

fired up. It was built using bricks from the Randley Brick Company and now acts as a distinctive local landmark.

Bordering the parish to the south-west is the sunken line of the canal which ran from Coalport to join with the “Shropshire Union” canal network. This was later filled in and the route was used for part of the “Great Western” railway system. It is now used for the “Silkin Way” long distance path.

In between Randley and Hollinswood is Randley Valley, an attractive area of regenerating woodland, with large numbers of Common Spotted Orchids which are in flower during May and June.

The name Hollinswood is derived from “Holly Wood” (possibly the woods which Randley was on the edge of!). In the mid 19th century there were a number of coal-mines in the area, but with the coming of the railways much of what is now housing became a huge marshalling yard.

To the east of Hollinswood is Stafford Park, a large industrial estate named after the Marquis of Stafford of the Leveson-Gower family who have had much to do with the development of industry in Telford.

South Telford Rights Of Way Project

Hollinswood and Randley Parish Council (PC) are partners in STROWP, a project set up to define and improve access for rights of way throughout three parishes in the south of Telford. The other parishes are Storchley & Brookside Parish Council and Madeley Town Council

Wherever relevant, waymark discs are used to signify direction - yellow arrow for footpaths - blue arrow for bridleways.

The Friends of Hollinswood and Randley Valley are a group of volunteers who care for and monitor this valuable site. For more information see their website:

www.harpc.org.uk

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ROUTES AROUND Hollinswood & Randley



Rand is old English and means the “border, edge or margin”, of what is unknown, but it could refer to the edge of woodlands. Today the houses of Randlay are built around the site of “Lower Brands” farm, long since demolished but remembered in the name of “The Randlay Farmhouse” pub.

Coal-mining took place in the area from 1820 onwards and a tramway was built to carry coal from here to Coalport, for transportation down the river Severn.

The brick-works, once sited at the northern end of Randlay Pool, had been established by 1828 for the Botfield brothers, who then leased and later sold the factory to the “Randlay Brick and Tile Company”.

Clay was obtained on site from an extensive open pit. The old clay-pit is now “Blue Pool”, the milky blue colour deriving from the clay suspended in the water. The pool is very deep and at the bottom lie the remains of an old engine house. The area around the two pools now forms the north east of Telford’s Town Park.

The chimney which stands just north of the boundary with Stirchley and Brookside parish, was erected by the Wellington Iron and Coal Company as a furnace in 1873, but was never

