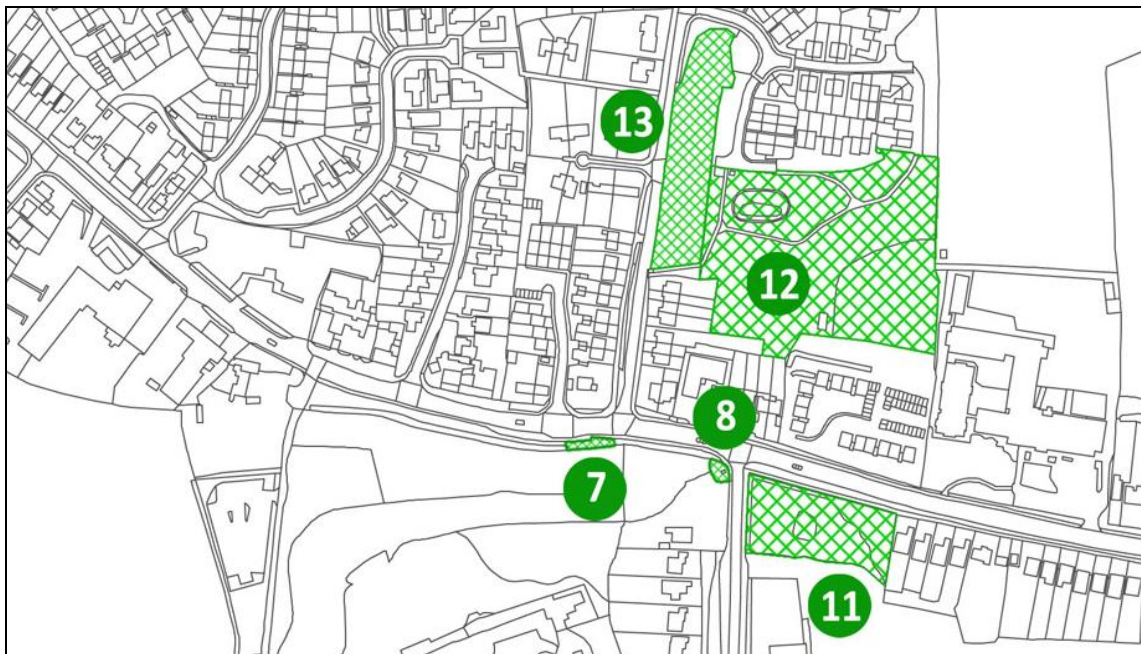


**MERIDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**Local Green Space Site Assessment: September 2018**

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Meriden Pool, Junction of Main Road and Berkswell Road, Meriden	Approx. 0.38 ha	LGS No: 11

**Plan**



**Site Description and Current Land Use**

This attractive and well-maintained site is located at the southern side of Meriden at the junction of Berkswell and Main Roads and opposite the War Memorial to the west. It has recently undergone extensive renovation works by SMBC, Meriden Parish Council and Friends of Meriden Pool Group. It consists of a large pool with a small island at its centre which house a small wooden bird shelter is populated by mature trees including weeping willow and ash. It provides a haven for various species of wading birds including ducks, coots and geese. There is a noticeboard which displays a water fowl identification chart. The site is lined with a green verge, mature trees and numerous benches. The municipal green wrought iron fencing which lines the road frontage is adorned with numerous troughs with seasonal floral planting. A portion of the site to the west has been left as a meadow.

Residential dwellings line the site’s east boundary and line the road opposite to the north. The Heart of England Social Club, its associated car park and grounds are situated near the southwest border and open fields/countryside lines the sites southern boundary. The grounds of Grade II\* listed, Meriden Hall are in close proximity to the southwest. A number of Grade II listed buildings can also be found along the opposite side Main Road near the site to the northwest.

**Relevant Planning History**

No relevant planning history found.

**Site Ownership**

THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL of Strategic Land and Property, Resources Directorate, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull West Midlands B91 3QB

**Site Constraints**

According to constraint maps produced by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Meriden is inset within the Green Belt. The site is in a Mineral Safeguarding Area / Area of Search.

**Public Access**

The site is open and accessible to the public

**Site Photo**





### **Ecological Significance**

Due to the nature of its use, the site has high ecological value. The site contains a mix of mature, semi-mature trees including, weeping willow and ash. New tree and hedge planting can be seen. A portion to the west of the site has been left as a wildflower meadow.

The large pool with its a small island and bird shelter at its centre house provides a haven for amphibians, invertebrates, small mammals, insects and birds and their associated nesting sites. Various species of water fowl including ducks, coots and geese were seen within the site and a pair of swans is also known to inhabit the site.

The pool together with the trees create a wildlife corridor and provides food and shelter for numerous species. These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the village ecosystem. And as such, the site plays a contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the village.

### **Special Qualities and Local Significance**

The pool is a much loved and valued community asset by local residents and visitors alike. The site began its renovation in September 2013 with the help of the National Grid and local volunteers and support from SMBC Park Rangers. The renovation included new planting, painting of seats and noticeboard, tree bark to banking and general tidy up. Spring bulbs and wildflower seeds were also planted to start a wildflower meadow at the western end of the site. In 2018, further restoration works were carried out to bring the pool back to a more inviting area for both wildlife and the public.

The site is also steeped in local history. By the early 1600s, a significant drove route from Wales dividing at Meriden Pool continued either up the Hill to Coventry market or traversed Berkswell Road, then called 'Warwick Lane' to Warwick, Northamptonshire and London or even the Continent. It is believed the term 'Pool' derives from the Welsh word 'Pwl' meaning a Pond where animals drink reminding us of the Welsh drovers who stopped here. Meriden is even commemorated in a Welsh poem about droving.

The special qualities of the site include its recreational value for walkers and the sense of well-being that its natural environment offers. It is also highly appreciated and valued by the local community for its benefits to local wildlife as well as its contribution to biodiversity and green infrastructure.

Due to its natural beauty and open aspect, the site makes a strong contribution to the village's local character, distinctiveness and green setting.

### 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 paragraph 99-101 of the National Planning Policy Framework in that it:

- 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.