



Black Country Historic Landscape Characterisation Study Final Report

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Prepared by: [Redacted] (Senior Project Manager)

Checked by: [Redacted] (Head of Heritage Management Services)

Edited by: [Redacted] (Senior Project Manager)

Approved for Issue by: [Redacted] (Oxford Regional Manager)

Signature: [Redacted]

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OA South
 Janus House
 Osney Mead
 Oxford
 OX2 0ES
 t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

OA East
 15 Trafalgar Way
 Bar Hill
 Cambridge
 CB23 8SG
 t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

OA North
 Mill 3
 Moor Lane Mills
 Moor Lane
 Lancaster
 LA1 1QD
 t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. info@oxfordarch.co.uk
 w. oxfordarchaeology.com

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Black Country Historic Landscape Characterisation Study

Final Report

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Executive (non-technical) Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned on behalf of the four Black Country Authorities, comprising Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, City of Wolverhampton Council and Walsall Council, to carry out a strategic assessment of locally distinctive places, buildings and structures of historic quality and character in the Black Country.

A review of the existing historic environment evidence base has been carried out to identify areas of particular historic environment significance based upon the area's historic landscape, historic townscape, archaeological and designed landscape value. The proposed Historic Environment Area Designations will inform the preparation of the Black Country Plan including the assessment of potential development sites. In respect of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, the majority of the Historic Environment Area designations are based upon existing designations which have been identified in the Dudley Borough-Wide Urban Historic Landscape Characterisation (2016) and adopted in the Dudley Borough Development Strategy (2017). This document does however contain some recommended amendments and additions to the existing designations.

The assessment has also identified areas where the existing evidence base is weak, out of date, or missing in order to identify priorities for future historic environment work.

This report presents the findings of the Black Country Historic Landscape Character Assessment. A total of 103 Historic Environment Area Designation have been identified within, or partially within the Green Belt, comprising 40 Areas of High Historic Landscape Value, 50 Archaeological Priority Areas, 10 Areas of High Historic Townscape Value and three Designed Landscapes of High Historic Value. A further 354 Historic Environment Area Designations have been identified within the urban area comprising 32 Areas of High Historic Landscape Value, 128 Areas of High Historic Townscape Value, 154 Archaeological Priority Areas and 40 Designed Landscapes of High Historic Value.

1 INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 The four Black Country Authorities (BCA) (Fig. 1), comprising Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, City of Wolverhampton Council and Walsall Council, are in the process of preparing a new plan to replace the existing Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS) adopted in February 2011. The existing BCCS is a long-term strategic land-use plan covering the period up to 2026. The new Black Country plan, expected to be adopted in 2023, will cover the period up to the end of March 2038 and is planning for higher levels of housing and employment growth than the existing BCCS. It will therefore include strategic site allocations as well as strategic policies.
- 1.1.2 The current evidence base includes the Black Country Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) study (completed in 2009). This study was based on mapping that is now nearly 20 years out of date. The BCA have commissioned a new Historic Landscape Character assessment to build upon the existing work within the Black Country in order to provide a consistent and up-to-date assessment of the historic environment within the Black Country. This report will form part of the evidence base for the updated Core Strategy.

1.2 Project aims and Objectives

- 1.2.1 The project will use a methodology based upon the Dudley Borough-Wide Urban Historic Landscape Characterisation (2016), and informed by a project brief prepared by the four Black Country Authorities, to provide a comprehensive strategic assessment of locally distinctive places, buildings and structures of historic quality and character in the Black Country, covering both urban and non-urban areas. This methodology has been adopted to provide a consistent approach for the identification of areas of historic environment significance across the four BCA areas. The results of this assessment will be used to:
- a) Enable the BCA to ascertain whether the strategic policies in the extant Black Country Core Strategy (specifically ENV2) are fit for purpose;
 - b) Help the BCA to identify and assess the sensitivity of proposed housing and employment sites that are being considered for allocation;
 - c) Inform a separate project being undertaken by Land Use Consultants (LUC) in parallel, to assess the landscape sensitivity of different areas within the Green Belt; and
 - d) Contribute towards a robust and up-to date evidence base on the various aspects of the historic environment within the Black Country.
- 1.2.2 The study will consider areas within the BCA administrative boundaries where HLC information is weak, out-of-date or missing and areas that have not previously been considered for housing, specifically in the Green Belt. This is in order to create a strategic landscape level understanding of the historic character and environment of the Black Country.

- 1.2.3 This report presents the results of the analysis carried out in the Green Belt and Urban parts of the Black Country. Consultation has been carried out with Sandwell MBC, City of Wolverhampton Council and Walsall Council and Dudley MBC regarding the Historic Environment Area Designations described in Appendix B and C, and shown on Figures 14-469.

2 PLANNING CONTEXT

- 2.1.1 This section provides a summary of the current legislation, national policy and guidance put in place for the management and protection of the historic environment.

2.2 Historic Environment Legislation

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

- 2.2.1 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) specifies that an archaeological site or historic building of national importance can be designated as a scheduled monument and registered with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Under the terms of the Act, any development that could affect the scheduled monument is subject to the granting of Scheduled Monument Consent. Historic England provides advice to DCMS regarding individual applications for scheduled monument consent, and also offers advice on the management of scheduled monuments.

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (amended by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013)

- 2.2.2 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 is an act that provides special controls in respect of listed buildings (buildings that are seen to be of special architectural or historic interest) and Conservation Areas (areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance).
- 2.2.3 Local authorities have a statutory duty under the provisions of sections 16, 66 (1) and 72 (1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, when exercising any of their planning powers, to have 'special regard' to certain matters.
- 2.2.4 Section 66 (1) of the above act sets out the general duty of local planning authority in respect of exercising planning functions in respect of listed buildings: -
- 'In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any feature of special architectural interest or historic interest which it possesses'.
- 2.2.5 When a local planning authority exercises planning functions in a Conservation Area, Section 72 (1) of the above acts states: -
- 'In the exercise, with respect to any buildings or other land in a conservation area, of any powers under any of the provisions mentioned in subsection (2), special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area'.

2.2.6 Section 74 of the 1990 Act also specifically refers to the Control of demolition in Conservation Areas.

The Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953

2.2.7 The Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 authorized Historic England to compile a register of ‘gardens and other land’ situated in England that appear to be of ‘special historic interest’. In 1984 the Register was established and there are currently over 1,600 on the ‘Register of Parks and Gardens’. Sites are graded I, II* or II. Historic England also maintains a Register of Historic Battlefields. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines them as designated heritage assets.

The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 (amended 2003)

2.2.8 The Hedgerows Regulations (1997) specify various criteria used to identify important hedgerows for wildlife, landscape or historical reasons. Important hedgerows are subject to statutory protection.

2.2.9 Under the terms of the regulations a hedgerow is considered important if it has existed for more than 30 years and meets one of the following criteria:

- It marks a boundary between parishes existing before 1850;
- It marks an archaeological feature that is a scheduled monument or noted on the Historic Environment Record;
- It marks the boundary of a pre-1600 estate or manor, or a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts.

2.3 National Guidance

Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens in England

2.3.1 The Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England is maintained by Historic England (formerly English Heritage) and divides the sites into three grade bands, similar to those used for Listed Buildings.

- Grade I: sites of exceptional interest;
- Grade II*: particularly important sites, of more than special interest; and
- Grade II: sites of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them.

Ancient Woodlands

2.3.2 Areas of Ancient woodlands have been mapped by Historic England and are defined as land that has been continuously wooded since AD 1600. Areas of ancient woodland can be protected as nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or as wildlife sites recognized at a local level. Ancient woodland is not a statutory designation – it does not give the wood legal protection. However, increasingly, national, regional and local planning policies mention protection of ancient woodland in planning documents. The Woodland Trust (the UK’s leading woodland conservation charity) acts wherever possible to secure protection of ancient woodland.

2.4 National Planning Policy

National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.4.1 Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF: issued July 2018 and amended in February 2019) sets out the Government's planning policies in relation to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.
- 2.4.2 The relevant paragraphs to this assessment are provided below:

“189. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

190. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

197. The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

199. Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted”.

2.5 Local Plans

Black Country Core Strategy (Adopted February 2011)

- 2.5.1 The Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS) sets out how the Black Country should look in 2026 and establishes clear directions for change across the area. Environmental transformation is a key theme within the BCCS, and *Policy ENV2 Historic Character and Local Distinctiveness* highlights the need for a coordinated approach to the protection and enhancement of the built and natural environment; and the promotions of historic character and areas of local distinctiveness within the Black Country.
- 2.5.2 Policy ENV2: Historic Character and Local Distinctiveness requires that:

All development should aim to protect and promote the special qualities, historic character and local distinctiveness of the Black Country in order to help maintain its cultural identity and strong sense of place. Development proposals will be required to preserve and, where appropriate, enhance local character and those aspects of the historic environment together with their settings which are recognised as being of special historic, archaeological, architectural, landscape or townscape quality.

2.5.3 Policy ENV 2 goes on to state that:

In addition to statutorily designated and protected historic assets particular attention should be paid to the preservation and enhancement of:

- *locally listed historic buildings and archaeological sites;*
- *historic parks and gardens including their settings;*
- *locally designated special landscape areas and other heritage based site allocations.*

2.5.4 Policy ENV 2 is complemented and further supported in the BCCS with Policies ENV 3: Design Quality, ENV 4 Canals, CSP 3: Environmental Infrastructure and CPS 4: Place Making.

2.5.5 The BCCS notes that considerable progress has been made towards achieving a fuller analysis and understanding of local character and distinctiveness using historic landscape characterisations principles. A Black Country wide HLC study is available for the whole BCA area which identifies at a relatively broad level, a range of locally distinctive character elements.

2.5.6 Individual authorities within their adopted development plans (listed below) also contain policies on the historic environment and local character.

Local Plans for Dudley

- Dudley MBC 2011, Brierley Hill Area Action Plan (AAP), Adopted August 2011
- Dudley MBC 2013, Halesowen Area Action Plan (AAP), Adopted August 2011
- Dudley MBC 2013, Stourbridge Area Action Plan (AAP), Adopted October 2013
- Dudley MBC 2017a, Dudley Borough Development Strategy (DBDS), Development Plan Document, Adopted February 2017
- Dudley MBC 2017, Dudley Area Action Plan (AAP), Adopted February 2017

Local Plans for Sandwell

- Sandwell MBC 2008, Tipton Area Action Plan (AAP), Adopted September 2008
- Sandwell MBC 2008, Smethwick Area Action Plan (AAP), Adopted December 2008
- Sandwell MBC 2012, Site Allocations and Delivery Development Plan Document (DPD), Adopted December 2008
- Sandwell MBC 2012, West Bromwich Area Action Plan (AAP), Adopted December 2012

Local Plan for Walsall

- Walsall Council 2005, Walsall Unitary Development Plan (UDP), Adopted April 2005

- Walsall Council 2019, Walsall Site Allocation Document (SAD), Adopted January 2019
- Walsall Council 2019, Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP), Adopted January 2019

Local Plans for Wolverhampton

- City of Wolverhampton Council 2006, Wolverhampton Unitary Development Plan (UDP), Adopted June 2006
- City of Wolverhampton Council 2014, Stafford Road Area Action Plan (AAP), Adopted September 2014
- City of Wolverhampton Council 2014, Bilston Corridor Area Action Plan (AAP) including Bilston Neighbourhood Plan, Adopted September 2014
- City of Wolverhampton Council 2016, Wolverhampton City Centre Area Action Plan (AAP), Adopted September 2016.

2.6 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

Dudley Historic Environment SPD (Adopted September 2016)

- 2.6.1 In Dudley the BCCS is complemented by the Dudley Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which is underpinned by townscape and landscape characterisation that is specific to Dudley.
- 2.6.2 The SPD identifies, in a ‘broad brush’ manner, locally distinctive areas of historic character and numerous types of heritage assets. In accordance with the NPPF the SPD defines heritage assets to include not just buildings and structures, but also wider areas and landscapes. To support this holistic approach, the borough has carried out the Dudley Borough-Wide Urban Historic Landscape Characterisation Study which identifies locally important areas that contribute towards the borough’s historic townscapes, landscapes, designed landscapes and archaeology.
- 2.6.3 The Black Country Historic Landscape Characterisation Study applies the Dudley Borough-Wide Urban Historic Landscape Characterisation Study methodology across the whole BCA area in order to identify areas and landscapes of particular historic environment significance across the entire Black Country.

Designing Walsall: Supplementary Planning Document for Urban Design (Adopted February 2018, Revised July 2013)

- 2.6.4 This SPD is primarily a design guide to support BCCS Policies CSP 4, ENV 2, ENV 3 and ENV 4 and saved Walsall UDP Policies ENV 32-34 on urban design, landscape and public art. It includes Local Character Guidance for the Town Centre, Central Suburbs and the East and West of the borough (Chapter 6).

2.7 Good Practice Guidance for the Historic Environment

- 2.7.1 This assessment has been carried out with reference to the following Historic England Good Practice Guidance:
- Historic England 2015, The Historic Environment in Local Plans, Good Practice Advice in Planning:1

- Historic England 2015, Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment, Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2
- Historic England 2017, The Setting of Heritage Assets, Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3 (2nd Edition)
- Historic England 2017, Understanding Place, Historic Area Assessments
- Historic England 2019, Conservation Area Appraisal, Designation and Management, Historic England Advice Note 1 (2nd Edition)

3 REVIEW OF THE CURRENT EVIDENCE BASE

3.1.1 A review of the existing historic environment evidence base has been carried out to assess whether the available sources of information present a fair representation of the historic environment resources within the BCA area.

3.1.2 As part of this review the following sources were considered:

- Historic Environment Record (HER) data from the Dudley, Sandwell, and Wolverhampton and Walsall HERs. This information was provided as a GIS shapefile summarising known heritage assets, conservation areas and areas of Ancient Woodland within the BCA area. In addition to the shapefile, the HERs also supplied relevant grey literature, historic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (1st - 4th edition OS maps, which dated from the 1880s - 1940s), and modern OS maps and mastermap data.
- A search of the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), maintained by Historic England.
- Existing regional and national characterisation work carried out in the Black Country.
- British Geological Survey (BGS) and Environment Agency landfill and ground disturbance maps.
- Black Country Geopark proposals and location of Geosites.
- Relevant BCA area Local Plans including:
 - Dudley Borough Development Strategy and Policies (adopted March 2017);
 - Brierley Hill Area Action Plan (AAP), Dudley AAP, Halesowen AAP and Stourbridge AAP;
 - Sandwell Site Allocations and Delivery Plan Document (Adopted December 2012)
 - Smethwick Area Action Plan (AAP), Tipton AAP, and West Bromwich AAP;
 - Walsall Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (Adopted April 2005) - 'saved' policies
 - Walsall Site Allocation Document (adopted January 2019);
 - Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) Adopted January 2019;
 - Wolverhampton Unitary Development Plan (adopted June 2008) and Wolverhampton Proposals Map (amendments November 2009);
 - Wolverhampton City Centre Area Action Plan (AAP), Bilston Corridor AAP, Stafford Road AAP; Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan and Heathfield Park Neighbourhood Plan.

- Relevant Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)
 - DMBC Glass Quarter SPD (adopted Dec 2009) - <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/dudley-local-plan/glass-quarter-supplementary-planning-document-spd/>
 - DMBC Historic Environment SPD (adopted September 2017)
- Relevant secondary material, including:
 - William Yates' 1778 map of Staffordshire;
 - Ordnance Survey surveyors' drawings;
 - Conservation area appraisals and management plans (where available).

3.1.3 Where the evidence base is considered to be weak, out of date or missing, recommendations have been made for further assessment work. These recommendations are set out in Section 8 of this report.

3.2 The Current Historic Environment Evidence Base

National Heritage List for England

3.2.1 Historic England maintains a list of designated heritage assets (scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens and registered battlefields) across England. Table 3.1 provides a summary of the designated heritage assets within the Black Country.¹ These heritage assets are also shown on Figure 2.

Table 3.1 Summary of Designated Heritage Assets

Type of Designated Asset	Number within administrative area			
	Wolverhampton CC	Walsall Council	Sandwell MBC	Dudley MBC
Grade I listed building	2	0	2	6
Grade II* listed building	23	5	8	21
Grade II listed building	352	158	194	242
Scheduled Monument	4	6	7	11
Registered Park and Garden	2	4	5	3
Registered Battlefield	0	0	0	0
Heritage at risk ²	14 ³	8 ⁴	5 ⁵	8 ⁶
Conservation Areas	31	18	9	22

¹ The Historic England Data utilised in this report was downloaded on 25-7-19, and does not reflect any subsequent amendments to list. The Heritage at Risk data was downloaded on the 18-1-19 and reflects the information in the West Midlands Register 2018.

² Dudley and Bromsgrove also share a conservation area, and Sandwell and Walsall share a conservation area

³ Of which 9 are conservation areas at risk

⁴ Of which 6 are conservation areas at risk

⁵ Of which 2 are conservation areas at risk

⁶ Of which 4 are conservation areas at risk

Historic Environment Records

- 3.2.2 The Black Country is divided into four local authority areas (the Metropolitan Boroughs of Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall and the City of Wolverhampton). These authorities act as a unitary tier of local government for each district and accordingly each one has its own individual conservation function. There is no overall Historic Environment Record (a database of known heritage assets and information relating to the historic environment) for the Black Country. Instead individual Borough Historic Environment Records are held and maintained by Dudley and Sandwell Metropolitan Boroughs and a joint Wolverhampton and Walsall HER is maintained by City of Wolverhampton Council.
- 3.2.3 Each Historic Environment Record (HER) holds a record of known heritage assets (both designated and non-designated) within the local authority area. The HER information is currently being updated to reflect newly-discovered information. The datasets held within each HER vary depending upon the historic environment priorities of each area and the scope and nature of the previous investigations carried out within the area.
- 3.2.4 In all four of the BCA areas the focus of research has historically been upon the urban area where the pressure from development was greatest. The Green Belt has received less scrutiny and accordingly less is known about the historic environment of the Green Belt areas. Accordingly, the distribution of known archaeological sites within the HERs is unlikely to represent the true distribution of archaeological remains within the Black Country; instead it represents the distribution of previous archaeological investigation.

Conservation Areas

- 3.2.5 There are 80 conservation areas within the Black Country. Thirty-one of these fall within the administrative area of the City of Wolverhampton, 18 fall within the administrative district of Walsall Council, nine fall within Sandwell MBC and 22 fall within Dudley MBC. Twenty-one conservation areas within the Black Country are Conservation Areas At Risk. Only 32 have conservation area appraisals or conservation management plans available online. Appendix A provides a full list of conservation areas within the Black Country and identifies where further information is available. The existing conservation areas within the Black Country are shown on Figure 3.

Local Lists

- 3.2.6 All four of the Black Country Authorities maintain a list of locally significant heritage assets. In most cases, entries on the local lists refer to built heritage, but in some instances particular landscapes are recorded. Walsall's local list currently contains 280 heritage assets, Sandwell's local list contains 233 heritage assets, Wolverhampton's local list contains 402 heritage assets and Dudley's local list contains 387 heritage assets. The local lists are not a complete dataset and are periodically updated based upon new data. updated based upon new data.
- 3.2.7 The local lists are not the result of a systematic survey of locally important built heritage within the Black Country and accordingly locally listed buildings are most likely to be found in areas that have been the focus of previous study. This is particularly evident within Sandwell MBC, where the draft local list has been

developed from a previous study⁷ focused upon areas within West Bromwich and Smethwick.

- 3.2.8 Built heritage assets from areas that have not traditionally been the focus of previous historic environment investigation, such as the Green Belt and the parts of the Black Country outside of conservation areas, are likely to be less well represented in the local lists.

3.3 Existing Characterisation Work

National Character Areas

- 3.3.1 The landscape of England has been divided into 159 National Character Areas (NCA) by Natural England.⁸ The NCAs follow natural rather than administrative lines in the landscape and identify areas which share similar landscape characteristics, based upon a combination of landscape, biodiversity and economic activity. Each NCA has a profile that describes the natural and cultural heritage, how the landscape has changed over time, the key drivers for ongoing change and a high-level analysis of each area's key characteristics and ecosystem.

- 3.3.2 The BCA area falls within three NCAs (Fig 4):

- **NCA 67: Cannock Chase and Cank Wood**

This NCA contains Walsall Council, the majority of Sandwell MBC and the eastern parts of the City of Wolverhampton and Dudley MBC.

- **NCA 66: Mid Severn Sandstone Plateau**

This NCA contains the western parts of the City of Wolverhampton and Dudley MBCs

- **NCA 97: Arden**

This NCA contains the south-eastern part of Dudley MBC, and a small area of land along the southern boundary of Sandwell MBC.

NCA 67: Cannock Chase and Cank Wood

- 3.3.3 The majority of the BCA area falls within the southern part of *NCA 67: Cannock Chase and Cank Wood*. This area is situated on higher land consisting of sandstone and the South Staffordshire Coalfield. The dominant rounded central plateau is mainly formed of the Coal Measures of the South Staffordshire Coalfield with other prominent hills in the south at Wrens Nest, Castle Hill, Rowley Hills and Barr Beacon. The NCA coincides with the historical hunting forest of Cannock Chase and the landscape ranges from open heathland and plantation in Cannock Chase, through to reclaimed mining sites, new developments and dense urban areas. There are no major rivers within the area, but canals are a significant feature and some major transport routes also cross the NCA. The current landscape is varied, including extensive areas of urban development predominantly in the south of the NCA and extensive conifer plantations and heathlands in the north interspersed with farmland. Away from the unenclosed

⁷ The Historic Urban Characterisation Project which formed part of Sandwell's pathfinder Housing Market Renewal Area

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles#ncas-in-west-midlands>

landscape of Cannock Chase, fields generally have a regular pattern and are frequently enclosed by mature hedgerows with some tree growth. The Forest of Mercia lies at the heart of the NCA. The NCA has some outstanding geodiversity interest, extensive industrial archaeology and a good number of historic parks (Natural England 2012a)

NCA 66: Mid Severn Sandstone Plateau

- 3.3.4 The western part of both Wolverhampton and Dudley Metropolitan Boroughs falls within *NCA 66: Mid Seven Sandstone Plateau*. This area is located on the central catchment of the Severn and the lower Stour rivers and is a national watershed between the north-easterly flowing River Trent and the south-westerly flowing River Severn. This area is predominantly rural with large arable fields in the central and eastern areas⁹ and remnant areas of characteristic lowland heathland and acid grassland. The plateau is drained by fast flowing tributaries of the river Worfe and Stour, which have formed many steep sided and wooded dingles throughout the NCA. During the 18th and 19th century the area around the Severn Valley was recognized as being rich in raw materials including coal, iron ore, limestone sand and clay, which led to the industrial development of the area (Natural England 2013).

NCA 97: Arden

- 3.3.5 The southern parts of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough and Dudley Metropolitan Borough fall within *NCA 97: Arden*. This area is characterised by farmland and former wood pasture lying to the south and east of Birmingham, including parts of the West Midlands conurbation. The NCA has higher ground to the west - the Clent and Lickey Hills - and to the east lies the Nuneaton ridge. The landscape of the lower lying central area is gently rolling with small fragmented semi-natural and ancient woodland. This area has diverse field patterns ranging from well-hedged irregular fields and small woodlands to larger semi-regular fields situated on the former deer park estates. Land use throughout the area is a mix of residential, agricultural and industrial (including coal mining), with numerous transport links running through the area. This NCA is amongst the most geologically diverse in the country and contains nationally important geological assets (Natural England 2012b).

Black Country Historic Landscape Characterisation (Quigley 2009)

- 3.3.6 The Black Country Historic Landscape Characterisation (BCHLC) was carried out by City of Wolverhampton Council in 2009 on behalf of the four Black Country Authorities. The aim of the project was to produce a tool for understanding the current landscape of the Black Country by placing it within the context of its historical development. The BCHLC was produced to inform the Joint Core Strategy of the area in the period up to 2026.
- 3.3.7 The BCHLC covers the whole Black Country at a relatively broad level of detail, identifying a range of locally distinctive character elements. It divided the landscape into 52 Character Areas (10 in Dudley; 16 in Sandwell; 14 in Walsall and 12 in Wolverhampton) (Fig. 5, see also Chapter 4). These areas are considered to capture

⁹ Wolverhampton and Dudley are situated in the eastern part of NCA 66

the distinct feature or features representative of particular landscapes within the Black Country area. The Black Country HLC Character Areas look at the landscape in a finer level of detail than the NCAs and are based primarily upon current features within the landscape, the period of origin of a landscape and its historical development.

- 3.3.8 The Character Areas within Dudley Borough were identified following a review of the Character Areas identified within the earlier Dudley Borough Landscape and Townscape Character Study. Accordingly, the Dudley Character Areas are larger than those identified elsewhere within the Black Country.
- 3.3.9 The current and previous character of the landscape was analysed using a series of mapping and aerial photograph resources detailed in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 Data sources for the BCHLC

Publication Date	Description
1998	Dudley in 1300 by Hemmingway et al.
1775	William Yates' map
1782-1799	Parish maps of Dudley
1812-1832	Parish and other maps
1814-1817	Ordnance Surveyor's Drawings
1839-1852	Tithe maps
1884-1890	1:2500 Ordnance Survey (OS) map: 1st Edition
1902-1903	1:2500 OS map: 2nd Edition
1914-1924	1:2500 OS map: 3rd Edition
1937-1938	1:2500 OS map: 4th Edition
2000	Land-Line electronic map data
1999-2001	Aerial photographs

- 3.3.10 The analysis identifies the historic landscape character of the Black Country at a fixed point in time (2000-2001). Accordingly, the evidence base for the current landscape is now nearly 20 years old and does not reflect more recent development and change within the Black Country.

Dudley Borough-wide Urban Historic Landscape Characterisation (Dudley MBC 2016)

- 3.3.11 The Dudley Borough-wide Urban Historic Landscape Characterisation (DBHLC), was carried out by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council in 2016. The aims of the survey were to bring together the existing historic environment studies within the borough and to review the existing historic environment area designations, recommending new ones based upon a comprehensive understanding of the resource and variations in quality. The DBHLC formed part of the historic environment evidence base for the Local Development Framework and was intended to inform a proactive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment within the borough.
- 3.3.12 The DBHLC utilises data from the Dudley Borough Landscape and Townscape Character Study which divided the borough into eight major Character Areas (Pedmore Common, Illey and Lutley, A491 Corridor, Pensnett Chase, Limestone Ridge, Coseley Corner, Stour Valley, Hill and Cakemore) based upon analysis of the natural and socio-economic landscapes (Fig. 12).

3.3.13 A high level or light touch review of the available Historic Environment information was carried out within these Character Areas to identify further Historic Environment Area Designations. These were divided into four main categories relating to Areas of High Historic Townscape Value (AHHTV), Areas of High Historic Landscape Value (AHLHV), Designed Landscapes of High Historic Value (DLHHV), and Archaeological Priority Areas (APAs). The review identified:

- 70 Areas of High Historic Townscape Value,
- 20 Areas of High Historic Landscape Value,
- 14 Designed Landscapes of High Historic Interest, and
- 128 Archaeological Priority Areas.

3.3.14 The town centres within the borough were identified as areas likely to receive the greatest degree of planned change and redevelopment in the future. Accordingly, Brierley Hill, Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge and the Glass Quarter were all subjected to Intensive Characterisation work, intended to identify locally significant areas of High Historic Landscape and Townscape Value as well as a wide range of previously undocumented heritage assets and Archaeological Priority Areas; and to help provide supporting background evidence for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council's adopted Brierley Hill Strategic Centre, Stourbridge Town Centre and Halesowen Town Centre Area Action Plans (AAPs). A review of designated heritage assets including conservation areas was also carried out as part of this process, with consideration being given to possible boundary revisions and the potential for future new designations.

3.3.15 The regeneration corridors identified within the Joint Core Strategy were also targeted for further characterisation work. As these were much larger than the Town Centre areas discussed above, it was not feasible to resource Intensive Characterisation work. These corridors were subject to a less detailed appraisal (Extensive Characterisation), which identified Archaeological Priority Areas and areas of high historic landscape and townscape value that were likely to be affected by major regeneration. These areas were then targeted for field survey. Notable individual heritage assets were identified as part of the field survey, but a detailed survey of heritage assets within the Regeneration Corridors was not carried out.

Characterisation Study of Wolverhampton Area Action Plan Areas (2009)

3.3.16 A characterisation study of the Wolverhampton Area Action Plan Areas was carried out by CgMs in 2009. The study was carried out to support the delivery of three proposed area action plans within the City of Wolverhampton; Wolverhampton City Centre (CgMs 2009a), Bilston Corridor (CgMs 2009b) and Stafford Road Corridor (CgMs 2009c) (Fig. 11). The study defined the local character and distinctive features of each area action plan area and defined character zones with homogeneous land-use patterns and character.

3.3.17 As part of the study a programme of fieldwork was undertaken to inform analysis of the townscape and architectural character of each character zone, to assess the potential for surviving archaeological remains, the sensitivity of each zone to

development impact, the significance of key heritage assets, and to identify areas where further assessment would be required.

- 3.3.18 The study took place in two parts. An Extensive Area Assessment was undertaken for character zones that were not considered to merit intensive area assessment, while an Intensive Area Assessment was carried out for areas assessed as having significant historic interest and/or particular local distinctiveness and where these were particularly sensitive to change.

Tettenhall Historic Landscape Character Study

- 3.3.19 The Tettenhall Historic Landscape Character Study (Tettenhall and District Community Council 2013) was carried out to support the preparation of the Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan ('made' September 2014) (Fig. 11). The Historic Landscape Character Assessment divides Tettenhall into 13 character areas, which recognise the richness and historic environment of the Tettenhall and District neighbourhood. Each character area is supported by a statement which identifies the location and uses of the character area, its developmental history, its general character and sub areas. The document goes on to identify issues affecting the quality of the historic environment in each character area and sets out development guidelines for the area. Known heritage assets within each character area are also identified.

Heathfield Park Historic Characterisation Study

- 3.3.20 The Heathfield Park Historic Characterisation Study (Quigley 2013) was carried out to support the preparation of the Heathfield Park Neighbourhood Plan ('made' September 2014) (Fig 11). The Historic Characterisation Study divides Heathfield Park into 11 character zones (areas of common land use and/or common period of origin). Each character area is accompanied by a statement which sets out the location and uses of the character area, its historical development, its general character and also describes any sub character regions. The document goes on to identify positive surviving features within each character area. The document identifies key views into and out of the character areas and makes a recommendation for the creation of a new Heath Town Conservation Area.

Draft Walsall Town Centre Characterisation Study (Walsall Council 2016)

- 3.3.21 The Draft Walsall Town Centre Characterisation study was produced to support the policies within the Walsall Area Action Plan (AAP) and help identify site allocations within the Town Centre. The study divided the AAP area into six key character areas - Canal Link, Town End, Civic Centre, Chuckery and Arboretum, Church Hill and Bradford Street. The character areas were divided into 91 sub-character areas based upon the predominant characteristics of the area, e.g. building typology, infrastructure arrangement, use of open space etc. The sub-character areas were then graded between 1 and 5, based upon their sensitivity to change. Those graded 1 were considered to be Very Sensitive, while those graded 5 were considered to be Not Sensitive:

- 26 sub-character areas were considered to be 1: Very Sensitive;
- 13 were considered to be 2: Sensitive;

- 20 were considered to be 3: Neutral;
- 17 were considered to be 4: Not Very Sensitive; and
- 17 were considered to be 5: Not Sensitive.

3.3.22 This assessment of sensitivity was used to identify the positive characteristics of the town, particularly the survival of earlier fabric (particularly from the Georgian and Victorian era) which enables the town's role and function during the industrial revolution to be understood; and the town's adaptation to different forms of transport from horses and cars to canals. The negative characteristics of the town were also identified. These included a number of derelict historic buildings within the town centre, the fragmentation of street form in some areas as a result of new roads, and building schemes which have divorced historic buildings from their original context.

4 THE BLACK COUNTY AUTHORITY AREA

4.1 Description of the areas considered within the study

4.1.1 The BCA Area is split between the Metropolitan Boroughs of Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley and the City of Wolverhampton. The location, topography and geology of the BCA area is discussed by area below.

4.1.2 Relative to its size, the Black Country has the most diverse geology of anywhere in the world (Black Country Geological Society 2019). It is also unique among urban agglomerations in England, being situated on a plateau and on the watershed between the Rivers Severn and Trent (Palliser 1976). The rivers and streams in Walsall, Sandwell and the eastern parts of Dudley and Wolverhampton drain in a north-easterly direction towards the River Trent, whereas the watercourses in the western parts of Dudley and Wolverhampton drain in a south-westerly direction towards the River Severn. The Black Country's watercourses are heavily modified and in some cases culverted or in canalised channels, meaning that they are less prominent features in the modern landscape than they would have been in the past. A good example of this is the Ford Brook, which is culverted and hidden beneath much of Walsall Town Centre, but is still a potential source of flood risk (see Walsall Town Centre AAP Policy AAPINV7: Addressing Potential Site Constraints). Figure 6 shows the bedrock geology of the BCA area, Figure 7 shows superficial geological deposits and Figure 8 shows the primary mineral measures. The topography of the BCA area is shown on Figure 9 and the hydrology is shown on Figure 10.

Walsall

4.1.3 The Metropolitan Borough of Walsall is situated in the north-east of the BCA area and falls within the West Midlands. The borough incorporates the settlements of Walsall, Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall. It is bounded to the west by the City of Wolverhampton, to the south by Sandwell Borough, to the south-east by the City of Birmingham, to the north-east by Lichfield, to the north by Cannock Chase District and to the north-west by South Staffordshire District. Walsall has the largest area of Green Belt of all the BCA areas (3935 hectares, representing 38% of the total area of the borough). This is concentrated mainly in the northern and eastern parts of

the borough around the settlements of Brownhills and Aldridge, and the open character of the land is an important feature of the landscape around these settlements.

- 4.1.4 The western half of the borough is relatively flat, rising gently towards the north, with slight but noticeable summits at Darlaston and Bentley. Walsall Town Centre is marked by a steep limestone ridge running in from the south. St. Matthew's Church (formerly All Saints') sits on top of a very steep escarpment overlooking the Town Centre in the valley of the Ford Brook (formerly the Walsall Brook or Walsall Water) below. To the north the land rises to a ridge at Birchills and then more gently up to another mini-summit at Bloxwich. To the south-east, Barr Beacon (227m AOD) is one of the highest summits in the West Midlands Metropolitan Area and continues north as a lower ridge to Aldridge. This means that Pheasey and Streetly, to the south and east of Barr Beacon, are physically separated by high ground from the rest of the borough. Shire Oak, south-east of Brownhills, is on top of another distinct ridge (177m AOD) which gives long views to the north-east over Lichfield. Another nearby summit is capped by an Iron Age hillfort (Castlefort) (Arnold, P, 2003). There are a number of streams running through the borough, which are tributaries of the River Tame and its tributary the Ford Brook. The confluence of the Willenhall or Wolverhampton and Oldbury Arms of the River Tame is at Bescot on boundary between Walsall and Sandwell. Two other tributaries, the Ford Brook (Walsall Wood, Walsall Town Centre) and Full Brook (south-east of Walsall Town Centre), also join the River Tame near its confluence. The other main tributaries of the River Tame are the Darlaston Brook, Sneyd Brook (Bloxwich), Waddens Brook (Willenhall) and Bourne Brook (Aldridge). The Ford Brook also has its own tributaries, such as the Holbrook which joins it just north of Walsall Town Centre, the Clockmill Brook running through Goscote Valley and the Anchor Brook and Vigo Brook running through Aldridge and Shelfield.
- 4.1.5 The borough is situated on the South Staffordshire Plateau on gently undulating ground that drops to 113m in the south-west of the borough near Broadway West and rises to 164m to the north at Bloxwich. Several small watercourses flow through the borough including the Sneyd Brook which forms the north-western boundary of the borough. The United Stream, known as Bescot Brook in the 18th century, forms the south-western boundary down to its confluence with the Tame near Bescot, and the Tame and its tributary Full Brook form the southern boundary of the borough. Other water courses within the borough include the Holbrook (passing through the Arboretum), Clock Mill Brook, Essington Wood Brook and the Walsall Brook (VCH 1976).
- 4.1.6 Walsall's geology has had a significant influence on the landscape and on its history and development. Geologically, the eastern two thirds of the borough (including Darlaston, Willenhall, Walsall Town Centre, Rushall, Bloxwich, Pelsall and Brownhills) is separated from the western part (including Streetly, Bourne Vale and Aldridge) by an ancient great fracture known as the Eastern Boundary Fault, which displaced the rocks either side of it by hundreds of metres. Cuckoo's Nook and The Dingle Local Nature Reserve is on the fault line, and is the best place to observe the abrupt change in geology and its effects on the present day natural environment. To the west of the fault lies the Black Country coalfield comprising Pennine Lower Coal Measures

Formation and South Wales Lower Coal Measure Formation, and Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation and South Wales Middle Coal Measure Formation (BGS online), with an inlier of Silurian Limestone and Permian Sandstone running south and east from Walsall town centre, which was extensively quarried from the late medieval period through to the 19th century. In Shelfield and the western parts of Aldridge the Coal Measures are overlain by Eturia Formation clays and shales formed by river channels cutting through them. These clays are important for brick manufacture and are still being worked today at Stubbers Green. The eastern part of the borough is underlain by much younger Triassic sandstone and conglomerate deposits of the Sherwood Formation, comprising a basal unit of Sandstone known as the Hopwas Breccia, which can be seen at Barr Beacon, and the second unit known as the Kidderminster Conglomerate which underlies much of Aldridge and has been quarried for sand and gravel in recent times. There is also a basaltic intrusion at Pouk Hill, Bentley (similar to those at Rowley Regis and Barrow Hill, Dudley), which was almost completely quarried away in the 19th century (RPS 2008, Black Country Geological Society 2009a, 2009b and 2015). The bedrock deposits are overlain in areas by superficial till and alluvium, and a small area of river terrace gravels are recorded in the eastern boundary of the borough.

Sandwell

- 4.1.7 The Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell is situated in the south-east of the BCA area and falls within the West Midlands. The borough incorporates the settlements of Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Smethwick, Tipton, Wednesbury and West Bromwich. The borough is bounded by the City of Birmingham to the east, the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley to the south and west, the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to the north and the City of Wolverhampton to the north-west. The borough contains 823ha of Green Belt (approximately 9.61% of the borough).
- 4.1.8 The borough is situated on gently undulating hills which rise to 217m OD near Rowley Regis, 156m OD near Wednesbury and 154m OD near Smethwick. The River Tame (Oldbury Arm) and its tributaries the Hockley Brook and Tipton Brook run through the borough.
- 4.1.9 The bedrock geology of the borough is predominantly Warwickshire Group Siltstone and Sandstone. In the north of the borough there is a band of Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation and South Wales Lower Coal Measure Formation, and Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation and South Wales Middle Coal Measure Formation and a small area of Permian Sandstone running south from Walsall. The south-western corner of the borough is underlain by Triassic Sandstone and conglomerate and there is a small patch of unnamed igneous intrusion along the western border of the borough (BGS online). These bedrock geologies are overlain in places by superficial Till and Alluvial deposits which follow the course of the Tame.

Dudley

- 4.1.10 The Metropolitan Borough of Dudley is situated in the south-west of the BCA area and falls within the West Midlands. The main settlements in the borough are Brierley Hill, Dudley, Halesowen, Stourbridge, Kingswinford, Lye and Sedgley plus the 15 local centres. The borough is bounded to the east by the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell,

to the south-east by the City of Birmingham, to the south by Bromsgrove, to the north by the City of Wolverhampton and to the west by South Staffordshire District.

- 4.1.11 The eastern part of the borough is situated on a high ridge which includes a north-south aligned limestone outcrop which is situated at approximately 175m OD. The landscape slopes steeply down from the ridge east to Coseley and west to the Pensnett Plateau. The plateau subsequently descends to the low-lying sandstone geology in the west and also to the Stour Valley itself, which is situated largely below 125m OD (DMBC 2016).
- 4.1.12 Tributaries of the River Stour flow south and west through the borough to join the River Severn. Key watercourses within the borough include Black Brook, Lutley Gutter, Illey Brook, in the south and Mousesweet Brook in the east. Dawley and Hobeache Brook flow into the Smestow Brook outside of the borough and to the north and east tributaries of the River Tame flow towards the River Trent (DMBC 2016).
- 4.1.13 The bedrock geology is divided into three areas. To the north and east of the borough the underlying geology is dominated by the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation and South Wales Lower Coal Measure Formation, and Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation and South Wales Middle Coal Measure Formation and Silurian Limestone outcrops. The south and east of the borough is dominated by Warwickshire Group Mudstone. The western edge of the borough is dominated by Triassic Sandstone (DMBC 2016; BGS online). Small patches of superficial alluvium and River Terrace Gravels are recorded along the western border of the Borough, and a small area of Glacial Sand and Gravel is recorded in the south-west (BGS online).

Wolverhampton

- 4.1.14 Wolverhampton is both a city located within the north-western part of the BCA area in the West Midlands. The city is bounded to the east by the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall, to the south by Metropolitan Boroughs of Sandwell and Dudley and north and west by South Staffordshire District.
- 4.1.15 The city itself is situated on a hill within the Midlands Plateau at an approximate height of 163m OD. The land descends in all directions from the city with an approximate height of 135m OD at Wednesfield to the east, 133m OD at Tettenhall Wood to the west, 143m OD at Penn to the south and 115m OD at Moseley Green to the north.¹⁰ The land rises to 179m OD in the south following the limestone hill of the Sedgley Beacon. There are no major rivers passing through the city, although several tributaries of the River Penk and the River Tame rise in this area, as does the Smestow Brook, which is a tributary of the River Stour (The West Midland Group 1948).
- 4.1.16 The bedrock geology of the city is split into three areas, the south-eastern and eastern part of the city are situated on bedrock deposits of Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation and South Wales Lower Coal Measure Formation, and Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation and South Wales Middle Coal Measure Formation. There are also small areas of Unnamed Igneous Intrusion in the north-east, and Ludlow Rocks (mudstone, siltstone and sandstone) in the south. A band of Warwickshire Group

¹⁰ Elevations retrieved from <https://www.freemaptools.com/elevation-finder.htm>

Siltstone and Sandstone runs north-east to south-west through the centre of the city and the west and north-west of the city is underlain by Triassic Sandstone. These bedrocks are overlain in places by superficial Till and Glacial sand and Gravel, with Alluvium following the course of the Smestow Brook (BGS online).

4.2 Black Country HLC Character Areas

4.2.1 The Black Country Historic Landscape Character Assessment has divided the BCA area into Historic Landscape Character Areas, based upon similar modern land uses, the period of origin for the landscape¹¹ and the modern administrative boundaries within the area.¹² Within the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley, the BCHLC Character Areas were also designed to broadly incorporate the eight Character Areas defined in the Dudley Borough Landscape and Townscape Character Study.

4.2.2 The Black Country Character Areas are described below and shown on Figure 5. Full character area descriptions are available in *The Black Country: A Historic Landscape Characterisation* (Quigley 2009).¹³

Walsall

WL01: Bloxwich & Blakenhall Heath

4.2.3 This Character Area lies in the north-west of the borough and lies over the coal measures. The area is dominated by housing from the period before 1930, which covers over 73% of the area. The oldest part of the area is Bloxwich, the area's largest historic settlement. The area also contains the commercial core of Bloxwich which has been in use since at least the 19th century with some buildings surviving from this period. The centre of Bloxwich is surrounded by medium-sized 19th-century terraces, interspersed with 20th-century housing to the east, surrounding a modern industrial estate. To the west of the High Street to the west of the High Street, beyond the late 20th-century flats, are further small 19th-century terraces. To the north of the settlement is Bloxwich Park. The remaining 19th- and early 20th-century terraces lie to the south of Bloxwich. The Character Area contains the hamlets of Leamore and Wallington Heath which were subsumed within interwar period housing. To the north of Bloxwich is a concentration of late 20th-century housing estates which have been developed right up to the Staffordshire border.

4.2.4 The Character Area was described in the Domesday Book as woodland within Wednesbury manor, but it may have originally be dispersed and based around a series of greens. The green survives to the north of the town centre and was landscaped as a public park in 1890. The settlement of Little Bloxwich, and Blakenhall Heath first appeared within the Character Area during the 14th century and by the 18th century Blakenhall Heath had attracted a squatter settlement. Settlement existed at Wallington Heath by the second half of the 18th century. Small collieries existed inside the Character Area and immediately to the east, and the presence of coal shows in

¹¹ e.g. was it formed prior to 1880, during the late 19th century, early 20th century etc.

¹² Character Areas were artificially limited to the boundaries of the municipal boroughs.

¹³ Available at: http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/blackcountry_hlc_2009/

WL11: South East Walsall

- 4.2.28 This Character Area is located in the south of the borough, situated on the coal measures at its western edge and on mudstone and siltstone. The modern character of the area is dominated by settlement activity of mid- to late 20th-century origin and the area includes the residential part of central Walsall and its southern, eastern and northern suburbs. Houses built during the inter-war periods are located close to Walsall town centre with two large estates of 1960s/70s houses located further out. Late 20th century houses have also been built on small dispersed plots amongst other older houses. The area also includes associated services such as schools and a University campus.
- 4.2.29 The eastern half of the Character Area includes several large inter-war and post-war period housing estates. The oldest surviving properties are located on or near the Birmingham Road. However, 1950s' expansion has left these houses as islands of early 20th-century character. The south-east of the Character Area contains substantial open recreational land laid out in the 20th century.
- 4.2.30 During the medieval period this area was dominated by open fields with a small manor house or settlement at The Delves. There was also a large deer park to the west of Great Barr, although its extent is unknown. By the mid-18th century a mill had been established at New Mills in the south-west of the area and a country house has been constructed by the Delves. At this time the landscape was still largely agricultural and by the late 18th century- early 19th century woodland had been established in the south-east of the area near Great Barr and two further country houses had been built.
- 4.2.31 The Character Area became increasingly settled and by the late 19th century there were seven small farms and three country parks with small landscape parks. A large sewage farm was established in the south and survived into the mid-20th century. Small areas of large semi-detached and detached housing appeared in the late 19th century and this area expanded in the early 20th century. By the early 20th century two areas of allotments, near Cricket Close and to the rear of Lord Street, had been established. Gorway Road cricket ground also dates to the early 20th century, although the original pavilion has not survived.

WL12: Darlaston

- 4.2.32 This Character Area is situated in the south-west of the borough on a coal bedrock geology with superficial deposits of sandy till and gravel. The modern character of the area is dominated by the historic industrial town of Darlaston which has medieval origins. Although most of the townscape originates after the 1930s there are several older districts, including the town centre which contains 19th century buildings. The town developed in three phases, the central area has medieval origins while Catharine Cross to the west and Darlaston Green to the north were both in existence by 1750. The town is surrounded by industry and housing. To the west near Catherines Cross in as an area of early 20th century housing while to the east is an area of late 19th century terraces and detached houses. To the north around Darlaston Green is an area of late 19th century terraces within more recent housing. The later suburbs developed in the mid-20th century.

investment in the canals, and went on to influence the area's transformation from rural to predominantly industrial.

- 4.2.46 The railways arrived in the middle of the 19th century, with stations at Dudley Port and Oldbury (the station is now known as Sandwell & Dudley). They also brought manufacturing: one of the largest employers in the area at the time was the Oldbury Railway Carriage and Wagon Works, established in 1854 in the east of the area.
- 4.2.47 At this time the landscape of the Character Area was dominated by collieries, brickworks and clay pits, which occupied the swathes of land in between the canals and settlements. The chemical industry was another important industry in the area in this period.
- 4.2.48 During the 20th century the area was subject to significant transformation. Oldbury in particular saw the terraced streets at its centre replaced with local government buildings and a large hyper market. Meanwhile, many of the larger industrial and extractive sites were replaced by smaller industrial units on several industrial estates.

SDO2: Newton, Hamstead and Great Barr

- 4.2.49 This Character Area is situated in the north-east of the Borough and is situated on sandstone, mudstone and conglomerate, with coal measure only accessible at some depth. The modern character of the area is dominated by 20th century residential housing, with areas of surviving fields in the north-west of the character area that continue beyond the Borough boundary into Walsall (WL09).
- 4.2.50 Until the 20th century this area was largely agricultural, crossed by the Tame Valley Canal which opened in 1844. The only colliery in the Character Area was at Hamstead and the discovery of coal in this area prompted the expansion of the settlement of Hamstead in the 1880s. The eastern part of the Character Area was originally part of the Great Barr estate, and was taken over by the Walsall and West Bromwich Guardians in the 20th century. Some of this area has been developed for housing and the rest is now part of Walsall. The Red House Park is a public park in the centre of the Character Area.

SDO3: West Bromwich

- 4.2.51 This Character Area lies in the centre of the Borough situated on sandstone, mudstone and conglomerate geologies, with coal accessible in the north-west. The modern character of the area is defined by West Bromwich Town centre surrounded by large residential areas. It also includes some industrial sites to the south.
- 4.2.52 Rapid expansion in the 19th century (see over) is reflected in the surviving areas of Victorian terraces to the west of the centre, between Dartmouth Street /Lodge Road, and in its east, between the town centre and the M5 motorway. Added to these, two large areas of later, inter-war housing comprise small semi-detached houses or short terraces: the 'Hamblett's estate' in the west of the area, which was built on former colliery land, and the housing built on fields in the north of the area at Lyndon.
- 4.2.53 West Bromwich developed as a settlement in the 19th century on an area of heathland crossed by the Birmingham to Wolverhampton turnpike road. Prior to the 19th century the village of West Bromwich was located some distance to the north. The

area was at the heart of the industrial revolution. The geosites include geological exposures, historic buildings, and cultural monuments relating to this internationally important period. The locations of the Black Country Geosites are shown on Figure 13 and further details about each of the geosites can be found on the following website: <https://blackcountrygeopark.dudley.gov.uk/bcg/>. This information has been taken into consideration in the preparation of this study.

5 RECOMMENDED HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AREA DESIGNATIONS

5.1.1 A review of the existing historic environment evidence base (as discussed in Section 3.3), historic and modern Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping, and Black Country characterisation work (as discussed in Section 3.4) has been carried out in order to identify Historic Environment Area Designations within the BCA area. Historic Environment Area Designations demarcate areas containing heritage assets¹⁴, which have a particular historic environment significance¹⁵ and/or make significant contribution to the local character and distinctiveness of an area. In line with the NPPF (Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government 2019) the significance of a proposed Historic Environment Area Designation has been identified by considering the archaeological¹⁶, architectural¹⁷, artistic¹⁸ and historic interests¹⁹ of the area.

5.1.2 Within this study Historic Environment Area Designations have been divided into 4 categories:

- **Archaeological Priority Areas (APA):** Sites with a high potential for archaeological remains of regional or national significance that have not been considered for designation as scheduled monuments, or where there is insufficient data available about the state or preservation of any remains to justify a designation. APAs are likely to have high archaeological and historic interest.
- **Areas of High Historic Townscape Value (AHHTV):** areas where built heritage makes a significant contribution to local character and distinctiveness. The significance of AHHTVs is likely to be derived primarily from their architectural and historic interests. However, these areas may also have artistic and archaeological interests. Areas of High Historic Townscape Value are not limited

¹⁴ Heritage Assets are defined in NPPF (Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government 2019) as ‘a building, monument, site, place or area of landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).’

¹⁵ Significance is defined in NPPF (Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government 2019) as ‘The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest.’

¹⁶ ‘There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point’ (Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government 2019, 65).

¹⁷ ‘To be of special architectural interest a building must be of importance in its design, decoration or craftsmanship. Special interest may also apply to nationally important examples of particular building types and techniques (e.g. buildings displaying technological innovation or virtuosity) and significant plan forms’ (DCMS 2018 Principles of Selection for Listed Buildings (DCMS 2018, 5)).

¹⁸ ‘Artistic interest is derived from the use of human imagination and skill to convey meaning through all forms of creative expression. This might include the use, representation, or influence of historic places or buildings in art works, as well as the meaning, skill and emotional impact of works of art within our environment that are either part of heritage assets or assets in their own right. There is often an overlap between architectural and artistic interests’ (Historic England 2017, Conservation Principles, Consultation Draft 10th November 2017 (Historic England 2017, 10)).

¹⁹ ‘To be of special historic interest a building must illustrate important aspects of the nation’s social, economic, cultural, or military history and/or have closely substantiated historical associations with nationally important individual’s groups or events’ (DCMS 2018, 5)

to towns or cities, they also include villages, hamlets and areas of industry where the built heritage is considered to make a positive contribution to the historic environment of an area.

- **Designed Landscapes of High Historic Value (DLHHV):** landscape areas that make an important contribution to local historic character but do not meet the criteria for inclusion on the national Register for Parks and Gardens. The significance of these areas is likely to arise from their historic, artistic and architectural interests, although such areas may also contain remains of archaeological interest.
- **Areas of High Historic Landscape Value (AHHLV):** these recognise the quality of the wider landscape and their relative values. The significance of these areas arises from the natural and historic features contained within them (e.g. woodland, watercourses, hedgerows, and archaeological features). The significance of these areas is likely to be derived from their archaeological and historic interests.

5.1.3 The methodology for identifying Historic Environment Area designations has been adapted from the Dudley Borough-wide HLC (DMB 2016), and follows the procedure for a Level 1 (outline) assessment, as detailed in Historic England's guidance document *Understanding Place: Historic Area Assessment* (Historic England 2017).

5.2 Areas of High Historic Landscape Value

5.2.1 AHHLV are areas that contains landscape features (both historic and natural) which are considered to make a significant contribution to the historic landscape character of the Black Country. These designations are likely to reside in areas of open space and their significance arises from the features (e.g. woodland, watercourses, hedgerows, and archaeological features) contained within them and the relationship of these features with past land use and activities. The value of these areas is thus primarily derived from their archaeological and historic interests. Such areas may form part of the setting of other heritage assets and thus may also have an artistic value.

5.2.2 The areas selected for this designation are considered to be of particular value or rarity within the Black Country. It should however, be noted that the selection of AHHLV does not imply that other open areas do not have any historic landscape value, or would not benefit from landscape enhancement.

5.2.3 The following criteria have been used to identify AHHLV:

5.2.4 Archaeological Interest: Representation of Cultural and Natural Heritage

1. Does the landscape of the area include a concentration of well-preserved features that reflect the early development of the area including patterns of settlement and land use?
2. Does the area contain a concentration of well-preserved features resulting from industries that have been influential in the development of the area?
3. Does the area contain significant geological heritage including deposits, outcrops or strata that are of regional or national importance as a representation of the geological development of the country?

4. Are the features that contribute to the distinctiveness of the landscape well preserved, such that their original function and interrelationship is readily understandable?

5.2.5 Archaeological Interests: Rarity

5. Are the features of the historic landscape considered to be rare or unusual survivals of their type and/or is their preservation threatened?

5.2.6 Historic Interest: Association with human activity and past events

6. Does the area contain features that demonstrate the relationship between past human activity and the features of the natural environment including geological resources, watercourses and ecological resources?
7. Does the area retain a range of features that relate to the same or similar industries, including features that illustrate the development of technology and the use of the landscape over time?

5.2.7 Other considerations: Amenity

8. Do features of the historic landscape contribute to the visual amenity of the environment or its use as public open space?

5.3 Archaeological Priority Areas

5.3.1 Archaeological Priority Areas are sites with a high potential for archaeological remains of regional or national significance that have not been considered for designation as scheduled monuments, or where there is insufficient data available about the state or preservation of any remains to justify a designation.

5.3.2 The areas selected for this designation are considered to contain particularly rare or well preserved examples of archaeological remains within the Black Country, or monument types that are particularly at risk locally. Their significance is likely to be derived from their high archaeological and historic interest. It should be noted that the selection of APAs does not imply that other areas do not have archaeological or historic value.

5.3.3 Scheduled monuments already receive protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, accordingly these monuments have only been included within an APA when they fall within a wider area of archaeological interest. Where APAs surround scheduled monuments they have been used to identify a buffer area which has a high potential to contain archaeological remains associated with the scheduled monument.

5.3.4 The following criteria, informed by the DCMS guidance *Scheduled Monuments & nationally important but non-scheduled monuments* (DCMS 2013) has been used to identify APAs:

5.3.5 Archaeological Interest: Survival

1. Do physical remains survive, or is there evidence that they are likely to remain, whether as buildings, earthworks or sub-surface deposits (cropmarks)?
2. Is there evidence of significant concentrations of objects of archaeological interest, e.g. dumps of manufacturing rejects?

5.3.6 Archaeological Interest: Rarity

3. Is the site a rare surviving example in the area of a particular class of monument?
4. Is the site the only, or one of very few, visible remains in a locality?

5.3.7 Historic Interest: Representation

5. Does the site represent a significant period in the area's history or have the potential to inform understanding of its development?
6. Does the site represent an important stage in the development of a nationally, regionally or locally important industry or other activity?
7. Do the material remains have a definite connection with a significant local character or group of people or an event affecting the local people?

5.3.8 Other considerations: Vulnerability

8. Is the site a locally distinctive form or a typical, but well preserved, example of a class of monument which is at risk or potentially at risk in the locality?
9. Is the site a particularly fragile example of a monument which could easily be destroyed or seriously damaged by unsympathetic treatment?

5.3.9 Other considerations: Amenity

10. Is the site publicly visible and accessible having important amenity value to the local community?

5.4 Areas of High Historic Townscape Value

5.4.1 AHHTV are areas where built heritage makes a significant contribution to local character and distinctiveness. The significance of AHHTVs is derived primarily from their architectural and historic interests. However, these areas may also have artistic and archaeological interests.

5.4.2 It should be noted that the selection of AHHTV does not imply that other areas are absent of historic townscape value, just that they are not considered to meet the criteria for an AHHTV.

5.4.3 The following criteria have been used to identify AHHTV:

5.4.4 Architectural and Historic Interest: Contribution of Historic Buildings to a 'sense of place'

1. Does the area contain a concentration of buildings judged to make a positive contribution to the quality of the historic environment?
2. Do historic buildings make an important contribution to the area's character?
3. Do the buildings within the area share features of architecture, materials and detailing that makes an important contribution to its character and distinctiveness?

5.4.5 Architectural, Historic Interest and Artistic Interests: Street plan and form

4. Does the area retain a street plan that represents a stage of formal planning at an important point in the development of the area?

5. Does the area retain a street plan that represents informal or opportunistic development that represents an early or otherwise important point in the development of the area?
6. Does the location, spacing and positioning of the buildings and associated property have an important relationship with the development of the street plan such that it contributes to the historic, artistic value of the area?

5.4.6 Architectural, Historic Interest and Artistic Interests: Streetscape

7. Does the area retain elements of streetscape such as street furniture, boundary features, tree planting or paving materials make an important contribution to the historic character of the area, for example as elements of a formally planned development also represented in the surrounding buildings and street plan?
8. Does the area contain elements of streetscape that illustrate earlier periods of development which have been disguised by later activity?
9. Does the area contain elements of streetscape that have been added over time, and have associations with prominent individuals, events or activities of importance to the local area?

5.4.7 Historic/ Artistic Interest: Views and setting

10. Do views through, into or out of the area make an important contribution to the quality of the historic environment?
11. Does the area have associations with significant features or areas of acknowledged value (i.e. listed buildings, conservation areas, locally listed buildings) in its immediate setting?

5.4.8 Historic Interest: Representation

12. Is the area a rare or particularly well preserved example of its type in the borough, region or country?
13. Does the area contain a form of townscape that is considered to be distinctive of the borough or region?
14. Does the area's townscape provide evidence of one or more important aspect of the area's social, economic, religious political or cultural history, such as associations with particular individuals, groups or industries?

5.4.9 In many cases conservation areas demark AHHTV. Where a conservation area is considered to fully define a AHHTV it has not been included as an AHHTV as the area already receives protection under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

5.4.10 Conservation areas such as Great Barr, which cover a whole landscape and which do not currently have a conservation area appraisal or management plan, have been considered in more detail in order to identify discrete areas of townscape, landscape or archaeological value (Historic Environment Area Designations) within the conservation area.

5.4.11 Where AHHTVs lie adjacent to a conservation area they could be used to identify possible extensions to the current conservation area extent. Section 7 of this report makes recommendations for further historic environment assessment and identifies conservation areas which may warrant a boundary review or further assessment.

5.5 Designed Landscapes of High Historic Value

- 5.5.1 DLHHV are designed landscapes that make an important contribution to local historic character but do not meet the criteria for inclusion on the national Register of Parks and Gardens. The significance of these areas is likely to arise from their historic and artistic and architectural interests, although such areas may also contain remains of archaeological interest.
- 5.5.2 The following criteria have been used to identify DLHHV
- 5.5.3 Historic interest: Date
1. Was the landscape designed and laid out at a remote time or is it an early example of its type?
 2. Does it have qualities in terms of layout, planting, furniture and other features that reflect its date of creation?
- 5.5.4 Historic/Architectural interest: Preservation
3. Is the landscape well preserved in terms of the layout, furniture structures and planting that are recorded at the time of its setting out or at other significant stages in its development?
- 5.5.5 Artistic/Architectural interest: aesthetics
4. Is the landscaped successful in creating an attractive area for recreation or commemoration as a result of its formal design or through fortuitous elements such as the 'patina of age' or through dramatic juxtapositions of vernacular or industrial buildings with designed landscapes?
- 5.5.6 Historical Interest: associations with people and past events
5. Was the landscape set out at a particularly significant point in the development of the wider area, such as the creation of a new civic or administrative body or by or for a locally notable group or individual?
 6. Does the landscape represent a particularly interesting example of the horticultural or artistic development of its type? Does the design of the landscape have associations with the formation of religious communities and beliefs in the area?
- 5.5.7 Registered parks and gardens already have a historic environment landscape designation and accordingly are excluded from this category.

6 PROPOSED HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESIGNATIONS WITHIN THE GREEN BELT

- 6.1.1 The current Green Belt covers approximately 21% of the BCA Area with the majority of the Green Belt land falling within Walsall and Dudley.
- 6.1.2 A total of 40 proposed AHHLVs, 50 APAs, 10 AHHTVs and three DLHHV have been identified within or partially within the Green Belt area. Table 6.1 shows the number of each of these designations within the Green Belt of each Black Country Authority

Area. Detailed mapping for each Historic Environment Area Designation is given on Figures 14 - 116. Historic Environment Area descriptions are provided in Appendix B.

Table 6.1: Green Belt Proposed Historic Environment Area Designations

Type	Walsall	Sandwell	Wolverhampton	Dudley
AHHLV	19	2	5	14
APA	23	4	5	18
AHHTV	4	1	1	4
DLHHV	0	2	1	0

7 PROPOSED HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESIGNATIONS WITHIN THE URBAN AREA

7.1.1 The urban area covers 79% of the BCA area and includes all of the major cities and towns within the Black Country. A total of 354 proposed Historic Environment Area Designations have been identified within this area. These include 32 AHHLVs, 132 AHHTVs, 150 APAs and 40 DLHHV. Table 7.1 shows the number of each designation within the urban area of each Black Country Authority Area. Detailed mapping for each Historic Environment Area Designation is given on Figures 117-469. The Historic Environment Area descriptions are provided in Appendix C.

Table 7.1: Urban Area Proposed Historic Environment Area Designations

Type	Walsall	Sandwell	Wolverhampton	Dudley
AHHLV	5	14	5	8
APA	20	27	18	85
AHHTV	23	20	22	67
DLHHV	7	10	9	14

8 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

8.1.1 As part of this study a high level review of the Black Country historic environment evidence base was carried out. This review considered the information held by the Dudley, Sandwell, and Wolverhampton and Walsall HERs as well as existing characterisation studies and the information held by Historic England in the National Heritage List for England. This review has been used to highlight the differences in the evidence base across the four BCA authorities and also to identify priorities for future work and further research.

8.1.2 An interim version of this report was submitted to the BCA authorities in March 2019 (OA 2019). This report included a draft version of the Green Belt Historic Environment Area Designations and made recommendations for further work to improve the evidence base within the Green Belt. These recommendations have been reproduced in Section 8.2 below. It is understood that since the submission of the Interim Report a review/ re-appraisal of a number of conservation areas within the Green Belt has begun.

8.1.3 Section 8.3 sets out a series of recommendations for consolidating the evidence base within the Urban Area.

8.2 Green Belt

8.2.1 A high level review of the existing historic environment evidence base within the Green Belt Areas has been carried out to identify priorities for future historic environment assessment and work.

Conservation Area Reappraisals

8.2.2 Fifteen conservation areas are located within or intersect with the BCA Green Belt:

- Aldridge, Walsall;
- Old Rushall, Walsall;
- Great Barr Walsall;
- Arboretum, Walsall
- Pelsall Common; Walsall
- Bushbury Hill, Wolverhampton;
- Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire Union Canal;
- Tettenhall Green, Wolverhampton;
- Vicarage Road (Penn), Wolverhampton;
- Wightwick Bank, Wolverhampton
- Wordsley Church, Dudley;
- Stourbridge Sixteen Locks, Wordsley
- The Leasowes, Dudley;
- Lutley Mill, Dudley;
- The Coppice, Dudley.

8.2.3 Conservation Areas are defined in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as ‘areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance’. Of these 15 conservation areas only Aldridge, Pelsall Common, Tettenhall Green, Wordsley Church, and Stourbridge Sixteen Locks conservation areas have conservation area appraisals.

8.2.4 Conservation area appraisals are used to define the special interest of the conservation area that merit its designation, as well as describing and evaluating the contribution that different features make to its character and appearance. Conservation area appraisals can be used to demonstrate the special interest of a conservation area and aid in a greater understanding and articulation of the character of the area in order to develop a robust policy framework for planning decisions. Conservation area appraisals can also be used to guide the scale, form and content of new development (Historic England 2016).

8.2.5 In order to preserve and enhance the architectural and historic interest and the character and appearance of those conservation areas without conservation area appraisals, a programme of boundary review and conservation area appraisal is recommended. Key priorities for this assessment would be Old Rushall, Great Barr, The Coppice, Lutley Mill, Bushbury Hill, Wightwick Bank, and Vicarage Road (Penn).

- 8.2.6 The Leasowes, Arboretum and Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire Union Canal conservation areas are considered lesser priorities as the former two conservation areas receive protection as Registered Parks and Gardens, and the latter is considered to be less likely to be directly affected by housing development.
- 8.2.7 The Moseley Historic Rural Settlement AHHTV (AHHTV 2) falls outside of an existing conservation area. This area is considered to have architectural and historic interest and may warrant designation either as an extension of the Bushbury Hill Conservation Area or as an independent conservation area.

HER Enhancement in the Green Belt area

- 8.2.8 In addition to further area based assessment being undertaken, it is also strongly advised that the Historic Environment Records for the four Black Country Authorities undergo review and enhancement within the Green Belt areas. The Green Belt of the Black Country has not received the same level of HER enhancement as the Urban Areas and as a result there is potentially a number of non-designated heritage assets that have not been identified and recorded on the HER and buildings/structures worthy of local listing status.

8.3 Urban Area

- 8.3.1 A high level review of the historic environment evidence base within the urban area has also been carried out to identify priority for future historic environment work within the BCA area.

Conservation Area Reappraisal

- 8.3.2 There are 64 conservation areas within the Urban Area. At the time of this assessment 28 of these conservation areas did not have conservation areas appraisals (see Appendix A). In order to preserve and enhance the architectural and historic interest and the character and appearance of these conservation areas a programme of boundary review and conservation area appraisal is recommended.

Review of Local Lists

- 8.3.3 The local lists within all four BCA areas have been created in an organic fashion and are not the result of a systematic review of historic buildings across the whole area. In Sandwell locally listed buildings are restricted to the West Bromwich and Smethwick areas and outside of these areas no locally listed buildings are recorded. Elsewhere within the Black Country the local lists have been added to on an ad-hoc basis and appear to have predominantly been focused on town centres. A systematic review of built heritage within the BCA area is recommended to identify and document historic buildings which may warrant inclusion on the local list. A review of buildings in the Green Belt area would also be beneficial as there is potential for post-medieval agricultural structures and farmsteads to survive in these areas.

HER Enhancement in the Urban Area

- 8.3.4 The four BCA authorities maintain separate HERs as a result of differing resourcing and priorities and as a consequence the information contained within the HERs varies considerably. Dudley Metropolitan Borough is the only one of the BCA areas to have

been subject to a Borough Wide detailed characterisation study. The Dudley Borough-wide Urban HLC identified Historic Environment Area Designations across the borough and provided the methodology for this assessment. Elsewhere within the BCA area, targeted characterisation assessments have been carried out. These assessments have been focused upon specific urban centres. In Wolverhampton these include Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, Heathfield Park, and Stafford Road and in Walsall they include Walsall Town and in Dudley these include Dudley Town, Halesowen, Stourbridge and Brierley Hill. No detailed characterisation assessments have been carried out in Sandwell and outside of the urban centres noted above no detailed characterisation has been carried out in Wolverhampton or Walsall.

- 8.3.5 This varied approach to characterisation within the urban area has resulted in an uneven understanding of the historic environment resource in the BCA Areas. The historic environment within the urban area of Dudley MBC is well understood and the HER includes detailed information about the historic development of not only the historic settlement centres but also the 18th, 20th and 20th century industrial and residential landscapes which surround them. Elsewhere within the Black Country less is known about the history, development and significance of these landscapes.
- 8.3.6 The vast industrial landscapes which characterised Black Country in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries are a disappearing resource within the BCA area and on a national scale these landscapes are also under threat. Changes in industry and manufacturing in the later part of the 20th century has had a significant impact upon the survival of industrial heritage and traditional industries based on mineral and coal extraction and iron working etc. have been lost. The landscapes associated with these former industries are, as a result gradually being lost to clearance, decontamination and reclamation with little regard for their heritage value (Historic England 2018). In the Black Country this process is evidenced by the clearance of industrial land and its subsequent redevelopment for housing. This process has resulted in the loss of many industrial heritage assets. For instance, the colliery buildings identified at Newhawn Colliery (APA 200) are thought to be the only surviving colliery buildings within the Black Country. Further work is recommended to record the condition and survival of industrial landscapes within the BCA area.
- 8.3.7 Late 19th and 20th century residential landscapes make up a large proportion of the urban area within the Black Country. These landscapes are recorded to a varying degree across the BCA area. In Dudley previous characterisation studies have provided a good understanding of the historic development and significance of these landscapes, but elsewhere within the BCA area particularly within Sandwell these landscapes are less well understood.
- 8.3.8 Domestic architecture from these periods is increasingly being recognised for its architectural and historic and aesthetic value which its drawn from its association with various architectural movements such as the Arts and Crafts Movement and the Garden City Movement. Public housing also gained prominence in this period and was recognised on an international scale for its aesthetic and practical value and for its innovative use of materials, planning and landscaping. Further detailed research in into the history, development, survival and significance of such landscapes within the

BCA area would help to identify significant late 19th and 20th century residential landscapes which may warrant inclusion as an AHHTV.

- 8.3.9 Further investigation of the survival of archaeological remains within the urban area, and characterisation of previous ground disturbance is also recommended. The urban area has been subject to extensive post-medieval and modern re-development both as a result of the industrial revolution and as a result of the 20th century development of former industrial land into housing. The spoil from re-used industrial sites may result in significant made-ground deposits which could seal and protect earlier archaeological deposits from later development. A systematic review of existing geotechnical (borehole) data (as available from BGS) and other ground disturbance data (e.g. archaeological evaluation and excavation reports) would help characterise previous ground disturbance within the BCA area. This would help to identify made ground deposits which could preserve earlier archaeological deposits as well as identifying areas where archaeological remains and unlikely to survive.



APPENDIX B GREEN BELT PROPOSED HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AREA DESCRIPTIONS

B.3.98 Unsympathetic development i.e. groundworks would detrimentally affect archaeological remains within the APA

Other Considerations: Amenity

B.3.99 Publically Accessible open space

Historic Environment Area Designation: APA 23 Coal Pool Mill

Figure Number: 59

Location: Walsall

Archaeological Interest: Survival

B.3.100 The APA contains an old mill pool (now dried up) and the earthwork remains of a dam. The dam stretches across the valley floor and there is a general scatter of forge cinder surrounding it. Yates' 1778 map shows a pond at this location. It is thought to be the site of a possible medieval bloomery and later post-medieval mill. The area has the potential to contain evidence of medieval iron working.

Archaeological Interest: Rarity

B.3.101 Bloomery sites were widely spread across the country but physical remains are rare and often represented by concentrations of ironworking debris.

Historic Interest: Representation

B.3.102 The APA could contain remains that are representative of a pre-industrial revolution industrial site. Such remains could provide evidence regarding medieval/early post-medieval industrial techniques and have a link to a significant period in the industrial development of the area.

Other considerations: Vulnerability

B.3.103 Unsympathetic development i.e. groundworks would detrimentally affect archaeological remains within the APA

B.4 Sandwell AHHLV

Historic Environment Area Designation: AHHLV 25 Peak House Farm Field System

Figure Number: 60

Location: Sandwell

Archaeological Interest: Representation of Cultural and Natural Heritage

- B.4.1 The AHHLV contains a well-preserved example of a pre-enclosure field system. Evidence of ridge and furrow is visible across the site as cropmarks (but no earthworks appear to survive). Prehistoric finds have been recovered within this area and cropmarks indicative of below-ground archaeological remains have also been identified, highlighting the archaeological potential of the area. Many of the field boundaries are marked by drainage ditches linked to the moated site to the south (APA 23) and a number of hedgerows are recorded as ancient hedgerows. LiDAR shows a small mound in the AHHLV (NGR 403764 295377).
- B.4.2 The field system is well preserved and contains cropmark remains and findspots suggestive of archaeological potential from Roman or prehistoric times. Drainage ditches in field boundaries link to a possible moated site.

Archaeological Interests: Rarity

- B.4.3 The AHHLV contains a locally rare example of early non-parliamentary field pattern. Prehistoric deposits as indicated by the cropmark remains are rare within Sandwell as is the possible moated site which lies in the southern part of the AHHLV.

Historic Environment Area Designation: AHHLV 26 Wigmore Farm Ridge and furrow

Figure Number: 61

Location: Sandwell

Archaeological Interest: Representation of Cultural and Natural Heritage

- B.4.4 The AHHLV contains the several areas of surviving earthwork ridge and furrow and a (possibly) medieval holloway. These features are surviving remnants of the open field system within the area. The field system in this area appears to date back to at least the 19th century, and may form part of a pre-enclosure field system that has been subject to some more recent boundary loss. Remnants of a watercourse and two ponds (fish ponds?) of unknown date are present within the AHHLV.
- B.4.5 The surviving earthwork ridge and furrow provides a visible link to the area's rural past. They are likely to be associated with the medieval settlement at West Bromwich.

Archaeological Interests: Rarity

- B.4.6 Earthwork ridge and furrow is rare within Sandwell and is a disappearing resource across the Black Country.

B.5 Sandwell AHHTV

Historic Environment Area Designation: AHHTV 137 Rushall Canal

Figure Number: 62

Location: Sandwell and Walsall

Architectural and Historic Interest: Contribution of Historic Buildings to a 'sense of place'

- B.5.1 The AHHTV contains the Rushall canal which was built in 1847 to create a link between the coalfields of Cannock and the expanding industries in Birmingham. It also provided a source of water for the Tame Valley Canal.
- B.5.2 The AHHTV contains the Grade II listed Hill Farm Bridge (NHLE 1077126) which is directly associated with the creation and development of the canal. It also has the potential to contain non-designated but historic buildings and structures (e.g. canal bridges, locks, embankments etc. associated with the canals development and the associated industries that developed alongside it during the late 19th century. These buildings and the surviving canal infrastructure make a positive contribution to the quality of the historic environment in the AHHTV.

Historic/ Artistic Interest: Views and setting

- B.5.3 The listed and historic buildings within the AHHTV are all directly associated with the canal which makes a significant contribution to the setting of these buildings. There is potential for further historic structures associated with the canal and the industrialisation of the area in the 18th and 19th century.

B.6 Sandwell APA

Historic Environment Area Designation: APA 24 Peak House Farm Moated Site

Figure Number: 63

Location: Sandwell

Archaeological Interest: Survival

- B.6.1 The APA contains the remains of a possible moated site. The Environment Agency LiDAR shows the earthwork remains of a moat and a possible building platform within the APA. There is no building at this location on the 1817 OSD map, or 1st-4th edition OS maps, suggesting that the moated site is of medieval or early post-medieval date. The APA has the potential to contain below-ground archaeological remains associated with the manor house and the moat. The moat may contain waterlogged deposits, which would provide insight into land use in the area during the medieval period.

Moated sites represent rare surviving example of medieval and early post-medieval rural land use. The waterlogged conditions associated with moats can lead to organic preservation, which can yield evidence about the environment and life of those who lived on the site. The surviving earthworks provide evidence of water management practices associated with the creation of the moat. While other such sites survive within the Black Country, they are rare, and many examples have been destroyed by later industry and development.

Other considerations: Vulnerability

- B.6.2 Unsympathetic development i.e. groundworks would detrimentally affect archaeological remains within the APA.

Historic Environment Area Designation: APA 25 All Saints Church

Figure Number: 64

Location: Sandwell

Archaeological Interest: Survival

- B.6.3 The APA contains All Saints Church and Graveyard. All Saints Church is situated on the site of a medieval church, elements of the 14th or 15th century tower survive within the present day Church. The church is surrounded by a graveyard, which has the potential to contain human remains dating from the medieval to post-medieval periods. Such remains could provide insight into lifestyle, health and diet of the local populations.

Historic Interest: Representation

- B.6.4 The church contains surviving remains associated with the medieval settlement and may contain remains that could provide information about the local community in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Other Considerations: Amenity

- B.6.5 The APA is a publicly accessible graveyard.

Historic Environment Area Designation: APA 26 Sot's Hole Stream

Figure Number: 65

Location: Sandwell

Archaeological Interest: Survival

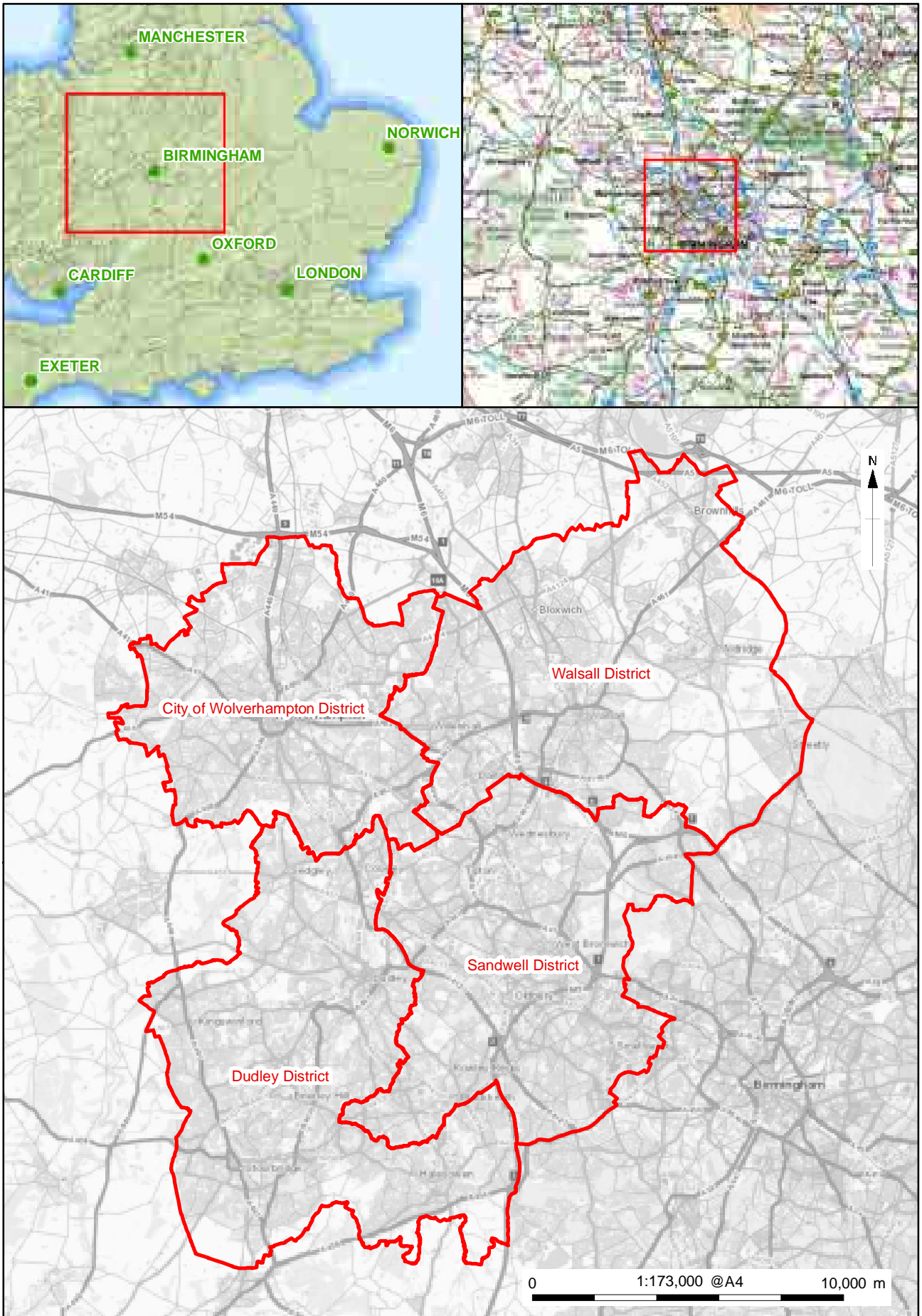


Figure 1: BCA Area

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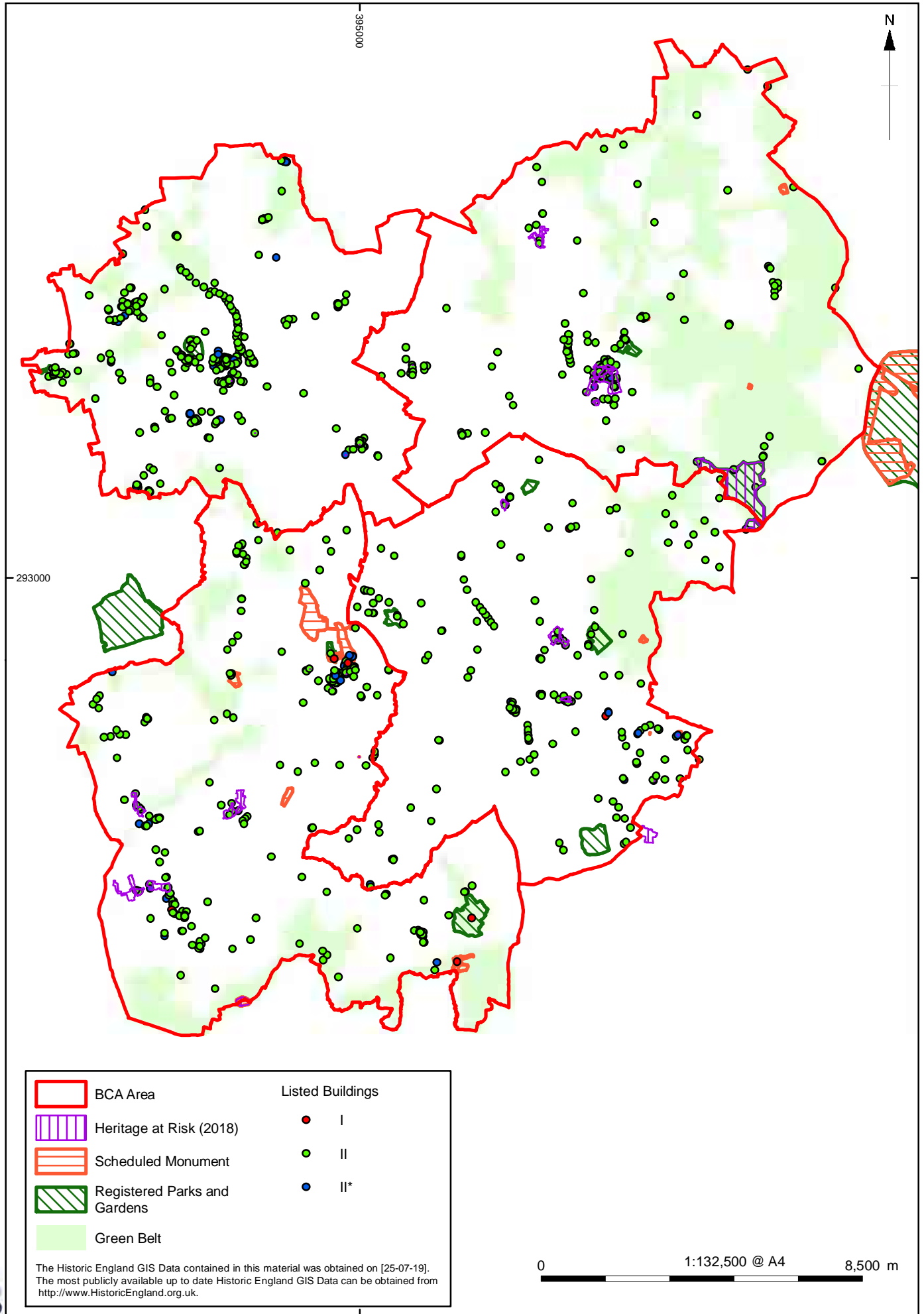
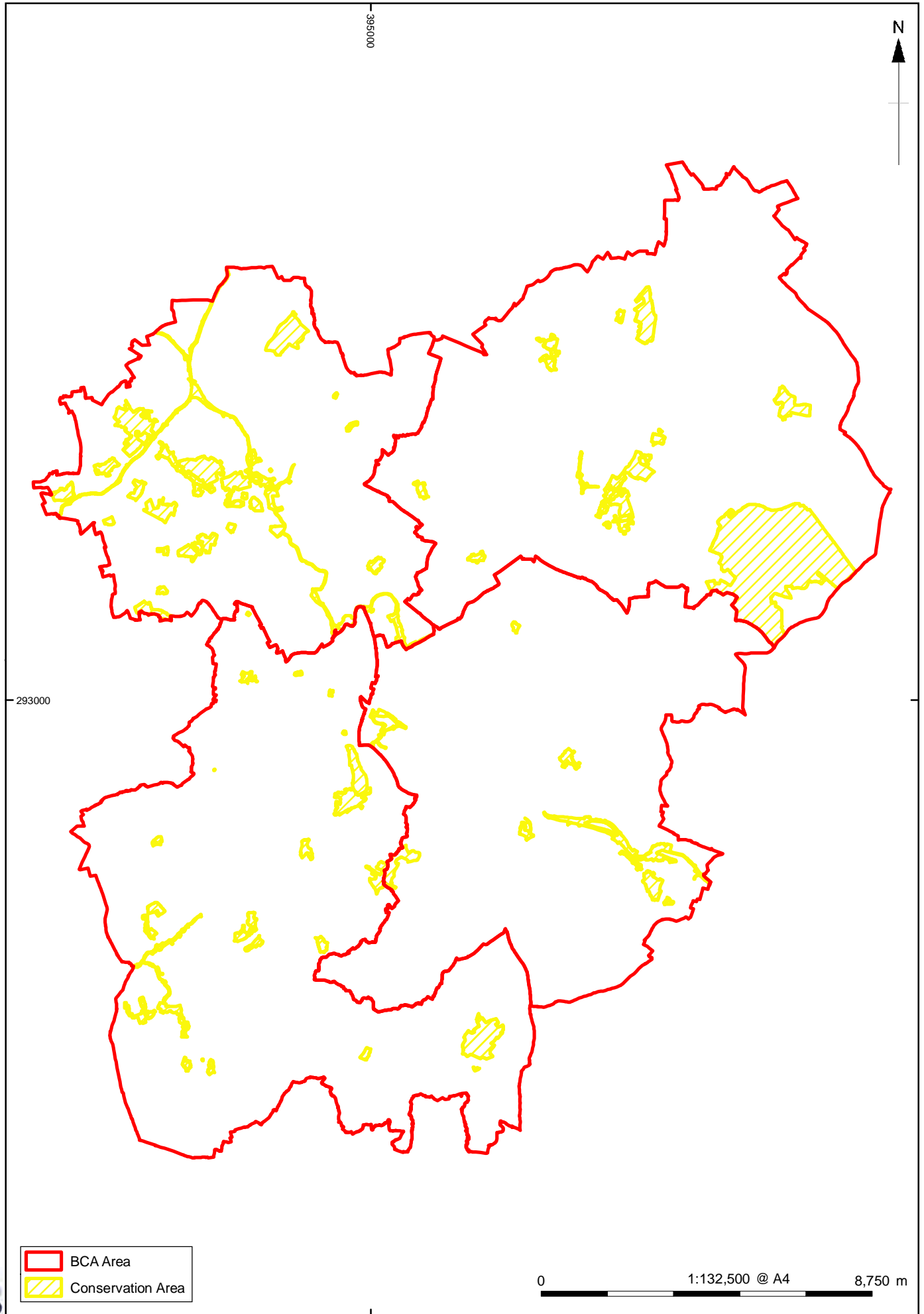


Figure 2: Designated Heritage Assets

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- BCA Area
- Conservation Area

0 1:132,500 @ A4 8,750 m

Figure 3: Conservation Areas

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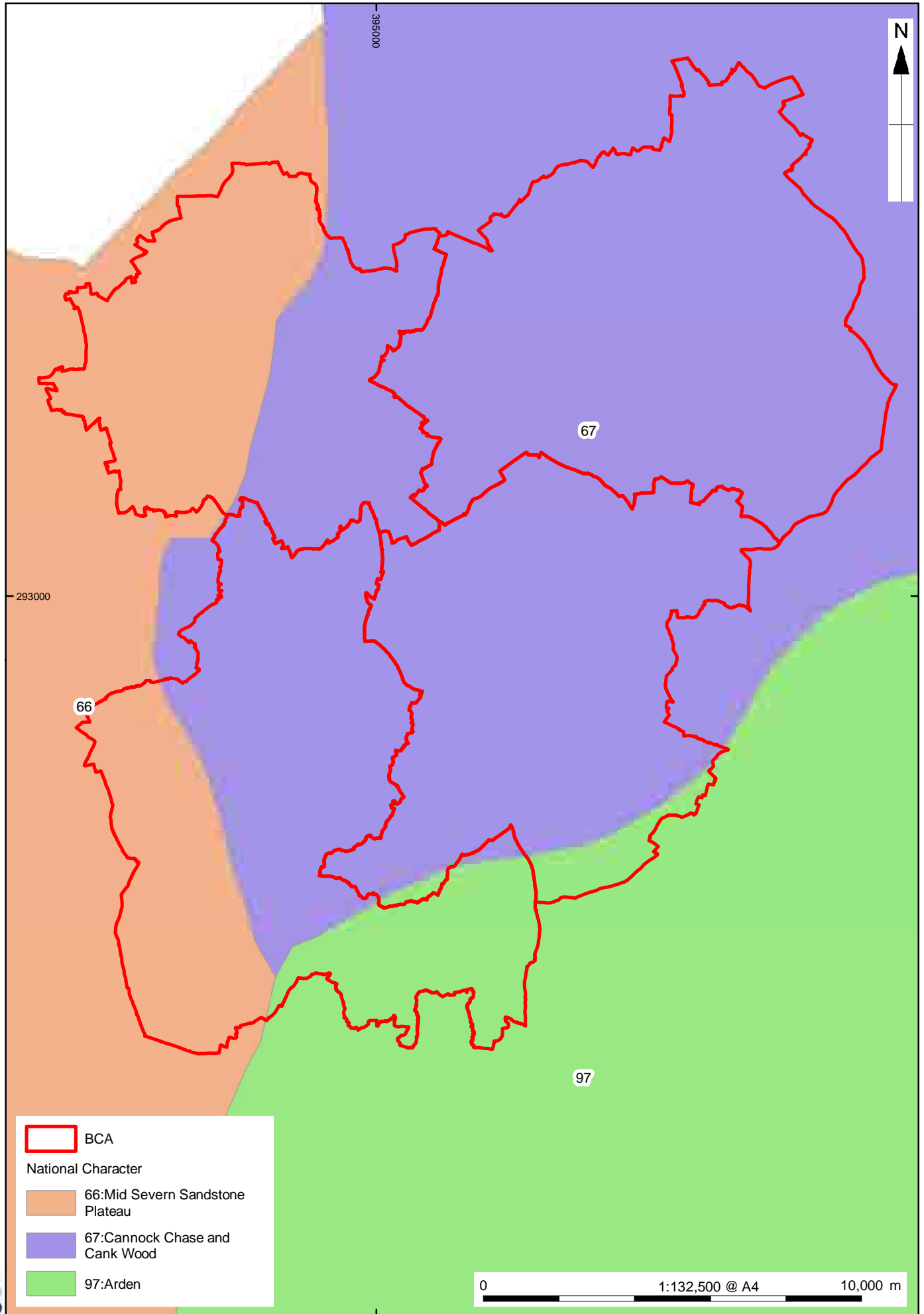
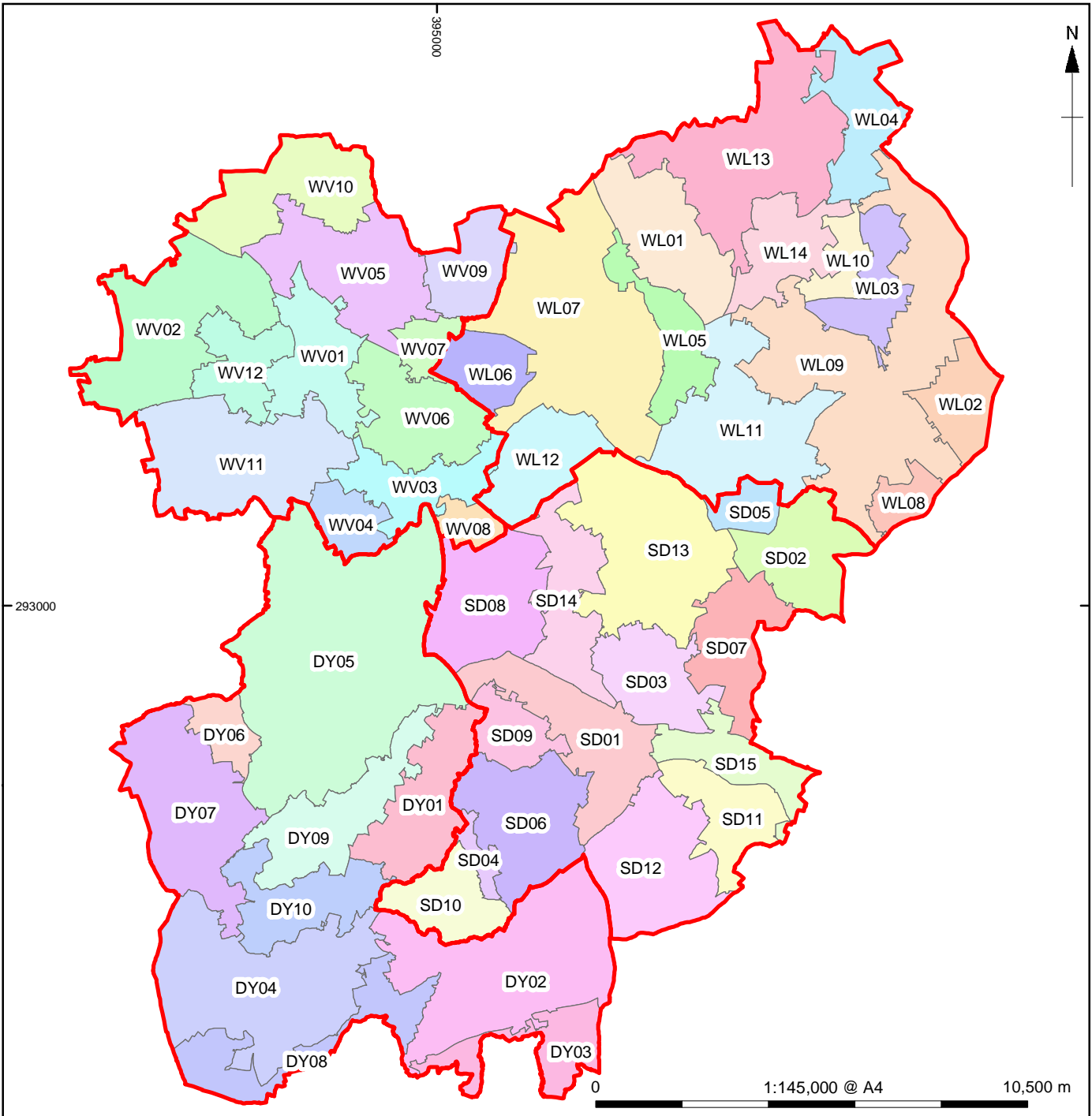


Figure 4: National Character Areas



BCA Area	SD04:Old Hill	WL04:Brownhills & Walsall Wood	WV03:South Bilston & Ettingshall
Black Country Character Areas	SD05:Yew Tree	WL05:Walsall Town Centre and Industrial Districts	WV04:Ettingshall Park & Lanesfield
DY01:Netherton	SD06:Rowley Regis & Blackheath	WL06:Willenhall	WV05:Bushbury & Wednesfield North
DY02:Halesowen	SD07:Sandwell Valley	WL07:Bentley	WV06:North Bilston, Portobello & Moseley
DY03:Hayley Fields & Illey	SD08:Tipton & Princes End	WL08:Pheasey	WV07:Wednesfield South
DY04:Stourbridge	SD09:Tividale	WL09:Barr Beacon & Aldridge Fields	WV08:Bradley
DY05:Dudley North	SD10:Cradley Heath	WL10:Aldridge West	WV09:Ashmore Park
DY06:Pensnett North	SD11:Central Smethwick and Cape Hill	WL11:South East Walsall	WV10:Pendeford, Fordhouses & Moseley
DY07:Kingswinford	SD12:Warley	WL12:Darlaston	WV11:Blakenhall, Bradmore & Penn
DY08:Pedmore & Lutley	SD13:Wednesbury & Hill Top	WL13:Pelsall	WV12:Wolverhampton Inner Western Suburbs
DY09:Brierley Hill	SD14:Great Bridge	WL14:Rushall & Shelfield	
DY10:Quarry Bank	SD15:North Smethwick	WV01:Wolverhampton City Centre & Industrial Districts	
SD01:Tipton Green, Oldbury & Langley	WL01:Bloxwich & Blakenhall Heath	WV02:Wolverhampton Outer Western Suburbs	
SD02:Newton, Hamstead & Great Barr	WL02:Streetly		
SD03:West Bromwich	WL03:Aldridge East		

Figure 5: Black Country Character Areas

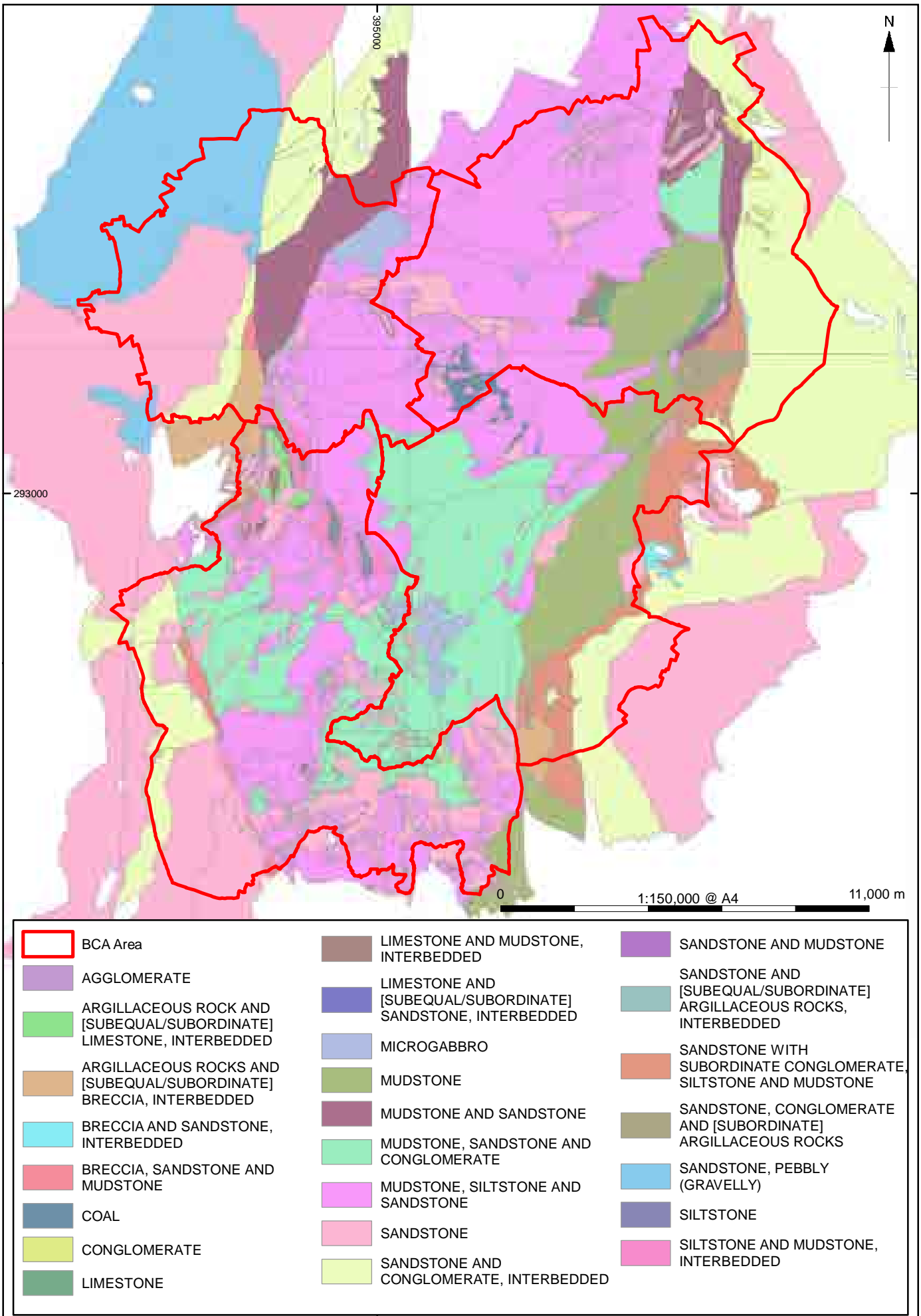
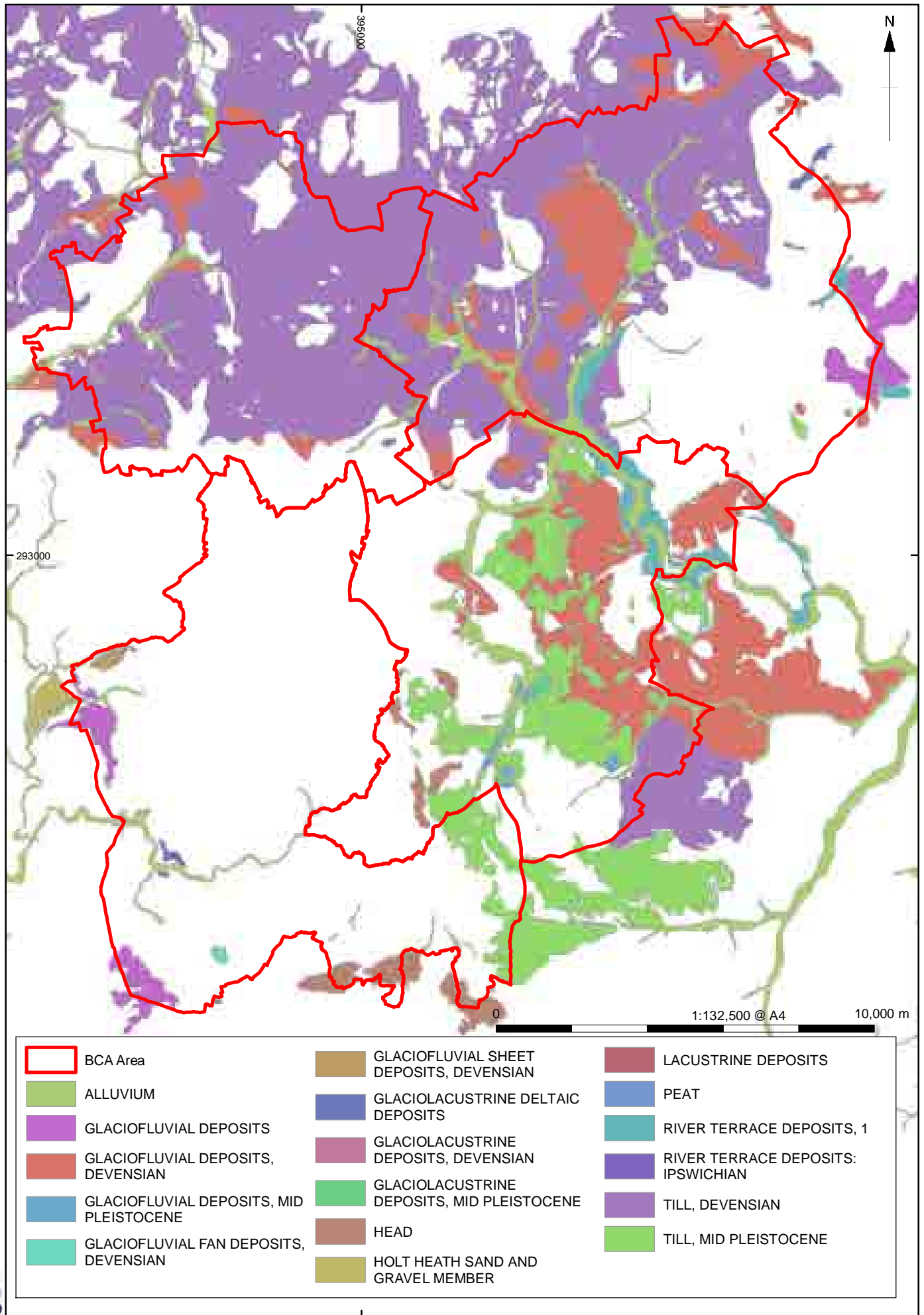


Figure 6: Bedrock Geology

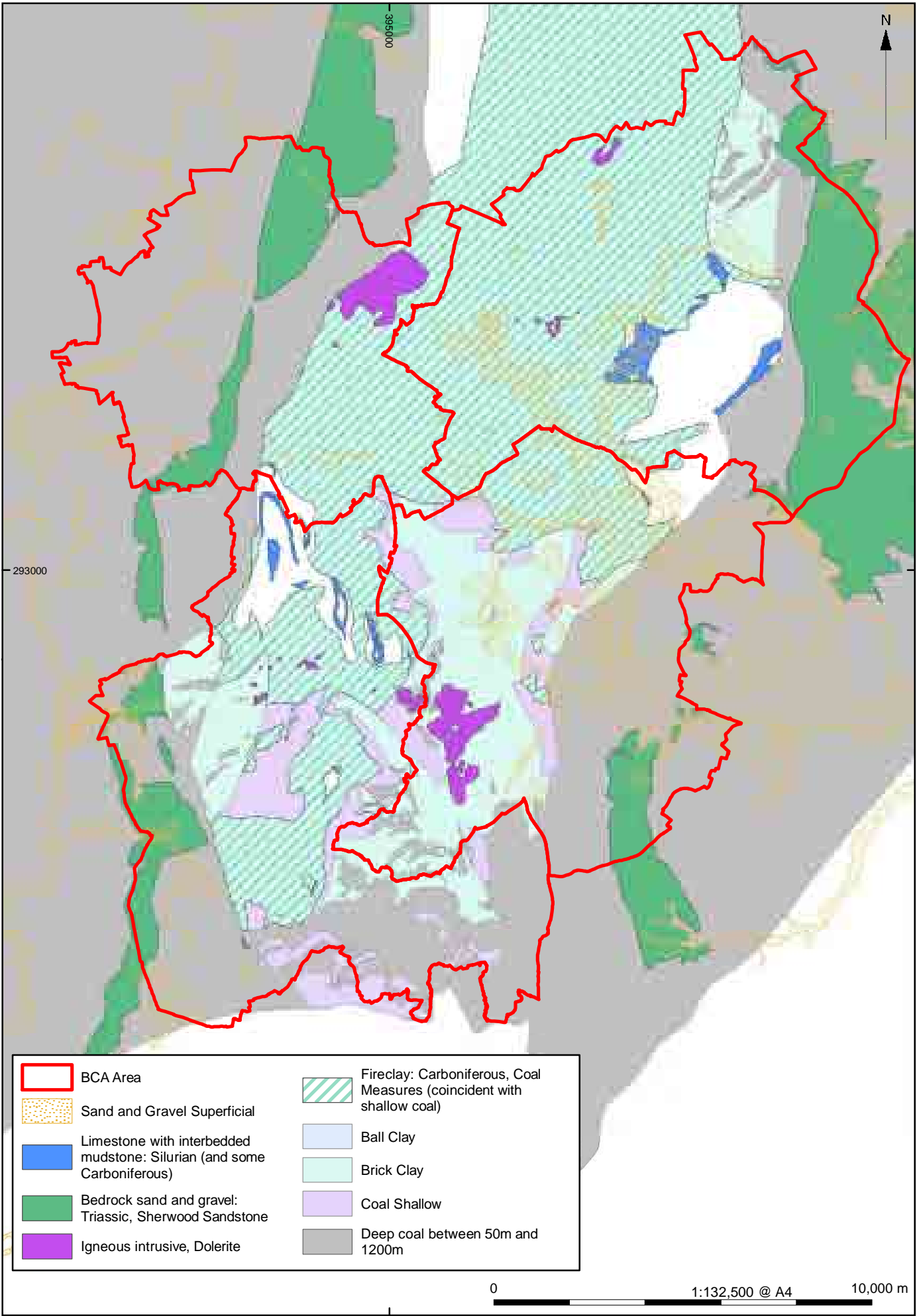
X:\lb\Black Country Historic Landscape Characterisation Project\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\Final Figures 8-819\Fig-7 Superficial Geology Map.mxd\charlotte.malone\08/08/2019



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Figure 7: Superficial Geology

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Figure 8: Primary Mineral Resources

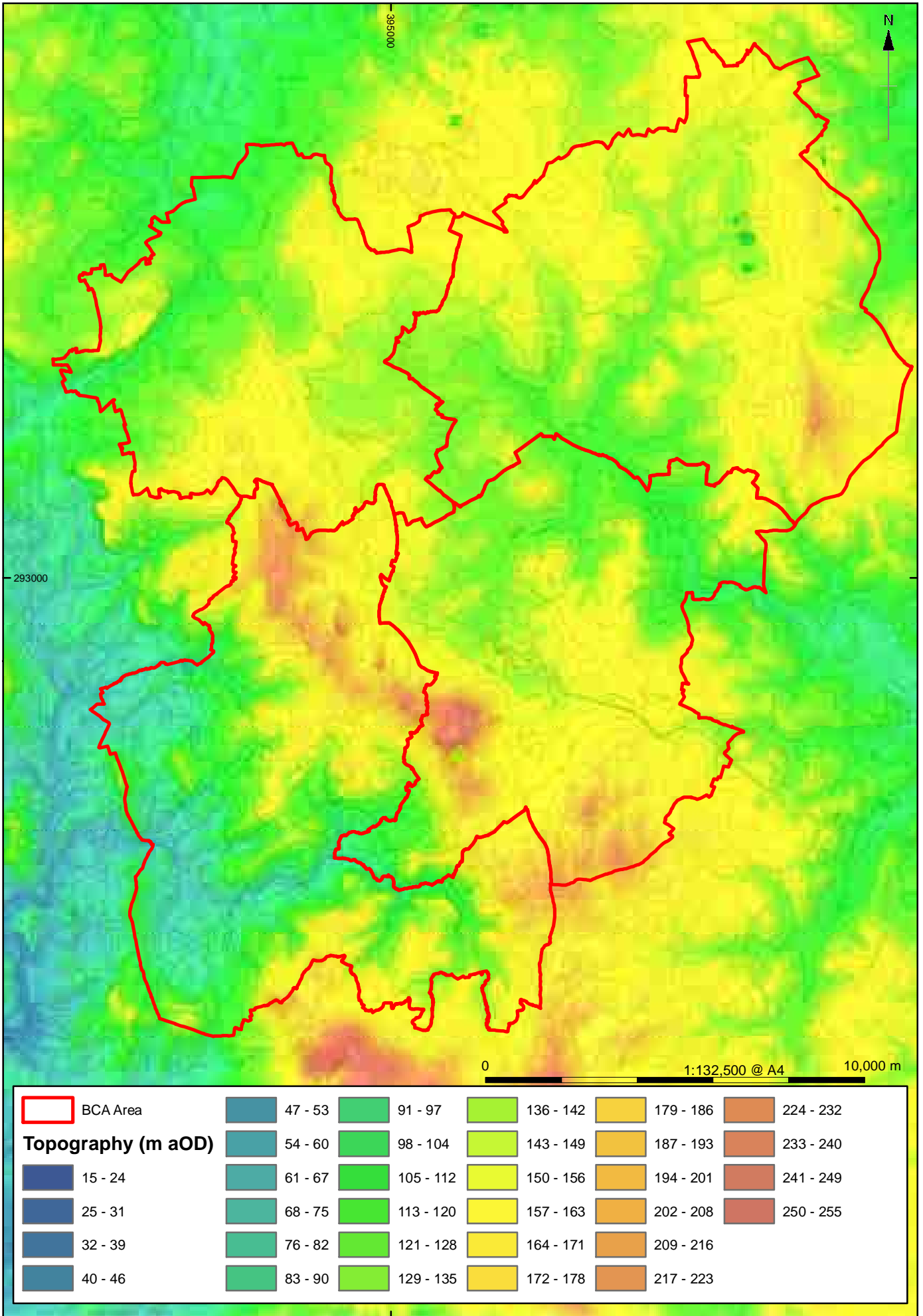


Figure 9: Topography

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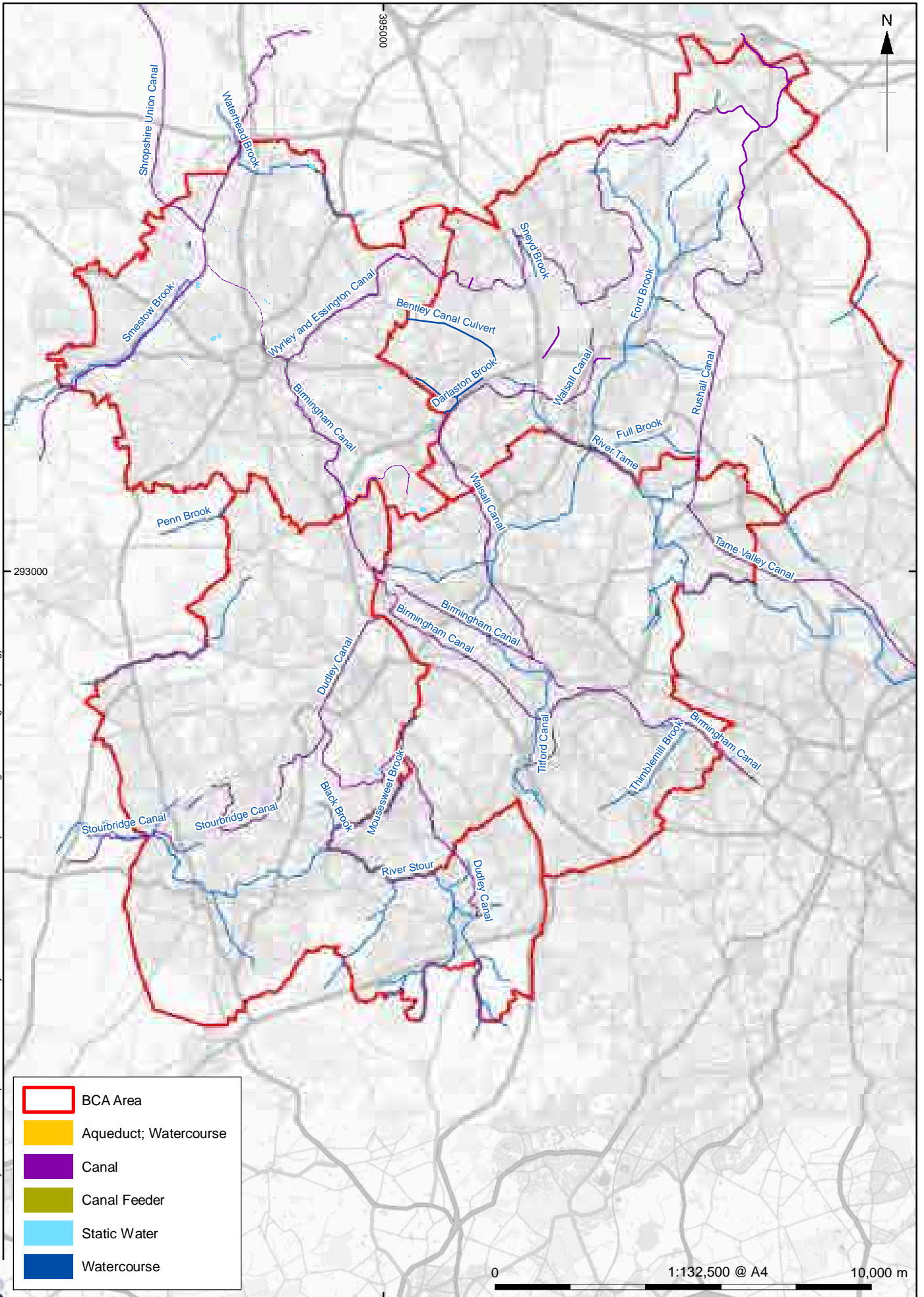


Figure 10: Hydrology

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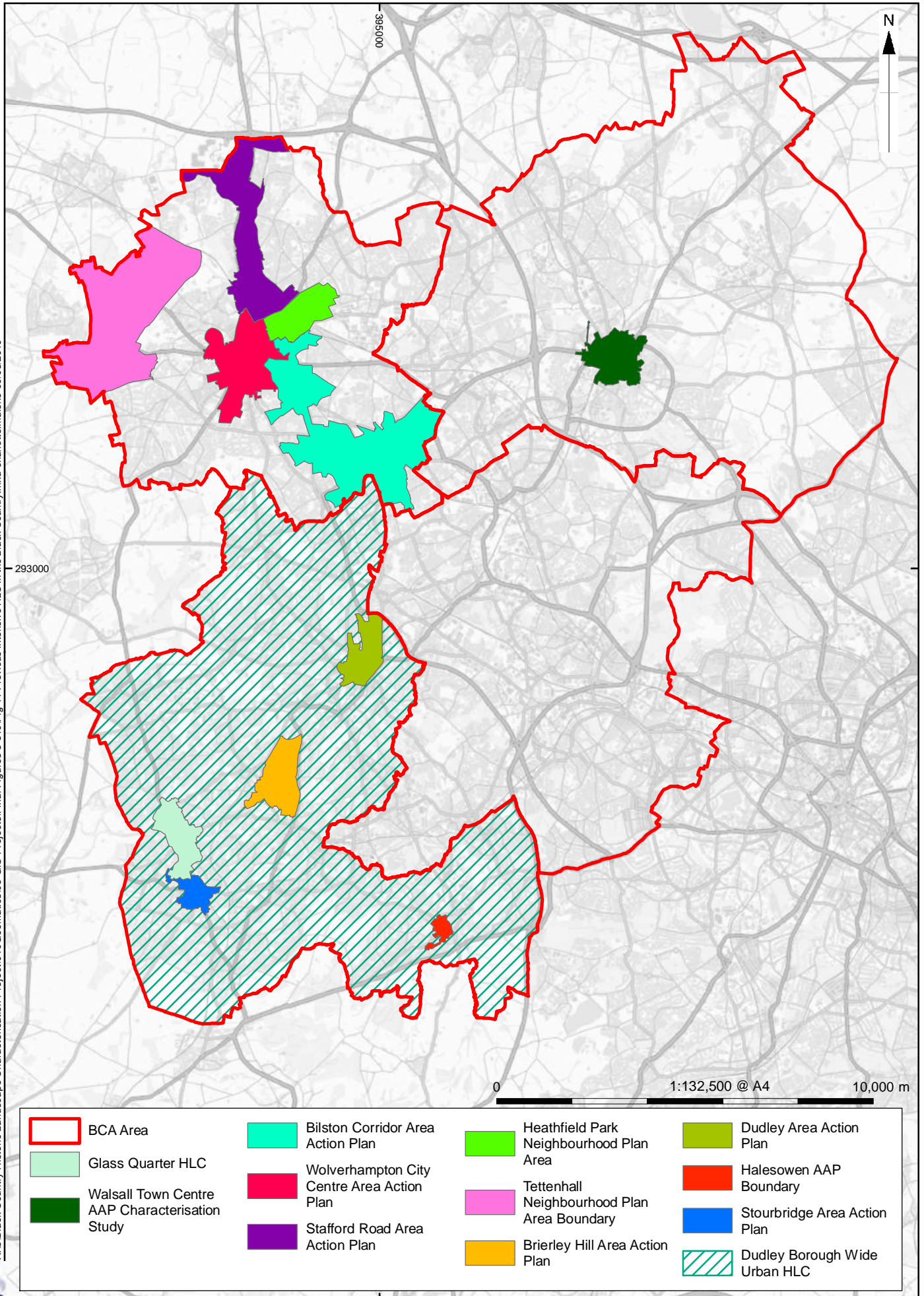
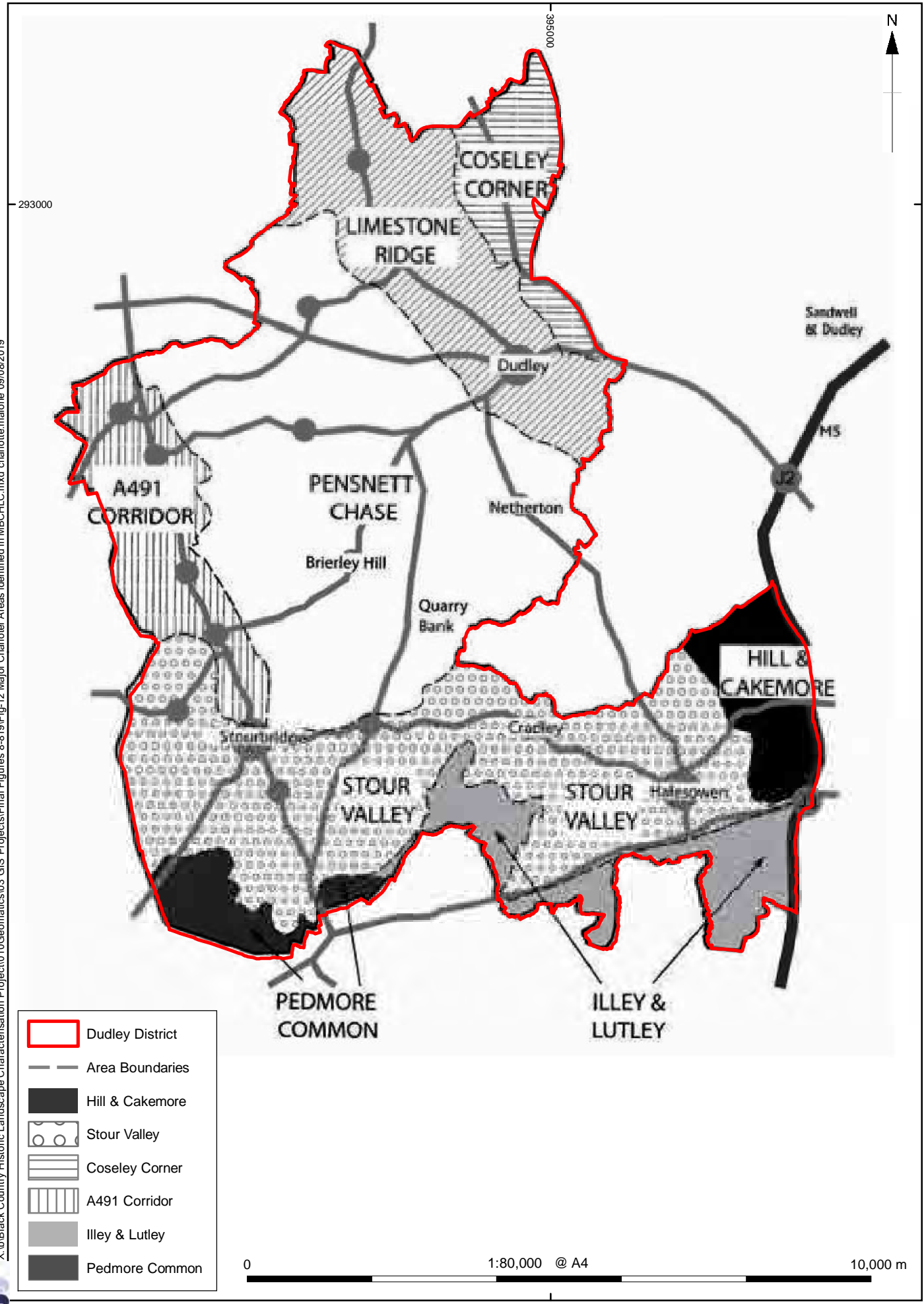


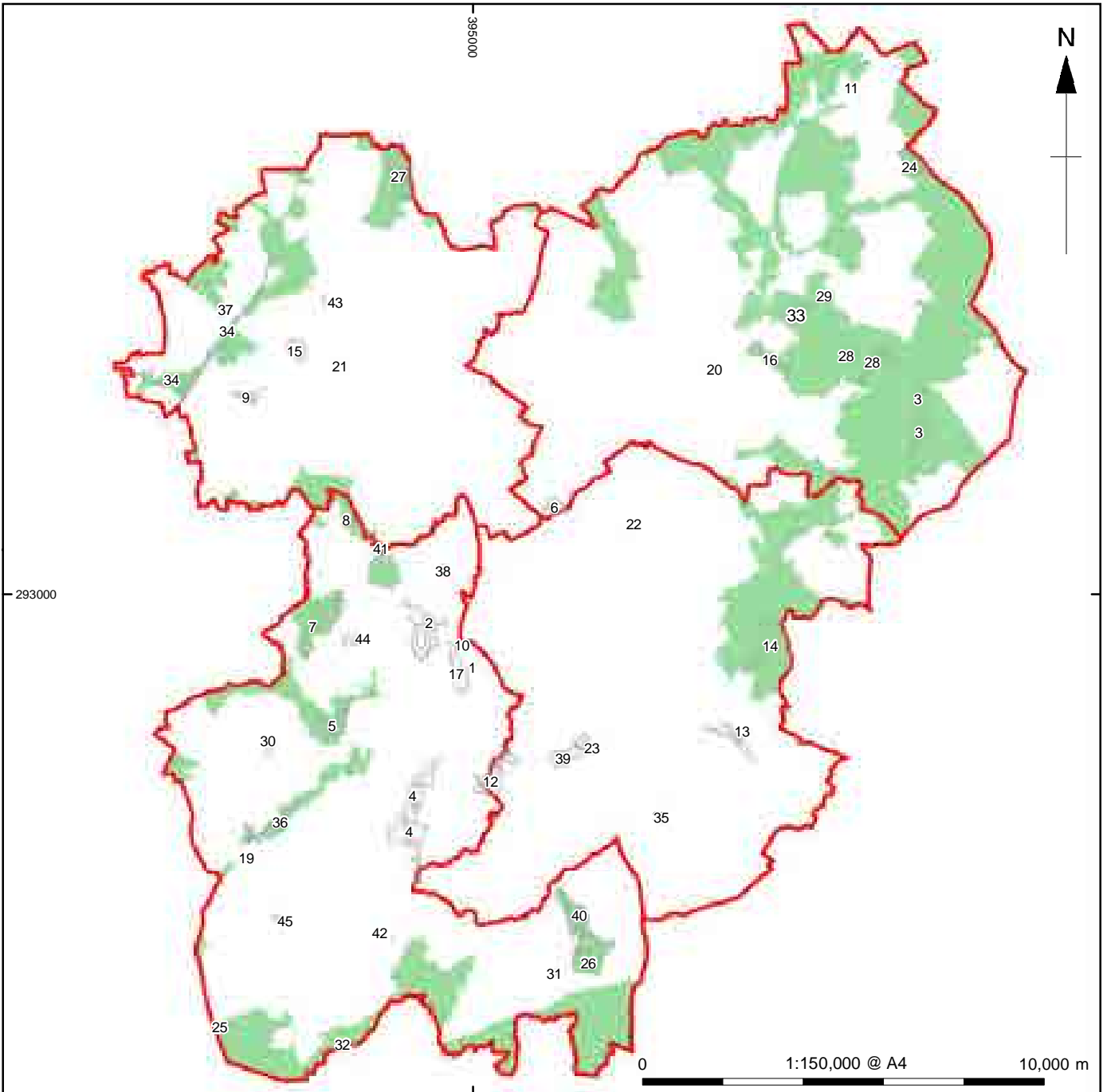
Figure 11: Location of detailed HLC Studies

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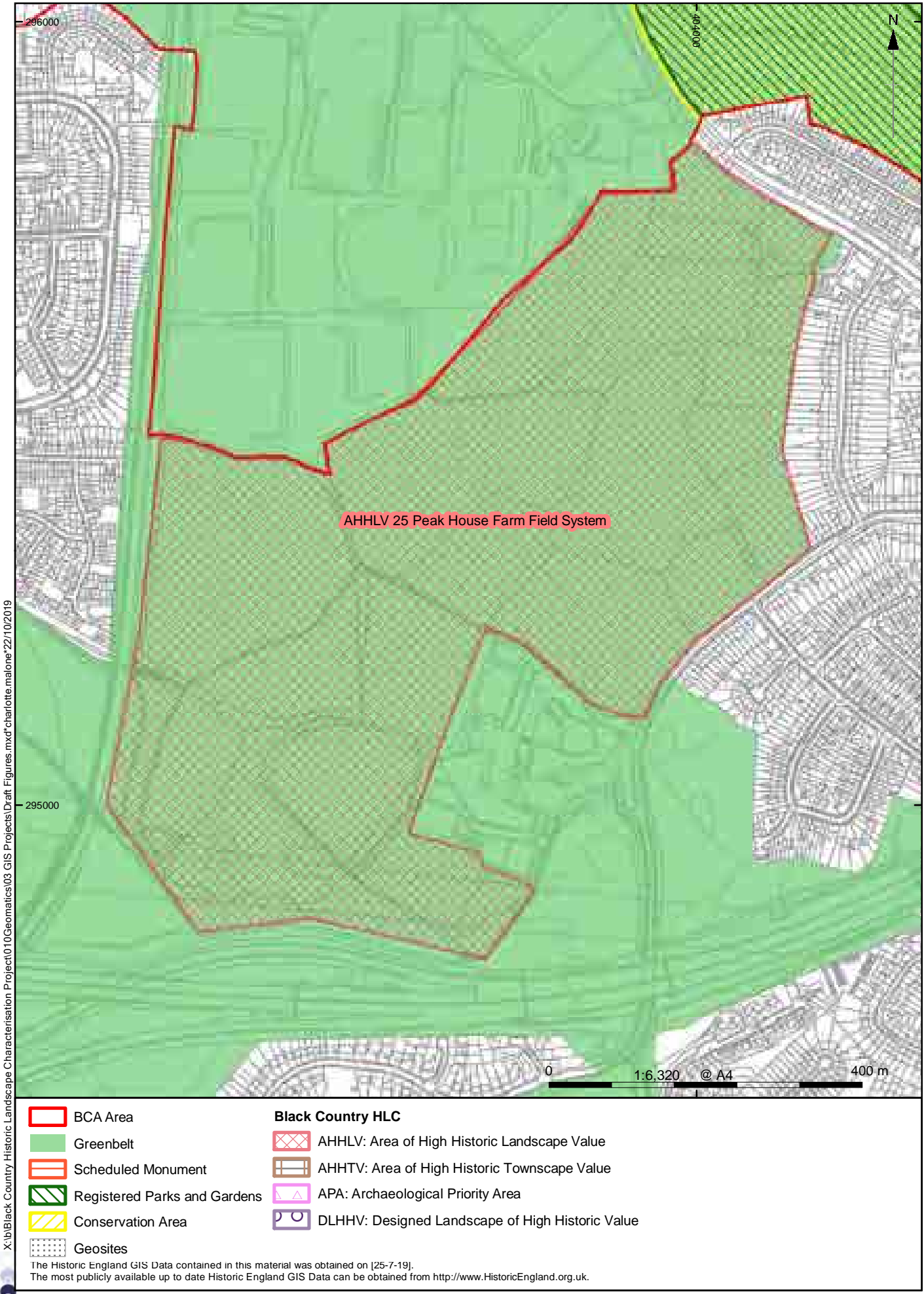
Figure 12: Major Character Areas identified in the Dudley Borough Wide Urban HLC



BCA Area	11:Brownhill Silver Miners Monument	24:Shire Oak Quarry LNR	35:Barnford Hill Park
Greenbelt	12:Bumble Hole & Warrens Park LNR	25:Norton Covert	36:Buckpool & The Leys LNR
Geosites	13:Galton Valley & Galton Bridge	26:Leasow Park	37:Compton to Tettenhall Ridge
1:Dudley Archives & Local History Museum	14:Sandwell Valley Country Park	27:Northcote Farm	38:Coseley Canal Cutting & Tunnel SINC
2:Wrens Nest NNR	15:West Park	28:Hay Head Quarry & The Dingle SSSI	39:The Rowley Hills
3:Barr Beacon LNR & Pinfold Lane Quarry SINC	16:Walsall Arboretum	29:Daw End Railway Cutting & Linley Wood SSSI	40:Coombwood Valley
4:Saltwells LNR	17:Dudley Zoo & Castle	30:Ketley Quarry SSSI	41:The George Sedley SINC
5:Barrow Hill LNR	19:Red House Glass Cone	31:Bromsgrove Road Cutting SSSI	42:Hayes Cutting, Lye SINC
6:Moorcroft Wood LNR	20:Walsall New Art Gallery	32:Wychbury SINC & Iron Age Fort	43:Stafford Road Cutting SINC
7:Cotwall End Valley LNR	21:Wolverhampton Museum & Art Gallery	33:Park Lime Pits LNR	44:Holloway Street Quarry SINC
8:Sedgley Beacon SINC	22:Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery	34:Smestow Valley LNR	45:Stourbridge Old Town Gasworks SINC
9:Bantock House & Museum	23:Blue Rock Quarry SINC (Parkway Site)		
10:Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust - Limestone Mine Trips			

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Figure 13: Black Country Geosites



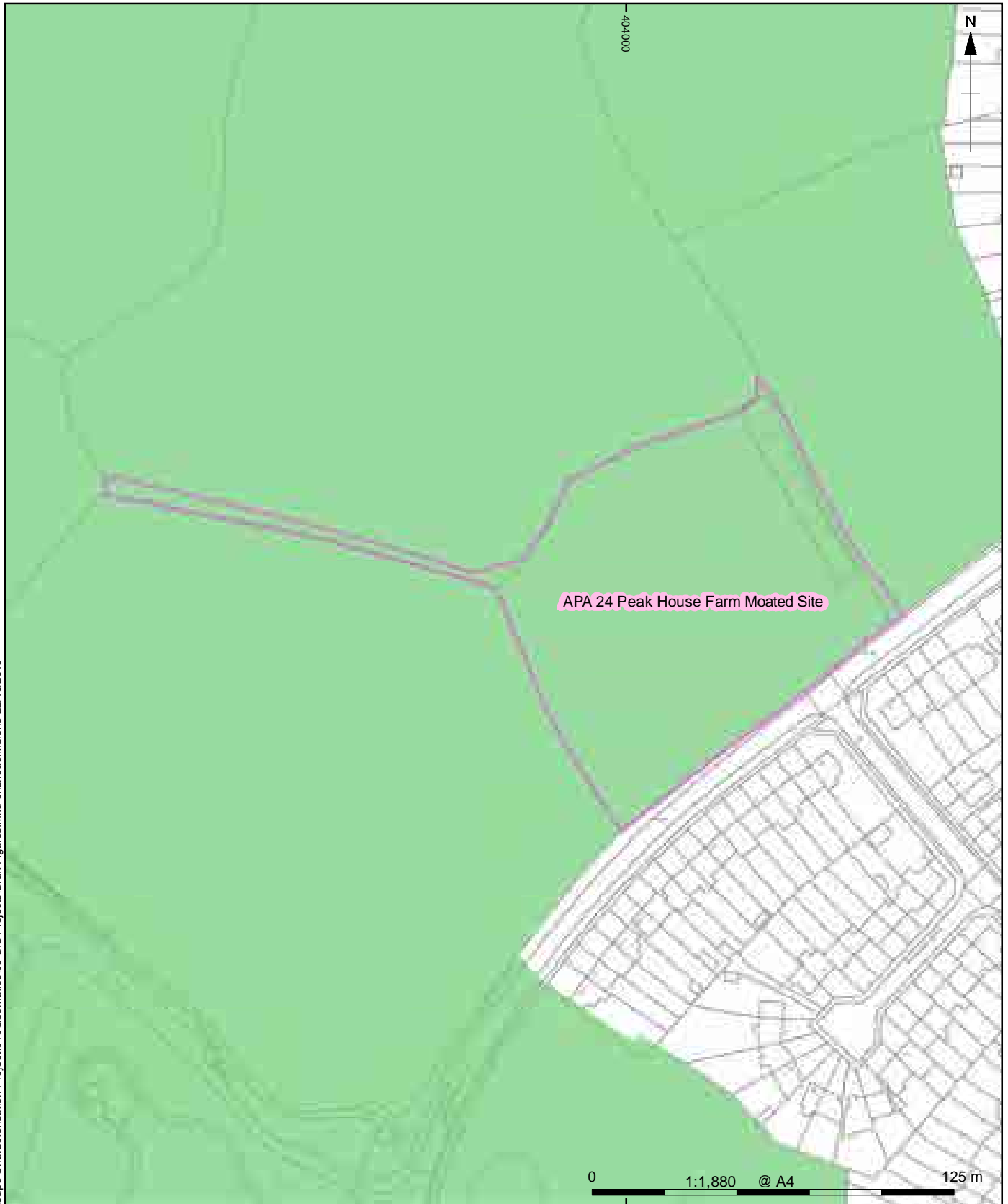
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- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| BCA Area | Black Country HLC |
| Greenbelt | AHHLV: Area of High Historic Landscape Value |
| Scheduled Monument | AHHTV: Area of High Historic Townscape Value |
| Registered Parks and Gardens | APA: Archaeological Priority Area |
| Conservation Area | DLHHV: Designed Landscape of High Historic Value |
| Geosites | |

The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on [25-7-19].
 The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from <http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk>.

Figure: 60 Historic Environment Area Designations
 Sandwell Area of High Historic Landscape Value AHHLV 25

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- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| BCA Area | Black Country HLC |
| Greenbelt | AHHLV: Area of High Historic Landscape Value |
| Scheduled Monument | AHHTV: Area of High Historic Townscape Value |
| Registered Parks and Gardens | APA: Archaeological Priority Area |
| Conservation Area | DLHHV: Designed Landscape of High Historic Value |
| Geosites | |

The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on [25-7-19].
 The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from <http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk>.

Figure: 63 Historic Environment Area Designations
 Sandwell Archaeological Priority Area APA 24