



Bristol South  
Skyline Walk

IT'S  
GOING TO  
BE A JOURNEY  
of DISCOVERY

# Welcome to the Bristol South Skyline Walk!

## Why Skyline?

On this walk you will be able to see brilliant views of skylines across Central, East and South Bristol, including famous landmarks such as the Suspension Bridge.

The walk is also about finding out about the people, wildlife, history and green spaces of parts of Bristol that are not so well known – and enjoying yourself along the way. It can be used by runners.

Some wildlife is seasonal (and shy) so you may not be able to see everything listed here on a site at the time of your visit.

## How long is the walk?

The short route (Sections 2, 9, 20, 21 on the central map) is better for those who are less energetic or wanting a route with paved surfaces. There are playgrounds on the route. This is about 2 miles (3 km) long and will take about 1 to 2 hours.

The long route (all Sections except 2) – is c.7 miles (c 11km) and will take 4 to 5 hours to complete. It can be used by walkers and runners. Some paths are unpaved and steep so are unsuitable for prams/buggies/wheelchairs. During wet weather parts can be muddy.

Bus stops are shown in case you wish to break the route into sections and return to Temple Meads/Central Bristol.

## Calories burnt:

At a steady pace you should use:

Shorter route: 300 to 500 kcal

Longer route: 800 to 1200 kcal

## General information:

Travel, including times from bus stops along the way – [www.travelwest.info](http://www.travelwest.info)

Tourist information – [www.visitbristol.co.uk](http://www.visitbristol.co.uk)













Facilities outside Bristol Temple Meads Railway Station:

Cycle racks; taxis; buses from South and North Bristol, the City Centre, Bristol Airport, Bath and Wells; café; short and long term car parking; drop off point.

How to use this booklet:

Turn to Pages 4 & 5 of the booklet for a map of the routes. Directions can be found on Page 6 and 7.

The other pages show sections of the routes with more detail, and the maps use these symbols:

<b>P</b> : Paved	 : Playground
<b>U</b> : Unpaved	 : Bus Stop
<b>S</b> : Steps	 : Viewpoints
 : Pedestrian Crossing	<b>i</b> : Information Board
<b>T</b> : Toilets	<b>H</b> : Historic Location
 : Shop	 : Wildlife
 : Cafe	 : Foraging
 : Dog Bins	 : Train Station
 : Seating	 : Cycleway

Pages 8 and 9 show features you can see from the route.

Information is correct as of September 2019, but may change over time. Temporary changes will be listed on our website. Please look after your own and other people's safety as you use the route.

Look out for our 'Follow the Big Toe' roundels. These will help guide you along the walk!



Direction descriptions on  
next page -->

**1 Long Route:** Start at the corner of Temple Gate and Cattle Market Road at the traffic lights. From Temple Meads Station this means walking down the slope and then turning left. Walk down Cattle Market Road, under Railway Bridge.

**2 Short Route:** Start as above, then head up the A4 and A37 Wells Road; OR catch a bus (by turning left at the bottom of the slopes from Temple Meads) to the Brecknock Road stop. Walk uphill, cross Wells Road by the Baptist Church and go along Crowndale Road. Enter Perrett's Park and walk along Path at the top. Exit park and turn right. See 9.

**3 Long Route:** As soon as you can, turn off Cattle Market Road onto the foot/cycle path next to the River Avon and follow the path keeping the river to your right.

**4 Long Route:** Cross the river at the Spark Evans Bridge. Then go along Edward Road and cross the A4 Bath Road to entrance of Arnos Vale Cemetery.

**5 Long Route:** Enter the Arnos Vale Cemetery and follow the road on the right up the hill. Keep to the right hand road.

**6 Long Route:** Follow the road and at the top go straight ahead; go past a building onto a path bearing left. Go past the memorial and go downhill on a stony path to reach Arnos Court Park

**7 Long Route:** On entering the park turn right cross the grass and follow the surfaced path up the hill. Exit the park, enjoy the view and walk up Withleigh Road. Turn right then left into Greenmore Road. Continue to the A37 Wells Road. Cross over and turn left to walk around the outside of the shopping centre and along the tree lined road (Broadwalk) to the main entrance of Redcatch Park. Walk straight across the park.

**8 Long Route:** Exit Redcatch Park cross Redcatch Road turn into Bayham Road and follow road downhill. Enter Perrett's Park and walk along path at top. Exit park and turn right.

**9 Long Route:** At the mini-roundabout head up Ravenhill Avenue.

**Short Route:** At the mini roundabout head down Sylvia Avenue, cross St John's Lane and go through Park Avenue into Victoria Park. Go up the hill and turn right by the Parks Buildings/Toilets at the top of the hill. See 20.

**10 Long Route:** Head up Redcatch Road to cross carefully where you can see the traffic both ways. Head back down the hill and turn left and walk along Stockwood Crescent.

**11 Long Route:** Look for an alley way with hedges on either side between 58 - 60 Stockwood Crescent on the right for access to the Bommie. Admire the view!

**12 Long Route:** Walk down the hill keeping to the left, heading directly for St Barnabas Church. The left most gap in the vegetation leads to a unpaved path. Follow this across a stream then slightly to the left up to the Church. Turn right (looking uphill) to go down to an exit onto Wedmore Vale.

**13 Long Route:** On Wedmore Vale head uphill 30m and cross to access an alleyway between Nos 130 and 132 Wedmore Vale. Follow the path uphill, then round to the right down the hill using the straight path. Before the gates, turn sharp left and follow the path uphill.

**14 Long Route:** As the path comes to a 4 way junction - continue uphill for views and then return, turning left through the metal gates. Walk along Cavan Walk and cross Glyn Vale into Clonmel Road and then find the entrance into the Health Park across the road.

**15 Long Route:** Enter the Health Park and turn right and follow the path. Go through the gate behind the building and continue until you reach a metal gate on the right. Go through the gate, down some steps and then turn immediately right through a gap in the hedge to see the views. Return to the steps.

**16 Long Route:** Go down the steps, at the bottom cross Lynton Road and enter the Park following signs for "The Malago Greenway" towards Bedminster and Central Bristol.

**17 Long Route:** Continue along Greenway, cross over Marksbury Road, turn right, and then left into next part of Greenway. Cross over Bedminster Road left into Francis Road and cross St John's Lane.

**18 Long Route:** Visit the community orchard in St John's Burial Ground before re-joining the Greenway and following it to the end which is by Bedminster Station

**19 Long Route:** Walk up Fraser Street and enter Victoria Park where Fraser Street bends to the right.

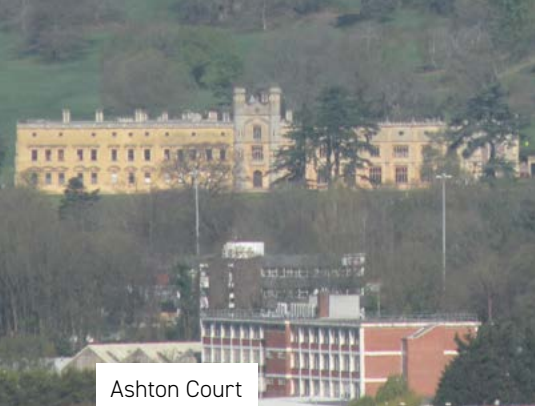
Follow the path in the Park to the right until you reach the top of hill, next to the Park Buildings/Toilets.

**20 Long/Short Route:** From the Buildings/Toilets continue straight along the "crest" of the hill past St Mary Redcliffe Primary School on your left. There is a viewpoint on the left as you pass the school. Go straight ahead and downhill to exit onto St Luke's Road.

**Long/Short Route:** Turn left under the railway bridge and follow the main road to traffic lights.

**21 Long Route:** Cross over the "Banana" bridge and turn right along Clarence Road to go back to the start. **Short Route:** To avoid the steps turn right along York Road, and turn left at the main road junction to go to the start.





Ashton Court



Cabot Tower

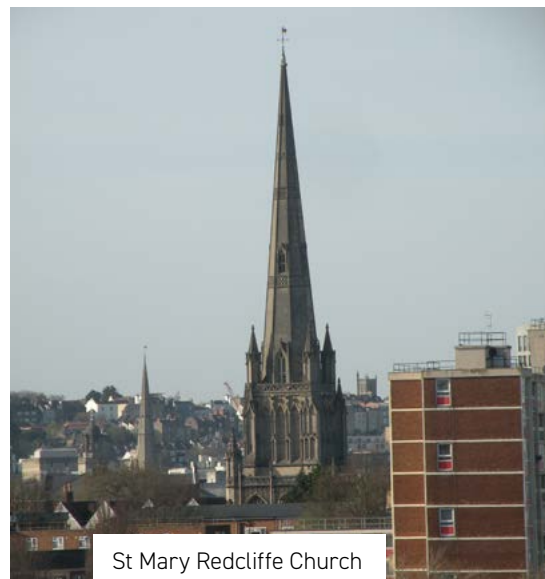


Kelston Round Hill

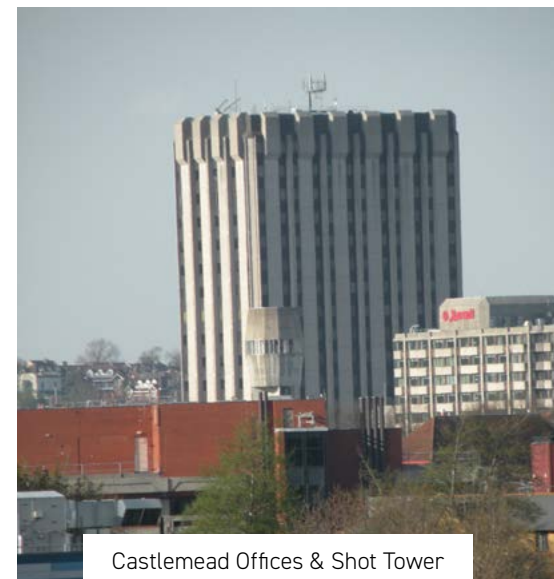


Clifton Suspension Bridge

Clifton Down Observatory



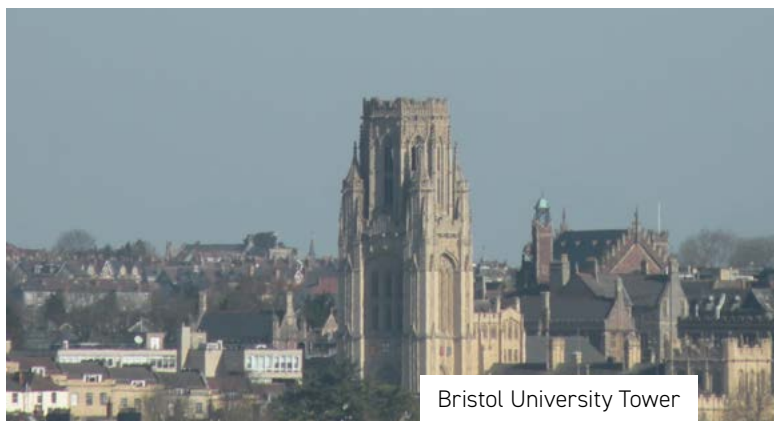
St Mary Redcliffe Church



Castlemead Offices & Shot Tower



Purdown TV Mast



Bristol University Tower

The pictures on this page are taken from various viewpoints on the walk.

In addition to the features here, you can see:

- The Cotswold Hills - from Withleigh Road as long distance views
- The spire of Christchurch Clifton - to the right of the Observatory
- The modern spires of Clifton Cathedral - with two prongs to the left of Cabot Tower
- The two towers of Bristol Cathedral - to the right of Bristol University Tower and below the skyline

# Bristol Temple Meads to Arnos Vale

(long route) Sections 1, 3 & 4 of Main Map.

Near Temple Meads you will pass next to the River Avon. It flows from Wiltshire to the River Severn. Along the way it passes through Bath before arriving here in Bristol. Part of it is known as the Cut (or New Cut) due to the route of the river being diverted in 1809. It is tidal so will have muddy banks at points during the day.

## Wildlife:

Gulls, cormorants, mallard ducks, common reeds, buddleia, elder, alder and Old Man's Beard. look out for two white bird sculptures on river bank

## History:

St Phillips Marsh, originally a residential area in the 19th Century, was cleared of the majority of housing in 1930s and 1950s, and has been used by industry, markets, showrooms and the railway.

Sparke Evans Park was donated to the people of Bristol in 1902 by two local tannery owners. There is a shelter to the left of the Park dating from 1925.

## Bus Stop:

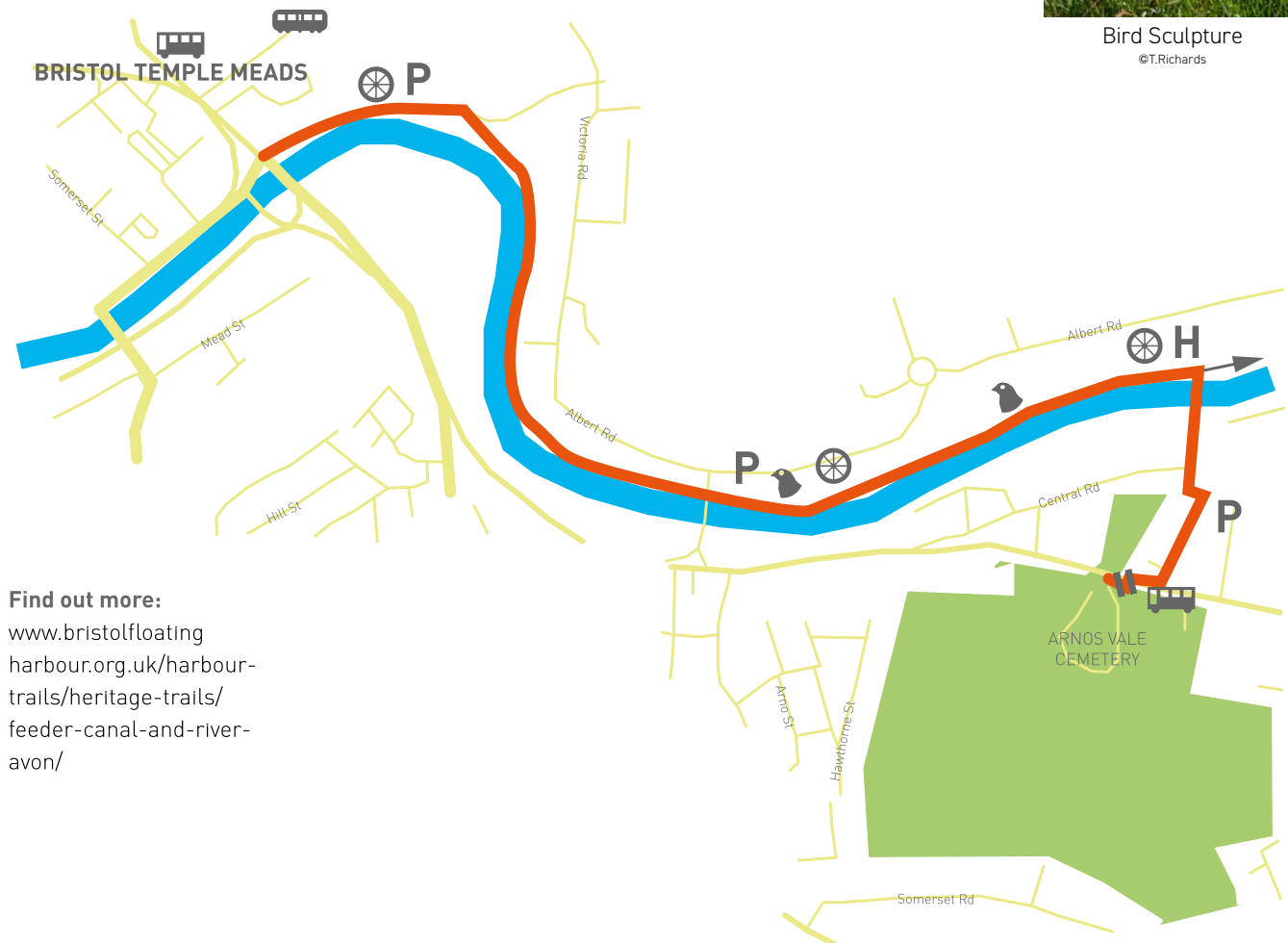
Bus to and from Brislington/ Temple Meads

## Other Routes:

River Avon Trail follows the River Avon to Bath: [www.riveravontrail.org.uk/booklet.pdf](http://www.riveravontrail.org.uk/booklet.pdf) and National Cycleway 3.



Bird Sculpture  
©T.Richards



## Find out more:

[www.bristolfloatingharbour.org.uk/harbour-trails/heritage-trails/feeder-canal-and-river-avon/](http://www.bristolfloatingharbour.org.uk/harbour-trails/heritage-trails/feeder-canal-and-river-avon/)

# Bristol Temple Meads to Perrett's Park

(short route) Section 2 of Main Map.

Go to the bus stop on the main road at the bottom of the slope to Temple Meads. Get on buses which travel along the A37 Wells Road towards Knowle.

**Community Information:**  
[www.tresa.org.uk](http://www.tresa.org.uk)

Take the bus to Brecknock Road stop (just after Holy Nativity church).

The Wells Road follows an old turnpike road.

## From the bus you should see:

Three Lamps fingerpost (on left) - installed 1830, removed to make way for a new road system in 1973 and fully restored in 1984.

Holy Nativity church (on left) - dedicated in 1871. Tower added in 1931. Destroyed by bombing in 1940; reopened in 1958.

From the bus stop walk uphill to the Pedestrian Crossing.

Totterdown Baptist Church (on left) – opened in 1881. Cross over and walk along Crowndale Road, and go into Perrett's Park.



Three Lamps Finger Post  
 ©T.Richards



Holy Nativity Church  
 ©L.Wyatt



# Arnos Vale to Perrett's Park

(long route) Sections 5, 7 & 8 of Main Map.

## Arnos Vale Cemetery - Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust

(is a charity dependent on donations.)

Open daily 9am to 5pm.

Gift Shop, Café and Exhibitions open 10am to 4pm.

Please stay on main paths. Keep dogs on a lead. Do not climb on monuments.

## History:

Buildings built in three styles by Charles Underwood-Doric, Ionic and Roman Italianate.

Opened in 1839 and extended several times until 1891. A place of remembrance for more than 300,000 individuals over 175 years and covers 45 acres (18ha) of grassland and woodland.

Soldiers Corner - Memorial and graves of 239 soldiers who died in Bristol of Injuries in World War I.

Memorial to Rajah Rammohun Roy - known around the world as the "Father of Modern India".

Sisters of Charity - community graves for Order of Nuns from Bedminster.

Cross of Sacrifice and Sailors Corner - commemorates servicemen and women killed in World War II.

## Site Information /

**Includes self guided**

**walks:**

[www.arnosvale.org.uk](http://www.arnosvale.org.uk)

0117 971 9117

## Wildlife:

Large ornamental trees, tawny owls, wild garlic, lesser horseshoe bats, ivy broomrape, native bluebells, Lady's Smock.

## Arnos Court Park

As you leave the cemetery and enter the park you may be able to see in the middle distance a chimney which is on Troopers Hill. This used to be a copper smelting works.

Once private land, opened as a Park in 1960. Arnos Court Mansion - never was a mansion, was built in the 1760s by Quaker William Reeves. Now a hotel.

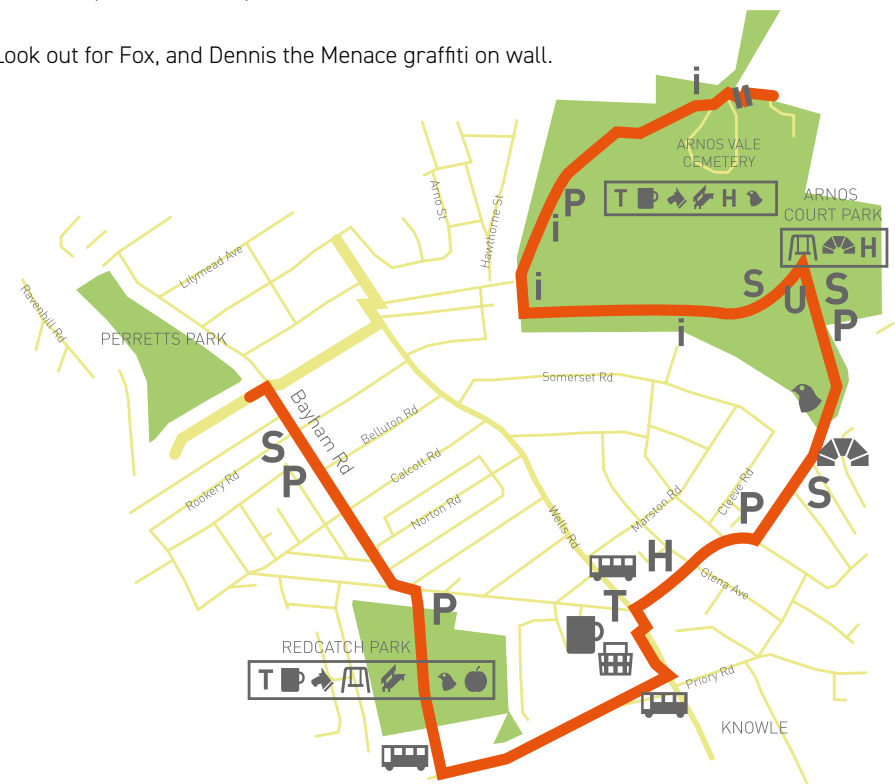
Giant sequoia tree at the top of the hill planted not long after the species were imported into the UK in the 1850s.

Look out for Fox, and Dennis the Menace graffiti on wall.



Sequoia

©L.Wyatt





### Withleigh Road Viewpoint

Cotswold Hills, Kelston Round Hill (with a small group of trees on top), St Luke's Church tower, Brislington in middle distance.

### Withleigh Road to Broadwalk

Walking down Greenmore Road gives you the first view of Dundry Hill in distance.

### History:

Old Wells Road School buildings. Behind wall is a memorial to former pupils killed during WWI.

### Broadwalk Shopping Centre:

Car Park and other facilities

Restaurant/Pub was once "The Talbot" an old coaching inn and a gathering place for a hunt with Talbot dogs.

Views across to Dundry Hill with Maes Knoll Iron Age camp on the left.

Bus to/from Hengrove/Stockwood/Wells and Temple Meads (Broadwalk Shops)

### Site Information:

[www.broad-walk.com](http://www.broad-walk.com)

### Redcatch Park

Originally farmland, then allotments. Became a park in the 1930s. Air raid shelters in World War II – now removed. Café and community garden. Opening times on Facebook Page.

Artwork on buildings by local artists. Tennis Courts and games areas.

### Wildlife:

Wildflower meadow, limes and variety of ornamental trees. foxes, greenfinches, house sparrows, goldfinches.

### Foraging:

Blackberries and herbs

Car park – at Broadwalk end of park.

Bus to/from Hengrove and Temple Meads (Broadwalk)

### Site Information:

[www.friendsof-redcatchpark.com](http://www.friendsof-redcatchpark.com)

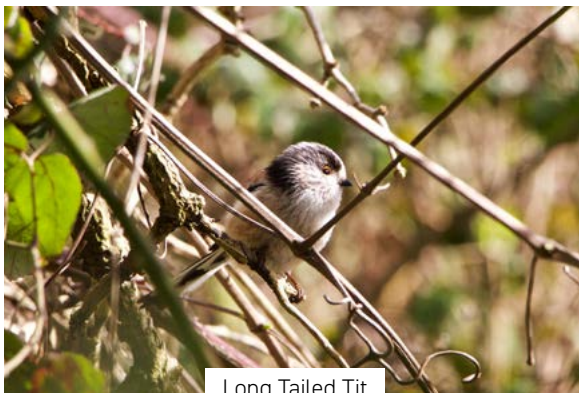
### Site Information:

[www.facebook.com/redcatchcommunitygarden/](https://www.facebook.com/redcatchcommunitygarden/)



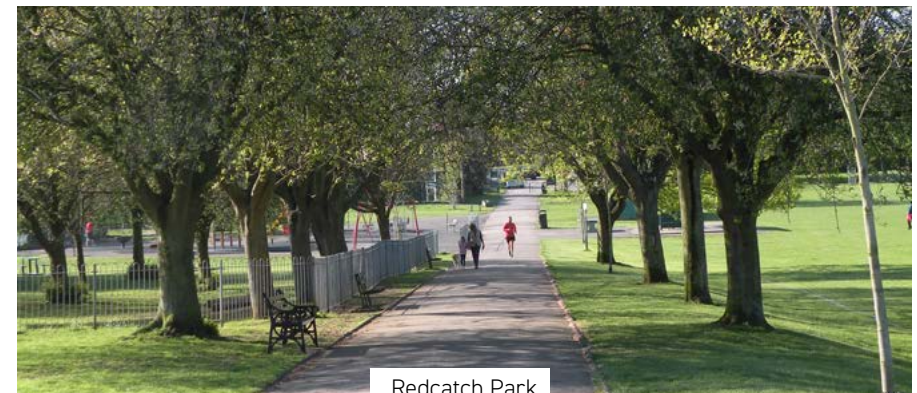
Mural, Redcatch Park

©L.Wyatt



Long Tailed Tit

©T.Richards



Redcatch Park

©L.Wyatt

# Perrett's Park to Victoria Park

(short route) Section 9 of Main Map

## Perrett's Park

Opened in 1932, named after a local councillor

## Viewpoint:

Ashton Court, Clifton Suspension Bridge, Cabot Tower, St Peter and St Paul Roman Catholic Cathedral, University of Bristol Tower, Bristol Cathedral and St Mary Redcliffe Church

Human Sundial mosaic added in 2012 See if you can tell the time using yourself as a clock hand.

## Wildlife:

Jays, carrion crows, house sparrows, robins, limes, rowans, ornamental trees.

## St John's Lane

Bus to/from Hengrove, Bristol Temple Meads and Central Bristol.



Human Sundial

©T.Richards

## Community

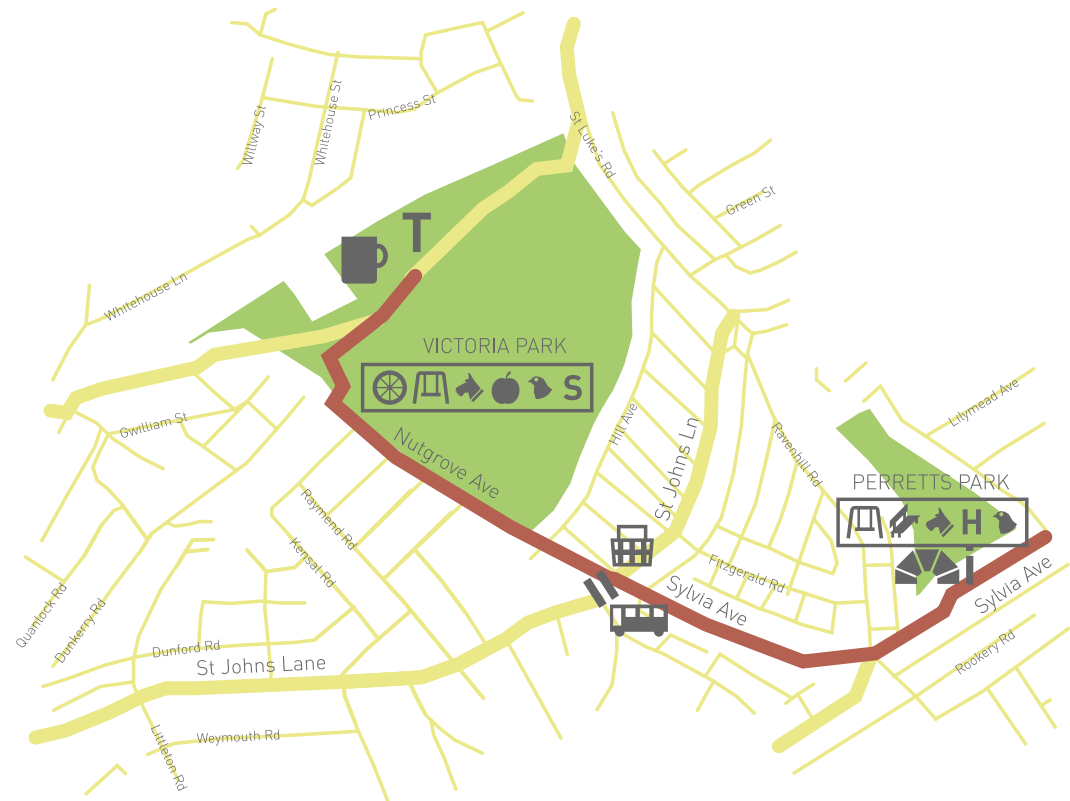
### Information:

[www.facebook.com/pages/Community-of-Perrett's-Park/213398715338071](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Community-of-Perrett's-Park/213398715338071)



View of Perrett's Park

©L.Wyatt



# Perrett's Park to Novers Steps

(long route) Sections 9 to 15 of Main Map

## Redcatch Hill

Cross over the road carefully at the top of hill.  
Bus stop – to/from Hengrove and Temple Meads

## Northern Slopes - General

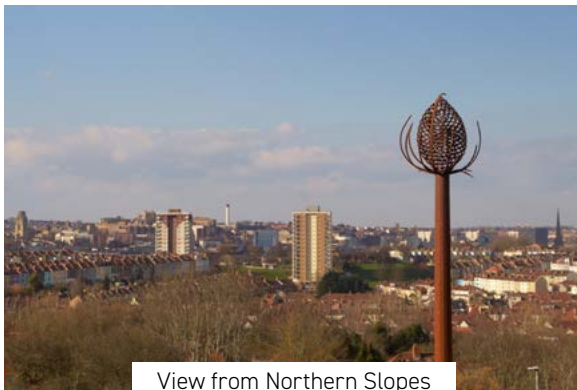
Wild compared to other green spaces on the walk.

## Wildlife:

Foxes, hedgehogs, bullfinch, whitethroat, robins, blackcaps, house sparrows. Wide range of trees and shrubs.

## Foraging

Blackberries, elderflowers, hips, sloes and horseradish.



View from Northern Slopes

©T.Richards

## Site Information/

**Includes self guided walks:**

[www.northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk](http://www.northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk)

## Community

**Information:**

[www.knowlewest.co.uk](http://www.knowlewest.co.uk)



Horses

©L.Wyatt



### Northern Slopes - Stockwood Crescent

#### Viewpoint:

Dundry Hill, Ashton Court, Clifton Suspension Bridge, Cabot Tower, St Peter and St Paul Roman Catholic Cathedral, University of Bristol Tower, Bristol Cathedral, St Mary Redcliffe Church and Castlemead Offices near Cabot Circus.

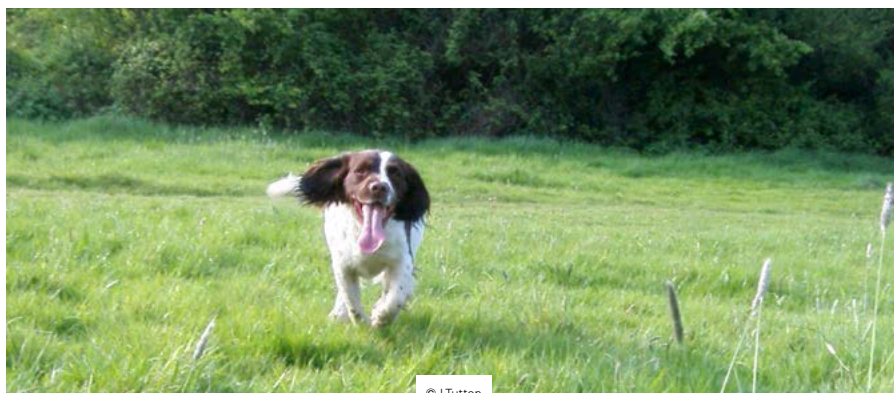
#### History:

Medieval Water Pipe (c.1190) runs from springs in the allotments to the left, to central Bristol. The route of the pipe is walked every year by St Mary Redcliffe Church. See also Victoria Park.

Satan, a German bomb dropped on houses to the right in January 1941, weighed 2,000 kilograms (4,400lb). It did not explode. It was paraded through the streets of London during the VE Day Victory Parade in 1945.

### Northern Slopes - St Barnabas

St Barnabas church was built in 1937.



#### Site Information:

[www.stmaryredcliffe.co.uk/pipe-walk.html](http://www.stmaryredcliffe.co.uk/pipe-walk.html)

#### Viewpoint:

Ashton Court, Clifton Suspension Bridge, Cabot Tower, St Peter and St Paul Roman Catholic Cathedral, University of Bristol Tower, Bristol Cathedral and St Mary Redcliffe Church.

### Northern Slopes - Glyn vale

#### Wildlife:

Hedge banks with very large hazel "stools", possibly dating back to c17th Century. Spring woodland flowers including yellow archangel and dogs mercury.

From spring to autumn - cowslips, primroses, yellow vetchling, devils bit scabious, common knapweed. hoverflies, bees, marbled white butterflies, comma and speckled wood butterflies.

Teasel sculptures across the site.

#### Bus Stop:

Bus on Glyn Vale to/from Hengrove and City Centre

### Knowle West Health Park

Car Parking  
A number of medical services.

#### History:

Once the site of Merrywood Girls School which opened in 1949, and closed in 1995.



#### Site Information:

[www.knowlewesthealthpark.co.uk/](http://www.knowlewesthealthpark.co.uk/)



# Novers Steps to Victoria Park

(long route) Sections 16 to 19 of Main Map

## Top of Novers Steps - Northern Slopes

### Viewpoint:

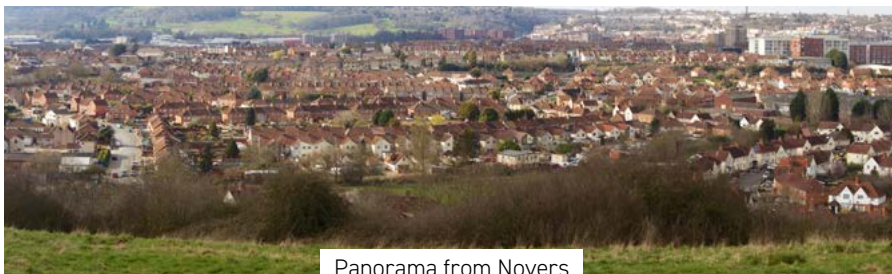
Dundry Hill, Ashton Court, Clifton Suspension Bridge.

### Viewpoint:

Other side of hedge - Ashton Court, Clifton Suspension Bridge, Cabot Tower, St Peter and St Paul Roman Catholic Cathedral, University of Bristol Tower, Bristol Cathedral and St Mary Redcliffe Church, Castle Mead Offices next to Cabot Circus, Purdown TV mast next to M32.

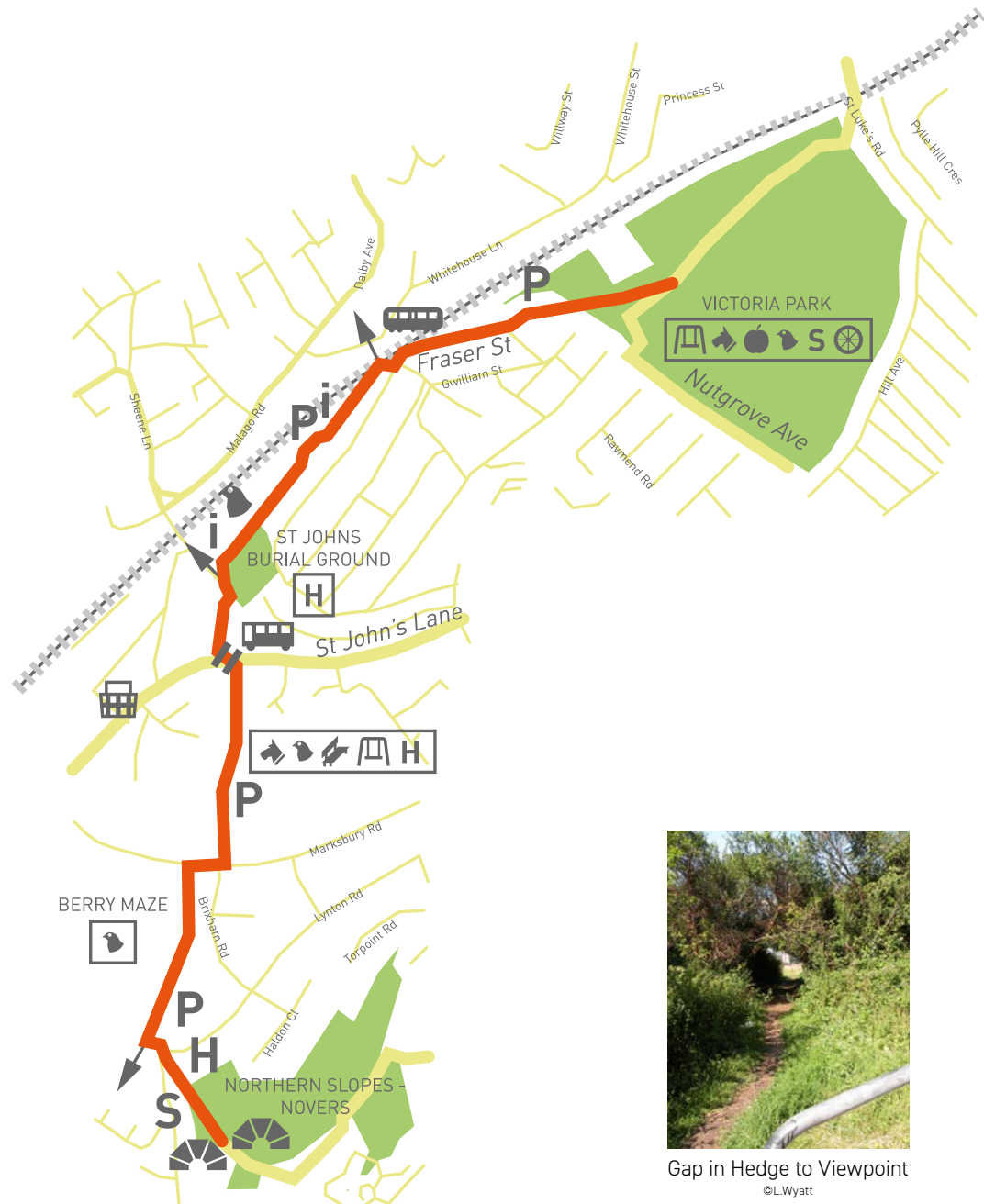
There are somewhere between 150 to 180 steps to the bottom. You need to count them and let us know how many you find. When you go uphill they automatically get steeper, than when you go downhill!

The area either side of the steps is a Town Green given to the people of Bristol by the Smyths of Ashton Court in the 1930s to be kept for the use of residents.



Panorama from Novers

©T.Richards



Gap in Hedge to Viewpoint

©L.Wyatt



## Bottom of Novers Steps to St John's Burial Ground

### Other paths: (shown by arrow)

Malago Greenway to Hartcliffe and Dundry.

### History:

River Malago used to flood. In July 1968 all of the area you are crossing would have been underwater - along with much of the area around.

### Wildlife:

Willows, alders, lesser celandine, fools parsley, pendulous sedge.

### Foraging:

To the right just after you cross Lynton Road is a maze of berry bushes. Can you walk the maze?

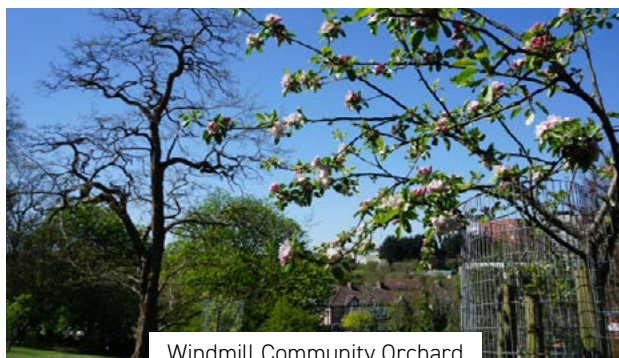
There are 17 types of berries planted which can be eaten when ripe.

### Other path: (shown by arrow)

Shopping and other facilities at East Street, Bedminster. Bedminster Road and St John's Lane.

### Bus Stop

Bus to/from Hengrove/Central Bristol



Windmill Community Orchard

©N. Carlton

## St John's Burial Ground and Windmill Hill Community Orchard

### History:

Donated by the Smyths of Ashton Court in 1859 as a burial ground. Still owned by the Church of England as a burial ground, but no burials now take place.

In 2010 the Windmill Hill Community Orchard was created and fruit trees planted, including black walnuts, apples (varieties: Jonagold, Bramley, John James Grieves, Cox's Orange Pippin, Adams Permain and Ashmeads Kernel), pears, medlars, damsons and quinces.

### Malago Greenway/Windmill Hill

### History:

Once surrounded by industrial area with tanneries, mills and factories, river put into current route after flooding in 1880.

### Wildlife:

Slow worms, wrens, goldcrests, firecrest, sticklebacks, minnows, mallard ducks, moorhens and kingfishers. Wild garlic, harts tongue fern and pussy willow.

### Railway Station:

Bedminster - trains run to Bristol Temple Meads and to Weston Super Mare and Taunton.

### Other paths: (shown by arrow).

Shopping and other facilities at East Street, Bedminster.

### Site Information:

See noticeboard at entrance.

### Site Information:

See noticeboard along path.

### Community Information:

[www.whca.org.uk](http://www.whca.org.uk)

# Victoria Park to Bristol Temple Meads.

(both routes) Sections 20 & 21 of Main Map

## Victoria Park

### History:

In 1871 a report 'The Cry of the Poor' pleaded with the authorities to turn the land into a park and eventually the park opened in 1891.

"What we want is a place near at hand, where we can feel the grass under our feet, or sit with our wives on a summer's eve and watch our children play." - The Cry of the Poor.

### Wildlife:

Bats, foxes, hedgehogs, house sparrows, carrion crows, robins, blue and great tits, fieldfares and redwings. Lime trees, rowans, cherry trees, hawthorn. Wide range of ornamental trees.

### Foraging:

Blackberries, plums, pears and apples in the autumn.

### Viewpoint:

Cabot Tower, Bristol Cathedral, University of Bristol Tower and St Mary Redcliffe Church.



Maze  
©L.Wyatt



View of Victoria Park  
©VPAG

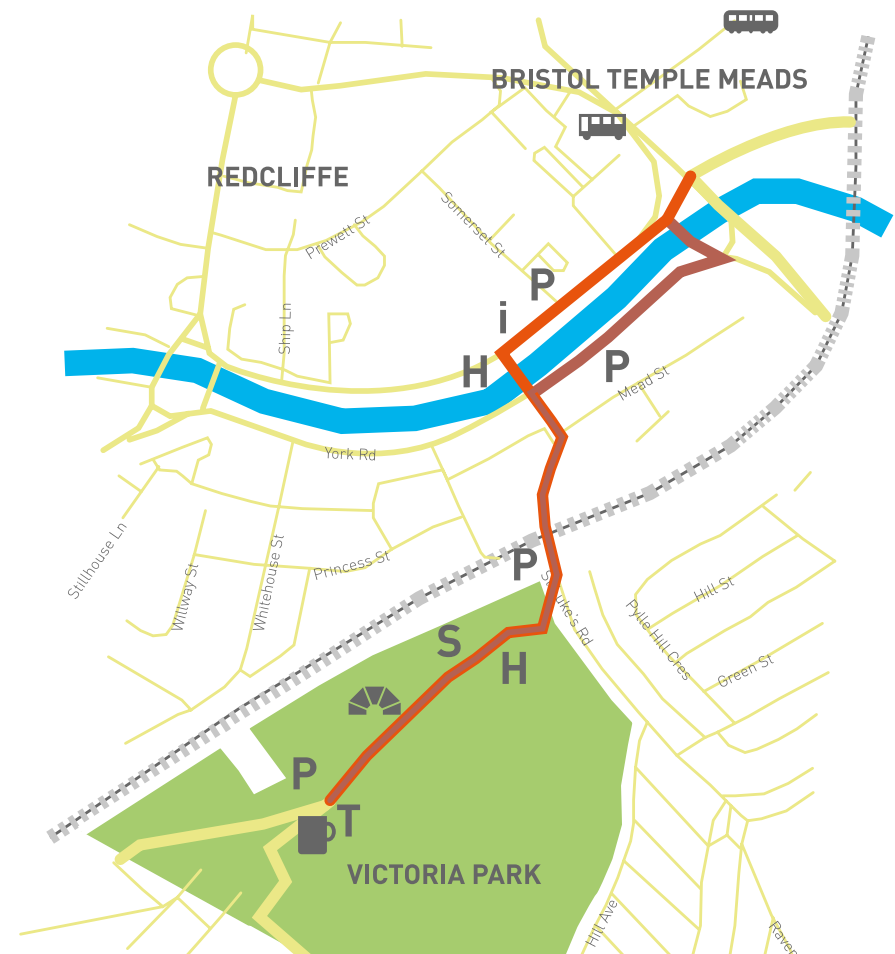
### History:

The Water Maze was built in 1984 to signify where a new sewer crosses the medieval pipe from the Northern Slopes. The design is the same as The Maze Boss on St Mary Redcliffe Church. See also Northern Slopes.

The stone marked "SMP" marks the route of the water pipe. There is a tradition of giving people "the bumps" on the stones.

### Site Information:

[www.vpag.org.uk](http://www.vpag.org.uk)



## Victoria Park to Bristol Temple Meads

### History:

The Banana Bridge was originally used as a temporary bridge elsewhere but floated by barge to this location in the 1880's. It is painted yellow because it is known locally as the Banana Bridge due to its shape.

River Avon - flows from Wiltshire to the River Severn  
Along the way it passes through Bath before arriving here in Bristol. At this point it is known as the Cut (or New Cut) due to the route of the river being diverted in 1809. It is tidal so will have muddy banks at points during the day.

Main Temple Meads Station - façade added in 1870s

Brunel's original station to the left of main Station opened in 1840.

### Wildlife:

Gulls, mallards, cormorants, London plane trees, crab apples - and across the river fig trees.

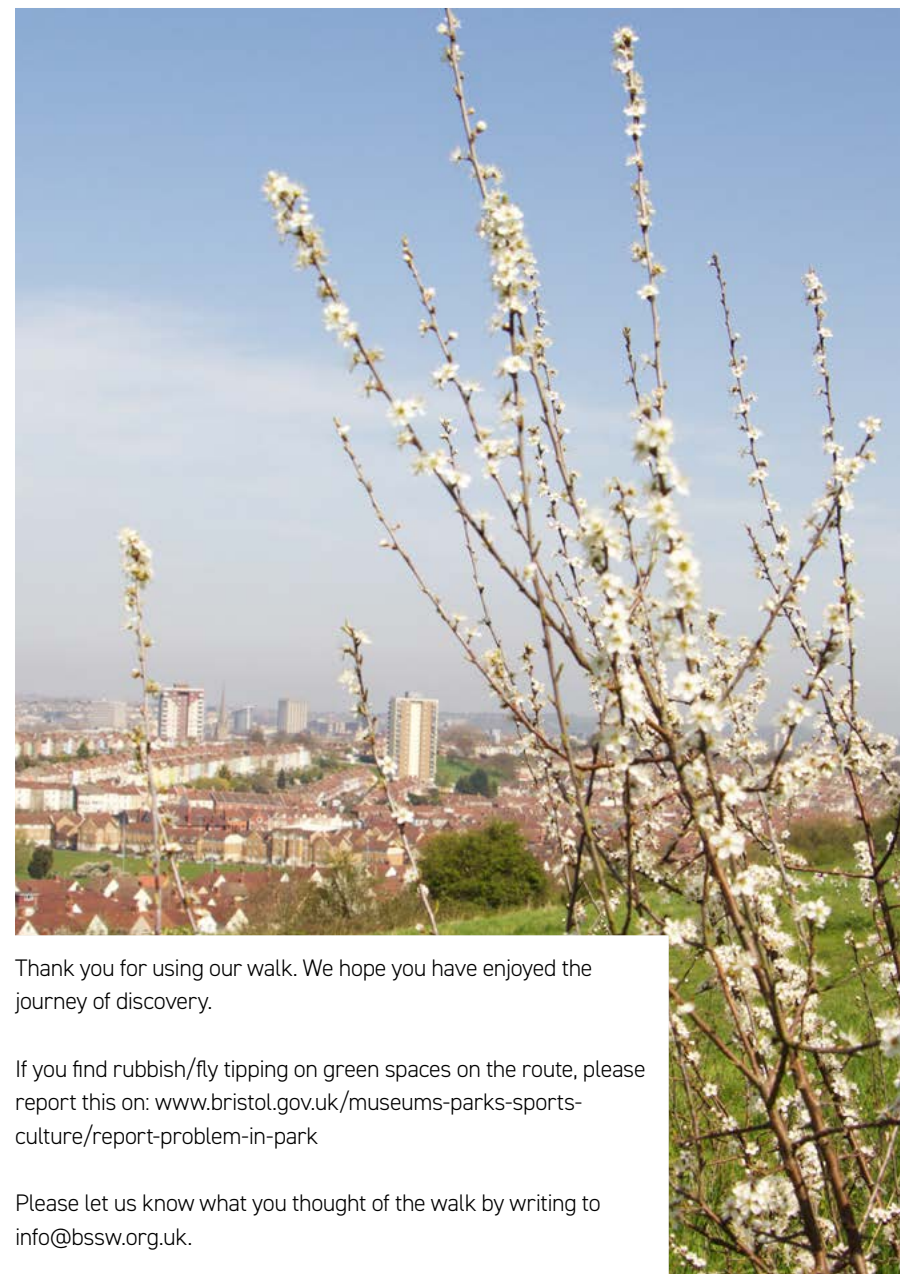


Bristol Temple Meads

©T.Richards

### Site Information:

[en.wikipedia.org/  
wiki/Bristol\\_Temple\\_  
Meads\\_railway\\_  
station#Brunel.27s\\_  
Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bristol_Temple_Meads_railway_station#Brunel.27s_Station)



Thank you for using our walk. We hope you have enjoyed the journey of discovery.

If you find rubbish/fly tipping on green spaces on the route, please report this on: [www.bristol.gov.uk/museums-parks-sports-culture/report-problem-in-park](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/museums-parks-sports-culture/report-problem-in-park)

Please let us know what you thought of the walk by writing to [info@bssw.org.uk](mailto:info@bssw.org.uk).

View from Novers

©T.Richards



With thanks to:

TRESA, Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust, Arnos Park Action Group, Friends of Redcatch Park, Community of Perrett's Park, Communities in Partnership, Northern Slopes Initiative, Marksbury Area Community Association, St Johns Churchyard and Windmill Hill Community Orchard Group, Kingfisher Group, Windmill Hill Community Association, Victoria Park Action Group.

Funded by Bristol Green Capital 2015, Quartet; and Filwood, Knowle and Windmill Hill Neighbourhood Partnership.

**BRISTOL**  
**2015** EUROPEAN  
GREEN CAPITAL

 Quartet  
Community  
Foundation



Bristol City Council Highways and Parks; and Filwood Health Park.

Martin Bodger (Graphic Design) [www.martinbodger.com](http://www.martinbodger.com),  
Tom Richards (Photography),  
Chris Bloor, Neil Burlton, Ben Barker, Bristol Parks Forum, Bristol Ramblers, Destination Bristol, Pete The Broadwalk Newsagent, Sydenham Road Under Fives, Bristol Physical Access Chain, Lesley Woodward; Mike Kent-Ledger (Logo & Sweep).