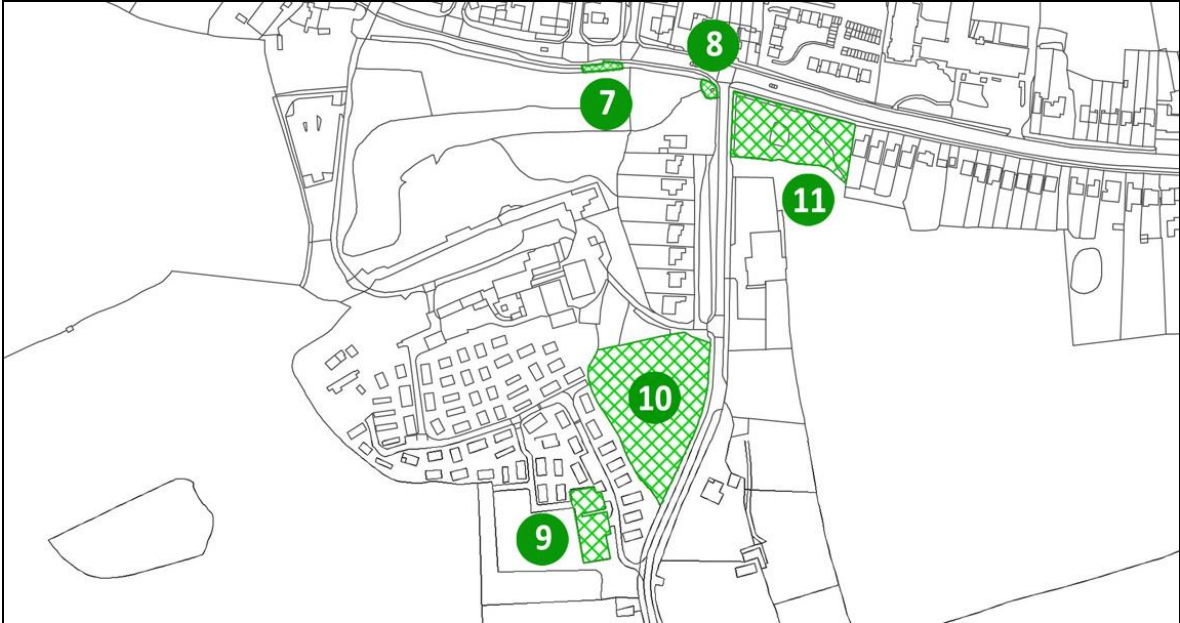


MERIDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: September 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Meriden Park Homes copse, west of Berkswell Road, Meriden	Approx. 0.68ha Copse	LGS No: 10
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>The site is a dense, well-managed copse located to the west of Berkswell Road located east of Meriden Park Mobile Home Park. It has the feel of a natural woodland. Grass paths lead through the deciduous broad leaf woodland from Berkswell to the mobile home park. Bordering the site to the northwest of the site is Grade II* listed, Meriden Hall and its grounds.</p> <p>Residential dwellings border the site to the north. On the opposite side of Berkswell Road to the northeast is an open field and to the southeast is Broadwell Guest House with open fields beyond. The Heart of England Social Club, its associated car park and grounds are also situated near the northeast boundary opposite Berkswell Road.</p>		
Relevant Planning History		
No relevant planning history found for the site itself.		
Site Ownership		
<p>HENRY MORRISON of Eastfield Manor, Old Warwick Road, Rowington, Warwick CV35 7BT HENRY MORRISON of 23 Longcoat Park, Hunt Hall Lane, Welford On Avon, Warks CV37 8HF MARK MORRISON of Flat 11, 1-10 Summers Street, London EC1R 5BD</p>		

Site Constraints

According to constraint maps produced by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, the site sits within the Green Belt and a Mineral Safeguarding Area / Area of Search.

The site borders the Grade II* listed, Meriden Hall and its grounds.

Public Access

The site is open and accessible to the public. Entrances to the site can be found off Berkswell Road and Meriden Park Homes mobile home park.

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

The site contains a mix of mature and semi-mature trees, woodland shrubs and undergrowth. There is also evidence of recent planting of young trees. All of which are important for a number of birds and mammals as they provide food, shelter and nesting sites. They increase the diversity of insect species (including butterflies and bees which are currently in decline), which are a food source for bird and mammal species and can also play an important role in the pollination of plants and crops in the surrounding area. The diversity and population numbers of insects directly impacts the food chain for other fauna in the area and has a wider impact on the cultivation of crops.

These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the village's ecosystem and helps provide a wildlife corridor to the nearby countryside. In the village there have been sightings of larger fauna species such as bats, birds of prey (e.g. buzzards and owls), rabbits and hedgehogs. The site plays an important contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the village.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

This well-used copse creates a positive setting for the the mobile home park and forms an important green lung and wildlife corridor linking the built-up area to the countryside to the east. The site provides a tranquil and relaxing place for visitors, walkers and dog-walkers.

The special qualities of the site include its strong contribution to local character and distinctiveness due to its natural beauty.

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.