| Site | The Clough |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Grid Reference / Post Code | SJ896, 598; SJ891, 588 & SJ890, 597 |
| Brief Description | This is a local beauty spot, used by residents for short family walks and walking dogs. Although this land having TPO's placed on it, back in the 1970's a large number were cut down and Japanese Knotweed took over. This has now been rectified by the current owners with the planting of over 300 native trees in 2001 (once the knotweed had been eradicated). It is vital that now this place has been reclaimed for nature, it is retained for responsible recreational use by the local community. |

| Critoria | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Criteria. Location | Within walking distance of the main road and accessed via Hurst |
| In reasonably close | Road (a public footpath which starts next to the Talbot pub). Many |
| proximity to the | people park in the pub carpark, take a walk through the Clough and |
| community it serves | relax in the Talbot afterwards. |
| Local Significance | The Clough is an old route from Biddulph Old Hall to Biddulph Grange |
| Demonstrably special | and was used by the Batemans and Heaths in Victorian times and |
| to a local community | more recently. It is known that there was an old Batemen bridge (a |
| and holds a particular | very particular style) in the valley crossing the stream (although the |
| local significance, for | exact position has not yet been determined). There is also an old |
| example because of its | bridge (PRN Number 53988) still in existence which the current |
| beauty, historic | footpath crosses. The footpath currently exits onto Fold Lane, |
| significance, | however it used to continue under the road and on through land |
| recreational value | across the road to Biddulph Grange. This tunnel under Fold Lane, |
| (including as a playing | formed part of the private walk linking Bidduplh Old Hall to the Grange |
| field), tranquility or | (PRN Number 53987). The tunnel was filled in during the early 2,000s |
| richness of its wildlife. | when the roadway collapsed. This route is regularly used by walking |
| | groups as part of a longer hike, including Biddulph Ramblers. |
| | The first part of the Clough (nearest to Grange Road was the site of |
| | Biddulph Mill, shown on William Yates's map of 1775, and identified |
| | on the first Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 as a corn mill. The |
| | mill is named as Biddulph Mill and identified as a corn mill on the 1st |
| | Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888. The site of a mill is marked in |
| | this location on William Yates's map of 1775. It is believed that the |
| | corn mill pre-dated the building of Biddulph Old Hall in the 16th |
| | century. The mill was still grinding corn using water power in 1912, but |
| | it had probably ceased to do so by 1920. The derelict mill was |
| | demolished in the late 1940s. |
| Size, Scale | It is locally known as The Clough and contains the remains of 2 man- |
| Local in character and | made dam constructions which were connected with the powering of |
| is not an extensive | mill workings. There are still outcrops of coal on the banks which |
| tract of land. | were locally collected for domestic use. Despite these the valley |
| | provides an ideal habitat for flora and fauna - in springtime the |
| | ground is covered in bluebells, daffodils, red campion, wood sorrel |
| | and wood anemone. It is also inhabited with rabbits, foxes, various |
| | owls, dippers, buzzards, most tits and finches, and bats. In addition |
| | there are some interesting tree species, planted by the Batemans |
| | including Scotts Pine, Hornbeam and evergreen Oak. This is not an |
| | extensive tract of land; a good local 15 minute walk. |
| Recommendation | Suitable for Local Green Space Designation |



The existing bridge with footpath across the top

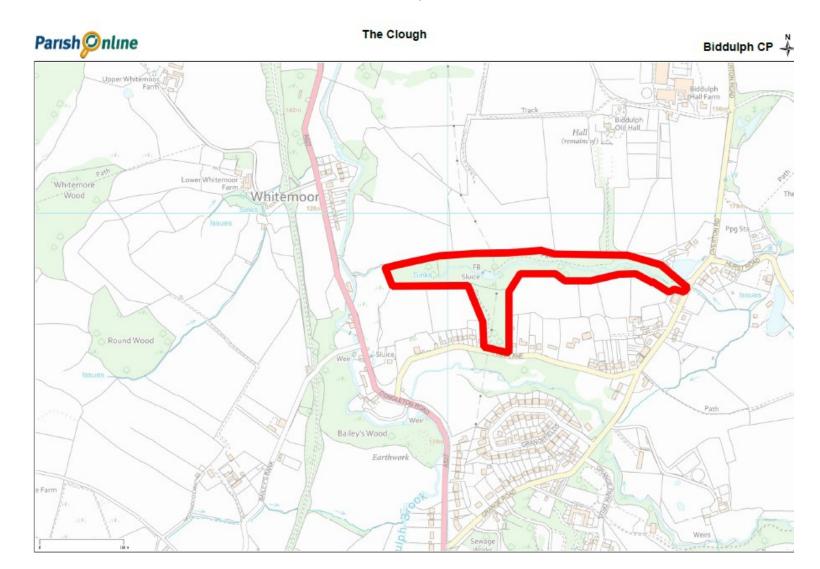


A fox in The Clough



Blue bells in the spring

Map:



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