

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

**DOWNS COMMITTEE
24th November 2014**

Report of: Service Director, Environment and Leisure

Title: Downs Management Report

Ward: N/A

**Officer Presenting Report: Andrew Gordon,
Heritage Planning and Partnership Officer**

Contact Telephone Number: 0117 9639194

RECOMMENDATION:

Members:

To note the points and recommendations made in the report.

Summary

This report reflects the objectives of the Downs Management Plan and to inform members of progress since the last meeting.

The significant issues in the report are:

- Enjoyment
- Access
- Working Groups
- Landscape
- Wildlife
- Management and Resources.

1. Policy

Not Applicable

2. Consultation

a) Internal

John Williams, Area Manager North.

Andrew Gordon, Estates Management team Leader
Mike Allen, Business Manager
Becky Belfin, Nature Conservation Officer
Richard Ennion, Environmental Improvement Manager

b) External

Mandy Leivers, Avon Gorge and Downs Biodiversity Education Officer
Jack Penrose, FOD + AG
Chris Westcott, Natural England

3. Context

a) Enjoyment:

The second item of OTIS Outdoor Training Equipment has been installed, on temporarily basis for one year, behind the The Downs changing rooms (see attachment 1 for photograph).

The Oscar Tuazon artwork will be removed from the Downs by 13 November. Overall the Alnolfini consider the artwork was a success based on the significant number of people attending their events.

Members requested that officers to go back to Natural England at the last meeting to see if they would reconsider their decision not to extend their temporary consent, to continue to use the designated BBQ Area. The reason for Natural England's decision, was that BBQ and surrounding area should be restored to species rich grassland in accordance with the Conservation Objectives for the SSSI. Officers had indicated at the last Committee meeting that any challenge to Natural England would need to be based on scientific grounds and to this end they were seeking to establish whether not it was possible to restore species rich grassland on the BBQ area by carrying out soil analysis, to see if nutrient levels were sufficiently low to do this. Officers have now received the results of the soil analysis for samples taken from BBQ area. These confirm that nutrient levels i.e. available phosphate, are sufficiently low to make it possible to create species rich grassland within this area. Notwithstanding these results, officers have approached Natural England to see if it would be possible to extend the temporary consent for the BBQ Area, on grounds that Avon Gorge and Downs scrub management plan would not have been produced and implemented by the end of next summer and the stone slabs used for placing BBQ's could be relocated to areas covered in scrub or shaded by mature trees.

Natural England's response to this proposal is that they consider that a scrub management and subsequent grassland restoration programme, (which they consider necessary to meet the Conservation Objectives for the SSSI) could be implemented in the open areas of grassland in the

BBQ and other areas within the SSSI and this could be funded by extending the existing Avon Gorge/Downs Higher Level Stewardship agreement next summer and beyond. They consider seed collected from adjacent hay cut areas would be used to create species rich grassland. Furthermore they consider the BBQ area poses a fire risk to the goat pen and adjacent sensitive habitats on the grounds that people could dispose of hot BBQ remains, in the woodland edge adjacent the pen. They support this argument by site visits finding litter (which they consider presents a risk to the goats) and BBQs / piles of charcoal disposed of in the woodland edge area in question. They do not consider it would possible to prevent this continuing to happen. In view of these considerations they would not be willing to extend the consent.

Recommendation: Members accept Natural England's decision not grant further consents for the reasons given and that Officers present alternative areas for consideration

Members will recall the presentation from ClimbBristol (project established by the British Mountaineering Council) at the last meeting raising awareness of activities carried out by their members in Avon Gorge. Officers have had a meeting with ClimbBristol representatives to obtain further details about their future aspirations and what support they are seeking from members. The key points arising are as follows:

1. The Bristol side of Avon Gorge provides one of the most important climbing resources in the UK and is used by wide range of people from all sectors, ages and abilities. Its location within a city boundary makes it a unique climbing venue for Britain. ClimbBristol estimates that between 5-10,000 people use the site per year peaking at up to 50 climbing teams in summer evenings and at weekends. The Sea Walls rock-face (Black Rock Quarry) , including that part currently out of bounds because of the rockfall, is considered to host some of the most important climbs in the south west of England.
2. Climbing in the gorge is promoted by word of mouth, guide books, articles, dedicated climbing web sites, and magazines.
3. In the past the Gorge was more widely used because the Portway was safer and the cliffs more accessible to climbers i.e. significantly less traffic, no bus lane, there was a functional car park and meeting place under Great Quarry, and it was better supplied with pavements. Greater use by climbers meant that the cliffs stayed clearer of scrub and loose rock then; a position that ClimbBristol is trying to redress.
4. Climb Bristol would like to see the access for climbers enhanced by:

- a. Pedestrian safety improvements to Portway including contiguous pavements, crossings, cycle hoops, public transport provision. They have approached BCC Highways about this
- b. Re-opening the Great Quarry car park (at least in part), which has been closed to the public for many years. Officers understand this was closed by BCC as result of safety concerns and problems with use of the site by travellers.
- c. Carrying out the planned stabilisation work on the rockface below Seawall.
- d. Contributing to systematic rock inspections which ensures the safety of the highway and other users of the gorge
- e. Avon Gorge being designated as open access land by Natural England (and in doing so occupiers' liabilities are reduced). ClimbBristol consider by dedicating BCC's land in the Gorge as Open Access it would provide legal access in perpetuity for quiet recreation on foot, including climbing.

5. ClimbBristol are keen to see the management objectives for the Gorge fully incorporate recreational use including climbing, highways, tourism, cultural and historic interests. The intention by the AGDWP Partnership to carry out a feasibility study for the base of the gorge, to implement actions in the Avon Gorge (Bristol side) management plan, will seek to address the recreational use including improving access to and within the gorge and the redevelopment of Great Quarry. To this end BCC intend to involve key stakeholders in the feasibility study work, which will ultimately make a recommendation for any development/enhancements in the base of the Gorge including Great Quarry.

6. ClimbBristol is investigating opportunities in Bristol Green Capital 2015 to continue its work to promote Climbing in the Gorge and to help deliver improvements and events in 2015 in partnership with Bristol City Council and others.

7. ClimbBristol welcomes the proposal to create a formal stakeholder group, and is grateful for the opportunities for dialogue with Council Officers and other Avon Gorge stakeholders.

8. ClimbBristol has shown that it can help BCC in a number of ways:

- a. Providing a reliable source of information including opportunistic observations on conditions on the cliff face, thus complementing formal inspections and reducing BCC liability
- b. Scaling loose rock from important climbs. With the necessary consents in place from Natural England and Bristol City Council, ClimbBristol have been able to identify and remove significant unstable sections of rock up to 3m² in size.
- c. With the necessary consents in place from Natural England and

Bristol City Council, ClimbBristol have removed and treated scrub and invading vegetation on cliff faces which has helped to maintain populations of rare and scarce plants

d. In collaboration with the British Ornithological Trust, ClimbBristol has helped with the ringing of peregrine falcon chicks.

Recommendation: Members are asked to note the importance of Avon Gorge for climbing and support the aims/measures for enhancing accessibility of Avon Gorge proposed by the ClimbBristol. – subject to consideration of the sites designation and use.

b) Access:

A summary of the number of anti-social incidents are set out in attachment 2. This shows that there were around 140 incidents of unauthorised parking over sixth month period between 1 June to 31 October especially Clifton Down, Circular Road, Upper Belgrave Road and Ladies Mile. There were also significant numbers of BBQ incidents during the summer period despite the dedicated BBQ area. To try and deter and prevent parking on the grass BCC Security Services were asked to focus on the key problem areas and appear to have had some success with this. However the problem is ongoing and likely to be exacerbated by the introduction of Resident Parking Zones and the limitation of being able to enforce Byelaws. Unlike parking on Highways which uses fixed penalties for parking offences Byelaws enforcement requires costly and often lengthy legal action. There were no significant numbers of other types of incidents recorded.

The number of BBQ incidents emphasises the important of having dedicated BBQ Area and making sure people are aware its location.

Local residents have raised concerns about the state of no cycling sign at Christchurch Green footpath. BCC Highways are responsible for this and agreed to get it repainted.

A quote of £495 has been received for repainting signs on the only official Downs cycle path. BCC Walking an Cycling Officer has agreed to pay the works out of his budget.

Recommendation: Officers continue to develop a data base to compare current anti-social behaviour with the past and identify trends and the Traffic Subgroup convenes to discuss practical steps to deal with the problem taking advice from security services.

c) Working Groups

Rock Fall Group:

Sea Walls

The owner of the adjoining land at Sea Walls had signed an agreement with BCC to allow the contractor carrying out the rock stabilisation works to oversail and access his land. The contractor informs Officers the works will be completed by the first week in January 2015

Officers have met with the Master and Lord Mayor to explain the liability of members for current and future rock falls within the Avon Gorge. In addition they have taken a number of steps to look at options for addressing current and future rocks on the adjoining land owners land. Both these will be dealt with in separate item with only members and officers present.

Bridge Road:

Parson Brinkerhoff have informed officers after visiting the Bridge Road site to ensure access to the rock face at Bridge Road they intend commencing rock inspections in November. They will avoid peak times (7h00 – 9h30 and 15h30 – 18h30). Once they have completed this work they will inform officers of the programme to produce a rock stabilisation design and go out tender to appoint a contractor to carry out the works.

Risk Management of Rock faces.

Officers have met with BCC Highways and agreed a management strategy to manage risk associated with rock faces that are within BCC responsibility in the Avon Gorge.

1. The approach will be:

General hazard assessment (to identify areas of concern requiring further investigation)

- a. Drones will be used with powerful camera to inspect visible rock faces to identify hazards / areas of concern (This will include the rock face above the adjoining land owner at Sea Walls). Data will be reviewed by a structural Engineer reflecting judgement of risk to the highways, railway, climbers, public / other parties.
- b. Ground inspection will be used to inspect areas that cannot be viewed by drones due to vegetation and other obstructions;

Physical investigation / action (of areas highlighted as of concern)

- c. Detailed physical assessment of areas highlighted to be of concern will follow and be undertaken by a suitability qualified consultant
2. The general hazard assessment will be completed within the next few months. The results of this survey will inform future inspection regimes
3. Highway will front the payment for the general hazard inspection. Cost to mitigate risk may require BCC corporate funding.

Landscape:

The reinstatement of the land surrounding the new playground has not been as successful as was anticipated including dieback of new turf due to dry summer and footfall as well as the failure of the reseeded areas to establish. Officers intend to look at options for carrying out further reinstatement including decompaction, re-turfing and reseeded.

FODAG have reported concerns about masonry falling off the chimney within the goat pen which vents the network railway tunnel underneath. Network Rail have admitted liability for the chimney and have carried out a condition inspection. No indication has so far been given when remedial works will be carried out. To protect the public and the goats, fencing has been erected around chimney.

e) Wildlife:

The goats continue to thrive in the Gully and ensure species rich grassland and rare plants associated with this area are maintained and with time can be expanded.

FODAG members continue with valuable assistance in the management of the livestock.

The Education Officers work continues with a busy schedule. Activities from July for both staff are detailed in attachment 3

f) Management and Resources:

Environment and Leisure Management have completed the restructuring of posts. This has resulted in the appointment of John Williams as Area Manager, North whose responsibilities include Grounds Maintenance of the The Downs, as well as a supervisor and 6 gardeners to the Downs Team (see attachment 4). The Team will be dedicated to working on the The Downs but will provide support to Blaise and Kings Weston Estates as they did in the past. This should result in staff meeting management plan actions for this year.

The normal vegetation clearance of Bridge Valley Road has been delayed until January/February 2015. This is due to Highways staff changes and the

approach to carrying out rock inspection that does not now require the closure of the Portway- in previous years Bridge Valley Road has been closed at the same as the Portway. As consequence Officers have had to seek a Highways Order to close the road to carry out the work.

On-going general maintenance includes planting autumn/winter bedding on the Blackboy roundabout, managing the goats, clearing litter and emptying litter and dog bins, grass cutting, cleaning signs and shelters, graffiti removal, shrub bed maintenance and maintaining herbaceous beds.

Winter scrub work will include:

Continued removal of scrub and small trees on the Zoo banks area. This is a continuation of a programme of works set out by Bristol City Council, Natural England and Avon Gorge and Down's Wildlife Project. The intention is to increase areas of limestone grassland and to continue providing space for outdoor education activities run by the Zoo Education Officers

Two more compartments of our scrub removal programme on the Iron age earth banks surrounding the Observatory on Clifton Downs. This will comprise going back over the first 4 compartments and cutting off any regrowth also removing further trees that may have died or have fallen over. The Team intend to use Community PayBack team to help with this work to get the work completed as quickly as possible.

In the New Year the Downs Team intend to work to a new 10 year programme of scrub removal comprising other areas of the Downs. This will include the wildflower meadows adjacent to circular road and areas across from the water tower.

Members will remember that discussion was held about the options for hay cutting on the Downs the general view was that a contractor would be the most cost effective approach taking into account this will free up the Downs Team to do other work at this very busy time of year. The best quote received so far to undertake the work including loading 1400 small bales (based on the number produced last year) is £1890.20 excluding VAT. It is intended the hay will continue to be given to the city farms and remainder sold.

Officers are advised that a programme of tree inspection has been developed by the Tree officers involving several thousand trees to ensure the safety of users on the Downs. Members should be aware that there may be significant costs associated with tree work where trees are found to present a risk to users.

Members have asked officers to about what the plan is to replace trees on the Downs. In summary small numbers of trees have been replaced on the Downs each year using sponsored trees principally to fill in gaps in rows and avenues. In 2012 members requested officers produce a tree replacement

plan in response to trees being felled principally as result of disease on the Downs each year, but due to staff changes this been delayed. However officers intend to produce a plan and present to members next year ready to start planting in the winter.

Recommendation: That members note staff changes, work completed and planned and agree to the use of a contractor to carry out hay cuts.

Finance

As requested by members at the last meeting Officers have carried out investigations to look at charging of Football leagues on the Downs. The findings are as follows:

- i) The advice from the BCC accountants is the income received from the football leagues is £42,500 and the best estimate of the cost of the Downs Team providing a football services is £45,000 therefore there appears to be a net cost to The Downs Committee of around £2,500. This is based on 1000 players and associated referees and linesman using a maximum of 32 pitches every week between September to May.
- ii) Officers have established that Bristol City Council football charges for the Downs are identical to charges for other Estates and Parks (see attachment 4). The charges are reviewed annually by the Service Manager for Environment and Leisure and any rise is consistent across the board.

Recommendation: That current level of charges for providing football facilities on The Downs are not changed to ensure these are consistent with other Council Estates and Parks charges.

The concession at Parry's Lane to provide a refreshment unit has been retendered and the process completed by 31 October 2014. The selection criteria tried to carefully balance getting reasonable bid, at the same time ensuring any bidder has the appropriate experience of running a similar business and therefore able to pay the annual fee for having the concession. Unfortunately none of bidders met the criteria and as consequence it will be necessary to carry out another retender.

The Master and Heritage Planning and Partnership Officer have met and visited the Downs to discuss opportunities for offering a non- ice cream refreshment concession at Sea Walls and the New Play Ground. They have concluded that at this present time a concession at Sea Walls is likely to be the most realistic opportunity on the grounds there has been significant interest in traders in this location and the cost of providing the infrastructure i.e. a power and water point, parking surface (see attachment 5) and access bollard is likely to be affordable based on indicative quotes obtained

Although no costs have so far been obtained for installing the infrastructure at the new Downs playground, technical advice from BCC officers indicates this is likely to be very expensive as there is no existing/readily available power and water sources and as result electrical and water companies would need to provide new connections for power and water supplies.

Recommendation: that both concessions for both Parry's Lane and Sea Walls are tendered in the spring as one package with the aim of providing a more attractive proposition for potential bidders.

Risk Assessment:

No Risk Assessment has been carried out

5. Public Sector Equality Duties

5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following "protected characteristics": age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

6. Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

The Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861 provides that the Downs should remain as a place for the resort and recreation of the citizens of Bristol, and that a committee should be appointed to manage them. The recommendations of this report are within the powers conferred by this statute.

Financial

(a) Revenue:

(b) Capital

None

Financial advice provided by Mike Allen. Business Partner.

7. Land

The land is under the control of the Downs Committee.

8. Personnel

Not applicable

Appendices: 1 & 2

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: None



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Anti-social behaviour records on The Downs Incident type	Period 1 June to 31 August 2014	Period: 1st September to 31 Oct 2014
Unauthorised parking	62 incidents including a meet of 30 mini on 17/8. Areas affected included: Ladies Mile Upper Belgrave road Circular Road Sea wall	80 incidents including 30 cars park on Downs off Ladies Miles during circus event on 5/10/14. Areas affected included: Observation Road Suspension Bridge Road, Clifton Down Concession car park on Circular Road (nearest Ladies Mile) grass verge of Upper Belgrave Rd (Opposite junction of Worrall Rd) grass on Harley Place, Sea Walls
Public complaints	None recorded	3 formal complaints about Parking on Christchurch Green, cycling on the Downs. Neighbourhood Partnership reported the need to repaint No Cycling signs at Christchurch Green
Cycling	1	See complaints
BBQ's	44	3
Litter	1+	No reported incidents
Placement Erection of structures e.g tents	4	2
Kite surfing	0	1



Avon Gorge and Downs Biodiversity Education Officer's Report July – mid October 2014

Mandy Leivers – Avon Gorge & Downs Biodiversity Education Officer and
Joss Smithson – Avon Gorge & Downs Seasonal Education Officer
Both posts are funded by Downs Committee
Downs Committee is a partner in the Avon Gorge & Downs Wildlife Project

Events

- At the start of July, Ed Drewitt and Mandy ran a 'Gorge-ous peregrines family event' in partnership with Avon Wildlife Trust. 22 people of all ages came along to the event which was timed to coincide with a Bristol Ornithological Club peregrine watch weekend on the Downs.
- The 'Wild tales storytelling walk and picnic' took place at the end of July. Martin Maudsley thrilled 30 adults and children with stories of Vincent and Goram, foxes, mice, talking trees and birds.
- 16 people came along to a fantastic 'Spiders of the Avon Gorge' walk led by Mark Pajak.
- 19 children attended our children's holiday 'Bugs, bees and Butterflies' and Mammal detectives' events. Unfortunately we had to cancel our 'Feathered friends' event because of our office move (the Zoo's education centre, where we are based, is being redeveloped at the moment).
- In September, Richard Bland, from Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge (FOD+AG), led a wonderful walk for 20 people called, 'Meander down the Mousehole'.
- 51 people attended our third Star Party on the Downs. The event was run in partnership with the FOD+AG, Bristol Astronomical Society and Explorer Dome and was a huge success. In terms of 'widening our audience', over half of the people attending hadn't been to one of our events before. Evaluation form comments included, *"Thank you for arranging another lovely star party. Everybody was very friendly and welcoming"*. *"Great event"* and in response to the question 'What did you enjoy most?' – *"The experience of being on the Downs, at night, with other people"*.
- In the middle of October, 18 people attended an 'Owl Prowl' on the Downs.

Before the end of the year:

We have a further three courses, two talks, two guided walks and a children's event left to run as part of the Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project events programme.

Community events

- 82 people came to the Festival of Nature Downs Discovery Day. Throughout the day we ran a mixture of activities for two invited groups: The Family Centre (deaf children) and LinkAge (A cross-generational group for older people and their grandchildren). FOD+AG also ran two public walks (Trees and wildflowers and a Butterfly walk) and the Bristol Ornithological Club ran a peregrine watch. We ran the event in partnership with the Bristol Natural History Consortium, FOD+AG, Bristol Naturalists' Society and Bristol Ornithological Club, with funding from GL Hearn.
- Mandy took the Project display and leaflets along to the Avon Gorge Climbing Festival. The event was organised by ClimbBristol. During the day, over 30 people picked up leaflets and asked about the wildlife of the Gorge and the work of the Avon Gorge & Downs Wildlife Project.
- The first Bristol Wool Fair took place on the Downs from 5th – 7th September. We ran the children's craft tent at the fair. It was a perfect venue for us to explain about the history of grazing on the Downs. We were also promoting our herd of goats and took along a display about how they are helping us to make room for the rare wild flowers of the Avon Gorge. Children (and quite a few adults) decorated goat masks. In partnership with Timothy Dowling from FOD+AG, Mandy ran two guided walks looking at the history of grazing and the goats in the Gully. FOD+AG shared the tent with us and also brought along a display. In total we interacted with 416 people over the weekend.

Widening the audience – Your Downs

- In July, Mandy and Robin Haward (FOD+AG), teamed up with the Inner City Health Improvement Team and Kelly Bray from Avon Wildlife Trust to run our third Your Downs walk for 16 folks from Easton, St Pauls, Montpelier and Easton.
- We had booked a stall at the Islamic Fayre, in Eastville Park, on the 17th August. Unfortunately the high winds, caused by the after-effects of hurricane Bertha, meant that the Islamic Fayre was postponed.
- In conjunction with the Walking for Health Outreach Officer, Mandy led a guided walk for 10 people from Headway (a charity which supports people recovering from head injuries).
- At the start of October, 65 people from all the Bristol Walking for Health groups came to the Downs for a mass guided walk event. Richard Bland and Timothy Dowling (FOD+AG) and Mandy led three walks of differing lengths. 100 people had been expected but there was torrential rain on the morning

of the event. Mandy took the project display and our range of leaflets, to the hall where the walkers were meeting, to encourage the walking groups to visit again.

- Mandy gave a talk to 32 members of the Bromley Heath Gardening Club.

Towards the end of October and in November Mandy will be:

- Co-leading a walk for the 'Your Downs - Five ways to well-being group' with two FOD+AG members; Leading a walk for the Heartful dodgers (folks recovering from heart attacks and strokes); Giving talks to West of England Friends Housing Association and Lincombe Barn Natural History Society.

School education sessions

- During July, September and the first two weeks of October we taught 816 pupils in 47 education sessions. Stoke Park primary, St Phillips primary school from Bath and Whitehall primary all came to us for the first time.
- Based on our school session evaluation, 100% of respondents said that they were 'very likely' to book a session with us again. Teacher feedback included: *"Thank you for inspiring, enthusing and educating our children in such an engaging 'awe and wonder' way!"* (Hotwells primary). *"We had a fantastic day. Joss was amazing, exactly the right balance of fun/education/control. My class have learnt so much. A day they won't forget".* (Horfield primary).

Before the end of the season:

- We have a further seven sessions that we will be teaching.

Holiday playschemes, Brownies, Rainbows and Beaver sessions

- We ran 30 sessions with 434 children.
- At the end of each session we gave the group leader a feedback form to fill in and send back. We achieved a return rate of 72%. They were asked to give a mark out of 10 for session content, presentation, length and level. The average (mean) results for these fields are: Session content (9.6), Presentation (9.8), Length (9.8) and Level (9.9).
- They were also asked how likely they are to book a session with us again; 100% said Very likely. From this feedback we can clearly see that the groups value the sessions we deliver and are keen to return for more. Comments from group leaders include: *"The sessions are the highlight of our summer. The children have such a wonderful time and so do I, watching them learn and enjoy the fun"* (Southville Centre). *"All the activities were great fun, original and enjoyable. We really enjoyed it. Thank you".* (179th St Bonnaventure's Brownies).

Volunteers and work experience students

- 11 volunteers and four work experience students gave 241 hours of their time. Many of our events and activities couldn't take place without their support.

Publicity

- Joss and Mandy sent regular posts to our social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) advertising events, activities and showing photos of what we've been doing. George Ferguson mentioned the Avon Gorge in a tweet, in response to seeing Ester de Roij's film about the wildlife of the gorge. Ester's film is one of three films being shown at our Avon Gorge film night on the 11th November.

Other

- Mandy met with Joel Edwards (Learning and Participation Manager) from the RWA. They are hosting the British Wildlife Photographer Awards touring exhibition from 19th December – 8th March. Joel is keen to link the exhibition to local sites where visitors can explore and enjoy learning about British biodiversity. Mandy will give a talk about the Avon Gorge and Downs and run a children's day.
- Mandy attended a meeting of the Bristol Green Capital Nature, Wildlife & Green Spaces Action Group and the Green Capital quarterly meeting.
- Mandy participated in the Bristol Zoo mini Bioblitz (an event to identify and record all the wildlife seen in a particular location over a 24 hour period). The Avon Gorge & Downs Wildlife Project display was put up and our range of leaflets made available for Zoo guests to pick up.
- This year we have produced seasonal family trail leaflets for the Downs. They contain an activity sheet for children to guide them in their wildlife spotting and a crib sheet for adults. The summer and autumn trails have been massively popular.



Football Bristol City Council 2014/2015 charges

Parks football

Seasonal hire fees are as follows:	Adult	Junior
All Parks (excluding Netham) - Full facilities	£642.14	£321.90
All Parks (excluding Netham) – Half facilities (without changing rooms)	£422.68	£227.32
Netham Park – Full Facilities	£707.09	£355.11
Netham Park – Half facilities (without changing rooms)	£476.64	£249.32
All Parks - Maintained pitch only	£224.18	£112.09

Casual hire fees are as follows:	Adult	Junior
Bristol Parks (excluding Netham) – Full facilities	£65.99	£33.00
Bristol Parks (excluding Netham) – Half facilities (without changing rooms)	£43.99	£23.04
Netham Park – Full facilities	£72.28	£35.62
Netham Park – Half facilities (without changing rooms)	£49.24	£25.14
Insurance inclusion charge (optional)	£2	£2

Downs Football

Seasonal hire fees are as follows:	Adult
The Downs – Full Facilities	£642.14
The Downs – Half facilities (without changing rooms)	£422.68

