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## 1 Introduction

**1.1** This background paper has been produced to collate and analyse the existing information on the Historic Environment within Wyre Forest District, primarily to inform the preparation of the Local Development Framework (LDF). The Historic Environment is a key element for consideration in the future development of the District.

**1.2** The paper is focussed on issues of the Historic Environment and is structured to:

- Identify the key messages from national and local policy.
- Provide a brief overview of the Historic Environment within the District.
- Present baseline information on the characteristics of the District to help inform an appropriate strategy for the plan period.
- Outline some of the emerging key issues for the future of the area, based on existing information.
- Draw conclusions and make recommendations for future policy pertaining to the Historic Environment.

***The historic environment is central to the Nation's cultural heritage and sense of identity, and hence a resource that should be sustained for the benefit of present and future generations. People value this historic environment as part of their cultural and natural heritage. It reflects the knowledge, beliefs and traditions of diverse communities. It gives distinctiveness, meaning and quality to the places in which we live, providing a sense of continuity and a source of identity. It is a social and economic asset and a resource for learning and enjoyment. The historic environment can also contribute to environmental sustainability. Many traditional buildings and building materials are durable, and perform well in terms of the energy needed to make and use them. Their removal and replacement would require a major reinvestment of energy and resources. In this context, English Heritage seeks to manage change to a significant place in its setting in ways that will sustain its heritage values, while recognising opportunities to reinforce those values for present and future generations. (English Heritage, 2009)***

## 2 Policy Framework

### National Policy

#### National Planning Policy Framework

**2.1** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and replaces the previous Planning Policy Guidance and Planning Policy Statements including those relating to the historic environment - PPG15, PPG16 and PPS5. Section 12 of the NPPF, 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' states that local plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. Heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and they need to be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance. 'Heritage assets' embraces all manner of features including: buildings, parks and gardens, standing, buried and submerged remains, areas, sites and landscapes, whether designated or not.

**2.2** Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment recognising their irreplaceable nature. They should take into account: the desirability of putting heritage assets to a viable use consistent with their conservation; the contribution conservation makes to wider sustainability aims; and, the desirability of new development contributing to local character.

**2.3** One of the twelve core principles that should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking is that planning should conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance (ie. their value to society), so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations.

#### **PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide**

**2.4** Although the NPPF supersedes PPS5 as government policy on the management of change to the historic environment in England, the associated practice guide remains a valid and Government endorsed document pending the results of a review of guidance supporting national planning policy. The guidance covers heritage assets and their significance, plan making, permitted development and development management.

#### **Government statement on the Historic Environment for England 2010**

**2.5** This statement outlines the Government's approach to the Historic Environment, saying that:

*'The value of the historic environment is recognised by all who have the power to shape it; that Government gives it proper recognition and that it is managed intelligently and in a way that fully realises its contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of the nation.'*

**2.6** It goes on to explain that the historic environment can support the regeneration and sustainable economic and social development of our communities. The historic environment should be an integral part of the local scene.

## Local Policy

### Adopted Local Plan (2004)

**2.7** The Adopted Local Plan provides the framework for the protection and the enhancement of the historic environment. The section regarding the heritage of the district identifies the key aim as being to

***"Safeguard and enhance the distinctive historic environment of the District."***

**2.8** The Plan identifies the objectives to further this aim by:

- Preserving and enhancing conservation areas and the District's listed buildings.
- Safeguarding particular characteristics of the District's urban and rural areas that are unique or commonly associated with the District.
- Promoting appropriate development which secures the beneficial reuse and enhancement of historic buildings and environments.
- Conserving and enhancing the quality of the environment is a key element in the achievement of sustainable development. A high quality built and historic environment will help to attract and retain investment and contribute to the quality of life of residents.

### Adopted Core Strategy

**2.9** The Adopted Core Strategy (2010) sets out 13 development objectives including one of particular relevance to the historic environment:

***"to conserve and enhance the District's heritage assets."***

**2.10** A key issue and challenge is to ensure that new development complements the District's local distinctiveness and unique heritage assets. The Development Strategy makes a number of references to the unique heritage of the 3 towns and how it can be tapped into to encourage tourism and regeneration. Policy CP11: Quality Design and Local Distinctiveness sets out the key role that historic assets can take in the design of new places. It is vital that the historic environment is managed positively.

**2.11** The above documents provide the policy framework for considering the Historic Environment within the Local Development Framework. It is vital that the policies take a holistic approach to safeguarding, sustaining and enhancing all aspects of the Historic Environment.

### 3 Overview of Historic Environment

**3.1** Wyre Forest District is a unique blend of urban and rural environments; the District is named after the remnant woodlands which extend across the western boundary into Shropshire. Today, the forest covers an area of 2,634 hectares (6,509 acres), and is noted for its variety of wildlife. Although now the Wyre Forest has been much deforested it still remains one of the largest ancient woodlands in Britain. Around two thirds of the forest has been designated as SSSI, while a further fifth is listed as a National Nature Reserve. However, it is not just the Forest which has helped to shape the evolution of the District.

**3.2** The two river valleys, the Severn and the Stour, that run north to south through the District have also provided a focus throughout history. Additionally, the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, designed by James Brindley has also contributed to the growth of the area. The development of the towns situated alongside the waterways were influenced by these key navigational routes with Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley, during different eras, being terminal points of navigation between the Bristol Channel and the Birmingham conurbation.

**3.3** The largest settlement in the District, Kidderminster, is also located along the River Stour and the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. Kidderminster's historical evolution has mainly centred around the Carpet Industry, however, which was founded in the area in 1785 by Brintons, who still manufacture, albeit in a reduced capacity, from the town today.

**3.4** Today, the Wyre Forest District contains a variety of heritage interests, including buildings, areas, monuments, landscapes and archaeology. There are nearly 1000 Statutory Listed buildings and structures within the District, together with 17 Conservation Areas and 9 Scheduled Ancient Monuments. In addition, there are over 1000 buildings and structures on the Wyre Forest District Local List, and 31 landscaped Parks and Gardens identified by the Hereford and Worcester Gardens Trust.

**3.5** The remainder of this background paper looks at a number of these areas in more detail.

#### Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal

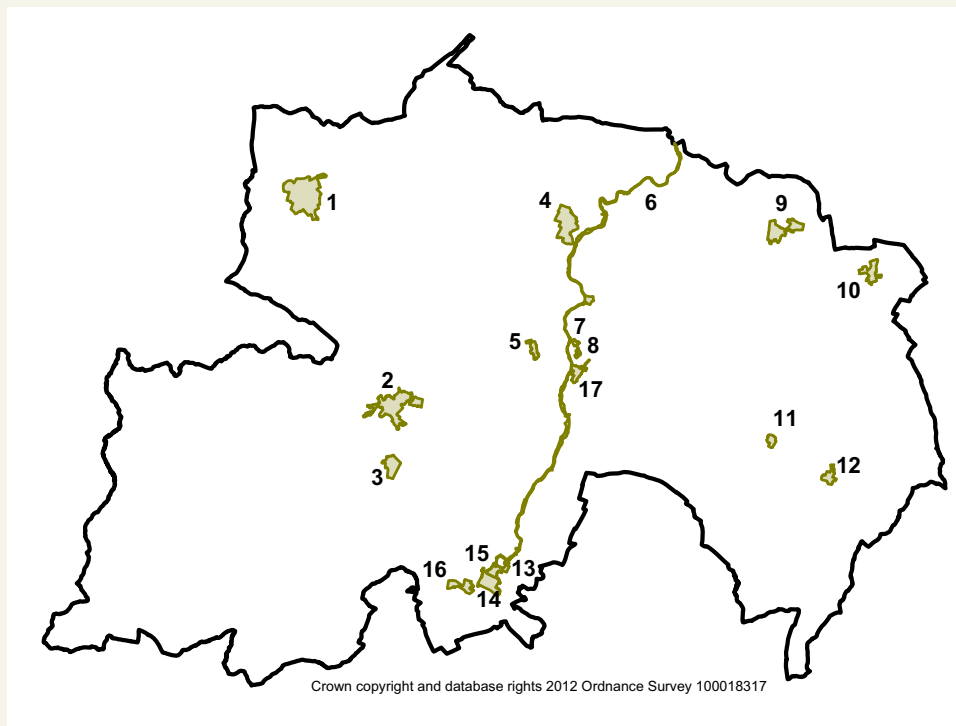


## 4 Key Evidence

**4.1** This section outlines the current evidence pertaining to the Historic Environment within the Wyre Forest District.

### 4.1 Conservation Areas

**4.2** There are currently 17 Conservation Areas in the Wyre Forest District. One is predominantly within Bewdley town centre, four are within Stourport-on-Severn, four are located in Kidderminster, seven are based on settlements within the rural areas and the other is the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal which runs through urban and rural areas, including parts of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn town centres. The conservation areas cover approximately 1.6% of the district and can be seen on the map below.



**4.3** The below table identifies the Conservation Areas within the District and outlines the year they were originally designated, the size of the area, the year that the area was last reviewed and whether or not there is a character appraisal for the area.

#### Conservation Areas within Wyre Forest District

Map Reference	Conservation Areas	Year Originally Designated	Size (Ha)	Year Reviewed	Last Character Appraisal Available?
1	Upper Arley	1991	62.3	2007	Yes
2	Bewdley	1968	42.8	2002	Yes
3	Ribbesford	1991	13.5	2010	Yes
4	Wolverley	1972	30.6	2007	Yes
5	Blakebrook	1993	5.9	-	-
6	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal	1978	46.3	2007	Yes
7	Church Street	1993	1.6	2009	Yes
8	Vicar Street	2003	1.5	2003	Yes
9	Churchill	1991	22	2008	Yes
10	Broome	1991	12.7	2008	Yes
11	Harvington	1991	4.6	2008	Yes
12	Chaddesley Corbett	1969	7.7	2005	Yes
13	Gilgal	1991	2.6	2001	Yes
14	Stourport-on-Severn No.1	1970	17	2001	Yes
15	Stourport-on-Severn No. 2	1976	6.4	2001	Yes
16	Areley Kings	1993	10.4	Undergoing review	-
17	Green Street	2012	8.1	2011	Yes

**4.4** A summary of each of the Conservation Areas is provided below.



## 1. Upper Arley

**4.5** Upper Arley Conservation Area was designated in 1991 and is based upon a rural hamlet set on the sides of the valley of the River Severn, together with outlying buildings and landscape features.

**4.6** Upper Arley has probably been a settlement for over a thousand years, its first mention being made in 996 AD when it was given to a College of Canons. Roman traces however have also been found in the area. Upper Arley was mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and King James granted a charter in 1606 to the inhabitants. The present



Parish Church is of the early fourteenth century and incorporates twelfth century fragments. Most of the other historically important buildings date from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Much of the Conservation Area falls within the present Upper Arley Estate.

**4.7** In the past Upper Arley has had a reputation for cider making and has been noted for lampreys, fish, oats, wine and agriculture. The latter is still important to the life of the hamlet.

**4.8** The Victorian era was very important to Upper Arley. 1861 saw the opening of the existing school and in 1862 Arley Station was opened on the western bank of the River bringing new life to the settlement.

**4.9** Buildings in Upper Arley are of a variety of polite, picturesque and vernacular styles but the materials are overwhelmingly red brick or red or buff coloured sandstone with clay tiled roofs. The form of development varies from that of Arley House standing in extensive grounds, to the tightly packed arrangement of the dwellings along the narrow Arley Lane. A footbridge links the north and south banks of the River. There is a substantial buff sandstone revetment to the north-east bank of the River adjoining the footbridge. A small slip-way is set into the east bank of the River.

**4.10** The sweep of Arley Lane down to the river and up towards the Church is an important characteristic of the settlement. The walls, hedges and railings along it enhance the sense of enclosure. Important spaces include the open fields between the River and railway station, between the River and Arley House, on either sides of the lanes leading into the settlement from the north and north-east, and between the River and Severnfield Cottages, together with the park and garden associated with Arley House.

**4.11** Natural features of particular importance to the Conservation Area are the River Severn and its banks, and Arley Brook and its valley running through the centre of the hamlet. The hamlet is surrounded by attractive landscape of woodland and pasture and is set off by the landscaped gardens and arboretum of Arley House on the hill above. The Arboretum, planted

around 1820, is included on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. Numerous deciduous trees throughout the Conservation Area add significantly to its character, opening and closing seasonal views and providing seasonal variations in colour.

**4.12** The railway station is currently operated by the Severn Valley Railway and forms a popular stopping-off point for day-trippers, increasing the profile of the Conservation Area. This profile is further increased by virtue of two important public footpaths running through the area along both the north and south banks of the River; the footpath on the south bank forming part of the Severn Valley Way regional recreation route. The north bank is particularly popular for recreational coarse fishing.

**4.13** Congestion can be a problem during the summer months but having no through traffic for much of the year, Upper Arley remains in relative tranquillity. Seasonal overflow car parking is provided in one riverside meadow on the south bank, to the south of the footbridge. The informal nature of this car parking, without fixed signage, hard surfacing or lighting, helps to reduce its impact on the Conservation Area.



## 2. Bewdley

**4.14** Bewdley Conservation Area was designated in 1968 and reviewed in 1978, and is 42.8 hectares (105.7 acres) in extent. It comprises the town centre, adjoining residential streets, part of the River Severn, adjoining river frontages and other landscape features, and part of the old settlement of Wribbenhall. The surviving built component of the Conservation Area dates primarily from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries, although settlement in the area predates this period.



**4.15** The Conservation Area is at the heart of the town of Bewdley that is itself set in and hidden by unspoilt undulating countryside. The Area includes a large proportion of the town and in places abuts open countryside; hence the rural setting of the town is an important component of its character and in turn that of the Conservation Area. Much of this countryside was recognised in the Worcestershire County Development Plan during the 1950s as being an Area of Great Landscape Value, and has been recognised in successive Local Plans as having high local landscape quality. To the west, north and south lie the Wyre Forest and its outliers, which are recognised as being of national importance to nature conservation. The urban fringe to the east of the river is entirely allocated as Green Belt. It is important to conserve the rural setting of the town and Conservation Area, and in so doing to recognise the interrelationships between the Area and overall setting.

**4.16** The River Severn is a significant feature forming a valley through the centre of the Conservation Area and Town. Here the channel varies in width between approximately 40 and 55 metres. The riverbanks are, for the most part in this location, revetted with natural sandstone blocks that historically formed quaysides. Importantly, the River brings the countryside into the town, particularly as to the north and south, the town is pinched inwards in plan towards the River. In addition, there is only one bridge over the River in the town centre and Conservation Area, meaning views upstream and downstream from the bridge itself and adjoining quaysides towards the countryside are uninterrupted and continuous.

**4.17** The Conservation Area has considerable architectural and historic interest. The town's origins as a principal crossing point of the River Severn during medieval times and as an inland port established it as a thriving centre for trade, which continued until the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Its prosperity is reflected in many buildings, particularly those constructed during the late middle ages and Georgian periods; which have stamped a clear and unmistakable character on the town, and generally comprise a clear lead for new development to follow. The construction of the railway station during the mid. 19th century brought Victorian architectural influences, particularly to parts of Wribbenhall.

### 3. Ribbesford

**4.18** Ribbesford Conservation Area was designated in 1991. It comprises a small rural hamlet with buildings dating primarily from the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries, set in the valley of the River Severn against a steep wooded hill-side.

**4.19** The Church of St. Leonard (Grade I) forms the focal point of the hamlet. It is constructed of sandstone, with parts dating from the twelfth, fifteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Church is set in a Churchyard containing trees, including old yew, and edged with a sandstone wall and hedge. Close to the Church is Home Farm. This includes a red brick farmhouse and group of large sandstone barns, including a tithe barn, which have been converted to dwellings.

**4.20** To the south of the above group is Ribbesford House (Grade II\*); a large country house of red brick (rendered) erected during the 16th. Century, with alterations during the 17th. and 19th. Centuries. A particularly striking feature of the house is two octagonal towers to the south front capped with domes, adding to its landmark character. The house is set in a large landscaped garden and originally had a narrow circular moat, and fish pond, the remains of which can still be seen. Ribbesford House was used during the World War II as a base for the Free French Army and a plaque adjoining its front porch lays testament to this fact, adding to its historical significance.

**4.21** The principal building materials in the Conservation Area are red brick and sandstone, and red-brown clay plain roof tiles.

**4.22** There are open fields between Ribbesford House and the Ribbesford Road to the east. This affords glimpses of the House from the Ribbesford Road, and is an important component of its setting and that of the Conservation Area. The principal means of access to the hamlet is via an unmetalled track, which leads off the Ribbesford Road. This track is lined on both sides with an attractive avenue of mature horse chestnut trees, and also affords glimpses across the open fields towards the House. To the north of the unmetalled track, the Ribbesford Road curves sharply west and affords views across open fields towards the group of barns adjoining Home Farm, forming an important component of the setting. A second unmetalled track provides access into the northern side of the hamlet. To the west of the Conservation Area, the ground rises up moderately steeply, and is mainly wooded but with a few small fields immediately behind the Church. This hillside forms an important green backdrop to the western side of the Conservation Area.



**4.23** The Worcestershire Way regional recreational footpath runs through the Conservation Area, adding to its public profile. This route passes along the unmetalled track to the north, past the Church and up the hillside to the rear of the Church. At the latter point, on the edge of the Churchyard, a bench affords a view-point for looking eastwards over the Church and Conservation Area, to the Severn Valley beyond. An alternative spur to the above route takes the walker from the Riverside and along the chestnut-lined track before linking to the Churchyard.

**4.24** Numerous deciduous trees throughout the Conservation Area add significantly to its character, opening and closing seasonal views and providing seasonal variations in colour.

**4.25** A small car parking area is provided in the middle of the hamlet for visitors to the church. This facility is informal in its layout, appearance and use of materials, which minimises its impact. There is an absence of street lighting in the Area, which helps it retain a rural and uncluttered feel.



#### 4. Wolverley

**4.26** Wolverley Conservation Area was designated in 1972 and is located west of the River Stour running northwards from its confluence with the Horse Brook.

**4.27** Wolverley village has grown up on land given by a Mercian King in 866 AD to Wulfear, a Saxon leader, from whence it gets its name. The Knight family undertook much development in Wolverley in the mid 18th Century, but the most dominant building, The Old Sebright School, is built on a site at the centre of the village which was provided in the will of William Sebright in 1620. This eldest son of a prominent



farming family made his fortune as a merchant in London and left a foundation for the establishment of a school for the children of Wolverley.

**4.28** The Old School House, along with Wolverley House and St. John the Baptist Church are the three Grade II\* Listed Buildings which form the major vertebrae of the Holloway which is the backbone of the Conservation Area. This narrow route has been cut into the sandstone cliff at the southern end of the Conservation Area, and through the rocky hill in the northern part where it forms a deep cutting too narrow to accommodate two way traffic which is controlled by lights.

**4.29** There are thirteen listed structures in all. These are augmented by the many smaller eighteenth and nineteenth century characterful buildings scattered throughout the length of the village. Many, having been converted from their previous uses, are now residences for people who work in the surrounding towns.

**4.30** The centre of Wolverley nestles in the Horse Brook valley at the foot of a sandstone cliff surmounted by the church. The base of the church tower is probably the only surviving part of the original church built in 1174. The new church was erected in 1772. Adjacent to the church stands the old manor house known as Bury Hall.

**4.31** The open character of the village "square" is reinforced by the largest building, the Old School House, being set back and "winged" by the Music Room and the Knight House. Although the Old School House is dated 1620 being the time of its foundation, the present building was not erected until 1849.

**4.32** The northern part of the Conservation Area is dominated by Wolverley House which was built in the mid 18th Century by Edward Knight. The coach-house (now called Lucas Buildings) and The Dovecote, together with the imposing gate posts, and The Birches - a 19th Century gentleman's residence opposite, form an impressive group of Listed Buildings. This group is surrounded by clusters of varied mature trees. Indeed, the Conservation Area is endowed with a wide range of trees which enhance its character.

## 5. Blakebrook

**4.33** Blakebrook Conservation Area was designated in 1993, and is based upon two groups of nineteenth century houses, and an area of open space, located within suburban Kidderminster.

**4.34** The northern part of the Conservation Area includes a group of early to mid-nineteenth century villas, which lie facing either side of the road from which the Conservation Area takes its name. These properties were built individually or in pairs, for well-off inhabitants and are characterised by a



polite formal style mixed with hints of the picturesque. Many properties have an Italianate feel. Specific design features include hipped roofs with low pitches and wide eaves; grey slates; rectangular chimney stacks surmounted by cylindrical chimney pots; walls of white washed stucco or red brick; vertically sliding sash windows with white frames and multiple glazing bars; and panelled front doors having fanlights and in some cases, classical surrounds. In terms of scale and proportion, the houses are quite large, have two storeys, and are generally lower than they are wide. This contrasts with the proportions of the window openings, which are taller than they are wide. Some of the houses have adjoining coach houses which retain their original doors and which may today be used as garages. Most of the houses have large front and rear gardens. The front gardens are generally separated from the pavement by low walls and some retain a curved lawn with a curved vehicular turning area. The front and rear gardens are generally well stocked with trees and hedges, which adds to their character. The garden trees are complemented by mature lime trees spaced along the roadside, in something of an avenue effect. Eight of the properties in Blakebrook are currently Listed as Grade II. A number of the other properties in Blakebrook were included in the pre-1980's listing classification as Grade III (Local Interest), underlying their interest.

**4.35** The southern end of Blakebrook is marked by an area of open space known as The Green. This is triangular in shape, and comprises a grass lawn lined with mature lime trees. The Green forms a particularly attractive gateway feature at the southern end of the Conservation Area.

**4.36** To the north of The Green, Blakebrook turns eastwards for a short distance and is lined with four detached houses, which date from the nineteenth and early twentieth century. These houses are constructed in a mixture of vernacular styles but sit relatively well together. All have front and rear gardens which are well stocked with trees and shrubs, adding to their character.

**4.37** To the west of the Green is a straight terrace of thirteen houses known as Summer Place. This terrace was built around 1822 by the "Summer Place Society"; an early local land society established specifically for that purpose. The houses in Summer Place are modest compared with those in the main part of Blakebrook to the north but nevertheless, have a polite formal style which in part complements their grander neighbours. Their specific design features include pitched roofs with narrow eaves; grey slates; rectangular chimney stacks which extend

from each party wall through the roof apex; stepped apexes following ground height; walls of red brick; vertically sliding sash windows with multiple glazing bars, projecting sills, and rusticated headers; and panelled front doors having semi-circular fanlights. In terms of scale and proportion, the houses have three storeys and are higher than they are wide. The window openings are also higher than they are wide. All of the houses in Summer Place have small front gardens and larger rear gardens, the latter bisected by a common access path. The front gardens are all separated from the pavement by low walls, some of which retain semi-circular coping and small gates. Some of the front gardens also retain hedges, adding to their character. The houses comprising Summer Place were formerly included in the pre-1980's listing classification as Grade III (Local Interest), underlying their interest.

### Blakebrook Conservation Area



(C) Copyright. 2007. BLOM. Wyre Forest District



## 6. Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal

**4.38** The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal and its immediate environment, was designated a Conservation Area in 1978 and then reviewed in 2007, with minor changes made to the boundary of the Conservation Area. The Canal was planned by the famous engineer James Brindley and completed in 1772. It links the Rivers Trent and Severn via the industrial Midlands, and forms an important historic feature running north-south for over fourteen kilometres through the District.

**4.39** Associated with the Canal are several bridges, locks, basins, cottages, warehouses and walls, together with the towpath; which form part of its special interest. The principal building materials are red brick, particularly associated with the earlier canal buildings and structures; and all buildings have pitched roofs, generally with grey slates. The corners to buildings are often curved, in order to facilitate turning by wagons. Walls are always capped with semi-circular coping to help reduce wear on ropes and to shed rainwater. Iron metal work (painted black) is a feature of the locks and some narrow bridges. The wider bridges are constructed of red brick and utilise a semi-elliptical arch structure. There are many trees and shrubs along the canal side that add to the character of the Conservation Area.

**4.40** The Canal is an important leisure resource, adding to its profile. In this respect, the water way is a popular route for leisure boats, with a major complex of basins located at its southern end in Stourport-on-Severn. The towpath is a popular route for walking and cycling. The Canal Conservation Area consists of four fairly distinct sections:

- Attractive, well wooded, northern section where it has been cut into sandstone cliffs to maintain its course along the contour, and passes through two locks and a tunnel. Bridge No. 25 is a Listed Building;
- Urban section past the carpet mills through the old industrial heart of Kidderminster;
- Section parallel to the lower reaches of the River Stour in more open landscape; and
- Section within the Stourport-on-Severn Town Centre where the Canal joins the River Severn via a series of basins. This part of the Canal is covered by separate Conservation Area designations

## 7. Church Street

**4.41** Church Street Conservation Area was designated in 1993, and is based upon a group of largely eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings located within Kidderminster Town Centre.

**4.42** The main part of the Conservation Area includes a group of late 18th and 19th Century buildings which lie on either side of the street from which the Conservation Area takes its name. These buildings may have been constructed as a mixture of houses and businesses, but are now all in business or commercial use. They are generally characterised by a Georgian and polite neo-Georgian style. Their specific design features include pitched roofs; grey slates; red brick walls; vertically sliding sash windows with white frames, multiple glazing bars, gauged voussoirs or rusticated headers; and panelled doors, with moulded door cases, fanlights and pediments. Most of the properties in Church Street are positioned at the back of the pavement and form three storey terraces of varying length. Some individual properties retain long narrow plot shapes, including rear gardens and yards, adding to their character. Church Street also includes one of the Towns' two surviving Tudor vernacular buildings (No. 12, Church Street), an attractive Victorian Italianate style building (HSBC Bank), and a religious meeting house of 1883 having a neo-gothic style façade of red sandstone with white stone dressing.



**4.43** The southern part of the Conservation Area faces onto the Bull Ring, and comprises properties which are generally sympathetic in character to those lining Church Street, although there has been some insensitively styled late twentieth century infilling. At the south-west end of the Bull Ring, the neo-gothic or early English revival style Baxter Church of 1884-5 forms a particularly imposing feature, its spire being an important visual landmark. The materials and style of this building echo those of the façade for the Meeting House in Church Street.

**4.44** The Baxter Church in the Bull Ring is a non-conformist church and takes its name from Richard Baxter, the prominent local non-conformist preacher of the seventeenth century. Significantly, the non-conformist Meeting House in Church Street contains Baxter's original pulpit. These properties are occasionally visited by non-conformist brethren from around the world, which adds to their importance and to the profile of the Conservation Area.

**4.45** Church Street originally continued up to St. Mary's Church, but this linkage was severed in the 1960's by construction of the inner ring road. However, there is still a view line retaining some attractiveness along the northern end of Church Street towards the Church. At present, twenty-five of the buildings in the Conservation Area are Listed, confirming their special interest.

## 8. Vicar Street

**4.46** Vicar Street and Exchange Street Conservation Area was designated by Wyre Forest District Council on 16th. July 2003. It is 1.46hectares (3.61 acres) in extent and is located within Kidderminster Town Centre.

**4.47** The Conservation Area encompasses civic, business and other buildings that date from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; parts of an older street pattern; and a short length of the embankment to the River Stour.

**4.48** The Conservation Area is almost entirely surrounded by built development dating from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Important aspects of the current setting, include the Area's proximity to and links with the following:

- a. Elements of the surviving medieval street pattern particularly in the Bull Ring, Church Street, Worcester Street, Oxford Street, Lower Mill Street, Blackwell Street and Coventry Street.
- b. Church Street Conservation Area, which is located approximately 60 metres to the north-west and like Vicar Street lies within the medieval urban form albeit now characterised by later buildings. (Church Street in-turn links to the medieval Church of St Mary, to the north).
- c. Groups of older buildings both within and adjoining the Town Centre; particularly in the Bull Ring, Church Street, Worcester Street, Oxford Street, Lower Mill Street, Blackwell Street, Coventry Street, Prospect Hill, New Road, Green Street, Dixon Street, Castle Road and Park Lane.
- d. The River Stour, which both adjoins or flows close to its western edge, and is visible from a road bridge at the south-west end of Exchange Street and a footbridge at the western end of Weavers Wharf.

**4.49** The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area, which is located approximately 230 metres to the west. (The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal was constructed in 1772 and runs north south through the Town, following the valley of the River Stour).

**4.50** The Conservation Area's principal thoroughfare, Vicar Street, is shown on one of the oldest surviving maps of Kidderminster dated 1753, but is thought to be medieval in origin; whilst Exchange Street, also within the Conservation Area, probably dates from the early nineteenth century.



**4.51** The Area includes seven Listed Buildings that exhibit considerable unity of character. These buildings date from the nineteenth century; are constructed of good quality materials, including Italianate detailing (generally classical); are mostly two or three generously proportioned storeys in height, and were originally (and remain in) civic or business use. All exhibit a sense of civic or business dignity and pride appropriate to their location adjoining one of the principal streets of the Town Centre. The Area includes several other buildings that are not statutorily listed but which sit well with the Listed Buildings and the Street Scene.

**4.52** Most of Vicar Street and parts of the other streets are pedestrianised, which increases their importance as public spaces and provides a dignified setting to the adjoining buildings. The southern end of Vicar Street, to the fore of the Town Hall, has the feel of a modest civic square.

**4.53** The medieval layout of much of the Area, and its redevelopment and expansion during the nineteenth century (as exemplified by the Italianate inspired designs of the Listed Buildings) has given it a distinctive character and appearance which provides a clear guide for the design and layout of any further development.



## 9. Churchill

**4.54** Churchill Conservation Area was designated in 1991. It is based upon a rural hamlet containing buildings that date from the 18th and 19th centuries, which are strung out with varying cohesion along a narrow winding lane, together with adjoining landscape features. The Manor of Churchill is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. A church was constructed towards the southern end of the area during the 13th Century, being replaced with the current church (of sandstone) in 1868.



**4.55** An Act for enclosing Churchill Common was passed in 1773 and that began the current pattern of the settlement. Field boundaries have changed very little in Churchill since their creation. A school was established in Churchill in 1798. The current school building, located at the southern end, was built in 1895 and has been converted into a house. The adjoining old School House is of a similar date and is now the Village Hall.

**4.56** There are three large houses within the Conservation Area standing in their own grounds and occupying important positions; Churchill House, Glebe House and Churchill Court. Church Farm is a working farm with several surviving traditional farm buildings. Churchill Old Farm Barns and one of Church Farm Barns have been converted into dwellings but survive as an indication of 19th Century agricultural architecture. The predominant building material is red brick, with some of the older agricultural buildings including timber framing. Styles include polite Georgian, hints of Gothic revival and rural vernacular. Traditional plot boundaries and outbuildings generally survive intact.

**4.57** A stream runs parallel to the southern edge of the settlement and has been dammed to form a substantial pool in the eastern part of the Conservation Area. Associated with this is Baches Forge, an important group of industrial red brick buildings dating from the late 18th. and early 19th. This was the location for the local manufacturing of spades and shovels. These buildings and the pool are a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and form part of a network of water powered forges associated with the streams and pools in the vicinity.

**4.58** Numerous deciduous trees throughout the Conservation Area add significantly to its character, opening and closing seasonal views and providing seasonal variations in colour. Trees line both banks of the stream that runs through the Area, as well as the banks of the forge pool. The western boundary of the Conservation Area includes a small hill covered with a patchwork of fields, hedges and trees, and accessible via public footpaths, which forms an important backdrop to the hamlet, particularly when viewed from the east.

**4.59** The character of Churchill can be summed up as a rural hamlet containing: clusters of 18th and 19th century cottages; some more stylish houses; important industrial buildings; and a church, bordered by and interspersed with attractive landscape features.

## 10. Broome

**4.60** Broome Conservation Area was designated in March 1991 and is centred on the rural hamlet of Broome. An agricultural settlement has existed in Broome for many centuries and probably began to take its present form following the Broome Enclosure Act of 1779.

**4.61** The present Church was built circa 1780 but a church existed on its site before that. Broome probably had a school as early as 1847 but the existing school building (now the Parish Room) was built in 1889, and the School House in 1890. The oldest surviving buildings are the Old Well House, the Dower House and the Tithe Barn (next to the Old Rectory), all 17th Century timber framed buildings. Several fine 18th Century and early 19th Century buildings of red brick and sandstone exist, intermingled with houses and cottages of considerable character.

**4.62** The buildings are in a good state of repair and most retain much of their original character. Protecting the character of many of these buildings is desirable, although it is equally desirable to preserve the harmonious interaction of these buildings with one another and with the many open spaces.

**4.63** An important feature of the Conservation Area is the historic pattern of development. The settlement centres on a large triangular green, now the grounds of Church House. On each corner of the Conservation Area is a significant attractive historic building set in extensive and attractive grounds.

**4.64** At the north east entrance to Broome stands Broome Farm; an attractive Georgian style farmhouse with well wooded and landscaped grounds. The Old Rectory, with its landscaped garden and adjoining tithe barn, occupy an important position on the western approach to the hamlet, with a substantial and attractive sandstone wall forming the boundary to the garden along the northern side of Broome Lane. At the southern edge of the hamlet lies Broome House and its adjoining former coach house, both fine 18th century buildings. These are set in a landscaped park, which includes a lake.

**4.65** The many trees and hedges contribute to the character of Broome. Walls, verges and kerbstones have been maintained as traditional features. There is an absence of street lighting in the Area, which helps it retain a rural and uncluttered feel.

## 11. Harvington

**4.66** Harvington Conservation Area was designated in 1991 and consists of an agricultural hamlet focussed upon the medieval Harvington Hall, together with its setting.

**4.67** Harvington Hall is a Manor house, possibly dating from the fourteenth century but with seventeenth century alterations. It stands on an island with an attendant malt house and chapel, and is surrounded by a moat traversed by two stone bridges. To the east is Harvington Hall Farm dating from the seventeenth century, and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church of 1825, with an adjoining Priest's House and stable.



**4.68** Thirteen of the buildings in the Conservation Area are 'Listed', including the Hall's two bridges, the sandstone walls surrounding the churchyard, a garden wall to the Priest's House and two barns. Harvington Hall itself is Listed Grade I, and together, the Hall and its setting are a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

**4.69** The building materials are mainly red brick and red sandstone, and red plain clay tiles. Brick is often used on a sandstone plinth. Two of the barns, and the malt house to the Hall, are timber framed. Two small quarries, which still survive in the north-west part of the Conservation Area, provided a source of sandstone for construction.

**4.70** The Hall and moat are special features within the Conservation Area. There are several attractive deciduous trees in the area and a sizeable area of open space to the fore of the Hall beyond the moat. These are important components of its setting and of the Area's character. There are important views to the Hall, when approaching via the lane from the north-west, and across the fields from the south-west. The Hall is open to the public, adding to the profile of the Area and a small car parking area is provided in the middle of the hamlet for visitors. This facility is informal in its layout, appearance and use of materials, which minimises its impact. Two lanes lead into the hamlet both of which are typically rural, being narrow and winding, with soft edges. There is an absence of street lighting in the Area, which helps it retain a rural and uncluttered feel.

**4.71** Set amidst agricultural land on the narrow winding lane, this small hamlet has changed very little over the years and still enjoys relative tranquillity despite being a popular attraction for visitors.

## 12. Chaddesley Corbett

**4.72** Chaddesley Corbett Conservation Area was designated in 1969. It is based upon a rural hamlet or small village that lies either side of a gently curving street, which forms a spur to the main Kidderminster to Bromsgrove Road.

**4.73** In many ways, Chaddesley Corbett typifies the image of a quaint and idyllic English village. It contains a few shops, two pubs, a primary school and a 12th Century Parish Church. It has existed as an important agricultural settlement since Saxon times (then just Chaddesley) and was laid out in more or less its present form by a Norman family, the Corbetts.

**4.74** The majority of buildings in the Conservation Area are Listed, the oldest being the Church; whilst many date from the 17th and 18th Century. A few sensitively designed 20th Century buildings add to the mixture.

**4.75** The building styles in the village include timber-framed black and white, polite red brick Georgian and a hint of picturesque Gothic. The pattern of development is largely back of pavement and facing the street, with few gaps in the frontage. Many traditional plot boundaries and outbuildings survive intact. The majority of buildings are of two storeys and roofing materials are predominantly clay tiles.

**4.76** There are important spaces at either end of the village. At the southern end, on the west side, an old orchard provides an open setting for the church and views up the main street. Opposite this, on the east side, the grounds to Hunter's Ride balance the undeveloped entrance to the village. At the northern end of the village is an undeveloped gap between the old settlement and a more recent housing estate adjoining Briar Hill. From the north the village begins at Brook Cottage and the modern development on Hemming Way. Brook Cottage has pleasant surroundings balanced by open grazing land opposite. It is important to maintain the character of Chaddesley Corbett as that of a tightly packed settlement with a definite beginning and end, set in open countryside.

**4.77** There is an absence of street lighting in the Area, which helps it retain a rural and uncluttered feel.





### 13. Gilgal

**4.78** The Gilgal Conservation area in Stourport-on-Severn is 2.6 hectares in extent and comprises a group of buildings and associated environments that date from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries and form the oldest part of the Town.

**4.79** In the east, the Gilgal Conservation Area covers Lower Mitton which, prior to the 1760s, was a small hamlet and the only settlement in the vicinity, being located at a historic crossing point of the River Stour. In the late



1760s the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal was constructed around the west of the hamlet in order to link the Rivers Trent (far to the north) and Severn (nearby to the south). Lower Mitton continued to be the favoured crossing point of the Stour, but the canal and its terminus with the River Severn provided an environment for trade and commerce that instigated the foundation, laying out and construction of the adjoining town of Stourport-on-Severn.

**4.80** In some respects it is difficult to appreciate the historic and architectural interest of Gilgal Conservation Area. This is not because such interest does not exist, but because of the detracting effects of vehicular traffic and the erosion of traditional architectural features. In particular, there has been widespread replacement of historic windows with modern uPVC double-glazing, replacement of doors, rendering or painting of walls, and unsympathetic front extensions.

**4.81** Away from the roads, the bank-side to the west of Gilgal and its footpaths retain historic integrity. The footpaths wind between private gardens, which help to abate the noise and fumes of traffic. Elsewhere there are basic elements such as scale, massing, original layout, historic fabric, roof lines, and physical relationship to the adjoining Georgian town and Canal, which are of interest, and which give clues to the evolution of the Conservation Area. The Area has the potential to be a meaningful representation of the past, provided that positive measures are instigated.

## 14. Stourport-on-Severn No. 1

**4.82** Stourport-on-Severn No.1 Conservation Area is 16.9 hectares in extent and comprises a group of canal basins, and associated environments and buildings that date primarily from the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and which together form the southern part of the historic core of the Town.

**4.83** The Area contains forty-two Statutory List Entries which relate to approximately seventy five statutorily listed buildings and structures (excluding the numerous listed structures relating to the basins); together with several other buildings and structures of interest, primarily dating from the late eighteenth to early twentieth centuries.

**4.84** Some of the latter have been subject to unsympathetic alterations (such as replacement of windows) but none are beyond restoration, which should be considered in preference to redevelopment. Generally, every effort should be made to retain built fabric in the Area dating from the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in particular.



**4.85** Particularly special features are as follows:

- Bridge over the River Severn and its arched causeway.
- Buildings in Bridge Street, Raven Street and Lichfield Street.
- Buildings and structures which were properties of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Company, including the Canal basins, locks, foot bridges, railings and walls; the Tontine and former stabling at the southern end of Mart Lane; the Canal Maintenance building and attached cottage to north west of the Tontine; terraces of houses in Mart Lane.
- Basin retaining and enclosing walls, terrace revetments and riverside quays, in red sandstone and brick.
- Clock Warehouse.
- Inscribed culvert markings on the Tontine.
- Nos. 19, 20 & 21, & York House, York Street.
- Red brick walls laid in Flemish bond and poly-chrome brickwork in Cheapside.
- Sets of railings.

- Canal-side crane and former warehouse (now a chandlers) in Mart Lane.
- Narrowly enclosed, twisting footpath leading from Severn Side to Severn Road/ Cheapside and the Angel Public House, and its entrance from Severn Side.
- Narrow road leading from Cheapside to the river, including a retaining wall in blue brick and some original brick paving.
- Former vinegar works (Cheapside).

**4.86** The area covers a part of town that was established and developed as a result of the construction of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, and is the only town in England to hold this distinction. This part of the town thus has immense historic value and because of the relationship between town and canal, the character of the Conservation Area is of particularly high importance.

**4.87** The layout and construction of the town during the Georgian period has stamped an unmistakable character and appearance on the urban fabric, which provides a clear lead for the design and layout of further development.



## 15. Stourport-on-Severn No. 2

**4.88** Stourport-on-Severn Conservation Area No. 2 is 6.6 hectares in extent and comprises buildings, streets, a length of canal and associated environments, that date primarily from the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and form the central part of the historic core of the Town. The Area continues from the south-west end of the Gilgal and covers the central part of the Town. The buildings in the Area are primarily in the Georgian style, which forms a visually powerful expression that reflects the timing of the Town's foundations and early growth.



**4.89** The Conservation Area is situated over an expanse of land that has a very gradual, even but shallow rise from south to north. The highest point of this expanse is approximately 12 metres above the bank level of the River Severn which lies some 500 metres to the south west. A limb of the Area extends outwards from the northern east end along Mitton Street, and this limb falls away evenly but sharply by some 6 metres as far as the road junction with Severn Road.

**4.90** The predominant land uses within the Area are as follows:

- A. Retail and commercial uses, located mainly along High Street, York Street, New Street, Lickhill Road and Lombard Street; and collectively occupying the entire Area to the west of the canal cut. It is not known whether these premises were originally constructed specifically for retail and commercial use, dwellings, or mixed use (dwellings above shops). However, it is most probable the properties in New Street (particularly the western end) were primarily dwellings; whilst the properties in Lombard Street (western side) were small dwellings or "courts"; and
- B. Pockets of long-established residential use occur in Lion Hill (east side), Mitton Street and off Parkes Passage (where there are also two churches). Recent residential use has been added to the Area by way of a redevelopment of the former canal-side loading quay, known as Parkes Quay and conversion of other canal-side buildings in the vicinity.

**4.91** The Area contains twenty-five Statutory List Entries which relate to approximately forty statutorily listed buildings; together with several other buildings and structures of interest, primarily dating from the late eighteenth to early twentieth century. Some of the latter have been subject to unsympathetic alterations (such as replacement of windows) but none are beyond restoration, which should be considered in preference to redevelopment. Generally, every effort should be made to retain built fabric in the Area dating from the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in particular. Particularly special features in the Area include the following:

- The canal, including the Wallfield Bridge lock, overflow and adjoining lock keepers cottage, towpath, adjoining revetments and Lower Mitton Bridge.

- Former canal maintenance yard workshop and remains of a canal-side crane in Parkes Quay, and a canal building on the east side of the canal cut; both now converted into dwellings.
- War Memorial and Garden (Vale Road).
- Wesleyan Chapel and Manse, and Methodist Church and Sunday school (Parkes Passage).
- Wedged or rounded corners of buildings, where paths and roads meet.
- Nos. 9 & 10, Parkes Passage, which were originally properties of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Company.
- Narrow pedestrian nature of Parkes Passage.

**4.92** The area contains a particularly important man-made interruption to the natural topography in the form of the cut through which the canal passes, parallel to the western side of Lion Hill. This adopts a straight, deep passage (approximately 5 metres at its greatest), running from north to south. It enters the Area under the Lower Mitton Bridge (Mitton Street) and exits beneath the Wallfield Bridge (York Street) from where it joins the complex of basins in Area No.1. The canal is retained for almost the entire length of this cut by revetments either side, giving it a corridor-like feel. A stretch of bank on the west side (Parkes Quay) has been historically reduced to allow for the siting of loading facilities. This canal function has now been replaced by recent residential development.

**4.93** Stourport-on-Severn Conservation Area No. 2 covers part of a town that was established and developed as a result of the construction of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, and is the only town in England to hold this distinction. This part of the town thus has immense historic value and because of the relationship between town and canal, the character of the Conservation area is of high importance.

**4.94** The laying out and construction of the town during the Georgian period has stamped an unmistakable character and appearance on the urban fabric, which provides a clear lead for further development.



## 16. Areley Kings

**4.95** Areley Kings Conservation Area was designated in 1993 and is based upon two groups of buildings and several open spaces, in a semi-rural location on the south-west edge of Stourport-on-Severn.



**4.96** The western part of the Conservation Area is set on high ground overlooking the valley of the River Severn and dominated by the sandstone and limestone Church of St. Bartholomew. This building dates mainly from 1885 but also includes medieval stages. To the front of the Church is Church House, an early seventeenth century vernacular timber-framed building; whilst to the north-east is the Rectory, an early eighteenth century red brick property, with an attractive garden. Features of the setting, include open fields, hedgerows, woodland and trees, which add significantly to the character of the area.

**4.97** The eastern lower-lying part of the Conservation Area includes a group of large attractive houses, dating from the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries. The vernacular timber-framed and brick Areley Hall (including Muxlowe House) dates from the late sixteenth century, and sits picturesquely aside the River Severn. It is approached along a tree lined avenue, with open land to either side. Areley House, nearby, dates from around 1820 and displays a more formal style. It is dressed with sandstone ashlar and has a slate roof. Its grounds include several attractive mature trees and converted outbuildings. The western extent of its former grounds are marked with a substantial brick wall. Between Areley Hall and Areley House, is Lower House. This property dates from the early eighteenth century and has a plain-tiled roof and red brick walls. It is set in a large garden. A red brick barn range at Lower House dates from around 1759, and has been converted into a dwelling.

**4.98** The southern edge of the eastern end of Areley Kings Conservation Area includes a steep grassy bank dotted with several deciduous trees. This bank forms an important visual backdrop to the Conservation Area when viewed from the east, and acts as a buffer from the modern housing estate to the south.

**4.99** Areley Lane and Rectory Lane, which run through the Conservation Area, retain their narrow width, soft edges (i.e. they generally lack kerbstones) and hedgerows with overhanging trees, which adds to the character of the area. There is a small informal car parking area to the fore of the church, its lack of hard surfacing and lighting helping to minimise its impact. There is an absence of street lighting in the area, which helps it retain a rural and uncluttered feel.

## 17. Green Street

**4.100** Green Street Conservation Area was designated by Wyre Forest District Council on 29th February 2012. It covers an area of just over 8 Hectares and is located within Kidderminster Town Centre. It contains one of the most important ancient buildings in the district, Caldwell Hall, but it is mainly an area of former carpet manufacturing premises built between 1850 and 1925.

**4.101** The special interest of the Green Street Conservation Area can be summarised as follows:

- The remains of the historic Caldwell Estate containing Kidderminster's oldest secular structure.
- The New Road turnpike of 1830 which took traffic directly from the town centre to the Worcester Road which acted as a catalyst for initial development in the area.
- Several carpet manufactories dating from the mid-19th century, specifically designed to accommodate power looms, representing the increasing mechanisation of the industry.
- Several listed and locally listed buildings, including carpet manufacturing complexes, a number of late 19th century and early 20th century municipal buildings and also the late 15th century Grade II\* Caldwell Hall.
- The extensive use of brick with two to four storey heights being common, and taller landmark towers.

**4.102** The Green Street Conservation Area contains four listed buildings; around these are other structures of interest all lying in the flood plain of the River Stour with its ancient river channels. Caldwell Hall is a site of national archaeological importance and the remaining octagonal tower is Kidderminster's oldest secular structure. The other three listed buildings are important carpet manufactories of the late 1850s-80s. There are also several buildings of local interest ranging from early-mid 19th century houses to 1920s/30s municipal and industrial buildings.





**4.103** The Green Street Conservation Area has three character sub-areas. These are: the Caldwell Hall and Gardens area with the 1920s/30s development flanking Castle Road; the carpet manufactories on Green Street and New Road; and the pumping and sewage works at the southern part of the area.

**4.104** The dominant building material is brick but there is considerable variation in colour and detail. Architectural styles include Gothic, Italianate and classical. The building heights vary from two to four storeys, with taller towers. The over-arching impression is of a once thriving industrial area that maintains some vibrancy but which is under threat from under-investment, under-use and pressure for demolition and redevelopment. There are a number of new developments – open sites and new buildings – that have eroded the character and appearance of the area.



## 4.2 Listed Buildings

**4.105** Buildings and Structures can be statutorily listed by the Secretary of State. Such buildings and structures may be publicly or privately owned, and are classified into three grades depending upon their architectural or historic interest, as follows:

- Grade I: Exceptional Interest
- Grade II\*: Particularly important
- Grade II: Special interest, warranting every effort being made for their preservation

**4.106** The District presently contains six list entries of Grade I, twenty-five of Grade II\*, and six hundred and eighty-six list entries in total. Each list entry may relate to more than one individual building, and hence the District contains in excess of nine hundred individual listed buildings and structures. Such listed buildings vary greatly in nature and age, including for example, cottages, farm buildings, country houses, carpet manufacturing premises, bridges, canal structures and telephone boxes.

**4.107** It is vital that the listed buildings and structures are continued to be safeguarded through the Local Development Framework. Listed Building Consent is required for the demolition, alteration or extension of a statutorily listed building or structure, including those within its curtilage; together with works of repair which is not proposed to be on a like-for-like basis. This continued protection of nationally recognised heritage features will form a key part of the Development Plan.

Wyre Court, Bewdley, Grade II



### 4.3 Locally Listed Buildings

**4.108** Local planning authorities can if they wish draw up lists of locally important buildings and formulate policies for their protection. Paragraph 126 of the NPPF states that local planning authorities should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. This means that a local authority may recognise certain heritage assets as having heritage significance meriting consideration in planning matters. The Local Heritage List is being produced on a phased basis by the District Council in consultation with local interest groups. Surveys of the three towns, Wolverley & Cookley and Churchill & Blakedown parishes have now been completed. It is envisaged that the lists will continue to be updated over the next few years to cover the remaining areas of Wyre Forest District.

**4.109** Local Heritage Assets do not enjoy the full protection of statutory listing, because inclusion on a local list does not carry with it a requirement for Listed Building Consent. However, where feasible and appropriate, proposals for development and other works will be regulated, requested or encouraged for their conservation; including their sympathetic repair, alteration, extension or conversion. In Conservation Areas, Conservation Area Consent is often required for the demolition of buildings and structures not statutorily listed; and there are limitations to normal permitted development rights. In order to help preserve locally listed buildings and structures, legal provisions exist for the District Council to make Article 4 Directions limiting permitted development rights, as appropriate.

**4.110** It should be remembered that old buildings and structures represent a precious and finite asset, and are powerful reminders of the work and life of earlier generations. The richness of this heritage plays an important part in our sense of national and local identity, and distinctiveness. Even where buildings and structures are classifiable by for example, style or type, they may have variations of design and detailing which make them unique. Some buildings and structures on the Local Heritage List form part of the record of buildings associated with the carpet manufacturing industry, for which the District became internationally famous during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; their conservation will be considered particularly important.

#### Local Heritage List

**4.111** The Local List for the Wyre Forest is being produced on a phased basis and has concentrated on the three main towns before being 'rolled out' to the rural areas. The following bullet points identify where the Local List has been undertaken:

- The Kidderminster Local List was the first to be drawn up by Wyre Forest District Council. The list was adopted in 2004 and includes approximately 300 buildings and structures within Kidderminster.
- The second list to be compiled was the Stourport-on-Severn Local List. This List was adopted in 2006 and contains approximately 175 list entries equating to 311 buildings and structures that help to make up the character and appearance of this historic market town. This includes the first cinema in the town, unusual iron-framed houses, and boundary walls and lodge houses of old estates which are no longer present.

- The Bewdley Local List was adopted in 2007 and contains a total of 108 list entries, equating to 157 buildings and structures.
- In the rural areas, Wolverley and Cookley parish has a total of 66 entries on its list, equating to 108 buildings and structures. The newest survey, for Churchill & Blakedown parish, was completed in 2012, and contains 108 entries with 120 buildings and structures on it.

**4.112** It is envisaged that the remainder of the District will be assessed over the next few years in order to complete the list for the District.

**4.113** For more information about the Local Heritage List and to view all of the entries on the list please visit [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk). The Good Practice Guide for Local Heritage Listing (May 2012) describes how Local Heritage Lists, backed by the NPPF, can help to recognise local distinctiveness and character to ensure these values are taken into account when changes affecting the historic environment are proposed.

## 4.4 Archaeology

**4.114** NPPF says that: *'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.'*

**4.115** The English landscape is the product of its past. Its present form has been shaped by a succession of natural processes and human interventions. No part of the landscape is untouched by the influence of man and each part has a history.

### The Archaeological Character of Wyre Forest District

**4.116** Much of the past of Wyre Forest District has been directly influenced by the forest itself. This has been traversed at various dates by successive systems of transport, whether by river, road, canal or rail. Industries relied on the forest and its streams for energy and the transport systems for commerce, while villages and towns grew up around the industries and commercial centres. The forest has formed part of a historic boundary between counties, although the present boundary of the District is only the latest manifestation of this.

### Time Line

- For the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, we know little, other than that finds of flint work dated from these periods have been discovered.
- For the bronze age we have evidence of burials, in the form of round barrows, such as Barrow Hill, Chaddesley Corbett, although our knowledge of settlements of this date is still based on surface finds of flints.
- The Iron Age is better known, with hill forts at Wassell Wood and Arley Wood, and farmsteads, such as that excavated in the early 1970's at Blackstone.
- For Roman Britain, finds of pottery and coins are widespread, and probably indicate occupation, as has been indicated by the evidence for Roman settlements and farmsteads at Hawkbatch and Wribbenhall. Lengths of the Roman road from Droitwich to Greensforge are known in Broome and Chaddesley Corbett.
- Evidence for the post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon period is largely represented by the Saxon carved stonework at Ribbesford Church, while documentary evidence for the Saxon minister at Kidderminster indicates that this represents but a small fragment of the actual pattern of Saxon settlement.
- Of the major buildings of the medieval period, a single surviving stone at Caldwell Hall, Kidderminster and a royal palace at Tickenhill, Bewdley are known.
- The earliest post-medieval period in Wyre Forest is typified by an increase in industrial monuments, with the re-use of old corn mills as forges, such as Baches forge at Churchill, within the Stour Valley iron working district. The increase in prosperity of landowners and tradesmen is seen in the increasing numbers of surviving houses, both timber-framed and brick built, of the mid-16th to mid-18th centuries.

- Later in the 18th century, the construction of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal brought a new mode of transport and new prosperity to the area, with the construction of canal basins and a new town at the junction of the canal with the Severn at Stourport. At the same time, the carpet industry, already well established in Kidderminster, began to expand and flourish.
- The coming of the railways in the 19th Century had an adverse impact on the prosperity of Stourport, and fossilised much of this historic 18th Century new town. However, the railways brought faster, cheaper transport than had been available before, the legacy of which can still be seen alongside the Severn Valley Railway.

**4.117** The archaeology of Wyre Forest is a prime example of continuity and change in a historic environment. The landscapes of earlier periods are most difficult to detect, largely due to the extent of medieval and post-medieval changes. From the medieval period onwards, however, we can see the reasons for developments, and can still identify many of their effects in the landscape. Most recently, in the 20th Century, developments have been more intrusive and more destructive of archaeological remains than in any previous period. If this process is not to accelerate further, it is important for the future of Wyre Forest's past that active conservation measures are undertaken to preserve archaeological sites for future generations.

### **Why Protect Archaeology?**

**4.118** Archaeological evidence in the form of standing structures and buried deposits has already been eroded through previous human activity. The continuing and essential process of growth and regeneration within the District will continue to put pressure on these archaeological remains of which only a finite amount survives.

**4.119** It will therefore be important that appropriate arrangements are made for the protection of the remaining archaeological resource. In this way it will be possible to provide a framework for the protection, enhancement and preservation, either in situ or by record, of important archaeological sites.

## 4.5 SAMs

### Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM's)

**4.120** SAM's are sites and structures legally protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979). They are assessed against published criteria, may be publicly or privately owned, and English Heritage will encourage and advise upon their management. There are presently nine SAM's in the District, as follows:

- Arley Wood camp (Upper Arley)
- Barches Forge (Churchill)
- Barrow Hill (Chaddesley Corbett)
- Bowercourt Farm moated site and ponds (Rock)
- Drakelow Hill Fort (Wolverley)
- Harvington Hall moated site, ponds and quarries (Chaddesley Corbett)
- Pickards Farm moated site (Upper Arley)
- Rock Farm moated site (Rock)
- Wassell Wood moated site (Kidderminster Foreign)



Harvington Hall, SAM



## 4.6 Heritage at Risk

**4.121** In 2008, English Heritage launched its Heritage at Risk (HAR) programme to identify buildings, archaeological sites (scheduled monuments), registered historic parks and gardens, registered battlefields and protected wrecks at risk due to neglect and decay, to create an integrated database of heritage assets at risk to simplify the previous system of separate but overlapping categories. This approach builds on the earlier work of the Buildings at Risk register and widens the list to include more than just Grade I and II\* listed buildings.

**4.122** A Buildings at Risk survey was carried out by the District Council, and looked at the condition and occupancy of the Listed Buildings within the District. This information enabled the Council to monitor buildings that were vacant and/or in a poor state of repair, to try and encourage owners to bring them back in to occupancy and a good state of repair. This will have a positive impact on the character and appearance of many of the historic parts of the District. The last survey was carried out in 2005, and covered Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley.

**4.123** One of the Listed Buildings found to be seriously at risk during the last Buildings At Risk Survey was the Former Workhouse in High Street Bewdley. It was among three listed buildings given a score of only 2 putting them at extreme risk. This building has been in a semi-derelict since at least the 1960s. It is now used primarily for storage and as garages. However, an opportunity exists with this building to consider a renovation of the listed building and provide new residential units within the heart of Bewdley Town Centre. It is therefore proposed to allocate this small site for residential use in the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document. The District Council are actively working with the building's owners to look at funding streams and undertake works to make the building safe. The other two buildings identified in the 2005 survey have now been refurbished and brought back into use. The Piano Building in Kidderminster town centre has just undergone a £6 million refurbishment and is now the home of the Academy at Kidderminster run by Birmingham Metropolitan College and Kidderminster College. The other building previously identified as being at serious risk was a small outbuilding to the rear of 14/15 High Street in Bewdley. This has recently been converted into a small residential unit.

**4.124** The Heritage at Risk Register (October 2012) identifies two buildings within the Wyre Forest District that are considered to be at risk. Gilgal Conservation Area is now also listed as being at risk, mainly due to damage caused by heavy traffic. The two buildings on the Heritage at Risk Register are:

1. Baches Forge, Churchill Lane, Churchill - This is a Early C19 forge building comprising two brick structures which form part of a water powered spade and shovel mill. Machinery still in working order. Site looked after by owners and small local trust but requires financial support. Repairs to address the most serious structural problems have been completed with the help of EH grant. Further funding for full repairs, access and interpretation is now required.

### Baches Forge



2. Ribbesford House, Ribbesford - This is a mid C16 house with late C17 and early C19 alterations. Owner continues to carry out remedial works. Building structurally sound but still in need of repairs to various parts of the building and still partially occupied. Internal modernisation to commence for reuse as apartments once interiors repaired.

### Ribbesford House



### 4.7 Historic Environment Record

**4.125** The HER is a database of over 22,000 archaeological sites, historic buildings, monuments and landscape features in Worcestershire.

**4.126** The Historic Environment Record has over 2,600 entries for the Wyre Forest District, including records relating the River Severn; the Wyre Forest; Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval archaeological remains; and buildings, structures and earthworks associated with activities ranging from industrial through to agricultural, all reflecting the diverse physical and cultural heritage of the District. The HER helps to afford protection, and increase understanding and awareness of the historic environment. These historic features are an important part of the District's identity, giving it local distinctiveness, individual character, and a sense of place. There is the potential for further sites of archaeological interest to be discovered as development takes place. Such sites must then be registered on the Historic Environment Record. The record will therefore provide an important resource for future planning considerations within the District.

**4.127** Access to consistent, up-to-date and high quality information about the historic environment through Historic Environment Records is an important requirement for the delivery of the NPPF. The NPPF sets out the requirement for local planning authorities to maintain or have access to an HER and to ensure HERs are used as a matter of course in planning and development matters.

## 4.8 Historic Landscape Characterisation

### What is Historic Landscape?

**4.128** The historic landscape is a remarkable record of past human activity –settlement patterns, field systems, industry, woodland, communication networks and so on, all of varying age, that together give time-depth to the landscape.

**4.129** It is therefore important to take the historic dimension of landscape into account when making decisions regarding development, managing the land and directing future policy.

### What is Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)?

**4.130** *“HLC is an archaeological method used in England to systematically assess, characterise and map the broad historic dimensions of the landscape. It provides an audit of the current landscape explaining its present form in terms of the surviving evidence for its historic origins”*

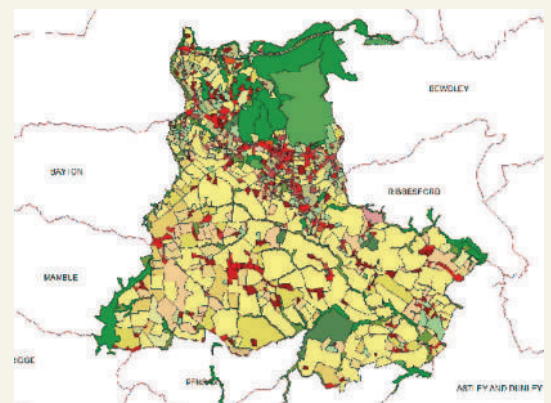
- Largely desk-based.
- Examines time-depth –contrasting past and present land use.
- No blank spaces.
- Broad-brush –not every field system can be studied in depth.
- The landscape is broken down and mapped as a series of generic ‘Historic Landscape Character Types’ based on morphology (shape and pattern) or character e.g. Ancient Woodland or Parliamentary Enclosure.

**4.131** The HLC project is being carried out at the County level. The Worcestershire HLC project is part of a national mapping programme jointly funded by English Heritage and local government at County level. The study is primarily carried out by the local authority archaeological services with the resultant GIS datasets being made available to be used as a tool to inform planners, land managers and other decision makers, developers, consultants, and researchers of the particular sensitivities to and capacities for change in the historic landscape.

### Aims and Objectives of Historic Landscape Characterisation in Worcestershire

**4.132** The overall aim of Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) is to digitally record and map the existing historic character of the Worcestershire landscape to better inform management strategies and conservation issues at local, regional and national levels. HLC output will also directly inform consultation for land management agreements and developing strategies. Integration of Historic Landscape Character output into the HER will allow for a greater understanding of the landscape and better management decisions within the HER and within the development control process. Dynamic interaction between HLC and the HER will inform and empower management of the historic

#### HLC - Rock Pilot



resource and enrich education and outreach programs. The visual nature of the HLC mapping makes it ideal for engaging the imagination and enthusiasm of local people, connecting them to the landscape in a new way.

The broad objectives of the Worcestershire HLC project are as follows:

- To improve understanding of the landscape in Worcestershire.
- To provide a context for archaeological sites and monuments within the County.
- To provide a framework for informed landscape management strategies.
- To better inform development control, academic research and conservation issues.
- To underpin historic environment advice given to district councils and other environment/conservation agencies, such as Natural England and the Forestry Commission.
- To monitor future changes within the historic environment.
- To support and inform outreach and educational programmes in order to engage and inform the wider community about their local historic landscape.
- To create a dynamic and versatile dataset that can be enhanced and updated to reflect changes in the historic environment.
- To produce a dataset that is compatible with those of adjacent counties in order to inform regional and higher level historic landscape characterisation.

**4.133** The modern landscape of Worcestershire has evolved over thousands of years of human activity, settlement and exploitation of the land. Economic, political and social demands all bring their own pressures to bear upon the landscape. These pressures are, in many respects, greater and more disparate than at any time in the past and there is an increasingly pressing need for historic environment professionals to effectively manage the changes such pressures bring to bear. HLC is one tool that will aid those providing advice relating to the historic environment in reaching an informed position. Further characterisation will help to fill a gap between the Historic Environment Record's site-specific data and the historic dimension of the landscape as a whole.

## 4.9 Residential Streets

### Residential Streets

**4.134** The Adopted Design Supplementary Planning Guidance provides some good background information regarding the residential typologies within the main towns in the District. This identifies the different housing character types that exist within the District, which are as follows:

#### Functional Victorian/ Edwardian 1850 - 1919

Street Structure	Grid iron network of straight connected streets
Street Proportion	Narrow to medium width streets. No grass verges. Pavement approx 2.5 metres.
Building Type	Mostly terrace, some semi-detached. 2-3 bedrooms. 2 storey or 1/2 storey with dormer.
Plot Width	Approximately 4 metres
Building Line Set Back	Building line ranges from no set back from footpath (most cases) to approx 2.5 - 3 metres
Frontage Composition	Long terraces of 12 dwellings or more from street to street or street to alleyway.
Wall Materials	Smooth red brick sometimes with engineering brickwork to first 4 courses. Stone lintels and archways
Roofing Materials/Types	Slate pitched roof (typically 40-50 degree roof pitch) some ridge detailing
Detailing	Largely flat fronted facade, sometimes with bay window to ground floor. Sash Windows. Front door with fan light. Stone archway above. Elaborate detailing to stone lintels. Chimneys.
Front Boundary	Boundary formed by dwelling or low brick wall with hedge
Landscape	Hard landscape, except for hedgerows where there is set back
Parking	Mostly on street. Some front gardens have hard standing

#### More Ornate Victorian/Edwardian 1840 - 1919

Street Structure	Grid iron network of straight connected streets
Street Proportion	Medium to narrow street. No grass verges. Pavement approx 2.5 metres
Building Type	Semi-detached and terraced, 3-4 bedrooms. Mostly 2 1/2 storey
Plot Width	Average 6 metres
Building Line Set Back	Approx 4 metres
Frontage Composition	Building line formed by dwelling and up to 1.2 metre sideways (semi-detached) or completely by dwellings in terraces up to 8 dwellings (mostly 4)
Wall Materials	Mostly red-brick with yellow or grey brick detailing. Stone archways and lintels
Roofing Materials/Types	Slate/tile pitched roof 40-50 degrees
Detailing	Diversity of elaborate detailing incorporating gables, dormers, bay windows and chimneys. Sash windows. Use of decorative stone or timber work.

Front Boundary	Low brick wall with hedge. Elaborate post detailing
Landscape	Small front gardens with hedge and hard/soft planting. Some street trees
Parking	On street

### Villas and Free Standing Town Houses 1720 - 1919

Street Structure	Network of straight avenues or main roads
Street Proportion	Wide tree lined road. No grass verges. Wide pavements
Building Type	Substantial double fronted 4+ bedroom homes. Mostly detached or semi-detached
Plot Width	9-12 metres. Large corner plots average 25 - 35 metres
Building Line Set Back	5-9 metres
Frontage Composition	Semi-detached: Building line formed by the dwelling and space (between 1 metre to width of car). Detached: space each side ranging from 1-4 metres
Wall Materials	Red/Orange/Yellow brick or painted plasterwork (mostly Georgian)
Roofing Materials/Types	Slate roof. Low pitched hipped roof (Georgian). High Pitch (45-55 degrees) pitched or hipped roof (Victorian/Edwardian) with ridge detailing
Detailing	Extensive range of detailing elements incorporating orange/red brick or stone window/door detailing. Bay windows to ground floor with intricate iron work to roof and ornate gables with patterned timber fascias. 2 or more chimneys. Sash windows
Front Boundary	Low brick wall with tall hedge or 6 foot high brick wall. Entrance for vehicles sometimes with elaborate post detailing
Landscape	Mature front gardens with range of shrubs or trees. Gravel/block driveway
Parking	To side, either hardstanding or garage (single)

### Inter-War Suburban Housing

Street Structure	Straight or curved network of avenues/closes
Street Proportion	Medium width street. Wide pavements mostly with grass verges or mature street trees
Building Type	Mostly 3 bedroom semi-detached or detached 2 storey homes
Plot Width	Typically 8 metres
Building Line Set Back	Approx. 6 metres
Frontage Composition	Formed by dwelling and space for car to side. Corner plots composed of semi-detached dwellings at right angle to corner
Wall Materials	Mixture of brown brick and painted (white) plasterwork/pebble dash in various formations
Roofing Materials/Types	Red tile hipped roof
Detailing	Bay window to ground and first floor with gable above and mock tudor timber work. Archway above front door. Transom windows with leaded glass/stained glass to top
Front Boundary	Low brick wall or hedge
Landscape	Front gardens laid to lawn with shrub borders



Parking	Attached garage to side with driveway
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### Municipal Housing Areas 1925 - 1965

Street Structure	Curved streets arranged in avenues or closes, sometimes facing areas of public open space
Street Proportion	Narrow to medium width street. Pavements with grass verges
Building Type	Mostly 2 storey semi-detached 3 bedroom homes or terraces. Bungalows and maisonettes (mostly 1950s-60s)
Plot Width	5.5 - 10 metres
Building Line Set Back	Typically 7 metres
Frontage Composition	Dwelling with wide sideways (approx, 2 metres). Corner plots composed of semi-detached dwellings at right angle to corner
Wall Materials	Mostly pebble dash unpainted/cream or orange brick
Roofing Materials/Types	Pitched or hip roofs in red/brown tile, typically 40-45 degrees pitch
Detailing	Largely featureless. Some window or quoin brick detailing to older houses
Front Boundary	Low hedge or timber fence with hedge
Landscape	Some mature trees/hedgerow. Front gardens laid to lawn with shrubs. Areas of open space grassed with few trees
Parking	Mostly on street or hard standing to front garden

### Suburban Estates 1950 - 1980

Street Structure	Very large housing estates composed of hammer head closes arranged off access roads faced by houses
Street Proportion	Narrow to medium width streets with pavements
Building Type	3 bedroom semi-detached and detached family homes. Some bungalows/chalet bungalows
Plot Width	8-10 metres
Building Line Set Back	No more than 7 metres for houses. 6-10 metres or more for some bungalows
Frontage Composition	Frontage formed by dwelling and space for car to side
Wall Materials	Largely brick in grey/yellow/brown/orange with either concrete tile hung, painted white timber or stone cladding
Roofing Materials/Types	Pitched roof 35-40 degrees. Grey/red concrete tiles
Detailing	Largely featureless. Flat roof porches and garages. Modern chimneys.
Front Boundary	Open Plan
Landscape	Front gardens laid to lawn with shrubs, few trees
Parking	Garage to side with driveway

### High Rise and Apartments 1960s and Now

Street Structure	Enclosed court accessed from main road
Street Proportion	Narrow to medium width street with pavement
Building Type	High rise blocks of flats up to 12 storeys arranged in landscape setting
Plot Width	Not applicable
Building Line Set Back	Block set back ranges between no set back to 2 metres
Frontage Composition	Not applicable
Wall Materials	Brick or concrete panels
Roofing Materials/Types	Mostly flat roof or pitched roof
Detailing	Plain modern style with no detailing
Front Boundary	Open plan or low wall
Landscape	Grass and shrubs
Parking	Courtyard parking

### Contemporary Infill 1980s - Now

Street Structure	Infill developments of courts, mews or closes
Street Proportion	Narrow to medium width street with pavement
Building Type	2-3 storey town house of 2-4 bedrooms
Plot Width	4-10 metres
Building Line Set Back	3.5 - 8 metres
Frontage Composition	Terrace: formed by up to 5 dwellings. Semi-detached: dwelling with attached/integral garage and possible sideways to other side or link detached
Wall Materials	Mostly plain brick with some decorative brick/plaster work
Roofing Materials/Types	Brown/grey tile or slate pitched roof (typically 40 degree pitch)
Detailing	Decorative window frames. Some use of bays, gables or porches
Front Boundary	Open plan
Landscape	Low level shrubs or established trees
Parking	In mews court or integral garage

### Contemporary Suburban Development 1980 - Now

Street Structure	Housing estates composed of cul-de-sacs /courts accessed by server road
Street Proportion	Narrow to medium width street with pavement
Building Type	A range of houses largely 2 storey and detached, but including some semi-detached and short terraces

Plot Width	4-10 metres
Building Line Set Back	3.5 - 5.5 metres
Frontage Composition	Terrace: formed by up to 5 dwellings. Semi/detached: dwelling with attached/integral garage and possible sideways to other side or link-detached
Wall Materials	Plain red/yellow/orange brick
Roofing Materials/Types	Pitched roof in red or grey tile
Detailing	Georgian/Tudor/Cottage style elements including bays, dormers, gables and decorative windows
Front Boundary	Open Plan
Landscape	Front gardens laid to lawn, some with shrubs. Some young trees
Parking	Driveway or parking court. Single or double attached/integral garages

### Low Density Executive 1930 - Now

Street Structure	Country lanes, main roads or private roads. Infill development of closes
Street Proportion	Varying from narrow lines with no pavement to wide avenues. Substantial grass verges.
Building Type	Large detached houses (2 storeys) or bungalows
Plot Width	15-30 metres
Building Line Set Back	From 7 metres up to 40 metres
Frontage Composition	Irregularly arranged dwelling with grounds to both sides and single or double detached
Wall Materials	Brick or painted plasterwork
Roofing Materials/Types	Hipped and pitch tiled roofs
Detailing	Range of styles varying from mock Tudor to modern Scandinavian style homes
Front Boundary	Tall dense hedge or wall with gates
Landscape	Mature deciduous trees and shrubs
Parking	Extensive gravel/ hardstanding area plus single/double garages

**4.135** It is important that the historical context of the urban areas is recognised and protected through the planning system. The Design SPG provides good evidence about the types of areas that exist within the District and provides guidance for incorporating new developments in these areas, taking into account the historical context that surrounds the site.

**4.136** The associated maps identifying the various typologies are identified in the Appendices. For further information with regard to design principles in each of these areas please refer to the Adopted Design Quality SPG.

## 4.10 Town Centres

### Town Centres

**4.137** It is not just the primary residential areas that have important historic connections. The three town centres in the District provide a focus for the District and are therefore key areas for proposed change. The urban fabric within these areas are key for the future successes of the towns. The Design Guide provides some useful information which helps to understand and appreciate the historic environments of the three main towns as well as identifying useful objectives for the continued regeneration and development of the area. A brief description of this is provided below.

### Kidderminster Town Centre

#### Historical Biography

**4.138** Although the first documentary evidence of the existence of Kidderminster is the Domesday Survey of 1086, the town probably has its origins in the seventh century monastic settlement at a crossing point on the River Stour. Indeed, the river is of great significance in the development of the town, in that a thriving cloth trade developed in the early-thirteenth century, which grew to form the basis for the development of other trading and merchant activities in Kidderminster.

**4.139** The town was awarded a Royal Charter by King Charles I in 1636, which led to its self-government by twelve burgesses, a system that remained until local government law reform in 1835 and led to the establishment of a town council presided over by a Mayor.

**4.140** The establishment of the cloth trade in the town grew to form the basis for later commercial success in the carpet industry around 1735. Out of the carpet industry grew a Chamber of Commerce, formed in 1878. The expansion of industry, employment and population within Kidderminster was enabled by the plentiful supply of water from the River Stour and taken forwards by the construction of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, running for 46 miles, from the Trent and Mersey Canal to Stourport where it joins the River Severn. Opened for traffic in May 1772, it was built by the great canal engineer James Brindley as part of his 'Grand Cross': a far-sighted scheme to link the ports of Hull, Liverpool and Bristol by connecting up the rivers Mersey, Trent and Severn. The canal passes through the town in a north-south direction linking into the River Stour.

**4.141** The carpet industry has left a legacy of attractive and ornate building frontages, which were created to showcase the wealth and luxury of the carpets of the time. These facades screened large weaving sheds of more standard design. Mill buildings utilised locally available red bricks with stone and brick detailing to contrast and employed a fashionable Italianate style reflected in the campanile towers, window and eave details and similar neo-classical features.

#### St Mary's Lock



**4.142** The prosperity brought to the town in this period was reflected in other prominent public and corporate buildings again displaying the fashionable and highly decorative Italianate style.

### Development of the Railway

**4.143** Transport connections were further enhanced by the introduction of the Oxford, Worcester & Wolverhampton railway line to the south-east of the town. The route and railway station appear on a “plan of the Town of Kidderminster” dating from 1859, indicating their construction by this date. The railway provided fresh impetus to the carpet industry within Kidderminster by speeding the distribution process. The railway line continues to provide direct services to destinations including London Marylebone, Birmingham and Worcester.

### The Canal and Railway as Leisure Attractions

**4.144** The two networks of canal and railways allowed the transport of a vast variety of goods, including coal, steel and carpets, which generated revenue through the town. The railway line between Bridgnorth and Kidderminster is now run as a heritage steam railway tourist attraction known as the Severn Valley Line. The canal is used for recreational purposes with large numbers of narrow boats passing close by Kidderminster town centre. Historically the town provided a working basin at Weavers Wharf but this has subsequently been filled. The canal provides a focus for leisure and retail uses through the town, although it is perhaps understated and boating facilities are limited.

### Changing Street Patterns

#### Historic Street Pattern in Kidderminster Town Centre



**4.145** Mid-19th century Ordnance Survey maps of Kidderminster indicate the form of the town, with significant areas dominated by commercial and industrial uses, such as a brick yard (to the south), corn mills and the carpet mills. The historical part of the town would appear to be located on the east bank of the River Stour, principally at the Bull Ring, Vicar Street and Swan Street, with their age being suggested by the irregular plot sizes and meandering street patterns.

**4.146** The historic town was altered beyond recognition by architectural projects and highway construction in the 1960's, insensitive to the original character, scale and detail of the town. The construction of the ring road whilst alleviating traffic congestion in the town centre cut through and swept away the original street pattern and many historic buildings were lost. The speedy circulation of traffic around the town centre was placed above pedestrian flows. Subways were introduced and the public face of the town was changed forever.

**4.147** New large scale development was occurring at an unprecedented rate. New retail precincts at Vicar Street, the Swan Centre and later, the Rowland Hill Centre, were created. Accompanying multi-storey car parks were built to service the town, although in recent years two have been removed. The skyline of Kidderminster was re-profiled with the erection of Crown House, which today looks down at heel and out of place next to the spire of Baxter Church.

## The Modern-Day Town

**4.148** Despite the impact of more recent development the town remains notable for its impressive heritage townscape. These include the striking churches located in and around the town centre, the richly decorative Italianate architecture of the Town Hall, Lloyds Bank and Midland Bank. Materials used include red-brick with the use of blue (engineering) brick and buff coloured brick detailing. The Victorian Italianate buildings are complemented by Neo-Gothic and Georgian architecture within Church Street, which also provides the location of one of the town's few remaining timber framed buildings. The heritage processions at Green Street/ New Road are important to the character and distinctiveness of the town centre and show a strong link to the heritage of Kidderminster. These need to be enhanced and conserved.

**4.149** More contemporary development in the town, including Kidderminster Library, Kidderminster College and the Magistrates Courts, demonstrate thoroughness and relevance in design which befits the historical imperative for quality. The conservation of historic buildings through regeneration, such as Slingfield Mill, its boiler house and associated chimney in Weaver's Wharf, is welcomed.

The Design SPG identifies 19 important design principles for Kidderminster Town Centre, with a number of them relating specifically to the historic environment. These are:

- i. Built fabric needs to be consolidated and re-defined.
- ii. Conserve townscape heritage, particularly mill buildings associated with the carpet industry.
- iii. Enhance heritage processions.
- iv. Make the most of landmark buildings.

**4.150** These principles will be important in the continuing development of the town centre to ensure that the historic environment is considered through a holistic approach.

**Chimney Stack, Weavers Wharf**



## Stourport-on-Severn Town Centre

### Historical Biography

**4.151** Although evidence for settlements in this area date as far back as the Domesday Book (1086), the creation of Stourport-on-Severn was effectively instigated by an Act of Parliament in 1766. This was when the first Canal Navigation Act for Worcestershire received the assent of King George III. The town is, by comparison with other country towns, a relatively recent settlement and owes its origin solely to the construction of the canal.

**4.152** James Brindley was commissioned to supervise the planning and construction of the new Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal, completed in 1771. The canal terminated with a series of basins located above the Severn beyond which a series of terraces and locks step down to the river. The construction of the canal and its basins provided a focal point for residential and commercial development in Stourport-on-Severn.

### Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Basins



### Vernacular Traditions

**4.153** The heritage townscape of Stourport-on-Severn can be delineated into two distinct scales with differing functions but constructed at largely the same time. The domestic scale of the core town centre is based upon well mannered Georgian buildings at between two and generally three storeys in height. These create a fine grain and intimate scale in contrast to the larger mass of several industrial buildings located within the Severn Road area. Severn Road was home to the oldest vinegar works in the Country, established in 1798, drawing on the readily available water supply.

**4.154** A number of other industrial uses were located in this part of the town, prospering as a result of its strategic location. These buildings were constructed in local brick in Victorian and later styles and echoed the polite style of the Georgian Period. These buildings are valued and protected through planning policy and form an intrinsic part of the character of Stourport-on-Severn.

**4.155** A consistent character within the town is achieved through similar materials, construction processes and architectural style, all of which are typical of the eighteenth century. Locally relevant red brick is used in the town, with stone detailing and simple elegant forms.

**4.156** Water is a key feature of the town centre, although High Street and the basins are somewhat remote and water space is sheltered to the back of Bridge Street and York Street. One of the most striking buildings within the town is The Tontine, formerly a hotel, which stands at the head of the canal basin and provides an imposing aspect from the Severn.

**4.157** The historic core of the town is defined by the intersection of Bridge Street, High Street, New Street and York Street, to the north of the Severn. Most of the buildings on the High Street were built in the early 1800's. York Street is named after Aaron York, a boat builder and wharfinger from Bewdley who lived in Stourport-on-Severn between 1775 and 1825. He built his own house there, known as York House, which is said to be the first house to be built in the new town. The bridge over the River Severn provides a distinctive local landmark, and the gateway to the town centre is defined by this feature along Bridge Street, in conjunction with the gables of the Bridge Inn and the Old Crown Inn.

**4.158** High Street, beyond Bridge Street, provides the focal point for retailing and commercial activities in the town. High Street was busy with trams in 1900 until they were removed in 1929. The consistent architectural form of the town is clear and the present day scene of the town shows that the historical fabric is largely surviving in good condition, although several insensitive shop fronts can be seen.

### The Modern-Day Town

**4.159** Traffic remains an issue in the town centre. The absence of a relief road means high levels of traffic pass through the centre and as a result a one way gyratory is in operation directing traffic around an inner loop.

**4.160** As a result, pedestrian movement in the heart of the town is undermined. Despite this, a reasonably successful public realm scheme has been undertaken within the central part of High Street. The junction at High Street/York Street and Bridge Street is especially congested.

**4.161** Bridge Street is a particularly interesting part of the town centre. Uses on the western side of this street reflect the tourist function of the town and include amusement arcades and gift shops, accommodated in vernacular properties. To the eastern edge of this street, more contemporary buildings and lower value uses undermine the quality and offer of this street. These include garages and workshops. Links to the basins are poor. Proposals in the Site Allocations and Policies DPD identify the scope for significant improvement and the opening up of the basins area.



**4.162** The canal continues to play a significant role within the town and regeneration initiatives and planning policy seeks to reinforce the importance of the basins. The re-opening of the original Lichfield Basin has enhanced the basins as a more significant and attractive destination for residents and tourists.

**4.163** The industrial heritage of buildings including the former carpet mills and vinegar works provide another theme which will be important in the regeneration of the town, focused on Severn Road, where key buildings are to be conserved and reused. Site specific policies relating to this area can be found in Part B of the Site Allocations and Policies DPD.

**4.164** Contemporary development is apparent within Stourport adjacent to the basins and along the canal side, principally for residential uses. On the whole these schemes are successful in their integration within the historic town. New development has respected the town's scale and recognised the potential added value from the waterside. Materials used in contemporary schemes harmonise with traditional townscape and for the most part infill sites are handled with sensitivity. Recent development has seen timber used in the town, something which is not indigenous but which none the less adds to the richness of the place.

**4.165** The Design SPG identifies 10 Design Principles for Stourport-on-Severn, which include the following which relate to the Historic Environment:

- i. Incorporate the basins into the town centre movement network by visually and physically knitting these together.
- ii. Enhance townscape quality east of Bridge Street.
- iii. New development should conserve and make the most of heritage townscape.
- iv. Improvements to the public realm.

### Lichfield Basin Housing



## Bewdley Town Centre

### Historical Biography

**4.166** The name of “Bewdley” (“beau lieu”) first appears on a map in 1304, and pertained to a town situated on the high ground of Wyre Hill. Bewdley was conferred with Royal Borough status in 1472, and remained loyal to the King during the Civil War (1642-51). This date is significant in terms of the civic development of the town, from which point it held its own markets, courts, it had its own coat of arms and had the right to elect a Member of Parliament.

**4.167** The town developed as an important crossing point on the river with the first bridge being built in 1447. The River Severn represented an important communication artery and the bridge provided a strategic focal point within the landscape. Bewdley was formerly an important inland fishery harbour and by the mid eighteenth century had become one of the most important inland ports in the country.

**4.168** The prosperity generated by this and other commercial activities is reflected in fine Georgian buildings and the town has been described as the most perfect small Georgian town in Worcestershire. Bewdley provides a rich townscape heritage. Its strongly defined character is based upon a well related collection of fine historic buildings and a series of landmark set pieces which include; Thomas Telford’s Bridge (1798), the imposing St. Anne’s Church at the head of Load Street and the river frontage and former quayside.

### The Importance of the River

**4.169** The River Severn is the central feature within the town and offers good views to open countryside beyond to the south and north. The town addresses the river and is set within a rich and undulating landscape. Whilst the town occupies both banks of the river, the heart of the town is located to the south-eastern bank where a formal promenade has been laid out. This provides a fine setting for Georgian town houses which create an impressive frontage overlooking the river.

### Vernacular Traditions

**4.170** There are three particularly important styles of buildings within the town:

- Vernacular timber-framed buildings of late medieval to seventeenth century origin.
- The predominant style of Georgian architecture, with classically inspired facades. These range from elegant town houses to grand public buildings.
- To a lesser extent Edwardian buildings with gothic and vernacular influences.

### Sevenside North



**4.171** Materials include locally derived red/plum coloured brick, with decorative treatment of cornice and doorways. Important civic and commercial buildings, such as the museum and St. Anne's Church are faced with buttery-coloured sandstone, which provides a pleasant visual contrast and denotes their local importance. The prevalence of oak framed buildings with a natural cream washed infill provides a further layer of contrast within the town.

**4.172** St. Anne's Church, which occupies a prominent position, is a good example of Georgian architecture. The square stone tower features a classically-inspired urn on the corners of the balustraded parapet and a serliana (triple window) to the west end.

**4.173** The character and completeness of the town centre is a real asset for the town. The river and Severn Valley Railway provide additional points of interest and its setting within the countryside is an important part of the town's character which will need to be preserved.

### The Modern-Day Town

**4.174** Development opportunities within Bewdley are limited, due to the town's heritage. There are few gaps in the fabric and the conservation of this special place is the main priority.

**4.175** Contemporary development is notable within the residential sector and varies in quality. New development on the riverfront and within the formal Georgian river frontage has respected the scale and proportion of the established townscape. Materials have been sensitively used in these examples, although the relief and richness of new frontage does not reflect historical development close by. In general new development is sympathetic to the setting and of a historicist style. Basic design issues such as building set backs and the detail and richness of facades is poorly resolved.

### Ice House: Recent Development in Bewdley



**4.176** The only area where the townscape structure breaks down within the core of the town is around the surgery, library and fire station. These buildings lack the scale and quality to live up to their location and are of an 'anywhere' design. The sheltered location away from Load Street ensures that this does not impact critically on the character of the town but in the longer term this area could present an opportunity to mend the fabric of the town and strengthen its vitality and viability. This site is proposed for redevelopment in the Site Allocations and Policies DPD.

**4.177** It will be critical that any new development within the town centre of Bewdley is sensitive to the townscape traditions and special character of this settlement. The issue of traffic management and public realm quality within the central area provide potential to improve the overall experience of the town centre.

The Design SPG identifies 8 Design principles for Bewdley Town Centre, which include the following which relate to the Historic Environment:

- i. Ensure the village green parkland character of high quality townscape beyond is maintained.
- ii. Ensure the urban character and striking building frontages are maintained.
- iii. Improve the quality of public realm.
- iv. Any new development within the historic fabric of Bewdley must be undertaken with care and sensitivity.

### St. Annes Church



## 5 Key Issues Emerging

### Key Issues for Wyre Forest District

**5.1** It is clear to see from the collected evidence that the District has a rich and varied historic environment. However, what must be realised is that it is a finite and non-renewable resource. The careful and considered conservation of this historic environment can play a key part in future planning, helping to identify buildings, structures, sites and landscapes which are valued and which can make a positive contribution to a development, promoting economic prosperity and ensuring that locally distinctive, place specific results are achieved.

**5.2** It is important that new development does not have a detrimental impact on the character of the historic environment. Those features with statutory protection, for example, Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens are considered to be nationally important. However, there are a wealth of features that have no statutory protection, including locally listed buildings, but also those features which have not yet been specifically identified. A key aspect for the future development of the Local Development Framework will be to identify the areas which have not specifically been identified and seek an appropriate level of protection.

### Local Features

**5.3** Within Kidderminster, the carpet industry heritage is very important to the identity of the town. Stourport-on-Severn was built around the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal and Basins. Bewdley is based around an early Medieval settlement focused on crossing points for the River Severn, and contains many buildings of interest. The Severn Valley Railway also brings a heritage legacy to the towns of Kidderminster and Bewdley, and the surrounding landscape. It is important that these locally distinctive features, which have influenced the development of the District, are celebrated and safeguarded through new development.

**5.4** Within the District's residential stock, a broad range of character types can be identified. Associated with older character types is the presence of detached houses within large grounds. There is concern that some of these properties are being removed and replaced with infill cul-de-sac developments which do not respect the character of the immediate area. In order to preserve the historic character of established sub-urban areas, this type of development should be resisted. A change in the definition of previously developed land which now excludes garden land should make it much easier to resist this type of development in the future.

### Future Studies

**5.5** There are a number of areas of work which are currently being undertaken which will provide an important evidence base for understanding more fully the Historic Environment within the District.

**5.6** The County Council have been commissioned to undertake Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) for the District. This will bring together the Landscape Character Assessment and the contents of the Historic Environment Record, as part of a County-wide project, helping to improve understanding of the County's landscape and provide a context for its archaeological sites and monuments. Once completed, this will provide an historic landscape

framework for informed landscape management strategies, spatial planning, development control and conservation issues at a local, regional and national level and enable future changes within the historic environment to be monitored. Historic Landscape Characterisation will digitally map and record the historic landscape character. The area will be divided into polygons that share similarities through time using a framework of 11 broad HLC groups which are further subdivided into 95 HLC types. One of the 3 pilot areas was Rock Parish in the west of the District.

**5.7** Results from the the Wyre Forest Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) project which was used to map and record archaeological surface features across wooded landscapes of the Forest as part of the Forestry Commission's Grow with Wyre have revealed sites of historic settlement deep beneath the tree canopy.

**5.8** A programme for undertaking and reviewing the Conservation Area Character Appraisals is being carried out by the District Council, ensuring that all the District's Conservation Areas have an appropriate and up-to-date Appraisal, and, where necessary, an associated Management Plan. These appraisals help to identify the specific characteristics and features which make the areas desirable to preserve and/or enhance, and those which do not contribute to the Conservation Areas significance. The Historic Environment Record will be continually updated to provide an up-to-date record of the District's historic environment.

### Future Development

**5.9** Kidderminster town centre will be the focus for a large amount of new development during the plan period up to 2026 and thus a separate Kidderminster Central Action Plan DPD is being produced for this area which will guide development. Due to the historic character of much of the town, and the presence of a number of Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings within the town centre, as well as other sites of historical and/or archaeological interest, this document will need to take account of an assessment of the historic character of the area.

**5.10** An initial base-line survey of the three towns has already been carried out as part of the Central Marches Historic Town Survey, and this has been expanded to inform the development of both of the DPDs.

### Potential Impact on Heritage Assets and Historic Environment

**5.11** The Site Allocations & Policies and Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPDs will allocate sites and areas that will meet the future development needs of the District. Through the development of the LDF evidence base and of the DPDs themselves, it can be established which of the District's Heritage and Historic Environment Assets may potentially be most affected by future development.

**5.12** The following tables set out, for each town, the heritage assets that are most likely to be affected by future development.

## Kidderminster

Asset	Listing	Potential Impact
2 No. circa 1900's Office and Manufacturing buildings. Churchfields and Clensmore Street	Local	Area is identified for redevelopment through Policy KCA.Ch5 Phase 3a - Churchfields Business Park
'1902' Building, Churchfields	Local	Area is identified for redevelopment through Policy KCA.Ch5 Phase 3a - Churchfields Business Park
No. 7-12 Horsefair terraced shops.	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.Ch8 - Horsefair
No. 5-6 Horsefair	Grade II	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.Ch8 - Horsefair
The Old Peacock Public House, Horsefair	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.Ch8 - Horsefair
No. 67 Blackwell Street	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.Ch8 - Horsefair
Union Street Pavement	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.Ch8 - Horsefair
Severn Valley Railway Station	Local	Station is adjacent to the mainline station proposed for redevelopment through Policy KCA.EG2 - Kidderminster Railway Station
Railway Bell Public House	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.EG1 - Comberton Hill Area
No. 30 Comberton Hill	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.EG1 - Comberton Hill Area
No. 12-15 Comberton Hill	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.EG1 - Comberton Hill Area
No. 4-8 Comberton Terrace	Local	The terrace is adjacent to Comberton Place which is identified for redevelopment through Policy KCA.EG3 - Comberton Place
No. 41 & Law Court, Worcester Street	Local	Area is identified for redevelopment through Policy KCA.EG6 - Phase 1: Bromsgrove Street Area
Worcester Cross	Grade II	Area is identified for redevelopment through Policy KCA.EG6 - Phase 1: Bromsgrove Street Area
No. 50 & 51 Worcester Street	Grade II	Buildings are adjacent to an area identified for redevelopment through Policy KCA.EG6 - Phase 1: Bromsgrove Street Area
No. 52 Worcester Street	Local	Buildings are adjacent to an area identified for redevelopment through Policy KCA.EG6 - Phase 1: Bromsgrove Street Area
No. 5-10 Lion Street	Local	Area is identified for redevelopment through Policy KCA.EG7 - Phase 3: Lion Street
Tower Buildings, Blackwell Street	Local	Buildings are adjacent to an area identified for redevelopment through Policy KCA.EG8 - Waterloo Street Area

Asset	Listing	Potential Impact
Rock Works, Park Lane	Local	Area is identified for redevelopment through Policy KCA.WG1 - Phase 3: Park Street Industrial Estate and Rock Works
Horn & Trumpet Public House, Park Butts	Grade II	Area is identified for redevelopment through Policy KCA.WG1 - Phase 3: Park Street Industrial Estate and Rock Works
Chimney and Boiler House, Slingfield Mill	Grade II	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.WG3 - Weavers Wharf
Slingfield Mill main building	Grade II	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.WG3 - Weavers Wharf
Piano Building, Exchange Street	Grade II	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.WG3 - Weavers Wharf
Former Castle Spinning Mills, New Road	Local	Area is identified for redevelopment through Policy KCA.CW1 - Castle Wharf
No. 45-48 Mill Street	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.MS1 - Mill Street Mixed Use Area
No. 70 Mill Street	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.MS1 - Mill Street Mixed Use Area
Blue brick revetment, Mill Street	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.MS1 - Mill Street Mixed Use Area
Kidderminster General Hospital and front revetment and railings, Mill Street	Grade II	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.MS1 - Mill Street Mixed Use Area
Town Mills, Mill Street	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.MS1 - Mill Street Mixed Use Area
Baxter United Reform Church, Bull Ring	Grade II	Area around the Bull Ring is identified as a new public space through Policy KCA.TTC1 - Civic Spaces
No. 13 Bull Ring	Grade II	Area around the Bull Ring is identified as a new public space through Policy KCA.TTC1 - Civic Spaces
Town Hall and Corn Exchange, Vicar Street	Grade II	Area around the Town Hall is identified as a new public space through Policy KCA.TTC1 - Civic Spaces
Sir Rowland Hill Statute, Vicar Street	Grade II	Area around the Town Hall is identified as a new public space through Policy KCA.TTC1 - Civic Spaces
No. 1-3 Exchange Street	Grade II	Area around the Town Hall is identified as a new public space through Policy KCA.TTC1 - Civic Spaces
Brintons Carpet Works, Exchange Street	Grade II	Area around the Town Hall is identified as a new public space through Policy KCA.TTC1 - Civic Spaces
Swan Public House, Vicar Street	Local	Area around the Town Hall is identified as a new public space through Policy KCA.TTC1 - Civic Spaces
Boucher Building, Green Street	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.HP1 - Heritage Processions Area
Frank Stone Works, Green Street	Local	Site is identified for redevelopment through Policy KCA.HP2 - Frank Stone
Elgar House, Green Street	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.HP1 - Heritage Processions Area
Victoria Carpet Company, Green Street	Grade II	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.HP1 - Heritage Processions Area



Asset	Listing	Potential Impact
Campion House, Green Street	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.HP1 - Heritage Processions Area
Former Castle Road Motor Works, Green Street	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.HP1 - Heritage Processions Area
Water works House, Pump Street	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.HP1 - Heritage Processions Area
Former Pump House, Green Street	Local	Site is identified for redevelopment through Policy KCA.HP3 - Green Street Depot
Mortons Works, Green Street and New Road	Grade II	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.HP1 - Heritage Processions Area
Perimeter Wall of former Long Meadow Mill, Dixon Street	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.HP1 - Heritage Processions Area
Corn Exchange, New Road	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.HP1 - Heritage Processions Area
Market House, New Road	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.HP1 - Heritage Processions Area
Cast Iron Gate Pillar, Market Street	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.HP1 - Heritage Processions Area
No.1-6 New Road	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.HP1 - Heritage Processions Area
No. 52-54 Oxford Street	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.HP1 - Heritage Processions Area
No. 55-60 Oxford Street	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy KCA.HP1 - Heritage Processions Area
County Buildings, Bewdley Road	Grade II	Area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.WK1 - Blakebrook School and County Buildings
Woodfield House, Bewdley Road	Grade II	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.WK1 - Blakebrook School and County Buildings
Former workhouse, Sutton Road	Local	Area is identified for safeguarding for medical uses through Policy SAL.WK2 - Kidderminster Hospital

Conservation Area	Potential Impact
Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal	A number of key development sites lie adjacent to the canal which will impact on conservation area, including: KCA.Ch3, KCA.Ch6, KCA.WG2, KCA.WG3, KCA.CW1, SAL.SK2
Green Street	Policy KCA.HP1 - Heritage Processions promotes new development within this conservation area.
Vicar Street	No site specific development proposals for this conservation area other than the two proposed new public spaces proposed through Policy KCA.TTC1.
Church Street	No site specific development proposals for this conservation area, but lies adjacent to the proposed Bull Ring public spaced proposed through Policy KCA.TTC1.

## Stourport-on-Severn

Asset	Listing	Potential Impact
8 Bridge Street	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.STC1 - Bridge Street Basins Link
Canal basins, locks & wharves	Grade II	Area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.STC1 - Bridge Street Basins Link
10 - 15 Bridge Street & 21 York Street	Grade II	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.STC1 - Bridge Street Basins Link
18-20,23-26 Bridge Street	Local	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.STC1 - Bridge Street Basins Link
Old school building Tan Lane	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.STC2 - Tan Lane and County Buildings
50 Lombard Street & 12-18 Foundry Street	Grade II	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.STC2 - Tan Lane and County Buildings
Brindley Footbridge, 4-7 Tan Lane, Tannery Court	Local	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.STC2 - Tan Lane and County Buildings
7-8 New Street & 9-10 Raven Street	Grade II	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.STC3 - Civic Centre
8 Raven Street	Local	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.STC3 - Civic Centre
Swan Hotel	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.STC4 - Swan Hotel and Working Men's Club
39 High Street	Grade II	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.STC4 - Swan Hotel and Working Men's Club
2 Vernon Road, 18-24, 26 & 38 Lickhill Road	Local	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.STC4 - Swan Hotel and Working Men's Club
6-8, 40-42, 45-47 & 50-55 High Street	Local	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.STC4 - Swan Hotel and Working Men's Club
Gatehouse, White House and office building Severn Road	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.EA1 - Carpets of Worth
Sandstone wall, Severn Road, 41 Mitton Street and 9 & 16-18 Lichfield Street	Grade II	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.EA1 - Carpets of Worth
Wall outside Masonic Hall, 10, 15-16 & 28-30 Severn Road, 39-40 Mitton Street and 10 Lichfield Street	Local	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.EA1 - Carpets of Worth
1 & 2 Cheapside	Grade II	Area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.EA2 - Cheapside
TP Toys office building, units 5-7 Severnside Business Park & old vinegar works building	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.EA2 - Cheapside
Angel PH, River Wharves & sandstone wall on Severn Road	Grade II	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.EA2 - Cheapside
Old house on OGL Computers site	Grade II	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.EA3 - Parsons Chain
Mortuary Building & Old Rose & Crown PH, Worcester Road	Local	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.EA3 - Parsons Chain

Asset	Listing	Potential Impact
15,18 & 27 Gilgal	Grade II	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.EA5 - Baldwin Road
4 & 6-8 Gilgal, Old Anglo Warehouse, Baldwin Road Works, Chapel remains off Church Road & 6-7 Holly Road	Local	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.EA5 - Baldwin Road
Old maternity hospital and 2 lodge buildings	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.WS2 - Lucy Baldwin Unit
Manor House, St.Johns Road	Local	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.SSS1 - Robbins Depot

Conservation Area	Potential Impact
Stourport No.1	A number of key development sites lie within this conservation area - SAL.STC1, SAL.EA1 and SAL.EA2. SAL.STC3 is just outside the boundary.
Stourport No.2	SAL.STC4 lies partly within this conservation area with SAL.EA1 just outside the boundary.
Gilgal	SAL.EA5 lies just outside the boundary.
Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal	SAL.STC2 and SAL.EA5 lie adjacent to the canal conservation area.

## Bewdley

Asset	Listing	Potential Impact
Site surrounded by Listed Buildings along Severnside North, Load Street plus 19-22 Dog Lane	Grade II	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.B1 - Load Street Redevelopment Area
Craft Centre Lax Lane	Local	Area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.B2 - Lax Lane
Other side of Lax Lane	Grade II	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.B2 - Lax Lane
Severn Bank House	Local	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.B2 - Lax Lane
Workhouse 64 High Street	Grade II	Area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.B2 - Former Workhouse, High Street
Holy Family Church, High Street	Grade II*	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.B2 - Former Workhouse, High Street
Majority of other buildings on High Street	Grade II	Adjacent area is identified for new development through Policy SAL.B2 - Former Workhouse, High Street

Conservation Area	Potential Impact
Bewdley	SAL.B1 and SAL.B2 Former Workhouse both lie within this area; SAL.B2 Lax Lane is immediately adjacent

## 6 Conclusions and Recommendations

### Summary

**6.1** The variety and mix of features, textures, scales, colours and materials of the District towns and villages, as well as the interplay between the cultural and natural landscape, all help to make the Wyre Forest District unique - somewhere not anywhere.

**6.2** The vibrancy of the Wyre Forest is a consequence of the constant change within the area, laying down new layers of history in both urban and rural areas. The creation of new places and infrastructure is essential to prosperity and historic landscapes, buildings and features can contribute to this. They often help to enrich plans and new designs, and through the sensitive re-use of historic buildings to meet modern needs they can be safeguarded for future generations. With good design, historic and contemporary buildings can sit happily side-by-side. There is a need to ensure that change is managed and new buildings and developments respect and enhance the historic character of their surroundings.

**6.3** Therefore, the protection and enhancement of the District's heritage is a vital element for consideration within Local Planning Policy. The historic environment, as has been seen by this topic paper, is diverse. People interact with the historic environment on a daily basis and its continued preservation, protection and enhancement can help to ensure that the unique and diverse environment remains for future generations to enjoy.

### Local Development Framework (LDF)

**6.4** The LDF should seek to build on the themes, policies and issues raised within this paper.

**6.5** The over-arching strategic document, the Adopted Core Strategy, already picks up on the main themes identified within this paper and sets out to shape and sustain the historic environment. The A Unique Place chapter, centred around policy CP11: Quality Design and Local Distinctiveness, states that new developments must take into account heritage assets, utilising historic streets, buildings and spaces as an integral part of the design. It acknowledges the District's rich heritage and its range of historic assets and their role in creating successful and well designed places and developments, as well as strengthening the sense of place and identity.

**6.6** Through the Core Strategy the emphasis is placed on the Site Allocations & Policies and Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPDs, through their role in allocating sites, to positively manage the historic assets and environment.

**6.7** It is important these these two DPDs identify areas and assets in greater detail and provide policies that facilitate the protection and enhancement of the historic environment. Through allocating sites and identified opportunities for future development, the DPDs must also identify the specific potential impacts on historic assets. In turn they must also put policies in place to enable these assets to be successfully integrated into new development wherever possible.

**6.8** This paper provides an overview of some of the key areas for consideration and details a range of assets that could potentially be impacted upon by future development opportunities.

## Conclusions

**6.9** The key issues emerging from the evidence ranging from the national through to the local scale would appear to be as follows:

- The continued protection and subsequent enhancement of the historic environment must be a key feature in future planning policy.
- New developments should celebrate and sympathetically blend in with the surrounding historic environment. Development proposals that would adversely affect the historic environment should not be permitted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that substantial public benefits from the development significantly outweigh any harm caused.
- Recognition of the District's past should be celebrated in the future - reconnecting to the past will ensure that the local distinctiveness and identity of the district is not lost and is, instead, celebrated.
- Although a number of historic features have statutory protection, there are a number of areas which do not benefit from the same level of security. It will be important to identify and help to protect all elements of the Historic Environment.

**6.10** This is not a definitive list, and it will be important when considering new development, that the Historic Environment has been considered in a holistic manner.

**6.11** The following recommendations have been identified to outline the potential future direction for considering the Historic Environment through the Site Allocations & Policies and Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPDs:

### Recommendation 1

- Continued protection and enhancement of the District's historic fabric through appropriate level of protection within the LDF. The Core Strategy identifies the strategic issues of the Historic Environment, but the two DPDs need to establish further, more detailed, guidance. Policy guidance should be provided that sets the considerations and criteria for development impacting on heritage assets and their setting, as well as within Conservation Areas.

### Recommendation 2

- The DPDs will establish where the development pressures and potential is likely to be in future. For those such areas and sites identified, site specific policies should look to provide further guidance on incorporating heritage assets and the Historic Environment as part of new development.

### Recommendation 3

- Continued development of the 'evidence base' to support the policy making process.

### Key Partners

**6.12** Due to the diverse and wide ranging nature of the Historic Environment, there are a number of key organisations which will play a large part in ensuring that the plans and policies that are put in place adequately reflect the needs of the. It will therefore be vital that the following organisations are consulted and are involved with the evolution of policy preparation. There are as follows:

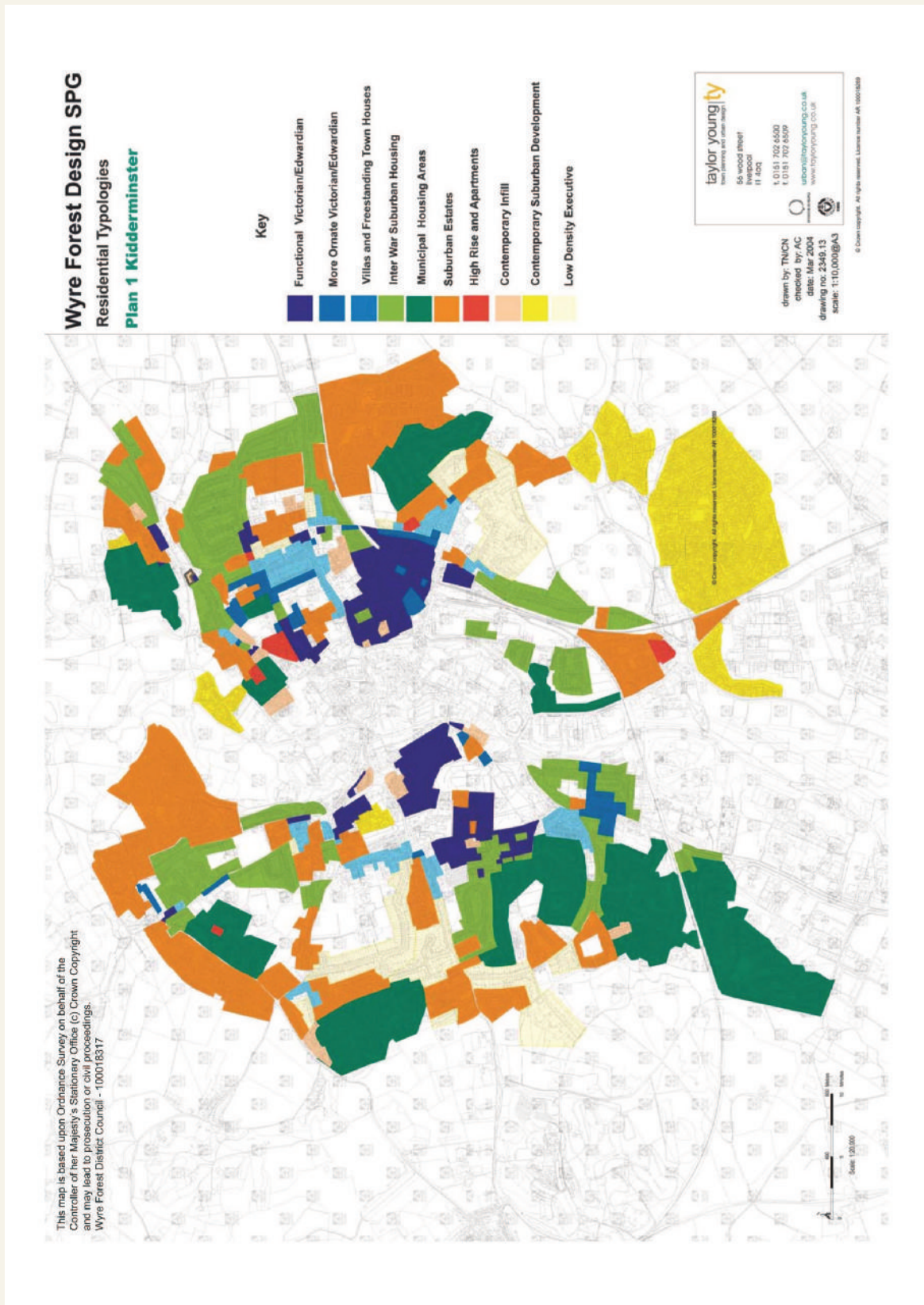
- English Heritage
- Civic Societies
- Parish Councils
- Worcestershire County Council

**6.13** The continued consultation and cross-party working with stakeholders and organisations will ensure that the Historic Environment is considered in the most appropriate manner.

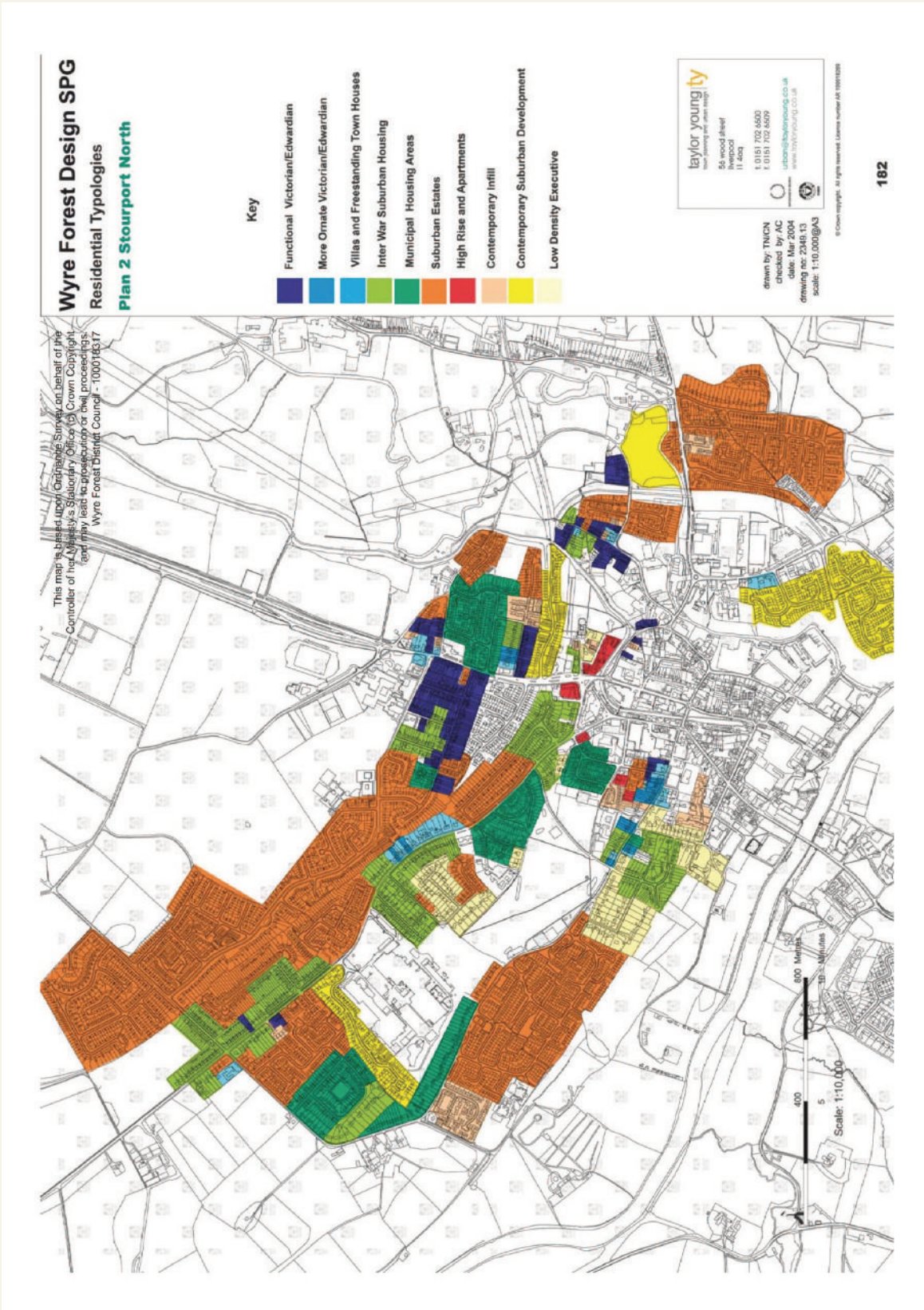
**6.14** This paper has sought to collate the existing information regarding the Historic Environment within the Wyre Forest. It provides a baseline of data, and also identifies 'gaps' which will require further research for considering the issue of Heritage through the LDF process.

# A Design SPG Maps

## Kidderminster Residential Typologies

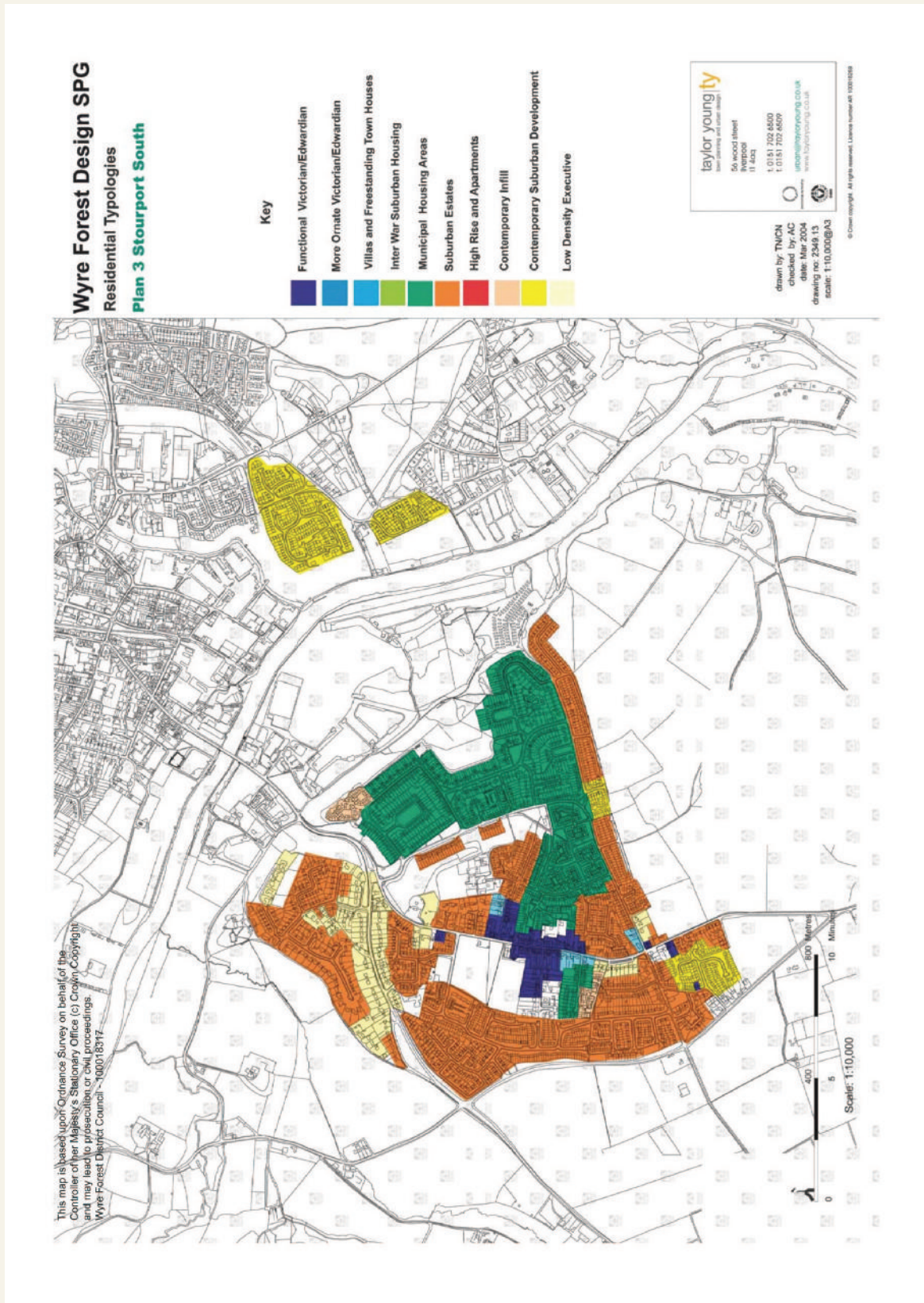


Stourport-on-Severn Residential Typologies, North





## Stourport-on-Severn Residential Typologies, South



### Bewdley Residential Typologies

