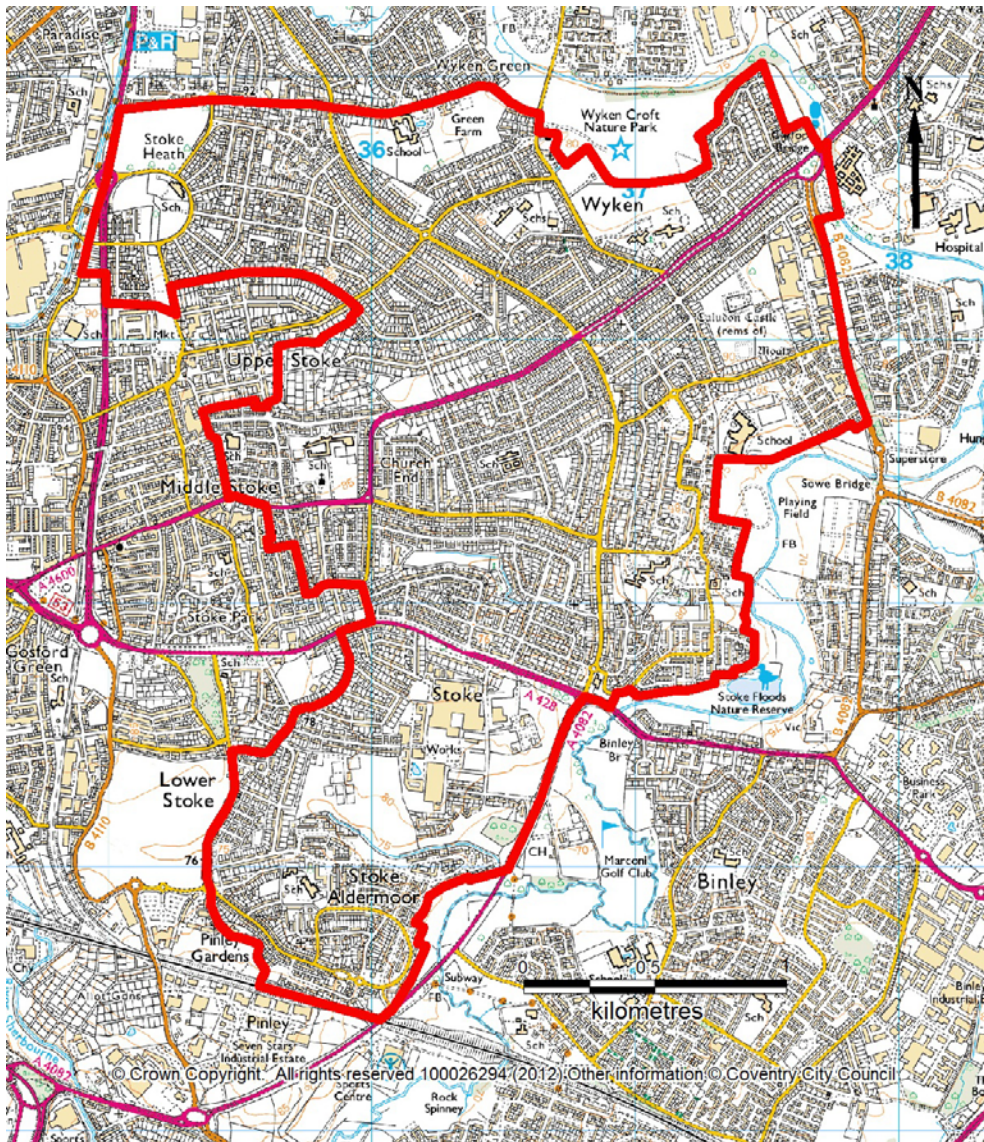


Location and Context



A Character Area located to the east of the city centre and comprising housing built in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The east of the Character Area is bounded by the River Soave and is otherwise surrounded by residential areas.

**Heritage Designations in the Character Area**

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 2
- Archaeological Constraint Areas: 11
- Listed Buildings: 8
- Locally Listed Buildings: 1
- Conservation Areas: 0
- Registered Parks and Gardens: 0

## Historic Development

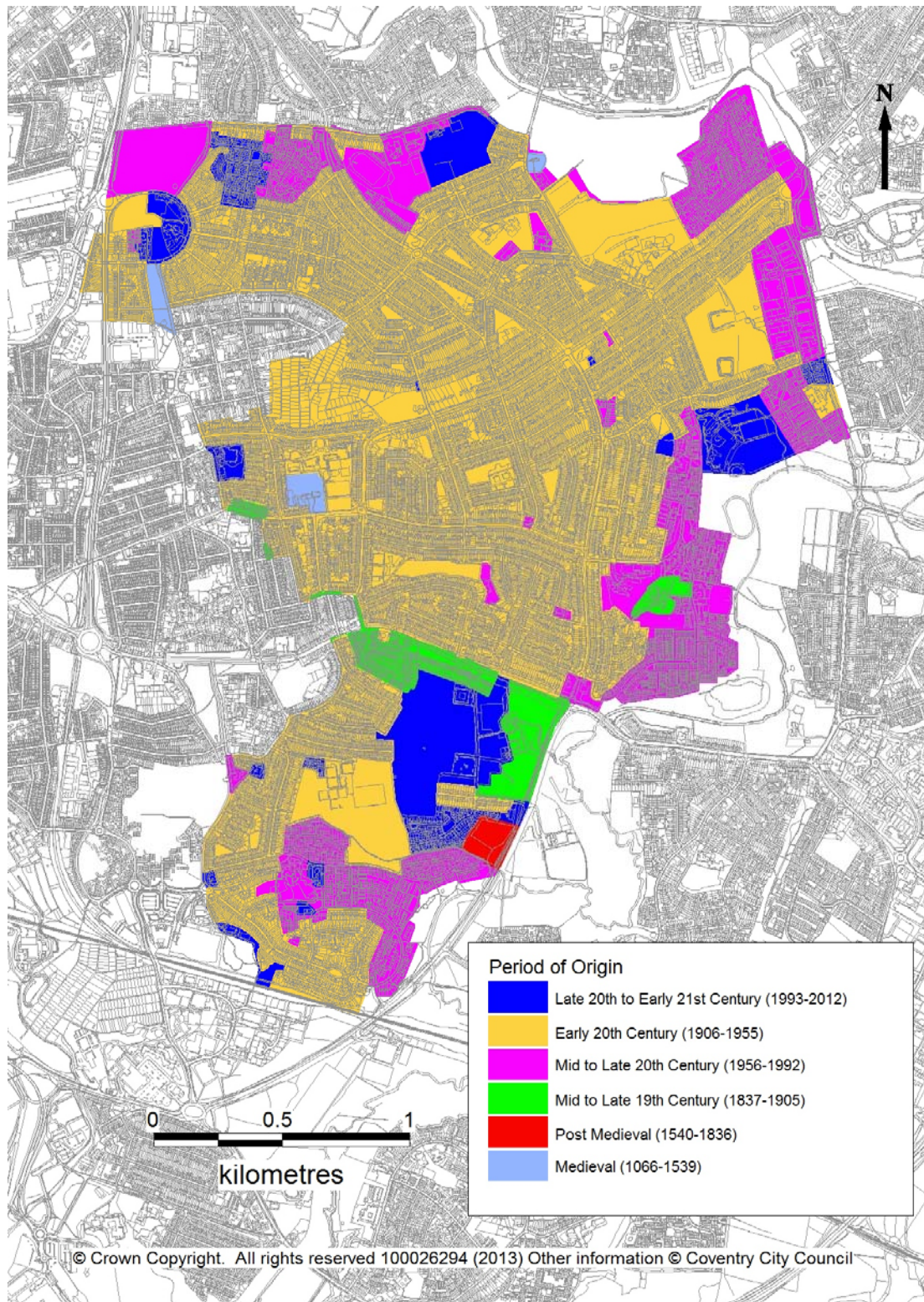
In the medieval period much of the Character Area would have been covered by the open fields of the settlement of Stoke with the common land of Stoke Heath to the north. A range of medieval settlement sites are known from archaeological and documentary sources to be in the area. The most high status site is the 13<sup>th</sup> century Caludon Castle and deer park associated with the Langley family. Upstanding remains of the manor house's great hall can still be seen in Caludon Castle Park at Farren Road along with the earthworks of the moat and ornamental lake. A second moated site lies nearby to the south.



*Remains of Caludon Castle in Caludon Castle Park, Farren Road*

In Stoke, a manor house was located in the vicinity of Stoke Park School and Community Technical College. The medieval settlement of Stoke was probably located to the east of Shakespeare Street near to the 14<sup>th</sup> century church of St Michael's which remains today. The medieval moated grange of Biggin Hall was owned by the Cistercian monastery at Coombe was located close to where Biggin Hall Crescent stands today. The medieval settlement of Wyken would have been clustered around the 12<sup>th</sup> century church of St Mary Magdalene at Wyken Croft.





The medieval open fields were enclosed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape continued to be dominated by agricultural fields interspersed with small settlements. Several country houses were built during this period and include Caludon House, Wyken House, Stoke House, The Springs, Copsewood Grange and The Hermitage along with three farmsteads located in the south of the Character Area; Copsewood Farm, Pinley Farm and Pinleyfields Farm. A brickworks was present as Barras Heath in the

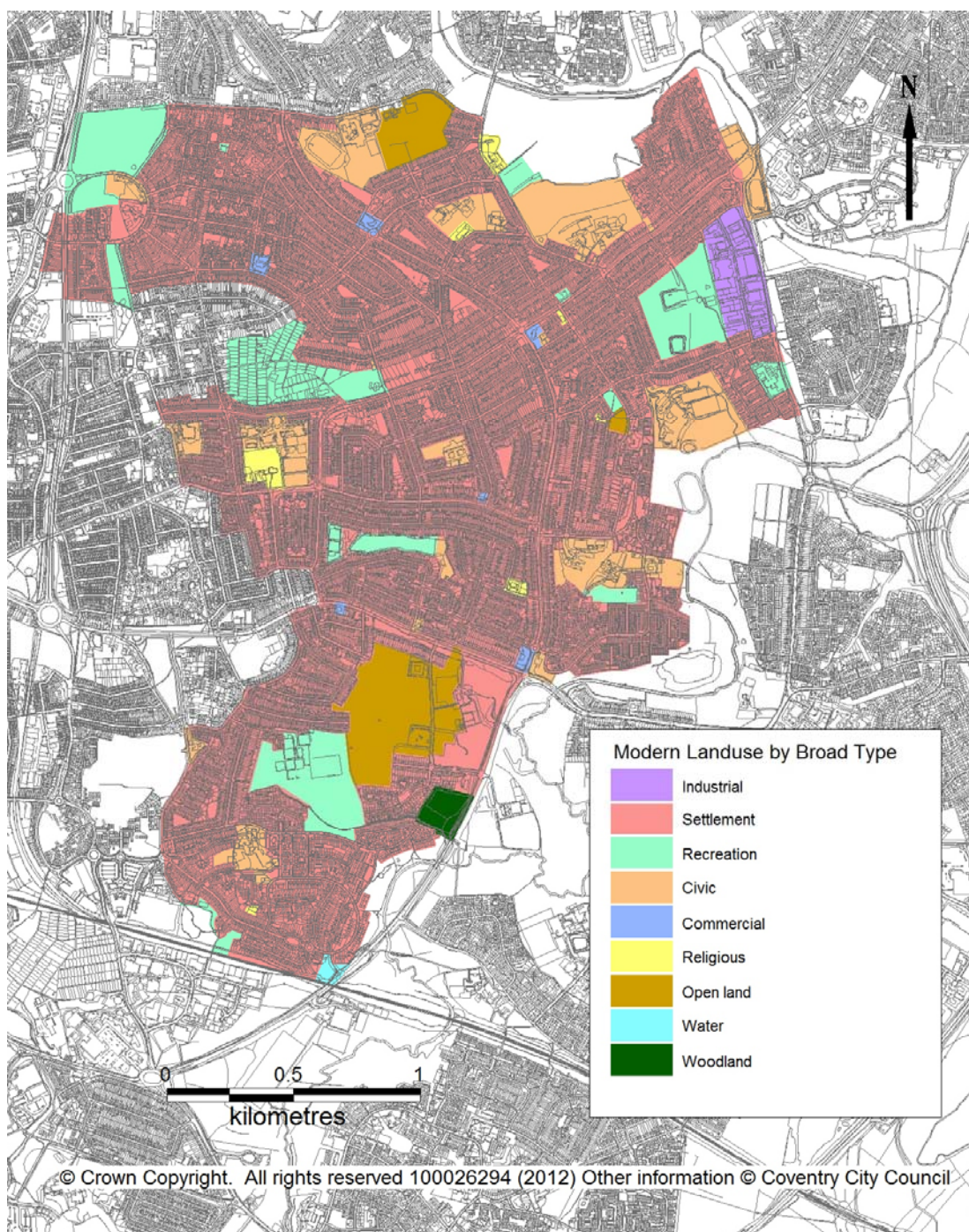
northeast of the Character Area close to the canal and the last vestige of the common land. The brickworks was disused by 1905 and was replaced by 800 houses of the Stoke Heath Estate, built in 1916 to house munitions factory workers. The Peel-Conner Telephone works, later GEC, were established in the grounds of Copsewood Grange sometime prior to 1925 along with workforce housing along First and Second Avenue. Peel-Conner was the only major industrial site within the Character Area survived until it was closed and demolished sometime between 2007 and 2010.

Suburban housing expanded rapidly eastwards across the Character Area through the inter-war period. Some roads in the Character Area pre-date the development of housing. Walsgrave Road (which was previously known as Ansty Road) was recorded in 1778 and was turnpiked in 1812. Binley Road was turnpiked in 1754-5. Lilburne Lane is recorded in a 1668 survey and follows today's Wyken Croft. A lane running parallel with the current Glencoe Road is recorded in 1655. This road, known as Filley Lane, still exists as a strip separating gardens backing onto each other on Glencoe Road and Lindley Road. Occupation Road is recorded in 1888.

### **Modern Character**

The Character Area predominantly comprises of small terraced houses although some semi-detached houses are present. All of the houses have small gardens to the rear and a set back from the road. Many of the larger front gardens have been converted for parking. Houses are built to the corners of the street, although this is not a typical 'grid-iron' street pattern as many of the roads are slightly curving. Some cul de sacs are also present. The architecture varies slightly from street to street, but within a street, the architecture tends to be uniform in style. Most buildings in the Character Area have bay windows and include some decorative features. Many of the buildings are pebble-dashed often combined with brick, or perhaps a brick decoration around the windows and doors. Other forms of decoration include mock Tudor eaves, arched and sometimes recessed front doors and in some areas, round 'porthole' windows on the ground floor. The houses have brick boundaries to the front, although many of the walls have been removed to allow off-road parking. With the exception of arterial roads such as the Hipswell Highway, or Ansty Road, most of the pavements are narrow with no trees or grass verges. Although there is some on-street parking, the roads are not congested. Amenities are integrated with the housing including schools, churches, small areas of allotments and recreation areas. There are no conservation areas in the Character Area and relatively few listed buildings. The most significant archaeological aspect of the Character Area are the remains of Caludon Castle and a medieval moated site nearby, which are now part of a recreation ground.





## Geology and Topography

The Character Area overlies mudstone to the east and sandstone to the west. There is a drift geology of sand and gravel in the east. The topography varies from 75m to 90m above sea level.