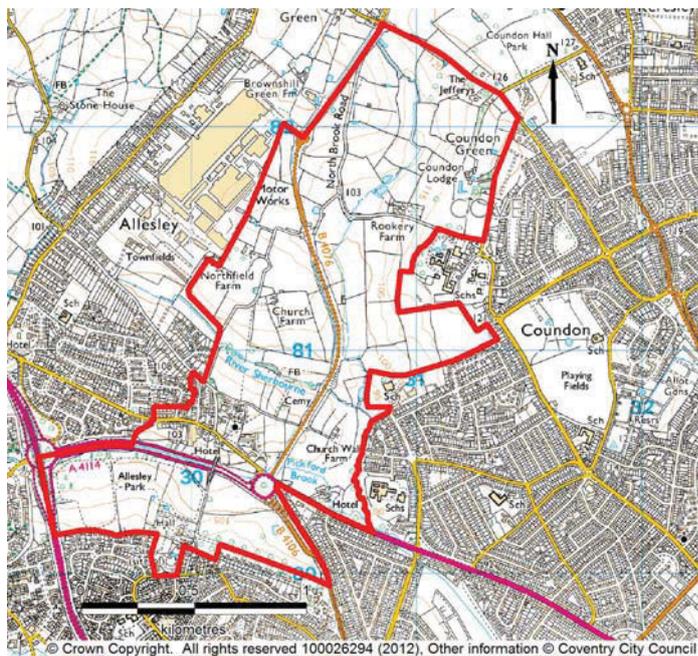


Allesley Park and Coundon Wedge Character Area**HLC Area 18****Location and Context**

This Character Area includes the medieval village of Allesley, Allesley Park, the earthwork remains of Allesley Castle and fields located next to the village. The area is located to the west of the city centre. An arterial route to the city centre runs through the village so despite being a rural location, it has good access to the city centre. The Character Area is surrounded by housing, with some fields to the northwest.

Heritage Designations in the Character Area

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 1

Archaeological Constraint Areas: 23

Listed Buildings: 33

Locally Listed Buildings: 8

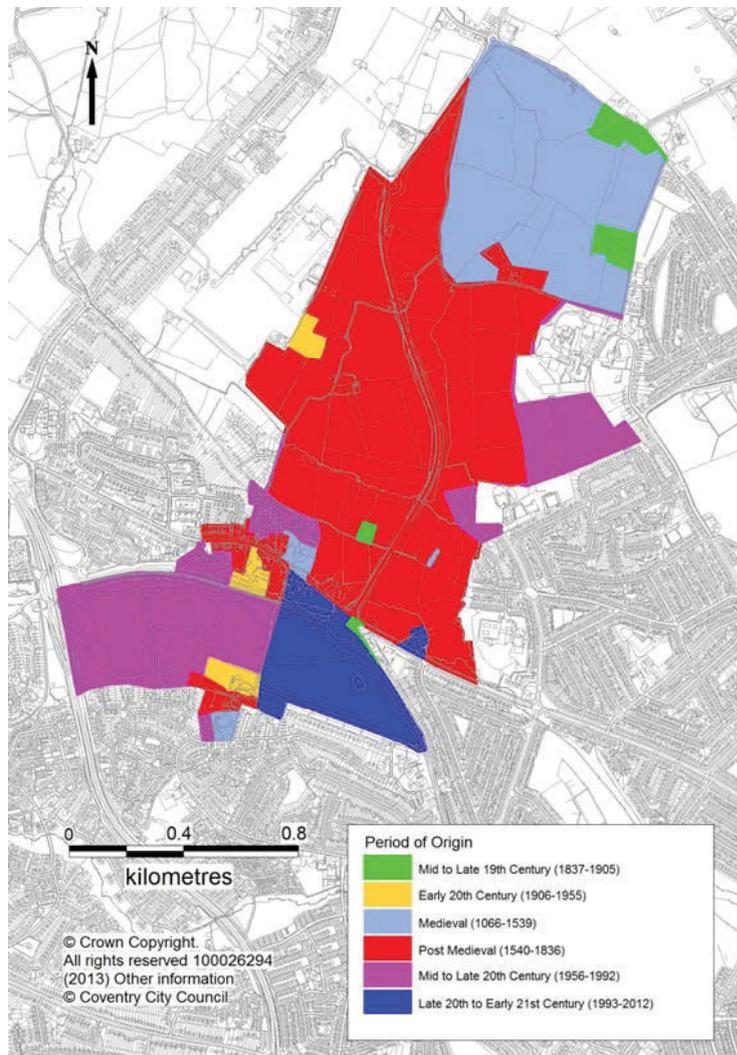
Conservation Areas: 1

Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

Historic Development

Apart from the possible Iron Age defended enclosure situated to the west of Staircase Lane, this is a landscape of predominantly medieval and post-medieval date, with many features from this period still present today. Allesley Park, for instance, was originally part of a much larger medieval deer park which is believed to date from the 12th or 13th century when hunting was a fashionable pastime amongst the Norman aristocracy. The park was surrounded by a large bank and ditch, or park pale, in order stop the deer escaping. The boundaries of the park have changed considerably – for example, the medieval deer park originally extended much further south to Broad Lane – however, evidence of the park pale remains. The northern boundary of the medieval park broadly follows today's Pickford Way and the earthworks of the park pale are still present in places. The park was probably returned to agricultural use by the 15th century and the corrugated landscaping known as 'ridge and furrow', caused by ploughing, is still visible in today's park. A more obscure medieval feature located in the park is the earthwork of Allesley Castle. There is no documentary evidence for the castle and no archaeological work has been carried out on the site, but it is thought to pre-date the medieval park. It may have been built in the 1140s as an illegally built fortification associated with the civil war between King Stephen and Empress

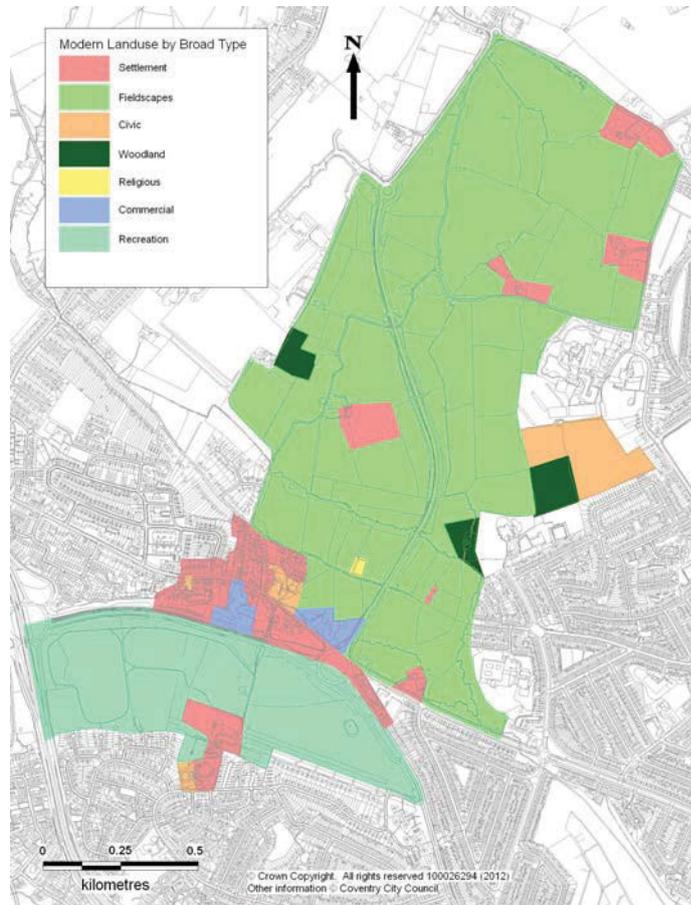
Matilda. The park is segregated from Allesley Village, located to the north, by the course of the Pickford Brook. The deer park may have been laid out in such a way that the brook deliberately segregated the Norman aristocracy and the medieval villagers.



Allesley village itself has its origins in the medieval or even Anglo-Saxon period. The settlement comprises cottages and houses along Birmingham Road of 16th to 19th Century date, most of which are listed buildings. There is a development of 20th century housing, including small detached houses, to the north of the Birmingham Road. One of the oldest houses in the village is the Stone House (Grade II* Listed) which is believed to date from before 1557. The medieval All Saint's Church is located on a promontory overlooking the main road through the village. A medieval pathway, or holloway, leads from the graveyard to fields behind the church. Many of the fields contain ridge and furrow earthworks and some are bounded by hedgerows with reverse 'S' profiles, reflecting the former cultivation ridges in the medieval open fields prior to their enclosure.

The 1654 Inclosure Award confirms that this area was within one of Allesley's open fields during the medieval period. The present field pattern in this area dates to around 1654 with a number of the hedgerows qualifying as being 'Ancient' under the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations. In the north of the Character Area some areas of the current field pattern are even earlier. Their irregular shape, sinuous boundaries along with documentary evidence suggests that they are medieval assarts. A good example of this is the area to the south of Brownhill Green Road. Other remnants of the medieval landscape are the probable remains of a medieval moat and fishpond located to the rear of Coundon Lodge, to the west of Coundon Green. Although there is no documentary evidence to confirm the date of Staircase Lane, the sunken level of the road strongly indicates that this is an ancient route. North Brook Road is recorded in the 1410-11 Cartulary of St. Mary's Priory, although it was then known as Le Pokelane. The Coundon Wedge Drive was developed in the 1980s for improved access to the former Browns Lane Jaguar plant located outside the Character

Area to the west, which has subsequently been scaled back and is subject to on-going mixed-use redevelopment.



Modern Character

Allesley Park is a popular public open space. It is enjoyed by young families in particular who benefit from a children's play area. There is also a small public golf course, toilets, a large car park, wildlife gardens and a walled garden associated with Allesley Hall. Despite the popularity of the park some areas are surprisingly secluded including the walled garden and the castle earthworks which are hidden by trees. Activity is focused to the east side of the park where the public facilities are located. This area is highly valued by local residents who have formed community groups for the park, although many members of the public are not aware of the castle remains. The park was originally set apart from Allesley Village by the brook and today it is also segregated

by the Pickford Way dual carriage way. The park is almost entirely surrounded by arterial roads so despite the proximity of the park to housing, it is mostly accessed by car. The historic core of Allesley Village is protected as a Conservation Area reflecting its status as the best preserved historic village within the Coventry City boundary. Attractive cottages are present along the Birmingham Road and are overlooked by All Saint's Church, located on an elevated promontory.

Two narrow lanes called Rectory Close and Butcher's Lane lead off Birmingham Road onto mid-20th century housing developments also included in the Conservation Area. The 1950s housing comprises small detached dwellings with small gardens to the front and rear. To the north east of the village are small, enclosed agricultural fields. They are easily accessible by public footpaths. Fields closest to the village are small and narrow with distinctive curving hedgerows.

Overall, the fields in the Coundon Wedge are small, bounded by ancient hedgerows and divided by winding lanes. Much of the current field pattern dates to the mid-17th Century with a remaining area of medieval assarts in the north of the Character Area. The area has a quiet, tranquil atmosphere despite the presence of the Coundon Wedge Drive which is well hidden.



A view of Allesley Village along Birmingham Road

Geology and Topography

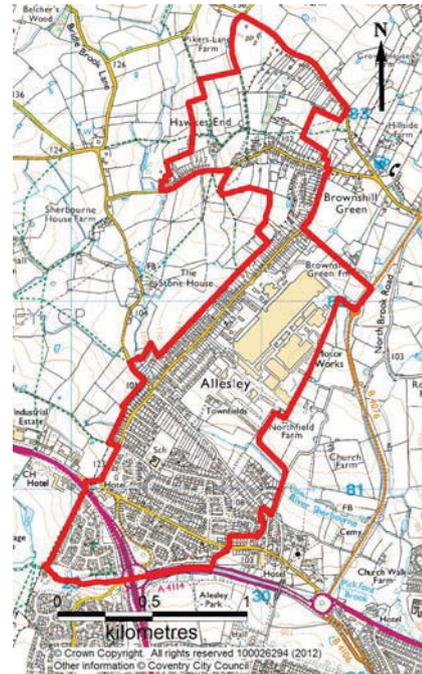
The Character Area overlies sandstone with alluvium deposits of sand with clay and gravel. It has an undulating topography which overall rises from 90m above sea level to the south to 125m to the north.

Allesley Village Character Area

HLC Area 19

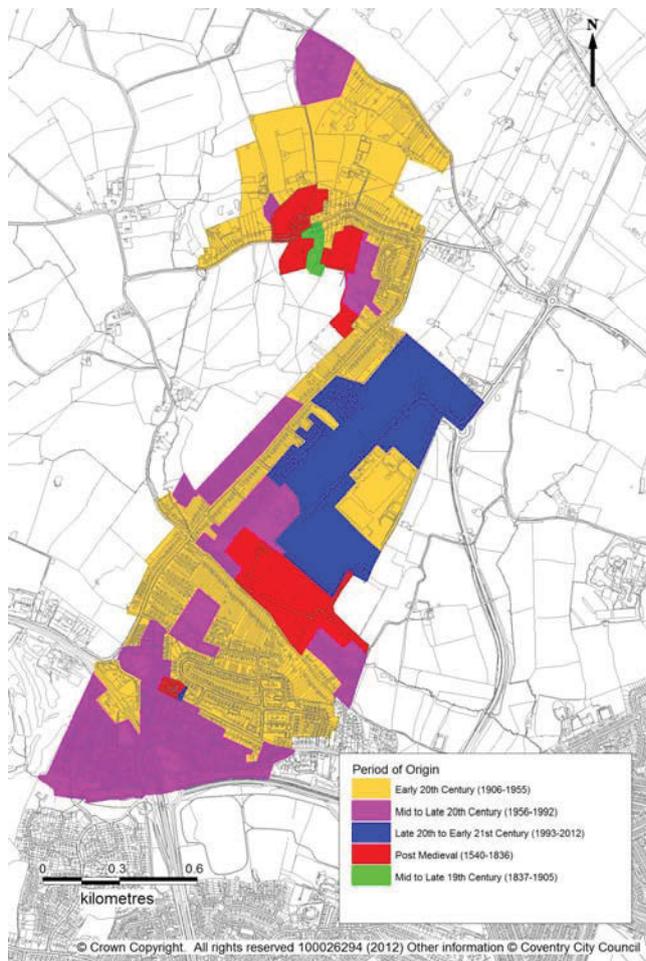
Location and Context

The Character Area is located to the northwest of the city centre and is surrounded by fields with some residential areas to the south and a golf course to the south west. This is predominantly a residential area with a former car plant to the east. The industrial site has recently been scaled back and is subject to mixed-use redevelopment. The River Sherbourne passes through the Character Area.



Heritage Designations in the Character Area

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
- Archaeological Constraint Areas: 4
- Listed Buildings: 0
- Locally Listed Buildings: 5
- Conservation Areas: 0
- Registered Parks and Gardens: 0



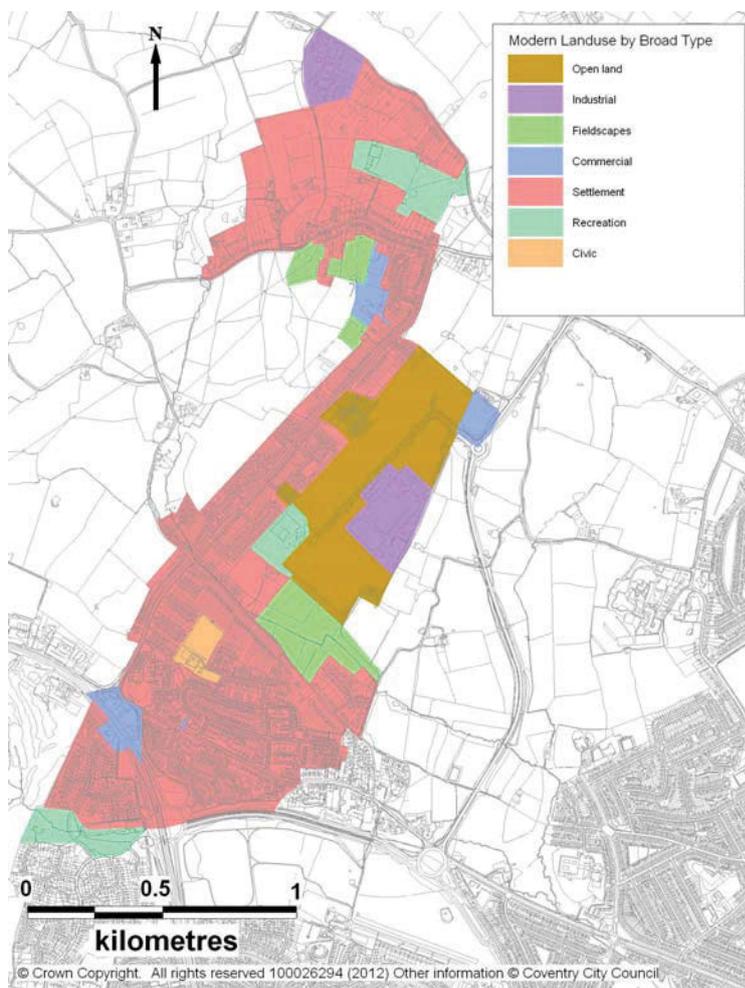
Historic Development

In the medieval period the majority of the Character Area was included in the Allesley open field system. St. Mary's Priory Cartulary of 1410-11 records a road called Le Brounselane which follows the alignment of the current Brown's Lane. The vast medieval open fields were enclosed after 1654 and the landscape became dominated by small enclosed fields. The 1654 Award also mentions a road called Park Lane which is thought to be the present day Park Hill Lane. The 1808 Allesley Sketch Maps, 1841 Tithe Map and the 1888 Ordnance Survey all depict the same small, enclosed fields throughout the Character Area with the exception of Meigh's Wood and Hawkes End Wood in the north. The woods survived until they were developed for housing in the mid 20th century. The Tithe Map also records a Turnpike Road, the current Birmingham Road. It depicts two other unnamed roads which follow the alignments of the

current Butt Lane and Hawkes Mill Lane. In the south of the Character Area there is a more recent area of expansion of the medieval village. In the 1930s, ribbon development occurred along Brown's Lane and Butt Lane. There was further development in the mid 20th century with more housing and the Browns Lane Jaguar car factory in the east of the Character Area. The car factory was originally a World War II 'Shadow' factory deliberately located away from the city centre to avoid air raid damage. The industrial buildings were demolished around 2005 - 2010 leaving a brown field site. In the late 20th century a further pocket of houses was built in the southwest part of the Character Area.

Modern Character

The Character Area encompasses a mixture of architecture and road design which reflects the gradual development of housing from the 1930s to the end of the 20th century. In general, all of the houses have front gardens with driveways and gardens to the rear. Most of the properties have garages. The size of gardens tends to become smaller as development progresses. The 1930s ribbon development along Butt Lane comprises very large front gardens with a variety of boundaries including hedgerows, brick walls and dressed stones. Housing along Brown's Lane is much more uniform. Houses of a similar architectural style overlook the street with front gardens that have low boundary walls or bushes. The 1930s development also includes housing built around cul de sacs. The architecture of these houses is homogenised with all of the front gardens bounded by low



brick walls, creating narrow, channelled views. Mid to late 20th century houses, particularly in the south of the Character Area, are arranged along long curving streets with pavements and roads which are wider than the 1930s cul de sacs. Each street has a different architectural style but the housing within the street is very similar. Later housing tends to have trees planted along the streets but without front boundaries walls. The changing views created by the curve of the road, the wider streets and the lack of front boundaries create a feeling of more open space in the later developments. A primary school is present within the Character Area and there is also a small parade of shops along the Birmingham Road. However, overall there are very few amenities.

Geology and Topography

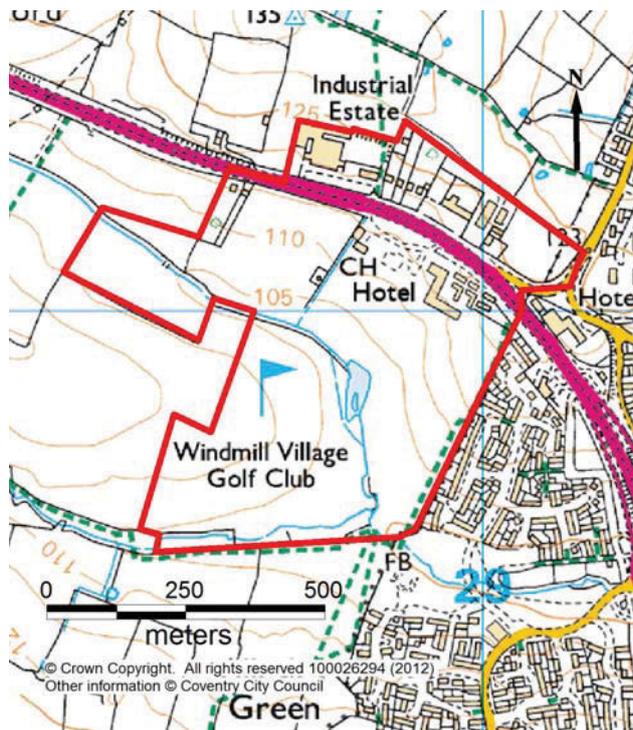
The Character Area overlies sandstone with an alluvium deposit of sandstone, gravel and clay along the River Sherbourne. The land gradually rises from about 100m above sea level to the south to 135m to the north.



Browns Lane



Agricultural land northeast of Townfields Close

Windmill Hill Character Area**HLC Area 20****Location and Context**

A Character Area located to the west of the city centre along the A45 Birmingham Road dual carriage way. It predominantly comprises a golf course but also includes a commercial/business estate to the north. A residential area borders the Character Area to the east, otherwise it is surrounded by agricultural fields. The Pickford Brook and the Ash Brook run through the Character Area, although their courses have been altered by landscaping for the golf course.

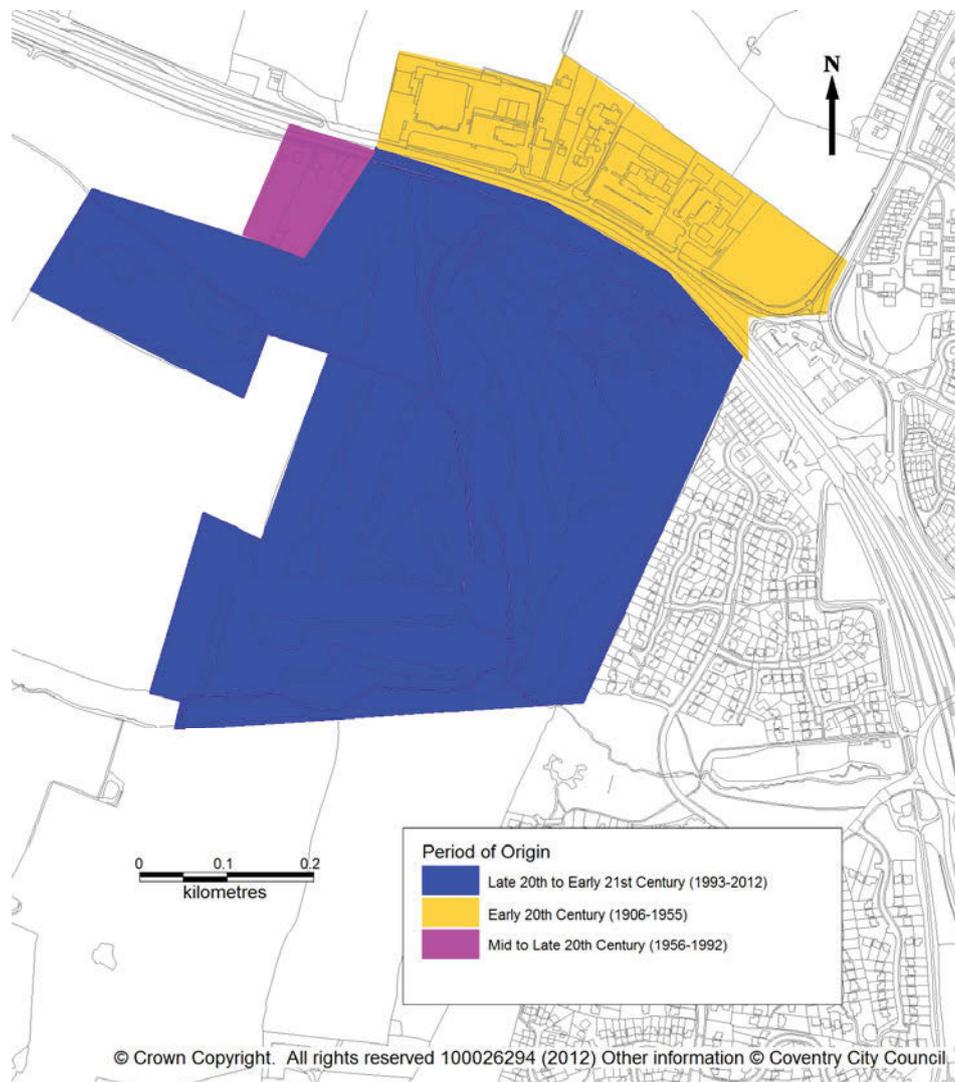
Heritage Designations in the Character Area

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
 Archaeological Constraint Areas: 3
 Listed Buildings: 3
 Locally Listed Buildings: 1
 Conservation Areas: 0
 Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

Historic Development

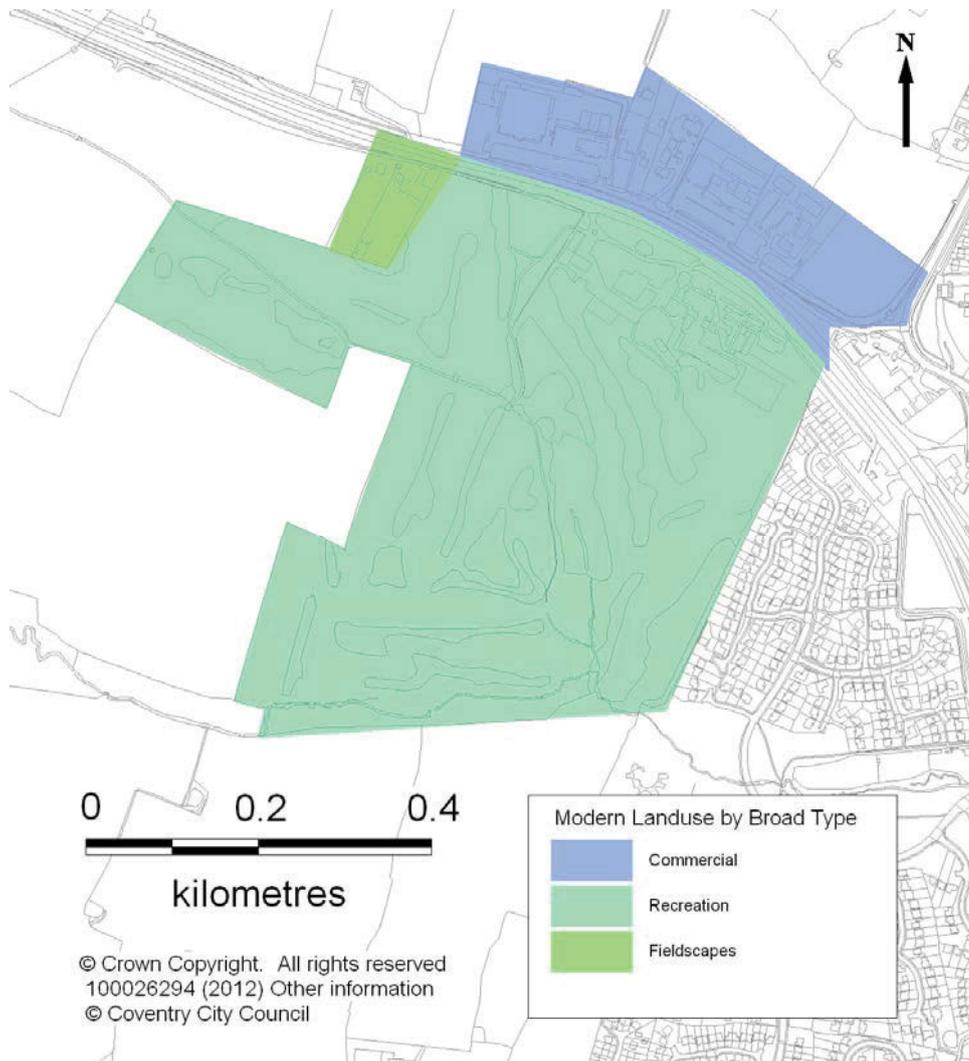
Documentary evidence tells us that this area fell within Allesley's medieval open field system; this is corroborated by ridge and furrow earthworks that are visible on aerial photographs taken before the development of the golf course. In 1654 the open fields of Allesley Parish were enclosed. The enclosures were large but were subdivided in subsequent centuries. Throughout the 19th and early 20th Centuries there were few changes to the field pattern recorded on the 1841 Allesley Tithe Map and the 1888 Ordnance Survey Map but by 1809 Windmill Farm had been built on the southern side of the Birmingham Road. The inter-war period saw the development of the area north of Birmingham Road with some housing and an engineering works was also built. The area was redeveloped into the mixed-use Windmill Industrial Estate. The golf course, along with a hotel was built in the late 20th century.

Some hedgerow boundaries that exist around the perimeter of the Character Area can be dated back to the mid-17th Century but all other internal boundaries were removed when the golf course was landscaped.



Modern Character

The Character Area predominantly comprises a heavily landscaped golf course. Part of the golf course complex includes a hotel with leisure facilities. Another hotel is located in the Windmill Industrial Estate, along with commercial offices. Although the Character Area has a rural setting its location along the dual carriage way makes it easily accessible from the city centre. The arterial roads, leisure facilities and business/industrial areas found in the Character Area create a noisy, active, car dominated environment.



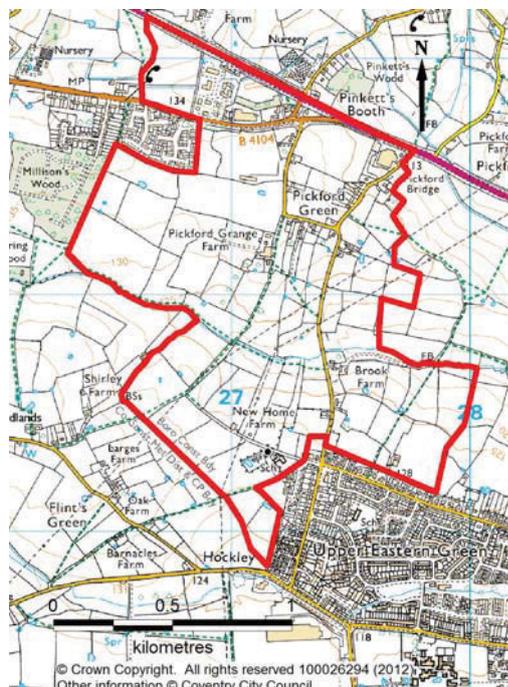
View looking east along the A45



1930s Art Deco building at the Windmill Industrial Estate

Geology and Topography

The Character Area overlies sandstone with an alluvium deposit of sand with clay and gravel along the course of the rivers. There are also glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel to the north of the Character Area. The Character Area rises from 100m above sea level in the south to 125m in the north.

Pickford Green Character Area**HLC Area 21****Location and Context**

The Character Area is located on the western fringe of Coventry to the south of the A45 and is predominantly rural with a small business park to the north. A residential area borders onto the south of the Character Area which is otherwise surrounded by rural landscapes. The Ash Brook runs through the Character Area from west to east.

Heritage Designations in the Character Area

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
 Archaeological Constraint Areas: 5
 Listed Buildings: 2
 Locally Listed Buildings: 6
 Conservation Areas: 0
 Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

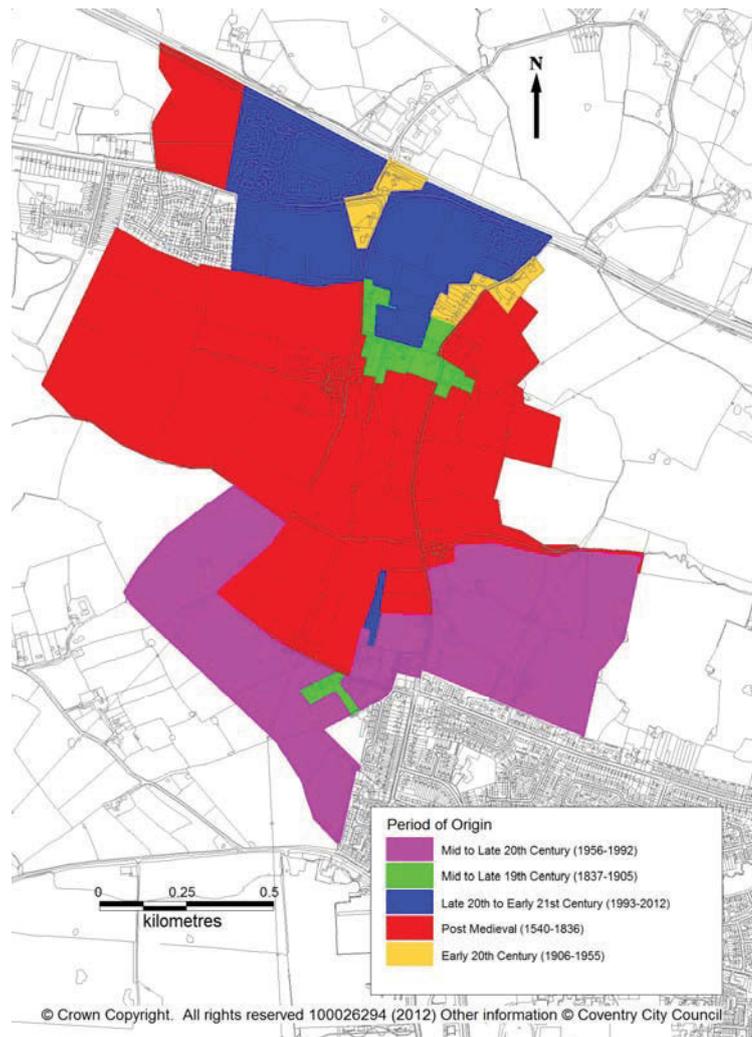
Historic Development

There is not a great deal of documentary or archaeological evidence for this area. The north east of the area is recorded as falling within Allesley's medieval open field system which was enclosed in 1654 while relict ridge and furrow earthworks that are present in the east of the Character Area suggest that it was in arable cultivation from an early date. Pickford Grange Farmhouse, a jettied timber framed listed building, lies in the centre of this area and dates to the 16th Century. It is likely that it represents an isolated farmstead of possibly medieval origin which is typical of the Warwickshire Arden landscape. A map of 1809 shows the whole character area comprising of small enclosed fields. In the south of the Character Area the enclosed fields were small, narrow and elongated in shape and a number had field boundaries with a reverse 'S' profile, suggesting this area may, too, have been part of a medieval period open field. In some areas the field boundaries were subsequently removed in order to create larger fields.

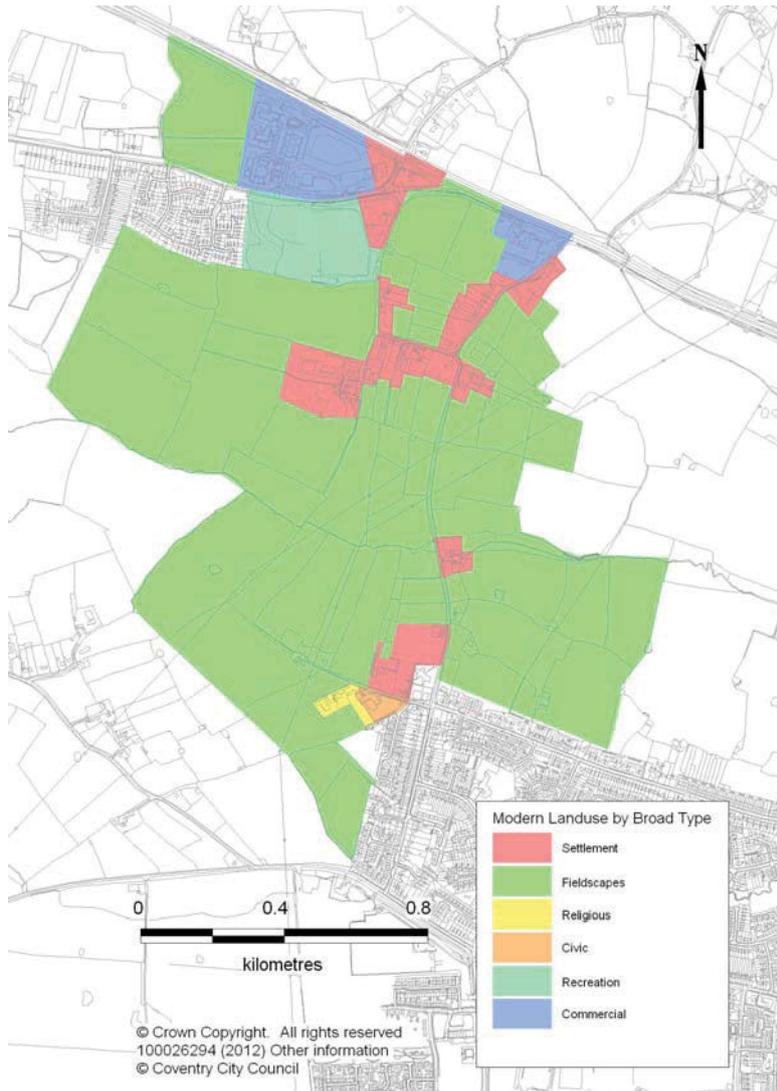
The 1841 Allesley Tithe Map records the turnpiked Birmingham Road, and also Pickford Road which, today, is Pickford Grange Road and Pickford Green Road. By this date there was a small hamlet at Pickford Green. The 20th Century saw little development within the Character Area and the pattern of 17th Century enclosures largely remained the same. The only developments were the several houses built to the west of Pickford Green Lane in the 1930s and an engineering works was built in the north of the Character Area in the 1950s. This was converted into the Meriden Business Park at the end of the 20th century.

Modern Character

The Character Area predominantly comprises small, enclosed fields with small paddocks located next to housing, forming a pattern of mid-17th Century and possibly earlier enclosures. In general, the fields are rectilinear in form, but many of the boundaries have a curving profile and may pre-date the 1654 Inclosure Award. All of the fields are bounded by hedges, many of which are banked and include veteran trees. Public footpaths create good access to fields. A distinctive feature of the Character Area is the morphology of Pickford Grange Lane which has two, sharp, right-angled turns. The proximity of a large residential area to the south makes this a convenient location for walkers. For a rural location, this is a relatively active area due to the presence of the dual carriage way to the north and the residential hamlet of Pickford Green.



Pickford Green



Geology and Topography

The Character Area lies over sandstone with an alluvium deposit of sand with clay and gravel along the course of the Ash Brook. The Character Area has a hilly relief and lies between 115m and 125m above sea level.



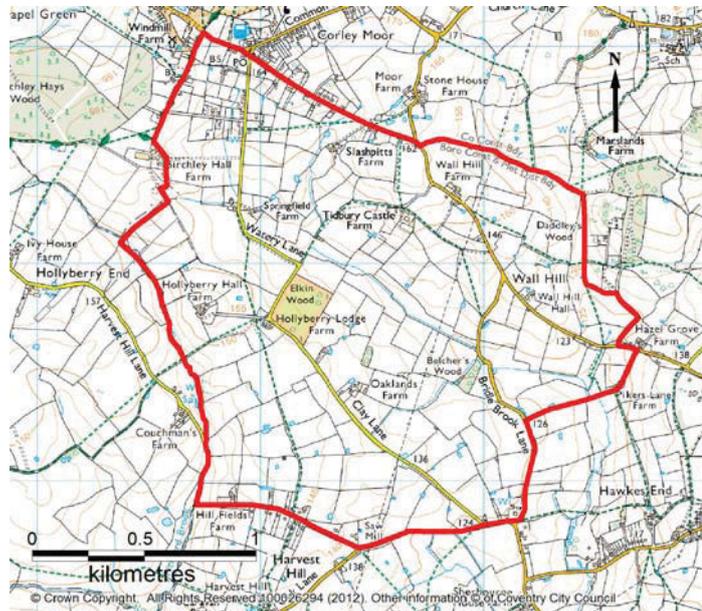
17th Century enclosure bounded by hedgerows at Pickford Green

North Allesley Character Area

HLC Area 22

Location and Context

The Character Area is located on high land on the northwest fringe of Coventry on the border with Warwickshire. This is a rural area surrounded by rural Arden landscapes. The Character Area is bounded by Pickford Brook to the east.

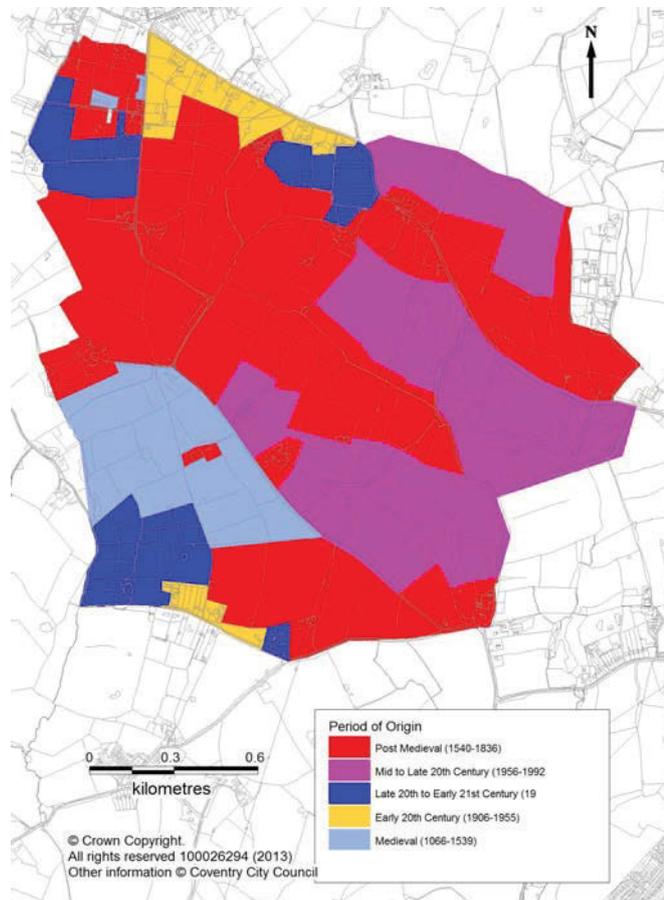


Heritage Designations in the Character Area

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
- Archaeological Constraint Areas: 13
- Listed Buildings: 1
- Locally Listed Buildings: 4
- Conservation Areas: 0
- Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

Historic Development

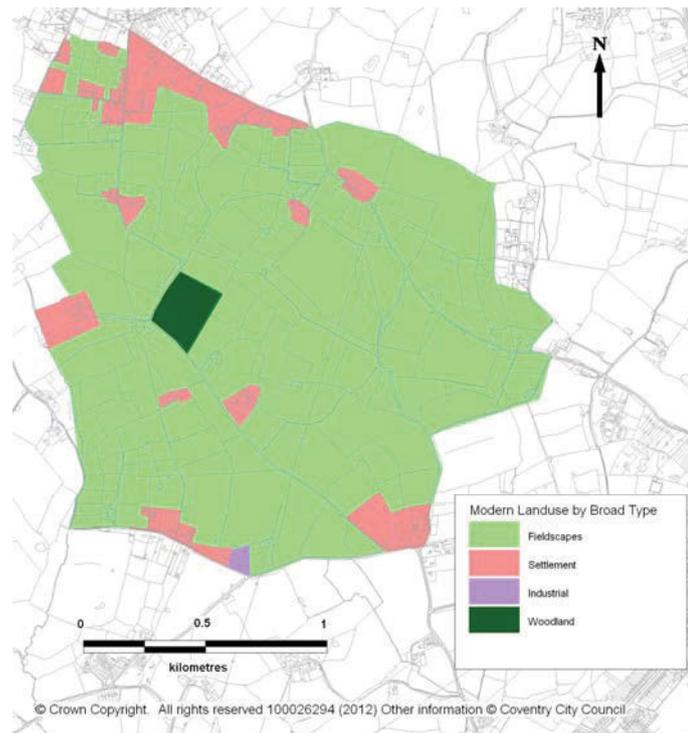
This area of high ground is likely to have been predominantly common land and woodland with some isolated farms in the medieval period. Corley Moor would have occupied a large area of land to the north of the character area while the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks suggest that some land was in arable cultivation to the south and west. Other medieval features include two possible water meadow sites west of Bridle Brook Lane and some possible medieval fishponds north of Wall Hill Lane. Most of the fields present today had been created by 1809, while approximately half of Corley Moor was enclosed under an act of parliament of 1824. It is likely that most farms in the area today such as Wall Hill Farm where established in the 18th century although some like Slashpits Farm with its irregular field boundaries is likely to



be earlier. The 1841 the Allesley Tithe Map shows the whole of the Character Area comprising of small, enclosed fields. Much of this early and mid-19th Century field pattern still survives, although in parts of the eastern half of the area many field boundaries were removed in the late 20th century to create larger fields. The tithe map also records Green Lane, Watery Lane, Wall Hill Road and Bridle Brook Lane. Other than the properties that were developed in the north of the Character Area along Wall Hill Road between 1905 and 1936 the landscape has changed little in character from the early 19th Century.

Modern Character

The Character Area comprises large, straight-sided, regular shaped fields, although there are areas of small paddocks and closes surrounding farmsteads or to the rear of housing. The fields are bounded by hedgerows with some hedgerow trees and banks. With the exception of Bridle Brook Lane which is narrow with an irregular morphology, the roads are wide and straight with grass verges. The Character Area incorporates two areas of woodland known as Elkin Wood and Belcher's Wood both are recorded on maps of the early 19th Century. Both of the wooded areas have straight boundaries and Elkin Wood was classed as ancient woodland by the Nature Conservancy Council in 1989. The Character Area has a hilly relief and a rural atmosphere.



Geology and Topography

The Character Area overlies sandstone. There are alluvium deposits of sand with clay and gravel. Pockets of clay are located in the vicinity of Clay Lane. The Character Area has a hilly topography which in general, rises from 125m above sea level to the south to 165m to the north.



Landscape of early 19th Century enclosures

North Keresley Character Area

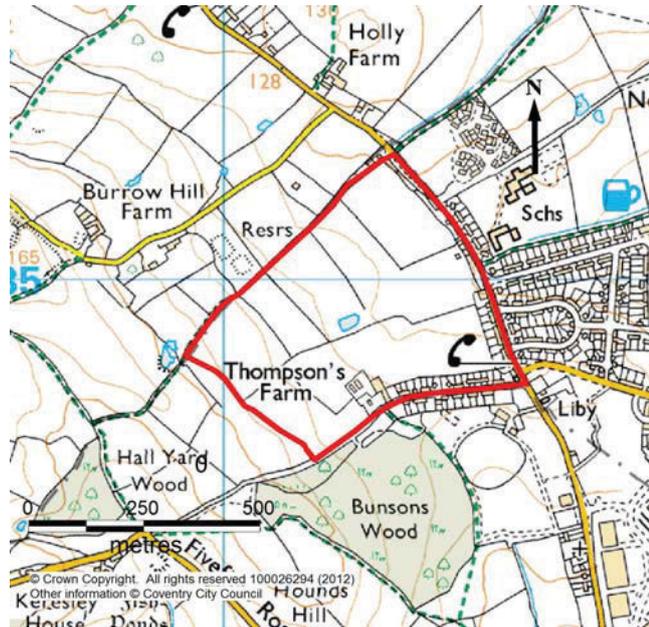
HLC Area 23

Location and Context

Character Area located on the northern fringe of Coventry. This is a rural area bordered by a residential development to the east but otherwise surrounded by agricultural fields.

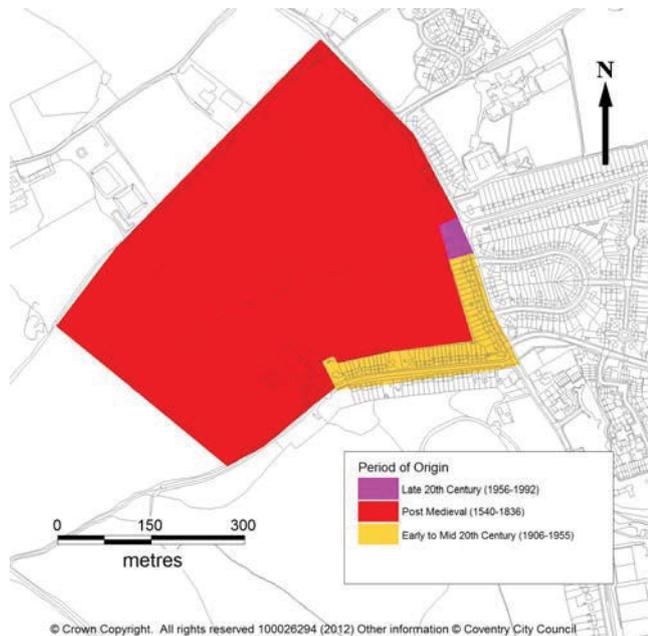
Heritage Designations in the Character Area

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
 Archaeological Constraint Areas: 0
 Listed Buildings: 0
 Locally Listed Buildings: 0
 Conservation Areas: 0
 Registered Parks and Gardens: 0



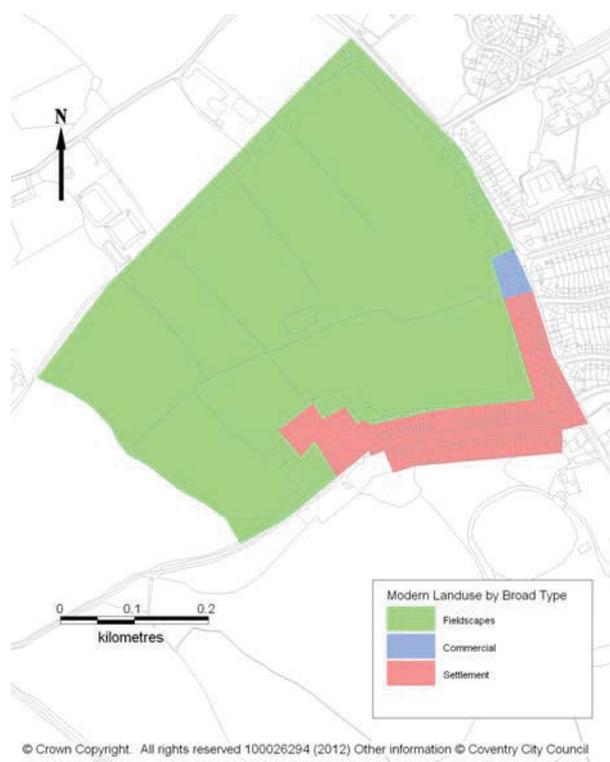
Historic Development

The earliest documentary evidence for the Character Area is the 1410 -11 Cartulary of St. Mary's Priory which records a wood in the west of the Character Area, an enclosed field in the south, and a house with four crofts or small enclosures in the east. Also recorded in the Cartulary is a road called Le Carterlane, which follows the same alignment as the current Thompson's Lane, and another road called Le Heynelane, which ran along the northern boundary of the Character Area and followed the alignment of the current footpath. At the time of the Keresley Tithe Survey in 1847 the wood was known as Thompson's Wood and the large enclosures had been sub-divided to create smaller fields. Le Carterlane had become Thompson's Lane, and Le Heynelane had become Hall Yard Lane. By 1888 Thompson's Wood had been cleared for use as a cultivated field. There was little change in the 20th century, apart from a 1930s ribbon development of housing along the east end of Thompson's Lane and Bennett's Road North.



Modern Character

The Character Area comprises small, enclosed fields. The fields are bounded by hedges, with veteran trees included within the hedgerow particularly in the east of the Character Area. Field boundaries in the west of the Character Area have a curving profile but the majority of internal boundaries are straight and date to the 18th and 19th Centuries. Hedgerows around the perimeter of the Character Area, however, are likely to date to the medieval period and can, therefore, be classed as 'ancient'. Only the perimeter of the Character Area is accessible by road or footpath. Despite the proximity of housing to the east the Character Area has a remote and rural atmosphere.



Entrance to Thompson's Lane, a medieval lane

Geology and Topography

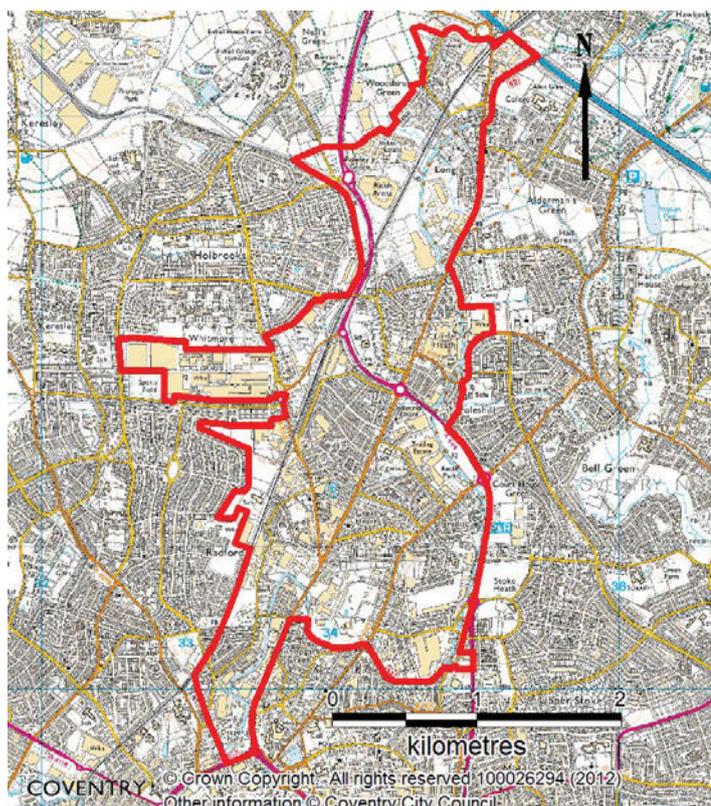
The Character Area overlies sandstone and mudstone. This area is one of the highest points in the locality, lying between 130m and 145m above sea level.

Foleshill Character Area**HLC Area 24****Location and Context**

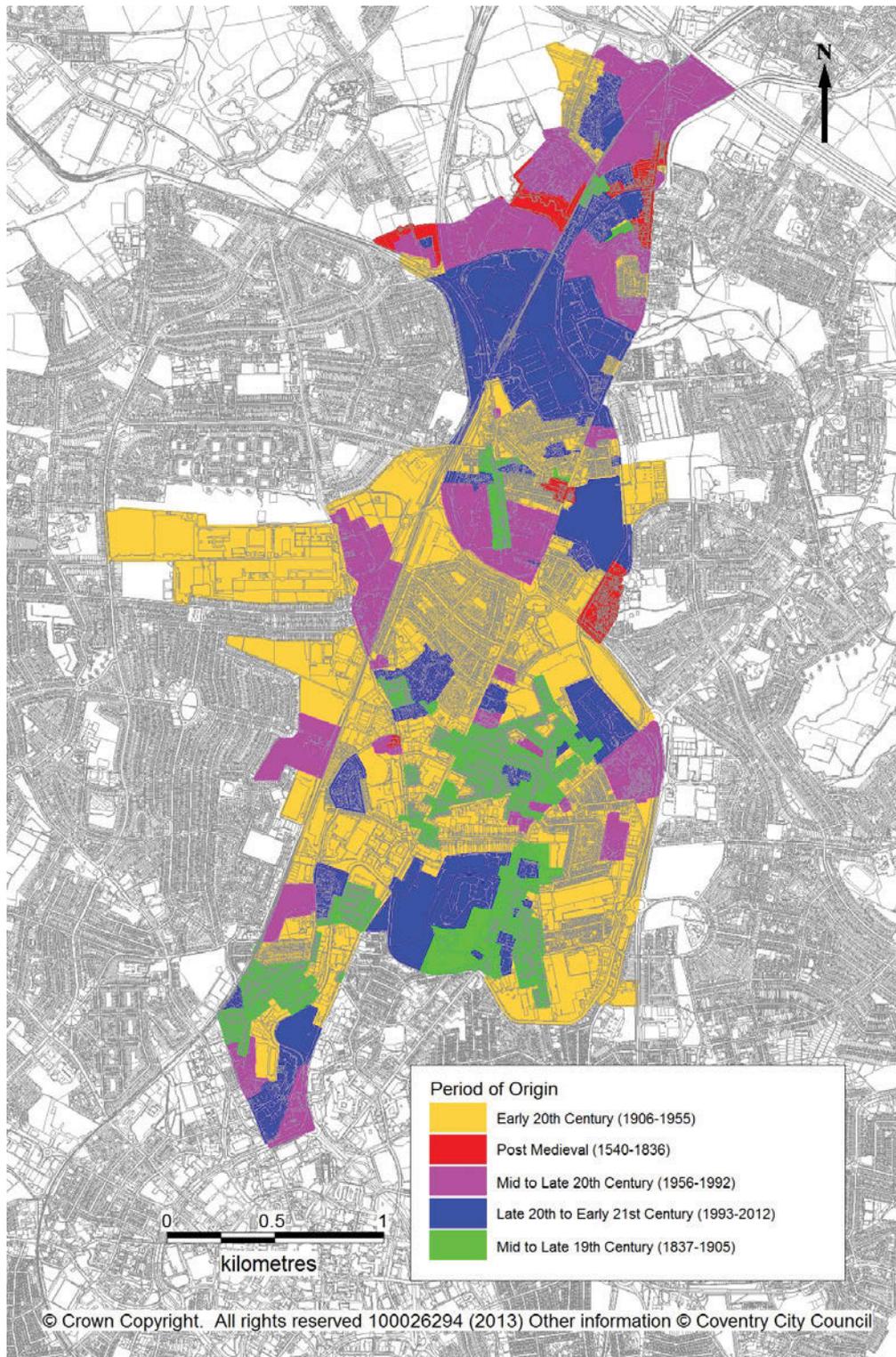
A mixed-use residential and industrial area to the north of the city centre. The Character Area follows the Coventry – Bedworth railway line and is sandwiched between areas of settlement. However, the predominant feature of the area and the reason for its industrial development is the Coventry Canal.

Legal Designations in the Area

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
 Archaeological Constraint Areas: 19
 Listed Buildings: 2
 Locally Listed Buildings: 31
 Conservation Areas: 1
 Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

**Historic Development**

Much of the Character Area falls within the ancient parish of Foleshill. During the medieval period there may have been an area of settlement in the Old Church Road/Spring Road area surrounded by the open field systems of Edgewick Field, Shaw Field, Three Well Field and Church Field. To the south was a large area of waste or common land called Great Heath and to the west another called Little Heath. Elsewhere in the Character Area at this time it is likely that there were enclosures and assarts. At the time of the Inclosure of the commons and open fields in 1775 the Inclosure Award described enclosed fields already in existence as 'ancient'.



In addition to changes to the landscape as a result of the Inclosure, the late 18th Century saw the building of the Coventry Canal through the Character Area and the turnpiking of the Foleshill and Stoney Stanton Roads which improved access to coal supplies to the north. Initially this had little impact for the city’s emerging trades of silk ribbon weaving and watchmaking. As the population grew, however, coalmining and the spread of the Coventry ribbon weaving industry into Foleshill resulted in the emergence of roadside squatter and

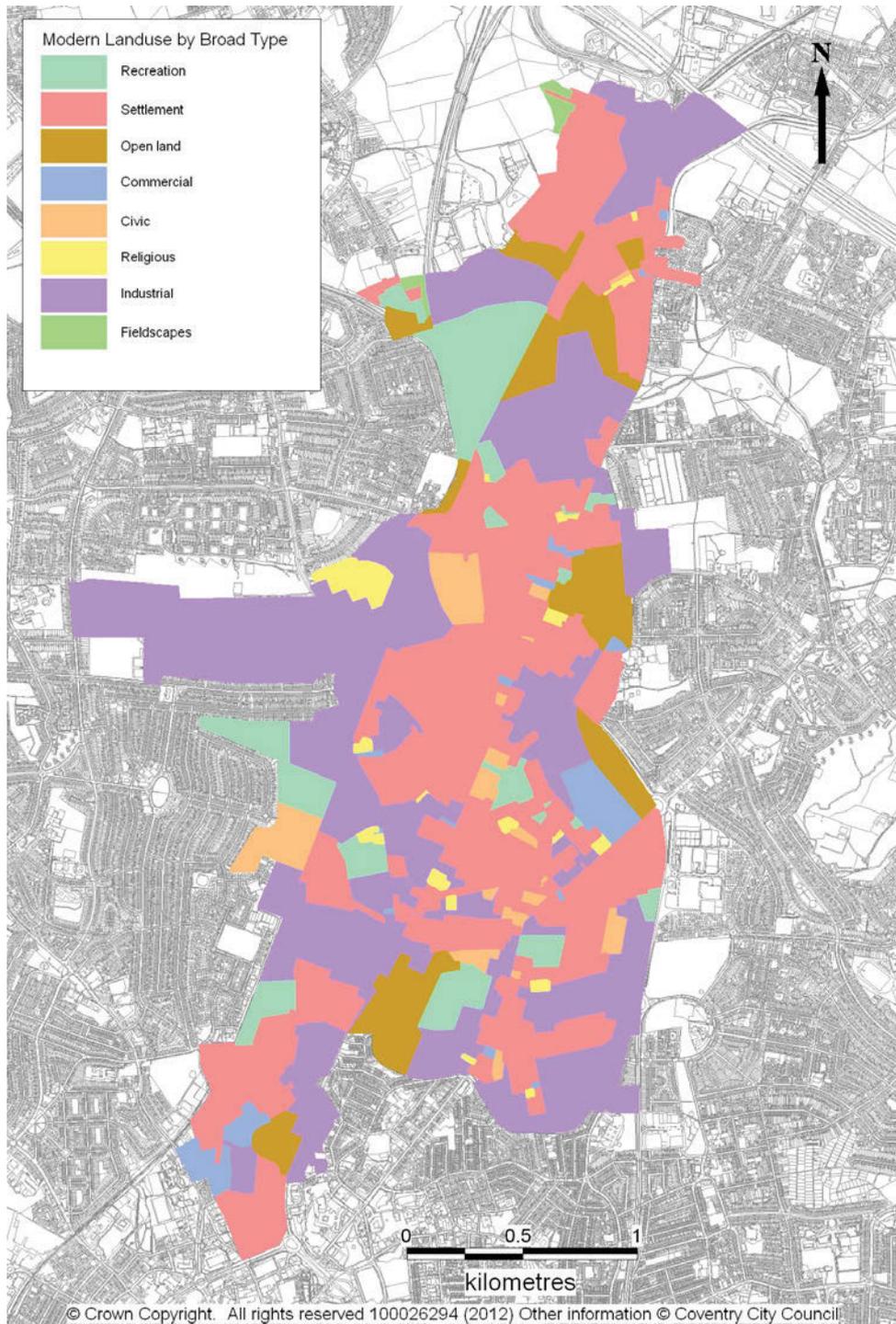
common land colonisation hamlets in the area. The enclosure of the extensive Foleshill heaths had also opened up new development possibilities for small communities strung alongside the newly defined turnpikes and enclosure roads and the new canals. The late ribbon weaving boom of the 1850's also intensified the sporadic roadside ribbon and squatter settlements developments across the enclosed heaths of Foleshill at Edgwick, Little Heath, Longford. New housing was also built as a result of an early building society movement, the Freehold Land Societies, which offered Coventry artisans the opportunity to leave the crowded city centre and buy available development land. Examples include houses on the north side of Red Lane that were built in about 1852. Communication links in the Character area were further improved with the opening of the Coventry and Nuneaton Branch Railway in 1850 and the tramway along Foleshill Road sometime before 1888.

The ribbon weaving industry collapsed in the 1860s but a second boom period ensued in the 1890s with the development of the cycle industry, which quickly morphed into the car industry. The population of Coventry exploded in the early 20th Century resulting in intensive house building in the Character Area and areas of Foleshill were quickly filled with the tightly built, absolutely regular streets of the narrow fronted, tunnel back terraced houses typical of the Midlands. The opening of the Midland Lime and Brickworks (later known as Websters) in the late 19th Century in south of the Character Area was probably driven by the demand for the building materials needed for large areas of new housing.

Industrialisation of the area continued into the early 20th Century with the building of the Coventry Corporation Gas Works between Rowley's Green and Little Heath between 1905 and 1913, the Coventry Ordnance Works on Red Lane from 1906, the expansion of the Daimler car factory on Sandy Lane, the development of Courtauld's rayon works and a decade later the Standard and Swallow Motor Works and Dunlop in the former First World War munitions factory at Whitmore Park. By 1936 the vast majority of the Character Area was built up with industrial buildings interspersed with housing for the workers.

The boom period came to an end in the 1970s and most new housing since then has been built on 'brownfield' sites, land made redundant by contracting industrialisation. A major redevelopment on brownfield land is the Ricoh Arena and Arena Park supermarket on the site of the former site of the gasworks at Rowley's Green. Elsewhere large areas of the Character Area lie derelict and awaiting re-development such as the former City Council Central Depot of the Foleshill Road, Websters Brickworks on the Stoney Stanton Road and the former Courtauld's Works at Little Heath.

Modern Character



A small area of pre-industrial housing survives along Spring Road. Housing in this area nestles in the meander of the canal and has a sense of seclusion from the rest of the Character Area. Settlement here is recorded on a 1699 map and the 1775 Inclosure Map depicts the cottages. The majority are small semi-detached houses and small terraces. These houses have a plain style although some have bay windows or decorative lintels.

Elsewhere there are areas of mid-19th Century housing associated with the ribbon weaving and watchmaking industries. The terraces have small house plots and small gardens to the rear. They have little or no set-back from the road and are built right up to the street corners. Their boundaries are defined by low brick walls and the roads on which they sit are straight and form a grid pattern. The pavements are narrow and there are a large number of cars parked on the streets. The houses have a uniformity of architectural style and materials which, together with the straight roads, creates channelled views. Decorative features including bay windows, recessed doorways and decorative terracotta on the roof eaves and on the door and window lintels break up the monotony of the brickwork. The Character Area still has an industrial feel to it and much of the area contains light industrial uses comprising warehouses, depots and offices which have developed gradually over time. Industry is first recorded on the 1888 Ordnance Survey and continued to develop to the end of the 20th century although there was a boom of industrial development at this location between 1905 and 1936. In general the more modern industrial buildings tend to be large, plain sheds although the piecemeal nature of development does provide some variation in shapes, sizes, building materials and style. The siting of the industrial buildings is 'unplanned' with pockets of industry integrated within areas of housing that are set between the corridors formed by the canal, the railway, the Foleshill Road and the Stoney Stanton Road.

Amenities such as shops, churches and schools are located within the residential areas. In general, neither the industrial nor the residential developments respect former features of the pre-industrial landscape. Across the character area there is a lack of open green space and trees.



Typical street scene of late 19th Century terraced houses Brooklyn Road.



The early 20th Century Challenge Cycle Works on Foleshill Road

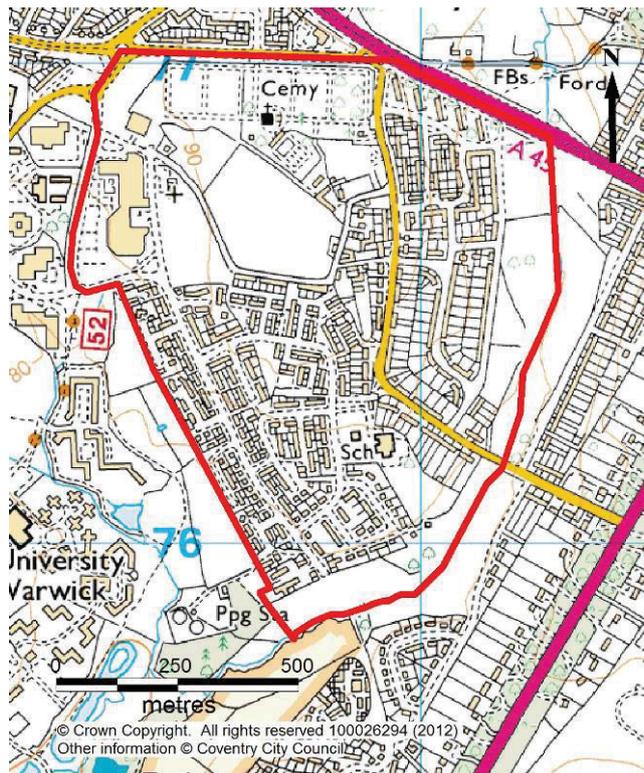
Much of the Coventry Canal Conservation Area is located within the Character Area and incorporates a number of important industrial buildings including those at the former electricity works at Sandy Lane and the Courtauld's buildings on Foleshill road, all of which have been converted for modern use.

Geology and Topography

The area overlies mudstone and sandstone. There is a drift geology comprising an alluvial deposit which follows the watercourses comprising of sand with clay and gravel. This is generally flat land between 95m and 100m above sea level.

Cannon Park Character Area**HLC Area 25****Location and Context**

Area of settlement located to the south west of the city centre. The character area is bounded by a Canley Brook to the east and Canley Ford to the north making this a self-contained area which is detached from the settlement surrounding it. The University of Warwick is present to the west of the character area.

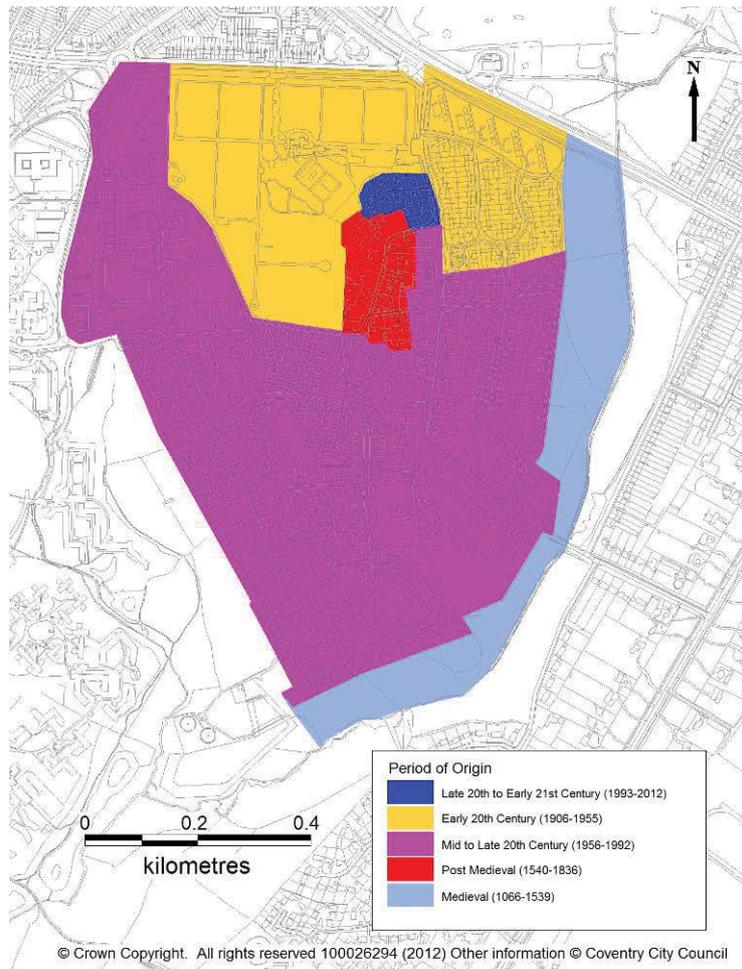
**Heritage Designations in the Area**

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
 Archaeological Constraint Areas: 1
 Listed Buildings: 5
 Locally Listed Buildings: 1
 Conservation Areas: 1
 Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

Historic Development

The hamlet of Canley on Ivy Farm Lane has its origins in the medieval period and was surrounded by three open fields called West Field, Little Field and Mickerfield with a medieval moated manor house just outside the Character Area to the northwest. The open fields had been enclosed by the end of the 16th Century and a well-established network of winding lanes ran through the area.

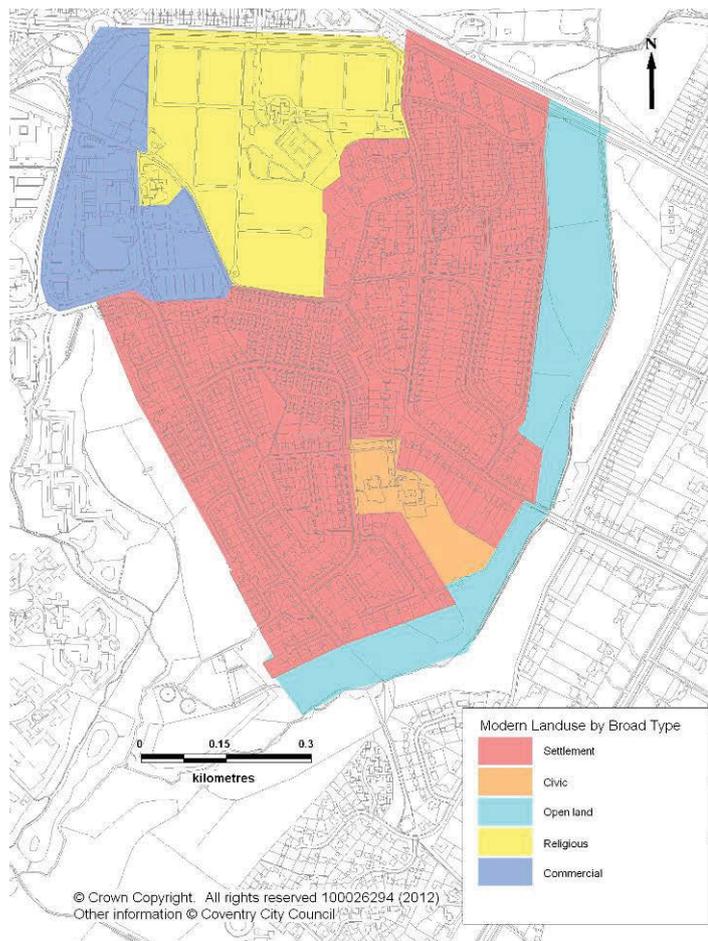
This landscape of agricultural fields with the hamlet at its centre remained relatively unchanged until the late 1940's when development commenced with the creation of Canley Cemetery in the north of the Character Area with house building following to the south in the early 1950s. The remainder of the Character Area was developed with housing and associated amenities throughout the 1960s and 1970s.



Modern Character

There are many amenities in the character area including a school, church, crematorium, cemetery and shops. On the whole these amenities are present on the edge of the settlement, largely clustered together to the north, rather than integrated with the housing. The majority of housing comprises small detached, semi-detached and terraced properties all with small gardens to the front and rear which were built in the mid to late 20th century. However a small hamlet of much older, rural buildings is also present in the centre of the character area. The focal point of this hamlet, which has Conservation Area status, is a group of listed buildings associated with Ivy Farm and Canley Hall Farm. In general, however, this area is characterised by suburban settlement on long, irregular, curved streets with some cul de sacs which were later developed on former agricultural land. Shultern Lane, Ivy Farm Lane, Cannocks Lane and Cannon Hill Road were all in existence by the late

16th century. Shultern Lane is bordered by veteran trees and elsewhere in the area there are several boundaries lying on the same alignment as those depicted on the 1597 Map of Hurst, Canley and Fletchamstead which are remnants of the pattern of enclosed fields from this period. Nearly all of the pavements have grass verges and some trees are present either on street corners or planted in the verges. The sense of space is furthered by the lack of fencing, walls or hedges between front gardens and the pavement, with property boundaries distinguished from the pavement only by lawns or a change of paving. All of the properties have garages so the streets are also clear of parked cars. The style of housing is fairly plain. Houses are constructed of red brick with slate roofs and have few decorative features. The Canon Park shopping centre to the west of the area with its large areas of surface car parking contrasts sharply with the rest of the area.

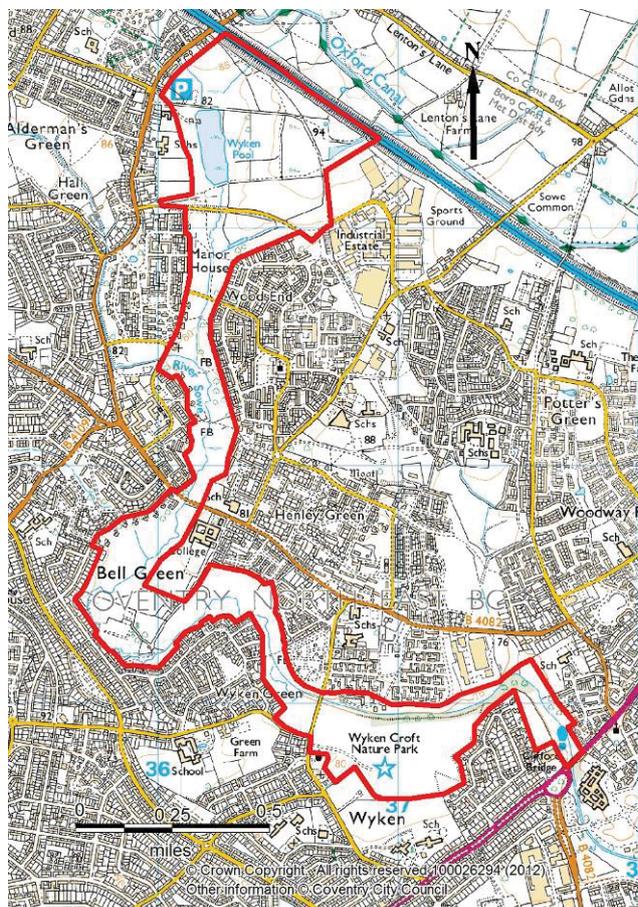


Geology and Topography

This area overlies argillaceous rock (rock formed from clay deposits) and sandstone. Along the water course is a drift geology comprising of sand with clay and gravel. The area slopes gently towards the south from 90m to 80m above sea level.



View down Ivy Farm Lane

North Sowe Character Area**HLC Area 26****Location and Context**

The Sowe River Valley is located to the east of Coventry. It has been divided into two Character Areas as the complete course of the river runs all the way from Wyken Slough Nature Reserve in the northern fringe of Coventry to the Stonebridge Highway in the south. North Sowe Character Area passes through Aldermans Green, Wood End, Bell Green, Henley Green and Walsgrave. The Character Area is almost completely surrounded by residential properties. To the north, it is bordered by the M6.

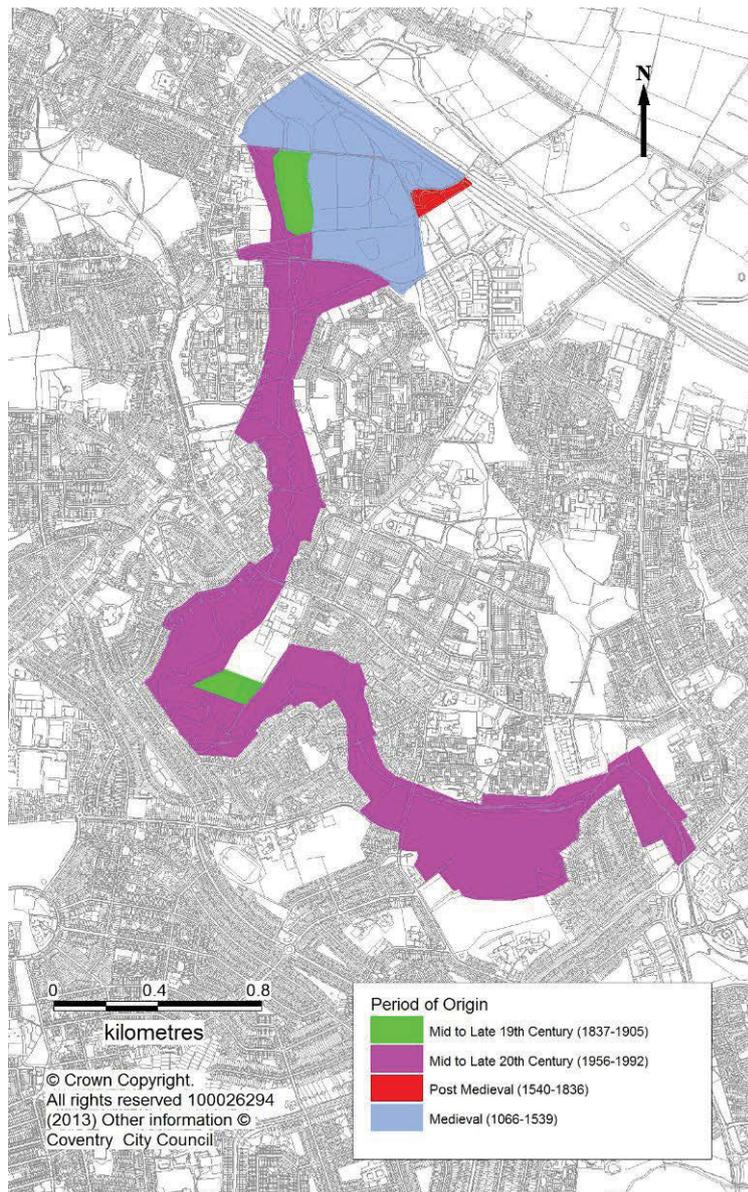
Heritage Designations in the Character Area

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
 Archaeological Constraint Areas: 14
 Listed Buildings: 0
 Locally Listed Buildings: 0
 Conservation Areas: 0
 Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

Historic Development

The earliest archaeological evidence in the Character Area comes from two medieval moated sites. Hawkesbury Moat is located in the north of the Character Area and has partially surviving earthworks. Another medieval moated site is located to the east of Henley Mill Lane. No documentary evidence for this site has yet come to light but the feature it is clearly visible as a cropmark on a 2005 aerial photograph and survives as a substantial earthwork. To the north of Parry Road is the location of Henley Mill, first recorded in the early 14th century. The mill ceased use in 1884 and was subsequently demolished but a building to its north of late 19th Century date still survives.

St. Mary's Priory Cartulary of 1410-11 records the Hawkesbury Estate in the north of the Character Area. This comprised the moated manor house already mentioned, a wood and several large enclosed fields whose boundaries still survive as hedgerows, preserving this medieval field pattern. Immediately to the south was Lady Lane, which survived into the 20th Century but can now only be discerned by two parallel hedgerows.



16th Century changes to the landscape saw the opening of Wyken Colliery in the north east of the Character Area. The Wyken Colliery Branch Line which ran through the north of the Character Area was opened in 1848. The colliery had become disused by 1905 and the branch line was eventually removed by the mid-1930s. Wyken Pool in the north of the Character Area is believed to have been formed in about 1860 as a result of mining subsidence. The 1775 enclosure award and late 18th century estate surveys record that at this time the Character Area comprised entirely of small, enclosed fields. The enclosure award also records Henley Mill Lane as a Toll Road and an unnamed road which follows the alignment of the current Henley Road. The 1925 Ordnance Survey Map records a sewage works located to the east of Henley Mill Lane but by 1967 it had been replaced by allotment gardens which are still present today.

Overall, very little change takes place in the Character Area in the 20th century. In the north the M6 was built in the early 1970s. Wyken Croft Nature Park was landscaped in the 1980s to provide a nature park and habitat for wildlife and the river valley took on its present recreational land use around the same time as the surrounding housing estates were built.

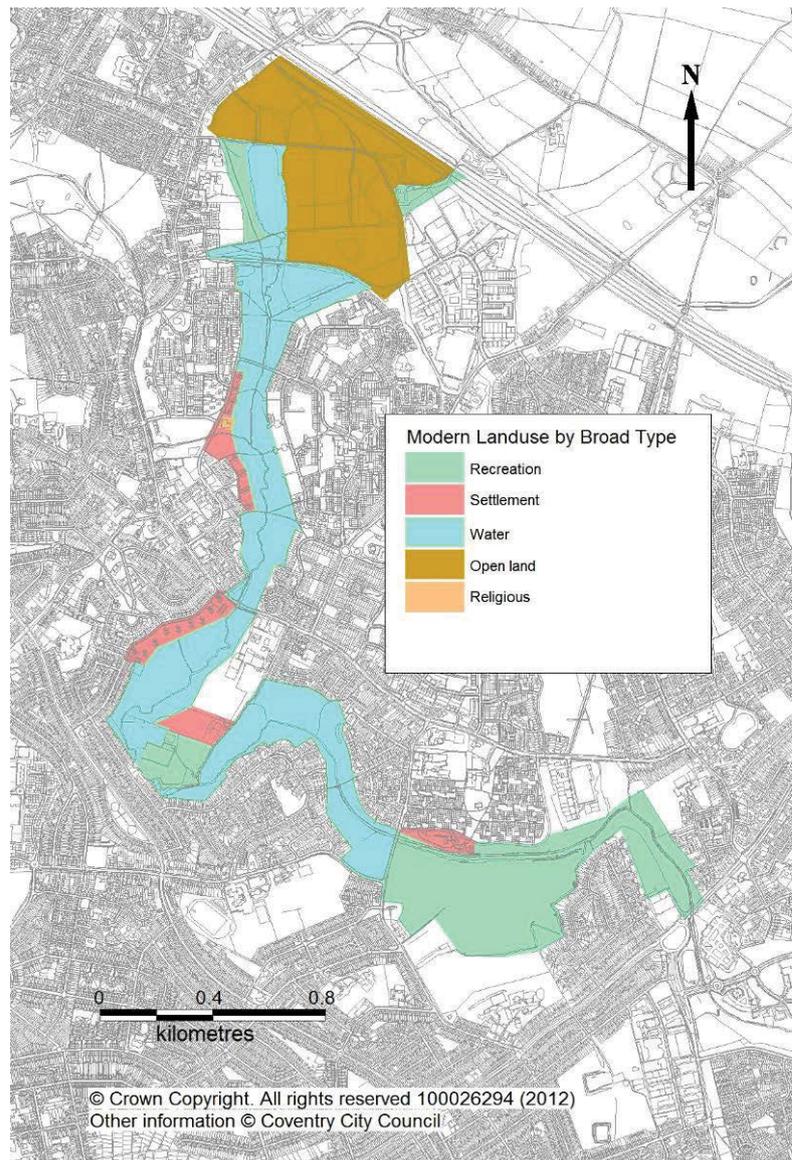
Modern Character

The Character Area includes two reserves known as Wyken Slough Local Nature Reserve to the north, and Wyken Croft Nature Park to the south. Both these areas comprise large open green spaces with trees and have good footpath access. Wyken Pool located in the Wyken Slough Local Nature Reserve is the largest expanse of water in Coventry. This is an important area for nature conservation as the rough grassland, scrub and marsh near the Pool supports a variety of wildlife.

In addition, this area contains the archaeological remains of Hawkesbury Moat and the remains of its surrounding medieval field pattern created by ancient hedgerows. In Wyken Croft Nature Park, areas of hawthorn have been planted to attract and support wildlife. The two reserves are joined by a narrow, green corridor created by the river floodplain and the whole of the Character Area can be accessed by a continuous river side walk called the Sowe Valley Footpath. Housing, including areas of tower blocks, and amenities including schools and allotment gardens impinge along both sides of the river floodplain. Consequently, this area of large open green space is active and noisy.

Geology and Topography

The Character Area overlies sandstone with alluvium and river terrace deposits of sand with clay and gravel. Coal deposits are present in the north. The majority of the Character Area lies at 80m above sea level. There is a gradual rise to the north of the Character Area from 80m above sea level to 95m.



Cross Point Character Area

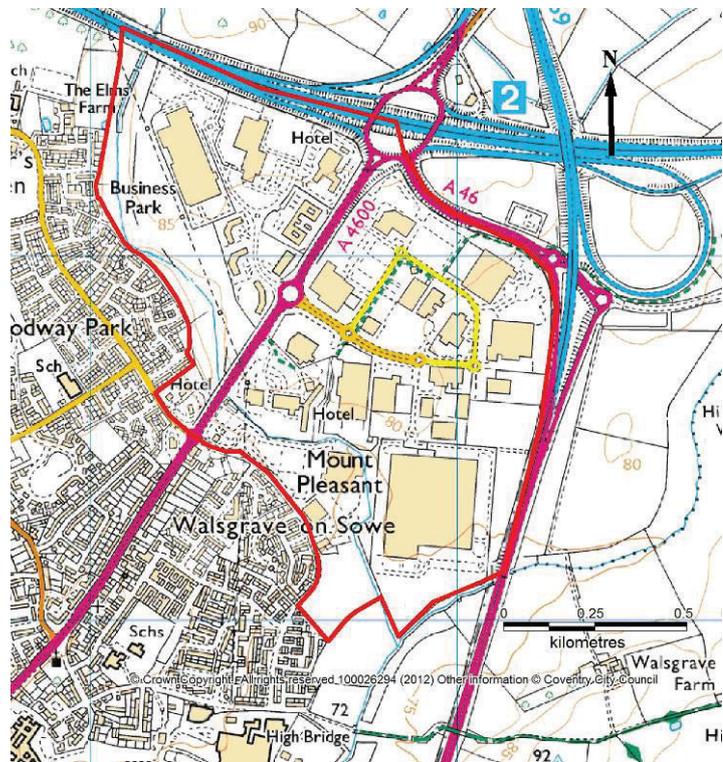
HLC Area 27

Location and Context

Mixed use business and light industrial area located on the eastern fringe of the Coventry border with some retail and leisure facilities. The character area is sandwiched between residential housing and agricultural fields over the Warwickshire/Coventry border. The predominant feature in this location is its proximity to the M6 junction.

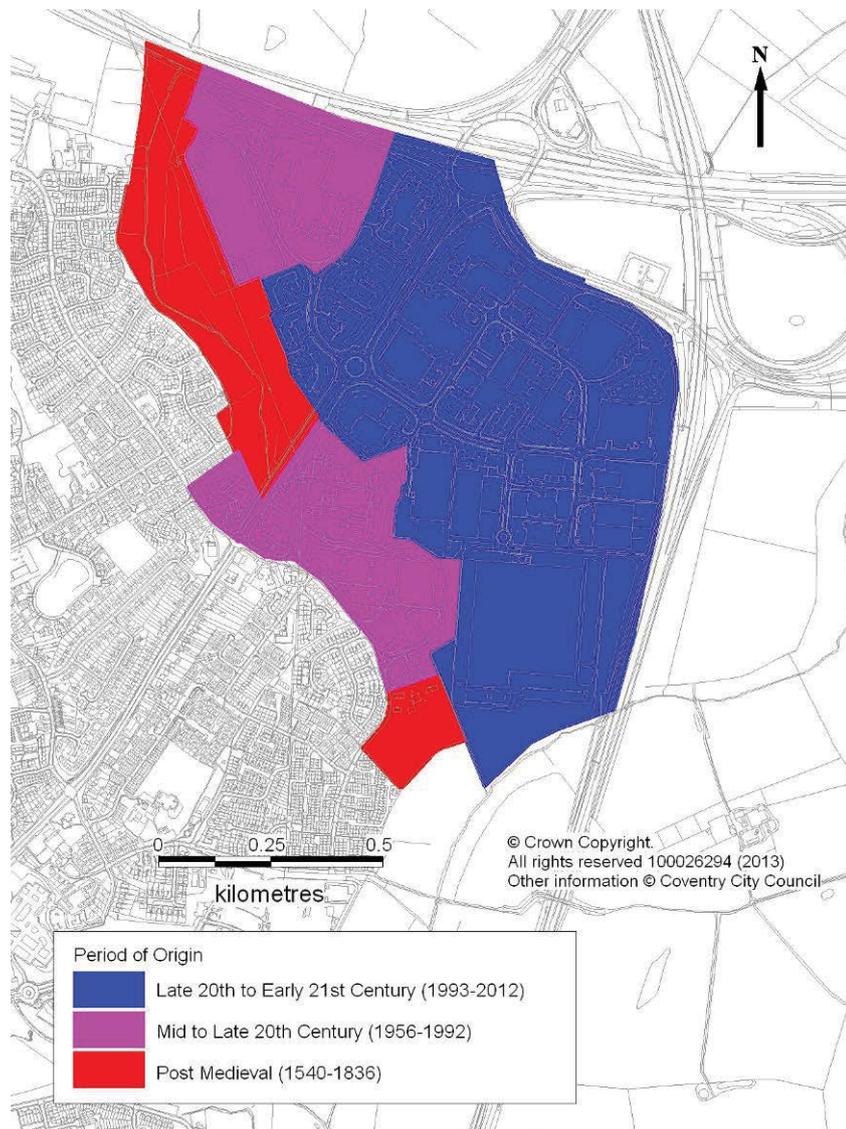
Heritage Designations in the Area

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
 Archaeological Constraint Areas: 0
 Listed Buildings: 0
 Locally Listed Buildings: 1
 Conservation Areas: 0
 Registered Parks and Gardens: 0



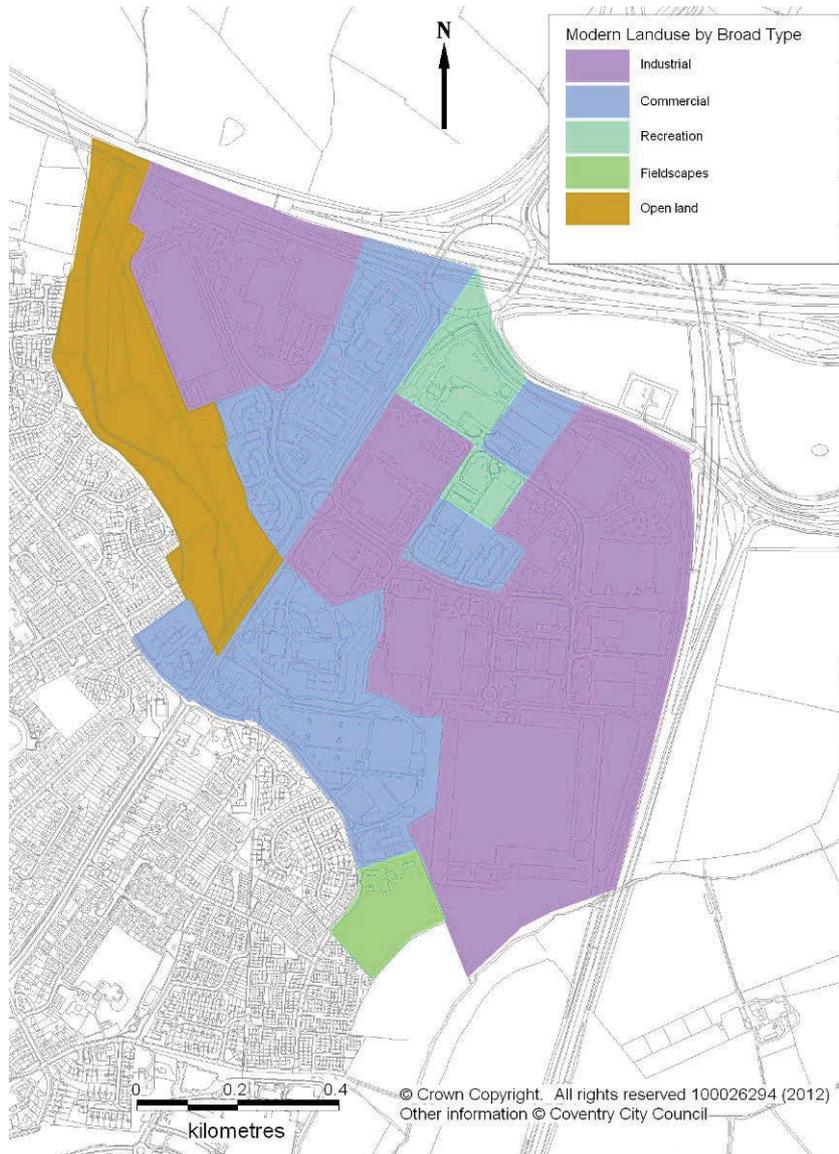
Historic Development

During the medieval period much of this area was covered by two open fields called Middle Field and Ansty Field. The most northern part of the area was unenclosed common. The open fields were enclosed in 1756 and by the mid-19th Century the larger enclosures had been further subdivided and a farmstead later known as Lodge Farm, had been built at the centre. This agricultural landscape remained unchanged well into the 20th Century but between 1980 and 1992 an area in the north and one in the southwest were developed for use as a business park and commercial use respectively. The following decade saw the development of the remainder of the area to the east largely as an industrial estate. At the northwest edge of the Character Area there is a tract of open land which contains remnants of the 19th Century field pattern with several hedgerows present.



Modern Character

Offices and warehouses rapidly developed in the late 20th century on former agricultural fields. The development does not reflect any former boundaries although a tract of open land at the northwest edge of the Character Area contains remnants of the 19th Century field pattern with several hedgerows present. The street plan consists of long, curving roads linked by a large number of roundabouts. The warehouses are large, square-shaped, single storey buildings, of varying size but constructed with similar building materials. The office buildings are built of brick and have large windows. The development is planned with ample space for car parking around the buildings. All the roads have wide grass verges with landscaped trees and shrubs. The area is only accessible by car and there is poor pedestrian access within the character area.





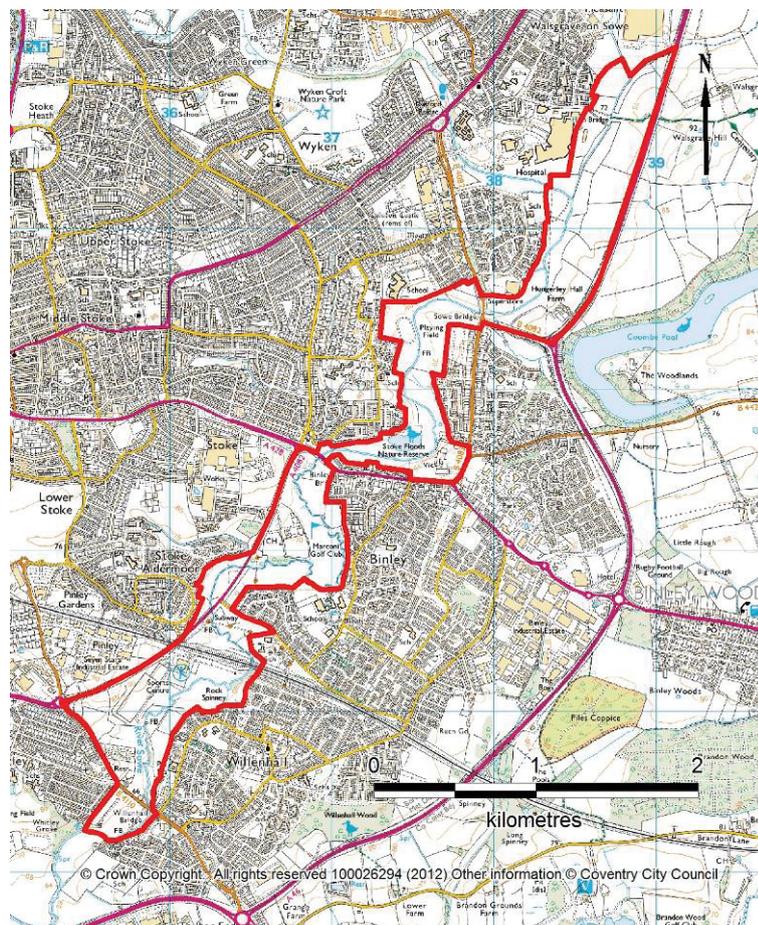
Typical office and warehouse buildings at Cross Point Business Park

Geology and Topography

This area overlies mudstone. There is a drift geology comprising an alluvial deposit which follows the watercourse consisting of sand with clay and gravel. There is a very gradual downwards slope from the north of the character area which is about 85m above sea level to 75m to the south of the character area.

South Sowe Character Area**HLC Area 28****Location and Context**

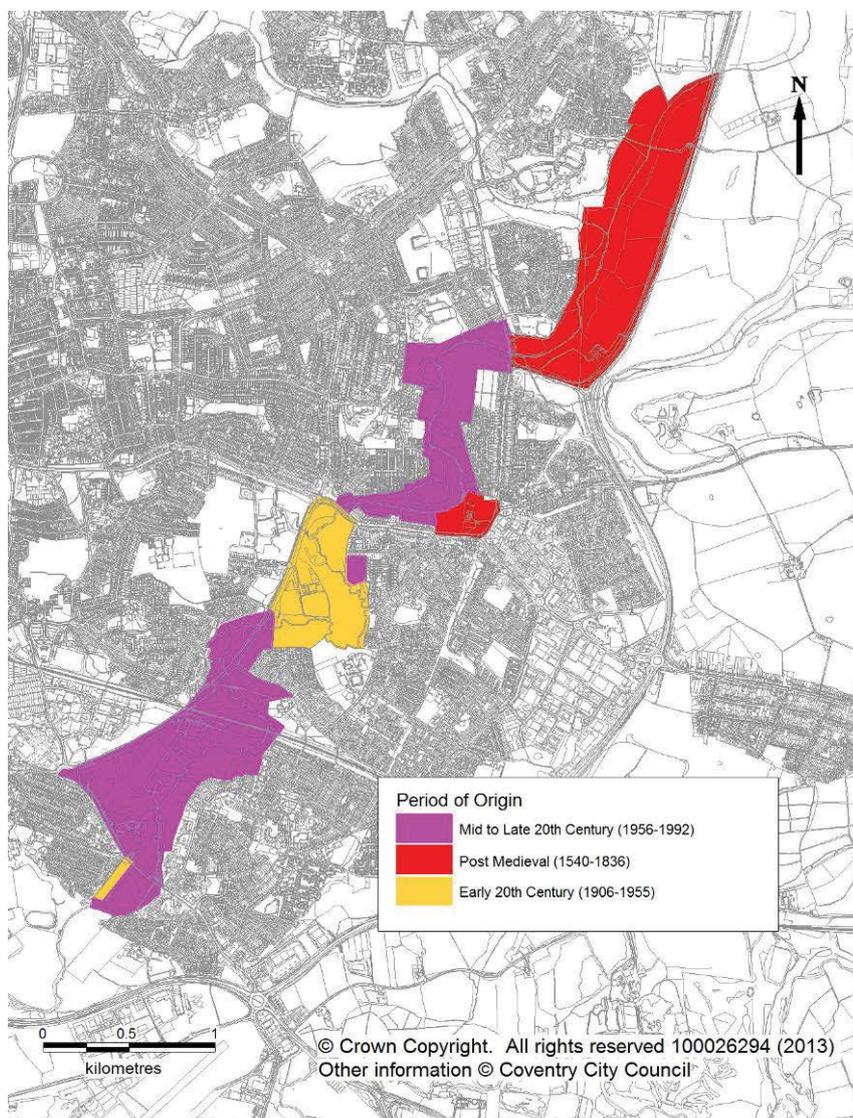
The Sowe River Valley is located in the east of Coventry. The Sowe Valley has been divided into two Character Areas because the complete course of the river runs all the way from Wyken Slough Nature Reserve in the north fringe of Coventry to the Stonebridge Highway to the south. South Sowe Character Area passes through Clifford Park, Wyken, Ernesford Grange, Binley, Stoke, Willenhall and Whitley. The Character Area is almost entirely surrounded by residential areas, with the exception of the north east boundary which borders on the A46 dual carriage way. The West Coast main railway line passes through the southern part of the Character Area.

**Heritage Designations in the Character Area**

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
 Archaeological Constraint Areas: 6
 Listed Buildings: 5
 Locally Listed Buildings: 1
 Conservation Areas: 0
 Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

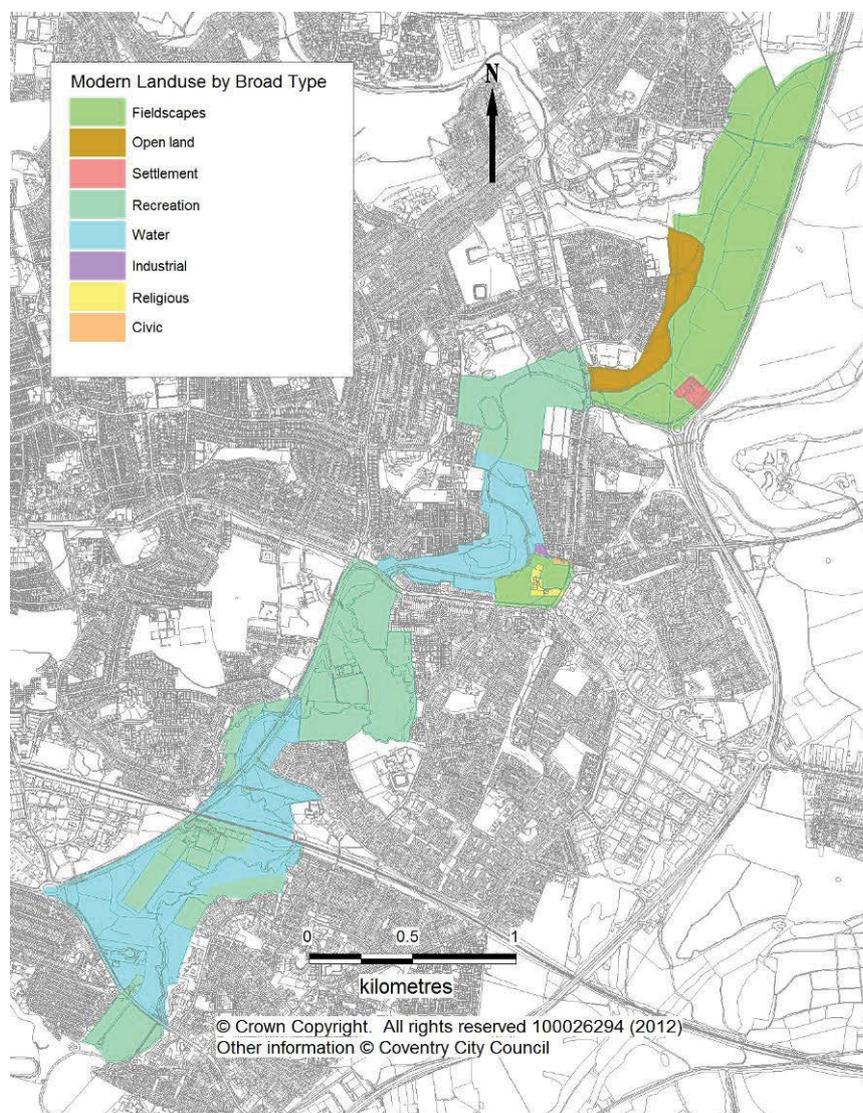
Historic Development

This area of land has, as far as it is possible to tell, always largely been open in character. Documentary evidence indicates that in the medieval period, much of the Character Area was part of the Sowe and Stoke open field systems and common meadows. The open fields were enclosed in the south of the Character Area in 1655 and to the north in 1756 and, as well as the Inclosure Awards, estate maps indicate that by the late 18th century the majority of the Character Area comprised small, enclosed fields. Towards the middle of the Character Area archaeological evidence indicates the shrunken medieval village of Binley north of St Bartholomew's Church. There is no associated documentary evidence to support this, but earthworks were noted during a 2005 site visit and are probably the precursor to the area of settlement that is recorded here on the Craven Estate map of 1746. The same map records a road called Red Lane which follows the same alignment as the current Farber Road. Binley Corn Mill, to the north of St Bartholomew's Church is recorded in 1746 but was probably of medieval origin. The mill was disused by 1925 and last recorded on the 1967 Ordnance Survey. Other notable buildings in the Character Area include the Church of St. Bartholomew and the associated vicarage which date to the late 18th century.



Following the enclosure of the open fields there were relatively few changes to the landscape until the London North Western Railway cut through the southern part of the Character Area in 1838. In the 20th century large areas of the remaining agricultural land were converted to leisure facilities and playing fields and these are still present. In 1925 sports grounds to the east of Second Avenue were developed which, by 1955, had expanded to include a golf course. Allotment gardens are also recorded on the 1955 Ordnance Survey in the south of the Character Area. Another sports ground located to the east of Quinn Close had been created by 1967. Other 20th Century development included Whitley Pumping Station which was developed by 1905 to the north of Seven Stars Farm. It was decommissioned in the late 20th century. A sewage works was also built by 1925 to the east of Yew Close and demolished in the late 20th century. The most recent significant development was the building of the A46 in the late 20th Century, which runs alongside the northern part of the Character Area.

Modern Character



The Character Area includes Stoke Floods Local Nature Reserve. The lake at the Reserve is the second largest expanse of water in Coventry formed by mining subsidence due to workings at the former Binley Colliery. The lake is surrounded by managed reed beds which support important wildlife habitats. The north of the Character Area comprises large, irregular-shaped agricultural fields bounded by hedgerows creating a field pattern that was laid out at the time of the Sowe Inclosure in the mid-18th Century. In the south of the Character Area some of the hedgerow boundaries date to the mid-17th Century. Playing fields associated

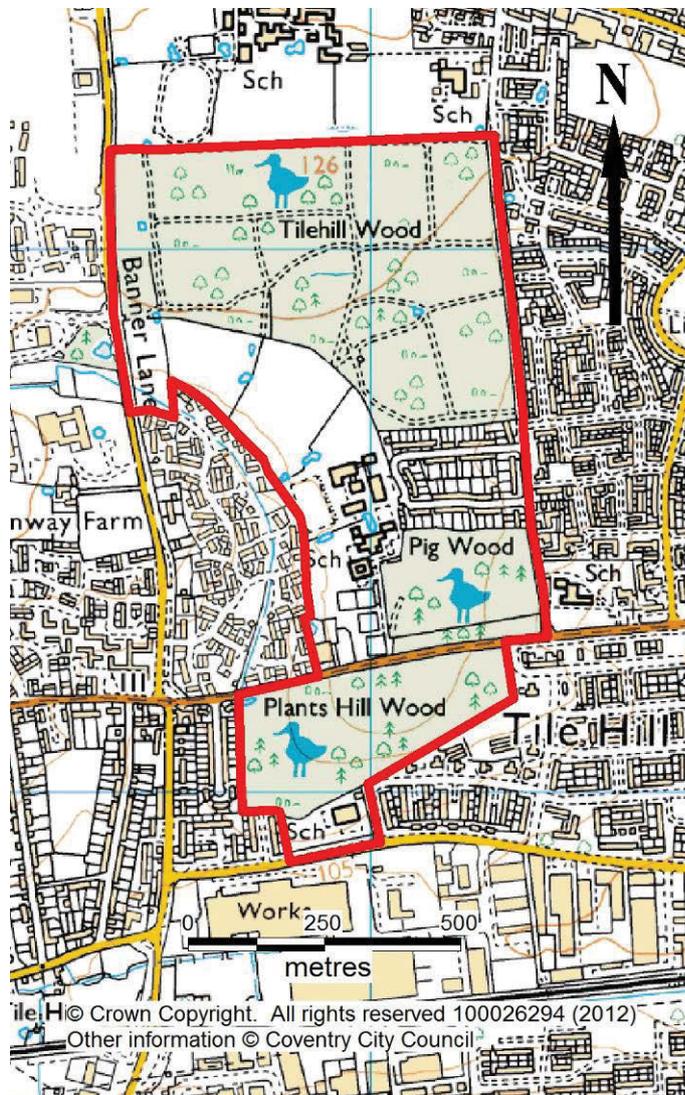
with Caludon Castle School are located to the west of Clifford Bridge Road. Further south the landscape changes to scrubland in the nature reserve. Numerous leisure facilities are located to the south of the nature reserve including a golf course and two sports centres with football pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens and allotment gardens. The length of the Character Area can be accessed by the Sowe Valley Footpath. Despite being an area of large, open, green space, this is an area of great activity due to the proximity of residential areas, including schools, and access to popular leisure facilities.



Open green space along the Sowe Valley footpath

Geology and Topography

The Character Area overlies mudstone to the north and sandstone to the south. Throughout there are alluvium and terrace deposits of sand and gravel. There are also coal deposits in the area, which lies between 70m and 75m above sea level.

Tile Hill Wood Character Area**HLC Area 29****Location and Context**

This Character Area is located to the west of Coventry city centre. It is an area of ancient woodland including Tile Hill Wood, Pig Wood and Plants Hill Wood. The Character Area also includes two schools and a small area of housing and is bordered by industry to the south and residential areas on all other sides.

Heritage Designations in the Character Area

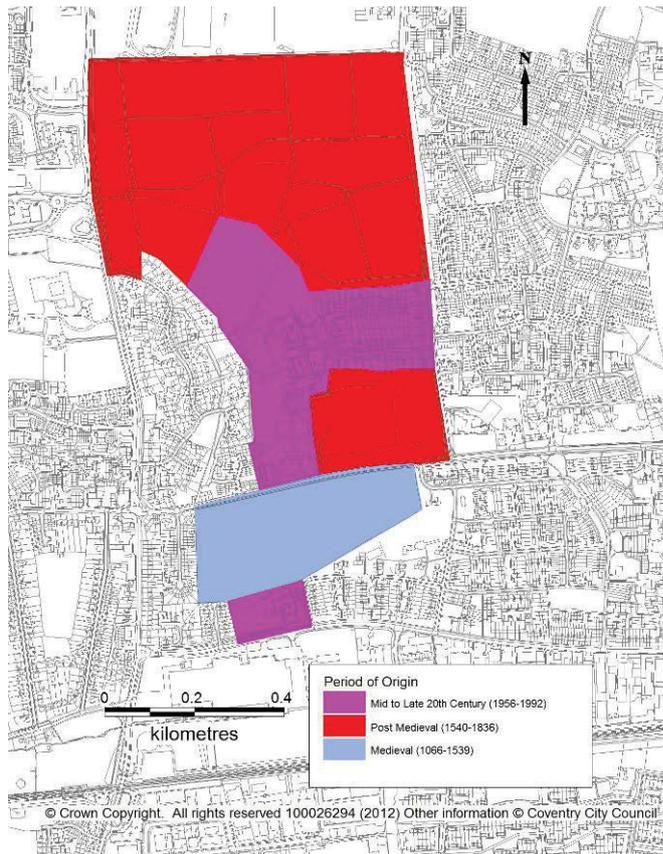
Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
 Archaeological Constraint Areas: 4
 Listed Buildings: 0
 Locally Listed Buildings: 0
 Conservation Areas: 0
 Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

Historic Development

This area is recorded on a 1597 estate map at which time the land to the north of Tile Hill Lane fell within a very large enclosed field. To the south of

Tile Hill Lane there was a wooded area recorded as Cromes Tyle Wood, which is the current Plants Hill Wood. Also recorded in 1597 was an unnamed road which follows the same alignment as the current Hawthorne Lane.

By 1766 Tile Hill Wood, Pig Wood and Plants Hill Wood all existed and a number of boundaries within Tile Hill Wood are depicted on the estate map of this date, many of which still exist today. Tile Hill Wood has been classed as ancient woodland by the Nature Conservancy Council. To the south, enclosed fields were recorded in the location of the current school and housing in 1766, as well as an unnamed road which follows the same alignment as the current Banner Lane.



There was little change in the Character Area from the late 18th Century until Tile Hill Wood School and the residential development at Nutbrook Avenue were built in the 1960s. An enclosure immediately north of the school became a playing field but this, and the enclosures to the north, still retain their hedgerow boundaries which date to between 1597 and 1766.

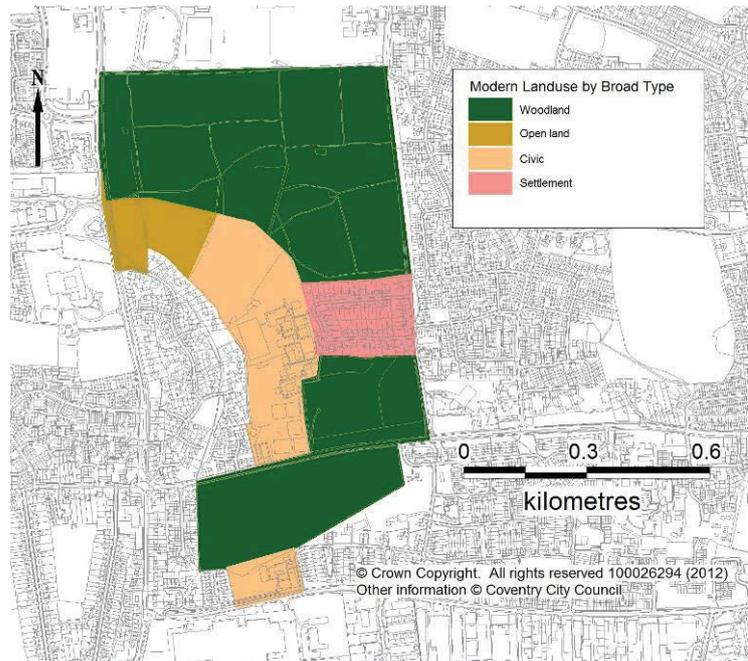
Modern Character

The Character Area predominantly comprises ancient woodland surrounded by compact housing. There is good access to the woodland by numerous footpaths making this an area of activity rather than isolation. There are also two schools present within the Character Area and another located on its north boundary.



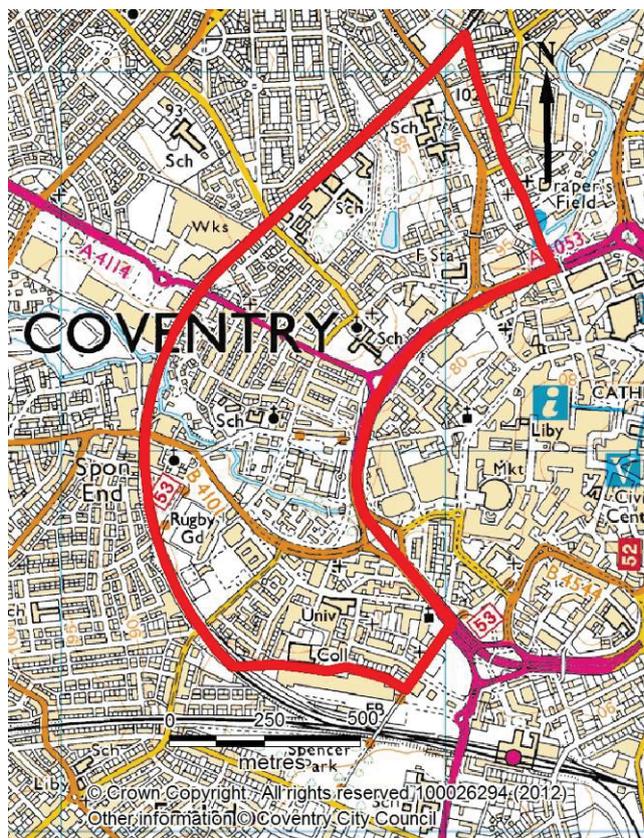
Entrance to Tile Hill Wood

A small area of residential development to the east of the Character Area consists of small detached and semi-detached houses. All of the houses have front gardens with driveways and gardens to the rear and most have garages. There is little variation in the architectural style of the red-brick housing which is very plain. The front of the houses is bordered by low brick walls often with privet hedges. The roads and pavements are narrow with no trees or grass verges although there is very little on road parking.



Geology and Topography

The Character Area overlies sandstone. This is a relatively flat area lying between 120m and 125m above sea level.

Spon End Character Area**HLC Area 30****Location and Context**

Character Area is sandwiched between the Coventry-Bedworth railway line and the western section of Coventry's inner ring road. The Character Area is predominantly residential with many amenities including a number of schools.

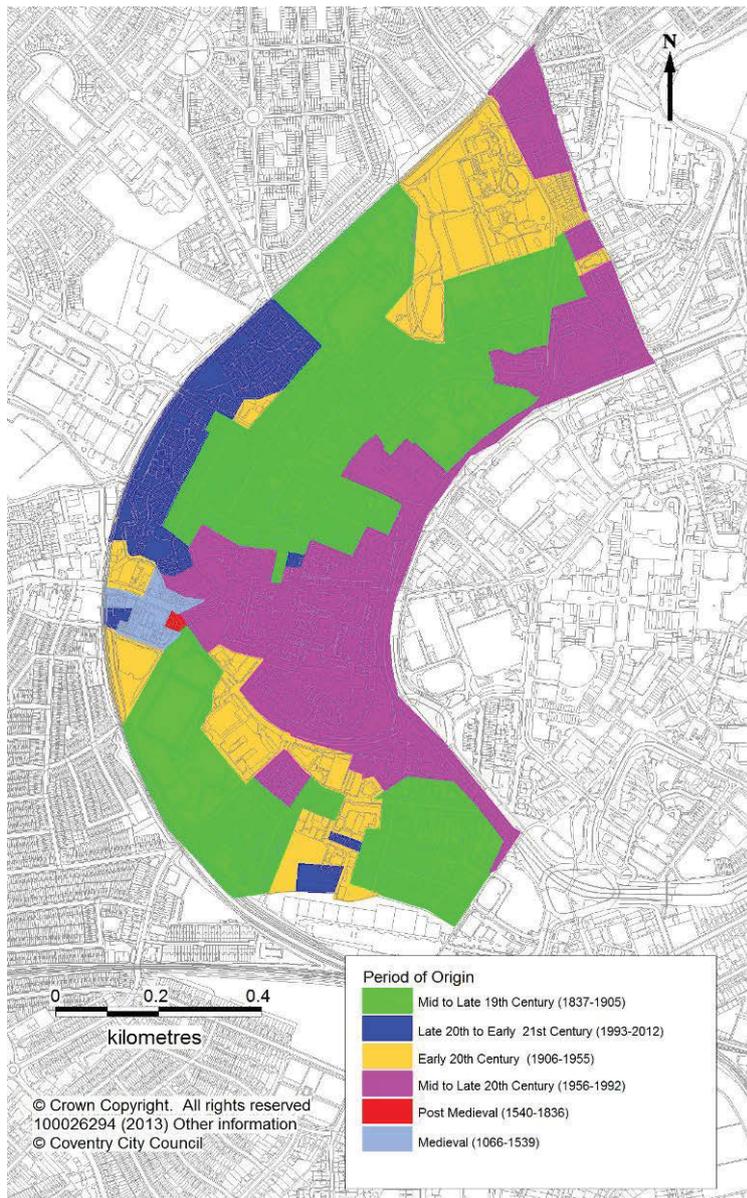
Heritage Designations in the Character Area

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 1
 Archaeological Constraint Areas: 14
 Listed Buildings: 10
 Locally Listed Buildings: 40
 Conservation Areas: 3
 Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

Historic Development

There may have been some occupation of this area during the Saxon period and archaeological evidence points to coppicing of woodland to the east of the Character Area during this period. By the late medieval period Spon End, Upper Spon Street and Spon Street had become one of the principal routes to and from the city. Plots of land by the roadside were developed and several 15th Century listed timber framed buildings still remain today despite extensive redevelopment, as well as the remains of the 14th Century Chapel of St. James and St. Christopher. Significant medieval buildings which have not survived include an inn called 'The Cock' or 'Sign of the Unicorn' which was probably constructed in the 15th century and was demolished between 1936-1949, and a mill dating to at least the 15th century. Burton's Mill was located where the River Sherbourne passes by Upper Spon Street. Another medieval mill, known as Hill Mill and Naul's Mill, was located in the north of the Character Area on the Radford Brook. This was a fulling mill and dated from the 12th century. It was demolished between 1888 and 1905 but gives its name to the Conservation Area that covers this part of the city. Other settlement evidence comes from documentary references to Crow Moat, a moated manor house which was located north of The Butts. It was still occupied in 1416 but may have gone out of use by the mid-16th Century.

Documentary evidence indicates that by the 16th Century, if not earlier, much of the land to the north and south of Spon End was enclosed. Apart from the redevelopment of building



plots along Spon Street and Spon End, the landscape probably changed very little until the 19th Century. At this time there was rapid expansion of the city due to the success of the ribbon weaving and watchmaking industries. The 1849 Tithe Survey of the parishes of St. Michael and Holy Trinity describes much of the eastern third of the Character Area as 'land within the town', suggesting that it was settlement by this date. The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1:2,500 scale) of 1888 which depicts terraced housing, including new development along Radford Road, Radford Street, Middleborough Street and Grosvenor Road, and some amenities such as schools and cricket pitches. Much of the land in the west of the Character Area remained agricultural. Between the late 19th Century and 1914 these areas were gradually in-filled with streets of terraced housing to house workers in the emerging cycle

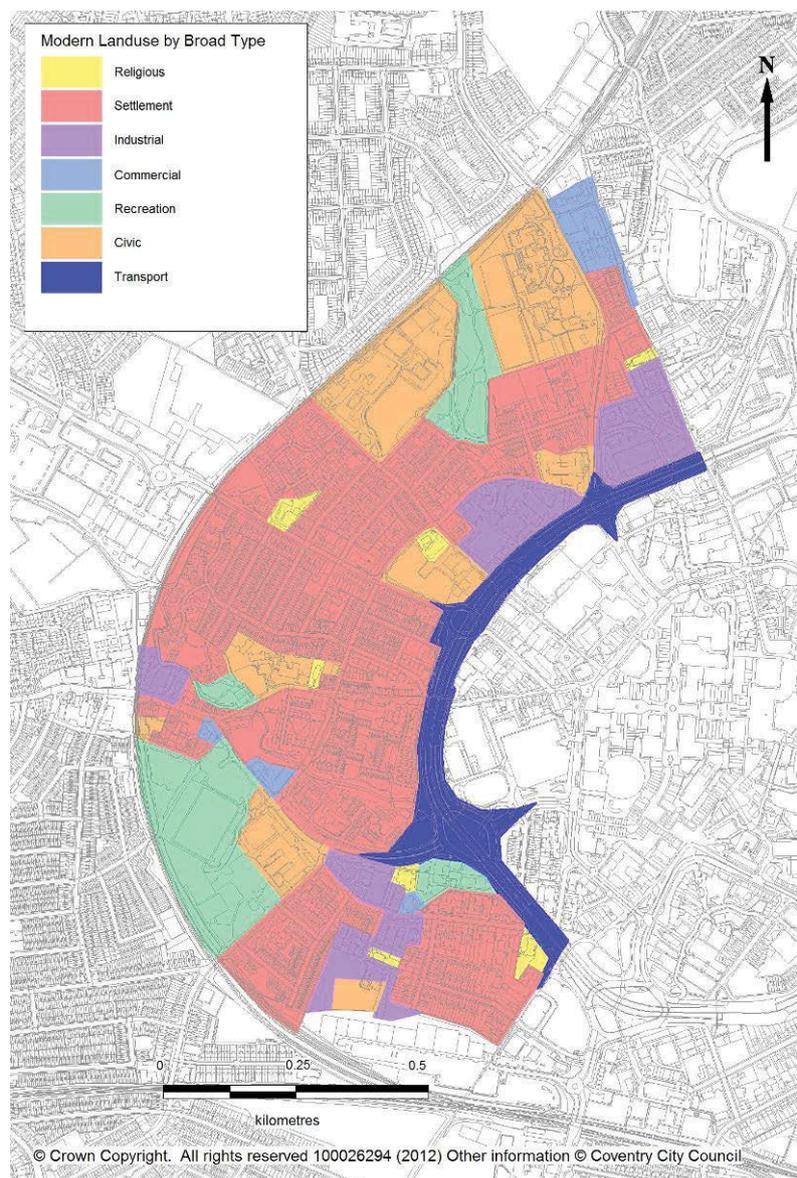
and car industries. By 1905 much of the Character Area was given over to residential use. In contrast to other residential areas in the city centre there was much less industry integrated with the housing, although a large gas works was present to the north of Upper Hill Street and a machine tool works east of Upper York Street. Much of the street layout remains the same today, with the exception of roads affected by the development of the ring road (on the eastern border of the Character Area and the Butts Road area) and also the area between the River Sherbourne and Upper Spon Street. The 19th/early 20th Century housing located to the south of Upper Spon Street was demolished and comprehensively re-developed by the City Council from the 1950's onwards, principally with flats in a mix of low level blocks and high-rise tower blocks which remain today.

Modern Character

Despite being located next to the city centre, the Character Area is segregated by the ring road, which creates a highly defined boundary. The division is exacerbated by particularly poor access links from one side of the ring road to the other at this location. The Character Area is further isolated by the rail way line to the west. Consequently, the Character Area feels very distinct from its surroundings.

The Character Area incorporates the Spon End Conservation Area, which includes a number of 14th and 15th Century listed buildings and several later locally listed buildings such as the 19th Century Spon Gate School and the Malt Shovel Public House. The Conservation Area is bordered to the west by 'The Arches' railway viaduct which is also locally listed. The character of Spon End, which has developed gradually over hundreds of years, contrasts with much of the surrounding area, which was deliberately planned, laid out over a relatively short period of time and consequently is homogenous. It comprises housing built between circa 1850 and 1900. Much of the northern part of the Character Area is covered by the Naul's Mill Conservation Area which incorporates large areas of 19th Century housing. The properties comprise small terraced houses with a small

set-back from the pavement and small gardens to the rear. Some of the terraces are up to 24 houses long and are very uniform in design. They are arranged in a grid pattern with houses backing on to each other and built to the corners of the street. The front gardens of the properties are bounded by low brick walls. Pavements are narrow with no grass verges or trees and cars are parked along the streets. The houses have decorative features including bay windows, recessed front doors, dentified brick features under roof eaves and plainly styled door and window lintels. Some of the houses, such as those of Norfolk Street,



also have sizable rear workshop wings that would have been used for watchmaking. The housing along the Holyhead Road and Barras Lane is grander with extensive terracotta detailing on the front elevations. The narrow, straight streets and uniform architecture create channelled views.

More recent developments built between 1950 and 1975 are the result of comprehensive re-development programmes. Early developments like the 1950's Wellington Gardens are low-level and low density, built of pale brick with copper roofs and are set within generous lawned areas. Contrastingly, the Spon End estate next door is built of concrete and is of a far higher density with far less green space.

In general, this Character Area comprises of dense housing with little provision for green space in the residential areas. This area is well served with amenities including many of schools, shops, places of worship and sports grounds.



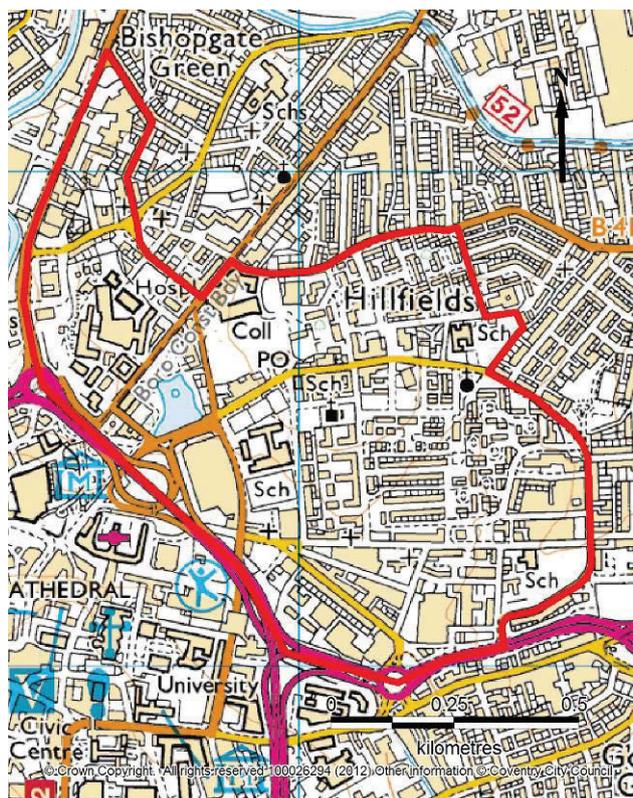
Middleborough Road near Naul's Mill Park.

Geology and Topography

The Character Area overlies sandstone to the north and argillaceous rocks (sedimentary rock formed by clay deposits) with sandstone and conglomerate to the south. There is an alluvium deposit along the course of the river which comprises of sand with clay and gravel. The topography gradually rises from 85m to the south of the Character Area, to 100m above sea level to the north.

Hillfields Character Area**HLC Area 31****Location and Context**

The Character Area is located to the northeast of the city centre. This is a mixed use Character Area comprising offices, residences – including some University Halls of Residence - and the former Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital. The Character Area is surrounded by suburbs to the east and the city centre to the south west.

**Heritage Designations in the Character Area**

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
 Archaeological Constraint Areas: 13
 Listed Buildings: 5
 Locally Listed Buildings: 4
 Conservation Areas: 0
 Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

Historic Development

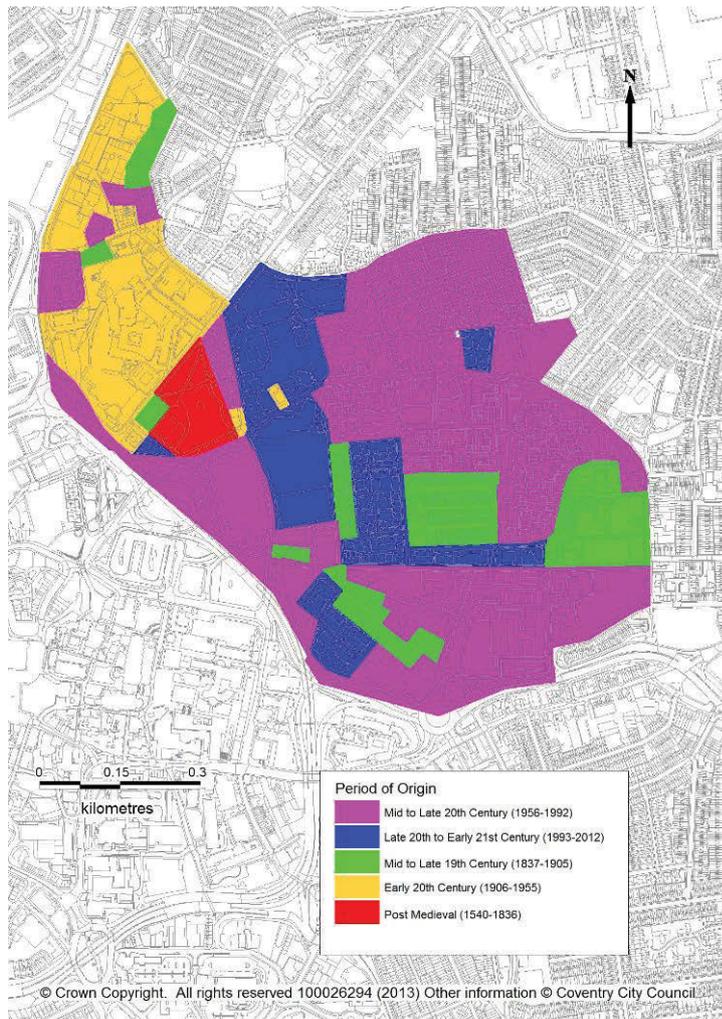
The area is likely to have been wooded in the Saxon period with archaeo-environmental samples, suggesting that trees were being coppiced nearby. In the later medieval period the area was principally agricultural land owned by St. Mary's Priory and lay beyond the built-up area of the city. The settlement of Potters Harnell which is known from documentary

sources is believed to lie somewhere within the area but has not yet been located by archaeology. A medieval landscape feature that still survives today is the Swanswell Pool which also belonged to St. Mary's Priory before the Dissolution. The pool served as a mill pond and a document of 1480 refers to people fishing and washing in the pool without the Prior's permission. The mill is recorded in a 1646 lease and was known as Old Swanswell House. At some point in the 18th century the original mill was demolished and the City Flour Mill was built on the same site which operated until the 1940s.

The area remained predominantly agricultural until the 1830's when the 'New Town', later known as Hillfields, was developed as a result of the successful growth of the ribbon weaving industry. Until this date grazing rights around the immediate outskirts of the city had prevented development expanding beyond the line of the city walls. The development of Hillfields is significant because it is the first expansion of Coventry outside the medieval core with new housing built along Primrose Hill Street, Victoria Street, King William Street, Canterbury Street, Yardley Street, Nelson Street, Waterloo Street, Albert Street, Charles Street, Wellington Street. To what extent it was a 'planned' or organised development is not clear but its significance to the city must have been recognised early on and is demonstrated

by the fact it was referred to as New Town. A plan of the city dating to 1837 shows that the new streets were already well built up albeit in a rather haphazard manner, and buildings ranged from a very formal terrace on the south side of Primrose Hill Street to several groups of 'back to backs' in courts.

Significant 19th century buildings in the Character Area include the Church of St Peter (c1841), the Church of St Mark (1869) and the Roman Catholic Church of St Mary and St Benedict (1893). The 1888 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the majority of the Character Area as residential with some green spaces remaining. Several factories had sprung up including the Cox Street Mills (Chemical Works and Elastic Web Weaving) and



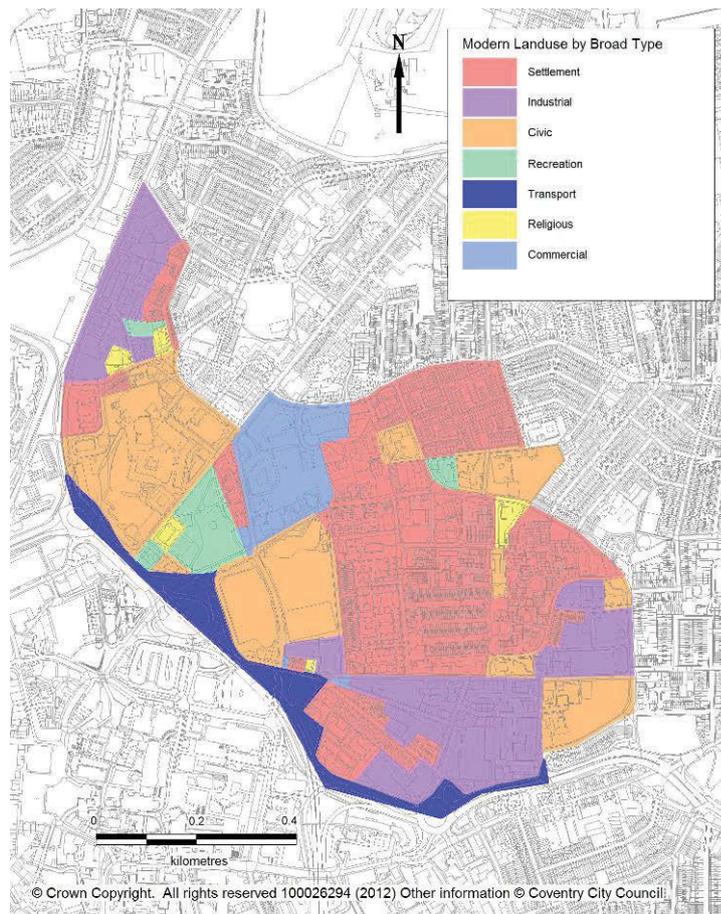
the Premier Cycle Works. A hospital was also present on the site of the now closed Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital although it was much smaller. By 1905 the remaining open spaces, mainly concentrated in the south of the area, had been developed for industry, including a cycle works and Saw and Planing Mills along the River Sherbourne. The Singer Motor Works along Vine Street is also first recorded in 1905. This large factory was demolished in the 1980s and replaced by Singer Hall university residences. The hospital expanded after 1888 but much of it was destroyed in the Second World War and rebuilt in the 1950s, although several early buildings do survive today and are listed buildings.

In 1951, Hillfields was declared one of three Areas of Comprehensive Development in Coventry and 53% of the houses

were considered unfit to live in. Compulsory purchase orders were served and redevelopment began in the 1960s. By the 1970s, many of the mid-19th Century terraces had been demolished and the street plan associated with the 19th century housing was mostly removed. To the north of King William Street the terraces were replaced with high rise tower blocks with distinctive 'gull wing' roofs in a landscaped setting. Some of these tower blocks were subsequently demolished c2004 to make way for the City College buildings. Pockets of 19th century terraced housing remain on Lower Ford Street, Winchester Street, Raglan Street and Colchester Street. A listed terrace of weavers houses survive on Charles Street.

Modern Character

A dominant feature of the Character Area is the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital site which now mostly been cleared apart for the Victorian buildings and some large, square-shaped utilitarian buildings with areas of car parking. Challenge Business Park is located to the north of the hospital and consists of small, low-lying warehouses. More warehouses are located to the south of Vauxhall Street. The remainder of the Character Area is residential. Small terraces dating to between 1888 and 1905 survive along Raglan, Winchester and Colchester Streets.



These terraces have a unique layout for Coventry. The front of the houses, which are built right up to the pavement, open out to a pedestrianized areas and vehicle access is to the rear only. This is not how they were originally built and it is likely that the change was made in the 1970s when the surrounding area was being redeveloped. The architecture of the terraces is uniform and fairly plain. The small, densely arranged, long terraces situated on straight roads have a homogenised appearance and create narrow, tunnelled views. Although many of the rear gardens have been converted for parking, the narrow road to the rear of the properties is congested. This road plan contrasts with terraced houses that were developed in the 1970s in the vicinity of Vernon Close and

Yardley Street which are arranged along curving roads and cul de sacs. The later properties have parking to the front and small gardens to the rear. There are also small pocket parks, off road parking and tree planting integrated with the housing. The architectural style in these areas is uniform and very plain. In the 1960s a cluster of tower blocks were built to the north of the Character Area. A small area around each of the tower blocks is landscaped with trees and parking facilities are also present. In the 1980s a student hall of residence was built on the site of the Singer factory. It has a strongly defined boundary and comprises small apartment blocks arranged in courtyards on brick surfaced roads. Every apartment block is built to the same architectural design which has simple lines with decorative brick work. In general, the area as a whole has a disparate character due to its mixed use and repeated episodes of redevelopment.



Listed cottages on Charles Street, Hillfields



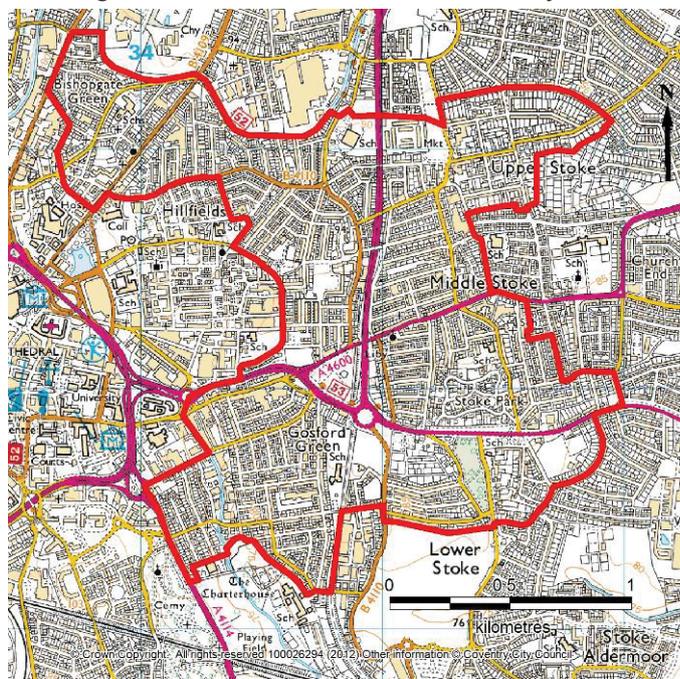
Primrose Hill

Geology and Topography

The Character Area overlies sandstone to the east. To the west it overlies sandstone and mudstone. The topography is relatively flat and low lying between 80m and 85m above sea level.

Middle Stoke Character Area**HLC Area 32****Location and Context**

Residential area located to the east of the city centre. The Character Area is surrounded by housing to the east and west, and industry to the north and south.

**Heritage Designations in the Character Area**

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
 Archaeological Constraint Areas: 17
 Listed Buildings: 7
 Locally Listed Buildings: 29
 Conservation Areas: 2
 Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

Historic Development

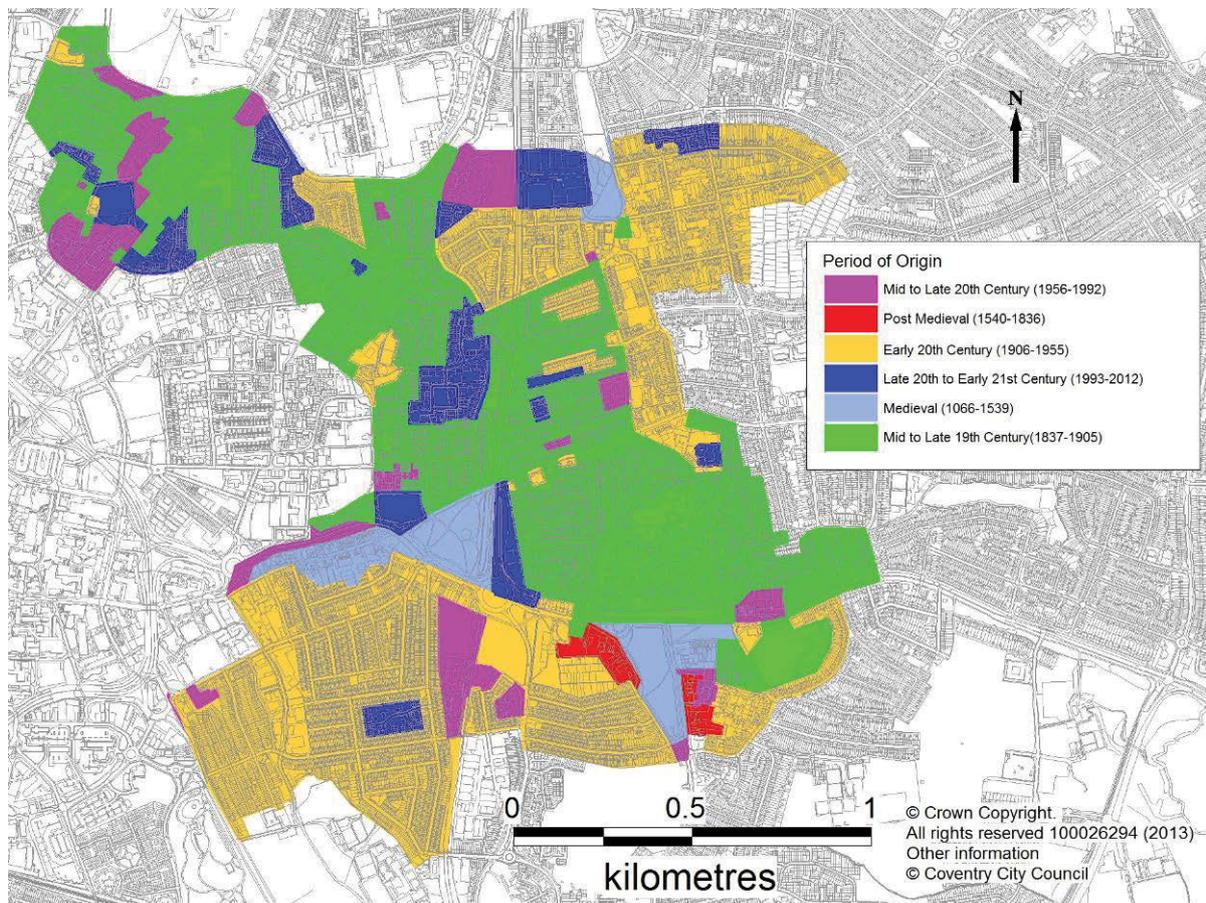
The first significant evidence of activity in the Character Area dates to the medieval period. Far Gosford Street has its origins as a medieval 'extra-mural' suburb; that is, one situated

outside a town wall and its gates. It was the main route out of medieval Coventry towards Leicester and London, and was already beginning to be built up by the 12th century. From the 13th to 15th Centuries it was dominated by the metal working and weaving, woollen industries but the area declined between the 16th and 18th Centuries. Some of the medieval buildings in the street were demolished during the English Civil War but many remained and some are still standing today. The late 18th and early 19th centuries saw the growth of silk ribbon weaving, which came to be the predominant trade in the street, as elsewhere in the city. The distinctive 'top shops' associated with this trade appeared in various parts of the street and the grade II-listed row at Nos. 67-72 remains as a good example of this building type. The weaving industry declined after 1860 and eventually cycle manufacture and later the car industry took over. Change in the street has been slow and piecemeal over the centuries and has helped to preserve much of the historic fabric of the street, which largely avoided the devastating air raids of the Second World War. Consequently, Far Gosford Street is one of the few early Coventry Streets that retain anything like their pre-war character and is a Conservation Area. There are 14 statutorily listed buildings (all Grade II), including a number with medieval timber frames, and 17 locally listed buildings.

Elsewhere in the Character Area during the medieval period the land use was predominantly agricultural, a mixture of open fields and enclosures interspersed with large areas of common land, and pockets of settlement and industry. South of Far Gosford Street is thought to have been the location of the Manor of Shortley, the manor house itself may have existed in the vicinity of Northfield Road. To the east was the common land of Gosford

Green which merged into Stoke Green. The area was known as being the site of a major medieval clay tile industry and this was demonstrated by the discovery in the 1900's of kilns in the area of Brays Lane and Agatha Road. Also in the south of the Character Area and located on the River Sherbourne was Charterhouse Mill, sometimes called Bisseley Mill, which dated to at least the 12th century. Biggin Hall, a medieval moated grange associated with Combe Abbey was situated along the current Biggin Hall Crescent.

There was probably little significant change until the late 18th/early 19th Century. The 1840 Tithe map confirms that the majority of the Character Area comprised small, enclosed fields and also records some of the older street alignments including Binley Road, Clay Lane, Stoke Row and Barras Green. Walsgrave Road is also recorded on the tithe survey although it was formally called Sow Road.



The tithe map also shows that by 1841 a substantial part of Stoke Green had been built upon with housing, many of these buildings are now locally listed. Stoke Park was laid out to the north of the common in the second half of the 19th century with its distinctive road pattern on the site of the former horse racing circuit. In the northeast of the Character Area a grid pattern of streets was laid out in the second half of the 19th Century. This included Freehold Street built as part of an early building society movement, the Freehold Land Societies, which offered Coventry artisans the opportunity to leave the crowded city centre and buy available development land. The majority of plots were, however, developed for terraced housing between 1905 and 1913. Other areas of late 19th Century development

included new streets and houses built along Stoney Stanton Road, Freehold Street and Adderley Street in the northwest. A programme of rapid housing development was rolled out across the Character Area in the early 20th century and by the 1920s almost the whole area was covered with terraced housing.



*Residential properties
fronting onto Stoke
Green*

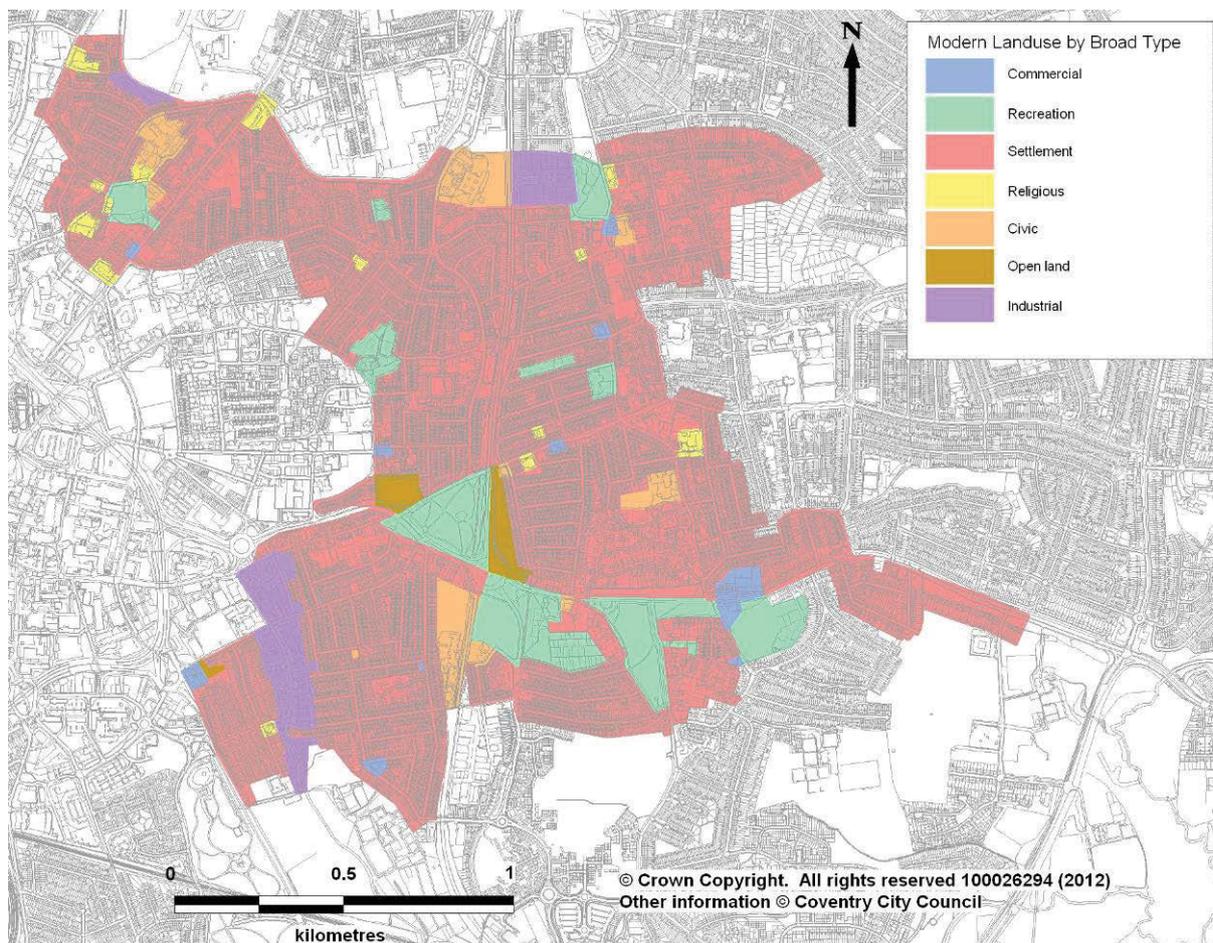
Modern Character

Housing in Stoke Park, which forms part of the Stoke Green Conservation Area, contrasts significantly with the surrounding areas of terraces and is unique in the Coventry area. It consists of detached and semi-detached houses built between the 1860's and the 1970's, in a setting with a large numbers of trees. The house plots are set around looping roads laid out in a 'figure of eight' plan which are lined with thick hedges. To the south of Stoke Park, Stoke Green is a surviving area of medieval common land. The area of the Green was probably defined in the early 17th century and a row of weaver's cottages built at around this time survive on the Binley Road. By the mid-19th the whole east side of the Green had been developed with houses.

Far Gosford Street has managed to maintain its pre-war character due to avoiding World War II air raids and post-war redevelopment. Despite constant piecemeal change since the medieval period, numerous historic buildings survive along the street.

The remainder of the Character Area predominantly comprises small, compact terraced houses. The housing style is homogenous across the whole of the Character Area. All of the terraces have small gardens to the rear. Some of them have a very small set-back from the road, and others have no set-back which is unusual for the Coventry area. The housing is set out in a grid pattern with houses built into the corners of the roads. Terraces in the north of the Character Area have a slightly more irregular road layout due to the morphology of older roads such as Swan Lane. Terraces are built of red brick and slate with decorated door and window lintels. Some of the terraces have a course of dentified brickwork running

through the upper storey of the terraces or, in some cases, decorated brick work below the roof eaves. Otherwise, the style of the architecture is plain. Houses which are set back from the road have low, brick wall boundaries. Pavements are narrow with no grass verges or trees and are congested with parked cars. The roads are long and straight creating closed channelled views. Apart from the surviving 'Greens' the Character Area has few trees or open green spaces. Amenities are integrated with the housing including allotment gardens, small playing fields and schools.

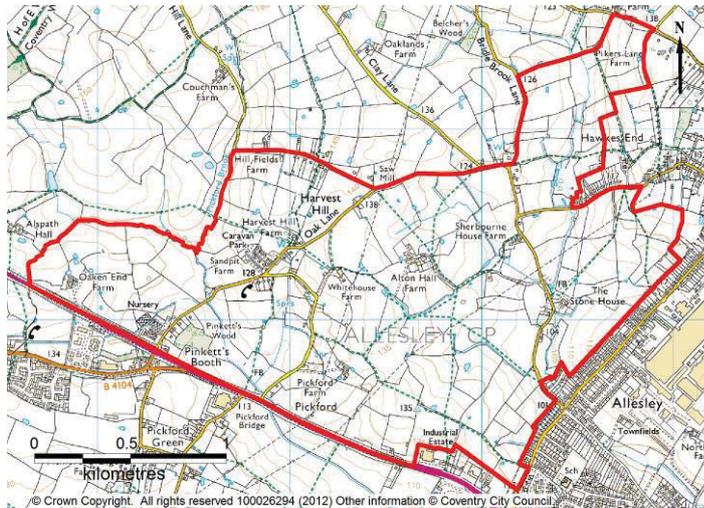


Geology and Topography

The Character Area lies entirely over sandstone. This is a flat, relatively low lying area of land between 80m and 90m above sea level.

Central Avenue, Stoke Park



Allesley Character Area**HLC Area 33****Location and Context**

The Character Area is located on the northwest fringe of Coventry on the border with Warwickshire. This is a rural area completely surrounded by rural landscapes. It is bounded by the Pickford Brook to the west and the River Sherbourne passes through the Character Area to the east.

Heritage Designations in the Character Area

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0

Archaeological Constraint Areas: 22

Listed Buildings: 8

Locally Listed Buildings: 4

Conservation Areas: 0

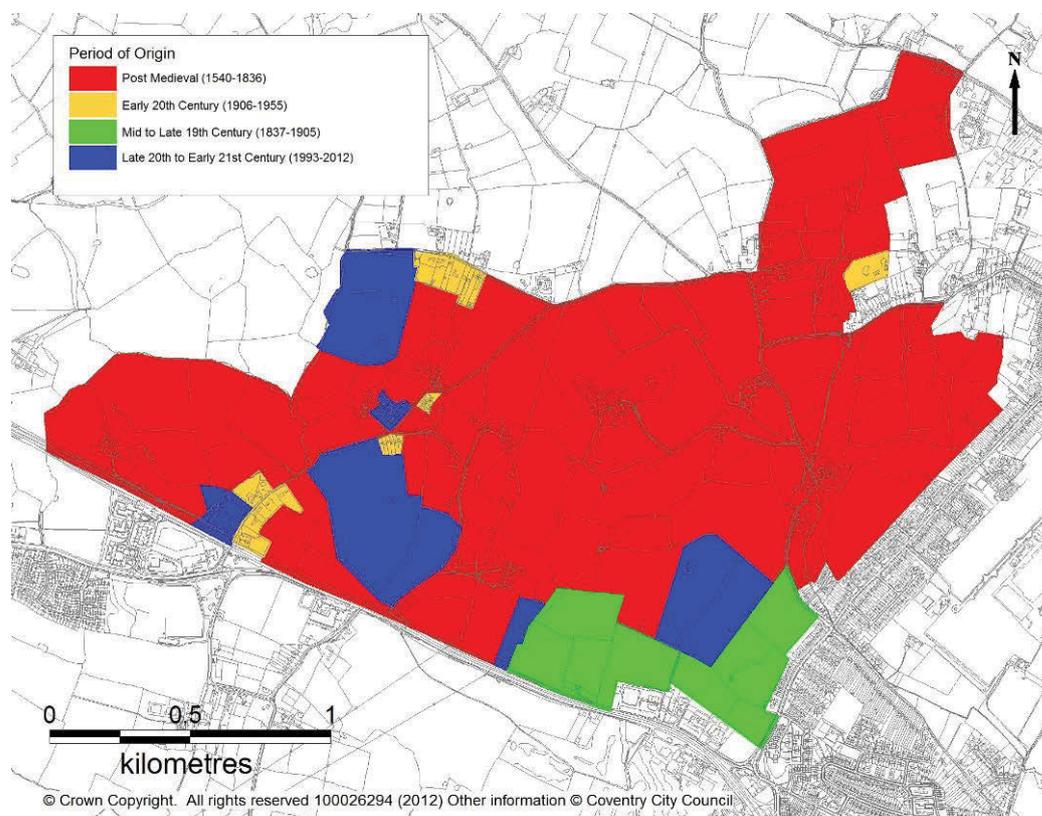
Registered Parks and Gardens: 0



Washbrook Lane, Allesley

Historic Development

The south of the Character Area was part of a medieval open field system which was enclosed in 1654 and ridge and furrow earthworks are present throughout the Character Area. A 'Green Brook Lane' is recorded in a 1697 survey which follows the same alignment as the current Oak Lane. Many of the farms and farmhouses in the area were probably established after the enclosure of the fields and date from the 17th century including White House Farm, Pickford Farmhouse, Sherbourne House Farm and Dormer Cottage. Alton Hall Farm dates to the early 18th century. An unnamed road which follows the same alignment as the current Brick Hill Lane is recorded in 1809. The 1841 tithe survey covers the entire Character Area and indicates that it comprised small, enclosed fields by this date. During the 20th century, however, some of these earlier boundaries were removed to create larger fields, but otherwise the mainly post-medieval landscape remains relatively unchanged.



Modern Character

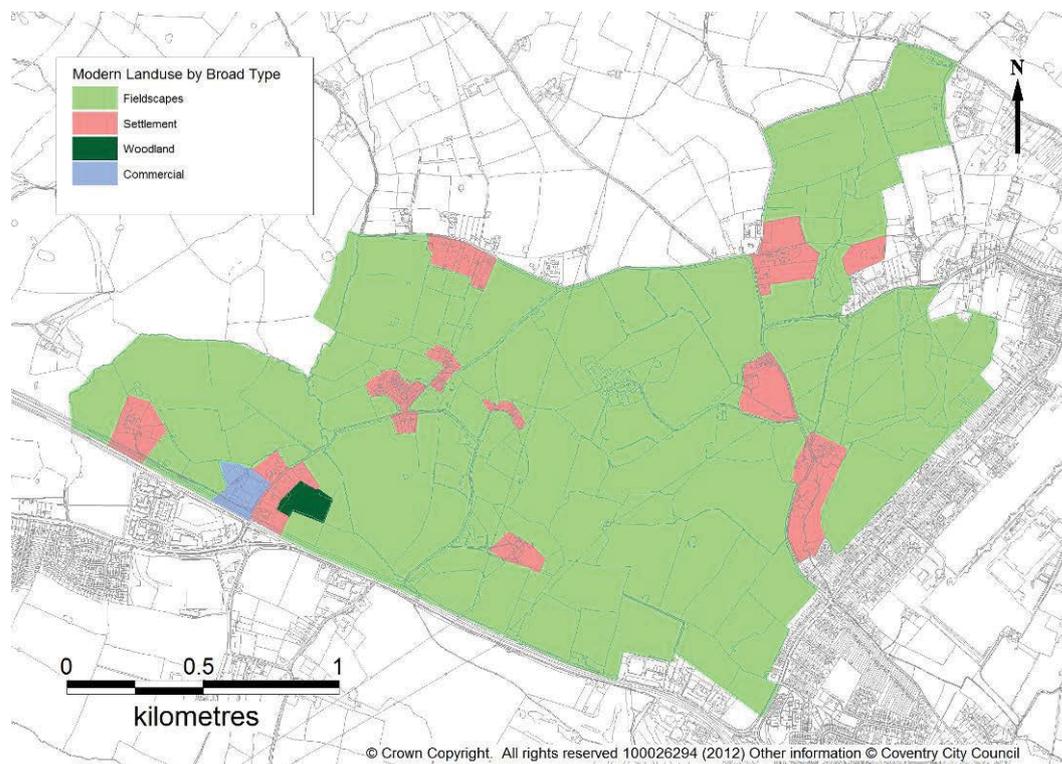
The Character Area predominantly comprises large fields which have an irregular shape. There are also areas of small paddocks next to farmsteads or housing. The fields are bordered by hedges, some of which are banked and incorporate veteran trees. This

suggests that they are of some age and may date to the time of the enclosure in 1654.

Farmsteads, many dating to the 17th and 18th centuries, are dispersed across the Character Area and accessed by narrow, winding lanes bordered with thick hedgerow. The Character Area can also be accessed by a large network of public footpaths, although this location is quite isolated. The Character Area has a hilly relief and is situated on relatively high land.

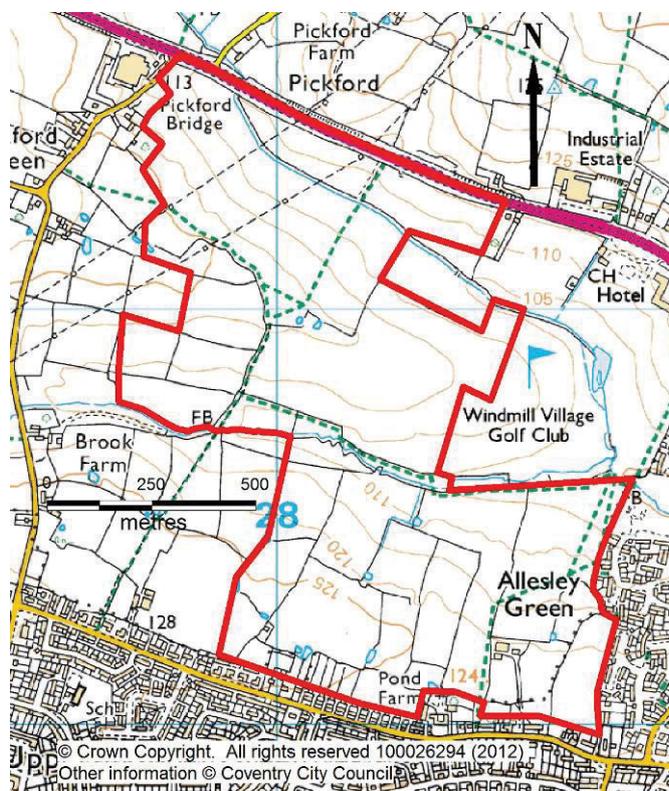


View towards Hawkesmill Lane



Geology and Topography

The Character Area overlies sandstone with alluvium deposits of sand with clay and gravel along the course of the River Sherbourne. It has a relatively hilly relief and is located between 110m above sea level to 130m.

Pickford Character Area**HLC Area 34****Location and Context**

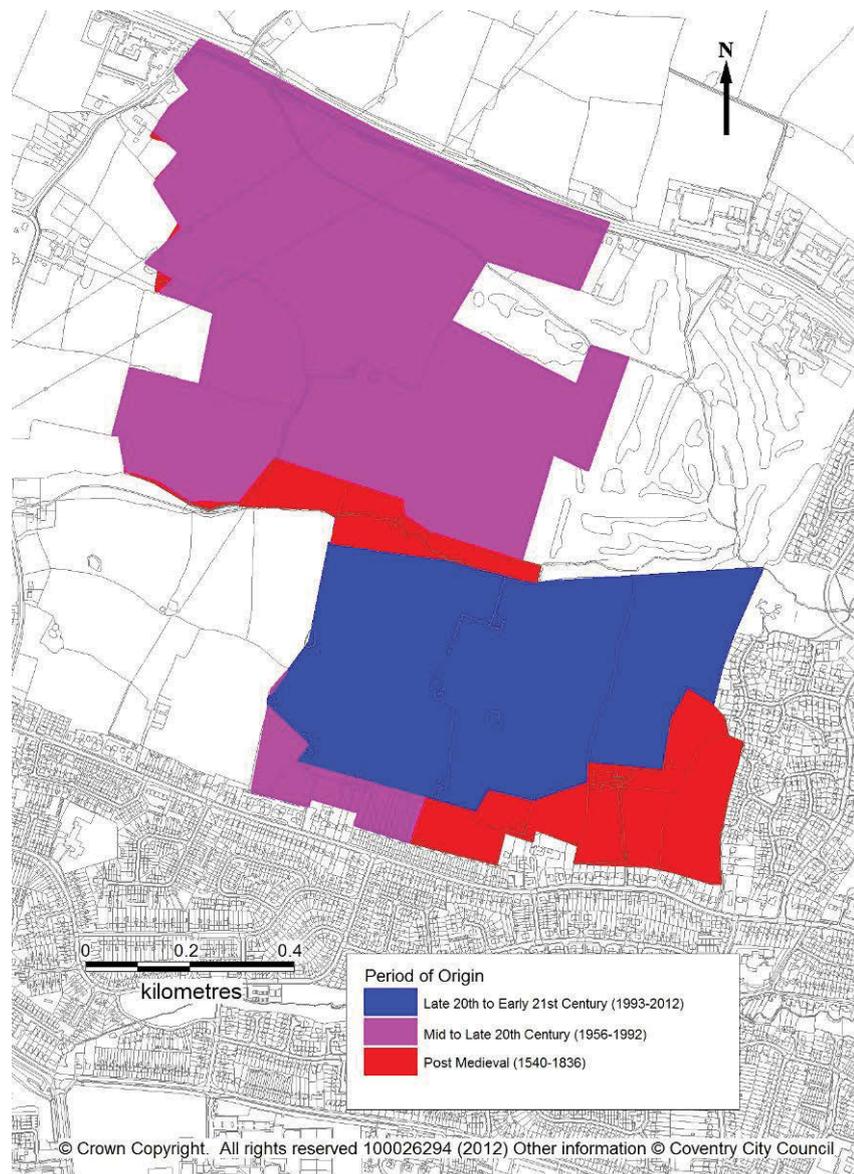
A Character Area located to the north west of the city centre. This is a rural area with both the Pickford Brook and the Ashbrook running through it. The Character Area is surrounded by fields to the north and west, with a residential area to the south and a golf course to the east.

Heritage Designations in the Character Area

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
 Archaeological Constraint Areas: 12
 Listed Buildings: 0
 Locally Listed Buildings: 0
 Conservation Areas: 0
 Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

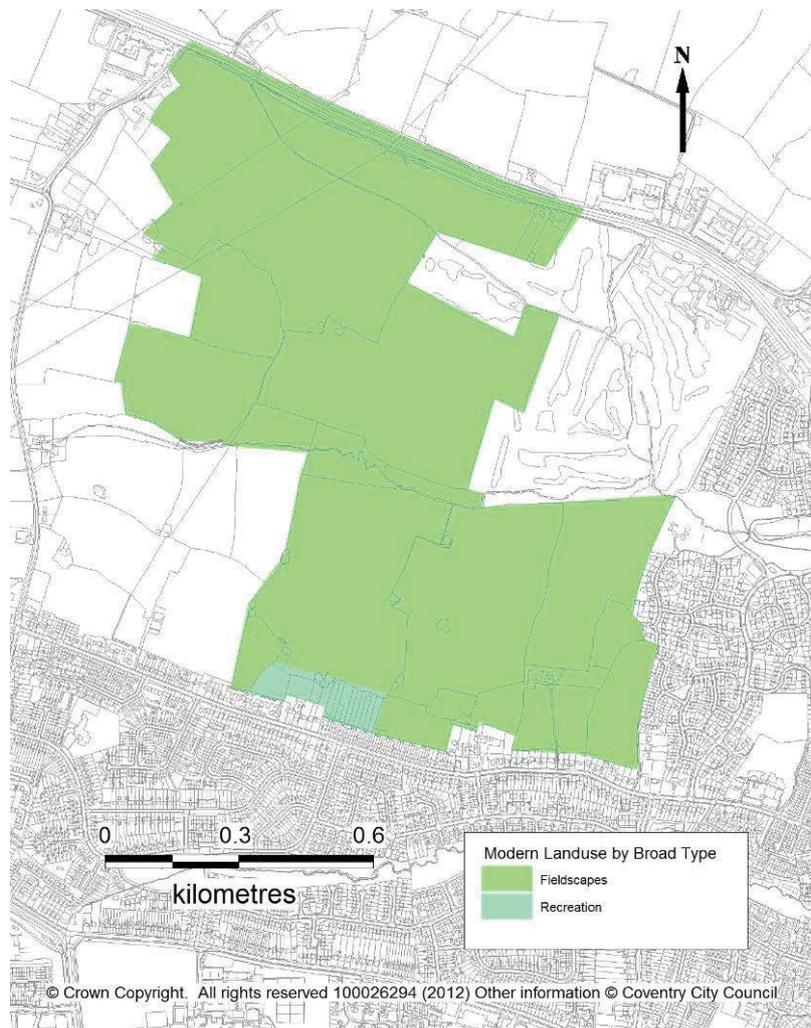
Historic Development

Human activity in this area goes back as early as the Stone Age as evidenced by the results of field walking surveys which discovered early Neolithic flint scatters to the north and south of the Ashbrook. The surveys also revealed a potential Roman site to the northeast of the Character Area with the recovery of Roman pottery and building materials such as tesserae and tegula. There is also evidence of significant medieval activity with a moated site located in the south of the area, a water meadow located along the Ashbrook and areas of ridge and furrow earthworks dispersed throughout. The north of the Character Area is recorded as being part of a medieval open field system which was converted into small, enclosed fields in 1654. Agricultural use of the land has continued to the present day, although many of the early field boundaries were removed during the late 20th Century to create larger fields.



Modern Character

The Character Area mainly comprises very large fields although there is an area of small paddocks located next to housing on the south boundary of the Character Area. The fields are bounded by hedges, many of which are banked and include veteran trees, and may date back to the time of the Allesley Inclosure Award of 1654. Several trees which were part of former field boundaries are still present within the fields. Public footpaths create good access to the area. The proximity of a large residential area to the south makes this a convenient and popular location for walkers. This is an active area due to the presence of the dual carriage way to the north and the golf course to the east.



Geology and Topography

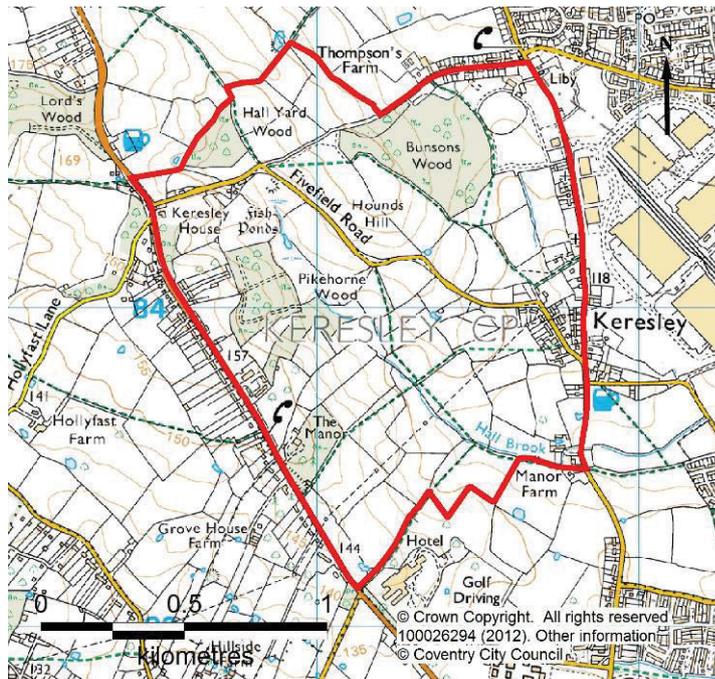
The Character Area overlies sandstone with an alluvium deposit of sand with clay and gravel along the course of the rivers. The Character Area has a hilly relief and lies between 110m and 125m above sea level.



*Agricultural land
South of the A45*

Keresley Character Area**HLC Area 35****Location and Context**

Character Area located in the north of Coventry predominantly surrounded by rural areas with a small industrial area to the east. A stream called the Hall Brook passes through the Character Area.

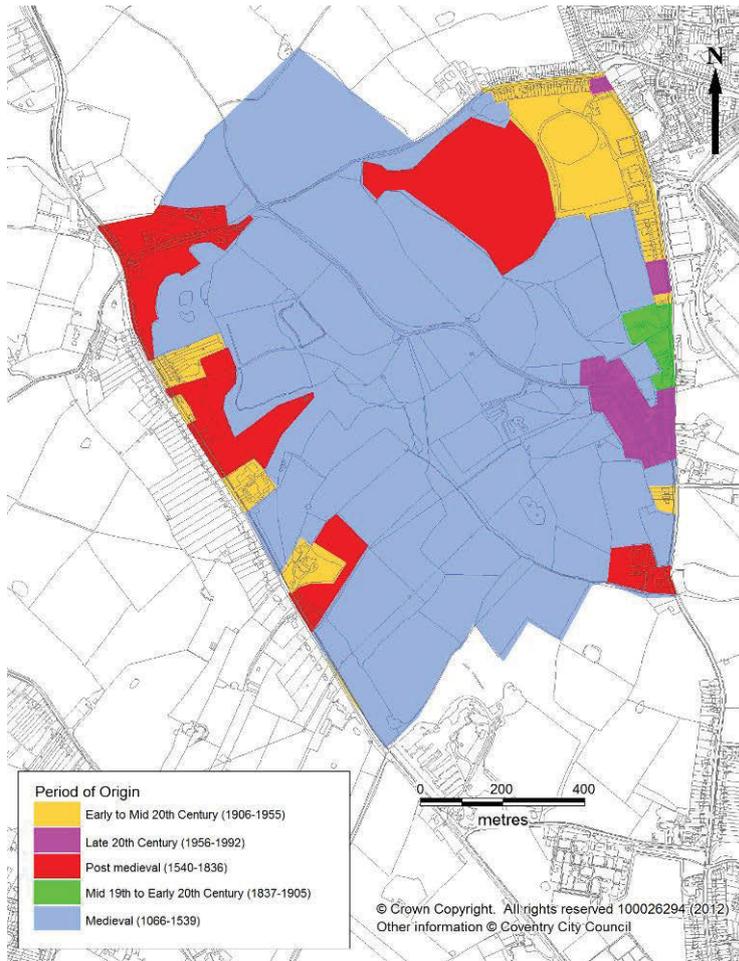
**Heritage Designations in the Character Area**

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
 Archaeological Constraint Areas: 20
 Listed Buildings: 0
 Locally Listed Buildings: 4
 Conservation Areas: 0
 Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

Historic Development

This was an area of relatively intense prehistoric activity. Field walking surveys have revealed a late Mesolithic / earlier Neolithic occupation site to the south of Thompson's Lane, with the retrieval of microliths, blades, scrapers, burins, a hammerstone as well as waste flakes. Late Mesolithic and early Neolithic flints were also found in the south west of the Character Area.

Features of the medieval landscape also survive well within this Character Area. Thompson's Lane is recorded in the 1410-11 Priory Cartulary as Le Carterlane, while a 1334 document records a road called Le Caldewallane which is thought to be today's Fivefield Road and both Bennetts Road and Tamworth Road are known to have existed by the early 15th Century. A medieval moated site survives as an earthwork to the west of Manor House Farm and 1940s aerial photographs indicate that another moated site was present in the north of the Character Area. Medieval fishponds, presumably associated with this latter moated site, are located to the east of Pikehorne Wood. In addition to Pikehorne Wood, surviving ancient woodland exists in the north of the Character Area and includes



The Alders, Bunsons Wood and Hall Yard Wood. Some of the woodland boundaries are banked and an area of ridge and furrow earthworks is visible within Bunsons Wood. An estate survey dating to 1405, as well as the 1410-11 Cartulary record medieval assarts across much of the Character Area. These enclosed fields are also recorded in a 1581 survey and various leases dating to the 16th and 17th centuries. This medieval field pattern remains little changed to the present day and incorporates many ancient hedgerows.

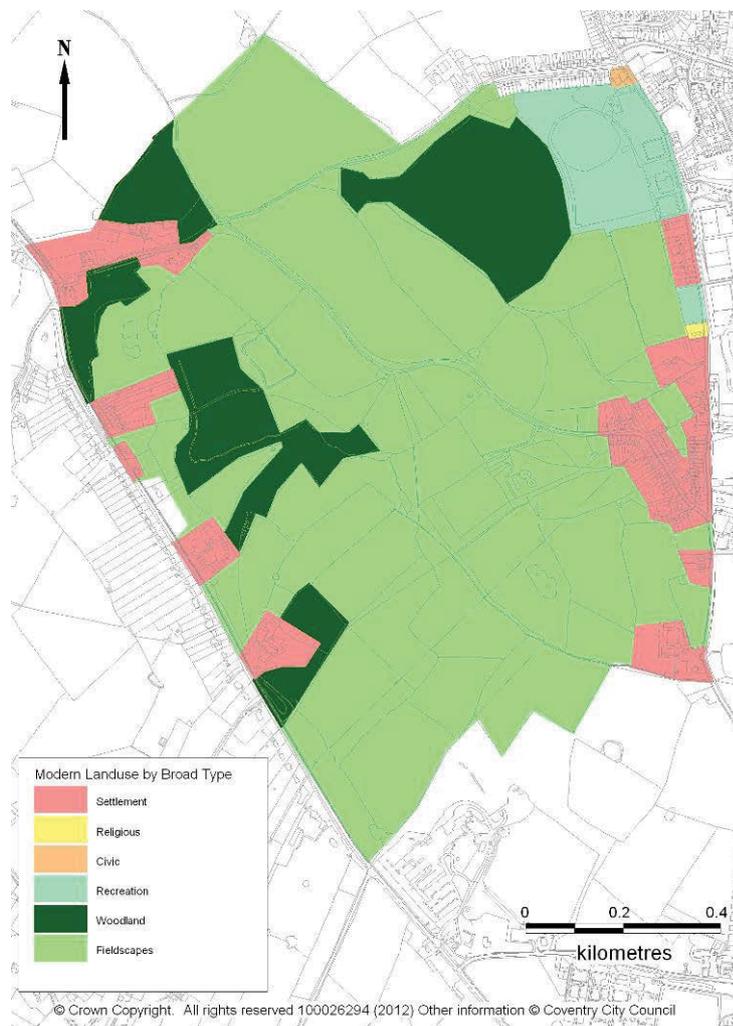
Apart from Keresley Manor, which was built at the turn of the century, and ribbon development along the arterial roads from the 1930s onwards, there was little development in the 20th century.



Medieval fishpond near Fivefield Road

Modern Character

The Character Area is typical of ancient Arden landscape comprising small, irregular fields with banked hedges integrated with sunken lanes and woods. The north of the Character Area contains four ancient woodlands with distinctive boundaries. The fields are bounded by hedges, many of which are banked and include veteran trees. The fields are divided by narrow, winding lanes with thick, roadside hedgerows. This rural area is hilly and isolated. Although there is a network of footpaths to the fields, this area tends only to be accessed by occasional local walkers.



Geology and Topography

The Character Area overlies Sandstone and Mudstone. There is an alluvium deposit of sand with clay and gravel along the course of the Hall Brook. The area has a hilly relief but overall the land rises from 125m above sea level in the south to 150m in the north.