

## Brownhill Green Character Area

HLC Area 37

### Location and Context

A rural Character Area located to the northwest of the city centre. Allesley Village is located to the south, but otherwise the Character Area is surrounded by fields.

### Historic Designations in the Character Area

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0  
Archaeological Constraint Areas: 4  
Listed Buildings: 6  
Locally Listed Buildings: 7  
Conservation Areas: 0  
Registered Parks and Gardens: 0



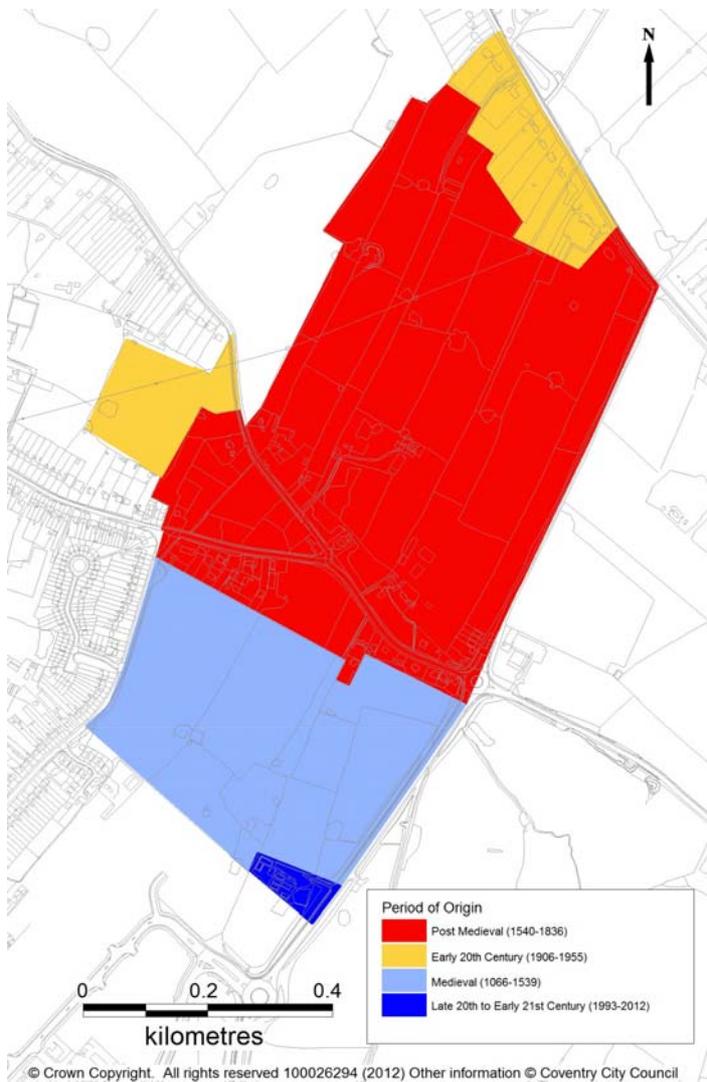
### Historic Development

The settlement at Brownhill Green dates back to the medieval period and was a small hamlet clustered around an area of common land which was crossed by Wall Hill Road and Hawkes Mill Lane. According to the 1410-11 St. Mary's Priory Cartulary, the area to the north of Wall Hill Road was a common during the medieval period known as Herneiswast and Bradnokwast. To the south of the green was a field known in 1411 as Le Brounshul Felde. The distinctive long, narrow enclosures present today to the north of the settlement stretching towards the Tamworth Road are very unusual. The field pattern is first depicted on the 1841 Tithe Map but it may well be significantly older and of medieval origin. The medieval green would probably have been considerably larger but has been encroached upon by housing throughout the post-medieval period. This is probably the result of otherwise land-less squatters building cottages on the common land and the process is clearly shown to be well advanced on the 1843 tithe map.



To the south of Wall Hill Road are four enclosed fields and a wood, the remains of a field pattern dating back to at least 1581 when a survey recorded these fields as 'Warding's Grounds'. Several of the field boundaries survive as hedgerows, as do those running along the former medieval parish boundary of Coundon, and are likely to be ancient.

*Brownhill Green*



Brownhill Green Lane, Hawks Mill Lane and Wall Hill Lane are all known to be of medieval origin. Brownhill Green Lane is thought to be the lane called Le Brounshull in the 1410-11 St. Mary's Priory Cartulary. Elsewhere lanes existed which have now been lost but are still reflected in today's landscape by existing property boundaries. One example in the Character Area is located to the south of Wall Hill Lane and runs parallel to Coundon Wedge Drive. It was called Ball's Lane in a document of 1646 and is shown on the 1844 Tithes Map as a thin strip of common adjoining Brownhill Green. It too can still be recognized in the present landscape as a thin strip of enclosed land.

Apart from some 20<sup>th</sup> century infill housing in the post-medieval area around the former Brownhill Green, and some 1930s ribbon development along Tamworth Road to the north, the character is largely one of rural land with distinctive field patterns of medieval and post-medieval date.

## Modern Character

The Character Area predominantly comprises fields with post-medieval houses along Wall Hill Road and some 1930s ribbon housing development along the Tamworth Road. The morphology of the fields within the Character Area is distinctive and unique to the Coventry area. Field boundaries have a strong NNE – SSW alignment and are long and narrow in shape. The field boundaries are formed by thick hedges with many veteran trees. Housing in the area is set far back from the road with spacious gardens creating a secluded atmosphere. There is poor access to the fields which are located behind private housing with no footpaths. Despite the proximity of dwellings there is a rural and tranquil atmosphere.





*Brownhill Green*

### **Geology and Topography**

The Character Area overlies sandstone. This location is relatively high ground lying from 120m above sea level to the south west rising to 145m to the north east.