

Appendix 2: Historic Environment Character Area Overview Reports

This appendix provides an overview of the historic environment for each of the Historic Environment Character Areas (HECAs) which fall within Lichfield District.

It should be noted that the information and any recommendations contained within each of the documents is subject to amendment should any new information become available.

For further information regarding the Historic Environment Record (HER); Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) and designated sites please contact:

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Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) 2a

Introduction

This document forms an overview of the HECA which specifically addresses the potential impact of medium to large scale development upon the historic environment.

The character area covers 5,645ha lies wholly within Lichfield District boundary and to the west of Tamworth.

Archaeological and Historic Documentation

Archaeological work within the character area has tended to concentrate along the A5 and the M6 (Toll) roads. The information on this character area mostly comes from the HER data, whilst VCH has covered part of the area.

Historic Environment Assets Summary

The current understanding on the later prehistoric landscape of the character area suggests that it had mostly been heavily wooded until Bronze Age, when some clearance may have begun to take place to support a small scale pastoral economy. The earliest evidence for human activity from the character area dates to the Mesolithic period; however, this comes from flint artefacts and probably represents the presence of mobile hunting groups and transitory occupation.

The fact that by the later 11th century this HECA had probably formed part of the Royal forest of Cannock dominated by a mix of woodland and heath land may suggest that the landscape had continued to support only minimal human occupation. However, Watling Street Roman road crosses the HECA, and archaeological work along this road has shown evidence of occupation dating to the prehistoric and/or Roman period including a possible Romano-British farmstead, which may suggest that some occupation was attracted to the area by the development of the road although the nature of this is currently unknown.

There is currently little evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity within the HECA, although it is likely that there was a presence which is likely to have been similar to an earlier pastoral economy. By the later Anglo-Saxon period there is some evidence that occupation was occurring along the Black Brook which crosses through the middle of the HECA flowing from west to east. These settlements, Weeford and Hints, formed part of the Bishop of Chester's Lichfield estate in Domesday Book (1086). Two other sites recorded in Domesday as belonging to the Bishop of Chester were located to the north west, Freeford and towards the north east, Packington. These two sites are recorded as being deserted settlements in the HER and both sites were located within landscape parks by the later 18th century

A further three settlements are also recorded as being deserted in the HER, these settlements were all first mentioned by the mid 13th century. One of these, Canwell, was probably established to serve Canwell Priory which had been built by the mid 11th century and is located on some of the highest land in the HECA to the south of the Black Brook. Canwell Priory was dissolved during King Henry VIII's reign and the site was subsequently incorporated into a landscape park.

Several deer parks had been established by the medieval period, although none survive as interpretable entities within the modern landscape.

The heath land character of the forest does not appear to have survived to any great degree by the 18th century with just Whittington Heath surviving until 1876 after which a military barracks was established upon much of it. This military barracks survives and is undergoing redevelopment at the time of this study. The field systems predominantly date to the 18th/19th century which survives well within the current landscape. Of a similar date, and possibly associated with them, are at least five country houses and landscape parks. Only two of these parklands survive within the current landscape; one was associated with the former Canwell Hall, demolished in the 1960s and the other with Freeford Manor.

A dispersed settlement pattern centred upon individual farmsteads is dominant within this character area by the later 19th century. Many of these farms are entirely of 18th/19th century construction and reflect the development of a newly enclosed landscape visible throughout the character area. However, it is also possible that some of these farmsteads represent foci for dispersed settlement during the medieval and early post-medieval period and that evidence of this pattern may survive within current farmstead complexes.

The central area along the Black Brook has continued to be a focus for human activity into the 20th century with the establishment of two large sand and gravel quarries, one of which is surrounded by 20th century coniferous plantations.

Designated Historic Environment Assets

There are 43 Listed Buildings within the character area and one Conservation Area at Hints. A further Conservation Area lies adjacent at Hopwas.

Historic Environment considerations

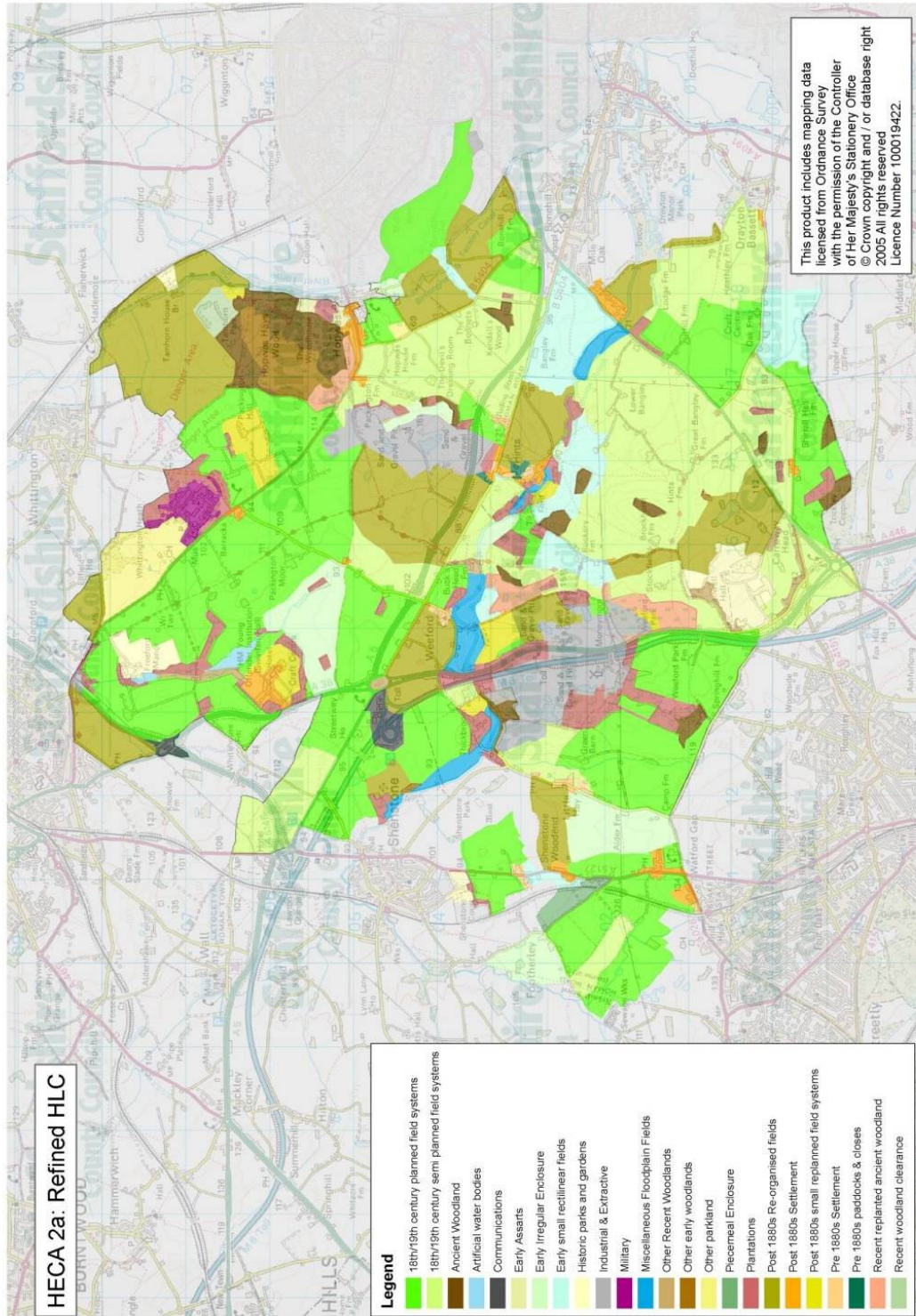
The historic landscape character, particularly the field systems and the nature of the dispersed settlement survive well within the character area. Only Hints has seen any major development during the last century.

There remains the potential for below ground archaeology to survive within the historic cores of the surviving and deserted settlements, on the site of historic farmsteads and associated with Canwell Priory. Previous archaeological investigations have identified that there is the potential for

prehistoric and Roman sites to survive particularly in the central and south eastern areas. Further sites may yet be discovered elsewhere within the character area.

Consequently any future development within the character area would need to consider the following issues:

- Potential impact upon the nature of the surviving dispersed settlement pattern, and in particular where the origins of the landscape are closely tied to the origins of the farmsteads.
- To address how the historic landscape character could be reflected in any development particularly where it survives well and is strongly associated with the historic built environment, e.g. farmsteads
- How development may impact upon the setting of designated sites
- It would need to consider the impacts upon the known below ground archaeology and also the archaeological potential of those areas where archaeological/historic research has not focused.



Map 1: Refined HLC: the modern landscape

Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) 2b

Introduction

This document forms an overview of the HECA which specifically addresses the potential impact of medium to large scale development upon the historic environment.

The character area covers 629ha and lies wholly within Lichfield District boundary to the west of Tamworth.

Archaeological and Historic Documentation

The character area has not been subject to much research and the data mostly comes from the HER, with a few other reports on archaeological work.

Historic Environment Assets Summary

The current understanding of the earliest landscape of the character area suggests that it had mostly been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age, when some clearance may have begun to take place to support a small scale pastoral economy. The fact that by the later 11th century this HECA had probably formed part of the Royal forest of Cannock dominated by a mix of woodland and heath land may suggest that the landscape had continued to support only minimal human occupation in the centuries between the Bronze Age and the early medieval period. The only landscape which may have seen a substantive increase in human activity lies in the area around Drayton Basset. Field walking to the east of the village has recovered a Lower Palaeolithic flint implement as well as a flint of Neolithic/Bronze Age date and two sherds of Roman pottery. This evidence however does not substantively add to our broader understanding of the wider landscape of these periods, but probably represents the casual loss of items. However, it is likely that settlement at Drayton Basset dated to at least the later Anglo-Saxon period as it is recorded in Domesday Book (1086). The entry records two water mills here being held by the king and the presence of the water mills imply that corn was being ground for flour, which in turn means that corn must have been grown in the area. To the east of the village there is an area whose surviving morphology suggests that it once formed part of the open field system worked by the villagers in rotation between arable and fallow (pasture). The origins of the open field to the east of Drayton Basset may, therefore, pre date the Norman Conquest (1066).

Drayton Basset lies on the western edge of the Tame Valley, approximately 4km south of Tamworth, which had been the centre of the Mercian kingdom during the mid Anglo-Saxon period. It is possible that it was located here to access a number of landscapes, arable and meadow to the east with woodland and/or heathland to the west.

The only other known settlement of medieval origin is Bonehill to the north, which was first recorded in documentary records of 1230. Otherwise the

historic settlement pattern is one of dispersed farmsteads dating to at least the 19th century. However during the 20th century modern housing estates have encroached into the character area, particularly around Drayton Bassett. A ribbon settlement along the south side of the B5404, represents an expansion of Fazeley to the east; the historic core of which lies beyond the HECA.

The majority of field systems within the HECA have been impacted by field boundary removal during the second half of the 20th century associated with increasing agricultural mechanisation. The earlier origins of many of these field systems are currently not well understood. It is possible that this character area continued to be dominated by heath land and woodland until at least the post medieval period. However, the field systems to the east of Drayton Manor Theme Park had formed part of a large deer park during the medieval period, which may have survived until the later 18th century. By the early 19th century the eastern part of this deer park formed part of a landscape park associated with the country house of Drayton Manor, owned by the Peel family. During the 20th century much of the integrity of the landscape park was lost through the establishment of the Theme Park and golf course, although the lakes and some plantations do survive. The early 19th century manor house and adjacent farm have been demolished.

Designated Historic Environment Assets

Two Conservation Areas partly fall within the HECA and both are associated with Fazeley. There are very few Listed Buildings within the area and no Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields. The Listed Buildings concentrate upon the historic settlements of Bonehill and Drayton Bassett, although in the latter only the church is designated.

Historic Environment considerations

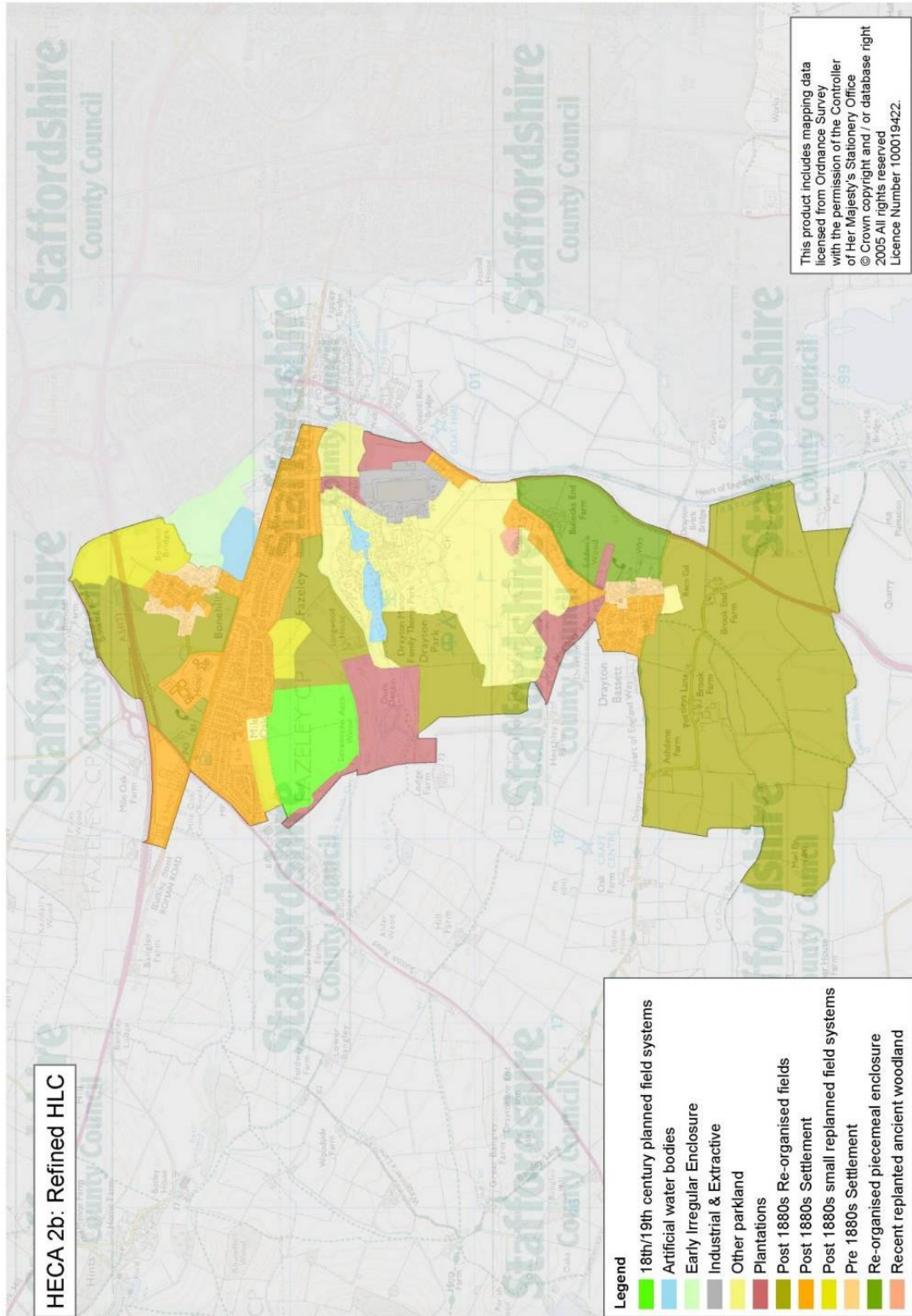
The historic landscape character is dominated by more recent changes including the field systems, which have undergone field boundary removal during the later 20th century. Other changes have included the expansion of some of the settlements and the development of Drayton Manor Theme Park.

There is the potential for below ground archaeology to survive associated with earlier settlement around the former site of Drayton Manor and within the settlements of Drayton Bassett and Bonehill.

Consequently any future development within the character area would need to consider the following issues:

- The impact upon the nature of the surviving dispersed settlement pattern, particularly in the south of the character area and its links to potentially medieval farmstead cores.

- Further research into the early industry of the character area and the survival of the ponds and leats associated with the former bleach works at Bonehill.
- How development may impact upon the setting of the designated sites
- It would need to consider the impacts upon the known below ground archaeology and also the archaeological potential of those areas where archaeological/historic research has not focussed.



Map 2 Refined HLC: the modern landscape

Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) 2c

Introduction

This document forms an overview of the HECA which specifically addresses the potential impact of medium to large scale development upon the historic environment.

The character area covers 2,043 ha and lies wholly within Lichfield District Council boundary immediately to the east of the county boundary with Walsall Borough.

Archaeological and Historic Documentation

The character area has not been subject to much archaeological or historic research except to the far north where work in advance of the M6 (Toll) was carried out. Limited field walking has been carried out in certain fields within the HECA. The remaining information is recorded in the HER.

Historic Environment Assets Summary

The current understanding of the earliest landscape of the character area suggests that it had mostly been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age, when some clearance may have begun to take place to support a small scale pastoral economy. The fact that by the later 11th century this HECA had probably formed part of the Royal forest of Cannock dominated by a mix of woodland and heath land may suggest that the landscape had continued to support only minimal human occupation in the centuries between the Bronze Age and the early medieval period. Evidence for later prehistoric activity comes from field walking carried out to the east of Shenstone which found flints of a variety of dates as well as pottery of both Roman and medieval date. When considered in conjunction with environmental and landscape factors the presence of flint scatters may suggest casual loss or knapping sites associated with more mobile groups or hunting parties while the Roman and medieval pottery may point to manuring activity.

The only landscape which currently appears have seen greater periods of human activity lies on the lower land to the east, around Shenstone and to the south east of Wall, which lies beyond the HECA's northern boundary. Wall was the location of a Roman settlement (*letocetum*) and the Roman road, Rykniel Street, crosses the HECA on a north-south alignment, which survives in parts as small roads, occasionally as an earthwork otherwise as buried remains across fields. There is an increase in the number of known sites of archaeological interest in the area north of Shenstone, which relate to evidence of small scale occupation dating to at least the Roman period, which lies 600m east of Rykniel Street and 1.5km south east of Wall. Other evidence of possible Roman and later settlement date lies near Hilton at approximately 2km south west of Wall. It is therefore likely that there is a high

potential for unknown sites to lie in the northern part of the HECA, which perhaps relate to activity at Wall during the Roman period. This activity, however, may represent a continuity of occupation in this area from the later prehistoric period. Certainly there are cropmarks which suggest activity from at least the Bronze Age.

There is little recorded evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity within the HECA although this paucity may represent a largely aceramic society relying upon organic-based products rather than an absence of activity in this area. However, Shenstone is recorded in Domesday Book (1086) with a high population for this area of Staffordshire as well as a mill and there is also evidence of possible Anglo-Saxon masonry within the ruined church of St John in the village which confirms activity from at least the later Anglo-Saxon period. It is likely that, with the evidence for continuity of activity from the later prehistoric through to the Roman period just to the north of the modern village, that this has been an area that would have seen some degree of settlement during the earlier Anglo-Saxon period.

The mill mentioned in the Domesday Book entry may have been located on the site of the later Imperial mill to the north east of the village centre on the Black Brook. The presence of this mill attests to an arable economy in the landscape from at least the later Anglo-Saxon period. However, there is little evidence for the open fields, which are typical of the medieval arable economy, in the landscape around Shenstone. The exception is a small area to the west of the modern village, although this field pattern is no longer legible in the modern landscape. The field systems to the west of Shenstone, where the open fields were likely to have been located, appear to have been enclosed as planned enclosure in the 18th/19th century, which may represent a re-planning of an earlier field system or the enclosure for the first time of the medieval open fields. This type of enclosure is typified by a geometric field pattern with straight boundaries which were laid out by surveyors.

The land to the east of Shenstone formed part of a large deer park in the medieval period with a moated site towards the eastern side, which was probably the site of the hunting lodge and built by the Doyley or d'Oilly family. The deer park was still being maintained in 1642 and the northern half appears to have been enclosed as planned enclosure in the 18th/19th century.

Little Aston to the south of the HECA was first recorded in an Anglo-Saxon charter dated AD 957, when land around 'Aston and Barr' was granted by King "Eadred" to his "minister" Wulfhelm (Hooke 1983:100). Little Aston is not mentioned in Domesday Book (1086) and is next mentioned in documentary sources in the 13th century, however, this does not preclude some level of settlement, albeit on a small-scale from the later Anglo-Saxon period onwards.

The remainder of the HECA may represent a landscape which began to be enclosed in earnest during the 11th to 13th centuries as assarts (clearing woodland for farmland) from the Royal forest of Cannock. This is perhaps further suggested by the settlements Stonnall, Fotherley, Lynn and The

Bosses which are first mentioned in documentary sources during this period. The Bosses, first recorded as '*Boshay*' probably means an enclosure or clearing of land from scrub (bors meaning spiky or bristly plant) (Horowitz 2005:138). By the later medieval/early post medieval period Stonnall had its own open field system which lay to the north west of the modern settlement. This area was enclosed as piecemeal enclosure, through the informal, verbal agreement of the landholders, between the late medieval and the late post medieval period. The villages of Stonnall and Shenstone have both seen considerable expansion during the 20th century.

The majority of the field systems across the character area exhibited a morphology which suggested they were enclosed as planned enclosure during the 18th/19th century although the earlier history for much of it is unknown. These field systems have generally been impacted by field boundary removal during the second half of the 20th century in response to an increased demand for agricultural productivity.

The predominant settlement pattern is dispersed in nature comprising villages, hamlets and farmsteads. Within the HECA there are 31 surviving historic farmsteads with a further farmstead having been demolished during the 20th century. Currently none of the farmsteads have been found to contain elements which pre-date 1700. There are, however, nine Listed as dating from the 18th century and one Listed from the 19th century. The majority of these appear to be associated with the planned enclosure, and they may therefore have their origins as new farms developed to exploit the recently enclosed land. Three exceptions lie on areas of Early Small Rectilinear Fields, which may date from the Post Medieval period to the 19th century. One of the exceptions is The Boss, which as stated above, probably had its origins in the medieval period and may therefore represent the re-building of an earlier farm in the 18th century. The remainder of the farmsteads have not so far been closely dated, but were built by at least the late 19th century and it is possible some of these farmsteads may have their origins in the later medieval or early post medieval period.

The housing estates to the south of Little Aston are of a similar character to those to the south of the county boundary with Birmingham City and Walsall Borough. This area had formed part of the large area of heath land known as the 'Coldfield' which extended southwards into Warwickshire. This heath was enclosed as part of an Act of Parliament passed in 1818, which resulted in a landscape of planned enclosure.

Designated Historic Environment Assets:

There is one Scheduled Monument, Shenstone Park Moated Site, and 42 Listed Buildings lying within the character area.

There are two Conservation Areas, Shenstone and Little Aston.

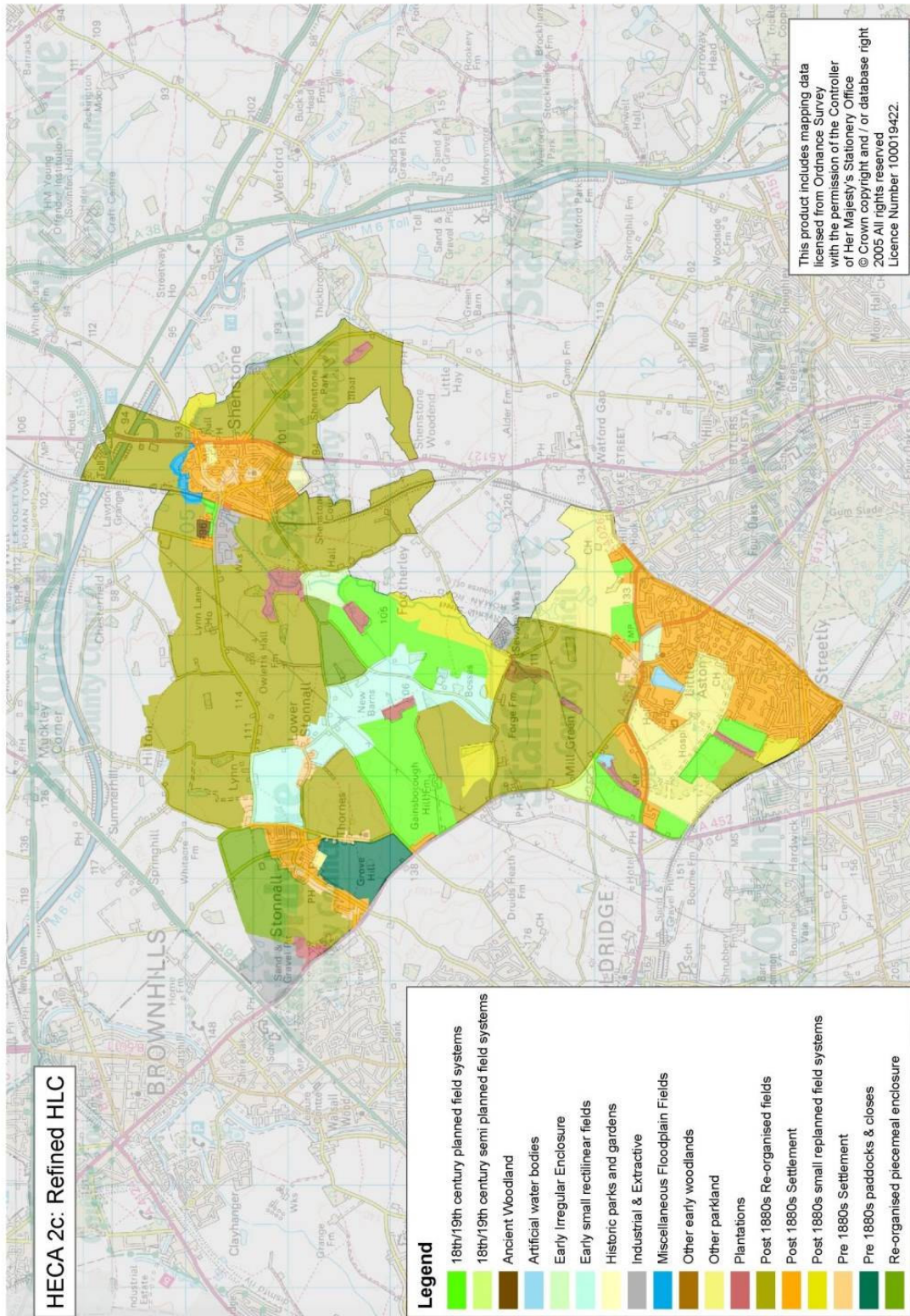
Historic Environment considerations

The historic landscape character has been largely impacted by changes to farming practices over the last half century which have resulted in substantial removal of field boundaries. Some historic field patterns survive reasonably well to the south and south east of Stonnall. The dispersed settlement pattern survives well with many historic farmsteads surviving alongside the villages and hamlets.

Below ground archaeology has been identified particularly in the northern parts of the HECA where most research has been carried out, which relate to pre-medieval settlement activity. Consequently there is the potential for archaeological sites dating from the later prehistoric periods onwards within this area. Other areas where there is a potential for archaeology to survive relates to the historic settlements.

Consequently any future development within the character area would need to consider the following issues:

- The impact upon the nature of the surviving dispersed settlement pattern, especially where the origins of the landscape may be closely tied to the origins of the farmsteads.
- It would need to address how the historic landscape character could be reflected in any development particularly where it survives well and is strongly associated with the historic built environment, e.g. the farmsteads
- How the development may impact upon the setting of the designated sites
- It would need to consider the impacts upon the known below ground archaeology and also the archaeological potential of those areas where archaeological/historic research has not focused.



Map 3 Refined HLC: the modern landscape

Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) 2d

Introduction

This document forms an overview of the HECA which specifically addresses the potential impact of medium to large scale development upon the historic environment.

The character area covers 6,362 ha, but only 622ha lie within Lichfield District, the remainder of the HECA lies within Stafford Borough, South Staffordshire and Cannock Chase District. This report only discusses that area falling within Lichfield District, unless otherwise relevant to the overall understanding of the historic environment of the character area.

Archaeological and Historic Documentation

There has currently been little in the way of historic or archaeological work carried out within the 622ha of the character area which fall within Lichfield District.

Historic Environment Overview

The current understanding of the earliest landscape of the character area suggests that it had mostly been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age, when some clearance may have begun to take place to support a small scale pastoral economy. By the later 11th century this HECA formed the core of the Royal forest of Cannock and was dominated by a mix of woodland and heath land. This suggests that the landscape had continued to support only minimal human occupation in the centuries between the Bronze Age and the early medieval period. The scheduled monument of Castle Ring hill fort lies just to the west of the district boundary and it dates to at least the Iron Age. Other hill forts in the West Midlands region have been proven to have their origins in the Neolithic period, although no substantive work has been carried out at Castle Ring to confirm whether there is earlier evidence of occupation here. In the area around Castle Ring there is one possible burnt mound and one possible barrow, which may suggest evidence of earlier activity in the vicinity of the hill fort. Across the wider HECA there are other barrows and burnt mounds, as well as findspots which provide evidence of a least small-scale activity perhaps commensurate with a pastoral economy. On the whole the extent of the impact of the hill fort on the surrounding landscape is currently unknown, partly because much of the area is currently under plantation woodland.

There is little recorded evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity within the HECA although this paucity may represent a largely aceramic society relying upon organic-based products rather than an absence of activity in this area. In 1290 most of the area of the HECA was granted by the king to the Bishop of Lichfield as a chase (a private hunting forest) consequently there is little evidence for medieval settlement within the character area. The archaeological evidence for the medieval period reflects the use of this

landscape as a hunting park and includes a possible hunting lodge located within the earlier hill fort. The Bishop held a property at Beaudesert, first mentioned in the mid 13th century. This is believed to be located on the site of Beaudesert Hall and the ruins of this building appear to date largely to the 15th century, when the estate was still held by the Bishop of Lichfield (Frost 2005:ii). The property passed to the Paget family following the Dissolution of the Monasteries (1536) and over the course of the following three centuries the parkland around the house evolved into a landscape park and include kitchen gardens.

Industrial activity within the HECA is recorded as early as the 14th century, when the Bishops are recorded holding a coal mine at Beaudesert. The industrial activity around Beaudesert increased from the mid 16th century when the Paget's were given the estate. The archaeological evidence of early mining can still be found within the wider HECA, both of coal and iron mines.

The landscape around Beaudesert is dominated by broadleaved and coniferous plantation which had been established here by the mid 20th century. It obscures much of the earlier landscape park and the Hall itself is a ruin which is a Grade II Listed Building.

The only area of settlement within the Lichfield portion of this HECA lies at Gentleshaw, which was first mentioned in documentary sources in the 16th century. It is likely that this represents squatter settlement upon an area of heath land, much of which survives in the modern landscape as Gentleshaw Common. To the east of the common and the settlement there is a large area of early irregular enclosure, which may represent evidence of further squattering activity as the heath land was enclosed for small scale farming, probably for pasture. It is possible that settlement focussed in this area from about the 16th century attracted by the increase in industrial activities at this period.

To the south east of Gentleshaw Common there is a small area of planned enclosure, typified by straight boundaries creating a geometric pattern which had been laid down by surveyors. This field system was created following an Act of Parliament in 1865 having formed part of Cannock Chase prior to that date.

Designated Historic Environment Assets:

There are three Listed Buildings lying within the Lichfield portion of the HECA. The Scheduled Monument of Castle Ring hill fort lies adjacent to the district boundary within Cannock Chase District.

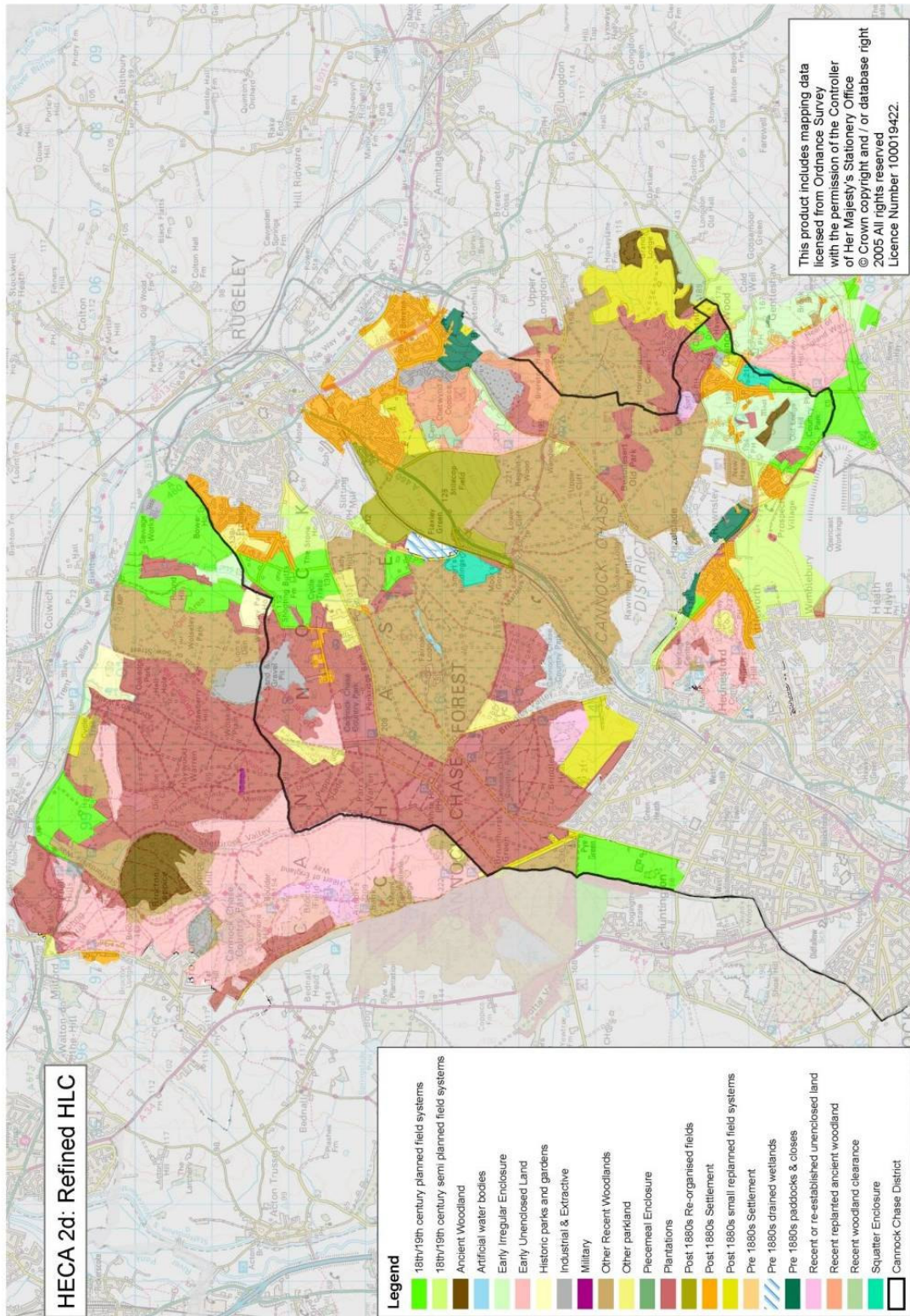
Historic Environment considerations

The historic landscape character has been largely impacted by the presence of the plantation woodlands. To the south Gentleshaw Common survives as a heath land and adjacent lies the dispersed settlement of Gentleshaw.

Below ground archaeology has been identified associated in particular with Beaudesert and the medieval/post medieval industrial activity. There is also the potential for this area to retain evidence of prehistoric archaeology which may, partly, be associated with activity focussed upon the nearby hill fort.

Consequently any future development within the character area would need to consider the following issues:

- The impact upon the nature of the surviving dispersed settlement pattern at Gentleshaw
- It would need to address how the historic landscape character could be reflected in any development in the area around Gentleshaw and the early field systems to the east.
- How the development may impact upon the setting of the designated sites including Castle Ring hillfort which lies adjacent.
- It would need to consider the impacts upon the known below ground archaeology and also the archaeological potential of those areas where archaeological/historic research has not focused.



Map 4 Refined HLC: the modern landscape

Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) 2e

Introduction

This document forms an overview of the HECA which specifically addresses the potential impact of medium to large scale development upon the historic environment.

The character area covers 1,713ha and lies wholly within Lichfield District Council boundary to the south east of Burntwood.

Archaeological and Historic Documentation

The character area has not been subject to much research although the corridor along the A5 and the M6 (Toll) has seen some archaeological work. The remaining information is recorded in the HER.

Historic Environment Assets Summary

The current understanding of the earliest landscape of the character area suggests that it had mostly been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age, when some clearance may have begun to take place to support a small scale pastoral economy. The fact that by the later 11th century this HECA had probably formed part of the Royal forest of Cannock dominated by a mix of woodland and heath land may suggest that the landscape had continued to support only minimal human occupation in the centuries between the Bronze Age and the early medieval period.

The only landscape which may have seen greater human activity lies on the lower land to the east, adjacent to the settlement of Wall, which is located just beyond the HECA's boundary. Wall was the location of a Roman settlement and the Roman road, Watling Street, crosses the HECA on an east-west alignment, and the line of the modern A5 follows much of its route. Archaeological work carried out as part of the upgrading of this road identified two enclosures on aerial photographs, which may date to the Iron Age or Roman period. There is an increase in the number of known sites of archaeological interest towards Wall. These include a possible Roman cemetery to the north of the A5 near Moat Bank Farm. A possible Roman villa has also been identified lying approximately 1km north west of Wall. Further research could confirm whether this is a villa and could also identify the degree to which both the road and the settlement at Wall had impacted upon the landscape during the Roman period.

There is little recorded evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity within the HECA although this paucity may represent a largely aceramic society relying upon organic-based products rather than an absence of activity in this area, although the surviving settlements of Hilton and Hammerwich probably have their origins in the late Anglo-Saxon period as they were recorded in Domesday Book (1086). However, only the site of the church at Hammerwich now lies within the HECA, the settlement itself lying further west.

Documentary evidence suggests that large parts of the forest were being enclosed from the 12th century onwards and other settlements within the character area may have been established as result of this process. This potentially could include Maple Hayes moated site, a Scheduled Monument, which is believed to be the manorial seat of Thomas de Abbenhall in 1294. It lies to the north of the HECA in an area of early enclosure, which may represent the remains of assarting, where the woodland was cleared for farm land.

It is possible that much of the northern area was enclosed for pasture, although further research would be required to confirm this. However, the only areas which currently suggest that arable agriculture was practised from the medieval period are associated with the settlements of Hammerwich and Woodhouses. These lands were ploughed in large hedge-less open fields and were farmed by the inhabitants of these settlements collectively. These open fields were probably enclosed during the post medieval period, possibly in the 16th or 17th century, when it seems that many of the open fields of Staffordshire were enclosed, to create piecemeal enclosure. This form of enclosure was formed through informal verbal agreements between the landholders.

The heath land within the character area survived until the early 19th century to the south west of the HECA in an area which had formed part of Ogle Hay. A small area of heath land, once part of Ogle Hay, survives at Muckley Corner. There are two further small areas of heath land surviving within the HECA at Pipehill and to the east of Maple Hayes.

Ogle Hay was enclosed following an Act of Parliament passed in 1835 and the resulting planned enclosure is typified by straight boundaries creating a geometric pattern. Planned enclosure has been identified in other part of the HECA, although these field systems were not enclosed as a result of an Act of Parliament, the pattern they create suggests they also date to the 18th or 19th century. These field systems retain much of the pattern of planned enclosure within the current landscape.

The settlement pattern of the character area is still dispersed in nature with little 20th century expansion around any of the hamlets. There are also 40 surviving historic farmsteads dispersed across the landscape which date to at least the 19th century. Eight of these definitely have earlier origins, whilst others may have been re-developed upon the site of earlier farmsteads. Further research is needed into the origins of these farmsteads which may in turn enable us to understand more about the development of this landscape. Seven of these farmsteads were probably built in the early 19th century following the enclosure of Ogle Hay which offered opportunities for new farms to be built within the newly enclosed landscape.

Designated Historic Environment Assets:

There are 18 Listed Buildings lying within the HECA which include farmhouses, country houses, a bath house and the conduit head (relating to the conduit taking water to the Cathedral Close in Lichfield).

Maple Hayes moated site is the only Scheduled Monument which falls within the HECA although the Roman Site at Wall, which includes masonry remains, lies adjacent on the eastern boundary.

Similarly Wall Conservation Area lies adjacent and no other conservation areas fall within the character area.

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields falling within the HECA.

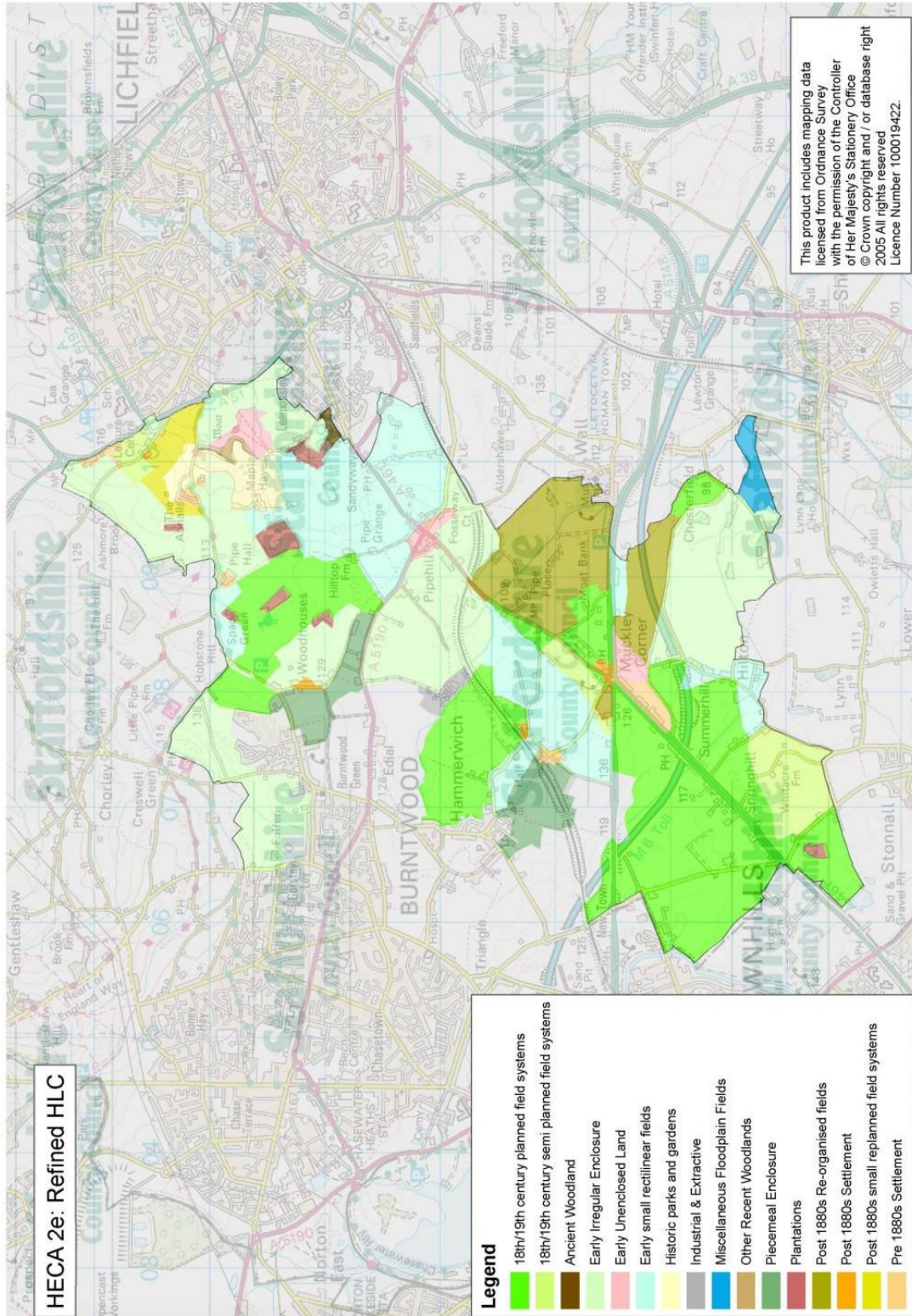
Historic Environment considerations

The historic landscape character, particularly the field systems and the nature of the dispersed settlement survive well within the character area. There are only a few areas which have been impacted by more recent development.

Below ground archaeology has been identified within the HECA along the line of Watling Street (the A5) which may relate to Prehistoric and Roman activity.

Consequently any future development within the character area would need to consider the following issues:

- The impact upon the nature of the surviving dispersed settlement pattern, especially where the origins of the landscape may be closely tied to the origins of the farmsteads.
- It would need to address how the historic landscape character could be reflected in any development particularly where it survives well and is strongly associated with the historic built environment, e.g. the farmsteads
- How the development may impact upon the setting of the designated sites
- It would need to consider the impacts upon the known below ground archaeology and also the archaeological potential of those areas where archaeological/historic research has not focused.



Map 5 Refined HLC: the modern landscape

Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) 2i

Introduction

This document forms an overview of the HECA which specifically addresses the potential impact of medium to large scale development upon the historic environment.

The character area covers 2,630 ha and over half this area lies within Lichfield District and is mostly covered by the modern settlements of Burntwood and Chasetown. The remaining 1,135ha lie within Cannock Chase District. This report only discusses that area falling within Lichfield District, unless otherwise relevant to the overall understanding of the historic environment of the character area.

Archaeological and Historic Documentation

There has currently been little in the way of historic or archaeological work carried out within the Lichfield portion of the character area.

Historic Environment Assets Summary

The current understanding of the earliest landscape of the character area suggests that it had mostly been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age. By the later 11th century this HECA formed part of the core of the Royal forest of Cannock and was dominated by a mix of woodland and heath land. Much of this landscape was first enclosed in the mid 19th century and no settlement was recorded in the western half of the HECA until this date. To the east around Burntwood the land was probably enclosed at an earlier date although the precise chronology for enclosure is not fully understood. Settlement at Burntwood and Edial was first recorded at the end of the 13th century and it is likely that they developed following assarting (clearance of woodland for farming). Despite this evidence for a wilderness landscape there does appear to be evidence for human activity possibly dating to the later prehistoric period in the form of a possible ring ditch, south of Highfields, and an undated enclosure, east of Brownhills West. Other evidence of human activity relates to three stray finds of flint tools two of which are probably Neolithic in date. This evidence suggests at least transitory activity and may relate to a small scale pasture economy during the later prehistoric period.

There is currently little recorded evidence for Iron Age to Anglo-Saxon activity within the HECA although this paucity may represent a largely aceramic society relying upon organic-based products rather than an absence of activity in this area. In 1290 most of the area of the HECA was granted by the king to the Bishop of Lichfield as a chase (a private hunting forest) which meant settlement was not encouraged to develop during the medieval period.

The main evidence for human activity during the later Anglo-Saxon period lies on the eastern boundary where Hammerwich was recorded in Domesday Book (1086), although little is known about the site at this date and it is

described as “waste”. This may imply that it was heath land at this date. Hammerwich’s church lies to the east of the HECA and some distance from the main area of settlement, which is included, as identified on the late 19th century Ordnance Survey maps. By the end of the 14th century 28 people were assessed for tax in Hammerwich confirming that the area had been settled by at least this date, but was probably established earlier.

During the 18th and 19th centuries agricultural procedures improved with artificial fertilizers and increasingly sophisticated farm machinery, initially powered by steam. These advances meant that there was scope to ‘improve’ the heath lands across the country and turn them into productive agricultural lands. However the landscape of Cannock Chase was one of the last areas of extensive heath land to be enclosed within Staffordshire. The heath land within this HECA was enclosed following Acts of Parliament passed in 1861, 1862 and 1870 which created a landscape of geometric fields with straight boundaries laid out by surveyors known as Planned Enclosure. There are around 11 surviving farmsteads across this landscape, with a further 8 having been demolished during the 20th century. None of these farmsteads have been closely dated, except that associated with Edial House which is 18th century in date. It is likely given the history of enclosure across most of this landscape that these farmsteads were built between the 1870s and approximately 1900.

The agricultural nature of this landscape did not survive long as the mining settlements of Chasetown and Chase Terrace were quickly established during the second half of the 19th century. During the 20th century these two settlements, along with Burntwood all expanded to the extent that few field systems survive within the HECA. Hammerwich has also seen some expansion but still remains a distinct settlement separated from Burntwood by field systems, which in themselves have had their layout altered during the last century.

Designated Historic Environment Assets:

There are nine Listed Buildings lying within the Lichfield portion of the HECA.

Historic Environment considerations

The historic landscape character has been largely impacted by the expansion of Burntwood and Chasetown during the 20th century.

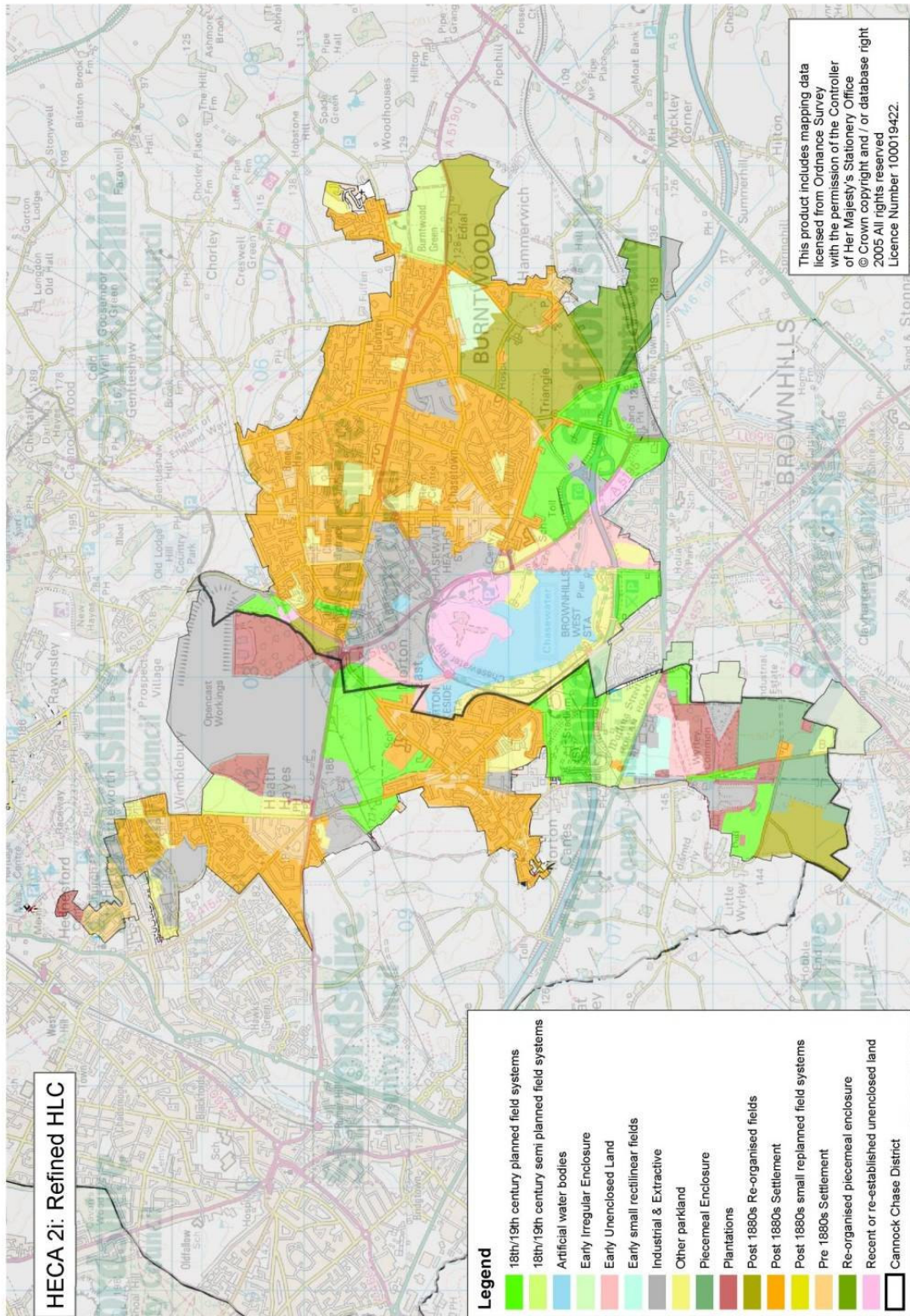
Below ground archaeology has been identified associated with cropmarks in the areas which survive as field systems. There may be other area of interest across the HECA which is not yet fully understood.

Consequently any future development within the character area would need to consider the following issues:

- How the development may impact upon the setting of the designated sites.

- It would need to consider the impacts upon the known below ground archaeology and also the archaeological potential of those areas where archaeological/historic research has not focused.

For further information regarding the Historic Environment Record (HER); Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) and designated sites please contact:



Map 6 Refined HLC: the modern landscape

Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) 10a

Introduction

This document forms an overview of the HECA which specifically addresses the potential impact of medium to large scale development upon the historic environment.

The character area, covering 2,664ha, lies wholly within Lichfield District boundary and incorporates the city of Lichfield, the historic settlement of Wall and the settlement of Whittington as well as the surrounding rural landscape. The Lichfield shall be one of the towns reviewed in detail as part of the Extensive Urban Survey for Staffordshire.

Archaeological and Historic Documentation

A VCH volume has been produced covering Lichfield and archaeological work within the character area has concentrated upon the historic core of the city and around Wall to the south. Other archaeological work has been carried out along the line of the M6 (Toll), other A-road improvements and the West Coast Mainline (railway). Beyond these concentrations little work has been currently been carried out.

Historic Environment Overview

The modern landscape is dominated by the development of Lichfield over the last century, which has more than doubled in size in that period. Lichfield became an important ecclesiastic centre during the later Anglo-Saxon period, but the current understanding on the earliest landscape of the character area suggests that it had mostly been heavily wooded until Bronze Age when some clearance may have begun to take place to support a small scale pastoral economy. The earliest evidence for human activity across the HECA comes from just beyond the historic core of Lichfield where Mesolithic flints have been recovered, although this probably represents the presence of mobile hunting groups and transitory occupation. Near the cathedral evidence of Neolithic settlement has been identified which may suggest small scale occupation at an earlier date than the Bronze Age.

In the south of the HECA substantial evidence for human activity during the Roman period concentrates around the modern village of Wall. During this period Watling Street (the modern A5) crossed the HECA on an east-west alignment and a fort was established at Wall, where the foundations of a bathhouse and possible mansio are on display to the public courtesy of English Heritage. Archaeological fieldwork has also identified numerous features in the area including evidence of other buildings and cemeteries. A rescue excavation to the south of Watling Street in the village suggested that occupation possibly continued into the early Anglo-Saxon period. Rykneild Street Roman road crosses Watling Street approximately 867m to the south east of Wall and runs along the length of the HECA about 2km to the east of Lichfield cathedral, along the line of the modern A38. It is not currently known

to what degree this area was settled prior to the Roman invasion (42AD) and there is little evidence for human activity after the army left in 409AD.

Within the historic core of Lichfield recent archaeological work near Stowe Pool revealed evidence of re-used Romano-British rubble in a building of 5th/6th century date. Other than a Roman coin find 1.4km from Cathedral this is the only evidence from this period and does not address the question of whether this area was occupied during that period. It is, however, evidence that by the early Anglo-Saxon period there was an unknown degree of occupation. The importance of Lichfield increased when Bishop Chad founded an Episcopal see here during the 7th century. However, by the late 9th century it is likely that Lichfield declined as the Danes advanced across the country from the north east, particularly as it ceased to be the seat of a bishop, being demoted to the status of a 'minster church'. Evidence for this comes from several sources including Domesday Book (1086) which records the religious community had dropped from 20 canons to five. The final destruction phase of the buildings near Stowe Pool (779-971AD) may also relate to this period.

An overview of the later history of the town is included within the relevant Lichfield Historic Environment Character Zone (LHECZ 1) and will be covered in greater depth by the Extensive Urban Survey. The town is also covered by a volume of the VCH.

The surrounding landscape may have formed part of the Royal forest of Forest by the mid 11th century and is likely to have been dominated by woodland, wood pasture and heath land with perhaps some enclosure for small scale pasture and/or arable. This landscape is likely to have been largely unchanged from the Bronze Age landscape although the extent of clearance may have increased and contracted at various, currently unknown, dates. Documentary evidence suggests that large parts of the forest were being enclosed from the 12th century onwards. The settlements of Streethay, Whittington and Chesterfield are all first recorded in documents of the late 12th century and may represent assarting (the clearance of woodland for farmland) in the early post Conquest period (after 1066). A Scheduled moated site lies to the north of Streethay, which may further strengthen the idea that this was originally 11th/12th century assarted landscape

During the medieval period much of the landscape was being farmed as arable in large open fields, which were divided into strips held by families. Many of the open fields were associated with Lichfield and may pre-date the Norman Conquest (1066). Others were located in association with the later settlements of Whittington, Chesterfield and Wall. It is not currently known to what extent settlement continued at Wall from the Roman period through to the medieval, but it may have been re-settled in the 11th/12th century. Documentary sources suggest that the open fields associated with Lichfield were enclosed as piecemeal enclosure in the 17th and early 18th centuries. This form of enclosure was carried out by a means of informal, verbal agreements between farmers who wished to consolidate their holdings across the open fields in a single block. Across Staffordshire as a whole this was

being carried out by the 16th century and the open fields around Whittington and Wall probably also date to the post medieval period. The form of piecemeal enclosure around Whittington survives reasonably well, although some field boundary loss has occurred. Other areas where piecemeal enclosure has survived to a degree includes to the north west of Lichfield.

Other than the city of Lichfield and the larger villages there are 34 surviving historic farmsteads, with a further five which have been lost during the 20th century. Of these only seven have elements which are known to pre-date the 19th century and these all cluster around Wall. The remainder date to at least the 19th century and it may be that some of these farms have their origins in the later medieval or early post medieval period and may relate to the enclosure of this landscape, which has not been closely dated. One such farm lies at Aldershaw, if dates to at least the 19th century but no aspects of it are currently listed. A possible moat has been speculated to lie at Aldershaw, in the form of two ponds, but this has not been confirmed. However, the place is first mentioned in documentary sources in 1176 at a similar date to the other settlements already noted and is again perhaps evidence of assarting.

On the whole the current landscape is dominated by 20th century changes, particularly relating to the expansion of Lichfield, Streethay and Whittington. The majority of the field systems have also undergone considerable change during the last century as the pressure to intensify arable production led to the removal of a great many hedgerows resulting a significant change in the rural landscape.

Designated Historic Environment Assets

There are around 281 Listed Buildings within the HECA although the majority of these lie within the Lichfield's historic core. A couple of those which lie outside the city include structures associated with the Coventry Canal, whilst others include farmhouses and the parish churches at Wall and Whittington.

There are 5 Scheduled Monuments of which two lie outside Lichfield; the Roman site at Wall and the moated site north of Streethay.

Within the HECA there is one Registered Park and Garden, which comprises the Cathedral Close and Linear Park.

Two Conservation Areas fall outside of the city at Wall and at Whittington. Two further Conservations Areas lie within the city.

There are no Registered Battlefields recorded within the HECA.

Historic Environment considerations

The historic landscape character is dominated by 20th century changes both in terms of development and through alterations to the historic field patterns. However, the HECA retains a dispersed settlement pattern which may closely

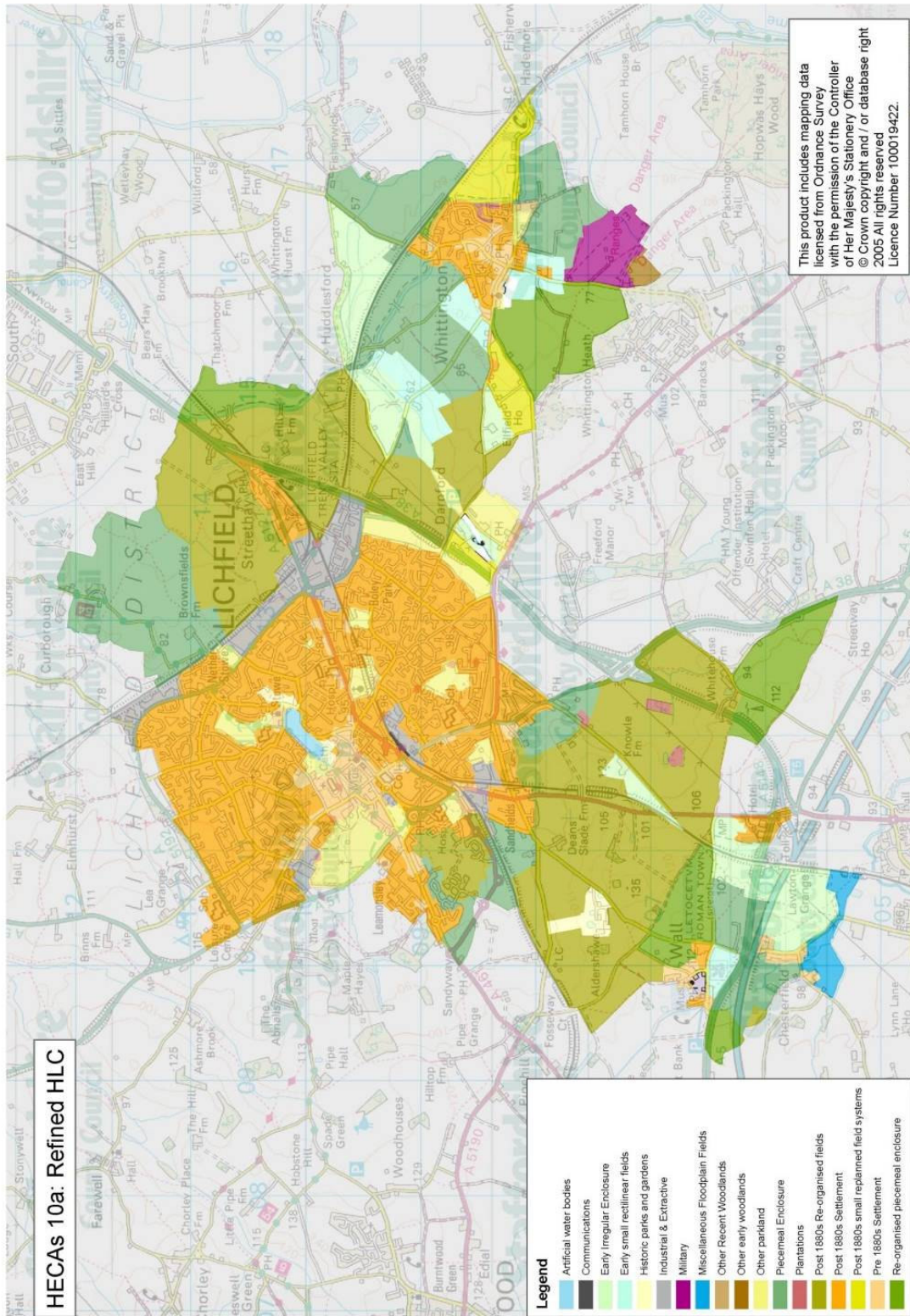
relate to the surviving piecemeal enclosure around Whittington and to the north west of Lichfield.

Below ground archaeological deposits have been proven to survive well within the historic core of Lichfield and around Wall. There is the potential for archaeology to survive within other areas of the HECA.

Consequently any future development within the character area would need to consider the following issues:

- The impact upon the nature of the surviving dispersed settlement pattern. Particularly where the origins of the landscape may be closely tied to the origins of the farmsteads or where there is the possibility that the farmsteads may represent earlier foci of settlement for example at Aldershaw.
- It would need to address how the historic landscape character could be reflected in any development in those areas where it survives well and is strongly associated with the historic built environment, e.g. the farmsteads
- How the development may impact upon the setting of the designated sites

It would need to consider the impacts upon below ground archaeology both where it is known particularly in Lichfield and around Wall, but also to consider where there is the potential for deposits to survive.



Map 7 Refined HLC: the modern landscape

Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) 10b

Introduction

This document forms an overview of the HECA which specifically addresses the potential impact of medium to large scale development upon the historic environment.

The character area, covering 2,934ha, lies wholly within Lichfield District boundary to the north west of the city of Lichfield and east of the uplands of Cannock Chase and the city of Lichfield.

Archaeological and Historic Documentation

Across the character area there has been little in the way of archaeological or historical work carried out and that only on a small scale and is not currently covered by VCH.

Historic Environment Overview

The current understanding on the earliest landscape of the character area suggests that it had mostly been heavily wooded until Bronze Age when some clearance may have begun to take place to support a small scale pastoral economy. The fact that this area had probably formed part of the royal forest of Cannock by the end of the 11th century suggests the continued dominance of a heavily wooded environment during the later prehistoric period as the heavier woodland soils were not favourable to earlier forms of ploughing technology and pastoral forms of agriculture continued to prevail.

Although no evidence has been recovered to date it is likely that gradual clearance progressed throughout the Bronze and Iron Age with farmsteads and dispersed settlements present within the HECA. However, the focus of later prehistoric activity appears to have been to the northeast of the character area along the valley of the river Trent with cemeteries, ritual monuments and settlement evidence identified throughout the whole length of the river corridor. To the west of the HECA lies the Iron Age hill fort of Castlering; this defended site (which probably included HECA 10b within its hinterland) provided protection for local residents functioned as a store for produce including grain and livestock and may have served as a marketplace and focus for feasting. This would suggest a well developed agrarian landscape and an organised community within this HECA capable of constructing and maintaining a significant defensive earthwork and typified by dispersed farmsteads, open fields and formal field boundaries.

The heavy soil conditions which made the area unsuitable for Neolithic farmers are likely to have meant that these areas remained within the control of the native British population. This is likely to have resulted in minimal 'Roman' development, in terms of larger scale settlement or villas, within this HECA. There is also currently little evidence of activity during the Anglo Saxon period, although it is likely that the pattern of dispersed settlement and

a pastoral economy continued until the medieval period. There is some evidence of human activity in the later Anglo-Saxon period with Handsacre to the far north being recorded in Domesday Book, when it belonged to Lichfield manor then held by the Bishop's of Chester. Longdon appears to have been recorded in Wulfric Spot's will of c.1002-4 when he left land to "Langandune" to a religious community in Tamworth. It is possible that Longdon had also formed part of the bishop's pre-Conquest (1066) estate. Consequently this evidence suggests at least small-scale human activity as speculated for the earlier periods.

Two later medieval settlements are believed to be associated with early hermitages, where a religious person sought refuge from the world to contemplate God, at Farewell and Armitage. Farewell became the site of a religious house by 12th century and the church at Armitage contained 12th and 13th century fabric prior to its rebuilding in the mid 19th century and was still known as 'the hermitage of Handsacre' in the mid 13th century (VCH).

An increase in population during the medieval period, up to the 14th century, perhaps encouraged a transformation of the landscape of this HECA, encouraged by the patronage of the church. Longdon continued to form part of the Lichfield estate until the mid-13th century when it became a manor in its own right and the bishops are likely to have been active in enhancing the economic productivity of the area. Certainly documentary sources suggest that the bishops were actively assarting (creating enclosures of farmland by clearing the woodland) the landscape around Lichfield and it is likely that they were responsible for the clearing of at least some of the woodland of the character area during the 12th century. There are five moated sites located within the HECA four of them are located in the southern section and, along with several placenames ending with 'Green', suggest a landscape that had been assarted (Roberts & Wrathmell 2002:54-56). Isolated moated sites, which are not located within or adjacent to settlements or have not been identified as being associated with deer parks or granges, are generally assumed to be evidence of late colonisation of marginal areas in the period between 1100 and 1300 (Roberts & Wrathmell 2002:58).

Similarly the religious house at Farewell is likely to have been active in enhancing the productivity of its lands and they may be responsible for clearing any surviving woodland in the area to the south of the HECA.

By the later medieval period most of the landscape in the HECA was being ploughed for arable in large open fields sub-divided into strips so that all the inhabitants of the settlements had an equal share of good and bad land across these fields. These open fields were gradually enclosed into small fields of Piecemeal Enclosure, through verbal, informal agreements between the landholders who wished to consolidate their scattered strips into a single holding. Within Staffordshire as a whole this process was underway by the 16th century, but continued into the 18th century. The date of the Piecemeal Enclosure in the HECA is not known, but the early date of some of the scattered farmsteads may provide some indication, although further research could provide the key to a better understanding of the later development of

the landscape. The piecemeal enclosure, generally survives well across the HECA, particularly around Longdon and between Chorley and the suburbs of Lichfield to the east. To the north east of Farewell the field system still retains some legibility in terms of its earlier history, but there has been some later re-organisation of the landscape and consequently has been classified as “Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure”.

The dispersed settlement pattern is still dominant within the HECA, although most of the villages have seen some expansion during the 20th century most notably at Upper Longdon, Armitage and Handsacre. Other than the villages and hamlets there are 75 surviving historic farmsteads, with four having been lost during the 20th century. Of the surviving farmsteads have been dated from the surviving Listed buildings associated with them and 12 pre date 1700, 10 date to the 18th century with one dating to the 19th century. The remaining 52 pre date 1900, but have not yet been more closely dated and it may be that some of these farms have their origins in the later medieval or early post medieval period and potential relate to the enclosure of this landscape. Several of the farmsteads represent the redevelopment of sites at a later period for example Stonywall is a hamlet comprising two farmsteads in the 19th century, but the place is included in mid 14th century tax records (SHC on British History Online). Longdon Old Hall has elements dating to the 17th century, possibly re-modelling an earlier structure, but it is located with a moat which is likely to have medieval origins, probably 12th/13th century in date.

There are a few discrete areas where field systems are typically geometric pattern with straight field boundaries indicating that they were probably enclosed by surveyors during the 18th/19th century. One of the largest areas lies to the west of Chorley and another, less regular in layout, lies to the north of Dark Lane Farm. Both of these areas appear to be associated with farmsteads containing elements of 18th century buildings and represent either the enclosure of an area previously heath land or the re-planning of an earlier field system with the establishment or re-development of the farms.

In the areas around Handsacre, Longdon Old Manor and to the south of Cresswell Green there are field systems which have been considerably altered through the removal of field boundaries as a response to an increase in agricultural productivity during the second half of the 20th century, defined as Post 1880s re-organised fields. To the east of Elmhurst Hall the historic park and garden has given way to arable cultivation during the last century.

The historic Lyswas Park survives, but is now surrounded by a golf course and another golf course has been developed upon an earlier field system to the south east of Longdon Green.

Designated Historic Environment Assets

There is one Scheduled Monument, Moated site at Handsacre Hall, and 60 Listed Buildings lying within the character area.

There are two Conservation Areas, Longdon Green and the Trent and Mersey Canal.

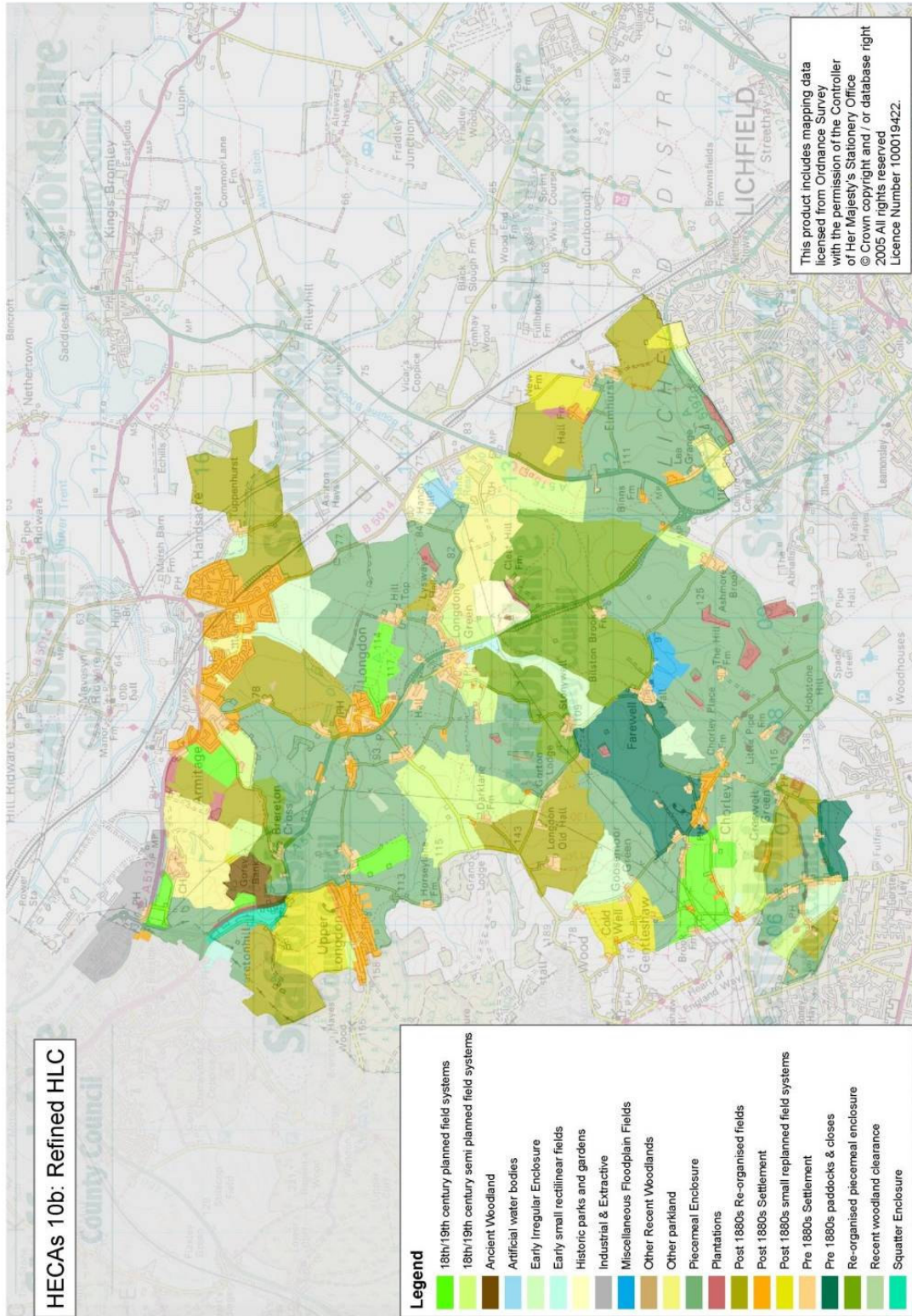
Historic Environment considerations

The historic landscape character, particularly the field systems and the nature of the dispersed settlement survive well within the character area. There are only a few areas which have been impacted by more recent development.

There is the potential for below ground archaeology, particularly relating to medieval settlement activity within the village cores and around the moated sites.

Consequently any future development within the character area would need to consider the following issues:

- The impact upon the nature of the surviving dispersed settlement pattern. Particularly where the origins of the landscape may be closely tied to the origins of the farmsteads or where there is the possibility that the farmsteads may represent earlier foci of settlement.
- It would need to address how the historic landscape character could be reflected in any development in those areas where it survives well and is strongly associated with the historic built environment, e.g. the farmsteads
- How the development may impact upon the setting of the designated sites
- It would need to consider the impacts upon below ground archaeology both where it is known, but also to consider where there is the potential for deposits to survive.



Map 8 Refined HLC: Modern landscape

Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) 11

Introduction

This document forms an overview of the HECA which specifically addresses the potential impact of medium to large scale development upon the historic environment.

The character area covers 3,156ha lies wholly within Lichfield District boundary between the city of Lichfield and the Trent/Tame valley.

Archaeological and Historic Documentation

The character area has not been subject to significant levels of research although the northern part of this area fell within the Trent Valley Cropmark Survey area. The information on this character area mostly comes from the HER data, whilst VCH has covered part of the area.

Historic Environment Assets Summary

Current understanding on the earliest landscape of the character area suggests that it had mostly been heavily wooded until Bronze Age when some clearance may have begun to take place to support a small scale pastoral economy. The fact that by the later 11th century this HECA had probably formed part of the Royal forest of Cannock dominated by a mix of woodland and heath land may suggest that the landscape had continued to support only minimal human occupation in the centuries between the Bronze Age and the early medieval period. However, the northern and eastern extremities of the HECA lie within the Trent and Tame valleys. There is archaeological evidence from outside this HECA which points to the river valleys functioning as a transit route as well as being the focus of settlement and ceremonial activities during the later prehistoric period. It is likely that this trend is repeated to some extent within this HECA since at least the Neolithic period and is likely to have been cleared of woodland by this period.

A Roman road crosses the HECA, but it is unknown to what extent this landscape had been settled prior to and following its construction. A possible Roman villa has been suggested from a large quantity of finds found near to Curborough Hall, which lies over 2km west of the Roman road and on the edge of the Trent valleys. Curborough was the focus for medieval settlement, first mentioned in documentary sources in the 13th century, although it is possible that there was some continuity of settlement from the Roman period onwards, but only further research could test this theory.

Overall there is little recorded evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity within the HECA although this paucity may represent a largely aceramic society relying upon organic-based products rather than an absence of activity in this area. Certainly by the Norman Conquest (1066) most of the land within the character area had formed part of Cannock Forest, which may suggest a landscape dominated by woodland, wood pasture and heath land, although

areas of enclosures of pasture or of open field arable were also included within forested areas. Documentary evidence suggests that large parts of the forest were being enclosed from the 12th century onwards. Some of these earlier enclosures may survive within the modern landscape, particularly in the southern portion, although some field boundaries have been lost during the course of the 20th century.

The heath land character of the forest survived within the northern portion of the HECA until the later 18th century when this was enclosed following three Acts of Parliament in 1726, 1810 and 1818. This created field systems with a strong geometric pattern which survives well in the landscape.

The settlement pattern within the HECA is mostly of a dispersed nature with many scattered farmsteads. With the exception of Alrewas Hayes Farm, which dates to the 18th century and is likely to have been built to farm the newly enclosed land following the Act of Parliament in 1726, the farmsteads to the north of the HECA are probably 19th century in origin. They would have been built to serve the newly created field systems following the 19th century Acts of Parliament. There are many other farmsteads to the south of the HECA which date to at least the 19th century, however, some of these farms may represent foci for dispersed settlement during the medieval and early post-medieval period and that evidence of this pattern may survive within current farmstead complexes.

Two canals cross the HECA which have their origins in the later 18th century and form an important part of the landscape in terms of their historic importance and public amenity value.

More recent developments include the former RAF Fradley which was established in 1939 as well as the late 20th century housing development at Fradley South and the adjacent large industrial estate.

Designated Historic Environment Assets

There are 27 Listed Buildings and one Scheduled Ancient Monument. The Trent and Mersey Canal and Fradley Junction form two Conservation Areas.

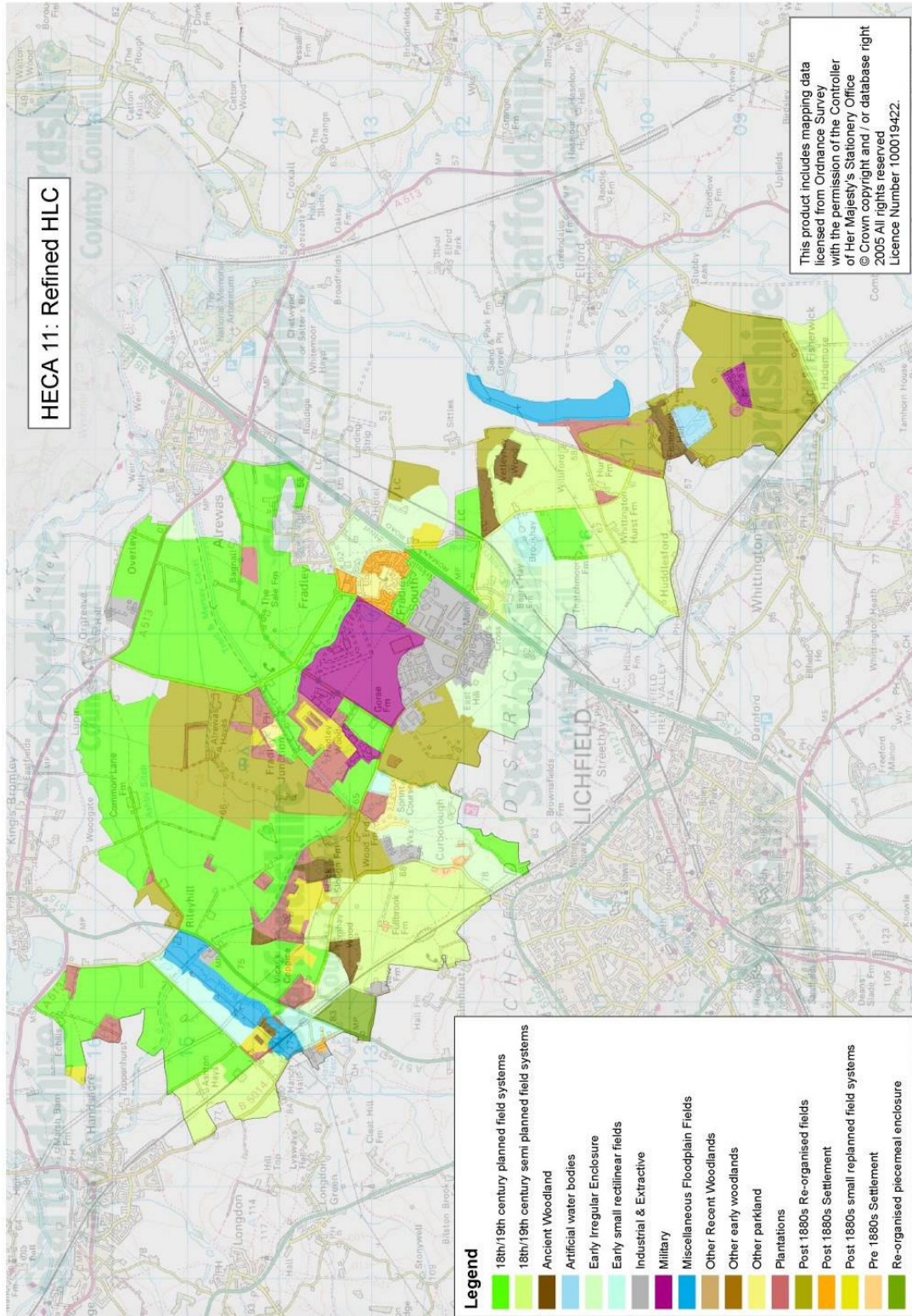
Historic Environment considerations

The historic landscape character, particularly the field systems and the nature of the dispersed settlement survive well within the character area. There are only a few areas which have been impacted by more recent development.

There is the potential for below ground archaeology, particularly relating to the prehistoric and Roman period to be present within the Trent and Tame valley portions of the HECA. There is also potential for archaeology to survive around Curborough.

Consequently any future development within the character area would need to consider the following issues:

- The impact upon the nature of the surviving dispersed settlement pattern, particularly in areas away from Fradley South and the industrial estate. Particularly where the origins of the landscape are closely tied to the origins of the farmsteads or where there is the possibility that the farmsteads may represent earlier foci of settlement.
- It would need to address how the historic landscape character could be reflected in any development particularly where it survives well and is strongly associated with the historic built environment, e.g. the farmsteads
- How the development may impact upon the setting of the designated sites
- It would need to consider the impacts upon below ground archaeology both where it is known particularly in the Trent and Tame valleys but also to consider where there is the potential for deposits to survive.



Map 9 Refined HLC: modern landscape

Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) 13a

Introduction

This document forms an overview of the HECA which specifically addresses the potential impact of medium to large scale development upon the historic environment.

The character area covers 3,033 ha, but only 522ha lie within Lichfield District, the remainder of the HECA lies within Tamworth Borough. The Lichfield portion is in two parts one lying to the east of Hopwas and one to the south of Fazeley. This report only discusses that area falling within Lichfield District, unless otherwise relevant to the overall understanding of the historic environment of the character area.

Archaeological and Historic Documentation

There has currently been little in the way of historic or archaeological work carried out within the 522ha of the character area which fall within Lichfield District.

Historic Environment Assets Summary

The HECA lies within the River Tame valley and just to the east of Fazeley the Bourne Brook joins it. Within the Trent and Tame river valleys in Staffordshire there is evidence of human activity from at least the Neolithic period. It is likely therefore that the landscape of the eastern Staffordshire valleys is one which had been largely cleared of trees by the Bronze Age.

There remains the potential for palaeolithic sites to survive upon the gravel terraces of the principal river valleys throughout the study area. Important evidence could include environmental material such as faunal remains, material culture such as flint tools and potentially even working sites. These will subsequently have been masked by the deposition of alluvium and colluvium. Often only the activities of extraction industries will extend deep enough to expose such material as in the case of the woolly rhinoceros found in gravel deposits at Whitemoor Haye Quarry in 2002. However, there does remain the potential for archaeologically significant remains associated with this period to be present relatively close to the surface largely as small unstratified finds. Where deeper excavations are required as part of the development process within the river valleys account must be taken of the potential to encounter Palaeolithic remains

The evidence for earlier human activity within the two areas of the HECA that fall within Lichfield District is focused mostly to the north of Tamworth where two settlements have been identified as cropmarks. The first is possibly of Bronze Age date and the other has been described as a multi-phase settlement with evidence of hut circles probably dating from the Iron Age to Roman period.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) records the recovery of pollen samples from surviving palaeochannels to the south of Fazeley within the Tame Valley. Analysis of such pollen samples can provide important information concerning the use of landscape in the past. In this case pollen analysis confirmed that the landscape had been dominated by dense woodland until the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. At this period the woodland was cleared and grassland pollen dominates the record. The pollen record also revealed that cereals were being grown in the vicinity of the site. This evidence shows that humans were settling around the area of the river valley between Fazeley and Tamworth and were supporting themselves with a mixed economy of pasture and arable. This evidence confirms that this character area was becoming increasingly settled during the later prehistoric period.

Watling Street crosses the Lichfield portion of the HECA following the modern B5404 through Fazeley.

There is little recorded evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity within the HECA although this paucity may represent a largely aceramic society relying upon organic-based products rather than an absence of activity in this area. However, to the east lies Tamworth which was a centre for royal authority within the Kingdom of Mercia during the 8th and 9th century. Tamworth was re-founded in AD913 and continued to prosper as a market town. It is not known to what extent Tamworth influenced the surrounding landscape during the mid Anglo-Saxon period and to what extent the area was settled by this date. The only other late Anglo-Saxon site lies at Hopwas which was recorded in Domesday Book (1086) when it formed part of the royal estate. A mill is recorded along with 13 households. The mill is evidence that arable cultivation was being carried out in the vicinity of the settlement.

The surviving settlement pattern is one of dispersed villages and farmsteads, but it is not particularly dense over the small area covered by Lichfield District. Fazeley is first mentioned in documentary sources in c.1120 and the proximity of the Bourne Brook did foster the development of early industrial activity within the settlement. By the late 18th century several mills were located within the village, including three complexes which had been built for the cotton industry by Sir Robert Peel. Two of these mills, with their mill ponds survive within the settlement. To the north of Tamworth lies the small hamlet of Comberford which was first mentioned in the late 12th century. It is in this area where the surviving historic farmsteads are located. None have been closely dated, but some sites may represent an earlier focus of settlement.

There is evidence to the north of Tamworth of further medieval arable cultivation where open fields had existed, probably associated with Wigginton to the north, outside of the HECA. The open fields were later enclosed as piecemeal enclosure, through a process of informal verbal agreements between the landholders, resulting in a landscape of irregular field patterns divided by hedgerows and probably mostly laid down to either permanent pasture or pasture in rotation with crops. This enclosure occurred at different times across Staffordshire, but was underway by the 16th century. These

fields have been subject to substantial field boundary loss during the second half of the 20th century in response to an increase in demand for arable production.

The landscape to the south of Fazeley has been largely impacted by gravel quarrying during the 20th century within the Tame valley. In the 18th/19th century this area had been developed as water meadows, which were used to provide an early grass sward for pasturing animals. These features also appear to have been substantially impacted by the quarrying activities in the area.

Designated Historic Environment Assets:

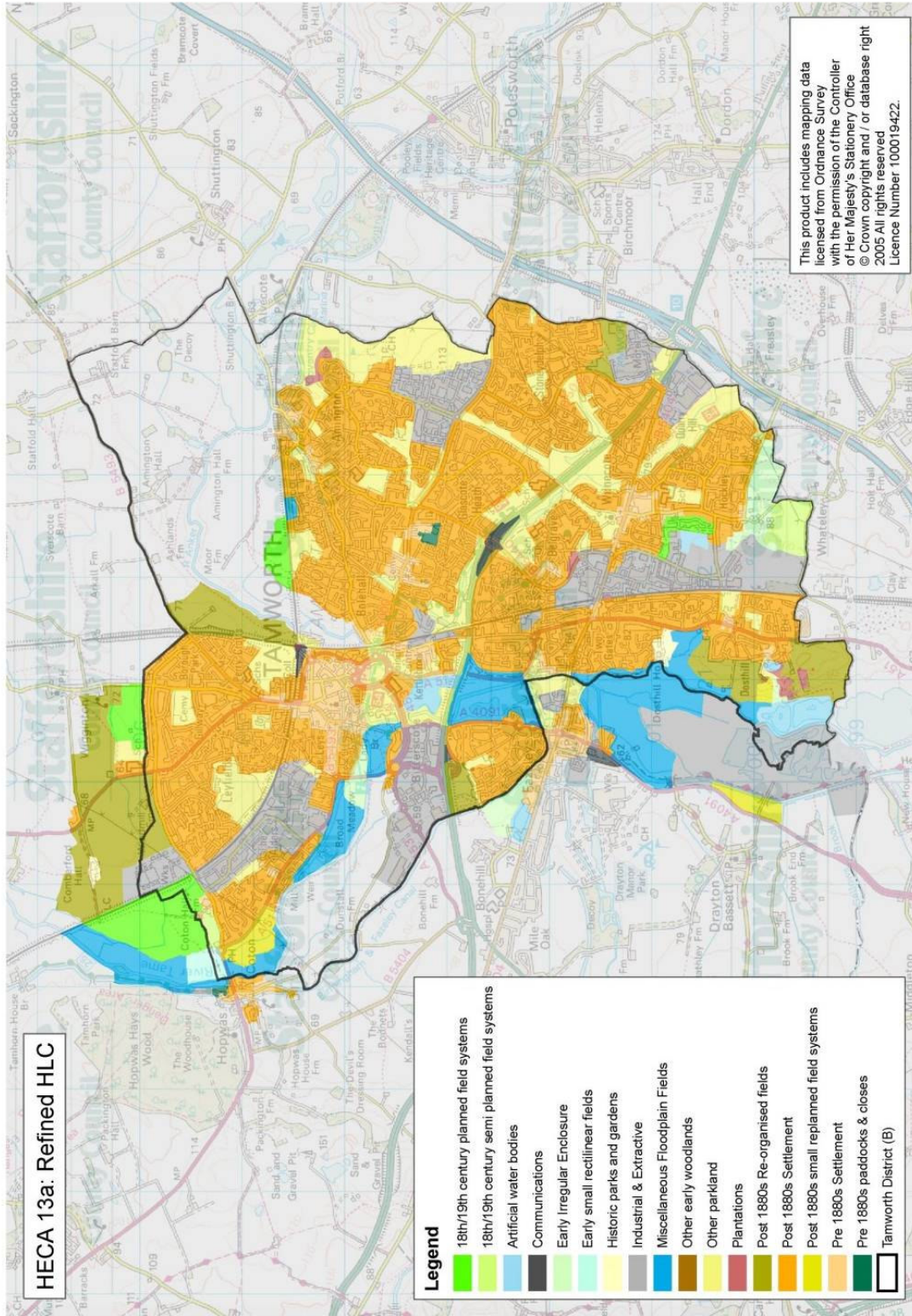
There are 21 Listed Buildings lying in the Lichfield District portion of the HECA. Most of these lie within the Conservations Areas of Fazeley and Hopwas. Portions of Fazeley (Bonehill) and Wigginton Conservation Areas also lie within the HECA.

Historic Environment considerations

The historic landscape character has been largely impacted by changes dating to the 20th century.

There is the potential for below ground archaeology to exist within the river valleys and some early sites has been recorded to the north of Tamworth and south of Fazeley within the Lichfield portion of the HECA. Consequently any future development within the character area would need to consider the following issues:

- How the development may impact upon the setting of the designated sites.
- It would need to consider the impacts upon the known below ground archaeology and also the archaeological potential of those areas where archaeological/historic research has not focused.



Map 10 Refined HLC: the modern landscape

Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) 13d

Introduction

This document forms an overview of the HECA which specifically addresses the potential impact of medium to large scale development upon the historic environment.

The character area covers 7,520ha and lies mostly within Lichfield District boundary, although the northern portion above the river Trent lies in East Staffordshire District, whilst a small area to the south lies within Tamworth Borough. The HECA lies within the valleys of the Trent, Tame, Mease and Anker with no land lying above 100m above sea level.

Archaeological and Historic Documentation

A variety of archaeological or historic research, including the Trent Valley Cropmark survey, has been carried out to the north of the HECA around the Trent Valley. In the central and southern areas very little work has currently been carried out.

Historic Environment Overview

Current understanding on the earliest landscape of the character area suggests that by the Neolithic or Bronze Age there had been some substantial clearing of tree cover, particularly within the Trent valley to the north, within East Staffordshire District. In this area there are many sites identified by the cropmark survey some of which have been dated to the prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon period, this includes the important site of Catholme which was excavated in advance of gravel quarrying.

There remains the potential for palaeolithic sites to survive upon the gravel terraces of the principal river valleys throughout the study area. Important evidence could include environmental material such as faunal remains, material culture such as flint tools and potentially even working sites. These will subsequently have been masked by the deposition of alluvium and colluvium. Often only the activities of extraction industries will extend deep enough to expose such material as in the case of the woolly rhinoceros found in gravel deposits at Whitemoor Haye Quarry in 2002. However, there does remain the potential for archaeologically significant remains associated with this period to be present relatively close to the surface largely as small unstratified finds. Where deeper excavations are required as part of the development process within the river valleys account must be taken of the potential to encounter Palaeolithic remains.

Within Lichfield District there are several cropmarks around Edingale, Harlaston and Clifton Campville with features including pit alignments, ring ditches and enclosures. A further site within the District of Roman date is the Scheduled remains of a Roman farmstead at Fisherwick, to the south of

Elford. All of these sites reveal a degree of activity during the pre-medieval period.

The influence of the river valleys within eastern Staffordshire is likely to have continued to have an impact upon the nature of the character area throughout the centuries following the departure of the Roman army in AD 409. There is little recorded evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity within the HECA although this paucity may represent a largely aceramic society relying upon organic-based products rather than an absence of activity in this area. However by the later Anglo-Saxon period, possibly from the 10th century, there is some evidence of farming activity and settlement. Domesday Book (1086) records seven settlements within the character area which would have had their origins in the pre-Conquest period (1066). The entries suggest a landscape where the settlements had access to numerous resources including meadow and woodland. Three of the entries, Barton under Needwood (in East Staffordshire Borough), Clifton Campville and Harlaston refer to mills, suggesting that arable land existed within the character area during the later Anglo-Saxon period. A further two settlements, Haunton and Tatenhill were not included in Domesday Book, but are recorded in a charter of c.AD 942.

Throughout the medieval period most of these settlements continued to flourish, however for some including Wigginton and Thorpe Constantine it has been suggested that shrinkage occurred. The largest settlement within the modern landscape is Barton-under-Needwood, which has expanded considerably during the 20th century. The remaining villages have also seen some expansion during the same period.

Within this settled landscape of villages there are also 71 historic farmsteads which date to at least the 19th century, with a further four having been demolished during the 20th century. Of these surviving farms five are of 17th century date or earlier and 12 are of 18th century, the remainder date to at least the 19th century. Many of the farmsteads are located within the existing villages, but 43 are dispersed across the landscape. Some of these farmsteads may represent foci for dispersed settlement during the medieval and early post-medieval period and that evidence of this pattern may survive within current farmstead complexes.

By the medieval period much of the landscape was being farmed as open fields usually worked in rotation between arable and fallow that were not divided by hedgerows and were closely associated with the settlements. The open fields were later enclosed as piecemeal enclosure, through a process of informal verbal agreements between the landholders, resulting in a landscape of irregular field patterns divided by hedgerows and probably mostly laid down to either permanent pasture or pasture in rotation with crops. This enclosure was occurred at different times across Staffordshire, but was underway by the 16th century. Around Wigginton where pasture survives, there are substantive earthworks of ridge and furrow which are the remains of the medieval ploughing method.

Also dominant within the HECA are the riverside fields which line the four main rivers running through the area: the Anker to the south, the Tame on the western side, the Mease in the centre and the Trent along the north western boundary. During the medieval period some of these sites may have been utilised as meadowland by the local inhabitants. By the 19th century large lengths of the River Mease within the HECA was surrounded by managed water meadows. There were also a few water meadows along the rivers Trent and Anker, but not to the same extent within this HECA. A recent survey of these features in Staffordshire has suggested that some of the water meadows survive to a degree.

Of a similar date to the water meadows are the areas of 18th/19th century planned enclosure, which were laid out by surveyors who created a landscape with a geometric pattern of straight boundaries. This landscape did not dominate within the HECA, but can be seen surviving to small extents in the north and towards the western and southern boundaries.

At least nine historic parks and gardens once existed within the HECA. These parks may have been designed at a similar period to other changes in the landscape including the laying out of planned enclosure and the construction of water meadows. These landscape parks were associated with country houses, four of which currently survive within the landscape.

The historic landscape character of the piecemeal enclosure and planned enclosure within the HECA survives to a good degree in the far north and south. Across much of the central area the historic field systems have lost much of their character having been altered during the 20th century through the removal of field boundaries.

Designated Historic Environment Assets

There are 13 Scheduled Monuments within the HECA including the cropmarks at Catholme and the site at Fisherwick.

There are 136 Listed Buildings including canal bridges, farmhouses, agricultural buildings and a watermill.

Seven Conservation Areas fall within or partly within the HECA.

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields falling within the HECA.

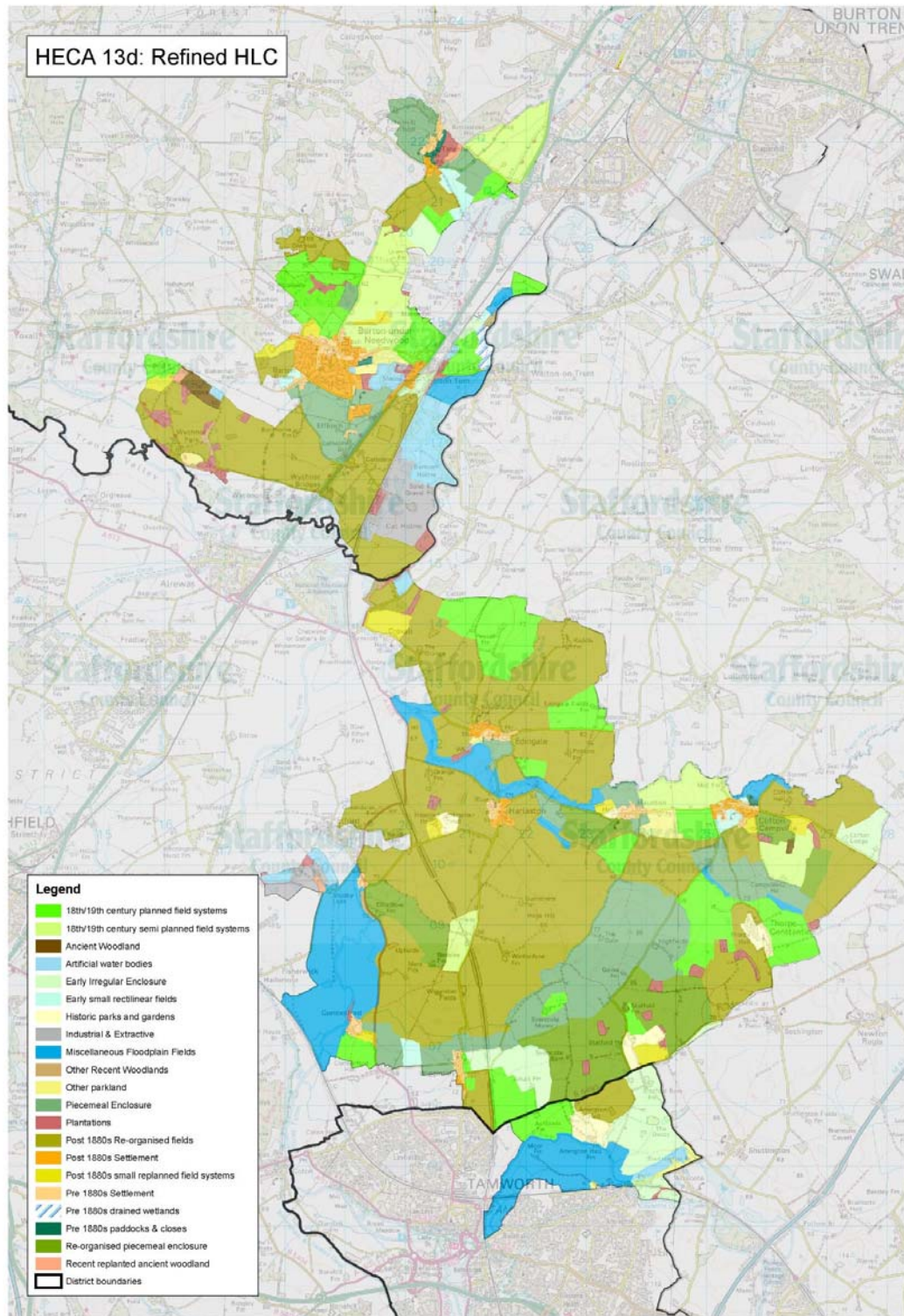
Historic Environment considerations

The survival of the historic landscape character is mixed across the character area, but the earlier field systems do survive well to the north and south and in these areas they may prove to be closely related to the historic settlements. Of particular interest are the surviving water meadows and their relationship to the wider historic landscape character which needs exploring.

There is the potential for below ground archaeology, particularly relating to the prehistoric and Roman period within the river valleys to the north and also across the central section of the HECA, as well as within the historic settlement cores of the villages.

Consequently any future development within the character area would need to consider the following issues:

- The impact upon the nature of the historic settlement pattern and the historic landscape character, particularly to the north and south.
- The relationship between the water meadows and the landscape.
- It would need to address how the historic landscape character could be reflected in any development particularly where it survives well and is strongly associated with the historic built environment, e.g. the farmsteads
- How the development may impact upon the setting of the designated sites
- It would need to consider the impacts upon the known below ground archaeology and also the archaeological potential of those areas where archaeological/historic research has not focussed, particularly in the central area of the HECA, which it has been suggested was settled by at least the later Anglo-Saxon period.



Map 11 Refined HLC: the modern landscape

Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) 13e

Introduction

This document forms an overview of the HECA which specifically addresses the potential impact of medium to large scale development upon the historic environment.

The character area covers 8,042ha and lies mostly within Lichfield District boundary, although two northern portions lie in East Staffordshire District and a small area to the far west lies in Cannock Chase District. The River Trent dominates as it runs west to east through the centre of this HECA. Four rivers have their confluence with the Trent within the character area: the Blithe and the Swarbourne from the north and the Tame and Mease on the far eastern boundary.

Archaeological and Historic Documentation

The HECA has been reasonably covered by a variety of archaeological or historic research, including the Trent Valley Cropmark survey.

Historic Environment Overview

Current understanding on the earliest landscape of the character area suggests that by the Neolithic or Bronze Age there had been some substantial clearing of tree cover, particularly within the river valley to the south.

There remains the potential for palaeolithic sites to survive upon the gravel terraces of the principal river valleys throughout the study area. Important evidence could include environmental material such as faunal remains, material culture such as flint tools and potentially even working sites. These will subsequently have been masked by the deposition of alluvium and colluvium. Often only the activities of extraction industries will extend deep enough to expose such material as in the case of the woolly rhinoceros found in gravel deposits at Whitemoor Haye Quarry in 2002. However, there does remain the potential for archaeologically significant remains associated with this period to be present relatively close to the surface largely as small unstratified finds. Where deeper excavations are required as part of the development process within the river valleys account must be taken of the potential to encounter Palaeolithic remains.

Evidence of human activity within the river valleys of the character area has been identified by the Trent Valley Cropmark Survey which recorded numerous sites of probable prehistoric and/or Roman date. These sites included enclosures, ring ditches and pit alignments.

The Roman road of Rykneild Street crosses the character area on an approximately north east –south west alignment to the east of Alrewas and crossed the river Trent near Willowbrook Farm. The only other dated

evidence of activity in the Roman period are timber buildings associated with Roman finds found near Alrewas.

The areas to the north, where the land rises up, may have remained densely wooded until the Bronze Age when some clearance may have occurred to support small scale pastoral economy. Evidence for human activity in this area is confined to findspots, although this area lies largely outside of Lichfield District Council.

The influence of the river valleys is likely to have continued to have an impact upon the nature of the character area throughout the centuries following the departure of the Roman army in AD 409. There is little recorded evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity within the HECA although this paucity may represent a largely aceramic society relying upon organic-based products rather than an absence of activity in this area. However by the later Anglo-Saxon period, possibly from the 10th century, there is some evidence of settlement. Domesday Book (1086) records eleven settlements within the character area which would have had their origins in the pre-Conquest period (1066), most of which lie within the river valleys. The entries suggest a landscape where the settlements had access to numerous resources including meadow and woodland, at Alrewas there is specific mention of a fishery presumably upon the River Trent. Four of the entries refer to mills, suggesting that arable land existed within the character during the later Anglo-Saxon period.

Throughout the medieval period these settlements continued to flourish. Three of the villages, Abbot's Bromley, Alrewas and Rugeley, were granted markets and became small towns. Several of the villages have moated sites, which were probably the site of a manorial complex. These features are generally date to between the 12th and 13th centuries. All of these towns and villages have seen growth during the 20th century, sometimes doubling in size. Rugeley, in particular has grown substantially on the western boundary of the character area.

Within this well settled landscape of small towns and villages there are also 127 historic farmsteads which date to at least the 19th century, with a further 20 having been demolished during the 20th century. Of these surviving farms 19 are of 17th century date or earlier and 23 of 18th century, the remainder date to at least the 19th century. Some of the farmsteads are located within the existing villages, but 83 are dispersed across the landscape. Some of these farmsteads may represent foci for dispersed settlement during the medieval and early post-medieval period and that evidence of this pattern may survive within current farmstead complexes.

By the medieval period much of the landscape was being farmed as open fields usually worked in rotation between arable and fallow that were not divided by hedgerows and were closely associated with the settlements. The open fields were later enclosed as piecemeal enclosure, through a process of informal verbal agreements between the landholders, resulting in a landscape of irregular field patterns divided by hedgerows and probably mostly laid down to either permanent pasture or pasture in rotation with crops. Other early

enclosure has been identified within the river valleys although the origins of these landscapes are less well understood but are likely to date to the later medieval/post medieval period.

Later enclosures can be identified within the character area and includes areas of planned enclosure of 18th/19th century date which was laid out by surveyors to create areas with a geometric pattern of straight boundaries. Of a similar date is the creation of water meadows, which lined much of the length of the rivers Trent and Blithe in this HECA. The water meadows have been identified through a desk-top analysis of the county's river valleys using historic maps and aerial photographs. The survival of these water meadows is generally good for those along the Trent and to the south of Blithe Reservoir on the river Blithe.

Some of these historic field patterns survive, but during the last century some of them have seen the hedges grubbed out to facilitate greater arable production, particularly to the north and south of Hill Ridware.

Designated Historic Environment Assets

There are six Scheduled Monuments within the HECA including the earthworks at Wychnor.

There are 328 Listed Buildings including canal bridges, farmhouses, agricultural buildings and a watermill. Many of these concentrate within the village centres.

Thirteen Conservation Areas fall within or partly within the HECA.

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields falling within the HECA.

Historic Environment considerations

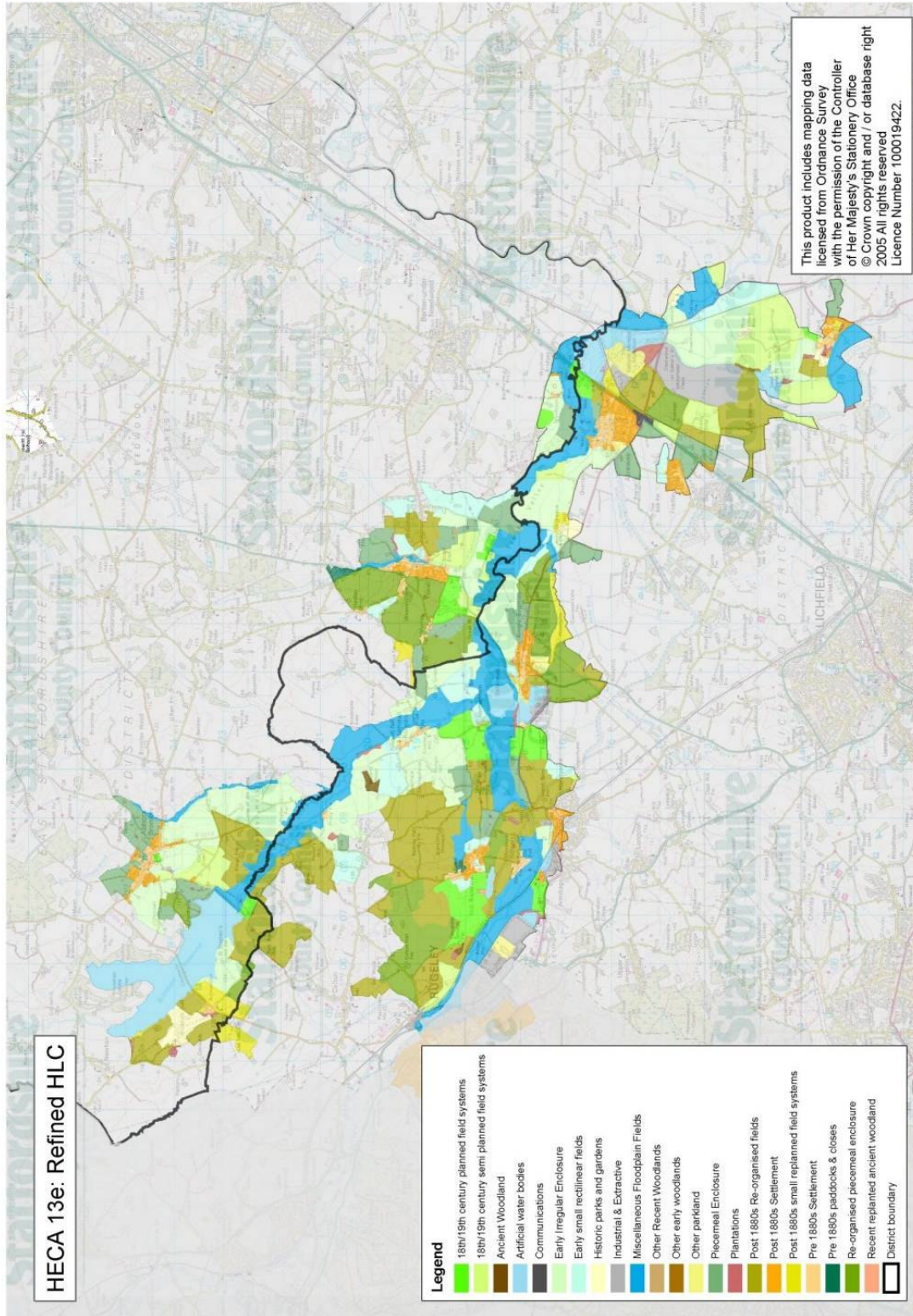
The survival of the historic landscape character is mixed across the character area, but the earlier field systems do survive well in places and they may prove to be closely related to the historic settlements. Of particular interest are the surviving water meadows and their relationship to the wider historic landscape character needs exploring.

There is the potential for below ground archaeology, particularly relating to the prehistoric and Roman period within the river valleys portions of the HECA, as well as within the historic settlement cores of the towns and villages.

Consequently any future development within the character area would need to consider the following issues:

- The impact upon the nature of the historic settlement pattern and the historic landscape character

- The relationship between the water meadows and the landscape.
- It would need to address how the historic landscape character could be reflected in any development particularly where it survives well and is strongly associated with the historic built environment, e.g. the farmsteads
- How the development may impact upon the setting of the designated sites
- It would need to consider the impacts upon below ground archaeology both where it is known particularly in the river valleys and historic settlements but also to consider where there is the potential for deposits to survive.



Map 12 Refined HLC: the modern landscape

Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) 13g

Introduction

This document forms an overview of the HECA which specifically addresses the potential impact of medium to large scale development upon the historic environment.

The character area covers 3,405 ha and over half the area lies within Lichfield District. The remaining 1,207ha lies within Stafford Borough. This report only discusses that area falling within Lichfield District, unless otherwise relevant to the overall understanding of the historic environment of the character area.

Archaeological and Historic Documentation

There has currently been little in the way of historic or archaeological work carried out within Lichfield District half of the HECA.

Historic Environment Assets Summary

The HECA lies just to the north of the Trent Valley. One of the Trent tributaries, the Moreton Brook flows approximately north south through the western part of the Lichfield half of the HECA passing to the west of Colton.

There remains the potential for palaeolithic sites to survive upon the gravel terraces of the principal river valleys throughout the study area. Important evidence could include environmental material such as faunal remains, material culture such as flint tools and potentially even working sites. These will subsequently have been masked by the deposition of alluvium and colluvium. Often only the activities of extraction industries will extend deep enough to expose such material as in the case of the woolly rhinoceros found in gravel deposits at Whitemoor Haye Quarry in 2002. However, there does remain the potential for archaeologically significant remains associated with this period to be present relatively close to the surface largely as small unstratified finds. Where deeper excavations are required as part of the development process within the river valleys account must be taken of the potential to encounter Palaeolithic remains.

Within the Trent and Tame river valleys in Staffordshire there is substantial evidence for human activity from at least the Neolithic period. It is likely therefore that the landscape of the eastern Staffordshire valleys is one which had been largely cleared of woodland by the Bronze Age. The evidence for earlier human activity within the Lichfield half of the HECA relates to at least two Bronze Age burnt mounds located on the Moreton Brook near Lount Farm. These indicate some form of activity associated with settlement although their specific function is at present a matter of debate.

Evidence for prehistoric activity within the wider HECA is focused upon the Trent valley and includes the Scheduled remains of a Bronze Age barrow as well as a pit alignment. To the east of the HECA the land rises up and there

are currently no pre-medieval sites known. The presence of farmsteads with the name 'wood' and 'hurst' suggests that during the earlier medieval period this landscape was wooded. It is possible that woodland had dominated the landscape during the prehistoric and later periods and that any early occupation in this area was small in scale and probably based upon a pastoral economy.

There is little recorded evidence for either Roman or Anglo-Saxon activity within the HECA. The paucity of Anglo-Saxon evidence may be as a result of this being a largely aceramic society relying upon organic-based products rather than an absence of activity in this area. However, activity of late Saxon date is known from Domesday Book (1086) where Colton was recorded as being held by four men at the time of the Norman Conquest (1066). Within the three entries for Colton a priest and a mill are mentioned. This evidence suggests an active society and the presence of a priest suggests that there was church here during the late Saxon period. The location of this church is unknown, but is possibly the site of the existing later medieval church. However, the site of a possible chapel is also recorded at Bellamour. The mill recorded in Domesday Book is evidence that arable cultivation was being carried out in the area around Colton by the later Saxon period. The evidence for medieval arable agriculture within the Lichfield portion of the HECA can be identified to the north of Colton and beyond Stockwell Heath where much of the landscape appears to have been farmed as open fields. These were usually worked in rotation between arable and fallow and were sub divided by strips. The open fields were later enclosed as piecemeal enclosure, through a process of informal verbal agreements between the landholders, resulting in a landscape of irregular field patterns divided by hedgerows and probably mostly laid down to either permanent pasture or pasture in rotation with crops. This enclosure occurred at different times across Staffordshire, but was underway by the 16th century. The overall pattern of the piecemeal enclosure survives in the modern landscape in this area.

Evidence for medieval open fields is also apparent in the area around Newlands. Settlement in this area is currently represented by two farmsteads one of which appears to have 16th century origins. However, the place first appears in documentary sources in the early 14th century and it is likely that this area had been assarted (woodland cleared for farmland) prior to this date. The current landscape is dominated by piecemeal enclosure which was again most likely to have been enclosed during the post medieval period.

Blithbury was first mentioned in the 12th century and a small area of open fields has been identified to the south west of the current village. This now survives as piecemeal enclosure in the modern landscape.

Other than the settlements already mentioned there were also houses along the edge of two heath lands within the HECA by the late 18th century; at Stockwell Green and Hamley Heath. There are also 16 historic farmsteads located across the landscape and a further two are located within the existing settlements. Only five of the farmsteads have been closely dated, the remainder all date to at least the late 19th century. Some of these farmsteads

may represent foci for dispersed settlement during the medieval and early post-medieval period and that evidence of this pattern may survive within current farmstead complexes.

Within the HECA there were also substantial meadow lands, mostly located along the Moreton Brook and along the river Trent to the far south. Much of this wetland landscape has since been drained, and this was a process which was potentially underway during by the mid post medieval period. In places along the brook both to the north and south of Colton, as well as to the far south along the Trent there survive the remains of water meadows. The water meadows were deliberately flooded by the land holder using specially dug channels and employing sluices to influence water flow. These probably mostly date to the 18th/19th century, but some have their origins much earlier.

The HECA also contains further landscapes of 18th/19th century date which relate to the areas of planned enclosure to the south east of Colton and to the north west of the Lichfield portion of the character area. These field systems were laid out by surveyors to create areas with a geometric pattern of straight boundaries. This survives well within the modern landscape.

To the south west of Colton stood Bellamour Hall and Landscape Park, which was present here by the late 18th century. The hall was demolished in the 20th century and the parkland is currently farmed as arable and only the ornamental lake survives.

Designated Historic Environment Assets:

There are 11 Listed Buildings lying in the Lichfield District portion of the HECA. There are also two Conservation Areas; Colton and the Trent & Mersey Canal.

Historic Environment considerations

The historic landscape character has survived well across the character area, as does the dispersed settlement pattern and areas of water meadow.

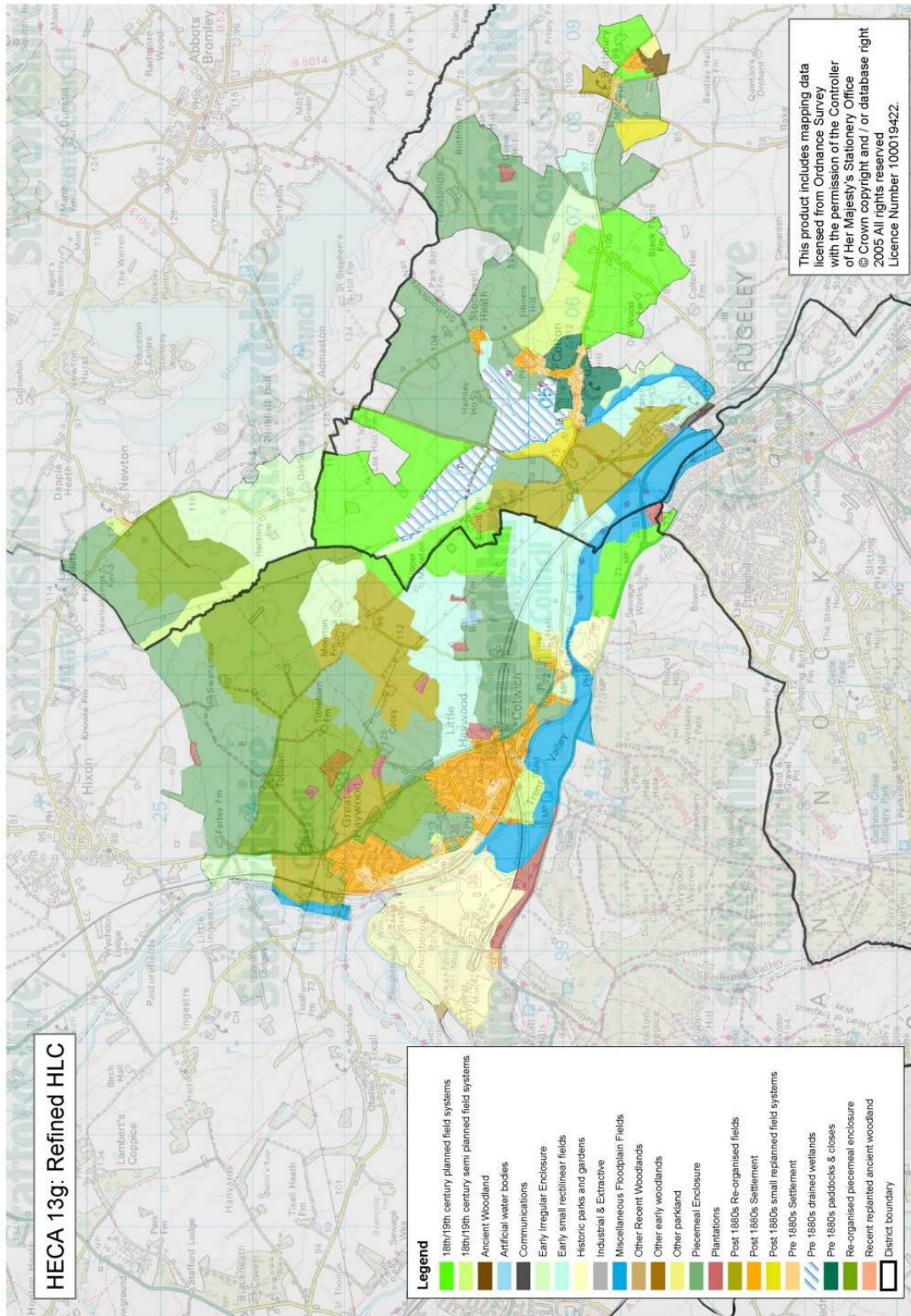
There is the potential for below ground archaeology to exist in association with earlier settlement around Colton and other early settlements. Within the river valley in particular there is also the potential for earlier sites to survive.

Consequently any future development within the character area would need to consider the following issues:

- The impact upon the nature of the historic settlement pattern and the historic landscape character.
- The relationship between the water meadows and the landscape.
- It would need to address how the historic landscape character could be reflected in any development particularly where it survives well and is

strongly associated with the historic built environment, e.g. the farmsteads

- How the development may impact upon the setting of the designated sites.
- It would need to consider the impacts upon the known below ground archaeology and also the archaeological potential of those areas where archaeological/historic research has not focused.



Map 14 Refined HLC: the modern landscape