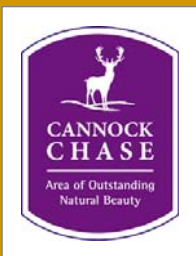


# Historic Environment Assessment Cannock Chase AONB

June 2015



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March 2015

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## 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are a statutory designation under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000). The Cannock Chase AONB was designated in 1958 under the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act (1948). It covers an area of 68 km<sup>2</sup> and comprises lowland heath, coniferous plantation, previously mined areas, ancient semi-natural woodland, parklands, farmland and several small settlements.

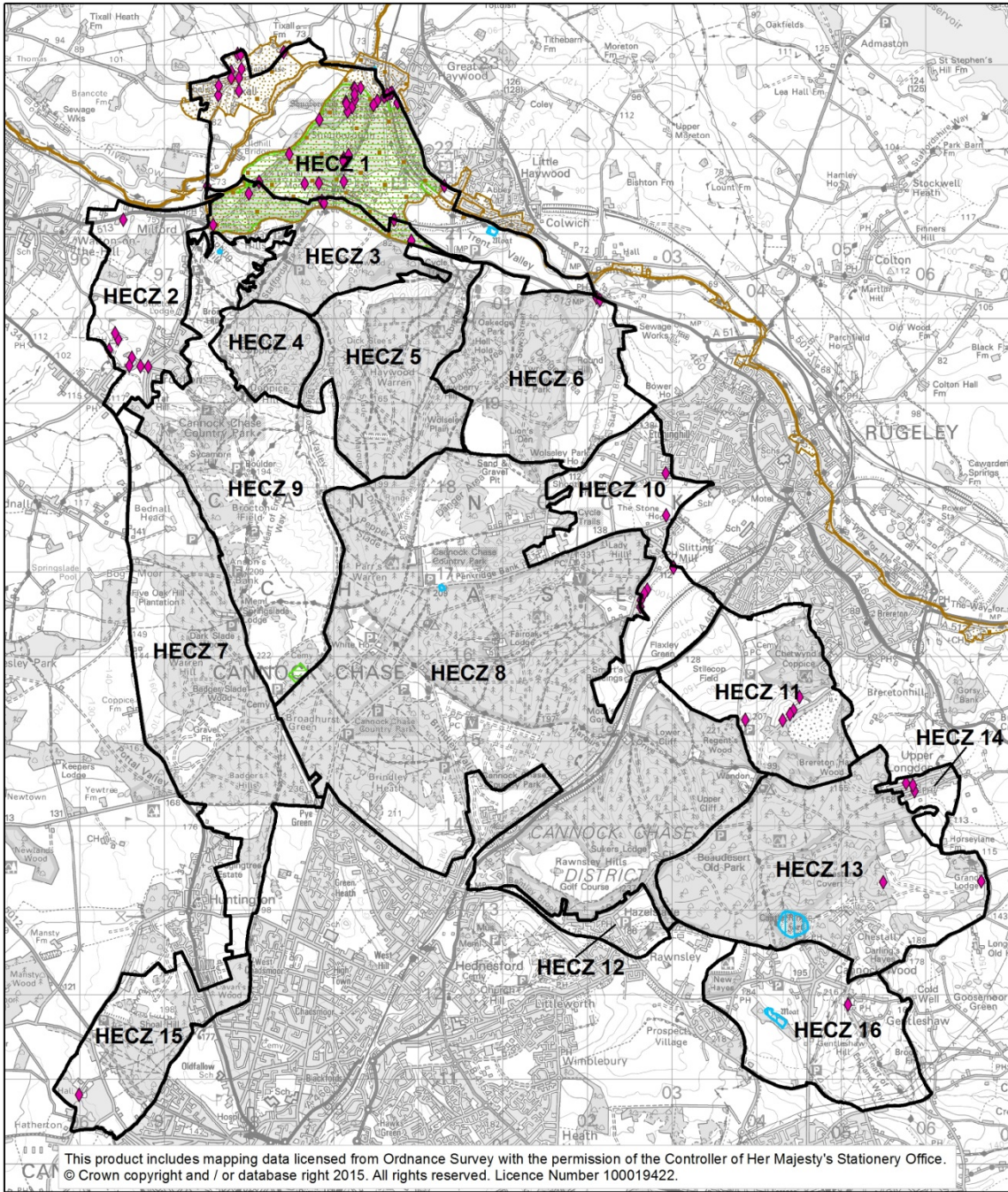
As well as AONB status, specific elements of Cannock Chase are safeguarded via a number of designations to protect both its natural and historic environment assets. The Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) covers 1,264ha of the AONB and is designated under the European Commission Habitats Directive. There are also five Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and 19 Sites of Biological Interest (SBI). In terms of the historic environment there are currently six Scheduled Monuments, 68 nationally Listed Buildings, two Registered Parks and Gardens and five Conservation Areas (see Map 1). The remains of the Great War camps and training landscape present on Cannock Chase, whilst not formally designated, are considered to be of national importance. Indeed, the remains of the Great War Messines Terrain Model are unique in the UK and rare on the Western Front and could be considered to be of international significance.

Over 600 heritage assets (both designated and undesignated) are currently recorded on Staffordshire's Historic Environment Record (HER) within the Cannock Chase AONB. These assets span a range of types (from buildings, sites, monuments and finds) and periods (from the prehistoric to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century). To date there has been no work to assess many of these heritage assets or their significance in order to identify opportunities for their enhancement and/or management. Neither has there been a project which has sought to review the resource with a view to identifying gaps in knowledge, highlighting the significance of the historic environment to promote public engagement or to understand the history of Cannock Chase through interpretation and/or education.






The Cannock Chase AONB management plan (2014-19) was adopted in July 2014 and its vision is to enhance the area in terms of its "landscape beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage..." by 2034<sup>1</sup>. The management plan consequently includes the commitment to prepare a Historic Environment Assessment (HEA) as part of its Plan Delivery Actions (LA19). The aims and objectives of the HEA are laid out below and this work will form the basis for Plan Delivery Action LA20 to prepare a Historic Management Plan (HEMP).

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<sup>1</sup> Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan 2014-2019



**Legend**

-  Cannock Chase AONB HECZ Boundaries
-  Conservation Areas
-  Registered Parks and Gardens
-  Scheduled Monuments
-  Listed Buildings

**Map 1: HECZs and Designated Heritage Assets**

## 1.1 Aims and Objectives

The principal aim of the HEA is to identify and highlight the contribution of the historic character and heritage assets to the AONB, to assess their significance and to identify outcomes. These outcomes include the enhancement and/or management of heritage assets as applicable as well as highlighting any key issues warranting further more detailed investigation. This work also aims to enhance visitor experience through the identification of interpretation and/or education opportunities. This assessment will then provide an evidence base to inform the production of a HEMP.

Objectives:

- 1) To understand and provide a synthesis of the historic development of Cannock Chase to the present day.
- 2) To identify and create Historic Character Areas (HCAs) across the AONB to form the basis of the assessment.
- 3) To understand and articulate the significance of the historic landscape character and heritage assets within each HCA.
- 4) Identify the key recommendations and/or issues for each HCA arising from the significance assessment to include: management or enhancement priorities; informing research objectives; and to identify interpretation/education opportunities.

## 1.2 Resource Assessment

A number of projects have been undertaken to identify particular elements of the history or heritage assets of Cannock Chase. Staffordshire County Council has undertaken or commissioned a number of surveys notably within the Registered Shugborough Park including most recently a Management Plan to support the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme<sup>2</sup>. In the 1980s and 1990s surveys were carried out to understand the prehistoric burnt mounds within southern Staffordshire, as well as the industrial archaeology of the Chase (medieval-post medieval glass working and coal mining as well as the post medieval iron industry and the associated exploitation of timber resources). In the early 21<sup>st</sup> century several surveys were commissioned to understand the nature and survival of features associated with the Great War training camps on the Chase.

A number of surveys of surviving earthworks have also been undertaken. These have comprised an earthwork survey of the Scheduled Castle Ring hillfort by RCHME in 1996 (as part of a national review of hillforts); a survey by SCC of the archaeological features within Brocton Coppice; and a Chase-wide earthwork survey undertaken by Adrian Scruby, on behalf of Forestry Enterprise in 2000.

Other archaeological building recording and below ground investigations have been carried out as part of the planning process on specific sites.

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<sup>2</sup> Cookson and Tickson 2013

A table within each section (entitled Previous Research recorded in HER) covering the Historic Environment Character Zones details the archaeological events which are known to have been carried out within each zone.

### 1.3 Geology

Geologically, Cannock Chase is formed by an uplifted fault block of mostly Lower Triassic sandstones and conglomerates of the Kidderminster Formation, between the Hopwood Fault in the west and the Eastern Boundary Fault in the east. The Kidderminster Formation overlies Upper Carboniferous Middle Coal Measures, that outcrop to the south of the area. The Chase is flanked by slightly younger Middle Triassic sandstones and mudstones, the Wildmoor Sandstone, Bromsgrove Sandstone and Mercia Mudstone Formations.

Most of the valleys on Cannock Chase were established during or at the end of the last Ice Age (c.10,000BC). Dry valleys in the northwest, such as Mere Valley, have valley bases that rise and fall along their length indicating that they were formed beneath a glacier advancing along the Trent Valley. The dry valleys on the side of the Sher Brook have characteristics of those formed under permafrost conditions. The wide valley containing the 'misfit stream'<sup>3</sup> named the Rising Brook is a glacial meltwater channel resulting from the drainage of a large pro-glacial meltwater lake in the Hednesford region.

### 1.4 Landscape and Topography

The Cannock Chase AONB encompasses a large proportion of an upstanding plateau which stands at around 200m AOD in central Staffordshire. The highest point of this plateau coincides with the Scheduled Iron Age Hillfort of Castle Ring in Beaudesert Park to the south, lying at around 235m AOD. The plateau is encircled to the west, north and east by the valleys of the rivers Penk, Sow and Trent. The study area lies within National Character Area (NCA) 67 (Cannock Chase and Cank Wood). This NCA has a varied landscape ranging from the open heathlands and plantations of Cannock Chase through open agricultural land and small dispersed settlements to the towns and reclaimed industrial sites of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries predominantly found in the southern portion of the NCA.

A number of small streams rise on the plateau. At its northern extremity the plateau is cut by several valleys containing watercourses with the Sherbrook Valley being the most notable. Also present are the Old Brook (within Abraham's Valley) heading east and finally the Stafford Brook. The Sher Brook has its confluence with the River Sow to the north of the AONB after passing through Shugborough Park. The Old Brook and the Stafford Brook both have their confluence with the River Trent at Colwich and Wolseley respectively. To the east the plateau is cut by the Shropshire Brook, to the south by a small stream which flows through Brindley Valley and to the west by the Oldacre Brook.

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<sup>3</sup> Misfit Stream: A stream or river that is either too large or too small to have eroded the valley or cave passage in which it flows.



The widest of the valleys, at approximately 200m, is the valley of the Rising Brook, which flows north east to meet the River Trent at Rugeley. This brook rises near the town of Cannock beyond the AONB. This has provided a route for communication links connecting Cannock and Rugeley for centuries; the A460 follows the valley, a route which is marked on Yates' map of Staffordshire (1775), as does the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century railway line which originated as a branch of the London & North West Railway. The principal tributary of the Rising Brook is the Stony Brook whose confluence lies within the AONB.

Many of these streams are associated with medieval and post medieval industrial activity, when water provided the principal source of power (s.7.3). A number of pools can be found along many of streams within the AONB, some of which are survivors from this period of activity. The plateau is also cut by a number of dry valleys many of which are identifiable by the placename 'slade'.

## 1.5 Historic Landscape Character (Map 2)

The historic landscape character (HLC) reveals that the plateau is dominated by woodland, principally coniferous plantations. These plantations were planted in vast numbers by the Forestry Commission from the 1920s onwards and are cropped on a rolling cycle. The HLC, (2003-2006), represents a snapshot of the current landscape character and as such does not reflect the extent of woodland standing within the Commission's landholding in 2015.

The HLC identifies broadleaved woodland in discrete areas across the plateau, usually within areas of either mixed or predominantly coniferous planting. The most notable areas of broadleaved woodland are associated with the former landscape park at Beaudesert and the extant landscape parks at both Shugborough and Hatherton. The only area of surviving ancient broadleaved woodland is found at Brocton Coppice.

The largest area of heathland recorded by the HLC lies on the western portion of the plateau, across Brocton Field and the Sherbrook Valley, on land managed by Staffordshire County Council as the Cannock Chase Country Park. Since 2003-2006 both the County Council and the Forestry Commission have undertaken to manage and establish heathland elsewhere on the plateau<sup>4</sup>. On the southern edge of the plateau the largest area of heathland within the AONB is Gentleshaw Common, which is managed as lowland heath by Lichfield District Council<sup>5</sup>.

Agricultural land is also characteristic of the AONB on the slopes and low lying lands to the west around Brocton and Milford and to the east adjacent to Rugeley and south of Upper Longdon. At the south western end of the AONB fields encroach onto the plateau as they do to the west at Teddesley. Surviving field patterns of post medieval origin, known as 'Piecemeal Enclosure' indicate areas of medieval open fields associated with the settlements of Upper Longdon and Brocton. Other early field systems survive associated with more

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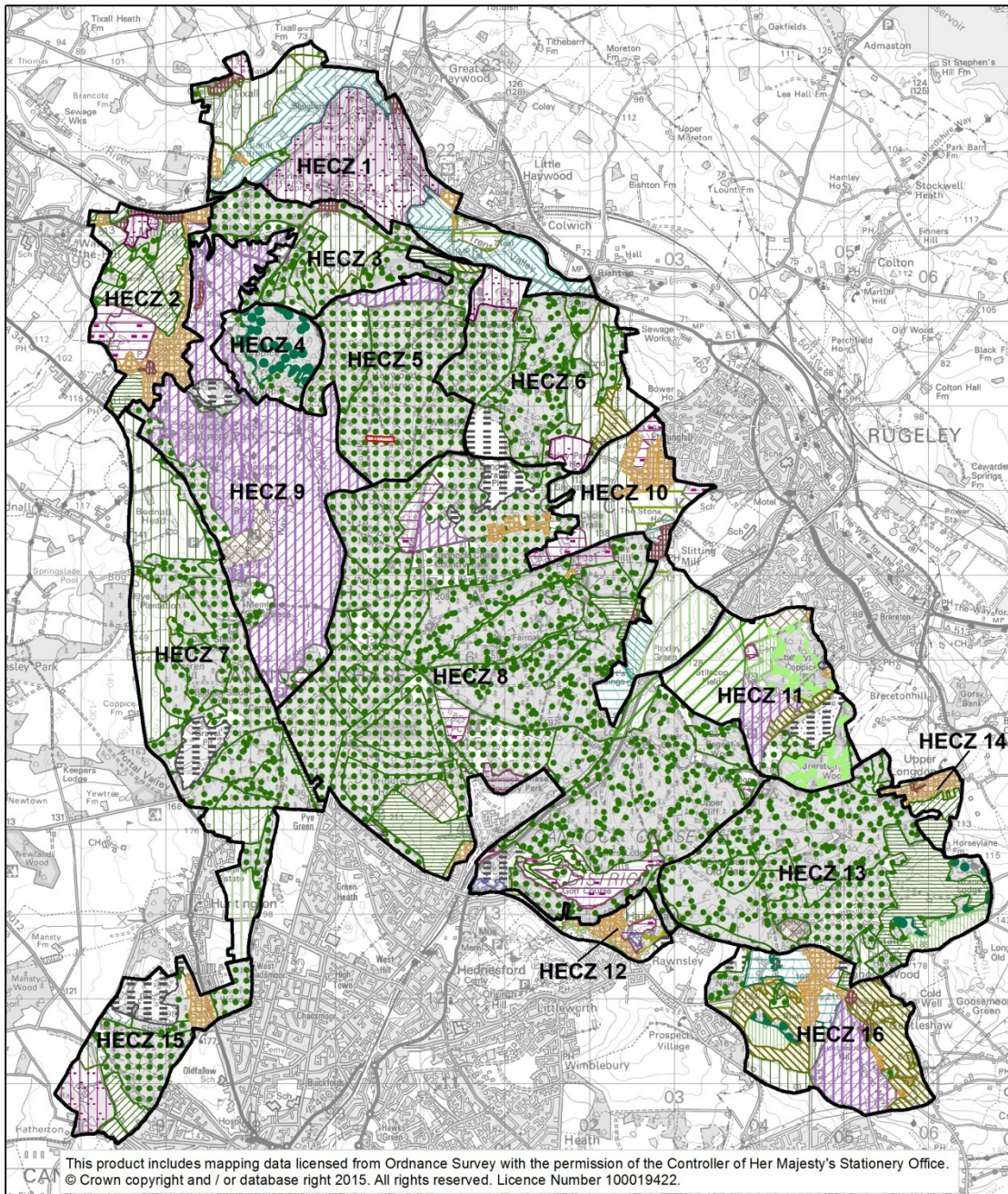
<sup>4</sup> Forestry Commission website 'A snapshot of local heathland restoration across England' viewed 11/03/2015  
<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6tt9qt>

<sup>5</sup> Lichfield District Council website 'Gentleshaw Common SSSI' viewed 11/03/2015  
[http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/info/200029/countryside/83/site\\_management/2](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/info/200029/countryside/83/site_management/2)

dispersed settlements at Slitting Mill, near Rugeley; to the south at Cannock Wood and on the western side of Gentleshaw Common. These settlements and enclosures probably originated as squatter settlements and either represents assarting in woodland or encroachments onto common land (cf. s7.1)<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Assart: Creation of farmland out of woodland



**Legend**

- Cannock Chase AONB HECZ Boundaries
- 18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure
- 18th/19th Century Semi Planned Enclosure
- Ancient Woodland
- Artificial Water Bodies
- Drained Wetlands
- Early Irregular Enclosure
- Early Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure
- Early Unenclosed Land
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Industrial and Extractive
- Military
- Miscellaneous Floodplain Fields
- Other Early Woodlands

**Map 2: Historic Landscape Character**

- Other Parkland
- Other Recent Woodlands
- Piecemeal Enclosure
- Plantations
- Post 1880s Reorganised Fields
- Post 1880s Settlement
- Post 1880s Small Replanned Enclosure
- Post War Amalgamated Fields
- Pre 1880s Paddocks & Closes
- Pre 1880s Settlement
- Recent Regenerated Unenclosed Land
- Recent Replanted Ancient Woodland
- Recent Woodland Clearance
- Squatter Enclosure

Elsewhere the field pattern reflects the regular planned enclosure typical of newly enclosed land of the later 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century, which was often laid out by surveyors to a precise grid plan evidenced by straight and often single-species hedgerows. Such fields can be found associated with the estates of Tixall in the far north west of the AONB, within Haywood Park (cf. s.6.1.4) and with the enclosure of Teddesley Hay in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Remnants of the former coal mining industry, mostly of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date, are also legible across some areas of the AONB. These include to the south around Cannock Wood and in areas where there is regeneration of vegetation on open land such as around Chetwynd Coppice to the east of the AONB. A number of large quarries, mostly inactive, are also features of the landscape within the AONB.

Landscape change, which is evident across parts of the Chase between the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early 21<sup>st</sup> century as revealed by historic mapping and early photography, may have been a feature of the Cannock Chase plateau through the centuries. Predicting where woodland or heathland may have dominated at various points in the past is not possible using the HLC or from a reliance on cartography or documentary sources alone. Enhancing this understanding of landscape change in the past may require further investigation for example through an understanding of its current and past ecological character; the latter could be investigated through targeted palaeoenvironmental sampling.

## **2 HISTORIC BACKGROUND: PRE-NORMAN CONQUEST (MAP 3)**

Comparatively little is known of pre-Norman activity across large parts of the AONB. This is due in no small part to the relatively low level of development in the area in the last fifty years and, as a result, few archaeological investigations. Hence, this section is identified as 'Pre-Norman Conquest' rather than being sub-divided into a more specific, period-based assessment. The evidence is comprised of well-defined monuments, archaeological deposits and stray finds. The map indicates that the majority of evidence clusters towards the northern and eastern edges of the AONB and many of the finds and sites have been recovered on or overlooking the lower lying land or within the valleys.

The largest prehistoric site within the AONB is Castle Ring Camp a substantial Iron Age multivallate hillfort, covering approximately 3.6ha, which stands at the southern end of the Cannock Chase plateau and at its highest point (around 235m AOD)<sup>7</sup>. This prominent position afforded panoramic views with those to the east overlooking the Trent Valley<sup>8</sup>. The site is a Scheduled Monument and little archaeological work has been carried out upon it with the exception of two surveys; an earthwork survey in the 1990s and a geophysical survey at an

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<sup>7</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00025; English Heritage National Heritage No. 1014687; Multivallate Hillfort: A hillfort enclosure with defences composed of more than one bank and ditch. (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage. © 2015 English Heritage)

<sup>8</sup> RCHME 1996

unknown date<sup>9</sup>. The geophysical survey was carried out across the western third of the hillfort and evidence for settlement in the form of a series of circular anomalies, suggestive of round houses, was identified in this area<sup>10</sup>.

The construction of a hillfort represented a considerable input of resources and they are generally considered to have been positioned in order to dominate a 'territory'. They are now thought to have been multi-purpose sites offering a defence in times of insecurity, a settlement and trade centre and a location for the storage of resources. The presence of the hillfort indicates the potential for further sites of contemporary date within and beyond the AONB. However, to date no further sites of Iron Age date have been identified, although there is evidence for possible earlier activity during Bronze Age located in the vicinity of the hillfort itself. To the north of the hillfort a possible Bronze Age barrow has been noted, although the feature has not been archaeologically examined and it may have suffered damage during forestry operations<sup>11</sup>. A Bronze Age burnt mound was identified to the south, within Cannock Wood, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and evidence for heat-cracked stones, possibly indicating the site of this burnt mound or of a second burnt mound in the vicinity, was recorded in the 1980s<sup>12</sup>. Whilst this evidence is tentative it may suggest a degree of continuity of activity from the Bronze Age into the Iron Age, and is suggestive of the potential for further sites to be identified within this area of the AONB.

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<sup>9</sup> RCHME 1996

<sup>10</sup> English Heritage No. 1014687; Round House: Circular structure, normally indicated by one or more rings of post holes and/or a circular gully, and usually interpreted as being of domestic function. . (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage. © 2015 English Heritage)

<sup>11</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04267

<sup>12</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04053



Evidence for Bronze Age funerary monuments, two surviving as earthwork barrows on the western side of the AONB and possibly a further three identified as cropmarks (known as 'ring ditches') within Shugborough Park<sup>16</sup> are recorded within the HEA area. The evidence for prehistoric activity within Shugborough Park has been confirmed by archaeological investigations carried out in 2005<sup>17</sup>. The paucity of artefacts recovered during the archaeological work made the sequence of activity difficult to identify, although the form of the sites may suggest multi-phase activity. The only securely dated feature was a pit containing several fragments of Middle Bronze Age pottery and cereal grains suggestive of settlement, rather than funerary activity<sup>18</sup>. A pit alignment and an enclosure, the latter tentatively dated to the Roman period, may suggest continuous activity on the site from the Bronze Age onwards the significance of which may be due to its proximity to the confluence of the rivers Sow and Trent (approximately 1km to the north)<sup>19</sup>. Archaeological evidence has shown that the confluence of rivers have consistently attracted human activity during the prehistoric period.

The evidence for earlier activity within the AONB is indicated by a flint knapping floor, where over 600 tools were recorded, in Cannock Wood to the south of the plateau; the material suggested a Mesolithic and Neolithic date. There have also been three single stray finds of Neolithic date recovered from Beaudesert Park and Brereton Hayes Wood. A further three finds, dated to the Neolithic-Bronze Age have also been identified in a similar area on the eastern side of the Chase<sup>20</sup>. These find are only suggestive of the presence of humans during this period, but given the evidence for later activity there remains the potential for archaeological sites to come to light.

There is little physical evidence for any other activity dating to the Roman or early medieval periods with the exception of two stray finds. A bronze Roman coin was found to the east of Gentleshaw Common, on the lower land away from the Cannock Chase plateau, in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century<sup>21</sup>. A loomweight, recovered from the River Trent near Wolseley Bridge, was given a possible date of circa 600AD<sup>22</sup>. This lack of evidence may be due in part to the paucity of archaeological investigation rather than reflecting a lack of human activity during these periods.

### **3 HISTORIC BACKGROUND: THE ROYAL FOREST AND THE CREATION OF CANNOCK CHASE**

Large areas of land whose primary function was to provide for hunting are likely to have existed across the area prior to the Norman Conquest (1066).

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<sup>16</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 02109, PRN 00863 and PRN 04612; Saucer Barrow on Spring Hill English Heritage National Heritage No. 1009312; Ring Ditch: Circular or near circular ditches, usually seen as cropmarks. Ring ditches may be the remains of ploughed out round barrows, round houses, or of modern features such as searchlight. (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage. © 2015 English Heritage)

<sup>17</sup> Halstead 2011: 24-40

<sup>18</sup> Halstead 2011: 34

<sup>19</sup> Halstead 2011: 35

<sup>20</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00971, PRN 01887, PRN 01888, PRN 01888, PRN 04171 and PRN 40217

<sup>21</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 61086

<sup>22</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 02046

However, it was William the Conqueror who introduced 'Forest Law' as part of his subjugation of England; the term 'forest' at this date was not a description of land use, but the area under which this law applied. The forest law restricted the rights to hunt game and access resources, including timber and wood, grazing and minerals, to the Crown<sup>23</sup>. However, forest law did not just apply to areas of waste and wood, but also incorporated existing settlements and their agricultural lands. Throughout the medieval period the Crown received revenue from fines imposed upon those who flouted the forest laws, particularly from assarting (the creation of agricultural land out of wood and waste) and from poaching. In the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century the most persistent offender within Cannock Forest were the bishops of Coventry and Lichfield who continued to assart in this area throughout the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries<sup>24</sup>.

The estates documented in Domesday Book (1086) implies that Cannock Forest existed by at least the 1080s as 'Richard the Forester', whose main seat was at Rodbaston in Penkridge parish, was recorded as holding land in Staffordshire<sup>25</sup>. The forest is not, however, mentioned by name in documentary sources until 1140<sup>26</sup>. A perambulation of the forest boundaries undertaken in 1286 described the bounds of the forest as lying between the Rivers Tame, Bourne, Trent, Sowe and Penk<sup>27</sup>. The forest was sub-divided into seven 'hays' or bailiwicks (Cheslyn Hay, Gailey Hay, Teddesley Hay, Ogle Hay, Bentley Hay, Hopwas Hay and Alrewas Hay each of which was managed by its own forester who all reported to the Chief Forester<sup>28</sup>. Following a grant of disafforestation in the 14<sup>th</sup> century to many of the villages and hamlets within the Forest, these hays constituted the sole remaining area of the Royal forest which survived until the enclosure acts of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries<sup>29</sup>.

The central area of Cannock Forest comprised the manors of Cannock and Rugeley. In 1189 King Richard I granted these manors to the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield in return for the payment of a fine to finance his Crusade. The grant of these manors did not confer the right to take game, which remained with the Crown, although successive bishops claimed this right throughout the 13<sup>th</sup> century. In 1290 King Edward I resolved these ongoing disputes by granting the bishop the right of free Chase in return for a substantial payment<sup>30</sup>.

The extent of the Chase was defined in medieval documentary sources, although many of the landmarks are no longer identifiable. In 1968 Cantor used the sources to estimate that the Chase must have covered around 40 square miles (approximately 10,360 ha). This estimate, however, appears to include those areas of the waste lands on the plateau which historically formed part of Haywood and Longdon manors which presumably already formed part of the Bishops' estate. Certainly Harrison asserts that the area now known as

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<sup>23</sup> Studd 2000: 125

<sup>24</sup> Cantor 1968: 44; Welch 2000: 31; Welch and Lovatt 2002: 29

<sup>25</sup> Hawkins & Rumble 1976: 17:5

<sup>26</sup> Greenslade 1967: 338

<sup>27</sup> Cantor 1968: 44

<sup>28</sup> Cantor 1968: 44-45; fig. 2

<sup>29</sup> Ibid: 40 and 46; Cantor 1968: 46

<sup>30</sup> Greenslade 1967: 342-3; Birrell 1990: 24 & 44; Cantor 1968: 49



Cannock Chase includes land not originally part of the Chase and specifically cites Haywood Park and the land around it<sup>31</sup>.

Whatever was the true extent of the historic Cannock Chase; it covered a vast area and incorporated the towns of Cannock and Rugeley. In general, 'Chases' were not enclosed as the smaller deer parks tended to be. However, Cantor suggests that in some areas, perhaps where the topography was indistinct, a boundary ditch was constructed<sup>32</sup>. This probably includes the ditch and bank known as 'Chad's Ditch' which survives as part of the parish boundary between Huntington and Cannock<sup>33</sup>. It runs north-south and survives to a distance of approximately 2.5km; the best surviving portion survives in the area to the north of what is known as 'Chad's Gate'. The references to Chad emphasises the link between this landscape and St. Mary and St. Chad's Cathedral in Lichfield.

#### **4 HISTORIC BACKGROUND: THE ROLE OF LORDSHIP & OWNERSHIP**

The modern extent of the Cannock Chase AONB is not contiguous with the land granted to the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield in 1290. Instead the AONB coincides with parts of what had been, from at least the medieval period, the four manors of Cannock, Haywood, Longdon and Rugeley. It also incorporates the eastern portion of Teddesley Hay, administered as one of the seven divisions of the Royal Forest of Cannock until the late 16<sup>th</sup> century when it was granted to the Littleton family of Pillaton Hall, Penkridge<sup>34</sup>. The open lands lying within the manors of Haywood and Longdon became incorporated into what is thought of as Cannock Chase only in the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries<sup>35</sup>.

The manorial history of what is now the Cannock Chase AONB is complex and in many ways not fully understood. It is also not clear to what extent the different owners and principal tenants had an influence on the management of the landscape across this vast area. An understanding of the relationship and tenurial rights across the Chase may help to elucidate the ways in which the area was managed from the medieval period onwards.

For much of the medieval period all four manors were held by the Bishops of Coventry and Lichfield as overlord. In 1546 the overlordship of all four manors were granted, by the Crown, to William, Lord Paget whose family held lands on Cannock Chase until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Between 1580 and 1602 the Paget family's religious sympathies put them at odds with the Crown. In 1583 Thomas Paget fled into exile in France and all of his estates were seized by the Crown, to be finally returned in 1602<sup>36</sup>. In 1784 Henry Paget was created Earl of Uxbridge (2<sup>nd</sup> creation) and in 1815 his son, also Henry, was elevated to Marquis of Anglesey<sup>37</sup>.

Not all of the land pertaining to the manors was held in demesne (directly by the overlord), but was tenanted and occasionally sub-tenanted. It is the

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<sup>31</sup> Harrison 1974: 2

<sup>32</sup> Cantor 1968:48-9

<sup>33</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01039; Scruby 2000

<sup>34</sup> Taylor 2012: 28

<sup>35</sup> Anon. Nd.(a)

<sup>36</sup> Harrison 1974: 162-3; Welch 2000: 20-1

<sup>37</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org> viewed 02/03/2015 ('Marquess of Anglesey')

complexity of these subordinate relationships which is not clearly understood. Occasionally certain events, which have been researched by historians, have shed light on these relationships and their complexities (cf. Harrison 1974).

#### **4.1 Haywood and Baswich Manors**

According to Domesday Book (1086) the cathedral at Lichfield had held the manors of Baswich, Haywood and Lichfield since at least the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066). The manor of Baswich included Brocton in 1086, but the latter was appended to Haywood manor, along with Bednall, in 1297-8; the remainder of Baswich manor was being administered as part of Haywood by 1473<sup>38</sup>.

Haywood manor included many settlements, but only Brocton and Shugborough lie within the modern AONB area. Baswich manor was transferred to the Paget family in 1546. However, certain lands here had previously been granted during the bishops' overlordship to the Priory of St Thomas. At the Dissolution the priory's lands were granted to the then bishop's nephew, Brian Fowler, at which date he also received the demesne lands of the manor of Baswich as well as a warren and a house on a 90 year lease (cf. s7.2)<sup>39</sup>. After the 1540s these lands were sometimes known as the manor of Baswich, but were usually known as the manors of Sowe and Brocton<sup>40</sup>.

##### **4.1.1 Brocton**

Brocton is recorded in Domesday Book as waste, although Robin Studd has argued that the description of 'waste' in relation to many of the manors in Staffordshire was due to their location within the royal forests<sup>41</sup>. Brocton remained part of Haywood manor and was transferred to the Paget family who remained its overlords until 1893 when manorial rights, along with 1,784 acres of unenclosed land on Cannock Chase, were transferred to the Anson family of Shugborough. This land, in its turn, was granted to the County Council in the 1950s<sup>42</sup>.

The lands within Brocton which belonged to the Fowler family passed in 1766 through marriage to Viscount Fauconberg and, following various other changes in ownership, were ultimately sold to the Anson family in 1785<sup>43</sup>.

In the early 13<sup>th</sup> century the capital messuage and a virgate of land was granted by the de Acton family to the Brocton family who would have held their lands of the bishop as overlord<sup>44</sup>. This estate may be that granted to Roger de Aston, later that same century, who at a similar time was also granted land at Haywood and Bishton and became the bishop's principal officer in the area (cf. 6.4 Tixall below)<sup>45</sup>. The Aston family seem to have held the capital messuage

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<sup>38</sup> Burne & Donaldson 1959: 4-5

<sup>39</sup> Burne & Donaldson 1959: 4-5

<sup>40</sup> Burne & Donaldson 1959: 4-5

<sup>41</sup> Studd 2000: 125

<sup>42</sup> Burne & Donaldson 1959: 4-5

<sup>43</sup> Burne & Donaldson 1959: 4-5

<sup>44</sup> Burne & Donaldson 1959: 5

<sup>45</sup> Burne & Donaldson 1959: 5

and land at Brocton until 1584 when it appears to have passed to the Cradocks, who had bought an interest in other lands in Brocton in the 1540s<sup>46</sup>. By 1611 the Cradock's capital messuage in Brocton was being referred to as Brocton Hall and this was held by them under the overlordship of the Paget family<sup>47</sup>. The ruins of a late 16<sup>th</sup> century timber framed manor house survived into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century approximately 350m west of Brocton village<sup>48</sup>. By 1692 this property and its estate had been conveyed to a junior branch of the Chetwynd family of Ingestre and it remained in their possession until the 1920s<sup>49</sup>. The Chetwynd's influence on the estate included the construction of the extant Brocton Hall in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and also the construction of Brocton Lodge in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>50</sup>.

#### **4.1.2 Shugborough estate**

Shugborough is first recognisable as a village in documentary sources dating to the 14<sup>th</sup> century and consequently its earlier history is currently unclear<sup>51</sup>. It is likely to have developed in association with the bishop's moated manor house which was located in the vicinity of the extant Shugborough Hall (PRN 00862).

In 1546 the bishop surrendered Haywood manor (among others) to the Crown and it was afterwards granted to William, Lord Paget<sup>52</sup>. The Pagets do not appear to have favoured the Shugborough estate (see below) and at some point between 1546 and 1624 it came into the possession of Thomas Whitby<sup>53</sup>. One commentator suggests that this may have occurred in the last two decades of the 16<sup>th</sup> century when Paget had fallen from royal favour<sup>54</sup>. Certainly at this date the manor house was described as being 'ruinous'<sup>55</sup>. In 1624 Thomas Whitby sold the manor house and 80 acres of land to William Anson, a lawyer<sup>56</sup>. Significant change and development on the estate does not appear to have occurred until the 1690s when a new house, the extant Shugborough Hall, was built on what is presumed to be a new site<sup>57</sup>. Furthermore it has been suggested that until the 1690s the Anson family resided at Oakedge Hall (cf. 6.1.5)<sup>58</sup>.

Shugborough was developed as a landscape park during the 18<sup>th</sup> century (cf. s.7.5) and included the demolition of the medieval village and the construction of a new settlement nearby. From this period the Ansons began to expand the estate by laying claim to those parts of Cannock Chase which lay adjacent to the south without the permission of the Pagets as their overlords. In 1893 the Marquess of Anglesey conveyed 1,784 acres on Cannock Chase along with all the manorial rights to the Anson family which they held until the 1950s when

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<sup>46</sup> Burne & Donaldson 1959: 6

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 58299; Burne & Donaldson 1959: 3

<sup>49</sup> Burne & Donaldson 1959: 6

<sup>50</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 58300; Burne & Donaldson 1959: 3

<sup>51</sup> Stitt 1970: 89

<sup>52</sup> Welch 2000: 18-19; Cantor 1968: 48-9; Davies et al 1983-4: 18

<sup>53</sup> Stitt 1970: 88; Davies et al 1983-4: 26

<sup>54</sup> <http://landedfamilies.blogspot.co.uk> viewed 27/01/2015

<sup>55</sup> Stitt 1970: 88

<sup>56</sup> Stitt 1970: 88; Johnson 1989: 4

<sup>57</sup> Davies et al 1983-4: 26; Staffordshire HER: PRN 08016; English Heritage: National Heritage No. 1079637

<sup>58</sup> White 1834: 626-7 on <http://books.google.co.uk> viewed 02/03/2015; <http://landedfamilies.blogspot.co.uk> viewed 27/01/2015

this land formed the grant to both Staffordshire County Council and the National Trust<sup>59</sup>.

#### **4.1.3 Wolseley manor**

In 1086 Wolseley also formed part of the manor of Haywood and was leased by the bishop to a man named Nigel. This manor was held by the Wolseley family probably from at least the 12<sup>th</sup> century, although their relationship to Nigel is unknown. The family's seat lay on the north side of the Stafford-Lichfield road (outside of the AONB) where a moated site, archaeologically investigated in the 1980s, had probably been established in the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century. Wolseley Hall remained the seat of the Wolseley family until 1969 when the house was demolished<sup>60</sup>.

The estate was never large only covering around 673ha<sup>61</sup>. In the 1580s-90s, presumably taking advantage of the Pagets' exile, Thomas Wolseley was found to have illegally enclosed around 800 acres on the Chase. He was not, however, the only member of the local gentry involved in illegal enclosure during this period (cf. s7.1)<sup>62</sup>.

#### **4.1.4 Haywood Park**

The tenurial history of Haywood Park is obscure following the granting of Haywood manor to Lord Paget in 1546. It originated as a deer park in the medieval period (cf s7.4) and is likely to have incorporated a lodge for the park keeper. This may have stood on the site of the property which survived into the early 19<sup>th</sup> century approximately 650m north west of the extant Haywood Park Farm, which replaced it<sup>63</sup>.

The park continued to be held by the Pagets until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although there are references that suggest it was leased out at various times to a number of local gentry families including the Congreve's in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the Chetwynd's in the 18<sup>th</sup> century<sup>64</sup>. An Antony Gower is recorded as being in possession of Haywood Park circa 1596<sup>65</sup>. Haywood Park still belonged to the Pagets circa 1867, but by the 1880s it was in the ownership of the Anson's of Shugborough<sup>66</sup>. Haywood Park formed part of the Anson lands transferred to the County Council in the 1950s.

#### **4.1.5 Oakedge Hall**

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<sup>59</sup> Burne & Donaldson 1959: 4-5

<sup>60</sup> Buteux et al 1989: 2

<sup>61</sup> Welch 2001: 22

<sup>62</sup> Harrison 1974: 99; Welch 2000: 51-2

<sup>63</sup> Staffordshire HER; PRN 56157

<sup>64</sup> Debrett 1815 <http://books.google.co.uk> viewed 02/03/2015 (records birth of three children to John Congreve and Mary Nicholl at Haywood Park in 1666, 1668 and 1670); The Peerage website <http://www.peerage.com> viewed 02/03/2015 (records the birth of at least four children to William Chetwynd (later 4<sup>th</sup> Viscount Chetwynd of Bearhaven) and his wife Susannah Cope at Haywood Park between 1753 and 1758)

<sup>65</sup> NRO Kew – E134/38 and 39Eiz/Mich12 The National Archives website [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) viewed 02/03/2015

<sup>66</sup> Shirley 1867: 179 <http://books.google.co.uk> viewed 02/03/2015; SRO D615/ES/6/7 (summary description viewed on National Archives website [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) 02/03/2015 refers to Anson leasing sporting rights at Shugborough and in Haywood Park)

The history of this estate is obscure, but may have been created out of woodland lying within Wolseley manor and in the ownership of Lord Aston of Tixall Hall (cf. s.6.4)<sup>67</sup>. Indeed its creation may have been one of the illegal enclosures by local gentry during the Pagets' exile in the later 16<sup>th</sup> century<sup>68</sup>. Title deeds to land at "Oakedge Hill" dating between 1641 and 1715 make reference to free warren, woodland and a messuage<sup>69</sup>, which may relate to the Oakedge estate possibly suggesting that it may have originated as a game park or warren<sup>70</sup>.

It is generally assumed that the Anson family initially lived at Oakedge after purchasing the Shugborough estate in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (cf. 6.1.2)<sup>71</sup>. By the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century the Oakedge estate was in the possession of the Whitby family of Great Haywood and it is they who are responsible for the construction of the house which appears in a late-18<sup>th</sup> century drawing<sup>72</sup>. The estate was purchased by the Ansons of Shugborough in 1768 as a residence for Thomas Anson's unmarried sisters, but it appears to have been abandoned by circa 1817 and was later demolished<sup>73</sup>.

#### **4.1.6 Milford Hall**

Milford Hall dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and may have been constructed by the Byrd family, later coming into the hands of the Levett family<sup>74</sup>. It is currently unclear whether this estate existed at an earlier date than the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## **4.2 Longdon Manor**

Longdon manor is not recorded in Domesday Book, but is likely to have formed part of the Bishops' Lichfield manor at this date. By the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century the manor of Lichfield referred only to the town itself; the remainder of the estate was henceforth known as Longdon manor<sup>75</sup>. The only settlement associated with Longdon manor lying within the AONB is Upper Longdon which may have medieval origins (cf. s.8.14).

The manor was granted to the Paget family following the surrender of the bishop's lands in 1546.

### **4.2.1 Beaudesert Park**

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<sup>67</sup> SRO D(W)1781/5/16/1-11 (summary description viewed on <http://www.archives.staffordshire.gov.uk> 03/03/2015)

<sup>68</sup> Welch 2000: 51-2; Anon. nd. (b)

<sup>69</sup> Messuage: Originates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century French word '*mesnage*' and refers to a dwelling house together with its outbuildings, curtilage and the adjacent land appropriated to its use.

<sup>70</sup> SRO D(W)1781/5/16/1-11 (summary description viewed on <http://www.archives.staffordshire.gov.uk> 03/03/2015)

<sup>71</sup> White 1834: 626-7 on <http://books.google.co.uk> viewed 02/03/2015; <http://landedfamilies.blogspot.co.uk> viewed 27/01/2015

<sup>72</sup> Shaw c. 1762-1802 'Colwich Church and Oakedge House' Staffordshire Past Track website <http://www.staffspastrack.org.uk/>; Landed Families blog spot web <http://landedfamilies.blogspot.co.uk> viewed 27/01/2015

<sup>73</sup> SRO D615/E/814 (summary description viewed on Gateway to the Past web <http://www.archives.staffordshire.gov.uk> 03/03/2015); Landed Families blog spot web <http://landedfamilies.blogspot.co.uk> viewed 27/01/2015

<sup>74</sup> Burne et al 1959: 6-7

<sup>75</sup> Greenslade 1990: 67; Meeson 1997: 3

Beaudesert Park lay within Longdon manor and it is likely that it had been created by the bishops prior to the granting of free Chase in 1290. It certainly existed by 1306 when Bishop Langton was granted a licence to crenellate a house at Beaudesert, which may represent the rebuilding of an earlier lodge<sup>76</sup>. The house is unlikely to have been used as a permanent residence, although an analysis of the surviving fabric of Beaudesert Hall suggests that further expense was spent upon the building in the later 15<sup>th</sup> century including various extensions to the property<sup>77</sup>.

Following receipt of the bishops' lands in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century the Pagets set about making Beaudesert their principal seat. The hall was significantly rebuilt between 1573 and 1583 and further remodelling was carried out in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and following a fire in 1909<sup>78</sup>.

The Paget family abandoned the hall as a residence from 1920 and the remainder of the estate was sold to the Forestry Commission later that same decade<sup>79</sup>. Demolition of the hall began in 1935, but was not completed and the oldest elements of the building, designated as a Listed Building in the 1950s, survive as a ruin<sup>80</sup>.

#### **4.2.2 Other estates**

The history of the other estates which developed within Longdon manor is not clearly understood. A number of families are recorded as holding estates within the manor at various dates and include the Aston family (of Tixall from the 16<sup>th</sup> century), the Littletons, the Rugeleys, the Broughtons, the Arblasters and the Stonywells<sup>81</sup>.

The only estate within the manor which coincides with the AONB is Chestalls, which was held by the de Rugeley family by at least the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century<sup>82</sup>. The overlordship of the estate passed to the Pagets in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century and in 1668 was still being referred to as 'Chestall Hall'<sup>83</sup>. After this date it appears to have been taken in hand by the Paget's and let out by them on a succession of short leases as a farm<sup>84</sup>. The farm was sold by the Paget's in 1938<sup>85</sup>.

The Arblaster family had interests in Longdon manor from at least the later 14<sup>th</sup> century and, through marriage, inherited the Lysways Hall at Longdon Green, probably in the earlier 15<sup>th</sup> century<sup>86</sup> (cf. s.7.2 and s.7.4).

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<sup>76</sup> Hislop & Kelleher 2011: 41

<sup>77</sup> Hislop & Kelleher 2011: 56

<sup>78</sup> Hislop & Kelleher 2011: 60

<sup>79</sup> Hislop & Kelleher 2011: 43

<sup>80</sup> Frost 2005

<sup>81</sup> Burne & Donaldson 1959: 6; Meeson 1997: 3

<sup>82</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 02044; Greenslade 1959: 57

<sup>83</sup> William Salt Library SDPearson/1392 'Bargain & Sale' (summary description viewed on Gateway to the Past web <http://www.archives.staffordshire.gov.uk> viewed 05/03/2015)

<sup>84</sup> Staffordshire Record Office D603/E/3/71 (Lease of Chestall Farm 22/05/1679); D603/E/3/123 (Lease of Chestall Farm etc 25/04/1709); D603/E/3/140 (Lease of capital messuage called Chestall Farm 05/01/1713); and D/603/E/3/191 (Lease of Chestall Farm etc 13/08/1733) (summary descriptions viewed on Gateway to the Past web <http://www.archives.staffordshire.gov.uk> viewed 05/03/2015)

<sup>85</sup> Greenslade 1959: 58

<sup>86</sup> William Salt Library SD Eyton/3/6; Pitt 1817: 87 viewed on <http://books.google.co.uk> 05/03/2015

### 4.3 Cannock and Rugeley Manors

The manors of Cannock and Rugeley were held by the Crown in 1086 and were only granted to the Bishop in 1189<sup>87</sup>. The interests of the bishops were curtailed by the fact that these manors formed part of the Royal Cannock Forest, although they continued to illegally take game and timber throughout this period. These disputes were resolved in 1290 when the bishops were granted the right of free chase (cf. s.5). The part of those two manors which formed Cannock Chase were in themselves subdivided into two bailiwicks (the jurisdiction of a bailiff) Trumwyn's and Puys (or Rugeley), which were administered by bishop's officers<sup>88</sup>.

The manors were granted to the Pagets in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century and they appear to have retained a direct interest in those areas of these manors forming the historic extent of Cannock Chase until at least the 1580s<sup>89</sup>.

A number of estates were created within both manors, the earliest of which existed prior to the bishop's grant in 1189. These included the land associated with the two bailiwicks. The Trumwyn family held the land attached to the bailiwick officer's post in Cannock, although this had passed via marriage to the Salway family by 1399 and appears to have been divided between other lessees by the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century<sup>90</sup>. Other lands in Cannock manor were held variously by the de Audleys, the de Staffords, the Levett family and for 21 years from 1598 by Gilbert Wakering<sup>91</sup>. In Rugeley the lands attached to the bailiwick officer post appears to be associated with what later became Hagley manor<sup>92</sup>. The bailiwick estate was held variously by the de Puys (or Puteo) family and the de Thomenhorns. Much of the land which attached to Cannock manor in particular lies outside of the Cannock Chase AONB.

Other estates in Rugeley were held by the de Rugeley family in the medieval period, whilst the neighbouring settlement of Brereton was held variously by the de Audley's, the de Mutton's, and from the late 13<sup>th</sup> century until the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century the Chetwynd family<sup>93</sup>.

#### 4.3.1 Hagley (next to Rugeley)

Hagley was described as a manor by 1513 when it was held by the Mutton/Mitton family; the original site of the manor house is associated with the remains of a moat now located within Elmore Park lying on the outskirts of Rugeley (beyond the AONB)<sup>94</sup>. In 1571 the estate passed to the Weston family

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<sup>87</sup> Greenslade 1959: 58

<sup>88</sup> Greenslade 1959: 58-9

<sup>89</sup> Welch 2000: 20-1

<sup>90</sup> Greenslade 1959: 55-57

<sup>91</sup> Greenslade 1959: 55-57

<sup>92</sup> Greenslade 1959: 155

<sup>93</sup> Greenslade 1959: 154-155, 157

<sup>94</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01807

who held it until the 18<sup>th</sup> century at which date it came into the hands of the Curzon family. In circa 1878 it was sold the Paget family, who broke the estate up in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century<sup>95</sup>. While immediately outside the AONB boundary, elements of Hagley Hall's 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape park survive including several bridges over the Rising Brook, water features and a listed Grotto.

#### 4.4 Tixall

Tixall village and the site of the hall lie within the north western corner of the AONB, although it never formed part of the historic extent of the bishops' Cannock Chase. The manor of Tixall, first recorded in Domesday Book (1086), passed to the Aston family through the marriage of Sir John to Joan Littleton, the sole heiress of Sir William Littleton in either the late 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century<sup>96</sup>. In the late 13<sup>th</sup> century the Aston family were granted lands in Haywood and Bishton as well as the hereditary office of chief warden of the Chase, woods and parks in Haywood and Lichfield manors. In 1496 they were granted the 'mastership of the game and rule' of Cannock Chase<sup>97</sup>. It appears that throughout the medieval period the Astons extended their influence through the purchase of various lands including within Haywood and Brocton<sup>98</sup>. By the end of the medieval period the Astons had become the principal gentry family within the Cannock Chase area; this however changed in 1546 when the Paget family was granted all of the bishop's lands<sup>99</sup>. The rivalry which resulted between the Catholic Pagets and the Protestant Astons reached a critical point in the 1580s, just prior to Thomas Paget's exile, resulting in 'riots' on the Chase against the Paget's enclosure of parts of Cannock Chase (cf. sections 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3).

The Astons continued to exert their influence within the Cannock Chase area and this was reflected in their development of the Tixall estate from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards. In 1720 the manor passed via the marriage of the Aston heiress to the Clifford family<sup>100</sup>.

#### 4.5 Hatherton

The manor of Hatherton belonged to the church at Wolverhampton at the time of Domesday Book (1086)<sup>101</sup>. The Walhouse family had interests in the manor by the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>102</sup> By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Hatherton Hall was the seat of Moreton Walhouse whose son, Edward John, inherited the Littleton estates (including Teddesley Hall) from his great uncle in 1812 and was later elevated to Baron Hatherton<sup>103</sup>.

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<sup>95</sup> Greenslade 1959: 155-6

<sup>96</sup> Horovitz 2005: 540; Clifford & Clifford 1817: 8-9 viewed on <http://books.google.co.uk> 03/03/2015

<sup>97</sup> Clifford & Clifford 1817: 145 viewed on <http://books.google.co.uk> 03/03/2015; Greenslade 1959: 59

<sup>98</sup> Clifford & Clifford 1817: 145 viewed on <http://books.google.co.uk> 03/03/2015

<sup>99</sup> Harrison 1974: 161

<sup>100</sup> White 1834: 688 on <http://books.google.co.uk> viewed 03/03/2015

<sup>101</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 02476

<sup>102</sup> SRO D260/M/T/4/2 Deeds to various properties in Hatherton p. Wolverhampton mid-16th century (summary description viewed on Gateway to the Past web <http://www.archives.staffordshire.gov.uk> viewed 05/03/2015)

<sup>103</sup> Harwood 1844 on <http://books.google.co.uk> viewed 05/03/2015; Debrett 1815 on <http://books.google.co.uk> viewed 05/03/2015



Hatherton Hall and its landscape park lie within the Cannock Chase AONB, but the settlement to the south lies beyond it.

## 5 HISTORIC BACKGROUND: LAND MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE EXPLOITATION

A variety of land uses throughout the centuries has made and continues to influence the landscape of the Cannock Chase AONB. It is clear from the historical evidence that Cannock Chase was a multi-functional landscape throughout the centuries. Different activities can be seen to have occurred at specific places and sometimes at specific periods.

### 5.1 Agriculture and Settlement : Mixed Agriculture

A legacy of centuries of mixed agricultural practices marks the landscape of the western and eastern fringes of the AONB (cf.s.3.1). In these areas this activity is associated at various times with the settlements of Brocton, Rugeley, Slitting Mill, Wolseley and Upper Longdon. A village, with associated open fields and meadow, had been established within what is known as Shugborough Park by at least the 14<sup>th</sup> century<sup>104</sup>. The associated agricultural landscape has largely been masked by the extant 18<sup>th</sup> century parkland.

Of these settlements only Brocton, Rugeley and Wolseley are mentioned in Domesday Book (1086). At this date none of the estates are large and none appear to have been associated with large areas of arable land<sup>105</sup>. The origins of Upper Longdon are unclear, but may have been settled following assarting in this general landscape between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (cf. Section 5 above)<sup>106</sup>. The field patterns associated with both Brocton and Upper Longdon suggest that they had operated some form of an open field system during the medieval period<sup>107</sup>. These were enclosed piecemeal probably during the post medieval period (cf. s.3.1)<sup>108</sup>.

Brocton is also characterised by the high numbers of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century timber framed buildings as well as by the surviving historic farmsteads, which although not now in agricultural use, retain their individual plan forms within the village. The majority of these farmsteads are small-scale and often associated with the earlier buildings. There are very few farmsteads within the landscape around Brocton, but where they are present they tend to be large regular courtyards associated with either the Brocton Hall or Milford Hall estates. The earliest known properties in Upper Longdon date to the 17<sup>th</sup> century and include

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<sup>104</sup> Stitt 1970: 89

<sup>105</sup> Hawkins & Rumble 1976: 2:4 (Brocton); 2: 7 (Wolseley) and 1:22 (Rugeley)

<sup>106</sup> Assart: the creation of farmland out of woodland

<sup>107</sup> Open Field: An area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. Usually without internal divisions (hedges, walls or fences). (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage. © 2015 English Heritage)

<sup>108</sup> Piecemeal Enclosure: Fields created out of the medieval open fields through informal, verbal agreements between landholders who wished to consolidate their holdings. Within Staffordshire this process appears to have been well under way by the late medieval period, and was probably largely enclosed by the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Field pattern includes distinctive boundaries exhibiting 's-curve' or 'dog-leg' morphology, suggesting that they follow the boundaries of former medieval field strips.

one farmstead. Both Brocton and Upper Longdon have witnessed later 20<sup>th</sup> century housing development.

At Brocton 20<sup>th</sup> century ribbon development extends northwards to meet Milford. The origin of Milford itself is obscure. The placename is first recorded in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but it is unclear whether settlement was present at that date<sup>109</sup>. Settlement certainly existed by the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the historic built character suggests that many of the buildings were constructed by the Milford Hall estate.

The hamlet of Slitting Mill is likely to have originated as squatter settlement associated with the development of industry along the Rising Brook from the 17<sup>th</sup> century<sup>110</sup> (cf. s.7.3). The origin of the extant irregular fields which lie between the hamlet and the site of the 17<sup>th</sup> century iron works may be contemporary with this activity.

Further settlement originating as squatter enclosures survives to the south of Beadesert Park at Cannock Wood and to the east of Gentleshaw Common. This historic landscape character is particularly strong to the east of Gentleshaw Common where the pattern of squatter settlement, comprising small historic farmsteads and scattered cottages, is closely associated with the small irregular enclosure and routeways leading into the common (cf. HECZ 16). Small irregular enclosure remains a feature of the landscape of Cannock Wood along with a scattering of cottages, although later 20<sup>th</sup> century infill housing has created a more nucleated feel to the settlement pattern (cf. HECZ 16). The squatter settlement at both Gentleshaw and Cannock Wood existed by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, but its precise origins are unclear. Settlement was probably attracted to this by the industrial activity within the area which is recorded from the medieval period onwards (cf. s.7.3).

Hazelslade probably originated as a mining settlement in the 1860s-1870s, presumably associated with the opening of the adjacent Cannock & Rugeley colliery<sup>111</sup>. It originally comprised rows of terraced housing laid out along five streets and in the 1880s two non-conformist chapels and a school were constructed<sup>112</sup>. The Hazelslade Inn also existed by the early 1880s and this is the only 19<sup>th</sup> century building to survive at Hazelslade, the remainder of the settlement was cleared in the post-war period and rebuilt. Modern settlement also encroaches into the south western portion of the AONB representing a modern extension to the historic settlement of Huntington (see Map 2).

A settlement known as Woodside existed at the southern end of the Shugborough estate, by the 17<sup>th</sup> century and was extant in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century<sup>113</sup>. Nothing further is known about this settlement.

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<sup>109</sup> Horovitz 2005: 389

<sup>110</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04985

<sup>111</sup> Greenslade 1959: 149

<sup>112</sup> Greenslade 1959: 67, 69 & 70

<sup>113</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20796

Documentary evidence from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries attests to temporary cultivation within the Chase itself by the local inhabitants, but the location of this activity is currently unknown<sup>114</sup>.

## 5.2 Agriculture and Settlement : Pasture and Rights of Common

The extent of heathland across the area of the AONB in the past is currently unclear. There are few descriptions of the landscape of the Chase during the early post medieval period. In 1695 the travel writer, Celia Fiennes, described the Chase as comprising a mix of woodland and pasture, the latter particularly comprising 'fern'<sup>115</sup>. A small number of mid-16<sup>th</sup> century surveys survive, but these specifically record the woodland on the Pagets' manors of Cannock and Rugeley with reference to the available fuel resources for the local iron industry. However, the surveys imply that the majority of the woodland lay within Rugeley manor, although riots by the local graziers imply that this was represented by wood pasture, rather than dense woodland. Much less woodland was recorded in Cannock manor, and along with contemporary references to 'Cankethe', the implication is that open land had long been a feature of this manor. Beyond the historic extent of Cannock Chase, within the surrounding manors, much less is known about the vegetation of the landscape in the past. This includes the largest area of heathland on the Chase today along the Sherbrook Valley, which historically had lain within Haywood manor.

Undoubtedly the Chase was an important resource for the local people who long claimed rights of common grazing, but it also provided numerous other resources such as building and roofing materials. Less obviously bracken (fern) was burnt and used as fertilizer and to make soap; whilst heather was used for making brushes and mattresses<sup>116</sup>. Berry producing plants supplemented human diet, whilst hollies were managed to provide winter feed for grazing animals<sup>117</sup>. Grazing, however, formed an important part of the local economy particularly of cattle and sheep, both of which are recorded on the Chase in the 16<sup>th</sup> century<sup>118</sup>. Sheep were particularly important, probably from at least the medieval period, and their wool supported a thriving cloth industry within England. By the 15<sup>th</sup> century there were fulling mills within two of the bishop's manors; Haywood and Rugeley<sup>119</sup>. The fulling mill in Haywood manor stood on the site of what is now Shugborough Park Farm<sup>120</sup>. In the 1580s it has been estimated that around 7,000 sheep were being over-wintered on the Chase, with presumably greater numbers being kept in the summer<sup>121</sup>. Large numbers continued to be kept into the 18<sup>th</sup> century particularly around Teddesley in the west and Rugeley and Beaudesert to the east<sup>122</sup>. So

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<sup>114</sup> Harrison 1974: 101; Stitt 1970: 95

<sup>115</sup> Anon. nd.(a): 12

<sup>116</sup> Anon. nd. (a)

<sup>117</sup> Anon. nd. (a) Above the browse-line holly produces smooth leaves which could be cropped for animal feed.

<sup>118</sup> Anon. nd. (a)

<sup>119</sup> Jenkins 1967: 217

<sup>120</sup> Stitt 1970: 94; Staffordshire HER: PRN 20791

<sup>121</sup> Harrison 1974: 104-5

<sup>122</sup> Anon. nd. (a): 13

ubiquitous were these animals on the Chase that a distinctive breed of grey-faced hornless sheep developed, although they were reportedly extinct by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century<sup>123</sup>.

Such was the importance of grazing to the local inhabitants that it led on occasion to conflict between the local graziers and the lords. Incidents occurred in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century between the Wolseley family and the bishop's Rugeley tenants, the latter protesting against the enclosure of land over which they claimed the right of common grazing<sup>124</sup>. Further violent outbursts occurred in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century between the Rugeley graziers and the Pagets; the former protesting against the enclosure of woodland to create coppices to fuel the local iron industry. A study of the late 16<sup>th</sup> century incidents has, however, led to the recognition that much of this activity was probably politically motivated under the instigation of the Pagets' local rivals, the protestant Aston family of Tixall (cf. s.6.4)<sup>125</sup>. The final period of rioting against enclosure occurred in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century this time against the Paget's creation of rabbit warrens (cf. s.7.4.1). At this date the judicial process supported the rights of the landowner over those who sought to claim rights of common<sup>126</sup>.

The suppression of the rights of common formed part of the era of 'Improvement' which began in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century. From this period onwards landowners were encouraged to manage their lands to maximise production both of arable and animal husbandry. These aims were echoed by contemporary commentators such as William Pitt who expressed the opinion, in the early-19<sup>th</sup> century, that "the whole [of the Chase] is capable of improvement and cultivation"<sup>127</sup>. He highlighted the improvements made within Teddesley Hay by the Littleton family carried out under an Act of Enclosure awarded 1827-9. This resulted in the creation of Teddelsey landscape park (outside of the AONB) and the enclosure of much of the remainder of the Hay into regular fields (cf. s.3.1). The remainder of the Chase was subject to Enclosure Acts later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with those areas lying within the AONB awarded in 1885 (Cannock and Rugeley manor)<sup>128</sup>. It is possible that the principal aim of this Act, given that it did not result in the subdivision of the Chase into fields or the implementation of agricultural improvement, was to extinguish any lingering common grazing rights.

### 5.3 Woodland Management

The majority of the woodland which clothes the Chase today forms commercial forestry plantation under the management of the Forestry Commission. Brocton Coppice towards the north west of the AONB is the only ancient woodland surviving upon the Chase (cf. HECZ 3). Its survival is one of the great mysteries of Cannock Chase as documentary evidence appears to support the contention that this once wooded landscape was destroyed during the late 16<sup>th</sup>-early 17<sup>th</sup> century when it was in the hands of the Elizabethan

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<sup>123</sup> Anon. nd. (a)

<sup>124</sup> Welch 1997: 30

<sup>125</sup> Harrison 1974

<sup>126</sup> Anon. nd. (a)

<sup>127</sup> Pitt 1817: 59-60 viewed on <http://books.google.co.uk> on 05/03/2015

<sup>128</sup> SRO Q/RDc/105 1885 viewed on Gateway to the Past web <http://www.archives.staffordshire.gov.uk> on 13/03/2015

courtier Fulke Greville who held a 21 year lease for running the Pagets' ironworks and exploiting the woodland for fuel. The truth, inevitably, is probably much more complex. It is clear that Greville only held the rights to woodland that lay within what comprised the historic extent of Cannock Chase and not the modern understanding of its extent. Crucially he did not hold the rights to woodland in the adjacent manors of Haywood, Longdon or Wolseley, although he may have had access to the woodland of Haywood park<sup>129</sup>. Brocton Coppice's survival is probably due, therefore, to this quirk of the historic land management rights across the Chase.

An analysis of the documentary sources relating to the Pagets' ironworking industry and the management of the woodland lying specifically within the historic Cannock Chase, (represented by the manors of Cannock and Rugeley) has been undertaken by a number researchers. Chris Welch used the account records for each of the named woods, both enclosed (coppices) and presumably unenclosed, to estimate the likely extent of the Chase which was being managed as woodlands during this period of exploitation<sup>130</sup>. The majority of this woodland lay within Rugeley manor. The documentary evidence also identifies wood resources that the Pagets bought in from outside the Chase, including the right to take the wood from Teddesley Hay and from Arblaster Hay, probably in the area of the extant Brereton Hay Wood to the east<sup>131</sup>. This implies that woodland existed in these areas beyond the historic extent of Cannock Chase by the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century.

Welch argues that, whilst Greville was instrumental in the destruction of the woodland, the sustained output of the iron industry, should it have remained at its mid-late 16<sup>th</sup> century rate, would ultimately have had the same result on the woodland resource<sup>132</sup>. The lack of woodland regeneration, it has further been argued, was due to increased sheep grazing, the intensification of rabbit farming, and the subsequent deterioration in soils<sup>133</sup>. Despite this by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century five large woodlands remained including Brocton Coppice to the north west, Furnace Coppice in the area of the current Marquis Drive Visitor Centre, and Lady Hill Coppice; the latter two both appear to relate to woodland named in the 16<sup>th</sup> century records<sup>134</sup>. The two remaining woodlands lying furthest to the east, Chetwynd Coppice, and what is now Brereton Hay Woods, (which Welch equates with Arblaster Hayes in the 16<sup>th</sup> century) lay outside of the historic extent of Cannock Chase and thus outside of both the Paget's and Fulke Greville's direct control. Consequently, these woodlands may have survived as ancient woodland, both presumably belonging to the Chetwynd family by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and probably earlier (Chetwynd' Coppice may have been the resource from which Paget obtained wood in the 16<sup>th</sup> century which is indicated in the records as 'Chetwind')<sup>135</sup>. Woodland also survived within Beaudesert Park and a coppice existed in Teddesley Hay in the late 18<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>129</sup> Johnson 1967 : 111

<sup>130</sup> Welch 2000: 17-73

<sup>131</sup> Welch 2000: 44 and 48; the Arblasters were local minor gentry cf. s.6.2.2

<sup>132</sup> Welch 2000: 51-2

<sup>133</sup> Welch 2000: 63; Anon. nd.(b)

<sup>134</sup> Welch 2000: 42 (Lady Hill appearing to relate to Lady Hay in the documents the name indicating to Welch the possibility that it may have been ancient woodland by the 16<sup>th</sup>-century)

<sup>135</sup> Welch 2000: 68

century, it was probably lost during the landscaping of Teddesley Park from this period onwards.

All of the areas identified as being historic woodlands are still wooded, although the majority have been largely replanted probably in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There is currently a poor understanding of the archaeological traces of the historic woodland management on the Chase. Archaeological survey, principally that undertaken by Adrian Scruby on behalf of Forestry Enterprise in 2000, identified numerous earthwork banks and ditches across the Chase. Some of these features undoubtedly relate to this activity, the most convincing having been identified within Chetwynd's Coppice includes a curvilinear section which may indicate the coppice's south western extent. Few banks and ditches were identified within the historic Rugeley manor where documentary evidence suggested most of the Pagets' woodland were located. It is, however, unclear whether this area was included within Scruby's survey or whether more recent forestry planting has removed the evidence.

## 5.4 Industry

A number of industrial activities, including ironworking, glass working and mining (both coal and iron) are inferred within documentary sources during the medieval period.

### 5.4.1 Mining

Evidence for shallow mine workings have been recorded during archaeological surveys within the bounds of Beaudesert Old Park, the bishop's deer park. These features have not been dated, but mining within the park is recorded in the later 14th century in the Bishop's manor of Longdon, within which Beaudesert lay. However, mining continued here during in the 16th century and did not certainly cease in its entirety until the early 19th century<sup>136</sup>. Coal was probably the principal mineral being exploited, particularly in the 18th and early 19th centuries, but ironstone was probably also extracted. To the north of Beaudesert Park, in the area now known as Brereton Hayes Wood, lying on the Middle Coal Measures, further evidence for early mining activity has been identified during an archaeological survey<sup>137</sup>. The features have not been dated, but are evidence of quite intensive activity. Further early mining activity, in the form of bell pits identified on aerial photography, lie to the south of the AONB to the east and west of Hazelslade<sup>138</sup>. Pit shafts associated with mining, probably during the 1820s, has also been identified to the east of Chetwynd's Coppice and formed part of the Brereton Colliery workings.

There are documentary references to 'coal ways' crossing the Chase and a number of extant tracks and earthwork hollow ways have been identified, which may represent the physical remains of these routeways. These routes may have had their origins in at least the medieval period, and were probably still activity into the early or mid-19th century. Many of the hollow ways, however,

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<sup>136</sup> Taylor 1967: 72, 73; Welch & Lovatt 2002: 30

<sup>137</sup> Welch 1993

<sup>138</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20079 and PRN 20080

can only be traced for short sections and their contribution to the overall transport network is currently unclear.

Large-scale colliery works were opened at both Brereton Hayes Wood and to the east of Hazelslade, at Cannock Wood, in the later 19th century, both of which remained operational into the 20th century. Intensive infrastructure was constructed during this period to link the collieries to the main line railway. The largest collieries and associated settlement for which the Cannock area is famed generally lay to the south of what is now the AONB.

#### **5.4.2 Glass-working**

In the north the Wolseley family were involved with glass-making from at least the 1470s, although it may have had an earlier origin within their manor; a family by the name of Glasmon were recorded in manorial records for committing offences within the lord's woodland, in 1408<sup>139</sup>. Archaeological work within Wolseley Park identified two separate areas where glassworking had occurred. The evidence suggested that the industry was operational, at various times, between the 13th/14th century and the late 16th century<sup>140</sup>. There remains the potential for further glass working sites to survive within this area of the AONB taking into account the number of sites discovered during archaeological works at Bagot's Park, near Abbot's Bromley<sup>141</sup>.

#### **5.4.3 The Iron Industry**

There are references to iron-working on the bishop's manors in the vicinity of the Chase in the 13th and 14th centuries<sup>142</sup>. Archaeological evidence has suggested that iron-working sites, possibly originating in the medieval period, existed to the south in and around Beaudesert Park. However, most of these sites have only been recognised from the quantities of iron slag found rather than from features. There remains the potential for further early iron working sites to be discovered and to be archaeologically recorded.

The Paget family are most closely linked with the iron industry on the Chase, although they were only directly involved in the mid to late 16th century. They are accredited with having introduced the first blast furnace to the Midlands, from the south of England, in the 1560s<sup>143</sup>. Much work has been carried out on the history of the Paget's iron industry, particularly by Chris Welch in the 1990s. He sought to identify the industrial sites mentioned in the documentary record with the known or presumed archaeological sites on the Chase. However, few of these sites have been archaeologically investigated and the documentary evidence was too imprecise in its descriptions to enable Welch to make any firm conclusions about the precise number and location of the Pagets' ironworks<sup>144</sup>. The archaeological evidence suggests that blast furnaces may have been located along the Rising Brook, where a furnace is recorded in 1775, and possibly within the present extent of Beaudesert Park where blast

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<sup>139</sup> Jenkins 1967: 247

<sup>140</sup> Welch 1997: 26-29

<sup>141</sup> Welch 1997: 37

<sup>142</sup> Johnson 1967: 108

<sup>143</sup> Welch 2000: 18-19

<sup>144</sup> Welch 2000: 20

furnace slag was identified in 1992 and which appears to coincide with documentary references to an 'old furnace' in the vicinity in the late 17th century<sup>145</sup>. Archaeological evidence for a blast furnace has also been discovered within Wolseley Park in the form of a square platform and associated iron slag<sup>146</sup>. It has been speculated that the Wolseley family may have established a short-lived furnace on their estate in the late 16th-early 17th century; at a period when the Paget's iron industry was in the hands of Fulke Greville<sup>147</sup>.

The later history of ironworking on the Chase is currently poorly understood. The Pagets handed over control of the industry in the Rising Brook to the Chetwynd family in the early 17th century (following the termination of Greville's lease). This family are associated with the establishment of the earliest slitting mill within England in 1622-3, although the site of this mill lies on the Rising Brook just beyond the limits of the AONB<sup>148</sup>. The iron industry continued into at least the early 18th century. A furnace is marked on Yates' map of 1775, although it is not clear whether this merely indicates the site of the building rather than confirmation of the survival of the industry<sup>149</sup>. The output of the industry within the 17th and early 18th century is unknown, but its presence presumably contributed to the survival of the large woodlands, particularly Furnace Coppice, Chetwynd's Coppice and Arblaster/Brereton Hays, into the late 18th century (cf. 7.2).

#### **5.4.4 Paper Mills**

The fulling mill on the Sher Brook in Shugborough Park (on the site of the extant Park Farm) was converted to a paper mill in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and it continued to operate until circa 1800<sup>150</sup>. A second paper mill is recorded in documentary records by the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, and possibly earlier, further upstream along the Sher Brook. The site of this mill has been identified within Haywood Park from stones found in the stream bed<sup>151</sup>.

### **5.5 Hunting**

The history of Cannock Chase is probably most frequently associated with hunting and its landscape was probably, at least partly, managed with the aim of creating suitable habitat for deer and for their pursuit. Little is currently known about how this was managed or the extent to which this was in reality a primary function of the Chase. Certainly, it seems that during the Pagets' lordship other concerns came to the fore including common pasture for domesticated animals and the management of woodland to fuel industry.

The intensive management of deer in the medieval period appears to be indicated by the presence of at least three medieval deer parks within the AONB: Haywood Park and Wolseley Park to the north and Beaudesert Park to

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<sup>145</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01010 and PRN 01011; Welch 1992

<sup>146</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20750

<sup>147</sup> SCC nd.; Staffordshire HER: PRN 20750

<sup>148</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04985

<sup>149</sup> Welch 2000: 62

<sup>150</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20798

<sup>151</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20790



the south. The history of Oakedge Park, also to the north, is obscure and may not have existed prior to the post medieval period. Haywood Park and Beaudesert Park both belonged to the Bishop and were probably created prior to the creation of Cannock Chase in 1290. Beaudesert was a significant site in the medieval period; the bishop had built a palace here by at least the 15<sup>th</sup> century and the Paget's further developed the property as their principal seat. However, the extent to which the management of deer was a priority within Beaudesert Park is unclear as other activities, notably mining, is known to have occurred there from medieval period onwards (cf. s.7.3). Wolseley Park was licensed in the 1460s, but appears to have been created prior to this date<sup>152</sup>. It seems that it still functioned as a deer park in the mid-19th century<sup>153</sup>.

In the 19th century the Anson family appears to have managed their portion of the Chase as a shooting estate, although the archaeological evidence for such management is currently unknown. Correspondence between Lord Anson and a Colonel E. M. Buller in 1884-6 details the leasing of sporting rights at Shugborough and in Haywood Park<sup>154</sup>.

## 5.6 Rabbit Warrens

It is currently unclear the extent to which rabbit warrens were a feature on Cannock Chase in the period prior to the late 17th century, although reference is made to a warren within Wolseley manor in 1342<sup>155</sup>. It is certainly known that the Paget family was actively creating warrens in the 17th and 18th centuries. The creation of the rabbit warrens led to riots in the mid-18th century by the sheep grazers who saw the enclosures as a threat to their rights to common grazing; in this instance the commoners lost and the rabbit warrens continued<sup>156</sup>.

In mid-17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century documents make reference to 'free warren', along with a message, at 'Oakedge Hill'<sup>157</sup>. It is possible that this relates to Oakedge Park (see LORDSHIP ABOVE) or alternatively may be a reference to an unnamed lodge marked on Yates' map (1775) to the east of Oakedge Park.

Little is currently understood about the precise location of the rabbit warrens across the Chase, although Parr's Lodge and Warren, a name extant within the landscape, existed by at least the mid-19th century, if not by 1775<sup>158</sup>. 'Dickins' Lodge' marked on Yates' map (1775), may indicate the site of a further rabbit warren. This lodge may be associated with the later named 'Fairoak Lodge', a property which survives on the Chase.

## 6 DESIGNED LANDSCAPES

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<sup>152</sup> Buteaux et al 1989: 32

<sup>153</sup> Shirley 1867: 179 viewed on <http://books.google.co.uk> on 02/03/2015

<sup>154</sup> SRO D615/ES/6/7 summary viewed on Staffordshire Pastrack website 24/03/2015

<http://www.staffspastrack.org.uk/>

<sup>155</sup> Welch 1997: 30

<sup>156</sup> Anon. Nd. (b)

<sup>157</sup> SRO D(W)1781/5/16/1-11 summary viewed on Staffordshire Pastrack website 24/03/2015

<http://www.staffspastrack.org.uk/>

<sup>158</sup> David & Charles copy of a mid-19th century 1" OS map; Yates' 1775: a lodge is marked in the general vicinity on this map

From the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century the gentry who resided around the edges of the Chase began to follow the fashion for creating landscape parks to set off their country seats. Within the Chase the best preserved of these parklands is the Grade I Registered Park and Garden of Shugborough Park. The parkland features a number of nationally important structures and buildings which reflect the design aspirations of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. A comprehensive account of the development of Shugborough has been provided within the Shugborough Parkland Management Plan (2014)<sup>159</sup>.

The Paget family continued to improve Beaudesert Hall employing James Wyatt in the 1770s to remodel it<sup>160</sup>. Documentary evidence suggests that the landscape architect William Emes was appointed at a similar date to layout the parkland, perhaps including an extension to the west still known on mapping as Beaudesert New Park, to distinguish it from the deer park to the east (Beaudesert Old Park)<sup>161</sup>. The woodland planting framing the edges of the parkland, presumably incorporated or planted as part of a phase of landscape design, still survives within the area of the 'New Park'. Beaudesert Hall and what remained of the estate was put up for sale in 1932, but the hall itself remained unsold leading the Marquess of Anglesey to begin the process of demolishing it, although substantial remains particularly dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> century survive<sup>162</sup>.

A further four, smaller, landscape parks were established within the AONB associated with country houses of 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century date: Hatherton Hall, Milford Hall, Brocton Hall, and Oakedge Hall<sup>163</sup>. Only the landscape parks at Hatherton Hall and Milford Hall retain any of their historic parkland character. A bank and ditch surviving on the south eastern edge of the former Oakedge Park may have been created when the landscape park was established in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, alternatively it may relate to an earlier phase of emparkment (cf. HUNTING ABOVE)<sup>164</sup>. A Grade II listed folly, comprised of reused medieval fabric, survives in what remains of Brocton Hall Park, re-landscaped as a golf course in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century<sup>165</sup>.

The landscape parks associated with Hagley Hall, near Rugeley, Teddesley Hall and Tixall Hall lay beyond the bounds of the AONB.

## 7 MILITARY USE

During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, grazing, woodland clearance and management created a landscape suitable for the training of large bodies of troops. This open landscape, coupled with ownership by several large landowners, a central position in the country and close proximity to good road, rail and canal communications made Cannock Chase perfect for military training. During the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the War Office gave serious

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<sup>159</sup> Cookson and Tickner 2014

<sup>160</sup> Frost 2005: 4

<sup>161</sup> Frost 2005: 4

<sup>162</sup> Frost 2005: 7

<sup>163</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 09124; PRN 07941, PRN 07954 and PRN 00869; 'Oakedge Landscape Park' on Landedfamilies blogspot [www.Landedfamilies.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.Landedfamilies.blogspot.co.uk) viewed 27/01/2015

<sup>164</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20544

<sup>165</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 07955; English Heritage National Heritage No. 1116745

consideration to moving the Woolwich Arsenal to Cannock Chase<sup>166</sup>. In 1873 large scale manoeuvres on the Chase were carried out by units of the Regular Army and in 1894 volunteer units (the precursor of the Territorial Army) including the Staffordshire Volunteer Brigade and units from Cheshire and Liverpool trained on the Chase. Following the success of these operations the War Office prepared plans for the construction of a permanent military depot and training facilities on Cannock Chase in 1891, although these plans were subsequently shelved<sup>167</sup>.

At the outbreak of the Great War, Field Marshal Earl Kitchener of Khartoum (Minister for War from 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914) had initially called (11<sup>th</sup> August 1914) for 100,000 volunteers to enlist; this figure was achieved within two weeks. Army Order 324 (21<sup>st</sup> August 1914) specified that six divisions would be created by these volunteers and would be designated Kitchener's Army (K1). This was followed by further calls resulting in the creation of several further 'New Armies'. By December 1914 over one million men had volunteered for 'general service'. The next issue was to house and train these volunteers; at the outbreak of war camp facilities and accommodation was available for only 175,000 soldiers, well below the one million men who had enlisted. This necessitated the rapid construction of military camps around the country. It was at this point that the 1891 War Office plans for Cannock Chase are likely to have proved invaluable.

## 7.1 Camp Construction

Relations with the Earl of Lichfield appear to have been generally cordial at first. A letter from Northern Command dated December 1914 thanks him for his '*very kind offer to allow troops to be located on his property on Cannock Chase*'. The construction process was plagued by some landowner issues and in October 1915 Northern Command's Chief Engineer wrote to the Earl to apologise for the location of a shooting butt without his consent. Relations went downhill further in 1917 when the Earl discovered that parts of Brocton Camp had been converted, expressly against his wishes, to house German prisoners of war (see below).

The logistical problems of constructing two divisional-sized camps on Cannock Chase were immense. Work commenced in Autumn 1914 with the construction of the roads, rail line, power station and water supply. Ten miles of pipeline were laid in six months for the gravity-fed sewage system and a pumping station was located on the Sher Brook to supply water to the developing camps. However, it quickly became clear that the water supply from the brook would be insufficient and so three large boreholes were sunk into the aquifer. These boreholes lay close to the power station and engine house and water pumped from the aquifer was held in a large water tank positioned nearby. The sewage system fed effluent down into the valley bottoms and into a series of concrete filter beds at Brindley Bottom and in the Mere Valley.

Existing tracks were improved across the Chase and new roads were constructed where required. Work also started on a standard gauge railway to

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<sup>166</sup> Whitehouse 1983: 2

<sup>167</sup> Ibid

connect the camps with the main London and North Western Railway north of Hednesford. The railway was built by the West Cannock Colliery Company and, while it initially transported workers and materials to the camps, its purpose during the camps operational life was to bring supplies and particularly coal from nearby collieries to supply the power station. Elements of the railway at Rugeley Camp are today known as 'The Tackeroo' although the meaning of the name is not clear at present.

Rugeley Camp appears to have been started first, with Brocton camp laid out in January 1915. Despite numerous industrial disputes Rugeley Camp was practically complete by March 1915 and units moved in shortly after. Brocton camp was completed not long after. Each camp was designed to hold a standard infantry division (which comprised approximately 20,000 men) and so 40,000 men were anticipated to have been billeted on the Chase. However, by the time the camps were completed, Kitchener's Armies were largely engaged on the Western Front and as a result entire infantry divisions were never accommodated on Cannock Chase. The initial function of these camps was as transit camps, however, as the war progressed they rapidly developed a considerable training function. As such, by 1916 numerous Reserve Battalions were resident on Cannock Chase: fifteen Reserve Battalions at Rugeley camp and seven reserve Battalions at Brocton Camp.

## **7.2 Camp Life**

Designed to hold two infantry divisions, the two camps were the size of a small town. As such they were provided with a plethora of modern services, indeed probably better services than a comparable civilian settlement at that time.

Rugeley Camp was powered by an existing power station but Brocton Camp was powered by the newly built station on Chase Road. The whole camp was never fully lit, instead each hut was lit internally, and presumably this allowed training to continue once darkness had fallen. Northern Command also provided amenities for troops billeted on the Chase. These included a theatre (the Empress), at least one and possibly two cinemas, YMCAs and retail outlets such as W H Smiths. Banks and post Offices were also provided along with canteens run by the Navy and Army Canteen Board. However, many enterprising local inhabitants set up tea rooms and bed and breakfast businesses in nearby villages to cater for soldiers and visiting friends and family. W H Smiths produced a vast array of postcards of the Chase and its camps during the Great War. Many of these survive today and constitute a valuable record of the camp and its environs during this period.

The camps appear to have recycled much of their waste and 'destructors' are marked on both camp plans presumably to destroy non-recyclable waste. It may be that some of this waste was used in track and path maintenance as considerable quantities of burnt material have been found in some path beds. Elsewhere and particularly within Oldacre Valley and close to Chase Road Corner rubbish mounds have been identified. One large mound has been partially excavated and material recovered included stove bases, clinker, considerable quantities of pottery and the occasional military badges, segs etc. This evidence and the lack of apparent stratigraphy (coupled with the presence

of destructors on the camp plans) suggests that these mounds represent a phase of camp clearance, rather than continued use throughout the life of the camps.

### **7.3 Training and Treatment**

The camp plans mark out large open squares (marked as 'parade' on the plans) presumably for drill practice. As well as these more standard elements of training, several specialist Schools of Instruction were founded on Cannock Chase. These included sniping and reconnaissance, gas warfare, Lewis gun training and signalling (Tolkien trained as a Signal Officer for the Lancashire Fusiliers on Cannock Chase).

Indoor ranges (.22 calibre) were initially built to provide new recruits with weapons experience while the camps five 'full bore' (.303 calibre) ranges were being constructed. By 1916 these ranges were complete and included a field firing range between 'D' and 'E' ranges to provide 'fire and manoeuvre' experience. Pistol ranges (some indoors) and grenade pits were also positioned close by. Postcards (including a series of hand drawn cards by Erskine Williams) also depict barbed wire practice areas and hanging sacks presumably for bayonet practice.

A single upstanding scheduled model or practice trench lies immediately to the south of Penkrudge Bank. This may be the remains of a much larger system but contains a number of defence lines (fighting trenches) and communications trenches. Possibly built at half or full scale erosion has partially filled in the 'trenches'. Elsewhere across Cannock Chase (and principally in Oldacre Valley and Sherbrook Valley) other smaller lines of fighting trenches and communication trenches survive partially or completely hidden in stands of heather, bracken and bramble. The full extent of this system of military training aids is not yet fully understood but it may represent a valuable relict landscape charting the development of the British approach to trench warfare from early 1915 through until 1918.

Originally casualties from training on the Chase were treated at the Sister Dora hospital at Milford and at Ravenhill House (donated by Lady Zouche in March 1915). However, by January 1916 plans for the construction of a large hospital on Brindley Heath were well underway as reported in a local newspaper. The hospital was laid out along a purpose built track and centred on an administrative block and the operating theatre. Twelve wards were capable of housing 1,000 casualties while doctors and nurses were housed in nearby billets. It has also been suggested that further smaller hospitals (triage centres) were located closer to the training areas, although to date the physical remains of these centres have not been located. These centres would stabilise training casualties before their transfer to the main hospital at Brindley Heath.

The hospital at Brindley Heath also treated casualties evacuated from the battlefields of the Western Front and specialised in treating victims of neurasthenia (shell shock) and gas attack. However, by 1918 the hospital was treating increasing numbers of Spanish Influenza victims, many of whom are buried in the nearby German and Commonwealth war cemeteries. The

complex continued to function as a hospital until 1924 when it was decommissioned. After this point it developed as the Brindley Mining Village and continued to host a thriving community up until 1953.

#### **7.4 German Prisoners on the Chase**

At the commencement of hostilities, the Earl of Lichfield had been adamant that no German prisoners of war would be located on Cannock Chase. However, by 1917 the War Office was acutely aware of a dramatic rise in the number of soldiers being captured on the Western front (particularly after the Somme in 1916). It is likely that this developing situation facilitated the development of the Prisoner of War (PoW) camp in A and B lines at Brocton Camp. It would appear that the Brocton functioned as a transit camp with prisoners processed, housed and sent out to work in the local landscape, primarily on road maintenance and farming duties. It was one of the larger camps within the British PoW camp network estimated as being capable of housing up to 5,000 men.

During the lifespan of the PoW camp (1917-19) A and B lines of Brocton Camp pretty much retained its pre-POW camp form although barbed wire and guard towers defended the perimeter. Wounded servicemen and those considered unfit for active service due to medical conditions acted as camp guards.

The camp appears to have been provided with a 1,000 bed hospital with similar facilities as the nearby Brindley Heath hospital. As such Brocton PoW camp must have been a major medical centre within the British PoW camp network. 'Lagerstrasse' (the main route through the camp) survives as the main track through Brocton Coppice, flanked by large earthworks and smaller flower beds. It is interesting to note that Brocton Coppice, an ancient coppice woodland, survived the Great War and so the barrack huts and other features must have been erected to respect the historic coppice.

#### **7.5 The New Zealanders on Cannock Chase**

Towards the end of 1917 the New Zealand Rifle Brigade (NZRB) were moved from their base at Tidworth Pennings (Wiltshire) to a new Reserve Depot at Brocton Camp. This was to remain their headquarters in England until their return to New Zealand in 1919.

In June 1917, elements of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade (NZRB) took part from day one in an extremely successful offensive known as the Battle of Messines Ridge (7-14 June 1917). In this attack the NZRB operated as part of II ANZAC (part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> British Army under General Plumer). It had trained extensively for the offensive and had most probably reviewed its objectives on one of the several three-dimensional terrain models created of the battlefield from Royal Flying Corps aerial photographs. Following the detonation of nineteen mines along the ridge, the NZRB attached its main objective, the town of Messines, the German headquarters located in the town's church and the artillery headquarters in a nearby windmill. By 11:30AM the NZRB had achieved its objectives for the day and was reinforcing its positions with the help of engineers such was their success. One Victoria Cross was won by

Corporal Sam Frickleton for single-handedly neutralising two machine gun positions in an advance on the Institution Royal within Messines.

After the battle, elements of the NZRB returned to their Reserve Depot at Brocton Camp. These veterans presumably took part in training the fresh Dominion troops from New Zealand who continued to pass through Cannock Chase. In early 1918 the NZRB were instructed to construct a terrain model to train officers and N.C.O.s in map reading and topography. The model was built in part by prisoners of war using Royal Flying Corps aerial photographs to create an accurate three-dimensional replica. They selected the site of their most recent victory at Messines and laid out a 2,000 yard front which included some of their trench lines from where they launched their attack at 3AM on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> June. This battlefield was a seminal moment in the NZRB's short history and as such considerable detail was embedded within the model including rail lines, contour lines, trench systems, roads, farm houses and the settlement of Messines.

The model is also accurately aligned to the compass. This model is the only known example of a Great War three-dimensional terrain model in the United Kingdom and one of three known to survive on the Western Front; as such it is considered to be of national, if not international significance.

## **7.6 Decommissioning the Camps**

After the end of hostilities, the camps continued to function into the 1920s and indeed, the 1,000 bed hospital at Brindley Heath continued to treat the wounded until 1923/4. After the last patients left, the hospital became home to a small mining village until the 1950s when 'Brindley Village' was relocated. The newly formed Forestry Commission planted up large areas of Rugeley Camp while much of Brocton camp had returned to its former state as a grouse shooting estate by 1924.

The huts were dismantled and sold at auction; many left the region although some were re-erected locally as private residences, village halls, scout huts etc. One such hut was re-erected at Gayton (Staffordshire) to function as its village hall in 1923. Following an ALSF (Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund grant for a new hall, the old hall was carefully dismantled and reconstructed at Cannock Chase Visitor Centre (where it stands today) as a visitor and interpretation centre.

## **7.7 RAF Hednesford**

RAF Hednesford was not generally laid out over the earlier Great War camps which had occupied large portions of the central areas of Cannock Chase. Instead, this new camp, erected between 1938 and early 1939 and was positioned off the prime areas of heathland. It is unusual that the infrastructure of the Great War camps was not used, although much of it now lay under Forestry Commission plantations and, presumably, the Earl wished to maintain access to his prime shooting grounds.

The camp was built by local workmen and was designed to hold 4,000 trainees and up to 800 instructors. It was identified as the 'No.6 School of Technical Training' for the instruction of Royal Air Force and Fleet Air Arm specialists on the maintenance of air frames and aero engines. There is little documentary history relating to running of RAF Hednesford during the Second World War beyond two aerial photographs and the reminiscences of the men who served there.

It is not clear how many men received specialist training at RAF Hednesford during the war, although approximately 81,500 men did their national service at the camp (then identified as No.11 Training School) between 1950 and 1956. Following the final passing out parade in 1956 the camp was used to house around 1,200 refugees from the Hungarian uprising. By 1958 the Air Ministry advised Staffordshire County Council of their intention to sell the 250 acres comprising the camp and in 1959 the sale of 'all movable buildings and fittings on the site' was underway. By 1965 the old camp site was acquired by Staffordshire County Council.

## **8 PUBLIC ACCESS**

It may be that the Enclosure Acts, which were granted in the later 19th century, were intended to formally extinguish any remaining rights of common grazing and to limit public access to the Chase possibly to enable the land (or parts of it) to be managed as shooting estates. However, the extent to which such action, should this have been the intended result, was actually successful is unclear.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Lord Lichfield of Shugborough was receiving correspondence from various local organisations requesting access to the estate to pursue leisure activities such as fishing, camping and walking (SRO D615/EA/31). It is not known whether permission was granted. Public access to the Chase was formalised in the 1950s when Lord Lichfield granted Shugborough Park to the National Trust (who in turn leased it to the County Council) and the remainder of the estate directly to the County Council. The Paget's Beaudesert estate was sold to the Forestry Commission in the 1920s for commercial forestry plantations. As a public body the Forestry Commission also affords public access to much of its estate.



## 9 CANNOCK CHASE AONB HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT CHARACTER ZONES

### 9.1 CCAHECZ 1: Shugborough and the Trent Valley

#### 9.1.1 Key Characteristics

- **Strong estate character across the zone typified by the landscape park and built heritage of Shugborough, but further enhanced by the built heritage of Tixall.**
- **Water meadow earthworks, part of estate improvements, survive along the valleys of both the Sow and Trent.**
- **Two canals, both designated as Conservation Areas, the Staffordshire and Worcestershire and the Trent and Mersey, cross the zone. The junction of the two canals meets just beyond the Character Zone.**

#### 9.1.2 Geology and Topography

The bedrock geology comprises two sandstone formations dominated by the Kidderminster Foundation to the south and the Bromsgrove Formation, forming a narrow band, to the north. Superficial deposits comprise alluvium along the rivers Sow and Trent with sand and gravel comprising both River Terrace and Glaciofluvial Sheet deposits lying in disparate areas on either side of the alluvium.

The topography of the zone is dominated by the river valleys of the Sow and Trent which have their confluence just to the north west of the Essex Bridge in the north of the zone. The land rises quite sharply to around 125m AOD to the south west of the zone within Shugborough Park, the land continuing to rise beyond the zone.

#### 9.1.3 Heritage Designations

A significant number of the designated heritage assets are associated with or lie within Shugborough Park. The parkland itself is a Grade I Registered Park and Garden as well as a Conservation Area. The national designations are:

<b>Designation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>National Heritage No.</b>
Grade I Registered Park and Garden	Shugborough	1001167
Scheduled Monument	Essex Bridge	1006111
Grade I Listed Building	Doric Temple at Shugborough Hall	1079641
Grade I Listed Building	Dark Lantern at Shugborough Hall	1065771
Grade I Listed Building	Triumphal Arch at Shugborough Hall	1039140
Grade I Listed Building	Shugborough Hall	1079637
Grade I Listed Building	Garden Bridge at Shugborough	1079642

	Hall	
Grade I Listed Building	Chinese House at Shugborough Hall	1358640
Grade II* Listed Building	South Range	1273324
Grade II* Listed Building	Farmhouse	1258625
Grade II* Listed Building	Shepherd's Monument at Shugborough Hall	1374124
Grade II* Listed Building	Temple of the Winds	1065768
Grade II* Listed Building	Walled Garden and Gardener's Cottage	1273250
Grade II Listed Building	Cat's Monument at Shugborough Hall	1358641
Grade II Listed Building	Tunnel Entrances in Shugborough Hall	1065770

Beyond Shugborough there are further designated heritage assets associated with the Tixall village and estate including a Conservation Area. The nationally significant assets:

Designation	Name	National Heritage No.
Grade I Listed Building	The Gatehouse	1258142
Grade II Listed Building	Dairy Bridge	1273506
Grade II Listed Building	Pair of Garden Houses behind stabling at Tixall	1399507
Grade II Listed Building	Stabling at Tixall	1258272
Grade II Listed Building	Church of John the Baptists	1258304
Grade II Listed Building	Bottle Lodge	1258276
Grade II Listed Building	Tixall Cottage	1258301
Grade II Listed Building	The Temple of Rotunda	1258143
Grade II Listed Building	K6 Telephone Kiosk	1258844
Grade II Listed Building	Obelisk	1273505

Beyond the two estate centres both the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal and the Trent & Mersey Canal are designated as Conservation Areas. On the south side of the Trent & Mersey Canal, opposite Colwich, is a Scheduled Monument 'Moated site 160m south-west of St Michael and All Angels' Church'<sup>168</sup>.

#### 9.1.4 Historic and Archaeological Context and Evidence

The historic development and significance of the Shugborough landscape park has been comprehensively reviewed by the recent Shugborough Parkland Management Plan (2013)<sup>169</sup>. The heritage assets which lie within the estate include evidence for late prehistoric and Roman activity (cf. s.4)<sup>170</sup>. Documentary evidence records the presence of a village at Shugborough in the medieval period, probably associated with the establishment of a moated

<sup>168</sup> English Heritage National Heritage No. 1007616

<sup>169</sup> Cookson & Tickner 2013

<sup>170</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01603, PRN 04075, PRN 04612, PRN 54573 and PRN 54574

manor house belonging to the bishops' of Coventry and Lichfield (cf. s.6.1.2). The estate does not appear to have been utilised by the Pagets and it came into the hands of the Anson family in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, who were then responsible for the development of the extant hall and landscape park (cf. 6.1.2).

To the west and north west of Shugborough Park, divided from it by the River Sow and the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal lies Tixall village and the former Tixall Hall park. Tixall Hall, which probably dated from at least the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, was demolished in 1926 and only a few of the woodland blocks survive within the former landscape park<sup>171</sup>. Some buildings, associated with the estate, survive. These include the former gatehouse to the hall, a grand and ornate building of late 16<sup>th</sup> century date; the stable range of early 19<sup>th</sup> century date; as well as a possible 17<sup>th</sup> century lodge and a mid-18<sup>th</sup> century garden temple<sup>172</sup>. These features expressed the aspirations of the lords of Tixall through the centuries, from the Astons, Cliffords and, from 1840, the Chetwynds of Ingestre (cf. 6.4)<sup>173</sup>.

The village of Tixall comprises a small number of properties including red brick cottages, modern houses as well as a stone built mid-19<sup>th</sup> century church and a former school<sup>174</sup>. The church, which was designed by the architects T. H. Wyatt and David Brandon, is located on the site of its 13<sup>th</sup> century predecessor.

The riverside fields lying between Tixall and Shugborough were laid out as water meadows probably in the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century. Further, probably contemporary, water meadows lie on the southern side of the River Trent in the east of the zone. The earthwork remains of these water meadows survive to some degree within the zone.

The eastern end of the zone lies across the Trent & Mersey Canal from the small village of Colwich. A large earthwork moated site lies within the zone, but was presumably associated with the settlement prior to the construction of the canal in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Internal earthworks may suggest that a building or structure once stood on the site. It is presumed to be of medieval date, but little further is currently known and it is now protected as a Scheduled Monument<sup>175</sup>.

The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, which opened in 1772, crosses through the western portion of the zone on a roughly south west-north east alignment<sup>176</sup>. This canal meets the Trent and Mersey Canal just beyond the northern extent of the zone. The latter, which opened in 1771, passes into the zone on a roughly west-east alignment<sup>177</sup>.

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<sup>171</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00856

<sup>172</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00028, PRN 08168, PRN 08170 and PRN 08172

<sup>173</sup> SCC & SBC 1984 viewed [www.staffordbc.gov.uk](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk) on 31/03/2015

<sup>174</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 08177

<sup>175</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00871

<sup>176</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01234

<sup>177</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 02212

A small scale quarry is present at Great Haywood which supplied building material (Bromsgrove Sandstone) to the local area; this site is recorded as a Local Geological Site (LoGS). Dimensioned stone was also won from the quarry at Tixall; this was in much of the building across the Tixall Estate but was also employed further afield in the Stafford area and in the construction of local canals.

### 9.1.5 Local Vernacular

Set apart from the polite architectural style demonstrated across much of Shugborough landscape park, a series of buildings demonstrating a local vernacular style are present within the wider character zone. These include Navigation Farm (located on Meadow Lane, Little Haywood), a site which is likely to have developed as a combined inn and farmstead during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It survives as a multi-courtyard farmstead built of red brick with grey roof tiles and it appears to retain many of its 19<sup>th</sup> century ancillary structures (including small barns, store rooms and pigstys).

To the north west at Essex Bridge a row of red brick estate cottages lead up from the River Trent and Trent and Mersey Canal crossings into the heart of Little Haywood. Designed and built in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, these estate cottages flank Trent Lane, are of two storeys and have a series of pedimented doorways. Each doorway would appear to provide access to two separate cottages which, from the street frontage would appear to be well-apportioned. At the north eastern end of each estate cottage range is positioned a more substantial property with a pediment over the doorway supported by ionic columns. These properties are also likely to be part of the estate complex for Shugborough but may well have housed estate managers and their family. The cottages and the end properties are all designated Grade II Listed Buildings.

### 9.1.6 Previous Research recorded in HER

HER Event Ref	Organisation/ Person	Name/Title	Date
EST1247	Staffordshire County Council	A measured survey of some of the features and buildings within the Shugborough Park	1958
EST1617	Debois Landscape Survey Group	A summary of the development of Shugborough	1989
EST1618	Debois Landscape Survey Group	A draft landscape management plan for Shugborough.	1990
EST1619	Keith Funnell Associates	An assessment and landscape management plan for Shugborough.	1994
EST1620	Constance Johnson	An assessment of the evolution of Shugborough	1989
EST1621	National Trust	An archaeological evaluation of the canal Ha-ha at Shugborough	2002

EST1623	C. Bates	An assessment of the walled gardens at Shugborough	1984
EST2084	Staffordshire County Council	A baseline environmental appraisal of the Shugborough estate	2004
EST2455	Cookson and Tickner	A survey of Shugborough's historic parkland, including landscape, historic buildings and archaeology and trees.	2013
EST838	Jeremy Milln	An archaeological watching brief at Shugborough	1994
EST2205	Stratscan	A geophysical survey at Shugborough Park	2005
EST2274	Jeremy Milln	Shugborough Gas Main: Note on archaeological watching brief	1993
EST2029	Birmingham Archaeology	An archaeological investigation at the Walled Garden, Shugborough Estate	2009
EST2204	Birmingham Archaeology	An archaeological evaluation at Shugborough Park	2005
EST1622	ArchaeoPhysica Ltd	A geophysical survey at Shugborough	1999

### 9.1.7 Statement of Significance

There is a strong parkland character within the zone which is dominated by the Grade I Registered Park and Garden of Shugborough, but also in the remaining woodland associated with Tixall Park lying to the north of the River Trent. The strong estate land character of the zone is reflected in the built heritage of both Shugborough and Tixall; in the parkland buildings, estate farms and to some extent the village buildings at Tixall. The water meadows lining the river valley are also likely to be associated with the land management of the two estates in the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### 9.1.8 Gap Analysis

- Extent of the influence of the Tixall estate on the built heritage of the village.
- Extent of the influence of the Shugborough estate on nearby communities
- Extent of prehistoric activity within the zone and particularly in the north of the zone at the confluence of the Rivers Sow and Trent.
- Elsewhere in the county, recent work is recovering increasing evidence for early medieval settlement within or close to the floodplain of the River Trent. There is similar potential for Roman and early medieval activity within this zone.
- The full extent of impact that the Anson's had at Shugborough and within the surrounding environment is not fully understood, particular in relation to woodland planting and monument building.
- There remains the potential for further documentary sources to survive held in private and public collections beyond Staffordshire.

### 9.1.9 Broad Management Recommendations

- To support the incorporation of the recommendations of the recently completed Conservation Management Plan into the work programme at Shugborough as identified in LA16 of the Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan 2014-2019.
- To support the preparation of Conservation Area Appraisals for Tixall and nearby canal corridors by Local Planning Authority Conservation Officers.
- Where warranted and where supported by an appropriately detailed and wide ranging evidence base, discussions may be held between relevant individuals/organisations and Historic England concerning the need for the statutory designation of individual or groups of currently undesignated heritage assets. At this point appropriate forms of heritage management will also be discussed to ensure the long term viability of any newly designated nationally important heritage assets within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

**Map 4a: HECZ 1 - Shugborough and the Trent Valley (Designated)**

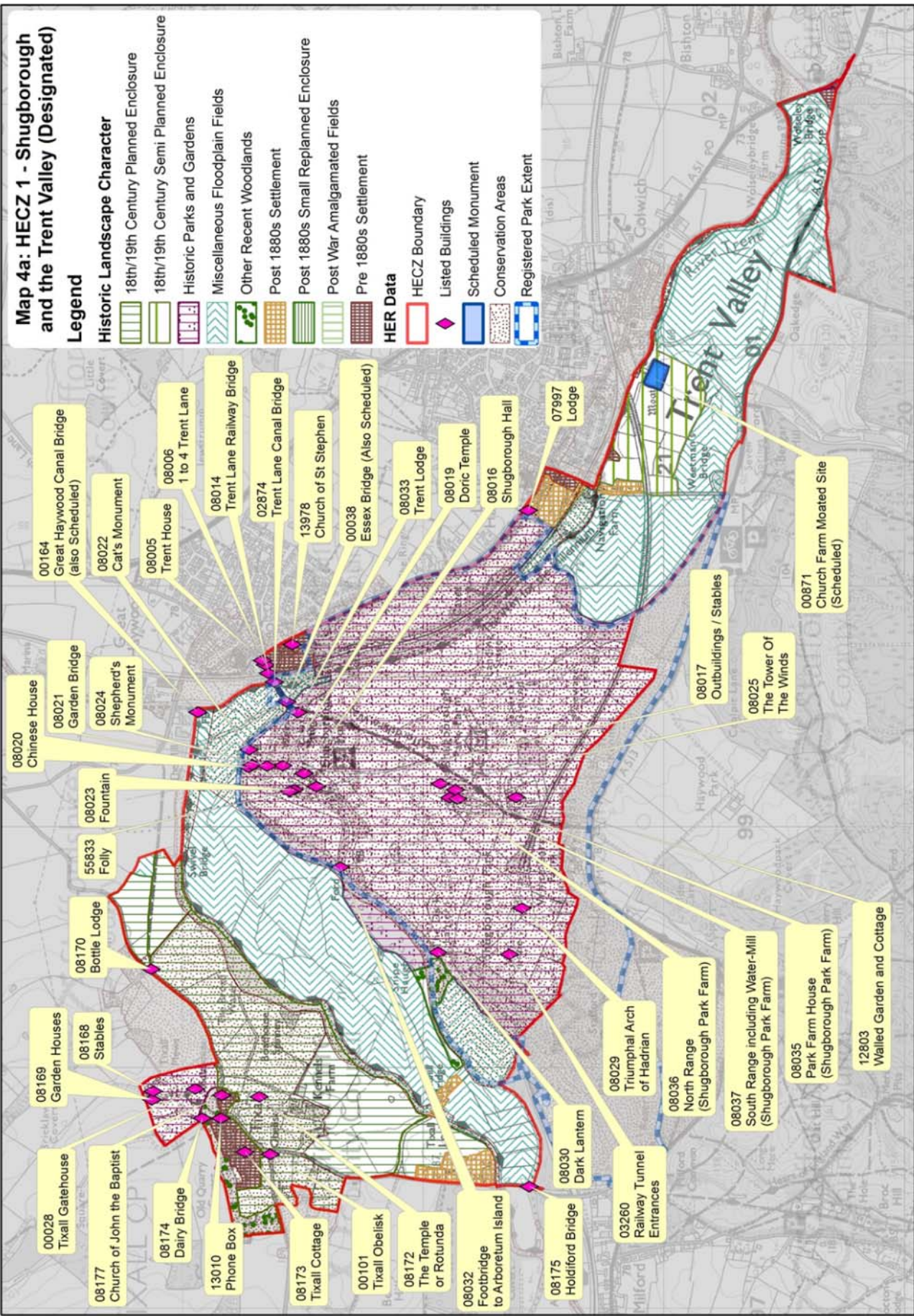
**Legend**

**Historic Landscape Character**

-  18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure
-  18th/19th Century Semi Planned Enclosure
-  Historic Parks and Gardens
-  Miscellaneous Floodplain Fields
-  Other Recent Woodlands
-  Post 1880s Settlement
-  Post 1880s Small Replanned Enclosure
-  Post War Amalgamated Fields
-  Pre 1880s Settlement

**HER Data**

-  HECZ Boundary
-  Listed Buildings
-  Scheduled Monument
-  Conservation Areas
-  Registered Park Extent



- 00164 Great Haywood Canal Bridge (also Scheduled)
- 08022 Cat's Monument
- 08005 Trent House
- 08006 1 to 4 Trent Lane
- 08014 Trent Lane Railway Bridge
- 02874 Trent Lane Canal Bridge
- 13978 Church of St Stephen
- 00038 Essex Bridge (Also Scheduled)
- 08033 Trent Lodge
- 08019 Doric Temple
- 08016 Shugborough Hall
- 07997 Lodge
- 08020 Chinese House
- 08021 Garden Bridge
- 08024 Shepherd's Monument
- 08023 Fountain
- 55833 Folly
- 08170 Bottle Lodge
- 08169 Garden Houses
- 08168 Stables
- 08174 Dairy Bridge
- 13010 Phone Box
- 08173 Tixall Cottage
- 00101 Tixall Obelisk
- 08172 The Temple of Rotunda
- 08032 Footbridge to Arboretum Island
- 08175 Holdford Bridge
- 03260 Railway Tunnel Entrances
- 08030 Dark Lantern
- 08029 Triumphal Arch of Hadrian
- 08036 North Range (Shugborough Park Farm)
- 08037 South Range including Water-Mill (Shugborough Park Farm)
- 08035 Park Farm House (Shugborough Park Farm)
- 12803 Walled Garden and Cottage
- 08017 Outbuildings / Stables
- 08025 The Tower Of The Winds
- 08071 Church Farm Moated Site (Scheduled)





## 9.2 CAHECZ 2: Brocton and Milford

### 9.2.1 Key Characteristics

- Early surviving buildings and farmsteads within Brocton, many of which are timber framed, contribute to the character of the settlement.
- To the north historic field patterns of 'Piecemeal Enclosure' survive.
- The influence of the estate centres at Brocton and Milwich is still legible, and includes the surviving landscape park at Milwich Hall and the built heritage within the village.
- Milford Common represents surviving open land within the HECZ.

### 9.2.2 Geology and Topography

The character zone covers approximately 114 hectares and principally comprises farmland and settlement. The zone lies on a bedrock geology of sandstone and conglomerate pebbles (Kidderminster Formation)<sup>178</sup>. Brocton Quarry (West) is recorded as a Local Geological Site (LoGS). A shallow valley lies to the north east comprising superficial glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposits and carries a small brook which feeds into the River Sow to the north.

Modern housing developments to the south of Brocton built along the historic lanes of Chase Road lie on the slopes of the Cannock Chase plateau at around 140m AOD. From this point the land falls away to the north and west. From Brocton northwards the land undulates before levelling out at around 75m AOD at Milford and the Sow Valley.

### 9.2.3 Heritage Designations

There are eight Grade II Listed buildings; the four earliest (dating from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> to early-18<sup>th</sup> century) lie within the historic settlement of Brocton. The remainder are associated with small estates comprising two 18<sup>th</sup> century country houses; Brocton Hall (with two further associated Listed buildings) and Milford Hall.

The north eastern boundary of the HECZ lies immediately adjacent to Shugborough Park a Grade I Registered Park and Garden and Conservation Area (cf. HECZ 1). The northern boundary lies within 25m (beyond the railway line) of the Trent & Mersey Canal Conservation Area.

### 9.2.4 Historic and Archaeological Context and Evidence

The character zone is dominated by farmland, settlement and a golf course. The earliest known of these settlements is Brocton lying to the south, which in the medieval period lay initially within Baswich manor, before being transferred to Haywood manor (cf. s.6.1). Brocton is recorded in Domesday Book (1086), where it is described as 'waste' a term which may refer to its status as lying within Cannock Forest (cf. s.6.1). The identifiable historic core,

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<sup>178</sup> British Geological Society website viewed 09/03/2015 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=KDM>

taken from historic mapping, lies to the west along The Green and Sawpit Lane (cf. 'Pre-1880s Settlement on Map 5). This core is characterised by scattered farmsteads originating in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries interspersed with later 20<sup>th</sup> century infilling and the occasional earlier cottage. Timber-framing is characteristic of the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century buildings along The Green. The settlement has expanded considerably in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century along the north-south route off Pool Lane and west towards the Chase (cf. Post-1880s Settlement on Map 5). Some earlier cottages survive intermixed with this development. The land lying north and north-west probably formed part of the agricultural land associated with Brocton, although part of this land now forms a golf course. Further north extant fossilised boundaries suggest the field system was enclosed in the post medieval period (as 'Piecemeal Enclosure') out of part of a medieval open field<sup>179</sup>.

To the north of the historic core lies the 18<sup>th</sup> century Brocton Hall and its associated buildings and structures. The site of an earlier manor house was noted in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century as lying just to the north of Sawpit Lane and a later lodge to the extant Brocton Hall<sup>180</sup>. Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century drawings of this property depicted a possibly 16<sup>th</sup> century large timber-framed house with cross-wings and stone chimneys<sup>181</sup>. A high-status property is recorded in Brocton as early as 1221 may have stood on this site<sup>182</sup>. This estate was held by the Chetwynd family from the later 17<sup>th</sup> century and it is they who were responsible for replacing this property with the extant Grade II listed Brocton Hall, sited further from the road-network and for establishing a landscape park around it<sup>183</sup>. A Grade II listed Gothic folly, lying to the north west of the hall, dates to the medieval period, but is unlikely to be in-situ<sup>184</sup>. The Chetwynds sold the hall and its estate in the early 1920s and the extant golf course was initially laid out in 1923<sup>185</sup>. Brocton Hall forms the Club House, although it lost its top storey following a fire in 1939<sup>186</sup>. The Chetwynd family were also responsible for the construction of Brocton Lodge, standing off Pool Lane, in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>187</sup>.

Further late 20<sup>th</sup> century housing extends northwards along Pool Lane meeting the settlement of Milford, which principally lies along the east-west axis of the Stafford-Rugeley road (A513). An inn has stood at the eastern end of Milford, known as the Barley Mow, since at least the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>188</sup>. It appears that the inn had been established on the edge of what is now referred

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<sup>179</sup> Open Field: Open Field: An area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. Usually without internal divisions (hedges, walls or fences). (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage. © 2015 English Heritage); Piecemeal Enclosure: Fields created out of the medieval open fields through informal, verbal agreements between landholders who wished to consolidate their holdings. Within Staffordshire this process appears to have been well under way by the late medieval period, and was probably largely enclosed by the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Field pattern includes distinctive boundaries exhibiting 's-curve' or 'dog-leg' morphology, suggesting that they follow the boundaries of former medieval field strips.

<sup>180</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 58299

<sup>181</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 58299; Greenslade 1959: 3

<sup>182</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 58299; Greenslade 1959: 3

<sup>183</sup> Greenslade 1959: 6; Staffordshire HER: PRN 07954 and PRN 40137; English Heritage National Heritage No. 1116688)

<sup>184</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 07955; English Heritage National Heritage No. 1116745

<sup>185</sup> Greenslade 1959: 6

<sup>186</sup> Ibid.

<sup>187</sup> Greenslade 1959: 3; Staffordshire HER: PRN 58300

<sup>188</sup> Greenslade 1959: 6

to as Milford Common. The common survives as an area of unenclosed grassland with car parking. The earliest development on its northern edge, lying between The Barley Mow and the entrance of Shugborough Hall, dates to the final decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are probably related to the opening of the Milford and Brocton Railway Station in 1877. The station has gone but a short terrace known as Railway Terrace survives<sup>189</sup>. The railway popularised Milford as a visitor destination in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, when fairs were held on the common<sup>190</sup>.

The origins of Milford, as a settlement, are more obscure than those of Brocton (cf. s.6.1.6). The earliest buildings within Milford comprise a regular courtyard, red brick, farmstead and 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century cottages, probably built under the influence of the Milford Hall estate. Milford Hall is another 18<sup>th</sup> century country house associated with a small landscape park<sup>191</sup>. The landscape park retains much of its historic character including the woodland planting to the south east and the ornamental lake.

### 9.2.5 Previous Research recorded in HER

HER Event Ref	Organisation/ Person	Name/Title	Date
EST1646	Benchmark Archaeology	Historic Building Recording at the Barn, Rose Cottage, Brocton	July 2005

### 9.2.6 Statement of Significance

Brocton represents one of only two early settlements within the AONB, although its historic plan form and buildings are better preserved. This is reflected in the high numbers of early Listed buildings located within the historic core. The settlement is associated with the extant historic field pattern which survives to the north.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century Brocton Hall and Milford Hall are reminders of the influence of the gentry within the AONB in the past; Brocton Hall and Brocton Lodge are particularly associated with the locally influential Chetwynd family. This is characterised by the surviving country houses and their associated outbuildings and structures as well as by the extant parkland character at Milford Hall. The settlement of Milford also retains buildings reflecting the influence of the Milford estate.

### 9.2.7 Gap Analysis

- What are the origins and locations of historic settlement in the zone.
- Evidence for earlier activity – land use in prehistoric/Roman period?
- Is there further archaeological evidence for the impact of the Great War camps on the settlements at Brocton and Milford?

<sup>189</sup> Greenslade 1959: 4; Staffordshire HER: PRN 58301

<sup>190</sup> Images on Staffordshire Past Track website [www.staffspastrack.org.uk](http://www.staffspastrack.org.uk) viewed 16/03/2015 (Photograph of Milford and Brocton Station c.1880-90; Donkey Rides, Milford Common Fair c. 1906)

<sup>191</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 07941 and PRN 20738

- There remains the potential for further documentary sources to survive held in public and private collections beyond Staffordshire.

### **9.2.8 Broad Management Recommendations**

- To protect and enhance the surviving historic field patterns which date to the post medieval period.
- Enhance the parkland character of the former estates.
- Any development within historic settlements should reflect the unique historic character of those extant settlements. The AONB Unit should support the role of good design, materials, scaling and location of new build within historic settlements.
- Where proposals involve development of historic farmsteads, the AONB Unit should champion the use by developers or their agents of the Staffordshire Historic Farmsteads Guidance (<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/eLand/planners-developers/HistoricEnvironment/Projects/Historic-Farmsteads.aspx>).
- Where warranted and where supported by an appropriately detailed and wide ranging evidence base, discussions may be held between relevant individuals/organisations and Historic England concerning the need for the statutory designation of individual or groups of currently undesignated heritage assets. At this point appropriate forms of heritage management will also be discussed to ensure the long term viability of any newly designated nationally important heritage assets within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

## Map 5: HECZ 2 - Brocton and Milford

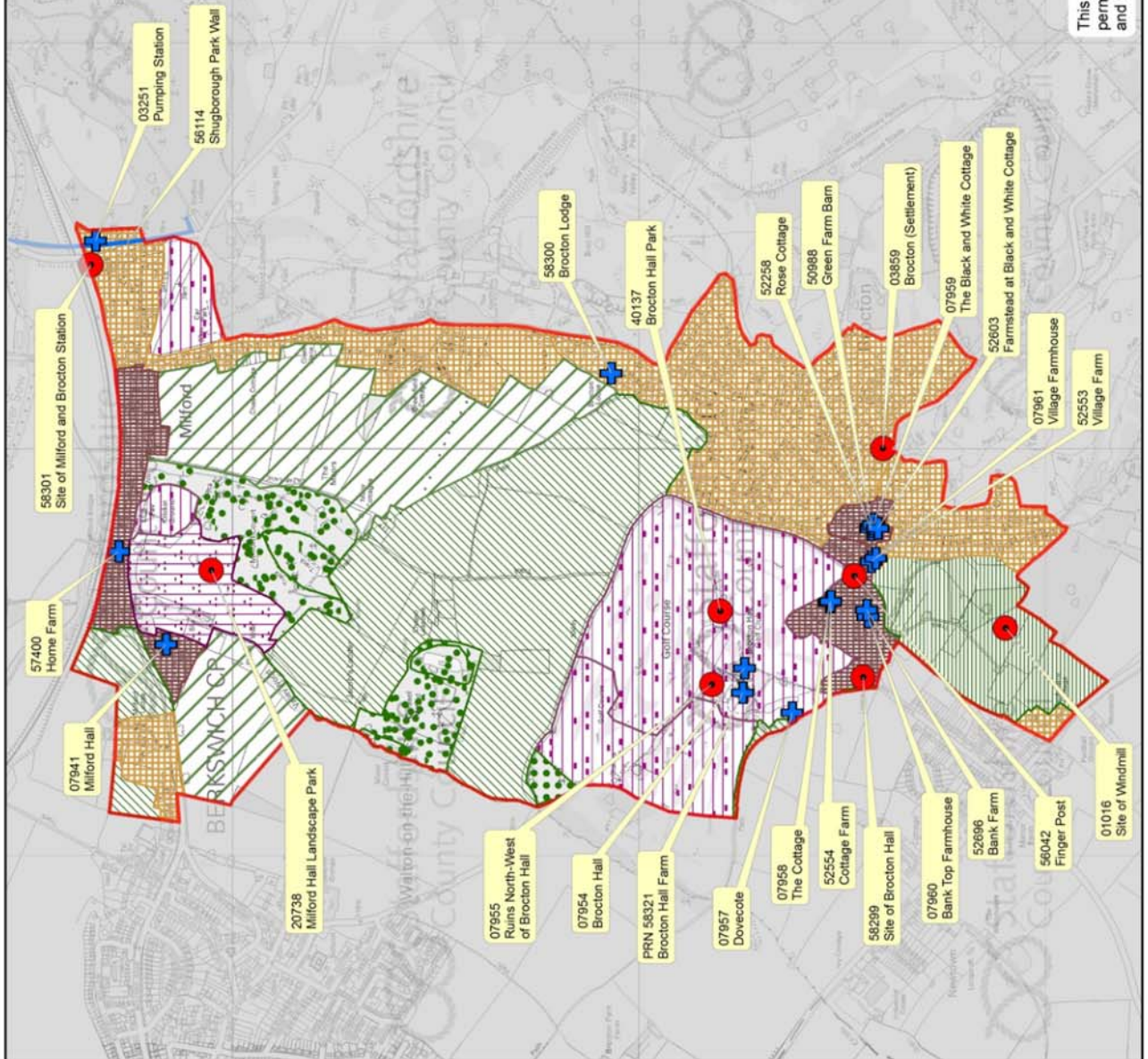
### Legend

#### Historic Landscape Character

-  Early Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure
-  Historic Parks and Gardens
-  Other Parkland
-  Other Recent Woodlands
-  Piecemeal Enclosure
-  Plantations
-  Post 1880s Settlement
-  Post 1880s Small Replanned Enclosure
-  Pre 1880s Settlement

#### HER Data

-  HECZ Boundary
-  Building or Structure
-  Monument
-  Shugborough Park Wall



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### 9.3 CCAHECZ 3: Haywood Park and Satnall Hills

#### 9.3.1 Key Characteristics

- The influence of the Shugborough estate is strongly reflected in the architecture of the built heritage within this zone.
- The historic woodland reflects periods of landscape design. To the north it was laid out as part of the Shugborough estate and is associated with woodland walks. At Haywood Park it may relate to landscaping undertaken by the Pagets or their tenants.
- The archaeological potential for settlement and industrial activity within the zone.
- The potential for evidence relating to the medieval deer park, at Haywood Park, to survive.

#### 9.3.2 Geology and Topography

The Haywood Park and Satnall Hills Zone covers around 240ha and is principally comprised of a bedrock geology of sandstone and conglomerate pebbles (Kidderminster Formation). A small outcrop of gravelly sandstone (Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation) lies just to the north of Haywood Park. Satnall Hills Quarry is identified as a Local Geological Site (LoGS).

Dry valleys in the Satnall Hills area, including that used by the A513, have bottom profiles that both rise and fall along their length. This would indicate that they were formed beneath the margin of an ice sheet situated in the Trent Valley during the last Ice Age. The north western portion of the zone lies on the edge of the Sow Valley, where alluvium forms a superficial deposit. This is the lowest lying portion of the zone at around 70m AOD<sup>192</sup>. The northern eastern portion of the zone, at around 73m AOD, forms the southern extent of the Trent Valley. From the north east the land rises gently south west across the northern portions of Haywood Park before rising more steeply up to the wooded slopes of Haywood Park Covert (at around 140m AOD). From the Sow Valley the land rises steeply up to around 145m at Satnall Hills to the south. Haywood Park Covert and Satnall Hills are cut by the Sherbrook Valley, overlain by a superficial geology of alluvium, which flows north to its confluence with the River Sow (cf. HECZ 1).

#### 9.3.3 Heritage Designations

There are six Listed buildings all of which are associated with the Shugborough estate. These comprise two Grade II\* Listed (White Barn Farm and Hay Barn and Cottages) and four Grade II Listed (the Railway arches, Lichfield Lodge, Stafford Wood Lodge and Stafford Lodges).

The northern portion lies within the Shugborough Grade I Registered Park and Garden and the Shugborough and Great Haywood Conservation Area.

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<sup>192</sup> AOD: Above Ordnance Datum

### 9.3.4 Historic and Archaeological Context and Evidence

The zone is characterised by woodland, particularly to the north west where it is associated with landscaping by the Shugborough estate in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Woodland around Haywood Park Farm also dates to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with some more recent planting.

The central portion of the zone has been identified as forming Haywood Park, which documentary references suggest originated as a deer park within the bishops' manor of Haywood possibly prior 1290 (see above)<sup>193</sup>. The presumed limits of the park are shown on Map 6 with the eastern extent following a former track way (known as a coal way). It is unclear to what extent the park pale may survive as an earthwork or whether the extent defined represents the full extent of the deer park. The northern portion was cut by the construction of the Stafford-Rugeley road in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century as is made clear by contemporary records<sup>194</sup>. A property existed towards the north west of the area defined as the deer park, which survived until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>195</sup>. It has been speculated, but not proven, that it may have had medieval origins possibly as the site of the deer keeper's lodge. Documentary records suggest that a house, probably of a moderately high status, existed within the park, and presumably on this site, by the 17<sup>th</sup> century (cf. 6.1.4). It is, however, unclear whether Haywood Park was still operating as a deer park following its transfer to the Paget family in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century. The extant Haywood Park Farm was constructed towards the centre of the park in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It appears to have replaced the earlier property and is associated with the extant planned field pattern. The establishment of the farm was carried out during a movement of agricultural improvements which saw the enclosure of large swathes of common and waste land (cf. s.7.1). A couple of small estate cottages were established on the edges of the park probably in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>196</sup>. Satnall Cottage lies to the west, just south of the site of the original Haywood Park House; the cottage outbuilding retains sandstone blocks which may have been re-used from the earlier house<sup>197</sup>.

To the north of the Stafford-Rugeley road (now the A513) the zone forms the southern wooded slopes of the Grade I Registered Park and Garden of Shugborough Park. The historical development of the parkland and the incorporation of that part of Cannock Chase now known as Stafford Plantation into the designed landscape in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century have been considered in depth as part of the Shugborough Parkland Management Plan (2014)<sup>198</sup>. The improvements which were carried out during this period are represented by the surviving parkland buildings including the gate lodges on the approaches

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<sup>193</sup> Cantor 1968: 49

<sup>194</sup> Staffordshire Record Office D615/M/11/5 1803 'Plan of route of proposed new road through Haywood Park' (summary description viewed on Gateway to the Past web <http://www.archives.staffordshire.gov.uk> viewed 05/03/2015)

<sup>195</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 56157

<sup>196</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 56072 and PRN 56073

<sup>197</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 56074

<sup>198</sup> Cookson & Tickner 2014

from the direction of Stafford and Lichfield; as well as White Barns Farm which is associated with the eminent architect Samuel Wyatt (1737/8 - 1807)<sup>199</sup>.

A recent walk-over survey, to support the Shugborough Estate Conservation Management Plan<sup>200</sup>, identified various aspects of the wider historic estate management and designed landscape within the zone. To the north of the A513, within the Registered parkland, features identified included a number of woodland walks and rides during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century providing viewing points into the wider landscape and the earthwork platforms representing the site of two small structures (one of which was marked as 'Heath House' and later as 'Summer House' on historic mapping) forming part of the experience<sup>201</sup>. The built form of these structures is not known. The earthwork remains of elements of the former road network were also identified including the pre-early 19<sup>th</sup> century alignment of the Stafford to Rugeley Road and a former northern route, known as Trent Lane, across the estate leading to Essex Bridge on the River Trent (cf. HECZ 1)<sup>202</sup>. Further former trackways, some of them possibly represent 'coal ways' also survive to the south of the A513 in and around Haywood Park<sup>203</sup>.

The walk-over survey also identified evidence for woodland and water management, particularly within Haywood Park to the south of the A513. This included earthwork banks probably originating as wood banks, a possible charcoal burner's platform and the earthworks possibly associated with the site of a timber yard within Shugborough Park<sup>204</sup>. A number of leats and mill ponds were also identified within the Sherbrook Valley as well as the site of two possible watermills, one of which may be associated with documentary references to a paper mill within Haywood Park during the late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> century (cf. HECZ 1 for paper mill at Shugborough)<sup>205</sup>. The more southerly of the two sites is identified as a mill site by a possible waterwheel pit and it has been speculated that this may be associated with iron working elsewhere on the Chase particularly between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, although to date this has not been substantiated by any physical evidence<sup>206</sup>.

A number of other earthworks are known including possible evidence for agricultural activity in the form of a lynchet and evidence for undated quarrying<sup>207</sup>. The lynchet may provide evidence for periodic ploughing from the medieval period on edge of the Chase or may be associated with later settlement, recorded in the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century. Evidence for the presence of this settlement or settlements (referred to as Woodside and Ridding Green) may survive as below ground deposits<sup>208</sup>.

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<sup>199</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 08026 and PRN 56083 (Lichfield Lodges); PRN 07942 (Stafford Lodges); PRN 08031 (Stafford Wood Lodge); PRN 12801 and PRN 12802 (White Barn Farm)

<sup>200</sup> Cookson & Tickner 2014: Appendix 2; Staffordshire HER: PRN 56100

<sup>201</sup> Cookson & Tickner 2014: Character Area 7 and Character Area 8

<sup>202</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 54942 and PRN 56118

<sup>203</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 56132 and PRN 56174

<sup>204</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 56144, PRN 56134 and PRN 56091

<sup>205</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 56140, PRN 56150, PRN 02110 and PRN 58265

<sup>206</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 56150

<sup>207</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 56130 and PRN 56127

<sup>208</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20795 and PRN 20796



### 9.3.5 Previous Research recorded in HER

HER Event Ref	Organisation/Person	Name/Title	Date
EST1617	Anon.	A summary of the development of Shugborough Hall	1989
EST1618	Debois Landscape Survey Group	A draft landscape management plan for Shugborough	1990
EST1619	Keith Funnell Associates	An assessment and landscape management plan for the Shugborough Estate	1994
EST1620	Anon.	An assessment of the evolution of Shugborough.	1989
EST2084	Staffordshire County Council	A baseline environmental appraisal of the Shugborough Estate.	2004
EST2123	Staffordshire Industrial Archaeological Society	An archaeological excavation in the yard adjacent to the threshing barn at White Barn Farm, Shugborough	1995
EST2227	National Trust	An archaeological building recording survey and excavation at White Barn Farm, Shugborough	April 1995
EST2454	Staffordshire County Council	A survey of veteran trees in Shugborough Park.	2012
EST2455	Cookson & Tickner	A survey of Shugborough's parkland, including landscape, historic buildings, archaeology and trees.	2013

### 9.3.6 Statement of Significance

The Grade I Registered Park and Garden of Shugborough Hall extends into the northern portion of this HECZ. This is reflected in the historic woodland planting and designed woodland walks. The influence of the estate is further felt within the built heritage in the architectural form of the farm buildings and gate lodges. White Barn Farm is closely associated with the eminent architect Samuel Wyatt and the landscaping with William Emes.

An estate character is also found to the south of the Stafford-Rugeley road in the planned field patterns, farm buildings and cottages at Haywood Park, although this is likely to have been the influence of the Pagets rather than the Ansons.

There are archaeological remains associated with industrial activity (notably paper making) at Shugborough and possibly with iron working to the south.

Whilst the form and management of deer within Haywood Park, from the medieval period, is currently poorly understood it remains one of only three known medieval deer parks within the Cannock Chase AONB.

### **9.3.7 Gap Analysis**

- To establish the degree to which a deer park pale may survive around Haywood Park in order to identify the extent of the park and any former subdivisions within it.
- Identification of historic route ways across the zone including the route of former 'coal ways' surviving as earthworks.
- Further physical evidence of industrial activity and woodland management within the zone.
- Improve our understanding of the water management particularly relating to its potential association with industrial sites within and beyond the zone (including the mill sites within Shugborough).
- There remains the potential for further documentary sources to present held in collections beyond Staffordshire.

### **9.3.8 Broad Management Recommendations**

- When considering works within woodland to consult with the SCC HER at the earliest opportunity and develop the woodland management methodology accordingly.
- To avoid or minimise impacts upon extant earthworks during forestry operations in areas of woodland.
- To avoid planting on earthworks.
- To manage the growth of scrub on earthworks.
- Any burning of brash to be carried out off historic earthworks.
- To develop interpretation to consider the role of woodland management and industrial activity within this area of Shugborough park.
- Where warranted and where supported by an appropriately detailed and wide ranging evidence base, discussions may be held between relevant individuals/organisations and Historic England concerning the need for the statutory designation of individual or groups of currently undesignated heritage assets. At this point appropriate forms of heritage management will also be discussed to ensure the long term viability of any newly designated nationally important heritage assets within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



## 9.4 CCAHECZ 4: Brocton Coppice

### 9.4.1 Key Characteristics

- **Ancient Wood Pasture: trees exhibit evidence for coppicing and pollarding.**
- **Earthwork banks and ditches 'enclosing' Brocton Coppice associated with historic woodland management.**
- **Historic route-ways – surviving as deep hollow ways (other paths are also present) and the line of the military railway linking Brocton camp with the mainline railway at Milford.**
- **Earthwork remains of buildings, structures and practice trenches associated with 1<sup>st</sup> World War activity (Brocton military camp) and the 1917/18 PoW camp.**

### 9.4.2 Geology and Topography

The Brocton Coppice Character Zone covers approximately 114 hectares and incorporates an area of ancient wood pasture comprising a mix of veteran oak trees and more recent birch encroachment. The zone lies on a bedrock geology of sandstone and conglomerate pebbles (Kidderminster Formation)<sup>209</sup>. A narrow band of superficial geology, alluvium, is associated with the narrow Mere Valley to the north west.

The southern portion of the zone stands at between 175m AOD<sup>210</sup> and 185m AOD with the land at first falling gently and then more steeply away towards the Sherbrook Valley and the Mere Valley to the east, north and west (down to 130m AOD in the Mere Valley). The Mere Valley and adjacent valleys have profiles which indicate that they were formed beneath the margin of an ice sheet during the last Ice Age. To the north and west there are a series of short incised valleys most of which are associated with a trackway or footpath within the modern landscape.

### 9.4.3 Heritage Designations

None

### 9.4.4 Historic and Archaeological Context and Evidence

There is physical evidence for this land having been managed as a coppice<sup>211</sup> from the earthwork banks and ditches which appear to encircle it as well as evidence for coppicing and pollarding in a number of the veteran oaks themselves including one estimated to be over 500 years old and in other

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<sup>209</sup> British Geological Society website viewed 09/03/2015 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=KDM>

<sup>210</sup> AOD: Above Ordnance Datum

<sup>211</sup> Coppice: A managed small wood or thicket of underwood grown to be periodically cut to encourage new growth providing smaller timber. Pollard: tree managed to encourage new growth; cut above the browse line (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage. © 2015 English Heritage)

examples aged at just over 100 years old<sup>212</sup>. The character of the area is suggestive of ancient wood pasture, although the trees along with the banks and ditches imply that it may have once, or possibly periodically, been enclosed to protect the coppiced trees. Coppice enclosures were statutorily controlled and could only be fenced off for a period of nine years<sup>213</sup>. This was in order to protect wood pasture, which presumably formed an important part of the pastoral economy for the surrounding settlements and particularly for pigs (known as pannage cf. s.7.1). Following fires in the 1970s birch has encroached into Brocton Coppice and the area has become more densely wooded than it appears to have been on historic mapping<sup>214</sup>.

At present there is no historic documentation relating to why coppicing may have been carried out in Brocton Coppice. Elsewhere on the Chase coppices were located within the vicinity of the post medieval ironworks (cf. HECZ 8)<sup>215</sup> and glassworking sites (HECZ 6). Tantalisingly, a recent walkover survey to support the Shugborough Conservation Management Plan found evidence for an undated mill site on the Sher Brook speculated to be associated with industrial activity just to the north of the Coppice within Haywood Park (cf. HECZ 3). More detailed investigation of this site might further a context for the origins of Brocton Coppice<sup>216</sup>. The different management techniques evidenced within the trees themselves, both coppice, pollards and maiden<sup>217</sup> trees being present amongst the oldest examples, may suggest it was utilised on a local scale perhaps to provide for a wide-range of requirements (building material, fencing material, fuel etc.) for the lord and/or the local community e.g. at Brocton just to the west (cf. HECZ 2).

The earliest reference to Brocton Coppice occurs in the 1620s in records held by the Paget family<sup>218</sup>. The coppice lies within Brocton parish and it probably formed part of Haywood manor (and/or Baswich manor) (cf. 6.1). The age of the trees identified within Brocton Coppice, and despite the evidence for coppicing, strongly suggests that the coppice did not form part of the grant of land by the Crown to Fulke Greville in 1589 (cf. s.7.2). The reason for its survival is a mystery, but it has been suggested that the land may have been previously sub-tenanted by the Paget's (or possibly the bishop) in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century; it has been speculated that the tenant at this period may have been the Fowler family of St Thomas' Priory in Baswich<sup>219</sup>.

It was in the hands of the Pagets in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century when woodland within Brocton Coppice was offered for sale, but it is unclear as to whether this ever went through<sup>220</sup>. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Brocton Coppice had been granted to the Earl of Lichfield's Shugborough estate. There is evidence from

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<sup>212</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20484; Survey carried out by SCC 1993 held as a GIS layer (other veteran oaks were maidens and others revealed evidence for pollarding (tree cut down to above the browse line to encourage re-growth for cropping)

<sup>213</sup> Harrison 1974: 177; Welch 2000: 42 and 46

<sup>214</sup> S. Sheppard pers. comm.

<sup>215</sup> SCC 1993

<sup>216</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 56150

<sup>217</sup> Maiden: A tree which has grown naturally with no evidence for management

<sup>218</sup> SCC 1993; SRO D(W)1734/2/5/57 Trespasses in cutting of wood, Brockton Coppice, Rugeley, Horninglow Coppice Gateway to the Past Web (summary record) viewed 09/03/2015

<sup>219</sup> SCC 1993

<sup>220</sup> SCC 1993

mapping and historic documents that the Ansons of Shugborough had earlier attempted to lay claim to part of this landscape when they erected an obelisk in 1760, presumably as an eye-catcher from the parkland to the north (cf. HECZ 1). The obelisk reportedly 'blew down' in 1790 and no physical trace of it is known<sup>221</sup>.

In Autumn 1914 the Earl of Lichfield allowed the Northern Command to establish a camp on Brocton Field (cf. HECZ 9) and by 1917 No. 1 Battalion lines within Brocton Coppice had been converted to a large Prisoner of War (PoW) camp (cf. s.7.6)<sup>222</sup>. The remains of the camp survive as earthworks and as concrete hut bases some of which are sited amongst the veteran oaks on the southern side of the Coppice. Historic mapping suggests that the military camp in this area was principally sited on what had been heathland in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The establishment of the military camp was associated with the re-routing of at least one of the historic trackways. The former route survives as a hollow way leading from Mere Pits to the north, whilst the main camp path survives as one of the principal routes from Milford through the woodland to Coppice Hill<sup>223</sup>. A military railway line was also constructed which linked Brocton Camp (HECZ 9) and Rugeley Camp (cf. HECZ 8) to the mainline railway at Milford to the north and which survives today as an earthwork. Other features associated with the occupation of the military camp and POW camp during the First World War survive within the HECZ. To the north of Brocton Coppice the remains of the Mere Pits Sewage works which comprised a series of sewage filters and four 'sludge' beds survive (one of the latter lies just within HECZ 3 to the north). To the south east a number of short sections of well-preserved practice trenches survive. The full extent of the First World War activity within the zone, particularly evidence for further practice trenches, has not to date been fully investigated.

#### 9.4.5 Previous Research recorded in HER

A number of surveys have been carried out within Brocton Coppice targeting principally targeting earthworks:

HER Event Ref	Organisation/Person	Name/Title	Date
EST1224	Staffordshire County Council?	A survey of the archaeological features at Brocton Coppice	1993-1995
EST1225	Staffordshire County Council?	A survey of the oak trees at Brocton Coppice, Cannock Chase	1994
EST1223	Scruby, A (for Forest Enterprise)	An Archaeological field survey of Cannock Chase	1994
EST228	Northamptonshire Archaeology	A walk-over and GPS survey of Brocton and Rugeley Camp, Cannock Chase.	February 2006

<sup>221</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 56093

<sup>222</sup> Whitehouse & Whitehouse. 1983: 3

<sup>223</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 40338

EST1642	Northamptonshire Archaeology	An archaeological survey of the Great War Camps at Cannock Chase AONB.	July 2006
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The two Northamptonshire Archaeology surveys incorporated a condition survey. A further survey was carried out on some of the Great War features within Brocton Coppice by Birmingham Archaeology in 2009.

#### 9.4.6 Statement of Significance

Within the AONB Brocton Coppice is the only place where a significant area of ancient woodland survives. The survey of the veteran oaks revealed evidence of woodland management (coppicing and pollarding) over many centuries; the evidence was apparent on trees aged between 150 years old and 500 years old. The earthwork banks and ditches which encircle Brocton Coppice are thus probably historically associated with the woodland management of this area from possibly as early as the 15<sup>th</sup> century, although a precise date is unknown.

The earthwork and structural remains of the POW camp within the HECZ along with the remains of the sewage works and the practice trenches all form part of the nationally important Great War training landscape which extends for many hectares across the plateau of Cannock Chase (cf. HECZs 5, 8 and 9).

#### 9.4.7 Gap Analysis

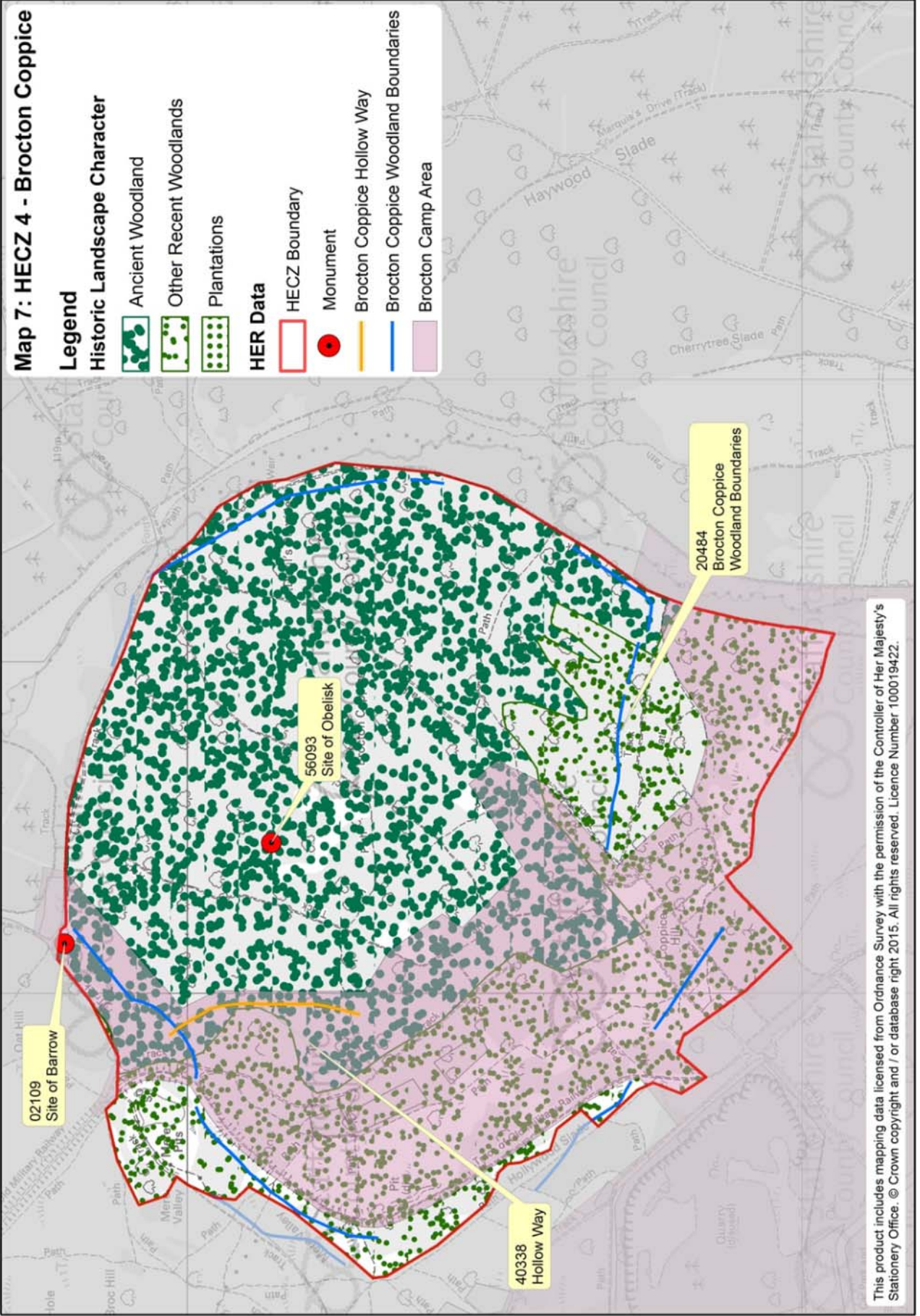
- Why has Brocton Coppice survived? Why do the veteran oaks survive the construction of Brocton Camp and the No.1 Battalion lines?
- To attempt to increase our understanding of the earthworks which appear to surround the Coppice? Are they contemporary and are they functioning as an enclosure? Are there further, currently unidentified, earthworks which may relate to woodland management?
- Potential links with nearby post-medieval industries (i.e. ironworking, glassworking) through coppicing and the location of tracks/holloways.
- How was rubbish disposal carried out within the POW camp and was their segregation between Allied and German dumps?
- The potential for further First World War remains to survive within the zone.
- There remains the potential for further documentary sources to present held in collections beyond Staffordshire.

#### 9.4.8 Broad Management Recommendations

- The conservation of the earthworks and structural remains within the coppice – protect them from birch and other scrub encroachment.
- Ensure that future management (including further works to survey and manage *Phytophthora*) throughout the coppice minimise impacts on veteran trees and surviving archaeological earthworks.
- Continue to enhance or conserve the character of wood pasture within the Coppice through selective felling and halo thinning around veteran trees.

- Improve resources for the education of cyclists and horse riders to inform the sensitivities of the landscape they are enjoying.
- Monitor the impact of riders and cyclists on the tracks through the character zone.
- Where warranted and where supported by an appropriately detailed and wide ranging evidence base, discussions may be held between relevant individuals/organisations and Historic England concerning the need for the statutory designation of individual or groups of currently undesignated heritage assets. At this point appropriate forms of heritage management will also be discussed to ensure the long term viability of any newly designated nationally important heritage assets within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.





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## 9.5 CCAHECZ 5: Haywood Warren and Wolseley Plain

### 9.5.1 Key Characteristics

- The earthwork remains of substantial Great War shooting butts, pistol ranges and grenade pits within the zone.
- The presence of earthworks potentially associated with post-medieval rabbit warrening on the chase.
- Historic route-ways – surviving as hollow ways (other paths are also present) and the line of the military railway linking Brocton camp with the mainline railway at Milford.

### 9.5.2 Geology and Topography

The Haywood Warren and Wolseley Plain Zone covers approximately 365ha. The zone lies on a bedrock geology of sandstone and conglomerate pebbles (Kidderminster Formation)<sup>224</sup>. A narrow band of superficial geology, alluvium, is associated with the Sherbrook Valley to the west and a further superficial deposit of till extends from north to south in the central portion of the zone.

Narrow valleys line the western and eastern boundaries of the zone comprising the Sherbrook Valley and Abraham's Valley; to the north the zone is contained by a shallower dry valley. The pattern of profiles for these dry valleys would indicate that they were formed under permafrost conditions during the last Ice Age. From these low lying areas the land rises up to reach around 200m AOD at the southern boundary<sup>225</sup>. Two dry valleys, known as Cherry Tree Slade and Haywood Slade cut into the western side of the high land. To the east the land rises up out of the east side of Abraham's Valley to reach around 175m AOD on Wolseley Plain.

### 9.5.3 Heritage Designations

None.

### 9.5.4 Historic and Archaeological Context and Evidence

The zone is currently characterised by woodland with that to the east principally comprising conifer plantation under the ownership of Forestry Commission. To the west the woodland is more open and deciduous trees are prominent. The detailed Ordnance Survey maps of the early and late 19<sup>th</sup> century reveals that the largest area of woodland lay to the west of the zone along the southern portion of the Sherbrook Valley and extending from there east-north-east across both the higher land and the dry valleys of Cherry Tree Slade and Haywood Slade. A small area of woodland existed within Abraham's Valley to the south, but the majority of the area was recorded as 'waste' or heath<sup>226</sup>. The eastern part of the zone formed part of Haywood

<sup>224</sup> British Geological Society website viewed 09/03/2015 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=KDM>

<sup>225</sup> AOD: Above Ordnance Datum

<sup>226</sup> Ordnance Survey Drawing 'Penkrigde' map. 1817. Viewed on British Library Online 19/01/2015 <http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/ordsurvdraw/>; First Edition 6" OS map (circa 1880)

manor and its overlordship lay firstly with the bishop and then, after the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, with the Paget family (cf. s.6.1.3). The south eastern portion, marked as Wolseley Plain, lay within Wolseley manor and may have formed part of the illegal enclosure being made during the Paget's absence in the later 16<sup>th</sup> century (cf. s.6.1.3)<sup>227</sup>.

There are currently only a few known heritage assets within the zone the majority of which have not been closely dated. These include features which lie within Abraham's Valley which forms the eastern boundary of the zone with CCAHECZ 6: Wolseley and Oakedge. At the northern end of Abraham's Valley four fishponds had been created three of which appear to have had weirs either built or rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>228</sup>. However, historic maps dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century suggest that only two of the ponds were extant at that date<sup>229</sup>. The late 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey maps marks all four features as 'Fishponds' and they are probably to be associated with Oakedge Hall and park to the east (cf. CCAHECZ 6). To the south, along Abraham's Valley, lies a bank and ditch forming the western boundary of Oakedge Park, part of which may lie within this zone (cf. CCAHECZ 6)<sup>230</sup>. In the south eastern corner of the zone, in the area now occupied by the quarry, two sets of banks and ditches, believed to form part of the boundary of the late 15<sup>th</sup> century Wolseley deer park to the west (cf. CCAHECZ 6) were revealed during archaeological investigations (cf. s.6.1.3 and s.7.4)<sup>231</sup>. A number of boundary stones mark the southern extent of the zone, which have been suggested to be of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The boundary which the stones mark is likely to have been a parish boundary (between Colwich and Rugeley), but this may also mark the southern extent of Haywood manor<sup>232</sup>.

A number of trackways, some surviving as hollow ways, have been identified during surveys across Cannock Chase. The majority run roughly north-south and some may represent the route of the coal ways running from the Chase up to the River Trent (see Map 8).

The most significant features within the zone are the rifle range (shooting butts) earthworks which relate to military activity on the Chase during the First World War (cf. s.7.6)<sup>233</sup>. Other possible military activity has been identified further north, within Haywood Warren, where the remains of a partially ploughed out, hexagonal earthwork, may represent the possible site of a gun emplacement<sup>234</sup>. A feature identified on aerial photography to the north of Haywood Warren, has been interpreted as a possible Second World War bomb crater, although this feature is no longer extant<sup>235</sup>.

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<sup>227</sup> Welch 2000: fig. 3

<sup>228</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00870

<sup>229</sup> Yates 1775; Ordnance Survey Drawing 'Penkridge' map. 1817. Viewed on British Library Online 19/01/2015 <http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/ordsurvdraw/>

<sup>230</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20544

<sup>231</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 53422 and PRN 53423; Cotswold Archaeology 2008

<sup>232</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04301

<sup>233</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 55109

<sup>234</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01015

<sup>235</sup> Identified from aerial photographs

The placename 'Haywood Warren', does not appear on historic mapping until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, but a lodge is marked on Yates' map (1775) to the south west of Seven Springs, although nothing is marked here on later mapping. Given the evidence from the maps it is possible that a rabbit warren had been established in this area by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, presumably by or with permission of the Paget family<sup>236</sup>. The history of the rabbit warrens across the Chase is not well understood, but documentary evidence suggests that they were being established during the 17<sup>th</sup> century<sup>237</sup>. To date no archaeological evidence has been identified as being associated with this activity. A number of undated earthwork banks, recorded as part of a survey across the Chase, were identified to the north east and north west of the area recorded as 'Haywood Warren' on modern mapping. It is possible that these features may relate to an earlier phase of woodland management, or they could be associated with enclosures associated with rabbit farming<sup>238</sup>.

To the west of Haywood Warren, lying on rising land above the Sherbrook Valley, is 'Dick Slee's Cave' which is marked on the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey map<sup>239</sup>. The site is described as a hollow in the ground, rather than a cave, and it has been suggested that it was the site of an 18<sup>th</sup> century hermit's cell<sup>240</sup>. At this date such features were often associated with the creation of landscape parks, as part of the experience of moving through the landscape. This site lies 1.5km south of Shugborough Park and approximately 500m south east of an obelisk the Anson family raised within Brocton Coppice. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century a number of the structures erected by the Ansons as part of their landscaping works were located on land not then belonging to them (see above). It is possible, therefore, that this feature may be associated with the Anson's, although it remains at a considerable distance from their principal area of interest and a hermits cave is recorded as having been erected within the Shugborough estate by 1806<sup>241</sup>. This history and any function associated with this feature remains enigmatic.

### 9.5.5 Previous Research recorded in HER

HER Event Ref	Organisation/Person	Name/Title	Date
EST1223	Adrian Scruby	An archaeological field survey of Cannock Chase on behalf of Forest Enterprise	2000
EST1890	Cotswold Archaeology	Archaeological Evaluation of Rugeley Quarry for CEMEX UK Operations Ltd	2008
EST2282	Northamptonshire Archaeology	A walk-over and GPS survey of Brocton and Rugeley Camp, Cannock Chase	2006

<sup>236</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 50659

<sup>237</sup> Welch 2000: 62

<sup>238</sup> Scruby 2000

<sup>239</sup> Ordnance Survey First Edition 6" map (circa 1880)

<sup>240</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20531

<sup>241</sup> Cookson & Tickner 2014: 43

EST2471	English Heritage/Archaeological Research Services	Aerial photographic mapping as part of the Staffordshire Eastern Rivers Confluence National Mapping Project	2013-14
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### 9.5.6 Statement of Significance

Comparatively little is known of warrening on the Chase during the nineteenth century and earlier. However, the impact of the widespread enclosure which accompanied warrening was felt by communities beyond the immediate area of the Chase. These communities had traditionally claimed commoning rights across areas of the Chase and the enclosure caused considerable resentment. As such, evidence for the warrens, lodges and enclosure represent an important period in the areas social history.

The extant full bore (.303 calibre) shooting butts laid out during the Great War are as large as that at the national shooting centre, Bisley today. They reflect static training/target practice and contain an area for fire and manoeuvre training. The shooting butts survive in good order and in places the shooting positions, control gear and target positions can be identified. When considered as part of a wider camp and training ground landscape these features can be considered to be of national significance.

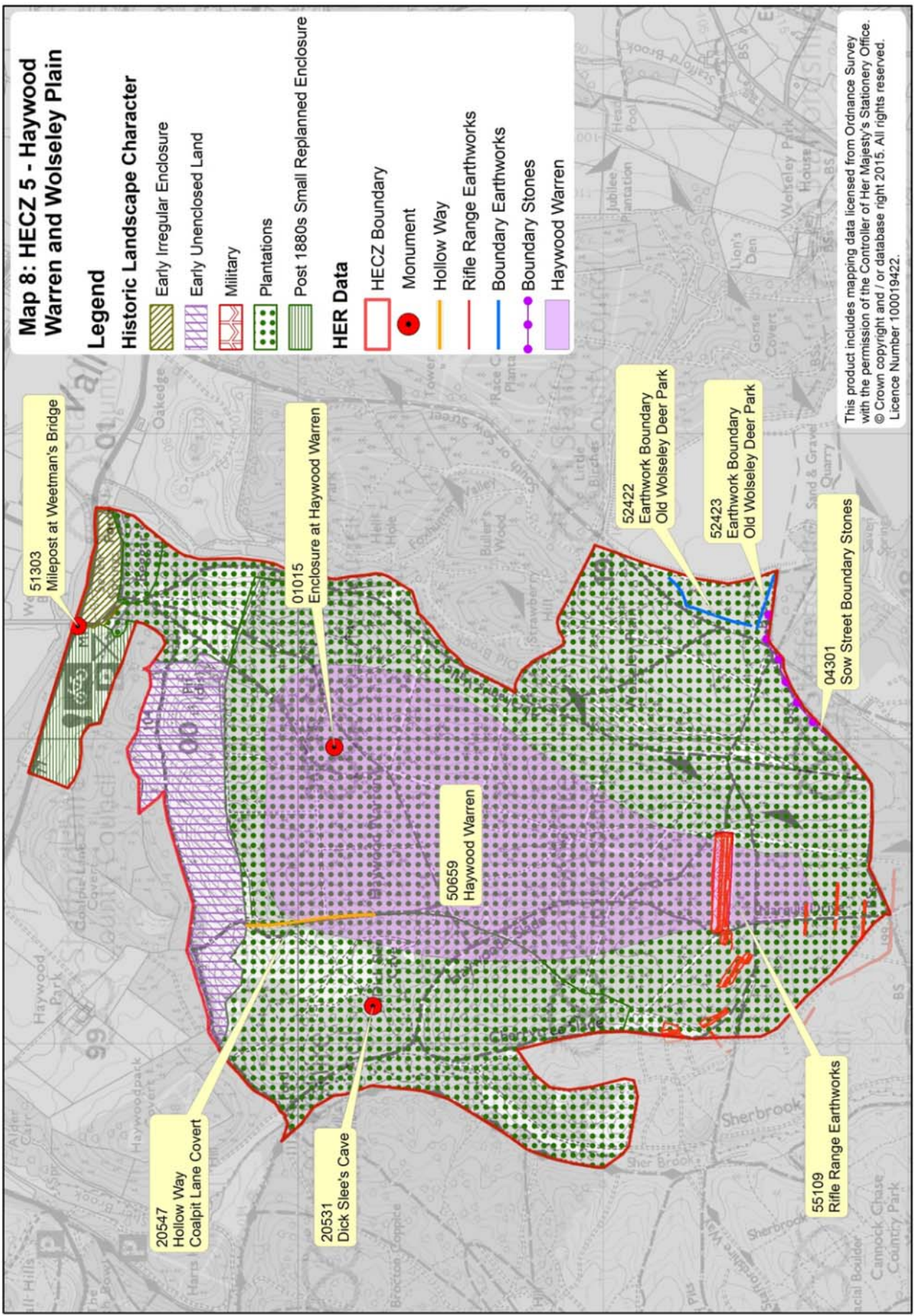
### 9.5.7 Gap Analysis

- Seek to identify further earthworks relating to the management of and movement through this landscape.
- To what extent do any of the earthworks relate to rabbit warrening.
- Are there further formal training areas (pistol ranges, grenade pits, maintenance areas) associated with the shooting butts.
- There remains the potential for late prehistoric exploitation on the glacial tills present within central portion of the character zone; particularly where this superficial geology is closely associated with a watercourse.
- There remains the potential for further documentary sources to present held in collections beyond Staffordshire.

### 9.5.8 Broad Management Recommendations

- Avoid tree planting on earthworks
- Seek to remove scrub from the earthworks but promote a healthy sward of grass/heather succession on sensitive earthworks.
- Provide information to cyclists in the area to inform them as to the presence of archaeologically sensitive earthworks.
- To better secure the shooting butts. These structures were built of local gravels and have, to date, not developed covering vegetation. As such cyclists riding down them will have a significant impact upon their structural stability.
- Where warranted and where supported by an appropriately detailed and wide ranging evidence base, discussions may be held between relevant individuals/organisations and Historic England concerning the need for the statutory designation of individual or groups of currently undesignated

heritage assets. At this point appropriate forms of heritage management will also be discussed to ensure the long term viability of any newly designated nationally important heritage assets within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.










**Map 8: HECZ 5 - Haywood Warren and Wolseley Plain**

**Legend**

**Historic Landscape Character**

-  Early Irregular Enclosure
-  Early Unenclosed Land
-  Military
-  Plantations
-  Post 1880s Small Replanned Enclosure

**HER Data**

-  HECZ Boundary
-  Monument
-  Hollow Way
-  Rifle Range Earthworks
-  Boundary Earthworks
-  Boundary Stones
-  Haywood Warren

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## 9.6 CCAHECZ 6: Wolseley and Oakedge

### 9.6.1 Key Characteristics

- The remains of the historic parkland and in particular evidence for the medieval deer park at Wolseley Park.
- The presence of late medieval and post-medieval industrial development within Wolseley Park and in the surrounding landscape.

### 9.6.2 Geology and Topography

The Wolseley and Oakedge Character Zone covers around 400ha. The zone lies on a bedrock geology of sandstone and conglomerate pebbles (Kidderminster Formation) and Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation<sup>242</sup>. A narrow band of superficial geology, alluvium, is associated with the Stafford Brook to the east.

The northern boundary of the zone lies on the edge of the Trent Valley, whilst Abraham's Valley and the Stafford Brook valley form the western and eastern boundaries respectively. From these low lying areas the land rises up to reach around 160m AOD at Little Birches.

### 9.6.3 Heritage Designations

Two Grade II listed buildings lie at the northern end of the zone, within the Trent Valley; the Wolseley Bridge Tea Rooms and associated buildings and a barn lying south east of the Wolseley Arms<sup>243</sup> (cf.s.6.1.3).

### 8.6.4 Historic and Archaeological Context and Evidence

The zone comprises the historic extents of two parklands, Wolseley Park, which was created a deer park in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, and to the west Oakedge Park, whose history remains somewhat obscure<sup>244</sup>.

The majority of the area lay within Wolseley manor (cf. s.6.1.3), although the principal seat of the Wolseley family lay to the north beyond the AONB boundary. A small part of what may have been the principal settlement within the manor, Wolseley Bridge, lies within the zone although little is currently understood of its history. Within the zone lie two Grade II listed buildings, both dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, although the barn was relocated in 1986 from another site within Colwich parish<sup>245</sup>. The only other buildings within the zone are two historic farmsteads, lying at Oakedge to the north west, and Scarborough Farm, to the south east, and Wolseley Mill which stands to the north of two mill ponds on the Stafford Brook<sup>246</sup>. A third historic farmstead stood to the south west of Wolseley Mill and just within Wolseley Park. The site has been completely rebuilt in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but its name on historic

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<sup>242</sup> British Geological Society website viewed 09/03/2015 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=KDM>

<sup>243</sup> English Heritage National Heritage No. 1258550 and No. 1258825

<sup>244</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04199 and PRN 40287

<sup>245</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 05844 and PRN 12734

<sup>246</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 03734 and MST 21424



mapping, Middle Lodge, may suggest that it originated as one of the deer park lodges.

Scarborough Farm and Middle Lodge are associated with the only area of fields within the zone. Within Wolseley Park the fields appear to have been laid out in the later 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century, whilst those around Scarborough Farm are post medieval in origin and may have formed out of an open field system associated with Rugeley to the east. Further evidence for medieval and later strip farming (often but not exclusively associated with open fields) has been identified on aerial photography to the south of Wolseley Bridge and within the northern portion of Oakedge park (around the farmstead). The former may be associated with medieval settlement within Wolseley manor, whilst the latter may be associated with periodic ploughing which is recorded to have occurred in areas of the Chase (cf. s.7.1). The historic landscape of the remainder of the zone is characterised principally by coniferous plantations, although broad leaved woodland features on the eastern edge of Wolseley Park and within the northern portion of the former Oakedge Park. The trees in the latter may be associated with landscaping believed to have been carried out William Emes in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century<sup>247</sup> (cf. s.6.1.3).

The landscape park was associated with Oakedge Hall, which had been rebuilt in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century (demolished pre-1880), but whose predecessor may have existed on the same site since at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century if not earlier<sup>248</sup>. Two of the four fishponds which form the western boundary of the zone (cf. CCECZ 5) are marked on historic mapping and may have formed part of the landscaping of the area at an unknown point in its history. Evidence for further water management is marked on the late 19<sup>th</sup> century ordnance survey mapping and as earthwork remains visible on aerial photography. A water channel leaves the Old Brook (Abraham's Valley) and extends towards the site of Oakedge Hall. Historic mapping marks weirs along its length and it terminates at an area of woodland planting. The channel survives although its designed form has been somewhat eroded by further tree cover since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The origins and function of this water course are currently unclear. A length of bank and ditch lying to the west of the zone has been interpreted as part of the boundary to Oakedge Park, although whether it relates to the creation of the landscape park or an earlier park boundary (possibly a game park or warren) is currently unknown<sup>249</sup>. An undated earthwork enclosure, identified as part of a field survey in 2000, lies within the eastern portion of the Oakedge Park<sup>250</sup>. Its date and function are currently unknown.

The extent of Wolseley Park is defined on Yates' map (1775) where it is depicted as being enclosed by a park pale. Indeed the park was apparently still functioning as a deer park, with deer leaps to allow deer to enter the park from the wider Chase, in the 1860s<sup>251</sup>. The deer park was probably created in the 1460s when Ralph Wolseley was in the ascendant at the royal court (cf. s.7.4). Even though a deer leap into the park survived in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century

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<sup>247</sup> 'Oakedge Park' on Landedfamilies.blogspot.co.uk viewed 27/01/2015

<sup>248</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00869

<sup>249</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20544

<sup>250</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20543

<sup>251</sup> Shirley 1867: 179 viewed on <http://books.google.co.uk> on 02/03/2015

it is not known to what extent the park boundary now survives. Two enclosures observed as cropmarks on aerial photography lie on the eastern side of the deer park and may relate to either deer or woodland management<sup>252</sup>. At least three glass working sites have been identified during archaeological investigations within the area of Wolseley Park at Little Birches to the west and at Cattail Pool to the east (cf. s.7.3.2)<sup>253</sup>. At Little Birches two glass furnaces were identified in advance of quarrying with one site dating to the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century and the other, less securely dated, to possibly the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century. Activity at Cattail Pool was identified from surface finds and may relate to one or more glasshouses possibly functioning from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. A William and Ralph Glasmon are recorded as being presented to Wolseley manor court in 1408 for offences in Wolseley's woods and by 1447 'glasshouse hay' existed in Wolseley Wood, although its precise location is unknown<sup>254</sup>. This industry appears, therefore, to have pre-dated the enclosure of the deer park (unless this had actually occurred 'unofficially' at an earlier date).

A watermill, presumably for grinding corn, existed on the Stafford Brook by the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century<sup>255</sup>. This may have been located on the site marked on historic maps and now associated with the modern Mill House and two mill ponds. The more southerly of these two ponds may have been associated with a short-lived iron industry within Wolseley manor, which documentary sources may suggest occurred in the late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century<sup>256</sup>. Quantities of iron slag were found below the dam of this pool and the site of a probable blast furnace was identified approximately 400m further south<sup>257</sup>. Historic mapping also suggests that small-scale coal working may have occurred in the area of what is now the quarry during the later 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>258</sup>.

A 'newly constructed' rabbit warren is also recorded, in the vicinity of the Stafford Brook, in 1342<sup>259</sup>. Nothing further is known of this feature, although there remains the potential for earthworks to survive relating to it.

#### 9.6.5 Previous Research recorded in HER

HER Event Ref	Organisation/Person	Name/Title	Date
EST839	Northamptonshire Archaeology	A detailed gradiometer survey at Rugeley Quarry, Cannock Chase	2001
EST840	Oxford Archaeology	An archaeological evaluation of land at Rugeley Quarry, Cannock Chase	2001
EST848	Oxford	A magnetic susceptibility survey	1991

<sup>252</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01554 and PRN 04220

<sup>253</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04300 and PRN 20749

<sup>254</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01006; Welch 1997: 30

<sup>255</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 03734; Welch 1997: 30

<sup>256</sup> SCC nd. (Little Birches summary note)

<sup>257</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20750

<sup>258</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20526

<sup>259</sup> Welch 1997: 30

	Archaeotechnics	at Wolseley Park, near Rugeley	
EST1198	Staffordshire County Council	An assessment of the potential archaeological remains from Little Birches glassmaking site, Wolseley	1991
EST1222	Anon.	An archaeological field survey at Cattail Pool.	Nd
EST1223	Adrian Scruby	An archaeological field survey of Cannock Chase on behalf of Forest Enterprise	2000

### 9.6.6 Statement of Significance

The extent of Wolseley deer park is well defined and while there has been some loss to its form in the southwest (through quarrying) it still survives in relatively good order. Later 19<sup>th</sup> century references to functioning deer leaps suggest that some of the deer park management elements may also survive although their positions have now been lost. Nevertheless, this park represents a good survivor of a medieval/post-medieval deer park.

Water management along the Stafford Brook may point to the presence of a further iron working site within the character zone. There also remains the potential for further glasshouses to be present within the character zone although quarrying may well have impacted such remains. The presence of further industrial activity in this area would enhance our understanding of industrial development in the post medieval (and potentially medieval period) and the role of major landowners in this developing trend. This in itself would further underline the important role that major estates had in early industrial development in this part of Staffordshire, possibly taking over the role from the monastic orders post-Dissolution.

### 9.6.7 Gap Analysis

- Extent and nature of industrial activity across the zone.
- Extent and survival of any of the deer park earthworks.
- Is there a relationship between the enclosures and deer and/or wood management?
- Potential presence of medieval rabbit warrening within the character zone.
- Potential prehistoric activity in particularly associated with the Stafford Brook.
- There remains the potential for further documentary sources to present held in collections beyond Staffordshire.

### 9.6.8 Broad Management Recommendations








- Methodologies should be developed for the management of archaeological earthworks particularly within a woodland context. Such methodologies could be developed in consultation with the SCC Historic Environment Team.
- Interpretation should be considered to highlight the historic development of industrial activity in this area and the role that the coppiced woodland and the Wolseley family had in this process.

- Where warranted and where supported by an appropriately detailed and wide ranging evidence base, discussions may be held between relevant individuals/organisations and Historic England concerning the need for the statutory designation of individual or groups of currently undesignated heritage assets. At this point appropriate forms of heritage management will also be discussed to ensure the long term viability of any newly designated nationally important heritage assets within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.










# Map 9: HECZ 6 - Wolsley and Oakedge

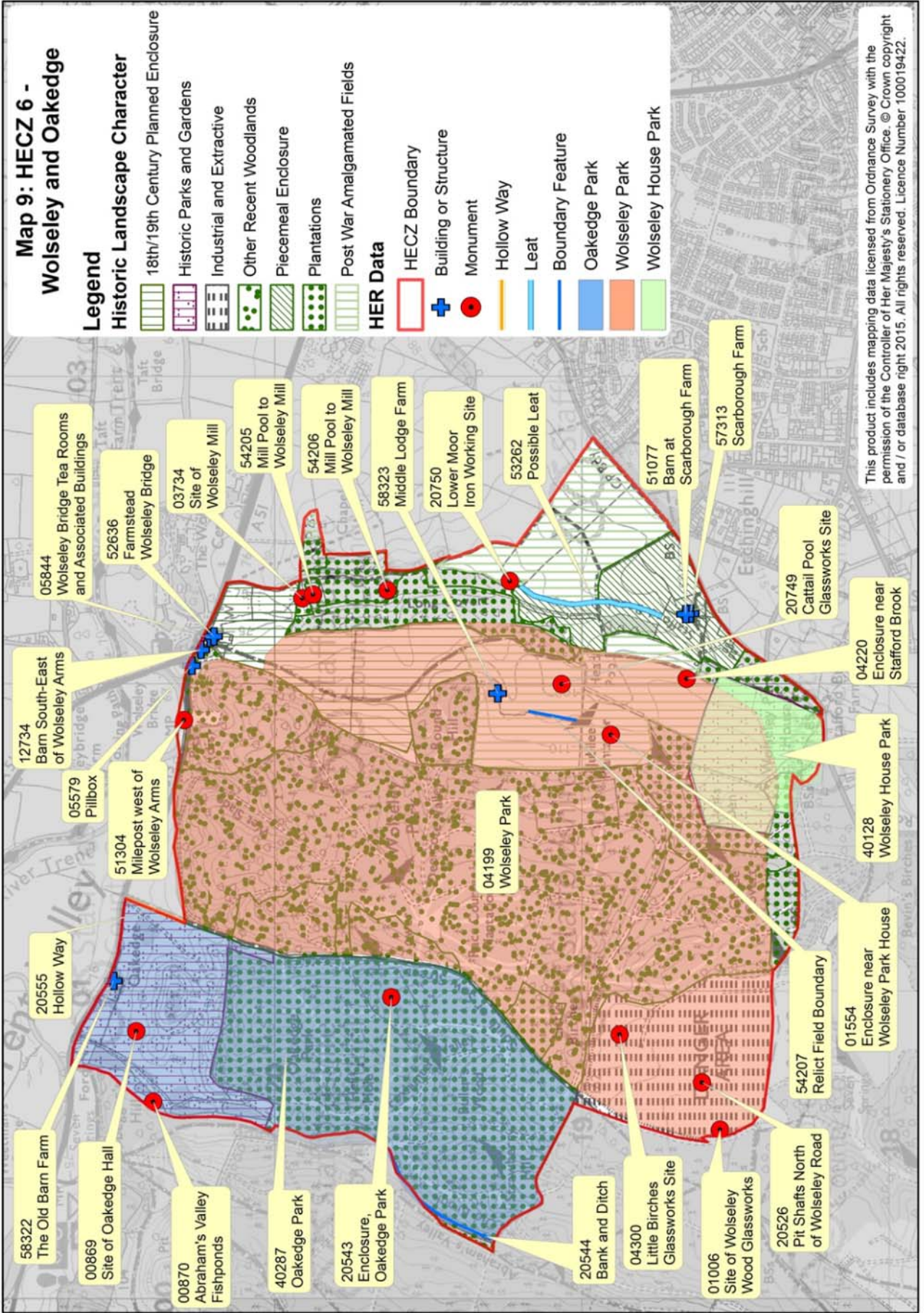
## Legend

### Historic Landscape Character

-  18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure
-  Historic Parks and Gardens
-  Industrial and Extractive
-  Other Recent Woodlands
-  Piecemeal Enclosure
-  Plantations
-  Post War Amalgamated Fields

### HER Data

-  HECZ Boundary
-  Building or Structure
-  Monument
-  Hollow Way
-  Leat
-  Boundary Feature
-  Oakedge Park
-  Wolsley Park
-  Wolsley House Park



- 05844 Wolsley Bridge Tea Rooms and Associated Buildings
- 52636 Farmstead Wolsley Bridge
- 03734 Site of Wolsley Mill
- 54205 Mill Pool to Wolsley Mill
- 54206 Mill Pool to Wolsley Mill
- 58323 Middle Lodge Farm
- 20750 Lower Moor Iron Working Site
- 53262 Possible Leat
- 51077 Barn at Scarborough Farm
- 57313 Scarborough Farm
- 20749 Cattail Pool Glassworks Site
- 04220 Enclosure near Stafford Brook
- 12734 Barn South-East of Wolsley Arms
- 05579 Pillbox
- 51304 Milepost west of Wolsley Arms
- 04199 Wolsley Park
- 40128 Wolsley House Park
- 20555 Hollow Way
- 56322 The Old Barn Farm
- 00869 Site of Oakedge Hall
- 00870 Abraham's Valley Fishponds
- 40287 Oakedge Park
- 20543 Enclosure, Oakedge Park
- 20544 Bank and Ditch
- 04300 Little Birches Glassworks Site
- 01006 Site of Wolsley Wood Glassworks
- 20526 Pit Shafts North of Wolsley Road
- 54207 Relict Field Boundary
- 01554 Enclosure near Wolsley Park House

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## 9.7 CCAHECZ 7: Teddesley Hay

### 9.7.1 Key Characteristics

- Numerous earthwork banks extend across the character zone and may relate to woodland management in the medieval or post-medieval period.
- Woodland laid out probably by the Littleton family forms an important feature within the eastern portion of the character zone.
- St. Chad's Ditch represents a substantial earthwork within the character zone and probably in part delineates the bishop's holdings during the late medieval period.
- The influence of Teddesley Estate in the management of the landscape and in the influence on the zones historic built character.

### 9.7.2 Geology and Topography

The Teddesley Hay Character Zone covers around 620ha. The zone lies on a bedrock geology of sandstone and conglomerate pebbles (Kidderminster Formation)<sup>260</sup>. A spread of till extends from the western boundary towards the woodland at Warren Hill. A Local Geological Site (LoGS) is identified at Dark Slade Wood within this character area.

The eastern portion of the zone lies on the Cannock Chase plateau at between 200m and 220m AOD<sup>261</sup>. From here the land falls away to the west and north. The lowest land in the zone lies at Bednall Head and Brocton Gate to the north.

### 9.7.3 Heritage Designations

None.

### 9.7.4 Historic and Archaeological Context and Evidence

The historic landscape character of the zone comprises field systems to the west enclosed as 'Planned enclosure' under an Enclosure Act awarded in 1827 and woodland to the east. The Enclosure Act was awarded to the Littleton family, whose principal seat had been established at Teddesley Hall from the mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> century. All of the areas currently under woodland had probably been first planted in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century following the Award of Enclosure and the current form of the woodland was certainly extant by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century all of the land formed heathland and part of it was known as Teddesley Warren, from which the present Warren Hill presumably takes its name<sup>262</sup>. The warren and the lodge were presumably lost to re-landscaping works associated with the Teddesley estate<sup>263</sup>.

<sup>260</sup> British Geological Society website viewed 09/03/2015 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=KDM>

<sup>261</sup> AOD: Above Ordnance Datum

<sup>262</sup> Yates' 1775; Ordnance Survey Drawing 'Penkrigde' 1817 viewed on British Library Online 19/01/2015 <http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/ordsurvdraw/>

<sup>263</sup> First edition 6" OS map; Staffordshire HER: PRN 05475

In the medieval period much of this area had lain within Teddesley Hay, one of the enclosures within the Royal Cannock Forest (cf. s.7.2). The eastern boundary of the bishop's Cannock Chase to the east (a small part of which may lie within the south eastern portion of the zone) may be marked by a bank and ditch which roughly follows the extant parish boundary. An alternative interpretation is that it was erected to delineate the parish boundary<sup>264</sup>. Its extent is unknown but a large bank and ditch to the north following the line of Camp Road (and also the parish boundary) may represent its northern course. If this does prove to be the extension of St Chad's Ditch the whole course may survive for up to 6km.

A number of earthworks have been identified during archaeological field work within the woodlands of Warren Hill and Badger's Hills during the late 1990s and in 2000. On Warren Hill the majority of these features comprise short sections of earthwork banks aligned either east-west or north west-south east and all standing between 0.5-1m high and between 2m and 5m wide<sup>265</sup>. There is no clear geographical relationship between these features, but they may relate to woodland management or possibly to management associated with the rabbit warren. One earthwork lying on the eastern boundary of the zone has been interpreted as a possible pillow mound associated with a rabbit warren<sup>266</sup>. Another earthwork, described as a 'ringwork' has been suggested to have originated as a possible livestock or deer enclosure<sup>267</sup>.

Further, more ephemeral earthworks have been identified to the south on Badgers Hills three of which have been interpreted as banks, although one may represent a possible degraded lynchet<sup>268</sup>.

The planned enclosure (1827), typified by fields with straight boundaries, is associated with three historic farmsteads, Bednall Head, Brocton Gate and Bogmoor Farm, the plan form of the first two suggest they may have been constructed as part of the Teddesley estate<sup>269</sup>. A number of cottages and other properties can also be found along the principal roads to the west of the zone<sup>270</sup>.

A large quarry, established in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, occupies part of the western and central portion of the zone.

### 9.7.5 Previous Research recorded in HER

HER Event Ref	Organisation/ Person	Name/Title	Date
EST682	Oxford	An archaeological evaluation at	2002

<sup>264</sup> Staffordshire PRN 1039; and PRN 51978 may represent its northern continuation

<sup>265</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 05477, PRN 05478, PRN 05479, PRN 05480, PRN 05481, PRN 05482, PRN 05483, and PRN 50029

<sup>266</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20709

<sup>267</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 40326

<sup>268</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 51953, PRN 51971, PRN 51972 and PRN 51979

<sup>269</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 50393, PRN 50393 and MST21512

<sup>270</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 50394 and PRN 50395

	Archaeology	Pottal Pool Quarry, Teddesley Hay	
EST690	Lancaster University Archaeology Unit	An archaeological desk based assessment at Pottal Pool Quarry, Teddesley Hay	1997
EST831	Birmingham University Archaeological Field Unit	An archaeological evaluation of an earthwork at Badger Slade, Cannock Chase	1997
EST1585	Lancaster University Archaeology Unit	An archaeological desk based assessment and identification survey at the proposed Pottal Pool sand and gravel quarry extension, Teddesley Hay	2000
EST1223	Adrian Scruby	An archaeological field survey of Cannock Chase on behalf of Forest Enterprise	2000

### 9.7.6 Statement of Significance

- Numerous well-preserved earthworks within the character zone (potentially relating to woodland management) combined with large areas of surviving historic woodland suggest that this area retains considerable historic character. As such it should be considered particularly significant within the AONB.
- The full extent of St. Chad's ditch is not known but its presence within the character zone has been mapped in part. If the full extent throughout the zone could be determined then it may extend as much as 6km. This would represent a considerable statement presumably by the bishops during the later medieval period and remains a significant feature in Cannock Chase's landscape today.

### 9.7.7 Gap Analysis

- Improve our understanding of the nature and function of the known earthworks.
- Identify further earthworks and try to identify linkages across the landscape. In particular this should look to better understand the full extent of St. Chad's ditch.
- There is considerable evidence for Roman activity elsewhere within the Teddesley Estate. While this lies outside the AONB, there remains the potential for further Roman activity to have extended across parts of this zone.
- There remains the potential for further documentary sources to present held in collections beyond Staffordshire.

### 9.7.8 Broad Management Recommendations

- Methodologies should be developed for the management of archaeological earthworks particularly within a woodland context. Such methodologies could be developed in consultation with the SCC Historic Environment Team.



- Where trees are to be removed, early consultation with the SCC Historic Environment Team is advised.
- Develop a guide to the management of vegetation on earthworks
- No planting of trees on earthworks.
- Where warranted and where supported by an appropriately detailed and wide ranging evidence base, discussions may be held between relevant individuals/organisations and Historic England concerning the need for the statutory designation of individual or groups of currently undesignated heritage assets. At this point appropriate forms of heritage management will also be discussed to ensure the long term viability of any newly designated nationally important heritage assets within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

# Map 10: HECZ 7 - Teddesley Hay

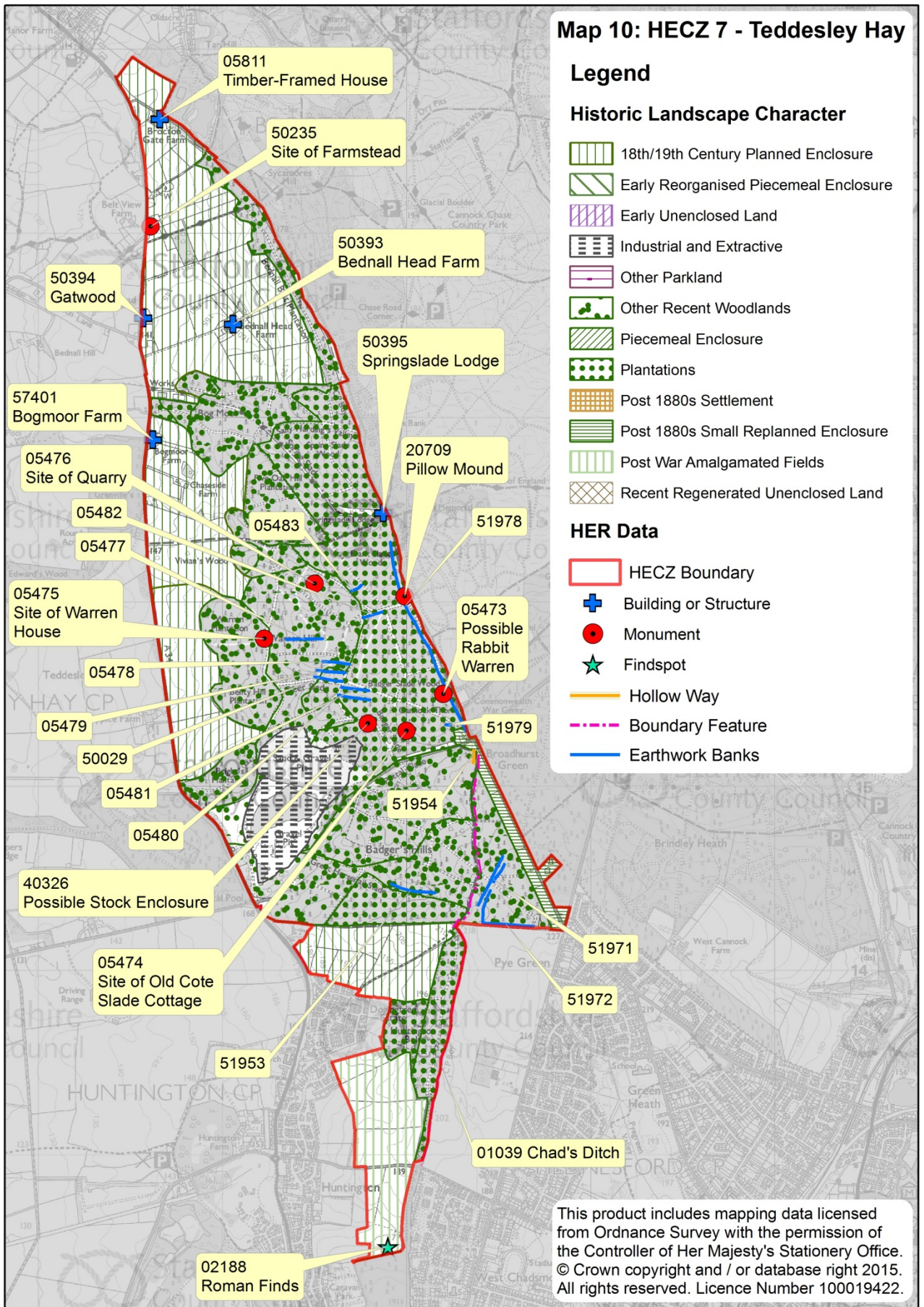
## Legend

### Historic Landscape Character

- 18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure
- Early Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure
- Early Unenclosed Land
- Industrial and Extractive
- Other Parkland
- Other Recent Woodlands
- Piecemeal Enclosure
- Plantations
- Post 1880s Settlement
- Post 1880s Small Replanned Enclosure
- Post War Amalgamated Fields
- Recent Regenerated Unenclosed Land

### HER Data

- HECZ Boundary
- Building or Structure
- Monument
- Findspot
- Hollow Way
- Boundary Feature
- Earthwork Banks



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## 9.8 CCAHECZ 8: Brindley Heath and Birches Valley

### 9.8.1 Key Characteristics

- Large areas of open heathland interspersed by dense stands of commercially farmed coniferous woodland.
- Surviving remnants of the Rugeley Great War camp at the Whitehouse with associated practice trenches extending down Sherbrook Valley.
- Earlier woodland management associated with late medieval/post-medieval ironworking along the Rising Brook.
- Rabbit warrening activity with associated lodges recorded within the character zone during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- The site of the former RAF Hednesford Camp located in the area of the Marquis Drive Visitor Centre.

### 9.8.2 Geology and Topography

The zone is the largest within the project area covering approximately 1,870 ha. The zone lies on a bedrock geology of sandstone and conglomerate pebbles (Kidderminster Formation)<sup>271</sup>. The Kidderminster Formation lies unconformably over Middle Coal Measures rocks with the line of the unconformity marking the southeast boundary of the area. Several coal mine shafts penetrate the Kidderminster Formation layer in this area to access the coal seams below. Narrow bands of alluvium are associated with the brook in Brindley Valley to the south and the Stony Brook and Rising Brook to the east. A spread of till extends between the valleys of the Stony Brook and Rising Brook.

Within the zone the Cannock Chase plateau is cut by three valleys; the Rising Brook and Stony Brook to the east and south east; the Birches Valley brook to the south and the Sherbrook Valley to the north. The wide Rising Brook valley, today occupied by a 'misfit stream', is a glacial channel former originally by the draining of a pro-glacial lake at Hednesford towards the end of the last Ice Age (c.10,000BC). There are a number of smaller valleys to the east including Birches Valley. The higher land lies towards the centre of the zone around the White House (at around 210m AOD) and to the south east at Brindley Heath where it reaches approximately 225m AOD<sup>272</sup>.

### 9.8.3 Heritage Designations

One Scheduled Monument identified as a 'World War I instruction model of a trench system, and associated earthwork and building remains 850m north west of Fair Oak Cottages, Cannock Chase' (English Heritage National Heritage No. 1021326) lies to the south of Penkridge Bank on Forestry Commission land.

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<sup>271</sup> British Geological Society website viewed 09/03/2015 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=KDM>

<sup>272</sup> AOD: Above Ordnance Datum

#### 9.8.4 Historic and Archaeological Context and Evidence

The zone is characterised by quite dense woodland planting, mostly coniferous, dispersed within areas of open land dominated by heathland and grassland. Some areas of open land probably reflect the dynamic land management typical of forestry planting. The ratio of trees and open land are unlikely to be static across this landscape. The zone lies principally within the Rugeley manor portion of Cannock Chase. An analysis of the extent and location of individual woodlands recorded in the mid and late 16<sup>th</sup> century led Chris Welch to identify that much of the land within the zone was probably under woodland at this date<sup>273</sup>. A number of the woodlands are recorded as coppices, enclosed woodlands to allow a cropping regime (cf. s.7.2). Lady Hill Coppice, marked as New Coppice, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, may be associated with the 'Lady Hay Coppice' recorded in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century<sup>274</sup>. Elsewhere the woodland was probably wood pasture, which may account for the outbursts against coppicing by the Rugeley sheep graziers at a similar date (cf. s.7.1). Welch implies that a large heath may have existed at Brindley Heath ('Borneed' Heath), although documentary evidence from the 1570s also records a 'Burneley coppice' possibly in the vicinity of the modern Brindley Heath<sup>275</sup>. A rectilinear enclosure marked 'Brindley Coppice' is marked on a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century map within Brindley Heath, but its earlier history is obscure<sup>276</sup>.

Archaeological survey in 2000 has identified the location of a series of earthwork banks across Brindley Heath, some of which are over 500m in length and one which incorporates two enclosures. Their date and purpose is currently unknown, but they may relate to woodland (coppicing?) or possibly animal (deer and/or rabbits) management<sup>277</sup>. To date no earthworks have been recognised within the area identified as woodland in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, although there remains the potential for wood banks to survive across this area. A further undated bank and ditch, comprising two clear sections, lies to the north of Brindley Heath not quite parallel to the alignment of the parish boundary (extant since at least circa 1880)<sup>278</sup>. It is possible that these features may represent the physical representation of the division between Haywood manor to the north west and Rugeley manor to the east and south east. A number of hollow ways, surviving as earthworks, have also been identified across the zone, most represent only short sections and how they may contribute to an understanding of movement across the Chase is consequently unclear<sup>279</sup>. One hollow way to the north west of the zone, aligned approximately north east-south west, has been suggested to represent part of Sow Street (see Map 8)<sup>280</sup>.

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<sup>273</sup> Welch 2000: 32 fig. 1

<sup>274</sup> Welch 2000: 68

<sup>275</sup> Welch 2000: 32 fig. 1 and fig. 3

<sup>276</sup> 1" OS map circa 1840-60 (Lichfield Sheet and Stafford Sheet)

<sup>277</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 51957, PRN 51958, PRN 51959, PRN 51960, PRN 51961, PRN 51962, PRN 51963, PRN 51964, PRN 51965, PRN 51966, PRN 51967, PRN 51970, PRN 51974, PRN 51975

<sup>278</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 51981

<sup>279</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20493; PRN 20540; PRN 20542; PRN 20548; PRN 20549; PRN 20550; PRN 51955

<sup>280</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20545

The evidence for 16<sup>th</sup> century woodland management within the zone is historically associated with industrial activity along the Rising Brook and its tributaries. An iron industry probably existed on the Chase during the medieval period, but documentary evidence points to a sustained period of iron working from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century by the Pagets of Beaudesert (cf. s.7.3.3). The site of a mill pond near its confluence with the Brindley Valley brook has been identified as the site of a blast furnace. This may relate to the 'new furnace' referred to in documentary records, which was leased first to Fulke Greville in 1589 and later to the Chetwynd family in 1641<sup>281</sup>. The site has not been archaeologically investigated and this interpretation remains tentative. The site lies to the south of Furnace Coppice in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and a 'furnace' is marked on Yates' map, although no iron industry is recorded as having occurred on the Chase after the early 18<sup>th</sup> century<sup>282</sup>. A second possible iron working site has been identified downstream along the Rising Brook from spreads of blast furnace-type slag and a weir marked on the first edition 6" OS map<sup>283</sup>. The site of a forge has been identified at Fair Oaks (formerly Forge Farm) from large amounts of slag found there<sup>284</sup>. It has been linked with the site of either the Old or New Forge recorded in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century; iron working may have had a longer history on this site<sup>285</sup>. A series of pools, at least one of which appears to have been extant in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, survive along Stony Brook to the north east<sup>286</sup>. It has been suggested that they may indicate the site of a mill or acted as a reservoir for the mills downstream on the Rising Brook.

Later industrial activity relates to coal mining; Fair Oak Colliery had opened two pits within the zone by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is unclear whether any remains survive above ground although extant colliery spoil heaps do remain<sup>287</sup>.

Two lodges are marked on Yates' map within the zone may be associated with rabbit warrens which documentary history records as being leased out by the Pagets in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. The northern most of the two may be associated with the placename 'Parr's Warren' recorded in 1820, although the origins of the name are currently unknown<sup>288</sup>.

Several archaeological surveys have identified extensive remains associated with the First World War training camps (cf. s.7.6). The remains relate specifically to Rugeley camp and include the bases of huts and other structures along Penkridge Bank, as well as the remains of a hospital on Brindley Heath. Other features from this period include rifle range earthworks to the north, the line of the camp railway and a few practice trenches, including one which has been designated as a Scheduled Monument.

A further phase of military activity occurred during the Second World War when RAF Hednesford Camp (No.6 School of Technical Training) was

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<sup>281</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01010

<sup>282</sup> Welch 2000: 50 and 64

<sup>283</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01011

<sup>284</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01003

<sup>285</sup> Welch 2000: 65

<sup>286</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 05515; Yates' 1775

<sup>287</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 02238; PRN 20447; PRN 20448; PRN 20449; PRN 20542; PRN 57914

<sup>288</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 05542

established in the area of what is now the Cannock Chase Visitor Centre (Marquis Drive)<sup>289</sup>. An outlier of this World War Two camp also overlies Great War camp elements at the Whitehouse on Penkridge Bank and potentially in woodland to the north west of the Cannock Chase Visitor Centre.

### 9.8.5 Previous Research recorded in HER

HER Event Ref	Organisation/Person	Name/Title	Date
EST818	Staffordshire County Council	A survey of a possible trench model on the site of the First World War camp at Rugeley.	1997
EST1223	Forest Enterprise/Adrian Scruby	An archaeological field survey of Cannock Chase.	2000
EST1642	Northamptonshire Archaeology	An archaeological survey of the Great War Camps at Cannock Chase AONB.	2006
EST1647	Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology	An archaeological watching brief at Slitting Mill, Rugeley.	2005
EST2271	Staffordshire County Council	A survey of features at Brindley Bottom, Cannock Chase.	2012
EST2278	Staffordshire County Council	Walk over and GPS survey at Brindley Heath.	2011

### 9.8.6 Statement of Significance

- While significantly impacted by Forestry Commission ground preparation and planting activity, elements of Rugeley Camp and the surrounding training landscape do survive in relatively good condition. As previously identified within the statement of significance for HECZ 4 and HECZ 5, these camps represent some of the best preserved Great War training camps in the United Kingdom and as such can be considered as being of national importance. While they have not been formally designated, NPPF para 139 states that *'Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.'*
- Remains associated with the early industrial development of Cannock Chase should also be considered to be of significance, particularly where closely related to evidence for woodland and watercourse management. This is a relatively poorly understood area of the Chase's history and site potentially associated with these activities should be considered as significant.
- The influence of rabbit management in this area of the Chase is not fully understood but surviving remains of warrens and their enclosures are recorded and should be considered of value in understanding the later development of Cannock Chase.

<sup>289</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20000

### **9.8.7 Gap Analysis**

- There remains the potential for further woodland management and warrening earthworks to survive within the eastern portion of the character zone.
- To understand the nature of industrial activity particularly along the Rising Brook and the phases of working.
- There is the considerable potential for further evidence of Great War training features to survive away from the main camp bounds and particularly within the Sherbrook Valley. This will include evidence for practice trenches which may allow a developmental history of trench warfare to be developed mapping the British Armies changing approaches to training and trench warfare itself throughout the conflict
- There remains the potential for late prehistoric remains to be present within the smaller river valleys of the Chase. This has been evidence elsewhere along the Rising Brook through the presence of burnt mounds. More may survive along with evidence for settlement, resource exploitation or even burial practices.
- Comparatively little documentary information survives regarding the running of RAF Hednesford No.6 School of Technical Training during World War Two. Archaeological remains may hold answer but it is anticipated that documentary records hold the keys to understanding the development and functioning of the camp.
- There remains the potential for further documentary sources to present held in collections beyond Staffordshire.

### **9.8.8 Broad Management Recommendations**

- Methodologies should be developed for the management of archaeological earthworks particularly within a woodland context. Such methodologies could be developed in consultation with the SCC Historic Environment Team.
- Develop a guide to the management of vegetation on earthworks
- No planting of trees on earthworks.
- Where development or river catchment work is proposed within the zones smaller river valleys, early consultation with the SCC Historic Environment Team is strongly advised to determine the need for and extent of archaeological investigations.
- Enhance the interpretation available for the RAF Hednesford site and link this to the existing walk around the site of the camp.
- Where warranted and where supported by an appropriately detailed and wide ranging evidence base, discussions may be held between relevant individuals/organisations and Historic England concerning the need for the statutory designation of individual or groups of currently undesignated heritage assets. At this point appropriate forms of heritage management will also be discussed to ensure the long term viability of any newly designated nationally important heritage assets within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

# Map 11: HECZ 8 - Brindley Heath and Birches Valley

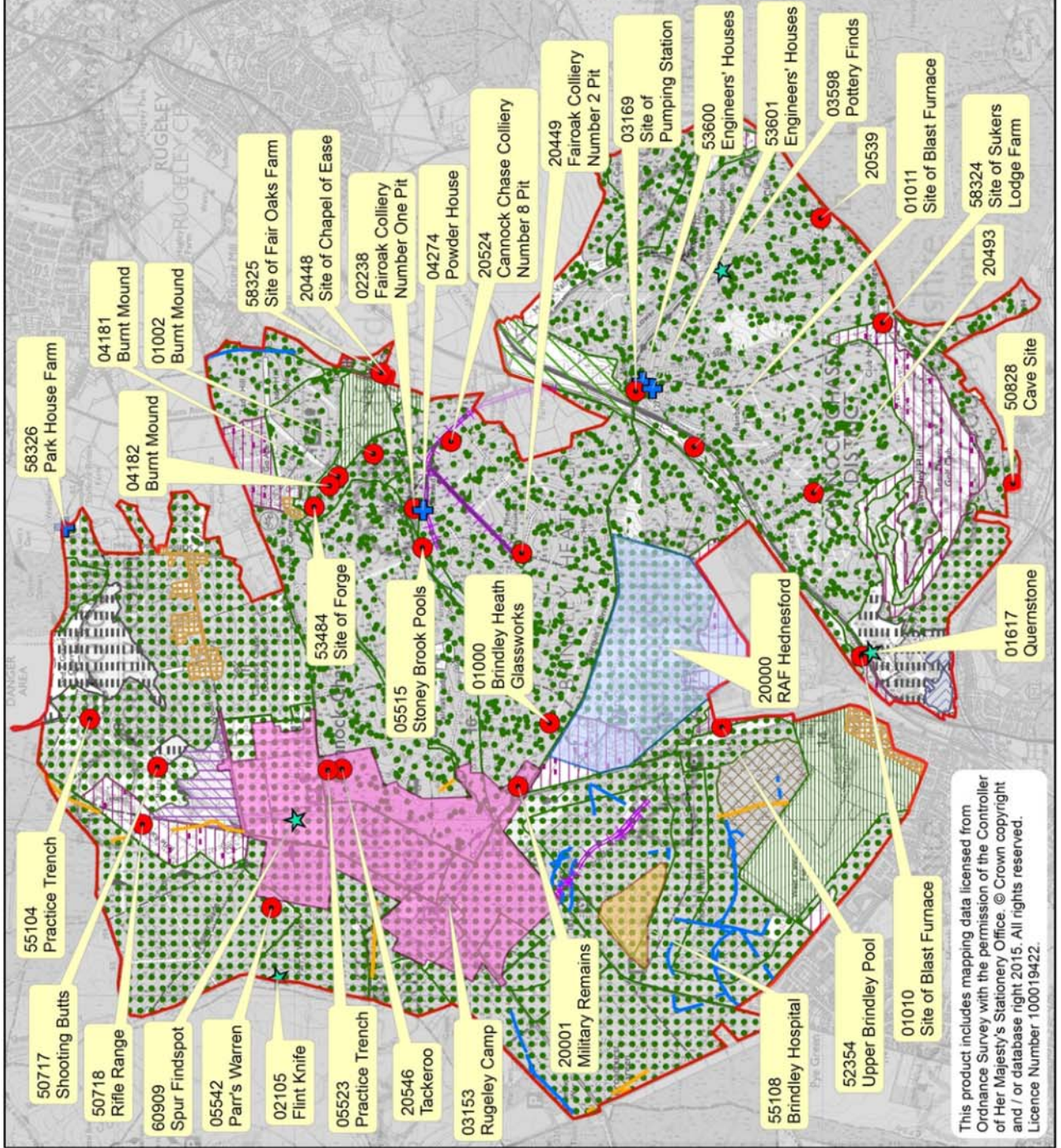
## Legend

### Historic Landscape Character

- 18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure
- 18th/19th Century Semi Planned Enclosure
- Artificial Water Bodies
- Early Unenclosed Land
- Industrial and Extractive
- Other Parkland
- Other Recent Woodlands
- Plantations
- Post 1880s Reorganised Fields
- Post 1880s Settlement
- Post 1880s Small Replanned Enclosure
- Pre 1880s Settlement
- Recent Regenerated Unenclosed Land

### HER Data

- HECZ Boundary
- Building or Structure
- Monument
- Findspot
- Hollow Ways / Trackways
- Railways / Tramways
- Earthwork Features
- Rugeley Camp
- RAF Hednesford
- Brindley Hospital



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## 9.9 CCAHECZ 9: Sherbrook Valley and Brocton Field

### 9.9.1 Key Characteristics

- Large areas of open heathland both across the upland portion of this zone and extending down into the Oldacre and Sherbrook valleys.
- The presence of possible woodbanks within this zone might suggest that areas of it have a past history of woodland. However, documentary evidence has provided no indication as to the amount or area of woodland in this area.
- Extensive remains of Brocton Camp built during the Great War and the training grounds associated with this camp and the nearby Rugeley camp. Many features including the railway and bus platforms still form significant visible features in the landscape.

### 9.9.2 Geology and Topography

The Sherbrook Valley and Brocton Field Zone covers approximately 640ha. The zone lies on a bedrock geology of sandstone and conglomerate pebbles (Kidderminster Formation) but Etching Hill and Slitting Mill are both situated on ridges of the more resistant Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation<sup>290</sup>. A narrow band of alluvium is associated with the Sher Brook towards the east of the zone. To the south of the Rising Brook valley is a spread of sand and gravel, a sediment outwash fan deposited by glacial water draining from a pro-Glacial lake at Hednesford. To the north of the Rising Brook is a spread of till.

The zone forms part of the Cannock Chase plateau with the highest point reaching around 220m AOD at its southern boundary<sup>291</sup>. From here the land drops only slightly down to around 185m AOD to the north. The land also drops quite steeply to the east into the Sherbrook Valley. Two valleys cut into the plateau to the north and north west; the narrow Oldacre Valley and the Mere Valley. The Mere Valley divides the principal expanse of the zone to the south from a series of hills to the north comprising from south to north, Broc Hill, Oat Hill, Spring Hill and the southern slopes of Satnall Hills.

### 9.9.3 Heritage Designations

To the north of the zone lies the Scheduled Monument 'Saucer barrow on Spring Hill' (National Heritage No. 1009312). To the south is the Grade I Registered Park and Garden 'German Military Cemetery'.

### 9.9.4 Historic and Archaeological Context and Evidence

The history of land management across this landscape is largely unclear. Historically it formed part of Haywood manor and it is possible that it may have formed a significant area of heathland for much of its history. A bank and ditch identified during an archaeological survey in 2007, running in a straight line on a south-west to north-east alignment, has been interpreted as

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<sup>290</sup> British Geological Society website viewed 09/03/2015 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=KDM>

<sup>291</sup> AOD: Above Ordnance Datum

a possible wood bank<sup>292</sup>. Three undated enclosures have also been identified during field surveys; one to the north at Broc Hill and a pair to the south<sup>293</sup>. The date and function of these features is currently unclear, but they may be associated with historic land management (either woodland or of animals). Sections of a number of hollow ways have been identified to the south on different alignments<sup>294</sup>. Their contribution to an understanding of historic movement across the Chase is currently limited.

A Scheduled Bronze Age barrow, surviving as an earthwork, lies to the north of the zone on Spring Hill<sup>295</sup>. This is one of only seven known prehistoric earthworks on Cannock Chase (see above).

Archaeological field surveys have identified extensive remains across the zone relating to Great War military activity (cf. s.7.6). This is associated with Brocton camp whose accommodation blocks survive as above-ground features across large areas of the northern portion of the zone (south of Brocton Coppice). Other features associated with this military training landscape include the earthwork remains of practice trenches stretching along the Oldacre and Sherbrook Valleys and across the south eastern extent of Brocton Field. The camp railway also crosses this zone on a roughly north-south alignment and other features include the concrete base to a large water tower and the remains of coal bunkers.

The remains of a topographic model of the Messines Ridge battlefield survives within Brocton Camp. This model was created by the New Zealand Rifle Brigade (NZRB) in 1918 using Royal Flying Corps aerial photographs taken of the Messines Ridge prior to a major offensive (7-14 June 1917). Elements of the NZRB fought in this offensive and captured the town of Messines in the battle. This model was built to train officers and NCOs in map reading but it has been suggested that it also represents an opportunity to train recruits in 'modern warfare' and that it quickly became an act of commemoration.

Military cemeteries are not common in the United Kingdom but this zone hosts two; a commonwealth cemetery and the German War Cemetery. The Commonwealth cemetery was established c.1917 and was presumably located here for the burial of soldiers either injured training on the Chase or who dies in the hospital at Brindley Heath. This cemetery contains 97 'Dominion' (by World War Two known as Commonwealth) burials from the Great War (most New Zealanders) and 286 German burials.

The German War Cemetery was established in 1959 to accommodate the majority of Germany's war dead who were buried in the United Kingdom. In total 4,939 German soldiers (including their allies and internees) are buried on Cannock Chase; 2,143 soldiers of the Great War are buried here. This cemetery is a Grade I Registered Park/Garden recorded on the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

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<sup>292</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 51982

<sup>293</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04071 and PRN 04072

<sup>294</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20551; PRN 20552; PRN 20553; PRN 20554

<sup>295</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00863

Also within this character zone lies the memorial to the massacre in the Katyn Forest, Poland (April/May 1940) where it is estimated that 22,000 Polish nationals were executed by the NKVD.

### 9.9.5 Previous Research recorded in HER

HER Event Ref	Organisation/Person	Name/Title	Date
EST1642	Northamptonshire Archaeology	An archaeological survey of the Great War Camps at Cannock Chase AONB	2006
EST2279	Staffordshire County Council	Walk over and GPS survey on the site of the Messines Model, Brocton Camp in August 2011.	2011
EST2280	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Walk over and GPS survey to the south-east of Brocton Camp, Cannock Chase	2010
EST2282	Northamptonshire Archaeology	A walk-over and GPS survey of Brocton and Rugeley Camp, Cannock Chase	2006
EST2281	Birmingham Archaeology	An archaeological survey and excavation on the site of the Messines Model, Brocton Camp, Cannock Chase	2007
EST2302	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Archaeological Evaluation of the Messines Terrain Model, Cannock Chase	2012

### 9.9.6 Statement of Significance

- Brocton Camp survives in relatively better condition than its sister camp (Rugeley) having been less impacted by forestry works and with only elements of A and B lines destroyed by quarrying close to Brocton. It is considered that these features, associated as they are with the nearby training grounds represent some of the best-preserved Great War camps remains in the United Kingdom. As such they should be considered as being of national importance. While they have not been formally designated, NPPF para 139 states that '*Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.*'
- 20<sup>th</sup> century war memorials/war cemeteries are relatively rare within the United Kingdom. As such, the presence of three significant memorials (Katyn memorial and the German and Commonwealth War Cemeteries) represents a significant commemorative landscape upon Cannock Chase.
- The remains of the Messines terrain model was excavated in 2013 and was found to survive in relatively good condition apart from some rabbit borrows

and the effect of tree roots and scrub invasion. It has since been recovered with suitable layers of protection added to prevent further burrowing or the regrowth of trees. This model is the only known example in the United Kingdom and one of a handful to survive on the Western Front. As such it should be considered nationally if not internationally significant.

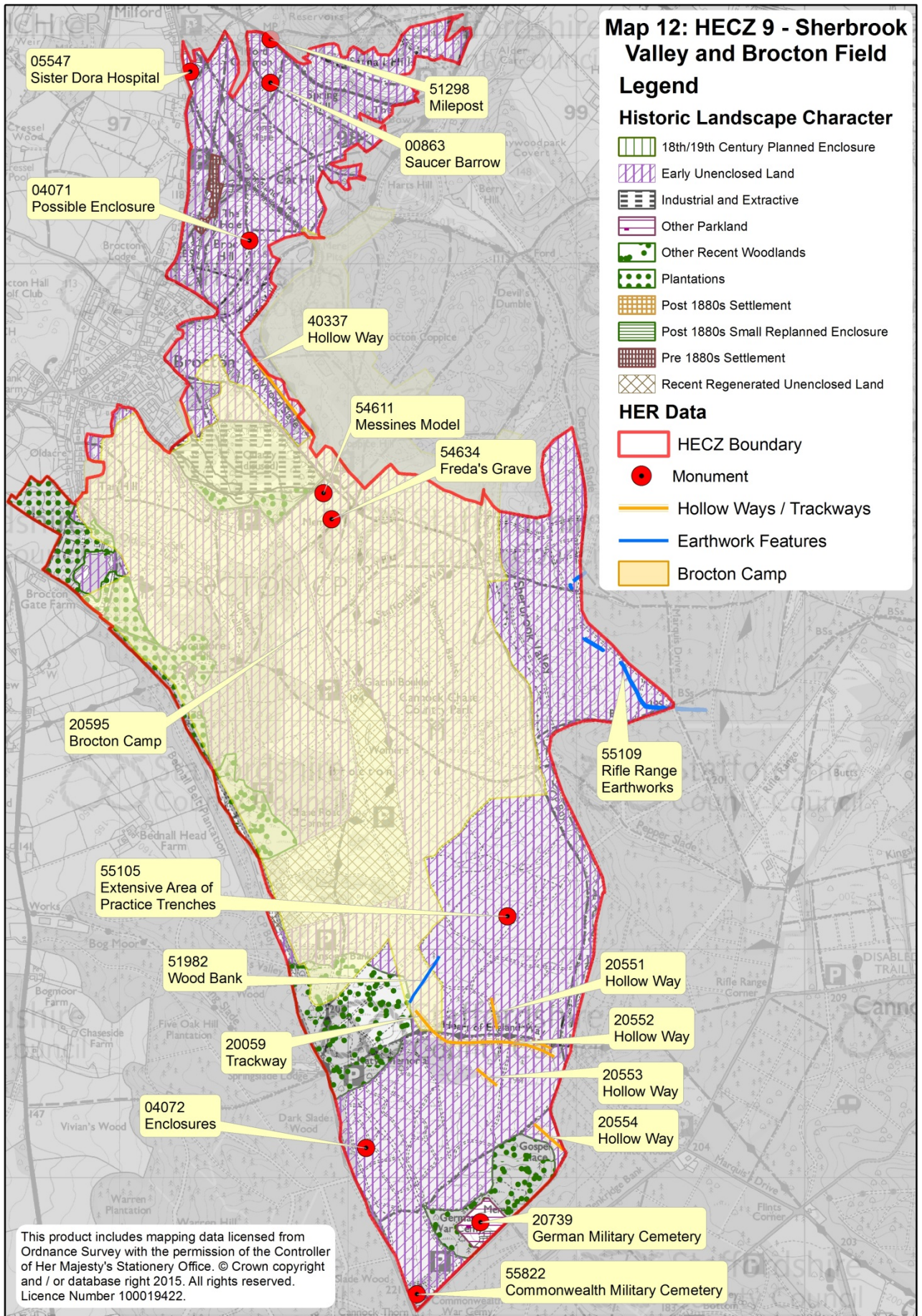
### **9.9.7 Gap Analysis**

- There remains the potential for extensive practice trench systems to survive beneath heathland across large parts of this character zone and particularly on the ridges and within the Oldacre and Sherbrook Valleys.
- There remains the potential for the presence of evidence for late prehistoric activity primarily within the valley bottoms but also elsewhere within this zone.
- It is unclear what role woodland management played in the development of this landscape or indeed whether it has functioned as open 'Chase throughout the medieval and early post-medieval period.
- What was the impact of past grazing on the development of the heathland landscape.
- There may be the potential for palaeoenvironmental remains to survive within discrete peat deposits across this zone. Such deposits may provide us with better information as to the developmental history of this landscape over a potentially considerable length of time.

### **9.9.8 Broad Management Recommendations**

- Methodologies should be developed for the management of archaeological earthworks particularly within a woodland context. Such methodologies could be developed in consultation with the SCC Historic Environment Team.
- Develop a guide to the management of vegetation on earthworks
- Selective thinning of tree stands to be informed by the presence of earthworks and the desirability of removing trees from them.
- Where development or river catchment work is proposed within the zones smaller river valleys, early consultation with the SCC Historic Environment Team is strongly advised to determine the need for and extent of archaeological investigations. In particular this should consider the potential for the presence of palaeoenvironmental remains associated with peat deposits. Site Investigation engineers for such works should discuss this with the Historic Team when developing programmes of investigation.
- The presence of the 'historic' commemorative landscape (in the form of the Katyn memorial and the war cemeteries) is recognised as a significant factor across this zone. However, further 'memorialisation' within the landscape should not be encouraged as this could impact upon the historic character of the zone and the Chase in general as they can represent significant intrusions into the natural landscape.
- Where warranted and where supported by an appropriately detailed and wide ranging evidence base, discussions may be held between relevant individuals/organisations and Historic England concerning the need for the statutory designation of individual or groups of currently undesignated heritage assets. At this point appropriate forms of heritage management will also be discussed to ensure the long term viability of any newly designated

nationally important heritage assets within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



## 9.10 CCAHECZ 10: Etching Hill and Slitting Mill

### 9.10.1 Key Characteristics

- The presence of a series of Bronze Age burnt mounds along the Stafford and Rising Brooks points to the potential for further late prehistoric activity in the area.
- The 17<sup>th</sup> century origins of Slitting Mill positioned on the Rising Brook, its associations with early post-medieval iron working, and its unplanned (or squatter) settlement plan form.
- The remnants of nearby farmland and associated farmsteads all of which (in their original form) would appear to date to the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century.

### 9.10.2 Geology and Topography

The Etching Hill and Slitting Mill Zone covers approximately 290ha. The zone lies on a bedrock geology of sandstone and conglomerate pebbles (Kidderminster Formation)<sup>296</sup>. A band of alluvium is associated with the Rising Brook, which flows from the west through the zone. To the south of the Rising Brook valley there is a spread of sand and gravel, whilst to the north there is a small spread of till.

The low lying land of the Rising Brook valley crosses through the south of the zone on a roughly south west-north east alignment. The land rises up gently to the south and north, the latter towards Slitting Mill which stands at around 120m AOD<sup>297</sup>. From here the land falls gradually away to the north and north east. It rises again to the north west to reach around 135m AOD at Penkrudge Bank. To the farm north stands the lone Etching Hill whose highest point stands at 135m AOD.

### 9.10.3 Heritage Designations

There are six Grade II Listed buildings and structures lying within the zone: 'Boundary stone at NGR SK 027 165' (National Heritage No. 1060224); 'The Stone House' (National Heritage No. 1178279); 'Boundary Stone at NGR SK 026 164' (National Heritage No. 1277661); 'Chaseley' (National Heritage No. 1344601); 'Boundary Stone on the south bank of Rising Brook' (National Heritage No. 508906) and 'Boundary Stone on the north bank of Rising Brook' (National Heritage No. 508909).

### 9.10.4 Historic and Archaeological Context and Evidence

Prehistoric activity has been identified within the zone concentrated along both the Stafford and Rising Brooks in the form of five or six Bronze Age burnt mounds<sup>298</sup>. These features were surveyed in the 1980s and three were identified as extant mounds, the others having been impacted by ploughing. A Neolithic or Bronze Age polished axe head was also found near Fair oak

<sup>296</sup> British Geological Society website viewed 09/03/2015 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=KDM>

<sup>297</sup> AOD: Above Ordnance Datum

<sup>298</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00998; PRN 01001; PRN 04051; PRN 04052; PRN 04183

House in 1952<sup>299</sup>. A mound on Etching Hill had been identified as a Bronze Age barrow in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, but site visits in the 1960s suggested that it was a natural feature<sup>300</sup>. The prehistoric evidence, as it currently stands, does not significantly contribute to an understanding of the extent and nature of human activity across Cannock Chase in the prehistoric period. However, the presence of a number of burnt mounds in such close proximity on the Rising and Stafford Brooks does point to a focus of late prehistoric exploitation/activity in the area. A large enclosure identified on aerial photography south of Hagley is of unknown date and function; it may represent prehistoric activity or it may relate to animal husbandry in the medieval or later periods<sup>301</sup>.

The earliest settlement within the zone comprises the small hamlet of Slitting Mill, whose placename and form on historic mapping suggests that it originated as an unplanned (or squatter) settlement in the post medieval period. A few properties, which existed by at least the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, survive, but on the whole Slitting Mill has seen considerable later 20<sup>th</sup> century expansion. The earliest property associated with Slitting Mill is the Grade II listed early 16<sup>th</sup> century 'Stone House', which stands apart from the principal settlement and adjacent to its barn<sup>302</sup>. Its origins are obscure, but it appears to pre-date industrial activity in the immediate area. By the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century it was associated with a junior branch of the Weston family of nearby Hagley Hall<sup>303</sup>. During the Second World War it was sequestered by the Air Ministry and was still in their hands in 1957 as an Area Headquarters<sup>304</sup>. The modern suburbs of Rugeley encroach into the zone at Etching Hill. The earliest property in this area is the Grade II listed property known as 'Chaseley'<sup>305</sup>. It was originally constructed circa 1780 and was either built as or had been converted to the parish workhouse by 1832. It stood in isolation until the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when the roads East Butts and West Butts were laid out and houses began to be constructed in the area.

The remaining settlement within the zone comprises seven scattered farmsteads, the majority of which cluster to the north of the zone adjacent to Rugeley's suburbs. These farmsteads, four of which exhibit a regular-plan form, are associated with a fieldscape of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosure, although that to the south has been impacted by considerable field boundary loss over the preceding 50 years. It is unclear to what extent the field pattern to the south may have been altered from an earlier field pattern during the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century. To the east of Sheepwash Farm the landscape is indicative of encroachment (squatter enclosure) onto the common land probably by the late-18<sup>th</sup> century. Sheepwash Farm, since entirely redeveloped, was one of those which exhibited a regular courtyard plan form and its name recalls the importance of sheep farming on the Chase prior to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (cf. s.7.1).

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<sup>299</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04171

<sup>300</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00995

<sup>301</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01566

<sup>302</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 09390 and PRN 52544

<sup>303</sup> Greenslade 1959:158

<sup>304</sup> Greenslade 1959: 158

<sup>305</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 09394



The hamlet of Slitting Mill probably developed in response to the establishment of the industrial slitting mill (a process in the production of nails) in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century<sup>306</sup>. The Chetwynd family appear to have taken over the iron industry on the Chase from early in this century, as tenants of the Pagets, and were also involved in ironworks elsewhere in southern Staffordshire<sup>307</sup>. The location of the 17<sup>th</sup> century slitting mill probably lies outside of the AONB on the site currently occupied by a water pumping station (cf. 7.3.3)<sup>308</sup>. The origins of Dutton's Pool, lying to the south of the hamlet, is currently obscure. It is not marked on Yates' map of 1775, but is present by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century; it may have been constructed to provide a reservoir for the slitting mill further downstream on the Rising Brook or it may represent the site of a later, short-lived, iron works known by 1832<sup>309</sup>. To the south of the zone lies part of the mill pond associated with Cannock Forge (cf. s.7.3.3 and HECZ 8) which formed part of the manufacturing process at the slitting mill by the early 17<sup>th</sup> century<sup>310</sup>. It is unclear whether there was ironworking at an earlier date on this site; it has been proposed that it may have been the site of an at least early-16<sup>th</sup> century bloomery, although to date this theory is untested<sup>311</sup>.

Evidence for early military activity is known within the zone at Etching Hill where a rifle range existed by circa 1880<sup>312</sup>. A number of earthworks associated with the rifle range, including the butts and the yardage markers, may survive.

#### 9.10.5 Previous Research recorded in HER

HER Event Ref	Organisation/Person	Name/Title	Date
EST2053	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings	Survey of a barn at Sheepwash Farm, Slitting Mill Road, Slitting Mill, Rugeley	1985
EST817	Staffordshire County Council	A geophysical and contour survey of a mound at Stafford Brook Farm, Brindley Heath	1990

#### 9.10.6 Statement of Significance

- While the plan form of Slitting Mill has changed considerably with the expansion of Rugeley in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, its built heritage combined with its place name evidence and its surviving archaeological heritage assets to constitute significant group value.

<sup>306</sup> Greenslade 1959: 161

<sup>307</sup> Johnson 1967: 111 and 113

<sup>308</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04985

<sup>309</sup> Greenslade 1959: 162

<sup>310</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01003

<sup>311</sup> Bloomery: A charcoal fired shaft furnace used for the direct reduction of iron ore to produce wrought iron.

(Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage. © 2015 English Heritage)

<sup>312</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 54275 and PRN 54285

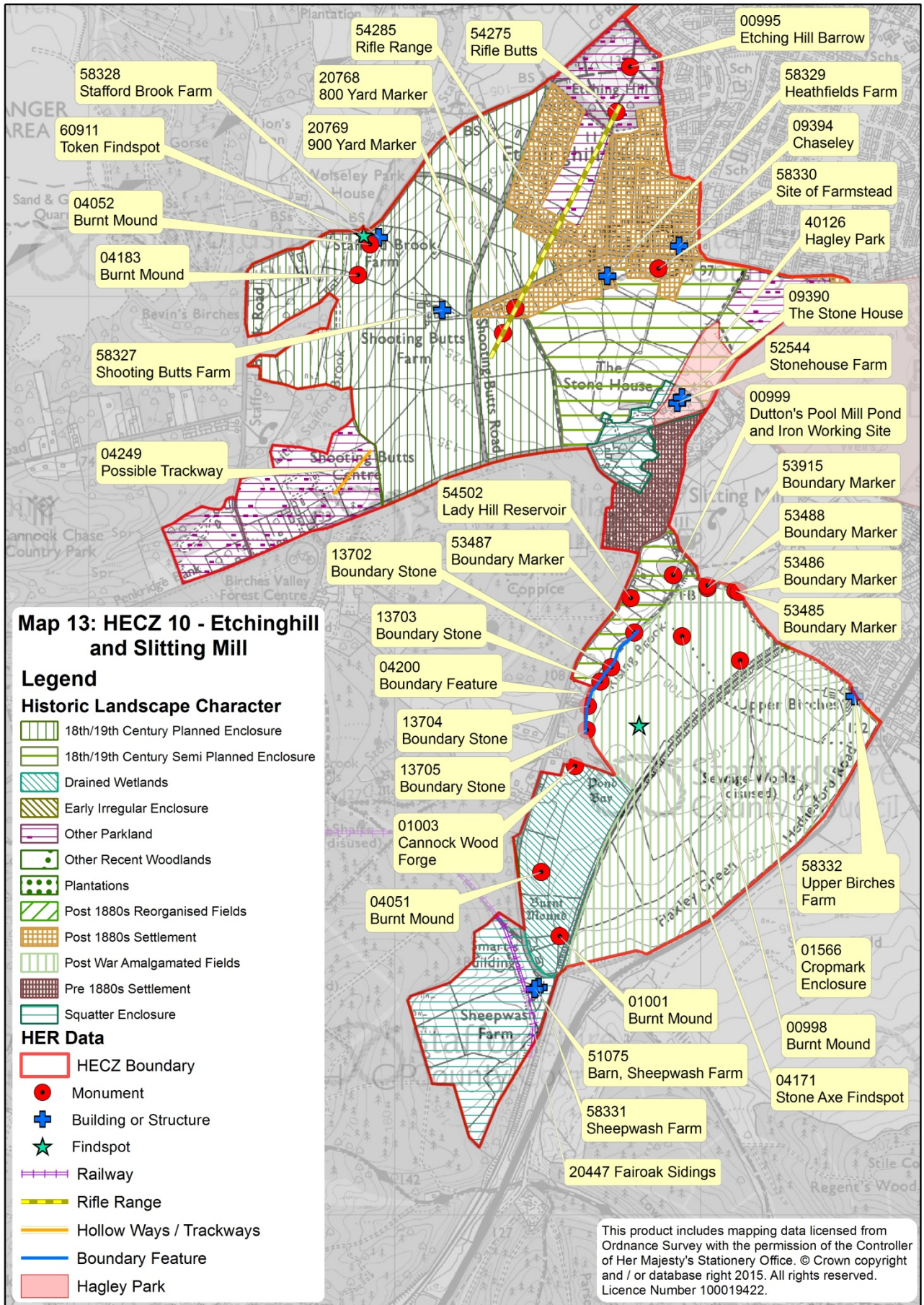
- The narrow valleys of the Rising and Stafford Brooks retain a significant degree of character and have the potential to contain further significant late prehistoric archaeological remains.

### 9.10.7 Gap Analysis

- There remains the potential for the presence of further late prehistoric archaeological remains associated with the burnt mound sites previously identified along the Rising and Stafford Brooks and in the small area of glacial till identified to the north of the Rising Brook.
- There remains the potential for significant palaeoenvironmental remains to be present within valley bottom deposits which could enhance our understanding as to the developmental history of this area of the AONB.
- More information is required on the development of early post-medieval industry at Slitting Mill and in particular the location for the site of the 1832 mill. How was this industrial development influenced by local landowners and was nearby agriculture initially involved (through subsistence farming associated with the early unplanned settlement at Slitting Mill).
- What are the origins of ironworking in the zone?
- There remains the potential for further documentary sources to present held in collections beyond Staffordshire.

### 9.10.8 Broad Management Recommendations

- Where development or river catchment work is proposed within the zones smaller river valleys, early consultation with the SCC Historic Environment Team is strongly advised to determine the need for and extent of archaeological investigations. In particular this should consider the potential for the presence of palaeoenvironmental remains associated with peat deposits. Site Investigation engineers for such works should discuss this with the Historic Team when developing programmes of investigation.
- Developments within Slitting Mill must be informed by the areas unique historic character and should take on board appropriate location, scale, massing and materials in their designs.
- The AONB should look to discuss further development with the Forestry Commission regarding the Birches Valley Visitor Centre to minimise further impact upon the setting of Slitting Mill.
- Maintain and enhance the path network along the Rising Brook and consider the development of interpretation facilities either on line or *in situ* to highlight the historic significance of the settlement and its surroundings.
- Where warranted and where supported by an appropriately detailed and wide ranging evidence base, discussions may be held between relevant individuals/organisations and Historic England concerning the need for the statutory designation of individual or groups of currently undesignated heritage assets. At this point appropriate forms of heritage management will also be discussed to ensure the long term viability of any newly designated nationally important heritage assets within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



## 9.11 CCAHECZ 11: Stilecop and Chetwynd's Coppice

### 9.11.1 Key Characteristics

- The relatively stable character of the landscape including the mix of woodland in the east and open heathland/grassland in the western portion of the zone. This appears to have been the overriding from at least the late 18<sup>th</sup> century when it is depicted on Yates' map of the area (1775).
- Evidence for coal mining (some possibly of an early date) extends across parts of the zone including plateways (early mineral railways) and elements of built heritage (the locally listed Pay Office)

### 9.11.2 Geology and Topography

The Stilecop and Chetwynd's Coppice Zone covers approximately 305ha. The zone principally lies on bedrock geology of sandstone and conglomerate pebbles (Kidderminster Formation) lying unconformably over Middle Coal Measures that are exposed at the surface to the south of Brereton Hayes. The thin Kidderminster Formation has been penetrated by many mine shafts accessing the coal seams underneath, particularly close to the Eastern Boundary Fault that marks the eastern limit of this area<sup>313</sup>.

From the north the land gently rises from around 130m AOD to a high point of 207m AOD at Stile Cop at the western edge of the zone. A short peninsular of higher land extends from this point north eastwards into the zone, although dropping very gently down to around 180m AOD in Chetwynd Coppice. An area of high land also extends south from Stile Cop, just within the zone, and includes Startley Hill. To the south east of Stile Cop the land drops steeply down to a dry unnamed valley along which runs the Rugeley to Cannock road. From this road the land rises again to an area which once formed Brereton Hayes wood, but whose history is associated with coal mining and later with the site of a 'tip' which by the early 21<sup>st</sup> century has been landscaped as a large grassland area.

### 9.11.3 Heritage Designations

One Grade II listed property known as the 'Holly Bush' lies within the zone<sup>314</sup>.

### 9.11.4 Historic and Archaeological Context and Evidence

The zone comprises a mix of large areas of woodland, concentrated principally to the east, and open areas of either heath or grassland which lie to the west. This largely reflects the land use as depicted on Yates' map (1775) suggesting a degree of stability. The large areas of extant woodland largely coincide with historic woodlands known respectively as 'Chetwynd's Coppice' and 'Brereton Hayes Wood'. The names of these woodlands would suggest that they historically lay within the manor of Brereton which had been held by

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<sup>313</sup> British Geological Society website viewed 09/03/2015 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=KDM>

<sup>314</sup> English Heritage National Heritage No. 1060246

the Chetwynd family from the later 13<sup>th</sup> century<sup>315</sup>. In 1582 the Paget family recorded receiving wood from ‘Chetwin’ for fuel for the iron industry (cf. IRON INDUSTRY AND WOODLAND ABOVE)<sup>316</sup>. Chris Welch speculated that this wood may have been sourced from the area of Chetwynd’s Coppice, but a true understanding of its origins is unclear. The coppice certainly existed by 1775 and may have been created or exploited to support the Chetwynd’s own industrial activity on the Chase in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (cf. s.7.3.3). No veteran trees are known to survive within the area today, but a number of possible earthwork banks were identified during an archaeological survey which may relate to historic woodland management<sup>317</sup>.

There is extensive evidence for coal mining within the zone, particularly to the south within Brereton Hays Wood, but also to the east. To the east the activity appears to date principally to the late 18<sup>th</sup> and into the 19<sup>th</sup> century and formed part of the Brereton Colliery. This includes the lie of a plateway, parts of which may survive including the Hayes Incline, dating to circa 1820<sup>318</sup>. To the south, within Brereton Hayes Woods, the earthwork remains of possible shallow coal workings were identified in during archaeological survey work. The activity is currently undated, but it lies upon the Middle Coal Measures and is not marked on historic mapping, perhaps suggesting that it pre-dated the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Coal mining activity intensified in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and was active into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century at the northern end of Brereton Hayes Wood<sup>319</sup>. The large grassland area which now occupies this site had once formed part of the colliery and had later formed a waste tip.

The dispersed settlement, associated with small irregular fields, along the valley within the zone (the Rugeley-Cannock Road) may be associated with the industrial activity although its true origins are currently unknown. A number of historic buildings survive along this route including the Grade II listed 17<sup>th</sup> century Holly Bush, suggesting occupation in the post medieval period<sup>320</sup>.

Military activity is associated with Stilecop Field where a prisoner of war camp was sited during the Second World War<sup>321</sup>. The layout of the roads and some of the buildings are still visible on aerial photography under the vegetation.

#### 9.11.5 Previous Research recorded in HER

HER Event Ref	Organisation/Person	Name/Title	Date
EST685	Staffordshire County Council	An archaeological survey at Beaudesert Park, Cannock Chase, Staffordshire.	1993
EST1221	Staffordshire County	An archaeological survey of	Nd.

<sup>315</sup> Greenslade 1959: 154-5

<sup>316</sup> Welch 2000: Table 2

<sup>317</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 53376, PRN 53387, PRN 53397 and PRN 53400

<sup>318</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20535

<sup>319</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20500 and PRN 03158

<sup>320</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 09398

<sup>321</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20002; Thomas 2003: 34

	Council	the abandoned shafts at The Slade, Brereton, Staffordshire	
EST1245	Staffordshire County Council	An archaeological field survey of the Hayes Incline, The Glen, Brereton	1997
EST1223	Forest Enterprise/Adrian Scruby	An archaeological field survey of Cannock Chase.	2000

### 9.11.6 Statement of Significance

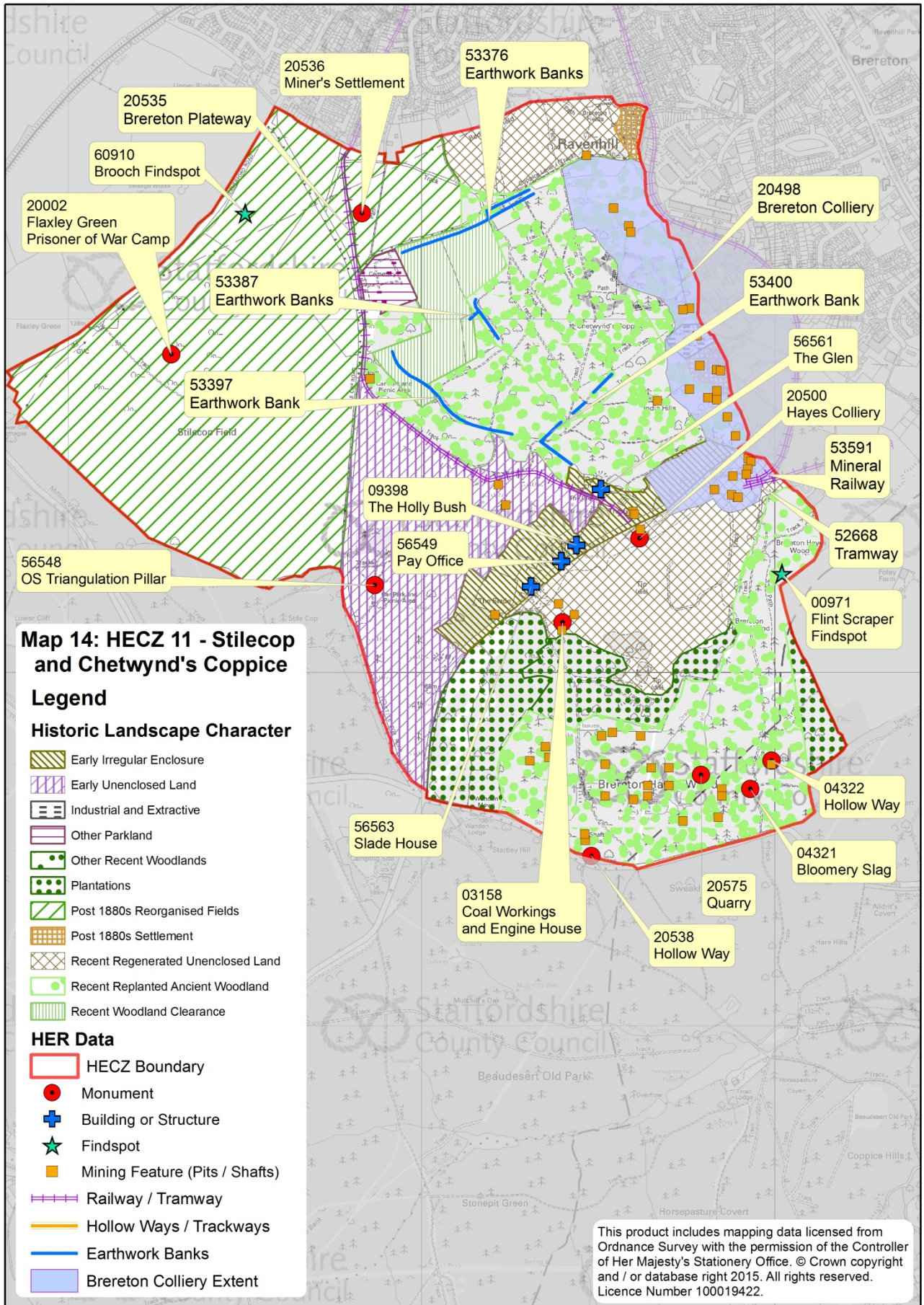
- The relatively stable landscape provides us with a view of the mix between woodland (including wood banks) and open grass/heathland during at least the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. This represents significant survival of historic landscape character within the zone.
- Industrial activity has been an important factor in the later developmental history of parts of the zone. This has more recently removed earlier evidence but earlier heritage assets do remain including plateways. The shallow coal workings may point to earlier extraction activity in this part of the Chase..
- Stilecop Field PoW camp represented a significant feature in the landscape during its life and continues to have an influence of the area since it was dismantled. Remnants survive as crop marks and features within the open area of the zone.

### 9.11.7 Gap Analysis

- There remains the potential for evidence of early surface mining to have been carried out on the middle coal seams within this zone. This could represent informal coal extraction during the early post-medieval period or the first formal and managed attempts at coal mining in the area. In either event, further information could aid our understanding of early coal mining in this area.
- The relative stability of landuse across much of this area means that there is a greater potential for the preservation of earlier archaeological remains and in particular late prehistoric activity away from the context of the Chases' river valleys.
- Questions remain about the role of the zones coppiced woodland in early post-medieval iron working. Further documentary research and field survey might enhance our understanding of their role in industrial development across this and nearby zones.
- In particular, documentary research focusing on this area may further our understanding of the Chetwynds' role in the development of post-medieval industrial activity in this area.
- More information on the development and history of the military camp at Stilecop Field.
- There remains the potential for further documentary sources to present held in collections beyond Staffordshire.

### 9.11.8 Broad Management Recommendations

- Methodologies should be developed for the management of archaeological earthworks particularly within a woodland context. Such methodologies could be developed in consultation with the SCC Historic Environment Team.
- Careful consideration should be given to the potential presence of mining fissures and voids in this zone. Any work in this area should be appropriately risk assessed.
- Develop a guide to the management of vegetation on earthworks
- Selective thinning of tree stands to be informed by the presence of earthworks and the desirability of removing trees from them.
- Identify more of the features associated with the World War Two remains present on Stilecop Field and enhance their interpretation. This should also consider improved interpretation be that in digital or physical form.
- Where warranted and where supported by an appropriately detailed and wide ranging evidence base, discussions may be held between relevant individuals/organisations and Historic England concerning the need for the statutory designation of individual or groups of currently undesignated heritage assets. At this point appropriate forms of heritage management will also be discussed to ensure the long term viability of any newly designated nationally important heritage assets within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.





## 9.12 CCAHECZ 12: Hazelslade

### 9.12.1 Key Characteristics

- The new estate which has largely wholesale replaced the original miners settlement of Hazelslade. Elements of field pattern possibly associated with the laying out of Hazelslade on the heathland survive although they are largely isolated and their historic character much denuded.
- The Bentley Brook extending through the centre of the zone remains an important landscape feature and may retain significant and previously undiscovered archaeological remains.
- Potential evidence for early coal mining activity to the east and west of the modern estate at Hazelslade.

### 9.12.2 Geology and Topography

The Hazelslade Zone covers approximately 61ha. The majority of the zone lies on a bedrock geology of Middle Coal Measures, except in the north where it lies beneath the sandstone and conglomerate pebbles (Kidderminster Formation) typical of the majority of the AONB<sup>322</sup>. A narrow band of alluvium lies to the north west of the zone and is associated with the Bentley Brook.

The zone is generally low lying with the valley of the Bentley Brook cutting through its centre. From the valley the land rises gently to the north (to reach approximately 210m AOD<sup>323</sup>) and to the south (to reach approximately 195m AOD).

### 9.12.3 Heritage Designations

None.

### 9.12.4 Historic and Archaeological Context and Evidence

The zone is dominated by the hamlet of Hazelslade. It probably developed as a miners settlement with most of the original buildings constructed in the 1860s-70s, although some scattered buildings are noted on an early 19<sup>th</sup> century map (cf. section 7.1.1)<sup>324</sup>. Very few, if any, of the original 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings survive, the majority of the settlement having been reconstructed and extended as a housing estate in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Fields which probably originated as encroachment into the heathland prior to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century still line the valley of the Bentley Brook. A field pattern of 'planned enclosure' probably dating to the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century is extant to the north of the zone.

The south east of the zone is dominated by woodland and grassland, as well as a large pond, part of which is managed as a local nature reserve. The

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<sup>322</sup> British Geological Society website viewed 09/03/2015 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=KDM>

<sup>323</sup> AOD: Above Ordnance Datum

<sup>324</sup> Ordnance Survey Drawing 'Lichfield' map. 1815. Viewed on British Library Online 23/03/2015

nature reserve was established on reclaimed land in 1983<sup>325</sup>. Later coal mining occurred to the far east of the zone, at what is now the Cannock Wood Industrial Estate, by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>326</sup>. The Cannock and Rugeley Colliery was linked to the mainline London & North Western Railway at Hednesford via a railway sections of which survive as tree-lined earthwork on the southern edge of the zone<sup>327</sup>.

Evidence for coal mining has been observed within the zone from aerial photography, which suggests that it was occurring at an early, but currently unknown, date to the east and west of the current housing development at Hazelslade<sup>328</sup>.

### 9.12.5 Previous Research recorded in HER

None known.

### 9.12.6 Statement of Significance

- The line of the London & North Western Railway represents an important feature in the landscape and elements continue to survive as upstanding earthworks. The retention will help the local community and visitors to better understand the industrial heritage of this zone.
- The potential presence of early industrial activity (and particularly coalmining) is of particular importance in this area with its tradition of mining. Evidence which enhances our understanding in this area will be of importance in development the historical narrative for this area of the AONB.

### 9.12.7 Gap Analysis

- There needs to be a better understanding as to the nature, development and origins of coal mining across this zone.
- There needs to be a better understanding of the development of Hazelslade within the landscape, the nature of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings and the role that the nearby field systems played (if any) in the life and development of the settlement.
- There remains the potential for further documentary sources to be present held in collections beyond Staffordshire.

### 9.12.8 Broad Management Recommendations

- The planning permission for the SusTrans (2006) to develop a cycleway/footpath includes the Hednesford Park to Cannock Wood Street/Littleworth Road remains current. An earthwork management strategy for the railway line coupled with an interpretation strategy for it and the nearby settlement of Hazelslade should be considered.

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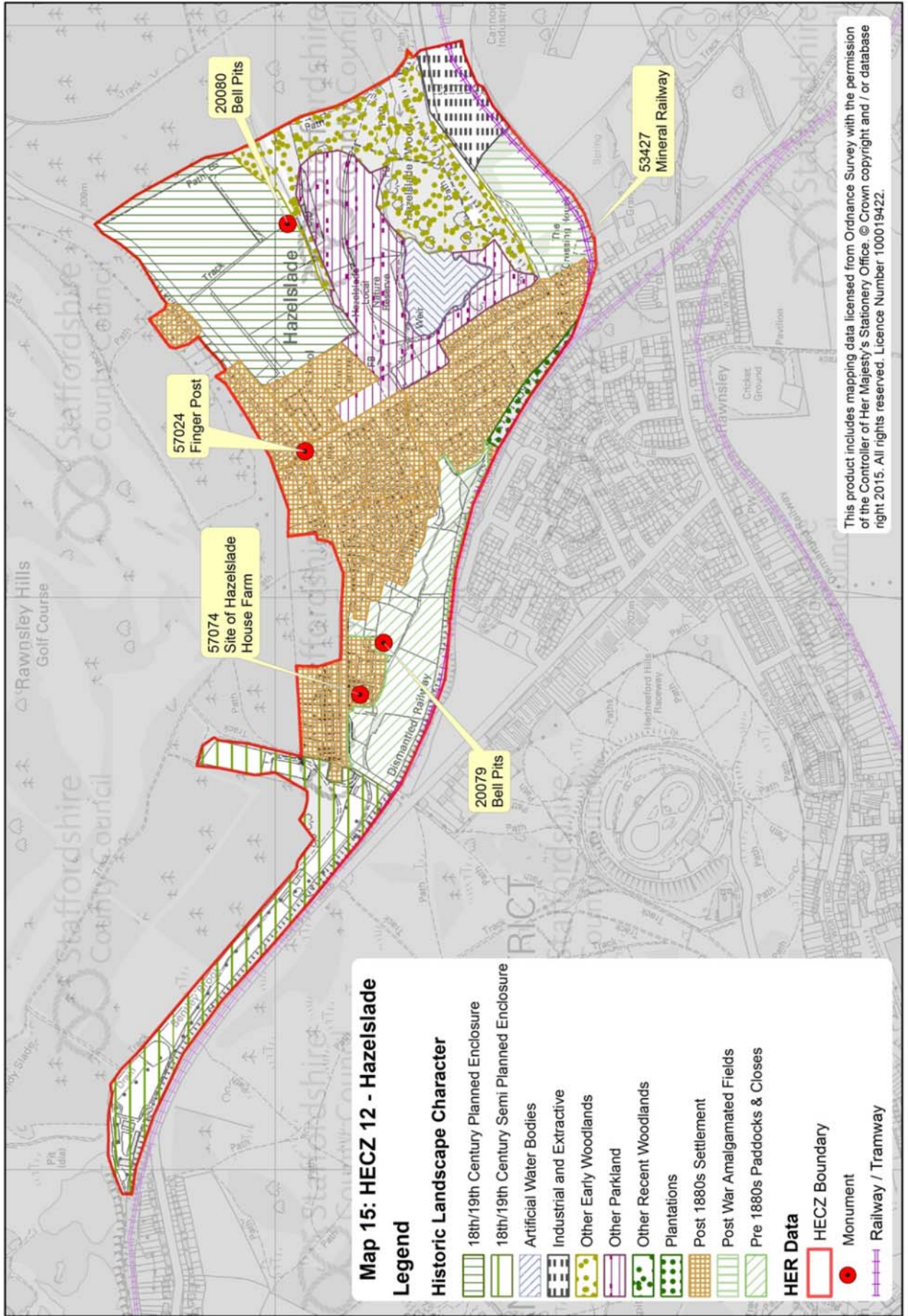
<sup>325</sup> Cannock Chase District Council website

[http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/info/200029/countryside/596/countryside\\_service/10](http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/info/200029/countryside/596/countryside_service/10) viewed 23/03/2015

<sup>326</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20523

<sup>327</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 53427

<sup>328</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 20079 and PRN 20080



## 9.13 CCAHECZ 13: Beaudesert Park

### 9.13.1 Key Characteristics

- The multivallate Iron Age hillfort (Castle Ring) dominates the highland within the zone and looks out across the floodplain of the River Trent towards Rugeley.
- Beaudesert Park has had a significant impact upon the zone. The central residence has greatly influenced the area from its development as a Bishops Palace through to its life as the principal residence of the Paget family
- Beaudesert retains extensive landscape design features which incorporate Castle Ring hillfort and include landscape centred around open lawns and a narrow wooded valley with water features, cascades open pools and a large stables. The hall also maintained a large kitchen garden and a home farm.

### 9.13.2 Geology and Topography

The Beaudesert Park Zone covers approximately 616ha. The western portion of the zone lies on a bedrock geology of Middle Coal Measures, except at Startley Hill and Castle Ring which are capped by the conglomerates and sandstones of the Kidderminster Formation, Bromsgrove Formation and Mercia Mudstone Formation in the east<sup>329</sup>. Superficial geology, till, overlies the bedrock to the south.

The highest land within the zone lies to the south, west and north, with the highest point being reached at Castle Ring to the south where it reaches around 235m AOD<sup>330</sup>. The land falls away from these areas into the valley of the Shropshire Brook which flows eastwards through the centre of the zone.

### 9.13.3 Heritage Designations

At the highest point within the zone lies the Scheduled Monument 'Castle Ring, A multivallate hillfort and medieval hunting lodge'<sup>331</sup>.

There are two Grade II listed buildings lying within the zone: Grand Lodge and Beaudesert Hall Remains<sup>332</sup>.

### 9.13.4 Historic and Archaeological Context and Evidence

The well-preserved earthwork remains of an Iron Age hillfort dominate the highest point of land within the zone<sup>333</sup>. A number of earthwork surveys have been carried out, but to date little is known about its phases of development or function. Its presence attests to the potential for further unknown late prehistoric activity within the vicinity of Cannock Chase (cf. s.4). An earthwork

<sup>329</sup> British Geological Society website viewed 09/03/2015 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=KDM>

<sup>330</sup> AOD: Above Ordnance Datum

<sup>331</sup> English Heritage National Heritage No. 1014687

<sup>332</sup> English Heritage National Heritage No. 1277681 and 1248669

<sup>333</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00025

lying to the north of the hillfort has been identified as a possible Bronze Age barrow, but this interpretation has not been verified archaeologically<sup>334</sup>.

The majority of the zone comprised one of two known deer parks belonging to the bishop of Coventry and Lichfield in the medieval period; Beaudesert Old Park<sup>335</sup>. Its extent is marked on several historic maps, but it is not clear to what extent the park boundary may survive under forestry plantation. A rectangular earthwork lying on the eastern edge of the Iron Age hillfort has been interpreted as a possible medieval hunting lodge which lay within the deer park<sup>336</sup>. At the eastern end of the deer park the bishop established a palace, Beaudesert, the remains of which have been identified as retaining 15<sup>th</sup> century fabric<sup>337</sup>. The property was further developed by the Paget family from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century who made it their principal seat until its eventual sale in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (cf. s.6.2.1). The hall was partially demolished in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, what survives is now Grade II listed. From the late-18<sup>th</sup> century the Pagets also began to enhance the landscape around Beaudesert Hall and extended the parkland to the west which incorporates the existing woodlands at George's Hayes, Alfred Coppice and Piggot's Bottom<sup>338</sup>. Features relating to 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century landscaping and estate management survive associated with Beaudesert Hall including an icehouse, large kitchen garden, stable block and ornamental pools<sup>339</sup>. A driveway which extends through the Iron Age hillfort appears to provide access to the immediate environs of the hall and it might be that this prehistoric earthwork was later utilised as a design feature.

A number of features (bell pits) have been identified during archaeological surveys within the zone and particularly within the area of the old deer park. The evidence suggests that coal and ironstone was being mined, although a precise date for this activity has not been established, and could date from the medieval period onwards (cf. s.7.3.1). There is also evidence for possibly early ironworking in Piggot's Bottom to the south east of the zone and at Mutchill's Well to the north from iron slag found at these sites<sup>340</sup>. There is also mid-17<sup>th</sup> and early-18<sup>th</sup> century documentation suggesting that a blast furnace once stood just outside of one of the gates to Beaudesert deer park<sup>341</sup>. Archaeological work along the Shropshire Brook identified the possible location of this blast furnace, but its place in the history of the Paget ironworks is currently unclear (cf. s.7.3.3)<sup>342</sup>.

The built heritage within the zone also includes Chestall House farmhouse and farm buildings, which were built upon an earlier medieval house associated with the Rugeley family in the 14<sup>th</sup> century<sup>343</sup>.

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<sup>334</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04267

<sup>335</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01013

<sup>336</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00025

<sup>337</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04215

<sup>338</sup> Welch & Lovatt 2002

<sup>339</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 50973 and PRN 00980

<sup>340</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 50983 and PRN 04184

<sup>341</sup> Welch 1991: 4

<sup>342</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04312; Welch 1991

<sup>343</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 02044

The majority of the zone is covered by coniferous plantation, although open land within the area of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape park survives to the east.

### 9.13.5 Previous Research recorded in HER

HER Event Ref	Organisation/Person	Name/Title	Date
EST1431	RCHME	A desk based and earthwork survey of Castle Ring hillfort, Cannock Chase	1996
EST2089	Staffordshire County Council	An archaeological excavation at Beaudesert Old Park	1994
EST557	Staffordshire County Council	A site visit to inspect and earthwork mound at Castle Ring, Longdon	1990
EST685	Staffordshire County Council	Staffordshire County Council	1993
EST736	Chris Welch & Deborah Lovatt	Research into the archaeology and history of 15 sites in Staffordshire for the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.	2002
EST927	Staffordshire County Council	An archaeological assessment at the Old Kitchen Garden, Beaudesert, Longdon, Staffordshire	1991/2
EST1861	On Site Archaeology Ltd	An archaeological desk-based assessment of a new pipeline between Gentleshaw and Longdon Green.	2008
EST1845	Birmingham Archaeology	Building recording at Beaudesert Hall, Beaudesert Park, Staffordshire	2007
EST1989	ARCUS	An archaeological watching brief along the Gentleshaw to Longdon Green main pipeline.	2009
EST1641	Castle Ring Archaeology	An archaeological assessment of Beaudesert Park, Cannock Wood, Staffordshire.	2005

### 9.13.6 Statement of Significance

- The Iron Age hillfort has been designated a Scheduled Monument and as such is considered to be of national significance. There is also the suggestion of further late prehistoric archaeological sites to be present in the surrounding area. These remains may be associated with the presence of till deposits, loose more easily ploughed deposits preferable to late prehistoric methods of farming.
- The Bishops' Palace, the later hall and associated structures (i.e. the ice house, stables) and the estates historic parkland represent a historic groups

of considerable local and regional importance. The palace remains are Grade II Listed but the remaining structures are not. Similarly, the historic parkland and gardens which surround the hall are not registered. It is however considered that these remains are of sufficient quality with a number of historic features (cascades, pools, the ice house and the stable block) surviving in reasonable condition. There also remains the potential for historic planting regimes and individual historic plants to survive on the wooded slopes of the valley.

- Early post-medieval industrial has been recorded within the area of Beaudesert Park. This is thought to represent ironstone mining in the area by agents of the Paget family. This early development so close to their principal residence is of significance and further work (documentary and field survey) may enhance our understanding of industrial development in this area and how it relates to other areas of the Chase.

### **9.13.7 Gap Analysis**

- There remains the potential for further late prehistoric remains to be present within area of current forest plantation. More survey work is needed to properly understand this potential resource and inform future management of such sensitive and threatened remains. Late prehistoric potential is also present particularly in the areas of glacial till across the southern part of the zone.
- There remains the potential for the presence of palaeoenvironmental remains within waterlogged/peat deposits within the valley bottom at Beaudesert. Should the opportunity arise these should be assessed with a view to enhancing our understanding of landscape change and development across this part of the AONB.
- There is much to learn regarding the operation of the landscape garden at Beaudesert Hall. This includes how the cascades and pools are controlled, how water is managed to flush through the stables drains (below the pools), was the valley lit, evidence for historic planting etc.
- How was the hall supplied with food? Was there a garden close by or has the kitchen garden always been located far from the hall (as it was during the 19<sup>th</sup> century).
- What was the role of Beaudesert Park Farm. Was it kept at arms length (as its location away from the hall might suggest) or did it play a more fundamental role in park life?
- There remains the potential for further documentary sources to present held in collections beyond Staffordshire.

### **9.13.8 Broad Management Recommendations**

- A detailed manage plan should be developed concerning the Bishops' Palace, later developments (including the walled garden, ice house and stables) and surrounding landscape park (including the cascades and planting regimes).
- It is advised that Historic England reconsider the Registering of Beaudesert Park as a Park and Garden of Special historic Interest. A more detailed review (the Castle Ring review 2005 may in part provide this) may reveal considerably more detail to support its future consideration for registering.

- It is proposed that a detailed landscape study be carried out on all aspects of the landscape to be based on the initial findings of the Castle Ring study (2005) but to include detailed field survey.
- Following on from this a plan for the future management and enhancement of this parkland environment should be discussed with possibilities for future targeted HLF bids considered within the current restrictions (it currently lies within an International scout and Guide Camp).
- Proposals should be developed for the emergency stabilisation of the Bishops palace (Beauesert Hall).
- A tree and plant survey should be conducted within the landscape park to Beauesert to identify the presence of historic species.
- Where warranted and where supported by an appropriately detailed and wide ranging evidence base, discussions may be held between relevant individuals/organisations and Historic England concerning the need for the statutory designation of individual or groups of currently undesignated heritage assets. At this point appropriate forms of heritage management will also be discussed to ensure the long term viability of any newly designated nationally important heritage assets within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



# Map 16: HECZ 13 - Beaudesert Park

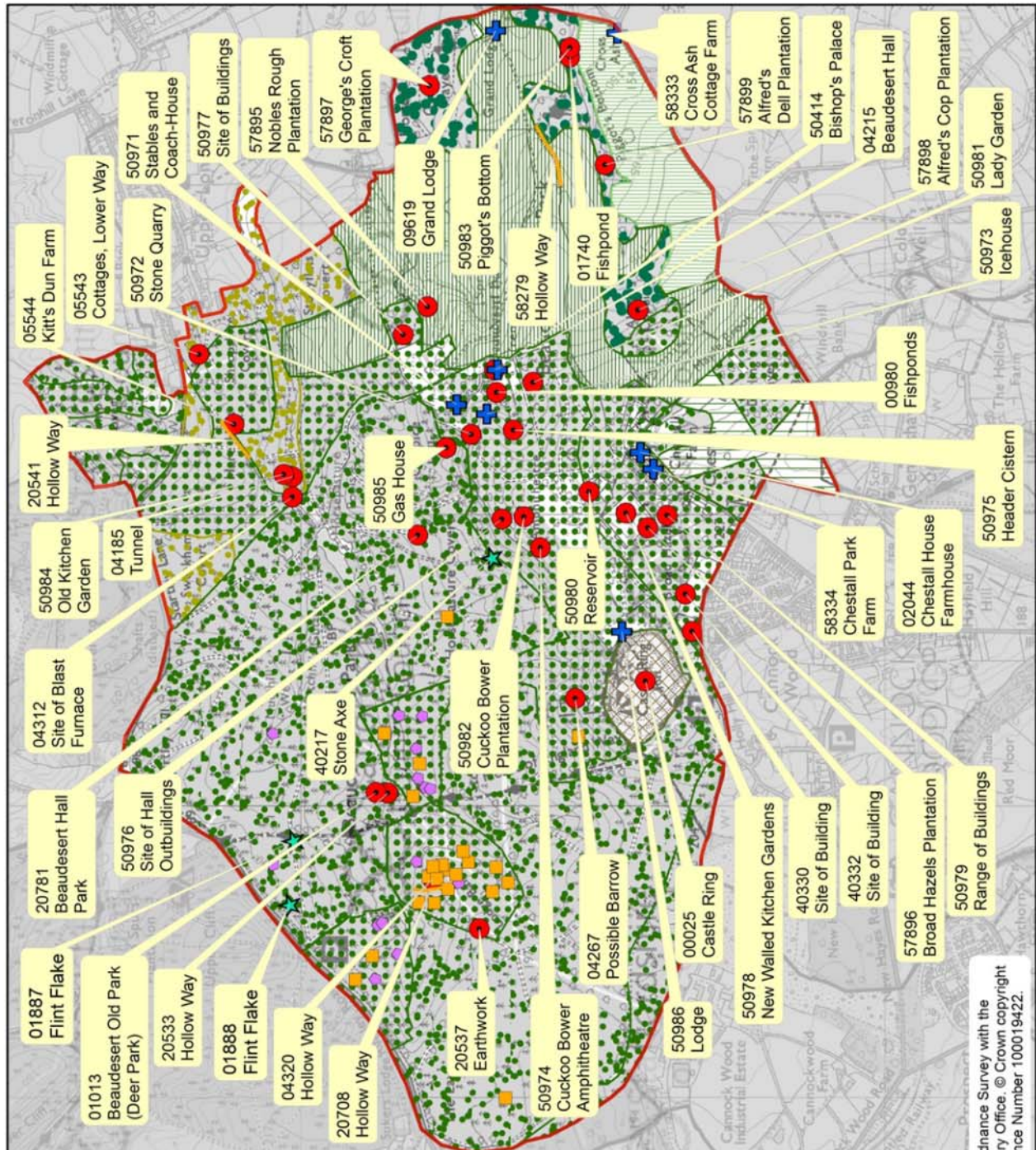
## Legend

### Historic Landscape Character

- 18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure
- 18th/19th Century Semi Planned Enclosure
- Ancient Woodland
- Early Irregular Enclosure
- Industrial and Extractive
- Other Early Woodlands
- Other Recent Woodlands
- Piecemeal Enclosure
- Plantations
- Post 1880s Settlement
- Post 1880s Small Replanned Enclosure
- Post War Amalgamated Fields
- Pre 1880s Settlement
- Recent Regenerated Unenclosed Land
- Recent Replanned Ancient Woodland
- Recent Woodland Clearance

### HER Data

- HECZ Boundary
- Monument
- Building or Structure
- Findspot
- Mining Feature (Pits / Shafts)
- Mining Feature (Coal / Iron Workings)
- Hollow Ways / Trackways



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## 9.14 CCAHECZ C14: Upper Longdon

### 9.14.1 Key Characteristics

- While much of the historic character has been heavily impacted by the development of 20<sup>th</sup> century housing its potentially medieval origins can still be traced in surviving elements of built heritage and the presence of well-preserved piecemeal enclosure field patterns.

### 9.14.2 Geology and Topography

The Upper Longdon Zone covers approximately 44ha. The zone principally lies on bedrock geology of sandstone and conglomerate pebbles (Kidderminster Formation) except to the north where it comprises the Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation<sup>344</sup>.

The highest land within the zone lies to the north where it reaches around 150m AOD<sup>345</sup>; this actually represents a small promontory as the land drops away gently to both the north and south (the land to the north lying beyond the zone). The land drops away to the south to the Shropshire Brook which flows eastwards through the zone.

### 9.14.3 Heritage Designations

Three Grade II listed buildings survive within Upper Longdon; two are 17<sup>th</sup> century properties while the other dates to 1840<sup>346</sup>.

### 9.14.4 Historic and Archaeological Context and Evidence

Like the settlement of Brocton to the west of the Chase (cf. HECZ 3) this zone lay outside of the historic extent of Cannock Chase.

The origins of Upper Longdon are currently unclear, although the form of the extant field pattern lying to the south suggests an origin as part of an open field system indicating that some form of settlement existed here in the medieval period. The earliest surviving buildings within the settlement, standing either end of Shaver's Lane, date to the 17<sup>th</sup> century<sup>347</sup>. A number of other, principally brick built cottages, survive within the settlement along with considerable late 20<sup>th</sup> century housing infill and expansion.

The field pattern to the south probably dates to the post medieval period and was created incrementally out of an earlier open field<sup>348</sup>. This is a well-preserved historic field pattern. Farming in this landscape may have

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<sup>344</sup> British Geological Society website viewed 09/03/2015

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=KDM>

<sup>345</sup> AOD: Above Ordnance Survey

<sup>346</sup> English Heritage National Heritage No. 1248903, 1249026 and 128897

<sup>347</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 13638 and PRN 09624

<sup>348</sup> Open Field: An area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. Usually without internal divisions (hedges, walls or fences). (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage. © 2015 English Heritage)

originated in the 12<sup>th</sup> century at a period when the bishop of Lichfield was fined for creating assarting within Cannock Forest.

#### **9.14.5 Previous Research recorded in HER**

None known.

#### **9.14.6 Statement of Significance**

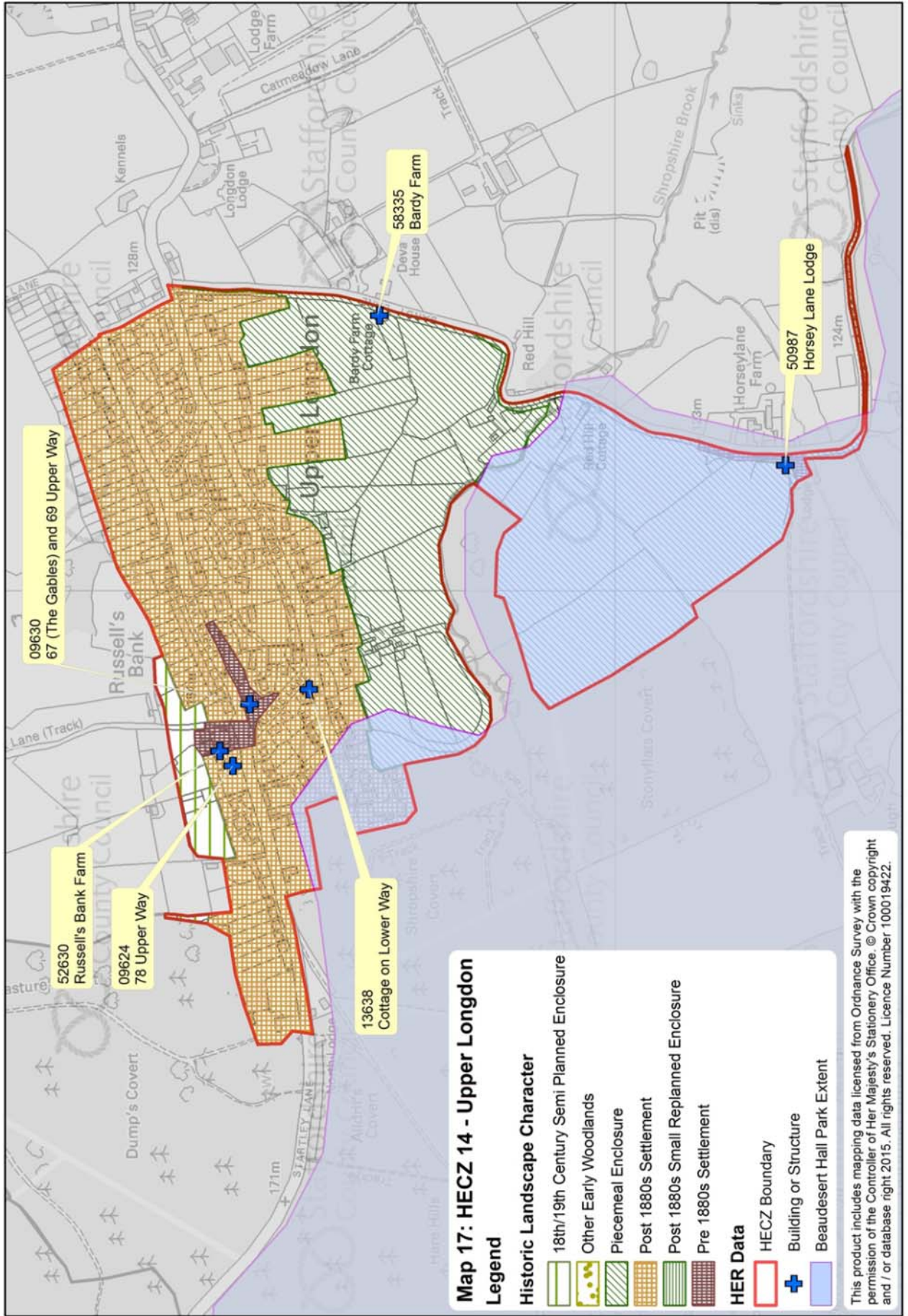
- The surviving field systems reflect piecemeal enclosure of what must have previously been a large open field during the medieval period. Piecemeal enclosure often resulted from informal agreements between landowners to enclose and thus rationalise their landholdings. Agriculture in this area may have developed from illegal assarting by the Bishop and the piecemeal enclosure represents a significant survivor within this landscape.

#### **9.14.7 Gap Analysis**

- What were the origins of Upper Longdon? Does it develop following the Bishops illegal assarting exercise in the 12<sup>th</sup> century or does it occur later on in the medieval period?
- The presence of the promontory and the nearby Shropshire Brook might suggest the potential for prehistoric activity and possibly settlement in the area either on the small promontory (which might have provided an element of security) or downslope closer to the brook (for enhanced resource exploitation opportunities).
- There remains the potential for further documentary sources to present held in collections beyond Staffordshire.

#### **9.14.8 Broad Management Recommendations**

None identified.



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## 9.15 CCAHECZ 15: Shoal Hill and Hatherton

### 9.15.1 Key Characteristics

- Hatherton Hall Parkland landscape is still legible and includes a series of extant structures such as fish ponds, an icehouse and the park wall.
- Shoal Hill farm largely retains its character as an early 19<sup>th</sup> century L-plan courtyard farm complex most likely associated with the nearby Hatherton Hall. Its surrounding field system is likely to date from this period.
- The woodland/heathland mix in the northern portion of the zone is likely to date to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century although there have been unconfirmed reports of linear banks and ditches within portions of Cavan's Wood which may reflect an earlier phase of woodland management.

### 9.15.2 Geology and Topography

The Shoal Hill and Hatherton Zone covers approximately 236ha. The zone principally lies on bedrock geology of sandstone and conglomerate pebbles (Kidderminster Formation) with the Wildmoor Sandstone Formation outcropping in the far west of the area. A superficial deposit of till extends into the southern area around Parkside and Church Road<sup>349</sup>.

The eastern portion of the zone lies on the edge of the Cannock Chase plateau where Cavan's Wood and Shoal Hill reach around 193m AOD<sup>350</sup>. These two high points are separated from one another by a narrow, shallow valley through which the A34 road passes. From Shoal Hill the land drops away to the south west towards Hatherton Hall, which stands at around 120m AOD.

### 9.15.3 Heritage Designations

There is one Grade II listed property, Hatherton Hall<sup>351</sup>.

### 9.15.4 Historic and Archaeological Context and Evidence

The northern and eastern portions of the zone comprise a mix of woodland and heathland across the higher lands of Cavan's Wood and Shoal Hill a landscape which existed by at least the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Beyond the woodland and heathland lies a large quarry. The line of the A34, separating Cavan's Wood and Shoal Hill, has attracted late 20<sup>th</sup> century housing development which extends both to the north and south beyond the AONB. Unconfirmed reports have identified a series of linear banks and ditches within areas of Cavan's Wood; these features if present may indicate a period of woodland management prior to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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<sup>349</sup> British Geological Society website viewed 09/03/2015  
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=KDM>

<sup>350</sup> AOD: Above Ordnance Datum

<sup>351</sup> English Heritage National Heritage No. 1374116

The south western portion of the zone is dominated by the landscape park of Hatherton Hall. The park is likely to have been created in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century at the time that the current hall was built, replacing an earlier property<sup>352</sup>. The parkland character is still legible within this area and a number of features survive including the fishponds, an icehouse and park wall<sup>353</sup>.

To the north of the parkland, lying below Shoal Hill and surrounded by fields, stands Shoal Hill Farm. The historic form, identified as a being a large regular L-plan courtyard, is well preserved and is likely to have originated as part of the Hatherton Hall estate, possibly also dating to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Other scattered properties are also located to the north side of Parkside, which may relate to episodes of encroachment onto the heathland on the slopes of Shoal Hill to the north by at least the late 18<sup>th</sup> century<sup>354</sup>.

Hatherton was first recorded in Domesday Book (1086) and a manor house may have existed prior to the current Hatherton Hall (cf. s.6.5).

### **9.15.5 Previous Research recorded in HER**

None known.

### **9.15.6 Statement of Significance**

- Hatherton Hall and its extant parkland features constitute a legible and locally significant area of historic character. This character includes the surrounding farmland features such as Shoal Hill Farm and its associated farmland which appears to have developed as part of the Hatherton estate.
- To the north Shoal Hill and Cavan's Wood reflect the areas connection to the Chase with areas of heathland and possible woodland enclosure present across this part of the zone. While not as significant as other areas of the AONB this portion on HECZ15 still reflects the Chase's character.

### **9.15.7 Gap Analysis**

- The early history of the manor is unclear as are the origins of settlement within the zone.
- The relationship between settlement in the zone and the uplands of the Chase to the north are unclear. There is some evidence for earlier activity (including possible woodland management within Cavan's Wood) in the north. This area appears to have seen little change in the last century and there remains the potential for further archaeological remains to survive within this area.
- There remains the potential for further documentary sources to present held in collections beyond Staffordshire.

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<sup>352</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 40106 and PRN 09124

<sup>353</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 02189, PRN 53700, PRN 53701 and PRN 53699

<sup>354</sup> Yates' map 1775 (settlement indicated in this area on the map)

### **9.15.8 Broad Management Recommendations**

- A sensitive and appropriate parkland management plan should be developed for Hatherton Hall to conserve and enhance its historic character.
- A rapid survey of surviving archaeological features within the wood. Once identified these should be recorded on the HER and incorporated into a woodland management plan. Detailed advice on felling and extraction works on or close to archaeological features should be included in this plan.
- Where warranted and where supported by an appropriately detailed and wide ranging evidence base, discussions may be held between relevant individuals/organisations and Historic England concerning the need for the statutory designation of individual or groups of currently undesignated heritage assets. At this point appropriate forms of heritage management will also be discussed to ensure the long term viability of any newly designated nationally important heritage assets within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.







# Map 18: HECZ 15 - Shoal Hill and Hatherton

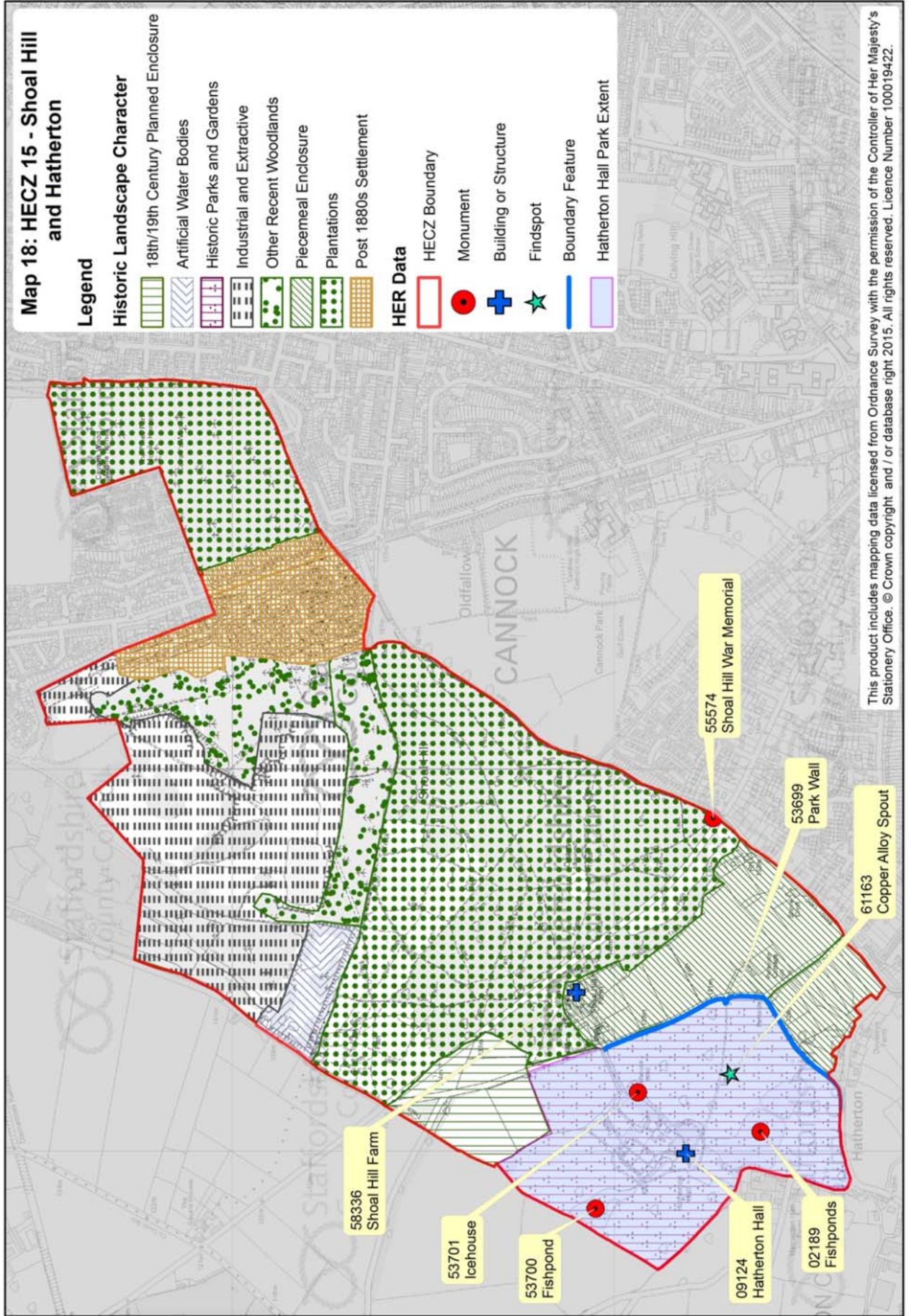
## Legend

### Historic Landscape Character

-  18th/19th Century Planned Enclosure
-  Artificial Water Bodies
-  Historic Parks and Gardens
-  Industrial and Extractive
-  Other Recent Woodlands
-  Piecemeal Enclosure
-  Plantations
-  Post 1880s Settlement

### HER Data

-  HECZ Boundary
-  Monument
-  Building or Structure
-  Findspot
-  Boundary Feature
-  Hatherton Hall Park Extent



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## 9.16 CCAHECZ 16: Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw

### 9.16.1 Key Characteristics

- **The open heathland character of Gentleshaw Common is an important component of this Character Zone. A series of low banks survive across the common which point to its history as an areas under a woodland management regime.**
- **The dispersed settlement and an associated irregular field pattern suggests squatter enclosure set up in the heathland and woodland within the area during the post-medieval period. This character survives across areas of the zone.**
- **Earthworks and features survive within the area which relate to the zones post-medieval industrial history.**

### 9.16.2 Geology and Topography

The Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Zone covers approximately 350ha. The western third of the zone lies on a bedrock geology of Middle Coal Measures. The remainder of the zone overlies the Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation to the south and Mercia Mudstones to the north and far south east<sup>355</sup>. Superficial deposits of till overlies the bedrock geology across the eastern portion of the zone and there is a narrow band to the south west of the Redbrook Valley. The valley itself comprises a thin band of alluvium.

The zone lies on the southern edge of the Cannock Chase plateau with the highest land reaching around 220m AOD<sup>356</sup> at Cannock Wood with Gentleshaw Common forming a low peninsula to the east lying around 215m AOD. The land drops away from the north at Cannock Wood and west at Gentleshaw Common down to the Redbrook Valley. The land rises out of the valley to the south west to reach 195m AOD at Old Lodge Hill. From Gentleshaw Common the land drops away to the east into the Maple Brook Valley.

### 9.16.3 Heritage Designations

There are two designated heritage assets within the zone; the Scheduled Monument 'Moated site and bloomery in Courtbanks Covert' and a Grade II listed 'Windmill Tower north-west of the Windmill Inn'<sup>357</sup>.

### 9.16.4 Historic and Archaeological Context and Evidence

The heathland of Gentleshaw Common dominates the zone and historically lay within Longdon parish. Numerous banks were marked on an estate map (1825) and number of which were reported as extant in the late 1990s<sup>358</sup>. Their presence may relate to previous woodland management; Robert Plot

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<sup>355</sup> British Geological Society website viewed 09/03/2015 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/Lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=KDM>

<sup>356</sup> AOD: Above Ordnance Datum

<sup>357</sup> English Heritage National Heritage No. 1003750 and 1249033

<sup>358</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 05496

(1686) mentioned coppices on hilltops in the Cannock area including Gentleshaw<sup>359</sup>.

The remainder of the zone is dominated by scattered historic settlement associated with small-scale irregular fields which probably originated as squatter enclosures within the heath and woodland of the area. The settlement is probably associated with industrial activity in the area which is recorded from medieval period onwards (cf. HECZ 13 and s.7.3). A number of scattered cottages and small farmsteads survive particularly to the west of Gentleshaw Common and at Cannock Wood, although many individual properties have been substantially altered and extended. The HER also records the sites of a number of small properties which existed by 1825, but which have since been demolished in and around Cannock Wood<sup>360</sup>. More recent housing development is also present within the landscape forming a sense of nucleation towards the centre of the historic area of Cannock Wood.

There is physical evidence for industrial activity within the zone at Courtbanks Covert where a pond bay has been observed associated with quantities of iron slag<sup>361</sup>. The site has been interpreted as the possible site of a medieval bloomery, although no archaeological investigation is known to have been undertaken and it now forms part of a Scheduled Monument<sup>362</sup>.

The site of the bloomery lies adjacent to the Scheduled 'Courtbanks Moated Site', which has been linked to documentary references relating to a Royal Hunting Lodge mentioned in the 1150s<sup>363</sup>. The site survives as substantial earthwork within woodland along the Redmoor Brook. The site has also been associated with documented references to a monastic site which originated as a hermit's cell before adopting the Cistercian rule in 1141<sup>364</sup>. The abbey was apparently short-lived relocating to Stoneleigh, Warwickshire in the 1150s. Nothing is known about the site and its precise location has not been established.

A number of later religious sites are known. The extant parish church, Christ Church, at the northern end of Gentleshaw Common was built of brick in circa 1839<sup>365</sup>. A large vicarage was built to serve it to the north east by circa 1880. The primary school of circa 1878 forms part of this small group of Victorian religious and civic buildings<sup>366</sup>. Non-conformism, often linked to industrial landscapes, also had a presence within the zone. A Quaker burial ground was established on Shaw Lane (1695), although it is not known how many, if any burials were carried out<sup>367</sup>. Fields in this location on the tithe map of 1843 made reference to the 'Graveyard', but the land was in agricultural use at this date<sup>368</sup>. A Methodist Chapel existed at Cannock Wood by 1825, but appears to have been relocated to a site to the south circa 1834. The latter, which

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<sup>359</sup> Plot 1686: 38 on <http://books.google.co.uk> viewed 30/03/2015

<sup>360</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 40331, PRN 40333, PRN 40334, PRN 40335 and PRN 40336

<sup>361</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 01012 and PRN 00222

<sup>362</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00222

<sup>363</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00221

<sup>364</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 50591

<sup>365</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 58302

<sup>366</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 51913

<sup>367</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 02068

<sup>368</sup> Stuart 1971: 41-2

survives was established as a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, but the zone also boasted a Primitive Methodist Chapel, also at Cannock Wood (not extant) and an Independent (Congregational) Chapel on Chapel Lane, Gentleshaw (converted) by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

An 18<sup>th</sup> century listed windmill lies at Gentleshaw, just to the south of Christ Church. Its presence suggests that there was a degree of arable farming in the area, possibly relating to subsistence farming to feed the local people or possibly to grind animal feed to overwinter animals<sup>369</sup>.

At present there is little evidence for prehistoric activity within the zone, despite the presence of the Iron Age hillfort just to the north (cf. HECZ 13). The evidence to date comprises a possible Bronze Age burnt mound on a small tributary to the north of the zone and a possible Neolithic flint working site at Courtbanks Covert<sup>370</sup>. Its location would suggest that there is the potential for further prehistoric sites to lie within the zone.

### 9.16.5 Previous Research recorded in HER

HER Event Ref	Organisation/Person	Name/Title	Date
EST1861	On-Site Archaeology Ltd	An archaeological desk-based assessment of a new pipeline between Gentleshaw and Longdon Green	2008
EST1989	A.R.C.U.S	An archaeological watching brief along the Gentleshaw to Longdon Green pipeline	2009

### 9.16.6 Statement of Significance

- The historic character of the zone, combined with its historic dispersed settlement pattern and surviving archaeological monument paints a vivid picture of the areas development from squatter enclosure during the late medieval/early post-medieval period and its industrial origins. This considerable significance arises from the combined group value of the landscape, settlement pattern and archaeological remains. As such it is extremely sensitive to change and development across the area.

### 9.16.7 Gap Analysis

- There remains considerable potential for the presence of later prehistoric archaeological remains across the area. This may in particular be associated with the finer glacial tills in the eastern portion of the zone and to the south of Redbrook Valley. There is also late prehistoric potential within the Redbrook Valley itself.

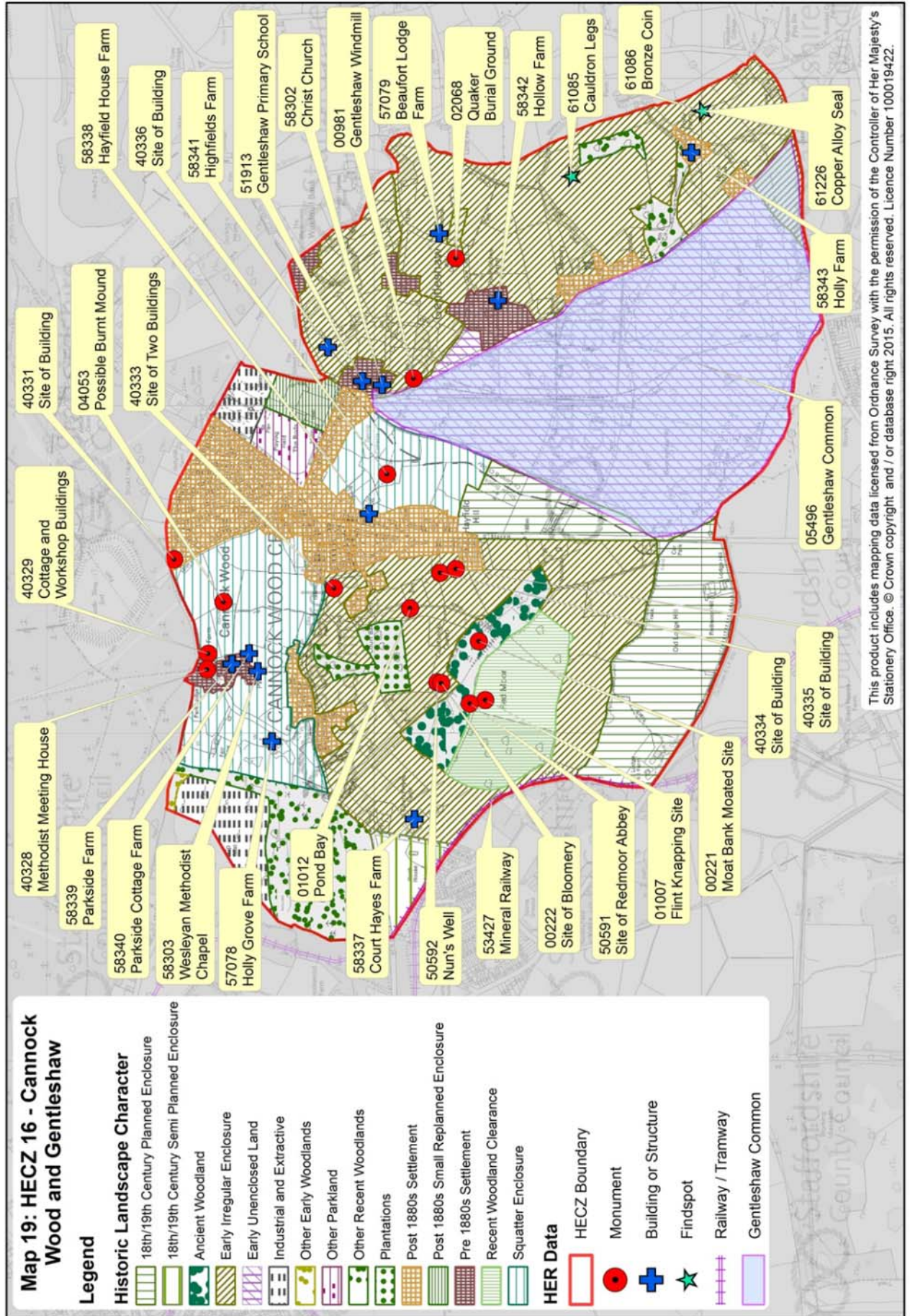
<sup>369</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 00981

<sup>370</sup> Staffordshire HER: PRN 04053 and PRN 01007

- Is there further archaeological potential across the zone but more importantly in the area of Courtbanks Covert for late medieval/post medieval industrial development?
- What is the relationship (if any) between the recorded medieval bloomer site and the adjacent moated site at Courtbanks Covert?
- How does the moated site develop and what evidence is there in the surrounding area for the presence of a 'royal hunting lodge' and a monastic site within this area of the zone?
- How did woodland management function across the area of the common and beyond. How did the woodland banks function and is there any further archaeological evidence for woodland management in the area. In this associated with the moated site/bloomer site at Courtbanks Covert?
- How did squatter enclosure/settlement develop across the zone and at what time? Does subsistence agriculture develop alongside early industrial activity as is suggested within this zone and can we identify the presence of early farmsteads close to industrial sites?
- There remains the potential for further documentary sources to present held in collections beyond Staffordshire.

#### **9.16.8 Broad Management Recommendations**

- There is demonstrable historic environment sensitivity across the area of the character zone and even small scale development has the chance to impact significantly upon historic character. Where new development is proposed, this should be informed by the areas unique historic character (through location, scale, design, materials, colours, planting/screening etc).
- Field boundaries play an important role in defining the character of this zone. As such they should be maintained wherever possible. Where proposals involve the replacement of field boundaries, where this is unavoidable every effort should be made to ensure that new boundaries include appropriate materials/species.
- The management plan for Gentleshaw Common should be fully informed by the areas archaeological sensitivity and should include guidance for work on and around the Common's upstanding heritage assets. Advice can be obtained from the SCC Historic Environment Team.
- Methodologies should be developed for the management of archaeological features within the woodland of Courtbanks Covert. This should include methods for felling and extraction along with the control of scrub within the covert. Any such works should also be aware of the Scheduled Monument within the covert.
- Where warranted and where supported by an appropriately detailed and wide ranging evidence base, discussions may be held between relevant individuals/organisations and Historic England concerning the need for the statutory designation of individual or groups of currently undesignated heritage assets. At this point appropriate forms of heritage management will also be discussed to ensure the long term viability of any newly designated nationally important heritage assets within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



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## **Images**

Shaw c. 1762-1802 'Colwich Church and Oakedge House' Staffordshire Past Track website <http://www.staffspasttrack.org.uk/> (original held by the William Salt Library)

