

Friends of Boggart Hole Clough (**FoBHC**), before 2015 named Boggart Hole Clough Community Action Trust, was founded in 2000. FoBHC works with, among others, Manchester City Council (**MCC**), landowner of Boggart Hole Clough & most of Bailey's Wood.

Community proposal to create the **WILDWAY NETWORK**, an interconnected Manchester-wide / Britain-wide wildlife habitat, by constructing eco-bridges, interweaving the natural & built environments, enabling people & wildlife to roam safely & unhindered between otherwise isolated green spaces, helping restore the ecosphere to a healthy condition.



Photos above show a Roe Deer in Boggart Hole Clough.

Left photo: taken just before 9am, Friday 27.10.2017, from Charlestown Road, by Miriam Shah. In background, part of avenue of young Oaks; further back, light poles beside athletics track. Right photo: *enhanced* detail of left photo.

Since circa 2005, occasional reports of deer in the Clough, but as far as we know never before photographed.

These photos were posted 28.10.2017 on FoBHC's Facebook page which elicited much interest as well as concern for the welfare of Roe Deer in these environs. To date, post's *organic* (not a paid promotion) results: 9009 *people reached*, 93 *likes*, 9 *loves*, 5 *wows*, 40 *shares*. Three comments typed under post from the 21 comments made to date:

1. Marian Maher, 28.10.2017: "Just hope it stays safe." Several similar comments.
2. Kathy Morrison, 30.10.2017: "I reckon they used to live in Bailey's Wood, but the new housing at Booth Hall meant they moved into the Clough."
3. Barbara Lewis, 31.10.2017: "Hope they get left alone, maybe we should be trying to give these animals something back after all we have taken so much from them."

Further to this public concern regarding the welfare of Roe Deer in North Manchester, we reiterate our call (first made 10.7.2016, see page 2 below) to the local planning authority (MCC) for a **moratorium, indefinite postponement, of further house building on the site of the former Booth Hall Children's Hospital to allow for construction of an eco-bridge across Charlestown Road** enabling people & wildlife to roam safely & unhindered between the two Ancient Woodlands of Bailey's Wood & the Clough.

FoBHC proposes that this should be the 1st of a series of eco-bridges de-fragmenting the natural woodland ecosystem of the Boggart Hole Brook Basin which in turn should be connected to an interconnected wildlife habitat through Manchester as part of an interconnected Britain-wide wildlife habitat - of generally natural broadleaved deciduous woodland, Britain's most biodiverse habitat, which once covered most of the country.

Two satellite photos below from the Internet, courtesy of Google Earth, Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky.



Above, imagery date 2.6.2009. Summer bird's-eye view of Bailey's Wood (top, north) & section of the Clough (bottom right, south east) with Booth Hall Children's Hospital between. Despite protests, the hospital closed 11.6.2009.



Above, imagery date 24.3.2017. Winter bird's-eye view, trees greenish brown, fairly leafless. Same scene as top photo, nearly 8 years later. The former Booth Hall Children's Hospital has been demolished & Wimpey's housing development has taken shape.

These bird's-eye views illustrate Kathy Morrison's suggestion (Facebook comment 2, page 1 above) that Wimpey's scheme to build circa 260 houses has likely caused Roe Deer to move out of Bailey's Wood into the Clough - due to noise disturbance & encroachment of building along the woodland edge.

Note also, beside Rochdale Road at left of 2017 satellite photo, at west end of Bailey's Wood, an area of woodland is missing compared to 2009 photo. This 3 acres of woodland was chain-sawed down September 2016 (see FoBHC Facebook page - 18.9.2016, 29.9.2016 & 6.11.2016 posts). This truncation of Bailey's Wood, the loss of habitat, will doubtless have forced woodland creatures like Roe Deer to migrate eastwards deeper into Bailey's Wood, perhaps having a knock-on effect, driving other Roe Deer out of the Wood's east end across Charlestown Road into the Clough.

These factors may account for the recent apparent slight increase in sightings of Roe Deer in the Clough, as the photo of a Roe Deer (page 1 above) perhaps implies.

Re our earlier call for a moratorium - quote from *Re-uniting Bailey's Wood & Boggart Hole Clough* (FoBHC, 10.7.2016) PDF:

"These proposals, re-uniting Bailey's Wood with Boggart Hole Clough, by converting the Lodge Gatehouse into a visitor centre & constructing an eco-bridge or eco-duct over or under Charlestown Road, will help restore the biodiversity health of these two Ancient Woodlands & help regenerate the area as a whole.

In conclusion, therefore, we urge MCC to call a moratorium delaying further building of houses on the site of the former hospital until an eco-bridge or eco-duct is constructed as suggested above, & to withdraw permission for the Lodge Gatehouse's demolition, & instead to preserve the building as a memorial to the former Children's Hospital, converting it for re-use along the lines suggested above."

MCC ignored this proposal - house building continued unabated & the Lodge Gatehouse was demolished 8.2.2017.

Re further development of our proposal to re-unite Bailey's Wood & the Clough, including proposed location etc of eco-bridge, see *Ancient Woodlands Park proposal* (FoBHC, 18.10.2017) PDF.

Both the above mentioned PDFs can be seen on our website.

See also *Manchester - Natural Woodland City*, FoBHC Facebook page 22.1.2017 post; to be published on website.