

Summary of Downs Committee powers

The Clifton & Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861- (The Downs Act)

Rules from time to time deemed expedient and might be made by the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses for the Improvement and Preservation of the said land for best ensuring the public use and enjoyment thereof.

The Corporation and the Society of Merchant Venturers shall nominate a joint committee for the management of the [Downs] (the Downs Committee).

The Downs Committee shall exercise the following powers:

- suggest byelaws and carry those made into effect.
- open and close roads.
- prevent all obstructions and misuses.
- erect temporary fences.
- drain, plant or improve the Downs and may enclose parts for ornamental purposes only and may appropriate portions thereof for particular purposes of recreation or exercise.
- may make rules for their own conduct and appoint and remove clerks, servants and officers and workmen for the purpose of this Act and they may fix the remuneration of the persons to be so employed by them.

The Downs Act can be found at this [link](#). It is important that all committee members have read the Act, but the section on powers has been reproduced below for ease of reference.