

# Oakes Farm Footpath, Frog Lane, Balsall Common

Welcome to this public consultation and engagement survey about proposed improvements to land at Frog Lane, Balsall Common, to create a new footpath and nature trail.

The proposals aim to open up access to an area of Council owned land at Frog Lane, enabling the community to enjoy this wonderful green space whilst enhancing the biodiversity of the area.

The proposals involve the creation of wider, fenced footpaths on land at Frog Lane, Balsall Common, which will loop round and connect with existing public access routes. The footpaths will be suitable for dog walkers, with the fences separating the footpath safely from adjoining farmland.

Farming remains a vital resource for food production. The public access and landscape and conservation enhancement will be integrated into the arable and grassland areas which will allow effective management of the land. The nature trail will include the planting of hedgerows, trees, and the creation of natural ponds to enhance the biodiversity of the area.

It will form a vital part of the Council's Green Spaces Strategy, which aims to provide a network of attractive, high quality, accessible green spaces to meet the diverse needs of the community and the natural environment. It will also contribute towards the Council's Planting Our Future programme, which includes a commitment to plant 250,000 new trees across Solihull by 2030.

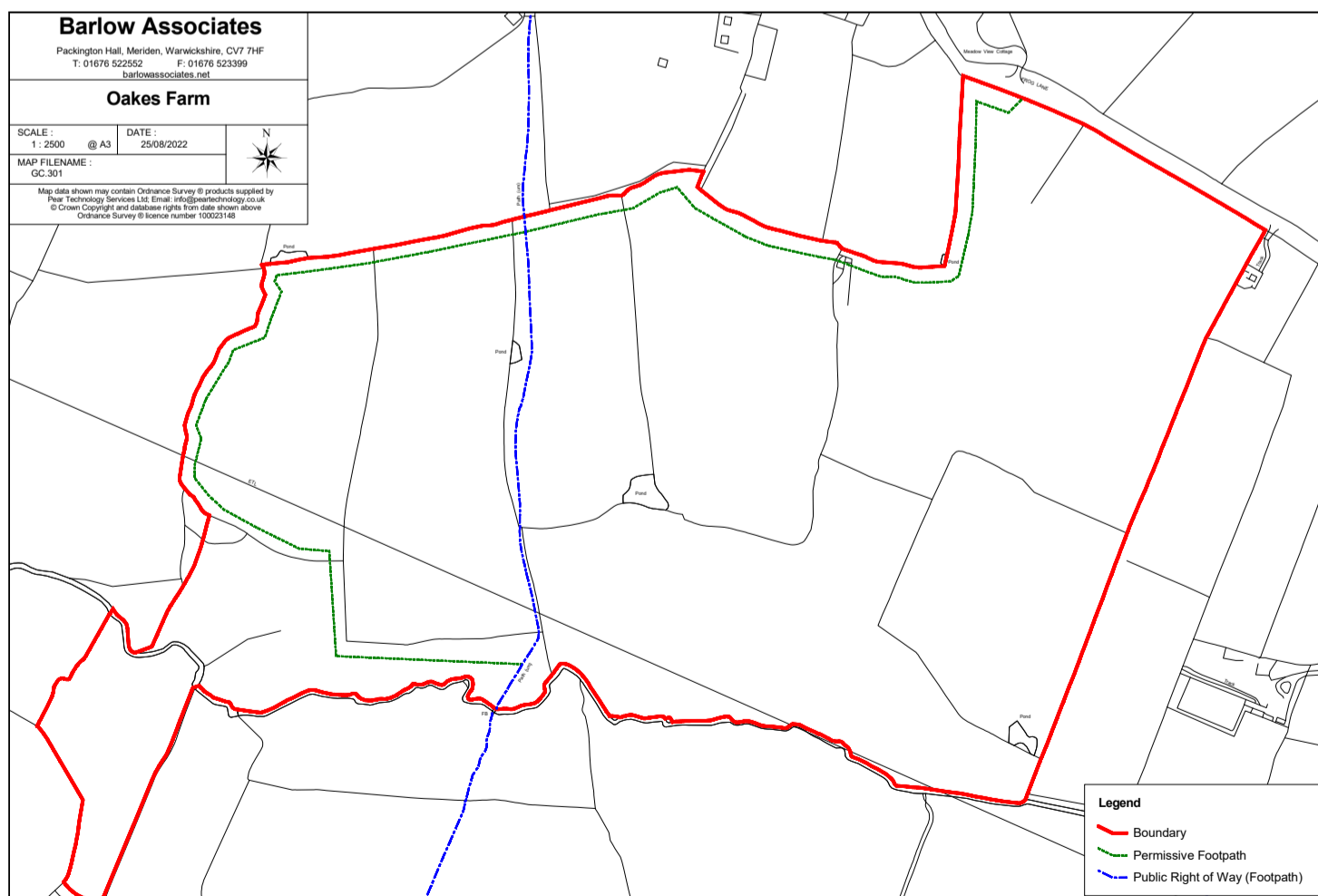
## Proposed Improvements

The Council's long-term plan for Oakes Farm is to combine three elements:

- Controlled public access
- Landscape and conservation enhancement
- Continued farming

To achieve these aims, a path will be laid to link to the existing public footpath running through the site. To allow more access for the local community, the path will be defined by fences overlooking the fields. New hedges and trees will be planted. The trees will create more of a parkland feel, with new ponds to be formed where springs or wetter areas already exist, whilst existing ones will be improved.

The plan below shows the location of the land at Frog Lane. The proposed path is defined in green.



The entrance to the nature trail will be located on Frog Lane, Balsall Common, and it will also link up with existing public footpaths at Oakes Farm, Balsall Street.

We want to gather your views on this design and any changes you would like to see.



## Next Steps

**Your feedback is important, and we are keen for you to share your thoughts on these proposals, so please let us know your views.**

Your input will help us to understand the needs of the local community better, so that we can take these into account in our final plans for the detailed design and delivery of the nature trail proposals.

**Please complete the online survey at the following link or scan the QR code <https://forms.office.com/r/H1mVmz7mgn>**



## Timeline

<b>Consultation Period</b>	<b>Autumn 2022</b>
<b>Council to review feedback</b>	<b>Winter 2022</b>
<b>Final proposal produced and publicised</b>	<b>Winter 2022</b>
<b>Work to start on site</b>	<b>Spring 2023</b>