups and audiences too ensure the involvement of people from different backgrounds. | EO | # | # | # | # | # | £50k | E/ R / C |
| 7.1.4 | Review provision of existing all information materials and develop new high quality interpretation materials as appropriate. | EO | # | # | # | # | # | £20 – 50K | E /R /C |
| 7.1.5 | Investigate options for developing a history education programme for the Downs. | POM | # | # | | | | | E |
| 7.1.6 | Produce an all-encompassing interpretation and promotional plan (covering access, recreation, history, wildlife etc) to ensure that the Downs are widely promoted. | MO EO | # | | | | | £<5k | E/R |

| No | Objective | Lead officer | Y1 2012/2013 | Y2 2013/2014 | Y3 2014/2015 | Y4 2015/2016 | Y5 2016/2017 | Cost band £ | Source EE / R / C |
|--------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 7.1.7 | Design and cost the provision of a new Downs Pavilion to include changing facilities, cafe and visitor information centre on the site of the existing changing rooms and cafe. | DR | | | | # | >5 | c. £2 m? | C |
| 7.1.8 | Seek the agreement of the Secretary of State to build a secondary visitor point at Seawalls. | DR | | # | | | >5 | | E |
| 7.1.9 | Investigate the technical and financial options to provide a secondary visitor point at Seawalls with cafe and toilet facilities. | DR | | | # | | | £5-50k | E |
| 7.1.10 | Full costs to provide a secondary visitor centre at Seawalls. | DR | | # | | | | £500,000 | C |
| 7.1.11 | Design and cost new play area. | POM | # | | | | | >£5k | E |
| 7.2.0 | Access | | | | | | | | |
| 7.2.1 | Investigate the options of how to provide electric mobility scooters for disabled people. | STAO | | # | | | | £5-50K | C |
| 7.2.2 | Investigate the alternative options and implications of extending the cycling routes on existing roads and paths and the provision of cycle parking facilities at visitor attractions. | CWC | # | | | | | <£5K | E (Highways) |
| 7.2.3 | Act on recommendations of the first access audit and identify where improvements (if any) can be made. | STAO | | # | | | | <£5K | E |

| No | Objective | Lead officer | Y1 2012/ 2013 | Y2 2013/ 2014 | Y3 2014/ 2015 | Y4 2015/ 2016 | Y5 2016/ 2017 | Cost band £ | Source EE / R / C |
|--------------|--|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 7.2.4 | Carry out a condition survey of all paths. | DR | # | | | | | <£5K | E (Highways) |
| 7.2.5 | Upgrade the footpath into the Gully where the quality is poor | DR | # | | | | | £5 – 10K | C |
| 7.2.6 | Liaise with the Highways Dept to provide disabled parking bays at Stoke Road cafe, Seawalls and other areas. Request to Highways for costs to implement in 2011 | DR | # | | | | | <£5K | R (Highways) |
| 7.2.7 | Investigate the possibility of erecting 'brown' informative directional signs in the city to guide visitors to all 'destination parks' including the Downs. | MO | # | | | | | <£5K | E |
| 7.2.8 | Prepare a site use and access guide for events organisers. | PEO | # | | | | | <£5K | E |
| 7.3.0 | Landscape | | | | | | | | |
| 7.3.1 | Prepare a plan for the future management of scrub areas to balance the sometimes conflicting pressures of ecology, landscape, access and archaeology. | NCO | | # | | | | £5k | |
| 7.3.2 | Implement a programme of scrub management subject to 7.3.1 Implemented 2009, annual works continue. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | £5-50k | E/R |

| No | Objective | Lead officer | Y1 2012/ 2013 | Y2 2013/ 2014 | Y3 2014/ 2015 | Y4 2015/ 2016 | Y5 2016/ 2017 | Cost band £ | Source EE / R / C |
|-------|---|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 7.3.3 | Ongoing programme of work to manage scrub growing within the boundary of the scheduled ancient monument known as Clifton Down Camp, an Iron Age Hillfort. Work started in 2011 and will continue with a rolling programme for the life of the plan. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | £5-50k | E/R |
| 7.3.4 | Check the condition of all trees growing on the Iron Age Fort annually and maintain them to reduce the risk of them ever being blown over in strong winds. | SAO | # | # | # | # | # | £<5k | E |
| 7.3.5 | Review the provision and design of all 'park furniture' e.g. seats, litter bins, signage, obstacle fences etc. and produce a design guide. | MO | # | | | | | <£5K | E |
| 7.3.6 | Create and implement a replacement programme of existing park furniture and the provision of additional items – following 7.3.5. Style of benches standardised 2009. Four year rolling maintenance plan implemented. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | £5-50k | R/C |
| 7.3.7 | Identify and open up 'lost' views across the Downs and the Avon Gorge. Work at Observatory Hill viewpoint started 2011 | DR | # | # | # | # | # | £5-50K | R |
| 7.3.8 | Continued inspection and proactive management of the Downs Tree Stock in line with the risk management strategy. | SAO | # | # | # | # | # | £10 – 11K | E |

| No | Objective | Lead officer | Y1 2012/2013 | Y2 2013/2014 | Y3 2014/2015 | Y4 2015/2016 | Y5 2016/2017 | Cost band £ | Source EE / R / C |
|--------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 7.3.9 | Prepare a tree planting plan for the Downs to include options for replanting with existing or new species to fill gaps within existing avenue planting and / or phased felling and replanting of horsechestnut avenues. | SAO | # | | | | | <£5K | E |
| 7.3.10 | Maintain an elm tree felling and removal programme where elm disease is identified in an effort to remove the residual disease base with a view to possibly reintroducing elm trees through a planting scheme later. | SAO | # | # | # | # | # | <£5K | R/E |
| 7.4.0 | Wildlife | | | | | | | | |
| 7.4.1 | Maintain the existing wildflower meadows. | NCO | # | | | | | <£5k | R |
| 7.4.2 | Investigate the potential for creating new areas of wildflower meadow in carefully selected locations. | NCO | | # | # | # | | £5-50k | R/C |
| 7.4.3 | Develop and implement survey and monitoring programmes for rare plants, insects and other animals | NCO | # | # | # | # | # | £5 – 10K annually | E/R (check?) |
| 7.4.4 | Goats monitored daily by the Downs Ranger Team. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | <£5k | E |
| 7.4.5 | Review goat grazing project. | DR/NC O | | | | # | | <£5k | E |
| 7.4.6 | Undertake grazing feasibility study of Downs. | CPM | | | # | | | <£5k | R |

| No | Objective | Lead officer | Y1 2012/ 2013 | Y2 2013/ 2014 | Y3 2014/ 2015 | Y4 2015/ 2016 | Y5 2016/ 2017 | Cost band £ | Source EE / R / C |
|--------------|---|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 7.5.0 | Antisocial Behaviour | | | | | | | | |
| 7.5.1 | Produce a detailed plan to manage Fairyland with the aims of encouraging greater public access. | CPM | # | | # | | # | <£5k | E/R |
| 7.5.2 | Investigate ways to control traffic speed on The Downs. The Friends group will present a report to Committee | CWC | # | | | | | <£5k | R (Highways) |
| 7.5.3 | Improve the enforcement of the byelaws especially those forbidding the parking of vehicles on the grass. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | <£5k | E/R |
| 7.5.4 | Improve the enforcement of the byelaws forbidding the lighting of fires (barbecues). A recommendation will be brought to Committee | DR | # | # | # | # | # | <£5k | E/R |
| 7.5.5 | Further the process of 'preventing' vehicles from parking on the grass by the use of physical barriers and reinstate existing damage to turf. (Whilst being sensitive to ecological considerations, where appropriate). | DR | # | # | # | # | # | £5-50k | E/R |
| 7.5.6 | Implement fixed penalties for acts of littering and dog fouling. Dog Warden service to assist. | DR | # | | | | | £<5k | E/R |
| 7.5.7 | Evaluate the arguments for and against the provision of further litter bins and the costs thereof. | DR | | | | | | £<5k | E/R |

| No | Objective | Lead officer | Y1 2012/ 2013 | Y2 2013/ 2014 | Y3 2014/ 2015 | Y4 2015/ 2016 | Y5 2016/ 2017 | Cost band £ | Source EE / R / C |
|--------------|---|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 7.5.8 | Provide more comprehensive cover of dog bins. Achieved with additional bins. | DR | # | | | | | £<5k | E/R |
| 7.6.0 | Management and Resources | | | | | | | | |
| 7.6.1 | Investigate and experiment with all options to reduce the effects of joggers eroding grassed areas and any associated 'wildlife'. Dead Fences installed to divert joggers from sensitive areas, to be maintained. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | £<5k | E/R |
| 7.6.2 | Continue to monitor the users enjoyment of the Downs through biennial visitor surveys. | MO | | # | | # | | £<5k | E/R |
| 7.6.3 | Continue to monitor the playing quality of the sports pitches and ensure the quality of the playing surface. Annual inspections. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | <£5k (monitor only) | E/R |
| 7.6.4 | Monitor the demand for sport provision and report all changes to committee with any recommendations for reaction. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | <£5k | E/R |
| 7.6.5 | Review the present specifications for grounds maintenance. | DR | # | | | | | £<5k | E/R |
| 7.6.6 | Consider ways to introduce car parking charges for events and predict the affect on attendance / income generation. | DR | # | # | | | | £<5k | E/R |

| No | Objective | Lead officer | Y1 2012/2013 | Y2 2013/2014 | Y3 2014/2015 | Y4 2015/2016 | Y5 2016/2017 | Cost band £ | Source EE / R / C |
|--------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 7.6.7 | Investigate ways to increase income through donations and sponsorship of e.g. benches and trees. Significant numbers of memorial benches installed 2009- 2012. Renegotiate concessions and explore further possibilities. Sponsored trees will form part of the Tree Bristol Scheme. | DR | # | | | | | £<5k | E/R |
| 7.6.8 | Investigate all grant funding opportunities for 'capital works'. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | £<5k | E |
| 7.6.9 | Retain Green Flag accreditation | DR | # | # | # | # | # | £<5k | E/R |
| 7.6.10 | Produce an interpretation and promotion plan. | MO/EO | # | | | | | £<5k | E/R |
| 7.6.11 | Audit the EMAS action plan | DR | # | # | # | # | # | £<5k | E/R |
| 7.6.12 | Friends group [FODAG] well established and the expansion of the group's role to evolve through the life of the plan. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | £<5k | E/R |
| 7.6.13 | Develop the existing staff on site to enable them to enforce byelaws and assist members of the public with problems as they arise. | DR | | # | | | | £5 –50k | E/R |
| 7.6.14 | Investigate and encourage volunteer assistance (including research) for the Downs. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | £<5k | E/R |
| 7.6.15 | Investigate the options and benefits of establishing a Volunteer Ranger / Warden service and encourage volunteer assistance | DR | | # | | | | £<5k | E/R |

| No | Objective | Lead officer | Y1 2012/2013 | Y2 2013/2014 | Y3 2014/2015 | Y4 2015/2016 | Y5 2016/2017 | Cost band £ | Source EE / R / C |
|--------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 7.6.16 | Provide an information point adjacent to Stoke Road, which includes emergency telephone contact numbers and information such as public notices. | DR | # | | | | | <£5K | R |
| 7.6.17 | Manage the Downs budgets as a business unit. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | <£5K | E |
| 7.6.18 | Carry out risk assessments and keep accessible records. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | <£5K | E |
| 7.6.19 | Revise the 5-year work plan. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | <£5K | E |
| 7.6.20 | Non-listed buildings and structures inspected by Technical Services Manager. | TSM | # | | # | | # | <£5K | E |
| 7.6.21 | All listed buildings and structures inspected by Property Section from Central Support Services | TSM | | # | | # | | <£5K | E |
| 7.6.22 | Downs Committee monitor the implementation of the 5-year plan through the regular Downs Ranger's reports at the committee meetings | DR | # | # | # | # | # | <£5K | E |
| 7.6.23 | Avon Gorge and Downs Project produces an annual review of the project | NCO/EO | # | # | # | # | # | <£5K | E |
| 7.6.24 | Parks Operations Manager and Technical Services Manager review the Departmental Asset Management Plan for the maintenance of buildings and structures | POM | # | # | # | # | # | <£5K | E |
| 7.6.25 | Monitor income and expenditure against annual budgets. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | <£5K | E |

| No | Objective | Lead officer | Y1 2012/2013 | Y2 2013/2014 | Y3 2014/2015 | Y4 2015/2016 | Y5 2016/2017 | Cost band £ | Source EE / R / C |
|--------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 7.6.26 | Monitor and record the number of events | DR | # | # | # | # | # | <£5K | E |
| 7.6.27 | Monitor and record the number of football games (and income generated). | DR | # | # | # | # | # | <£5K | E |
| 7.6.28 | Downs Ranger formally monitors quality of work against specifications. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | <£5K | E |
| 7.6.29 | Playground checks carried out weekly by the inspector and filed in the play section | PPYO | # | # | # | # | # | <£5K | E/R |
| 7.6.30 | Informal grounds maintenance quality inspections carried out by the Downs Ranger | DR | # | # | # | # | # | <£5K | E/R |
| 7.6.31 | Review the environmental register currently used by the Landscape and Design Team. Adapt and adopt it for the specific needs of the Parks Service. | POM | # | | | | | <£5K | E |
| 7.6.32 | Revise the Management Plan. | DR | | | | | # | £5-50K | E/R |
| 7.6.33 | Downs Committee monitor the implementation of the 5 year plan through regular Downs Rangers reports at Committee Meetings. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | <£5k | E/R |
| 7.6.34 | Downs Committee reports to the Council and Society of merchant Venturers. | DR | # | # | # | # | # | <£5k | E/R |

Appendix 1 - Local and National Policies

APPENDIX 1

Local Policies

Overview

This Management Plan complements the wider strategic context of Bristol City Council and its partners. It seeks to achieve the objectives of the strategic framework by translating those that are appropriate to The Downs.

Anti-social behaviour Strategy 2008-11

To reduce anti-social behaviour in Bristol by working together in partnership with citizens to improve quality of life and to create safer, peaceful, tolerant communities.

Bristol Development Framework

Bristol City Council is producing a new suite of planning documents to guide development decisions in the city over a 20-year period. Together these documents make up the Bristol Development Framework (BDF), which will gradually replace the Local Plan. Documents in the BDF are shorter than the Local Plan and can be produced and reviewed independently as required. A programme for preparation of these documents can be found in the Local Development Scheme (see below).

Bristol Biodiversity Action plan (2008)

The Bristol Biodiversity Action Plan provides the over-arching framework for habitat and species conservation in Bristol. Importantly, it also recognises the benefits of wildlife to people and helps to identify ways to better promote, and engage people in, biodiversity conservation in the city.

Bristol City Council Corporate Plan

- Increasing participation in sport and other physical activity.
- Improving recycling and waste management.
- Improving the cleanliness of the city

Bristol City Council Education Development Plan 2005-2006

Multiple actions about raising standards and increasing inclusion e.g. Raising attainment in Early Years and Primary Education.

Bristol Climate Protection Action Plan

Bristol has a wide range of parks, historic gardens, woodlands, nature reserves and open spaces that are rich in wildlife. Two are of international importance – the Severn Estuary and the Avon Gorge (which forms part of the area to this management plan) – although at present it is uncertain what the impacts of climate change will have on these sites. The indirect ones could include the need to construct more flood defences, thereby possibly damaging existing wildlife sites. Climate change could also lead to changes in water table levels, which could affect sensitive habitats and species.

Bristol Community Strategy

Vision for Bristol

- A city that realises its full potential and exerts influence appropriate to its status at the regional, national and European level;
- A modern, cosmopolitan, ambitious city at the heart of a prosperous and confident area that is the gateway to the South West;
- A diverse and accessible city made up of vibrant and balanced communities;
- Where everyone is valued and can thrive economically, culturally and socially;
- A safe city that promotes health, learning and sustainable development;
- A city where no one is disadvantaged.
- Implement cycling and walking schemes to provide alternative modes of transport to the car (Bristol City Council with partners).

Bristol's Local Plan

The Bristol Local Plan was formerly adopted in December 1997. It brings together planning policies for the city area in one documents and provides the main framework for investment and development in Bristol. The key policy that relates to the Downs is NE5 and NE9.

The Downs is protected by Nature Conservation policy NE5 in the Bristol Local Plan owing to various areas having the status as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). (See Map 3)

It is also protected by NE9 due to its designation as a Historic Landscape, and by B22 for the Scheduled Ancient Monument at Observatory Hill. Policy L3 is also relevant due to the presence of greenways, i.e. off road routes for walking and cycling, which are shown to traverse the Downs to link with other routes across the city. (See map 4) In reality the public has access over the whole of the downs and designated routes are merely a way of showing how paths and roads can be 'connected' by traversing The Downs.

Additional Designations:

- Conservation Area
- Conservation Area Boundary (CA)
- Management plan boundary / Area of 1961 Downs Act

- Open Access Land (CRoW 2000)
- Public Rights of Way (PROW)
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)
- The western edge of the Downs (which includes part of the Avon Gorge) is also designated nationally as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and as such is protected under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW). This area is also designated as a European Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations (1992). It has also been designated, together with the Avon Gorge, regionally as a Strategic Nature Area (SNA) i.e. as one of the richest concentrations of biodiversity value in the southwest in the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy.

Bristol Parks Service Delivery Plan 2009-2012

Eco Management Auditing System (EMAS)

Health Strategy 2006-2009

The Joint Local Transport Plan 2006/7 - 2010/11" (The Walking Strategy)

Parks and Green Space Strategy 2008 (See section 2.1.1)

Playing for Real 2004 and Making Play Matter 2003

Parks Wildlife Strategy

Public Art Strategy

Public Consultation Strategy 2001 and update 2004

Safer Bristol Partnership Plan 2008-11

Sustainable Energy Strategy Bristol City Council

National Strategic Context

CABE Space Guidance

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) is the government's advisor on architecture, urban design and public space. CABE Space is the public space arm of CABE and aims to bring excellence to the design and management of public spaces. CABE Space works with national, regional and local bodies on the delivery of parks and public spaces in the public, private and voluntary sector to help them think about the benefits of well planned, designed, managed and maintained parks and public space. Key publications from CABE Space are detailed below:

- **A Guide to Producing Parks and Green Space Management Plans**
- **Adapting Public Space to Climate Change: Public Space Lessons**
- **Decent Parks? Decent Behaviour? The Link Between the Quality of Parks and User Behaviour**
- **Making contracts work for wildlife: how to encourage biodiversity in urban parks**
- **Parks need parkforce**
- **Parkforce fact pack**
- **The Value of Public Space: how high quality parks and public spaces create economic, social and environmental value**

Green Spaces Better Places

This is the final report of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce published by the DTLR in 2002. The document provides a baseline assessment and comprehensive review of the state of public open spaces within England. The report highlighted a number of issues in relation to the decline of urban parks in England through a process of poor strategic planning, weak leadership, a lack of core and sustainable funding and the noticeable absence of information and data in order to inform the decision making process.

In the context of park management plans, the report formed the precursor for the renaissance of urban green spaces. The report established the need to invest in parks and open spaces and recognises the need that the open spaces have a much wider role to play in the local community in terms of the health, community safety and the social renewal agendas.

The Government's response to the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce was published in 2002 as part of the Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener document. This report set out to respond to the issues highlighted by the Green Spaces Better Places report and committed the

Government to providing a Strategic Framework for the improvement and betterment of green spaces over the next five years. This is manifested in a new Government Champion for parks and open spaces Cobe Space and the release of substantial funds for park renewal pilot schemes through the Liveability Fund.

Developing Accessible Play Space

This good practice guide was published in 2003 by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to act as a reference for providing stimulating and accessible play for all children. With the impending Disability Discrimination Act the guide recognises that each child is different and that access to the social experience of play is key. The principal recommendation of the guide is 'that developers should concentrate on making the environment fit for the child'.

Parks and Green Spaces: Engaging the Community

Published by Green Space (formerly the Urban Parks Forum) in July 2002, this local authority guide outlines the reason for engaging local communities and encouraging community participation in the management of parks and open spaces. The guide gives pragmatic advice on the benefits of involving people in the decision-making process and shows examples of how this can be achieved. In conclusion the guide suggests that:

The Park Keeper

Compiled by English Nature, this short history contributes to the ongoing debate in relation to skills within the parks sector. This document charts the history of the park keeper and the changing role of curators, superintendent, foreman and gardeners and recognises their past skills and contribution to the legacy of public parks in England.

Park Life, Urban Parks and Social Renewal

Published by Comedia and Demos in 1995, this report provides the first real assessment of the state of urban parks and green space and is the starting point of the current renaissance in urban parks. For the first time the wider social benefits of high quality open spaces were recognised and the need to invest and put open spaces and people at the heart of modern urban regeneration was documented.

Policy Planning Guidance no17

Policy Planning Guidance no 17 and the accompanying guide; assessing needs and opportunities, sets out the Government's objectives for delivering high quality and sustainable open spaces that meet the aspirations and needs of local communities. The long-term aims of this document are to deliver:

- Networks of accessible, high quality open spaces, which are both economically and environmentally sound and meet local need;
- An appropriate balance between new and existing open space provision;
- Clarity for developers in relation to the requirements and expectations of the local planning authorities.

Through PPG17, local planning authorities are now required to demonstrate that the local portfolio of public open spaces meets local demand based upon *quality, quantity, accessibility* and *primary purpose*.

- Community engagement is not about reaching an end point but is a dynamic process requiring high and sustained levels of involvement;
- It is important to establish the reason for engaging the community;
- Community based activities ought to compliment the aims of the organisation;
- Developing site management plans in partnership with the community helps to ensure ownership;
- Linking community groups together as part of a wider supportive umbrella can add more support to the local authority.

Byelaws Clifton and Durdham Downs

Byelaws made by the Council of the City of Bristol under Section 5 of the Clifton and Durdham Down (Bristol) Act 1861.

Interpretation

1. In these byelaws:

‘the Act’ means the Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861;

‘the Council’ means Bristol City Council;

‘the Downs Committee’ means the Joint Committee nominated in accordance with the provisions of the Act;

‘the Downs’ means Durdham Down and the portion of Clifton Down coloured pink on the plan referred to in the Act.

Vehicles

2. (1) No person shall, without reasonable excuse, ride or drive a cycle, motor cycle, motor vehicle or any other mechanically propelled vehicle on the Downs, or bring or cause to be brought onto the Downs a motor cycle, motor vehicle, trailer or any other propelled vehicle (other than a cycle), except on any part of the Downs where there is a right of way for that class of vehicle.

(2) If the Downs Committee has set apart a space for the Downs for use by vehicles of any class, this byelaw shall not prevent the riding or driving of those vehicles in the space so set apart, or on a route, indicated by signs placed in conspicuous positions, between it and the entrance to the Downs.

(3) This byelaw shall not extend to invalid carriages.

(4) In this byelaw:

‘cycle’ means a bicycle, a tricycle, or a cycle having four or more wheels, not being in any case a motor cycle or motor vehicle;

'invalid carriage' means a vehicle, whether mechanically propelled or not, the unladen weight of which does not exceed 150 kilograms, the width of which does not exceed 0.85 metres and which has been constructed or adapted for use for the carriage of one person, being a person suffering from some physical defect or disability and is used solely by such a person;

'motorcycle' means a mechanically propelled vehicle, not being an invalid carriage, with less than four wheels and the weight of which unladen does not exceed 410 kilograms;

'motor vehicle' means a mechanically propelled vehicle, not being an invalid carriage intended or adapted for use on roads;

'trailer' means a vehicle drawn by a motor vehicle and includes a caravan.

Climbing

3. No person shall, without reasonable excuse, climb any wall or fence on or enclosing the Downs, or any tree, or any barrier, railing, post or other structure.

Removal of Structures

4. No person shall, without reasonable excuse, remove from or displace on the Downs any barrier, railing, post or seat, or any part of any structure or ornament, or any implement provided for use in the laying out or maintenance of the Downs.

Erection of Structures

5. No person shall on the Downs, without the consent of the Downs Committee, erect any post, rail, fence, pole, tent, booth, stand, building or other structure.

Trading

6. No person shall on the Downs, without the consent of the Downs Committee, sell or offer or expose for sale, or let to hire, or offer or expose for letting to hire, any commodity or article.

Grazing

7. No person shall, without the consent of the Downs Committee, turn out or permit any animal to graze on the Downs.

Protection of Flower Beds, trees, Grass etc

8. No person who brings or causes to be brought onto the Downs a vehicle shall wheel or park it over or upon:
 - (a) any flower bed, shrub or plant, or any ground in the course of preparation as a flower bed, or for the growth of any tree, shrub or plant; or
 - (b) any part of the Downs where the Downs Committee, by a notice placed in a conspicuous position on the Downs, prohibits its being wheeled or parked.
9. No person shall on the Downs enter upon:
 - (a) any flower bed, shrub or plant, or any ground in the course of preparation as a flower bed, or for the growth of any tree, shrub or plant; or
 - (b) any part of the Downs set aside for the renovation of grass or turf, where adequate notice to keep off such grass or turf is exhibited.

Games

10. Where the Downs Committee has, by a notice placed in a conspicuous position on the Downs, set apart an area for the playing of such games as may be specified in the notice, no person shall:
 - (a) play in such an area any game other than the game for which it has been set apart; or
 - (b) use any such area so as to give reasonable grounds for annoyance to any person already using that area for any purpose for which it has been set apart; or
 - (c) play any game so specified on any other part of the Downs in such a manner as to exclude any person not playing the game from the use of that part.
11. No person, shall, on any area of the Downs which may have been set apart by the Downs Committee for any game, play any game when the state of the ground or other cause makes it unfit for use and a notice is placed in a conspicuous position prohibiting play on that area of the Downs.

12. (1) No person shall on the Downs play any game:
 - (a) so as to give reasonable grounds for annoyance to any other person on the Downs; or
 - (b) which is likely to cause damage to any tree, shrub or plant on the Downs.
- (2) This byelaw shall not extend to any areas set apart by the Downs Committee for the playing of any game.

Golf

13. No person shall on the Downs drive, chip or pitch a hard golf ball.

Horse-riding

14. Where any part of the Downs has, by notices placed in conspicuous positions on the Downs, been set apart by the Downs Committee as an area where horse-riding is permitted, no person shall, without the consent of the Downs Committee, ride a horse on any other part of the Downs.

Obstruction

15. No person shall on the Downs:
 - (a) intentionally obstruct any officer of the Council or the Downs Committee in the proper execution of his duties;
 - (b) intentionally obstruct any person carrying out an act which is necessary to the proper execution of any contract with the Council or the Downs Committee; or
 - (c) intentionally obstruct any other person in the proper use of the Downs, or behave so as to give reasonable grounds for annoyance to other persons on the Downs.

Savings

- 16.(1) An act necessary to the proper execution of his duty on the Downs by an officer of the Council or Downs Committee, or any act which is necessary to the proper execution of any contract with the Council or Downs Committee, shall not be an offence under these byelaws.

- (2) Nothing in or done under any of the provisions of these byelaws shall in any respect prejudice or injuriously affect any public right of way through the Downs, or the rights of any person acting legally by virtue of some estate, right or interest in, over or affecting the Downs or any part thereof.

Penalty

17. Any person offending against any of these byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

Revocation

18. The following byelaws relating to the Downs are hereby revoked:
 - (a) the byelaws made by the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the City of Bristol on 10 May 1982;
 - (b) the byelaws made by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the City of Bristol on 4 October 1935 and confirmed by the Minister of Health on 19 November 1935;
 - (c) the byelaw made by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the City of Bristol on 14 February 1950 and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department on 26 June 1950; and
 - (d) the byelaws made by the Council on 15 May 1978 and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department on 27 April 1978.

(Effective 11 June 1998)

Byelaws made by the Council of the City of Bristol under Section 5 of the Clifton and Durdham Down (Bristol) Act 1861.

Interpretation

1. In these byelaws:
 - 'the Act' means the Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861;
 - 'the Council' means Bristol City Council;

'the Downs Committee' means the Joint Committee nominated in accordance with the provisions of the Act;

'the Downs' means Durdham Down and the portion of Clifton Down coloured pink on the plan referred to in the Act.

Fires

2. (1) No person shall on the Downs intentionally light a fire, or place, throw or let fall a lighted match or any other thing so as to be likely to cause a fire.
 - (2) Byelaw 2(1) shall not apply to any event held with the consent of the Council.

Obstruction

3. No person shall on the Downs:
 - (a) intentionally obstruct any officer of the Council or the Downs Committee in the proper execution of his duties;
 - (b) intentionally obstruct any person carrying out an act which is necessary to the proper execution of any contract with the Council or the Downs Committee; or
 - (c) intentionally obstruct any other person in the proper use of the Downs, or behave so as to give reasonable grounds for annoyance to other persons on the Downs.


Savings

4. (1) An act necessary to the proper execution of his duty on the Downs by an officer of the Council or Downs Committee, or any act which is necessary to the proper execution of any contract with the Council or Downs Committee, shall not be an offence under these byelaws.
 - (2) Nothing in or done under any of the provisions of these byelaws shall in any respect prejudice or injuriously affect any public right of way through the Downs, or the rights of any person acting legally by virtue of some estate, right or interest in, over or affecting the Downs or any part thereof.

Penalty

5. Any person offending against any of these byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

Appendix 3

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| LD | Landscape Design Team |  | Office Handbook |
| | Planning Transport and Sustainable Development, Bristol City Council | | Environmental Legislation |
| Index of Environmental Legislation: A – Z | | | |
| A | <i>Air Quality Regulations, 2000</i> | | Pollution Control - Air Quality |
| | | | |
| B | <i>Badgers, Protection of, Act 1992</i> | | Protected Species |
| | <i>Biodiversity Action Plan, UK, 1994</i> | | Biodiversity Action |
| C | <i>Circular 02/99: Environmental Impact Assessments, published DETR 12 March 1999</i> | | Environmental Impact Assessments |
| | <i>Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.), Regulations, 1994</i> | | Protection of habitats and species |
| | <i>Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000</i> | | Common Land Public Rights of Way |
| | | | |
| E | <i>Education Act, 1996, s.508 -</i> | | Facilities for recreation and social and physical training. |
| | <i>Environment Act, 1995</i> | | Pollution Control - Air Quality |

| | | |
|----------|--|--|
| | <i>EU Council Directive 85/337/EEC(1)</i> | Environmental Impact Assessments |
| | <i>EU Council Directive 97/11/EC(1)</i> | Environmental Impact Assessments |
| H | <i>Habitats Regulations, 1994</i> | Protected Species |
| | <i>Hedgerow Regulations, 1997</i> | Protection of Hedgerows |
| L | <i>Local Authorities (Recovery of Costs for Public Path Orders) Regulations, 1993 (SI 1993 No 407)</i> | Public Rights of Way |
| | <i>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976</i> | Trees and Excavations |
| N | <i>National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949</i> | Local Nature Reserves |
| | | |
| P | <i>Pollution Protection and Control (PPC) Act, 1999</i> | Pollution control agencies' responsibilities |
| | <i>Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004</i> | Planning System change, including Local Development Framework. |
| | <i>Protection of Badgers Act, 1992</i> | Protected Species |
| | <i>Public Path Orders Regulations, 1993 (SI 1993 No 11)</i> | Public Rights of Way |
| R | <i>Rights of Way Act, 1990</i> | Public Rights of Way |
| | <i>Road Traffic Act, 1988, s. 34</i> | Offence to drive vehicle on common land |
| T | <i>Town and Country Amenities Act, 1974</i> | Trees |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | <i>Town and Country Planning Act, 1990</i> | Compulsory Purchase Orders Planning Obligations. Planning Process Public Rights of Way Tree Preservation |
| | <i>Town and Country Planning Act, 1990, s. 197</i> | Tree and Tree Group protection Trees in Conservation Areas |
| | <i>Town and Country Planning Act, 1990, s. 202</i> | Tree Preservation Orders, powers to make |
| | <i>Town and Country Planning Act, 1990, s. 210/1</i> | Punishment for damage or destruction of TPO tree. |
| | <i>Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act, 1985</i> | Woodland |
| | <i>Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales), Regulations 1999</i> | Environmental Impact Assessments |
| | <i>Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999, SI 1999/1982</i> | Trees |
| | <i>Town and Country Planning (Public Path Orders) Regulations, 1993 (SI 1993 No 10)</i> | Public Rights of Way |
| | <i>Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order) (Amendment) and (Trees in Conservation Areas) (Exempted Cases) Regulations 1975</i> | Tree and Tree Group protection Trees in Conservation Areas |

| | | |
|----------|---|----------------------------|
| U | <i>UK Biodiversity Action Plan, 1994</i> | Biodiversity Action |
| | | |

| | | |
|----------|---|---|
| W | <i>Water Framework Directive</i> | |
| | <i>Water Industry Act, 1991</i> | Pollution Control - Pollution control agencies' responsibilities |
| | <i>Water Resources Act, 1991</i> | Pollution Control - Water Resources |
| | <i>Weeds Act, 1959</i> | Weed Control |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 | Areas of Special Protection Public Rights of Way Protected Species Trees |
|--|---|---|

APPENDIX 4

Environmental Policy and EMAS actions

Providing for identification and compliance with all environmental legislation, policies and codes of practice relevant to our activities and services

- Maintain an updated environment register based on the one currently compiled by the Landscape Design team and ensure that it is maintained up to date and relevant to the Downs.
- Work with other directorates and management teams to ensure legislation relating to all aspects of the Downs is complied with i.e. events, street scene, planning, waste management etc.

Continually improving overall environmental performance through the implementation and review of objectives and targets

- Annual review of the 5-year work plan 7.6.19
- Annual review of EMAS Action Plan 7.6.11

Identifying and managing environmental aspects relevant to Council activities and services

- Improvement will occur through continual service and management plan review (See 7.0) Actions relevant to the Downs will be identified, agreed, implemented and monitored through EMAS and the 5 year work plan (See 6.0 and 7.6.11).
- The City Council Events and EMAS teams are required to assess the environmental impact of an event. Some areas of the Downs may not be able to be used for an event because of the impact on wildlife or on plant species.

Ensuring that the environmental consequences of all new policies and practices are assessed

- The service and management planning procedures will ensure that the introduction of any new policies and operations will be assessed for their environmental impacts. This will be undertaken through officer team meetings and management plan reviews by the Downs Committee. (See 7.0).

Prevention of pollution

- Pollution will be prevented by the safe storage and good maintenance of machinery. Service details are recorded and monitored.
- The council has a Pest Management Policy.
- Standard corporate procedures for chemicals use and storage exist; these apply to all depots and operations

- Prepare a Site Use and Access Guide for Event management and contractor operations. (See 7.2.9)

Minimising the effects of resource use by conserving water.

- Very little water is used on the Downs. White Tree roundabout has been planted with herbaceous plants that do not require watering in the summer.

Reducing the consumption of fossil fuels by conserving energy and promoting the use of renewable sources

- Vehicles and machinery are maintained to high standards to ensure that they are energy efficient. Service records are kept and monitored by Bristol Parks for those machines that are serviced by main dealerships and Bristol Contract Services (BCS) for those that are maintained by the council.
- Investigate the possible use of 'green' electricity for events.
- Investigate the use of bio fuels by events organisers and site-based staff.
- In 2010 a new ice cream concession with a single vendor led to an agreement to ban the running of diesel engines to dispense ice cream. Units are now either connected to a mains/battery electricity supply or sell only 'hard' ice cream.

Minimising the disposal of waste through reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery

- Develop recycling for all arisings and as much litter as possible (See 7.6.15).
- A percentage of leaf fall will be composted at the depot. The bulk will be composted on a range of allotment sites around the city.
- Used Oil will be disposed of through Fleet Management.
- As much wood as possible will be chipped. Bristol Zoo will use some of this.
- Sustainably sourced timber will be used as bollards to protect the grass from illegal parking.
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) timber will be specified for all repairs of benches, fences etc, if locally grown timber is unavailable.
- Some wood is sold to The Forest of Avon group and some is sold for firewood.
- Some of the hay produced when cutting the flower meadows will be used to support the goat herd, the remainder will be used by City Farms and other charity based organisations.

Evaluating and monitoring air, noise, water and land pollution, and influencing others to reduce such pollution

- The creation of a Site Use & Access Guide for Events organisers will be investigated to better control noise and waste generated by events. (See 7.2.9)
 - Herbicides, chemicals, paints and other materials are all COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) regulated and usage is kept to a minimum. There is an approved chemical list..

Monitoring and protecting biodiversity

- Extend existing wildflower meadows (See 7.4.1)
- Create new areas of wildflower meadow (See 7.4.2)
- Monitor incidence of Elm disease with a view to eradicating it and introducing elm trees to site (See 7.3.10)
- The preferred option of the City Council timber policy is to source all timber from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- Prepare a tree planting plan (See 7.3.9)
- A Scrub Management Plan will be produced (See 7.3.1)
- 'Environmental Guidance for Landscape Design' will be prepared in 2007 for material specifications covering hard and soft work and will include guidance on materials, embodied energy, toxicity, use of pesticides, treatments, paints, drainage, material durability etc. This will be reviewed against current material and maintenance specifications.
- Develop wildlife monitoring program for the Downs (See 7.4.3)

Encouraging suppliers and contractors to improve their environmental performance in order to reduce any detrimental environmental impact of the goods and services used by the Council. This will be achieved through the Council procurement strategy and by controlling the on-site activities of contractors.

- Most site operations on the Downs are now 'in house' (removal of waste is an example of one activity still carried out by contractors). Therefore most actions carried out to fulfil this environmental policy will be carried out by the parks operations section staff through the adaptation of central guidelines to the local situation.
- The proposed 'Site Use & Access Guide' (See 7.2.9) will demand more comprehensive production schedules, sites plans and risk assessments from event managers so that environmental impacts can be reduced and monitored.
- 'The Bristol First Guide to construction, planning and development' provides guidance for all construction and maintenance operations. The relevant content will be extracted as a separate leaflet to be called 'Construction Sites - Environmental Good Practice'.
- The City Council will ensure waste carrying contractors are chosen from the approved lists where their annually renewable waste carriers licenses and Waste Transfer Notes (WTNs) for removed material are regularly checked.
- The site based staff will be encouraged to explore green energy providers and undertake energy efficiency audits at offices and depots.

Actively involving our staff through training and awareness programmes to ensure that they improve their environmental performance

- Bristol Parks will review and record all directly relevant training undertaken by City Council directorates with responsibility for the Downs.

- There are Environmental Awareness Representatives (EARS) in all departments that are kept up to date on all developments in environmental performance.

Regularly reviewing and reporting on progress which will include producing an annual Environmental Statement for departments that have been verified

- Bristol Parks Management will provide input into the Environmental Statement and will make this available as appropriate for communication to stakeholders.

Communicating with interested parties and making this policy publicly available

- This management plan is available to the public and has been distributed to all stakeholders.

Pest Management Policy - Available to view at Bristol Parks Office, Brunel House

BCC are committed to providing, maintaining and positively promoting a health and safety environment at work. A Pest management Policy has been produced in conjunction with Trade Unions, Safety Representatives and other representatives of the Council. The Policy has been adopted by Bristol City Council and is evidence of the Council's commitment to ensuring the safety and well being of all its employees.

Recycling

At present all leaf litter is recycled on the City's allotment sites. The hay cut is used at the Hartcliffe City Farm and the Zoo. Wood chips are used in the biomass boiler at Blaise Nursery and also at the Zoo. All litter is sorted by the contractor and recycled. However, it is intended to investigate the possibility of recycling glass etc. in future by keeping the collections separate. See 7.6.15 and 7.6.16.

Peat

All plants are grown in peat free compost. Annual bedding is planted at the Black Boy Hill roundabout, White Tree roundabout and Thomas Memorial. White Tree roundabout is mainly herbaceous planting with a small amount of annual bedding to add colour, mainly in the winter and spring.