

↓ Places to eat and drink



Beese's Riverside Bar and Tea Gardens

For menus and opening times visit:
beeses.co.uk. T: 0117 977 7412

Photo: Beese's Riverside Bar and Tea Gardens – established by Mrs Beese in 1846. Mr Beese was the ferry boat captain. No one knows how long ago the ferry came into use, but before World War II the journey cost 1d.

Contacts

Eastwood Farm is owned and managed by Bristol City Council. For more information or to report problems please contact:

bristolparks@bristol.gov.uk
T: 0117 922 3719

The Friends of Eastwood Farm are a group of local residents who take an interest in all aspects of the site. New members are always welcome at meetings and events. Keep in touch with what's going on at:



bristol.gov.uk/eastwoodfarm
eastwoodfarm.org.uk

↓ Getting there

Eastwood Farm is located in the Avon Valley in Brislington, south east Bristol.

- **Bike:** For cycle routes visit betterbybike.info/get-around
- **Bus:** Several buses stop close to the Reserve. For more details please call Traveline South West 0871 200 2233 or visit traveline.info
- **Car:** Access is via Whitmore Avenue, off Broomhill Road, Brislington, BS4 4UD. Parking is free – weekday working hours only.
- **Accessibility:** Some areas are buggy/wheelchair accessible but there are some steep slopes and paths can be muddy.
- **Opening times:** Eastwood Farm is open all year round.

↓ Please:

- Take litter home
- Keep dogs under control
- Leave wildflowers for others to enjoy
- No motorcycles

If you would like this leaflet in another language, Braille, audio tape, large print, easy English, BSL video or computer disk please call 0117 922 3719



© Design: dandicreative.co.uk | Illustrations: Abi Stubbs
Written by Ruth Coleman.

Photos: © Becky Coffin: Mute swans (front cover), Marble white on knapweed (inside page).

Printed with vegetable-based inks on revive silk 100% recycled paper.

Eastwood Farm

LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



A peaceful riverside refuge for people and wildlife



Extract from Brislington Conservation & History Society interview with Arthur Heal:

“I had all the land round there... We had no water, no electric, no nothing when we moved in. We had a spring and we used to have to dip it out where the cows drank from. It didn't do us any harm did it? But we used to deliver the milk twice a day because fresh milk went sour quicker. A gill in the morning and a gill at night – half of half a pint.”

Photos: Eastwood Farm c. 1960. Thanks to Jonathan Rowe, Brislington Conservation and History Society.
Arthur Heal delivering milk in the severe winter of 1962/3, Bristol Evening Post. Thanks to Brislington Conservation and History Society.

↑ Bristol's last dairy farm

The fine house and buildings of Eastwood Farm are the only remainder of the last dairy farm within the Bristol City boundary. The last dairyman, Arthur Heal lived at Eastwood Farm from 1928 until 1959, although he delivered the milk until 1981. The site became a farm because the meadows that are often flooded by the River Avon create ideal conditions for agriculture and livestock-rearing. Arthur Heal's herd were of Shorthorn and later, Friesian cows. During World War II, conscientious objectors were sent to help grow vegetables on the Farm to support the war effort. Arthur watched the Broomhill area grow up around him and gave up the farm in 1971.

→ A load of rubbish!

Bristol City Council acquired the Farm in 1971. The site became a tip to bury the increasing amounts of domestic waste produced by the growing city. Tipping carried on until 1978 when, much to the delight of local people, the site was restored for the benefit of nature and people.

Relax, unwind, enjoy... See the map inside for more about what to see and where you can see it.

Banded demoiselle



Find:

- Mixed age woodland with grassland edges
- Wildflower rich meadows
- Water meadows – liable to flooding in winter
- A pond and a lagoon
- The river

Look out for birds such as herons, swans and woodpeckers. Less apparent will be the foxes, voles, shrews and bats that live here.

Watch leaves change through the seasons and enjoy their autumn colour.

Listen to birdsong, the wind in the trees, the bell to call the ferry, water flowing, boats chugging, whooshing trains, the woodpecker's hammer.



Welcome to Eastwood Farm

Take time out to visit the tranquil riverside Reserve at Eastwood Farm. With over 65 acres to roam in, it's one of the richest wildlife sites in Bristol. The range of habitats to be found at Eastwood Farm is as diverse as the plant and animal communities they support.

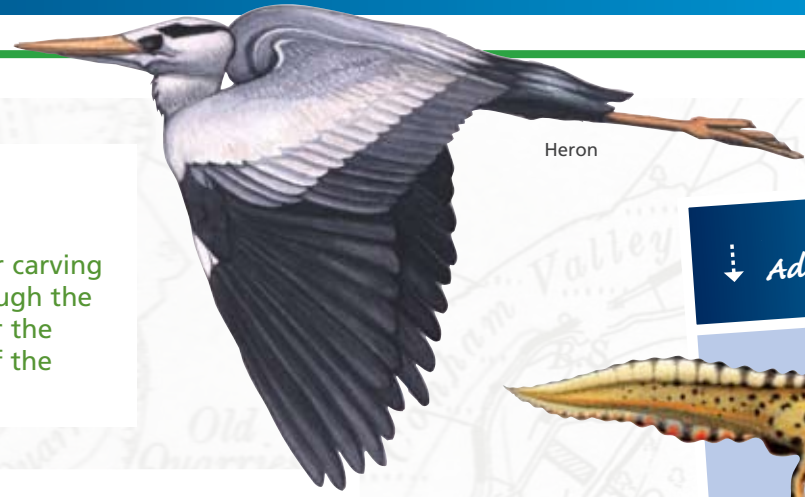
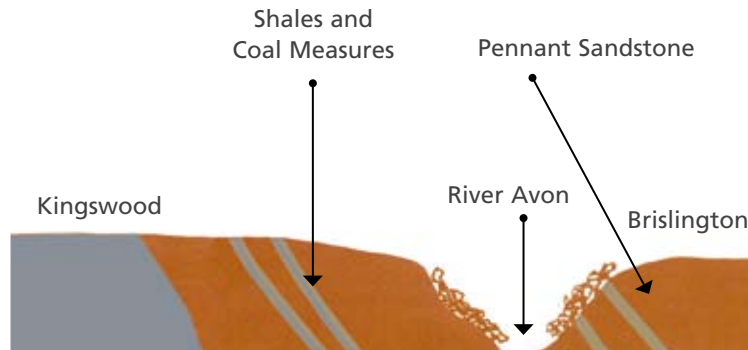
Eastwood Farm – what to see and where you can see it...

↓ Beneath our feet

Eastwood Farm and the river valley have been shaped by the action of water carving its way through 300 million year old Pennant sandstone. Rivers flowing through the rain forests of the time brought the original sand. This useful stone, used for the Eastwood Farm buildings and the GWR airshafts, probably came from one of the many quarries that grew up here.

→ The River Avon

Once busy transporting coal, copper, brass goods and stone, the Avon Valley narrows as the river cuts through the Hanham Gorge. Although the river is tidal and salty as far as Hanham, it is fresh enough to allow light to penetrate so underwater plants can grow to oxygenate the water and provide essential food for fish.



Heron



Admire amphibians

Smooth newt



Get close to wildlife at the pond, lagoon and floodplain area

Yellow flag iris

Mute swan

Black knapweed

→ Investigate insects

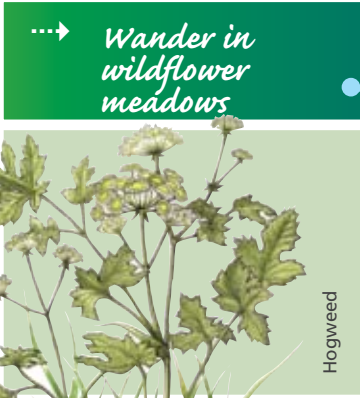


Small tortoiseshell

↓ Great Western Railway

Eastwood Farm's introduction to the industrial age came with Brunel's engineering triumph, the Great Western Railway. Connecting Bristol with London since 1841, hundreds of trains pass beneath here every day. The original 'dome' of the tump area was created by spoil excavated during the construction of the tunnel. You can hear the trains whoosh past beside the five airshafts at the western edge of the site.

For reasons of cost, and because it helped blend the railway into the landscape, Brunel used local materials for bridges and other structures. These ranged from stock brick at the London end of the line, to red brick, Bath stone east of Bath and Pennant stone here for the air shafts.



Wander in wildflower meadows

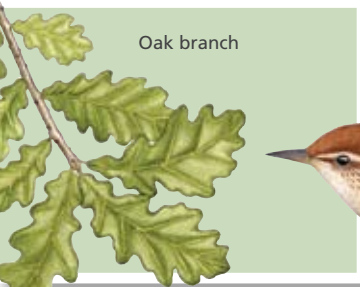
Hogweed

→ Look out for rich bird life



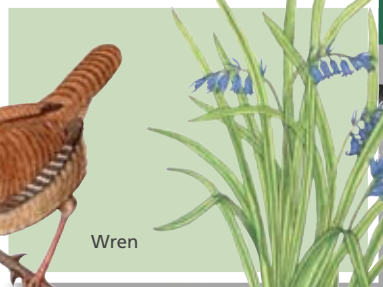
Green woodpecker

→ Explore mixed woodland and planted trees



Oak branch

↑ Discover ancient woodland



Wren

Bluebell



MAP KEY

- Woodland area
- Reserve boundary
- Main access track
- Muddy path
- Footpath
- View points
- Information panels
- Bus stop
- GWR's five airshafts

Discover wildlife on your doorstep