Ballast Seed Garden



The Ballast Seed Garden is an artist led proposal supported by the Arnolfini. The artist Maria Thereza Alves has worked in Bristol as part of an ongoing investigation of ballast flora in European port cities.

Ballast, in the forms of rocks, stones, earth and sand was traditionally used to regulate the draft (height in the water) of trading vessels when carrying different types of cargo. Ballast was brought to Bristol and offloaded at sites regulated by the Port Authority. As part of the 2007 Arnolfini exhibition Port City, the artist undertook a period of research to find and photograph possible ballast sites around the river Avon and Bristol's Harbour Side. Often seeds and plants were transported in ships' ballast, and seeds have remained dormant in the buried material over centuries of use – up until the late 19thC when water became more widely used as the ballast material in commercial shipping. With the help of community groups and the University of Bristol's Botanic Garden, collected seeds were germinated to identify species and origin of plants. One of the main concepts for the Ballast Seed Garden was to demonstrate the cultural diversity of Bristol as a port city through the plants that grow from the discarded ballast – and the permanent installation of the Ballast Seed Garden is a celebration of Bristol's maritime past.

This site in particular had been chosen by Maria Thereza Alves because it was listed in the historic records as being a location where ballast was offloaded from incoming ships. The site also enjoys a most magnificent view of the Avon Gorge and is synonymous with the maritime history of Bristol. All the land in this area has been shaped by Bristol's industrial and trading past and this particular western end of 'Spike Island' more than most. It is here that the river Avon New Cut and the Cumberland Basin meet – both man made bodies of water constructed in the early 19thC.

As past of the Ballast Seed Garden, it is also proposed that a new route for pedestrians and cyclists is constructed, linking the Ashton Avenue Bridge at the Create Centre to the Entrance Lock area. As part of the wider Connect2 scheme linking Bristol and Nailsea, this section of route will be provided in anticipation of the Brunel Swivel Bridge restoration where initial investigative works are ongoing. This will overcome one of the major barriers to walking and cycling in the locality, the combination of the Cumberland Basin, and the main A370 which carries over 40,000 vehicles per day.

The overall development will comprise the removal of the flights of steps from the western side of Brunel Lock Road to enable the pedestrian/cyclepath to be constructed. This will be performed under a formal stopping up process as they form part of the adopted highway. Recent monitoring has indicated that these steps are not widely used. Also, as part of the latest plans (contrary to that indicated on the plan overleaf) it is proposed that as part of the development the commemorative plinth bench will be removed, although the brass plaques will be retained to be reused elsewhere on site. This will be necessary to accommodate the pedestrian and cycling facility.

Planning permission will be sought to construct a 2.5-3 metre wide macadam path

from the existing access road to the south of the Bristol Record Office to a point on the north of the adopted highway, Brunel Lock Road

The overall length of the new path to be constructed is 200m. It is not proposed to light this section with additional street lights, as the area is already covered by the existing high-mast highway lighting. We would however seek to demarcate the edges of the path using solar powered cat's eyes such as those manufactured by Astucia, and already installed on the new facility linking to the Meridian development site to the south.

The Ballast Seed Garden covers a total of 0.09 hectares, and the overall site area including the pedestrian and cycle path development is 0.15 hectares. Detailed design will be undertaken by Bristol City Council's Engineering Consultancy and Bristol City Council's Landscape Architects within City Design.

We aim to be submitting a planning application to the planning authority by mid August. This will allow us to construct the new pedestrian and cycling facility this financial year. The Arnolfini are still fundraising for the Ballast Seed Garden proposals, although we are working in partnership to submit a joint application to cover both projects.

Plans indicating the details of the proposals are included overleaf.

Contact Us

Should you wish to contact us regarding either of these proposals, please send us an email to <u>cycling.city@bristol.gov.uk</u> including 'Hotwells' in the subject bar. Alternatively, you can phone us on 01179 036676

We may not be able to answer all responses, but your views will help to influence the final scheme designs.

Hotwell Road Improvements

As part of the continuing commitment to improving pedestrian facilities across Bristol we are proposing to move the railings on the edge of the harbour side on Hotwell road. We aim to move the railings by 600mm to the edge of the pennant stone copings of the quay wall. This will increase the effective width of the Dockside for all users. It has been shown that a relatively small increase in available width can make a significant difference in the level of service for pedestrians. As you will no doubt be aware there are a few pinch points at this location caused by the tree roots, and as a result any small intervention will have a significant impact on the useable width at this location.

A plan of the proposed widening of this route is located overleaf.

Contact Us

Should you wish to contact us regarding either of these proposals, please send us an email to <u>traffic.management@bristol.gov.uk</u> including 'Hotwells' in the subject bar. Alternatively, you can phone us on 01179 036592

We may not be able to answer all responses, but your views will help to influence the final scheme designs.

Thank you very much for taking the time to be part of this consultation.



This map is reproduced by Brisiol City Council from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of the Controller of Her Mates ly's Stationery Office ,Crown copyright@, Unauthorised reproduction infinges Crown copyright@ and may lead to prosecution or autiliproceedings . 0.8. Licence : LA09055L 2005 \$

-@--

Seeds of Change A Ballast Garden for Bristol



-\$

KEY BALLAST MATERIALS, SOIL, STOTHE, GRANEL, BRICKS, WITH FLORA FROM BALLAST SITES BOULDERS WOOD CRAZY' PAVING GRANEL FOOTPATH SEATS GRANEL FOOTPATH SEATS HAMOUNDINGT GRASS TREES & SHRUBBY FLANTS MICROCLIMATE FACILITATORS -MATERIAL UNDER RESEARCH	
	ŧ
<section-header><section-header></section-header></section-header>	







PO Box 595, Brunel House, St. George's Road, Bristol BS99 2AW Tel: 0117 9222000 Fax: 0117 9222060/9223765 E-mail: engineering_consultancy@bristol-city.gov.uk

Rev.	Date	Description	By

Hotwells Road Dockside Bollard relocation

™e Proposed Details				
Client Traffic Management				
Project Manager Jon Gall Telephone Number 0117 35 25 751 Drawn by	Scale As Shown Checked by Date Issued			
JJG Date Drawn Feb 2010	Issued by			
ST#				
Preliminary Tender Construction As Built				
Project Number D DC0543 - C	rawing Revision)01 -			