

Appendix 5: Historic Environment Character Zone Assessments: Tamworth

This appendix provides an assessment of the historic environment for each of the Historic Environment Character zones (HECZs) for the three project areas of Lichfield, Burntwood and Tamworth.

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.

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THECZ 1 – Hopwas Hays Wood (HECA 2a)

Summary

The zone once formed part of Cannock Forest and it is likely to have comprised a woodland character from the prehistoric period onwards. It largely retains its woodland character with only one building present which probably dates to the 18th century and whose origins may relate to woodland management.

Medium to large scale development within the zone would have a considerable impact upon the woodland character of the zone. There is also the potential for earthworks to survive particularly relating to historic woodland management. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the Conservation Area
- the impact upon the historic building and its sense of isolation.
- the potential for the survival of earthworks, including those relating to former woodland management
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 1)

Part of the Hopwas Conservation Area lies within the zone.

Archaeological Character (map 2)

The overall character of the wider area (which includes THECZ 1) from the prehistoric period is likely to have been a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy from the Bronze Age. A pastoral economy would have involved some small scale clearance of woodland which would have led to the creation of areas of heath land within the wider wooded landscape.

At present little archaeological work has been carried out and consequently the impact of human agency between prehistoric to medieval period is not well understood within the zone. However, it is likely that it had a woodland character throughout these periods although this would not preclude human activity or even occupation.

As ancient woodland it is likely that earthworks survive within Hopwas Wood, which particularly relates to former woodland management practices in the form of wood banks. There may also be the potential for archaeology to survive relating to earlier phases of occupation at The Woodhouses.

Historic Landscape (map 3)

By the mid 12th century the zone formed part of the Royal forest of Cannock along with the wider area. By 1222 Hopwas Hay had been formed as a division of the forest, there being five other hays or divisions during the medieval period. The Hay was administered by foresters and covered a large area to the south west of Lichfield. The landscape is likely to have been predominantly woodland with cleared areas to foster hunting and to farm the trees for timber. The zone in particular appears to have been ancient woodland and it is possible that it may have been enclosed by banks and ditches at some point in its history to protect the trees from browsing animals. The wood banks would also have subdivided the woodland into different areas perhaps under different management regimes or by age of woodland.

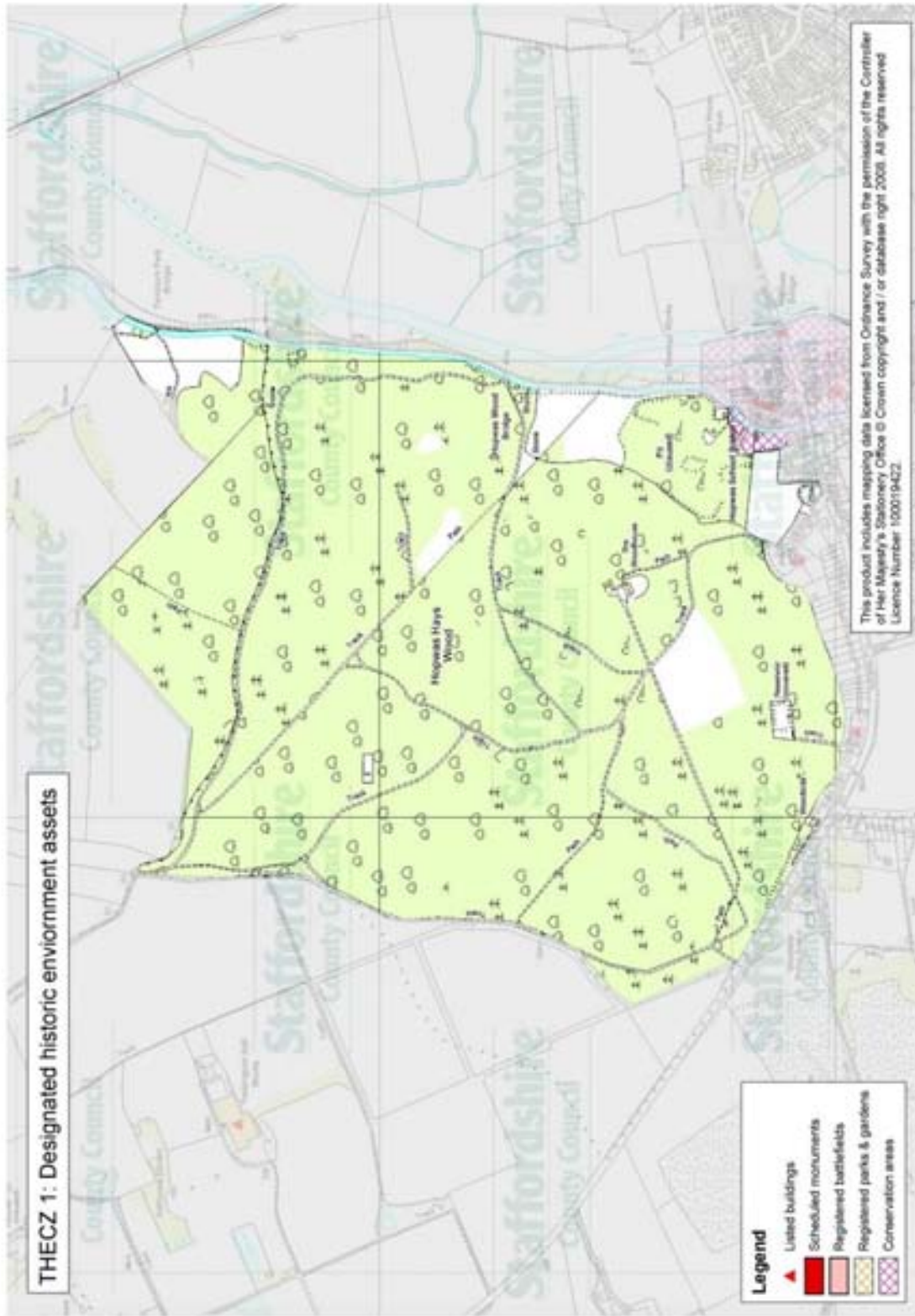
There have been a few changes to the landscape through the centuries with some assarting, where woodland is cleared and enclosed to form farmland, particularly to the south east of the zone. These may date to the later medieval or post medieval period and are likely to represent 'land grabs' by the inhabitants of Hopwas which this area borders. During the 20th century part of the assarted area was excavated as a quarry and this has since been planted as a broadleaved plantation.

Despite the long history of woodland there is one property lying on one of the highest points of Hopwas Hayes Wood. This property dates to at least the late 18th century and features on a water colour dated 1786 where it was described as 'Hopwas Hays Lodge'. The earlier history of this site is currently not known.

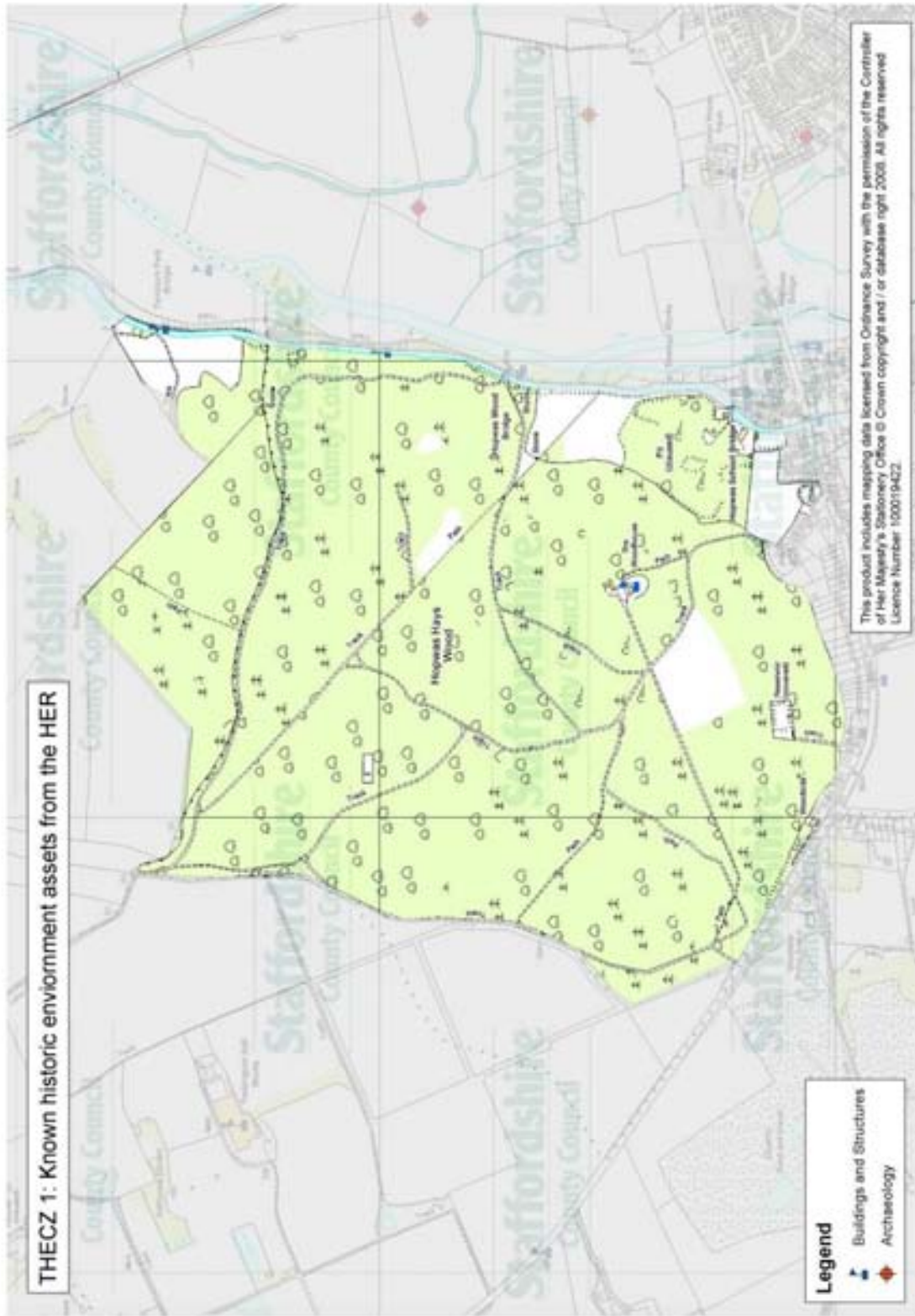
Historic Assets Summary Table

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Survival | There are few known historic environment assets, but the zone has not be subject to either development or substantial quarrying. | 3 |
| Potential | As the zone has seen little impact from development and little quarrying there is a strong potential for unknown assets to survive as buried archaeology but also as earthworks. The lack of knowledge is due to the landscape being covered by trees probably for much of its history and little archaeological or historic work has currently taken place | 3 |
| Documentation | HER data | 1 |
| Diversity | There are few known historic environment assets as the zone has not been subject to archaeological or historic research. | 1 |
| Group Association | There is the potential for the house within the wood to be related to the management of the woodland in the past. | 2 |
| Amenity Value | There is the potential for the woodland to | 2 |

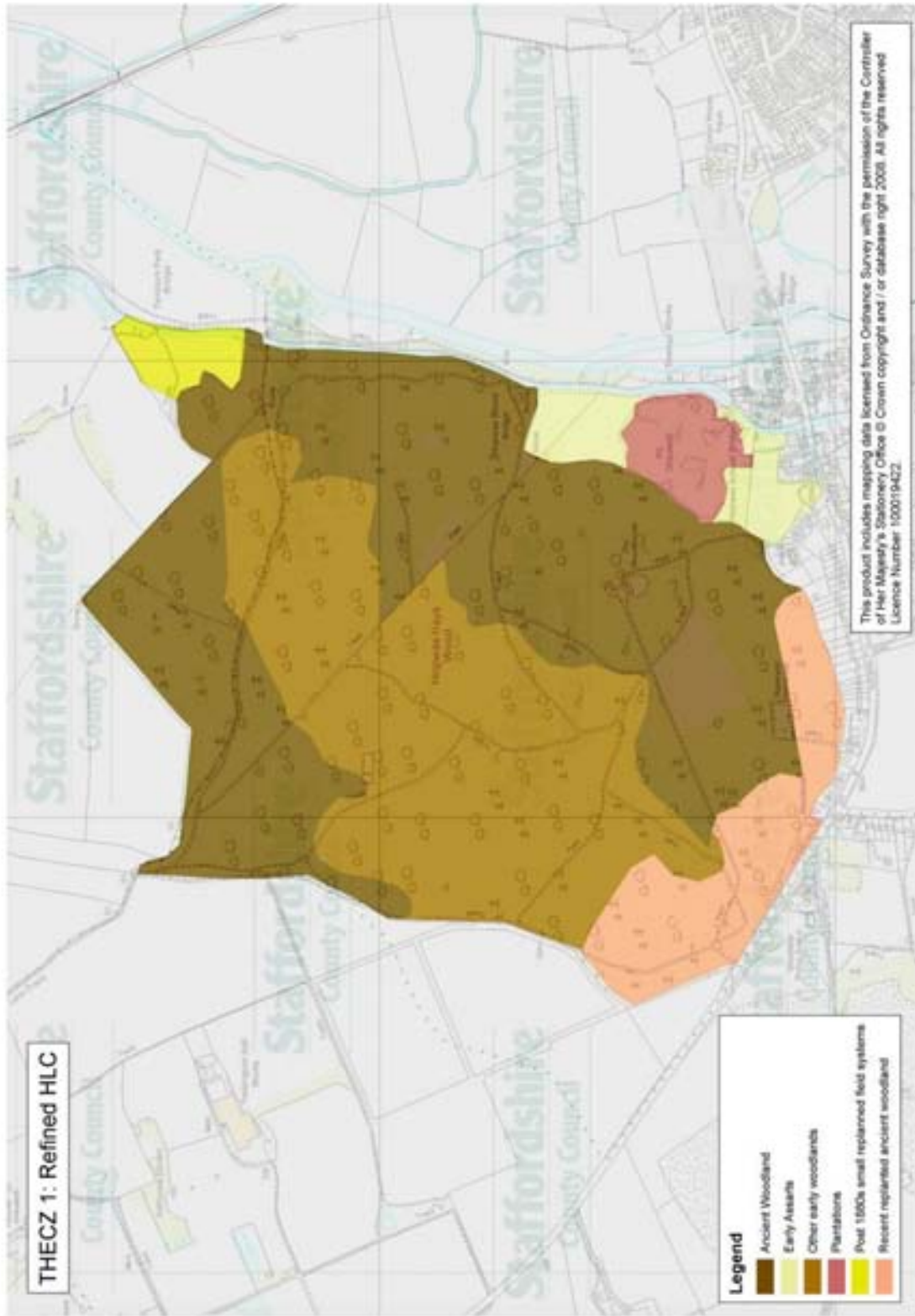
| | | |
|---|--|-----------|
| | be presented to the public, particularly as rights of way already cross part of it. | |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | The zone is highly sensitive to medium to large scale development which would destroy its historic character as an area of ancient woodland. | 3 |
| Overall score | | 15 |



Map 1: Designations



Map 2: HER data (excluding finds spots and documentary evidence)



Map 3: Refined HLC

THECZ 2 –Coleshill Road Wetlands (HECA 13a)

Summary

The landscape history of the zone is well understood due to pollen analysis carried out as part of archaeological work in advance of gravel extraction. Woodland had dominated until the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age from which point grassland and/or arable was dominant. Arable probably became progressively more dominant following extensive drainage during the post medieval period, the channels of which clearly survive. Quarrying has also substantially impacted the landscape of the zone in the 21st century.

Medium to large scale development and any further quarrying within the zone will have at least a moderate impact upon the potential for below ground archaeological deposits which may survive below the alluvium. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the Conservation Area
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 4)

One listed structure lies within the zone and adjacent to the western boundary is Fazeley Conservation Area.

Archaeological Character (map 5)

An excavation carried out in advance of quarrying at Middleton Hall Quarry revealed palaeochannels, the previous courses of the river Tame flowing from the north to the south through the zone. Pollen analysis from the palaeochannels has identified a unique picture of the prehistoric landscape of the immediate area. It appears that woodland dominated the landscape of the zone until the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age when an open grassland landscape becomes dominant. This change is a good example of the environment being manipulated by human agency where the woodland has been cleared probably to support a pastoral economy. The pollen record also revealed that the growing of cereals was being carried out in the vicinity at a similar period. The presence of an arable economy strongly suggests that settlement was present somewhere in the wider area, although not necessarily within this zone, which lies in the river valley.

It is likely that grassland continued to dominate the zone from the Iron Age through to at least the post medieval period if not longer. Arable agriculture is still present within the zone into the 21st century. Currently the earliest known archaeological activity relates to pits lying within the area of the Middleton Hall quarry some of which have been dated to the 12th century.

Later archaeological evidence relates to probable field boundaries and ditches of post medieval date which likely relate to land management practices.

Historic Landscape (map 6)

The historic landscape is dominated by the floodplain, which is criss-crossed by surviving drainage channels. The excavation at Middleton Hall Quarry recovered pottery dating between the 16th and 19th century from some of the ditches. Drainage of wetland areas was being carried out in Staffordshire from at least the 17th century, with drains reported as being dug at Tamhorn in 1786 (Williamson 2002:120). The landscape is currently under arable cultivation, as identified on aerial photography from 2000, presumably such farming practices have benefited from a long history of drainage across this landscape.

The quarry, from which the archaeological work resulted, was proposed for development from 2004 onwards and currently the historic landscape characterisation (map 2) does not reflect its presence.

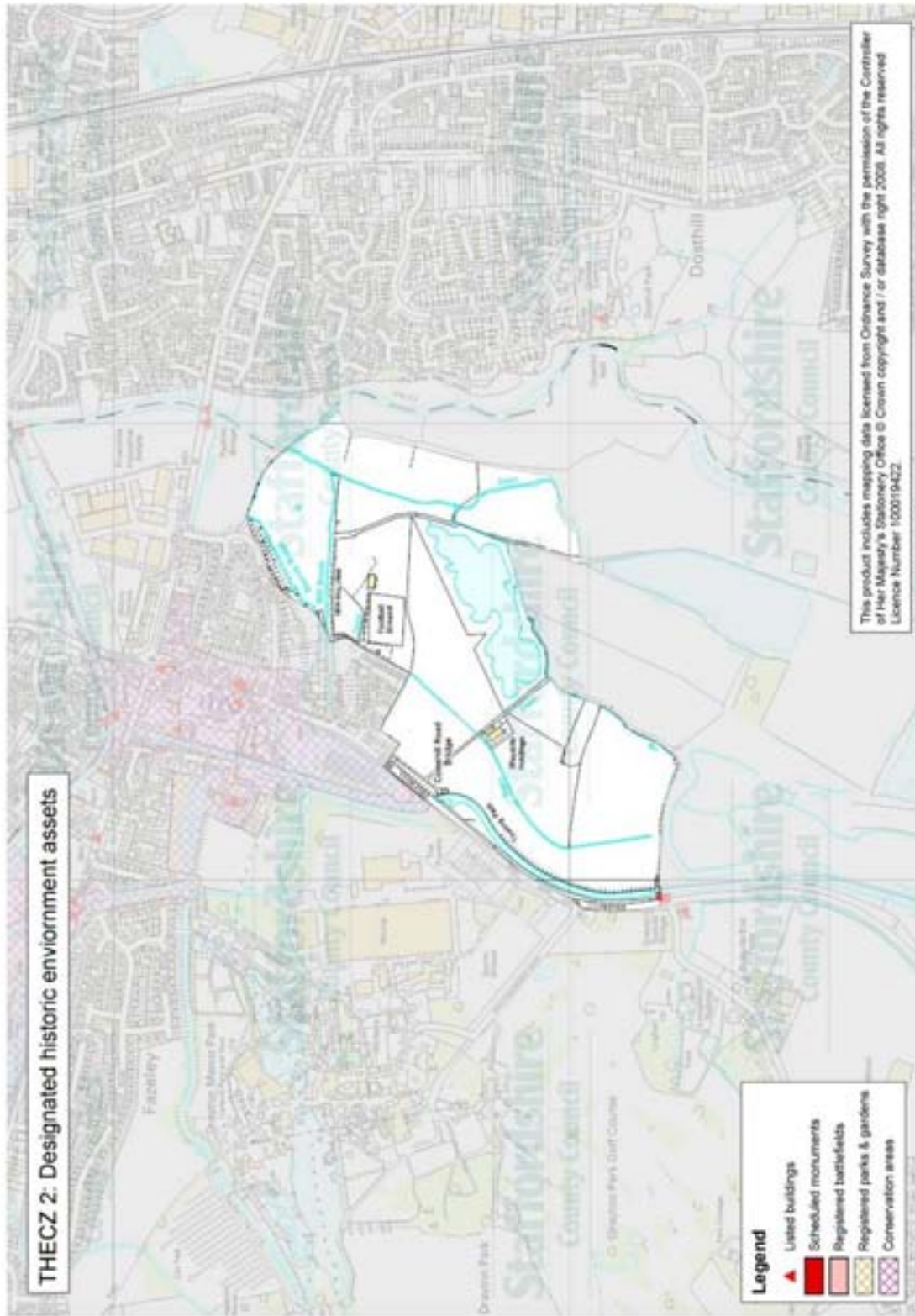
Historic Assets Summary Table

| | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| Survival | Parts of the zone are being quarried, but others may currently still be agricultural in nature. The recent archaeological excavations over part of the site suggest there is good potential for buried archaeological sites to survive. | 2 |
| Potential | Within the river valley there is the potential for buried archaeological deposits in those areas not currently being quarried. | 2 |
| Documentation | HER data & excavation report | 2 |
| Diversity | There is a diversity of historic environment assets within the zone relating to pollen analysis revealing historic land use to evidence for later land management practices | 2 |
| Group Association | There is an association between the ditches or drains and the management of the landscape from the post medieval period onwards | 2 |
| Amenity Value | The historic environment does not currently lend itself to interpretation. | 1 |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | The zone could accommodate medium to large scale development although mitigation strategies would be required for the potential below ground archaeological deposits. | 1 |
| Overall score | | 12 |

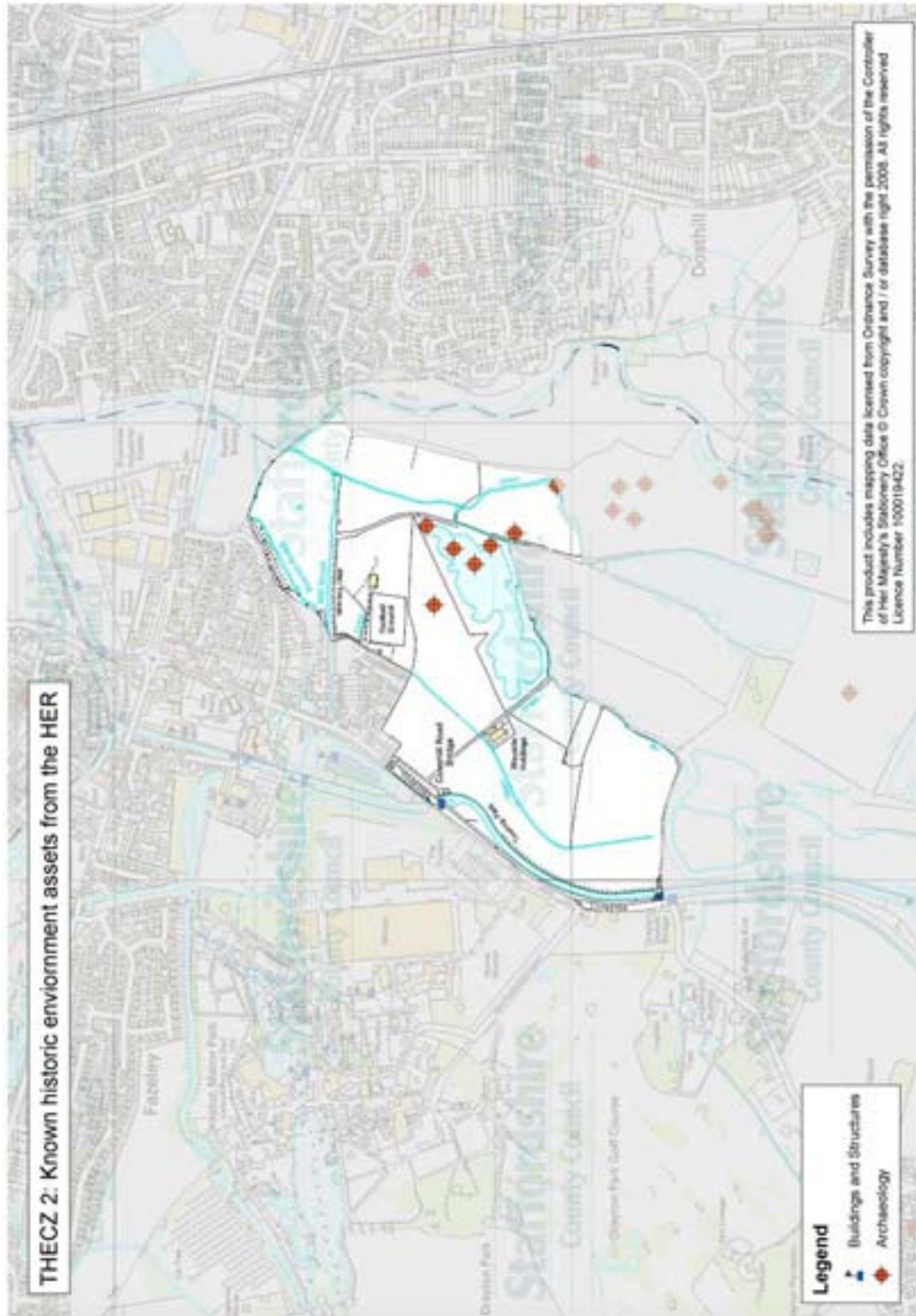
Bibliography

Williamson, T. (2002) *The transformation of rural England: farming and the landscape 1700 – 1870*. University of Exeter Press, Exeter.

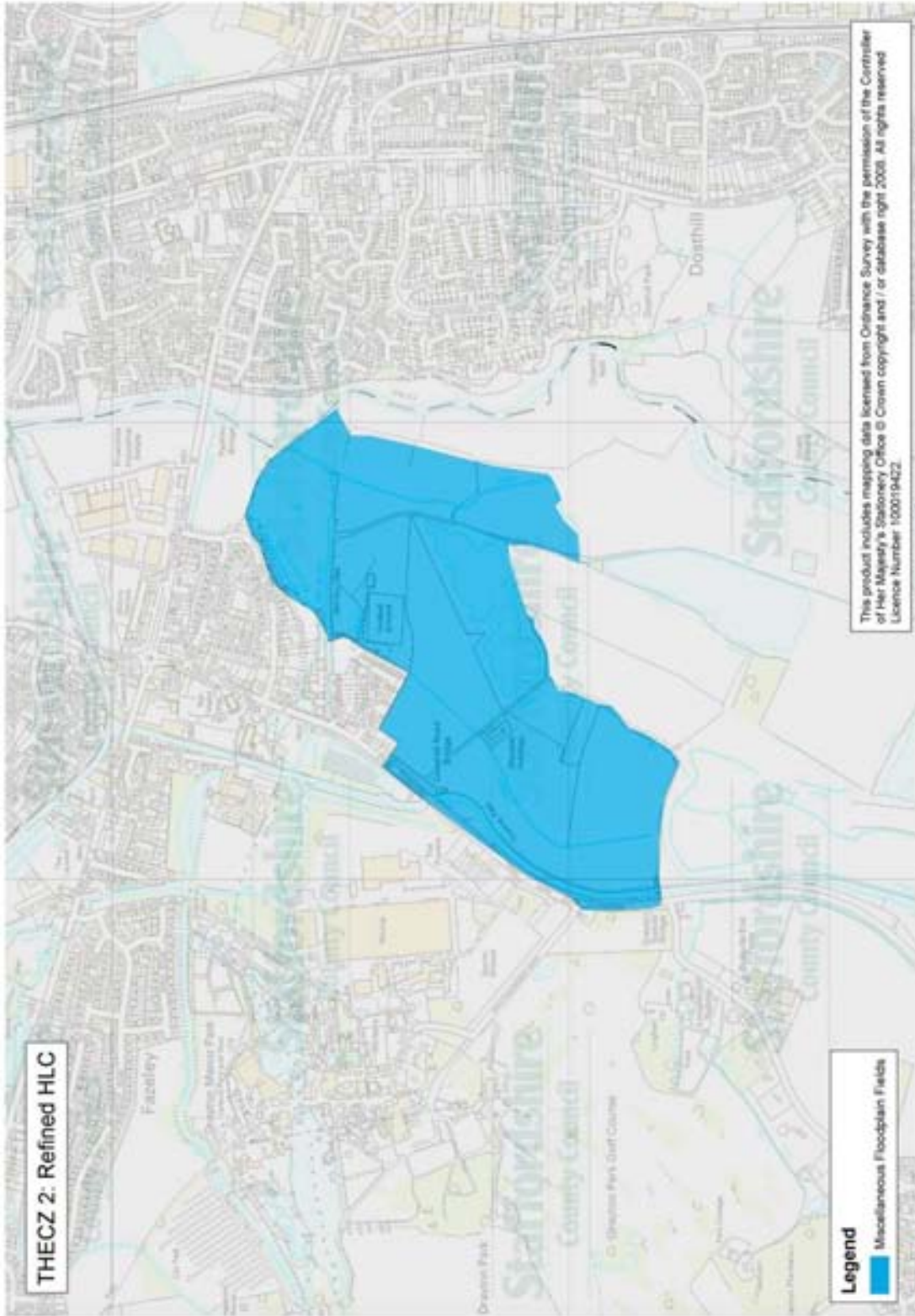
Yates, A (2008) *Watching brief and recording at Bullocks End Farm, Middleton Hall Quarry, Drayton Bassett, Staffordshire December 2004*. Unpublished report.



Map 4: Designations



Map 5: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 6: Refined HLC

THECZ 3 – North of Bonehill (HECA 2b)

Summary

This zone had once formed part of Cannock Forest and the landscape is likely to have been dominated by woodland or heath land until at least the 18th/19th century. The eastern half of the zone had been developed as a landscape park in the 19th century. However, changes to the landscape during the 20th century including the building of the A5 (T) have had a significant impact upon the coherency of the historic landscape character and of the landscape park.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic landscape character of the zone. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the Conservation Area
- the impact upon the two Listed Buildings adjacent to the zone
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 7)

Part of the Fazeley (Bonehill) Conservation Area lies within the zone and two Grade II listed buildings lie adjacent, one to the north and one to the south.

Archaeological Character (map 8)

The overall character of THECZ 3 from the prehistoric period is likely to have been a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy from the Bronze Age onwards. This involved the clearance of woodland which resulted in the formation of heath land across the wider landscape.

At present little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the impact of human agency between the prehistoric and medieval periods is currently not clearly understood. However, to the north west and to the south east of the zone there are cropmarks which may indicate some level of human activity in the wider area during the prehistoric to medieval period. The site to the north west has been interpreted as a possible pit alignment, a monument most commonly associated with Iron Age activity and which may point to later prehistoric property divisions. This potentially supports the suggestion that human activity increased across the wider area from the Bronze Age onwards.

Historic Landscape (map 9)

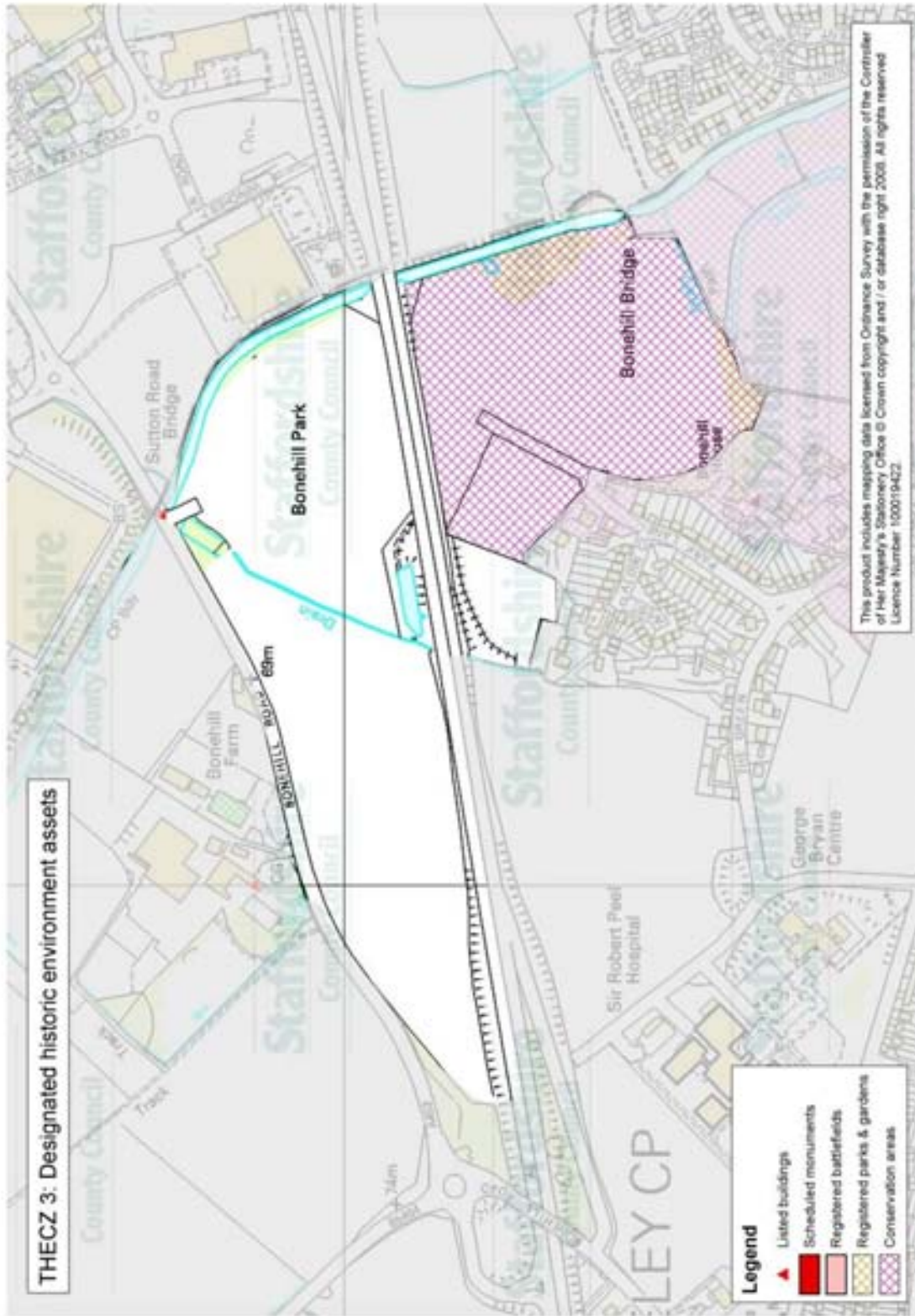
By the mid 12th century the zone formed part of the Royal forest of Cannock and was probably dominated by a woodland or heath land character. The

later field pattern suggests that the landscape continued to be dominated by heath land until at least the 18th/19th century. By the later 19th century a field system, known as planned enclosure, had replaced the heath land. The field pattern was typified by straight field boundaries which were laid out by surveyors in an ordered manner. Within the zone the character of this planned landscape has not survived well with many field boundaries having been removed during the course of the second half of the 20th century.

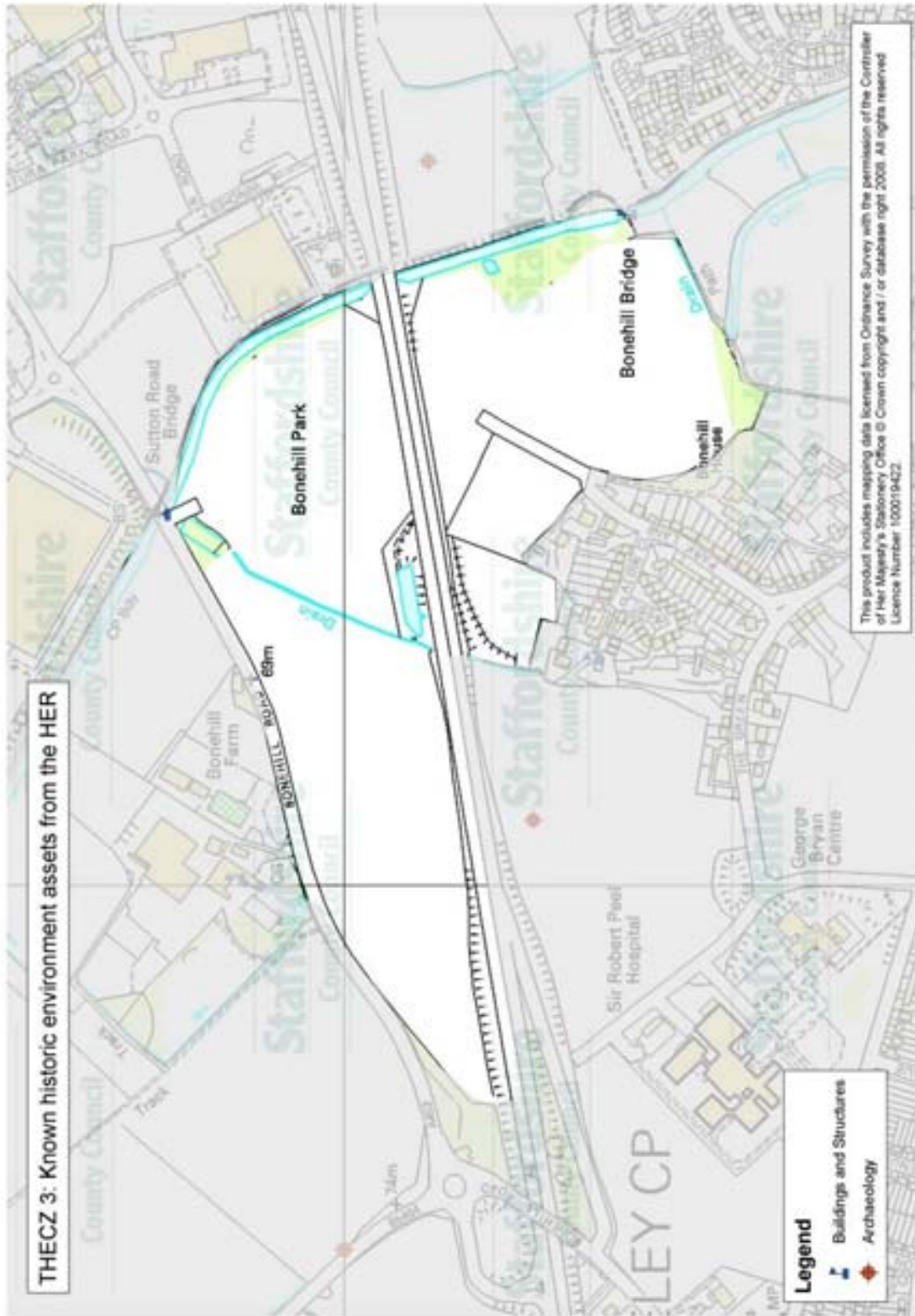
The eastern half of the zone had formed part of a landscape park associated with the Grade II listed Bonehill House by the late 19th century. The house, which lies beyond the zone, was built c.1830 and it is likely that the landscape park was laid out at a similar date. The park has since been cut by the line of the A5 (T) and has reverted to farmland; only one plantation on the eastern side of the zone appears to survive from the 19th century.

Historic Assets Summary Table

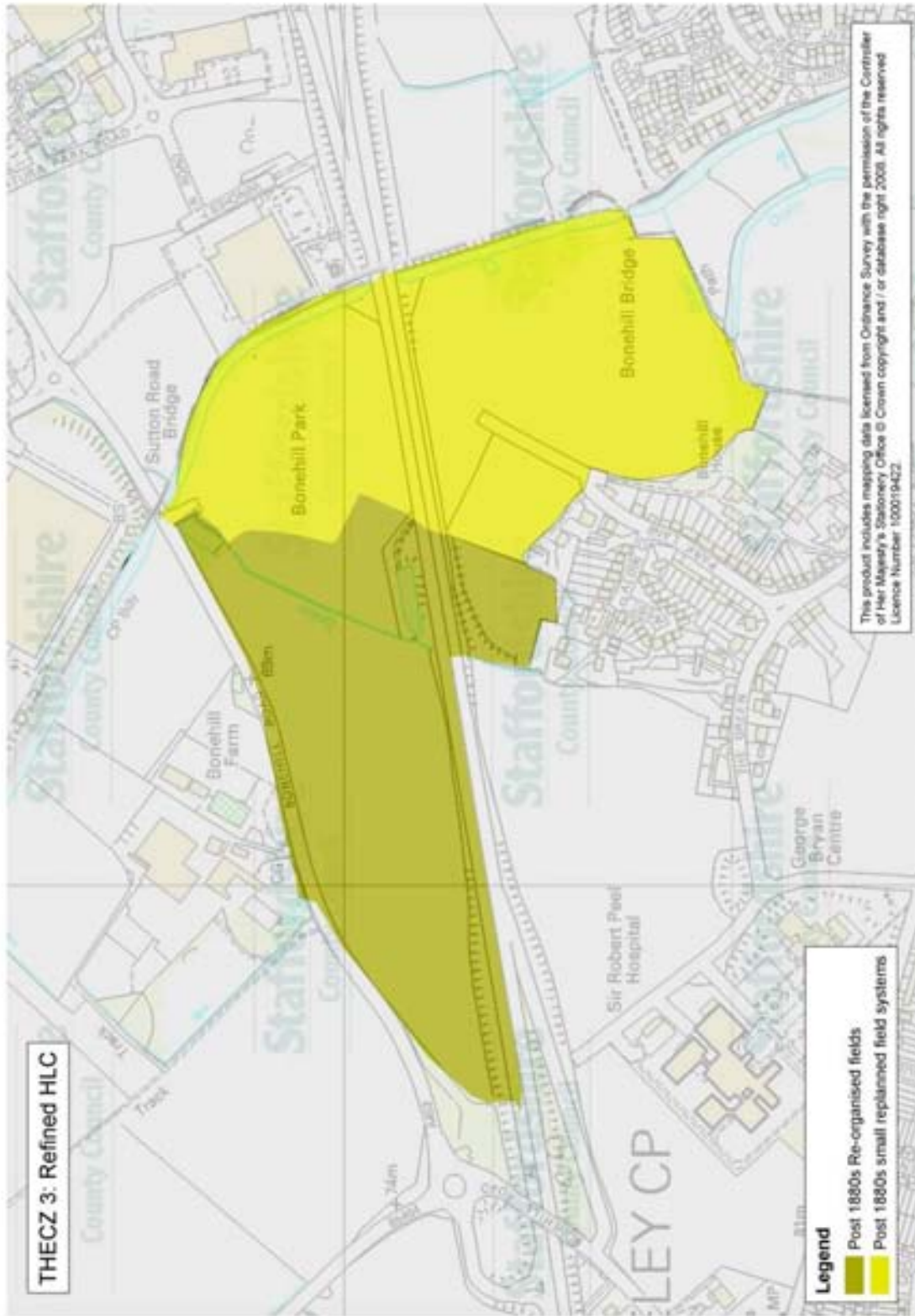
| | | |
|---|--|----------|
| Survival | There are few known historic environment assets, although the area has not been subject to development or quarrying. | 2 |
| Potential | There are limited known historic environment assets, but because the zone has not been effected by development or quarrying there is the potential for unknown archaeological sites to survive. | 2 |
| Documentation | HER data | 1 |
| Diversity | There are few known historic environment assets in terms of either below ground archaeology or historic landscape character. | 1 |
| Group Association | There are few known historic environment assets of a similar nature or date. | 1 |
| Amenity Value | The historic environment does not currently lend itself to interpretation. | 1 |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | The zone could accommodate medium to large scale development in terms of the known historic environment assets although consideration would need to be give to specific sites and to especially take into account the impact upon the Conservation Area and the adjacent Listed Buildings. | 1 |
| Overall score | | 9 |



Map 7: Designations



Map 8: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 9: Refined HLC

THECZ 4 – North west of Fazeley (HECA 2a)

Summary

The zone had once formed part of Cannock Forest. Evidence for human activity from the later prehistoric period is present to the south of the zone, although the northern portion has not been examined to the same degree so the potential for surviving archaeology is not as well understood. The zone is dominated by 18th/19th century field systems and a historic dispersed settlement pattern comprising farmsteads.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is likely to have a significant impact upon historic landscape character environment assets of the zone. In particular medium to large scale development could impact upon the relationship between the historic landscape character and surviving historic farmsteads. There is also the potential for unknown below ground archaeology to survive within the zone. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the nature of the historic landscape character and its relationship to the dispersed settlement pattern
- the historic dispersed nature of the settlement; how this could be retained or reflected
- impact upon the adjacent Conservation Area
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

Early consultation with the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council and the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council is advised.

Designations (map 10)

There are no designated sites falling within the zone, but Hopwas Conservation Area lies adjacent to the north east.

Archaeological Character (map 11)

The overall character of THECZ 4 from the prehistoric period is likely to have been a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy from the Bronze Age onwards involving clearance of woodland resulting in the formation of heath land across the wider landscape.

On the southern edge of the zone, where the section of the A5 was constructed in the early 21st century, there is evidence of Neolithic activity in the form of at least one pit. Just to the east of this site there is evidence for domestic occupation during the Iron Age, suggesting that people were involved in exploiting the wider landscape probably for pasture.

The southern boundary of the zone lies adjacent to the line of Watling Street Roman road. It appears that some settlement had occurred within the zone

prior to the building of the road and it is likely that settlement continued after the road was constructed. A ditch was excavated that lay along the same east – west alignment as the road, which suggests that this feature does not pre-date the Roman period.

There is currently no evidence for activity in the Early Medieval period, although it is likely to have followed a similar model based upon a small scale pastoral economy.

To the south east of the zone a possible enclosure or pit alignment has been identified suggesting later prehistoric activity in this area.

Currently little is known regarding prehistoric activity within the northern half of the zone, but this may be partially due to little archaeological or historic work having been carried out here. Much of this area appears to have been heath land until the late 18th century. The settlement of Hopwas, the main area of which lies in THECZ 13, was first recorded in Domesday Book (1086). A mill is recorded, implying that arable agriculture was occurring in the wider area by at least the late Early Medieval period, and some of this may have lain in the north east corner of THECZ 4.

Historic Landscape (map 12)

By the mid 12th century the zone formed part of the Royal forest of Cannock and was probably dominated by a woodland or heath land character. However, arable agriculture may have occurred in the north eastern corner of the THECZ and on the southern boundary, along the line of the A5, where ridge and furrow earthworks survived prior to the building of the new A5 c.2006. This archaeological evidence to the south may represent the exploitation of previously restricted land which only occurred occasionally for instance at times of high population. By the late 18th century much of the southern portion of the zone appears to have been covered by woodland, as depicted on Yates' county map of 1775, which may suggest that arable agriculture was not a dominant part of the economy of the zone during the post medieval period at least. By the early 19th century the only woodland depicted is Kendall's Wood, which could be a surviving fragment of the much larger woodland depicted by Yates'. The historic landscape character of this southern area suggests that much of the landscape of the zone was enclosed as planned enclosure. These field systems were created in the 18th and 19th centuries and are typified by the straight field boundaries which were laid out by surveyors in an ordered manner.

In the north western portion of the zone and within the central area between Hints Lane and Plantation Lane common land continued to be present. However, an Act of Parliament was granted in 1771 to enclose the commons in this area leading to the laying out of further areas of planned enclosure.

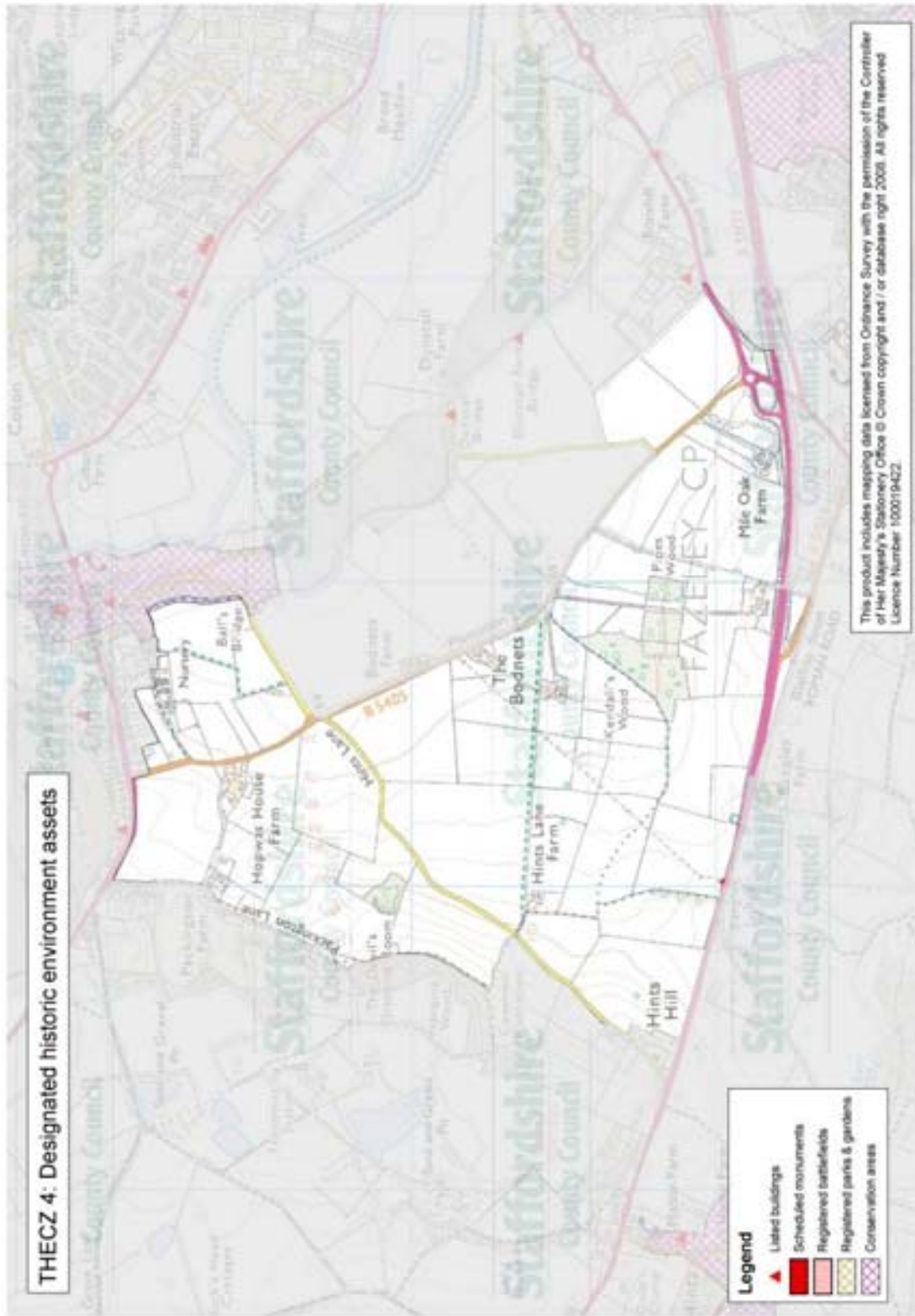
There are five historic farmsteads lying within the zone, none of which have been closely dated. None of these sites lie upon the areas known to have

been enclosed after 1771 and there remains the potential for one or more of these sites to have medieval origins.

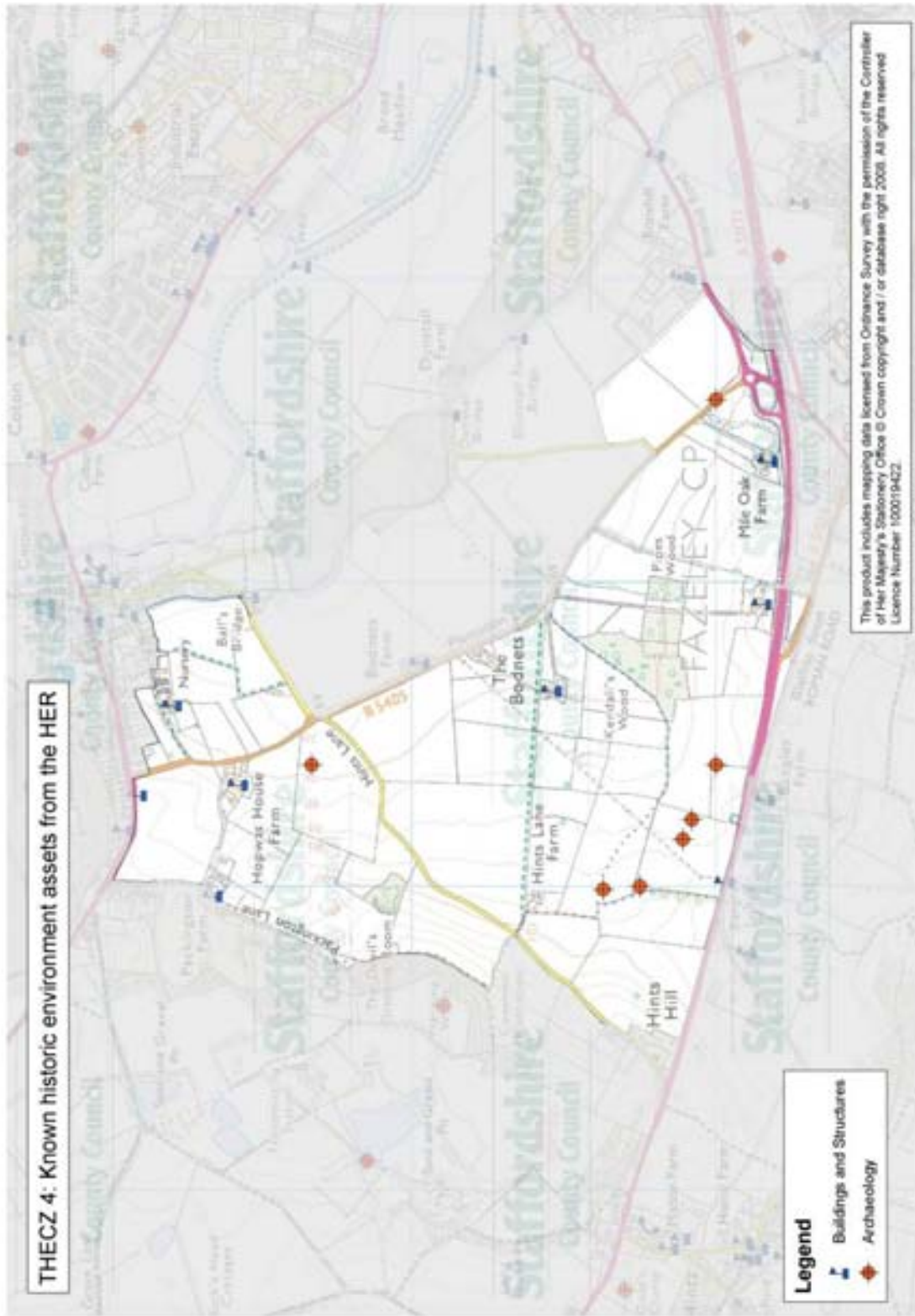
The majority of the field systems retain their historic landscape character which is dominated by 18th/19th century planned enclosure and semi planned enclosure. The north west of the zone, however, has been significantly impacted by the removal of field boundaries during the second half of the 20th century.

Historic Assets Summary Table

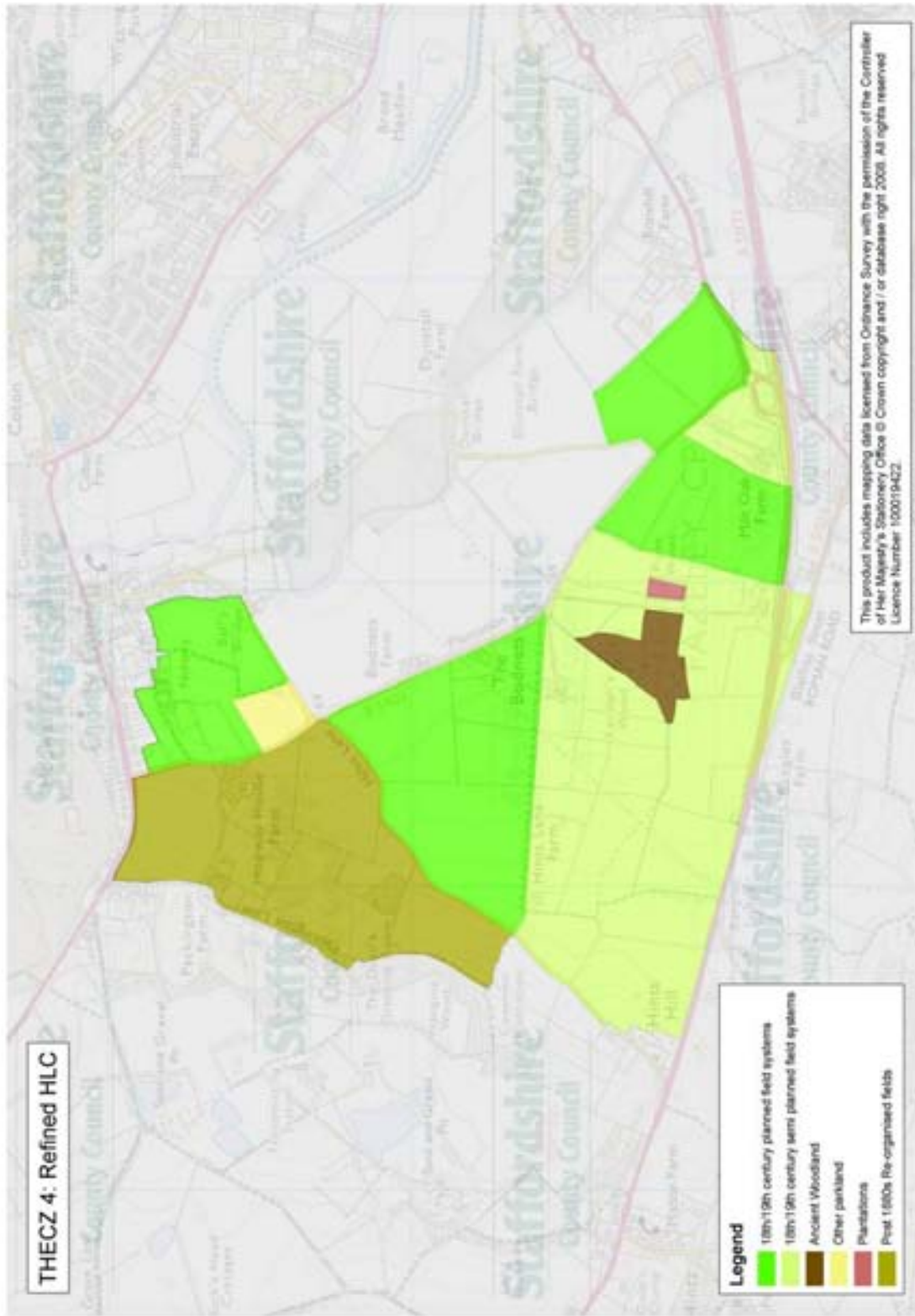
| | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| Survival | A range of historic environment assets are known within the zone and there has been little disturbance. | 2 |
| Potential | The zone has not been subject to development or quarrying and along with a range of known historic environment assets, particularly to the south, there is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive. | 3 |
| Documentation | HER data & excavations along the line of the new A5 | 2 |
| Diversity | There are a wide range of assets of different date and character – from prehistoric domestic evidence, to Roman activity through to the enclosures of the post medieval period | 3 |
| Group Association | There are likely associations between the historic farmsteads and the historic landscape character. | 2 |
| Amenity Value | The zone does not currently lend itself to public display, although interpretation could be carried out particularly for the south of the zone, which is better understood than the north. | 1 |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | Medium to large scale development would have at a significant impact upon the historic environment assets of the zone, which potentially includes unknown archaeology as well as upon the historic dispersed settlement and the historic landscape character. | 3 |
| Overall score | | 16 |



Map 10: Designations



Map 11: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 12: Refined HLC

THECZ 5 – South of Hopwas (HECA 2a)

Summary

The zone had once formed part of Cannock Forest and the landscape is likely to have been dominated by woodland or heath land until at least the 18th/19th century. A portion of the zone had formed part of Hopwas Great Common which was enclosed after 1771, whilst to the south an area of woodland, still surviving in 1775, was similarly enclosed to create farmland. A couple of the surviving historic farmsteads probably relate to the enclosure of this land, although the historic landscape character of the field patterns has been impacted by later 20th century field boundary removal. Prehistoric activity has been identified in the wider area beyond the zone.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is likely to have at least a moderate impact upon historic landscape character of the zone particularly upon the nature of the dispersed settlement pattern which comprises historic farmsteads. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the historic dispersed nature of the settlement; how this could be retained or reflected
- the impact upon the Conservation Area
- the impact upon the two Listed Buildings adjacent to the zone
- the impact upon the adjacent THECZ's
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 13)

Three Listed structures lie within the zone and part of the Hopwas Conservation Area lies adjacent to the north of the zone.

Archaeological Character (map 14)

The overall character of the THECZ from the prehistoric period is likely to have been one of a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy. This is a typical model of the Bronze Age exploitation of woodland with clearance of woodland resulting in the formation of heath land across the wider landscape.

At present little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the impact of human agency from the prehistoric through to the medieval period is currently not well understood. However, there are cropmarks within the wider area, which do indicate some level of human activity during the prehistoric to medieval period.

Historic Landscape (map 15)

By the mid 12th century the zone formed part of the Royal forest of Cannock and was probably dominated by a woodland or heath land character. The central portion of the zone had formed part of Hopwas Great Common until the later 18th century. In 1771 an Act of Parliament was passed to enclose the Common as planned enclosure. This field system is typified by the straight field boundaries which were laid out by surveyors in an ordered manner. Within the zone the character of this planned landscape has not survived well with many field boundaries having been removed during the course of the second half of the 20th century.

Three historic farmsteads lie within the zone. Bonehill Farm House is a Grade II listed building dating to the early 19th century. The landscape around the farmhouse has been impacted by field boundary removal, but its earlier morphology suggests that this landscape had been laid out as planned enclosure probably in the early 19th century. Yates' map of 1775 suggests that a large part of this area had comprised woodland at that date. It is therefore possible that the origins of the farmstead are related to the creation of this field system. The other two farmsteads have not currently been closely dated; however, it is possible that Bodnetts Farm on the western boundary dates to the late 18th or early 19th century being located on the former Hopwas Great Common. Dunstall Farm is indicated on Yates' map of 1775 and it is possible that its origins date to the medieval period as the name is recorded in 14th century documents.

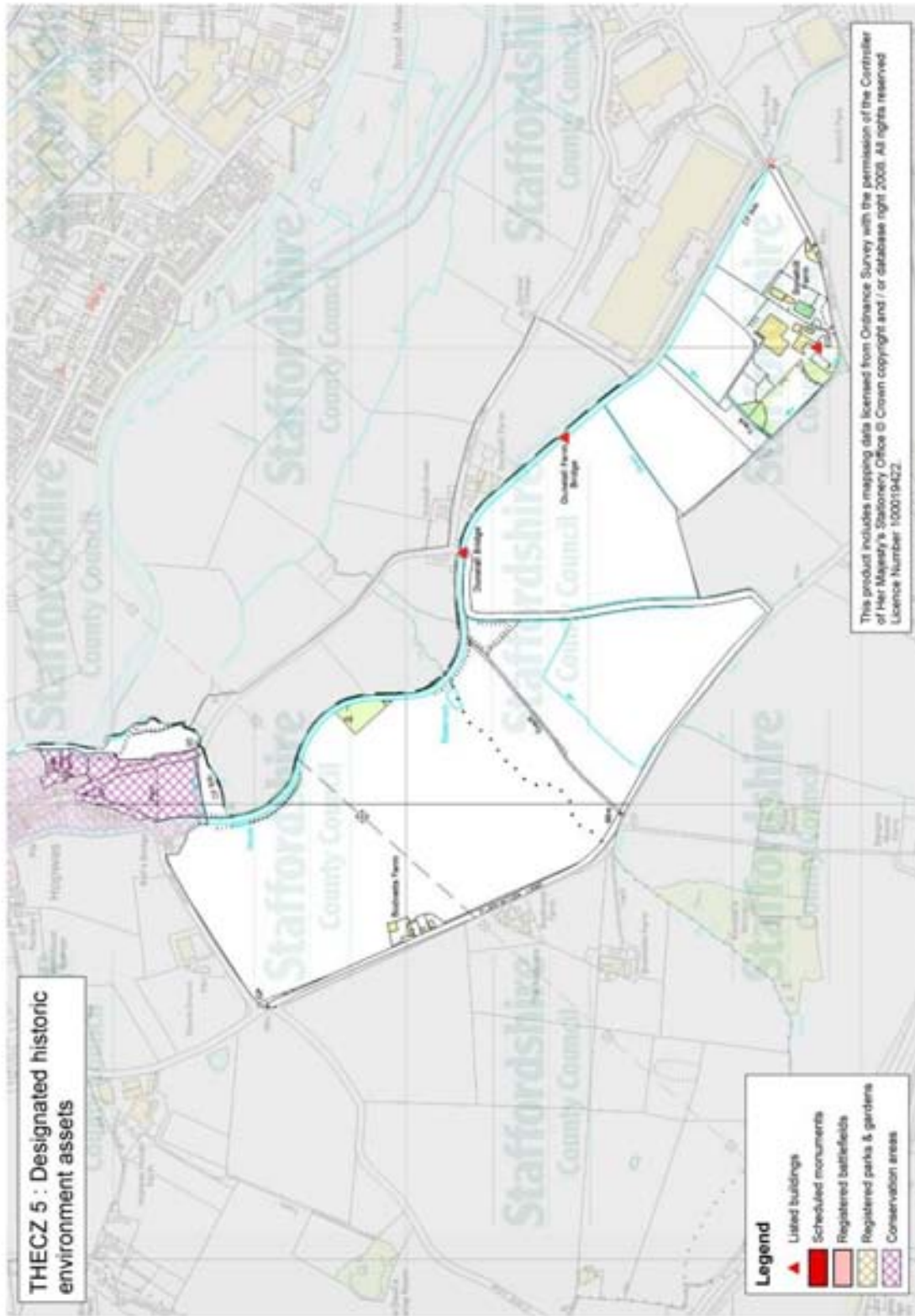
A further possible farmstead or group of houses once existed between the canal and Dunstall Lane, known as Buckmoor Hill on Yates' map of 1775. The buildings were demolished between the 1830s and the 1880s.

There are two listed accommodation bridges which span the Birmingham and Fazeley canal, which was opened in the late 18th century. To the south of the zone it is still possible to identify the line of a former road to the north east of Bonehill Farm House, which was cut by the canal and consequently went out of use.

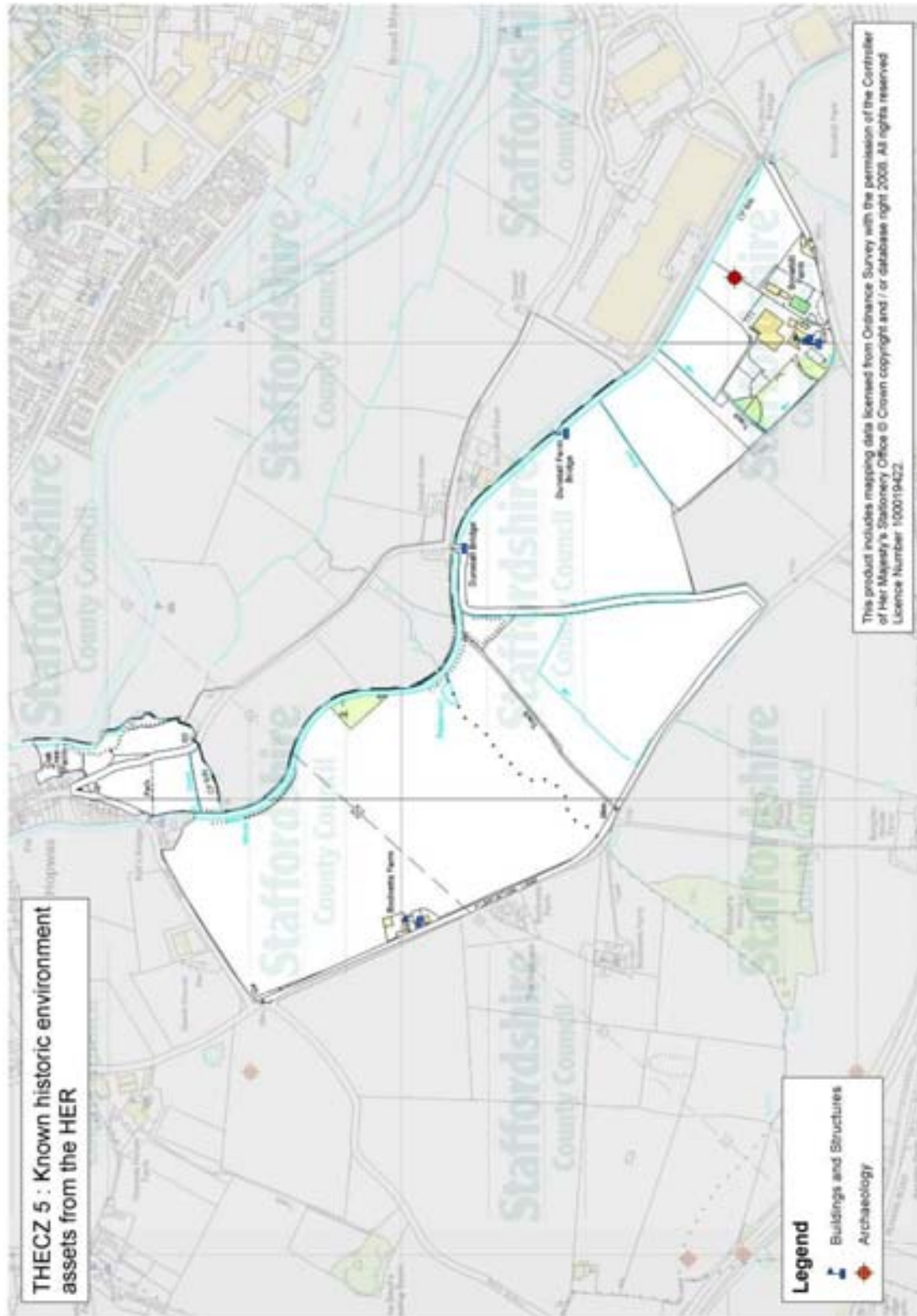
Historic Assets Summary Table

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| Survival | The zone has not been impacted by development or quarrying, but there are few known historic environment assets. | 2 |
| Potential | There are limited known historic environment assets, but there has been little ground disturbance other than through agricultural practices | 2 |
| Documentation | HER data | 1 |
| Diversity | There are a few historic environment assets most notably the dispersed settlement pattern of historic farmsteads (one of which is listed). | 2 |

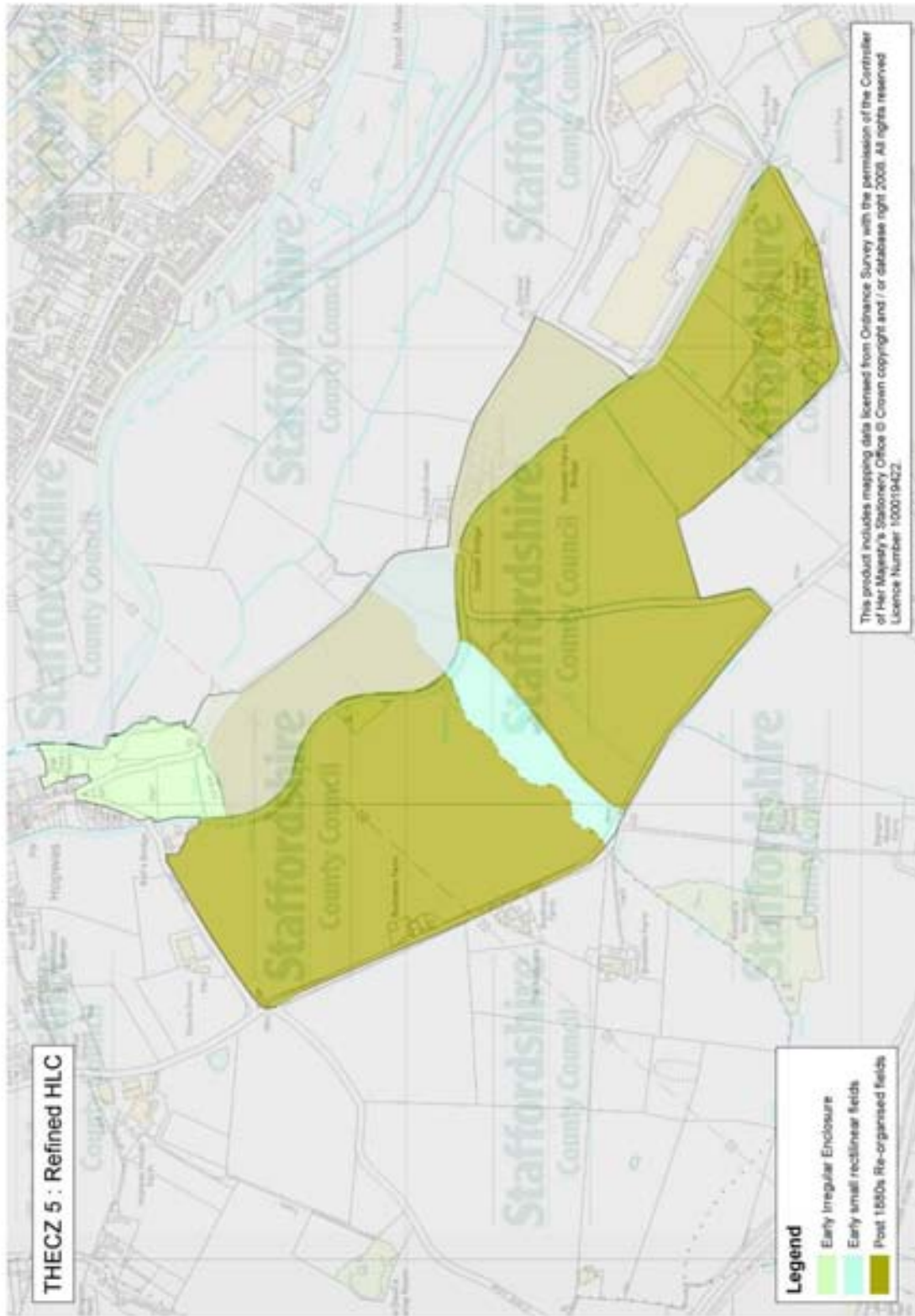
| | | |
|---|--|-----------|
| Group Association | The farmsteads may be of a similar date, but some may have earlier origins. | 2 |
| Amenity Value | The historic environment does not currently lend itself to interpretation. | 1 |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | The zone would be moderately impacted by medium to large scale development due to the impact upon the dispersed settlement pattern. The impact upon adjacent HECZ's, the Conservation Area and the Listed Buildings must also be taken into consideration. | 2 |
| Overall score | | 12 |



Map 13: Designations



Map 14: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 15: Refined HLC

THECZ 6 – Tame Valley east of Hopwas (HECA 13a)

Summary

The zone lies partially within the Tame Valley and there is good potential for unknown archaeological deposits to survive beneath the alluvium and colluvium. The zone is characterised by a mainly 18th/19th century field system although the fields alongside the river itself are likely to have been utilised as meadow since before the Norman Conquest (1066). The remains of a constructed water meadow probably survive to some degree to the north west and is likely to date to the later post medieval period or the 19th century.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is likely to have a significant impact upon historic landscape character of the zone, particularly upon the nature of the surviving historic field pattern, as well as upon the potential archaeological deposits. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the neighbouring Conservation Area
- the impact upon the surviving historic field pattern and how this could be reflected by any development
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits and palaeochannels containing paleoenvironmental evidence

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 16)

The Hopwas Conservation Area lies adjacent to the south west of the zone.

Archaeological Character (map 17)

The zone lies mostly within the floodplain of the Tame valley. It is likely, given the wealth of prehistoric data known for the river valleys of eastern Staffordshire, that this landscape had been largely cleared of trees by the Bronze Age. Within the zone there are cropmarks which have been interpreted as a possible Iron Age–Roman settlement with associated field systems. The evidence therefore suggests that this was a heavily exploited landscape by the later prehistoric period. The zone also contains other cropmarks including a possible ring ditch, which may represent a former Bronze Age burial mound or a hut circle suggesting further settlement evidence. An enclosure has also been identified, but the origin and function of this feature is currently unknown.

At present little is known about Early Medieval activity within the zone however it lies approximately 2.5km north west of Tamworth which was a centre for royal authority within the Kingdom of Mercia during the 8th and 9th

century. It also lies c.500m north east of Hopwas which was recorded in Domesday Book (1086).

Historic Landscape (map 18)

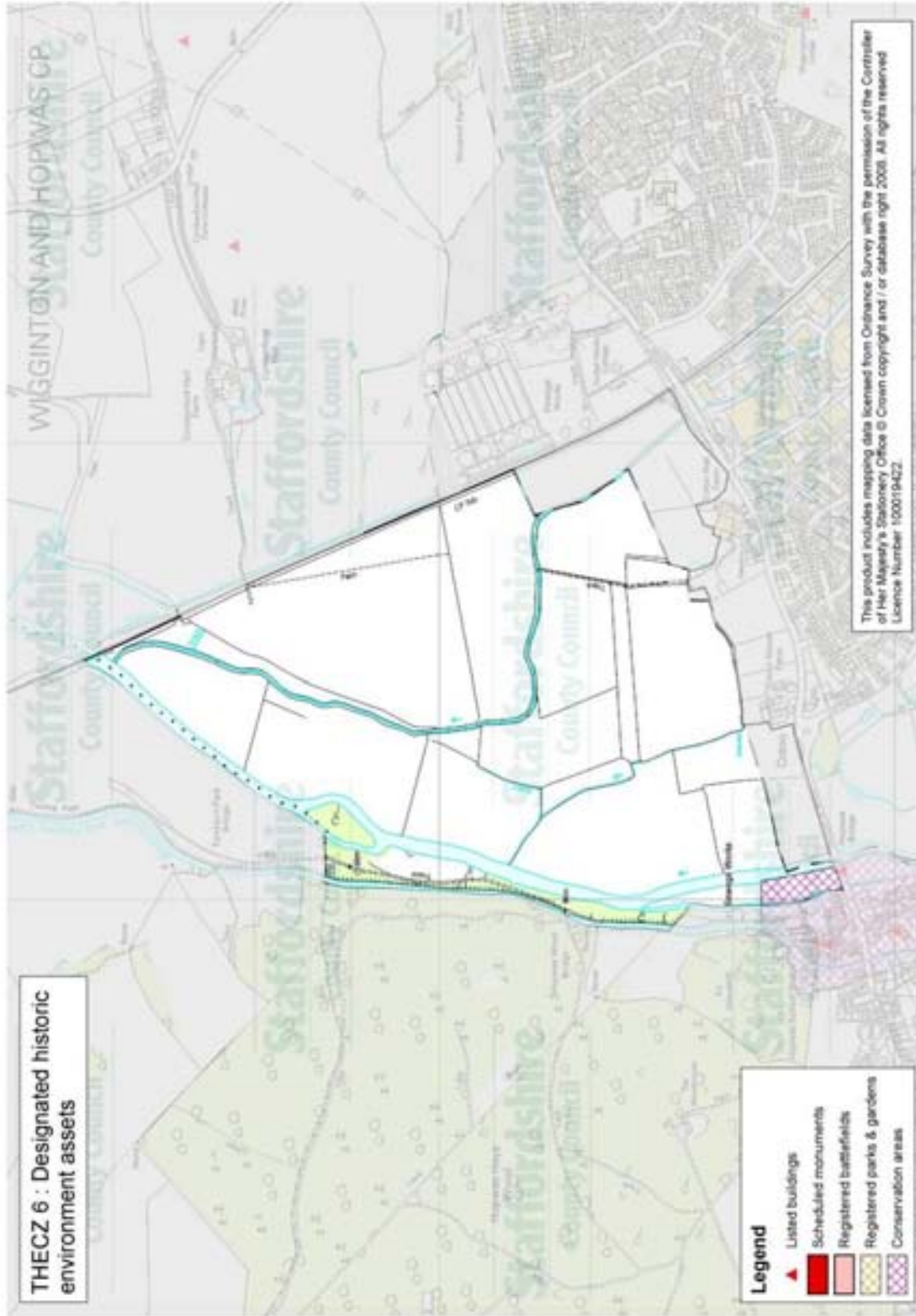
The Domesday entry for Hopwas stated that there was meadow covering 30 acres. It is possible that much of this meadow lay within this zone on the eastern bank of the river in an area identified as Miscellaneous Floodplain Fields (map 3). It is possible that much of this landscape was exploited as meadow throughout the medieval and post medieval periods. At the north western edge of the zone a probable former water meadow has been identified, although it only partially survives. Meadows were a useful resource as pasture and for the growing of hay as a winter feed. The development of water meadows during the post medieval period meant that the landowners could control the flooding of the meadows and ensure an early crop of hay enabling them to over-winter larger numbers of animals. The presence of such systems represented a considerable expense in their initial construction and in their continued maintenance.

In the eastern half of the zone the surviving field system displays a morphology suggesting that it was created as 18th/19th century planned enclosure. This form of enclosure is typified by straight field boundaries which were laid out by surveyors in an ordered manner. A field barn, identified on historic mapping dating to the late 19th century, may have been associated with the origins of the field system but this has since been demolished.

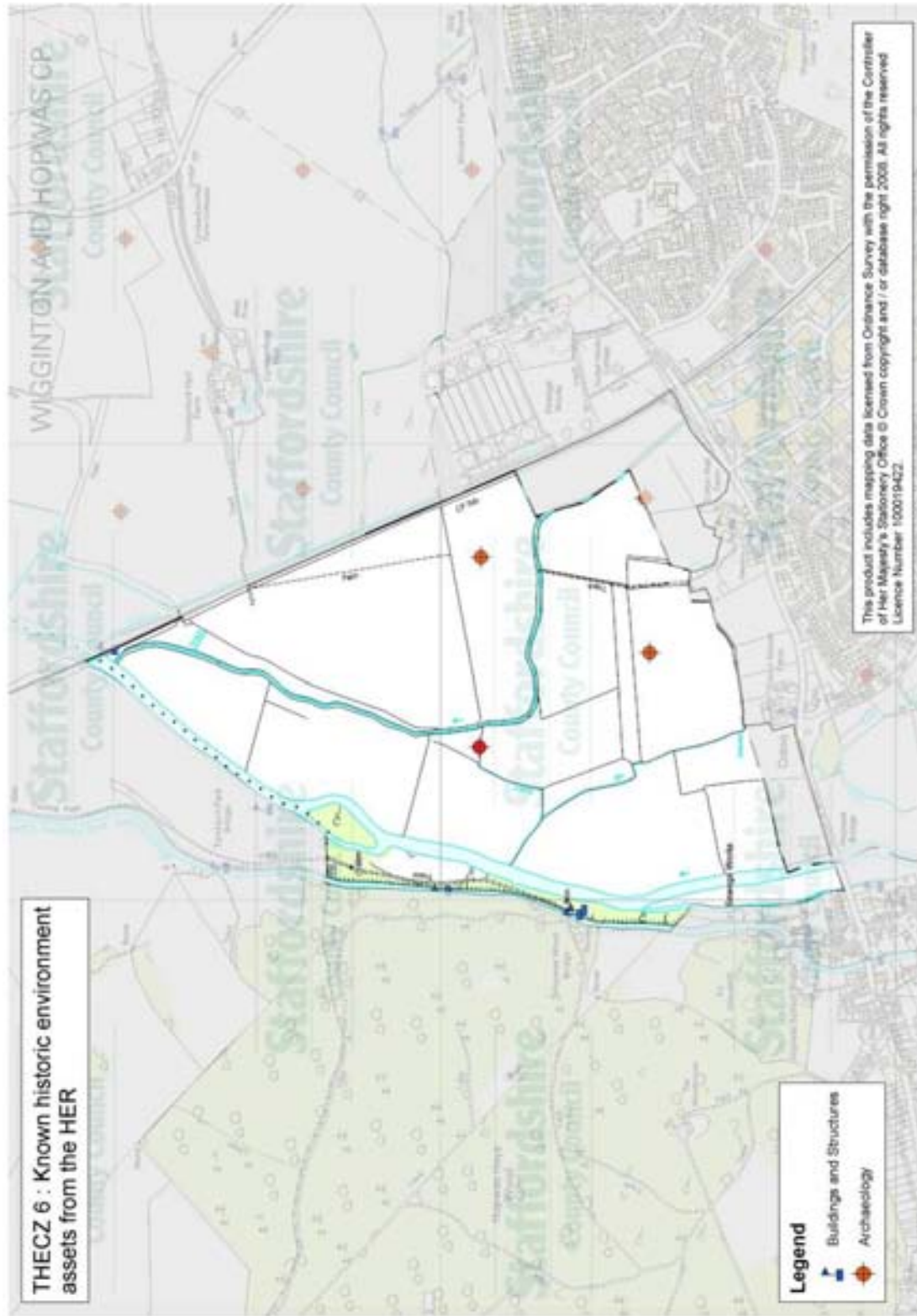
Historic Assets Summary Table

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Survival | The zone has not been subject to extensive development or quarrying and a number of historic environment assets have been identified. | 2 |
| Potential | The zone has seen little disturbance except from agricultural activity. However part of the zone lies within the River Tame's floodplain and there is a high potential for unknown prehistoric activity to survive below the alluvium particularly given the known cropmark evidence with the zone suggesting activity in the prehistoric/Roman periods. | 3 |
| Documentation | HER data | 1 |
| Diversity | There is a wide range of historic environment assets of different dates and character from prehistoric settlement to a 18 th /19 th century surviving field system and parts of a water meadow system. | 3 |
| Group Association | There are sites of a similar date which are potentially associated including the prehistoric/Roman settlement and field system surviving as cropmarks and the surviving enclosure pattern and the | 3 |

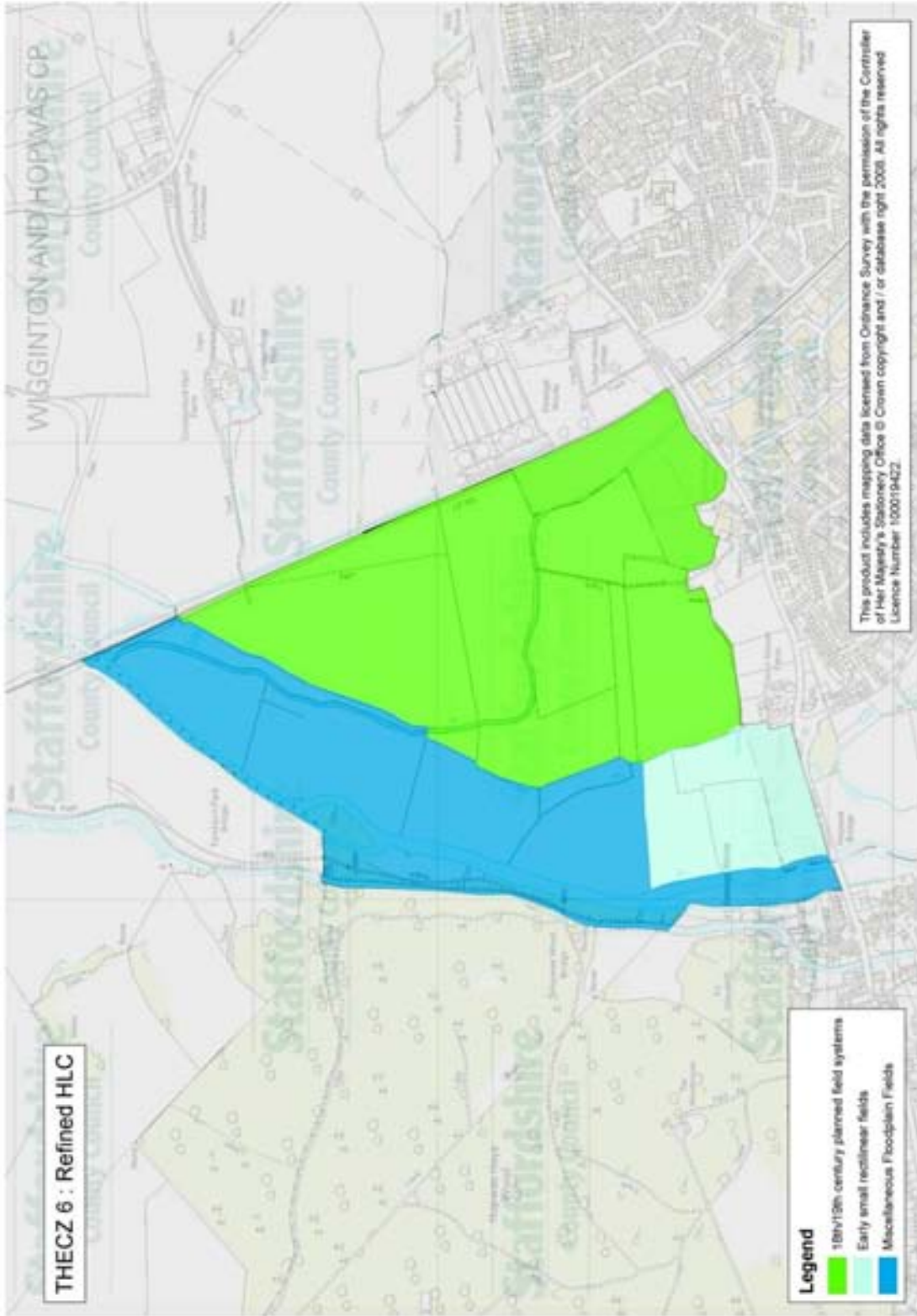
| | | |
|---|--|-----------|
| | watermeadow. | |
| Amenity Value | The historic environment does not currently lend itself to interpretation. | 1 |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | The zone would be highly sensitive to medium to large scale development given the potential for encountering below ground archaeology within the river valley and upon the surviving field system. | 3 |
| Overall score | | 16 |



Map 16: Designations



Map 17: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 18: Refined HLC

THECZ 7 – North of Coton Green, Tamworth (HECA 13a)

Summary

The zone lies partially within the Tame Valley and there is considerable potential for previously unrecorded archaeological deposits to survive beneath the alluvium and colluvium. The zone had formed part of the open field agricultural system from the medieval period until the late 18th century when it was enclosed as planned enclosure. The historic landscape character has been impacted by field boundary removal during the second half of the 20th century, but the overall dispersed nature of settlement survives.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is likely to have a moderate impact upon historic landscape character of the zone, particularly relating to the potential for surviving archaeological deposits. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the neighbouring Conservation Area
- the impact upon the Listed structures within the zone
- the impact upon the dispersed settlement pattern and how this could be reflected by development
- the impact upon the adjacent THECZ 8
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits and palaeochannels containing paleoenvironmental evidence

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 19)

Two Listed structures fall within the zone and the Wigginton Conservation Area lies adjacent to the north eastern boundary of the zone.

Archaeological Character (map 20)

The zone lies mostly within the floodplain of the Tame valley. It is likely, given the wealth of prehistoric data known for the river valleys of eastern Staffordshire, that this landscape had been largely cleared of trees by the Bronze Age. Within the zone cropmarks have been identified on aerial photographs and interpreted as a possible Bronze Age settlement with adjacent ring ditches. Documentary evidence from the 18th and 19th centuries suggest that at least two Bronze Age barrows had been located within the zone as earthworks, although no evidence for them currently survives. This evidence suggests that the landscape was experiencing a degree of human activity, and potentially settlement, by the later prehistoric period. Other enclosures have been identified within the zone, but their origins and function are not currently known.

At present little is known about Early Medieval activity within the zone however it lies approximately 2km north of Tamworth which was a centre for royal authority within the Kingdom of Mercia during the 8th and 9th century. It also lies adjacent to the historic settlement of Wigginton which was recorded in Domesday Book (1086). It is possible that the area had formed part of the arable economy of Wigginton and Tamworth before the Norman Conquest (1066).

Historic Landscape (map 21)

The morphology of the field system extant at the end of the 19th century suggests that this area had been farmed as open arable fields by at least the later medieval period. This agricultural system was usually worked as two or more fields farmed in rotation between arable and fallow, but undivided by hedgerows. Evidence of this medieval ploughing system survived with the zone as earthworks known as ridge and furrow in the 1960s although much of the physical evidence has subsequently been destroyed by ploughing. A windmill was located adjacent to Windmill Farm in early 19th century. This supports the hypothesis that arable cultivation was also important to the economy of this zone during the 19th century.

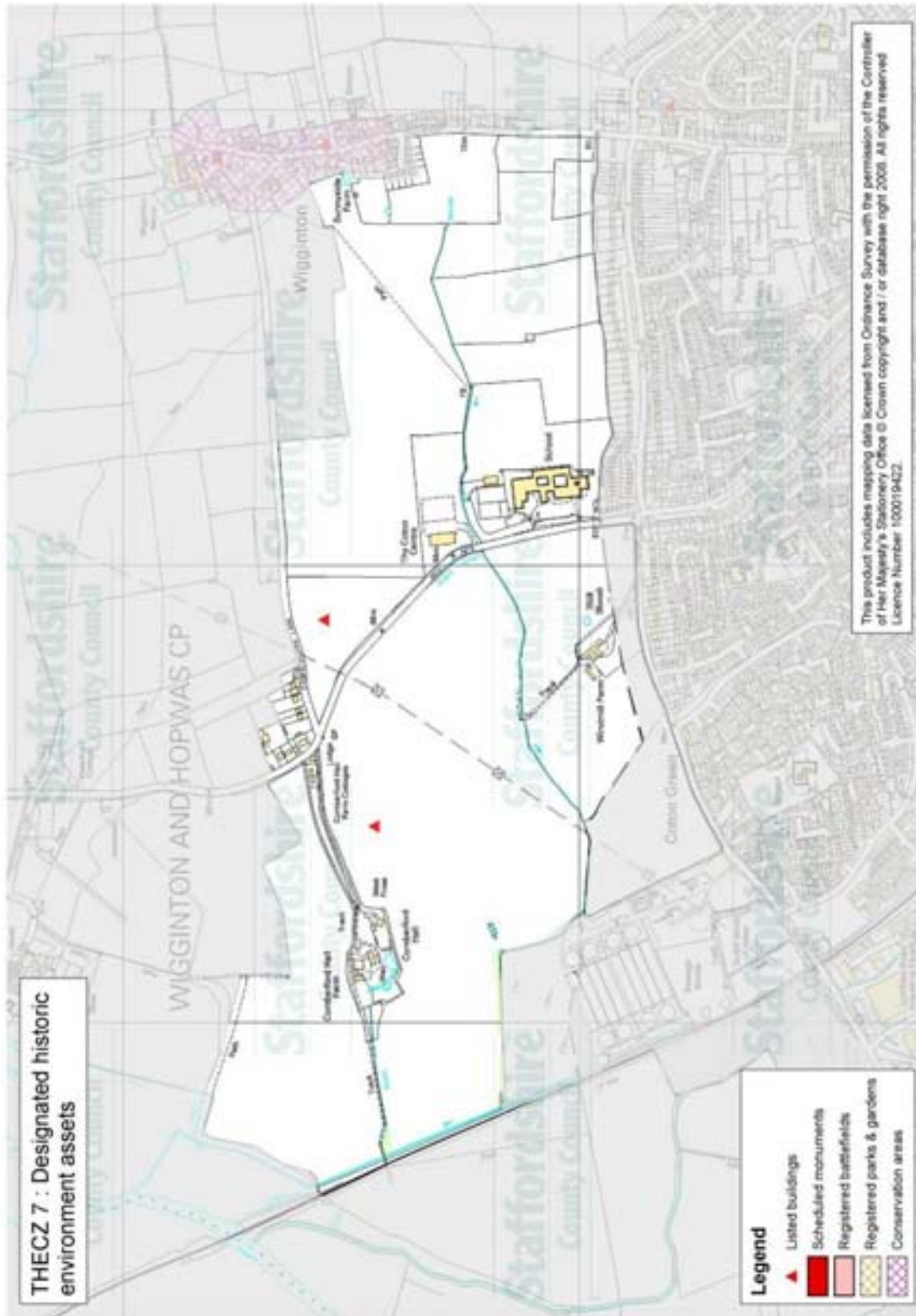
The open fields were enclosed following an Act of Parliament passed in 1771. The resulting field system was characterised by straight boundaries which were laid out by surveyors in an order manner and known as planned enclosure. The Act identified that this area was covered by two open fields, Flax Hill Field, which lay adjacent to Wigginton and Hill Field which covered most of the western side of the zone. The only area of 18th/19th century planned enclosure to survive within the zone lies just to the north of Gill Way and west of Main Street. The remainder of the planned enclosure has been impacted by the removal of field boundaries during the second half of the 20th century to enable the intensification of the arable cultivation.

There is little in way of settlement within the zone. One historic farmstead has been identified within the zone, Windmill Farm, which is marked on the 1st edition 1" Ordnance Survey map (1830s). It is possible that the farm was created following the enclosure of the field system after 1771. However, it is possible that its origins may be earlier. In the north west of the zone lies Comberford Hall, a Grade II Listed late 18th century country house, which had a landscape park associated with it. The character of the landscape park has been lost to farmland. The remaining settlement dates to the 20th century and includes a large school on Comberford Road.

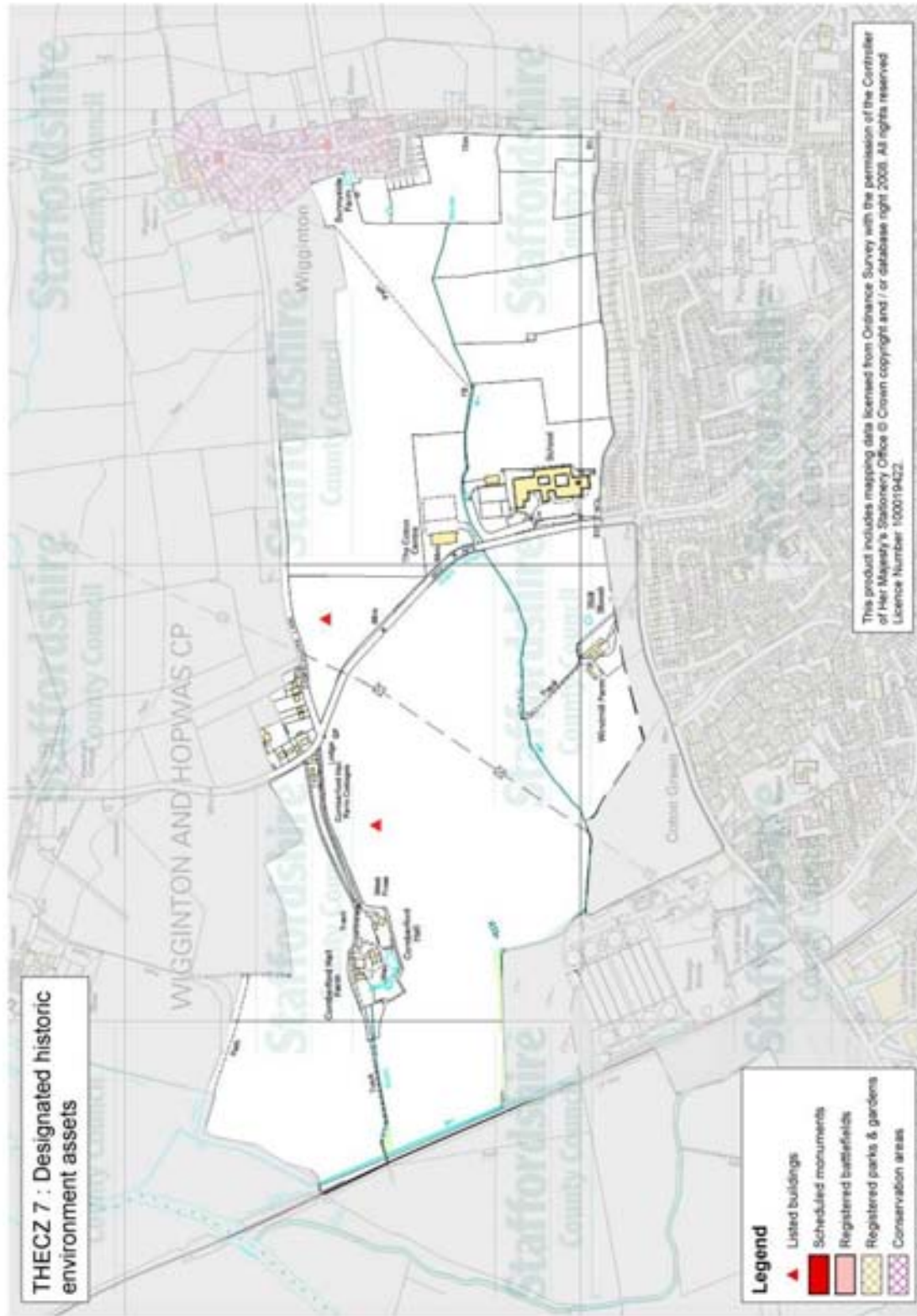
Historic Assets Summary Table

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Survival | The zone has not been impacted by intensive development or quarrying and there are a number of known historic environment assets. | 2 |
| Potential | The zone lies towards the Tame Valley and the known historic environment assets include evidence of | 2 |

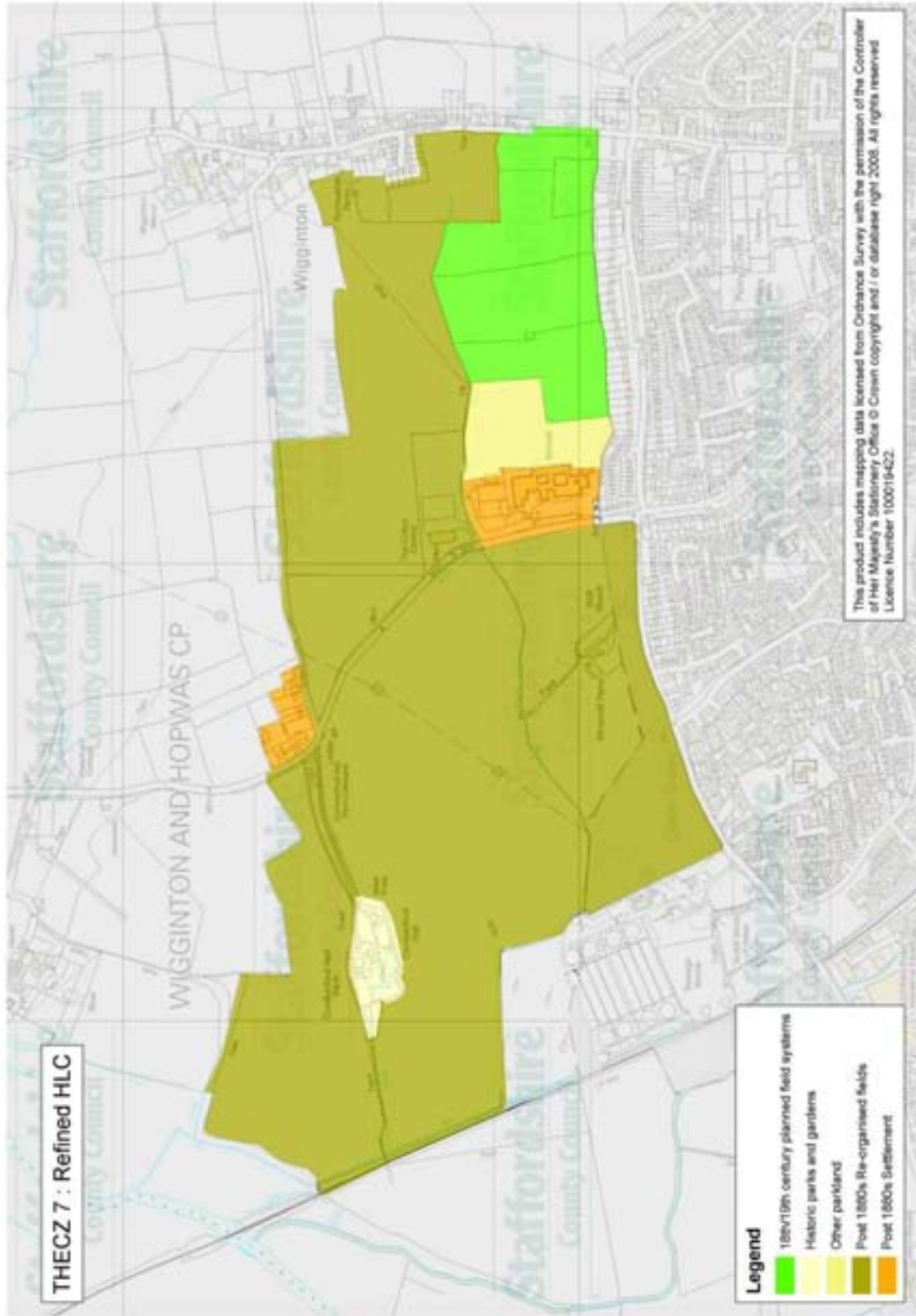
| | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| | prehistoric/Roman activity. There is the potential for further unknown archaeological deposits to survive particularly to the western side of the zone. | |
| Documentation | HER data | 1 |
| Diversity | The zone includes a range of historic environment assets of different date and character from prehistoric/Roman activity to a windmill mound and evidence of medieval open fields associated with Wigginton. | 2 |
| Group Association | There are a few historic environment assets of a similar date and nature particularly the known cropmarks of probable prehistoric/Roman origin. | 1 |
| Amenity Value | The historic environment does not currently lend itself to interpretation. | 1 |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | Medium to large scale development is likely to have at least a moderate effect upon the historic environment assets in terms of the known and unknown potential for buried remains. It will also have an impact upon the dispersed nature of the settlement pattern. Consideration also needs to be given to the impacts upon the Conservation Area and the listed buildings. | 2 |
| Overall score | | 11 |



Map 19: Designations



Map 20: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 21: Refined HLC

THECZ 8 – Wigginton (HECA 13d)

Summary

The zone lies within a character area which is defined by the river valleys of east Staffordshire. Within the zone there is the potential for archaeological remains to survive relating to prehistoric/Roman activity particularly to the west. Of particular importance are the well is the well surviving earthworks around the village of Wigginton which relate to other phases of settlement and to the medieval arable agricultural practices. The later piecemeal enclosure also survives well. There are strong relationships between the village and the surrounding field pattern.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is likely to have a significant impact upon the historic landscape character of the zone, particularly relating to the surviving earthworks and their relationship to the village. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the Conservation Area
- the impact upon the Listed structures within the zone
- the impact upon the surviving earthworks relating to former settlement and agricultural practices, both at Wigginton and to the south of Comberford.
- the impact upon the settlement of Wigginton; its nature as a historic nucleated village.
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 22)

Two Listed structures and the Wigginton Conservation Area lies within the zone.

Archaeological Character (map 23)

The zone lies mostly within a character area defined by the river systems of eastern Staffordshire. The two rivers which encompass the zone are the Tame to the east and the Anker lying 1.5km to the south east. The river valleys of eastern Staffordshire are well understood in terms of the known archaeological resource. Much of this information has been identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs and many of these sites do or are likely to date to the prehistoric/Roman period. The date of the earliest of the known sites within the east Staffordshire river valleys have been dated to the Neolithic period. Consequently it is likely that the landscape had been largely cleared of trees by the Neolithic/Bronze Age period. Within the zone cropmarks have been identified on aerial photographs particularly to the west nearest to the Tame valley. Undated flint artefacts have been found in

association with linear features and an enclosure which may suggest that some of these are prehistoric in origin.

Currently there is little evidence for prehistoric/Roman evidence from the eastern half of the zone, but this is likely to be partially due to the continuing pastoral nature of the landscape where earthworks still survive whose origins lie in the medieval period.

The evidence for settlement during the late Early Medieval period comes from Domesday Book (1086) which records nine families associated with Wigginton. It is likely that there was a degree of continuity of settlement between the prehistoric and later Early Medieval period although the extent and nature of this occupation is currently unknown. Wigginton lies approximately 2.5km north of Tamworth to which it was closely linked in Domesday Book. Tamworth had been the focus of the Mercia kingdom in the 8th and 9th centuries and was re-founded as a settlement in AD 913 when it continued to prosper as a market town.

Historic Landscape (map 24)

By the medieval period the landscape of the zone was being farmed as open fields closely associated with the village of Wigginton. This agricultural system was usually worked as two or more fields farmed in rotation between arable and fallow that were not divided by hedgerows. 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 evidence for this medieval agricultural system survives well around Wigginton where there are substantive earthworks of ridge and furrow which are the remains of the medieval ploughing method. The pattern of the piecemeal enclosure also survives well within the zone.

There is also evidence, surviving as earthworks, that the settlement of Wigginton has either shrunken in size at some period or has shifted to a new focus. The surviving earthworks comprise a hollow way, the former village street, and house platforms upon which the villager's homes once stood. The date of the abandonment of this area is currently unknown.

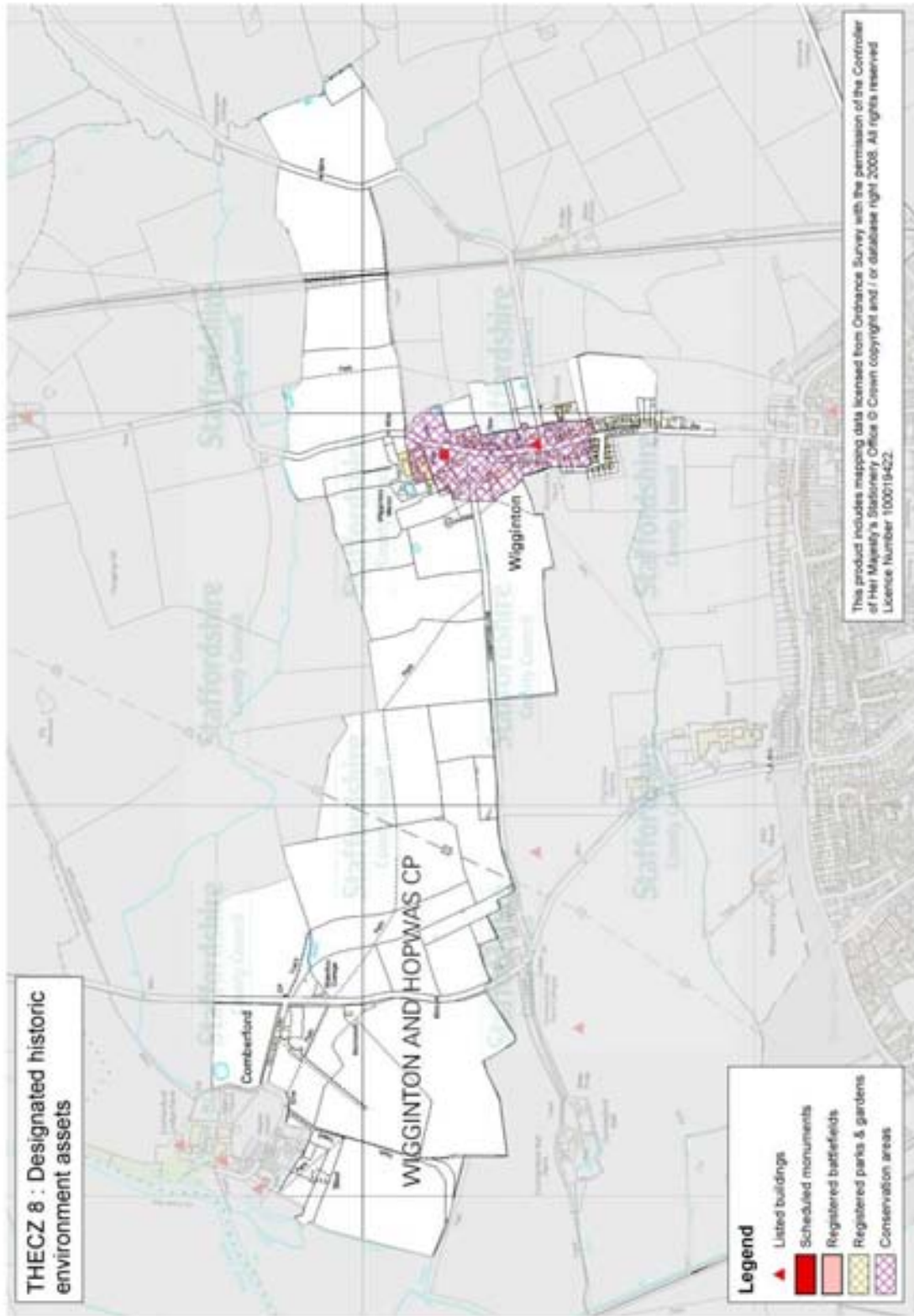
Evidence of another shifted or shrunken settlement survives within the zone to the south of Comberford (the core of which lies beyond the scope of the HEA). Comberford itself was first recorded in documentary records in 1183. The earthworks include the site of a moat along with other house platforms still lying along the former village street.

The village of Wigginton is located upon a rise above the river valleys of the Tame and Anker. St Leonard's church dates to the late 18th century although a chapel of St Leonard is recorded in a document dating to 1524 when it probably formed part of the prebendal manor belonging to St Edith's,

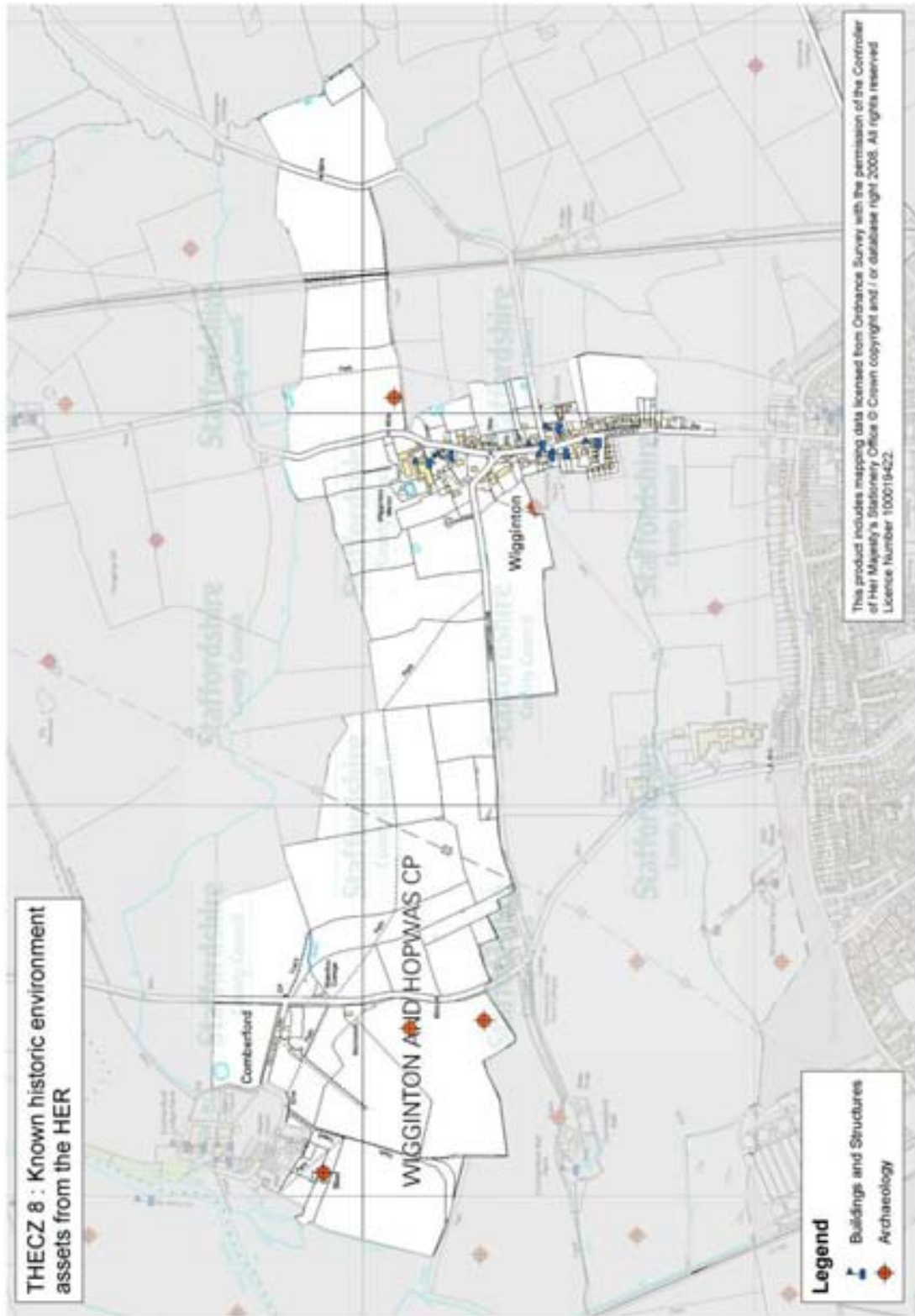
Tamworth until the Dissolution (1547). Within the village of Wigginton there are four historic farmsteads which lie along the main road. There are no dispersed farmsteads within the zone and the settlement pattern here is confined to the nucleated core. The village has currently seen little expansion during the 20th century.

Historic Assets Summary Table

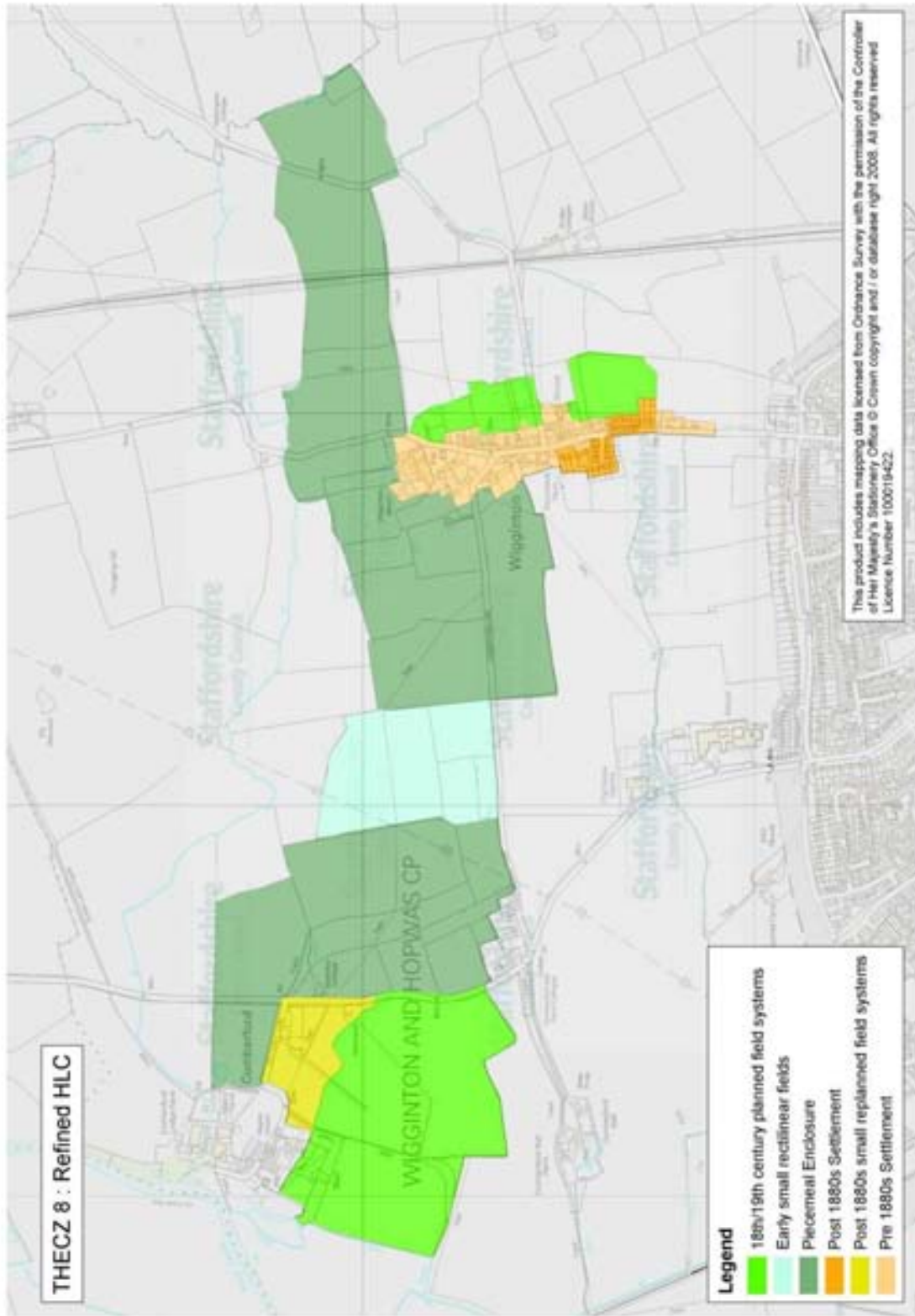
| | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| Survival | The zone has seen little impact by either development, quarrying or agricultural practices. Many of the known historic environment assets survive well. | 3 |
| Potential | There are a range of high quality known assets surviving within the zone. To the west there are known and possibly unknown archaeological deposits surviving within the river valley. | 3 |
| Documentation | HER data | 1 |
| Diversity | The zone contains a wide range of assets of different date and character from prehistoric/Roman enclosures surviving as cropmarks to medieval settlement and field systems surviving as earthworks. | 3 |
| Group Association | The field system, both the surviving ridge and furrow earthworks and the pattern of the later piecemeal enclosure is closely associated with both an area of deserted settlement and with the surviving village. | 3 |
| Amenity Value | The historic environment could be used to define a sense of place and the deserted settlement and associated ridge and furrow could be interpreted to promote the place to the benefit of both local people and visitors. | 2 |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | The zone is highly sensitive to large or medium scale development due to the fragility of the earthworks, which survive well and their relationship to the later piecemeal enclosure. The survival of the form of the historic farmsteads within the village is also important to the character of the zone. There is also the potential for below ground archaeology to survive both within the village and to the west within the river valley. | 3 |
| Overall score | | 18 |



Map 22: Designations



Map 23: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 24: Refined HLC

THECZ 9 – east of Wigginton (HECA 13d)

Summary

The zone lies within a character area which is defined by the river valleys of east Staffordshire. The zone relates to the agricultural economy of the village of Wigginton from at least the medieval period. There are surviving ridge and furrow earthworks both to the east of the village and around Arkall Farm.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is likely to have at least a moderate impact upon historic landscape character of the zone, particularly relating to the surviving earthworks and the historic field pattern to the east and south. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the neighbouring Conservation Area
- the impact upon the Listed building within the zone
- the impact upon the adjacent THECZ 8
- the impact upon the surviving earthworks relating to former agricultural practices to the east of Wigginton and around Arkall Farm.
- the impact upon the surviving historic landscape character, particularly to the east and south of the zone; how this could be retained or reflected.
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 25)

One Listed building falls within the zone and the Wigginton Conservation Area lies adjacent to the west.

Archaeological Character (map 26)

The zone lies mostly within a character area defined by the river systems of eastern Staffordshire. The two rivers which encompass the zone are the Tame lying approximately 3km to the east and the Anker lying approximately 850m to the south. The river valleys of eastern Staffordshire are well understood in terms of the known archaeological resource. Much of this information has been identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs and many of these sites do or are likely to date to the prehistoric/Roman period. The date of the earliest of the known sites within the east Staffordshire river valleys have been dated to the Neolithic period. Consequently it is likely that the landscape had been largely cleared of trees by the Neolithic/Bronze Age period.

At present there is little evidence for activity in the zone from the prehistoric through to the Early Medieval period, but given that much of the river valley area was settled from an early date there is considerable potential for below ground deposits to survive.

The evidence for settlement during the later Early Medieval period comes from Domesday Book (1086) which records nine families associated with Wigginton to the west.

Historic Landscape (map 27)

By the medieval period part of the landscape of the zone was being farmed as open fields probably associated with the adjacent village of Wigginton (see THECZ 8). This agricultural system was usually worked as two or more fields farmed in rotation between arable and fallow that were not divided by hedgerows. Ridge and furrow earthworks, the physical remains of the medieval ploughing technique, survive around Arkall Farm. Further ridge and furrow earthworks survive between Wigginton and the railway line.

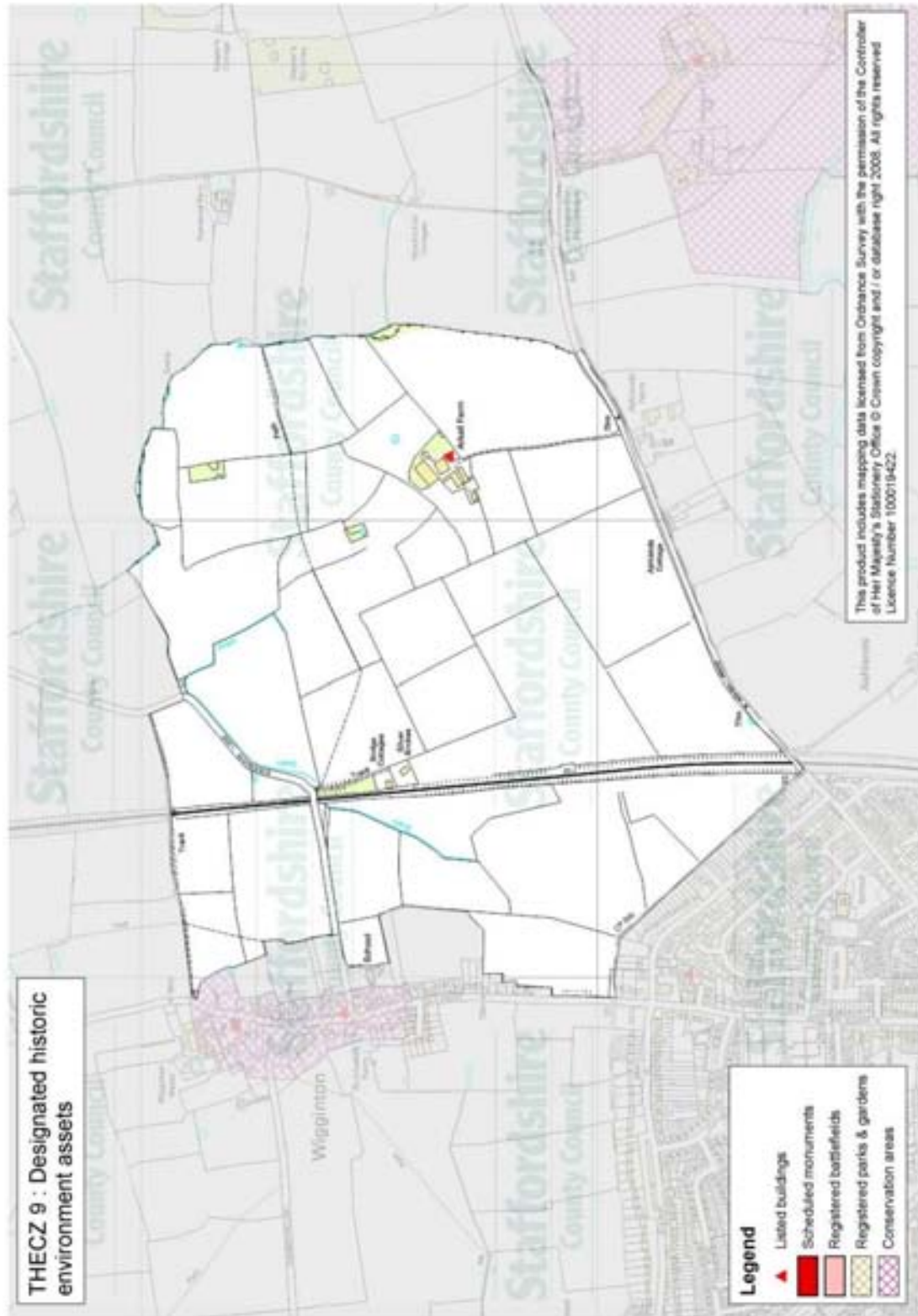
The early irregular enclosure around Arkall Farm is probably piecemeal enclosure, which was generally carried out by agreement between the different landowners, during the post medieval period. An area of planned enclosure also survives, which probably dates to the late 18th century; an Act of Parliament being passed in 1771 to enclose most of the parish. The planned enclosure here probably relates to an area of open field which had not previously been enclosed. Much of the historic landscape character survives within the zone although some field boundary loss has occurred particularly in the area to the east of Wigginton.

Arkall Farm itself is the only settlement within the zone and it is a Grade II listed late 18th century farmhouse. Its origins may relate to the re-organisation of the landscape that was being carried out across the parish after 1771. However, it is possible that it has earlier origins although the dominate settlement pattern for this corner of Staffordshire is one of nucleated villages like Wigginton.

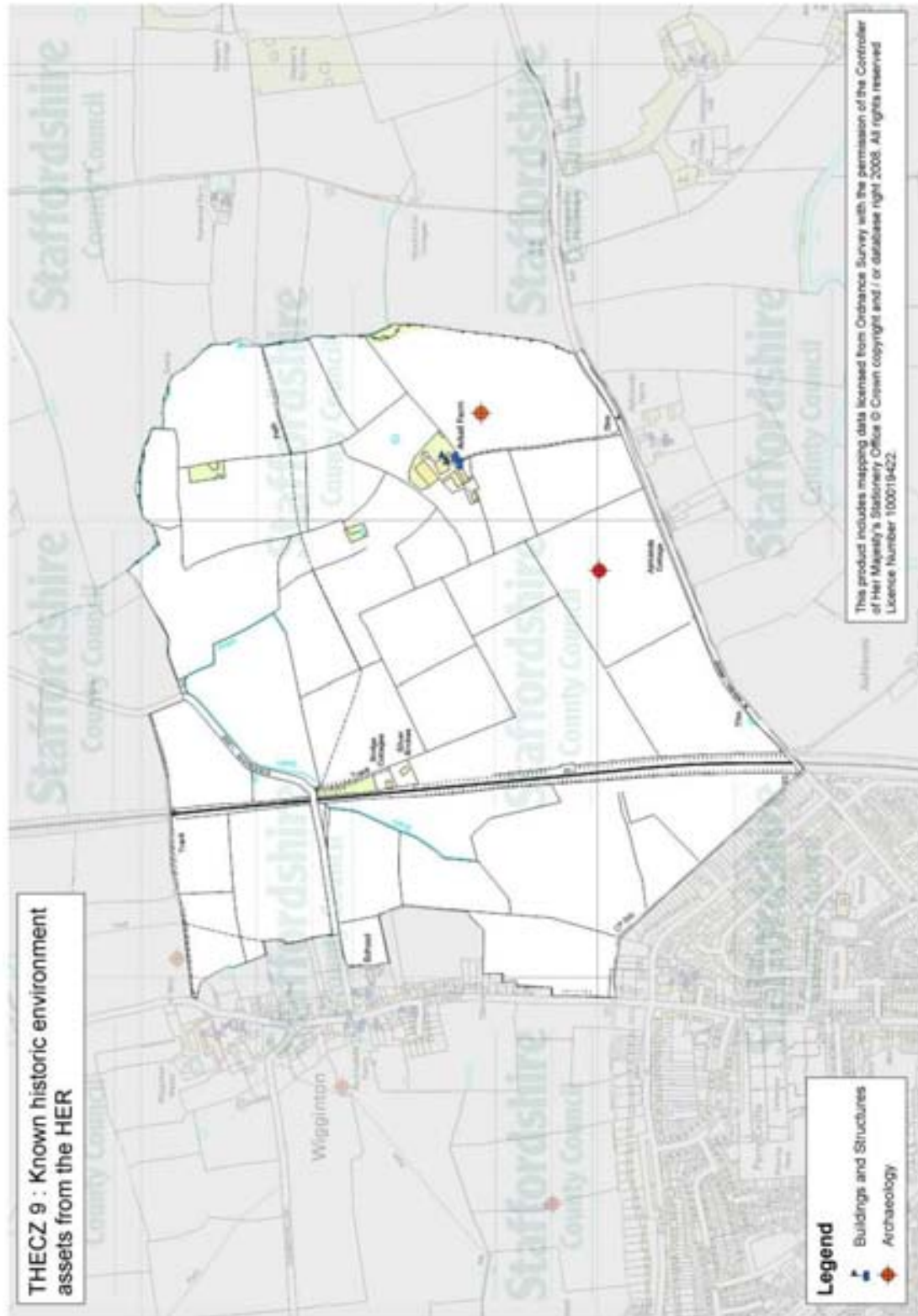
Historic Assets Summary Table

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Survival | The zone has few known historic environment assets, although ridge and furrow earthworks survive in some areas. The zone has not been impacted by development or quarrying. | 2 |
| Potential | The zone has not been impacted by quarrying or development, but there are few known historic environment assets. The lack of knowledge is probably due to lack of investigation rather than poor preservation. | 2 |
| Documentation | HER data | 1 |
| Diversity | There are very few historic environment assets except the historic farmstead and the surviving ridge and furrow earthworks | 1 |
| Group Association | There is likely to be an association between the farmstead and the | 2 |

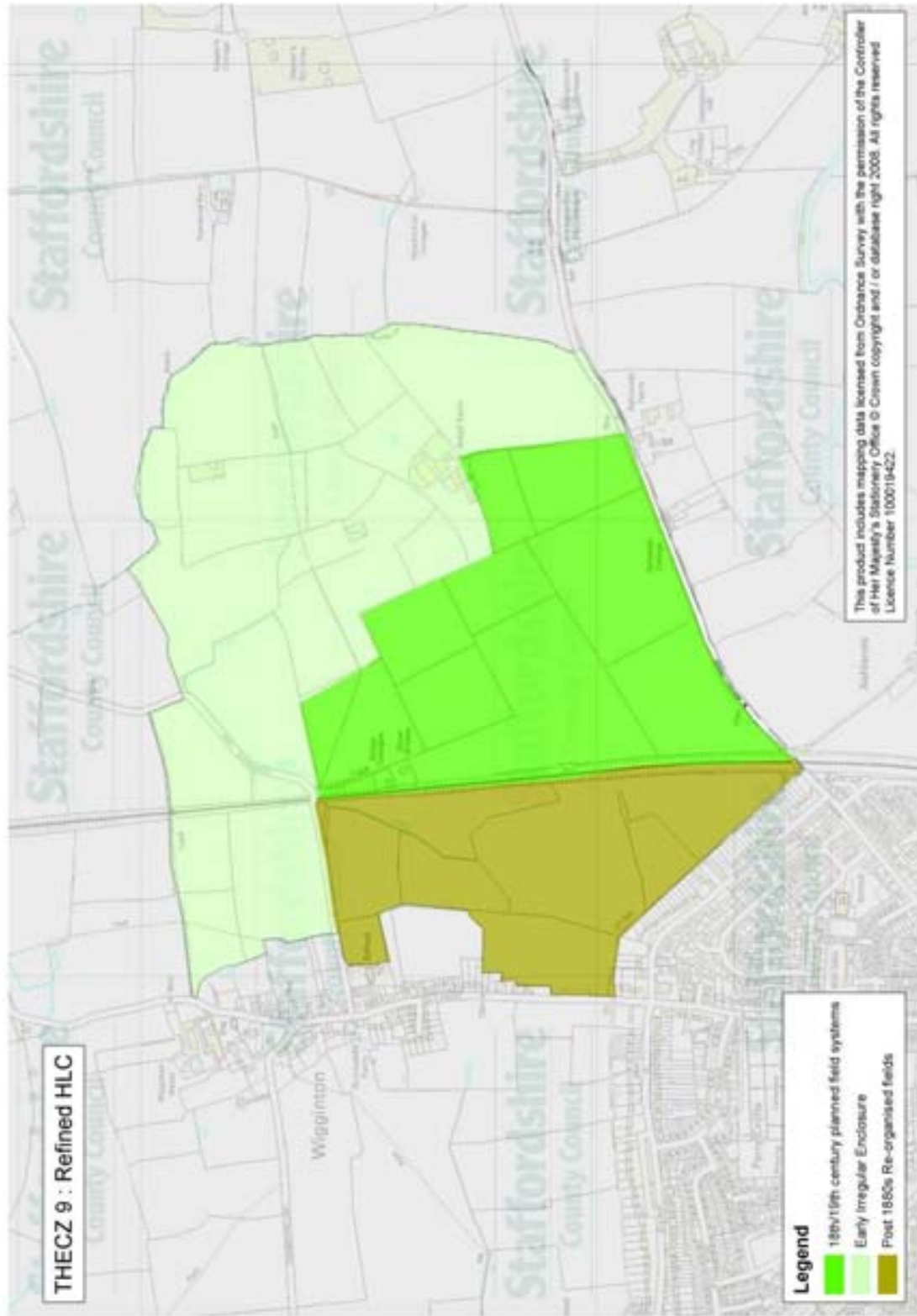
| | | |
|---|--|-----------|
| | surrounding surviving field system. | |
| Amenity Value | The historic environment does not currently lend itself to interpretation. | 1 |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | Medium to large scale development is likely to have a moderate impact upon the historic environment in terms of the surviving field patterns to the east and the surviving ridge and furrow which relates to the village of Wigginton. | 2 |
| Overall score | | 11 |



Map 24: Designations



Map 25: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 26: Refined HLC

THECZ 10 – fields around Statfold and south of Syerscote (HECA 13d)

Summary

The zone lies within a character area which is defined by the river valleys of east Staffordshire. The zone relates to the agricultural economy of the former villages of Statfold and Syerscote from at least the medieval period.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is likely to have at least a moderate impact upon historic landscape character of the zone, particularly relating the historic field pattern to the west and the possible moated site. There would also be an impact upon the historic environment assets of THECZ 11 and the sites at Syerscote and Amington. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the neighbouring Conservation Area of Amington Hall Estate to the south
- the impact upon the Listed building within the zone and those within THECZ 11 (Grade II* church and Grade II Statfold Hall)
- the impact upon the adjacent THECZ 11 in terms of the surviving earthworks.
- the impact upon the surviving historic landscape character, particularly to the west where it has survived more completely; how this could be retained or reflected.
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits particularly around the site of the possible moat.

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 27)

One listed building falls within the zone, two lie adjacent in THECZ 11 and the Amington Hall Estate Conservation Area lies adjacent to the south.

Archaeological Character (map 28)

The zone lies mostly within a character area defined by the river systems of eastern Staffordshire. The two rivers which encompass the zone are the Tame lying approximately 5km to the east and the Anker lying approximately 1.5km to the south. The river valleys of eastern Staffordshire are well understood in terms of the known archaeological resource. Much of this information has been identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs and many of these sites do or are likely to date to the prehistoric/Roman period. The earliest of the known sites within the east Staffordshire river valleys have been dated to the Neolithic period while earlier Pleistocene deposits of faunal remains within gravel beds have been recovered from at least one extraction site (Whitemoor Hays on the river Trent). Consequently it is likely that the

landscape had been largely cleared of trees by the Neolithic/Bronze Age period.

Currently there is little evidence for activity in the zone from the prehistoric through to the Early Medieval period, but given that much of the river valley area was settled from an early date there is the potential for below ground deposits to survive. Several Roman coins have been recovered from areas to the south of the zone implying a degree of human activity in the area. The zone also lies 4km to the north east of Tamworth which had been the focus of the Mercia kingdom in the 8th and 9th centuries and was re-founded as a settlement in AD 913 when it continued to prosper as a market town.

The evidence for settlement during the later Early Medieval period comes from Domesday Book (1086) where four families are recorded as working the manor of Syerscote which lies to the north. The church at Statfold may retain fabric of a pre 12th century date.

Historic Landscape (map 29)

By the medieval period the landscape of the zone was dominated by open fields which were probably closely associated with the settlement of Statfold (see THECZ 11) and possibly Syerscote to the north west. This agricultural system was usually worked as two or more fields in rotation between arable and fallow that were not divided by hedgerows.

The open fields were later enclosed as piecemeal enclosure, through a process of informal verbal agreements between the landholders. This process resulted in a landscape of irregular fields 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 enclosure of this landscape of this zone probably relates to a change in agricultural practice from arable to pasture. The survival of the ridge and furrow earthworks in the adjacent THECZ 11 suggests that the landscape was converted to pasture following the enclosure of the open fields. However, within this zone arable agriculture was being practised by the late 20th century and there has been a degree of field boundary removal as a consequence, particularly in the eastern half of the zone.

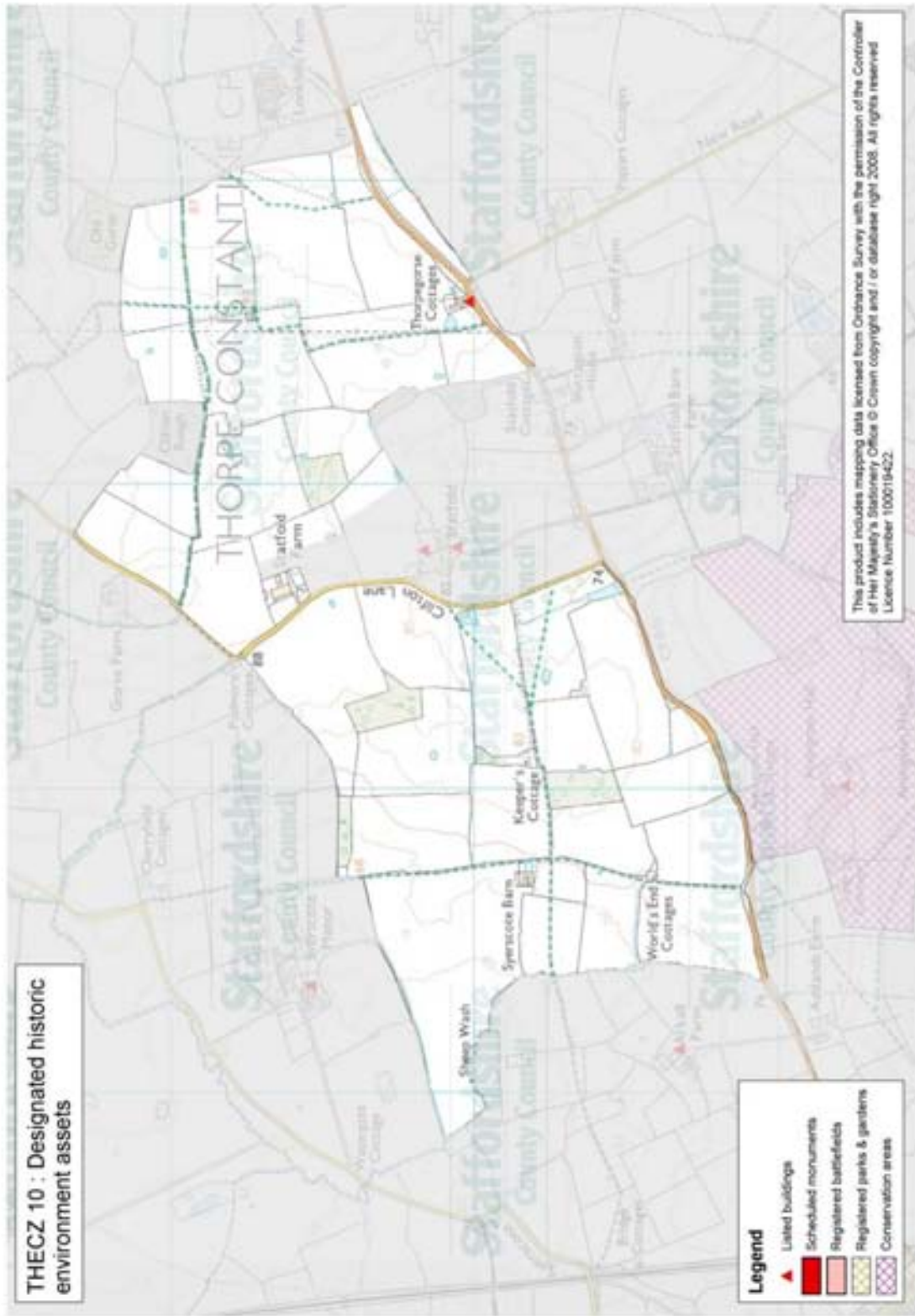
Settlement within this zone is characterised by nucleated villages with little evidence for elements of a dispersed settlement pattern. However, a pond to the west of Clifton Lane, lying approximately 250m from the deserted settlement of Statfold, is the possible site of a moat. This site may therefore be the location of a manor house, some villages are known to have had more than one or it could be the predecessor of the current Statfold Hall. Further historical research on Statfold may help to clarify the development and abandonment of the settlement and possible moated site.

Three historic farmsteads have been identified within the zone one of which is listed and dates to the 18th century, although the list description suggests it

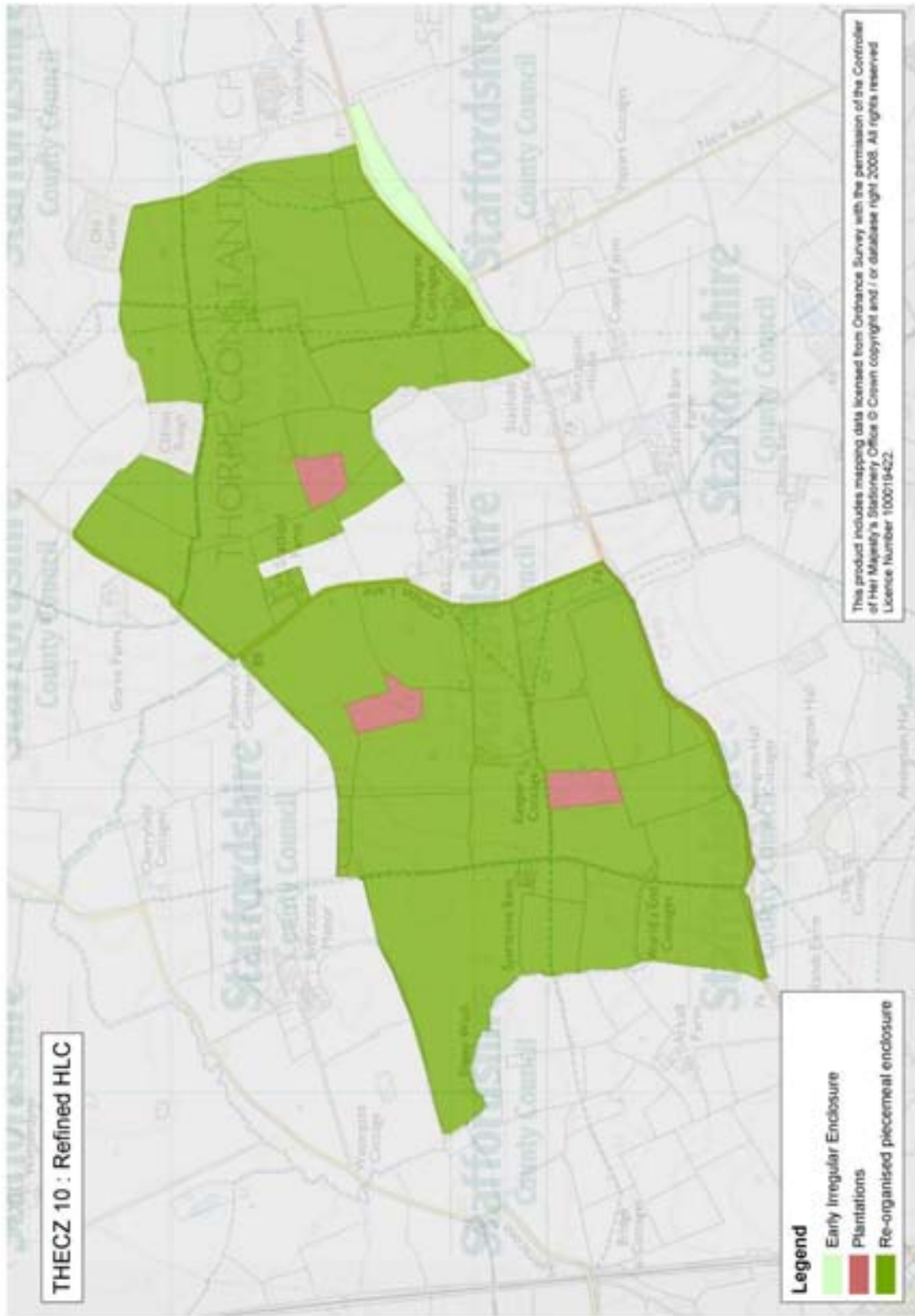
originated as a row of cottages rather than a former farmhouse. Further research may clear up this confusion. The other two farmsteads have not been closely dated but their origins may be closely associated with the enclosure of this landscape during the post medieval period.

Historic Assets Summary Table

| | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| Survival | The zone has seen moderate disturbance mostly from agricultural practices; there are few known historic environment assets. | 2 |
| Potential | There are few known historic environment assets other than a possible medieval moat. However, little research has been carried out in the area which may partially explain why there are few known sites. | 2 |
| Documentation | HER data | 1 |
| Diversity | There are very few know historic environment assets other than a moated site and the surviving field system. | 1 |
| Group Association | There may be a relationship between the potential moated site and its desertion with the field system. | 2 |
| Amenity Value | The historic environment does not currently lend itself to interpretation. | 1 |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | There is likely to be a moderate impact upon the historic environment assets for example on the surviving field pattern in the west and upon the potential moated site. Most particularly there would be an impact upon the adjacent THECZ 11 and other adjacent sites. | 2 |
| Overall score | | 11 |



Map 27: Designations



Map 29: Refined HLC

THECZ 11 – Statfold (HECA 13d)

Summary

This zone lies within a character area which is defined by the river valleys of east Staffordshire. The zone is particularly noted for the survival of earthworks associated with the former settlement of Statfold and its open field system, which survives as ridge and furrow. The church contains elements from at least the 12th century and possibly earlier (pre 1066), suggesting the potential for evidence of earlier settlement to survive in the area. There is also a strong relationship between the surviving hall and landscape park.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is likely to have a significant impact upon historic landscape character of the zone, particularly relating to the surviving earthworks associated with earlier settlement and the agricultural practices. There would also be an impact upon the relationship between the surviving hall and landscape park. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the Listed buildings within the zone (Grade II* church, Grade II memorial and Grade II Statfold Hall)
- the impact upon the surviving earthworks relating to the deserted settlement and field system.
- the impact upon the surviving historic landscape character, particularly to the west where it has survived more completely; how this could be retained or reflected.
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits particularly relating to settlement.

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 30)

Two Listed buildings fall within the zone.

Archaeological Character (map 31)

The zone lies mostly within a character area defined by the river systems of eastern Staffordshire. The two rivers which encompass the zone are the Tame lying approximately 5km to the east and the Anker lying approximately 1.5km to the south. The river valleys of eastern Staffordshire are well understood in terms of the known archaeological resource. Much of this information has been identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs and many of these sites do or are likely to date to the prehistoric/Roman period. The earliest of the known sites within the east Staffordshire river valleys have been dated to the Neolithic period, consequently it is likely that the landscape had been largely cleared of trees by the Neolithic/Bronze Age period. Earlier Pleistocene deposits of faunal remains within gravel beds have been

recovered from at least one extraction site (Whitemoor Haye on the river Trent).

Currently there is little evidence for activity in the zone from the prehistoric through to the Early Medieval period, but given that much of the river valley area was settled from an early date there is the potential for below ground deposits to survive. Several Roman coins have been recovered from areas to the south of the zone implying a degree of human activity in the area. The zone also lies approximately 4km to the north east of Tamworth which had been the focus of the Mercia kingdom in the 8th and 9th centuries and was re-founded as a settlement in AD 913 when it continued to prosper as a market town.

There is potential evidence for settlement during the later Early Medieval period within Statfold and the church is also considered to retain pre-12th century elements within its fabric. There is therefore the potential that the settlement and the field system at Statfold had their origins in the pre-conquest (1066) period.

Historic Landscape (map 32)

The zone has formed part of the landscape park of Statfold Hall since at least the 18th century and the field systems are currently managed as pasture. This history has ensured the survival of earthworks associated with the deserted settlement of Statfold and its earlier field system.

By the medieval period the landscape of the zone was being farmed as open fields which were usually worked as two or more fields in rotation between arable and fallow that were not divided by hedgerows. The surviving ridge and furrow earthworks have fossilised the form of the ploughing carried out during this period. This farming system was closely associated with the settlement of Statfold, which itself survives as earthworks to the north of the current Statfold Hall. The origins of the settlement are not known, but it may date from the later Early Medieval period. The settlement was probably deserted at some point between the 14th and 16th century and this may be related to the establishment of Statfold Hall and park. Further historic research may be able to elucidate some of these points.

The open fields were later enclosed probably as piecemeal enclosure, through a process of informal verbal agreements between the landholders, resulted in a landscape of irregular fields 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.

Statfold Hall had been the home of the Wolferston family since 1565, although the current hall mostly dates to the 17th century. The hall may therefore have been developed upon the site of an earlier manorial site, or it may have replaced a property surrounded by a moat lying to the west (in THECZ 10).

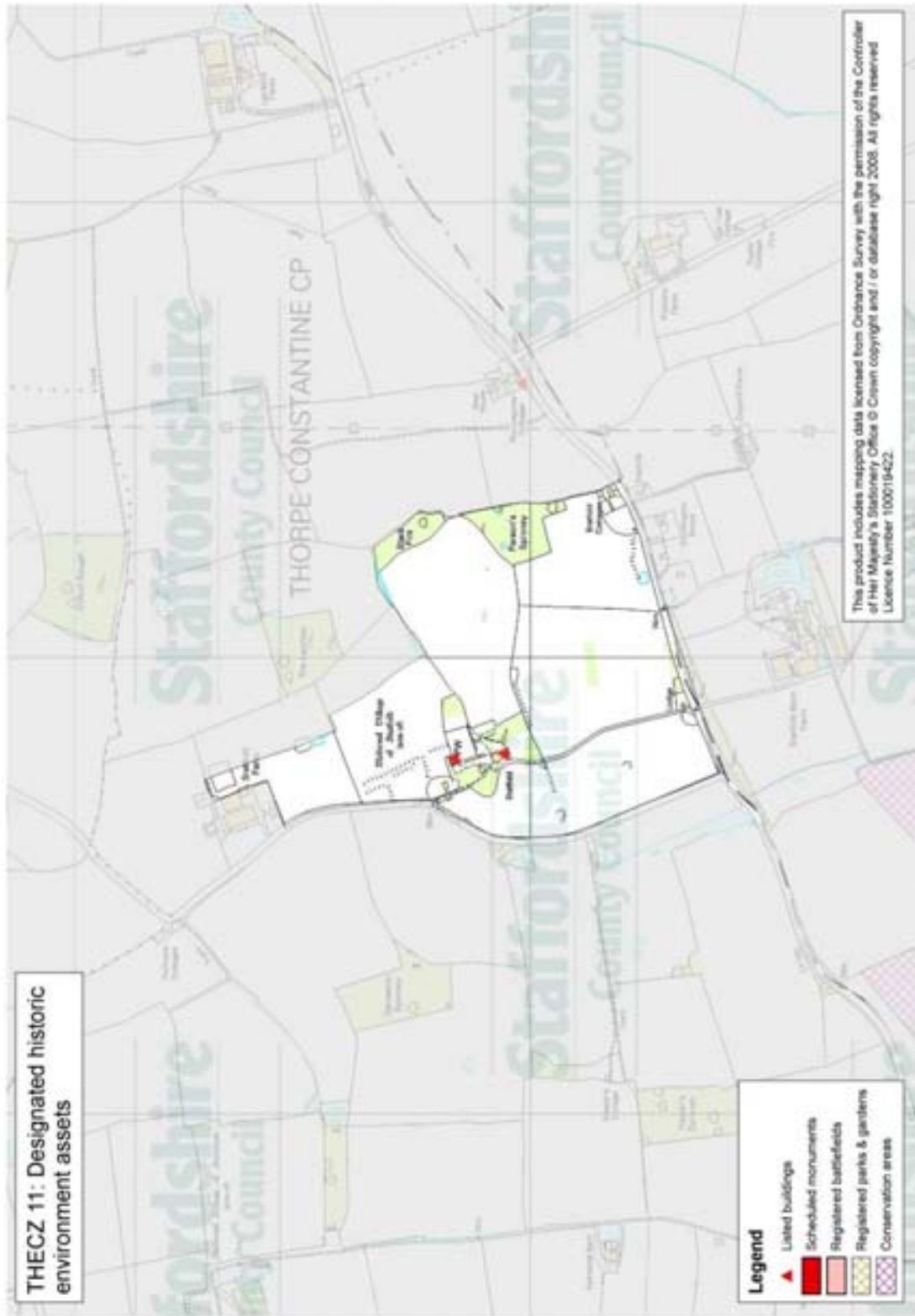
The earthworks associated with the deserted settlement also suggest that the original road system ran through the village and passed to the east of the church. This route appears to have been superseded by the present Clifton Lane further to the west probably at a similar period as the establishment of the landscape park, the history of which has not currently been explored.

One historic farmstead has been identified within the zone. It has not been closely dated but its origins may be associated with the enclosure of the landscape.

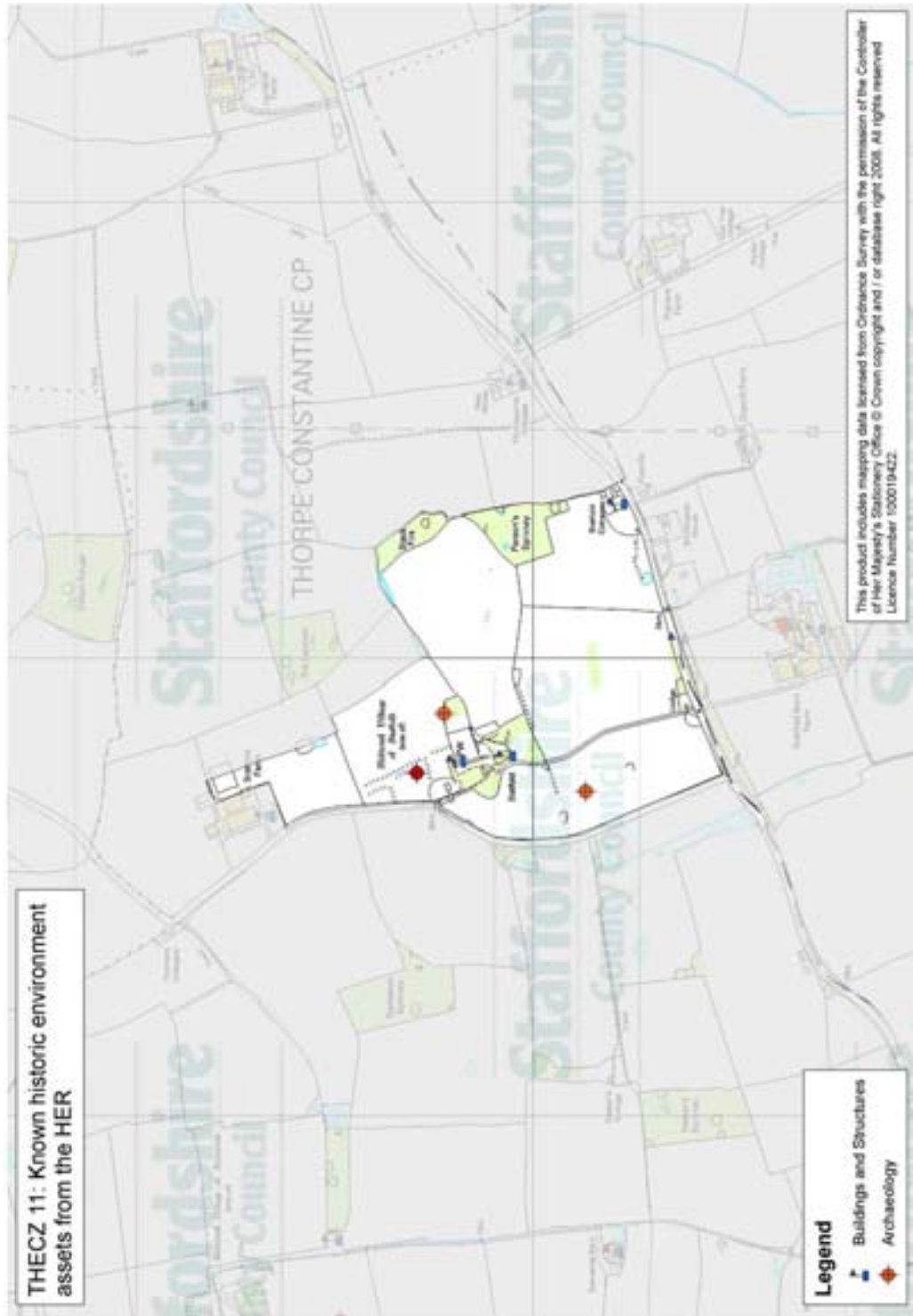
Historic Assets Summary Table

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Survival | The majority of the zone contains little disturbance and the known historic environment assets are well preserved as earthworks. | 3 |
| Potential | The zone has seen little impact from agricultural processes in the period since it was laid out as a landscape park, possibly in the 18 th century. | 3 |
| Documentation | HER data | 1 |
| Diversity | There are a range of assets in terms of both character and period from the possible remains of a later Early Medieval period church, and so possible settlement, to the known deserted settlement surviving as earthworks and the later post medieval landscape park and hall. | 3 |
| Group Association | There are strong associations between the surviving earthworks as evidence of previous settlement and associated agricultural processes through to the relationship between the existing hall and landscape park. | 3 |
| Amenity Value | There is the potential for the zone to be interpreted and presented to define a sense of place and be promoted for its historic environment assets. | 2 |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | The zone is highly sensitive to medium to large scale development due to the survival of the earthworks of both the settlement and associated field systems. There would also be an impact upon the relationship between the landscape park and hall as well as upon the potential for archaeological remains associated with the settlement and potential pre-Conquest (1066) settlement. | 3 |

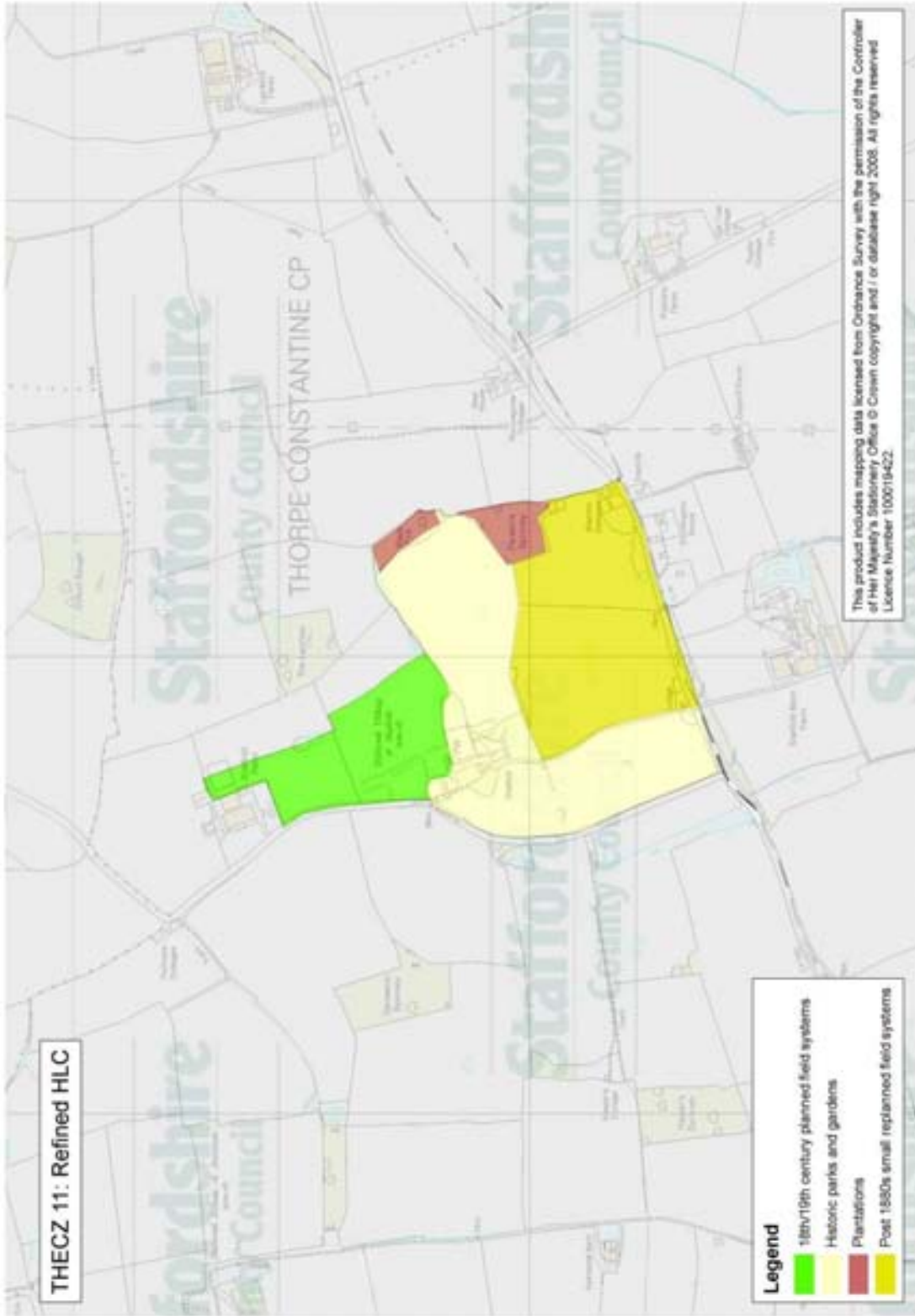
Overall score: 18



Map 30: Designations



Map 31: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 32: Refined HLC

THECZ 12 – West of Hopwas (HECA 2a)

Summary

This zone had once formed part of Cannock Forest and by the later post medieval period appears to have formed part of Hopwas Heath. The heath was enclosed following an Act of Parliament in 1771 and by the late 19th century a chapel of ease and a pumping station had been established. Over the course of the 20th century the zone has seen considerable development as part of the settlement of Hopwas.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is unlikely to have an impact upon the historic landscape character of the zone, which has largely been developed during the 20th century. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the adjacent Conservation Area
- the impact upon the listed buildings
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 33)

There are two listed buildings lying within the zone and Hopwas Conservation Area lies adjacent to the east.

Archaeological Character (map 34)

The overall character of THECZ 12 from the prehistoric period is likely to have been a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy from the Bronze Age onwards involving clearance of woodland resulting in the formation of heath land across the wider landscape.

At present little archaeological work has been carried out and consequently the impact of human agency between the prehistoric and medieval periods is not well understood within the zone.

Historic Landscape (map 35)

By the mid 12th century the zone formed part of the Royal forest of Cannock along with the wider area. By 1222 Hopwas Hay had been formed as a division of the forest, there being five other hays or divisions during the medieval period. The Hay was administered by foresters and covered a large area to the south west of Lichfield. The landscape is likely to have been predominantly woodland with cleared areas to foster hunting and to farm the trees for timber. By the later post medieval period the landscape appears to

have been cleared of trees and formed a heath land where the inhabitants of Hopwas probably pastured their animals.

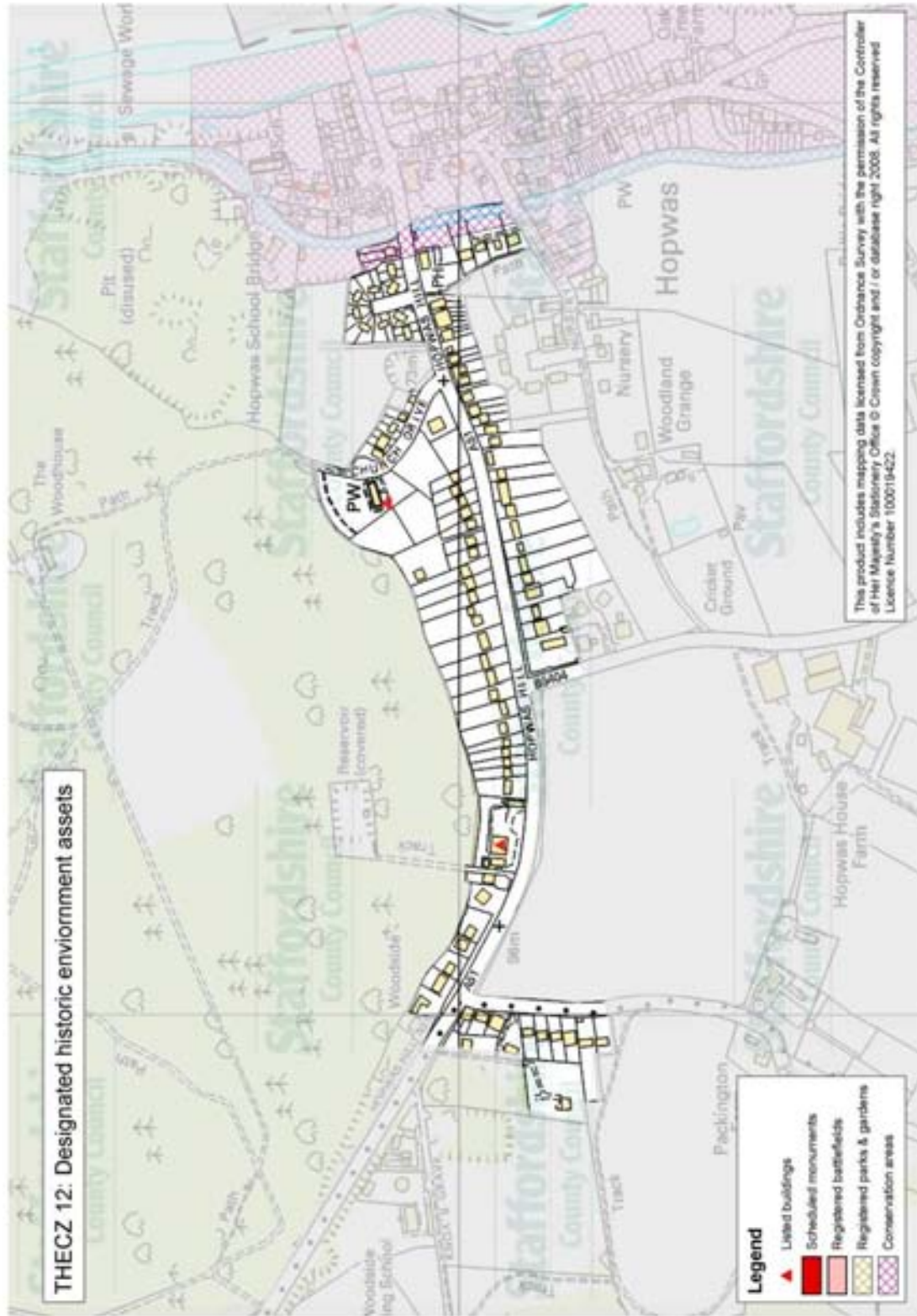
In 1771 an Act of Parliament was passed to enclose Hopwas Heath and a field system was created which was laid out by surveyors' in an ordered manner typified by straight field boundaries. By the late 19th century the landscape was still predominantly rural in nature but a pumping station, to supply water to Tamworth, and a chapel of ease had been built within the zone, both of which survive as Grade II listed buildings.

Settlement began to develop within the zone during the first half of the 20th century, but the greatest period of expansion came in the later 20th century.

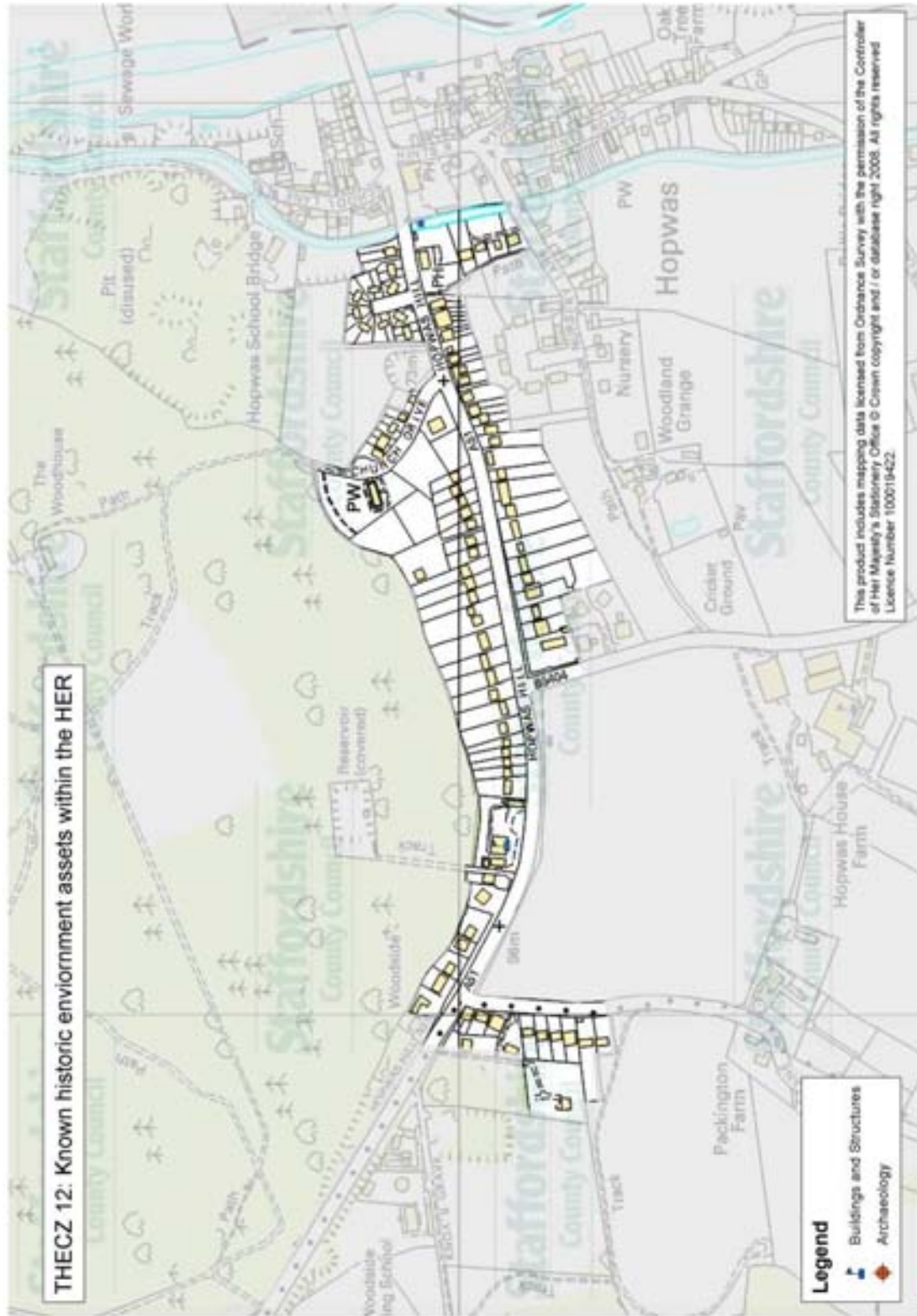
Historic Assets Summary Table

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Survival | The zone has been impacted by development during the 20 th century. | 1 |
| Potential | The potential for surviving historic environment assets has been reduced by development although two late 19 th century listed buildings survive. There is the potential for unknown historic environment assets to survive, but any mitigation would be determined on a site-by-site basis. | 1 |
| Documentation | HER data | 1 |
| Diversity | The known surviving historic environment assets relate to buildings of late 19 th century date. | 1 |
| Group Association | There are few known historic environment assets, although they do date to a similar period. | 1 |
| Amenity Value | The historic environment does not currently lend itself to interpretation. | 1 |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | Medium to large scale development would not have a significant impact upon the historic environment assets although individual features may be affected. | 1 |

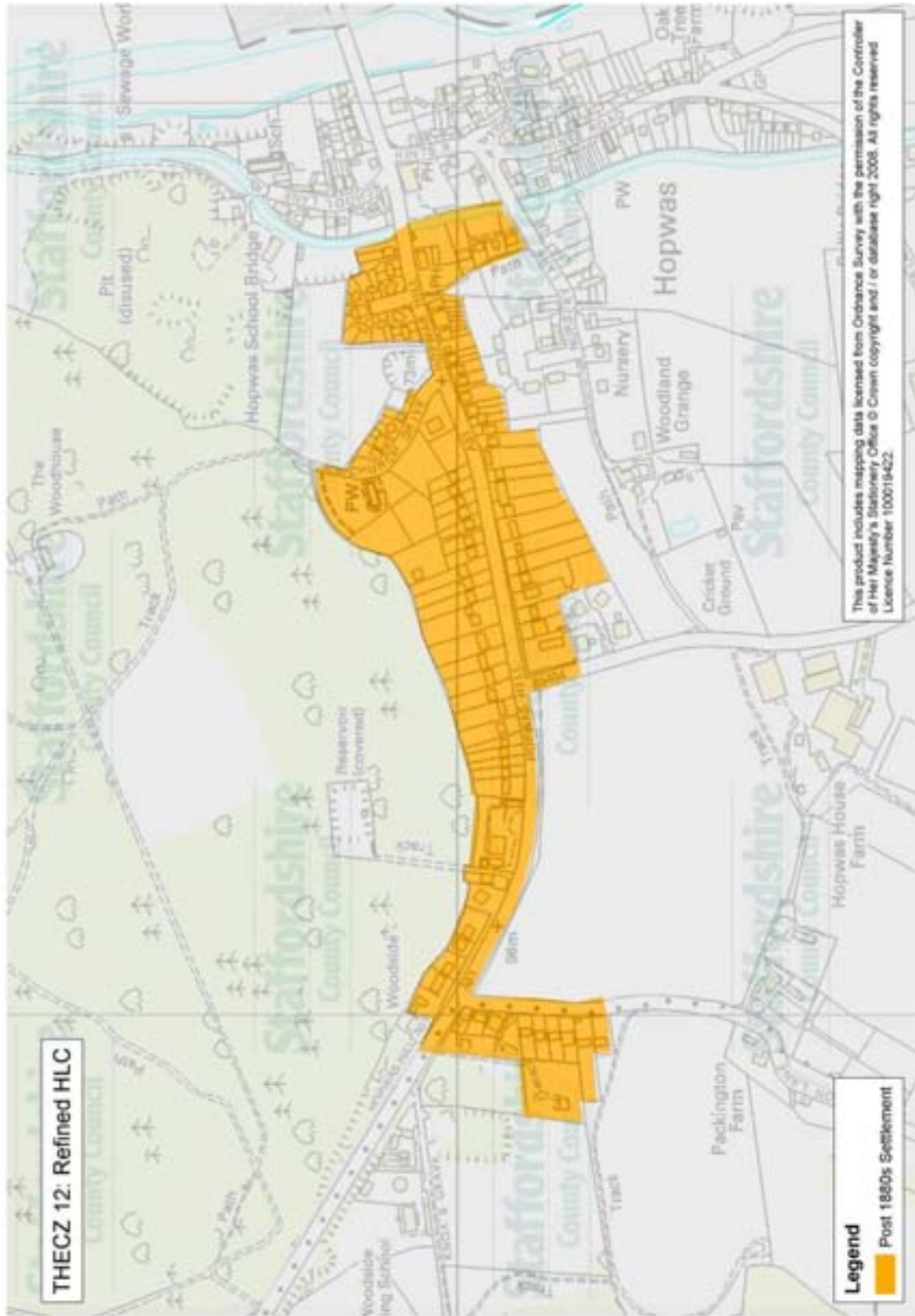
Overall score: 7



Map 33: Designations



Map 34: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 35: Refined HLC

THECZ 13 – Hopwas (HECA 13a)

Summary

The zone comprises the historic core of Hopwas which dates to at least the medieval period, but whose origins probably pre-date the Norman Conquest (1066). The zone has seen the expansion of housing during the second half of the 20th century in terms of the infilling of pre-existing building plots.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is likely to have at least a moderate impact upon historic landscape character of the zone, particularly upon the listed buildings and the Conservation Area, as well as upon the potential archaeological deposits. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the Conservation Area
- the impact upon the listed buildings
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 36)

Four listed buildings exist within the zone and it is also encompassed by the Hopwas Conservation Area.

Archaeological Character (map 37)

The zone lies mostly within the floodplain of the Tame valley. It is likely, given the wealth of prehistoric data known for the river valleys of eastern Staffordshire, that this landscape had been largely cleared of trees by the Bronze Age. Although little is known about the prehistoric to medieval period for the zone there is evidence of human activity dating from this period in the wider area around it (see THECZ 6 and 7)

Historic Landscape (map 38)

It is likely that a settlement of some description existed within the zone by the later Early Medieval period as Hopwas is recorded in Domesday Book (1086) with 15 families. The economy was based upon arable agriculture as a watermill is also recorded along with meadow land, which is likely to have been located adjacent to the river Tame. The site of the mill is currently unknown but may have been situated near the village on the river Tame. The settlement lies on the western side of the river valley and the landscape included some evidence of an open field agricultural system on the eastern side of the settlement. This agricultural system was usually worked as two or more fields in rotation between arable and fallow that were not divided by hedgerows.

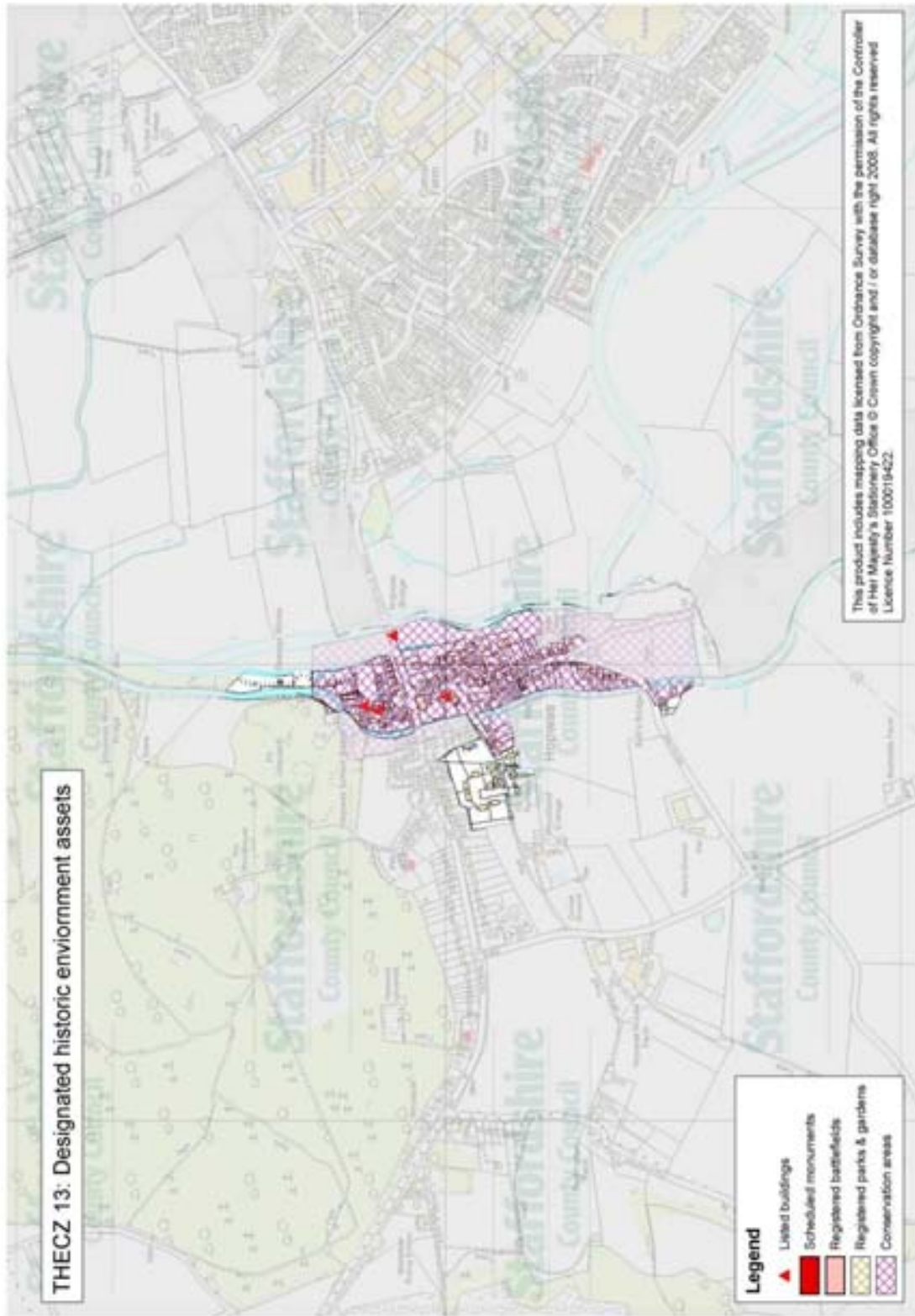
The open fields were later enclosed as piecemeal enclosure, through a process of informal verbal agreements between the landholders. This process resulted in a landscape of irregular fields divided by hedgerows and probably mostly laid down to either permanent pasture or pasture in rotation with crops. This enclosure occurred at different times across Staffordshire, but was underway by the 16th century.

The oldest known surviving building dates to the late 17th century, now a row of timber framed cottages, but probably originally one property. A school was established in 1717 and the school house survives. The settlement did not have its own church with the congregation having to go to Wigginton until the early 19th century when a chapel was built at nearby Coton (see THECZ 12 for the chapel of ease constructed at Hopwas). The settlement has expanded considerably during the second half of the 20th century particularly as infill development between existing building plots.

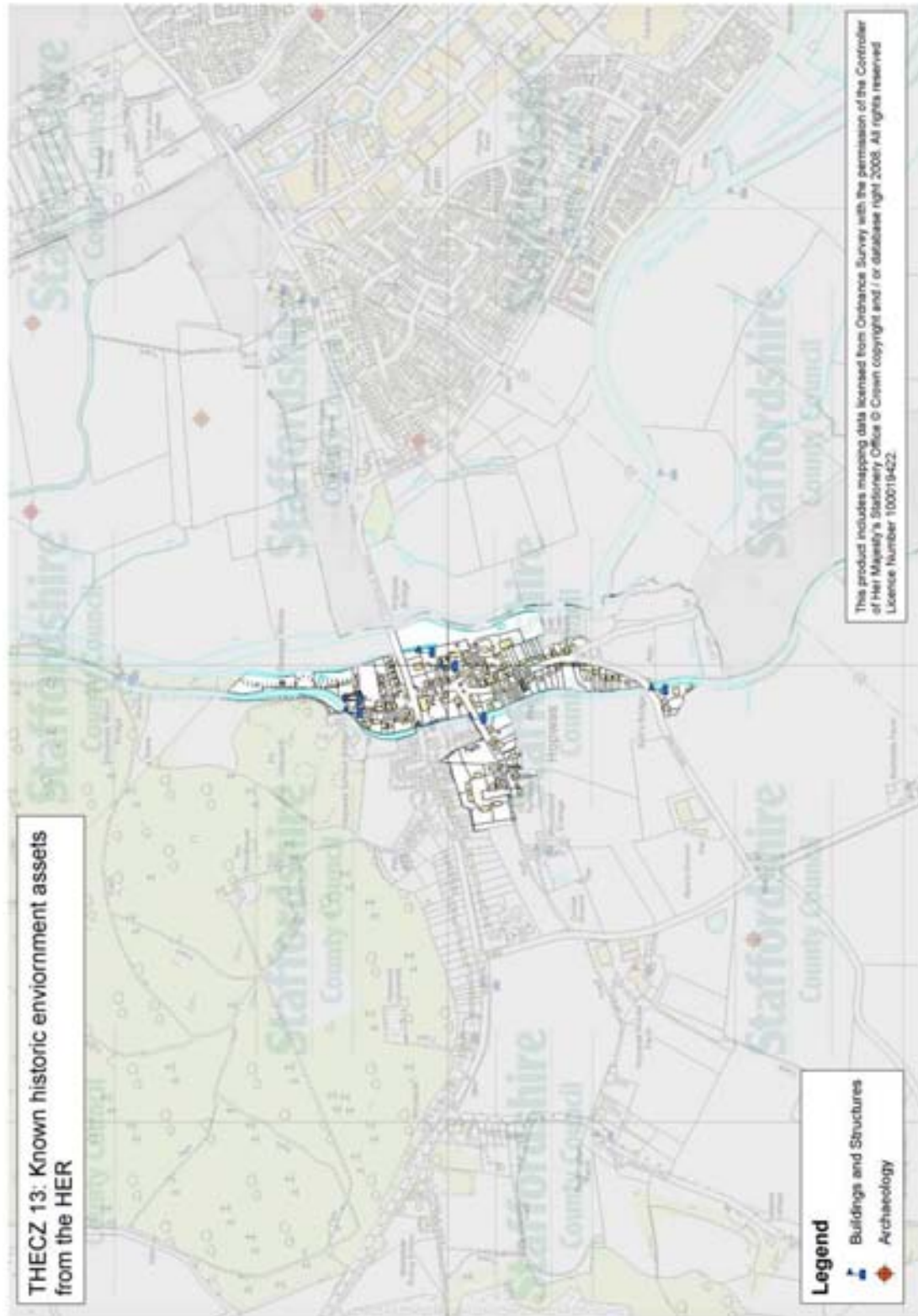
The Coventry Canal was constructed in the late 18th century to the west of the main settlement area.

Historic Assets Summary Table

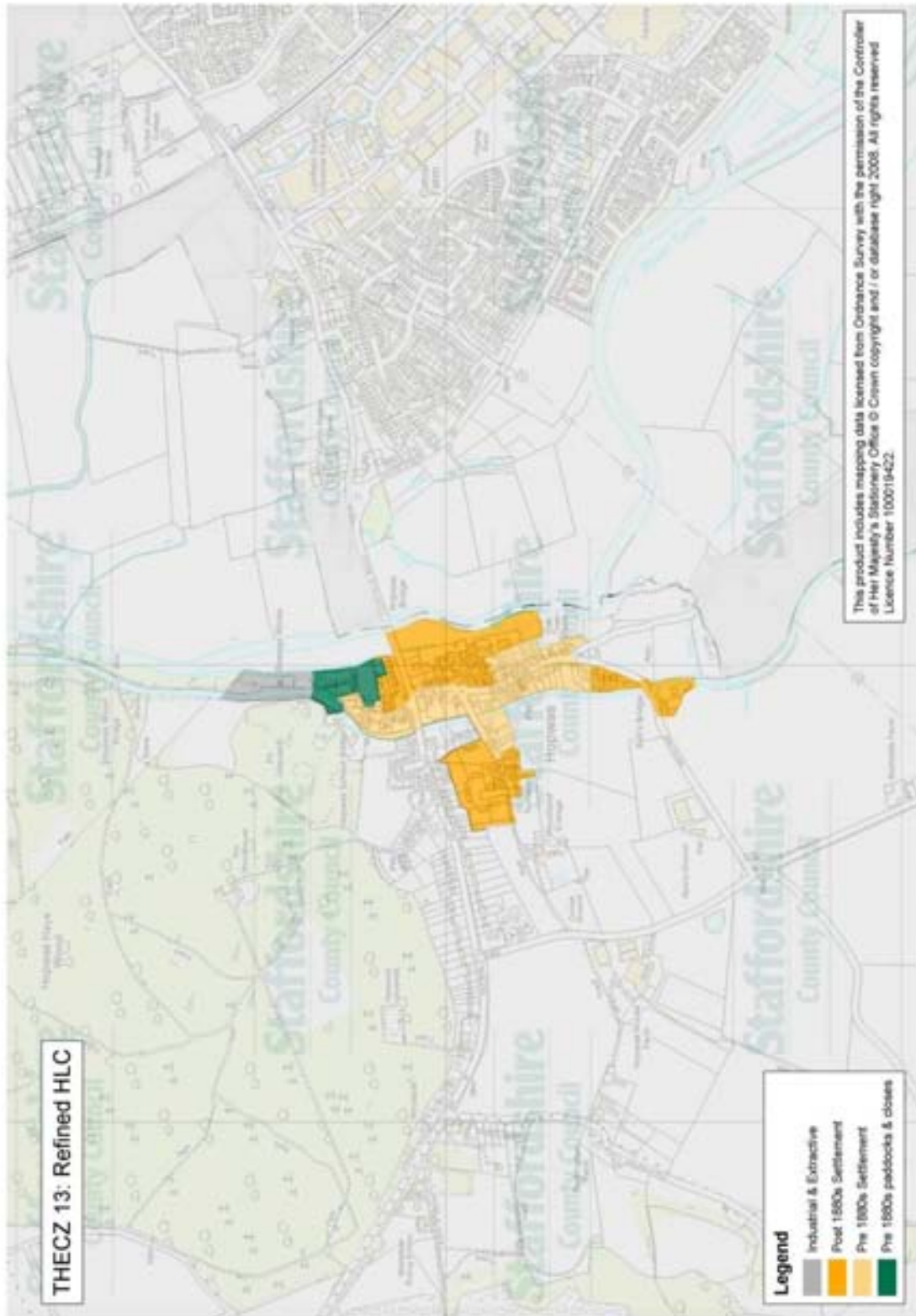
| | | |
|---|--|-----------|
| Survival | The zone has been developed, but several historic buildings survive. | 2 |
| Potential | There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive associated with earlier settlement in some areas of the zone. | 2 |
| Documentation | HER data | 1 |
| Diversity | There are a range of historic environment assets from the potential for buried remains associated with earlier settlement to the surviving historic buildings and the canal. | 2 |
| Group Association | There are a number of known historic environment assets of a similar date and type. There is an association between the canal and its structures. | 2 |
| Amenity Value | The canal provides a public amenity which contributes to a sense of place. | 2 |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | There is likely to be a moderate impact upon the historic environment assets of the zone in terms of the listed buildings and conservation area in particular, but also upon potential below ground archaeology. | 2 |
| Overall score | | 13 |



Map 36: Designations



Map 37: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 38: Refined HLC

THECZ 14 – Bonehill (HECA 2b)

Summary

The zone had once formed part of Cannock Forest and the landscape is likely to have been dominated by woodland or heath land prior to the mid 13th century when the settlement of Bonehill is first recorded. The zone is dominated by 20th century development although a couple of historic buildings survive, notably Bonehill House a Grade II listed building.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic landscape character of the zone. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the Conservation Area
- the impact upon the Listed Building
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 39)

One listed building lies within the zone as well as part of the Fazeley (Bonehill) Conservation Area.

Archaeological Character (map 40)

The overall character of THECZ 14 from the prehistoric period is likely to have been a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy from the Bronze Age onwards involving clearance of woodland resulting in the formation of heath land across the wider landscape.

At present little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the impact of human agency between the prehistoric and medieval periods is not well understood. However, the zone lies approximately 400m to the west of the Tame valley where there is evidence for human activity dating from the later prehistoric period onwards and thus it is possible that human activity encroached into this area in some form or another. The line of the Roman road of Watling Street ran east west approximately 250m south of the zone.

Bonehill lies approximately 2km to the south east of Tamworth which had been the focus of the Mercia kingdom in the 8th and 9th centuries and was re-founded as a settlement in AD 913 when it continued to prosper as a market town.

Historic Landscape (map 41)

By the mid 12th century the zone formed part of the Royal forest of Cannock and was probably dominated by a woodland or heath land character.

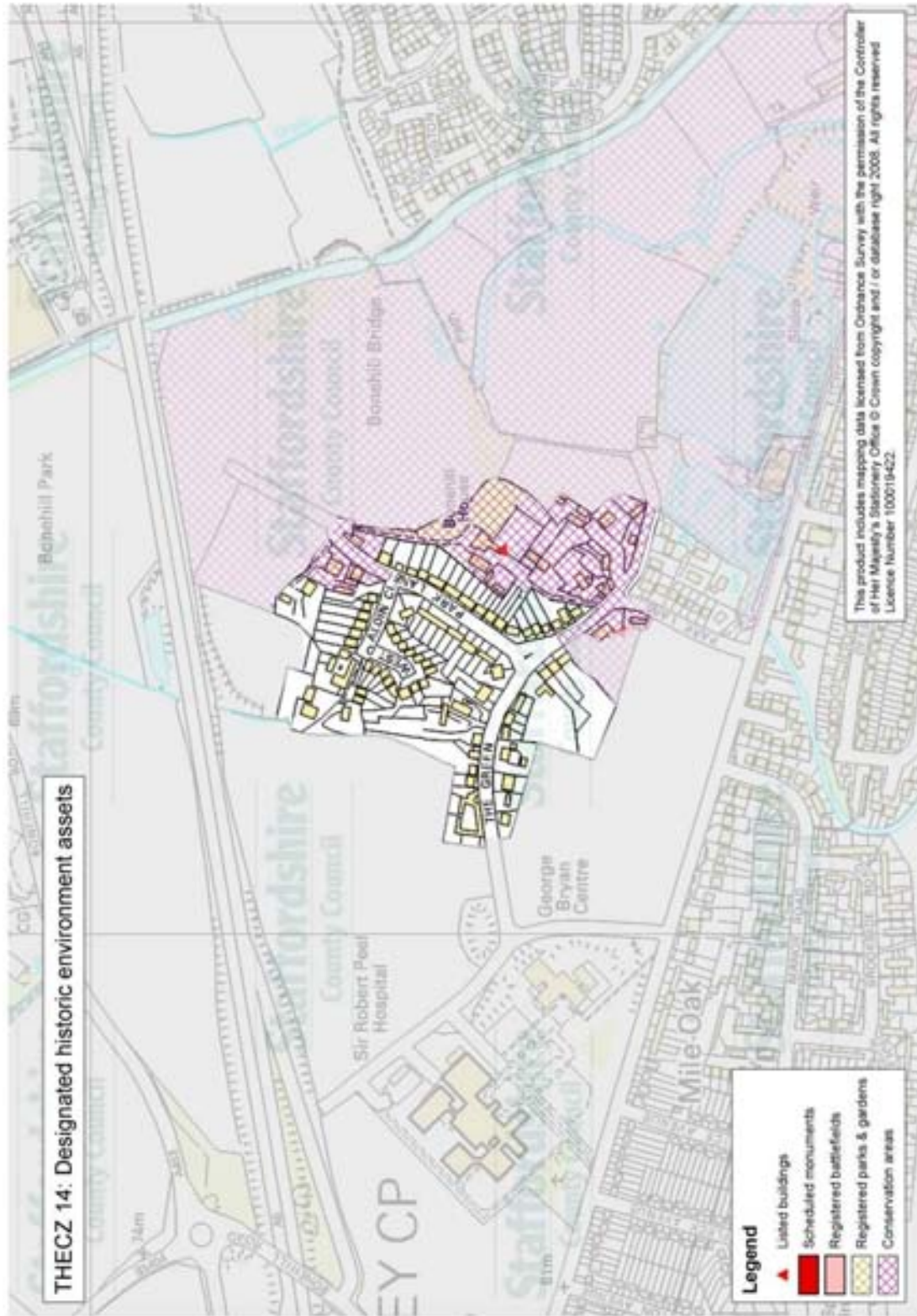
Settlement at Bonehill is recorded from the mid 13th century onwards although mapping from the late 18th and 19th century does not depict a large settlement and it is possible that it had comprised a collection of farmsteads from the medieval period onwards. One historic farmstead has been recorded as surviving which has not been closely dated. However, the origins of this farm could date from the medieval period.

Bonehill House, a Grade II listed building, dates to around 1830 and had originally been associated with a landscape park (see THECZ 3).

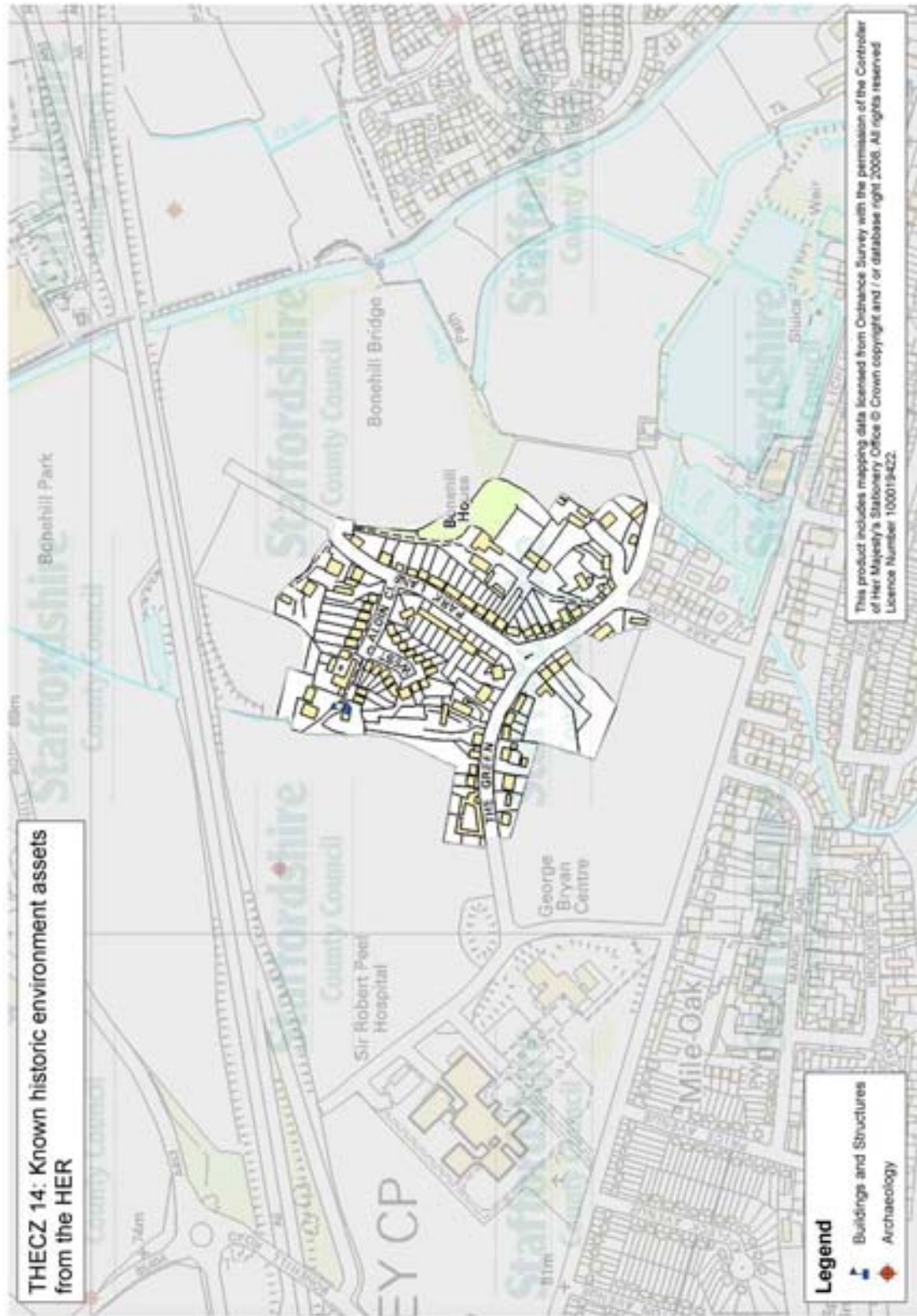
During the 20th century the settlement of Bonehill expanded considerably, probably influenced by its proximity to Tamworth.

Historic Assets Summary Table

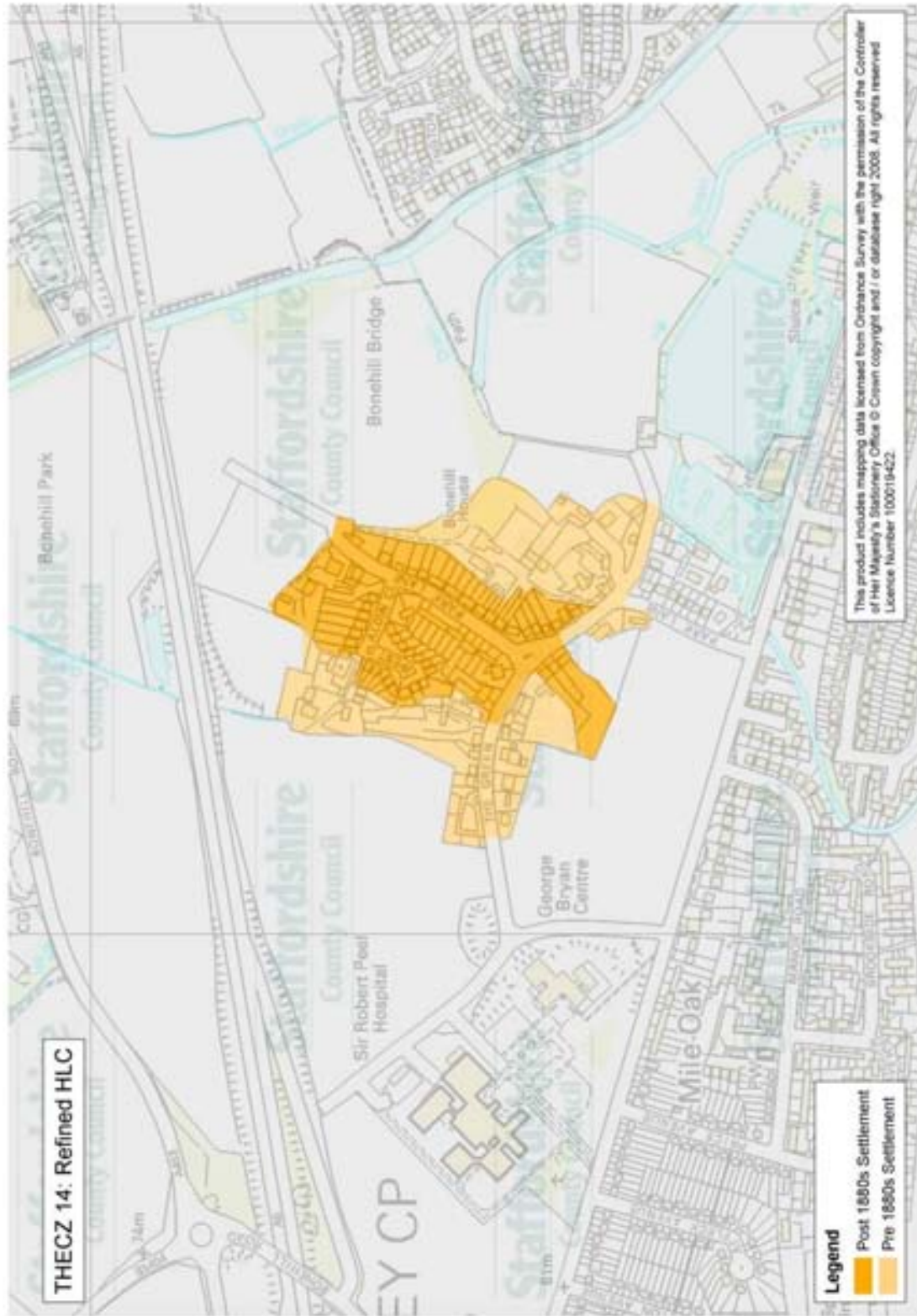
| | | |
|---|---|----------|
| Survival | The zone has been impacted by modern development during the second half of the 20 th century, although mitigation may be required on particular developments within the zone but this would be determined upon a site-by-site basis. | 1 |
| Potential | There is the potential for some areas where archaeological deposits relating to earlier settlement may survive, although this may have been impacted to some degree by 20 th century development | 1 |
| Documentation | HER data | 1 |
| Diversity | There are a few known assets and these mainly relate to surviving historic built assets such as Bonehill House and the historic farmstead. There is also the potential for deposits relating to earlier settlement to survive. | 2 |
| Group Association | There may be an association between the surviving historic buildings or between the surviving road system and any evidence for earlier settlement. | 2 |
| Amenity Value | The historic environment does not currently lend itself to interpretation. | 1 |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | Medium to large scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment assets although individual features may be affected. | 1 |
| Overall score | | 9 |



Map 39: Designations



Map 40: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 41: Refined HLC

THECZ 15 – Fazeley (HECA 13a)

Summary

This zone is dominated by the historic core of the settlement of Fazeley which was first recorded in documentary sources in the early 12th century. Several historic buildings survive which mostly date to the 19th century and are testimony to the economic importance of the cloth industry during that period and the influence of the Peel family in particular. The medieval origins of the town, both in terms of settlement and industry, are not currently well understood. There has been a significant amount of 20th century development within the zone.

The zone lies within the Tame valley and the confluence of the River Tame and Bourne Brook lies in the south eastern corner of the zone. Consequently there is the potential for pre-medieval archaeology to survive in the zone. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the Conservation Area
- the impact upon the Listed Buildings
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits particularly in terms of its medieval origins, but also the potential for prehistoric remains to survive.

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 42)

Nine listed structures lie within the zone and the Fazeley Conservation Area covers the historic core and the canal basin to the south.

Archaeological Character (map 43)

THECZ 15 lies on the western side of the Tame valley with the river running along the eastern boundary and the Bourne Brook running east-west to the south. The confluence of the River Tame and Bourne Brook lies in the south eastern corner of the zone.

The river valleys of eastern Staffordshire, including the Tame, have been a focus of human activity since at least the Bronze Age and in some areas since the Neolithic. Little is currently known about human activity within the zone prior to the medieval period, however, there is pre-medieval evidence from the wider area. Of particular interest are the results of an excavation carried out in the Tame valley located approximately 400m from the southern boundary in THECZ 2. The results suggest that woodland dominated the landscape of the zone until the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. From this period open grassland became dominant, suggesting that humans were manipulating the landscape by clearing the woodland to create an environment that could

support a pastoral economy. The pollen record also revealed that arable agriculture and in particular the growing of cereals was being carried out in the vicinity at a similar period. The presence of an arable economy strongly suggests that settlement was present somewhere in the wider area. It is possible that settlement could have occurred within this zone where the land begins to rise up out of the valley.

Watling Street Roman road runs north west – south east across the zone crossing the River Tame approximately 135m north of the confluence with the Bourne Brook. It is not currently known whether the crossing was a natural fording place. A ford in such a location may have been used in the later prehistoric period and would perhaps encouraged settlement in the immediate area. However, further research would be required to determine the likelihood of this site as an early crossing point.

There is currently little evidence for human activity in the zone during the early medieval period, however, any activity is likely to have been carried out on a similar scale as to what had occurred earlier. It is likely that grassland continued to dominate with some, or even increasing arable agriculture being carried out throughout the period. The zone lies approximately 2km to the south of Tamworth which had been the focus of the Mercia kingdom in the 8th and 9th centuries and was re-founded as a settlement in AD 913 when it continued to prosper as a market town. Tamworth manor was held by the king in 1086 and was still a royal manor in the late 13th century.

Historic Landscape (map 44)

Fazeley is first recorded in the early 12th century and the zone encompasses the area of the historic core of the settlement. However, the earliest known standing buildings date from the early 19th century and are probably associated with a period of economic growth in the settlement based upon the cloth industry promoted by the Peel family. A surviving grade II listed 18th century watermill and mill pond lies on the western side of the zone. It was built for Sir Robert Peel and operated as a cotton mill. To the south of the church stood another cotton mill which was built in the 1790s by Peel and Wilkes. The mill was associated with a mill pond which has since been backfilled. The cotton mill apparently continued in use until the 1920s.

The presence of a Grade II listed steam powered textile mill dating to the late 19th century is also testimony to the continued reliance of the economy of Fazeley on the cloth industry (see THECZ 17 for earlier watermill). The presence of the Bourne Brook had fostered industrial processes by the later 18th century, but it is currently unknown to what extent the inhabitants of Fazeley were involved in industry prior to this date.

Sir Robert Peel was a particular benefactor to the village paying for the church to be built in the village between 1853 and 1855 as well financing a row of workers' houses known as Fireproof Cottages.

Other important features probably associated with the growth of industry in the settlement are the re-building of the bridge across the River Tame between circa 1796 and 1800. By the beginning of the 19th century two canals met in Fazeley, the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal which runs north-south, and the Coventry Canal running east-west. The canals are still associated with several listed canal bridge and other features. The large canal wharf to the south of the zone was constructed in the second half of the 20th century to cater for the growing popularity of the inland waterways for pleasure and tourism.

On the southern and eastern side of the zone lie the 20th century expansion to the town including housing and an industrial estate. Beyond these lies an area of parkland which had been established upon a field system probably created in the 18th/19th century. However there have been 20th century developments within the oldest part of Fazeley with re-development along Mill Lane and on the site of Drayton Mill.

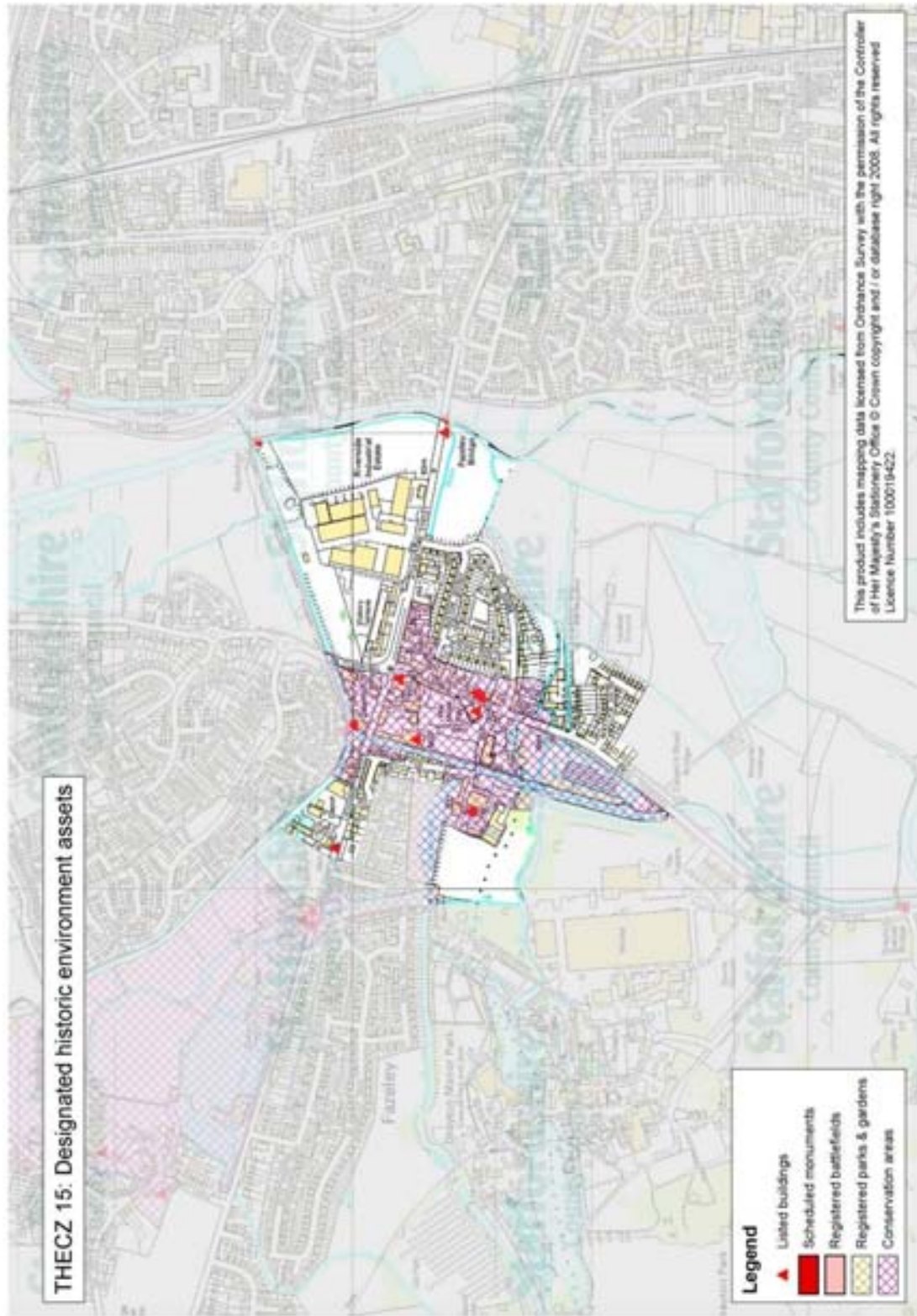
Historic Assets Summary Table

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Survival | The zone has been impacted by development during the 19 th – 21 st centuries. However, mitigation may be required on particular developments within the zone but this would be determined upon a site-by-site basis. | 1 |
| Potential | There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive across much of the zone relating to earlier settlement and industrial processes. | 2 |
| Documentation | HER data | 1 |
| Diversity | The zone contains a range of assets of different date and character from the surviving historic buildings of 18 th and 19 th century date; the canal system; the potential for earlier archaeological remains. | 2 |
| Group Association | There are strong associations between the built heritage assets in terms of their date and links to the Peel family. The canal system is also important to understanding the development of Fazeley. | 2 |
| Amenity Value | The historic environment probably does help to define a sense of place, but this could probably be enhanced through interpretation and promotion; particularly the understanding of the village's industrial heritage and the connection with the Peel family and the Tory prime minister in particular. | 2 |

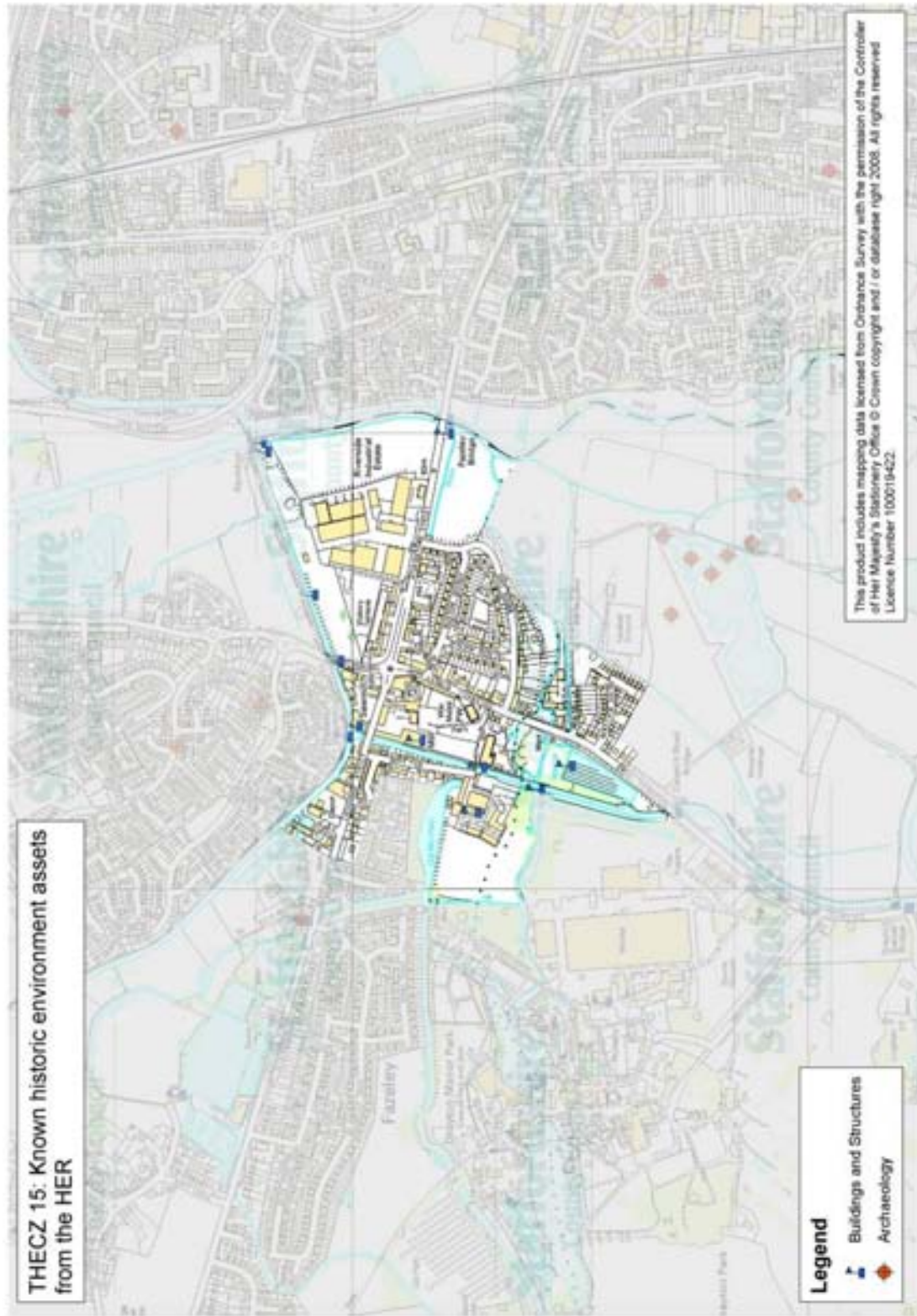
| | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | Large to medium scale development is likely to have a moderate impact upon the zone in terms of the surviving historic buildings and the impact upon the Conservation Area. | 2 |
| Overall score | | 12 |

Bibliography

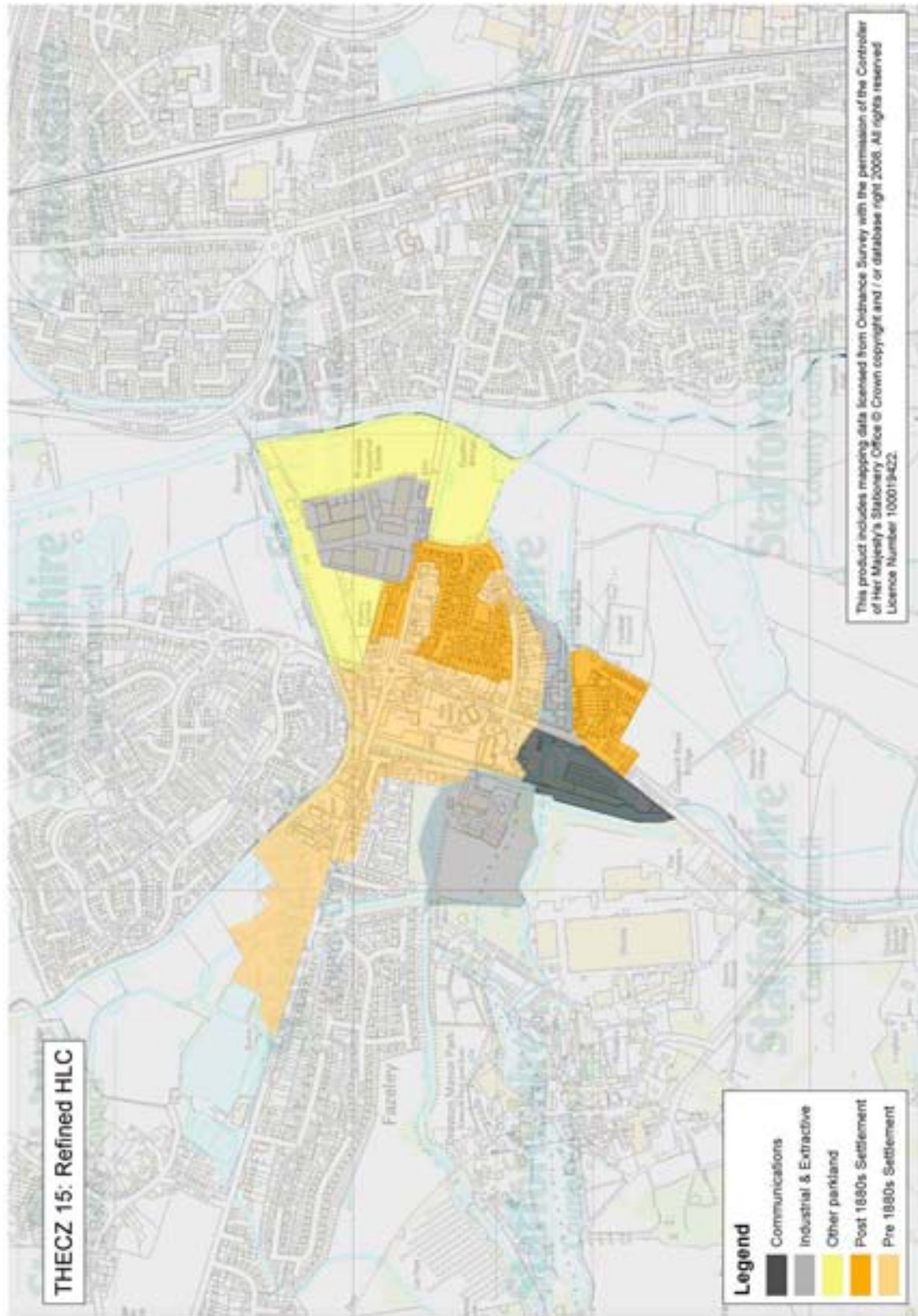
Yates, A (2008) *Watching brief and recording at Bullocks End Farm, Middleton Hall Quarry, Drayton Bassett, Staffordshire December 2004*. Unpublished report.



Map 42: Designations



Map 43: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 44: Refined HLC

THECZ 16 – Drayton Manor Park (HECA 2b)

Summary

The zone had once formed part of Cannock Forest and the landscape is likely to have been dominated by woodland or heath land. By the 13th century the western half of the zone had formed part of Drayton deer park, whose bounds appear to have survived until the 18th century. The zone is now dominated by Drayton Manor leisure park and zoo. The large ornamental lakes survive from the late 18th/19th century landscape park which had been associated with the manor house built by the Peel family which was demolished in the early 20th century.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is unlikely to have a significant impact upon historic landscape character of the zone. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the adjacent Conservation Areas
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 45)

The Fazeley Conservation Area lies adjacent to the east.

Archaeological Character (map 46)

The overall character of THECZ 16 from the prehistoric period is likely to have been a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy from the Bronze Age onwards involving clearance of woodland and possibly creating areas of heath land across the wider landscape.

At present little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the impact of human agency between the prehistoric and medieval periods is currently not well understood. However, the zone lies upon the Bourne Brook which has its confluence with the River Tame approximately 1km to the east (in THECZ 15). There is evidence in the Tame valley for human activity dating from the later prehistoric period onwards and thus it is possible that human activity encroached into this area in some form or another. The line of the roman road of Watling Street ran east west approximately 250m north of the zone.

A watermill is described as lying on the Bourne Brook within the zone, which has been postulated as the site of one of two mills described for Drayton manor in Domesday Book (1086). If it could be proved that this was the site of a late Early Medieval watermill and it would suggest that the area around

about was being cultivated at that date. However, the precise location of the watermill described in the 18th century is not known.

Historic Landscape (map 47)

By the mid 12th century the zone formed part of the Royal forest of Cannock and was probably dominated by a woodland or heath land character. The western half of the zone had formed part of Drayton deer park from at least the 13th century. It appears to have continued to function as a deer park until the late 18th century as its boundary is clearly defined upon Yates' county map of 1775. The manor house is depicted on the map, but it lay outside to the east of the deer park.

A manor house existed within the village of Drayton Bassett beyond the southern boundary of the zone between the 11th and 14th/15th century when it appears to have been abandoned. It is possible, therefore, that the site of Drayton Manor which lay within the zone was built to replace that earlier manorial site within the village. The pre-19th century manor house was described as being timber framed. The estate was bought by the Peel family, who were influential in the area (see THECZ 15 & 17) in the 1790s. The manor house was demolished and rebuilt in its final form as a mansion by the 1820s¹. A landscape park was established around the grand mansion which incorporated part of the original deer park to the west of the zone.

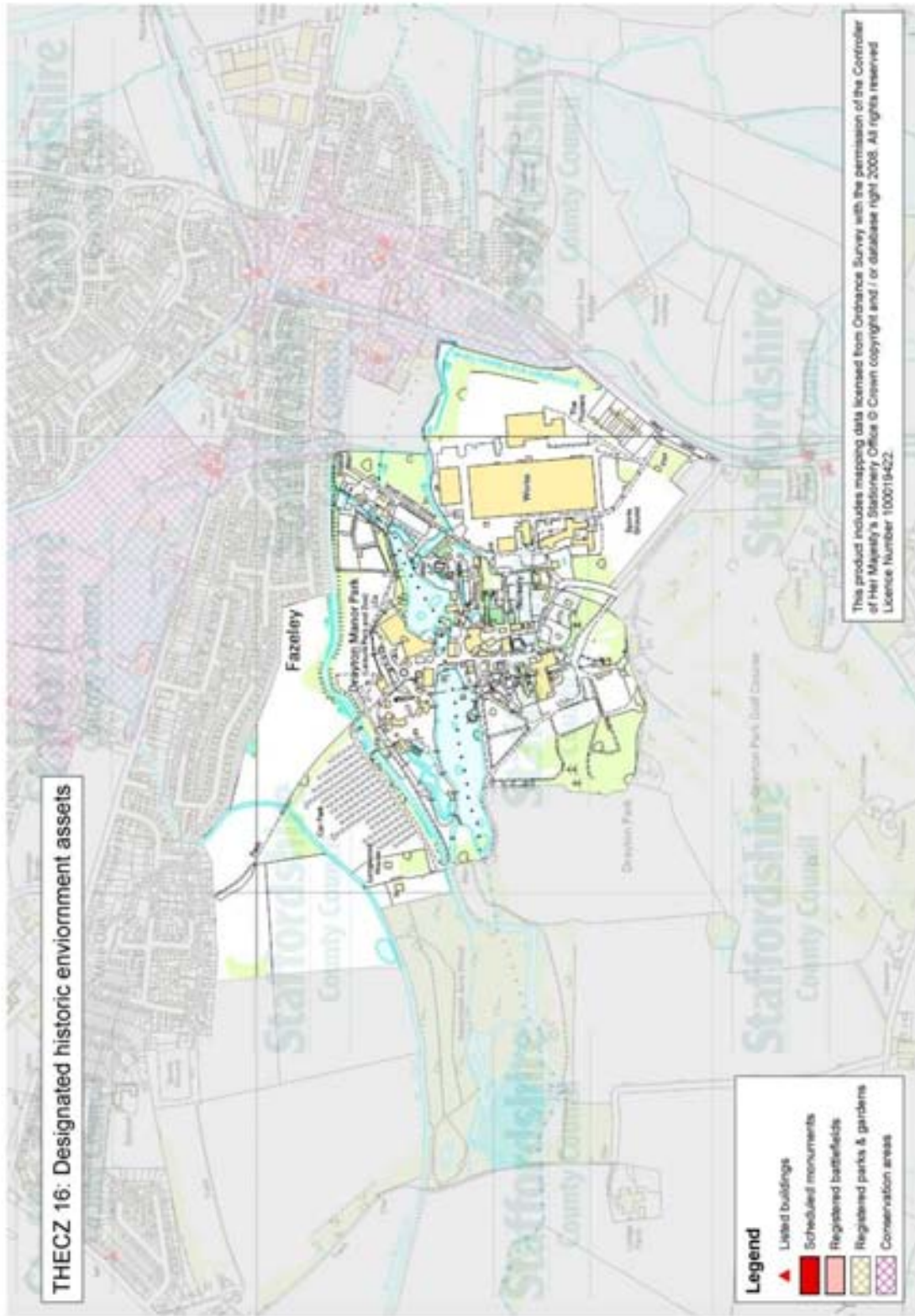
The mansion had been demolished by the mid 20th century and the leisure park and zoo were established in its grounds. The ornamental lakes and some woodland planting survive from the 18th/19th century landscape park.

Historic Assets Summary Table

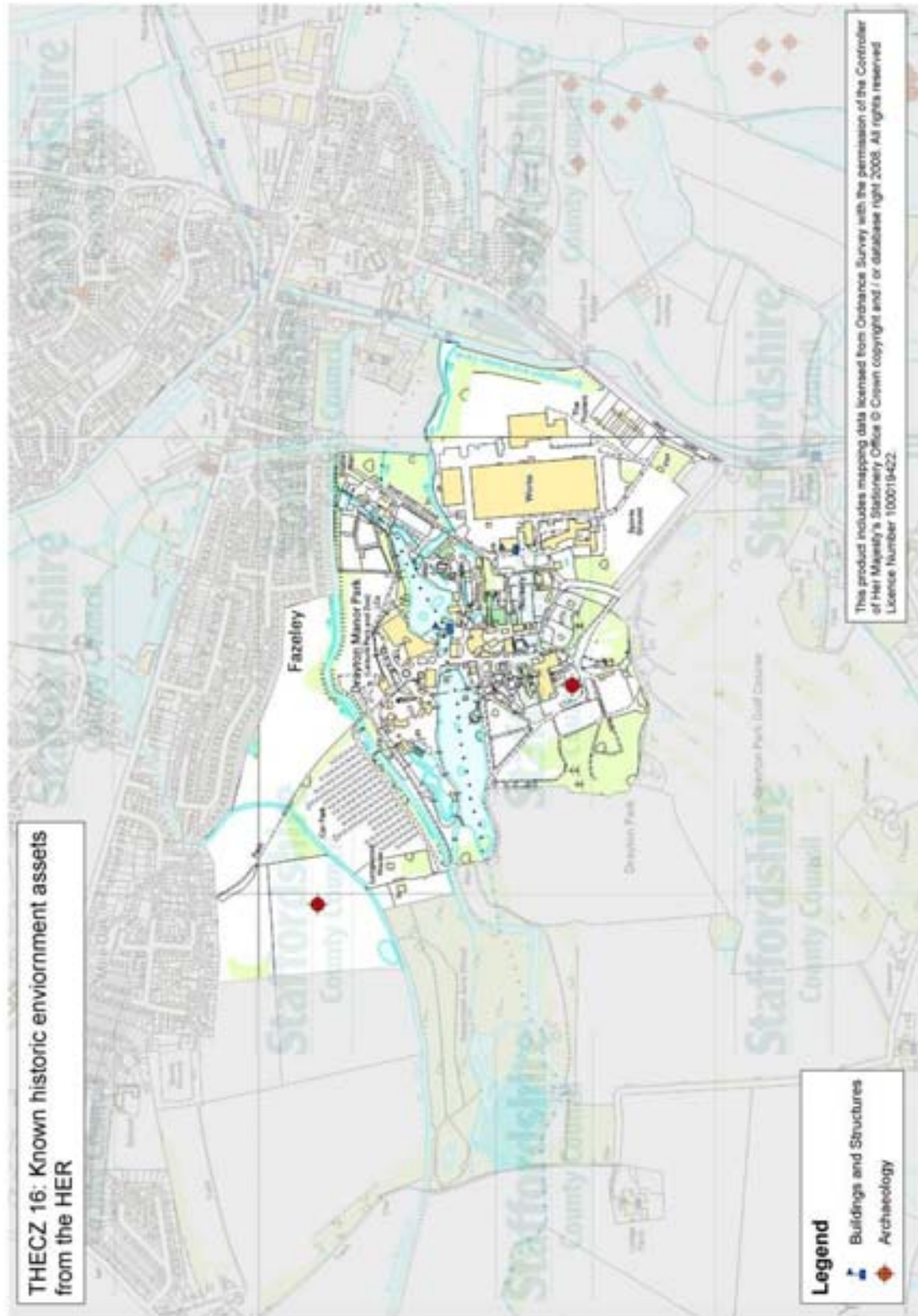
| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Survival | The zone has been impacted by the development of the leisure park and zoo, although mitigation may be required on particular developments within the zone but this would be determined upon a site-by-site basis. | 1 |
| Potential | The zone has been impacted but there may be areas where archaeological deposits survive relating to earlier land use and settlement. | 1 |
| Documentation | HER data | 1 |
| Diversity | The zone contains a range of assets including the surviving ornamental ponds, archaeological potential for previous settlement, particularly on the site of the mansion. | 2 |
| Group Association | There are potential associations between the surviving ponds and the archaeological potential for previous settlement. | 2 |
| Amenity Value | The historic environment does not | 1 |

| | | |
|---|---|----------|
| | currently lend itself to interpretation. | |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | Medium to large scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment assets although individual features may be affected. | 1 |
| Overall score | | 9 |

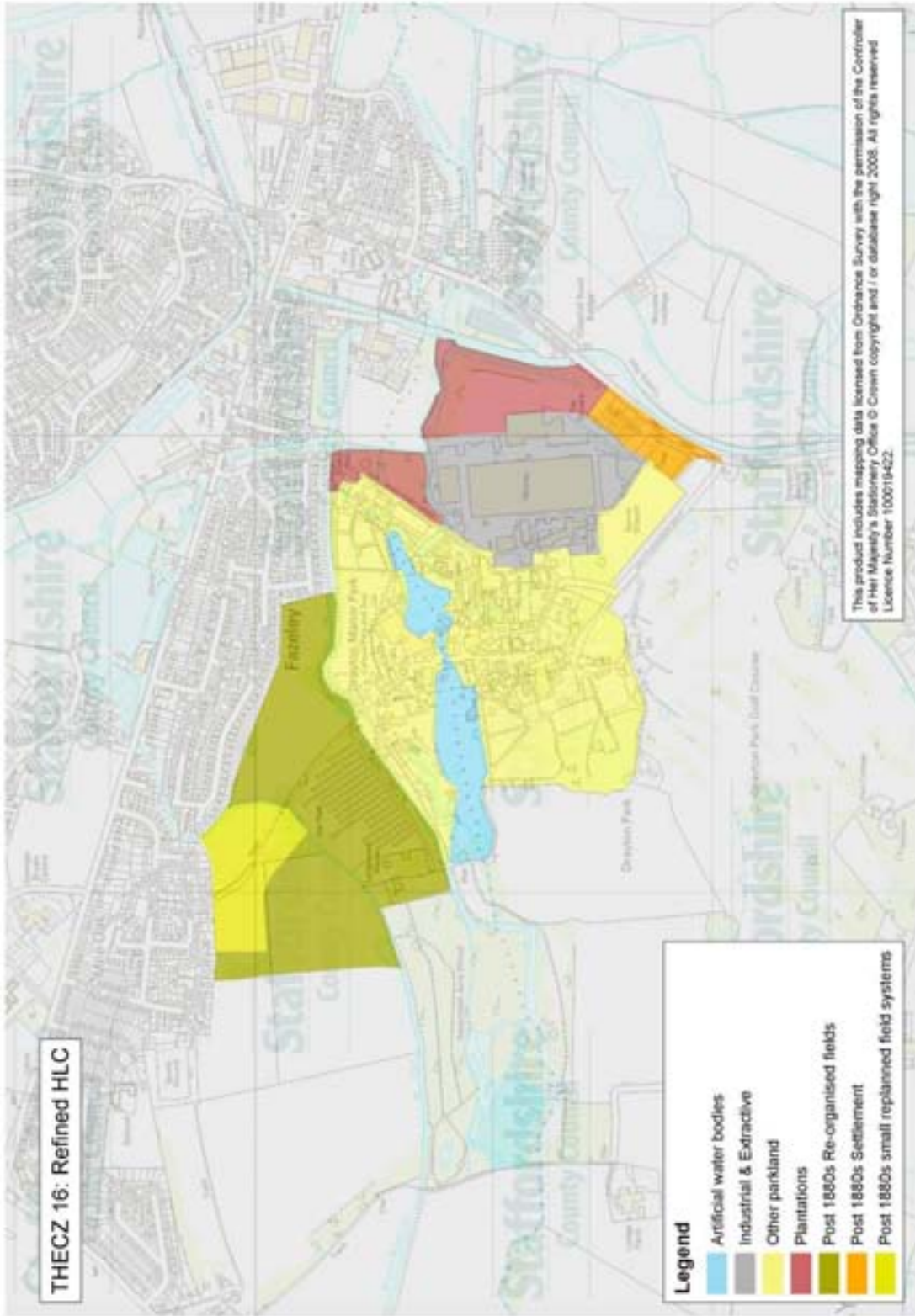
¹ Entry for Drayton Bassett on <http://www.places.staffspatrack.org.uk/default.asp>



Map 45: Designations



Map 46: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 47: Refined HLC

THECZ 17 – Bonehill Mill complex (HECA 13a)

Summary

This zone is dominated by the remains of the late 18th/19th century textile industry which was established in the Fazeley area by the Peel family. The surviving buildings mostly date to at least the early 19th century. To the east the Peel bleach works has been demolished but there is the potential for below ground archaeology to survive associated with the works. There also remains the potential for contamination issues within the area of the bleach works although further environmental site investigation would be required to confirm this. Of particular interest in the area, other than the surviving buildings, is the water system constructed to power and service the industry in the late 18th century. There are good opportunities to interpret the zone for the benefit of local people and visitors.

Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the Conservation Area
- the impact upon the Listed Buildings
- the impact upon the legibility of the industrial complex, particularly upon the water system associated with it.
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits particularly associated with the late 18th/19th century industrial processes across the whole area

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 48)

Three listed structures lie within the zone and it falls within the Fazeley (Bonehill) Conservation Area.

Archaeological Character (map 49)

THECZ 17 lies on the western edge of the Tame valley and the Bourne Brook running east-west lies to the south. The river valleys of eastern Staffordshire, including the Tame, have been a focus of human activity since at least the Bronze Age, and in some areas since the Neolithic.

While little is currently known about human activity within the zone prior to the medieval period there is evidence for pre-medieval activity from the wider area. Of particular interest are the results of an excavation carried out in the Tame valley located approximately 400m from the southern boundary of the THECZ. The results suggest that woodland dominated the landscape of the zone until the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. From this period open grassland became dominant, suggesting that humans were manipulating the landscape by clearing the woodland to create an environment that could

support a pastoral economy. The pollen record also revealed that arable agriculture, the growing of cereals was being carried out in the vicinity at a similar period. The presence of an arable economy strongly suggests that settlement was present somewhere in the wider area. It is possible that settlement could have occurred in the areas adjacent to the zone where the land begins to rise up out of the valley.

Watling Street Roman road runs north west – south east along the southern boundary of the zone.

There is currently little evidence for human activity in the zone during the early medieval period, however, any activity is likely to have been carried out on a similar scale as to what had occurred earlier. It is likely that grassland continued to dominate the wider area throughout the period. The zone lies approximately 2km to the south west of Tamworth which had been the focus of the Mercia kingdom in the 8th and 9th centuries and was re-founded as a settlement in AD 913 when it continued to prosper as a market town. Tamworth manor was held by the king in 1086 and was still a royal manor in the late 13th century.

Historic Landscape (map 50)

The zone lies along Watling Street between the two medieval settlements of Fazeley, first recorded in the early 12th century and Bonehill, first recorded in the mid 13th century. It is likely that the area was dominated by agriculture with little or no settlement, as is indicated on Yates' map of 1775. However, by the beginning of the 19th century the area had undergone some fundamental changes. The Peel family who bought Drayton Manor towards the end of the 18th century were instrumental in promoting the textile industry in Fazeley. Sir Robert Peel, the elder, established a calico print works at Bonehill Mill, which survives as a Grade II listed building. The main mill building appears to date to c.1800 as do other associated buildings which were likely to have been used in the industrial process. The Millhouse, another Grade II listed building, appears to have been converted to an industrial building from two cottages at an early date and probably utilised in the industrial processes on the site. The calico printing works had ceased operation by the 1830s when it is recorded that the site was converted to a corn mill and a couple of surviving buildings appear to date to that period.

The mill complex now forms part of a small industrial estate with later 20th century buildings having been constructed to the rear.

Of a similar date to the mill and lying approximately 20m west of it is a complex of late 18th century buildings which were probably constructed by the Peel family to house mill workers. The property closest to the mill is a further Grade II listed building originally constructed as three cottages, but now one property. Beyond it lie a further three properties, which are unlisted, but are similar in design to other cottages in Fazeley known to have been built by the Peel family.

Further west along Lichfield Street lies a modern industrial unit, which had been the site of a late 18th century bleach works also established by Sir Robert Peel. The complex expanded over time to incorporate later buildings and it continued as a bleach works until c.1964 and being demolished in the 1980s. A cottage standing on Lichfield Street dates to at least the 19th century.

Of particular interest within the zone are the reservoir complexes and various water channels which serviced both the bleach works and the calico printing works that were constructed in the late 18th century. The relationship between the water system and the mills is currently not well understood.

Other buildings within the zone include a small complex to the north of the bleach works site. It is possible that this was built as a farmstead, but it may also be associated with the industrial processes carried out further south. The buildings date to at least the late 19th century. The Laurels standing alone to the east of Bonehill Mill also dates to at least the 19th century and may have been associated with the industrial complex. Further research would be required to establish any relationship between these buildings and the industrial complexes in the zone.

The importance of this zone has already been recognised in its inclusion in the Bonehill conservation area designated in 1994. The potential for archaeological remains as well as the historic buildings formed a key element in the decision to designate.

Historic Assets Summary Table

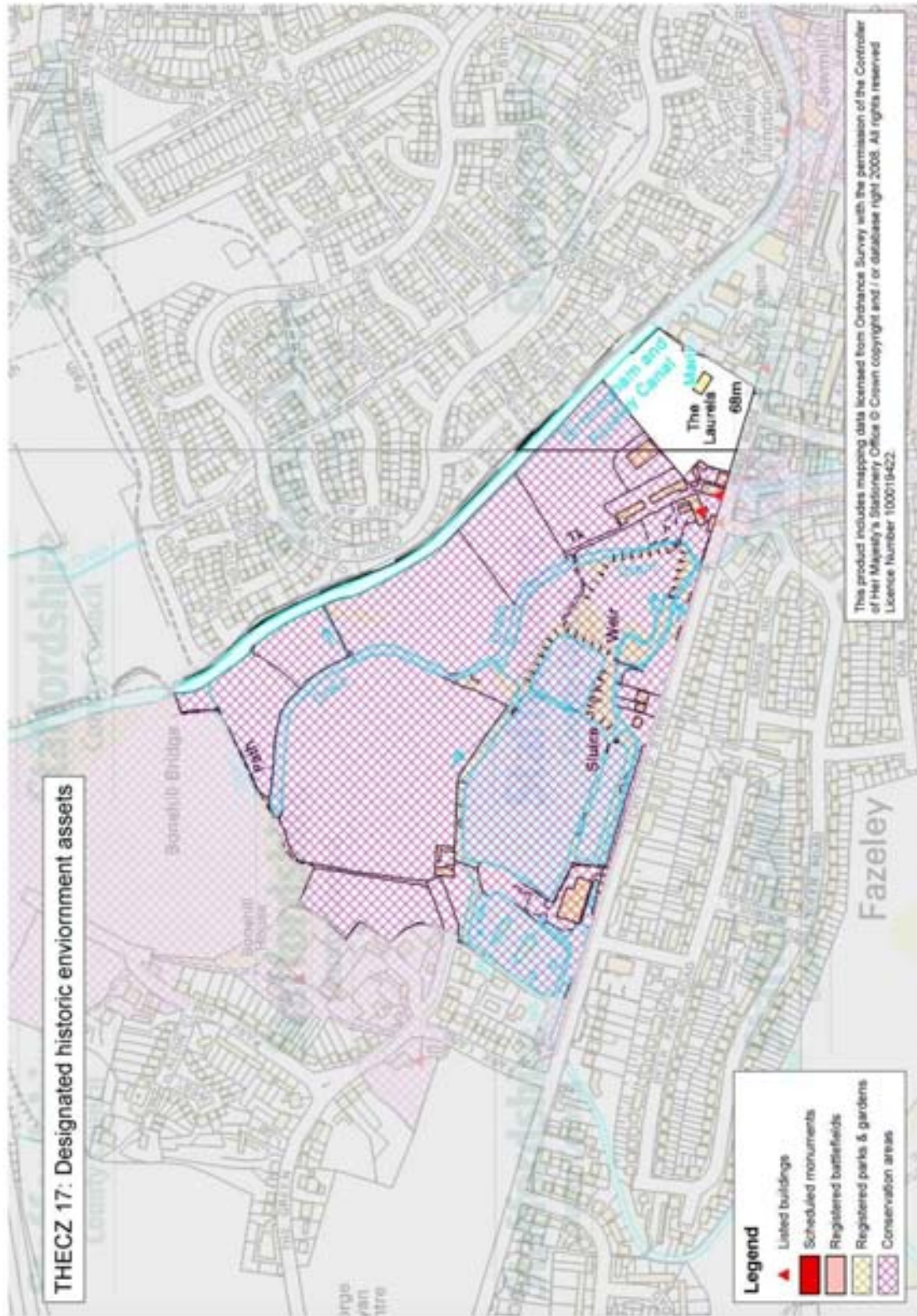
| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Survival | The zone contains little disturbance to the known 18 th /19 th century historic environment assets. | 3 |
| Potential | The surviving assets and little disturbance suggests a high potential for archaeological deposits to survive, particularly relating to the 18 th /19 th century industrial processes. | 3 |
| Documentation | HER data | 1 |
| Diversity | The zone contains a range of known assets of different character, but are of a similar date. | 2 |
| Group Association | All of the known assets within the zone, which principally comprise surviving historic buildings and structures associated with the 18 th /19 th century textile industry, are associated with one another. There is potential for below ground archaeology on the site of the bleach works and associated with the water system servicing the industry to survive. | 3 |
| Amenity Value | The historic environment could play a key role in the zones sense of place for both | 3 |

| | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| | local people and visitors. There is the potential for a better understanding of the development of the textile industry of Fazeley which could be presented and interpreted to the public associated with the surviving remains located here and in THECZ 15. | |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | The zone is highly sensitive to development due to the surviving historic buildings and the associated water system. | 3 |
| Overall score | | 18 |

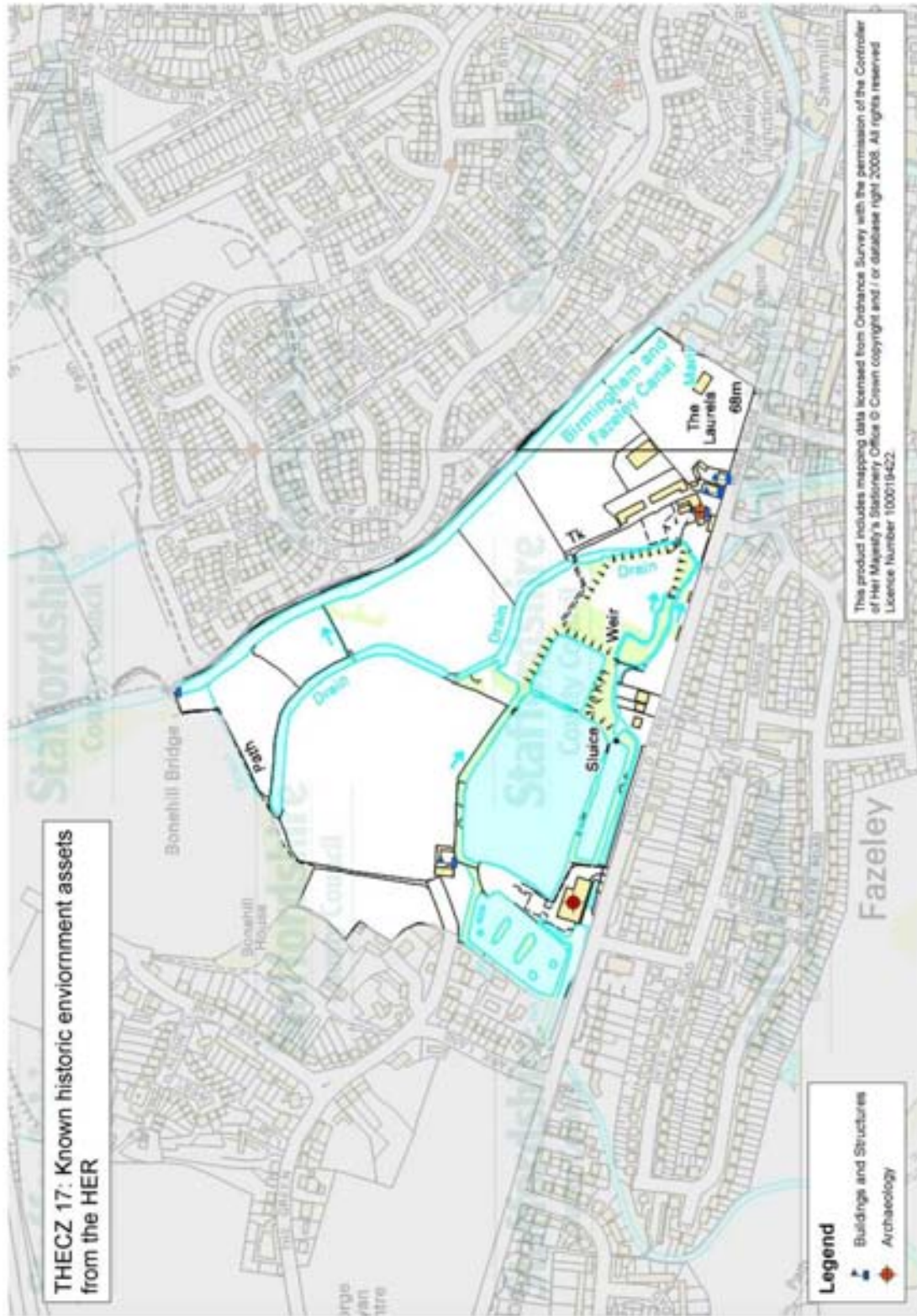
Bibliography

Lichfield District Council. (1995). *Bonehill conservation area document*.
Lichfield District Council

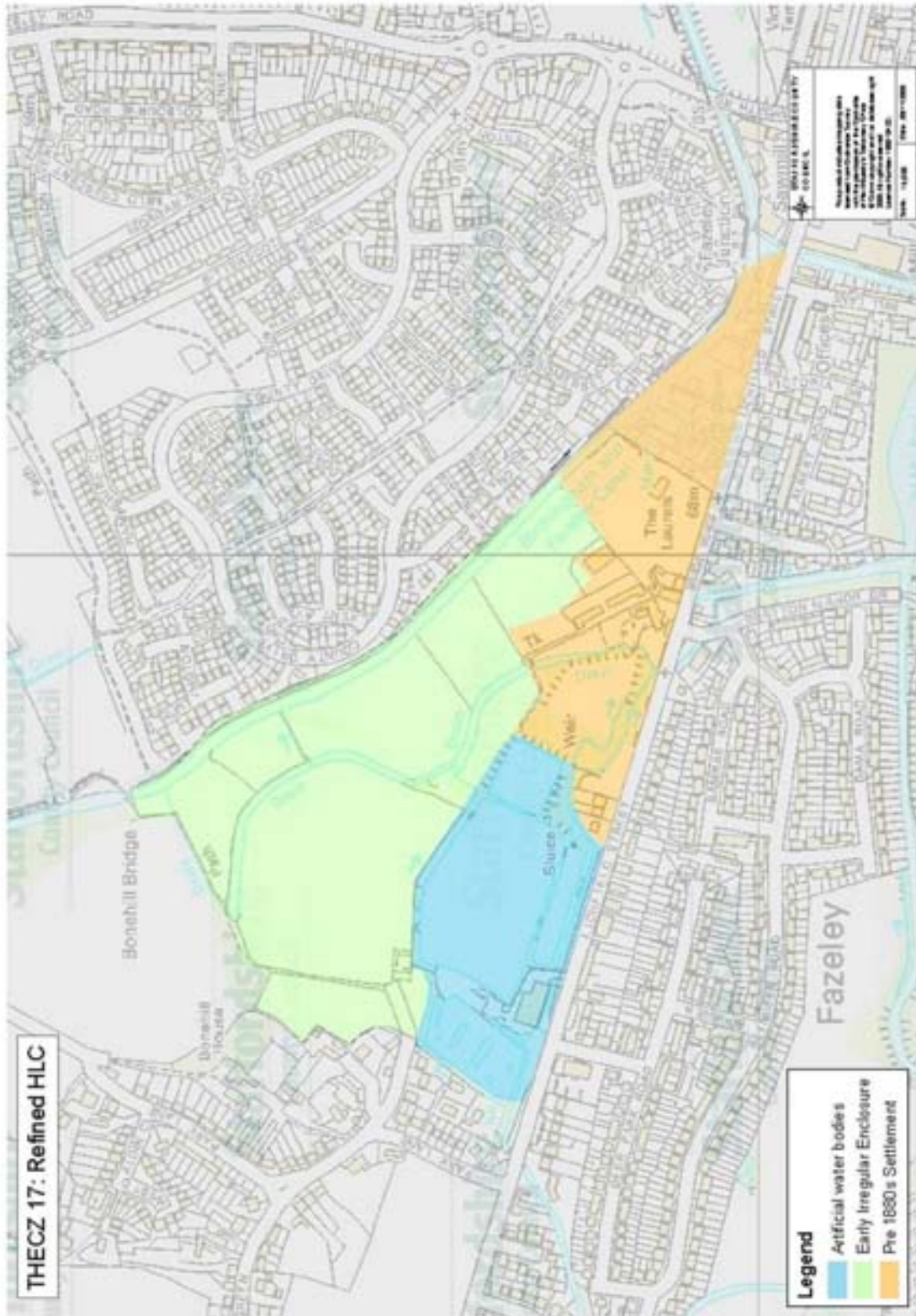
Yates, A (2008) *Watching brief and recording at Bullocks End Farm, Middleton Hall Quarry, Drayton Bassett, Staffordshire December 2004*.
Unpublished report.



Map 48: Designations



Map 49: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 50: Refined HLC

THECZ 18 – West of Fazeley (HECA 2b)

Summary

The HECZ had once formed part of Cannock Forest and the landscape is likely to have been dominated by woodland or heath land. By the 13th century a deer park had been established to the south of the zone, which appears to survive until the later 18th century. The line of the deer park and later landscape park crossed this zone and is still legible in the existing property boundaries and road layout. A surviving mill leat and a former carriageway from Lichfield Street to Drayton Manor also survive within the zone as may the lodge which stood on the main road.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is unlikely to have a significant impact upon historic landscape character of the zone. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the adjacent Conservation Areas
- the impact upon the surviving features identified in the report
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

Early consultation with the Conservation Officers at Lichfield District Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 51)

Fazeley (Bonehill) Conservation Areas lies adjacent to the north east.

Archaeological Character (map 52)

The overall character of the zone from the prehistoric period is likely to have been a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy from the Bronze Age onwards. This would have involved the increasing clearance of woodland resulting in the formation of heath land across the wider landscape.

At present little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the impact of human agency between the prehistoric to medieval periods is not well understood. However, the zone lies less than 1km west of the Tame valley and approximately 350m north of the Bourne Brook. There is evidence in the Tame valley for human activity dating from the later prehistoric period onwards and thus it is possible that human activity encroached into this area in some form or another. The line of the Roman road of Watling Street ran east-west through the zone.

Historic Landscape (map 53)

By the mid 12th century the zone formed part of the Royal forest of Cannock and was probably dominated by a woodland or heath land character. The

landscape to the south of the zone had formed part of Drayton deer park from at least the 13th century and it is possible that the park pale (the bank and ditch enclosing the deer park) may have crossed this zone. It appears to have continued to have been used as a deer park until the late 18th century and its northern boundary is clearly defined upon Yates' county map of 1775.

In the late 18th century the Peel family bought Drayton Manor and were responsible for laying out the associated landscape park. The area lying within the zone to the south of Lichfield Street was largely incorporated into the landscape park, mostly forming part of a plantation known as Long Wood. The boundary of the landscape park is fossilised as Manor Drive and in the rear property boundaries of the houses standing on the northern side of Deer Park Road and Sambar Road.

The line of a former carriageway into the landscape park survives as Long Wood path and it is likely that the former Lichfield Lodge, standing on Lichfield Street, survives incorporated in a later residence. Also surviving within the area is a mill leat associated with a late 18th century bleach works which once stood to the north of Lichfield Street with its surviving mill pond (THECZ 17).

The zone, to the south of Lichfield Street, is dominated by later 20th century housing.

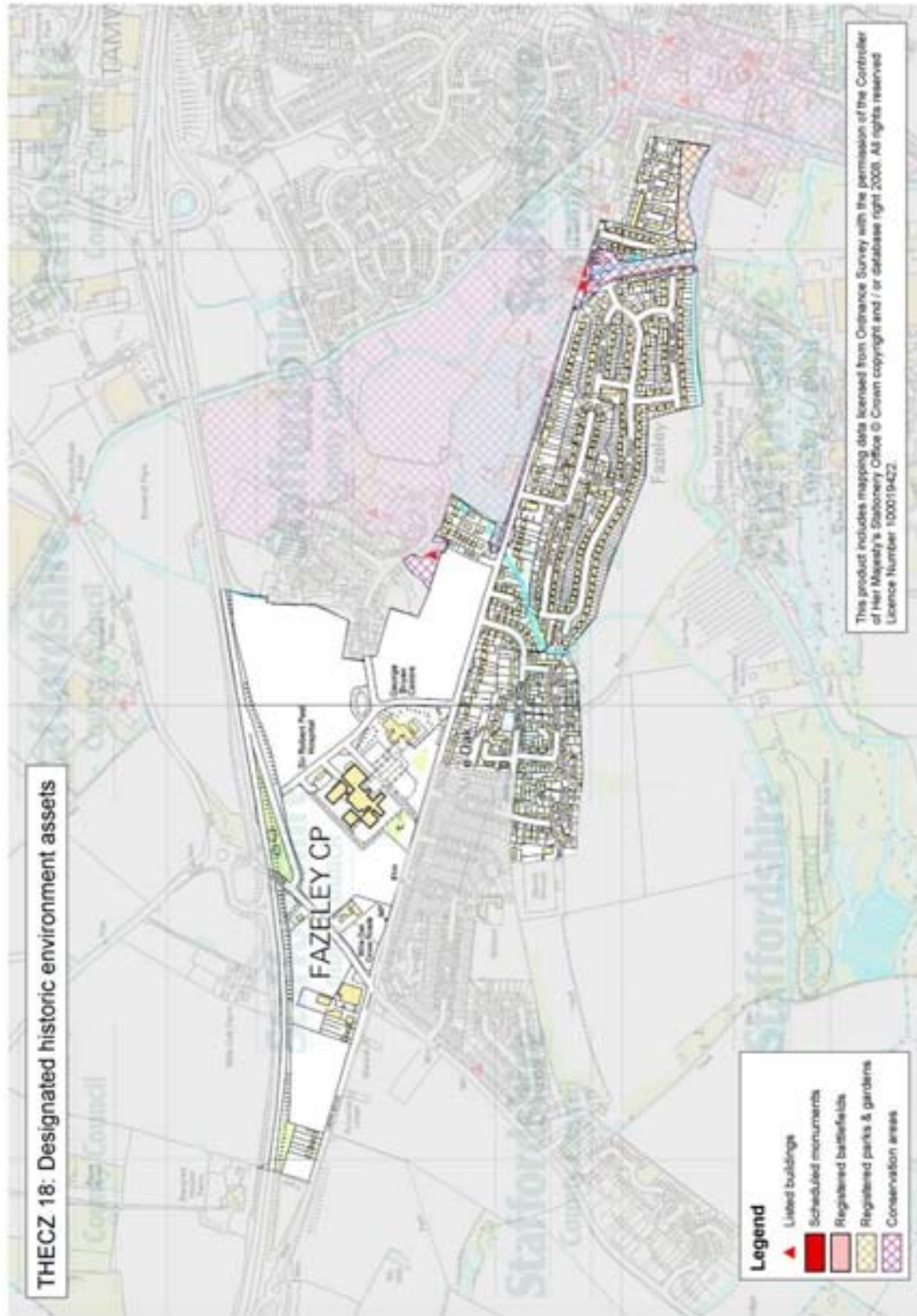
To the north of Lichfield Street the zone is also dominated by 20th century development; notably the Sir Robert Peel Hospital and its grounds. Development in this area was carried out upon a field system which appears to date to the 18th or 19th century.

Historic Assets Summary Table

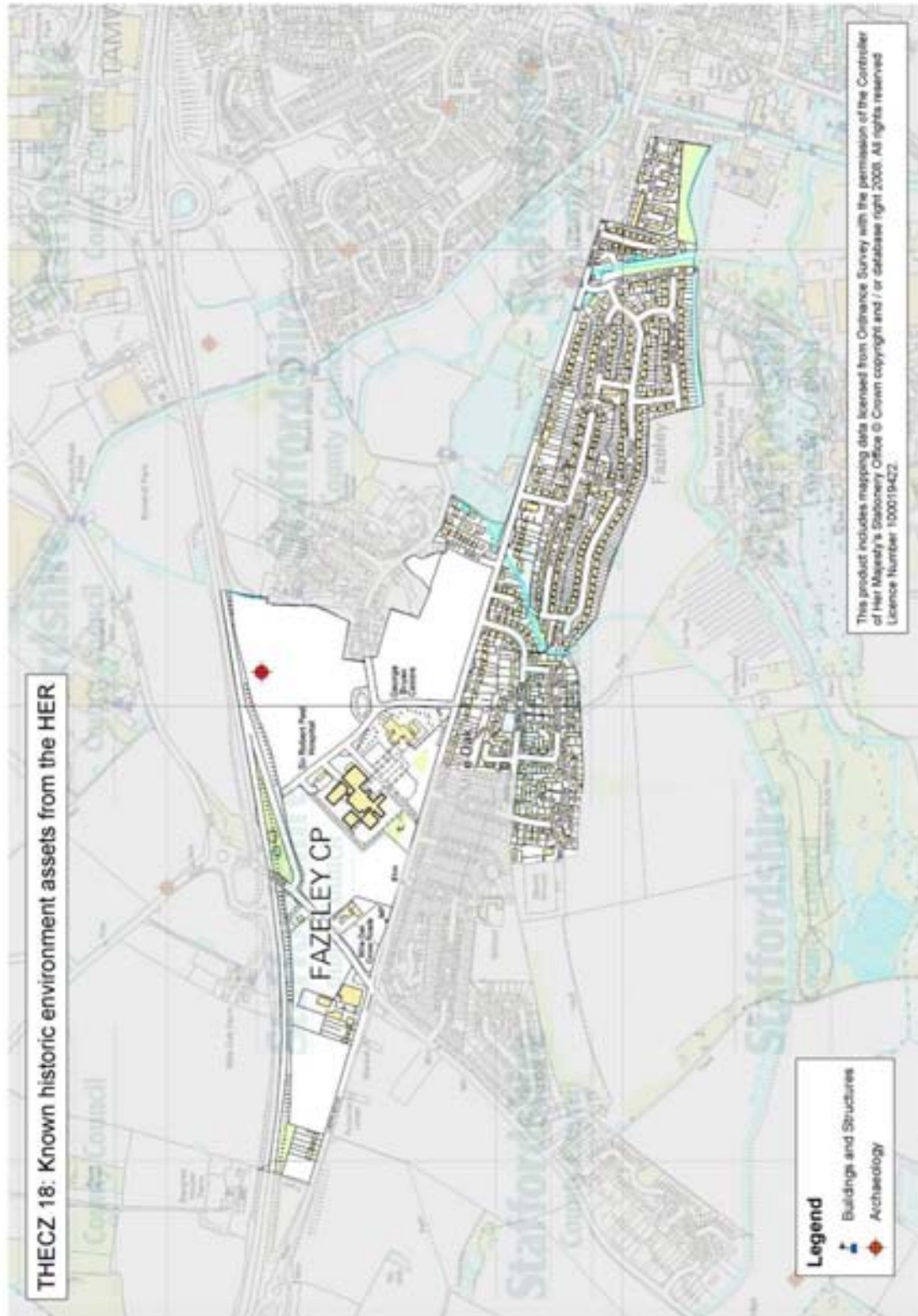
| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Survival | The zone has been impacted by 20 th century developments, although mitigation may be required on particular developments within the zone but this would be determined upon a site-by-site basis. | 1 |
| Potential | The zone has been impacted but there may be areas where archaeological deposits survive relating to earlier land use particularly the line of the former deer park and landscape park. | 1 |
| Documentation | HER data | 1 |
| Diversity | The zone contains a range of assets including the surviving mill leat and former carriageway as well as the legibility of the former park boundary | 2 |
| Group Association | There are few surviving assets although there are associations with the mill leat and THECZ 17 to the north and the line of the carriage way with a possible surviving lodge. | 2 |

| | | |
|---|---|----------|
| Amenity Value | The historic environment does not currently lend itself to interpretation. | 1 |
| Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC) | Medium to large scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment assets although individual features may be affected. | 1 |
| Overall score | | 9 |

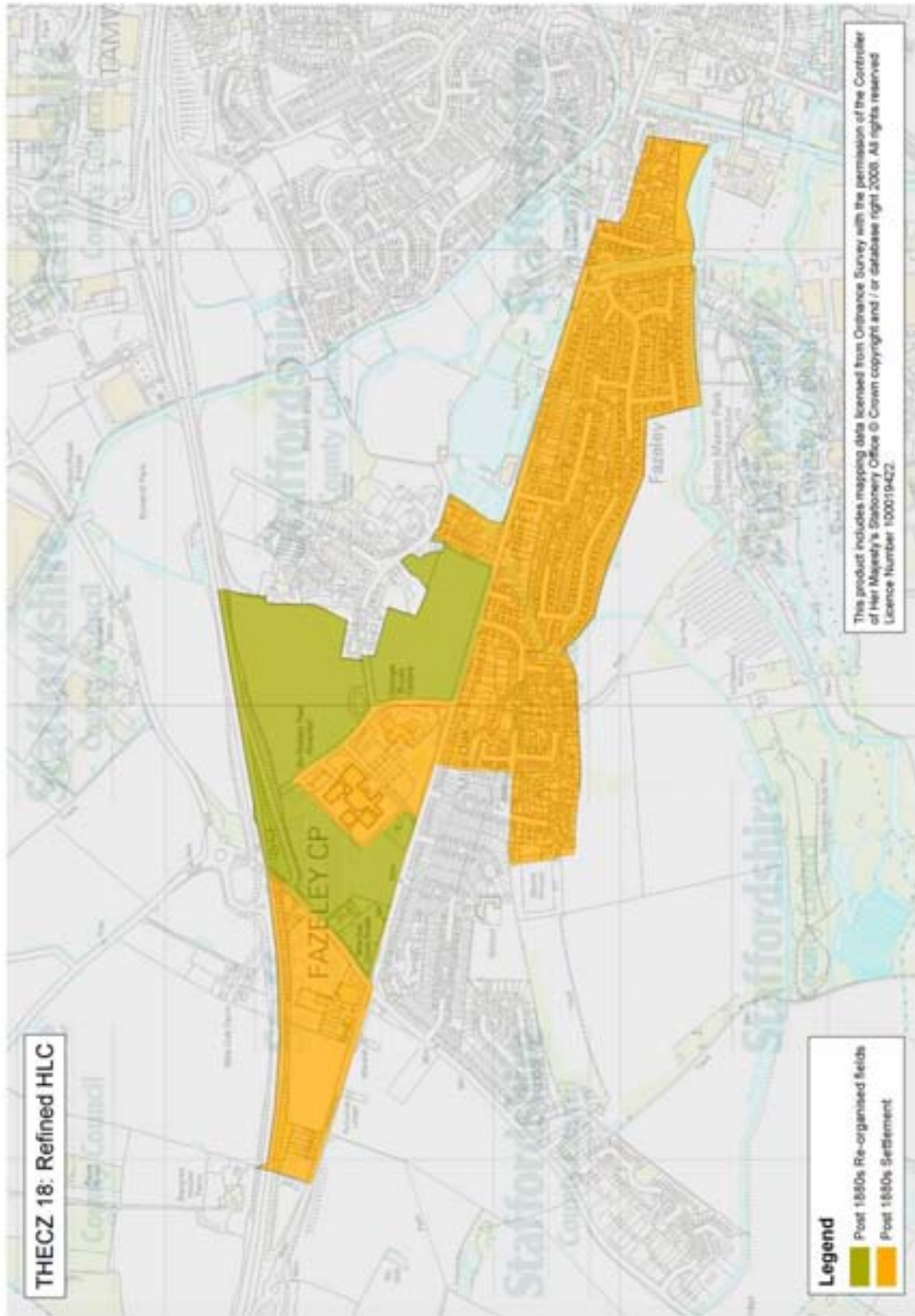
(1) Entry for Drayton Bassett on
<http://www.places.staffspasttrack.org.uk/default.asp>



Map 51: Designations



Map 52: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 53: Refined HLC