

### **Appendix 3: Historic Environment Character Zone Assessments: Lichfield**

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

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

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Staffordshire County Council  
February 2009

## **LHECZ 1 – Lichfield historic core (HECA 10a)**

### **Summary**

This LHECZ comprises the historic core of the city of Lichfield including some of the earliest suburbs dating to the medieval period. This zone contains the highest concentration of designated sites within the project area. A comprehensive analysis of the Historic Urban Character shall be undertaken as part of the Extensive Urban Survey project and so will not be repeated here. A Conservation Area Appraisal is currently being carried out by the Conservation Team at Lichfield District Council. This report is therefore an overview of the character of the town.

The number of designations and potential for below ground archaeology means that the zone is highly sensitive potentially to all scales of development and this is reflected in the historic environment scoring.

### **Designations (map1)**

215 Listed Buildings  
2 Scheduled Monuments  
1 Registered Park and Garden  
1 Conservation Area

### **Archaeological Character (map 2)**

Little evidence has been recovered to suggest early occupation in the Lichfield area although evidence of a Neolithic settlement has been identified on the southern side of the sandstone terrace occupied by the cathedral. Scattered finds of Romano-British date indicate activity in the area although to date no structural evidence dating to this period has been recovered.

Recent work close to Stowe Pool in the centre of Lichfield has revealed evidence of a two celled structure, partially built of reused Romano-British rubble dating to the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> century AD. The mortared rubble suggests a pre-existing Roman structure nearby which functioned as a quarry for the structure excavated at Stowe Pool. This would suggest a Romano-British site in the vicinity although to date no evidence to support this has been recovered. The stone built structure was destroyed by fire and was overlain by two phases of Anglo-Saxon sunken floored building both of which were destroyed by fire. The area then appears to have been abandoned sometime after the 11<sup>th</sup> century, as the area close to the pools became increasingly waterlogged. This is the first evidence of pre 12<sup>th</sup> century occupation outside the immediate environs of the ecclesiastical complex.

Records first identify Lichfield as being an ecclesiastical centre during the 7<sup>th</sup> century when Bishop Chad founded an Episcopal see at the site (c.670AD). Prior to this the Mercian bishops had been peripatetic in nature. It is thought that Lichfield commended itself as a central place because of the presence of an early church and its proximity to the Roman Rykneild and Watling Streets.

The early church hypothesis may be associated with the recent sub-Roman and Anglo-Saxon finds close to Stowe Pool.

The thriving cathedral community at Lichfield must have suffered considerably at the hands of the Danes in the late ninth century. Evidence for this comes from several sources; Domesday records indicate that by 1086 the religious community had dropped from 20 cannons to 5. The final destruction phase of the Stowe Pool sunken floored buildings (779-971AD) may also relate to this period. The impact of the Danes is also clear through Lichfield ceasing to be the seat of a Bishop and indeed in its demotion to the status of a 'minster church'.

By the early 12<sup>th</sup> century A market and mint were granted to Bishop Durdent by King Stephen (later confirmed in 1154), although the mint had closed by 1198. Bishop Clinton enclosed the town with a bank and ditch, with gates erected where the main roads entered the town. He is thought to have founded the hospital of St. John outside the gate in St. John Street (1208). Recent excavations in the car park of the Council Offices on Frog Lane have revealed the ditch (5m wide and 2.6m deep) and the remnants of what may have been the bank. The defences not only provided protection for the town but also prevented free access and egress to merchants, who were encouraged to only enter through the main gates, and thus pay the appropriate tithes to the cathedral authorities.

The town continued to thrive during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Growth was encouraged through the proximity of the cathedral with specialised service industries, including goldsmiths, glaziers and a bell founder located in the town. Other more worldly trades such as tanning, parchment makers, leather production and shoe making were also important industries. Lichfield was an important mercantile centre and this was enhanced during 1307 when the three day Whitsun fair was extended to fifteen days with a separate four day fair added in November. Excavation along St. John Street outside the town's defensive circuit reveals evidence of medieval and later suburb activity along the mains routes into the centre. These arterial routes appear to be the main focus for settlement expansion outside the core until the nineteenth century when development expanded radially from the centre and the defences were completely breached.

Lichfield's location on several major roads attracted many important personages and Royal visitors including Edward II as Prince of Wales (1296, Edward III (1328) and Richard II (1397). Numerous public houses were present within the town and the secular importance of the town was maintained throughout the period, with assizes held here until the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 3)

The zone mostly comprises Lichfield's historic core which includes those streets falling within the bounds of the medieval town defences. A large ditch (which has been excavated to the rear of Frog Lane) formed the town's

defences. These date to the early 12<sup>th</sup> century at the same time that Lichfield was restored as an ecclesiastical centre and the Cathedral Close was fortified by Bishop Clinton. Clinton also developed a new town to the south of Minster Pool, with the settlement laid out on a grid or ladder plan during this same century; although there have been 20<sup>th</sup> century changes to the layout. A central market place was provided, with St. Mary's Church probably being founded centrally within the market at the same time. Subsequent encroachment has taken place on the southern side of the church.

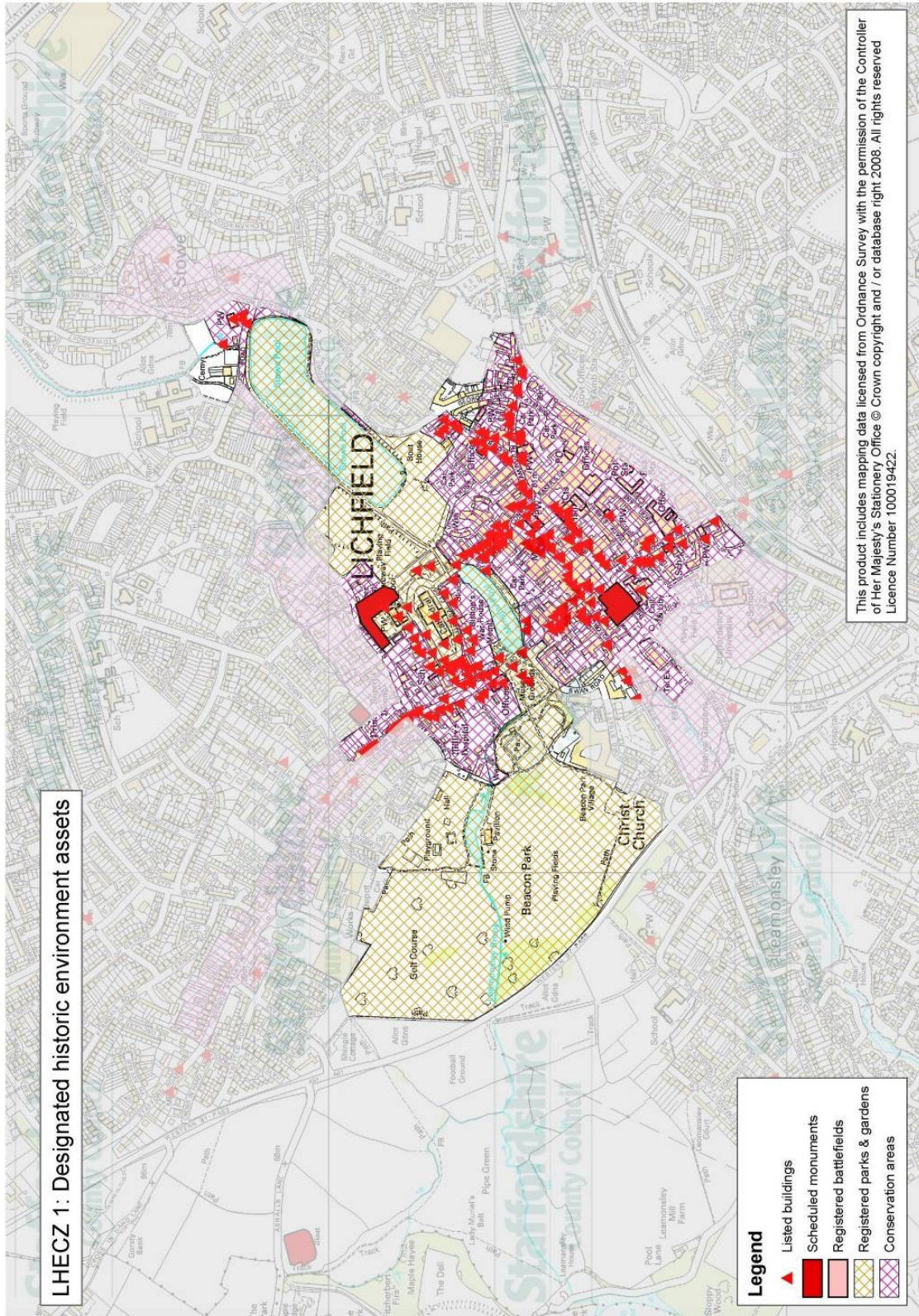
There are many historic buildings surviving within the town centre which mostly date to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, although some 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century timber framed buildings did survive the major fire which destroyed much of Lichfield in 1681/2. Other such structures may survive hidden beneath later frontages. The most dominant building is the cathedral itself which is surrounded by mostly 18<sup>th</sup> century Listed Buildings, with some whose origins date to the medieval period, lying within the Cathedral Close. The Close forms part of the wider Grade II Registered Park and Garden of Cathedral Close and Linear Park.

The Registered Park and Garden also includes two bodies of water, Minster Pool and the larger Stowe Pool which were created as fishponds and date to at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Beacon Park, located to the west of the town, also forms part of the Registered Park and Garden. It had originally formed the grounds of a late 18<sup>th</sup> century house, Beacon Place, which was demolished in 1964 when the land was made a public open space. A golf course has been established to the north of the park.

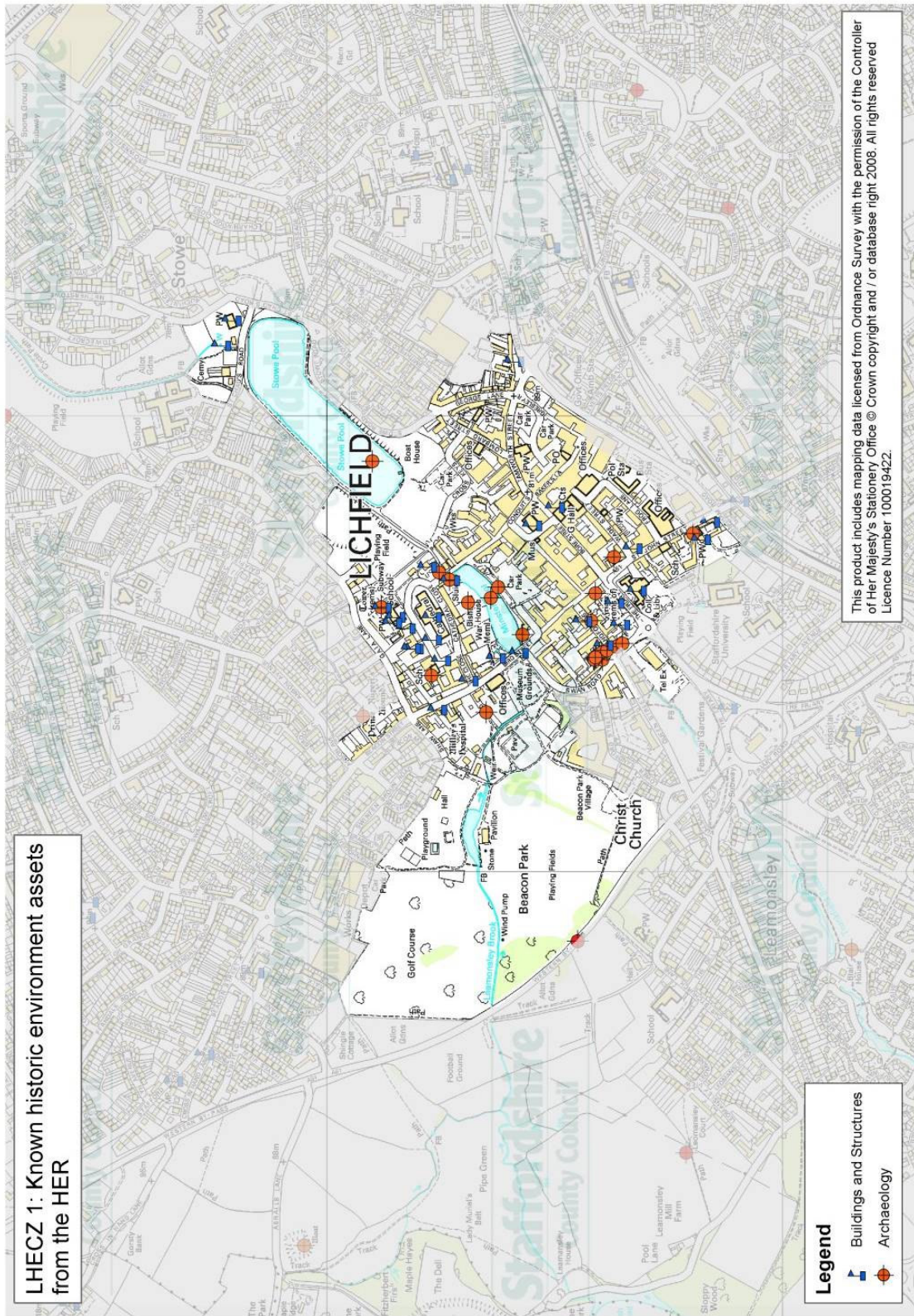
### Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has seen much development, but previous archaeological work has shown that there is potential for below ground deposits to survive in areas across the town.	2
Potential	There is potential for deeply stratified multi-phase activity to survive across Lichfield along with the importance of the town through history and the surviving built environment	3
Documentation	HER data, VCH & extensive archaeological work	3
Diversity	There is wide range of features, including the built environment and historic street pattern	3
Group Association	There are strong associations between the built environment, historic street pattern and below ground archaeology	3
Amenity Value	There are many current amenities – including the Cathedral and parklands	3

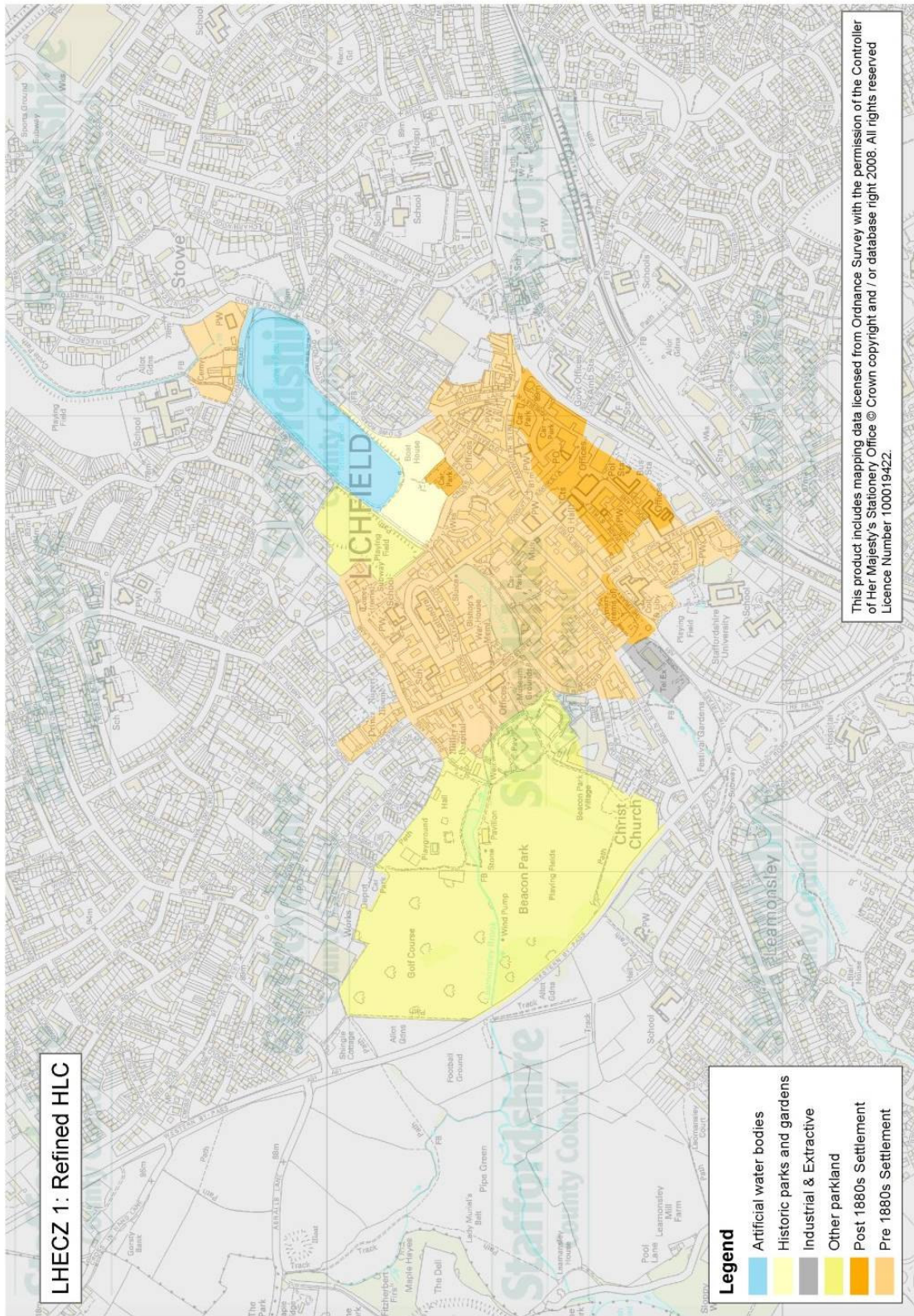
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	The zone would be highly sensitive to any medium to large scale development	3
<b>Overall Score</b>		<b>20</b>



Map 1: Designations



Map 2: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 3: Refined HLC



## **LHECZ 2 – Lichfield suburbs (HECA 10a)**

### **Summary**

The LHECZ will be covered in greater detail as part of the Extensive Urban Survey project for the county. This report therefore forms an overview of the historic environment assets of the zone.

The zone comprises the suburban expansion of Lichfield from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards and includes areas of historic and more recent industrial sites as well as parks and other amenity sites. This development mostly took place upon fields of piecemeal enclosure, created during the post medieval period out of the earlier open arable fields.

The historic environment assets mostly comprise Listed Buildings and areas where archaeological deposits may survive. Any development within the zone would need to consider the potential impacts upon these sites.

### **Designations** (map 4)

39 Listed Buildings

1 Scheduled Monument (Prince Rupert's Mound)

2 Conservation Areas

A Registered Park and Garden lies in the LHECZ adjacent and the setting of this site must be taken into account.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 5)

By the Norman Conquest the land of this zone lay within Cannock Forest, although Lichfield had been an ecclesiastical centre since the 7<sup>th</sup> century. The overall character of the HECZ for the earlier periods is likely to have been a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy from the Bronze Age onwards. There is little evidence to suggest early occupation within the zone, although Mesolithic flints have been recovered from St Michael's Church revealing at least one occurrence of human presence. Other evidence for early occupation comes from LHECZ 1 with scattered finds of Romano-British date indicating activity within the area. However, the predominant Roman feature within the landscape, Rykneild Street, survives as a road to the present day and crosses the zone to the south east. It's impact upon the landscape of the zone is not currently known.

Although a thriving cathedral community had been established at Lichfield by the ninth century it is not known to what extent the population may have been exploiting the landscape within zone 2 or at what date the open fields were established.

St Michael's church lies approximately 450m beyond the town ditch towards the Burton Old Road. This building mostly dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> century with a 14<sup>th</sup> century tower and the excavation of a pre-post medieval section of the

graveyard has led to the suggestion that it pre dated the Norman Conquest (1066).

'Litelbech' was recorded in Domesday Book as belonging to the Bishop of Chester's Lichfield estates. Its exact location is unknown and the HER places it near St Michael's Church although VCH suggests it lay to the south east of Stowe. How far this site had developed towards a settlement is not clear as it quickly disappears from the records.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 6)

This zone comprises that part of the modern city of Lichfield which, during the medieval period through to at least the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, lay outside the town. Recent excavations have located the large defensive ditch on the south eastern side of the town. Beyond this the work revealed that during the medieval and early post-medieval period agricultural land extended up to the town defences. Consequently much of the land within the zone during the medieval period had largely formed the open fields which were divided into strips and farmed individually by the inhabitants of Lichfield and surrounding settlements. Various open fields are mentioned at different dates in documentary sources. Such sources also reveal that most of these open fields were often enclosed, as piecemeal enclosure, in the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> century. This form of enclosure was carried out by means of informal, verbal agreements between farmers who wished to consolidate their holdings into a block rather than having them spread across all the open fields.

The presence of two watermills and a windmill within the zone, which mostly date to the later 18<sup>th</sup> century, attest to the continuing survival of arable agriculture within the zone during the later post medieval period; at a time when many parts of Staffordshire were beginning to convert to pasture particularly for cattle (Yates 1974:46).

Several major roads cross the zone; all of which lead into the city. These are likely to have been present during the medieval period and emphasise the importance of the town throughout this period as an ecclesiastical and mercantile centre. These roads attracted the earliest suburban expansion of the town outside the town ditch. There is evidence for domestic dwellings along St John's Street opposite the site of the medieval hospital of the same name. Much of Beacon Street is depicted as being built up by the early 17<sup>th</sup> century (VCH p.8 fig 2)

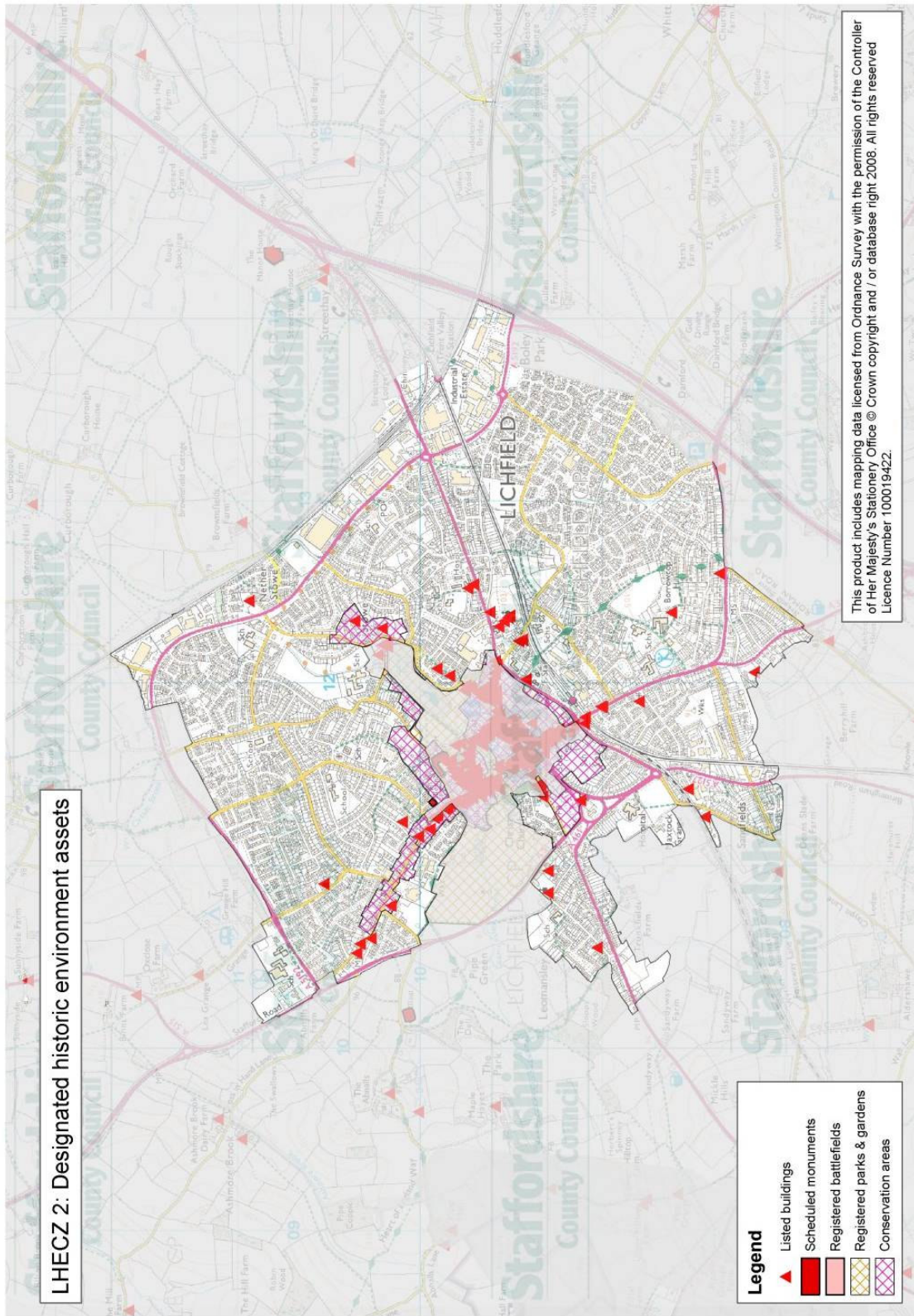
Lichfield only appears to have substantially expanded beyond the line of the town ditch during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This was further encouraged during the 20<sup>th</sup> century by the growth of rapid rail transport into Birmingham and London which has resulted in Lichfield's growth as a community settlement. Consequently the historic landscape character is currently dominated by 20<sup>th</sup> century housing development, although individual earlier buildings do survive, including St Michael's church. There are also areas of amenity including parks and sports grounds.

The modern industrial areas are mostly located on the edges of the modern settlement. Although earlier industrial sites survive within the zone including a Listed malt house built in 1874 as part of the City Brewery.

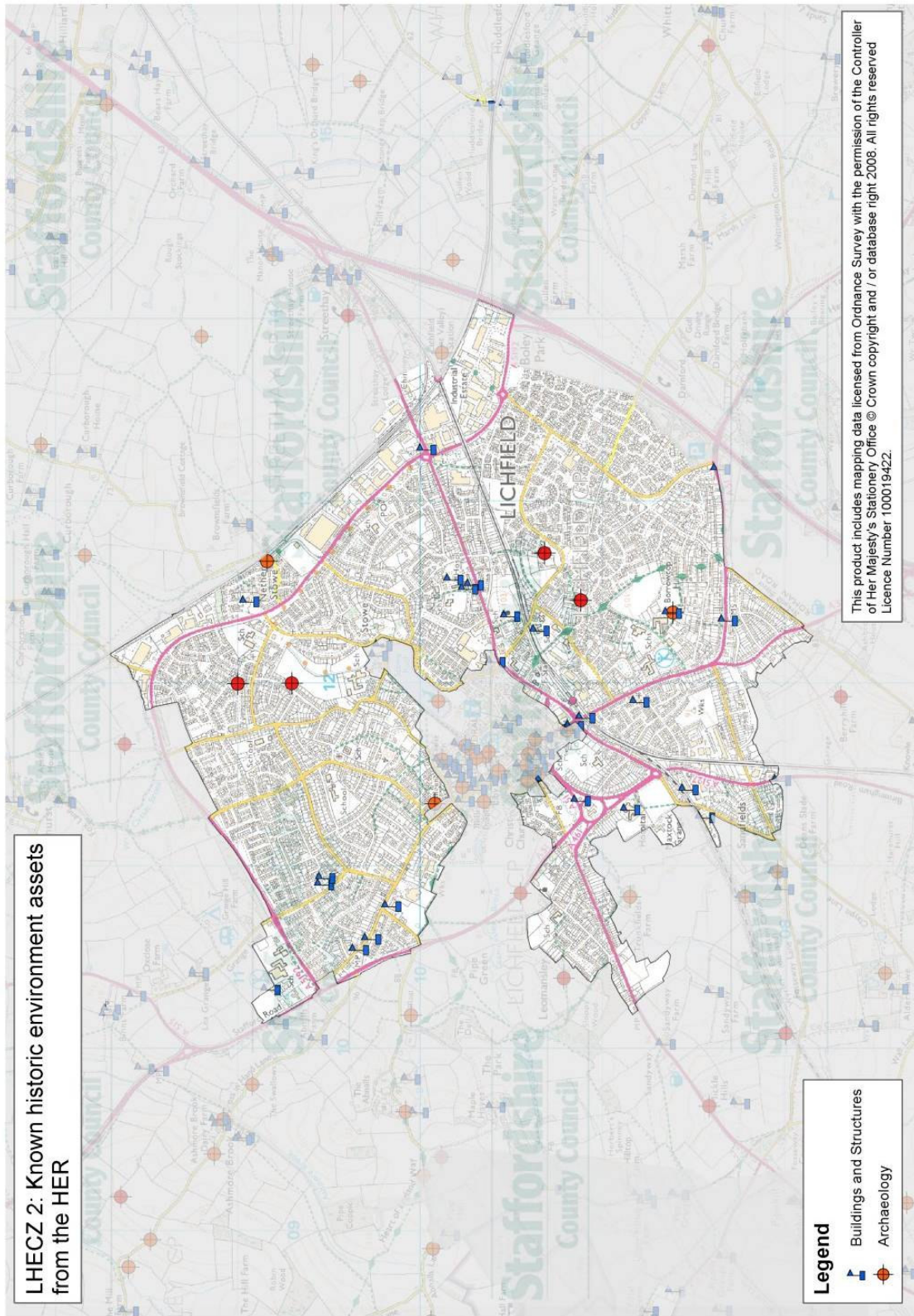
### Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has been subject to major developments over the 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries, although there certain areas where archaeological deposits survive.	1
Potential	The potential for archaeology has been reduced through the development of the area, although there are likely to be areas within the zone where archaeological deposits survive.	1
Documentation	HER data & VCH	2
Diversity	There are few known assets with the exception of the Listed Buildings and those areas where known assets have been researched.	1
Group Association	There may be group association between the surviving historic buildings in some areas.	1
Amenity Value	The zone does not have high amenity value in terms of the historic environment assets as the buildings are largely scattered and it is an area of predominantly later housing. Amenity is provided through more recent parklands	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	There would be little overall impact upon the historic environment in terms of medium to large-scale development, although certain assets particularly the Listed Buildings and impact upon the Conservation Area would require assessment. There would also be the need for mitigation strategies should it be determined that archaeological deposits may be impacted.	1
<b>Overall Score</b>		<b>8</b>

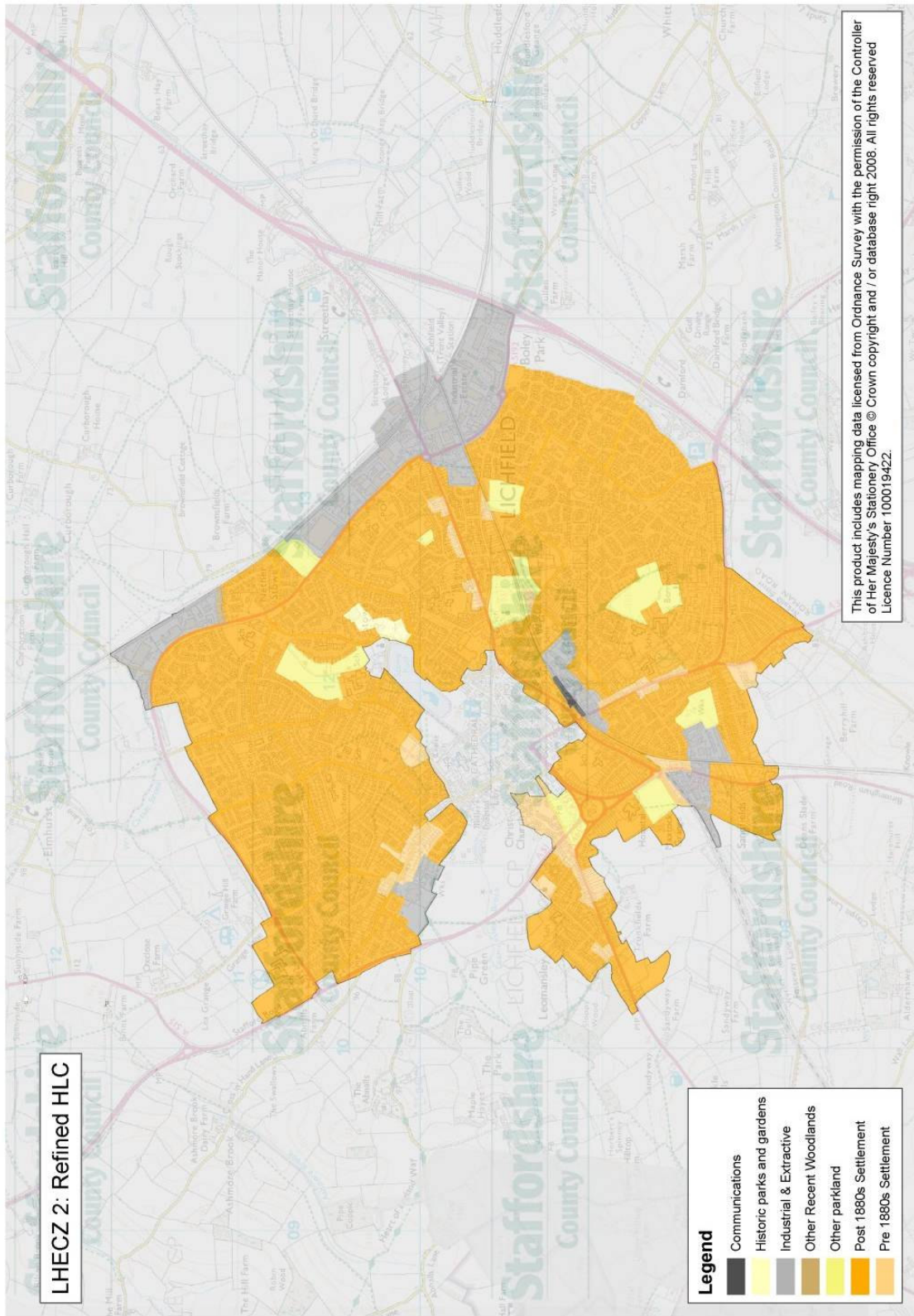
The history of Lichfield is covered comprehensively in Victoria County History (VCH) volume XIV.



Map 4: Designations



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



Map 6: Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 3 – North west of Lichfield (HECA 10b)**

### **Summary**

The historic landscape character of the LHECZ has its origins in the post medieval period when much of the farmland was enclosed, having previously formed part of a medieval open field system. The field systems have survived reasonably and their origins can still be identified in their form.

The settlement pattern is dispersed in nature and comprises of the hamlet of Elmhurst, which has seen little development during the last 20<sup>th</sup> century and several scattered farms which date to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Their origins are likely to be linked to the enclosure of the field systems.

Medium or large scale development is likely to have some impact upon the historic environment assets of this zone. Any proposed development within the zone would need to address:

- the impact of development upon the setting of the Listed Buildings
- the retention of the overall historic character with particular regard to how it would fit within the dispersed nature of the existing settlement pattern and how this could be retained or reflected.
- an assessment of the potential for archaeological deposits to survive and any relevant mitigation strategies

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

### **Designations** (map 7)

4 Listed Buildings

There are no other designated sites falling within this LHECZ.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 8)

The archaeological work within the LHECZ has been confined to surveys of selected historic agricultural buildings.

Consequently little is known of the earlier occupation of this area beyond a findspot of Roman pottery. However, the overall character of the HECZ for the earlier periods is likely to have been a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy from the Bronze Age onwards.

## Historic Landscape (map 9)

The historic landscape is dominated by an area of Piecemeal Enclosure which had its origins as open arable fields in the medieval period. The precise date of enclosure is unknown, but was carried out through verbal, informal agreements between farmers. These open fields are likely to have been worked by the inhabitants of Lichfield and/or Elmshurst, the latter lies to the north east of the LHECZ.

Within the area of Piecemeal Enclosure there are six surviving historic farmsteads (another having been demolished since the late 1880s, although the site survives and is recorded on the HER). The preliminary results of the Historic Farmstead survey suggest that five of these were present by at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century, whilst Lea Grange may potentially be of medieval origin from its plan form; the farmhouse is a listed building which has a possible 16<sup>th</sup> century core. It is likely that this is the site of Stychbrook Grange which was granted to St John the Baptist's Hospital in 1259. By the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century it was being held by the Hill family and it is possible that the field systems in this area are associated with this tenancy. Certainly it is known that enclosure of the open fields was being carried out in Staffordshire by the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Overall the field systems in this area survive reasonably well with only a few field boundaries having been removed, although to the east lies an area identified as Post 1880s Reorganised Fields which has seen greater field boundary loss to enable the intensification of agricultural production during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The character is one of dispersed settlements and the only recent development within the HECZ is Oxclose Farm and the caravan park. Elmshurst has not seen any substantial development during the 20<sup>th</sup> century and remains a small hamlet dominated by a farm to the north with small cottages strung along the lanes.

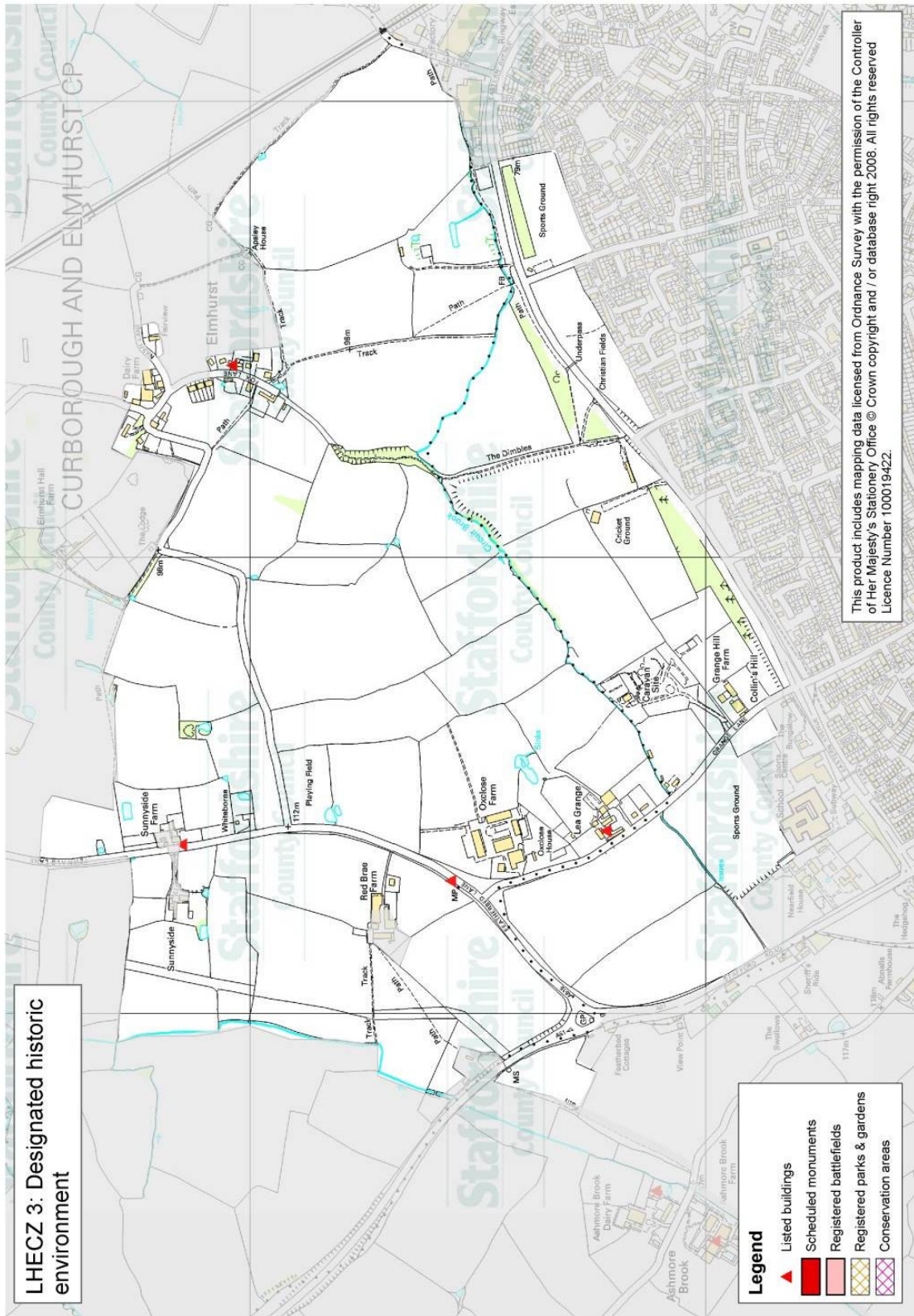
## Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The overall settlement pattern survives with few later developments with one exception and development within individual farms. The Piecemeal Enclosure has seen some field boundary loss, but its overall form is still legible. The road system has seen little change in form. Otherwise few known assets.	2
Potential	There is potential for settlement evidence to survive at Stychbrook. Potential for evidence relating to the grange at Lea Grange as well as potential for surviving early buildings. Overall the landscape has not been significantly disturbed and little is known of its earlier history.	2
Documentation	Limited to HER data and relates mainly to barn surveys.	1
Diversity	There are very few known assets. Known assets are similar in character relating to the landscape and	2

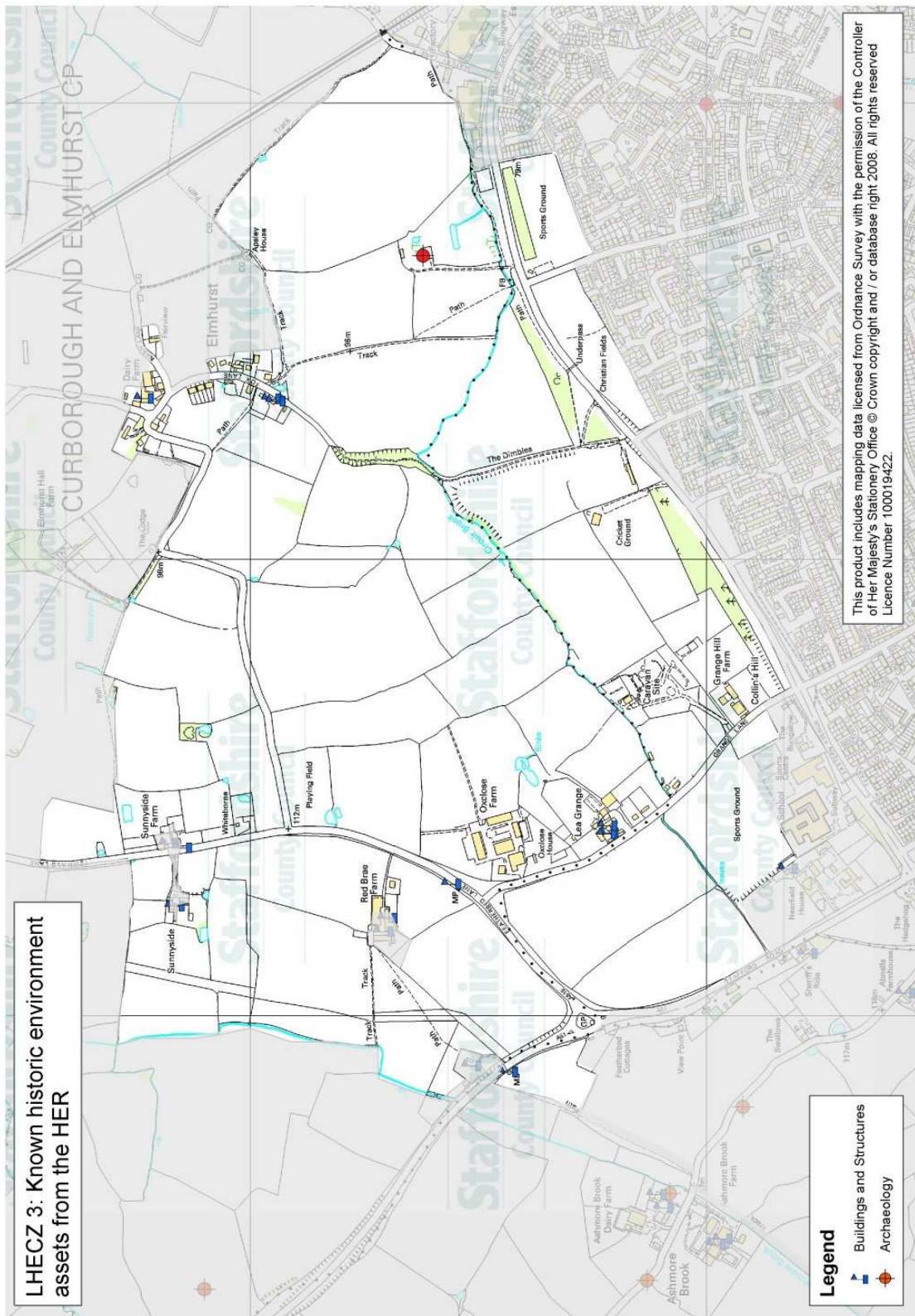


	historic farmsteads.	
Group Association	There is a limited range of assets of similar date and nature.	2
Amenity Value	Currently limited, but further research in conjunction with other areas may present future opportunities.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	There is likely to be an impact upon the nature of the historic dispersed settlement pattern & historic road system.	3
<b>Overall Score</b>		<b>13</b>

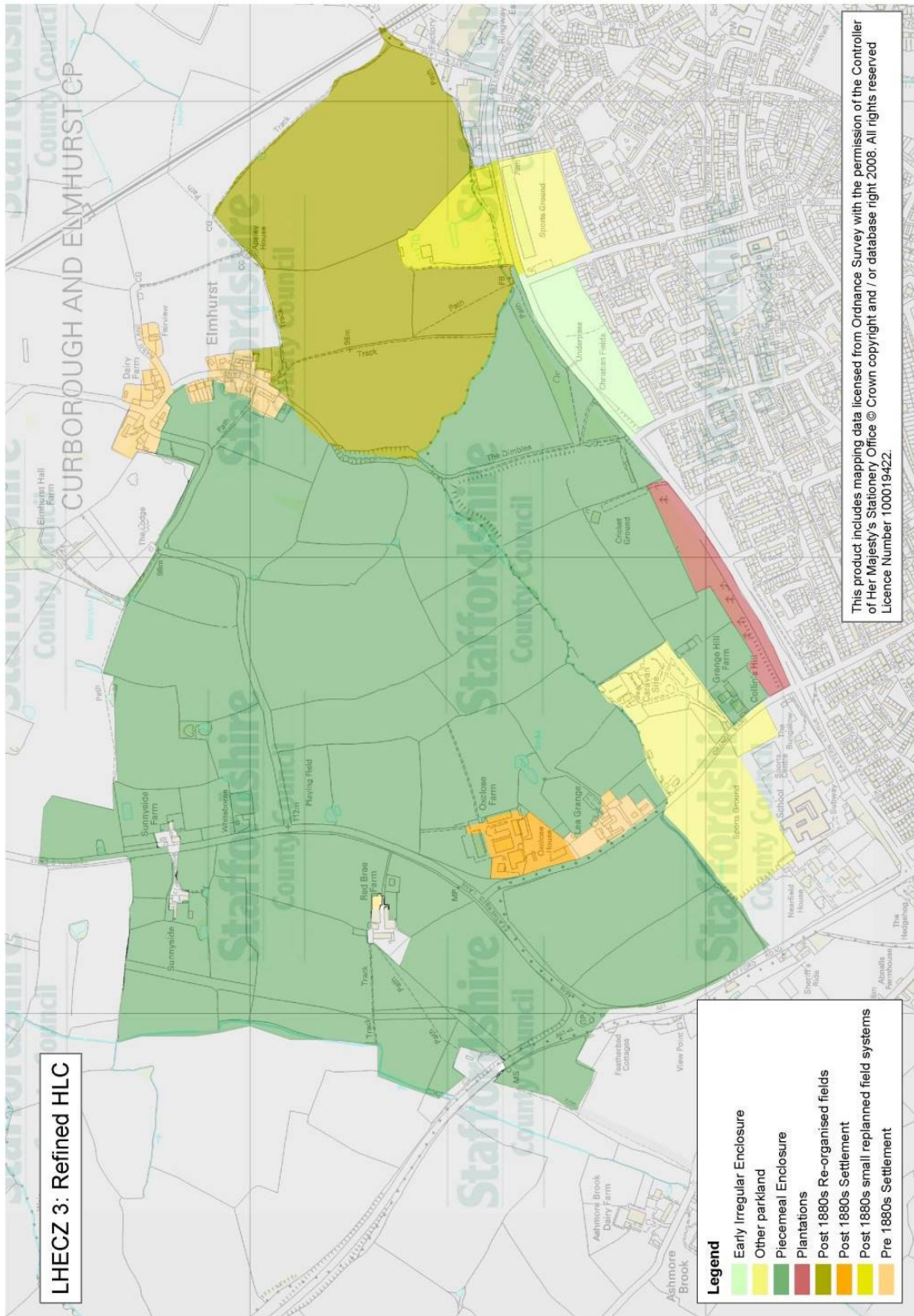
Further information on the history of this area can be found in the VCH volume X!V p229 onwards (Curborough and Elmhurst).



Map 7: Designations



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



Map 9: Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 4 – South west of Lichfield (HECA 10a)**

### **Summary**

The historic landscape character of the area is one that is predominantly 20<sup>th</sup> century in nature. Many of the field systems have suffered substantial field boundary loss due to the intensification of agricultural production during the second half of the last century. There are only a few areas within the zone where the earlier pattern of enclosure survives and these are likely to date to the post medieval period.

There are few known sites of historic or archaeological interest within the zone beyond the historic farmsteads. However, very little research or field work has been carried out and it is currently difficult to gauge to what extent this landscape may have been utilised in the past, beyond its use as arable agriculture in the medieval period.

Medium or large scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment assets of the zone, although certain features may suffer adverse effects. Taking into consideration the relative unknown nature of the historic environment resource it is likely that such developments would require a degree of archaeological work to determine archaeological potential. In particular any development which may be planned for the zone would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- The setting of the Scheduled Monuments at Wall to the south
- The setting of the Conservation Area at Wall and the Listed Buildings within or adjacent to the zone
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations** (map 10)

6 Listed Buildings fall within the LHECA

There are no other designated sites falling within this LHECZ, although Wall Conservation Areas and the Scheduled Monuments relating to the Roman settlement at Wall lie adjacent to the south. Impacts upon the setting of these two designations should be addressed when considering development within this zone.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 11)

There has been little archaeological work carried out within the HECZ and information relating to the Prehistoric and Roman periods relates to unstratified finds. Aerial photography has identified one undated cropmark site comprising linear features which have been interpreted as likely to relate

to former field boundaries. The predominant Roman feature within the landscape, Rykneild Street, survives as a road to the present day

The overall character of the HECZ for the earlier periods is likely to have been a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy from the Bronze Age onwards. The influence of the Roman site at Wall, which lies to the south outside of the area of study, is currently unknown due to the lack of research across the wider landscape. However, it is possible to suggest that this important central place must have been supported by a well developed agricultural hinterland with small farmsteads and possibly larger villa estates dominating a settled and well-managed landscape.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 12)

The historic landscape is dominated by Post 1880s Reorganised Fields which are likely to date to the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. During this period, pressures to intensify agricultural production led to the removal of many field boundaries. The area has its origins as open arable fields created in the medieval period probably associated with the settlements at Lichfield and Wall. Both of these settlements are recorded as having open fields in documentary sources. The open fields surrounding Lichfield were probably enclosed in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and those at Wall are probably post medieval in date. These fields were enclosed through verbal, informal agreements between the farmers known as Piecemeal Enclosure. A couple of areas of Piecemeal Enclosure survive well within the zone. The enclosure of these fields probably testifies to a shift in agricultural practice from arable to a predominantly pastoral economy based mainly upon cattle, particularly for dairying.

Assarting, the clearance of woodland for farm land, is recorded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century around Aldershaw farmstead, which is reputed to have been moated. Surviving ponds on the site have been suggested as 18<sup>th</sup> century water features, but may have their origins as part of a moat. The current understanding of moated sites on a national basis relates them to either manorial sites within or close to settlements, as hunting lodges or the sites of granges. Where they do not fit these situations they are frequently associated with woodland clearances in the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is possible that some of the open fields recorded in this area were created during this period by the landowners of Aldershaw. The current preliminary results of the Historic Farmsteads Survey suggest that four of the surviving historic farmsteads date to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century and further documentary research may reveal that these farms have earlier, even medieval, origins similar to Aldershaw.

South east of Rykneild Street at Knowle Hill the earlier historic landscape is one of small fields which have not been identified as being formerly open arable fields. This suggests that this area had been pasture, possibly in the form of heathland or was an area of early assarting to create pasture fields.

The current predominance of the Post 1880s Reorganised Fields, including to the south east of Knowle Hill, suggests that arable agricultural practices again

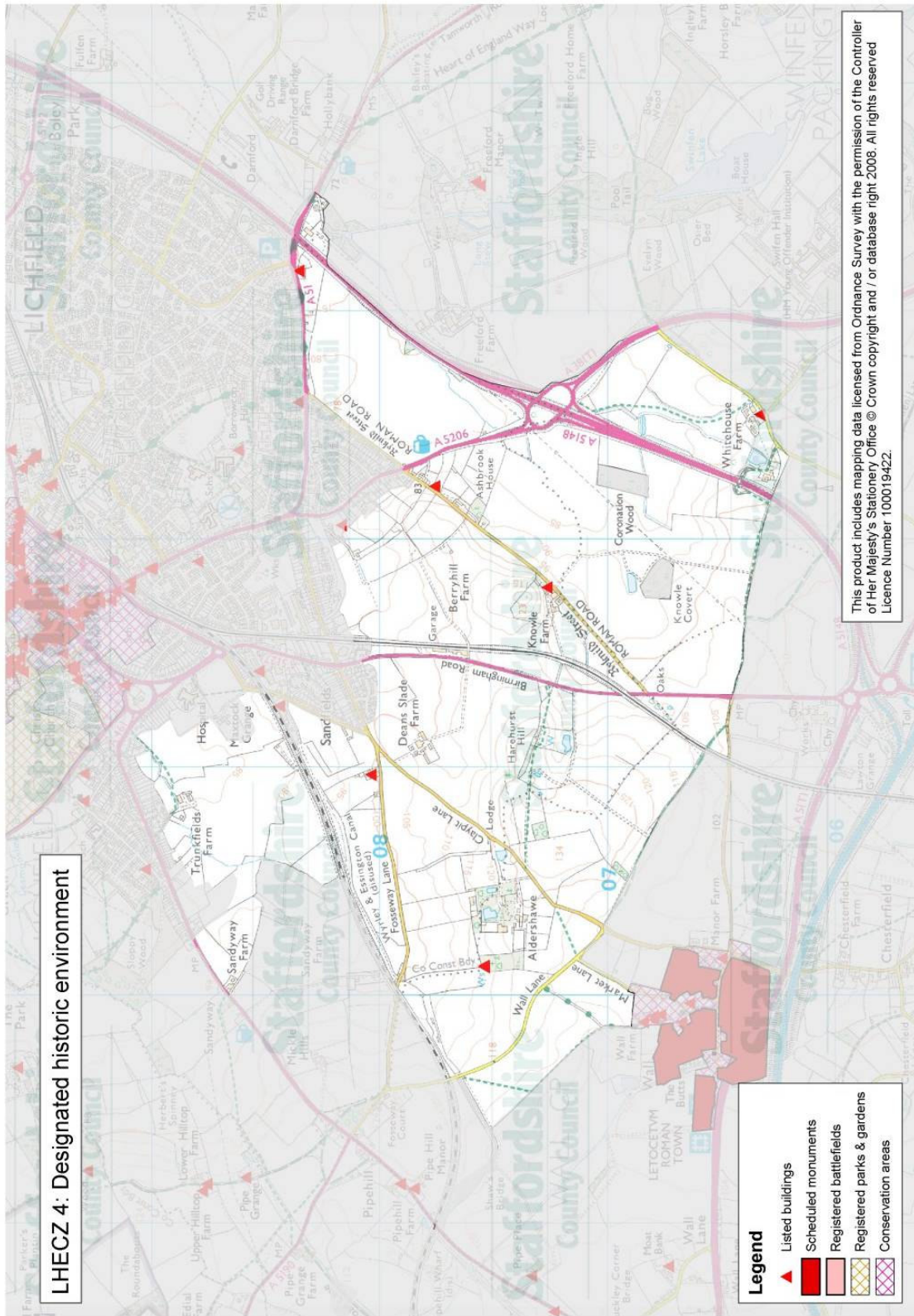
predominate within the LHECZ. The removal of field boundaries has occurred during the later half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to facilitate the large machinery required for the arable cultivation.

The overall settlement pattern is one of dispersed farmsteads many of which have been present since at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Three further farms have been demolished during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The changes to the field systems during the 20<sup>th</sup> century have impacted upon the legibility of the relationship between the historic farms and the landscape leading to a weakening of the historic landscape character within the zone.

### Historic Assets Summary Table

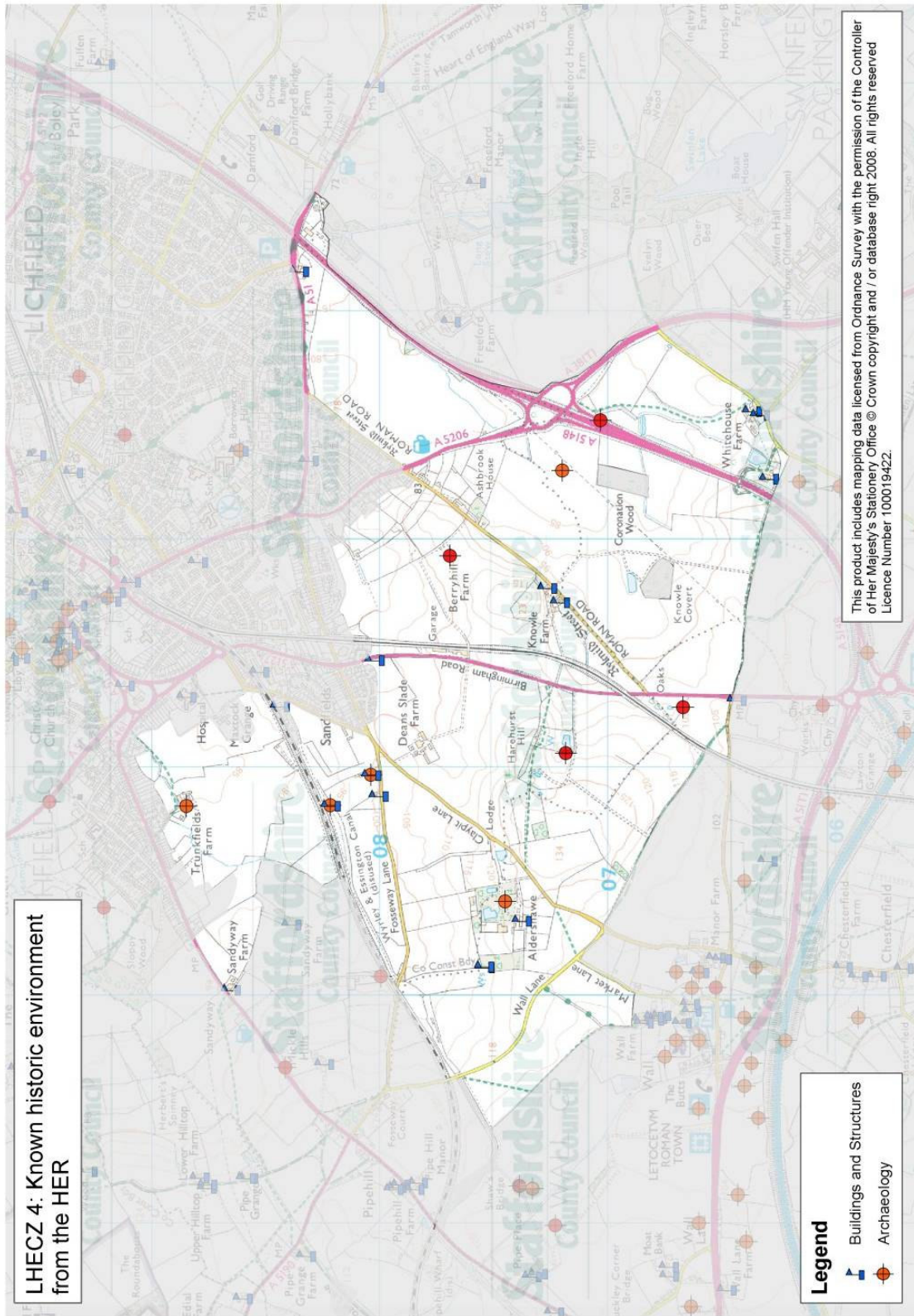
Survival	The zone has seen little disturbance other than through agricultural practices, but there are few known assets and the historic landscape has lost much of its pre 20 <sup>th</sup> century character.	2
Potential	A lack of current knowledge is probably the result of a lack of study rather than poor preservation.	2
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	There are very few known assets.	1
Group Association	The LHECZ contains few assets of a similar nature or date	1
Amenity Value	The area doesn't lend itself to display. Current knowledge gives limited potential for the historic environment to play a significant role in creating a definable or promotable identity to the area.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	There is the potential for the historic environment to be impacted by large to medium scale development including upon the setting of the Scheduled Monument at Wall and the dispersed nature of the current settlement pattern. There is also the high potential of sites of Roman date to survive within the area, which has currently seen little disturbance.	2
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>10</b>

For historical background to this area south of Lichfield, including Aldershawe and Wall, please refer to the Victoria County History volume XIV.

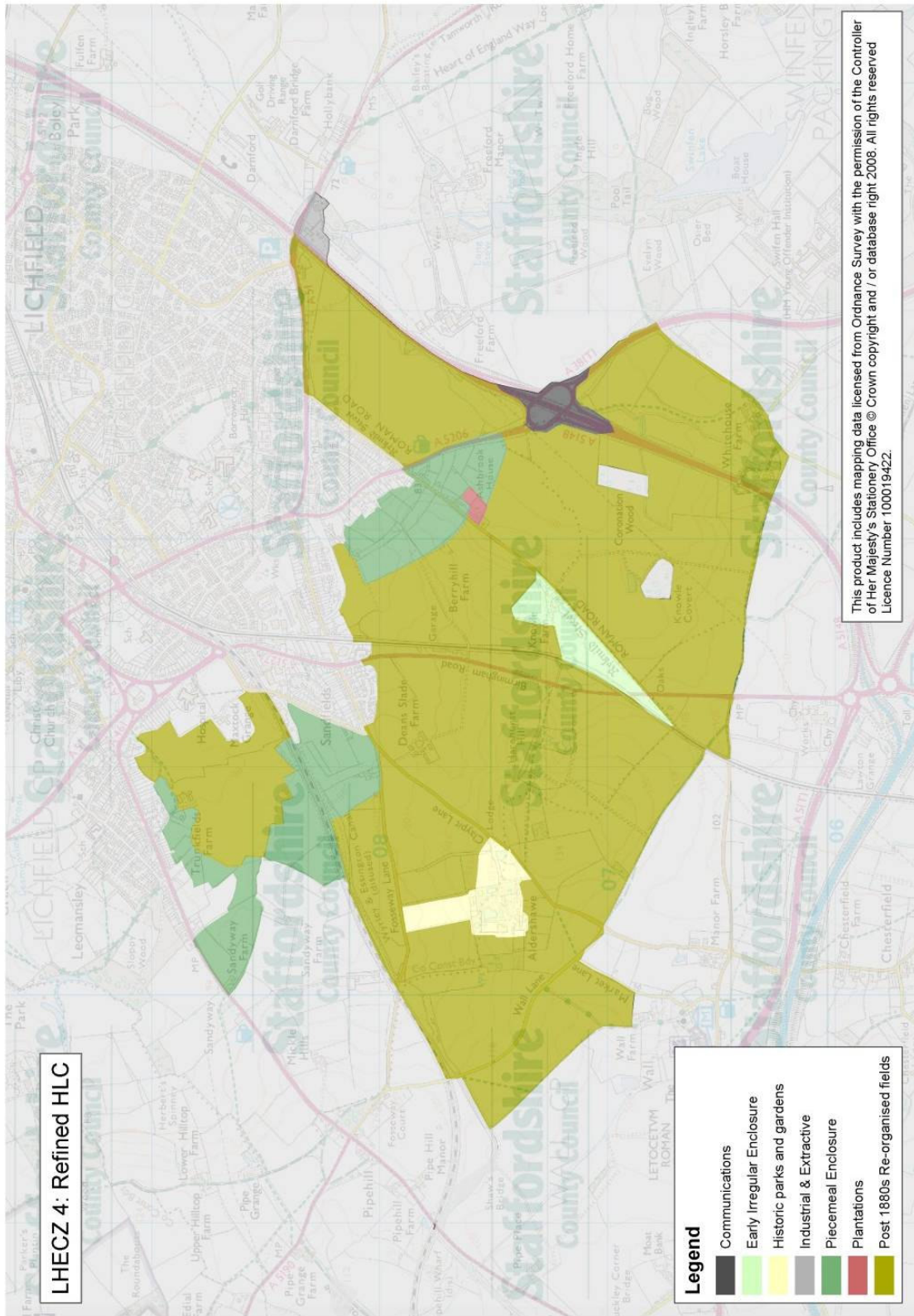


Map 10: Designations





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



Map 12: Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 5 – South of Abnalls Lane to Pipehill (HECA 2e)**

### **Summary**

This HECZ once formed part of Cannock Forest but is now agricultural in character and mostly comprises early enclosures of both an Irregular and Rectilinear nature. To the west of Woodhouses there is a surviving area of Piecemeal Enclosure, which had been created through private agreements between the landowners from open arable fields associated with this small settlement. All of these enclosures are likely to date from the later medieval to post medieval period. Two small areas of Unenclosed Land survive within the HECZ testimony to a previous landscape character.

The settlement pattern remains predominantly dispersed in nature with very little in the way of Post 1880s Settlement occurring. Farms dominate the landscape and many have origins of at least 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

Several sites of historic interest are present within the zone that are linked with noted Lichfield residents, Doctor Samuel Johnson and Doctor Erasmus Darwin, the latter being the grandfather of Charles Darwin.

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

- the designated sites listed below, both within and adjacent to the zone
- the relationships between the existing historic landscape character and the historic dispersed nature of the settlement and how this could be retained or reflected
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations** (map 13)

There are 12 Listed Buildings within the LHECZ and one Scheduled Monument.

There are no other designated sites falling within this LHECZ, although the Cathedral Close and Linear Park Registered Park and Garden (Grade II listed) lies adjacent to the eastern border. Impacts upon the setting of this designated site should be addressed prior to considering development within this zone.

## **Archaeological Character** (map 14)

There has been little archaeological work carried out within the HECZ and information relating to the Prehistoric and Roman periods relates to one unstratified find.

The overall character of the LHECZ of these earlier periods is likely to have been a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy from the Bronze Age onwards involving clearance of woodland and possibly creating areas of heathland.

The evidence currently suggests that exploitation of this landscape was carried out in earnest after the Norman Conquest (1066). This area would have formed part of Cannock Forest at the time of the Conquest and was perhaps a landscape composed of woodland, wood pasture and heathland still largely supporting a pastoral economy.

## **Historic Landscape** (map 15)

The landscape of LHECZ 5 is dominated by earlier enclosures mostly of at least post medieval date, with the exception of an area of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century Planned Enclosure around Pipehill Farm. This landscape was enclosed by a surveyor using straight field boundaries creating field systems and roads with strong geometric patterns. The plantations in this area have been established since the Second World War.

Of significance within the LHECZ are the two areas of Unenclosed Land at Pipe Green and Pipe Hill. The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) data suggests that these are survivors from episodes of early enclosures some of which are likely to have had their origins in the medieval period. These include enclosures around Pipehill; a small settlement first mentioned in c.1140 and which may have been named after the conduit constructed about this time to supply water to Lichfield Cathedral Close. The conduit head lies near Jubilee Wood and the conduit was in use from the 12<sup>th</sup> century until the 1960s.

The Unenclosed Land known as Pipe Green lies near Maple Hayes moated site, a Scheduled Monument, which is believed to have been the manorial seat of Thomas de Abbenhall in 1294. The enclosures in this area may, therefore be the result of assarting, the clearance of woodland for farm land, during the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

The settlement pattern, like that for much of the landscape around Lichfield, is dispersed in nature. The largest settlement relates to a hamlet at Woodhouses, which in the medieval period appears to have had its own open arable fields. The hamlet was first mentioned in 1374 and the placename suggests that it was established as a result of assarting probably at an earlier period, mostly likely between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century, as was much of this area lies within the traditional boundaries of Cannock Forest.

The remaining settlements relate to single or grouped farmsteads of which there are twenty surviving within the zone dating to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century with several dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The establishment of some of these farms may have been associated with further episodes of enclosure within the zone.

Maple Hayes country house, a Listed Building, dates to from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and a landscape park was established around it probably at a similar date which survives within the current landscape.

### Sites of historic interest

Edial Hall on the western border of the HECZ dates to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, with 17<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings. It was occupied by Doctor Samuel Johnson, who is intimately associated with Lichfield, c.1736.

Darwin's Bath is located to the south of Abnall's Road and is a sunken sandstone tank formerly used as a cold bath probably of 18<sup>th</sup> century origin. It is believed to have been built by Sir John Floyer, who practised as a physician in Lichfield from 1676. The site was bought by Dr. Erasmus Darwin, the grandfather of Charles Darwin, in c.1780. Darwin was also a physician in Lichfield during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and he incorporated the bath within a botanical garden. The botanical garden has gone, but there are fishponds surviving which are also marked upon the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map. Further research may determine whether the fishponds date to the period of the botanic garden.

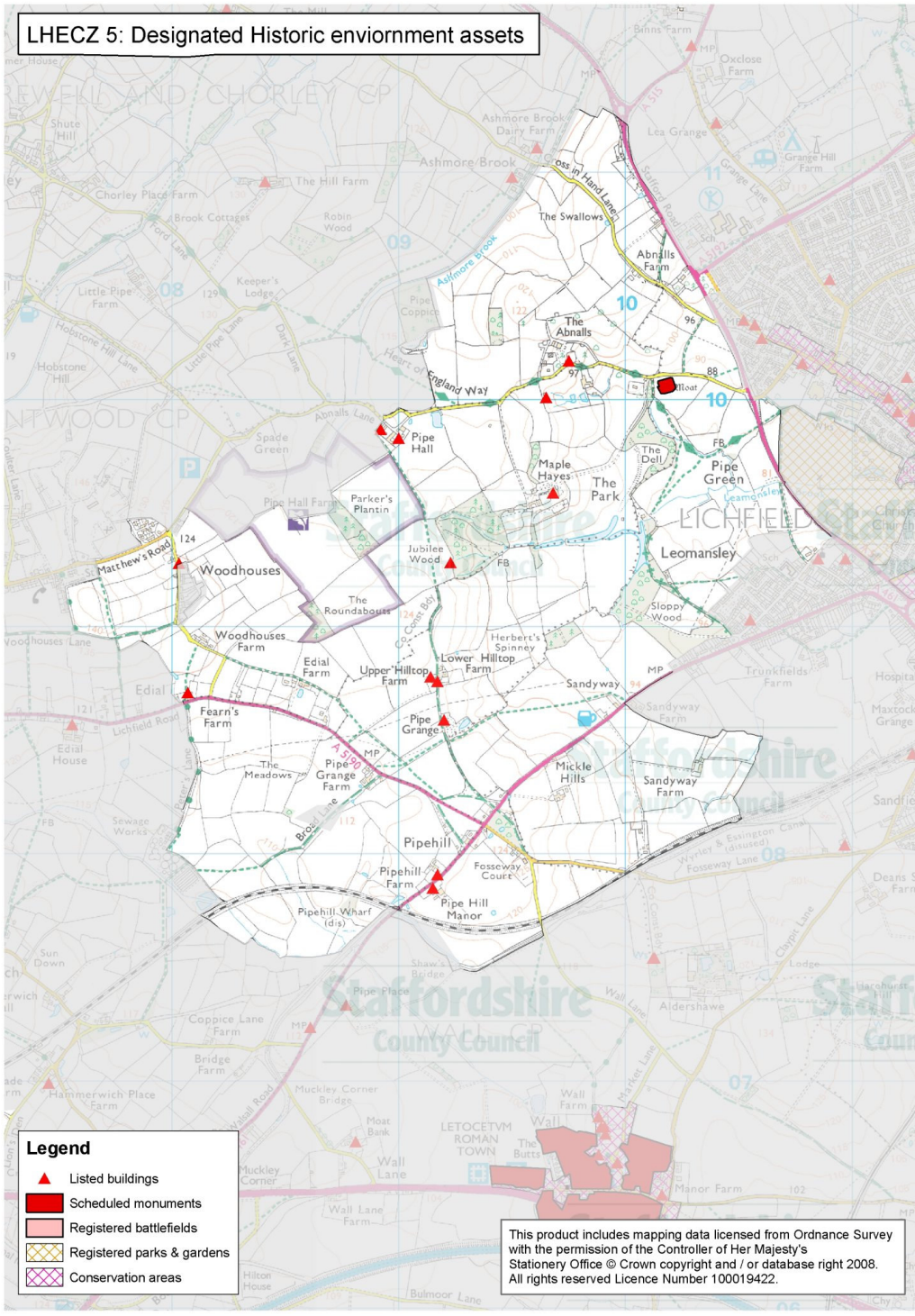
### Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The historic landscape character survives well within the LHECZ as do the historic buildings and the scheduled moated site.	3
Potential	The LHECZ has not been subject to extensive quarrying or development. The impacts relate to agricultural practices. However there are few known assets beyond the historic landscape, built environment and earthwork remains of the moat. There is the potential that more detailed study could identify more assets.	2
Documentation	There is little documentation beyond the HER and the VCH.	2
Diversity	Woodhouses has surviving evidence of piecemeal enclosure and Maple Hayes Hall is associated with its landscape park. Also links between landscape character and settlement pattern.	2

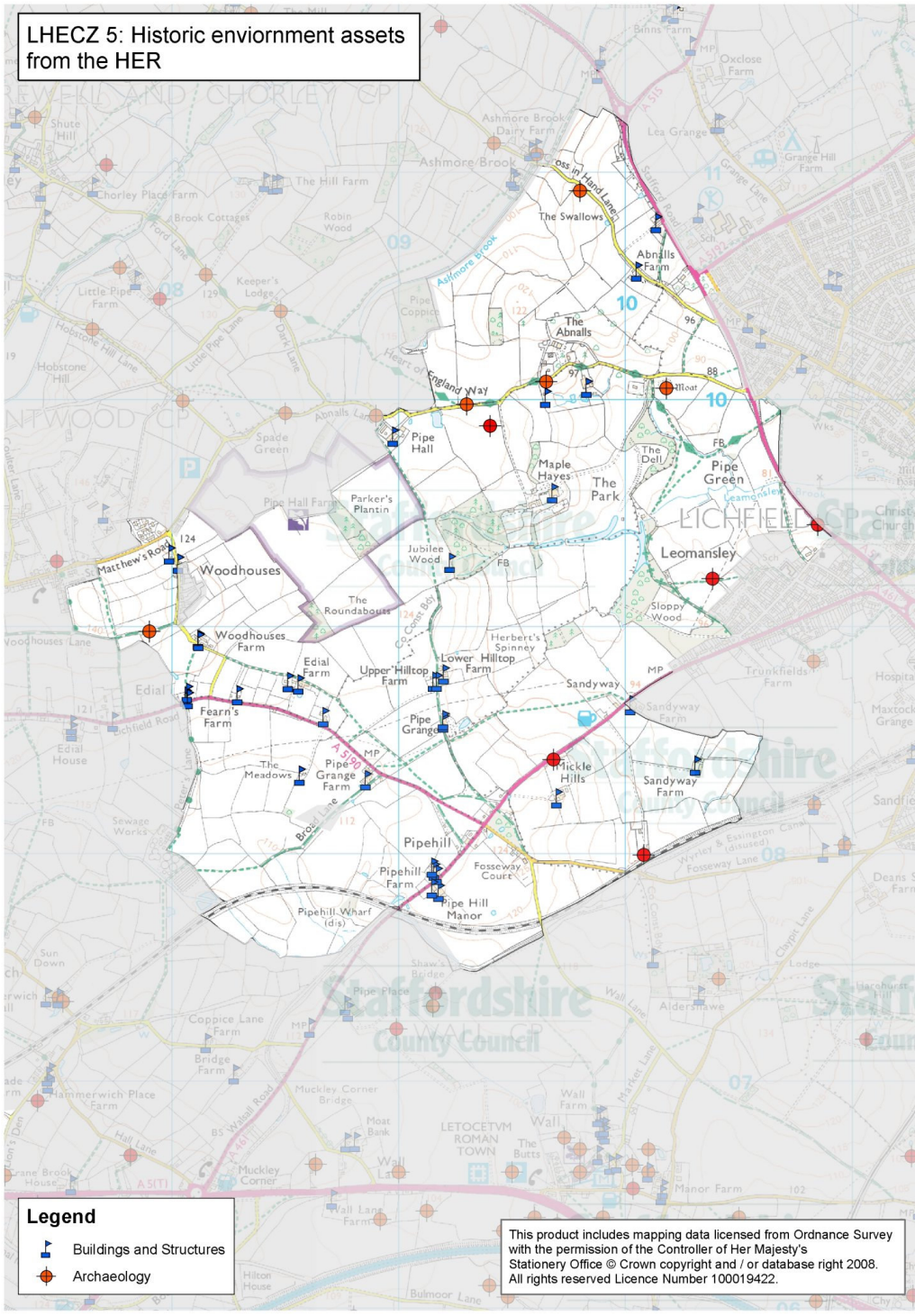
Group Association	It contains a limited range of assets of similar date in terms of the built environment and some are associated such as the 18 <sup>th</sup> century landscape around Maple Hayes and Woodhouses with its field system. There is likely to be a strong link between the origins of the current historic landscape character and the origins of the settlement pattern.	2
Amenity Value	There is the potential for specific elements of the historic environment which could be promoted such as Darwin's Park or Maple Hayes landscape park. Their ownership is unknown.	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	Medium to large scale development would have a considerable impact upon the nature of the historic landscape and its relationship to the dispersed nature of the settlement.	2
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>15</b>

For historical background to parts of this area, please refer to the Victoria County History volume XIV.

LHECZ 5: Designated Historic environment assets

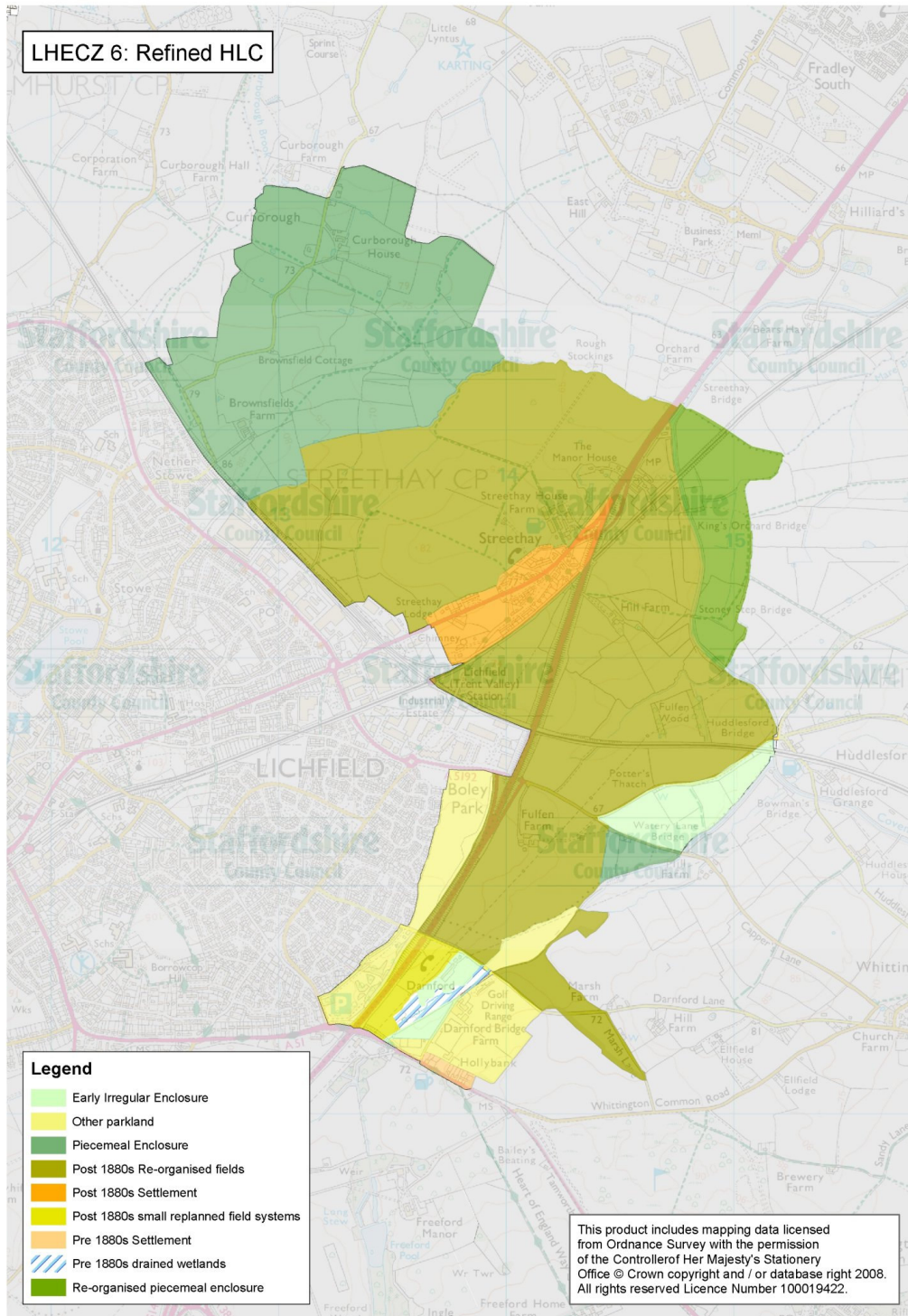


Map 13: Designations



Map14: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)





Map 15: Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 6 – Land around Streethay (HECA 10b)**

### **Summary**

Field systems and the expanded settlement of Streethay dominate the LHECZ and these mostly reflect 20<sup>th</sup> century changes to the landscape. To the north west of the zone a large area of earlier enclosure survives which had its origins as medieval open fields, probably enclosed during the post medieval period.

Other than the modern village of Streethay the settlement pattern is predominantly dispersed in nature, with most of the farmsteads dating to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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

- the Conservation Areas and adjacent Listed Buildings
- the Scheduled Monument
- the relationships between the existing historic landscape character and settlement pattern to the north west of the zone and how this could be retained or reflected
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations** (map 16)

There are 6 Listed Buildings within the LHECZ, including a milestone on the Coventry Canal.

There is one Scheduled Monument a moated site and plunge bath north west of Streethay.

There are no other designated sites falling within this LHECZ.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 17)

Very little archaeological work has been carried out within the LHECZ except for an evaluation upon the West Coast main railway line and some work on aerial photography in the north as part of the Trent Valley Cropmark Survey.

The overall character of the HECZ for the earlier Prehistoric period is likely to have been of a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy from the Bronze Age onwards. Early human activity is known within the northern part of the LHECZ and comprises an undated lithic working site

west of Streethay and cropmark features, including enclosures and a ring ditch to the north west of the village.

However, evidence of Roman activity is limited to the line of Rykneild Street running south west to north east across the LHECZ. This Roman route bisects the village of Streethay and two unstratified find spots of Roman coins have been found nearby, one of which may have comprised a hoard. Currently no Roman sites have been identified in or around Streethay itself.

This area is likely to have formed part of Cannock Forest by the mid 11<sup>th</sup> century and the landscape may have been dominated by woodland, wood pasture and/or heathland. Consequently earlier activity may have been confined to a pastoral economy which exploited these landscapes. Settlement would have been sparse and concentrated upon clearings within the still heavily wooded landscape. Further research on the earlier environment would enhance our understanding of the landscape of the LHECZ prior to the medieval period.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 18)

The historic landscape is dominated by Post 1880s Reorganised Fields which are likely to date to the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when pressures to intensify agricultural production led to the removal of many field boundaries. The origins of these fields are unclear at present, but some may have once formed part of an open field system serving Streethay. The modern field systems around Fulfen Farm certainly have their origins as open fields. These open fields were enclosed through verbal, informal agreements between the farmers known as Piecemeal Enclosure which had begun by at least the early 16<sup>th</sup> century in Staffordshire. The presence of a watermill at Darnford in the south of the LHECZ attests to the presence of arable cultivation in the wider area.

Piecemeal Enclosure is also indicated around Curborough House and Brownsfield Farm, which had its origins as open fields probably, associated with both Lichfield city and Curborough. Brownsfields Farm dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and may have been built when the open fields here were first enclosed as Piecemeal Enclosure.

To the east of the Coventry Canal lies a small area of 19<sup>th</sup> century Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure, which also had its origins as an open field system in the medieval period. This particular field system is likely to have belonged to Streethay.

The settlement pattern is one that is still predominantly dispersed in nature. However, the hamlet of Streethay has expanded considerably during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century and now practically forms part of the Lichfield conurbation. Streethay was first mentioned in documentary sources in the later 12<sup>th</sup> century and a surviving Scheduled moated site lies to the north of the modern settlement. Other settlements comprise Curborough first recorded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century which is believed to be the site of a deserted settlement; Fulfen which

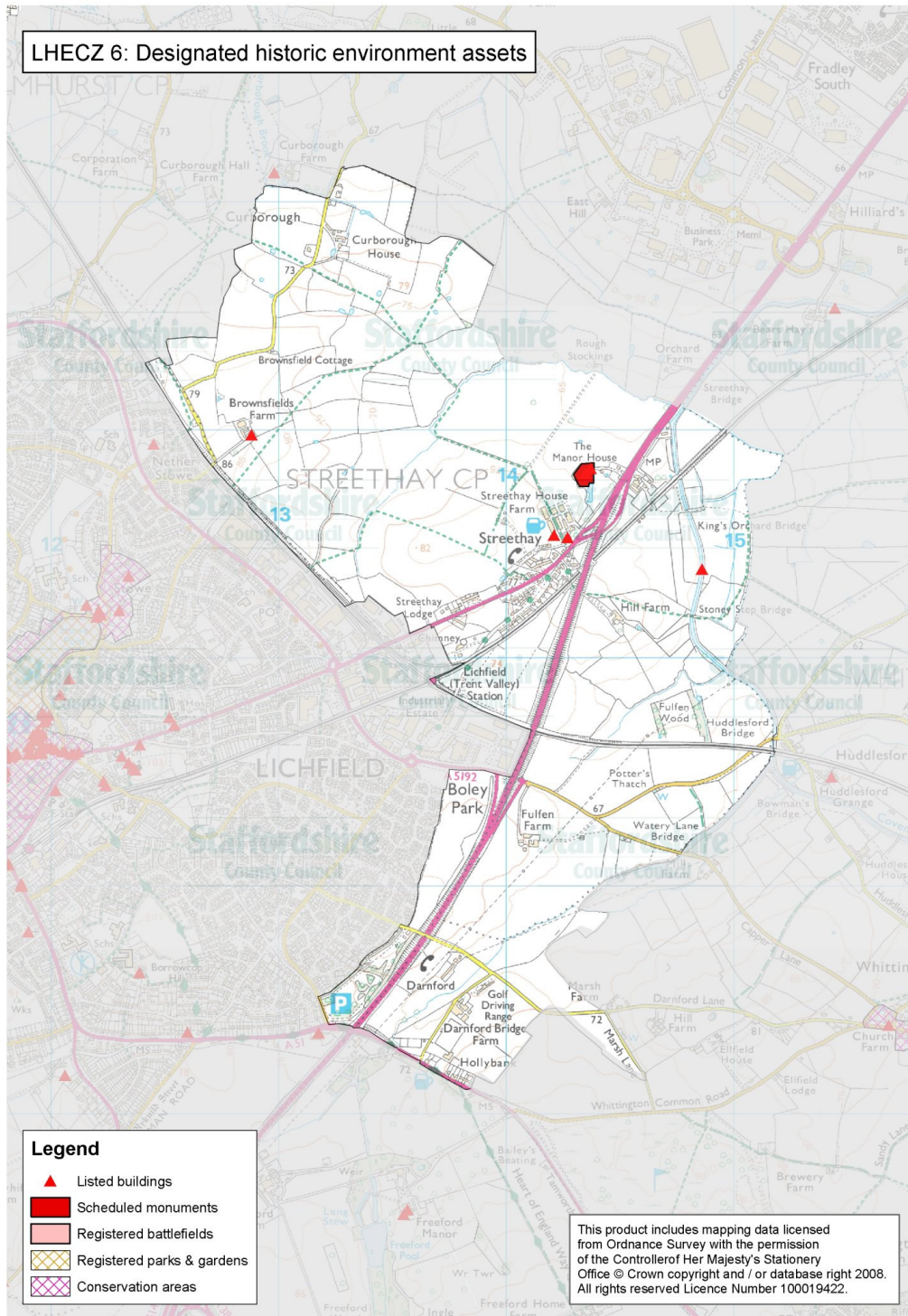
was first mentioned in the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century and Darnford which was the site of a watermill by 1243. All three of these sites comprise farmsteads, which date to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The farms at Fulfen and Curborough may have earlier origins. There are a further four farmsteads which date to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Coventry Canal and the Wyrley and Essington Canal were constructed meeting at the Huddlesford Junction just outside the LHECZ. The Wyrley and Essington Canal is disused within the LHECZ, but the Coventry Canal is still in use and there are three accommodation bridges and a coal wharf surviving along its length within the character zone.

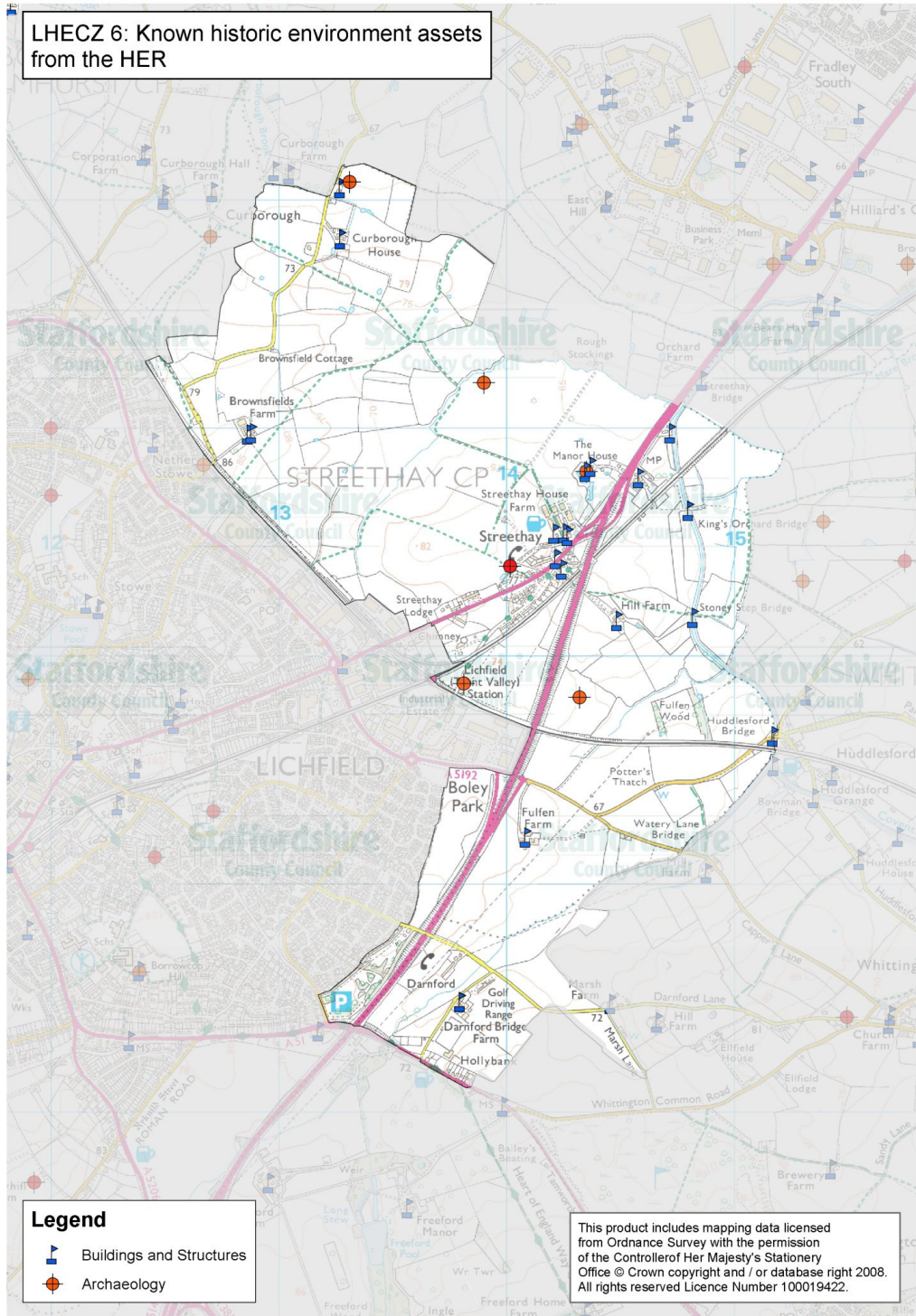
### Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has seen little disturbance from development, other than around Streethay. Much of the historic landscape has been impacted by agricultural improvements.	2
Potential	Some potential in the north indicating some prehistoric-Roman presence. Remainder of HECZ has seen little or no investigation and disturbance is through ploughing	2
Documentation	Comprises the HER data, the VCH volume and part of the Trent Valley Survey.	2
Diversity	There are very few known assets and are of a limited range.	1
Group Association	There are a few assets of medieval and post medieval date, particularly relating to the built environment	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not lend itself to public display or visitor attraction. Current knowledge gives limited potential for the historic environment to play a significant role to create or promote identity.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	The area could accommodate medium to large scale development although specific historic environment assets such as the Scheduled moat at Streethay, the dispersed settlement pattern, potential archaeological deposits particularly the cropmark sites and setting of the canal may suffer adverse effects.	1
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>10</b>

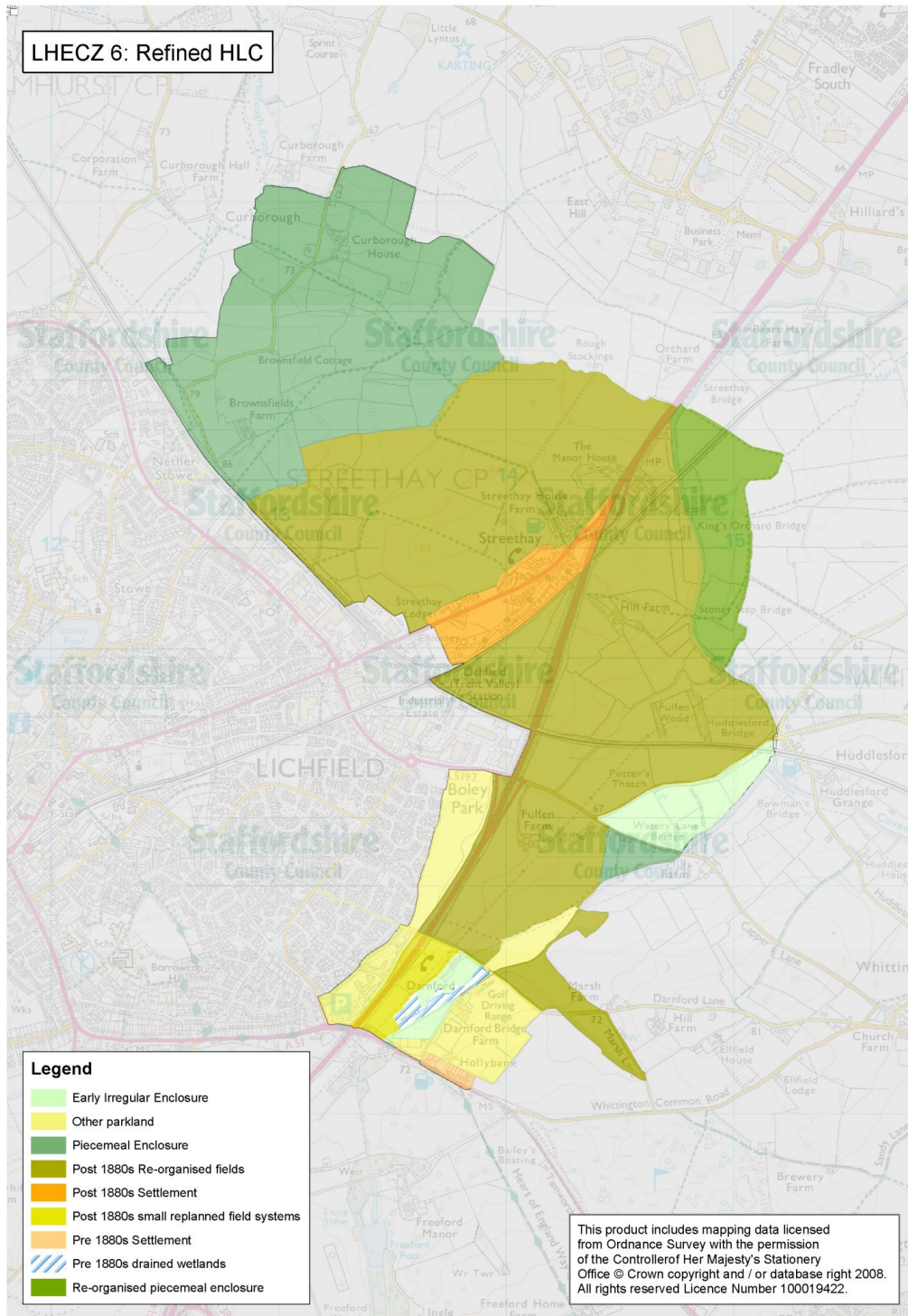
For historical background to Streethay and its surroundings, please refer to the Victoria County History volume XIV.



Map 16: Designations



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



Map 18: Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 7 – Brookhay to West Hill (HECA 11)**

### **Summary**

The historic landscape character of the LHECZ is dominated by early enclosure, which may date to the post medieval periods. It is likely that during its earlier history the zone was dominated by woodland and heath land falling within Cannock Forest at the time of the Norman Conquest. Surviving documentary sources from this period suggest that the landscape was increasingly enclosed for farmland, probably still mostly pasture. The settlement pattern is dispersed in nature with farmsteads whose origins date to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century or possibly earlier. The date of the farmsteads may hold the key to understanding the nature and date of the enclosure of this landscape.

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

- the Listed Buildings
- the relationships between the existing historic landscape character and existing historic dispersed settlement pattern and how this could be retained or reflected
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations** (map 19)

There are 2 Listed Buildings within the LHECZ.

There are no other designated sites falling within this LHECZ.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 20)

There has been little archaeological work carried out within the LHECZ and information on the Prehistoric and Roman periods relates to a possible ring ditch and a possible enclosure both identified on aerial photographs as soilmarks. Rykneild Street, a major Roman road, crosses the character zone on a north-south alignment and survives fossilised within the line of the modern A38 dual-carriageway.

The overall character of the LHECZ for these earlier periods is likely to have been a heavily wooded landscape. This probably perhaps supporting a dispersed pastoral economy from the Bronze Age onwards typified by dispersed and possibly transient populations occupying woodland clearings. This pastoral economy may indeed have resulted in the formation of heath land as occurred across the New Forest, Hampshire. Evidence from within



the wider HECA11 (such as Curborough and cropmark evidence from the river valleys to the north and east) supports a view of dispersed settlement within the wooded areas and the greater concentration of prehistoric population along the river valleys.

The evidence currently suggests that exploitation of this landscape greatly increased following the Norman Conquest (1066). However, this process appears to have followed on from a general trend of small scale clearances during the Anglo-Saxon period, again supporting a predominantly pastoral economy. This area formed part of Cannock Forest at the time of the Conquest which was probably a landscape composed of woodland, wood pasture and heathland. The placenames of Brookhay and Bears Hay Farm suggest that these areas may have formed enclosures within the Forest where a bailiff held jurisdiction from the late 11<sup>th</sup> century onwards (Baliwick date) (Horowitz 2005:603).

The Coventry Canal was constructed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and crosses the LHECZ adjacent to Rykneild Street.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 21)

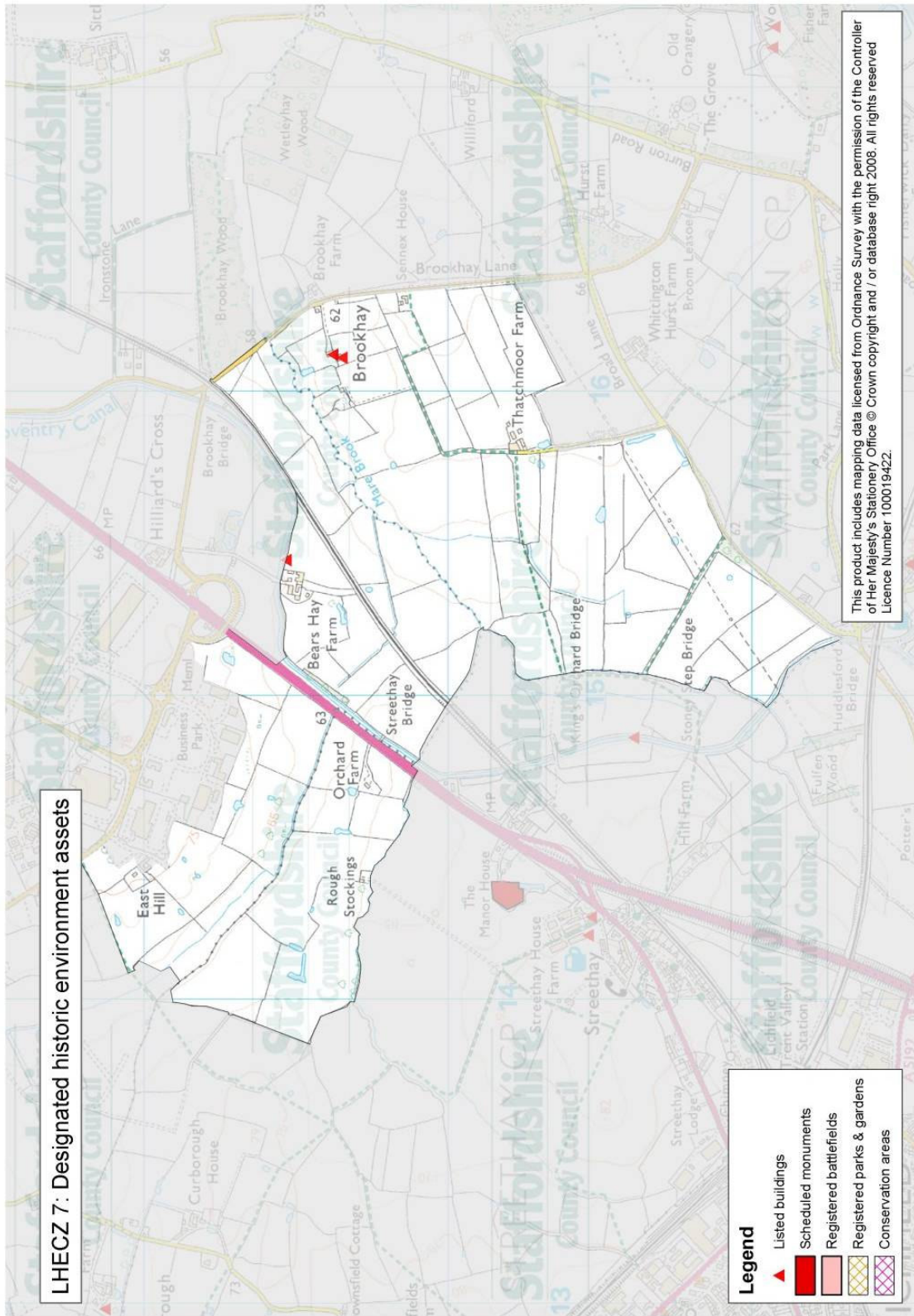
The landscape of LHECZ 7 is dominated by Early Irregular Enclosure which, from current evidence, is likely to have been of post medieval in date. This pattern has potentially been created through assarting, the clearance of woodland for farm land, or through the enclosure of heath land. The exception is an area of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century Planned Enclosure around Thatchmoor Farm. This landscape was enclosed by a surveyor to create a geometric pattern to the field system consisting of straight boundaries and straightened roads and trackways.

The dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads within the LHECZ may further support the idea that the enclosures are mostly post medieval in date rather than medieval. The results of the historic farmsteads survey found that all, but one of the farmsteads date to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century origin from their plan form. The farmhouse at Blue Gate Farm dates to c.1700 but the farm buildings are 18<sup>th</sup> century in date. It is possible that some of these sites may have earlier origins than the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but only more detailed documentary research or building survey could establish this. However, Thatchmoor Farm is associated with an area of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Century Planned Enclosure, which may suggest that its origins only extend to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

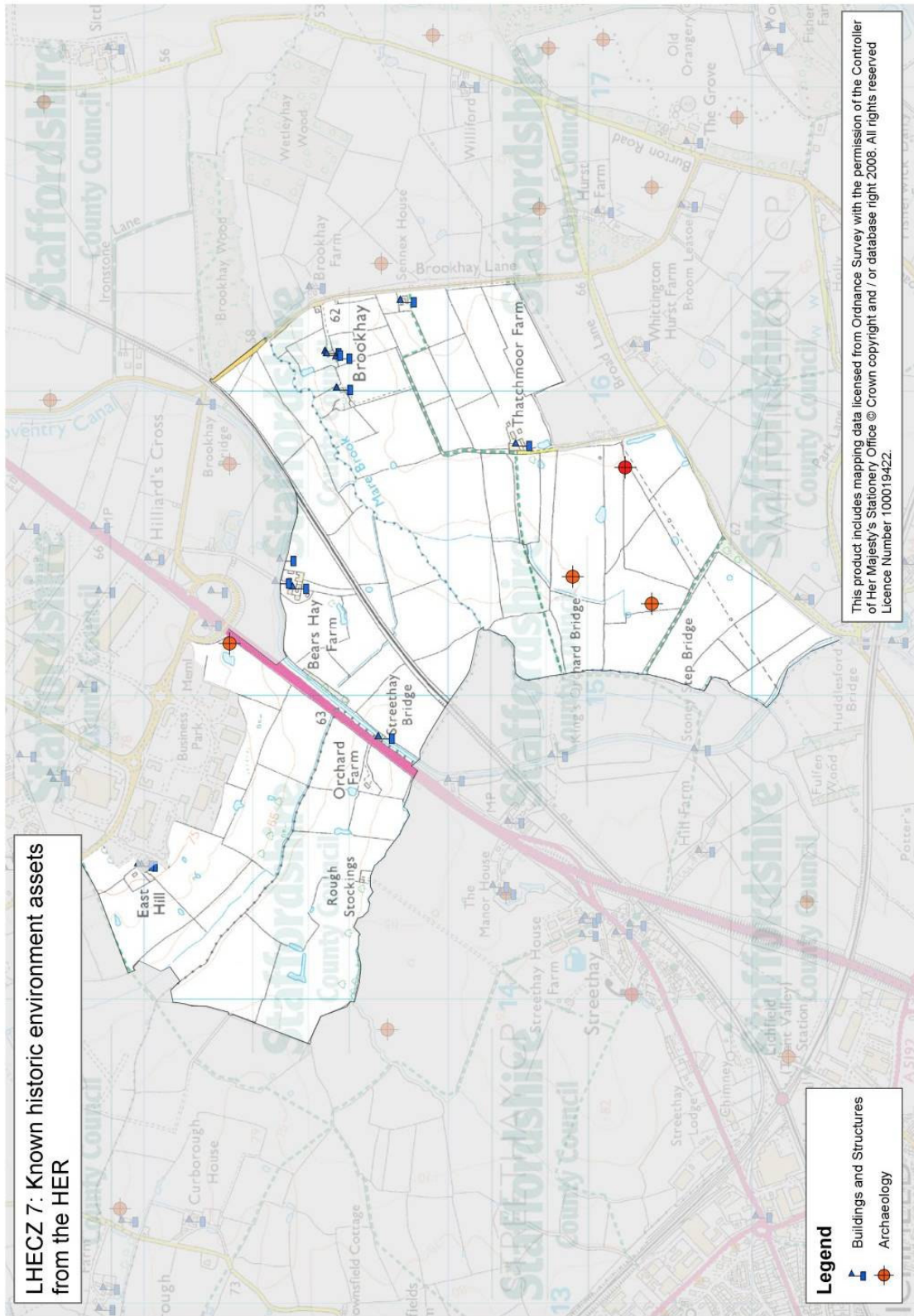
### **Historic Assets Summary Table**

Survival	The zone has seen little in the way of development and impacts on survival relate mostly to farming practices. There are few known assets beyond the historic landscape and farmsteads	2
Potential	The zone is crossed by the Roman road, but otherwise little is known of the earlier periods indeed upto the post medieval period.	2

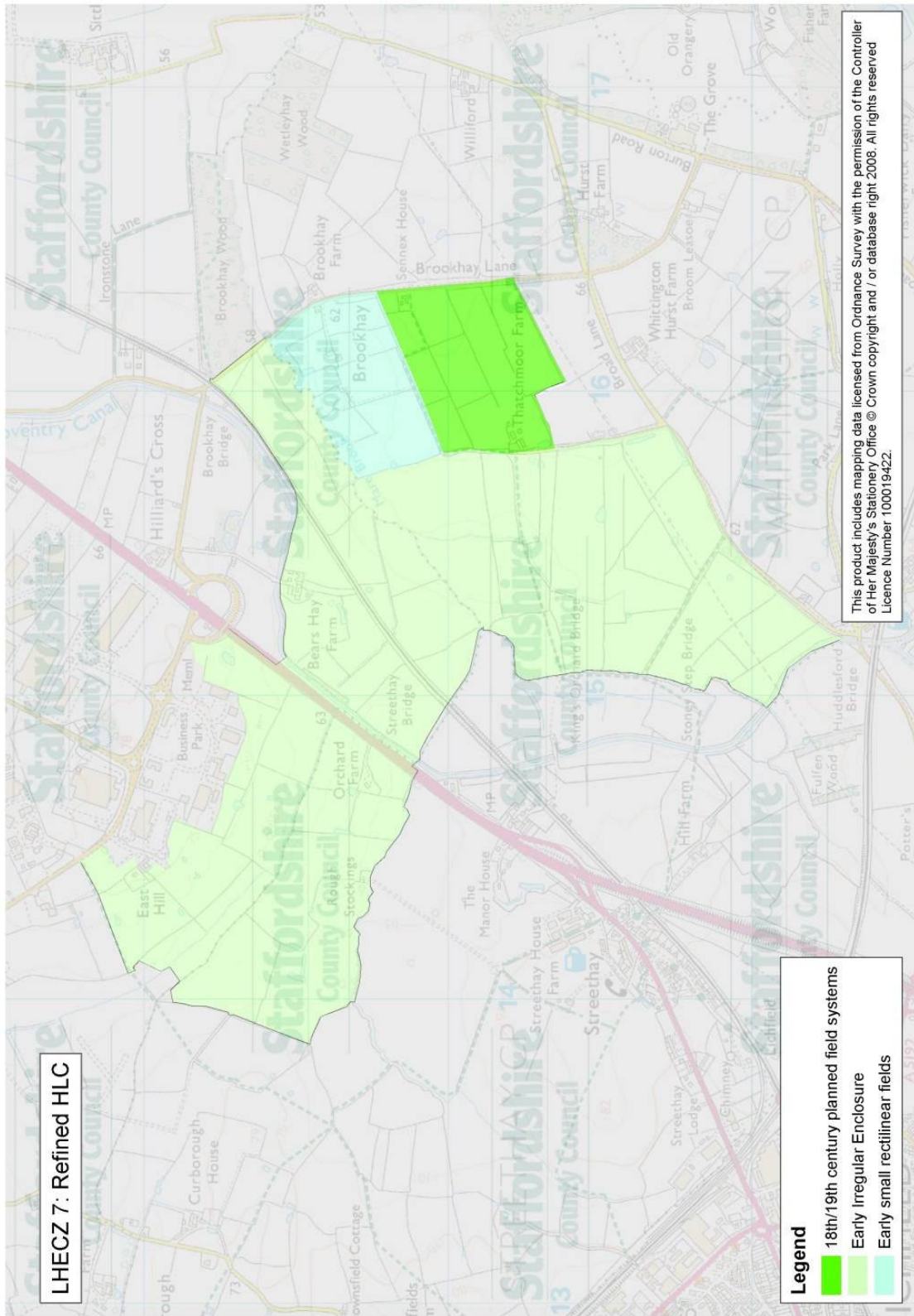
Documentation	HER data only	1
Diversity	There are very few assets. Those known relate mostly to the Roman road, historic landscape and built environment.	1
Group Association	There may be a relationship between the origins of the landscape and the settlement pattern.	2
Amenity Value	Other than the canal there are currently few opportunities to promote the historic environment without more research	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	Medium to large scale development will have a significant impact upon the dispersed settlement and its relationship with the historic landscape.	2
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>11</b>



Map 19: Designations



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



Map 21: Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 8 – Curborough (HECA 8)**

### **Summary**

The landscape of LHECZ mostly comprises field systems revealing different dates of origin. To the east of Watery Lane the pattern possibly dates to the medieval period, perhaps representing 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century assarting. To the west of the lane the morphology of the fields suggests a later date of enclosure possibly 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century in date. These field systems are associated with farmsteads which may have been established when these areas were first enclosed.

To the north at Wood End and to the east towards Fradley South the field systems have undergone considerable change during the 20<sup>th</sup> century through the removal of field boundaries.

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

- the designated sites listed below, both within and adjacent to the zone
- the relationships between the existing historic landscape character of medieval and later origins and the historic dispersed nature of the settlement and how this could be retained or reflected
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations** (map 22)

There are three Listed buildings lying within the LHECZ.

There are no other designated sites within the character zone, although the Trent & Mersey Canal Conservation Area lies adjacent to the northern boundary. Any development within this area should take into consideration impacts upon both the listed buildings and Conservation Area.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 23)

The overall character of the LHECZ of the earlier prehistoric period is likely to have been a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy from the Bronze Age onwards involving clearance of woodland possibly resulting in the formation of heath land. Evidence of human activity within the LHECZ in these periods is currently confined to a number of finds in the western half which have been dated to the Neolithic/Bronze Age. Their presence may support the possibility of limited settlement within the wider area. Further archaeological/environmental research would be required to address this issue.

Evidence for activity during the Roman period is similarly limited to unstratified finds in the southern area of the LHECZ around Curborough. To the east of Curborough Hall Farm a large quantity of finds of various periods has included large quantities of Roman coins, pottery, a kiln and roof tiles suggesting a settlement or broader activity site in the area.

### **Historic Landscape (map 24)**

The HECZ is predominantly rural in nature and comprises field systems of several dates. A large block of fields to the west of the LHECZ appear, from their form, to date to the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century being semi-planned in nature. The central area is predominantly irregular in form and may relate to an earlier period of enclosure. To the west and around Wood House Farm are field systems which have been impacted by an increase in agricultural productivity during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century. This reorganisation of field systems resulted in considerable field boundary loss creating enlarged fields which have been classified as Post 1880s Reorganised Fields. Two areas of woodland, Big Lyntus and Little Lyntus date to at least the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, being marked upon the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1" OS map (1830s).

The settlement pattern is dispersed in nature comprising scattered farms. The results of the historic farmstead survey found that the majority of farm buildings date to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although Curborough Farm appears to date to the early-mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. Curborough is first mentioned in documentary sources in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The relatively early origins for settlement, combined with the evidence of the associated early irregular enclosure, may suggest that this was an area of assarting at some point in the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century. Consequently this irregular enclosure may have its origins in the medieval period.

The origins of Fullbrook Farm, which sits within a landscape of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century semi planned enclosure, may be linked to the origins of these field systems.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) notes the site of a deserted or shrunken medieval settlement in the vicinity of Curborough. It is possible that this 'settlement' represented a series of dispersed farmsteads or a clustering of farmsteads rather than a coherent village.

In the centre of the LHECZ lies the largest modern intrusion, the sewage works, to the east of which lies a sprint course providing a public amenity.

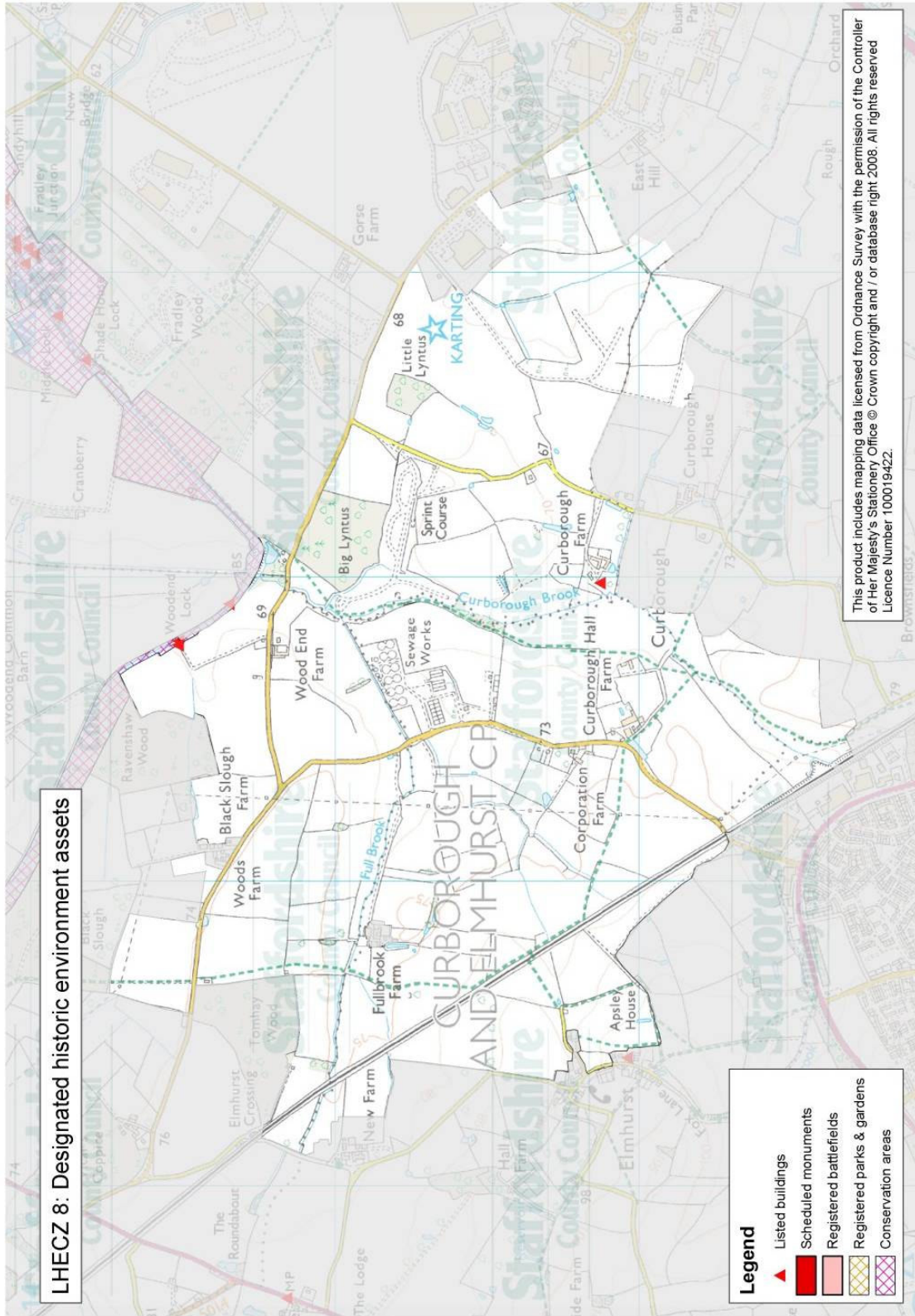
### **Historic Assets Summary Table**

Survival	The zone has seen little disturbance other than through agricultural activities including some field boundary loss.	2
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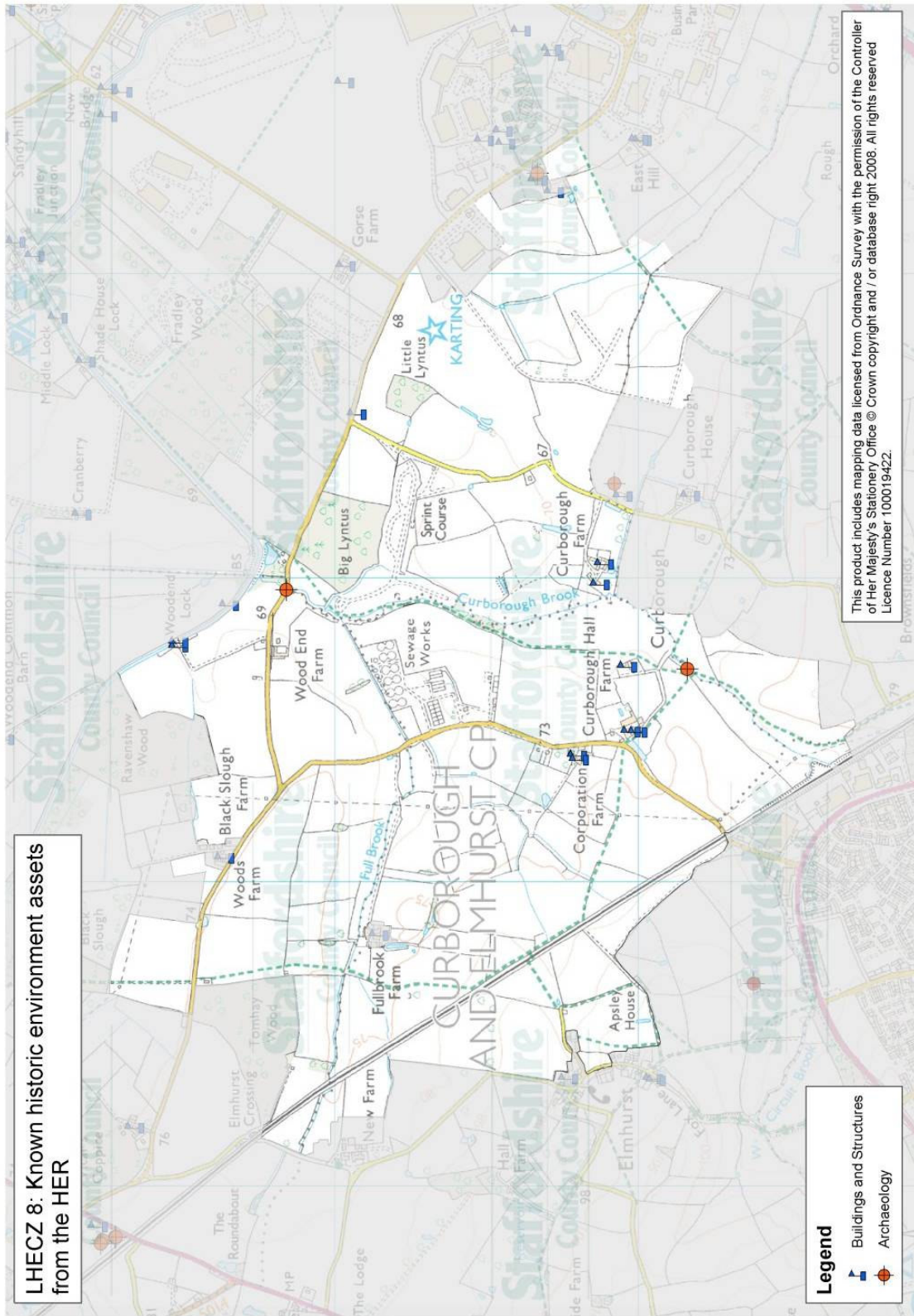
Potential	There are currently limited known historic environment assets beyond the surviving landscapes and built environment.	2
Documentation	HER data & VCH.	2
Diversity	There are very few known assets other than built environment, field systems and find spots	1
Group Association	The origins of Fullbrook Farm and the surrounding field system are likely to be related (being 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century origin).	2
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to interpretation.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	Medium to large scale development will have an impact upon the nature of the dispersed settlement and upon the coherency of some of the historic landscapes	2
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>12</b>

For further information on the history of this area please refer to VCH vol. XIV on Curborough and Elmshurst.

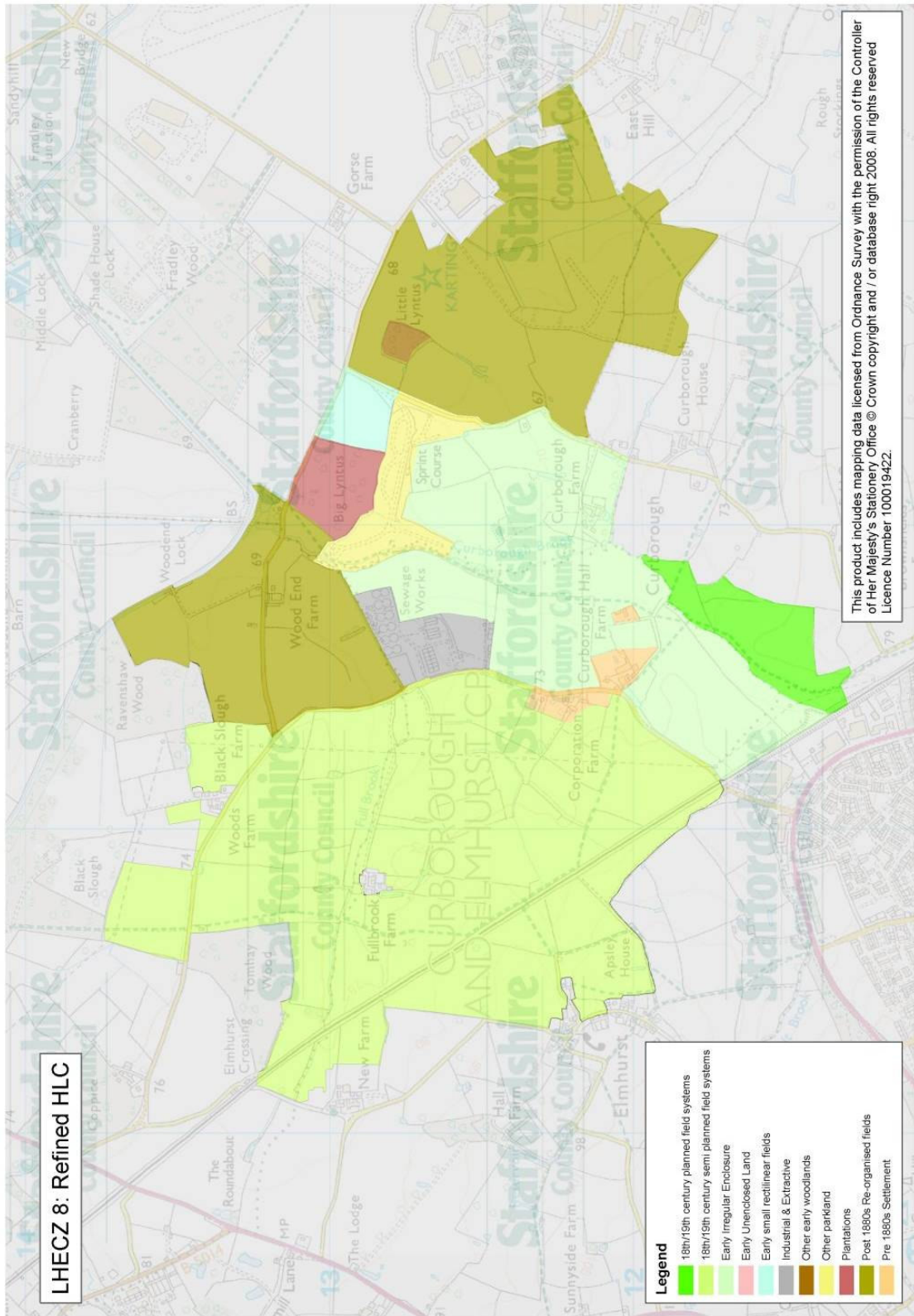




Map 22: Designations



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



Map 24: Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 9 – Fradley Airfield & Fradley South (HECA 11)**

### **Summary**

The LHECZ is dominated by the former RAF airfield and the late 20<sup>th</sup>/early 21<sup>st</sup> century commercial and residential developments. To the east early 19<sup>th</sup> century field systems survive which appear to be closely associated with the origins of both Gorse Farm and Gorse Lane.

Any future development within this area would need to assess the impact upon and any resulting mitigation strategies relating to the surviving RAF buildings and the historic landscape character of the area around Gorse Farm.

### **Designations**

No designated sites currently lie within or adjacent to the LHECZ.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 25)

The overall character of the LHECZ during the later prehistoric period is likely to have been a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy. From the Bronze Age onwards this required the clearance of woodland possibly resulting in the formation of areas of heath land. Prehistoric and Roman evidence is to be found in the wider character area and is particularly dense along the Trent and Tame river valleys to the north and east. It is likely that this particular area had seen little occupation from the prehistoric period until enclosure in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, primarily being an area exploited for pasture.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 26)

By the mid/late 11<sup>th</sup> century (post conquest period) this area had formed part of the Royal Forest of Cannock and survived as unenclosed heathland until the agricultural improvements of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The preliminary results of the historic farmstead survey suggest that the origins of Gorse Farm lay in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and it is probable that it was built some time after 1810 to farm the newly enclosed land.

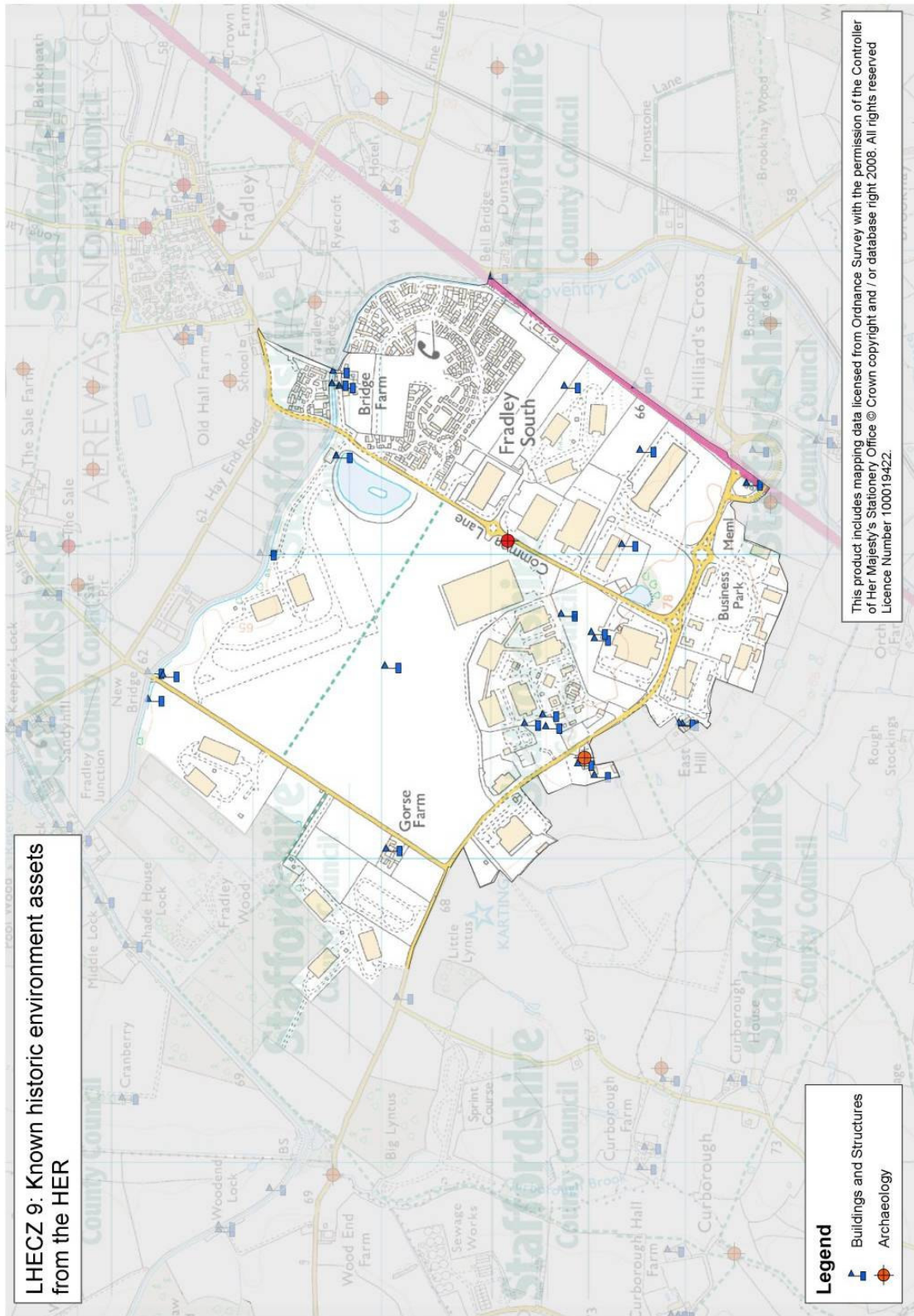
Construction on RAF Lichfield began in 1939 upon an area of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century Planned Enclosure, fragments of which survive to the west around Gorse Farm. The 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century Planned Enclosure was created as a result of an Act of Parliament to enclose Fradley Heath in 1810. This also led to the construction of Gorse Lane. This field system, formally laid out by surveyors, is typified by straight boundaries and roads which create a strong geometric pattern in the landscape.

From the Second World War onwards the airfield dominated this LHECZ and several former military buildings and the site of the airstrip continue to survive.

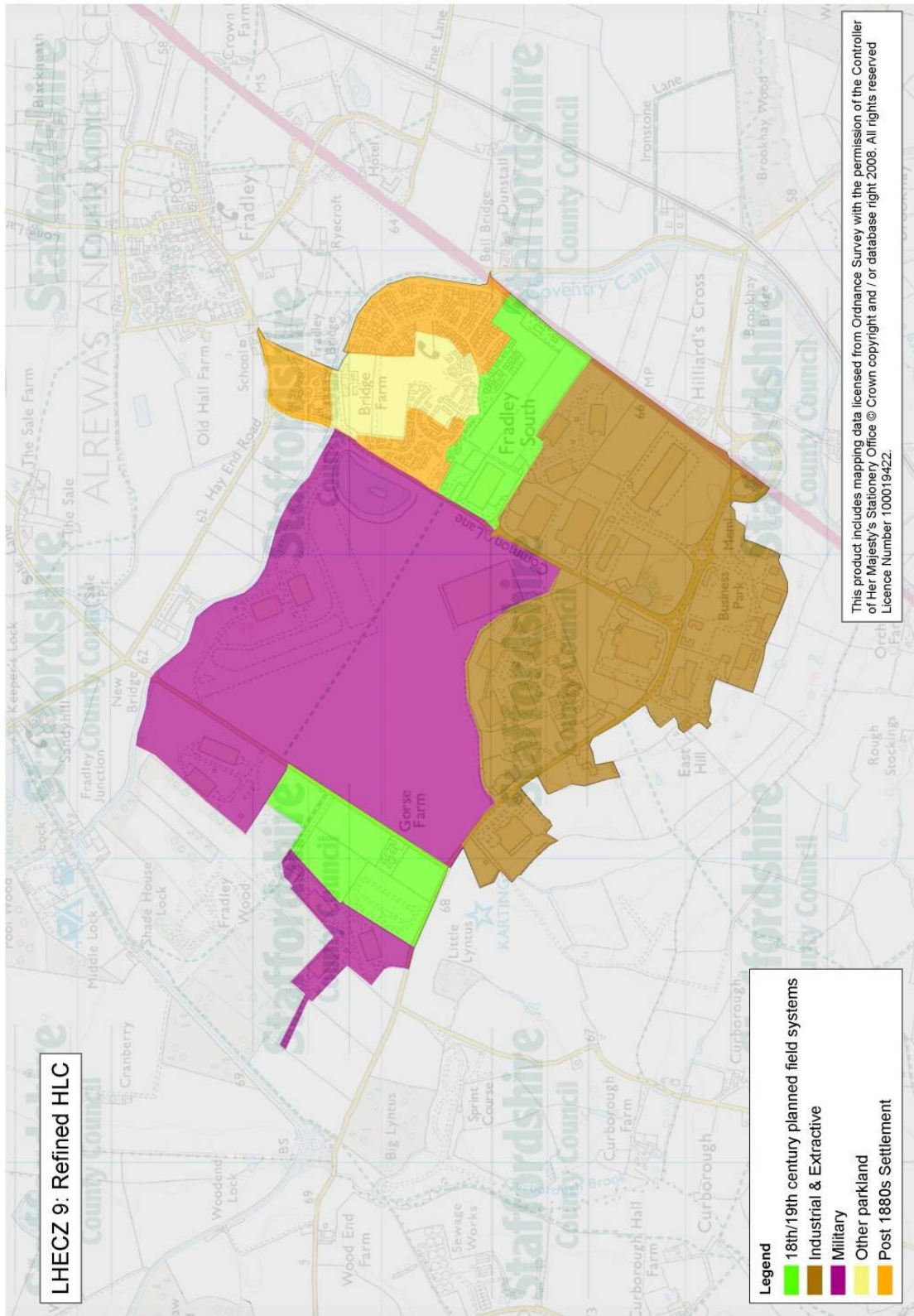
The eastern end of the airfield was re-developed in the late 20<sup>th</sup>/early 21<sup>st</sup> century with a housing estate and industrial estate called Fradley South.

### Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	Some RAF buildings and airfield surface survive as does the farm and associated landscape, but otherwise large parts of the LHECZ have already been developed.	1
Potential	The potential for surviving historic environment assets has been impacted by development to the east in particular. Other limited known historic environment assets are the remains of the airfield, which potentially includes air raid shelters, slot trenches and pill boxes; and the farmhouse and planned enclosure.	1
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	Very few known assets other than airfield and farmhouse.	1
Group Association	Group association across the airfield site has been lost due to re-development in the east. Some group association between the farm and its surviving field systems.	1
Amenity Value	There is the potential for airfield to be promoted as a public amenity and it's history interpreted. Part of the site is currently used as a car sprint track.	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	The historic environment could accommodate medium to large scale development although the airfield and the relationship between the farm and its landscape would suffer adverse effects.	1
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>8</b>



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



Map 26: Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 10 – Alrewas historic core (HECA 13e)**

### **Summary**

This LHECZ comprises the historic core of Alrewas and a detailed study of the town shall be included in the Staffordshire Extensive Urban Survey study (EUS). A Conservation Area Appraisal has been produced by Lichfield District Council and is currently awaiting formal adoption.

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

- the designated sites listed below, both within and adjacent to the zone
- the surviving plan form of the medieval town
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations** (map 27)

There are 43 Listed Buildings within the town and 1 Conservation Area covers the whole of this area and beyond.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 28)

The LHECZ lies within the Trent valley and, although no sites of prehistoric or Roman date have yet been identified within the character zone it is surrounded by evidence of pre-medieval activity. Certainly the Trent and Tame river valleys in particular have been the focus of human activity for millennia.

By the Bronze Age this landscape is likely to have been reasonably free of tree cover and to the east of the town there is evidence of a field system pre dating the medieval ridge and furrow. Ritual monuments within the wider area, beyond the zone, include a Neolithic causewayed enclosure to the south west and possible Bronze Age burial mounds, surviving as cropmark ring ditches, sites which would again suggest that the landscape was no longer densely wooded.

Rykneild Street Roman road runs approximately 300m east of the LHECZ and the modern A38 follows its line. The impact of the road upon the landscape, as a focus for settlement for instance, during the Roman period is currently unknown. It is not unknown for medieval settlements to be located on or adjacent to earlier sites, although this has not yet been proven for Alrewas.



## Historic Landscape (map 29)

The historic landscape is dominated by the historic built environment assets and the surviving road layout of Alrewas and these origins are likely to be medieval in date. Burgage plots have been recognised as surviving until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century along the southern side of Main Street (Slater 2007:32). However, subsequent re-development and infilling during the 20<sup>th</sup> century has substantially altered the pattern along much of the street.

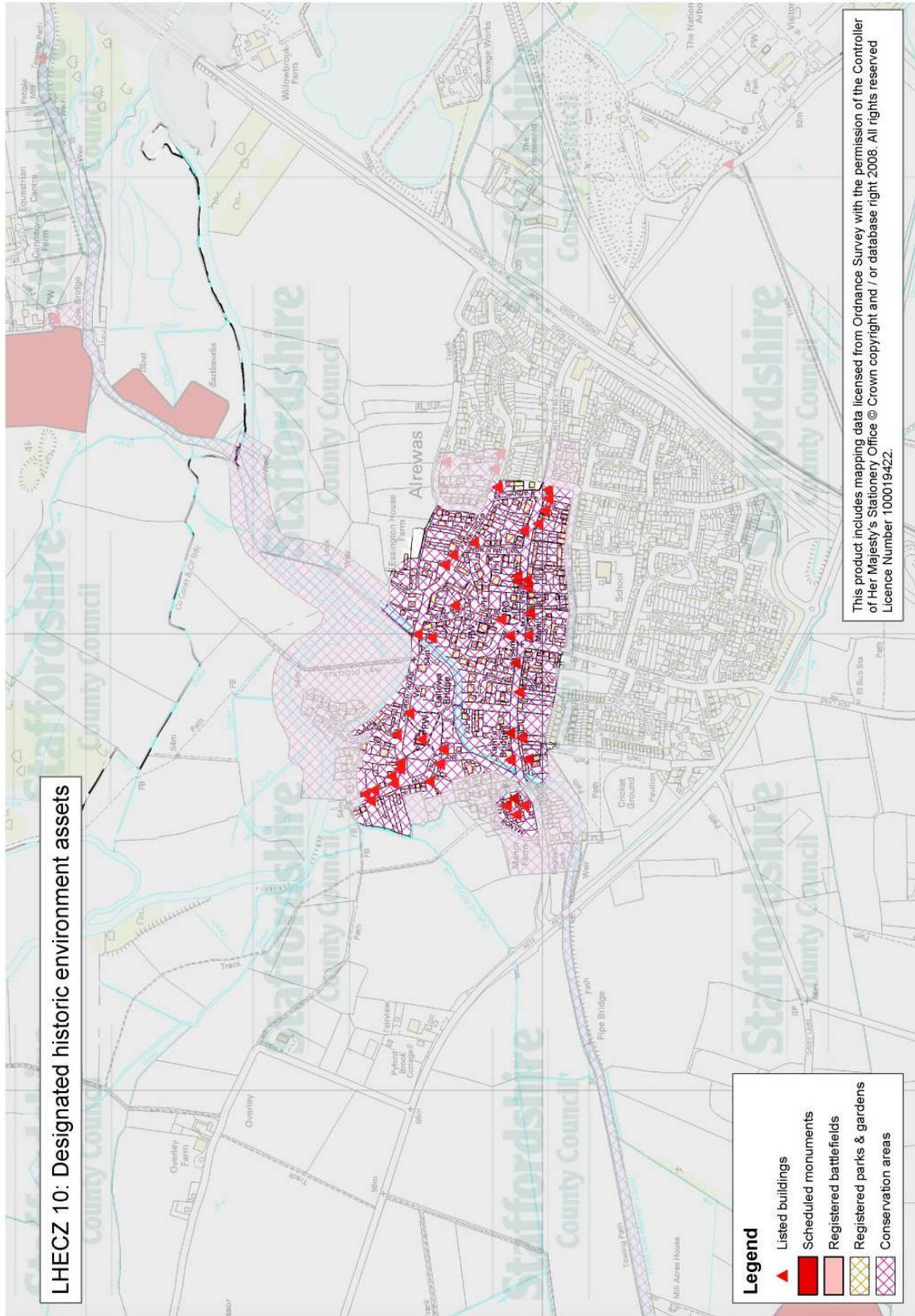
Three farmsteads survive, although altered, within the town with a further two having been lost to redevelopment during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The preliminary results of the Historic Farmsteads Survey have shown that two of the surviving farms date to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century, whilst the a further farm located to the south west of the church retains evidence of medieval origins. The farmhouse has been identified as being of 18<sup>th</sup> century date whilst the surviving barn is 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The Trent and Mersey Canal cuts through the heart of the settlement and was constructed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century; this waterway divides the church from the High Street.

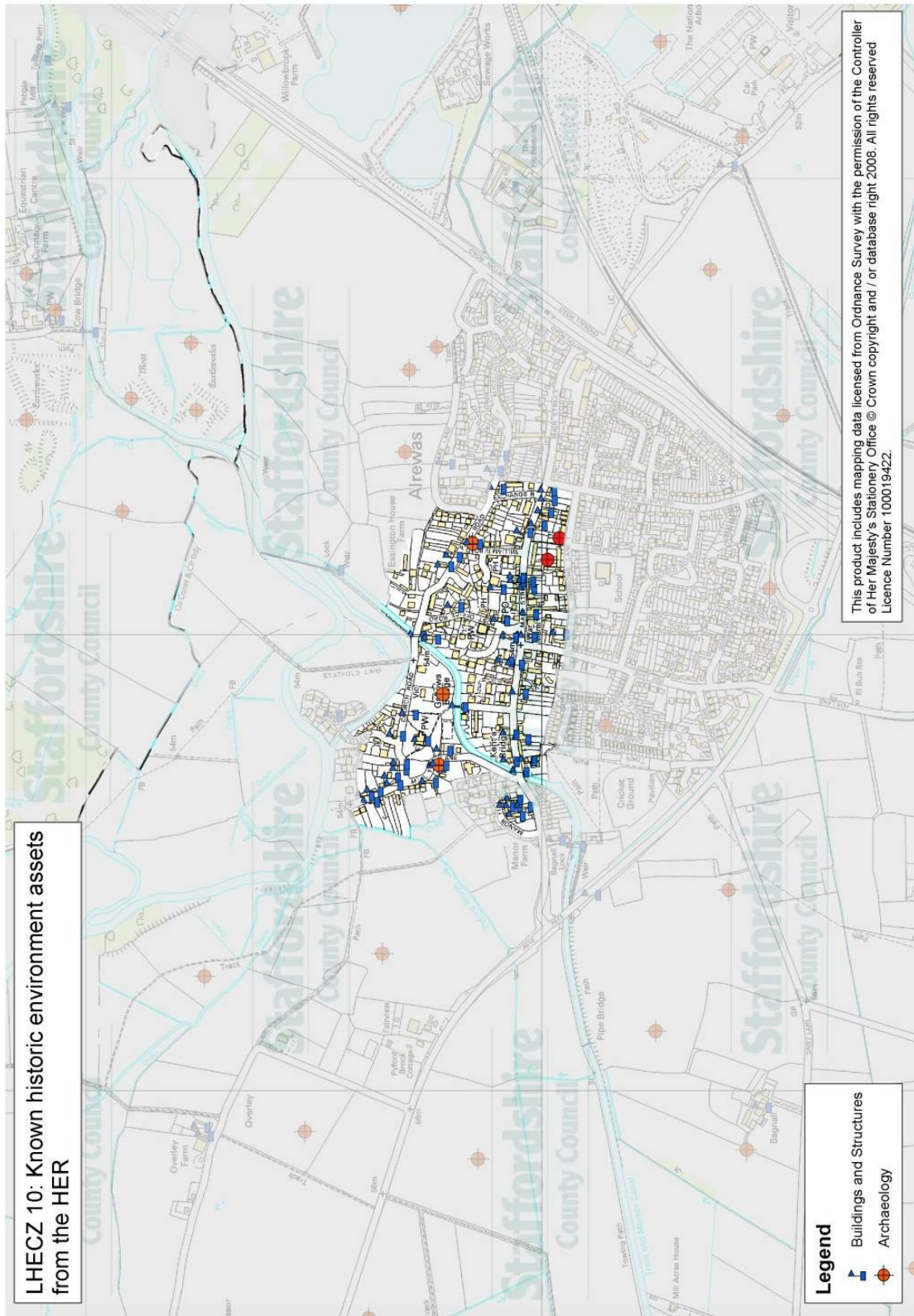
### Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The settlement has seen development, but there will be opportunities for potential to survive. Certainly the built assets are well surviving with 43 Listed Buildings. The plan form of the medieval settlement also survives in terms of some of the burgage plots and the historic street pattern.	2
Potential	The historic assets relate to settlement form and the built environment. There is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive related to the earlier phases of development of the settlement.	2
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	The elements of the settlement include surviving historic buildings including a church. These are related to the surviving historic street pattern and burgage plots.	3
Group Association	The medieval layout of the town survives well including the church, other historic buildings, burgage plots and historic street pattern.	3
Amenity Value	The historic environment plays a key role in the zones sense of place for both local people and potential visitors. Heritage trails could be provided for instance.	3

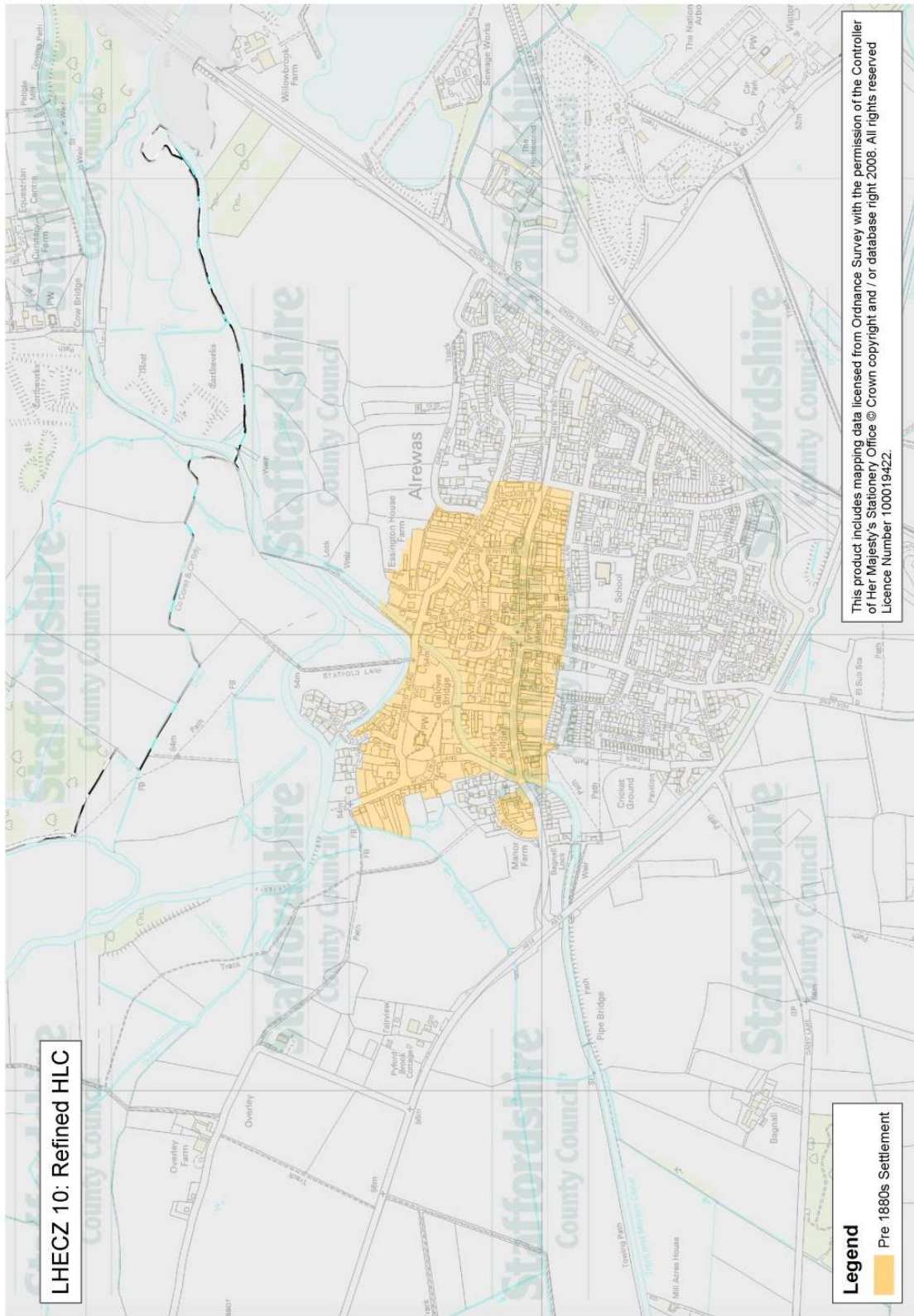
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	The zone is highly sensitive to medium to large scale development.	3
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>17</b>



Map 27: Designations



Map 28: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 29: Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 11 – Alrewas 20<sup>th</sup> century suburbs (HECA 13e)**

### **Summary**

A Conservation Area Appraisal for the adjacent Conservation Area of Alrewas has been produced and is awaiting formal adoption. The suburbs will be considered as part of the Extensive Urban Survey for the town.

Any future development within the town would need to consider impacts upon the Conservation Area and Listed Buildings, but otherwise would have limited impacts upon the historic environment.

### **Designations** (map 30)

Parts of the LHECZ fall within the Conservation Area for Alrewas and any development within this character zone should consider the impact upon it and upon the Listed Buildings which lie within it.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 31)

The LHECZ lies within the Trent valley and, although no sites of prehistoric or Roman date have yet been identified within the character zone it is surrounded by evidence of pre-medieval activity. Certainly the Trent and Tame river valleys in particular have been the focus of human activity for millennia.

By the Bronze Age this landscape is likely to have been reasonably free of tree cover and to the east of the town there is evidence of a field system pre dating the medieval ridge and furrow. Ritual monuments within the wider area, beyond the zone, include a Neolithic causewayed enclosure to the south west and possible Bronze Age burial mounds, surviving as cropmark ring ditches, sites which would again suggest that the landscape was no longer densely wooded.

The Rykneild Street Roman road runs along the eastern border of the HECZ and the modern A38 follows this line through the character zone. The influence of the road upon the landscape, as a focus for settlement for instance, during the Roman period is not currently understood. It is not unknown for medieval settlements to be located on or adjacent to earlier sites, although this has not yet been proven for Alrewas.

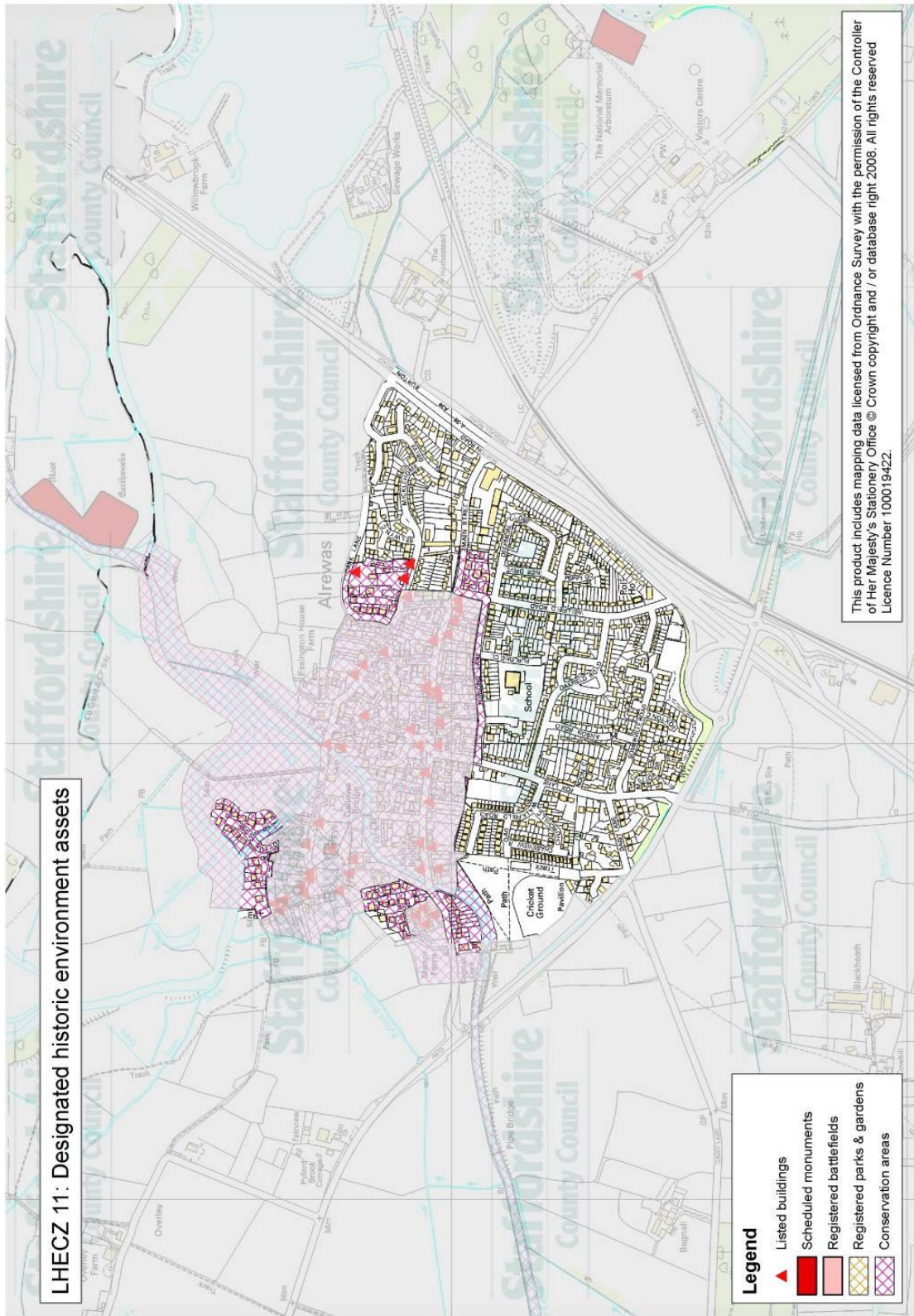
### **Historic Landscape** (map 32)

The historic landscape is dominated by Post 1880s Settlement and parkland. This has developed upon a field system which had its origins as part of the open field system surrounding Alrewas from the medieval period onwards. The fields were subdivided as Piecemeal Enclosure probably during the post medieval period through informal verbal agreements between the individual farmers. Some of the housing estates respect the former field systems such

as Inge Drive/Deepmore Close estate and Great Furlong and the All Saints C of E School.

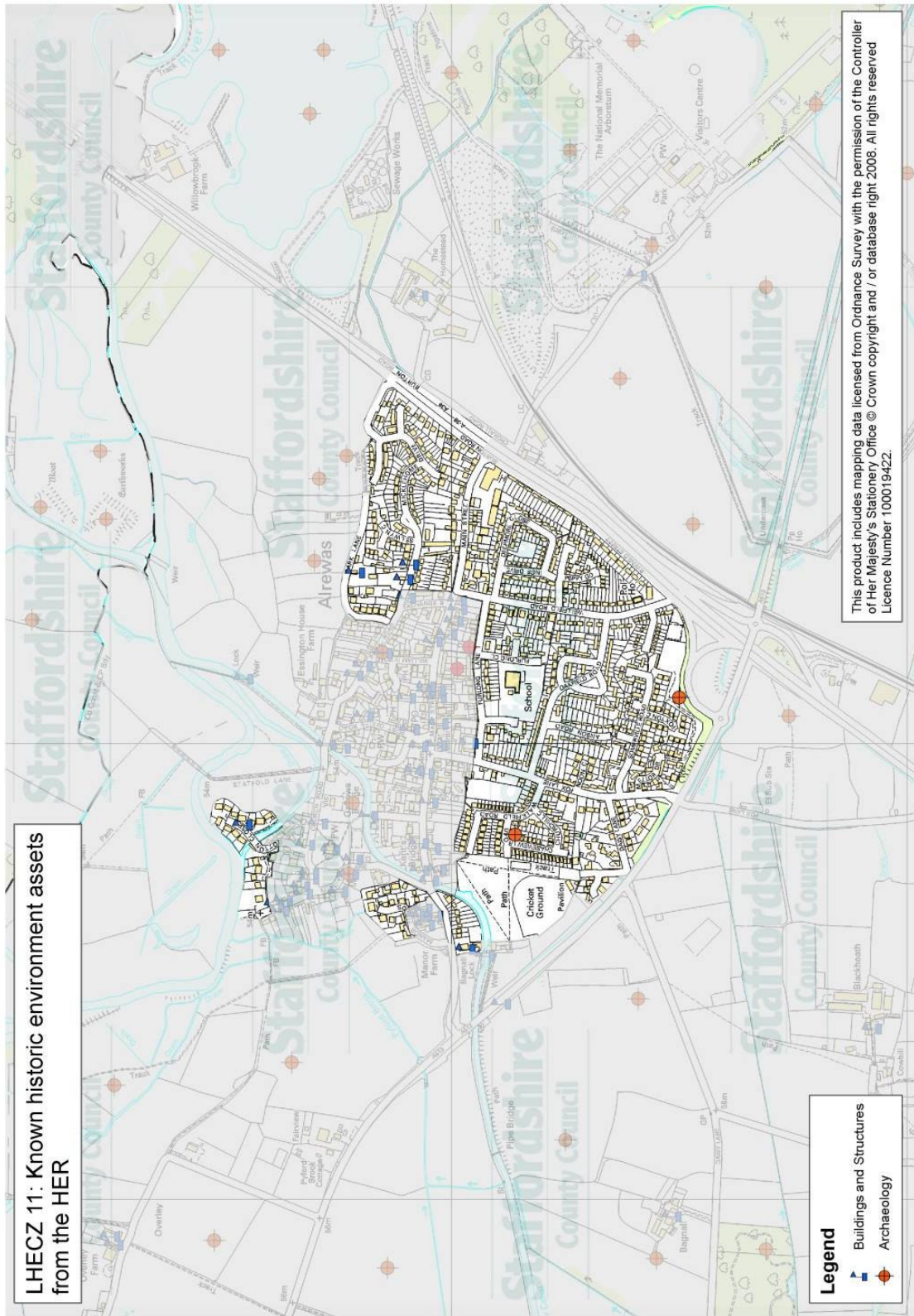
### Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has been extensively disturbed by development, although there may be potential for survival of deposits in some areas.	1
Potential	The potential for surviving deposits has been reduced by development during the 20 <sup>th</sup> century, although there may be certain areas where there is the potential for previously unrecorded prehistoric and Roman sites to survive; as they do in other parts of the Trent Valley.	1
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	There are very few known assets, other than historic built environment	1
Group Association	It contains few assets which are of a similar nature: historic built environment	1
Amenity Value	The zone does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	The zone is already significantly developed.	1
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>7</b>

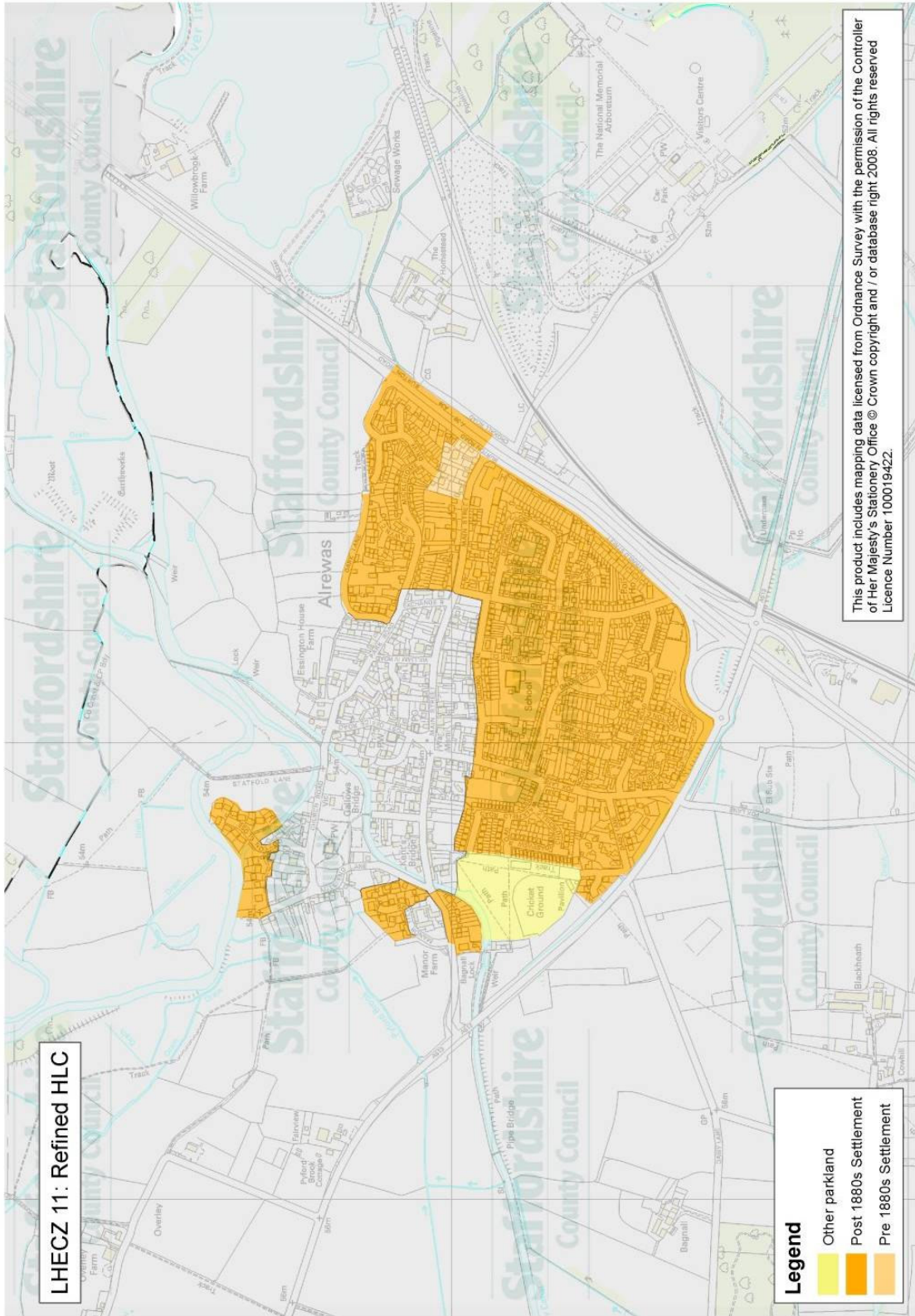


Map 30: Designations





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



Map 32: Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 12 – Trent Valley floodplain north of Alrewas (HECA 13e)**

### **Summary**

The zone is dominated by the earthwork remains of a water meadow system which is likely to have post dated 1810. At this time an Act of Parliament was passed to enclose the lands around Alrewas including these four meadows along the river Trent.

The zone also lies within a wider area of prehistoric and Roman activity and below ground archaeological deposits associated with these periods may survive.

Medium to large scale development is likely to have a considerable impact upon historic environment assets. Consequently any should any development be planned for this zone would need to address the impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- The adjacent Scheduled Monument
- The adjacent Conservation Area and Listed Buildings
- The historic landscape character particularly the surviving water meadows
- The potential below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations** (map 33)

Parts of the LHECZ fall within the Conservation Area for Alrewas and any development within this character zone should consider the impact upon it and upon the Listed Buildings which lie within it.

Furthermore the Scheduled Monument of Wychnor Deserted Settlement lies adjacent to the northern boundary and any development within the zone would also need to consider the impact upon it.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 34)

The Trent and Tame valleys have been the focus of human activity for millennia with many cropmark sites of prehistoric and/or Roman date being identified by aerial photographic surveys. Currently no sites of prehistoric or Roman date have been identified as lying within the zone, although this is likely to be due to the fact that this land has been utilised predominantly as pasture for at least two centuries. There remains therefore the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological remains of prehistoric and Roman date masked beneath layers of alluvium within this zone.

By the Bronze Age the landscape of the Trent valley is likely to have been reasonably free of tree cover and to the east of the town there is evidence of a

field system pre-dating the medieval ridge and furrow. Ritual monuments within the wider area include a Neolithic causewayed enclosure to the south west and possible Bronze Age burial mounds, surviving as cropmark ring ditches, sites which would again suggest that the landscape was no longer densely wooded.

Rykneild Street Roman road lies further to the east and the modern A38 follows its line. The influence of the road upon the landscape, as a focus for settlement for instance, during the Roman period is currently not understood.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 35)

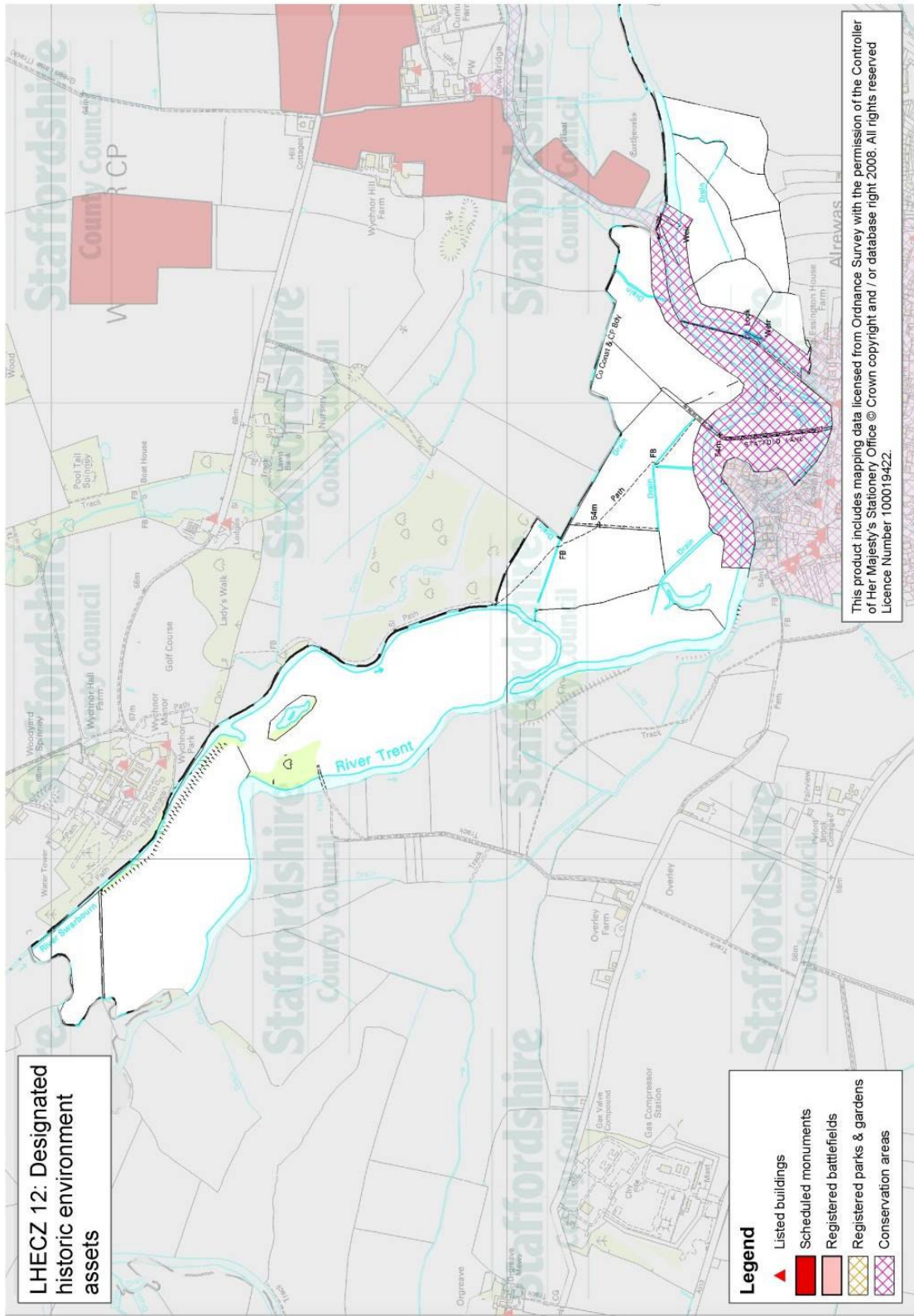
The zone is dominated by the presence of the River Trent and the earthwork remains of a series of water meadow systems probably dating to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Certainly this area was subject to an Act of Parliament passed in 1810 to enclose other lands within Alrewas parish. Four meadows were identified across this LHECZ on the Inclosure Map named as Orgreave, Longlake, Statfold and Essington meadows. The remains of the water meadow were identified through a desk top survey of historic mapping and aerial photographs undertaken on behalf of Staffordshire County Council in 2007/8.

Prior to the construction of formal water meadows this area may have still have been meadow land subject to seasonal inundation. During the medieval period these meadows are likely to have been utilised by the inhabitants of Alrewas. In Domesday Book (1086) 24 acres of meadow are recorded and a fishery is also mentioned. This latter further indicates how important the Trent was in the economy of the town from an early date.

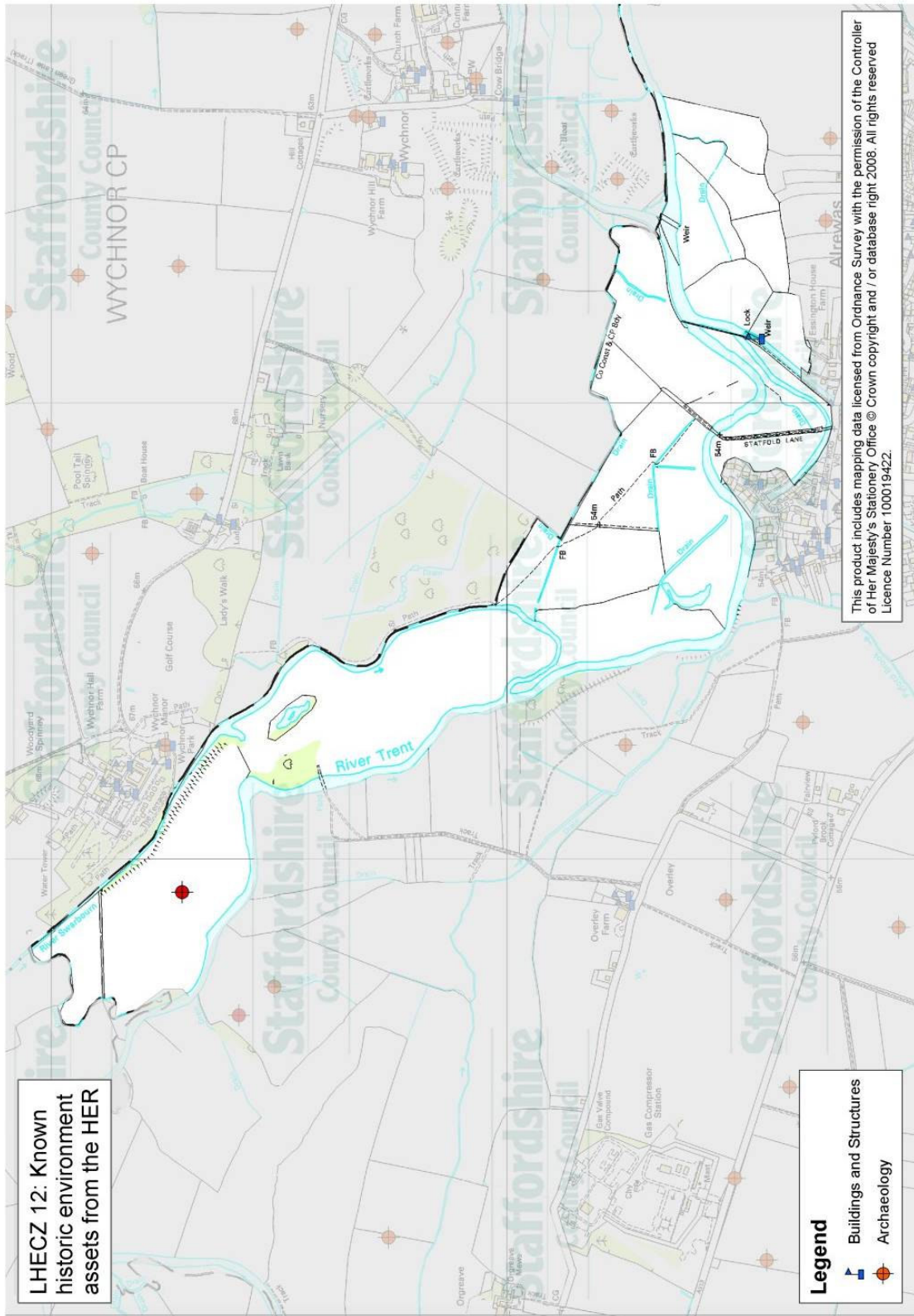
### **Historic Assets Summary Table**

Survival	The zone contains the earthwork remains of post medieval water meadows with the potential for earlier deposits to survive below the alluvium and colluvium within the zone.	3
Potential	Current evidence of earthwork survival and little disturbance (other than some ploughing in the north of the zone) indicates that a range of high quality assets probably survive, which other than the watermeadows, may include deposits of prehistoric and/or Roman date.	3
Documentation	Watermeadow Survey, Cropmark survey, HER data	2
Diversity	Contains the potential for a range of assets of different date and character alongside the water meadows	2

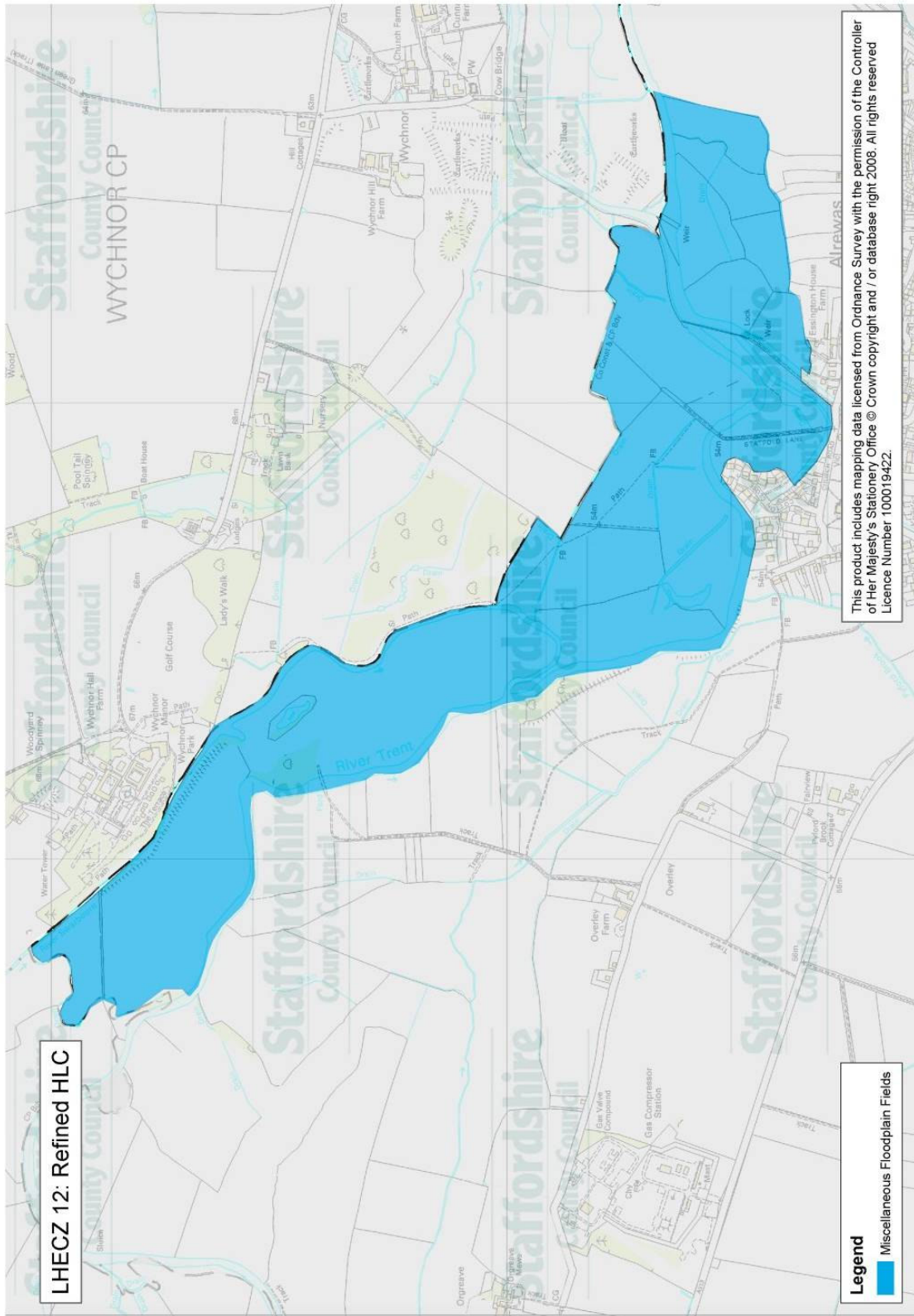
Group Association	It is likely to contain a range of assets which comprise the water meadow system as well as potential assets surviving below the alluvium.	3
Amenity Value	There is good potential for the water meadow system to be interpreted and appreciated. The water meadows represent a long history of water management in Staffordshire as a whole and the dependence of the local communities upon the river Trent in particular.	3
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	The zone is highly sensitive to medium or large scale development which would lead to the loss of the surviving water meadows and to the survival of the potential below ground archaeology.	3
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>19</b>



Map 33: Designations



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



Map 35: Refined HLC



## **LHECZ 13 – Field Systems west of Alrewas (HECA 13e)**

### **Summary**

The zone is dominated by field systems probably dating from the late medieval or post medieval periods, which survive in relatively good condition. There has been little settlement within the zone during at least the last 200 years, beyond a couple of farmsteads. This is probably due to the historic wet and boggy nature of the landscape, although some drainage has occurred, perhaps associated with the origins of the surviving farmstead. The LHECZ lies within the Trent Valley and numerous sites of mostly prehistoric and/or Roman date have been identified within the zone from aerial photographs.

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

- The Conservation Areas and adjacent Listed Buildings
- How it would address the existing historic landscape character and settlement pattern and how this could be retained or reflected
- The potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations** (map 36)

Parts of the LHECZ fall within the Conservation Areas for Alrewas and the Trent & Mersey Canal and any development within this character zone should consider the impact upon them and upon any adjacent Listed Buildings,

No other designated sites lie within or adjacent to the zone.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 37)

The Trent and Tame valleys have been the focus of human activity for millennia with many cropmark sites of prehistoric and/or Roman date being identified by aerial photographic surveys. Within the LHECZ there are many cropmark sites, including several possible Bronze Age burial mounds identified as ring ditches. An alternative interpretation for many ring ditches is that they represent the remains of round houses and can be associated with a more stable form of settlement pattern. However it is the case that, the presence of these monuments does indicate that, by the Bronze Age, the landscape of the Trent valley is likely to have been reasonably free of tree cover.

In order to establish the nature of these monuments further research would be required, however such sites would strengthen the impression of a cleared landscape. Further evidence of a cleared landscape within the zone relates to

evidence of a field system which clearly pre dates the medieval ridge and furrow located to the east of the town.

Further ritual monuments beyond the LHECZ include a Neolithic causewayed enclosure lying to the south, which suggests that clearance were occurring in the wider landscape at a date earlier date than the Bronze Age.

Rykneild Street Roman road lies approximately 1km to the east and the modern A38 follows its line. The influence of the road upon the landscape, as a focus for settlement for instance, during the Roman period is currently not fully understood, although various enclosures and linear features may indicate a settled farming economy during this period.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 38)

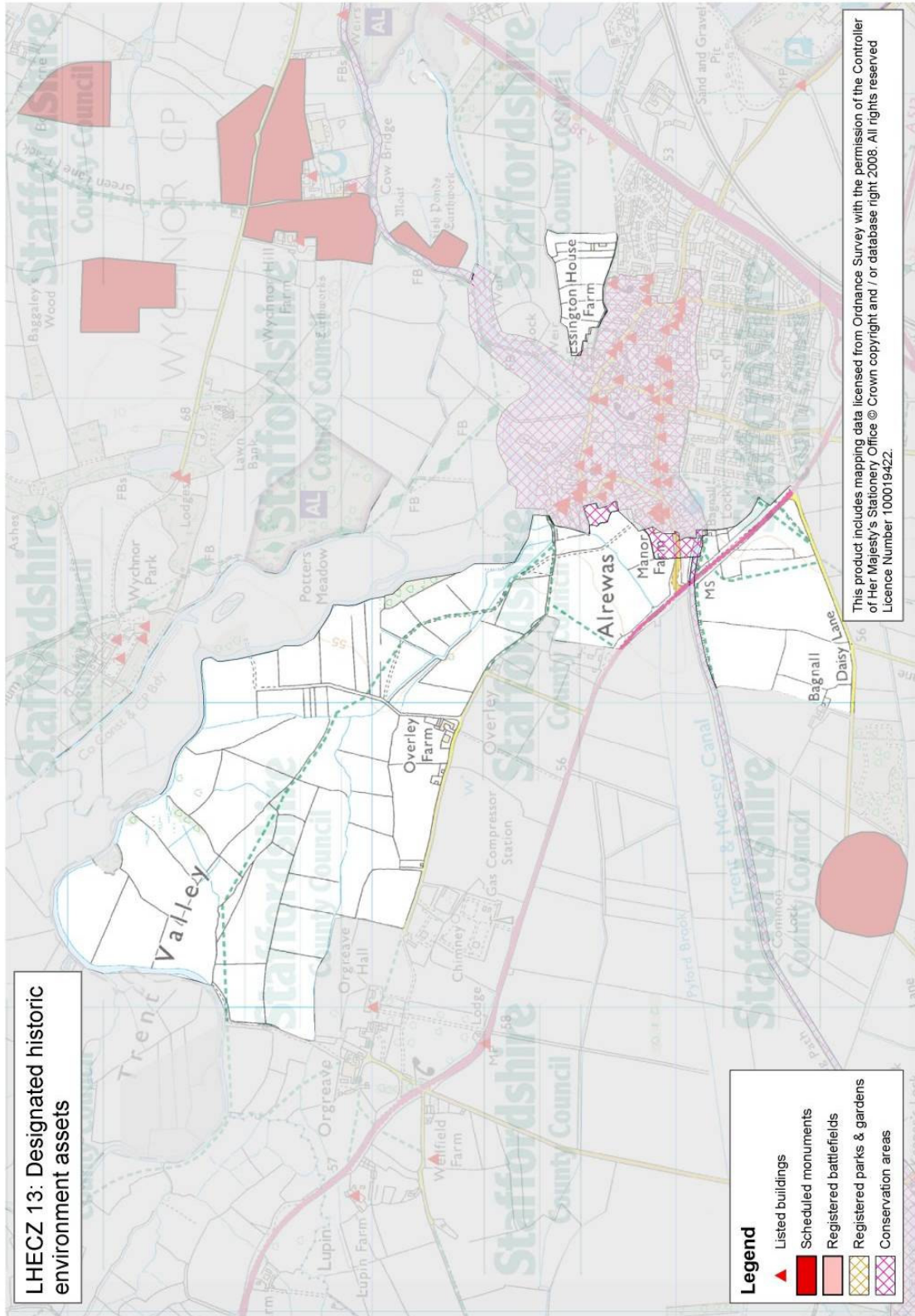
The historic landscape of the zone comprises a large area identified as Early Irregular Enclosure to the north west of Alrewas. Two smaller areas of Piecemeal Enclosure also lie adjacent to the town to the north east and south west. The surviving Piecemeal Enclosure in particular represents those field systems which had once formed part of the open fields belonging to Alrewas during the medieval period. The remainder have mostly been developed (see LHECZ 11). The open fields would not have been sub divided by hedges but by strips of earth and each inhabitant would have held a number of these strips scattered across the open fields. By the early 16<sup>th</sup> century many of the open fields across Staffordshire had begun to be enclosed as a result of individual farmers agreeing to enclose the strips into fields surrounded by hedges; a process defined as Piecemeal Enclosure in the Staffordshire Historic Landscape Character (HLC) project.

The remainder of the zone has been classified in the HLC project as Early Irregular Enclosure which is also likely to date to the post medieval period, although its origins are not as clear. Often these types of enclosure within Staffordshire represent the parcelling up of heath land or other pasture and sometimes they may represent the clearing of woodland to create farmland, known as assarting. However, in this instance the division of the landscape may relate to the drainage of a formerly wetland area, particularly as many sluices and drains survive across this landscape.

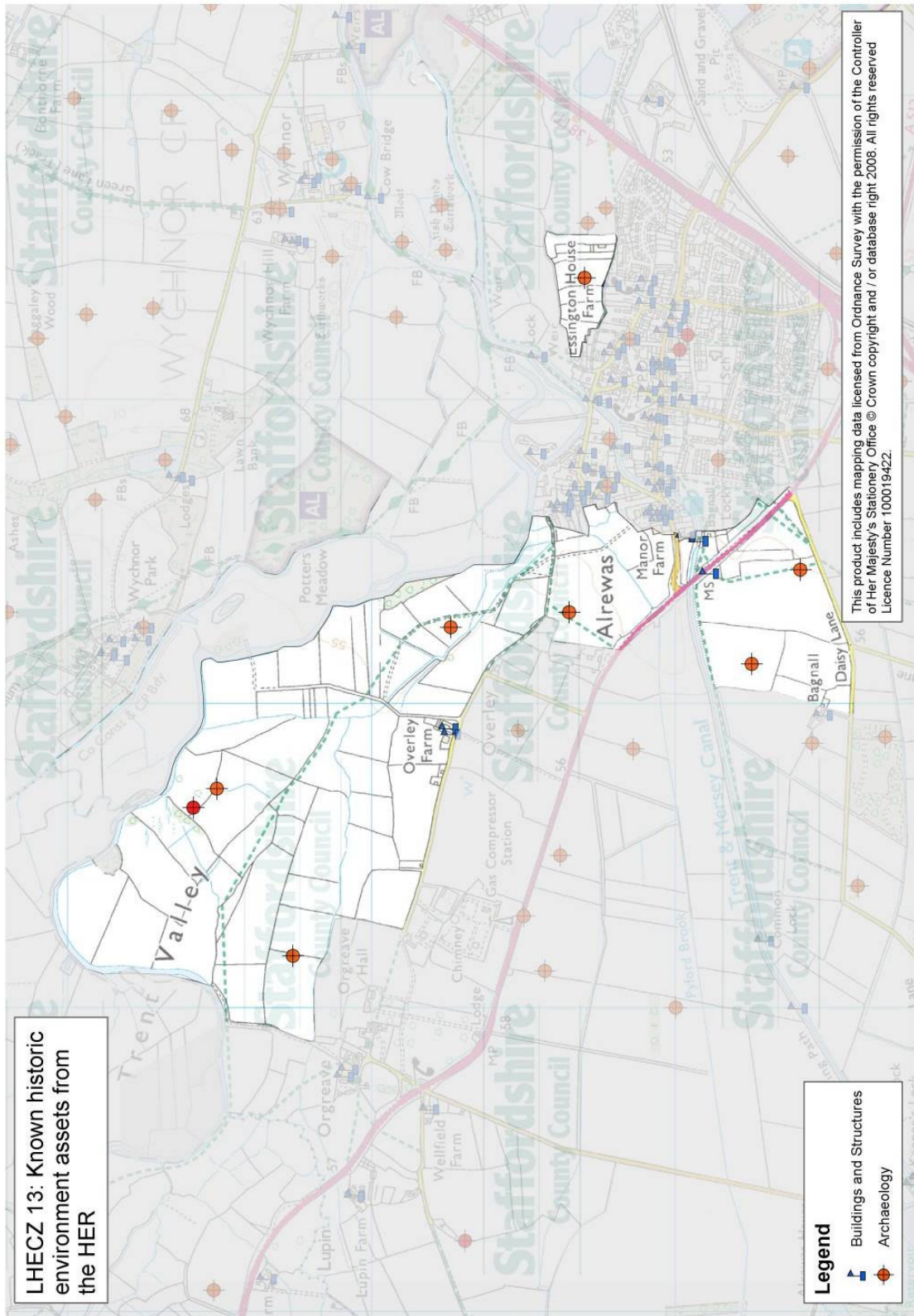
Overley Farm is the only surviving farm within the zone and historic mapping shows buildings in the vicinity of the surviving farmstead in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. A further farmstead had once been located in the north west of the zone however, this complex had been demolished since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was called Barn Close and again this was in existence by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Early Irregular Enclosure may therefore date to a similar period as the farmsteads and is possibly related to a period of agricultural improvement which involved the draining of a formerly wetland area.

## Historic Assets Summary Table

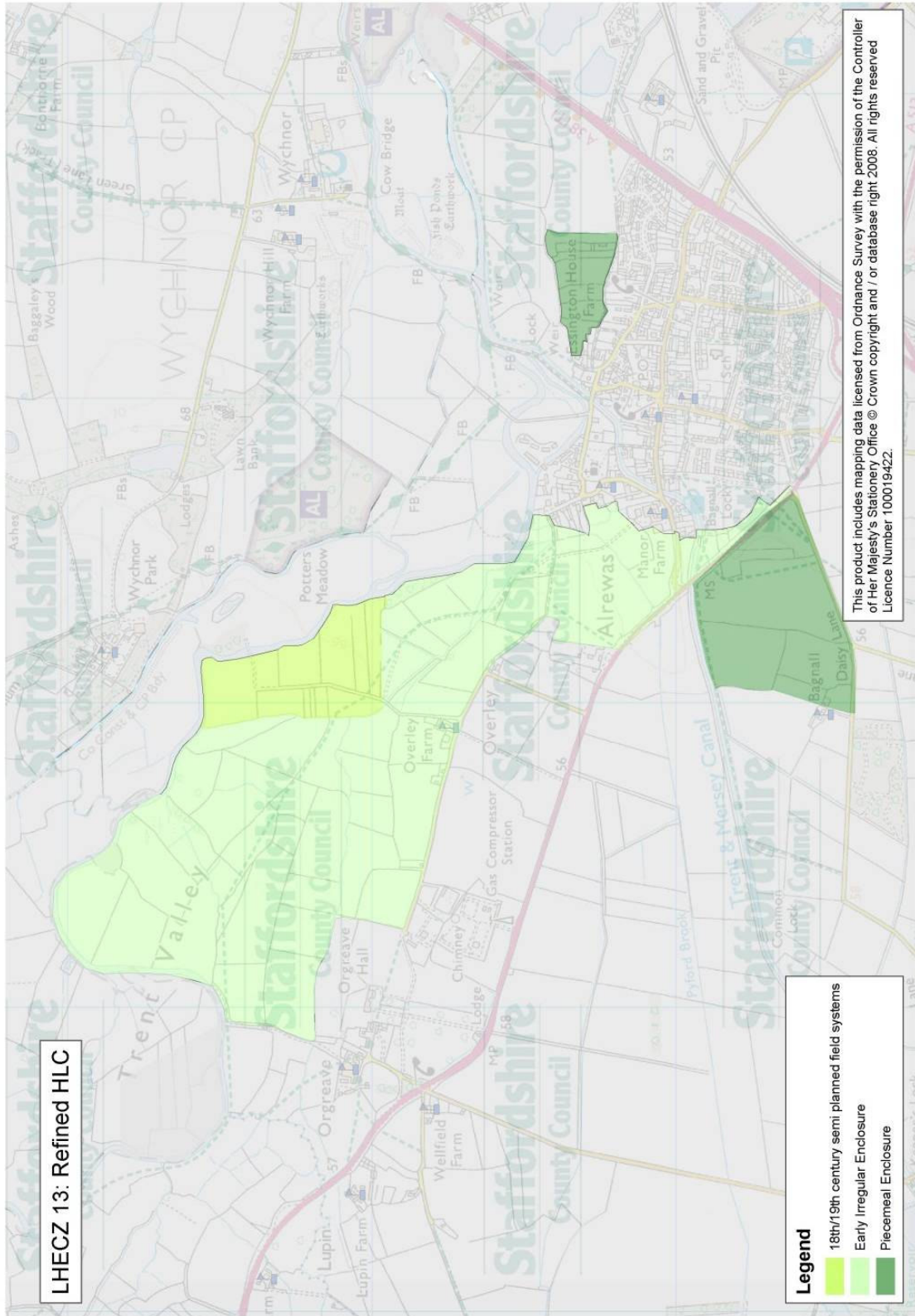
Survival	The historic landscape survives well and may in the main relate to drainage during the post medieval period. The other historic landscapes relate directly to the town and its former open fields. Within the landscape there are various known sites which are likely to survive below the ploughsoil.	2
Potential	The historic environment assets have not been significantly disturbed other than through agricultural practices.	2
Documentation	HER data and cropmark survey	2
Diversity	It contains a range of assets of prehistoric and/or Roman date along with later surviving field enclosures	2
Group Association	The cropmarks are likely to be related, in terms of continuity of activity,	2
Amenity Value	Further research of the historic assets, both prehistoric and the post medieval enclosures, may enable the area to be presented as an amenity. Currently the opportunities are limited.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	Medium to large scale development is likely to have a considerable impact upon the nature of the surviving landscape and upon the potential below ground archaeology.	2
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>13</b>



Map 36: Designations



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



Map 38: Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 14 – Trent Valley (HECA 13e)**

### **Summary**

The zone lies within the Trent and Tame valleys and represents an area which has been subject to extensive gravel extraction during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Quarrying has resulted in a landscape of large bodies of water and the establishment of The National Memorial Arboretum. This was also an area of intensive activity during the prehistoric and Roman periods.

Medium to large scale development will have a limited impact upon the historic environment although there may be the potential for some surviving below ground remains to be impacted.

### **Designations** (map 39)

The zone contains one Scheduled Monument, the site of a round barrow near the River Tame (SM 199).

There are currently no other designated sites falling within the zone.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 40)

The Trent and Tame valleys have been the focus of human activity for millennia with many cropmark sites of prehistoric and/or Roman date being identified by aerial photographic surveys. Within the LHECZ there are many of these cropmark sites (primarily ring ditches) suggesting that by the Bronze Age the landscape of the Trent valley had been cleared of any woodland. Current thoughts concerning ring ditches settle on two interpretations; that these represent burial sites and that they represent the remains of round houses associated with larger settlements. Both interpretations can be correct although depending upon context and both do suggest a degree of clearance be it for occupation or ceremonial/ritual purposes. In order to establish the nature of these monuments further research would be required.

There is evidence within the site of the National Memorial Arboretum of Roman buildings and Rykneild Street Roman road lies approximately 700m to the west of this site; the modern A38 follows its line. It is possible that the presence of the road led to the establishment of the buildings, although their function has not been determined. However, there is evidence for continual activity probably from the Neolithic or Bronze Age onwards.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 41)

The historic landscape character of this zone is dominated by 20<sup>th</sup> century activity as the area has been extensively quarried for gravel. However, these sites are now mostly inactive. As a result of the extraction industry, the landscape is now dominated in the north by large bodies of water, whilst to the south The National Memorial Arboretum has been established to commemorate those who have lost their lives during armed conflict since the

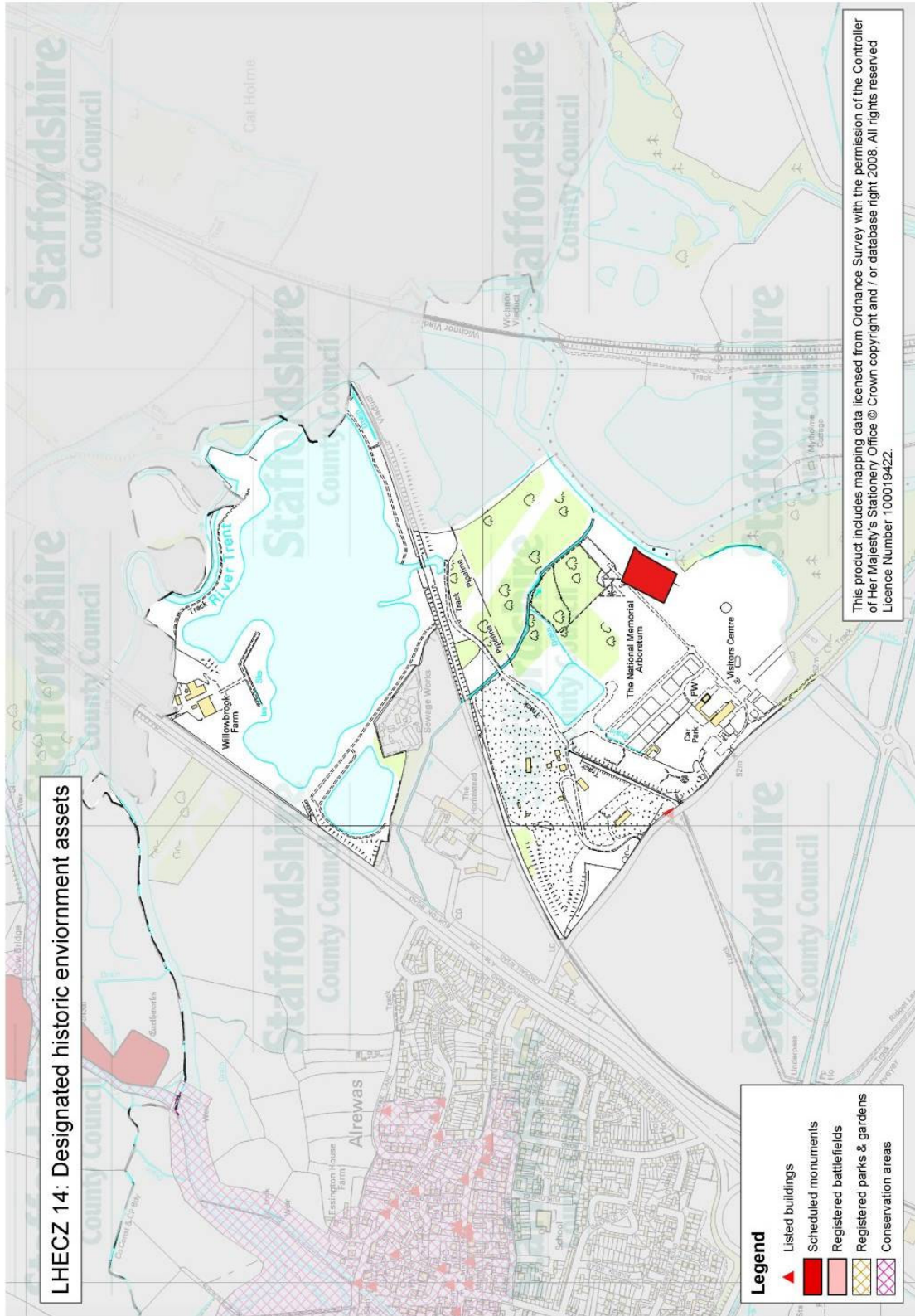
Second World War. A large memorial has been constructed and hundreds of young trees planted.

Assessment of aerial photographs suggests that ridge and furrow was once present within the zone. These features represent evidence of medieval ploughing. This evidence may suggest that Alrewas' open field system extended across this area, although it would have been enclosed prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

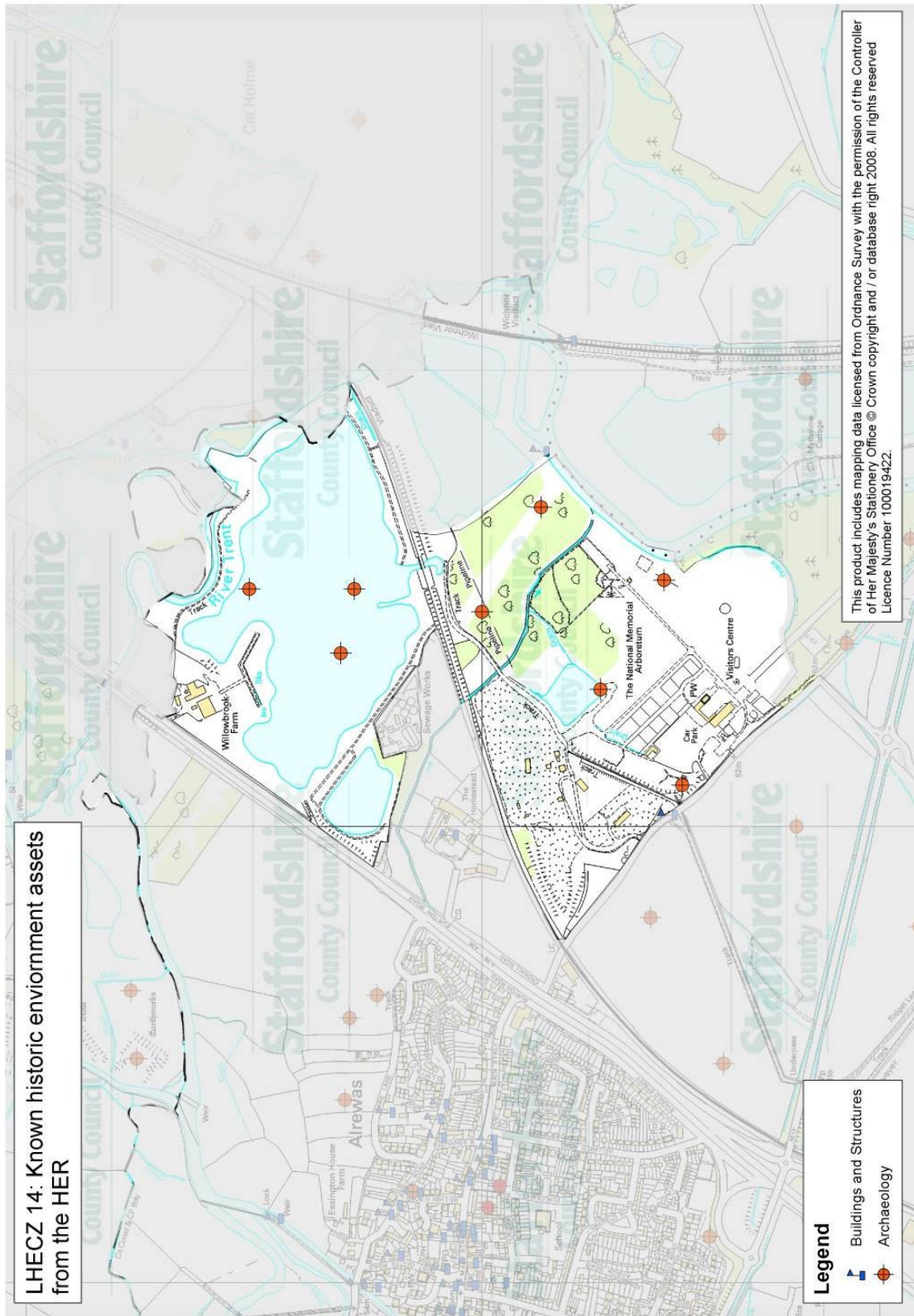
### Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has been intensively impacted by quarrying during the 20 <sup>th</sup> century	1
Potential	There may be some areas where potential survives, but the majority of the zone has been quarried.	1
Documentation	HER data; Trent Valley Cropmark Survey & evaluation and excavation reports on sites within the area of quarrying.	2
Diversity	The features showed extensive diversity, but have largely been removed.	1
Group Association	There were monuments of similar date and probably reveal continuity of use, but have largely been removed	1
Amenity Value	The Arboretum provides an amenity for the public. There is the opportunity for the archaeological fieldwork to be interpreted and presented to the public to aid an understanding of change within this river valley landscape from the prehistoric period onwards.	3
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	The zone has already been impacted and therefore could accommodate large to medium scale development, although there may be potential impacts on any surviving below ground archaeology	1
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>10</b>

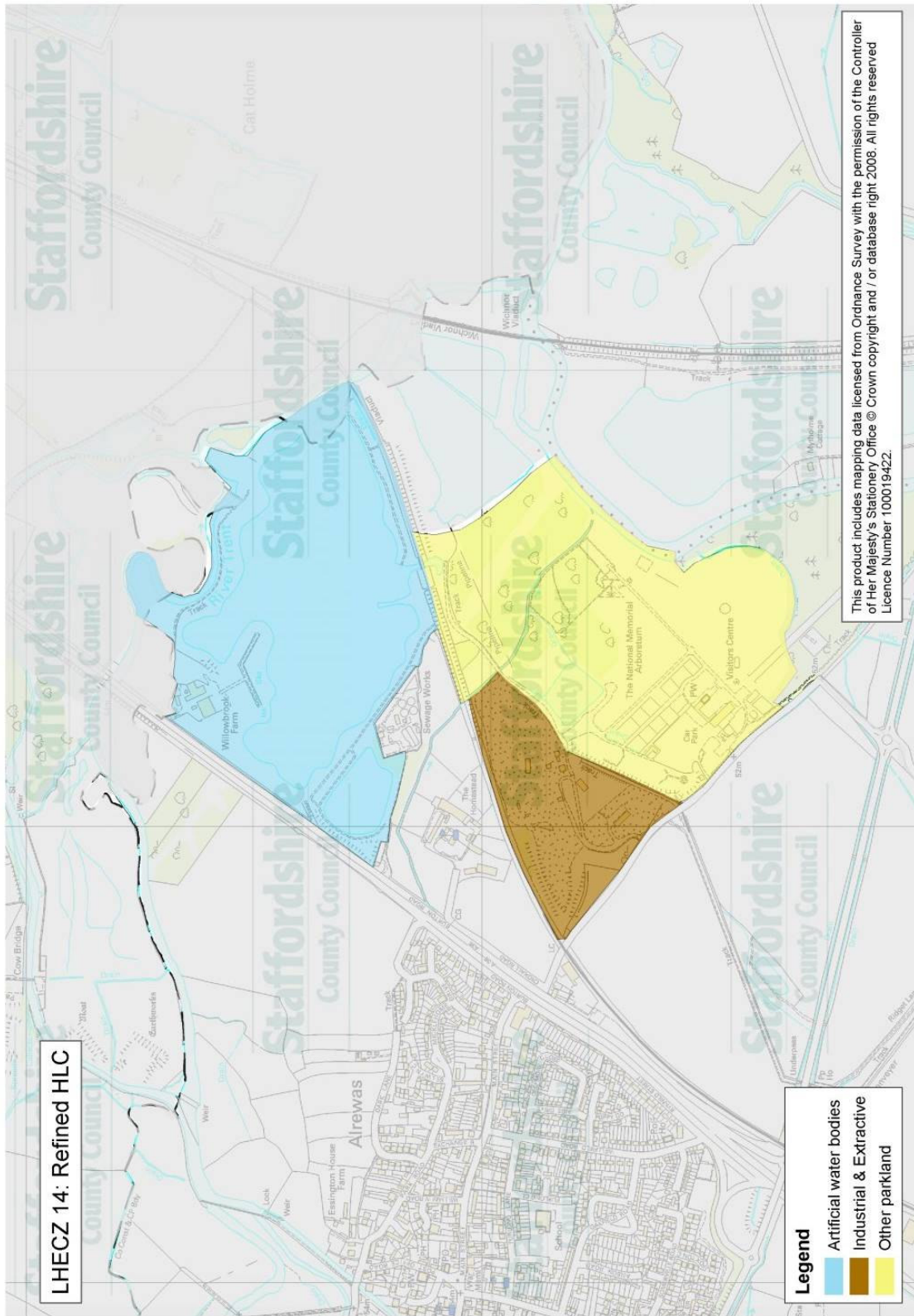




Map 39: Designations



Map 40 HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 41 Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 15 – Field Systems east of Fradley South (HECA 11)**

### **Summary**

This zone lies within a historic character area which was dominated by the presence of heath land prior to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century with the eastern boundary lying on the eastern edge of the Tame river valley. The landscape is currently dominated by field systems that have their origins in the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> centuries and are typically geometric in plan with very straight boundaries revealing their origins as formally surveyed and planned enclosures. The zone is also cut by the Coventry Canal which was built at a similar period towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is likely to have a considerable impact upon historic environment assets. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the relationships between the existing historic landscape character and settlement pattern and how this could be retained or reflected
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations** (map 42)

A Listed milestone lies along the Coventry Canal.

There are currently no further designated sites falling within the zone.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 43)

The overall character of the LHECZ during the prehistoric through to the early medieval period is likely to have been a heavily wooded landscape perhaps supporting a pastoral economy. From the Bronze Age onwards this involved relatively small scale clearance of woodland possibly resulting in the formation of areas of heath land. It is possible that the former Fradley Heath had its origins from activities carried out at this date.

An area of enclosures and linear features has been identified from cropmarks on an aerial photograph within the area of later 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century Semi Planned Enclosure on the western edge of the Tame valley. These features are currently undated, but may be evidence of activity from the prehistoric and/or Roman period associated with early settlement and landscape management. Both the Tame and Trent valleys have been a focus for human activity for millennia and it is likely that these areas had been cleared of woodland since the Neolithic or Bronze Age.

Further evidence of activity in the Roman period comes from the line of Rykneild Street which runs along the western boundary of the zone in the form of the modern A38. The wider impact of the road upon the landscape during the Roman period, as a focus for settlement for instance, is currently unknown.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 44)

The field patterns of the zone display the straight boundaries and geometric pattern associated with 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century Planned Enclosure and 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century Semi Planned Enclosure. In this zone the field systems were created in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century following an Act of Parliament to enclose Fradley Heath (passed in 1810). One farm has been identified by the Historic Farmstead Survey which dates to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although it is likely that this farm was built no earlier than 1810 to utilise the new field system.

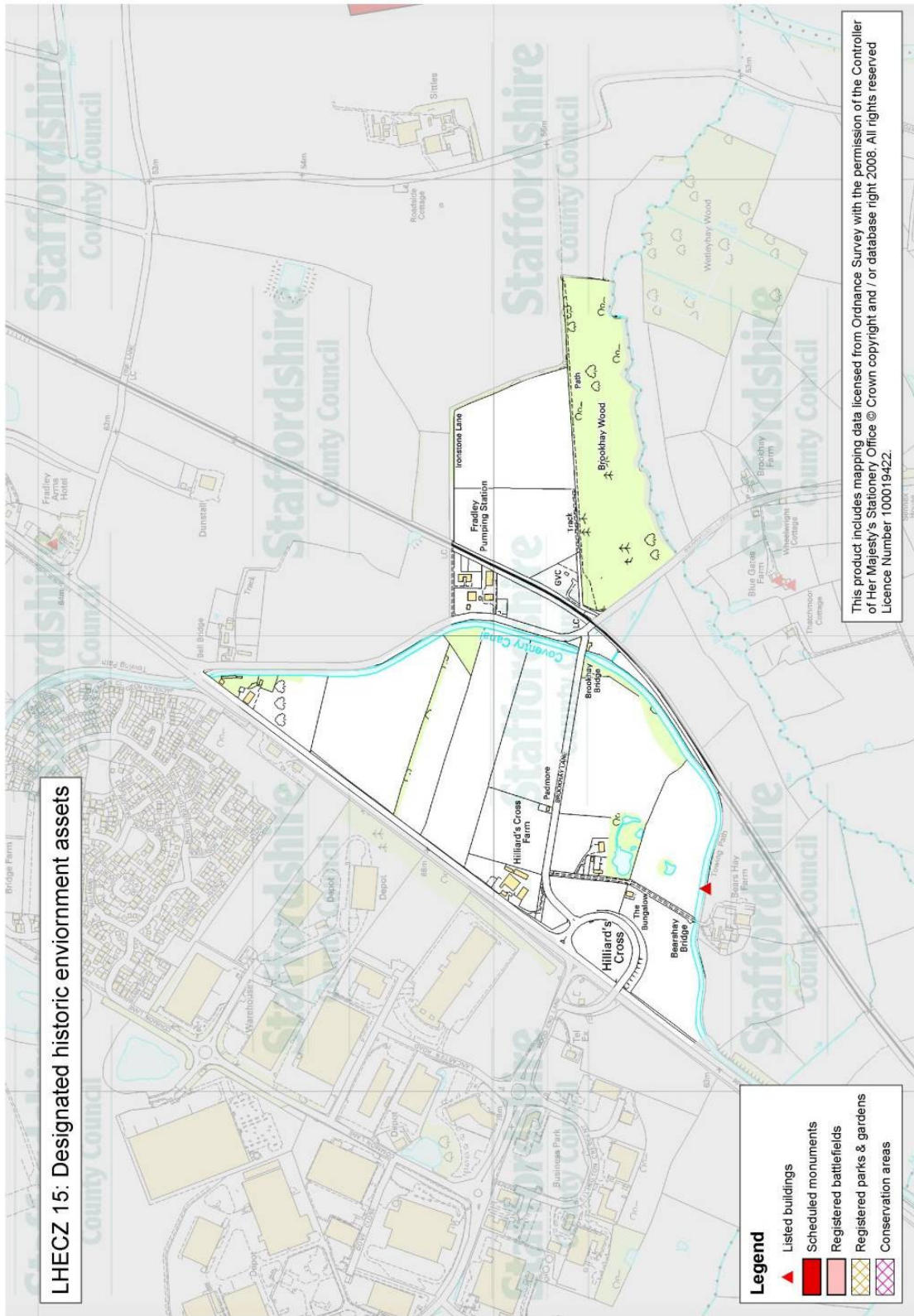
Also dominating the landscape is the line of the Coventry Canal which was completed in 1787, just a few decades prior to the enclosure of the field systems. Historic features surviving associated with the canal within the zone including two accommodation bridges and a Listed milepost. An Ancient Woodland is located to the east of the zone on the western edge of the Tame valley. Known as Brookhay Wood it was in existence by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It possibly represents a surviving characteristic of the formerly woodland landscape which is likely to have dominated this area during the medieval period when it formed part of that portion of Cannock Forest known as Alrewas Hay.

One modern intrusion into the landscape is the Fradley Pumping Station which was built during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

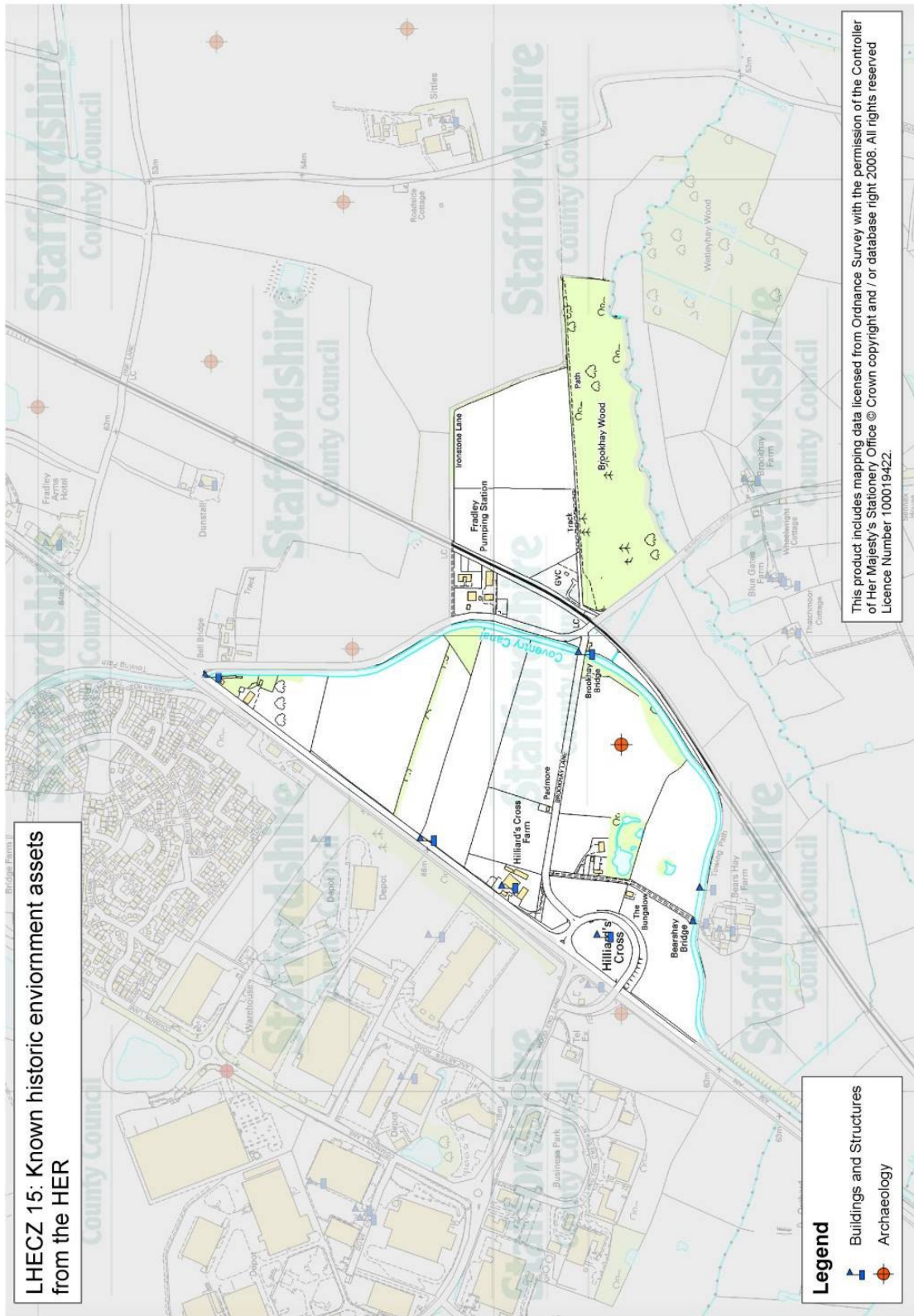
### **Historic Assets Summary Table**

Survival	The zone has seen little disturbance except from agricultural activities.	2
Potential	The historic environment assets include the field systems and farmstead, although this has seen some alteration, and the cropmark features. The landscape has not been significantly disturbed and high quality assets probably survive below the plough soil.	3
Documentation	HER data & Trent Valley cropmark survey	2
Diversity	There are assets of different dates within the zone from potentially prehistoric to a 19 <sup>th</sup> century landscape and farm	2
Group Association	There is a strong correlation between the farm and the historic landscape character	2

Amenity Value	The canal is already a public amenity, and further work could enhance the understanding of the historic environment of this zone with regard to field patterns etc.	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	Medium to large scale is likely to have a considerable impact upon the historic environment character in terms of the landscape.	2
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>15</b>

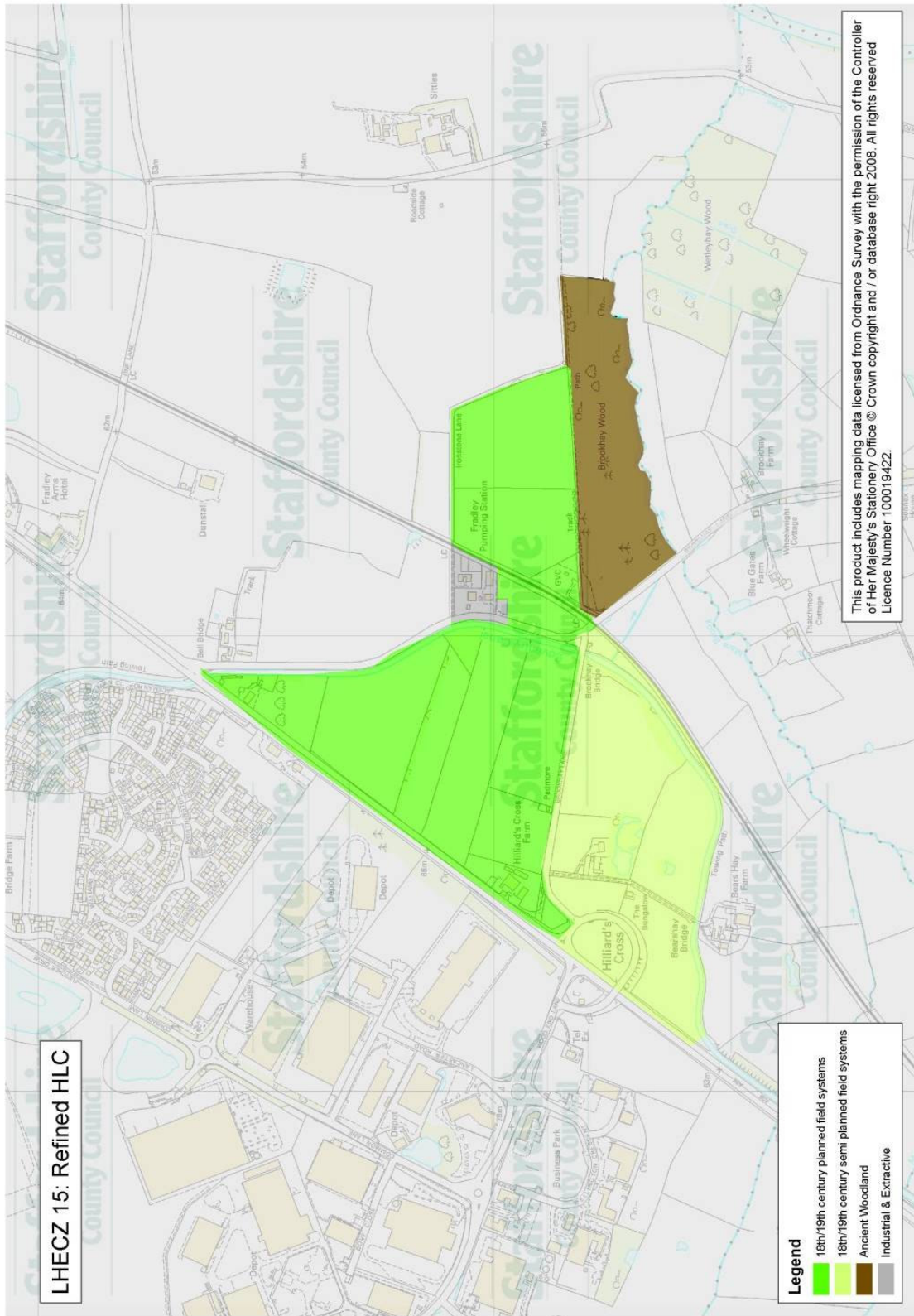


Map 42 Designations



Map 43 HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)





Map 44 Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 16 – Field systems west of Fradley & Alrewas Hayes (HECA 11)**

### **Summary**

This zone is a testimony to the concept of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century improvements to both agriculture and transportation. This had formed part of Fradley Heath until it was enclosed after 1810 by surveyors creating 'planned enclosure'. This form of enclosure is typified by straight field boundaries and straightened roads creating a landscape with a strong geometric pattern. The farmsteads are likely to be of a similar date and are closely associated with the transformation of this landscape. The canal system was built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and represents the drive to improve industrial production occurring nationally at this time which in turn boosted the market economy.

The field systems around Alrewas Hayes, first enclosed after 1726, have undergone extensive field boundary loss during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century. The increase in arable agriculture during the 20<sup>th</sup> century has revealed evidence of intense human activity during the prehistoric period, particularly around The Sale and to the north west of Alrewas.

Medium to large scale development within the zone would have a considerable impact upon historic environment assets. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the relationships between the existing historic landscape character and settlement pattern and how this could be retained or reflected
- the setting of the designated sites listed below
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations** (map 45)

There are 13 Listed Buildings within the zone, along with one Scheduled Monument, the Fradley Causewayed Enclosure.

Several of the Listed Buildings fall within the two Conservation Areas of the Trent and Mersey Canal and Fradley Junction, where the former meets the Coventry Canal.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 46)

During the later prehistoric periods it is likely that much of this area would have formed dense woodland with only sparse and localised clearance. This would have been associated with small settlements and the development of a fledgling pastoral economy. This is supported by the limited assessment of environmental remains recovered from several sites within the zone.

However the archaeological evidence for human activity within the zone is quite intense suggesting an open grassland landscape by at least the Neolithic period.

Of particular interest within the zone is the site of a Scheduled Neolithic causewayed enclosure, which lies just to the west of the confluence of the Trent and Tame rivers. The zone also includes numerous ring ditches, which are possibly evidence of the sites of former Bronze Age burial mounds or may be evidence of Iron Age settlement representing the remains of roundhouses. Other enclosures may be evidence of further as yet unknown activities which may date be prehistoric or Roman in date. It must also be stated that many as yet unrecorded sites and palaeochannels may survive masked beneath later alluvial deposits. Further work will be required to better understand this important archaeological resource.

At present there is little evidence for confirmed Roman activity, but currently little field work has been undertaken within the zone to measure the intensity of the activity in any of these periods. It is likely however that Romano-British activity in this area was largely restricted to agricultural activities and settlement patterns similar to those in evidence during the Iron Age.

There is little evidence of human activity dating to the medieval period when this area had formed heath land and was probably utilised for the purpose of grazing animals and collecting fuel.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 47)

The former historic landscape character of the eastern half of the zone is dominated by heath land and the current field pattern of straight field boundaries. This has created a landscape of strong geometric patterns, established following an Act of Parliament to enclose Fradley Heath (passed in 1810). Several field boundaries have been lost over the last half century, although the overall field pattern remains legible.

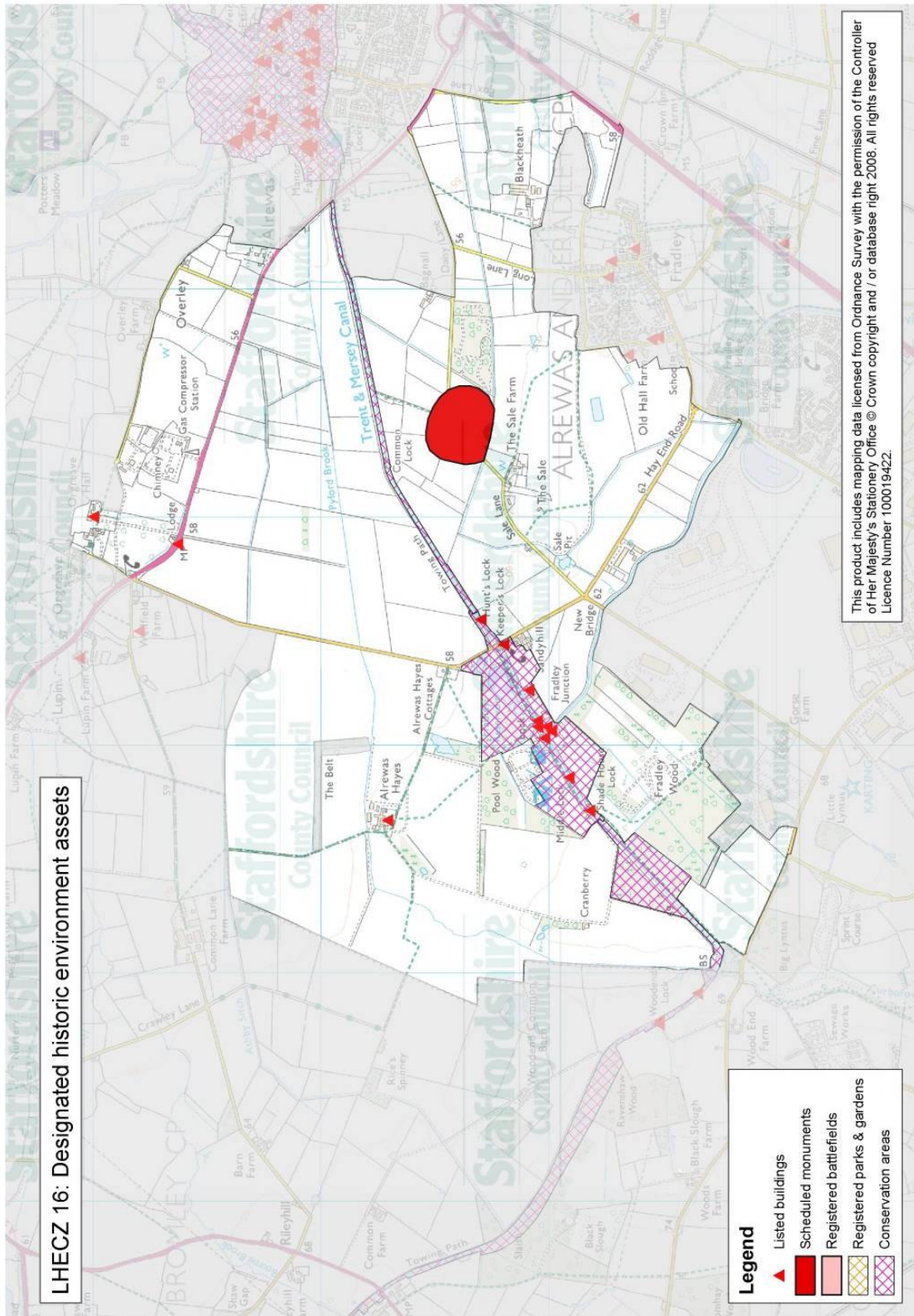
The western half of the zone, around Alrewas, follows a similar history of being formerly unenclosed land which was enclosed by Act of Parliament (1726). Historic records suggest that this area had been held as a hunting forest or chase by the lord of Alrewas up until the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Alrewas Hayes farmhouse dates to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and was therefore strongly associated with the change of use of this landscape. However, the field systems in this area have been subject to intensive field boundary loss during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century eroding the sense of the relationship between the farm and the landscape.

The settlement pattern is one of dispersed farmsteads the majority of which date to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They were probably built to farm the field systems created after 1810, although they concentrate in that area to the south of the canals.

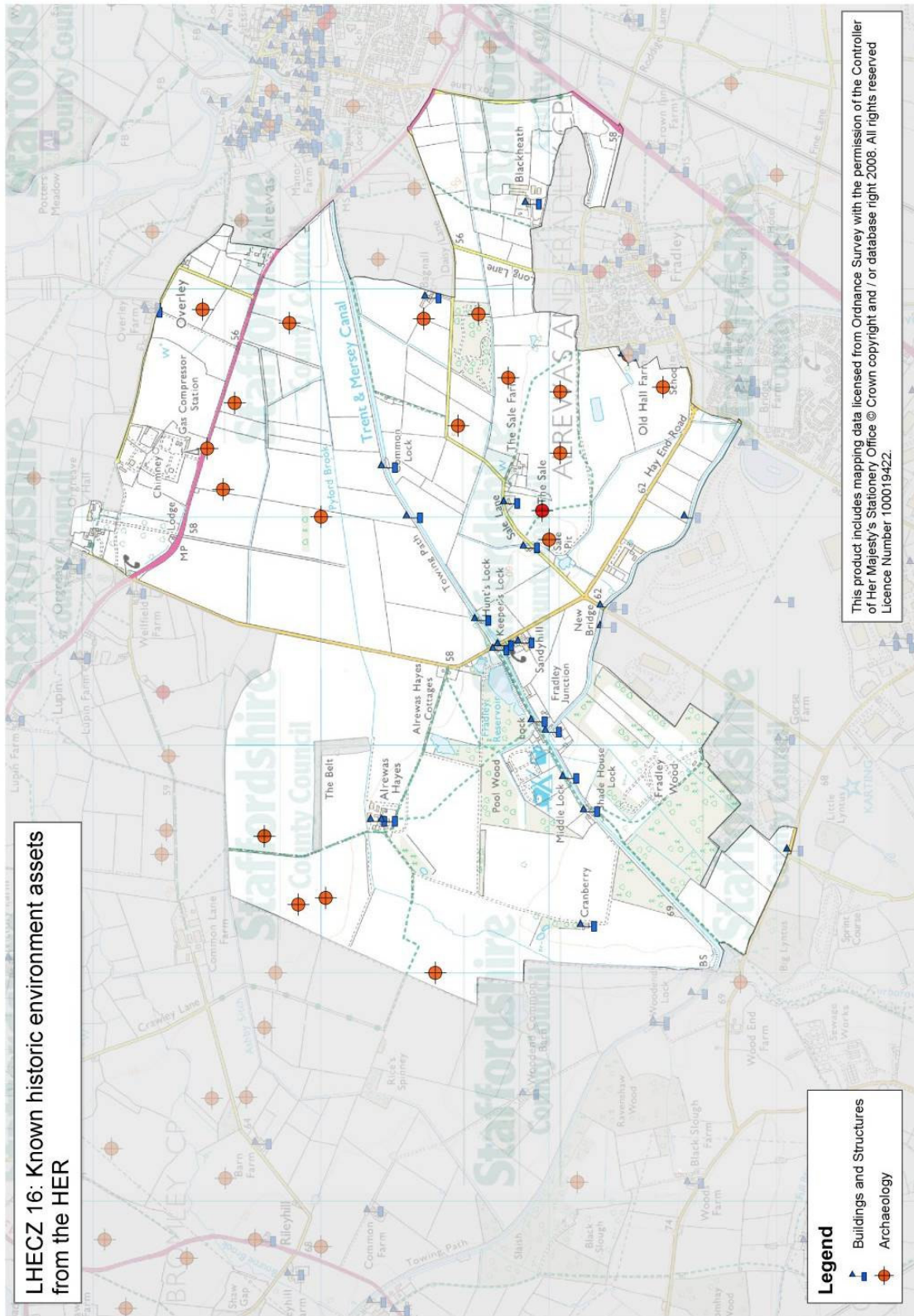
Also dominating the landscape is the canal system; dating largely to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century this zone includes the important Fradley Junction where the two canals, the Trent & Mersey canal and the Coventry canal converge. Historic features survive along the canals throughout the zone including accommodation bridges, locks and at Fradley Junction in particular a collection of Listed canal side buildings including an inn, cottages and a warehouse dating to the 1770s as well as early 19<sup>th</sup> century canal workers cottages and late 19<sup>th</sup> century workshops.

### Historic Assets Summary Table

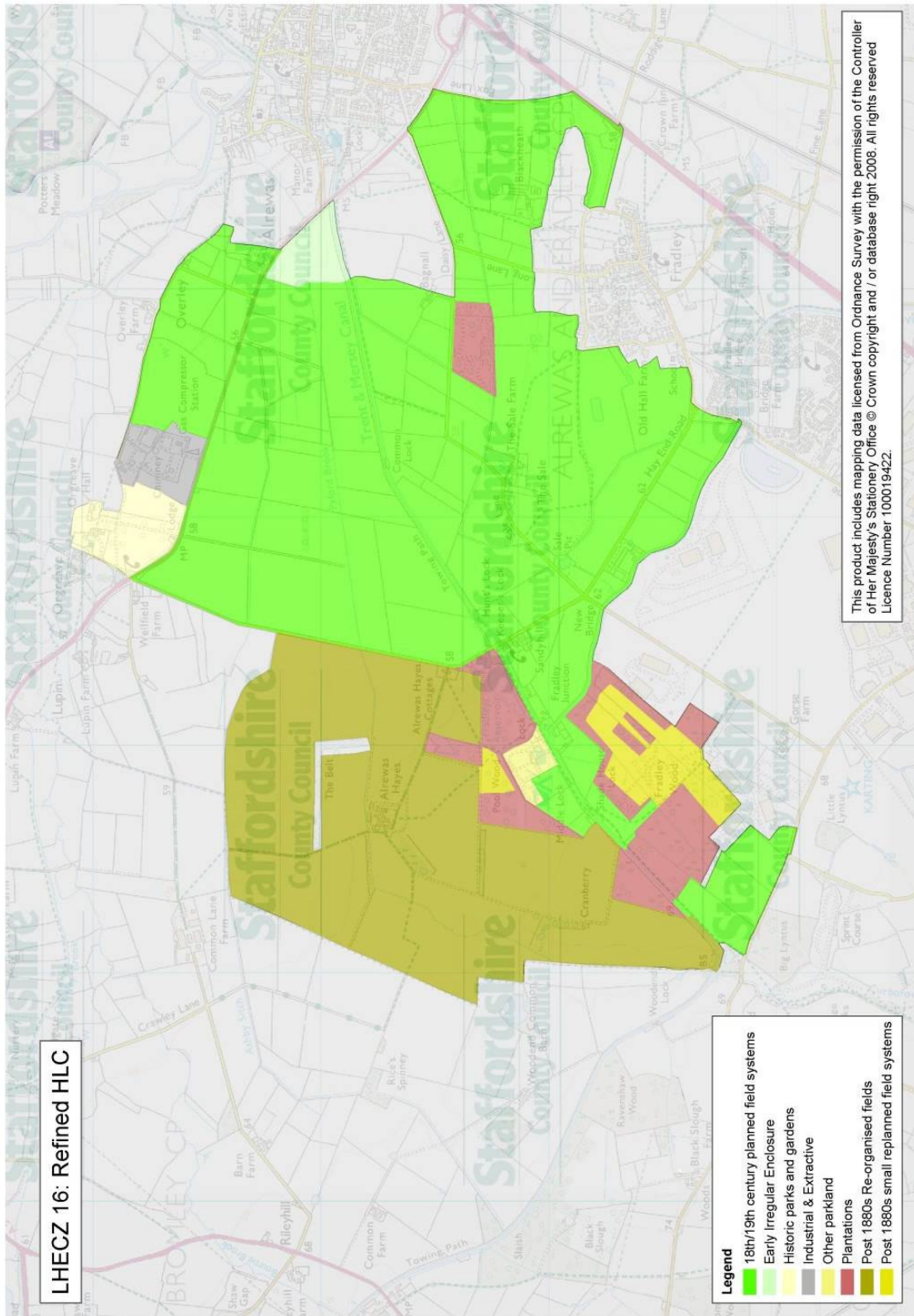
Survival	The zone has seen little disturbance other than through agricultural activities. Prior to the early 19 <sup>th</sup> century this area had been heathland and probably not ploughed during the medieval period.	2
Potential	There are numerous cropmark sites across parts of the zone so there is potential for assets to survive to some degree	2
Documentation	HER data & Trent Valley Survey	2
Diversity	The zone contains known prehistoric sites and other undated cropmarks, which may relate to early activity. There is also a good relationship between the surviving historic landscape and the settlement pattern and the canal network all being of a similar date.	3
Group Association	It contains a range of assets likely to be related – or which show continuity of activity within the zone – as well as the relationships between the farms and the surviving historic landscape across much of this area.	3
Amenity Value	The canals provide good public amenity and probably already creates a sense of place and could be further promoted as an amenity.	3
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	The zone is highly sensitive to change due to the presence of the below ground archaeology and to the nature of the dispersed settlement and its relationship to the landscape. Also upon the setting of the canals, of which Fradley Junction and the Trent & Mersey canal form Conservation Areas.	3
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>18</b>



Map 45 Designations



Map 46 HER data (findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 47 Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 17 – Field systems south of Fradley (HECA 11)**

### **Summary**

This zone once comprised mostly heath land until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Since this period it has been enclosed and farmed as arable land. More recent changes to the landscape have included the removal of field boundaries to enlarge the fields and increase productivity, particularly in the east. To the west the survival of irregular enclosure patterns retain some sense of the zone's origins as an enclosed landscape during the medieval period.

The built environment comprises two farms of probable 19<sup>th</sup> century date and other later buildings. Prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was little or no settlement within the zone.

There are few other historic environment assets within the zone other than the Coventry canal to the west, the line of a Roman road and a few as yet undated cropmarks.

Any medium to large scale development within the zone is likely to have an impact upon certain historic environment assets. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the relationships between the existing historic landscape character and settlement pattern and how they could be retained or reflected
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

Early consultation with the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

### **Designations**

There are currently no designated sites lying within or adjacent to the zone.

### **Archaeological Character (map 48)**

During the later prehistoric periods it is likely that much of this area would have formed dense woodland with only sparse and localised clearance. This would have been associated with small settlements and the development of a fledgling pastoral economy. Limited environmental assessment at some sites suggests this view of the later prehistoric environment.

At present there is little evidence for confirmed prehistoric or Roman activity in the zone with the exception of the line of Rykneild Street Roman road. This major route runs approximately north–south through the zone and is fossilised in the route of the modern A38. The influence of the road upon the



surrounding landscape in the Roman period is currently not fully understood although such a routeway would have provided opportunities for local families.

It is likely that heath land dominated the zone from at least the medieval period, if not earlier. There is one, currently undated possible rectilinear enclosure identified on aerial photographs as a cropmark, along with linear features, although several of the latter are most likely relate to the recently removed field boundaries.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 49)

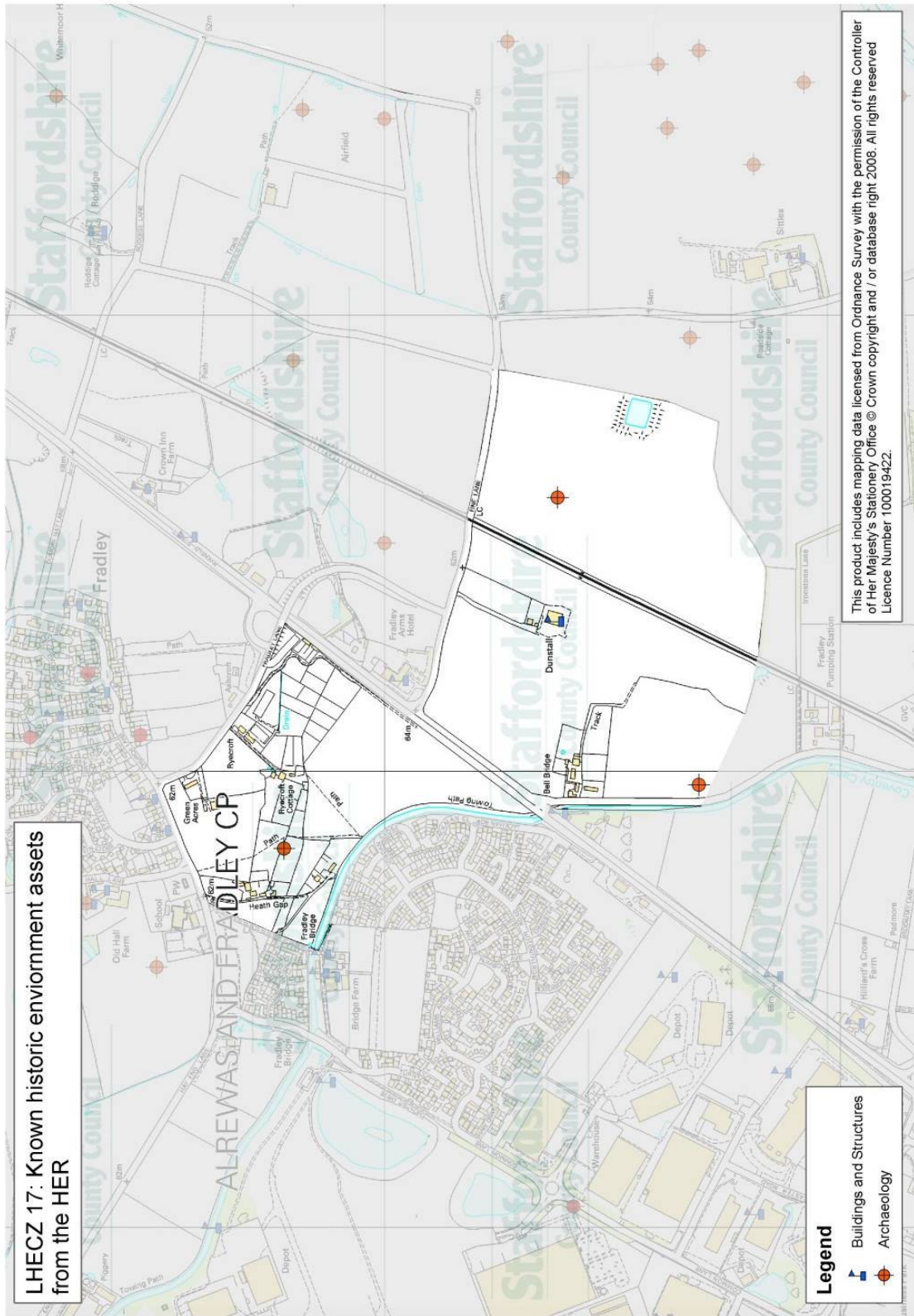
Field systems dominated this LHECZ which mostly date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and later. Up until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century much of the zone had formed part of Fradley Heath when an Act of Parliament (1810) was granted to enclose the entire heath. Despite this the landscape is not dominated by the typical straight boundaries and roads of Planned Enclosure. Instead the landscape is characterised by a largely irregular and more intimate pattern of fields. Two areas were exempt from the Act as they had already been enclosed, and these retain much of their character as ‘Early Irregular Enclosure’. This includes the fields surrounding Dunstall Farm and those to the north west around the small farm of Ryecroft Cottage. Smaller areas of field systems, to the east and west, have seen significant change in the last half century which have resulted in enlarged fields where field boundaries have been removed. The two farms mentioned above probably date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The other buildings which lie near Ryecroft Cottage and those at Bell Bridge are all 20<sup>th</sup> century in date.

Along the western boundary lies the Coventry Canal, this was constructed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and provides a local public amenity in terms of access along the towpath and for boating.

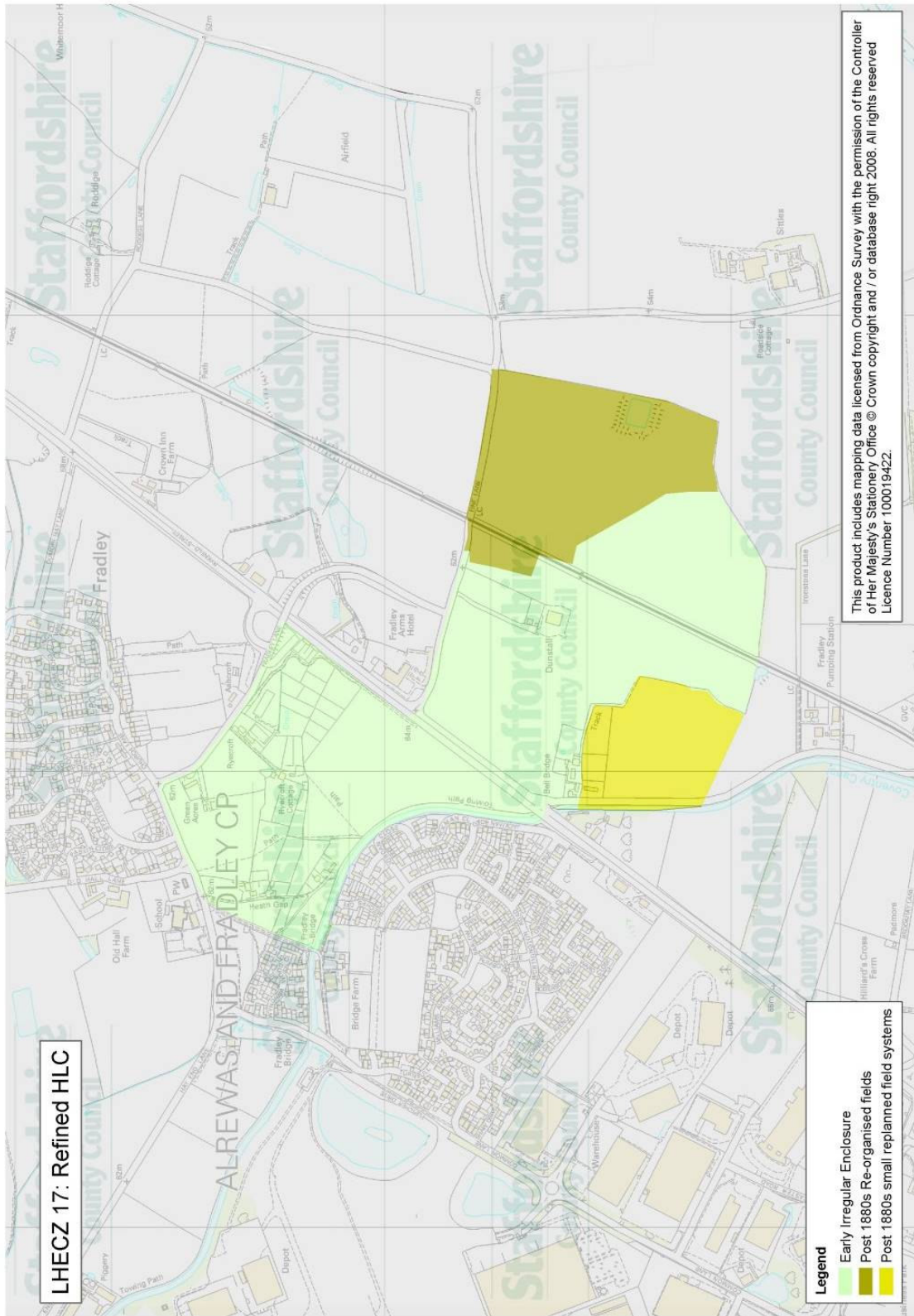
### **Historic Assets Summary Table**

Survival	The zone has not been subject to development or quarrying, but has been ploughed.	2
Potential	There are limited known historic environment assets within the zone. There are two areas where cropmarks have been identified upon aerial photographs and further cropmark sites of prehistoric and Roman date are located in the wider area, so there is the potential for further sites to exist.	2
Documentation	HER and the Trent Valley Cropmark Survey	2
Diversity	There are very few historic environment assets other than the undated cropmarks and the 19 <sup>th</sup> century farm buildings.	1
Group Association	The zone contains a few features of a similar nature, being cropmarks. The landscape has seen much change in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century.	1
Amenity Value	The canal provides a public amenity.	2

Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	The zone could accommodate medium to large scale development, although the dispersed nature of settlement (having low population currently) and individual assets may suffer adverse effects	1
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>11</b>



Map 48 HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 49: Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 18 – Fradley (HECA 13e)**

### **Summary**

This zone comprises the settlement of Fradley, which had its origins in the medieval period. This settlement has seen considerable enlargement in the form of housing estates during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A moated site survives to the north west of the village in which sits a farmhouse dated to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The remainder of the landscape includes the former medieval open fields lying to the south of Fradley which were probably enclosed during the post medieval period.

Medium to large scale development within the zone would have some impact upon historic environment assets. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the relationships between the earlier historic landscape character and village and how this could be retained or reflected
- the Listed Buildings
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations** (map 50)

There are seven Listed Buildings within the zone, most of which are located within the village of Fradley.

There are currently no other designated sites lying within or adjacent to the zone.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 51)

The zone lies approximately 3km to the west of the confluence of the rivers Trent and Tame. These two valleys have been the focus of human activity for millennia with many as yet undated cropmark sites (recovered through aerial photography) pointing to prehistoric and/or Roman activity. This evidence suggests that these valleys had already been substantially cleared of woodland by at least the Bronze Age and perhaps earlier. Within the LHECZ a pit alignment has been identified in the eastern half of the zone, suggesting the presence of human activity during the later prehistoric period. Such alignments were originally thought to represent ritual sites although more recently their number across the landscape has led researchers to suggest that they represent field or property boundaries during the later prehistoric period. A lack of evidence around Fradley itself may be due to a lack of research, or otherwise this area may have been woodland or heath land in the prehistoric and Roman periods as it possibly was until the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century.

Roman activity within the zone is attested to by the presence of Rykneild Street Roman road, although its direct influence upon the surrounding landscape within the zone is currently not understood.

### **Historic Landscape (map 52)**

The zone includes the historic settlement of Fradley which has seen considerable expansion during the 20<sup>th</sup> century with large housing estates located mostly to the north of the original village. Fradley is first mentioned in documentary sources in the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century and a moated site lies approximately 220m to the north of the church. Moated sites have generally been seen to have their origins in the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century and are often closely associated with woodland or liminal landscapes. These sites are frequently seen to represent the colonisation of woodland areas through assarting or the location of central places to dominate access to a variety of resources (woodland, pasture, arable and meadow land). The zone had fallen within the bounds of Cannock Forest by the mid 11<sup>th</sup> century and it is possible that Fradley owes its origins to the assarting of woodland in the later 12<sup>th</sup>/early 13<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest surviving historic buildings date to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, which includes the farmhouse standing within the moated site, whilst another dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. There are only five recognised historic buildings within Fradley and as a consequence this limited dataset cannot provide any further answers about the origins of the settlement without further research. However, further examples may survive as historic cores within later buildings. Only further research and investigation would be able to test this theory fully.

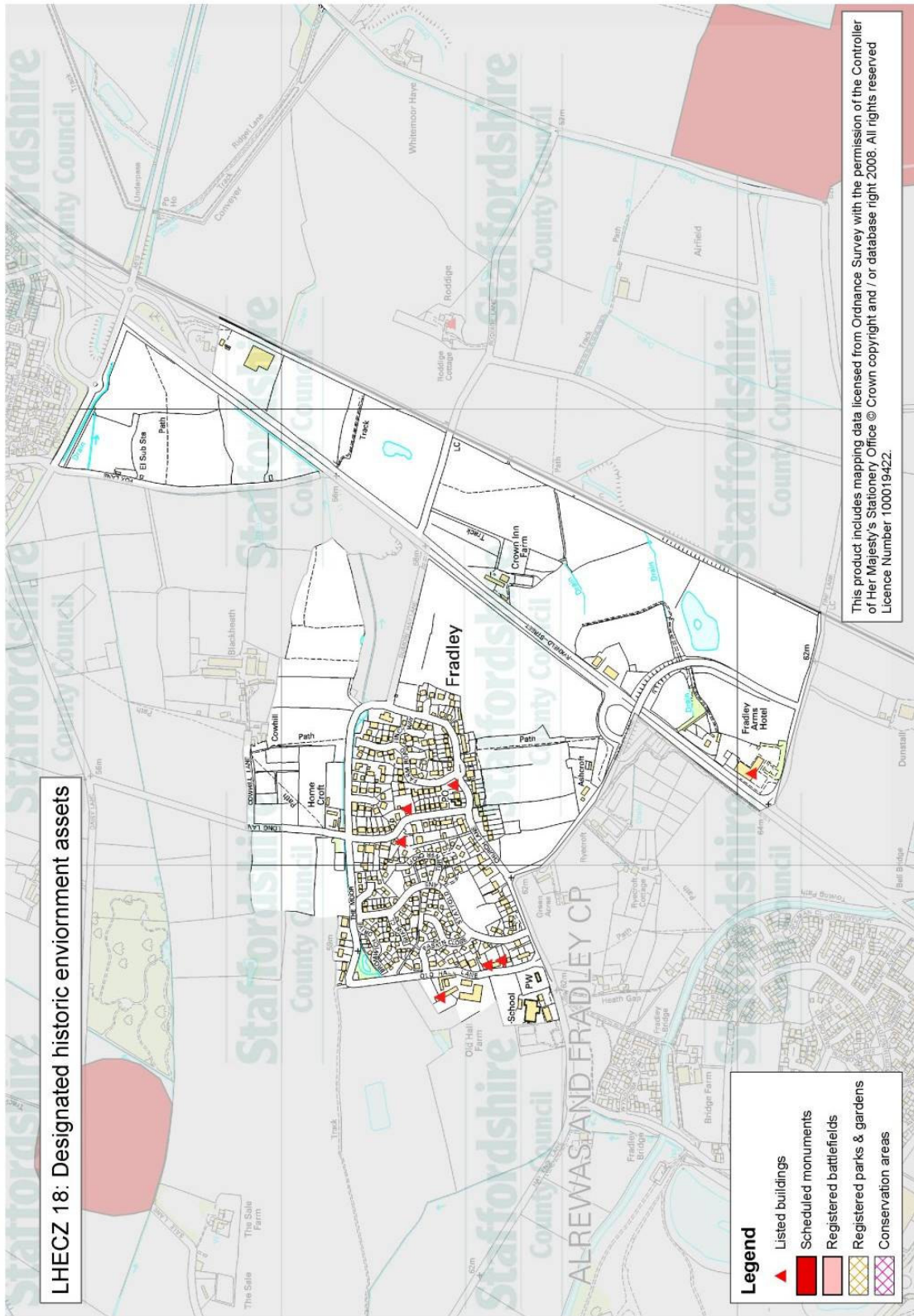
The landscape around the village includes Piecemeal Enclosure lying to the south east, which had its origins as open arable fields in the medieval period. The precise date of this enclosure is unknown, but was carried out through private informal agreements between landowners. These open fields are likely to have been worked by the inhabitants of Fradley. To the north of the village is a small area of Early Small Rectilinear Fields which are also likely to date to the Post Medieval period.

Other than the village there are few other settlements or farmsteads with the exception of Crown Inn Farm, which from its plan form appears to date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Historic Assets Summary Table**

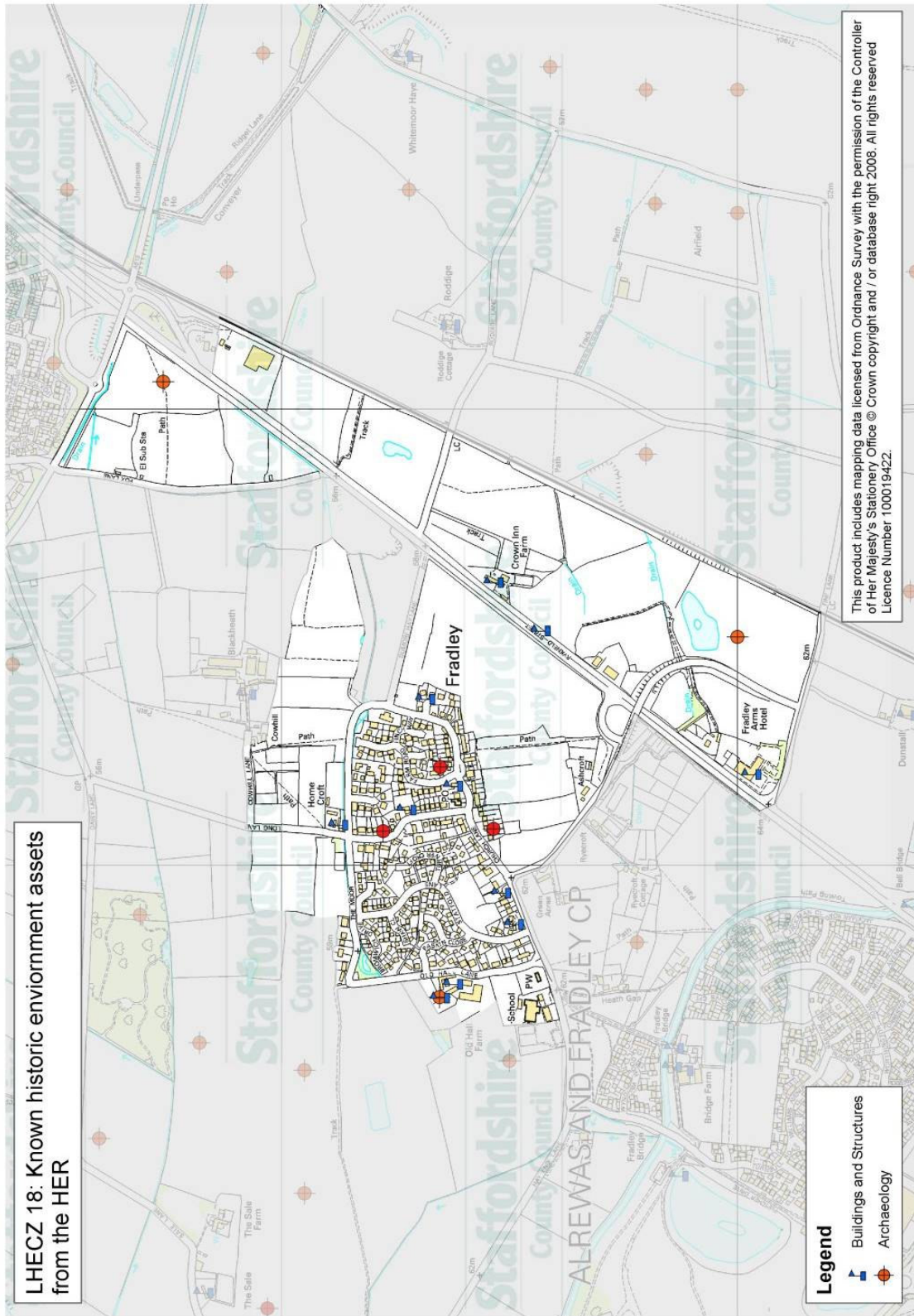
Survival	There are 6 historic buildings and a moated site surviving in the western half and a cropmark site in the east. There has been some disturbance around Fradley due to development and to the east from ploughing.	2
Potential	The range of monuments around the zone which date to the prehistoric/roman period and which survive as cropmarks is intensive. Where the landscape has not been developed there is the potential for more sites to exist.	3

Documentation	HER data and Trent Valley survey	2
Diversity	There is a limited range of historic environment assets of different dates.	1
Group Association	The presence of the medieval village and its field system are still just about legible.	2
Amenity Value	There are a series of public footpaths, but the zone mainly comprises farmland and the village and does not currently lend itself to display or visitor attraction without further research being carried out.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	There is likely to be a detrimental effect upon the historic landscape within the zone, particularly the surviving Piecemeal Enclosure and upon any below ground deposits relating to sites around the village core and to the east of the zone where earlier human activity has been identified.	2
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>13</b>

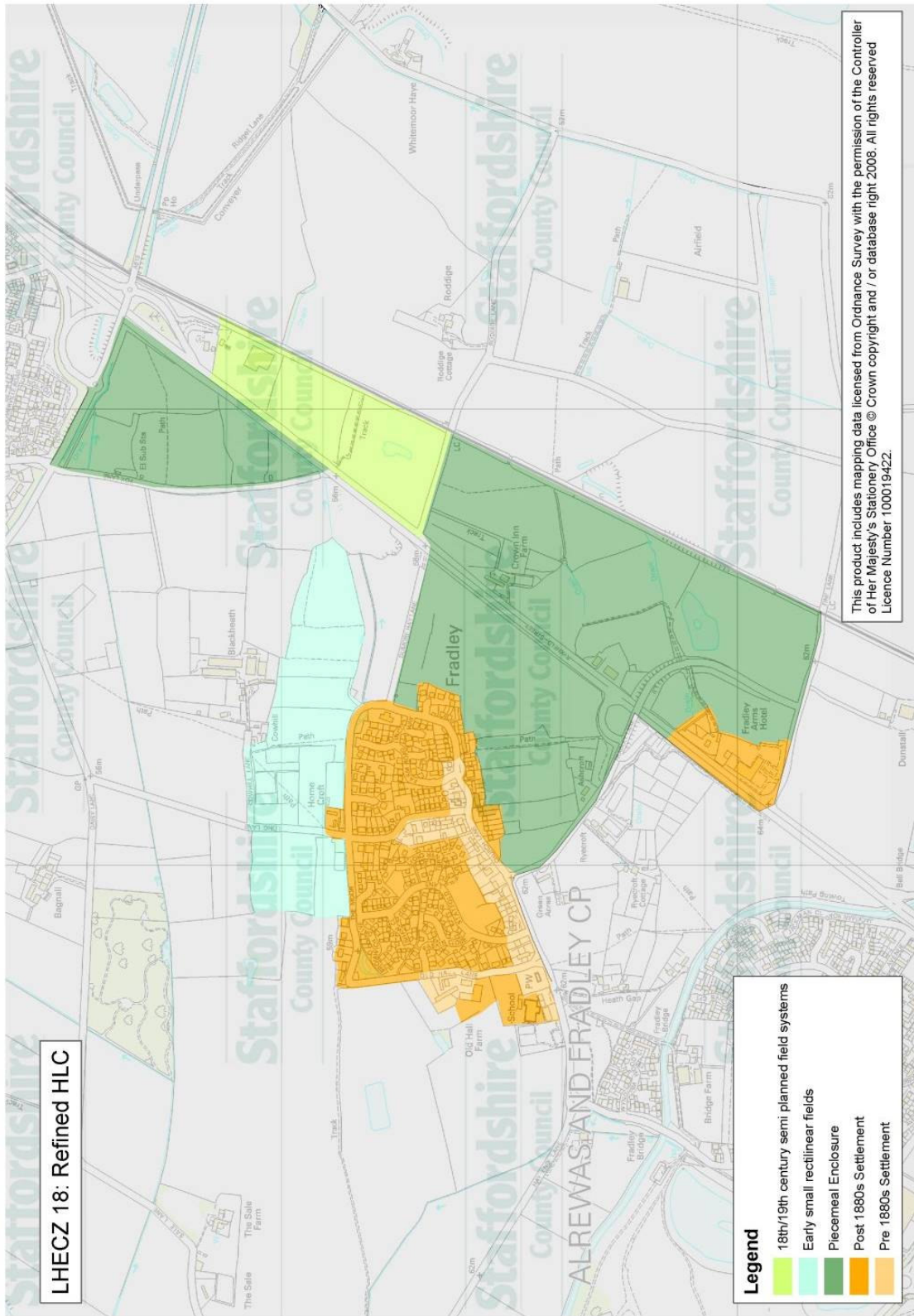


Map 50: Designations





Map 51: HER data (findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 52: Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 19 – Tame Valley (HECA 13e)**

### **Summary**

This zone is dominated by field systems whose current form lies in changes which have occurred during late twentieth century. This essentially involved the removal of field boundaries to facilitate increased arable production through the industrialisation of the agricultural process. There are two farms of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century date, although the latter site was first recorded in the medieval period.

Due to the increase in arable production during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century numerous cropmarks have been identified through aerial photography. This undated evidence points to human agency which has potentially been altering this landscape since the later prehistoric period.

Medium to large scale development within the zone would have some impact upon historic environment assets. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- The dispersed nature of the settlement pattern
- the designated sites listed below
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations** (map 53)

There is part of the Scheduled Monument 'Settlement sites and enclosures 460m NE of Sittles Farm' falls within this LHECZ, whilst the remainder lies adjacent to it. Also within the zone are two Listed Buildings.

There are currently no Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Conservation Areas lying within or adjacent to the LHECZ.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 54)

The Trent and Tame valleys have been the focus of human activity for millennia with many cropmark sites of prehistoric and/or Roman date being identified by aerial photographic surveys. This LHECZ lies on the western side of the Tame Valley and it contains many of these cropmark sites including the Scheduled Monument currently interpreted as either a collection of Bronze Age barrows or an Iron Age farmstead. Other features within the zone include ring ditches, again evidence of either former Bronze Age barrows or Iron Age settlement as well numerous enclosures and linear features. These features, taken with the concentration of other cropmarks known within the valleys of the Trent and Tame, all suggest a landscape

which had been cleared of woodland by at least the Bronze Age if not the Neolithic period. How far this activity was due to farming, as suggested by the possibility of an Iron Age farmstead, and how intensive this might have been is not clear at present. Further research is needed to fully determine this.

The Rykneild Street Roman road crosses the zone in its north western corner although its impact upon the landscape of the zone or to what extent the cropmark features represent activity during this period is currently unknown.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 55)

The zone is dominated by field systems with very little settlement present across the area. The majority of field systems have been altered considerably during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century through the removal of field boundaries. There is one area of Reorganised Piecemeal Enclosure which survives around Roddige Farm, although this also been subject to boundary removal in the last 50 years. The only area of where the historic landscape character retains some legibility lies to the south of Roddige Lane as an area of probable 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century Semi-Planned Enclosure’.

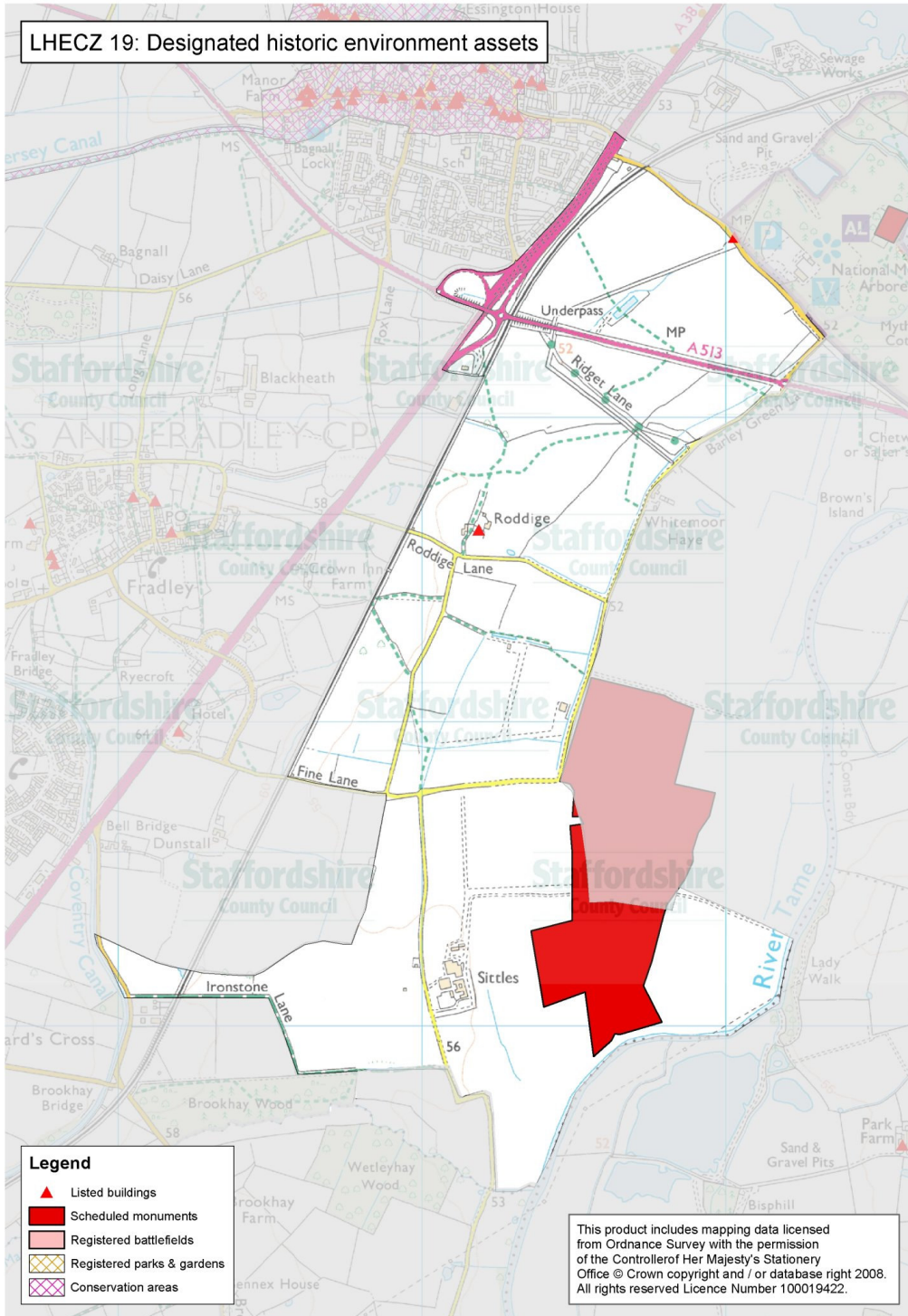
Settlement within the zone is restricted to two farms, Roddige Farm to the north which has an 18<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse whilst Sittles Farm to south dates to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Roddige Farm’s origins may relate to the enclosure of former medieval open arable fields, which may have formed one of the larger fields belonging to Alrewas and/or Fradley.

Sittles Farm to the south was first mentioned in documentary sources c.1300 and Yates’ county map of Staffordshire (1775) suggests a very small hamlet or collection of farmsteads. The current farmstead may represent a rebuilding of an earlier series of buildings associated with the intensification in farming practices during the late 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century. During this period the agricultural process became progressively more industrialised, with new farm machinery being brought into use. This culminated in the extensive boundary loss characteristic of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

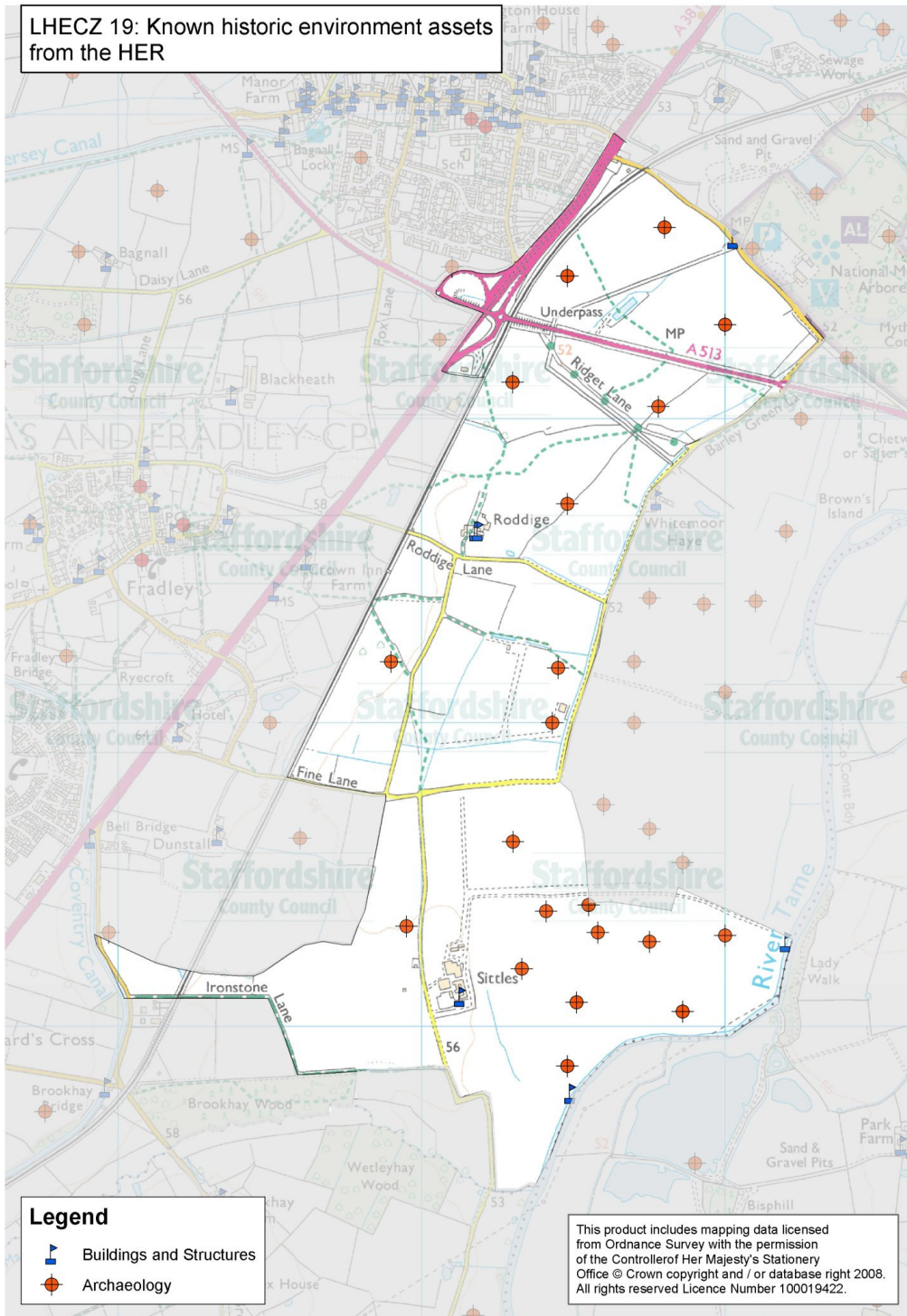
### **Historic Assets Summary Table**

Survival	The extent of cropmarks within the zone suggest considerable survival of prehistoric and roman features, although it has and is being ploughed.	2
Potential	It is likely that the intensity of the cropmarks within the zone may mean that there are a range of historic environment assets which probably survive.	3
Documentation	HER data & Trent Valley survey	2
Diversity	The zone contains historic environment assets mostly of probable prehistoric and roman date. There little evidence of later survivals with the possibility of some deserted properties around Sittles which may be medieval in origin?	2
Group Association	It is possible that some of the crop mark features relate to one another. There is little relation	2

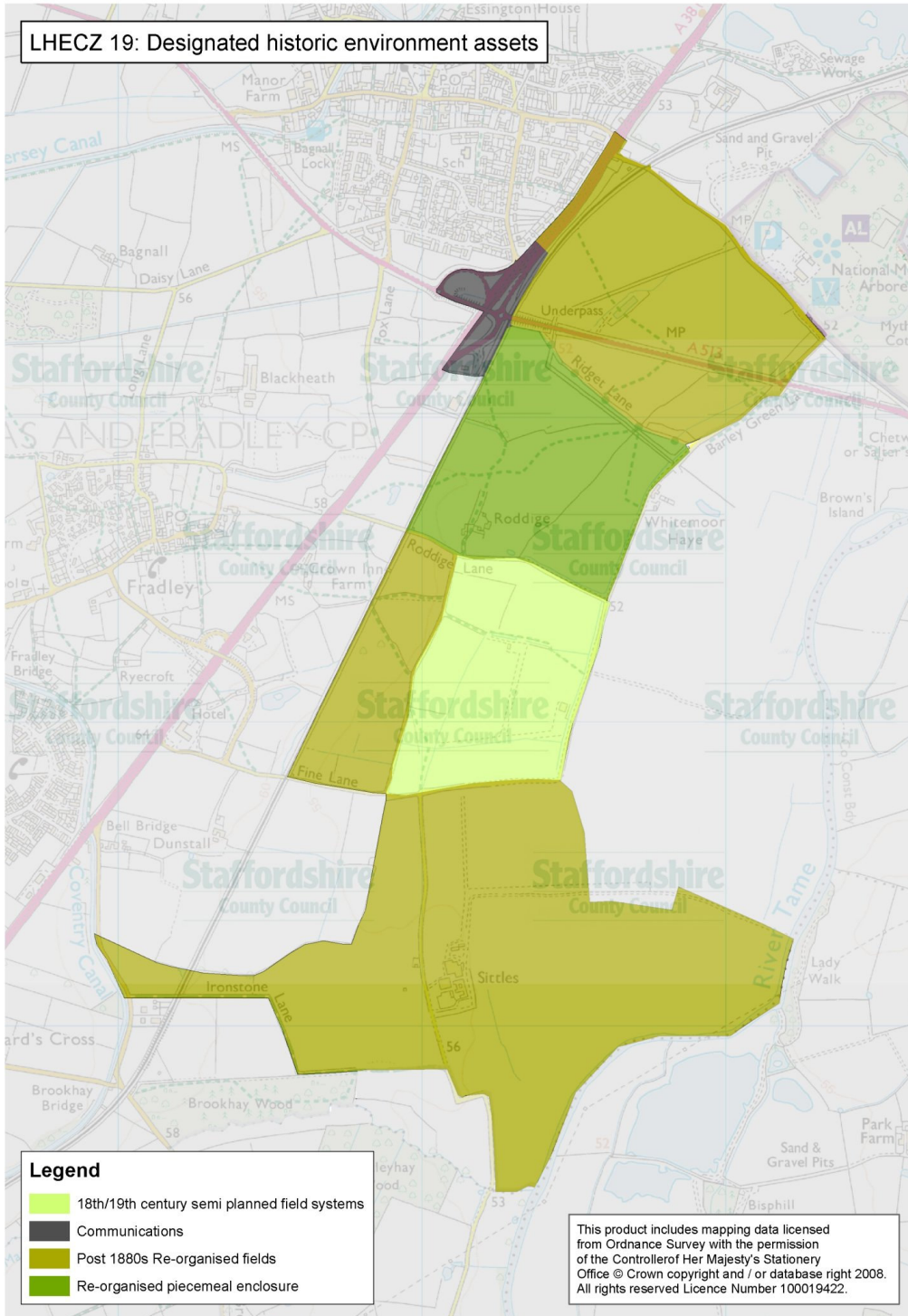
	between the current historic landscape character and the other assets.	
Amenity Value	The current understanding of the zones historic environment assets does not lend itself to public amenity.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	In terms of the historic landscape character the zone could accommodate medium to large scale development, but there would be a detrimental impact upon the below ground archaeology which would require mitigation.	1
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>13</b>



Map 53: Designations



Map 54: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 55: Refined HLC



## **LHECZ 20 – North east of Alrewas (HECA 13e)**

### **Summary**

This zone is dominated by field systems and one large farm, whose origins lie in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These field systems appear to have been partly re-organised during the 20<sup>th</sup> century with one area where the historic landscape character survives more completely. The origins of this landscape lie in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century when meadow land was formerly enclosed following an Act of Parliament.

There is evidence of probable prehistoric/Roman activity within the zone, which fits with the quite intensive activity known more widely from the Trent and Tame valleys through assessment of the existing aerial photographic record.

Medium to large scale development within the zone would have limited impact upon historic environment assets. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the adjacent Conservation Area
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations**

There are no designated sites falling within or adjacent to the LHECZ. However the zone lies less than 500m to the north east from Alrewas Conservation Area.

### **Archaeological Character (map 56)**

The zone lies within the Trent Valley only approximately 1.5km from the confluence with the river Tame. The Trent and Tame valleys have been the focus of human activity for millennia with many cropmark sites of prehistoric and/or Roman date being identified by aerial photographic surveys. The nature of these sites suggests that the landscape had already been cleared of trees by at least the Bronze Age. The zone includes an area of cropmarks which have been identified on aerial photographs and include an enclosure and a possible ring ditch.

Rykneild Street Roman road runs through the zone on a south west-north east alignment, which the modern A38 follows. The impact of the road upon the landscape of the zone during the Roman period is currently unknown.

## Historic Landscape (map 57)

The zone is small in size and is dominated by field systems some of which have been altered considerably during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century. This process saw the removal of field boundaries to create enlarged fields to increase arable production. The northern area is dominated by a field system which has been identified as being '18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century Planned Enclosure'. This enclosure is typified by fields with straight boundaries which create a geometric pattern in the landscape. This area of land was enclosed following an Act of Parliament granted in 1810 when the fields were named as "Essington Meadows".

The areas identified as being of Post 1880s date, that surround The Homestead and to the north of Alrewas, had once formed part of the open arable fields belonging to the town during the medieval period. These large unhedged fields were worked in common by the inhabitants whereby each family farmed individual strips scattered across all the open fields around the town. From the late medieval period onwards these open fields began to be enclosed as piecemeal enclosure. The individual farmers agreed to enclose the land between themselves creating an irregular pattern of fields. In Staffordshire this process of informal enclosure was still being carried out by the 17<sup>th</sup> century and enclosure often meant that the land was no longer worked for arable production, but was turned over to pasture for which the county was well known during the post medieval period.

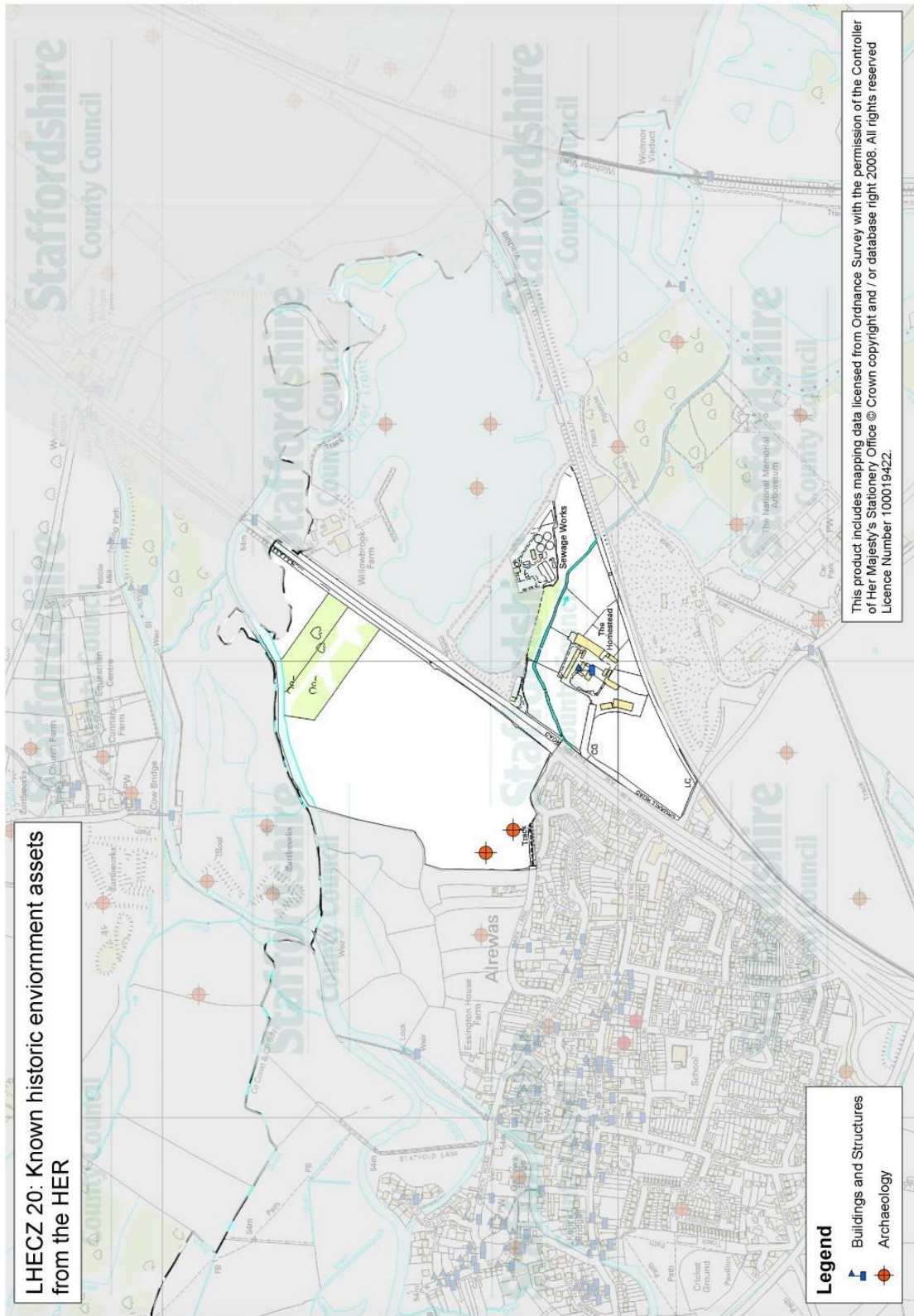
The only farm within the LHECZ is The Homestead which lies in an area identified as "Post 1880s Small Replanned Field Systems". The Historic Farmstead Survey has identified that the farmstead dates to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century from its, although many large farm buildings have been added to the site over the last century.

Another 20<sup>th</sup> century intrusion into the historic landscape is the large sewage works lying to the north of The Homestead which was built to serve Alrewas.

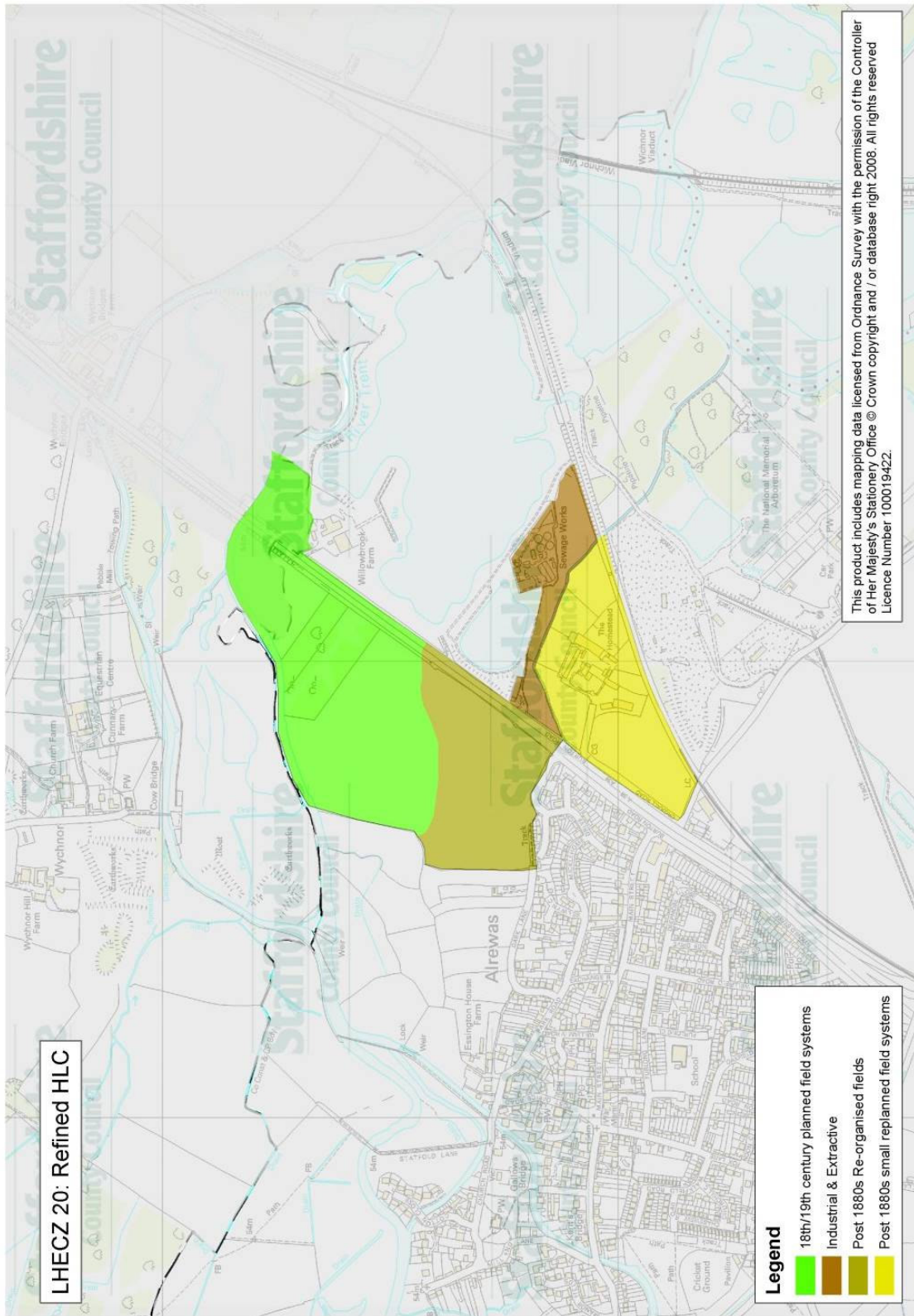
## Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	There has been some development within the zone, but mostly has been subject to ploughing	2
Potential	There are known cropmarks within the zone and there is a possibility that other sites of prehistoric/roman origin lie within the zone.	2
Documentation	HER data & Trent Valley Survey	2
Diversity	There are few known historic environment assets	1
Group Association	The field pattern has mostly been altered in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century. Known archaeological features may relate to one another	1

Amenity Value	The known archaeological assets mostly relate to cropmarks and do not lend themselves to public amenity	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	The zone could possibly accommodate medium to large scale development although there may be negative impacts upon the nearby Conservation Area of Alrewas and upon the below ground archaeology	1
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>10</b>



Map 56: HER data (findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 57: Refined HLC

## **LHECZ 21 – Freeford (HECA 2a)**

### **Summary**

The HECZ had once formed part of Cannock Forest but is now largely agricultural in character and mostly comprises field systems which have their origins in the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that these fields were laid out at the same time as the historic park and garden associated with Freeford Manor. If this is the case then it represents an extensive re-planning of the landscape probably only possible achievable under one landowner or family..

Medium to large scale development within the zone would have some impact upon historic environment assets. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the relationships of the origins of the field systems and the adjacent historic parkland and how this could be retained or reflected;
- the nature of the dispersed settlement pattern
- the Listed Buildings lying adjacent
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits, particularly associated with the deserted settlement.

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

### **Designations**

There are no designated sites falling within this LHECZ, although there are Listed Buildings associated with Freeford Manor lying adjacent.

### **Archaeological Character (map 58)**

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

The evidence currently suggests that exploitation of this landscape was carried out in earnest after the Norman Conquest (1066). This area would have formed part of Cannock Forest at the time of the Conquest and was perhaps a landscape composed of woodland, wood pasture and heathland. Domesday Book records that there was land at Freeford for six ploughs, some of which may have fallen within the zone, suggesting arable cultivation by this period. This is likely to have been associated with medieval settlement in the area as described above.

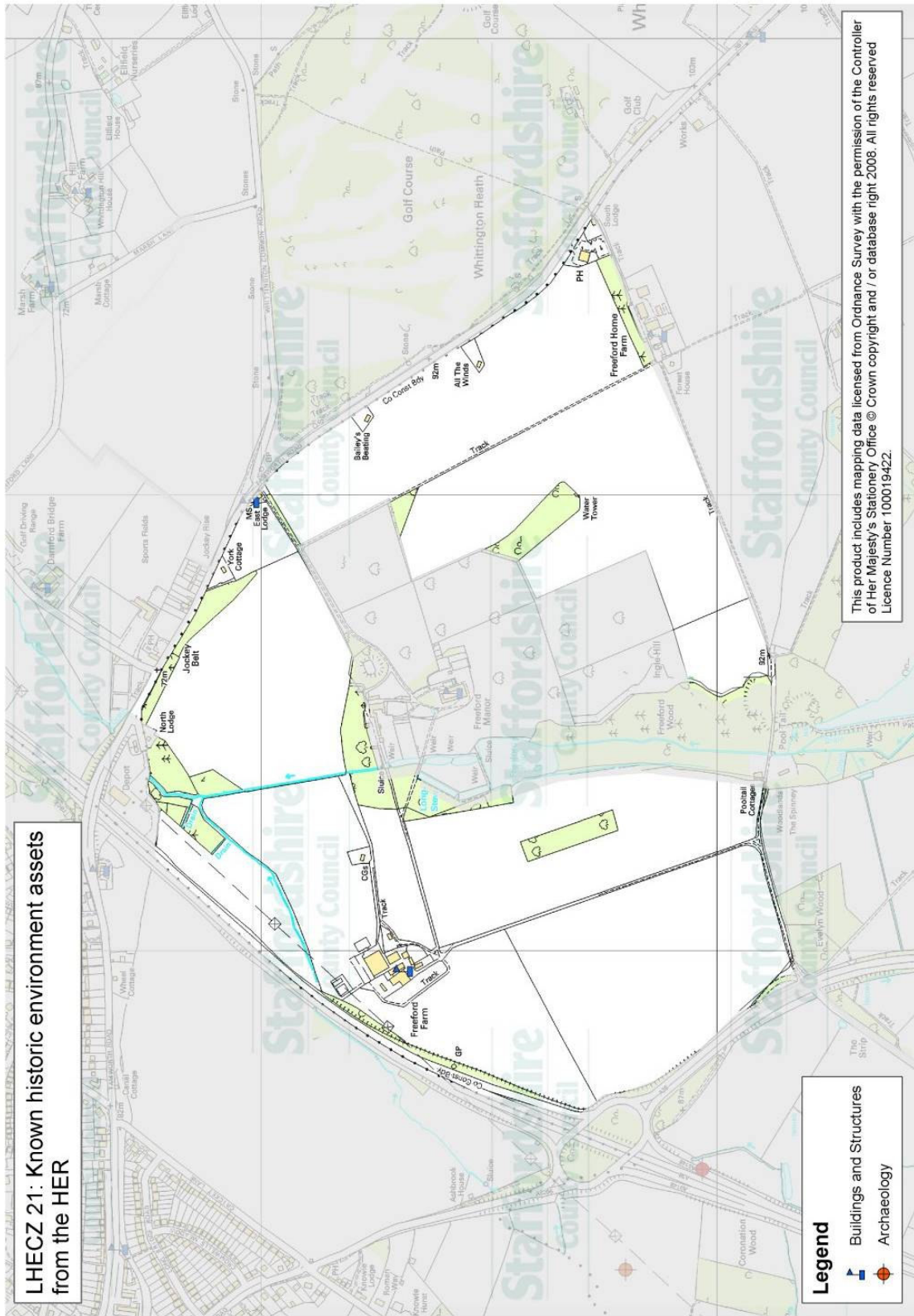
## Historic Landscape (map 59)

The LHECZ is dominated by field systems which have been identified as ‘18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosure’ by the Historic Landscape Characterisation project. This enclosure was created by surveyors who laid out straight boundaries creating a landscape with a strong geometric pattern. It is likely that the enclosure relates to land management associated with Freeford Manor, which the zone surrounds. Freeford Manor is a Listed Building dating to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and is surrounded by a Historic Park and Garden, which may date to a similar period as the field system.

Within the zone only one farmstead is recorded, Freeford Farm, which the Historic Farmsteads Survey dates to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Freeford Home Farm, also 19<sup>th</sup> century in date, lies just beyond the edge of the zone to the south. However, documentary evidence and an extensive pottery scatter found approximately 500m north west of Freeford Manor do suggest that a settlement had existed here during the medieval period and Freeford was mentioned as belonging to the ecclesiastical manor of Lichfield in Domesday Book. It has been suggested that the settlement had become deserted by 1539.

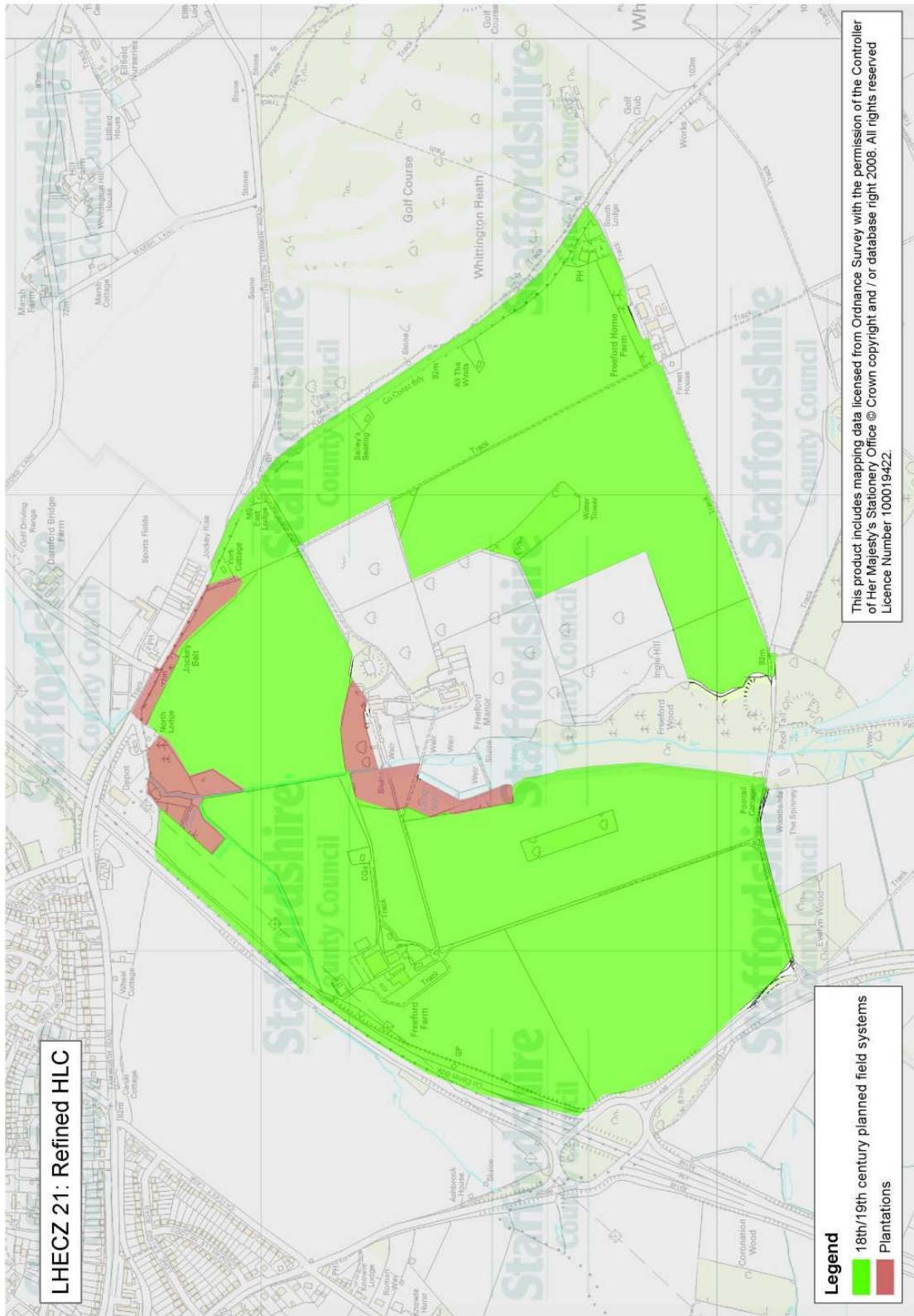
### Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The historic landscape character of the zone does not survive well, but does provide a buffer to the historic parkland around Freeford Manor. There are currently few known archaeological sites, but the zone is relatively undisturbed other than by ploughing.	2
Potential	There are few historic environment assets within the zone, other than the probable deserted settlement and the farm. There has currently been little research carried out however	2
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	There may be relationships between the landscape and the adjacent parkland and country house.	1
Group Association	The landscape provides a buffer around the parkland and country house which may have been created as a deliberate re-planning of the wider landscape.	2
Amenity Value	The current understanding of the historic environment does not provide for public amenity	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for LBC)	Medium to large scale development would have an impact upon the dispersed nature of the settlement and upon the potential relationship between Freeford Manor, parkland and surrounding field systems.	2
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>11</b>



Map 58: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)





Map 59: Refined HLC