

MERIDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: September 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
Whittle’s Copse and Green off Strawberry Fields, South of Main Road, Meriden	Approx. 0.43ha	LGS No: 6

Plan



Site Description and Current Land Use

The site comprises Strawberry Fields Green and a narrow coppice. A well-used path that runs through the coppice forms part of the Heart of England and Millennium Ways. From Hampton Lane to the west, the copse runs east along Meriden Sports Park’s southern boundary. Within the coppice are a combination of mature and self-seeded trees, including beech, hawthorn and sycamore. Steps up to a metal kissing gate lead north into the well-maintained Strawberry Fields Green.

A combination of mature and semi-mature tree sporadically populates the Green. A more dense mix of trees and shrubs lines the Green’s northern and western boundaries with Meriden Sports Park beyond. Residential dwellings line the Green’s eastern boundary. To the southeast of the copse is open countryside and to the southwest are farm buildings. Glimpses to the countryside can be seen through the coppice.

Relevant Planning History

STRAWBERRY FIELDS DEVELOPMENT:

Reference	PL/1994/00540/FULL
Address	Land At Main Road Meriden
Proposal	Residential development comprising 60 No. dwellings with garaging/parking.
Decision	Historic Code
Decision Issued Date	Tue 15 Nov 1994

LAND ADJACENT/EAST OF COPPICE:

Reference	PL/2016/01077/PPFL
Address	67 Strawberry Fields Meriden Solihull CV7 7SA
Proposal	Change of use from unused land to residential garden land.
Decision	Approved
Decision Issued Date	Wed 20 Jul 2016

MERIDEN SPORTS PARK (Previous planning application for development):

Reference	PL/1997/00470/OL
Address	Land At Hampton Lane Meriden
Proposal	Outline planning application for a residential development and associated infrastructure works
Decision	Refusal
Decision Issued Date	Fri 04 Apr 1997

Other applications submitted on behalf of Meriden Sports Park include permissions sought for tree felling, creation of a recreational ground, pavilion and car park and the addition of outdoor gym equipment.

MERIDEN SEWERAGE TREATMENT WORKS (in close proximity to the site to the northwest):

Reference	PL/2009/01206/FULL
Address	Meriden Sewerage Treatment Works Hampton Ln Meriden CV7 7JR
Proposal	The erection of 4 control kiosks.
Decision	Full Plans Approval
Decision Issued Date	Wed 18 Mar 2009

PROPERTIES BORDERING THE SITE TO THE NORTH OF THE COPSE:

Reference	PL/2018/01241/PPFL
Alternative Reference	PP-04786096
Application Received	Sun 29 Apr 2018
Application Validated	Mon 30 Apr 2018
Address	45 Strawberry Fields Meriden Solihull CV7 7SA
Proposal	Change of use of land south of 45 Strawberry Fields to garden use.
Status	Decided
Decision	Approved
Decision Issued Date	Mon 25 Jun 2018

Reference	PL/2014/00343/CU
Alternative Reference	3170757
Application Received	Mon 10 Feb 2014
Application Validated	Mon 10 Feb 2014
Address	23 Strawberry Fields Meriden CV7 7SA
Proposal	Change of use of land to residential curtilage.
Status	Decided
Decision	Full Plans Approval
Decision Issued Date	Thu 27 Mar 2014

Reference	PL/2009/00264/CU
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Received	Wed 18 Nov 2009
Application Validated	Wed 18 Nov 2009
Address	23 Strawberry Fields Meriden CV7 7SA
Proposal	Change of use of land to residential curtilage.
Status	Decided
Decision	Full Plan Refusal
Decision Issued Date	Wed 13 Jan 2010

Site Ownership

PART: The Metropolitan Borough Of Solihull of Strategic Land & Property, Solihull MBC, PO Box 9, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull B91 3QB

PART: The coppice is unregistered land / Community Right to Bid by MPC

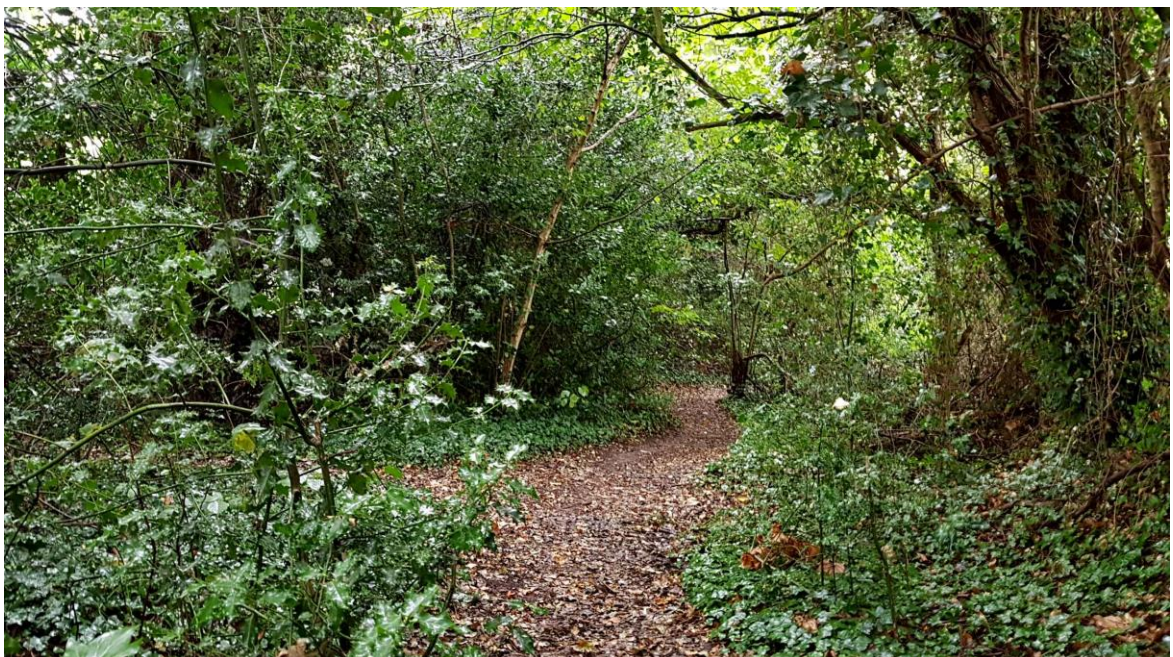
Site Constraints

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

Public Access

The site is open and accessible to the public.

Site Photo



Ecological Significance

The site's ecological value lies predominantly in the numerous trees that populate both the coppice and the Green. The site contains a mix of trees including; mature, semi-mature and self-seed. Mixed species hedgerows and shrubs are also present along the periphery.

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. 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.

Within the village, there have been sightings of larger fauna species such as bats, birds of prey (e.g. buzzards and owls), rabbits and hedgehogs. These are all vital for the wider food web and species diversity within the village's ecosystem and they play an important contributory role in the wider ecological significance of the village.

Special Qualities and Local Significance

This well-used coppice forms part of the Heart of England and Millennium Ways and together with the green, they both form an important green corridor linking the built-up area to the countryside to the south. The semi-enclosed Green provides a safe place for children to play.

The special qualities of the site include its recreational value and the sense of well-being that its natural environment offers. It is highly valued by visitors, walkers and dog-walkers as a place to relax and enjoy glimpses to open countryside.

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 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.