

Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: Ian Mercer



National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

In pursuance of Section 19 and 21 of the above-mentioned Act, and all other powers enabling them in that behalf, Whixall Parish Council hereby declares that the common land known as The Marl Allotment (Marlot) containing 2.45 hectares situated in the Parish of Whixall in the County of Shropshire and shown on the attached map and plan has been under the registered ownership of Whixall Parish Council since 26 November 2014, AND in pursuance of Section 19(2) of the above-mentioned Act and all other powers the aforesaid Parish Council hereby further declare that the said land is being managed as a Local Nature Reserve.

The Marlot is a surviving example of "common land" in Shropshire. Historically it was used by parishioners for rough grazing of stock and for digging up the marl clay, used as a fertiliser on poor ground on the edge of Whixall Moss, and latterly as a ground for general waste. In 2012 Whixall Parish Council received funding from the Community Biodiversity Fund, under the "Your Natural Heritage" project, to restore the site for wildlife and community access. With its close proximity to the Fenn's and Whixall Mosses National Nature Reserve, Whixall Parish Council has recognised the importance of the site as a wildlife refuge and community asset and is keen to encourage its use by locals, visitors to the area, educational and environmental groups alike. Local Nature Reserve status will provide greater visibility of the Marlot and ensure it endures as a site of ecological importance and beauty for all to enjoy.

Whixall Parish Council has been given delegated power by Shropshire Council in order to pursue Local Nature Reserve designation of The Marl Allotment.

A management plan for the Marlot has been produced by Whixall Parish Council and can be found on the Whixall Parish Council website (www.whixallparish.org.uk). The management plan sets out aims and objectives, biodiversity management, environmental education, community participation, access and visitor management. Maintenance of the Marlot is regularly conducted by a small number of local parish volunteers, supplemented by volunteers from Natural England on a case-by-case basis. All maintenance and upkeep costs are currently funded through a dedicated funding line within the overall budget of Whixall Parish Council. The site will be managed permanently as a Local Nature Reserve from this date of declaration.

This declaration may be referred to as The Marl Allotment (Marlot) Local Nature Reserve.

Given under the Seal of the Council this 10th day of December Two Thousand and Twenty One.

Signed..... *Ian Mercer* (Chair)

Signed..... *[Signature]* (Vice-Chair)

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