

Appendix 3: Historic Environment Character Zones Assessments for Stafford

This appendix provides an assessment of the historic environment for each of the Historic Environment Character Zones (HECZs) which lies around the county town of Stafford.

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

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

Cultural Environment Team
Environment & Countryside
Development Services Directorate
Staffordshire County Council
Riverway
Stafford
ST16 3TJ

Tel: 01785 277281/277285/277290

Email: her@staffordshire.gov.uk

Staffordshire County Council
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SHECZ 1 – St Thomas’ Priory & Tixall Heath

Summary

The zone is dominated by a historic landscape character of 18th/19th century origin, particularly the field system of Planned Enclosure and numerous Plantations. The farmsteads were probably established at a similar date and many of the historic farm buildings survive. The fields had been laid out upon an area that had formed Tixall Heath.

A priory had been established to the south of the zone by the mid 12th century and there is also evidence of Bronze Age activity in the form of two burial mounds.

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

- The impact upon the Scheduled Monument and Listed Buildings at St Thomas’ Priory Farm
- The impact upon the two adjacent Conservation Areas.
- The impact upon the relationship between the historic landscape character of 18th/19th century fields, farmsteads and plantations and nature of this dispersed settlement pattern.
- The impact upon below ground archaeological deposits.

Early consultation with the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council, English Heritage and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (Map 1)

The Scheduled Monument of St Thomas’ Priory lies within the HECZ. Two Conservation Areas lie adjacent to the zone, Tixall (082) to the east and the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal (073) to the south.

Archaeological Character (map 2)

The current understanding of the later prehistoric landscape of the character zone suggests that it had mostly been heavily wooded until the Bronze Age, when some clearance may have begun to take place to support a small scale pastoral economy. There is evidence for human activity dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age period within the character zone, which may have been attracted to the river valleys of the Sow to the south. Further to the east of the county, in the Trent valley, human activity is known to have been intensive from the Neolithic period onwards.

Two Bronze Age burial mounds, King's Low and Queen's Low¹, stand to the north of the HECZ. These features were repositories for human cremations and were designed to have been seen across the landscape and in this context they may also have functioned as territorial boundary markers. An analysis of pollen samples taken from beneath King's Low confirms that this was an open landscape with scattered trees. In the 17th century two urns were found; possibly cremation urns associated with King's Low².

The open landscape, indicated by pollen evidence from beneath King's Low, suggests that human activity was relatively intensive at this period and may represent pastoral or even arable farming; evidence for Bronze Age ploughing activity has been identified approximately 3.5km to the east of King's Low³.

There is currently little known evidence for human activity within the zone from the Roman and Saxon period. By the medieval period, the southern part of this area formed Tixall Heath and it is possible that a heathland landscape dominated much of the zone from the Bronze Age onwards. However, this would not preclude human activity or even occupation from the later prehistoric period onwards.

Cropmarks have been identified on aerial photographs to the east of the zone, but it has not yet been determined whether they are of archaeological origin⁴.

Historic Landscape (map 3)

The earliest known settlement is the foundation of Scheduled St Thomas' Priory in c.1174 which lies within River Sow valley to the south of the zone⁵. Archaeological work has identified that some of the priory buildings survive retained within the extant farmstead. The priory complex included a watermill and fishponds to the north which may have acted as header ponds for the mill. Further fishponds are located c.675m to the south east of the priory in woodland. It is assumed that these fishponds were associated with the management of the priory during the medieval period.

The priory appears to have been established between two historic landscape types, with heathland dominating to the north and the river valley to the south which was probably utilized as meadow (within SHECZ 3).

The priory was dissolved in 1538 and the present Grade II listed farmhouse, which contains some medieval masonry and partly lies on the site of the priory church, mostly dates to the 18th century⁶. The dispersed settlement pattern comprises a further three historic farmsteads within the character zone which

¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00851 & PRN 0855

² Staffordshire HER: PRN 01844

³ Staffordshire HER: PRN 04615

⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 04080

⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00124; PRN 03747; PRN 50554; PRN 00854

⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 08094

were probably established following the enclosure of the heathland in the 18th century. These three farmsteads have not been closely dated, although Brancote Farm to the south east of the zone is depicted upon Yates' map of the county (1775). The character of these farmsteads suggests that they were quite large and three of them, St Thomas Priory Farm, Brancote Farm and Tixall Heath Farm may have developed over a period of time rather than in a single phase. Lower Hanyards Farm, to the north of the zone, however, does appear from its plan to have been built in a single event.

These farmsteads lie within a landscape dominated by planned enclosure, which was created during the 18th/19th century when the heathland was enclosed. This landscape was enclosed by surveyors using straight field boundaries creating field systems and roads with strong geometric patterns. The plantations and other woodlands are likely to be closely associated with this planning of the landscape, which probably included the development of the historic farmsteads.

The cemetery to the north of the zone was established during the second half of the 20th century as was the sewage works to the south.

Historic Assets Summary Table

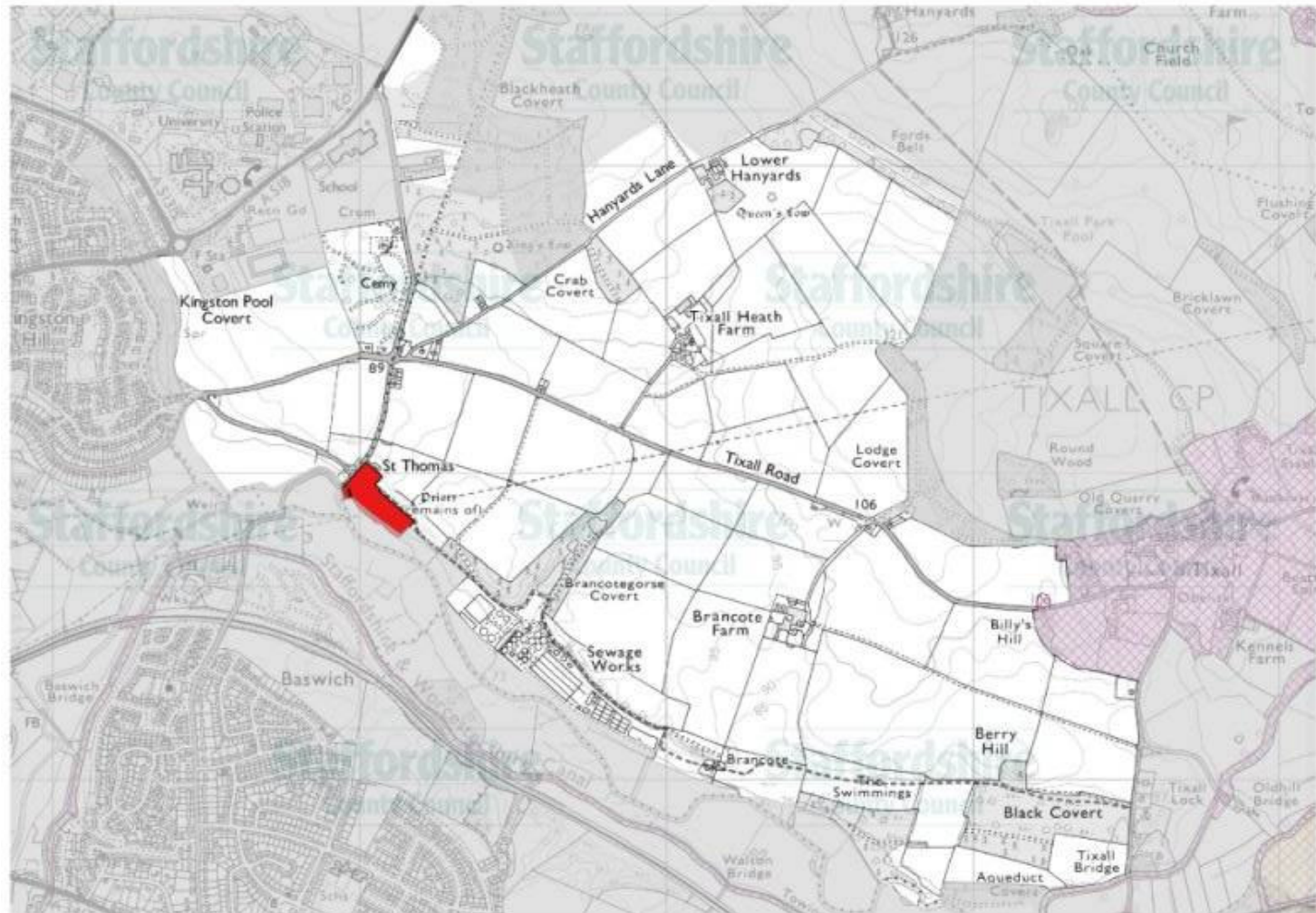
Survival	The zone has been impacted by ploughing, however, most of the known historic environment assets survive in relatively good condition. These include the above and below ground remains of St Thomas' Priory which is protected as a Scheduled Monument with the farmhouse being a Grade II listed building. Many of the historic farm buildings, which probably date to the 18 th /19 th century, survive within the four identified historic farmsteads. The associated field pattern of Planned Enclosure also survives well, although some field boundaries have been lost since the 1880s.	3
Potential	The zone has seen little impact and consequently there is the potential for unknown historic environment assets (HEAs) to survive.	3
Documentation	HER data and a variety of archaeological work at St Thomas' Priory, King's Low and Queen's Low	3
Diversity	The zone contains a wide range of historic environment assets from Bronze Age burial mounds, to a medieval priory and surviving 18 th /19 th century landscape with associated farmsteads.	3
Group Association	There are a range of historic environment assets which are associated such as the various components of the priory site which includes fishponds. There is also the	3

	relationship between the historic farmsteads and the surviving landscape of Planned Enclosure and Plantations.	
Amenity Value	The historic environment could define as sense of place and the remains of St Thomas' Priory and King's Low in particular could be promoted	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	The zones historic environment is highly sensitive to medium to large scale development due to the impact upon the relationship between the historic farmsteads and surviving historic landscape character. There would also be an impact upon the Scheduled Monument at St Thomas' Priory and the adjacent Conservation Areas of Tixall and the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal. There is also the potential for an impact upon below ground archaeological deposits associated with Bronze Age and other prehistoric activity in the area, as well as that associated with activity during the medieval period associated with the priory.	3
Overall Score		20

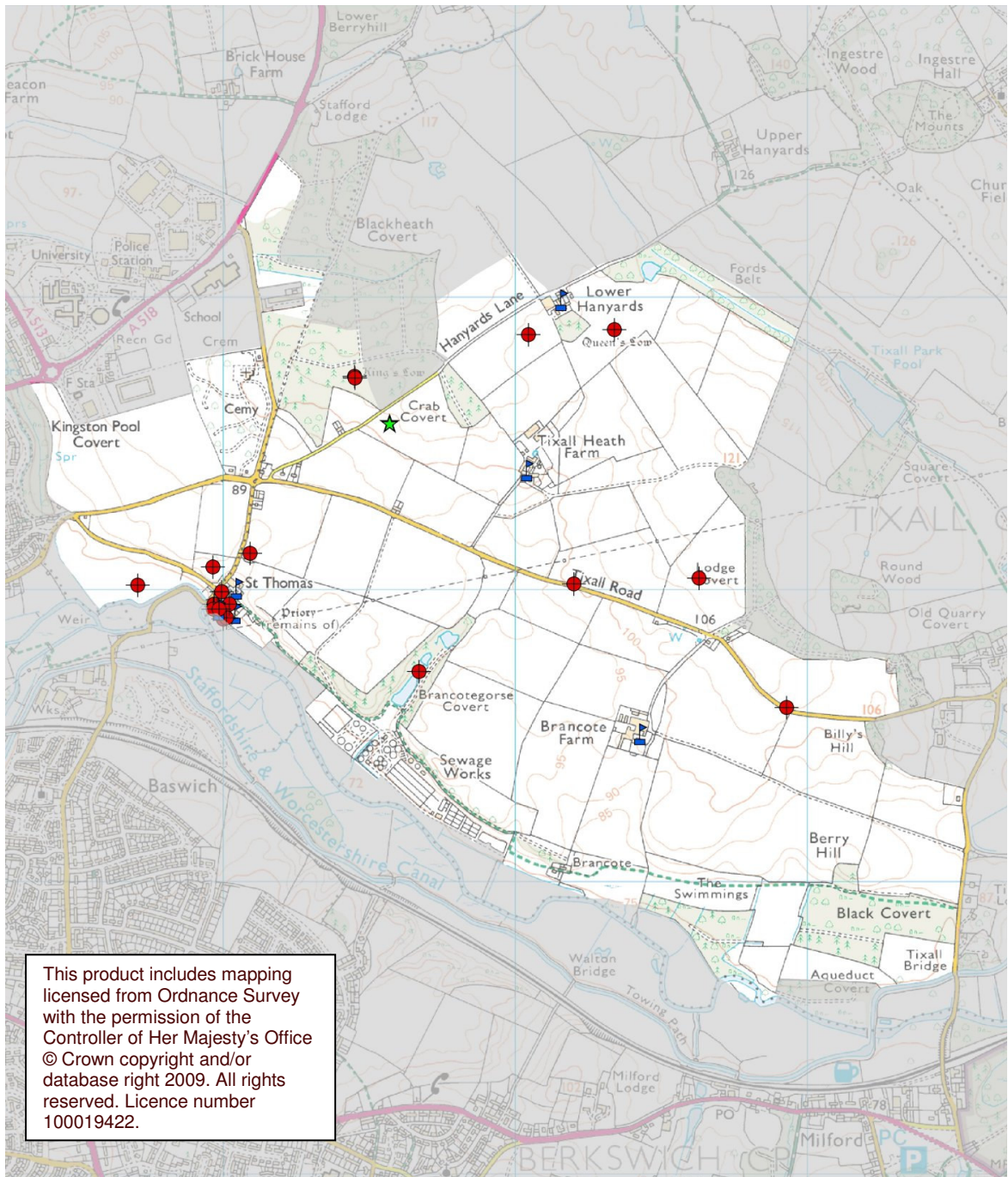
Legend

- ▲ Listed buildings
- Scheduled monuments
- Registered battlefields
- Registered parks & gardens
- Conservation areas



Map 1 : Designations



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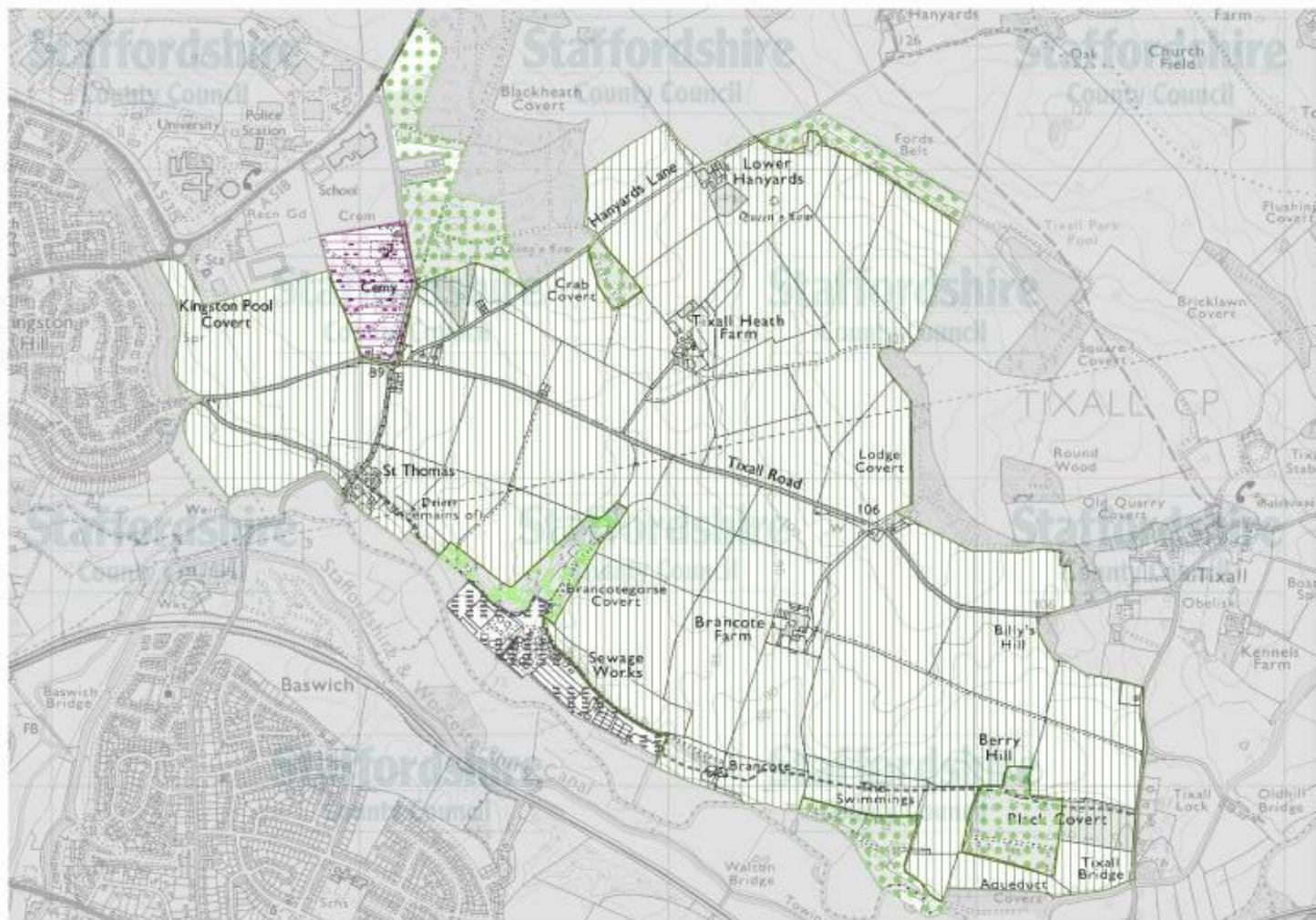
Legend

-  Building or Structure
-  Monument

Map 2: Known historic environment assets from the HER

Legend

-  18th/19th century planned field systems
-  Industrial & Extractive
-  Other parkland
-  Plantations
-  Recent replanted ancient woodland



Map 3: Refined HLC

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SHECZ 2 – Beaconside

Summary

The character of the zone is dominated by 20th century development particularly the military sites which date from the beginning of the Second World War.

Also surviving within the zone is a small area of water meadow, which was probably developed during the 18th or 19th century. Hopton Farm may have been established as a new farm at a similar period and many of its historic farm buildings survive.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment assets (HEAs). However, should development be planned for the zone there would be a need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the historic farm buildings at Hopton Farm
- the potential for Second World War buildings to survive within the military complexes.
- the potential for structures to survive associated with the former water meadow

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

Designations

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

Archaeological Character (Map 1)

The overall character of the zone is likely to have been heavily wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances began to be made to support small scale farming activities. Pollen analysis on two sites, one in Stafford and the other at Blackheath Covert (in SHECZ 1), have revealed a landscape which had seen some significant tree clearance by the Bronze Age. The evidence from Stafford suggested that farming activities had intensified throughout the Iron Age into the Roman period. However, little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the impact of human agency between the prehistoric and medieval periods is not well understood in this area.

Historic Landscape (Map 2)

The medieval origins of this zone cannot be precisely identified although a small portion of the south eastern part had probably formed part of St

Thomas' Heath until at least the late 18th century. An area of land to the west, just off Beaconside, had probably formed marshland from at least the medieval period.

In the 18th/19th century the landscape was either enclosed for the first time or pre-existing fields were re-laid out as Planned Enclosure. This character dominated the landscape until the 20th century. These field systems were enclosed by a surveyor using straight field boundaries creating field systems and roads with strong geometric patterns. It was probably at a similar date that the marshland was drained and adapted as a water meadow. The development of water meadows during this period meant that the landowners could control the flooding of the land and ensure an early crop of hay enabling them to over-winter larger numbers of animals. It is likely that some of the features associated with the water meadow may survive, particularly the sluice gates which are still marked on the modern mapping.

Hopton Farm was present by the late 19th century and its plan suggests that it was built in a single phase and is possibly associated with the improvements to the field systems in the 18th/19th century. The farm buildings have expanded during the 20th century, but the historic core survives.

The zone is now dominated by military buildings; RAF Stafford was first established in 1939⁷. There is the potential for buildings and defensive features dating to the Second World War to survive within the existing military base.

The military base has expanded throughout the later 20th century and has encouraged further development in the area notably Staffordshire Technology and Business Parks as well as the Staffordshire University buildings.




Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has been subject to substantial development; although there may be some surviving water meadow features in the area of surviving Drained Wetlands (see Map 2) and the surviving historic farm buildings at Hopton Farm.	2
Potential	The potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive has been impacted by development. However, there is the potential for features associated with the water meadow and for Second World War buildings and structures to survive within the zone.	2
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	There are very few known HEAs within the zone other than the watermeadows and the known and potential historic buildings	1
Group Association	There may be an association between the	1

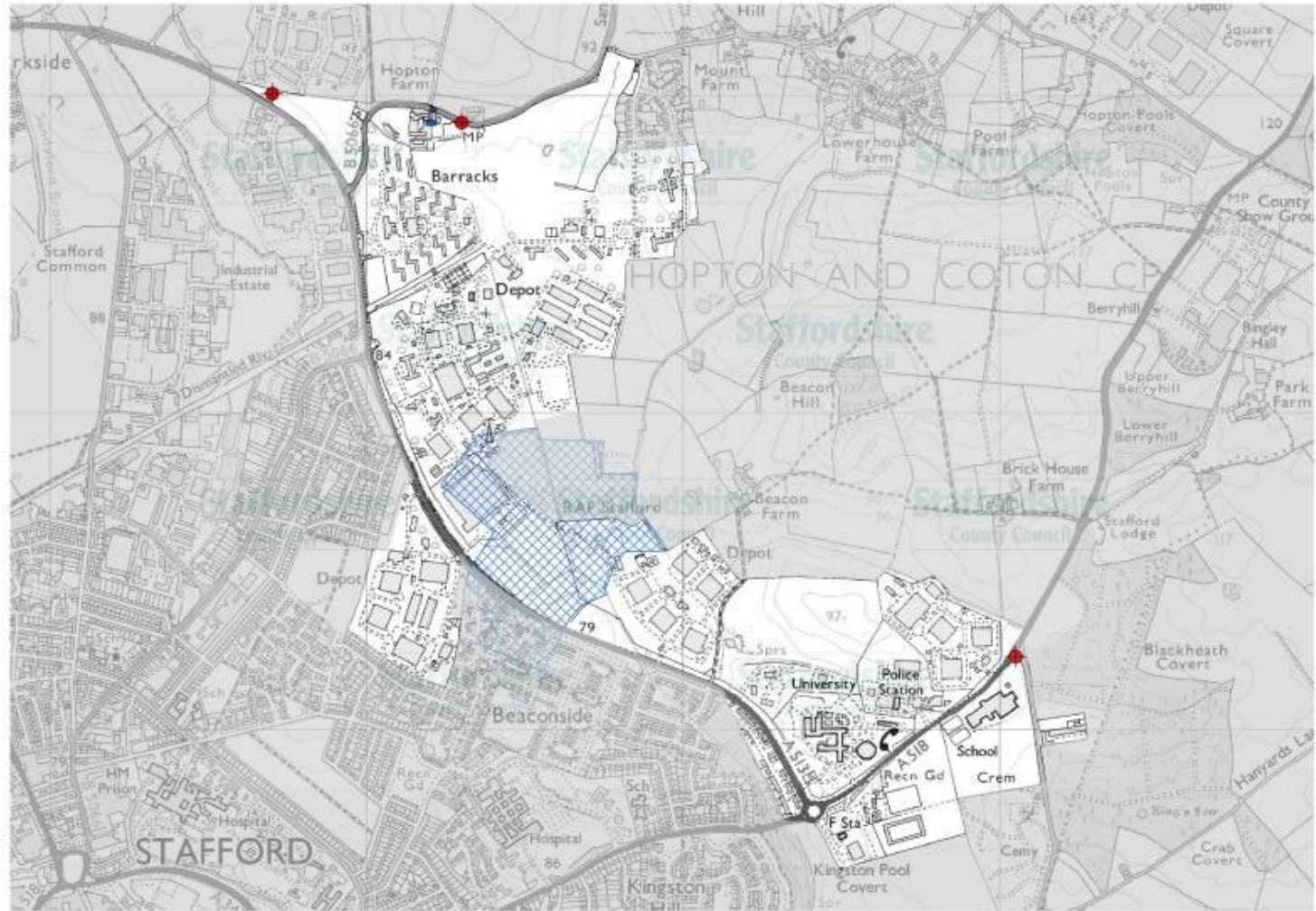
⁷ Greenslade et al 1979: 194

	development of the farmstead and the surviving watermeadows, but the overall historic character of this association has been impacted by development during the 20 th century.	
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	The historic environment of the zone could accommodate medium to large scale development although mitigation may be required for specific HEAs particularly any surviving features associated with the watermeadow; the historic farmstead and any surviving Second World War buildings and structures within the military base.	1
Overall Score		9

Legend






-  Building or Structure
-  Monument
-  Watermeadows

Map 1: Known historic environment assets from the HER

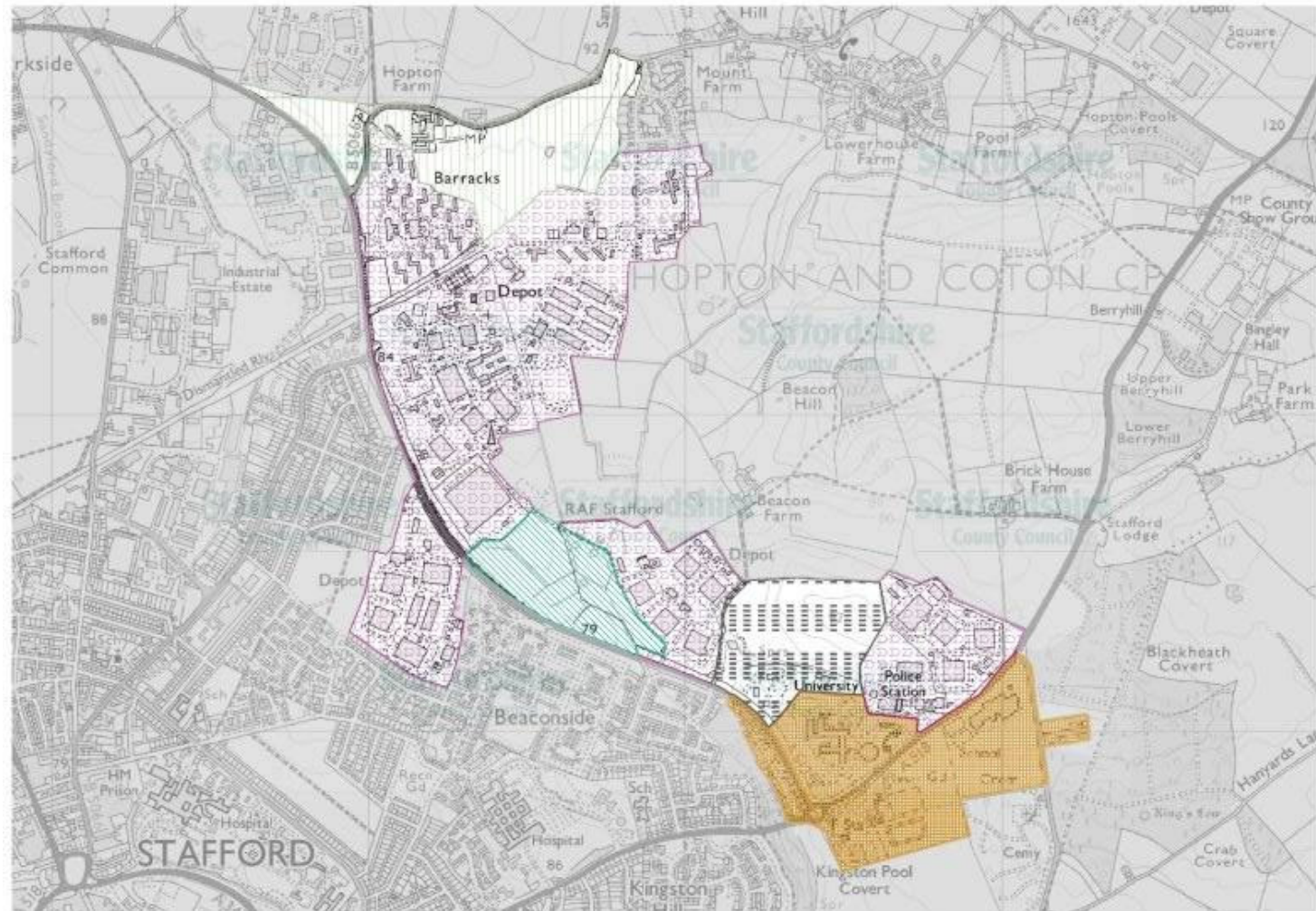


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Legend

-  Industrial & Extractive
-  Military
-  Post 1880s Re-organised fields
-  Post 1880s Settlement
-  Pre 1880s drained wetlands

Map 2: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 3 – Sow & Penk River Valleys

Summary

The historic character of the zone is dominated by Miscellaneous Floodplain Fields and Drained Wetlands dating to the 18th/19th century when water meadows were constructed here which survive in good condition.

The land alongside the River Sow is historically associated with St Thomas' Priory which lies adjacent to the zone (in SHECZ 1).

Medium to large scale development within the zone would have a significant impact upon the historic landscape character and the potential archaeological deposits which may be sealed beneath the alluvium of the river valleys.

Should any development be planned for the zone it would need to address:

- Impacts upon the Designated sites within the zone; the canal conservation area and Listed structures but also upon those lying adjacent.
- Impacts upon the well surviving watermeadows, both earthworks and surviving structures, and any potential mitigation strategies which may be required.
- The impact upon potential below ground archaeological deposits sealed beneath the alluvium of the river valleys and any consequent mitigation strategies.
- The impact upon potential surviving earthworks which may be associated with the priory and any consequent mitigation strategies.

Early consultation with the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council, English Heritage and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (Map 1)

The Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area (073) runs through the zone within the Penk and Sow river valleys. There are two Grade II Listed road bridges over the rivers and two Grade II Listed structures associated with the canal; an accommodation bridge⁸ and an aqueduct taking the canal over the River Sow.

The Scheduled Monument of St Thomas' Priory lies adjacent to the north of the zone and adjacent to the west is the Grade I Listed Registered Parkland

⁸ Accommodation bridge: A bridge often over a canal or road, allowing access between two parcels of land. (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

of Shugborough. The latter also lies within the Great Haywood and Shugborough Conservation Area (007).

Archaeological Character (Map 2)

This landscape is likely to have been dominated by wetland since the prehistoric period. However, this does not preclude human activity within the zone as evidenced by a pit alignment⁹, which may date between the Iron Age and Roman period, lying to the north of the River Sow and identified on aerial photographs.

The Trent Valley to the east of the county is an area of intensive human activity from the prehistoric period onwards and it is likely that the river valleys within this zone also attracted human activity and even occupation in the wider area. The prehistoric to medieval period is not well understood and this is most likely due to the fact that little archaeological work has currently been undertaken.

Historic Landscape (Map 3)

In the medieval period this landscape was dominated by either wetland or meadow. St Thomas' Priory (see SHECZ 1) was established in the late 12th century to the north of the zone and it was granted fishing rights in the River Sow and a meadow called 'Sheepwash Meadow', which evidently stood adjacent to the river¹⁰. The name of the meadow indicates that sheep were pastured across the area suggesting that the wider landscape was dominated to a degree by pasture (see SHECZ 1). It is not known precisely how the priory may have adapted the landscape of the zone to their needs. A rectangular enclosure, of uncertain date and function, has been identified on aerial photographs adjacent to the priory may prove to be some evidence of monastic activity within the zone¹¹.

This lack of understanding of the earlier landscape history is due in part to the adaptations undertaken in the 18th/19th century when the wetlands were drained and as a consequence were adapted to water meadows. This historic character continues to dominate the zone. The development of water meadows during this period meant that the landowners could control the flooding of the land and ensure an early crop of hay enabling them to over-winter larger numbers of animals. The aerial photography of 2000 suggests that these water meadows survive well within the zone.

The later 18th century saw further adaptations to the landscape when the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal was constructed and which opened in 1772¹². The structures associated with the canal include an aqueduct to carry it over the River Sow to the north of Milford¹³. In c.1814 St Thomas' Lock was

⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 04608

¹⁰ Dickinson 1974: 206-1

¹¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 03759

¹² Staffordshire HER: PRN 05173

¹³ Staffordshire HER: PRN 02802

constructed to provide a link from the canal to the River Sow, which was made navigable as far as Green Bridge in Stafford in order to transport coal into the town.

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has seen little disturbance since the 18 th /19 th century when the watermeadows and canal were constructed.	3
Potential	There is a high potential for deeply stratified deposits to survive within the zone particularly relating to prehistoric and Roman activity which has been potentially sealed beneath the alluvium of the river valleys. There is also the potential for archaeological deposits or earthwork remains to survive relating to medieval activity and particularly associated with St Thomas' Priory to the north.	3
Documentation	HER data and various archaeological work carried out at St Thomas' Priory.	2
Diversity	The zone contains a wide range of assets including earthworks, structures and a cropmark all dating between the later prehistoric period through to the 18 th /19 th century.	3
Group Association	There is a documentary association between the Priory (in SHECZ 1) and the landscape along the River Sow. The watermeadows and the canal date to a similar period.	2
Amenity Value	The historic environment could play a key role in the zones sense of place for local people and visitors. It is easily accessible along the canal towpath which forms one of the key historic environment assets of the zone along with the watermeadows and the views into the site of St Thomas' Priory.	3
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	The zones historic environment is highly sensitive to medium to large scale development in terms of the impact upon the well surviving water meadows, the canal which has been designated as a Conservation Area and upon the potential for below ground archaeology.	3
Overall Score		19

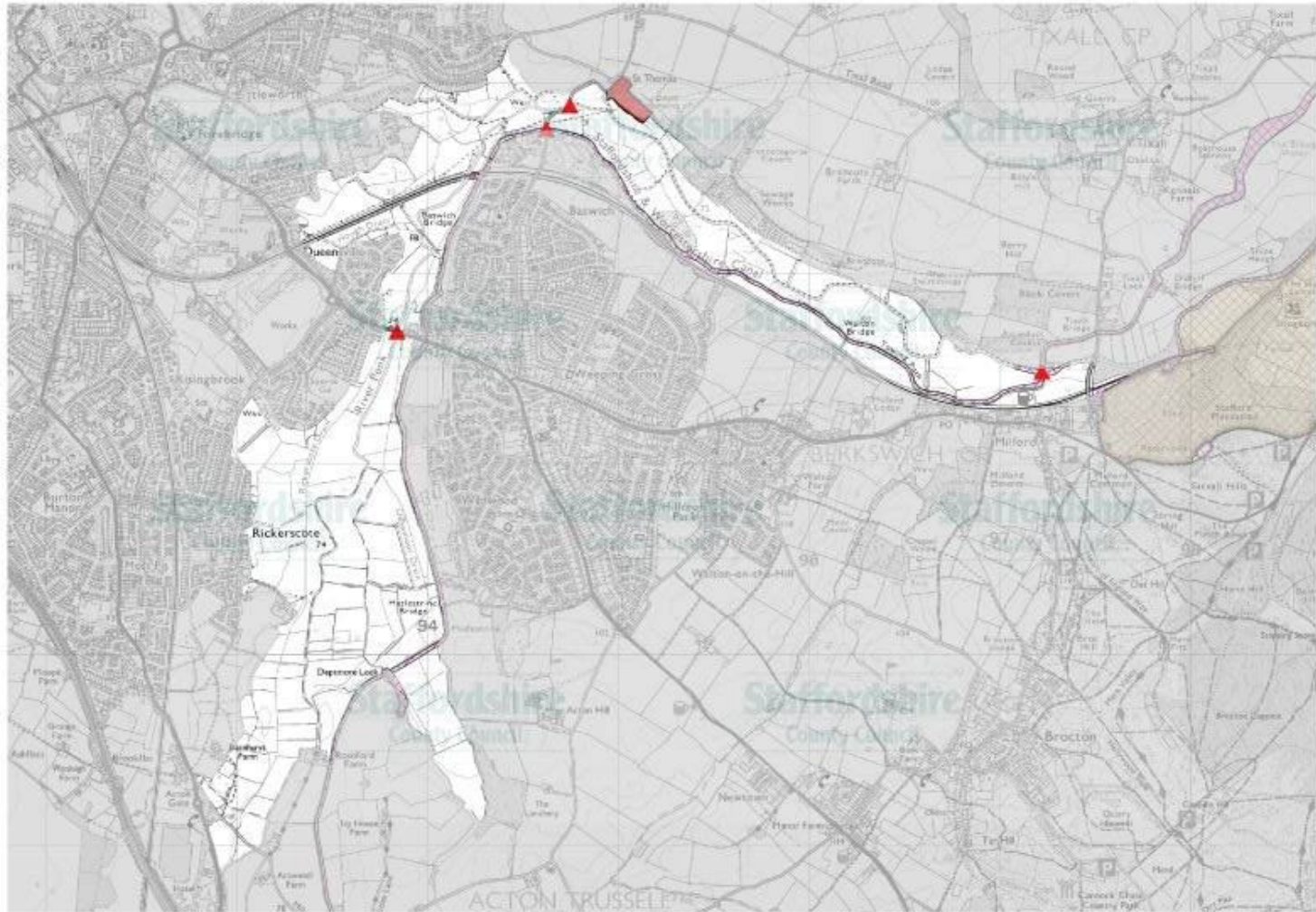
Bibliography

Dickinson, Revd. J. C. 1974. 'Houses of Augustinian Canons: The Priory of St Thomas near Stafford' in *The Victoria Counties History of Staffordshire volume 3*. Oxford University Press

Legend




- ▲ Listed buildings
- Scheduled monuments
- Registered battlefields
- Registered parks & gardens
- Conservation areas

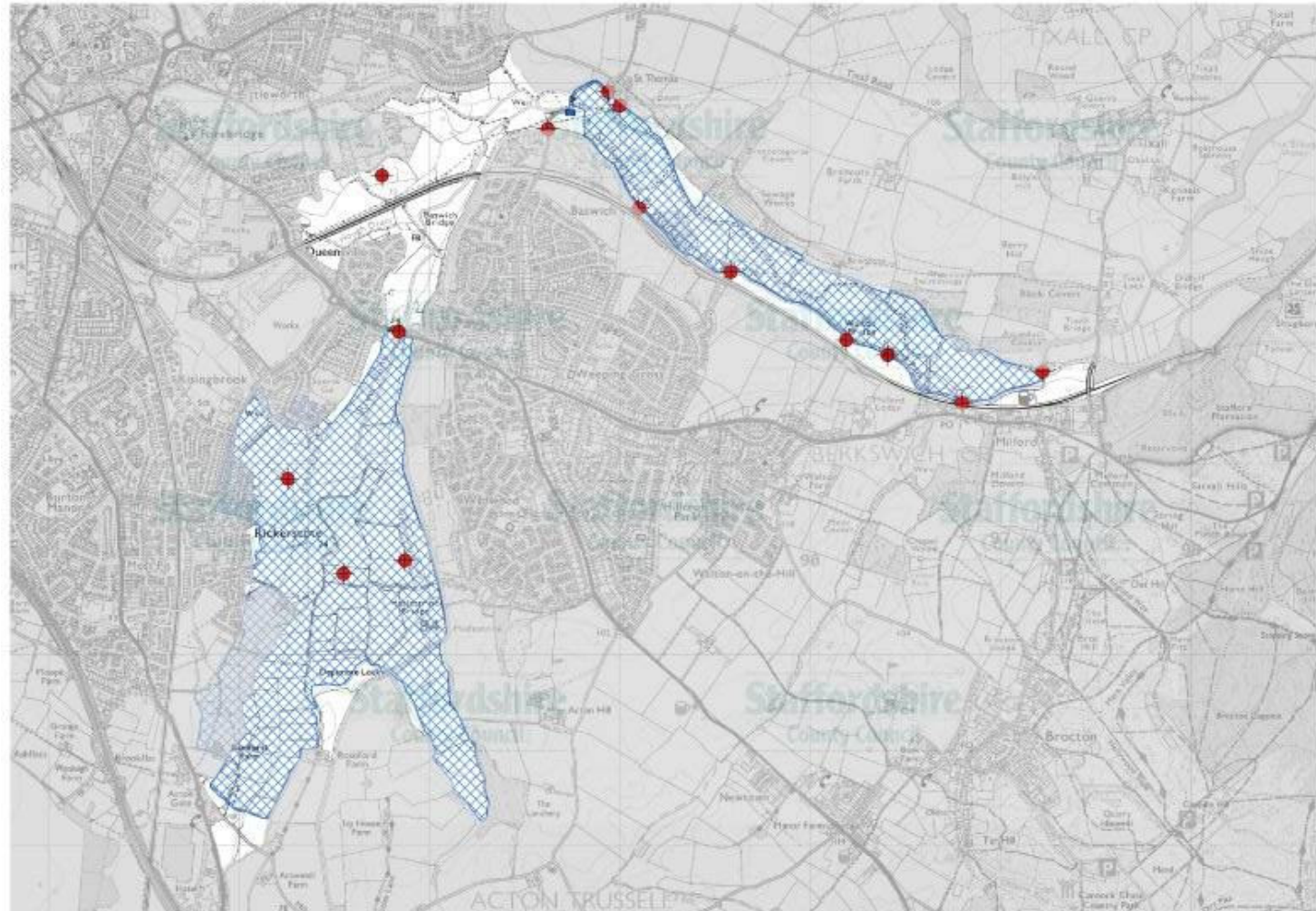
Map 1: Designations



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Legend




-  Building or Structure
-  Monument
-  Watermeadows



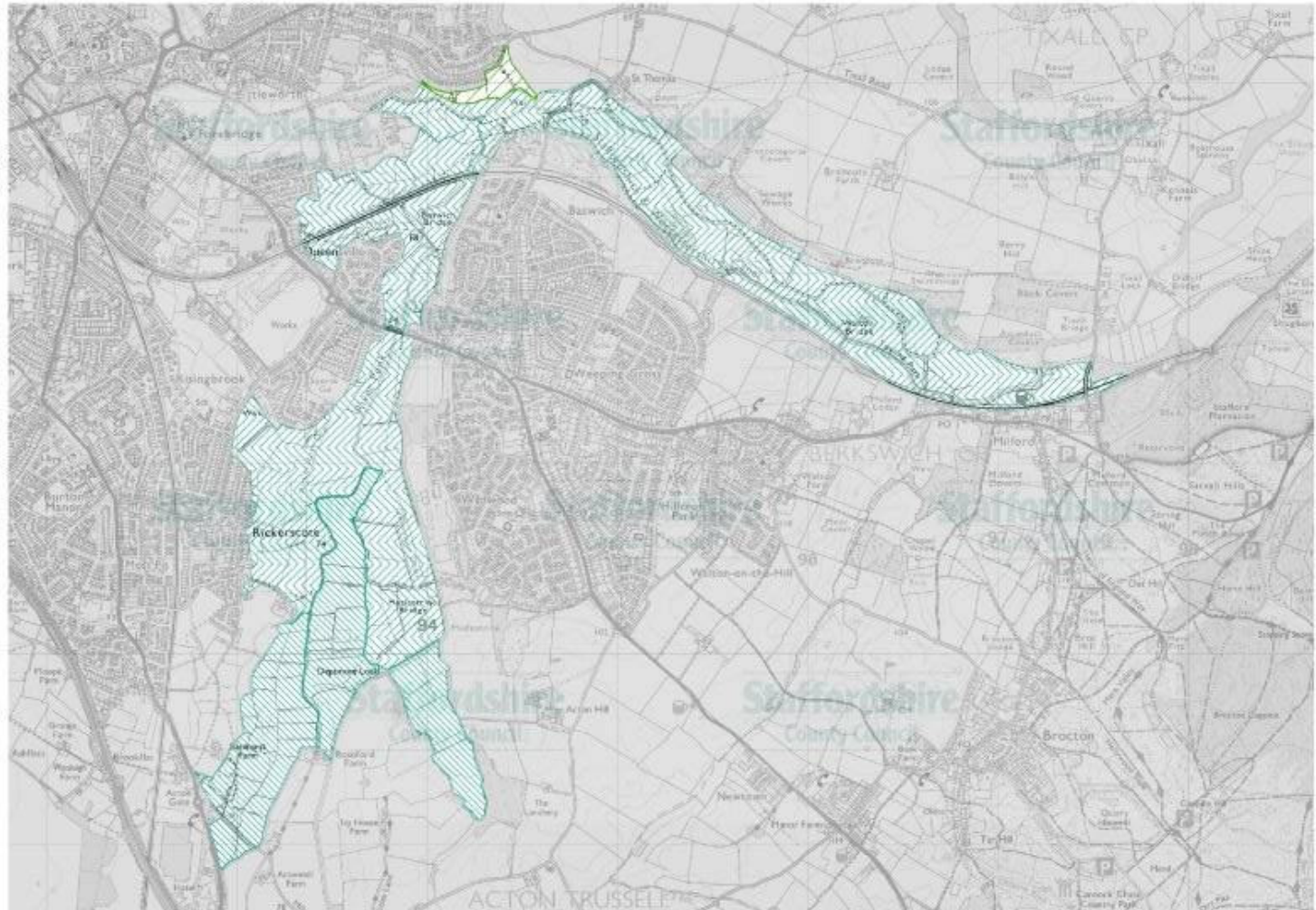
Map 2: Known historic environment assets from the HER

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Legend

-  Miscellaneous Floodplain Fields
-  Post 1880s small replanned field systems
-  Pre 1880s drained wetlands

Map 3: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 4 – Doxey Marshes & Sow Valley

Summary

The historic character of the zone is dominated by Miscellaneous Floodplain Fields and Drained Wetlands dating to the 18th/19th century when water meadows were constructed. These survive in good condition.

Medium to large scale development within the zone would have a significant impact upon the historic landscape character and the potential archaeological deposits which may be sealed beneath the alluvium of the river valleys. Should any development be planned for the zone it would need to address:

- Impacts upon the Designated sites within the zone; the Scheduled Monument of Cresswell Chapel and the adjacent Conservation Area
- Impacts upon the surviving watermeadows, both earthworks and surviving structures, and any potential mitigation strategies which may be required.
- The impact upon potential below ground archaeological deposits sealed beneath the alluvium of the river valleys and any consequent mitigation strategies.

Early consultation with the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council, English Heritage and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (Map 1)

The remains of Cresswell Chapel forms a Scheduled Monument and a Listed Building within the zone. The Foregate, Stafford Conservation Area (137) lies adjacent to the east.

Archaeological Character (Map 2)

This landscape is likely to have been dominated by wetland since the prehistoric period. The earliest evidence for human activity in this area is a stone implement found in 1905 which is believed to have been of Neolithic or Bronze Age date¹⁴. It represents a casual loss and does not substantially add to our understanding of the early development of the zone.

The Trent Valley in the eastern half of the county is an area of intensive human activity from the prehistoric period onwards and it is likely that the river valley within the zone also attracted human activity and even occupation in the wider area. The prehistoric to medieval period is not well understood and this is most likely due to the fact that little archaeological work has currently been undertaken.

¹⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 01652

The earliest reference to human activity within the zone comes from Domesday Book (1086) where a small population is recorded for Cresswell along with 40 acres of meadow land and a watermill¹⁵. This offers the likelihood that the zone had seen a small scale settlement since at least the late Saxon period.

Historic Landscape (Map 3)

The Sow Valley was probably dominated by marshland in the medieval period, particularly in the area of the present Doxey Marshes. This landscape provided a degree of protection to the western side of Stafford at this period.

In the western half of the zone the landscape is likely to have been dominated by meadows particularly in the area of Cresswell as implied by the Domesday Book entry. There is no surviving village or hamlet of Cresswell, but the remains of a church still stand, on higher land above the Sow, whose remains suggest that it was constructed in the 13th century¹⁶. The church had been abandoned by 1633 and it is possible that any settlement had become virtually deserted prior to this date, although it was recorded as having between 10 and 13 taxpayers in the early 14th century. The earthworks surrounding the church are likely to be the remains of small scale quarrying rather than evidence of former settlement.

A programme of intensive drainage began along the Sow Valley within the zone during the 18th/19th centuries. Drainage within the zone enabled the construction of water meadows, which still dominate the historic character of the zone. The development of water meadows during this period meant that the landowners could control the flooding of the land and ensure an early crop of hay enabling them to over-winter larger numbers of animals. The upstanding earthworks relating to the watermeadows survive over much of this area. Within Doxey Marshes Nature Reserve the watermeadow features survive submerged beneath the water and undergrowth¹⁷. Three outfarms, small single structures, were located within the watermeadow system at Doxey Marshes by the late 19th century, two of them have since been lost and one survives in ruins. It is likely that they were associated with the system of watermeadows, possibly providing storage or shelter.

Part of this extensive watermeadow network near Cresswell Farm survives in good condition with upstanding earthworks including water-filled drains and other associated structures. The blue-brick bridges and culverts suggest that the watermeadow was maintained during the mid to late 19th century.

The watermeadow at Cresswell Farm may be closely associated with the development of the farmstead itself whose character suggests that it was built in one phase of construction probably in the late 18th/19th century. Many of the historic farm buildings survive although one modern shed has replaced

¹⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 02430

¹⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00044; SM number 26

¹⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 52112, PRN 52113, PRN 52114

part of the complex and overall the farm has expanded during the 20th century.



The line of the Stafford to Uttoxeter Railway crossed the zone on a north-south alignment just to the west of Stafford town centre¹⁸. The line opened in 1867 and finally closed in 1951; it was opened as a cycle route by the early 21st century.

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has seen little disturbance and the known assets, particularly the watermeadows, survive well.	3
Potential	The zone lies within a river valley and consequently there is the potential for deeply stratified archaeological deposits to survive below the alluvium.	3
Documentation	HER data and site visits from the Watermeadows Survey	2
Diversity	The zone contains a range of assets from the earthwork remains of the watermeadows to the surviving historic buildings at Cresswell Farm, although these features are likely to be fairly contemporary in date.	2
Group Association	There is likely to be a strong association between the construction and maintenance of the watermeadows and the origins of Cresswell Farm.	3
Amenity Value	The historic environment could help to define a sense of place for the local community and visitors where the watermeadows could be promoted.	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	The zone's historic environment is highly sensitive to medium to large scale development which would impact upon the watermeadows, the Scheduled chapel and upon the potential for below ground archaeological deposits surviving below the alluvium.	3
Overall Score		18

¹⁸ Staffordshire HER: PRN 50735

Legend




-  Listed buildings
-  Scheduled monuments
-  Registered battlefields
-  Registered parks & gardens
-  Conservation areas

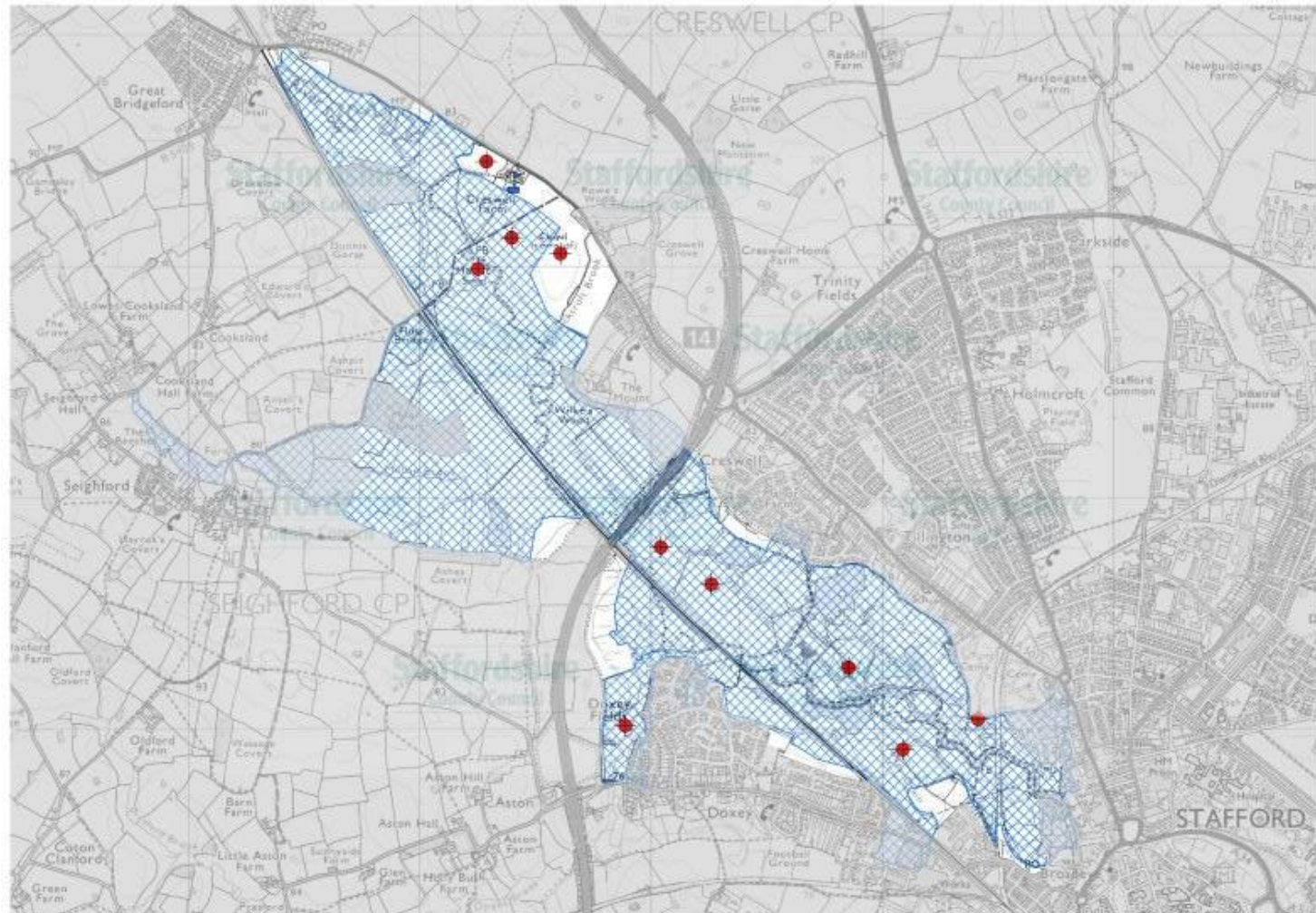
Map 1: Designations



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Legend




-  Building or Structure
-  Monument
-  Watermeadows



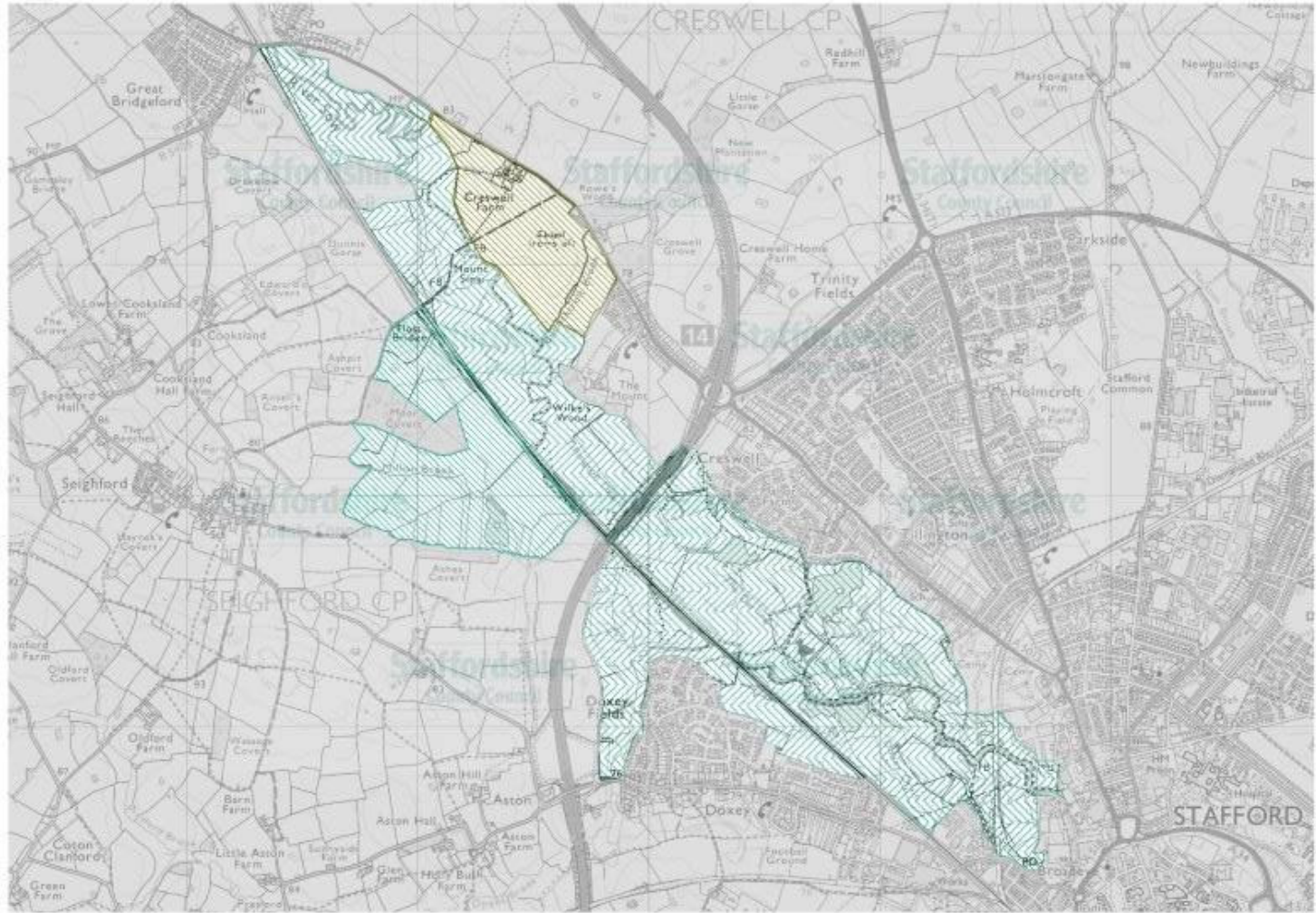
Map 2: Known historic environment assets from the HER

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Legend

-  Early Irregular Enclosure
-  Miscellaneous Floodplain Fields
-  Pre 1880s drained wetlands

Map 3: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 5 - Doxey

Summary

The zone is dominated by 20th century housing development, particularly to the north of the Doxey Road. Two listed buildings, of probable 17th century origin, survive to the south of the Doxey Road in the historic core of the original hamlet.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is unlikely to have an impact upon its historic character. However, plans for development would need to address:

- the impact upon the setting of the two Listed Buildings.
- the impact upon the potential for surviving below-ground archaeological deposits although any mitigation requirements would be decided upon a case-by-case basis, particularly within the historic settlement core.

Early consultation with the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (Map 1)

There are two Listed Buildings lying within the oldest part of Doxey.

Archaeological Character (Map 2)

At present little archaeological work has been carried out in the wider area and consequently the impact of human agency between the prehistoric to medieval periods is not well understood within the zone. However, the zone lies on an area of raised ground (c.82m AOD)¹⁹ between the Doxey Brook and the River Sow. This topographic location is reflected in the placename 'Doxey' which probably means "Docc's dry ground in marshland"²⁰.

Archaeological work carried out in the Trent Valley in the eastern half of the county has revealed an area of intensive human activity from the prehistoric period onwards and consequently it is likely that the Sow Valley similarly attracted human activity and even occupation in the wider area and possibly on the raised land at Doxey.

The earliest documentary evidence for human activity in the area of Doxey comes from Domesday Book (1086) where it is recorded with Aston c.500m to the west. These had formed part of the Bishop of Chester's Eccleshall manor along with the nearby settlements of Seighford, Bridgeford and Coton Clanford. Between these settlements there were 16 householders and land for 3 ploughs was recorded for Aston and Doxey jointly. An analysis of

¹⁹ AOD: Above Ordnance Datum

²⁰ Horowitz 2005: 234

placenames ending in 'ey' suggests that the name Doxey may have been in use before 730 AD²¹. This evidence suggests that there was likely to have been some level of occupation in the area of Doxey from the later Saxon period.

Historic Landscape (Map 3)

The historic core of Doxey lies mostly to the south of the Doxey Road just to the east of Doxey Bridge, which even in the late 19th century had still been a ford across the Doxey Brook. Two properties, both listed, with probable 17th century origins still survive within this historic core.

Doxey constituted a small hamlet into the early 20th century. By the inter war period housing had begun to be developed along Doxey Road and the settlement continued to expand considerably following the Second World War, acting as a dormitory village for Stafford.

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has been extensively disturbed by 20 th century development. Two historic listed buildings survive within the settlement and other historic environment assets (HEAs) may survive in other areas.	1
Potential	The potential for surviving HEAs has been significantly reduced by development, although there is some potential in the area of the historic core.	1
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	The zone contains few known HEAs beyond the two listed buildings.	1
Group Association	The two listed buildings date from around the 17 th century.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	The historic environment of the zone could accommodate medium to large scale development or change; however impacts upon the Listed Buildings would need to be taken into consideration.	1
Overall Score		7

²¹ Gelling 1983: 6

Legend



- ▲ Listed buildings
- Scheduled monuments
- Registered battlefields
- Registered parks & gardens
- Conservation areas

Map 1 : Designations

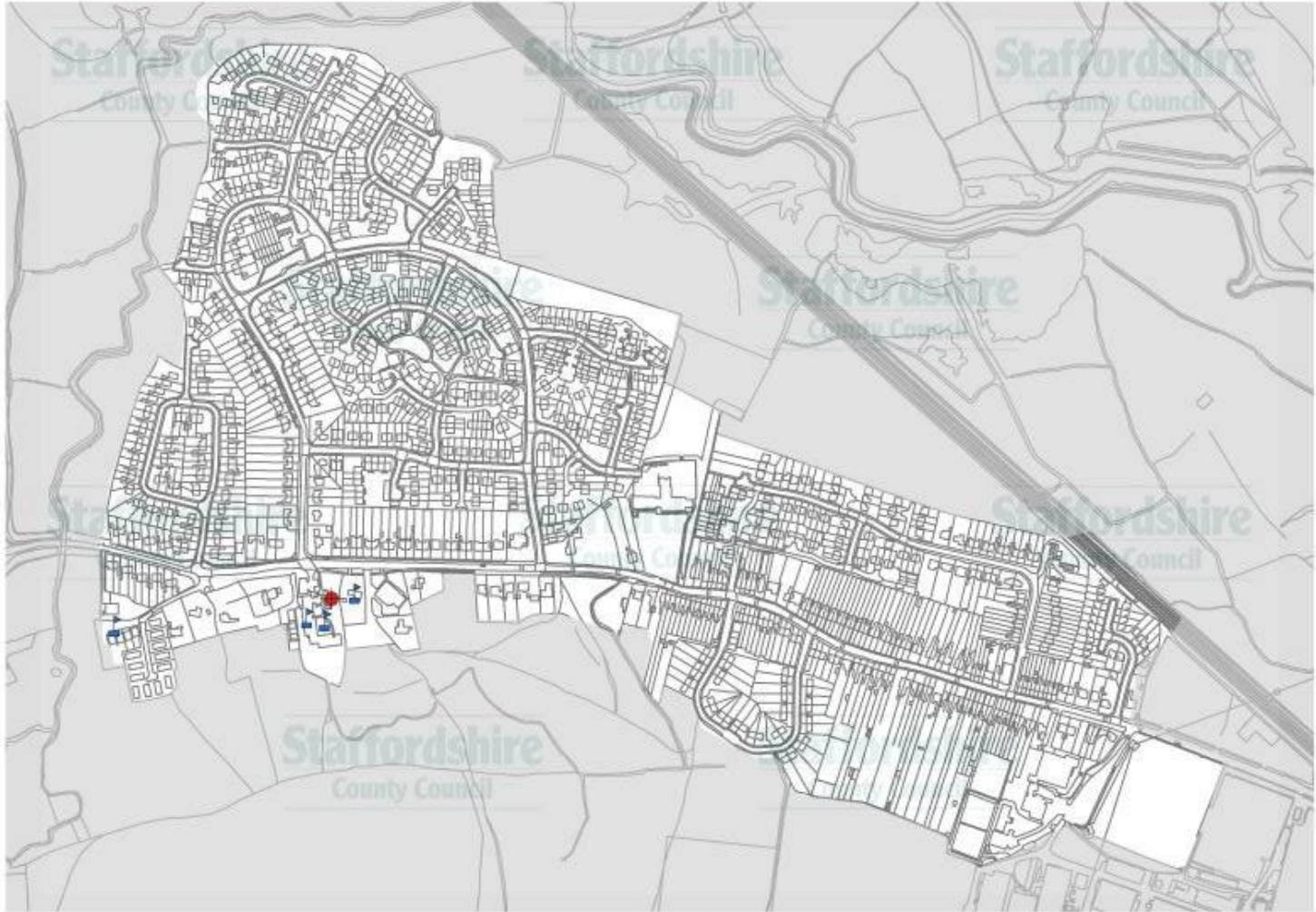


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Legend



-  Building or Structure
-  Monument

Map 2: Known historic environment assets from the HER

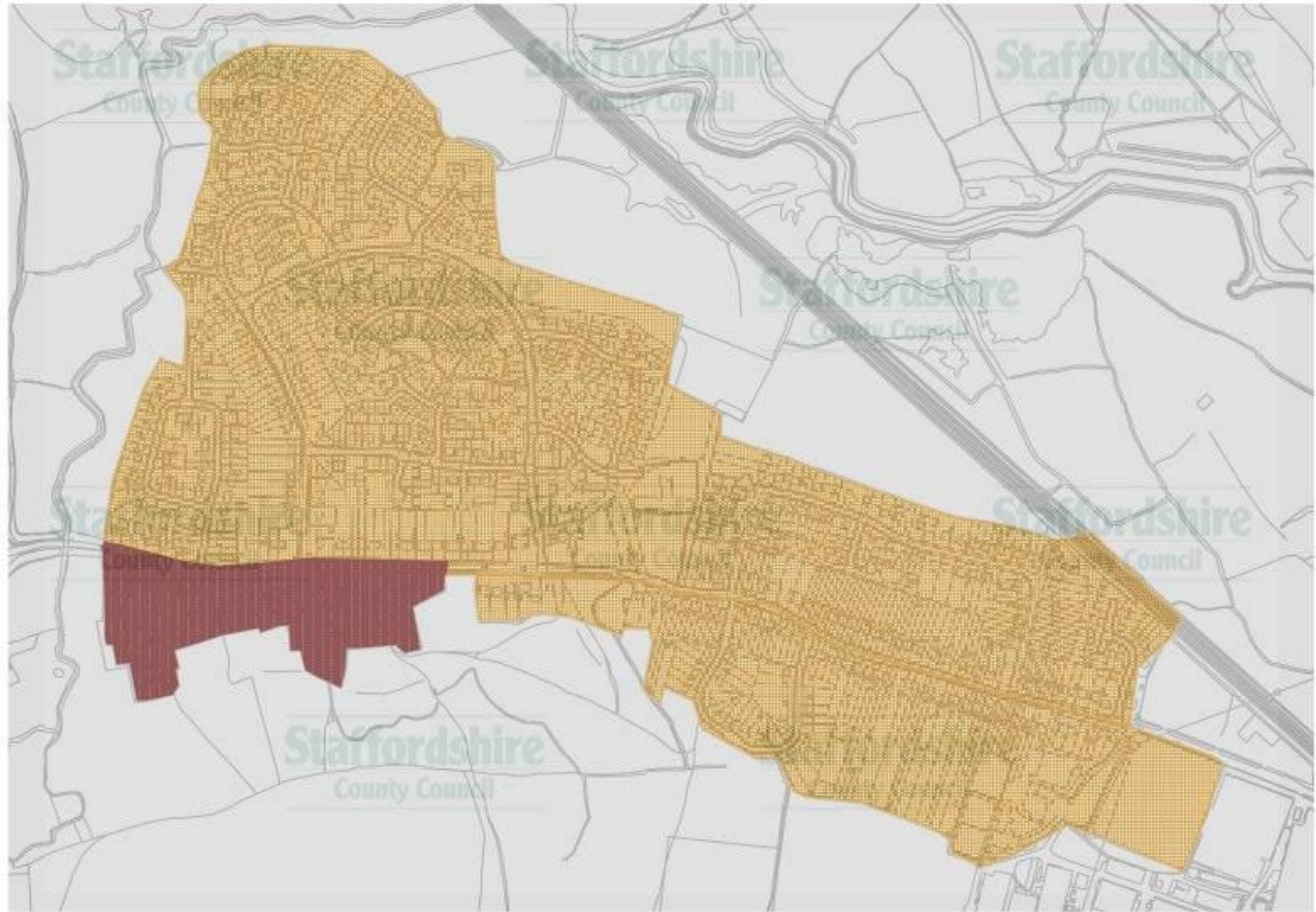


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Legend

-  Post 1880s Settlement
-  Pre 1880s Settlement

Map 3: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 6 – North of Stafford Castle

Summary

The zone has been impacted by the loss of field boundaries across much of the landscape during the second half of the 20th century. However, the zone forms an important setting to two Scheduled Monuments which lie within or immediately adjacent.

Medium to large scale development within the zone would have a significant impact upon the known historic environment assets. Should any development be planned for the zone it would need to address the following:

- The impact upon the setting of the two Scheduled Monuments which lie within and adjacent to the zone.
- The potential impact upon the setting of Bury Ring Hillfort, which is also Scheduled and lies above the surrounding landscape to the south west of the zone
- The potential for below-ground archaeological deposits to survive; particularly associated with the Roman site and any resulting mitigation strategies.
- The potential for earthworks to survive across the landscape including the known earthworks of ridge and furrow and a hollow way and any resulting mitigation strategies.

Early consultation with the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council, English Heritage and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (Map 1)

One Scheduled Monument, a moated site north of the A518, lies within the zone²². Immediately adjacent to the south is the Scheduled Monument of Stafford Castle²³, whilst c.750m to the south west is Bury Ring Hillfort²⁴.

Archaeological Character (map 2)

At present little archaeological work has been carried out in the wider area and consequently the impact of human agency during the prehistoric period is not well understood within the zone. However, Bury Ring hillfort is situated in an elevated position approximately 750m to the south west. The date of construction for the hillfort is not known, but unstratified finds have been dated to the Iron Age. The presence of the hillfort suggests that a centralised power

²² Staffordshire HER: PRN 00798; SM no.13469

²³ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00008; SM no. 21559

²⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00024; SM no. 21588

base was present within the area from at least the late Bronze Age/Iron Age, which oversaw a dispersed settlement pattern across the landscape. The hillfort would have provided a cultural and economic focus for the communities in the surrounding landscape.

Pollen analysis evidence from deposits within the area of King's Pool to the east of the Stafford ring road confirms that there was an intensification of farming during the Bronze and Iron Ages which probably resulted in a reasonably open landscape of pasture and arable although woodland would still have been present. There would also have been areas of wetland potentially exploited for fishing and meadows along the Sow Valley and its tributaries.

The hypothesised Iron Age settlement pattern is likely to have continued into the Roman period and occupation for the latter period has been identified within the zone, probably representing a farmstead²⁵ close to Hill Farm. The pottery evidence dates between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD which also suggests that the settlement was tied into the wider trading economy. Pits, gullies and a number of postholes identified in an archaeological evaluation may suggest industrial activities associated with the site.

Doxey, which lies to the north of the zone (see SHECZ 5), is recorded in Domesday Book along with the neighbouring settlement of Aston, which suggests that there was occupation in the wider area by at least the late Saxon period.

Historic Landscape (map 3)

The landscape of the zone is closely associated with the development of Stafford Castle (see Stafford Extensive Urban Survey), which was probably established in the late 11th century²⁶. It appears that the castle's fortunes declined over the course of the following 150 years until the first Earl of Stafford began a re-building programme in 1348.

Three deer parks were associated with the castle, Great Park, Little Park and Hyde Park. It is not certain at what date the parks were established, but they were all present by the 15th century²⁷. At their greatest extent Great Park and Little Park probably covered much of the area of this zone. However, ridge and furrow earthworks, evidence of ploughing during the medieval period, have been identified on aerial photographs and during field investigations in the early 1990s across large areas of the field system north of the castle. It is possible that this area was being ploughed during the 150 years that the castle declined in importance and may therefore pre-date the deer parks. Alternatively parts of the deer parks were being cultivated at various times during their lifetime and potentially into the early 18th century when the deer parks were dis-emparked.

²⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 04156

²⁶ Darlington & Soden 2007: 194-6

²⁷ Youngs & Morgan 2001: 45

There are several areas within the zone which were probably in arable production throughout much of the medieval period in the form of open fields²⁸. The area to the north, following the M6, had probably formed part of Doxey Fields which is likely to have been farmed by the inhabitants of both Doxey and Aston. The second area of open field probably represents part of Burleyfields to the east of the zone. These fields were probably enclosed during the Post Medieval period as Piecemeal Enclosure. This was carried out through a means of informal, verbal agreements between farmers who wished to consolidate their holdings into a block rather than being scattered across two or more open fields. Piecemeal Enclosure survives to a large degree in the east of the zone at Burleyfields.

The Scheduled moated site, which lies just to the north of the Newport Road, has not been excavated but it is possible that this was a landscape feature of one of the deer parks, perhaps even the site of the lodge.

The area of the former deer parks was probably enclosed into fields following the dis-emparkment in 1735²⁹. It is likely that it was following the dis-emparkment that Hill Farm and Burleyfields Farm were constructed; Hill Farm has expanded during the 20th century, but most of the historic farm buildings survive; however Burleyfields Farm was demolished after 2000. Some historic buildings, including the farmhouse, survive at Astonbank Farm, but this appears to have originated as a smaller farm than the other two and consequently may have developed under different circumstances.

Lodge Barn, possibly originating for storage or as a shelter, which may recall the name of an earlier deer park lodge in the area. It was also demolished during the second half of the 20th century as was Lawn Cottage. The pattern of dispersed settlement across this landscape has been eroded by the loss of these buildings.

During the second half of the 20th century the enclosure pattern has been impacted by the removal of many of the hedgerows, although the historic enclosure pattern does survive to the east.






²⁸ Open Fields: An area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. Usually without internal divisions (hedges, walls or fences). (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

²⁹ Darlington & Jecock 2001: 16

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	There has been some impact on the historic environment assets through ploughing.	2
Potential	The zone has not been significantly disturbed and there is still the potential for below-ground deposits to survive particularly associated with the Roman settlement and there is the potential for some areas of ridge and furrow earthworks to survive.	2
Documentation	HER data, geophysics and an evaluation on the landscape & work on Stafford Castle	3
Diversity	There is a great diversity of HEAs across the zone from evidence of a Roman settlement, evidence of medieval farming practices, post medieval enclosures and surviving historic farmsteads.	3
Group Association	There is association between the castle (which lies beyond the zone) and any surviving ridge and furrow earthworks.	2
Amenity Value	The historic environment does help to define a sense of place for the area in terms of the visitor attraction at the castle. The views into and from the castle are an important element of its setting.	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	Medium to large scale development within the zone is likely to have a significant impact upon the setting of the three Scheduled Monuments which lie within the immediate area.	3
Overall Score		17

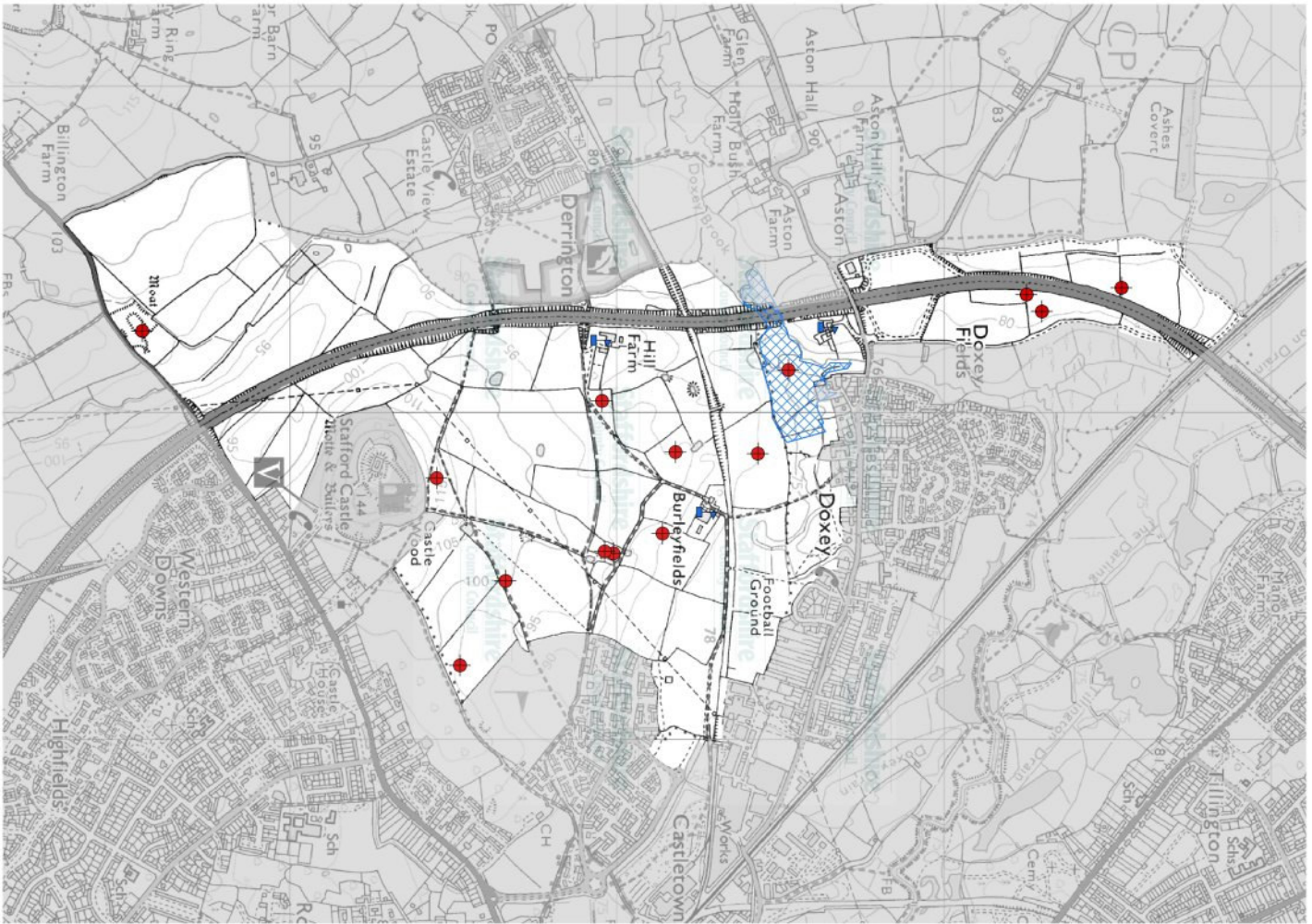
Legend

-  Listed buildings
-  Scheduled monuments
-  Registered battlefields
-  Registered parks & gardens
-  Conservation areas

Map 1: Designations



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- Legend**
-  Building or Structure
 -  Monument
 -  Watermeadows

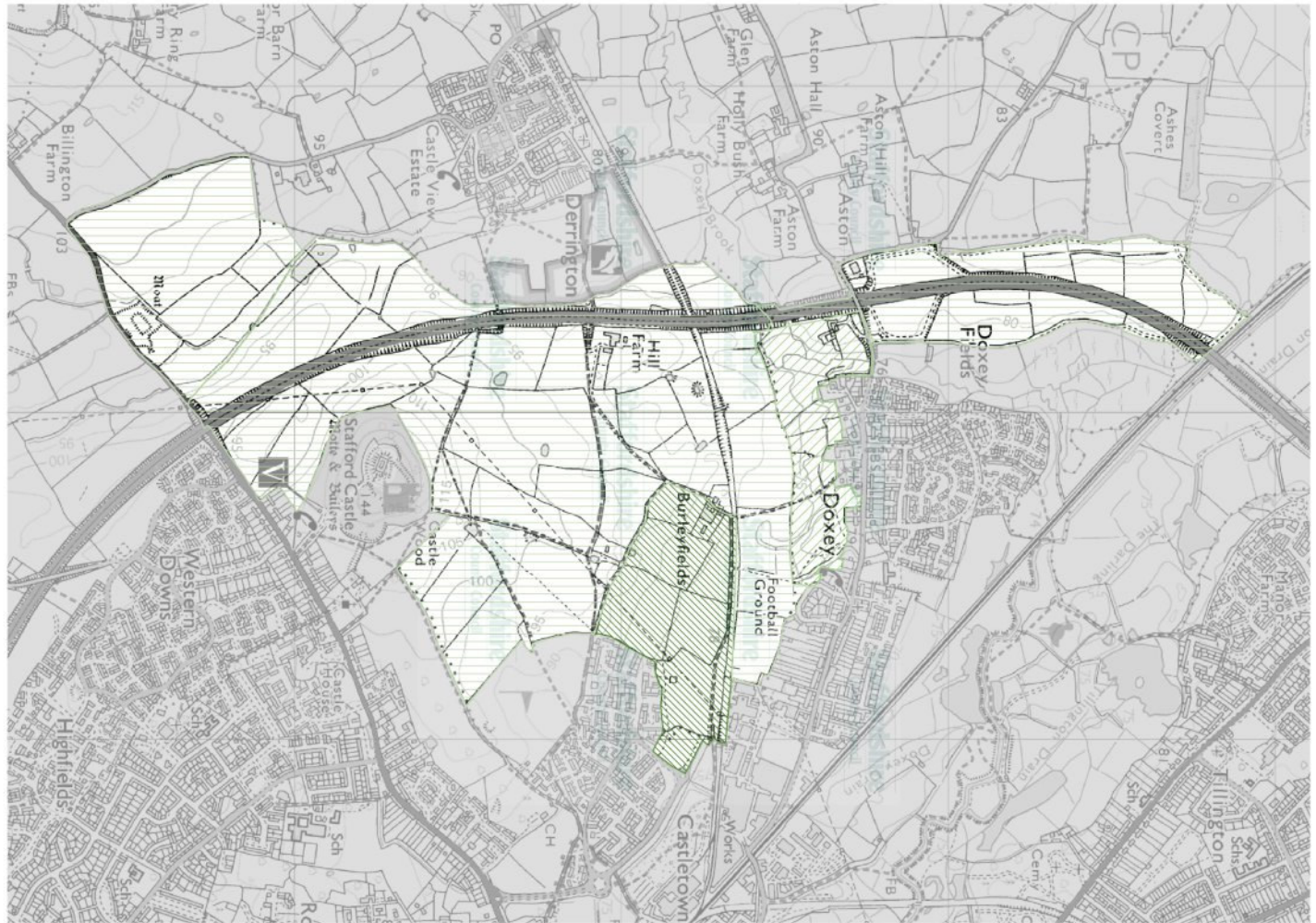
Map 2: Known historic environment assets from the HER

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Legend

-  Piecemeal Enclosure
-  Post 1880s Re-organised fields
-  Pre 1880s paddocks & closes

Map 3: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 7- Baswich & Walton-on-the-Hill

Summary

The zone is dominated by 20th century housing development and parkland. There are several historic buildings, both Listed and unlisted, within the original small hamlet of Walton-on-the-Hill. The church at Baswich has at least medieval origins and is a Grade II* Listed building.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is unlikely to have an impact upon its historic character. However, plans for development would need to address:

- The impact upon the setting of the Listed Buildings and upon the two Conservation Areas.
- There is the potential for below and above ground archaeology to survive in the areas lightly developed or which are currently undeveloped, but any mitigation requirements would be decided upon a case-by-case basis.

Early consultation with the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (Map 1)

Two Conservation Areas, Walton-on-the-Hill (059) and the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal (073) lie within the zone. There are also 17 Listed structures and buildings within the zone.

Archaeological Character (Map 2)

The zone forms an area of raised land lying to the east and south of the Sow Valley. The landscape reaches a height of around 120m AOD³⁰ at Walton-on-the-Hill in the south eastern corner. Little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone to determine human activity between the prehistoric and early Saxon periods. Evidence for prehistoric activity relates to one flint implement found at Walton-on-the-Hill, which probably represents a casual loss rather than being evidence for occupation.

Environmental evidence taken from a site in Stafford suggests that the landscape of the wider area was densely wooded until the Bronze Age when the landscape began to be cleared to facilitate small scale farming. In the east of the county the Trent Valley has provided ample evidence for human activity from the Neolithic period onwards and it is likely that the Sow Valley was similarly attractive for settlement and ritual practices. The higher land above the river valley, represented by the landscape of this zone, could potentially have attracted settlement from an early date.

³⁰ AOD: Above Ordnance Datum

By the later Saxon period the ecclesiastical³¹ manor of Baswich had been established, which included Walton-on-the-Hill as one of its members. Domesday Book (1086) suggests that there was probably small-scale settlement at both places and that a church probably existed at Baswich prior to the Norman Conquest (1066). This evidence appears to be confirmed by two capitals in the chancel arch of the existing Holy Trinity church at Baswich, which have been tentatively dated to the second half of the 11th century.

Historic Landscape (Map 3)

The medieval landscape of the zone was probably dominated by open fields³², particularly around Baswich and extending across the areas of modern development at Wildwood and Weeping Cross. The open fields are likely to have been farmed by the inhabitants of both Baswich and Walton. Ridge and furrow³³ earthworks were identified in a field on the western side of the zone³⁴.

The open fields were probably enclosed, as Piecemeal Enclosure, during the Post Medieval period through a means of informal, verbal agreements between farmers who wished to consolidate their holdings into a block rather than being scattered across two or more open fields.

To the north west a probable wood bank was identified as surrounding a small woodland. The wood bank³⁵ pre-dated the mid 19th century and may relate to a pre-dominantly woodland character for this area, which possibly dated to at least the Saxon period. Woodland was recorded for the manor of Baswich in Domesday Book, although this is not proof of the existence of this particular woodland.

Six farms had been established within the zone by the late 19th century. Their known plan form suggested that they were all quite large and five of them were probably developed in one phase, whilst a farmstead in Weeping Cross had probably developed over a longer period of time. Five of these farms were demolished during the 20th/21st century. The historic farm buildings at Walton-on-the-Hill all survive, although they have been converted to domestic dwellings.

³¹ Ecclesiastical: belonging to the church

³² Open Field: An area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. Usually without internal divisions (hedges, walls or fences). (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

³³ Ridge & furrow: A series of long, raised ridges separated by ditches used to prepare the ground for arable cultivation. This was a technique, characteristic of the medieval period. (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

³⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 20414

³⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 40261

The Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal was constructed during the late 18th century and was opened in 1772³⁶. Three listed canal bridges partially lie within the zone.

The zone was developed as part of the outer suburbs of Stafford throughout the 20th century and housing now dominates the historic landscape character. Historic buildings survive within the historic core of Walton-on-the-Hill and include two Listed buildings, the earliest of which is a timber-framed 17th century cottage³⁷.

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has been impacted by development during the 20 th century, but several historic environment assets (HEAs) survive particularly the historic buildings, both listed and unlisted, in Walton-on-the-Hill.	2
Potential	The potential for below ground archaeology has been impacted by 20 th century development, but unknown sites (including earthworks) may survive in areas that have seen less development or undevelopment.	1
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	There are few known assets beyond the historic buildings.	1
Group Association	There is little evidence of group association between the known HEAs	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction. Current knowledge gives limited potential for the historic environment to play a significant role in creating a definable and promotable identity to the zone.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	The historic environment could accommodate medium to large scale development, but the impacts and character of the Conservation Areas and the Listed Buildings, would need to be taken into consideration.	1
Overall Score		8

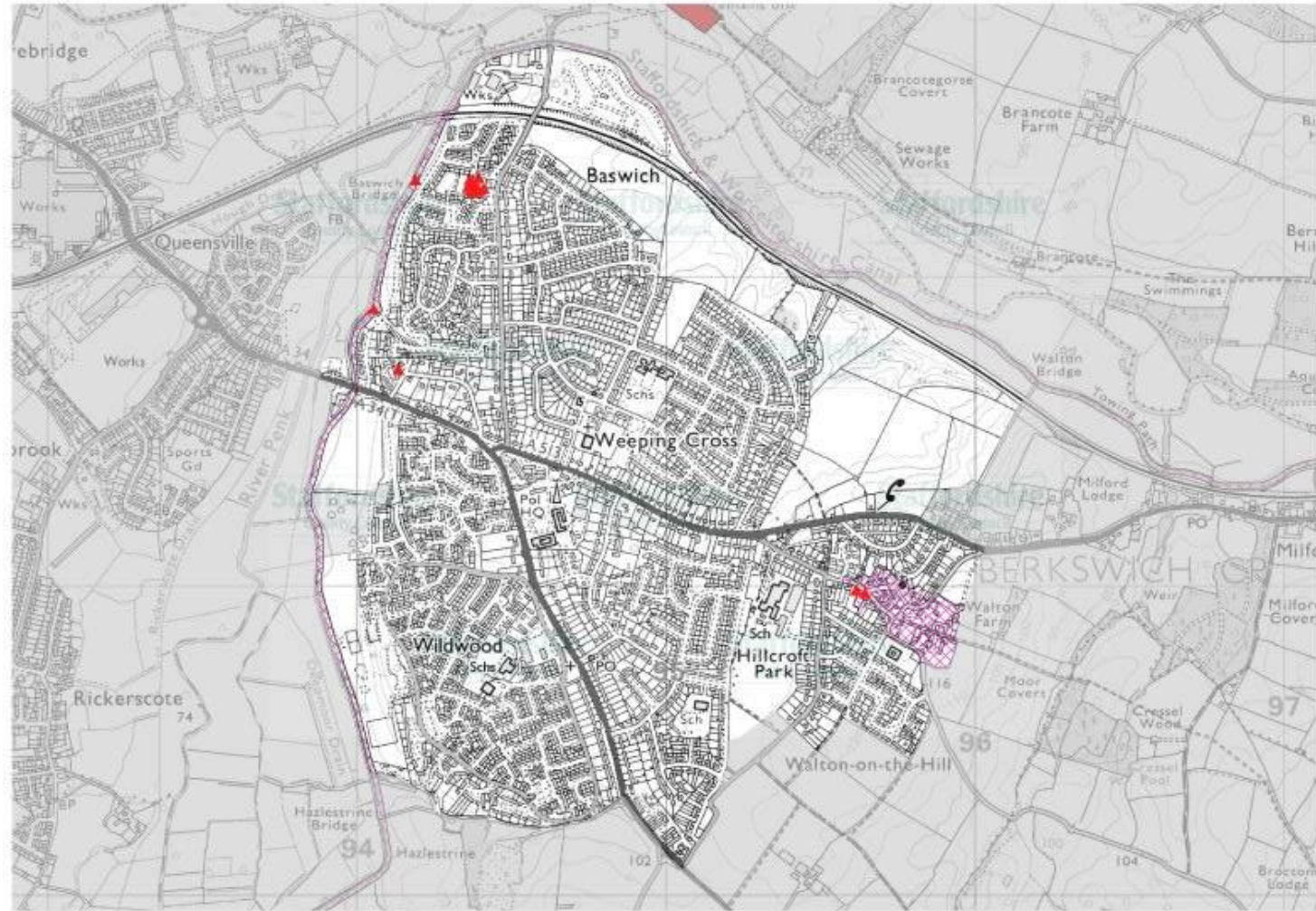
³⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 05172

³⁷ Staffordshire HER: 12745

Legend



- ▲ Listed buildings
- Scheduled monuments
- Registered battlefields
- Registered parks & gardens
- Conservation areas

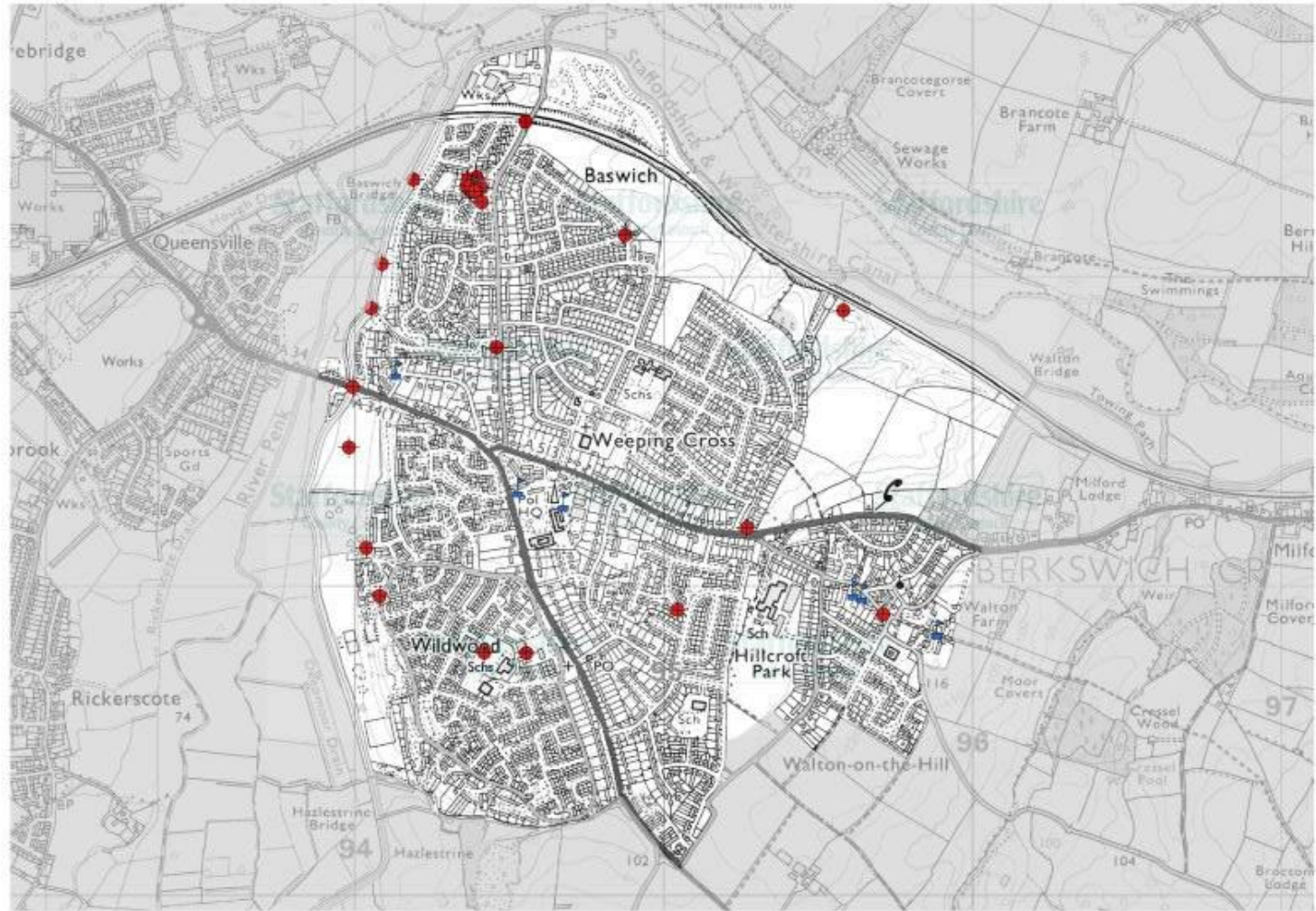
Map 1: Designations



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Legend

-  Building or Structure
-  Monument



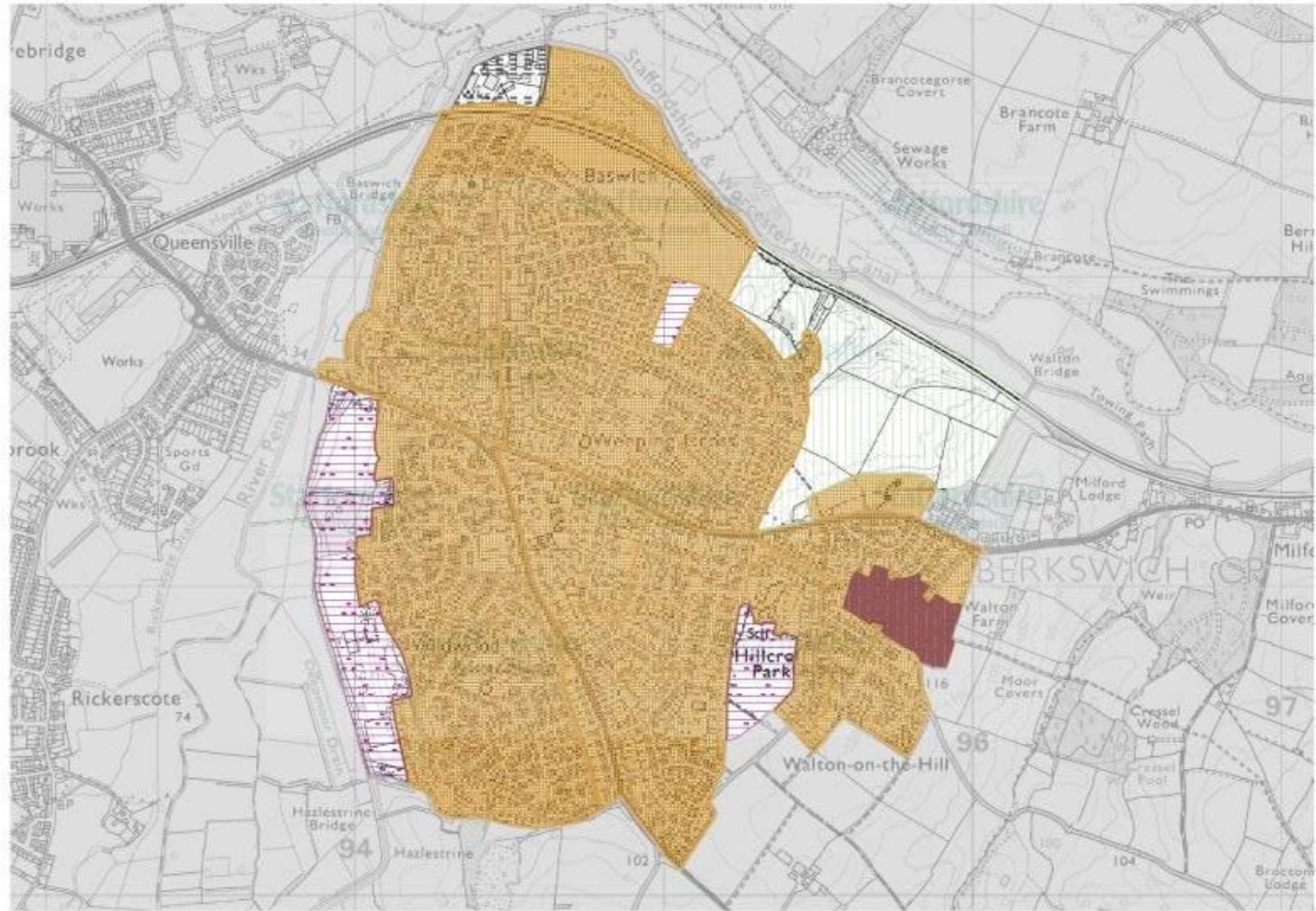
Map 2: Known historic environment assets from the HER

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Legend

-  Industrial & Extractive
-  Other parkland
-  Post 1880s Re-organised fields
-  Post 1880s Settlement
-  Pre 1880s Settlement

Map 3: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 8 – South west of Walton-on-the-Hill

Summary

The zone is dominated by 18th/19th century planned field systems and the surviving historic farmstead is probably closely associated with it.

The land to the south west of the Cannock Road, lies within South Staffordshire District.

Medium to large-scale housing development is likely to have at least a moderate impact upon the historic environment character of this area. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address the following:

- Impacts upon the adjacent Conservation Area
- Impacts upon the well surviving field pattern and its relationship to the historic farmstead and how this could be retained or reflected.
- The potential for unknown below-ground archaeological deposits

Early consultation with the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations

The Walton-on-the-Hill Conservation Area (059) lies adjacent to the north of the zone.

Archaeological Character (Map 1)

Environmental evidence taken from a site in Stafford suggests that the landscape of the wider area was densely wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances were made to facilitate small scale pastoral farming.

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

Walton-on-the-Hill lies to the north of the area (see SHECZ 7) which may have seen some occupation by the later Saxon period. Although the earlier history of this landscape is not well understood it is likely to have been utilized or managed by the inhabitants from this period onwards.

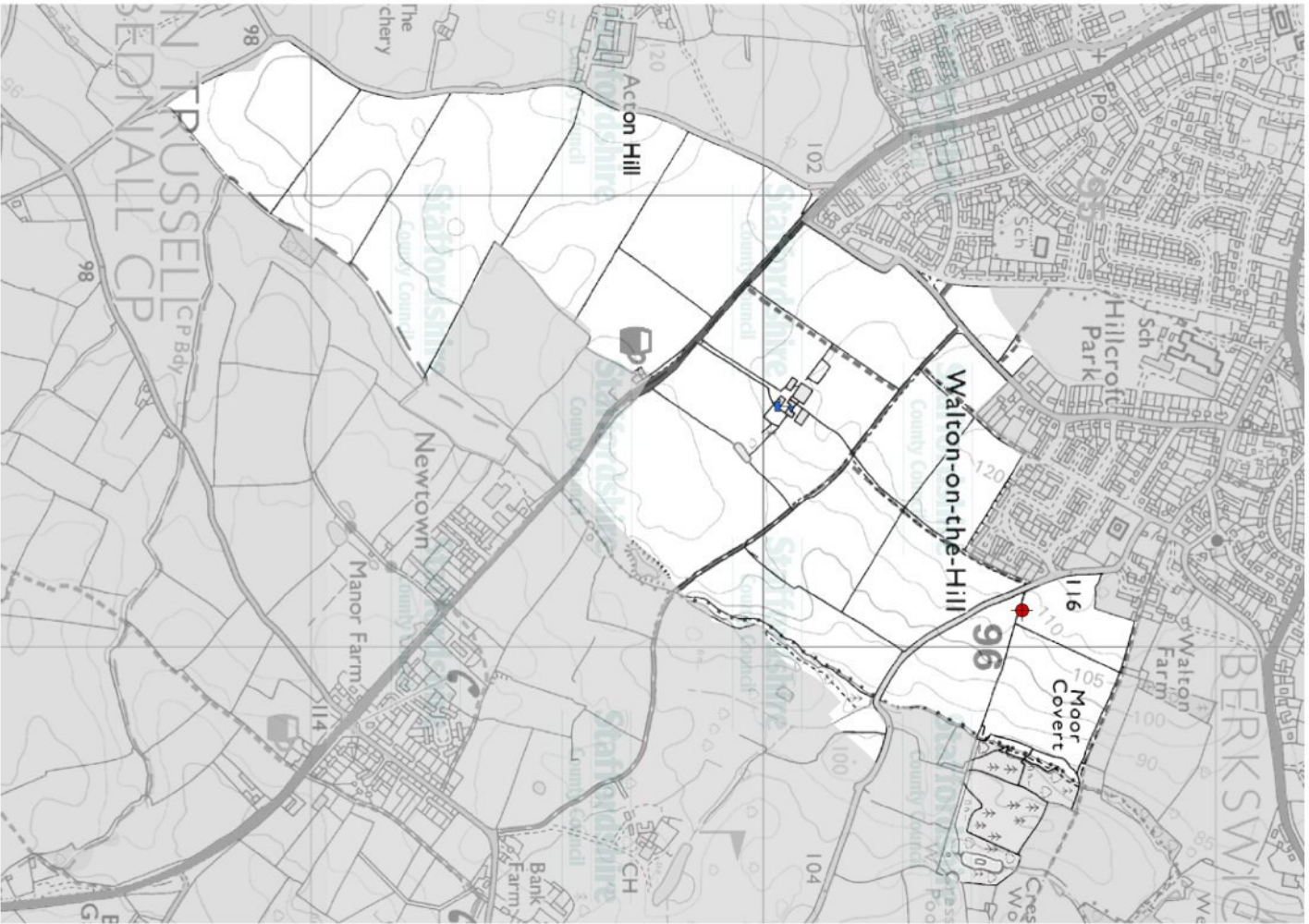
Historic Landscape (Map 2)


The historic landscape character of the area is dominated by planned enclosure which was laid out in the 18th or 19th century. This fieldscape is characterised by straight boundaries creating a geometric pattern that was laid down by surveyors.

Brocton Park Farm is regular in plan and consequently is likely to have been constructed in one phase. It has not been closely dated but is probably associated with the origins of the Planned Enclosure that surrounds it. The farmstead has expanded during the 20th century, but the historic farm buildings survive.

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	There are few known historic environment assets (HEAs) within the zone, and the only impacts have come from farming practices.	2
Potential	There are limited known HEAs beyond the well surviving field pattern and historic farmstead, but the zone has not been significantly disturbed and the current lack of knowledge is as much due to a lack of investigation rather than poor preservation.	2
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	There are few known HEAs and those that exist are of a similar date	1
Group Association	The origins of the historic farmstead and the well surviving field pattern are likely to be closely associated.	3
Amenity Value	Current knowledge gives limited potential for the historic environment to play a significant role in creating a definable and promotable identity to the area.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	Medium to large scale development is likely to have at least a moderate impact upon the historic environment character of the zone particularly upon the relationship between the farmstead and the surviving field system.	2
Overall Score		12



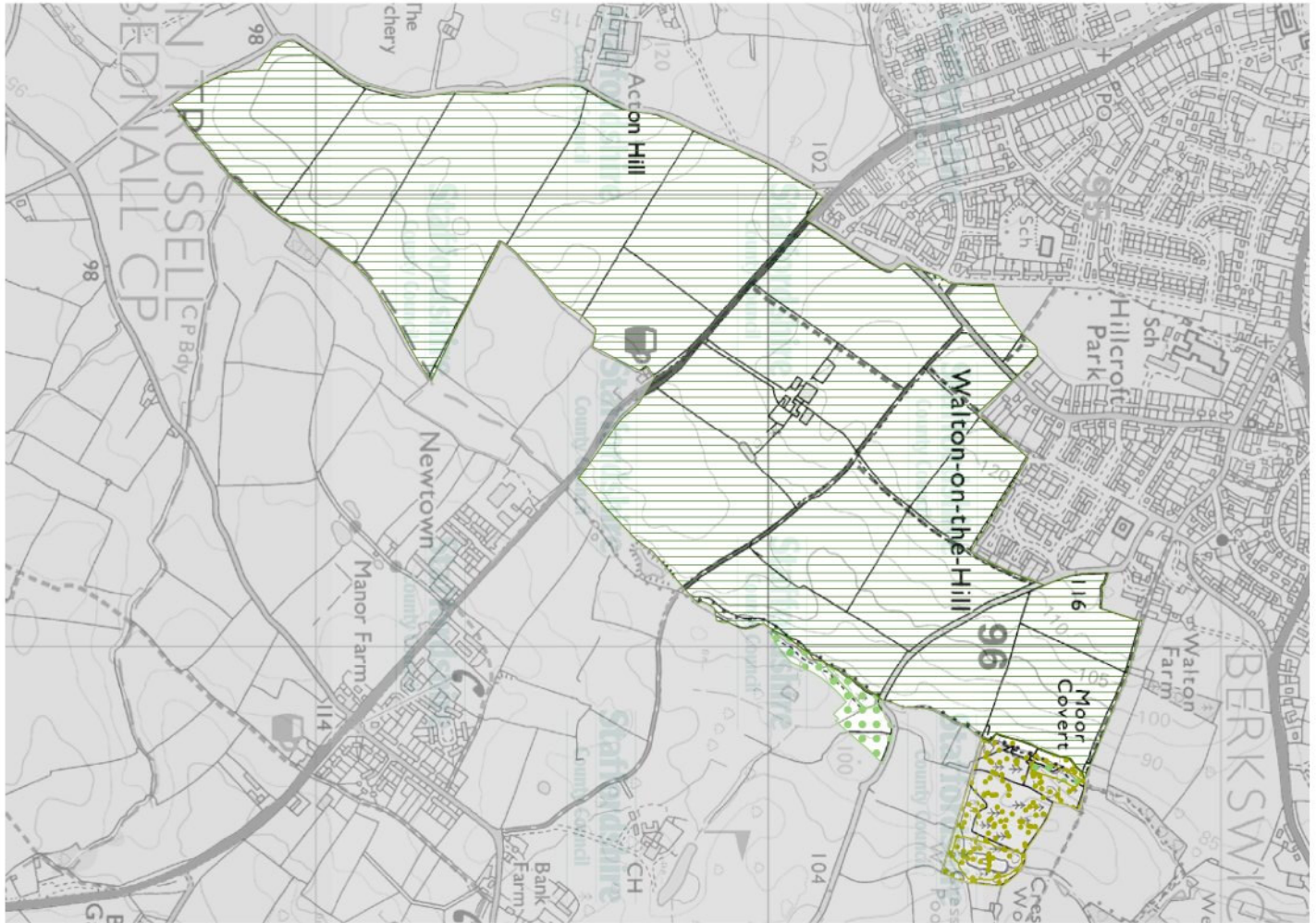
- Legend**
-  Building or Structure
 -  Monument

Map 1 : Known historic environment assets from the HER

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Legend

- 18th/19th century planned field systems
- Other Recent Woodlands
- Plantations



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Map 2: Refined HLC

SHECZ 9 – Acton Hill

Summary

The historic landscape character is dominated by a field pattern which has been impacted by modern farming practices. To the north east a small landscape park survives along with an associated house and farmstead buildings all of which probably date to the early 19th century.

The HECZ lies within South Staffordshire District.

Medium to large-scale housing development is likely to have at least a moderate impact upon the historic environment character of this area. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address the following:

- Impacts upon the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area
- Impacts upon the historic parkland and the associated country house and model farm
- Impacts upon the other historic farmstead.
- The potential for unknown below-ground archaeological deposits

Early consultation with the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (Map 1)

The Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area (073) passes through the north western corner of the zone.

Archaeological Character (Map 2)

Environmental evidence taken from a site in Stafford suggests that the landscape of the wider area was densely wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances occurred to facilitate small scale pastoral farming.

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

Historic Landscape (Map 3)

The historic landscape character has been impacted by field boundary removal during the 20th century. The remains of a small landscape park³⁸ survive at Acton Hill to the north east of the zone along with the associated

³⁸ Staffordshire HER: PRN 40138

small country house³⁹ and a model farm⁴⁰. The latter was designed by B. Wyatt in the early 19th century and it is likely that the country house and parkland date to a similar period.

There are two historic farmsteads in the zone both of which are regular in plan suggesting that they were completed in one phase rather than having developed piecemeal over a longer period of time. The first is the early 19th century model farm at Acton Hill, which has expanded during the 20th century, although some of the historic buildings survive within the complex. The second, The Shepherds, lies further south where many of the historic buildings appear to survive.

The Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal was constructed during the late 18th century and was opened in 1772⁴¹.

Historic Assets Summary Table






Survival	There are few known historic environment assets (HEAs) within the zone and the only impacts have come from farming practices.	2
Potential	There are limited known HEAs beyond the surviving parkland features, mostly groups of trees and historic buildings, but the zone has not been significantly disturbed and the current lack of knowledge is as much due to a lack of investigation rather than poor preservation.	2
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	There are few known HEAs and those that exist are of a similar date	1
Group Association	The surviving parkland and the country house and model farmstead are associated, although all have seen a degree of change during the 20 th century.	2
Amenity Value	Current knowledge gives limited potential for the historic environment to play a significant role in creating a definable and promotable identity to the area.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	Medium to large scale development is likely to have at least a moderate impact upon the survival of the parkland and its relationship with the associated historic buildings.	2
Overall Score		11

³⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 50349

⁴⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRN50370

⁴¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 05172

Legend

-  Listed buildings
-  Scheduled monuments
-  Registered battlefields
-  Registered parks & gardens
-  Conservation areas





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Map 1: Designations



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Legend

-  Building or Structure
-  Monument

Map 2: Known historic environment assets from the HER

Legend

-  18th/19th century planned field systems
-  Historic parks and gardens
-  Other Recent Woodlands
-  Plantations
-  Post 1880s Re-organised fields
-  Pre 1880s Settlement

Map 3: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 10 – North of Acton Trussell

Summary

The historic landscape of the zone had its origins as part of a medieval open field system associated with the village of Acton Trussell, which lies to the south of the zone. However, these fields have been impacted during the later 20th century through the removal of field boundaries. Two historic farmsteads, one of which may have been related to the post medieval enclosure of the landscape, survive.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is likely to have a moderate impact upon the historic environment. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to consider:

- Impacts upon the setting of the the conservation area and the Listed Buildings
- Impacts upon the setting of the unlisted historic farmstead, Roseford Farm
- The potential for unknown below ground archaeology to survive, but any mitigation requirements could be decided upon a case-by-case basis

Early consultation with the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (Map 1)

The Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area (073) bisects the zone on a north-south alignment. Three Listed Buildings are also located within the zone and two lie adjacent at Acton Mill Farm.

Archaeological Character (map 2)

Environmental evidence taken from a site in Stafford suggests that the landscape of the wider area was densely wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances occurred to facilitate small scale pastoral farming.

In the east of the county the Trent Valley has provided ample evidence for human activity from the Neolithic period onwards and it is possible that the Penk Valley, which lies to the west of this zone, was similarly attractive for settlement and ritual practices. The land rises out of the river valley towards the east and this could potentially have attracted human activity from an early date. Evidence for a human presence during the prehistoric period relates to a Neolithic/Bronze Age macehead⁴² found just to the north of Acton Trussell

⁴² Staffordshire HER: PRN 01578

village, which probably represents a casual loss rather than being evidence for occupation.

In the wider area evidence for human activity dating from the Neolithic to the Roman period exists c.1km to the south adjacent to Aston Trussell church⁴³. The earliest evidence relates to finds of Neolithic pottery but activity on this site culminated in a Roman villa which was still in use in the mid 4th century although the precise date of abandonment is not known.

There is little evidence for activity in this area dating to the Saxon period, although it is likely that the preceding pattern would have continued to some degree throughout this period. By the late Saxon period the area of Acton Trussell was settled with 18 householders being recorded in Domesday Book along with a mill implying a degree of arable agriculture. It is possible that the mill was located on the same site as the later Acton Mill, which lay at Acton Mill Farm, just beyond the western edge of the zone⁴⁴.

Historic Landscape (map 3)

During the medieval period this landscape was dominated by open fields⁴⁵, which were probably worked by the inhabitants of Acton Trussell. Wattles Lane may have originated as a field lane giving access from the village to the communal fields.

A survey of 1574 implies that the fields were still being worked communally at this date⁴⁶. However, this open field system was probably enclosed prior to the end of the 18th century as Piecemeal Enclosure. This occurred through a means of informal, verbal agreements between farmers who wished to consolidate their holdings into a block rather than being scattered across two or more open fields.

The farmhouse and one of the barns at Brookhouse Farm date to the 17th century⁴⁷. The establishment of this farmstead may have coincided with the enclosure of at least part of the open field system.

Roseford Farm appears to have been built in one phase and displays regularity in its plan. The date of origin is unknown but it has been suggested that it was already present when the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal was constructed in the 1770s⁴⁸. The historic farm buildings survive and overall there has been little change to the plan since the late 19th century. Ivy House Farm post dates the Second World War.

⁴³ Staffordshire HER: PRN 04003

⁴⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN01019

⁴⁵ Open Field: An area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. Usually without internal divisions (hedges, walls or fences). (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

⁴⁶ Burne & Donaldson 1959: 14

⁴⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 12967, PRN 50346 & PRN50347




⁴⁸ Staffordshire HER: PRN 50401

The field systems have all been impacted by the development of agriculture during the later 20th century with the removal of many field boundaries to create large fields to facilitate increased arable productivity.

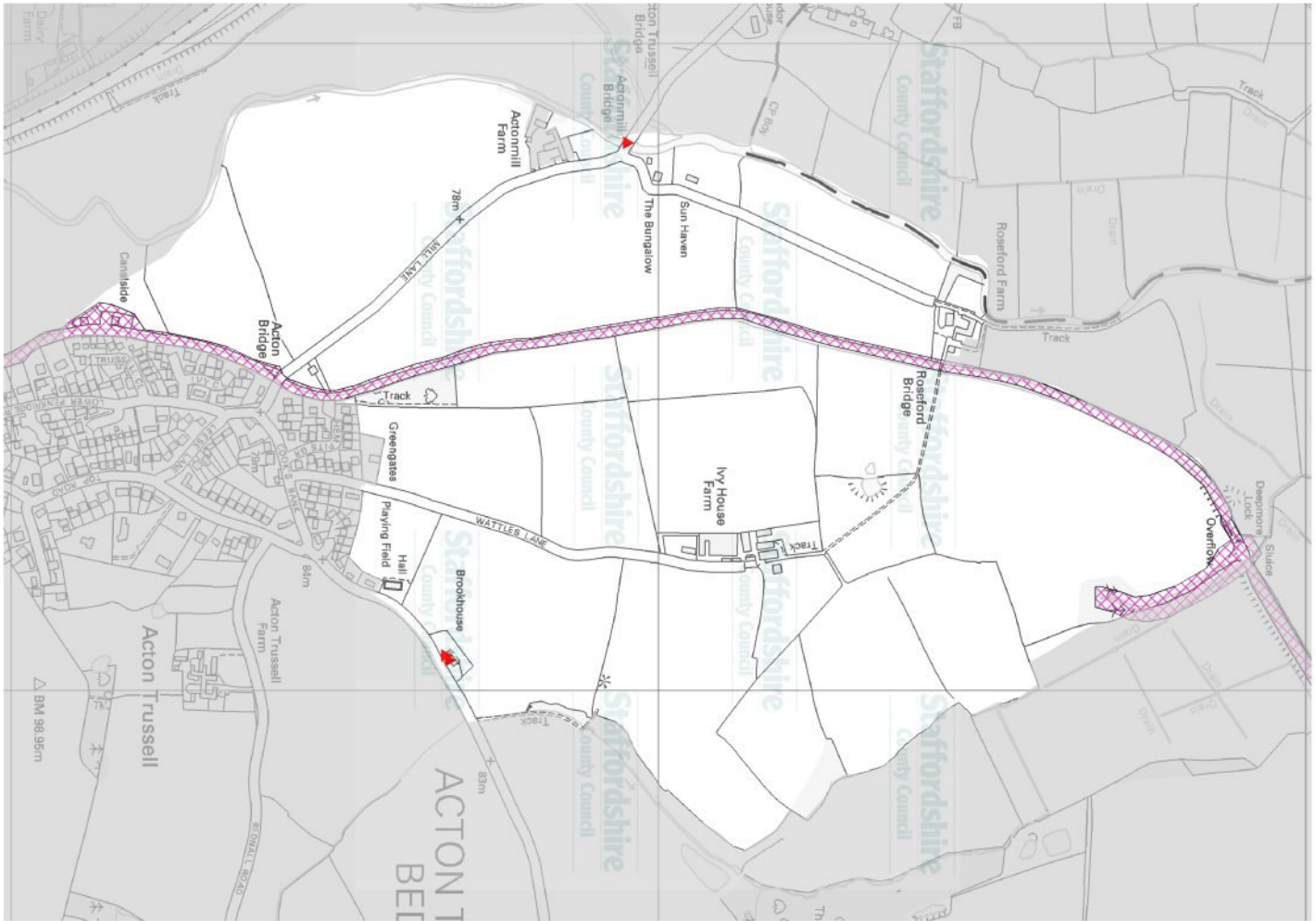
Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has seen some disturbance mainly through agricultural practices. There are few historic environment assets (HEA) although the historic farmsteads survive well.	2
Potential	There are limited known HEAs but the landscape has not been significantly impacted.	2
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	There are few known HEAs beyond the surviving historic farmsteads	1
Group Association	The known HEAs are of a similar nature, but not necessarily of a similar date.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	Medium to large scale development is likely to have a moderate impact upon the historic environment of the zone notably upon the setting of the designated sites: the canal conservation area and the listed buildings, but also upon the unlisted historic farmstead of Roseford Farm.	2
Overall Score		10

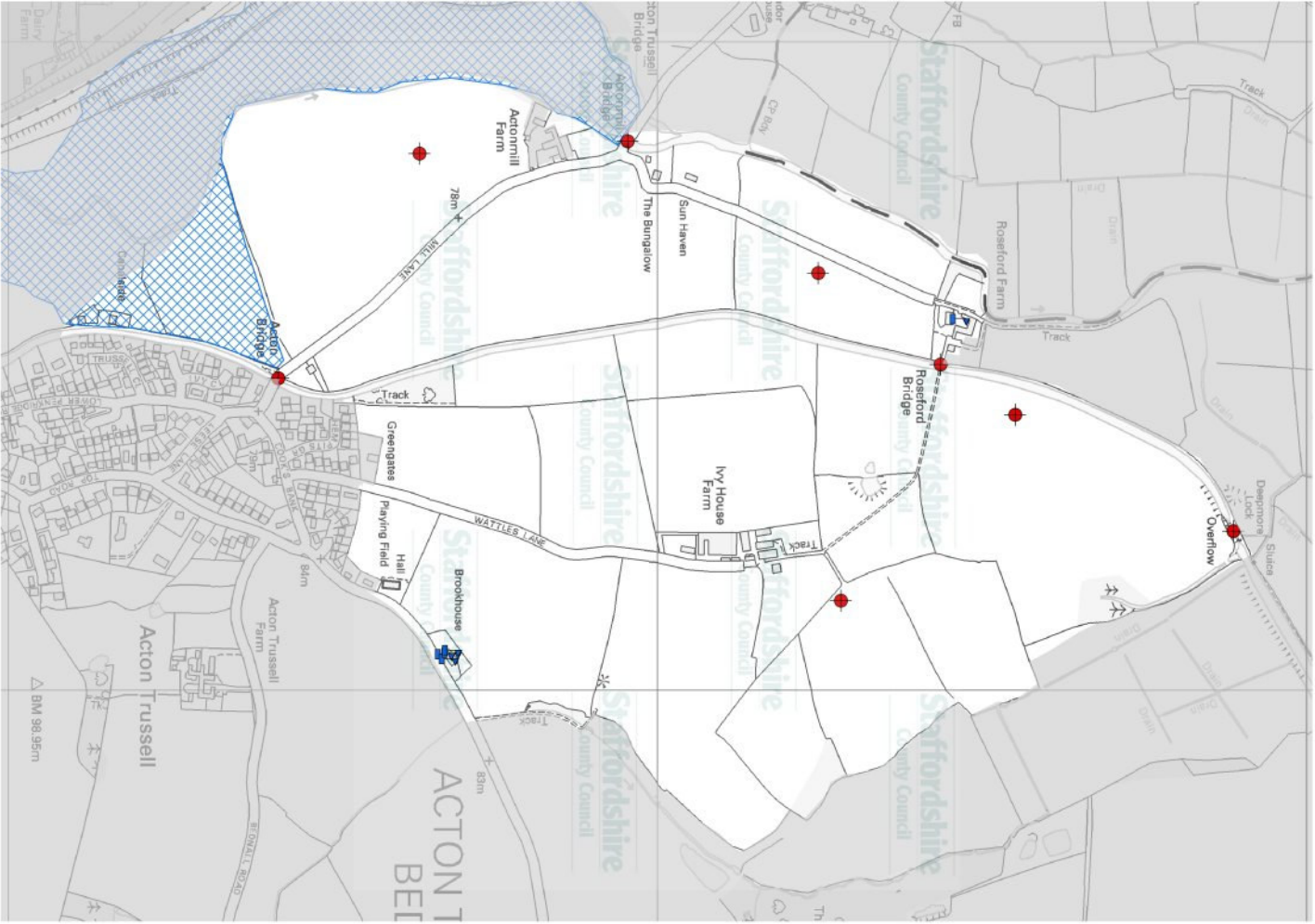
Legend

-  Listed buildings
-  Scheduled monuments
-  Registered battlefields
-  Registered parks & gardens
-  Conservation areas

Map 1: Designations



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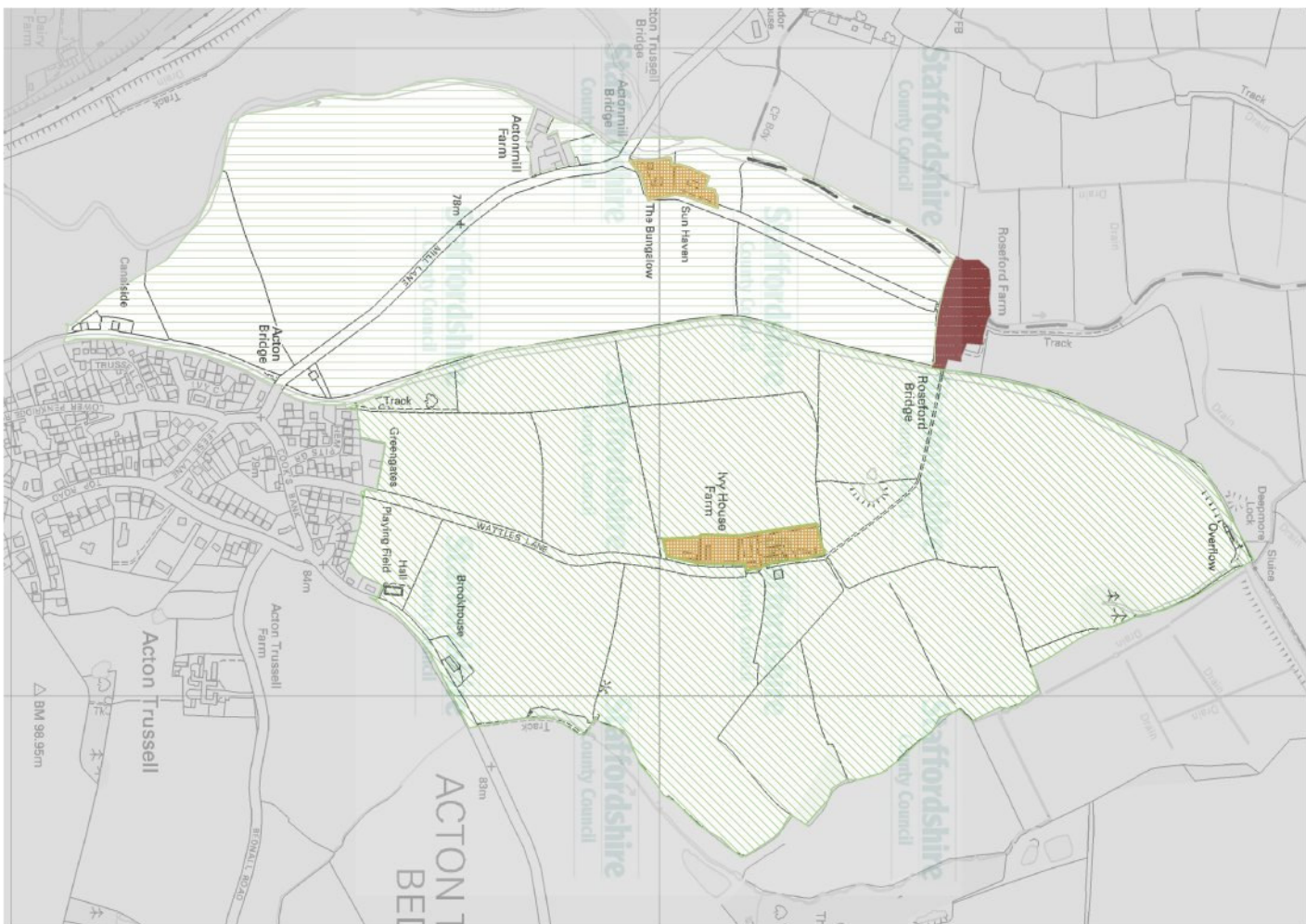
- Legend**
-  Building or Structure
 -  Monument
 -  Watermeadows

Map 2: Known historic environment assets from the HER

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Legend

- Post 1880s Re-organised fields
- Post 1880s Settlement
- Pre 1880s Settlement
- Re-organised piecemeal enclosure



Map 3: Refined HLC

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SHECZ 11 – North and west of Acton Gate

Summary

The western part of the zone is dominated by post medieval Piecemeal Enclosure which had its origins as open fields in the medieval period. This landscape is potentially associated with the establishment of several surviving historic farmsteads.

To the east of the A449 the historic landscape is dominated by surviving watermeadow features, which probably had their origins in the 18th/19th century. It is possible that these are associated with Rickerscote Hall which dates to c.1600 and which is likely to have been the centre of a manor since at least the mid 15th century.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is likely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to consider:

- The impact upon the Listed Building
- The impact and subsequent mitigation of the surviving watermeadows
- The impact on the relationship between the surviving field pattern and the dispersed nature of settlement. It should consider how the surviving historic landscape character could be retained or reflected in any designs.
- The potential for unknown below-ground archaeological deposits to survive.

Early consultation with the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (Map 1)

The Grade II Listed Rickerscote Hall lies within the zone.

Archaeological Character (Map 2)

Environmental evidence taken from a site in Stafford suggests that the landscape of the wider area was densely wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances occurred to facilitate small scale pastoral farming.

At present little archaeological work has been carried out in the wider area and consequently the impact of human agency between the prehistoric to Saxon periods is not well understood within the zone. However, within the wider area there is evidence for human activity from the Neolithic to the Roman period adjacent to the church in Acton Trussell. It has also been speculated that the Wolverhampton Road (A449) may have its origins as a

Roman road and an early Roman coin⁴⁹ was found south of the zone (see SHECZ 13), although this probably represents a casual loss.

Rickerscote and Burton are mentioned in Domesday Book (1086) both belonging to the manor of Bradley. Six householders are recorded for Rickerscote which suggests small scale settlement in this area by at least the late Saxon period. Burton was included with other sites in the area also belonging to Bradley and consequently it is difficult to state whether it was settled at this date, although by the later medieval period a moat had been established.

Historic Landscape (Map 3)

During the medieval period the landscape to the west of the A449 was dominated by open fields⁵⁰. This field system was probably enclosed during the post medieval period as Piecemeal Enclosure. This was achieved through a means of informal, verbal agreements between farmers who wished to consolidate their holdings into a block rather than being scattered across two or more open fields. The Piecemeal Enclosure survives although some field boundaries have been removed during the later 20th century. This process appears to have begun in the 19th century around Burton Manor.

The historic settlement pattern is one of dispersed farmsteads and cottages, although the origin of this pattern is not known. Six historic farmsteads were identified within the zone. Four of these probably originated as small farmsteads and may have been associated with the enclosure of the open fields. Burton Manor Farm had probably been designed as the home farm of Burton Manor and represents a larger farm than the others. Moss pits Farm is also a larger farm and follows a similar regular plan form. Only the farmhouses survive at Westleigh Farm and Burton Manor Farm. Grange Farm has been much altered during the 20th century although the farmhouse and outbuildings survive. Orchard Farm probably originated as a farmhouse with an attached barn.

The earliest known settlement site lies at Burton Manor where the remains of a medieval moat survived in the late 19th century⁵¹. This monument is probably closely associated with the open field agriculture which dominated at a similar period. The present Burton Manor was built in the mid 19th century by E. W. Pugin⁵², although it has been considerably extended during the second half of the 20th century.

To the east of the A449 the landscape is dominated by a water meadow of probable 18th/19th century date, which survives in relatively good condition. The development of water meadows during this period meant that the

⁴⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00793

⁵⁰ Open Field: An area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. Usually without internal divisions (hedges, walls or fences). (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

⁵¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00794

⁵² Midgley & Donaldson 1959: 89

landowners could control the flooding of the land and ensure an early crop of hay enabling them to over-winter larger numbers of animals.

Rickerscote Hall dates to c.1600 although there is evidence that the earliest surviving elements were added to an earlier hall which was later removed. Rickerscote was referred to as a manor in the mid 15th century⁵³.





There is a close geographical relationship between Rickerscote Hall and the watermeadow system and it is therefore possible that the owners of the Hall were responsible for its construction.

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has seen little disturbance other than through agricultural practices. There are a number of known historic environment assets (HEAs) within the zone.	3
Potential	The landscape has not been significantly disturbed but there are few known below ground archaeological remains; however this lack of knowledge is probably the lack of investigation rather than poor preservation.	2
Documentation	HER data.	1
Diversity	There are a range of historic environment assets (HEAs) including historic farmsteads and cottages as well as well preserved water meadows and a surviving post medieval field system.	2
Group Association	There are potential associations between the farmsteads and the enclosure of the landscape to the west of the A449 and between Rickerscote Hall and the watermeadows on the eastern side.	2
Amenity Value	The historic environment could help to define a sense of place for the area, particularly the well surviving watermeadows near Rickerscote Hall	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	Medium to large scale development is likely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment of the zone. This would particularly affect the association of the farmsteads and the surviving piecemeal enclosure as well as the well surviving watermeadows.	3
Overall Score		15

⁵³ Ibid

Legend




-  Listed buildings
-  Scheduled monuments
-  Registered battlefields
-  Registered parks & gardens
-  Conservation areas

Map 1: Designations

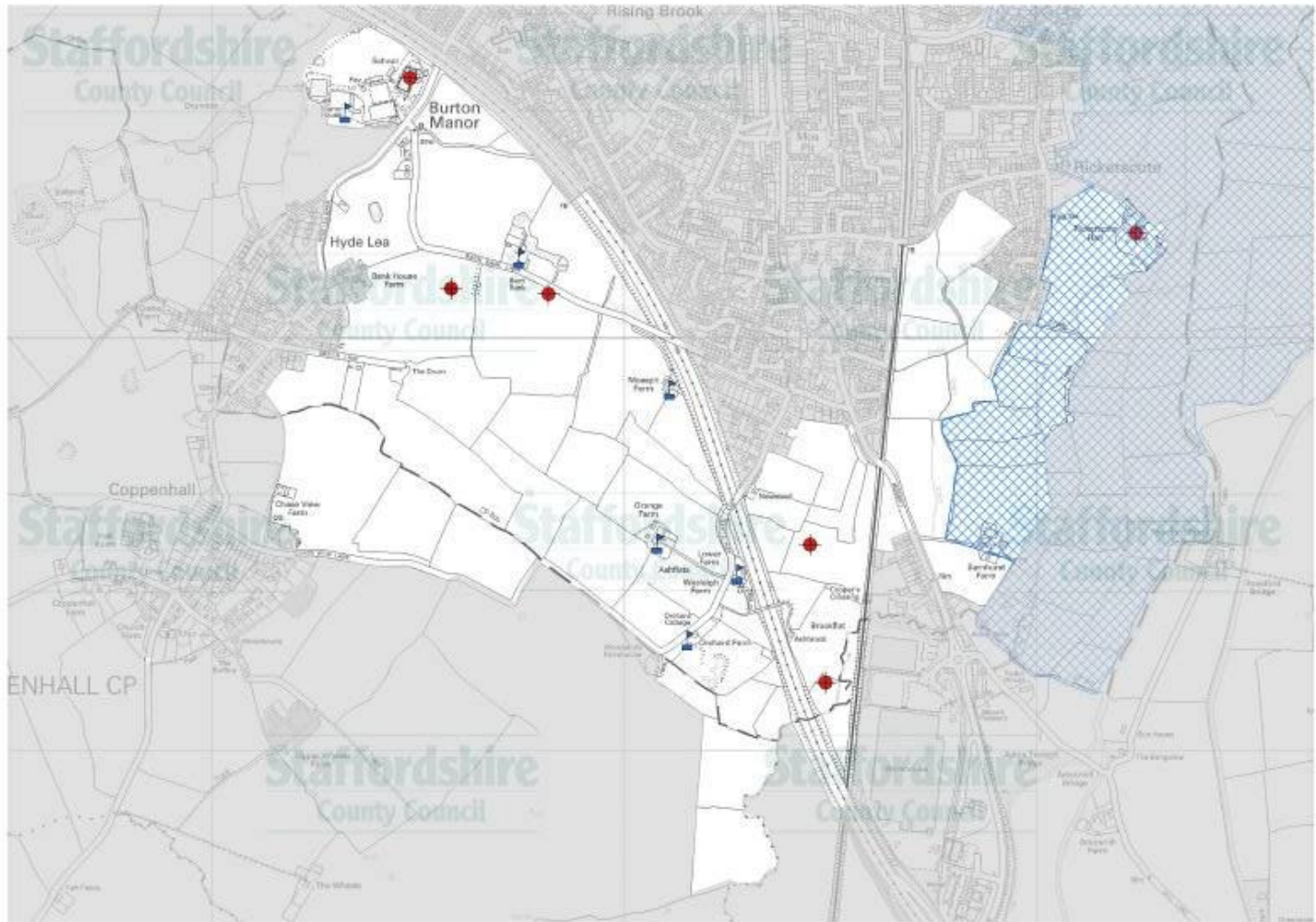


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Legend





-  Building or Structure
-  Monument
-  Watermeadows

Map 2: Known historic environment assets from the HER

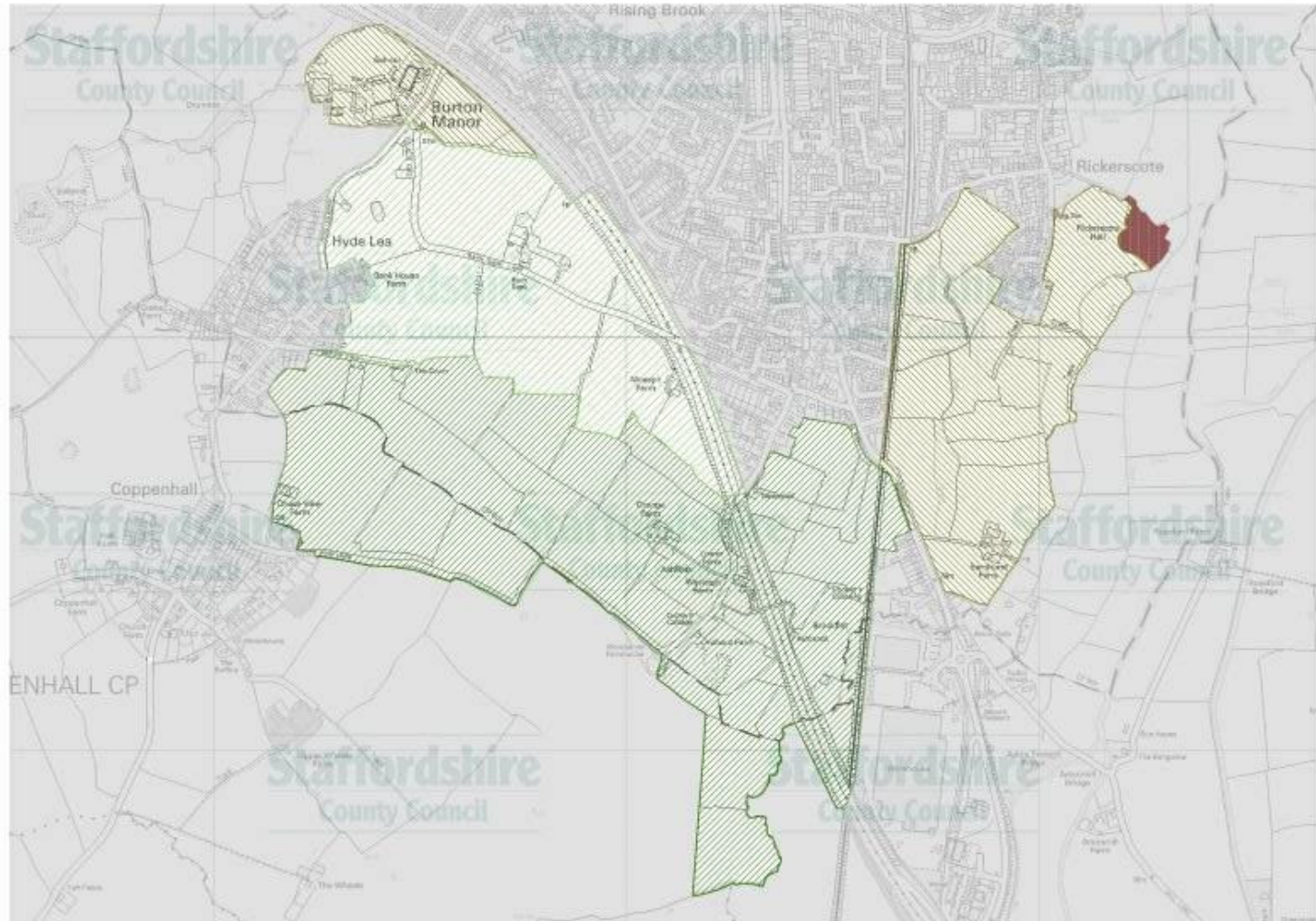


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Legend

-  Early Irregular Enclosure
-  Piecemeal Enclosure
-  Pre 1880s Settlement
-  Re-organised piecemeal enclosure

Map 3: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 12 – Hyde Lea

Summary

The zone is dominated by 20th century housing development although a number of 18th or 19th century cottages probably survive.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is unlikely to have an impact upon its historic character. However, plans for development would need to address:

- the impact upon the potential for surviving below-ground archaeological deposits although any mitigation requirements would be decided upon a case-by-case basis

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

Designations

There are currently no designated sites lying within the zone.

Archaeological Character (map 1)

Environmental evidence taken from a site in Stafford suggests that the landscape of the wider area was densely wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances occurred to facilitate small scale pastoral farming.

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

An 'ancient encampment' is marked on the first edition 1" Ordnance Survey map (1836) when this area still formed Hyde Lea Common⁵⁴. The nature and origin of this enclosure is unknown.

Historic Landscape (map 2)

During the medieval period this zone was dominated by common pasture known as Hyde Lea Common. An Act of Parliament was passed in 1851 to enclose the land, although several cottages had already been established upon the edges of the common by the late 18th century. A couple of these cottages may survive. A row of terraces, which pre-date the late 19th century also survive on Bradley Lane.

Two historic farmsteads have been identified which may pre-date the enclosure of the common as they appear to have been located towards its edge as it is shown on Yates' map of Staffordshire (1775). Their form

⁵⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 50126



suggests that they were more likely to have been developed piecemeal over a period of time, rather than built in one phase as planned farms.

The zone is dominated by 20th century housing, which had probably been built to provide a dormer village for Stafford.

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has been extensively disturbed by 20 th century development.	1
Potential	The potential for surviving historic environment assets (HEAs) has been significantly reduced by development, although there may be the potential for below-ground deposits to survive associated with the undated enclosure shown on historic maps.	1
Documentation	HER data.	1
Diversity	The zone contains few known HEAs beyond the surviving farmsteads and cottages.	1
Group Association	There are few HEAs, although the historic buildings are likely to be of a similar date.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	The historic environment of the zone could accommodate medium to large scale development or change; however there may be impacts upon the potential for below ground archaeological deposits.	1
Overall Score		7

Legend



-  Building or Structure
-  Monument

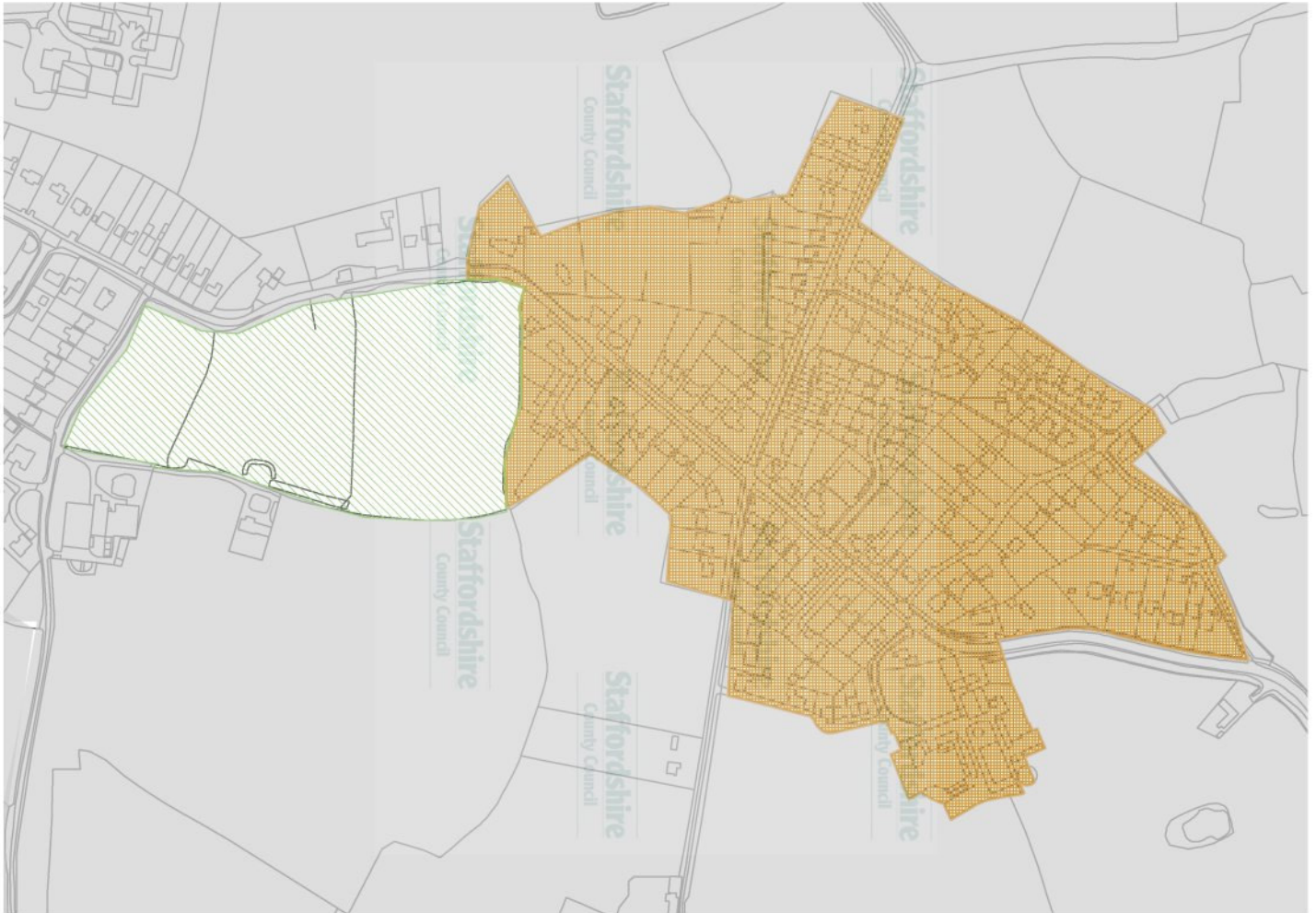


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Map 1 : Known historic environment assets from the HER

Legend

-  Post 1880s Settlement
-  Re-organised piecemeal enclosure



Map 2: Refined HLC

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SHECZ 13 – North east of Berry Ring

Summary

The historic landscape character of the zone has been impacted during the 20th century through the removal of many field boundaries. However, the historic environment remains an important element of the landscape within the zone through the surviving pattern of dispersed historic farmsteads and several moated sites.

Medium to large scale development is likely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment of the zone. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address the following:

- The impact upon the two scheduled monuments and the two Grade II listed buildings
- The impact upon and mitigation strategies for the historic dispersed settlement pattern; how this could be retained or reflected in any design.
- The potential for the survival of above and below ground archaeology.

Early consultation with the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council, English Heritage and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (Map 1)

One Scheduled Monument, Hyde Lea moated site and fishpond, lies within the zone. The Scheduled Berry Ring hillfort lies adjacent to the south west.

Two Grade II Listed Buildings also lie within the zone; the 17th century Stallbrook Hall and the early 18th century Doxey Wood Cottage.

Archaeological Character (Map 2)

Environmental evidence taken from a site in Stafford suggests that the landscape of the wider area was densely wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances were made to facilitate small scale pastoral farming.

The earliest evidence for human activity within the zone is a Neolithic axe⁵⁵ which probably represents a casual loss. However, Berry Ring hillfort⁵⁶ lies adjacent to the zone and, although the date of construction for the hillfort is not known unstratified finds have been dated to the Iron Age. The presence of the hillfort suggests a centralised power base was present within the area from at least the late Bronze Age/Iron Age, which oversaw a dispersed

⁵⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 02741

⁵⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00024; English Heritage SM no. 21588

settlement pattern across the landscape. The hillfort would have provided a cultural and economic focus for the surrounding communities. Two further stray finds from the wider area, including a Bronze Age spearhead⁵⁷, confirm some activity during this period.

There is currently little evidence for human activity within or adjacent to the zone during the Roman or Saxon period although there is likely to be a degree of continuity from the later prehistoric onwards. One early Roman coin was discovered south of Burton Manor, but this probably represents a casual loss⁵⁸.

Three places lying adjacent to the zone, Derrington, Billington and Burton are recorded in Domesday Book (1086). The latter two belonged to the manor of Bradley. It is therefore likely that there was human activity within the zone by at least the late Saxon period. The high number of ploughs recorded for Bradley manor suggests that arable agriculture played an important part in the economy of the wider landscape by the late Saxon period.

Historic Landscape (Map 3)

There is evidence for open field⁵⁹ agriculture, which is typical of medieval arable landscapes, around Thorneyfields Farm to the north of the zone. This pattern was fossilised in the later field system which still survived in the late 19th century. Other evidence for former medieval arable activity are the ridge and furrow⁶⁰ earthworks identified on aerial photographs to the south of Derrington (SHECZ 14) and to the west of Burton.

There are the remains of two medieval moated sites within the zone. Hyde Lea moated site is a Scheduled monument⁶¹ and is associated with two fishponds, one of which lies in Drumble wood⁶². Field name and documentary evidence also suggests that the site was associated with a deer park and is therefore likely to represent the manor house of The Hyde which had been created by the mid 12th century⁶³. Archaeological excavation on the site suggested that the moat dated to the 13th or 14th century.

The other moated site lies at the opposite end of the zone and only partially survives. Stallbrook Hall, a property with 17th century origins, now stands on the site. This moat is likely to have represented a homestead rather than a

⁵⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 01787

⁵⁸ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00793

⁵⁹ Open Field: An area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. Usually without internal divisions (hedges, walls or fences). (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

⁶⁰ Ridge & furrow: A series of long, raised ridges separated by ditches used to prepare the ground for arable cultivation. This was a technique, characteristic of the medieval period. (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

⁶¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00791; English Heritage SM no. 21529

⁶² Staffordshire HER: PRN 00792

⁶³ Darlington & Jecock 2001: 16-19

manor house. It is possible that these two sites represent assarting⁶⁴ during the 12th to 13th centuries. It is not known whether such clearance resulted in a landscape of open fields or whether they were enclosed from the beginning.

By the late 19th century the whole of the landscape across the zone was enclosed into small fields with a predominantly irregular pattern. As suggested above the origin of much of this enclosure is not currently well understood, but is likely to date to the later medieval or post medieval period.

The historic settlement pattern is one dominated by farmsteads of which eight survive within the zone, although a further two were demolished during the 20th century. The character of these farmsteads is typical of the well farmed lowland landscapes of Staffordshire where regular courtyard farms and the larger loose courtyard farms predominate. The latter are likely to have developed piecemeal over a period of time, whereas the regular farms suggest deliberate planning in one phase either as new farms within the landscape or perhaps the complete rebuilding of an earlier farmstead. The latter may be true of the farm associated with Stallbrook Hall. The hall itself dates to the 17th century, but it is likely that the farm was re-built in the 18th or 19th century when farming became increasingly industrialised and a well planned farm would facilitate increased productivity. During the 20th century these farms have seen some change with new structures being built but both Thorneyfield Farm and Stallbrook Hall farm appear to survive well. Moor Farm was abandoned after 1963 and was probably replaced by the modern Home Farm on a new site.

The fact that so many farmsteads were constructed to maximise productivity in the 18th/19th century confirms that this was an important landscape for farming. This importance is still apparent with the construction of a new farm since 1963 and the fact that the historic character of small fields has been eroded through the removal of field boundaries to facilitate the movement of modern farm machinery.

The remains of the Stafford to Wellington railway survive on the western edge of the zone⁶⁵. By the early 21st century it formed part of a cycle way from Stafford.

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has seen some moderate disturbance from agricultural practices, but there are several known assets.	2
Potential	The zone has not been significantly impacted and there is the potential for unknown archaeological sites to survive associated with the known medieval sites and the Iron Age hillfort.	3
Documentation	HER data.	1

⁶⁴ Assarting: the creation of agricultural land through the clearance of woodland.

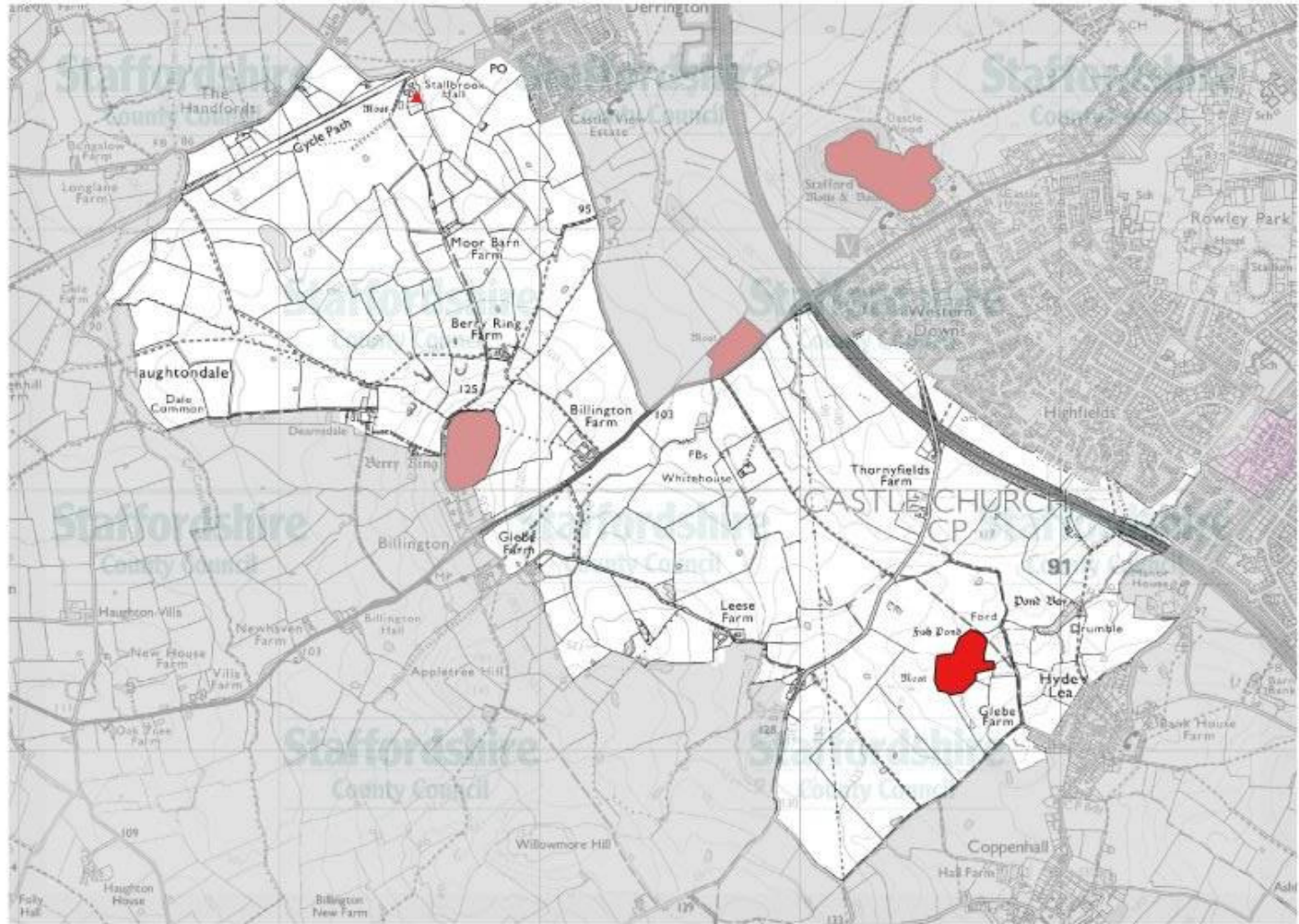
⁶⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 50655

Diversity	The zone contains a wide range of assets of different date from the medieval moats and fishponds through to the historic farmsteads of probable 18 th /19 th century date.	3
Group Association	There are associations between the monuments at Hyde Lea moated site, which includes the fishpond within the wood. The origins of the farmsteads are also likely to be associated given that many of them are probably of a similar date and origin.	3
Amenity Value	The historic environment could help to define a sense of place for the area and Hyde Lea moated site could be promoted as could the adjacent hillfort of Berry Ring. The former railway also provides opportunities to promote the historic environment assets within the zone (HEA)	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	Although the historic landscape character has been eroded by modern farming practice medium to large scale development would still have a significant impact upon its historic environment. In particular it would impact upon the two Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings. It would also have an impact upon the nature of the dispersed pattern of settlement and the potential for below-ground archaeological deposits associated with prehistoric to medieval activity.	3
Overall Score		17

Legend



- ▲ Listed buildings
- Scheduled monuments
- Registered battlefields
- Registered parks & gardens
- Conservation areas

Map 1: Designations

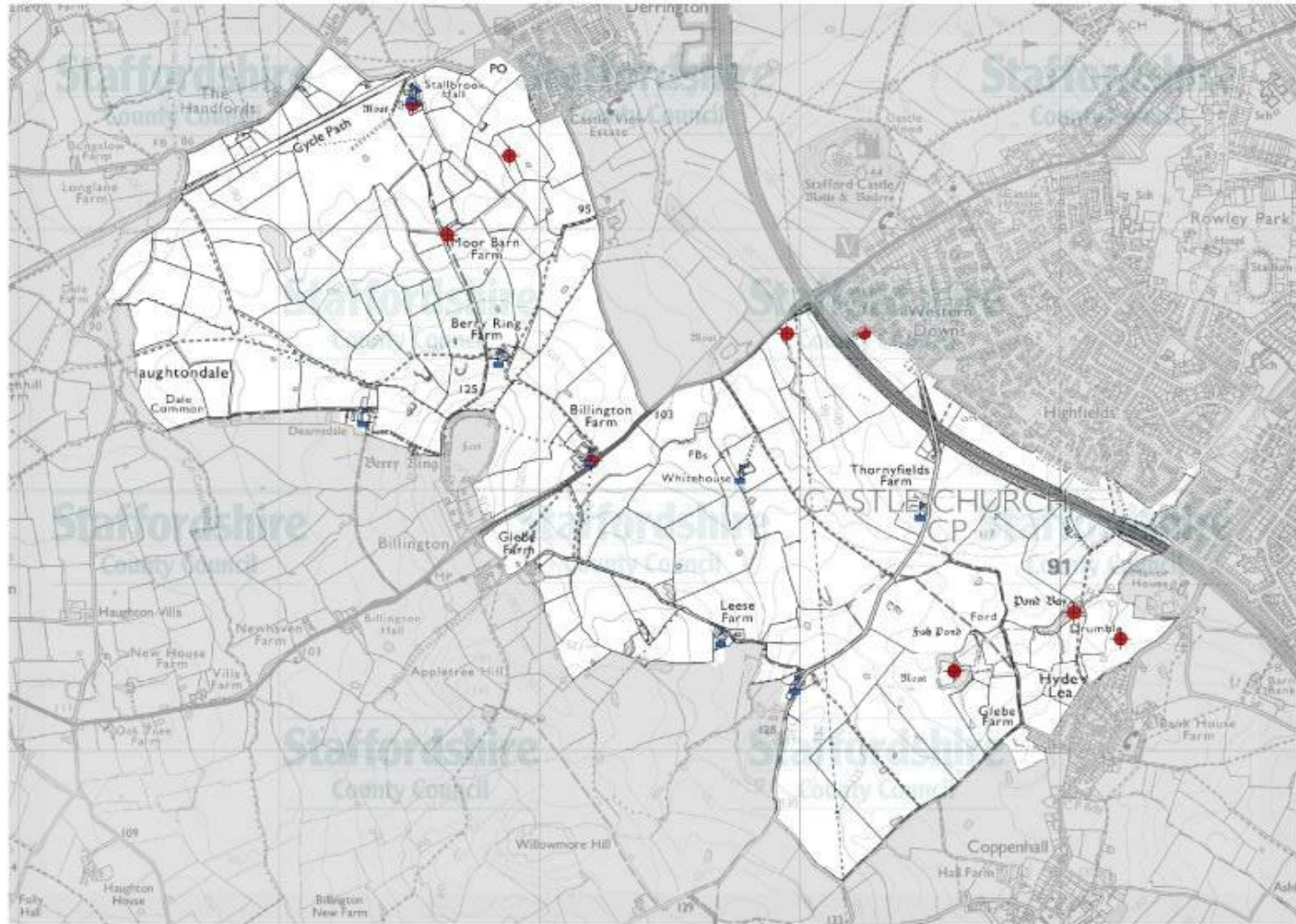


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Legend







-  Building or Structure
-  Monument

Map 2: Known historic environment assets from the HER

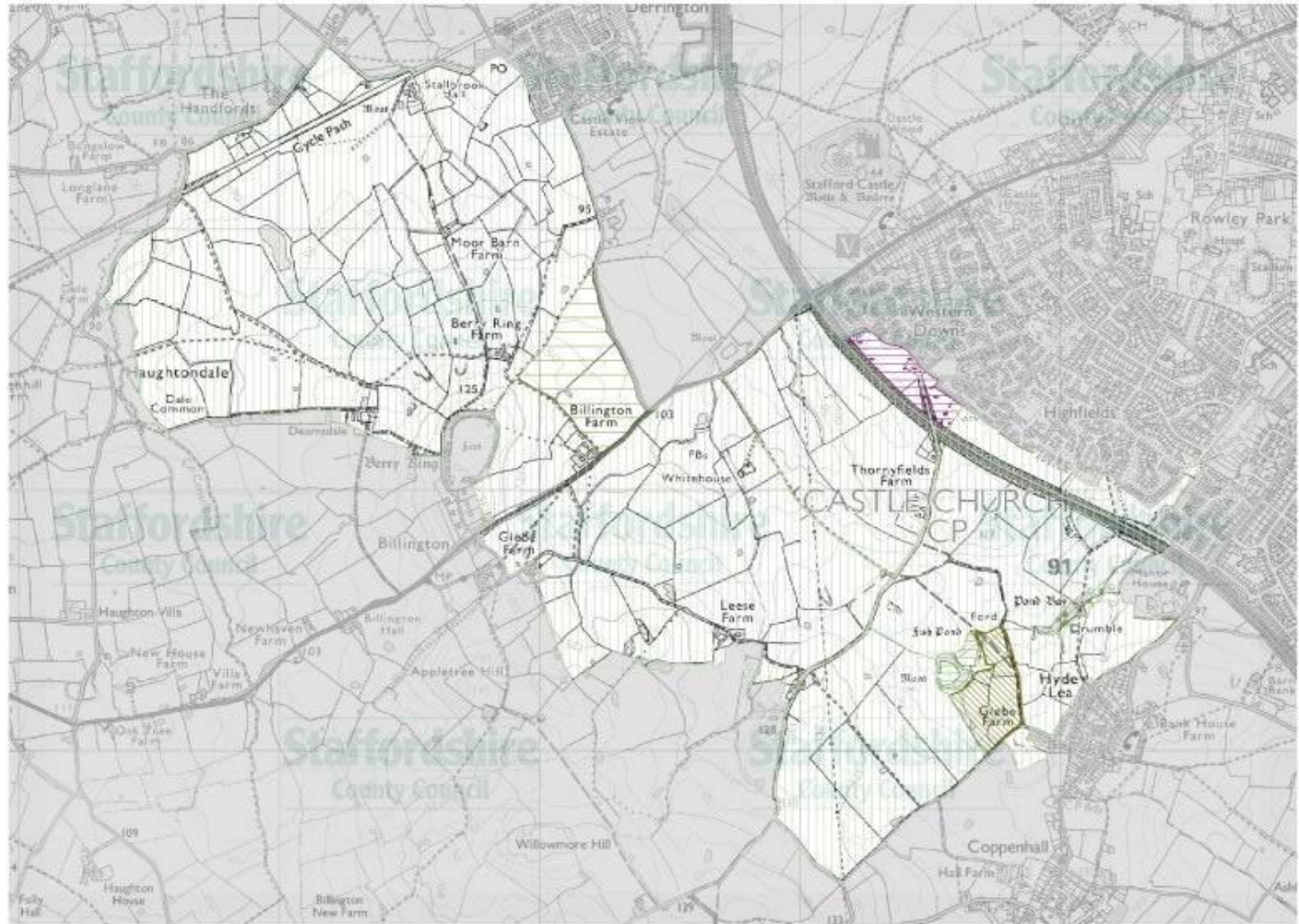


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Legend

-  18th/19th century semi planned field systems
-  Early Irregular Enclosure
-  Early small rectilinear fields
-  Other early woodlands
-  Other parkland
-  Post 1880s Re-organised fields

Map 3: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 14 - Derrington

Summary

The zone is dominated by 20th century housing development, although two Listed buildings of 17th century date also survive within the historic core of the settlement.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is unlikely to have a significant impact upon its historic character. However, plans for development would need to address:

- the impact upon the setting of the two Listed Buildings and the Scheduled Monuments in the wider landscape
- the impact upon the potential for surviving below-ground archaeological deposits although any mitigation requirements would be decided upon a case-by-case basis, particularly within the historic settlement core.

Early consultation with the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council, English Heritage and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (Map 1)

Two Grade II listed buildings lie within the zone, Blue Cross Farmhouse and Derrington Hall.

Three Scheduled monuments lie within 1.5km of the zone.

Archaeological Character (Map 2)

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

However, approximately 1.5km to the south west lies the Scheduled Berry Ring hillfort. The date of construction for the hillfort is not known but unstratified finds have been dated to the Iron Age. The presence of the hillfort suggests a centralised power base was present within the area from at least the late Bronze Age/Iron Age, which probably oversaw a dispersed settlement pattern across the landscape. The hillfort would have provided a cultural and economic focus and its influence may have extended across this zone.

A Roman farmstead has been identified from artefacts found during field walking and archaeological evaluation near Hall Farm on the eastern side of the M6⁶⁶. It is not currently known how densely settled the area may have been at this period, but the evidence suggests a degree of dispersed

⁶⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 04156

settlement perhaps exemplifying a degree of continuity in the landscape from the later prehistoric period.

Derrington is recorded in Domesday Book (1086) with three householders which suggests some settlement within the area by the later Saxon period. By the 13th century a chapel of ease appears to have been constructed⁶⁷.

Historic Landscape (Map 3)

By the later 19th century Derrington was still a small dispersed village and two 17th century properties survive, both Grade II listed, one of which had operated as a farm. The village had four farms; two of them have been converted for residential purposes as part of the later 20th century housing expansion which turned Derrington into a dormer village for Stafford. The surviving two farmsteads are unlikely to still be operating as farms, but some farm buildings probably survive.

The surviving field system has seen some field boundary loss since the late 19th century but its origins lie in the medieval period when it formed part of the arable open fields⁶⁸ belonging to the village. Ridge and furrow⁶⁹ earthworks which often represent the physical remains of the medieval ploughing system have been identified on aerial photographs within the zone. These open fields also extended across the area now occupied by 20th century housing.

The open fields were probably enclosed in the post medieval period as Piecemeal Enclosure. This was created through a means of informal, verbal agreements between farmers who wished to consolidate their holdings into a block rather than being scattered across two or more open fields.

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has seen considerable disturbance from development, but there are a few known historic environment assets (HEAs).	2
Potential	There is the potential for below ground archaeological remains to survive associated with the earlier origins of the settlement and possibly within the fields to the south and east associated with the site of a chapel of ease.	2
Documentation	HER data.	1
Diversity	There are a range of assets of different date	2

⁶⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00800 and PRN 04570

⁶⁸ Open Field: An area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. Usually without internal divisions (hedges, walls or fences). (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

⁶⁹ Ridge & furrow: Ridge & furrow: A series of long, raised ridges separated by ditches used to prepare the ground for arable cultivation. This was a technique, characteristic of the medieval period. (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

	and character including the surviving historic buildings.	
Group Association	The surviving historic buildings appear to be of a similar date.	2
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction. Current knowledge gives limited potential for the historic environment to play a significant role in creating a definable and promotable identity to the zone.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	Medium to large scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment although specific HEAs may suffer adverse effects particularly the impact upon the setting of the Listed Buildings and the outlying Scheduled Monuments.	1
Overall Score		11

Legend



- ▲ Listed buildings
- Scheduled monuments
- Registered battlefields
- Registered parks & gardens
- Conservation areas

Map 1: Designations



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Legend

-  Building or Structure
-  Monument



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Map 2: Known historic environment assets from the HER

SHECZ 15 – North of Beaconside

Summary

The origins of the historic landscape date to the medieval period when arable open fields dominated. A process of field boundary removal during the 20th century has impacted upon the historic landscape character although the overall legibility of it can still be discerned.

Also surviving within the zone is a small area of water meadow, which was probably developed during the 18th or 19th century. Hopton Farm was probably established as a new farm at a similar period and many of the historic farm buildings survive.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment assets (HEAs). However, should development be planned for the zone there would be a need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the historic farmsteads
- the impact upon the historic routes which survive as farm tracks and footpaths.
- the potential for structures to survive associated with the former water meadow

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

Designations

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

Archaeological Character (Map 1)

The overall character of the zone is likely to have been heavily wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances began to be made to support small scale farming activities. Environmental data from two sites, one in Stafford and the other at Blackheath Covert (in SHECZ 1), have revealed a landscape which had seen some significant tree clearance by the Bronze Age. The evidence from Stafford suggested that farming activities intensified throughout the Iron Age and into the early Roman period. However, little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the impact of human agency between the prehistoric and medieval periods is not well understood within the zone.

Historic Landscape (Map 2)

The origins of the historic landscape of the zone probably lie in the medieval period as an area of arable open fields⁷⁰. These field systems were worked by the inhabitants of settlements and it is possible that this zone was farmed from Hopton. However, as the land is located at a distance from the nearest settlement it may be that it was not in permanent production, but utilised at times of high population or when there was a need for high output. The landscape was probably enclosed during the post medieval period as Piecemeal Enclosure. This was achieved through a means of informal, verbal agreements between farmers who wished to consolidate their holdings into a block rather than being scattered across two or more open fields. The field system has been impacted by field boundary removal during the later 20th century, but a sense of the early enclosure pattern survives in its overall form as Re-organised Piecemeal Enclosure.

The origins of the two historic farmsteads within the zone are not clearly known. Kent's Barn Farm may have been established as a small holding by inhabitants who may have supplemented their income by working in industry. New Buildings Farm is a larger farm which probably developed incrementally although the name implies a single phase of construction.

The historic route ways across this zone survive as farm tracks and public footpaths. They were still clearly in use during the late 18th and early 19th century.

To the south west of the zone watermeadows were constructed along the Marston Brook probably in the later 18th/19th century which meant that the landowners could control the flooding of the land and ensure an early crop of hay enabling them to over-winter larger numbers of animals. Elements of the earthworks and structures may survive within the zone such as the sluices and drains.

In the late 19th century the Stafford to Uttoxeter railway was constructed which crosses the zone on a north-south alignment. It finally closed in 1951, but the line of it is still largely legible within the landscape.




Part of RAF Stafford was established to the south of the zone during the later 20th century, probably as an extension to the earlier complex (see SHECZ 2).

⁷⁰ Open Field: Open Field: An area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. Usually without internal divisions (hedges, walls or fences). (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has not seen any significant disturbance except through modern farming techniques, however, there are few known historic environment assets (HEA) although the elements of the watermeadows may survive.	2
Potential	The zone has not been significantly impacted and the current lack of knowledge may be due to lack of investigation in the zone. There is the potential for watermeadow structures to survive in the south west.	2
Documentation	HER data.	1
Diversity	There are few known HEAs except the watermeadows, historic farmsteads and the railway line	1
Group Association	There are few HEAs and it has yet to be determined whether there is any association between the known historic sites.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	The historic environment of the zone could accommodate medium to large scale change although specific HEAs may suffer adverse effects particularly upon the historic farmsteads, the legibility of the railway line and any surviving structures associated with the watermeadows.	1
Overall Score		9

Legend




-  Building or Structure
-  Monument
-  Watermeadows

Map 1 : Known historic environment assets from the HER

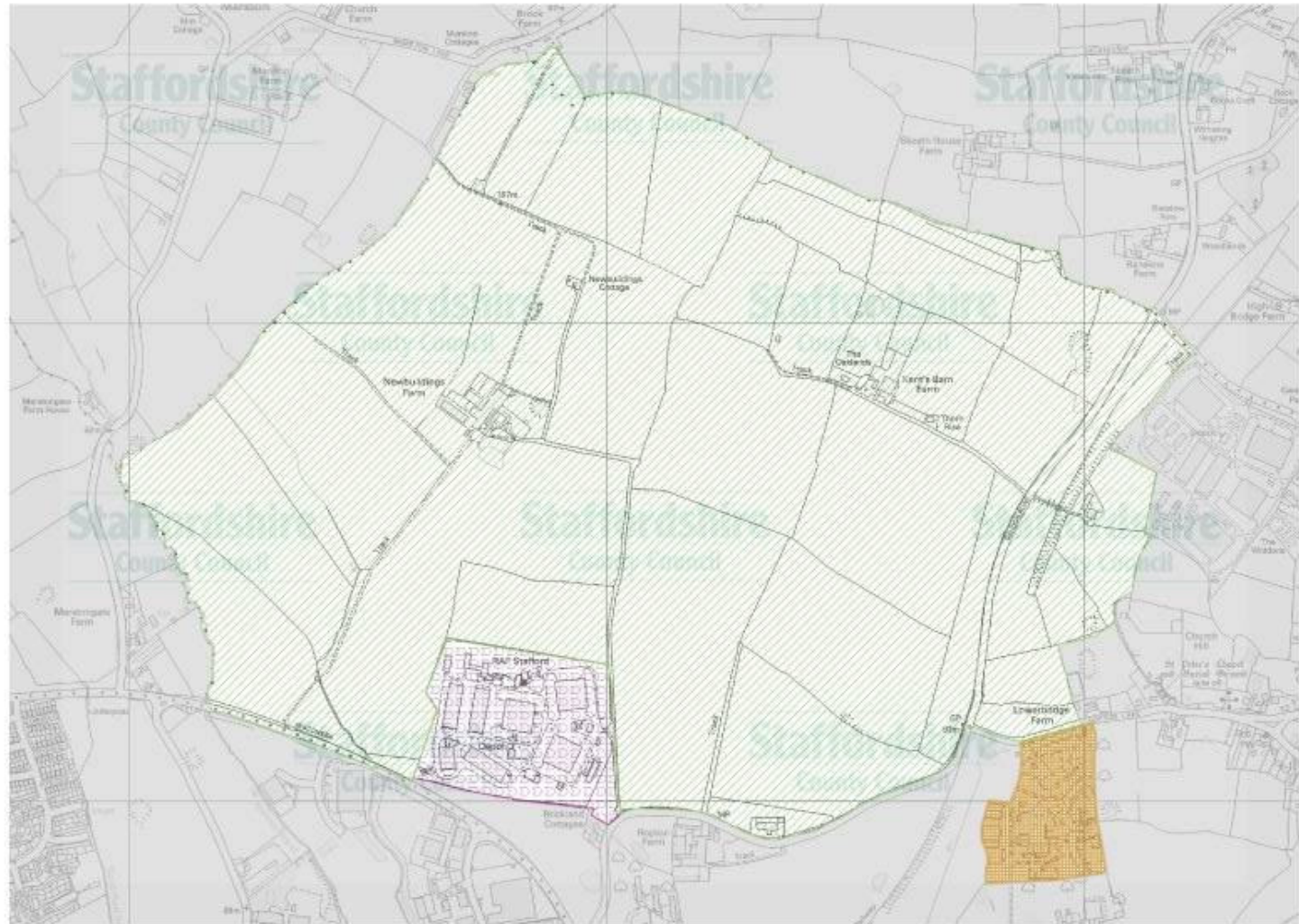


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Legend

-  Military
-  Post 1880s Settlement
-  Re-organised piecemeal enclosure

Map 3: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 16 – Stone Road

Summary

Surviving historic field patterns still dominate this zone, whose origins may be associated with a watermeadow of probable 18th or 19th century date and a farmstead which has since been demolished. To the east of the Stone Road a 21st century industrial estate has been developed.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment; however, should development be planned it would need to consider:

- The impact upon the listed milepost
- The impact upon the surviving historic field pattern and how this could be retained or reflected in the design.
- the potential for structures to survive associated with the former water meadow

Early consultation with the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (Map 1)

A Grade II listed milepost lies within the zone.

Archaeological Character (Map 2)

The overall character of the zone is likely to have been heavily wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances began to be made to support small scale farming activities. Environmental data from two sites, one in Stafford and the other at Blackheath Covert (in SHECZ 1), have revealed a landscape which had seen some significant tree clearance by the Bronze Age. A single Bronze Age axe⁷¹ has been discovered in the area of the zone, but this probably represents a casual loss rather than firm evidence of intensive human activity.

The evidence from Stafford suggested that farming activities intensified throughout the Iron Age into the early Roman period. However, little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the impact of human agency between the prehistoric and medieval periods is not well understood within the zone.

⁷¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 04948

Historic Landscape (Map 3)

Ridge and furrow⁷² earthworks have been identified on aerial photographs to the far south west and south east of the zone. These earthworks tend to be associated with medieval arable farming, usually in the form of large open fields⁷³. Often these open fields were enclosed by means of Piecemeal Enclosure whereby farmers made informal, verbal agreements so that they could consolidate their holdings into a block rather than being scattered across two or more open fields. Piecemeal Enclosure survives to some degree in the south western part of the zone, however, the dominant field pattern across the remainder of the zone is one of 'Early small rectilinear fields' which have been given an enclosure date of the post medieval period. It is possible that these fields were actually created at a later date, perhaps during the 18th century, but further research would be required to determine their origins. To the east of the Stone Road the Early small rectilinear field pattern survives with only a few field boundaries having been lost since the late 19th century. However, a small farmstead, which stood among these fields, was demolished during the second half of the 20th century. It had been regular in plan which may suggest an 18th or 19th century date and therefore was possibly associated with the enclosure of this landscape.

To the south east of the zone a watermeadow was developed along the Marston Brook probably in the later 18th/19th century. Elements of the earthworks and structures may survive within the zone such as the sluices and drains.

An industrial estate has been developed on the eastern side of the Stone Road during the 21st century.

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has seen some development, but fields still dominate the landscape.	2
Potential	There are few known historic environment assets (HEAs) within the zone, but much of the landscape has not been significantly disturbed thus increasing the potential for HEAs to survive.	2
Documentation	HER data.	1
Diversity	There are very few HEAs other than the area of watermeadow and the possible survival of some ridge & furrow.	1
Group Association	The origins of the watermeadows and the surviving historic field pattern may be	2

⁷² Ridge & furrow: Ridge & furrow: A series of long, raised ridges separated by ditches used to prepare the ground for arable cultivation. This was a technique, characteristic of the medieval period. (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

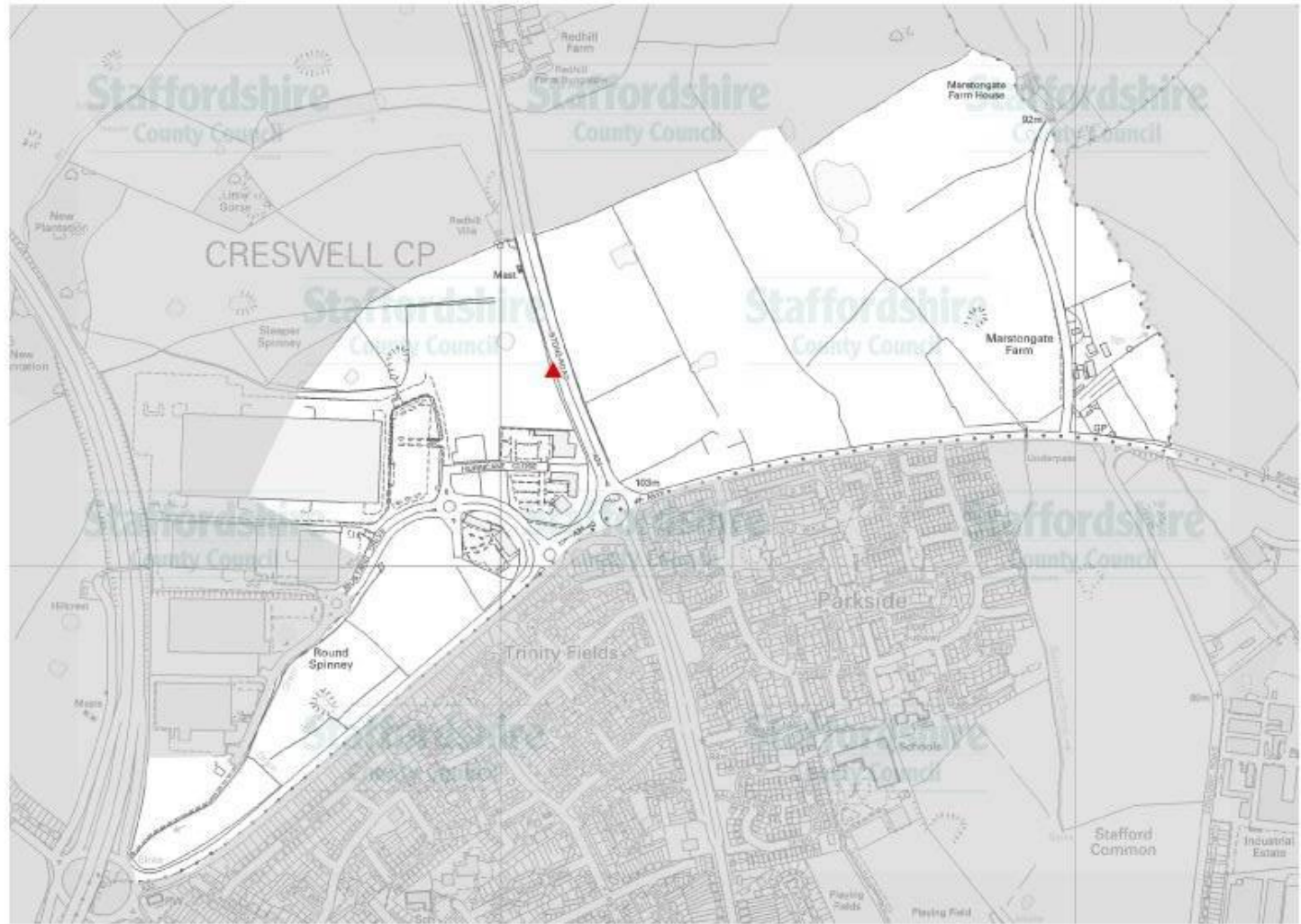
⁷³ Open Field: Open Field: An area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. Usually without internal divisions (hedges, walls or fences). (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

	associated.	
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	The historic environment could accommodate medium to large scale development although specific assets such as the surviving historic field pattern and potential watermeadow structures may suffer adverse impacts.	1
Overall Score		10

Legend




- ▲ Listed buildings
- Scheduled monuments
- Registered battlefields
- Registered parks & gardens
- Conservation areas

Map 1: Designations



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Legend




-  Building or Structure
-  Monument
-  Watermeadows

Map 2: Known historic environment assets from the HER

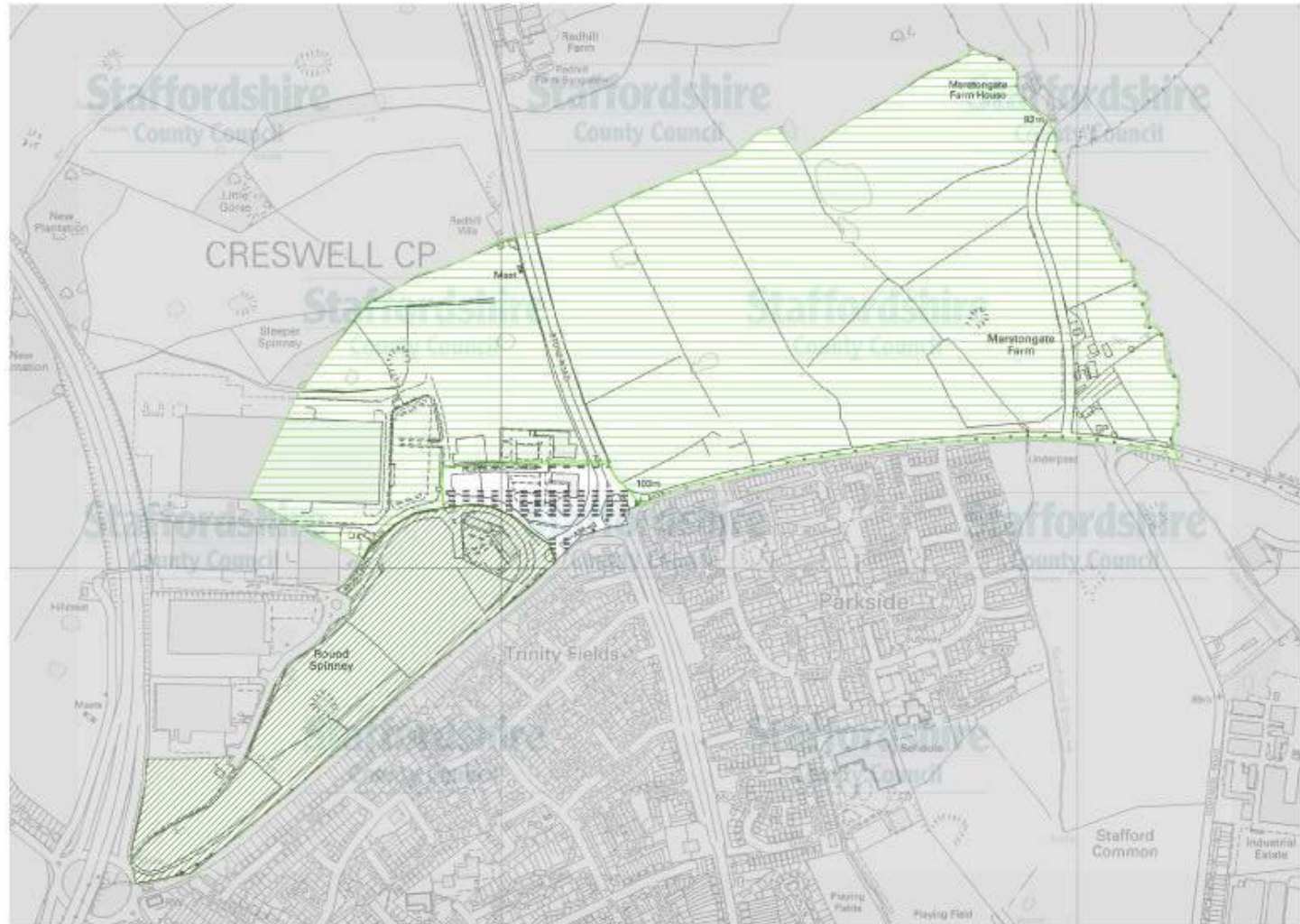


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Legend

-  Early small rectilinear fields
-  Industrial & Extractive
-  Piecemeal Enclosure

Map 3: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 17 - Marston

Summary

The zone is dominated by a historic field pattern of Piecemeal Enclosure which had its origins in the medieval period as arable open fields associated with the historic settlement of Marston. Earthworks survive which suggest that Marston is a shrunken settlement which now comprises dispersed cottages and a scattering of historic farmsteads, only one of which is located in the zone.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is likely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to consider:

- The impact upon the Listed building
- The impact upon the relationship of the settlement to the surviving field pattern and how development could be designed to retain the historic character of the dispersed settlement pattern.
- The impact and mitigation for the above and below ground archaeological remains, particularly those associated with the former extent of the settlement at Marston

Early consultation with the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (map 1)

A Listed church survives within the zone.

Archaeological Character (map 2)

The overall character of the zone is likely to have been heavily wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances began to be made to support small scale farming activities. Environmental data from two sites, one in Stafford and the other at Blackheath Covert (in SHECZ 1), have revealed a landscape which had seen some significant tree clearance by the Bronze Age.

The evidence from Stafford suggested that farming activities intensified throughout the Iron Age into the early Roman period. However, little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the impact of human agency between the prehistoric and Saxon periods is not well understood.

Evidence for human activity in the later Saxon period comes from Domesday Book (1086) where Marston was recorded as having land for 10 ploughs and seven people are recorded, five of which probably represented heads of

households. This evidence suggests there was settlement in the area and that arable agriculture was being practiced.

Historic Landscape (map 3)

There is archaeological evidence that the small dispersed settlement of Marston had once been larger. Earthworks indicating hollow ways and possible house platforms have been identified⁷⁴, however, the origins and cause of the settlement decline is not known. The surviving hamlet is made up of a scattering of farmsteads and cottages. The church in the hamlet dates to the late 18th/early 19th century and a 12th century font survives in the church yard.

Associated with the hamlet and the potential former extent of settlement are ridge and furrow earthworks⁷⁵, which are evidence that arable agriculture was being practiced within the zone by the medieval period. Arable agriculture in the medieval period was often carried out in long strips, visible in the surviving ridge and furrow earthworks, and which were located within open fields⁷⁶. The surviving historic field pattern retains the legibility of the medieval open fields in the form of reverse 'S' and dog-leg boundaries. The enclosure of this open landscape probably occurred during the post medieval period, possibly earlier, as Piecemeal Enclosure whereby farmers made informal, verbal agreements so that they could consolidate their individual strips into single blocks and surrounded them with hedges. The field pattern survives reasonably well although some field boundary loss has occurred during the second half of the 20th century.

One historic farmstead exists within the zone, Marston Farm⁷⁷, which is of a regular planned form and has been dated to the early 19th century. The primary farm buildings appear to have been primarily used for farming cattle.

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has seen little disturbance except from agricultural practices and in some areas earthworks survive probably associated with the former extent of settlement.	2
Potential	There is the potential for above and below ground remains to survive associated with the historic settlement of Marston.	3
Documentation	HER data & a building recording on Marston Farm	2

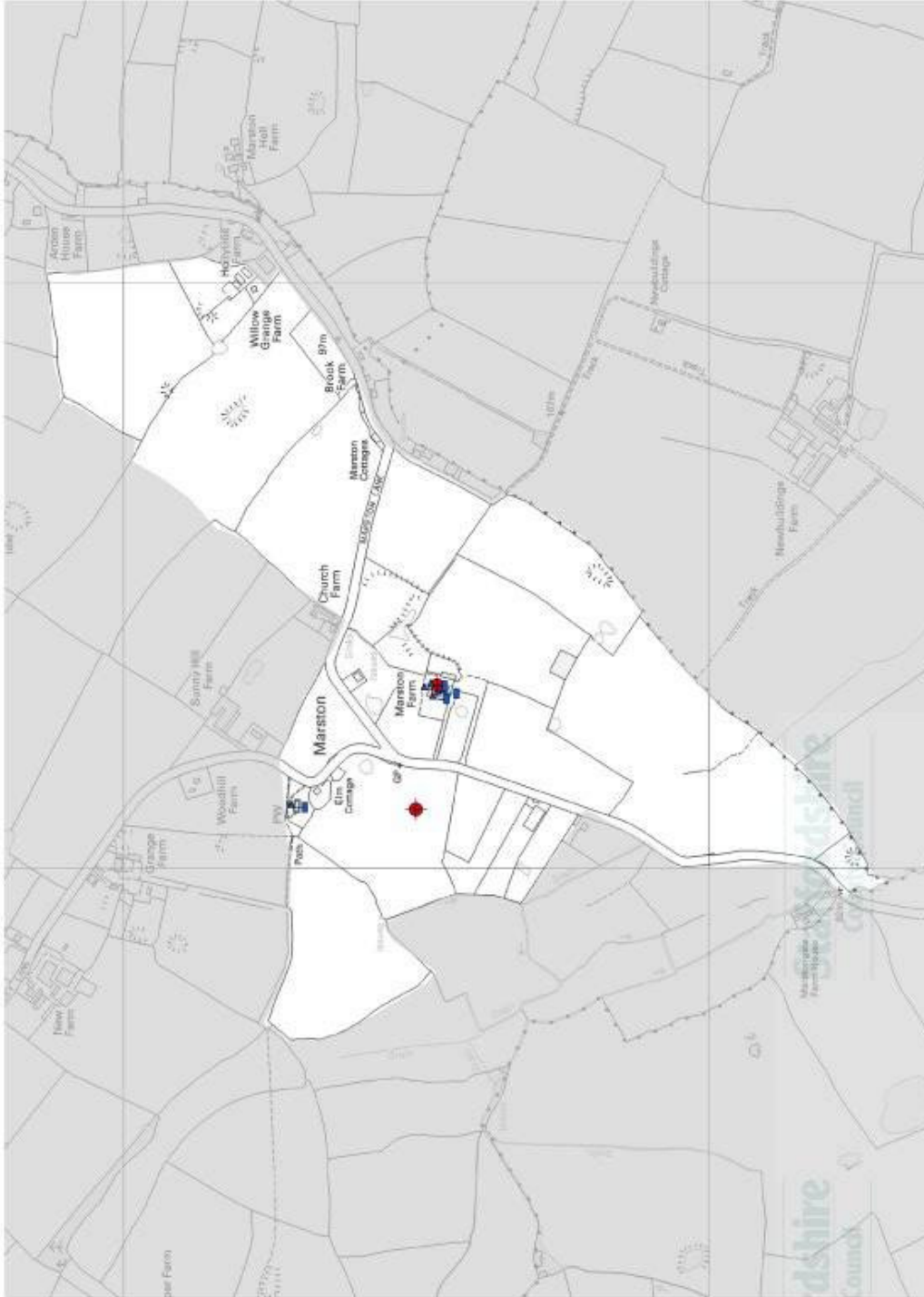
⁷⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 02504

⁷⁵ Ridge & furrow: Ridge & furrow: A series of long, raised ridges separated by ditches used to prepare the ground for arable cultivation. This was a technique, characteristic of the medieval period. (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

⁷⁶ Open Field: Open Field: An area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. Usually without internal divisions (hedges, walls or fences). (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

⁷⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 51131; PRN 51130; PRN 51129 and PRN 51105

Diversity	The historic environment assets (HEAs) within the zone mostly relate to the historic settlement.	2
Group Association	There are strong associations between the historic settlement and the surviving earthworks, particularly the ridge and furrow, and the surviving historic field pattern.	3
Amenity Value	The historic environment does define a sense of place and this could be further augmented through the interpretation of the development of the settlement and the surviving earthworks and field pattern.	3
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	The historic environment of the zone is highly sensitive to medium and large scale development, because of the level of survival of HEAs and the associated field pattern.	3
Overall Score		18




- Legend**
-  Building or Structure
 -  Monument

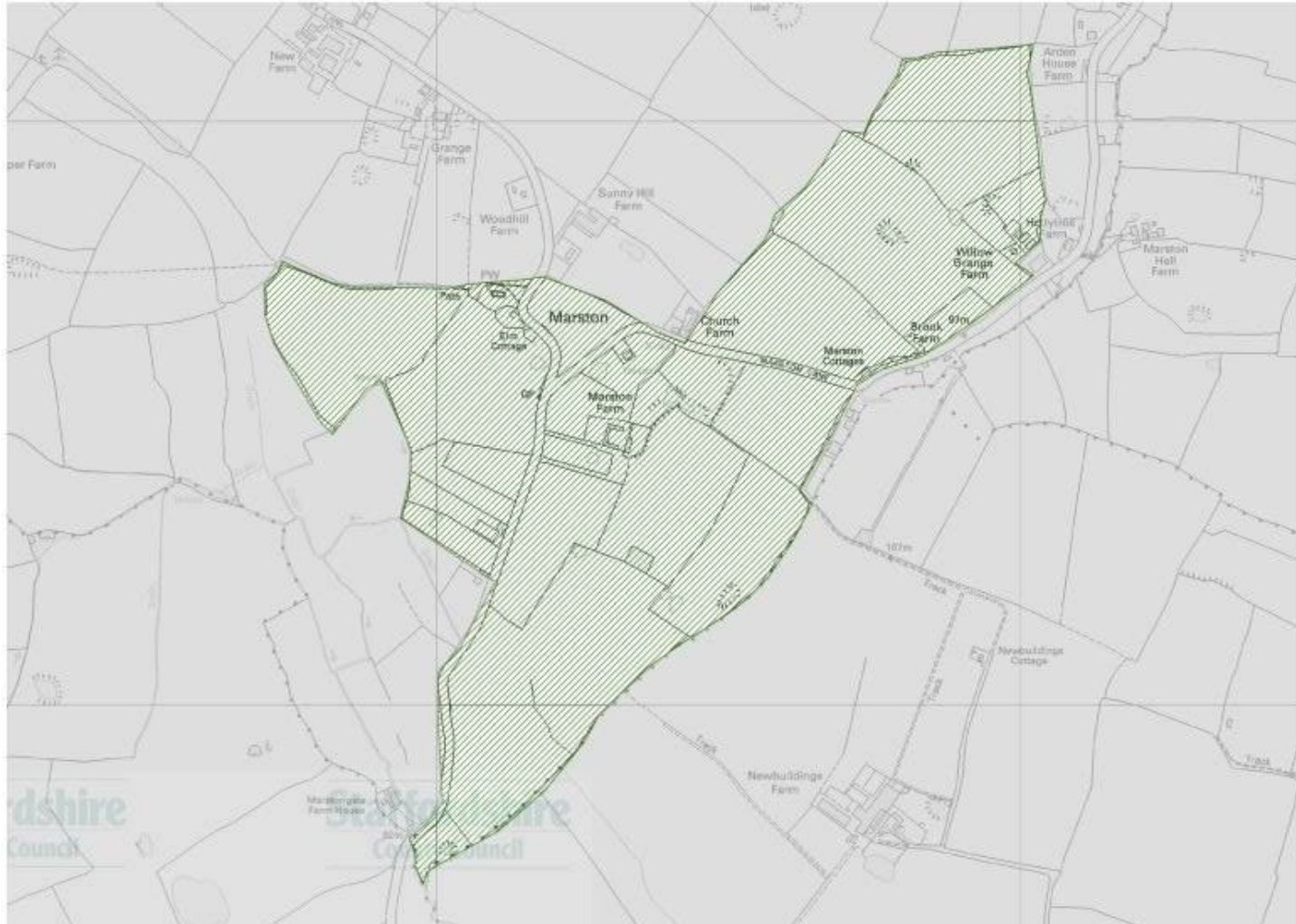
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Map 2: Known historic environment assets from the HER

Legend

 Piecemeal Enclosure

Map 3: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 18 – Marston Gate & the Marston Brook

Summary

The historic character of the landscape is one of a 19th century drained wetland where the drainage system survives. Watermeadows also form part of the landscape which are likely to date to a similar period.

Medium to large scale development is likely to have a moderate impact upon the historic environment of the zone. Should any development be planned within the zone it would need to consider:

- the potential for structures to survive associated with the former water meadow
- the potential for the survival of environmental remains within the waterlogged areas of the zone

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

Designations

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

Archaeological Character (Map 1)

The overall character of the zone is likely to have been heavily wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances began to be made to support small scale farming activities. Environmental data from two sites, one in Stafford and the other at Blackheath Covert (in SHECZ 1), have revealed a landscape which had seen some significant tree clearance by the Bronze Age. The evidence from Stafford suggested that farming activities intensified throughout the Iron Age into the early Roman period. However, little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the impact of human agency between the prehistoric and medieval periods is not well understood.

The formerly wetland nature of this zone may have enabled good preservation of environmental remains which could add to our understanding of the development of the wider landscape from the prehistoric period onwards.

Historic Landscape (Map 2)

The historic landscape is dominated by drained wetlands and drainage ditches are still marked on 21st century maps. The marshlands which surrounded the town of Stafford appear to have been drained around the mid 19th century and it is possible that the drainage along the Marston Brook may date to a similar period.




Watermeadows were constructed along the Marston Brook during the 18th/19th century which meant that the landowners could control the flooding of the land and ensure an early crop of hay enabling them to over-winter larger numbers of animals. The level of survival of the watermeadow features is not clear but some basic elements such as the head and main drains are likely to have survived.

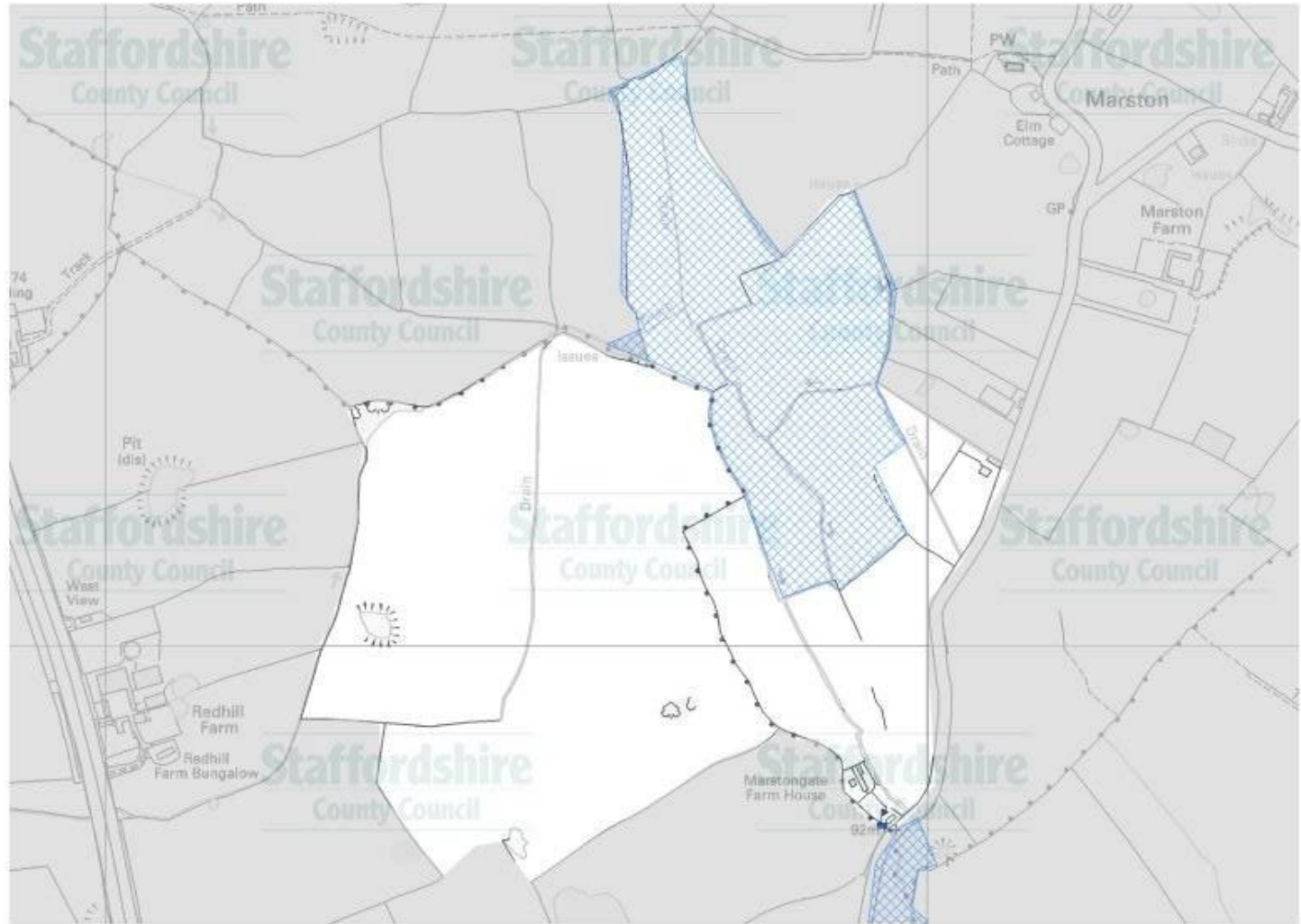
Marstongate Farm appears to have developed into a small farmstead in the early 20th century being formed from a pair of 19th century cottages.

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has seen little disturbance and there is the potential for the survival of watermeadow and drainage features to survive.	2
Potential	Other than the survival of the watermeadows there is the potential for important environmental evidence to survive in the zone relating to past use of the landscape.	3
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	There are very few known assets beyond the historic buildings and watermeadow/drainage features	1
Group Association	There is an association between the watermeadows and other drainage features within the zone. It is not known to what extent the former cottages relate to the drainage of the landscape.	2
Amenity Value	The historic environment could help to define a sense of place for the area and the watermeadows could be promoted if they survive in good condition.	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	Medium to large scale development is likely to have at least a moderate impact upon the historic environment in terms of the nature of this 19 th century drained landscape with the potential for the survival of watermeadow features.	2
Overall Score		13

Legend


-  Building or Structure
-  Monument
-  Watermeadows



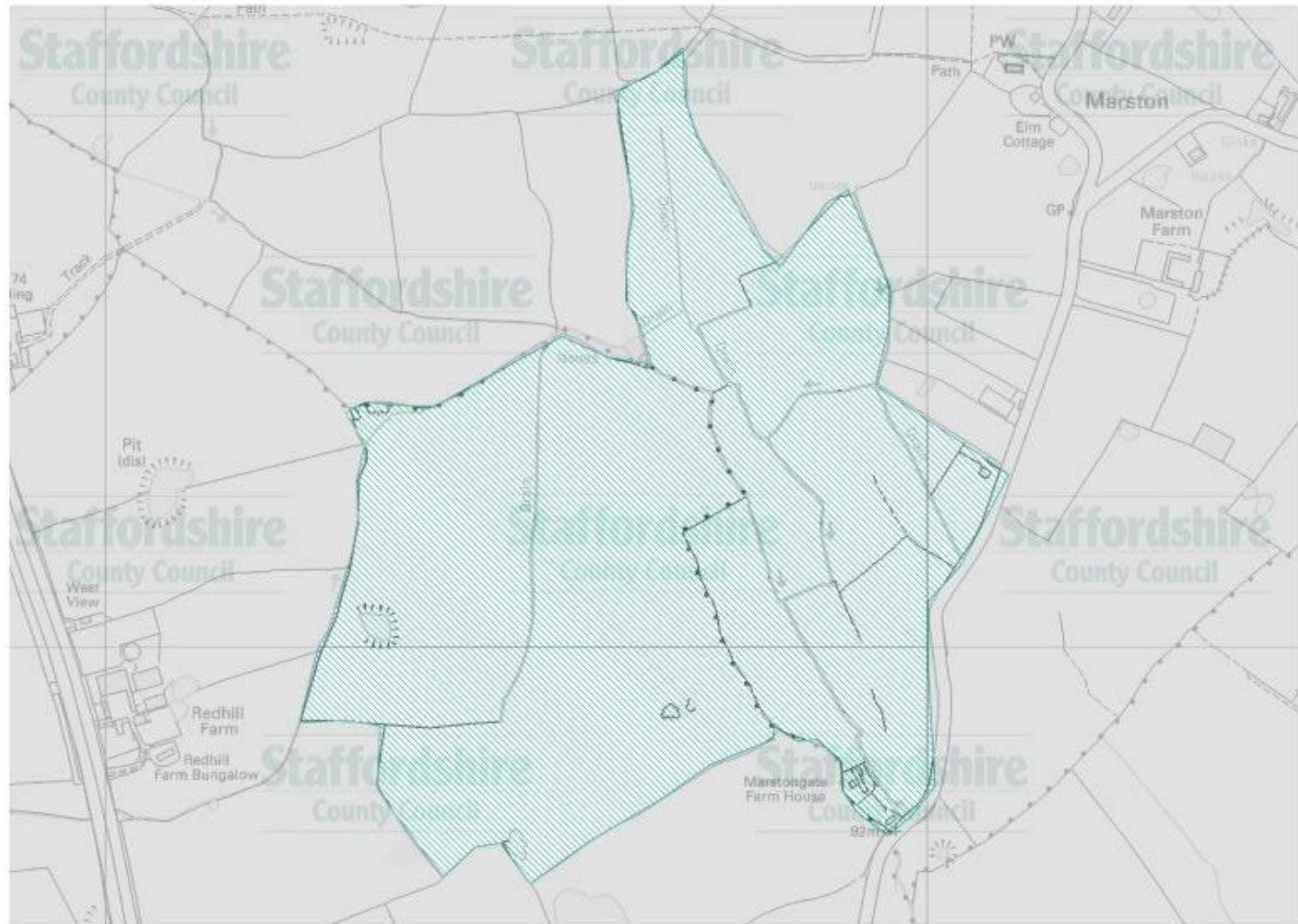
Map 1 : Known historic environment assets from the HER

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Legend

 Pre 1880s drained wetlands

Map 2: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 19 – North east of Cresswell

Summary

The origins of the historic landscape date to the medieval period when arable open fields⁷⁸ dominated and ridge and furrow earthworks⁷⁹ survive as evidence of this landuse. A process of field boundary removal during the 20th century has impacted upon the historic landscape character although the overall legibility of it can still be discerned.

Medium to large scale development is likely to have at least a moderate impact upon the historic environment. Should medium to large scale development be planned for the zone it would need to address the following:

- The impact upon the historic farmstead.
- The impact upon and mitigation strategies for any surviving above or below ground archaeological remains.

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

Designations

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

Archaeological Character (Map 1)

The overall character of the zone is likely to have been heavily wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances began to be made to support small scale farming activities. Environmental data from Stafford has revealed a landscape which had seen some significant tree clearance by the Bronze Age. This evidence also suggested that farming activities intensified throughout the Iron Age into the early Roman period. However, little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the impact of human agency between the prehistoric and medieval periods is not well understood.

Historic Landscape (Map 2)

The origins of the historic landscape of the zone probably lie in the medieval period as an area of arable open fields. These field systems were worked by the local people and it is possible that this zone was farmed from the deserted

⁷⁸ Open Field: Open Field: An area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. Usually without internal divisions (hedges, walls or fences). (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

⁷⁹ Ridge & furrow: Ridge & furrow: A series of long, raised ridges separated by ditches used to prepare the ground for arable cultivation. This was a technique, characteristic of the medieval period. (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)



medieval settlement of Cresswell (see SHECZ 4). Evidence for medieval ploughing has also been identified from aerial photographs in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks. The landscape was probably enclosed during the post medieval period as Piecemeal Enclosure. This was achieved through a means of informal, verbal agreements between farmers who wished to consolidate their holdings into a block rather than being scattered across two or more open fields. The field system has been impacted by field boundary removal during the later 20th century, but a sense of the early enclosure pattern survives in its overall form as Re-organised Piecemeal Enclosure.

Redhill Farm has been identified as a historic farmstead. It is a large farm which is of a regular courtyard plan characteristic of the fertile lowlands of Staffordshire. The regular courtyard farms appear to have been constructed in one phase and mostly date to the late 18th/19th centuries. The farm has expanded during the 20th century, but several historic farm buildings survive including the farmhouse.

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has not seen any significant disturbance except through modern farming techniques, however, there are few known historic environment assets (HEAs)	2
Potential	The zone has not been significantly impacted and the current lack of knowledge may be due to lack of investigation in the zone. There is the potential for the earthworks to survive.	2
Documentation	HER data.	1
Diversity	There are several HEAs of different character and date including the ridge and furrow earthworks and the historic farmstead.	2
Group Association	There is little evidence for group association between the HEAs of the zone.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	Medium to large scale development would have a moderate impact upon the historic environment particularly upon the surviving earthworks and the historic farmstead may suffer adverse affects.	2
Overall Score		11

Legend


-  Building or Structure
-  Monument

Map 1: Known historic environment assets from the HER



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Legend

 Re-organised piecemeal enclosure

Map 2: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 20 – Cresswell

Summary

The historic landscape character of the zone has been impacted by various 20th century developments including the housing along the A5013 and the construction of the M6 motorway and junction 14. However, the landscape park to the south of the A5013, associated with the remains Cresswell Hall and known as The Mount, is still legible to a degree particularly in the survival of Wilkes' Wood and the former stable block. The remains of watermeadows, probably associated with the establishment of the landscape park, survive to the south.

Medium to large scale development is likely to have at least a moderate impact upon the historic environment. Should development be planned for the zone it would need to address the following:

- The impact and mitigation strategies for the surviving watermeadow features
- The impact upon the surviving parkland features around the site of Cressell Park
- The potential for other unknown above and below ground archaeological remains

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

Designations

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

Archaeological Character (Map 1)

The overall character of the zone is likely to have been heavily wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances began to be made to support small scale farming activities. Environmental data from Stafford has revealed a landscape which had seen some significant tree clearance by the Bronze Age. This evidence also suggested that farming activities intensified throughout the Iron Age into the early Roman period. However, little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the impact of human agency between the prehistoric and medieval periods is not well understood within the zone.

Evidence for a human presence during the prehistoric period relates to the recovery of a Neolithic/Bronze Age stone axe⁸⁰ found in the area of Cresswell,

⁸⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRN 01651

which probably represents a casual loss rather than being evidence for occupation.

Historic Landscape (Map 2)

The historic landscape character of the zone has been impacted by several developments which date to the 20th century. The development of housing along the A5013 dates largely to the inter war period. The M6 motorway and the large roundabout forming junction 14 were constructed during the late 1950s/early 1960s and dominate the eastern side of the zone. As a result of this a large industrial site was built to the east of the M6 to take advantage of the link to the national road network.

The housing and the motorway were partly built upon a landscape park which had been established at Cresswell Hall. The hall was present by the late 18th century, being marked upon Yates' map of Staffordshire (1775), but it has since been demolished. Wilkes Wood is one of the few surviving features from the parkland landscape and it continues to form the backdrop to the surviving stables of Cresswell Hall which have been converted to residential use.

To the south of the zone, within the former landscape park, an area of watermeadow has been identified, which probably date to the 18th/19th century and may be closely associated with the ownership of Cresswell Hall. The construction of watermeadows meant that the landowners could control the flooding of the land and ensure an early crop of hay enabling them to over-winter larger numbers of animals. The watermeadows survive as earthworks in this area.




The field system on the opposite side of the A5013 has seen substantial field boundary removal during the second half of the 20th century. It had probably formed part of an open field system in the medieval period, possibly farmed by the inhabitants of the now the deserted settlement of Cresswell (see SHECZ 4). The landscape was probably enclosed during the post medieval period as Piecemeal Enclosure. This was achieved through a means of informal, verbal agreements between farmers who wished to consolidate their holdings into a block rather than being scattered across two or more open fields. A sense of the early enclosure pattern still survives within the landscape as Re-organised Piecemeal Enclosure.

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has seen some impact from development, but there are large areas which remain under pasture.	2
Potential	There is the potential for unknown historic environment assets (HEAs) to survive across the zone in the form of both above and below ground archaeology. There is good survival of earthworks associated with the former watermeadows.	2

Documentation	HER data.	1
Diversity	There are several HEAs of different character including the historic stable block, landscape features associated with the former landscape park and the earthworks of the watermeadows.	3
Group Association	There is probably an association between the former landscape park (some features of which survive); the remains of the hall and the establishment of the watermeadows.	2
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	Medium to large scale development is likely to have a moderate impact upon the historic environment, particularly to the south of the A5013 where surviving watermeadow earthworks and the legible remains of the former landscape park survive.	2
Overall Score		13

Legend

-  Building or Structure
-  Monument
-  Watermeadows

Map 1: Known historic environment assets from the HER



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Legend

-  Communications
-  Early Irregular Enclosure
-  Industrial & Extractive
-  Other early woodlands
-  Other parkland
-  Plantations
-  Post 1880s Re-organised fields
-  Post 1880s Settlement
-  Post 1880s small replanned field systems

Map 2: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 21 - Milford

Summary

Piecemeal enclosure dominates the zone along with the settlement of Milford which during the 20th century expanded and is now strung along the A34. The field pattern has been impacted by some field boundary removal, but the overall legibility of the historic character can still be discerned.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is unlikely to have a significant impact upon its historic character. However, plans for development would need to address:

- the impact upon the setting of the adjacent Listed Building and Conservation Areas.
- The impact upon the surviving historic field pattern and how this could be retained or reflected in any design.
- There is the potential for below and above ground archaeology to survive, but any mitigation requirements would be decided upon a case-by-case basis.

Early consultation with the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (Map 1)

Walton-on-the-Hill Conservation Area (059) lies adjacent to the zone as does the Listed Milford Hall (see SHECZ 22).

Archaeological Character (map 2)

Little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone to determine evidence of human activity between the prehistoric and early Saxon periods. Evidence for prehistoric activity relates to one flint implement found at Walton-on-the-Hill (see SHECZ 7), which probably represents a casual loss rather than being evidence for occupation.

Environmental evidence taken from a site in Stafford suggests that the landscape of the wider area was largely densely wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances began to increase to enable small scale farming. In the east of the county the Trent Valley has provided ample evidence for human activity from the Neolithic period onwards and it is likely that the Sow Valley was similarly attractive for settlement and ritual practices. The higher land above the river valley, represented by the landscape of this zone, could potentially have attracted settlement from an early date.

Historic Landscape (map 3)

The medieval landscape of the zone was probably dominated by arable open fields⁸¹, probably associated with settlement at Walton-on-the-Hill. The open fields were probably enclosed during the Post Medieval period as Piecemeal Enclosure. This was achieved through a means of informal, verbal agreements between farmers who wished to consolidate their holdings into a block rather than being scattered across two or more open fields. There has been some field boundary loss during the second half of the 20th century, but the overall legibility of the field pattern survives.

The origins of the settlement of Milford are not known, it appears to have been first recorded in 1570⁸². Only a few houses are recorded on the first edition 6" OS maps of the late 19th century.

One historic farmstead has been identified within the zone. Home Farm was probably constructed to serve Milford Hall (SHECZ 22) and survives with a regular courtyard plan. This plan-form generally dates to the late 18th/19th century.



Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has seen some development, but fields still dominate the landscape. There are few known historic environment assets (HEAs)	2
Potential	The zone is relatively undeveloped and there is therefore an increased potential for unknown HEAs to survive.	2
Documentation	HER data.	1
Diversity	There is a limited range of HEAs in the form of the field systems and the farmstead.	1
Group Association	There are few HEAs with no obvious association.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	The historic environment of the zone could accommodate medium to large scale development; although specific HEAs may suffer adverse effects particularly the surviving legibility of the historic field pattern.	1
Overall Score		9

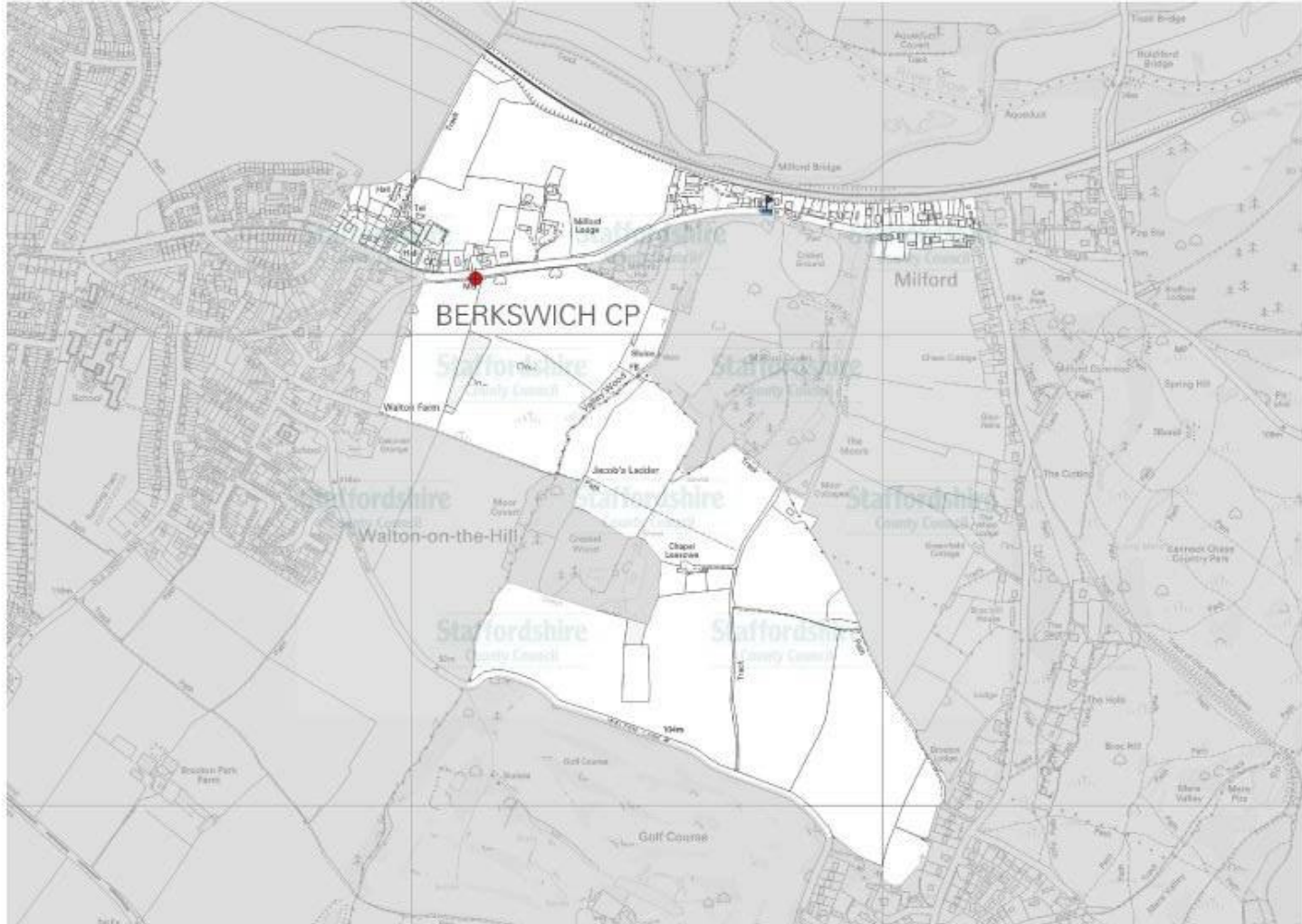
⁸¹ Open Field: An area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. Usually without internal divisions (hedges, walls or fences). (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

⁸² Horowitz 2005: 389

Legend

-  Building or Structure
-  Monument

Map 1 : Known historic environment assets from the HER



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SHECZ 22 – Milford Hall & landscape park

Summary

The zone is dominated by the 18th century Milford Hall, which is a listed building, and its associated landscape park. A cricket ground was established to the north of the zone during the 20th century.

Medium to large scale development within the zone may have a significant impact upon the historic character and the relationship between Milford Hall and its landscape park. Any plans for development would need to address:

- the impact upon the setting of the Listed Building
- The impact upon the surviving parkland features and their legibility in the landscape
- There is the potential for below and above ground archaeology to survive.

Early consultation with the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council and the Cultural Heritage Team at Staffordshire County Council is advised.

Designations (Map 1)

The Grade II Listed Milford Hall lies within the zone.

Archaeological Character (map 2)

Little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone to determine evidence for human activity between the prehistoric and early Saxon periods. A flint implement found at Walton-on-the-Hill (see SHECZ 7), probably represents a casual loss rather than being evidence for occupation.

Environmental evidence taken from a site in Stafford suggests that the landscape of the wider area was densely wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances began to increase to enable small scale farming. In the east of the county the Trent Valley has provided ample evidence for human activity from the Neolithic period onwards and it is likely that the Sow Valley was similarly attractive for settlement and ritual practices. The higher land above the river valley, represented by the landscape of this zone, could potentially have attracted settlement from an early date.

Historic Landscape (map 3)

Milford Hall lies to the west of the zone and dates to the 18th century. The landscape park⁸³ which survives around the Hall was probably established at a similar period. The surviving landscape features include the lake and

⁸³ Staffordshire HER: PRN 20738

woodland with the only 20th century insertion into the landscape being the cricket ground.

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone contains little disturbance and there is good survival of features pertaining to the historic landscape park.	3
Potential	There has been little disturbance and the current lack of knowledge is probably the result of lack of investigation.	2
Documentation	HER data.	1
Diversity	The HEAs are of a similar date, but include landscape features and the hall.	2
Group Association	There is clearly a strong association between Milford Hall and the landscape park.	3
Amenity Value	There is the potential for the historic environment in the form of the hall and country park to be promoted to help define a sense of place for local people and visitors.	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	The historic environment of the zone would be significantly impacted by development.	3
Overall Score		16

Legend

- ▲ Listed buildings
- Scheduled monuments
- Registered battlefields
- Registered parks & gardens
- Conservation areas



Map 1: Designations



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Map 2: Known historic environment assets from the HER





Legend

-  Building or Structure
-  Monument

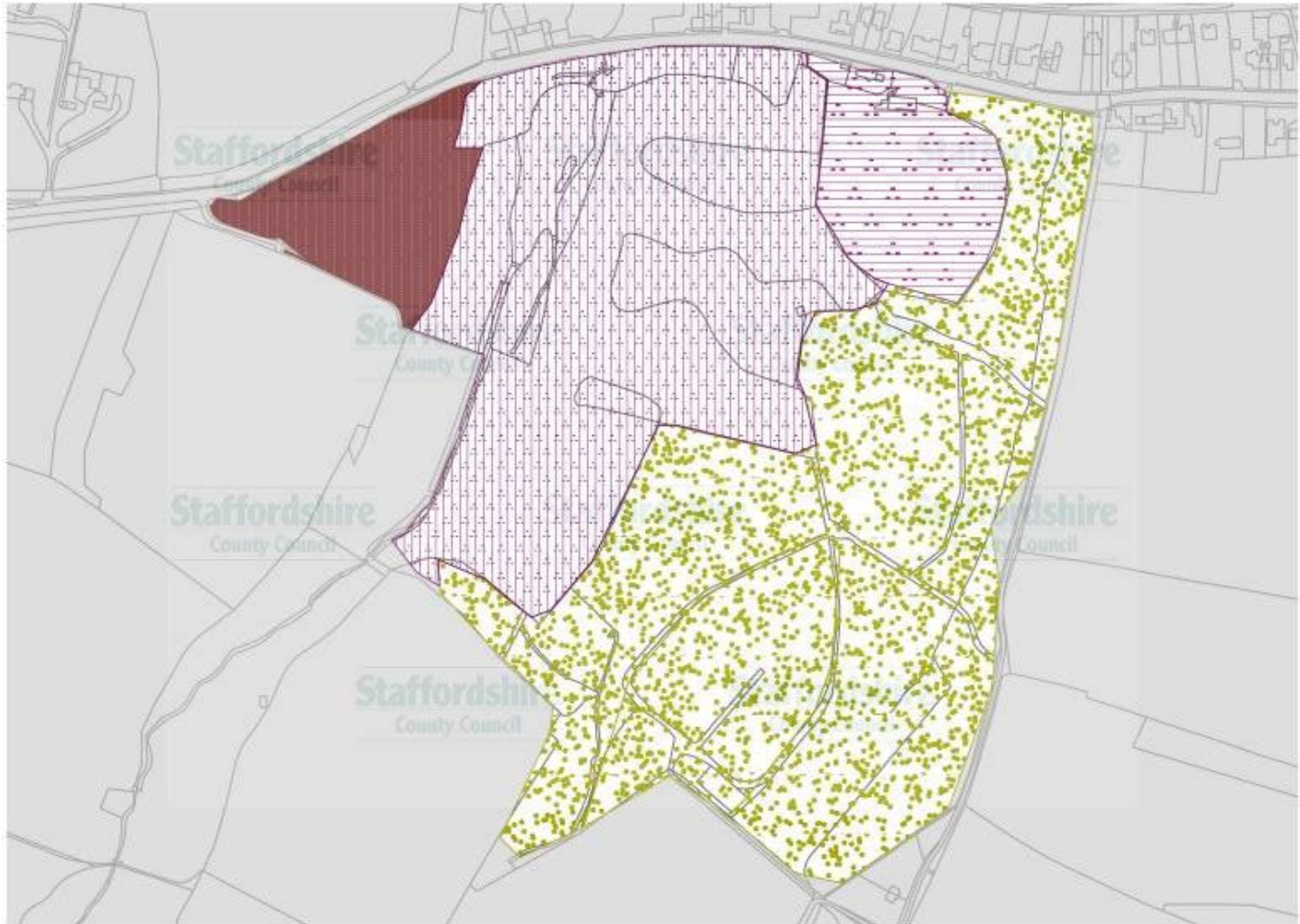


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Legend

-  Historic parks and gardens
-  Other Recent Woodlands
-  Other parkland
-  Pre 1880s Settlement

Map 3: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 23 – Acton Gate

Summary

The zone is dominated by later 20th century development, although one historic farmstead survives.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is unlikely to have an impact upon its historic character. However, plans for development would need to address:

- the impact upon the historic farmstead.
- the impact upon the potential for surviving below-ground archaeological deposits although any mitigation requirements would be decided upon a case-by-case basis, particularly within the historic settlement core.

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

Designations

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

Archaeological Character (Map 1)

Environmental evidence taken from a site in Stafford suggests that the landscape of the wider area was largely densely wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances began to increase to enable small scale farming. In the east of the county the Trent Valley has provided ample evidence for human activity from the Neolithic period onwards and it is possible that the Penk Valley, which lies to the west of this zone, was similarly attractive for settlement and ritual practices. The land rises out of the river valley towards the east and this could potentially have attracted human activity from an early date. Evidence for a human presence during the prehistoric period relates to a probable Bronze Age sandstone axehead⁸⁴ found at Acton Gate, which probably represents a casual loss rather than providing evidence for occupation.

In the wider area evidence for human activity dating from the Neolithic to the Roman period exists c.1km to the south, adjacent to Aston Trussell church⁸⁵. The earliest evidence relates to finds of Neolithic pottery but activity on this site culminated in a Roman villa which was still in use in the mid 4th century although the precise date of abandonment is not known. Evidence for settlement from the later Saxon period is suggested by Domesday Book and is associated with Acton Trussell.

⁸⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 05053

⁸⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 04003

Historic Landscape (Map 2)

The historic landscape of the zone is dominated by modern development which has been influenced by the construction of junction 13 of the M6 motorway from the 1960s onwards. The development comprises some housing, but is dominated by a large warehouse.

Ridge and furrow⁸⁶ earthworks had been identified on aerial photographs in the area where the warehouse was later constructed. This evidence suggests that arable open fields⁸⁷ were being worked within the zone during the medieval period.

A historic farmstead, Mount Pleasant, has been identified within the zone.

The pre-motorway road system survives as an earthwork to the rear of the late 20th century motel.



Historic Assets Summary Table

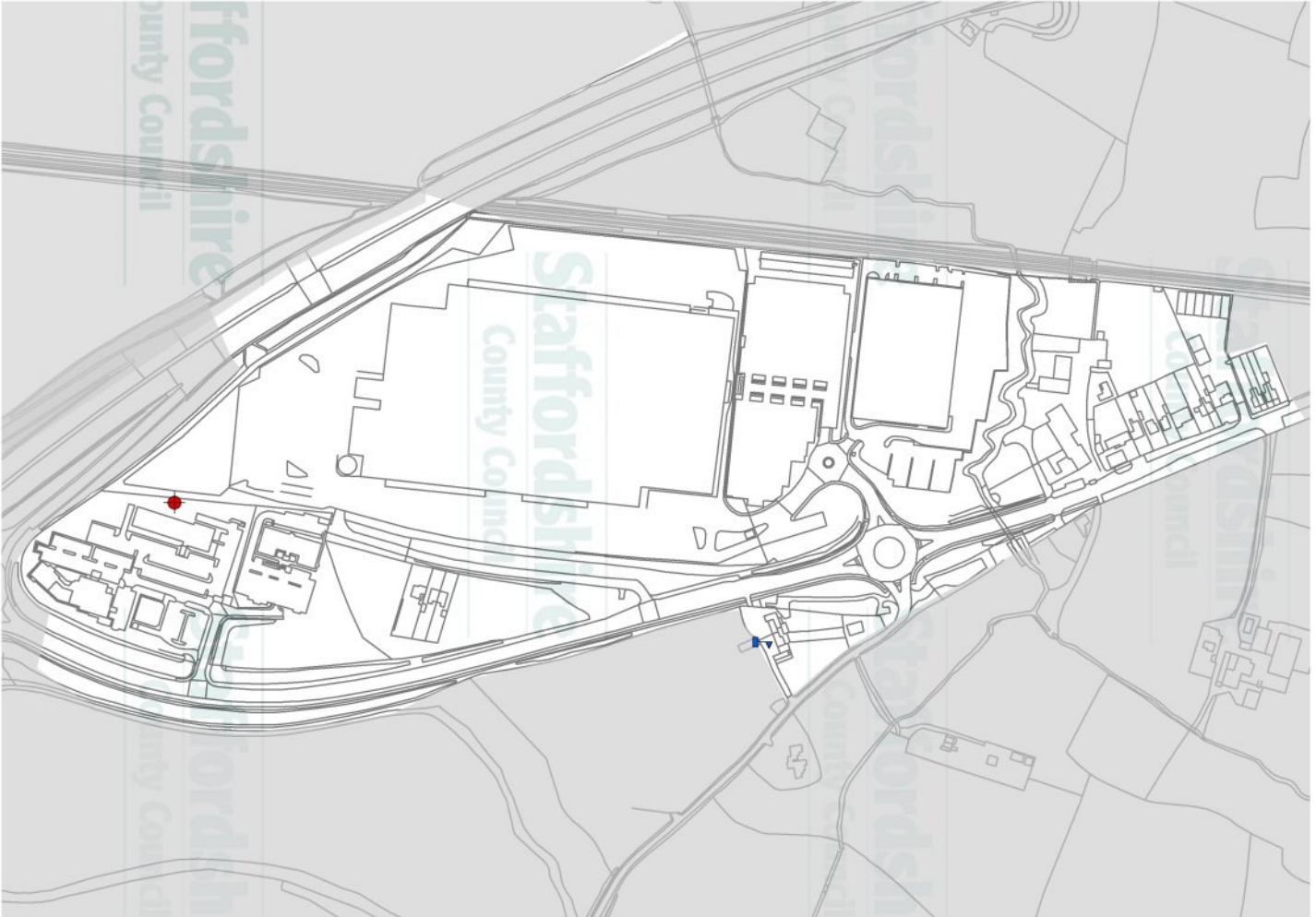
Survival	The zone has seen significant development during the later 20 th century.	1
Potential	The potential for unknown historic environment assets (HEAs) within the zone has been reduced by development.	1
Documentation	HER data.	1
Diversity	There are few known HEAs within the zone other than the historic farmstead and former road.	1
Group Association	The zone contains few HEAs and there is no discernible association between them.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	The historic environment of the zone could accommodate medium to large scale development; however, specific HEAs may suffer adverse affects particularly upon the historic farmstead.	1
Overall Score		7

⁸⁶ Ridge & furrow: Ridge & furrow: A series of long, raised ridges separated by ditches used to prepare the ground for arable cultivation. This was a technique, characteristic of the medieval period. (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

⁸⁷ Open Field: An area of arable land with common rights after harvest or while fallow. Usually without internal divisions (hedges, walls or fences). (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

Legend



-  Building or Structure
-  Monument



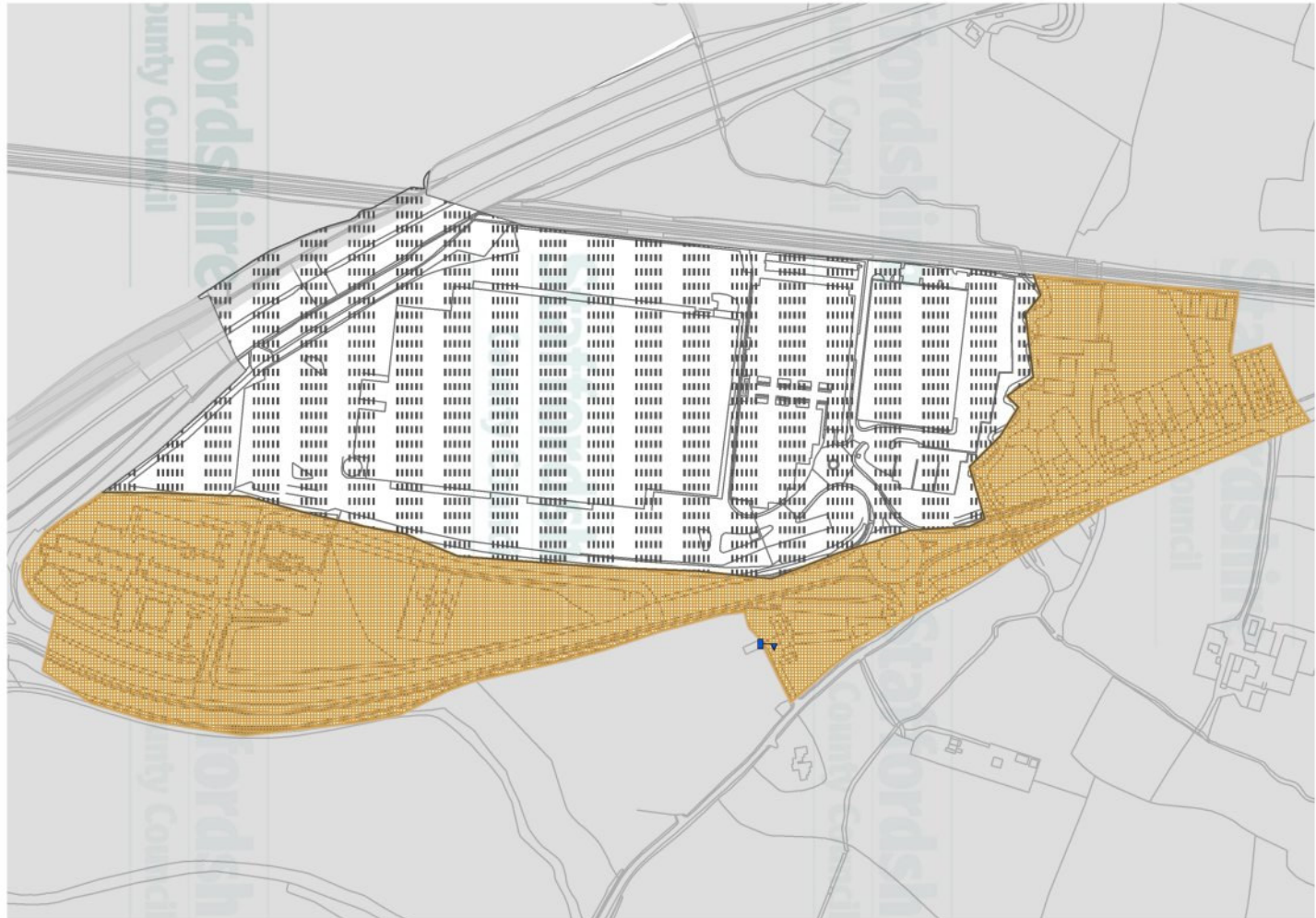
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Map 1 : Known historic environment assets from the HER

Legend

-  Industrial & Extractive
-  Post 1880s Settlement

Map 2: Refined HLC



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SHECZ 24 – South of Hopton

Summary

The zone is dominated by 18th/19th century field patterns and at least one of the two historic farmsteads may have been constructed as a result of this enclosure.

Medium to large scale development within the zone is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment assets (HEAs). However, should development be planned for the zone there would be a need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- The impact upon the adjacent Registered Battlefield
- the historic farm buildings and the surviving field pattern. Plans should show how this could be retained or reflected in any development
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive.

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

Designations

Hopton Registered Battlefield lies adjacent to the north east.

Archaeological Character (Map 1)

The overall character of the zone is likely to have been heavily wooded until the Bronze Age when clearances began to be made to support small scale farming activities. Environmental data from two sites, one in Stafford and the other at Blackheath Covert (in SHECZ 1), have revealed a landscape which had seen some significant tree clearance by the Bronze Age. The evidence from Stafford suggested that farming activities intensified throughout the Iron Age into the early Roman period. However, little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the impact of human agency between the prehistoric and medieval periods is not well understood.

Historic Landscape (Map 2)

The zone is dominated by Planned Enclosure which was created in the 18th/19th century by a surveyor using straight field boundaries resulting in field systems and roads with strong geometric patterns. These field systems were often created once the landowner had been granted a private Act of Parliament to enclose, but this does not appear to have been the case in this instance. The strong geometric pattern survives particularly in the eastern half of the zone.

Beacon Hill, topped by a plantation is the high point of the zone and the name implies that a beacon had been placed here in previous centuries.

Two historic farmsteads have been identified within the zone both of them being large farms. Brickhouse Farm reveals dispersed characteristics which may have developed incrementally over a period of time whereas the planned courtyard character of Beacon Farm suggests that it was built in a single phase. The latter may have been planned at a similar period as the Planned Enclosure, whereas the dispersed Brickhouse Farm may have existed earlier meaning that the Planned Enclosure in this area may in part represent a re-planning of a landscape that had been originally enclosed at an earlier date.

Beacon Farm in particular has seen considerable change during the 20th century with few historic farm buildings surviving. A greater number of historic farm buildings survive at Brickhouse Farm but have been converted to domestic dwellings.

Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has seen moderate disturbance from modern agricultural practices, but few known historic environment assets (HEAs) are known.	2
Potential	The lack of disturbance within the zone raises the potential for unknown HEAs to be present.	2
Documentation	HER data.	1
Diversity	There are few known HEAs other than the historic farmsteads and the field pattern.	1
Group Association	There is the potential for strong associations between the origins of the field system and Beacon Farm in particular.	2
Amenity Value	The zone does not lend itself to display or visitor attraction.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure for SBC)	The historic environment could accommodate medium to large scale development; however specific HEAs may suffer adverse effects particularly the well surviving historic field pattern.	1
Overall Score		10

