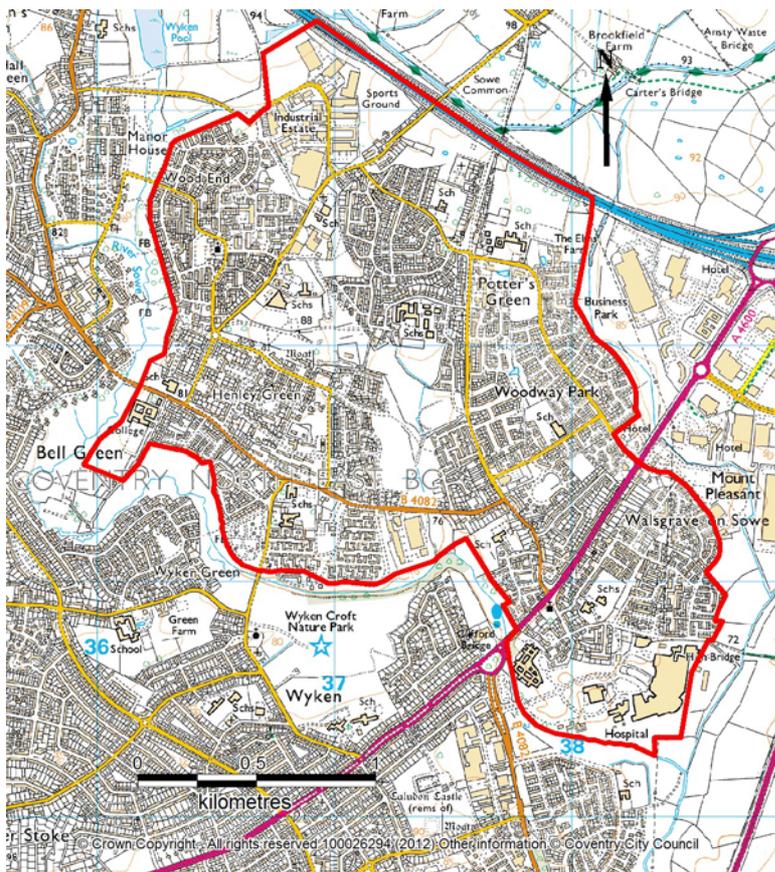


Location and Context

The Character Area is located in the north east of Coventry. It is predominantly a residential area with a light industrial estate to the north. The Character Area is bordered by the River Sowe to the south and west. The M6 runs along the northern boundary and a commercial/business park is located to the east.



Heritage Designations in the Character Area

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
- Archaeological Constraint Areas: 23
- Listed Buildings: 8
- Locally Listed Buildings: 16
- Conservation Areas: 0
- Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

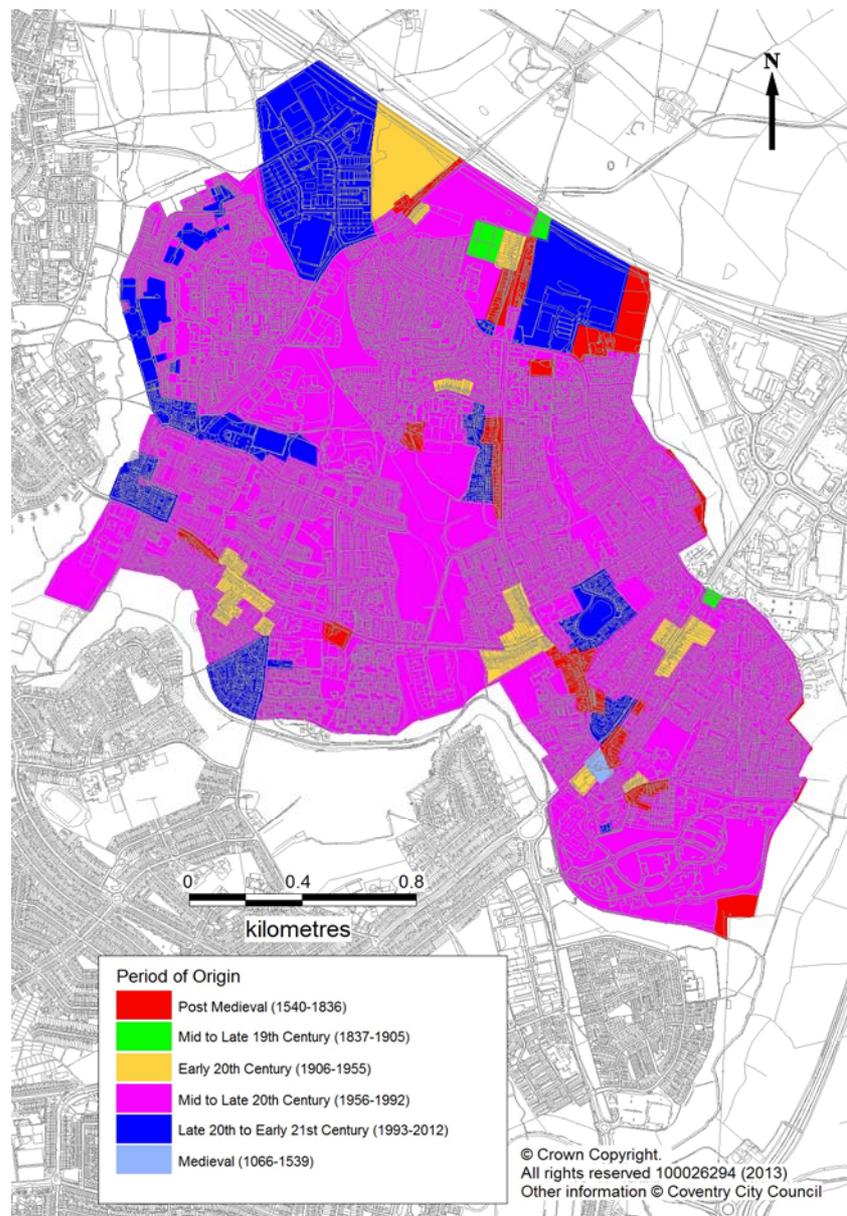
Historic Development

Settlement in the medieval period would have been concentrated around the village of Walsgrave that was then known as Sowe. The village was clustered around the church with a moated manor house to the south where the hospital is now sited. The village would have been surrounded by open fields beyond which were large areas of common land to the north. A further area of settlement was present at Potters Green on Woodway Lane, which is potentially the site of medieval ceramic production. In the northwest was an area of enclosed fields which formed part of the Manor of Attothale, which like Sowe was owned by St Mary's Priory in Coventry. The centre of the manor was a large moated manor house located in what is now Moat House Park north of Winston Avenue.

By the mid-17th Century the open fields had been enclosed and the area comprised a large number of small, planned agricultural enclosures. Woodway Lane is also recorded in 18th century documents. Potters Green Road itself is not recorded, but the presence of cottages on a 1778 estate survey to the west of the current Cardinal Wiseman RC Schools indicates the strong likelihood that the road dates to at least the 18th century and probably earlier. The Oxford Canal was built through the north of the area in the late 18th Century. By the 19th

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Century the landscape was still dominated by agriculture but there was also the addition of coal mining with opening of the Craven and Alexandra Collieries. Tramways associated with the collieries were also built. The 1888 Ordnance Survey Map shows that additional roads had developed within the Character Area by this date, including Shiltern Lane, School House Lane, Hall Lane, Woodway Avenue, Deedmore Road, Ansty Road, and Henley Road. By 1905 the Wyken Mineral Branch Railway had connected Alexandra Colliery and Wyken Colliery located to the north. Squatter housing associated with mining had developed along Woodway Lane and Shiltern Lane and this continued to grow up until 1925 with further housing being built along Henley Road and to the north of Potter's Green Lane. By 1936, however, the collieries had closed and ribbon development ceased.

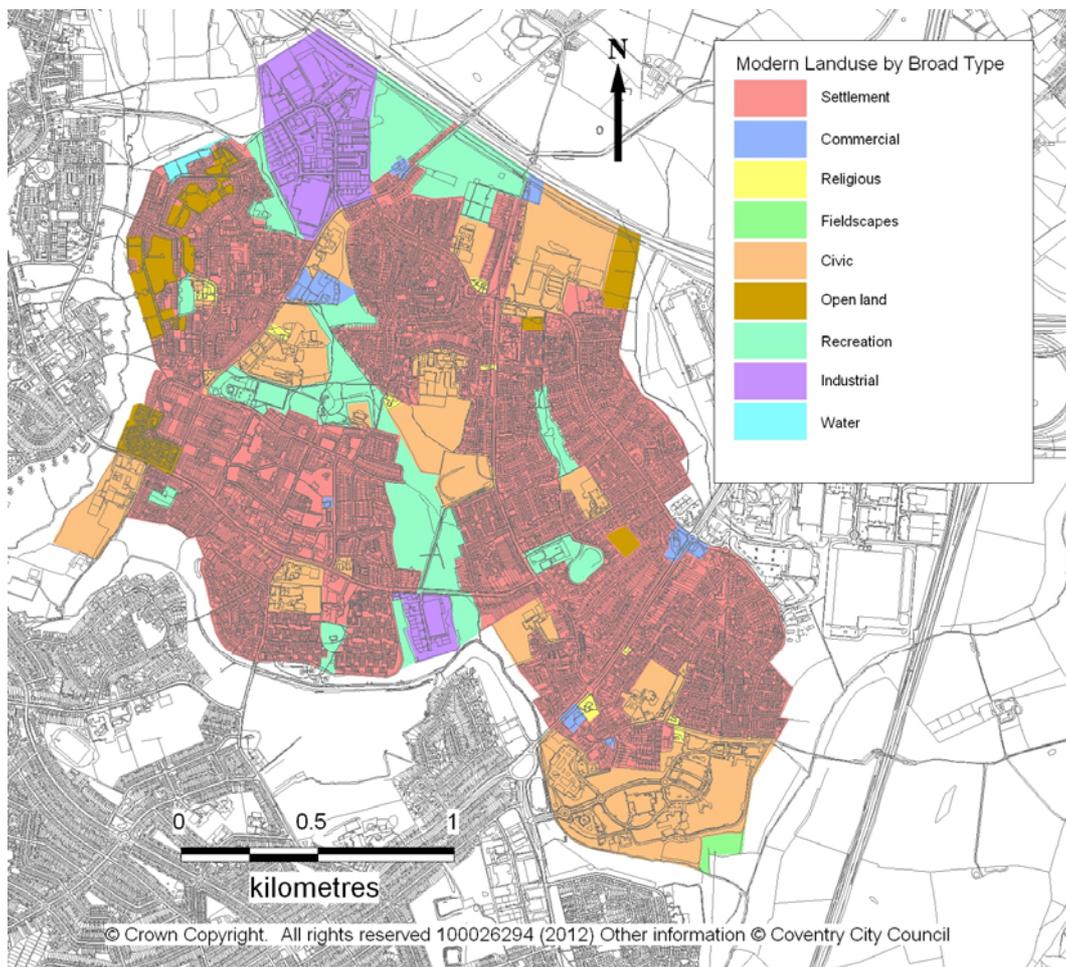


There was relatively little residential development in the Character Area until the 1960s. By 1967 large swathes of houses had been built in the west of the Character Area at Wood End and Henley Green. Towards the south, Walsgrave Hospital had been built by 1974. The site was extensively redeveloped circa 2005. The most recent housing is located in the east

of the Character Area and was built at the end of the 20th century. A light industrial park of a similar date was built in the north of the Character Area on part of the Wyken Colliery site.

Modern Character

The Character Area predominantly comprises small semi-detached houses, with areas of small terraces and detached houses developed in the second half of the 20th century. However, a small but concentrated pocket of buildings originally dating to the 16th or 17th Century survives to the east of Woodway Lane, opposite the Craven Arms pub. Further historic buildings survive in the village of Walsgrave on Hall Lane and along the Hinckley Road. Much of the squatter housing associated with the mining industry was replaced at the



beginning of the 20th Century with modern housing although some survives along Woodway Lane near to Walsgrave Cemetery. The post-war estates to the west of the Character Area in Wood End are set amongst generous amounts of green space while the later housing to the east such as Manor Farm Estate was arranged more densely. In general, the modern properties have small gardens to the front and rear and are located on long, curving roads with many cul de sacs. Some areas have a very distinct road layout, for example in the vicinities of Doncaster Close, Sundrew Street and Woodway Close. Across the Character Area there is a great variation in style of the architecture but within streets the housing is uniform in style and usually very plain. The building materials tend to be brick, pebbledash

and tile roofs. Much of the housing has driveways to the front and most of the houses have garages. Consequently the roads tend not to be congested with parked vehicles. The pavements are narrow with no trees or grass verges but the curving roads and hidden views create a sense of space. There are few amenities integrated with the housing but a corridor of schools, playing fields, sports facilities and some green open space runs down the centre of the Character Area.

Geology and Topography

The Character Area overlies sandstone to the west and mudstone to the east. Drift deposits include a small area of Wolston Clay to the north. Alluvium and glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel are dispersed throughout the Character Area.



View south along Hinckley Road



Historic properties on the corner of Hinkley Road and Hall Lane



Hillmorton Road, Wood End



Church of St. Chad (designed by Sir Basil Spence)