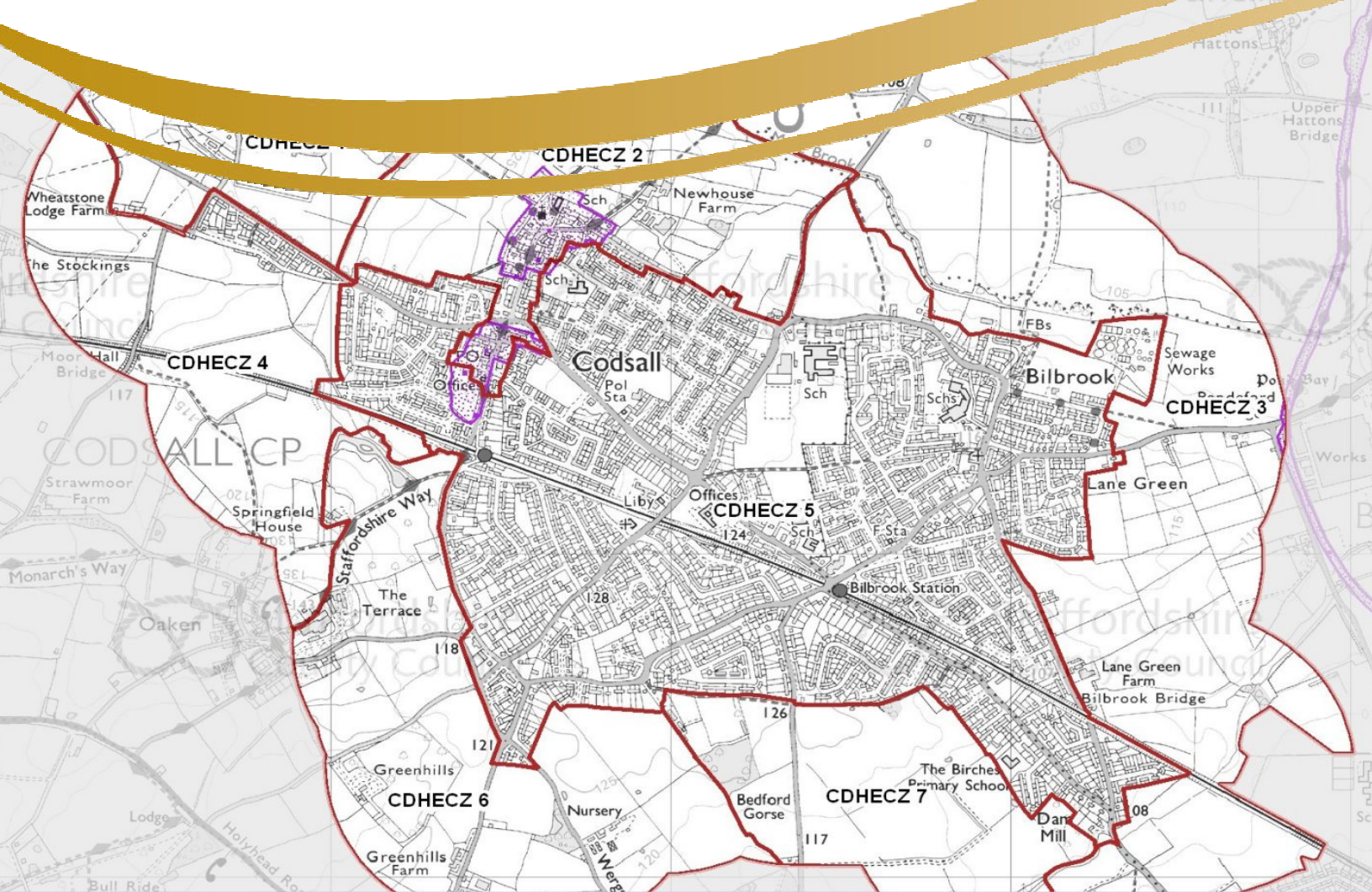




Staffordshire  
County Council



# Historic Environment Character Assessment: South Staffordshire January 2011



South  
Staffordshire  
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January 2011

**CONTROLLED DOCUMENT**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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*The landscape of South Staffordshire is defined by its historic character which is dominated by a variety of field systems, primarily enclosed by hedges, some of which originate in the medieval and/or post medieval period. Woodland and settlement, comprising dispersed historic farms and cottages and villages both ancient and new, also make significant contributes to its historic character. The 13 project areas for the HEA are based around the hinterlands of three historic towns, 11 historic villages and the late 20<sup>th</sup> century settlement of Perton (cf. map 1). The historic towns comprise Brewood, Kinver and Penkridge, all of which were established as market towns during the medieval period. These three settlements, however, are all currently classed as Main Service Villages (MSV) by South Staffordshire Council along with Codsall, Cheslyn Hay, Great Wyrley, Perton and Wombourne<sup>1</sup>. The remaining settlements considered within the project are all classified as Local Service Villages (LSV<sup>2</sup>).*

*The HEA aims to establish the potential for the historic environment of these 13 project areas to absorb new development and housing in particular. This has been carried out by dividing each of the project areas into 'Historic Environment Character Zones' (HECZs) and assessing the significance of the heritage assets of each zone. The assessment utilised the guidance provided by English Heritage in their document 'Conservation principles: policies and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment'. The assessment was followed by recommendations for each zone (these form Appendices 1 to 6 of the HEA; summaries can be found within the main report).*

### **Summary of assessment and recommendations**

*The HEA found that despite the changes within the project areas during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, particularly from the intensification of agriculture as well as development, the historic landscape continues to play an important role in defining the local character of individual settlements under assessment. The historic cores of many of the settlements are defined by fossilised medieval layouts and historic buildings; many having medieval and early post medieval timber framed origins. There are surviving medieval property boundaries and the fossilisation of market areas mark out the origins of Kinver, Brewood and Penkridge as medieval market towns. The historic importance and need to conserve these historic settlements has been identified in the designation of Conservation Areas. Greater change has occurred in the former mining settlements in the north east of the District, but even here there are extant historic buildings which relate to their industrial origins and make positive contributions to the local character. Cheslyn Hay in particular retains its layout relating to its origins as an industrial squatter settlement which developed from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards. There is the potential for the enhancement of heritage assets within these settlements to contribute to an improved sense of place and well-being*

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<sup>1</sup> South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

*within each community. Beyond the medieval historic core of Codsall the historic character is dominated by mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century brick villas which were built following the construction of the railway and its Grade II Listed station.*

*Beyond the extent of the built areas, historic field patterns associated with narrow winding lanes also survive. The majority of these fields are enclosed by mature hedgerows and in-hedge trees all of which contribute to the historic landscape character. Many of the extant field patterns within the project areas have their origins as medieval arable fields most of which were enclosed piecemeal in the 16<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. They are particularly well preserved to the north west of Codsall, around Wheaton Aston and to the north east of Perton.*

*Large landed estates made a considerable impact upon the historic landscape of South Staffordshire in the form of landscape parks, the large planned farmsteads and the straight roads and field boundaries typical of surveyor planned field systems. Landscape parks are a particular feature of the Codsall project area and to the east of both Featherstone and Wombourne; the latter area includes a small portion of the Grade II\* Himley Registered park and garden. These landscapes also survive around, Kinver, Swindon and Wombourne – all areas which lay within the cores of the medieval Royal Forests that had covered much of the District into the early 14<sup>th</sup> century.*

*Industrial archaeology is of particular importance in the north east of the District where the lines of former tramways and canals and evidence of industry, particularly relating to coal mining, survive as both above and below ground remains. It is also a feature of the Stour and Smestow valleys, incorporating Kinver, Swindon and Wombourne. Arguably the greatest legacy of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries are the lines of communication which cross the District; the canals (three of which are Conservation Areas) and the railway lines including the Kinver Light Railway and the disused Bridgnorth & Wolverhampton Railway; the latter now utilised as a leisure amenity.*

*This document identifies those areas of particular historic sensitivity where special consideration should be given to the impact of development upon the legibility of the historic landscape character. Even where there has been extensive 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century change has occurred there are often historic assets including specific historic field boundaries, which continue to contribute to the local character and which are also deserving of consideration within any future change.*

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 This project was commissioned by the Development Plans & Conservation section at South Staffordshire Council (SSC). The project forms part of the evidence base of SSC's Local Development Framework (LDF) and offers comments **solely** on the impact of potential development on the historic environment. It should be noted that the allocation of land for development will be made by the Site Allocation Development Plan Document which is part of the LDF.
- 1.1.2 Four previous Historic Environment Assessments (HEAs) have been carried out by Staffordshire County Council (SCC) for Lichfield District (2009), Stafford Borough (2009), Cannock Chase District (2009) and Staffordshire Moorlands District (2010). The methodology for the projects has developed over this period culminating in that adopted for Staffordshire Moorlands upon which this project for South Staffordshire is based. The methodology for the Staffordshire Moorlands was based upon the methodology which has been adopted by SCC for the Staffordshire Extensive Urban Survey (EUS), which is funded by English Heritage. The EUS utilised English Heritage's guidance 'Conservation Principles: policies and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment' (2008) to provide a framework for understanding and assessing the significance of heritage assets (cf. section 3 Methodology below).
- 1.1.5 South Staffordshire Council identified the project areas to be assessed by the HEA. These have focused upon existing towns and villages and a total of 13 project areas were identified (cf. map 1). A summary of these project areas follows within this document and the detailed analysis forms the eight appendices. The historic cores of those settlements which have their origins as medieval towns, Brewood, Kinver and Penkridge have not been considered by the HEA as they will be considered in greater detail as part of the Staffordshire EUS project. To date (2010) only the Kinver EUS project has been completed for the District.

### 1.2 Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER)

- 1.2.1 The HEA utilises various datasets held by SCC's Cultural Heritage Team. The Staffordshire HER comprises all of the known archaeological sites, monuments, historic buildings, structures and finds within a database, supported by a Geographical Information System (GIS). The HER also holds a number of books and journals which were also consulted as part of the HEA. The HER also incorporates further datasets, two of which have proved invaluable to the assessment of the historic environment. These are detailed below.



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

- 1.3.1 The HLC project forms part of a national mapping project. It was carried out by the County Council 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.
- 1.2.1 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 execution of this project.



### **1.4 Historic Farmsteads**

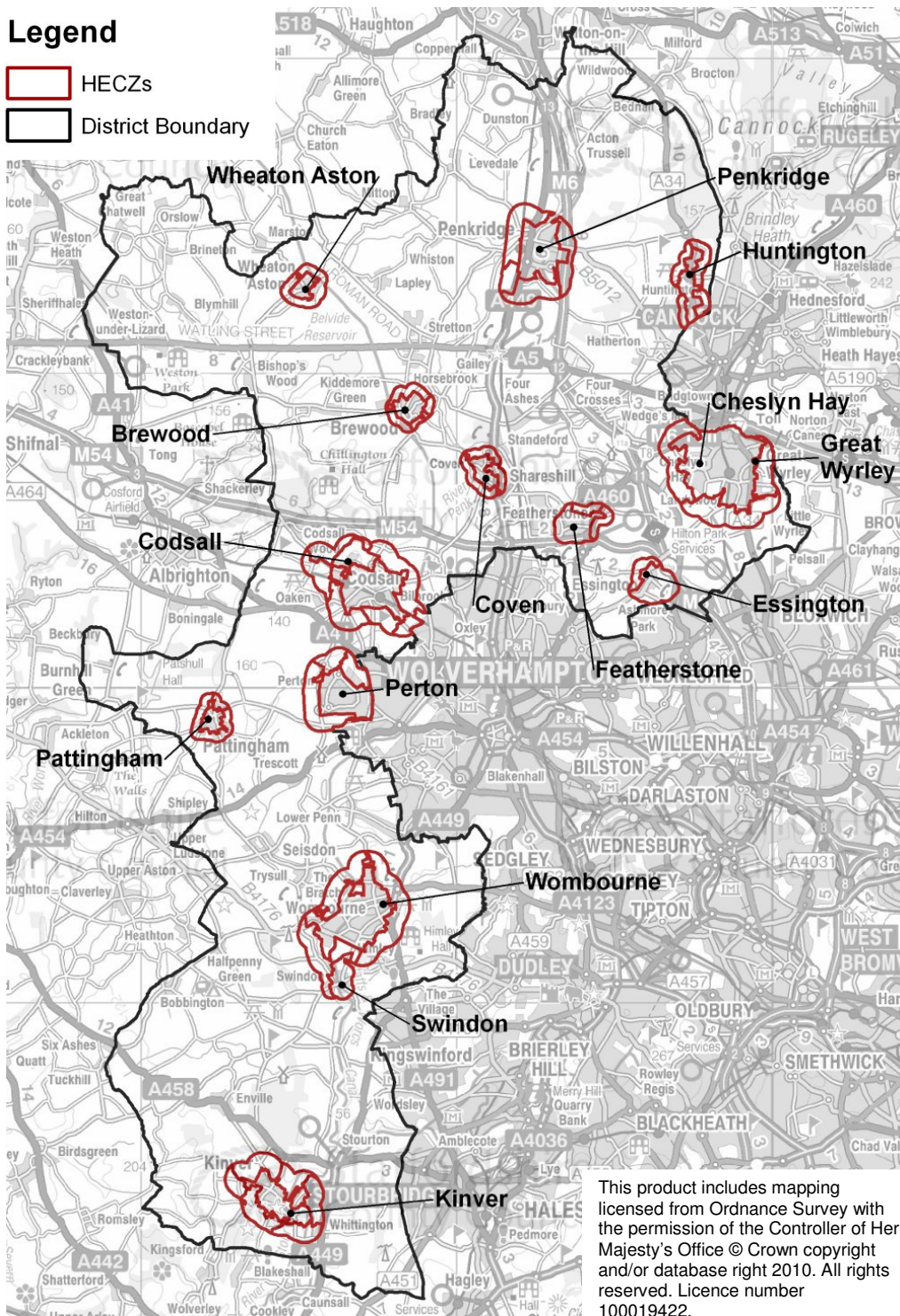
- 1.3.1 The historic farmsteads dataset, which is in the process of being incorporated directly into the Staffordshire HER database, has also been used to inform the HEA in assisting our understanding the evolution of the historic landscape character of the District. The project was initiated to understand and to conserve these fundamental components of the rural landscape. The sheer number of these complexes across any one landscape meant that the project was primarily a desk-based assessment which mapped and characterised all the historic farmsteads across Staffordshire using historic and modern mapping; it also determined to what extent the farmsteads survive in their original plan form.
- 1.3.2 The Staffordshire project was carried out as part of the West Midlands Farmsteads and Landscapes Project, which was funded by English Heritage and the County Councils and Unitary Authorities which make up the West Midlands. The results of the project will be used to help decision-makers to unlock the potential of historic farmsteads, based on an understanding of variations in their local character and significance. Further information and the results of the West Midlands Farmsteads and Landscape Project can be found on English Heritage's website: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/research/landscapes-and-areas/characterisation/West-Midlands-Farmsteads-Landscapes-Project/>

## **2. Aim**

- 2.1 The aim of the project was to provide a detailed assessment of the historic environment character for the thirteen project areas identified by South Staffordshire Council (SSC) (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.

### Legend

-  HECZs
-  District Boundary



Map 1: Historic Environment Assessment project areas

### 3. Project Methodology

#### 3.1 Historic Environment Character Zones (HECZs)

3.1.1 The methodology for the assignment of the HECZs follows that of the Staffordshire Moorlands HEA, which in turn reflects the methodology used to establish Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) within the Staffordshire Extensive Urban Survey (EUS). The values which form part of the report for the zones are based upon the guidelines produced by English Heritage in 'Conservation Principles: policies and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment' (2008) and identifies four areas for discussion. It should be noted that within each HECZ it is specifically the historic environment which is under consideration and that this judgement is based upon an interpretation of the available evidence. Other individuals or organisations may choose to ascribe alternate values to the historic environment of an area; key to this process of understanding is the degree of transparency by which these judgements are reached. The scope of this project precludes any analysis of non-heritage values which are equally valid in terms of valuing the character of historic towns.

Evidential value	The extent to which each HECZ can contribute to an understanding of past activities and how that can contribute to a settlement's wider history. This can be either be legible or intangible within the landscape and as such covers the spectrum of heritage assets from historic buildings or structures to the potential for below ground archaeological deposits. The extent to which the impacts of the removal or replacement of the heritage assets within each character area will be considered in terms of the effects on an ability for future generations to understand and interpret the evidence.
Historical value	The extent to which the heritage assets are legible within the landscape and how they interact: this can include specific aspects of the landscape and individual buildings. Historical associations with events or persons can also add value to the ability of the public and community to engage with the heritage. The extent to which the legibility of the heritage assets has been concealed or altered will also be considered. The opportunities for the use and appropriate management of the heritage assets to enhance local distinctiveness and contribution to the sense of place will also be considered.
Aesthetic value	Addresses the ability to identify how a place has evolved whether by design or the 'fortuitous outcome of evolution and use'. It assesses the aesthetics of the place through the historic components of the landscape and their ability to enhance sensory stimulation. The aesthetic value also addresses whether the character areas may be amenable to restoration or enhancement.

Communal value	Communal values can be commemorative/symbolic, social or spiritual. These values are not easily quantifiable within the scope of this project being subjective to groups and individuals. Consequently in the context of this project the value merely seeks to address the potential for the heritage assets that could be used to engage the community/public with the heritage not only of each HECZ, but also of the wider area. The potential for each zone to provide material for future interpretation is also considered.
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Table 1: Heritage values

### 3.2 Assessment of value

3.2.1 The aim of applying values of high, medium, low is to indicate the likely significance and sensitivities of the historic environment within each zone. The assigned values reflect the current character of the areas and these will alter in response to change. This could include the results of research contributing to an enhanced understanding of the historic environment; the conservation and enhancement of the environment through positive development and re-development as a result of heritage-led regeneration.

3.2.2 The definition of heritage assets incorporates buildings, monuments (above and below ground archaeology), place, areas and landscapes<sup>3</sup>.

Evidential value (see * below for regarding archaeological potential)	High	There is a high potential for the heritage assets within the HECZ to contribute to an understanding of the history of the zone. Archaeological sites are likely to survive (both below ground and above ground) and for new research relating to the nature and origins of the built heritage to enhance the understanding of the development of the wider landscape and settlement pattern.
	Medium	There is a good potential for heritage assets to contribute to an understanding of the locality, both in terms of tangible and intangible features. This includes the potential for unknown above and below ground archaeological remains to be present. The opportunities for new insights to be reduced due to the nature of the heritage assets in question; subsequent changes to the historic character of the landscape or due to recent development.
	Low	There are no or very few known heritage assets. The understanding for the potential for above and below ground archaeological deposits to survive may be affected by the current lack of research within the wider area. Mitigation may still be required dependent upon an assessment of both the nature of any prospective new development and the potentials of the individual sites being developed.

<sup>3</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government 2012. Web: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2115939.pdf> (Appendix 2: Glossary)

Historical value	High	The legible heritage assets either dominate or significantly contribute to the historic character of each zone. There are strong associations between the heritage assets (both tangible and intangible) within the zone that are potentially demonstrable and/or the heritage assets make an important contribution to the history of the wider area. There are often designated sites either within or lying adjacent to the zone. The high value is not precluded by some degree of 20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> century alterations to the historic character.
	Medium	Legible heritage assets are present within the zone, but are not necessarily predominant or have undergone some form of alteration. Their presence, however, may contribute to an understanding of the development of the character zone and/or there are potential associations between assets. Further research may clarify these associations and elucidate the contribution of these assets to the history of the wider area. Even in their present form they do enable the public and community to visualise the development of the area over time.
	Low	There are no or very few known legible heritage assets and their associations are not clearly understood.
Aesthetic value	High	The completeness or integrity of the extant historic landscape or townscape and its contribution to the aesthetics of the zone is significant. Within settlements these can often, but not exclusively, be recognised through the designation of Conservation Areas.
	Medium	The components of the landscape or townscape are legible, but there may have been considerable impact by 20 <sup>th</sup> or 21 <sup>st</sup> century changes to these elements of the historic character. It is not possible within this project to discuss whether such alterations have positive, neutral or negative impacts upon the overall aesthetics.
	Low	The aesthetics of the historic character have been significantly impacted by 20 <sup>th</sup> or 21 <sup>st</sup> century change. It is not within the scope of this project to discuss whether their contributions are positive, neutral or negative within the wider landscape.
Communal value	High	The zone contains numerous heritage assets that could be used to engage the community through interpretation. The heritage assets clearly form part of a wider history of an area which can be drawn into a narrative. There may already have been a degree of interpretation and/or the community/public already has access to at least some of the heritage assets within the zone.
	Medium	Engagement with the heritage assets can only be achieved from a distance (from the public highway/rights of way) although there is the potential to enhance community interaction through interpretation or promotion. The ability for the heritage assets to contribute to a history of an area or landscape may be partly limited by access; legibility or on the limitations of the current understanding.

	Low	There are few known heritage assets which make it difficult to elucidate their history or apply it to a wider interpretation. There is no access or the legibility of the heritage assets is negligible.
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Table 2: Assessment of Heritage values

### **3.3 Potential uses for the document**

- 3.3.1 The assessment was produced specifically for SSC's SHLAA and Sites Allocation Document 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 significance of the historic environment in each zone along with guidance or advice on the potential impact of change in the landscape, planning policies which apply and recommendations.
- 3.3.2 SSC's Development Plan Document (2011) highlights the importance of the District's heritage to the quality of the environment, economic regeneration, local identity and the quality of life for its residents (Core Policy 2)<sup>4</sup>. The HEA provides important baseline data to support Policy EQ3: Conservation, Preservation and Protection of Heritage Assets. The results of the HEA highlight the contribution of heritage assets within the project areas and recommendations on how this can be conserved and where appropriate enhanced. The HEA also identifies the importance of the historic environment, and the contribution of above and below ground archaeology, to an understanding of how places have evolved through time. Such information also provides opportunities to enhance tourists' interaction with and appreciation of the District's heritage.
- 3.3.3 The HEA provides the baseline data to support the Core Strategy for the 13 project areas. However, the findings of the assessment also help to provide a District wide context for assessing the significance of heritage assets (both designated and non-designated) and the historic landscape character.
- 3.3.4 This document should 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.
- 3.3.5 Further potential uses for the document include providing a heritage framework for informing community based planning initiatives including village design statements, parish plans, SSC's Localities and Area Action Plans (AAPs). The Character Zones in particular may help communities to identify their priorities for improving and enhancing the local environment and sustainable development.

<sup>4</sup> South Staffordshire Council 2011 viewed 3/11/2011

3.3.6 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. Designated sites

### 4.1 *Scheduled Monuments*

4.1.2 There are 23 Scheduled monuments lying within the South Staffordshire District<sup>5</sup>.

Where there is a potential for development to impact upon the Scheduled Monuments or their settings then English Heritage should be contacted in advance of any proposals.

### 4.2 *Conservation Areas*

4.2.1 There are 19 Conservation Areas: Blymhill (103), Brewood (004), Chillington (035), Codsall & Oaken (047), Enville (049), Himley (104), Kinver (012), Lapley (105), Lower Penn (106), Pattingham (107), Penkridge (018), Penn (116), Shropshire Union Canal (081), Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal (073), Stourbridge Canal (080), Trysull & Seisdon (008), Weston-under-Lizard (053), Wheaton Aston (108), Wombourne (038) and The Woodlands (NNN jointly with the Vicarage Road Conservation Area of Wolverhampton City Council)<sup>6</sup>.

Where there is a potential for development to impact upon the Conservation Areas or their setting then SSC's Conservation Officer should be consulted.

### 4.3 *Registered Parks and Gardens*

4.3.1 There are five Registered parks and gardens lying within the District<sup>7</sup>. Three have been designated as Grade II\*: Chillington, Enville and Weston; two are Grade II: Himley and Patshull. All of these parklands were laid out in the mid- to late 18<sup>th</sup>-century, although some landscaping had been done at both Chillington and Himley earlier in the century<sup>8</sup>. Weston was laid out by the famous landscape designer, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, who was also responsible for the late 18<sup>th</sup> century extension to Himley<sup>9</sup>. Brown is also associated with Chillington and possibly Patshull<sup>10</sup>. Enville Park was laid out in conjunction with William Shenstone in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> Accurate as at 05/01/2011

<sup>6</sup> Accurate as at 05/01/2011

<sup>7</sup> Accurate as at 05/01/2011

<sup>8</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 40089 and PRN 20730; English Heritage 2004: GD 2168 and GD 2289

<sup>9</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 02715 and PRN 20730; English Heritage 2004: GD 1352 and GD 2289

<sup>10</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 40089 and PRN 40063; English Heritage 2004: GD 2168 and GD 1539

<sup>11</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 40051; English Heritage 2004: GD 1009

Where there is a potential for development to impact upon Grade I and II\* historic parks and gardens or their settings then English Heritage and The Garden History Society should be consulted in advance of any proposals. In the case of Grade II historic parks and gardens the Garden History Society should be consulted.

#### **4.4 Listed Buildings**

4.4.1 There are approximately 644 Listed Buildings within South Staffordshire; 16 Grade I, 44 Grade II\* and 584 Grade II<sup>12</sup>. Where there is a potential for development to impact upon Listed Buildings or their setting then SSC's Conservation Officer should be consulted in advance of any proposals.

### **5. South Staffordshire historic landscape**

#### **5.1 Background and overview**

5.1.1 The area administered by South Staffordshire Council is located in the south and south western part of the county. The authority shares borders with Stafford Borough to the north and Cannock Chase District Council to the east. The long western boundary is shared with Shropshire County Council. To the east are Wolverhampton City Council and Dudley Borough Council; as well as a short section of the Walsall District Council. The short southern boundary is shared with Wyre Forest District Council and Worcestershire County Council.

5.1.2 South Staffordshire is defined by its historic landscape character, which as map 2 shows is predominantly rural with 73.8% of the area being covered by the Broad HLC type 'Fieldsapes'. This is emphasised by map 3 which shows the extent of this Broad HLC type within the modern landscape. The map shows the fields by their period of origin and clearly shows several large areas where early field patterns survive including around Wheaton Aston (cf. 7.13 below and Appendix 6). There are also large areas where the field patterns have an 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century origin which is explored further in section 5.5.

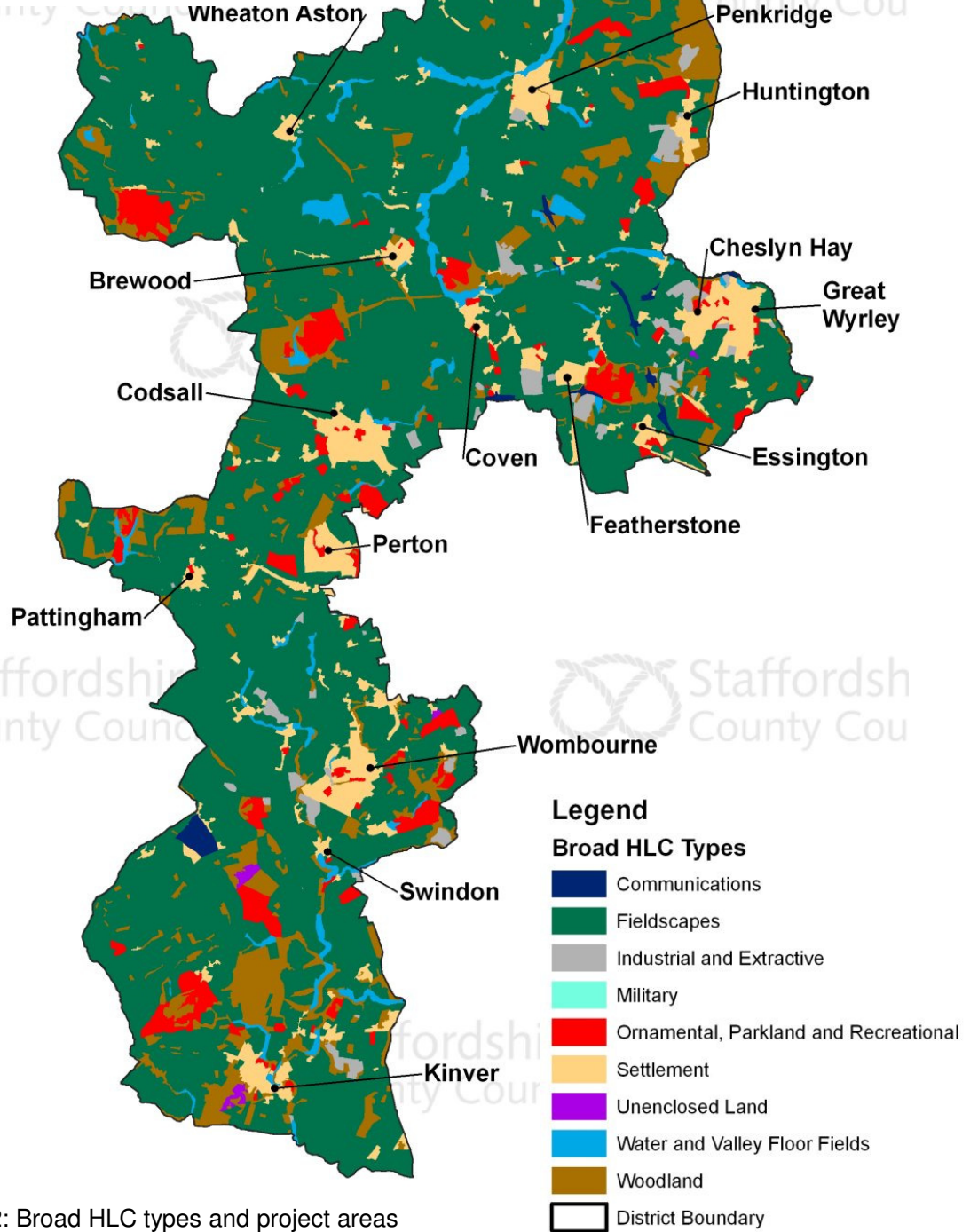
5.1.3 Woodland also makes a significant contribution to the historic landscape covering 9.2% of the District the majority of which relates to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century forestry plantations on Cannock Chase to the north east and 'The Million', covering over 300ha in the south west of the district. However, the HLC does not take account of woodland under 1ha in area and it may be that across the District the contribution of small copses, infield and in-hedge trees all make a positive contribution to the sense of a woodland character within parts of the District.

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<sup>12</sup> Accurate as at 05/01/2011



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Map 2: Broad HLC types and project areas

- 5.1.4 Settlement covers 7.2% of the District, but within the HLC project this tends to represent the villages and does not generally include the individual scattered farmsteads and small clusters of properties which are excluded from this figure. The principal areas of settlement within the zone include the medieval towns of Brewood, Kinver and Penkridge all of which are classified as Main Service Villages within the modern landscape<sup>13</sup>. Development during the 20<sup>th</sup> century has seen these and many of the other historic villages expand quite considerably particularly around Godsall, Cheslyn Hay, Great Wyrley and Wombourne. Perton represents a new settlement constructed in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century largely upon the site of a former airfield.
- 5.1.3 The Broad Type 'Industrial & Extractive' only covers 1.8% of the area of the District and is largely concentrated to the north east around Great Wyrley, Cheslyn Hay and Huntington (cf. map 2). Some of these sites relate to former collieries, such the remains of Littleton Colliery identifiable as the large area to the south west of Huntington (cf. 7.7 below and Appendix 3). The industrial sites around Cheslyn Hay and Great Wyrley, where they lie within the project area, are discussed in 7.6 and Appendix 3.

## **5.2 Prehistoric and Roman periods**

- 5.2.1 Map 4 reveals the known prehistoric and Roman archaeology across South Staffordshire as at December 2010<sup>14</sup>. This resource is known through the identification of archaeological sites as cropmarks visible on aerial photographs, as upstanding earthwork remains visible in the landscape, from archaeological investigations and from artefacts found either as stray finds or through field walking surveys. Only a few of these sites have been the subject of substantial research. However, those sites that have been the subject of investigation are highlighted on map 3 by the dense concentration of the known archaeology and include Acton Trussell, Greensforge and '*Pennocrucium*'. The latter two sites incorporate Roman forts and settlements which have been designated as Scheduled Monuments and a further Scheduled Roman fort exists to the west of Swindon<sup>15</sup>. The most physically impressive site is Kinver Iron Age hillfort in the south of the county, where large earthen ramparts survive, and is also designated as a Scheduled Monument.

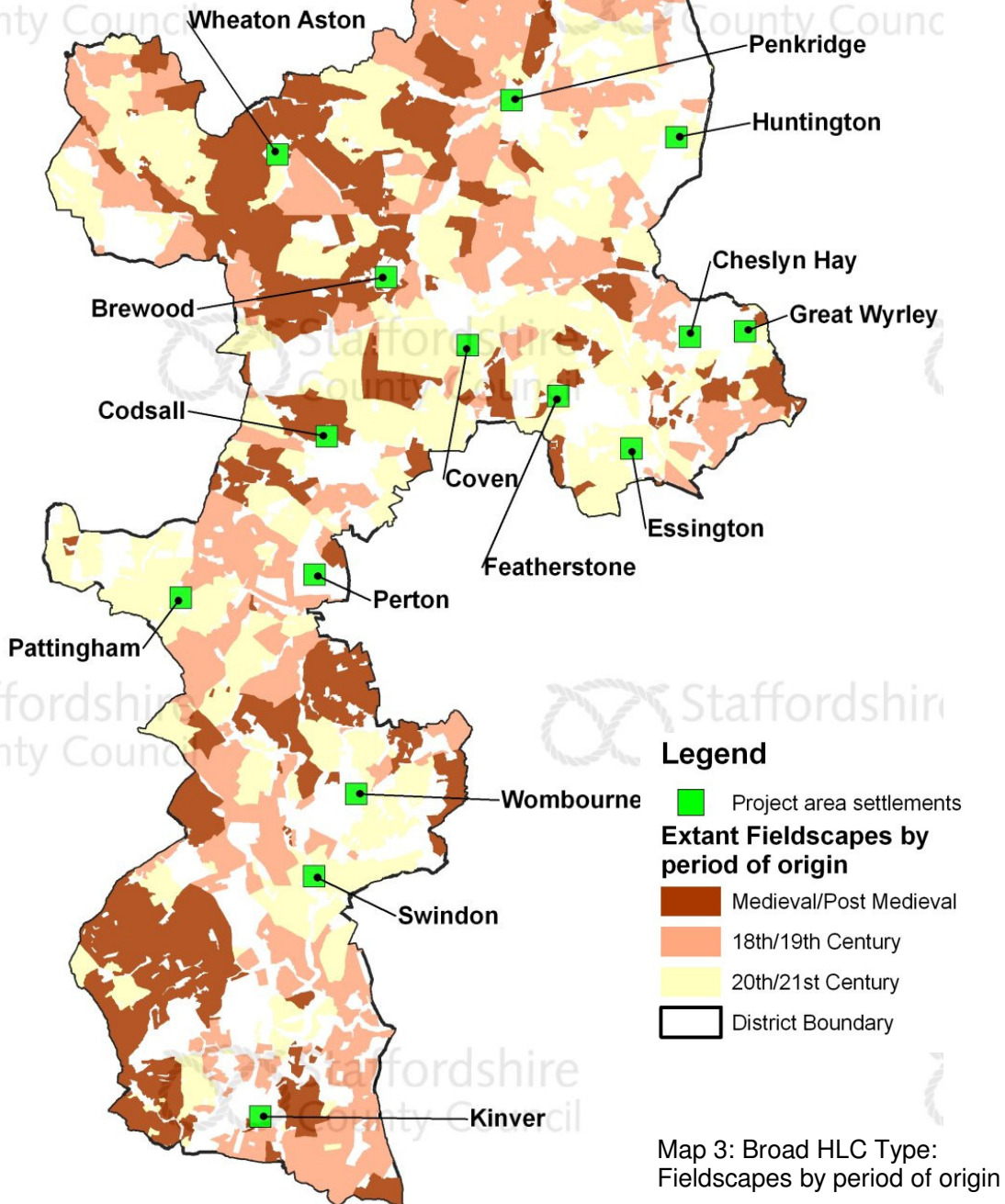
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<sup>13</sup> South Staffordshire 2009

<sup>14</sup> The Staffordshire HER is constantly being updated as new information is revealed, which updates and improves our understanding of the historic environment of the county.

<sup>15</sup> The Swindon site is discussed within SWHECZ 5 in Appendix 6

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5.2.2 *Cropmarks* - The intensification of arable cultivation within the District since the Second World War has revealed evidence of the Prehistoric and Roman land use with various features revealed as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The majority of the cropmark sites, however, are currently undated as no further investigation has yet taken place. The remainder have been dated through association with adjacent dated sites, through morphological

similarities to excavated examples and from unstratified finds. The Roman forts, camps and settlements at Greensforge and '*Pennocrucium*' have been revealed on aerial photographs although to date only limited archaeological investigations have been carried out on these sites; this is partly due to their legally protected status as Scheduled Monuments.

5.2.3 Other cropmark features within South Staffordshire include seven enclosures which have been tentatively dated and many others which are currently undated. One such enclosure near Teddesley has been tentatively interpreted as the site of an Iron Age farmstead<sup>16</sup>. Ring ditches, often interpreted as the ploughed out remains of Bronze Age barrows have been identified from aerial photographs at Gravelly Farm and Heath Farm in Penkrige, at Pattingham and near Dunston<sup>17</sup>. Many undated linear features have also been identified, and whilst many of these probably relate to former field boundaries probably of medieval or later date although others may represent late prehistoric/Roman pit alignments. Two undated cropmarks within the area of Seisdon on map 4 were identified as linear features on an aerial photograph taken in 1963, but the 2006 aerial photography has shown this as one long pit alignment<sup>18</sup>. Four pit alignments have so far been positively identified within the District near Greensforge, at Trescott and to the north of Seisdon; the latter was recognised on 2006 aerial photographs during the HEA project<sup>19</sup>. Pit alignments are considered to represent field boundaries created during the late Prehistoric to Roman periods. A further linear cropmark within the group of Seisdon cropmarks indicated on map 4 has been interpreted as a possible Roman road, although to date archaeological investigation has not been undertaken to confirm this<sup>20</sup>.

5.2.4 *Earthworks* – represent upstanding archaeological remains, which are most likely to survive in areas which have not been ploughed. Map 4 shows groups of undated earthworks on Highgate Common to the northwest of Greensforge and on Kinver Edge to the south of Kinver hillfort. The features on Highgate Common are earthwork banks, which may relate to the enclosure of woodland in the medieval or post medieval period. Those on Kinver Edge also include more banks as well as trackways and rock chambers which have been identified by a recent archaeological survey. Many of these features may also prove to relate to later activity, but only further archaeological research will reveal their origins and function within the landscape. Three Bronze Age burnt mounds have been identified within South Staffordshire, two in Saredon and one on Blymhill Common; a further possible burnt mound was identified at Acton Trussell<sup>21</sup>. These features 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.

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<sup>16</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04015

<sup>17</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01797, PRN 04542, PRN 04335 and PRN 04555

<sup>18</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04040 and PRN 04041

<sup>19</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 03534, PRN 04045 and PRN 54274

<sup>20</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04046

<sup>21</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01075, PRN 01082 and PRN 51618

- 5.2.5 The Scheduled Kinver hillfort covers 3.75ha and includes a single rampart around two-thirds of the site which stands to 2-3m in height from the inside of the hillfort (8-9m from the ditch)<sup>22</sup>. Two further hillforts lie to the south in Worcestershire approximately 3km away and these sites suggest that a rural economy based upon a dispersed settlement pattern, with a centralised power base was present within the area from at least the late Bronze Age/iron Age<sup>23</sup>. Consequently there is the potential for further late prehistoric sites to survive in the area.
- 5.2.6 *Archaeological investigation* – Very few archaeological investigations have been carried out upon prehistoric and Roman sites within Staffordshire as is illuminated by map 4. However, an archaeological excavation carried out at Coven Heath revealed that by the mid to late Bronze Age the surrounding landscape was dominated by grassland suggesting that it was being farmed as pasture<sup>24</sup>. The palaeoenvironmental evidence, which provided this insight, is a particularly important resource for understanding the management of the landscape from the prehistoric period onwards.
- 5.2.7 Penk Valley Archaeological Group has been undertaking archaeological excavations at Acton Trussell since 1979. The excavations have identified human activity on this site since the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. Several Iron Age ditches or gullies have been excavated suggesting domestic and agricultural activity. From the early Roman period the site was developed as a villa and may represent the Romanisation of a pre-existing British family rather than new settlers. Several phases of villa development have been identified and it is not currently certain to what extent the site was occupied following the withdrawal of the Roman army in 409AD. A Roman villa and bath house was excavated at Engleton in the 1930s<sup>25</sup>.
- 5.2.8 Limited archaeological investigations on cropmark linear features at Greensforge, outside of the Scheduled areas, have confirmed them as hollow ways of Roman date. Post-holes, pits and other features, along with pottery all of a similar date were also revealed, which suggests that this area may have been the site of a civilian settlement (vicus).
- 5.2.9 *Stray finds and field walking evidence* – Stray finds of prehistoric to Roman date have been recovered from across the District (cf. map 4). The earliest evidence for human activity within South Staffordshire is the Mesolithic flint scatters which have been recovered during field surveys near Kinver and Wrottesley<sup>26</sup>. The latter site has been interpreted as a flint working site during the Mesolithic.

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<sup>22</sup> Cf. KVHECZ 5 in Appendix 4

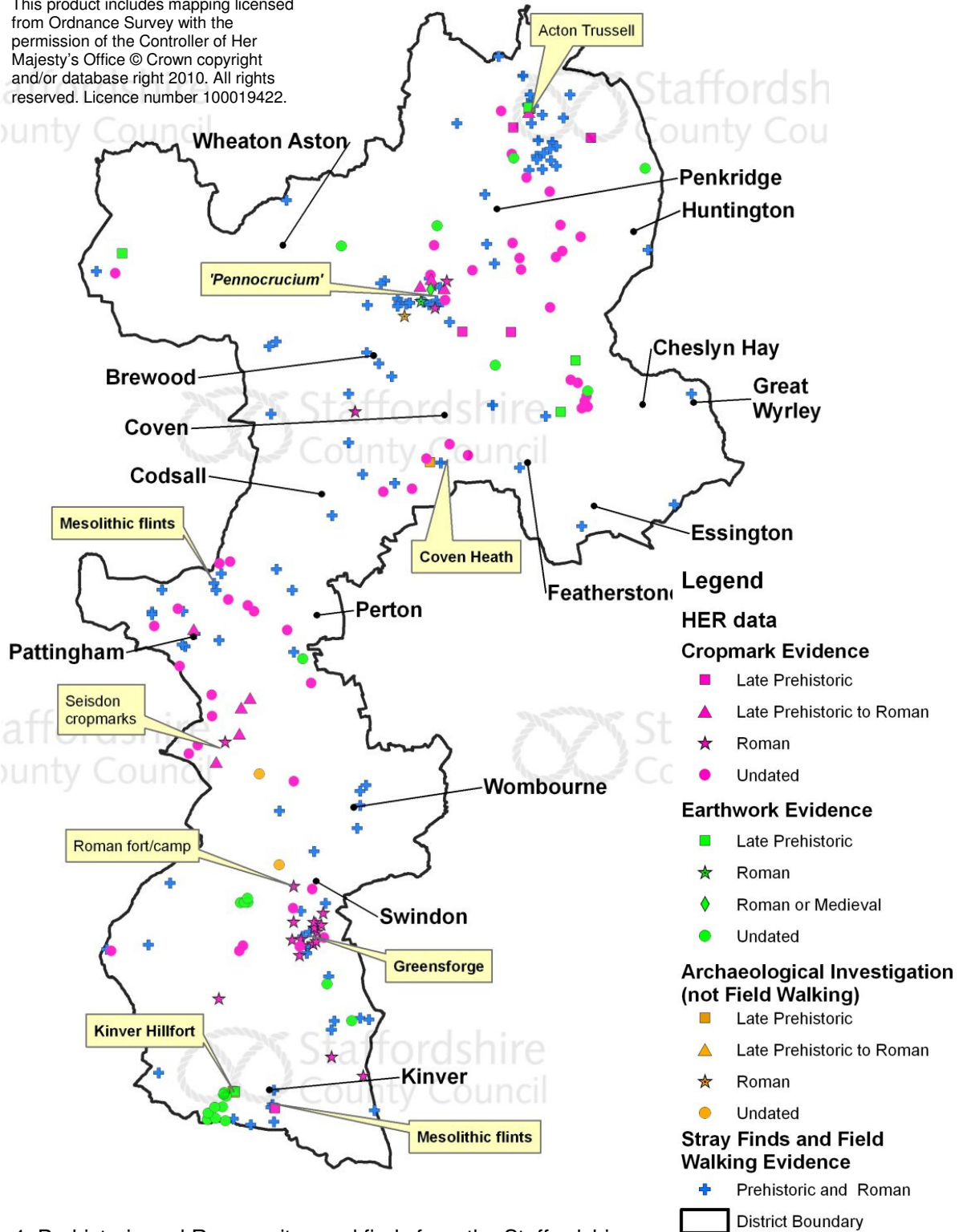
<sup>23</sup> Staffordshire County Council 2008: 15-16

<sup>24</sup> Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology 2006: iii

<sup>25</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00217

<sup>26</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 03537, PRN 01878 and PRN 51877

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Map 4: Prehistoric and Roman sites and finds from the Staffordshire HER as at December 2010. (NB. The HER is constantly being updated as new information is revealed through archaeological investigation and other research)

5.2.10 On the whole stray finds do not currently make a useful contribution to an understanding of how the landscape was being utilised by people during

these periods; however, in some area it represents the only evidence for human activity.

*5.2.10 Documentary evidence* - There is currently very little physical evidence for the quintessential Bronze Age monument; the barrow or burial mound. Possible barrows have been reported within the parishes of Brewood, Kinver, Saredon and Wombourne mostly by 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century antiquaries in areas which were then still mostly comprised of heathland<sup>27</sup>. These landscapes have since been enclosed and subject to agricultural activity and no traces of these barrows were identified by 20<sup>th</sup> century investigators. However, there is the potential for below ground deposits to survive in these areas relating to Bronze Age burial activity. All of these features may be associated with more intensive human activity, which may also survive as below ground deposits.

*5.2.11 Summary* – The known evidence of human activity in the prehistoric and Roman periods reveals that whilst South Staffordshire may not have been densely occupied during these periods it was by no means a deserted landscape. There is the potential for further archaeological remains to survive across the District, as has been shown by the identification of the pit alignment during the course of the HEA project (cf. 5.1.2). All of this evidence will greatly enhance our understanding of the utilisation of the landscape and the lives of the people during these periods, which in turn will contribute to the national picture.

### **5.3 Brewood, Cannock and Kinver Forests**

5.3.1 Map 6 shows the conjectural extent of Forest within South Staffordshire by the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century based upon documents and surveys dating to mostly to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries<sup>28</sup>. However, little is known about the precise extent of Brewood Forest as it had ceased to exist and was diasfforested in 1203 by King John<sup>29</sup>.

5.3.2 Forests were areas which were utilised by the Crown primarily for hunting but also as a source of revenue particularly in terms of its timber and mineral resources<sup>30</sup>. It was subject to special 'Forest Laws' which were laid down by William the Conqueror during the mid to late 11<sup>th</sup> century. These laws restricted the rights of local inhabitants to take game and utilise the woodland and pasture which fell within the forest bounds. Much of the revenue from the Crown came from fining those who made illegal encroachments (assarting) or illegally took game as exemplified in the Pleas of the Forest for three years in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century specifically covering the Forests of Cannock and Kinver<sup>31</sup>.

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<sup>27</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01077, PRN 01482, PRN 02131, PRN 01813 and PRN 01913

<sup>28</sup> Adapted from Cantor 1968: figs 1 and 2

<sup>29</sup> Cantor 1968: 48 and figs 1 & 2

<sup>30</sup> Studd 2000: 125

<sup>31</sup> Staffordshire Forest Pleas: January 1262; 'Staffordshire Forest Pleas: Michaelmas, 55 Henry III'; 'Staffordshire Forest Pleas: 14 Edward I' (all accessed 04/01/2011)

5.3.3 It is not clear when the forests of Staffordshire were created although the three lying within South Staffordshire existed by the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century<sup>32</sup>. The Domesday Book (1086) manors and sub-manors within South Staffordshire are shown on Map 6 (cf. also 5.4.4). It has been suggested that some of the manors recorded in Domesday Book as being 'waste' had recently been transferred into one of the royal forests<sup>33</sup>. This is made explicit in the entries for 'Haswic' (Ashwood) and Chasepool where it is stated that they lay within the "King's Forest"<sup>34</sup>. Parts of Enville manor and the now lost manor of 'Cippemore' also lay within the forest by 1086<sup>35</sup>. Robin Studd has argued that these manors are described as 'waste' not because they had been destroyed or were unproductive but because land within the forest was not taxable and was therefore not assessed by the Domesday commissioners<sup>36</sup>. This may be exemplified by the settlement of Morfe, which had been assessed and valued but is then stated as being 'waste' suggesting it was in the process of being transferred into the royal forest<sup>37</sup>. Consequently it is likely that the manors of Huntington and Wyrley were 'waste' because they lay within Cannock Forest<sup>38</sup>. However it is clear that by at least 1300 settlements existed at Huntington, Wyrley and Morfe, probably with attached arable land. It is, however, not currently clear whether they existed by the early medieval period or were established (or re-established) following the assartment of the woodland in the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> centuries (cf. map 6 and 5.2.4)<sup>39</sup>.

5.2.1 The landscape of the forest was dominated by woodland and areas of pasture to facilitate hunting, but also to graze stock<sup>40</sup>. However, the royal forests did incorporate existing settlements within their bounds whose activities were restricted by the Forest Law. These settlements probably relied upon an arable economy even whilst they lay within the Forest and much of the illegal assarting was probably undertaken by inhabitants seeking to extend their holdings. Maps 4 and 5 show that many of the settlements which are the subject of the HEA lay within one of the forests although by the early 13<sup>th</sup> century those lying within the area covered by Brewood were no longer subject to the Forest Law, which probably accounts for the lack of 'Unenclosed Land' shown in this area of South Staffordshire on maps 5 and 6. The restrictions of Forest Law continued to be flouted by those living within Kinver and Cannock Forests during the 13<sup>th</sup> century as court rolls known as the Pleas of the Forest show<sup>41</sup>. King Edward I initiated a Perambulation of the Forests in 1300 to ascertain the precise boundaries. At this date many of the settlements claimed disafforestation (freedom from Forest Law) including Coven, Essington, Featherstone and Great Wyrley in Cannock and Swindon

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<sup>32</sup> Greenslade 1967: 335

<sup>33</sup> Hawkins and Rumble 1974

<sup>34</sup> Studd 2000: 121-133; Hawkins and Rumble: 7: 6

<sup>35</sup> Hawkins and Rumble 1974: 12: 10 and 12: 11

<sup>36</sup> Studd 2000: 125

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid: 127

<sup>39</sup> Cantor 1968: figs. 2 and 3

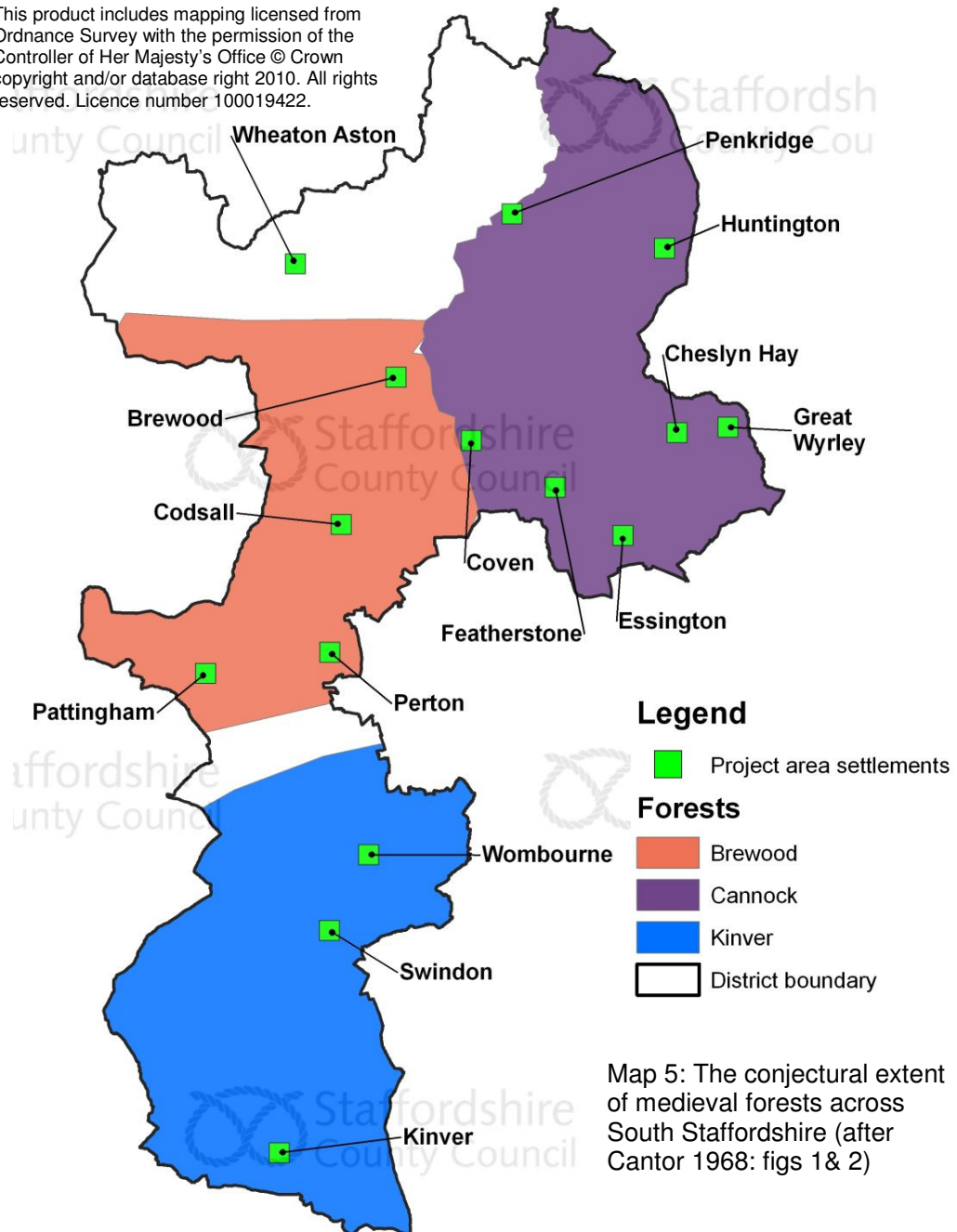
<sup>40</sup> Cantor 1968: 42

<sup>41</sup> Staffordshire Forest Pleas: January 1262; 'Staffordshire Forest Pleas: Michaelmas, 55 Henry III'; 'Staffordshire Forest Pleas: 14 Edward I' (all accessed 04/01/2011)



and Wombourne in Kinver<sup>42</sup>. All of these settlements had been freed from Forest Law by the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century in effect much reducing the area of Forest across South Staffordshire and presumably resulting in changes to the landscape character.

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Map 5: The conjectural extent of medieval forests across South Staffordshire (after Cantor 1968: figs 1 & 2)

5.2.2 Penkrige and Huntingdon were apparently not included in this disafforestation because they lay with Teddesley Hay. There were seven hays within Cannock Forest only three of which lay within South Staffordshire by the mid

<sup>42</sup> Cantor 1968: 44-48; figs. 2 and 3; 'Perambulations of the Forest: 1300' (accessed 04/01/2011)

14<sup>th</sup> century; Cheslyn Hay, Gailey Hay and Teddesley Hay<sup>43</sup>. Within Cannock the hays were sub-divisions of the forest and largely survived into the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries<sup>44</sup>. The hays largely relate to the areas of 'Unenclosed Land' shown on Map 6. In Kinver there were four hays (Ashwood, Chasepool, Iverley and Prestwood) which were small enclosed areas used to corral the deer prior to a hunt<sup>45</sup>. By 1350 the extent of Kinver Forest had largely been reduced to the area indicated by the Historic Character Types (HCTs) 'Unenclosed Land' and 'Woodland' shown on Map 6, although it also appears to have included Kinver and its open fields<sup>46</sup>. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the landscape of this area was still dominated by 'Unenclosed Land' and 'Woodland' being finally enclosed or laid down for plantation woodland in the 19<sup>th</sup> century following an Act of Parliament (1774), although it had largely ceased to function as part of the Crown's estate by the 17<sup>th</sup> century<sup>47</sup>.

## 5.4 Medieval and early post medieval land use

**5.4.1** *Unenclosed Land, Woodland and Deer Parks* - Map 6 is a conjectural map showing the main land use in the medieval and early post medieval periods. The large areas of 'Unenclosed Land' are contiguous with the cores of the Forests of Cannock and Kinver and these landscapes largely survived into the 18<sup>th</sup> century (cf. 4.2). Within the modern landscape the largest area of 'Unenclosed Land' to survive is Highgate Common to the south west of Wombourne. Other areas of 'Unenclosed Land' have been deliberately regenerated at Kinver Edge having formerly been forestry plantation.

5.4.2 Woodland is probably under-represented within the HLC, although a number of significant areas are shown; to the east of Wombourne, around Perton and north west of Codsall. This latter area is supported by the placename 'Codsall Wood' which may indicate that this was a significant woodland asset at least in the early medieval period. Woodland was recorded in the majority of the manors in Domesday Book<sup>48</sup>.

5.4.3 Four deer parks have been identified by the HLC as shown on Map 6; their extent being defined by the morphology of the later field patterns (from north to south these are Weston, Brewood, Enville and Compton)<sup>49</sup>. However, documentary sources reveal that a further three deer parks existed two of which, Patshull and Wrottesley, are marked on Map 6 whilst the third lay at Oaken to the south west of Codsall<sup>50</sup>. Deer parks may have existed at Pillaton and Teddesley in the north east of the District although the evidence is currently uncertain<sup>51</sup>. Deer parks were licensed by the king and were owned by both lay and ecclesiastical lords; Brewood was owned by the

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<sup>43</sup> Ibid: fig. 2

<sup>44</sup> Ibid: 40 and 46

<sup>45</sup> Ibid: 40

<sup>46</sup> Ibid: fig. 3

<sup>47</sup> Greenslade 1967: 348

<sup>48</sup> Hawkins and Rumble 1974

<sup>49</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 50878, PRN 01068, PRN 01166 and PRN 03525

<sup>50</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01184, PRN 01185 and PRN 54178

<sup>51</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01014 and PRN 01805

Bishop of Lichfield and Oaken by the Abbot of Croxden Abbey for instance. The deer parks were usually enclosed by a bank and ditch designed to allow deer to enter the parks, but not to leave. There is the potential for earthworks to survive relating to these landscapes within the District.

5.4.4 *Settlement and moated sites* - the establishment of the three Royal forests suggests that the landscape of South Staffordshire was only lightly settled with large areas of woodland dominating<sup>52</sup>. Map 6 shows that there were 57 manors and/or sub manors within South Staffordshire at the time of Domesday Book (1086) which also reflects the pre Conquest (1066) pattern. The population figures in Domesday Book are likely to under-represent the true picture at this period, but overall the entries confirm that the area was not heavily settled compared to other counties within England<sup>53</sup>. The three largest manors with over 20 recorded households were Brewood, Kinver and Lapley<sup>54</sup>. The latter is described with its 'dependencies' and although these are not specified it is possible that they include the settlement of Wheaton Aston (cf. Appendix 6)<sup>55</sup>. A further nine had over ten households including Essington, Pattingham, Penkridge Perton and Wombourne<sup>56</sup>. The distribution of Domesday manors on Map 6 indicates that the majority were associated with areas of arable agriculture (cf. 5.4.9 below) and this is confirmed by the references to ploughs within each of the Domesday entries<sup>57</sup>.

5.4.5 The national population is believed to have increased considerably throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries and consequently the area of arable agriculture and settlement is likely to have increased within South Staffordshire during this period. Moated sites (as indicated on map 6) appear to be a particular phenomenon of these two centuries and have close associations with landscapes where woodland and pasture would have been common<sup>58</sup>. This description would have suited much of South Staffordshire during the medieval period. There are 54 records of moats within South Staffordshire on the Staffordshire HER, which represents approximately a quarter of all those known across the whole county. These are known from both earthwork and cropmark evidence although some have been more positively identified than others, but also from documentary records particularly historic maps. Of the number known in South Staffordshire 13 have been identified as being of national significance and are designated as Scheduled Monuments. The distribution of moats on Map 6 suggests that they were mostly located within areas of arable agriculture, and they generally form part of what is overall a dispersed settlement pattern. It is possible, therefore, that the majority of moats may be associated with economic expansion by freeholders who created small estates possibly originating as illegal assarting within the royal forests<sup>59</sup>. On the other hand, as Roberts and Wrathmell point out, moats may

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<sup>52</sup> Cantor 1968: 39

<sup>53</sup> Walmsley 1968: 73-74

<sup>54</sup> Hawkins and Rumble 1976

<sup>55</sup> Ibid: EN, 1

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Hawkins and Rumble 1974

<sup>58</sup> Roberts and Wrathmell 2002: 58

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

represent the development of an earlier holding, rather than always suggesting newly won land<sup>60</sup>. This assertion has yet to be tested through archaeological excavation.

- 5.4.6 One of the moats is located within the area of Teddesley Hay (within HCT 'Unenclosed Land' to the north east of Penkridge) may have originated as the site of a hunting lodge<sup>61</sup>. This was later the focus of an 18<sup>th</sup> century estate based upon Teddesley Hall (cf. 5.5). The other hunting lodges shown on Map 6 are known only from documentary evidence, the one relating to the Grade II Listed Stourton Castle which is believed to have originated as a royal hunting lodge and where medieval fabric survives in the form of a stone built gate tower<sup>62</sup>.
- 5.4.7 Three of the medieval manor houses shown on map 6 have been identified primarily from contemporary documentary evidence<sup>63</sup>. The fourth manor house is Dunsley Hall lying to the north east of Kinver; identified from both documentary sources and the earliest extant architectural fabric which has been dated to mid 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> century<sup>64</sup>.
- 5.4.8 There are a further eleven Grade II Listed buildings within the District which either have been proved to be or are probably either 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century in origin. All of these buildings were originally timber framed, although it is only visible externally in properties along Dean Street, School Street and Newport Street in Brewwood; The Old Cottage in Penkridge; 'Holbein House', High Street and the Grade II\* Listed 'Whittington Inn' both lying in Kinver parish<sup>65</sup>. The Grade II\* Listed 'The Wodehouse' near Wombourne retains a 14<sup>th</sup> century timber framed core which is visible internally<sup>66</sup>. The remainder have been refaced or have been altered in later centuries, however, the remains of further timber framed medieval buildings may survive concealed within later structures across the District. Timber framed buildings of 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century date are more numerous across the District and range from isolated farmhouses to properties within the settlements. Timber framed buildings are particularly characteristic of Brewwood and Kinver.
- 5.4.9 *Open fields and piecemeal enclosure* - In the medieval period the landscape of South Staffordshire was also dominated by open fields, which relate to arable agriculture during this and later periods. Map 6 indicates the known extent of the open fields as the HCTs 'Open Fields' and 'Piecemeal Enclosure'; the latter is described below.

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<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 05495

<sup>62</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 09227; Greenslade et al 1984: 130 and 132

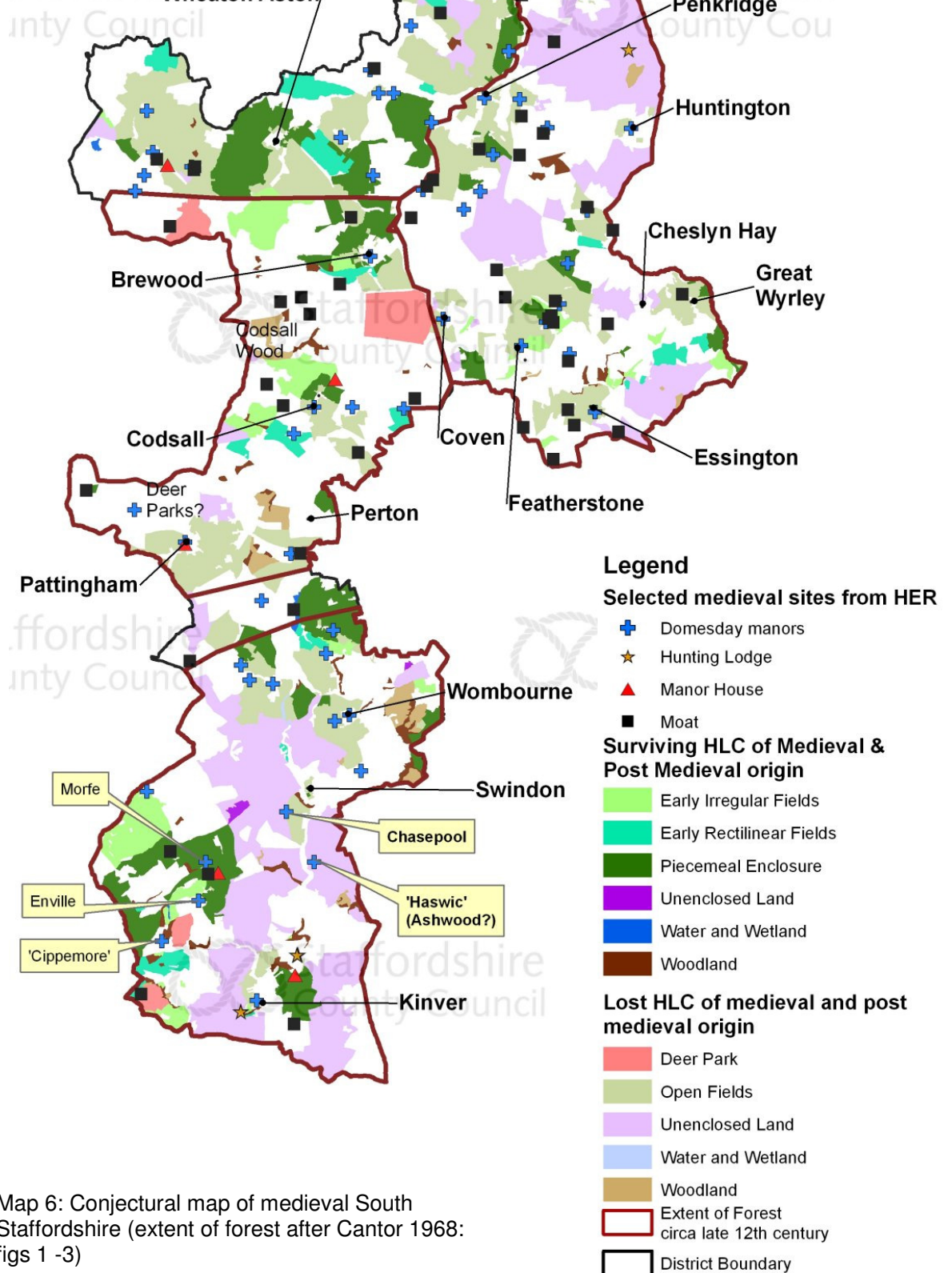
<sup>63</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01053, PRN 54167 (cf. CDHECZ 1 in Appendix 1) and PRN 54227 (cf. PTHECZ 2 in Appendix 4).

<sup>64</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 13750; David Burton-Pye pers. comm. (cf. KVHECZ 2 in Appendix 4)

<sup>65</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 09049; PRN 10009; PRN 12996; PRN 13754 and PRN 09260

<sup>66</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 09323

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Map 6: Conjectural map of medieval South Staffordshire (extent of forest after Cantor 1968: figs 1 -3)

5.4.10 The 'open fields' comprised at least two or more large hedge-less fields which were farmed on a rotational basis between arable, fallow and other crops. The fields were divided into strips which individual landholders held across the various fields. The fossilised remains of the strips sometimes survive as 'Ridge and furrow' earthworks as can be seen in the fields around Wheaton Aston (cf. 7.13 and Appendix 6). Map 6 shows that the open fields lay around or in the close proximity to settlements. All of the project settlements are clearly associated with open fields on Map 6; the only exception is Cheslyn Hay which did not exist as a settlement until the post medieval period (cf. 7.6 below and Appendix 3).

5.4.11 The open fields, in common with such landscapes in the remainder of the county, were enclosed piecemeal during the post medieval period; a process which had been largely completed by the 18th century. Consequently the extent of the open fields can be identified by the extant areas of 'Piecemeal Enclosure' on Map 6. This enclosure pattern fossilised the form of medieval ploughing in the characteristic dog-leg or reverse 'S' field boundaries. Map 6 shows that 'Piecemeal Enclosure' survives particularly well around Enville and Wheaton Aston. The survival of this pattern suggests that the land was probably largely in the hands of small landholders throughout much of its history and so enclosure took place over a longer period of time. In Wheaton Aston this process was particularly slow and may be the reason why a large number of 16th and 17th century farmsteads survived in the village into the 20th century; a number of which are extant (cf. 7.13 and Appendix 6).

5.4.12 *Early Irregular and Early Rectilinear Fields* - There are few areas exhibiting these HCTs on map 6; such fields have not been closely dated and may originate in any period from the medieval period onwards. It is likely that the irregular fields are the earliest although both types probably represent assarting in woodland or encroachment onto the common land. There is a small area of 'Early Irregular Fields' in the area of Codsall Wood, where two moated sites have also been identified on Map 6, which could well represent assarting at an early period.

## **5.5 18th and 19th century improvement: landscape gardens, planned enclosure and plantations**

5.5.1 Map 7 shows the extent of landscape change which originated in the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century and is therefore closely associated with a period of agricultural improvement and the development of landscape parks. The map also indicates the extent to which the landscapes of this date survive within the District.

5.5.2 Around 40 landscape parks have been identified within South Staffordshire on the Staffordshire HER, however, of these only 37 show any real evidence of having been landscaped in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. A further landscape park may have been established around Wheaton Aston Court, which was constructed in the 1890s<sup>67</sup>. The largest of the landscape parks, as shown on

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<sup>67</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 40115

map 6, were owned and occupied by some of the most influential landholders in the county including the Earl of Bradford (of Weston Park), the Earl of Stamford (of Enville Hall), Lord Hatherton (of Teddesley Park), Lord Wrottesley (of Wrottesley Hall) and, between 1765 and 1848 Baron Pigot (of Patshull Hall)<sup>68</sup>. The Giffard family of Chillington Hall had been in possession of the manor since the 12<sup>th</sup> century and the parkland is a Grade II\* Registered Park and Garden (cf. 4.3 above)<sup>69</sup>. The majority of these estates had developed from the sites of medieval manor houses which were associated with settlements<sup>70</sup>. A small country house and landscape garden, The Wodehouse near Wombourne, also had medieval origins<sup>71</sup>.

- 5.4.3 It is clear from the map that there is a geographical association between those field systems which have either been created or altered during this period and the location of the large estates identified above. Even where there is no geographical association historical documents reveal that these landowners held much of the land across the District. Two examples will suffice to illuminate the trend. Lord Wrottesley held the manor of Perton during the period<sup>72</sup>. By 1851 Lord Hatherton held most of the land to the north, east and south east of Penkrige (in Drayton, Gailey, Hatherton Otherton and Wolgarston), and the manor of Levedale and much of the land in Preston to the west<sup>73</sup>.
- 5.4.4 The regular courtyard farmsteads shown on the map further suggest the extent of the improvements made during this period and were probably largely funded by the larger landholders within the District. These regular plan forms are associated with the improvements in efficiency which were being promulgated by agricultural writers during these centuries<sup>74</sup>. These farmsteads may represent new holdings established upon former heathland, particularly in those areas of HCT 'Planned Enclosure', or the re-planning of earlier farmsteads to improve efficiency. In the latter case there is the potential for earlier buildings to be incorporated into the re-planning of the farmstead. The remaining farmsteads are more likely to represent small freeholders within the District farming who had less capital to invest in the wholesale improvement of their farm buildings; although incremental developments may be apparent within their extant plan forms.
- 5.4.5 The small landscape parks which are shown on map 7 are largely associated with the aspirations of 19<sup>th</sup> century industrialists who began to invest in country estates; either creating new sites as happened to the south west of Codsall (cf. 7.2 below and CDHECZ 6 in Appendix 1) or buying older properties such as Rodbaston Hall near Penkrige (cf. PKHECZ 3 in Appendix 3). Codsall itself expanded as a retreat from industrial

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<sup>68</sup> White 1834 viewed on 5/1/2011; White 1851 viewed on 5/1/2011; English Heritage 2004: GD 1539

<sup>69</sup> Greenslade and Midgley 1959: 28

<sup>70</sup> There are the sites of deserted settlements on the HER within the landscape parks of Chillington (PRN 01889), Patshull (PRN 01899), Wrottesley (PRN 01901) and Hilton (PRN 02481) among others.

<sup>71</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 09323

<sup>72</sup> Cf. 7.11 below and PRHECZ 2 and PRHECZ 4

<sup>73</sup> White 1851 viewed 10/01/2011; cf. 7.10 below and Appendix 5 PKHECZ 4

<sup>74</sup> English Heritage et al. 2010: 24

Wolverhampton with large villas being constructed from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards due to the opening of the railway<sup>75</sup>.

## 5.6 Industry

5.6.1 Although the HCT 'Industry and Extractive' is shown on map 7 it is not dominant within the landscape of the District. The map does, however, indicate that in the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century industry was concentrated to the north east around Cheslyn Hay, Essington, Great Wyrley and Huntington. In this area it related specifically to coalmining and quarrying which covered an area greater than 1ha in extent<sup>76</sup>. Consequently the impact of industry upon the landscape and economy of South Staffordshire is not reflected within the HLC as it was rarely carried out on a landscape-scale. Map 8 shows the industrial sites, known from documentary and physical evidence, recorded on the HER. It also shows quite clearly the predominance of coal mining, and brick and tile works, in the north east of the District. This area lay within the Cannock Chase coalfield which is known to have been exploited from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, although little is known about this early activity<sup>77</sup>. Littleton Colliery, at Huntington, was the last surviving colliery in South Staffordshire closing in 1993<sup>78</sup>. One ironworking site is shown at Churchbridge; the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Gilpin's edge-tool works<sup>79</sup>. The map also indicates how the industry of this area was closely associated with the development of the communications network of canals, tramways and later the railways.

5.6.2 The earliest evidence for industry shown on map 8 are the watermill sites, some of which may have Early Medieval origins. Many medieval mills were probably corn mills although some may have operated as fulling mills or indeed may have had dual functions. However evidence for this is often scant and further research is needed in this area. The map also makes clear the ironworking industry which developed in the Stour and Smestow valleys from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards, and which became particularly associated with the Foley family<sup>80</sup>. This originated as a water-powered industry and some of these sites may have been converted from corn mills and fulling mills. Large ironworks survived within the Stour and Smestow valleys into the late 19<sup>th</sup> century at Hyde and Whittington, near Kinver, and at Swindon. There is also evidence for ironworking around Coven; the most significant site was John Smith's mid 19<sup>th</sup> century locomotive works which was located within the village<sup>81</sup>. A number of watermills were involved in ironworking around Penkridge; the sites include the Teddesley blast furnace, which dated to the late 16<sup>th</sup> century<sup>82</sup>.

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<sup>75</sup> Cf. 7.12 and CDHECZ 5 in Appendix 1

<sup>76</sup> The smallest area to be defined within the HLC project

<sup>77</sup> Taylor 1967: 84

<sup>78</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20492; Cf. 7.7 below and HTHECZ 1 and HTHECZ 3 in Appendix 3

<sup>79</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 51790; Cf. 7.6 below and GWHECZ 2 in Appendix 3

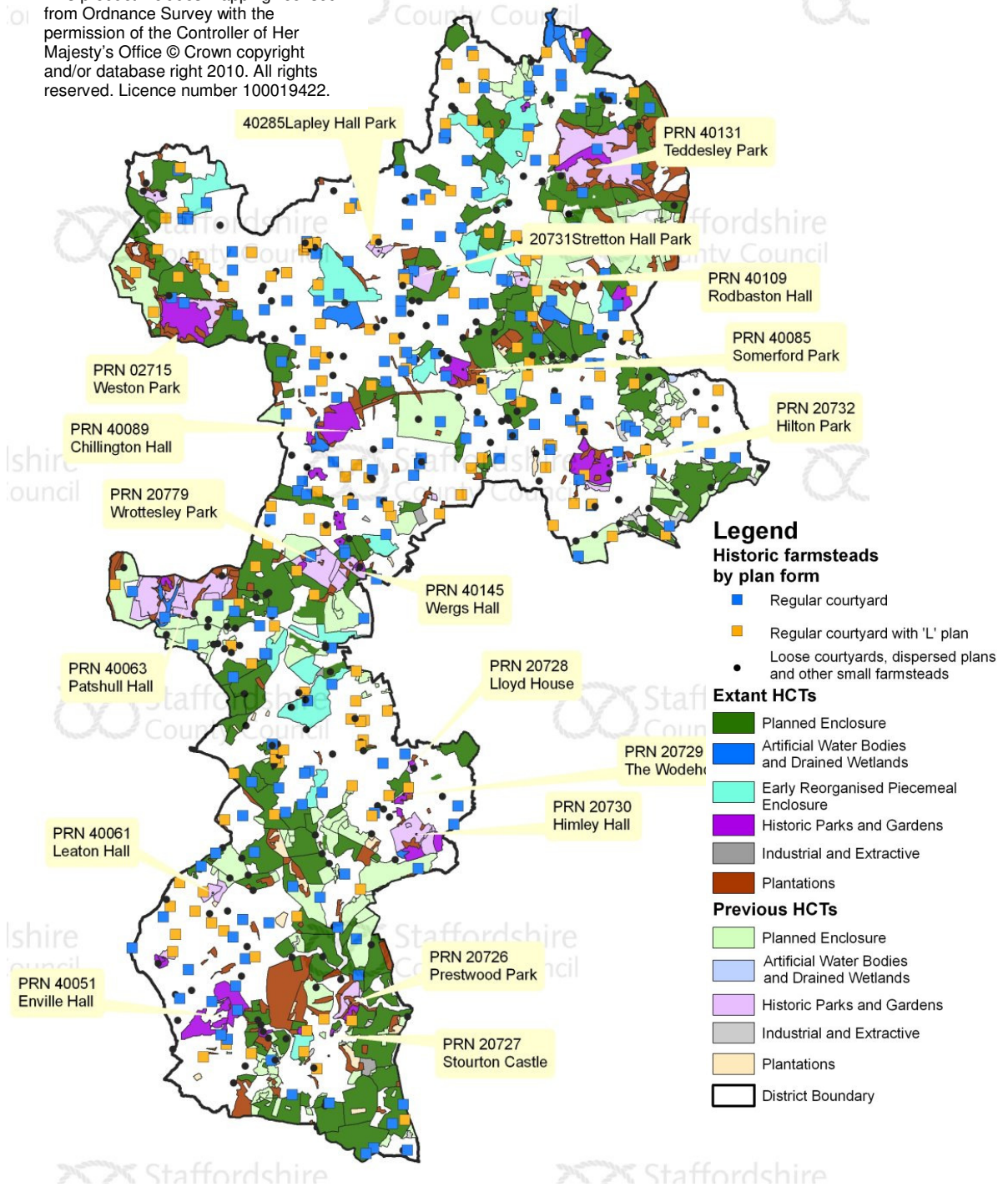
<sup>80</sup> Johnson 1967: 108-120

<sup>81</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 50880; Cf. 7.3 below and CVHECZ 3 in Appendix 2

<sup>82</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01048



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Map 7: Selected HCTs of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century origin showing both extant and previous extents

5.6.3 Little is currently known about medieval industry, although an excavation in Brewood revealed evidence for tanning or hemp-working<sup>83</sup>. There is the potential for further industrial sites to survive within the settlements of the District as during the medieval and post medieval periods it was generally associated with domestic occupation. Home-based industry was also a feature of the District into the 19<sup>th</sup> century in settlements such as Kinver and Wombourne, which were noted for their nailmakers (one nailers' workshop appears on the HER). A few lockmakers were recorded working in Brewood and Coven in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>84</sup>.

## **6. Summary of Recommendations**

A set of generic statements have been prepared below which relate to the historic environment in all zones. These relate to general principles; more specific recommendations will be prepared for individual zones within the study area.

### **6.1 Historic Landscape**

6.1.1 The conservation of the fabric of the historic landscape of South Staffordshire, including field boundaries, the settlement pattern and the winding lanes between settlements is desirable. The integrity of the historic landscape character and distinctiveness of the zone should be considered when planning the scale and relative density of any potential new development. The importance of understanding and respecting the local character of areas runs throughout NPPF<sup>85</sup>.

### **6.2 Historic Buildings**

6.2.1 The promotion of the re-use of historic buildings and its role in contributing to sustainable development is supported in NPPF para. 126 bullet point 1 and para.131 which both emphasise "the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation"<sup>86</sup>. Opportunities should therefore be taken to renovate and reuse redundant or unoccupied historic buildings within the zone. NPPF para. 126 bullet point 2 identifies the contribution that the historic environment can bring to wider social, economic and environmental benefits.

6.2.2 New development, particularly in the historic core of settlements, should seek to complement the local vernacular. It should aim to make a positive contribution to the historic character of the settlements and strengthen local distinctiveness. NPPF para. 17 bullet point 4 (core planning principals); para. 58 bullet point 4 and paras. 126 and 131 identify that new development should be of a high quality design which is sympathetic to the local historic character of the area. Indeed it is maintained within the guidance that historic

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<sup>83</sup> BUFAU 2001

<sup>84</sup> Cf. 7.12 and SWHECZ 1 and SWHECZ 4 in Appendix 6; Greenslade and Midgley 1959: 20

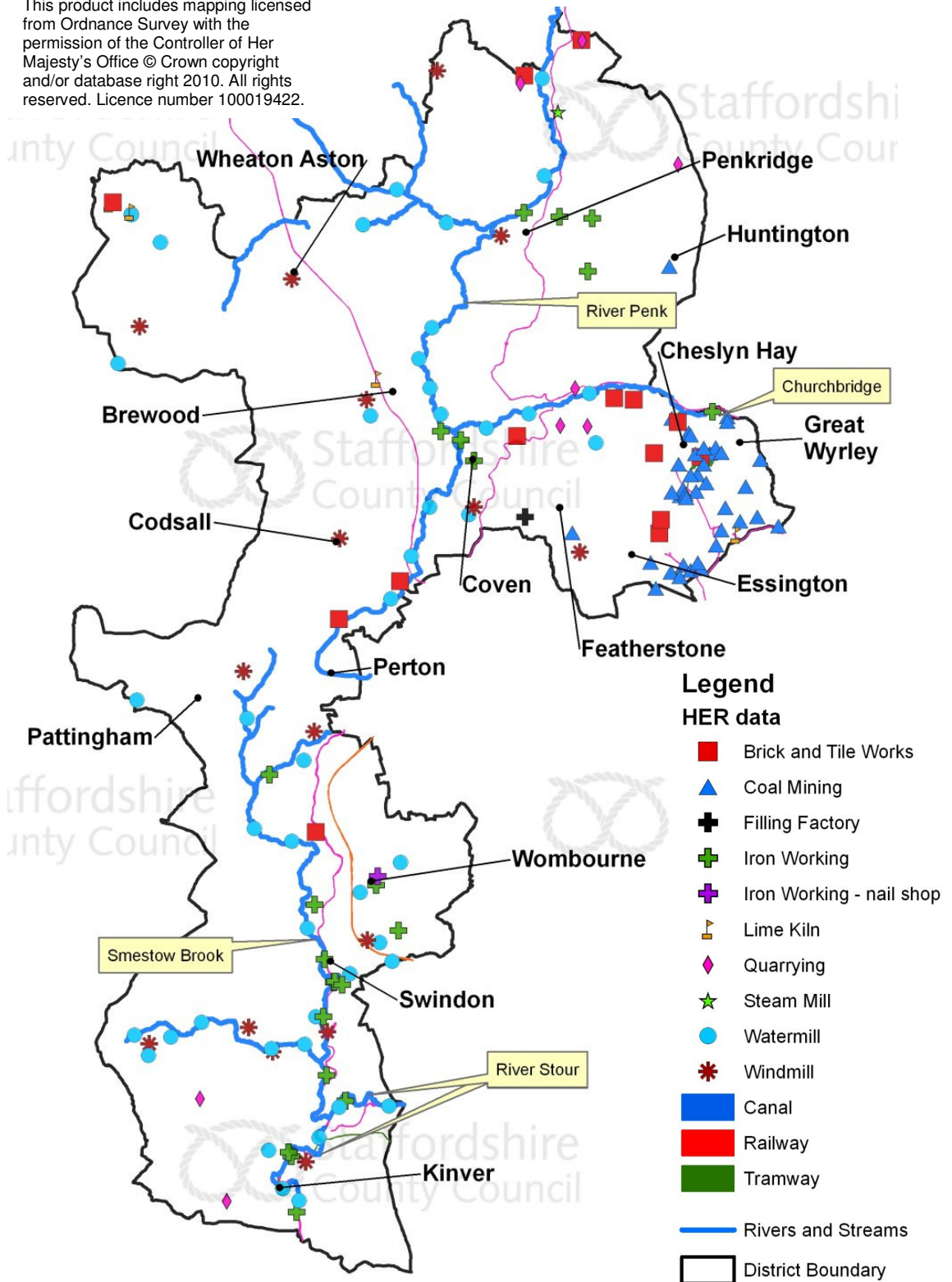
<sup>85</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government 2012. Web:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2115939.pdf>

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.

environment character can be the stimulus of such high quality and sensitive design work.

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Map 8: Selected HER data showing known industrial sites as at December 2010

### **6.3 Conservation Areas**

- 6.3.1 Appraisals have been carried out for the District's 11 village Conservation Areas; this included the preparation of management plans. The Council formally adopted management plans and appraisals for Blymhill, Brewwood, Codsall & Oaken, Kinver, Lapley, Lower Penn, Pattingham, Penkridge, Trysull & Seisdon, Wheaton Aston and Wombourne on 11 November 2010

### **6.4 Street Clutter**

- 6.4.1 Where significant developments are proposed for historic settlement cores it is advised that opportunities be investigated to enhance elements of the public realm in line with the local distinctiveness of the settlement. This approach should be informed by surviving historic street furniture and a review of historic documentary sources where such proposals will not impact upon the health and safety of users. Planning for such works should look to incorporate sensitively designed and located street furniture and the appropriate use of ground surfacing, signage and traffic management, but should also seek to de-clutter streets within the settlement. This approach is supported in 'Streets for All: West Midlands' the joint Department of Transport and English Heritage volume for the region.

### **6.5 Consultation with the Historic Environment Team**

- 6.5.1 Early consultation with historic environment advisors at South Staffordshire Council and at Staffordshire County Council is advised to address any requirements for mitigation in line with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraphs Section 12 paras. 126 to 141<sup>87</sup>. The contact details can be found in section 8.

### **6.6 Heritage Statements**

- 6.6.1 There are either significant heritage assets retaining historic significance or a demonstrable potential for the presence of archaeologically significant deposits within the zone. NPPF para. 128 states that the local planning authority (LPA) "should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting" (e.g. Heritage Statement)<sup>88</sup>. This document should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset/s and the size of the application. As a minimum the Historic Environment Record (HER) should be consulted; where more significant or complex heritage assets are concerned then the developer may need to prepare a desk-based assessment or possibly undertake archaeological evaluation to inform the LPA and their

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<sup>87</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government 2012. Web: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2115939.pdf>

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

archaeological advisor. For more advice the applicant should contact the Historic Environment Team at Staffordshire County Council.



The detailed analysis of the zones within the project area can be found in Appendix 1.

### 7.1.1 *Brewood EUS*

Brewood was selected for inclusion within the Staffordshire EUS project on the basis that it qualified on five of the nine criteria set out in the project set-up documents<sup>90</sup>. Whilst Brewood is no longer considered to be a town it was clearly planned as a small market town during the medieval period. For this reason it will be referred to within both this document and the EUS project as a town.

The evidence for medieval urban planning is retained within the townscape particularly along Dean Street where burgage plots are still legible and in the layout of the market square. These elements of the town plan may be associated with the granting of the market charter to the lord of the manor, the Bishop of Lichfield, in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century<sup>91</sup>. These elements were certainly in place by the end of that century when burgages are mentioned in the bishop's survey of 1298<sup>92</sup>.

Within the EUS area there are 52 nationally Listed buildings and structures and of these two are Grade I (St Mary's and St Chad's Church and Speedwell Castle) and one is Grade II\* (10 Dean Street)<sup>93</sup>. 48 Dean Street, a Grade II Listed timber-framed property is the oldest known vernacular building within Brewood the earliest phases having been dated to the 14<sup>th</sup> century<sup>94</sup>.

The historic core of Brewood is therefore of particular historic and archaeological interest and this is reflected in the designation of the Brewood Conservation Area. However, other historic and archaeological interests may survive across the remainder of the EUS project. Consequently, across the EUS project area there may be a requirement for a Heritage Statement to be submitted as part of any planning application and archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to fulfil NPPF paras.128 and 141<sup>95</sup>. Development within the Conservation Area should conform to the principles laid out in two South Staffordshire Council documents: 'The Village Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document' and the 'Brewood Conservation Area Management Plan' and the Brewood Village Design Statement<sup>96</sup>.

### 7.1.2 *Key characteristics*

- Well preserved post medieval piecemeal enclosure lying to the south east of Brewood and associated with surviving ridge and furrow earthworks (**BWHECZ 4**). Similar field systems survive to varying degrees of legibility to the north and south west (**BWHECZ 2** and **BWHECZ 5**).

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<sup>90</sup> Hunt nd.

<sup>91</sup> Greenslade and Midgley 1959: 25

<sup>92</sup> Dyer 2002: 9

<sup>93</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 09033, PRN 09065 and PRN 09043

<sup>94</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 09049

<sup>95</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government 2012. Web:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2115939.pdf>

<sup>96</sup> South Staffordshire Council 2009; South Staffordshire Council 2010a; Brewood Village Design Group 2002

- The Shropshire Union Canal and three associated canal bridges, two of which are Grade II Listed, form part of two Conservation Areas (**BWHECZ 1** and **BWHECZ 5**).
- The complex of mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Grade II Listed buildings associated with St Mary's Roman Catholic Church on Kiddemore Green Road (**BWHECZ 1**).
- The Grade II Listed buildings at Dean's Hall Farm and the associated earthworks. There is also the potential for below ground archaeological remains to survive associated with this site (**BWHECZ 5**).
- There is evidence for elements relating to the medieval planned town fossilised within the historic core as well as 52 Listed buildings (the **EUS project area**).

### 7.1.3 Summary

The detailed analysis (in Appendix 1) reveals that the zones of greatest sensitivity in terms of the historic environment lie to the south west and south east of Brewood. The Staffordshire Union Canal crosses through both **BWHECZ 1** and **BWHECZ 5** and it forms part of two Conservation Areas: Brewood (004) and the Shropshire Union Canal (081). Historic buildings are prominent components of the historic character of both of these zones many of which have been recognised as nationally important in their designation as listed buildings. There is also the potential for below ground archaeological sites to survive within both **BWHECZ 1** and **BWHECZ 5**. Dean's Hall Farm is of particular interest having formed part of the Dean of Lichfield Cathedral's estate during the medieval period and a medieval barn also survives as part of the complex. The historic field pattern of the zone has been identified as having once formed part of the medieval open field system, which was enclosed piecemeal from at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century ('Piecemeal Enclosure' on map 9). However, the historic character of this field system has been impacted by the removal of field boundaries and the replacement of some of the hedges with fences. The historic character could be strengthened through the re-establishment of the historic boundaries, which in turn would enhance the setting of the Conservation Areas and the listed buildings.

The integrity of the 'Piecemeal Enclosure' is best preserved within **BWHECZ 4** where it is also associated with ridge and furrow earthworks, the physical evidence of medieval ploughing. It is also legible within **BWHECZ 2** to the north of the project area. Dispersed settlement is a distinctive characteristic of **BWHECZ 2**, **BWHECZ 4** and **BWHECZ 5** and development would impact upon the integrity and legibility of the heritage assets of zones.

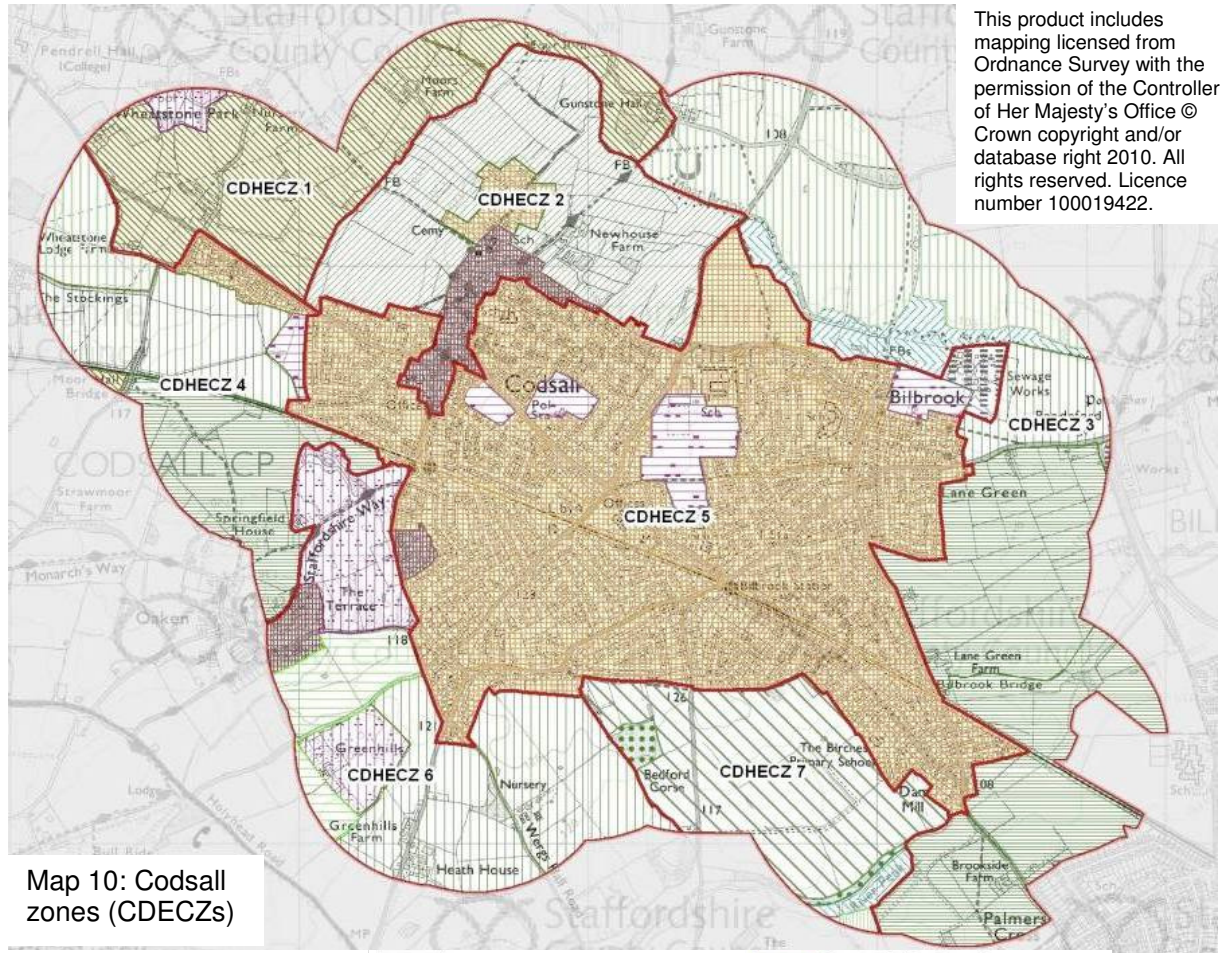
**BWHECZ 3** has the weakest historic environment character having been greatly impacted by the removal of field boundaries during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, there is the potential for below ground archaeological remains to survive associated with the Roman road which crosses this zone and **BWHECZ 4**. Where



archaeological potential has been identified archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to fulfil NPPF paras.128 and 141<sup>97</sup>.

The considerations for the historic environment within these zones are detailed within Appendix 1 and the generic recommendations in section 6 above.

## 7.2 Codsall



Map 10: Codsall zones (CDECZs)

### Legend

#### HCTs

- 18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure
- Early Irregular Enclosure
- Early Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure
- Early Small Rectilinear Fields
- Historic Parks and Gardens

- Industrial and Extractive
- Miscellaneous Floodplain Fields
- Other Parkland
- Piecemeal Enclosure
- Plantations
- Post 1880s Settlement

- Post 1880s Small Replanned Enclosure
- Post War Amalgamated Fields
- Pre 1880s Settlement
- Recent Woodland Clearance
- HECZ boundary

The project area for Codsall has been sub-divided into seven historic environment character zones. The project area is based upon a 500m buffer around the modern

<sup>97</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government 2012. Web: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2115939.pdf>

settlement extent incorporating Bilbrook and part of Oaken. Codsall and Bilbrook have been identified by South Staffordshire Council as two of nine Main Service Villages within the District<sup>98</sup>.

### 7.2.1 Key characteristics

- Historic landscape parks are characteristic of the landscape to the west of Codsall (**CDHECZ 6**) and part of another lies within the project area to the far northwest (**CDHECZ 1**). The parkland character is well preserved and the associated small country houses all survive. The Grade II Listed Dower House, another small country house, is also located within the zone on the edge of the small village of Oaken.
- Well preserved historic field systems survive to the north and northwest of the project area whose field boundaries are predominantly comprised of mature hedgerows (**CDHECZ 1** and **CDHECZ 2**). The piecemeal enclosure within **CDHECZ 2** is particularly characteristic its type and is closely associated with the historic settlement of Codsall which also lies within this zone.
- Historic buildings and the medieval street pattern is preserved around Church Hill in Codsall (**CDHECZ 2**). The historical and archaeological importance of this zone is affirmed by the Codsall Conservation Area (047) and the nationally important buildings and structures which are to be found here (Listed). South Staffordshire Council's Conservation Area Management Plan has identified other historic buildings within the zone all of which contribute to an understanding of the village's development and its local distinctiveness<sup>99</sup>.
- Numerous mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century large detached properties survive across the project area (**CDHECZ 1**, **CDHECZ 4**, **CDHECZ 5** and **CDHECZ 6**). These villas and small country residences (including the three country estates lying within **CDHECZ 6**) represent a change in the social aspirations of the industrialists of the Black Country, and Wolverhampton in particular. The fact that all of these properties, with the exception of The Terrace in **CDHECZ 6**, date from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards is probably due to the construction of the Shrewsbury & Birmingham Railway which opened in 1849 heralding the beginning of the expansion of Codsall and later Bilbrook as commuter villages. Codsall Station and the road and foot bridges are all Grade II Listed buildings and structures lying within **CDHECZ 5**. The designation of these structures recognises the importance of the railway to the history of the project area.
- Stone and brick walls are a particular characteristic of the project area, particularly associated with the settlement areas **CDHECZ 4**, **CDHECZ 5** and **CDHECZ 6** in particular.

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<sup>98</sup> South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

<sup>99</sup> South Staffordshire Council 2010b

### 7.2.2 Summary

The detailed analysis (in Appendix 1) reveals that the zones of greatest sensitivity in terms of the historic environment lie in the north and south of the project area. The historic and archaeological importance of **CDHECZ 2** is affirmed by the number of designated sites which lie within it including the Codsall Conservation Area and eight Listed buildings which includes the Grade II\* Listed St Nicholas' Church. Buildings of local importance have also been identified in the Codsall Conservation Area Management Plan<sup>100</sup>. A well preserved field system which has a close relationship to the historic economy of the village also survives within this zone. Its continued legibility allows the history of Codsall to be read within the landscape.

A well preserved historic field pattern is also a feature of **CDHECZ 1**, although its origins are less clear than that to be found within **CDHECZ 2**. The maturity of the hedgerows is a particular feature of both of these zones and their retention and conservation is desirable as important elements of the historic landscape of this area. Part of Pendrell Hall landscape park also lies within **CDHECZ 1** and these features are also well preserved. Locally important historic buildings survive to the north, Gunstone Hall and its historic out buildings, and to the west, the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Wheastone Hall.

To the south and south west of the project area **CDHECZ 6** retains a strong parkland character in the survival of three historic landscape parks associated with extant small 19<sup>th</sup> century country houses. The historic landscape character is enhanced by the survival of two largely contemporary farmsteads and associated '18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosure, which despite the removal of some field boundaries retains its regular form.

The remaining zones (**CDHECZ 3**, **CDHECZ 4**, **CDHECZ 5** and **CDHECZ 7**) all retain heritage assets although their overall historic landscape character has been impacted to varying degrees by changes to its form from the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century onwards (see Appendix 1 for detail and recommendations). Whilst **CDHECZ 5** is greatly characterised by the 20<sup>th</sup> century expansion of both Codsall and Bilbrook historic buildings survive. At Bilbrook these lie within the historic core of the original village and include a property of possible late 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> century date. The numerous large mid/late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century properties within the zone are closely associated with the construction of the railway and its Grade II Listed station. Historic buildings, of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century date, also survive within **CDHECZ 4** along Moatbrook Lane and Wood Road. These heritage assets all individually contribute to the local distinctiveness of the project area and their conservation for the benefit of the local community and future generations is recommended.

There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive relating to known historic settlements within **all seven of the zones**. The greatest potential exists within **CDHECZ 2**, **CDHECZ 3**, **CDHECZ 4** and **CDHECZ 5** relating to the medieval settlement cores of Codsall, Bilbrook and Gunstone. Consequently, dependent upon the nature, extent and location of any development within the project area, there may

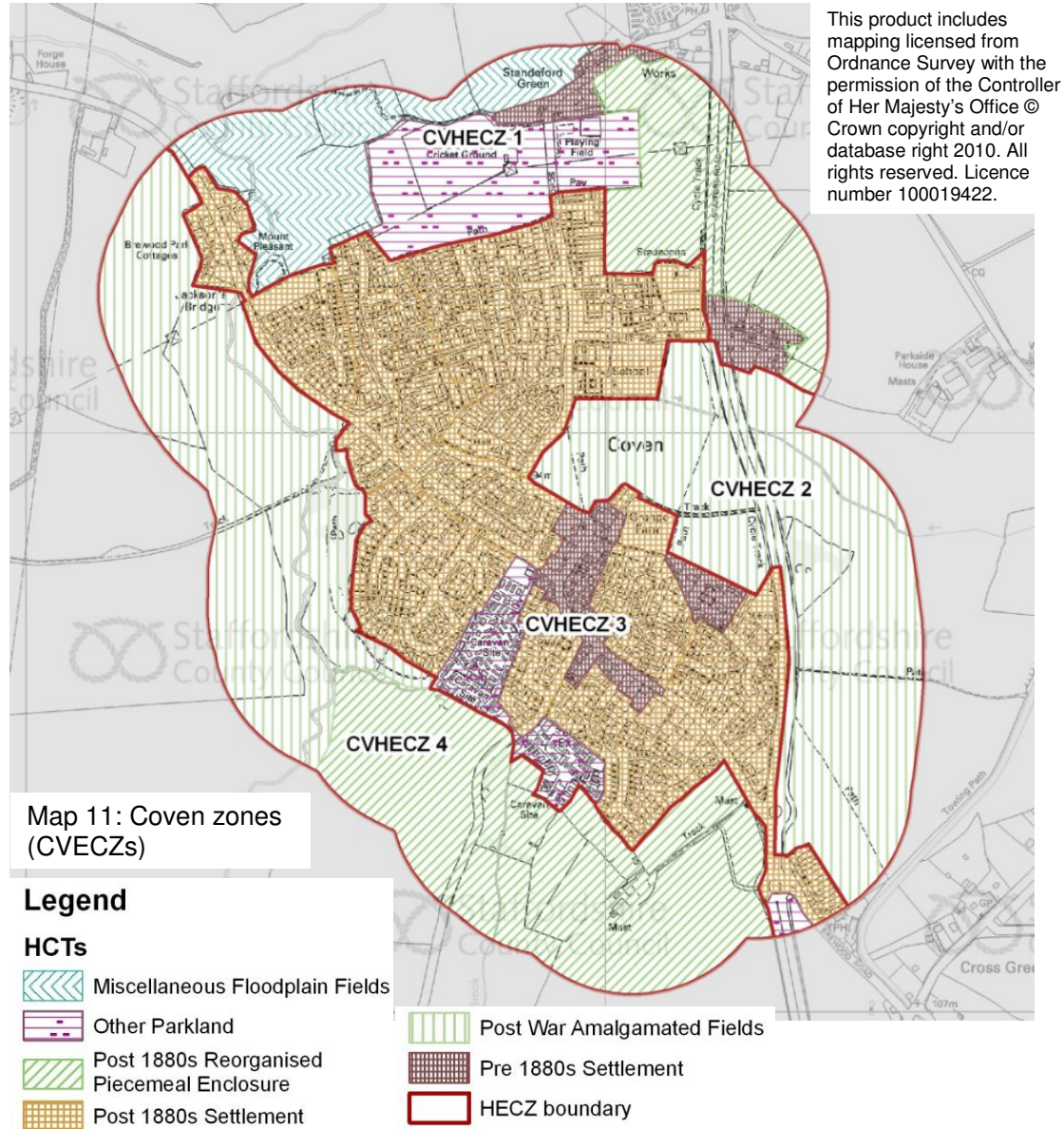
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<sup>100</sup> South Staffordshire Council 2010b

be a requirement for archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to fulfil NPPF paras.128 and 141<sup>101</sup>.

The considerations for the historic environment within these zones are detailed within Appendix 1 and the generic recommendations in section 6 above.

### 7.3 Coven



The project area identified four HECZs and includes the historic settlement of Coven and a 250m hinterland. Coven has been identified by South Staffordshire Council as one of seven Local Service Villages within the District<sup>102</sup>.

<sup>101</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government 2012. Web: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2115939.pdf>

The detailed analysis of the project area can be found within Appendix 2.

### 7.3.1 Key characteristics

- Six Grade II Listed buildings and structures are located within **CVHECZ 3**. There are other undesignated historic buildings which also contribute to the local character of the settlement.
- Two timber-framed properties survive within **CVHECZ 3** the earliest of which has probable late medieval origins.
- Historic buildings also survive in the outlying areas of the project area including Standeford Green and Light Ash, both within **CVHECZ 1** and at Lower Green in **CVHECZ 3**.
- The Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal lies adjacent to the south eastern corner of **CVHECZ 2**. The canal is designated as a Conservation Area.
- There is a moderate potential for previously unrecorded archaeological sites to survive across much of the project area.

### 7.3.2 Summary

The detailed analysis (in Appendix 2) reveals that the area that has the greatest sensitivity in terms of the historic environment lies within **CVHECZ 3** which includes the historic core of Coven and contains the majority of the designated and undesignated historic buildings. Historic buildings, which also contribute to the sense of place, also survive with **CVHECZ 1**.

The integrity of the historic landscape around the village has largely been lost due to the removal of field boundaries and the construction of the A449 'dual-carriageway' in the early 1970s. However, the landscape of **CVHECZ 2** forms part of the setting to the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area. Mature hedgerows, of post medieval origin, also survive to the south of Coven within **CVHECZ 4**. The historic landscape of the project area could be strengthened through the re-establishment of hedgerows.

There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive **across the project area** relating to human activity in the prehistoric and Roman periods as well as within the historic core of Coven relating to its development from the medieval period onwards. Consequently, dependent upon the nature, extent and location of any development within the project area, there may be a requirement for archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to fulfil NPPF paras.128 and 141<sup>103</sup>.

The considerations for the historic environment within these zones are detailed within Appendix 2 and the generic recommendations in section 6 above.

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<sup>102</sup> South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

<sup>103</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government 2012. Web:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2115939.pdf>



#### 7.4.1 Key characteristics

- Historic buildings survive focused in two areas; on Bognop Road and Wolverhampton Road. The properties on the former include Fennel Pit Farm (**ESHECZ 1**) and two other cottages (**ESHECZ 2**), which are probably of at least late 18<sup>th</sup> century date. The 19<sup>th</sup> century houses on the eastern side of Wolverhampton Road and on New Street (**ESHECZ 2**) have been significantly altered, but contribute to an understanding and appreciation of the history of the settlement.
- The 19<sup>th</sup> century houses are probably associated with the three collieries which existed within the zone from the 19<sup>th</sup> century (**ESHECZ 2**). The sites of two of these collieries survive within areas of parkland.
- The site of a farmstead in **ESHECZ 2** may have had at least post medieval origins.

#### 7.4.2 Summary

The detailed analysis (in Appendix 2) reveals that the areas of greatest archaeological and historic interest within both **ESHECZ 1** and **ESHECZ 2** are associated with the extant historic buildings and the potential sites of early settlement. This includes the potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive. Consequently, dependent upon the nature, extent and location of any development within the project area, there may be a requirement for archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to fulfil NPPF paras.128 and 141<sup>105</sup>.

The sites of the two collieries within the **ESHECZ 2** could be used to promote the heritage of the parish to the community and wider public. Surviving legible features associated with this former industry should be retained to enable the community and future generations to understand the history of this important industry within their parish.

The field systems to the west of **ESHECZ 2**, whilst having lost the majority of their historic field boundaries, lie adjacent to the Moat House Scheduled Monument and consequently may be considered to form part of its setting.

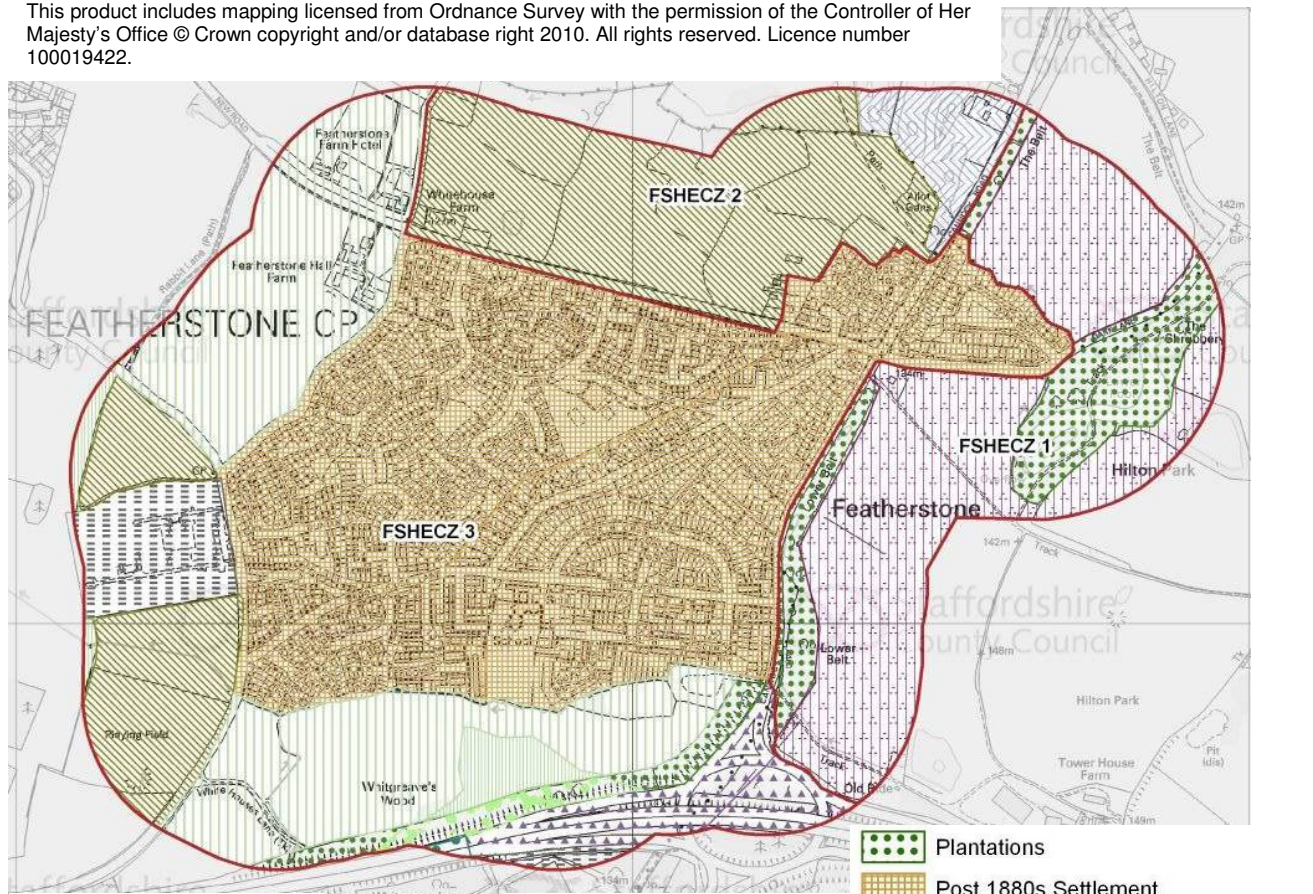
The considerations for the historic environment within these zones are detailed within Appendix 2 and the generic recommendations in section 6 above.

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<sup>105</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government 2012. Web: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2115939.pdf>

## 7.5 Featherstone

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Map 13: Featherstone zones (FSHECZs)

### Legend

#### HCTs

-  Ancient Woodland
-  Artificial Water Bodies
-  Communications
-  Early Irregular Enclosure
-  Historic Parks and Gardens
-  Industrial and Extractive

-  Plantations
-  Post 1880s Settlement
-  Post War Amalgamated Fields
-  Recent Replanted Ancient Woodland
-  Recent Woodland Clearance
-  HECZ boundary

Three HECZs have been identified for the Featherstone project area, which comprises the modern village and a 250m buffer. Essington has been identified by South Staffordshire Council as one of seven Local Service Villages within the District<sup>106</sup>.

The detailed analysis of the project area can be found in Appendix 2.

<sup>106</sup> South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38



### 7.5.1 Key characteristics

- The surviving components of the historic landscape park associated with Hilton Park include the shelter belts, woodland, ornamental lake and parkland trees (**FSHECZ 1**).
- A well preserved historic field pattern survives to the north of Featherstone, which may be associated with medieval assarting (**FSHECZ 2**).
- Historic farmsteads survive within **FSHECZ 3** which are testimony to the historic dispersed settlement pattern which probably had at least medieval origins across Featherstone parish.
- The remains of a probable Second World War military site, associated with the Shell Filling Factory to the west of the project area, has the potential to further our understanding of this site and its role in the 20<sup>th</sup> century social and economic history of Featherstone (**FSHECZ 3**).

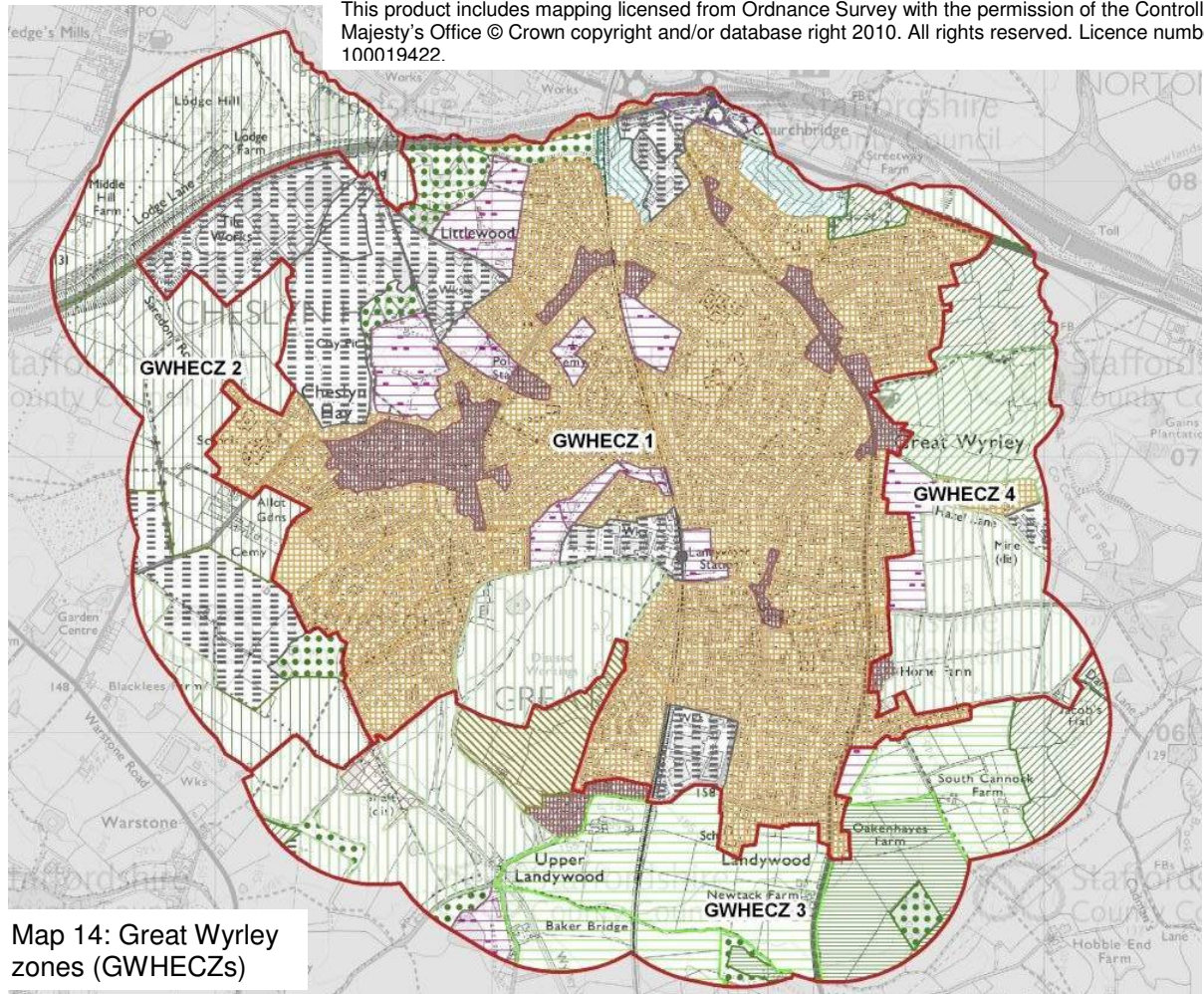
### 7.5.2 Summary

The detailed analysis (in Appendix 2) reveals that the areas of greatest archaeological and historic interest lie to the north (**FSHECZ 2**) and east (**FSHECZ 1**) of the project area. The latter zone forms part of Hilton Park, which is associated with the Grade I Listed Hilton Hall. Landscape parks form an important part of the historic landscape of South Staffordshire (cf. 5.5 above) and the conservation and enhancement of this park and its Listed buildings and structures is recommended.

**FSHECZ 3** is dominated by the modern settlement of Featherstone whose origins date to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The field systems within the zone have largely been impacted by the removal of field boundaries during the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, specific heritage assets have been identified as being of historic and archaeological importance including the three historic farmsteads, the rural character of the local lanes and the site of the Second World War complex.

## 7.6 Great Wyrley

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Map 14: Great Wyrley zones (GWHECZs)

Legend			
<b>HCTs</b>			
	18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure		Post 1880s Settlement
	Communications		Post 1880s Small Replanned Enclosure
	Early Irregular Enclosure		Post War Amalgamated Fields
	Early Small Rectilinear Fields		Piecemeal Enclosure
	Industrial and Extractive		Plantations
	Miscellaneous Floodplain Fields		Post 1880s Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure
	Other Parkland		Pre 1880s Settlement
	Piecemeal Enclosure		Recent Regenerated Unenclosed Land
	Plantations		HECZ boundary

Two settlements, Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay, are incorporated into the project area which is based upon a 500m buffer around the settlement area of both villages. The size of the buffer was determined by South Staffordshire Council who have identified both settlements as two of the nine Main Service Villages within the District<sup>107</sup>. The project identified four HECZs.

The detailed analysis of the project area can be found within Appendix 3.

<sup>107</sup> South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

### 7.6.1 Key Characteristics

- Industrial archaeology is a particular feature of the project area with above and below ground remains being present in three of the four zones (**GWHECZ 1**, **GWHECZ 2** and **GWHECZ 3**). These heritage assets include the sites of former collieries, brickworks, tramways and mineral railways as well as the remains of two branch canals. An edge tool works, which had its origins in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, has been the subject of an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at Churchbridge (**GWHECZ 2**).
- The survival of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century brick buildings contribute to the legibility of the historical development of Great Wyrley, Cheslyn Hay and the small settlement of Upper Landywood (**GWHECZ 1** and **GWHECZ 4**). These properties are closely associated with the economic growth associated with the industries mentioned above. However, Grade II Listed properties within these two zones, one dating to the early 16<sup>th</sup> century and the others to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, are testimony to an earlier phase of settlement probably also associated with early industrial activity. Great Wyrley, however, has its origins in the medieval period and a moated site existed to the west of Walsall Road until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- The settlement at Cheslyn Hay had its origins as a squatter settlement by at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century and despite subsequent development from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards these origins are still apparent in the narrow winding streets of the historic core (**GWHECZ 1**).
- Historic farmsteads still form a feature of the historic landscape, some of which are still associated with historic field patterns (**GWHECZ 2**, **GWHECZ 3** and **GWHECZ 4**). Lodge Farm may lie on the site of a warrener's lodge which probably existed by the late 16<sup>th</sup> century (**GWHECZ 2**).
- Historic field patterns also survive within the landscape of the project area. The late 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosure is still legible within **GWHECZ 2** despite the construction of the M6 Toll Road. Post medieval field systems are legible within **GWHECZ 3** and **GWHECZ 4**, although in other areas of both zones the historic character has been eroded through the removal of field boundaries.

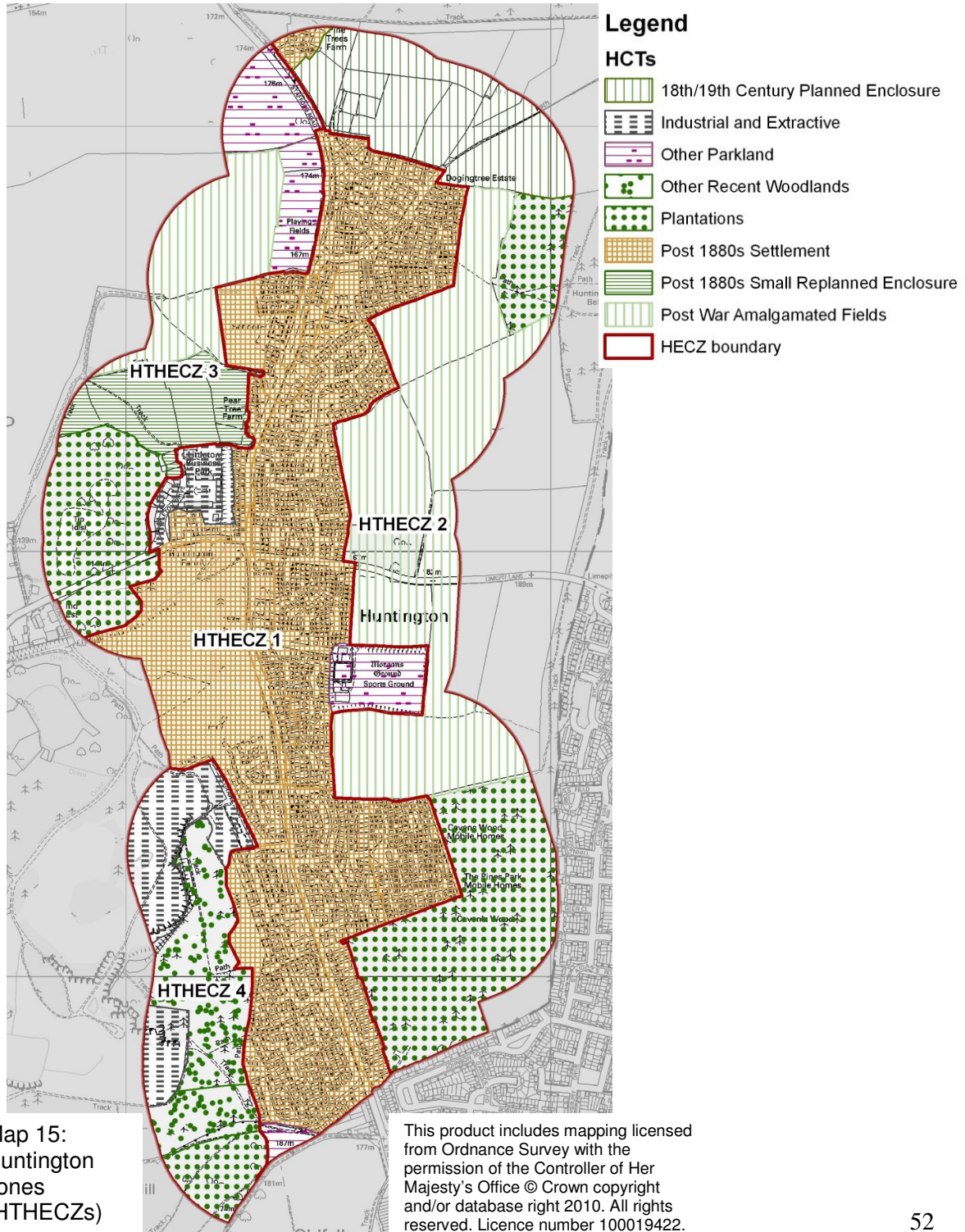
### 7.6.2 Summary

The detailed analysis (Appendix 3) recognises that whilst there has been significant change within the landscape of the project area between the mid 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century the surviving heritage assets contribute significantly to the sense of place. The integrity of the historic landscape character survives within **GWHECZ 2** in the form of the regular fields which survive despite the removal of some of the historic field boundaries and the insertion of the M6 Toll Road. The 'Piecemeal Enclosure' within both **GWHECZ 3** and **GWHECZ 4** is of particular importance to understanding the history of Great Wyrley, but the mature hedgerows in these two areas also contribute to the aesthetics of the landscape. Other surviving historic field patterns within **GWHECZ 3** also contribute to the history and sense of place.

It is within **GWHECZ 1** where aspects of the historic environment make important contributions to the sense of place in the surviving built environment and the surviving form of the historic lanes upon which Cheslyn Hay, in particular, developed.

The industrial archaeology of the project area also makes an important contribution to understanding the development of these settlements and to their sense of place within the built form.

### 7.7 Huntington



Four HECZs have been identified for the Huntington project area, which comprises a 250m buffer around the early 21<sup>st</sup> century extent of the village. Huntington has been identified by South Staffordshire Council as one of seven Local Service Villages within the District<sup>108</sup>.

The detailed analysis of the project area can be found in Appendix 3.

#### *7.7.1 Key Characteristics*

- The wooded colliery spoil heaps are monuments to the historic importance of this industry to the local economy (**HTHECZ 3**).
- Woodland forms an important aspect of the historic landscape character of the project area particularly the plantation within **HTHECZ 2**, which forms part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Huntington Belt. The woodland character also includes the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century woods in **HTHECZ 3** and **HTHECZ 4**.
- The historic houses of **HTHECZ 1** mostly relate to the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century expansion of Huntington as a mining village and consequently have a particular contribution to make to the historic character. However, other houses survive particularly to the north of the zone, which may relate to earlier settlement.

#### *7.7.2 Summary*

The detailed analysis (Appendix 3) recognises that whilst there has been significant change within the landscape of the project area between the mid 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century the surviving heritage assets do contribute to a unique sense of place. The history of Huntington as a colliery village continues to be reflected in the built heritage of **HTHECZ 1** and in the surviving spoil heaps in **HTHECZ 3** which dominate the local landscape. Further built heritage assets survive within **HTHECZ 1** which could contribute to an understanding of the development of Huntington prior to the establishment of the colliery in the 1870s. There is also the potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive within this zone relating to earlier settlement.

Woodland is also a feature of the project area. Huntington Belt, parts of which lie within **HTHECZ 2**, was probably established as a result of the Enclosure Act of 1827 and was certainly present in its current form by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Woodland is also a feature of the colliery spoil heaps in **HTHECZ 2** and in the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century landscape of **HTHECZ 4**.

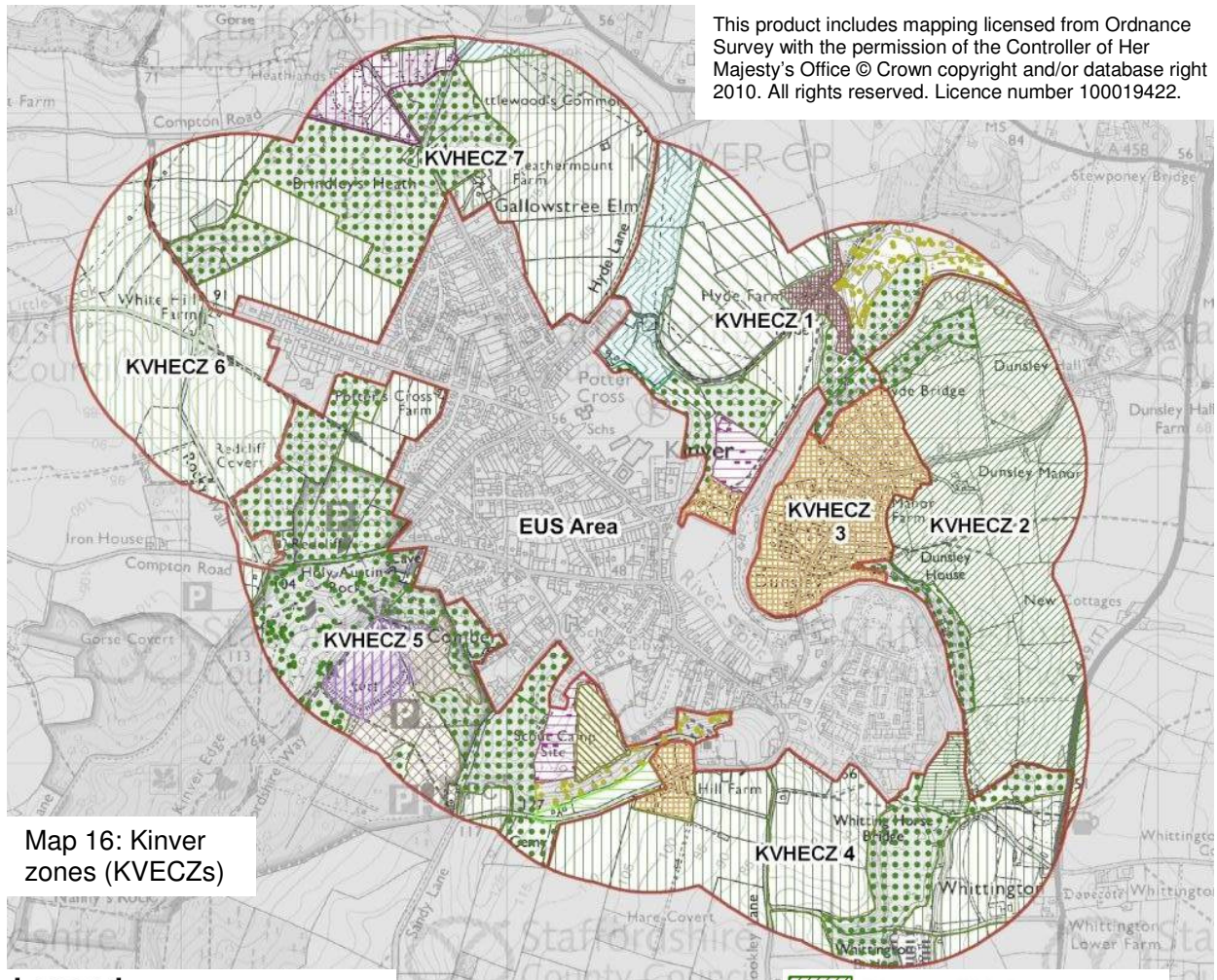
The field pattern in the landscape around Huntington has generally been impacted by alteration through the removal and creation of field boundaries. Some mature hedgerows survive as testimony to the antiquity agriculture in parts of the project area (**HTHECZ 2** and **HTHECZ 3**).

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<sup>108</sup> South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

## 7.8 Kinver

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Map 16: Kinver zones (KVEZCs)

### Legend

#### HCTs

18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure

Early Irregular Enclosure

Early Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure

Early Small Rectilinear Fields

Early Unenclosed Land

Historic Parks and Gardens

Industrial and Extractive

Miscellaneous Floodplain Fields

Other Early Woodlands

Other Parkland

Other Recent Woodlands

Piecemeal Enclosure

Plantations

Post 1880s Settlement

Post 1880s Small Replanned Enclosure

Post War Amalgamated Fields

Pre 1880s Settlement

Recent Regenerated Unenclosed Land

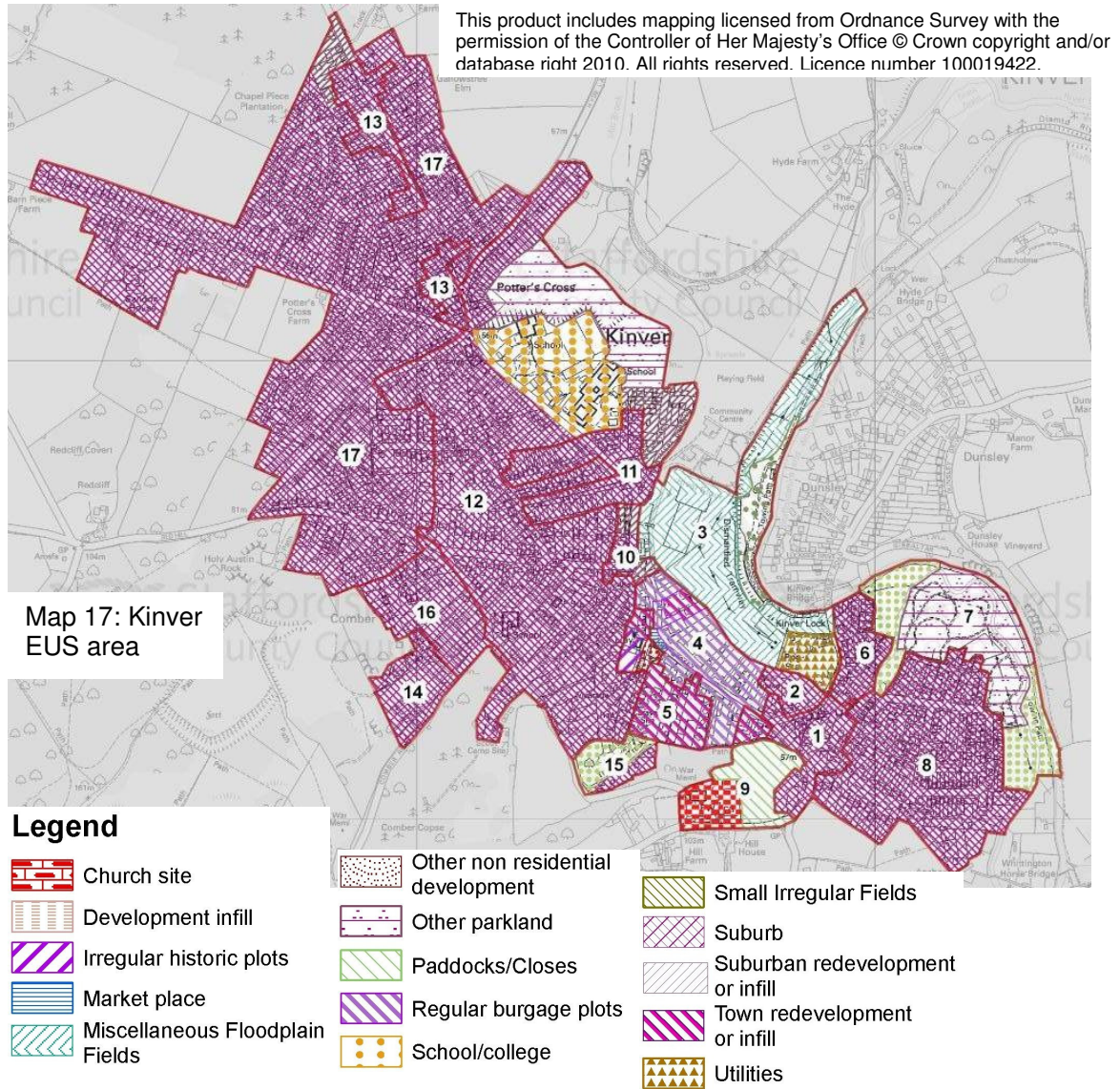
HECZ boundary

The project area for Kinver identified seven zones, but excludes the area of the town which has been covered by the Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) project. The project area represents a 500m buffer around the town. Kinver has been identified by South Staffordshire Council as one of nine Main Service Villages within the District (cf. 7.1.1)<sup>109</sup>.

<sup>109</sup> South Staffordshire 2009: 38

The detailed analysis of the zones within the project area can be found in Appendix 4.

### 7.8.1 Summary of Kinver EUS results



The Kinver EUS project was carried out in 2008 and identified seventeen Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCA) (cf. map 17)<sup>110</sup>. The following is a summary of the findings of the HUCA; for greater detail please see the Kinver EUS report<sup>111</sup>.

- The HUCA which exhibit the greatest heritage significance are those which are largely contiguous with the Kinver Conservation Area (**HUCA 1, HUCA 3, HUCA 4, HUCA 5, HUCA 7, HUCA 9, and HUCA 10**). The conservation of the historic townscape and the historic buildings, both Listed and unlisted is of primary importance. This has benefits for the quality of the environment and

<sup>110</sup> Staffordshire County Council forthcoming

<sup>111</sup> Ibid.

the sense of place for the community and visitors. Within these HUCAs there is also a high potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive. Within HUCA 3 there is the potential for evidence, both above and below ground, to survive relating to both the former water meadow system and the line of the Kinver Light Railway.

- Surviving historic buildings, including a Grade II Listed school, dominate the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century suburban expansion (**HUCA 11** and **HUCA 13**). Further 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century properties lie to the west of the town, beneath Kinver Edge which retain the characteristics of squatter enclosures (**HUCA 14** and **HUCA 15**). In **HUCA 14** there is the potential for surviving rock-cut structures for which the Kinver area is famed. The Kinver Conservation Area only falls within small parts of two of these HUCAs, but these areas contribute significantly to the sense of place. The conservation and enhancement of the historic character of these HUCAs is recommended to allow the community, visitors and future generations to experience and appreciate the history of the settlement.
- **HUCA 2, HUCA 6, HUCA 8, HUCA 12, HUCA 16** and **HUCA 17** all relate to either 20<sup>th</sup> or early 21<sup>st</sup> century suburban expansion or re-development. However, with the exception of HUCA 17, all of these areas either form part of the Kinver Conservation Area or lie immediately adjacent to it. HUCA 2 in particular represents the site of Kinver Mill, which has probable medieval origins, and consequently there remain significant archaeological potential within this area. Other historic interests have been identified within some of these HUCAs which are identified within the EUS report.

### 7.8.2 Key Characteristics

- Kinver Edge (**KVHECZ 5**) comprises a landscape dominated by woodland and heathland. It forms an important public amenity and tourist attraction largely managed by the National Trust. The zone includes the Holy Austin Rock houses.
- Designated heritage assets are also a key feature of the landscape around Kinver. The Iron Age Kinver hillforts dominates the Kinver Edge escarpment and is protected as a Scheduled Monument (**KVHECZ 5**). Two Conservation Areas lie within the project area; Kinver (012) and the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal (073) (within **KVHECZ 1, KVHECZ 2, KVHECZ 3** and **KVHECZ 4**). Listed buildings are present within **KVHECZ 1** and **KVHECZ 4**; the latter includes a Grade II\* timber framed property which retains evidence of its late medieval origins.
- An Act of Parliament to enclose the former common land to the west of Kinver was passed in 1774, which resulted in a planned enclosure pattern comprising straight field boundaries and straightened or re-aligned road (**KVHECZ 4, KVHECZ 5** and **KVHECZ 7**). Plantation woodland is also a feature of this landscape.



- The River Stour provided opportunities for early industrial expansion and two 17<sup>th</sup> century ironworks lie within the project area (**KVHECZ 1** and **KVHECZ 4**). The heritage assets include surviving mill ponds and associated structures, as well as buildings within KVHECZ 4 and the potential for significant below ground deposits.
- There is a moderate to high potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive across the project area; this includes good potential for prehistoric and Roman evidence.

### 7.8.3 Summary

The detailed analysis (Appendix 4) identifies that much of the landscape surrounding Kinver retains its distinctive historic character and significant heritage assets, both designated and undesignated. Three of the zones are particularly significant in all aspects of the contribution of their value to the historic environment of South Staffordshire. **KVHECZ 1** and **KVHECZ 4** are particularly associated with the iron working industry which had its origins along the River Stour in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century; the potential above and below ground remains have the capability of making important contributions to the understanding of the processes of industry throughout the post medieval period. Both of these zones also retain listed buildings and **KVHECZ 4** in particular incorporates the site of the medieval settlement of Whittington. This is partly evidenced by the survival of the Grade II\* Listed Whittington Inn, which had its origins in at least the late 14<sup>th</sup>/early 15<sup>th</sup> century.

**KVHECZ 5** comprises the Kinver Edge escarpment which is principally comprised of a landscape of heath and woodland. It is on this, the highest point within the project area, that the Iron Age hillfort is located overlooking the later settlement focused on Kinver High Street. The hillfort has been identified as being of national importance and has been designated as a Scheduled Monument. The zone also incorporates the six rock houses at Holy Austin Rock which are an important tourist attraction and are managed by the National Trust.

The historic environment of **KVHECZ 2** and **KVHECZ 7** also make important contributions to the wider South Staffordshire landscape. **KVHECZ 2** contributes in terms of the survival of several historic farmsteads and other cottages, the latter being located above the Stour Valley; the importance of the latter has been identified in their incorporation into the Kinver Conservation Area (012). The Stour Valley is the location of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, which also forms a Conservation Area. **KVHECZ 7** incorporates a well preserved planned field system which is associated with the 1774 Act of Enclosure as well as a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape park and possible associated lodges.

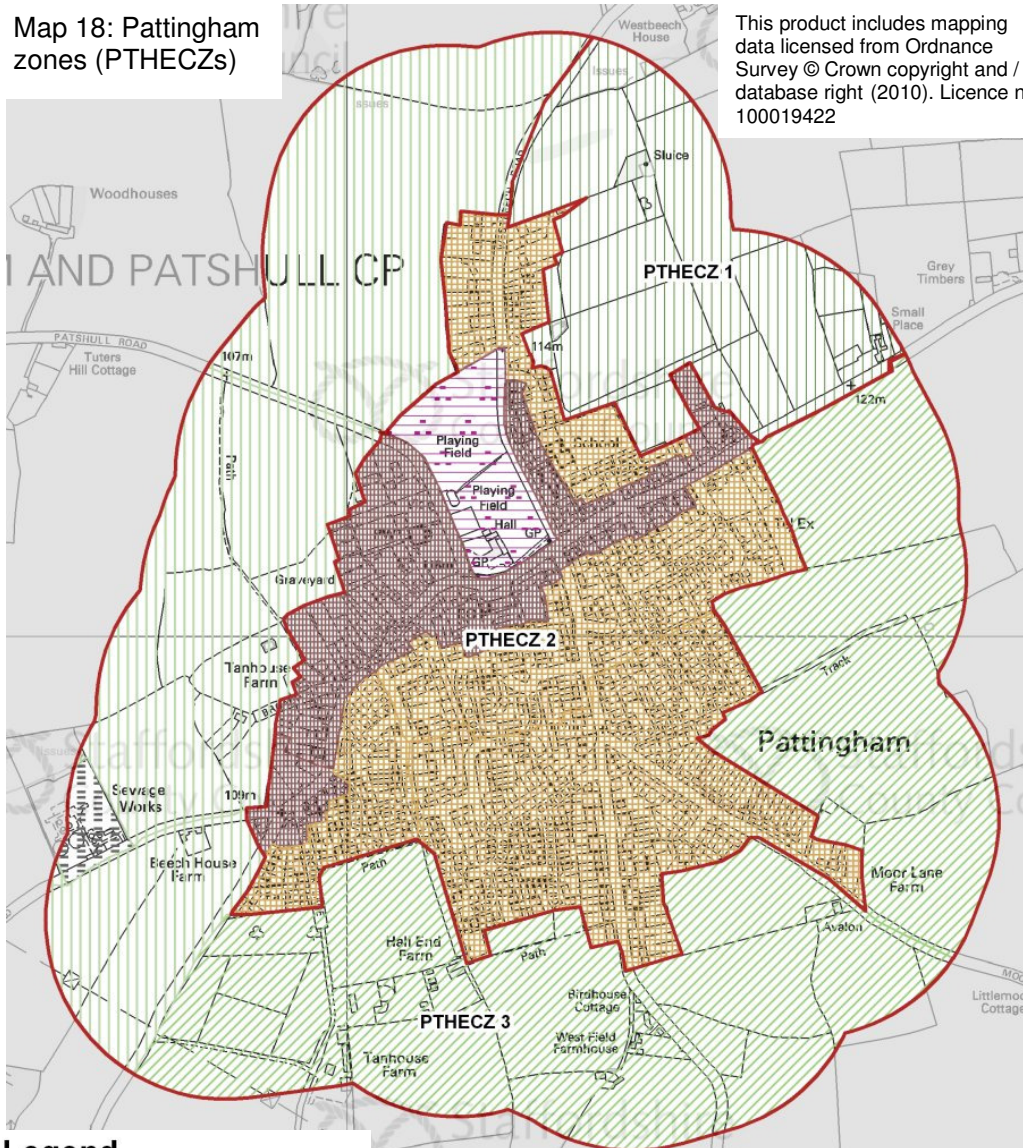
**KVHECZ 3** and **KVHECZ 6** are dominated by mid 20<sup>th</sup> to early 21<sup>st</sup> century changes to the historic landscape character. **KVHECZ 3** comprises the modern extent of Dunsley, whose houses began to be developed in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Despite this a number of historic buildings, including The Vine Inn lying adjacent to the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, survive and are incorporated into the Kinver Conservation Area (012). **KVHECZ 6** is dominated by field systems, the majority of which have been impacted by the removal of hedgerows during the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup>

century. However, a historic farmstead survives, although the farm buildings have been converted to domestic dwellings, and the historic character could be enhanced through the re-planting of hedge-lines. The zone also lies adjacent to two other zones which have been identified as positively contributing to the historic environment of the project area (KVHECZ 5 and KVHECZ 7).

### 7.9 Pattingham



Map 18: Pattingham zones (PTHECZs)




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#### Legend

##### HCTs

-  18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure
-  Industrial and Extractive

-  Other Parkland
-  Post 1880s Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure
-  Post 1880s Settlement

-  Post War Amalgamated Fields
-  Pre 1880s Settlement
-  HECZ boundary

Three HECZs have been identified for the Pattingham project area, which comprises a 250m buffer around the village. Pattingham has been identified by South Staffordshire Council as one of seven Local Service Villages within the District<sup>112</sup>.

The detailed analysis of the project area can be found within Appendix 4.

#### *7.9.1 Key Characteristics*

- There is a strong historic built character to the village (**PTHECZ 2**) particularly along Wolverhampton Road/High Street, which largely comprises red brick properties of probable 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date. This includes 17 Listed buildings all of which are Grade II with the exception of St Chad's Church which is Grade II\*.
- The medieval market place may be fossilised within the village outside the church and other historic lanes also retain much of their character within the project area (**PTHECZ 2** and **PTHECZ 3**).
- Historic field patterns are evident within **PTHECZ 1** and **PTHECZ 3**, although in the latter there has also been significant field boundary removal.

#### *7.9.2 Summary*

The detailed analysis (in Appendix 4) reveals that the zone which exhibits the greatest archaeological and historic interest is **PTHECZ 2** which incorporates the historic core of the village with its extant historic buildings and the potential for surviving archaeological deposits relating to earlier settlement. The historic buildings include 17 Listed buildings as well as numerous Locally Listed buildings all of which make a significant contribution to the unique sense of place within the village.

The historic lanes which radiate out from the village also retain much of their rural character and historic farmsteads also feature to the south of the village (**PTHECZ 3**). The historic buildings of this zone include the timber framed late 16<sup>th</sup>/early 17<sup>th</sup> century Grade II Listed Birdhouse Cottage.

Historic field patterns are still legible within the landscapes of **PTHECZ 1** and **PTHECZ 3**. The former comprises an early 19<sup>th</sup> century planned character whilst the latter retains some legibility of the origins of the probable 17<sup>th</sup> century piecemeal enclosure, although this has seen a degree of field boundary loss.

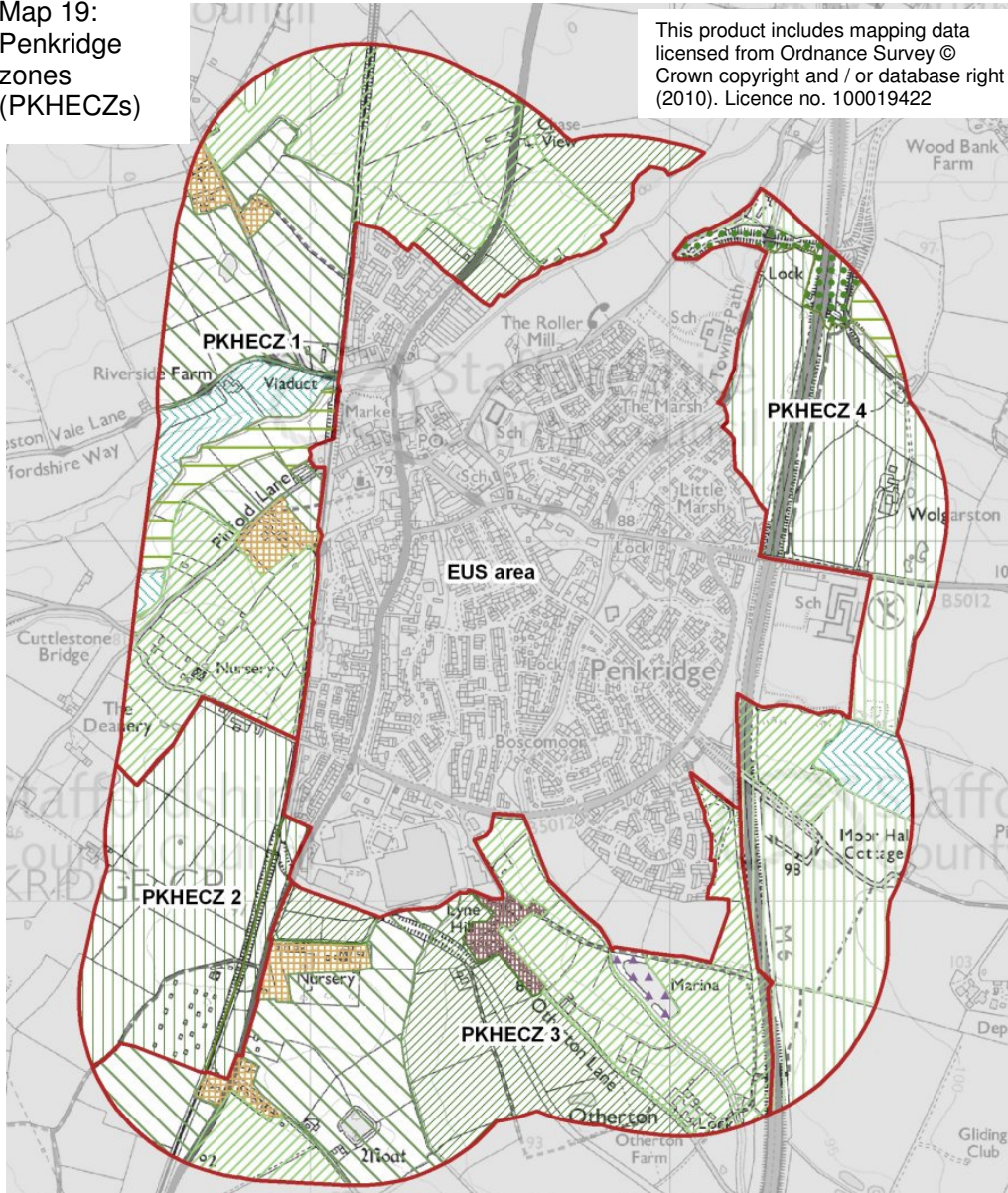
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<sup>112</sup> South Staffordshire Council 2009: 38

## 7.10 Penkrige

Map 19:  
Penkrige  
zones  
(PKHECZs)

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### Legend

#### HCTs

18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure

18th/19th Century Semi Planned Enclosure

Communications

Early Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure

Miscellaneous Floodplain Fields

Piecemeal Enclosure

Plantations

Post 1880s Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure

Post 1880s Settlement

Post War Amalgamated Fields

Pre 1880s Settlement

HECZ boundary

The project area for Penkrige identified four zones, but excludes the area of the town which is due to be covered by the Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) project. The project area represents a 500m buffer around the town. Penkrige has been

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