

Cannock Town Centre and Historic Suburbs

Character Description: Cannock town centre has origins dating back to the medieval period, with a market being established in the 13th century. Is the largest centre in the District, catering for a range of shopping and commercial needs. Contains a mixture of historic town centre core, town centre redevelopment and edge of town centre types, with industrial/Victorian housing areas beyond.

Key features are:

- Historic, medieval core street layout largely remains intact based on broad market place along with early surviving features such as the listed St Luke's Parish Church (dating from 14th and 15th century) and 14th century wayside cross, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Listed historic buildings on Mill Street and High Green remain from 18th and 19th century and the town centre is designated a Conservation Area. Land levels fall to south of town centre.
- Churchyard and 18th century bowling green form prominent green focal points enhanced by mature tree planting.
- Town centre historic buildings mainly 2 and 3 storey, in red brick and light coloured render with tiled and slated roofs; St Luke's Church and Conduit Head in local red sandstone.
- Public art features and monuments signpost local history and character e.g. bandstands, memorials, water pumps. Pedestrian area is surfaced with modern red pavements.
- Retail, commercial and leisure uses predominate with residential areas beyond radiating out to the wider suburbs.
- Modern redevelopment on the town centre edge is mainly larger in scale and mass and of modern design e.g. Cannock Shopping Centre, Civic Centre and Hospital, up to maximum 5 storeys.
- Historic residential suburbs developed from the early 19th century such as along Old Penkridge Road. The Victorian scale, detailing and 'cottage' style together with some surviving former school buildings create a strong sense of place in these areas. Roof lines step down the gradient south of the town centre.
- North of the town centre is the extensive green space of Cannock Park, with the Leisure Centre and golf course, which form a valuable amenity space.
- 'Gateways' along primary road routes into the town. Key landmarks include St Luke's Church, the Technical College and the Civic Centre.

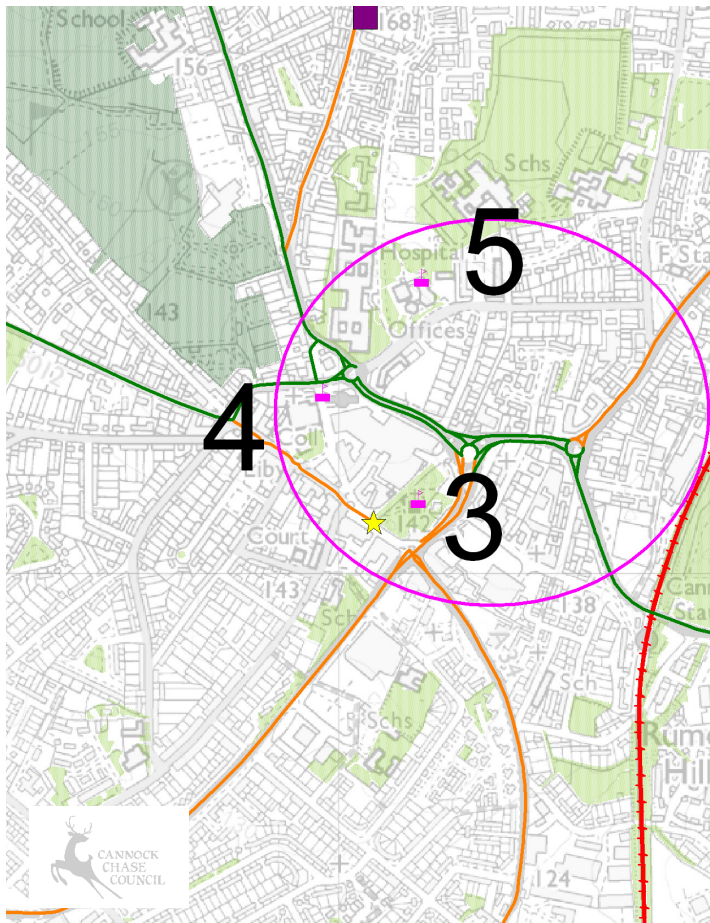
Key Local Design Principles or 'New development should':

- Safeguard historic street layout, e.g. around High Green and Market Place, and enhance links between key facilities wherever possible.
- Conserve locally distinctive key features and their settings e.g. bowling green, to reinforce strong local identity and attractiveness of town centre and low brick walls/hedges enclosing front gardens.
- Preserve and enhance character and appearance of historic areas and their settings, including views in and out. South end of town centre prominent to views from south.
- Protect significant trees and enhance green focal points which contribute to attractiveness of public spaces in town centre and garden trees and hedging in suburbs, supporting new planting wherever possible.
- Encourage high quality shopfront and signage design and materials appropriate to the particular building. Support wide range of mixed uses, small independent shops and markets to increase variety and vitality in town centre.
- Support high quality public realm design/materials and opportunities to reduce clutter in streetscene.
- Support local preference for non-intrusive traditional architecture with good quality contemporary schemes where appropriate.

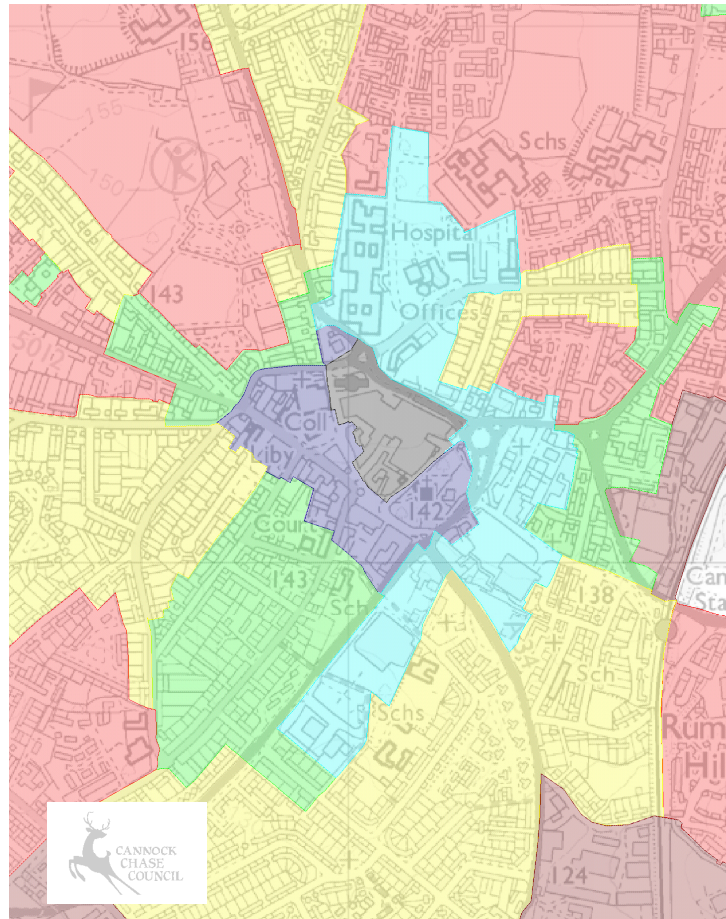
Further Information:

- See character types descriptions for further information on the built character and detailing.
- Cannock EUS (2009/10)- HUCAs 1-9, 11, 12
- Cannock Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (forthcoming)
- Cannock Chase Local List

Key Features Map



Character Types Map (period/type of development)



Landmark 3- St Augustine's Church



Landmark 4- Listed College Building



Landmark 5- Council Offices

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