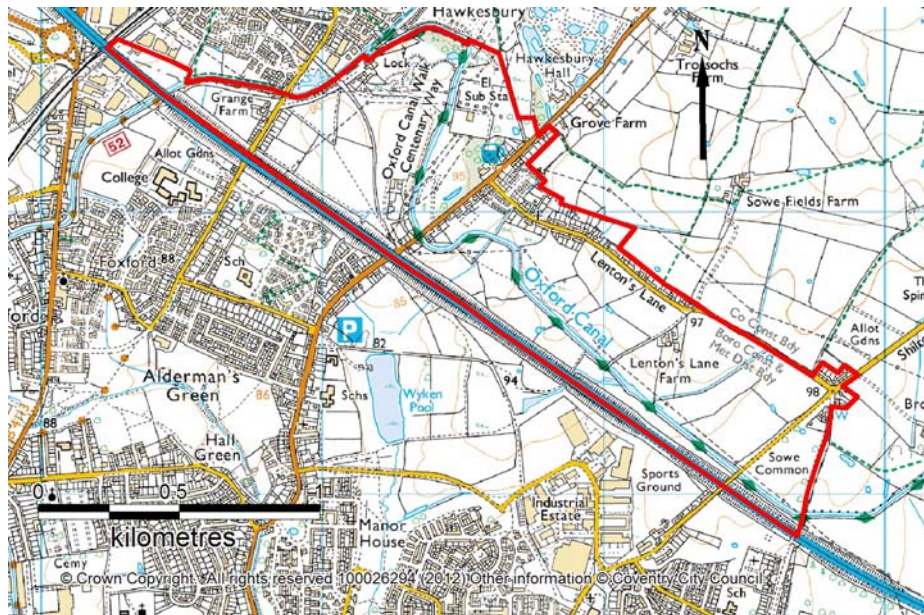


Location and Context



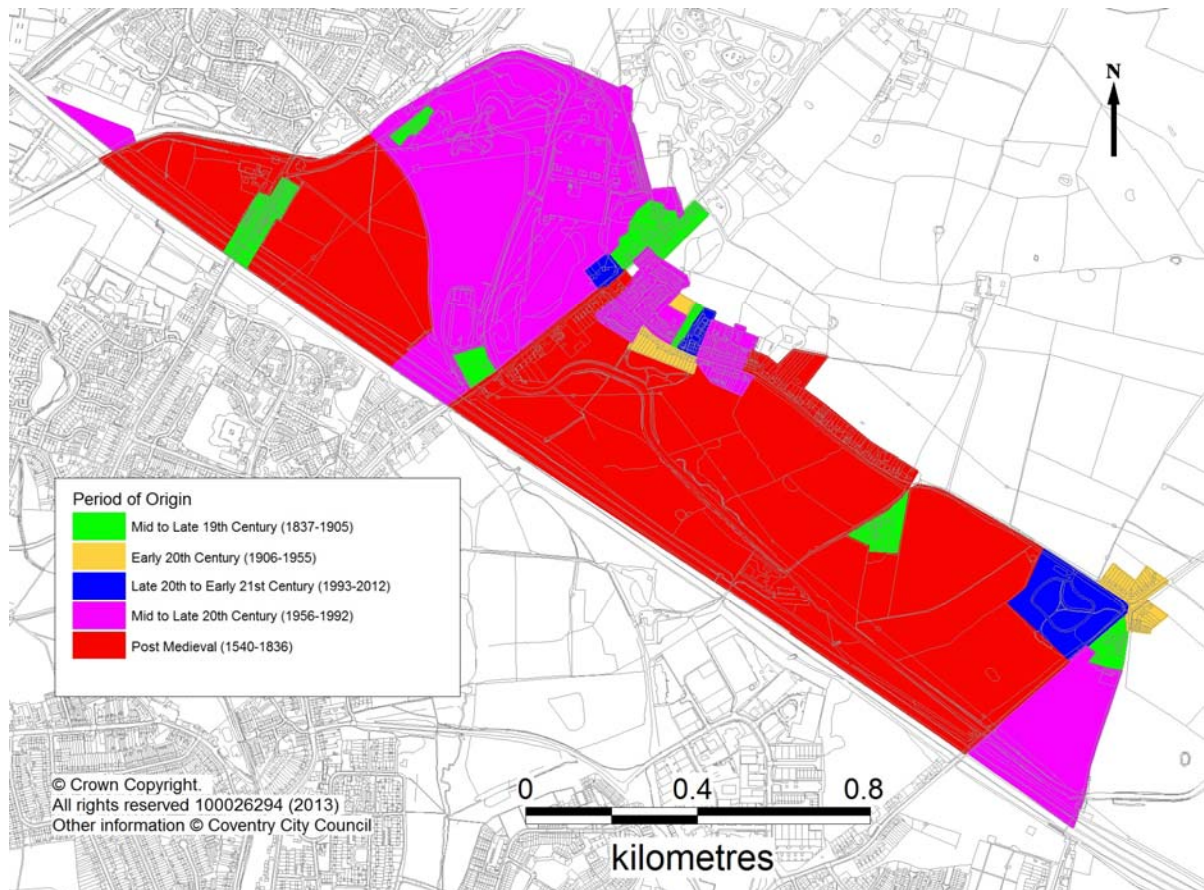
A mixed-use Character Area located on the northeast fringe of Coventry. The dominant features are the Oxford Canal and the M6 motorway which pass through the length of the Character Area, which is surrounded by residential areas to the north and by fields to the east. The M6 motorway forms the south western boundary.

Heritage Designations in the Character Area

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
 Archaeological Constraint Areas: 10
 Listed Buildings: 4
 Locally Listed Buildings: 1
 Conservation Areas: 1
 Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

Historic Development

The current Sowe Common located to the south of the Character Area is common land that can be traced back to the medieval period and is mentioned in the 1410-11 St. Mary's Priory Cartulary. The cartulary also records a road known as Le Redway which follows the alignment of the current Alderman's Green Road. Also recorded in the Cartulary are enclosed fields to the southeast of Le Redway which are also included in a 1581 estate survey. The possible site of the deserted medieval settlement of Hawkesbury lies in the northwest of the Character Area. The medieval settlement is recorded in documents but archaeological evidence may have been destroyed by the development of the collieries and the canal junction.



Hawkesbury Colliery dates to the 16th century when the Coventry Corporation awarded a licence to Christopher Wynold to prospect for coal. Mining has taken place intermittently over the centuries but finally declined in the 19th century. 18th century documentary evidence indicates that, with the exception of Sowe Common to the south, the Character Area comprised small, enclosed fields at this time. Lenton's Lane is recorded as an unnamed road in 1756 and the current Grange Road is recorded as Coney Lane in the 1775 Inclosure Award. Changes to this area in the late 18th Century included the building of the Coventry and Oxford Canals and Hawkesbury Junction which are now included in two Conservation Areas due to their unique character and historical associations with the early years of the industrial revolution and the development of the canal system. Hawkesbury Junction Conservation Area includes a number of listed and locally listed buildings. These include The Greyhound Inn and 18 Sutton Stop which together form a terrace of two storey buildings which are listed Grade II buildings. At the rear survive old farm buildings. The engine or pump house is perhaps the most unusual and interesting of all the buildings in the Conservation Area, both historically and architecturally. The lean-to at the rear is the oldest part and housed the first engine to be installed in 1821. Elsewhere, cottages which are probably associated with the mining industry were built to the north of Lenton's Lane.

Much of the landscape remained unchanged during the 19th century, the majority still comprising small, enclosed fields. Some housing was built in the vicinity of Alderman's Green Road, however, and the Wyken Colliery Railway branch line to the north of the Character Area was opened in 1848. Shelton Lane and Woodway Lane are first recorded on the 1888 Ordnance Survey. Also recorded in 1888 is a brick works in the south of the Character Area with another, 'Victoria Brick Works' being recorded in 1905 to the east of

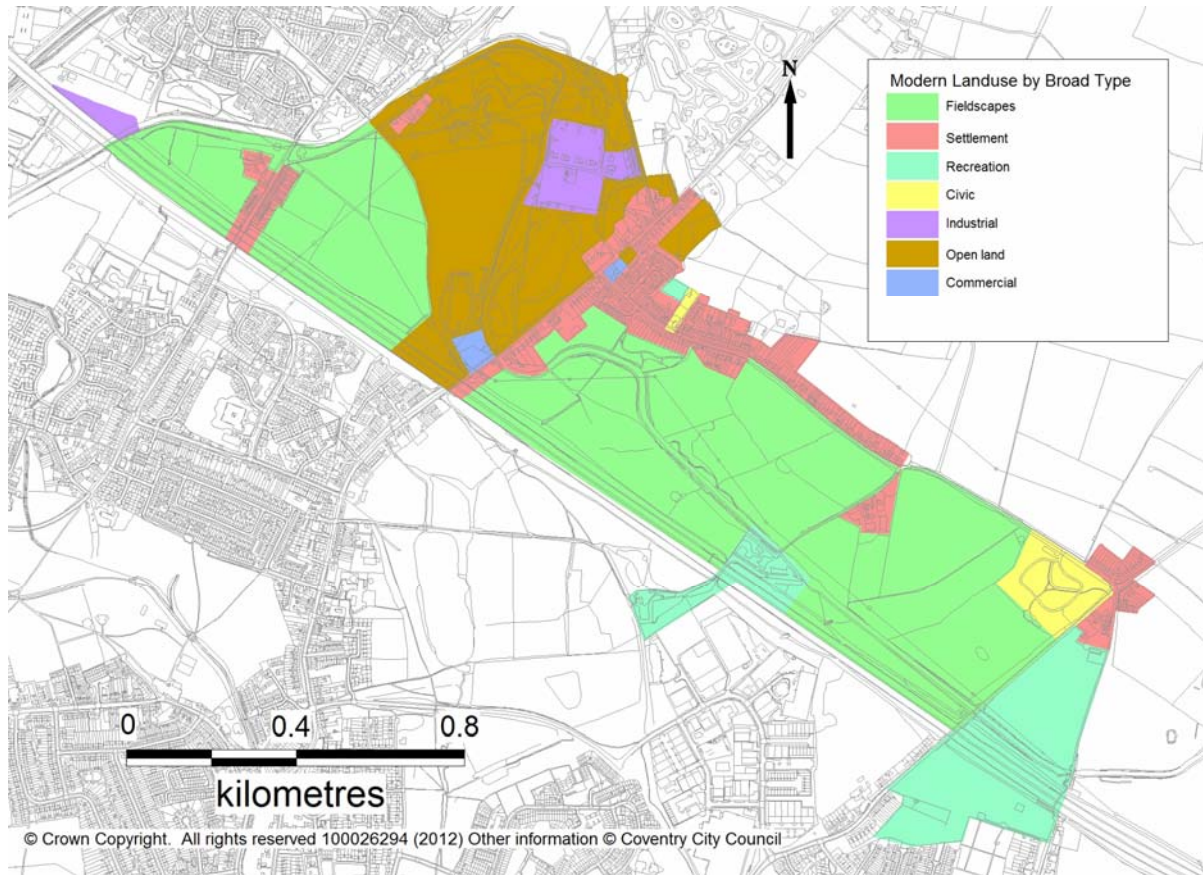
Grange Road. Little development occurred to the southeast of Alderman's Green Road in the 20th century, with most 19th century field boundaries surviving. Coventry Power Station was built on the former colliery site between the canal and the branch railway in the 1930's. The buildings were demolished in the 2000's apart from a large electricity substation which was developed in the 1930s and is still present on the opposite side of the canal. The M6 motorway was built in the late 1960s/early 1970s.

Modern Character

This is a mixed-use area which predominantly comprises small, enclosed fields surrounding the curving course of the Oxford Canal. The fields are bordered by hedges and many fields have sinuous boundaries. The fields are small and irregular in shape. There are also areas of ribbon housing development along the roads, some housing dating to the 18th century. The earlier housing is probably squatter housing associated with the mining industry. Piecemeal housing development continued until the end of the 20th century. Small house plots, with small gardens to the front and rear predominate. There is a mix of detached, semi-detached and terraced housing with different architectural styles, reflecting the gradual development of the area. The Character Area is bordered by the M6 motorway as well as the canal which isolates this area from the rest of Coventry and gives it a distinct and unique character. Although the area is predominantly rural, there is noise and activity from the M6 and the electricity substation. The site of Coventry Power Station remains vacant.



The Oxford Canal



Geology and Topography

The Character Area overlies sandstone with areas of clay to the north. The Character Area is located on relatively flat and low level land between 90m and 95m above sea level.