

Appendix 2: Historic Environment Character Area Overviews for the Haywoods

This appendix provides an overview of the historic environment for each of the Historic Environment Character Areas (HECAs) that fall within the Haywoods project.

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
July 2009

Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) 13g

Introduction

This document forms an overview of the HECA which specifically addresses the potential impact of medium to large scale development upon the historic environment.

There are areas of surviving post medieval field systems, which were created out of the earlier medieval open fields that were worked by the local inhabitants within the HECA. The arable nature of the medieval landscape is associated with the villages of Great Haywood, Little Haywood, Colwich and Colton. Other smaller settlements were also established, including those which have since either shrunk, as at Moreton, or been removed from the landscape, as the village at Shugborough was in the 17th and 18th centuries. Historic farmsteads are also scattered across the landscape, although several survive within the villages and hamlets.

The landscape to the west of the HECA is dominated by the well preserved landscape park at Shugborough, which is designated as a Grade I Registered Park and Garden.

The character area covers 3,405 ha straddles Stafford Borough (1,207ha), Lichfield District (1,892ha) and East Staffordshire District (306ha).

Archaeological and Historic Documentation

Archaeological work has tended to concentrate in the Trent Valley, where the historic settlements are located. Several surveys and archaeological interventions have been carried out within Shugborough landscape park. On the whole there has currently been little in the way of historic or archaeological work carried out across the HECA as a whole.

Historic Environment Assets Summary

The HECA lies just to the north of the Trent Valley. One of the Trent tributaries, the Moreton Brook flows approximately north south through the western part of the HECA passing to the west of Colton.

There remains the potential for palaeolithic sites to survive upon the gravel terraces of the principal river valleys throughout the study area. Important evidence could include environmental material such as faunal remains, material culture such as flint tools and potentially even working sites. These will subsequently have been masked by the deposition of alluvium and colluvium. Often only the activities of extraction industries will extend deep enough to expose such material as in the case of the woolly rhinoceros found in gravel deposits at Whitemoor Hays Quarry in 2002. However, there does remain the potential for archaeologically significant remains associated with this period to be present relatively close to the surface largely as small unstratified finds. Where deeper excavations are required as part of the

development process within the river valleys account must be taken of the potential to encounter Palaeolithic remains.

Within the Trent and Tame River valleys in Staffordshire there is substantial evidence for human activity from at least the Neolithic period. It is likely therefore that the landscape of the eastern Staffordshire valleys is one which had been largely cleared of woodland by the Bronze Age. Several monuments within the HECA may date to the Bronze Age. These include the remains of potential Bronze Age barrows, which are visible on aerial photographs in the Trent Valley as a ring ditches¹. At least four have been identified within Shugborough Park and another lies to the north east of Bishton². A Scheduled circular earthwork also lies to the east of Bishton Hall which has also been interpreted as a Bronze Age barrow³. There are four possible Bronze Age burnt mounds located on the Moreton Brook near Lount Farm⁴. These indicate some form of activity possibly associated with settlement although their specific function is at present a matter of debate. Two pit alignments⁵ have also been identified on aerial photographs to the south east of Colwich, and another has been identified in Shugborough Park⁶. These monuments have been dated to the Iron Age/Roman period and are considered to represent property boundaries. Two rectilinear enclosures have also been identified on aerial photographs, one in Shugborough Park and the other near Tolldish. Neither of these features has been closely dated, although they may represent Prehistoric or Roman activity⁷.

To the north and far east of the HECA the land rises up and there are currently no pre-medieval sites known. The presence of farmsteads with the name 'wood' and 'hurst' to the east of Colwich may suggest that during the earlier medieval period this landscape was wooded. It is possible that woodland had dominated the landscape in this area during the prehistoric and later periods and that any early occupation in this area was small in scale and probably based upon a pastoral economy.

There is little recorded evidence for either Roman or Anglo-Saxon activity within the HECA. The paucity of Anglo-Saxon evidence may be as a result of this being a largely aceramic society relying upon organic-based products rather than an absence of activity in this area. However, three abraded

¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 04610. Ring ditch: Circular or near circular ditches, usually seen as cropmarks. Ring ditches may be the remains of ploughed out round barrows, round houses, or of modern features such as searchlight emplacements. (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009).

² Staffordshire HER: PRN 04075, PRN 04612 and PRN 04604

³ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00205; English Heritage SM no. 219

⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRNs 05007, 05008, 05009 and 05010 Burnt mound: A mound of fire-cracked stones, normally accompanied by a trough or pit which may have been lined with wood, stone or clay. Assumed to be locations where heated stones were used to boil water primarily for cooking purposes. (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009).

⁵ Pit alignment: A single line, or pair of roughly parallel lines, of pits set at intervals along a common axis or series of axes. The pits are not thought to have held posts. (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009).

⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 04607 and PRN 04612

⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 04612 and PRN 04617

Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds, from a jar or bowl, were discovered during a watching brief approximately 1km south east of Colton⁸. A c. 600AD loom weight was recovered from the River Trent, near Wolseley Bridge⁹. These finds suggest a presence in the early medieval period, but cannot provide any further information regarding human activity in the HECA at this date.

Evidence for late Saxon activity in the HECA is drawn from Domesday Book (1086) where six settlements are recorded; Bishton, Coley, Colton, Great Haywood, Moreton and Wolseley. Colton and Great Haywood appear to head the hierarchy of places having the largest areas of arable and at least 14 heads of household each. Both settlements are also recorded as having a mill, meadow and woodland at this time. A market was granted to Great Haywood in 1251, which would have made it an economic centre for the surrounding area during the medieval period. Evidence for late 13th century domestic activity has been identified during an archaeological watching brief in the village. The site was re-developed in the early 15th century with a cruck built house, the property was demolished in 2001¹⁰.

All of the settlements were recorded with ploughlands and meadow, which suggests a mixed economy across the landscape, although perhaps biased towards arable agriculture. By the later medieval period arable open fields¹¹ dominated the character area, particularly to the north of Great and Little Haywood and also to the north and north east of Colton. The open fields formed a pattern of arable agriculture, where two or more large un-hedged fields were divided into strips held by the local people. This was a system whereby everyone held at least one strip in each of the fields. The open fields were enclosed across Staffordshire from the late medieval period continuing into the late 18th century. It was carried out through a means of informal, verbal agreements between farmers who wished to consolidate their scattered holdings. The resulting piecemeal enclosure is identifiable in the landscape through hedge lines which reflect the route of the medieval plough creating either reverse 'S' shape or dog-leg boundaries. Piecemeal enclosure survives between the settlements of Great and Little Haywood, but also around Coley, Swansmoor and New Buildings Farm in the west of the HECA. To the east large areas survive to the north of Colton and around Newlands.

Settlement at Newlands is currently represented by two farmsteads one of which appears to have 16th century origins. However, the place first appears in documentary sources in the early 14th century and it is likely that the field system was created through assartment¹² prior to this date. The current landscape is dominated by piecemeal enclosure which was again most likely to have been enclosed during the post medieval period. It is likely that

⁸ Staffordshire HER: PRN 05071

⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 02046

¹⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRN 52177; Cruck house: A house in which a pair of curved timbers form a bowed A-frame which supports the roof independently of the walls. (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage © 2009)

¹¹ 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)

¹² Assartment: the creation of agricultural land through the clearance of woodland

Swansmoor has similar origins. It is first mentioned in the mid 15th century and also appears to be associated with former open fields, now surviving as piecemeal enclosure.

Two settlements first mentioned in the 12th century Blithbury and Colwich are also associated with former open fields which survive as piecemeal enclosure. A Scheduled moated site also survives in Colwich, which was probably the location of the manor house during the medieval period¹³. A further moated manor house existed at Wolseley by the 12th/13th century. In the 15th century it was granted a licence to crenellate, a sign of high status which allowed the owner to fortify the property. An archaeological excavation uncovered a thick stone curtain wall which had been constructed within the moat and may date to this period.¹⁴.

The extant Shugborough Hall is believed to lie upon the site of a manor house, also surrounded by a moat, which had belonged to the Bishop's of Lichfield during the medieval period¹⁵. Shugborough is first recorded in documentary sources in the late 13th century and a village had probably become established by at least the 14th century¹⁶. It was removed from the landscape during the 18th century to make way for the landscape park (see below).

The settlement at Moreton, recorded in Domesday Book, was recorded as having been 'lost' by William Chetwynd in 1679¹⁷. However, five historic farmsteads incorporating the name Moreton, survive which suggests that the settlement is more likely to have shrunk rather than been deserted.

There are 50 surviving historic farmsteads across the character area; a further nine were lost during the course of the 20th century. The greatest numbers of these farmsteads are of a regular courtyard plan, which has been recognised nationally as dating from the late 18th century¹⁸. The regular courtyard plan is the most common form in Staffordshire and is spread widely across the landscape. These forms appear to represent a deliberate development aimed at improving agricultural productivity by wealthy landowners at this period. The majority of these farms are scattered across the landscape, only 18% are located in villages or hamlets. It is currently not known to what degree these farmsteads were constructed as new farms in the landscape or to what extent they may represent the wholesale re-planning of earlier farmsteads. This may certainly be true of those regular courtyard farms which are associated with earlier farm buildings or farmhouses. Within the HECA two of these farm plans are associated with farmhouses of 16th and 17th century origins, although in both cases they were altered at a later date¹⁹. The 17th century Bellamour Old Hall was partially demolished in the 1960s.

¹³ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00871; English Heritage SM no. 21502

¹⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00866

¹⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00862

¹⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 01649; Manpower Services Commission nd.: 25-29

¹⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 01650

¹⁸ Lake 2009: 19

¹⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 09520 and 09524

Three farmsteads are associated with 19th century listed buildings including White Barn Farm and Park Farm, both of which were built c. 1806 for the Anson family whose seat was at Shugborough²⁰. The Anson family were famed for their dedication to agricultural improvement during the late 18th and early 19th century.

The remaining historic farmsteads are mostly associated with smaller farmers. Loose-courtyard plans (20%) and dispersed farmstead plans (3%) probably developed incrementally. There are also five surviving linear farmsteads, none of which have been closely dated. It is possible that both linear and loose courtyard plans had their origins in the medieval period, but further work would be required to establish the origins of those within the character area.

Five of the regular courtyard plan farmsteads are associated with field systems which have their origins in the 18th/19th century as planned enclosure. This includes the Grade II Listed Lea Hall Farm which was built in the early 19th century²¹. Planned enclosure is identifiable by the straight field boundaries which create a geometric pattern in the landscape. This occurred because they were carefully laid out by surveyors. Areas of surviving planned enclosure are located to the north and south west of Colton.

Other landscapes of 18th/19th century origin include the three historic parks and gardens, all of which lie adjacent to the River Trent. The largest of these is Shugborough, which forms a Grade I Registered parkland and a Conservation Area. Within the parkland there are 19 Listed Buildings, including six Grade I and five Grade II*. The estate was bought by the Anson family in the 17th century and work on the parkland is known to have begun by the 1690s. The plans for enhancing the landscape around the Grade I Listed Shugborough Hall²² included the demolition of the village, which had been located to the east of the hall. The improvements continued into the 18th century and included the construction of the Chinese House, Triumphal Arch, the Orangery and the Tower of the Four Winds which are to be found across the parkland.

The other two historic parklands, which do not appear on the English Heritage register, are much smaller in extent and lie opposite one another across the River Trent. To the north lies Bishton Hall Park, this was probably laid out after the hall was built in 1760²³. To the south lies Wolseley Hall Park. The medieval hall was substantially rebuilt in 1820 and was demolished in 1967²⁴.

To the south west of Colton stood Bellamour Hall and Landscape Park, which was present here by the late 18th century, although the Listed remains of the hall date from the 17th century. Much of the hall was demolished in the 1960s and the parkland is currently farmed as arable with only the ornamental lake surviving²⁵.

²⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRNs 12801, 12802, 08035, 08036 and 0837

²¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 09516

²² Staffordshire HER: PRN 08016

²³ Staffordshire HER: PRN 20776

²⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00865

²⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 09524 and PRN 40288

Further evidence for 18th/19th century agricultural improvements is present within the character areas in the form of watermeadows, which line the River Trent and the Moreton Brook. 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 grass and subsequent multiple crops for fodder. This enabled them to over-winter larger numbers of animals. There are particularly well preserved watermeadows along the River Trent to the south of Little Haywood and to the north of Wolseley Garden Park. There are also well preserved watermeadows to the north west of Colton on the Moreton Brook.

The Trent & Mersey Canal, another 18th century innovation, crosses through the southern part of the character area on an approximate north west – south east alignment. It was constructed by the engineers' James Brindley and Hugh Henshall and opened in 1771²⁶.

There are areas within the character area where the field systems have been considerably altered in the 20th century, principally through the removal of field boundaries to create very large fields to facilitate increased production. This includes the field system to the north of Great Haywood and smaller areas to the north west of Colton. Several of the villages have also seen expansion, principally through housing development, during the 20th century. Little Haywood and Colwich have more than doubled in size, as has Great Haywood. However, Colton has seen little expansion in comparison.

Designated Historic Environment Assets:

Four Scheduled Monuments lie within the character area and there are 64 Listed Buildings. The Grade I Registered Park and Garden of Shugborough also lies within the HECA. There are also two Conservation Areas which lie wholly within the character area: Colton (027) and Colwich and Little Haywood (057). Most of the Great Haywood and Shugborough Conservation Area (007) also lies within the HECA as does a length of the Trent & Mersey Canal (083). A small portion of the Admaston and Blithfield Conservation Area (093) lies over the eastern border of the HECA.

Historic Environment considerations

The historic landscape character survives well across the character area, as does the dispersed settlement pattern and areas of water meadow.

There is the potential for below ground archaeology to exist in association with earlier settlement around Colton and other early settlements. Within the river valley in particular there is also the potential for earlier sites to survive.

Consequently any future development within the character area would need to consider the following issues:

²⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 05228

- The impact upon the nature of the historic settlement pattern and the historic landscape character.
- The relationship between the water meadows and the landscape.
- It would need to address how the historic landscape character could be reflected in any development particularly where it survives well and is strongly associated with the historic built environment, e.g. the farmsteads
- How the development may impact upon the setting of the designated sites, particularly upon the Grade I listed Shugborough parkland.
- It would need to consider the impacts upon the known below ground archaeology and also the archaeological potential of those areas where archaeological/historic research has not focused.

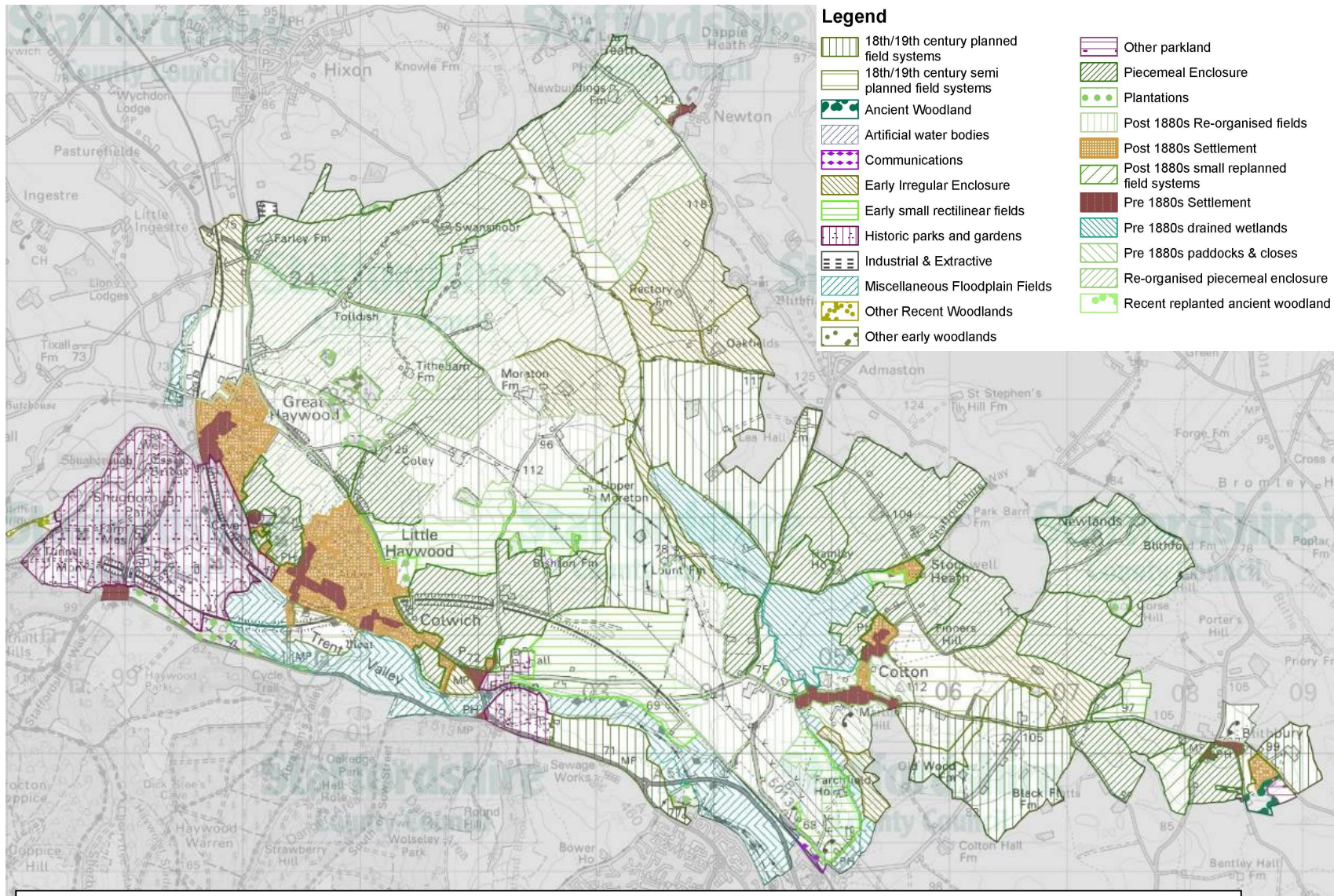
For further information regarding the Historic Environment Record (HER); Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) and designated sites please contact:

Cultural Heritage 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
August 2009



ap 1 Refined
 .C: the
 odern
 ndscape

This product includes mapping licensed from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Office © Crown copyright and/or database right 2009. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019422.

Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) 14c

Introduction

This document forms an overview of the HECA which specifically addresses the potential of medium to large scale to impact upon development upon the historic environment.

The character area is dominated by the river valleys of the Sow and Penk whose confluence lies just to the north of Baswich Business Park. The HECA follows the course of the River Sow eastwards to its confluence with the River Trent. There are several historic bridges associated with the river system some of which are listed. Surviving 18th/19th century watermeadows line the whole of the character area.

The late 18th century Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, designated as a Conservation Area, also bisects the character area and again several historic structures, including an aqueduct, are associated with it.

There is a high potential for unrecorded archaeological deposits to survive beneath the alluvium in the river valley.

The character area covers 578ha. The majority of the character area lies within Stafford Borough, but a portion to the south lies in South Staffordshire.

Archaeological and historic documentation

A few archaeological interventions have been recorded to the west of the zone where development has been carried out associated with Stafford. Otherwise there has been little archaeological or historic research carried out within the zone and what is known is located on the Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Staffordshire County Council.

Historic Environment Assets Summary

The current understanding of the later prehistoric landscape of the character area suggests that it had mostly been heavily wooded until the Bronze Age. Some clearance may have begun to take place by this period to support a small scale pastoral economy when local populations were settling down to farm specific landscapes. Considerable evidence for human activity dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age period lies adjacent within HECA 14.

Prehistoric groups may have been attracted to the river valleys of the Penk and the Sow. The confluence of these two rivers lies near the site of St Thomas' Priory, whilst the Sow's confluence with the Trent lies to the far east of the HECA. In other parts of the Trent valley, within the county, human activity is known to have been intensive from the Neolithic period onwards. However, evidence for prehistoric activity within the zone relates to a pit alignment identified on aerial photographs taken in 1975²⁷. It is considered that the lack of data for activity within the zone between the prehistoric and Saxon period is likely to be due to the area having not been closely studied.

²⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 04608

There is a strong potential for unknown archaeological deposits to survive beneath the alluvium within the character area.

There is little evidence for settlement within the zone across all historic periods with the exception the late 20th century housing development at Queensville, part of Stafford's eastern suburbs.

The 12th century Scheduled Augustinian priory of St Thomas, lies just beyond the northern boundary of the character area (within HECA 14a). An enclosure and a possible building lie within the HECA, which may relate to medieval activity associated with the priory²⁸.

The character area is likely to have been utilised as meadow land during the medieval period or was otherwise left as floodplain marshes until the late 18th/19th century when the landscape was drained and watermeadows were established. 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 grass and subsequent multiple crops for fodder. This enabled them to over-winter larger numbers of animals. The watermeadows extend all along the character area and are well preserved with surviving upstanding earthworks and other structures such as bridges and sluices. The expense and commitment to running the watermeadows meant that they were mostly established by wealthy landowners. It is possible that some of these watermeadows were established by the Earls of Lichfield whose family seat is Shugborough. A small area of the Grade I Shugborough Registered Park and the Conservation Area, lie within the HECA.

Rivers provided a valuable resource but were also obstacles which needed to be crossed. Essex Bridge, a Scheduled Monument, crosses the River Trent just to the south of its confluence with the River Sow²⁹. The bridge probably dates to the 16th century and is believed to have replaced earlier timber bridges. St Thomas' bridge spans the River Sow further to the west and it is believed to have 14th century origins. A further two Grade II listed bridges carrying roads across the River Sow and Penk are also found within the HECA.

In the late 18th century the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal was constructed following the river valleys³⁰. It was designed by the engineers James Brindley and Hugh Henshall and opened in 1772. Eight bridges cross the canal within the character area and an aqueduct carries the canal over River Sow to the north of Milford³¹.

²⁸ Staffordshire HER: PRN 03759

²⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00038; English Heritage SM No. 19

³⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRN 05173

³¹ Staffordshire HER: PRNs 02798 to 02804 and PRN 02874

Designated Historic Environment Assets

There are three Scheduled Monument lying within the Character Area with a further Scheduled Monument, St Thomas' Priory, lying adjacent to the north. Shugborough Grade I Registered Park and Garden lies to the east. There are also eight Listed Buildings and two Conservation Areas; the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal (073) and part of Great Haywood and Shugborough (007).

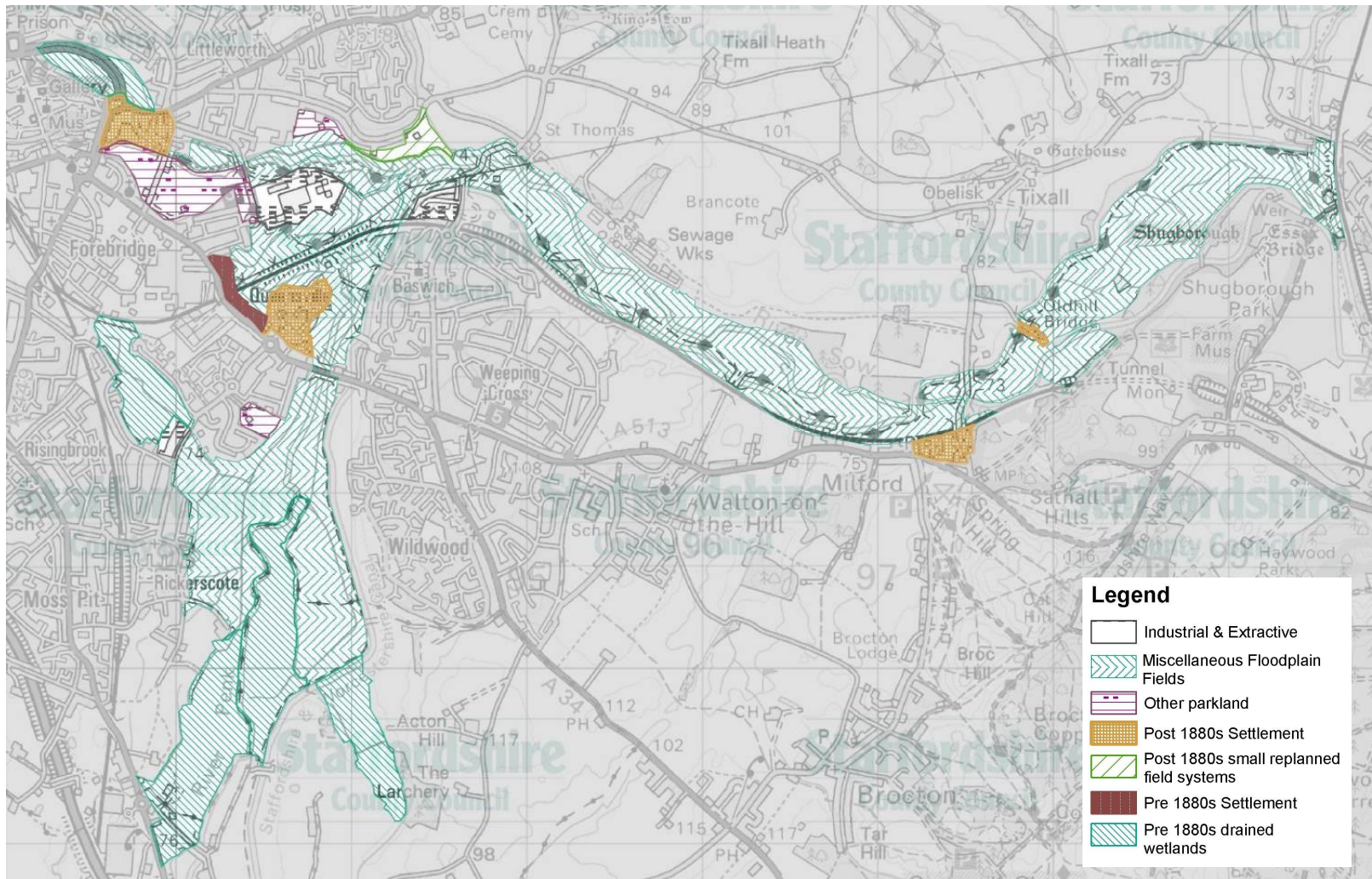
Historic Environment Considerations

The character area is dominated by the river valleys of the Penk and Sow and follows the latter eastwards to its confluence with the River Trent to the west of Great Haywood. River valleys have attracted humans since the prehistoric period and it is likely that unknown archaeological deposits survive beneath the alluvium. By the 19th century the river valleys had attracted the development of watermeadows and the canal.

Consequently any future development with the character area would need to consider the following issues:

- Potential impact upon the surviving watermeadow system and the associated historic landscape character.
- How development may impact upon the setting of designated sites and their associated structures.
- It would need to assess the impacts upon above and below ground archaeology.

Staffordshire County Council
August 2009



Map 2: Refined HLC

This product includes mapping licensed from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Office © Crown copyright and/or database right 2009. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019422.