

Historic Environment Character Assessment: South Staffordshire January 2011



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The landscape of South Staffordshire is defined by its historic character which is dominated by a variety of field systems, primarily enclosed by hedges, some of which originate in the medieval and/or post medieval period. Woodland and settlement, comprising dispersed historic farms and cottages and villages both ancient and new, also make significant contributes to its historic character. The 13 project areas for the HEA are based around the hinterlands of three historic towns, 11 historic villages and the late 20th century settlement of Perton (cf. map 1). The historic towns comprise Brewood, Kinver and Penkridge, all of which were established as market towns during the medieval period. These three settlements, however, are all currently classed as Main Service Villages (MSV) by South Staffordshire Council along with Codsall, Cheslyn Hay, Great Wyrley, Perton and Wombourne¹. The remaining settlements considered within the project are all classified as Local Service Villages (LSV²).

The HEA aims to establish the potential for the historic environment of these 13 project areas to absorb new development and housing in particular. This has been carried out by dividing each of the project areas into 'Historic Environment Character Zones' (HECZs) and assessing the significance of the heritage assets of each zone. The assessment utilised the guidance provided by English Heritage in their document 'Conservation principles: policies and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment'. The assessment was followed by recommendations for each zone (these form Appendices 1 to 6 of the HEA; summaries can be found within the main report).

Summary of assessment and recommendations

The HEA found that despite the changes within the project areas during the 20th century, particularly from the intensification of agriculture as well as development, the historic landscape continues to play an important role in defining the local character of individual settlements under assessment. The historic cores of many of the settlements are defined by fossilised medieval layouts and historic buildings; many having medieval and early post medieval timber framed origins. There are surviving medieval property boundaries and the fossilisation of market areas mark out the origins of Kinver, Brewood and Penkridge as medieval market towns. The historic importance and need to conserve these historic settlements has been identified in the designation of Conservation Areas. Greater change has occurred in the former mining settlements in the north east of the District, but even here there are extant historic buildings which relate to their industrial origins and make positive contributions to the local character. Cheslyn Hay in particular retains its layout relating to its origins as an industrial squatter settlement which developed from the 17th century onwards. There is the potential for the enhancement of heritage assets within these settlements to contribute to an improved sense of place and well-being

¹ South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

² Ibid.

within each community. Beyond the medieval historic core of Codsall the historic character is dominated by mid to late 19th century brick villas which were built following the construction of the railway and its Grade II Listed station.

Beyond the extent of the built areas, historic field patterns associated with narrow winding lanes also survive. The majority of these fields are enclosed by mature hedgerows and in-hedge trees all of which contribute to the historic landscape character. Many of the extant field patterns within the project areas have their origins as medieval arable fields most of which were enclosed piecemeal in the 16th to early 18th centuries. They are particularly well preserved to the north west of Codsall, around Wheaton Aston and to the north east of Perton.

Large landed estates made a considerable impact upon the historic landscape of South Staffordshire in the form of landscape parks, the large planned farmsteads and the straight roads and field boundaries typical of surveyor planned field systems. Landscape parks are a particular feature of the Codsall project area and to the east of both Featherstone and Wombourne; the latter area includes a small portion of the Grade II Himley Registered park and garden. These landscapes also survive around, Kinver, Swindon and Wombourne – all areas which lay within the cores of the medieval Royal Forests that had covered much of the District into the early 14th century.*

Industrial archaeology is of particular importance in the north east of the District where the lines of former tramways and canals and evidence of industry, particularly relating to coal mining, survive as both above and below ground remains. It is also a feature of the Stour and Smestow valleys, incorporating Kinver, Swindon and Wombourne. Arguably the greatest legacy of the 18th and 19th centuries are the lines of communication which cross the District; the canals (three of which are Conservation Areas) and the railway lines including the Kinver Light Railway and the disused Bridgnorth & Wolverhampton Railway; the latter now utilised as a leisure amenity.

This document identifies those areas of particular historic sensitivity where special consideration should be given to the impact of development upon the legibility of the historic landscape character. Even where there has been extensive 20th and 21st century change has occurred there are often historic assets including specific historic field boundaries, which continue to contribute to the local character and which are also deserving of consideration within any future change.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 This project was commissioned by the Development Plans & Conservation section at South Staffordshire Council (SSC). The project forms part of the evidence base of SSC's Local Development Framework (LDF) and offers comments **solely** on the impact of potential development on the historic environment. It should be noted that the allocation of land for development will be made by the Site Allocation Development Plan Document which is part of the LDF.
- 1.1.2 Four previous Historic Environment Assessments (HEAs) have been carried out by Staffordshire County Council (SCC) for Lichfield District (2009), Stafford Borough (2009), Cannock Chase District (2009) and Staffordshire Moorlands District (2010). The methodology for the projects has developed over this period culminating in that adopted for Staffordshire Moorlands upon which this project for South Staffordshire is based. The methodology for the Staffordshire Moorlands was based upon the methodology which has been adopted by SCC for the Staffordshire Extensive Urban Survey (EUS), which is funded by English Heritage. The EUS utilised English Heritage's guidance 'Conservation Principles: policies and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment' (2008) to provide a framework for understanding and assessing the significance of heritage assets (cf. section 3 Methodology below).
- 1.1.5 South Staffordshire Council identified the project areas to be assessed by the HEA. These have focused upon existing towns and villages and a total of 13 project areas were identified (cf. map 1). A summary of these project areas follows within this document and the detailed analysis forms the eight appendices. The historic cores of those settlements which have their origins as medieval towns, Brewood, Kinver and Penkridge have not been considered by the HEA as they will be considered in greater detail as part of the Staffordshire EUS project. To date (2010) only the Kinver EUS project has been completed for the District.

1.2 Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER)

- 1.2.1 The HEA utilises various datasets held by SCC's Cultural Heritage Team. The Staffordshire HER comprises all of the known archaeological sites, monuments, historic buildings, structures and finds within a database, supported by a Geographical Information System (GIS). The HER also holds a number of books and journals which were also consulted as part of the HEA. The HER also incorporates further datasets, two of which have proved invaluable to the assessment of the historic environment. These are detailed below.

1.3 *Historic Landscape Character (HLC)*

- 1.3.1 The HLC project forms part of a national mapping project. It was carried out by the County Council in partnership with English Heritage over three years and was completed in March 2006. The aim of the HLC was to produce a broad assessment of the historic and archaeological dimensions of the county's landscape as it exists today, which was produced upon a GIS-based digital map supported by a database.
- 1.2.1 The HLC is a dynamic model for the county and subsequent to its production the dataset has been assessed to produce refined maps and a map of the late medieval landscape of the county. Both of these maps have been used to understand change within the county and they were both used in the execution of this project.

1.4 *Historic Farmsteads*

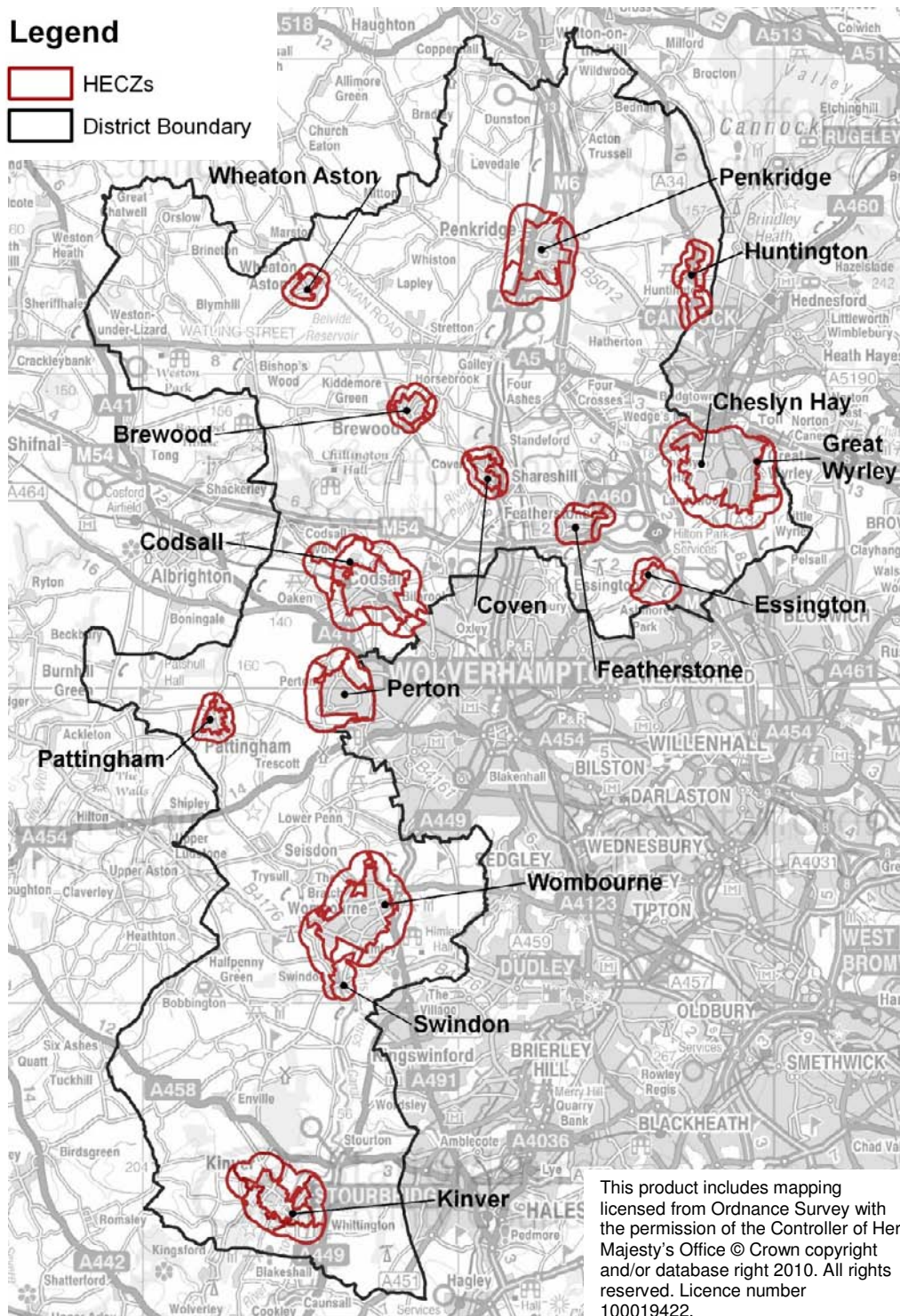
- 1.3.1 The historic farmsteads dataset, which is in the process of being incorporated directly into the Staffordshire HER database, has also been used to inform the HEA in assisting our understanding the evolution of the historic landscape character of the District. The project was initiated to understand and to conserve these fundamental components of the rural landscape. The sheer number of these complexes across any one landscape meant that the project was primarily a desk-based assessment which mapped and characterised all the historic farmsteads across Staffordshire using historic and modern mapping; it also determined to what extent the farmsteads survive in their original plan form.
- 1.3.2 The Staffordshire project was carried out as part of the West Midlands Farmsteads and Landscapes Project, which was funded by English Heritage and the County Councils and Unitary Authorities which make up the West Midlands. The results of the project will be used to help decision-makers to unlock the potential of historic farmsteads, based on an understanding of variations in their local character and significance. Further information and the results of the West Midlands Farmsteads and Landscape Project can be found on English Heritage's website: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/research/landscapes-and-areas/characterisation/West-Midlands-Farmsteads-Landscapes-Project/>

2. Aim

- 2.1 The aim of the project was to provide a detailed assessment of the historic environment character for the thirteen project areas identified by South Staffordshire Council (SSC) (see map 1). The assessment included a scoring system to evaluate the impact of medium to large scale housing development upon each of the zones.

Legend

- HECZs
- District Boundary



Map 1: Historic Environment Assessment project areas

3. Project Methodology

3.1 Historic Environment Character Zones (HECZs)

3.1.1 The methodology for the assignment of the HECZs follows that of the Staffordshire Moorlands HEA, which in turn reflects the methodology used to establish Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) within the Staffordshire Extensive Urban Survey (EUS). The values which form part of the report for the zones are based upon the guidelines produced by English Heritage in 'Conservation Principles: policies and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment' (2008) and identifies four areas for discussion. It should be noted that within each HECZ it is specifically the historic environment which is under consideration and that this judgement is based upon an interpretation of the available evidence. Other individuals or organisations may choose to ascribe alternate values to the historic environment of an area; key to this process of understanding is the degree of transparency by which these judgements are reached. The scope of this project precludes any analysis of non-heritage values which are equally valid in terms of valuing the character of historic towns.

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| Evidential value | The extent to which each HECZ can contribute to an understanding of past activities and how that can contribute to a settlement's wider history. This can be either be legible or intangible within the landscape and as such covers the spectrum of heritage assets from historic buildings or structures to the potential for below ground archaeological deposits. The extent to which the impacts of the removal or replacement of the heritage assets within each character area will be considered in terms of the effects on an ability for future generations to understand and interpret the evidence. |
| Historical value | The extent to which the heritage assets are legible within the landscape and how they interact: this can include specific aspects of the landscape and individual buildings. Historical associations with events or persons can also add value to the ability of the public and community to engage with the heritage. The extent to which the legibility of the heritage assets has been concealed or altered will also be considered. The opportunities for the use and appropriate management of the heritage assets to enhance local distinctiveness and contribution to the sense of place will also be considered. |
| Aesthetic value | Addresses the ability to identify how a place has evolved whether by design or the 'fortuitous outcome of evolution and use'. It assesses the aesthetics of the place through the historic components of the landscape and their ability to enhance sensory stimulation. The aesthetic value also addresses whether the character areas may be amenable to restoration or enhancement. |

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| Communal value | Communal values can be commemorative/symbolic, social or spiritual. These values are not easily quantifiable within the scope of this project being subjective to groups and individuals. Consequently in the context of this project the value merely seeks to address the potential for the heritage assets that could be used to engage the community/public with the heritage not only of each HECZ, but also of the wider area. The potential for each zone to provide material for future interpretation is also considered. |
|----------------|--|

Table 1: Heritage values

3.2 Assessment of value

3.2.1 The aim of applying values of high, medium, low is to indicate the likely significance and sensitivities of the historic environment within each zone. The assigned values reflect the current character of the areas and these will alter in response to change. This could include the results of research contributing to an enhanced understanding of the historic environment; the conservation and enhancement of the environment through positive development and re-development as a result of heritage-led regeneration.

3.2.2 The definition of heritage assets incorporates buildings, monuments (above and below ground archaeology), place, areas and landscapes³.

| | | |
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| Evidential value (see * below for regarding archaeological potential) | High | There is a high potential for the heritage assets within the HECZ to contribute to an understanding of the history of the zone. Archaeological sites are likely to survive (both below ground and above ground) and for new research relating to the nature and origins of the built heritage to enhance the understanding of the development of the wider landscape and settlement pattern. |
| | Medium | There is a good potential for heritage assets to contribute to an understanding of the locality, both in terms of tangible and intangible features. This includes the potential for unknown above and below ground archaeological remains to be present. The opportunities for new insights to be reduced due to the nature of the heritage assets in question; subsequent changes to the historic character of the landscape or due to recent development. |
| | Low | There are no or very few known heritage assets. The understanding for the potential for above and below ground archaeological deposits to survive may be affected by the current lack of research within the wider area. Mitigation may still be required dependent upon an assessment of both the nature of any prospective new development and the potentials of the individual sites being developed. |

³ PPS 5: Annex 2: terminology

| | | |
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| Historical value | High | The legible heritage assets either dominate or significantly contribute to the historic character of each zone. There are strong associations between the heritage assets (both tangible and intangible) within the zone that are potentially demonstrable and/or the heritage assets make an important contribution to the history of the wider area. There are often designated sites either within or lying adjacent to the zone. The high value is not precluded by some degree of 20 th /21 st century alterations to the historic character. |
| | Medium | Legible heritage assets are present within the zone, but are not necessarily predominant or have undergone some form of alteration. Their presence, however, may contribute to an understanding of the development of the character zone and/or there are potential associations between assets. Further research may clarify these associations and elucidate the contribution of these assets to the history of the wider area. Even in their present form they do enable the public and community to visualise the development of the area over time. |
| | Low | There are no or very few known legible heritage assets and their associations are not clearly understood. |
| Aesthetic value | High | The completeness or integrity of the extant historic landscape or townscape and its contribution to the aesthetics of the zone is significant. Within settlements these can often, but not exclusively, be recognised through the designation of Conservation Areas. |
| | Medium | The components of the landscape or townscape are legible, but there may have been considerable impact by 20 th or 21 st century changes to these elements of the historic character. It is not possible within this project to discuss whether such alterations have positive, neutral or negative impacts upon the overall aesthetics. |
| | Low | The aesthetics of the historic character have been significantly impacted by 20 th or 21 st century change. It is not within the scope of this project to discuss whether their contributions are positive, neutral or negative within the wider landscape. |
| Communal value | High | The zone contains numerous heritage assets that could be used to engage the community through interpretation. The heritage assets clearly form part of a wider history of an area which can be drawn into a narrative. There may already have been a degree of interpretation and/or the community/public already has access to at least some of the heritage assets within the zone. |
| | Medium | Engagement with the heritage assets can only be achieved from a distance (from the public highway/rights of way) although there is the potential to enhance community interaction through interpretation or promotion. The ability for the heritage assets to contribute to a history of an area or landscape may be partly limited by access; legibility or on the limitations of the current understanding. |

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| | Low | There are few known heritage assets which make it difficult to elucidate their history or apply it to a wider interpretation. There is no access or the legibility of the heritage assets is negligible. |
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Table 2: Assessment of Heritage values

3.3 Potential uses for the document

- 3.3.1 The assessment was produced specifically for SSC's SHLAA and Sites Allocation Document and has identified areas where the historic environment is a consideration when assessing the most appropriate location for new development. The summary of each report provides a short paragraph on the significance of the historic environment in each zone along with guidance or advice on the potential impact of change in the landscape, planning policies which apply and recommendations.
- 3.3.2 SSC's Development Plan Document (2011) highlights the importance of the District's heritage to the quality of the environment, economic regeneration, local identity and the quality of life for its residents (Core Policy 2)⁴. The HEA provides important baseline data to support Policy EQ3: Conservation, Preservation and Protection of Heritage Assets. The results of the HEA highlight the contribution of heritage assets within the project areas and recommendations on how this can be conserved and where appropriate enhanced. The HEA also identifies the importance of the historic environment, and the contribution of above and below ground archaeology, to an understanding of how places have evolved through time. Such information also provides opportunities to enhance tourists' interaction with and appreciation of the District's heritage.
- 3.3.3 The HEA provides the baseline data to support the Core Strategy for the 13 project areas. However, the findings of the assessment also help to provide a District wide context for assessing the significance of heritage assets (both designated and non-designated) and the historic landscape character.
- 3.3.4 This document should be used to identify historic environment considerations at an early stage in the planning process within each zone. The reports summarise the potential historic environment impacts and opportunities that would need to be taken into account to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment assets within the District.
- 3.3.5 Further potential uses for the document include providing a heritage framework for informing community based planning initiatives including village design statements, parish plans, SSC's Localities and Area Action Plans (AAPs). The Character Zones in particular may help communities to identify their priorities for improving and enhancing the local environment and sustainable development.

⁴ South Staffordshire Council 2011 viewed 3/11/2011

- 3.3.6 The project provides an initial assessment of the potential for the historic environment within each zone. However the assessment is not intended to replace the need to consult the SCC Cultural Heritage Team at an early stage to identify potential impacts and the possible need for mitigation on individual development sites or areas.

4. Designated sites

4.1 *Scheduled Monuments*

- 4.1.2 There are 23 Scheduled monuments lying within the South Staffordshire District⁵.

Where there is a potential for development to impact upon the Scheduled Monuments or their settings then English Heritage should be contacted in advance of any proposals.

4.2 *Conservation Areas*

- 4.2.1 There are 19 Conservation Areas: Blymhill (103), Brewood (004), Chillington (035), Codsall & Oaken (047), Enville (049), Himley (104), Kinver (012), Lapley (105), Lower Penn (106), Pattingham (107), Penkridge (018), Penn (116), Shropshire Union Canal (081), Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal (073), Stourbridge Canal (080), Trysull & Seisdon (008), Weston-under-Lizard (053), Wheaton Aston (108), Wombourne (038) and The Woodlands (NNN jointly with the Vicarage Road Conservation Area of Wolverhampton City Council)⁶.

Where there is a potential for development to impact upon the Conservation Areas or their setting then SSC's Conservation Officer should be consulted.

4.3 *Registered Parks and Gardens*

- 4.3.1 There are five Registered parks and gardens lying within the District⁷. Three have been designated as Grade II*: Chillington, Enville and Weston; two are Grade II: Himley and Patshull. All of these parklands were laid out in the mid- to late 18th-century, although some landscaping had been done at both Chillington and Himley earlier in the century⁸. Weston was laid out by the famous landscape designer, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, who was also responsible for the late 18th century extension to Himley⁹. Brown is also associated with Chillington and possibly Patshull¹⁰. Enville Park was laid out in conjunction with William Shenstone in the mid 18th century¹¹.

⁵ Accurate as at 05/01/2011

⁶ Accurate as at 05/01/2011

⁷ Accurate as at 05/01/2011

⁸ Staffordshire HER: PRN 40089 and PRN 20730; English Heritage 2004: GD 2168 and GD 2289

⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 02715 and PRN 20730; English Heritage 2004: GD 1352 and GD 2289

¹⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRN 40089 and PRN 40063; English Heritage 2004: GD 2168 and GD 1539

¹¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 40051; English Heritage 2004: GD 1009

Where there is a potential for development to impact upon Grade I and II* historic parks and gardens or their settings then English Heritage and The Garden History Society should be consulted in advance of any proposals. In the case of Grade II historic parks and gardens the Garden History Society should be consulted.

4.4 Listed Buildings

- 4.4.1 There are approximately 644 Listed Buildings within South Staffordshire; 16 Grade I, 44 Grade II* and 584 Grade II¹². Where there is a potential for development to impact upon Listed Buildings or their setting then SSC's Conservation Officer should be consulted in advance of any proposals.

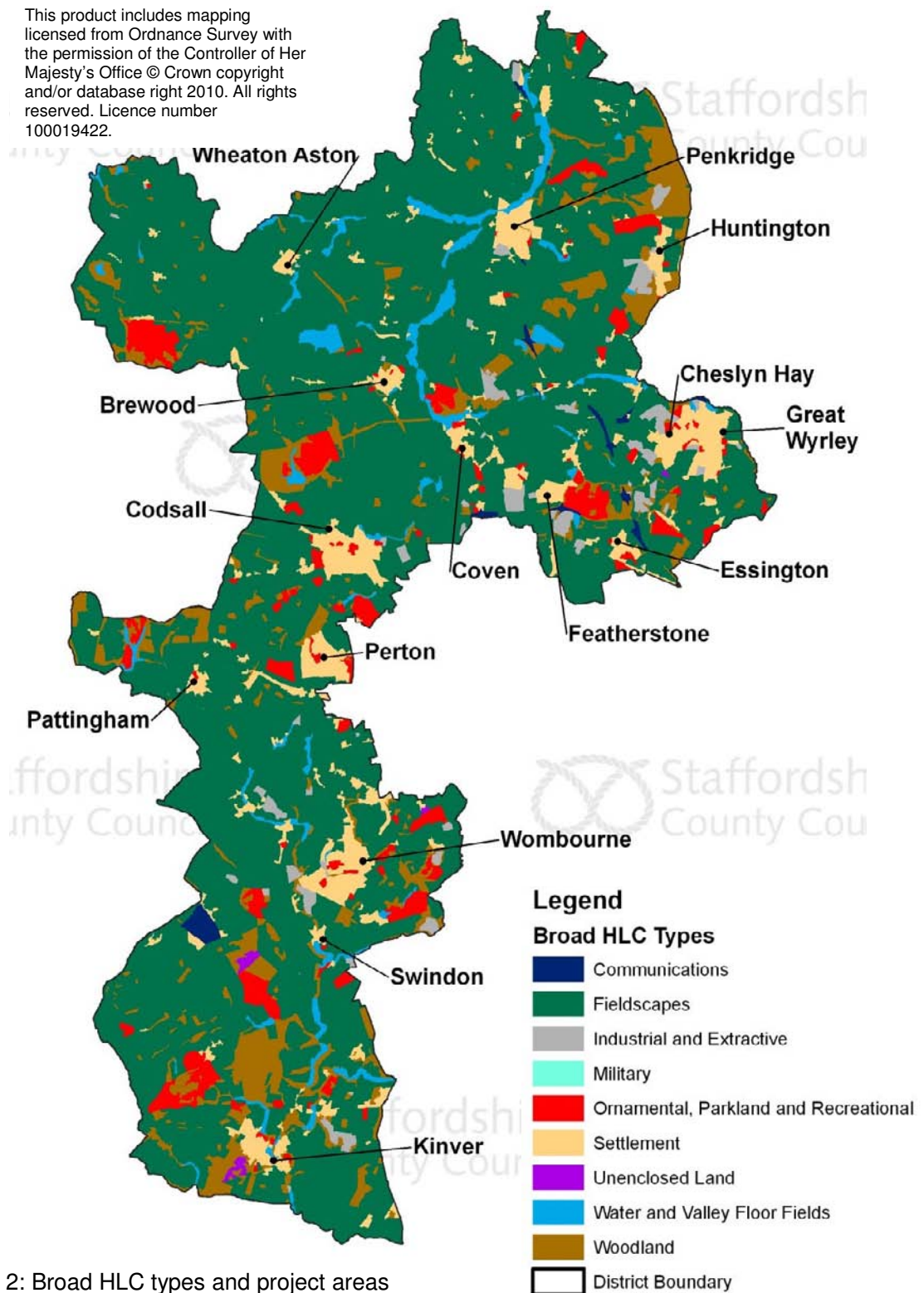
5. South Staffordshire historic landscape

5.1 Background and overview

- 5.1.1 The area administered by South Staffordshire Council is located in the south and south western part of the county. The authority shares borders with Stafford Borough to the north and Cannock Chase District Council to the east. The long western boundary is shared with Shropshire County Council. To the east are Wolverhampton City Council and Dudley Borough Council; as well as a short section of the Walsall District Council. The short southern boundary is shared with Wyre Forest District Council and Worcestershire County Council.
- 5.1.2 South Staffordshire is defined by its historic landscape character, which as map 2 shows is predominantly rural with 73.8% of the area being covered by the Broad HLC type 'Fieldsapes'. This is emphasised by map 3 which shows the extent of this Broad HLC type within the modern landscape. The map shows the fields by their period of origin and clearly shows several large areas where early field patterns survive including around Wheaton Aston (cf. 7.13 below and Appendix 6). There are also large areas where the field patterns have an 18th/19th century origin which is explored further in section 5.5.
- 5.1.3 Woodland also makes a significant contribution to the historic landscape covering 9.2% of the District the majority of which relates to the 19th and 20th century forestry plantations on Cannock Chase to the north east and 'The Million', covering over 300ha in the south west of the district. However, the HLC does not take account of woodland under 1ha in area and it may be that across the District the contribution of small copses, infield and in-hedge trees all make a positive contribution to the sense of a woodland character within parts of the District.

¹² Accurate as at 05/01/2011

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Map 2: Broad HLC types and project areas

- 5.1.4 Settlement covers 7.2% of the District, but within the HLC project this tends to represent the villages and does not generally include the individual scattered farmsteads and small clusters of properties which are excluded from this figure. The principal areas of settlement within the zone include the medieval towns of Brewood, Kinver and Penkridge all of which are classified as Main Service Villages within the modern landscape¹³. Development during the 20th century has seen these and many of the other historic villages expand quite considerably particularly around Codsall, Cheslyn Hay, Great Wyrley and Wombourne. Perton represents a new settlement constructed in the late 20th century largely upon the site of a former airfield.
- 5.1.3 The Broad Type 'Industrial & Extractive' only covers 1.8% of the area of the District and is largely concentrated to the north east around Great Wyrley, Cheslyn Hay and Huntington (cf. map 2). Some of these sites relate to former collieries, such the remains of Littleton Colliery identifiable as the large area to the south west of Huntington (cf. 7.7 below and Appendix 3). The industrial sites around Cheslyn Hay and Great Wyrley, where they lie within the project area, are discussed in 7.6 and Appendix 3.

5.2 Prehistoric and Roman periods

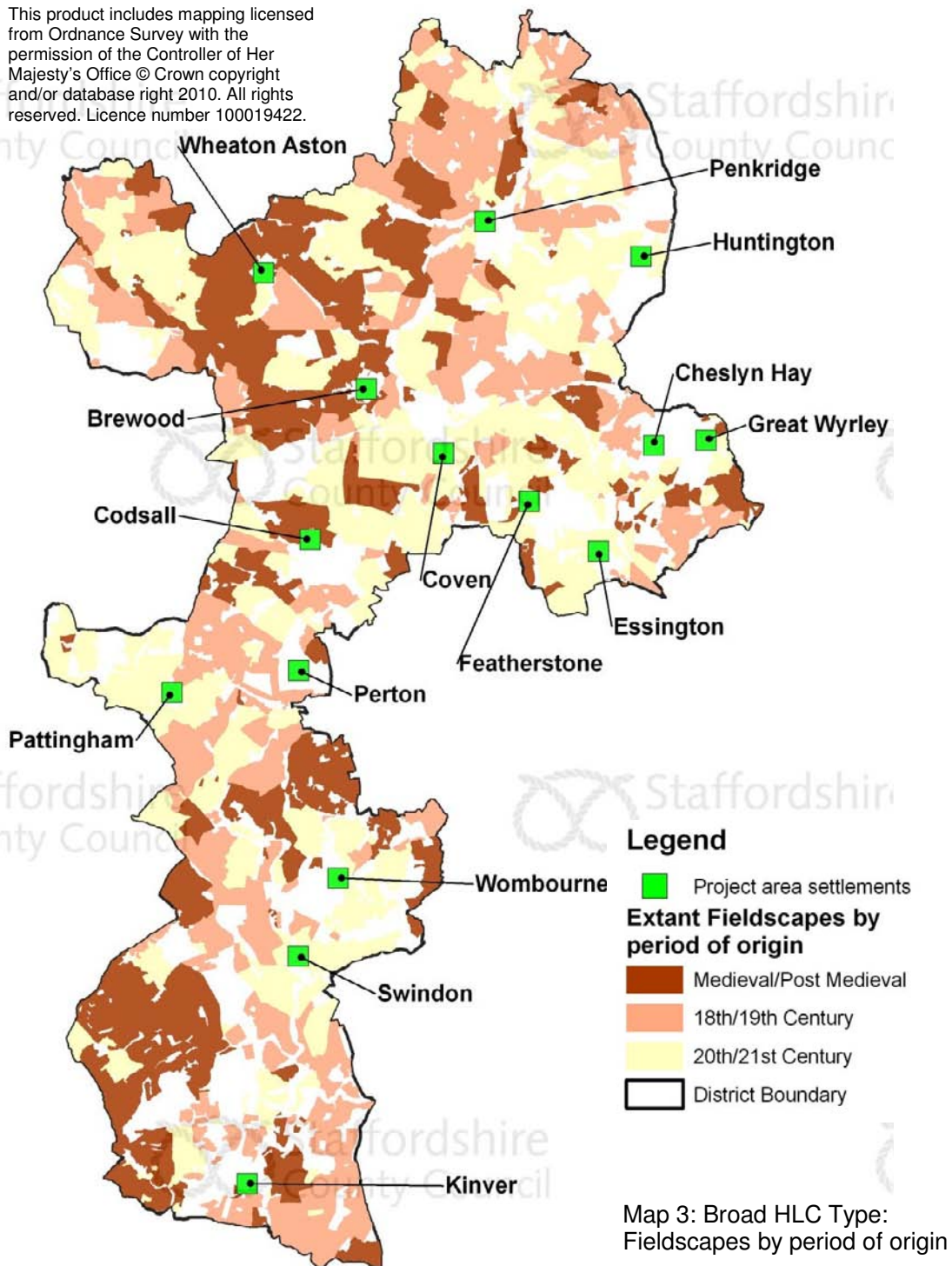
- 5.2.1 Map 4 reveals the known prehistoric and Roman archaeology across South Staffordshire as at December 2010¹⁴. This resource is known through the identification of archaeological sites as cropmarks visible on aerial photographs, as upstanding earthwork remains visible in the landscape, from archaeological investigations and from artefacts found either as stray finds or through field walking surveys. Only a few of these sites have been the subject of substantial research. However, those sites that have been the subject of investigation are highlighted on map 3 by the dense concentration of the known archaeology and include Acton Trussell, Greensforge and 'Pennocrucium'. The latter two sites incorporate Roman forts and settlements which have been designated as Scheduled Monuments and a further Scheduled Roman fort exists to the west of Swindon¹⁵. The most physically impressive site is Kinver Iron Age hillfort in the south of the county, where large earthen ramparts survive, and is also designated as a Scheduled Monument.

¹³ South Staffordshire 2009

¹⁴ The Staffordshire HER is constantly being updated as new information is revealed, which updates and improves our understanding of the historic environment of the county.

¹⁵ The Swindon site is discussed within SWHECZ 5 in Appendix 6

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5.2.2 Cropmarks - The intensification of arable cultivation within the District since the Second World War has revealed evidence of the Prehistoric and Roman land use with various features revealed as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The majority of the cropmark sites, however, are currently undated as no further investigation has yet taken place. The remainder have been dated through association with adjacent dated sites, through morphological

similarities to excavated examples and from unstratified finds. The Roman forts, camps and settlements at Greensforge and '*Pennocrucium*' have been revealed on aerial photographs although to date only limited archaeological investigations have been carried out on these sites; this is partly due to their legally protected status as Scheduled Monuments.

5.2.3 Other cropmark features within South Staffordshire include seven enclosures which have been tentatively dated and many others which are currently undated. One such enclosure near Teddesley has been tentatively interpreted as the site of an Iron Age farmstead¹⁶. Ring ditches, often interpreted as the ploughed out remains of Bronze Age barrows have been identified from aerial photographs at Gravelly Farm and Heath Farm in Penkridge, at Pattingham and near Dunston¹⁷. Many undated linear features have also been identified, and whilst many of these probably relate to former field boundaries probably of medieval or later date although others may represent late prehistoric/Roman pit alignments. Two undated cropmarks within the area of Seisdon on map 4 were identified as linear features on an aerial photograph taken in 1963, but the 2006 aerial photography has shown this as one long pit alignment¹⁸. Four pit alignments have so far been positively identified within the District near Greensforge, at Trescott and to the north of Seisdon; the latter was recognised on 2006 aerial photographs during the HEA project¹⁹. Pit alignments are considered to represent field boundaries created during the late Prehistoric to Roman periods. A further linear cropmark within the group of Seisdon cropmarks indicated on map 4 has been interpreted as a possible Roman road, although to date archaeological investigation has not been undertaken to confirm this²⁰.

5.2.4 *Earthworks* – represent upstanding archaeological remains, which are most likely to survive in areas which have not been ploughed. Map 4 shows groups of undated earthworks on Highgate Common to the northwest of Greensforge and on Kinver Edge to the south of Kinver hillfort. The features on Highgate Common are earthwork banks, which may relate to the enclosure of woodland in the medieval or post medieval period. Those on Kinver Edge also include more banks as well as trackways and rock chambers which have been identified by a recent archaeological survey. Many of these features may also prove to relate to later activity, but only further archaeological research will reveal their origins and function within the landscape. Three Bronze Age burnt mounds have been identified within South Staffordshire, two in Saredon and one on Blymhill Common; a further possible burnt mound was identified at Acton Trussell²¹. These features are comprised of a mound of fire-cracked stones usually associated with a buried trough thought to have contained water. There have been various interpretations on their function including being associated with cooking or for bathing.

¹⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 04015

¹⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 01797, PRN 04542, PRN 04335 and PRN 04555

¹⁸ Staffordshire HER: PRN 04040 and PRN 04041

¹⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 03534, PRN 04045 and PRN 54274

²⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRN 04046

²¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 01075, PRN 01082 and PRN 51618

- 5.2.5 The Scheduled Kinver hillfort covers 3.75ha and includes a single rampart around two-thirds of the site which stands to 2-3m in height from the inside of the hillfort (8-9m from the ditch)²². Two further hillforts lie to the south in Worcestershire approximately 3km away and these sites suggest that a rural economy based upon a dispersed settlement pattern, with a centralised power base was present within the area from at least the late Bronze Age/Iron Age²³. Consequently there is the potential for further late prehistoric sites to survive in the area.
- 5.2.6 *Archaeological investigation* – Very few archaeological investigations have been carried out upon prehistoric and Roman sites within Staffordshire as is illuminated by map 4. However, an archaeological excavation carried out at Coven Heath revealed that by the mid to late Bronze Age the surrounding landscape was dominated by grassland suggesting that it was being farmed as pasture²⁴. The paleoenvironmental evidence, which provided this insight, is a particularly important resource for understanding the management of the landscape from the prehistoric period onwards.
- 5.2.7 Penk Valley Archaeological Group has been undertaking archaeological excavations at Acton Trussell since 1979. The excavations have identified human activity on this site since the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. Several Iron Age ditches or gullies have been excavated suggesting domestic and agricultural activity. From the early Roman period the site was developed as a villa and may represent the Romanisation of a pre-existing British family rather than new settlers. Several phases of villa development have been identified and it is not currently certain to what extent the site was occupied following the withdrawal of the Roman army in 409AD. A Roman villa and bath house was excavated at Engleton in the 1930s²⁵.
- 5.2.8 Limited archaeological investigations on cropmark linear features at Greensforge, outside of the Scheduled areas, have confirmed them as hollow ways of Roman date. Post-holes, pits and other features, along with pottery all of a similar date were also revealed, which suggests that this area may have been the site of a civilian settlement (vicus).
- 5.2.9 *Stray finds and field walking evidence* – Stray finds of prehistoric to Roman date have been recovered from across the District (cf. map 4). The earliest evidence for human activity within South Staffordshire is the Mesolithic flint scatters which have been recovered during field surveys near Kinver and Wrottesley²⁶. The latter site has been interpreted as a flint working site during the Mesolithic.

²² Cf. KVHECZ 5 in Appendix 4

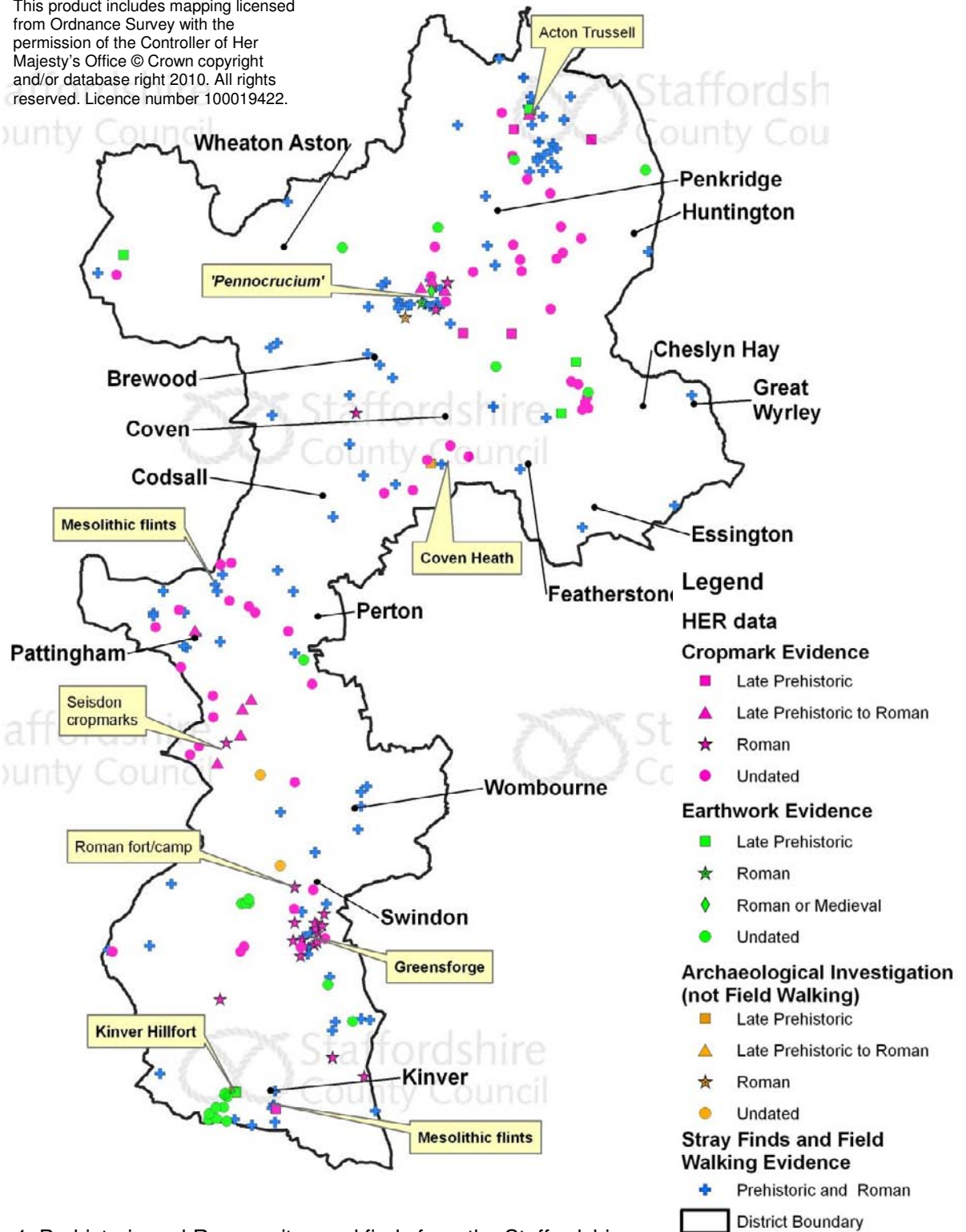
²³ Staffordshire County Council 2008: 15-16

²⁴ Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology 2006: iii

²⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00217

²⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 03537, PRN 01878 and PRN 51877

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Map 4: Prehistoric and Roman sites and finds from the Staffordshire HER as at December 2010. (NB. The HER is constantly being updated as new information is revealed through archaeological investigation and other research)

5.2.10 On the whole stray finds do not currently make a useful contribution to an understanding of how the landscape was being utilised by people during

these periods; however, in some area it represents the only evidence for human activity.

5.2.10 Documentary evidence - There is currently very little physical evidence for the quintessential Bronze Age monument; the barrow or burial mound. Possible barrows have been reported within the parishes of Brewood, Kinver, Saredon and Wombourne mostly by 17th and 18th century antiquaries in areas which were then still mostly comprised of heathland²⁷. These landscapes have since been enclosed and subject to agricultural activity and no traces of these barrows were identified by 20th century investigators. However, there is the potential for below ground deposits to survive in these areas relating to Bronze Age burial activity. All of these features may be associated with more intensive human activity, which may also survive as below ground deposits.

5.2.11 Summary – The known evidence of human activity in the prehistoric and Roman periods reveals that whilst South Staffordshire may not have been densely occupied during these periods it was by no means a deserted landscape. There is the potential for further archaeological remains to survive across the District, as has been shown by the identification of the pit alignment during the course of the HEA project (cf. 5.1.2). All of this evidence will greatly enhance our understanding of the utilisation of the landscape and the lives of the people during these periods, which in turn will contribute to the national picture.

5.3 Brewood, Cannock and Kinver Forests

5.3.1 Map 6 shows the conjectural extent of Forest within South Staffordshire by the end of the 12th century based upon documents and surveys dating to mostly to the 12th and 13th centuries²⁸. However, little is known about the precise extent of Brewood Forest as it had ceased to exist and was diasfforested in 1203 by King John²⁹.

5.3.2 Forests were areas which were utilised by the Crown primarily for hunting but also as a source of revenue particularly in terms of its timber and mineral resources³⁰. It was subject to special 'Forest Laws' which were laid down by William the Conqueror during the mid to late 11th century. These laws restricted the rights of local inhabitants to take game and utilise the woodland and pasture which fell within the forest bounds. Much of the revenue from the Crown came from fining those who made illegal encroachments (assarting) or illegally took game as exemplified in the Pleas of the Forest for three years in the late 13th century specifically covering the Forests of Cannock and Kinver³¹.

²⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 01077, PRN 01482, PRN 02131, PRN 01813 and PRN 01913

²⁸ Adapted from Cantor 1968: figs 1 and 2

²⁹ Cantor 1968: 48 and figs 1 & 2

³⁰ Studd 2000: 125

³¹ Staffordshire Forest Pleas: January 1262; 'Staffordshire Forest Pleas: Michaelmas, 55 Henry III'; 'Staffordshire Forest Pleas: 14 Edward I' (all accessed 04/01/2011)

5.3.3 It is not clear when the forests of Staffordshire were created although the three lying within South Staffordshire existed by the end of the 12th century³². The Domesday Book (1086) manors and sub-manors within South Staffordshire are shown on Map 6 (cf. also 5.4.4). It has been suggested that some of the manors recorded in Domesday Book as being 'waste' had recently been transferred into one of the royal forests³³. This is made explicit in the entries for 'Haswic' (Ashwood) and Chasepool where it is stated that they lay within the "King's Forest"³⁴. Parts of Enville manor and the now lost manor of 'Cippemore' also lay within the forest by 1086³⁵. Robin Studd has argued that these manors are described as 'waste' not because they had been destroyed or were unproductive but because land within the forest was not taxable and was therefore not assessed by the Domesday commissioners³⁶. This may be exemplified by the settlement of Morfe, which had been assessed and valued but is then stated as being 'waste' suggesting it was in the process of being transferred into the royal forest³⁷. Consequently it is likely that the manors of Huntington and Wyrley were 'waste' because they lay within Cannock Forest³⁸. However it is clear that by at least 1300 settlements existed at Huntington, Wyrley and Morfe, probably with attached arable land. It is, however, not currently clear whether they existed by the early medieval period or were established (or re-established) following the assartment of the woodland in the 12th or 13th centuries (cf. map 6 and 5.2.4)³⁹.

5.2.1 The landscape of the forest was dominated by woodland and areas of pasture to facilitate hunting, but also to graze stock⁴⁰. However, the royal forests did incorporate existing settlements within their bounds whose activities were restricted by the Forest Law. These settlements probably relied upon an arable economy even whilst they lay within the Forest and much of the illegal assarting was probably undertaken by inhabitants seeking to extend their holdings. Maps 4 and 5 show that many of the settlements which are the subject of the HEA lay within one of the forests although by the early 13th century those lying within the area covered by Brewood were no longer subject to the Forest Law, which probably accounts for the lack of 'Unenclosed Land' shown in this area of South Staffordshire on maps 5 and 6. The restrictions of Forest Law continued to be flouted by those living within Kinver and Cannock Forests during the 13th century as court rolls known as the Pleas of the Forest show⁴¹. King Edward I initiated a Perambulation of the Forests in 1300 to ascertain the precise boundaries. At this date many of the settlements claimed disafforestation (freedom from Forest Law) including Coven, Essington, Featherstone and Great Wyrley in Cannock and Swindon

³² Greenslade 1967: 335

³³ Hawkins and Rumble 1974

³⁴ Studd 2000: 121-133; Hawkins and Rumble: 7: 6

³⁵ Hawkins and Rumble 1974: 12: 10 and 12: 11

³⁶ Studd 2000: 125

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid: 127

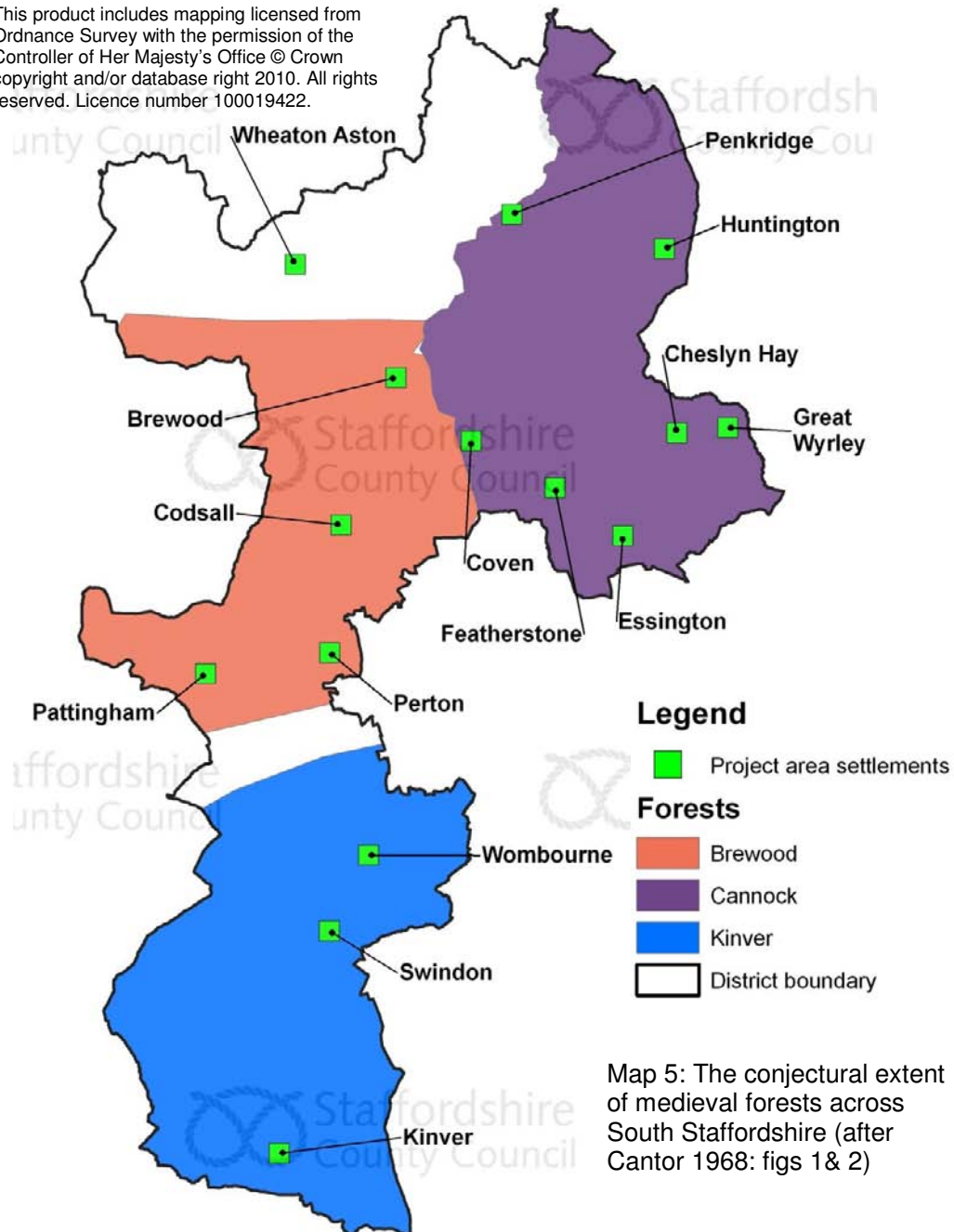
³⁹ Cantor 1968: figs. 2 and 3

⁴⁰ Cantor 1968: 42

⁴¹ Staffordshire Forest Pleas: January 1262; 'Staffordshire Forest Pleas: Michaelmas, 55 Henry III'; 'Staffordshire Forest Pleas: 14 Edward I' (all accessed 04/01/2011)

and Wombourne in Kinver⁴². All of these settlements had been freed from Forest Law by the mid 14th century in effect much reducing the area of Forest across South Staffordshire and presumably resulting in changes to the landscape character.

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5.2.2 Penkridge and Huntington were apparently not included in this disafforestation because they lay with Teddesley Hay. There were seven hays within Cannock Forest only three of which lay within South Staffordshire by the mid

⁴² Cantor 1968: 44-48; figs. 2 and 3; 'Perambulations of the Forest: 1300' (accessed 04/01/2011)

14th century; Cheslyn Hay, Gailey Hay and Teddesley Hay⁴³. Within Cannock the hays were sub-divisions of the forest and largely survived into the 18th and 19th centuries⁴⁴. The hays largely relate to the areas of 'Unenclosed Land' shown on Map 6. In Kinver there were four hays (Ashwood, Chasepool, Iverley and Prestwood) which were small enclosed areas used to corral the deer prior to a hunt⁴⁵. By 1350 the extent of Kinver Forest had largely been reduced to the area indicated by the Historic Character Types (HCTs) 'Unenclosed Land' and 'Woodland' shown on Map 6, although it also appears to have included Kinver and its open fields⁴⁶. In the late 18th century the landscape of this area was still dominated by 'Unenclosed Land' and 'Woodland' being finally enclosed or laid down for plantation woodland in the 19th century following an Act of Parliament (1774), although it had largely ceased to function as part of the Crown's estate by the 17th century⁴⁷.

5.4 Medieval and early post medieval land use

5.4.1 *Unenclosed Land, Woodland and Deer Parks* - Map 6 is a conjectural map showing the main land use in the medieval and early post medieval periods. The large areas of 'Unenclosed Land' are contiguous with the cores of the Forests of Cannock and Kinver and these landscapes largely survived into the 18th century (cf. 4.2). Within the modern landscape the largest area of 'Unenclosed Land' to survive is Highgate Common to the south west of Wombourne. Other areas of 'Unenclosed Land' have been deliberately regenerated at Kinver Edge having formerly been forestry plantation.

5.4.2 Woodland is probably under-represented within the HLC, although a number of significant areas are shown; to the east of Wombourne, around Perton and north west of Codsall. This latter area is supported by the placename 'Codsall Wood' which may indicate that this was a significant woodland asset at least in the early medieval period. Woodland was recorded in the majority of the manors in Domesday Book⁴⁸.

5.4.3 Four deer parks have been identified by the HLC as shown on Map 6; their extent being defined by the morphology of the later field patterns (from north to south these are Weston, Brewood, Enville and Compton)⁴⁹. However, documentary sources reveal that a further three deer parks existed two of which, Patshull and Wrottesley, are marked on Map 6 whilst the third lay at Oaken to the south west of Codsall⁵⁰. Deer parks may have existed at Pillaton and Teddesley in the north east of the District although the evidence is currently uncertain⁵¹. Deer parks were licensed by the king and were owned by both lay and ecclesiastical lords; Brewood was owned by the

⁴³ Ibid: fig. 2

⁴⁴ Ibid: 40 and 46

⁴⁵ Ibid: 40

⁴⁶ Ibid: fig. 3

⁴⁷ Greenslade 1967: 348

⁴⁸ Hawkins and Rumble 1974

⁴⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 50878, PRN 01068, PRN 01166 and PRN 03525

⁵⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRN 01184, PRN 01185 and PRN 54178

⁵¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 01014 and PRN 01805

Bishop of Lichfield and Oaken by the Abbot of Croxden Abbey for instance. The deer parks were usually enclosed by a bank and ditch designed to allow deer to enter the parks, but not to leave. There is the potential for earthworks to survive relating to these landscapes within the District.

5.4.4 *Settlement and moated sites* - the establishment of the three Royal forests suggests that the landscape of South Staffordshire was only lightly settled with large areas of woodland dominating⁵². Map 6 shows that there were 57 manors and/or sub manors within South Staffordshire at the time of Domesday Book (1086) which also reflects the pre Conquest (1066) pattern. The population figures in Domesday Book are likely to under-represent the true picture at this period, but overall the entries confirm that the area was not heavily settled compared to other counties within England⁵³. The three largest manors with over 20 recorded households were Brewood, Kinver and Lapley⁵⁴. The latter is described with its 'dependencies' and although these are not specified it is possible that they include the settlement of Wheaton Aston (cf. Appendix 6)⁵⁵. A further nine had over ten households including Essington, Pattingham, Penkridge Perton and Wombourne⁵⁶. The distribution of Domesday manors on Map 6 indicates that the majority were associated with areas of arable agriculture (cf. 5.4.9 below) and this is confirmed by the references to ploughs within each of the Domesday entries⁵⁷.

5.4.5 The national population is believed to have increased considerably throughout the 12th and 13th centuries and consequently the area of arable agriculture and settlement is likely to have increased within South Staffordshire during this period. Moated sites (as indicated on map 6) appear to be a particular phenomenon of these two centuries and have close associations with landscapes where woodland and pasture would have been common⁵⁸. This description would have suited much of South Staffordshire during the medieval period. There are 54 records of moats within South Staffordshire on the Staffordshire HER, which represents approximately a quarter of all those known across the whole county. These are known from both earthwork and cropmark evidence although some have been more positively identified than others, but also from documentary records particularly historic maps. Of the number known in South Staffordshire 13 have been identified as being of national significance and are designated as Scheduled Monuments. The distribution of moats on Map 6 suggests that they were mostly located within areas of arable agriculture, and they generally form part of what is overall a dispersed settlement pattern. It is possible, therefore, that the majority of moats may be associated with economic expansion by freeholders who created small estates possibly originating as illegal assarting within the royal forests⁵⁹. On the other hand, as Roberts and Wrathmell point out, moats may

⁵² Cantor 1968: 39

⁵³ Walmsley 1968: 73-74

⁵⁴ Hawkins and Rumble 1976

⁵⁵ Ibid: EN, 1

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Hawkins and Rumble 1974

⁵⁸ Roberts and Wrathmell 2002: 58

⁵⁹ Ibid.

represent the development of an earlier holding, rather than always suggesting newly won land⁶⁰. This assertion has yet to be tested through archaeological excavation.

- 5.4.6 One of the moats is located within the area of Teddesley Hay (within HCT 'Unenclosed Land' to the north east of Penkridge) may have originated as the site of a hunting lodge⁶¹. This was later the focus of an 18th century estate based upon Teddesley Hall (cf. 5.5). The other hunting lodges shown on Map 6 are known only from documentary evidence, the one relating to the Grade II Listed Stourton Castle which is believed to have originated as a royal hunting lodge and where medieval fabric survives in the form of a stone built gate tower⁶².
- 5.4.7 Three of the medieval manor houses shown on map 6 have been identified primarily from contemporary documentary evidence⁶³. The fourth manor house is Dunsley Hall lying to the north east of Kinver; identified from both documentary sources and the earliest extant architectural fabric which has been dated to mid 15th to mid 16th century⁶⁴.
- 5.4.8 There are a further eleven Grade II Listed buildings within the District which either have been proved to be or are probably either 14th or 15th century in origin. All of these buildings were originally timber framed, although it is only visible externally in properties along Dean Street, School Street and Newport Street in Brewood; The Old Cottage in Penkridge; 'Holbein House', High Street and the Grade II* Listed 'Whittington Inn' both lying in Kinver parish⁶⁵. The Grade II* Listed 'The Wodehouse' near Wombourne retains a 14th century timber framed core which is visible internally⁶⁶. The remainder have been refaced or have been altered in later centuries, however, the remains of further timber framed medieval buildings may survive concealed within later structures across the District. Timber framed buildings of 16th to 18th century date are more numerous across the District and range from isolated farmhouses to properties within the settlements. Timber framed buildings are particularly characteristic of Brewood and Kinver.
- 5.4.9 *Open fields and piecemeal enclosure* - In the medieval period the landscape of South Staffordshire was also dominated by open fields, which relate to arable agriculture during this and later periods. Map 6 indicates the known extent of the open fields as the HCTs 'Open Fields' and 'Piecemeal Enclosure'; the latter is described below.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 05495

⁶² Staffordshire HER: PRN 09227; Greenslade et al 1984: 130 and 132

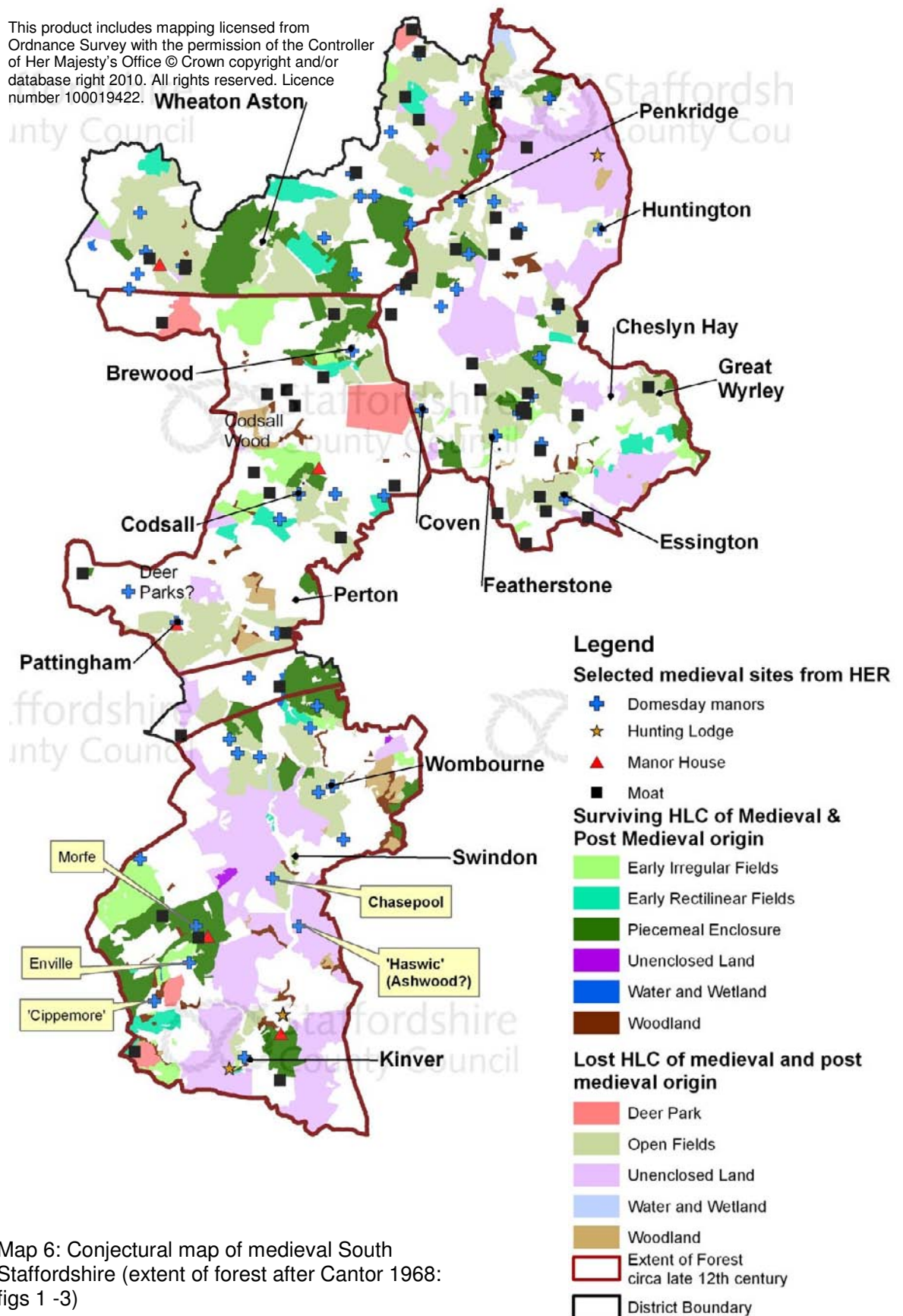
⁶³ Staffordshire HER: PRN 01053, PRN 54167 (cf. CDHECZ 1 in Appendix 1) and PRN 54227 (cf. PTHECZ 2 in Appendix 4).

⁶⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 13750; David Burton-Pye pers. comm. (cf. KVHECZ 2 in Appendix 4)

⁶⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 09049; PRN 10009; PRN 12996; PRN 13754 and PRN 09260

⁶⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 09323

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Map 6: Conjectural map of medieval South Staffordshire (extent of forest after Cantor 1968: figs 1 -3)

5.4.10 The 'open fields' comprised at least two or more large hedge-less fields which were farmed on a rotational basis between arable, fallow and other crops. The fields were divided into strips which individual landholders held across the various fields. The fossilised remains of the strips sometimes survive as 'Ridge and furrow' earthworks as can be seen in the fields around Wheaton Aston (cf. 7.13 and Appendix 6). Map 6 shows that the open fields lay around or in the close proximity to settlements. All of the project settlements are clearly associated with open fields on Map 6; the only exception is Cheslyn Hay which did not exist as a settlement until the post medieval period (cf. 7.6 below and Appendix 3).

5.4.11 The open fields, in common with such landscapes in the remainder of the county, were enclosed piecemeal during the post medieval period; a process which had been largely completed by the 18th century. Consequently the extent of the open fields can be identified by the extant areas of 'Piecemeal Enclosure' on Map 6. This enclosure pattern fossilised the form of medieval ploughing in the characteristic dog-leg or reverse 'S' field boundaries. Map 6 shows that 'Piecemeal Enclosure' survives particularly well around Enville and Wheaton Aston. The survival of this pattern suggests that the land was probably largely in the hands of small landholders throughout much of its history and so enclosure took place over a longer period of time. In Wheaton Aston this process was particularly slow and may be the reason why a large number of 16th and 17th century farmsteads survived in the village into the 20th century; a number of which are extant (cf. 7.13 and Appendix 6).

5.4.12 *Early Irregular and Early Rectilinear Fields* - There are few areas exhibiting these HCTs on map 6; such fields have not been closely dated and may originate in any period from the medieval period onwards. It is likely that the irregular fields are the earliest although both types probably represent assarting in woodland or encroachment onto the common land. There is a small area of 'Early Irregular Fields' in the area of Codsall Wood, where two moated sites have also been identified on Map 6, which could well represent assarting at an early period.

5.5 18th and 19th century improvement: landscape gardens, planned enclosure and plantations

5.5.1 Map 7 shows the extent of landscape change which originated in the 18th/19th century and is therefore closely associated with a period of agricultural improvement and the development of landscape parks. The map also indicates the extent to which the landscapes of this date survive within the District.

5.5.2 Around 40 landscape parks have been identified within South Staffordshire on the Staffordshire HER, however, of these only 37 show any real evidence of having been landscaped in the 18th and 19th century. A further landscape park may have been established around Wheaton Aston Court, which was constructed in the 1890s⁶⁷. The largest of the landscape parks, as shown on

⁶⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 40115

map 6, were owned and occupied by some of the most influential landholders in the county including the Earl of Bradford (of Weston Park), the Earl of Stamford (of Enville Hall), Lord Hatherton (of Teddesley Park), Lord Wrottesley (of Wrottesley Hall) and, between 1765 and 1848 Baron Pigot (of Patshull Hall)⁶⁸. The Giffard family of Chillington Hall had been in possession of the manor since the 12th century and the parkland is a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden (cf. 4.3 above)⁶⁹. The majority of these estates had developed from the sites of medieval manor houses which were associated with settlements⁷⁰. A small country house and landscape garden, The Wodehouse near Wombourne, also had medieval origins⁷¹.

- 5.4.3 It is clear from the map that there is a geographical association between those field systems which have either been created or altered during this period and the location of the large estates identified above. Even where there is no geographical association historical documents reveal that these landowners held much of the land across the District. Two examples will suffice to illuminate the trend. Lord Wrottesley held the manor of Perton during the period⁷². By 1851 Lord Hatherton held most of the land to the north, east and south east of Penkridge (in Drayton, Gailey, Hatherton Otherton and Wolgarston), and the manor of Levedale and much of the land in Preston to the west⁷³.
- 5.4.4 The regular courtyard farmsteads shown on the map further suggest the extent of the improvements made during this period and were probably largely funded by the larger landholders within the District. These regular plan forms are associated with the improvements in efficiency which were being promulgated by agricultural writers during these centuries⁷⁴. These farmsteads may represent new holdings established upon former heathland, particularly in those areas of HCT 'Planned Enclosure', or the re-planning of earlier farmsteads to improve efficiency. In the latter case there is the potential for earlier buildings to be incorporated into the re-planning of the farmstead. The remaining farmsteads are more likely to represent small freeholders within the District farming who had less capital to invest in the wholesale improvement of their farm buildings; although incremental developments may be apparent within their extant plan forms.
- 5.4.5 The small landscape parks which are shown on map 7 are largely associated with the aspirations of 19th century industrialists who began to invest in country estates; either creating new sites as happened to the south west of Codsall (cf. 7.2 below and CDHECZ 6 in Appendix 1) or buying older properties such as Rodbaston Hall near Penkridge (cf. PKHECZ 3 in Appendix 3). Codsall itself expanded as a retreat from industrial

⁶⁸ White 1834 viewed on 5/1/2011; White 1851 viewed on 5/1/2011; English Heritage 2004: GD 1539

⁶⁹ Greenslade and Midgley 1959: 28

⁷⁰ There are the sites of deserted settlements on the HER within the landscape parks of Chillington (PRN 01889), Patshull (PRN 01899), Wrottesley (PRN 01901) and Hilton (PRN 02481) among others.

⁷¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 09323

⁷² Cf. 7.11 below and PRHECZ 2 and PRHECZ 4

⁷³ White 1851 viewed 10/01/2011; cf. 7.10 below and Appendix 5 PKHECZ 4

⁷⁴ English Heritage et al. 2010: 24

Wolverhampton with large villas being constructed from the mid 19th century onwards due to the opening of the railway⁷⁵.

5.6 Industry

5.6.1 Although the HCT 'Industry and Extractive' is shown on map 7 it is not dominant within the landscape of the District. The map does, however, indicated that in the 18th/19th century industry was concentrated to the north east around Cheslyn Hay, Essington, Great Wyrley and Huntington. In this area it related specifically to coalmining and quarrying which covered an area greater than 1ha in extent⁷⁶. Consequently the impact of industry upon the landscape and economy of South Staffordshire is not reflected within the HLC as it was rarely carried out on a landscape-scale. Map 8 shows the industrial sites, known from documentary and physical evidence, recorded on the HER. It also shows quite clearly the predominance of coal mining, and brick and tile works, in the north east of the District. This area lay within the Cannock Chase coalfield which is known to have been exploited from the 13th century, although little is known about this early activity⁷⁷. Littleton Colliery, at Huntington, was the last surviving colliery in South Staffordshire closing in 1993⁷⁸. One ironworking site is shown at Churchbridge; the early 19th century Gilpin's edge-tool works⁷⁹. The map also indicates how the industry of this area was closely associated with the development of the communications network of canals, tramways and later the railways.

5.6.2 The earliest evidence for industry shown on map 8 are the watermill sites, some of which may have Early Medieval origins. Many medieval mills were probably corn mills although some may have operated as fulling mills or indeed may have had dual functions. However evidence for this is often scant and further research is needed in this area. The map also makes clear the iron-working industry which developed in the Stour and Smestow valleys from the late 16th century onwards, and which became particularly associated with the Foley family⁸⁰. This originated as a water-powered industry and some of these sites may have been converted from corn mills and fulling mills. Large ironworks survived within the Stour and Smestow valleys into the late 19th century at Hyde and Whittington, near Kinver, and at Swindon. There is also evidence for ironworking around Coven; the most significant site was John Smith's mid 19th century locomotive works which was located within the village⁸¹. A number of watermills were involved in ironworking around Penkridge; the sites include the Teddesley blast furnace, which dated to the late 16th century⁸².

⁷⁵ Cf. 7.12 and CDHECZ 5 in Appendix 1

⁷⁶ The smallest area to be defined within the HLC project

⁷⁷ Taylor 1967: 84

⁷⁸ Staffordshire HER: PRN 20492; Cf. 7.7 below and HTHECZ 1 and HTHECZ 3 in Appendix 3

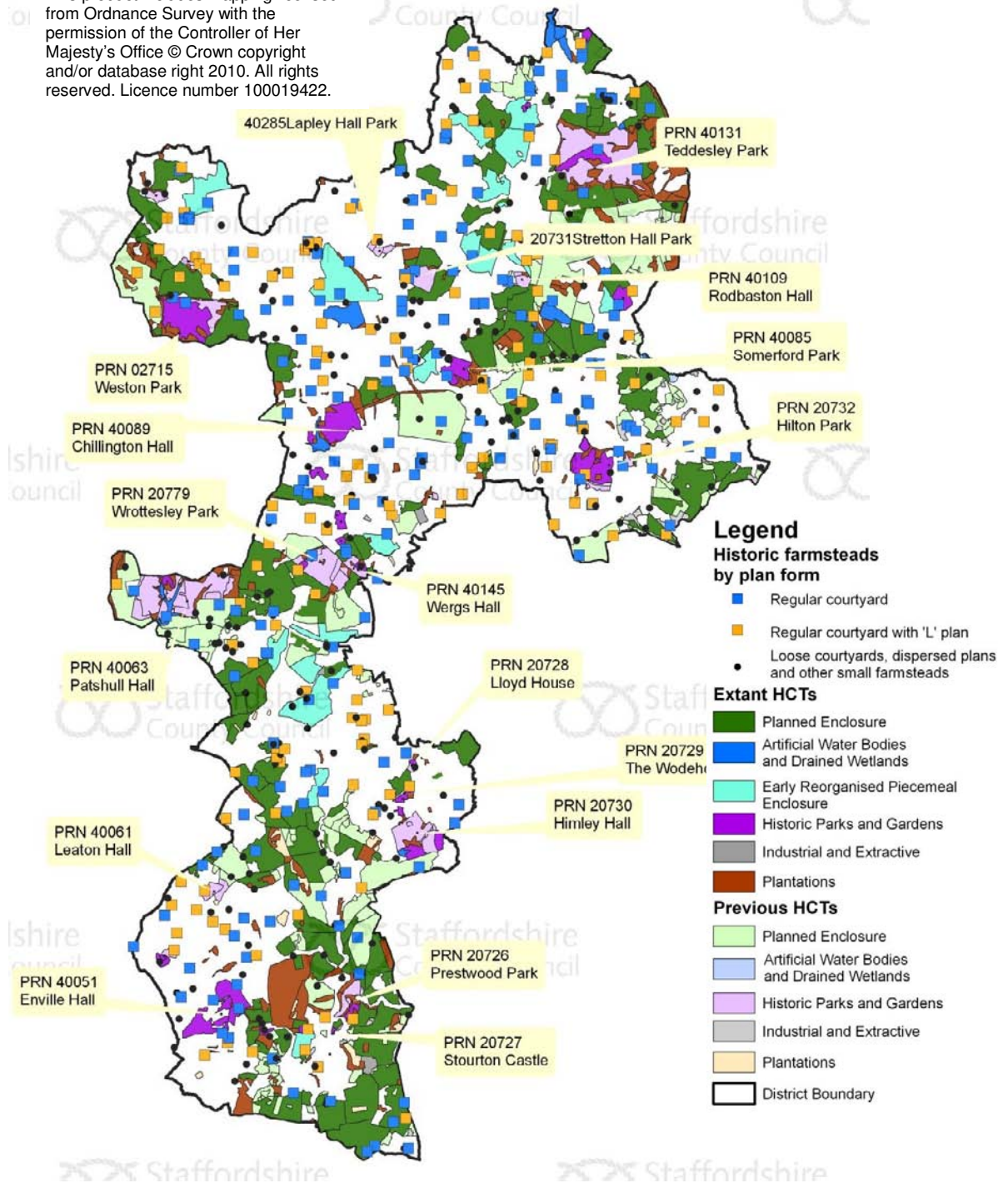
⁷⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 51790; Cf. 7.6 below and GWHECZ 2 in Appendix 3

⁸⁰ Johnson 1967: 108-120

⁸¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 50880; Cf. 7.3 below and CVHECZ 3 in Appendix 2

⁸² Staffordshire HER: PRN 01048

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Map 7: Selected HCTs of 18th/19th century origin showing both extant and previous extents

5.6.3 Little is currently known about medieval industry, although an excavation in Brewood revealed evidence for tanning or hemp-working⁸³. There is the potential for further industrial sites to survive within the settlements of the District as during the medieval and post medieval periods it was generally associated with domestic occupation. Home-based industry was also a feature of the District into the 19th century in settlements such as Kinver and Wombourne, which were noted for their nailmakers (one nailers' workshop appears on the HER). A few lockmakers were recorded working in Brewood and Coven in the early 19th century⁸⁴.

6. Summary of Recommendations

A set of generic statements have been prepared below which relate to the historic environment in all zones. These relate to general principles; more specific recommendations will be prepared for individual zones within the study area.

6.1 Historic Landscape

6.1.1 The conservation of the fabric of the historic landscape of South Staffordshire, including field boundaries, the settlement pattern and the winding lanes between settlements is desirable. The integrity of the historic landscape character and distinctiveness of the zone should be considered when planning the scale and relative density of any potential new development. This approach is supported by PPS5 Policy HE3 which emphasises the influence of the historic environment upon the landscape and sense of place and upon its mixed and flexible patterns of land use.

6.2 Historic Buildings

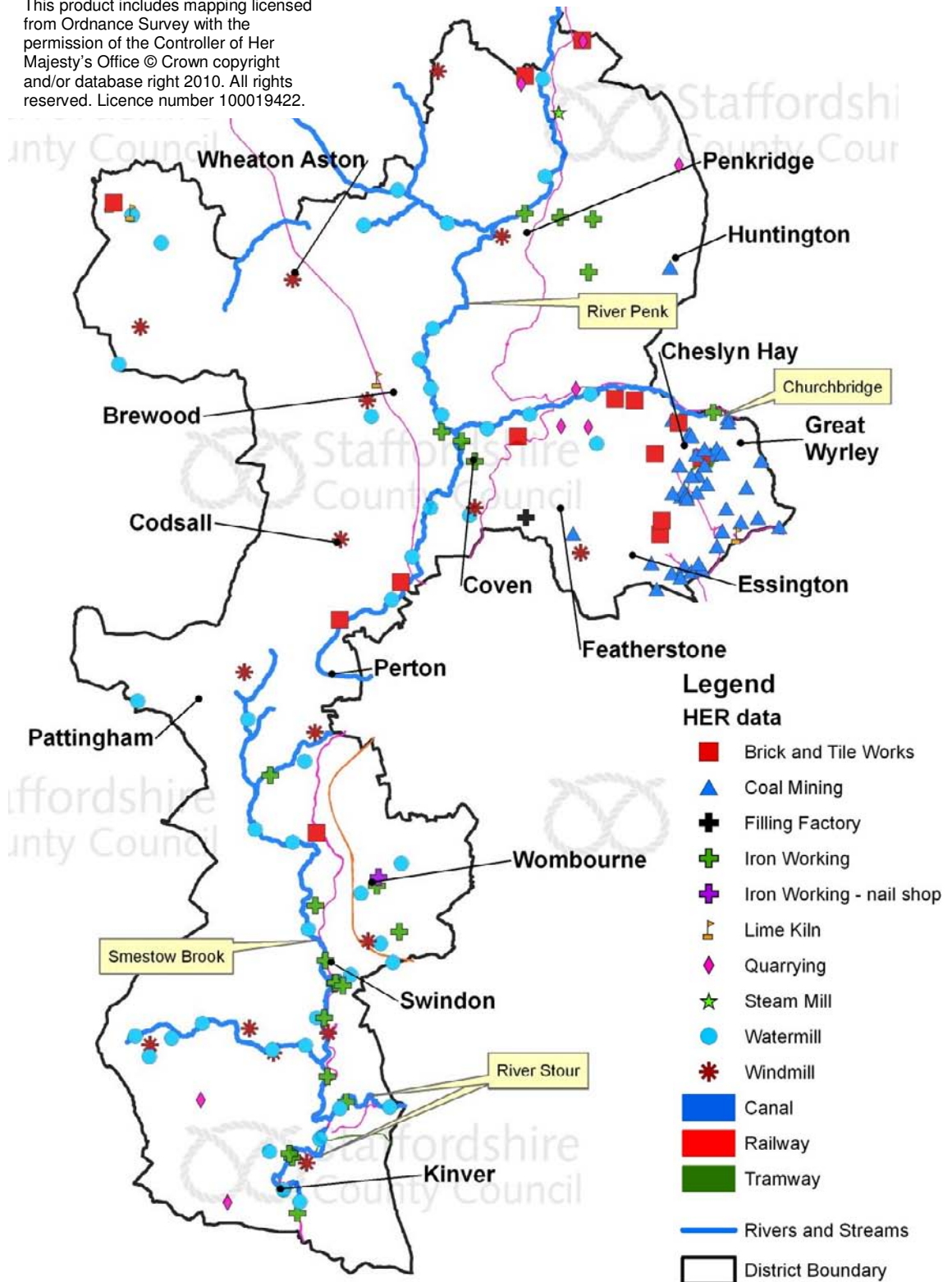
6.2.1 The promotion of the re-use of historic buildings and its role in contributing to sustainable development is supported in PPS5 Policy HE3.1 which highlights the use of existing structures and fabric to minimise waste. Opportunities should also be taken to renovate and reuse redundant or unoccupied historic buildings within the zone. PPS5 Policy HE3.1 supports this approach considering that the historic environment has the potential to be a 'catalyst for regeneration in an area, in particular through leisure, tourism and economic development'.

6.2.2 New development, particularly in the historic core of settlements, should seek to complement the local vernacular. It should aim to make a positive contribution to the historic character of the settlements and strengthen local distinctiveness. PPS5 Policy HE3.1 supports the use of high quality design which is sympathetic to the historic character of individual structures and the broader historic environment. Indeed it is maintained within the guidance that historic environment character can be the stimulus of such high quality and sensitive design work.

⁸³ BUFAU 2001

⁸⁴ Cf. 7.12 and SWHECZ 1 and SWHECZ 4 in Appendix 6; Greenslade and Midgley 1959: 20

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Map 8: Selected HER data showing known industrial sites as at December 2010

6.3 Conservation Areas

- 6.3.1 Appraisals have been carried out of the District's 11 village Conservation Areas; this included the preparation of management plans. The Council formally adopted management plans and appraisals for Blymhill, Brewwood, Codsall & Oaken, Kinver, Lapley, Lower Penn, Pattingham, Penkridge, Trysull & Seisdon, Wheaton Aston and Wombourne on 11 November 2010

6.4 Street Clutter

- 6.4.1 Where significant developments are proposed for historic settlement cores it is advised that opportunities be investigated to enhance elements of the public realm in line with the local distinctiveness of the settlement. This approach should be informed by surviving historic street furniture and a review of historic documentary sources where such proposals will not impact upon the health and safety of users. Planning for such works should look to incorporate sensitively designed and located street furniture and the appropriate use of ground surfacing, signage and traffic management, but should also seek to de-clutter streets within the settlement. This approach is supported in 'Streets for All: West Midlands' the joint Department of Transport and English Heritage volume for the region.

6.5 Consultation with the Cultural Heritage Team

- 6.5.1 Early consultation with historic environment advisors at South Staffordshire Council and at Staffordshire County Council is advised to address any requirements for mitigation in line with PPS 5 policies HE 8 and HE 12. The contact details can be found in section 8.

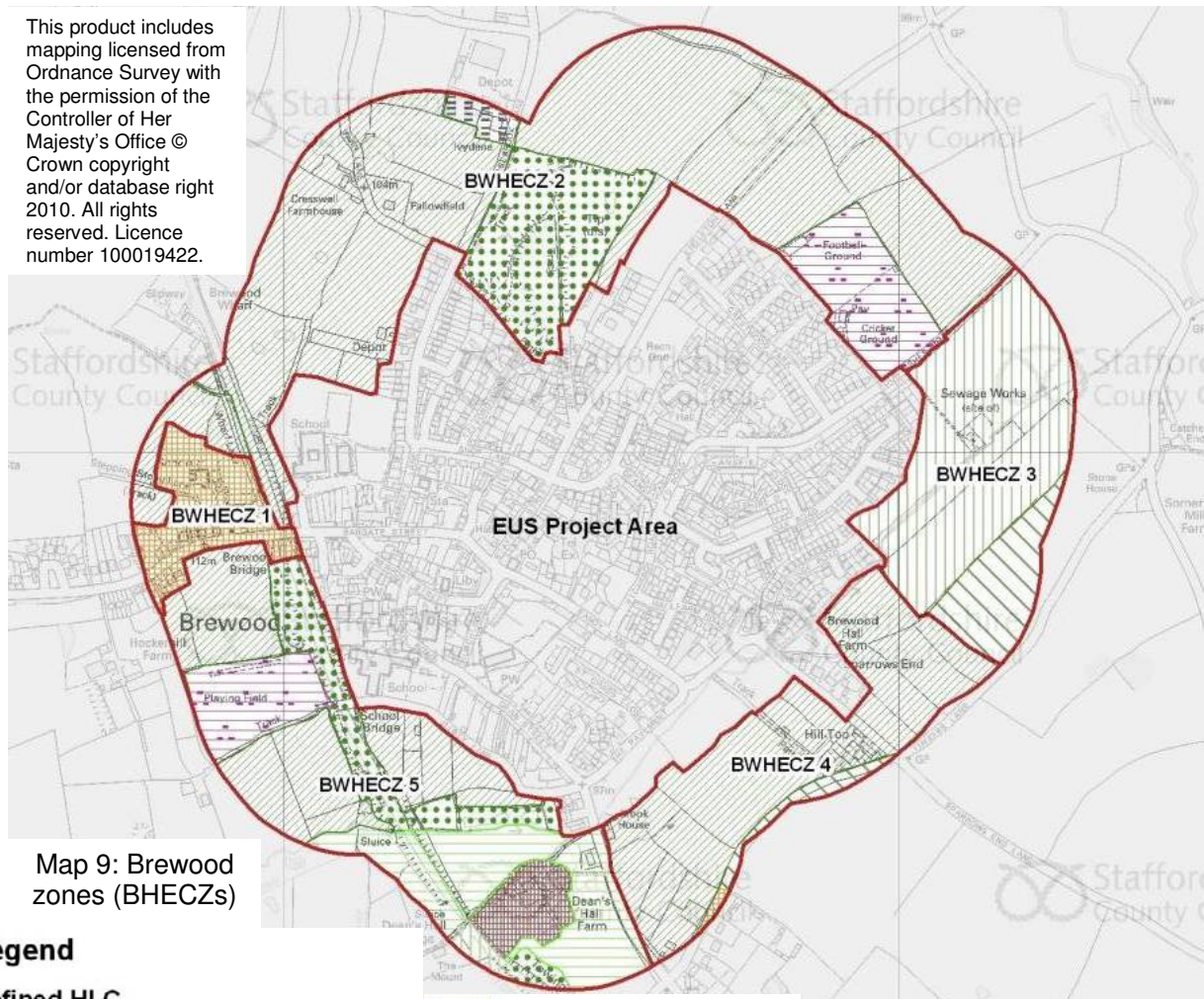
6.6 Heritage Statements

- 6.6.1 There are either significant heritage assets retaining historic significance or a demonstrable potential for the presence of archaeologically significant deposits within the zone. PPS5 Policy HE6.1 states that in order to determine the significance of heritage assets affected by a proposed development in this zone PPS 5 Policy HE6 requires that a Heritage Statement be prepared as part of the Design & Access statement. This document should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset/s and the size of the application. As a minimum the Historic Environment Record (HER) should be consulted; where more significant or complex heritage assets are concerned then the developer may need to prepare a desk-based assessment or possibly undertake archaeological evaluation to inform the LPA and their archaeological advisor. For more advice the applicant should contact the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council.

7 Summary of project areas

7.1 Brewood

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Map 9: Brewood zones (BHECZs)

Legend

Refined HLC

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| | 18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure | | Piecemeal Enclosure |
| | Early Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure | | Plantations |
| | Early Small Rectilinear Fields | | Post 1880s Settlement |
| | Industrial and Extractive | | Post War Amalgamated Fields |
| | Other Parkland | | Pre 1880s Settlement |
| | | | HECZ boundary |

The project area for Brewood identified five zones, but excludes the area of the town which is due to be covered by the Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) project. The project area represents a 250m buffer around the town. Brewood has been identified by South Staffordshire Council as one of nine Main Service Villages within the District (cf. 7.1.1)⁸⁵.

⁸⁵ South Staffordshire 2009: 38

The detailed analysis of the zones within the project area can be found in Appendix 1.

7.1.1 Brewood EUS

Brewood was selected for inclusion within the Staffordshire EUS project on the basis that it qualified on five of the nine criteria set out in the project set-up documents⁸⁶. Whilst Brewood is no longer considered to be a town it was clearly planned as a small market town during the medieval period. For this reason it will be referred to within both this document and the EUS project as a town.

The evidence for medieval urban planning is retained within the townscape particularly along Dean Street where burgage plots are still legible and in the layout of the market square. These elements of the town plan may be associated with the granting of the market charter to the lord of the manor, the Bishop of Lichfield, in the early 13th century⁸⁷. These elements were certainly in place by the end of that century when burgages are mentioned in the bishop's survey of 1298⁸⁸.

Within the EUS area there are 52 nationally Listed buildings and structures and of these two are Grade I (St Mary's and St Chad's Church and Speedwell Castle) and one is Grade II* (10 Dean Street)⁸⁹. 48 Dean Street, a Grade II Listed timber-framed property is the oldest known vernacular building within Brewood the earliest phases having been dated to the 14th century⁹⁰.

The historic core of Brewood is therefore of particular historic and archaeological interest and this is reflected in the designation of the Brewood Conservation Area. However, other historic and archaeological interests may survive across the remainder of the EUS project. Consequently, across the EUS project area there may be a requirement for a Heritage Statement to be submitted as part of any planning application and archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to fulfil PPS 5 policies HE 6 and HE 12. Development within the Conservation Area should conform with the principles laid out in two South Staffordshire Council documents: 'The Village Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document' and the 'Brewood Conservation Area Management Plan' and the Brewood Village Design Statement⁹¹.

7.1.2 Key characteristics

- Well preserved post medieval piecemeal enclosure lying to the south east of Brewood and associated with surviving ridge and furrow earthworks (**BWHECZ 4**). Similar field systems survive to varying degrees of legibility to the north and south west (**BWHECZ 2** and **BWHECZ 5**).

⁸⁶ Hunt nd.

⁸⁷ Greenslade and Midgley 1959: 25

⁸⁸ Dyer 2002: 9

⁸⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 09033, PRN 09065 and PRN 09043

⁹⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRN 09049

⁹¹ South Staffordshire Council 2009; South Staffordshire Council 2010a; Brewood Village Design Group 2002

- The Shropshire Union Canal and three associated canal bridges, two of which are Grade II Listed, form part of two Conservation Areas (**BWHECZ 1** and **BWHECZ 5**).
- The complex of mid 19th century Grade II Listed buildings associated with St Mary's Roman Catholic Church on Kiddemore Green Road (**BWHECZ 1**).
- The Grade II Listed buildings at Dean's Hall Farm and the associated earthworks. There is also the potential for below ground archaeological remains to survive associated with this site (**BWHECZ 5**).
- There is evidence for elements relating to the medieval planned town fossilised within the historic core as well as 52 Listed buildings (the **EUS project area**).

7.1.3 Summary

The detailed analysis (in Appendix 1) reveals that the zones of greatest sensitivity in terms of the historic environment lie to the south west and south east of Brewood. The Staffordshire Union Canal crosses through both **BWHECZ 1** and **BWHECZ 5** and it forms part of two Conservation Areas: Brewood (004) and the Shropshire Union Canal (081). Historic buildings are prominent components of the historic character of both of these zones many of which have been recognised as nationally important in their designation as listed buildings. There is also the potential for below ground archaeological sites to survive within both **BWHECZ 1** and **BWHECZ 5**. Dean's Hall Farm is of particular interest having formed part of the Dean of Lichfield Cathedral's estate during the medieval period and a medieval barn also survives as part of the complex. The historic field pattern of the zone has been identified as having once formed part of the medieval open field system, which was enclosed piecemeal from at least the 17th century ('Piecemeal Enclosure' on map 9). However, the historic character of this field system has been impacted by the removal of field boundaries and the replacement of some of the hedges with fences. The historic character could be strengthened through the re-establishment of the historic boundaries, which in turn would enhance the setting of the Conservation Areas and the listed buildings.

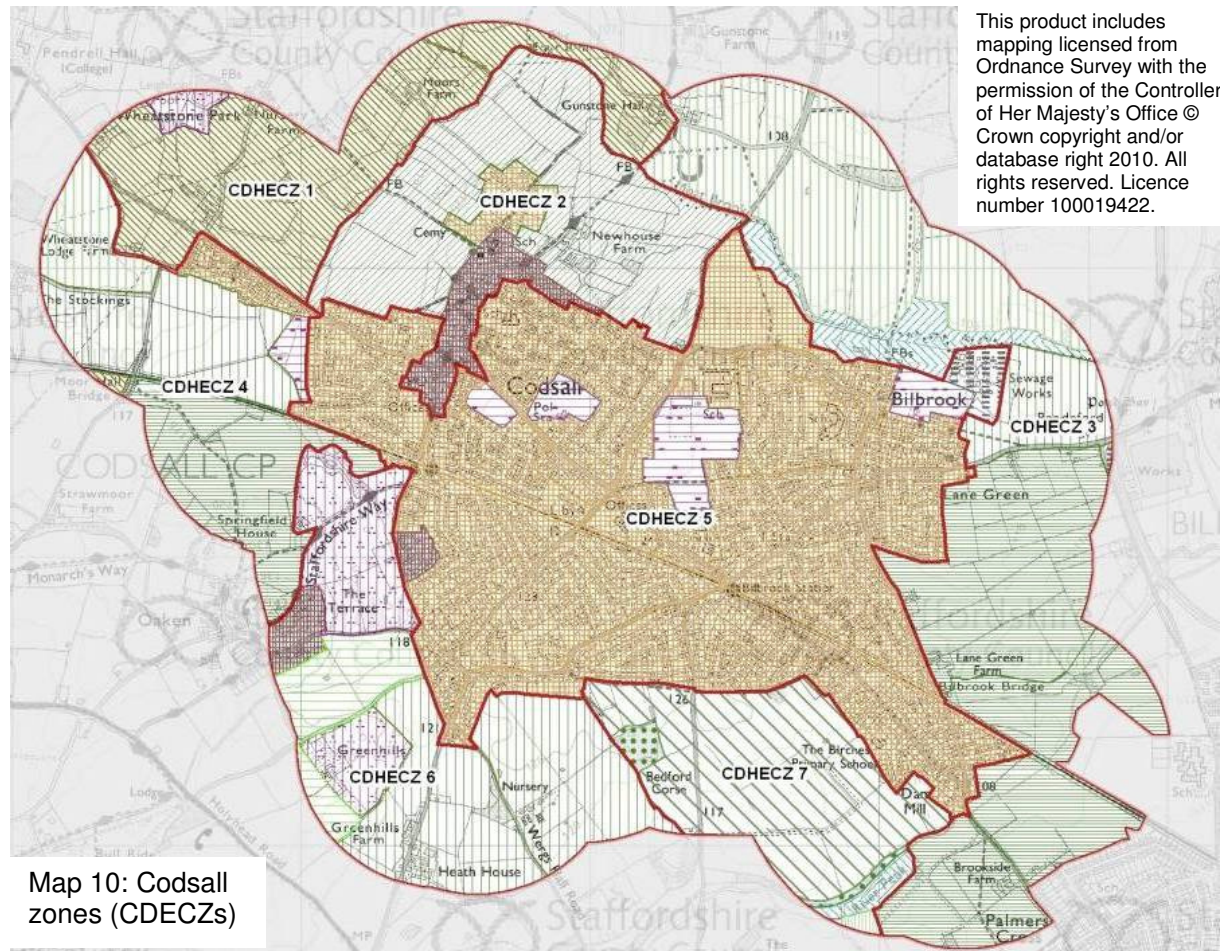
The integrity of the 'Piecemeal Enclosure' is best preserved within **BWHECZ 4** where it is also associated with ridge and furrow earthworks, the physical evidence of medieval ploughing. It is also legible within **BWHECZ 2** to the north of the project area. Dispersed settlement is a distinctive characteristic of **BWHECZ 2**, **BWHECZ 4** and **BWHECZ 5** and development would impact upon the integrity and legibility of the heritage assets of zones.

BWHECZ 3 has the weakest historic environment character having been greatly impacted by the removal of field boundaries during the late 20th century. However, there is the potential for below ground archaeological remains to survive associated with the Roman road which crosses this zone and **BWHECZ 4**. Where

archaeological potential has been identified archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to fulfil PPS 5 policies HE 6 and HE 12⁹².

The considerations for the historic environment within these zones are detailed within Appendix 1 and the generic recommendations in section 6 above.

7.2 Codsall



Legend

HCTs

- 18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure
- Early Irregular Enclosure
- Early Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure
- Early Small Rectilinear Fields
- Historic Parks and Gardens

- Industrial and Extractive
- Miscellaneous Floodplain Fields
- Other Parkland
- Piecemeal Enclosure
- Plantations
- Post 1880s Settlement

- Post 1880s Small Replanned Enclosure
- Post War Amalgamated Fields
- Pre 1880s Settlement
- Recent Woodland Clearance
- HECZ boundary

The project area for Codsall has been sub-divided into seven historic environment character zones. The project area is based upon a 500m buffer around the modern settlement extent incorporating Bilbrook and part of Oaken. Codsall and Bilbrook

⁹² Ibid; English Heritage et al 2010: 23 and 36-41

have been identified by South Staffordshire Council as two of nine Main Service Villages within the District⁹³.

7.2.1 *Key characteristics*

- Historic landscape parks are characteristic of the landscape to the west of Codsall (**CDHECZ 6**) and part of another lies within the project area to the far northwest (**CDHECZ 1**). The parkland character is well preserved and the associated small country houses all survive. The Grade II Listed Dower House, another small country house, is also located within the zone on the edge of the small village of Oaken.
- Well preserved historic field systems survive to the north and northwest of the project area whose field boundaries are predominantly comprised of mature hedgerows (**CDHECZ 1** and **CDHECZ 2**). The piecemeal enclosure within **CDHECZ 2** is particularly characteristic its type and is closely associated with the historic settlement of Codsall which also lies within this zone.
- Historic buildings and the medieval street pattern is preserved around Church Hill in Codsall (**CDHECZ 2**). The historical and archaeological importance of this zone is affirmed by the Codsall Conservation Area (047) and the nationally important buildings and structures which are to be found here (Listed). South Staffordshire Council's Conservation Area Management Plan has identified other historic buildings within the zone all of which contribute to an understanding of the village's development and its local distinctiveness⁹⁴.
- Numerous mid to late 19th and early 20th century large detached properties survive across the project area (**CDHECZ 1**, **CDHECZ 4**, **CDHECZ 5** and **CDHECZ 6**). These villas and small country residences (including the three country estates lying within **CDHECZ 6**) represent a change in the social aspirations of the industrialists of the Black Country, and Wolverhampton in particular. The fact that all of these properties, with the exception of The Terrace in **CDHECZ 6**, date from the mid 19th century onwards is probably due to the construction of the Shrewsbury & Birmingham Railway which opened in 1849 heralding the beginning of the expansion of Codsall and later Bilbrook as commuter villages. Codsall Station and the road and foot bridges are all Grade II Listed buildings and structures lying within **CDHECZ 5**. The designation of these structures recognises the importance of the railway to the history of the project area.
- Stone and brick walls are a particular characteristic of the project area, particularly associated with the settlement areas **CDHECZ 4**, **CDHECZ 5** and **CDHECZ 6** in particular.

⁹³ South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

⁹⁴ South Staffordshire Council 2010b

7.2.2 Summary

The detailed analysis (in Appendix 1) reveals that the zones of greatest sensitivity in terms of the historic environment lie in the north and south of the project area. The historic and archaeological importance of **CDHECZ 2** is affirmed by the number of designated sites which lie within it including the Codsall Conservation Area and eight Listed buildings which includes the Grade II* Listed St Nicholas' Church. Buildings of local importance have also been identified in the Codsall Conservation Area Management Plan⁹⁵. A well preserved field system which has a close relationship to the historic economy of the village also survives within this zone. Its continued legibility allows the history of Codsall to be read within the landscape.

A well preserved historic field pattern is also a feature of **CDHECZ 1**, although its origins are less clear than that to be found within **CDHECZ 2**. The maturity of the hedgerows is a particular feature of both of these zones and their retention and conservation is desirable as important elements of the historic landscape of this area. Part of Pendrell Hall landscape park also lies within **CDHECZ 1** and these features are also well preserved. Locally important historic buildings survive to the north, Gunstone Hall and its historic out buildings, and to the west, the mid 19th century Wheastone Hall.

To the south and south west of the project area **CDHECZ 6** retains a strong parkland character in the survival of three historic landscape parks associated with extant small 19th century country houses. The historic landscape character is enhanced by the survival of two largely contemporary farmsteads and associated '18th/19th century planned enclosure, which despite the removal of some field boundaries retains its regular form.

The remaining zones (**CDHECZ 3**, **CDHECZ 4**, **CDHECZ 5** and **CDHECZ 7**) all retain heritage assets although their overall historic landscape character has been impacted to varying degrees by changes to its form from the mid 20th century onwards (see Appendix 1 for detail and recommendations). Whilst **CDHECZ 5** is greatly characterised by the 20th century expansion of both Codsall and Bilbrook historic buildings survive. At Bilbrook these lie within the historic core of the original village and include a property of possible late 17th/early 18th century date. The numerous large mid/late 19th and early 20th century properties within the zone are closely associated with the construction of the railway and its Grade II Listed station. Historic buildings, of 19th and early 20th century date, also survive within **CDHECZ 4** along Moatbrook Lane and Wood Road. These heritage assets all individually contribute to the local distinctiveness of the project area and their conservation for the benefit of the local community and future generations is recommended.

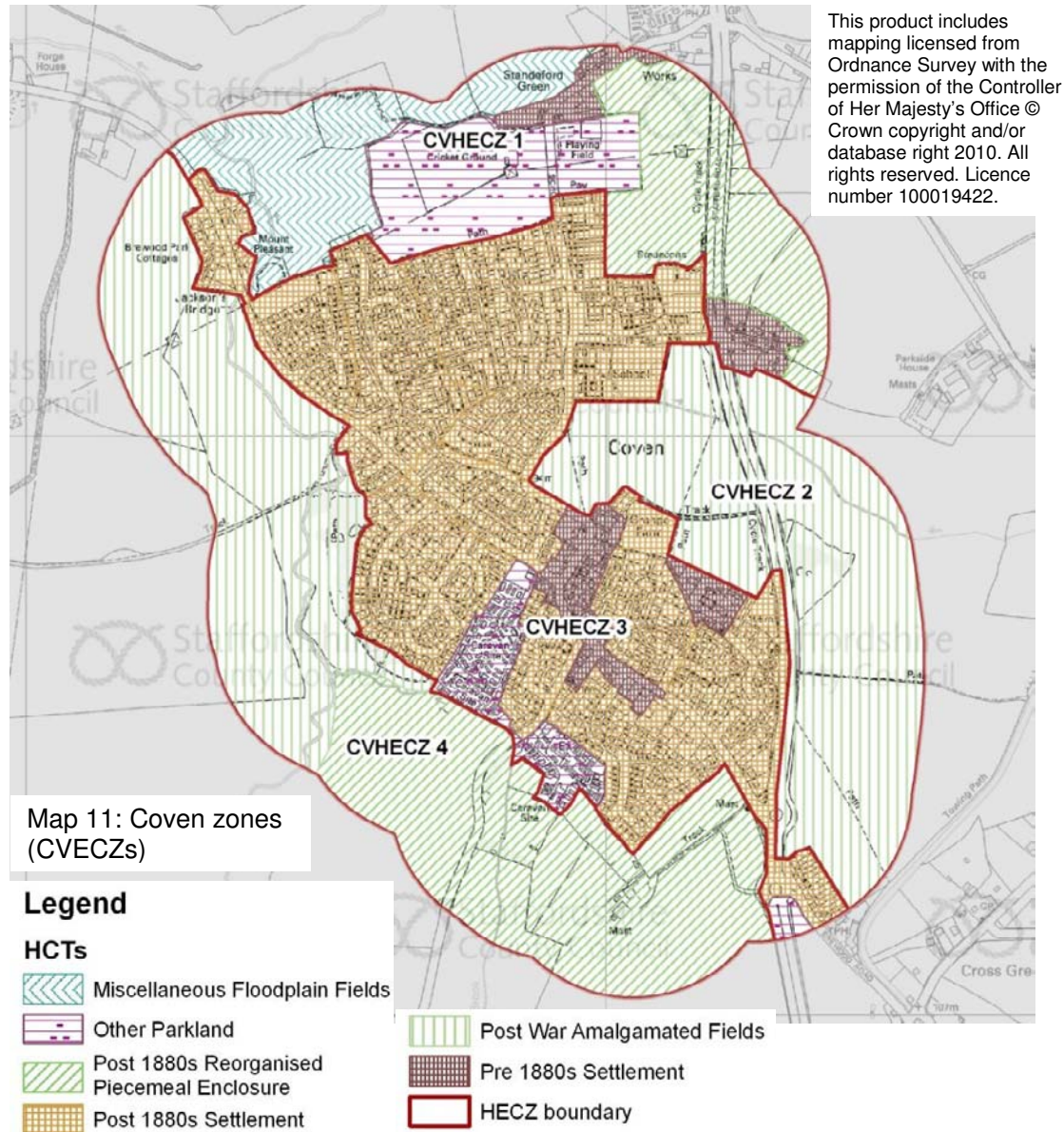
There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive relating to known historic settlements within **all seven of the zones**. The greatest potential exists within **CDHECZ 2**, **CDHECZ 3**, **CDHECZ 4** and **CDHECZ 5** relating to the medieval settlement cores of Codsall, Bilbrook and Gunstone. Consequently, dependent upon the nature, extent and location of any development within the project area, there may

⁹⁵ South Staffordshire Council 2010b

be a requirement for archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to fulfil PPS 5 policies HE 6 and HE 12⁹⁶.

The considerations for the historic environment within these zones are detailed within Appendix 1 and the generic recommendations in section 6 above.

7.3 Coven



The project area identified four HECZs and includes the historic settlement of Coven and a 250m hinterland. Coven has been identified by South Staffordshire Council as one of seven Local Service Villages within the District⁹⁷.

⁹⁶ Ibid; English Heritage et al 2010: 23 and 36-41

⁹⁷ South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

The detailed analysis of the project area can be found within Appendix 2.

7.3.1 Key characteristics

- Six Grade II Listed buildings and structures are located within **CVHECZ 3**. There are other undesignated historic buildings which also contribute to the local character of the settlement.
- Two timber-framed properties survive within **CVHECZ 3** the earliest of which has probable late medieval origins.
- Historic buildings also survive in the outlying areas of the project area including Standeford Green and Light Ash, both within **CVHECZ 1** and at Lower Green in **CVHECZ 3**.
- The Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal lies adjacent to the south eastern corner of **CVHECZ 2**. The canal is designated as a Conservation Area.
- There is a moderate potential for previously unrecorded archaeological sites to survive across much of the project area.

7.3.2 Summary

The detailed analysis (in Appendix 2) reveals that the area that has the greatest sensitivity in terms of the historic environment lies within **CVHECZ 3** which includes the historic core of Coven and contains the majority of the designated and undesignated historic buildings. Historic buildings, which also contribute to the sense of place, also survive with **CVHECZ 1**.

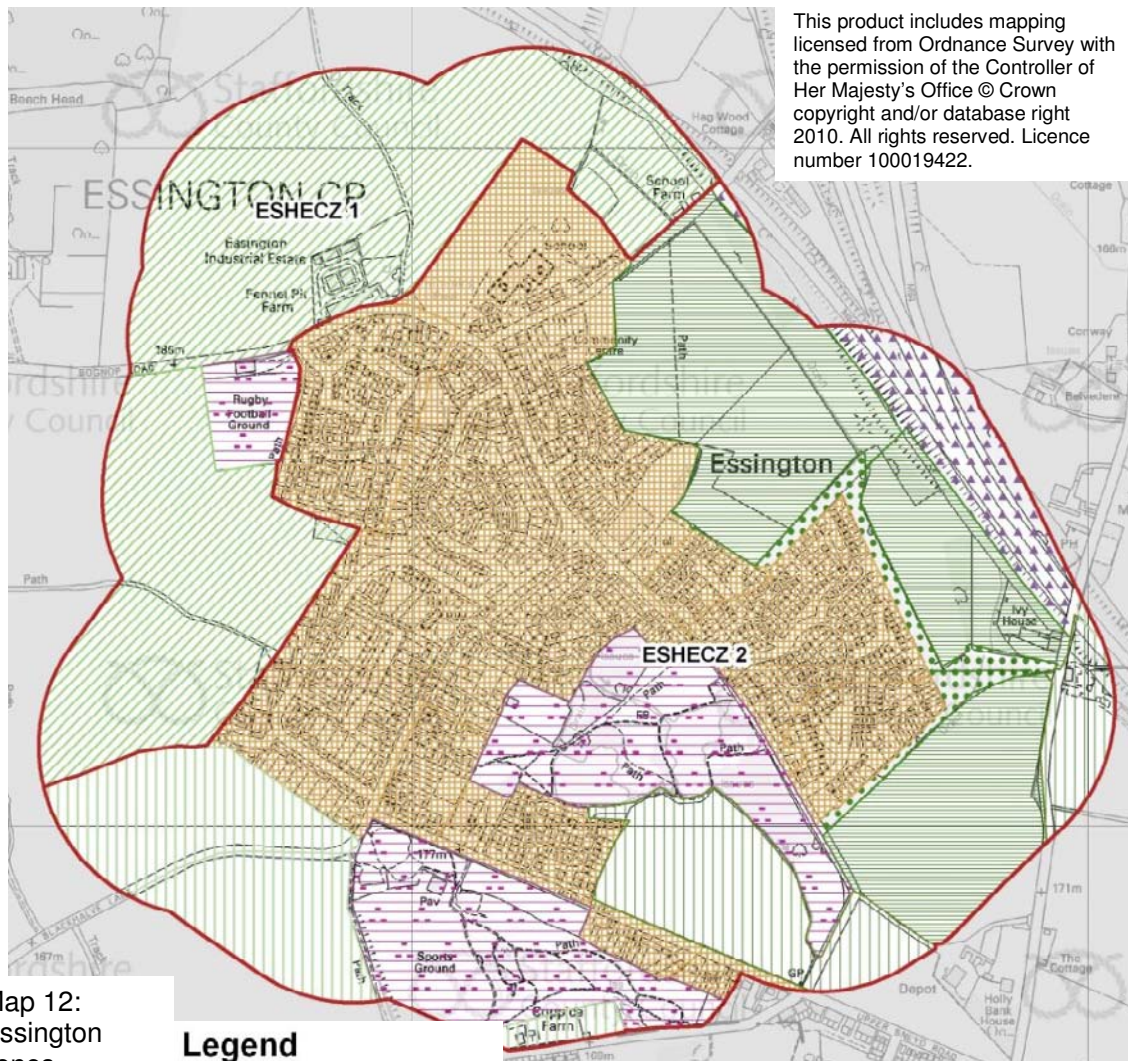
The integrity of the historic landscape around the village has largely been lost due to the removal of field boundaries and the construction of the A449 'dual-carriageway' in the early 1970s. However, the landscape of **CVHECZ 2** forms part of the setting to the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area. Mature hedgerows, of post medieval origin, also survive to the south of Coven within **CVHECZ 4**. The historic landscape of the project area could be strengthened through the re-establishment of hedgerows.

There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive **across the project area** relating to human activity in the prehistoric and Roman periods as well as within the historic core of Coven relating to its development from the medieval period onwards. Consequently, dependent upon the nature, extent and location of any development within the project area, there may be a requirement for archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to fulfil PPS 5 policies HE 6 and HE 12⁹⁸.

The considerations for the historic environment within these zones are detailed within Appendix 2 and the generic recommendations in section 6 above.

⁹⁸ Ibid; English Heritage et al 2010: 23 and 36-41

7.4 Essington



Map 12:
Essington
zones
(ESHECZs)

Legend

HCTs

18th/19th Century
Planned Enclosure

Communications

Other Parkland

Plantations

Post 1880s Reorganised
Piecemeal Enclosure

Post 1880s Settlement

Post 1880s Small Replanned
Enclosure

Post War Amalgamated Fields

HECZ boundary

The project area identified two HECZs and includes the historic settlement of Essington and a 250m hinterland. Essington has been identified by South Staffordshire Council as one of seven Local Service Villages within the District⁹⁹. The medieval core of the settlement appears to have been focused approximately 450m to the west of the project area in the area of the extant Essington Hall, Pool Farm and Manor Farm.

The detailed analysis of the project area can be found within Appendix 2.

⁹⁹ South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

7.4.1 Key characteristics

- Historic buildings survive focused in two areas; on Bognop Road and Wolverhampton Road. The properties on the former include Fennel Pit Farm (**ESHECZ 1**) and two other cottages (**ESHECZ 2**), which are probably of at least late 18th century date. The 19th century houses on the eastern side of Wolverhampton Road and on New Street (**ESHECZ 2**) have been significantly altered, but contribute to an understanding and appreciation of the history of the settlement.
- The 19th century houses are probably associated with the three collieries which existed within the zone from the 19th century (**ESHECZ 2**). The sites of two of these collieries survive within areas of parkland.
- The site of a farmstead in **ESHECZ 2** may have had at least post medieval origins.

7.4.2 Summary

The detailed analysis (in Appendix 2) reveals that the areas of greatest archaeological and historic interest within both **ESHECZ 1** and **ESHECZ 2** are associated with the extant historic buildings and the potential sites of early settlement. This includes the potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive. Consequently, dependent upon the nature, extent and location of any development within the project area, there may be a requirement for archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to fulfil PPS 5 policies HE 6 and HE 12¹⁰⁰.

The sites of the two collieries within the **ESHECZ 2** could be used to promote the heritage of the parish to the community and wider public. Surviving legible features associated with this former industry should be retained to enable the community and future generations to understand the history of this important industry within their parish.

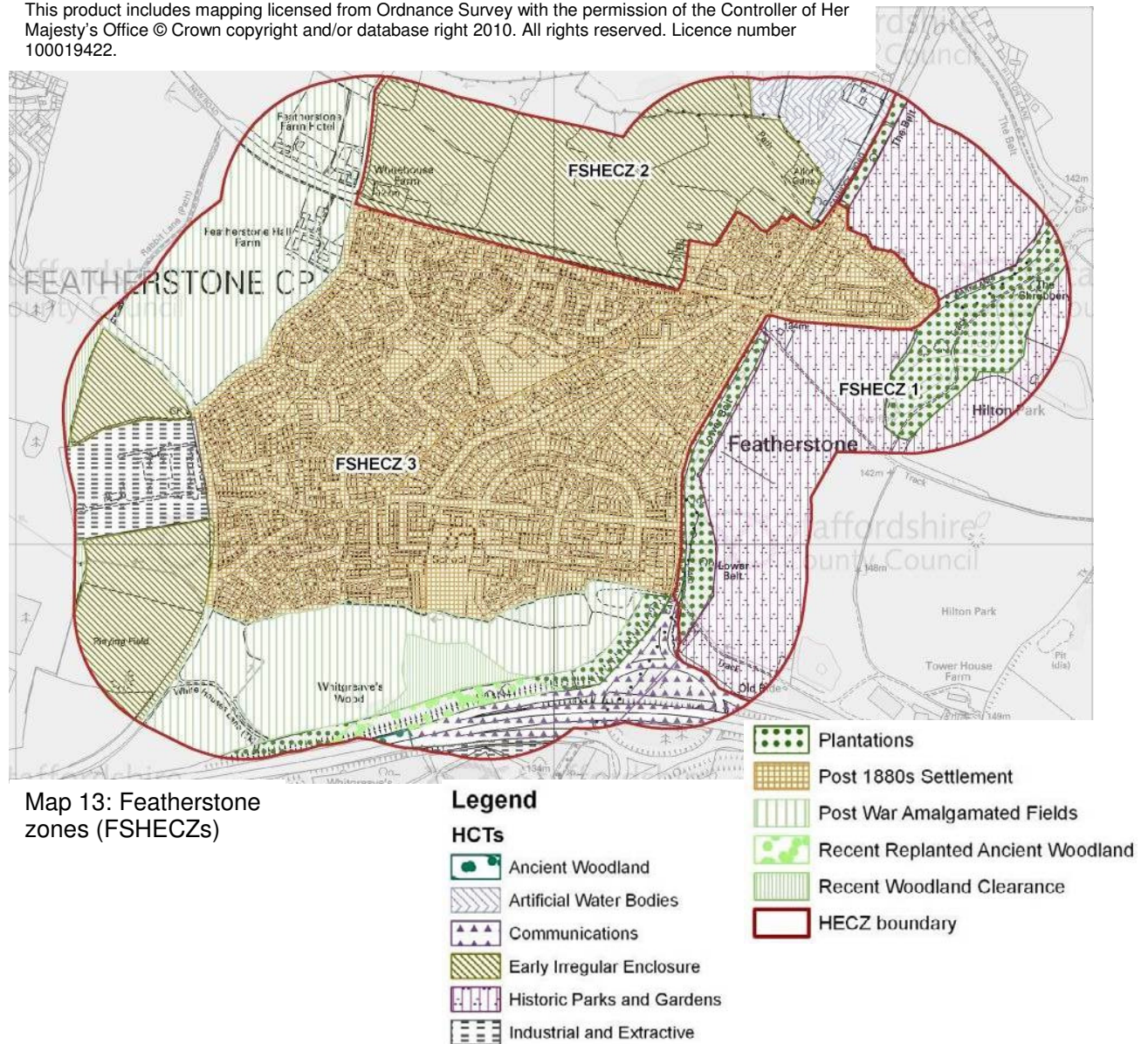
The field systems to the west of **ESHECZ 2**, whilst having lost the majority of their historic field boundaries, lie adjacent to the Moat House Scheduled Monument and consequently may be considered to form part of its setting.

The considerations for the historic environment within these zones are detailed within Appendix 2 and the generic recommendations in section 6 above.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid; English Heritage et al 2010: 23 and 36-41

7.5 Featherstone

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Three HECZs have been identified for the Featherstone project area, which comprises the modern village and a 250m buffer. Essington has been identified by South Staffordshire Council as one of seven Local Service Villages within the District¹⁰¹.

The detailed analysis of the project area can be found in Appendix 2.

¹⁰¹ South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

7.5.1 Key characteristics

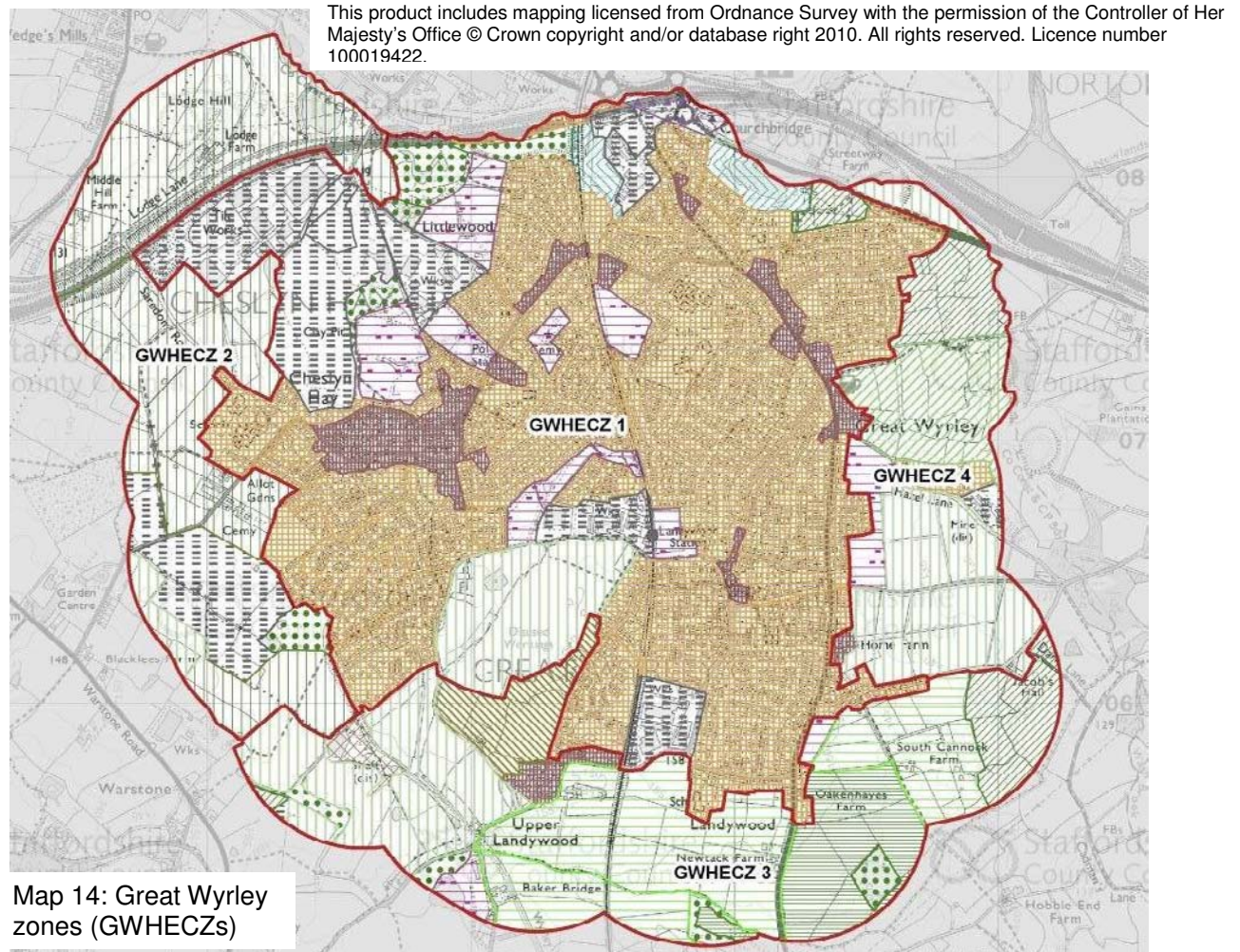
- The surviving components of the historic landscape park associated with Hilton Park include the shelter belts, woodland, ornamental lake and parkland trees (**FSHECZ 1**).
- A well preserved historic field pattern survives to the north of Featherstone, which may be associated with medieval assarting (**FSHECZ 2**).
- Historic farmsteads survive within **FSHECZ 3** which are testimony to the historic dispersed settlement pattern which probably had at least medieval origins across Featherstone parish.
- The remains of a probable Second World War military site, associated with the Shell Filling Factory to the west of the project area, has the potential to further our understanding of this site and its role in the 20th century social and economic history of Featherstone (**FSHECZ 3**).

7.5.2 Summary

The detailed analysis (in Appendix 2) reveals that the areas of greatest archaeological and historic interest lie to the north (**FSHECZ 2**) and east (**FSHECZ 1**) of the project area. The latter zone forms part of Hilton Park, which is associated with the Grade I Listed Hilton Hall. Landscape parks form an important part of the historic landscape of South Staffordshire (cf. 5.5 above) and the conservation and enhancement of this park and its Listed buildings and structures is recommended.

FSHECZ 3 is dominated by the modern settlement of Featherstone whose origins date to the mid 20th century. The field systems within the zone have largely been impacted by the removal of field boundaries during the mid to late 20th century. However, specific heritage assets have been identified as being of historic and archaeological importance including the three historic farmsteads, the rural character of the local lanes and the site of the Second World War complex.

7.6 Great Wyrley



Two settlements, Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay, are incorporated into the project area which is based upon a 500m buffer around the settlement area of both villages. The size of the buffer was determined by South Staffordshire Council who have identified both settlements as two of the nine Main Service Villages within the District¹⁰². The project identified four HECZs.

The detailed analysis of the project area can be found within Appendix 3.

¹⁰² South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

7.6.1 Key Characteristics

- Industrial archaeology is a particular feature of the project area with above and below ground remains being present in three of the four zones (**GWHECZ 1**, **GWHECZ 2** and **GWHECZ 3**). These heritage assets include the sites of former collieries, brickworks, tramways and mineral railways as well as the remains of two branch canals. An edge tool works, which had its origins in the early 19th century, has been the subject of an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at Churchbridge (**GWHECZ 2**).
- The survival of 19th and early 20th century brick buildings contribute to the legibility of the historical development of Great Wyrley, Cheslyn Hay and the small settlement of Upper Landywood (**GWHECZ 1** and **GWHECZ 4**). These properties are closely associated with the economic growth associated with the industries mentioned above. However, Grade II Listed properties within these two zones, one dating to the early 16th century and the others to the 17th century, are testimony to an earlier phase of settlement probably also associated with early industrial activity. Great Wyrley, however, has its origins in the medieval period and a moated site existed to the west of Walsall Road until the mid 20th century.
- The settlement at Cheslyn Hay had its origins as a squatter settlement by at least the 17th century and despite subsequent development from the 19th century onwards these origins are still apparent in the narrow winding streets of the historic core (**GWHECZ 1**).
- Historic farmsteads still form a feature of the historic landscape, some of which are still associated with historic field patterns (**GWHECZ 2**, **GWHECZ 3** and **GWHECZ 4**). Lodge Farm may lie on the site of a warrener's lodge which probably existed by the late 16th century (**GWHECZ 2**).
- Historic field patterns also survive within the landscape of the project area. The late 18th/19th century planned enclosure is still legible within **GWHECZ 2** despite the construction of the M6 Toll Road. Post medieval field systems are legible within **GWHECZ 3** and **GWHECZ 4**, although in other areas of both zones the historic character has been eroded through the removal of field boundaries.

7.6.2 Summary

The detailed analysis (Appendix 3) recognises that whilst there has been significant change within the landscape of the project area between the mid 20th and early 21st century the surviving heritage assets contribute significantly to the sense of place. The integrity of the historic landscape character survives within **GWHECZ 2** in the form of the regular fields which survive despite the removal of some of the historic field boundaries and the insertion of the M6 Toll Road. The 'Piecemeal Enclosure' within both **GWHECZ 3** and **GWHECZ 4** is of particular importance to understanding the history of Great Wyrley, but the mature hedgerows in these two areas also contribute to the aesthetics of the landscape. Other surviving historic field patterns within **GWHECZ 3** also contribute to the history and sense of place.

The industrial archaeology of the project area also makes an important contribution to understanding the development of these settlements and to their sense of place within the built form.

Legend

HCTs

- [Green diagonal lines] 18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure
- [Blue horizontal lines] Industrial and Extractive
- [Pink horizontal lines] Other Parkland
- [Dark green dots] Other Recent Woodlands
- [Light green dots] Plantations
- [Orange grid] Post 1880s Settlement
- [Yellow vertical lines] Post 1880s Small Replanned Enclosure
- [Light yellow vertical lines] Post War Amalgamated Fields
- [Red outline] HECZ boundary

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Four HECZs have been identified for the Huntington project area, which comprises a 250m buffer around the early 21st century extent of the village. Huntington has been identified by South Staffordshire Council as one of seven Local Service Villages within the District¹⁰³.

The detailed analysis of the project area can be found in Appendix 3.

7.7.1 Key Characteristics

- The wooded colliery spoil heaps are monuments to the historic importance of this industry to the local economy (**HTHECZ 3**).
- Woodland forms an important aspect of the historic landscape character of the project area particularly the plantation within **HTHECZ 2**, which forms part of the 19th century Huntington Belt. The woodland character also includes the mid to late 20th century woods in **HTHECZ 3** and **HTHECZ 4**.
- The historic houses of **HTHECZ 1** mostly relate to the late 19th and early 20th century expansion of Huntington as a mining village and consequently have a particular contribution to make to the historic character. However, other houses survive particularly to the north of the zone, which may relate to earlier settlement.

7.7.2 Summary

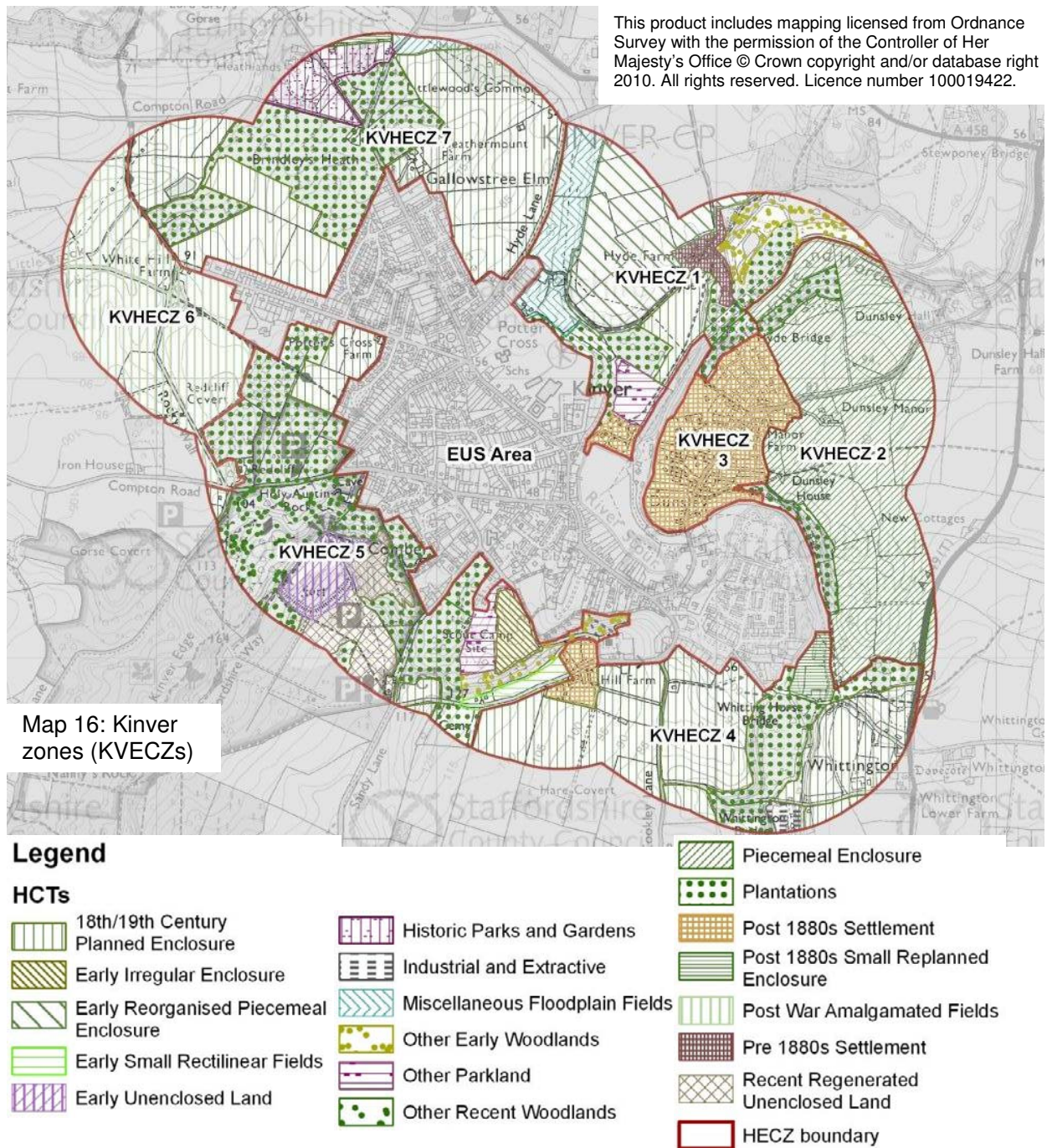
The detailed analysis (Appendix 3) recognises that whilst there has been significant change within the landscape of the project area between the mid 20th and early 21st century the surviving heritage assets do contribute to a unique sense of place. The history of Huntington as a colliery village continues to be reflected in the built heritage of **HTHECZ 1** and in the surviving spoil heaps in **HTHECZ 3** which dominate the local landscape. Further built heritage assets survive within **HTHECZ 1** which could contribute to an understanding of the development of Huntington prior to the establishment of the colliery in the 1870s. There is also the potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive within this zone relating to earlier settlement.

Woodland is also a feature of the project area. Huntington Belt, parts of which lie within **HTHECZ 2**, was probably established as a result of the Enclosure Act of 1827 and was certainly present in its current form by the mid 19th century. Woodland is also a feature of the colliery spoil heaps in **HTHECZ 2** and in the mid to late 20th century landscape of **HTHECZ 4**.

The field pattern in the landscape around Huntington has generally been impacted by alteration through the removal and creation of field boundaries. Some mature hedgerows survive as testimony to the antiquity agriculture in parts of the project area (**HTHECZ 2** and **HTHECZ 3**).

¹⁰³ South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

7.8 Kinver

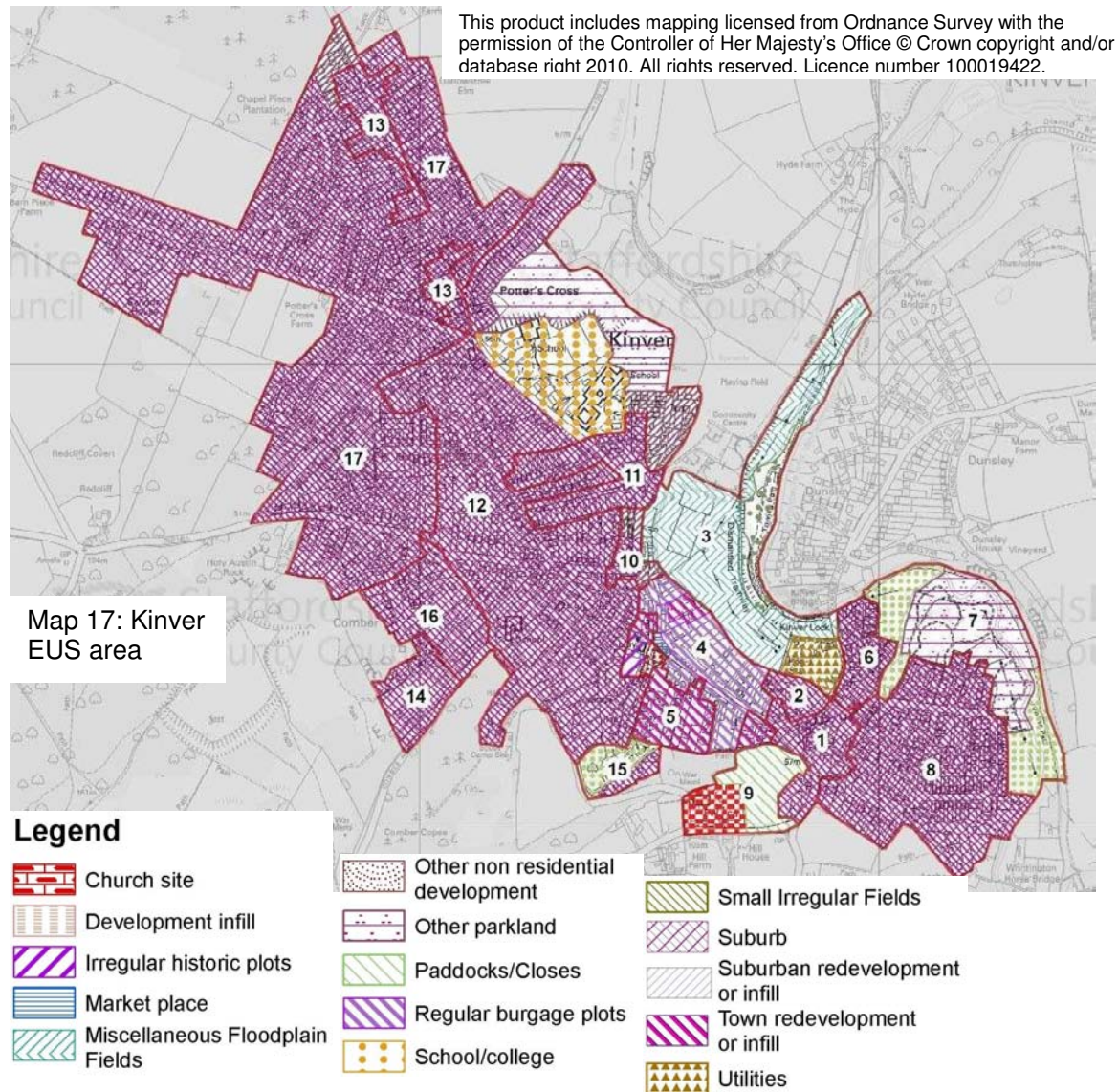


The project area for Kinver identified seven zones, but excludes the area of the town which has been covered by the Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) project. The project area represents a 500m buffer around the town. Kinver has been identified by South Staffordshire Council as one of nine Main Service Villages within the District (cf. 7.1.1)¹⁰⁴.

¹⁰⁴ South Staffordshire 2009: 38

The detailed analysis of the zones within the project area can be found in Appendix 4.

7.8.1 Summary of Kinver EUS results



The Kinver EUS project was carried out in 2008 and identified seventeen Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) (cf. map 17)¹⁰⁵. The following is a summary of the findings of the HUCAs; for greater detail please see the Kinver EUS report¹⁰⁶.

- The HUCAs which exhibit the greatest heritage significance are those which are largely contiguous with the Kinver Conservation Area (**HUCA 1, HUCA 3, HUCA 4, HUCA 5, HUCA 7, HUCA 9, and HUCA 10**). The conservation of the historic townscape and the historic buildings, both Listed and unlisted is of primary importance. This has benefits for the quality of the environment and

¹⁰⁵ Staffordshire County Council forthcoming

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

the sense of place for the community and visitors. Within these HUCAs there is also a high potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive. Within HUCA 3 there is the potential for evidence, both above and below ground, to survive relating to both the former water meadow system and the line of the Kinver Light Railway.

- Surviving historic buildings, including a Grade II Listed school, dominate the mid 19th century suburban expansion (**HUCA 11** and **HUCA 13**). Further 18th or 19th century properties lie to the west of the town, beneath Kinver Edge which retain the characteristics of squatter enclosures (**HUCA 14** and **HUCA 15**). In **HUCA 14** there is the potential for surviving rock-cut structures for which the Kinver area is famed. The Kinver Conservation Area only falls within small parts of two of these HUCAs, but these areas contribute significantly to the sense of place. The conservation and enhancement of the historic character of these HUCAs is recommended to allow the community, visitors and future generations to experience and appreciate the history of the settlement.
- **HUCA 2, HUCA 6, HUCA 8, HUCA 12, HUCA 16** and **HUCA 17** all relate to either 20th or early 21st century suburban expansion or re-development. However, with the exception of HUCA 17, all of these areas either form part of the Kinver Conservation Area or lie immediately adjacent to it. HUCA 2 in particular represents the site of Kinver Mill, which has probable medieval origins, and consequently there remain significant archaeological potential within this area. Other historic interests have been identified within some of these HUCAs which are identified within the EUS report.

7.8.2 Key Characteristics

- Kinver Edge (**KVHECZ 5**) comprises a landscape dominated by woodland and heathland. It forms an important public amenity and tourist attraction largely managed by the National Trust. The zone includes the Holy Austin Rock houses.
- Designated heritage assets are also a key feature of the landscape around Kinver. The Iron Age Kinver hillforts dominates the Kinver Edge escarpment and is protected as a Scheduled Monument (**KVHECZ 5**). Two Conservation Areas lie within the project area; Kinver (012) and the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal (073) (within **KVHECZ 1, KVHECZ 2, KVHECZ 3** and **KVHECZ 4**). Listed buildings are present within **KVHECZ 1** and **KVHECZ 4**; the latter includes a Grade II* timber framed property which retains evidence of its late medieval origins.
- An Act of Parliament to enclose the former common land to the west of Kinver was passed in 1774, which resulted in a planned enclosure pattern comprising straight field boundaries and straightened or re-aligned road (**KVHECZ 4, KVHECZ 5** and **KVHECZ 7**). Plantation woodland is also a feature of this landscape.

- The River Stour provided opportunities for early industrial expansion and two 17th century ironworks lie within the project area (**KVHECZ 1** and **KVHECZ 4**). The heritage assets include surviving mill ponds and associated structures, as well as buildings within KVHECZ 4 and the potential for significant below ground deposits.
- There is a moderate to high potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive across the project area; this includes good potential for prehistoric and Roman evidence.

7.8.3 Summary

The detailed analysis (Appendix 4) identifies that much of the landscape surrounding Kinver retains its distinctive historic character and significant heritage assets, both designated and undesignated. Three of the zones are particularly significant in all aspects of the contribution of their value to the historic environment of South Staffordshire. **KVHECZ 1** and **KVHECZ 4** are particularly associated with the iron working industry which had its origins along the River Stour in the early 17th century; the potential above and below ground remains have the capability of making important contributions to the understanding of the processes of industry throughout the post medieval period. Both of these zones also retain listed buildings and **KVHECZ 4** in particular incorporates the site of the medieval settlement of Whittington. This is partly evidenced by the survival of the Grade II* Listed Whittington Inn, which had its origins in at least the late 14th/early 15th century.

KVHECZ 5 comprises the Kinver Edge escarpment which is principally comprised of a landscape of heath and woodland. It is on this, the highest point within the project area, that the Iron Age hillfort is located overlooking the later settlement focused on Kinver High Street. The hillfort has been identified as being of national importance and has been designated as a Scheduled Monument. The zone also incorporates the six rock houses at Holy Austin Rock which are an important tourist attraction and are managed by the National Trust.

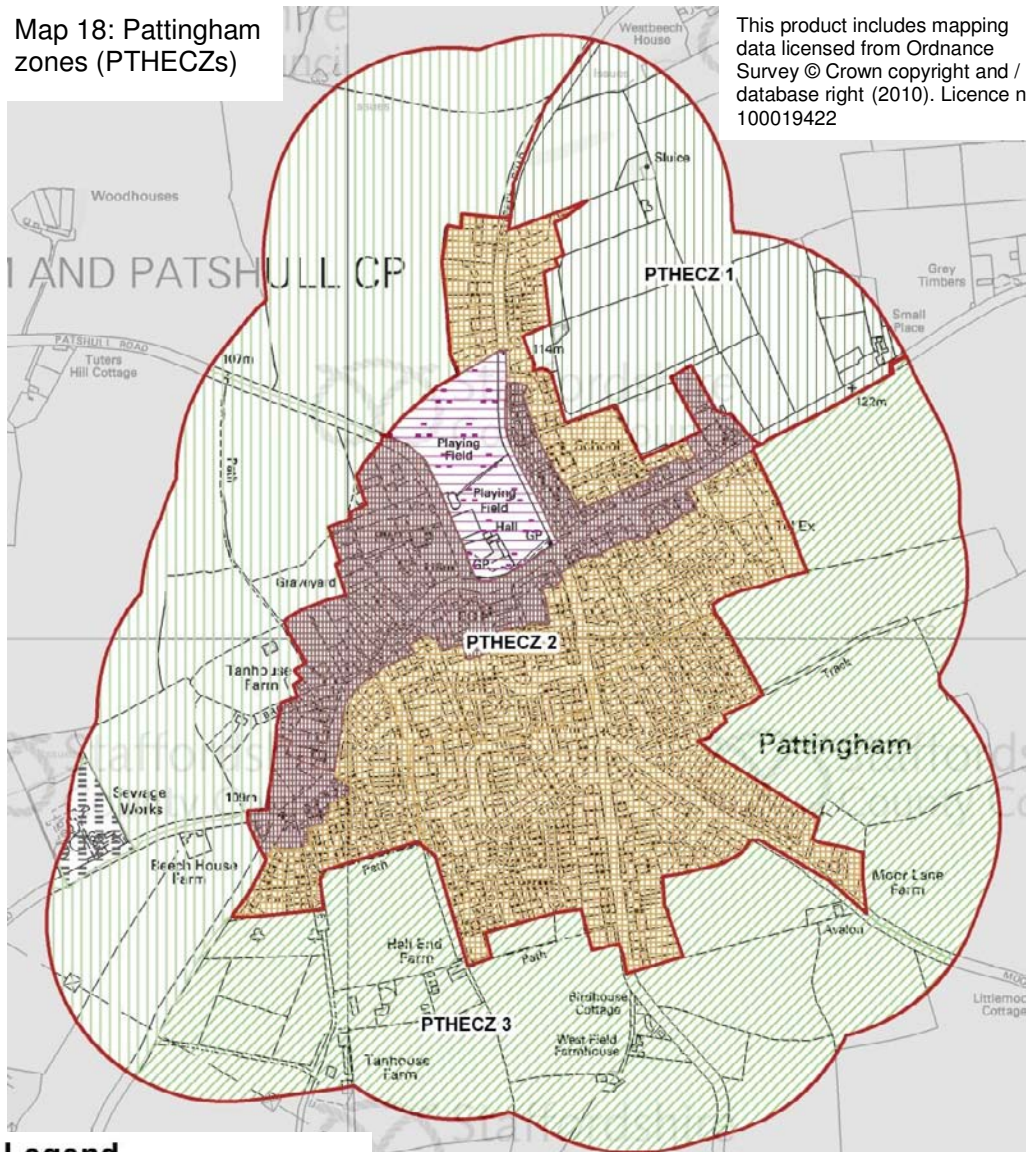
The historic environment of **KVHECZ 2** and **KVHECZ 7** also make important contributions to the wider South Staffordshire landscape. **KVHECZ 2** contributes in terms of the survival of several historic farmsteads and other cottages, the latter being located above the Stour Valley; the importance of the latter has been identified in their incorporation into the Kinver Conservation Area (012). The Stour Valley is the location of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, which also forms a Conservation Area. **KVHECZ 7** incorporates a well preserved planned field system which is associated with the 1774 Act of Enclosure as well as a mid 19th century landscape park and possible associated lodges.

KVHECZ 3 and **KVHECZ 6** are dominated by mid 20th to early 21st century changes to the historic landscape character. **KVHECZ 3** comprises the modern extent of Dunsley, whose houses began to be developed in the mid 20th century. Despite this a number of historic buildings, including The Vine Inn lying adjacent to the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, survive and are incorporated into the Kinver Conservation Area (012). **KVHECZ 6** is dominated by field systems, the majority of which have been impacted by the removal of hedgerows during the mid to late 20th

century. However, a historic farmstead survives, although the farm buildings have been converted to domestic dwellings, and the historic character could be enhanced through the re-planting of hedge-lines. The zone also lies adjacent to two other zones which have been identified as positively contributing to the historic environment of the project area (KVHECZ 5 and KVHECZ 7).

7.9 Pattingham



Map 18: Pattingham zones (PTHECZs)









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Legend

HCTs

-  18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure
-  Industrial and Extractive

-  Other Parkland
-  Post 1880s Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure
-  Post 1880s Settlement

-  Post War Amalgamated Fields
-  Pre 1880s Settlement
-  HECZ boundary

Three HECZs have been identified for the Pattingham project area, which comprises a 250m buffer around the village. Pattingham has been identified by South Staffordshire Council as one of seven Local Service Villages within the District¹⁰⁷.

The detailed analysis of the project area can be found within Appendix 4.

7.9.1 Key Characteristics

- There is a strong historic built character to the village (**PTHECZ 2**) particularly along Wolverhampton Road/High Street, which largely comprises red brick properties of probable 18th or 19th century date. This includes 17 Listed buildings all of which are Grade II with the exception of St Chad's Church which is Grade II*.
- The medieval market place may be fossilised within the village outside the church and other historic lanes also retain much of their character within the project area (**PTHECZ 2** and **PTHECZ 3**).
- Historic field patterns are evident within **PTHECZ 1** and **PTHECZ 3**, although in the latter there has also been significant field boundary removal.

7.9.2 Summary

The detailed analysis (in Appendix 4) reveals that the zone which exhibits the greatest archaeological and historic interest is **PTHECZ 2** which incorporates the historic core of the village with its extant historic buildings and the potential for surviving archaeological deposits relating to earlier settlement. The historic buildings include 17 Listed buildings as well as numerous Locally Listed buildings all of which make a significant contribution to the unique sense of place within the village.

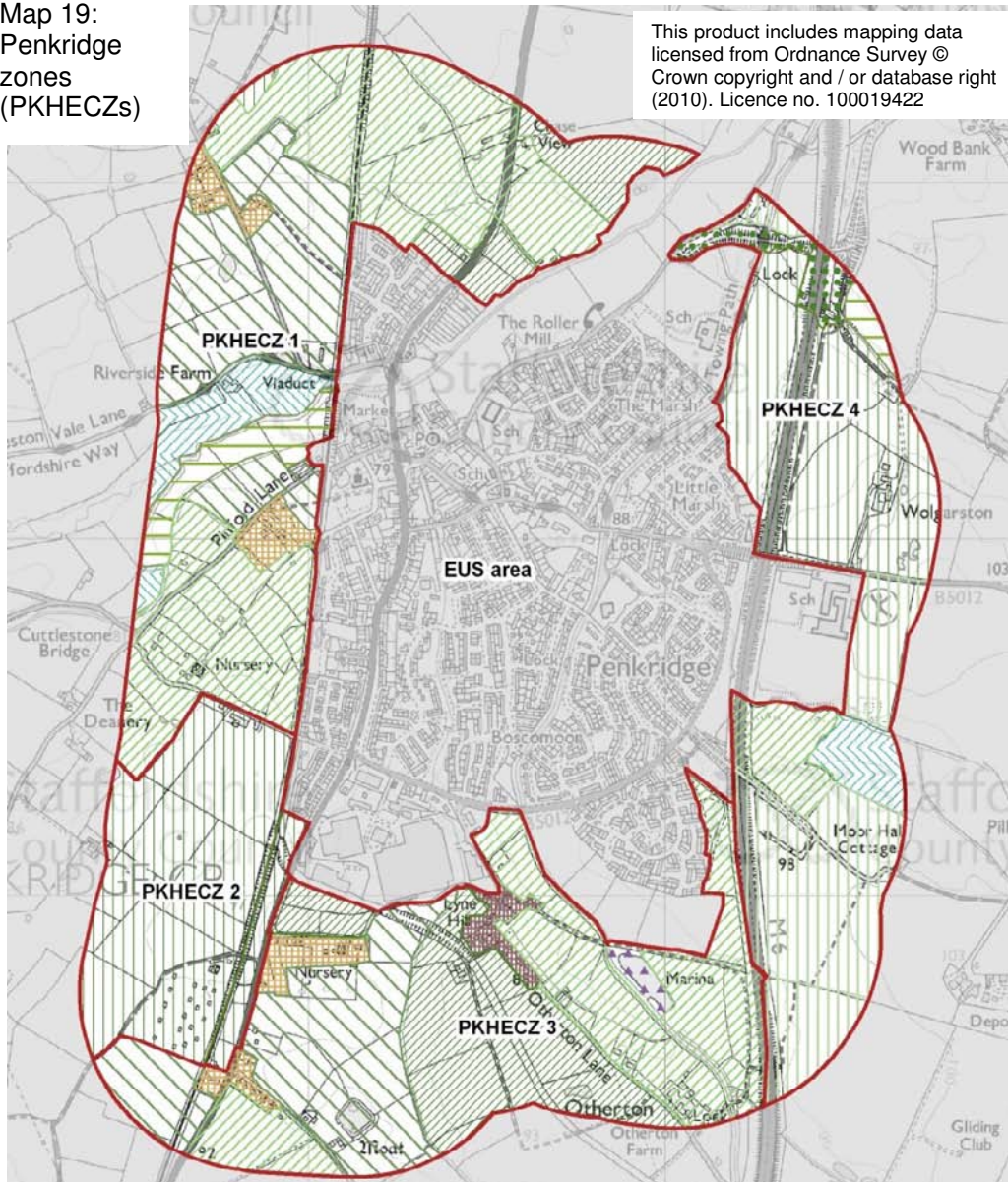
The historic lanes which radiate out from the village also retain much of their rural character and historic farmsteads also feature to the south of the village (**PTHECZ 3**). The historic buildings of this zone include the timber framed late 16th/early 17th century Grade II Listed Birdhouse Cottage.

Historic field patterns are still legible within the landscapes of **PTHECZ 1** and **PTHECZ 3**. The former comprises an early 19th century planned character whilst the latter retains some legibility of the origins of the probable 17th century piecemeal enclosure, although this has seen a degree of field boundary loss.

¹⁰⁷ South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

7.10 Penkrudge

Map 19:
Penkrudge
zones
(PKHECZs)



Legend

HCTs

18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure

18th/19th Century Semi Planned Enclosure

Communications

Early Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure

Miscellaneous Floodplain Fields

Piecemeal Enclosure

Plantations

Post 1880s Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure

Post 1880s Settlement

Post War Amalgamated Fields

Pre 1880s Settlement

HECZ boundary

The project area for Penkrudge identified four zones, but excludes the area of the town which is due to be covered by the Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) project. The project area represents a 500m buffer around the town. Penkrudge has been

identified by South Staffordshire Council as one of nine Main Service Villages within the District (cf. 7.1.1)¹⁰⁸.

The detailed analysis of the zones within the project area can be found in Appendix 5.

7.10.1 Penkridge EUS area

Penkridge was selected for inclusion within the Staffordshire EUS project on the basis that it qualified on five of the nine criteria set out in the project set-up documents¹⁰⁹. Whilst Penkridge is no longer considered to be a town it was clearly planned as a small market town during the medieval period. For this reason it will be referred to within both this document and the EUS project as a town.

Documentary evidence suggests that a religious community, and possibly an attendant settlement, existed at Penkridge by at least circa 1000AD¹¹⁰. Domesday Book (1086) suggests that two manors existed within Penkridge, one held directly by the king and the other held by nine canons of the king; the latter probably relates to the community established by the early 11th century¹¹¹. The two manors largely survived until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the mid 16th century¹¹².

Surviving components of the medieval town are likely to include what has been suggested as two market places, possibly associated with the two manors, one at Stone Cross and the other at the Market Place¹¹³. Burgage plots are also noted on either side of Market Street, although the back plots have been disrupted on both sides, mostly recently to the south for early 21st century housing development. The primary focus of the medieval settlement was probably at Stone Cross where the main north-south route (the A449; known as Clay Street within Penkridge) crosses through the town¹¹⁴. Clay Street was widened in the early 1930s resulting in the loss of several historic properties and altering the character of this area of the settlement¹¹⁵.

Within the EUS area there are 46 nationally Listed buildings and structures and of these one is Grade I (St Michael's and All Angels' Church) and one is Grade II* (The Deanery, Pinfold Lane)¹¹⁶. The date of the latter is unclear, the central stone building is probably late 16th or early 17th century in date and may incorporate re-used material from college buildings associated with St Michael's and All Angels' Church suppressed during the Dissolution of the Monasteries¹¹⁷. However, the flanking timber-framed wings are earlier and may be the remains of a medieval building, which may have formed part of the college if not the medieval deanery

¹⁰⁸ South Staffordshire 2009: 38

¹⁰⁹ Hunt nd.

¹¹⁰ C. Henshaw Archaeological Consultant 2010: 3

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ Colin Hayfield Archaeological Consultant 2002: 7

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 09141 and PRN 09155

¹¹⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 09155; Midgley and Greenslade 1959: 107

itself¹¹⁸. The earliest identified properties are the Grade II Listed Church Farm and Church Cottages, both lying adjacent to the church, and The Old Cottage, in Bellbrook to the east of the town¹¹⁹. All of these properties potentially originated in the 15th century as open hall houses, although all have been altered in the 17th and 18th centuries. Many other earlier properties survive within the EUS area, which have largely been dated to the 16th and 17th centuries, although there is the potential for many of the historic buildings to be concealing earlier origins behind later facades.

The historic core of Penkridge is therefore of particular historic and archaeological interest and this is reflected in the designation of the Penkridge Conservation Area. However, other historic and archaeological interests may survive across the remainder of the EUS project. Consequently, across the EUS project area there may be a requirement for a Heritage Statement to be submitted as part of any planning application and archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to fulfil PPS 5 policies HE 6 and HE 12. Development within the Conservation Area should conform to the principles laid out in the two South Staffordshire Council documents: 'The Village Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document' and the 'Penkridge Conservation Area Management Plan'¹²⁰.

7.10.2 Key Characteristics

- Extant earthworks relating to medieval activity include two moated sites (**PKHECZ 3** and **PKHECZ 4**) and ridge and furrow earthworks (**PKHECZ 1**, **PKHECZ 3** and **PKHECZ 4**). The moated site in **PKHECZ 3** relates to the manor of Rodbaston and is protected as a Scheduled Monument.
- Evidence within the historic landscape for the influence or direct activity of the Teddesley estate during from the late 18th into the 19th century. These include two historic farmsteads both of which incorporate Grade II Listed buildings (**PKHECZ 3** and **PKHECZ 4**); water meadows (**PKHECZ 1**) and field systems (particularly 'Early Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure' and '18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure' in **PKHECZ 1**, **PKHECZ 3** and **PKHECZ 4**).
- The Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal extends through the eastern portion of the zone (**PKHECZ 3** and **PKHECZ 4**) and its importance to the historic landscape has been identified by its designation as a Conservation Area.
- The historic character of '18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure' survives within **PKHECZ 2**, but this has not been positively linked to the activities of the Teddesley estate.

7.10.3 Summary

The detailed analysis (in Appendix 5) reveals that the zone with greatest sensitivity in terms of the historic environment lies to the south of Penkridge (**PKHECZ 3**). This

¹¹⁸ South Staffordshire Council 2010b: 37

¹¹⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 12604, PRN 12577 and PRN 12996

¹²⁰ South Staffordshire Council 2009; South Staffordshire Council 2010c

zone incorporates three designated heritage assets: the Scheduled moated site, the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area and a Grade II Listed farmhouse. The integrity of the historic landscape character is also well preserved within this zone and an evolutionary history can be postulated which links it to the agricultural improvements carried out by the Teddesley estate in the late 18th and 19th centuries. The Shropshire Union Canal also passes through the northern portion of **PKHECZ 4** where the history of the landscape can also be traced from the medieval period through to the late 18th and 19th century agricultural improvements undertaken by the Teddesley estate, although the integrity of the historic landscape has been impacted to a degree by the removal of field boundaries. The zone also includes one of the Teddesley estate farms which incorporates a Grade II Listed farmhouse dated to circa 1800.

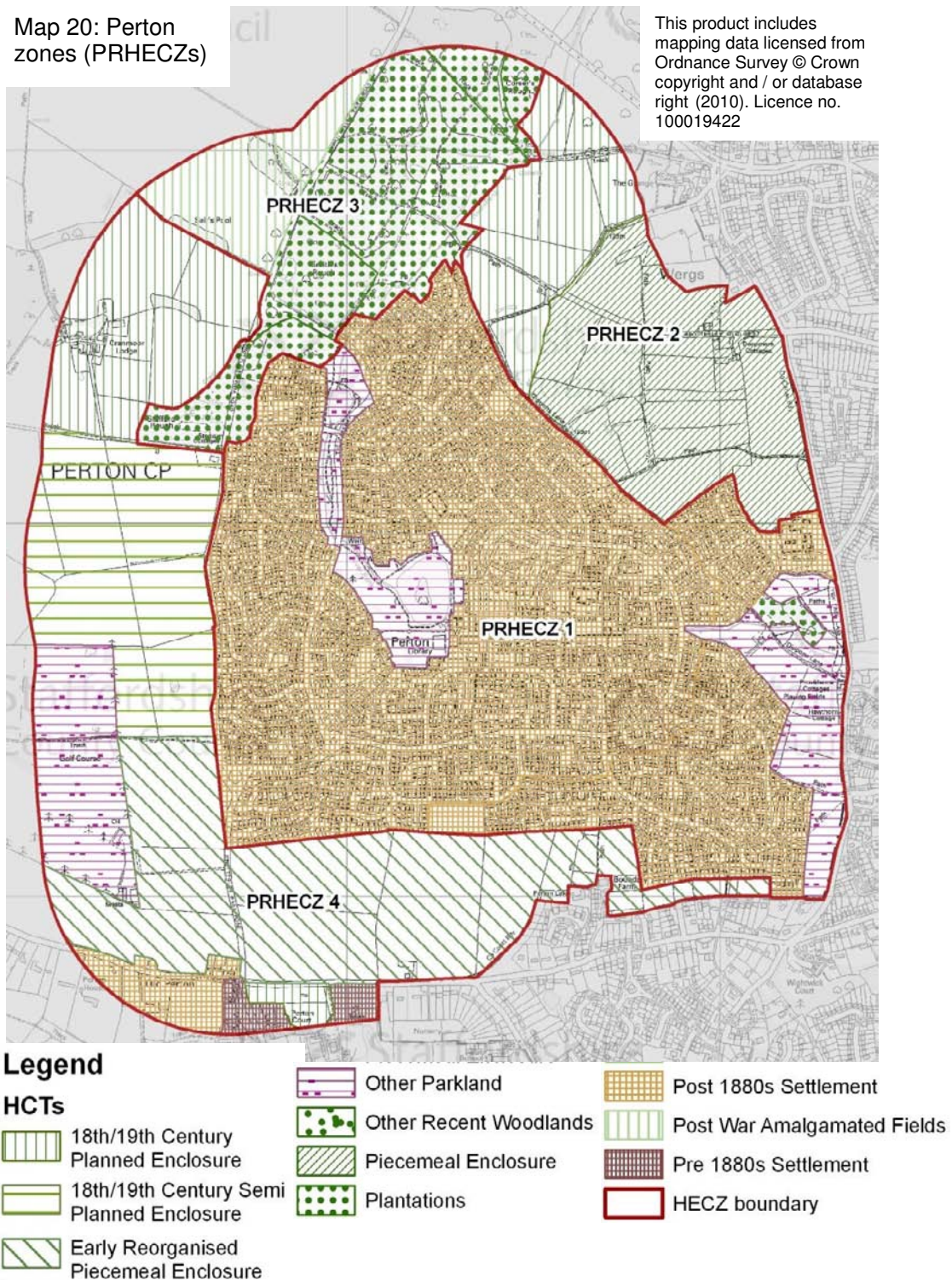
PKHECZ 3, in common with PKHECZ 4, exhibits a mix of historic landscape types some of which relate to well preserved 18th or 19th century Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure, associated with the Teddesley estate, and landscapes impacted by the removal of field boundaries in the mid 20th century. Watermeadows have also been identified along the River Penk within this zone, which are also likely to be associated with the 18th or 19th century agricultural improvements being carried out by the Teddesley estate.

The integrity of the historic landscape of **PKHECZ 2** is also largely well preserved with modern field boundaries respecting the overall planned character of the zone.

The considerations for the historic environment within these zones are detailed within Appendix 1 and the generic recommendations in section 6 above.

7.11 Perton

Map 20: Perton zones (PRHECZs)



The project area incorporates the late 20th century housing estate and a 500m buffer around it. The size of the buffer was determined by South Staffordshire Council who

have identified both settlements as two of the nine Main Service Villages within the District¹²¹. Four HECZs were identified within the project area.

The detailed analysis of the project area can be found within Appendix 5.

7.11.1 Key Characteristics

- Woodland is a key feature of the landscape to the north and west of the Perton housing estate in **PRHECZ 3** and to a lesser extent in **PRHECZ 4**.
- There are well preserved field systems, both 'Piecemeal Enclosure' and '18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure' to the north east (**PRHECZ 2**).
- The historic landscape character to the west of Perton strongly suggests it was re-planned in the 18th or 19th century as part of the agricultural improvement movement of those centuries and is associated with the Wrottesley estate (**PRHECZ 4**) and one, possibly two, historic farmsteads are probably associated with this process.
- The remains of the Second World War Dutch Army Camp and some of RAF Perton are present in **PRHECZ 3** and **PRHECZ 4** in the form of buildings, trackways and as potential below ground archaeological deposits.

7.11.2 Summary

The detailed analysis (in Appendix 5) reveals that in the areas beyond the late 20th century housing estate (**PRHECZ 1**) there are elements of historic interest. Whilst the evidence for the historic landscape park (Wrottesley Park) has been largely eroded since the late 19th century within **PRHECZ 3** several areas of surviving woodland do retain their historic form. This woodland also provides an important public amenity. There is also evidence within this zone and within **PRHECZ 4** for the surviving remains of the Second World War Dutch Army Camp and RAF Perton both in the form of standing buildings, trackways in the woodland and the potential for other above and below ground archaeological remains. The Dutch Camp forms part of the national story of the British involvement in the Second World War and evidence of the co-operation with its allies.

The particular historic character of the contrasting field patterns of 'Piecemeal Enclosure' and '18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure' are particularly well preserved within **PRHECZ 2** and their antiquity is evidenced by the surviving mature hedgerows and in-hedge trees. The field patterns within **PRHECZ 4** appear to be particularly related to the period of rapid agricultural improvement during the 18th and 19th centuries; there is in particular evidence of the re-planning of pre-existing field systems which were marked out on an extant map of Perton Manor (1663). The re-planning of this landscape, with the exception of the late 20th century golf course, is historically associated with the Wrottesley estate.

PRHECZ 4 also incorporates the historic core of the original settlement of Perton, which was a large manor recorded in Domesday Book (1086). A comparison of the

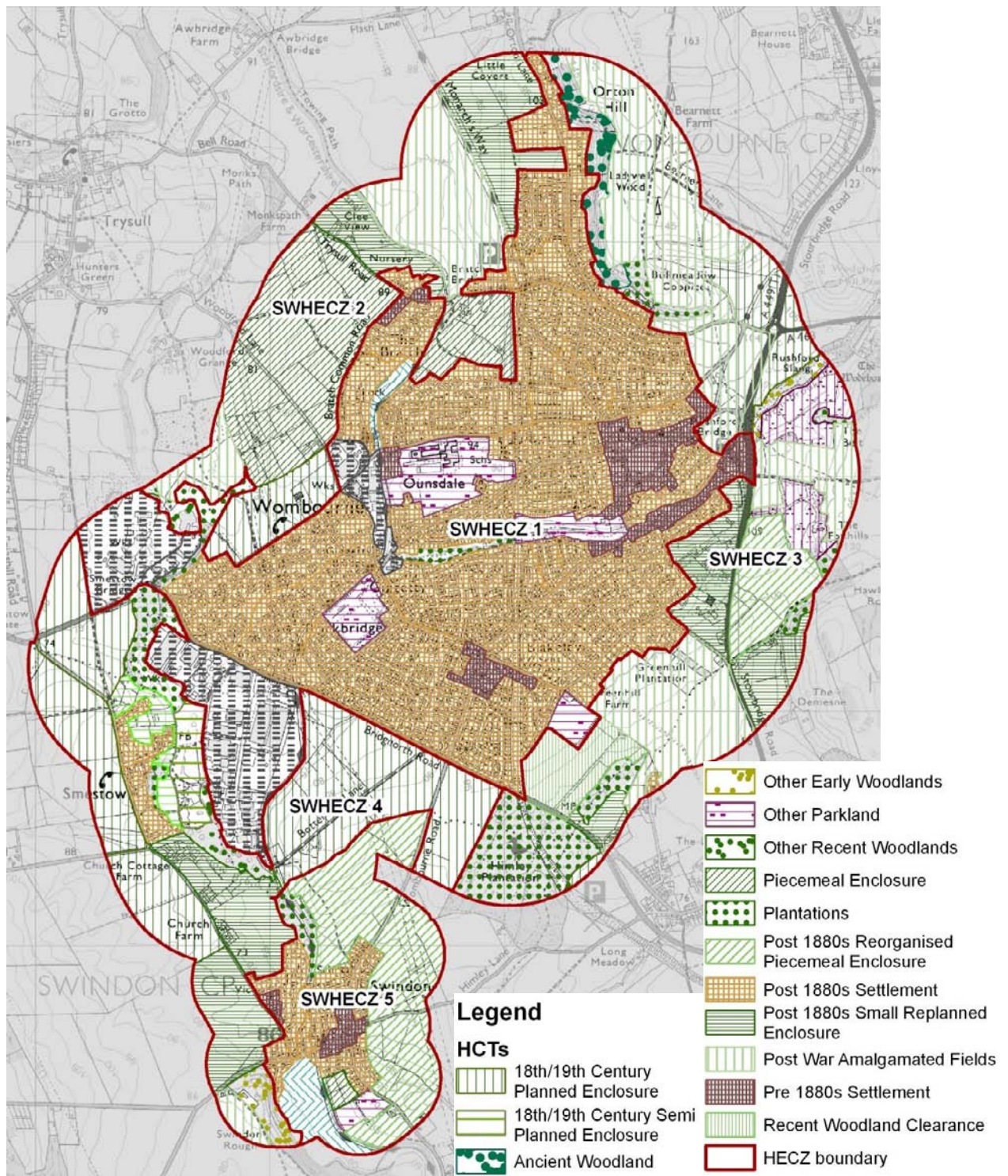
¹²¹ South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

settlement in the late 19th century and on the 1663 map shows that it had shrunk in size during that period although one property, a Grade II late 17th century farmhouse, may have been present on the earlier map.

7.12 Swindon and Wombourne

Map 21: Swindon and Wombourne
zones (SWHECZs)

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The project area incorporates two settlements identified by South Staffordshire Council. Wombourne has been identified by South Staffordshire Council as a Service Village within the District and a buffer of 250m was created around the settlement to create a project area¹²². Swindon has been identified by South Staffordshire Council as a Main Service Village and a buffer of 500m was created around the settlement to create a project area¹²².

¹²² South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

another project area¹²³. As the two project areas overlapped it was decided to create one large project which incorporated the buffers of the two settlements. The detailed analysis of the project area can be found within Appendix 6.

7.12.1 Key Characteristics

- The Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal makes a significant contribution to both the history and the landscape of the zone. It passes through four of the five zones (**SWHECZ 1**, **SWHECZ 2**, **SWHECZ 4** and **SWHECZ 5**). The canal incorporates numerous locks and bridges within the project area. Of greatest significance are the two groups of Grade II Listed structures at The Bratch, which includes a toll house (**SWHECZ 2**) and at Bumblehole, which includes a lock keeper's cottage. A probable late 18th century canal bridge also survives at Ounsdale and two public houses were also probably constructed specifically to serve the boating community; the extant Round Oak Inn (**SWHECZ 1**) and the former Boat Inn (**SWHECZ 5**). The Grade II* Bratch Pumping Station also lies within the canal Conservation Area (**SWHECZ 2**).
- The Smestow Brook and its tributaries are notable for the number of watermills they once powered and formed part of an intensification in the production of iron from the 17th century onwards. The majority of the iron works have gone having been replaced by housing in the late 20th century; notably the Heath Forge (**SWHECZ 1**) and the Swindon Iron Works (**SWHECZ 5**). However, one watermill survives, the Grade II Listed Smestow Mill within **SWHECZ 4**.
- Two historic village cores, whose origins lie in at least the medieval period, are located within the project area; Wombourne (**SWHECZ 1**) and Swindon (**SWHECZ 5**). It is within these areas that the majority of historic buildings survive, both designated and undesignated. The importance of the townscape of Wombourne has been identified in its designation as a Conservation Area.
- Two historic landscape parks survive within **SWHECZ 3** along with a small portion of the Grade II Registered Himley Park. Two gentleman's residences in large grounds also contribute to the gentrified landscape of this zone.
- The extant planned field pattern which dominated **SWHECZ 4** is associated with two Acts of Parliament granting the right to enclose the common land, passed in 1796 for Swindon and in 1827 for Wombourne.
- Part of a Roman camp, a Scheduled Monument, lies within **SWHECZ 4**.

7.12.2 Summary

¹²³ Ibid.

The detailed analysis (in Appendix 6) has identified significant heritage assets within each of the zones. This ranges from the importance of the historic built environment, to the integrity of the historic landscape character to the potential for surviving below ground archaeological deposits to survive. The historic built environment is particularly important within **SWHECZ 1** and **SWHECZ 2** where there is the greatest concentration of Listed buildings (including the Grade II* St Benedict Biscop church (SWHECZ 1) and The Bratch Pumping Station (SWHECZ 2). Both Listed and undesignated historic buildings feature within all of the other zones within the project area. This includes within Swindon village within **SWHECZ 5**, although the overall character of this settlement is defined by mid to late 20th century development.

The historic landscape character across the project area has been impacted to greater or lesser degrees by changes to the historic field boundaries. The integrity of the historic character survives greatest within **SWHECZ 3** where historic parkland and woodland make an important contribution to the experience of the landscape. A planned enclosure pattern of the late 18th/early 19th century survives within **SWHECZ 4** despite the removal of some field boundaries and the creation of some pony paddocks. The importance of the historic core of Wombourne and the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal to the historic landscape has been acknowledge in each being designated as Conservation Areas (**SWHECZ 1**, **SWHECZ 2**, **SWHECZ 4** and **SWHECZ 5**). Works within the Conservation Area may be required conform to the principles laid out in the two South Staffordshire Council documents: 'The Village Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document' and the 'Wombourne Conservation Area Management Plan'¹²⁴. Early consultation with South Staffordshire's Conservation Section is recommended.

There is the potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive relating to earlier inhabitation within the historic cores of both Wombourne (**SWHECZ 1**) and Swindon (**SWHECZ 5**). Within **SWHECZ 4** lies part of the Scheduled Roman camp where nationally important archaeological deposits are likely to survive. The designation of this site means that no works can take place within the Scheduled area without Scheduled Monument Consent for which English Heritage must be approached.

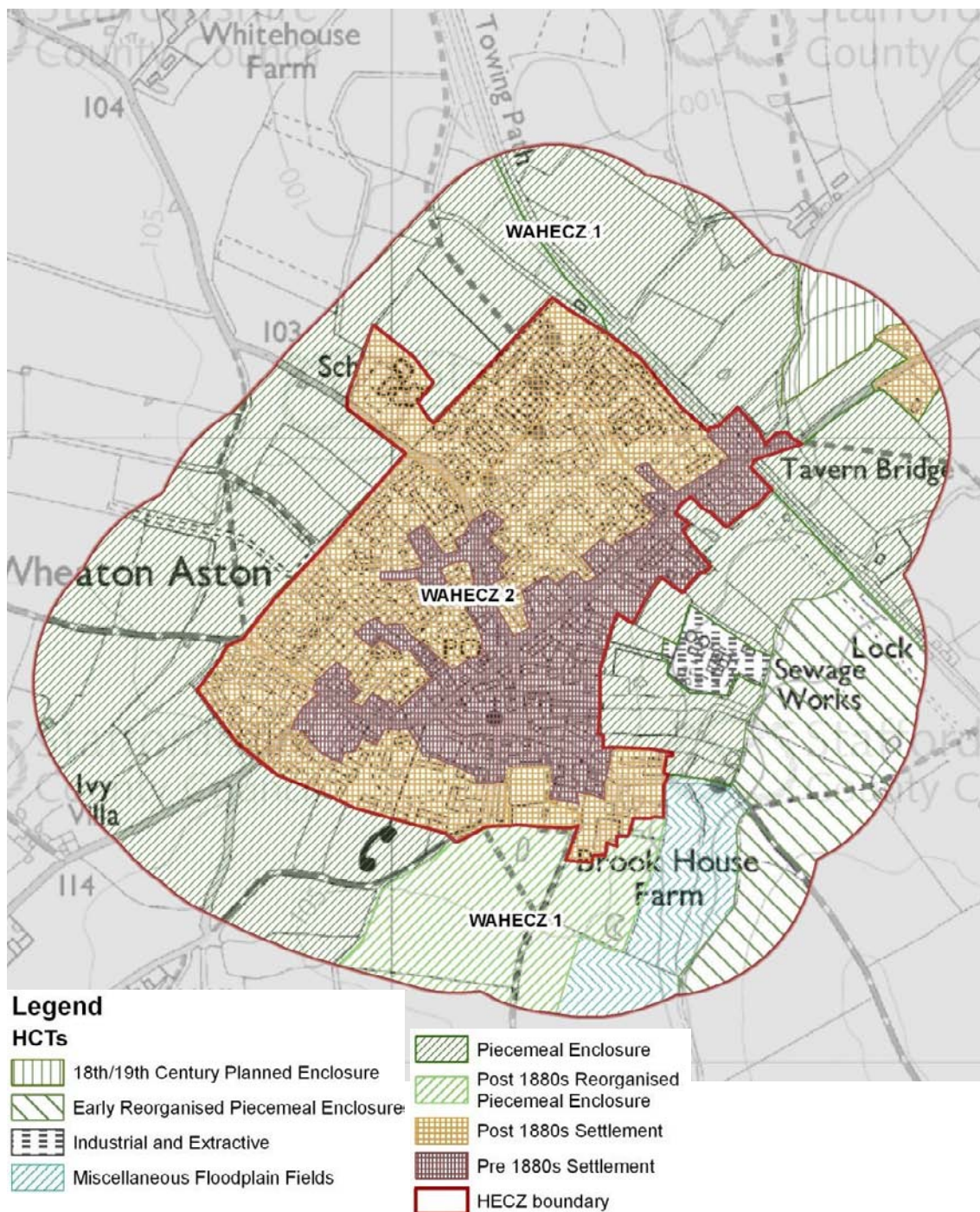
The contribution of Wombourne and its hinterland to the development of iron working from the 17th century onwards is of particular importance. The watermills associated with the early origins of this industry have gone, although there is the potential for information to be retained as below ground archaeological deposits (**SWHECZ 1** and **SWHECZ 5**). By the mid 19th century the area was famed for nail making and the small settlement of Smestow probably originated as a nailers' settlement created by squatting upon the edges of the common land (**SWHECZ 4**). The potential for historic buildings to survive associated with this important local industry is currently unknown with the exception of one possible nailers' workshop, now much altered, in **SWHECZ 1**.

7.13 Wheaton Aston

Map 22: Wheaton Aston
zones (WAHECZs)

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Two HECZs have been identified for the Wheaton Aston project area, which comprises a 250m buffer around the village. Wheaton Aston has been identified by South Staffordshire Council as one of seven Local Service Villages within the District¹²⁵.

The detailed analysis of the project area can be found within Appendix 6.

¹²⁵ South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

7.13.1 Key Characteristics

- Well preserved post medieval piecemeal enclosure almost entirely surrounding the settlement which is associated with surviving ridge and furrow earthworks (**WAHECZ 1**).
- The medieval market, possibly located upon a village green, is fossilised within the streetscape of the village (**WAHECZ 2**).
- High number of farmsteads survived within the village until the mid 20th century; nine of these survive in some form (**WAHECZ 2**). One of this is still a working farm.
- There are ten Listed buildings within the settlement including the Grade II* St Mary's Church. Five of the Grade II Listed buildings date to the 16th or 17th century and have visible timber framing.
- The Shropshire Union Canal makes a significant contribution to both the history and the landscape of the project area and has been designated as a Conservation Area .

7.13.2 Summary

The detailed analysis (in Appendix 6) reveals that both of the zones (**WAHECZ 1** and **WAHECZ 2**) have a high archaeological and historic interest. The high number of farmsteads which stood within the village, of which nine survive in some form, is particularly characteristic of this settlement. The farmsteads, all of which lie within **WAHECZ 2** represent small holdings which survived into the mid 20th century; this is in contrast to those settlements where a great landlord owned most of the land by the early 19th century as at Penkridge, Perton and Pattingham. The longevity of these small holdings is also responsible for the survival of the historic field pattern within **WAHECZ 1** which meant that the open field survived longer here than in other areas of Staffordshire. This is confirmed by the well preserved ridge and furrow earthworks which can still be seen in many of the fields surrounding the village.

WAHECZ 2 incorporates the historic core of the village with its extant historic buildings and the potential for surviving archaeological deposits relating to earlier settlement including the sites of the historic farmsteads. The historic buildings include ten Listed buildings as well as other undesignated historic all of which make a significant contribution to the unique sense of place within the village.

The Shropshire Union Canal, constructed between 1827 and 1835, crosses the project area (through **WAHECZ 1** and a small section of **WAHECZ 2**) on a roughly northwest to southeast alignment.

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** A summary version of Staffordshire HER sites can be viewed online at <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> or for more detailed information contact the Cultural Heritage Team directly.

9. Glossary

| | |
|---|---|
| Anglo-Saxon | Period dating between 410 AD and 1065 AD |
| Assart | A piece of forest land converted into arable * |
| Barbed & tanged arrowhead | A triangular arrowhead retouched to form a central tang and lateral barbs. The sides may be straight or concave. * |
| Barrow | Artificial mound of earth, turf and/or stone, normally constructed to contain or conceal burials.* |
| Bloomery | A charcoal fired shaft furnace used for the direct reduction of iron ore to produce wrought iron* |
| Bronze Age | Period dating between 2350 BC to 701 BC |
| Burnt mound | A mound of fire-cracked stones, normally accompanied by a trough or pit which may have been lined with wood, stone or clay.* The function of these features has been debated. |
| | |
| Croft | An enclosed piece of land attached to a house.* |
| Cropmark | Monument visible as a mark in standing crops, parchmarks or soilmarks, but where no subsurface deposits have been proven eg by excavation or other ground disturbance * |
| Dispersed cluster plan form (farmstead) | Little evidence of planning of the farmstead. Most closely associated with small farmsteads where there were few buildings or animals so careful planning in the layout for labour saving was of little importance. Some larger farmsteads were re-organised in the 19 th century often utilising an earlier building (Lake & Edwards 2008: 21). |
| Earthwork | Monument existing as an upstanding earthwork, ditch or artificial watercourse, or as a low stone built feature * |
| Flake (flint) | A flake of stone struck from the core where the length is less than twice the width. * |
| Hay | Division or enclosure within a medieval forest |
| Heritage Asset | A place or asset which is assigned cultural value ¹²⁶ . This includes, but is not limited to, historic buildings, archaeological remains, monuments, parks and gardens, historic battlefields etc. |
| Hillfort | A hilltop enclosure bounded by one or more substantial banks, ramparts and ditches*. |

¹²⁶ English Heritage 2009: 36

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|---------------------|--|
| Hollow way | A way, path or road through a cutting*. |
| Inter-war period | The period between the end of the First World War (1918) and the beginning of the Second World War (1939). |
| Iron Age | Period dating between 800 BC to 42 AD |
| Irregular enclosure | Field patterns where the predominant boundaries sinuous, although secondary boundaries may be straight or curvilinear. These system may have originated as assarting or squatting on heathland. Some may represent unrecognised piecemeal enclosure. Their period of origins covers a wide period from the medieval period to the 19 th century. Further research could elucidate the origins of specific field systems. |
| Linear plan | A plan of a farmstead where the farm buildings are set in-line, often with the farmhouse being attached to one end (Staffordshire HER). |
| Lodge | A small building, often inhabited by a gatekeeper, gamekeeper or similar * |
| Mesolithic | Period dating between 10,000 BC to 4,001 BC |
| Messuage | A dwelling-house with outbuildings and land assigned to its use* |
| Moat | A wide ditch surrounding a building, usually filled with water * |
| Neolithic | Period dating between 4,000 BC to 2,351 BC |
| Open Field | An area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. Usually without internal divisions (hedges, walls or fences).* |
| Outfarm | Farm buildings detached from the main steading where processes such as the processing and storage of crops; the housing of animals and the production of manure; or tasks such as milking were performed (Lake & Edwards 2008:30) |
| Palaeolithic | Period dating between 500,000 BC to 10,001 BC |
| Piecemeal Enclosure | Piecemeal enclosure can be defined as those fields created out of the medieval open fields by means of informal, verbal agreements between farmers who wished to consolidate their holdings. Within Staffordshire this process appears to have been well under way by the late medieval period, and was probably largely enclosed by the 16 th century. These areas have field patterns comprised of small irregular or rectilinear fields. At least two boundaries will have 's-curve' or 'dog-leg' morphology, suggesting that that they follow the boundaries of former medieval field strips. |

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|------------------------|--|
| Pit Alignment | A single line, or pair of roughly parallel lines, of pits set at intervals along a common axis or series of axes. The pits are not thought to have held posts*. |
| Planned Enclosure | These areas are characterised by either small or large fields that share very straight boundaries, giving them a geometric, planned appearance. Laid out by surveyors, these field patterns result from late enclosure during the 18 th and 19 th centuries. This historic landscape character type, therefore, includes commons that were enclosed by Act of Parliament. |
| Rectilinear enclosure | Field patterns where the predominant boundaries straight, although secondary boundaries may be sinuous or curvilinear. This differs from planned enclosure for which there will be very little evidence of other forms of boundaries. Their period of origin could date from the medieval period onwards and may include unrecognised piecemeal enclosure. It includes 18 th /19 th century enclosure for which planning is in question. Further research could elucidate the origins of specific field systems. |
| Ridge and furrow | A series of long, raised ridges separated by ditches used to prepare the ground for arable cultivation. This was a technique, characteristic of the medieval period.* |
| Ring Ditch | Circular or near circular ditches, usually seen as cropmarks. Ring ditches may be the remains of ploughed out round barrows, round houses, or of modern features such as searchlight emplacements*. |
| Roman | Period dating between 43 AD to 409 AD |
| Round house (domestic) | Circular structure, normally indicated by one or more rings of post holes and/or a circular gulley, and usually interpreted as being of domestic function*. |
| Scraper (flint tool) | A flake or blade with retouch along one or more edges.* |
| Smallholding | A holding on a smaller-scale than an ordinary farm.* |
| Squatter Enclosure | Areas of very small irregular or rectilinear fields that probably result from the enclosure of former common land by squatters. They may be associated with small cottages, networks of lanes and access tracks. Often associated with areas of former mining, quarrying or other industrial activity. |
| Staffordshire HER | Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (held by Staffordshire County Council) |
| VCH | Victoria County History for Staffordshire – copies located within the Staffordshire HER |
| Vicus | A district, suburb or quarter of a town or village adjacent to a fort, with the lowest legal status accorded to a built up area*. |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Villa | A term for a type of house, with varying definitions according to period. Roman villas were high-status and usually associated with a rural estate, whereas Georgian and later period villas were often semi-detached, town houses*. |
| WSL | William Salt Library, Stafford |
| Watermeadow | An area of land deliberately flooded to fertilize grassland through a series of artificial channels. Typical features include water carriers, panes, drains, sluices and footbridges. The earthwork remains of the panes and drains can be mistake for the remains of "Ridge & furrow". The classic watermeadows are generally seen as being 18 th or early 19 th century in date, but some may date from as early as the 16 th or 17 th centuries. |
| Wood bank | An earthen bank indicating the limit of a wood or coppice.* |

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