**Location and Context**

Residential Character Area located to the north east of the city centre. The Character Area is bounded by the River Sowe to the east and by a mixed-use residential and industrial Character Area to the west.

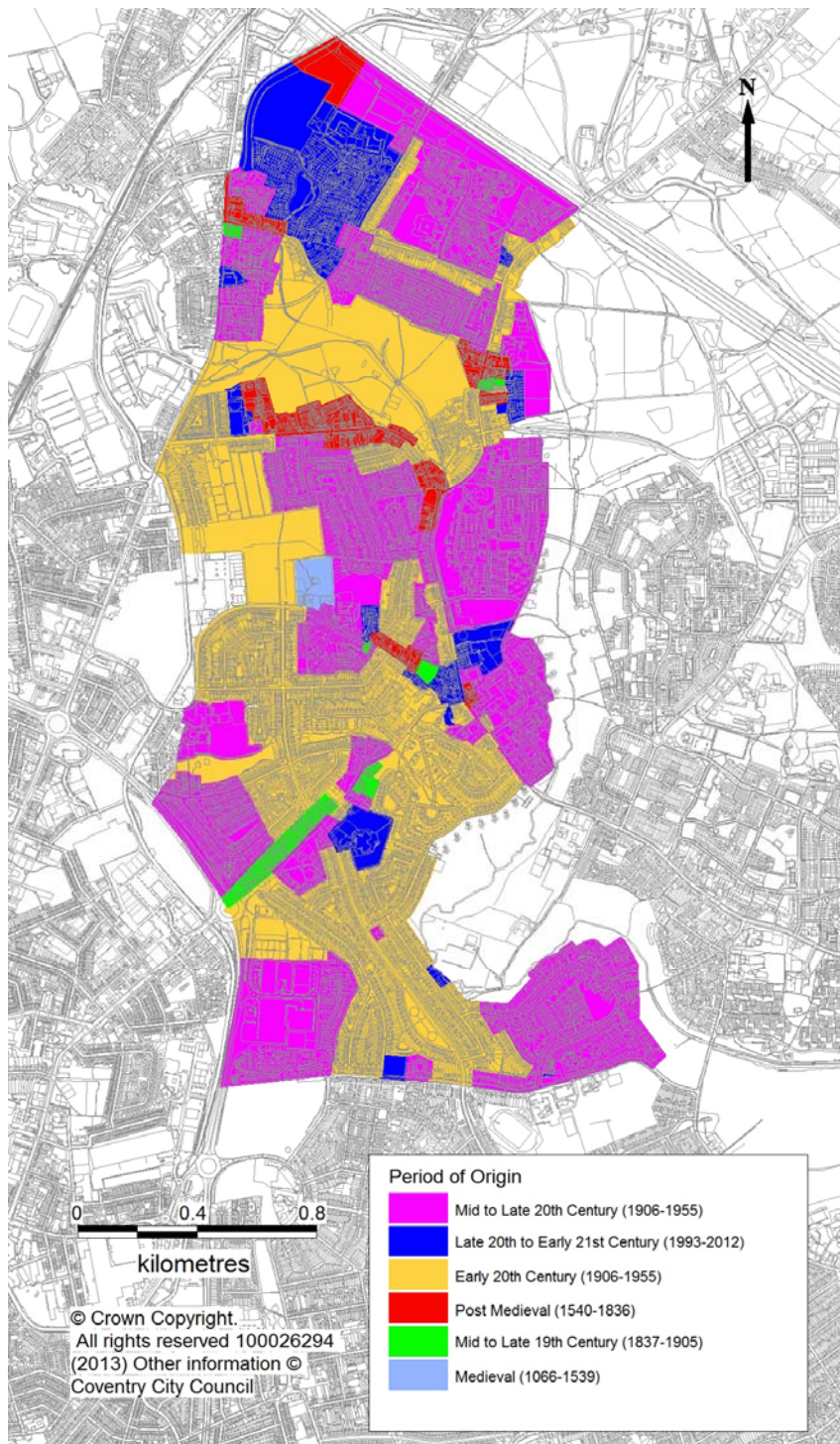
Heritage Designations in the Character Area

Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
Archaeological Constraint Areas: 3
Listed Buildings: 3
Locally Listed Buildings: 14
Conservation Areas: 0
Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

Historic Development

The landscape during the medieval period is likely to have comprised areas of common land, open fields and assarts interspersed with small areas of settlement. An area of common land called le Jakwaste is known from the 1410-11 St. Mary's Priory Cartulary to have existed in the north of the character area with an open field system further south in the area of Windmill Road and Old Church Road. Nucleated settlement may have existed at Hall Green, Bell Green and Spring Road. The Cartulary also records two lanes which are still present today. The current Jaker's Road was known as Jaklane in the early 15th century and Alderman's Green Road was originally called Le Redway. It is likely that Old Church Road also existed during the medieval period.

In 1775, the open fields and areas of waste were enclosed through the Foleshill Inclosure Award which encompassed the whole of the Character Area. A second phase of settlement occurred as a result of the early development of the mining industry. Unable to build on enclosed fields, squatter cottages for the miners sprang up on areas of roadside waste along the current Old Church Road and Bell Green Road. Bell Green Road, Henley Road, Longford Road and Hurst Road were recorded in 1775. Other roads recorded in 1775 but with different names are Grange Road – then known as Coney Lane, Windmill Road – then known as Windmill Lane. Foleshill corn mill is also included in the 1775 survey and the mill house is still present, to the south of the current Egret Walk.



Nineteenth Century and early 20th century maps indicate that, prior to the development of large areas of housing, there had been little change to the landscape since the time of the Inclosure Award in 1775 and much of the Character Area still comprised small, enclosed agricultural fields. Modern residential development began in the south of the Character Area in the 1930s. At this time, a motor works called the Courthouse Green Works was also built to the west of the Character Area. The site was redeveloped as an out-of-town shopping centre in the late 20th century. The most concentrated period of house building took place in the 1950s and 1960s as development progressed northwards. In the north of the Character Area, ribbon development along the roads had occurred by 1955 and further development took place in the 1960s and 1970s.

The last suburban areas to be built were in the vicinity of Anderton Road and Bayliss Avenue, to the very north of the Character Area, at the end of the 20th century.

Modern Character

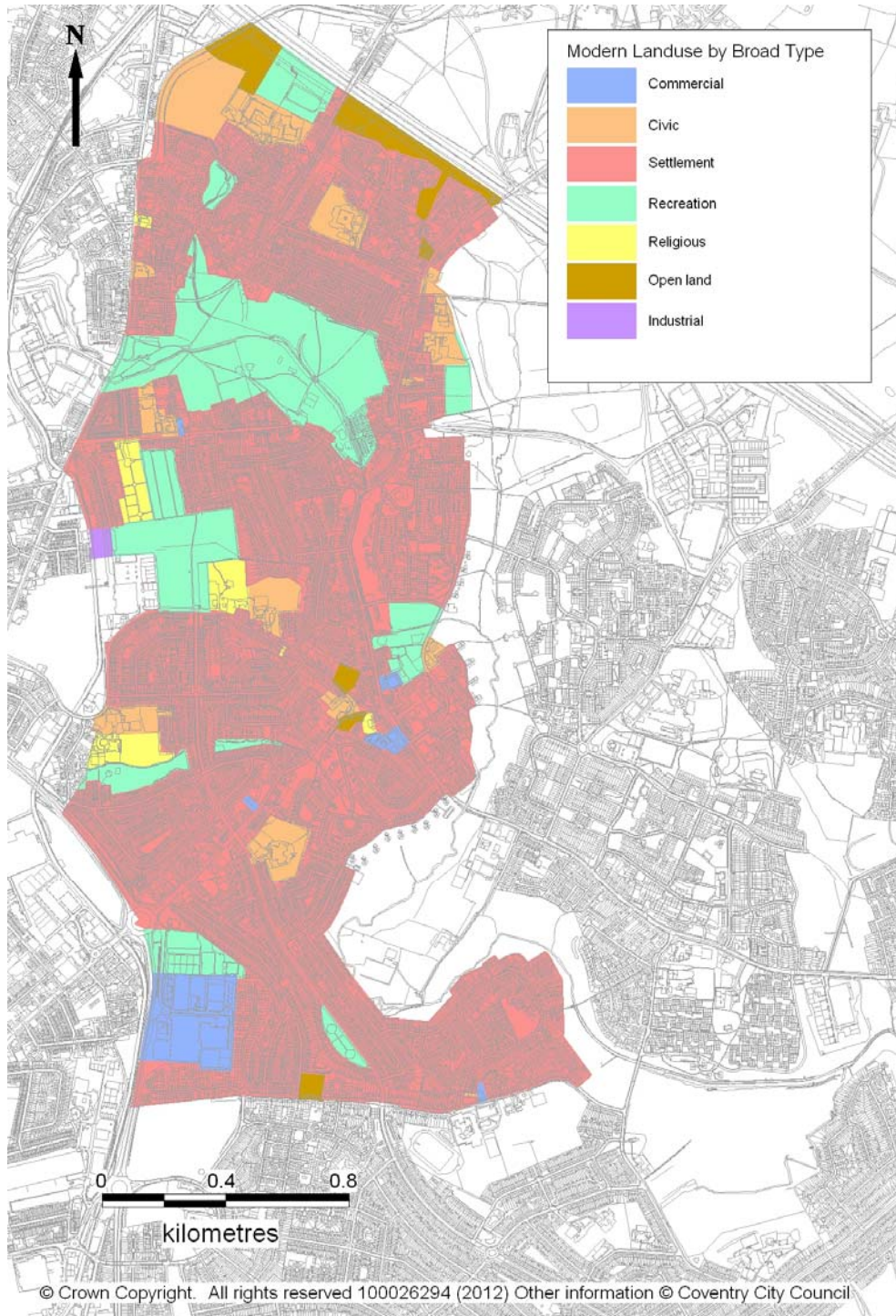
The Character Area comprises residential properties and associated amenities. Although engulfed by development in the 20th century, pockets of earlier settlement survive at the junctions of Henley Road and Bell Green Road; Hurst Road and Grange Road as well as at the corner of Alderman's Green Road and Windmill Road. The style of the modern housing varies, reflecting the slow development of the properties from the south to the north of the

Character Area, spanning from the 1930s to the end of the 20th century. In general, the housing consists of small plots and throughout the Character Area there is a mixture of terraces and semi-detached properties. There is a slight variation in the style of the road layouts, although overall the streets tend to be long, curving roads with cul-de-sacs. Most of the properties have small gardens to the front and rear. Housing built at the end of the 20th century in the north of the Character Area is set back from the road with room for off road parking. Although some properties to the south have had the front gardens converted into driveways, most of the earlier properties have low brick wall boundaries to the front of the houses. Consequently, residential roads in the south tend to be congested with parked cars, although long curving roads and variety in the front gardens create a sense of openness. Variation exists in the architecture from street to street, but within individual roads the houses are uniform in style. Overall the houses have little decoration with brick and pebble-dash fronts, and terraced houses in particular are plain. Some housing incorporates decorative features including bay windows and arched door lintels. Although there are areas of compact housing, amenities including schools, pocket parks and allotments are integrated with the housing.

Longford Park is located in the centre of the Character Area and the River Sowe and its associated floodplain is present to the east. Consequently, it includes areas of large, green open spaces and trees, which is a contrast with most other residential areas in Coventry. Several hedgerow boundaries within and around the perimeter of Longford Park relate to the 'ancient enclosures' that are recorded on the 1775 Inclosure Map and may be of 16th Century or earlier date. There are no Conservation Areas in the Character Area and just three listed buildings; St Thomas' Church (Grade II), built in 1874 and St Lawrence's Church (Grade II*), whose west tower and north aisle date to the late medieval period. There are several locally listed buildings with many clustered around Co-operative Street, including a church, Sunday School and hall which were built in the late 19th to early 20th century.



Riley Square, Bell Green



Geology and Topography

The Character Area lies over an area of sandstone and mudstone. The drift geology comprises alluvium and glaciofluvial deposits of sand, clay and gravel. This is a flat, relatively low lying area of land between 80m and 90m above sea level.