


MERIDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: September 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Meriden Sports Park, Main Rd, Meriden CV7 7SP	Approx. 1.82 ha	LGS No: 5
Plan		
		
Site Description and Current Land Use		
<p>This well-maintained and actively used site is located south of Meridian roundabout and Main Road. Contained within the site are football pitches and goal-posts, cricket wicket, a well-equipped enclosed children’s play area, enclosed tennis/basketball/5-a-side courts, all-weather outdoor gym equipment and benches and picnic tables plus 400 metre walking / running pathway.</p> <p>Municipal fencing surrounds the site which includes a car park and bike racks at the northern end of the site. The site very easily accessible and available off Main Road to the local community. The site includes a permanent modern pavilion which includes toilets and changing facilities and multipurpose function room is situated at the northern end of the site.</p> <p>Residential dwellings line the site to the east, west and across the road to the northeast. A grazing paddocks lies to the south. In close proximity to the site are two greens, one to the northwest and another along its eastern boundary. A Grade II listed building and a Scheduled Monument (the Standing Cross on the village green) are situated across the road to the northwest and northeast respectively.</p>		
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 itself is bordered by the Green Belt along its southern and western boundaries. The site is a designated Park/ Recreation Ground. A Mineral Safeguarding Area / Area of Search lies directly south of the site.

A Grade II listed building and a Scheduled Monument (the Standing Cross on the village green) are situated across the roads to the northwest and northeast respectively.

Public Access

The site is open and accessible to the public during daylight hours.

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

Due to the nature of its use, the site has low ecological value. However, there is some ecological value within the site and along its periphery and along the exterior boundaries. The site contains a small mix of trees. Mixed species hedgerows and shrubs are also present along the periphery. These create an important 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 as such, the site plays a contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the village.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

This well-used and maintained site is the main green recreational facility in the village. The special qualities of the site include its recreational and social value for children and adults, as a meeting place for many teenagers and amenity space for walkers.

Social events such as holiday activity camps, whole body outdoor fitness sessions and picnic in the park are regularly held there. The pavilion, associated with the site, is also available for hire for fitness, recreational and social functions.

The pavilion is used by non-sports groups such as the Parish Council and Sports Park Directors, the Church Group, Cameo, Craft Club, Bingo, Meriden Sports and Recreation Trustees and for sports, the Little Angels sports camp, yoga and Health@Heart providing 1 to 1 fitness assessments as well as outdoor fitness sessions. The sports park is hired and played on by three football teams and four cricket teams and it hosts the annual Family Picnic in Park in July.

The site is demonstrably special and locally significant as it is actively used and valued by the local community as a formal 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.