

# BOROUGH PLAN BACKGROUND PAPER: Historic Environment

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Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

**2015**



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# **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This paper sets out relevant international, national and local policies, strategies and guidance documents, as well as relevant evidence base documents to inform policy development for the historic environment.
- 1.2 The historic environment is an important aspect of planning as it has shaped and influenced the physical and human interactions of the Borough. It is an important component of sustainable development as the past must be preserved for future generations. Although relatively small the Borough contains a number of rich and diverse heritage assets. The heritage assets help to make a place unique and locally distinct and help to shape the local character of an area.
- 1.3 The past can be vulnerable to change and assets can be lost forever. In order to protect the past there must be positive strategies in place to ensure that existing assets are protected and that those at risk are managed in a proactive manner.

# **2 INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION**

## **The European Landscape Convention 2007**

- 2.1 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) is a Council of Europe initiative that highlights the importance of all landscapes and encourages more attention to their care and planning. The ELC commits authorities to establishing strategies, policies, and actions to sustain and enhance landscapes.
- 2.2 The ELC defines landscape as, “An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.”
- 2.3 The Convention calls on the Member States to fully integrate landscape into their land use planning and management and increase awareness of the significance of landscape through education and promotion.
- 2.4 The United Kingdom (UK) signed up to the convention in 2006, and it now provides a framework for improving the UK’s landscapes.
- 2.5 Natural England is leading the implementation of the ELC in England and has worked with DEFRA and English Heritage to produce the European Landscape Convention: A Framework for Implementation in England.
- 2.6 This framework seeks to further strengthen the protection, management and planning of England’s landscapes, by providing a structure for action plans that will be prepared by any interested partners and stakeholders. It underpins a wide range of activities which, through public engagement and

stakeholder involvement, will lead to wider understanding and appreciation of landscapes, improved knowledge and care, as well as a sense of inspiration, well-being and connection between people and place.

### **European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (The Valletta Treaty) 1992**

- 2.7 The main principle of this treaty is to ensure that assets of archaeological value and interest are not destroyed. As stated in article 1, it aims to protect archaeological heritage "as a source of European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study. All remains and objects and any other traces of humankind from past times are considered to be elements of the archaeological heritage. The archaeological heritage shall include structures, constructions, groups of buildings, developed sites, moveable objects, monuments of other kinds as well as their context, whether situated on land or under water."
- 2.8 Article 2 states that each Member state signed up to the Treaty must put in place a legal system for the protection of archaeological heritage. It also states that any chance archaeological finds must be reported to a competent authority allowing for the site to be examined (excavated).
- 2.9 The UK Government signed up to the Treaty in September 2000 and it became law in March 2001 by doing so they are agreeing to abide by the principles of the Charter.
- 2.10 This gives greater protection to archaeological sites and on the discovery of such sites, whether by chance or knowledge.

### **3 NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE**

#### **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Department for Communities and Local Government 2012**

- 3.1 The NPPF makes it clear that the historic environment is an important aspect of planning as it is one of the twelve core planning principles which should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking. LPAs should, “Conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations.” This means that heritage assets in the Borough must be protected so that they can help to provide social, economic and environmental benefits to the area.
- 3.2 The protection and enhancement of the historic environment is a key dimension of sustainable development. In order to deliver sustainable development this there needs to be local policies in place which conserve and enhance the historic environment. The NPPF states that, “Local planning authorities (LPAs) should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats.” A positive strategy should consider all other planning policies including land use allocation, housing, infrastructure, and design policies.
- 3.3 Local planning authorities should take into account the following points from the NPPF:
- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
  - the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
  - the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
  - opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

#### **The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979**

- 3.4 The Act places a duty on the Secretary of State to compile and maintain a schedule of ‘monuments’. Once included in the schedule, a monument and any land essential for its support and preservation has legal protection.

3.5 The inclusion of monuments in the schedule is at the discretion of the Secretary of State. To be 'scheduled', a monument must first meet the 1979 Act's definition, which is:

- any building, structure or work, whether above or below the surface of the land, and any cave or excavation;
- any site comprising the remains of any such building, structure or work or of any cave or excavation; or
- any site comprising, or comprising the remains of, any vehicle, vessel, aircraft or other moveable structure or part thereof which neither constitutes nor forms part of a monument as defined above.

3.6 The 1979 Act affords statutory protection to scheduled monuments by making it a criminal offence to:

- destroy or damage a scheduled monument;
- execute, cause or permit to be executed works that would demolish, destroy, damage, remove, repair, alter or add to a scheduled monument, or to carry out any agriculture, forestry, flooding or tipping operations where there is such a monument, without the prior written consent of the Secretary of State;
- use a metal detector in a place without prior consent from English Heritage; and
- remove any object of archaeological or historical interest without prior consent from English Heritage.

### **Heritage in Local Plans: how to create a sound plan under the NPPF, English Heritage, 2012**

3.7 The English Heritage has provided a guide to local authorities on how to achieve the objectives of the NPPF for the historic environment. It highlights the multiple benefits of the historic environment particularly in relation to sustainable development.

3.8 It states that, "a Local Plan may be considered unsound if:

3.9 There has been no proper assessment of the significance of heritage assets in the area, including their settings, and of the potential for finding new sites of archaeological or historic interest, or, there has been no proper assessment to identify land where development would be inappropriate because of its historic significance.

3.10 The plan does not contain a positive strategy for the conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of the historic environment and policies that are clearly identified as strategic."



- 3.11 A positive strategy will be one that addresses all the necessary means of conserving and enhancing the historic environment for future generations. The consequences of this will be that the historic environment policy will be linked to other planning policies, such as design, infrastructure and natural environment policies. The historic environment can have a role in delivering other planning objectives through the following means:
- Building a strong, competitive economy
  - Ensuring the vitality of town centres
  - Supporting a prosperous rural economy
  - Promoting sustainable transport
  - Supporting high quality communications infrastructure
  - Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes
  - Requiring good design
  - Protecting Green Belt land
  - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
  - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
  - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals
  - Planning across boundaries

### **The Good Practice Guide to Local Heritage Listing, English Heritage, 2012**

- 3.12 This guidance provides a number of case studies on how best to review and create local heritage listing through an effective management and implementation framework. It uses case studies to demonstrate how a local list can be developed and initiated. It helps to highlight innovative methods to build and develop the local heritage list such as utilising social media for the local community to upload their photos.
- 3.13 Local heritage listing is a means for a community and a local authority to jointly identify heritage assets that are valued as distinctive elements of the local historic environment and should be retained for future generations. A local list can help to recognise local distinctiveness and character to ensure these values are taken into account when changes affecting the historic environment are proposed. Creating a local heritage list also helps to improve access to clear, comprehensive and current information about the historic environment at the local level through resources such as Historic Environment Records (HERs). Nuneaton and Bedworth Council will regularly review its local heritage list as a way to deliver a positive heritage strategy.
- 3.14 Having an up-to-date and comprehensive local list is important as Heritage assets not designated under statutory regimes, but recognised by the LPA as having heritage significance, do merit consideration in planning matters; with the LPA taking a balanced judgement having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.
- 3.15 Heritage assets are defined in the NPPF as, “A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance

meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).” To ensure only assets of value are added to the list there needs to be selection criteria. Table 1 demonstrates commonly applied criteria for local lists. The final criteria for identifying local heritage assets for the Borough will be consulted on before they are formally set.

**Table 1: The English Heritage suggested criteria for a local list**

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Description</b>
Age	The age of an asset may be an important criterion and the age range can be adjusted to take into account distinctive local characteristics
Rarity	Appropriate for all assets, as judged against local characteristics
Aesthetic value	The intrinsic design value of an asset relating to local styles, materials or any other distinctive local characteristics
Group value	Groupings of assets with a clear visual, design or historic relationship
Evidential value	The significance of a local heritage asset of any kind may be enhanced by a significant contemporary or historic written record
Historic association	The significance of a local heritage asset of any kind may be enhanced by a significant historical association of local or national note, including links to important local figures
Archaeological interest	This may be an appropriate reason to designate a locally significant asset on the grounds of archaeological interest if the evidence base is sufficiently compelling and if a distinct area can be identified
Designed landscapes	Relating to the interest attached to locally important designed landscapes, parks and gardens
Landmark status	An asset with strong communal or historical associations, or because it has especially striking aesthetic value, may be singled out as a landmark within the local scene
Social and communal value	Relating to places perceived as a source of local identity, distinctiveness, social interaction and coherence; often residing in intangible

3.16 The historic environment is central to England's cultural heritage and sense of identity, and hence a resource that should be sustained for the benefit of present and future generations. English Heritage outlines six conservation principles to provide a comprehensive framework for the sustainable management of the historic environment.

- Principle 1 – The historic environment is a shared resource
- Principle 2 – Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment
- Principle 3 – Understanding the significance of places is vital
- Principle 4 – Significant places should be managed to sustain their values
- Principle 5 – Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent
- Principle 6 – Documenting and learning from decisions is essential

3.17 The historic environment can have many values all of which help to create the character and local distinctiveness of a place. These values are as follows:

- Evidential value - the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.
- Historical value - the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It tends to be illustrative or associative.
- Aesthetic value - the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.
- Communal value - the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. These values are closely bound up with historical and aesthetic values, but tend to have additional and specific aspects that are of commemorative, social spiritual or symbolic value.

## **4 LOCAL STRATEGIES**

**Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2007 – 2021,  
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, 2007**

- 4.1 The Corporate Plan sets out how the Council's services and activities will support the Council's Sustainable Community Plan. It includes a vision and four aims, each supported by several priorities and key targets.
- 4.2 In relation to the historic environment the most relevant aim is: "To provide a pleasant environment for those living, working and visiting the Borough". The priorities are:
- To create a greener and cleaner environment.
  - To lead in environmental issues addressing climate change and protection of the environment.

**Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's Sustainable Community Plan: Shaping Our Future 2007 – 2021, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, 2007**

- 4.3 Nuneaton and Bedworth's Sustainable Community Plan is a blueprint of the Borough's aspirations for the local community between 2007 -2021.
- 4.4 The Sustainable Community Plan sets out a vision and a plan to achieve the vision through working together with public sector agencies, communities, voluntary organisations and businesses to tackle major issues such as transport, health, education, employment, housing and community safety.
- 4.5 The Sustainable Community is broken down into four themes:
- 1) Stronger Borough
  - 2) Safer Borough
  - 3) Healthier Borough
  - 4) Sustainable Borough
- 4.6 Themes 1 and 4 are the most relevant to the historic environment policy, from these themes the following aims are key to this policy:
- Improve the wellbeing of communities by helping people work together.
  - Provide and support opportunities within the Borough that help foster and support a learning culture across all age groups.
  - Have a high quality environment with increased biodiversity and a sustainable approach to waste and energy.
  - Create a supportive environment for businesses and develop a vibrant and varied economy that is reflected in our town centres and business areas.

## 5 EVIDENCE BASE

### Key Heritage Assets

5.1 The diversity of the built environment that survives the Borough today serves as a unique and irreplaceable record of Nuneaton and Bedworth's development over time. Heritage assets both designated (listed buildings conservation areas, registered parks and gardens and scheduled ancient monuments) and non-designated (locally listed heritage assets) are protected through planning legislation that include measures for their preservation, management and enhancement. However, the non-designated heritage assets have much less protection. Table 2 summarises the heritage assets for the Borough<sup>1</sup>.

**Table 2: Summary of the number of Nuneaton and Bedworth's heritage assets**

Heritage Asset	Quantity
Listed Buildings	<b>90</b>
Grade II	79
Grade II*	8
Grade I	3
Locally Listed	<b>59</b>
Conservation Areas	<b>5</b>
Registered Historic Parks & Gardens	<b>2</b>
Grade II	1
Grade II*	1
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	<b>2</b>

#### *Listed Buildings*

5.2 Listed buildings are buildings and structures that have special architectural or historic interest of national importance. Listing brings statutory protection under planning legislation so that their significance can be conserved. English Heritage determines which structures are worthy of listing on behalf of the Secretary of State. Three grades can be assigned:

- Grade I,
- Grade II\* or
- Grade II.

5.3 Grade I structures, the top 2.5% of all listed buildings, are of exceptional interest, sometimes considered to be internationally important. Grade II\* buildings represent the 5.5% of listings which are of more than special

<sup>1</sup> Details of the assets can be viewed at [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk) and [www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk](http://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk)

interest, and 92% of the national stock of listed buildings is Grade II<sup>2</sup>. The figures for Nuneaton and Bedworth are as follows:

- Grade I: 3.4%
- Grade II\*: 8.9%
- Grade II: 87.7%

- 5.4 When a building is listed, it is listed in its entirety, including all external and internal features. Many structures in the curtilage of the listed building are also protected, for instance barns associated with a farmhouse. The importance of a listed building also extends to its wider setting.
- 5.5 Generally, the older a building is, the more likely it is to be listed. All buildings built before 1700 which survive in anything like their original condition are listed, as are most of those built between 1700 and 1840. The criteria became more stringent with time so that post-1945 buildings have to be exceptionally important to be listed. A building normally has to be over 30 years old to be eligible for listing.
- 5.6 A listed building may not be demolished, extended or altered without special permission from the local planning authority. Subsequently, when carrying out repairs or maintenance, owners are compelled to do so in a manner that conserves the original features or replace them with like for like materials, otherwise the owners may face criminal prosecution.

#### *Listed Buildings at Risk*

- 5.7 English Heritage's annual Heritage at Risk Register identifies Listed Buildings (only Grade I and II\* buildings outside London), Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, Protected Wreck Sites and Conservation Areas at risk through neglect and decay (rather than alteration or demolition). Several factors may contribute to buildings becoming "at risk". In most cases neglect by owners is the root cause, with empty buildings being particularly vulnerable. In the case of archaeological remains, natural processes such as scrub and tree growth, erosion, burrowing animals and damage caused by cultivation can contribute to the asset being at risk.
- 5.8 In its 2012 BAR survey English Heritage established that the proportion of grade I and II\* listed buildings at risk nationally is 3%. The Borough has two II\* listed buildings at risk - Park Farmhouse and the Tea House both at Arbury Park. These are both classed as priority category A, which means they have immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric and no solution agreed.

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<sup>2</sup> English Heritage available at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/listed-buildings/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/listed-buildings/)

### *Locally Listed Buildings*

- 5.9 The Council has also designated 59 locally listed buildings. A locally listed building is a non-designated heritage asset whose heritage significance merits consideration in any planning applications affecting it. Unlike statutory listed buildings, they are not listed by the Secretary of State but are instead identified by the Borough Council as being an important part of the Borough's local heritage. They are not afforded the same degree of protection as statutory listed buildings.
- 5.10 Local lists are developed by the local planning authority in consultation with communities. Identification through a local list allows a local planning authority to better understand the heritage assets within its area, their individual heritage significance, and their contribution to the character and distinctiveness of a place. By maintaining a local list and developing policies for the protection of the heritage assets that are on it, the local planning authority can ensure that significant but otherwise unprotected assets become a material consideration in the planning process.
- 5.11 The Council is shortly to review its current local list of heritage assets in consultation with the local community. The first stage is to consult with the local community on selection criteria for local heritage assets. Once identified as a local heritage asset, every effort will be made to preserve them.

### *Conservation Areas*

- 5.12 Conservation Areas are designated under the provisions of Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. A Conservation Area is defined as "an area of special architectural and historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". Designation is the responsibility of the local planning authority, which has a duty to identify areas which merit such protection.
- 5.13 Conservation areas can include any area of special architectural or historic interest from historic town centres to suburbs to rural villages. They can cover a whole town or merely a single street. While they are usually designated for the interest of their buildings they can also cover areas identified for their historical importance and quality of open spaces such as canals or village greens. The designation of a conservation area gives greater protection through the planning system to the area as a whole including its setting, rather than an individual building. Buildings enjoy protection from demolition within the area, and there is a need for new development to preserve or enhance its character or appearance. Trees are also afforded protection.
- 5.14 Further protection can be added to a conservation area by issuing Article 4 directions. Under Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 a large number of minor works that constitute development are excluded from the need for planning permission

and are referred to as permitted development. In conservation areas, where there is a high concentration of private houses the cumulative effect of many individual small-scale works carried out as permitted development can be quite devastating to the overall integrity and cohesiveness of the area – which is often the principal reason for designation in the first place.

- 5.15 Articles 4(1) and 4(2) of the General Permitted Development Order enable Local Planning Authorities to make directions removing certain aspects of these permitted development rights. Article 4 (2) directions apply only to parts of houses and their associated buildings and structures that front onto highways, waterways or public open spaces, and can be imposed by the Council without reference to the Secretary of State.
- 5.16 Nuneaton and Bedworth has five conservation areas covering the historic centres of Nuneaton, Bedworth, Bulkington, the suburb of Manor Court in Nuneaton (Abbey) and a canal junction at Hawkesbury. The maps of the conservation areas can be viewed in Appendix 6.

#### *Conservation Areas at Risk*

- 5.17 Currently the Borough has no conservation areas at risk, however, the threats they face are a constant danger. In one case they stem from lack of investment due to the general economic weakness of an area, but more widespread is the insidious cumulative effect of a number of small scale incremental adverse changes by owners over time, that gradually erode an area's character. Across the country, the most significant of these is the loss of historic building details, such as traditional windows and doors, boundary walls and roof coverings. Other issues include vacancy and dereliction and commercial properties with inappropriate shop-fronts and signs.
- 5.18 Degraded streets and the quality of the public realm—cluttered street furniture and signs, and poorly maintained pavements—can also have a negative impact on conservation areas. English Heritage's 2012 survey of Heritage at risk shows that 524 (6.6%<sup>3</sup> of those surveyed) conservation areas are at risk. Of the 662 conservation areas surveyed in the West Midlands, 57 (8.6%) are at risk.

#### *Registered Parks and Gardens*

- 5.19 Since the 1980s there has been a national record of the historic parks and gardens which contribute to a rich and varied landscape. The Register of Parks and Gardens includes historic designed landscapes (parks, gardens, cemeteries and institutional landscapes) having a level of significance worthy of protection. Nuneaton and Bedworth has two Registered Parks and Gardens, Arbury Hall Park and Garden and Bedworth Cemetery.

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<sup>3</sup> English Heritage available at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-at-risk/findings/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-at-risk/findings/)



- 5.20 The grading system for registered historic parks and gardens is equivalent to that of listed buildings with Grade I, II\* and II categories depending on the level of significance. Factors such as age, rarity and quality are taken into account when grading parks and gardens.
- 5.21 Inclusion of an historic park or garden on the Register in itself brings no statutory protection. However, registration is a material consideration in planning terms and local authorities are required to make provision for the protection of this aspect of the historic environment through policies and the allocation of resources.
- 5.22 The majority of registered sites are the grounds of private houses; however, public parks and cemeteries form important categories. This is consistent with the Arbury Hall and Bedworth Cemetery registered sites.
- 5.23 Arbury Hall Registered Park and Garden is grade II\* listed. The Park and Garden consists of around ten hectares of gardens and pleasure grounds and 170 hectares of parkland, plantations and lakes and is believed to be the only Stately home in Britain to have a private system of canals (built in the 18th Century) running through the gardens.
- 5.24 Bedworth Cemetery Registered Park and Garden is grade II listed. It is a municipal cemetery designed by George Taylor of Coventry and was consecrated in 1874. The site is around 3ha and consists of a number of entrances, several groups of specimen trees, a promenade and a war memorial.

#### *Scheduled Ancient Monuments*

- 5.25 Archaeological sites, monuments, structures or buried remains of national importance are registered as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and have statutory protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Works to scheduled monuments require the prior written permission of the Secretary of State.
- 5.26 Nuneaton and Bedworth has two Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM), Nuneaton Priory and the Moated Site at Exhall Hall.
- 5.27 The Moated Site at Exhall Hall SAM consists of upstanding earthworks and buried building remains of a variety of features. It is assumed that the buried remains will have preserved its construction and any re-cutting or alterations which occurred during its active history.
- 5.28 St Mary's Priory SAM was built in the 13th Century and was one of only four Benedictine nunneries in England, identified as belonging to the important Abbey of Fontevrault. The preservation of the ground plan indicates that this was a high status institution supporting a sizeable religious population in the medieval period. The priory closed in 1539 as a result of the

Dissolution. The priory is also one of the few surviving nunneries with a church and outer precinct complex preserved in a fully urban context.

## **Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Proposals**

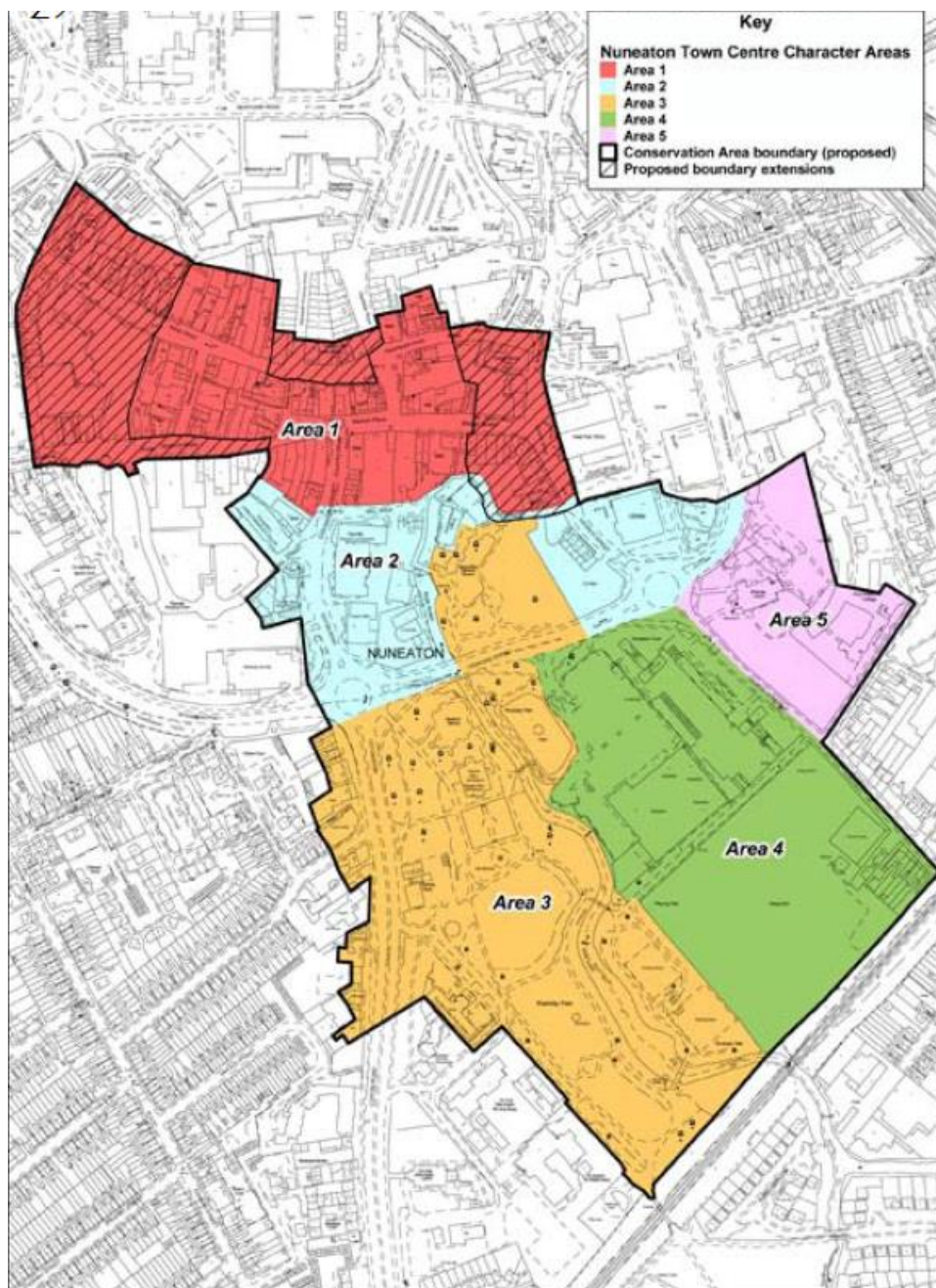
- 5.29 These documents are appraisals and management proposals for the special architectural and historic interests of the Borough's conservation areas. They seek to define and describe the special interest of the conservation areas and ensure suitably managed against future change. Both the appraisals and management proposals will be subject to periodic future review to take account of any significant change in the areas.

### *Nuneaton Town Centre Conservation Area: Appraisal and Management Proposals 2009*

- 5.30 This document is an appraisal of the special architectural and historic interest of the Nuneaton Town Centre Conservation Area which was designated in 1979 and extended in 1987.
- 5.31 Though partially obscured and fragmented by road schemes and commercial redevelopment of the last century, the town centre retains most of the major elements of its medieval plan. This comprises its street network converging on the market place whose principle components are the market place itself and the main street, Abbey Street.
- 5.32 During the later 19th and early 20th century, the character of Nuneaton changed dramatically and rapidly from a small semi-rural market town to a commercial urban centre. Important civic and commercial architectural contributions were made during the inter-war years but after the Second World War the quality and standard of design and construction has been disappointing.
- 5.33 The special architectural and historic interest of the conservation area is principally the features of the surviving elements of its medieval town plan. The legacy of pre-second world war buildings is also important as the majority of them form rows along the principal commercial streets of the town centre.
- 5.34 Beyond the ring road which surrounds the town centre, the special character of the conservation area resides mostly in the parkland landscape of Nuneaton's Edwardian Riversley Park. There are also a series of 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings lining its western flank, in particularly there is a small enclave of historic buildings clustered around the parish church of St Nicholas.
- 5.35 The proposals below are for the mid-long term strategy of the conservation area:

1. Where opportunities and resources arise, to seek to promote the sympathetic redevelopment of sites and areas identified in the detailed appraisal as detracting from the character or appearance of the area.
2. Develop area-specific development control based planning policies aimed at preserving and enhancing character and appearance of the conservation area. These would need to be linked to the Borough Plan via policies and guidance to carry any weight in planning decisions. These might include policies that;
  - Require all development proposals to positively enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area rather than merely preserve it;
  - Preserve and reinforce the various characteristics of the character areas identified in Section 5;
  - Place a strong presumption in favour of retention of all buildings identified in this appraisal as making a positive contribution to the conservation area;
  - In proposals to alter these building there should be a strong presumption in favour of retention of original features and materials. Efforts should be made to reinstate important period details particularly windows where they have been lost; and
  - Promote greater street activity in Abbey Street and Newdegate Street
3. Review tree planting within shopping streets with a view to possible removal of certain examples that appear too large or which are poorly sited in relation to buildings.
4. Review the design and materials used in the paving of pedestrianised streets throughout the town centre with a view to establishing a planned and coordinated programme of repaving in line with English Heritage guidance 'Streets for All'.
5. Pursue more rigorous enforcement action against unauthorised development within the conservation area particularly in relation to the removal and alteration of original period features, especially windows to upper floors and changes of roof materials.

**Figure 1: Character Areas in Nuneaton Town Centre Conservation Areas**



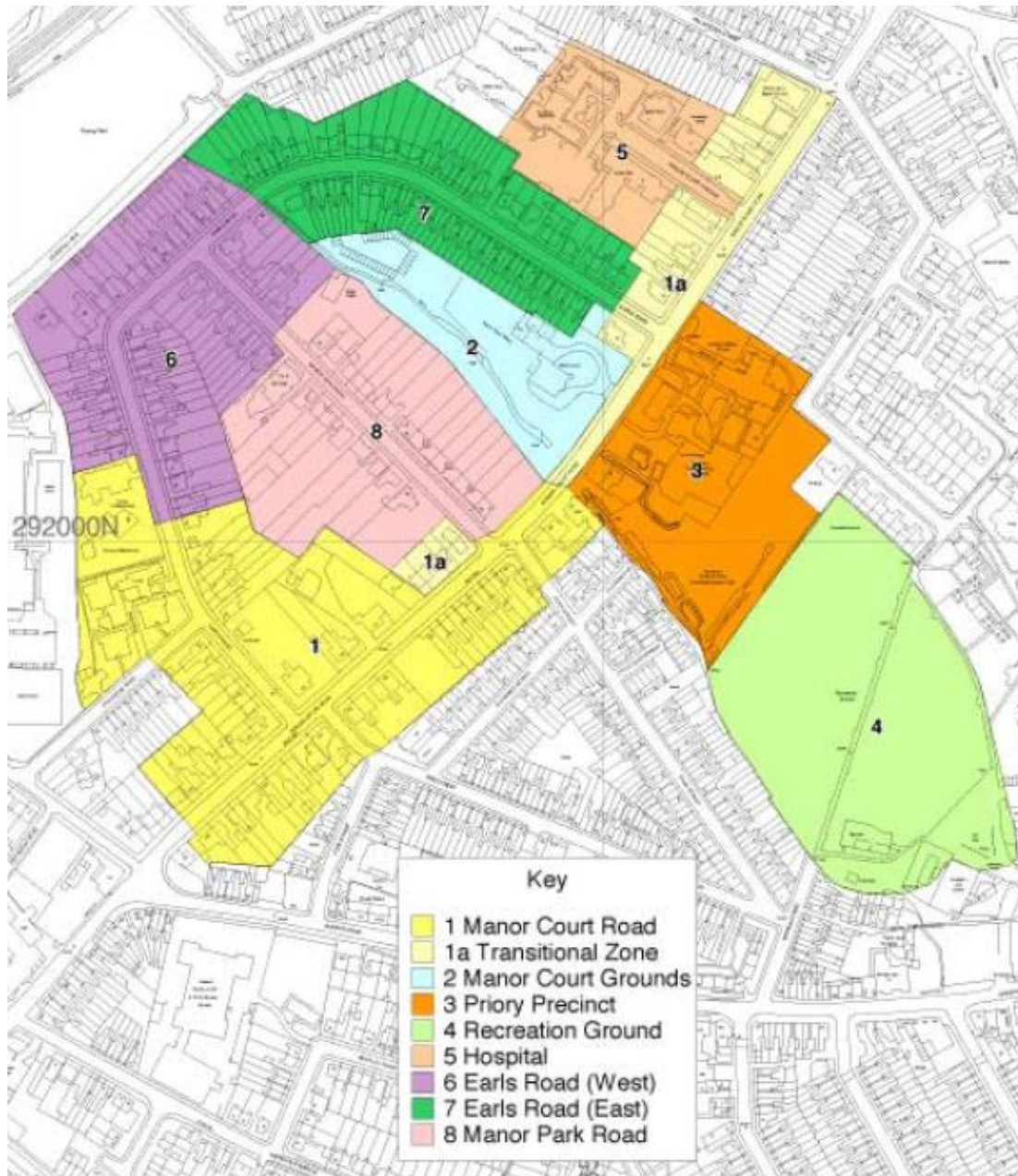
*Abbey Conservation Area: Appraisal and Management Proposals 2008*

- 5.36 The Abbey Conservation Area was originally designated in 1993 and extended in 2007.
- 5.37 The original area comprises the St Mary's Abbey precinct, the former Nuneaton Cottage Hospital, selected housing along both sides of Manor Court Road, and the recreation ground. The extended area includes a wider residential area around Manor Court Road, including Earls Road and Manor Park Road. Together they constitute Nuneaton's first middle-class suburb of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

- 5.38 It is an attractive, compact, suburban area of tree lined streets and significant private and public open spaces. The area contains many good and relatively well preserved local examples of middle class housing, most of which were designed by local architects over a relatively short period from the late 19th century up to the outbreak of the First World War.
- 5.39 It was the first middle class suburb to be created in Nuneaton and home to several notable local figures. Foremost among them was the industrialist and philanthropist Reginald Stanley who established the area and was a key figure in the development of late 19th century Nuneaton. The influence of Stanley, either directly or indirectly, permeates the area in its layout, its more significant buildings, its building materials and details, its green spaces, and in its many mature trees.
- 5.40 Eight areas of different but related character have been identified in the study area. These are shown in Figure 2. There is some overlap between the areas, and the boundaries are blurred in certain areas particularly in the middle section of Manor Court Road where a 'zone of transition' is indicated between various adjacent character areas.
- 5.41 There are a number of threats to the heritage value of the area which affect the architecture, archaeology, open spaces, natural features and the streets. These problems are mainly attributed to the use of permitted development rights and include:
- The widespread use of inappropriate materials, particularly for plastics for windows and doors
  - Staining rather than painting of external replacement joinery
  - Loss of front gardens to concrete car parking areas and their associated boundary walls
  - Removal of period details such as cornices to bay windows, decorative brickwork, brick arches, canopies and substitution with poor quality replacements
  - Extensions in the form of large porches or infilling between bay windows and entrances with long canopies
  - Rendering or painting brick elevations
- 5.42 Other potential threats the character of the area include:
- Inappropriate form and scale of new buildings.
  - Recovering roofs in wrong materials. Original natural red plain clay tiles locally made are a key feature of the houses in the area. Unless controlled by Article 4 (2) Directions they can be replaced by cheaper coloured concrete substitutes creating a haphazard patchwork effect on the present uniform roofscape of the area
  - Removal of chimneys
  - Infill development - though there are not many opportunities. Some potential for rear development in long back gardens along Manor Park Road which should be resisted.



**Figure 2: Character areas in Abbey Conservation Area**



### Conservation Management Proposals

5.43 There are a number of management proposals which will be implemented to ensure the character of the conservation area is preserved, these are listed below.

### Development Management Policies

5.44 Develop development management policies to preserve and enhance its character by basing them on the building controls that established that character in the first place e.g. Strict adherence to established building lines,

limited palette of materials, height limits and restrictions on building materials. These would need to be linked to the Borough Plan via policies and guidance to carry any weight in planning decisions.

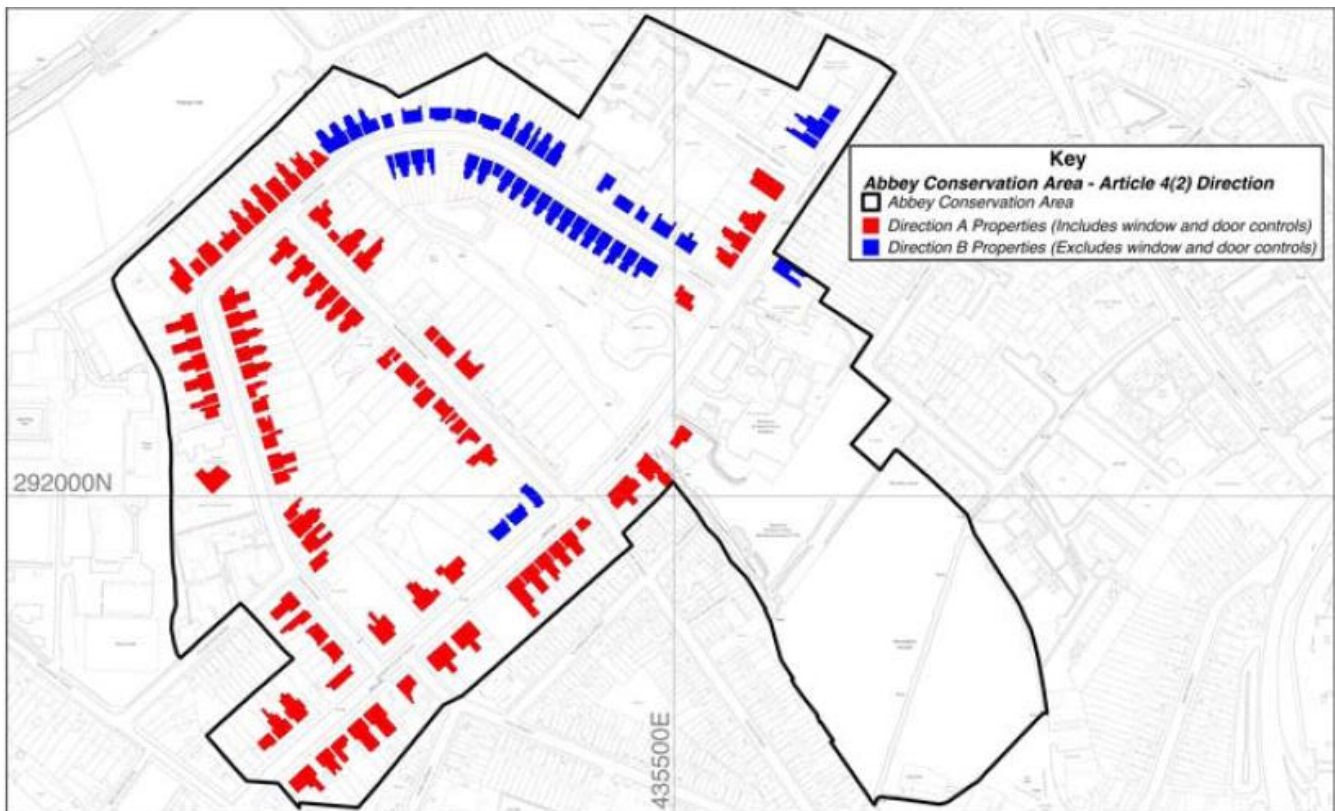
#### Article 4 Directions

5.45 The use of Article 4 directions to preserve the special character of the Abbey Conservation area by limiting permitted development rights will help to safeguard the conservation area.

5.46 The Abbey conservation area has two Article 4 directions in place, as can be seen in figure 3. These directions are:

- Direction A - withdrawal of permitted development rights including changes to windows and doors
- Direction B - withdrawal of permitted development rights excluding changes to windows and doors (Article B).

**Figure 3: Article 4 Directions in the Abbey Conservation Area**



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- 5.47 Responsibility for highways, footpaths, and street trees within the area lies with Warwickshire County Council. Subject to resources, an audit will be undertaken by the Borough Council in consultation with the County Council to look at the opportunities and potential to improve pavements, street furniture and road signs within the conservation area.
- 5.48 Any future works would aim to enhance local distinctiveness and also be in line with the English Heritage manual *Streets for All: West Midlands*

#### Trees, Greenery and Green Space Management

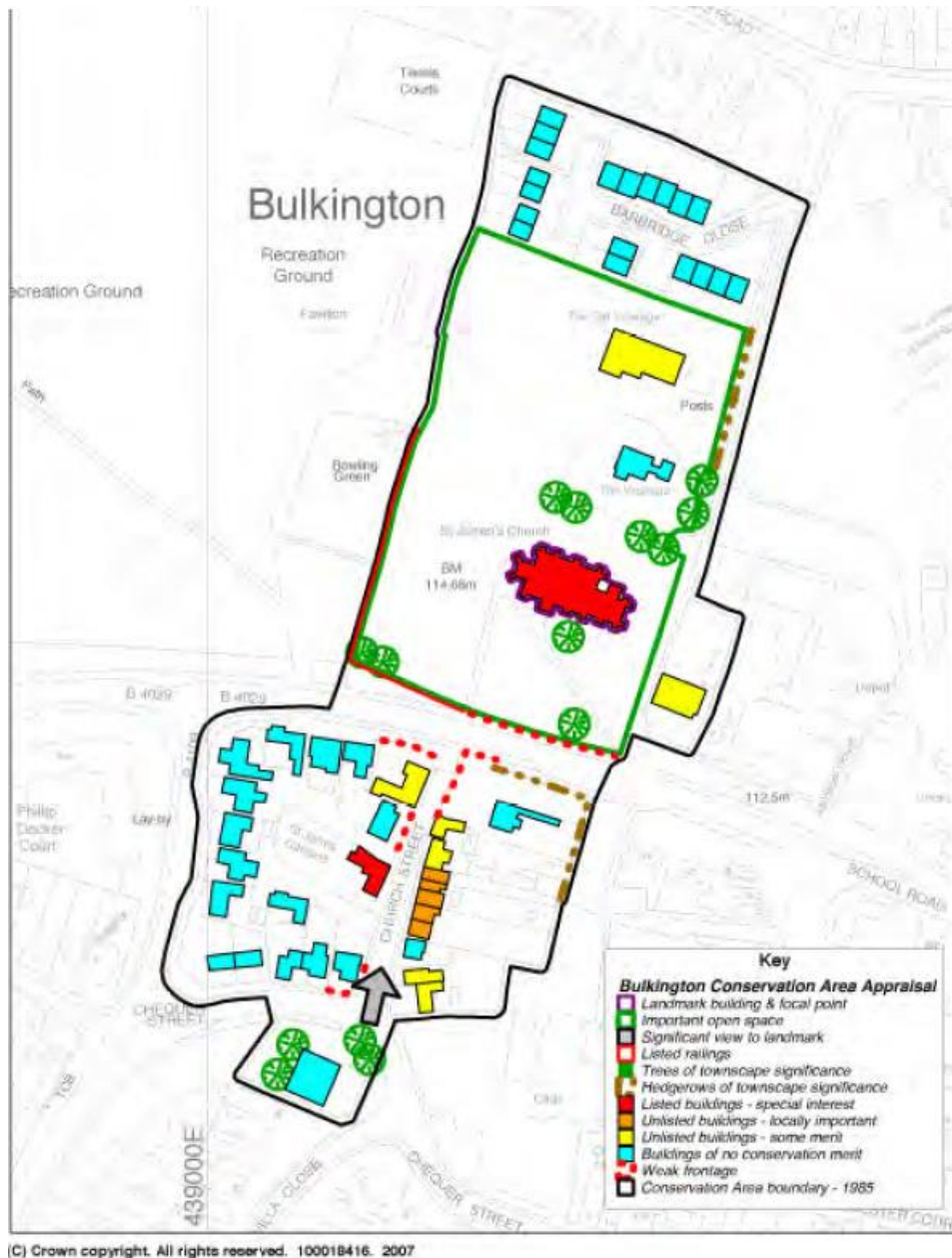
- 5.49 Trees are of considerable importance to the quality and character of the Manor Court area. Many of them were planted at the end of the 19th century and are approaching the end of their life. They will need to be replaced in due course.
- 5.50 The Council will, subject to resources, undertake an audit of the nature conservation assets of the conservation area to include the identification of all mature trees and formulate management proposals for their care and protection including the setting of priorities for replacement and identifying funding to meet the costs involved.

#### *Bulkington Conservation Area: Appraisal and Management Proposals 2008*

- 5.51 This document is an appraisal of the special architectural and historic interest of the Bulkington Conservation Area designated in November 1985.
- 5.52 The special interest of the conservation area resides in the surviving historic village character in Church Street. The remaining historic buildings and their relation to the street, the attractive form of the street with its shallow curving alignment, and its physical and visual relationship with the ancient parish church and churchyard of St James which terminate the street vista all contribute to the character of the area. Due to the work carried out during the townscape appraisal Bainbridge Close housing estate was removed from the conservation area as none of the properties are of conservation merit. The amended boundary can be seen in Appendix 6.

#### **Figure 4: Bulkington Townscape Appraisal Map**





## Conservation Management Proposals

5.53 The proposals below are the ones set out for the mid-long term strategy of the conservation area.

### Management of the Public Realm

5.54 Improvement to the public realm should be sought to reinforce the village character of the conservation area when resources are available, particularly the treatment of the north end of Church Street. The lighting column here should be re-sited and consideration given to appropriate

landscape treatment. Raised planters or trees set on the axis of the street impeding views of the Church and its tower should be avoided.

- 5.55 Responsibility for highways, footpaths, and street trees within the area lies with Warwickshire County Council. Subject to resources, an audit will be undertaken by the Borough Council in consultation with the County Council to look at the opportunities and potential to improve pavements, street furniture and road signs within the conservation area.
- 5.56 Any future works would aim to enhance local distinctiveness and also be in line with the English Heritage manual *Streets for All: West Midlands*
- 5.57 There should be a strong presumption in favour of retaining all buildings identified as making a positive contribution to the conservation area.
- 5.58 The reinstatement of missing or badly altered period architectural features to buildings identified as making a positive contribution to the conservation area should be encouraged. These should follow original or period designs especially for windows.
- 5.59 The reinstatement of traditional materials to buildings - especially for roofs, windows, and doors, - should be encouraged.
- 5.60 The repair and maintenance of the listed railings around the churchyard should be a high priority.

#### Trees, Greenery and Green Space Management

- 5.61 The establishment of a tree management programme between the Council and owners including the parish church should be considered.
- 5.62 Improvements to the treatment of green open space both within and adjoining the conservation area where it impacts on its setting should be investigated.

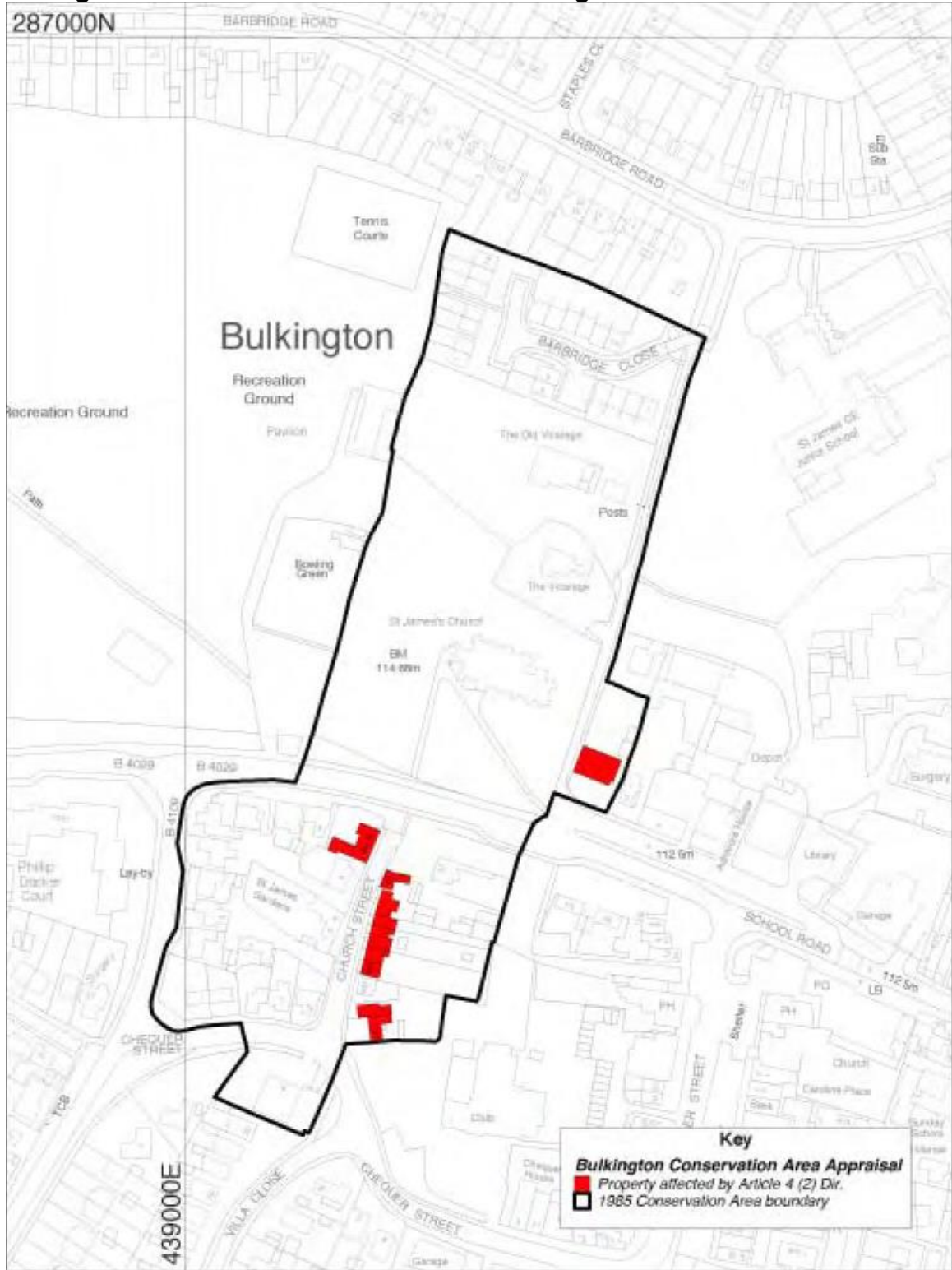
#### Article 4 Directions

- 5.63 The article 4 directions cover relatively few properties in this area. However, they are seen as important in helping to retain the character of the area.
- 5.64 Surviving period features and traditional materials to all houses identified as making a positive contribution to the conservation area and fronting a public highway or open space, should be protected

from adverse alteration and removal by the introduction of an Article 4 Direction.

- 5.65 The retention of traditional brick boundary walls, hedges, and railings should be encouraged (through the Article 4 where applicable) especially where enclosure to the street is important visually. Any opportunities to supplement and strengthen hedgerows should be taken.

**Figure 5: Article 4 Directions in the Bulkington Conservation Area**



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## Warwickshire Historic Farmstead Characterisation Project 2011

- 5.66 The Warwickshire Historic Farmstead Characterisation Project comprehensively maps the character, including the plan form and layout, of each individual Historic Farmstead across Warwickshire. The project seeks to understand how farmsteads, and in particular traditional farm buildings of 19th century or earlier, make a fundamental contribution to local distinctiveness and a sense of place. It looks at their varied forms, use of materials and the way that they relate to the surrounding form and patterning of landscape and settlement.
- 5.67 In terms of rural settlement there are a number of pre 1880s farmsteads scattered throughout the rural part of the Borough. A greater number of farmsteads are found on the western side of the Borough, with fewer in the east and north. One or two more modern farms are found on the edge of the Borough. For example, the large Bramcote Mains farm, on the south east boundary, which has diversified into fishing, caravan storage and an off-road activity centre.
- 5.68 Nuneaton and Bedworth falls within two farmstead character areas. The northern part of the Borough falls within the North East Vales area whereas, the southern part of the Borough falls within the Arden area.

### *North East Vales*

- 5.69 Farmsteads in these vales, which extend into the East Midlands, were sited within villages until the enclosure of the medieval open fields which extended over most of the farmland. There are low densities of large-scale farmsteads, largely rebuilt in brick with some rare survival of timber frame, developed within landscapes of planned and piecemeal enclosure.

### *Arden*

- 5.70 The Arden has higher densities of isolated farmsteads than other parts of the county. Many were established as a result of woodland clearance by the 14th century. Parks were numerous in this area, as also were country houses and their estates. There is a much higher survival of 17th century and pre 17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouses and working buildings than other areas. This reflects the development of a wealthy 'yeoman' class of freeholder that prospered as a result of its pastoral farming economy. There were also many areas of common and heath on the settlement fringes of which were used by craftsmen and landless labourers.
- 5.71 Larger-scale farmsteads and fields developed in some parts of the area over the 19th century. The late 19th/20th centuries saw the

development of core settlements and many farmsteads no longer engaged in agriculture have fallen into residential use.

- 5.72 The study highlights a number of generic issues for farmsteads in Warwickshire:
- 5.73 Designation - About 74% of the historic farmstead resource has no national designation whilst designation, where it exists, mainly focuses on the main farmhouse. Only 15% of farmsteads include a working building that is listed. This study shows that there are some areas – notably Arden, but also areas where farmsteads developed in tandem with enclosure before the later 18th century – where it is most likely that early buildings survive. It is clear that there remains some remarkably well-preserved farmstead groups with working buildings of 18th century and earlier date, particularly in the Avon valley and in the Arden. There is also a high survival of timber frame within villages, often hidden by later recladding in brick and sometimes stone, and in some isolated sites away from villages. In some cases, particularly 19th century farmsteads, the criteria for designation will not be met. An alternative mechanism for preserving a representative sample, therefore, needs to be considered. For example, local listing and enhancing the material consideration of sites that make a strong contribution to local character in the planning process.
- 5.74 Strategic policy development - The study highlights the dispersed settlement pattern that is the inherited characteristic of the landscape of Arden. It is now an exurban landscape where strategic policies are needed to maintain this inherited characteristic in future growth.
- 5.75 Village expansion - The constraints and pressures on village-based farms have resulted in a relatively low number of sheds in areas where farms remained in villages. With the increasing infilling of village historic cores and expansion outwards the long term viability of village based farms must be in doubt.
- 5.76 Conversion - The rates of conversion do not simply reflect exurban pressures. There are lower levels of conversion in landscapes with low densities of isolated farmsteads resulting from post-medieval enclosure – particularly where the farmsteads are sited off tracks away from roads.
- 5.77 Outfarms and field barns - These are a highly vulnerable element of the rural landscape. 70% of all recorded examples have been lost or demolished, and very few have potential for reuse for conversion due to their generally limited access and location within fields. In Bedworth there is evidence of a timber framed building, probably a barn. The site was found during archaeological work. It was of Post Medieval or later date. The site was located on Coventry Road, Bedworth.

5.78 Based on these issues there are a number of recommendations put forward to ensure that historic landscapes and farmsteads are recognised and protected in an appropriate manner:

- HER Enhancement - Create appropriate HER records.
- Local listing - Include historic farmsteads in list of local heritage assets
- Promote the data amongst professionals, researchers and the public - This will inform approaches to managing historic farmsteads. Data should be promoted by demonstrating the insights that it can bring and maintain its relevance through good data management.
- Enhance Historic Farmstead Records - to explore the dating of farmsteads in relationship to the character and historical development of settlement, land use and change. Further sources such as Estate or Tithe maps should be used to enhance our understanding of farmsteads and especially their development over time and relationship to surrounding landscape.

### **Warwickshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project 2010**

5.79 The Warwickshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Report separates the Borough into Historic Landscape Character (HLC) types including industrial, extractive, settlement, transport, civic and commercial, unimproved, woodland, water, horticulture, military and designed landscapes. These HLC types are scattered across the Borough and are shown in Appendix 2 with a summary description of the categories in Appendix 3.

5.80 Despite Nuneaton and Bedworth being the most intensely populated Borough in Warwickshire, the housing element only takes up around a quarter of the total area of the Borough. Other HLC types related to settlement and urban areas including civic and commercial, industrial and some parks and recreational areas make up another 11%. Around half of the Borough comprises fieldscapes and the overall character is a mix between an urban and rural borough.

5.81 Coal mining has taken place in the Borough from the medieval period onwards with some evidence of Roman exploitation. Consequently, the Borough's landscape has been highly influenced by the mining of coal. There are no active coal mining sites left in the area but there was once a string of mines running from the south to the northwest of the Borough following the Warwickshire Coal Seam. The coal mines brought industry and transport links to the area, which are still significant today including the Coventry Canal,

the Ashby-de-la Zouch Canal and the large number of railway lines that pass through Nuneaton.

- 5.82 Other extraction works include hard rock quarries, with Judkins Quarry and Griff Quarry, having a large impact being almost 100 hectares in extent. Part of the land near these extraction sites is being used as a household waste and recycling centre while other areas have been filled and left to form scrub which explains the slightly larger than average amount of unimproved land in the Borough.
- 5.83 The Borough area is sparsely wooded with less than half the county average, although some of the woodland coverage forms part of Arbury Park, a designed landscape which dominates as the largest park and garden in the Borough.

### **Land Use Designation Study 2012**

- 5.84 The Land Use Designation (LUD) Study is comprised of two stages.

Stage 1:

- A Landscape Character Assessment (Volume 1)
- Policy Recommendations (Volume 2)
- Site Analysis and Selection (Volume 3)

Stage 2:

- A report on the Individual Site Assessment.

- 5.85 The information most relevant to this policy is contained in volume 1, the landscape character assessment. The other aspects of this study are covered within the Landscape Character policy.

#### *Landscape Character Assessment: Volume 1*

- 5.86 The Landscape Character Assessment is a decision-making tool which systematically classifies the landscape into distinctive areas based on the interaction between landform, geology, land use, vegetation pattern and human influence. The assessment identifies geographical areas that have a consistent character and identity created by a distinct pattern or combination of elements, which include not just visual or scenic qualities, but also wildlife and heritage features.
- 5.87 The Study identifies thirteen landscape character areas (LCAs) which and details what should be conserved, enhanced, restored or created. Arbury Parklands LCA is the only LCA considered to have a high landscape quality (strong strength of character and good landscape condition). However, as this study was carried out across



large areas, it provides a generic landscape quality scoring. This means that site specific appraisals may pick out pockets of landscape in the LCA which are not deemed to be of high quality. Equally in areas considered to be of lesser landscape value there may be pockets of landscape that are of a high landscape value.

- 5.88 The Consultants note that all landscapes in Nuneaton and Bedworth have the potential to accommodate some form of change provided it is in keeping with each area's key and valued characteristics. This means that some areas will have a high capacity to accommodate changes of various kinds whereas other areas will have relatively low capacity related to a more limited degree of change.
- 5.89 The results of the LUD study will be driven through the landscape character policy. However, it does have implications for the historic environment as it will ensure that development will respond positively to the features of the local area.

### **Warwickshire Historic Towns Project – Nuneaton and Bedworth 2012 (draft)**

- 5.90 This study will review 23 historic towns within Warwickshire and includes the two principal towns of Nuneaton and Bedworth within the Borough. The project seeks to understand the historic development of these towns and to present the results spatially in terms of their historic character in a similar way to the HLS but at a greater level of detail. This will assist the formulation of a heritage strategy for the Borough and help inform policies by better understanding the two urban areas. The project is due to finish in April 2014 when it is expected that the final reports of all the towns will be made available.
- 5.91 The results of this characterisation work should be used to inform other areas of work within the Borough such as Green Infrastructure networks, land management, conservation areas, retail, housing within the town centre and surrounding areas.
- 5.92 The key messages from the townscape and built environment reviews are as follows:

#### *Nuneaton*

- 5.93 Historic boundaries have had a significant influence on the way the town has developed. Many of these boundaries developed from the medieval period and continue to influence the character of the town centre. They represent a unique and significant record of social and economic change since the medieval period and should merit consideration within the planning process.

- 5.94 The town's late Victorian to Edwardian and inter-war heritage is a valuable resource as it has important implications for both the commercial vitality of the town and the quality of its environment.
- 5.95 Outside of the town centre there are numerous buildings which reflect the first phases of urbanisation. These have important evidential value and help to contribute to local distinctiveness of the area. There should be a strong presumption in favour of retaining and enhancing these heritage assets particularly where they provide retail or community focus.

### *Bedworth*

- 5.96 There is a disconnection between the town centre and the areas surrounding it. Recent developments have failed to increase the permeability of the townscape. Opportunities should be sought to enhance the connectivity between the town centre and area beyond it.
- 5.97 Bedworth's historical development pattern needs to be recognised. It is really a collection of distinct settlements, each with its own developmental history. These historic centres are highly sensitive to change with their historic character determined by a collection of inter-connected features such as moated sites, historic farmstead/dwellings, irregular enclosure, sunken lanes and species rich hedgerows.
- 5.98 Post-war development has meant much of the town's industrial heritage has been lost. However, the town still retains a number of historic assets related to its industrial past and associated features. Therefore, it is important that there is a presumption in favour of retaining this resource.
- 5.99 The town's late Victorian to Edwardian and inter-war heritage is a valuable resource as it has important implications for both the commercial vitality of the town and the quality of its environment.
- 5.100 The town has numerous heritage assets which provide important evidential value and also contribute to local distinctiveness within the area. Their condition has obvious implications for the commercial vitality of the town particularly those premises which house retail/commercial businesses. There should be a presumption in favour of retaining and enhancing this resource.

## Urban Characterisation Study Pilot

- 5.101 An Urban Character Area Study Pilot is currently underway for the Borough. This study will identify character areas and generic character types within the urban area and set out their key characteristics.
- 5.102 The aim is to identify the sensitivity to change of the generic character types and initiate design guidelines for development within those generic character types. This approach is adopted in recognition of the fact that different geographical areas of the Borough often have different characters which are influenced by a range of factors such as:
- when that area was established
  - its current and previous use
  - ownership/tenure
  - layout of streets
  - patterns of development
  - plot size and arrangement
  - built form
- 5.103 This study will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the physical characteristics and spatial profile of the settlements within the Borough. It will act as a guide for developers and will assist in the decision making process in Development Control by being able to judge a project in terms of its local distinctiveness, character and history.
- 5.104 The map in Figure 6 is an example of what the study will demonstrate. There is a clear distinction between the layouts of the developments, therefore, it can be inferred that the character of the areas may also be different and new development should be mindful of this, but not necessarily copy previous development.
- 5.105 Each character type will be represented by different colours. The study has identified 18 different generic character types so far. It has been based on the pilot studies of Nuneaton, Stockingford, Hill Top, Attleborough, Whitestone and Camp Hill areas and knowledge of other parts of the Borough. These types are listed in Table 3.

**Table 3: Urban Character Areas**

Generic Character Type	Description
1	Urban Centre
2	Urban Fringe/Corridor
3	Small Historic Settlement Core
4	Commercial Ribbon Development

Generic Character Type	Description
5a	Late 19th/Early 20th c Urban Terraced Worker Housing
5b	Early 20th c Urban Terraced and Semi-Detached Housing
6	Late 19th/Early 20th c Middle Class Suburban Housing
7	Mixed-Period Private Residential Ribbon Development
8	Inter-war Speculative Residential Ribbon & Estate Development
9	Inter-war Executive Residential Ribbon Development
10	Inter-war Public Residential Estate
11	Post-war Executive Residential Ribbon Development
12	Post-war Private Residential Estate
13	Post-war Public Residential Estate & Ribbon
14	Post-war Public Residential Estate High Density
15	Later 20th /Early 21st Private Suburban Estate
16	Later 20th /Early 21st Private Residential Estate Medium - High Density
17	Park & Recreational
18	Modern Industrial/Commercial



**Figure 6: Urban characterisation example**

## **Archaeology and the Historic Environment Record**

5.106 The Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER) has over 500 records of artefacts, buildings and sites of historic interest for the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area which includes finds from prehistoric, Roman and Medieval periods. The HER has a number of functions:

- To maintain and enhance the record of historic and archaeological sites
- To operate a public information service
- To provide information to planning archaeologists and consultants, government bodies such as English Heritage, forestry and agricultural bodies, the public utilities, local research groups, landowners and developers
- To actively promote local archaeology to the community through lectures, open days, organised events and talks

5.107 Landscapes are influenced both by natural and human interaction, therefore, there is always potential for a site to have archaeological significance. Archaeology has an important role in society as outlined in the NPPF, 'Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.' The existing evidence has helped to identify the historical development of the Borough. However, it requires judgement of the available evidence to determine where significant sites and undiscovered artefacts are likely to be and if they are likely to exist in the area.

## **6 BROAD HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT**

6.1 The information that follows gives a brief description of the historical development of the Borough. This information was sourced from: Della Hook Warwickshire's Landscape History, WCC's Warwickshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Report and County HER Conservation Area Appraisals.

### *Prehistoric*

6.2 Evidence of prehistoric settlement is only known from scattered archaeological finds (stone tools and flints) and aerial photographs. The earliest evidence for human activity in the area dates from the Palaeolithic period. Concentrations of stone tools have been found in the area of Horeston Grange, Bermuda and Attleborough. This

suggests the Arden (the landscape character area covering most of the Borough) was the least settled in the region- its woods and heathlands possibly providing seasonal pasture for the crop growing region south of and along the River Avon valley.

#### *Romano British.*

- 6.3 The Watling street military road forms the Borough's (and the County's) north east boundary. The area around Hartshill and Mancetter was a major centre for pottery manufacture, producing mortaria (mixing bowls) that were traded across midland and northern Britain. Kiln sites were located here and are also suggested at neighbouring Weddington on the edge of Arden where wood for fuel was plentiful. Roman tile kilns have been found at Collycroft and in the Griff area with indications that this was a significant area of production from the 2nd to 4th centuries. The name Exhall, derived from the Celtic ecles meaning a church, suggests the possible survival of Romano British Christianity in the area.

#### *Early Medieval (Anglo Saxon)*

- 6.4 In this period estates were being carved out as new tenurial units with estate centres that often gave rise to villages bearing the name 'ton' replacing the older pattern of scattered farms in areas on the edge of the Arden such as Eaton (later Nuneaton), Weddington, and Bulkington (Bulca's tun). Within the Arden, villages were small with limited areas of open field. Here dispersed settlement was probably more characteristic with a reliance on pastoral farming. Watling Street formed an important boundary between Anglo-Saxon England and the Danelaw. Warwickshire was demarcated as a County around the 10th century.

#### *Medieval and Tudor*

- 6.5 A 'new' town was established at Nuneaton in the 12th century by a Benedictine nunnery whose remains can still be seen in Manor Court Road half a mile from the current centre. There are medieval references to Nuneaton Priory working coal in the area at Chilvers Coton, Stockingford and Haunchwood to the west of Nuneaton. These were shallow and narrow surface deposits and they had largely been worked out by the early 16th century.
- 6.6 New farmsteads were being created in the 12th and 13th centuries largely by expansion onto the waste and into woodland.

- 6.7 The Black Death decimated rural and urban populations in the mid 14th century but in the Arden feudal restraints were fewer than the Feldon to the south of the County and surviving peasantry were often able to purchase land newly available.
- 6.8 By Tudor times increasing profits were being made from animal husbandry for which Arden farms were well suited. Landscape change remained gradual and piecemeal.
- 6.9 The dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII fostered the rise of certain entrepreneurial merchant families to the status of landed gentry. Arbury Hall, displacing an Augustinian priory, was a new country house built to express this new-found status. At the other end of the social spectrum, groups of landless labourers and village craftsmen tended to settle around the edge of common or waste land their settlements often bearing names ending in 'Green' or 'End' (Sole End, Goodyer's End, Ash Green etc).

#### *Post-Medieval*

- 6.10 Coal mining in the area around Bedworth expanded significantly during the 17th century providing fuel for nearby Coventry. William Dugdale writing of Bedworth later in the century, states that in the reign of Elizabeth 1st before 'mines of coal were found it is said that there were not here above fourteen families' whereas in his time the town was 'very well known in regard of the coalmines' with some 260 houses.
- 6.11 By the mid 18th century improved agricultural techniques fostered the development and wealth of the landowners and their expanding estates. In some cases these were augmented by substantial revenues from coal mining. Arbury for example, was refurbished in the latest Gothic Revival style and set amidst grounds landscaped in the new natural style of Capability Brown.
- 6.12 Improved mining techniques harnessing steam power increased levels of coal production through the later 18th century. The Coventry Canal, sponsored by the Newdigate's of Arbury and the Parrots of Hawkesbury Hall, opened in 1771 and led directly to the subsequent concentration of industry around Nuneaton and Bedworth. The canal was ideal for the movement of heavy materials that were naturally abundant and formed the basis of its staple 19th century industries, coal extraction, brick and tile making, and stonequarrying.

## *19th & 20<sup>th</sup> centuries*

- 6.13 At the close of the 18th century and the start of the 19th, areas of remaining waste land in the Borough were enclosed. The poor lost their rights to free grazing and increasingly left the countryside. There are remains of deserted medieval villages at Weddington and Goodyers End, near Bedworth (Smercote Magna) and documentary references to others at Marston Jabett and Weston in Arden. Many of the disposed moved into the growing towns of Nuneaton, Bedworth and Coventry.
- 6.14 Nuneaton had been a small textile town specialising in silk and ribbon weaving since the 17th century. Its size had changed very little since the Tudor period and it still had strong agricultural links up to late 19th century. With the arrival and expansion of the railways in the mid 19th century, further improvements in mining technology allowing deep seam working, and the mechanisation of brick and tile production in the later 19th century, the town boomed. It was catalysed by the arrival of a new entrepreneurial and philanthropic middle class that housed themselves in the newly created suburb in and around Manor Court Road. Settlement mostly in the form of closely spaced semi-detached houses and terraces for their workers grew out from the old town centre. These spread across adjacent open countryside along principal roads and around its periphery linking up hitherto independent settlements such as Chilvers Coton and Attleborough.
- 6.15 By the 1930s the town centre had been transformed into a sizable commercial and civic centre with cinemas, theatre and department stores. It was badly bombed in 1941, its engineering works close to Coventry making it a target. Consequently the town was the subject of post-war plans for reconstruction with Frederick Gibberd as principal design consultant. There are good examples of late Victorian early 20th century and interwar public civic and commercial buildings that have significant local interest, with the best examples already locally listed. Three of its late 19<sup>th</sup> early 20<sup>th</sup> century banks are statutorily listed Grade II. The majority of the surviving historic core is contained within the Nuneaton Town Centre Conservation Area along with Riversley Park and fringe areas of heritage interest.

## *Bedworth*

- 6.16 The period after the Second World War saw the demolition and redevelopment of most of the historic centre with shopping precincts of low quality. It left few historic buildings the notable survivors comprising The Chamberlain Almshouses complex, the parish



church of All Saints and the Old Meeting 18th century chapel. The Bedworth cemetery and the Miners Welfare Park are also valuable heritage components of the townscape.

- 6.17 The 20th century roads, the A444, dominate the landscape along the corridor between Nuneaton Bedworth and Coventry connecting with the M6 south of Bedworth. Its presence has encouraged the building of large areas of warehousing on former colliery and other former industrial sites.

## **7 DEVELOPMENT OF BOROUGH PLAN**

### **Current Issues**

- 7.1 The Issues and Options document outlined a number of key concerns; those which are related to historic environment issues have been highlighted through the list below.
- 7.2 Issue ENV1 - The legacy of coal mining and other extractive industries and heavy engineering has had a negative impact on the landscape. The Borough has over 100ha of derelict land and more than 3000 potentially contaminated sites.
- 7.3 Issue ENV2 - Land outside the existing urban area is currently designed countryside, Area of Restraint or Green Belt. Future growth of the Borough will therefore potentially impact on sensitive landscapes and biodiversity.
- 7.4 Issue ENV5 - The borough has a limited number of historic buildings of national importance. However, there are many others valued by local people. Some of the built heritage has suffered from poor quality modification and a lack of maintenance and repair. Two listed buildings are on English Heritage's Building at Risk Register.
- 7.5 Issue ENV6 - Not all development in the Borough has been well designed. Too much development in the past has failed to positively contribute to the character of the area or to local distinctiveness.
- 7.6 Issue LR1 - While Riversley Park and the Miner's Welfare Park serve the whole Borough, other recreation grounds are unevenly distributed with most concentrated in the north around Barpool and neighbouring areas. This is sufficient outdoor sports provision in the Borough to meet existing need but it is under utilize. Etone sports centre has the only artificial sports pitch in the Borough.
- 7.7 Issue LR2 - There is a good green corridor network running through the middle of the Borough linked to the Coventry Canal. Others include the Nuneaton Ashby disused railway. There are however no corridors in Bulkington or the south west of the Borough which

reduces biodiversity and opportunities for leisure activities in this area.

7.8 A number of local issues have influenced the development of this policy as listed below. Although, some of these issues are dealt with specifically by other policies and their background papers. This includes:

- Not all development in the Borough has been well designed. Too much development in the past has failed to positively contribute to the character of the area or to local distinctiveness;
- People's satisfaction with their local area is the lowest in Warwickshire. Only 56% feel they belong to their neighbourhood.
- Potential impacts on sensitive landscapes due to the future growth of the Borough requiring development of greenfield sites;
- Attractiveness of Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres;
- There are limited numbers of historic buildings of national importance but many others valued by local people. Some of the built heritage has suffered from poor quality modification and a lack of maintenance and repair;
- There is a good green corridor network running through the middle of the Borough linked to the Coventry Canal but others areas do not have such corridors.

### **Spatial Objectives**

7.9 The objectives below are those relevant to the historic environment policy:

#### *Objective 1*

7.10 To use economically driven growth in a way that will help regenerate the Borough and raise its profile as a more attractive place to live, but particularly to work and invest in.

#### *Objective 7*

7.11 To ensure that new development enhances and improves the quality and appearance of the existing urban area. In particular:

- a) Important open spaces such as Riversley Park, Miners Welfare Park, Whittleford Park and community and local parks are protected and enhanced. Landscape character, historic, geological and natural features such as Arbury Historic Park and Garden, Stockingford Railway Cutting and Ensor's Pool are protected and enhanced.
- b) Derelict, contaminated and untidy sites are brought back into beneficial use.

- c) Minimise the negative impact of development and make improvements where possible to air quality in Air Quality Management Areas.
- d) Maximise opportunities to use the River Anker, Wem Brook, the Coventry Canal and Ashby Canal as attractive focal points for open space and new development where there is no negative impact on the green network or the water quality.
- e) Infill development positively responds to local character and does not result in town cramming.
- f) High quality and sustainable design and construction in line with design standards.

### *Objective 6*

7.12 To create healthy and strong communities by:

- a) Creating and improving networks that increase opportunities to walk and cycle to a range of facilities.
- b) Enabling access to a range of high quality open spaces.
- c) Enabling participation in active sport by building on the strengths of Pingles Leisure centre and other local facilities.
- d) Reducing crime and antisocial behaviour through good design, raising aspirations and providing opportunities for the young.
- e) Creating well planned and integrated communities that foster cohesion and accessibility for all.

### **Issues and Options Consultation Responses**

7.13 The responses from the Issues and Options consultation suggested that the Council should take a proactive approach in preserving the historic environment and develop actions plans to protect it. There were also suggestions that protection of historic landscapes needs to be considered. It is, therefore, important that the Council has an appropriate policy which relates to the local areas across the Borough and ensures the landscapes and the developments in them reflect the surrounding area.

### **Preferred Options Consultation Responses**

7.14 The Preferred Options Consultation lasted for eight weeks between 5/07/2013 and 30/08/2013. The policy aims to protect and enhance the Borough's heritage assets, designated and undesignated. However, regardless of the policy's intent, a number of stakeholders

felt the policy could be improved if their issues were addressed. These issues are summarised in Table1.

**Table 1: Stakeholder Comments**

The Canals and Rivers Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• requested that the canal network as a non-designated heritage asset</li></ul>
Bedworth Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use local organisations in defining the local list of heritage assets</li><li>• Consider the Griff area as a conservation area</li></ul>
Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council should be proactive in defending our cultural and built heritage</li></ul>

7.15 No significant changes to the policy reflecting the fact that there were few issues raised during consultation.

## **8 ANALYSIS OF LEGISLATION, GUIDANCE AND EVIDENCE**

### **Major heritage themes that contribute to local distinctiveness**

- 8.1 From a broad consideration of the evidence base and the narrative of the development of the Borough, a number of themes have been identified as heritage components of the environment that contribute significantly to its distinct identity and which deserve to be recognised, recorded, and where possible, protected, conserved, and enhanced as part of the planning process.
- 8.2 The historic environment is not only important for its own sake, but it is also central to the character and identity of the Borough. It is a source of immense local pride, as well as being a valuable educational and economic resource. The historic environment should also act as a stimulus and inspiration to place-making in all parts of the Borough so that it can reinforce local identity and play a part in increasing the appeal of the area as a place to live, work, visit and invest in.
- 8.3 The following themes have all helped to influence the local character, landscape and heritage of the Borough.

### *Physical evidence of the Borough's heritage on the landscape*

- 8.4 The Borough's growth and past development is heavily influenced by its industrial background. It has links with its mining and industrial heritage and its historic canal and railway infrastructure. The following are key parts of the Borough's physical landscape:
- The Coventry Canal throughout the Borough and its associated historic structures
  - Ashby-de-la Zouch Canal and its associated historic structures
  - Private canals at Arbury as pioneering structures
  - Coal mining, quarrying and brick making relicts – e.g. Mount Judd & beehive brick kiln at Tuttle Hill
  - The Trent Valley Railway line and its associated historic structures
  - The former Midland Railway line to Birmingham and its associated historic structures

### *Commercial and Civic Architecture*

- 8.5 The late-Victorian, Edwardian and Inter-war periods (1880–1939) contributed significantly and positively to the urban architectural character of the Borough. Despite bombing and post-war redevelopment, the pre-war legacy of shops, banks, public houses, restaurant and cinemas represent some of the most locally distinctive architecture in the Borough, examples include the Former Scala Cinema on Abbey Street, Nuneaton and the Black Bank Public House on Coventry Road, Bedworth. Other notable buildings in the area include those related to Law and Government buildings which convey messages of authority and civic pride. Key examples include the Town Hall and the Former Police Station and Magistrates Court both on Coton Road.

#### *Rural vernacular housing and agricultural buildings*

- 8.6 Vernacular houses are houses built from locally available materials that reflect custom and tradition rather than the mainstream architectural fashions of the time. These are usually dated around mid 19th century and earlier. The Poplars Farm on The Long Shoot and Hill Farmhouse at Galley Common are good examples of these types of buildings.

#### *Historic centres*

- 8.7 The development of Nuneaton and Bedworth is heavily influenced by former rural settlements and the first phases of urbanisation. There are a number of buildings and spaces evidencing former independent historic centres of settlements throughout the Borough. Pre-1880 urban housing was not plentiful and was confined mostly to the historic cores of settlements and along principal roads. The Nuneaton town centre layout is based on the boundaries of the medieval town, with many sites denoting former medieval burgrave plots. Outside the town centre there are historic cores such as Attleborough, Chilvers Coton and Chapel End. Bedworth is a collection of distinct settlements, namely Collycroft, Mount Pleasant, Bedworth Heath, Coalpit Field, Goodyers End, Hawkesbury and Exhall. The townscape of each reflects its particular development history and the style it has inherited.

#### *The Borough's leading citizens*

- 8.8 The Borough's leading citizens have strong cultural and social connections to the area and some have helped shaped the way the landscape has developed.

#### *George Eliot – Mary Ann Evans*

- 8.9 The Borough's most famous person - Mary Ann Evans - is connected to various sites and buildings in the Borough either directly in her life

or as places in her fiction. Several are nationally listed, while others are locally listed.

- 8.10 The George Eliot Hotel in Nuneaton town centre is on the current local list as it was the basis for The Red Lion in Milby in George Eliot's novel 'Scenes of Clerical Life'. The George Eliot Fellowship has helped to ensure that the legacy of George Eliot lives on in the Borough. The George Eliot Memorial Garden was opened in 1952. It covers about two acres of what was once a residential part of the town that was bombed during WWII. In 1984 the Fellowship launched an appeal to raise money for a statue of George Eliot. A Warwickshire sculptor, John Letts, was commissioned to sculpt a statue to be cast in bronze. This statue, now standing in Newdegate Square was unveiled on 22nd March 1986 and a time capsule was placed underneath it.

*Reginald Stanley*

- 8.11 Business man, adventurer, philanthropist and local Liberal politician, Stanley, had an enormous impact on the late 19th century development of Nuneaton and its local economy. He owned five brickyards in the Borough, two collieries, and the Nuneaton Engineering Works which made mining and brick making machinery. He was responsible for the late 19th, early 20th century suburban development around Manor Court, where he lived, and many houses including his own, were built of his products.

*The Nason Family*

- 8.12 Associated with medical care in Nuneaton over several generations. Richard Bird Nason was actively involved in establishing the Nuneaton Cottage Hospital (later the Manor Hospital), which opened in 1893.

*Edward Ferdinand Melly*

- 8.13 Liverpool-born Edward Melly had a large influence on the Borough. He was philanthropist and was mayor from 1908 until 1910, and again from 1926 to 1927. He managed the Griff Colliery. Mr Melly donated land for the Chilvers Coton Recreation Ground and presented the Pingles Fields "to be used as a public park forever". It was named Riversley Park after his family home in Liverpool and in 1907.
- 8.14 Mr Melly also made a number of other contributions to the Borough including donations towards the construction of the Nuneaton Museum and Art Gallery and securing the lease of Weddington Hall in order to establish a Red Cross Hospital in the building.

### *Architects and architecture*

- 8.15 Most built development from the late Victorian period up to the Second World War was designed by local architect firms and individuals. Sometimes architects of regional or national significance were commissioned, particularly for civic and commercial buildings. Two architects stand out from this period:
- FJ Yates of Birmingham - worked for Reginald Stanley in the late 19th century and is noted for designing Manor Court home and Manor Court Hospital
  - HN Jepson of Nuneaton - active before and after the second war.
- 8.16 The late 19th and early 20th century saw a rapid industrialisation of Nuneaton; this had a number of consequences. It instigated a number of booms in house building due to the rising population, largely brought on by the demand for more labour provision. In 1871 the population was 7,399, by 1931 this was 46,291.
- 8.17 The commercial vitality resulted in the building of large numbers of new suburban houses for the middle classes, the most notable area being Manor Court Road. Other examples include Croft Road, Earls Road, Coventry Road and Manor Court Avenue. These were often individually designed by local or regional architects. Common features included red brick, pebble-dashed walls, mock timber gable, hanging red tiles and terracotta decoration.

### *Arbury Hall, Park & Estate*

- 8.18 Arbury Hall is a Grade I listed Elizabethan country house in a mixture of Tudor and 18th-century Gothic architecture. It was substantially remodelled by Sir Roger Newdigate. It is the ancestral home of the Newdigate family. The Hall was originally built on the ruins of a 12th century Augustinian Priory and is set in 300 acres (121 ha) of parkland which is Grade II\* listed. The Estate comprises not only the Hall, park and immediate surrounding farms, but includes a mix of let residential properties including the majority of Astley village (just outside the Borough boundary), and a commercial estate. This area has cultural linkages to George Eliot as she was born on South Farm, which was one of the estate farms. She used the hall and the Warwickshire countryside as settings in her writings.
- 8.19 The land remains important to the character of the Borough and was assessed through the Land Use Designations study by TEP in 2011. The area was graded as having a strong landscape character with a simple pattern of woodland and farmland with a strong parkland character. This in combination with unique features such as the remnant canals and gatehouses combine to create a distinct sense of place. The field pattern is irregular and includes a mixture of older



field patterns dating from post-medieval to 18th and 19th century enclosures.

## **9 THE VALUE AND BENEFITS OF THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

9.1 The historic environment is an asset of enormous cultural, social, economic and environmental value, contributing to the Borough's sense of history, place and quality of life. Although the Borough has a limited number of listed attributes, they still help contribute to the local character of the area and add value to the environment which surrounds them.

9.2 A heritage asset can have multiple values and benefits. For example, Riversley Park could be said to possess all four of the English heritages historic value.

- Evidential in that it demonstrates that Edwardian valued green spaces and shows us one way in which they would have spent their leisure time.
- Historical in that the connections of the place are brought into the present as it is still widely used by members of the public.
- Aesthetic value in that the park is well maintained and the design is stimulating to the senses with various species of tree and a canal near by.
- Communal value in that it contains a war memorial, museum and offers a green space close the urban centre of the town. It also has an economic value as it is regarded as a designation park it brings people to the town centre particularly during the summer months.

9.3 The historic environment can also offer wider benefits which could be seen as indirect values. These types of values can be seen in Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres where the heritage assets in these areas help to create an aesthetically pleasant environment. This is economically beneficial to commercial premises as it gives the towns a certain vitality and improves the overall experience of shopping in the town centres, which in turn encourages people to continue visiting and supporting the town centres.

9.4 Policy ENV4 seeks to ensure that heritage assets are safeguarded or enhanced for the future, both for their own heritage merits and for the wider benefits they bring. The benefits should include improvement in the quality of the historic built and landscaped environment, stimulation of high architectural quality in new buildings, creation of a stronger local identity and sense of place, increased sustainability, encouragement of local building craft skills,

greater opportunities for use of the historic environment in education and increased levels of investment and tourism.

## **10 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY**

10.1 Based on the information contained in national policy, design guidelines, local strategies and the local evidence, it is recommended that there should be a historic environment policy that will continue to protect and enhance the heritage assets of the Borough.

10.2 The policy will also be supported by the Heritage Strategy which sets out the delivery mechanisms for the historic environment.

10.3 This policy will support proposals and initiatives which identify, protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the heritage significance and setting of the Borough's designated and non-designated heritage assets. There will be particular emphasis on the following:

- the use of, and adherence to, conservation area appraisals and associated management plans to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the individual character of each of the Borough's conservation areas;
- the identification and protection of (non-designated) assets of local heritage significance and their settings, including archaeological sites;
- the avoidance of harm to the character and setting of the Borough's historic parks and gardens;
- the use of urban and landscape characterisation to ensure that new development respects and enhances the heritage components of positive local character and distinctiveness of the area in which it would be situated, particularly in areas of high heritage value;
- the use of, and adherence to, supplementary planning documents to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the Borough's heritage assets;
- respecting and conserving those elements of the historic environment that contribute to the distinct identity of the Borough.

## Valuing and Conserving our Historic Environment Policy

Development proposals and initiatives which identify, protect, conserve and, where appropriate, restore the heritage significance and setting of the Borough's designated and non-designated heritage assets will be supported.

To conserve and enhance the Borough's historic environment assets, development proposals must:

- Use urban and landscape characterisation to ensure that new development respects and enhances the positive characteristics and distinctiveness of the local area;
- Avoid harm to the character and setting of the Borough's historic parks and gardens and scheduled ancient monuments;
- Identify and protect designated and non-designated assets and their settings, including archaeological sites. Developers should foremost take account of the structure's or feature's aesthetic value, age, archaeological interest, rarity, relationship to an historical event and its social and communal value within the community;
- Carry out, where archaeological remains are uncovered, excavation work in consultation with Warwickshire County Council Information and Advice team;
- Adhere to relevant Conservation Area appraisals and associated management plans.

Where a development proposal cannot mitigate the damage to the heritage asset it must demonstrate that it is justifiable and outweighs the loss of the asset, in accordance with its designation status.

## 11 DELIVERING AND IMPLEMENTING POLICY

### Policy Delivery Mechanisms

- To prepare a Supplementary Planning Document on Design and on the preservation and enhancement of the Borough's heritage.
- To complete the Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans.
- To complete work on Urban Character Areas using resources such as Warwickshire County Council's Historic Towns Project.
- To engage local communities in the identification of locally important heritage assets using models such as Warwickshire County Council's Imaging our Past social media Flickr project.

### Monitoring

Indicator	Target
Local List of Heritage Assets	Complete Review

No loss of designated historic assets	No loss
Harm to Registered Park and Garden and Scheduled Ancient Monuments	No harm
Harm to Scheduled Ancient Monuments	No harm

## 12 HERITAGE STRATEGY

### Introduction

12.1 The purpose of the Heritage Strategy is to provide a positive framework for the heritage assets within the Borough. The strategy will ensure these assets are preserved, conserved, enhanced and managed in an appropriate manner. This is an important component of sustainable development as the Borough's heritage assets must be protected for future generations.

12.2 The review of national policy, design guidelines, local strategies and local evidence has highlighted the key messages which will be taken forward for the historic environment, these points are set out below:

- The historic environment will act as a stimulus and inspiration to place-making in all parts of the Borough, so that it can reinforce local identity and play a part in increasing the appeal of the area as a place to live, work, visit and invest in.
- The 'everyday' places of the historic environment (not just individual listed buildings, conservation areas and registered parks and gardens) are better understood and valued for the way they shape the unique character and identity of the built and rural parts of the Borough.
- New buildings and places must complement the historic urban and rural environment and be of a standard and quality that will allow them to be valued by future generations.
- The industrial legacy of the Borough is recognised and valued.
- Designated and local heritage assets at risk are protected.
- The use of, and adherence to, conservation area appraisals and associated management plans to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the individual character of each of the Borough's conservation areas.

- The identification and protection of (non-designated) assets of local heritage significance and their settings, including archaeological sites.
- The avoidance of harm to the character and setting of the Borough's historic parks and gardens.
- The use of urban and landscape characterisation to ensure that all new development respects and enhances the heritage components of positive local character and distinctiveness of the area in which it would be situated, particularly in areas of high heritage value.
- The use of, and adherence to, supplementary planning documents to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the Boroughs heritage assets.
- Respecting and conserving those elements of the historic environment that contribute to the distinct identity of the Borough.

### **Issues Affecting the Historic Environment**

12.3 There are a number of issues affecting the historic environment, all in different ways and to varying degrees. A positive heritage strategy is required to deal with the issues in an effective and proactive manner. It will ensure that the historic environment is able to be fully appreciated and will contribute positively to the local distinctiveness of the area. The following are the main issues affecting the historic environment in Nuneaton and Bedworth:

- The Borough has a limited number of nationally listed buildings. However, there are many others valued locally.
- Not all the conservation areas have area appraisals and management plans formally adopted.
- Conservation areas need proactive enforcement, not just reactive, to ensure the character of the area does not deteriorate.
- The 2012 Building at Risk survey by the English Heritage identifies two II\* listed buildings at risk - Park Farmhouse and the Tea House both at Arbury Park. These are both classed as priority category A, which means they have immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric and no solution agreed.
- The increasing population means that there is more pressure for new houses and businesses which may have a detrimental effect on historic buildings and historic landscapes.

- The economic climate means that there is less money available to refurbish buildings that are in need of repair or refurbishment or money may be prioritised in other areas.
- Not all development in the Borough has been well designed or reflected the local distinctiveness of the historic environment. This can have a negative effect on the character of the local area.
- Some of the built environment has suffered from poor quality modification and a lack of maintenance and repair. Alterations, extensions and new developments in historic or conservation areas can have negative impacts on the area.

## **Management of the Borough's Heritage Assets**

### *Introduction*

- 12.4 This section of the Heritage Strategy will outline how the Council will manage, conserve and protect the Borough's heritage assets.
- 12.5 Heritage assets are a non-renewable resource and they have a shared responsibility by owners, developers and local authorities. A degree of change to heritage assets is inevitable due to the effects of time, and more recently climate change, but sometimes more substantial intervention may be required or desired. If heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term, their fragile and finite nature should be given due consideration when changes are proposed.
- 12.6 Decisions about change to heritage assets may involve balancing a number of inter-related public and private interests, e.g. access or climate change. The sensitive adaptation and re-use of historic buildings can, in many cases, be achieved whilst accommodating these interests.
- 12.7 The emerging emphasis on localism, makes it important that existing levels of control are maintained at a local level to ensure that heritage assets can be managed in accordance with current best practice. It is important, therefore, that the Borough Plan sets out robust policies to ensure Nuneaton and Bedworth's historic environment is given sufficient regard and is protected for future generations.

### **Heritage at Risk**

- 12.8 Buildings at Risk (BAR) Registers can help in monitoring the condition of the listed building stock, identifying where resources should be concentrated to tackle problems of neglect and decay and securing viable new uses for redundant buildings.

- 12.9 English Heritage, in consultation with the Council, produces an annual 'Heritage at Risk Register' which provides details of all Grade I and Grade II\* buildings at risk within the Borough. There are currently two buildings on this register. The Council is working with English Heritage to find solutions to save the buildings but both are now at extreme risk of loss.
- 12.10 The Council carries out a Borough-wide listed building condition survey at three yearly intervals to monitor the condition of the Borough's designated heritage assets. The most recent survey was completed in 2010. It found that there are eight listed buildings at risk, five of which are non-habitable structures such as tombs and railings. This represents 10% of the Borough's listed buildings.
- 12.11 The Council will also monitor key indicators through the Annual Monitoring Report, feedback from consultations, other local data and key statistics such as those that relate to the listed buildings most at risk.
- 12.12 The Council will introduce conservation management plans for those heritage assets identified as at risk, with a priority placed on those which are grade I or II\* listed. This would involve working with the owners and appropriate bodies to ensure the situation is rectified so that the listed asset is no longer at risk. A conservation management plan would aim to meet the following objectives:
- Understanding the asset – this would involve drawing together all available information such as historical documents or physical evidence
  - Assess the significance of the asset – making a judgement on the historical, cultural, archaeological and social values
  - Define the issues which are affecting the asset – anything that will or may have an effect on the asset now and in the future
  - Develop conservation policies to ensure the future management of the asset – these will help to maintain the asset from future deterioration and help deal with current issues such as prioritising repair needs
  - Develop an action plan for emergency repairs – this will help to prioritise the repairs needed to improve the condition of the asset
  - Set out medium to long term strategy for the repair and maintenance of the asset
  - Identify options for enabling development and assess the suitability of those options against the policies in the Conservation Management Plan.

## **Conservation Areas at Risk**

- 12.13 English Heritage's survey of Heritage at risk monitors conservation area which may be at risk. Currently, the Borough has no conservation areas deemed to be at risk. However, the threats they face are a constant danger.
- 12.14 To ensure conservation areas are not placed at risk the Council has prepared appraisal and management proposal documents for Abbey conservation area, Bulkington conservation area and Nuneaton Town Centre conservation area. The Council plans to finish off the suite of these documents for the two remaining conservation areas at Hawkesbury Junction and Bedworth Town Centre.
- 12.15 To address the potential threats to the conservation areas of Abbey and Bulkington, Article 4 Directions have also been put in place in. These restrict the type of development that can otherwise be carried out by householders without planning permission to prevent the loss of traditional features and to promote sensitive replacements. In order to protect the special character of an area Article 4 Directions may be implemented in other conservation areas if it is deemed necessary. These areas will also be protected through positive and proactive enforcement by the Development Management team and by the Council encouraging the local community to report unlawful development.

## **Local Heritage Assets**

- 12.16 The Council recognises the value of local heritage assets, particularly given the relatively low number of nationally listed buildings in the area. The Council is actively working towards a review of the list of local heritage assets. There will be a partnership approach between the local community and the Council to jointly decide what parts of the historic environment should be considered worthy of protection.
- 12.17 The first stage will be to involve the local community in setting the criteria on which potential local heritage assets will be assessed against. Following this there will be a review and update of the local list. This will be the principal means of identifying local heritage assets.
- 12.18 However, it is recognised that for a variety of reasons it is unlikely that a local list will be wholly comprehensive and contain all assets worthy of protection at any one time, therefore, the development of the local list will be an ongoing process.



- 12.19 New assets may be identified through the development management process, for example, at the pre-application stage when a site may be regarded as meeting the criteria for identification as a heritage asset. If an application is submitted which affects a site that qualifies as a local heritage asset, the developer/agent will be informed and will be required to produce a heritage statement at the application stage.
- 12.20 Another way these may be identified is through the Neighbourhood Planning process. This may provide a further opportunity for local communities to identify potential local assets which are of historic value and hold significance to the local community.
- 12.21 A potential local heritage asset may be a building, structure or a place that may be identified as being of historic value. The assets will be assessed against a criteria. The local list criteria has not yet been formalise as it will be consulted on in the future. Potential local heritage assets could belong to the following categories:

- **Buildings and Structures**
  - Domestic Buildings: Urban, Suburban and Rural
  - Agricultural Buildings
  - Industrial Buildings
  - Places of Worship
  - Educational Buildings
  - Commercial and Leisure Buildings
  - Law and Government Buildings
  - Buildings associated with important Local People
- **Designed Landscapes**
- **Parks, gardens and open spaces**
- **Transport Assets**
  - Canals
  - Railways
- **Archaeological Sites**

## **Local Distinctiveness**

- 12.22 The Council will make use of comprehensive Borough-wide urban and landscape characterisation as a means of recognising and protecting the wider historic environment. It will identify dimensions of positive local character and distinctiveness across the Borough and the most effective way to manage this.

### *Landscape character*

- 12.23 Landscape characterisation demonstrates the landscapes quality and its sensitivity to change. Policy ENV2 – Landscape Character, will require development proposals to demonstrate how they will conserve, enhance, restore or create a sense of place, respond positively to the landscape setting and take account of the Land Use Designations Study.
- 12.24 The overall aim of landscape character assessment is to achieve sustainable landscapes that are visually diverse, culturally rich and provide potential biodiversity opportunities, as well as being able to meet social, economic and environmental needs.
- 12.25 The key characteristics and distinctiveness of the local landscape and built form will need to be identified so that any new development will compliment the existing character in an appropriate manner. The following will ensure that the local character is retained:
- Conserve or enhance important landmark views
  - Respect the nature of boundary features and field patterns
  - Conserve and enhance the balance and setting of development within the landscape ensuring it respects and enhances the rural character
- 12.26 Development proposals outside the urban area must be of a scale appropriate to the landscape’s setting and avoid any significant increase in the overall level of activity in the landscape, either as an individual application or cumulatively with previous applications.
- 12.27 The Council will ensure that the landscape strategy and hierarchy characteristics are taken account of in any proposals for development. Development located in areas of highest landscape value must be accompanied with a statement showing that the developer has fully considered development opportunities in areas of lowest landscape value, consistent with the Landscape Strategy. The Landscape character areas to consider sequentially are:
- A. Restore and create
  - B. Enhance and restore
  - C. Enhance
  - D. Conserve and enhance
  - E. Conserve

### *Urban Characterisation*

- 12.28 Urban characterisation will set out what the important heritage assets are and highlight the factors that contribute to the urban character of the various parts of the Borough. Policy ENV3 - Urban Character and Design Quality, will ensure that these characteristics are taken account of in any proposals for development.
- 12.29 Urban characterisation is a specific tool to ensure that that local distinctiveness is reflected in any new development. However, it is important to stress that while the Council's definition of the historic environment is wide ranging, this does not mean that Policy ENV4 - Valuing and Conserving our Historic Environment, will prevent or unnecessarily restrict development and be an obstacle to growth. Rather, it allows for suitable development to take place in the Borough that both contributes to growth and respects its unique urban and landscape heritage. It will support proposals and initiatives which identify, protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the heritage significance and setting of the Borough's designated and non-designated heritage assets.
- 12.30 The Council may look to innovative ways to increase the awareness of the historic environment and raise the profile of the local character by introducing design awards. This would help to promote high standards of design quality in the Borough This is an idea which other Councils, such as Havant Borough Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council. have implemented with positive outcomes

### *Supplementary Planning Documents*

- 12.31 To guide the application of policy ENV4 and other policies the Council will prepare supplementary planning documents on design and the preservation and enhancement of the Borough's heritage. These will set out greater details of the topics for the benefit of both developers and decision makers on planning applications. These documents will cover:
- design quality and sustainable design
  - urban character areas
  - water quality and efficiency
  - sustainable building materials
  - minimisation of construction waste
  - waste recycling facilities
  - cycling facilities
  - energy efficiency/conservation
  - provision of on site renewable energy
  - orientation of buildings
  - design of public and private open space to account for extreme weather to provide both shade and shelter

- protection and enhancement natural environment
- reduction of environmental nuisance (air pollution and noise)

### **New Sites in Borough Plan**

- 12.32 The sites identified in the Borough Plan have taken account of the criteria set by the objectives of the Borough Plan. This ensures that they reflect the local character of the area, they take account of the landscape character, heritage assets and the archaeological potential of the sites. However, further work is also needed to undertake more detailed desk based assessment and field evaluation of archaeological potential.
- 12.33 Masterplanning of the sites will ensure local distinctiveness and the character of the local area will be reflected in the development design and layout of the proposals. The interrelationship between conservation of heritage assets and green infrastructure, landscape, regeneration, economic development, transport works, infrastructure, tourism, town centres and climate change mitigation or adaptation will all be considered to ensure that sustainable development is delivered and achieved.

### **Archaeology**

- 12.34 Archaeological sites of national and local importance are identified in the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record by the County Archaeologist. The record will continue to be added to through the development control process. Desk-based assessment and field evaluation will be carried out for development proposals affecting sites of possible archaeological interest
- 12.35 The Borough Council relies on the County Archaeologist to provide advice on archaeology and development in Warwickshire. When a planning application is made to the Council, the County Archaeologist will undertake a preliminary assessment of any archaeological implications of the proposed work.
- 12.36 The preliminary assessment involves identifying whether there are any known archaeological sites on or near the proposed development. If the proposed development is not of archaeological interest then there will be no requirement for any further archaeological action. If the Planning Archaeologist decides that a development is of archaeological interest the next stage is to decide whether there is enough information to assess how the proposed development will affect any archaeological features present.

- 12.37 If there is not enough information known about a site the Planning Archaeologist will ask for assessment work to be carried out before planning permission is granted. Pre-determination work will be carried out by professional archaeologists working on behalf of the developer and might include small-scale excavation, geophysical./geotechnical survey and documentary research.
- 12.38 Upon satisfactory completion and reporting of this work the Borough Council will be advised on whether the development should proceed and if further work is required. This process will ensure that sites across the Borough are protected for their archaeological merit.

### Access to the Evidence Base

- 12.39 A key part of the heritage strategy is the evidence base. The review of the development of existing evidence and baseline information has helped to guide Policy ENV4. However, a positive strategy must continue to develop, review and if necessary, expand the existing evidence base.
- 12.40 The NPPF requires local authorities to ensure they have appropriate evidence about the historic environment in their area and that this is publicly documented. The main sources of information for the evidence base are set out in table 4.

**Table 4: Sources of information for the evidence base**

Document	Where it can be found
The Statutory List of Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest for Nuneaton and Bedworth	English Heritage <a href="http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/">www.english-heritage.org.uk/</a>
The Warwickshire County Historic Environment Record	Warwickshire County Council <a href="http://timetrail.warwickshire.gov.uk/">http://timetrail.warwickshire.gov.uk/</a>
The Warwickshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project	Warwickshire County Council <a href="http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/hlc">www.warwickshire.gov.uk/hlc</a>
Warwickshire Historic Town Study	Warwickshire County Council <a href="http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/1F8372D950F39ECD8025779E00511839">www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/1F8372D950F39ECD8025779E00511839</a>

Warwickshire Historic Farmstead Characterisation Project	Warwickshire County Council <a href="http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/43D3EF8666DAEB86802576620044E03B">www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/43D3EF8666DAEB86802576620044E03B</a>
Warwickshire graphic record of heritage assets: 'Imaging our Past and Present'	Warwickshire County Council <a href="http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/2934690AFCA07020802578760048F08E">www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/2934690AFCA07020802578760048F08E</a>
Archaeological Resource Assessment of Warwickshire's Aggregates Producing Areas	Warwickshire County Council <a href="http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/8D5B48D69F4E05D4802571940055981E">www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/8D5B48D69F4E05D4802571940055981E</a>
The Local List of Heritage Assets	Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council <a href="http://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk">www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk</a>
Land Use Designations Study	Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council <a href="http://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk">www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk</a>
Conservation Management Plans and Appraisals	Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council <a href="http://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk">www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk</a>

#### *Further Studies to Develop Evidence Base*

- 12.41 The Council is currently undertaking an Urban Characterisation pilot which will help to guide developers and decision makers on the local aspects of design quality and character. Documenting this information in a formal manner will ensure the preservation and enhancement of the Borough's heritage by providing a publicly available record of the Borough's character areas.
- 12.42 In order to further enhance the Council's information on the Borough's heritage assets it will complete the suite of Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans for all five conservation areas.

#### **Partners**

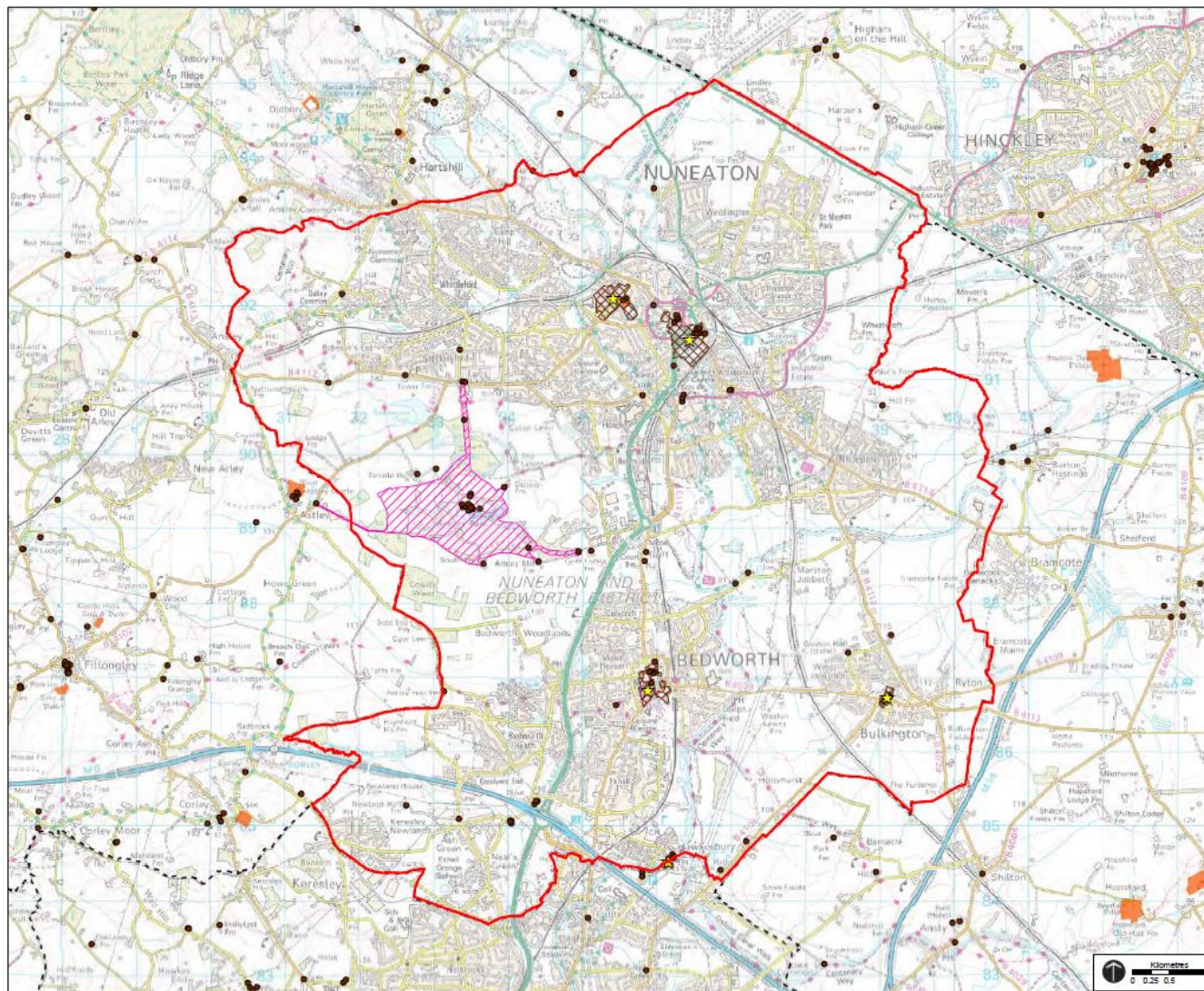
- 12.43 The protection, enhancement and conservation of the historic environment requires joint working with a variety of stakeholders. Working with the local community is an important part of the historic environment as they are the ones who inhabit the environments. There are also a number of key organisations which will help to play an important role in the development of the recognition of the Borough's heritage assets, these include:

- English Heritage/ Historic England
- Warwickshire County Council
- Civic Societies
  - Nuneaton Civic Society
  - The Bedworth Society

## APPENDICES



# Appendix 1: Map of Nuneaton and Bedworth's Heritage Assets



**Key**

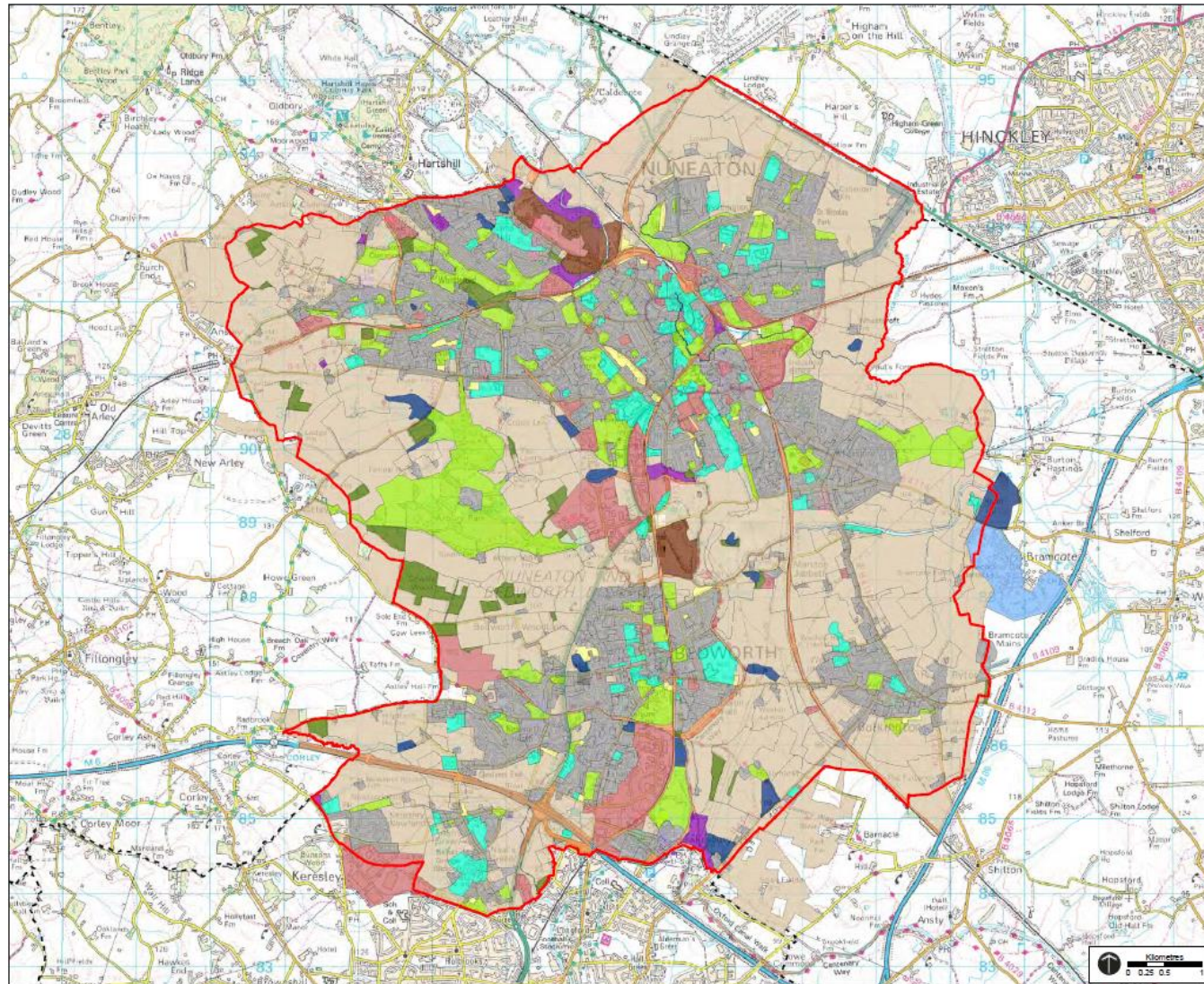
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Boundary
- - - Other Local Authority Boundary
- Archaeological Designations**
- Scheduled Monuments
- Listed Building
- Conservation Area
- Registered Parks and Gardens

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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date
Geraldine Carter Bedworth Science Park Walsingham Road Leicestershire LE12 5JF Tel: 01532 844204 Fax: 01532 844202 email: leg@tep.ac.uk				
<b>Project: Nuneaton and Bedworth Land Use Survey</b>				
<b>Title: Archaeology</b>				
<b>Drawing No: Figure 6.6</b>				
<b>Date: 24/08/10</b>		<b>TEP Ref No: G2534.005</b>		
<b>Drawn: CB</b>	<b>Checked: TS</b>	<b>Approved: UG</b>		



## Appendix 2: Map of Nuneaton and Bedworth's Historic Landscape Character (broadtype)



**Key**

- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Boundary
- Other Local Authority Boundary

**Historic Landscape Character - Broadtype**

- Civic and Commercial
- Military
- Fieldscapes
- Orchards and Allotments
- Designed Landscape
- Woodland
- Settlement
- Transportation
- Unimproved Land
- Industrial
- Extractive
- Water and Valley Floor

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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

**TEP** Geomatics Centre  
Bedworth Science Park  
Warwickton W93 7JH  
Tel: 01203 846300  
Fax: 01203 846322  
email: tep@tep.uk.com

**Project:** Nuneaton and Bedworth Land Use Survey

**Title:** Warwickshire Historic Landscape Character (Broadtype)

**Drawing No:** Figure 6.7

**Date:** 02/08/10 **TEP Ref No:** G2534.008

<b>Drawn:</b> CB	<b>Checked:</b> TS	<b>Approved:</b> IJG
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### **Appendix 3: Summary description of the Borough's Historic Landscape Character**

#### **Industrial**

The Borough's landscape has been highly influenced by the mining of coal. The industrial past has altered and shaped the Borough significantly especially in terms of coal mining and other extractive industry. Other historic industries include the Chilvers Coton pottery industry dating back to the medieval and post medieval periods once formed a large area to the south west of Nuneaton (Mayes and Scott 1984). The present industrial element of the Borough is relatively high at 5% of the Borough area compared to 2% for the whole of Warwickshire. Although most of the industrial areas are relatively new industrial estates such as Exhall Industrial Estate and Bermuda Business Park, they are often on the site of old coal mines and workings. The distribution of industrial areas in the Borough relates quite closely to the pattern of the railways.

#### **Extractive**

The greatest impact on the landscape of the Borough is the result of mineral extraction from both coal and hard rock. These have left their mark on the Borough with very large areas excavated and large mounds left nearby, 'Mount Judd' in particular dominates the skyline in the Borough.

Coal mining has taken place in the Borough from the medieval period onwards with some evidence of Roman exploitation. A string of coal mines once existed running from south of Bedworth to northwest of Nuneaton following the Warwickshire coal seam (Grant 1982). No active coal mining remains in this area but the effect this has had on the landscape is obvious and has shaped the pattern of transport links, the settlement expansion of Nuneaton and Bedworth and the large amount of industrial areas. The coal mines brought industry and transport links to the area and they are still significant today including the Coventry Canal, the Ashby-de-la Zouch Canal and the large number of railway lines that pass through Nuneaton.

Present extraction sites are made up of two large areas of hard rock extraction (Judkins and Griff Quarries) almost 100 ha in extent. Some of the area near this extraction is being used as a waste tip while other areas have been filled and left to form scrub which explains the slightly larger than average amount of unimproved land in the Borough.

#### **Settlement**

There are four main historic cores, Nuneaton, Attleborough, Bedworth and Bulkington. The cores date back to the medieval period. A large part of Nuneaton has been redeveloped but what remains from the early 20th century settlement is mainly terraced housing towards the centre of the town that also stretches out towards the west and to the south. Other areas of terraced housing developed separately at Chilvers Coton and Hartshill. Semi-detached

housing was created in the inter war or early 1950s period and is on the outskirts of the terraced housing. In the late 20th century this was all linked together, mostly with more modern terraced housing estates, to form the much larger settlement area of Nuneaton. Strips of detached housing were established along the roads at the very edge of Nuneaton. Finally, in the late 20th century mostly detached with some semi-detached housing expanded Nuneaton even further out to the suburbs of Whitestone, Horeston Grange, St Nicholas Park, Chilvers Coton and Camp Hill.

Modern terraced housing is found at Camp Hill, Stockingford and the Chilvers Coton area. Bedworth had a similar development to Nuneaton with terraced housing near the centre and stretching out from there, followed by mainly semi-detached inter war/early 1950s infill. Subsequent development has focused on the west and south linking Bedworth with Exhall and almost reaching to Coventry itself. Bulkington is a much later developed area. Some inter war or early 1950s strips of detached and semi-detached housing stretched out towards Nuneaton. Later modern estates developed around Bulkington's historic core, mainly semi-detached with some detached housing. In terms of rural settlement there are a number of pre 1880s farmsteads scattered throughout the rural part of the Borough. A greater number of farmsteads are found on the western side of the Borough, with fewer in the east and north. One or two more modern farms are found on the edge of the Borough including the large Bramcote Mains farm which has diversified into a fishing and off-road activity centre.

There are a few country houses in the Borough including Arbury Hall, country house on the site of a medieval priory and still in its context of a large 18th century designed landscape. Exhall Hall has been subsumed and enclosed by Junction 3 of the M6. Hawksbury Hall has been influenced by coal mining and has scrub surrounding most of it.

## Transport

Canals were established to transport coal to the rest of the country. The Oxford Canal, one of the earliest canals in the country designed to connect the Midlands with London via the River Thames, started here at Hawksbury Junction in the 1770s. Coventry Canal followed this and was built in 1771. The Ashby de la Zouch Canal was then constructed in 1804 to link the Coventry Canal and the Ashby coal and lime extraction areas in Leicestershire.

Small canal arms from the Coventry Canal that linked it to the coal mining areas still exist. Railways connected Nuneaton and Bedworth in the mid 19th century with links being made between major towns and cities in the Midlands particularly Coventry, Birmingham, Stafford and Rugby. Later, direct links were made between Nuneaton, Birmingham and Leicester. Some dismantled railways remain in the Borough; some are industrial branches to the old coalfields while others are railways that have closed. In terms of later 20th century transport, the M6 motorway passes through the southern part of the Borough with Junction 3 linking to the main communities.

## Civic and Commercial

Most of the municipal and civic as well as commercial areas are found in the Nuneaton area with very little in Bedworth. The George Eliot Hospital is a large hospital at Nuneaton and there are a number of schools in Nuneaton and Bedworth. There is a fairly large commercial/retail area in the centre of Nuneaton redeveloping part of its historic core with others found on the southern and eastern edges.

## Unimproved Land

Very little unimproved land is found in the Borough with most of the present areas being scrub growth on filled-in and undeveloped old extractive works. In terms of previous unimproved land there were some large areas of common in the north west of the Borough at Galley Common and in the south west at Bedworth Heath.

## Woodland

The Borough area is sparsely wooded with less than half the county average, although some of the woodland coverage forms part of Arbury Park, a designed landscape which dominates as the largest park and garden in the Borough.

## Water

The River Anker passes through Nuneaton heading northwest. A number of fishing lakes are found in the south and east of the Borough. Some artificial ponds and water features are found relating to the canals and extractive areas. The patterns of fields making up the Borough form a varied mix of fieldscape types including irregular, planned and some very large postwar fields.

## Horticulture

There is little horticulture in the Borough with no orchards recorded and just a small number of allotments scattered throughout the urban areas of Nuneaton, Bedworth and Bulkington.

## Military

The only military site in the Borough is a small part of Gamecock Barracks at Bramcote which is the home of the 30th Signal Regiment. Gamecock Barracks is on the site of the Second World War RAF Bramcote training airfield. Most of the barrack site is within Rugby Borough.

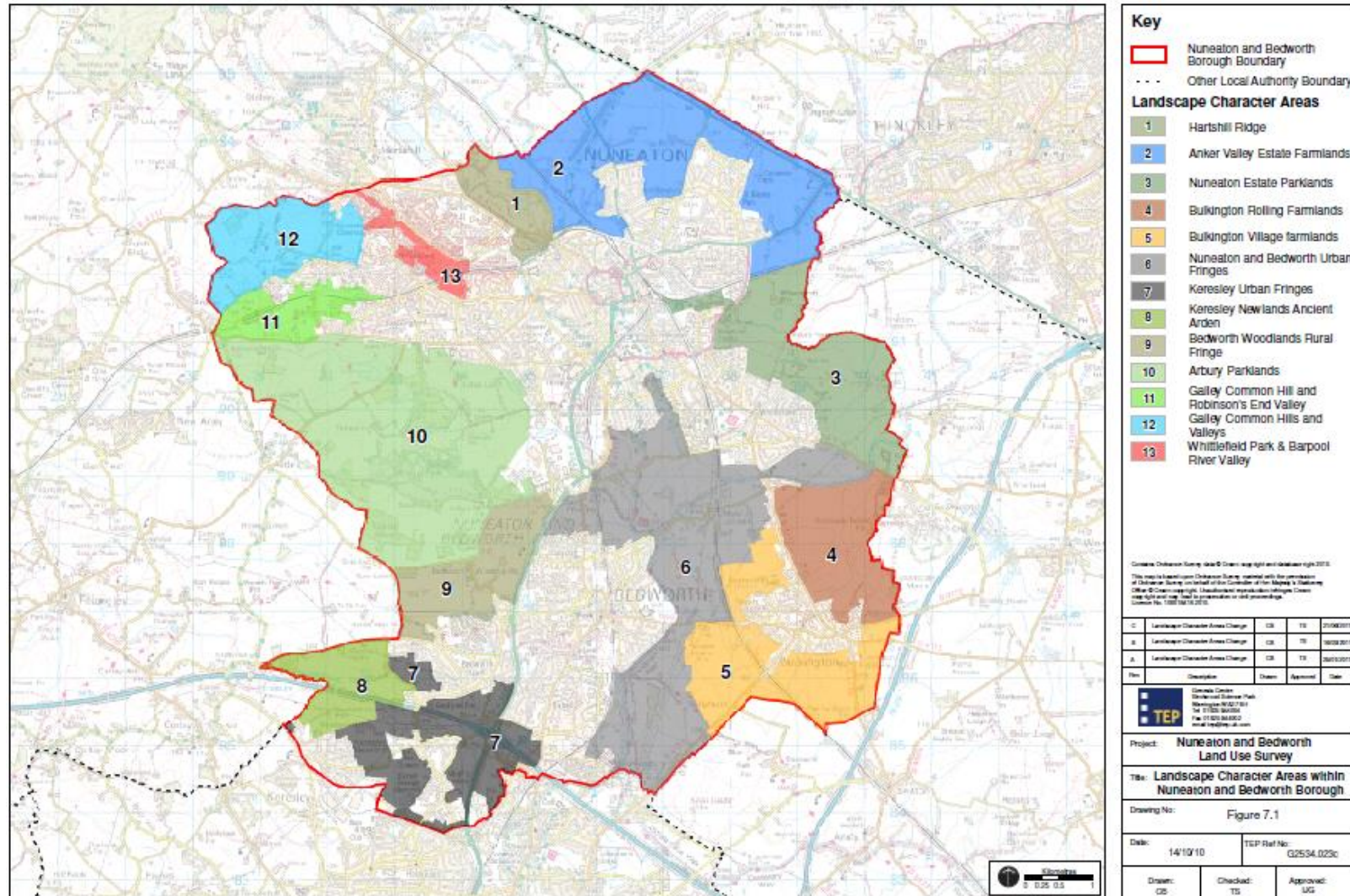
## Designed Landscapes

Designed landscapes are dominated by Arbury Park, which was at one time much larger and, in the medieval period, once formed part of a deer park.

Smaller parks and gardens can be found scattered throughout the urban parts of the Borough with the Miners Welfare Park at Bedworth of some note. There are also three golf courses.'



## Appendix 4: Map of Nuneaton and Bedworth's Landscape Character Areas



## **Appendix 5: Summary of the Landscape Character Areas Key Characteristics to be Conserved, Enhanced, Restored or Created**

### LCA 1: Hartshill Ridge

ENHANCE and RESTORE – Emphasis should be placed on enhancing the area’s sense of place and distinctiveness by appropriately restoring the modified ridgeline and by interpreting the area’s post industrial heritage for the benefit of the public.

### LCA 2: Anker Valley Estate Farmlands

ENHANCE – Emphasis should be placed on conserving farmland contained by intact hedgerows and clusters of hedgerow trees; linear and copse woodlands and wooded streams; settlement edges appearing as clustered large villages rather than a wider single conurbation. Any change which made urban development more prominent would have a negative effect on the rural character.

### LCA 3: Nuneaton Estate Farmlands

RESTORE and CREATE – Emphasis should be placed on enhancing and restoring aspects of the landscape including riparian woodland along streams and rivers; wetlands and meadows; hedgerow trees and remaining intact hedgerows. Positive change would include the restoration of fragmented hedgerows, planting of new woodlands and hedgerow trees and enhancement of the streams and River Anker. Retaining separation between Nuneaton and Hinckley is also important.

### LCA 4: Bulkington Rolling Farmland

ENHANCE and RESTORE – Emphasis should be placed on enhancing the pattern of hedgerows and scattered hedgerow trees with long views across rolling farmland to wooded skylines. It is important to retain the appearance of Bulkington as a small clustered rising settlement. Change which reduces the prominence of built form would reinforce rural character. Other positive change would include reinforcing the wetland character along the River Anker through establishing and enhancing characteristics such as wetland meadows and riparian woodland along the river.

### LCA 5: Bulkington Village Farmlands

ENHANCE AND RESTORE – Emphasis should be placed on landscape enhancement including hedgerows and hedgerow trees, linear woodland along the railway and some streams and trees and scrub along settlement fringes. Positive change could include management and restoration of hedgerows and enhancement of linear woodlands. This area is sensitive to



any changes which may reduce separation between Bulkington, Bedworth and Coventry.

#### LCA 6: Nuneaton and Bedworth Urban Fringes

ENHANCE and RESTORE – Emphasis should be placed on enhancing and restoring features including canals; wetland meadows; riparian tree planting; hedgerows; hedgerow trees; and woodland. This landscape provides separation between Nuneaton and Bedworth although the separation between the settlements is particularly constrained along the A444 around Griff.

#### LCA 7: Keresley Urban Fringe

RESTORE and CREATE – Emphasis should be placed on creating a sense of place and distinctiveness whilst retaining and restoring features such as hedgerows, hedgerow trees, woodland and wooded streams through new green infrastructure to reinforce character and a sense of place. New planting could help to reduce the prominence of urban fringes. Change which enhances the wetlands along streams and rivers could provide a positive connection between each pocket of farmland.

#### LCA 8: Keresley Newlands Ancient Arden

CONSERVE and ENHANCE – Emphasis should be placed on conserving and enhancing the small-scale pasture fields with intact mature hedgerows and frequent hedgerow trees, wooded streams; field ponds; marshy grassland; linear belts of woodland; and blocks of ancient woodland. It is important to ensure that development does not become more prominent within the landscape and where visible appears as individual properties or small clusters filtered by trees and small scale woodlands particularly close to settlement edges.

#### LCA 9: Bedworth Woodlands Rural Fringe

ENHANCE – Emphasis should be placed on enhancing the small-scale field pattern and retaining the frequency and density of hedgerow trees and hedgerows. Woodlands, ditches and remaining wooded field ponds are also important features that need to be retained. Changes in land management which restored hedgerows and hedgerow trees, and the former Arbury Canals particularly in the northern part of the character area, could have a positive influence on the distinctiveness of the landscape.

#### LCA 10: Arbury Parklands

CONSERVE – Emphasis should be placed on conserving and enhancing the rural and remote character. Change would need to respect the parkland character and distinctive vernacular of brick and timber farmhouses and agricultural buildings, and also to maintain the prominence of gate houses and lodges along the surrounding small rural roads. Any change which did not retain and reinforce wooded horizons or that made urban edges more prominent would weaken the pattern and character of the landscape. It is

important to retain the rural wooded farmland setting to Arbury Hall Park and Garden.

#### LCA 11: Galley Common Hill and Robinson's End Valley

ENHANCE – Emphasis should be placed on enhancing Whytell Pool and Meadows Local Wildlife Site, valley woodland, and field hedgerows. It is also important to ensure that new development does not become prominent within the landscape and the separation between Robinson's End and Ansley is retained

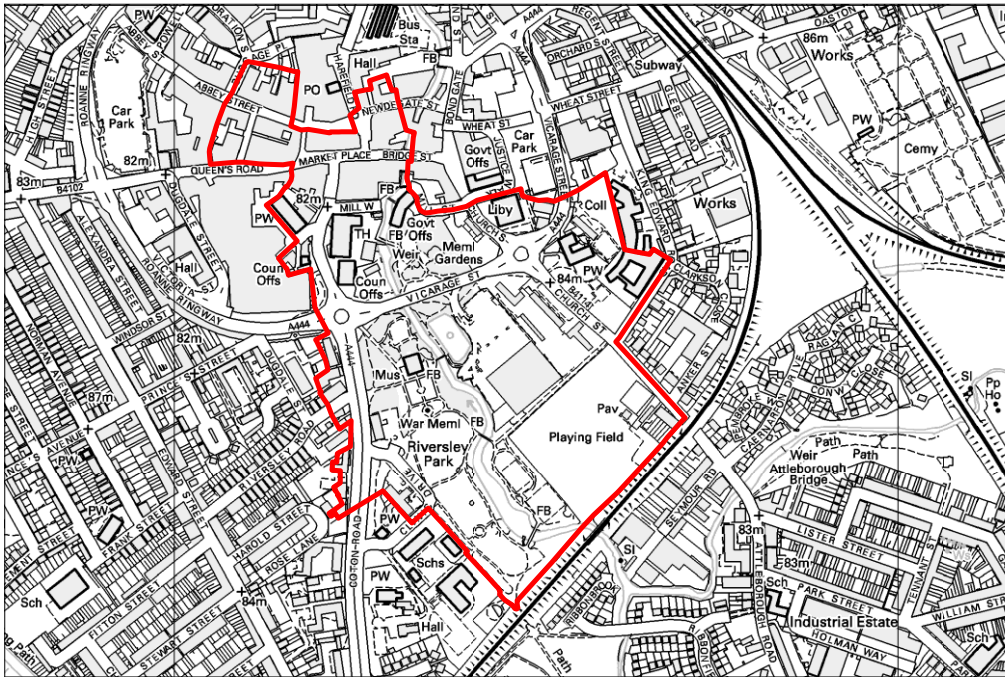
#### LCA 12: Galley Common Hills and Valleys

CONSERVE and ENHANCE – Emphasis should be placed on conserving and enhancing the undulating landform of low rounded hills; woodland on high ground; wooded streams; and frequent hedgerow trees. It is also important to ensure that development does not become prominent within the landscape and where visible appears as individual properties or small clusters along a village edge.

#### LCA 13: Whittleford Park and Bar Pool River Valley

ENHANCE – Emphasis should be placed on enhancing Whittleford Park and Bar Pool Valley and Nuneaton Common Local Wildlife Sites, valley woodland, wooded watercourses and the balance of meadows, woodland and wetlands. It is also important to ensure that development reflects the character of development on valley sides.

## Appendix 6: Nuneaton and Bedworth Conservation Areas

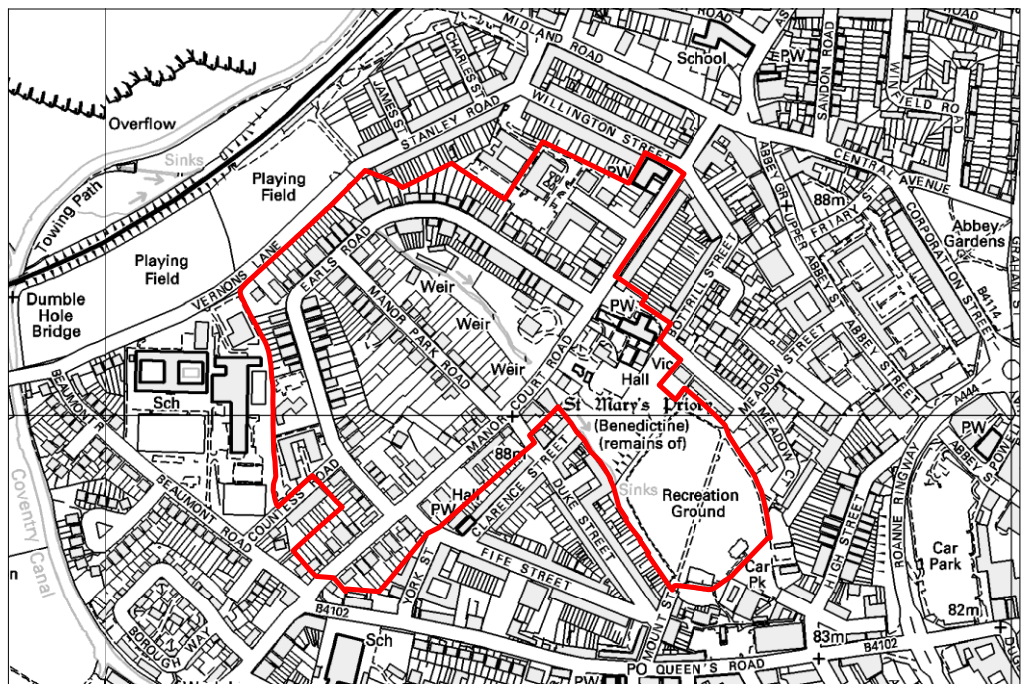


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### Nuneaton Town Centre

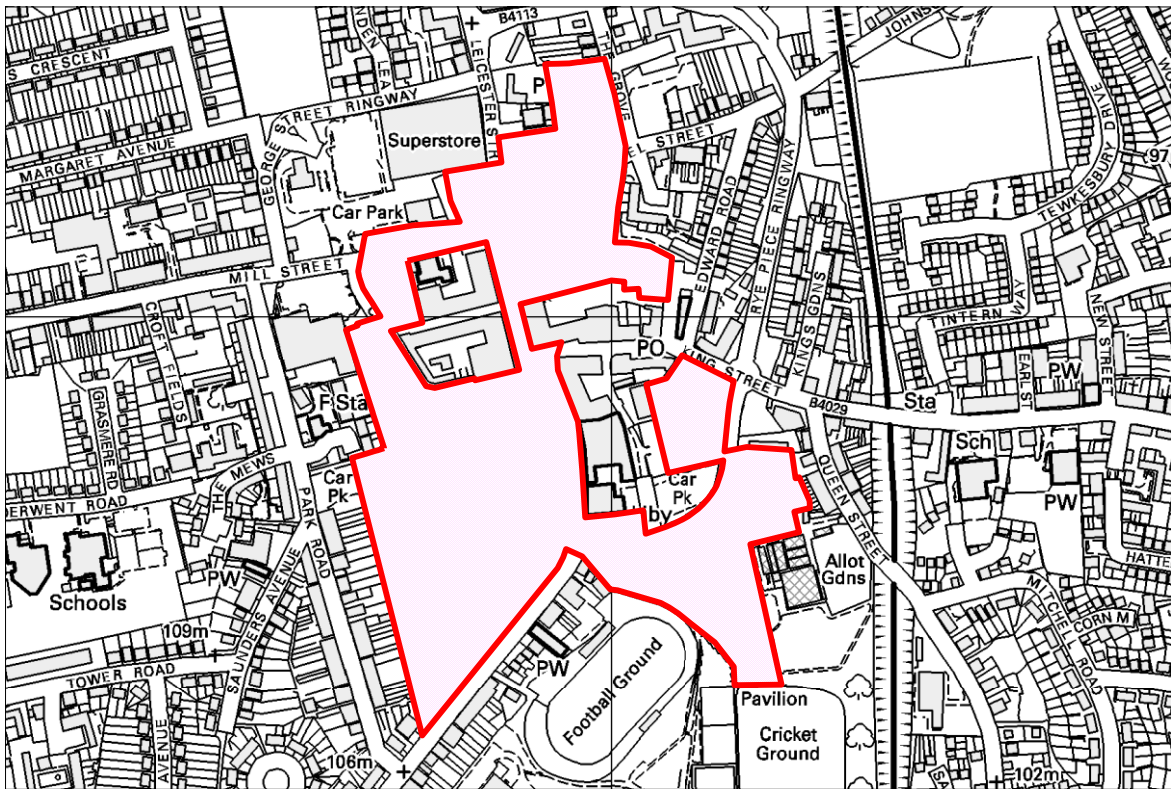
### Abbey Conservation Area, Nuneaton



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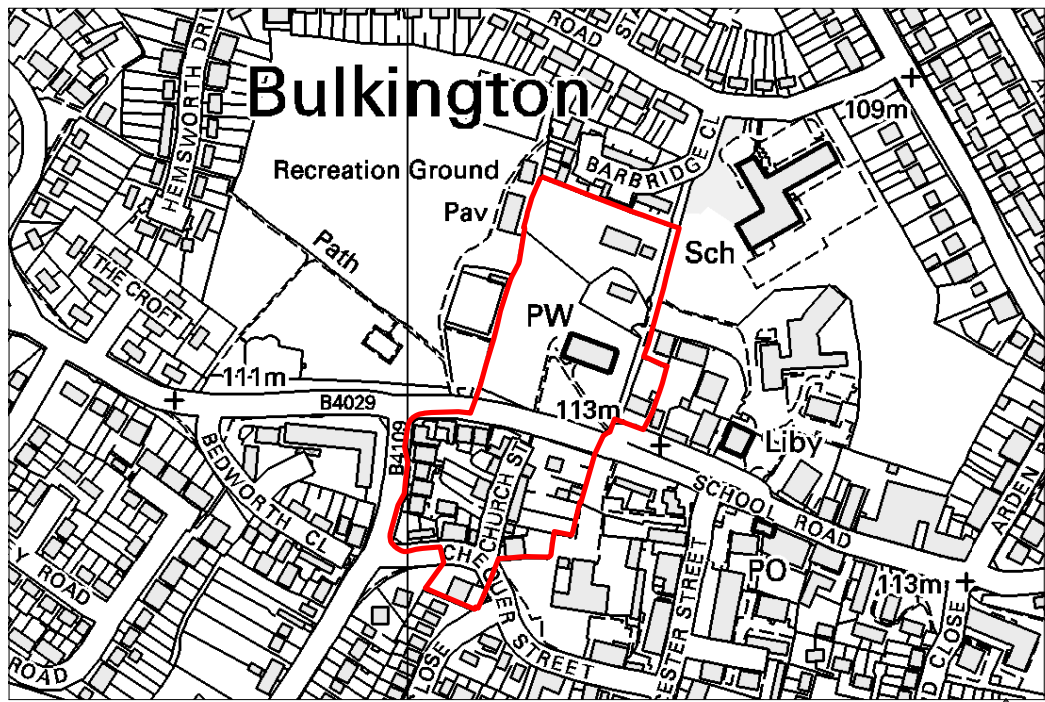
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## Bedworth Town Centre

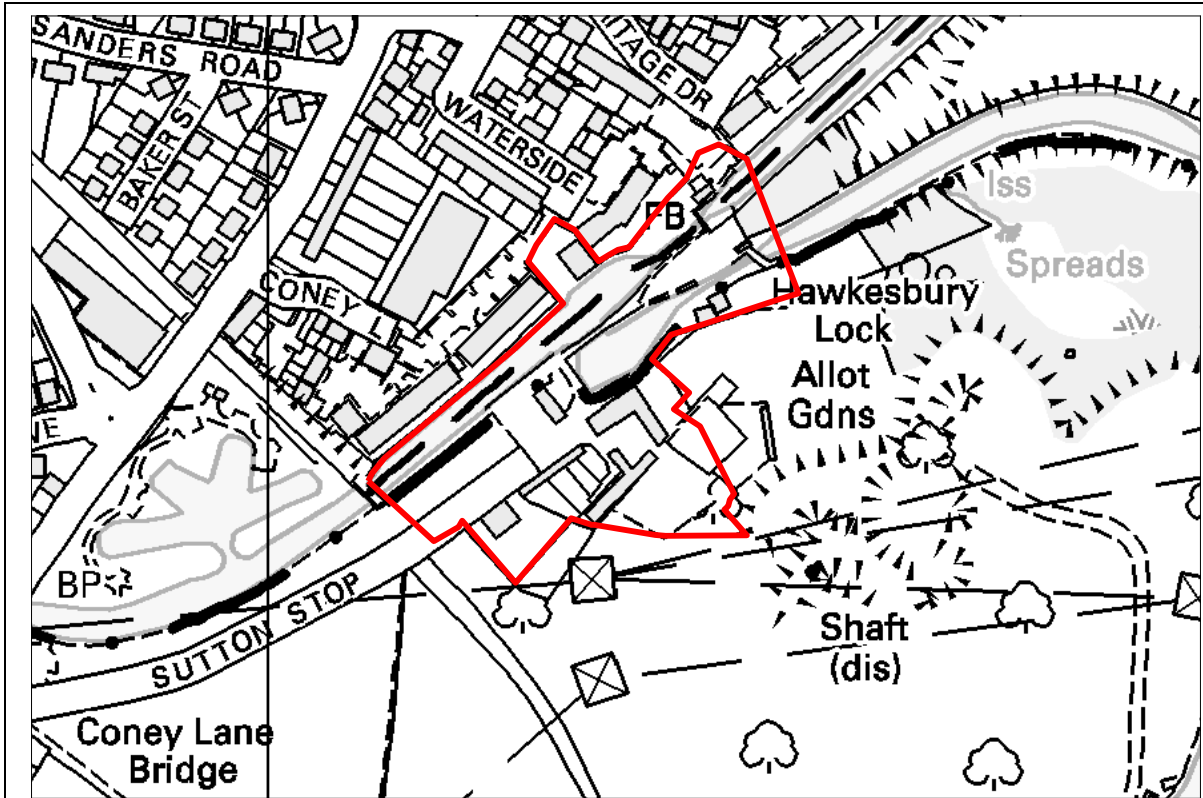
## Bulkington Village



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### Hawkesbury Junction