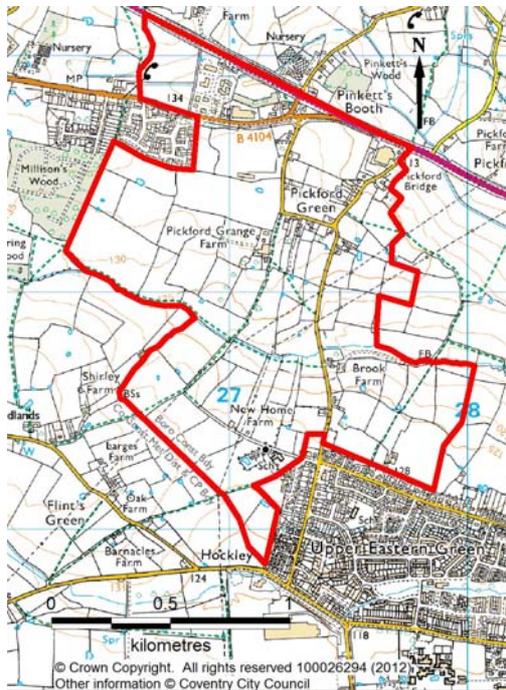


Location and Context



The Character Area is located on the western fringe of Coventry to the south of the A45 and is predominantly rural with a small business park to the north. A residential area borders onto the south of the Character Area which is otherwise surrounded by rural landscapes. The Ash Brook runs through the Character Area from west to east.

Heritage Designations in the Character Area

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
- Archaeological Constraint Areas: 5
- Listed Buildings: 2
- Locally Listed Buildings: 6
- Conservation Areas: 0
- Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

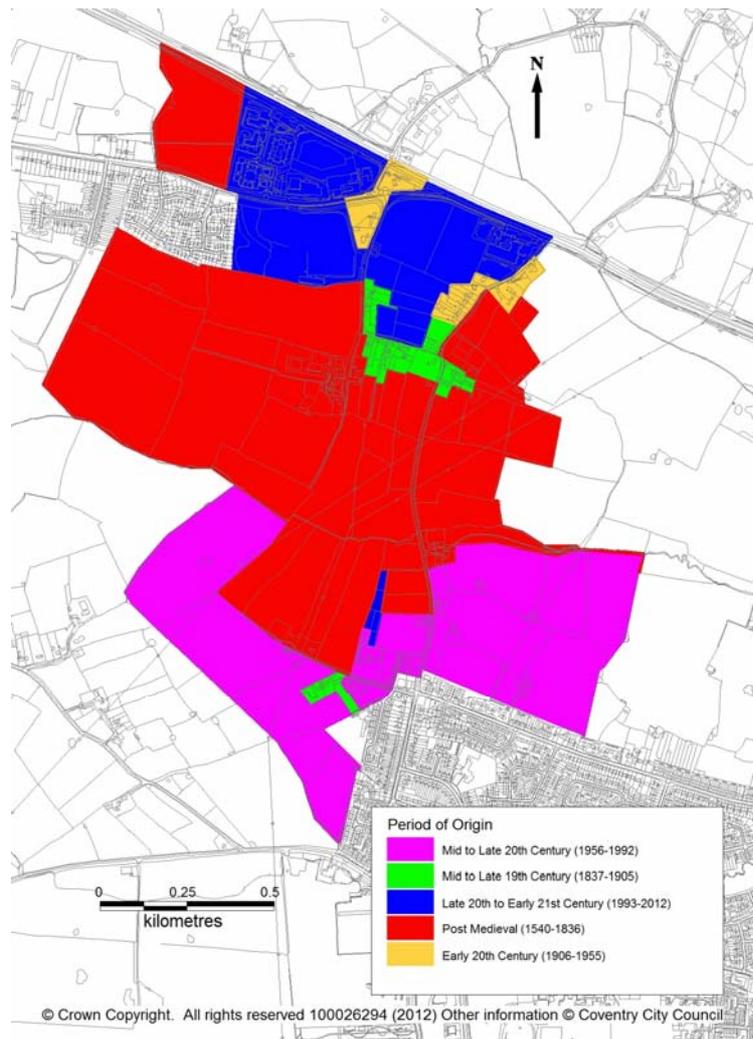
Historic Development

There is not a great deal of documentary or archaeological evidence for this area. The north east of the area is recorded as falling within Allesley’s medieval open field system which was enclosed in 1654 while relict ridge and furrow earthworks that are present in the east of the Character Area suggest that it was in arable cultivation from an early date. Pickford Grange Farmhouse, a jettied timber framed listed building, lies in the centre of this area and dates to the 16th Century. It is likely that it represents an isolated farmstead of possibly medieval origin which is typical of the Warwickshire Arden landscape. A map of 1809 shows the whole character area comprising of small enclosed fields. In the south of the Character Area the enclosed fields were small, narrow and elongated in shape and a number had field boundaries with a reverse ‘S’ profile, suggesting this area may, too, have been part of a medieval period open field. In some areas the field boundaries were subsequently removed in order to create larger fields.

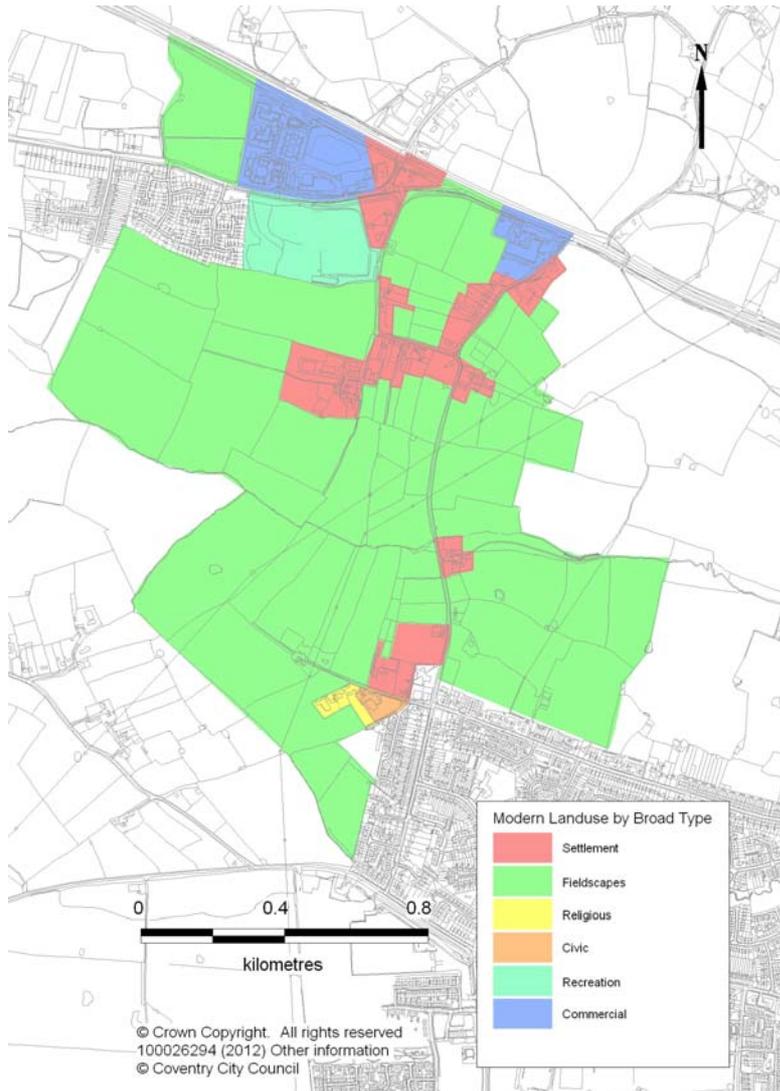
The 1841 Allesley Tithe Map records the turnpiked Birmingham Road, and also Pickford Road which, today, is Pickford Grange Road and Pickford Green Road. By this date there was a small hamlet at Pickford Green. The 20th Century saw little development within the Character Area and the pattern of 17th Century enclosures largely remained the same. The only developments were the several houses built to the west of Pickford Green Lane in the 1930s and an engineering works was built in the north of the Character Area in the 1950s. This was converted into the Meriden Business Park at the end of the 20th century.

Modern Character

The Character Area predominantly comprises small, enclosed fields with small paddocks located next to housing, forming a pattern of mid-17th Century and possibly earlier enclosures. In general, the fields are rectilinear in form, but many of the boundaries have a curving profile and may pre-date the 1654 Inclosure Award. All of the fields are bounded by hedges, many of which are banked and include veteran trees. Public footpaths create good access to fields. A distinctive feature of the Character Area is the morphology of Pickford Grange Lane which has two, sharp, right-angled turns. The proximity of a large residential area to the south makes this a convenient location for walkers. For a rural location, this is a relatively active area due to the presence of the dual carriage way to the north and the residential hamlet of Pickford Green.



Pickford Green



Geology and Topography

The Character Area lies over sandstone with an alluvium deposit of sand with clay and gravel along the course of the Ash Brook. The Character Area has a hilly relief and lies between 115m and 125m above sea level.



17th Century enclosure bounded by hedgerows at Pickford Green