

MERIDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Local Green Space Site Assessment: September 2018

Site Address	Site Area	Site Ref
War Memorial and surrounding space, Junction of Main Rd & Berkswell Rd, Meriden	Approx. 0.07 ha	LGS No: 8


Plan



Site Description and Current Land Use

The site is located at the southern side of Meriden along Berkswell Road opposite Meriden Methodist Church and bus stop to the north and Meriden Pool to the east. Along the majority of its south and west boundaries are the grounds of Grade II* listed, Meriden Hall. Residential dwellings line the road opposite the site to the north. The grounds of a single dwelling border the site to the southeast. A number of Grade II listed buildings can also be found along the opposite side of Main Road near the site to the northwest.

The memorial commemorates the fallen of both World Wars. It consists of a commemorative stone base which supports a timber cross with canopy above. Beneath the canopy is a 5ft cast iron figure of Jesus Christ. Black wrought iron railing lines the site along the pavement edge behind which is numerous wooden planters with seasonal floral planting. A gravelled area surrounds the base of the memorial. Along the sides and rear of the site are various mature trees and shrubs.

Relevant Planning History
No relevant planning history found.
Site Ownership
COVENTRY DIOCESAN TRUSTEES (REGISTERED) of 8 and 9 The Quadrant, Coventry CV1 2EG
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. Along the majority of its south and west boundaries are the grounds of Grade II* listed, Meriden Hall.
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 limited ecological value. However, there is some ecological value within the site and along its periphery, including a mix of mature trees and shrubs. The season floral planting can provide some food and shelter for numerous pollinating and other insects, such as bees. The tall trees have been noted by local residents as the home of a rookery. This mix of planting helps create a wildlife corridor and also provides food and shelter for numerous species in addition to those mentioned above, such small mammals and other 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

The site is a small open green space on the southern end of the village that is highly appreciated and valued by the local community. Commemorating both World Wars, the special qualities of the site include its contribution to the village's historic and social past as a place of public gathering and remembrance.

Mrs Letitia Bankes of Meriden Hall, widow of Captain Edward Nugent Bankes, the village's first casualty in the Great War, was chiefly instrumental in paying for this village memorial though she encouraged others to join her. It was built on the edge of her grounds. The figure of Christ was stolen and missing for three years (1994-7) but found abandoned by a member of the public some miles from the village. It was renovated in 2001.

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.