

## **Appendix 4: Historic Environment Character Zone Assessments: Burntwood**

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

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

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](mailto:her@staffordshire.gov.uk)

Staffordshire County Council  
February 2009

## **BHECZ 1 – Gentleshaw Common (HECA 2d)**

*This report forms part of the Lichfield Historic Environment Assessment carried out by Staffordshire County Council on behalf of Lichfield District Council.*

### **Summary**

This HECZ once formed part of Cannock Forest and is likely to have formed a woodland and heath land landscape from at least the later prehistoric period and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Within the surviving heath land there are currently undated linear earthworks whose function is not currently known.

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

- the form of the surviving historic landscape character which is likely to date from the later prehistoric period.
- the surviving known earthworks and any as yet undiscovered earthworks
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations**

There are no designated sites falling within this BHECZ.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 1)

The zone is likely to have been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age when this landscape probably began to be cleared of trees to support a small scale pastoral economy. This activity is likely to have resulted over time in the establishment of heath land, the character of which is likely to have continued relatively uninterrupted from around the Bronze Age to the present day.

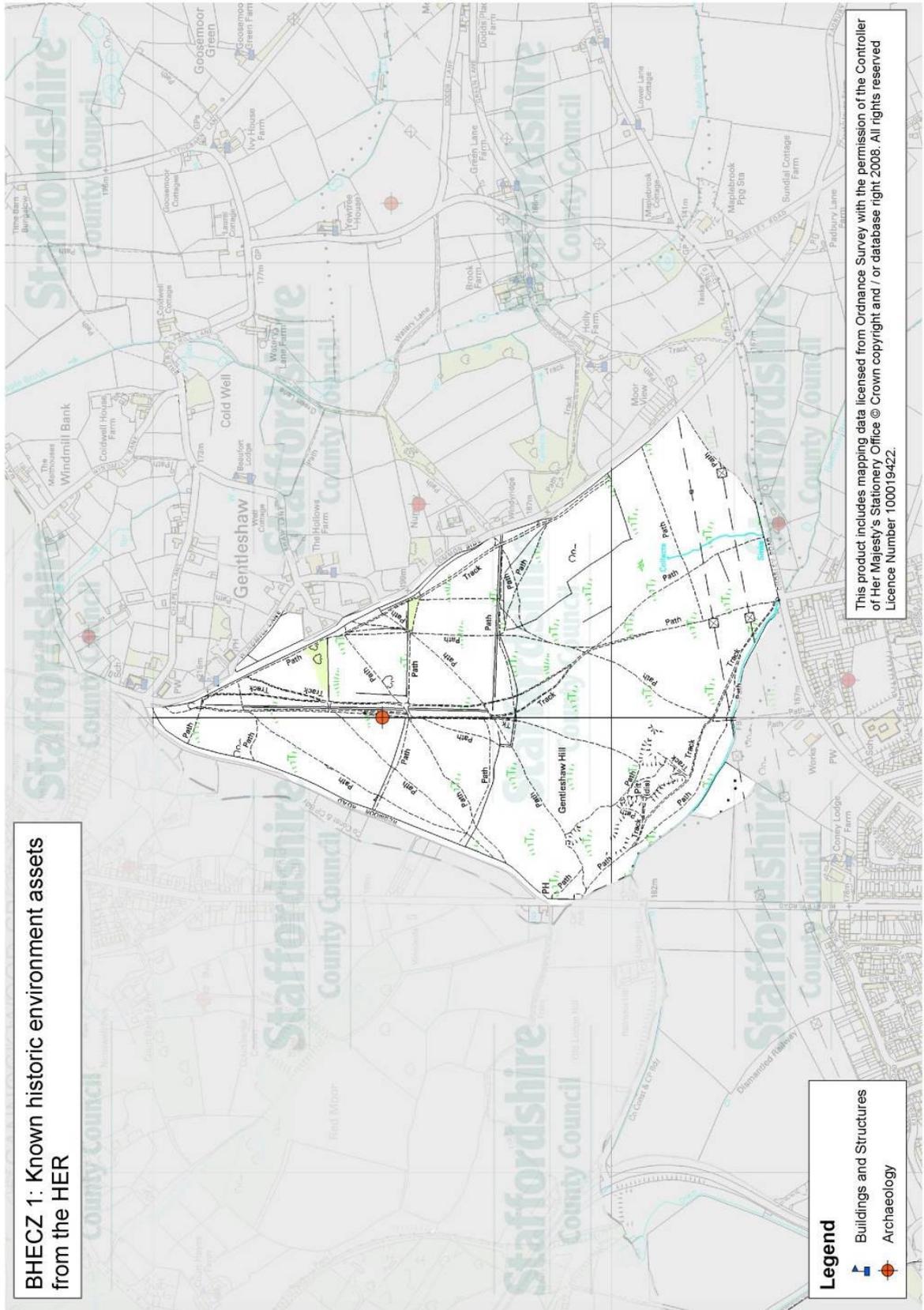
Currently the only evidence of human activity on Gentleshaw Common relates to earthwork banks, which extend across the whole of the site. These existed by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, but their origins and purpose are currently unclear. The only other evidence of activity relates to gravel quarrying which has been carried out since at least the late 19<sup>th</sup> century on a small scale on the south western side of the Common. At the present time little archaeological work has been carried out upon the common.

## Historic Landscape (map 2)

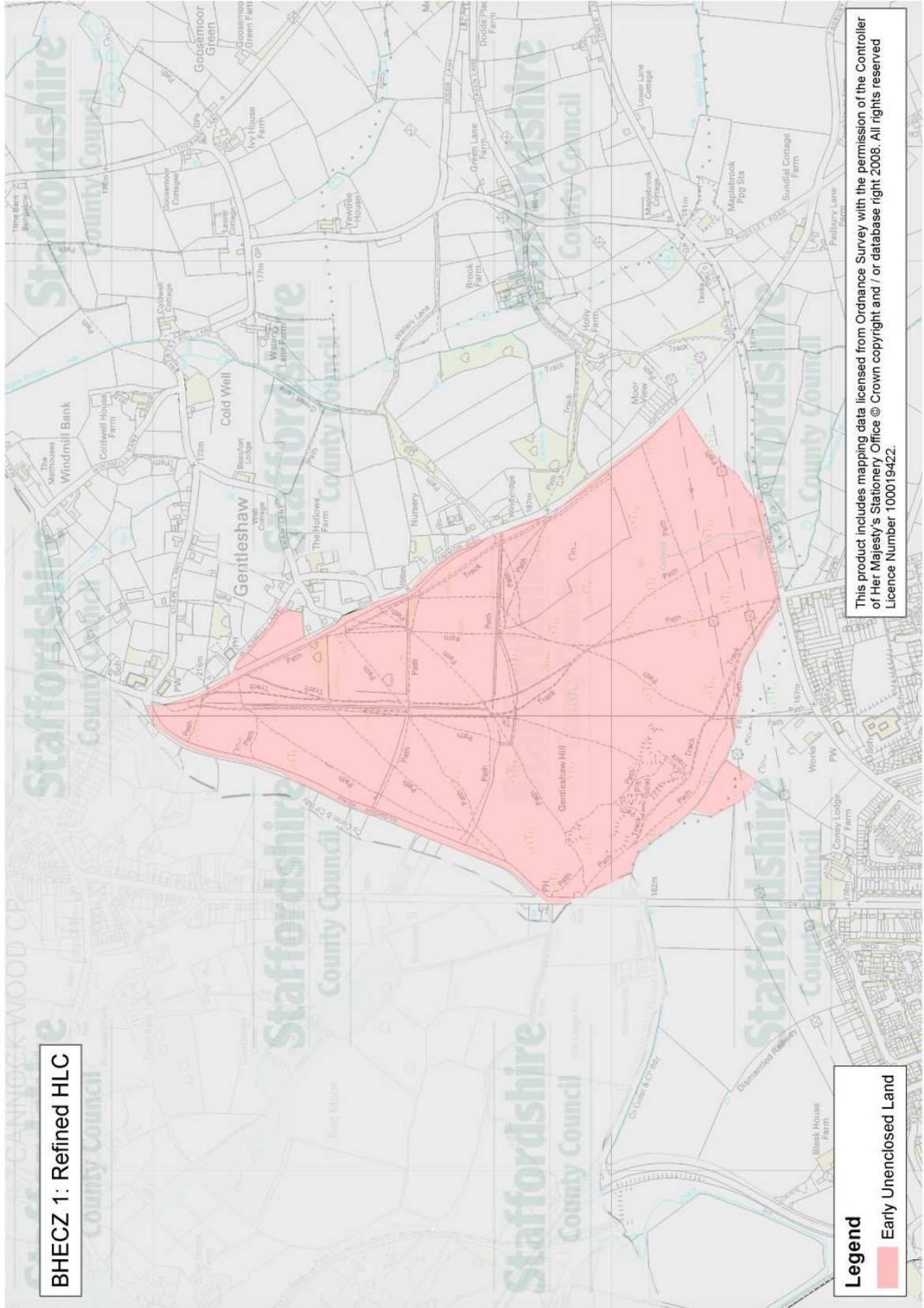
The landscape of BHECZ 1 is heath land which is likely to have existed here since the later prehistoric period. During the medieval period the wider landscape had formed part of the Royal Forest of Cannock. By the later 18<sup>th</sup> century the area covered by Gentleshaw Common was slightly larger in extent than it is currently. There is no evidence for settlement activity across the BHECZ.

### Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The known historic environment assets are well preserved as overall there has probably been little disturbance. The historic landscape character has probably existed since the later prehistoric period, probably with periods of greater or lesser tree cover.	3
Potential	There are few known sites of archaeological interest due to a lack of investigation. Little disturbance over much of its history means there is the potential for unknown archaeological sites to survive.	2
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	There are few known historic environment assets beyond the historic landscape and the banks.	1
Group Association	It is likely that the surviving earthworks are associated with a previous management regime across the zone.	2
Amenity Value	The zone already provides a public amenity, although the history of it is currently poorly understood to enable it to be interpreted or to provide a contribution to its presentation.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure)	The longevity of the historic landscape of this zone and the potential for currently unknown sites means that it is highly sensitive to any development.	3
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>13</b>



Map 1: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 2: Refined HLC

## **BHECZ 2 – East of Gentleshaw Common (HECA 2d)**

### **Summary**

This HECZ once formed part of Cannock Forest and was probably dominated by heath land from the later prehistoric period onwards. A landscape of small irregular fields was created, probably during the post medieval period which had its origins as squatter enclosures on the heath land. The small fields largely survive, although there has been some reorganisation of the pattern and removal of field boundaries during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Medium or large scale development is likely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment assets of the zone in terms of the legibility of the pattern of squatter enclosure and the association between Gentleshaw Common and the surviving drove-ways. Any development which may be planned for the zone would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the historic dispersed nature of the settlement and how this could be retained or reflected
- the historic route ways leading out Gentleshaw Common to the west, which survives as trackways and footpaths.
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations**

There are no designated sites falling within this BHECZ.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 3)

The zone is likely to have been heavily wooded during the Bronze Age. From this period onwards this landscape probably began to be cleared of trees to support a small scale pastoral economy and is likely to have resulted in the establishment of a heath land character. The heath land probably survived within the zone until at least the post medieval period.

At the present time little archaeological work has been carried out and consequently it is not known to what degree and in what form the zone was utilized by humans between the prehistoric and the medieval period.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 4)

The character zone had formed part of the Royal Forest of Cannock by at least the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century and probably comprised heath land and woodland; the dominance of one or the other may have fluctuated from the prehistoric period onwards.

During the post medieval period much of this landscape was enclosed as small irregular fields, possibly created by people who squatted on the heath land. The overall pattern of small irregular fields survives into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but it has been impacted to a degree by the removal and some reorganisation of field boundaries during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

To the south of the zone are two areas of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosure, typified by straight boundaries creating a geometric pattern which had been laid down by surveyors. Parts of this field system were created following an Act of Parliament in 1861, having survived as heath land up to that date. In general these field systems survive well and the original planned design of them has been retained.

Within the zone there are two historic farmsteads, Holly Farm and Beaufort Lodge, which were present within the landscape by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. However the origin of these farmsteads is not currently understood and it is possible that they may have been established at an earlier period and be related to the establishment of the small irregular fields which surround them.

There are two east – west route ways surviving, as a track and a footpath within the zone, which are marked on Yates’ map of 1775. They were clearly drove ways taking animals to and from the common pasture of the heath land, of which only Gentleshaw Common (BHECZ 1) survives. The routes are currently enclosed by woodland, but their width is fossilised by the extent of these woods.

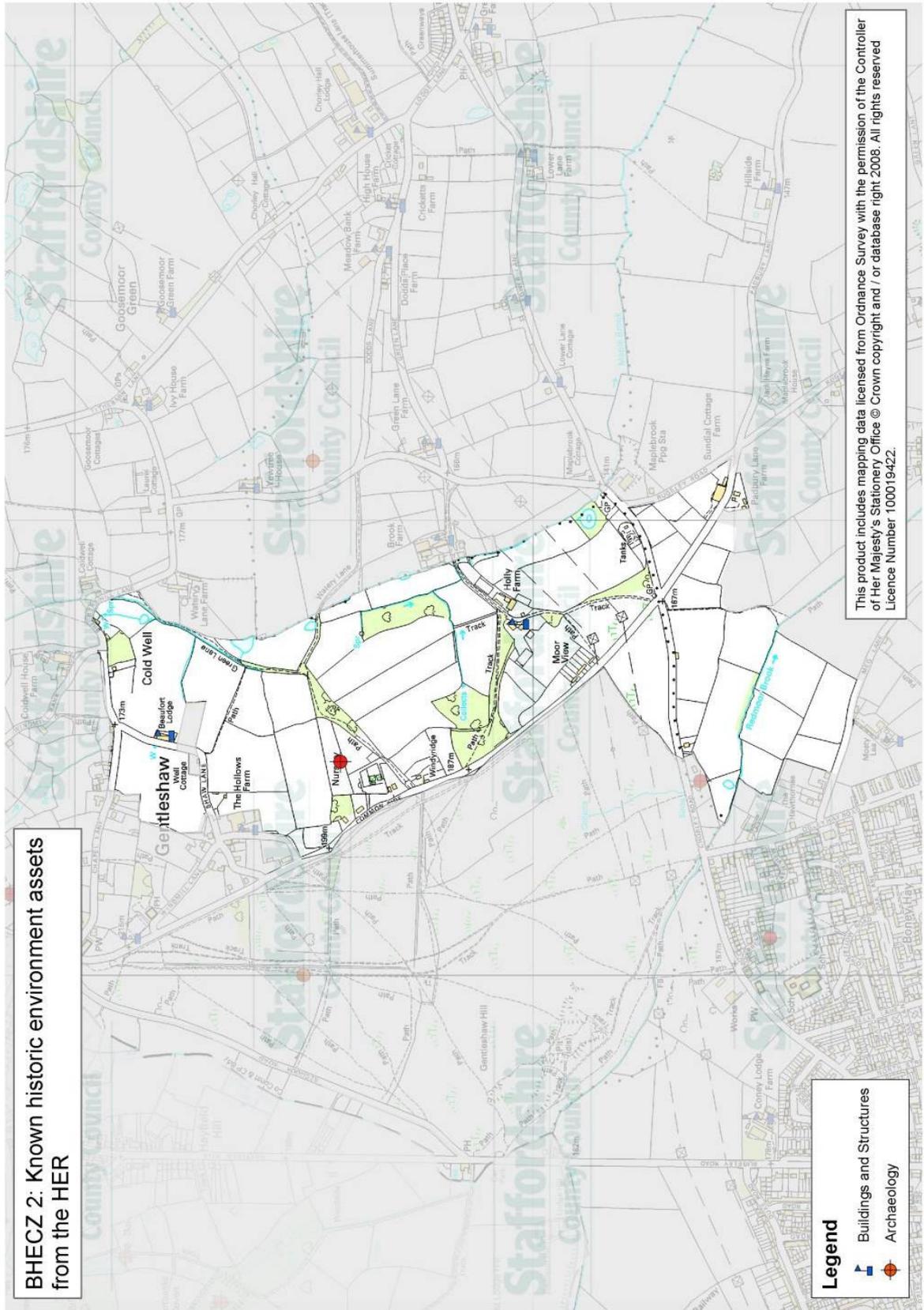
There has been little in the way of 20<sup>th</sup> century development other than in two areas along Commonsides and the expansion of the original farmstead at Holly Farm.

Two large areas of woodland exist within the zone which can be dated to the later 20<sup>th</sup> century having been established on former fields.

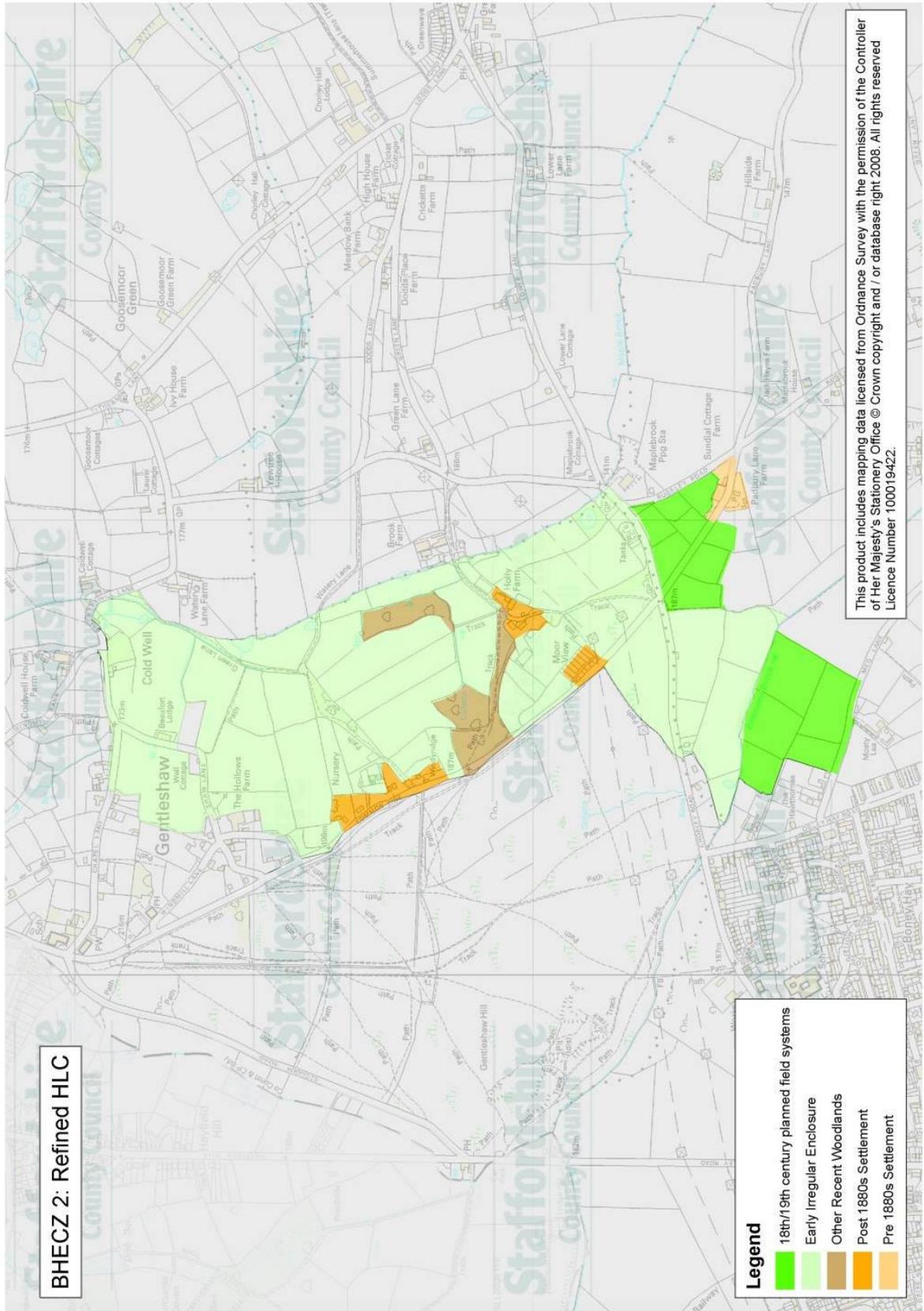
### Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has moderate disturbance relating to agricultural practices and there are currently few known historic environment assets.	2
Potential	There are few historic environment assets, but the potential for unknown sites to survive is reasonable as the landscape has not been significantly disturbed.	2
Documentation	HER data	1
Diversity	The zone is characterised by the built environment of scattered settlement, field systems which survive in good condition and historic droveways.	3
Group Association	There is a strong dispersed settlement character to this zone which retains in part retains its origins as squatter settlement on heath land, which is rare in Staffordshire.	3

	Consequently there is a strong link between the settlement pattern, the historic routeways and the historic landscape character of the irregular fields.	
Amenity Value	The historic environment of the zone does not currently lend itself to interpretation or display to wider audiences.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure)	Medium to large scale development would have a significant impact upon the legibility of the squatter enclosures as well as affecting the character and association between the surviving assets.	3
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>15</b>



Map 3: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 4: Refined HLC

## **BHECZ 3 – South west of Gentleshaw Common (HECA 2d)**

### **Summary**

This HECZ once formed part of the Royal Forest of Cannock. The heathland which had become established here was enclosed in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century with a field system known as planned enclosure. This is typified by largely rectangular fields and straight field boundaries. The overall form of this field system with its straight field boundaries survives. There is the potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive related to the watermill and for information regarding the warren lodge within the fabric of Coney Lodge Farm.

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

- the dispersed settlement pattern
- the impact upon the heath land character of BHECZ 1
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations**

There are no designated sites falling within this BHECZ.

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

The zone is likely to have been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age. From this period onwards this landscape probably began to be cleared of trees to support a small scale pastoral economy and this activity is likely to have resulted in the establishment of its heath land character. The heath land probably survived within the zone until the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

At present little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the prehistoric through to Anglo-Saxon period is poorly understood within this zone.

Coney Lodge Farm is the site of a lodge associated with a rabbit warren which appears to have existed in the area from at least the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century probably until the 1860s. The origins of the warren are not known, but warrens and deer parks had been part of the landscape of Cannock Forest from the medieval period.

By the late 18<sup>th</sup> century a watermill, Coney Mill, had been established to the south of Gentleshaw Common, which had a mill pond associated with it. The origins of the mill may be earlier and it is unknown whether this was a corn

mill or associated with industry. Industry, in the form of quarrying and mining, was being carried out within the wider area by the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A mineral railway crossed the zone to the north east of Bleak House Farm and is fossilised in the curve of the surviving field boundary,

### Historic Landscape (map 6)

The character zone had formed part of the Royal Forest of Cannock by at least the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century and probably comprised heath land and woodland; the dominance of one over the other may have fluctuated from the prehistoric period onwards.

As noted above a rabbit warren had been established by the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century in the area around Coney Lodge Farm although its origins were possibly much earlier. However, the major change to the landscape of the zone occurred in the period following an Act of Parliament to enclose the heath land granted in 1861. This Act covered the majority of the area within the zone, although a further Act passed in 1868 covered the area of Old Lodge Hill to the north. Both of these Acts resulted in the establishment of a field system of regular field boundaries which had been created by surveyors, known as planned enclosure. The overall pattern of the field systems retain their planned form of straight boundaries, although modern farming techniques have led to the removal of some of them during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

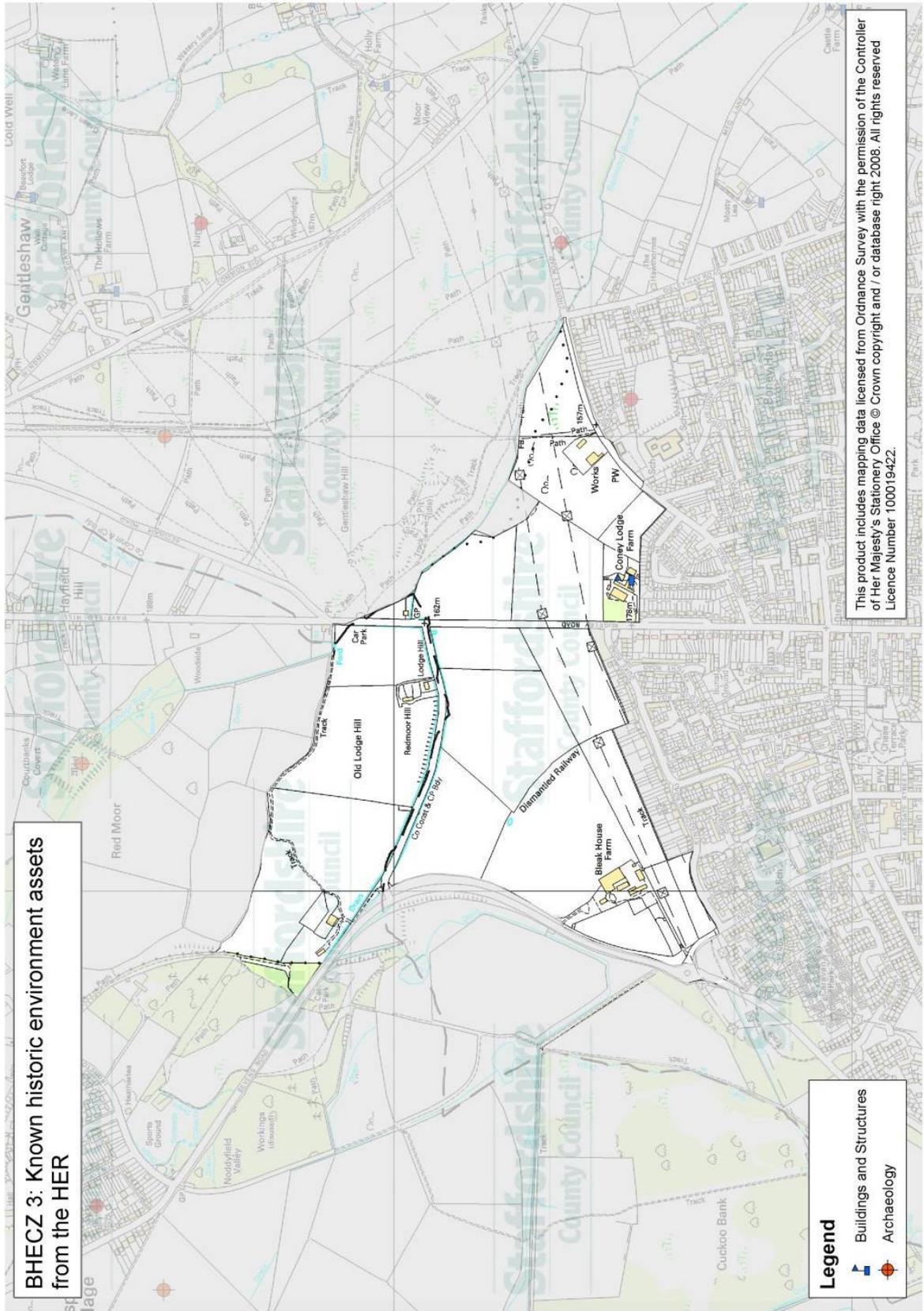
Coney Lodge Farm itself may incorporate the remains of a timber frame building within its core, which is possibly the original lodge where the warrener would have resided. The lodge and the watermill were the only buildings existing within the zone by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and it was not until the 20<sup>th</sup> century that Bleak House Farm, Redmoor Hill, Lodge Hill and the industrial works were built.

### Historic Assets Summary Table

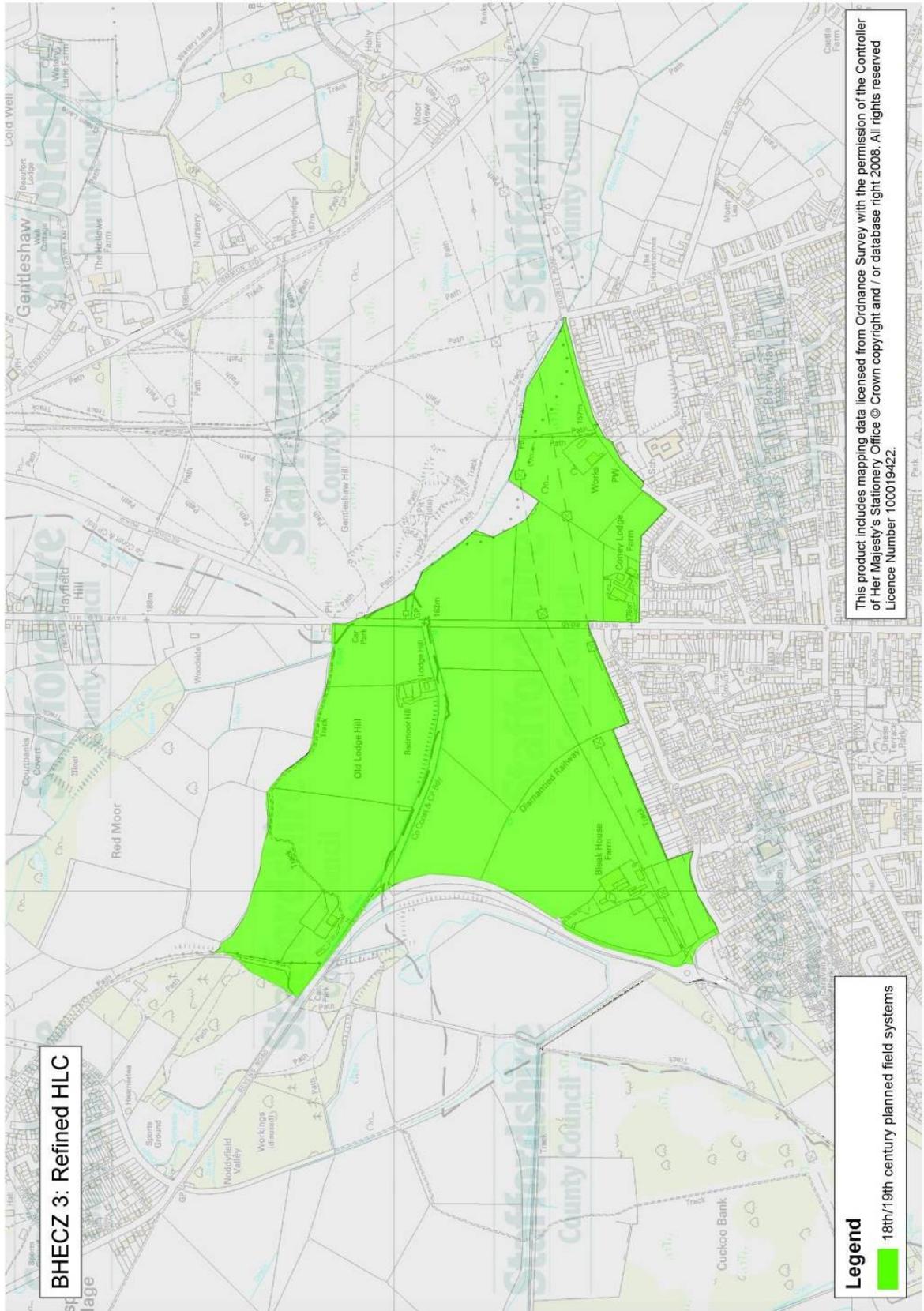
Survival	The zone has been moderately disturbed from the mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century by agricultural practices. There are a few known assets within the zone.	2
Potential	The zone has not been significantly disturbed and there is the potential for currently unknown sites to survive. There may be survival of historic fabric associated with the watermill and Coney Mill Farm.	2
Documentation	HER data and VCH	2
Diversity	There are a few known assets	1
Group Association	There are a few known	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment of the zone does not currently lend itself to interpretation or display to wider audiences.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure)	Medium to large scale development would have at least a moderate impact upon the historic dispersed nature of settlement in	2

	the zone.	
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>11</b>

Further information of the history of Burntwood can be found in the Victoria County History for Staffordshire volume XIV: Lichfield.



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



Map 6: Refined HLC

## **BHECZ 4 – Chasewater (HECA 2i)**

### **Summary**

This HECZ once formed part of Cannock Forest and is likely to have been a landscape of woodland and heathland from the prehistoric period until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century when the canal reservoir known as Chasewater was constructed.

Medium or large scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the known historic environment assets of the zone, although there is the potential for unknown assets to survive. Any development which may be planned for the zone would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits including waterlogged and palaeoenvironmental remains

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

### **Designations**

There are no designated sites falling within this BHECZ.

### **Archaeological Character (map 7)**

BHECZ 4 is likely to have been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age. From this period onwards this landscape probably began to be cleared of trees to support a small scale pastoral economy and this activity is likely to have resulted in the establishment of a heath land character. The heath land probably survived within the zone until at least the post medieval period.

At present little archaeological work has been carried out and consequently it is not known to what degree and in what form the zone was utilized by humans between the prehistoric to medieval period. However, it is likely that a heath land landscape continued to dominate within the BHECZ during this period.

By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the Chasewater Reservoir had been built to supply the local canal system with water. A pumping station was built adjacent to the reservoir to pump water into a canal feeder. The canal feeder was re-cut as the Anglesey Branch Canal, with a wharf and canal basin, in 1850 to service the nearby coal mines. The pumping station has since been demolished, but the branch canal, wharf and canal basin survive.

Across the zone there are the probable remains of the former collieries which had been established by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The largest of these within the zone was the Cannock Chase Colliery pit no. 2 which was located on the north eastern boundary. A mineral railway was built across the zone, to the

west of the reservoir later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to serve the collieries to the north and south. The railway is in preservation and provides a public amenity.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 8)

The character zone had formed part of the Royal Forest of Cannock by at least the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century and probably comprised heath land and woodland; the dominance of one over the other may have fluctuated from the prehistoric period onwards.

The heathland landscape of the zone survived until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century when the reservoir was constructed, which currently dominates the zone. From the mid 1850s to the 1870s the land within the zone was included in three separate Acts of Parliament to enclose the extensive heath land. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century fields had been created to the north and south of the reservoir. These had been laid out by surveyors to create a landscape with a strong geometric pattern of straight boundaries. The field pattern only survives to the south of the reservoir around Highfield House, which was undoubtedly built to farm the newly enclosed landscape in the 1870s.

The areas where fields do not appear to have been created lay to the north east, where the Cannock Chase pit no. 2 was established, and to the east where the canal connected with the reservoir.

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century the fields to the north appear to have returned to at least rough grazing, possibly due to the proximity of the colliery pit. Since the pit closed and certainly by the late 20<sup>th</sup> century the landscape has been managed as heath land.

Other areas of the zone are more closely managed as parkland and the whole landscape is largely given over to public amenity, including the reservoir itself which is home to The Chase Sailing Club.

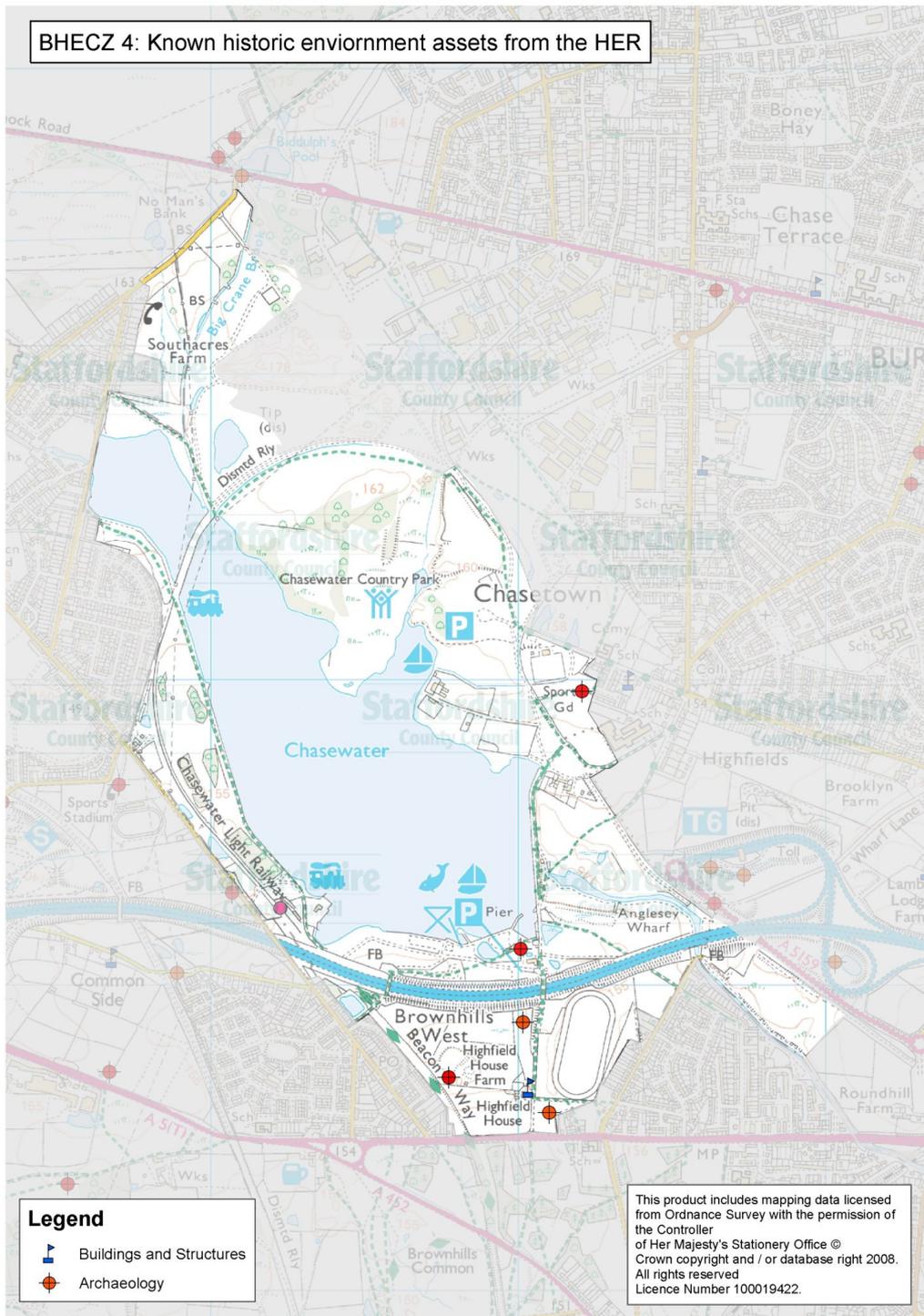
### **Historic Assets Summary Table**

Survival	There are few known historic assets earlier than the late 18 <sup>th</sup> century within the zone. The majority of the zone beyond the reservoir and the immediate vicinity of the coal mines have not been significantly impacted.	2
Potential	There are few known assets, but the zone has not been significantly impacted beyond the areas of the reservoir and the discrete pit to the north east.	2
Documentation	HER data & VCH	2
Diversity	It contains a limited range of historic environment assets of a similar date.	1
Group Association	There is a likely association between the landscape around Highfield and the farm itself. The canal features form a group.	2

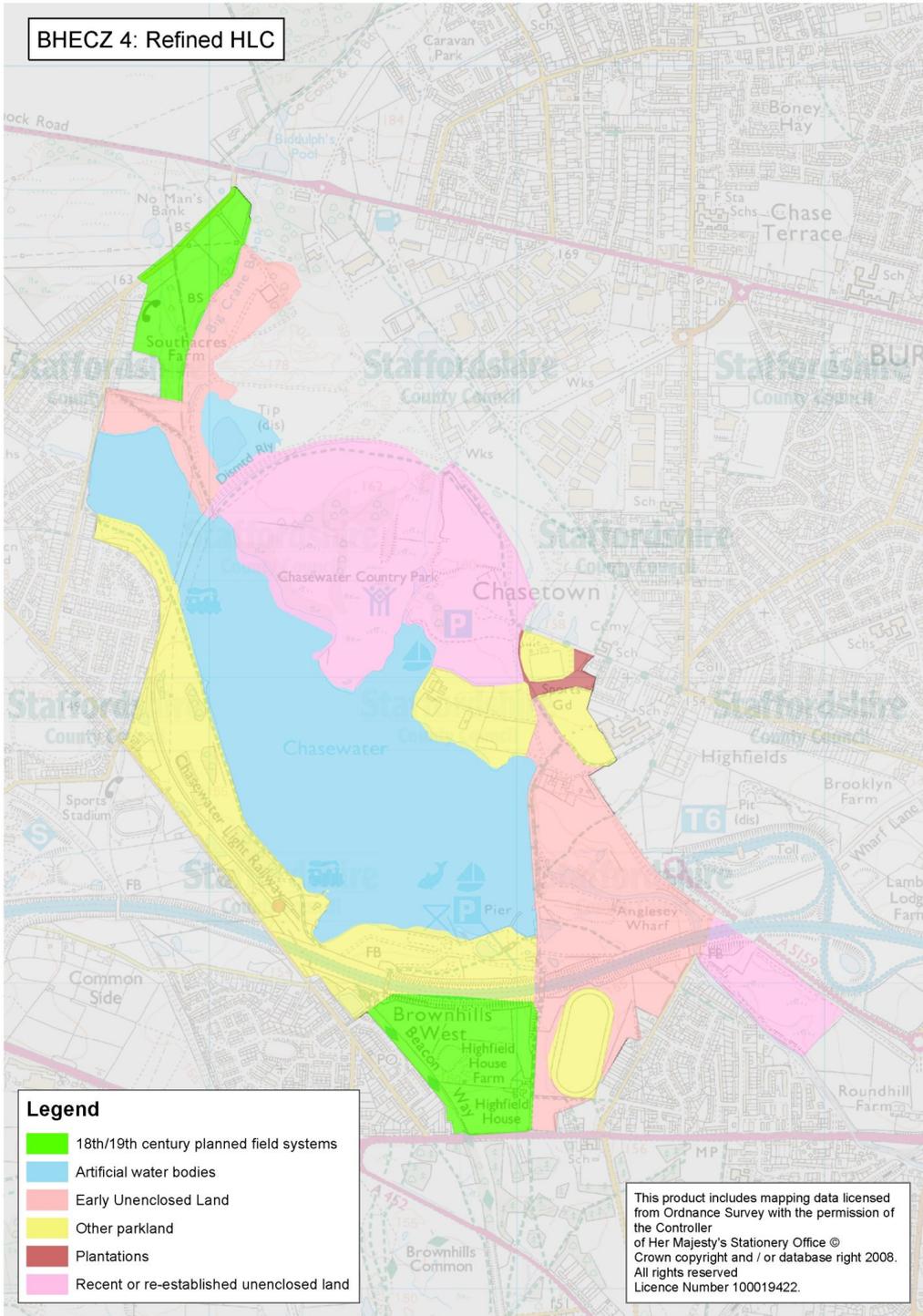
Amenity Value	The zone currently functions as a public amenity and there is the potential for the 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century history and sites to be interpreted and presented, if they aren't already.	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure)	In terms of the historic environment assets the zone could accommodate some development, although individual assets might be impacted.	1
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>12</b>

The background history for this zone is partially covered by the Victoria County History: Staffordshire volume XIV.

**BHECZ 4: Known historic environment assets from the HER**



Map 7: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 8: Refined HLC

## **BHECZ 5 – South of Burntwood (HECA 2i)**

### **Summary**

This HECZ once formed part of Cannock Forest and is likely to have been characterised by a woodland and heath land landscape since at least the later prehistoric period. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century a rabbit warren was established, but this was replaced by a planned field system following an Act of Parliament to enclose the heath land passed in 1856. By the early 21<sup>st</sup> century much of the zone was developed as part of the M6 (Toll) road.

Medium or large scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment assets of the zone. However, any development which may be planned for the zone would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigations strategies for:

- The potential for below ground archaeological deposits
- The impact upon the site of the warrener's lodge at Lamb's Lodge farm

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

### **Designations**

There are no designated sites falling within this BHECZ.

### **Archaeological Character (map 9)**

The archaeological work which has been carried out with the BHECZ was undertaken in advance of the construction of the M6 (Toll) road. Information relating to the Prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon periods relates to a single findspot of a Neolithic flint waste flake. Watling street Roman road crosses briefly into the zone at its southern tip on an east-west alignment.

The overall character of the BHECZ in the late prehistoric and Roman periods is likely to have been of a heavily wooded landscape. This possibly supported a pastoral economy from the Bronze Age onwards involved in woodland clearance which resulted in the creation of areas of heath land.

The zone formed part of the Royal Forest of Cannock at the time of the Conquest and was perhaps a landscape composed of woodland, wood pasture and heath land still largely supporting a pastoral economy. However, in a couple of areas towards the south west and west of the zone areas of ridge and furrow earthworks had been identified prior to the construction of the M6 (toll). These earthworks are often evidence of medieval and later ploughing and it is possible that this lands was occasionally brought into cultivation following population explosions.

## Historic Landscape (map 10)

The heath land landscape of the zone largely survived until the early 18<sup>th</sup> century when a rabbit warren was established around the location of the existing Lamb's Lodge Farm, which served as the warrener's lodge.

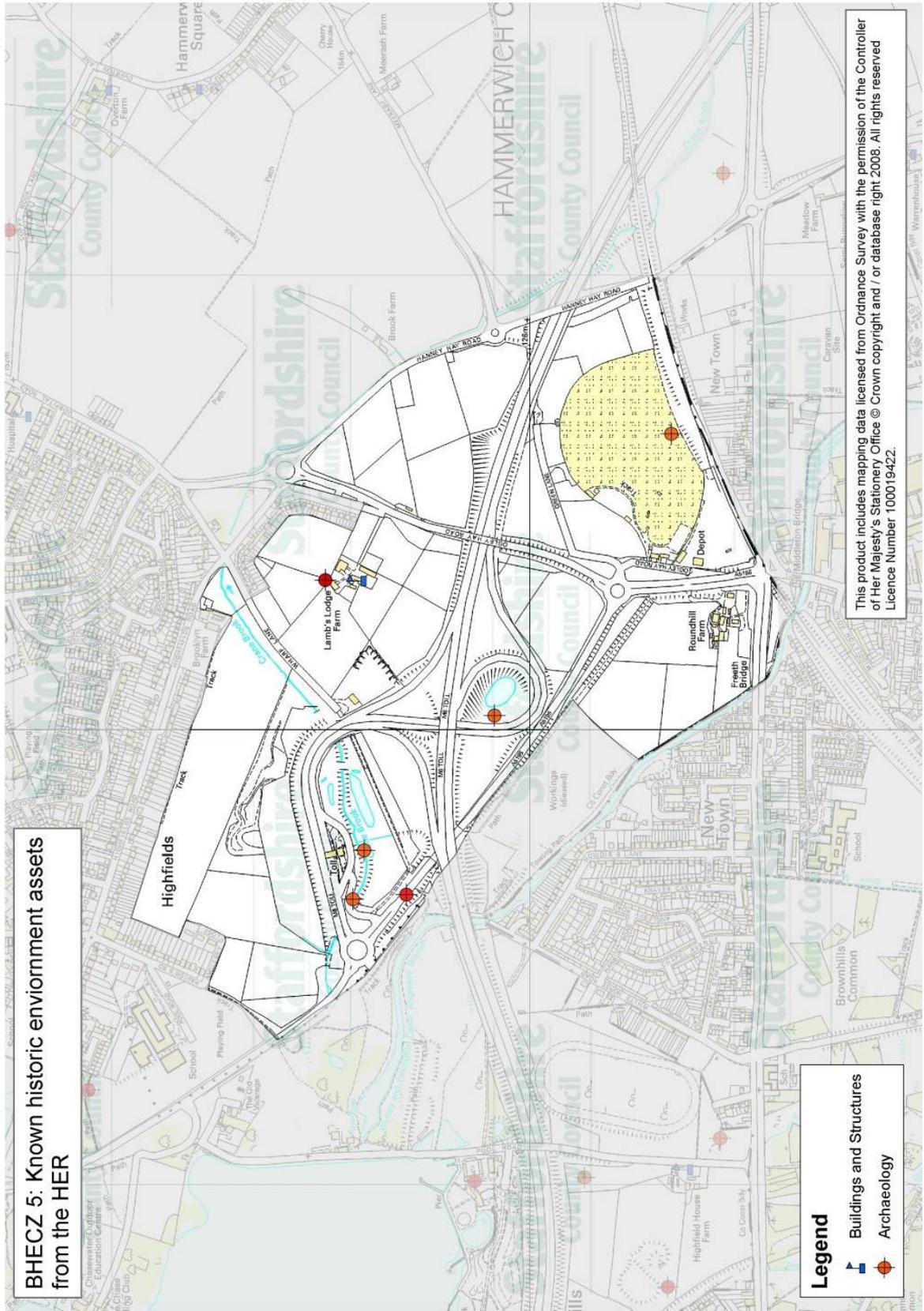
The rabbit warren probably survived until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century when an Act of Parliament to enclose the heath land of Hammerwich parish was passed in 1856. This resulted in the creation of a landscape of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century planned enclosure typified by the straight field boundaries which were laid out by surveyors in an ordered manner. The lodge appears to have survived as Lamb's Lodge farmhouse. The planned enclosure survives well around the farm, but in other areas field boundaries have been removed probably during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century sand was extracted from within the zone, to the west and south east. The quarry in the south east survived into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but that to the west has since been developed as part of the M6 (Toll) road interchange which dominates the central part of this zone.

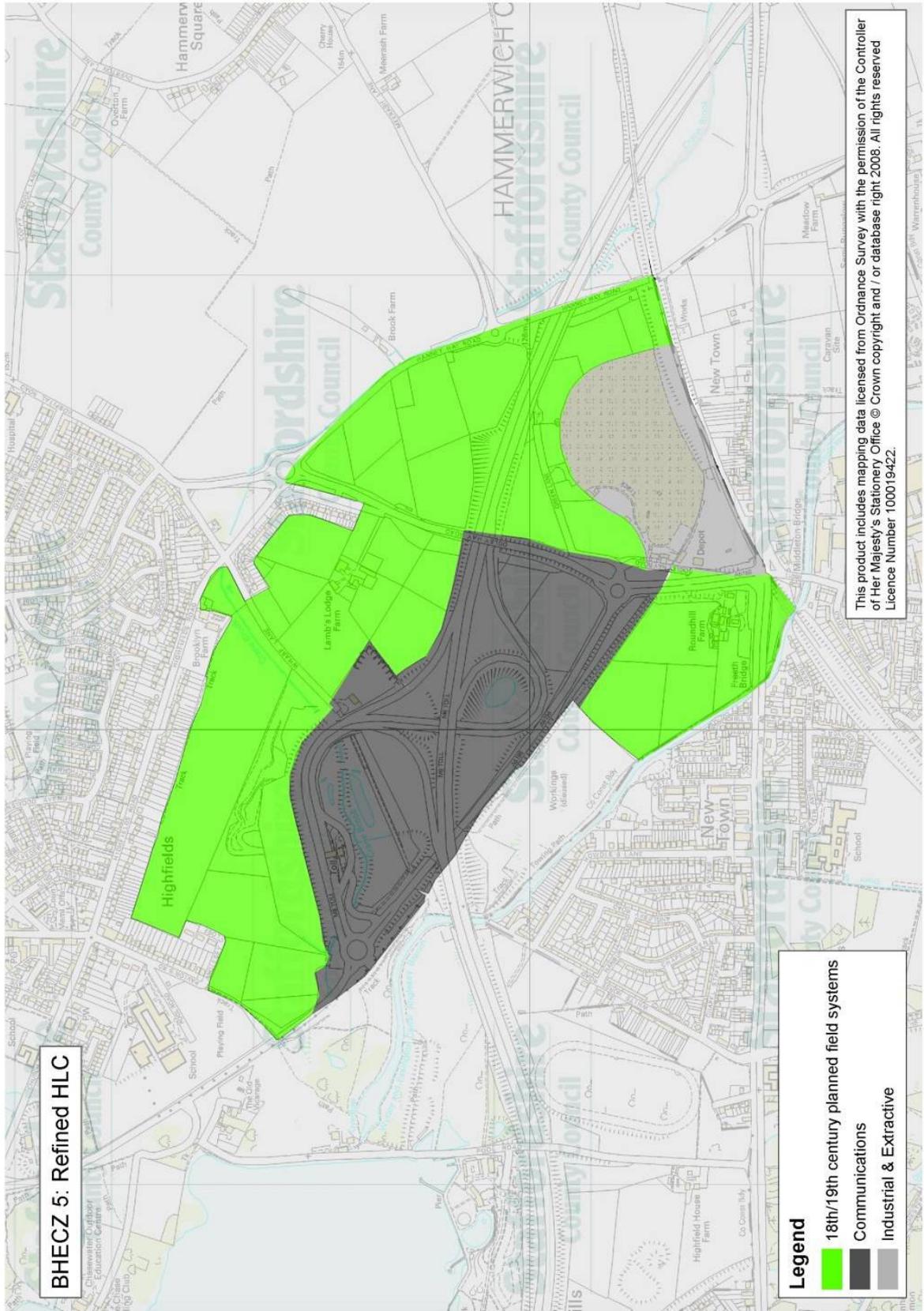
## Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has been impacted quite heavily by both quarrying and road development.	1
Potential	There are few known historic assets and the zone has been impacted by development and quarrying.	1
Documentation	HER data and survey for M6 Toll road.	2
Group Association	The zone contains few sites of a similar character or age.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to interpretation.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure)	The zone has already been considerably impacted by development and medium to large scale development would not have a significant impact. However, individual archaeological features may be impacted.	1
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>8</b>

The background history for this zone is partially covered by the Victoria County History: Staffordshire volume XIV.



Map 9: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 10: Refined HLC

## **BHECZ 6 – Chasetown industrial zone (HECA 2i)**

### **Summary**

This HECZ once formed part of Cannock Forest and is likely to have been characterised by a woodland and heath land landscape since at least the later prehistoric period. It was enclosed after an Act of Parliament was passed in 1861. However, by the 1860s coal had already begun to be mined within the zone. At its height there were three coal mines within the zone, with the final pit closing in 1959. Industry has continued to dominate the landscape with the development of light industrial estates during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although some open land currently survives to the west.

Medium or large scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment assets of the zone. However, any development which may be planned for the zone would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations**

There are no designated sites falling within this BHECZ.

### **Archaeological Character**

BHECZ 6 is likely to have been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age when this landscape probably began to be cleared of trees to support a small scale pastoral economy. This activity is likely to have resulted in the establishment of the heath land. The heath land probably continued to dominate the zone relatively uninterrupted from around the Bronze Age to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Little archaeological or historic research has been carried out within the zone and currently there are no known sites of pre 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

### **Historic Landscape (map 11)**

By the mid 11<sup>th</sup> century the zone had formed part of the much larger Royal Forest of Cannock. The Forest was probably a mosaic of heath and woodland. This landscape survived until 1854 when the Cannock Chase Colliery Co. sank a pit in the south of the zone<sup>1</sup>. This pit was located just to the north east of the earliest coal mine, which lay beyond the zone's boundary in BHECZ 4. The largest coal mine within the zone was the no.3 pit which was sunk in 1859 in the heart of Norton Bog towards the centre of the zone. The final pit, no.5, was opened in 1861 to the north of the zone. By the late

19<sup>th</sup> century these coal pits were all connected to one another, and ultimately the main line railway, by mineral railways.

The Act of Parliament to enclosure the landscape was passed in 1861 in the same year as the final pit opened. These dates may be a coincidence or they may reflect the deliberate enclosure of a mineral rich landscape to avoid claims on the land, prevent the development of mines in competition and allow for future expansion. In any case, the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey map reveals the regulated straight boundaries typical of the field systems laid out by surveyors during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

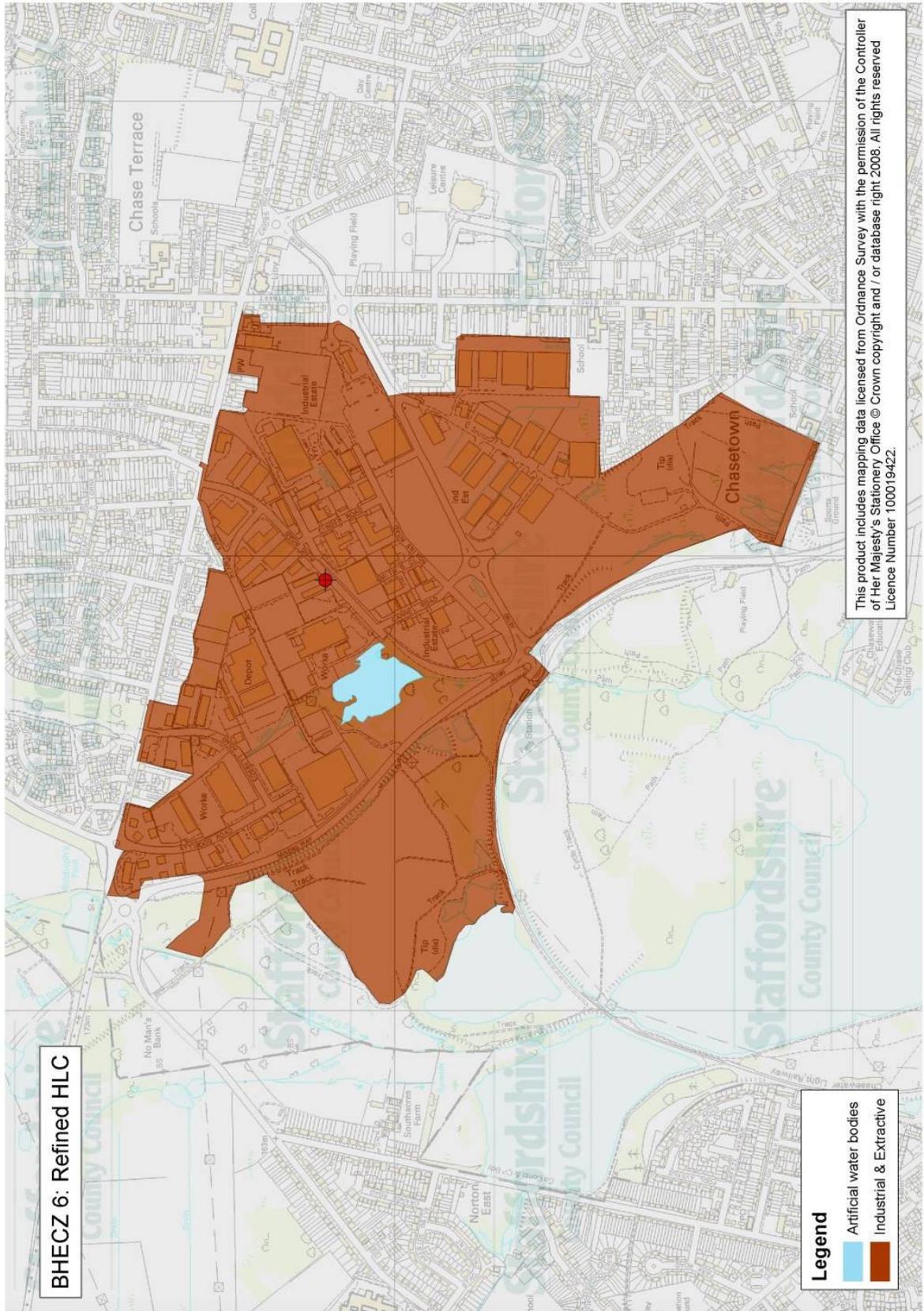
Despite the land enclosure, the mines were not completely successful with No.4 pit closing in 1883 leaving behind a derelict industrial landscape. The remaining pits continued to operate into the 20<sup>th</sup> century with pit no.3 closing 1959.

The zone has continued to be an area of industry and by the early 21<sup>st</sup> century it is dominated by industrial estates of large rectangular buildings.

### Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has been disturbed by coal mining and development from the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. There are very few known historic assets.	1
Potential	The potential for surviving historic environment assets has been reduced by extraction and development from the 19 <sup>th</sup> century although there may be one or two areas where opportunities exist to understand the earlier utilization of the zone.	1
Documentation	HER data & VCH	2
Diversity	The historic environment assets relate mostly to the 19 <sup>th</sup> century colliery activity.	1
Group Association	The zone contains few assets of a similar nature or date.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment of the zone does not lend itself to public display	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure)	The historic environment of the zone could accommodate medium to large scale development.	1
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>8</b>

<sup>1</sup> The background history for this zone, particularly its coal mining heritage is covered by the Victoria County History: Staffordshire volume XIV.



Map 11: Refined HLC

## **BHECZ 7 – Hammerwich (HECA 2i)**

### **Summary**

This HECZ once formed part of Cannock Forest and is likely to have been a landscape of woodland and heath land from the prehistoric period until at least the later medieval period. Hammerwich developed as small settlement with three distinct centres of occupation, although one of these, including the church, lies beyond the zone (in BHECZ 12). Arable agriculture appears to have been practised to the south of the zone by the medieval period, although it is possible that pre-medieval settlement may have existed in the area located near to the Watling Street Roman road. Certainly previously unknown settlement has been found in the wider area beyond boundary of the zone.

Medium or large scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the known historic environment assets of the zone, although there is the potential for unknown assets to survive. Any development which may be planned for the zone would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the impact upon the Listed buildings
- the historic landscape around Appletree Farm
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations** (map 12)

There are four Listed Buildings lying within this BHECZ.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 13)

BHECZ 7 is likely to have been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age. From this period onwards this landscape probably began to be cleared of trees to support a small scale pastoral economy. This activity is likely to have resulted in the establishment of a heath land character and this probably survived within the zone until at least the later medieval period.

At the present time little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the nature and extent of human activity during the prehistoric to medieval period is poorly understood. A flint axe was recovered from near Crane Brook to the south of the zone which has been dated to either the Neolithic or Bronze Age. It represents a casual loss and does not substantially add to our understanding of the early development of the zone.

However, Iron Age activity has been recovered in the wider area to the south of the A5. A feature was recorded as part of the archaeological investigations associated with the development of the M6 (Toll) although its function was not clear. Reference(Simmonds 2008:62)

The A5 follows the line of the Watling Street Roman road and archaeological investigations have discovered evidence of occupation and the creation of field systems during the Roman period to the south of the zone along the line of the M6 (Toll) road. An aisled building and a stone lined well were excavated from which 2<sup>nd</sup> century pottery was recovered. The building has been interpreted as a possible agricultural building perhaps used to store grain. This may be associated with the nearby field systems believed to have been created in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. This perhaps supports the hypothesis of the purposeful removal of woodland and heath land to create a new arable land holding (Simmonds 2008:65 & 75).

The earliest reference to Hammerwich comes from Domesday Book (1086) which shows it belonging to the manor of Lichfield, but it is recorded as waste and no population is given. This may imply that the landscape was still dominated by woodland or heath land, but does not necessarily suggest that small scale pastoral farming was not still being carried out within the zone during the later Anglo-Saxon period.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 14)

The character zone had formed part of the Royal Forest of Cannock by at least the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century and at least part of the zone was covered by heath land and woodland; the dominance of one over the other may have fluctuated from the prehistoric period onwards.

However, a settlement had developed at Hammerwich probably by the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century and in the 1327 Lay Subsidy five people are recorded as being 'of Overton', which lies c.500m from the main settlement area of Hammerwich. Hammerwich's church, which is believed, was medieval in origin, lies outside of the zone to the south east. It is possible that the earliest development was located nearer the church. An area of open field has been identified to the south of the zone. These large unhedged fields were worked in common probably by the inhabitants of Hammerwich and each family farmed individual strips scattered across all the open fields. From the late medieval period onwards these open fields began to be enclosed as piecemeal enclosure. The individual farmers agreed to enclose the land between themselves creating an irregular pattern of fields.

The medieval landscape of the zone is not well understood, although heath land probably lay to the far western edge. Around Appletree Farm to the north an area of small irregular fields have been identified, which may suggest that assarting or the enclosure of heath land had taken place here at an early date and possibly by the later medieval period. The landscape to the west of Hammerwich reveals a mixed history of former heath land and an area that may possibly have formed part of an open field system, where arable was rotated with pasture. Three open fields were recorded for Hammerwich in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The settlement pattern was predominantly dispersed in nature with farmsteads scattered across the zone, probably not unlike the postulated settlement pattern for the earlier periods. Hammerwich came to be the central place where the church was located, but even by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century it was only a small settlement, with houses quite widely scattered along the roads. The settlement appears to have developed around a central green, which was still clear upon the first edition 6" OS map of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and lay where the community centre now stands. This is probably the location of Middleton Green recorded from the 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards. It is possible that Overton, recorded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, was only ever a single or a small collection of farmsteads rather than a hamlet or village. Two farms are known to have been located in Overton by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. A further settlement associated with Hammerwich, known as Netherton until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, lay beyond the church outside of the zone.

A dispersed linear settlement at Edial to the north of the HECZ was first recorded in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. The current house dates to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, but is believed to have replaced an earlier house of 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century date which was the centre of an estate.

The modern landscape is dominated by field systems, although the settlement of Hammerwich has more than doubled in size during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. On the whole the field systems, with the exception of those lying around Appletree Farm, have all been subject to field boundary loss during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	The zone has only seen moderate disturbance but there are currently few known assets.	2
Potential	A lack of investigation is probably the reason why few sites have been discovered. However, there is potential for earlier occupation evidence within the settled areas. Archaeological investigations along the M6 (Toll) road beyond the boundary has raised the possibility that other prehistoric or Roman sites may exist particularly in the southern part of the zone.	2
Documentation	HER data & VCH	2
Diversity	The zone carries a range of assets including historic settlement and associated historic landscape character, particularly to the north around Appletree Farm.	2
Group Association	The zone contains a dispersal of settlement, whose origins may date to at least the medieval period.	2
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to interpretation.	1
Sensitivity to change (to	In terms of the historic environment assets	1

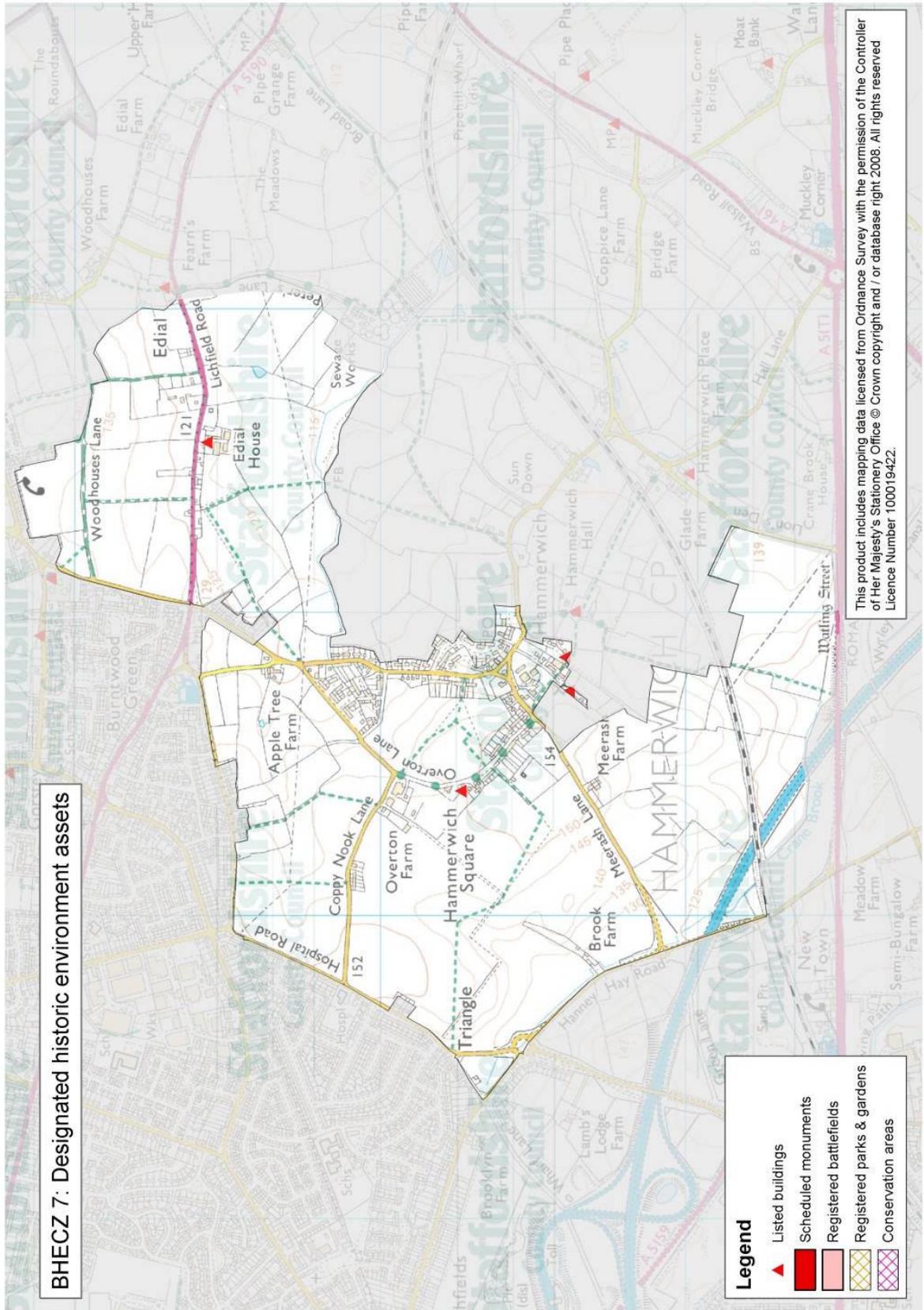
housing expansion & infrastructure)	the zone could accommodate some development, although individual assets might be impacted.	
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>12</b>

The background history for this zone is covered by the Victoria County History: Staffordshire volume XIV.

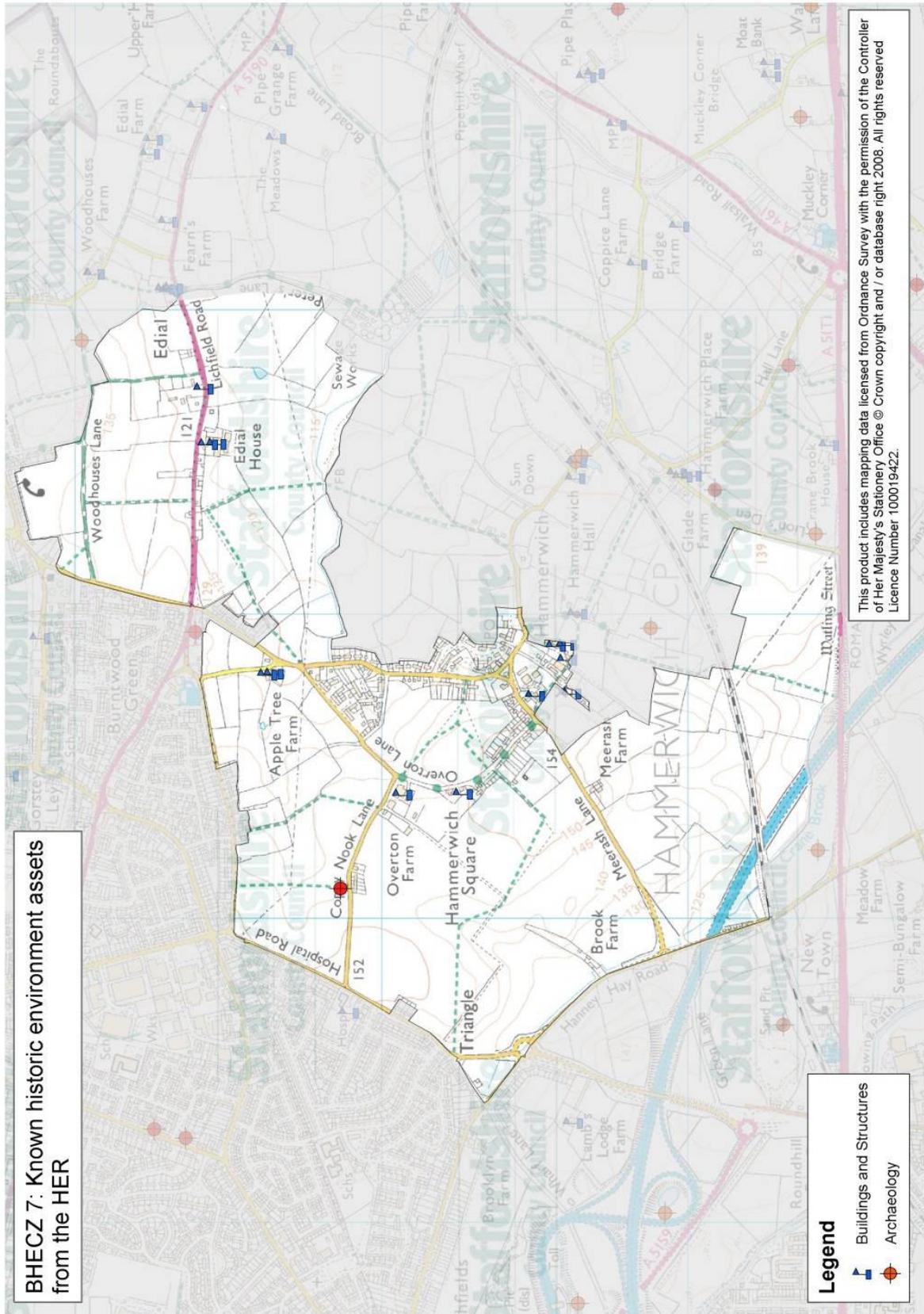
**Bibliography**

Simmonds, A. (2008). 'West of Crane Brook Cottage, Hammerwich (Site 34)' in Powell, A. B. et al, *The archaeology of the M6 Toll (2000-2003)*. Oxford Wessex Archaeology

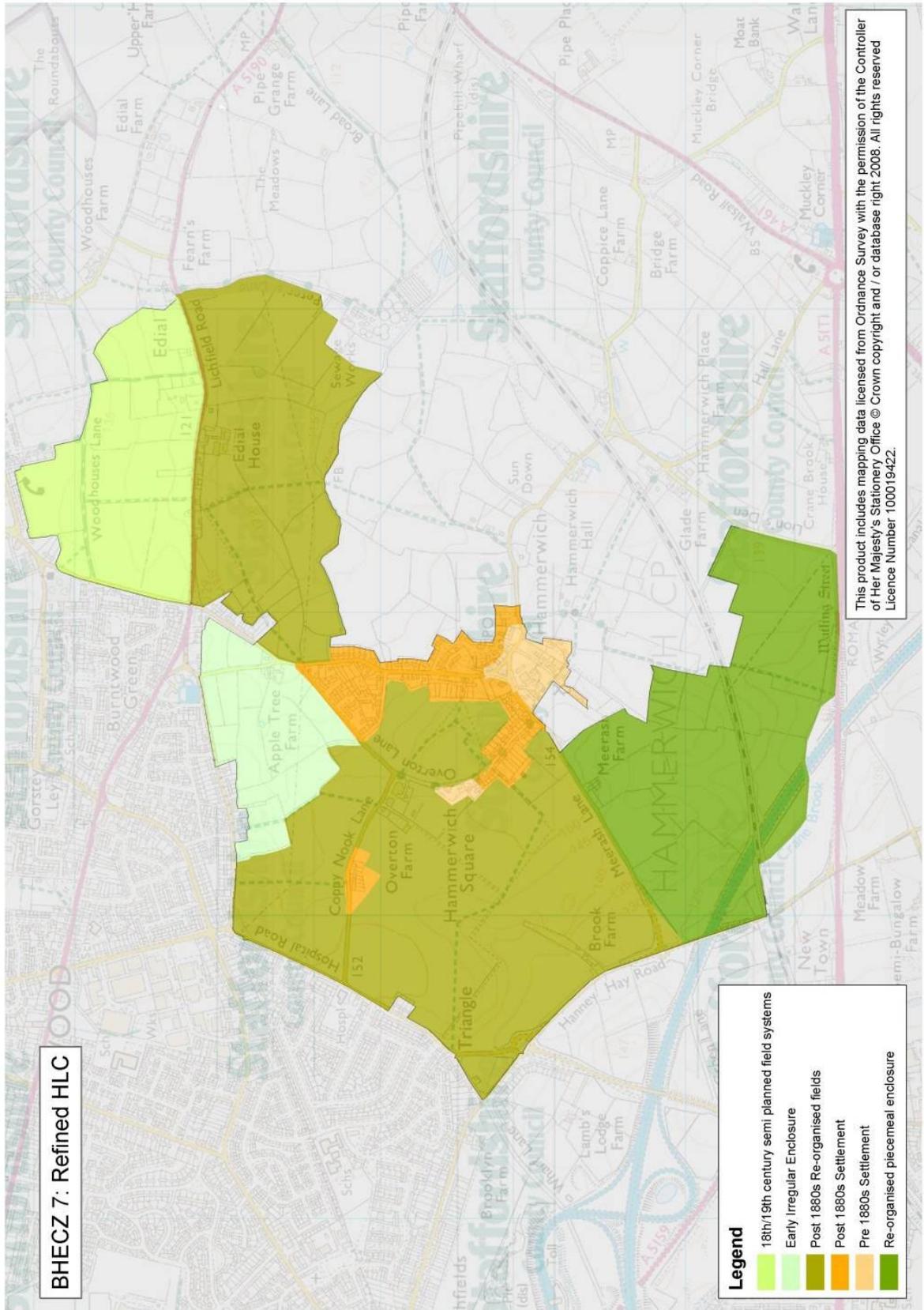
<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>



Map 12: Designations



Map 13: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 14: Refined HLC

## **BHECZ 8 – North east of Burntwood (HECA 2e)**

### **Summary**

This zone once formed part of Cannock Forest and was probably dominated by heath land from the later prehistoric period onwards. A landscape of small irregular fields was created, probably during the post medieval period which may have had its origins as squatter enclosures in the heath land. The small fields largely survive, although there has been some reorganisation of the pattern and removal of field boundaries during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This appears to relate to the historic dispersed settlement pattern. Fulfen House possibly has its origins in the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century and its presence may be related to the development of the surrounding field system.

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

- the historic dispersed nature of the settlement and the associated historic landscape character; how this could be retained or reflected
- the impact upon the listed building
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations** (map 15)

There is one Listed Building within this BHECZ.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 16)

BHECZ 8 is likely to have been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age. From this period onwards this landscape probably began to be cleared of trees to support a small scale pastoral economy and this activity is likely to have resulted in the establishment of a heath land character.

At the present time little archaeological work has been carried out and consequently the nature and extent of human activity between the prehistoric to medieval period within the zone is poorly understood.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 17)

The character zone had formed part of the Royal Forest of Cannock by at least the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century and probably comprised by heath land and woodland; the dominance of one over the other may have fluctuated from the prehistoric period onwards.

During the post medieval period much of this landscape was enclosed as small irregular fields, probably the created by people who squatted on the heath land. A green or area of heathland survived along the junction of Rugeley Road and Church Road into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century part of which falls within the zone. The overall pattern of small irregular fields survives into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but it has been impacted to a degree by the removal and some reorganisation of field boundaries during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although the overall irregular pattern remains legible.

Within the zone there is one historic farmstead, Fulfen House. This is a Grade II listed building which primarily dates to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, but it has been suggested that it is likely to have earlier origins, possibly 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that the origins of the farmhouse relate to the irregular enclosure of the landscape surrounding it. Certainly the Fulfen area was occupied by the early 16<sup>th</sup> century and cottages are recorded as having been built upon the heath land in 1577 as squatter settlement.

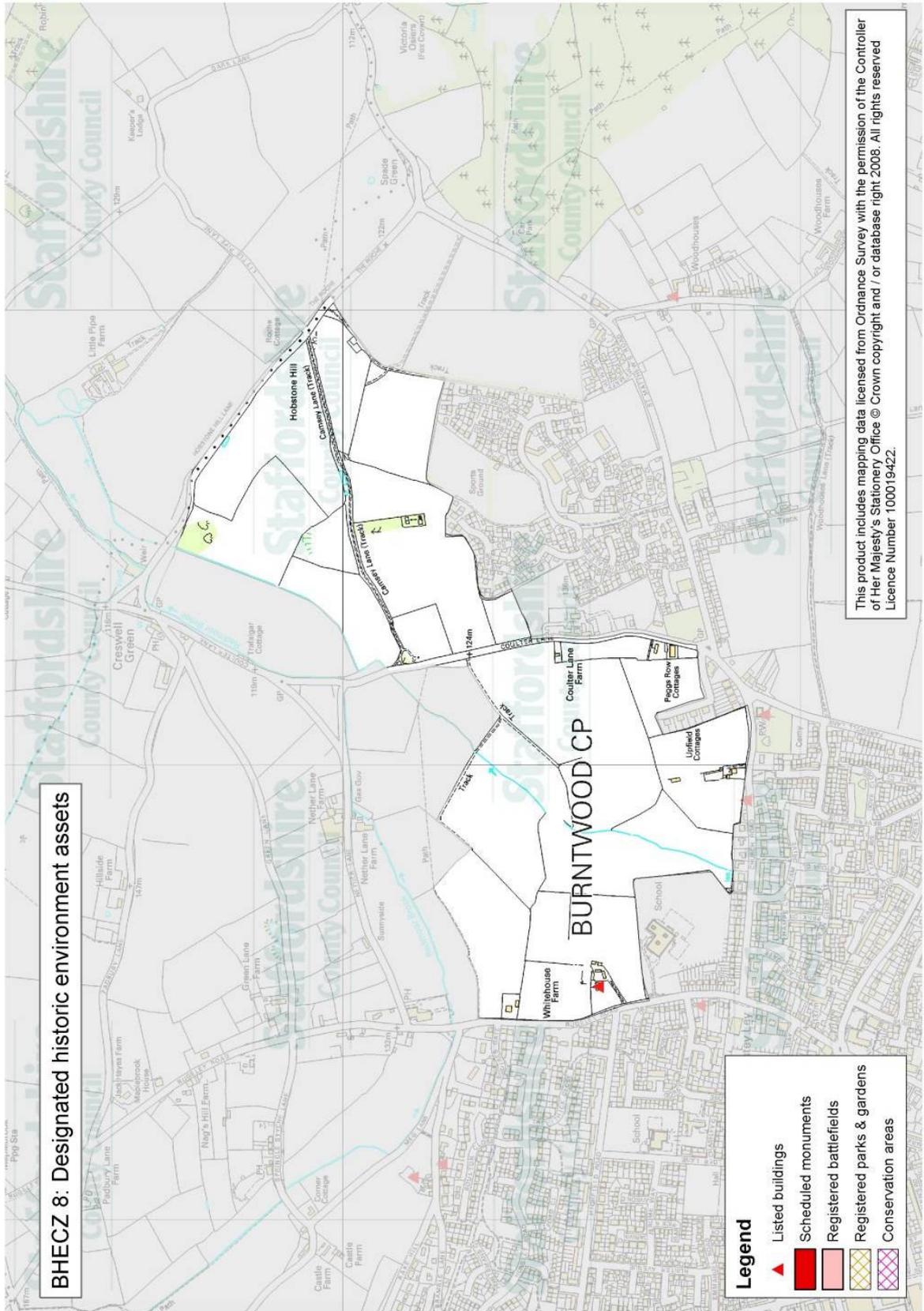
The zone has never been intensively settled although the map evidence suggests that houses have come and gone between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Two properties are indicated on Yates' map of 1775 along Coulter Lane, one of them appears to have been a school although the nature of the other building cannot be determined from this map. However, by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century these appear to have gone, but a property had been built at the junction of Coulter Lane and Camsey Lane, the latter now a track. However, this property had gone by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century although its well and plot were still legible. It is possible that such a small property may not have been recorded by Yates' and consequently the site could still be older than the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century a cottage had been built on Coulter Lane, which survives. It is not known what the origins of these properties are and there is the potential that they could date from the later medieval or early post medieval periods.

Other than the removal of some of the field boundaries the only other 20<sup>th</sup> century changes to the zone are the individual properties along Church Road and Rugeley Road.

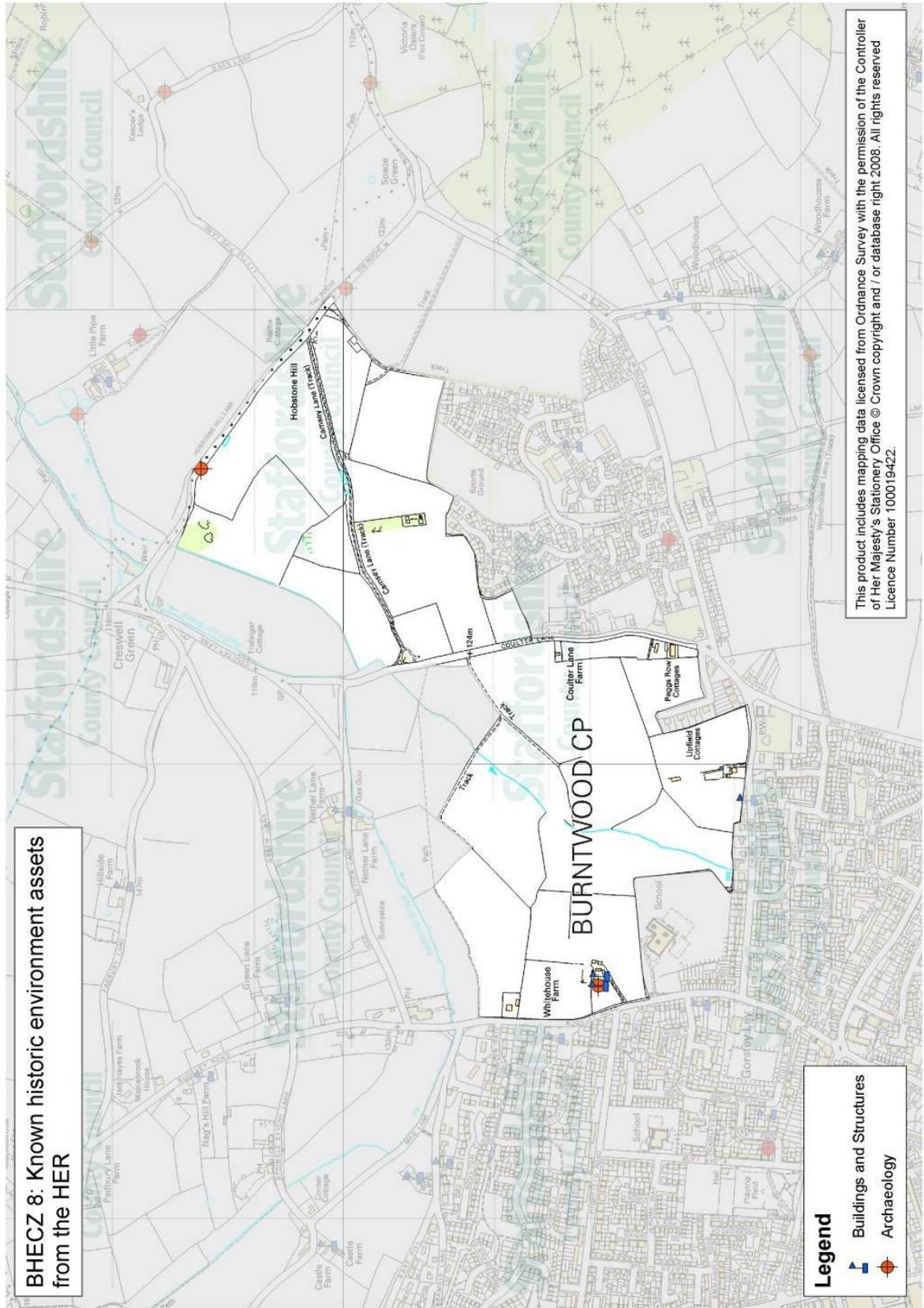
### Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	There are few historic environment assets, although there are a number of house plots of at least post medieval date.	2
Potential	The landscape has not been significantly impacted except by agricultural practices.	2
Documentation	HER data & VCH	2
Diversity	It contains a narrow range of assets which are of a similar nature.	1
Group Association	The dispersed settlement pattern and the historic landscape character of irregular fields are likely to have originated as squatter settlement originally on heathland.	2
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently	1

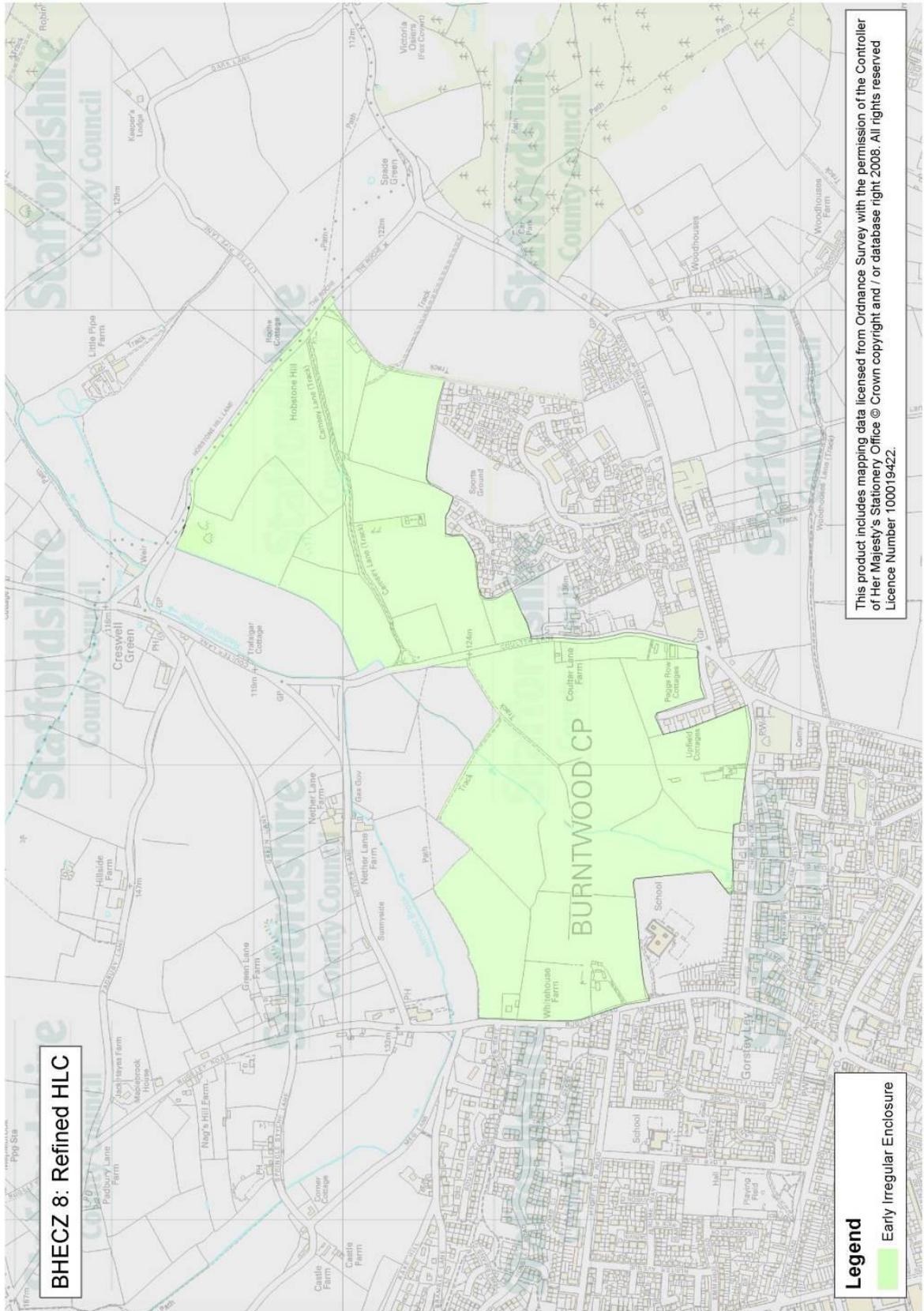
	lend itself to interpretation.	
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure)	Large or medium scale development is likely to have at least a moderate impact upon the historic nature of the dispersed settlement and its relationship with the historic landscape character	2
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>12</b>



Map 15: Designations



Map 16: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 17: Refined HLC

## **BHECZ 9 – North of Burntwood (HECA 10b)**

### **Summary**

By the medieval period this zone was dominated by medieval arable agriculture in the form of open fields, although the landscape had probably supported only a small scale pastoral economy from the later prehistoric period. It had formed part of the Royal Forest of Cannock by the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century. The landscape was enclosed as piecemeal enclosure, probably from the medieval period onwards and much of this pattern survives particularly around the areas of historic dispersed settlement; the scattered farms and the settlement along Rugeley Road.

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

- the historic dispersed nature of the settlement and the associated historic landscape character; how this could be retained or reflected
- the protection of unlisted historic buildings
- the impact upon the listed building
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations** (map 18)

There is one Listed Building falling within this BHECZ.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 19)

BHECZ 9 is likely to have been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age. From this period onwards this landscape probably began to be cleared of trees to support a small scale pastoral economy. However, at the present time little archaeological work has been carried out and consequently the nature and extent of human activity during the prehistoric to medieval period is poorly understood within this zone.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 20)

The character zone had formed part of the Royal Forest of Cannock by at least the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century, although it soon became dominated by large hedge-less arable fields, known as open fields, which were worked by communities, usually living in villages or hamlets. The fields were ploughed as strips and each family would have had their strips scattered across the open fields so that everyone had a share of the better and poorer land. The open fields within the zone may have been farmed by families who lived

dispersed across the landscape rather than in a village. Certainly by the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century the settlement pattern across the zone was dispersed in nature..

The landscape probably began to be enclosed from the late medieval period onwards into small fields of piecemeal enclosure, through verbal, informal agreements between the landholders who wished to consolidate their scattered strips into a single holding. Either side of the Rugeley Road and between Green Lane and Nether Lane the early field system survives well. To the east and around Castle Farm the field systems have seen considerable field boundary removal during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in response to agricultural intensification and improvements in machinery.

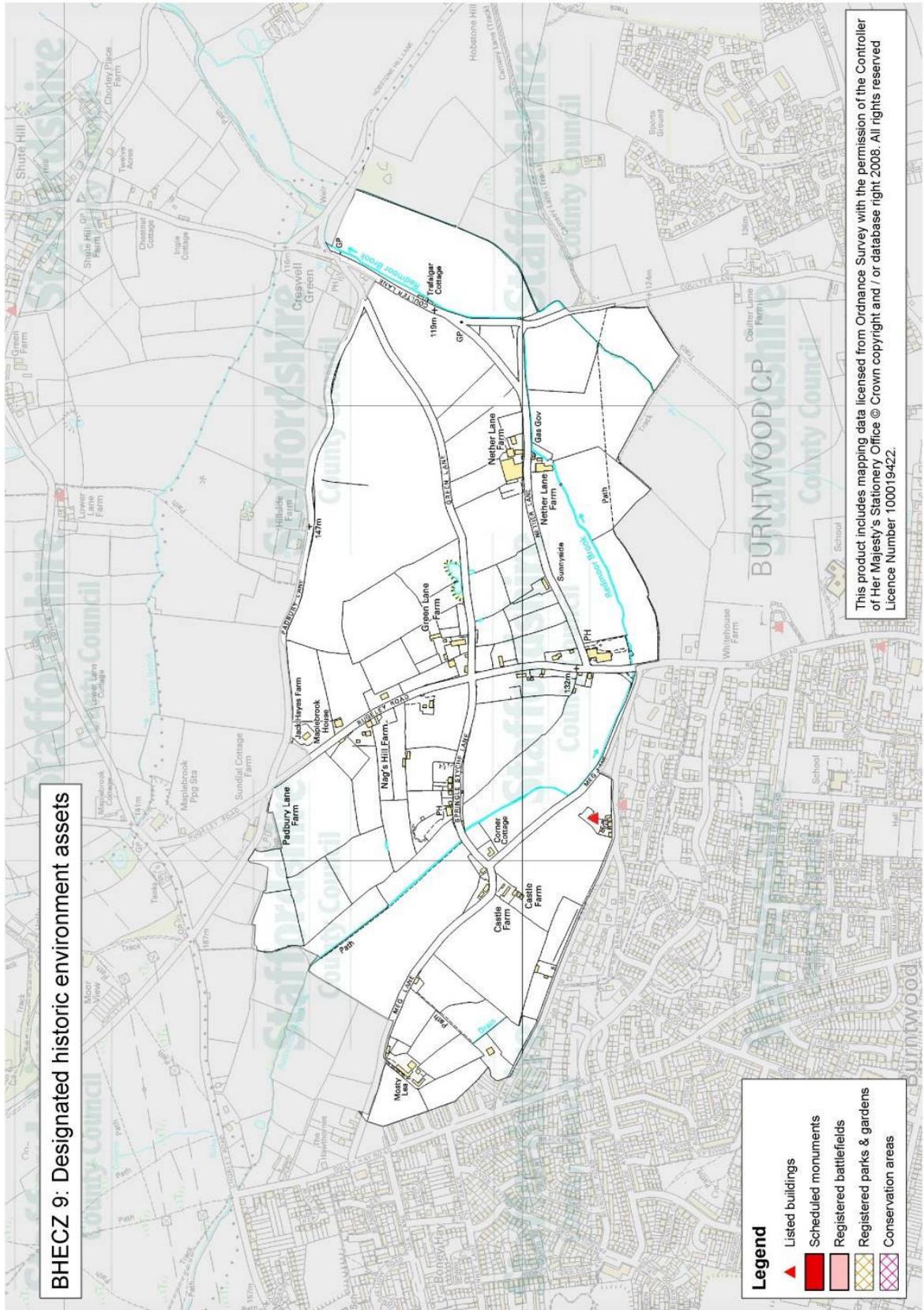
Within the zone five historic farmsteads have been identified, one which is listed although it has since been sub-divided. The listed farmstead, 32 and 34 Rake Hill, dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, whilst Castle Farm and Green Lane Farm have their origins in at least the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The dating of the farmsteads is not currently well understood and it is possible that some of them may represent foci for dispersed settlement during the medieval and early post-medieval period and that evidence of this pattern may survive within current farmstead complexes.

Yates' county map of 1775 also suggests settlement along both sides of the Rugeley Road and this pattern survives into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Many of these buildings may have originated as cottages and it is likely that many survive, although they are not currently listed.

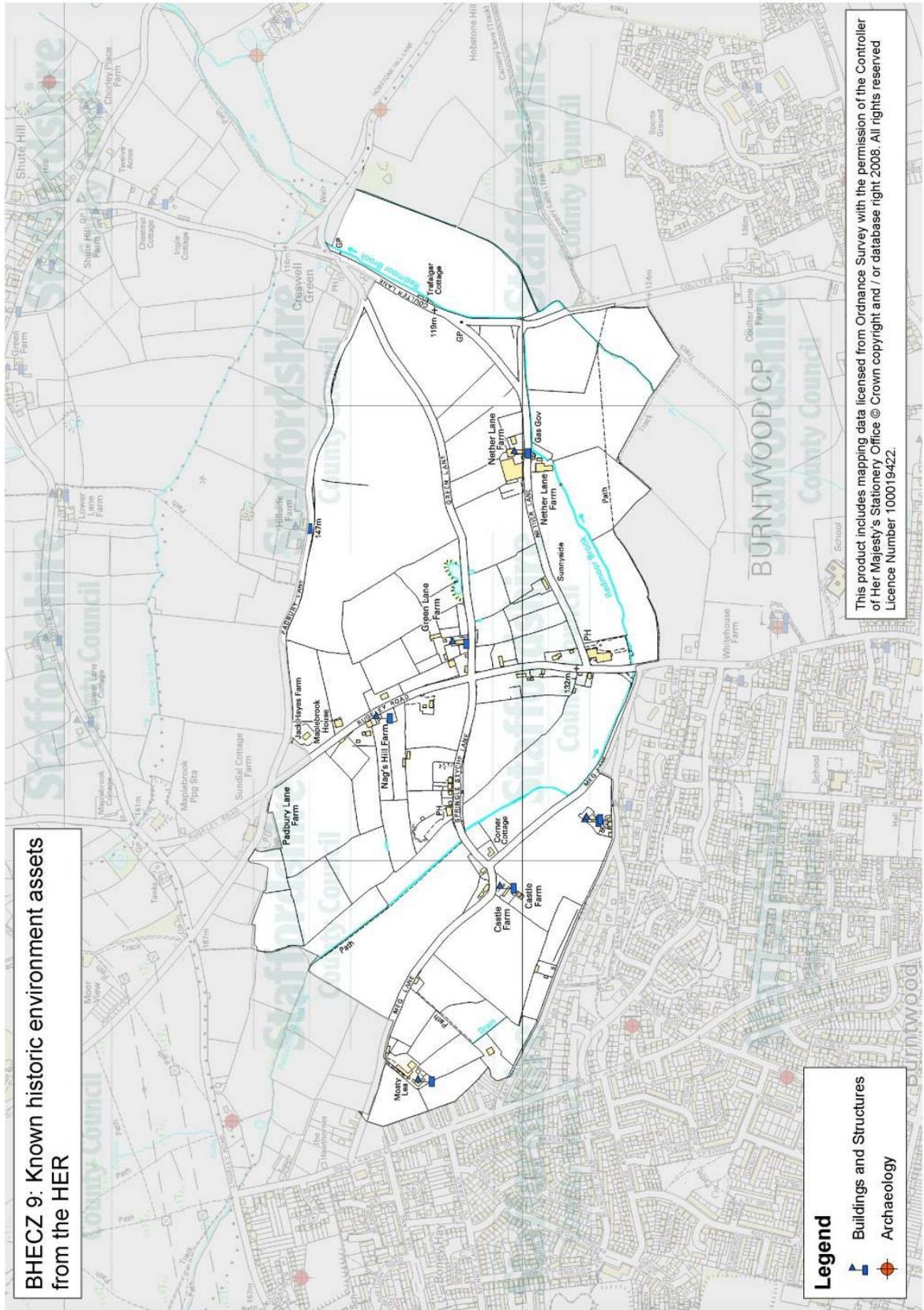
### Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	There is good potential for the survival of historic buildings within the zone, which may be associated with the well surviving historic landscape pattern. The zone has not been impacted by development or quarrying.	3
Potential	There are limited known historic environment assets although there is potential for the survival for historic buildings, including farmsteads. This lack however derives from a lack of knowledge and investigation.	2
Documentation	HER data and VCH	2
Diversity	There is a wide range of assets in terms of their character and many may be of a similar date or of similar origins.	2
Group Association	The historic buildings may be closely linked to the origins of the field pattern either of medieval or post medieval date.	3
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to interpretation.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure)	The zone is highly sensitive to medium and large scale development due to the well surviving nature of the historic field pattern	3

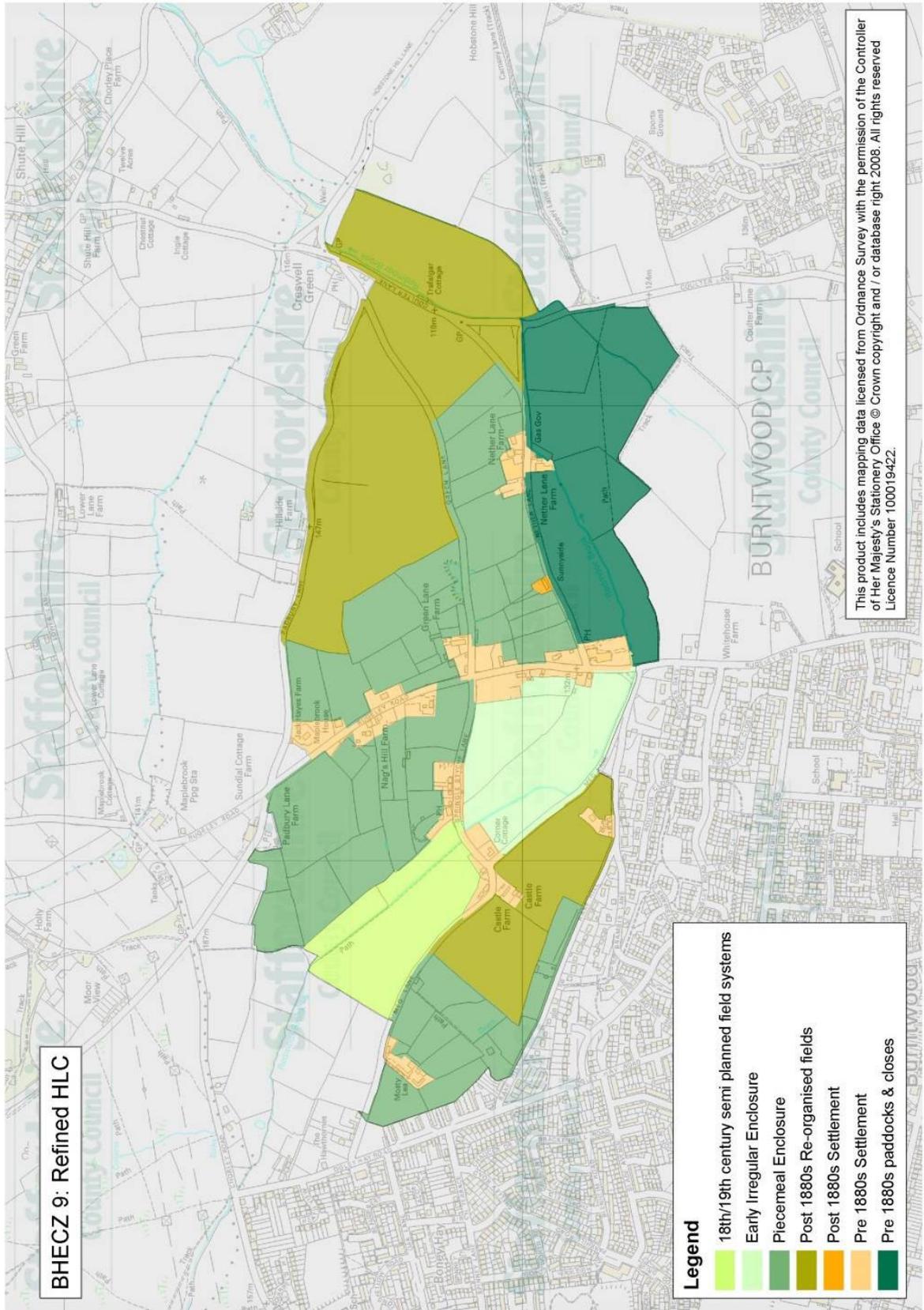
	as well as the historic nature of the dispersed settlement pattern, where many historic buildings potentially survive.	
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>16</b>



Map 18: Designations



Map 19: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 20: Refined HLC

## **BHECZ 10 – Edial and Woodhouses (HECA 2e)**

### **Summary**

By the medieval period this zone was dominated by arable agriculture in the form of open fields, although the landscape had probably supported only a small scale pastoral economy from the later prehistoric period; forming part of Royal Forest of Cannock by the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century. The landscape was enclosed as piecemeal enclosure, probably from the late medieval period onwards and much of this pattern survives along with a historic dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads.

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

- the historic dispersed nature of the settlement and the associated historic landscape character; how this could be retained or reflected
- the protection or retention of the historic road pattern
- the impact upon the listed building
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

### **Designations** (map 21)

There is one Listed Building falling within this BHECZ.

### **Archaeological Character** (map 22)

BHECZ 10 is likely to have been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age. From this period onwards this landscape probably began to be cleared of trees to support a small scale pastoral economy. However, at present time little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the nature and extent of human activity during the prehistoric to medieval period is poorly understood within this zone.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 23)

The character zone had formed part of the Royal Forest of Cannock by at least the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century. However, the medieval period it was dominated by large hedge-less arable fields, known as open fields, which were worked by communities, usually living in villages or hamlets. The fields were ploughed as strips and each family would have had their strips scattered across the open fields so that everyone had a share of the better and poorer land. The open field of the zone was farmed by the inhabitants of Woodhouses and Edial. Part of this area may have formed part of Moss field first mentioned in 1462.

The landscape probably began to be enclosed into small fields of piecemeal enclosure from the late medieval period onwards, through verbal, informal agreements between the landholders who wished to consolidate their scattered strips into a single holding. Documentary sources suggest that Moss field was enclosed between 1608 and the 1690s. The historic field pattern across the zone survives reasonably well with only minimal field boundary removal or insertion during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

There is documentary evidence for settlement in the area at Edial, which is first mentioned in 1299 and to the east at Woodhouses. The later was first mentioned in 1374 and these two settlements, and their associated open fields, probably represent assarting within the Royal forest, where woodland was cleared to create farm land.

Within the zone five historic farmsteads have been identified none of which have been closely dated, although Edial Farm to the east of the zone, appears to date from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that some of them may represent foci for dispersed settlement during the medieval and early post-medieval period and that evidence of this pattern may survive within current farmstead complexes. It has been suggested that the enclosure of the open field during the 17<sup>th</sup> century may have prompted the establishment of these farmsteads as the centre of a series of newly created land holdings

Edial Hall to the south of the zone is a Grade II listed building dating to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, although it is first recorded in documentary records in 1680. Its development may be associated with the enclosure of the open field to the north. During the early 18<sup>th</sup> century Samuel Johnson, of Lichfield, rented the house as a school.

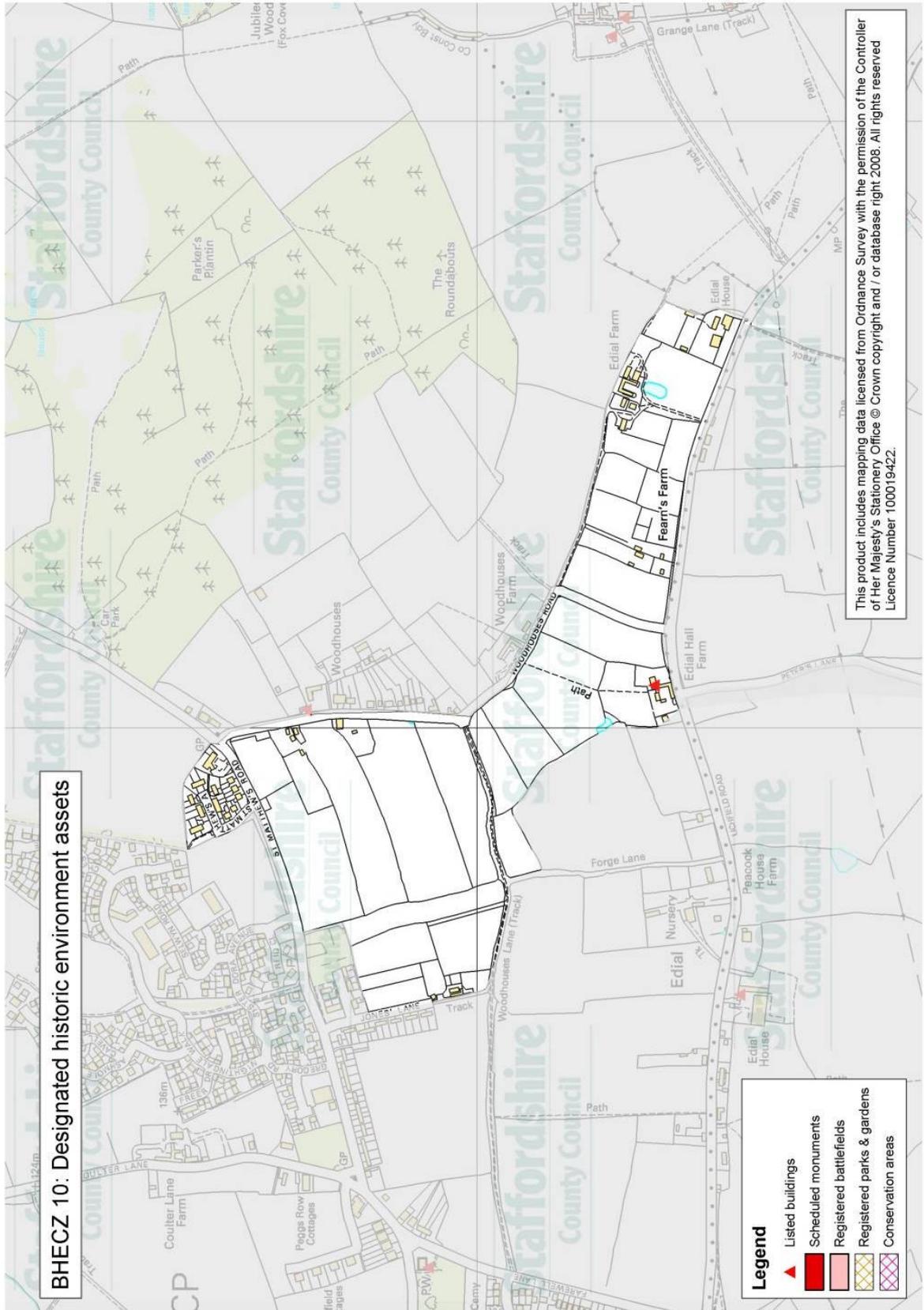
Woodhouses Lane survives as a hollow way and on Yates' map of 1775 it is shown as forming a part of the road network. It and other lanes just beyond the zone, including Forge Lane mentioned in 1616, are an important aspect of the landscape.

There has been little in the way of development within the zone although some of the individual farmsteads have been altered and extended during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

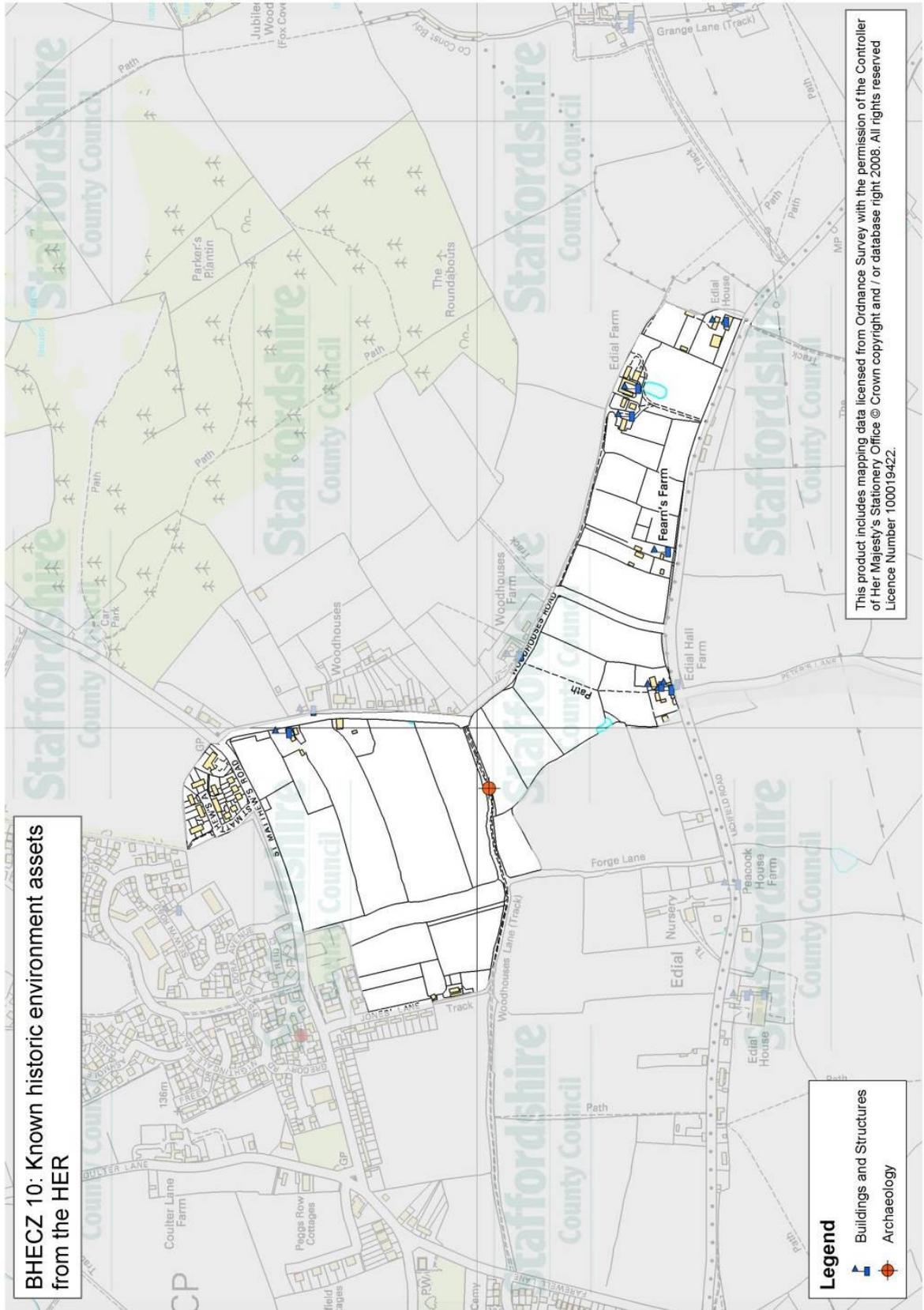
### Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	There are a few known historic environment assets mostly regarding medieval land use and the historic farmsteads including Edial Hall.	2
Potential	There are limited known assets but there has been little impact upon the zone in terms of ground disturbance.	2
Documentation	HER date and VCH	2
Diversity	The zone contains a range of assets including buildings, hollow way and an historic field pattern.	3

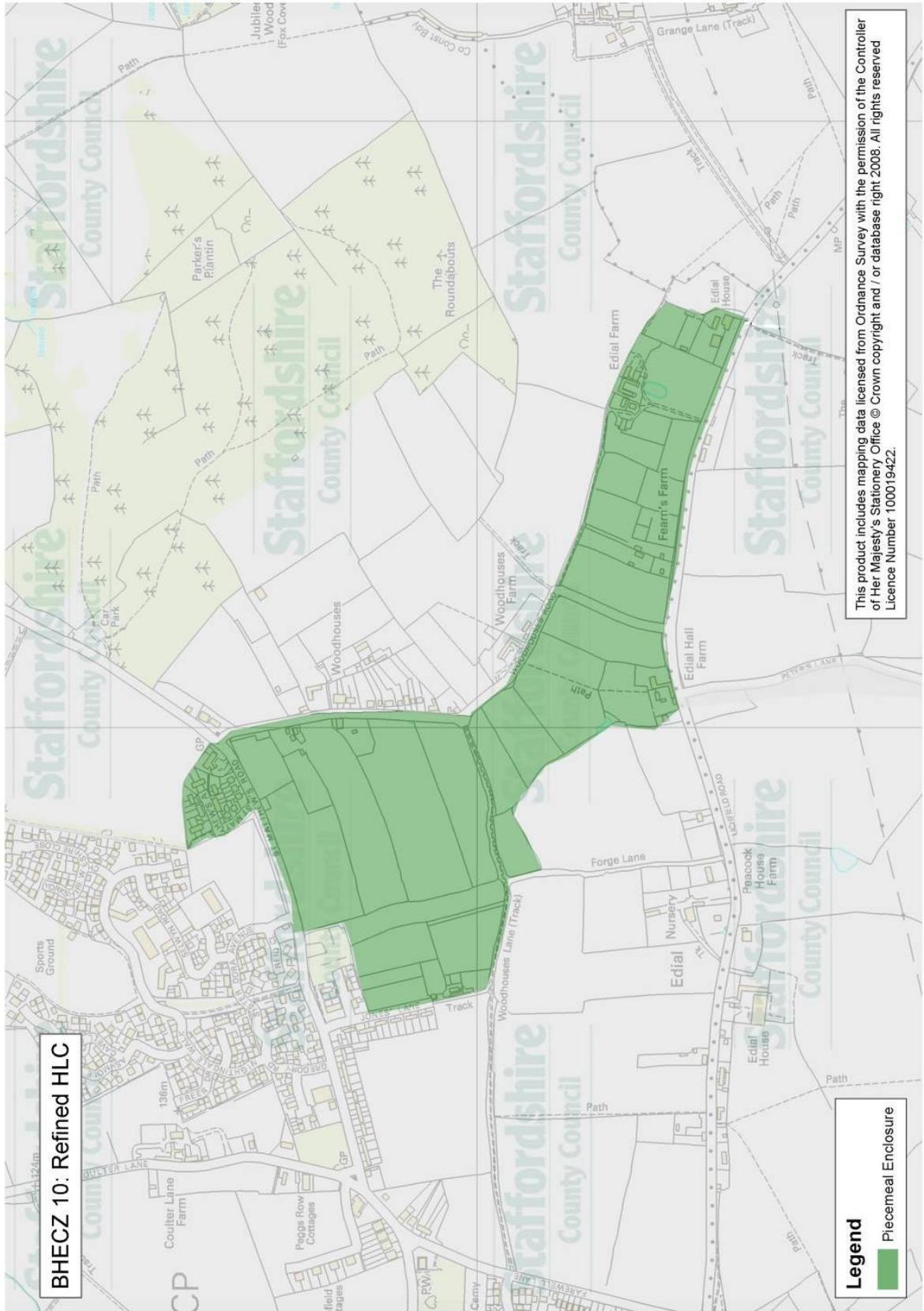
Group Association	There is probably a strong association between the field pattern and the dispersed nature of the settlement.	3
Amenity Value	The zone could be presented to provide a sense of place being a good example of a dispersed settlement pattern within an historic field pattern. There is also potential to promote Edial Hall and its association with Samuel Johnson	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure)	The zone is highly sensitive to medium or large scale change due to the well preserved field pattern and the dispersed nature of the settlement.	3
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>17</b>



Map 21: Designations



Map 22: HER data (excluding findspots and documentary evidence)



Map 23: Refined HLC

## **BHECZ 11 – Burntwood (HECA 2i)**

### **Summary**

This zone once formed part of Cannock Forest which is likely to have comprised a woodland and heath land landscape since at least the later prehistoric period. It was mostly enclosed after an Act of Parliament was passed in 1861, although a small area to the south east was enclosed following an earlier Act passed in 1856. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement began to expand across the zone. This began with the development of mining villages such as Chasetown and Chase Terrace where the historic street system still reflects the earlier field system and some historic unlisted buildings survive. The earliest settlement lay to the east and probably dates from at least the 15<sup>th</sup> century. However, the dispersed nature of this earlier settlement pattern has been lost through subsequent development.

Medium or large scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the historic environment assets of the zone. However, any development which may be planned for the zone would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits
- the impact upon the listed buildings
- the impact upon the street pattern and surviving unlisted historic buildings at both Chasetown and Chase Terrace in particular.

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

### **Designations** (map 24)

There are five listed buildings falling within this BHECZ.

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

BHECZ 11 is likely to have been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age when this landscape probably began to be cleared of trees to support a small scale pastoral economy. This activity is likely over time to have resulted in the establishment of the heath land. The heath land character of the character zone probably continued relatively uninterrupted from around the Bronze Age through to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Little archaeological or historic research has been carried out within the zone and currently there are no known sites of pre 19<sup>th</sup> century date. However, a Neolithic flint knife has been recovered within the zone indicating that people were present in the wider area although the nature and extent of that presence is currently unknown.

## Historic Landscape (map 26)

By the mid 11<sup>th</sup> century the zone had formed part of the much larger Royal Forest of Cannock. The Forest was probably a mosaic of heath and woodland. The heath land character of the zone continued to dominate until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. An Act of Parliament to enclose the heath land was passed for Burntwood in 1861 whilst an Act for Hammerwich, which covered part of the south eastern corner of the zone, was passed in 1856. The resulting enclosure created a landscape of geometric fields with straight boundaries laid out by surveyors and known as planned enclosure. Farmsteads were established within the newly created field system, with eleven having been built by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century; however eight of those farmsteads have since been demolished.

The rural nature of the landscape did not survive long as two mining villages were laid out which respected the pre-existing geometric pattern of the landscape. The villages were known as Chasetown by 1867, and Chase Terrace by 1870. A Grade II\* listed chapel of ease, St Anne's, was built in 1865 to serve the new community of Chasetown.

The earliest known buildings are located on the eastern edge of the zone in an area which has probably been settled since at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century and which is generally known as Burntwood on historic maps. The early settlement pattern of Burntwood appears to be very dispersed in nature probably relating to its origins as squatter settlement upon the heath land. Rake Croft on Rake Hill and The Burnthouse, on the Rugeley Road, both Grade II listed, are the earliest known buildings dating to the late 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> century and the 17<sup>th</sup> century respectively.

Christchurch in Church Road was built in 1819-20 probably reflecting the expansion of settlement by this period across the eastern part of the zone and beyond into BHECZ 7.

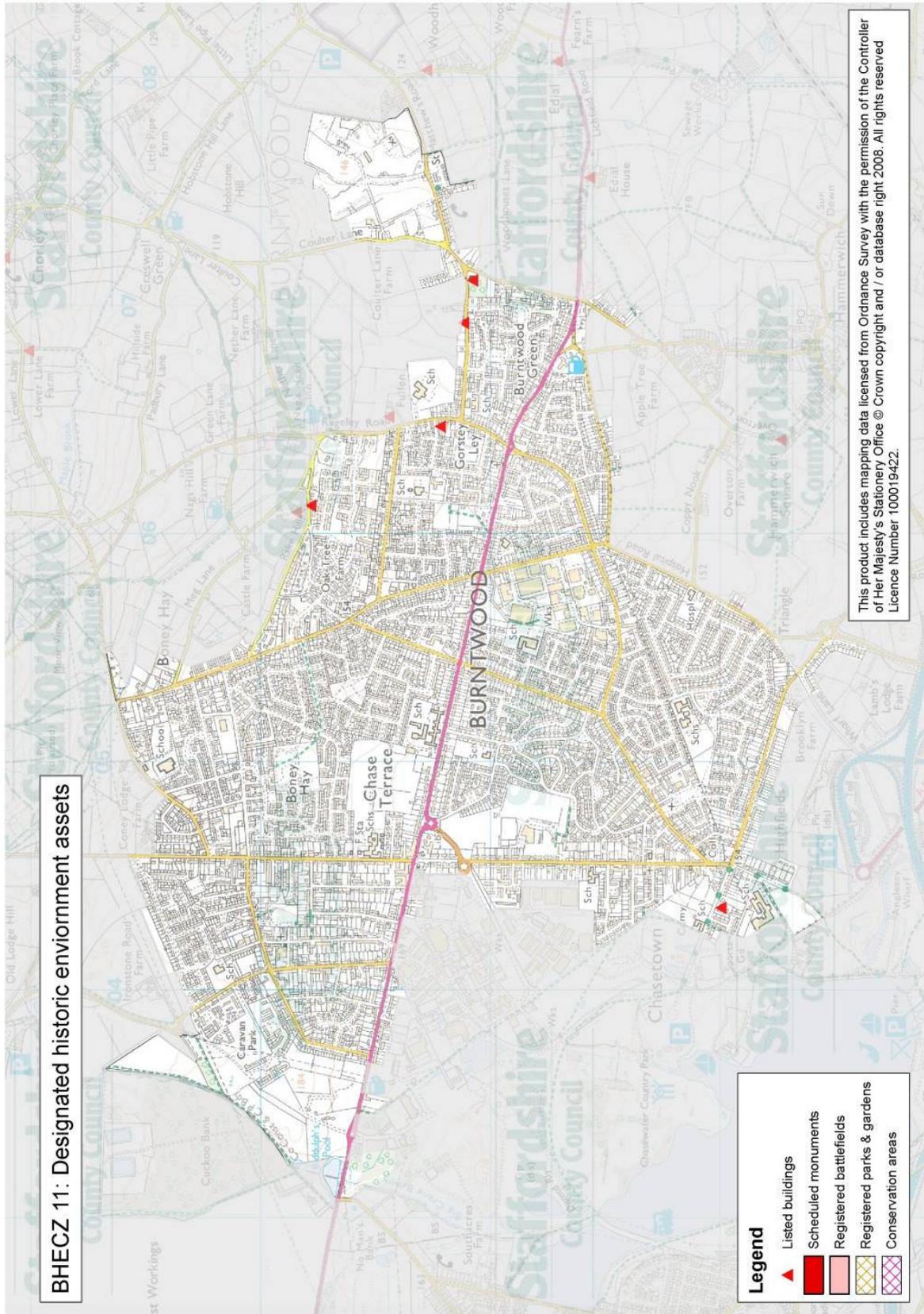
Settlement continued to expand during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century along the new roads laid out in the 19<sup>th</sup> century around Chasetown and Chase Terrace and along the Cannock Road which extended towards the eastern boundary of the zone. By the early 21<sup>st</sup> century housing development dominated the landscape of the zone leaving very little in the way of green space other than designated parks, playing fields and school fields needed to serve the burgeoning communities. Historic unlisted buildings survive in both Chasetown, in and around the High Street, and at Chase Terrace, most notably around Princess Street, as well as in other small groups within the modern development. These historic buildings are the survivors from the mining villages developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the associated street pattern in both villages survive well.

## Historic Assets Summary Table

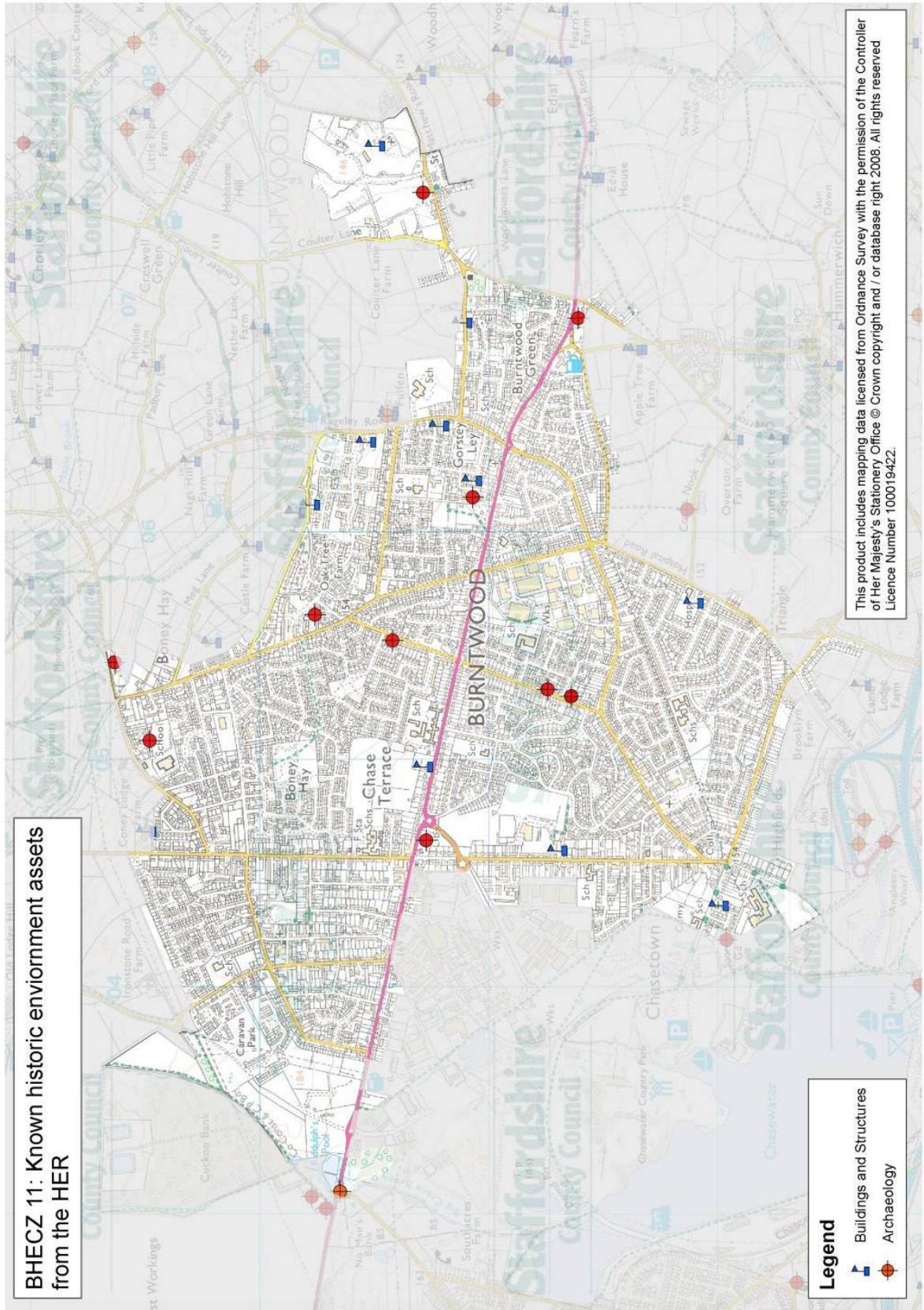
Survival	The zone has been impacted by intensive 20 <sup>th</sup> century development.	1
----------	---	---

Potential	There may be areas of potential particularly on the eastern side where settlement is known to have existed by the early post medieval period.	1
Documentation	HER data and VCH	2
Diversity	There are few historic environment assets other than those relating to the historic built environment.	1
Group Association	There is an association at Chasetown and Chase Terrace in particular between the surviving unlisted historic buildings and the historic street pattern which clearly reflects the planned nature of the preceding field system.	2
Amenity Value	There is the potential for the development of aspects of the zone to be interpreted for the benefit of the local communities to help define a sense of place.	2
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure)	The zone has already been greatly developed.	1
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>10</b>

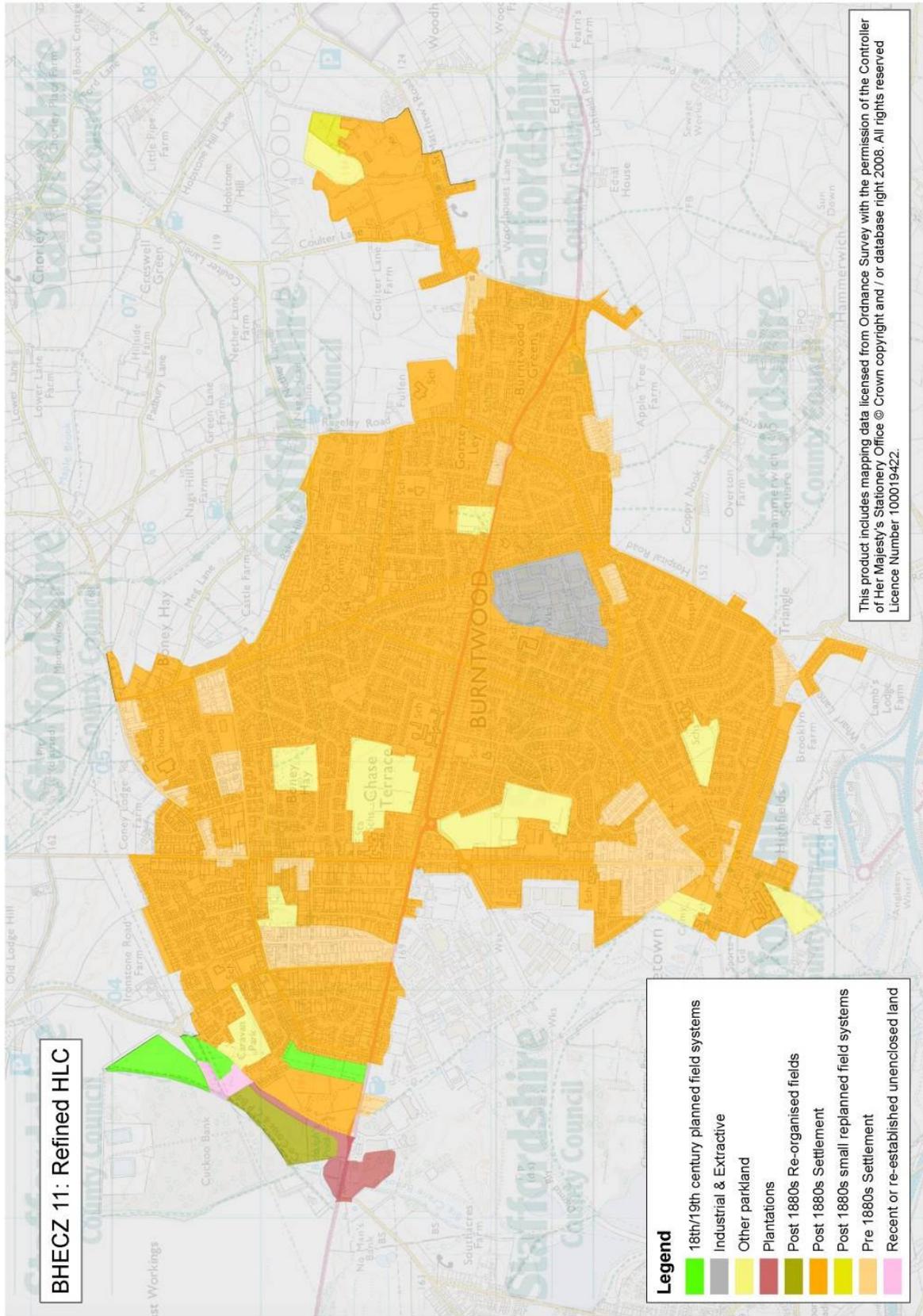
The background history for this zone is covered by the Victoria County History: Staffordshire volume XIV.



Map 24: Designations



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



Map 26: Refined HLC

## **BHECZ 12 – East of Hammerwich (HECA 2e)**

### **Summary**

By the medieval period this zone was dominated by arable agriculture in the form of open fields. However, the landscape had probably supported only a small scale pastoral economy from the later prehistoric period up to the medieval period when it formed part of Cannock Forest (in the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century). During the medieval period the landscape was at least partially farmed by the local community. The focus of settlement may originally have lay near the chapel or otherwise near the junction of Hall Lane and Coppice Lane. The field system to the north of Hall Lane has been considerably impacted by the removal of field boundaries during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Medium or large scale development is likely to have a moderate impact upon the historic environment assets of the zone, mostly relating to the historic dispersed settlement pattern. Any development which may be planned for the zone would need to address impacts upon and potential mitigation strategies for:

- the historic dispersed nature of the settlement; how this could be retained or reflected
- the impact upon the listed building
- the potential for below ground archaeological deposits

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

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

There is one Listed Building within this BHECZ.

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

BHECZ 12 is likely to have been heavily wooded until at least the Bronze Age. From this period onwards this landscape probably began to be cleared of trees to support a small scale pastoral economy. However, at present little archaeological work has been carried out within the zone and consequently the nature and extent of human activity during the prehistoric to medieval period is poorly understood within this zone.

### **Historic Landscape** (map 29)

The character zone had formed part of the Royal Forest of Cannock by at least the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century. At a similar period Hammerwich had been settled although the original focus of the settlement has not been established. However, a chapel is believed to have existed on the site of the current 19<sup>th</sup> century church from the medieval period and possibly the 12<sup>th</sup> century (VCH). It may be that settlement was originally located around the church, although

documentary sources suggest that there were at least two foci and by the 14<sup>th</sup> century there were three. Part of the settlement of Netherton, first recorded in 1319, may have fallen within the zone which is believed to have lain around the junction of Hall Lane and Coppice Lane. Hammerwich Hall which lies along Hall Lane, just 140m from the junction, existed by the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. A timber framed house had formed the historic core of the property until it was demolished c.1960 to make way for a new house. The earlier history of this site is not known and it has not been established whether a medieval manor house was ever located within this zone.

Documentary sources also record that by the 14<sup>th</sup> century Hammerwich had three open fields, large hedge-less arable fields, which were farmed in rotation by the local community. The fields were ploughed as strips and each family would have had their strips scattered across the open fields so that everyone had a share of the better and poorer land. An area of open fields associated with the wider settlement of Hammerwich is located in the southern half of the zone where ridge and furrow, the ridged earthworks resulting from the method of ploughing, has also been identified on aerial photographs dating to the 1960s. Part of this area of open field may be identified with that called Chapel Field in 1381.

These open fields probably began to be enclosed from the late medieval period onwards into smaller fields through a process known as piecemeal enclosure. This was often achieved through verbal, informal agreements between the landholders who wished to consolidate their scattered strips into a single holding. Documentary sources suggest that Chapel field was enclosed between 1634 and 1716. The historic field pattern across the zone survives reasonably well with only minimal field boundary removal or insertion during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

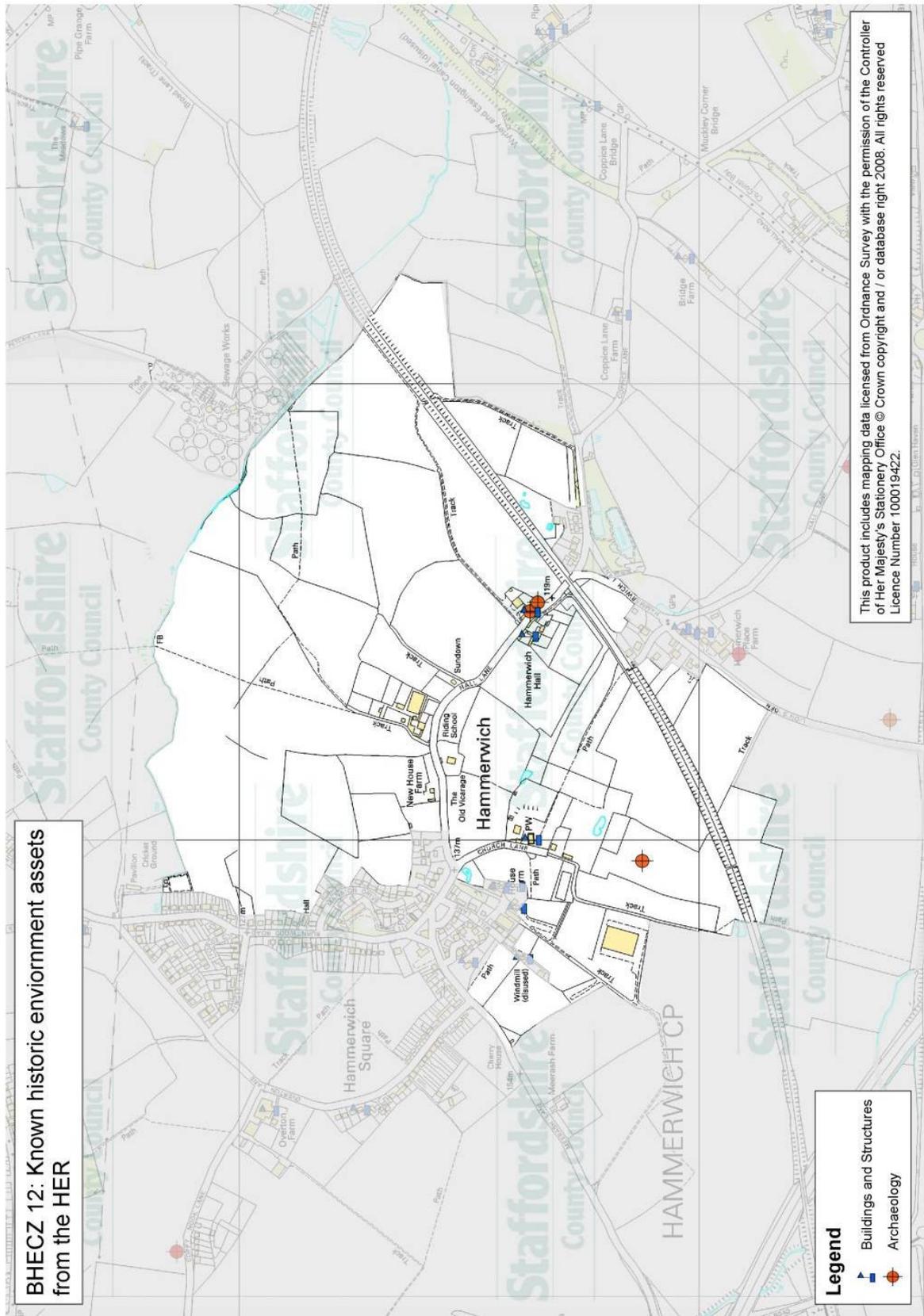
The remainder of the field systems across the zone represent other early enclosures, some of which may relate to the enclosure of the formerly open fields. The field system to the north of Hall Lane is irregular in nature and may represent early assarting, the clearance of woodland to create enclosures for farmland, for pasture rather than arable purposes. The irregular nature of the field system survives but its character has been considerably impacted by the removal of hedgerows to improve arable production during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The settlement pattern continues to be dispersed in nature, although until the 20<sup>th</sup> century Hammerwich Hall and a property lying adjacent to the church were the only known domestic buildings. An early post medieval barn located opposite Hammerwich Hall contains re-used timbers known as crucks which suggests that they came from an older building probably within the locality. Around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a new farm was established on the north side of Hall Lane along with a new rectory, currently known as The Old Vicarage, on the south side almost opposite.

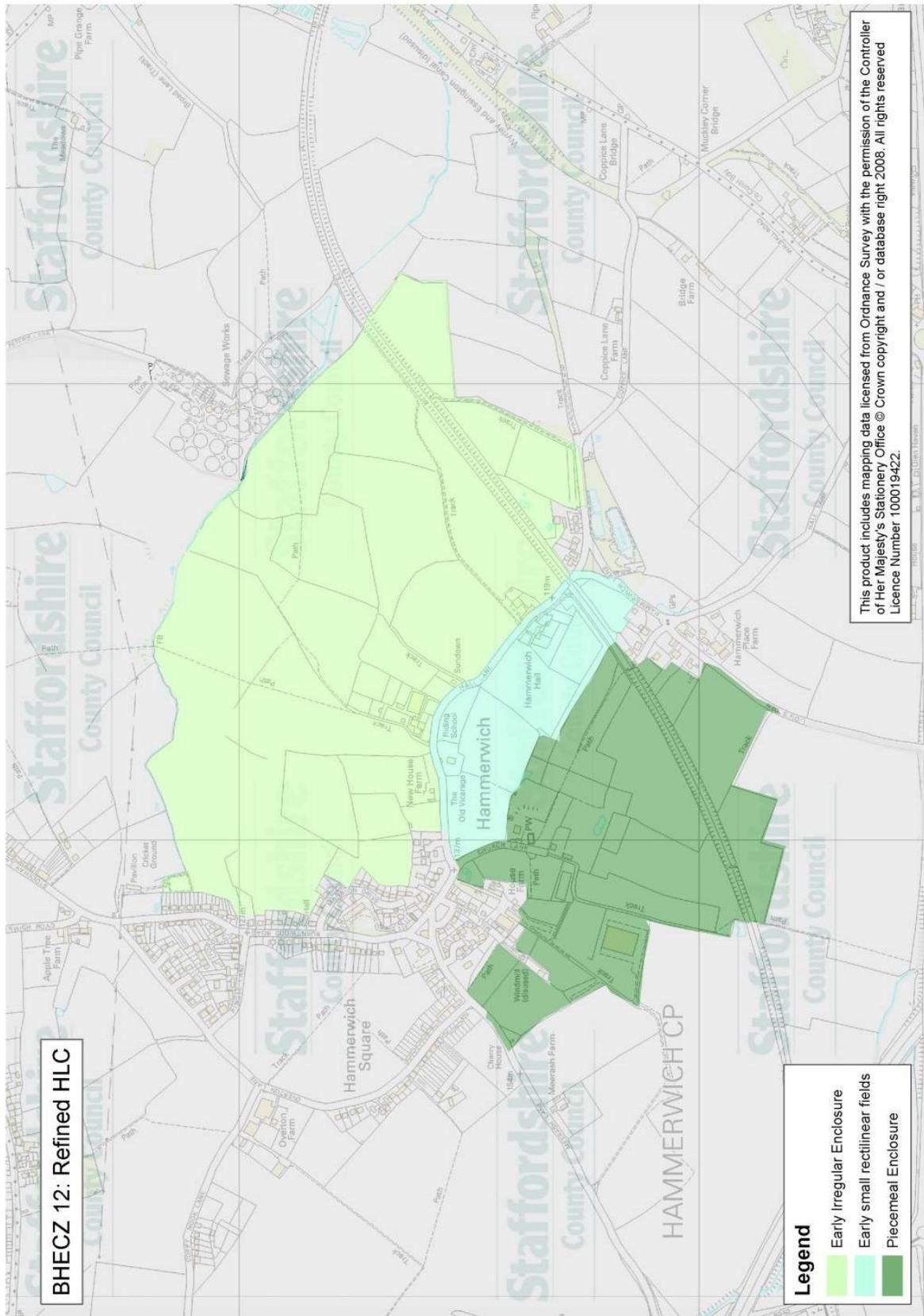
## Historic Assets Summary Table

Survival	There are few known historic environment assets but the zone has not been subject to intensive disturbance from either development or quarrying.	2
Potential	There is the potential for medieval settlement to lie within the zone at an unknown location; around the church and/or around Hammerwich Hall. The zone has not been intensively disturbed by development or quarrying.	2
Documentation	HER data and VCH	2
Diversity	There are few known historic environment assets	1
Group Association	There is an association with Hammerwich settlement and the field pattern to the south of Hall Lane.	1
Amenity Value	The historic environment does not currently lend itself to interpretation.	1
Sensitivity to change (to housing expansion & infrastructure)	There would be a moderate impact upon the nature of the dispersed settlement pattern and the historic field system to the south of Hall Lane	2
<b>Overall score</b>		<b>11</b>





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



Map 29: Refined HLC