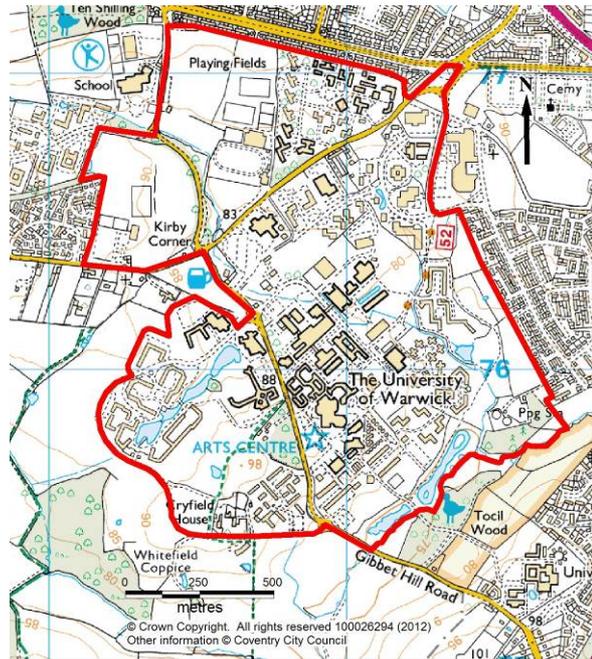


University of Warwick Character Area

HLC Area 12

Location and Context

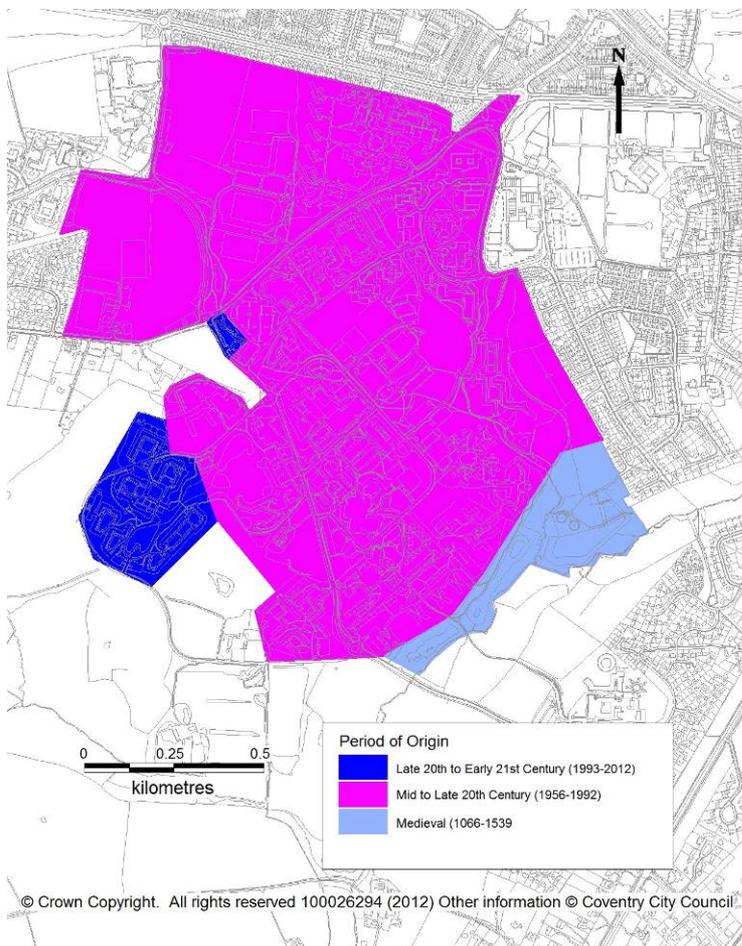
A Character Area located to the south west of the city centre on the fringes of the Coventry–Warwickshire border. The Character Area encompasses the whole of the University of Warwick Campus including Halls of Residence, sports facilities and all University buildings. It is surrounded by fields to the southwest and by residential areas on all other sides. The Canley Brook runs along its southeast border.



Heritage Designations in the Area

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

Historic Development



The Character Area incorporates archaeological evidence for one of Coventry’s earliest occupation sites, an Iron Age settlement to the north of Kirby Corner Road. Archaeological excavations revealed Iron Age round houses with pits, gullies and ditches and recovered pottery and bone. Aerial photography suggests the presence of more Iron Age enclosures and pits along Westwood Way and an Iron Age/Roman banjo enclosure located east of Westwood Way.

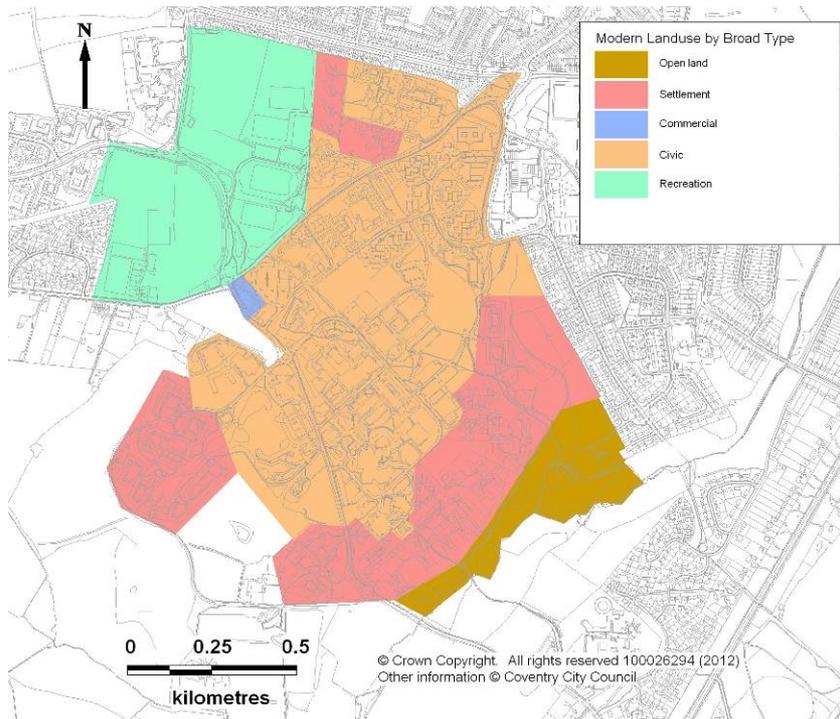
The only evidence dating to the medieval period is a possible motte that is located to the west of Kirby Corner Road. By 1597, however, an estate map records

small, enclosed fields in the northern half of the Character Area, whilst the south may have been an area of common land or waste. The 1597 survey also records a road on the same alignment as the current Kirby Corner Road.

By the late 18th Century a small hamlet had grown around the edge of the common and on roadside waste at Kirby Corner and another existed at the north end of Kirby Corner Road and much of the remaining common had been enclosed as fields. The pattern of 16th Century enclosures further north remained unchanged. A farmstead, later called Tocil House Farm and comprising a house and three outbuildings, existed to the north of today's Health Centre Road.

For the next hundred years or so there were few major changes to the landscape, which remained agricultural. The alignment of Gibbet Hill Road, which had previously run north towards Tocil House Farm before taking a sharp bend westwards towards Kirby Corner, changed between 1846 and 1888 and now took a more direct route across the enclosed fields. It wasn't until the period immediately after the Second World War that an area in the north was used for the building of a teacher training college and two areas along Kirby Corner Road were changed to sports fields. The site of the college was redeveloped between 1955 and 1977 and new college buildings were built. Further south Warwick University also built its first campus buildings during this period and created playing fields on the agricultural land immediately to its north. Subsequent years saw the development of much of this area for Warwick University including halls of residence, sports facilities and departmental buildings. Although much of the area is now built up, development seems to have respected the former landscape in places, and some former hedgerow boundaries have been retained, particularly in the north of the Character Area.

Modern Character



The Character Area comprises almost entirely of buildings and facilities associated with the University of Warwick. The core, original 1970s lecture buildings are arranged in a central block around University Road and the rest of the university gradually expanded outwards from this area. There is a mix of building styles and materials which reflects the gradual development of the University. In general, however, the

buildings are large, flat-roofed and rectangular in plan with large areas allocated for parking. There are trees, grass verges and other landscaping along the roadsides, many historic hedgerows and landscape features have been retained and incorporated in the University's landscaping. Halls of Residence are located around the edges of the campus. They comprise of small, red-brick, roofed buildings generally arranged in courtyards and / or geometric shapes. The Halls of Residence are located in an open green setting with areas of woodland nearby. Sports facilities including extensive playing fields are present to the northwest of the Character Area.



University of Warwick's Grade II Listed Houses for Visiting Mathematicians.

Geology and Topography

The character area overlies a mixture of mudstone and sandstone with an alluvium deposit of sand, clay and gravel along the course of the river. The land rises gradually from 75m above sea level to the south east to 95m to the northwest.