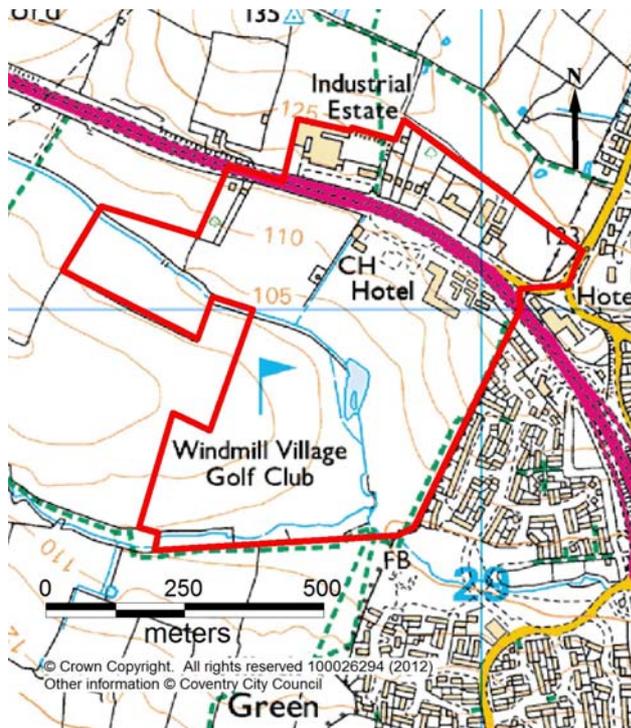


Windmill Hill Character Area

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.

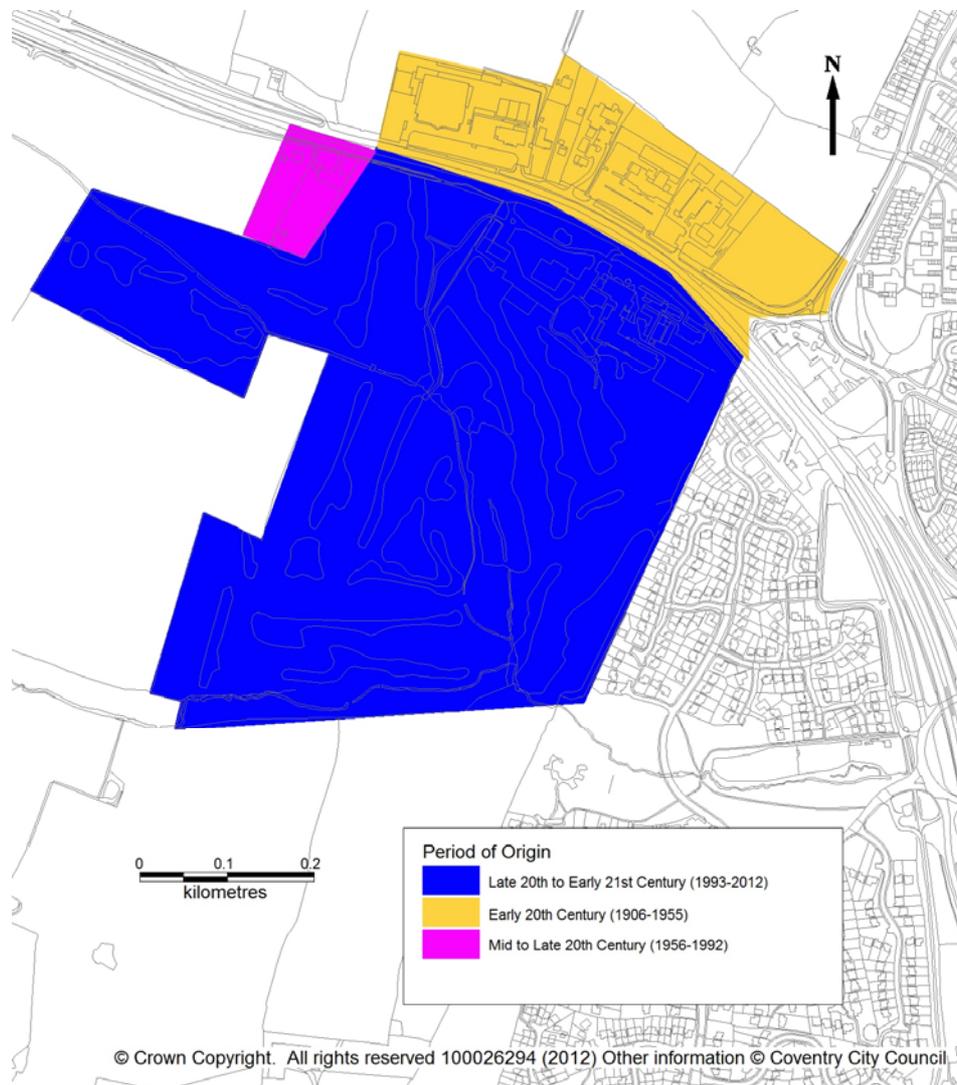
Heritage Designations in the Character Area

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

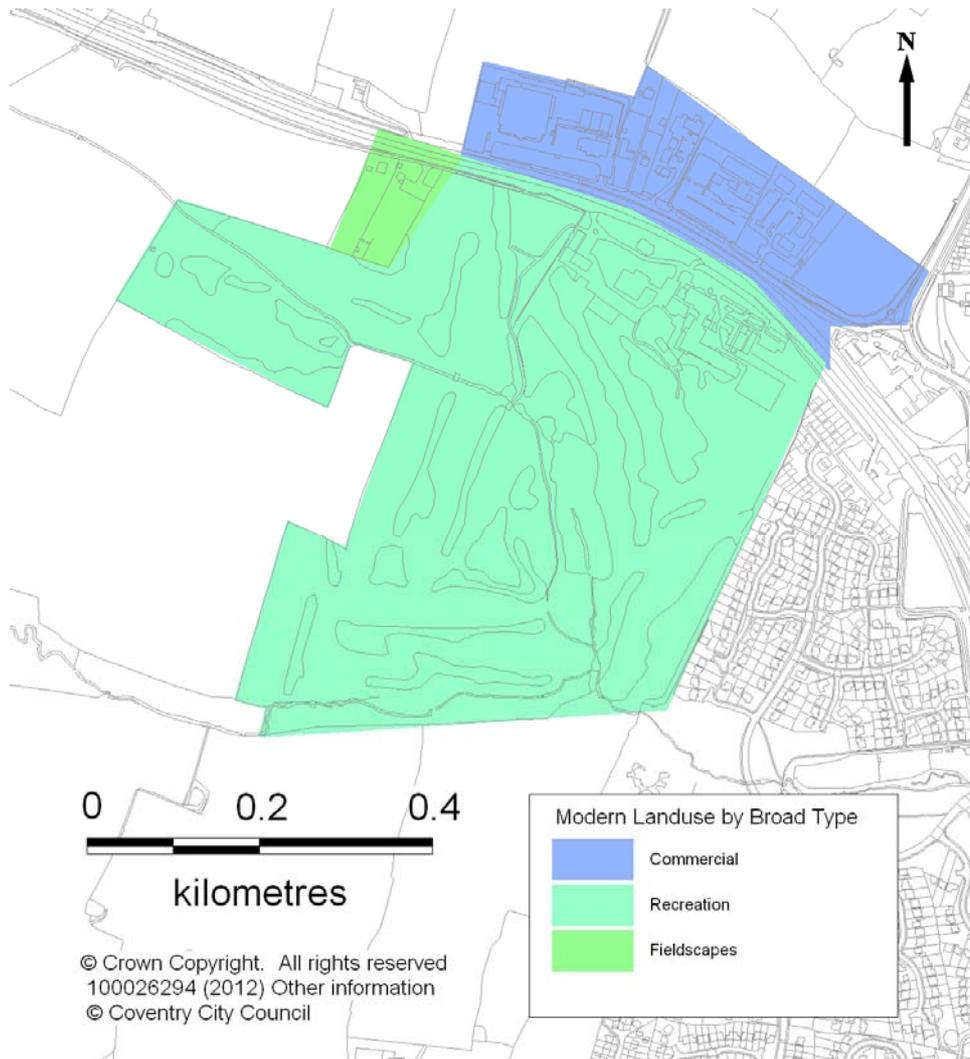
Documentary evidence tells us that this area fell within Allesley's medieval open field system; this is corroborated by ridge and furrow earthworks that are visible on aerial photographs taken before the development of the golf course. In 1654 the open fields of Allesley Parish were enclosed. The enclosures 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.