

Timeline for Camden Crescent Open Space

1740: Thomas Thorpe's Map of the Parish calls the area of land 'Three Tree Field'

29th May 1787: Approx 7 acres of land was sold by John & William Deverall to John Symons and his heirs. The intention was to build terraced homes in two locations: Upper Camden Place (now known as Camden Crescent) and Lower Camden Place. Lower Camden Place was never built.

The intended purpose for the land in front of Upper Camden Place was a pleasure ground, which comprised of a grassed area planted with flowering shrubs. Constraints were placed on the land to ensure no buildings (other than a Chapel) were erected nor any trees or bushes above three feet were planted. The land was to be used in a free and uninterrupted manner for the people who lived in both Upper and Lower Camden Place.

22nd October 1790: the piece of ground allotted and intended for pleasure ground lying between the houses or buildings called Upper Camden Place and other houses and buildings intended to be called Lower Camden Place from being over built or planted on other than by ornamenting the same with flowering plants bushes and shrubs not exceeding three feet high nor more in number than one hundred. The use is intended to and shall forever remain as pleasure ground for the ornament and convenience of the said buildings built and to be built in Upper and Lower Camden Place together with the free and uninterrupted use of the same pleasure ground in common with other owners and occupiers.

12th April 1897: application made to improve drainage and erect a fence

31st January 1929: Sale of land from Sarah Theobald to purchasers Millard, Cobbold, King and Lewis (all of the Crescent). In the Deed it is outlined that the grounds have never been laid out as a pleasure ground but have been left for grazing purposes. The Deeds refer you back to 1787 for details of the Restrictive Covenants.

13th July 1964: Sale of the Land by Dickinson and Bateman to the Council. In the Council minutes dated 5th March 1963 the committee recommended the purchase of the land by The Council. The committee recommended to The Council that they fence in the land and plant a shrubbery in accordance with the Park Superintendent's scheme. The Council agreed to not erect any buildings on the land.

1964 to present: the Council have owned and managed the land.

5th October 2010: The Registered owner is Bath and North East Somerset Council. The deed also contains covenants. The land was conveyed on the 13th July 1964 subject to certain restrictive covenants and rights contained in deeds dated 9th May 1787 made between John Symons of the first part John Deverall of the second part John Jolly and Harriet Jolly of the third part Sir John Edensor Heathcote and John Palmer of the fourth part and William Watson of the fifth part ... "if and so far only as the same are now subsisting and capable of taking effect over the piece of land hereby conveyed".

NOTE: The existing Upper and Lower Camden Place are not the rows of buildings referred to in the Deeds. Camden Crescent was originally Camden Place, then Upper Camden Place, then Camden Crescent. Lower Camden Place was never built, but would have been situated on Upper Hedgemoor Road.