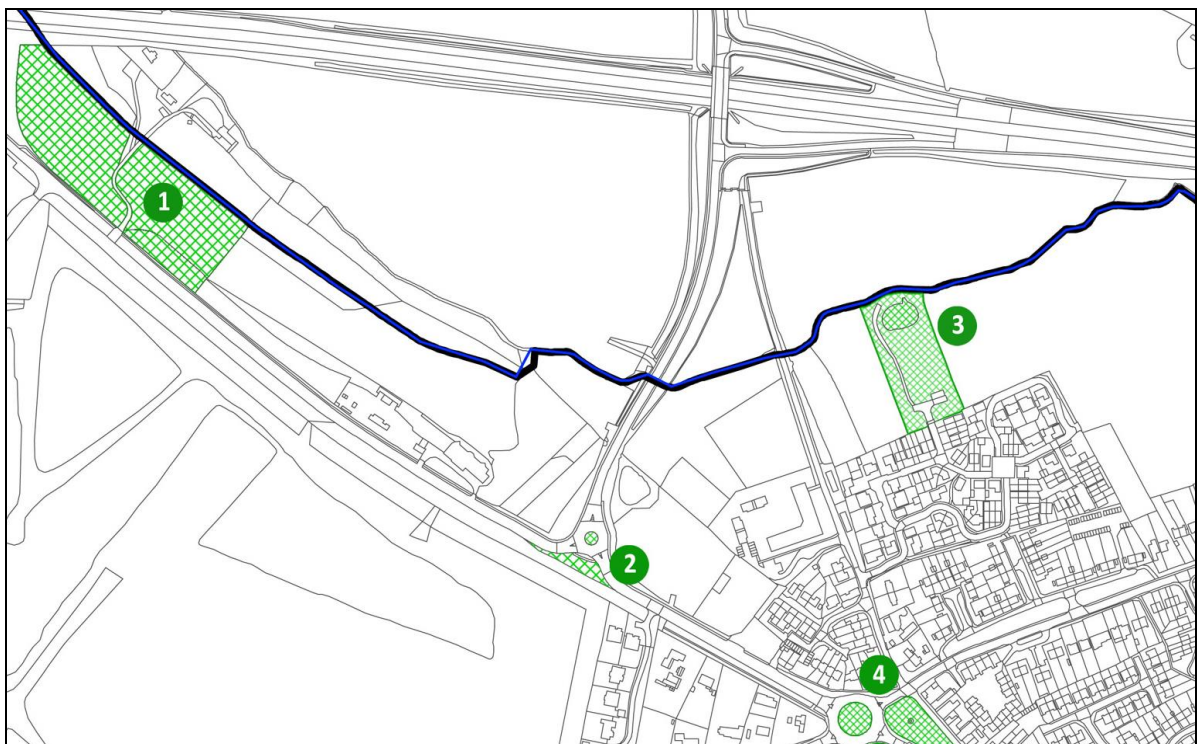


MERIDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: September 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
The Meriden Archery Club grounds, off Hampton Lane, south Birmingham Rd, Meriden, Coventry CV7 7JS	Approx. 2.45	LGS No: 1

Plan



Site Description and Current Land Use

The site forms part of a well-maintained and popular recreational facility located at the northwest side of Meriden. It is situated between the A45 to the north and Birmingham Road to the south. It is situated within Forest Grounds of the Packington Estate and is home to The Meriden Archery Club. The site is dissected by the Neighbourhood Area boundary which means that the upper northeast third of the Archery Club grounds lie outside it.

A concrete drive off Hampton Lane divides the site into east and west halves. The eastern half of the site is primarily laid to lawn with a density of trees that line the whole of the south-eastern perimeter. A featherboard fence and hedging line its eastern perimeter. Numerous benches, archery targets and butts populate this portion of the site. The western half consists of a wooded area of mature trees and ferns. To the northwest of the site, the wooded area and grass area continue and lead to two residential dwellings. To the northeast of the site, the archery grounds continue with further archery targets and butts, a storage shed, pavilion and car park.

The site forms the setting of The Forest Grounds to the east with its numerous Grade II and Grade II* listed buildings; Grade II*, Forest Hall and Forest Hall Pavilion and Grade II listed Forest Hall Workshop (far eastern boundary). To the north of the site, a water course runs along the club's ground's northern boundary and beyond that are open fields which carry on over the A45. The Stonebridge Golf Club lies to the southwest of the site. Sand and gravel pits in close proximity to the south of Birmingham Road.

Relevant Planning History

No relevant planning history found for the site.

Site Ownership

THE HONOURABLE HENEAGE JAMES DANIEL FINCH-KNIGHTLEY LORD GUERNSEY of Packington Hall, Meriden, Warwickshire CV7 7HF

Site Constraints

According to constraint maps produced by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, the site falls within the Green Belt. The site is in an Area of Search for Waste Management Facilities and a Mineral Safeguarding Area / Area of Search.

The site forms the grounds of the Grade II* listed, Forest Hall and Forest Hall Pavilion and Grade II listed Forest Hall Workshop (far eastern boundary)

Public Access

The site is open and accessible to members and to the public for specific hosted events.

Site Photo





Ecological Significance

Due to the nature of its use, the grassed area of the site has limited ecological value. However, there is high ecological value along its periphery with the dense mix of mature trees, shrubs and ferns. These create a wildlife corridor and provide food and shelter for numerous species, such as insects, small mammals and birds and their associated nesting sites. These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the village ecosystem and act as part of a wildlife corridor to the countryside beyond the site. And as such, the site plays a contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the village.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

As the grounds of the Meriden Archery Club, the site has both local and historic significance. It is adjacent to and helps form part of the setting for the locally and historically significant Forest Grounds with its numerous Grade II and Grade II* listed buildings to the east of the site and which is home to the Woodmen of Arden.

“The Woodmen of Arden, were founded in 1785 with the Earl of Aylesford as its Patron. The Earl of Aylesford was a key figure in the promotion of archery at this period and had connections with the Royal British Bowmen, Royal Kentish Bowmen and the Royal Toxophilites as well as his own Woodmen of Arden who met at their lodge at Meriden, near his family seat at Packington Hall. Of all the archery societies the Woodmen of Arden have adhered most closely to the traditions of the archery of the restoration period. Forest Hall is a beautiful listed octagonal building dating back to the 18th Century and acts as the Society's headquarters.” <https://www.longbow-archers.com/woodmenofarden.html>

The site is open every day of the year and available at any time of the day. It is very popular with the local community and has 250 paid-up, active members. Hosted on the grounds are Open Tournaments, Club Shoots, Beginners' Courses and Have-A-Gos. Founded in 1936, the Club celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2016. The associated clubhouse also contributes to the social and recreational activities for the community.

The site is demonstrably special and locally significant as it is actively used and valued by the local community as a formal, recreational area of open space.

Summary and Suitability for Designation as Local Green Space

This site is well related to and appreciated and valued by the local community and makes a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness of the village.

The LGS as outlined on the above plan is considered to be suitable for Local Green Space designation in accordance with paragraphs 99-101 of the National Planning Policy Framework in that it is:

- in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance because of its recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity and richness of its habitats and wildlife potential; and
- local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.