



Historic Environment Character Assessment Addendum for Cannock Chase District Council



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Cover Image: Court Hayes Farm and Castle Ring, Cannock Wood. © Historic England (2014)

Contents

- 1 Introduction 1**
 - 1.1 Project Background 1
 - 1.2 Methodology 1

- 2 Cannock 2**
 - 2.1 CHECZ 20: South of Brindley Heath..... 3
 - 2.2 CHECZ 21: West of Rawnsley Hills 6
 - 2.3 CHECZ 22: Pye Green Valley (north) 8
 - 2.4 CHECZ 23: North of New Hayes Road..... 10
 - 2.5 CHECZ 24: Cannock Wood 12
 - 2.6 CHECZ 25: North of Pelsall Wood..... 17
 - 2.7 CHECZ 26: Pelsall Road..... 19
 - 2.8 CHECZ 27: Hednesford 21
 - 2.9 CHECZ 28: South of Heath Hayes 23
 - 2.10 CHECZ 29: Hawks Green and Chadsmoor 25
 - 2.11 CHECZ 30: Watling Street 28
 - 2.12 CHECZ 31: Wedges Mills 31
 - 2.13 CHECZ 32: Wimblebury..... 34

- 3 Rugeley 36**
 - 3.1 RHECZ 9: Trent Valley 37
 - 3.2 RHECZ 10: North of Brereton..... 40
 - 3.3 RHECZ 11: West of Brereton Hayes Wood 44
 - 3.4 RHECZ 12: East of Sandy Lane 47
 - 3.5 RHECZ 13: Rising Brook..... 49
 - 3.6 RHECZ 14: Brereton 52

- 4 References and Bibliography 56**

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

The Cannock Chase Historic Environment Character Assessment (HECA) was commissioned by Cannock Chase District Council in 2009 to form part of the evidence base for the options assessment of their Core Strategy. Further options have been brought forward as part of the Core Strategy which has necessitated an extension to the original HECA.

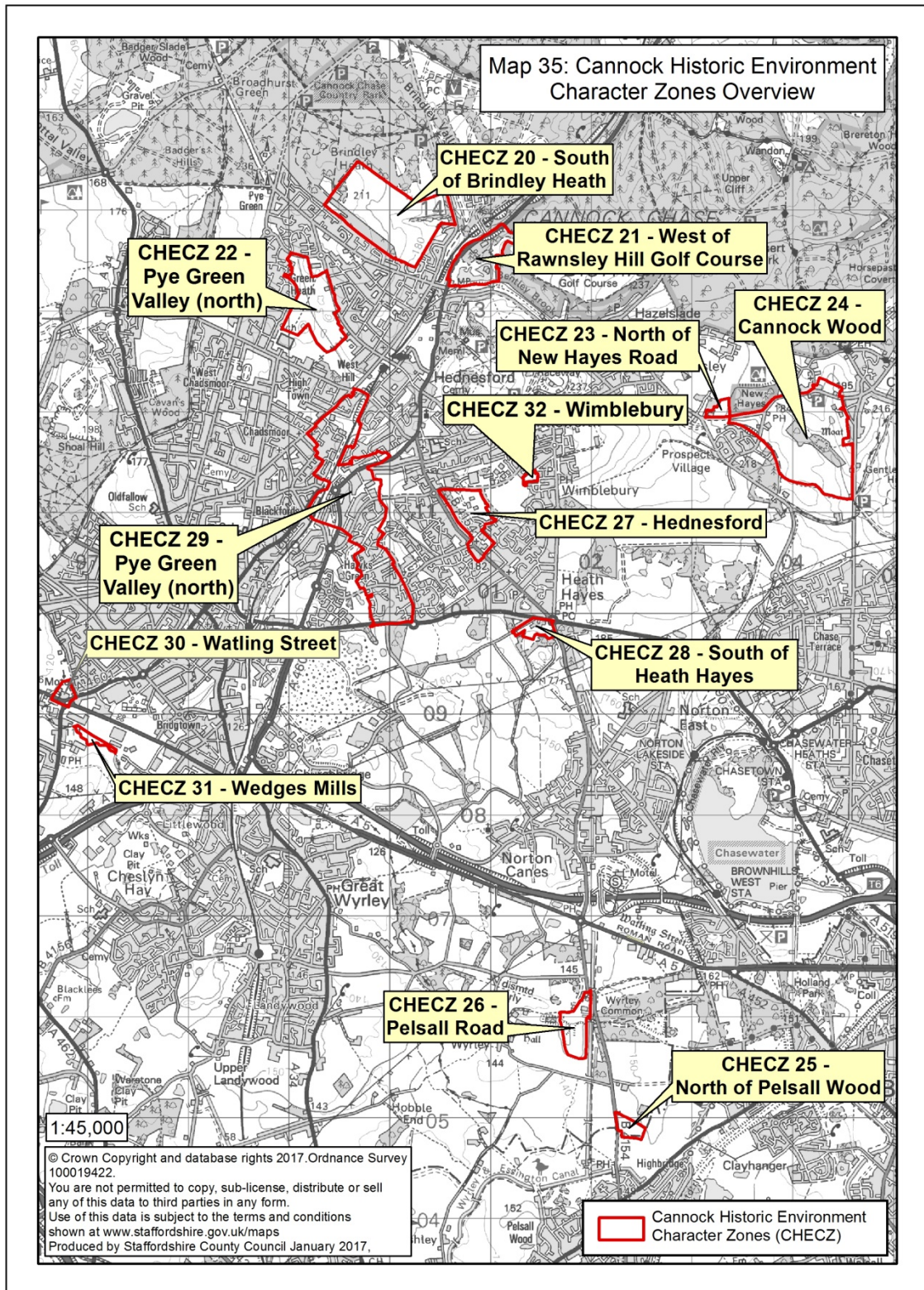
Cannock Chase District Council commissioned Staffordshire County Council to complete this Addendum to the Cannock Chase HECA in December 2016. Amey plc has undertaken this work on behalf of the Staffordshire County Council under the Infrastructure+ partnership.

The urban cores of Cannock and Rugeley were the subject of a separate historic characterisation project forming part of the Staffordshire Extensive Urban Survey (EUS), a national initiative supported by Historic England. The Staffordshire Extensive Urban Survey was undertaken between 2008 and 2014 for 23 medieval market towns. An EUS for Cannock was completed in 2009 and for Rugeley in 2010.

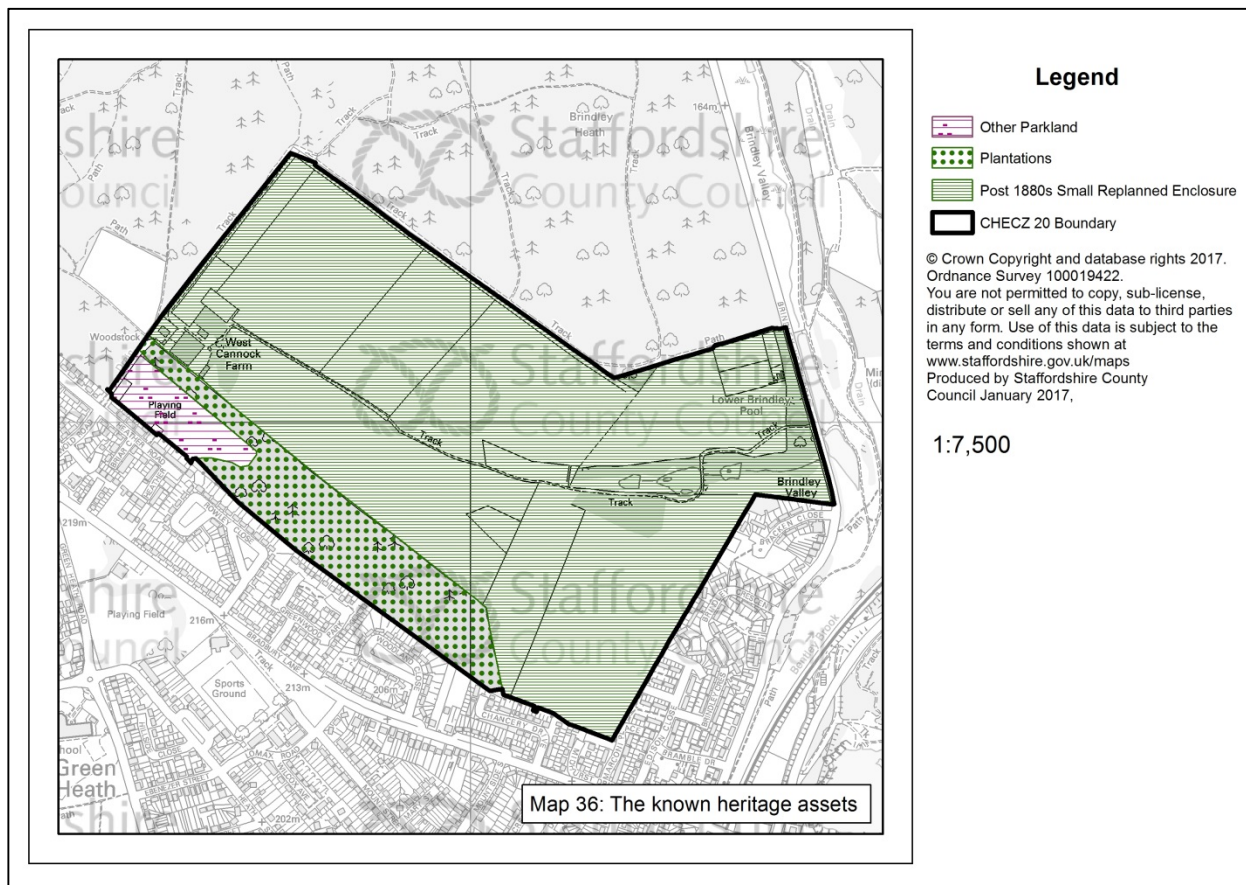
1.2 Methodology

For consistency this addendum uses the methodology undertaken for the Cannock Chase Historic Environment Assessment. The methodology can be found within the main report and Appendix 1 of the Cannock Chase HECA.

2 Cannock



2.1 CHECZ 20: South of Brindley Heath



2.1.1 Summary

The zone lies within the Cannock Chase AONB and until the late 19th century probably formed part of Brindley Heath which survives to the north (beyond the zone). Sub-division of the zone into fields had occurred by the late 19th century, although historic maps suggest that it was still principally functioning as rough grazing. The land of the zone underwent re-organisation in the late 20th century when fencing was erected on new alignments. West Cannock Farm to the west of the zone and the series of ponds to the east also originated in the late 20th century (map 36).

The process of encroachment onto the heathland in this portion of Cannock Chase had occurred by the late 18th century and was probably associated with metal working at the site of a furnace and forge in Brindley Valley, to the north beyond the zone, which operated between the 16th and early 18th centuries¹. The southern portion of the zone may have first been enclosed through encroachment during this period. Alternatively it may have been enclosed during the 19th century and have been associated with the expansion of Hednesford to the south. The irregular enclosure which existed in the southern corner of the zone survived until the late 20th century reorganisation of the field system in this area.

By the 1880s Brindley Heath (beyond the zone) remained open heathland, albeit enclosed by thick belts of coniferous trees. During the 20th century this open heath was planted with coniferous forestry plantation; as this plantation matures and is felled, a mixed landscape of woodland and heathland will be encouraged. The extant belt of trees to the south of the zone retains the historic form of 19th century landscaping, albeit with the insertion of a late 20th century playground. The playground is associated with housing expansion which extends southwards linking Hednesford with Cannock a process which had begun by the late 19th century.

A series of banks and ditches have been identified across Brindley Heath to the north (beyond the zone), although relationships between them have not yet been established and their function remains obscure. There is the potential that similar earthworks may have extended across the zone, which may survive as above or below ground archaeological remains. Upon completion, the lidar survey and analysis associated with the SCC 'Chase Through Time' project may provide further clarity in this regard.

¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 01010 (not depicted on map 36)

2.1.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

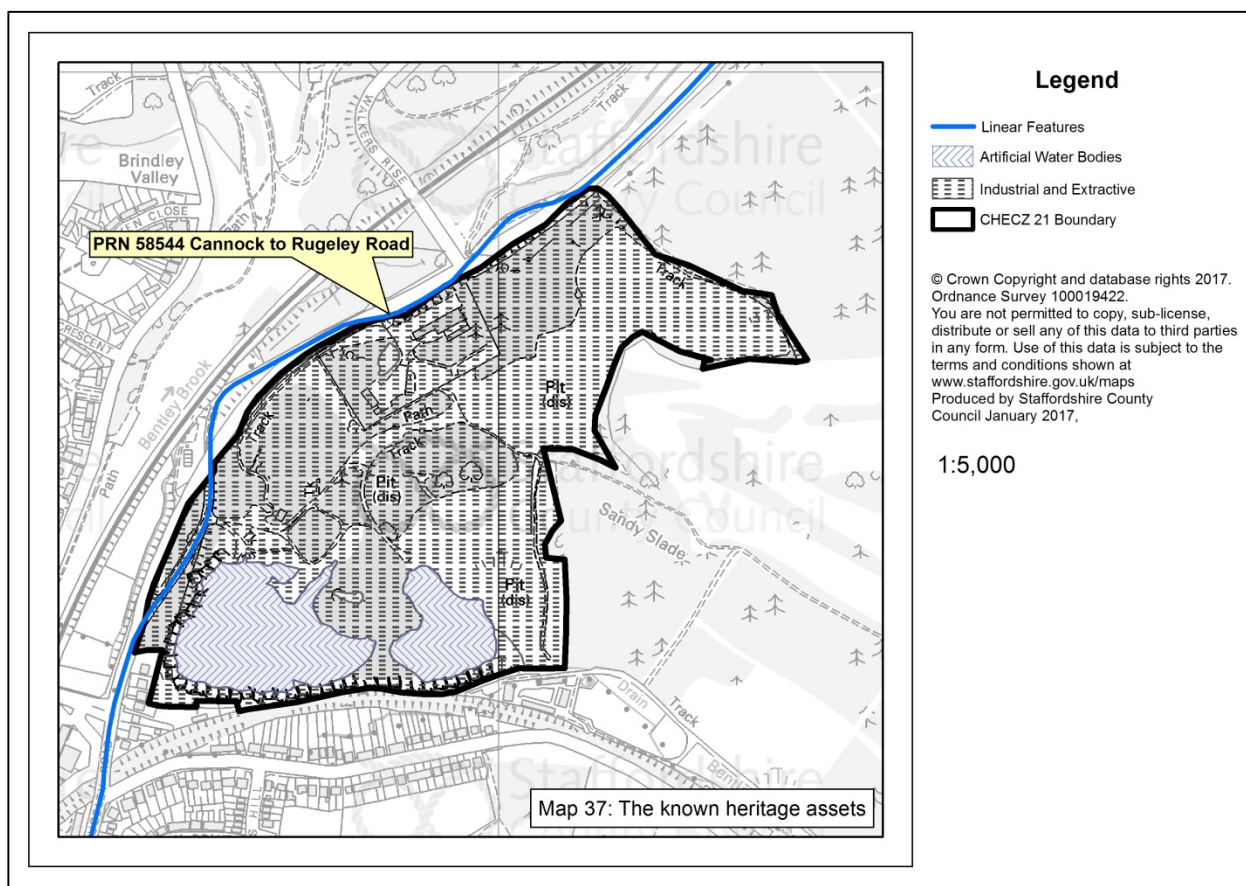
	Description	Score
Survival	The zone has seen little disturbance, although the management of the land is likely to have resulted in some impact. There are no known heritage assets within the zone.	2
Potential	There is the potential for currently unknown heritage assets to survive as both above and below ground archaeological remains, which is strengthened by the lack of previous significant disturbance.	2
Documentation	HER Data	1
Diversity	There are very few known heritage assets.	1
Group Association	There are few heritage assets.	1
Amenity Value	The zone lies adjacent to public access on Brindley Heath and contains a children's playground, but at present the historic environment of the zone does not lend itself to public display or interpretation.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The zone lies within a wider sensitive landscape, although its historic character has largely been altered through subsequent sub-division of the land. However, the historic form of the shelter belt to the south has been retained within this area and continues to contribute to the wider historic character of Cannock Chase to the north.	1
Overall Score		Low

2.1.3 Statement of Significance

The low score suggests that development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment of the zone. However, there would be a need to address the following issues at an early stage in the development process:

- Potential impacts upon and retention of the historic shelter belt.
- The potential for surviving archaeological features, both above and below ground would be decided upon a site-by-site basis and where deemed appropriate an archaeological condition will be attached to any resulting planning permission.

2.2 CHECZ 21: West of Rawnsley Hills



2.2.1 Summary

The zone lies within the Cannock Chase AONB. Historically it had formed part of the Rawnsley Hills, which remained open heath until the golf course and the forestry plantations were established across the area following the First World War. By the 1960s an extensive gravel quarry was operational in this zone. Most of the large pits have subsequently been infilled and landscaped (map 37).

The earlier route of the Cannock to Rugeley Road crosses the western portion of the zone, which may survive as an earthwork or trackway² (map 37). Upon completion, the lidar survey and analysis associated with the SCC 'Chase Through Time' project may provide further clarity in this regard.

² Staffordshire HER: PRN 58544

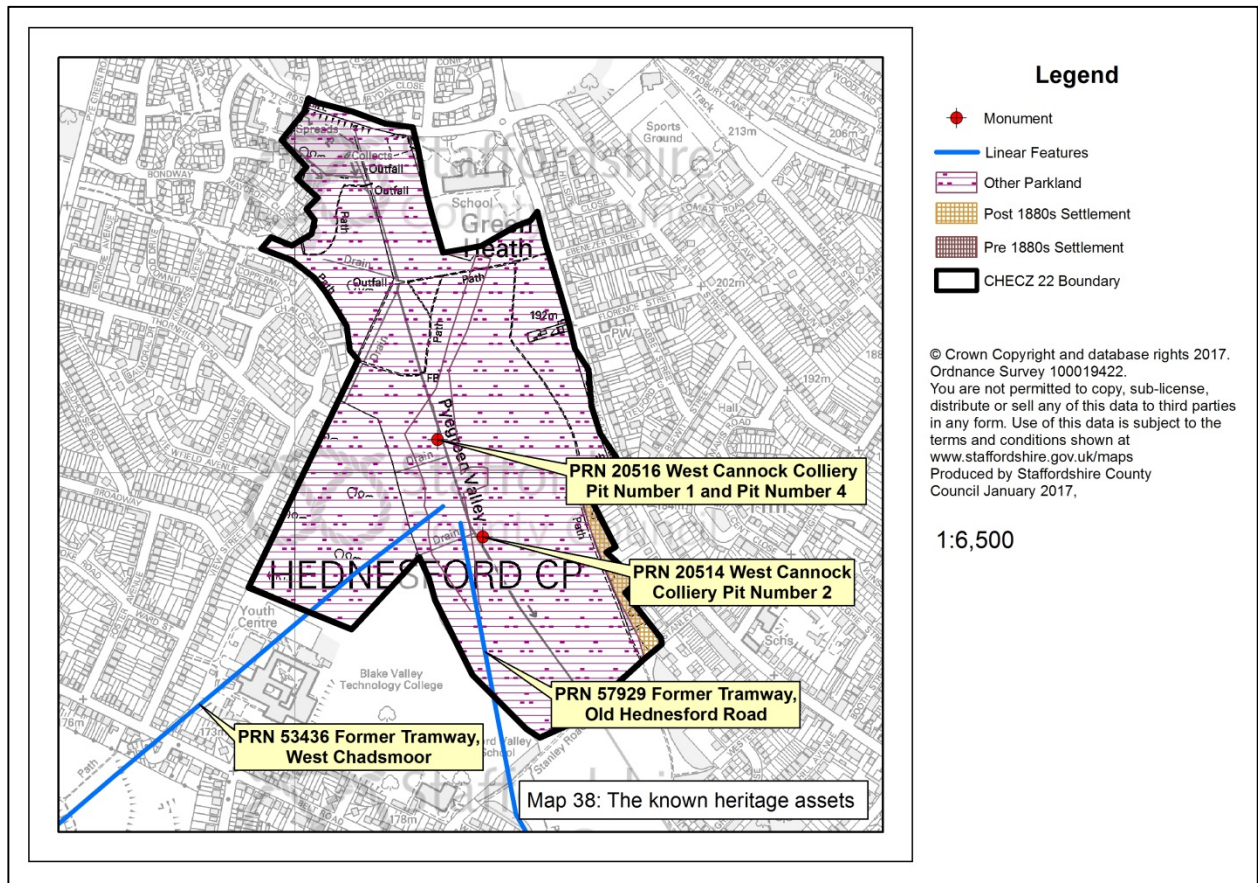
2.2.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

	Description	Score
Survival	The survival of heritage assets, with the possible exception of the former road, has been impacted by the late 20 th century quarrying and later landscaping activity.	1
Potential	The potential for unknown heritage assets to survive has been impacted by the quarrying and later landscaping activity.	1
Documentation	HER Data	1
Diversity	There are very few known heritage assets.	1
Group Association	There are very few heritage assets.	1
Amenity Value	Current knowledge provides limited potential for the historic environment of the zone to contribute to improving public appreciation of the wider area.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The zone is located within a wider sensitive landscape, but its historic character has been impacted by former quarrying.	1
Overall Score		Low

2.2.3 Statement of Significance

The low score reflects the zone's former use as a quarry which has removed much of the historic character and archaeological potential. The line of the former road to the west of the zone may survive as an above-ground feature. The retention of this feature should be considered as part of any proposals, which may be brought forward.

2.3 CHECZ 22: Pye Green Valley (north)



2.3.1 Summary

The zone is located to the north of CHECZ 3: Pye Green Valley and effectively forms an extension of it. Like CHECZ 3, this zone had historically formed part of the West Cannock Colliery and its associated infrastructure of tramways. By the late 19th century these tramways formed part of a network which linked the various individual pits located across the wider Pye Green area (map 38)³.

Pits 1 and 4 of the West Cannock Colliery were located at the centre of the zone and were opened in 1869 and 1878 respectively. Both pits were operational into the 20th century; Pit 1 closed in 1958.

Until the mid-19th century the zone had formed part of Cannock Chase by which date the small settlement of Green Heath existed to the east of the zone; Green Heath has subsequently been subsumed into Hednesford. The former colliery works was levelled in the late 20th century and now forms an area of parkland enclosed by mixed housing developments (map 38).

³ Staffordshire HER: PRN 20516; PRN 53436; and PRN 57929

2.3.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

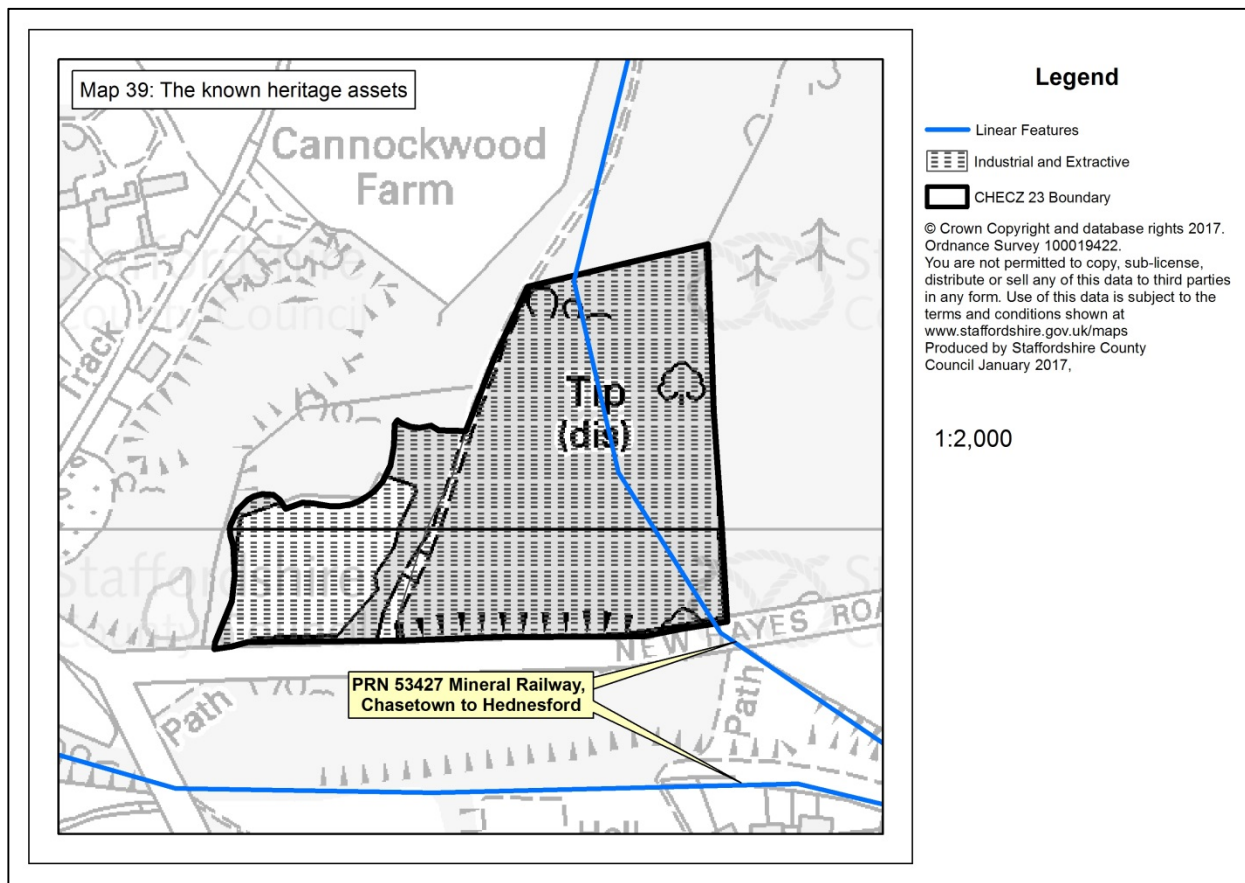
	Description	Score
Survival	The zone has been significantly disturbed by the colliery works and subsequent re-landscaping.	1
Potential	The potential for below ground deposits to survive has been significantly reduced by the colliery. It is not clear to what extent features associated with the colliery, such as the line of the tramways, may survive.	1
Documentation	HER data.	1
Diversity	There are few known heritage assets.	1
Group Association	There are few known heritage assets.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The historic environment of the zone could accommodate medium to large scale development although there may be a requirement to establish whether the line of the tramways survive within the zone as above or below ground features.	1
Overall Score		Low

2.3.3 Statement of Significance

The low score suggests that development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment. However, there would be a need to address the following at an early stage in the development process:

- The impact upon any surviving remains of the colliery or tramway and a strategy for the retention of any features or any other appropriate mitigation as agreed with SCC's Cultural Heritage Team.

2.4 CHECZ 23: North of New Hayes Road



2.4.1 Summary

The zone lies between two others, CHECZ 9 to the north west and CHECZ 24 to the south east and also adjacent to the Cannock Chase AONB. Both CHECZ 9 and CHECZ 24 cover large areas of landscape and have been assessed as being of Moderate and Moderate/High significance respectively.

This zone is small in scale, but its historic land use differs from the two adjacent zones. The historic landscape character of the zone, as shown on map 39, is defined by its historic industrial land use. A brickworks had been established to the west of the trackway by the late 19th century and industrial buildings remained on the site into the early 21st century. Aerial photography taken in 2010 reveals that no industrial buildings survive and that the site had been re-landscaped.

The land to the east of the track was still wooded in the late 19th century, although a mineral railway had been cut through to link various Cannock Chase collieries with the mainline railway at Hednesford⁴. By the 1960s the land had become incorporated into the workings associated with the Cannock and Rugeley Colliery (Cannock Wood Pits); the site now forming the Cannock Wood Industrial Estate⁵. The line of the mineral railway within the zone has been impacted by subsequent colliery workings.

Since the closure of the colliery and the removal of the industrial buildings the land has regenerated with vegetation including scrub.

2.4.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

	Description	Score
Survival	The industrial activity and subsequent re-landscaping will have significantly disturbed any heritage assets.	1
Potential	The potential for currently unknown heritage assets has been reduced due to the former industrial land uses and subsequent re-landscaping.	1
Documentation	HER Data	1
Diversity	There are few known heritage assets.	1
Group Association	There are few known heritage assets.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The historic landscape character is naturally evolving to a vegetated state. Little evidence of the former industrial land use appears to survive. Medium to large scale development is unlikely to impact upon the historic environment.	1
Overall Score		Low

2.4.3 Statement of Significance

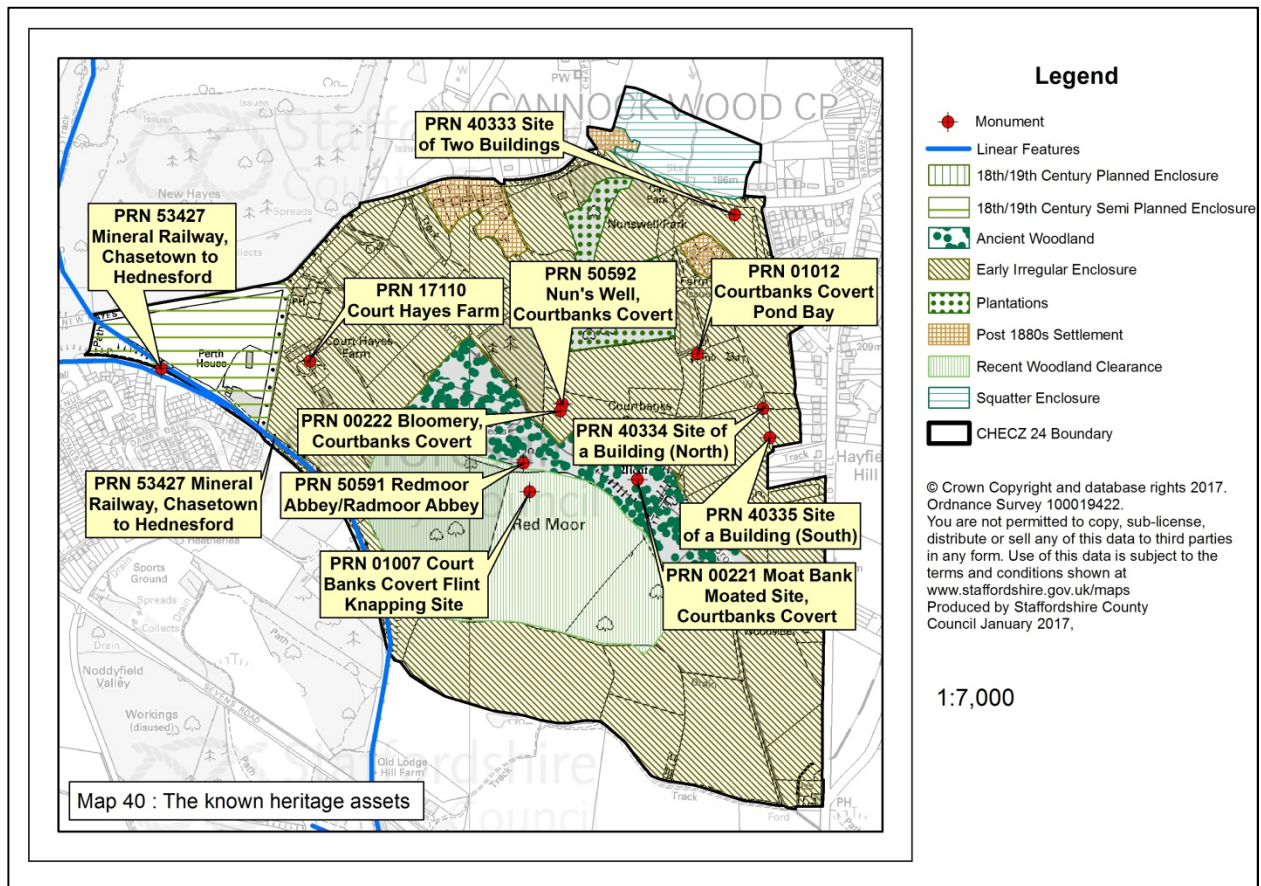
The low score suggests that development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment, although the site lies between two zones of some heritage significance. There would be a need to address the following at an early stage in the development process:

- The impact of development upon the wider historic character of the adjacent zones (CHECZ 9 and CHECZ 24).

⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 53427

⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 20523 (cf. CHECZ 9)

2.5 CHECZ 24: Cannock Wood



2.5.1 Summary

The zone lies within the Cannock Chase AONB and contains a Scheduled Monument 'Moated Site and Bloomery in Courtbanks Covert' which is located towards its centre within and adjacent to an area of ancient woodland (map 40)⁶.

⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00221 and PRN 00222; Historic England: NHLE no. 1003750

The historic landscape character is dominated by small irregular fields, including squatter enclosure, and woodland of varying extent. The field system probably originated in the post medieval period and likely represents encroachments into Cannock Chase. Such enclosure is characteristic of the field patterns around Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw to the east (in Lichfield District). Within the zone the historic field boundaries survive and many are associated with mature hedgerows. The woods comprise ancient woodland lining the Redmoor Brook as well as 20th century plantation; all the woods are incorporated into the name 'Courtbanks Covert'. The area to the south of the ancient woodland was wooded by the late 19th century, but has since been partially cleared (cf. map 40).

The settlement pattern is largely dispersed across the zone, although the majority of buildings are of 20th century date. By the late 19th century very few properties were located within the zone, the exceptions being Court Hayes Farm (which originated as a small linear farmstead and was subsequently extended) and the public house to the north (map 40). To the east of the zone the site of former properties are known from early 19th century mapping⁷.

⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 40333, PRN 40334 and PRN 40335

The name Redmoor first occurs in the mid-12th century and reflects the marshy nature of the land in this area⁸. King Stephen granted land at 'Radmore' to two hermits, who established the Cistercian abbey, in 1141⁹. In 1154 the abbey relocated to Stoneleigh, Warwickshire and the land at Redmoor returned to King Henry II who visited the area in 1155. No physical remains of the abbey have been identified and the steeply sloping site has been considered by one authority to be an unlikely location for an abbey¹⁰. A well-preserved moated site is located within the ancient woodland and this has been associated with documentary references to the 'king's houses and hays' at both Radmore (1159) and Cannock (1156 to 1215)¹¹. By 1230 the Crown no longer seems to have held this land. The moated site is believed to have been used a hunting lodge. A long curving field boundary, lined for much of its length by mature trees, seems to enclose the site to the south, west and north, which is could indicate a former medieval deer enclosure or park associated with the moat. Alternatively it could have enclosed a coppice associated with the site of the medieval bloomery, located to the north of the moated site, which has been identified from large quantities of iron slag, cinder and black earth present in the area¹². The relationship between these two medieval sites is currently unknown.

To the north west of the moated site a pond bay survives as an earthwork. It has been identified as post medieval in origin, but could relate to a fishpond recorded in 1160¹³.

Just to the north of the bloomery site lies the Nun's Well, a rock cut well covered by a brick arch of no earlier than 15th century date, although the site may be of medieval origin¹⁴.

⁸ Horovitz 2005: 450

⁹ Greenslade 1959: 57; Staffordshire HER: PRN 50591

¹⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRN 50591

¹¹ Greenslade 1959: 57

¹² Staffordshire HER: PRN 00222

¹³ Staffordshire HER: PRN 01012

¹⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 50592

Over 600 flint implements found in and around Courtbanks Covert between 1910 and 1917 represent the earliest evidence for human activity within the zone¹⁵. Of these finds 46% were recognisable tools which have been dated to the Mesolithic-Neolithic period. The evidence suggests that this was a locally significant flint working site and this, coupled with the relative proximity of the Redmoor Brook watercourse (c.90m to the north east) does suggest that there is the potential for further evidence of human activity during the late prehistoric period to survive within the vicinity. Furthermore the zone is located approximately 500m to the south of the Scheduled 'Castle Ring Multivallate Hillfort and Medieval Hunting Lodge' which originated in the Iron Age. The hillfort stands at around 235m AOD¹⁶ on a hill overlooking Cannock Wood where evidence for associated activity may survive.

2.5.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

	Description	Score
Survival	Heritage assets are well-preserved within the zone particularly as much of the land has been under pasture.	3
Potential	There is the potential for encountering unknown heritage assets due to the lack of previous disturbance.	3
Documentation	HER Data	1
Diversity	There are a range of heritage assets of various date and character.	3
Group Association	Whilst not proven there are likely to be associations between various features within the zone such as the moat, pond bay and possible boundary. The iron working may also be contemporary and thus associated with all or some of these features. The historic field pattern is associated with dispersed settlement pattern represented by Court Hayes Farm. The close proximity of the extensive Mesolithic/Neolithic flint assemblage to the Redmoor Brook might suggest increased potential for the presence of further temporary or permanent late prehistoric activity sites in the area.	3
Amenity Value	Nunswell Park to the north provides a degree of public access within the zone and elements of this landscape could be interpreted to benefit public appreciation.	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	There are well preserved elements of the historic environment within the zone which could be significantly impacted by large to medium developments. These include the historic character of the field pattern and woodland as well as the setting of the Scheduled Monument.	3
Overall Score		Moderate/High

¹⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 01007

¹⁶ Above Ordnance Datum

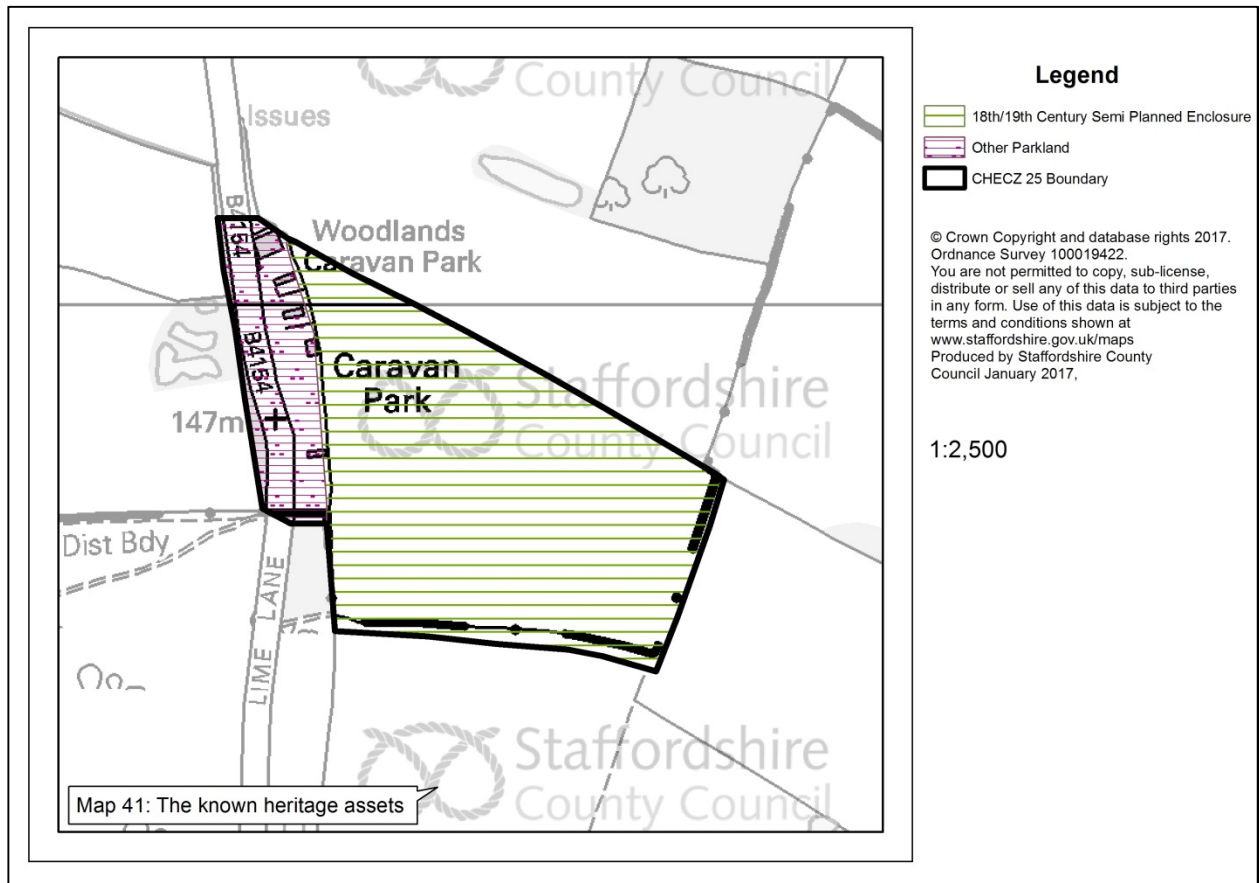
2.5.3 Statement of Significance

Sensitive heritage assets survive within the zone which include the designated Scheduled Monument of the 'moated site and bloomery' but which also include potential associated features such as the pond bay. The presence of a large assemblage of Mesolithic/Neolithic flint tools within the zone could also indicate the presence of a potentially significant late prehistoric site close to the Redmoor Brook. The historic landscape character is also well-preserved with surviving ancient woodland and mature hedgerows associated with a still largely dispersed settlement pattern.

The moderate/high score suggests that significant development would have a considerable impact upon the historic environment. Consequently should development be planned within the zone there would be a need to address the following issues at an early stage in the process:

- The impact upon and mitigation strategies for the historic landscape character and setting of the designated heritage assets. Any development in the zone would need to consider design strategies for retaining or reflecting the local distinctiveness.
- The retention of undesignated features which have the potential to be associated with the medieval or post medieval activity within the zone e.g. the pond bay and historic hedgerows.
- A strategy for assessing the potential impacts upon archaeological features, both known and unknown, and any consequent mitigation required. Such archaeological considerations should include, but not be limited to, the demonstrable potential for prehistoric and medieval activity.

2.6 CHECZ 25: North of Pelsall Wood



2.6.1 Summary

This small zone is located within a wider landscape whose historic character is defined by small rectilinear fields which were probably established in the 18th-19th century (map 41). A comparison of the late 19th century 6" OS maps and the modern aerial photography reveals that field boundaries have been lost, but the overall pattern and surviving historic hedgerows continue to make a positive contribution to the historic character of this rural landscape.

The zone is located adjacent to Pelsall Wood (or Pelsall Common North), in Walsall Council, which survives as an area of heathland where industrial processes (coal mining and an iron foundry) had been established by the mid-19th century. This common may represent the survival of part of the once extensive Cannock Forest, which in the medieval period may have incorporated this zone.

2.6.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

	Description	Score
Survival	The historic character of the wider landscape is well preserved and historic hedgerows survive within the zone. The zone is relatively undisturbed from previous development/agricultural activities.	3
Potential	The lack of previous impact raises the potential for unknown heritage assets to survive where they may exist.	3
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	There are few known heritage assets.	1
Group Association	There are few known heritage assets.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	Large to medium scale development could impact upon the wider historic character, particularly where this may result in the loss of historic field boundaries.	2
Overall Score		Low/moderate

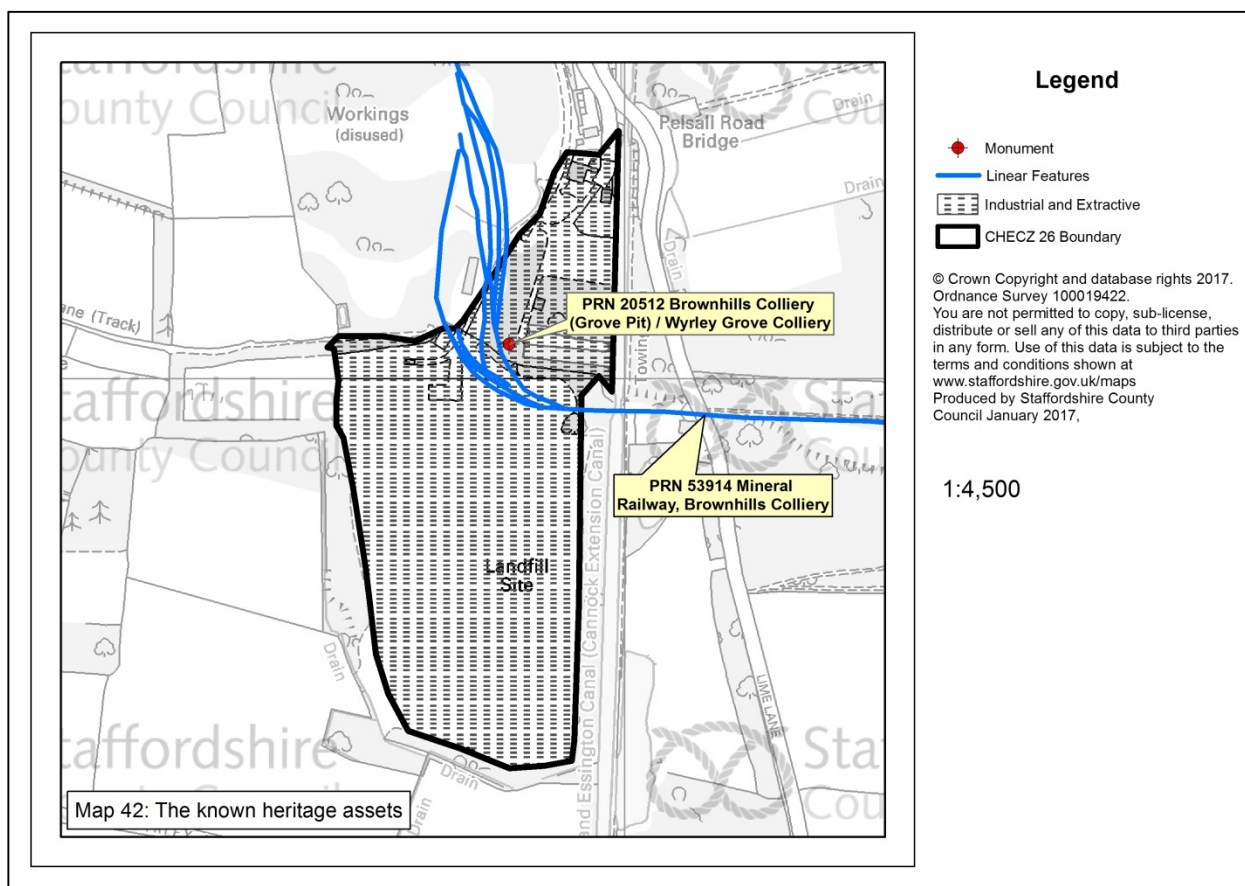
2.6.3 Statement of Significance

The low/moderate score reflects a lack of information regarding the historic environment of this landscape, although the historic landscape character is well preserved.

Consequently should development be planned within the zone there would be a need to address the following issues at an early stage in the process:

- The impact upon and mitigation strategies for the historic landscape character and to avoid the loss of historic field boundaries.

2.7 CHECZ 26: Pelsall Road



2.7.1 Summary

The zone lies to the south of CHECZ 17: South of Norton Canes and CHECZ 19: Commonsides & Wyrley Common which have been identified as scoring Low/Moderate and Moderate/High respectively.

This small zone is defined by the extent of the former Brownhills Colliery (Grove Pit) which existed on this site between 1869 and 1952¹⁷. The colliery was linked to the Norton Canes branch line railway by a mineral railway constructed in the mid-late 19th century¹⁸. The line of the tramway, and any surviving colliery features, are likely to have been removed by subsequent activity upon the site which has included backfilling and landscaping to form a level grassed area.

¹⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 20512

¹⁸ Staffordshire HER: PRN 53914

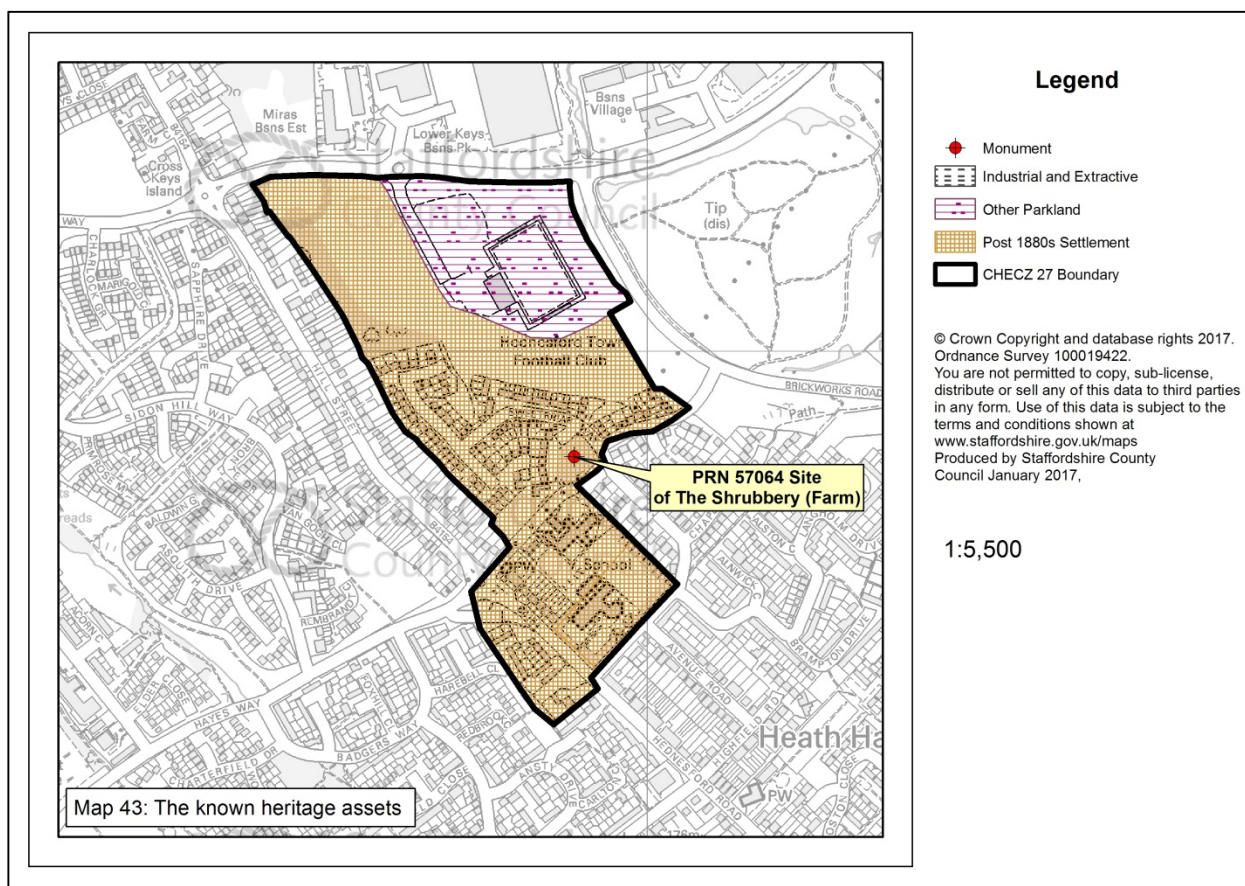
2.7.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

	Description	Score
Survival	The survival of heritage assets is likely to have been significantly disturbed by the colliery and later restoration works.	1
Potential	The potential for encountering unknown heritage assets has been significantly impacted by previous land use and restoration.	1
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	There are few known heritage assets.	1
Group Association	The known heritage assets were associated with the 19 th century coal mining industry.	2
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	Large to medium scale development is unlikely to have an impact upon the historic character of the zone.	1
Overall Score		Low

2.7.3 Statement of Significance

The historic environment has been significantly impacted by 20th century activity upon the site associated with the colliery and subsequent restoration works. This is reflected in the low score. However, should medium to large scale development be proposed the design process should take account of the historic environment sensitives in the adjacent CHECZ 17 and CHECZ 19.

2.8 CHECZ 27: Hednesford



2.8.1 Summary

The zone is dominated by post-war housing estates and associated infrastructure, which extended to the west, south and east beyond the zone (map 43). The northern portion is dominated by the Hednesford Town Football Club ground, although open undeveloped land survives around it.

Prior to the housing development the zone was open farmland, comprising small fields identified as post medieval piecemeal enclosure which had been created incrementally out of medieval open fields. By the late 19th century a small farmstead had been established at the southern end of the zone. This was probably demolished as part of the housing expansion, although the site does survive today as a small copse.

Heathland still extended to the eastern edge of the zone in the late 18th century, at which date coal mining existed within the wider landscape, although the precise location and nature of the earliest phases of this important local industry are unknown.

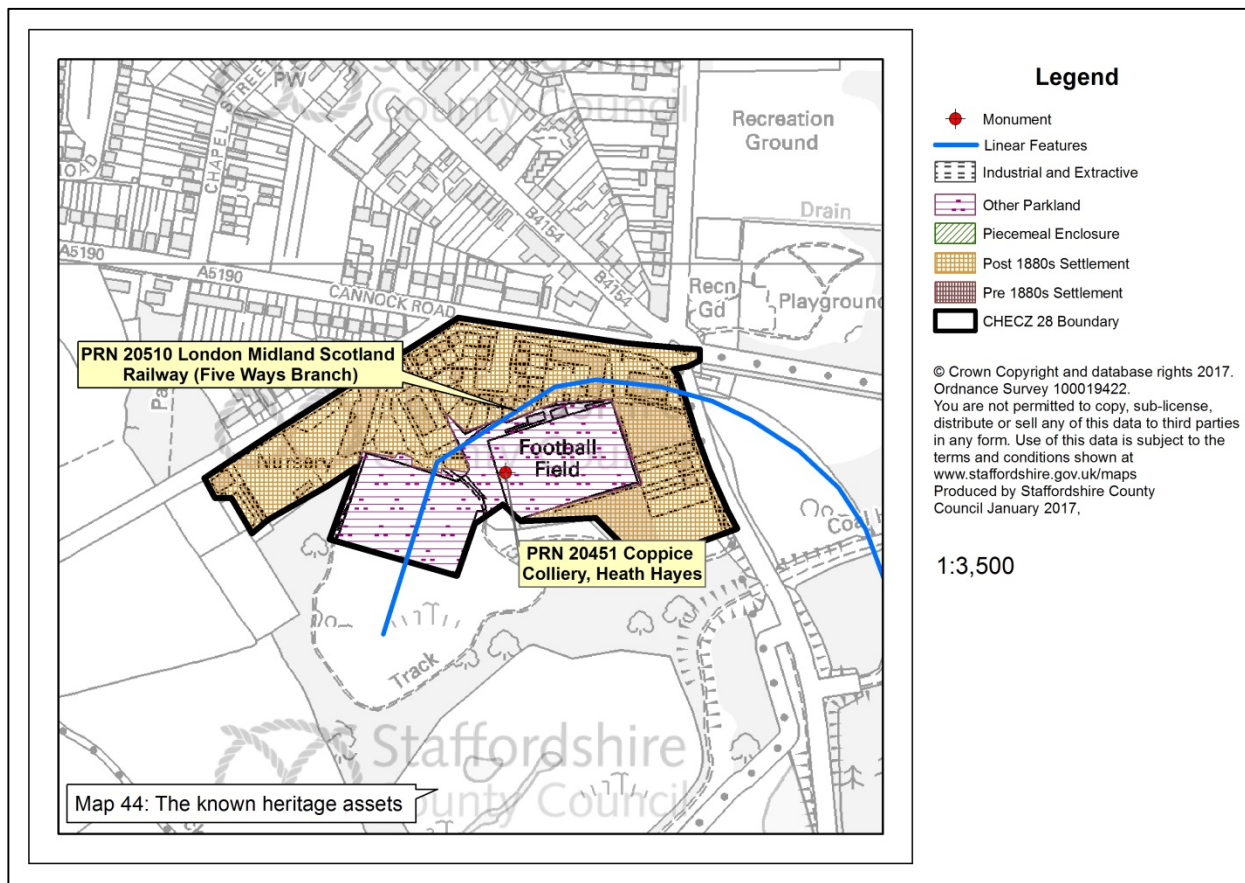
2.8.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

	Description	Score
Survival	The zone has mostly been impacted by previous development, but areas of undeveloped land also survive.	2
Potential	There is the potential for above and below ground archaeological remains to survive within the zone in those areas not previously developed.	2
Documentation	HER Data	1
Diversity	There are few known heritage assets.	1
Group Association	There are few known heritage assets.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The zone lies within an area of previous housing expansion and the historic landscape character is not deemed to be sensitive to further change.	1
Overall Score		Low

2.8.3 Statement of Significance

The low score reflects the zone's modern built character and lack of understanding of the earlier human activity in the wider area.

2.9 CHECZ 28: South of Heath Hayes



2.9.1 Summary

The zone is dominated by post war housing development and football fields (map 44). Prior to the late 19th century the zone had formed part of Cannock Chase, which had been created out of Cannock Forest, in the medieval period. The landscape was dominated by heath land until the mid-late 19th century when two Acts of Enclosure were passed; Cannock (1868) and Norton Canes (1870). The zone is located within the heath land which was enclosed as part of the Norton Canes Act, although it is unclear whether it was ever put to agricultural use. Certainly by the turn of the 20th century the Coppice Colliery had been established within and to the south of the zone¹⁹. The colliery remained operational until 1964. The Five Ways branch line was established to serve the colliery in the late 19th century²⁰.

¹⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 20451

²⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRN 20510

The historic core of Heath Hayes, formerly Five Ways, is located immediately to the north of the zone. This settlement was established following the Act of Enclosure as a mining village, which by the 1880s comprised rows of cottages, the Five Ways Inn and two Methodist Chapels built alongside existing principal roads as well as new minor roads. The settlement continued to growth throughout the 20th century.

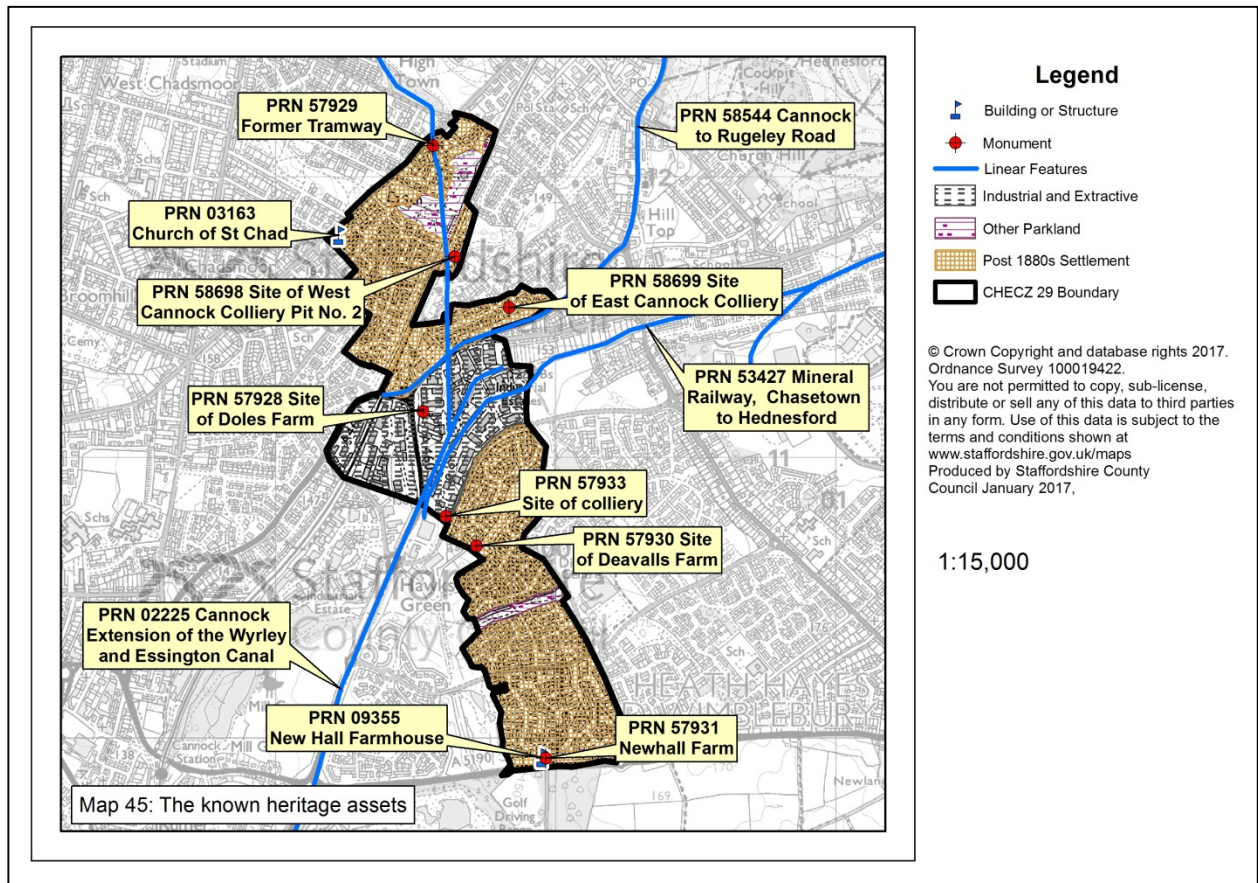
2.9.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

	Description	Score
Survival	The zone has been previously impacted by the colliery and later housing development.	1
Potential	The potential for encountering unknown archaeological remains has been significantly impacted by the current and previous land use.	1
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	There are few known heritage assets.	1
Group Association	There are few known heritage assets.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The zone lies within an area of previous housing expansion and the historic landscape character is not deemed to be sensitive to further change.	1
Overall Score		Low

2.9.3 Statement of Significance

The low score reflects the zone's modern built character and previous land use.

2.10 CHECZ 29: Hawks Green and Chadsmoor



2.10.1 Summary

The zone is dominated by the suburban growth of Cannock to the north and settlement development along the Riding Brook Valley during the post-war period. Within the zone the valley is lined by industrial estates of later 20th century date (map 45).

The housing estates were mostly constructed across farmland comprising a post medieval piecemeal enclosure pattern, which had been created incrementally out of medieval open fields. These open fields were probably associated with the market town of Cannock located to the south west. The northern portion of the zone formed part of the heathland of Cannock Chase until the late 18th-19th century.

The earliest known building within the zone is the Grade II Listed Newhall Farm which dates to the late 18th century (map 45)²¹. A number of the adjacent farm buildings have been incorporated into the Newhall Farm Inn²². There was little other settlement in the zone until the post-war period with the exception of Newhall Farm and two further farmsteads²³. These two further farmsteads were small isolated complexes which may have originated as small-holdings where the occupiers pursued a secondary occupation, which within this landscape may have been mining. The earliest coal mines within the zone appear to have been abandoned prior to the 1880s, although little further is known of their history²⁴.

In circa 1870 mining companies established two pits adjacent to the Ridings Brook valley, the East Cannock Colliery and the West Cannock Colliery Pit no. 2²⁵. Other than a row of 10 cottages which once stood to the south of East Cannock Colliery no dwellings appear to have been constructed for the workers within the immediate vicinity of the works. The majority of the 19th century settlement expansion occurred beyond this zone.

Transportation links influenced the earlier history of the zone. The principal road linking Cannock and Rugeley is likely to have at least medieval origins²⁶. The Cannock Extension of the Wyrley and Essington Canal was constructed in the 1850s to transport coal from the collieries near Hednesford to the main canal at Pelsall Wood to the south²⁷. The presence of this canal may have influenced the location of the two colliery pits²⁸. They both developed tramways to link the works into the wider transportation network. By the mid-19th century this network included the main line railway, which survives to the north of the zone, and its branch line (Norton) since dismantled²⁹. The canal and the small tramways have been lost to later development.

²¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 09355; NHLE no. 1344628

²² Staffordshire HER: PRN 57931

²³ Staffordshire HER: PRN 57930 and PRN 57928

²⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 57933

²⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 58698 and PRN 58699

²⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 58544

²⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 02225

²⁸ Staffordshire HER: PRN 53427 and PRN 57929

²⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 20508

2.10.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

	Description	Score
Survival	The zone has been impacted by post war residential and industrial development.	1
Potential	The potential for encountering unknown archaeological remains has been significantly impacted by the current and previous land use.	1
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	The heritage assets are associated with earlier agricultural activity and 19 th – 20 th century coal mining.	1
Group Association	There are associations between the history of the coal mining and the transportation network.	2
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The zone lies within an area of previous housing expansion and the historic landscape character is not deemed to be sensitive to further change.	1
Overall Score		Low

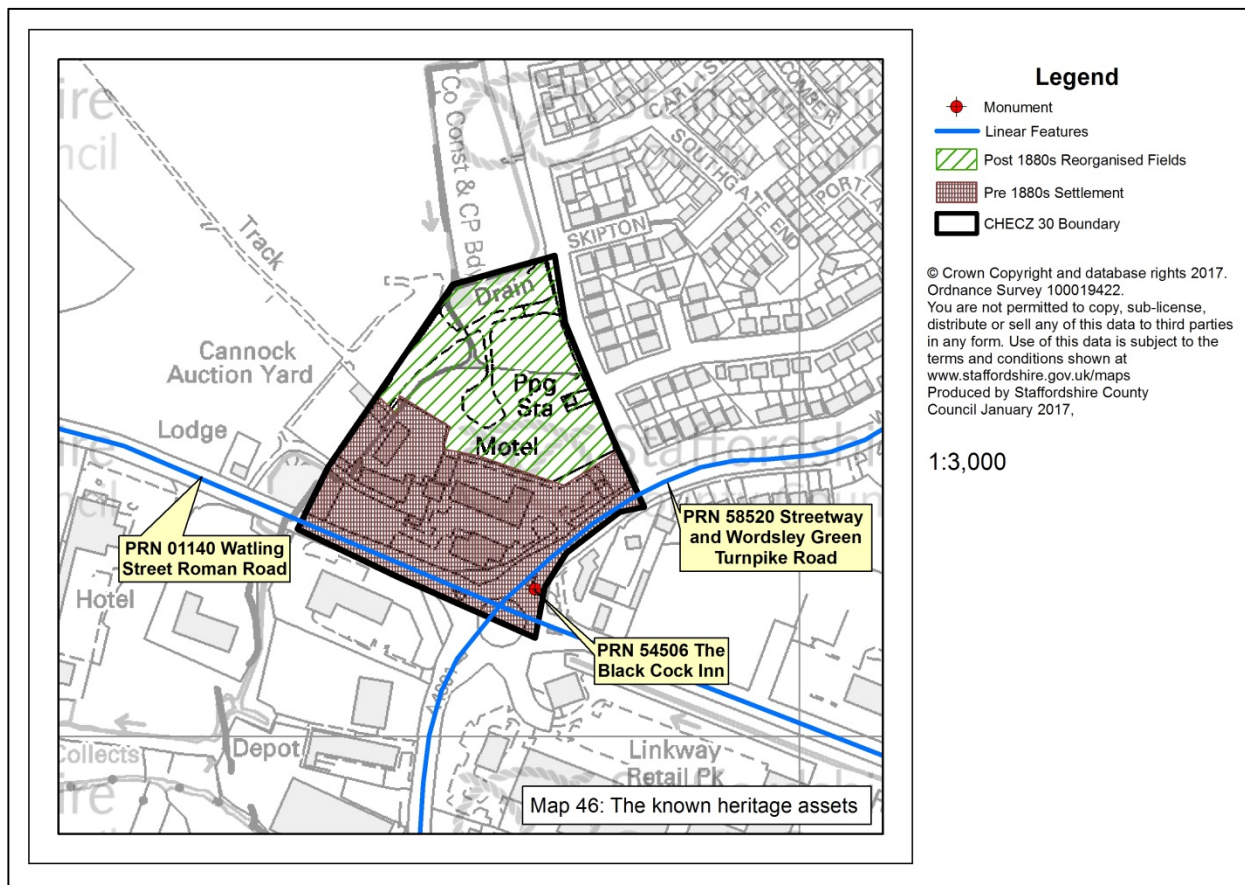
2.10.3 Statement of Significance

The low score reflects the expansion of the post-war residential and industrial development which has obscured any surviving evidence for the earlier historic landscape with the exception of the Grade II Listed farmhouse.

Consequently should development be planned within the zone there would be a need to address the following issues at an early stage in the process:

- If relevant any impacts to the setting of the Grade II Listed building should be taken into account.

2.11 CHECZ 30: Watling Street



2.11.1 Summary

The zone is dominated by the former Longford House and its associated farmstead ('Pre-1880s Settlement' on map 46). The property was converted to a restaurant in the late 20th century and a hotel has been built to the north. Little is known about the history of Longford House other than it was occupied by Bernard Gilpin in 1896³⁰. The Gilpin family had established an edge tool works at Wedges Mill to the south, beyond the zone, circa 1790, and opened a larger works at Churchbridge, to the south east, in 1806³¹. The late 19th century OS map shows that an icehouse once stood to the rear of the property where the hotel now stands.

³⁰ Kelly's Directory 1896

³¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 03687 (not depicted on map 46)

The zone lies at a significant road junction. The east-west route is Watling Street (modern A5), one of the principal Roman roads which linked London to Wroxeter (*Viriconium*); the latter having been the fourth largest city in Roman Britain³². The location of the road through the zone raises the potential for archaeological remains to survive associated with the significance of this route during the Roman period. The route maintained its significance throughout the following centuries and in 1766 23 miles of Watling Street, linking Newport, Shropshire with Stonnall near Lichfield, was established as a turnpike road³³.

The roughly north-south route (now the A4601 Wolverhampton Road) was established as a turnpike road by 1761 linking Stourbridge with Cannock, via Wolverhampton³⁴. The significance of the junction during the height of the coaching era, even pre-dating the turnpikes, is highlighted by the location of the 'Black Cock Inn' which stood at this junction³⁵. The Inn was reportedly established in 1717 and whilst its precise location is unknown it probably stood to the north east of the former crossroads on a site which now forms part of the enlarged road junction.

The northern portion of the zone still forms part of a field system which extends westwards beyond the zone. The field pattern has seen considerable alteration during the 20th century with the removal of many internal boundaries. It had probably originally been enclosed in the post medieval period, possibly from an area of medieval open fields (map 46).

³² Staffordshire HER: PRN 01140

³³ Staffordshire HER: PRN 58509

³⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 58520

³⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 54506

2.11.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

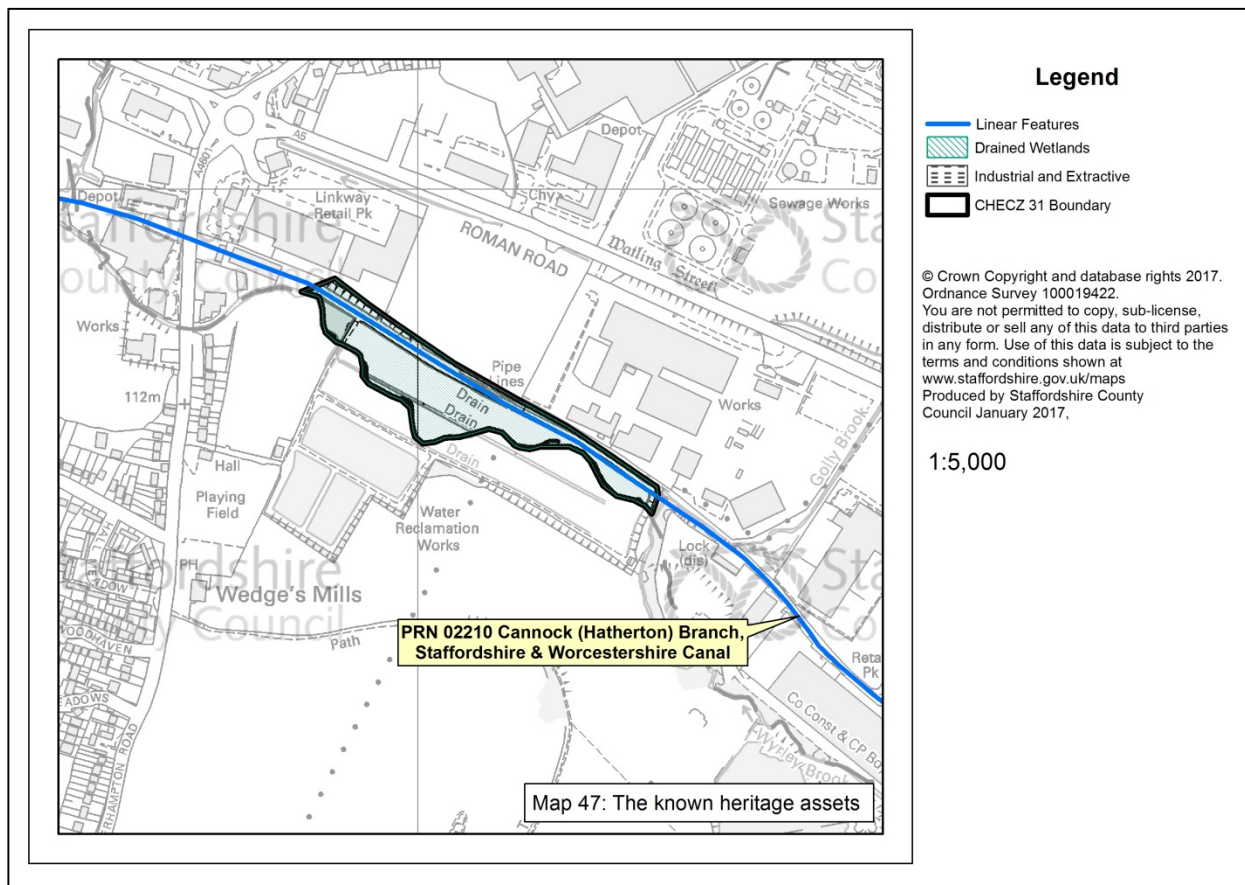
	Description	Score
Survival	The built heritage of the zone mostly survives, although with some changes to its setting and condition. The northern portion of the zone has not been previously developed, although subject to arable cultivation, raising the potential for currently unknown below ground archaeological remains to survive.	2
Potential	There is the potential for currently unknown archaeological remains to survive particularly in areas not previously developed.	2
Documentation	HER Data	1
Diversity	The zone is not defined by a wide diversity of heritage assets; those which are known are of 18 th -19 th century origin, which reflects the history and character of the wider landscape.	2
Group Association	There are associations between the transport links in particular which may also have influenced the location of Longford House.	2
Amenity Value	Longford House is currently a public house and restaurant. There are opportunities to promote the history of the property and the area, but little is currently known about the precise history of the building.	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The historic landscape character of the zone has been witness to change within the 20 th century including the widening of the road junction, the construction of the hotel, conversion of Longford House and the field boundary loss. There are local sensitivities depending upon the nature of any development which may be proposed.	2
Overall Score		Moderate

2.11.3 Statement of Significance

The historic environment of the zone is dominated by the built heritage represented by Longford House and its associated outbuildings. The zone has been witness to incremental changes as noted above including the construction of the road roundabout and modern buildings to the rear of Longford House. The moderate score reflects the sensitivities to the built heritage and consequently the following should be taken into account at an early stage:

- Impact upon the historic buildings. Any loss of historic buildings may require mitigation in the form of a record. Designs should seek to complement the surviving historic character of the zone.
- The potential for surviving archaeological features can be decided upon a site-by-site basis and where deemed appropriate an archaeological condition will be advised for any resulting planning permission.

2.12 CHECZ 31: Wedges Mills



2.12.1 Summary

This small zone is located immediately adjacent to Historic Urban Character Area (HUCA) 16: South of Watling Street of the Cannock Extensive Urban Survey (EUS)³⁶. The zone is distinct from HUCA 16 in that it more closely reflects the historic character of the landscape to the south which remains predominantly rural in character.

³⁶ Staffordshire County Council 2009b

The historic character is recorded as 'Drained Wetlands' (cf. map 47) and a network of drains are visible on aerial photography of the zone. These drains were probably associated with the realignment of the Saredon/Wyrley Brook whose historic course still defines the parish and district council boundaries to the south. The brook was realigned to the north, marked by zone boundary, in the later 20th century utilising the former route of the Churchbridge branch of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal³⁷. The branch canal was opened in 1860 to link the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal to the Cannock Branch of the Wyrley and Essington Canal via the Churchbridge Locks. This network of canals was backfilled in the mid-20th century. A lock is marked on the late 19th century OS map located within the zone.

The zone is located approximately 150m to the south of the Watling Street Roman road which linked London to Wroxeter (*Viriconium*) the latter being the fourth largest city in Roman Britain³⁸. The location of the road through the zone raises the potential for archaeological remains to survive associated with the significance of this route during the Roman period.

2.12.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

	Description	Score
Survival	The zone is generally undisturbed by previous development, although the realignment of the brook has altered the historic character of this water course.	2
Potential	The lack of previous development within the zone raises the potential for below ground archaeological remains to survive. The realignment of the brook to the former course of the canal in the zone raises the potential for structural remains to survive.	3
Documentation	HER Data	1
Diversity	There are too few known heritage assets within the zone.	1
Group Association	There are too few known heritage assets within the zone.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The zone retains its overall rural character, which is reflected in the landscape to the south. The individual elements of the zone mostly relate to 20 th century change in the realignment of the brook and the creation of the drainage channels.	2
Overall Score		Low/Moderate

³⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 02210

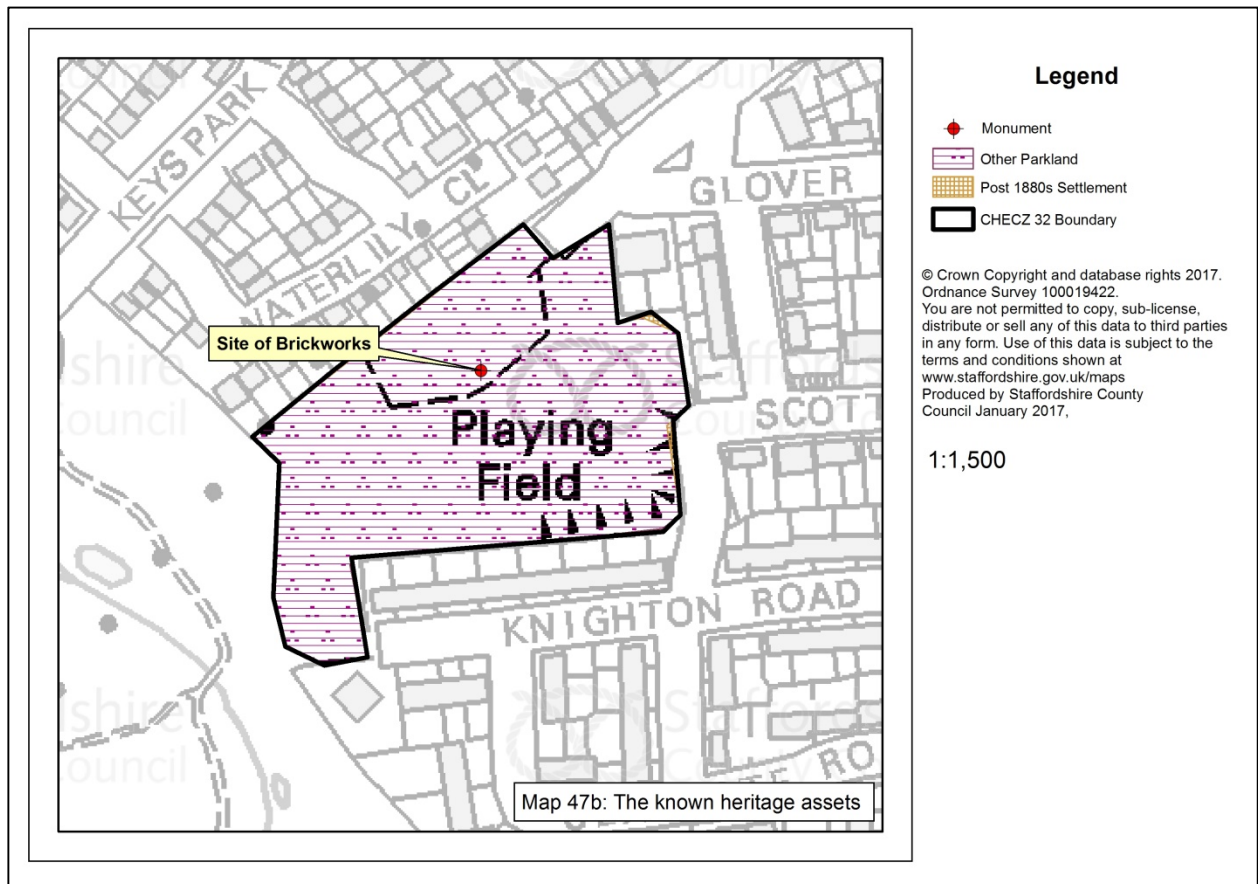
³⁸ Staffordshire HER: PRN 01140

2.12.3 Statement of Significance

The low/moderate score reflects the potential for archaeological remains to survive particularly associated with the former branch canal. Should development be proposed within the zone it should take into account the following at an early stage:

- The potential impacts upon known and unknown archaeological features, including any above ground features, to inform a mitigation strategy.

2.13 CHECZ 32: Wimblebury



2.13.1 Summary

This small zone comprises a late 20th century playing field and the site of a mid-20th century working men's club and church hall (map 47b). The zone is surrounded to the north, east and south by late 20th century housing development. To the west the land is being managed as the 'Old Brickworks Nature Reserve' which is located upon the site of a former brickworks which existed between the 1930s and 1970s³⁹.

By the 1880s the zone was the site of a small brickworks; historic mapping shows a number of structures including a large rectangular building. All structures associated with the brickworks had been demolished by 1917⁴⁰. A degree of landscaping has been undertaken across the site probably to form the playing fields.

A larger brickworks had existed to the north until the late 19th century. The series of brickworks which occupied this landscape between the 19th century and the 1970s is indicative of the rate

³⁹ Cannock Chase Council 2016

⁴⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRN 58766

of growth of the string of settlements across the former Chase associated in particular with the local coal mining industry.

One of these brickworks may have produced the bricks from which the original settlement at Wimblebury was constructed in the mid-late 19th century to the east of the zone; the houses here were entirely rebuilt in the later 20th century.

2.13.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

	Description	Score
Survival	Earthworks associated with the former brickworks are likely to have been levelled to create the playing field. Some below ground remains of the structures may survive.	2
Potential	There is some potential to encounter evidence for 19 th and early 20 th century brickworks, but this industrial activity is likely to have removed any evidence for earlier activity which may have existed across the site.	2
Documentation	HER Data	1
Diversity	There are too few known heritage assets within the zone.	1
Group Association	There are too few known heritage assets within the zone.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The historic character of the zone is dominated by late 20 th century playing fields which is surrounded by associated housing development is not deemed to be sensitive to further change.	1
Overall Score		Low

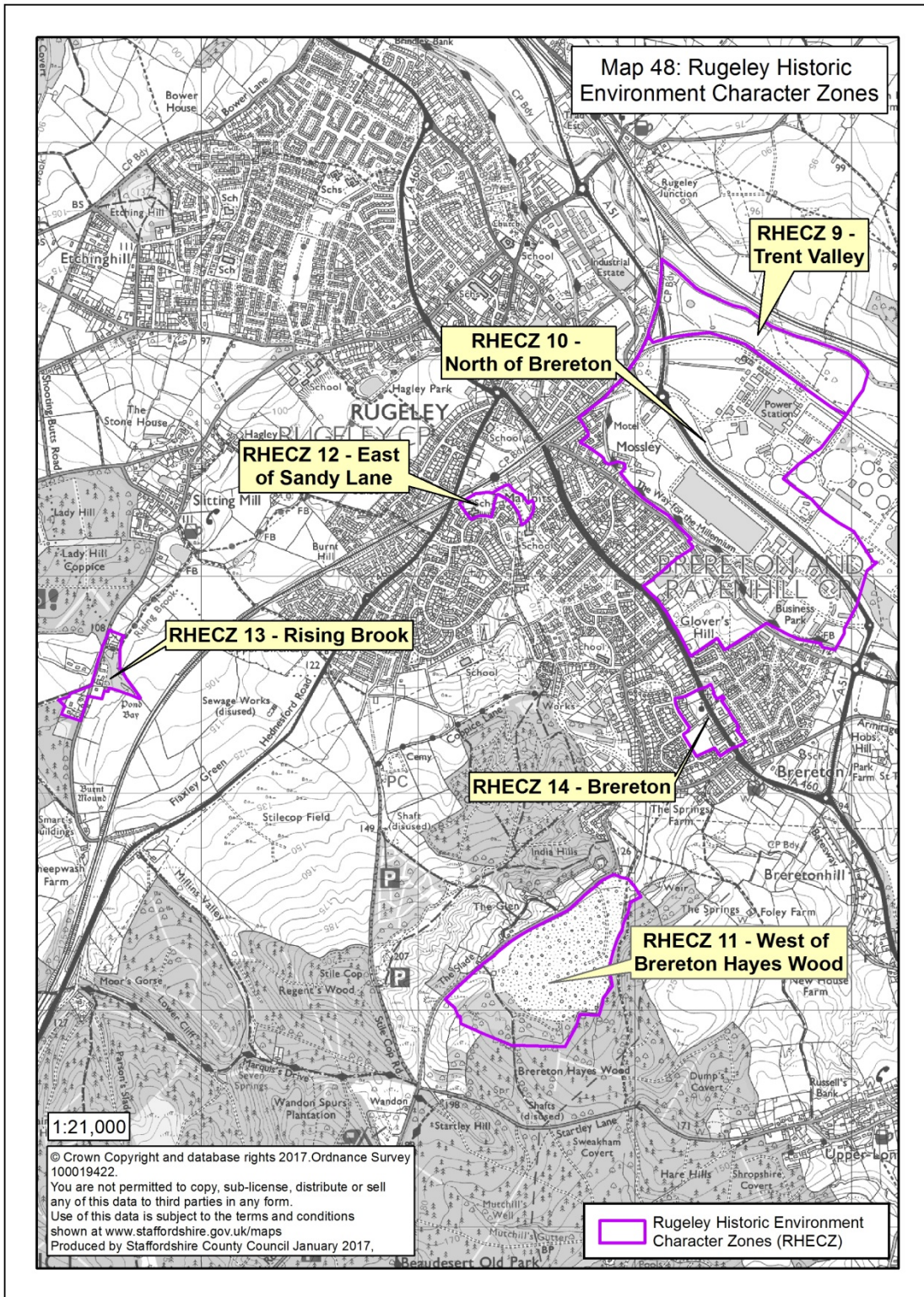
2.13.3 Statement of Significance

The low score reflects the location of the zone in an area of post-war residential expansion. Former industrial uses are likely to have removed earlier archaeological remains. Landscaping associated with the playing field will have impacted upon the remains of the 19th century brickworks, although some below-ground remains may survive.

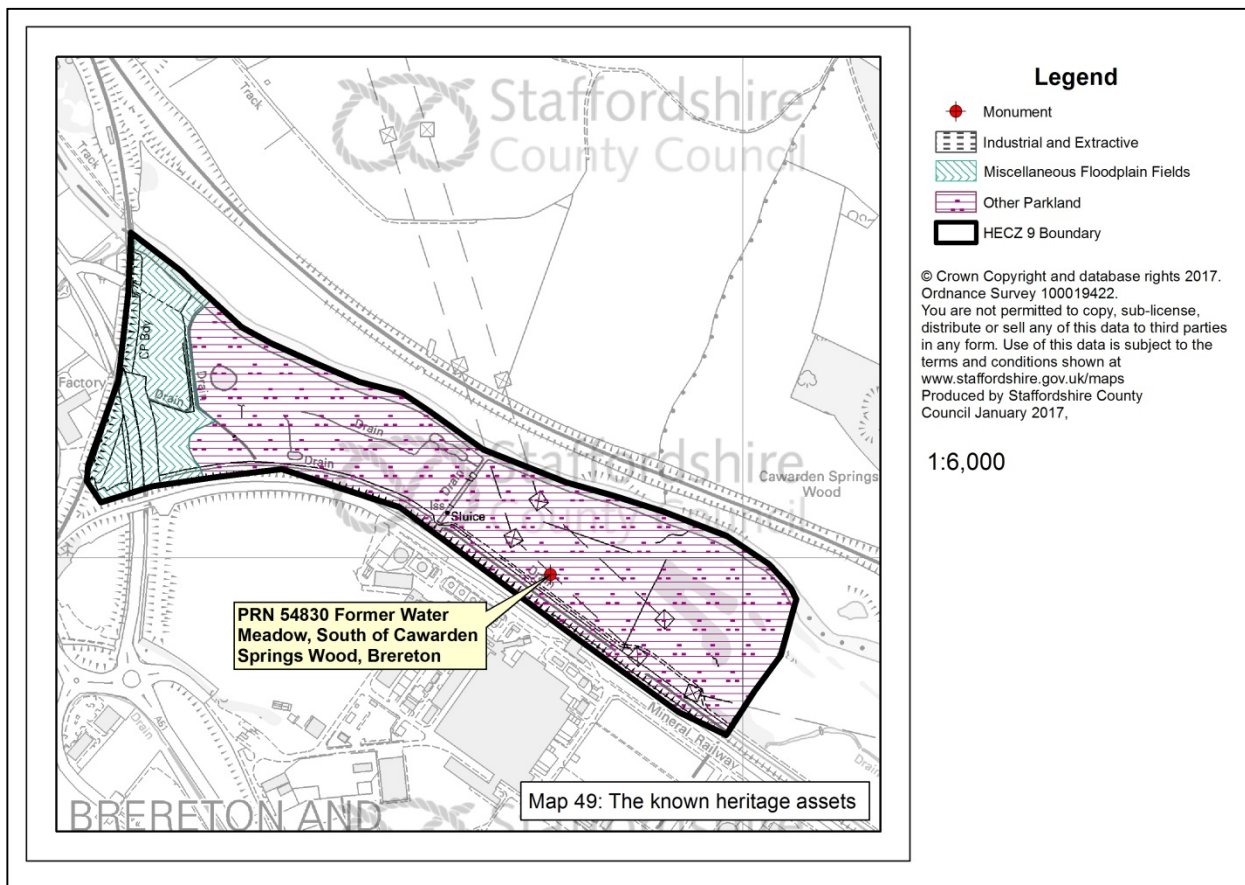
Consequently should development be planned within the zone there would be a need to address the following issues at an early stage in the process:

- The potential impacts upon known and unknown archaeological features to inform a mitigation strategy.

3 Rugeley



3.1 RHECZ 9: Trent Valley



3.1.1 Summary

The zone is located on the southern banks of the River Trent where a golf course was laid out during the late 20th century ('Other Parkland' on map 49). Historically this landscape had been dominated by water meadows probably created in the 18th-early 19th century, which extended beyond the zone⁴¹. Late 19th century OS mapping marks the location of associated infrastructure for the meadows comprising the main drains, five sluices and a footbridge. The principal drain to the west survives as an active watercourse. The landscaping works associated with the golf course have created new drains linking modern ponds; a number of historic drains have been backfilled although others do appear to survive as earthworks. The extent to which the historic sluices and the earthwork remains of the panes survive is unknown.

To the west map 49 depicts an area of surviving valley fields systems, but the 2006 aerial photography of the zone reveals that this area has also been subject to ground disturbance.

⁴¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 54830

The Trent Valley within Staffordshire is recognised as an area of high archaeological potential with evidence for significant prehistoric to early medieval activity having been previously excavated within the valley. Whilst no archaeological sites are currently recorded within the zone significant sites, notably a Neolithic causewayed enclosure, have been identified on aerial photographs to the east. Further sensitive deposits may survive buried beneath alluvial deposits within the zone.

3.1.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

	Description	Score
Survival	There has been a degree of impact from the landscaping of the golf course during the later 20 th century.	2
Potential	There is the potential for above and below ground archaeological remains to survive associated with the water meadow system. There is also the potential for currently unknown prehistoric and Roman remains to survive sealed beneath the alluvium.	3
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	There is little known diversity of heritage assets either by character or chronologically.	1
Group Association	There are a limited range of known heritage assets, but what is known extends over most of the zone.	2
Amenity Value	The heritage assets do not currently lend themselves to public display or visitor attraction. There is currently no public access.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The historic character of the zone has been impacted by landscaping for the golf course, although a number of features associated with the earlier water meadows survive. Such features could be incorporated into future landscaping strategies.	1
Overall Score		Low/Moderate

3.1.3 Statement of Significance

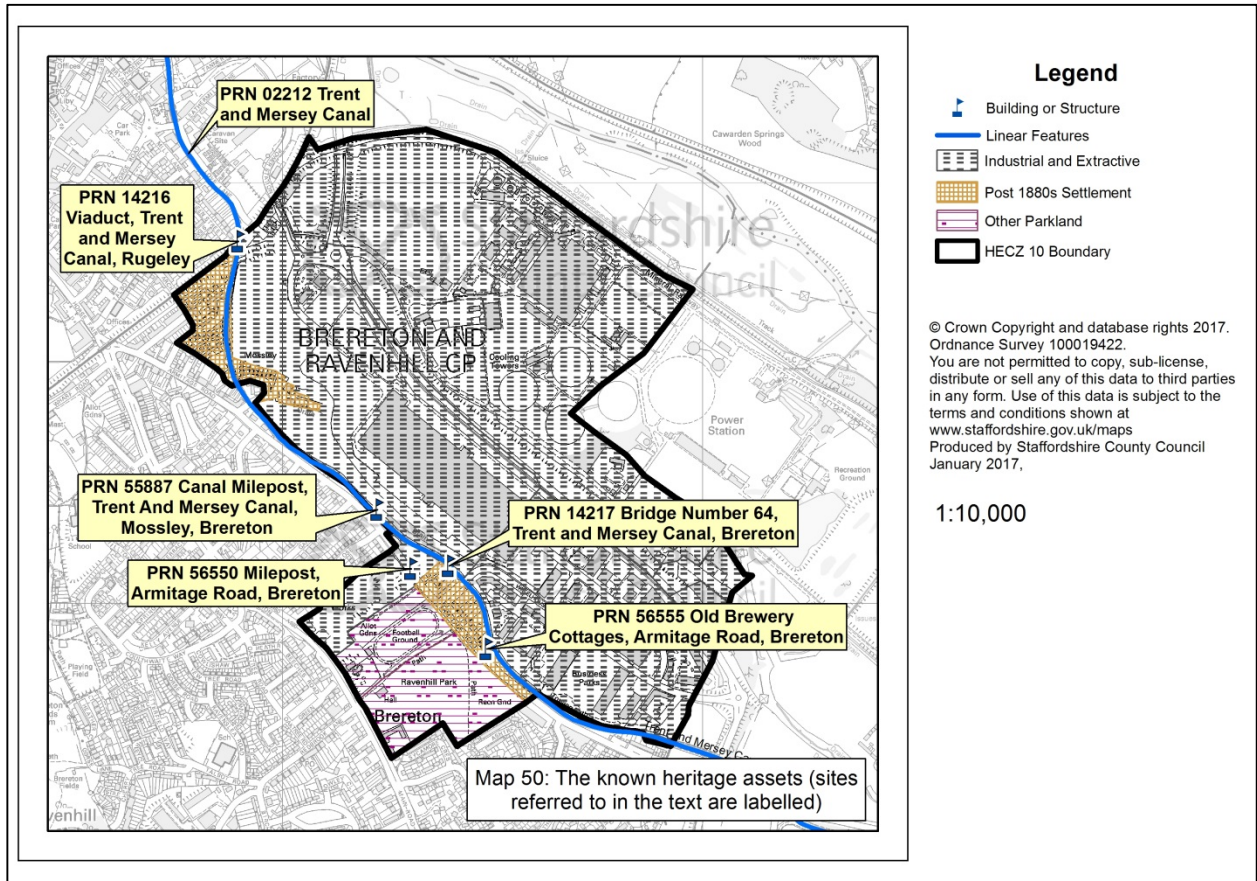
Water meadows are of regional significance associated with a range of agricultural improvements which occurred during the post medieval period. Within the zone the survival of these features has been comprised to a degree by the creation of the golf course, although a number of drains clearly survive. There also remains the potential for other features associated with the water meadow to survive, which are not apparent on the aerial photographs.

Taking into account the site's location within the Trent Valley there remains the potential for prehistoric, Roman and early medieval archaeology to survive sealed beneath the alluvium, which may not necessarily have been significantly disturbed by later activity. Where such sites survive there also remains the potential for the presence of waterlogged deposits containing palaeoenvironmental remains.

The Low/Moderate score reflects the potential for proposals to have an impact upon elements of the historic environment. Should development be planned within the zone it is recommended that the following issues be addressed at an early stage in the process:

- The potential impacts upon known and unknown archaeological features, including any above ground water meadow features, to inform a mitigation strategy.

3.2 RHECZ 10: North of Brereton



3.2.1 Summary

The zone is dominated by post-war development principally of large industrial buildings, including the Rugeley Power Station, and an industrial estate (map 50). These are principally separated from the post-war housing development to the south of the zone by the Trent and Mersey Canal⁴². The housing comprises ribbon development along Armitage Road, principally comprising detached properties, and part of a small housing estate to the north west. These dwellings form the edge of a large area of post-war housing which extends south and south westwards from the zone. Also included in the zone is Ravenhill Park, comprising a recreation ground and sports facilities, which was established to provide local leisure opportunities for the residents of the housing estates.

⁴² Staffordshire HER: PRN 02212

The canal, whose entire length is designated as a Conservation Area, was constructed by the eminent engineers James Brindley and Hugh Henshall and opened in 1771⁴³. Three of the known heritage assets within the zone are directly associated with the canal:

- Grade II Listed viaduct dating to the mid-19th century⁴⁴
- Grade II Listed Bridge Number 64, a late 18th century accommodation bridge⁴⁵
- Canal milepost proposed for inclusion on the emerging local list⁴⁶

The line of a 19th century turnpike road connecting Rugeley and Alrewas is also recorded, which took the route of the extant Armitage Road⁴⁷. Associated with the turnpike is a late 19th century milepost (a candidate for local listing) which gives the distances to Armitage, Handsacre, Kings Bromley, Lichfield, Alrewas, Rugeley and Stafford⁴⁸.

A cluster of two-storey brick-built cottages survive between the Trent and Mersey Canal and the former turnpike route (Armitage Road), which have been dated to the early 19th century⁴⁹. These cottages stand within the Trent and Mersey Conservation Area and are candidates for the emerging local list. They were probably constructed circa 1815 as accommodation for the employees of an adjacent iron foundry. The iron foundry had been converted to a brewery by 1834. This complex contains the oldest surviving buildings within the zone.

The post-war development of the area had been constructed over a variety of field systems. Those which were located to the west of the zone were predominantly piecemeal in form suggesting that they were created incrementally out of the medieval open field system which formed the agricultural hinterland of Rugeley, to the west, and Brereton, to the south. Further east the fields were rectilinear in form suggesting that they had either been first laid out, or possibly re-planned, during the 18th-19th centuries by surveyors. Their earlier history is currently unclear.

⁴³ Staffordshire HER: PRN 02212

⁴⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 14216; NHLE no. 1051990

⁴⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 14217; NHLE no. 1248258

⁴⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 55887

⁴⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 58511 (not depicted on map 50)

⁴⁸ Staffordshire HER: PRN 56550

⁴⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 56555

The zone mostly lies upon the Trent Valley river terraces. Elsewhere along the valley significant prehistoric to early medieval archaeological remains have been excavated and further sites are known from aerial photography. Whilst no known archaeological sites have so far been recorded within the zone there is the potential for below-ground remains to survive.

3.2.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

	Description	Score
Survival	Extensive development within the zone is likely to have impacted upon below ground archaeology. The built heritage, whilst development has occurred within the vicinity altering the setting over time, the individual assets are well-preserved within the Conservation Area.	2
Potential	Whilst the potential for below ground archaeological remains to survive is likely to have been impacted by development. Greater potential exists in areas not currently developed for instance across Ravenhill Park.	1
Documentation	HER Data	1
Diversity	There are few known heritage assets principally built structures and buildings.	1
Group Association	There are strong associations between the heritage assets in terms of their location and period of origin being principally associated with improvements to transportation in the 18 th -19 th centuries.	3
Amenity Value	The Trent and Mersey Canal is an important public amenity.	3
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The character of the zone is not, overall, sensitive to change having been witness to considerable development in the post-war period.	1
Overall Score		Low/Moderate

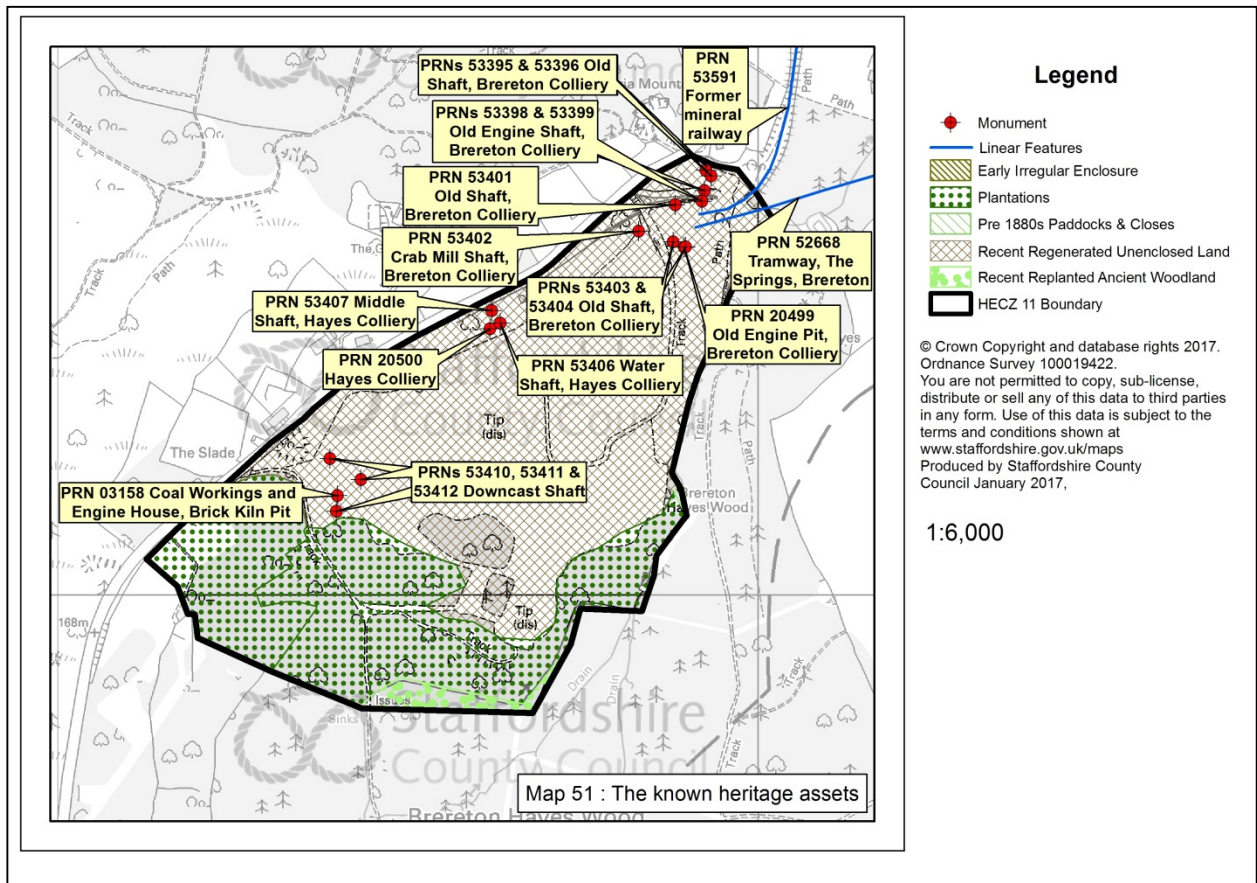
3.2.3 Statement of Significance

The heritage assets of the zone are of regional significance. The Trent and Mersey Canal links the River Trent at Derwent Mouth, Derbyshire with the River Mersey and was constructed to improve the transportation of goods, thus benefiting the economy, in the late 18th century. The canal is associated with two of the foremost canal engineers and its significance is reflected in the designation of the Conservation Area and also has considerable connections to the Wedgwood family and the wider development of Stoke-on-Trent as an industrial centre during the 19th century famous for its ceramics. Two of the associated structures, the accommodation bridge and viaduct, have been designated as being of national importance whilst the remainder are listed as being of local significance to the history and character of the area.

The low/moderate score reflects the significance of elements of the zone such as the Conservation Area which otherwise lies in an area which has seen significant change during the post-war period. Should development be planned within the zone it is recommended that the following issues be addressed at an early stage in the process:

- Any impacts upon and opportunities to enhance the designated heritage assets and their settings.
- The potential for surviving archaeological features can be decided upon a site-by-site basis and where deemed appropriate an archaeological condition will be advised for any resulting planning permission.

3.3 RHECZ 11: West of Brereton Hayes Wood



3.3.1 Summary

The zone is dominated by an area of land defined as 'Recent Regenerated Unenclosed Land' on map 51 which is coterminous with a late 20th century land fill site (map 51). Historically the zone was mostly given over to three collieries: Old Engine Pit to the north⁵⁰; Hayes Colliery⁵¹; and Brick Kiln Pit to the south⁵². All three existed by the late 19th century, but coal mining within Brereton Hayes had its origins in the 1800s-1810s. Further coal pits are recorded within the southern portion of Brereton Hayes Wood, beyond the zone. A series of tramways were constructed to link the collieries initially at least to the Trent and Mersey Canal and later to the mainline railway at Rugeley. Brick Kiln Pit closed in the 1960s having expanded across much of the area of the later landfill site.

⁵⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRN 20499

⁵¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 20500

⁵² Staffordshire HER: PRN 03158

The collieries were established within Brereton Hayes Wood which is depicted, although not named, on Yates' map of Staffordshire (1775). The surviving woodland within the zone has largely been replaced with principally deciduous plantations. This woodland forms part of a wider wooded landscape which dominates this part of the Cannock Chase AONB.

3.3.2 *Heritage Assets Summary Table*

	Description	Score
Survival	The heritage assets relating to the historic mining within the zone have been impacted by later coal mining and the use of the site as landfill.	1
Potential	Whilst the potential for surviving archaeology will have been significantly reduced across the majority of the zone there remains the potential for currently unknown historic mining activity to survive in the woodland on the southern edges of the site.	2
Documentation	HER Data; Survey of Abandoned Pits ⁵³	2
Diversity	There are few known surviving heritage assets within the zone.	1
Group Association	There are few known heritage assets within the zone.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	The zone is located within a landscape dominated by woodland and heathland. The historic character of the zone itself is typified by regenerated vegetation over the landfill site.	1
Overall Score		Low

3.3.3 *Statement of Significance*

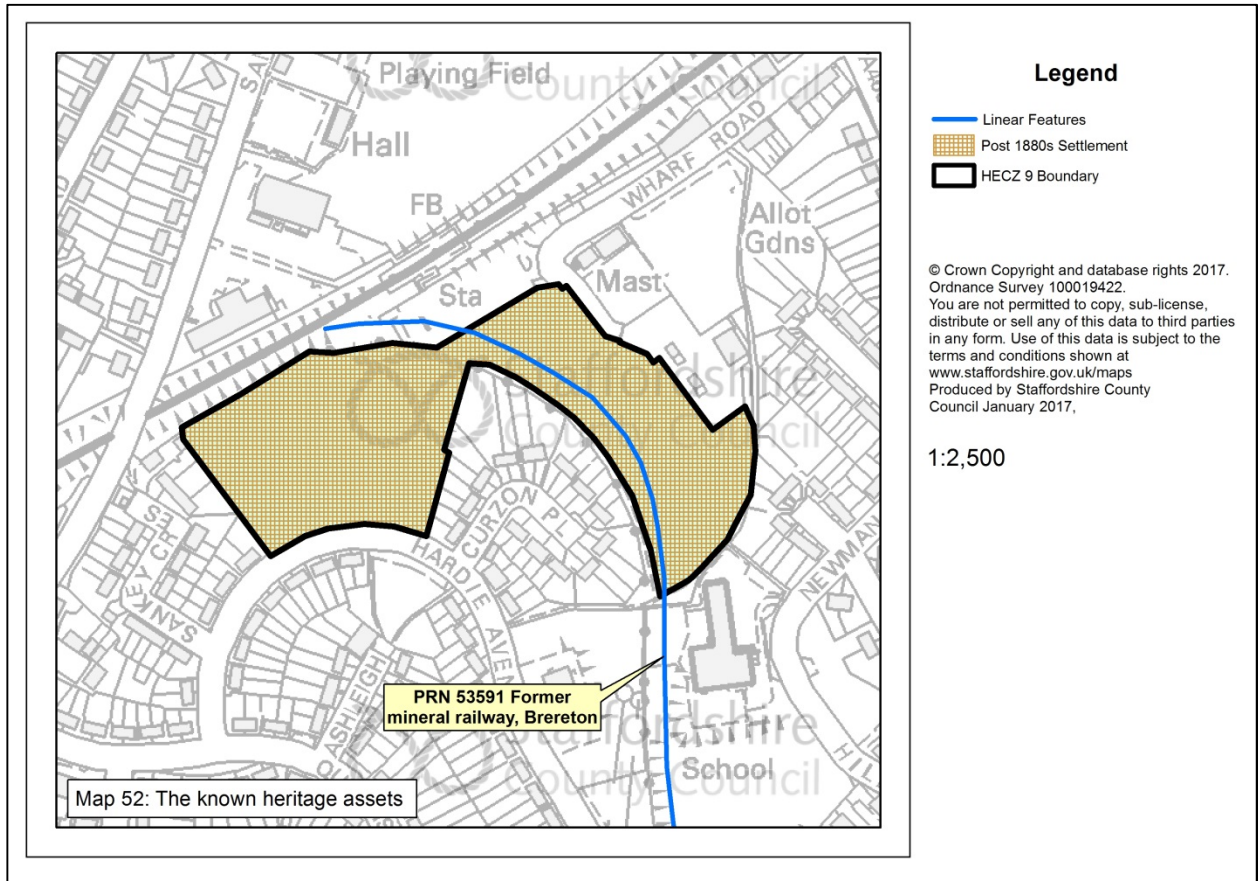
The low score reflects the historic use of the zone for principally industry and waste management over the course of the previous two centuries. Evidence associated with historic coal mining, once an important industry within the District, is unlikely to survive across the majority of the zone. Some potential for above and below ground remains may survive in the woodland which fringes the southern edge of the zone.

Should development be planned within the zone it is recommended that the following issues be addressed at an early stage in the process:

⁵³ Staffordshire HER: EST1221 and SST4025

- The potential for surviving archaeological features within the woodland to the south; where above ground remains survive a strategy for preservation in-situ should be considered. Where appropriate other mitigation strategies should be considered.

3.4 RHECZ 12: East of Sandy Lane



3.4.1 Summary

The zone forms two areas of grassed open land within a wider area dominated by Rugeley's mid-late 20th century suburban expansion (map 52). The only heritage asset recorded within the zone is the line of a former 19th century mineral railway. This feature is extant surviving as a tree-lined public footpath.

Historically this area had probably formed part of Rugeley agricultural hinterland since the medieval period.

3.4.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

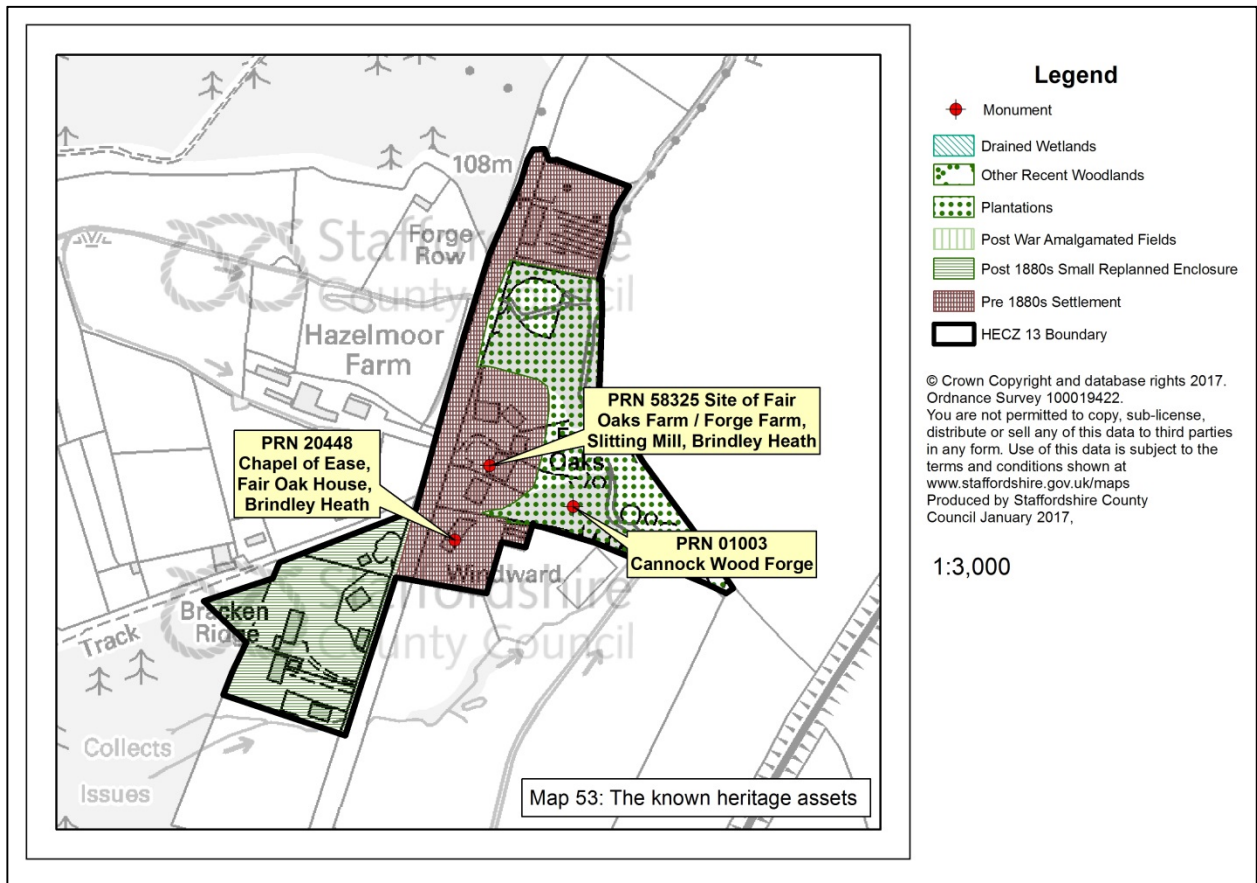
	Description	Score
Survival	The zone may have been subject to some disturbance relating to the construction of the housing estates and landscaping associated with these open areas. The line of the mineral railway is well-preserved within the zone.	2
Potential	There are few known heritage assets of archaeological interest recorded within the vicinity of the zone. The open areas have not been impacted by significant disturbance.	2
Documentation	HER Data	1
Diversity	Very few heritage assets are known.	1
Group Association	Contains too few heritage assets to determine any group association.	1
Amenity Value	The line of the mineral railway serves as a public amenity and has a role in the local sense of place.	3
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	Development within the zone is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment.	1
Overall Score		Low/Moderate

3.4.3 Statement of Significance

The line of the former mineral railway is of local significance and this is reflected in the Low/Moderate score. Development would not have a significant impact upon the historic environment however the following should be addressed as part of any proposed development:

- The continuing preservation and enhancement of the public's enjoyment of the historic mineral railway.

3.5 RHECZ 13: Rising Brook



3.5.1 Summary

The zone is located between RHECZ 2: Shooting Butts Road & Lady Hill Coppice and RHECZ 5: Stilecop Field and environs which were considered as part of the original Cannock HEA⁵⁴.

The historic character of the zone is dominated by domestic dwellings and woodland (map 53); the latter is reflected by the wooded landscape which is prominent to the west (cf. RHECZ 2). The majority of the houses, which are mostly scattered along Slitting Mill Road, are of mid-late 20th century date with the exception of the row of seven 19th century cottages towards the northern end of the zone. A number of the later domestic properties were constructed on the site of earlier properties including Fairlawn Oaks Farm, which in the late 19th century was known as Forge Farm⁵⁵.

⁵⁴ Staffordshire County Council 2009: Appendix 3

⁵⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 58325

Forge Farm is believed to lie in the vicinity of a late 16th to late 18th century forge and its millpond which stood adjacent to the Rising Brook⁵⁶. Evidence of metal working, in the form of forge slag and furnace bricks, has been found on the site, but no in-situ features have been identified to date. A large east-west bank, which may represent the pond bay of the mill pond, is marked on historic OS maps and may be extant within the zone. Documentary evidence suggests that the site may have also been associated with a medieval bloomery. The site is economically associated with the Rugeley Slitting Mill which lies approximately 1km to the north east on the Rising Brook (cf. RHECZ 3: Slitting Mill).

A chapel of ease built for the miners of the Fair oak Colliery is recorded in the zone, although its precise location is unknown. The colliery itself was located to the south west beyond the zone.

3.5.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

	Description	Score
Survival	Subsequent small-scale redevelopment may have caused disturbance in some areas, but otherwise the area remains undeveloped.	2
Potential	There is the potential for features associated with the former furnace and its mill pond to survive both as above and below ground features.	3
Documentation	HER Data; Archaeological watching brief	2
Diversity	The zone contains a range of heritage assets mostly of post medieval and 19 th century date.	2
Group Association	There are a limited range of heritage assets, but these are associated with sites in the vicinity.	2
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	Domestic dwellings form a key element of the zone the majority of which are of mid-late 20 th century date. The remainder of the zone is dominated by woodland which reflects the wider wooded character of this area of Cannock Chase AONB. Small-scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the overall historic character of the zone.	1
Overall Score		Moderate

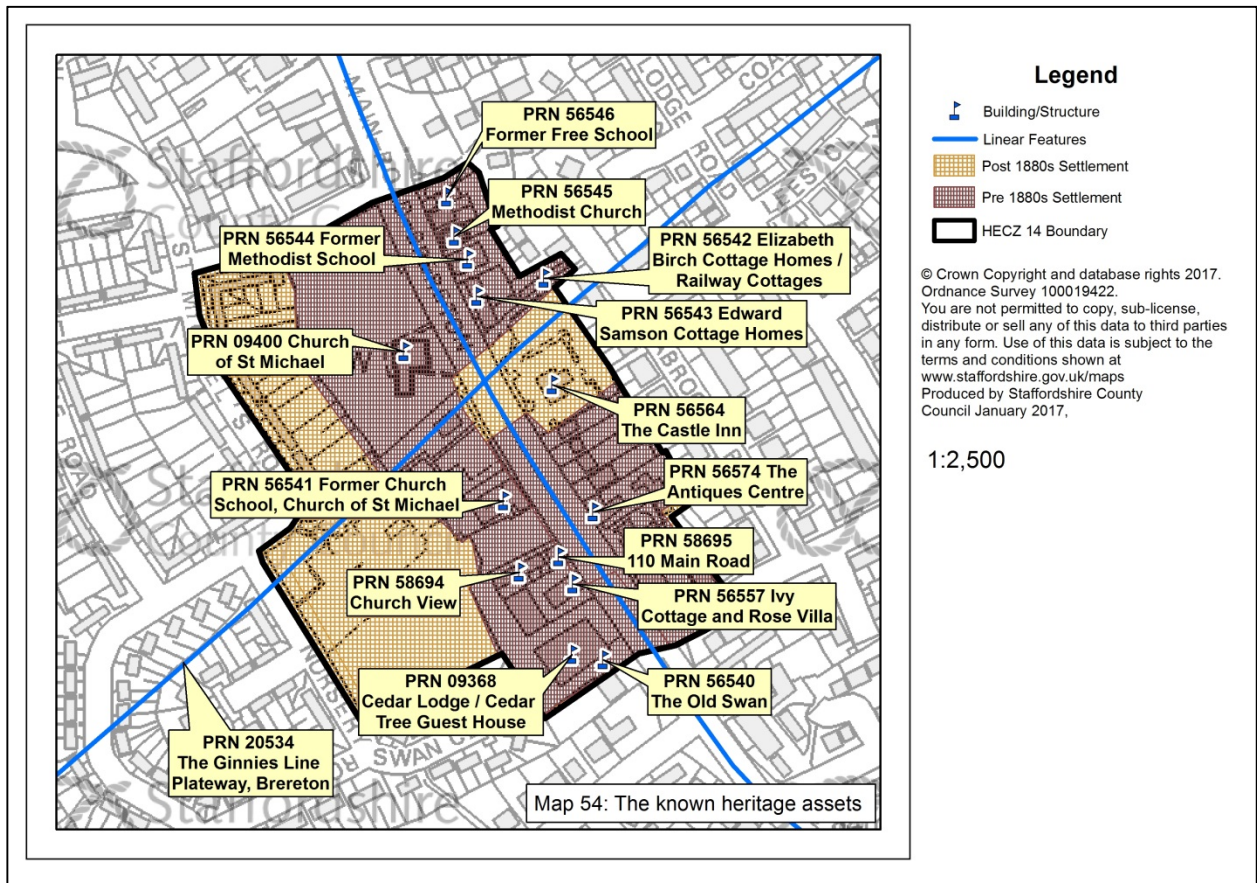
⁵⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 01003

3.5.3 Statement of Significance

The moderate score reflects the potential for significant above and below ground archaeological remains to survive with parts of the zone, notably adjacent to the Rising Brook, which is currently mostly under woodland. Small-scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the zone, but the following should be taken into account at an early stage:

- A strategy for assessing the potential impact upon archaeological features, both known and unknown, and any consequent mitigation.
- The impact upon the historic character of this and adjacent zones.

3.6 RHECZ 14: Brereton



3.6.1 Summary

The zone comprises the majority of the historic core of Brereton, which was designated as a Conservation Area in 2002⁵⁷. The character of the Conservation Area reflects the prosperity of the village during in the 19th and early 20th centuries which came as a result of the flourishing coal mining industry; consequently the majority of buildings date to this period. Cannock Chase Council will seek to add 10 buildings to their emerging local list within this zone to highlight their local significance.

⁵⁷ Cannock Chase Council 2009

Brereton is first mentioned in the early to mid-13th century and remained a small rural settlement until the 19th century when the local coal mining industry began to substantially expand. The earliest core of the settlement was probably focused upon the junction of Main Road, Coalpit Lane and Armitage Road, beyond the zone, where the earliest known buildings, dating to the 16th century, survive. The village had certainly expanded northwards along Main Street, into the zone, by the late 18th century and probably earlier. The mid-19th century Ivy Villa and Rose Villa, now forming a detached annexe to the adjacent Cedar Tree Hotel, are said to have been constructed on the site of a timber framed building⁵⁸. The hotel, a Grade II listed building originally known as Cedar Lodge, is a substantial property which probably dates to the 18th century⁵⁹.

Settlement expansion during the 18th century may have been influenced, in part, by the creation of the Coleshill to Lichfield and Rugeley Turnpike Road in 1729 which passed through the village along Main Road⁶⁰.

The construction of the Trent and Mersey Canal north of Brereton in the late 18th century and the expansion of the collieries to the south of Brereton in the early 19th century led to the construction of a plateway in 1815⁶¹. The plateway, which had probably ceased operating in the 1850s, was carried under Main Road via a tunnel. The cutting to the tunnel may survive to the south of Main Road adjacent to the churchyard wall.

The influence of economic and population growth in the 19th century is reflected in the presence of a series of public buildings often erected as philanthropic endeavours. The Grade II Listed St Michael's Church was first built in 1837 by the architect Thomas Trubshaw, and was altered and enlarged circa 1878 by Sir Gilbert Scott⁶². A Methodist Chapel was established in 1809, but was substantially rebuilt in the 1870s⁶³. Other public buildings reflect investment by either the local gentry or various religious bodies. Elizabeth Birch of Brereton House established six Cottage Homes for the poor in 1824 and a Free School in 1833⁶⁴. The Methodist Church had established a school which opened in 1905 whilst the Rev. Edward Samson, vicar of St Michael's, established four Cottage Homes in 1902⁶⁵.

⁵⁸ Staffordshire HER: PRN 56574

⁵⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 09368

⁶⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRN 58502

⁶¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 20534

⁶² Staffordshire HER: PRN 09400

⁶³ Staffordshire HER: PRN 56545

⁶⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 56542 and PRN 56546

⁶⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 56544, PRN 56545 and PRN 56542

Domestic properties of 19th and early 20th century reveal a mix of substantial properties, such as Cedar Lodge and 110 Main Road⁶⁶, and more modest dwellings such as the mid-late 19th century row of cottages known as Church View⁶⁷.

From the mid-20th century suburban expansion engulfed the village and this is reflected in map 54. Infill development has also occurred including the construction of The Castle Inn following road improvements in the 1970s which resulted in the demolition of some of the historic buildings along Main Road⁶⁸.

3.6.2 Heritage Assets Summary Table

	Description	Score
Survival	Historic buildings survive within the zone, which contribute to the character of the Conservation Area. The survival of below ground archaeological remains, particularly relating to the earliest phases of settlement, may have been impacted by subsequent redevelopment.	3
Potential	There is the potential for below ground archaeological remains to survive within the zone associated with phases of settlement. The impact from subsequent re-development may vary across the zone.	2
Documentation	HER Data, Local List candidates, Listed Buildings	2
Diversity	The known heritage assets primarily comprise historic buildings.	1
Group Association	There are a range of heritage assets which are historically and geographically associated, which form the focus of the Conservation Area.	3
Amenity Value	The Conservation Area defines the sense of place and there may be opportunities to disseminate this more widely.	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for CCDC)	Medium to large-scale re-development, or extensive piecemeal changes, have the potential to have a significant impact upon the historic character of the zone which is designated as a Conservation Area.	3
Overall Score		High/Moderate

⁶⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 58695

⁶⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 58694

⁶⁸ Cannock Chase Council 2009

3.6.3 Statement of Significance

The heritage assets within the zone are dominated by the built environment which reflects economic growth during the 19th and early 20th centuries in particular. The significance of this built heritage is reflected in the designation of the Conservation Area and the numbers of nationally listed buildings and historic buildings proposed for inclusion on the emerging local list. The potential survival of the cutting of the plateway tunnel is also of local significance.

The High/Moderate score reflects the importance of the historic townscape, particularly the historic buildings. Consequently the following should be addressed at an early stage in the development process:

- The retention and enhancement of the surviving historic buildings.
- The retention of the former plateway cutting.
- Where there may be new build design solutions should aim to enhance the Conservation Area.
- The potential for surviving below ground archaeological features will be decided upon a site-by-site basis and where deemed appropriate an archaeological condition will be attached to any resulting planning permission.

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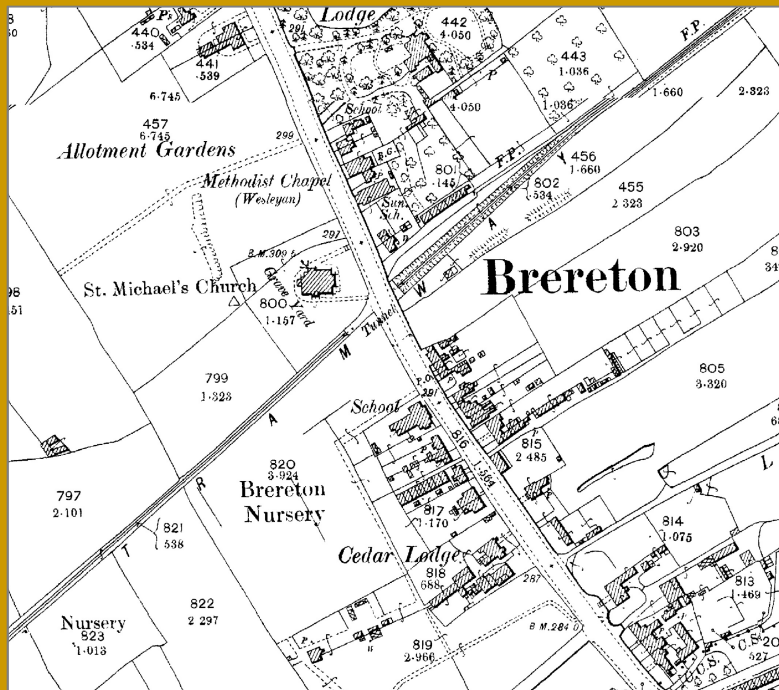
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