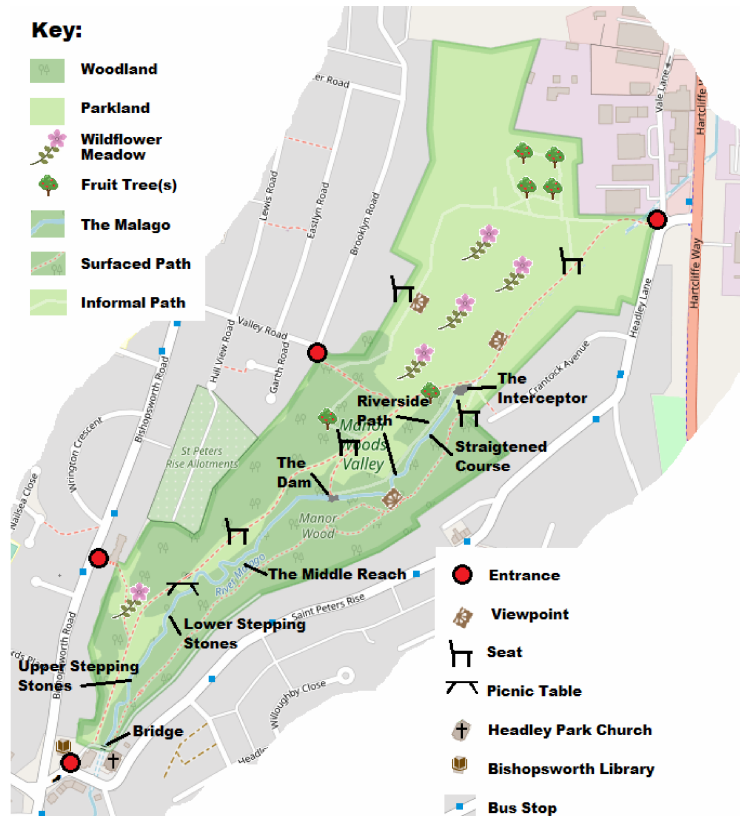


Manor Woods Valley – The Malago

The Malago rises from a line of springs on Dundry Hill to the south of Bristol. Before entering Manor Woods Valley, it flows through fields and woodlands, before entering housing estates where much of it is culverted underground. On entering Manor Woods Valley it is allowed to flow along its natural course for a little way.



The Stepping Stones

There are two sets of 'stepping stones' near to the where the Malago enters Manor Woods Valley. They are part of a system of weirs, presumably designed to slow the water following storms. The weirs help to oxygenate the water as it flows over them.



When the water is low the stepping stones offer fun ways to cross in to the woodlands from the main path. In times of flood they form impressive noisy cascades that should not be crossed.

The Middle Reach

Downstream of the two weirs with their stepping stones, the Malago meanders back and forth. At one place there is little bank left to separate two meanders, which threaten to break through and form a small 'Ox-Bow' pond. Here the rocky bottom of the stream supports caddis fly, mayflies and Bullheads. The latter are a threatened species of small fish that live under stones.



The Dam

The dam was built in the early 1970's, to create a large pond that served as a silt trap. The pond was initially attractive to a lot of wildlife, including swans; however it rapidly filled with silt. In the absence of regular removal, the silt formed a firm base for vegetation and eventually willows trees to grow.



The slack water above the dam is home to dragonfly larvae and Three-spined Sticklebacks. The latter are prey for Kingfishers, Grey Herons and Little Egrets. Moorhens breed in the relatively undisturbed densely scrubbed area upstream of the dam. A few Teal usually over-winter on this stretch of the Malago.

Riverside Path

An unmade riverside path runs along the Malago, from the dam to the Interceptor. The path briefly leaves the Malago as it passes through a large patch of Butterbur, then scrub, before rejoining the watercourse. From here onwards the Malago's course has been heavily engineered to flow directly to the Interceptor.



The Interceptor



Following a devastating flood in 1968, it was decided to take the Malago's water away from the stream and carry it down a huge culvert to join the New Cut in Southville. The water was intercepted at the large structure we see today. This culverting means that there is no true Malago water in the Malago as it passes through Bedminster and joins the New Cut at Cumberland Basin.

Manor Woods Valley's importance

Bristol declared a Climate Emergency in November 2018 and an ecological emergency in February 2019, and health and equality issues have come to the fore during 2020. Manor Woods Valley Group is working to ensure that Manor Woods Valley contributes to solutions to these issues.



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