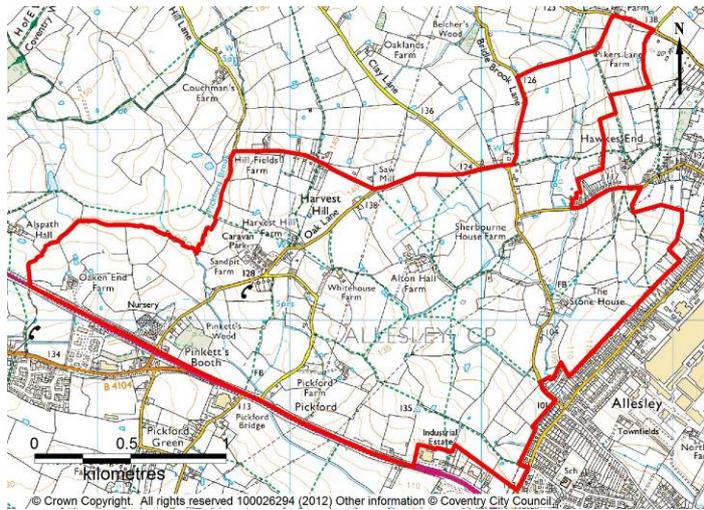


Allesley Character Area

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

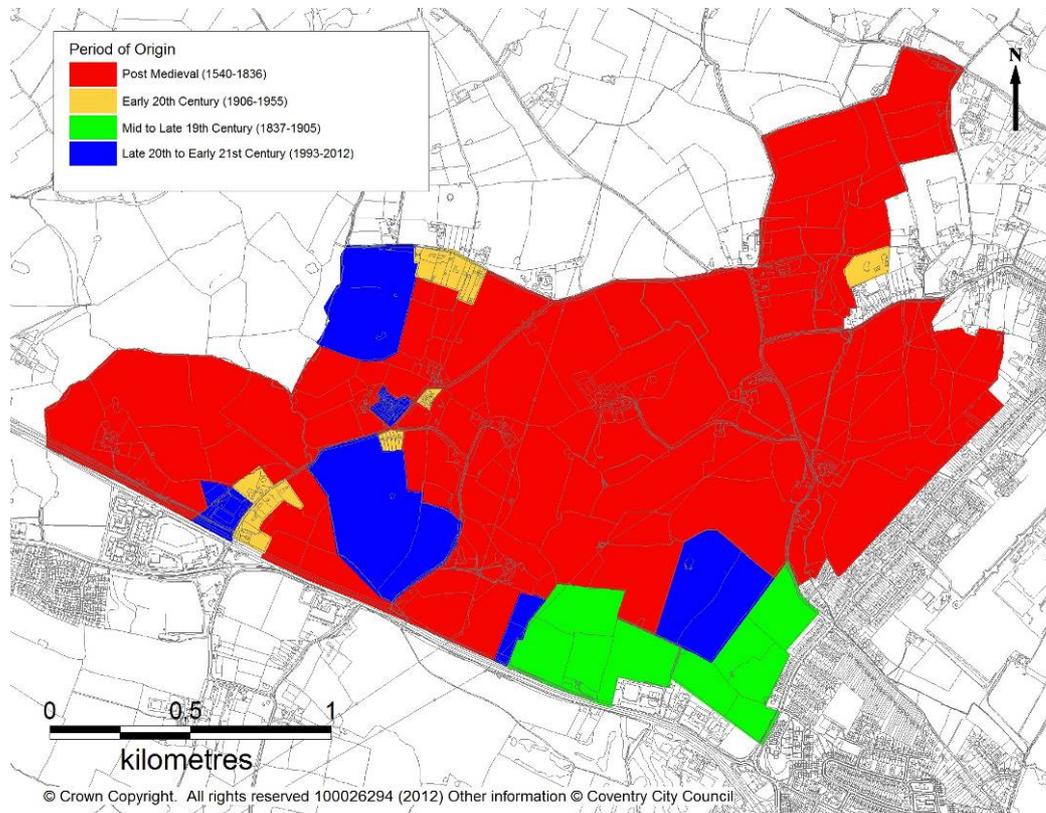
Registered Parks and Gardens: 0



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

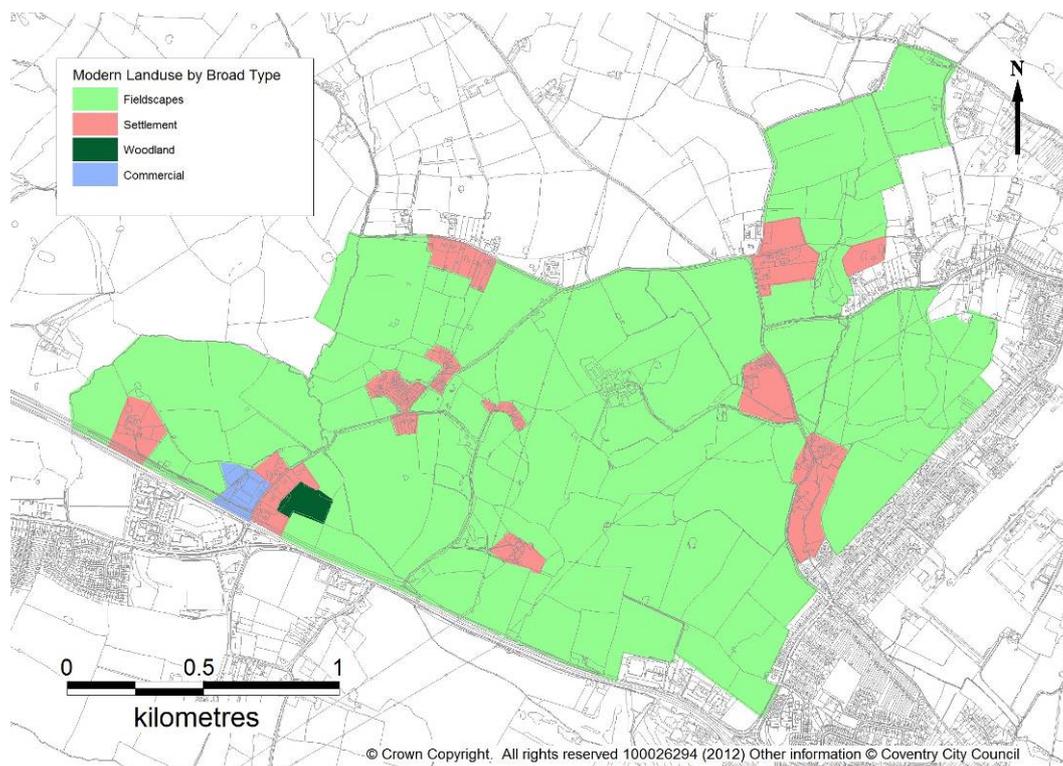
The Character Area predominantly comprises large fields which have an irregular shape. There are also areas of small paddocks next to farmsteads or housing. The fields are bordered by hedges, some of which are banked and incorporate veteran trees. This

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.