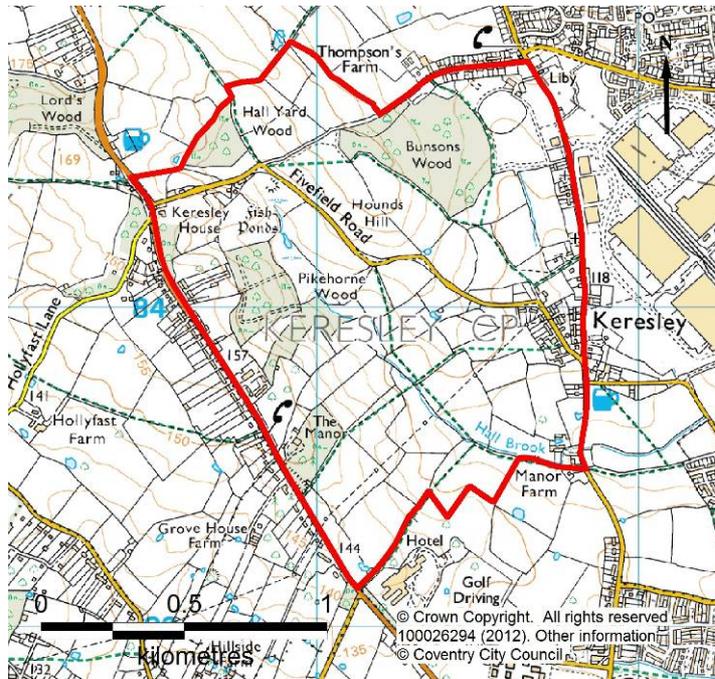


Location and Context

Character Area located in the north of Coventry predominantly surrounded by rural areas with a small industrial area to the east. A stream called the Hall Brook passes through the Character Area.



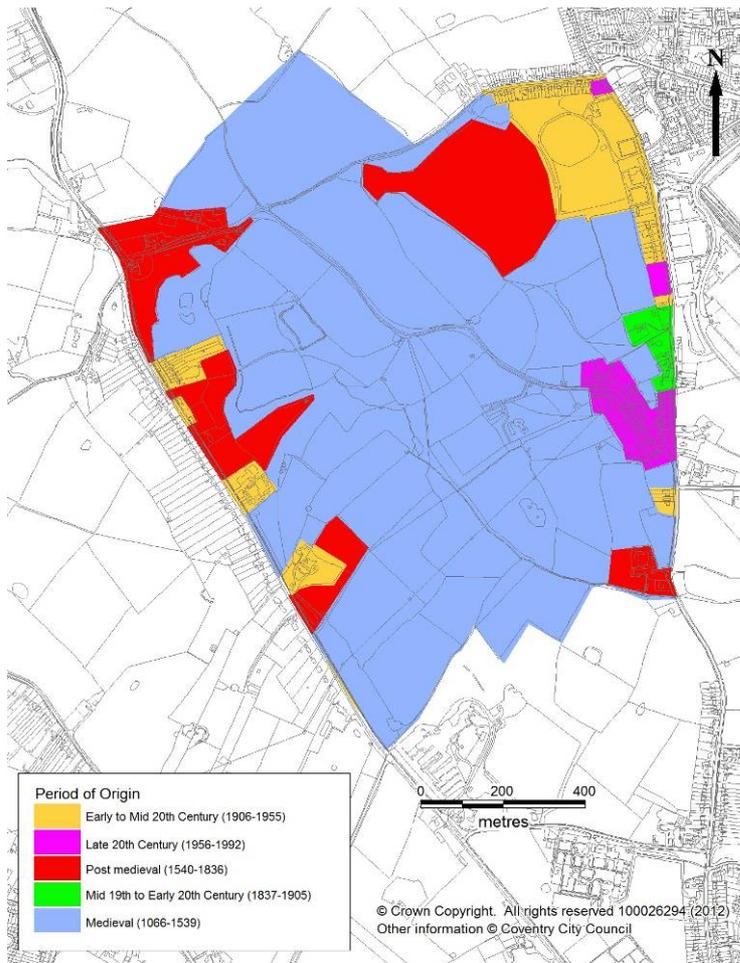
Heritage Designations in the Character Area

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
 Archaeological Constraint Areas: 20
 Listed Buildings: 0
 Locally Listed Buildings: 4
 Conservation Areas: 0
 Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

Historic Development

This was an area of relatively intense prehistoric activity. Field walking surveys have revealed a late Mesolithic / earlier Neolithic occupation site to the south of Thompson's Lane, with the retrieval of microliths, blades, scrapers, burins, a hammerstone as well as waste flakes. Late Mesolithic and early Neolithic flints were also found in the south west of the Character Area.

Features of the medieval landscape also survive well within this Character Area. Thompson's Lane is recorded in the 1410-11 Priory Cartulary as Le Carterlane, while a 1334 document records a road called Le Caldewallane which is thought to be today's Fivefield Road and both Bennetts Road and Tamworth Road are known to have existed by the early 15th Century. A medieval moated site survives as an earthwork to the west of Manor House Farm and 1940s aerial photographs indicate that another moated site was present in the north of the Character Area. Medieval fishponds, presumably associated with this latter moated site, are located to the east of Pikehorne Wood. In addition to Pikehorne Wood, surviving ancient woodland exists in the north of the Character Area and includes



The Alders, Bunsons Wood and Hall Yard Wood. Some of the woodland boundaries are banked and an area of ridge and furrow earthworks is visible within Bunsons Wood. An estate survey dating to 1405, as well as the 1410-11 Cartulary record medieval assarts across much of the Character Area. These enclosed fields are also recorded in a 1581 survey and various leases dating to the 16th and 17th centuries. This medieval field pattern remains little changed to the present day and incorporates many ancient hedgerows.

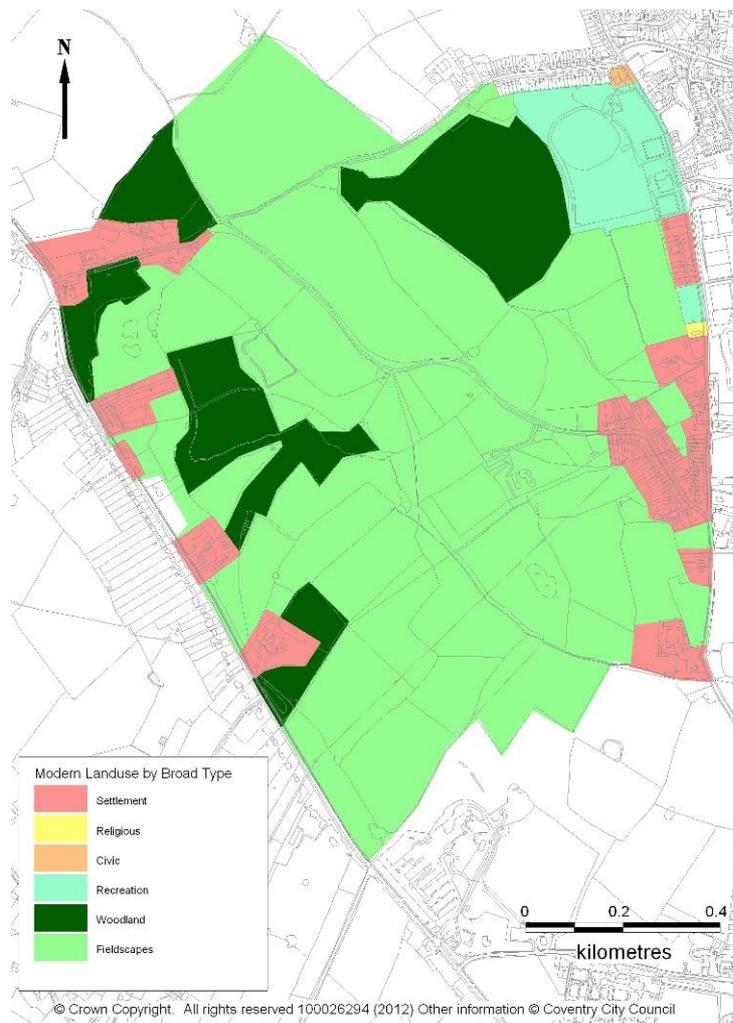
Apart from Keresley Manor, which was built at the turn of the century, and ribbon development along the arterial roads from the 1930s onwards, there was little development in the 20th century.



Medieval fishpond near Fivefield Road

Modern Character

The Character Area is typical of ancient Arden landscape comprising small, irregular fields with banked hedges integrated with sunken lanes and woods. The north of the Character Area contains four ancient woodlands with distinctive boundaries. The fields are bounded by hedges, many of which are banked and include veteran trees. The fields are divided by narrow, winding lanes with thick, roadside hedgerows. This rural area is hilly and isolated. Although there is a network of footpaths to the fields, this area tends only to be accessed by occasional local walkers.



Geology and Topography

The Character Area overlies Sandstone and Mudstone. There is an alluvium deposit of sand with clay and gravel along the course of the Hall Brook. The area has a hilly relief but overall the land rises from 125m above sea level in the south to 150m in the north.