

## RHS 2022 It's Your Neighbourhood Assessment Form

**Name & Area:** Friends of Troopers Hill, Bristol

**Assessor:** Guy Rawlinson

**Date:** 22nd August 2022

**LEVEL ACHIEVED**

**Outstanding**

### **Feedback**

Troopers Hill is a haven for wildlife in east Bristol only 3 miles from the City Centre of Bristol. The sandstone rock and acid soil make this site unique. It was used for copper smelting, coal mining and had the extraction of fireclay. It is thought that the chimney, which acts as a significant landmark in the area was used as part of the process smelting process.

Troopers Hill was purchased by Bristol City Council (BCC) in 1956 for use as a public space and declared a Local Nature Reserve in 1995. The Friends of Troopers Hill was established in 2003.

The Friends, in close collaboration with BCC have worked tirelessly to ensure that the site is maintained and enhanced as a special place in Bristol. There are invertebrates on the site that do not live in any other place in the west country. There are 83 species of bee, including the miner bee. Evidence of their presence was obvious, when you know that they are there, with little holes in the hard and compacted paths.

There is extensive engagement with the community and it was evident that users respect the place and value it in amongst the urban sprawl of east Bristol.

Fund raising is a key part of the strategy and many projects have become possible because of the pursuit of funds from many sources. £5,000 has just been secured to enable winter conservation work. This will ensure that bramble is kept in check, vital to ensure the diversity of habitats.

### **Areas for Development**

I visited Troopers Hill toward the end of a very long hot summer. We do not need results of research to tell us that the weather is different now. The impact the LNR has on local diversity is immense. Individually we can each have an impact, added to together, we can all have a profound impact. Thank you for being a beacon of doing something to help global warming and we hope that others will follow!

It is almost impossible to make suggestions. Susan is very aware of funding resources and works tirelessly with BCC to deliver projects. All you can really say, is 'keep up the good work conducted by Sue, Rob and the Friends.