



## Tice's Meadow Bird Group

[www.ticesmeadow.org](http://www.ticesmeadow.org)



@TicesMeadow

[ticesmeadow@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ticesmeadow@hotmail.co.uk)



[facebook.com/groups/ticesmeadow](https://facebook.com/groups/ticesmeadow)

## Press Release

### Six Months to Save Tice's Meadow

The communities of Farnham, Badshot Lea and Aldershot have six months to save Tice's Meadow Nature Reserve. The multi-award winning wildlife haven is under threat, and the volunteers of the Tice's Meadow Bird Group are warning that the clock is ticking, with an unknown potential buyer in final negotiations to buy the 150 acre site in Badshot Lea.

Landowners Hanson, operators of the former Farnham Quarry, formally notified Waverley Borough Council of their intention to sell the site on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Due to the site's status as an Asset of Community Value (under the Localism Act 2011), community interest groups can now register as a potential bidder by December 15<sup>th</sup>. If any groups do register, they will then be given until May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021 to raise the funds for a bid. During this period, Hanson would not be able to legally sell the site to any other party.

The site was first put on the market in June 2019, with Farnham Town Council, Waverley Borough Council and Rushmoor Borough Council all showing an interest in the past, with the former two councils both submitting unsuccessful bids. A bid from a local property developer was rejected by Hanson earlier this year following a protracted due diligence period, after which the bidder reduced their offer.

Local volunteers and nature reserve users are worried as Hanson have repeatedly stated that they will pay no regards to the suitability of the new owner and their plans for the site. Hanson have also called the future of the Tice's Meadow Bird Group into question, and have repeatedly failed to formalise the status of the volunteers as the caretakers of the site, despite acknowledging that the vast majority of site maintenance is undertaken by them at no cost to the landowner.

A TMBG spokesman said: "We are asking local councils, community groups and third-sector organisations to consider joining us in a coalition to save Tice's Meadow. We are confident that by working together and pooling our resources, skills and experiences, we can ensure the future of our much-loved community nature reserve - an open green space that has been very important to so many local people during this difficult year. Please join with us to stop any development of this vital green buffer between Farnham and Aldershot, a regionally important wildlife haven, a site that protects many hundreds of local houses from flooding, and a much-used community asset".

The Tice's Meadow Bird Group's online petition to Save Tice's Meadow has now passed 7,500 signatures, and can be found here: <http://chnng.it/nSsSvHcj>

For more information about Tice's Meadow Nature Reserve, including details of volunteering opportunities, updates on the sale process and an online petition that members of the public are encouraged to sign to show their support, please see our website: [www.ticesmeadow.org](http://www.ticesmeadow.org)



THE

QUARRY LIFE  
AWARD





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## **Notes**

Tice's Meadow is a community-led nature reserve in Badshot Lea, on the site of the former Farnham Quarry, covering 150 acres. The habitats on site consist of a mosaic of open water, gravel islands and scrapes, reed beds, scrub, woodland, ephemeral ponds and wet and dry grassland.

The site is widely considered to be one of the best inland sites to watch birds in the south-east of England, with 200 species of bird having been recorded there over recent years. It is also a key local site for many species of butterflies, dragonflies, reptiles and amphibians, including many locally scarce and endangered species.

The Tice's Meadow Bird Group is a community group of local volunteers who help manage the nature reserve for the benefit of both wildlife and visitors. Over the past three years they have spent over 15,000 hours volunteering on site, raised over £45,000 in grants and prizes, and hosted walks and events on site for over 1,500 visitors.

For more information: [www.ticesmeadow.org](http://www.ticesmeadow.org)

