

Location and Context

Character Area located on the northwest fringe of Coventry. There is a small area of light industry in the northwest of the Character Area, but otherwise it is predominantly a rural area surrounded by rural land.

Heritage Designations in the Character Area

Scheduled Ancient Monuments:

0

Archaeological Constraint Areas:

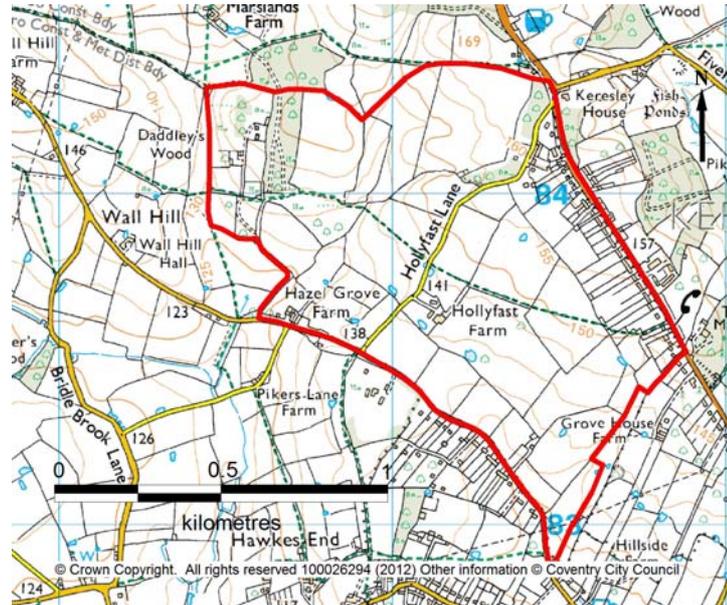
6

Listed Buildings: 3

Locally Listed Buildings: 1

Conservation Areas: 0

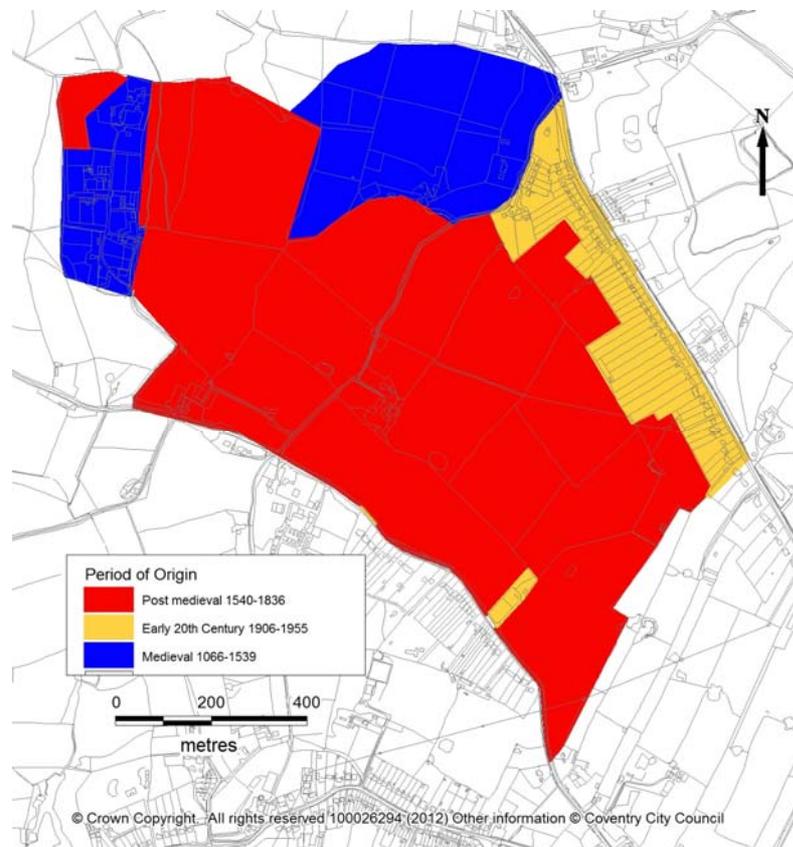
Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

**Historic Development**

The earliest evidence for activity in this area comes from field walking surveys in the fields surrounding Hollyfast Farm where early Neolithic flint scatters have been recorded. Field walking also recovered small amounts of possible Roman building material and medieval pottery to the west of the farm, along with a number of Tudor period bricks to the east.

The area is described in a document of 1411 as 'Hollifast Waste' suggesting that it was an area of common land or woodland in the medieval period. The name Hollifast suggests the presence of some enclosed farmland bounded by holly hedges on the common land, which would have been typical in the medieval Arden landscape of dispersed farms. Extensive areas of woodland were likely to have been present and a coppice woodland called Hollifax was documented in 1661. A sketch map of this area dating to 1767 shows it as agricultural land with two farmsteads and woodland in the north of the Character Area. Several 19th Century maps indicate that the majority of the northern part of the Character Area was wooded at that time with names such as Hooton's Wood, Hazel Grove, Muzzard's Wood, Lady Wood, Dadley's Wood and Folly Wood. The tithe survey also records enclosed fields in the south of the Character Area, some of field names, such as 'Near Wood Close' and 'Far Wood Close' located along Wall Hill Road, indicate the former presence of woodland which had been cleared for agriculture. Much of the woodland in the north of the area survived into the 20th Century before being cleared for cultivation between 1962 and 1982. The pattern of enclosed fields lying to the south of the former woodlands dates back to at least 1767 and is likely to be earlier. Many of these hedgerow field boundaries in the centre of the Character Area survive today, but some boundaries located along the Tamworth Road have been lost.

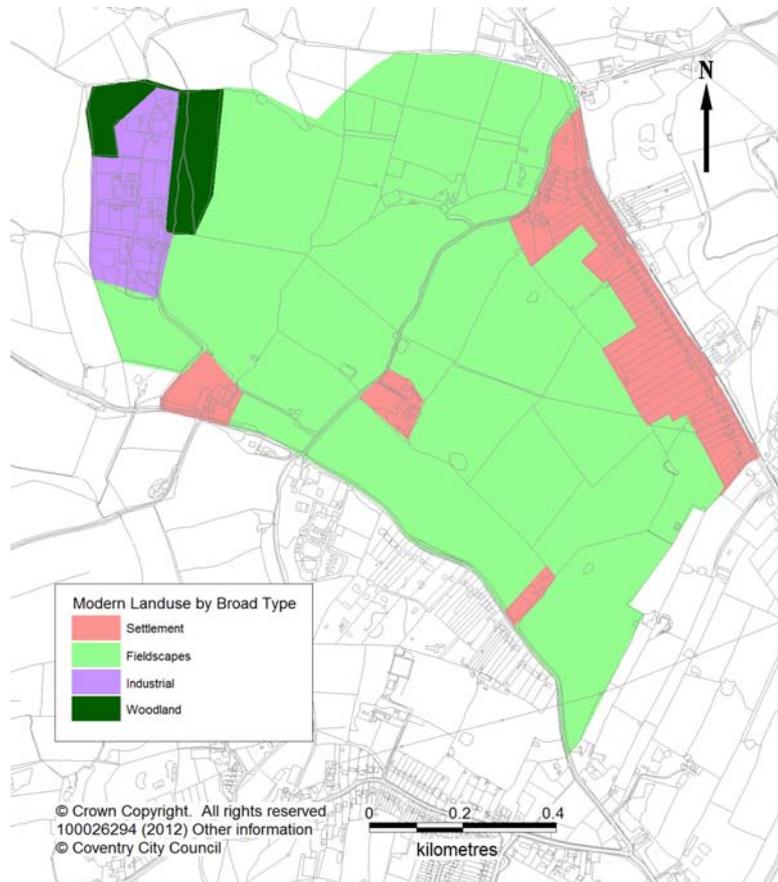
Hollyfast Farm is first recorded in 1680 and is now a grade II listed building located in the centre of the Character Area. Hazel Grove Farm on Wall Hill Road is also grade II listed and believed to date to the late 17th century.



Twentieth Century development within the Character Area includes an area of housing along the Tamworth Road which was built in the 1930s. In the late 20th century a very small area of light industry developed in the northwest of the Character Area.

Modern Character

The Character Area comprises medium to large, regular shaped fields. However, evidence of a previous ancient Arden landscape is present with small patches of woodland in the north of the Character Area, field boundaries with banked hedgerows containing veteran trees, and the winding, narrow morphology of Hollyfast Lane, which is sunken and also bordered with banked hedgerows containing veteran oak trees. The area has a hilly relief and a rural atmosphere. 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. It has a hilly relief and lies between 125m and 150m above sea level.