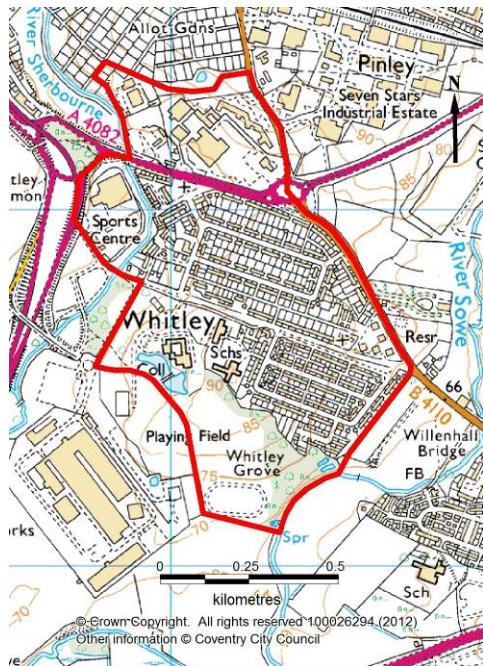


Location and Context



An area of settlement to the south of the city centre that is surrounded by industry to the north and west, and the River Sowe Valley to the south and east.

Heritage Designations in the Area

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
- Archaeological Constraint Areas: 6
- Listed Buildings: 1
- Locally Listed Buildings: 0
- Conservation Areas: 0
- Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

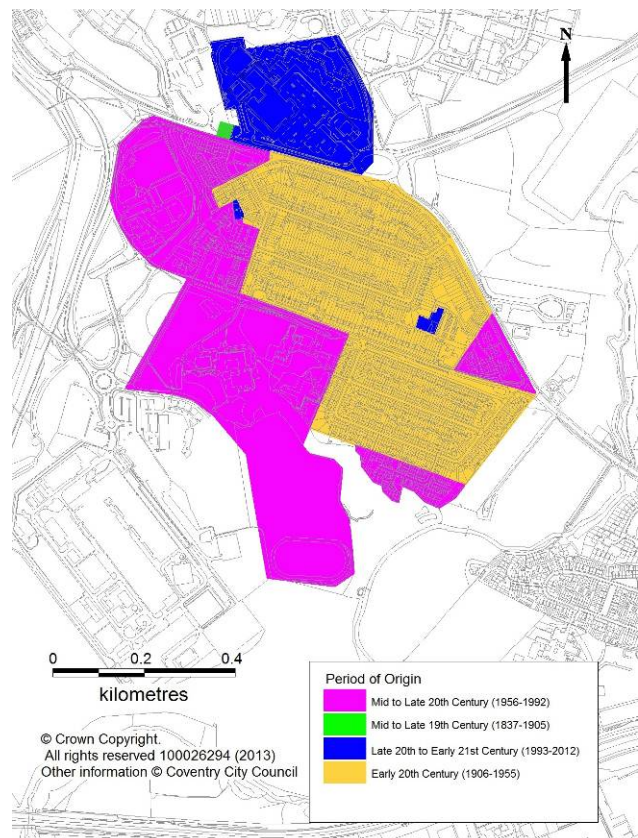
Historic Development

The medieval settlement of Whitley is believed to have existed in the western part of the Character Area to the south of Abbey Road. A manor house and chapel may have been located to its south and

Whitley Mill just outside the Character Area to the west. Towards the east is Whitley Grove which originated as a medieval quarry. The extensive lands of Whitley Common lay to the west.

Little else is known of the landscape during this period but it was probably a combination of areas of common land, open fields and enclosures.

During the 17th Century Whitley Abbey was built replacing the earlier manor house. The building was subsequently enlarged and by the 19th Century it was a grand country house in landscaped gardens owned by Viscount Hood. It was not until the period between 1914 and 1936 that this agricultural landscape saw dramatic changes. By 1936 much of the area between Abbey Road and London



Road was developed for housing and to the north of London Road an isolation hospital was built. Between 1936 and 1955 a further housing development and a school was built to the south of Abbey Road. Whitley Abbey was finally demolished in the 1940's and Whitley Abbey School was built on the site. The Whitley isolation hospital buildings were replaced in the late 20th/early 21st Century with a supermarket, nursing home and depot buildings.

Modern Character

This is an isolated pocket of concentrated housing, the majority of development having been undertaken between 1925 and 1955, with small areas of later development present on the fringes of the 1930s housing. The south west of the character area used to be the location of Whitley Abbey, a country house which survived into the 20th Century. A park and gardens was associated with the house which included Whitley Grove, a small woodland in a

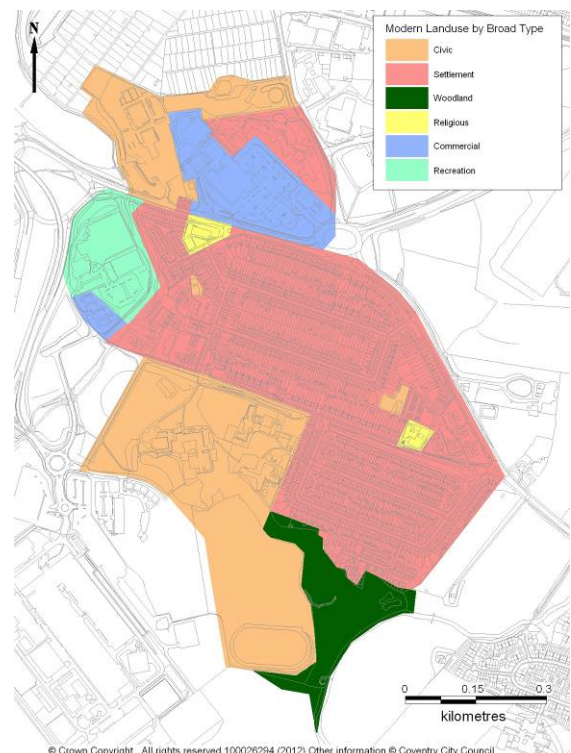


Typical 1930s residential properties Rutherglen Avenue

converted into driveways and there is adequate access between the semi-detached houses for cars to be parked to the rear. Consequently, although the streets are narrow they are not as cluttered in comparison to other areas of 1930s housing. There are some variations with the different colours of painted pebbledash, but the houses are built in a uniform size and shape, and in the same design and materials giving a strong sense of homogeneity. The houses have a plain style with arched, recessed front doors as the only form of decoration. The regularity of the architectural design creates channelled views at street level and a distinctive roofscape from higher ground. Amenities including a school, leisure centre and superstore are arranged around the outskirts of this area of dense housing.

medieval quarry that is still present to the south of the developed area.

The layout of the housing development comprises straight roads forming a grid pattern, with house plots built right up into the street corners. Houses are mainly small semi-detached and terraced dwellings with small gardens to the front and rear. Many of the front gardens have been



Geology and Topography

This area overlies sandstone with a gravel drift geology. There are also coal measures to the centre of the character area. The settlement is built on a plateau of 90m above sea level. The land surrounding the plateau falls away in all directions to 75m.

