

Norton Canes

Character Description: Norton Canes has possible medieval origins north of Watling Street (Roman Road) - two surviving moats may be associated with former manor houses. However this former agricultural and mining village largely developed to its current form from the post-war era. Dominated by post-war housing estates but with remnants of historic elements and a substantial 20th century/modern commercial business park area. Agricultural use remains a feature of the area, but on a smaller scale.

Key features are:

- Historically was farmland with collieries and scattered settlement along main roads, crossed by railways and canal, historic road layout of village and surrounding lanes largely retained. Legacy of coal mining has left range of related historical features such as lines of former mineral railways. The Listed St James Church stands at the old focus of settlement around Pinfold Lane, approx 1 mile from the current village centre.
- Semi-rural self-contained 'village' feel created by surrounding landscape of restored mining areas, agricultural fields and Chasewater Country Park, separating the settlement from surrounding urban areas. Surrounded by Planned Coalfield Farmlands and Coalfield Farmlands landscape character areas. Level terrain minimises views in and out of the village.
- Post-war, suburban residential estates wholly dominate village with a few 19th/early 20th century-style terraced properties, mainly detached and semi-detached. Inter-war semi-detached houses along roads remain in a mixture of plainer styles with more incremental ornately detailed properties influenced by Art Deco styles. Post-war housing often minimalist in style reflecting 1960-70s period whilst more modern estates replicate traditional details. Mixture of red/buff brick and render/wood/tile cladding, brown/grey tiles, mostly 2 storeys with some bungalows and some 3 storey modern development near centre. St James's Church is sandstone. Little significant mature planting within village consisting of occasional trees and garden hedges.
- Small scale, compact local centre reinforces village feel with key community focal points – Millennium Garden, Library, community centre and local shops.
- Few landmark buildings apart from St James Church (1) which is largely sheltered from view. Recent Library highlighted as positive landmark (17) and good example of contemporary design by local community.
- M6 Toll and A5 corridor create strong boundary to the south. Key 'gateway' to District and Norton Canes at Turf Island on A5.

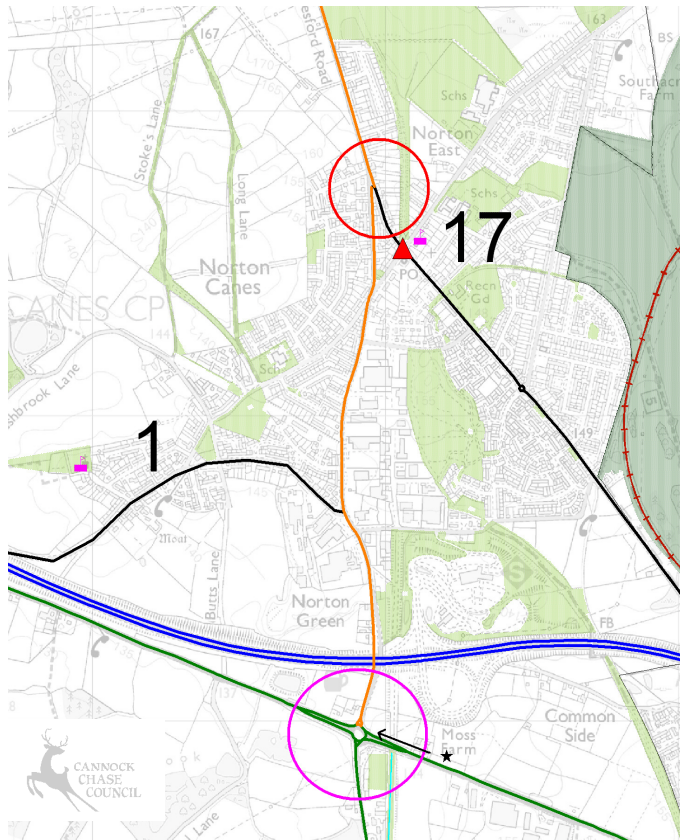
Key Local Design Principles or 'New development should':

- Contribute to enhancement of local centre design/facilities including public realm enhancement to create a focal point.
- Reinforce semi-rural 'village' scale with development reflecting existing built form with largely low-medium density and detached/semi-detached properties.
- Retain and enhance locally distinctive features e.g. the Batter, including traditional street layout and characteristics of surviving buildings and consider potential for small scale landmark or 'gateway' features to reinforce historic legacy and identity of area, particularly in and around local centre.
- Scope for variety of good quality design and materials through area whilst respecting scale of existing development.
- Contribute to enhancement of green links along former railway lines making best use of routes throughout the urban area, reinforcing connections to the surrounding accessible landscape, particularly Chasewater. Protection of existing trees and addition of new tree planting to enhance residential roads.
- Contribute to reduction in visual impact of Norton Canes Business Park on main route into village supporting enhancement of frontages and signage.
- Buffer the impact of the urban edges upon the surrounding landscape character via enhanced woodland planting.
- Respect and enhance the forms of historic farmsteads in their landscape context.

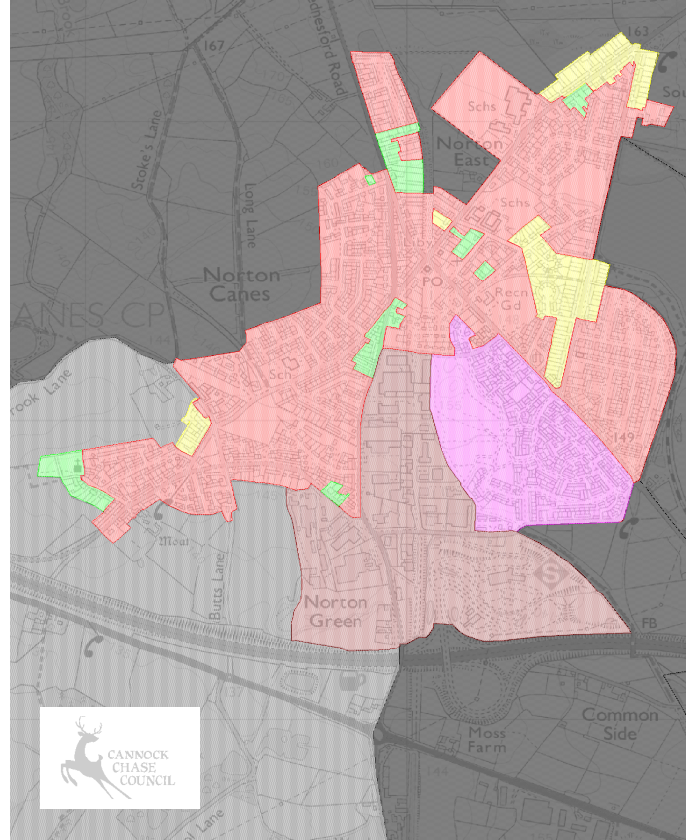
Further Information:

- See related character types descriptions for further information on the built character and detailing.
- Landscape Character Assessment (2008)- Planned Coalfield Farmlands and Coalfield Farmlands
- Historic Environment Character Assessment (2009) CHECZ 13, 14, 16, 17, 18
- Cannock Chase Local List

Key Features Map



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



Landmark 1 St James



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