

**DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT IN  
COVENTRY'S ANCIENT ARDEN  
- An Historic Landscape Area -**



**City Development Directorate  
Coventry City Council  
Much Park Street  
Coventry  
CV1 2PY**





**DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT IN  
COVENTRY'S ANCIENT ARDEN  
- An Historic Landscape Area -**

**City Development Directorate  
Coventry City Council  
Much Park Street  
Coventry  
CV1 2PY**

**May 1995**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

These guidelines have been prepared by the City Development Directorate in Coventry City Council, in partnership with the local community.

Particular thanks go to the Warwickshire Landscapes Project at Warwickshire County Council and the Countryside Commission, for their pioneering work in preparing the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines. These guidelines are supported by the City Council in its statutory Unitary Development Plan and provide the detailed background landscape assessment for this document.

The City Council would also like to thank the following organisations who offered comments during the public consultation period:-

*Allesley & Coundon Wedge Conservation Society*  
*Allesley Parish Council*  
*Allesley Park Residents Association*  
*Allesley Park Wildlife Initiative*  
*Brooklands Residents Association (Coundon)*  
*Christine Oddy MEP (Coventry & North Warwickshire)*  
*Coundon Court School & Community College*  
*Countryside Commission (Midlands Regional Office)*  
*Coventry & District Natural History & Scientific Society*  
*Coventry Society*  
*Council for the Protection of Rural England (Warwickshire Branch)*  
*English Heritage*  
*English Nature (West Midlands Region)*  
*Friends of the Earth (Coventry Group)*  
*Geoffrey Robinson MP (Coventry North-west)*  
*Government Office for the West Midlands*  
*Heart of England Way Association (Coventry)*  
*Keresley Parish Council*  
*Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food*  
*National Farmers Union (Midlands Region)*  
*National Rivers Authority (Severn-Trent Region)*  
*North Warwickshire Borough Council*  
*Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council*  
*Royal Institute of British Architects (West Midlands Region)*  
*Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council*  
*St James's Palace, London*  
*Soroptimist International of Coventry*  
*The Coventry Society of Chartered Architects*  
*The House-Builders Federation (Midlands Region)*  
*The Ramblers Association (Coventry Group)*  
*Warwickshire County Council*  
*Warwickshire Rural Community Council*

...And those individuals and local residents who kindly offered their support for this initiative and constructive comments on the study.

## CONTENTS

	Page
<b>PART I BACKGROUND ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>FOUR</b>
1. INTRODUCTION	FOUR
2. THE WARWICKSHIRE LANDSCAPES PROJECT	SIX
3. COVENTRY'S ANCIENT ARDEN LANDSCAPE	SEVEN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- How Old is Ancient Arden?</li><li>- Distinctive Local Character</li><li>- Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines Relevant to Coventry's Ancient Arden</li><li>- The Local Vernacular Tradition</li><li>- The Need for Local Design Guidelines</li></ul>	
<b>PART II DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>TWENTY-ONE</b>
1. NEW DWELLINGS	TWENTY-ONE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Siting</li><li>- Form</li><li>- Roof Materials</li><li>- Walls</li><li>- Dormer Windows and Eaves Height</li><li>- Chimneys</li><li>- Windows and Doors</li><li>- Garage Doors</li><li>- Rainwater Goods</li><li>- Porches and Door Canopies</li><li>- Driveways</li><li>- Gardens</li></ul>	
2. HOUSE EXTENSIONS	TWENTY-EIGHT

	Page
3. CONVERSION OF REDUNDANT FARM BUILDINGS	TWENTY-NINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- External Materials</li> <li>- Windows and Doors</li> <li>- Chimneys</li> <li>- TV Aerials</li> <li>- Rainwater Goods</li> <li>- Private Space</li> <li>- Bats and Owls</li> <li>- Planning Conditions</li> </ul>	
4. NEW FARM BUILDINGS IN THE LANDSCAPE	THIRTY-TWO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Siting</li> <li>- Design and Appearance</li> </ul>	
5. OTHER BUILT DEVELOPMENT	THIRTY-FIVE
6. HIGHWAYS IN THE LANDSCAPE	THIRTY-SIX
7. APPENDIX - NATIVE SPECIES LIST	THIRTY-EIGHT
8. FURTHER INFORMATION	THIRTY-NINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Landscape Conservation</li> <li>- Grant Schemes</li> <li>- Local Advice on Design and Landscape Conservation</li> </ul>	
9. COVENTRY'S ANCIENT ARDEN - BOUNDARY MAP	



*Cowden Wedge from Brownhill Green*

## PART I BACKGROUND ASSESSMENT

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This study considers the need for, and proposes, local design "guidelines" for developers, land managers and local residents, in the only extensive area of open countryside within the City of Coventry. It draws inspiration from recent studies at a national, regional and local level on the need to conserve the rich diversity of the English landscape, which varies not only between regions, but also within them. Even areas of a few square miles can have their own special character and the conservation of this *diversity* is essential if the English countryside is to retain its unique appeal.



*A Lane in Ancient Arden*

The Countryside Commission, which is the Government's official adviser on countryside issues, has drawn attention, in its technical report *Design in the Countryside* (CCP 418), to the threat imposed to the regional diversity and *local distinctiveness* that make up the English countryside, by the *standardisation* across the country, of building design, materials, layouts, road design and signage, and even landscaping. "Such changes may be small and piecemeal but, cumulatively, they have an insidious effect on the distinctive difference between town and country", the Commission points out. It emphasises, however, that its approach is "not one of polarisation - natural landscape good; development bad. But far too much development in the countryside is badly designed".

The key is "to provide the buildings and infrastructure that present day society - after measured reflection - decides it needs, but in a way that retains 'local distinctiveness' and the essential visual harmony of the countryside". This involves following the spirit and quality of the past, but designing new buildings and alterations using the best of what modern materials and techniques can offer, in ways that still respect and reinforce local tradition and a sense of place.

The Countryside Commission proposes, therefore, that local authorities and communities should help to define the character of their locality and assess the type of design that would be appropriate for any new development, emphasising the link between landscape assessment on a broad scale and the design of buildings in detail. If the influence of suburban development continues to spread into the countryside, without recognising the landscape in which it sits, the distinction between rural and urban will be lost. This study can be seen, therefore, as a response to this advice.

The DoE revised Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 on 'Green Belts', also gives policy a more positive thrust, by specifying for the first time objectives for the use of land in Green Belts, including the retention of attractive landscapes, and enhancing landscapes, near to where people live.

These guidelines were approved by the City Council on 16th March 1995. It was preceded by a draft study published on 16th March 1994 for the purposes of public consultation. The guidelines form *Supplementary Planning Guidance* to the statutory City of Coventry *Unitary Development Plan*, which was formally adopted on 10th March 1993. In particular, the following policies:-

BE27 Design Standards;  
GS6 Development in the Green Belt;  
GS7 Infill Housing Development in the Green Belt;  
GS9 Outdoor Sport and Recreation in the Green Belt;  
GS10 Building Extensions in the Green Belt;  
GS11 Redevelopment of Industrial or Commercial Buildings in the Green Belt;  
GS15 The Change of Use of Redundant Rural Buildings in the Green Belt;  
GS20 Landscape Management in the Urban Fringe (including Appendix); and  
GS32 A Green Space Strategy.

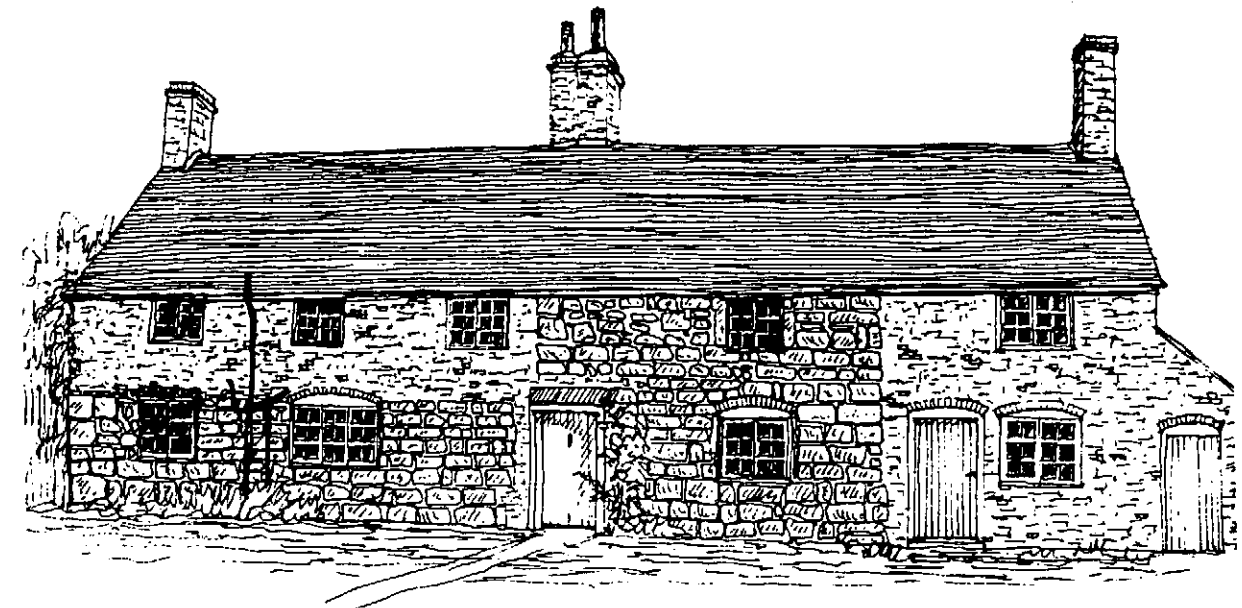
Policy GS20 'Landscape Management in the Urban Fringe' also states that: "In order to conserve and enhance the quality of the landscape in and around Coventry, the City Council will support the management guidelines identified in the *Warwickshire Landscapes Project*". In supporting these "landscape" guidelines, this study aims to conserve the distinctive "built character" of Coventry's Ancient Arden landscape. However, as the majority of the area is also in the Green Belt, which includes the 'Meriden Gap', any opportunities for new development will be very strictly limited, in accordance with Green Belt policies and criteria.

Where development is considered appropriate, to assist consistency of decision taking on planning matters and to help applicants, these guidelines reflect the principles which the City Council wish to be taken into account, within Coventry's Ancient Arden, when details of building design, materials and siting are being prepared.

## 2. THE WARWICKSHIRE LANDSCAPES PROJECT

In 1987, a three year pilot project was initiated by the Countryside Commission with Warwickshire County Council, "to consider the unique and distinctive landscapes of Warwickshire, and to develop a new methodology for landscape assessment tailored to the needs of lowland England". This methodology is described in some detail in the Countryside Commission's publication CCP 332 *Assessment and Conservation of Landscape Character - The Warwickshire Landscapes Project Approach*.

The project carried out a systematic landscape assessment within the old geographical area of Warwickshire, including the countryside around the built-up areas of Coventry. After extensive consultation with all the major agencies and local authorities having an influence on the countryside, the Warwickshire Landscapes Project published the first of its studies in 1991. This was subsequently revised and republished in 1993, entitled *Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines - Arden*. These guidelines have now become the accepted model by the Countryside Commission, for assessing the character of lowland landscapes within England.



An Arden Farmhouse in stone, brick and tile - Hollyfast Farm

The study represents the first comprehensive and systematic assessment of the historic Arden landscape, extending from Alcester in the south to Atherstone in the north, and including most of Coventry. The Guidelines describe Arden's special landscape character, assesses pressures affecting it and puts forward management strategies and guidelines to conserve, restore and enhance its appearance. It embraces the interests of landowners, farmers, foresters, planners, river and highway engineers and conservationists, to take in the whole spectrum of countryside activity.

These Guidelines define *Arden* as a broad landscape region. Within this area, seven distinct types of landscape have been identified: Ancient Arden; Arden Pastures; Industrial Arden; Arden Parklands; Wooded Estatelands; Arden River Valleys; and River Valley Wetlands.

### 3. COVENTRY'S ANCIENT ARDEN LANDSCAPE

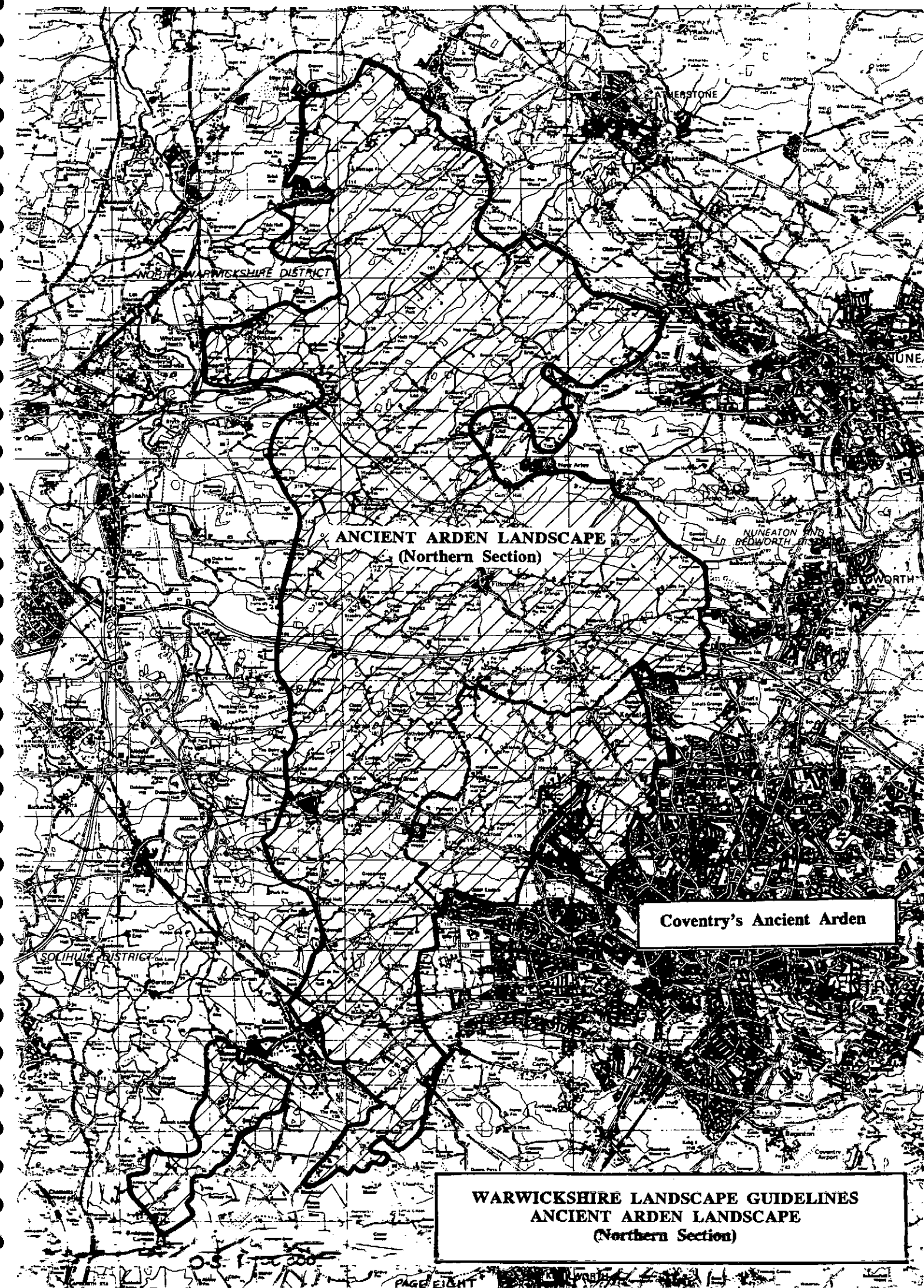
#### 3.1 HOW OLD IS ANCIENT ARDEN?

The area to the north-west of Coventry, which includes the Allesley and Keresley parishes and the Coundon Wedge, has been identified in the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines as forming part of an area of Ancient Arden. This landscape is considered to be "especially significant, as it is now the only remaining relatively unspoilt area of ancient countryside left in Warwickshire". *Countryside Commission, Assessment and Conservation of Landscape Character - The Warwickshire Landscapes Project Approach.*



*Pond at Holly fast Farm*

The term *ancient* when applied to the countryside has a specific meaning, referring to those areas which were not affected by the great *planned* Parliamentary Enclosures of the 18th and 19th centuries. Approximately half of England's countryside was recreated in the Georgian era, particularly in the great arable plains of the Midlands, Thames Valley and East Anglia. Areas untouched by this transformation, such as The Weald, South-Western Peninsula and upland areas of the north and west, exhibit a more ancient landscape which has evolved through many planned and unplanned stages. In these latter areas of ancient countryside, many landscape features such as field boundaries, hedge-banks, sunken lanes, woods and commons have survived from the earliest dates of human settlement.



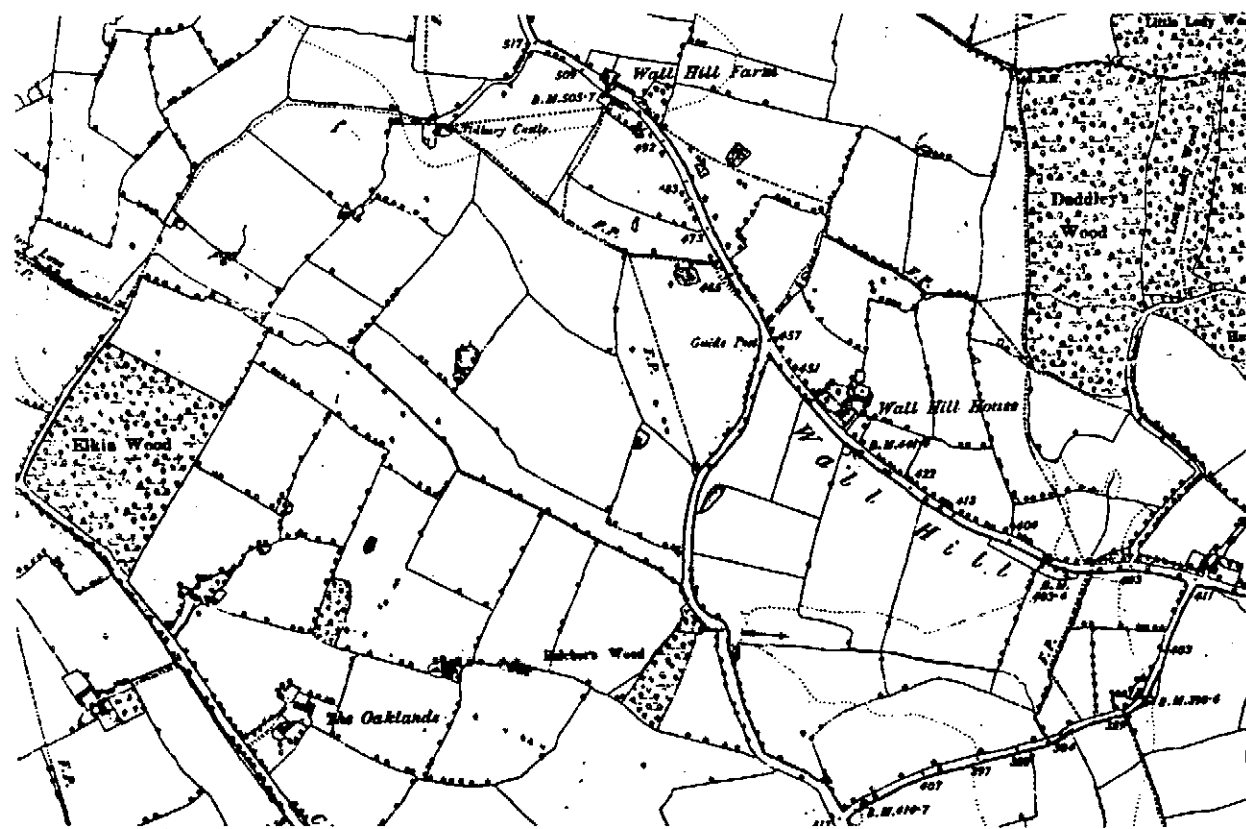


Until recently, it was thought that the distinctive pattern in Ancient Arden, typical of this *ancient* countryside of small, irregular and hedged fields, hamlets and single farmsteads, was mostly created in the late medieval period (1200-1350). During this time, it was believed that settlers, who tended to be *freemen* or *yeomen*, rather than *serfs* (unfree feudal tenants), moved into and cleared tracts of deep Arden woodland, where previously there had been only a few scattered clearings opened up by an earlier insignificant phase of Saxon colonisation.

However, research and field work over the last few years, has discovered that the English landscape is much older than originally realised. Most of the primaeval forest had been cleared even before the arrival of the Romans. Saxon Arden was not a dense forest into which a few English speaking settlers tentatively opened up small clearings for the first time. When systematically searching recently-ploughed fields in the Arden area, archaeologists have found large scatterings of Roman pottery, indicating sites of farmsteads or hamlets of this period (eg Barston).

The forest may have grown back to some extent after the Romans left, but it is possible that Roman and medieval Arden were broadly similar in appearance. Some Arden lanes, farmsteads and fields, may, therefore, trace their ancestry back 2,000 years or more!

Arden farming was traditionally based on grass rather than grain, so that the all-abiding image of the landscape was of a mosaic of enclosed and unenclosed pasture, intermixed with substantial areas of woodland. In a few places, however, crops were grown in small groups of *open-fields*, which were divided into unhedged strips and farmed communally (eg Allesley). These, along with some small Arden commons and greens (eg Brownshill Green, Coundon Green, Keresley Green and Heath, and Corley Moor), were enclosed piecemeal over the centuries, to complete the intricate pattern of hedged enclosures.



Ancient Arden in 1889, Ordnance Survey 6" First Edition

### 3.2 DISTINCTIVE LOCAL CHARACTER

The irregular landscape pattern, reflected in the shape of fields and the network of narrow winding lanes, is the essential structural element of Ancient Arden. Maintaining this pattern is the key to conserving the ancient landscape character. The pastoral character of the landscape is also important. Though now fragmented, this creates visual unity where it survives and contributes to Ancient Arden's distinct *sense of place*.

Despite some suburban ribbon development, the historic farmland and highway patterns are for the most part still remarkably intact in this part of Coventry. As a result, the area retains a strong rural character and local identity. The landscape is characterised by a wide range of historic features. These include:

- a mature and varied undulating landscape;
- many irregularly shaped deciduous Ancient Woodlands, remnant of the Forest of Arden;
- a well defined irregular pattern of small to medium sized fields with mature hedgerows;
- thick roadside hedgerows, with mature native trees (especially oaks) and adjoining spinneys;
- narrow winding country lanes, with small triangular grassed islands at road junctions;
- sunken lanes and trackways, often with high hedge-banks;
- a complex network of public footpaths of local historical significance;
- dispersed settlement pattern of hamlets, farmsteads and roadside houses;
- vernacular style brick, stone and timber buildings reflecting local character, which blend with the landscape, particularly after years of weathering and mellowing;
- small permanent pastures enclosed by thick hedgerows;
- ridge-and-furrow meadows; and
- field ponds, often fringed with trees and scrub.



Field Pond - Hawkes End

If this area is to retain its distinct character, as many of these historic landscape features must be conserved as possible. For this reason, the City Council, in its statutory Unitary Development Plan, supports the management guidelines identified in the Warwickshire Landscapes Project.

### 3.3 WARWICKSHIRE LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES RELEVANT TO COVENTRY'S ANCIENT ARDEN

#### OVERALL STRATEGY

- Conserve the historic well-wooded character of the region.
- Conserve and restore the ancient, irregular landscape pattern.



*Ancient Arden scene near Allesley*

#### SETTLEMENT AND BUILDINGS

- Conserve the built character of Ancient Arden by ensuring that new development reflects vernacular features.
- Conserve all sites of archaeological, geological and historical importance.
- New agricultural buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to blend with the surrounding farmed landscape.
- Soften hard built edges through increased tree planting within and around new development.



*Poors Farm, Walf Hill Road  
Plain tiles, render and brick*

#### HIGHWAYS

- Landscape assessment must be a major consideration at the inception of all road schemes.
- Protect and conserve the irregular pattern and characteristic features of roads and lanes.
- Protect and conserve the irregular pattern of the public footpath network.
- Conserve rural character by limiting standardised treatments during highway improvement schemes.
- Highway landscaping should be strongly linked to the surrounding landscape pattern.
- Diversify roadside character through the creation and management of heathy vegetation on highway verges.



*An Ancient Arden Lane with roadside oaks, Hollyfast Lane*



## WOODLANDS AND TREES

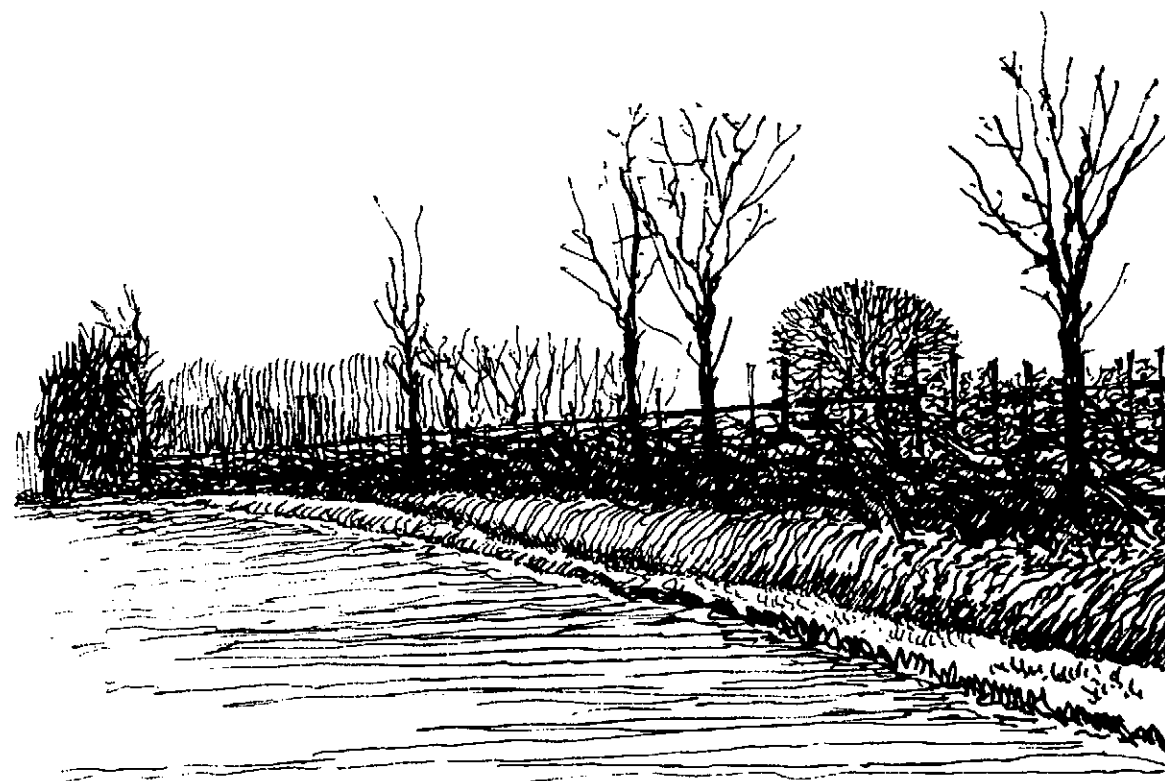
- Conserve all ancient woodlands and restock with locally occurring native species.
- Restocking of ancient woods should favour broadleaved species, preferably through natural regeneration.
- The design of all new woodland planting should complement the shape and scale of the surrounding landscape pattern.
- New woodland planting should be broadleaved in character and favour oak as the major tree species.
- Enhance tree cover through small scale woodland planting.
- Conserve the high heritage and ecological value of individual ancient oaks and single large native trees which often define old field boundaries.
- Encourage the natural regeneration of hedgerow oaks.
- The source of trees and shrubs is important in conserving and maintaining local distinctiveness. Ideally, all planting of native trees should be restricted to stock of local origin.



*Ancient woodland - Pitchoarne Wood and  
The Alders - from Hownds Hill, Kersey*

## FIELD BOUNDARIES

- Conserve and restore the irregular pattern of ancient hedgerows.
- Avoid the removal of hedgerows, especially along footpaths, bridleways, parish boundaries and woodland edges.
- Promote the management of hedgerows as landscape features.
- New hedge planting should reflect the irregular field pattern and include only native species. The planting of simple hawthorn hedges should lead to no confusion with ancient hedges; have value for wildlife; and by natural colonisation of trees and shrubs over time, lead to naturally varied hedges. (Grants are available from MAFF for tree and hedge planting (see appendix).



*Hedgerow management at Wall Hill Road  
Hedgelaying leaving selected specimen trees*

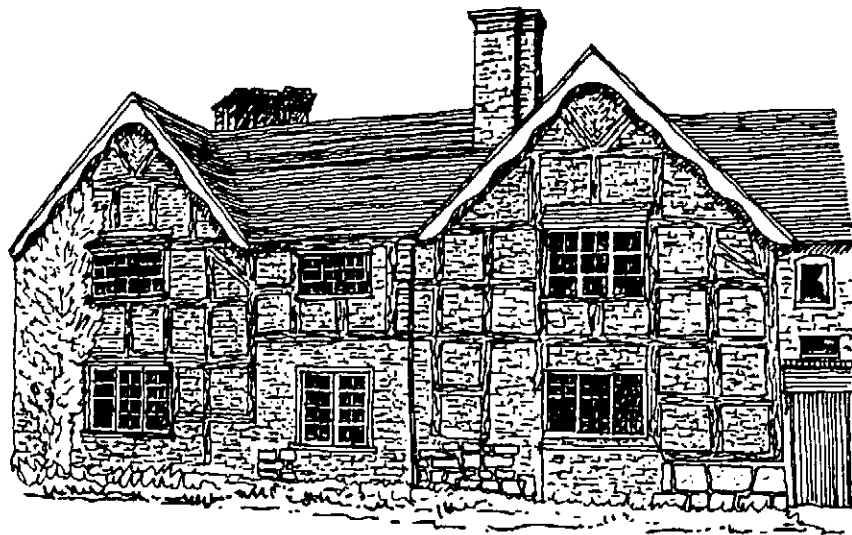
## LAND MANAGEMENT

- Conserve pastoral character and identify opportunities for conversion of arable land back to permanent pasture.
- Retain and manage field ponds in areas of permanent pasture.
- Retain the natural course of streams and conserve the tree cover lining the banks. Watercourses are important landscape features such that culverting and re-alignment should be discouraged. The consent of the National Rivers Authority (NRA) is required for such works, including Culverts, Bridges, Weirs and Dams or likewise obstructions, in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 in respect of 'ordinary' watercourses. Similarly, any scheme that proposes works within 8 metres of top of bank of a 'main river' also requires the consent of the NRA.
- Promote the regeneration and management of heathland flora on all remnant heathy areas.

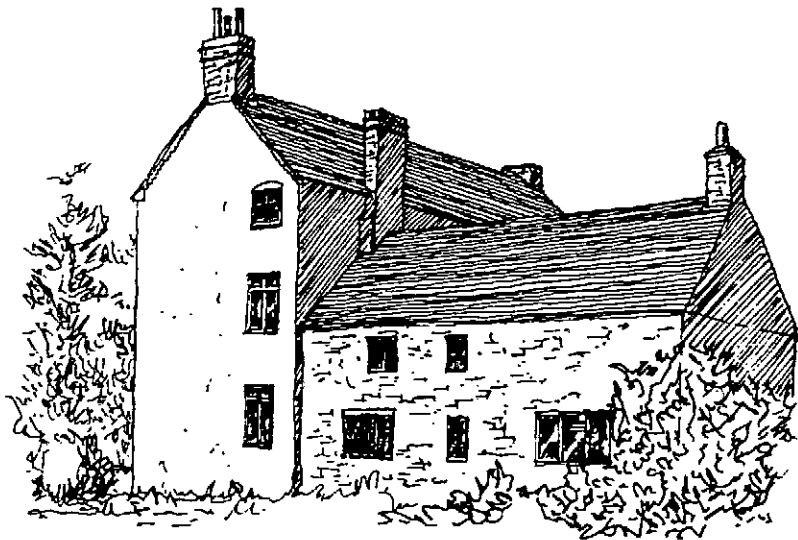
### 3.4 THE LOCAL VERNACULAR TRADITION

In the countryside, traditional buildings, other than the grandest houses, respected their natural surroundings owing to their careful siting, small scale, use of local materials and local design traditions. We term these buildings *vernacular*. In the late 19th Century, the development of mass communication and mass produced materials led to the end of a living vernacular tradition. 20th Century standardisation and suburbanisation has severely damaged the distinctive local character of rural areas, especially close to major cities, although Green Belt controls have slowed the process.

The Countryside Commission calls for new buildings in the countryside to show a greater understanding of, and association with, their local setting. In order to protect, conserve and reclaim the local character of Ancient Arden within Coventry, it is essential, therefore, to identify and re-establish the local vernacular tradition, without artificially reproducing past styles. The following section is a brief review of existing buildings in the area, to establish the origin and survival of a local style.



*Half timber and brick, stone plinth, plain tiles and fine chimneys.  
Sherbourne House Farm*

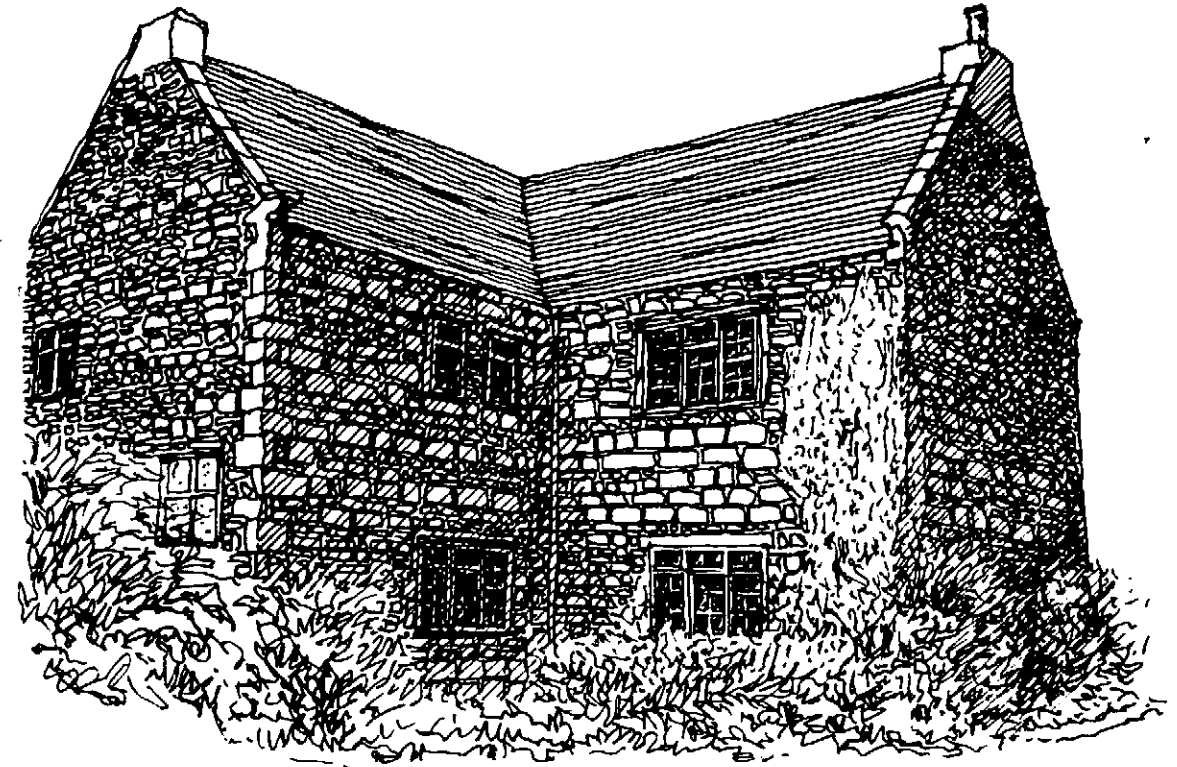


*Plain tiles and gables,  
render and brick  
Oaklands Farm*

### ANCIENT FARMHOUSES, FARM BUILDINGS AND COTTAGES

These buildings still form the majority of existing dwellings in the area, away from the limited expansion of 20th Century ribbon development. Many have been modernised and extended, but the basic form usually remains.

- i As befits an historically well-wooded area, the oldest buildings are of half timbered construction, with wattle and daub infilling, built on a substantial plinth of local red sandstone. Some small buildings and a few grander ones, could be built completely in this variable undressed stone.



*Ancient Arden grander house, Coarsed rubblestone walls with ashlar dressings. Plain tiled roof - probably replacing thatch.  
Stone House, Washbrook Lane.*

- ii Locally made brick was increasingly used for walls on later buildings; for replacing decayed infill panels; in half timber construction for new infill; and later for facing over, or replacing decayed timber frames. Uneven brick burning in small stacks during manufacture, led to great variety of colour within the red/brown brindle range, with contrast between headers and stretchers and variation in durability.

iii Simple gabled roof forms, with low eaves lines, were by far the most common, deriving from the predominant *cruck* construction technique.



*Dormer Cottage, Washbrook Lane  
Render, half timber, plain tiles and dormer windows*

iv Roofs were originally thatched, but none survive in the area. They were later replaced by hand made clay tiles, which were produced locally from an early date.

#### C18 AND C19 BUILDINGS

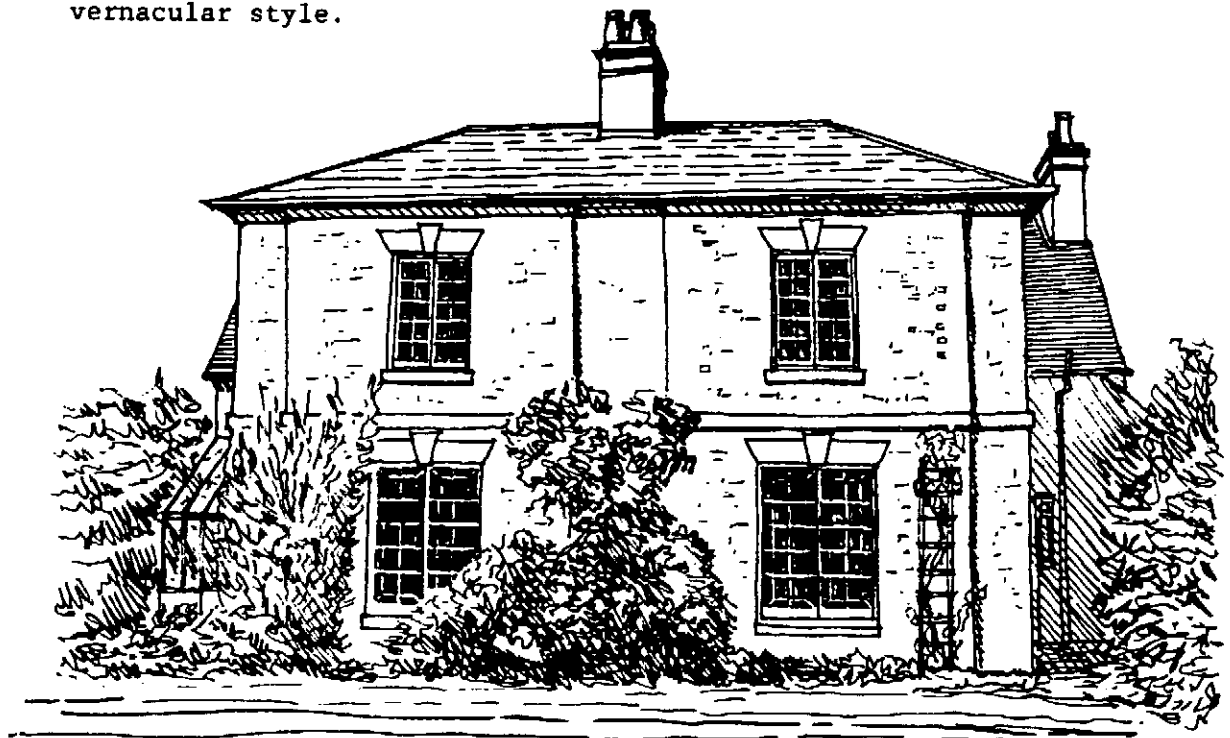
- This period saw the end of the half timber tradition.
- There are few Georgian *polite* buildings in the area, or even Georgian refacing of earlier buildings.
- A period of increasing agricultural prosperity saw many new farm buildings built, and older houses extended in the typical local idiom of simple gabled roofs, low eaves lines and small casement windows, with locally made stock bricks and hand made plain tiles.

- By the mid-19th Century, canals, improved roads and railways, brought in mass produced Staffordshire blue tiles such as *rosemarys* and *dreadnoughts* and machine made harder bricks to replace those produced locally. However, the simple local style continued.



*A large 19th century farmhouse, Oaklands Farm*

- At the end of this period, *Welsh slates* became available as a universal cheap roofing material. Some new buildings used them with their characteristically lower roof pitches, but they occur on few older buildings. This development marked the end of a distinct local vernacular style.



*Georgian non-vernacular - low pitched, hipped, Welsh slate roof. The original vernacular farmhouse survives at the rear - Hawkes End*

## LATE C19 AND C20 BUILDINGS

- In the late Victorian period, the impact of the rapidly growing City on the area predominated, producing more *polite* designs with no reference to the local vernacular idiom, including many decorative gables, barge boards, dormers and hips. These are more characteristic of the City edge of the area. There is a good use of traditional materials such as stock brick, clay tiles, slate and render, but *forms* are larger and much more elaborate. These larger buildings are often, however, set in extensive grounds with generous mature planting, so do not generally detract from the rural landscape character, except where *exotic* tree species have been introduced.



Victorian post vernacular, symmetry and decorative bargeboards.  
Hawkes Mill Farmhouse

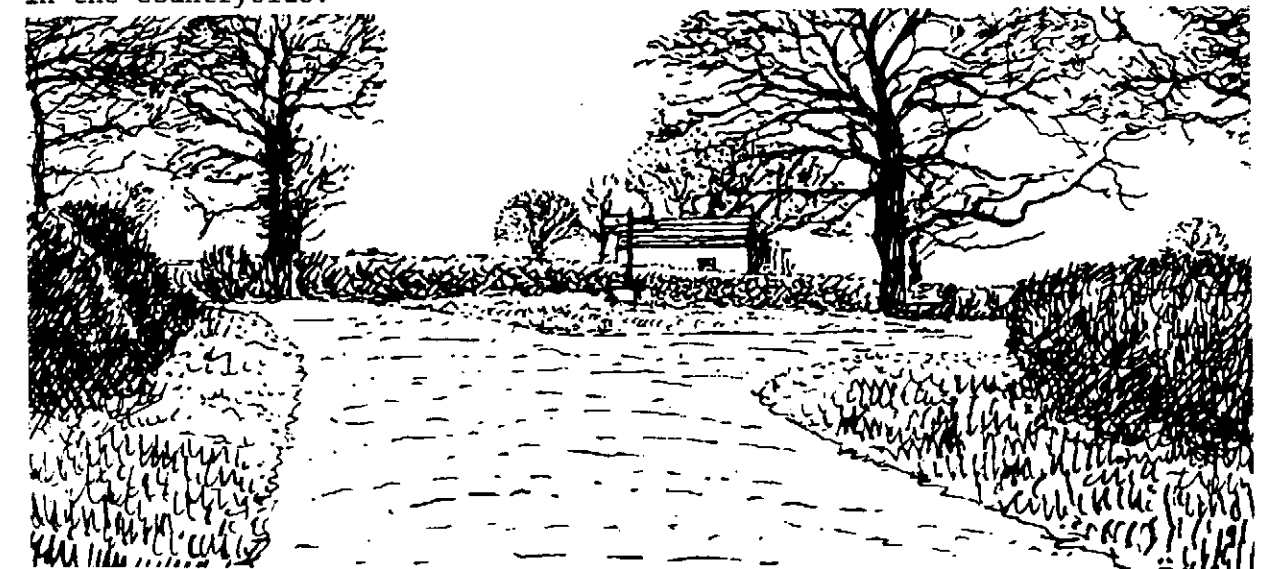
- During the inter-war period, standard suburban semi and detached houses were built in roadside ribbons, with no respect for the local idiom. In the post-war era, the fashionable modernist, Scandinavian, Spanish-hacienda and every other variety of style, material and construction were employed, with flat and low pitched roofs, artificial stone, Tyrolean render, strong coloured rustic or wirecut facing bricks. Greater appreciation of the environment and the countryside over the last fifteen years, and tighter planning controls, has produced generally more sympathetic, or at least less intrusive developments. Post-war development also tends to be most prominent, as native screen planting has not yet had time to mature, or inappropriate *suburban* planting has taken place.

## 3.5 THE NEED FOR LOCAL DESIGN GUIDELINES

The design guidelines which follow in Part II of this study, have been developed out of a detailed assessment of the existing character of Ancient Arden within Coventry, and also a local interpretation of generally regarded good practice on the matters of barn conversions and new agricultural buildings.

Apart from the categories of development covered specifically in this study, many other changes, outside the scope of planning control, also have a subtle cumulative effect in eroding distinctive local character. Examples include: the external modernisation of buildings; the erection of illuminated and corporate roadside signs; the replacement of native roadside hedges with quick growing ornamental screens; the increased use of galvanised security fencing; inappropriate walls and fences; and even landscaping schemes. Rigid application of modern highway design and signing criteria often necessitate the replacement of traditional local features. Much more discretion is, therefore, needed when applying design standards in rural landscapes, as the cumulative effect of inappropriate small scale changes, can erode local character as surely as major new developments. In particular, every effort should be made to retain original features, such as: historic brick or stone walls; roadside hedges and banks; and mature native trees.

Walking, horse riding and cycling is still the natural pace in the countryside, and it allows the observation of many things, either missed or not seen closely, from a motor car. Our landscape is distinctive, with its own character and identity. Inappropriate materials and development, has a very jarring effect upon the observant and relatively slow moving traveller in the countryside.



Junction of Lanes with island and rural signs - Corley Wood

However, change is part of a living countryside and rural diversity, but that change needs to be managed sensitively if we are to conserve what is best in our landscape and wildlife heritage for future generations. This study is produced as a detailed local design supplement to the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines - Arden and within a framework of robust planning policies contained in the City Council's Unitary Development Plan, which was formally adopted on the 10th March, 1993. It is hoped that the design guidance and criteria which follow, will be used by anyone involved in the design process, and stimulate further interest in the conservation of this unique historic landscape within Coventry.

## PART II

### DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines identify the need to conserve the built character of Arden, by ensuring that new development reflects the *local vernacular*. Part I of this study, therefore, defines the local vernacular in Coventry's Ancient Arden; a simple, informal, unassertive character, which compliments the small scale, ancient, irregular landscape pattern. The medley of 20th Century styles have no relationship to this style and detract from the distinctive local character.

To encourage more sensitive proposals for development within Coventry's Ancient Arden and enable new buildings to integrate with this historic landscape, the City Council has prepared the following design guidelines, based on the local vernacular tradition and materials. While the guidance which follows emphasises certain fundamental characteristics of the local vernacular tradition, it is not considered that attention to these guidelines precludes creative and innovative designs, which will always be treated on their merits.

#### 1. NEW DWELLINGS

As the majority of the Ancient Arden landscape within Coventry is in the Green Belt, opportunities for new dwellings in the area will be very strictly limited. Where development is permitted, however, strictly in accordance with Green Belt criteria, the following design guidelines will apply:-

##### 1.1 SITING

Any new dwelling should be closely related visually to an established building or group, or if this is not possible, sited in relation to landform and existing vegetation so as to be as unobtrusive as possible. For example, skyline situations must be avoided. Locating a new building against a background of mature vegetation usually provides the best means to integrate and absorb the development into the landscape. Any new buildings near water features or in wetland areas, should be sited sympathetically, i.e. with the new building facing the water feature, thus incorporating these areas as features of the new development.

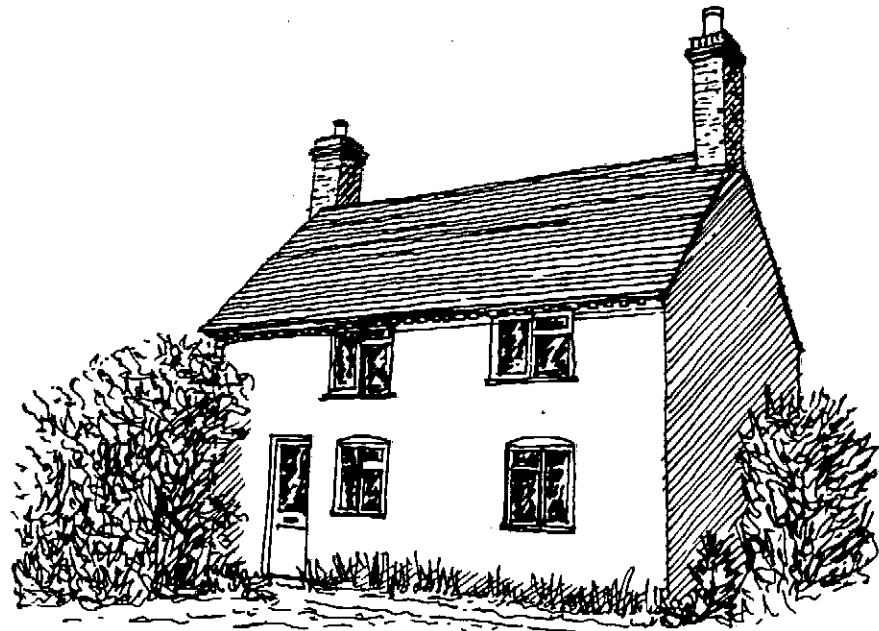


An Arden farmhouse in its setting - Church Walk Farm, Allesley



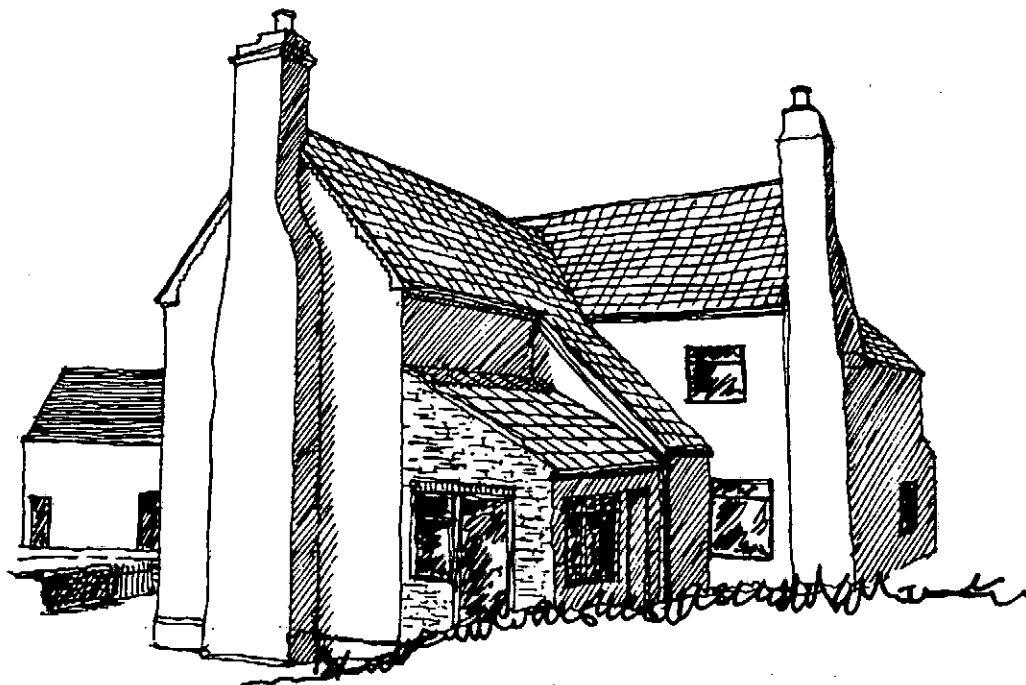
## 1.2 FORM

All new buildings should be in the characteristic local vernacular form, with simple gabled roofs, low eaves lines and limited overall height, subject to compliance with current building regulations.



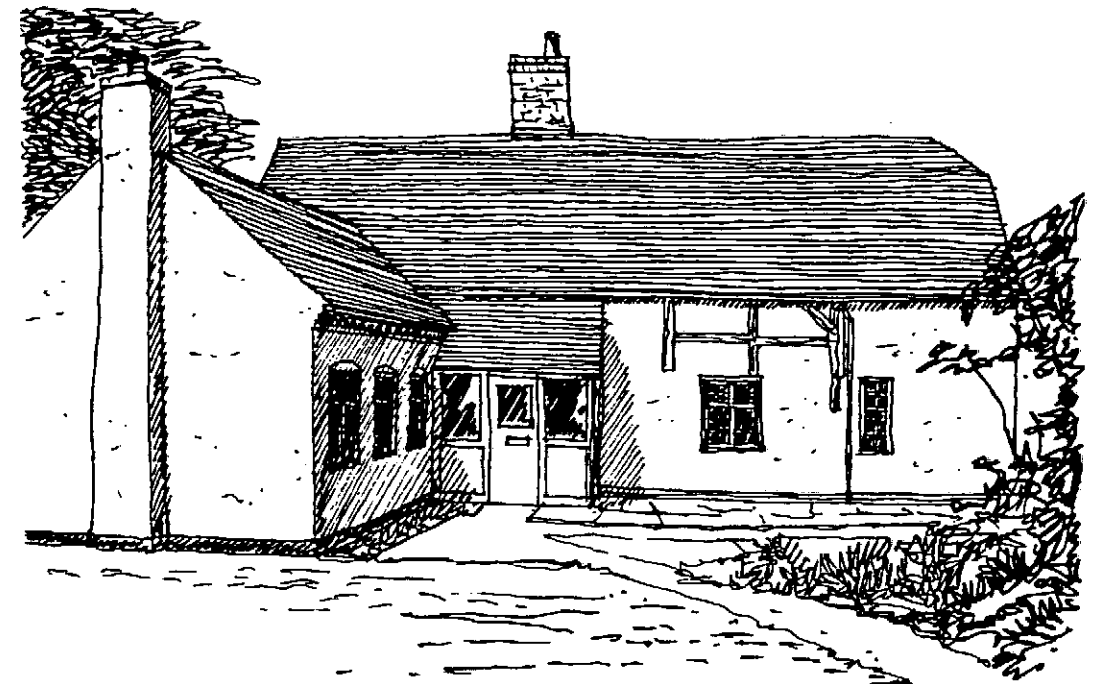
A Small Arden Cottage - gables, plain tiles + chimneys  
112 Wall Hill Road

Larger forms should be broken up into 2 or 3 smaller interconnecting elements, with limited roof spans to reduce overall height.



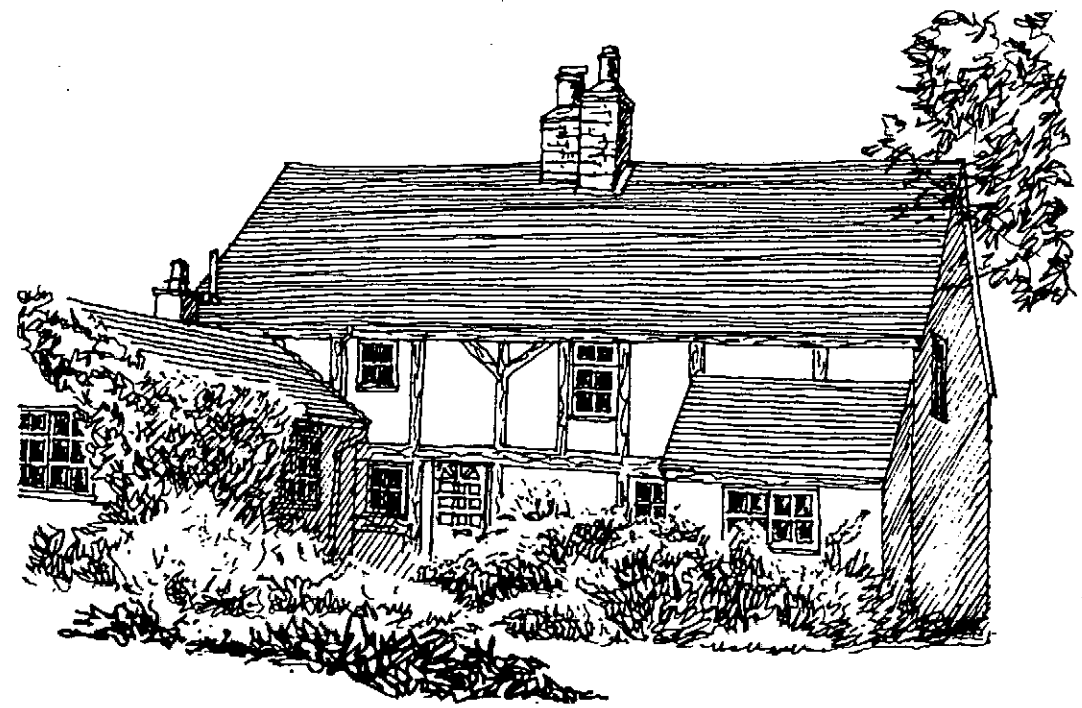
An 'Arden Agglomeration' - Slack Pitt's Farm

Irregular, horizontally spread *agglomerations* are preferred to bulky, dominating boxes.



Arden forms and mixed materials - Whitehouse Farm Cottage

All new buildings to have pitched roofs of a minimum 40° pitch. (40° is the prescribed minimum pitch for the use of the traditional hand made small tiles, known as *plain tiles*).



Arden forms and half timber - 179 Hawkes Mill Lane

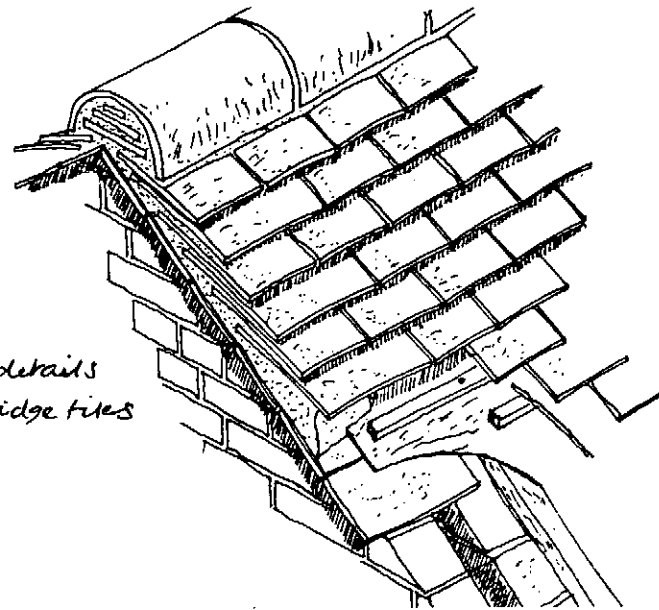
### 1.3 ROOF MATERIALS

#### PLAIN TILES

Today, plain tiles come in three forms:

##### i HAND-MADE CLAY

These are the traditional plain tile with the double camber and natural irregularity of shape, colour and texture, which produces a richly textured roof. The use of these tiles will be required in particularly sensitive locations. For example, locations affecting the setting of a Listed Building already carrying traditional tiles.



*Plain tiled roof details  
Tiled verge and ridge tiles*

##### ii MACHINE-MADE CLAY (EG ROSEMARYS & DREADNOUGHTS)

Produced since the early 19th Century, in similar colour ranges to the traditional tile and also in brindled dark blue tones from Staffordshire clays. More regularity produces a less richly textured roof. These are the commonest existing roof covering in the area and are, therefore, generally acceptable. Single and double camber types are preferred. Bright red unmixed should be avoided. Brindle/brown sand faced mixtures are preferred.

##### iii CONCRETE PLAIN TILES

Similar to (ii) in shape and texture, but lacking the subtle colouring qualities of clay. May be acceptable in certain less sensitive locations. Avoid unmixed bright red.

Ridge tiles should normally be the same colour as the roof. The use of roofing materials other than the appropriate plain tiles is discouraged. The natural Welsh slate, which replaced old clay tiles in the 19th and early 20th Century, is frequently seen in the area and would be acceptable at a 40° minimum roof pitch. However, modern substitutes are not sympathetic to local vernacular character and should be avoided. Tiled verges are preferred to large barge boards. Non vernacular wavy barge boards, especially in UPVC are particularly inappropriate.

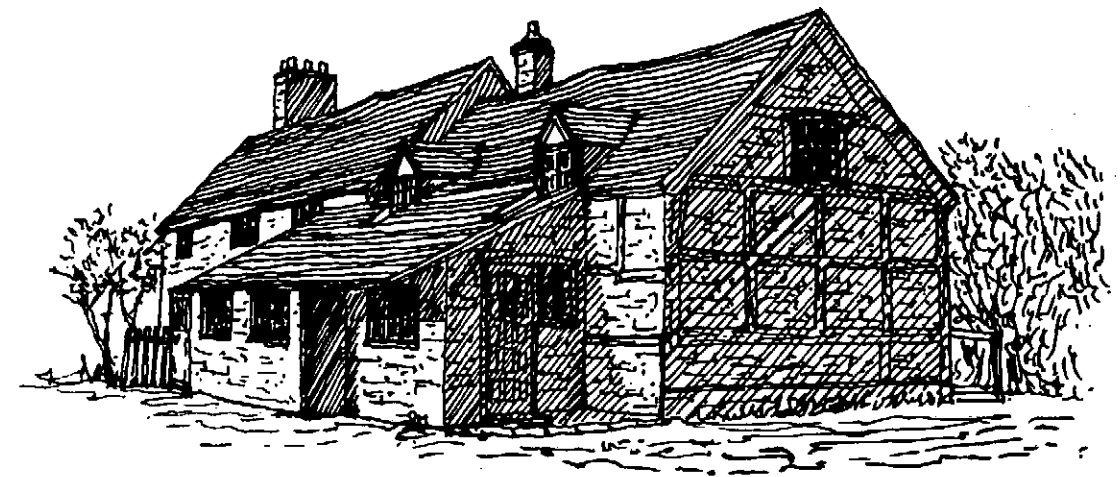
### 1.4 WALLS

Modern reproduction of traditional half timbering should be avoided. It is most appropriate for any new building in the Green Belt to be as inconspicuous and unassuming as possible. For this, the most appropriate general walling material is a mellow, mixed, stock brick in light red/brown tones, typical of central Warwickshire. Wirecut or strongly textured rustic facing brickwork in a single colour is not acceptable. Contrasting brick colours for lintels, sills, plinths, dentil courses, etc should be avoided, or used very sparingly.

In larger buildings of complex form, the use of a limited amount of render to provide contrast may be acceptable. This is usually painted white or cream, but the use of other carefully chosen colours to tone down contrast and merge in with the surroundings may be appropriate.

### 1.5 DORMER WINDOWS AND EAVES HEIGHT

To keep eaves heights generally below a full 2 storey level, the use of small traditional style dormers in various forms is appropriate and easily effected with a plain tile roof covering. Non-traditional, large box dormers are unacceptable.



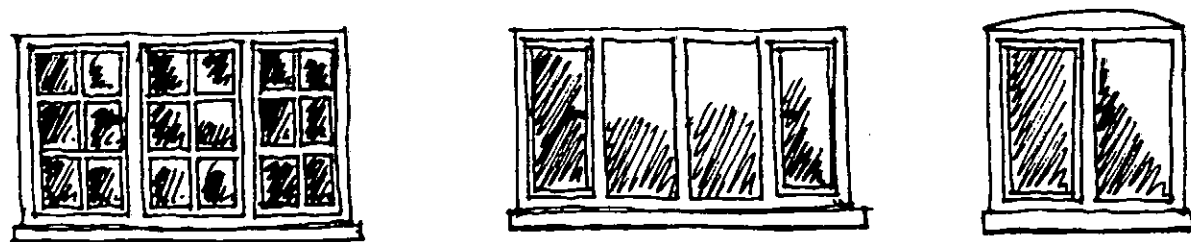
*A typical extended Arden farmhouse - brick and timber, plain tiles, low eaves line and dormers*

### 1.6 CHIMNEYS

Chimney stacks and pots are an essential feature of traditional buildings and all new dwellings should incorporate at least one substantial stack and one pot of traditional design.

## 1.7 WINDOWS AND DOORS

Simple multiple casements in wood are most appropriate and relate to the low eaves style recommended. Horizontal emphasis should be maintained by making window widths generally exceed height.



*Some traditional window designs*

Traditional double hung sash windows, or modern top hung versions, may be acceptable providing horizontal emphasis can be maintained. They are likely to be more appropriate for ground floor windows where extra height may be acceptable.

Segmental brick arch window heads to the ground floor windows and doors are a typical local feature which may be usefully employed, but are not mandatory.

Small areas of woodwork should generally be painted white. Dark colours are preferable for doors, which should be of a plain design. If staining is preferred, it should be in a light colour, not in dark teak or mahogany.

## 1.8 GARAGE DOORS

The use of double width garage doors is inappropriate. Where a double garage is required, entry should be by way of two clearly separated single doors. These should be of dark stained or painted timber.

## 1.9 RAINWATER GOODS

Cast iron guttering and rainwater downpipes, generally painted black, or black factory coated aluminium, are more in keeping than plastic.

## 1.10 PORCHES AND DOOR CANOPIES

Simple gabled or lean-to roofs are most appropriate, in plain tiles to match the main roof.

## 1.11 DRIVEWAYS

Private drives, parking areas, patios and pathways can have a considerable visual impact in a rural area, so the materials used for the surface and edges are especially important. Small stone gravel, local brick or flag-stones are the most appropriate surfacing materials, against a slightly raised grass verge to blend with the informality of the surroundings. Where edging has to be used, the less obtrusive it is, the better visually. A low flat trim such as brick, setts or stone, with colour and texture not standing out against adjoining materials, looks better than a sharp upstand.

Hard upright concrete edging, tarmac, mass concrete and light coloured concrete block paving should be avoided. All of these materials are waterproof and durable, but they suggest *urbanisation* and heavy traffic. Their lack of colour variation and texture are alien to the *broken textures* of the countryside. Similarly, the use of harsh, regular straight lines for driveways give an unnecessary hard, urban appearance to a rural setting.

## 1.12 GARDENS

Buildings alone do not complete development. Landscaping, fencing and the choice of materials for use in the spaces between buildings and driveways are of equal importance. Gardens in a rural area are part of the landscape and its surroundings in a way that its smaller urban counterparts can never be. The character and local distinctiveness of the surrounding landscape should, therefore, influence the overall design of the garden.

The creation of a residential curtilage around a building can sometimes have a harmful effect on the character of the countryside, especially in an historic landscape area. The interface between new development and the surrounding landscape can often appear sharp and stark. Indigenous tree and hedge planting within and around new development is one of the best ways to soften hard edges. Integration can best be achieved by allowing established trees to run into a development site and designing new planting to break up their densely built appearance. Ideally, at least 10% of the site should be allocated for tree and woodland planting and resources provided for the ongoing management of these features. Opportunities should also be sought for off-site woodland planting where possible, to help link the development into the wider landscape pattern. The aim should not necessarily be to hide buildings, but rather to integrate them into the landscape, using locally occurring native species.

As much existing mature vegetation as possible should be incorporated into the design of new developments and where it is necessary to define boundaries, *native* hedges (70% hawthorn, hazel & holly) are usually most appropriate. Where back gardens run into the surrounding countryside, they should avoid being enclosed with suburban style fencing, such as larch lap boarding. Where fencing needs to be used, a traditional riven post and rail fence and native hedge planting, or a hazel wattle fence, provides a more rustic alternative.

Ornamental species planted as quick growing screens, particularly 'leylandii', should be avoided.

(The Appendix provides a list of locally occurring native species).

## 2. HOUSE EXTENSIONS

Policy GS10 in the City Council's Unitary Development Plan states that:

**"THE EXTENSION OF BUILDINGS IN THE GREEN BELT WILL NOT NORMALLY BE PERMITTED IF IT RESULTS IN A SIGNIFICANT INTENSIFICATION OF BUILT DEVELOPMENT IN RELATION TO THE OVERALL SITE AREA".**

Extensions comprising a doubling or larger increase of the building footprint will generally be considered as significant intensification. Lesser extensions may also be considered to be inappropriate intensification having regard to the circumstances of the case.

Although the general received wisdom is that extensions should follow the style and form of the existing building, different considerations may apply when the existing property is not built in the traditional vernacular style or materials. Unless the property is exceptionally well screened, the expansion of such an out of character and prominent intrusion may not be acceptable. Extension and refurbishment in such cases could be used instead, as a means of re-integrating a property into the landscape.



*Extended Arden form, maintaining character - Grove Farm, Wall Hill Road*

The development guidelines set out for new dwellings should, therefore, be followed for major extensions in most circumstances. The *hybrid* properties which would in many cases result, would be highly characteristic of the area. Brick often stands next to half timber, render or stone, and clay tiles and slates within single building groups. Clearly, however, each case will need to be considered individually to avoid inappropriate juxtapositions.

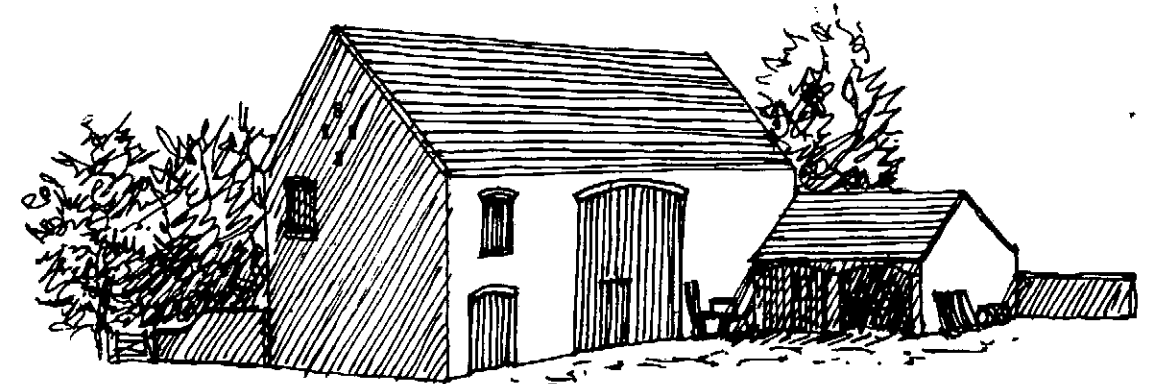
The replacement of existing unsympathetic roofing materials as part of an extension/refurbishment proposal, or other potential *enhancements*, may be taken into account when considering extension proposals exceeding the *doubling* guidelines as set out above.

## 3. CONVERSION OF REDUNDANT FARM BUILDINGS

The best results from a barn conversion are usually obtained by altering the appearance of the barn and curtilage as little as possible.

The primary design objective where conversion is acceptable, is to retain the original functional character and surrounding of the building.

Residential conversions can often have detrimental effects on the fabric and character of historic farm buildings. Conversion to residential use should, therefore, provide a reasonable level of accommodation, including garages, without requiring significant extension or alteration.



*Barn Conversion to a Dwellinghouse*

BEFORE



*New garden boundary treatment -  
Rural post and rail fence, native hedging and tree planting*

AFTER

### 3.1 EXTERNAL MATERIALS

Original external materials should be retained and repaired. Where original roof tiles have been replaced by corrugated iron, they should be restored.

### 3.2 WINDOWS AND DOORS

Existing openings should be retained and utilised for windows and doors. In particular, the character of original full height cart doors must be retained.

An existing timber frame must not be cut. New openings, where necessary, must be fitted within the existing panels.

New window openings should be kept to an absolute minimum. As far as possible, they should be restricted to the side of the building least visible to public view - ie the back or garden side generally.

Dormer windows are not characteristic of barns. Instead, a limited number of glazed roof openings, again restricted to the non-public side, and kept flush with the roof plane, may be allowed.

### 3.3 CHIMNEYS

Chimney stacks are not found on barns. Use a simple metal flue, painted black, in an inconspicuous location instead.

### 3.4 TV AERIALS

Roof mounted TV aerials and satellite dishes are not acceptable on barns. An internal aerial should, therefore, be installed.

### 3.5 RAINWATER GOODS

It was often the case that traditional barns had no gutters or downpipes, rainwater was simply thrown away from the building via the roof overhang. Otherwise, roofs were served by cast-iron rainwater pipes. Cast-iron is more expensive than plastic guttering, but it will help retain the character of the barn. Plastic gutters or downpipes are out of character. Gutters and downpipes, where installed, should be painted black. Alternatively, black factory coated aluminium rainwater goods may be used.

### 3.6 PRIVATE SPACE

The creation of an inappropriately designed residential curtilage around a newly converted farm building, can have a harmful effect on the character of the countryside and negate all the good work done on the building. Great care needs to be taken with the new private space associated with a converted barn to avoid a fussy, suburban domesticated appearance. Urban fencing, fancy paving, ornamental planting, fast growing conifers and ill conceived garaging and driveways, would all detract from a barn's original functional character.

### 3.7 BATS AND OWLS

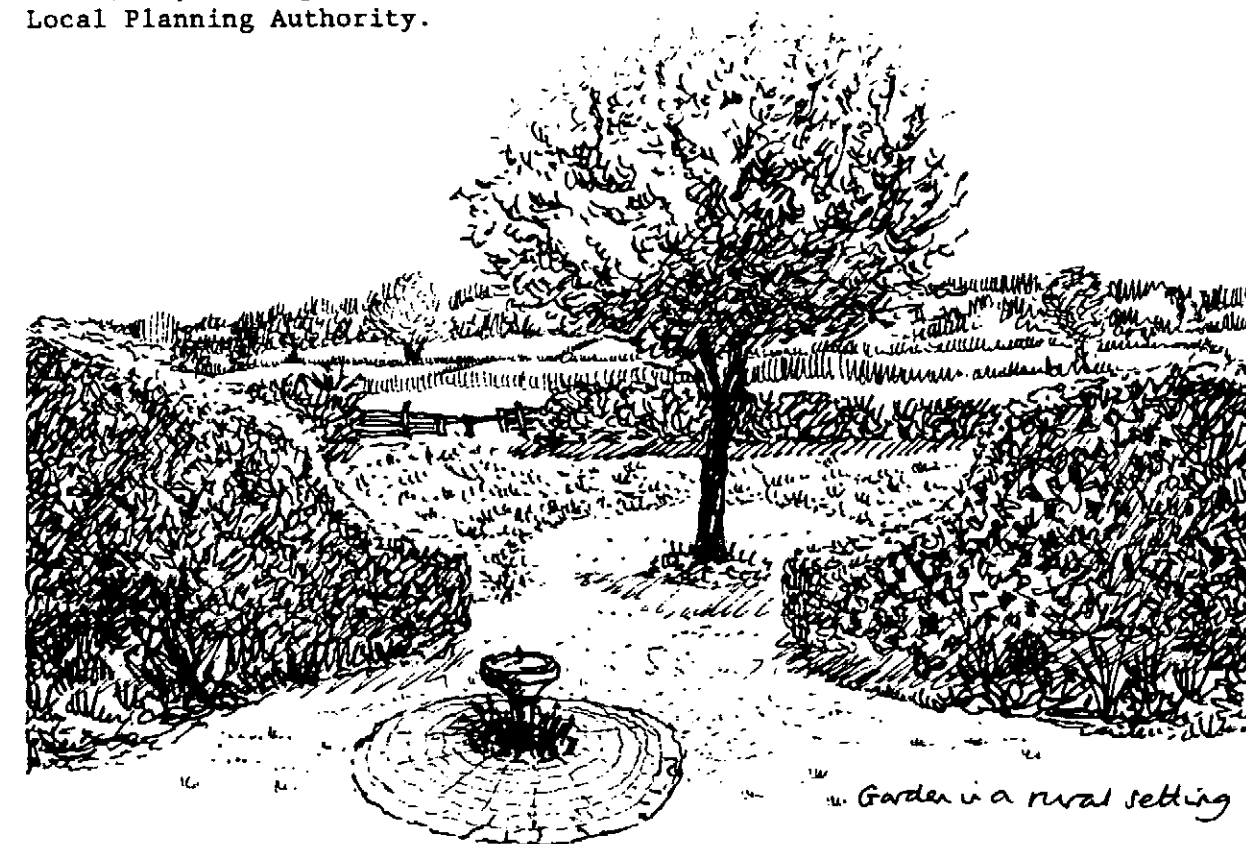
Bats and Owls are fully protected under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Individual birds, their eggs and young are protected at all times and in addition nesting bats and owls are protected against disturbance. It is also an offence to kill, injure, take away, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while in use. For example, bats and owls can be killed due to timber treatment using chemicals harmful to animals. Also, an item in many old buildings is an "owl hole" which must not be stopped-up. (One is shown in the gable of the barn illustrated on page 33). If a problem of hygiene is a worry, there are designs for nest boxes which can be cleaned, in a similar way to trays in cages for domestic pets, after the nesting season. Specialist advice can be obtained from the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, Brandon Lane, Coventry CV3 3GW. (Tel: 01203-302912).

A useful booklet entitled *Barn Owls on Site - A Guide for Developers and Planners* is published by the Barn Owl Trust and supported by English Nature. Copies of the booklet are available from: The Barn Owl Trust, Waterleat, Ashburton, Devon, TQ13 7HU. (Tel: 01364-653026).

Because of their *protected* status, if there is any evidence of bats or owls, for example in roof spaces, English Nature, the Government's official adviser on nature conservation, should immediately be consulted. (English Nature, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury SY4 4TW. Tel: 01743-709611).

### 3.8 PLANNING CONDITIONS

In order to prevent subsequent uncharacteristic alterations to a barn once it has been converted into a non-agricultural use, the City Council may only grant planning permission subject to a condition which would remove the "Permitted Development Rights" detailed in the General Development Order. Hence, any subsequent alterations would require the written consent of the Local Planning Authority.





#### 4. NEW FARM BUILDINGS IN THE LANDSCAPE

New farm buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to blend with the surrounding farmed landscape. Traditional farm buildings constructed from local materials, often have a distinctive regional identity. This identity is gradually being eroded by the construction of some modern farm buildings, which often look out of place and visually intrusive. However, some modern materials and techniques can be used successfully, provided colour, form and siting are appropriate, in ways that still respect local tradition and a sense of place.



Old Farmbuildings, Pickford Farm, Brick Hill Lane

The following guidelines are consistent with DoE Planning Policy Guidance Note 7 'The Countryside and the Rural Economy', which provides guidance for local planning authorities on agricultural and forestry buildings constructed under Permitted Development Rights.

##### 4.1 SITING

The siting of a new agricultural or forestry building, can have a high potential impact on a small scale intimate landscape such as Ancient Arden. To minimise intrusion, any necessary new buildings should normally extend an existing group rather than stand in isolation, and relate to the existing buildings in size and colour. Established vegetation is often associated with existing groups and can help to absorb new building if it is retained and enhanced.

When isolated locations are unavoidable, the first priority should be to avoid sites on skylines. Buildings located against a backdrop of landform can be absorbed into the landscape more easily. On a sloping site, buildings can be partly set into the slope and their impact further reduced, if that can be achieved without disproportionate cost.

While even a well sited building in Ancient Arden will benefit from some accompanying planting of appropriate native species, the visual impact of a poorly sited building cannot easily be reduced.

The siting of new agricultural or forestry buildings adjacent (but not too close) to existing woods may help to assimilate them into the landscape. Suitable woodland management is required to maintain this effect. Elsewhere, judicious tree planting and external works may enhance new buildings. The aim should not be to hide a building from sight, but rather to soften a hard outline, break up a prominent silhouette, and thereby help integrate a new building into the surrounding landscape.

#### 4.2 DESIGN AND APPEARANCE

The choice of design and materials, and the relationships of texture and colour to existing development, local traditions, and the landscape, are important considerations for agricultural and forestry buildings. For example, a single large building with a wide span and low roof pitch would be out of character. The same space could be provided in two or more smaller buildings with traditional roof pitches, which can more sympathetically extend an existing group and also provide greater design flexibility.

Roof overhang can further reduce apparent scale, as can the use of different materials for roofs and walls. Strongly designed features such as rainwater downpipes and gutters (painted black), ventilators, eaves and gable overhang, can emphasise the simple basic form of the building.

The colours chosen for new buildings should either harmonise with, or complement their setting, the aim being not to camouflage the building, but to allow it to relate to the landscape and existing buildings. Dark reds and browns harmonise with the predominant soil colours of the area and are complementary to the green of trees and pastures. Slate blues and dark greys and very dark olive greens are complementary to the reds of the soil and buildings, and harmonise with the very dark green and near blacks of the winter landscape. Generally, darker, matt colours have less impact in the countryside and careful choice of colour will help to reduce the apparent scale of a large agricultural building.

Roofs should be darker than the walls so that the building will appear firmly *anchored* to the ground and the surrounding landscape. The use of reflective materials should be avoided.

Traditional building styles should be used wherever possible, subject to current environmental, hygiene and welfare requirements. In particular, it will be necessary to use traditional or sympathetic materials for developments taking place in the setting of a Listed Building or in a Conservation Area.



Barns - Oaklands Farm

Alterations and extensions should not pose the same difficulty as new buildings, but similar considerations concerning design and appearance should be taken into account.

The surroundings of new buildings are also very important, but often given inadequate consideration. Trees should be used in a positive way to strengthen the overall farm landscape, rather than as an afterthought in an attempt to hide an ugly building. Always use locally occurring, native species. (See Appendix).

Although choices of design and materials may be constrained by operational needs, the standardisation of modern agricultural buildings and economic considerations, it should be possible to reconcile proposals for development with the need to *conserve* and wherever possible *enhance* the landscape.

The Countryside Commission, jointly with the Forestry Commission, MAFF and English Nature, in consultation with the Country Landowners Association and National Farmers Union, publish further design advice on *New Farm Buildings in the Landscape*.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food provide *Environmental and Countryside Grants* towards the repair and reinstatement of traditional agricultural buildings. (See Further Information).



Keresley Mere - off Fivefield Lane

## 5. OTHER BUILT DEVELOPMENT

The principles and guidelines on local vernacular style apply equally to all other forms of built development in Ancient Arden within Coventry, and also to those areas which adjoin or are conspicuous from Ancient Arden. This is to ensure that the historic landscape character and visual amenities of the area are not injured by proposals for development, which might be inappropriate by reason of their siting, materials or design.

These guidelines should be used in conjunction with the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines relevant to Coventry's Ancient Arden, summarised in Part I of this study (see Chapter 3), which are regarded as a good practice guide to be applied to all new development in this historic landscape area.



A rural garage, Wall Hill Road, Corley Moor

## 6. HIGHWAYS IN THE LANDSCAPE

The following guidelines on highways in the Arden landscape, are taken from the General Development Guidelines published by the Countryside Commission and Warwickshire County Council in the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines for 'Arden' and supported by Coventry City Council in its statutory Unitary Development Plan.

### LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT MUST BE A MAJOR CONSIDERATION AT THE INCEPTION OF ALL ROAD SCHEMES.

"The construction of new roads and the widening or re-alignment of existing roads can have a major impact on the character of the landscape. The visual impact can often be considerably reduced through careful route selection and it is important that landscape considerations are thoroughly assessed at the inception of all such schemes. No amount of landscaping will ameliorate the impact of a badly chosen route. A landscape assessment must be undertaken prior to carrying out improvements to existing roads, as well as for new ones".

### CONSERVE RURAL CHARACTER BY LIMITING STANDARDISED TREATMENTS DURING HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES.

"Country roads are an important component of the rural landscape. Improvements to meet modern highway standards can have a detrimental impact on the character of the roadside environment, by introducing *suburban* influences into the rural landscape. Of particular concern, are treatments such as concrete kerbing, galvanised railings, new or replacement street lighting and standardised road signs. These features, which are often visually intrusive, are also alien in a rural setting, and should be used only where absolutely necessary. Opportunities should also be sought for using more traditional materials such as stone setts for kerbing, or reverting to the use of locally distinctive road signs".

(The spread of sodium lighting which casts a suburban orange glow should also be avoided and lamp posts painted dark green where possible).

### PROTECT AND CONSERVE THE IRREGULAR PATTERN AND CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF ROADS AND LANES.

"A characteristic feature of Arden is its irregular road network, which reflects the ancient landscape pattern. Features are many and varied, including thick roadside hedgerows, narrow sunken lanes and trackways, irregularly shaped verges, hedge-banks, fords and mature roadside oaks. Wherever possible, these features should be retained. When improvements need to be made, they should reflect the irregular landscape pattern, trying to avoid straight lines and looking to replace historic features. Guidance should be sought to enable a preliminary landscape assessment to identify key features that should be retained, moved or reinstated".

### DIVERSIFY ROADSIDE CHARACTER THROUGH THE CREATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HEATHY VEGETATION ON HIGHWAY VERGES.

"Heaths are now very restricted and rare, but many of the associated plant species still survive along roadside verges. Species such as bracken and gorse are especially evident and provide historic links with former commons and waste. They also create interest and diversity along the roadside environment. Management of existing verges should seek to maintain and enhance this diversity. In road improvement schemes, opportunities may also arise for habitat creation. In such cases, the exposed subsoil is ideal for establishing heathy vegetation, but top-soiling must be avoided. This approach would provide a more interesting alternative to amenity tree planting".

### ROADSIDE VERGES

Roadside verges are an important element in the landscape. Where there is a natural verge, a close mown suburban look should be avoided. Regular mowing should be kept to a minimum, restricting it to verge margins and busy junctions which may need to be kept tidy. The first major cut should be delayed until the Spring wild flowers have set seed, which may be as late as the end of June.



Pikers Lane, Allesley

An advisory booklet entitled *Roads in the Countryside* is published by the Countryside Commission as a guide for local authorities and contains recommendations for good practice. Available from: Countryside Commission Postal Sales, PO Box 124, Walgrave, Northampton NN6 9TL. Tel: 01604-781848.

## 7. APPENDIX - NATIVE SPECIES LIST

The following is a list of those native tree and shrub species which occur locally within Coventry's Ancient Arden landscape and contribute to its distinctive local character. Other native tree species may also be appropriate to individual sites. Professional advice is available from Coventry's Countryside Project in the City Development Directorate of Coventry City Council, (telephone: 01203-831292).

### TREES

Alder	Alnus glutinosa
Ash	Fraxinus excelsior
Aspen	Populus tremula
Crab apple	Malus sylvestris
Crack willow	Salix fragilis
Downy birch	Betula pubescens
English elm	Ulmus procera
Field maple	Acer campestre
Grey willow	Salix cinerea
Holly	Ilex aquifolium
Oak	Quercus robur
Rowan	Sorbus aucuparia
Silver birch	Betula pendula
Small leaved lime	Tilia cordata
White willow	Salix alba
Wild cherry	Prunus avium
Wych elm	Ulmus glabra

### SHRUBS

Blackthorn	Prunus spinosa
Dog rose	Rosa canina
Dogwood	Cornus sanguinea
Field maple	Acer campestre
Goat willow	Salix caprea
Guelder rose	Viburnum opulus
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna
Hazel	Corylus avellana
Holly	Ilex aquifolium
Honeysuckle	Lonicera periclymenum
Ivy	Hedera helix
Wild privet	Ligustrum vulgare

## 8. FURTHER INFORMATION

### LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

Copies of the *Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines - Arden* are available from: Countryside Group, Planning and Transportation Department, Warwickshire County Council, Shire Hall, Warwick CV34 4SX. (Tel: 01926-410410).

*Design in the Countryside* and an advisory booklet *Roads in the Countryside* are available from: Countryside Commission, Postal Sales, PO Box 124, Walgrave, Northampton NN6 9TL. (Tel: 01604-781848).

*Local Attraction: The Design of New Housing in the Countryside* is available from: Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), Publications, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PP. (Tel: 0171-976 6433).

DoE Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 sets out the Government's policies on *Green Belts*. Planning Policy Guidance Note 7 *The Countryside and the Rural Economy*, also provides guidance on the siting, design and appearance of Agricultural and Forestry Buildings (Annex C). Available from: HMSO Publications Centre, PO Box 276, London, SW8 5DT. (Tel: 0171-873 9090).

### GRANT SCHEMES

Advice and a booklet on *Conservation Grants for Farmers* is available from: MAFF South Mercia RSC, (Grants and Subsidies Division), Block C, Government Buildings, Whittington Road, Worcester WR5 2LQ. (Tel: 01905-763355).

For further information on national and regional countryside issues and *landscape conservation grants* contact: Countryside Commission, Midlands Regional Office, 1st Floor, Vincent House, Tindal Bridge, 92-93 Edward Street, Birmingham B1 2RA. (Tel: 0121-233 9399).

For advice and details of *grants for woodland planting* contact: The Forestry Authority, West Midlands Conservancy Office, Rydal House, Colton Road, Rugeley WS15 3HF. (Tel: 01889-585222).

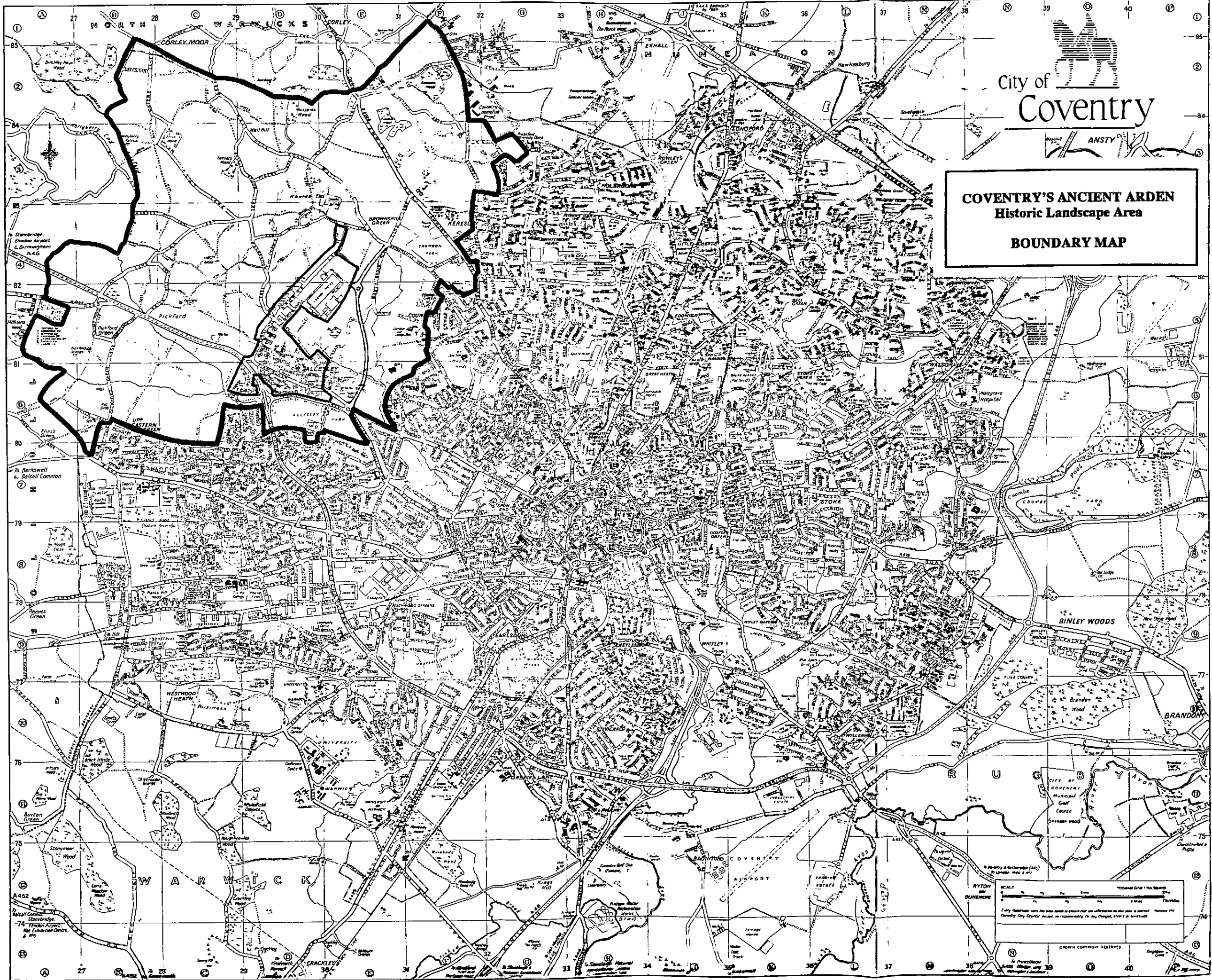
### LOCAL ADVICE ON DESIGN AND LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

This booklet has been produced by the City Development Directorate in Coventry City Council, in partnership with the local community. The Design Team and Coventry's Countryside Project in the above Directorate, will be pleased to offer advice and guidance to intending applicants, in their efforts to protect and conserve the built form and historic landscape of Coventry's Ancient Arden:

City Development Directorate  
Coventry City Council  
Much Park Street  
Coventry  
CV1 2PY

Telephone: (01203) 831262 / 831292 (Direct Lines)  
Fax: (01203) 831324





ANSTY

**COVENTRY'S ANCIENT ARDEN**  
**Historic Landscape Area**  
**BOUNDARY MAP**

SCALE  
1:50,000  
1 cm = 500 m  
1 inch = 12.5 miles

© City of Coventry 2015. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior written permission of the City of Coventry.

CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED