

## Cannock Wood

**Character Description:** Rural village located within the AONB with outlying pockets of development and farms beyond main village. Mainly residential with community facilities, including a village hall, church, school, pub and local shop, scattered around village.

### Key features are:

- Probable 17<sup>th</sup> century origins with growth in the 19<sup>th</sup> century associated with agriculture and nearby coal mining. Developed in 'linear' pattern along main roads with later infill development. Church and school at eastern end of village within Lichfield District (Gentleshaw).
- Village dominated by post-war residential development, with some surviving 19<sup>th</sup> century and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century property e.g. Wesleyan chapel built in 1836 in Chapel Lane. Main street layout likely to be original. Other key surviving features are historic farmsteads though adapted to modern farming practices.
- Post-war development varied in character, predominantly low-medium density with detached 2 storey properties on medium/large plots, but including bungalows. Incremental development has created variety in the style/design and materials. Earlier properties mainly traditional 'cottage-style'. Red/brown brick and blue/brown tiles predominate, with some rendered and painted brick properties
- Village lies within AONB surrounded by undulating Green Belt countryside. Settled Farmlands and Wooded Estatelands landscape character forms village setting and there are key views across area from vantage points including Castle Ring.
- Adjacent Castle Ring Iron Age hillfort (a Scheduled Ancient Monument) provides key cultural link and views across the landscape. Also Beaudesert, the former parkland, lodge and Victorian walled garden of the former Hall which dated back to Elizabethan times; the remains of the Hall stand in Lichfield District.
- Rural village feel reinforced by prevalence of roadside hedgerows and informal grass verges, particularly along traditional country lanes without pavements. Many protected mature trees and woodlands around village contribute to this character.

### Key Local Design Principles or 'New developments should':

- Preserve and enhance locally distinctive and historic features including building lines along historic routes to retain traditional settlement form.
- Recognise scope for variety of good quality design/materials through area whilst respecting scale and layout of existing development, particularly in terms of density/plot size, allow space for safeguarding existing trees and hedges, appropriate new planting to enhance character.
- Respect variation between different residential styles in area, particularly promoting retention of locally distinctive historic features/detailing, typically 'cottage' style.
- Promote retention and enhancement of existing hedgerows and grass verges along highways.
- Support buffer planting around urban edge which complements wider AONB heathland/woodland landscape character as well as agricultural/farmland character.
- Support opportunities for enhancement of pedestrian links to surrounding rural areas, including to key distinctive features such as Castle Ring/longer distance footpaths and the historic site at Courtbanks Covert.
- Consider potential impact of new development on local views across rural landscape, particularly from around Castle Ring towards Gentleshaw Common. This landscape is very sensitive to change with any new development potentially having substantial impact.
- Respect and enhance the forms of historic farmsteads in their landscape context.

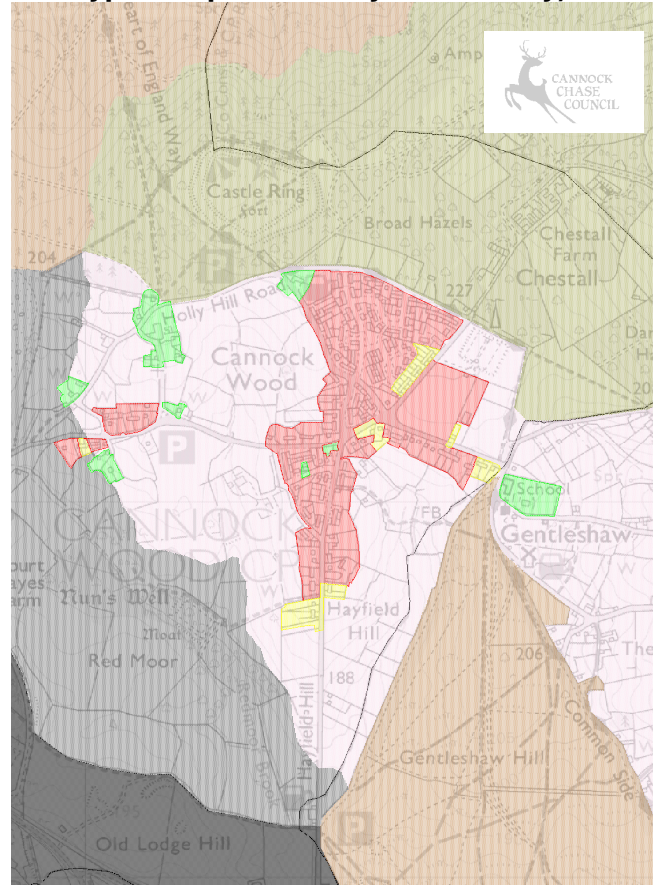
### Further information:

- See related character types descriptions for further information on the built character and detailing.
- Landscape Character Assessment- Settled Farmlands and Wooded Estatelands
- English Heritage Historic Farmsteads Survey (2010)
- Cannock Chase Local List

## Key Features Map



## Character and Landscape Types (period/type of development and type of open countryside nearby)



Based on Ordnance Survey Mapping with the Permission of the controller of her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Cannock Chase District Council. Licence No. 100019754. 2010

