

# Troopers Hill Area - Timeline



[Green Flag](#)  
[RHS Park Award](#)  
[RHS IYN](#)  
 Ownership  
 Monarch  
 County

Year	Event	Green Flag	RHS Park Award	RHS IYN	Ownership	Monarch	County
2024	First edition of 'Super Trooper' Newsletter						
2023	Campaign to purchase Blackswarth Road Wood 20 years of Friends of Troopers Hill						Charles III
2022	Events restart after pandemic Path to chimney resurfaced Survey 20 years on - repeat of 2002 survey to get people's opinions of Troopers Hill		5*	O			
2021	Coronavirus restrictions continue Funding secured & new slide installed Troopers Hill Field		5*	O			
2020	Art Competition & new flag to celebrate 25 years as a Local Nature Reserve Coronavirus pandemic - most public activities & events cancelled from mid-March. Ways to Nature Project - works completed including new path on Troopers Hill Field. Old Sneed Park declared as a LNR 7th April 2020 (now 13) Bristol City Council declares an ecological emergency			Covid			
2019	New fencing on TH Rd, Fungi interpretation board & habitat management as part of Ways to Nature. St George Strollers 200th walk. Red slide removed due to rust		5*	O			
2018	Ways to Nature' Project grants awarded by NLHF, ECT, IET. Troopers Hill Rd Traffic calming. Bristol City Council declare a Climate Emergency		5*	O			
2017	Consultation & 1st stage application to NL Heritage Fund for Ways to Nature project Natural Learners Project starts		5*	O			
2016	New Play Area. Geology Interpretation board. Works to upper chimney (scaffolding)		5*	O			
2015	Consultation & design for play area. St George Strollers 100th walk. Avon New Cut, Lamplighters Marsh, Narrowways and The Northern Slopes designated as LNRs (now 12 in Bristol) Bristol is European Green Capital. Troopers Hill was declared as an "Orion Class" Dark Sky Discovery Site		5*	O			
2014	Troopers Hill awarded Gold in new RHS park award scheme. Works to outside of Upper Chimney (using ropes) Bristol Wild City Project ends.		G	O			
2013	Troopers Hill awarded 7th Green Flag (BCC then stop Green Flag entries). Works to both chimneys. Stepping Forward 'Experiencing Troopers Hill' incl Audio Trail			O			
2012	Main 'Stepping Forward' Project incl work to steps, 2 extra interpretation boards. Revised Management Plan. Air Balloon Primary School Jubilee Walk to Troopers Hill (600 teachers & pupils)			O			
2011	FoTH receive 'Thriving' in first IYN entry. St George Strollers formed, first walk 11th May.			T			
2010	Troopers Hill designated a Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site Mine shaft works. Troopers Hill Rd falling earth bank removed Bristol Wild City Project starts						
2009	Improvements to Greendown entrance & new fencing. Callington Rd designated as an LNR (now 8 in Bristol)						
2008	End of Nature in the City Project.						
2007	New Management Plan adopted. Troopers Hill awarded a Green Flag for the 1st time. New interpretation board by chimney. Wheelchair path to chimney Badock's Wood, Eastwood Farm Manor Woods Valley designated as LNRs (now 7)						
2006	Hedge planted at Greendown, 21 Jan End of Wildspace! Project, launch of Nature in the City led by Sally Oldfield.						

2005	Centenary of Air Balloon School Friends of Troopers Hill visit to the Bathhouse to celebrate 10 years as an LNR First 2 dog waste bins installed on Troopers Hill LNR			
2004	Management and Action Plan launched, Awards for All Lottery Grant awarded New entrance signs installed with clip frames for posters			
2003	Formation of Friends of Troopers Hill			
2002	LNR officer (Sally Oldfield) appointed funded by Wildspace! through English Nature and the Lottery Survey of local households to get their opinions of Troopers Hill			
2000	2000 First D Gibbs Invertebrate survey. 1999 New Management Plan by Wessex Ecological Consultancy adopted.			
1996	Avon County Council abolished, 1st April Royate Hill designated as LNR Troopers Hill Designated as Local Nature Reserve (LNR) 22nd June (one of three, the first in Bristol, others were Lawrence Weston Moor & Stockwood Open Space).			
1995	2 interpretation signs installed. Major fire on Troopers Hill 17th Aug. BDC dissolved.			
1994	30th Dec Colliery chimney at bottom of Troopers Hill listed Grade II Start of photographic monitoring			
1992	BDC funded management plan			
1991	Resurfacing of paths, erection of perimeter fence. 'Action Days' run by Avon Wildlife Trust			
1990	1989 Bristol Development Corporation (BDC) established covering the Avon Valley, including Troopers Hill 1987 Crews Hole Methodist Church closed 1983 Bristol City Council Avon Valley Development Brief and Conservation Policy adopted 1982 Tar Works site cleared 1981 Tar Works closed			
1980	1977 4th March, Chimney on top of Troopers Hill listed Grade II 1976 St George Church demolished (this was the third church on the site) 1974 Tar Works Sublimed naphthalene plant closed as explosion risk after Flixborough Avon County Council established 1st April			
1970	1970 1 April Ownership of Bristol & West Tar Distillers passed to British Steel 1968 Flood to 6 inches below 1894/1960 level 10 July			
1960	1962 Southwestern Gas Board become sole owner of Bristol & West Tar Distillers 1960 Flood to 1894 record level 5 Dec			
1956	14th Sept Freehold of Troopers Hill purchased by Bristol City Council for £600 21st Dec Troopers Hill Woodland purchased by BCC from the estate of EW Smith for use as a tip for £2,120.			
1952	Formation of Bristol & West Tar Distillers - Southwestern Gas Board own 25%			
1948	3rd April Troopers Hill sold by J W Ballard to Frank Viner for £600			
1945	End of World War II			
1941	11 April - Good Friday Raid destroys St Phillips bridge, cutting power supply & stopping all trams permanently, the trams were scrapped at Kingswood depot			
1939	Start of World War II			
1936	21st April Joseph John Ballard (owner of Troopers Hill) dies			
1932	24th March Allotments including Troopers Hill Field purchased by BCC for £3,165			
1928	9th & 10th Oct Bristol Tolzey Court hearings grant right of way on road to Apricot, Rosary & Hillside Cottages			
1925	Great Western Cotton Factory goes into liquidation			
1924	5th Sept Troopers Hill sold by B E Somers (son of Thomas & Elizabeth) to Joseph John Ballard for £515. Stone & Tinson's Muriate of Ammonia Works closed - incorporated into Tar Works			
1920	30th Sept Freehold of Troopers Hill offered for sale by auction (20 acres or thereabouts)			
1918	End of the Great War (World War I)			
1914	Start of the Great War (World War I)			
1910				

Bristol City Council	Elizabeth II	City and County of Bristol
F Viner	George VI	County of Avon
J W Ballard	E VIII	City and County of Bristol
Joseph J Ballard	George V	
B E Somers		

- 1908 Troopers Hill Fireclay mine closed
- 1905 Little St Aidan's and adjoining school closed - bought by the Tar Works
- 1904 Conham Chemical Works closed - incorporated into Tar Works  
Bull Inn rebuilt in new location
- 1900 William Butler dies 6 October
- 1900 Tramline extension opened to Hanham, St Philip's power station switched on to power all trams  
St George becomes part of the City and County of Bristol
- 1897 School pupils walk over Troopers Hill - Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebration  
George Lacey killed in a major fire at Butlers Tar Works
- 1896 Troopers Hill Fireclay mine employs 9 underground workers
- 1895 Opening of electrified tramline to Kingswood (power station at Beaconsfield Rd depot)
- 1894 River flood 15 Nov
- 1890
- 1889 William Butler retires. Temp Smallpox hospital moved to quarry at Holmes Hill.
- 1888 Temporary smallpox hospital on Troopers Hill
- 1886 Troopers Hill leased to Bristol Fireclay Co by Elizabeth Somers
- 1885 Celebration on Troopers Hill for the election of Handel Cossham as MP (3/4,000 people)
- 1882 'a most disorderly scene' - Salvation Army vs Bristol secularists on Troopers Hill
- 1880 OS map uses name of Troopers Hill, this name was authorised by 3 local residents
- 1880 Third St George church completed  
First record of Troopers Hill Fireclay mine.
- 1878 22 Dec Fire destroys second St George Church  
Mass meeting of striking GW Cotton Mill workers on Troopers Hill
- 1876 Tramline to St George (World's End Public House) opened (horse drawn)
- 1875 Bristol Tramways Co formed with William Butler as chairman
- 1873 St George Local Board formed.  
Visit to Troopers Hill by Cotswold Naturalists' Field Club led by Handel Cossham
- 1870
- 1863 Tar Works Fire - Works sold to William Butler
- 1862 Thomas Somers dies, his wife Elizabeth becomes owner of Troopers Hill
- 1861 Start of the American Civil War (to 1865) - cotton famine closes GW Cotton Factory
- 1860 Crews Hole Wesleyan Chapel built (later used as industrial works, now housing) - foundation stone laid 10  
Sept 1860 by Archibald Vickers, Manager Great Western Cotton Factory
- 1853 Crews Hole Methodist Church built (corner Troopers Hill Rd & Crews Hole Rd).  
James Michell sets up business to reprocess old copper slag.
- 1850
- 1848 Dr Benjamin Somers, owner of Troopers Hill dies
- 1846 St George church rebuilt to designs of J Hicks (second church)
- 1845 'Troopers Hill' shown on Tithe Map Troopers Hill coal mine closed by this date
- 1843 Crews Hole Tar Works established by IKB with local financiers. William Butler became manager  
Elizabeth Emra dies 10th Oct a few days after the birth of her eighth child
- 1841 GWR opened from Bristol to Paddington
- 1840 Lander's Electoral Map shows 'Truebody's Hill' GWR opened from Bristol to Bath  
Patent for preserving timber with creosote by John Bethell
- 1838 Great Western Cotton Factory opens in Barton Hill
- 1835 Construction of the Great Western Railway starts
- 1834 Distribution of slave compensation money to slave owners
- 1833 The Abolition of Slavery Act is passed by the British Parliament  
Scenes in our Parish published in NY, Elizabeth Emra marries Marcus Holmes.
- 1832 Complete version of Scenes in our Parish published in UK (with second series)
- 1831 Bristol Riots 31st October, fires in Queen's Sq seen from St George by E Emra
- 1830 OS map published using the name 'Troopers Hill'  
Scenes in our Parish by a Country Parson's Daughter (Elizabeth Emra) first series published in UK.
- 1828 Brass Company sells Crews Hole abandoned site for £1,880 to Dr Benjamin Somers
- 1826 Drawing commissioned by GW Braikenridge shows Troopers Hill Chimney  
OS surveyor uses the name 'Troopers Hill' on preliminary drawing for new OS map - first recorded use
- 1820
- 1820 Bristol brass company ceases copper production
- 1819 Crews Hole Pottery closes
- 1815 Napoleon defeated at Waterloo in June, ending the Napoleonic Wars
- 1813 'Truebody's Hill' offered for sale.
- 1812 Anthony Ammat builds Crews Hole Pottery (it was beside the river opposite Lamb Hill)

B E Somers	Edward VII	City and County of Bristol
Elizabeth Somers		
T Somers	Victoria	
Dr Benjamin Somers	William IV	Gloucestershire
Bristol Brass Company	George IV	
George III		

- 1810 Kennet and Avon canal completed linking Bristol to the Thames  
Revd John Emra becomes vicar of St George (to 1842)
- 1809 Completion of Floating Harbour and Feeder Canal  
Manufacture of copper and brass ceases at Warmley
- 1807 25 March, transatlantic slave trade abolished by the British Parliament
- 1805 Battle of Trafalgar on 21 October
- 1804 Elizabeth Emra born 20th Nov
- 1803 Maule's map shows Copper Works at the base of the Hill, lower chimney/engine house is not shown,  
Troopers Hill colliery probably established after this time.
- 1800 1800 Sale of glassworks (the glassworks was near the bottom of Strawberry Lane)
- 1796 Joan Day book states Elton & Tyndall lease ends
- 1790 Troopers Hill Chimney built around this time for Elton & Tyndall Copper Works?
- 1789 Harfords' & Bristol Brass Company buys Warmley works
- 1788 First public mtg of Bristol Abolitionists.
- 1784 St George civil parish formed
- 1783 Treaty of Paris ends American War of Independence  
Crews Hole (and Conham?) Copper Works leased by Elton and Tyndall  
Brass company abandon Crews Hole site
- 1780 1780 Copper Smelting moved to Warmley and Crews Hole site leased to various businesses
- 1777 William King, glassmaker dies
- 1774 William Reeve bankrupt, Arnos Vale and Black Castle sold
- 1770 1769 Benjamin Donn's map shows 'The Cupolas' (copper smelters), also Lead Works below the Hill
- 1768 William Champion bankrupt, Warmley Company auctioned.
- 1766 Crews Hole bottle glasshouse advertised for sale occupied by William King & Co
- 1760 Troopers Hill Chimney built around this time for Leadworks shown on Donn's later map?
- 1758 25 March Sir Abraham Elton III sells 'Harris's Hill alias Truebody's Hill' to the Bristol Brass Company (10 acres) (Elton annals report this as 1753)
- 1756 First St George church completed
- 1754 49 copper smelting furnaces reported at Crews Hole
- 1752 Sept - change to Gregorian (New Style) calendar  
3 March St George Church foundation stone laid
- 1751 Ecclesiastical parish of St George created
- 1750 William Reeve (1713-1778), manager of Crews Hole copper works builds Black Castle
- 1749 Council complains of waste copper slag obstructing river, manufacture of copper slag blocks started to dispose of this waste material
- 1746 William Champion leaves the Bristol brass company and founds rival '*Warmley Company*'
- 1745 Sir Abraham Elton, 3rd Baronet (1703–1761) bankrupt 12 March
- 1742 Sir Abraham Elton, 2nd Baronet (b1679) dies 20 Oct
- 1740 1738 George Whitefield and John Wesley preach at Hanham Mount
- 1733 A Elton (II) & Thomas Coster promote idea of a *brass* statue to William (III) in Queens Square
- 1728 River Avon Navigation opened from Bristol to Bath  
Sir Abraham Elton, 1st Baronet (b1654), of Clevedon Court dies 9 Feb
- 1725 Crews Hole producing 150T copper/year from 24 furnaces employing 33 men
- 1720 1720 Share price of South Sea Company (& then other companies) collapses (South Sea Bubble)
- 1717 Abraham Elton created a baronet in reward for his services in the rebellion of 1715
- 1713 South Sea Company granted monopoly (the Asiento) to supply African slaves to the islands in the "South Seas" and South America
- 1712 Crews Hole Copper Works established by Bristol Brass & Wire Company under the control of John Coster and his son Thomas
- 1710 1708 Abraham Darby 'Active Man' (Manager) of the brass company moves to Coalbrookdale to pursue iron smelting.
- 1704 Harris's Hill alias Truebody's Hill' (10 acres) purchased by Abraham Elton from Lancelot Dobson

Bristol Brass Company	George III	
Sir Abraham Elton III	George II	
Sir Abraham Elton II	George I	
Sir Abraham Elton	Anne	
Gloucestershire		

1703 26 Nov - Great Storm, Bristol flooded & suffered much damage from strong wind

1702 Bristol Brass Company formed. Baptist Mills Brass Works established (now under M32 J2)

1698 African slave trade opened up to merchants across the country by Act ending the monopoly of the Royal Africa Company, allowing Bristol slave trading to increase significantly

1696 Copper works established at Conham owned by Abraham Elton

1689 The Mines Royal Act opened up metal industries for private enterprise

1685 Monmouth Rebellion, also known as the Pitchfork Rebellion

1682 20th Aug Br Edward Terrill ordered banks like a gallery to be cut above Crews Hole

1672 Royal Africa Company (based in London) granted charter to carry Africans to the Americas

1660 29 May Charles II arrives in London and the English monarchy is restored

1651 Escape of Charles II from England after defeat at Battle of Worcester on 3 September

1649 Charles I executed, and the Commonwealth of England established

1645 Civil War - Prince Rupert forced to surrender Bristol to Parliament, 10 September

1643 Civil War - Royalist's Capture of Bristol, 26 July

1610 Map of Kingswood showing Harris Hill

1607 30 Jan - Bristol Channel Floods - thought to be a storm surge.

1603 King James VI of Scotland becomes King James I of England

Lancelot Dobson

??? Lancelot Dobson

Anne

William III (& Mary to 1694)

James II

Charles II

Commonwealth

Charles I

James I

Elizabeth I

Gloucestershire