Stourbridge's Ancient Heathland

by

K James BSc(Hons), MSc, PhD, FIAP

Around eighty-five percent of England's heathland has disappeared over the last two centuries (English Nature, 2002: 2; Trueman *et al.,* 2013: 170). While this has coincided with an almost exponential growth in housing and industry over the same period, urbanisation is only partly to blame. Many of our heaths have been destroyed by industry and mining, subsumed into forestry plantations or taken into cultivation to feed the country's ever growing population. The demise of widespread charcoal burning (which once created open heath-type spaces) has also played a part in heathland's decline (Trueman *et al.,* 2013: 171).

Character and origin of lowland heath

Lowland heath has been a distinct and recognisable component of the landscape for millennia. The Anglo-Saxon (Old English) word for it, *hæð*, is described by Smith (1956: 219–20) as:

> "...'a tract of open uncultivated ground, a large tract of waste-land, such land overgrown with heather and brushwood, a heath' as distinct from 'woodland' — the contrast is preserved in Chaucer's *every holt and heeth.*"

Heathland is quite diverse in character, varying somewhat across the country but, as indicated in the above quotation, it generally includes the class of plants known as heaths (commonly ling or heathers) as well as fine grasses, broom, gorse and bracken (Rackham, 2003: 119–20), together with numerous smaller plant species. This vegetation, interspersed with small patches of bare ground, provides a mosaic of habitats for many of the country's rare animal species, for example Nightjars (Trueman *et al.,* 2013: 170–1) — a protected bird with only 4600 breeding males left in the whole of the UK (RSPB) — Woodlarks and Dartford Warblers, all of which nest on the ground or in low vegetation. Heaths are particularly important habitats for reptiles (including lizards, adders and grass snakes) and they also support toads, as well as a variety of insects and other invertebrates.

Heathland tends to arise on well-drained, nutirient-poor, acid soils, particularly those overlying sandy or glacial deposits (Trueman *et al.* 2013: 171) such as those that exist to the south and west of Stourbridge and west of Kingswinford (British Geological Survey, 1975), although heaths can also be found in clay or limestone areas like those around Wychwood in Oxfordshire (Schumer, 2010: 101). The heathland referenced in the present article is distinct from moorland, or wet heath, which tends to be seasonally waterlogged, peatier and possesses a different range of flora and fauna (Rackham, 2003: 119).

Regardless of the soil and underlying geology, heaths are generated from woodland that has been cleared, either by direct human intervention (e.g. tree-felling or burning) or by the action of grazing animals (wild or domesticated). Such woodland may have been primary wild-wood (which began to populate the British isles after the most recent glaciation, some 12,000 years ago) although such examples are now exceedingly rare. The repeated clearance and regrowth of woodland over the subsequent millennia means that most lowland heath in existence today has arisen from the clearance of secondary woodland (Hooke, 2013: 114–5).Pollen records show that woodland clearance and the establishment of substantial areas of grass and heathland began in the Neolithic period, and continued —perhaps increased — during the Bronze Age (Rackham, 2003: 121–2).

The assemblage of plants that heathland contains — such as meadowsweet, meadow rue, bird's-foot trefoil, meadow saxifrage, sorrel, sainfoin, wild parsnip, marjoram and lesser stitchwort, as well as the aforementioned heathers, grasses and scrub — would have been seeded initially from diverse ecological niches. While some of the original woodland plants would have continued to thrive equally well in their new heathland environment, those heathland species which couldn't have survived in a wooded landscape would have been transported (primarily by natural processes) from mountainous or coastal areas where tree growth tends to be restricted (Rackham, 2003: 121).

Revision date 15/08/2020

Though woodland clearances began in the Neolithic, they became more frequent and widespread in the late Iron Age and early Roman period (Dark, 2009, 39–43) when a significant increase in heathland is apparent in the pollen record. While some slight woodland regeneration may have occurred in the post-Roman period, such evidence as exists indicates that this did not result in a substantial reduction of heathland at that time. Indeed, heath remained widespread and abundant until comparatively recently. Over the last two hundred years, though, much of the country's heathland has been lost. According to Trueman *et al.* (2013: 170), heathland is thought to:

> "...have once covered extensive tracts of Birmingham and the Black Country, forming a near-continuous link with the heaths of Cannock Chase and the countryside of Warwickshire and Worcestershire. Today only remnant patches remain, found scattered in Sutton Park, on Brownhills Common and in a small handful of other sites across the rest of the area. However, many telling clues exist which show us the extent to which Birmingham and the Black Country was once a wild landscape of heather and gorse."

We will discuss some of these 'clues' as they pertain to Stourbridge in the remainder of this article.

Heathland around Stourbridge

As already noted, heathland arose from, or in association with, woodland. The area around Stourbridge is thought to have been heavily wooded in the early-medieval period (Domesday Survey; Gelling, 1974: 64–69), a finding which is discussed in James (2017b: 9–10) — see figure 1. This probably extended at least into the west of Kingswinford, Oldswinford and Pedmore parishes, areas which had lain within the Royal Forest of Kinver in the fourteenth century. Moreover, place-name evidence indicates a concentration of woodland to the south-west of Stourbridge in the Anglo-Saxon period. The -ley component of Iverley (*Everlegh* in 1292 A.D.), the *mæste* element of *Ovemaste* (recorded in a 1300 A.D. perambulation) and the charter place-name *acleg* 'Oak Wood' (*c.* 950 A.D.) are all related to woodland in the Iverley / Pedmore area. The presence of woodland here in later times is confirmed by large expanses labelled *Ouerley / Oueley Wood*, 'Iverley Wood' on sixteenth and seventeenth century maps (James, 2020). Indeed, other documentary evidence indicates that Iverley Wood was extensive, and records the felling of numerous trees in the vicinity from the thirteenth century (Greenslade, 1984: 142; James, 2020). Most of this area's woodland had been cleared by the later medieval and early modern periods, leaving widespread heathland in its wake.

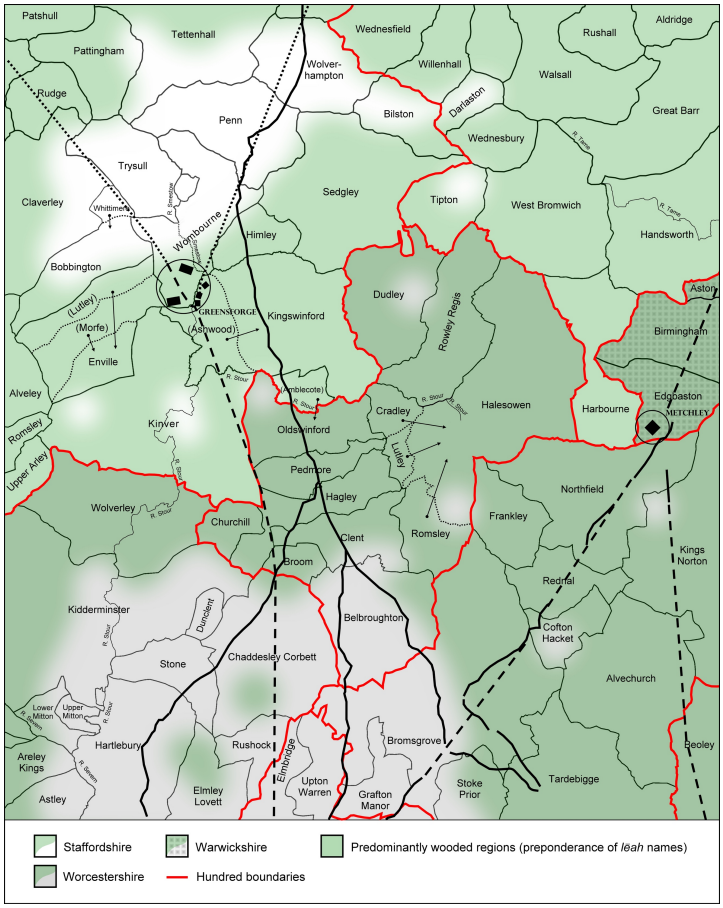

Figure 1. *Visualisation of the early-Medieval woodland regions (shaded green) around Stourbridge. This would not have been unbroken woodland, but would have included clearings and heathland. Nevertheless, it is likely to have been more heavily wooded than regions near Hartlebury and Penn, for example. The map is based on the distribution of place-names containing lēah, indicating woodland, and tūn, indicating cleared regions. (Source data for this visualisation: Gelling, 1974: 64).*

Historically, heaths have been regarded as unproductive, or waste, land but such an assessment is really the result of a narrow comparison with areas of primary agriculture. These latter areas are recorded on Josiah Bach's 1699 plan of Oldswinford parish (figure 2 opposite; this is available in enlaged and re-drafted form on the Old Stourbridge Maps web site), but uncultivated heath and/or common land is not depicted. Nevertheless, maps such as this help to illustrate where the boundaries between heath and agricultural fields lay. Despite their omission from most early maps, heathland was actually of significant value to the local community. It was an essential component of wood pasture — i.e. wooded areas where pigs and other animals would be allowed to graze on plants, acorns and beech nuts. This was a valuable resource in the Anglo-Saxon period (Hooke, 2013: 283–4); and a remnant of such wood pasture seems to have lain to the south-east of Ounty John Lane in Pedmore during the tenth century (James, 2014: 124, 128-9, 133–4). In addition to producing animal fodder, heaths provided a number of other important materials. Turves were dug for building. Heather was used for rudimentary thatching and animal bedding. Gorse was harvested for fuel — making a quick-burning alternative to wood (Rackham, 2003: 122–7) — and bracken was gathered for bedding. The latter was also burnt to produce potash for soap-making. Indeed, bracken became particularly valuable around Stourbridge in the seventeenth century, as the potash produced from it began to be used, in very large quantities, in the town's glass-making industry (Perry, 2002: 123).

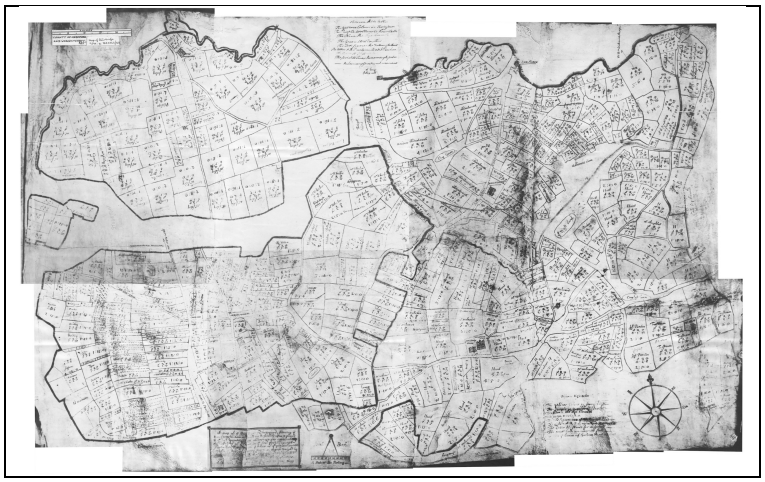

Figure 2. *Plan of Oldswinford parish 1699 by Josiah Bach. Wollaston (top left) and Heath Farm (middle-left) are not in their correct geographic locations but were drawn as shown in order to fit the parchment available.*

Heaths were not uncommon elements of medieval forests, chases and parks (Rotherham, 2013: 11, 17, 19). They undoubtedly existed within the Royal Forest of Kinver which, as previously noted, extended eastwards to include the western fringes of Kingswinford, Oldswinford and Pedmore parishes (James, 2017a: 50–2, figure B1). Much of the land around these parishes' western boundaries became heathland by the later medieval and post-medieval periods (Hemingway, 2005; Hooke, 1990: 166; James, 2017c: 5–6). The heaths remained as common land (High Park Common, (Old)Swinford Common and Pedmore Common, as well as Whittington Common on the other side of the county boundary) until the enclosures of the seventeenth and eighteenth-centuries.

Place-name evidence for Stourbridge's former heathland

Stourbridge's heathland is still part of our collective memory today. Long-term residents may recognise the term 'the top of the Heath' as referring to the highest point of the Short Heath near the main entrance to Mary Stevens Park. This was the principal access point from the heath into the town and Oldswinford village. A medieval gate there, *Stodell Gate*, is said to have played a part in Prince Rupert's flight across Stourbridge Heath in 1649. The gate delayed his pursuer, a parliamentary trooper, until the Prince could escape. A later turnpike gate installed in roughly the same location was called 'Heath Gate' — a name also used for the wider area — in the nineteenth century (Perry, 2001: 27, 49); see figure 3. The name *Stodell* probably comes from the Old English *stōd-lēah*, 'a clearing for horse pasture', which must have existed on the edge of the heath during the medieval period.

Other local place-names recall our former heathland. Heath Farm (and Heath Farm Road which is named after it); Heath Pool in Mary Stevens Park, Heath Glassworks, Heath House (renamed Studley Court in 1895 (DHER 7652)), Heath Street, Heath Lane and Heath Road — an early name for Worcester Street (Haden 1988: 168) — all refer to local heathland, primarily the Short Heath which lay to the north-east of (Old)Swinford Common. Short Heath occupied the south-west fringes of the sub-manor of Bedcote and Stourbridge, i.e. the area between South Road and the Withbrook,

Figure 3. *Approximate position (in yellow) of the turnpike gate known as Heath Gate during the nineteenth century. The medieval Stodell Gate, guarding the entry to the town and Oldswinford from the Stourbridge Heath, was located close by. (Aerial photgraph: Apple Maps.)*

stretching from Mary Stevens Park westwards, and then northwards to Swan Street. It encompassed land around Witton Street, Glebe Lane, Cherry Street, Charles Road and Borough Crescent; its outline can be seen on an eighteenth-century map of Oldswinford parish (Court and Blackden, 1782).

The Short Heath, including the area around the Heath Gate, was known simply as 'The Heath' in the eighteenth century, by which time the section north of South Road had been enclosed. The southern part of the Short Heath was enclosed in 1782 to be used initially for meadows and later for building. Poole Street, Cherry Street and Glebe Lane had been constructed by the 1830s; and the remaining land was consumed by housing in the twentieth century.

Local field-names also provide clues to the location of heathland. The name Heath Field (or similar) is to be found widely across England (Field, 1993: 69). It is sometimes difficult to determine whether the 'Heath' in such names relates to the plant or the land, but most instances seem to refer to 'uncultivated and unproductive land overgrown with heather and scrub' (Field, 1972: 101; Cavill, 2018: 200). There are a few examples of such usage around Stourbridge. The modern cul-de-sac Heathfield Gardens is named after a large house, Heathfield House, which was, in turn, named after Heath Field that lay on the northern edge of the Short Heath. Fields named Heath Piece and Upper Heath Piece were recorded on the Pedmore Tithe Plan near Ounty John Lane. These names probably reflect the fields' proximity to Pedmore's heathland which extended to the west and over Stourbridge Golf Course — all of which was formerly part of Pedmore Common — to join up with the heaths of Oldswinford Common and High Park Common to the north.

A number of field-names recorded on local eighteenth- and nineteenth-century maps refer to heathland vegetation. In Pedmore there was a *Gorsty Hill* near Ludgbridge Brook (Pedmore Tithe Plan, 1846); and in Oldswinford parish there was a *Broomey Leasow*, a *Broomy Leasow*, a pair of fields named *Near* and *Far Gorsty Hill* and one named *Gorsty Piece* (Court and Blackden, 1782; Amblecote Township Plan, *c.*1760). There were also similarly-named fields in the parish of Kingswinford: i.e. a *Gorse Close*, a *Gorse Field*, two *Broomy Leasows*, and a *Little Broomy Leasow* (Kingswinford Parish Enclosures Award, 1839–40). (In the west midlands area, 'Leasow' was a non-specific term for an enclosed piece of land, and tended to be used for cultivated ground as well as meadows (Cavill, 2018: 249).) While there is no proof that, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, these enclosures had been recently carved out of heathland, they clearly still possessed soils which were amenable to the growth of these heathland species. Other local place-names such as Wall Heath in Kingswinford parish, two nearby fields both named Heath Brook Piece, and a Heathbrook Farm, are clearer indicators of heathland in that area.

Abutting Oldswinford parish's heathland, though distinct from it, was an extensive area of moorland (or 'wet heath'). Beginning at spring-lines near Racecourse Lane and on the west side of Wychbury Hill, numerous small streams and rivulets flowed north and west to join the Withbrook near Lea Vale Road. The entire area from Racecourse Lane down to Mary Stevens Park and Colshaw Road was referred to as *The Moor* in the Oldswinford Parish Perambulation of 1733 (James, 2017a: 23). This designation survives today in the name 'Bigmoor Playing Field' adjacent to Albemarle Road. It is also responsible for the name *Moor Street* which was used, in the mid nineteenth century, for the northern end of what is now Clark Street before it was extended in the 1890s to link up with South Road (Haden, 1988: 70).

Over the centuries, several fish-ponds have existed on *The Moor*. A series of at least six pools belonged to Lord Foley in the 1780s. These were strung out along the course of the Withybrook

between Pedmore Common and Gig Mill (Court and Blackden, 1782). Only one of them, Heath Pool in Mary Stevens Park, still survives. Another pool (again, surviving today in Peartree Drive) was used for breeding fresh-water sturgeon as long ago as the tenth century (James, 2017a); and a small mill pond (Rotherford Mill) was recorded in the fourteenth century near to the present St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Lea Vale Road (DHER 6270). This latter pool survived until *c.*1960. Some of *The Moor*'s boggy land extended south eastward, in the valleys of two minor streams, towards Wychbury hill. These strips of moorland and the Wychbury spring-line are probably responsible for the seventh-century place-name *Pypba*'s Moor (*Pubemora* in 1176), from which the modern name Pedmore is derived (Mawer and Stenton, 1927: 305).

Figure 4 illustrates the geographical distribution of these areas of heath, moor and common.

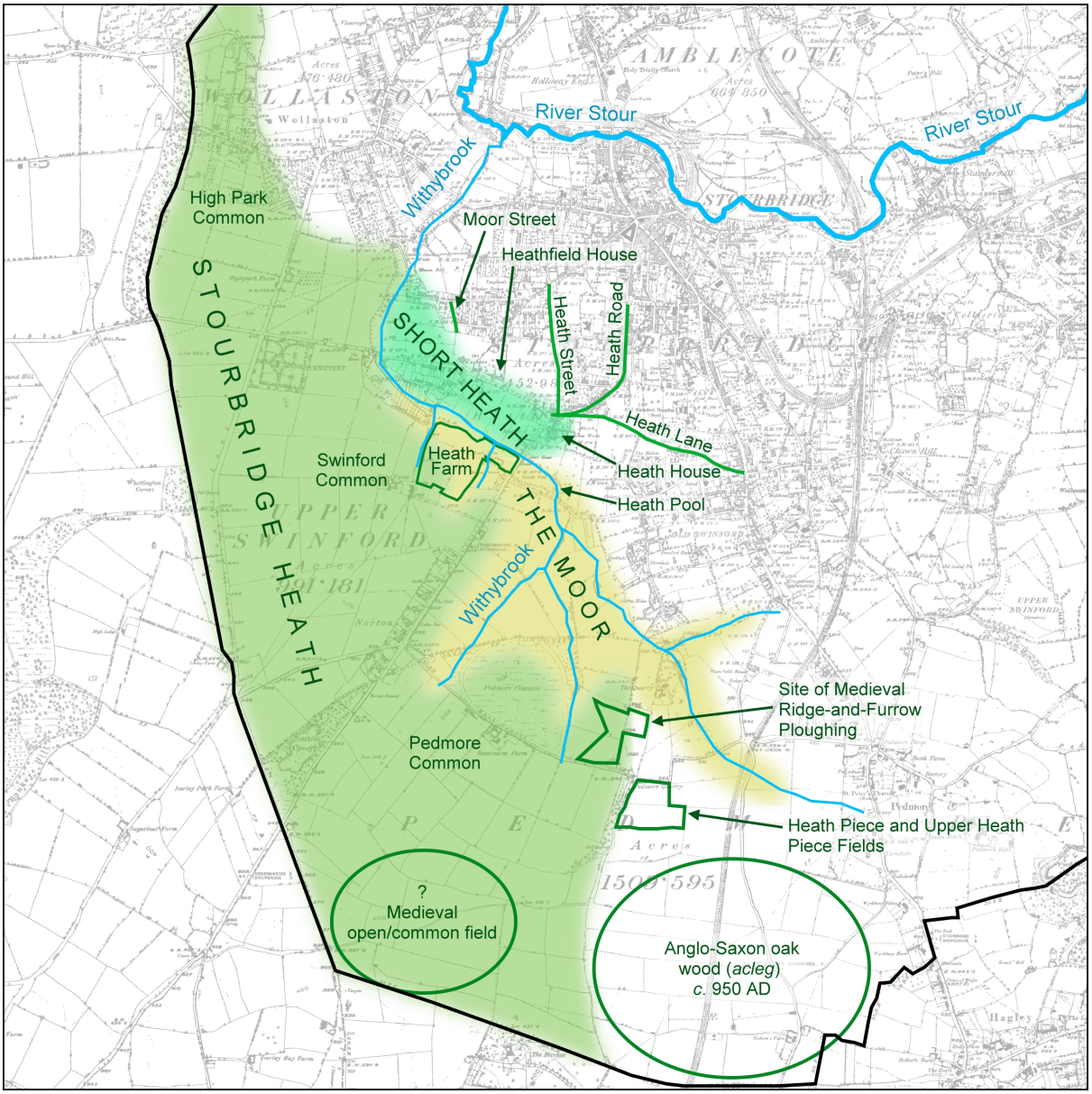

Figure 4. *Approximate boundaries of Stourbridge's heath and moor during the later medieval and early post-medieval periods. Heathland also extended beyond the western boundaries of Oldswinford and Pedmore parishes (the thick black line) towards Whittington and Iverley. Bunkers Hill Wood (on the left hand edge of the figure) lies within an area still known as Iverley Heath today. Smaller areas of heathland also existed around Stourbridge — notably at Amblecote, south of the Coalbourn Brook, and on Lye Waste which had been extensively settled by the eighteenth century. Other features discussed in the text are also shown. (Background: Ordnance Survey 6-inch, 1888).*

In addition to the historical and place-name evidence for Stourbridge's heathland, Trueman *et al.* (2013: 55, 81) have pointed out that Stourbridge Golf Course (figure 5), on the former Pedmore Common, "has remnant areas of heathland and acid grassland", and note that this locality posesses:

> "...recent records of plants scarce in the midlands as a whole such as Heath Dog-violet and Upright Chickweed as well as a good range of other heathland species uncommon in B&BC [Birmingham and the Black Country] such as Heather, Pill Sedge, Bird's-foot and Bilberry."

The soils here and the associated seed-bank and plant assemblage are clearly of significant ecological value.

Figure 5 (left). *Part of Stourbridge Golf Course, the habitat of several scarce heathland plant species (see text). This formerly common land (i.e. Pedmore Common) is now in private hands and the site has been submitted to Dudley MBC for removal of its Green Belt status with the objective of building approximately 500 houses. (Photograph courtesy of Christine Farmer.)*

Building on Stourbridge's historic heathland: The Black Country Plan

As already mentioned, prior to the eighteenth century much of the heathland around Stourbridge was common land — i.e. land in which parishioners held common rights, such as the rights to graze animals and to collect vegetation for fuel. Acts of Parliament resulted in these ancient rights being removed in the 1780s and, as compensation, the land was enclosed and allocated to individual parishioners. This allocation was not exactly equitable, however, and the process generally resulted in the wealthier members of the community being allocated the most land. Their successors in title have also benefitted, of course. As demand for land has increased, so has its sale price. In recent decades these gains have been dramatic — especially in the case of land for housing — and there is currently great pressure from developers to build upon the small amounts of green land that remain around Stourbridge's fringes (see figure 6). As part of its review of the Black Country Plan, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council is currently considering whether several Green Belt sites would be suitable candidates for development. These include extensive areas of land on Stourbridge Golf Course (figure 5), farm-land opposite the Golf Course (figure 7), the fields adjacent to Clent View Road, and the Three Fields between Westwood Avenue and Dunsley Road (figure 8). Other sites such as Wychbury Hill and grazing land at Wollaston Farm are also being considered. New housing would, of course, destroy soils, wildlife habitats and local ecosystems. The prospect of development is concerning as each of these sites has its own particular ecological and archaeological value. In some cases this is substantial as detailed below and in James (2019: 1–26).

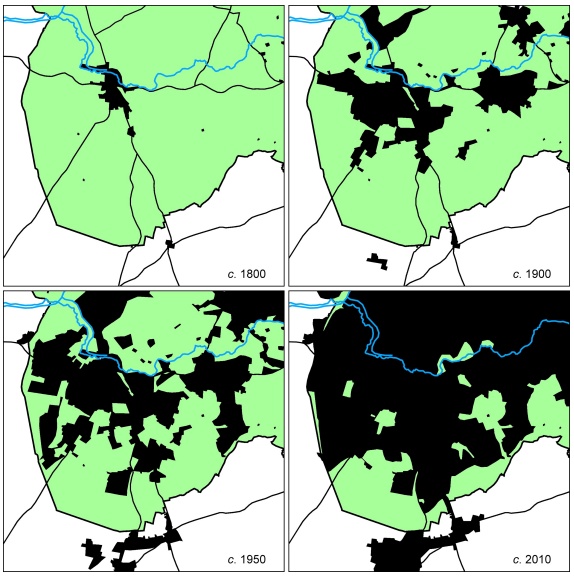

Figure 6. *Urbanisation of Stoubridge's former heath and farm land over the last two centuries. (Graphic adapted from James, 2019.)*

Figure 7. *Former heathland, now farm-land, adjacent to Racecourse Lane (opposite Stourbridge Golf Course). A proposal has been submitted to move the golf course onto this land in order to allow the existing Golf Course (formerly Pedmore Common) to be built upon.*

Figure 8. *The central section of the Three Fields off Dunsley Road. The Green Belt status of the whole site is under consideration as part of the ongoing review of the Black Country Plan.*

Potential for heathland conservation and regeneration

Most of Stourbridge's heathland has already been built upon and is thus irretrievably lost. Almost all of the rest is now enclosed farm-land — with the notable exception of Stourbridge Golf Course. Place-name and crop-mark evidence suggests an open (common) field existed on the high ground south of the Golf Course (near Burys Hill) during the medieval period (James, 2019: 8; James 2020). Evidence of medieval ridge and furrow plouging has also been found within the bounds of the Golf Course itself, near the area shown in figure 5 (DHER 7657). Yet even here, as we have seen, heathland species and (presumably) soils still persist (Trueman *et al.*, 2013: 55).

That might also be the case around the town's western boundary (e.g. the Three Fields and opposite Clent View Road). While some land near Clent View Road has been farmed since at least the eighteenth century (James, 2019: 6) it has not been ploughed in recent memory and it may be unwise to discount the survival of pockets of heathland soils and specialised flora here as well without detailed expert analysis.

It probably doesn't need to be stated that protecting and expanding our remaining traces of heathland would be beneficial both for wildlife and for the human population. Indeed, English Nature (2002) have concluded that:

> "...there is a need, not only to preserve and improve our remaining heathlands, but if possible, to re-create them in areas where they have recently been lost. There is a special case for linking small fragments of heathlands...to create areas which can maintain a wider range of wildlife and can survive in the future."

But this will be difficult. Trueman *et al.* (2013: 173) point out that many of the "hotspots" containing key heathland plant species in Birmingham and the Black Country are "...minute and often the problem is one of conservation of tiny fragments rather than their extension".

There is no doubt that the current proposals for building in Stourbridge's Green Belt put our small remaining fragments of heathland at risk. The area is already classified as habitat-poor, where "residential and intensive agricultural land use predominates" (Trueman *et al.*, 2013: 144); and, far from improving this picture, new housing development would almost certainly detroy our last remaining chance to regenerate any heathland around Stourbridge. The same researchers have attempted to:

> "...identify key areas which could be appropriate for re-creating heathland habitats in order to create and enhance vital habitat links between the currently fragmented heathland remnants that remain today."

They note that, at the moment, Stourbridge appears to be one of a very small number of these key areas where opportunities to re-establish heathland still exist (Trueman *et al.,* 2013: 173); and they emphasize that regeneration of our former heaths:

> "could help to safeguard the ecological diversity...and ensure the survival of heathland habitats for future generations to enjoy".

I'm sure many residents would see a great deal of merit in that objective.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Dr Christine Farmer for bringing to my attention the research by Trueman *et al.* (2013) in relation to Stourbridge's historic heath and the potential for re-establishment of heathland in the area.

Manuscripts, maps and web-database sources

Amblecote Township Plan (c.1760) <http://www.oldstourbridgemaps.kjdocs.co.uk/images/maps/1760_approx_Amblecote.gif> [accessed 17th August 2016]

Bach, J (Surveyor) (1699) *Plan of the Parish of Oldswinford.* Worcestershire Record Office, ref. r989 9/126 BA 1535.

Black Country Plan <https://blackcountryplan.dudley.gov.uk/bcp/> [accessed 27th July 2020].

British Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) (1975) *Solid and Drift Map, Sheet 167.* Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

Court, H (Surveyor) and Blackden, I (1782) *Plan of Oldswinford Parish.* Stourbridge Public Library. (Alternate source cited by Hooke (1990): *Oldswinford Inclosure Award* (1782) conj.pl. St. Helen's Record Office, Worcester. r899:70 (6161)).

DHER = Dudley Historic Environment Record. Via Heritage Gateway <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk> [accessed 2019] and Mather, Mark. *Pers. comm.* (2014, 2019).

Hemingway, John (2005), *Township Maps*. Historic Environment Team, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council. <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/environment- planning/planning/historic-environment/historic-maps-of-dudley/?locale=en> [accessed 11th February 2014]

Kingswinford Parish Enclosures Award (1839–40) Baker, Chris. *Pers. comm.* (2020)

Old Stourbridge Maps <http://www.oldstourbridgemaps.kjdocs.co.uk> [accessed 17th August 2016>

Oldswinford Parish Perambulation (1733) *Bounds of the parish of Oldswinford.* Oldswinford Parish Register **3**. Dudley Archives, Microfiche #304.

Ordnance Survey (1888) *Worcestershire 'County Series' 6 inches to 1 mile map, sheet 4.* Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

RSPB = Royal Society for the Protection of Birds web site <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/> [accessed 26th July 2020].

Pedmore Tithe Plan (1846) Worcestershire Record Office, r760/508 BA 1572.

Bibliographic references

Cavill, Paul (2018) *A New Dictionary of English Field-Names* (Nottingham: English Place-Name Society).

Dark, Petra (2009) *The Environment of Britain in the First Millennium A.D.* (London: Gerald Duckworth and Co. Ltd.).

English Nature (2002) *Lowland Heath: a cultural and endangered landscape*. (Peterborough: English Nature).

Field, John (1972) *English Field-Names* (Newton Abbott: David and Charles (Publishers) Ltd.).

—— (1993) *A History of English Field-Names* (Harlow: Addison Wesly Longmand Ltd.).

Gelling, Margaret (1974) 'Some notes on Warwickshire place-names'. *Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society*, **86**.

Greenslade, M. W., ed. (1984), *A History of the County of Stafford* **20** (Oxford: Oxford University Press for The Institute of Historical Research, University of London).

Haden, H. Jack (1988) *The Street Names of Stourbridge and its Vicinity* (Kingswinford: The Dulston Press).

Hooke, Della (1990), *Worcestershire Anglo-Saxon Charter Bounds* (Suffolk: The Boydell Press).

—— (2013) *Trees in Anglo-Saxon England*. (Woodbridge: The Boydell Press).

James, Kevin (2014), 'The Swinford charter (S 579): a more complex origin for Oldswinford?', *Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society, Third Series* **24**, 121–140.

—— (2017a), *The Swinford charter (S579) of AD 951–9: a new interpretation of the boundary clause and thoughts on the origin of Oldswinford and Pedmore parishes* <http://www.swinfordcharter.kjdocs.co.uk> [accessed 17/07/2017].

—— (2017b) *Black Country Parish Boundaries: Echoes of Ancient Territories*. <http://www.local.kjwebs.co.uk/Black%20Country%20Parish%20Boundaries%20TBCM2017.pdf > [accessed 4th November 2017].

—— (2017c) *Stourbridge's Western Boundary: A cornerstone of the historical landscape.* <http://www.stourbridgewesternboundary.kjdocs.co.uk/Stourbridge%20Western%20Boundary.pdf> [accessed 9th September 2017].

—— (2019) The Historical Landscape of Stourbridge's Green Belt. <http://sgb.kjdocs.co.uk/Historical%20Landscape%20of%20Stourbridges%20Green%20Belt%2001c.pdf> [accessed 30th October 2019].

—— (2020, forthcoming) 'Windsor, windofer and Iverley: Illustrating the place-name element **ofer* within the Anglo-Saxon road network', accepted for publication in *Journal of the English Place-Name Society.*

Mawer, A. and F.M. Stenton in collaboration with F.T.S Houghton (1927) The Place-Names of Worcestershire. English Place-Name Society, Survey Volume IV (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Perry, Nigel (2001) *A History of Stourbridge* (Chichester: Phillimore and Co. Ltd.).

Rackham, Oliver (2003) *An illustrated history of the countryside* (London: Weidenfield and Nicholson Ltd.).

Rotherham, Ian D. (2013) *Ancient Woodland: History, Industry and Crafts* (Oxford: Shire Publications Ltd.).

Schumer, Beryl (2010) ‘Assarting in the medieval Forest of Wychwood’. In Langton, John and Graham Jones (eds.) *Forests and Chases of Medieval England and Wales c.1000–c.1500* (Oxford: St John’s College Research Centre).

Smith, A.H. (1956) *Place Name Elements - Volume I*. Journal of the English Place-Name Society **25** (London: University College) [Subsequently reprinted by Cambridge University Press, 1987].

Trueman, Ian, Mike Poulton and Paul Reade (2013) *Flora of Birmingham and the Black Country* (Newbury: Pisces Publications).