

Chairs Annual Report 2021

The FORH aims are to conserve biodiversity, improve the environment and raise awareness and understanding of wildlife issues, and to foster interest in the wildlife and geology of the local area through volunteer's days and various events. To do this we work closely with the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country, Butterfly Conservation West Midlands Branch, and the Black Country Geological Society. Over the past year, when it has been possible to do so, FORH have continued to promote the open spaces on Rowley Hills for future generations through our website, on Twitter and Facebook.

During the lockdown of 2020 and the first half of 2021, no official indoor or outdoor meetings have taken place, and no AGM was able to take place in 2020. However, in recent months, some Wildlife Trust volunteering days have taken place. During the latter stages as we came to the end of the lockdown, a small band of volunteers have continued working on the Portway Hill site, mainly cutting down hawthorn and blackthorn scrub, and ensuring as far as possible that the public rights of way across the hills were kept open. During the spring we were fortunate to be donated several piles of wood chip from two local tree maintenance companies, which we were able to lay along parts of the main paths crossing the Portway Hill site. This has helped to define the paths and made walking along them a more comfortable experience.

During the Covid lockdown Tom Hartland-Smith, who represented the Wildlife Trust on the Portway Hill site, was made redundant. In his place we welcome Natalie Norton, who has taken over Tom's role. We thank Tom for his contribution and dedication to our cause and wish him well in his new role as Urban Rivers Officer on the R. Stour.

The Grant of £5,000, received in early 2020 from Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local (GM2LF), originally intended to be spent on local school projects on art and poetry/creative writing, with school groups visiting the hills and undertaking projects, and learning about the local environment, its history, natural history and geology, could not take place due to Covid lockdown. After consultation with Helen Trueman and the Grace Mary to Lion Farm (GM2LF) committee, this funding has now been extended into 2021 and approved by their committee to be spent on creating Trail Guides on various themes on the Rowley Hills.

The reasons for producing Trail Guides is that during the lockdown it was very noticeable that more and more people are now venturing out and discovering their local area, and these trail guides will be aimed at making their walking experience more enjoyable. However, the task of accumulating enough information and taking appropriate photographs to fill these guides has been quite time consuming.

Thankfully, and for this I would like to thank local geologist Graham Worton for giving up a great deal of his time, I can report to the committee that the first of the Trail Guide leaflets, entitled 'A Geology Trail Guide for the Rowley Hills', is now nearing completion and we hope soon to have this in print and made available to the public. It is anticipated that once the design and content of the first of these guides has been finalised, more Trail Guides with information on other local history and natural history of the Rowley Hills topics will follow during this winter. (refer to the display board)

News to report.

In July of this year, tree felling took place to the rear of the houses in St Brades Close, resulting in of the entire belt of trees being sawn down. The wood and leaf debris from this felling has been left strewn across the ground where it has been felled, leaving only the stumps. At this present time, no

attempt has been made to clear up the felled trees. This creates a potential fire hazard to those in St Brades Close whose gardens back onto the site.

In early August, the matter was reported to Lorraine Ashman, the local Labour councillor for Tividale Ward, who said that she would go and look for herself. *She has been invited to this meeting.*

This land, along with another parcel of land to the rear of Kennford Close, are now on the market at £125,000 per plot with Rightmove

I can report that another piece of land up has gone up for sale at auction with Halls Holdings in Shrewsbury on October 30th for offers in the region of £15, 000

Finally, I would like to thank Dudley Golf Club for allowing us to hold our AGM in their clubhouse without charge, so if you haven't already done so, could I appeal to you to show your appreciation by purchasing refreshments from the bar before we head off for our walk across the Portway Hill site following the AGM.

Report ends

Mike Poulton

Chair of FORH

matters to raise in AOB

committee member replacement for Luke Holloway due to his non-response to several email requests on his position on the committee.

Black Country Plan

Land for sale in 2021

Land sale with Taylors of Dudley

Land for sale with Halls Holdings in October 2021

For Sale - Guide Price £15,000

3.48 Acres Of Grassland, St. Brades Close, Oldbury, B69 1NX

- *3.48 acres*
- *Amenity Land*
- *For Sale by Public Auction*
- *Friday 30th October at 3pm*
- *Guide Price: £15,000 - £25,000*
- *Land*

*3.48 acres of grassland for sale by public auction on Friday 30th October at 3pm at Halls Holdings House, Bowmen Way, Battlefield, Shrewsbury SY4 3DR. *Guide Price: Please see section titled Guide Price/Reserve.*

DESCRIPTION

A parcel of grassland with amenity value land extending to 3.48 acres. The land sits in an elevated south facing position within close proximity to Oldbury and benefits from far reaching views to the south and a vehicular access off St Brades Close. The land is an open block of undulating grassland with some self-seeded trees. it is ideal for grazing horses, livestock or private recreational use. It is situated within a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation.

SITUATION

Exit the M5 at Junction 2, onto the Oldbury Interchange. Take the A4123 towards Birmingham and then take the 4th exit off the Birchley Island onto the A4123 Wolverhampton road. Continue on the Wolverhampton road for just over a mile. Then turn left onto Tower road. After 420 yards turn left onto St Brades Close. At the end of St Brades Close continue along the access road on the left. The land is at the end of the access road.

SERVICES

It is understood that there is currently no water supply to the land, however there may be potential to connect to a water supply.

EASEMENTS, COVENANTS AND RIGHT OF WAY

The property will be sold subject to any wayleaves, public or private rights of way, easements or covenants whether mentioned in these particulars or not. The property is subject to a Covenant stipulating that the land may only be used as an open space for agricultural, horticultural or forestry purposes. The purchaser is covenanted to make an annual £250 contribution towards the maintenance and repair of access roads, the contribution to be reviewed annually.

PLANNING

The land is not situated within the Green Belt, but is within a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation. The land will be sold subject to any development plan, tree preservation order, town planning, schedule resolution or notice which may be or come to be in force, subject to any road widening or improvement schemes, land charges and statutory or provisional by-laws, without any obligation on the vendors to specify them.

BOUNDARIES, ROADS AND FENCES

The boundaries are currently unfenced. The Purchaser(s) shall be deemed to have full knowledge of boundaries/fences and neither the Vendor nor the Agents will be responsible for defining the ownership of the boundary hedges or fences, however they will provide whatever assistance they can in ascertaining the ownership of the same.

SPORTING AND MINERAL RIGHTS

It is understood that the mineral rights have been reserved by a previous owner.

LOCAL AUTHORITY

Sandwell Council, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury B69 3DE.

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Taylors Estate Agents, Brierley Hill

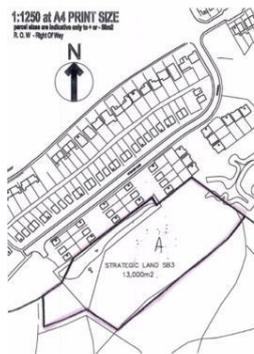
84-86 High Street, Brierley Hill, DY5 3AW

01384 737024 Local call rate

LAND LYING TO THE SOUTH OF ST. BADES CLOSE, TIVIDALE.

Offers in Region of £125,000

Monthly mortgage payments



Key features

- A rare opportunity to acquire a LARGE, PICTURESQUE, vacant piece of land measuring approximately 3.21 acres / 13000 square meters
- Located closely to a range of POPULAR residential estates
- Situated closely to good transport links & amenities such as the M5 motorway, Merry Hill Shopping centre, Russells Hall Hospital, Birmingham City Centre and Halesowen & Dudley Town Centres.
- The site (approx 1.3 hectares) forms part of a large area of public open space which is bounded by housing to the North.
- The land is located approximately 1.5 miles Northwest from junction 2 of the M5 Motorway and 3.1 miles (approx) from Dudley Town Centre.
- The advertised site is currently designated as large open space in the Sandwell UDP. Any enquiries for alternative uses should be made to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.

Full description

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