

Land at Keresley

Archaeology, Landscape & Ecology

Archaeology & Heritage

Baseline studies have already been undertaken to understand and consider the site's archaeological and heritage interest; including a desktop study, a site walkover and a geophysical survey, the results of which have influenced the preparation of the masterplan.

The only known archaeological remains within the site comprise ridge and furrow earthworks, the remains of medieval agriculture. These are poorly preserved, and so their archaeological interest is deemed to be comparatively low.

The geophysical survey has found no evidence for buried archaeological remains and accordingly, the site is considered to have a low potential for previously unrecorded remains.

The potential for 'off-site effects', in terms of the 'setting' of Corley Camp Scheduled Monument, has been assessed, demonstrating that this nationally important site is unlikely to be affected by the proposed development. Assessment also considered the setting of Keresley Manor, a locally listed building.

Further archaeological investigation may be required, but on the basis of current evidence, there is no reason to expect that development will have a significant effect on buried archaeology, or other heritage assets in the wider landscape.

Landscape

The site does not contain or fall within any designated landscape such as National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). A site visit has been undertaken by an appropriately qualified landscape architect to determine its value and sensitivity in landscape terms. The findings can be summarised as follows:

- The site comprises agricultural land situated between the B4098 Tamworth Road and Fivefield Road, which straddles both sides of the Hall Brook, a small stream that crosses the site from north-west to south-east;
- There are no Public Rights of Way within the smaller land parcel, but there are several public footpaths which run through the larger land parcel, linking the settlement of Keresley to Tamworth Road (B4098);
- Within the surrounding context, there are substantial areas of Ancient Woodland but none fall within the site boundary;
- Visibility from the surrounding wider landscape is largely screened by the combination of topography, built form and mature vegetation. Views of the interior of the are possible from the public footpaths through the site and filtered views from close-quarter locations particularly to the south-east are obtainable;

- The site is typical of the 'Ancient Arden' Landscape Character Type. It constitutes a small scale farmed landscape with a varied, undulating topography, characterised by an irregular pattern of fields and narrow, winding lanes with a strong unifying presence of tree cover;
- Located on the north-western edge of Coventry the site also features a number of urbanised and degraded features, including overhead cables and pylons, 'gappy' hedgerows and the commercial Prologis Park.

The development proposals will include an extensive landscape scheme, retaining the hedgerows and trees as far as possible and providing, new planting and habitat enhancement for biodiversity. Additional tree and woodland planting throughout the site will be designed to break up the roof scape and any perception of massing. The public rights of way which run across the site will be retained where possible and situated within a green corridor, sensitively designed to the adjacent Hall Brook. Accordingly, there are no landscape issues which in any way suggest that development here should be avoided or restricted.

Ecology

No part of the site is covered by a statutory designation and there are no internationally designated sites within 10km. There are no nationally designated sites located within 5km of the site. Therefore, the development of this site is not considered to impact on any statutory designated sites of nature conservation interest.

Although the site contains areas designated as non-statutory sites (ecosites), the value of the habitats within them has been assessed as being relatively low. The Local Wildlife Site located to the north is also designated as Ancient Woodland and will be protected by the incorporation of development buffers and no proposed public access into the woodland.

Some of the habitats on-site; including the hedgerows, woodlands, ponds and brook; are regarded as having ecological value. The scheme has been designed with these in mind and will aim to retain the habitats of value where possible. Habitats of greater value will be created within the green infrastructure area, than those currently present and will provide biodiversity benefits.

The presence of breeding birds, bats, badgers and great crested newts has been established through surveys undertaken across the site at appropriate times of year. However, these surveys have shown that the populations are not considered to be significant and can be accommodated within the extensive areas of green infrastructure to be provided. Enhancements for the majority of these species can be provided, through retention of habitats, creation of habitats and appropriate management.



Above: For illustrative purposes only