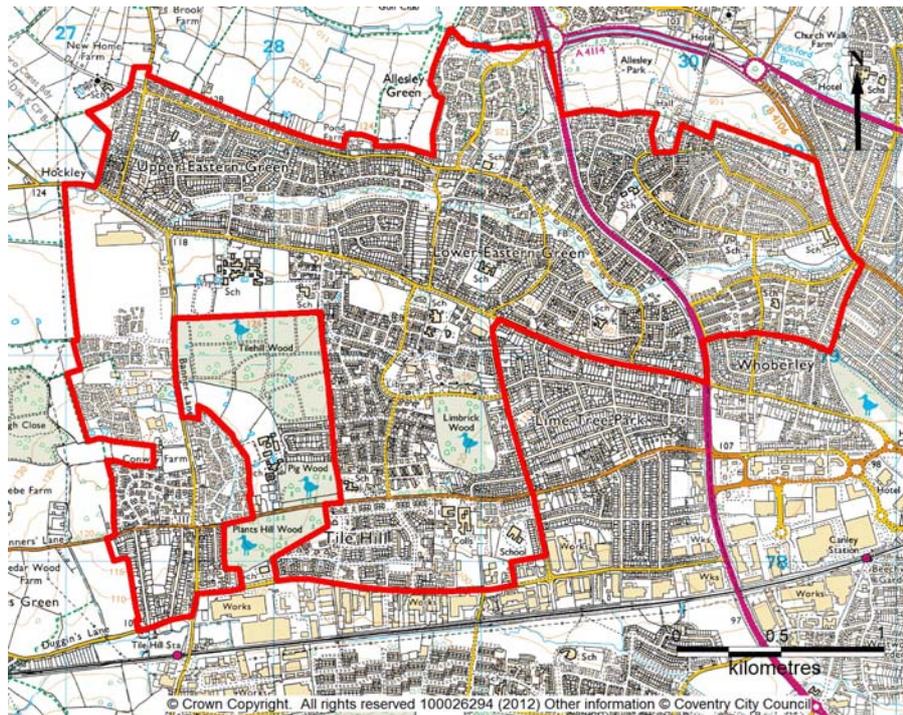


**Location and Context**

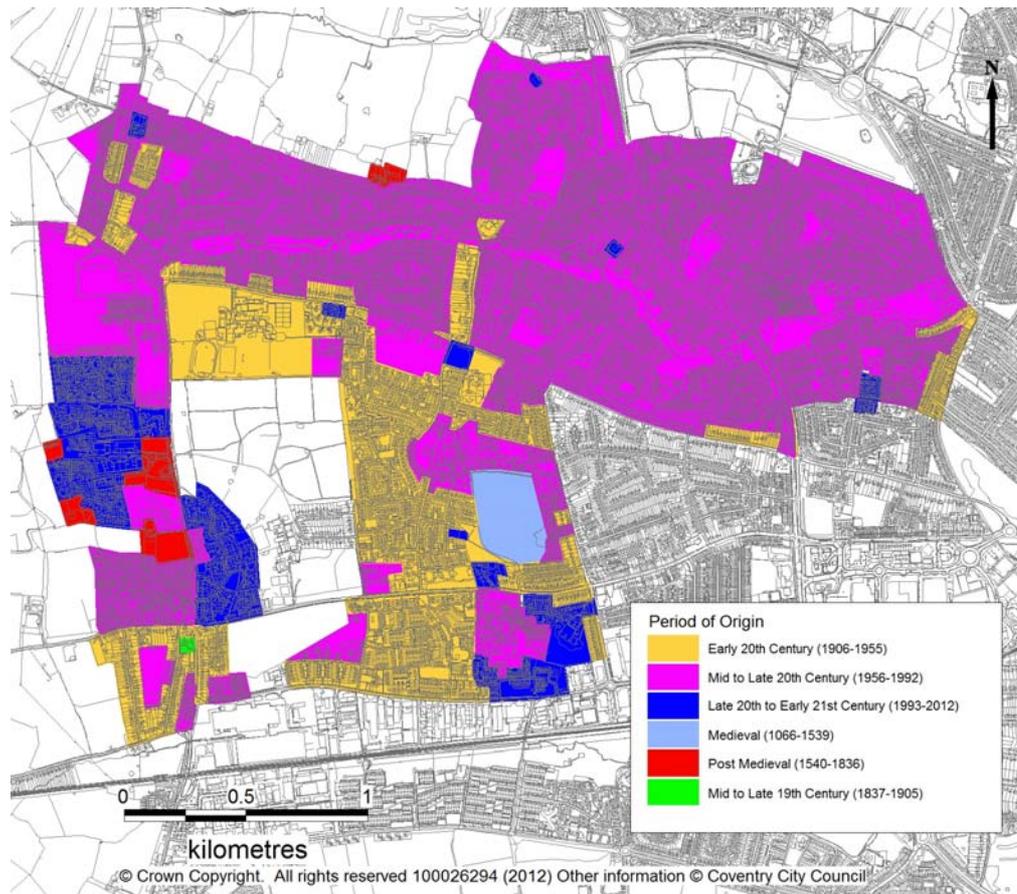
A residential area located to the west of Coventry. The Guphill Brook runs on an east-west alignment along the breadth of the Character Area. The Character Area is predominantly surrounded by housing to the south and west, although it also borders onto some industry and ancient woodland to the south. The Character Area is bordered by farmland and a golf course to the west. Farmland and Allesley Park are located to the north.

**Heritage Designations in the Character Area**

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0  
Archaeological Constraint Areas: 15  
Listed Buildings: 34  
Locally Listed Buildings: 6  
Conservation Areas: 0  
Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

**Historic Development**

Vigorous development of housing only began in the 1950s in the south of the Character Area whilst the north had been developed by the end of the 1960s. Until the 1950s, the Character Area predominantly comprised enclosed, agricultural fields with intermittent farmsteads and country houses. However, the Character Area did not always solely



comprise of agricultural land. In the medieval period the boundary of Allesley Deer Park extended much further south than today, to the edge of Broad Lane. A large part of the Character Area to the east of Mount Nod Primary School falls within the area of the former deer park which probably dated from the 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century when hunting was a fashionable pastime among the Norman aristocracy. The park would also have been a useful resource for timber and building stone. It is uncertain when the park was abandoned but it was probably converted back into agricultural use by the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the park boundary comprising of a 'park pale' bank and ditch still survive in some locations amongst the suburban housing. Enclosures are recorded in the south of the Character Area in a 1597 survey which also indicates that the road alignments of Broad Lane, Park Hill Lane and Eastern Green Road have remained unchanged since that time. A 1766 survey indicates some housing existed along Broad Lane and also records Hawthorne Lane. 19<sup>th</sup> century surveys record very small hamlets of Lower Eastern Green, Upper Eastern Green and Hockley. Between 1905 and 1925 a small residential area was built to the south west of the Character Area along Station Avenue and New Road and by 1936 small ribbon developments had grown along Eastern Green Road, Broad Lane and Hockley Lane. A 1955 map shows extensive residential development to the south of Broad Lane and also an industrial area west of Banner Lane. The works were originally developed at this location as part of the Shadow Factory initiative, a programme run by the Ministry of Aircraft Production with the aim of expanding the aircraft industry. The project was initiated in 1936 in response to political developments in Europe. Factories were deliberately located on the fringes of cities to reduce the risk of being damaged by air raids. By 1955 the factory was producing tractors instead of aircraft and belonged to the Standard Motor Company. The factory was

bought by Massey-Ferguson in 1959 which ran the factory for the next 40 years. By the end of the 1960s residential development to the north of Broad Lane was completed and the entire Character Area was now developed mostly with housing and associated amenities.

### **Modern Character**

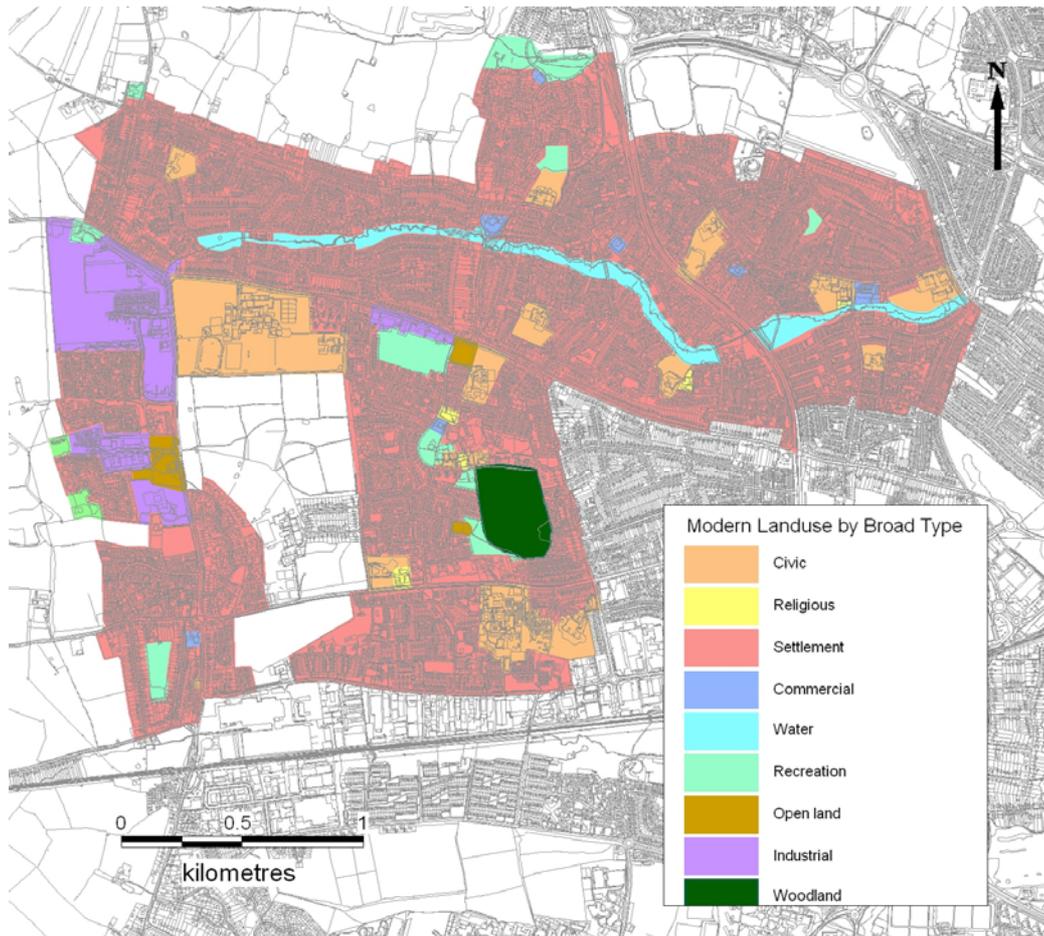
The Character Area overwhelmingly comprises mid-20<sup>th</sup> century residential developments, with small pocket of earlier settlement on Dial House Lane and Lower Eastern Green Lane. Many of the houses in this area are recorded on an 1809 survey and some of them have Listed Building status. The first phase of modern housing development in the Character Area was to the south of Broad Lane in the 1950s. The second phase began soon after to the north of Broad Lane and was completed in the 1960s. Both phases of development consist of small house plots, a mixture of terraced, semi-detached and detached houses, and long, curving road layouts. All of the properties have small front gardens, most of which are used for off-road parking. In general, there is more terraced housing to the south of Broad Lane and the back gardens tend to be smaller than the properties to the north of Broad Lane. To the north of Broad Lane many of the properties are semi-detached with small areas of detached housing. Housing to the south of Broad Lane has a slightly more spacious layout, with many grass verges, trees and pocket parks. There is also a wooded area to the south of the Character Area. There tend to be fewer trees and pocket parks within the residential areas to the north of Broad Lane, although the river floodplain provides an area of open green space. The architectural style of the housing to the south of Broad Lane is very plain with few decorative features and all of the houses are uniform in style. The front gardens tend not to have boundaries. Housing to the north of Broad Lane is also very plain and homogenous in style. Some of the houses have inbuilt garages. Front gardens to the north are larger with low brick walls defining the boundaries. Throughout the Character Area are amenities integrated with the housing including several schools, pubs and churches.



*1960s residential properties Upper Eastern Green Lane*

### **Geology and Topography**

The Character Area overlies argillaceous rocks (sedimentary rock formed by clay deposits) and sandstone. This geology is known as Tile Hill Mudstone Formation. Alluvium deposits of sand with clay and gravel is present in the vicinity of the Guphill Brook and glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel is present to the south of the Character Area. The area has a hilly relief and falls between 115m and 125m above sea level.



*18<sup>th</sup> Century cottages along Unicorn Lane*