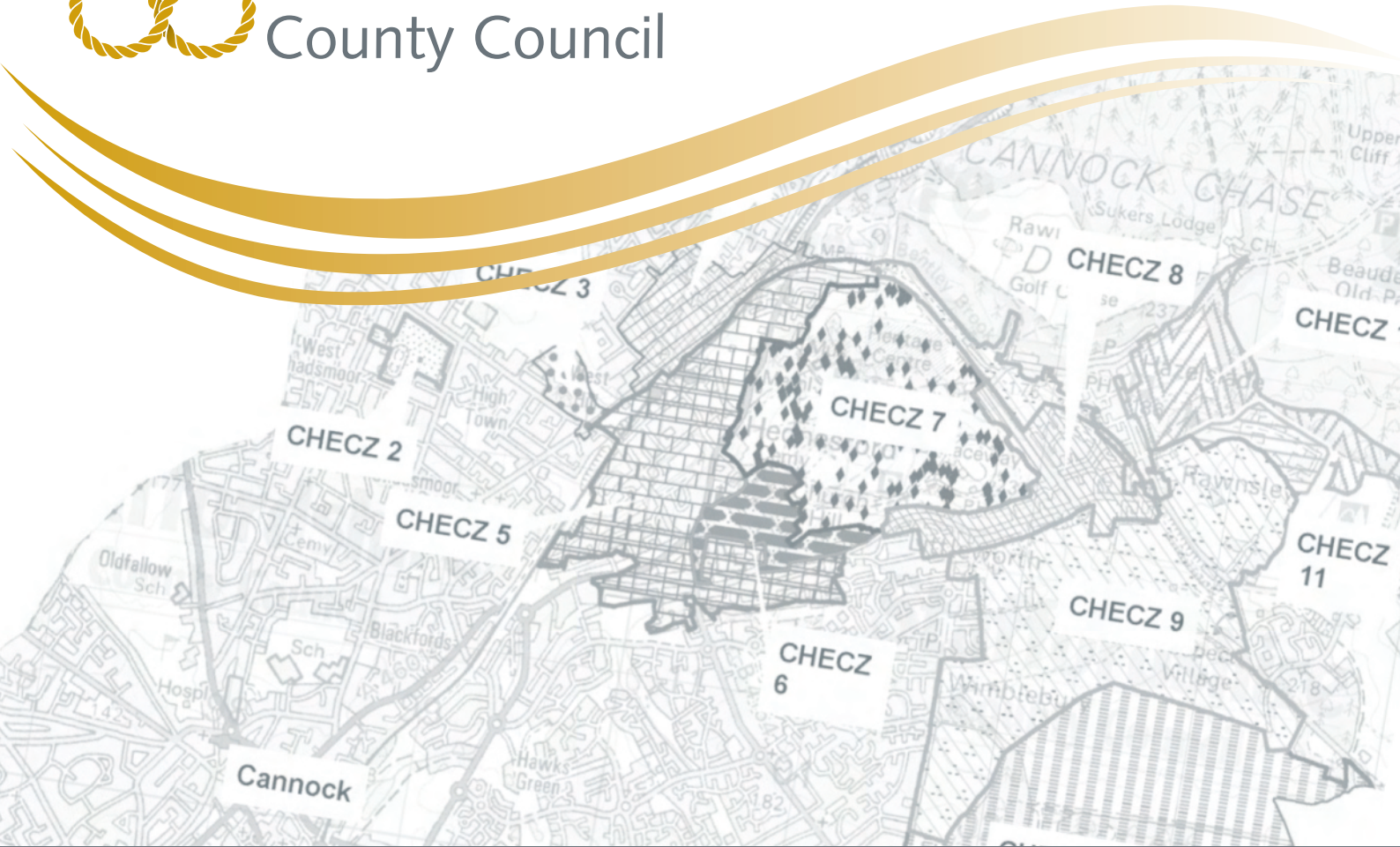
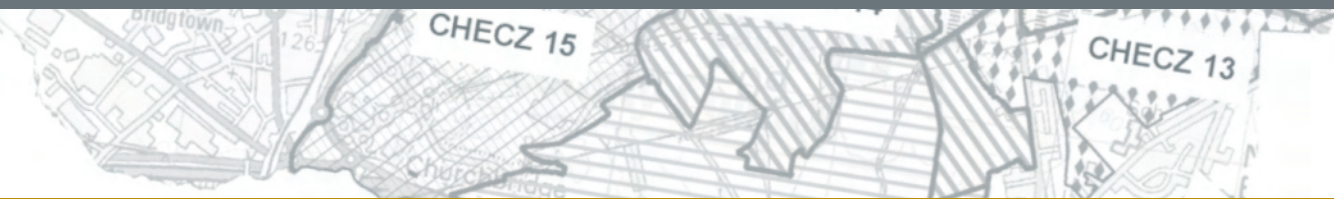




Staffordshire  
County Council



## Historic Environment Character Assessment



For Cannock Chase District Council  
October 2009



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**Appendix 1:** The scoring of Historic Environment Character Zones (adapted from Essex County Council)

# **1. Introduction**

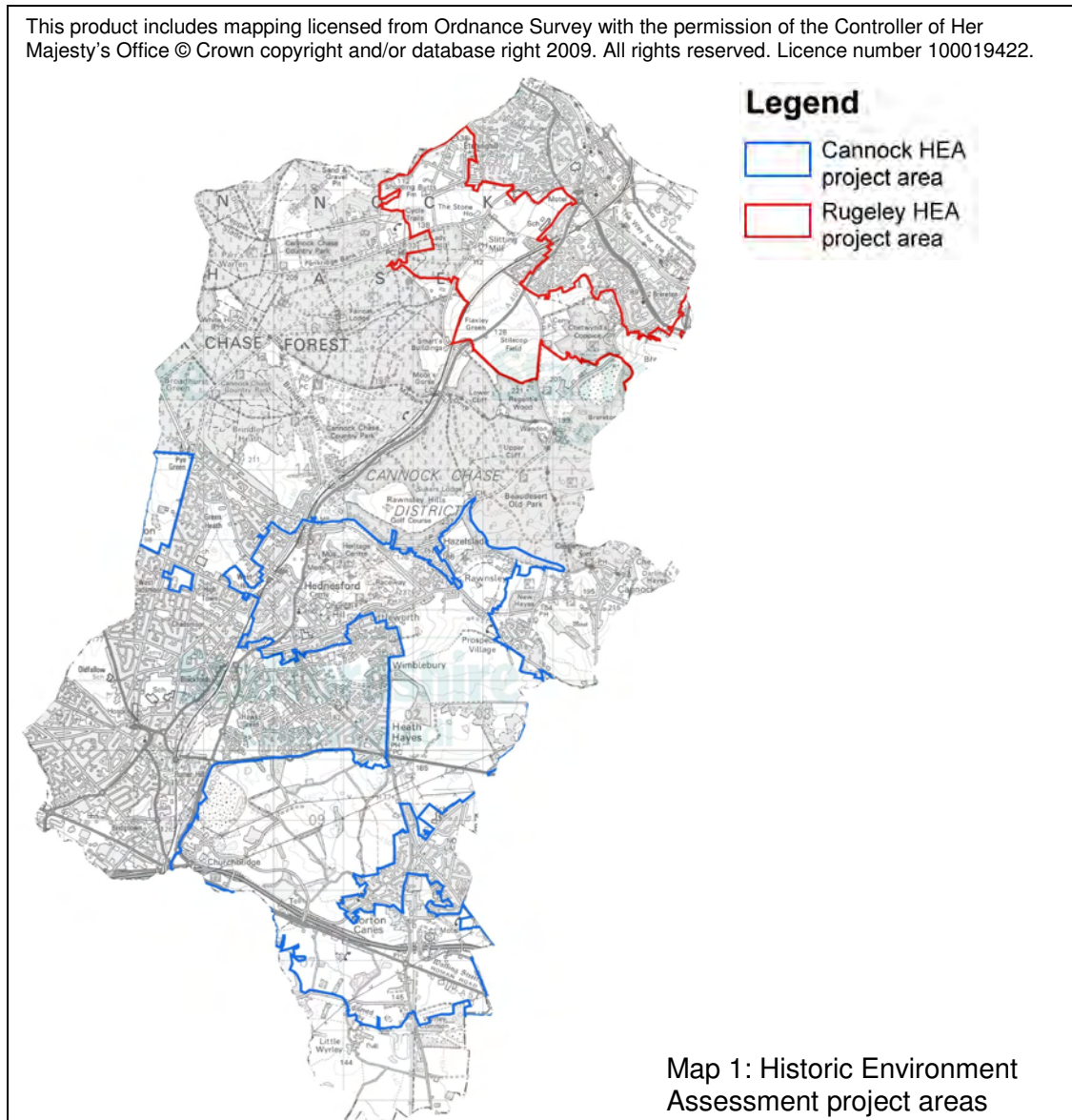
## **1.1 Background**

- 1.1.1 This project was commissioned by the Local Plans and Policy section at Cannock Chase District Council (CCDC) to form part of the evidence base for the options assessment of their Core Strategy.
- 1.1.2 A methodology for assessing historic environment information has emerged from work carried out in the southern counties of England in response to proposed large scale housing developments. The particular aim of these projects was to integrate the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) information with the more site based data held by the Historic Environment Records (HERs). Historic environment assessments were pioneered by the Thames Gateway Project, which was further developed by Essex County Council for two of its districts. More recently Shropshire County Council undertook a historic environment assessment for the Shrewsbury New Growth Point area. This work was assessed using the criteria produced by Essex County Council.
- 1.1.3 Staffordshire County Council (SCC) in conjunction with Lichfield District Council and English Heritage produced a Historic Environment Assessment (HEA) for Lichfield, Burntwood and Tamworth in February 2009. This followed the methodology used by Shropshire County Council taken from the 'Shrewsbury New Growth Point Historic Environment Assessment: Project Design'. The Lichfield project was followed by a similar project undertaken for Stafford Borough Council during 2009.
- 1.1.4 It was agreed between the SCC Cultural Heritage Team, English Heritage and Cannock Chase District Council that the historic environment assessment for the District would largely follow the methodology used in the Lichfield District Historic Environment Assessment and the Stafford Borough Historic Environment Assessment.
- 1.1.5 The HEA has focused upon two project areas, Rugeley and Cannock, which were largely based upon the housing and employment areas identified by CCDC (cf. map 1). The towns of Cannock and Rugeley have been excluded from these projects as they will both be characterised in greater detail under the Extensive Urban Survey (EUS), which is currently being undertaken by SCC for the recognised medieval towns of Staffordshire. It was also agreed between CCDC and SCC that the areas under forestry and those built up areas outside of Cannock and Rugeley would not be covered by the project as they are unlikely to be immediately affected by whole-scale housing or employment redevelopment. However, Hednesford forms the exception and parts of the town are included in the project. This was due to the fact that Hednesford is not covered by the EUS and it is a focus for urban development alongside Cannock and Rugeley urban areas.

## **1.2 Historic Landscape Character (HLC)**

- 1.2.1 The HLC project forms part of a national mapping project. It was carried out by SCC 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. The HLC data sits within the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) database. The HER holds information on the county's archaeological and historic sites, monuments and buildings.
- 1.2.2 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 development of this project.
- 1.2.3 The HLC and HER data form the basis of the Historic Environment Assessment for Cannock Chase.





## 2. Aim

- 2.1 The aim of the project was to provide a detailed assessment of the historic environment character for the two project areas identified between SCC and CCDC (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.

## 3. Project Methodology

### 3.1 Historic Environment Character Zones

- 3.1.1 The methodology follows that established by the Lichfield District HEA using the Essex County Council model for assessing significance (see appendix 1). This produced a scoring system based upon set criteria. A GIS layer was also produced naming the zones and identifying their historic environment significance. It is important to emphasize that a low significance does not mean that there are no historic environment considerations to take into account regarding development. Each of the zone reports includes a

statement of significance which highlights the recommendations for the historic environment.

3.1.2 Each report comprises a brief description of the historic environment of the zone. This is followed by a summary table which also assesses the potential for impacts that medium to large-scale development may have upon the historic environment expressed as an Overall Value. The zones are assessed upon seven themes: Survival, Potential, Documentation, Diversity, Group Association, Amenity and Sensitivity to change (specifically relating to development expansion & infrastructure for CCDC). Each of these areas was scored 1 to 3 and these were finally added together to provide the Overall Value expressed as total scores:

7-9 = Low;

10-12 = Low/Moderate;

13-15 = Moderate;

16-18 = High/moderate

19-21= High.

3.1.3 The methodology for this assessment is included as Appendix 1.

## **3.2 Potential uses for the document**

3.2.1 The assessment was produced specifically for the Cannock Chase District housing and employment potential development areas 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 importance of the historic environment in each zone along with guidance or advice on the ways in which development may have an impact upon the historic environment.

3.2.2 The documents can 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.

3.2.3 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. Cannock Chase District**

4.1 The area administered by Cannock Chase District Council is in the central southern part of the county. The authority shares borders with South Staffordshire District to the west, Stafford Borough to the north and Lichfield District to the east. The district also shares its southern border with the metropolitan district of Walsall. In terms of area, 7,888.22 ha, it is the second smallest planning authority within the county.

- 4.2 A large proportion of the district is covered by industrial development (5.73%) and settlement (26.33%). Cannock, on the south-west edge, is the largest urban area in the district and developed through an amalgamation of several small mining settlements. The other large urban area in Cannock Chase District is Rugeley, which lies to the north east. The land between Cannock and Rugeley falls almost entirely within Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is heavily wooded much of which is plantation woodland owned and managed by the Forestry Commission.
- 4.3 The Cannock Chase AONB covers approximately 6,509ha of the District Council.

## **5. Designated sites**

### **5.1 Scheduled Monuments**

- 5.1.1 There are five Scheduled monuments within the District boundary: Castle Ring hillfort<sup>1</sup>; Conduit Head, High Green<sup>2</sup>; Church Yard Cross, St Luke's<sup>3</sup>; Moated site & Bloomery in Court Banks<sup>4</sup>; Rugeley Camp Practice Trench<sup>5</sup>. None of these monuments lie within either the Cannock or Rugeley project areas. However, where there is the potential for development to impact upon the setting of any of these monuments English Heritage should be contacted for advice.

### **5.2 Conservation Areas**

- 5.2.1 There are 8 Conservation Areas Brereton (154); Bridgtown (131); Cannock Town Centre (123); Rugeley Town Centre (051); Rugeley – Church Street (124); Rugeley – Sheepfair/Bow Street (156); Rugeley – Talbot Street/Lichfield Street (155); Trent & Mersey Canal (083). None of the Conservation Areas lie within either of the two project areas. However, five Conservation Areas (numbers 051, 124, 154, 155 and 156) lie adjacent to the Rugeley project area. Where there is a potential for development to impact upon the Conservation Areas or their setting then CCDC's Conservation Officer should be contacted.

### **5.3 Listed Buildings**

- 5.3.1 There are 67 Listed Buildings within the District. However, five are located within the Cannock project area and six in the Rugeley project area.

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<sup>1</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00025; English Heritage: SM 21635

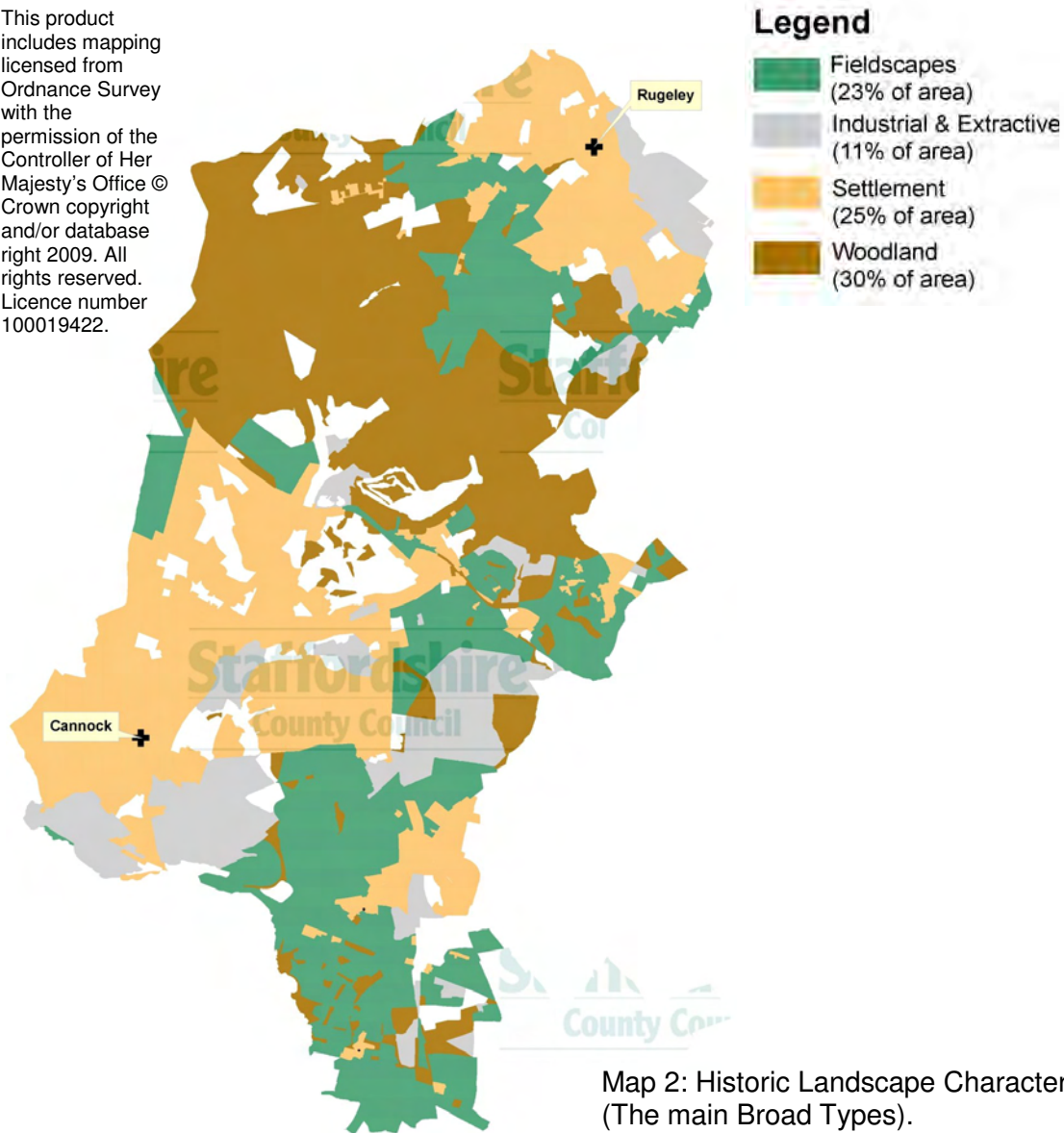
<sup>2</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00066; English Heritage: SM 50

<sup>3</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00067; English Heritage: SM 21595

<sup>4</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00221, PRN 00222 & PRN 01012; English Heritage: SM 241

<sup>5</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 05523; English Heritage: SM 35861

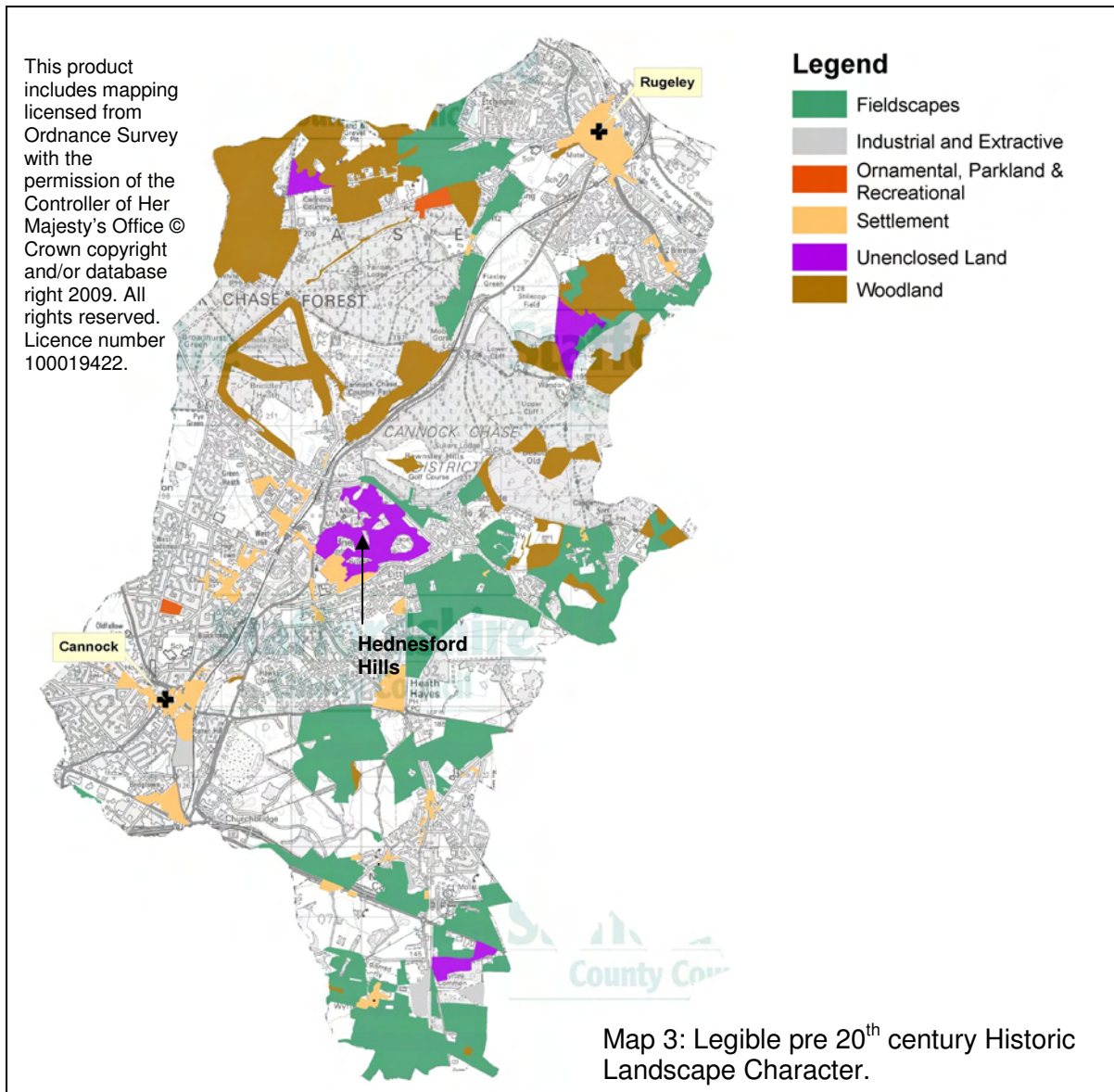
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Map 2: Historic Landscape Character (The main Broad Types).

## 6. Historic Landscape Character

- 6.1 The modern historic landscape character of the District is dominated by three historic landscape character types (cf. map 2). Woodland represents approximately 28% of land use within the District and much of this woodland is managed by the Forestry Commission; coniferous woodland accounts for 61% of all the woodland. Settlement represents 23% of the land use and 89% of it was constructed within the 20<sup>th</sup> century. If Industrial & Extractive land use is included under Settlement then the coverage is approximately 34% of the District. Fieldscales cover 26% of the District.
- 6.2 However, the aim of historic landscape characterisation is to identify surviving historic patterns. Map 3 shows those areas where the historic landscape character is still legible within the landscape, although this is not to state that historic environment assets or character are entirely absent from the remaining areas.



### 6.3 Cannock Forest

6.3.1 Forest in the medieval period was not a term which described land use, but was an area of land which was designated by royal decree where Forest Law applied. This law was introduced by King William I following the Norman Conquest (1066) and was a means of restricting rights of hunting game, particularly deer, to the Crown. The Crown also reserved the right to timber and minerals within these areas<sup>6</sup>. During the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century Forests had become an important means of revenue for the Crown mostly through the imposition of fines.

6.3.2 Cannock Forest had probably existed since at least the 11<sup>th</sup> century, although it was not recorded by this name until the 1140s<sup>7</sup>. It is likely to have been composed of a mosaic landscape of woodland and heath land much as the landscape of the Hednesford Hills is in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (cf. map 3 & 8.7

<sup>6</sup> Rackham 1986:130; Studd 2000: 125

<sup>7</sup> Greenslade 1967: 338



CHECZ 7 below). The presence of the forest has had a significant impact upon the development of the landscape of the District since that period. Domesday Book (1086) records few places within the area of Cannock District perhaps suggesting that the landscape had been heath land and woodland from earlier in its history (cf. map 4 & 7.4 below).

- 6.3.3 However, it is clear that the development of Cannock and Rugeley during the medieval period also had an impact upon the landscape. In Domesday Book both places are recorded as having plough lands associated with them suggesting arable agriculture formed part of their economy from at least the late Saxon period (see map 4).

## 6.4 Cannock Chase

- 6.4.1 Cannock Chase was formed out of Cannock Forest in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century and was granted to the Bishop of Lichfield as a private hunting forest. The bishop's interest in Cannock Forest had begun by the 11<sup>th</sup> century when he is recorded making illegal assarts within the Royal Forest. His activities were legitimised by King Richard I in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century in return for a fine, which the King required to help fund a Crusade. The King also granted the manors of Rugeley and Cannock to the bishop at this time. However, the King retained the rights to take deer from this area of the Forest. From the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century until 1290 the bishops claimed the rights to take deer and entered into conflicts with the Royal forestry officials until the situation was resolved with the creation of the Chase<sup>8</sup>.
- 6.4.2 It is not clear where the bishop was creating assarts during the 12<sup>th</sup> century within the area of the Forest, but it is likely to have mostly occurred within Lichfield District. However, documentary records suggest that the bishop continued to assart within the Chase throughout the medieval period, which may account in part for the extensive areas of arable open fields associated with Cannock and Rugeley. There are further areas of open field towards the south of the District around Norton Canes and Little Wyrley (cf. map 4).
- 6.4.3 The bishop was also responsible for the creation of Beaudesert deer park which existed from at least the early 14<sup>th</sup> century and which clearly dominated the landscape to the east of the District (cf. map 4). A possible hunting lodge survives as an earthwork within the Scheduled Castle Ring hillfort<sup>9</sup>. The parkland survived into the 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>10</sup>.
- 6.4.4 The post medieval landscape of the District was largely unchanged from the medieval period. However, documentary sources suggest that this was a period of substantial tree felling associated with increasing industrial activity which relied upon water power and charcoal for fuel (see 7.5 below). Associated with this activity is the increase in Squatter Enclosures as people were attracted to these remoter places by the resulting economic

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<sup>8</sup> Greenslade 1967: 342-3; Birrell 1990: 24 & 44

<sup>9</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00025

<sup>10</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01013

opportunities (see also 6.5 below). The other large scale change was the piecemeal enclosure of the arable open fields.

## **6.5 Settlement pattern**

6.5.1 Other than the two towns, Cannock and Rugeley, which are covered by the Extensive Urban Survey, the settlement pattern was predominantly one of scattered farmsteads and small hamlets. The historic farmstead survey identified 82 such complexes within the District (although over half have been demolished since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century). The form of the majority (83%) of these farmsteads suggests that they developed incrementally over a period of time. Consequently it is possible that many of these may have had medieval origins and could have been associated with some of the assarting episodes recorded above.

6.5.2 Squatter enclosure, which is generally associated with industrial activity such as 19<sup>th</sup> century coal mining, has been identified in a number of areas across the District (155ha) and it is a particularly sensitive landscape. Since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century over half of this extent has been lost. Slitting Mill appears to have originated as a squatter settlement from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards (see also 9.3 RHECZ 3 below).

## **7. Historic environment summary**

### **7.1 Prehistoric**

7.1.1 There has been little archaeological work been carried out upon the Prehistoric period within the District, consequently what is known is mostly from chance finds or through well known sites. Arguably the most significant Prehistoric site within the District is the Scheduled Monument, Castle Ring Hillfort, which survives as an earthwork to the south of Beaudesert Park and overlooks the landscapes to the south, towards Burntwood and east towards Lichfield<sup>11</sup>. Whilst it is likely to date to at least the Iron Age, other hill forts in the West Midlands region have been proven to have their origins in the Neolithic period. However, no substantive archaeological work has been carried out at Castle Ring to confirm whether there is evidence of earlier occupation here. However, a geophysical survey carried out in the 1980s identified the probable location of roundhouses within its interior<sup>12</sup>. The extent of the impact of the hill fort on the surrounding landscape is currently unknown, partly because the adjacent landscape is largely under plantation woodland. However, it is likely that the hillfort would have provided a cultural, economic and administrative focus serving a hinterland of dispersed settlement. Consequently, it is unlikely that the hillfort was constructed within a landscape of dense woodland.

7.1.2 Evidence for earlier human activity has been found within the District and the earliest site is a Mesolithic/Neolithic flint scatter discovered at Court Banks

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<sup>11</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00025; English Heritage: SM 21635

<sup>12</sup> English Heritage: Scheduling information (SM no. 21635); RCHME 1987-96

Covert between 1910 and 1917<sup>13</sup>. The site included at least 28 recognizable implements and has been interpreted as a flint knapping floor. This evidence suggests at least sporadic occupation within the District during this period. A number of other Neolithic/Bronze Age finds, comprising a flint scraper, two 'barbed and tanged' arrowheads, two axeheads and two flakes, have been discovered across the District and are testimony to a human presence at this period<sup>14</sup>. Unfortunately these finds do not significantly add to an understanding of how this landscape was being exploited during this period.

7.1.3 Eleven burnt mounds have been identified along several streams and rivers within the District. All but one lie to the north east towards Rugeley<sup>15</sup>. These features are generally dated to the Bronze Age and 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. One, and possibly two, burnt mounds have been discovered at Cannock Wood, approximately 300m to the south of Castle Ring<sup>16</sup>. This latter provides evidence of earlier activity in the vicinity of the hillfort.

7.1.4 Environmental data from across the West Midlands has provided an understanding of the development of the landscape of the region during the prehistoric period. The evidence suggests that it had mostly been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age, when some clearance may have begun to take place to support a small scale pastoral economy. The evidence for human activity which is known within the District appears to support the available environmental data.

## 7.2 Roman

7.2.1 The line of the Roman road of Watling Street crosses through the southern portion of the District on a roughly south east-north west alignment<sup>17</sup>. Within Staffordshire the road links the two Roman forts/settlements of *Letocetum* (Wall) in Lichfield District and *Pennocrucium* (south of Penkridge) in South Staffordshire District. However, little is otherwise known about the Roman period within the District other than unstratified findspots. These include five coins and four brooches found near Prospect Place, approximately 3.2km north east of Watling Street<sup>18</sup>. Two Roman coins and a bucket mount have also been found within the District<sup>19</sup>.

7.2.2 It is likely that there was a degree of continuity of activity from the Prehistoric to the Roman period, but the nature and extent for either period is currently poorly understood.

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<sup>13</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01007

<sup>14</sup> Staffordshire HER: Scraper PRN 00971; Barbed & tanged arrowheads PRN 01042 & PRN 01806; Axe heads PRN 01621 & PRN 04171; Flake PRN 01888

<sup>15</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRNs 00998, 01001, 01002, 04042, 04051, 04052, 04053, 04172, 04181, 04182 & 04183

<sup>16</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04053

<sup>17</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01140 & PRN 05153

<sup>18</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04297

<sup>19</sup> Staffordshire HER & Worrell 2007: 312-3



### 7.3 Early Medieval

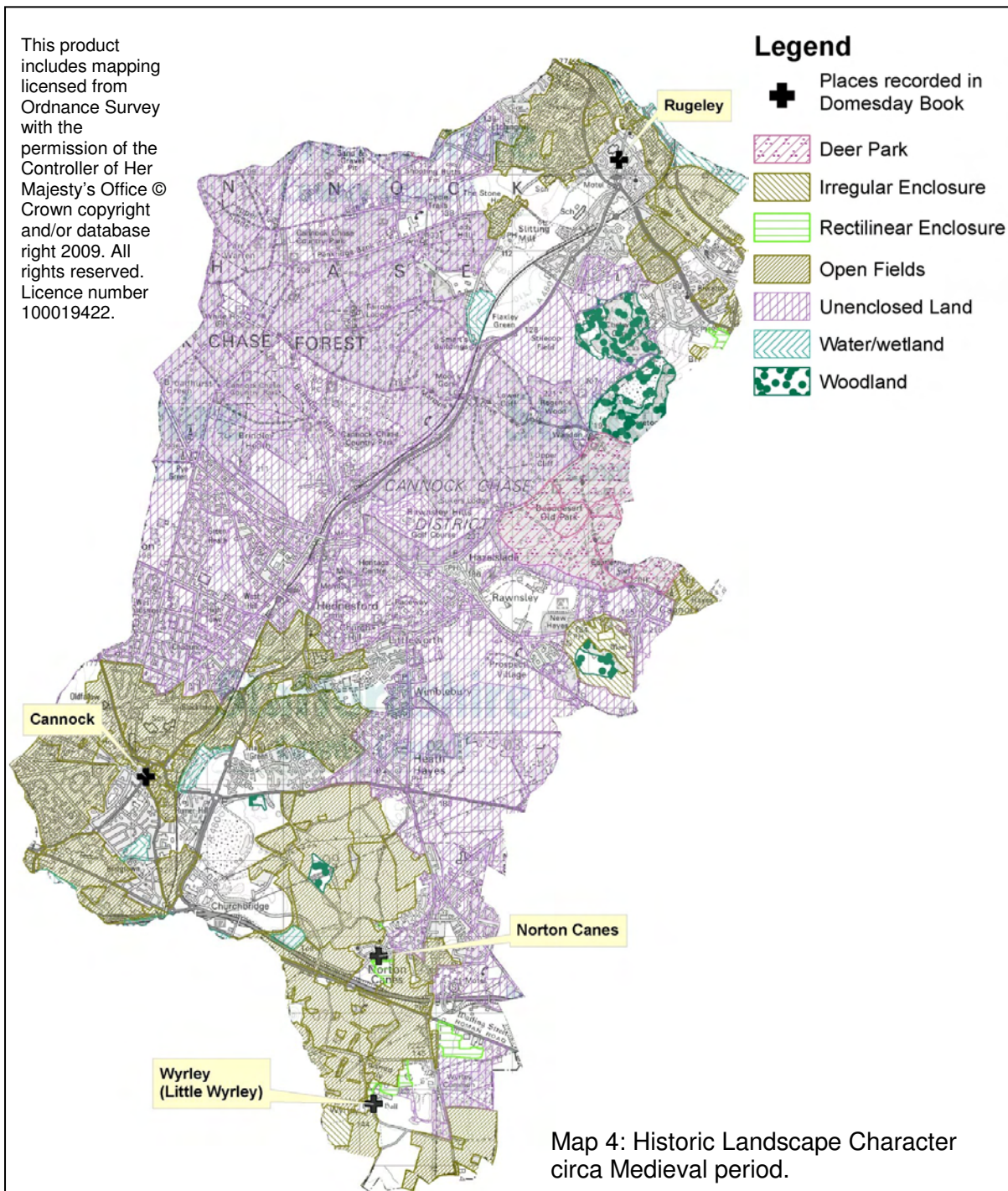
- 7.3.1 There is little recorded evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity within the District although this paucity may represent a largely aceramic society relying upon organic-based products rather than an absence of activity in this area.
- 7.2.2 Domesday Book (1086) provides an insight into the District in the late Saxon period (see also 6.2 above). Both of the manors, which had been held by Algar, the Earl of Mercia during Edward the Confessor's reign (1042 – 1066)<sup>20</sup>. Their economy included arable and woodland; at Rugeley there was also meadow perhaps lying to the north towards the Trent Valley<sup>21</sup> (see also map 4).

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<sup>20</sup> Morris 1976: Rugeley 1:22; Cannock 1:25

<sup>21</sup> Ibid

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Map 4: Historic Landscape Character circa Medieval period.

## 7.4 Medieval

7.4.1 Domesday Book (1086) appears to support the theory that much of Cannock Forest had existed prior to the Conquest as very few entries are to be found within the area now forming Cannock Chase District (cf. map 4). The two significant places recorded are Cannock and Rugeley both being held by the King at this date (see also 7.3 above). Two further places, Wyrley and Norton Canes are recorded together as forming part of the Bishop's Lichfield manor and are described as 'waste'. It has been argued that in this instance these places are 'waste' within Domesday Book because they had not changed

ownership since 1066 and consequently did not fulfil the requirements of the survey rather than having no income<sup>22</sup>.

- 7.4.2 A number of extant settlements appear to have their origins in the medieval period including Hednesford, Leacroft, Hagley and Brereton<sup>23</sup>. Hagley appears to have formed a separate manor from Rugeley since the 11<sup>th</sup> century and an extant moat indicates the site of the medieval manor house<sup>24</sup>. The sites of two moats, probably also associated with manor houses, are located adjacent to Norton Canes<sup>25</sup> (see 8.16 CHECZ 16 below for further detail).
- 7.4.3 At Redmoor/Radmore an abbey was established in 1141, but moved to Stoneleigh, Warwickshire in the early 1150s<sup>26</sup>. The precise location of the abbey is unknown, but it is believed to have stood near Courtbanks Covert, near Cannock Wood where a Scheduled moated site and bloomery survive<sup>27</sup>. The moat is believed to represent the site of a Royal Hunting Lodge which is mentioned in documentary records in 1156 and between 1162 until at least 1215<sup>28</sup>.
- 7.4.4 There are documentary references for industrial activity within the District from the medieval period including a coal mine held by the Bishops of Lichfield in Beaudesert Park in the 14<sup>th</sup> century<sup>29</sup>. Within the park there are the remains of numerous bell pits, from which coal and/or ironstone was extracted. These features have not been closely dated, but the origins of some of them may date to the medieval period and be associated with the industry recorded from the 14<sup>th</sup> century<sup>30</sup>.
- 7.4.5 There is a Scheduled site of a bloomery and a probable associated pond bay at Courtbanks Covert, which has not been dated. However, it is possible that it formed part of an iron working industry which appears to have been supported by the bishop in this area during the medieval period. Iron working is recorded within the District by the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century and there has been a suggestion that this may have been taking place within the bishop's manors of Cannock and Rugeley; a forge is specifically mentioned at Rugeley in 1298<sup>31</sup>. In 1990 further evidence of iron working was located in Beaudesert Park which has been suggested may be the site of a medieval or post medieval forge<sup>32</sup>.

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<sup>22</sup> Studd 2000: 130-1

<sup>23</sup> Horowitz 2005: 146, 290, 309 & 355

<sup>24</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01807

<sup>25</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01087 & 01088

<sup>26</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 50591

<sup>27</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRNs 0221 & 0222; English Heritage SM no. ST241

<sup>28</sup> Greenslade 1959a: 57

<sup>29</sup> Taylor 1967: 72

<sup>30</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRNs 20048, 20576, 20578 to 20580, 20584 to 20588, 20590 to 20595, 2097 to 20600, 20701 to 20703 & 20705

<sup>31</sup> Johnson 1967: 108

<sup>32</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04184

## 7.5 Post Medieval

- 7.5.1 The manors of Cannock and Rugeley, along with Beaudesert Park, passed to the Paget family following the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Paget's continued to support the growing industrial activity within the District and by the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century many of these sites had passed directly into their hands. Industrial activity appears to have intensified from this period onwards and it is probable that the mining sites mentioned under 7.4.3 date to this period. Other bell pits have been identified on aerial photographs around Rawsley and Prospect Village (see 8.9 CHECZ 9 below for further detail).
- 7.5.2 The known sites of probable Post medieval iron working, which required water power, are concentrated upon several brooks towards the north of the District; notably upon Rising Brook<sup>33</sup>. These industrial sites required substantial amounts of fuel, in the form of charcoal, and research into the likely location of woodland on the Chase during this period has been previously carried out<sup>34</sup>. Earthwork banks at Chetwynd's Coppice may date to the post medieval period and relate to previous woodland management associated with the industrial activity<sup>35</sup>.
- 7.5.3 The site of a slitting mill lying to the south west of Rugeley was possibly the earliest in the West Midlands<sup>36</sup> (see 9.3 RHECZ 3 for greater detail).

## 7.6 Industrial period

- 7.6.1 The greatest changes occurred during the 19<sup>th</sup> century when much of the Unenclosed Land was finally enclosed following three Acts of Parliament to enclose the landscape by a means of planned enclosure<sup>37</sup>. The Acts also enabled land owners to claim rights to the minerals found within the former chase notably the coal seams. From the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century there appears to have been a dramatic increase in the number of collieries across the District which was followed by settlement expansion particularly around Cannock and Hednesford, the latter developing as a coal mining town.
- 7.6.2 The expansion of industry during the 19<sup>th</sup> century was closely connected with the development of transportation in the form of canals and railways. Many tramways and mineral railways were also constructed criss-crossing the District linking the collieries to the Wyrley & Essington Canal and the mainline railways.

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<sup>33</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRNs 00999, 01003, 01010 & 01011

<sup>34</sup> Welch 2000: 17-73

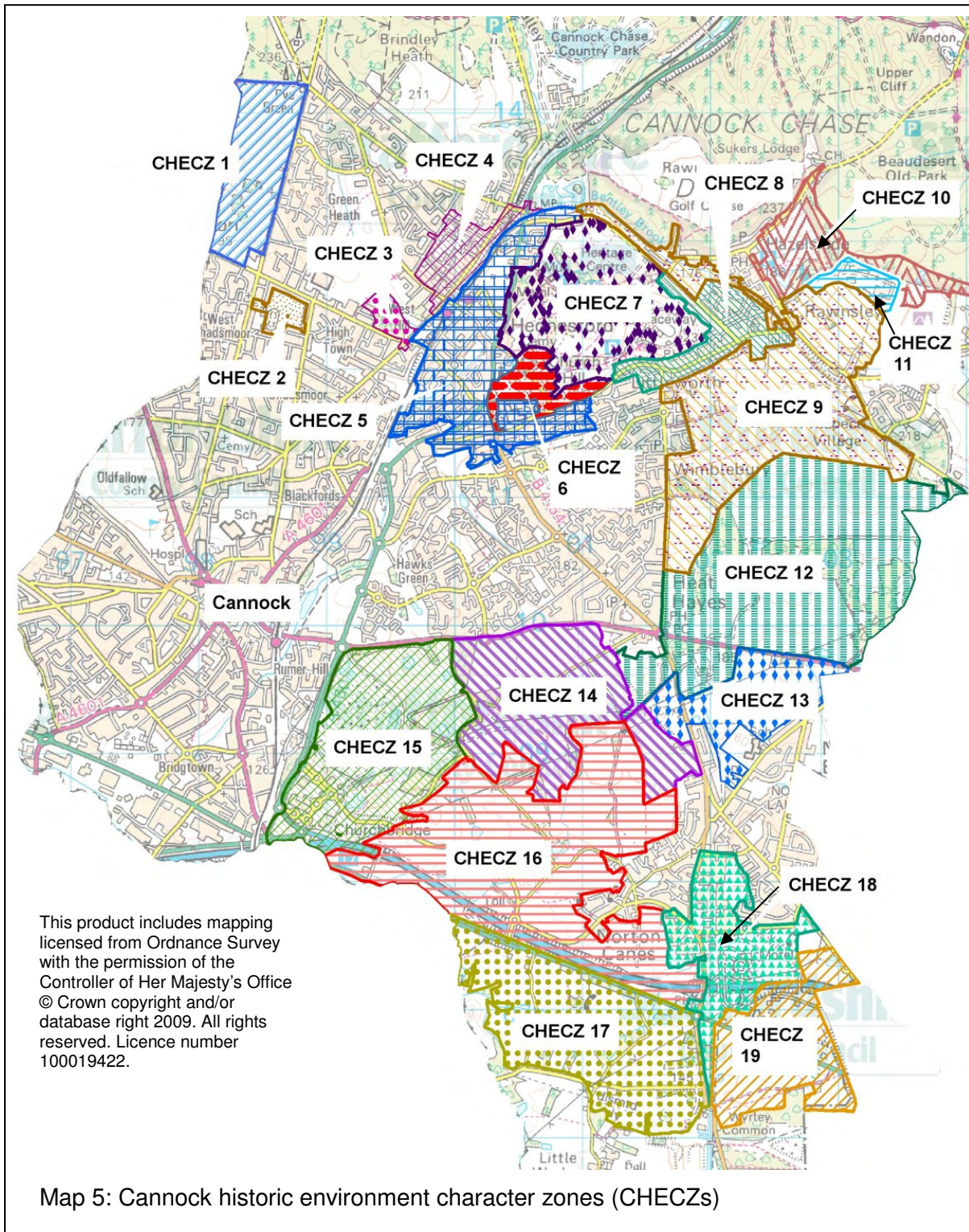
<sup>35</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 53376, 53387 & 53397

<sup>36</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04985

<sup>37</sup> Cannock 1868 (SRO Q/RDc 103); Norton Canes 1870 (SRO Q/RDc104) & Rugeley 1885 (SRO Q/RDc 105)



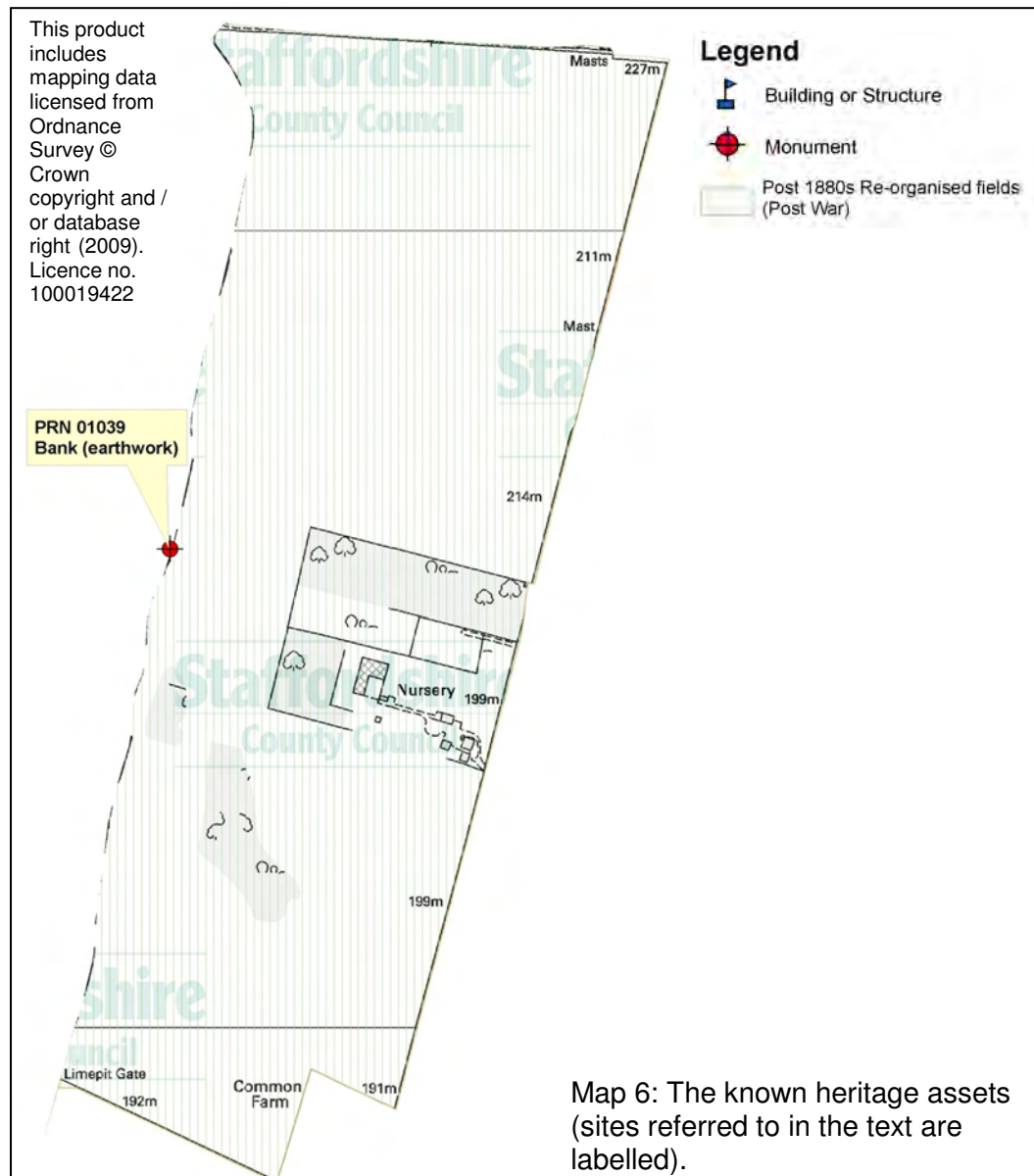
## 8. Cannock project area



## 8.1 CHECZ 1 – West of Pye Green

### 8.1.1 Summary on the historic environment

The zone comprises a very large field, as depicted on map 6, which was created during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century through the removal of earlier internal boundaries. The field system was originally created as planned enclosure following an Act of Parliament to enclose (1868). Prior to this period the landscape had been dominated by heath land which had formed part of Cannock Chase. The nursery and its surrounding boundary also post date the Second World War.



Of particular significance is the remains of a bank which follows the western boundary of the zone<sup>38</sup>. This feature is contiguous with the parish boundary between Huntington and Cannock. It is therefore possible that this bank was constructed in

<sup>38</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01039

the medieval or post medieval period to physically demarcate the parish bounds or the extent of the medieval manor of Cannock.

### 8.1.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has seen moderate disturbance from agricultural practices, although the earthwork bank was surviving in 2000.	2
Potential	There are limited known heritage assets although this is likely to be the result of lack of investigation rather than poor preservation.	2
Documentation	HER data and one historic source.	1
Diversity	The only known heritage asset relates to the earthwork bank.	1
Group Association	There appears to be an historic association between the earthwork bank and the line of the parish boundary.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The historic environment of the zone could accommodate medium to large scale development although care should be taken to retain the earthwork bank.	1
<b>Overall Score</b>		<b>Low</b>

### 8.1.3 Statement of Significance

The earthwork bank is of local/regional importance.

The low score suggests that development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment. However, there would be a need to address the following issues at an early stage in the development process:

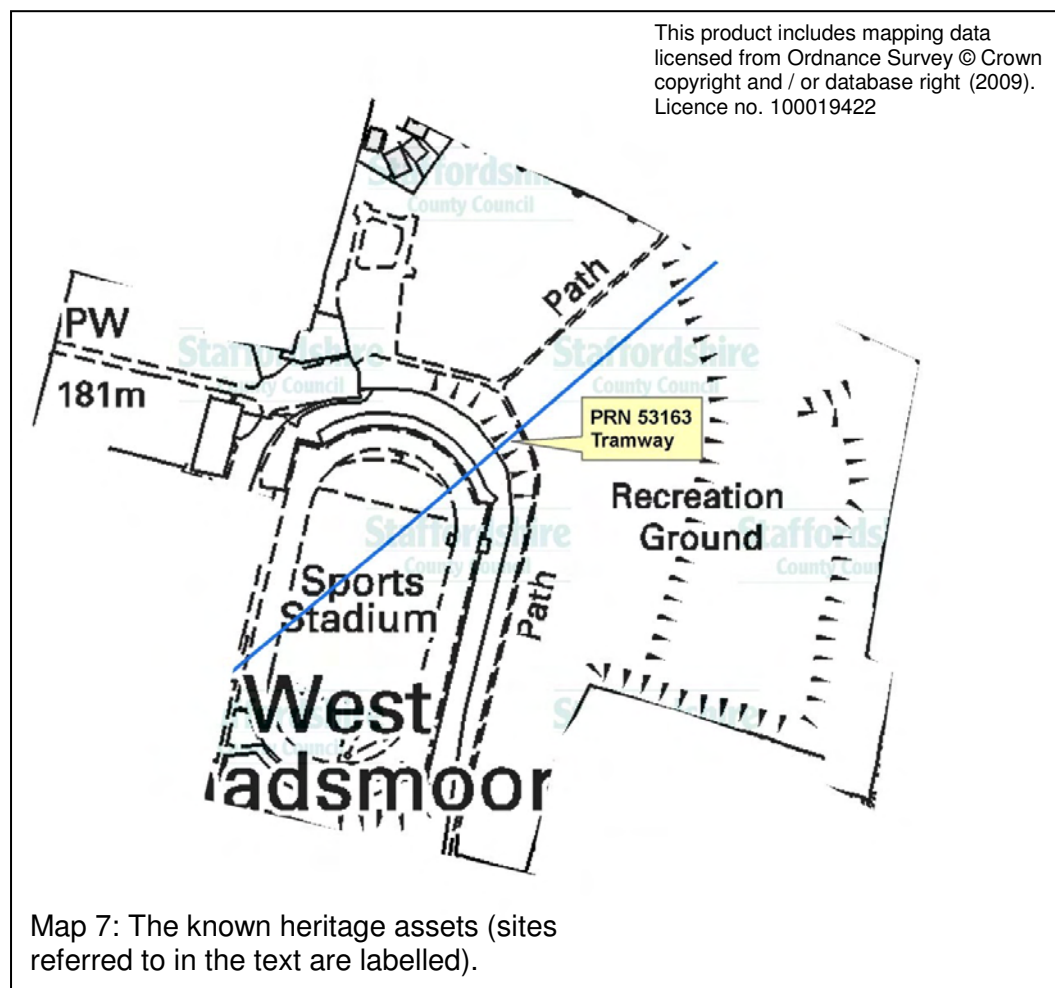
- The impact upon and retention of the earthwork bank.
- The potential for further surviving archaeological features can be decided upon a site-by-site basis and where deemed appropriate an archaeological condition will be attached to any resulting planning permission.



## 8.2 CHECZ 2 – Recreation Ground, West Chadsmoor

### 8.2.1 Summary on the historic environment

The zone comprises a recreation ground and sports stadium which were established during the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century when West Chadsmoor was being developed. It had originally formed part of a field system which had been created as planned enclosure following an Act of Parliament to enclose (1868). By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a tramway<sup>39</sup> had been established to connect the West Cannock Colliery to Huntington Wharf at the junction of the Stafford and Cemetery Roads (see map 7). The tramway crossed the zone on an approximate north east-south west alignment and it appears to have been dismantled by circa 1938<sup>40</sup>.



Prior to the enclosure of the field system the landscape had been dominated by heath land which had formed part of Cannock Chase.

<sup>39</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 53436

<sup>40</sup> Fourth Edition 6" OS map (1938)



### 8.2.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

Survival	The eastern half of the zone has seen little disturbance from development, but to the west a Sports Stadium has been developed.	2
Potential	The line of the tramway represents the only known heritage asset. Little archaeological or historic work has been carried out and therefore there is some potential for survival of unknown archaeological features.	2
Documentation	HER data and one historic source	1
Diversity	The tramway is the only known heritage asset.	1
Group Association	There are too few heritage assets to establish any associations.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The historic environment of the zone could accommodate medium to large scale development although there may be a requirement to establish whether the line of the tramway survives within the zone above or below ground.	1
<b>Overall Score</b>		<b>Low</b>

### 8.2.3 Statement of Significance

The low score suggests that development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment. However, there would be a need to address the following issues at an early stage in the development process:

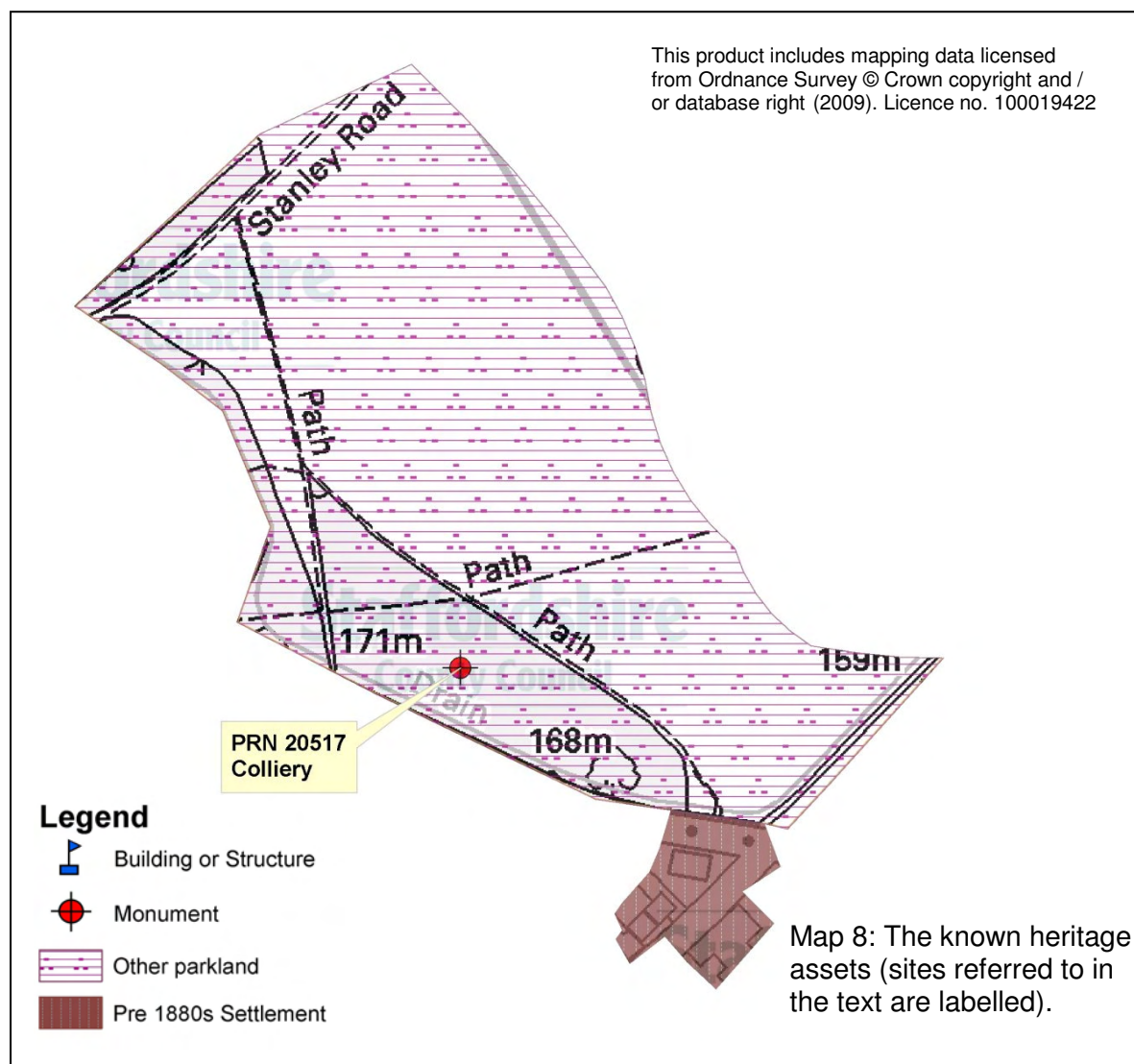
- The potential for surviving archaeological features can be decided upon a site-by-site basis and where deemed appropriate an archaeological condition will be attached to any resulting planning permission.

### 8.3 CHECZ 3 – Pye Green Valley

#### 8.3.1 Summary on the historic environment

The zone had formed part of the West Cannock Colliery, with Pit no. 3 opening circa 1870 as shown on map 8<sup>41</sup>. Along with the buildings and the coal pit itself there was also a tramway (not shown on map 8), which ran from two further pits, to the north west, which connected to the surviving main line railway to the east. The pit had closed by 1949, but the spoil tips associated with the former workings were extant on an aerial photography taken in 1963. However, since that time it appears that the spoil heaps have been levelled to provide grassland.

Prior to the establishment of the colliery the landscape had been dominated by heath land which had formed part of Cannock Chase. The current landscape is currently utilised as parkland as shown on map 8.



<sup>41</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20517

### 8.3.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has been disturbed by the colliery and the later re-levelling works.	1
Potential	The potential for below ground deposits to survive has been significantly reduced by the colliery. It is not clear to what extent features associated with the colliery, such as the line of the tramway, may survive.	1
Documentation	HER data and one historic source.	1
Diversity	There are few known heritage assets.	1
Group Association	There are few known heritage assets.	
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The historic environment of the zone could accommodate medium to large scale development although there may be a requirement to establish whether the line of the tramway survives within the zone above or below ground.	1
<b>Overall Score</b>		<b>Low</b>

### 8.3.3 Statement of Significance

The low score suggests that development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment. However, there would be a need to address the following issues at an early stage in the development process:

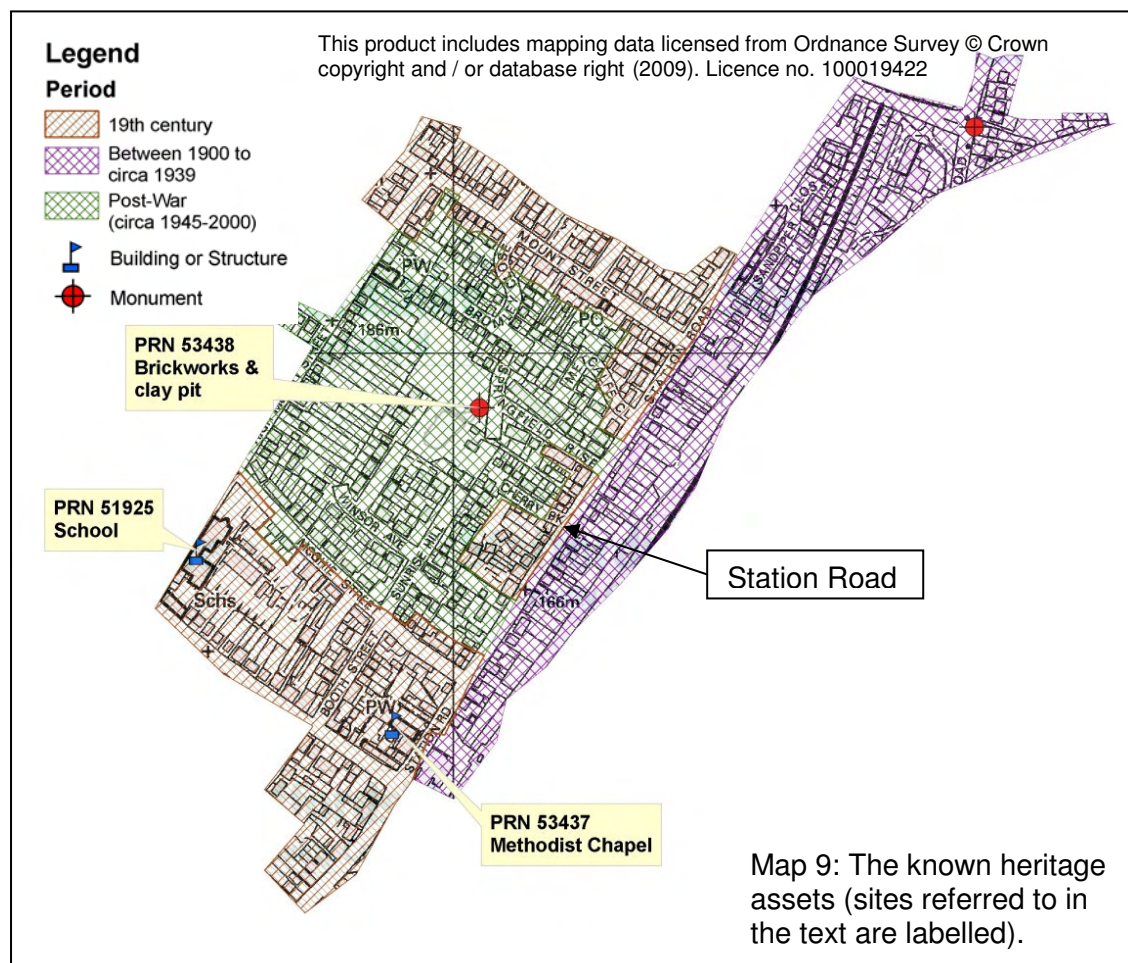
- The impact upon any surviving remains of the colliery or tramway and a strategy for the retention of features or any other appropriate mitigation as agreed with SCC's Cultural Environment Team.

## 8.4 CHECZ 4 – Station Road & environs, West Hill

### 8.4.1 Summary on the historic environment

The zone is dominated by housing of various dates as indicated by map 9. The earliest housing probably survives on Mount Street and dates from the 1870s. These properties were built to house workers involved in the local coal mining industry<sup>42</sup>. There are other surviving buildings of a similar period: West Hill Primary School (circa 1876) and St John's Chapel (1873) with the later brick-built Sunday School to the rear<sup>43</sup>. A further two chapels, now demolished, were also constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Settlement within the zone continued to expand rapidly and by circa 1880 the whole of the west side of Station Road had been developed as had most of Mount Street and McGhie Street, although the latter was later extended. The map shows the areas where the majority of the earlier buildings survive, although there has been infilling and re-building during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, within the areas of Post 1880s Settlement there are surviving buildings of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century date particularly along Station Road, which all contribute to the character of the zone.



<sup>42</sup> Hunt 2005: 25

<sup>43</sup> Greenslade 1959a: 69 and 70; Staffordshire HER: PRN 53437

The remaining houses, between Station Road, McGhie Street and Mount Street, date to the post-war period and were built upon paddocks and a former brick works<sup>44</sup>. The pond off Mill Pond Rise is the remains of the clay quarry which supplied the brickworks, which in turn had presumably supplied the bricks to build the surrounding houses. The brickworks had ceased operating by circa 1900<sup>45</sup>.

The development of West Hill had probably been stimulated by the passing of an Act of Parliament in 1868 to enclose the heath land within the area. It is likely that the Act was required to establish the rights to the land and in consequence to the coal field. It is clear that the mining settlement at West Hill was planned rather than developing as Squatter Settlements as appears to have occurred near Rugeley (see Section 9.5 RHECZ 5 Stilecop Field below).

The previous heath land had been established by at least the medieval period, when it formed part of Cannock Forest, but its origins are likely to be earlier and possibly even prehistoric.

#### 8.4.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has been disturbed by development, although historic buildings associated with the original mining settlement survive including the chapel and houses all of which have heritage value.	2
Potential	There is probably little potential for below ground archaeology to survive due to the intensive development during the 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries.	1
Documentation	HER data and two historic sources	2
Diversity	There are a range of heritage assets, from the built environment to the earthwork remains of the clay pit which all contribute to our understanding of the zone.	2
Group Association	There are likely associations between the surviving clay pit and the earliest of the buildings as it seems probable that many of the bricks in these properties came from the local brickworks.	2
Amenity Value	The historic environment could help to define a sense of place for the local communities in understanding how the settlement developed.	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	Medium to large scale re-development of this zone is likely to have at least a moderate impact upon the historic character of the zone particularly where this may result in the demolition of surviving historic buildings.	2
<b>Overall Score</b>		<b>Moderate</b>

<sup>44</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 53438

<sup>45</sup> Second Edition 6" OS map

#### *8.4.3 Statement of Significance*

The heritage assets within the zone mostly relate to the built environment and date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. They were constructed to house and service a new community which was attracted to the area by the local coal mining industry. The surviving houses, school and chapel are all part of the story of the development of this industry and consequently are of at least local importance through their contribution to the historic character of this landscape. The clay pit is also part of the history of West Hill and is also of local importance.

The moderate score suggests that development is likely to have an impact upon the historic environment, particularly regarding the local importance of the surviving historic buildings. Consequently there would be a need to address the following issues at an early stage in the development process:

- The retention and enhancement of the surviving historic buildings.
- The retention of the clay pit which is now water filled and is likely to also provide biodiversity opportunities within an area that is otherwise dominated by the built environment.

## **8.5 CHECZ 5 – Hednesford suburbs & Market Street**

### *8.5.1 Summary on the historic environment*

Map 10 reveals that the zone is dominated by housing estates which mostly date to the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and appear to have been largely constructed upon field systems. The earliest known building within the zone is the Grade II Listed Cross Keys Farmhouse, which probably dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and lies to the south of the zone<sup>46</sup>. It probably formed part of the original settlement of Hednesford (see CHECZ 6) along with the early 18<sup>th</sup> century Grade II Listed Prospect House<sup>47</sup>. The Grade II Anglesey Hotel, to the north of the zone, was built in 1831 by Edmund Peel (the third son of Sir Robert Peel of Drayton Manor, near Fazeley, Staffordshire)<sup>48</sup>. Edmund Peel had racehorses trained on the Hednesford Hills and the property was built as a summer house. It was converted into a hotel between 1860 and 1868 by which time Market Street was in the process of being developed as Hednesford's town centre<sup>49</sup>. This area is depicted as an area of 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement on map 10 and many 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings survive, particularly on the northern side. The former South Staffordshire Territorial Army Drill Hall, built in 1894, also survives on Victoria Street<sup>50</sup>.

The site of the large Hednesford Pool lies to the north of the zone, where Hednesford Park is now located. The Pool was marked on Yates' map of Staffordshire (1775) and was known to have been in existence by 1583 and may have powered a furnace in the 16<sup>th</sup> century<sup>51</sup>.

There are no known colliery sites within the zone, although lines of mineral railways crossed to the north and south<sup>52</sup>. These former railways linked the Cannock Chase collieries with the surviving mainline railway which crosses the western part of the zone on a north-south alignment.

The earliest evidence for human activity within the zone is a possible Neolithic/Bronze Age axe head which was found on the Rawnsley Road in 1969, although this is likely to represent casual loss rather than a specific site.

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<sup>46</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 09352 & PRN 52555

<sup>47</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 52555

<sup>48</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 09356

<sup>49</sup> Greenslade 1959a: 49 and 53

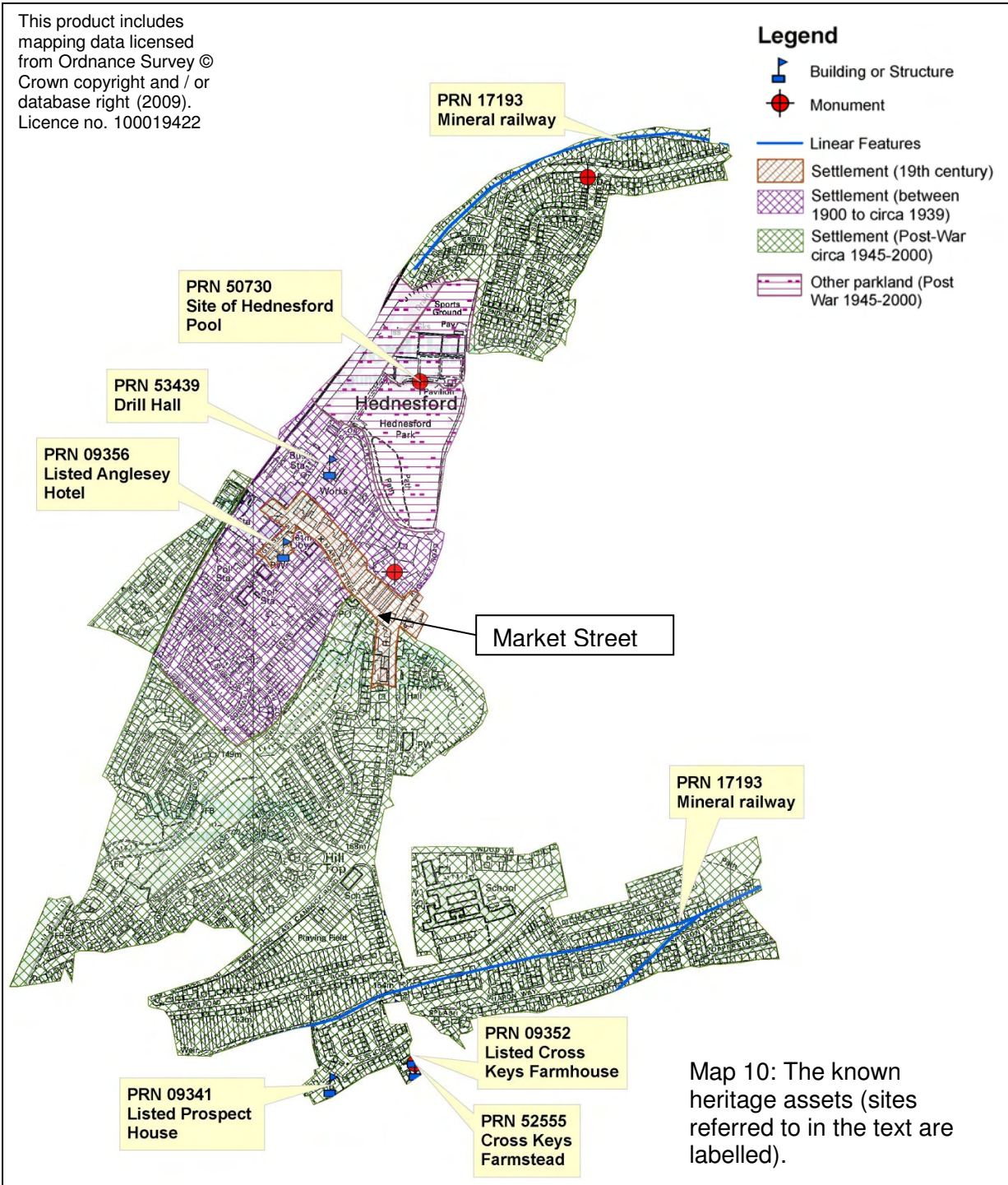
<sup>50</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 53439

<sup>51</sup> Johnson 1967: 111 n.45

<sup>52</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN MST17193



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### 8.5.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has been disturbed by development, although historic buildings survive along Market Street which contribute to an understanding of the development of Hednesford from the late 19 <sup>th</sup> century and complement CHECZ 4.	2
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Potential	There is probably little potential for below ground archaeology to survive due to the intensive development during the 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries. However, Hednesford Park (the former Hednesford Pool) has seen little development and there is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive.	1
Documentation	HER data and two historic sources	2
Diversity	There are few known heritage assets across the wider zone, although historic buildings including one Grade II Listed building survive along Market Street.	1
Group Association	Many of the buildings along Market Street are of a similar period, but otherwise there are few known heritage assets.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment within the zone does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction although individual buildings around Market Street may contribute to a sense of place.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	Medium to large-scale development would have at least a moderate impact upon the historic environment of the zone. Impacts upon the historic buildings, particularly the Listed Building, would need to be taken into account.	2
<b>Overall Score</b>		<b>Low/moderate</b>

### 8.5.3 Statement of Significance

The heritage assets within the zone mostly relate to the built environment around Market Street and date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the exception of the Grade II Listed Anglesey Hotel (1831), which has been recognised as being of National importance. The remaining historic buildings, which include the former Drill Hall, are all part of the story of the development of Hednesford and are consequently of local importance through their contribution to the historic character of this landscape.

Part of the zone falls within the Hednesford Town Centre Regeneration area.

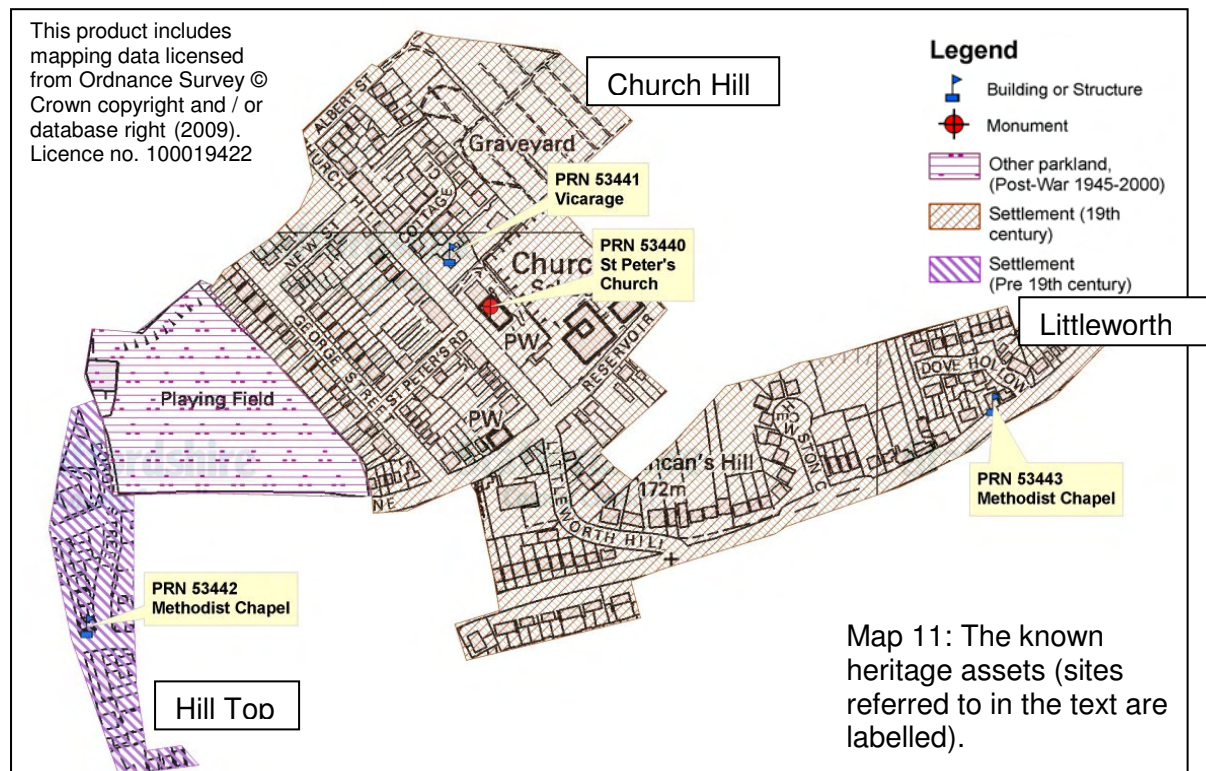
The low/moderate score suggests that development may have at least a marginal impact upon the historic environment. Consequently there would be a need to address the following issues at an early stage in the development process:

- The retention and enhancement of the surviving historic buildings.
- Early consultation with CCDC's Conservation Officer regarding potential impacts upon the Grade II Listed building.
- The potential for further surviving archaeological features can be decided upon a site-by-site basis and where deemed appropriate an archaeological condition will be attached to any resulting planning permission.

## 8.6 CHECZ 6 – Hill Top, Church Hill and Littleworth

### 8.6.1 Summary on the historic environment

The zone is dominated by the built environment and comprises what appears to have been three separate settlements; Hill Top, Church Hill and Littleworth. By the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the three settlements had coalesced. The three settlements clearly originated at different periods. There appears to have been an organic development to both Hill Top and Littleworth with properties developing along the pre-existing lanes, which suggests early origins. Settlement at Church Hill was clearly planned with streets having been laid out to form a grid pattern during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Hill Top to the west of the zone had probably formed part of the original settlement of Hednesford shown on map 11 as pre 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement. The earliest documents referencing Hednesford date to the medieval period and a message, usually associated with a domestic building, is recorded in 1362<sup>53</sup>. A hearth tax taken in 1666 identified 53 households in Hednesford suggesting a sizable community by the 17<sup>th</sup> century<sup>54</sup>. It is possible that settlement growth may have been stimulated in part by the neighbouring iron working industry (see CHECZ 5 above). It is likely that some of these households were located at Hill Top by this period. A number of historic buildings survive along Uxbridge Street and Hill Street including a Methodist Chapel built in 1890. However re-development and the infilling of previously vacant plots during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has had an impact upon the earlier historic character of the settlement.

<sup>53</sup> Greenslade 1959a: 57

<sup>54</sup> Hunt 2005: 8-9

Pre-19<sup>th</sup> century properties were said to survive in Littleworth in the late 1950s<sup>55</sup>, which perhaps confirms the theory that this settlement had earlier origins than can be currently accounted for. A number of cottages and one larger detached property survive along Littleworth Lane, although the date of these properties is currently unknown. Further along this lane is the former Primitive Methodist Chapel which was built in 1852<sup>56</sup>. As at Hill Top re-development and infilling has occurred during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Church Hill was developed from the 1870s onwards upon a planned street system comprising Church Hill, New Street, George Street, Albert Street and St Peter's Road<sup>57</sup>. The only 19<sup>th</sup> century terraced houses to survive are located upon Church Hill. The other 19<sup>th</sup> century roads have all been re-developed during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The only other late 19<sup>th</sup> century property to survive is the old vicarage which was constructed in 1872 to serve St Peter's Church<sup>58</sup>. The church was originally built in the 1860s, but was demolished due to subsidence in 1985<sup>59</sup>. However, the chancel wall and other fragments of the old church have been incorporated into the new building.

### 8.6.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has been disturbed by development, although historic buildings survive in each of the three settlements. At Church Hill the planned street pattern also survives.	2
Potential	There is probably little potential for below ground archaeology to survive due to the intensive development during the 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries. However, the potential for below ground archaeology will be assessed on a site-by-site basis.	1
Documentation	HER data; two historic sources	2
Diversity	There are few known heritage assets across the wider zone, although historic buildings survive.	1
Group Association	The historic buildings are likely to be of a similar period across the three settlements. There are social associations between the houses, the presence of the two chapels and the coal mining industry.	2

<sup>55</sup> Greenslade 1959: 49

<sup>56</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 53443

<sup>57</sup> Hunt 2005: 25

<sup>58</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 53441

<sup>59</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 53440

Amenity Value	The historic environment within the zone does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction although the surviving historic buildings contribute to a sense of place.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The zone could accommodate medium or large scale development/re-development, although the surviving historic buildings may suffer adverse effects.	1
<b>Overall Score</b>		<b>Low/moderate</b>

### 8.6.3 Statement of Significance

The heritage assets within the zone relate to the built environment at Hill Top, Church Hill and Littleworth which date to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The regular street pattern at Church Hill, which was constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, also survives. The surviving historic buildings, although scattered across the zone, all form part of the story of the development of Hednesford and consequently are of local importance through their contribution to the historic character of this landscape.

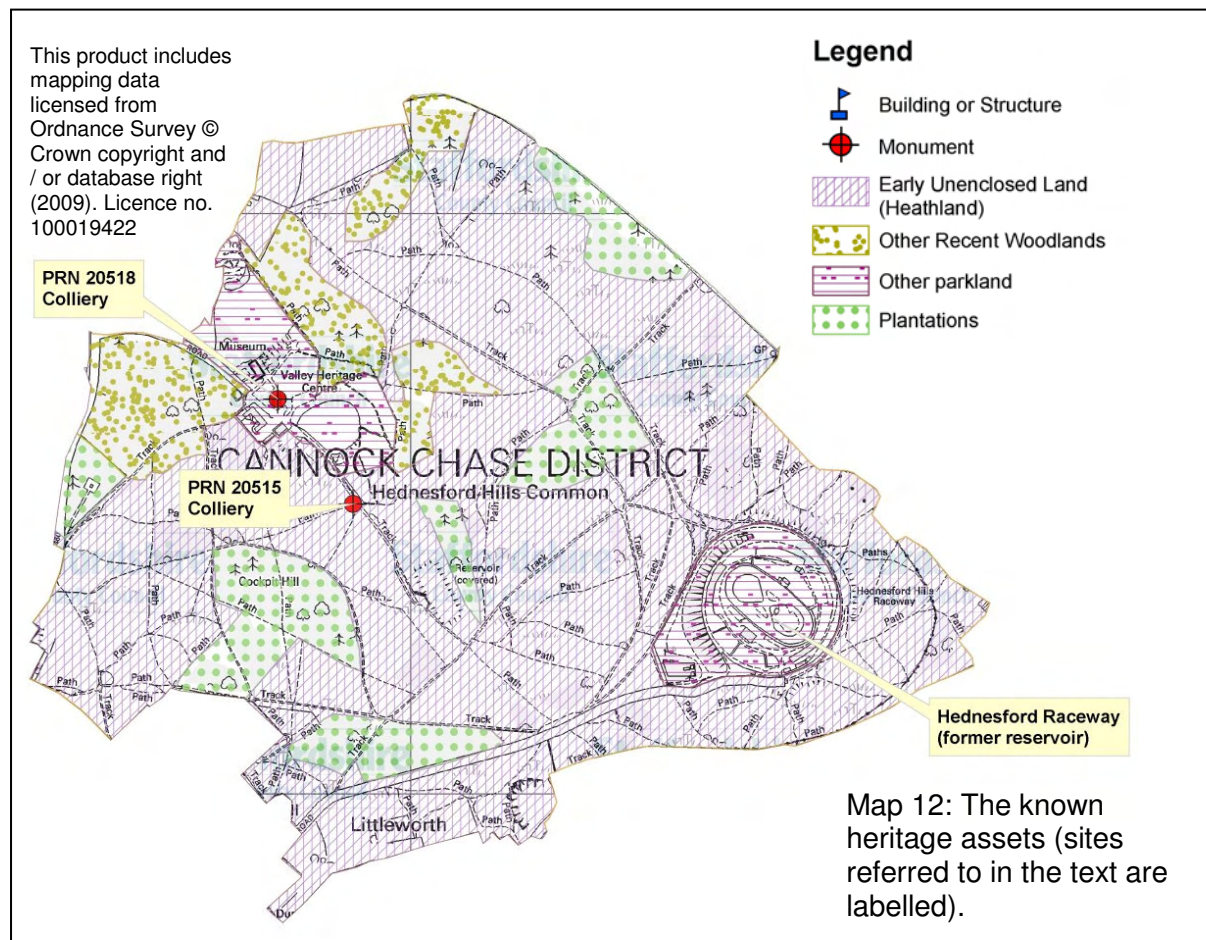
The low/moderate score suggests that development may have at least a marginal impact upon the historic environment. Consequently there would be a need to address the following issues at an early stage in the development process:

- The retention and enhancement of the surviving historic buildings.
- The potential for further surviving archaeological features can be decided upon a site-by-site basis and where deemed appropriate an archaeological condition will be attached to any resulting planning permission.

## 8.7 CHECZ 7 – Hednesford Hills Common

### 8.7.1 Summary on the historic environment

Map 12 reveals that the historic landscape of the zone is dominated by a mosaic of woodland and heath land, which is likely to have been characteristic of the wider Cannock Forest during the medieval period. However, the woodland has largely been established during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although the heath land is probably of medieval origin. From at least the late 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards race horses were trained upon the Hednesford Hills<sup>60</sup>. There is a brief reference to there having been a Hednesford Race Course during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>61</sup>, although its precise location is unknown. The heathland is an area of Common.



In 1876 the Cannock and Rugeley Colliery Company established a colliery within the zone along what is now Valley Road<sup>62</sup>. The colliery was still active in the 1930s, being marked upon the Fourth Edition 6" OS map. Part of the site has been re-developed for business units and the Cannock Chase Museum.

By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century a large circular reservoir had been established the South Staffordshire Water Works to the south west of the zone. The reservoir was no

<sup>60</sup> Hunt 2005: 92

<sup>61</sup> Hunt 2005: 94

<sup>62</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20515

longer being used by the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century and by the early 1960s it had been adapted as the Hednesford Raceway<sup>63</sup>.

### 8.7.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone contains little disturbance with much of the landscape originating in at least the medieval period. However, there are currently few known heritage assets.	2
Potential	The lack of disturbance across much of this zone suggests that there is the potential for both below and above ground archaeological features to survive.	3
Documentation	HER data and one historic source.	1
Diversity	There are very few known heritage assets.	1
Group Association	The zone contains few known heritage assets of are related or of a similar date.	1
Amenity Value	The historic landscape character contributes greatly to the sense of place within the Hednesford Hills and it is already an important element in the provision of public amenity within the District.	3
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The historic landscape character of the zone would be highly sensitive to development of any degree.	3
<b>Overall Score</b>		<b>Moderate</b>

### 8.7.3 Statement of Significance

There are few known heritage assets within the zone, although this is likely to be due to a lack of investigation rather than poor preservation. The historic landscape character, in particular, is highly sensitive to change.

The moderate score merely reflects the fact that there are few known heritage assets across the zone. However, there is a high potential for heritage assets to survive and the historic landscape character, being of medieval origin, is also of regional importance. Development would have a negative impact upon the distinctiveness of this landscape.

Decisions on change within the zone, including improvements to public amenity/biodiversity/landscape character, should take into account the following historic environment issues:

- The potential for surviving above and below ground archaeological deposits and the consequent need for mitigation. It is recommended that the Cultural Heritage Team at SCC be contacted at an early stage in any plans.

<sup>63</sup> Greenslade 1959a: 52

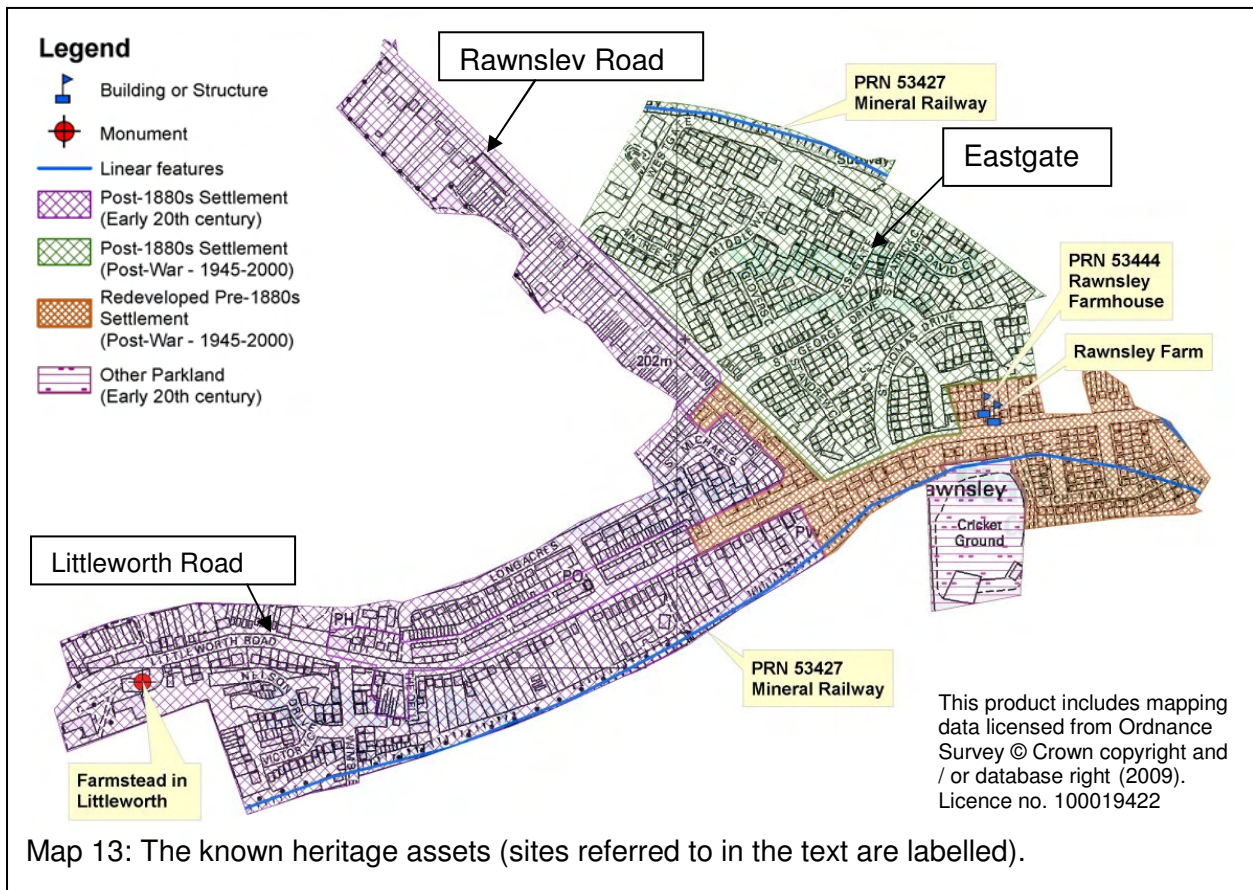


## 8.8 CHECZ 8 – Rawnsley

### 8.8.1 Summary on the historic environment

The zone is dominated by the built environment with the exception of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century cricket ground which lies on the southern side of Littleworth Road. Map 13 reveals the broad periods of origin of the current housing stock within the zone.

From at least the medieval period the zone had formed part of the Hednesford Hills heath land. This landscape was mostly enclosed by surveyors following the 1868 Act of Enclosure with the exception of an area to the east of the zone around Rawnsley Farm on Littleworth Road. This area was recorded in 1868 as being “Old Enclosure” but its precise origins are currently unknown. However, this suggests that the extant Rawnsley Farm has at least early 19<sup>th</sup> century origins. Its historic plan form suggests that it originated as a small farmstead or squatter’s cottage where the inhabitants are likely to have combined farming with small-scale industrial activities. Other extant 19<sup>th</sup> century properties, now surrounded by later 20<sup>th</sup> century housing, include Trafalgar Inn and numbers 341, 600 and 602 Littleworth Road.



By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement at Rawnsley concentrated upon the Littleworth Road/Rawnsley Road junction, although all of these properties were re-developed in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (an area of Redeveloped Pre-1880s Settlement on map 13). The first concerted development episode occurred during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century where terraced housing was constructed along almost the entire length of the northern side of the Littleworth Road as far as Rawnsley Road as well as along the western side of the latter (the area of early 20<sup>th</sup> century settlement on map 13).

The early 20<sup>th</sup> century terraces in this area largely survive. The next stages of development occurred during the post war period where a new estate was created to the east of Rawnsley Road and north of Eastgate. The remaining housing, to the south of Eastgate and at Chetwynd Park to the south of Littleworth Road, date to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The latter has been constructed upon the site of a large industrial works, which had probably had its origins in at least the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A railway was constructed, the line of which survives along the southern edge of the zone, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>64</sup>. It connected the disparate collieries of the area to both the Norton Branch of the London and North Western railway and the Cannock Extension of the Wyrley and Essington Canal at Hawks Green<sup>65</sup>.

### 8.8.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has been disturbed by development. However, historic buildings do survive within the zone including the 19 <sup>th</sup> and early 20 <sup>th</sup> century properties which make a positive contribution to the local character of the wider area.	1
Potential	There is probably little potential for below ground archaeology to survive due to the intensive development during the 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries. However, the potential for below ground archaeology will be assessed on a site-by-site basis.	1
Documentation	HER data; one historic source.	1
Diversity	There are a number of heritage assets including the terraced housing, the former farmstead and the earthwork remains of the former railway.	2
Group Association	The survival of the houses and the line of the railway have associations which contribute to an understanding of the development of this area in the 19 <sup>th</sup> and early 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries.	2
Amenity Value	The historic environment within the zone does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction although the surviving historic buildings may contribute to a sense of place.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The zone could accommodate medium or large scale development/re-development. However, the surviving historic buildings may suffer adverse effects which could in turn erode the local distinctiveness of the zone.	1
<b>Overall Score</b>		<b>Low</b>

<sup>64</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 53427

<sup>65</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRNs 20508 and 02225



### *8.8.3 Statement of Significance*

The heritage assets within the zone mostly relate to the surviving historic built environment across the zone which date from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The line of one of the 19<sup>th</sup> century colliery railways also survives as a legible feature within the local landscape. The historic buildings and the railway contribute to an understanding of the historic character of the zone and as such are of local importance.

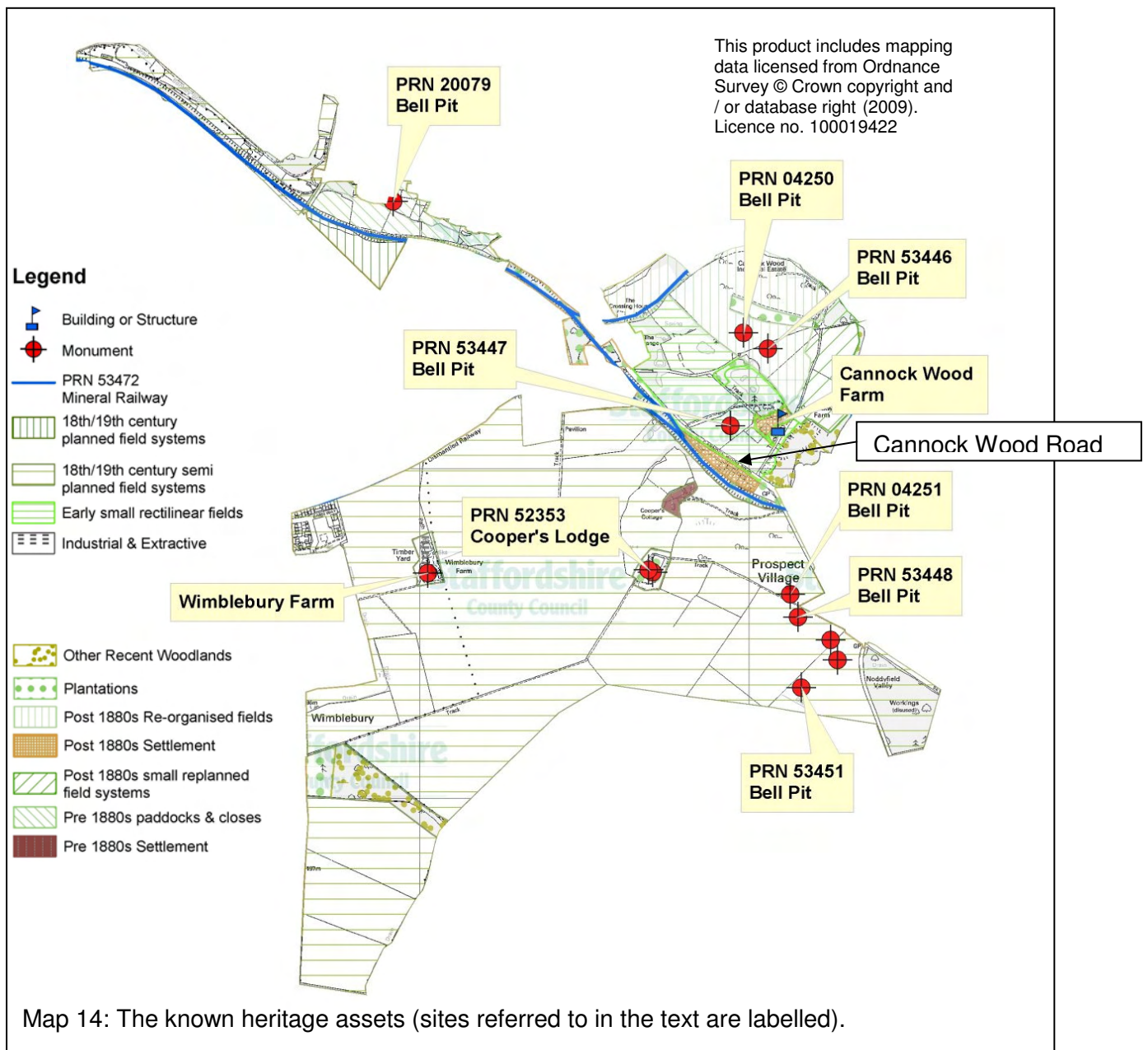
The low score suggests that development/re-development will not have a significant impact upon the historic environment generally although there is the potential for negative impacts upon the surviving historic buildings and the line of the former railway. Consequently there would be a need to address the following issues at an early stage in the development process:

- The retention and enhancement of the surviving historic buildings.
- The retention of the line of the railway as a landscape feature.
- The potential for further surviving archaeological features can be decided upon a site-by-site basis and where deemed appropriate an archaeological condition will be attached to any resulting planning permission.

## 8.9 CHECZ 9 – Between Rawsley & Wimblebury

### 8.9.1 Summary on the historic environment

From at least the medieval period the zone had formed part of Cannock Forest. The historic landscape character of the zone is currently dominated by field systems with distinct origins. The fields to the south of Cannock Wood Road and to the north west, along the Bentley Brook, were planned out by surveyors following the 1868 Act to enclose the heath land (the areas of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century semi planned enclosure and 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosure on map 14). The planned nature of the field system, with its straight field boundaries, remains legible within the landscape although a certain number of internal boundaries have been removed during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



However, the area to the north of Cannock Wood Road (around Cannock Wood Farm on map 14) appears to coincide with New Hay, an area of enclosed land within the forest which was not included under the 1868 Act. The precise origins of New Hay are not known, but the surviving historic landscape character suggests an earlier period of enclosure than that in the rest of the zone (being an area including 'Other early small rectilinear fields' as depicted upon map 14). It was certainly present by the late 17<sup>th</sup> century when Queen Elizabeth leased out the coal mines of both New Hay and Red Moor to Gilbert Wakering<sup>66</sup>. Evidence for early coal mining has been identified as bell pits on aerial photographs in three areas across the zone<sup>67</sup>. It is possible that these features may be associated with the coal mining recorded in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Further field investigation may clarify their origins. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century a number of field boundaries have been removed, but the overall historic character endures.

Three historic farmsteads have been identified within the zone. Of these only Cannock Wood Farm still stands in its historic form surrounded by the early enclosure of New Hay. It is a large farmstead but its linear plan form with an in-line farmhouse, suggests that it may have expanded from an original small complex, where the occupiers may have enhanced their economic situation by combining farming with some other industrial work.<sup>68</sup> It is therefore possible that this farmstead was also associated with the small scale coal mining which was occurring by at least the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The other two farmsteads stood within the post 1868 enclosed landscape to the south of Cannock Wood Road; the site of Wimblebury Farm survives although it does not appear that any historic buildings survive. Its regular courtyard plan form suggests that it is likely to have been constructed following the enclosure of this landscape in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. The site of Cooper's Lodge lies to the south of Cooper's Cottage; the only evidence for settlement on the site is the surviving small enclosure around the original property<sup>69</sup>. Historic mapping suggests that this property existed by at least the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and it may have originally been constructed to manage Cooper's Coppice which had been located immediately to the south east (see also CHECZ 10)<sup>70</sup>. The regular L plan form of this farmstead on historic mapping suggests that it may have early origins having developed incrementally over a period of time<sup>71</sup>.

The line of a 19<sup>th</sup> century mineral railway crosses the zone on an approximate north west-south east alignment<sup>72</sup> (shown as a linear on map 14). It survives as a tree-lined earthwork and connected the disparate collieries of the area to both the Norton Branch of the London and North Western railway and the Cannock Extension of the Wyrley and Essington Canal at Hawks Green<sup>73</sup>.

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<sup>66</sup> Greenslade 1959a: 62

<sup>67</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20079 (in the north) PRNs 04250, 53446 & 53447 (at New Hay) and PRNs 04251, 53448 & 53451 (south of Cannock Wood Road)

<sup>68</sup> Edwards 2009: 53

<sup>69</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 52353

<sup>70</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 52356; Cf. Yates' map of Staffordshire (1775) which records Cooper's Lodge within its enclosure and the location of Cooper's Coppice referenced on this map as 'Coppice'

<sup>71</sup> Lake & Edwards 2008: 15

<sup>72</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN MST17193

<sup>73</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRNs 20508 and 02225

### 8.9.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has seen at least moderate disturbance mostly through agricultural activities. The line of the railway survives as a feature within the landscape and the overall historic landscape character is legible despite some field boundary removal.	2
Potential	There is the potential for unknown below ground archaeological deposits to survive and particularly where associated with the identified settlement areas (Wimblebury Farm, Cannock Wood Farm and Cooper's Lodge). There is a lack of knowledge in relation to the medieval and earlier use of this landscape which is probably the result of lack of investigation rather than poor preservation.	2
Documentation	HER data; one historic source.	1
Diversity	There are a range of heritage assets of different date and character ranging from the post medieval and 19 <sup>th</sup> century historic landscapes as well as the surviving historic farmstead. There is also the evidence for the post medieval bell pits and the earthwork remains of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century mineral railway.	3
Group Association	There is the potential for the evidence of the bell pits north of the Cannock Wood Road to be associated with the origins of this enclosed landscape all of which probably dates to the early Post Medieval period.	3
Amenity Value	The historic environment could help to define a sense of place and the railway line in particular could be promoted to interpret the history of the wider area.	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	Medium to large scale development is likely to have at least a moderate impact upon the historic environment of the zone; in particular upon the surviving historic landscape character and the line of the railway.	2
<b>Overall Score</b>		<b>Moderate</b>

### 8.9.3 Statement of Significance

The heritage assets identified within the zone are of at least local/regional significance and include the surviving historic landscape character typified by the overall planned nature of the field systems to the south of Cannock Wood Road. Within this area there are also the remains of early coal mining in the form of bell pits of probable post medieval date. To the north of this road there is an earlier surviving landscape, which may have formed part of one of the hays of the forest and which may have been associated with further bell pits and a surviving historic farmstead. There is also the potential for currently unknown prehistoric sites to survive as below ground archaeological deposits.

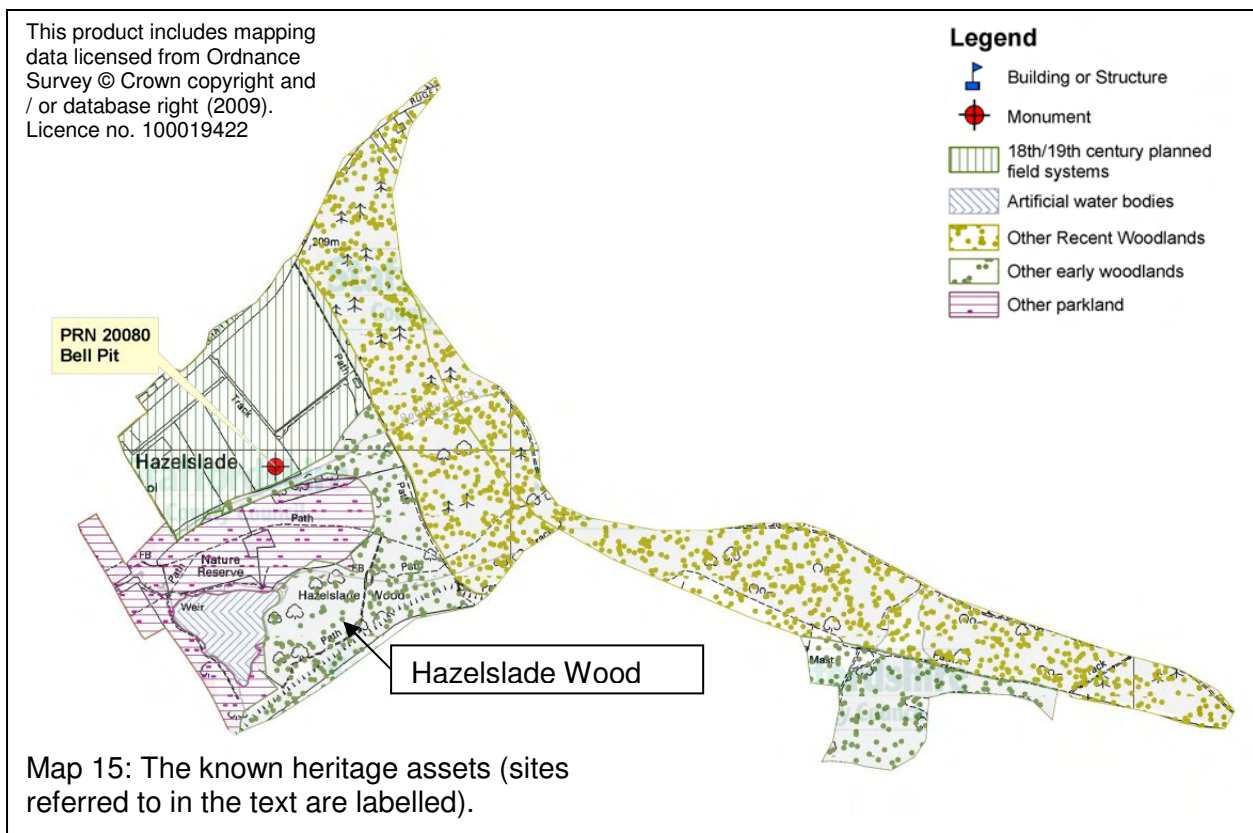
The moderate score suggests that development would have an impact upon the historic environment. Consequently, should development be planned within the zone there would be a need to address/consider the following issues at an early stage in the process:

- The impact upon and mitigation strategies for the historic landscape character of the zone. Any development in this area would need to consider design strategies for retaining or reflecting the local distinctiveness of the zone.
- The retention/enhancement of the line of the mineral railway as a feature within the landscape.
- The impact upon the surviving historic farmstead.
- A strategy for assessing the potential impacts upon archaeological features, both known and unknown, and any consequent mitigation identified. Such archaeological considerations include, but are not limited to, the site of the former farmsteads and evidence for activities associated with the early coal mining industry.

## 8.10 CHECZ 10 – East of Hazelslade & Hazelslade Wood

### 8.10.1 Summary on the historic environment

The zone is dominated by woodland, as shown on map 15, the majority of which had been established as coniferous plantation during the inter war period. Two areas appear to be earlier in origin; Hazelslade Wood, broadleaved woodland with probably 19<sup>th</sup> century origins and the area to the south east, which may have been established during the post medieval period as part of New Hays Wood (areas of 'Other early woodland' on map 15). The area of woodland to the north of the zone had probably formed part of Beaudesert deer park from the medieval period onwards; the remainder of the zone lay within Cannock Chase.



The western portion of the zone is comprised of a field system exhibiting a planned form with straight boundaries of probable 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century date, which had been created out of the heathland of Cannock Chase. A bell pit has been identified upon an aerial photograph (1963) within this area, which may relate to small scale coal extraction during the post medieval period<sup>74</sup>.

Hazelslade Nature Reserve (the area of Other parkland on map 15) comprises grassland and woodland as well as including a large pool of late 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

<sup>74</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20080



### 8.10.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

Survival	There has been moderate disturbance within the zone from agriculture and forestry activity.	2
Potential	There are limited known heritage assets within the zone beyond the historic character and the bell pit. However, there is the potential for archaeological features to survive particularly relating to previous management of the areas under woodland and in particular further evidence for post medieval activity.	2
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	There are a limited range of heritage assets in the form of the historic landscape character and the bell pit which do not belong to a single period.	2
Group Association	There are few heritage assets which could be identified as being related or of a similar period.	1
Amenity Value	The nature reserve provides a public amenity within the zone. However, in terms of the historic environment current knowledge gives limited potential for the historic environment to play a significant role in creating a definable and promotable identity to the area.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	Medium to large scale development within the zone is likely to have a moderate impact upon the historic environment particularly in terms of the surviving woodland character.	2
<b>Overall Score</b>		<b>Low/moderate</b>

### 8.10.3 Statement of Significance

The heritage assets identified within the zone are of at least local/regional significance and include the site of the bell pit and the surviving historic landscape character typified by the overall planned nature of the field system and the woodland. The lack of research across the zone means that there may be the potential for currently unknown sites to survive as above or below ground archaeological deposits.

The low/moderate score suggests that development may have at least a marginal impact upon the historic environment. Consequently there would be a need to address the following issues at an early stage in the development process:

- The impact upon and mitigation strategies for the historic landscape character of the zone. Any development in this area would need to consider design strategies for retaining or reflecting the local distinctiveness of the zone.
- A strategy for assessing the potential impacts upon archaeological features, both known and unknown, and any consequent mitigation identified. Such archaeological considerations include, but are not limited to, the evidence for

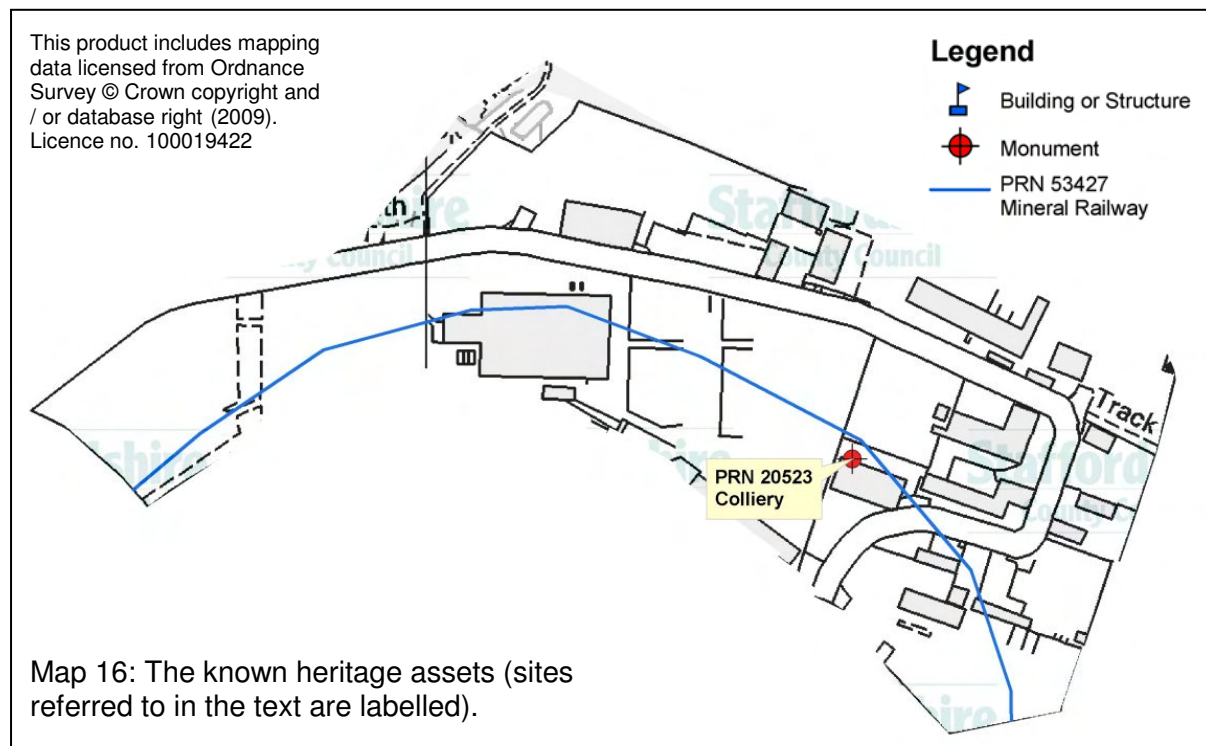
surviving earthwork boundaries within the woodland and evidence for activities associated with the early coal mining industry.

## 8.11 CHECZ 11 – Cannock Wood Industrial Estate

### 8.11.1 Summary on the historic environment

The industrial estate was developed during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century upon the site of a 19<sup>th</sup> century colliery owned by the Cannock and Rugeley Colliery Company<sup>75</sup>. The colliery appears to have been in operation until the post war period.

The colliery was served by a mineral railway which connected the disparate collieries of the area to both the Norton Branch of the London and North Western railway and the Cannock Extension of the Wyrley and Essington Canal at Hawks Green (see map 16)<sup>76</sup>.



### 8.11.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has been extensively disturbed by the development of both the colliery and the extant industrial estate.	1
Potential	There is little potential for surviving heritage assets, particularly in terms of below ground archaeology, due to the site of the colliery and subsequent development.	1
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	The colliery is the only known heritage asset within the zone.	1
Group Association	None.	1
Amenity Value	None	1

<sup>75</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20523

<sup>76</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRNs 20508 and 02225

Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDG)	There are no sensitivities regarding the development within the zone.	1
<b>Overall Score</b>		<b>Low</b>

### *8.11.3 Statement of Significance*

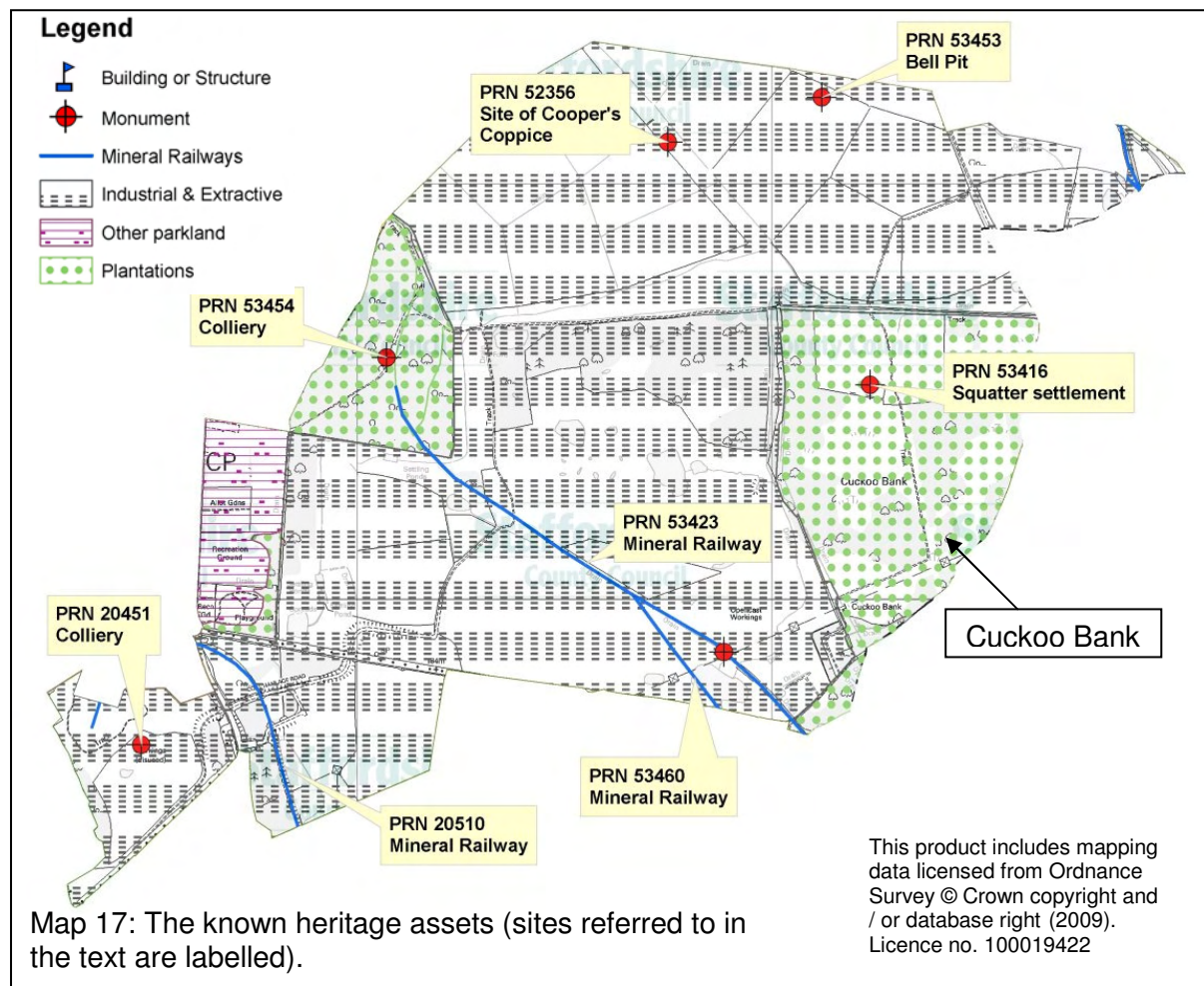
The low score suggests that development would not have a significant impact upon the historic environment of the zone. Should development be planned within the zone there would be a need to address/consider the following issues at an early stage in the process:

- The enhancement of the surrounding historic landscape character.

## 8.12 CHECZ 12 – East of Heath Hayes

### 8.12.1 Summary on the historic environment

The zone is dominated by former industrial landscapes, as shown on map 17, notably the disused open cast coal workings which were operating during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Other coal working sites are also present within the zone. The earliest is a possible 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century bell pit, visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs<sup>77</sup>. There are also two former mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century collieries. The earlier of these two sites lies to the north west of the zone and had formed part of the Cannock Chase Colliery (no. 8 pit) which was opened in 1862 and operated for 99 years<sup>78</sup>. The site is covered by a plantation, although features associated with the colliery may survive within the area. The Coppice Colliery, which lay to the south west of the zone, was opened in 1893 and closed in 1964<sup>79</sup>. The two 19<sup>th</sup> century collieries were linked by separate mineral railways and the line which linked to the Coppice Colliery partially survives as an earthwork<sup>80</sup>.



<sup>77</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 53453

<sup>78</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20451

<sup>79</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 53454

<sup>80</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20510 and PRN 53423

The zone had formed part of Cannock Forest since at least the medieval period, which probably comprised a mosaic landscape of woodland and heathland. The northern part of the zone was covered by Cooper's Coppice (an area of enclosed woodland) by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, although this had been cleared by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>81</sup>. Within the zone, in an area of plantation now known as Cuckoo Bank, lies the site of 'The Hollies'. This placename suggests an area where holly was grown for winter fodder. However, by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century a small property had been erected within an enclosure, possibly indicative of squatting on the heathland<sup>82</sup>. Its precise origins are unknown and, although the property itself has been demolished, the surrounding enclosure survives within the landscape.

The zone falls within the area covered by the 1868 Act of Enclosure, which generally resulted in a landscape of planned enclosure. However, the historic mapping suggests that very few field boundaries were erected within this zone.

### 8.12.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

Survival	A large proportion of the zone has been impacted by the 20 <sup>th</sup> century coal working. However, certain features survive in those areas beyond the open cast area, such as the earthworks associated with the property at The Hollies and the mineral railway to the south.	2
Potential	The archaeological potential of this area has been significantly reduced across much of the zone due to the coal workings. However, to the east and west there is the potential for unknown archaeological potential to survive although this can be assessed on a site-by-site basis.	1
Documentation	HER data.	1
Diversity	There are a few known heritage assets within the zone which are mostly related to historic coal workings and the site of a probable squatter enclosure of similar date.	1
Group Association	The coal mining sites are clearly associated although at present it is not clear to what extent they survive within the zone.	2

<sup>81</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 52356

<sup>82</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 53416



Amenity Value	Current knowledge regarding the survival of 19 <sup>th</sup> century mining features is currently unknown although should there be surviving elements it is possible that they could provide an opportunity for promoting the heritage of the Heath Hayes area (health and safety permitting).	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The heritage assets, including the historic landscape character, could accommodate medium to large scale development. However, the surviving earthworks noted above could suffer adverse effects. The potential for the survival of unknown heritage assets is greatest to the east and west of the zone.	1
<b>Overall Score</b>		<b>Low</b>

### 8.12.3 Statement of Significance

The low score suggests that development would not have a significant impact upon the historic environment of the zone. However, the following issues would need to be addressed at an early stage in any proposed development:

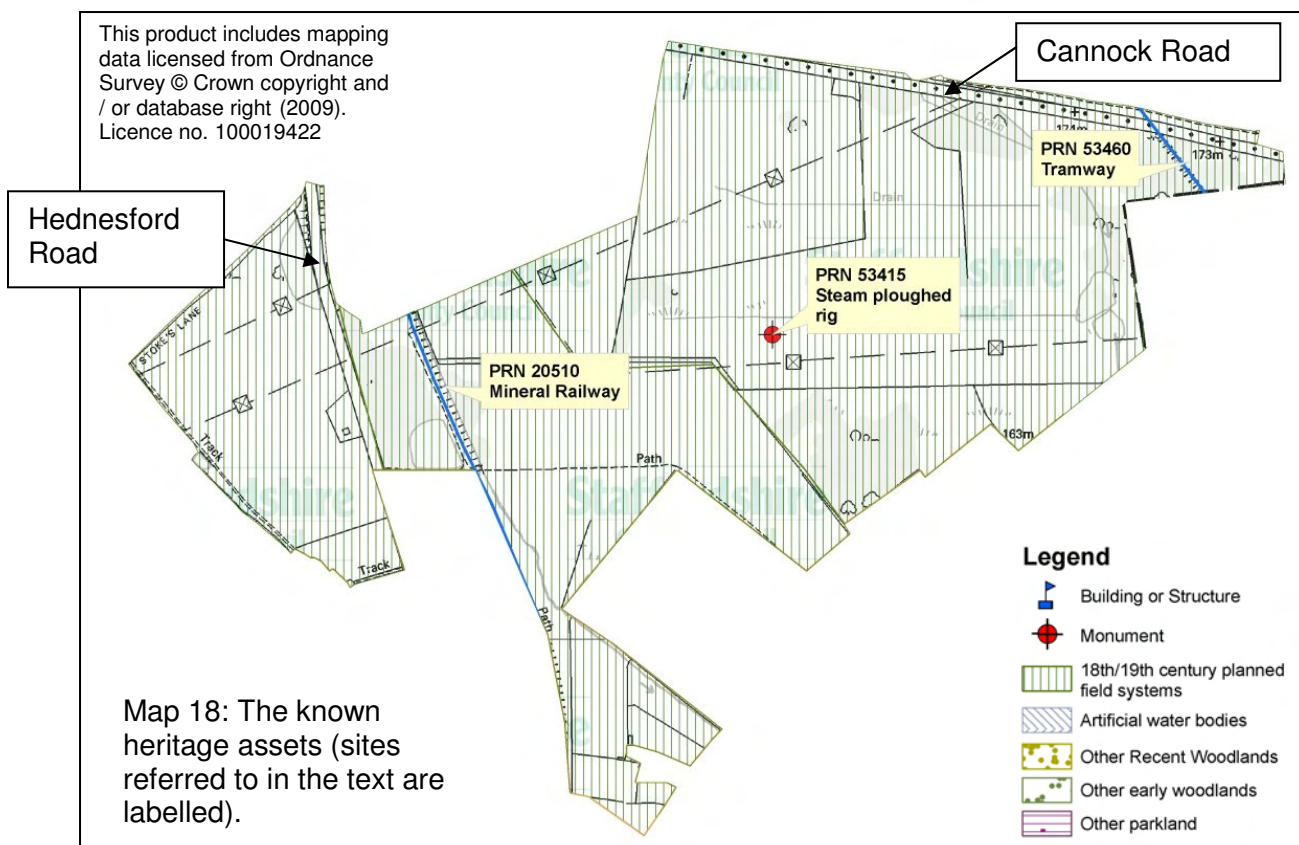
- The potential for mining features to survive within the plantation to the west of the zone and the potential for interpretation of the local heritage.
- The impact upon the known surviving earthworks; the mineral railway in particular.
- A strategy for assessing the potential impacts upon archaeological features, both known and unknown, and any consequent mitigation identified. Such archaeological considerations include, but are not limited to, activities associated with the early coal mining industry as exemplified by the bell pit and activities associated with settlement at The Hollies.

## CHECZ 13 – North of Norton Canes

### 8.13.1 Summary on the historic environment

The zone had formed part of Cannock Chase during the medieval period. By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century it was part of Norton Common which was enclosed under an Act of Parliament passed in 1870 (see map 18). However, the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey maps suggest that few field boundaries had been erected, but where they had they give the appearance of a planned landscape. Aerial photographs suggest that the landscape is being allowed to revert to rough grassland and scrub.

However, across part of the area aerial photographs indicate the presence of earthwork ridges; these may be associated with 19<sup>th</sup> century/early 20<sup>th</sup> century steam ploughing<sup>83</sup>. It is possible that this land came under cultivation during one or both of the 20<sup>th</sup> century World Wars; further research would be required to assess this interpretation.



The lines of two railways cross the zone as shown on map 18; to the west is the former 19<sup>th</sup> century Five Ways Branch of the London & North Western Railway (LNWR), which was used as a mineral railway taking coal from Coppice Colliery (see CHECZ 12) and to the east is the line of a coal tramway constructed in the inter war period<sup>84</sup>. Where these linear features cross the zone they survive as earthworks.

<sup>83</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 53415

<sup>84</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRNs 20510 and 53460