

## Things to do

Our Slopes are great for:

- ▶ Exercise – including dog-walking
- ▶ Exploring, playing or just relaxing
- ▶ Picnics
- ▶ Admiring stunning views over Bristol
- ▶ Conservation activities such as Green Gym
- ▶ Cycling
- ▶ Foraging for blackberries
- ▶ Discovering birds, insects and flora
- ▶ Spotting hot air balloons – especially at fiesta time in August
- ▶ Seeing Firework displays on festival nights
- ▶ Seeing allotments and small holdings such as Bramble Farm
- ▶ Sledging in snowy winters



## How to get there

### Locating The Bommie

OS grid ref: ST 707593  
Postcode: BS4 1DQ

### Walking

St Barnabas Church is around two miles to the south west of Bristol Temple Meads Station.

### For cycle routes

[www.betterbybike.info/maps-and-rides](http://www.betterbybike.info/maps-and-rides)

### For bus information

For bus routes and frequency:  
[www.firstgroup.com/westofengland](http://www.firstgroup.com/westofengland)

Traveline SW: 0871200 2233  
[www.travelinesw.com](http://www.travelinesw.com)

### By car

Parking is available on nearby streets – please be considerate of residents. You are also welcome to use The Park, Daventry Road, and the Knowle West Health Park, Downton Road during opening hours.

## Contacts

### The Northern Slopes Initiative

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

### Bristol City Council

Please report problems to: 0117 922 2000



# The Northern Slopes



Local Nature Reserve, South Bristol



Stunning views, surprising places



2016. Most photography: Julia Tutton, with thanks. Design: Ruth Coleman 07757 740104

## Welcome to The Northern Slopes

In 2015, parts of The Slopes were designated one of Bristol's 12 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) – special, protected places where wildlife can thrive and people can relax with nature and enjoy fantastic views.

The Slopes are made up of three areas of green space between Knowle, Knowle West and Bedminster, south Bristol. They are a green landmark, visible from many parts of Bristol.

### The 'Bommie' LNR

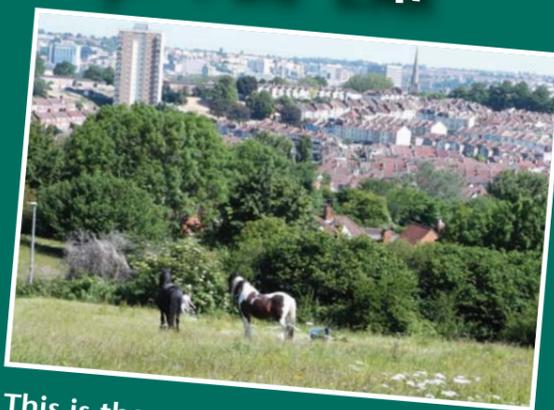
Once part of Knowle Golf Club, this area was named after the bombs that were dropped there during World War II.



▲ The 'Satan' bomb that fell nearby looked like this.

◀ A local resident looks at an incendiary bomb – one of several that fell on The Bommie.

### Glyn Vale LNR



This is the central area of The Slopes where you can forage for blackberries and see horses grazing.

## Looking after the Slopes

The Slopes are mainly owned by Bristol City Council. A group of volunteers from the Northern Slopes Initiative (NSI) work with the council and other community groups to care for the three areas. New volunteers are always welcome!

Together, these organisations have surfaced the paths, installed entrances and log seats, commissioned The Slopes signature teasel sculptures and put on celebratory events.

The background picture reproduces a section of the 1841 Bedminster Tithe Map. It shows open farmland apart from Lower Knowle Farm – the only feature that remains to this day.

After World War I (1914-1918), much of the area was made over to housing. The Slopes became allotments during World War II (1939-1945).

They remained relatively undisturbed and have only recently started to disclose their wildlife secrets.

(Courtesy of Bristol Record Office)

### The Novers

In the early 20th century, this area was part of a rifle range. As with the other two areas of The Slopes, it's a great place to play and learn about nature.



Chris Barr

# Enjoying The Northern Slopes

Allow two to three hours to visit all of The Slopes on foot. Some paths are steep and unsurfaced, others are muddy and slippery in wet weather. A few paths are hard surfaced and include crossing main roads through residential areas. Good footwear is advisable.

Buggies and small wheelchairs/mobility scooters will find the entrance beside St Barnabas Church, Daventry Road the easiest to use, providing access to a viewing platform. Buggies may manage a few more of the hard-surfaced paths around The Slopes.

## Self-Guided Walks

If you'd like to explore different parts of The Slopes, use a recommended route for a longer walk, or discover the diverse range of trees that grow here, you may like to download one of the four self-guided walks that were prepared for The Slopes as part of Bristol City Council's Wild City Project: [www.northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk](http://www.northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk)

We hope you will find this map useful for your visit to The Slopes.

Dogs are welcome and several bins are provided.



## The Pipe Walk



▲ The well head, on private land in Springfield Allotments

An extraordinary walk starts from The Slopes each autumn – as it has done for over 800 years! Medieval landowner Sir Robert de Berkeley gave a spring that rises here to carry clean water to the parish of Redcliffe in 1190. He also stipulated that church officials from St Mary Redcliffe Church should lead an annual walk along the pipe that carried this water to inspect it and make sure it stayed in good order. All are welcome on this unusual annual venture. For details, please contact the parish office: 0117 231 0060.

## Great for wildlife

The Slopes provide mixed habitats for a diverse range of birds, bats, insects, wild plants and small mammals.

They are also a natural store for water – a place where air pollutants can be reduced and carbon can be stored.



▲ May (hawthorn) blossom

▼ A white-tailed bumble bee feeding on Greater knapweed



### Key:

-  Allotments
-  Streams
-  Surfaced paths
-  Informal paths
-  Amphitheatre
-  Bridges
-  Horse Paddock
-  Meadows/grassland
-  Scrub/woodland
-  Entrances
-  Bus stops
-  Dog bins
-  Well head/spring
-  St Barnabas Church
-  Pipe walk
-  Doorstep Green
-  Viewpoints