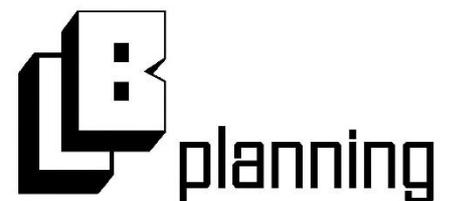


# Hengrove and Whitchurch Park

# Open Spaces Study



November 2017 *updated May 2018*



**Acknowledgements:** This study was undertaken by LB Planning for the Hengrove and Whitchurch Park Neighbourhood Planning Forum in the autumn of 2017, with grant funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government for neighbourhood planning, managed by Locality. Thanks to members of the Forum for assistance and advice regarding local detail, and to officers of Bristol City Council for evidence and mapping assistance.

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## 1. Introduction and Background

1.1 Hengrove and Whitchurch Park is a ward within Bristol City Council, on the southern boundary with the neighbouring authority of Bath and North East Somerset. The ward population includes some of the most deprived areas within the city, and other areas of less than average deprivation. The ward, and South Bristol generally, have relatively high levels of health deprivation, and an older population than Bristol generally.

1.2 The Neighbourhood Forum was officially designated on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016, with the neighbourhood area defined as the ward boundary. The Forum determined that they wished to produce a neighbourhood development plan (NDP) focused on the development proposals for Hengrove Park. This was the most pressing immediate local planning issue, and keeping a tight focus on the NDP kept the work to a scale suited to the resources of the Forum.

1.3 This study is an evidence base for that NDP. It has assessed the quality, quantity and nature of different types of open space in the ward, using the existing evidence base; undertaking a new quality survey of open space in the ward and feedback from public consultation on the emerging NDP.

1.4 Proposals for the development of Hengrove Park in the development plan include a 'large high quality park', and this study aims to inform what the nature of that new park area can most usefully be. The aims of the study can be summarised as:

- Provide up to date understanding of the range and quality of Hengrove and Whitchurch Park's open space;
- Identify what type of green space is needed;
- Consider where investment in green space and improvements to existing space would be most beneficial;
- Identify any areas of public space that do not contribute to community needs.

1.5 Green spaces in urban areas are important for many reasons. The visual appearance of the built form with its hard lines is rendered softer and more varied with trees and landscaping. Green spaces with varied habitats within them are essential for promoting biodiversity and the ecological health of an area. For the human population, there is hard evidence emerging of what we have always known intuitively: accessible and local green space improves and maintains our physical and mental health. Research in 2008 determined that:

"Populations that are exposed to the greenest environments also have lowest levels of health inequality related to income deprivation. Physical environments that promote good health might be important to reduce socio-economic health inequalities."<sup>1</sup>

Green spaces and parks that are unattractive and threatening places will not offer health benefits, so it is important that they are well-managed, for people and the environment. This study offers a review of the current state of green spaces in Hengrove and Whitchurch Park ('the ward'), with initial proposals for how the provision of open space could be improved.

<sup>1</sup> R Mitchell F Popham 2008 "Effect of exposure to natural environment on health inequalities": The Lancet 372

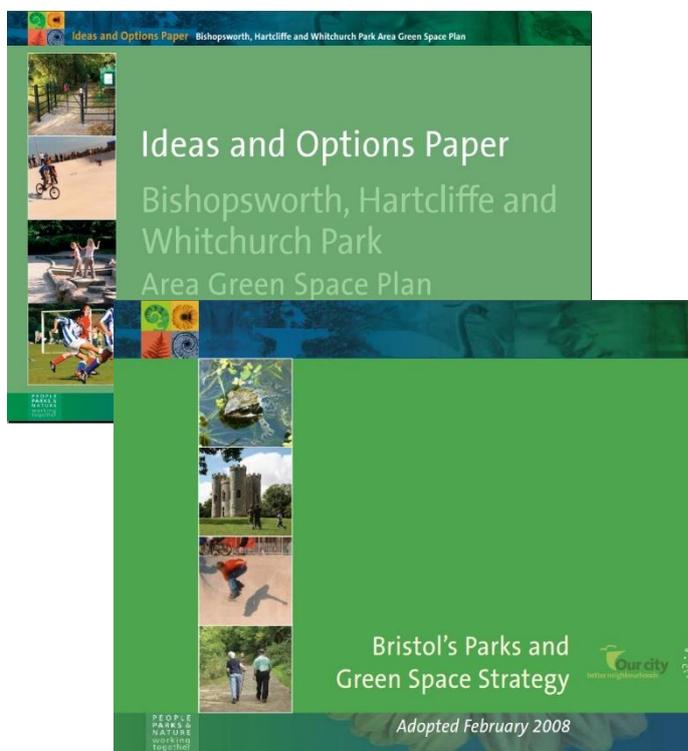
## 2. Existing Evidence Base

**2.1** The evidence base on open space in Bristol is primarily the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy 2008 (PGSS). Extensive consultation evidence-gathering was done for this strategy in 2005-6 that is still useful, despite being a little dated now. Unfortunately the work failed to capture meaningful data on preferences from the neighbourhood plan area, due to a lack of response to the consultation undertaken.

**2.2** Further evidence work was undertaken as part of the preparatory work for the Bristol Site Allocation and Development Management Plan (SADMP) in 2010, when an issues and options paper was produced for each ward on the topic of open space. This work was originally planned to result in a final Area Green Space Plan (AGSP) for each ward, something that did not actually materialise.

**2.3** Both of these evidence sources are complicated by the change to ward boundaries in 2016, when 'Hengrove and Whitchurch Park' became a single ward. Previously, Hengrove was a separate ward, considered with Stockwood in the evidence base. Whitchurch Park was considered with Hartcliffe and Bishopsworth in the 2010 evidence base, and just Hartcliffe in the 2008 Green Space Strategy.

**2.4** More recent evidence for the development plan has also been considered where relevant, along with the annual Quality of Life survey that the City Council undertakes.



## Quality of life in Bristol 2015-16

Results of 2015 survey

Published by:  
Consultation and Strategic Intelligence Team  
Performance, Information & Intelligence Service,  
Business Change Directorate,  
Bristol City Council  
May 2016  
[www.bristol.gov.uk/qualityoflife](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/qualityoflife)



### 3. Green Space in Hengrove and Whitchurch Park

The Bristol PGSS categorised open space into five broad types, and that typology has been continued here, with the addition of allotment and community farms, as follows:

- Children and young people’s space
- Formal green space
- Informal green space
- Natural green space
- Active sports space
- Allotment and community farm growing space

This study is considering land to which the public have access, so school playing fields are excluded. Allotments are included because they are a public resource, although restricted to people currently leasing them. Appendix 1 shows the location of each open space.

#### 3.1 Active Sports Space – space accessible to all for organised sport

3.1.1 There is no active outdoor sports space available to the general public in the ward, although the extensive (members only) facilities of the South Bristol Sports Centre is just over the ward boundary, to the NE. A rugby club currently has pitches on Hengrove Park, but these are due to move. It is possible to hire use of a pitch outside of school hours at one educational establishment. Active sports are catered for in the Hengrove Park Leisure Centre and the Action Indoor Sports Centre to the south of Hengrove Park, but there is an under-provision within the ward currently, that will reduce further if no provision is made within the new Park.

3.1.2 The Quality of Life Survey 2016 (p45) shows a low level of respondents taking a reasonable amount of exercise every week, the second lowest reported incidence in all of the city’s wards. Thus any new park would be advised to include facilities for outdoor exercise, which besides sports pitches could be informal cycle and running tracks and outdoor gyms. A comment at the public consultation stated that the current Hengrove Park provided the only space big enough for the participant to let her dog off the lead without nearby roads presenting too dangerous a situation. Dog-walking is often the main exercise older people get.

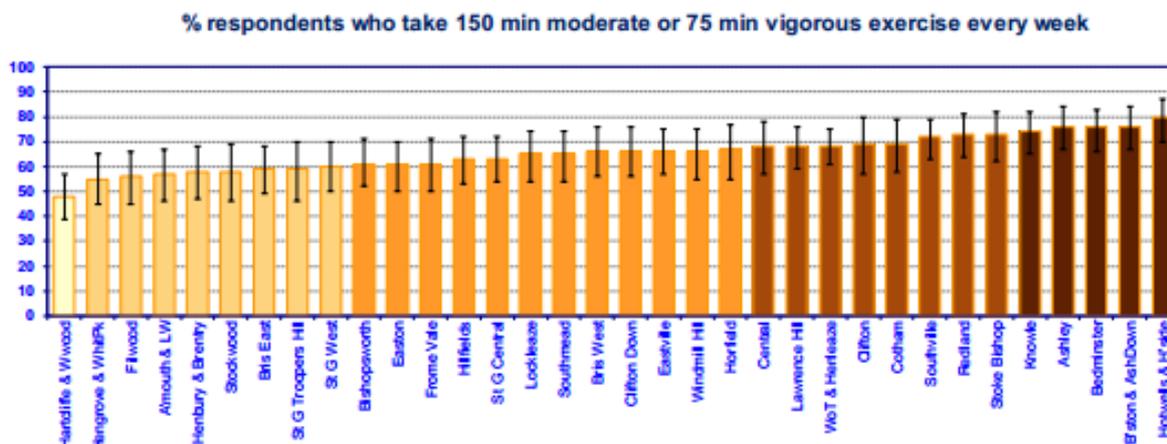


Figure 1: Quality of Life Survey 2015/6 Bristol City Council: page 45

## 3.2 Children and Young People's Space

3.2.1 From the PGSS research document (p 11), we learn that fewer people take children to play at Hengrove Park, than to Blaise Estate and the Royal Victoria Park, Bath. However Blaise and the Royal Victoria Park are key 'honeypot' parks that attract visitors from a wide area for more than just children's play. The research shows Hengrove gets considerable visitors to the play area from further afield (PGSS research p 45), but Hengrove Park itself is not known as a visitor attraction, being informal open space and sports pitches. Other results in the survey bear out the differences between the wider attraction of the formal play area at Hengrove and the existing informal open space of Hengrove Park:

Hengrove Park play area is a busy site (p 11). Children and young people in Bristol aged 8-16 would like to visit Hengrove Play Park, it is the second most popular potential destination, but 'live too far away' is the most common reason for not doing so. (p 30).

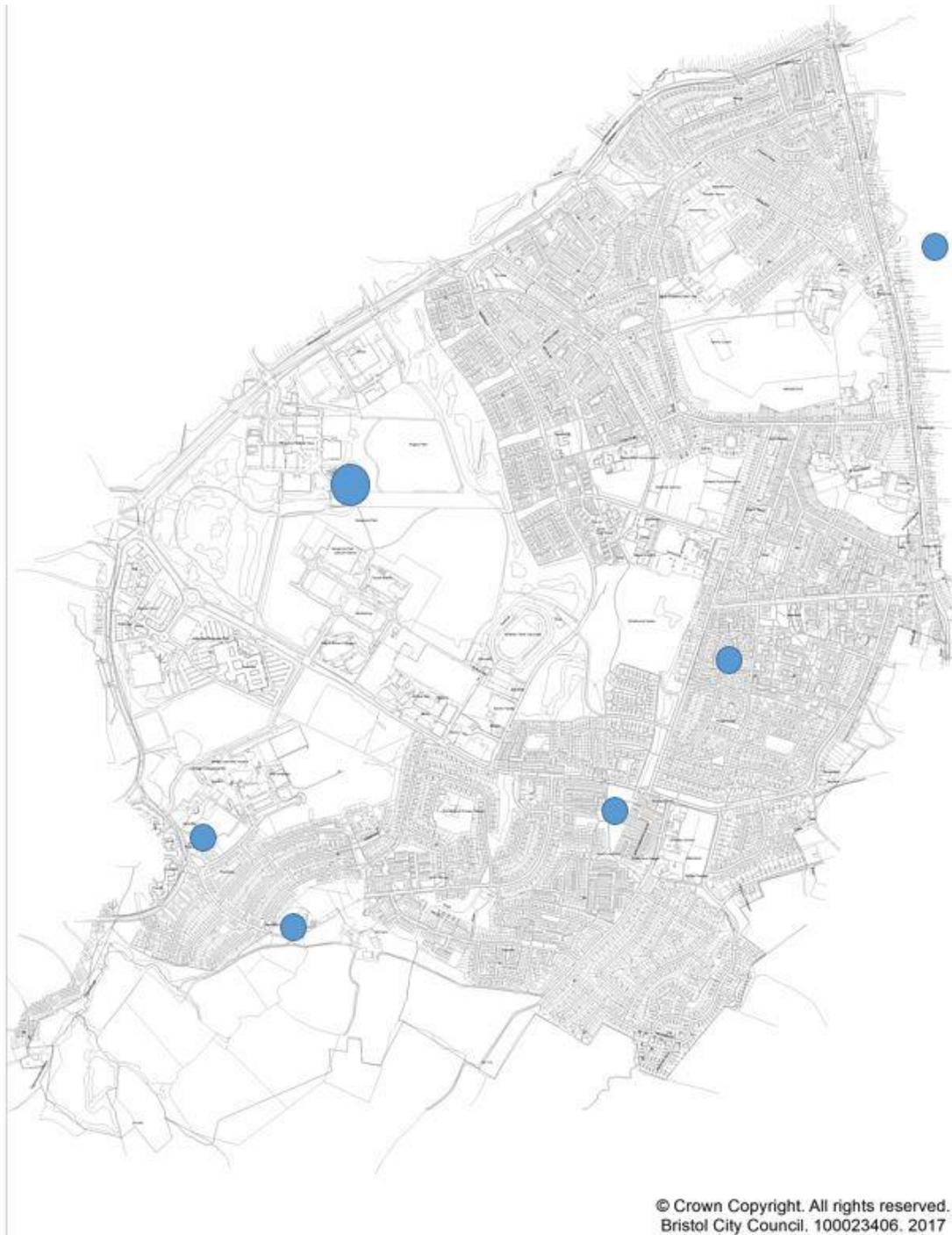
3.2.2 The same research report highlights a lack of more local facilities for children within the neighbourhood area however. Whitchurch Park is one of four priority wards for improvements to quality and play, Hengrove is also noted as needing improvements to both quality and play facilities within green open spaces (page 83). The area as a whole is underprovided with provision of children and young people's space (PGSS p 84), at the date it was written.

3.2.3 The survey of open space undertaken as part of this work has located play equipment at the sites shown on figure 2 (blue dots) below. The site just outside the ward to the NE is Mowbray Park, several respondents at the drop-in consultation events indicated they used this park to take children, unsurprising as it is adjacent to a part of the ward showing under-provision of play space. The larger dot on figure 2 indicates the Children's play area at Hengrove Park.



**Hengrove Children's Play Area**

3.2.4 Consultation with local scouts, cubs and boys brigade revealed that many children feel the Children's Play Area has an age gap between the skate park facility, and the play area. Although this initial consultation work with young people has an obvious gender bias, there was one girl responding, and she made a request for activity space that was not dominated by 'bigger boys'. Interestingly this was a point made by some of the boys as well; there is a hierarchy operating at the current skate facility that appears to exclude females and non-alpha (young) males both! The answer may be to have a smaller skate facility as well, and other equipment catering to children in the 10 -14 age group.



**Figure 2: Distribution of Children and Young People's Play Space in Hengrove and Whitchurch Ward**

### 3.3 Informal Green Space – for informal recreation with few or no facilities

3.3.1 The situation in the ward with regard to this category of green space is that Hengrove Park is a very large area of informal green space currently, but much of it is scheduled for development and it is not allocated as open space in the Local Plan. Thus it is not shown on figure 3 below, although linked provision at St Giles has been shown, as this is not included in the development site. Much of the provision is small areas of land with few or no facilities; larger dots indicate sites of more significant size, namely Whitchurch Green, St Augustine’s Park, Hengrove Farm Community Woodland and Coulson’s Park (off Court Farm Road).

3.3.2 The area of land in the ward excluding Hengrove Park that is informal green space is 16.62H. The suggested allocation in the PGSS for informal green space is 14Ha for a population of 17,400, so provision is acceptable in terms of quantity, although uneven distribution means distance from it is not always meeting standards in the ward. There are additionally a few smaller areas of informal green space that have not been included in the quality assessment (figs 8/9 below).



Figure 3: Distribution of Informal Green Space in Hengrove and Whitchurch Park Ward



**Whitchurch Green (Asda fields)**



**St Augustine's Park**



**Land by Airport Road**



**Hengrove Farm Community Woodland**



**Belland Drive Open Space**



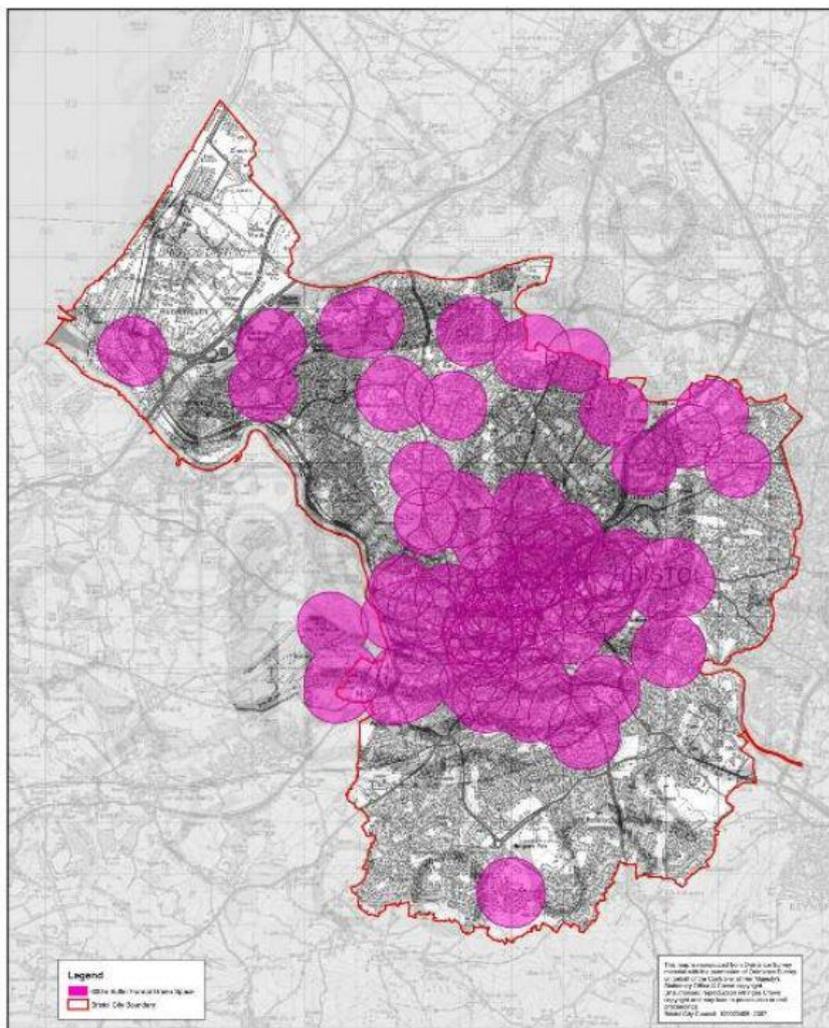
**Copeland Dr/Wedgewood Close Open Space**

**Examples of Informal Open Space in Hengrove and Whitchurch Park**

### 3.4 Formal Green Space

3.4.1 The definition of formal green space in the PGSS is a 'site with a consciously organised layout whose aim is aesthetic enjoyment'. There is only one formal green space designated in the ward in the PGSS; Millenium Park in the SW corner of the ward on the edge of Hartcliffe. The park is a medium size area (1.57Ha) with several facilities, but access is not easy, and the park has internal fencing that reduces its appeal. It is hard to see that it justifies the designation, although efforts have been made with growing areas and some public art to keep it attractive. St Augustine's Park has had some improvements made to it since its assessment in the 2010 AGSP Options Report, but it is not of a quality to be considered formal green space, although it is a well-used local space with reasonable facilities. The PGSS quantity standard would require 3.48 Ha of formal green space in the ward.

3.4.2 The neighbourhood area is seriously underserved with formal green space provision, as indeed is much of the southern section of the city, as appendix 7 of the PGSS below shows:



**Figure 4:**

#### **Appendix 7: PGSS**

The southern pink circle shows Millenium Park with a 600m buffer of accessibility. The rest of the ward and neighbourhood area is not within any 600m buffer zone of formal open space, indicating a clear lack throughout most of South Bristol.

#### **Parks and Green Space Strategy**

**TPOLOGY : FORMAL GREEN SPACE**

**FOLLOWING FEASIBILITY**  
Distance Buffer 600 Metre Radius  
Within 15 Minutes Radius

May 2007



Bristol Parks  
Coleston 33  
Coleston Avenue,  
Bristol, BS1 4JA.  
Phone: 0117 92 23719  
Fax: 0117 92 23744  
bristolparks@bristol.gov.uk  
www.bristol.gov.uk/parks

**Bristol Parks, Culture and Leisure**



3.4.3 The current lack of formal green space in this part of Bristol suggests that a remodelled Hengrove Park within the new development will be ideally placed to offer a much-needed area of formal green space. Consultation undertaken during work on the neighbourhood plan has explored what the nature of the new green space could be.



**Hartcliffe Millenium Park: abandoned play equipment (left) and growing beds (right)**



**Public Art in the Millenium Park (left) and fencing to the Park's boundaries (right).**

### 3.5 Natural Green Space - providing access to nature: woodland, wetland, hedgerows, grass/scrub



**Figure 5: Distribution of Natural Green Space in Hengrove and Whitchurch Park Ward**

3.5.1 Figure 5 shows the distribution of natural green space in the ward is all in the southern half, with three of the sites close to the Hengrove Park site. All have been designated as 'Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI), a local designation of sites with biodiversity value. There is an SNCI with recreational value just to the east of the ward running along the boundary northward: the Saltwell Valley and Whitchurch Railway Path.

3.5.2 Hawkfield Meadow is a rather forgotten space, and was the only site to be graded 'poor' overall in the quality assessment undertaken as part of this study. During consultation on the NDP, a 'dots exercise' was undertaken. On a large aerial photo of the neighbourhood area, people indicated open space they visited (green dots), where they lived (yellow dots) and places they did not like (red dots). Hawkfield Meadow acquired no green dots, and three red dots (figure 6 records the results of the exercise).



**Figure 6: Photo of Dots Exercise undertaken summer 2017:** green = open space visited; yellow = where participant lived; red = place not liked.

3.5.3 The assessment of the site in the AGSP indicates significant biodiversity value, as does the council’s assessment for the SADMP, although not at a level worthy of national designation. Given the proven need for residential development sites in the city, some development on this site should be considered as an option, with mitigation and protection where possible of key habitats within it. Recent residential development proposals for adjacent sites, including change of use of offices to the north, phase 1 proposals on Hengrove Park and the Hartcliffe Campus site, will result in it becoming a wildlife area effectively cut off from the wider wildlife corridor – unlike the other natural green spaces in the ward. There is however no intention of exploring this option and its possible adverse impacts further in the NDP, due to resource constraints.

3.5.4 The amount of land given over to natural green space (all designated SNCI) in the ward is generous when compared with the PGSS quantity standard for the ward of 15.7Ha. Excluding East Dundry Slopes SNCI, which is not accessible to the public, the provision is still 23.9Ha.



**Hawkfield Meadows – view south (above) and entrance from William Jessop Way (below)**



### 3.6 Allotments and Community Farms

3.6.1 In the green belt on the southern edge of the City, Hartcliffe Community Park Farm is a well-established educational and community resource. Farmland and a few allotments form part of it, along with a café, play area and animal enclosures. There are smaller allotment sites at Half Acre Lane and the St Giles' Estate, and two larger allotment sites off Oatlands Avenue and Fortfield Road. The latter also has the Severn Project located on the site.

3.6.2 Allotments allocated by the Council in the ward, which discounts the Community Farm allotments, cover an area of approximately 2.9Ha, which equates to  $40 \times 2.9 = 116$  full plot equivalent allotments (using 250m<sup>2</sup> as the definition of full plot). Given a ward population of 17,400, and a council objective of providing 7 plots per 1,000 population, provision in the ward is currently just short of the strategy requirements. All the sites have waiting lists, although only in single figures. Table 1 Shows the detail on council allotments.

Allotment Site	Area of allotments (Ha)	Waiting list (November 2017)
Half Acre Lane	0.45	7
St Giles	0.40	4
Fortfield Road	1.28	2
Oatlands Avenue	0.77	6

**Table 1: Allotments in the Neighbourhood Area showing size and waiting list**

3.6.3 Distribution of allotments within the ward is reasonably even, although the new development at Hengrove Park would improve distribution if it allocated some new space within its site boundary for allotments. The development brief for the site suggests 7 plots will be needed, although that is based on the housing figure of 1,000 dwellings suggested in the SADMP Local Plan. Current practice among allotment holders frequently subdivides allotments, or shares them, and it would be sensible to provide more allotments of a smaller size, as for example is the practise in Wiltshire (plots now sized at 100m<sup>2</sup>).



**Oatlands Avenue Allotments**



**Figure 7: Distribution and provision of Allotment Space in Hengrove and Whitchurch Park Ward**

### 3.7 Small areas of Open Space

3.7.1 There are small but locally important areas of open space in the ward that did not warrant being part of the assessment of sites, but are proposed for inclusion in the NDP as open space to be protected as such. Areas of landscaping around residential parking areas have been excluded, as have smaller areas unless they have additional benefits to the local area such as mature trees. The areas proposed are shown on figures 12 (from HWPNDP: updated after Reg14) below:

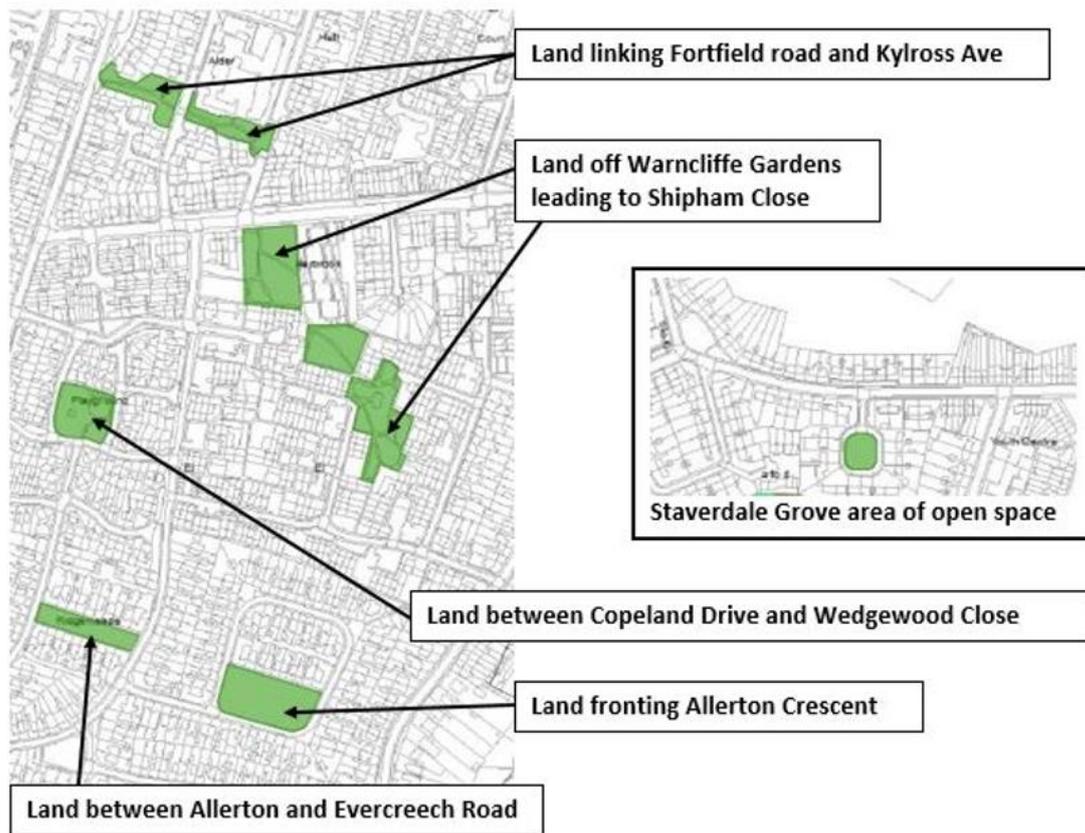
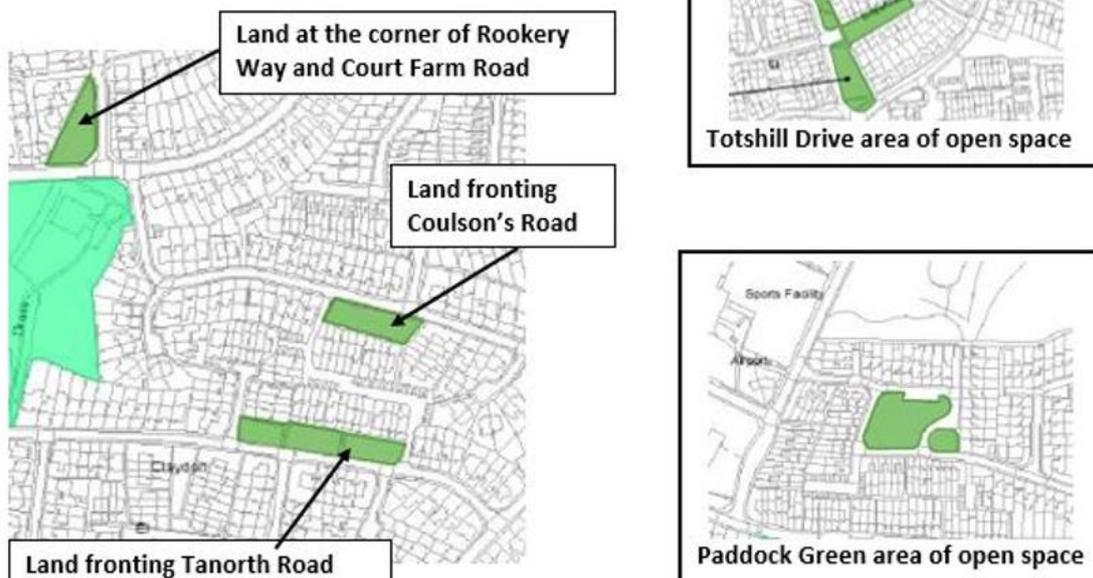


Figure 12: Small Area Open Space Detail



## 4. Assessment of Green Space Provision in Hengrove and Whitchurch Park

### 4.1 Quantity and type of Green Space

4.1.1 The total provision of accessible green space in the ward is 43.63Ha (calculated from Table 4). This includes the children’s play area and accessible area of the Community Farm, but excludes allotment space and Hengrove Park, the development site. The quantity standard Bristol works to as a minimum is 2.78Ha per 1000 population, which gives a minimum standard for Hengrove and Whitchurch Park (pop. 17,400) of 48.4 Ha. The ward is not meeting the minimum quantity standard overall therefore with Hengrove Park excluded, and distribution of green space is uneven through the ward. Additionally over a half of this provision (23.94Ha) is SNCI land: much of it hardly visited and offering no recreational facilities – as prioritising wildlife benefits requires.

4.1.2 Beyond this simple calculation, as the PGSS discusses (p35-6), standards for green space have to move beyond a simple calculation of area. There is also a need for green space for workers in an area, and the ward has significant employment development. High density residential development, such as is proposed for Hengrove Park, requires more publically accessible outdoor space for residents than the minimum, and of course the resident population increase that will ensue from Hengrove Park and other proposed regeneration sites will increase the minimum requirements.

Type of Green Space	Amount (Ha)	PGSS minimum quantity
Informal Green Space	16.62	14.00
Formal Green Space	1.57	3.48
Natural Green Space	23.94	15.70
Active Green Space	0	Playing Fields Strategy applies
Children and Young People (separate space)	1.0	0.52
Allotments	2.9	3.05*
Community Farm (accessible)	0.5	---

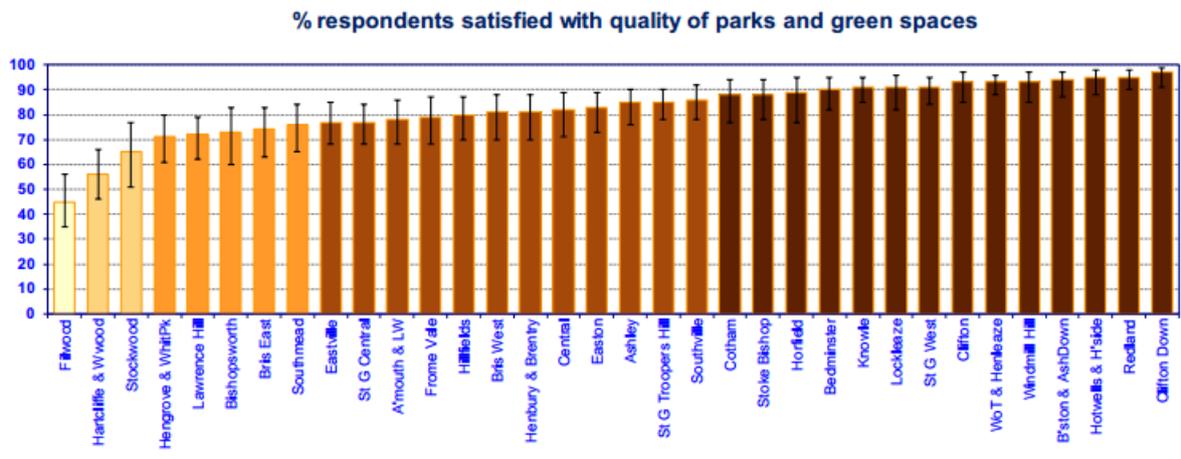
**Table 2: Quantity of different types of Green Space in Hengrove and Whitchurch Park**

\* Bristol City Council Allotments Strategy - 2019

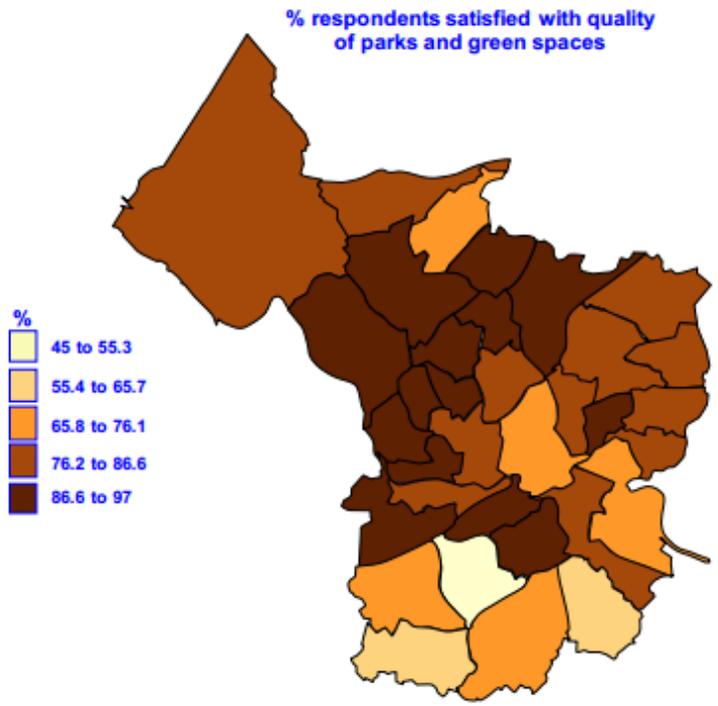
4.1.3 There is serious under-provision in the ward and South Bristol generally, of attractive, formal green space. Over half of the current green space provision in the ward is natural green space, all located to the south of the ward and neighbourhood area. Of these sites, the Mounds is a moderately popular space, but as a former landfill site could not be used for any other purpose anyway. Bamfield and Briery Leaze is not visited that often according to our consultation work, while Hawkfield Meadows, the third SNCI accessible natural green site in the ward had no recorded visits.

4.1.4 Of the informal green space in the ward, 5Ha of the total, nearly a third, are small sites of under or just 1Ha with no facilities and often located alongside roads with significant traffic. Existing parks, apart from Whitchurch Green, are all less than 2.5Ha in size. The quantity and nature of current designated open space in the Ward is not satisfactory.

4.1.5 The quality assessment that follows, found, as previous Council surveys have, most open space in the Ward is only 'fair' in quality. There is scope for considerable improvement in the existing open space provision, something the Quality of Life Study indicates is reflected in local perception as well (graph and figure below).



**Figure 10: Graphics from The Quality of Life Study 2016 indicating low levels of satisfaction with the quality of parks and green spaces in the ward.** Note that the least satisfied four wards in the graph are all around the Hengrove Park area of south Bristol, and the survey has been undertaken at a time when the extensive open space at Hengrove Park is still available.



4.1.5 Finally, although the recent Playing Fields Strategy of the City Council does not provide a yardstick figure for minimum provision, given there is currently no accessible provision in the ward, provision has to be assessed as very poor. Sport England requirements would require provision to improve, and at present existing rugby pitches on Hengrove Park are to be relocated.

## 4.2 Quality of the Green Space in Hengrove and Whitchurch Park

4.2.1 The Bristol Site Allocation and Development Management Policy (SADMP) document was adopted in July 2014, and is a part of the development plan for Bristol. It designates important open space in the city, and designations in the ward were used as a basis for sites to be quality-assessed in this study. The current Hengrove Park was assessed, as being currently available. The SADMP included school playing fields in the designation of open space, but they have not been considered here, and were not considered in the PGSS, as they are not accessible to the general public. This work has also considered allotment and community farm sites, sites not designated open space in the SADMP, but an important source of food-growing space for people. Although allotments are not immediately accessible, everyone has potential access to an allotment on a longer-term tenancy basis.

4.2.2 The survey was undertaken during a visit to each site in October 2017 in the later afternoon and early evening of two Fridays by the author of this report. The weather in each case was sunny and warm for the time of year. Assessment of quality was made on 5 or 6 key attributes under each of five areas of assessment, or criteria, as follows:

**Accessibility and Safety:** entrances, number and ease of use for all; proximity to residential areas and community; overlooking of site; adequacy of lighting on main paths; crossings of adjacent main roads creating severance problems; meets requirements of users with mobility difficulties.

**Attractive & Appealing:** path surface and layout; planting and landscaping; presence of mature trees and natural features; presence of public art and heritage features **Y/N**; low levels of dog fouling; low levels of litter; quality materials used for equipment and furniture.

**Appropriate facilities on site:** presence of children's play area/muga **Y/N**; seating **Y/N**; presence of exercise area **Y/N**; cycle path provision or cycle accessibility; adaptable and facilitates social interaction.

**Biodiversity and Cityscape:** formal wildlife designation **Y/N**; wildlife area **Y/N**; varied habitats on the space; Part of designated city wildlife corridors **Y/N**: Contributes positively to cityscape.

**Management Community involvement and Maintenance:** information boards/ranger managed **Y/N**; active friends group evident **Y/N**; well-maintained green space; provision of bins **Y/N**; no or little evidence of anti-social behaviour.

Generally attributes were assessed on a simple 'Good', 'Fair' or 'Poor' basis, but where indicated 'Y/N' above, a simple yes or no compliance was noted. For each of the criteria the number of 'Good', 'Fair' or 'Poor' marks awarded was totalled, and the most prevalent became the overall total for that criteria. Y/N responses were graded as good or poor respectively, but given less weight and used in the event of a tie – they are often attributes that can be more easily changed. The assessment of allotments for the facilities criteria was considered not applicable, as the facilities assessed are not appropriate for allotment use.

4.2.3 The results of the survey are summarised in Tables 3 and 4 below, and further detail can be found in Appendix 2. As was found in earlier work done for the PGSS, the general level of quality of open space in the ward has been assessed as fair. One space was found to be poor overall, and on most criteria, and that was Hawkfield Meadows SNCI. The implications of this for potential extra development land has been noted above in this report (para 3.5.2). Sites that were assessed as good, or tied good/fair overall, were the Hengrove Park Children's Play Area, Coulson's Park, St Augustine's Park and the Hartcliffe Community Park Farm. East Dundry Slopes is in private ownership and not a public resource in terms of access to and across it. It is a biodiversity and cityscape resource rather than the accessible green space considered here, and in retrospect could have been discounted from the quality assessment.

4.2.4 Besides a formal quality assessment, an informal assessment of how often differing open space in the ward was visited during two drop-in consultation events in July and August of 2017. As part of the consulting on issues and options for the masterplan and open space, a so-called 'dots exercise' was undertaken. On a large aerial photo of the neighbourhood area, people were asked to indicate with coloured dots open space they visited (green dots); where they lived (yellow dots); and places they did not like (red dots). Figure 6 on page 12 shows the results from both days visually, Table 5 sets out how many green dots each area of open space received.

4.2.5 Hengrove Park received three times as many dots as anywhere else (83), and twice as many as people living within 500m of the boundary. No other area of open space received more visits than people living within 500m of it, except for the Mounds. This area of natural green space and SNCI is not within 500m of any participant's home, but still received 13 dots – this could be partly due to it being effectively an extension of Hengrove Park. The Mounds was not liked by one respondent, while the other areas of natural green space and SNCIs received several red dots each. Although Bamfield and Briery Leaze SNCI also received 5 green dots, indicating people visiting the space, Hawkfield Meadow SCNI received no green dot. Generally the wildlife areas are not working as a recreational resource for the community, with the probably exception of the Mounds.

4.2.6 There is a project currently underway, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and run by the Avon Wildlife Trust, drawing up a management plan for the Mounds and Hawkfield Meadow SNCIs. This will be followed up by a bid for further funds to increase local involvement in the sites, and make improvements to the green spaces.

Open space	Overall Score each Section and Total					
	Access /Safety	Attractive	Facilities	Biodiversity Cityscape	Managemt Community	Total
Hengrove Park	F	F	G	P	G	F
Hengrove Park Child's Play Area	F	G	G	F	G	G
Hartcliffe Millenium Green	P	F	F	F	F	F
Whitchurch Green (Asda Fields)	F	F	F	F	G	F
Green Fingers – St Giles Estate	G	F	P	P	F	F
Belland Drive open space	F	F	P	G	P	F
Coulson's Park (Court Farm Rd)	G	F	P	G	G	G/F
St Augustines Park	G	F	G	F	G/F	G/F
Half Acre Lane Allotments	F	F	N/A	F	G	F
Severn Project and allotments	F	F	N/A	P	F	F
St Giles Allotments	G	F	N/A	P	G	F
Hartcliffe Community Park Farm	F	F	G	G	G	G
Hengrove Farm Community Woodland	F	G	F	F	F	F
Smythe Croft amenity land	G	F	P	G	F	F
Land at Whitchurch Lane	G	F	P	F	G	F
Fortfield Road Open Space	G	G	P	F	F	F
Land at Airport Road	G	F	P	P	F	F
Bamfield and Briery Leaze SNCI	F	F	P	G	P	F
The Mounds SNCI	P	G	F	G	F	F
Hawkfield Meadows SNCI	P	P	P	G	P	P
East Dundry Slopes (part) SNCI	P	F	P	G	F	F

**Table 3: Summary of Open Space Assessment in Hengrove and Whitchurch Park**

**Scoring System:** Each attribute was graded **P** poor; **F** fair or **G** good. Where an answer was either Yes or No (**Y** or **N**) then these would be graded **G** or **P** respectively, but given less weight, as they are attributes that can be altered more easily. An overall score for each section was arrived at from the most frequent assessment of **P**, **F** and **G**, with 1 **P** + 1 **G** = 1 **F**! Ties led to a designation as **P/F** or **F/G** where needed: fortunately for simplicity, not very often.

**Appendix 2** has more detail on how the gradings for each section were arrived at.

**Table 4: Notes on Green Spaces assessed in this Study**

<b>Open Space</b>	<b>Open Space type</b>	<b>Area Ha</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Hengrove Childrens Play Park	Children + Young People's space	1.00	A mix of hard landscaping and soft. Well used facility and a draw to the wider city area.
Hengrove Park	Informal green space – area used as open space currently.	38.5	Former Airfield with extensive green sward and scattered woodland. Local Plan Development proposals include housing and an improved park.
Whitchurch Green (Asda Fields)	Informal green space	6.36	Town Green status obtained. Parkland mix of grassland and trees, community orchard planted.
Green Fingers – St Giles Estate	Informal green space	1.22	Open space associated with 'Raeburn-style' housing built on the edge of Hengrove Park. Fence between the park and green fingers has inadequate access for the disabled in wheelchairs and bikes.
Belland Dr Open Space	Informal green space	1.04	No paths and difficult crossing of small stream so not disabled friendly, but a good wildlife resource.
Coulson's Park (Court Farm Rd)	Informal green space	1.66	Well-used informal open space, integrated well into surrounding housing. Few facilities
St Augustines Park	Informal green space	1.53	Well-used informal open space with children's play area and some tree-planting. Integrated well into surrounding housing, but access to Whitchurch Lane unsightly and fairly steep, also a subway under road.
Fortfield Road Open Space	Informal green space	0.65	Area of mature trees that is a positive benefit to the city scape and wildlife.
Hengrove Farm Community Woodland	Informal green space	2.24	Mix of green sward and low trees and shrub. Seating and informal use of the space and links to wildlife corridor and Brislington Brook.
Smythe Croft Amenity Land	Informal green space	0.51	Informal grass and tree-planting around route of small watercourse, retaining mature trees as well.
Land at Whitchurch Lane	Informal green space	0.49	Large verge with pleasant parking and well-lit path.
Land at Airport Road	Informal green space	0.92	Buffer to this main road with tree planting and path.
Hartcliffe Millenium Green	Formal green space	1.57	Several community projects in evidence, but site extensively fenced, both external boundaries and internally. Only formal park in the neighbourhood plan area.

Open Space	Open Space type	Area Ha	Notes
Half Acre Lane Allotments	Allotments	0.45	Allotment site adjacent to Bridge Farm School. Screened by mature hedge and not very visible.
Oatlands Ave/ Fortfield Rd Allotments	Allotments/community garden: allotment area = 1.28 + 0.77Ha	4.69	Larger allotment sites, reasonably tidy, with a community project and shop on site, hence partly accessible. Mature trees on site and adjoining.
St Giles Allotments	Allotments	0.4	Well-maintained allotment plots within a residential setting.
Hartcliffe Community Park Farm	Allotments/community farm Assessible = 0.5Ha	2.87	Within the green belt, but would like to be shown as open space (perhaps LGS?). Children's play area and other community facilities. Educational use. Green space visible within the wider city.
Bamfield and Briery Leaze	Semi-natural wildlife area - SSCI	4	Little used for informal recreation, links Whitchurch Green and Hengrove Park but no road crossings. Some fly-tipping. Part of wildlife corridor.
The Mounds	Semi-natural wildlife area - SSCI	14.11	Former landfill site, used for dog-walking with informal paths within it and a seat.
Hawkfield Meadows	Semi-natural wildlife area - SSCI	5.83	Link to wildlife corridor is tenuous. The site suffers from fly-tipping, difficult access and no recreational use in evidence. Possible partial development site, with mitigation for any loss of wildlife and biodiversity?
East Dundry Slopes (part)	Semi-natural wildlife area - SSCI	30	Part of the green belt and agricultural land. No public access to the site. Adjacent land bordering homes is accessible, some fly-tipping visible here. The site is visible from the surrounding area and a pleasant frame to the city.

**NB:** Area figures from Bristol City Council with the exception of Hengrove Park current open space, Children's play space and Hartcliffe Community Farm which have been calculated from Google Earth by the author.

**Table 5: Popularity of Open Space in the Ward, as indicated by the ‘Dots Exercise’**

Open Space Area	Dots Allocated: G=green, R=red,	No. of respondents living within 500m of boundary
Hengrove Park	83 x G; 2 x R	41
Whitchurch Green (Asda Fields)	27 x G; 2 x R	27
The Mounds	13 x G; 1 x R	--
Hengrove Park Children’s Play Area	13 x G;	17
<u>St Augustines</u> Park	7 x G	21
<u>Moybray</u> Rd Kids Play Area (outside NA)	4 x G	4
Fields to south of the NA	5 x G	13
<u>Bamfield</u> and <u>Briery Leaze</u>	5 x G; 4 x R	28
Cycle Centre (former running track)	2 x G; 1 x R	26
South Bristol Sports Centre (outside NA)	2 x G	5
<u>Saltwell</u> Valley (outside NA)	2 x G	3
Green area off <u>Belland</u> Dr (by Co-op)	2 x G	22
Severn Project Allotments	1 x G	22
<u>St Bernadettes</u> Playing Fields	1 x G	3
Allotments by Bridge Primary School	2 x G	11
Coulson’s Park	2 x G	17
Green Finger – St Giles Estate	1 x G	27
Oasis Playing fields	--	22
Bridge Playing fields	1 x G	17
<u>Hawkfield</u> Meadows	- 3 x R	17
Perry court Junior School	1 x G	9
Hengrove Farm Community Woodland	1 x G	6
Open Space off Paddock Garden	1 x G	7

**NB:** ‘Allotments by Bridge Primary School’ are known elsewhere in this study as the ‘Half Acre Lane Allotments’. ‘NA’ is an abbreviation of ‘Neighbourhood Area’, which has the same boundary as Hengrove and Whitchurch Park Ward.

## 5. Conclusions and Opportunities

5.1 Much of the open space in the ward and neighbourhood area is of limited value to the community, and often lacking in quality. Without Hengrove Park, there is an under-provision in the ward of open space overall, and half of it is natural green space with very low recreational value.

5.2 In particular an attractive, formal Park is missing from the ward, and indeed the wider south Bristol context of surrounding wards. A review of the City Council evidence base shows this need acknowledged in all of them. The PGSS (p24) considered the four destination parks in Bristol spread in an arc through the east, north and west of the city, and identifies a gap in the south of the city. Policy LM2 in this document states:

**“Create a major new park at Hengrove, offering traditional park features but also new and exciting leisure opportunities.”**

Hengrove has been chosen to fulfil the current gap in south Bristol due to the new, well-designed destination park proposed at Hengrove as part of the re-development proposals. Additionally the fact that the existing children’s play area is a city-wide draw strengthens the case for Hengrove. Finally the regeneration proposals provide resources to develop a new destination park that in the current budgetary circumstances will not be available otherwise.

5.3 Following on from the PGSS, the AGSP for Hengrove and Stockwood (p16) states that Hengrove Park will include a high quality large park as part of the regeneration proposals. By the time the AGSP was being drawn up and consulted on, Phase 1 of these proposals were already underway, with the Community Hospital, Skills Academy and Leisure Centre being delivered. The SADMP adopted in 2014 formalised the intention to create a “large high quality park .... sufficient in size to accommodate areas of formal open space, sport pitches and the option of a large events space .... linking to the Mounds.” [Development Brief for Hengrove Park: Site BSA1401]

5.4 Figure 11 shows the importance of any new Hengrove Park maintaining and strengthening the wildlife corridors in South Bristol. A key link is east-west, between Whitchurch Green and The Mounds, and on towards the Malago Valley route wildlife corridor and SNCI to the NW of the area. To the north and east the new park can link to the Brislington Brook via open space alongside Airport Road to the north, and Whitchurch Green and the wildlife corridor beyond that leads out to the green belt agricultural land of Bath and North East Somerset. There are additional links to the east to the Saltwell Valley in Stockwood. South Bristol could become known for long routes through varied green spaces, and develop a more positive reputation than it currently has, building on potential strengths in its informal open space, frequently dormant due to neglect and a lack of resources for improvement. Figure 12 shows in diagrammatic form these potential wider links and networks.



**Figure 11: The Wildlife corridors in the vicinity of Hengrove Park** (shaded brown dots). SNCI's are shown in solid green shading and are part of the corridors.

5.5 Room for improvement in existing green space in the ward has been demonstrated in the quality assessment, but generally any works are likely to have to wait on the local authority having less pressure on resources and funding. Hengrove Park remodelled is an exception, with the redevelopment proposals presenting an opportunity to regenerate the wider area as well as improve green space in the ward. A well-designed and truly high quality large park will improve the quality of green space in Hengrove and Whitchurch ward, even if the loss of the previous Park will reduce the quantity of open space in the ward. Given the development value generated, ongoing maintenance and management of the new Park should be funded from the development of Hengrove Park.

5.6 A final opportunity that will be considered further in the Neighbourhood Development Plan is designation of particularly valued and special areas of green space as 'Local Green Spaces', a power offered in government planning guidance of 2012 (NPPF paras 76-77). The NDP will also consider in more detail the form and features of the new park, informed by the evidence base of previous and current consultation, as well as the Masterplan developed for the NDP.

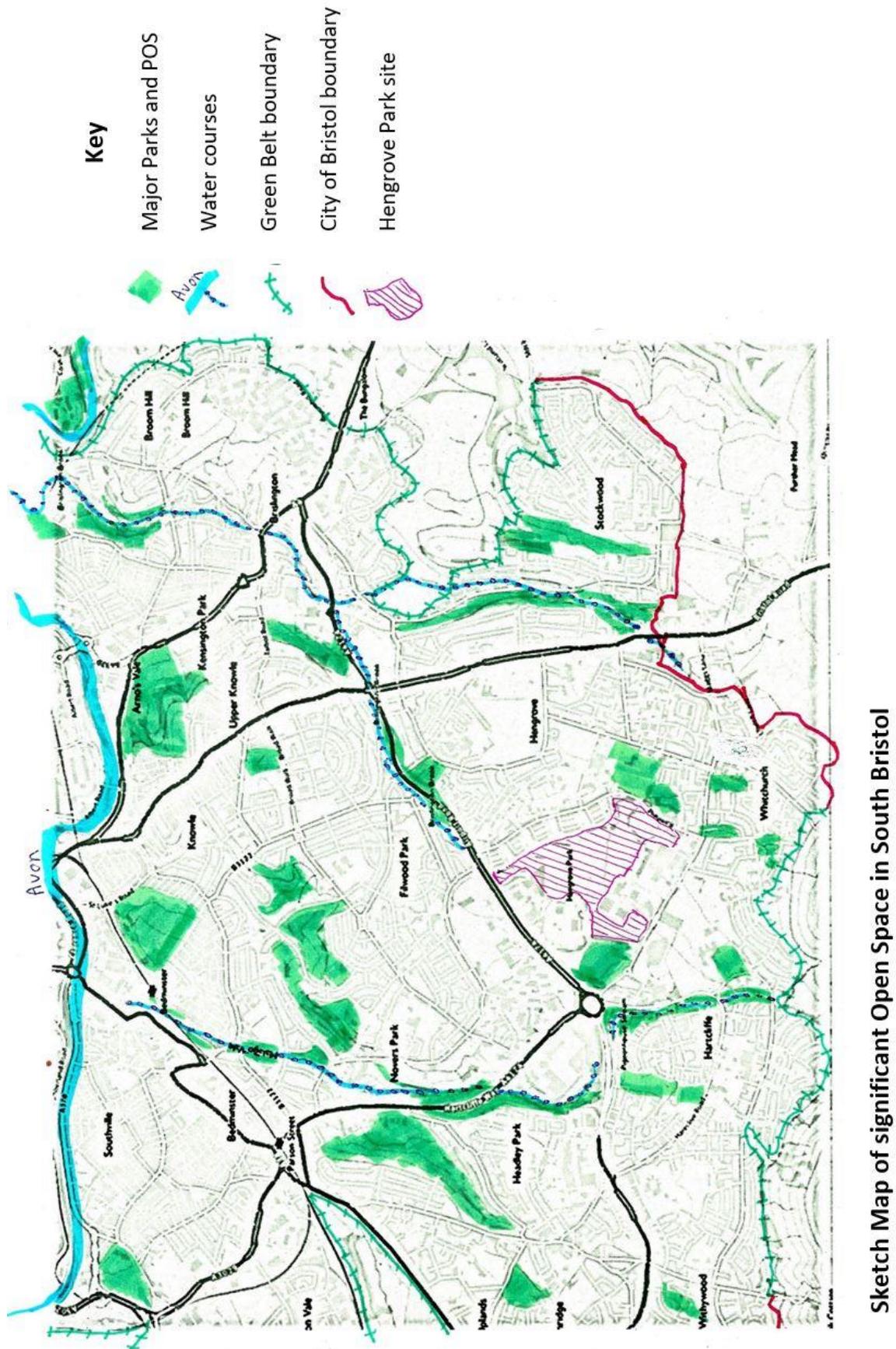
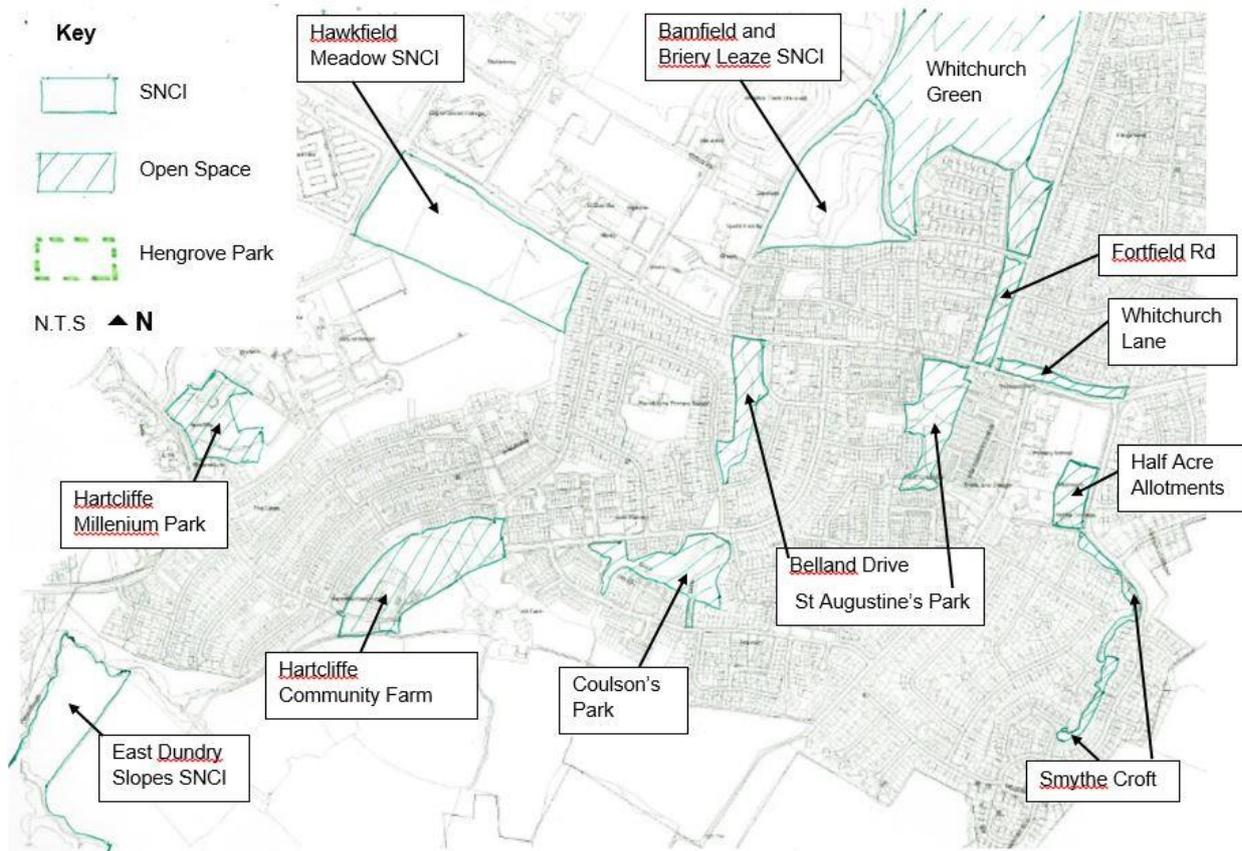
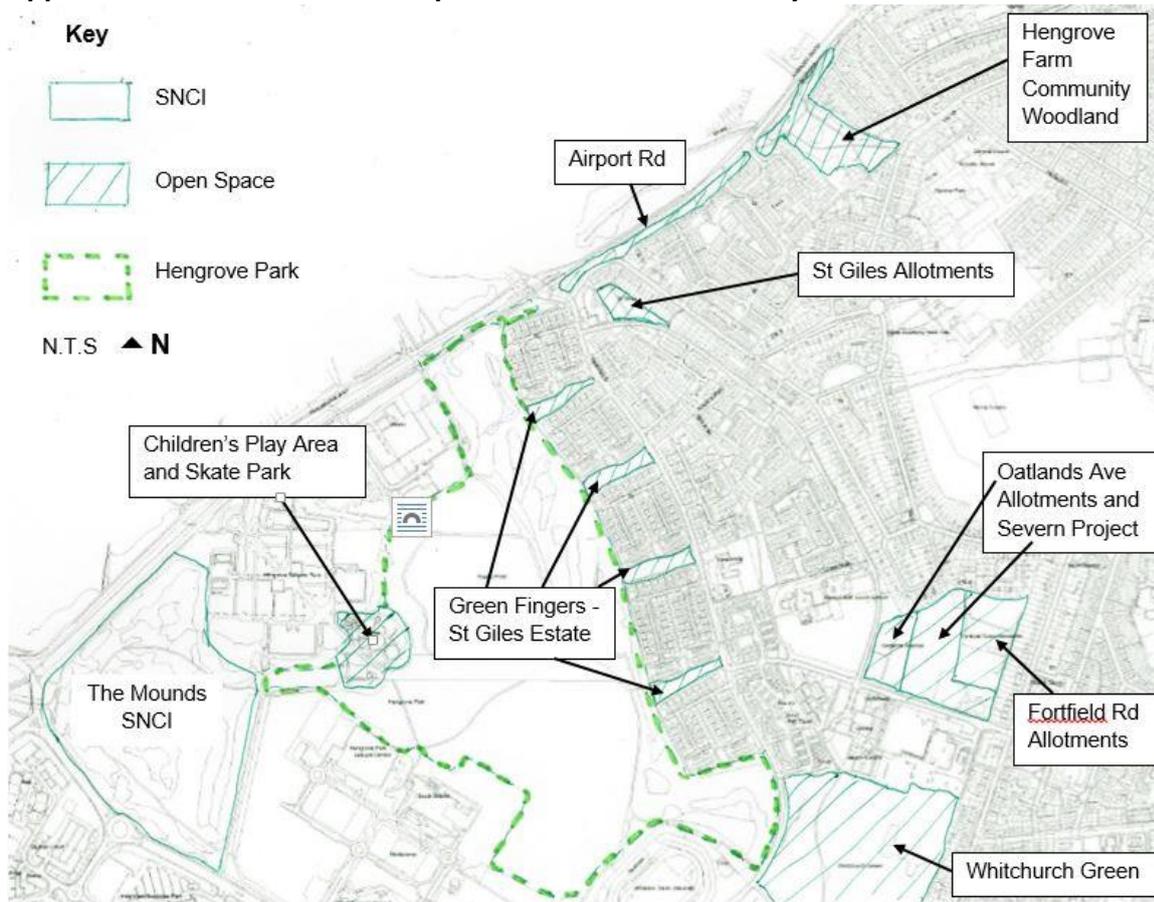


Figure 12A: The Hengrove Regeneration site in its wider city context ◀ North

## Appendix 1: Location of Green Spaces assessed in this study



## Appendix 2: Quality Survey Results for each Section in Table 3

Open space	Accessibility and Safety					
	Entrances	Proximity to homes	Overlooking of site	Lighting main path	Disabled friendly	Road crossings
Hengrove Park	F	F	P	F	F	F
Hengrove Park Child's Play Area	F	P	P	G	G	G
<u>Hartcliffe Millenium Green</u>	P	P	P	F	F	F
Whitchurch Green (Asda Fields)	G	F	P	G	P	F
Green Fingers – St Giles Estate	G	G	G	G	F	F
<u>Belland Dr</u> open space	G	G	G	P	P	G
Coulson's Park (Court Farm Road)	G	G	G	P	G	G
<u>St Augustines Park</u>	G	G	G	G	F	F
Half Acre Lane Allotments	N/A	F	P	N/A	F	G
Severn Project and allotments	N/A	F	P	N/A	F	F
St Giles Allotments	N/A	G	G	N/A	F	G
<u>Hartcliffe Community Park Farm</u>	N/A	F	F	N/A	F	G
Hengrove Farm <u>Comm Woodland</u>	G	G	F	P	G	F
<u>Smythe Croft</u> amenity land	G	G	G	P	F	G
Land at Whitchurch Lane	G	G	G	G	G	P
<u>Fortfield Road</u> Open Space	G	G	F	G	G	F
Land at Airport Road	G	G	F	G	G	F
<u>Bamfield and Briery Leaze</u> SNCI	G	F	P	N/A	P	F
The Mounds SNCI	F	P	P	N/A	P	F
<u>Hawkfield Meadows</u> SNCI	P	P	P	N/A	P	G
East <u>Dundry Slopes</u> (part) SNCI	P	P	F	N/A	P	G

	Attractive and Appealing					
Open space	Paths layout	Planting landscaping	Trees natural features	Quality materials	Public art heritage features	low litter & dog fouling
Hengrove Park	G	P	F	F	Yes	F
Hengrove Park Children's Play Area	G	F	G	G	No	G
<u>Hartcliffe Millenium Green</u>	F	F	G	F	Yes	F
Whitchurch Green (Asda Fields)	F	F	G	F	No	G
Green Fingers – St Giles Estate	G	F	F	F	No	G
<u>Belland Dr open space</u>	F	G	G	P	No	G
Coulson's Park (Court Farm Road)	F	F	G	P	No	G
<u>St Augustines Park</u>	G	F	G	F	No	G
Half Acre Lane Allotments	F	F	F	F	No	G
Severn Project and allotments	F	F	G	F	No	F
St Giles Allotments	F	G	P	F	No	G
<u>Hartcliffe Community Park Farm</u>	F	G	G	F	No	G
Hengrove Farm <u>Comm Woodland</u>	G	F	G	F	?/farm	G
<u>Smythe Croft amenity land</u>	G	F	G	P	No	G
Land at Whitchurch Lane	G	F	F	F	No	G
<u>Fortfield Road Open Space</u>	G	G	G	P	No	G
Land at Airport Road	F	F	F	P	No	G
<u>Bamfield and Briery Leaze SNCI</u>	P	F	G	P	No	F
The Mounds SNCI	G	F	G	P	Yes	G
<u>Hawkfield Meadows SNCI</u>	P	P	G	P	No	P
East <u>Dundry Slopes (part) SNCI</u>	P	F	F	P	No	G

Open space	Appropriate facilities on site				
	Children's play area /MUGA	seating	Exercise area	Cycle paths	Adaptable and facilitates social interaction
Hengrove Park	Yes	Yes	No	G	G
Hengrove Park Children's Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes	G	G
<u>Hartcliffe Millenium Green</u>	Yes	Yes	No	F	F
Whitchurch Green (Asda Fields)	No	Yes	No	F	F
Green Fingers – St Giles Estate	No	No	No	F	G
<u>Belland Dr open space</u>	No	No	No	P	P
Coulson's Park (Court Farm Road)	No	No	No	F	G
<u>St Augustines Park</u>	Yes	Yes	No	F	G
Half Acre Lane Allotments	No	No	No	N/A	G
Severn Project and allotments	No	No	No	N/A	G
St Giles Allotments	No	No	No	N/A	G
<u>Hartcliffe Community Park Farm</u>	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	G
Hengrove Farm <u>Comm Woodland</u>	No	Yes	No	F	F
<u>Smythe Croft amenity land</u>	No	No	No	P	F
Land at Whitchurch Lane	No	No	No	F	P
<u>Fortfield Road Open Space</u>	No	No	No	F	F
Land at Airport Road	No	No	No	F	P
<u>Bamfield and Briery Leaze SNCI</u>	No	No	No	P	P
The Mounds SNCI	No	Yes	No	P	F
<u>Hawkfield Meadows SNCI</u>	No	No	No	P	P
East <u>Dundry Slopes (part) SNCI</u>	No	No	No	P	P

Open space	Biodiversity				
	Formal designation	Wildlife area	Varied habitats	Part of Wildlife corridor	Positive contribution to cityscape
Hengrove Park	No	No	P	Yes	F
Hengrove Park Children's Play Area	No	No	F	Yes?	F
<u>Hartcliffe Millenium Green</u>	No	Yes	F	No	F
Whitchurch Green (Asda Fields)	No	No	F	Yes	F
Green Fingers – St Giles Estate	No	No	P	Yes	F
<u>Belland Dr open space</u>	No	No	G	Yes	G
Coulson's Park (Court Farm Road)	No	Yes	F	Yes	G
<u>St Augustines Park</u>	No	No	P	Yes	G
Half Acre Lane Allotments	No	No	F	Yes	F
Severn Project and allotments	No	No	F	No	F
St Giles Allotments	No	No	P	No	F
<u>Hartcliffe Community Park Farm</u>	No	Yes	F	Yes	G
Hengrove Farm <u>Comm Woodland</u>	No	Yes	F	Yes	F
<u>Smythe Croft amenity land</u>	No	No	G	Yes	G
Land at Whitchurch Lane	No	No	F	Yes	F
<u>Fortfield Road Open Space</u>	No	No	F	Yes	G
Land at Airport Road	No	No	P	No	F
<u>Bamfield and Briery Leaze SSCI</u>	Yes	Yes	F	Yes	F
The Mounds SSCI	Yes	Yes	F	Yes	G
<u>Hawkfield Meadows SSCI</u>	Yes	Yes	F	Yes	P
East <u>Dundry Slopes (part) SSCI</u>	Yes	Yes	F	Yes	G

	Management, Community involvement and Maintenance					
Open space	Information boards etc Ranger	Active friends group	Well-maintained paths	Well-maintained green space	Anti social behaviour	Provision of bins
Hengrove Park	Yes	No	G	G	F	Yes
Hengrove Park Child's Play Area	Yes	No	G	G	G	Yes
<u>Hartcliffe Millenium Green</u>	No	Yes	G	F	F	Yes
Whitchurch Green (Asda Fields)	No	Yes	F	G	G	Yes
Green Fingers – St Giles Estate	No	No	G	G	G	No
<u>Belland</u> Dr open space	No	No	P	G	G	No
Coulson's Park (Court Farm Road)	No	No	G	G	G	Yes
St <u>Augustines</u> Park	No	No	F	G	G	Yes
Half Acre Lane Allotments	Yes	Yes	F	G	G	N/A
Severn Project and allotments	Yes	Yes	F	F	F	N/A
St Giles Allotments	Yes	Yes	F	G	G	N/A
<u>Hartcliffe</u> Community Park Farm	Yes	Yes	F	G	G	N/A
Hengrove Farm <u>Comm</u> Woodland	No	No	F	F	G	Yes
<u>Smythe</u> Croft amenity land	No	No	P	G	G	Yes
Land at Whitchurch Lane	No	No	G	G	G	Yes
<u>Fortfield</u> Road Open Space	No	No	G	G	G	No
Land at Airport Road	No	No	F	G	G	No
<u>Bamfield</u> and <u>Briery Leaze</u> SNCI	No	No	P	F	F	No
The Mounds SNCI	Yes	No	P	F	G	No
<u>Hawkfield</u> Meadows SNCI	No	No	P	P	P	No
East <u>Dundry</u> Slopes (part) SNCI	No	Yes	P	F	G	No