



Welcome to the Acres: Gnosall's Green Heart

Twenty-five acres for recreation and wildlife

For more than a thousand years, the marshy meadows along the Doley and Hollies brooks have separated Gnosall from Gnosall Heath. Even Gnosall's name comes from an Old Welsh word *genou*, meaning a 'constricted valley', combined with the Old English *halh* — or 'low-lying land along the river'.

Green space

Later dubbed the 'Washlands', the marshy, flood prone riverside fields were managed as traditional water meadows throughout the 18th- and 19th centuries.

So when Gnosall doubled in size in the 1970s, it was widely acknowledged that the boggy riverside fields were unsuitable for housing. Recognising this, the developers kindly gave the Acres to Gnosall Parish Council as a Public Open Space.



Working with nature

By the early 1980s, an ambitious drainage scheme had deepened and canalised watercourses throughout the River Trent catchment. Sports pitches and allotments were laid out along the Doley Brook, but when winter floods returned many had to be abandoned. Thirty years on, we've learned to celebrate the flood plain as a natural river valley, with meadows, reedbeds and ponds alive with native plants and animals.



Greener future? Local children planting a new hedge on the Acres

The Acres

The Gnosall Acres is a popular 25-acre communal recreational and wildlife area owned and managed by the local parish council — for everyone to enjoy, all year round.

There's plenty to see whatever the season. From May to July, the meadow is bright with wildflowers. During dry summers and wet winters alike, the brook and ponds are home to a rich variety of wildlife. Look out for buttercups and oxeye daisies, sticklebacks and dragonflies, reed buntings and barn owls. Or simply enjoy being outdoors with the playground and picnic place, allotments and games areas.

Map: Chris Bullock

Photographs: Dave Clarke, Mike Deegan, Tony Bowerman, Shutterstock

Design: William Smuts

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How to Find Us

From Stafford

Take the A518, signposted to 'Telford' and continue through Haughton to Gnosall. At the bottom of the High Street is a mini roundabout. Turn right into Brookhouse Road, and turn left within 200 metres into the parking area. The Acres is on your left.



From the A41

Turn off the A41 at the Newport roundabout onto the A518, signposted to 'Stafford'. Follow the road for 5 miles to the mini-roundabout in the centre of Gnosall, and turn left into Brookhouse Road. Within 200 metres, turn left into the parking area. The Acres is on your left.

Nearest postcode for SatNav is: **ST20 0QR**

The Gnosall Acres is also easily accessed on foot from both the Shropshire Union Canal and Sustrans Route 55.

Contact Us

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Discover

The Gnosall ACRES



Enjoy recreation and wildlife at the heart of Staffordshire's 'biggest village'