

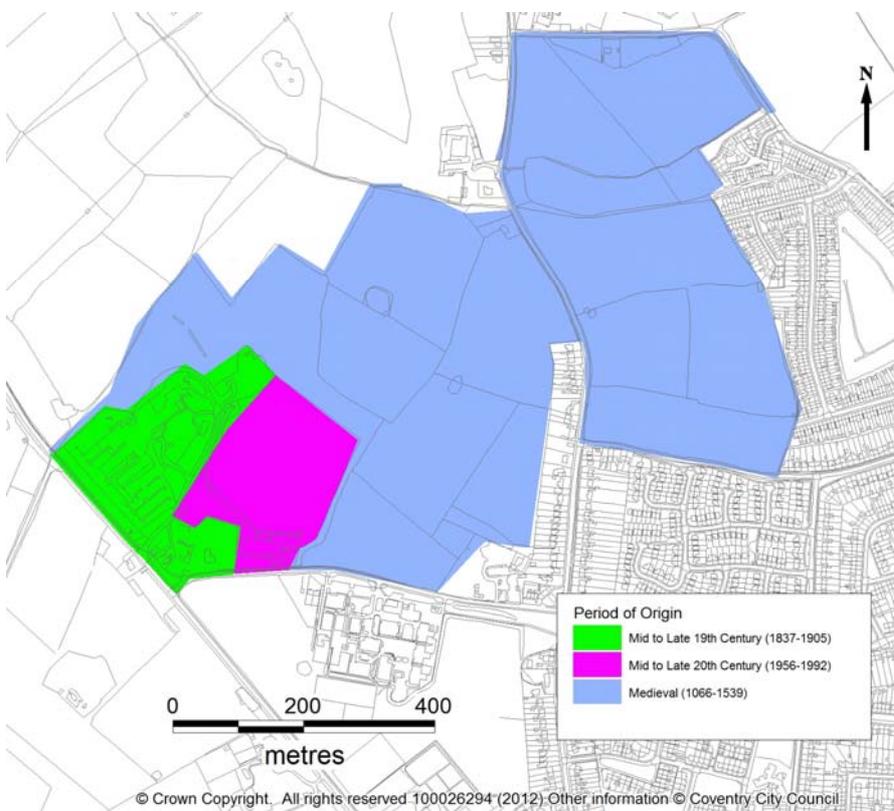
Location and Context

The Character Area is located to the north of Coventry city centre and has a residential area to the south and east and fields to the north and west. Hall Brook runs through the Character Area.

Heritage Designations in the Character Area

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
- Archaeological Constraint Areas: 8
- Listed Buildings: 0
- Locally Listed Buildings: 2
- Conservation Areas: 0
- Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

Historic Development

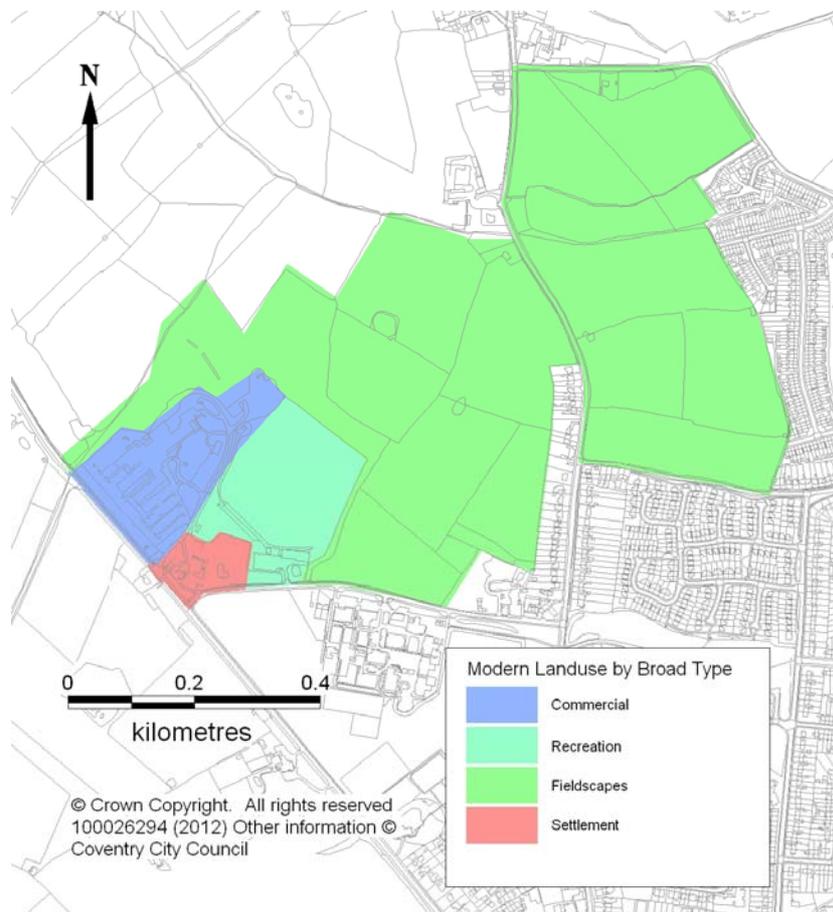


There is known to have been activity in this area during the Prehistoric period with flint artefacts having been recovered during field walking surveys. In addition, a medieval reference to 'Keresleyeberwe castel' [Keresley Barrow Castle] may indicate the site of a prehistoric barrow or defended enclosure. The exact location of this feature is uncertain but it is thought to have been to the north of Penny Park Lane.

Archaeological and documentary evidence also indicate that the landscape was used intensively during the medieval period. Earthworks to the north of the Beechwood Hotel are

suggestive of a deserted settlement and field walking in the west of the Character Area has produced medieval floor tiles indicative of a high status building. Evidence from aerial photographs, field names and historic documents suggest the site may be a medieval chapel. There are several areas of ridge and furrow earthworks throughout the Character Area and a possible medieval water meadow in the east. The 1410-11 Priory Cartulary provides evidence that a large proportion of the Character Area comprised enclosure fields by this date and the field pattern is thought to have changed very little since then. One change might be a wooded area that existed in the later medieval or post-medieval period which was subsequently cleared. The field names 'Lower Barstley Wood', 'Near Barstley Wood' and 'Far Barstley Wood', all recorded in a survey of 1771, support this. By the end of the 19th Century Golden Green Farm had been built in the south of the Character Area and a country house called Keresley Hall was built in the west. The Hall was converted into the 'Alcock Convalescence Hospital' in the 1930s and later became known as 'The Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital.' By 1982 it had become a hotel, and a golf driving range was developed at the end of the 20th century.

Modern Character



With the exception of the hotel and golf driving range, the Character Area predominantly comprises small, agricultural fields which are bounded by hedgerows. Many of the hedgerows include veteran trees, and some of them are banked or include lynchets. They have a curving profile and form irregular-shaped fields indicative of medieval assarts. This, coupled with documentary evidence, indicates that this area is a landscape dating predominantly from the late medieval period. This is a hilly area with land sloping down towards the Hall Brook which, despite the proximity of

the housing to the south and east, has a rural, isolated atmosphere. The area has many footpaths and is popular with walkers.



Agricultural land south of Manor Farm, Keresley

Geology and Topography

The Character Area overlies sandstone and mudstone and has an alluvium deposit with sand with clay and gravel along the course of the Hallbrook. The Character Area lies between 125m above sea level rising to 140m to the west.

