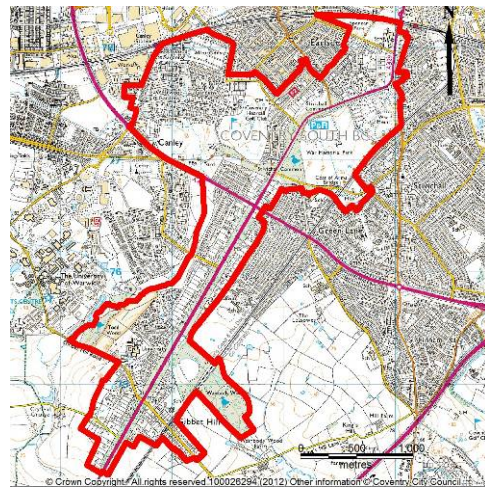


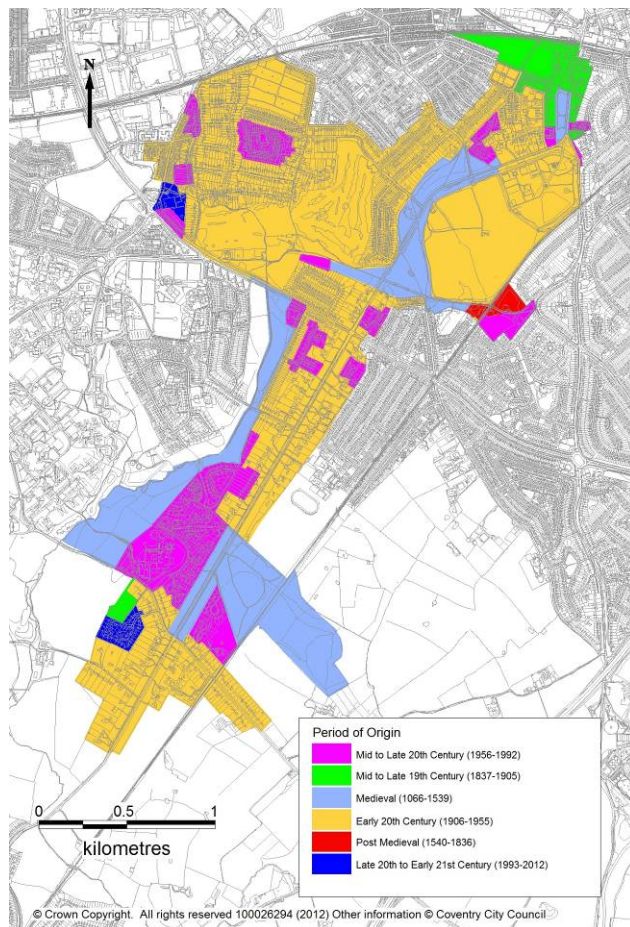
Location and Context

An area of settlement located to the south of the city centre. The Character area stretches to the edge of the Coventry border and edges onto agricultural land in Warwickshire to the south. It is bounded by the Canley Brook to the west and later settlement to the east.



Heritage Designations in the Area

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments: 0
- Archaeological Constraint Areas: 8
- Listed Buildings: 11
- Locally Listed Buildings: 3
- Conservation Areas – 1
- Registered Parks and Gardens: 1



Historic Development

The earliest evidence of occupation within the Character Area has been attributed to the Iron Age and takes the form of a sub-rectangular enclosure in Tocil Wood whose bank and ditch earthworks are substantial. A road to Kenilworth from Coventry was first mentioned in 1313 and it followed a narrow belt of common land along the north and west of Stivichall Parish. It is thought that Kenilworth Road was once part of the old cloth trade route linking the city to the Cotswolds when Coventry was the cloth capital of the Midlands. The road was turnpiked in 1775 and an avenue of oak trees, three rows deep, was planted in the eighteenth century. The present line of Kenilworth Road turns sharply near Earlsdon Avenue South but the earlier track probably went straight on across Stivichall Common and followed the present route of the footpath to the rear of Morningside into Dalton Road, across the end of Spencer Park and Grosvenor Road to the end of Queen Victoria Road.

At its southern end Kenilworth Road met Stoneleigh Common but certainly by the late 16th century much of the remainder of the Character Area comprised enclosed land. This was an agricultural landscape that remained relatively unchanged until the 20th Century.

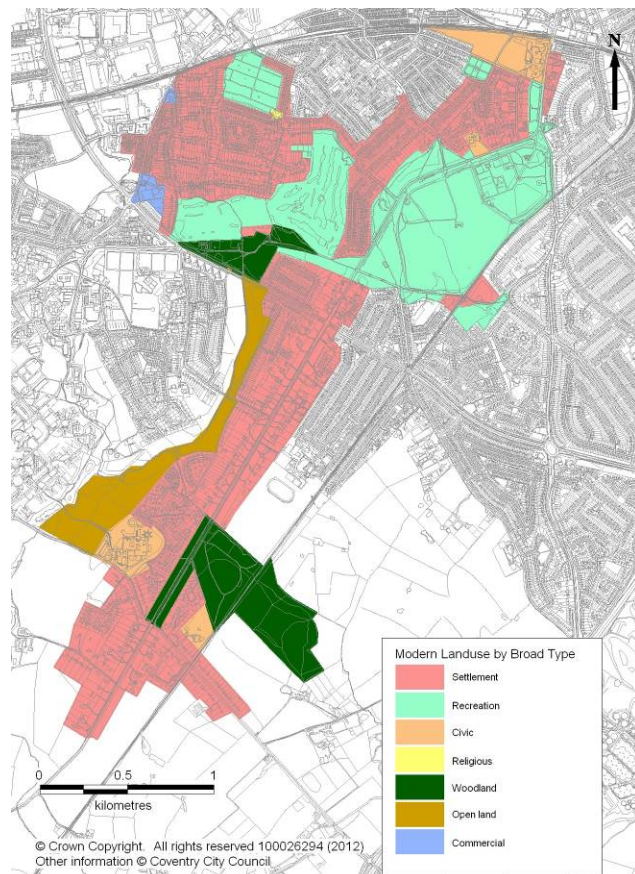
Documentary evidence shows there being an area of settlement along Coat of Arms Bridge Road from the 17th Century and the first record of the animal pound at Stivichall Croft was from 1663. The Pound stands, west of the bridge on Stivichall Common where freemen of the city had grazing rights until 1881. Stivichall Croft comprises a former smithy and three cottages, the oldest of which, to west of the bridge, is an early seventeenth century timber framed building with a tiled roof and hipped gables which is Grade II listed. Coat of Arms Bridge was built in 1842 to take the Coventry-Leamington railway line. The coat-of-arms belong to the Gregory family, owners of the Manor of Stivichall for more than 400 years. The bridge is built in red sandstone and is listed as Grade II. To the east of the bridge is Smithy Cottage which is brick built and probably of late 17th century origin.

There was some development of land north of what is now the War Memorial Park during the early to mid-19th Century when several large residences with substantial gardens were built, but it wasn't until the first quarter of the 20th Century that significant areas of agricultural land were given over to development. This began with the building of housing along Davenport Road, Dalton Road and Spencer Road between 1888 and 1905. This was followed by the creation of Hearsall Golf Course on agricultural land to the northwest of Stivichall Common. Between 1905 and 1925 a number of large detached houses and gardens were built on either side of the woodland along Kenilworth Road, just to the north of Cryfield Grange Road. Further housing was built at the southern end of Kenilworth Road between 1925 and 1936 while Earlsdon Avenue and Beechwood Avenue were laid out to the north. Around the same time a large complex of allotments known as Canley Gardens, was created to the north of Hearsall Golf Course and developed for housing on a piecemeal basis. It was in this period that the War Memorial Park was designed and laid out on agricultural land that had belonged to the Gregory Family.

During the second half of the 20th Century small pockets of land were in-filled with housing throughout the Character Area. One larger development was The Shrubberies and Moreall Meadows, developed at the southern end of Kenilworth Road from 1977.

Modern Character

The wooded area known as the Spinney consists of a strip of land approximately 30m wide on both sides of Kenilworth Road, with wide grass verges and mature deciduous trees which merge into Wainbody Wood and Stivichall Common. Behind this tree belt are large detached houses with extensive gardens. To the north of the



Fletchampstead/Kenpas Highway (A45) the axial form becomes less marked. Nevertheless, Stivichall Common, the War Memorial Park, The Grove and Top Green all combine to create continuity of a predominantly mature green landscape environment.

In terms of housing within the Character Area, this predominantly consists of medium and large detached and semi-detached houses with medium or large gardens to the front and rear. The majority of houses along the Kenilworth Road were built at the beginning of the 20th century. They are large, detached houses set far back from the road with driveways that lead through a wide grass verge into a thick band of trees lining the road and then



II Listed Memorial in War Memorial Park*

through a large front garden. Less grand housing is present in the north of the Character Area comprising detached and semi-detached houses. Although these houses are smaller and closer to each other, they are still set back from the road in an area with many trees and green spaces. Although most development is not sensitive to former field patterns, the alignment of houses in the northwest is. Pockets of mid to late-20th Century housing are also present. The sense of spaciousness present in the *Grade* suburban development is furthered by the presence of the War Memorial

Park and the Hearsall Golf Course in the north of the Character Area and Wainbody Wood and Tocil Wood in the south, which are both ancient woodlands. The remains of former field boundaries are still present in the southern part of War Memorial Park but have been replaced by formal gardens to the north. Many of the roads in the character area are present on the 1888 Ordnance Survey.



Detached residential properties in Belvedere Road

Geology and Topography

The area overlies a mixture of argillaceous rock (rock formed from clay deposits) and sandstone. The area gradually falls from 100m to the north of the character area to 80m above sea level to the south.