

## Hednesford Town Centre and Historic Suburbs

**Character Description:** A small town with strong links to former mining and horse racing industries that contributed to the areas rapid development in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At foot of Hednesford Hills on edge of Cannock Chase. Suburbs largely 20<sup>th</sup> century in character but with remnants of former Industrial/Victorian properties. Town centre undergoing regeneration which aims to enhance the retail offer.

### Key features are:

- The listed Cross Keys Inn, a former coaching inn, dating from 1746, lies at edge of character area in old centre of Hednesford, approx ¾ mile south of present day town centre. Despite town's possible origins in 11<sup>th</sup> century developing into a small village in 16<sup>th</sup> century most of surviving historic buildings and features date from 19<sup>th</sup> century, reflecting rapid growth of area related to expansion of coal mining.
- Area influenced by surrounding Heathland landscape character and prominence of Hednesford Hills designated 'common land'. Topography of Hills creates a unique green backdrop to the town.
- Present day town centre has 19<sup>th</sup> century character with predominantly 2 storey buildings with shops lining the winding main street, and some modern/contemporary infill e.g. The Lightworks. Ongoing regeneration plans will modernise this character further with new development/redevelopment at each end of the main street and to the north. Red brick and grey tiling dominates, with some rendering and yellow brickwork. Unique detailing to property in Market Street reinforces tradition and distinctive character. Mainly 2 storey, terraced properties with some 3 storey. High-medium density.
- Surviving 19<sup>th</sup> century 2 storey residential property and grid street pattern to east at Church Hill and elsewhere around town centre. Mid-20<sup>th</sup> century development to south with plenty of bungalows. Post-war development lower density, 1960s-70s in character, varied materials/detailing.
- Area acts as key 'gateway' between the wider Cannock urban area and the rural Chase/Hednesford Hills (urban-rural fringe character) along a key route which links north-south. Key landmarks are the listed Angelsey Lodge (1831) standing well back from road at west end of town centre and Hednesford War Memorial (1930s) on edge of Hills. The nearby Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic church dates from 1927-1933, built in 13<sup>th</sup> century style with French overtones.
- Distinct features reflect local heritage and identity e.g. town clock and Miners Memorial in front of the Library. Hednesford Park provides important landscape setting to north of town centre with community recreation facilities.

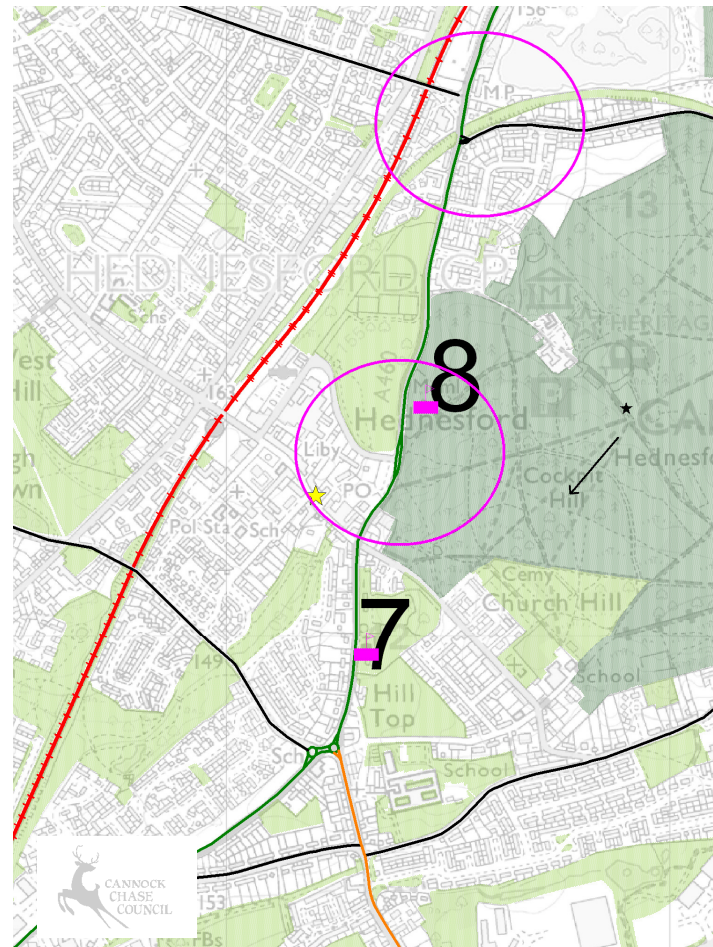
### Key Local Design Principles or 'New development should':

- Preserve/enhance locally distinctive key features of Hednesford town centre and historic suburbs, including the winding street layout, small scale of development and key features of historic and local interest and their settings.
- Preserve/enhance the rural-urban fringe character including key landscape assets of Hednesford Hills, Park and mature trees visible around town. Draw upon this landscape character as inspiration for further 'greening' public spaces in the urban environment and buffering the urban edge.
- Encourage high quality shopfront and signage design and materials appropriate to the particular building within the town centre and support a wide range of mixed uses and small independent shops to enhance variety and vitality.
- Support high quality public realm design and materials with reduction of clutter, and pursue opportunities for public art to further enhance local identity e.g. next phases of Miners Memorial.

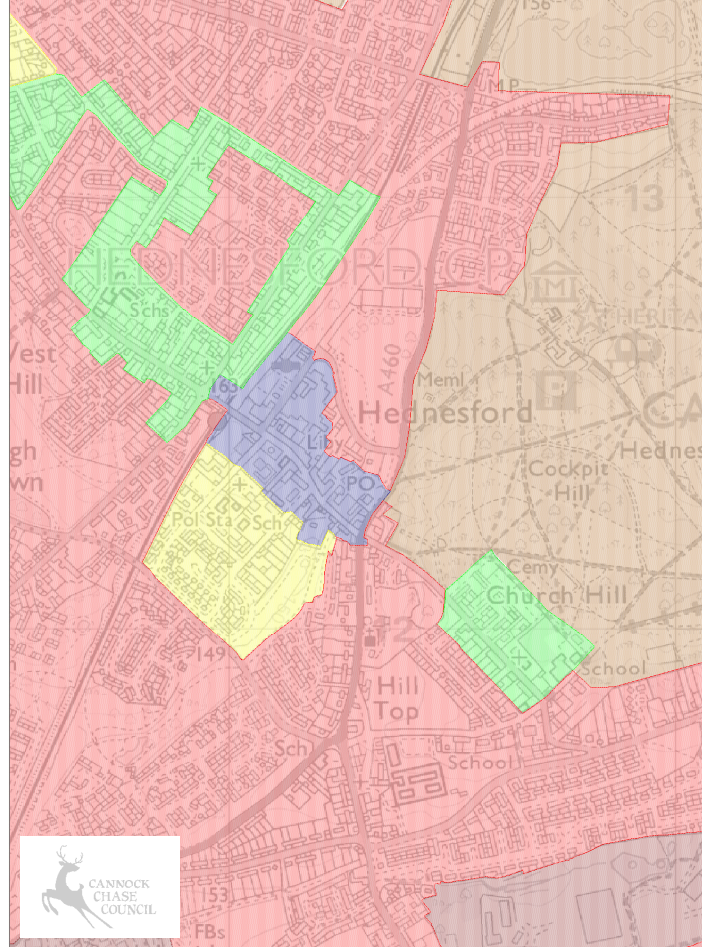
### Further information:

- See character types descriptions for further information on the built character and detailing.
- Landscape Character Assessment (2008)- Heathland
- Historic Environment Character Assessment (2009)- CHECZ 5-7
- Cannock Chase Local List

## Key Features Map



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



Landmark 7 – Our Lady of Lourdes



Landmark 8 – War Memorial



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

