

Set in the middle of a very built up environment Troopers Hill Nature Reserve and Field provides several different landscapes for visitors of all types human, insects invertebrates and other wildlife alike.

The field is flat and surrounded by a path providing access to all abilities especially for wheelchair users, sections were added recently to complete the circuit which over the pandemic has provided a surface for all types of exercise, running, bike riding etc

On the edge of the path in sections around the field the grass has been allowed to grow longer with the addition of wildflowers providing food and habitat for the insects.

The children's play area is colourful and attractive and a new slide will soon be installed

At one end of the field trees have covered an area that was once a waste tip giving a backdrop down towards the river.

Completely different again is the Nature Reserve, a heathland in the inner city, its rugged and beautiful with stunning views over the city of Bristol and beyond.

Conservation is the groups priority with this area and although improvements have and are being made, some new boundary fencing, the addition of interpretation boards the area is being allowed to evolve as it would do without intervention.

The group just help from time to time to keep the bracken at bay.

The old mining works are visible with the large stone chimney and the small hills and valleys going down to the river.

Our visit coincided with a display of purple heathers and many colourful wildflowers attracting many species of bees, butterflies and other insects.

The Friends of Troopers Hill have created an amazing facility for the city, they have good relationships with the local council, local schools and universities.

The Site is a learning opportunity for all these contacts.

They also organise events, talks and are part of the social prescription initiative to encourage people to enjoy the outdoors, meet up with other and limit their use of medication.

Their fundraising has been well thought out and utilised.

The Friends of Troopers Hill are an example for all groups to aspire too and proof at what can be achieved with passion and drive

Areas For Development

It would be difficult to make any suggestions towards the work the group are doing because it is such a unique site and they know exactly where they are going and what they want to achieve but maybe some consideration to give wheelchair users access to be able to take in the stunning views across the city and to encourage visitors to be able to extend their visits, toilets would be a good idea.