

## **9. Heritage**

### **Relevant Evidence base**

- The Coventry Historic Environment Record (HER)
- The National Heritage List for England
- The Coventry Local List of Buildings of Historic and Architectural Interest
- Coventry Heritage at Risk Register
- The Gould Report on the 20th Century City Centre (2009)
- The Coventry Historic Landscape Characterisation (2013)
- Spon End and Nauls Mill Area of Local Distinctiveness (2003)
- Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans
- The Arden Design Guidance (1995)
- Design Guidance on Shop fronts for Conservation Areas and Historic Buildings (2014)

### **Introduction**

Coventry has a rich and diverse historic environment which is evident in the survival of individual historic assets and in the local character and distinctiveness of the broader landscape. Prehistoric flint tools which have been collected from fields around the city demonstrate that there has been human activity in the Coventry area since at least the Mesolithic period, some 10,000 years ago. The landscapes and buildings that can be seen today predominantly date from the medieval period onwards when Coventry grew from a small Saxon settlement to become one of the principal cities of medieval England. The wealth of the medieval city peaked in the 15th century and was followed by a slow economic decline that saw Coventry stagnate until a second period of dramatic expansion occurred in the late 19th century with the emergence of industries such as ribbon weaving and watch making. Twentieth century Coventry became a major centre for manufacturing and the city grew rapidly with factories and housing expanding over the previously rural landscape absorbing many of the surrounding villages and farms. The concentration of industry in Coventry resulted in it suffering from extensive bombing during World War II, causing significant damage to the fabric of the city. However, the wartime destruction was followed by an era of extensive reconstruction with innovative architecture and design in the 1950s and 60s.

### **Conservation Areas**

Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 imposes a duty on local planning authorities to designate as Conservation Areas any 'areas of special architectural or historic interest the character and appearance of which it is desirable to conserve or enhance'. The Act also requires local planning authorities to review their Conservation Areas from time to time and designate extra areas where appropriate.

The Council will investigate the potential for designating new Conservation Areas in the Victorian and Edwardian suburb of Earlsdon and rural Arden settlement of Brownhill Green.

- Earlsdon was originally laid out as a 'garden village' in 1852 by the Coventry Freehold Land Society with 251 plots arranged around eight streets. Development progressed slowly, and it was many years before all of the plots were filled and many of the area's buildings date from the late Victorian / Edwardian period. The areas are already known to be green and leafy with a strong Edwardian character with several interesting buildings, some of which have already been locally listed for their architectural and historic interest.
- The settlement at Brownhill Green dates back to the medieval period and is referred to in 1411 as Le Brounsehul Felde. The settlement would have been clustered around a rectangular village green, a piece of common land that was crossed by Wall Hill Road and Hawkes Mill Lane. The pub and the properties along Hawks Mill Lane are 19<sup>th</sup> century encroachments on to the green, while the earlier houses are set well back from the roads indicating where the edge of the green once was. The area contains numerous listed and locally listed buildings.

The Council will also review the boundaries of the following existing Conservation Areas.

- Allesley;
- Kenilworth Road;
- Stoke Green;
- Greyfriars Green;
- Ivy Farm Lane
- High Street; and
- Spon End.

Appraisals and management plans will be produced for all of the city's Conservation Areas to guide their preservation and enhancement.

### **Policy HE1: Conservation Areas**

1. The areas listed below have been designated as Conservation Areas under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and are detailed on the Policies Map:
  - a) Allesley
  - b) Chapelfields
  - c) Coventry Canal
  - d) Far Gosford Street
  - e) Greyfriars Green
  - f) Hawkesbury Junction
  - g) High Street

- h) Hill Top
- i) Ivy Farm Lane
- j) Kenilworth Road
- k) Lady Herbert's Garden and The Burges
- l) London Road
- m) Naul's Mill
- n) Spon End
- o) Spon Street
- p) Stoke Green

2. The following areas are proposed for designation as Conservation Areas:
- a) Earlsdon
  - b) Brownhill Green

The exact boundaries will be determined by the production of Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans following public consultation.

3. Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans will be produced for all of the Conservation Areas to guide their preservation and enhancement. All development proposals within Conservation Areas will be determined in accordance with this Plan and the appropriate Appraisal and Management Plan.