



PRESS RELEASE

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They are banking on protecting Nore Barn Woods...

The Friends of Nore Barn Woods are spearheading an initiative to raise funds to conserve part of the southern shore of the woods to enable local people to continue to enjoy the area. Situated just 10 minutes' walk west of Emsworth, the woods are under threat from the sea at high spring tides and at least six mature oaks will be toppled soon unless the shore is protected. A bank needs to be built in order to conserve the 100m stretch that currently has no protection at all.

Chairman of the Friends of Nore Barn Woods, Bruce Darby said: "If we do nothing we risk losing not only some mature trees, vegetation and soil, but part of the shore footpath could go too. Our counts show that hundreds of people walk to and through the woods each day. So we are campaigning to raise funds to do something about this stretch of shoreline."

Protecting even a short length of coast does not come cheap. One of the most cost effective solutions is a simple rammed earth bank. Even that will cost around £16,000. The Friends have started serious fundraising to meet this target. They also recognise that this is a fragile shoreline environment and great care will have to be taken to protect the foreshore and the bird life during any work. If the Friends can raise the money in the next few months then early Autumn work on the shore would not interfere with the over-wintering bird population.

Havant Borough Council owns the woods but public money is difficult to get for projects like this. So if the Friends raise the money Havant Borough Council has agreed to prepare the plans, ensure all permissions are in place, oversee the work and engage contractors. Rachel Moroney, Senior Community Project Officer at BTCV said: "The Friends of Nore Barn Woods do a tremendous job in looking after the woodland both for wildlife and visitors. We support their work on conserving this part of the shore of Nore Barn Woods."

The Friends of Nore Barn Woods have approached some grant-making bodies and are hopeful that they can raise much of £16,000 target through these sources. An early contribution from Emsworth Horticultural Society has been most helpful. Donations large and small from the public and other local businesses and organisations would be particularly welcome. Donors and potential members can contact the Treasurer Pat Balchin at 67 Maisemore Gardens Emsworth on 01243 377404 or e-mail her on patbalchin@gmail.com

For more details on the conservation work, please contact Mike Thomas of the Friends of Nore Barn Woods at mike@ctechco.com All details are on the website at www.norebarnwoods.org.uk



Caption: Roy Ewing, left and Mike Thomas of Friends of Nore Barn Woods inspect the undercutting along the unprotected shore of Nore Barn Woods.

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