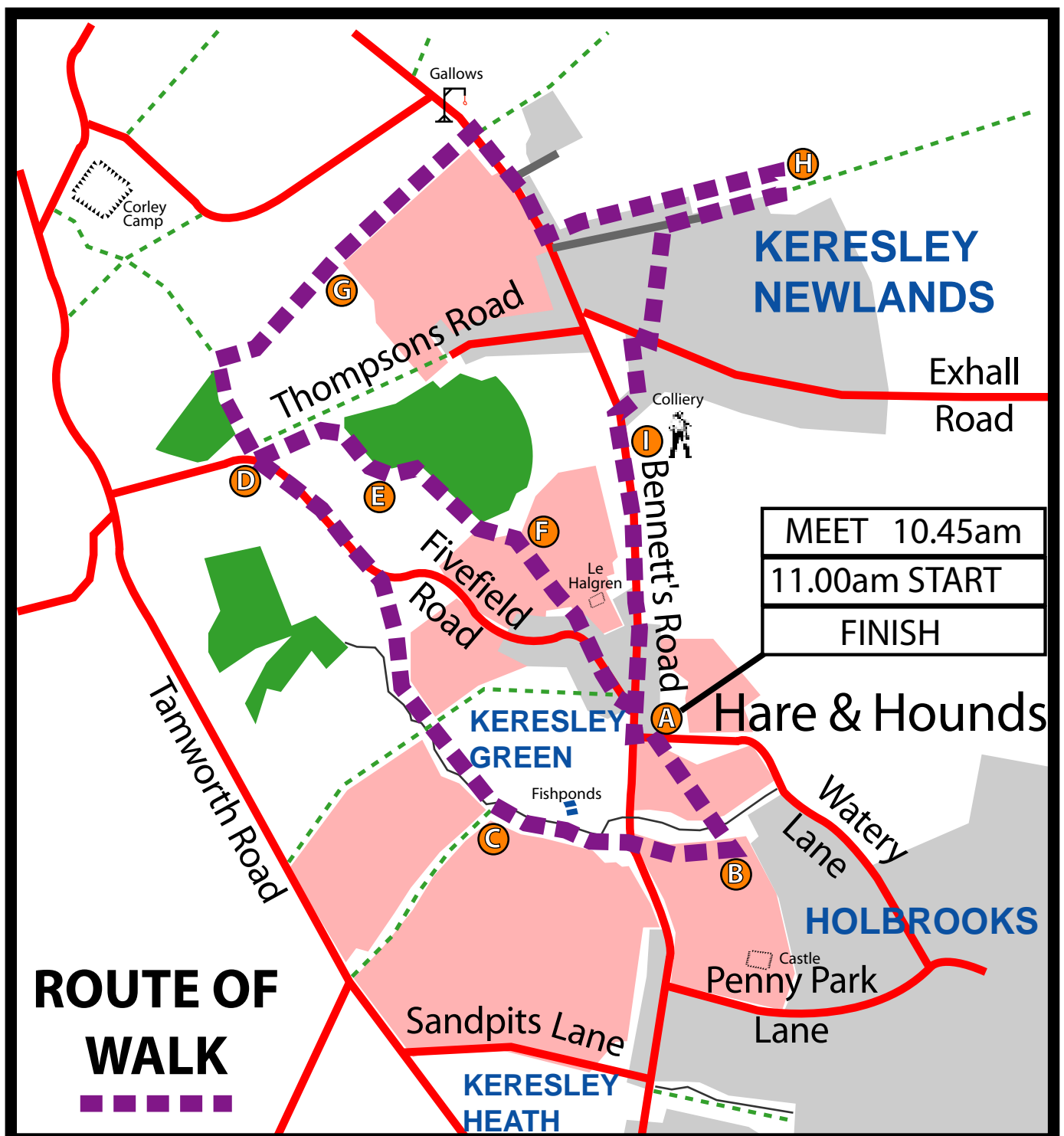


SAVE OUR GREENBELT

CHRISTMAS RAMBLE

Monday 28th December 11am - 1pm



Keresley began as a Saxon village. The Saxon word leah meant a clearing in a wood. The first part of Keresley's name may be a corruption of the word watercress, or the corruption of a mans name of Danish origin - Kaerer being a Swedish surname.

Keresley was not mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086). It may have been too small to get a separate mention. In the Middle Ages England was divided into units called manors. Keresley was part of Cheylesmore manor. Keresley first appears in writing in the mid 12th century when the Lord of the Manor granted part of the estate to Coventry Priory. More of the estate was given to the priory later in the 12th century. The priory was given the last piece of Keresley in the middle of the 13th century.

In the 12th century Keresley was called Keresleia. Keresley seems to have been a reasonably large village (by the standards of the time) with a population of perhaps 150 in the 14th century. When Henry VIII closed Coventry Priory the estate at Keresley was sold in sections (and the money raised went to the crown!).

In the 18th century Keresley flourished as an industrial village. Many of the inhabitants were farmers but some were weavers who wove wool for the Coventry cloth trade. The original settlement was at Keresley Green but in the late 18th century a new settlement appeared at Keresley Heath. In 1911 and the mine began operating in 1917 and the village of Keresley Newlands was built.

A Evidence of medieval land use, excellent examples of Medieval ridge & Furrow can be found across the whole Keresley site. In the right light this can be seen in the previous field and one walked over it. Development is projected both to the North & South with the exception of the flood plain of the Hall Brook

B Recorded in a 14th century source the Keresleyberwe Castle site was indicated to be north of Penny park lane. Place name evidence this was also the site of a possible enclosure of Barrow site.(Berwe) In recent months a mound has been discovered in fields north of Penny park lane that has been attributed to the castle or Barrow site. This site is now recorded on the Coventry Historical register.

In an area adjacent to the possible castle site, a local resident discovered 5 silver coins from the reign of Charles the Bold (Duke of Burgundy) these are dated between 1467 and 1477. Bosworth Battlefield have found similar finds during recent excavation work. These coins became legal currency in England when the country signed a treaty with France to share currency.

C Situated in an area north of Sandpits lane visible signs of some archaeology can be seen from aerial photos. This site Possible deserted Medieval village has only just been discovered in recent weeks. Warwickshire was split into two areas, Feldon which was largely agricultural plains (around Stratford and Evesham) and Arden which was largely wooded and not so densely populated. During the balck death many villages simply disappeared without record probably as most of the residents died. We currently have an Archaeologist investigating this area of Keresley. Development is projected both to the East & West of here.

Everywhere you look in the fields around Keresley you will find fragments of flint. Flint does not occur naturally in Warwickshire which suggests somebody brought it here and worked it. The Hallbrook Valley represents classic settlement site for Mesolithic people with its high grounds and stream flowing through the site.

Medieval settlement within the site appears to have been focused at Keresley and Manor Farm, in the eastern area of the site. Rectangular earthworks, possibly associated with a medieval moated manor are visible on aerial photographs at Manor Farm. Above ground remains of these earthworks have been removed, but there is potential for remains to survive below ground.

D Possible medieval fishponds and a Medieval moated manor site are recorded. Earthworks associated with the possible house site and some of the fishponds have been removed but an area of fishponds remains extant and there is potential for associated below ground remains

E During 2008 a field study was conducted in Bunson Woods by the Coventry Historic Environment Project (CHEP), many banks and ditches were found of unknown origin but were deemed to be agricultural or boundaries. A possible saw pit was also discovered, due to the popularity of this event the field study is hoped to be repeated in 2010.

F Medieval Settlement 'Le Halgren' Worked flint examples have been found throughout the site from Corley Rocks to Watery lane in the south. These pieces are around 10,000 years old, in one field walk alone on Hounds hill the Coventry environment project (CHEP) found over 90 individual pieces of worked flint. Development is projected both to the East & West of here.

G Corley Iron Age Camp was a square fort located in a fine position, its defenses consist of a single earth and rubble bank with timber lacing, with an external ditch and outturned entry on the SW. Probably dating from BC50 to AD50. Development is projected to the East of here.

H The Gallows at Keresley were situated on Astley way (now Bennets road) adjacent to the garden centre.

I Shafts of Coventry Colliery were sunk in 1911 and the mine began operating in 1917. The associated rail branch was built in 1919. It was the start of 60 years of mining at Keresley and development of the modern Keresley village.