

Brief for Request for Approval of Richard Bland Memorial Woodland on Clifton and Durdham Downs.

(To be presented to the Downs Committee at their next meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019)

SUMMARY:

Richard Bland sadly passed away in December 2018. Richard was possibly Bristol's leading naturalist and ecologist. He was an active member of several environmental and scientific societies in the city including Bristol Tree Forum and Bristol Naturalists; Society.

Richard was a fountain of knowledge and frequently gave up his time to support and inform a wide range of projects throughout the city. He was the 'go-to-guy' for people from Bristol City Council, Avon Wildlife Trust, Forest of Avon Trust and many others when information was required on rare trees, habitats, local effects on the environment and any aspect of natural history across the South West.

Friends of the Downs and Bristol Tree Forum have approached the Tree Bristol / One Tree Per Child team at Bristol City Council with the proposal of planting a memorial woodland to remember Richard by. The Downs was selected as an appropriate area as Richard loved the area, did much good work around education people of flora and fauna in the vicinity.

We propose to plant a small copse in the area as per map. The general structure of the woodland copse will compose of three large oak trees at its centre surrounded by an understory of smaller woodland species with a focus on native trees to promote wildlife habitats.

STAGES:

The following represents a summary timeline of the project:

- September 2019 Downs Committee approve proposal
- October 2019 Service checks for underground infrastructure and soil tests
- October 2019 Public consultation on scheme with local residents
- December 2019 CAT scan of woodland area
- December 2019 Tree stock ordered through Blaise Nursery
- February 2020 Woodland planted with local school & Friends of the Downs
- April 2020 onwards Maintenance programme begins