

# Green Belt Guardian

Published by CanSue - Campaign against Non Sustainable Urban Extensions

Special Keresley and Eastern Green edition, -  
Defending the green areas - of Finham, Kings Hill, Eastern Green, Allesley Green, Allesley, Coundon Wedge, Westwood Heath, West of Cromwell Lane, Keresley, Exhall, Bedworth, etc.

Issue 4

# Save our Green Belt Walk

## Sunday, 6 Oct 2019, 3pm

1 hour easy walk over historic & beautiful Keresley –  
Shakespeare's Forest of Arden

Come on this walk. Protect our Green Belt

Meet: Hare & Hounds Pub, Watery Lane, Keresley, CV7 8JA

### Why 13,000 Homes should NOT be built on green belt around Coventry

- The numbers don't stack up. The claimed population explosion is not happening.
- All the homes really needed can fit on brownfield
- Our children need moderate priced homes and council houses. Not luxury homes
- Traffic and Air pollution are already disastrous. The hospital and schools can't cope.
- The green belt is immensely rich in history & wildlife,
- Green belt is so important for health, recreation, flood control, climate change

### Rare Medieval Coins, found near Penny Park Lane



Charles the Bold double pence (15th century) from Keresley. Courtesy/photo: Allan Owen



Little Grebe on the Mere, Keresley. One of the best wildlife ponds left in Coventry

**Birds Galore:** 13 birds of "particular interest" to Natural England breed here. Many BTO Red List species breed or pass through: grey partridge, cuckoo, starling, skylark, song thrush, mistle thrush, house sparrow, tree sparrow, yellow wagtail, grey wagtail, linnet, lesser redpoll, tree pipit, yellowhammer, corn bunting, spotted flycatcher, woodcock. .

We are grateful to **Jackson Office Products** for printing this newsletter

**Our route: Start Hare & Hounds, follow footpaths, and then Fivefield Road**



**How old are the local Hedges?** By counting the number of hardwood species in a 100 foot section, you can find the age of an old hedge: It's a hundred years for each species you count (Hooper's Law). If you spot 5, then it is 500 years old. 6 and it is 600 years old etc. [originally found by looking at old maps to see how long a hedge has existed, and comparing to the number of species today]. You can find a chart, of common hedgerow trees and shrubs on our website [www.coventrygreenbelt.org](http://www.coventrygreenbelt.org) - in the wildlife section.

### HISTORY and WILDLIFE OF KERESLEY

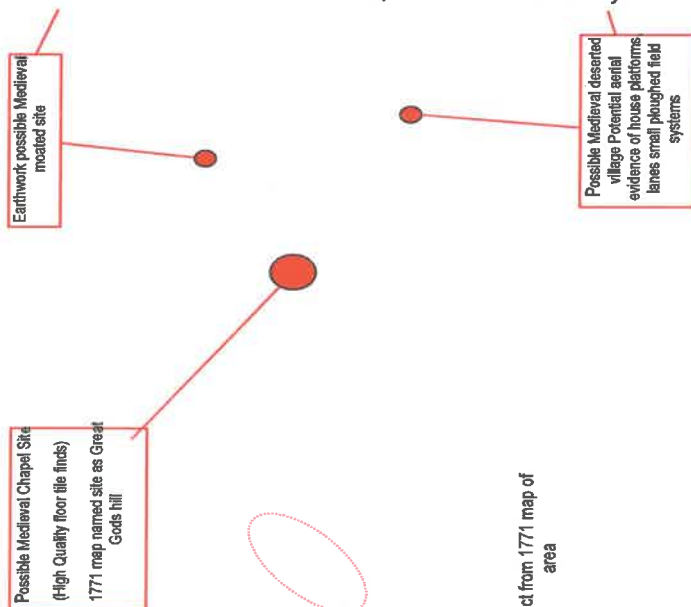
Keresley began as a small Saxon village, the suffix 'ley' meaning a clearing in a wood. Bennetts Road (formerly Astley Way) was mentioned in the 12th Century. Halford Lane, Thompsons Lane, Scotchill, Fivefield Road, Penny Park Lane, Sandpits Lane and Tamworth Road are referred to in 14th Century documents. Indeed Tamworth Road was an important route which attracted Highwaymen. It was later Turnpiked in 1762. An old will for John Pykhorn is dated 1331 – from whom Pikehorn Wood got its name.

The Keresley Ancient Woodlands - Bunsons Wood, Pikehorn Wood and The Alders - were part of the Ancient Forest of Arden. During the reign of Elizabeth 1, (1533-1603) much of the Arden Forest was destroyed – for cultivation, charcoal for the Iron industry, oak bark for tanning leather and of course timber for shipbuilding (England and Spain conflict). Much of Keresley belongs to Queens College Oxford, which was bequeathed to them between 1519-1529

In 1995, Coventry City Council wrote: "Keresley, Allesley and Coundon Wedge ....has been identified ....as Ancient Arden. This landscape is considered to be especially important as it is now the only remaining unspoilt area of ancient countryside left in Warwickshire" [their emphasis]

The Hall Brook, which begins as seepages in The Alders, is a priority feature for its high nature conservation interest while its source, the Mere, is the least de-graded water body in the City, with many scarce plants and insects. There are numerous listed Ecosites within the area, with rich biodiversity of insects, animals, plants, and birds

### POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL:



Extract from 1771 map of area