

LHECZ 14 – Land around Whittington

Summary

The landscape of this HECZ is characterised by the historic settlement of Whittington which has been significantly extended in the 20th century, particularly to the north-east. There are substantial areas of medieval field patterns surviving, in particular early small rectilinear enclosures to the south and north-west and early irregular enclosures to the north and south. Most of the remaining landscape is 18th-19th century planned field systems.

Medium or large scale development is likely to have some impact upon the historic environment assets of the zone. Any development which may be planned for the zone would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the Conservation Area and Listed Buildings
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

Designations

There are 9 Listed Buildings within the LHECZ.

There is one conservation area covering the historic core of Whittington.

There are no other designated sites falling within this LHECZ.

Archaeological Character

The landscape of this HECZ would have been dominated by woodland until the Bronze Age and there is evidence within the wider landscape of a small scale pastoral economy from this period. The Trent Valley to the east of the county is an area of intensive human activity from the prehistoric period onwards and it is likely that the river valleys within this zone also attracted human activity and even occupation in the wider area.

Undated flint artefacts have been recorded from an enclosure to the south of Hademore Farm which possibly suggests later prehistoric activity within the area of Whittington. A Bronze Age settlement is recorded at Hademore (PRN 01525) while further artefacts dating to the Bronze Age have been recorded from the surrounding landscape including a bronze flanged axe found on land to the southwest of Whittington however. The presence of a prehistoric settlement site, combined with stray finds from the area do suggest a focus of activity during the later prehistoric period and therefore the potential for further sites elsewhere within the HECZ.

It is likely that occupation and agriculture continued to follow the same pattern through into the Roman period. A small hoard site is recorded within the

HECZ (to the south of Church Farm); it included Saxon and Roman brooches, Roman coins and pottery of a similar date (PRN 03994). The coins from the hoard date to the reign of Septimus Severus (193-211AD). While no further finds of a similar date come from within the HECZ, several find spots and a group of enclosures are recorded to the north and southeast respectively. The second findspot (to the north of Whittington) (PRN 03993) includes a roman coin and associated pottery sherds. A series of enclosures are present in farmland to the south of Hademore Farm (PRN 01535). Within one these enclosures fragments of mortaria (coarse Roman pottery) were recovered. Taken in context, the evidence suggests some form of activity within the Whittington area during the Roman period.

The area may have been the location for a small Iron Age/Romano-British farmstead exploiting a broadly pastoral/arable landscape. The clear candidate for such a site would be one of the enclosures to the southeast of Whittington although further currently unknown sites dating to this period could be present within the HECZ.

Documentary evidence suggests that large parts of this woodland were being enclosed from the 12th century onwards. Whittington was first recorded in documents of the late 12th century and may represent assarting (the clearance of woodland for farmland) in the early post Conquest period (1066).

The Coventry Canal (constructed in 1789) extends along the northern boundary of the HECZ. During the late 19th century a large military barracks was located to the south of the zone on Whittington Heath. These barracks have since expanded and continue to house and train military units into the 21st century. Many of the late 19th century barrack buildings survive within this site.

Historic Landscape

The landscape of this HECZ is dominated by the settlement of Whittington. In the medieval period it was a small rural settlement but there have been 20th century changes to field patterns and the expansion of settlements.

Surrounding the village in the medieval period were two or more arable open fields. These open fields were divided into strips and the residents of Whittington would have held a number of these scattered across the landscape. The surviving historic field patterns to the north and south east retains the legibility of the medieval open fields in the form of reverse 'S' and dog-leg field boundaries. The division of this open landscape probably occurred during the post medieval period, possibly earlier, as Piecemeal Enclosure. This was achieved whereby farmers made informal, verbal agreements to enable them to consolidate their individual strips into single blocks. The piecemeal enclosure survives to the north and south east although a few field boundaries have been removed during the second half of the 20th century. The pattern has been eroded through greater field boundary removal to the south west of the village where it has been identified as Re-organised piecemeal enclosure (see Map 3).

There two areas of early rectilinear fields which have been dated to the Post Medieval period, perhaps representing unrecognised planned enclosure. Some of these landscapes may also have been created in the medieval period or associated with the enclosure for the first time of unenclosed land from the 16thC onwards. There are two areas of piecemeal enclosure adjacent to these. These areas show little disturbance from modern development.

The original linear form of the village is still clearly visible in the current settlement. The Coventry canal was constructed in the late 18th century and this section which skirted the historic village was completed by 1786. In the 20th century housing developments extended the village up to the edge of the canal. Thus the canal forms an important historic feature within the village as well as providing a clear boundary for the settlement.

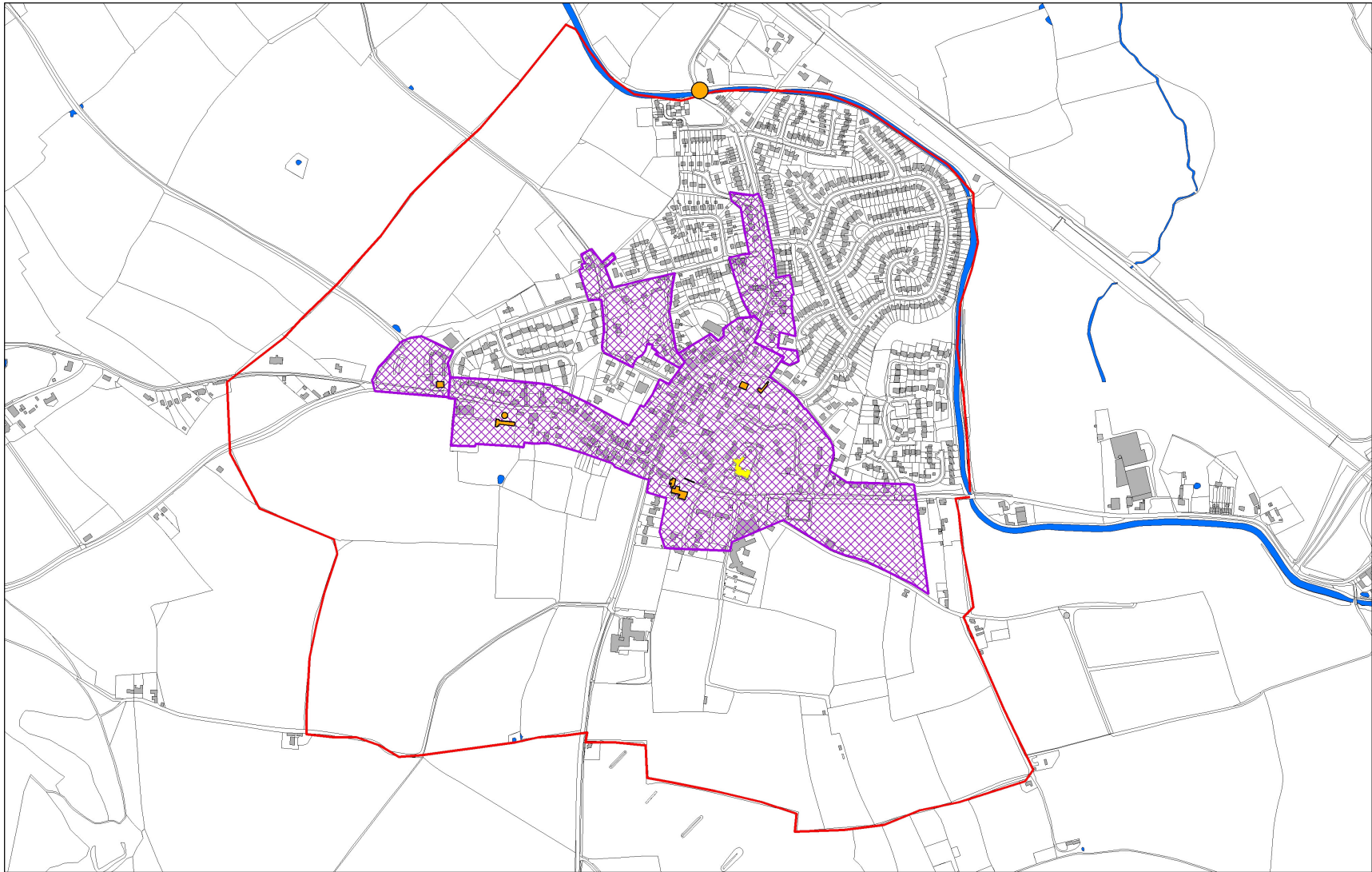
Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	This zone has seen significant development to the north and east but little disturbance to the west and south	2
Potential	Some potential to the west and south although few sites known and likelihood of disturbance through ploughing	2
Documentation	Comprises the HER data and the VCH volume.	1
Diversity	There are few known assets. Known assets are similar in character relating to the landscape and historic structures.	2
Group Association	Contains a limited range of assets although some relate well in date.	2
Amenity Value	There are some aspects of the historic environment which contribute to the sense of place and would lend themselves to be promoted as such.	2
Sensitivity	There is the potential for the historic environment to be impacted by large to medium scale development.	2
Overall Score		13

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

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 Environment & Countryside
 Development Services Directorate
 Staffordshire County Council
 Riverway
 Stafford
 ST16 3TJ
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Conservation and Urban Design Team
 Democratic, Development and Legal
 Services
 Lichfield District Council
 Frog Lane
 Lichfield
 WS13 6YU
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design.conservations@lichfielddc.gov.uk



**Map 1: LHECZ 14:
Whittington -
Designated Historic
Environment Assets**

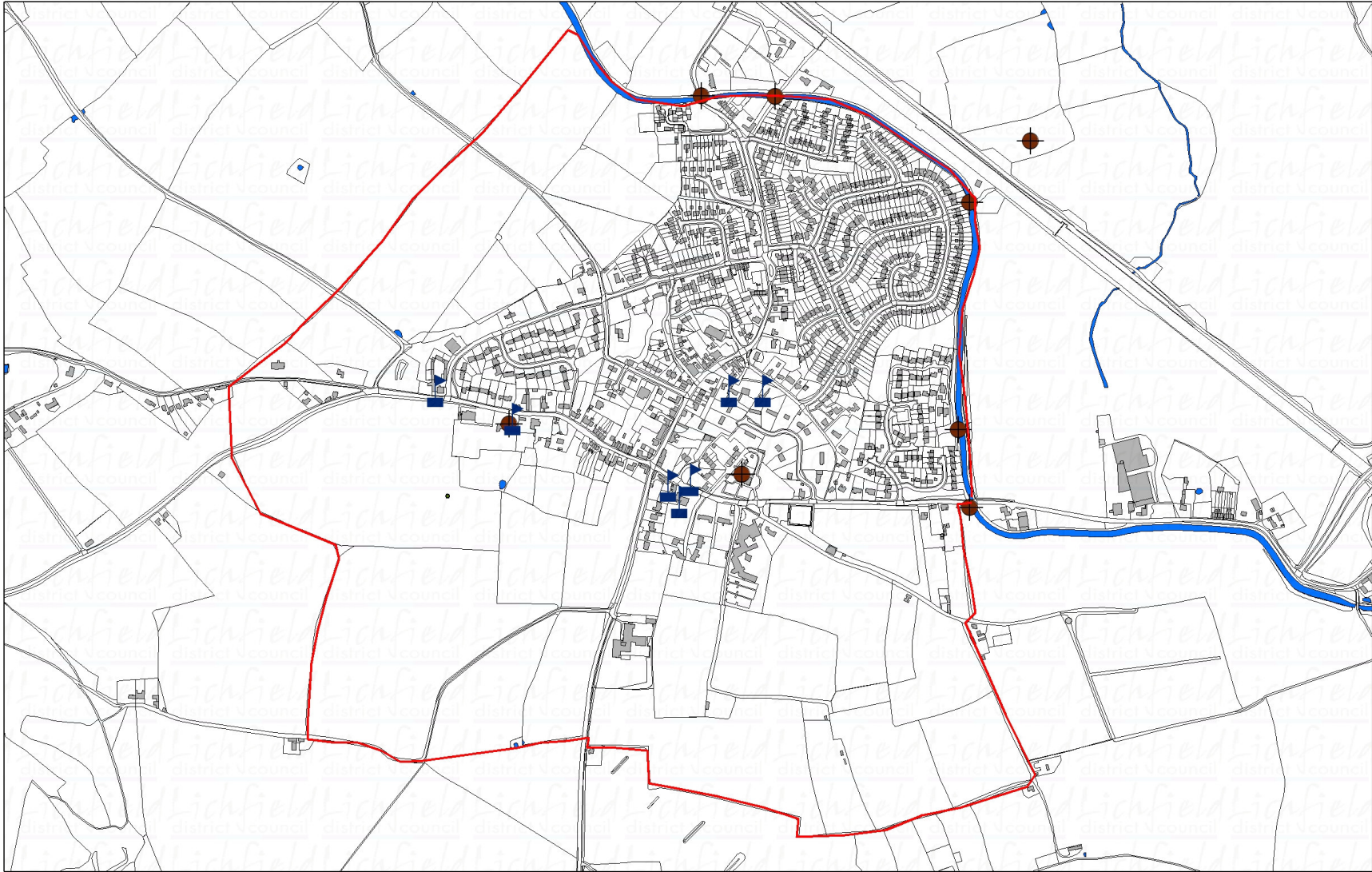
Scale: Not to Scale	Dated: April 2009
Drawn By: Debbie Boffin	
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Key

Conservation Areas
Grade 1
Grade 2
Grade 2*
HECA boundaries
Ancient Monuments

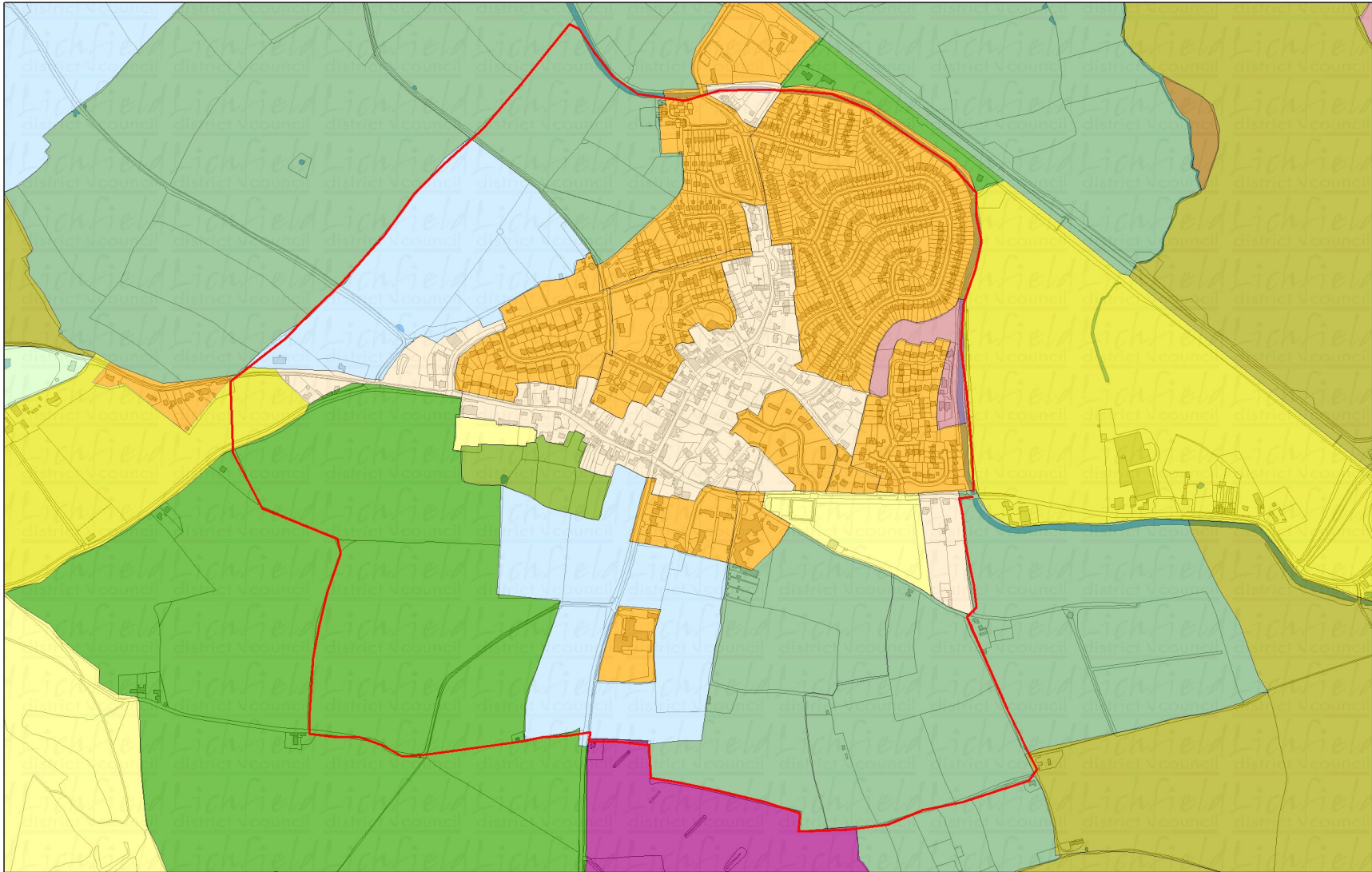


**Map 2: LHECZ 14:
Whittington -
HER data
(excluding findspots and
documentary evidence)**

Scale Not to Scale	Date of February 2009
Drawn By: Debbie Bottrill	
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- Key**
-  Building
 -  Monument



**Map 3: LHECZ 14:
Whittington -
Refined HLC**

Scale: Not to Scale
Date: April 2009
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- HECA boundaries
- Miscellaneous Floodplain Fields
- 16th/17th century planned field systems
- 16th/17th century semi planned field systems
- Ancient Woodland
- Other early woodlands
- Post 1880s Settlement
- Pre 1880s Settlement
- Placemal Enclosure
- Early Unenclosed Land
- Early Irregular Enclosure
- Early small rectilinear fields
- Historic parks and gardens
- Other parkland
- Post 1880s Re-organised fields
- Post 1880s small replanned field systems
- Pre 1880s paddocks & dozes
- Industrial & Extractive
- Artificial water bodies
- Communications
- Early Assets
- Military
- Other Recent Woodlands
- Plantations
- Pre 1880s drained wetlands
- Re-organised placemal enclosure
- Recent or re-established unenclosed land
- Recent replanted ancient woodland