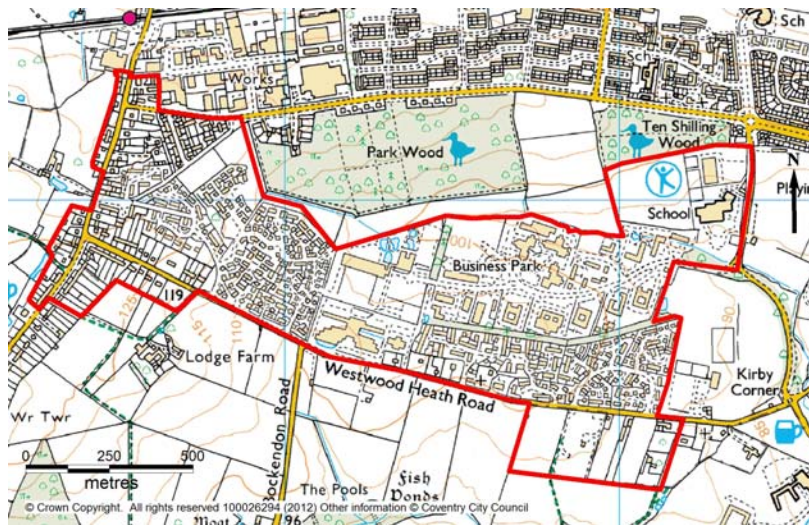


## Westwood Heath Character Area

## HLC Area 13



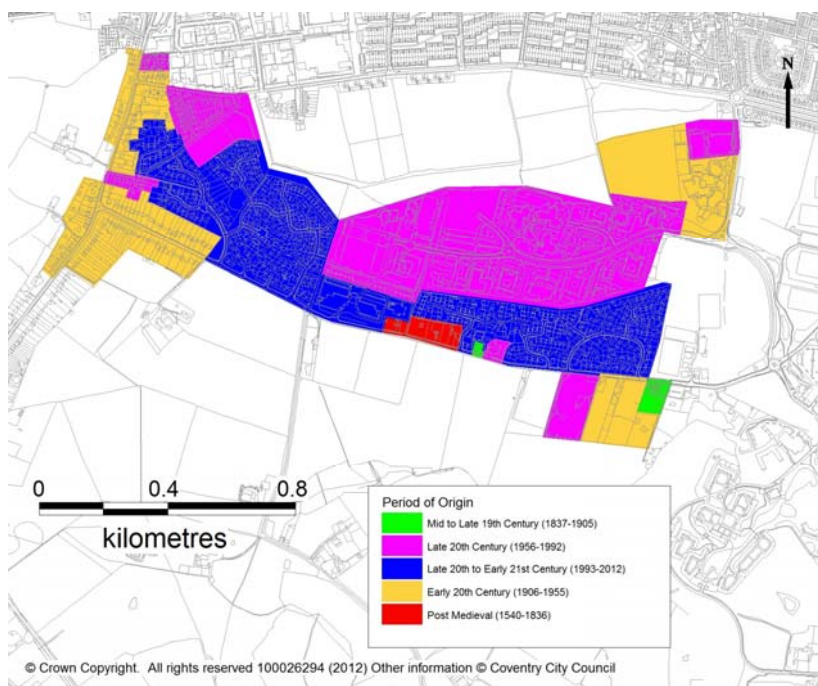
### Location and Context

A Character Area located on the south west edge of the Coventry which is a mix of offices and residential development. The character area is located between woodland to the north and farmland to the south and is not easy to access from the city centre

### Heritage Designations in the Area

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

### Historic Development



AS the name Westwood Heath suggests the area was likely to have been common land in the medieval period. By the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century the eastern half of the Character Area was covered by enclosed fields whilst the west remained an area of common or waste land. It is not until the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century that there is any evidence of settlement in this area. By 1766 the pattern of enclosures and common remained

unchanged except for small hamlets that had developed on the common land on the north side of Westwood Heath Road and either side of Cromwell Lane. These are likely to have

originated as roadside squatter settlements for people without land. There was little change throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century apart from the enclosure of the remaining areas of common land, and some housing ribbon development between 1925 and 1936 mostly along Cromwell Lane.

The area remained predominantly agricultural until the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century/beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century when a business park and residential development were built on much of the farmland. With the exception of a water course, which is the boundary of the northern edge of the business park, none of the development reflects the former field patterns.



*Network Rail Training College, Westwood Heath*

### Modern Character

Offices within the business park are clearly pre-planned with ample car parking available between buildings. The buildings have a similar architectural style and are constructed of brick and have large windows. The business park layout comprises long curving roads with offices leading off either side. The roads are lined with trees and grass verges. Most of the housing in the area was built at the same time as the business park with the exception of properties along Westwood Heath Road and Cromwell Road which were built in the 1930s. There is also a small pocket of post-medieval houses on Westwood Heath Road.



To the south of the business park are housing developments which were built at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They comprise small detached houses with very small gardens to the rear. All of the houses are set back from the road with an area to the front of the house either used as a garden or for off road parking, although many of the houses have garages to the side. The developments consist of long, irregular curved streets with curved, multi-headed cul de sacs. Many of the

cul de sacs do not have pavements with the road becoming like an extended driveway. There are no walls, fences or hedges showing the boundaries of front gardens. There are minor variations in the architecture of each house, although the overall style of the houses is very similar. Some of the housing has decorative features including mock timber frames, arched windows and gabled windows. Generally there is a lack of amenities or green open spaces in the character area with no shops or parks near the settlement, although there is one church and a community hall.

### **Geology and Topography**

This area overlies argillaceous rock (rock formed from clay deposits) and sandstone. The land rises from the east at about 90m above sea level to the west at 125m.