

Name of Space	K23 Ridgehill Wood
Street/Location	North of Lawnswood Road, Lawnswood
Post Code	DY8 5JL & adjacent
Grid ref	SO8780487805
Brief Description	Woodland slope on ridge that forms a visual break to the conurbation and provides much loved green space for local people.

Plan



Suitability for LGS Designation (Add detail as appropriate. Tick indicates satisfies criterion) ✓

Location: In reasonably close proximity to the community, it serves	✓	Yes	Close to Lawnswood, and Stourton. Adjoins Wordsley and the Black Country conurbation. Is of especially high value to and regularly used by local residents, who have formed an action group to protect the site.
Local Significance/ Special Community Value: Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance,	✓	Recreation, sport, events, paths	Wooded area used daily by people living in nearby housing, many have gated access to the woods via their gardens. Used on a daily basis by ramblers, dog walkers, runners, birdwatchers, cyclists, horse riders, and families. A bridleway no 0.82 runs along the edge, and the wood itself has many informal footpaths. Part of a published circular walk from the nearby Roe Deer hotel/restaurant.
	✓		Locals feel very strongly about keeping this wooded area, as shown by a survey, and have formed Friends

recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife.			of Ridgehill Wood action group, https://friendsofridgehillwoods.com/ .
	✓	Wildlife, ecology	Densely wooded area containing richness of wildlife/flowers. Flora/fauna and English bluebells (which are protected and a sign of old woodland) in abundance. Some beautiful old Oak and Beech trees, protected by TPO's. Bats and Owls are reported, as well as an abundance of other birds. Ridgehill Wood is a Site of Biological Interest, and part of the Wooded Ridge Nature Recovery Area (Staffordshire Wildlife Trust).
	✓	Heritage	The area is old woodland formerly known as Ashwood Hay and part of the Kinver Forest, a royal hunting area dating back to mediaeval times. Being largely steeply sloping, it appears to have been rarely if ever cultivated.
		Beauty, setting, tranquillity, green lung	The area offers peace, tranquillity and exploration space. The area is used for not only physical wellbeing but also mental well-being. The site is high up and has wonderful views across the West Midlands facing east and Stour valley, the Million wood and onto Wales to the west. It is on the W slope of a sandstone ridge, which creates a visual divide between the conurbation and the countryside, protecting the peace of the rural area.
		Other incl flood mitigation, local food	
Size, Scale Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.	✓	Area (ha):	20.9 The woodland edge provides the most obvious defensible boundary for this green space, resulting in a relatively large area which nonetheless is a coherent whole worthy of protection.
		Local character	Yes, much loved by walkers and locals living along its margins
Planning permissions or site allocations	None.		
Other Designations Formal designations	Green Belt Blanket Tree Preservation Order. Defra Priority Habitat area Deciduous Woodland SBI Ridgehill Wood Wooded Ridge Nature Recovery Area		
Recommendation	✓		Suitable for Local Green Space Designation

Photographs:





