

Allesley Village Character Area

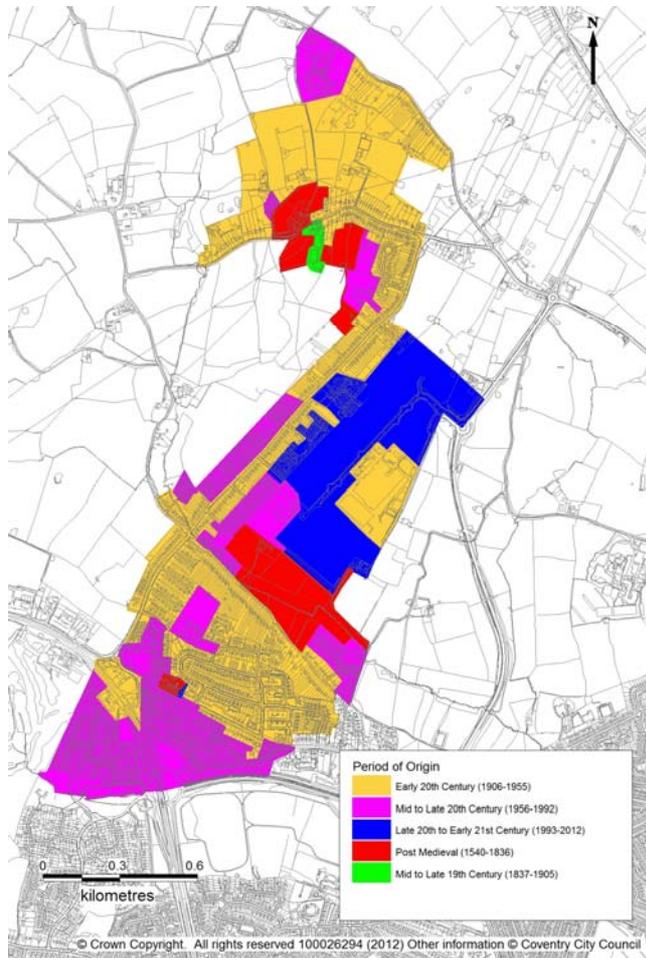
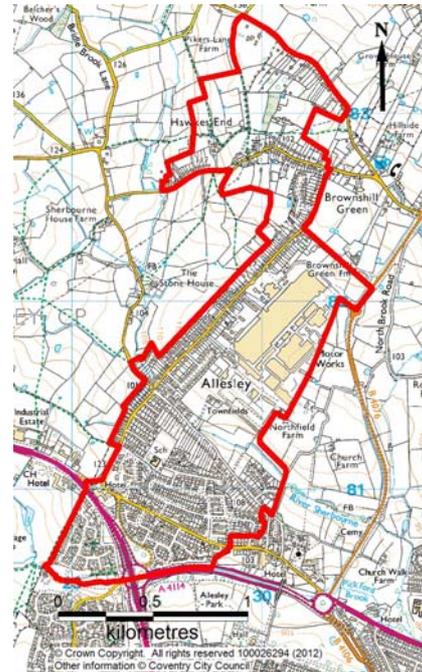
HLC Area 19

Location and Context

The Character Area is located to the northwest of the city centre and is surrounded by fields with some residential areas to the south and a golf course to the south west. This is predominantly a residential area with a former car plant to the east. The industrial site has recently been scaled back and is subject to mixed-use redevelopment. The River Sherbourne passes through the Character Area.

Heritage Designations in the Character Area

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
Archaeological Constraint Areas: 4
Listed Buildings: 0
Locally Listed Buildings: 5
Conservation Areas: 0
Registered Parks and Gardens: 0



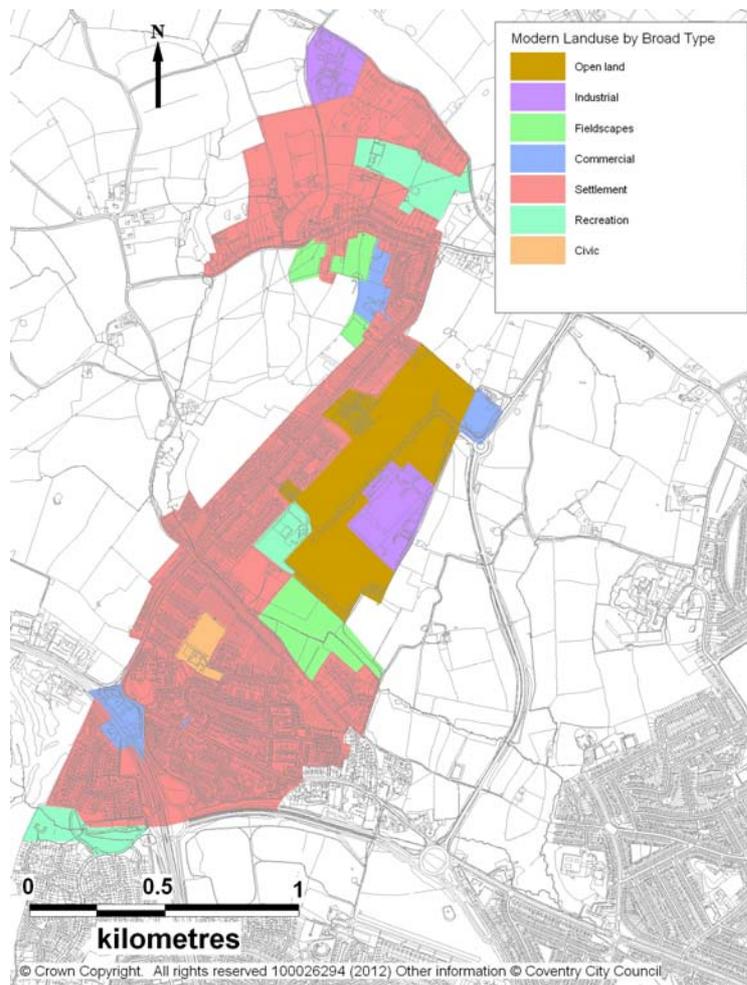
Historic Development

In the medieval period the majority of the Character Area was included in the Allesley open field system. St. Mary's Priory Cartulary of 1410-11 records a road called Le Brounselane which follows the alignment of the current Brown's Lane. The vast medieval open fields were enclosed after 1654 and the landscape became dominated by small enclosed fields. The 1654 Award also mentions a road called Park Lane which is thought to be the present day Park Hill Lane. The 1808 Allesley Sketch Maps, 1841 Tithe Map and the 1888 Ordnance Survey all depict the same small, enclosed fields throughout the Character Area with the exception of Meigh's Wood and Hawkes End Wood in the north. The woods survived until they were developed for housing in the mid 20th century. The Tithe Map also records a Turnpike Road, the current Birmingham Road. It depicts two other unnamed roads which follow the alignments of the

current Butt Lane and Hawkes Mill Lane. In the south of the Character Area there is a more recent area of expansion of the medieval village. In the 1930s, ribbon development occurred along Brown's Lane and Butt Lane. There was further development in the mid 20th century with more housing and the Browns Lane Jaguar car factory in the east of the Character Area. The car factory was originally a World War II 'Shadow' factory deliberately located away from the city centre to avoid air raid damage. The industrial buildings were demolished around 2005 - 2010 leaving a brown field site. In the late 20th century a further pocket of houses was built in the southwest part of the Character Area.

Modern Character

The Character Area encompasses a mixture of architecture and road design which reflects the gradual development of housing from the 1930s to the end of the 20th century. In general, all of the houses have front gardens with driveways and gardens to the rear. Most of the properties have garages. The size of gardens tends to become smaller as development progresses. The 1930s ribbon development along Butt Lane comprises very large front gardens with a variety of boundaries including hedgerows, brick walls and dressed stones. Housing along Brown's Lane is much more uniform. Houses of a similar architectural style overlook the street with front gardens that have low boundary walls or bushes. The 1930s development also includes housing built around cul de sacs. The architecture of these houses is homogenised with all of the front gardens bounded by low



brick walls, creating narrow, channelled views. Mid to late 20th century houses, particularly in the south of the Character Area, are arranged along long curving streets with pavements and roads which are wider than the 1930s cul de sacs. Each street has a different architectural style but the housing within the street is very similar. Later housing tends to have trees planted along the streets but without front boundaries walls. The changing views created by the curve of the road, the wider streets and the lack of front boundaries create a feeling of more open space in the later developments. A primary school is present within the Character Area and there is also a small parade of shops along the Birmingham Road. However, overall there are very few amenities.

Geology and Topography

The Character Area overlies sandstone with an alluvium deposit of sandstone, gravel and clay along the River Sherbourne. The land gradually rises from about 100m above sea level to the south to 135m to the north.



Browns Lane



Agricultural land northeast of Townfields Close