

**AREA 5: STONEBRIDGE MEADOWS CARR 65/37
WHITLEY GROVE 195/37 (not on HBA map) and
WILLENHALL WOOD 46/37 (CITY OF COVENTRY)**

Sources of information are:

1. Ecosite notes (HBA)

4. Wager 1998 Woods, Wolds & Groves (Ph.D thesis)

5. D.R. Morfitt 2000 The Historical Ecology of the Woods of Binley, Warwickshire (Ph.D thesis).

12. Coventry City Council leaflet.

ECOLOGY (source 1)

Whitley Grove: ancient wood with oak, some 20ft in girth, from 1600s. Hazel coppicing in the past. Larch plantation between 1885 and 1923. Records of goldcrest.

Willenhall Wood: ancient semi-natural woodland, with good shrub layer and evidence of past coppicing. Ancient indicators including bluebell, stitchwort. The only Coventry site for grass vetchling. Site for the hoverfly *Didea fasciata*. The present wood is small, in the centre of the parish.

Stonebridge Meadows: a local nature reserve with a range of habitats; alder coppice was planted in 1850 on area once osier beds, coppiced until 60 years ago.

HISTORY Local Record Office info will be in Coventry.

Whitley Grove (Source 12)

- **Mid 12th C:** lands in Whitley were granted to Benedictine monks of Coventry by the then Earl of Chester. Ley meant a clearing in the ancient woodland.
- **The Manor of Whitley is first mentioned in 1371** when granted to Thomas de Whitley. Later called the Hall and was not referred to as Whitley Abbey until 19th C.
- Estate had several owners during 15th and 16th C. when outside the walls of Coventry.
- **Contains remains of quarrying before 1600** for a greyish-white sandstone, used for local churches, including a sunken walkway with steps.

Willenhall Wood (Source 4)

- The Manor of Willenhall was held by **Coventry Cathedral Priory** but there is no mention in Domesday.
- A **Priors Wood** is mentioned from 1200. In 1220, it adjoined the lands of Combe Abbey The exit adjoined a heath in Binley and the park of Brandon, seemingly stretching to the edge of the parish.
- In 1411 the Priory's register records an enclosed wood called **Wilnehale Close**.
- In 1538 **Wynall Wood** adjoined Binley Heath.
- Research shows woodbanks and other earth works **(Source 5)**