

Stone

Historic Character Assessment



Staffordshire Extensive Urban Survey

Stone

Controlled Document

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The Project

The main aim of the Staffordshire Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) is to understand the development and current historic character of medieval towns within the county.

The project report for each towns is divided into two sections. Section one covers the location and historical development of the towns. The history covers the earliest evidence for human activity through to the establishment of the town in the medieval period and through to the present day. Section two covers the characterisation of the town through the creation of Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs). The historical significance of each HUCA is assessed and recommendations are put forward.

Thirteen Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) have been identified in Stone EUS project (cf. map 10). Walton has been excluded from the EUS project because it had not formed part of the medieval town development. Consequently the River Trent forms the south western boundary of the EUS project area.

The Historical Development of Stone

There is some evidence within the wider landscape for human activity during the late Prehistoric period. The Iron Age hillfort, Bury Banks, is the most significant monument and dominates the surrounding landscape. The nature of occupation during the Roman period is, however, currently less well understood.

Similarly there is currently little evidence for quantifiable activity during the early medieval period. There are, however, numerous legends concerning the foundation of a monastery at Stone by king Wulfhere in the 7th century. The legend of the martyrdom of Wulfhere's sons Ruffin and Wulfade appears to have originally been set in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

There is currently no archaeological evidence to support such an early foundation.

Stone is not mentioned in Domesday Book (1086), but was probably incorporated into the entry for Walton.

A church existed at Stone by the early 12th century (and may be inferred in Domesday Book) when it was granted to the Augustinian Kenilworth Priory (Warwickshire). Stone Priory, initially a daughter house of Kenilworth, may have been founded at a slightly later date by the de Stafford family (circa 1138-47). The precinct of the priory is believed to be fossilised in the extant street pattern although Lichfield Street, constructed in the late 18th century, bisects the area. Little survives from the medieval priory other than a vaulted undercroft, the base of a wall and part of a Norman arch within the fabric and grounds of the property known as 'The Priory'. The Priory church stood a little to the south west of the current parish church the site being marked by the Crompton Tomb.

Stone Priory was granted a market charter in 1251, although there is no evidence that the inhabitants were ever granted a borough charter. However, there is clear evidence that Stone was a planned market town. The Priory laid out burgage plots along High Street and established at least one, possibly two, market places. Whether there was an earlier settlement, and where this may have been located, is currently unknown.

Whilst the town plan is unlikely to have been altered during the post medieval period the loss of the priory in the mid 16th century (as part of the Dissolution of the Monasteries by King Henry VIII) is likely to have had an impact upon the lives of the inhabitants. The priory site was sold and at some point the majority of the buildings were demolished. Only the Priory church survived (albeit in poor condition) to be converted to use as the parish

church. The site of this church is marked by the site of the Crompton Tomb. In 1753 a new church was constructed, following the collapse of the medieval building, and was sited to the north within the former precinct.

Several factors have been identified as stimulating the growth of the town from the late 18th century onwards. The first of these was the opening of the Trent and Mersey Canal in 1771 which enabled the transport of goods to and from the town. The enclosure of the open fields in the early 19th century enabled development, particularly of housing. The final factor was the construction of the railway in the mid 19th century, which further encouraged physical growth. Several industries existed in the town during the 19th century; the most significant of these was the boot and shoe industry, which was concentrated in small workshops. Two breweries also existed in the town, one to the rear of the High Street, and one further north on the edge of the suburban area. The large number of extant Georgian and early Victorian buildings within the town is testimony to the town's economic growth which was initiated by the construction of the Trent and Mersey Canal (and also to relative stagnation during the inter-war and post-war period of the 20th century).

The initial suburban expansion beyond the historic core of the town occurred along Lichfield Road and to the north and west where large detached houses were established. During the later 19th century areas of terraced houses were constructed, probably principally to house the workers of the expanding boot and shoes industry to the north of the town. A second phase of suburban expansion occurred during the mid 20th century; the largest extent lies to the south with smaller discrete areas to the north (cf. map 9). Late 20th century suburban growth was mostly confined to the south and

represents the period of greatest growth. However, Stone has continued to expand during the early 21st century with a large estate being constructed to the north west.

Characterisation and Assessment

- ◆ The legible historic character of the planned medieval town survives within **HUCA 1** and comprises the burgage plots, two market places and the street pattern. **HUCA 2** contains the site of Stone Priory, of which few fragments survive as visible heritage assets. The built character of both HUCAs is dominated by red brick buildings of late 18th or 19th century date. Some redevelopment has occurred within the area defined as having formed part of Stone Priory in the later 19th and later 20th centuries. The highest numbers of Listed buildings (including four Grade II*) lie within these two HUCAs and both form part of the Stone Conservation Area.
- ◆ Part of the area of the medieval town also lies within **HUCA 7** and **HUCA 11**, although the historic character of both have been subsequently altered. HUCA 7 is dominated by 19th century development, but HUCA 11 was created in the late 20th century when Christchurch Way was constructed.
- ◆ Early settlement expansion survives in **HUCA 2**, which may have post medieval origins. The Trent and Mersey Canal and the railway appear to have encouraged further growth in the 19th century in **HUCA 3, HUCA 4, HUCA 6, HUCA 8** and **HUCA 10**. Redevelopment of 19th century housing has occurred in HUCAs 3 and 4. Terraced houses dominate the historic character of HUCA 10; it also comprises several listed buildings including two churches, the railway station and a school all of mid and late 19th century date.

- ◆ The historic character of the discrete settlements of Little Stoke (**HUCA 5**) and Oultoncross (**HUCA 9**) survive despite being encompassed by Stone's suburbs.
- ◆ The historic character of **HUCA 7** has also been influenced by the mid 19th century listed buildings associated with St Dominic's Convent. These include a chapel constructed in 1844 to a design by the eminent church architect A. W. N. Pugin.
- ◆ Modern development, of mid 20th, late 20th and early 21st century date, dominates **HUCA 3, HUCA 4, HUCA 8, HUCA 9** and **HUCA 13**. Further houses of this period can be found in other HUCAs where they form infilling within an area predominantly of an earlier character. The two small mid 20th century housing estates that comprise HUCA 13 have a geometrical plan form and were probably influenced by the Garden City Suburbs movement.
- ◆ The historic character of **HUCA 12** is dominated by the historic buildings associated with a Grade II listed late 18th century watermill. These include a Grade II listed outbuilding, the miller's house and a later farm complex. The site of the mill may have its origins in the medieval period.
- ◆ The assessment has also identified a high potential for below ground archaeological remains to survive within **HUCA 1, HUCA 2, HUCA 7** (the eastern portion), **HUCA 11** and **HUCA 12**. Further archaeological potential has been identified within HUCA 4 (the site of the Brassworks), **HUCA 5** and **HUCA 6**. Other sites, currently unknown, also have the potential to survive within the EUS project area.

Introduction

The Staffordshire Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) Project forms part of the national programme of Extensive Urban Surveys initiated and supported by English Heritage. This Historic Character Assessment report for Stone forms one of twenty-three such reports which make up the EUS for the towns of medieval origin within Staffordshire. The EUS project as a whole intends to increase and synthesise the knowledge and understanding of the heritage assets that contribute to the development and character of the towns in the county.

The project constitutes a progression of the Historic Landscape Character (HLC) project which was completed for Staffordshire in 2006. The HLC was undertaken principally using maps of 1:10,000 scale and the results reaffirmed Staffordshire as a predominantly rural county. However, the scale at which the HLC was produced has meant that the more urban areas, where greater levels of change have tended to occur on a smaller scale, were not analysed in any great depth. In the HLC the central areas of the towns were described as 'Historic Core' or 'Pre 1880s Settlement' and the phases of development and their current character were not considered beyond this broad terminology. The EUS therefore aims to rectify these issues through a consideration of all the sources available on each of Staffordshire's historic towns to deepen the understanding of and to apply value to the historic character of these townscapes.

The information gained from the study can be used to support and inform a variety of planning policies from national objectives down to the individual Planning Authorities local plans.

Each of the Historic Character Assessment reports are statements of current knowledge and are not intended to be original research documents. Each report addresses the

research questions laid out in the West Midlands Research Framework by synthesising the data gathered on each of the towns. The EUS thereby also provides a basis for future research into the towns.

Background

A pilot study for Newcastle-under-Lyme was carried out in January 2007. Following this an assessment was undertaken to determine which towns in Staffordshire would be eligible for an Extensive Urban Survey. As a result twenty-three towns were identified for study. The selection criteria were based upon three studies of Staffordshire towns by historians and historical geographers who identified the medieval or early post medieval characteristics determining how towns differ from rural settlements. Such criteria included the form of the settlement; the presence of burgage plots¹ and formal market places whether physically surviving, referenced in historical documents or identifiable on historic mapping. It also took into account the references to medieval organisations such as guilds and to the construction of civic buildings such as town or market halls. The diversity and nature of the occupations of the inhabitants were also included; the greater the range and the less agricultural focussed the more likely to represent an urban settlement².

Aim

The main aim of the Staffordshire EUS is to understand the development and the current historic character of the towns. The towns are evaluated to identify the nature and extent of surviving historic environment assets whether as standing structures, below ground archaeological deposits or in the surviving historic town plan.

³ William Salt Library Contacts Web page: <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives/williamsalt/ContactDetails/home.aspx>

⁴ Extensive Urban Survey page on the Staffordshire County Council website: <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/eLand/HistoricEnvironment/Projects/urban/eushomepage.aspx>

⁵ Archaeology Data Service website: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/>



Outputs

The results are to be held as part of the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) in a database and spatially in GIS.

The principal outputs are the Historic Character Assessment reports for each town. These are to be available as hard copies located at the William Salt Library³, but are also accessible through the Staffordshire County Council website⁴. The national programme is currently held on the ADS website.⁵

Part One: Background and Setting

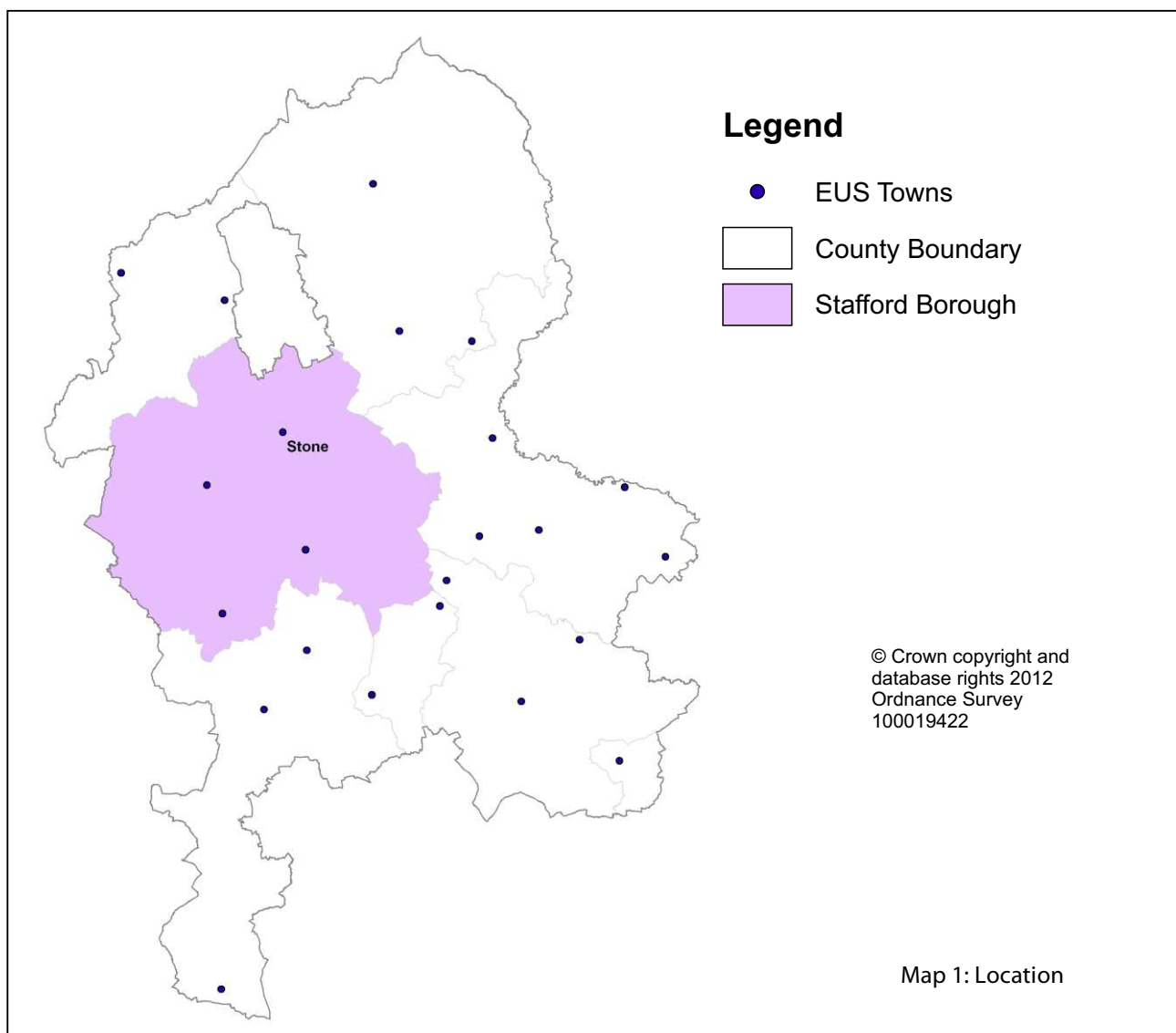
Section Summary

- ◆ There is evidence for human activity in the wider landscape in the late prehistoric period and to a lesser degree during the Roman period. Our understanding of the early history of Stone in the early medieval period has been largely based upon the legend of the foundation of Stone Priory in the 7th century.
- ◆ A church existed at Stone by the early 12th century when it was granted to Kenilworth Priory. Stone Priory was founded (or re-founded?) by the mid 12th century by the Augustinian order. The location and form of the priory buildings is unknown as little survives other than a vaulted undercroft, wall and part of a Norman arch lying within the house and grounds known as 'The Priory'. The priory church stood a little to the south west of the current parish church and is marked by the position of the Crompton Tomb. The perimeter of the priory precinct is believed to be fossilised in the extant street pattern, although Lichfield Street, constructed in 1777, bisects the area.
- ◆ A market charter was granted to the priory in the mid 13th century, although there is no evidence that the inhabitants were granted a borough charter. There is, however, evidence for medieval urban planning, which was probably created at or by the time of the granting of the market charter. Burgage plots were laid out on either side of the High Street with at least one, possibly two, market places. The medieval street pattern largely survives within the townscape.
- ◆ The physical layout of the town was probably largely unchanged until the late 18th century. The Dissolution of the priory in the mid 16th century is, however, likely to have had an impact upon the inhabitants. The priory site was sold, but the church was retained as the parish church until it collapsed in the mid 18th century.
- ◆ The construction of the Trent and Mersey Canal in the late 18th century transformed Stone's economy and led to a period of building works in the town as the majority of the buildings date from this and slightly later period. The canal stimulated industrial growth in the town from the late 18th century onwards; boot and shoe manufacture, its ancillary trades and brewing were the principal industries of the town.
- ◆ Economic development led to an expansion of the town beyond its historic core during the 19th century. This included large detached houses to the north and west as well as terraced houses to the north.
- ◆ Further suburban development occurred between the mid 20th and early 21st centuries to the north and south of Stone.

1. Setting

1.1 Location

Stone is situated centrally within Staffordshire 11km north of Stafford (cf. map 1). The town lies within a large parish, 4,858 hectares in area, of the same name. The parish lies within the southern portion of the hundred of Pirehill. The parish was divided into four quarters: Stone, Kibblestone, Beech and Hilderstone. The Stone quarter comprised Stone itself and Stallington, a small hamlet 7km north east of Stone⁶.



1.1.1 Road Pattern

Stone's location on the major road route between London and Chester, and ultimately to Ireland was a major factor in the town's growth and continuing importance⁷. This route was described by Ogilby in 1675 as '...one of the most frequented roads in the kingdom'⁸. Stone lay at the junction of this road with another major road from the south via Birmingham and Stafford to Manchester and north to Scotland⁹. Other roads approached from Eccleshall to the south west¹⁰ and from Leek to the north east¹¹.

⁶ White 1851,
⁷ The route went from London via Coventry, Tamworth, Lichfield, Stone and Nantwich. From Tamworth to Chester its route is followed by the present-day A51.
⁸ Cope 1972, 40
⁹ Now the A34
¹⁰ Now the B5026
¹¹ Now the A520

¹² Earlier Cottars' Brook (Cope 1972, 19-20)

¹³ Formerly known as Keuper Marl

¹⁴ Cope 1972

¹⁵ Plate 4

¹⁶ Plate 5

¹⁷ The Conservation Studio 2008

¹⁸ Journal of the Industrial Archaeology of Stone Volume 4, 1973

¹⁹ Bolton 1981. Copy in Stone Town Library

²⁰ Bowers and Clough 1929

²¹ Lewis 1993; Priestley 1988

²² SRO D641/6/1/38. The date of this map is uncertain. One report which reproduces it describes it as of c 1780 (Stafford Borough Council Development Department 1992). It must, however, be later than this as it shows the Workhouse which was built in 1792. The catalogue describes it as 'Endorsed estate of Lord Granville at Stone' but a piece of paper has been stuck over the name of Lord Gower and Granville put in its place. Granville bought the estate off the Gower family in 1803 which would suggest that the map was in preparation around this time. I am grateful to Matthew Blake of Staffordshire Record Office and John Minkin for discussion of this point.

²³ SRO D593/H/3/294

1.1.2 Project Area

The EUS project area covers the built environment of the small market town of Stone. The River Trent has been taken as the south western boundary, which has excluded Walton from the project. Whilst Walton has at least medieval origins (being recorded in Domesday Book (1086)) it had not formed part of the medieval town development. It remained an essentially rural settlement until its expansion in the mid to late 20th century.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 Topography

The town lies on the north eastern edge of the valley of the river Trent at a point where a tributary stream, the Scotch Brook¹², feeds into it from the north east. The north-west end of the High Street lies at around 94m AOD but the street slopes down to the south east to cross the valley of the Scotch Brook at around 88m AOD. The Scotch Brook crosses the bottom end of the High Street and runs into the river Trent at around 85m AOD. To the east of the High Street the land rises again to a height of around 95m AOD by St Michael's church (plate 9). Beyond St Michael's church the land rises quite steeply to a height of 155m AOD at Stonepark, 750m to the north east, so that the church lies at the tip of a promontory overlooking the Scotch Brook and the river Trent.

Another important point in the early topography of the area is the presence of a suitable fording point of the river Trent at Walton to the south of Stone.

1.2.2 Bedrock Geology

The underlying geology comprises rocks of the Mercia Mudstone Group¹³.

1.2.3 Superficial Geology

Alluvium lines the sides of the River Trent and the Scotch Brook. To the north east the High Street lies principally upon 1st terrace river deposits, largely sand and gravel; while to the east of the Scotch Brook St Michael's church lies upon Devensian glaciofluvial sheet deposits, again largely sand and gravel.

1.3 Sources

1.3.1 Historical

Sources for the history and topography of Stone are limited. The town is not covered by either a Victoria County History volume or in Stebbing Shaw's county history published in the late 18th- early 19th centuries. The best source is a town history by Cope¹⁴ which summarises many of the earlier sources. He gives too much credence to the early legends about the foundation of Stone Priory and his reconstruction of the priory layout¹⁵ and early road pattern¹⁶ is open to question but his text is stronger for the later periods and usefully summarises much of the earlier material. The Conservation Area Appraisal is of value especially for the surviving buildings and character of the town centre¹⁷. A survey of the Industrial Archaeology of Stone¹⁸ contains a number of articles of value and there is a short booklet, mainly concerned with the canal¹⁹. Otherwise there is a useful compilation of sources²⁰ and two books of old picture postcards which include short commentaries on the images²¹.

1.3.2 Cartographic

Stone is poorly served for cartographic sources. There is a map of c1800 which is of value²² but the tithe map of 1846²³ is disappointing as for the town centre area it gives only the outline of the street pattern without showing property boundaries.

This dearth of early maps means that even small scale maps contain items of interest. Stone is included on Ogilby's road map of the London to Holyhead Road of 1675²⁴ and on Yates' County Map of Staffordshire of 1775²⁵ and both are of value in showing the road pattern for the wider area.

From the late 19th century there is a good series of Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plans comprising 1st edition published 1880, 1st revision published 1901, 2nd revision published 1924 and 3rd revision published 1937.

For the post-war period there is a complete series of Ordnance Survey 6 inch maps of 1954-5.

1.3.3 Pictorial

The Staffordshire Views Collection held by the William Salt Library, Stafford, has 11 views of Stone²⁶, in addition to a number of views of monuments within the church. They comprise four views of St Michael's church, one of Christ Church, two of a Norman doorway in the garden of The Priory, a surviving element of Stone priory, two views of the Schoolhouse of Alleyne's Grammar School in the churchyard of St Michael's, a view of Stone from the west showing Walton bridge with the town and church in the background, and a view of the town from the Stafford Road. Disappointingly there are no views showing details of the town itself or of individual buildings within the town, apart from one building shown on a view of the church, on the corner of Church Street, which is a fairly simple timber-framed house set on a stone sill²⁷.

1.3.4 Archaeological

There have been a number of archaeological evaluations and watching briefs in the town since the 1990s, many associated with the building of the Stone town centre bypass

(Christchurch Way) to the north of the High Street in the 1990s. All such work has to date been relatively small in scale. In some cases the results have demonstrated considerable potential for the recovery of medieval and post-medieval evidence but not in sufficient quantities to be of significant value.

Building Assessment and Recording

The only building recording undertaken to date in the town centre was that carried out as part of an assessment of the route of the Stone Town Centre Bypass. In addition the RCHME carried out a building recording on The Mansion House in Lichfield Street, which identified the presence of a possible silk mill to the rear of the building²⁸. This highlights the potential for building recording in Stone where other buildings are likely to contain evidence of earlier industrial uses especially in their backyard areas.

2. Context and Historical Development

2.1 Prehistoric

If we look at the evidence for prehistoric settlement within the area around Stone there is a noticeable concentration of find spots of Neolithic and Bronze Age 'high-status' material. There are thirteen find spots of stone axes of various forms²⁹, and also a perforated pebble, a flint scraper, a bronze axe or palstave and a bronze leaf-shaped spearhead³⁰. Two of these are recorded as being from Stone itself and a number of others whose find spots are imprecisely recorded could also be from the town. The greatest concentration, six out of the eighteen, however, are from the area around Cold Norton Farm which lies 3km south west of Stone on the road to Eccleshall. There are also twelve possible Bronze Age burial sites. The evidence for these is variable, ranging from antiquarian observations, ring ditches showing as crop marks, to place names³¹. Not all are likely to be true sites. Nevertheless the evidence for the Neolithic-Bronze Age period suggests plentiful activity in the Stone area, and the likelihood of high-status 'ritual' and burial sites. A fieldname 'Double Bank Field' or 'Double Ditch Field' may give a clue to the location of one of these sites³².

Evidence elsewhere from Staffordshire's river valleys supports this focus of in particular ritual and burial activity within river valleys during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. Considerable archaeological work has been undertaken understanding the late prehistoric ritual landscape of the Trent Valley (between Burton and Alrewas) and more recently excavations along the valleys of the River Dove and Tame have revealed similar evidence (burial sites, cursus³³, henges³⁴ etc). It may be

that there is a similar focus in the river valleys close to Stone. For the Iron Age, the most important site is the hill fort of Bury Bank, 2.5km north west of Stone³⁵. This is the earliest definite evidence of a high-status site within the area; built by the local population probably under the rule of a local chieftain the hillfort acted as a central place, storage area, animal pens and a safe place in times of trouble. Otherwise there is only a leaf-shaped socketed spearhead of iron³⁶ and an enclosure identified as a crop mark, although a number of other crop mark³⁷ sites may be Iron Age in date.

2.2 Roman (49AD to 409AD)

There is only limited evidence of a Romano-British presence in the Stone area. There are two sites which are suggested as possible Roman fort sites: the Hollywood Earthworks 3km east of Stone³⁸ and a rectilinear crop mark enclosure at Aston Hall Farm 3km to the south³⁹. Otherwise there are only reports of stray finds⁴⁰, and the possibility that some of the undated crop mark sites are Romano British in date.

2.3 Early Medieval (410 to 1065)

There is little evidence for activity in the area during the pre-Christian element of the early medieval period. A burial site with grave goods dating to around AD600 was discovered at Barlaston, 4km north of Stone, in the mid-19th century⁴¹; other burial mounds are recorded in the area. Some of these may have been built during the pre-Christian element of the early medieval period; alternatively some could be prehistoric in date but which have later been re-used by Anglo Saxons eager to

²⁹ Described as axe, macehead, axe-hammer or adze

³⁰ Axes Staffordshire HER: PRNs 02101, 00656, 00657, 00608, 00601, 02103, 02742, 02028, 02102, 02197, 00598, 02032, 20799; Pebble 02104; Scraper 01829; Palstave 03956; Spearhead 00762

³¹ Staffordshire HER: PRNs 00595, 00070 (now thought more likely to be a natural rather than man-made mound), 00669, 00589, 04614, 04590, 00590, 04613, 04610, 04702, 04596, 04703

³² Staffordshire HER: PRN 04595

³³ Cursus: A long narrow rectangular earthwork enclosure of Neolithic date, usually defined by a bank and ditch and presumed to be of ceremonial function. Known examples range in length from less than 100m to c.10km. (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage. © 2011 English Heritage)

³⁴ Henge: Circular or sub-circular enclosure defined by a bank and (usually internal) ditch, with one or two (rarely more) entrances. Of ceremonial/ritual function, they contain a variety of internal features including timber or stone circles. (Scope note reproduced from the Thesaurus of Monument Types by kind permission of English Heritage. © 2011 English Heritage)

³⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00022

³⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00671

³⁷ Ibid: PRN 04601

³⁸ Ibid: PRN 00215

³⁹ Ibid: PRN 04606

⁴⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00662 pottery and coin; PRN 04365 metal casting die; PRN

04755 trumpet brooch; MST15865 coin; MST15642 brooch

⁴¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 00605

⁴² Ibid: PRN 00662

⁴³ Ibid: PRN 00669

⁴⁴ Rumble

⁴⁵ Leland writing in the 1530s says that 'Not veri far from Stone priori appereth the place where King Woulphers castel or manor place was. This Byri hille stood on a rok by a broke side. Ther appere great dikes and squarid stones.' (Smith 1964, vol 5, 20)

⁴⁶ In other sources Arnold is named as Ernald

⁴⁷ Morris (ed) 1976, 11

⁴⁸ The Domesday Survey records only 10 places with a priest at this time (Cope 1972, 13)

demonstrate their rootedness in the landscape. For Stone itself there are reports of Anglo Saxon and Danish coins⁴², and of a horseshoe of Anglo Saxon type⁴³ from Stone, though neither can now be verified.

While there is comparatively little evidence for this period, there is a great deal of myth and legend, which has led to the invention of a completely spurious origin for Stone. This stems from the legend of St Wulfade and St Ruffin who were supposedly murdered at Stone by their father Wulfhere, king of Mercia, after their conversion to Christianity by St Chad. Seductive as this legend is, Rumble⁴⁴ has demonstrated that it has no real basis in truth and that it does in fact repeat an earlier story set in the Isle of Wight and Hampshire. It is therefore highly unlikely that Stone is named after the mound of stones laid over Wulfade's grave. The stories of the foundation of a nunnery at Stone by Ermenilda, wife of Wulfhere, and of a monastery by a remorseful Wulfhere consequently are also doubtful.

Similarly the suggestion that Bury Bank was adopted as a residence by Wulfhere is unlikely⁴⁵. Hill forts were on occasion re-fortified in the early medieval period, but this generally occurred during the late 5th and 6th centuries and to date there is no evidence to support such activities at Bury Bank. Such re-fortification was generally carried out by British chieftains defending themselves against Anglo-Saxons and other incomers. Wulfhere's reign in the mid 7th century was substantially later than this period of re-fortification of ancient British defended sites.

Local myths and legends are of interest and may point to areas of importance in earlier historic times. The legend of St. Wulfade is a case in point, traced as it can be back to the 12th century. In this case it is possible that the strong associations of the area with king Wulfhere did have some basis in fact. Possibly

he did found a monastery or nunnery here in the 7th century which perhaps closed down or was destroyed during the Danish incursions of the 9th century. However, these hypotheses remain speculative at best until archaeological evidence can be identified to offer corroboration.

2.3.1 Domesday Survey

Surprisingly, there is no entry for Stone in the Domesday survey (1086). There are, however, entries for Walton, Aston and Stoke (by-Stone), all of which lay within the later parish of Stone. All three belonged to Robert of Stafford but were sub-let. Walton was held by Arnold⁴⁶; Aston and Stoke (by Stone) by Cadio. The text reads⁴⁷:

Land of Robert of Stafford

In Pirehill Hundred

"Walton [in Stone]. Arnold holds from him. 3 hides. Land for 6 ploughs. In lordship 1 [plough]: 7 villagers, 2 smallholders and 5 slaves with a priest who have 4 ploughs.

Woodland 2 furlongs long and 1 wide; meadow, the same. Value 60s. Aki, a free man, held it; he gave 1 carucate of this land to his sister"

"In Aston and Stoke [by-Stone]. Three parts of 1 hide. 6 thanes held it; they were free. Land for 8 ploughs. In lordship 2 ploughs; 7 villagers and 4 smallholders with 1 slave who have 5 ploughs. Woodlands 2 furlongs and 1 furlong wide; as much meadow. Value 70s.

Cadio holds from Robert."

The value of both landholdings, 60s – 70s, is a relatively large sum and the mention of a priest at Walton is of interest. The presence of a priest indicates that there was a church here at this time which is unusual⁴⁸. Furthermore it is likely that the church was located at Stone itself for we know from later sources that the

priory replaced an earlier church and therefore that the area which was to become the town of Stone is included within Walton at this time.

The reference to the Anglo Saxon landowner giving a carucate⁴⁹ of land to his sister is also of interest. Had he given her land to found a church or possibly even a nunnery at Stone? Possibly we are seeing here the beginnings of an ecclesiastical presence in the area which was to lead to the foundation of Stone Priory, or perhaps a re-establishment of an ecclesiastical presence which had been destroyed by the Danish invasions.

2.3.2 Placename

As we have seen the idea that Stone is so named because it was the burial place of St Wulfade is a myth. The name is first encountered around 1132 as Stanis, meaning the 'place at, or by, the stone or stones'. The name could derive from a sandstone outcrop on the north side of Stone or from a large boulder or erratic in the area. It is perhaps pertinent in this respect that one of the largest of the open fields of Stone is named Stonefield⁵⁰.

2.4 Medieval (1066 to 1499)

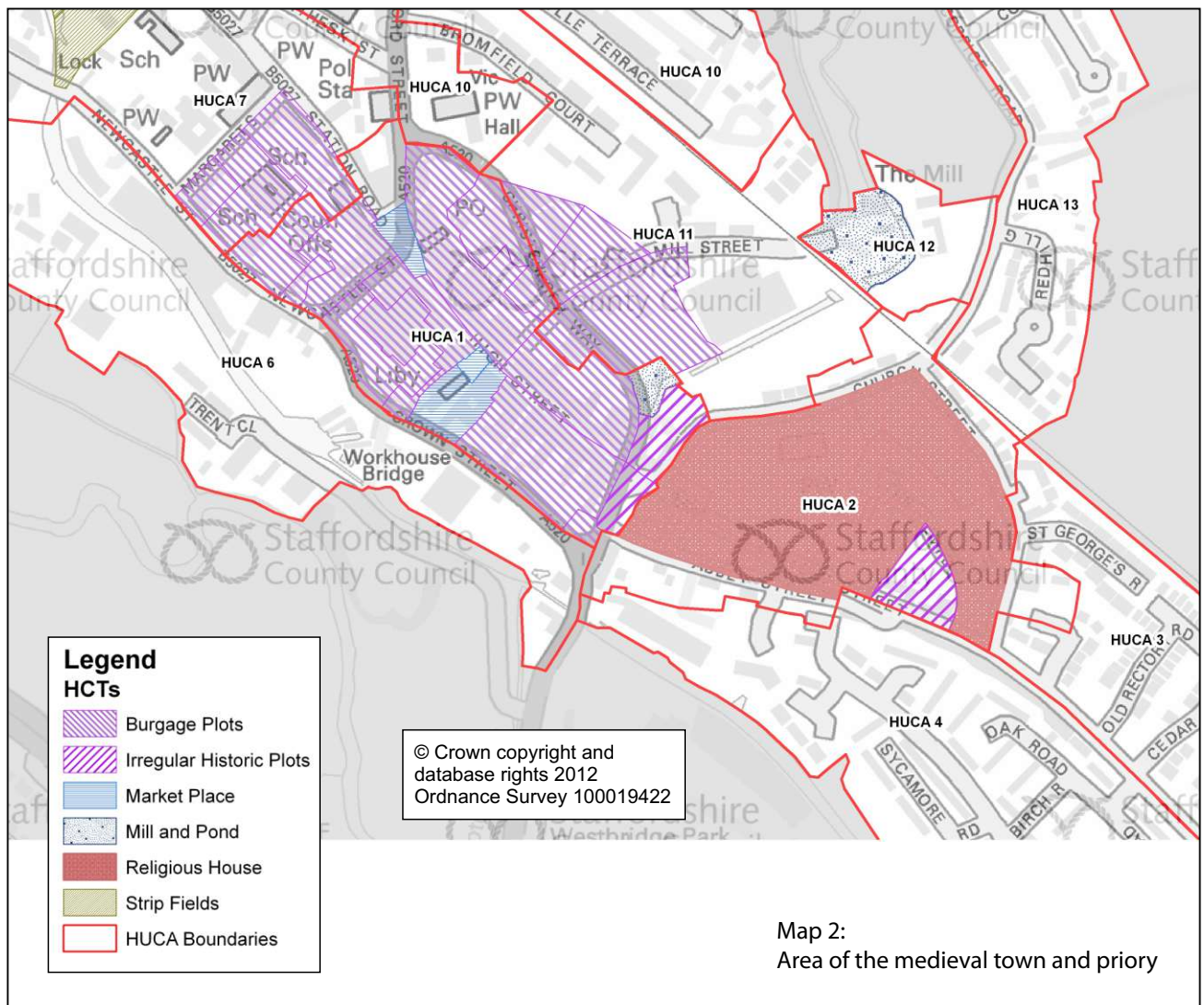
We have seen that there is no entry for Stone in the Domesday Survey and that it is likely that Stone was subsumed within the entry for Walton. This perhaps indicates that there was no settlement at Stone until the church was founded here in the 11th century.

2.4.1 Lordship

As we have seen after the Norman Conquest, Stone was probably held as part of Walton by Arnold/Ernald from Robert de Stafford. However, early in the 12th century Geoffrey de Clinton, a leading magnate who was for a time Henry I's chamberlain and treasurer, bought Stone Church from Enisan, Arnold's son. His

purpose was to increase the endowments of the Augustinian Priory which he founded at Kenilworth in Warwickshire in 1122. Evidence for this comes from a deed of 1122-1125 where he records his grant of the church at Stone to the priory at Kenilworth. In 1131 Enisan and his son, another Ernald, confirmed this grant to Kenilworth and also granted further land in Walton and Stone in return for a monetary payment from Geoffrey de Clinton. The grant was confirmed by Enisan and Ernald's overlord, Nicholas de Stafford and his heir, Robert. Ernald II had been fined for the murder of a number of men in 1129-30 and it was perhaps the need to raise money to pay off the fine which led to Enisan and Ernald's sale of their assets.

Henceforth the ownership of Stone was vested in Kenilworth Priory and its daughter house at Stone for over 400 years until the Dissolution of the Monasteries (1537).



2.4.2 Religion

2.4.2.1 Stone Priory

Geoffrey de Clinton died around 1134 but had already lost royal favour and following this his descendants never achieved the power that he had. At the same time the de Stafford family were taking an increasing interest in Stone and on his death in 1138 Nicholas de Stafford was buried here. It is around this time that a priory was founded at Stone, originally as a daughter house of the priory at Kenilworth. In a charter of 1138-47 Nicholas' son and heir, another Robert de Stafford (II), granted the priory at Stone a considerable amount of land and expressed his desire to be buried there⁵¹.

We are seeing here a familiar process for the time where local magnates founded priories on their estates where they could be buried and the priests could pray for their souls. Just as de Clinton had founded a priory at Kenilworth adjacent to his newly built castle, the Staffords were anxious to have a family priory of their own. It is possible that they took over an existing foundation but perhaps more likely that they founded the Augustinian priory themselves.

Robert de Stafford granted the priory a good number of spiritual possessions in the form of the advowson of a number of churches, land and possessions such as a mill at Wootton Wawen (Warks). A number of sub-tenants of the Stafford family, doubtless encouraged by them, also endowed the priory. Most of their landholding was concentrated around Stone and in adjacent townships such as Walton, Stoke-by-Stone and Stallington.

The priory was relatively wealthy compared to others in Staffordshire. In 1235-6 it was assessed at 2 marks⁵², the same as Trentham Priory and more than any other Augustinian house in Staffordshire.

The priory, and the town, received a setback in 1263 during the Barons' Wars of the later years of Henry III's reign when royalist forces plundered the priory, destroyed its muniments⁵³ and burnt the town⁵⁴. The priory must have recovered well in the following decades as, in the Taxatio of 1291 it was valued at £79 6s 10d, again a relatively large sum.



Plate 1: Crompton Tomb marking the site of the Priory Church

The priory continued to be a daughter house of Kenilworth until the mid-13th century although the patronage of the Stafford family ensured that it retained a large degree of independence. Eventually in 1260 an

agreement was reached which granted Stone independence from Kenilworth subject to a number of provisions.

The dedication of the priory is of interest for it was to St Wulfade. It is also stated that the original church was dedicated to St Wulfade. If true this demonstrates that the legend of St Wulfade was in existence prior to the foundation of the priory. Such a dedication and the legend it fostered would certainly have been of value to the priory with visits and gifts given out of respect for the saint a useful source of revenue. Even royalty were attracted to the legend: in 1312 the priory was granted a licence to acquire lands and rents to the annual value of £20 'on account of the devotion which the king [Edward II] bears to St Wulfade whose body rests in the church of the priory of Stone'⁵⁵.

The priory continued to enjoy the patronage of the Stafford family throughout the 13th and 14th centuries. No Stafford family burials are known after 1392, however, and in the 15th century the priory entered a period of decline. By the mid-15th century the communal life of the priory had largely broken down, a not uncommon phenomenon at this time. Efforts were made to improve the situation but disputes continued into the 16th century.

Given its wealth and importance the community was surprisingly small. It numbered six monks in 1377 and ten in 1381⁵⁶. By 1518 there were just six canons and two novices, a number which had increased to eight canons and two novices in 1521.

The priory was finally closed in 1537 and its site was bought by William Crompton, citizen and mercer of London, in 1538.

We do not know what buildings were located within the priory beyond the church which stood a little to the south west of the present church. Its site is marked by the position of

⁵⁷ Cope 1972, 18-19, Plate 4

⁵⁸ cellar

⁵⁹ Anon. c. 19th century (WSL): A circa 19th century drawing of the arch which at that time survived to its full height

⁶⁰ White 1834, 672. Antiquarian reports of tunnels and passages are a common phenomenon and in this case probably refer to the vaulted undercroft or perhaps to a large drain

⁶¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 54750; they now lie beneath a retail estate

⁶² Staffordshire HER: PRN 54744; the abbey fish pond acting as a mill pond also

⁶³ Cope 1972, 18-19, Plate 4

⁶⁴ Beresford and Finsberg 1973, 164

⁶⁵ Gazetteer of Markets and Fairs to 1516

<http://www.history.ac.uk/cmh/gaz/gazweb2.htm> accessed 29.10.11

⁶⁶ July 24th

⁶⁷ 1 mark = 13s 4d

⁶⁸ Cope 1972, 22

⁶⁹ Dyer 2002a, 18-19

the Crompton tomb which formerly stood within the priory church close to the north chancel (plate 1). Cope suggests that the other main priory buildings stood to the south of the church⁵⁷ but gives no source for his reconstruction. Their site is now bisected by Lichfield Street which was built through the priory area in the 1770s. Part of a vaulted undercroft⁵⁸ the base of a wall and lower part of a Norman arch remain in the garden of the house known as 'The Priory' (plate 4)⁵⁹. 'Subterranean passages' were reported when the road was put through⁶⁰.

To the north of the priory a large pond which survived until recently probably marks the site of the priory fishponds⁶¹ fed by the Scotch Brook. The priory also possessed two corn mills. These were probably on the site of the later Stubb's Mill⁶² and further up the valley of the Scotch Brook on the site of the later watermill at the north end of Mill Street⁶³ (cf. map 2).

2.4.3 Administration

The fortunes of the town of Stone are inextricably linked with those of the priory. When the priory was founded in the 12th century it took over the site of a church, and possibly a hermitage or nunnery. There is no evidence, however, that there were any secular buildings here. Secular dwellers may have been attracted to the area by the spiritual and financial opportunities that such a house offered. By the mid-13th century the priory had taken the decision to foster the growth of a town here. Possibly it was encouraged to do so because there were already proto-urban features in the settlement, or possibly the location by a major road route encouraged the priory to believe that it would thrive if suitable investment took place. Burgages are attested in the town from the mid-14th century⁶⁴ and probably existed earlier. The priory retained control over the town, however, and there is

no evidence that the inhabitants of the town were ever granted a borough charter.

2.4.4 Economy

2.4.4.1 Markets and Fairs

The prior of Stone was granted the right to hold a Tuesday market and an annual three-day fair in 1251⁶⁵ around the feast day of 'St Wulfade the Martyr'⁶⁶. The Prior paid 20 marks⁶⁷ for the Charter indicating that he anticipated the market being a good source of revenue in the future (cf. map 2 for potential location of market places within the town).

As we have seen the town suffered a setback soon after when it was sacked by royalist forces in 1263⁶⁸. It would appear that there was no lasting damage to the town's fortunes, however.

2.4.4.2 Economy/Industry

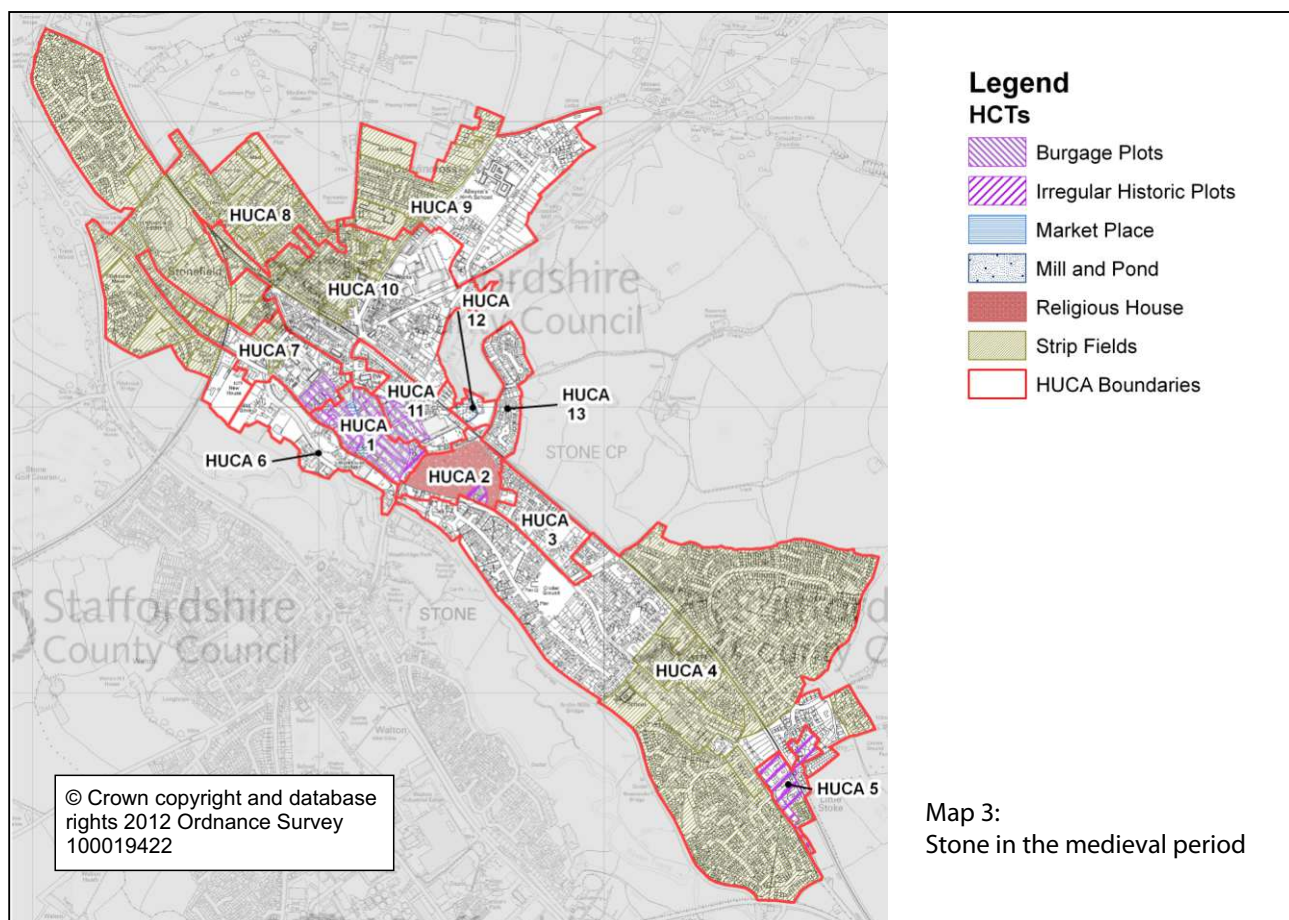
When Dyer⁶⁹ reviewed the range of occupations in Staffordshire's towns (contained in the plea rolls of the royal courts between 1414 and 1485), Stone was found to rank in a middling group. During this period seven occupations were attested: tailor, shoemaker, tanner, smith, fuller, shearman and painter. The Exchequer Rolls of 1327 give us a number of occupational surnames which can be added to this list – a pelliparius⁷⁰, a mercer⁷¹ and a sutor⁷². None of these occupations would have been unusual in a small medieval town.

⁷⁰ A peltterer or skinner i.e. someone who prepared animal skins and pelts for clothing or dealt in them

⁷¹ A dealer in fine cloths

⁷² A cobbler

⁷³ Though important travellers would perhaps have been accommodated at the Priory.
⁷⁴ The ford site is marked on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition plan immediately east of the bridge; even today the river is relatively shallow at this point
⁷⁵ Cope 1972, 22, 24
⁷⁶ Cope 1972, 19
⁷⁷ Now Coppice Mill



The chief advantage Stone had over many medieval towns in Staffordshire was its location on one of the major roads in the kingdom, that linking London to Chester, and beyond to Holyhead and Ireland. Further important roads passed through Stone heading to the north, the north east and the south west. This would have meant that the accommodation and victualling of travellers would have been a source of considerable wealth⁷³. The importance of the road routes is demonstrated by the building of a bridge at Walton to carry the road from Eccleshall to Stone by 1317, succeeding an earlier ford⁷⁴. A bridge still survives at this site. Two of its four arches are of a distinctive pointed Gothic type and may survive from the original bridge.

Sheep and wool were another major source of revenue. In 1339 wool valued at 22½ marks was bought by the crown from the priory, while in 1484 the priory claimed that it had had 190 sheep stolen⁷⁵.

2.4.4.3 Watermills

The priory owned a number of mills in or on the edge of Stone⁷⁶. At its Dissolution in 1536 there is mention of a mill on the site of the later Stubbs mill and 'two water mills under one roof' at Stone Mills⁷⁷ to the north east. Both were on the Scotch Brook (cf. map 2). Prior to the Dissolution of the monasteries, income from the mills would have gone to the priory, nevertheless they would have provided a source of employment to the town and some of their produce was doubtless traded in the town market.

⁷⁸ Cope 1972, 29. Cope attempts a reconstruction of the location of the major fields (1972, Plate 5, 25) but does not give his sources for the reconstruction
⁷⁹ Cockin 2000, 491
⁸⁰ Dyer 2002a, 13

2.4.4.4 Agriculture

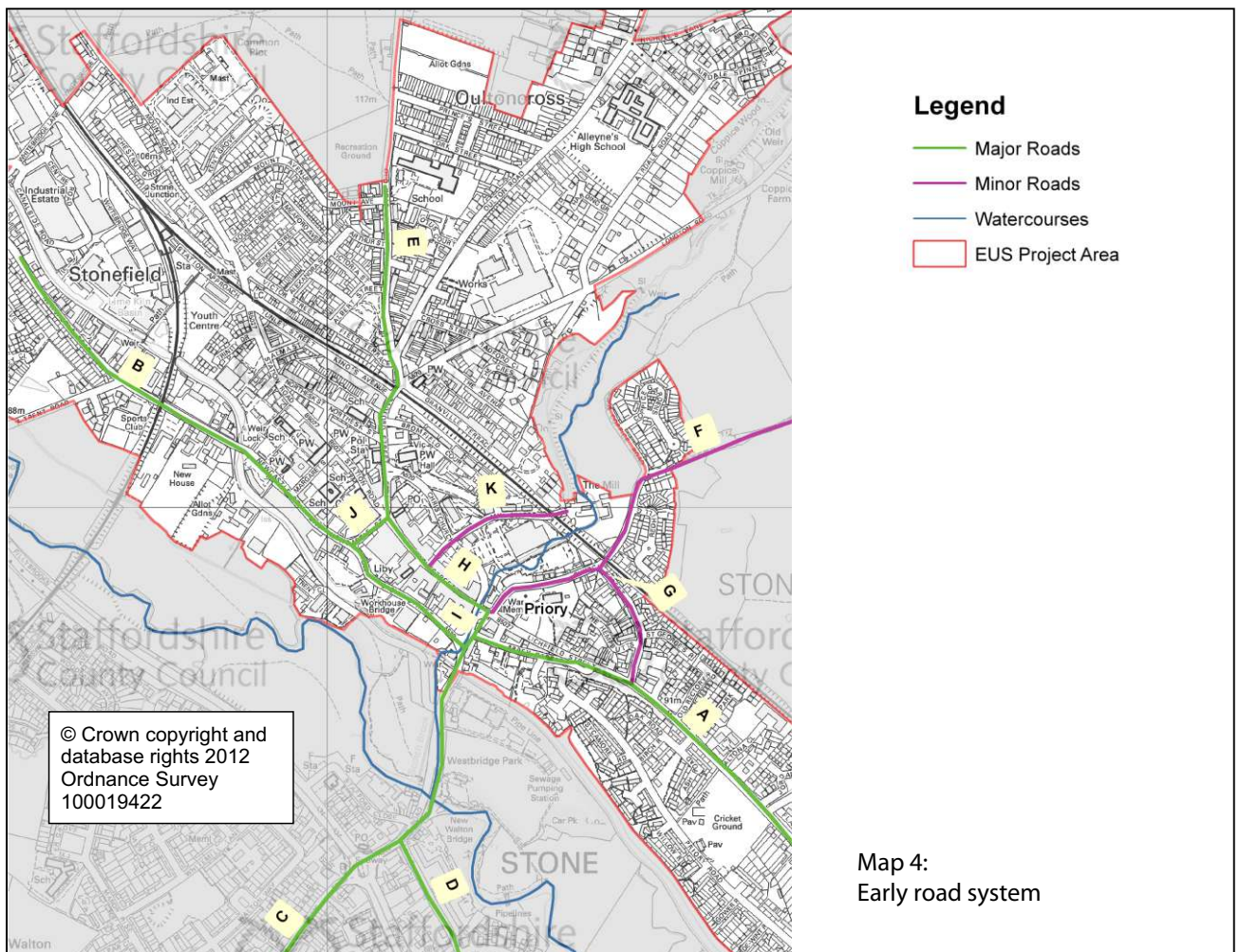
Stone was surrounded by the usual assortment of open fields, enclosures and closes. There were two large open fields to the north west of the town known as Sandpits and Stonefield (cf. HCT 'Strip Fields' on map 3). Elsewhere there was arable land in separate fields. When the priory was dissolved we hear of arable lands in fields called Red Hill, Thistley and Radford as well as in Stonefield, and there were also areas of meadow, pasture and woodland⁷⁸.

Stone Park was a medieval park which belonged to the priory. At the Dissolution it was bought by the Crompton family who established their seat there⁷⁹.

2.4.5 Settlement

2.4.5.1 Ranking and Population

Assessing the ranking and population of a medieval town is fraught with difficulties. Chris Dyer has most recently attempted to do this for Staffordshire⁸⁰. He suggested a population of between 500 to 1000 people for Stone putting it in a middling group of towns along side Burton-on-Trent and Rugeley. Comparatively then Stone would have been smaller than major towns such as Newcastle-under-Lyme, Lichfield and Stafford but larger than Eccleshall.



⁸¹ Though this figure also includes a number of surrounding townships

⁸² Glasscock 1975, 277-8

⁸³ SHC VII Pt 1, 200

⁸⁴ SHC X Pt 1, 92

⁸⁵ Lichfield Street, the continuation of Lichfield Road to the west was not created until the late 18th century. It is not shown on Yates' map of Staffordshire (1775) which was surveyed 1769-1775

⁸⁶ See above

⁸⁹ It is possible that there was already a lane here continuing the line of the lane to Cotwalton down to the Scotch Brook ford

⁹⁰ It is called Back Lane on the 1800s estate map

In the 1334 lay subsidy Stone was taxed, with Stallington, at £4 2s 0d. This subsidy included the rural part of Stone as well as the adjacent Stallington, but as it was a lay subsidy the priory would not have been included. The figure is considerably more than surrounding villages such as Walton (£2 5s 6d), Darlaston £1 4s 8d, Milwich £2 0s 0d and Swynnerton £3 2s 0d) but less than other urban centres in Pirehill Hundred such as Eccleshall (£7 18sd 7¼d)⁸¹ and Abbot's Bromley (£5 7s 8d)⁸². This emphasises the difficulties of using such figures as Dyer suggests that both Eccleshall and Abbot's Bromley were smaller than Stone in terms of population.

In 1327 24 Stone residents paid a total of 36 shillings⁸³; a further subsidy of 1332-3 realised 38s 4d⁸⁴.

2.4.5.2 Town plan

The first element to discuss in a reconstruction of the medieval town plan is the primary road pattern (cf. map 4). We have seen that Stone was a major route centre. However, there have been subtle changes in this route which need to be examined. The major road from London approached Stone from the south east along Lichfield Road and Abbey Street (A)⁸⁵. At the west end of Abbey Street it seems likely that the road doglegged to the south before fording the Scotch Brook and then continuing along Crown Street and Newcastle Road (B). The London road is joined by two other major roads at Stone. A road from Eccleshall (C) approaches from the south west, having been joined by a road from Stafford (D) at Walton before crossing the river Trent via a ford which was later replaced by a bridge⁸⁶. The Eccleshall road joins the London road at the fording point of the Scotch Brook. A further road from Lane End and Leek (E) approached from the north east along what is now Radford Street and Old Road. Nowadays this road doglegs down Newcastle Street to join the London Road but it may originally have continued in a

straighter line to join the London road.

So far as we can tell this was the basic road pattern into which was inserted Stone Priory, whose precinct is probably marked by Church Street⁸⁷, Abbey Street and Stafford Street⁸⁸. It is possible that a minor lane to Cotwalton (F) already ran along the line of the western arm of Church Street and was thus adopted as the western arm of the priory. Indeed the eastern arm of Church Street (G) may also have been already in existence.



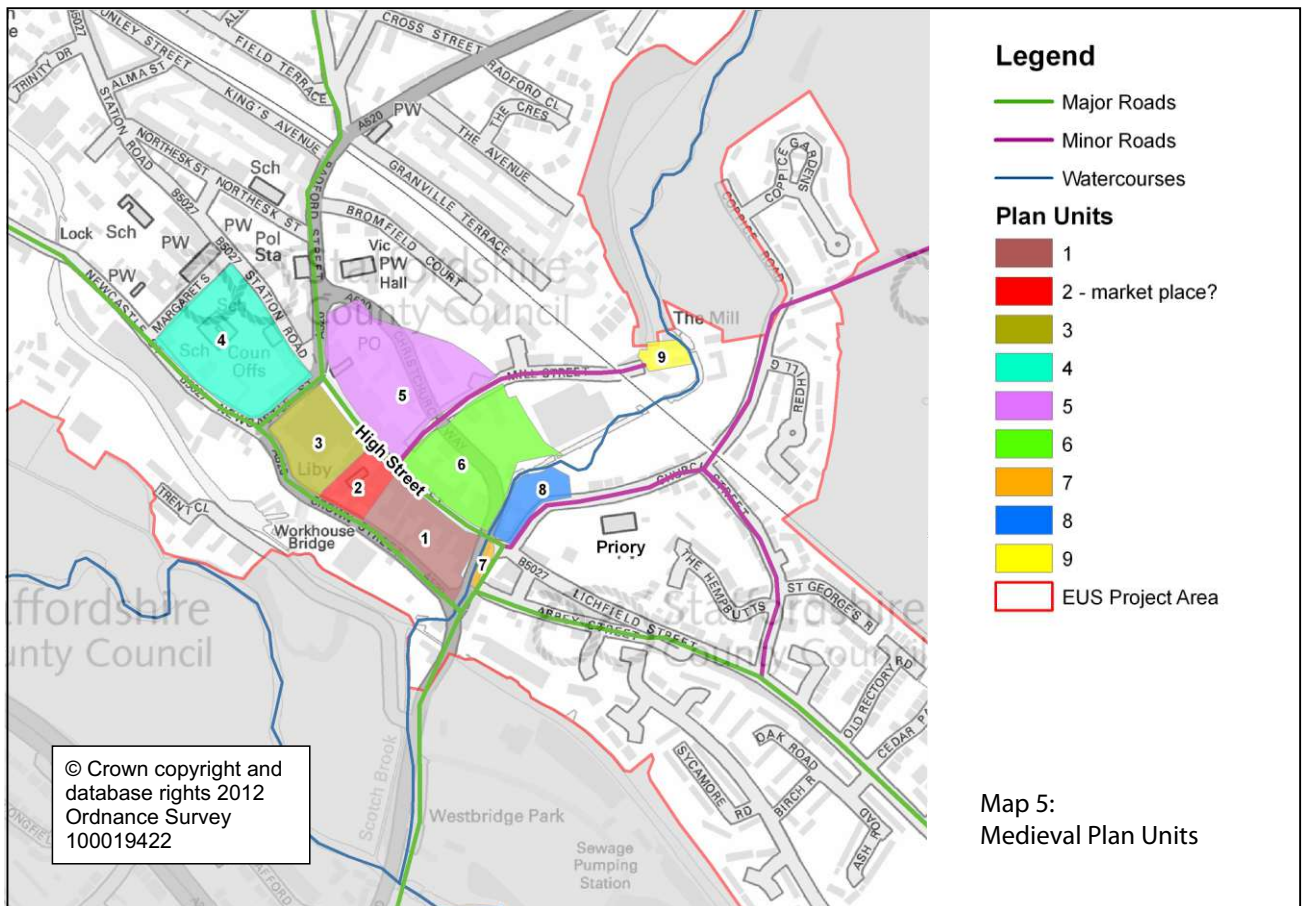
Plate 2: High Street showing change in level

The next phase of development sees a deliberate act of town planning with the laying out of High Street (H) at the priory gates (plate 2). The new street was laid out with sufficient width to act as a market street⁸⁹. It is likely that the ford over the Scotch Brook at the bottom end of High Street⁹⁰ was replaced by a bridge ensuring that tradesmen and travellers moved through the town and denying them the opportunity to bypass it. In addition, subtle alterations were made to the earlier road pattern. Stafford Street (I) was extended to the north to ensure that all traffic from the south was channelled over the supposed bridge and along the market street, while Crown Street was relegated to the status

⁹¹ Also called Newcastle Street

⁹² It is possible that the watermill and Mill Street preceded the laying out of the High Street, in which case the street would originally have run down further to the south to meet Crown Street

of a back lane for newly laid out properties along the south side of the High Street. At the north western end of the High Street the road from Newcastle was diverted to the north along a dog leg (J)⁹¹ to meet the road from Leek before turning down the High Street to the crossing of the Scotch Brook. The road system was completed with the insertion of a minor road to the watermill off Mill Street (K), running off from the High Street⁹².



Having established the basic road pattern we now need to examine the layout of the High Street in detail. The first thing to observe is that the street is not laid out on the flat. The top of the High Street at its north west end lies at around 94m AOD but the ground falls to the south east towards the Scotch Brook so that the bottom end of the High Street lies at around 88m AOD (plate 2 looking north west shows this change in level). Additionally the High Street is not a standard width but is more of a wedge shape with a width of 26m at its top end narrowing down to 9m at the bottom, suggesting perhaps that it was only the top end which was originally intended as a market area (cf. map 2).

The High Street was laid out with burghage properties on either side (cf. map 2). These can be sub-divided into five plan units (cf. map 5). To the south of the High Street and east of the Market Place an area of regular burghage properties (1) fronts on to the High Street, with, as we have seen Crown Street acting as a back lane. To the west of this plan unit, the area which was to comprise the Crown Hotel property and the area of the Market Place look as though they originally formed a single unit (2). There are two possibilities: that this area originally formed a single large market

⁹³ Whether this is their original alignment or whether they were originally aligned to front on to the High Street could only be determined by archaeological excavation

⁹⁴ Cope 1972, Plate 12, 81

⁹⁵ Identified by Cope (1972, Plate 12) as Meaford Farm Road

⁹⁶ Dyer 2002b, 233

⁹⁷ Lane later referred to as 'Back Radfords'

⁹⁸ This plan unit includes Stubbs Mill which stands on the western side of the brook

place or that this area was originally laid out as burgage properties and that the small Market Place was later carved out from them. The former is perhaps the most likely though it does give Stone quite a substantial marketing area for a small town although this may merely reflect the aspirations of Stone Priory.

To the west of this unit is a further area of burgage style properties (3). At its eastern end these properties front on to the High Street and run back to Crown Street, but at its western end smaller properties front on to the dogleg of Newcastle Street⁹³. To the west of Newcastle Street is a further plan unit (4) which run as far as the present Margaret Street which formerly marked the division between the town and its open fields (cf. map 5)⁹⁴. Properties here front on to a lane leading to the open fields⁹⁵ which was succeeded by North Street. The area of plan unit 4 has not previously been suggested as forming part of the medieval town. However, the fact that it appears never to have formed part of the medieval fields and that its eastern end at least appears to be divided into burgage-style properties suggests that it is part of the medieval town layout. It is possible that properties laid out at the western end of the unit were never taken up or that the settlement area was reduced after the Black Death of 1348-9 which carried off around half of England's population⁹⁶.

The area to the north of the High Street can be divided into two plan units, bisected by Mill Street. To the west of Mill Street is an area of long, thin burgage properties (5) which probably originally extended towards a back lane⁹⁷. To the east of Mill Street is a further area of long, thin burgage-style properties (6) but in this case their side boundaries can be seen to have a curving shape. It has been suggested that these curving boundaries indicate that this area was taken out of the town fields. Their alignment, however, follows that of Mill Street which forms their western

boundary and Scotch Brook which forms their eastern boundary⁹⁸. Accordingly it may be that it was a decision to follow these alignments which caused their curving boundaries.

Two plan units to the east of the Scotch Brook by Stafford Street (7) and Church Street (8) may represent unplanned additions to the medieval town. The other medieval element, in addition to the priory, is the mill or mills on the site of the later watermill at the north end of Mill Street (9).

2.4.5.3 Buildings

Unusually for a medieval town we have no evidence for surviving medieval buildings or portions thereof. It is not impossible that Georgian frontages mask elements of earlier building but at present it would appear that Georgian prosperity with the coming of the canal led to a complete rebuilding of the central area of the town. A 19th century view of St Michael's church does show a half timbered building set on a dwarf stone wall on the corner of Church Street which presumably indicates the type of building in the town in the medieval and early post-medieval periods.

2.4.5.4 Little Stoke

We have limited evidence for Little Stoke in the medieval period, which lies to the east of Stone (cf. map 3). It is presumably the Stoke included with the entry for Aston in Domesday Book so it would appear that there was a hamlet here at this time. It is not mentioned in the 1334 lay subsidy but is presumably included with the entry for Aston and Burston who paid the modest amount of £1 15s 8d at this time.

2.5 Post Medieval (1500 to 1699)

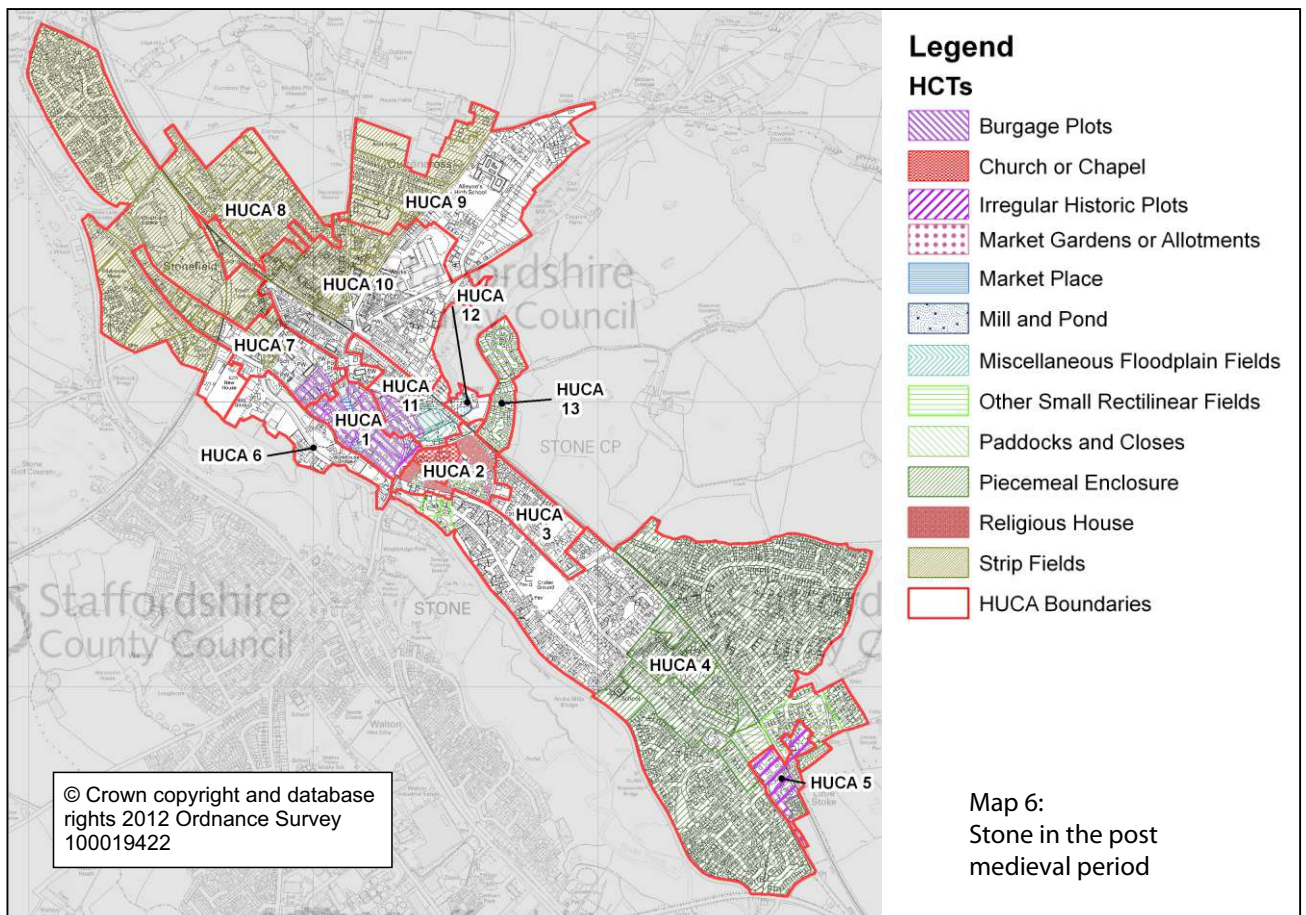
2.5.1 Settlement

2.5.1.1 Lordship and Administration

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535 Stone Priory was said to hold rents of burgages and cottages in Stone and to have the right to any profits from jurisdiction; indicating that it held the rights to the manorial court.

At the Dissolution the priory lands and privileges were sold. These assets were subsequently resold when James Collier of Darlaston and William Crompton bought equal shares in the Abbey estates. Crompton's portion included the priory buildings and lands to the south and east. Collier's portion comprised lands to the north and west and presumably including the town; in 1549 Robert Colyer of Darlaston obtained a new grant for the market at Stone. The Cromptons continued to be of importance in the life of Stone as they developed an estate on former priory lands at Stoke Park to the east; many of them were buried in fine tombs in the parish church⁹⁹.

The Colliers originally held the manor but this was later acquired by the Crompton family and stayed with the Stone Priory estate until the 19th century¹⁰⁰.



2.5.1.2 Population

The hearth tax returns for 1666 name 170 families, but only 70 of these were chargeable¹⁰¹. These would be heads of household so to get a true total population we need to multiply them by an agreed factor. Arkell¹⁰² has suggested a multiplication factor of 4.3 for the Hearth Tax returns so if we multiply our figure of 170 by 4.3 we get a total population of 730 for Stone, which would seem to be a reasonable estimate.

The number of families not chargeable is unusually high, perhaps suggesting that Stone was in economic decline at this time. This fits with contemporary descriptions.

2.5.1.3 Town Plan

It is difficult to recognise significant changes to Stone's town plan during this period. During the 16th and 17th centuries, towns tended not to expand, largely retaining their medieval form. Indeed, they often do not reach their pre-Black Death (mid 14th century) size until the 18th or 19th centuries. The principal change of course was the closure of the priory, although its church was retained as the parish church. However, there is little evidence of building on the priory site at this period apart from the provision of a Schoolhouse (cf. map 6).

It is not clear when the buildings of Stone priory were demolished although it is likely to have occurred in the years shortly after its Dissolution. Similarly, there is little evidence to suggest what happened to the stone although it is probable that the material was used in buildings either in Stone or in the construction of the new mansion and ancillary complex that the Crompton family were building in the grounds of the former priory's medieval park. Such activity is attested from elsewhere in Staffordshire at Dieulecres Abby, Leek and St. Thomas' Priory, Stafford. Here robbed

ecclesiastical stonework was used in the construction of residences and farm buildings and there remains the potential for such remains to be present at the former Crompton family residence (Stonepark).

2.5.1.4 Little Stoke

Again we have limited evidence for Little Stoke at this period. It is shown on the Ogilby Road Map of 1675¹⁰³ when a short row of houses are shown on the east side of the road. Its position on a major road may have brought some economic advantages in addition to its agricultural base. The Three Crowns Public House situated on the main road is a 17th century building and if it has always been a public house would have been well placed to provide food and accommodation for travellers along the road.

2.5.2 Education

A school, Alleyne's Grammar School, was endowed in Thomas Alleyne's will in 1558. Alleyne was a friend of the Cromptons and a school had been started in a surviving portion of the priory buildings even before his death. Schools were badly needed at this time as the suppression of the Monasteries had left a gap in educational provision. Possibly the school replaced an earlier one run by the priory.

There were claimed to be 80 pupils in 1567 but the school declined in the 17th century and in 1649 when Thomas Chaloner took over as schoolmaster numbers were down to 37. Chaloner increased the numbers to 154 but left soon afterwards and probably took most of the pupils with him¹⁰⁴.

2.5.3 Economy

2.5.3.1 Agriculture

The town fields to the north and west continued in operation through the 16th and 17th centuries (cf. HCT 'Strip Fields' on map 6).

¹⁰⁵ Cope 1972, 48
¹⁰⁶ Thomas 1931: 61-99
¹⁰⁷ Cope 1972, 33; Sherman = cloth worker
¹⁰⁸ i.e. a dealer in salt
¹⁰⁹ Cope 1972, 38
¹¹⁰ Cope 1972, 29
¹¹¹ Cope 1972, 37
¹¹² shoemakers
¹¹³ Cope 1972, 48 (currier; prepares the leather following the tanning process before it is sent onto to be fashioned into products such as shoes, saddles etc.)

¹¹⁴ Cope 1972, 38
¹¹⁵ Cope 1972, 51
¹¹⁶ Cockin 2000, 488
¹¹⁷ i.e. large
¹¹⁸ Cope 1972, 40
¹¹⁹ Cope 1972, 55
¹²⁰ Cockin 2000, 488

A lane bisected these fields heading towards Meaford along the line of what is now North Street¹⁰⁵. Elsewhere the open fields appear, from the morphology, to have been enclosed piecemeal through agreements between landholders; the resulting field pattern being referred to as 'Piecemeal Enclosure' (cf. map 6). However, there is no documentary evidence to suggest at what period this occurred. In Staffordshire more generally this form of enclosure occurred between the 14th and 18th centuries¹⁰⁶.

2.5.3.2 Economy/Industry

We cannot be sure to what extent the suppression of the priory in 1536 had an effect on the town. Often, the Dissolution of religious houses greatly impacted settlements through the loss of trade and employment. However, at Stone the effect may have been lessened as the priory was already in decline. Indeed, there may have been some improvement in prospects as new major landowners entered the area requiring goods and services. The trades which we hear of in the town at this period are what we would expect in a small town and probably differed little from those carried out during the medieval period. We hear of a shearman from the town in 1518 attesting to a cloth industry¹⁰⁷. In 1536 John Brasnell, a shoemaker, received a licence for an alehouse in Stone, sureties being given by Thomas Cotton of Stone, a salter¹⁰⁸, and by William Webb, a shoemaker¹⁰⁹. Around the same time we hear of a butcher from Stone who purchased land in Walton¹¹⁰. In a will of 1567 John Lee of Stone, a blacksmith, left to his son 'the implements of my smythy'¹¹¹. In the 17th century we hear of a maltster, a tailor, a draper, cordwainers¹¹² and a currier and leather dealer¹¹³.

The town's position on a major highway continued to be its most significant asset (cf. 1.1.1). Possibly in this respect it gained from

the suppression of the priory as important travellers could no longer find overnight accommodation there.

The town's continuing importance in the long-distance transport network is emphasised by the establishment of a Post Office here in the Elizabethan period. It was the only Staffordshire town mentioned in a list of postmasters made in 1573¹¹⁴. By 1646 there was a stagecoach operating on the road to Chester and in 1675 John Ogilby described the London-Chester¹¹⁵ road as '...one of the most frequented roads in the kingdom'¹¹⁶.

2.5.3.3 Markets and fairs

In 1549 Robert Colyer, lord of the manor of Stone, was granted a licence maintaining the privileges granted to the recently suppressed priory, particularly the right to hold the weekly market and annual fair. The evidence for the success of the market is variable. In 1604 the town was described as a 'great'¹¹⁷ parish and market town¹¹⁸. However, in 1673 it was said to be 'very poor and hath a mean market on Tuesdays'¹¹⁹.

A market cross at the bottom of Church Street is attested around 1670¹²⁰. However, by 1673 the town is described as very poor with a 'mean market' (cf. 2.5.1.2), it is currently unclear what its economic fortunes were during the 17th century to explain the differing accounts.

2.5.4 Religion

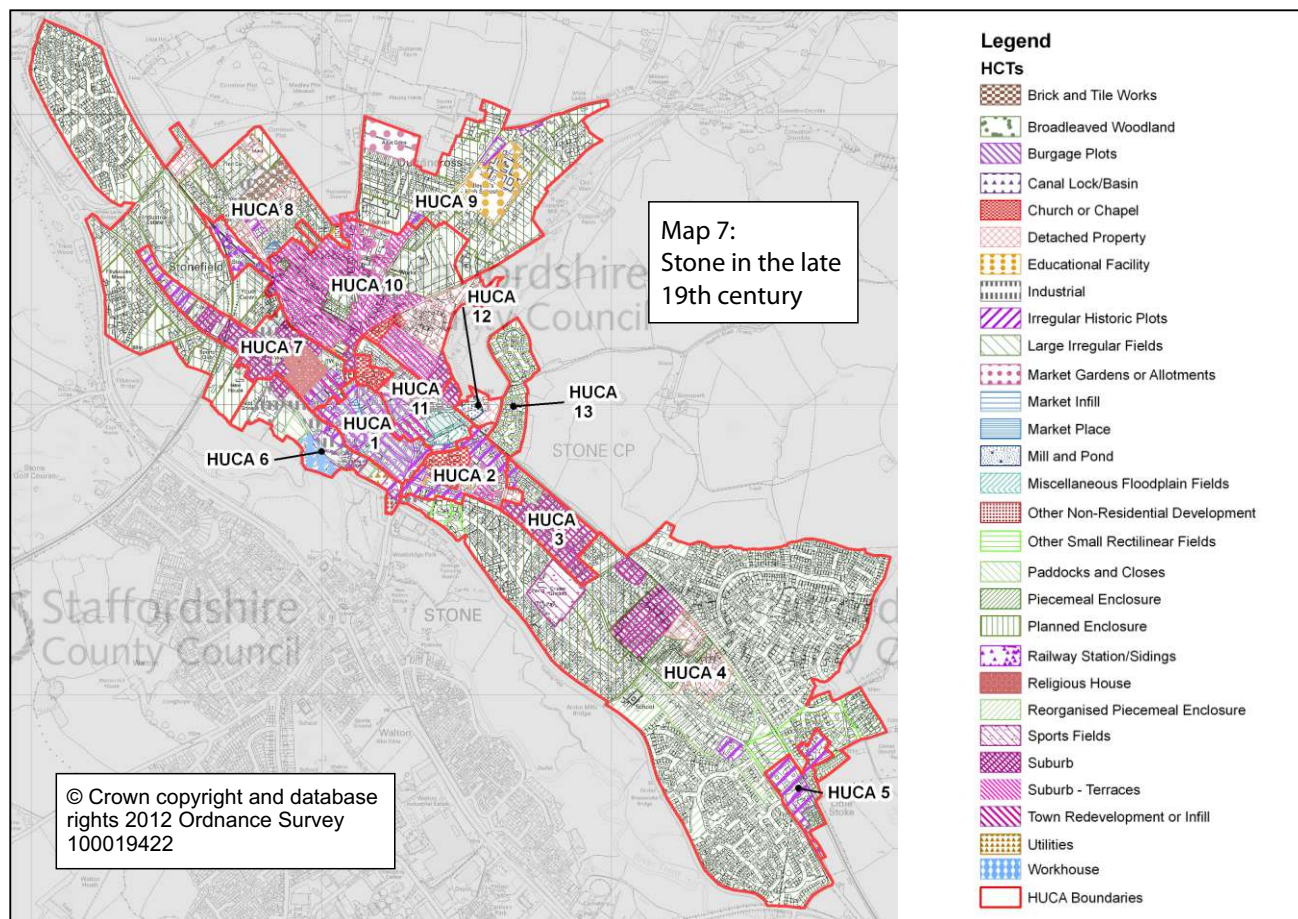
2.5.4.1 Stone Priory and St Wulfade's Parish Church

Stone Priory was closed down in 1536 and its buildings and lands were sold off. At the time its assets were valued at £119 14s 11d. The priory church was retained to act as the parish church. It was in a poor state, however, and by 1572 a small chapel on the north side of the church was the only portion of the building fit

for use. Consequently a new aisle was added to the chapel to serve as the parish church, using material from the remainder of the church¹²¹. The early 17th century tomb of William Crompton and his wife¹²² marks the site of the chancel of the original church (plate 1).

2.6 18th and 19th century (1700 to 1899)

The coming of the canal to Stone was a crucial event in its development. In 1789 it was said that 'The town is in a much more flourishing state than formerly, owing to the great navigation that passes by it. It consists of one principal street, which is now a pretty good one, with a new market place, and one of the leading inns upon this extensive road....the market town of Stone....from a poor insignificant place is now grown neat and handsome in its buildings, and, from its wharfs and busy traffic, wears the lively aspect of a little sea-port'¹²³.



2.6.1 Settlement

2.6.1.1 Population

With the introduction of Census Returns in the 19th century we have reliable evidence for the population of Stone for the first time. There are some problems, however. The figures for 1801 and 1811 are estimates, while the figures as a whole are for the whole parish. White¹²⁴ estimates the population of the town itself as around 1,500 in 1801 and 3,000 in the 1830s suggesting that

the population of the town constituted a little under 50% of the population of the parish. The figures do, however, give us a good indication of population increase. We can see that the population was on the rise throughout the period, almost doubling between 1821 (7,251 people) and 1901 (14,233 people), with an especially rapid rise between 1871 (10,387 people) and 1881 (13,155 people)¹²⁵.

2.6.1.2 Town Plan

There was little growth in the town area until the late 18th to early 19th centuries. Any growth in population prior to this could be taken up by increased density of occupation within the existing area.

This situation was to change during this period, however, due to five factors: the opening of the canal in 1771, which heralded in a new era of prosperity; the enclosure of the open fields in the early 19th century, which freed land for building especially to the north and west of the town; industrialisation; population growth - the town's population almost doubled between 1821 and 1901; and the coming of the railway in the mid 19th century.

The estate map of c1800 demonstrates that there had been only limited growth by this time. The most significant addition is the insertion of a new street linking Lichfield Road with the bottom end of High Street. Named as New Road on the estate map it was soon re-named Lichfield Street. The area around St Michael's church was largely settled by this time with houses fronting on to Church Street¹²⁶, Abbey Street and New Road/Lichfield Street. Otherwise the chief areas of growth by this time were, as we would expect, the area between the canal and Crown Street/Newcastle Road.

By the late 19th century the situation had changed completely (cf. map 7). The process can be followed quite closely by using the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping of 1886 which gives the first detailed plan of the town. There had been a massive expansion of settlement over the area of the former open fields to the north and west of the town. Initially this expansion largely took the form of the building of large houses such as Stonefield House on Newcastle Road¹²⁷, The Laurels¹²⁸ and The Mount¹²⁹ on Mount Road and Radford House and The Radfords¹³⁰ on Longton Road, so that in 1834 it was said that: 'during the last twenty years many of the inhabitants have built handsome dwellings in the suburbs of the town, on the Lichfield, Newcastle and Lane End roads¹³¹. From the mid-19th century settlement expansion increasingly took the form of the building of houses for the 'lower classes', particularly terraced housing. New streets were laid out, their names in some cases betraying their dates. Hence the densest area of terraced housing is formed by a network of streets off Mount Road named Victoria Street, Albert Street, Edward Street, Alexandra Street and Arthur Street¹³², while to their south is Alma Street¹³³.

Interspersed with the new housing were industrial works, particularly Boot and Shoe Factories. Thirteen industrial sites are shown on the 1886 mapping. Of these five are boot and shoe factories, confirming the pre-eminence of this manufacture in the industry of the town. There were also the two mills on the Scotch Brook, Stubbs Mill and Coppice Mill; both are recorded as corn mills, although Coppice Mill was put to a number of uses at different times. The other industrial premises recorded are a timber yard and saw mill, a boat builder's yard, a brick works, a malthouse, a tannery¹³⁴, and a brewery¹³⁵. These are not of course all of the industrial premises at the time for there would have been many small craftsmen working in their houses or in

¹³³ The Battle of Alma (1854) was an early success for the British and French forces over the Russians in the Crimean War

¹³⁴ Staffordshire HER: PRN 54571 and PRN 54572

¹³⁵ Staffordshire HER: PRN 07884 and PRN 03288

¹³⁶ See above; some small workshops survive at the back of the burgage properties fronting on to High Street.

¹³⁷ See above

¹³⁸ Many of the streets of terraced housing such as Victoria Street and Albert Street had only been partly built up by 1886 but were fully built up by 1901

¹³⁹ Bent's Brewery HUCA 8; Staffordshire HER: PRN 54753 and PRN 54754

separate workshops behind their dwelling houses, particularly in the boot and shoe industry¹³⁶, and certainly there was sufficient industry, and a sufficient concentration of population, to cause health problems¹³⁷.

Also noticeable on the 1886 map is the introduction of allotment gardens; two areas are shown (cf. HUCA 10 and HUCA 11). Once established these allotments were long lasting, surviving into the second half of the twentieth century and were joined by further areas in the 20th century as the establishment of allotment gardens was encouraged by legislation.

At the end of this period, by the time of the 1901 map we can see that there has been yet more growth, partly with the intensification of settlement in existing areas¹³⁸ and partly with building in new areas. The most noticeable area of new building, however, is not of terraced housing but is of villa-style residences along Lichfield Road towards Little Stoke, indicative perhaps of an increasing number of 'upper middle class' families in the town or of their desire to move away from the central area.

New industrial premises shown on the 1901 mapping are represented by a further boot and shoe factory, timber yard, brewery¹³⁹ and a warehouse for Joule's Brewery by the canal.



Plate 3: Crown Hotel

¹⁴⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRN 12741, PRN 12770, PRN 12771

¹⁴¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 54746 (HUCA 6); the warehouse is said to date to 1881 but is not shown on the 1886 Ordnance Survey mapping, possibly because the survey had taken place some years previously

¹⁴² See above

¹⁴³ Staffordshire HER: PRN 07916

¹⁴⁴ Ibid: PRN 07783

2.6.1.3 Buildings

Stone is unusual for an historic town in having few known surviving buildings or monuments pre-dating the 18th century. It makes up for this, however, by having a good selection of Georgian and early Victorian buildings, largely a testament to the wealth and prosperity brought to the town with the coming of the Trent and Mersey Canal.

As regards the canal, the chief monument is of course the waterway itself with its locks and bridges. Also of interest is its associated infrastructure, particularly the boatyard and docks (plate 7)¹⁴⁰ south of Crown Street and the former Joules' Brewery Warehouse (plate 12)¹⁴¹, now converted into flats, between the canal and Newcastle Street.

Just to the south of the canal the imposing former workhouse¹⁴² survives, also now converted into flats (plate 5).



Plate 4: The Priory

The chief monument of the railway, apart from the lines themselves, is the Jacobean style mid-19th century railway station¹⁴³, now converted for community use (plate 14).

As regards domestic and commercial buildings the finest series are along High Street. The best of these are Cumberland House and, most especially, the Crown Hotel (plate 3)¹⁴⁴ but it is the fact that so many good quality Georgian and early Victorian buildings survive along the High street and that there is little later intrusive development which leads to its charm. Of slightly later date is

¹⁴⁵ Cope 1972, Plate 10, 57
¹⁴⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 07894
¹⁴⁷ Ibid: PRN 07985
¹⁴⁸ See above
¹⁴⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 03732; Thompson 1973

¹⁵⁰ Now 2 Stowe House, a Grade II listed building, Staffordshire HER: PRN 07922
¹⁵¹ White 1851
¹⁵² Cope 1972, 119; Kelly (1896) says 1860 (within HUCA 1)

the Market Hall (1868), now converted into the town library, which is situated on the Market Place, set back from the High Street. It replaced an earlier Butter Market¹⁴⁵.

A contrast to High Street is presented by Lichfield Street with a more dispersed settlement pattern but with a number of high quality Georgian residences, particularly The Priory (plate 4)¹⁴⁶ and The Mansion House¹⁴⁷.

The town also possesses a good selection of surviving Georgian and Victorian churches¹⁴⁸. Foremost is St Michael's Church with its associated monuments, tombs and churchyard walls (plate 9). A particularly fine and unusual associated building is the Classical-style Jervis Mausoleum. Christ Church and St John's Congregational Church also form prominent landmarks within the town.

The vision and energy of Father Dominic and Mother Margaret Hallahan led to the creation of what almost constitutes a distinctive Roman Catholic quarter in the town around Margaret Street (cf. 2.6.4.3). Particularly prominent are St Dominic's Convent and the Roman Catholic Church (plate 13), with the Pugin-designed St Ann's chapel hidden away within the Convent grounds.

2.6.1.4 Little Stoke

Yates' map of 1775 shows a small, rather dispersed, settlement along the east side of the main road with a minor road leading off to Hilderstone to the north east. The settlement gained an industrial base with the building of a Brass and Copper Works here beside the Trent and Mersey Canal at the end of the 18th century. The works were short lived, brassworking only being carried out until c 1830. Subsequently it was converted into a brewery and was later used as a farm¹⁴⁹.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1886 allows us to see Little Stoke in detail for the first time. It is now named as 'Little Stoke' rather than just 'Stoke', to distinguish it from the Potteries town to the north. Named buildings in the settlement are: The Three Crowns public house; Stoke Villa¹⁵⁰ which dates to c1810; and Stoke Farm, a large farm complex. The remaining buildings appear to be small farms or farm workers cottages



Plate 5: The former Workhouse

2.6.2 Administration, Education & Welfare

2.6.2.1 Administration

Earl Granville became lord of the manor in 1803. As with other towns it was often the local gentry who provided finance for the undertaking of public works. In addition to Earl Granville other important families with estates in the area included Viscount St Vincent, the Hon Edward Jervis, Swynfen Jones, Esq, WB Taylor, Esq, John Joule, Esq and Viscount Sidmouth¹⁵¹. Viscount St Vincent was succeeded by Lady Forester who provided finance for many of the town's municipal buildings.

A town hall was built on the north side of the High Street in 1870 which was largely financed by Lady Forester¹⁵². It was demolished in the 1980s.

¹⁵³ Cope 1972, 125, 127
¹⁵⁴ Cope 1972, 48
¹⁵⁵ White 1834, 670
¹⁵⁶ The Stone Union comprised Stone and seven surrounding parishes
¹⁵⁷ Staffordshire HER: PRN 07926
¹⁵⁸ Staffordshire HER: PRN 07927
¹⁵⁹ Cope 1972, 70; Website Genuki; Stone (<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/STS/Stone/>) accessed 31.10.11; Pevsner 1974, 269

¹⁶³ Cope 1972, 91
¹⁶⁴ Cope 1972, 112
¹⁶⁵ Stafford Borough Council undated
¹⁶⁶ Staffordshire HER: PRN 13909
¹⁶⁷ The pump was removed in 1903

A local government board was set up in 1878 and started to make improvements in sanitation, drainage, lighting and the re-surfacing of streets. It was replaced in 1895, after the passing of the Local Government Act of 1894, by an Urban District Council¹⁵³.

2.6.2.2 Welfare

A workhouse is documented in Stone in 1735 and its re-thatching in 1743 is recorded¹⁵⁴ although its location is uncertain. It was replaced in 1792-3 by an impressive new building just outside the town on the south bank of the canal. It was described in 1834 as 'a large brick edifice...[which] has more the appearance of a gentleman's villa than a house of industry, having a handsome front, a small lawn shaded with trees, and about 3 acres of land attached to it' (plate 5)¹⁵⁵. With the formation of the Stone Union a second storey was added to the workhouse in 1838-9 to provide extra accommodation¹⁵⁶. At the same time a further block was built to the south¹⁵⁷. In the mid-19th century an infirmary block was added to the north¹⁵⁸. The workhouse buildings were subsequently incorporated into the Trent Hospital¹⁵⁹. The infirmary has been demolished and the remaining buildings have been converted into flats (plate 5).

2.6.2.3 Education

Alleyne's Grammar School

The old schoolhouse was taken down and a new one built at the east end of the churchyard in 1759. The original school had been a single storey building but the new one accommodated a second storey for a Sunday school with a cupola on top¹⁶⁰. The school remained on this site until 1843 when a new school was opened on Station Road¹⁶¹. By the 1880s, however, this was deemed inadequate, and a new school was built outside the town at Oulton Cross in 1889 on land bought for the purpose by Lady Forester (HUCA 9; map 7)¹⁶².

Other Schools

A National School for basic education was built on a site adjoining Abbey Street in 1832 and a British School was erected adjoining Christ Church in 1842, giving the town two elementary schools¹⁶³. In 1851 the National School was said to have 200 children and the Christ Church School 300. The National School was found to be inadequate for such a large number and in 1858 a new school with a teacher's residence was built facing Lichfield Street¹⁶⁴. This building still survives but is now the Frank Jordan Centre¹⁶⁵. By 1886 the Christ Church School was said to be unfit for purpose and a new school, which still survives, was built on Northesk Street¹⁶⁶.

2.6.2.4 Utilities

Water and Sewage

By the mid-19th century the rapid and uncontrolled provision of new homes for an expanding population led to serious health problems. There was no adequate sewage provision, and where sewers did exist they ran into streams such as the Scotch Brook.

There was a town pump at the top of the High Street on Pump Square¹⁶⁷, now Granville Square, but in the main Stone was dependent for its water upon wells which often lay close to cess pools and open sewers. Unsurprisingly there were 25 cases of typhoid in 1865.

A local doctor, Dr Edward Fernie, described the situation in a letter to the local press in 1869:

'Let any of your readers...walk up the street by the side of the parish church, down a street leading to the bridge across the Trent, then turn aside into Abbey-court, and afterwards through the Back Lane and High Street, into the Newcastle and Oulton roads, and if he does not see as much and more surface filth, and smell as many and more odours from it, than he ever saw or smelt in any town of equal

¹⁶⁰ Cope 1972, 61-2. The old schoolhouse had presumably been damaged by the collapse of the old church or possibly its site was needed for the new church. There is a drawing of the new schoolhouse as it was in c 1800 (Cope 1972, Plate 13, 80) and two views in Staffordshire Views

¹⁶¹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 54755

¹⁶² Cope 1972, 121, 123; Greenslade and Jenkins 1979, 167

¹⁶⁸ Cope 1972, 124
¹⁶⁹ Cope 1972, 125
¹⁷⁰ Cope 1972, 127
¹⁷¹ Cf. HUCA 6
¹⁷² Stafford Borough Council 1992, 7
¹⁷³ Beyond the EUS project area

¹⁷⁴ Cope 1972, 55
¹⁷⁵ The estate map of c1800 names eleven inns and hotels along the High Street
¹⁷⁶ In 1834 it was said to have 'many well stocked shops and neat houses' (White 1834, 671)
¹⁷⁷ Greenslade and Jenkins 1967, 232-4
¹⁷⁸ White 1834, 670
¹⁷⁹ Staffordshire HER 03288; Cope 1972, 132; Greenslade and Jenkins 1967, 246
¹⁸⁰ Cope 1972, 75

size I shall be very mistaken...an analysis of water from wells situated in different parts of the town and chemically examined in Birmingham showed it to be all more or less polluted by drainage and unfit for domestic use unless previously boiled and filtered¹⁶⁸.

The town was eventually supplied with fresh water from a bore-hole drilled at Rockwood. A reservoir holding 300,000 gallons of water was constructed at Red Hill, 300 feet above the Market Square, and by 1890 Stone finally had the capacity to supply clean water to the town¹⁶⁹.

The sewage problem was also addressed at the end of the 19th century. A sewage scheme was completed in 1895 with the building of a works to the south of the town (beyond the EUS project area) when it was stated that 'the sanitary conditions of Stone have been greatly improved'.¹⁷⁰

Gas

The Stone Gas Light and Coke Company set up a plant between Crown Street and the canal in 1850¹⁷¹. All of the plant's raw materials were supplied by the canal until well into the 20th century. The plant was closed down in the 1950s¹⁷².

2.6.3 Economy

2.6.3.1 Agriculture

At the end of the 18th century the town's open fields, Stonefield and Sandpits, were still in operation but elsewhere self-contained farms were in operation. The open fields were finally enclosed in the early 19th century under an Act of Parliament (1798) (cf. 'Planned Enclosure' on map 7). The householders of Stone and the surrounding hamlets of Meaford and Oulton who had held common rights in the open fields were compensated by the allotment of 74 acres of common land, the Common Plot¹⁷³, which survives to this day.

2.6.3.2 Economy/Industry

Improvements to the road system in the 18th century led to an increase in travellers passing through the town. In 1720 it was said to be a 'well accommodated town with several good inns', while in 1764 it was described as 'well provided with good inns'.¹⁷⁴ These were mainly along the High Street¹⁷⁵ which was also the chief commercial centre¹⁷⁶. The other major boost to the economy of the town at this period was of course the opening of the Trent and Mersey canal in 1771.

Stone's chief manufacture at this period was shoes and it was the second most important centre for shoe manufacture in Staffordshire after Stafford. In 1787 there was only one manufacturer in the town but by 1818 there were four, by 1834 nine and by 1851 sixteen. In 1861 there were 807 men and 221 women employed in shoe manufacture in Stone, compared to 1,546 men and 434 women in Stafford. The shoe industry 'put out' much of the manufacturing process to home workers in its early days and this practice apparently lasted longer at Stone than at other centres. In 1872 the chief manufacturer was putting out work to 116 homes.

By 1886 there were two large firms in Stone, Bostock & Co and R. Vernon & Co, doing business with South Africa, South America and Australia. There was a sharp decline in the 20th century, however, and by 1928 there was only one firm, Lotus, left in Stone¹⁷⁷.

Also noted in 1834 were 'two extensive breweries and four corn mills. The largest brewery was Joule's. Francis Joule was brewing in Stone from at least 1758, on the site of an earlier brewery believed to have been established in the 17th century off the south side of the High Street¹⁷⁹. In 1818 Francis handed over to his son John and the firm was named after him¹⁸⁰. Joule's Brewery grew to become one of the town's major industrial

concerns. It copyrighted the name 'Stone Ale' and its products were exported far afield, including Australia, New Zealand and California. After 1914, however, the brewery confined its activities to the Midlands. The brewery has been demolished, although its offices survive and form part of a supermarket (plate 8) and one of its maltings remains to the east of Adies Alley.

The town was for a time a minor centre of the silk industry. In 1787 there were two ribbon makers in the town, while in 1861 there were said to be 5 adults engaged in silk manufacture¹⁸². One of the silk factories may have been located behind the grade II listed 'The Mansion' on Lichfield Street. A building analysis identified an industrial building whose function is suggested by the name Silk Mill Mews¹⁸³. The list description for The Mansion states that in the early 19th century it was the location of an ironworks until it closed in 1829¹⁸⁴. A pair of Grade II listed houses (dated to the late 18th century) on Stafford Street may also have been built to serve the silk industry (plate 6)¹⁸⁵. The third storey window arrangement is similar to properties in areas where hand loom weaving was common (cf. Leek EUS). One commentator has suggested that in this instance it was associated with leather-working, but to date there is no supporting evidence for this usage¹⁸⁶.

White's Directory of 1834 gives an idea of the range of occupations at this time, which includes professionals such as four attorneys and four surgeons as well as those involved in trade (e.g. bakers, booksellers, linen and woollen drapers, grocers etc.) and the manufacture of goods (e.g. hat manufacturers, nail makers, brick and tile makers etc.) In addition seven academies, two banks, twenty two inns and taverns and eight beer houses are recorded¹⁸⁷.



Plate 6: Three storey property on Stafford Street possibly associated with the silk industry

Sixteen boot and shoemakers are recorded which is not particularly large but what is significant is that nine of these were wholesale manufacturers, indicating large shoe factories rather than small individual concerns.

A Directory of 1835-6 states that the chief manufacture was shoes and mentions flour and flint mills on the Scotch Brook; malting, a small trade in timber and a boat-building yard¹⁸⁸.

Beech's brickyard in Mount Road supplied many of the bricks used in building houses in Stonefield¹⁸⁹.

The three storey brick Stubb's mill on Scotch Brook still survives and is dated 1792¹⁹⁰. On the historic mapping from 1886-1937 it is described as a corn mill. The site is associated with the development of Hovis flour in 1887 which was originally called 'Smith's Patent Germ Bread'¹⁹¹.

¹⁹² White 1834, 671

¹⁹³ White 1851

¹⁹⁴ The Smithfield Cattle Market and Auction Rooms (Kelly 1896). It is shown on the Ordnance Survey mapping of 1901 and 1924 but was no longer present by 1937

¹⁹⁵ Cope 1972, 99

¹⁹⁶ Cope 1972, Plate 10, 57, 76

¹⁹⁷ Pevsner 1974, 267-8; Cope 1972, 60; nowadays the church is dedicated to St Michael and St Wulfad

¹⁹⁸ Staffordshire HER: PRN 2402

¹⁹⁹ Staffordshire HER: PRN 13888

²⁰⁰ Staffordshire HER: PRN 2439

²⁰¹ A 'wavy' wall where short lengths of straight wall are interspersed with curving semi-circular sections; set at SJ90503375. The Conservation Area Appraisal (Conservation Studio 2008, 7.24) reports another example '...behind the town Council Offices in Station Road.'

²⁰² HUCA 2

²⁰³ White 1834, 672; Pevsner 1974, 268

2.6.3.3 Markets and fairs

The market continued to be held weekly on a Tuesday and by 1834 there were four annual fairs, one of which, held on 5th August, was described as 'a great mart for sheep and cattle'¹⁹². In 1851 it was said to have a large fortnightly cattle and sheep market, established about 16 years previously, 'serving the populous district of the Potteries'¹⁹³. It was perhaps at this period that the Cattle Market was moved to a new site away from the main road. The Ordnance Survey mapping of 1886 shows a Cattle Market entered off Mill Street to the north of the High Street. A cattle market remained on this site until the 1990s when it was swept away with the development of the Stone northern bypass. There was in addition a second cattle market close to the railway station, erected in 1881¹⁹⁴.

In 1840 twice yearly cheese fairs were initiated, at which over 100 tons of cheese were sold in the first year¹⁹⁵.

The market place was provided with a new Market Hall set back from the High Street in 1868. It replaced an earlier Butter Market¹⁹⁶.

2.6.4 Religion

2.6.4.1 Anglican Churches

St Michael's church and Jervis Mausoleum

Part of the old parish church collapsed in 1749 and in a petition of 1753 the church was said to be 'ruinous' and 'incapable of being repaired'. Accordingly a new parish church, an early example of the Gothic revival style, was erected on a site to the north east of the previous one (plate 9). The new church was consecrated in 1758. Its dedication was to St Michael, rather than to St Wulfade and St Mary as previously¹⁹⁷. A new chancel and organ chamber were built in 1870 at the expense of Lady Forester.

Monuments in the churchyard include an 18th century sundial¹⁹⁸, the Cartwright tomb¹⁹⁹ of 1805 and the Fourdrinier monument²⁰⁰ of c 1850.

The churchyard walls date from the 18th century onwards. On the eastern side of the graveyard is a short length of a crinkle-crankle²⁰¹ wall which forms the boundary between The Mansion House and a small burial ground which was originally separated from the churchyard although the boundary wall between the two has now been removed²⁰². The crinkle-crankle wall was often a feature of more ornamental kitchen gardens where the wavy wall line offered maximum exposure to sunlight for the growing of fruit trees and climbing plants.

Immediately east of the church is the Jervis Mausoleum, a fine classical style building of c1760. It contains the remains of the most famous member of the family, Earl St Vincent, a Napoleonic naval hero, who died in 1823²⁰³.

Christ Church, Radford Street

The rapidly increasing size and population of Stone, especially on its northern side where settlement was encroaching over the newly enclosed open fields meant that further church provision was needed. Accordingly a new church, Christ Church, was built at the top end of the town on Radford Street in 1840. The chancel was rebuilt in 1885 and the nave in 1900 giving the church its present day appearance of a large Gothic-style brick church²⁰⁴.

2.6.4.2 Non-Conformism

The rise of Nonconformism in the 18th and 19th centuries saw a number of chapels and meeting houses built or adapted for worship at Stone, some quite short lived²⁰⁵. By 1834 there were three nonconformist chapels in the town: a Wesleyan Chapel in Lichfield Street, a

²⁰⁴ Cope 1972, 120-1; Pevsner 1974, 268; White 1851

²⁰⁵ Cope 1972, 48-9, 93

Zoar New Connexion Methodist Chapel, in Abbey Court, built in 1821, and an Independent Chapel, in Chapel Street, built about 1791²⁰⁶.

It was not until 1871, however, that a church to compete with the Anglican churches in size and style was constructed, the Congregational church of St John at the junction of Longton Road and Granville Terrace. A serious fire in 1886, however, destroyed much of the church. It was rebuilt with a tall spire in the Gothic style and re-opened in 1887. The church remains a prominent landmark at the northern end of the town²⁰⁷.

2.6.4.3 Roman Catholicism

The fostering of Catholicism at Stone owes much to the activities of two inspirational figures, Father Dominic and Mother Margaret Hallahan. Father Dominic established a religious house, St Michael's Retreat, at Aston Hall, 2.5km south east of Stone, in 1842. Father Dominic also preached in Stone initially at the Crown Hotel (plate 3) and then in a private house until the building of St Anne's chapel. The chapel was financed by the town's most prominent Catholic, James Beech, to a design by Augustus Pugin, in 1844. Father Dominic died in 1849 and the Catholic community in Stone might have foundered but James Beech, impressed by the work of Mother Margaret Hallahan elsewhere, offered the chapel of St Ann and a small amount of land to her in order that she might found a convent. Mother Mary's energy and vision led to an exponential increase in the number Catholics in Stone from around 50 when she arrived to 1300 by 1868. The Catholic church of the Immaculate Conception²⁰⁸ a large stone towerless building with nave, aisles and transepts (plate 13), and the adjoining Dominican Convent and School²⁰⁹, a brick building with a symmetrical gabled front were built in the 1850s-60s, and further Catholic

schools and chapels were gradually added in the surrounding area²¹⁰.

2.6.5 Communications

2.6.5.1 Roads

The 18th century saw great improvements in the road system with the introduction of Turnpike Trusts. By the end of the century all of the main roads serving Stone had been turnpiked²¹¹. Stone became a major coaching centre. In 1834 passenger coaches left from four inns²¹² to London and regional centres such as Manchester, Liverpool, Bristol, Birmingham, Cheltenham, Leamington and Shrewsbury, as well as more locally to Newcastle-under-Lyme and the Potteries. Carriers transported goods by land to Birmingham and Manchester as well as locally to Eccleshall, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford, Newport, Wellington, Uttoxeter and Market Drayton²¹³.

2.6.5.2 Canals

The building of the Trent and Mersey Canal²¹⁴ was one of the most important events in the history of Stone and the town played a central part in its genesis. The first committee meeting of the canal company was held at the Crown Inn, Stone, in 1766. James Brindley was appointed surveyor-general and Josiah Wedgwood was made Treasurer. Construction was begun in 1766 at the south end of the canal and had reached Stone by 1771. The northern section was completed in 1777. By 1834 canal boats carried goods from Stone to London, Manchester, Liverpool, Shardlow, Gainsborough, Hull and Stourport²¹⁵.

The canal attracted the development of canalside industry. Stone was at the mid-point of the canal²¹⁶ which may have influenced the Trent and Mersey Canal Company's decision to site their headquarters on the south bank of the canal on the east side of Stafford Street²¹⁷.

²¹⁷ At Westbridge House which lay by the south bank of the canal immediately east of Stafford Street (beyond the EUS project area). Cope 1972, 63, 69

Opposite on the north bank was a wharf²¹⁸ and a corn merchants' (Stubbs & Co.) warehouse (plate 11)²¹⁹. A small basin within the warehouse meant that boats could be brought into the building to be unloaded. The main warehouse still survives, having been incorporated into a recent development of sheltered accommodation.



Plate 7: Canal boatyard

To the west of the Stafford Street bridge a boatyard was set up in the mid-19th century (plate 7)²²⁰. Its wet and dry docks and the Blacksmith's Workshop²²¹ and Boatyard Mechanics Workshop²²² still survive.

Further along the canal Joule's Brewery built a large warehouse and bottling plant between the north bank of the canal and Newcastle Street²²³. This building was constructed in 1881 for John Joules and Sons as a 'Store and Ale Store' and is now in mixed industrial use²²⁴.

2.6.5.3 Railways

The coming of the railways initially represented a threat to Stone, much of whose economy rested on its pre-eminence as a canal town and as a staging post on a major road network. A railway line from Birmingham to Crewe via Stafford was opened in 1837²²⁵ but Stone did not gain a railway connection until 1849 when the North Staffordshire Railway opened a line from Macclesfield to Stoke, Stone and Colwich²²⁶ with a branch line leading off from Stone to meet the Grand Junction Line at Norton Bridge. The railway company and the Trent and Mersey Canal company attempted to minimise competition by merging in 1845²²⁷. Nevertheless Stone suffered with the coming of the railways. The situation was summed up in 1851: 'Being on the great

turnpike road from Liverpool, Manchester & the Potteries, to Birmingham and London, Stone was a very lively town, and a great thoroughfare for coaches, carriers and travellers, till the railways robbed it of this traffic. No fewer than 38 stage coaches passed through the town daily. The principal offices of the Trent & Mersey Canal were formerly here, but have lately been removed to Stoke²²⁸.

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2.7 20th and 21st century (1900 to 2009)

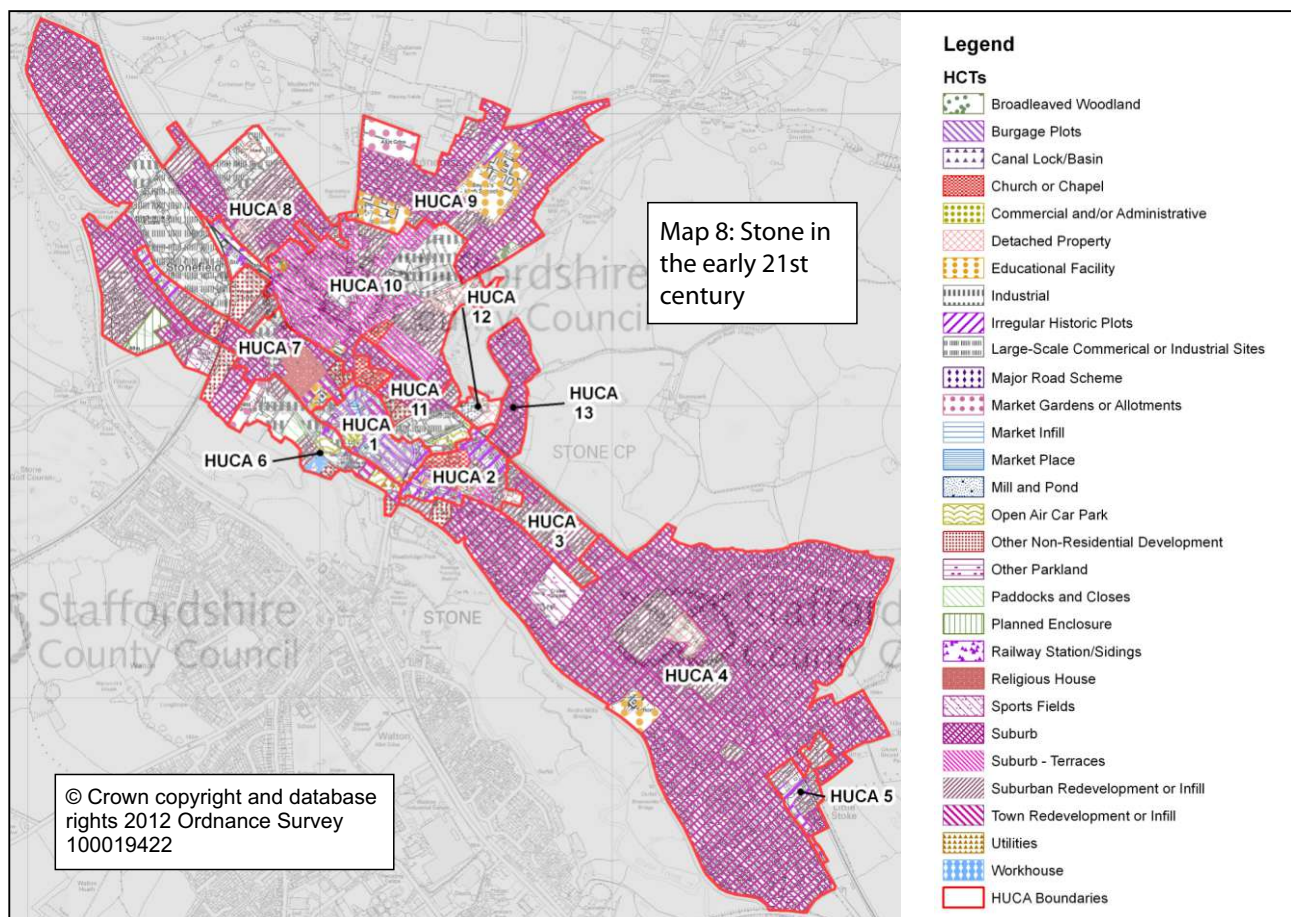
2.7.1 Settlement

2.7.1.1 Town Plan

The town continued to grow in the first half of the 20th century, particularly to the north (map 9). Here were built large new factories for the Cauldon Tile Works and Taylor, Tunnicliff & Co, Electrical Porcelain Works, as well as more housing. In general new housing was small scale infill but one larger area comprised terraced housing along Prince's Street and York Street with an open square, Queen's Square²²⁹, at its centre²³⁰. It had been built by 1937 on former allotment gardens. A small amount of housing was built along the south side of Lichfield Road towards Little Stoke. These are generally small semi-detached houses²³¹ in contrast to the earlier villa-style residences to the north of the road. There are only two small areas of geometrical housing estates typical of the inter-war and immediately post-war period within the EUS area. These are at Coppice Gardens²³² and Redhill Gardens²³³. The town gained a public park with the creation of Stonefield Park opened in 1928²³⁴.

In the later 20th century much of the town's growth has taken place outside the study area particularly in the area around Walton with housing estates both to its north and south and an industrial estate and business park further to its south. Within the study area the principal area of growth has been to the south down Lichfield Road to Little Stoke which has been almost completely filled with housing (map 8 and map 9). Elsewhere within the study area there has been piecemeal infill to an already densely settled area so that there remain few undeveloped areas apart from Stonefield Park, St Michael's churchyard and the slopes around the Scotch Brook. At the

same time of course there has been change within the existing settled area. The principal one being the building of a northern bypass, Christchurch Way, in the 1990s, and retail development to the north of this, notably the Morrison's supermarket site.



2.7.1.2 Buildings

The fact that Stone town centre has largely managed to retain its Georgian and Victorian integrity means that there are few 20th century buildings to comment upon. St Michael's Hall²³⁵ on Lichfield Street is interesting in having a 'garden-village' style unlike anything surrounding it and there is a modernist factory²³⁶, ABB Electrical Alliance, on Longton Road on the northern edge of the town which stylistically appears to have built during the 1920s.

2.7.2 Administration, Education and Welfare

2.7.2.1 Administration

In 1932 the town's boundaries were extended to include Walton, Little Stoke and the Common Plot²³⁷.

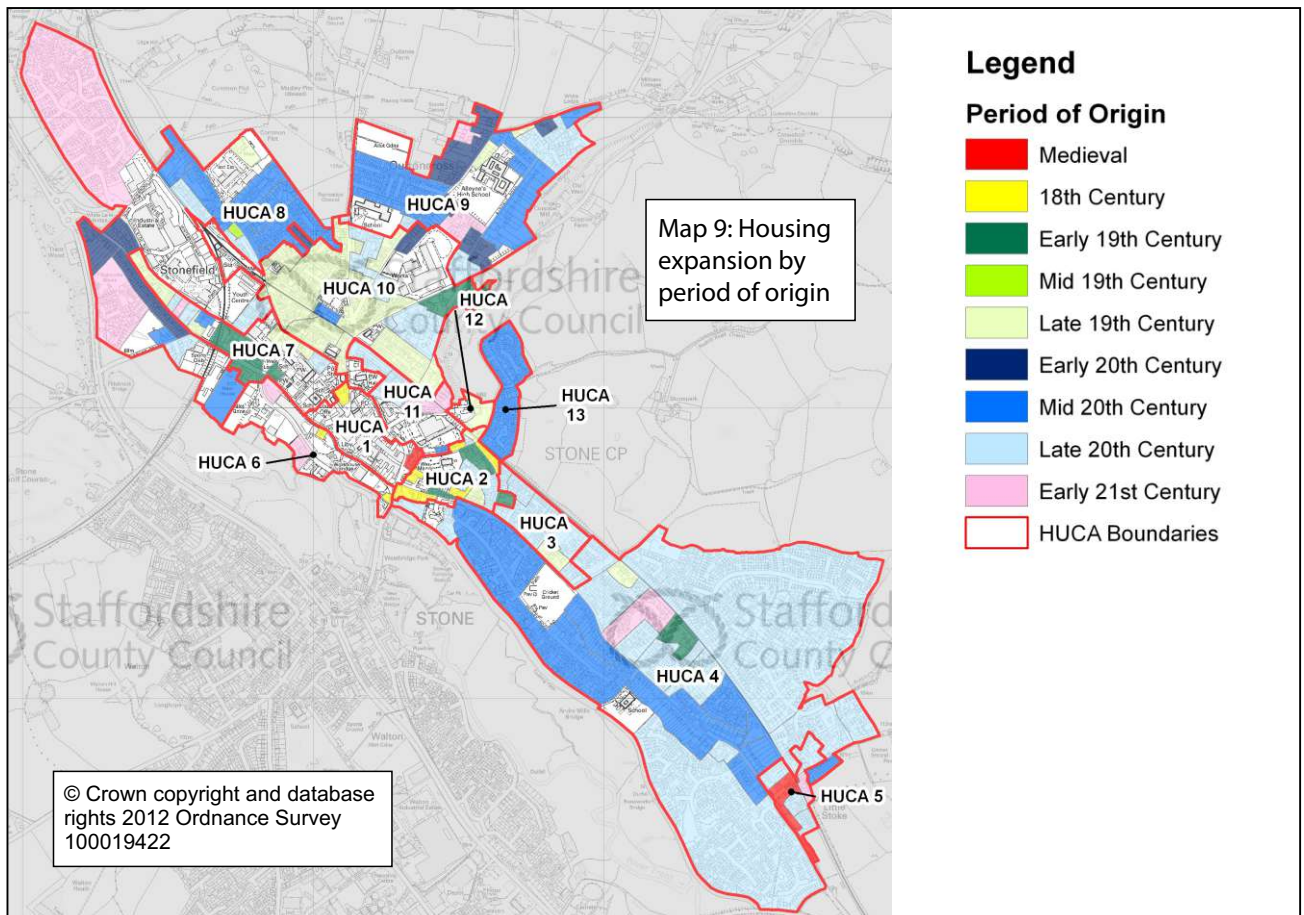
During the local government reorganisation in 1974 Stone was incorporated within the expanded borough of Stafford.

2.7.2.2 Welfare

By the mid-19th century there was an infirmary attached to the workhouse and the hospital function gradually came to dominate the site. The 1937 Ordnance Survey mapping still described the buildings as a 'Poor Law Institution' with an 'Infirmary' attached but by the time of the 1954-5 maps the whole complex is described as 'Trent Hospital'. This accords with the situation nationally. During the 19th century workhouses increasingly became refuges for the elderly, infirm and sick rather than the able-bodied poor, and in 1929 legislation was passed to allow local authorities to take over workhouse infirmaries as municipal hospitals. Even though workhouses were formally abolished under the same legislation in 1930 many of them continued as Public Assistance Institutions under the control of local authorities. It was not until the National Assistance Act of 1948 that the last vestiges of the Poor Law disappeared, and with them the workhouses²³⁸.

2.7.3.3 Education

Staffordshire County Council took control of the grammar school in 1924. It became a co-educational school, the first of its type in Staffordshire, in 1944, and in 1969 it was merged with Granville Secondary Modern School to form a Comprehensive School, 'Alleyne's High School'²³⁹.



2.3.2 Economy

Industrial development between the two world wars included: Taylor, Tunnicliff & Co, Electrical Porcelain Works who opened a factory in 1922²⁴⁰; the Cauldon Tile Company, who built a factory off Newcastle Road²⁴¹ at Filleybrooks, and the Gilt Edge Safety Glass Company, who developed premises in Mill Street²⁴².

2.7.4 Religion

By the end of the 19th century both St Michael's and Christ Church churchyards were full. Accordingly in 1900 they were closed and a new cemetery was built on Stafford Road²⁴³.



Part Two: Characterisation and Assessment

Section Summary

- ◆ The core of the medieval town lies within **HUCA 1** where there the key components of the planned town are legible within the townscape; the burgage plots, potentially two market places and the street pattern. The extant late 18th century watermill may stand on the site of a medieval predecessor.
- ◆ The planned medieval town was larger than the area which survives. Burgage plots had been located in the eastern portion of **HUCA 7** and the southern portion of **HUCA 11** although their legibility in these areas has been lost. In the latter Christchurch Way, constructed in the late 20th century has cut across the line of the burgage plots.
- ◆ The site of Stone Priory dominated **HUCA 2** and fragmentary remains of the complex survive (undercroft/cellar in the late 18th century house 'The Priory' and the Crompton Tomb for example). The form of the priory precinct is believed to have been fossilised in part of the extant street pattern of the town (Church Street, Stafford Street and Abbey Street). The priory buildings were probably cleared in the post medieval period, but further change occurred in the late 18th century when Lichfield Street was cut across part of the former precinct and the present parish church (Grade II*) was constructed. The church yard, with its Grade II tombs, continues to provide open space in the west of the HUCA. Development within the proposed precinct to the east occurred initially in the late 18th century, but infilling was completed in the late 20th century.
- ◆ The highest proportion of historic buildings, both listed and unlisted, survive within both **HUCA 1** and **HUCA 2**. There are 16 listed buildings across both HUCAs including four which are Grade II*. Both HUCAs are incorporated into the Stone Conservation Area. The historic built character of both is dominated by late 18th and 19th century buildings, which reflect the importance of the construction of the Trent & Mersey Canal to the economy of the town. To date few earlier buildings have been identified, but some of the extant historic properties may retain earlier historic cores hidden behind later facades.
- ◆ The origins of the historic settlement identified within HUCA 2, particularly along Church Street and Stafford Street is currently unknown. The extant buildings are mostly red brick; and one property on Stafford Street, dated to the late 18th century, may have been built as a pair of hand-loom weavers' houses. However, settlement in this area may originate earlier in the post medieval period, possibly following the Dissolution.
- ◆ Two discrete settlements, Little Stoke (**HUCA 5**) and Oultoncross (**HUCA 9**), have been incorporated into Stone's suburbs during the 20th century. Little Stoke is likely to have medieval origins, whilst Oultoncross appears to have developed in the late 18th/early 19th century and may be associated with the industry of the Moddershall Valley. Historic buildings survive in both HUCAs alongside later development.
- ◆ The Trent and Mersey Canal, constructed in the late 18th century by James Brindley, exerts its greatest influence within **HUCA 6** where there are two Grade II listed locks, as well as the Grade II listed buildings and structures of a canal boatyard. The large late 19th century Joules Brewery Warehouse is also associated with the canal and is an important part of its historic character. Historic building along Crown

Street within the HUCA may also date to the period of the canal. Industrial development in **HUCA 8** dates to the mid 20th century and was built upon the site of a large early 20th century works; this had been linked by a private track to the mainline railway,

- ◆ The canal in the late 18th century, and possibly to a lesser extent the railway line in the mid 19th century, influenced the growth of the settlement beyond Stone's historic core. Large detached houses were constructed off several of the main roads during the 19th century in **HUCA 3, HUCA 4, HUCA 6, HUCA 8** and **HUCA 10**. Only two of these houses survive in HUCA 3 and one in HUCA 4; the remainder survive within the other HUCAs. A Grade II listed late 18th century house in HUCA 7 is closely associated with the canal.
- ◆ **HUCA 10** is dominated by 19th century suburban growth principally comprising terraced houses along both existing roads and in purpose-built short streets. Larger houses survive to the south of the railway line (and near to the town centre) such as those along Granville Street. Several architect designed buildings exist within the HUCA including the mid 19th century railway station (associated with a former goods shed) and St John's Congregational Church. Christ Church, and the Christ Church School, are also key historic buildings within the townscape of the HUCA.
- ◆ The historic character of **HUCA 7** has also been influenced by the mid 19th century listed buildings associated with St Dominic's Convent. These include a chapel constructed in 1844 to a design by the eminent church architect A. W. N. Pugin.
- ◆ Modern development, of mid 20th, late 20th and early 21st century date,

dominates **HUCA 3, HUCA 4, HUCA 8, HUCA 9** and **HUCA 13**. Further houses of this period can be found in other HUCAs where they form infilling within an area predominantly of an earlier character. The two small mid 20th century housing estates that comprise HUCA 13 have a geometrical plan form and were probably influenced by the Garden City Suburbs movement.

- ◆ The historic character of **HUCA 12** is dominated by the historic buildings associated with a Grade II listed late 18th century watermill. These include a Grade II listed outbuilding, thought to have been used at some point for flint milling, the miller's house and a later farm complex. The site of the mill may have its origins in the medieval period.
- ◆ The assessment has also identified a high potential for below ground archaeological remains to survive within **HUCA 1, HUCA 2, HUCA 7** (the eastern portion), **HUCA 11** and **HUCA 12**. Further archaeological potential has been identified within **HUCA 4** (the site of the Brassworks), **HUCA 5** and **HUCA 6**. Other sites, currently unknown, also have the potential to survive within the EUS project area.

3. Statement of Historic Urban Character

3.1 Definition of Historic Character Types (HCTs)

The HCTs used within the Extensive Urban Survey have been chosen to reflect the townscape character and consequently have differed from those chosen for the broader Historic Landscape Character (HLC). A list of the HCTs used within the EUS forms Appendix 1.

The HCTs were based upon the current character and upon an understanding of the development of the town as identified within the background summarised in Part One.

The HCTs are dated by period of origin and the over arching periods are broken down as follows:

Early Medieval	410 AD to 1065 AD
Medieval	1066 to 1485
Post Medieval	1486 to 1799
Early 19th century	1800 to 1834
Mid 19th century	1835 to 1864
Late 19th century	1865 to 1899
Early 20th century	1900 to 1934
Mid 20th century	1935 to 1964
Late 20th century	1965 to 1999
Early 21st century	2000 to 2009

Table 1: Periods

3.2 Statement of Historic Urban Character (HUC)

The Historic Urban Character Areas have been defined using the HCT's to identify areas of similar origin, development and character. Thirteen HUCAs have been identified for Stone.

Each of the statements of HUC is not static and may need to be enhanced or adapted as new information which alters our understanding and perception of each area becomes available²⁴⁴.

This is followed by a table covering the Heritage values (which will have been outlined in the 'Statement of significance' paragraph') and a series of recommendations specific to each HUCA.

3.2.1 Heritage values

These values are based upon the guidelines produced by English Heritage in 'Conservation Principles: policies and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment' (2008) and identifies four areas for discussion. It should be noted that within each HUCA it is specifically the historic environment which is under consideration and that this judgement is based upon an interpretation of the available evidence. Other individuals or organisations may choose to ascribe alternate values to the historic environment of an area; key to this process of understanding is the degree of transparency by which these judgements are reached. The scope of this project precludes any analysis of non-heritage values which are equally valid in terms of valuing the character of historic towns.

²⁴⁴ In line with English Heritage 2008: paragraph 38

<p>Evidential value*</p>	<p>The extent to which each HUCA can contribute to an understanding of past activities and how that can contribute to the town's wider history. This can be either legible or intangible within the townscape and as such covers the spectrum of heritage assets from historic buildings or structures to the potential for below ground archaeological deposits*. The extent to which the impacts of the removal or replacement of the heritage assets within each character area will be considered in terms of the effects on an ability for future generations to understand and interpret the evidence.</p>
<p>Historical value</p>	<p>The extent to which the heritage assets are legible within the townscape and how they interact – this can include townscapes/street patterns and individual buildings. Historical associations with events or persons can also add value to the ability of the public and community to engage with the heritage. The extent to which the legibility of the heritage assets has been concealed or altered will also be considered. The opportunities for the use and appropriate management of the heritage assets and their contribution to heritage-led regeneration will also be considered.</p>
<p>Aesthetic value</p>	<p>Addresses the ability to identify how a place has evolved whether by design or the 'fortuitous outcome of evolution and use'. It assesses the integrity and aesthetics of the place through the historic components of the townscape and their ability to enhance sensory stimulation. The aesthetic value also addresses whether the character areas may be amenable to restoration or enhancement to form part of a heritage-led regeneration of the town.</p>
<p>Communal value</p>	<p>Communal values can be commemorative/symbolic, social or spiritual. These values are not easily quantifiable within the scope of this project being subjective to groups and individuals. Consequently in the context of this project the value merely seeks to address the potential for the heritage assets to be used to engage the community/public with the heritage, not only of each HUCA, but also of the wider area. The potential for each zone to provide material for future interpretation is also considered.</p>

Table 2: Heritage values

3.2.2 Assessment of value

The aim of applying values of high, medium, low is to **indicate** the likely sensitivities of the historic environment within each zone. The assigned values reflect the current character of the areas and these will alter in response to change. This could include through the results of research contributing to an enhanced understanding of the historic environment; the conservation and enhancement of the environment through positive development and re-development as a result of heritage-led regeneration.

The definition of heritage assets incorporates buildings, monuments (above and below ground archaeology), place, areas, landscapes and townscapes²⁴⁵.

<p>Evidential value (see * below for regarding archaeological potential)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>There is a high potential for the heritage assets with the HUCA to contribute to an understanding of the history of the town. Archaeological sites are likely to survive (both below ground and above ground fossilised within the townscape) and for new research relating to the nature and origins of the built heritage to enhance the understanding of the development of the town. New insights into the history of the town can contribute to an understanding of the development of towns from the medieval period onwards both within Staffordshire and more widely.</p>
	<p>Medium</p>	<p>There is the potential for heritage assets to contribute to an understanding of the history of the town, but there may be fewer opportunities for new insights to be deduced due to the nature of the heritage assets in question or subsequent changes to the historic character of the HUCA. The potential for archaeological deposits to contribute to an understanding of the development of the town may currently be unclear due to the current level of understanding of the origins of the HUCA. The potential may also be impacted by levels of development.</p>
	<p>Low</p>	<p>There are no or very few known heritage assets. The understanding for the potential for above and below ground archaeological deposits to survive may be affected by the current lack of research within the wider area. Mitigation may still be required dependent upon an assessment of both the nature of any prospective new development and the potential of the individual sites being developed.</p>

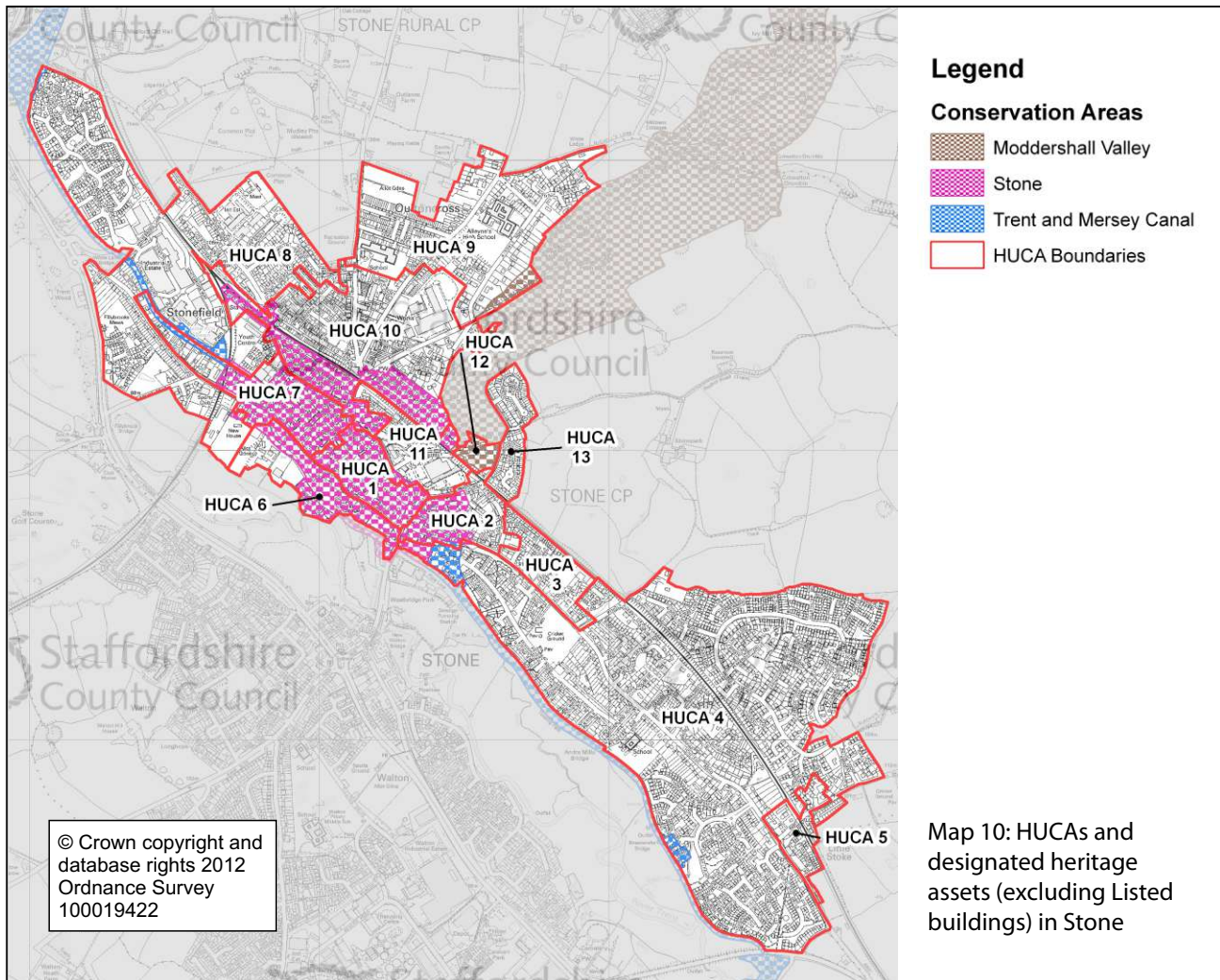
Historical value	High	The legible heritage assets either dominate or significantly contribute to the historic character of each HUCA. There are strong associations between the heritage assets (both tangible and intangible) within the HUCA that are potentially demonstrable and/or the heritage assets make an important contribution to the history of the wider area. There are often designated sites within or lying adjacent to the HUCA and in some cases these may comprise or include portions of Conservation Areas. The high value is not precluded by some degree of 20th/21st century alterations to the historic character.
	Medium	Legible heritage assets are present within the HUCA, but are not necessarily predominant or they have undergone some form of alteration. Their presence, however, may contribute to an understanding of the development of the character area and/or there are potential associations between assets. Further research may clarify these associations and elucidate the contribution of these assets to the history of the wider area. Even in their present form they do enable the public and community to visualise the development of the area over time.
	Low	There are no or very few known legible heritage assets; where they exist their associations are not clearly understood.
Aesthetic value	High	The completeness or integrity of the extant heritage townscape and its contribution to the aesthetics of the zone is significant. There are opportunities to enhance or restore the historic fabric of the HUCA. The HUCAs will often form part of or form the setting to Conservation Areas.
	Medium	The components of the townscape are legible, but there may have been considerable impact by 20th or 21st century re-development of elements of the historic character. It is not possible within this project to discuss whether the modern alterations have positive, neutral or negative impacts upon overall aesthetics.

	Low	The aesthetics of the historic character have been significantly impacted by 20th or 21st century development. It is not within the scope of this project to discuss whether their contributions are positive, neutral or negative within the wider townscape.
Communal value	High	Contains numerous heritage assets which could be used to engage the community through interpretation. The heritage assets clearly form part of a wider history of an area which can be drawn into a narrative. There may already have been a degree of interpretation and/or the community/public already has access to at least some of the heritage assets within the zone.
	Medium	The ability for the heritage assets to contribute to the history of the town may be limited by the current understanding, their legibility within the townscape or through limited access.
	Low	There are few known heritage assets which make it difficult to elucidate their history or apply it to a wider interpretation. There is no access or the legibility of the heritage assets is negligible.

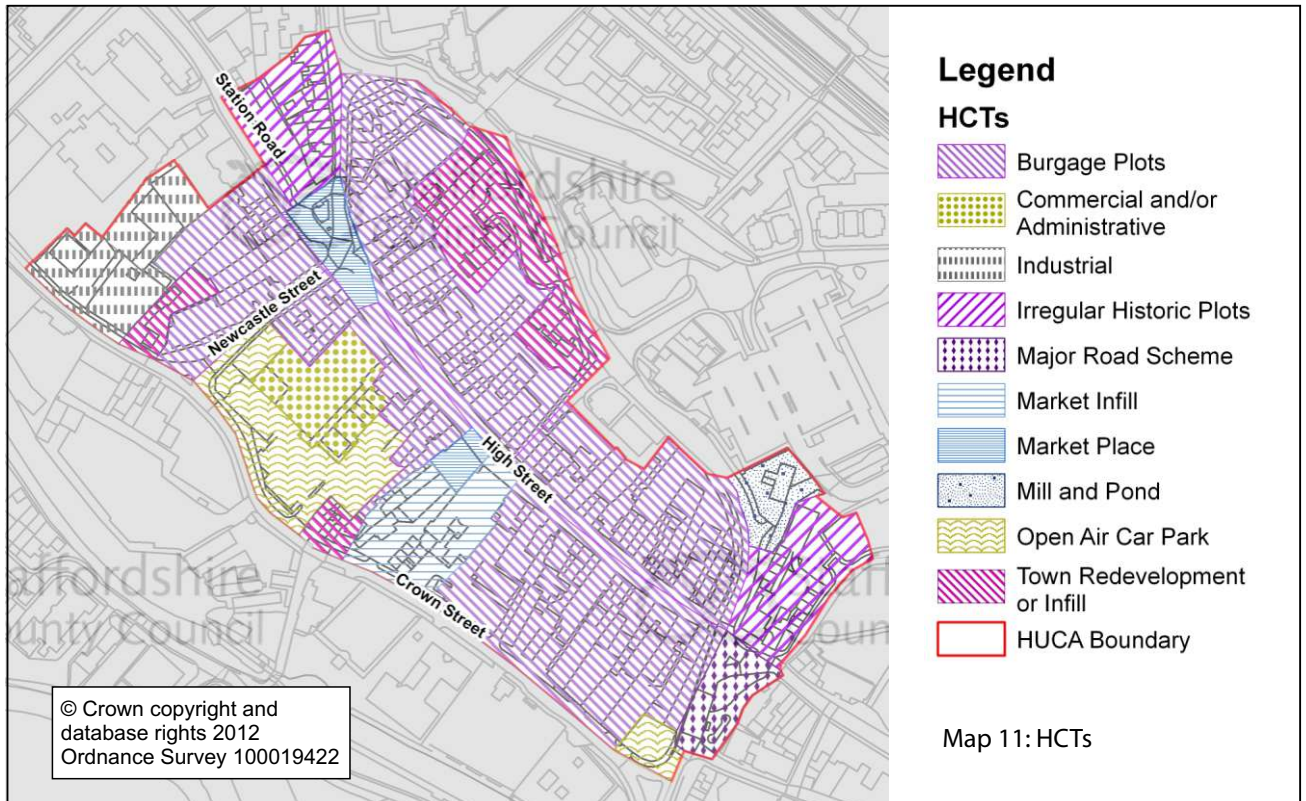
Table 2: Assessment of Heritage values

*The potential for below ground archaeological remains to survive will not be comprehensively addressed within the EUS project. Due to the nature of the project and its time constraints it will not be possible to model archaeological deposits based upon probability and impacts of current development therefore this project must be seen as a guide to potential but that ultimately the decision as to whether archaeological mitigation is an appropriate measure will be decided as part of the planning process.

4. Assessment of Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCA)



4.1 HUCA 1: High Street



4.1.1 Statement of heritage significance

The HUCA represents the historic core of the medieval town, which was laid out under the authority of Stone Priory around the mid 13th century (cf. 2.5.3 and 2.4.5.2). Map 2 shows that burgage plots were laid out along either side of the High Street, recorded in documentary sources from the mid 14th century (cf. 2.4.3). Map 11 shows that many of the burgage plots are fossilised within the townscape and are identifiable in the narrow property frontages at street level. There has been some loss of legibility of the burgage plots within the town particularly to the north where Christchurch Way cuts across their alignment (cf. HUCA 11 and map 2), but also to the south where a shopping arcade has been built upon the backplots (HCT 'Commercial and/or Administrative' on map 11). The arcade and its car park stand on the site of a brewery, which existed on this site by at least the late 19th century and possibly as early as the 17th century (cf. 2.6.3.2). The Grade II brewery offices, High Street and a Grade II Listed former maltings on Adie's Alley survive (plate 8)²⁴⁶. A number of archaeological evaluations have been carried out within the town, most lying to the north of High Street and associated with the construction of Christchurch Way in the 1990s. The evidence recovered during this work included a probable timber framed building of medieval date which was interpreted as a possible store or buttery²⁴⁷. A substantial building with sandstone footings was also identified within the same plot which had probably been built in the late 15th or early 16th century²⁴⁸. These features probably stood within one of the burgage plots; unstratified pottery from the site suggested occupation in the 12th/13th century. This evidence may suggest settlement prior to the market charter of 1251. Other evaluations in advance of Christchurch Way also identified burgage plot

boundaries, timber structures and 15th century pottery indicating occupation²⁴⁹. A 17th century cobbled surface was interpreted as being associated with an industrial working area to the rear of properties on High Street²⁵⁰.



Plate 8: Former Joules' Brewery offices, High Street

At the south eastern end of the High Street (adjacent to the site of the priory cf. HUCA 2) the plots are less regular suggesting unplanned additions to the medieval town plan (2.4.5.2). To the north this plan form is fossilised within the townscape (cf. 'Irregular Historic Plots' on map 11), but road widening in the mid 20th century involved the demolition of a similar plan form to the south of the High Street (HCT 'Major Road Scheme' on map 23).

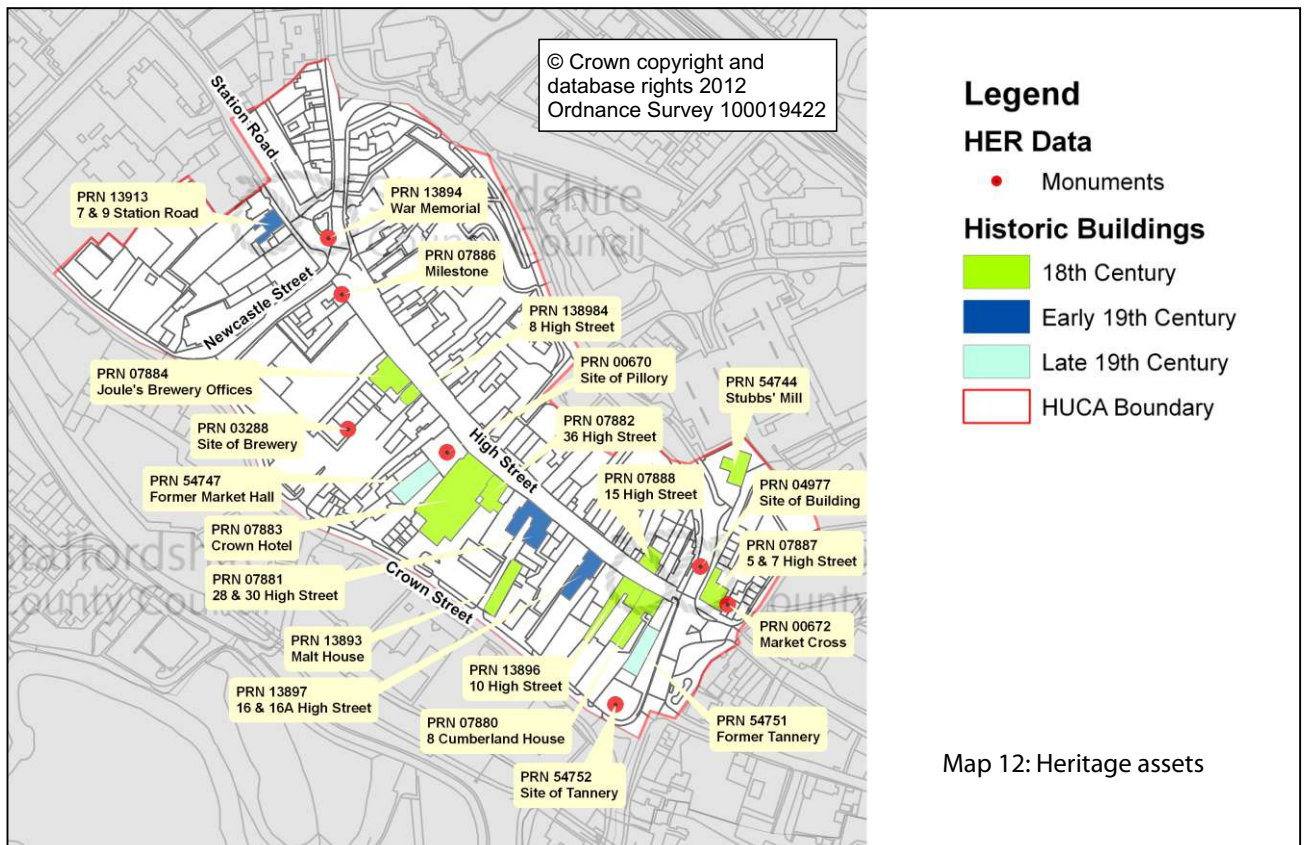
The other key feature of the medieval town is the market place which is indicated in the widening of the High Street at its northern end; its widest point is now known as Granville Square (cf. map 11). However, an analysis of the historic mapping has suggested that the area currently known as the 'Market Place' (located mid way along the southern side of the High Street; cf. map 11) may also have formed part of the marketing area during the medieval period (cf. 2.4.4.1). The plan form suggests that 'The Crown Hotel' and the library could have been built upon what had been a larger market area (HCT 'Market Infill' on map 11; cf. also map 2). The extra marketing area may have been for the sale of specific produce or animals as is noted in other Staffordshire market towns (e.g. Lichfield and Burton). Alternatively the 'Market Place' may have been a later insertion into the townscape and had originated as an area of burgages in the medieval period.

This question may be answered through archaeological intervention. The latter market place was probably the location of the majority of the marketing activities by at least the late 19th century as indicated by the construction of a market hall here in 1868 (currently the library)²⁵¹.

The late 18th century, Grade II listed, Stubbs' Mill is likely to have stood on the site of an earlier probably medieval watermill (cf. 2.4.4.3). Other important industrial buildings, relating to a period of economic prosperity from the late 18th century onwards also survive within the HUCA. The industries represented by extant buildings include brewing (cf. 4.1.2) and the boot and shoe industry (cf. map 11). A number of boot making workshops appear to survive to the rear of the High Street²⁵². Joules' brewery stood to the south of the High Street by at least the early 18th century, but has since been all but demolished²⁵³. A tannery, probably associated with the boot and shoe industry, existed to the south of the HUCA by the late 19th century, part of which survives²⁵⁴.

4.1.2 Built character

The importance of the historic built character of the HUCA to the wider townscape has been acknowledged in the designation of the Stone Conservation Area. The HUCA includes six Listed Buildings; of these one, 'The Crown Hotel' is Grade II*²⁵⁵. Many other unlisted historic buildings also survive (plate 3). The principle building material within the HUCA is red brick, although some buildings have been painted or rendered. The exceptions are the former Market Hall (1868) in Market Place built of yellow bricks and the Grade II listed late 18th century Cumberland House, which is stucco²⁵⁶. The majority of the buildings are of two or three storeys.



The historic character of the extant buildings reflects the economic prosperity of the town during the 18th and 19th centuries associated principally with the construction of the Trent and Mersey Canal (cf. 2.6.1.3). This is reflected on map 12 which shows that the majority of notable historic buildings appear to date to the 18th and early 19th centuries. However, at least one timber framed building, of possible medieval origin, survived along the High Street until its demolition in 1954²⁵⁷. Other timber framed buildings were probably also demolished at an earlier period. However, to date no building recording has been undertaken on any of the historic buildings within the HUCA. Consequently it is possible, as has been revealed in other Staffordshire towns, that earlier architectural fragments (such as timber framing) may survive within these later buildings. Such information would contribute to our understanding of the historical development of Stone. The Grade II* Crown Hotel is testimony to Stone's location on an important coaching road by the late 18th century (cf. 2.6.5.1 and plate 3)²⁵⁸. The three storey red brick building was constructed as a coaching inn by Henry Holland in 1778.

Two of the 18th century buildings, however, are clearly purpose-built and are reflect the importance of the brewing industry to Stone's economy. Both are Grade II listed and built in the late 18th century. The former offices of Joules' Brewery were built circa 1780 and stand on the southern side of the High Street (plate 8)²⁵⁹. A brick built malthouse survives to the rear of 28 High Street, also on the southern side which it has been suggested had also belonged to the Joules Brewery²⁶⁰.

4.1.3 Heritage values:

<p>Evidential value: Previous archaeological excavation has shown that medieval and later deposits survive within the town. Further evidence of domestic and industrial activity would make an important contribution to our understanding of the history of its development. Also of interest are the later industrial sites including the Joules' brewery and the tannery, but others are also likely to survive. The historic buildings, including those of industrial origin (such as the former boot workshops and the malthouse), may retain important information concerning their origins and roles in Stone's social and economic history.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Historical value: The HUCA is dominated by legible heritage assets most notably the historic buildings, but also the extant medieval town plan, which includes the burgage plots and market places.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Aesthetic value: The integrity of the historic character is particularly well preserved within the HUCA in the form of historic buildings as well as the burgage plots, market places and the street pattern. Overall the historic environment contributes strongly to the aesthetics of the HUCA and this is complemented by several designations including the Stone Conservation Area and the six nationally listed buildings. Change within the HUCA should therefore seek to contribute to sustainable regeneration whilst respecting its historic character.</p>	<p>High</p>

Communal value: The current lack of understanding restricts the potential of the HUCA to contribute to Cheadle's history and the interpretation of that for the benefit of residents and for tourism.

High

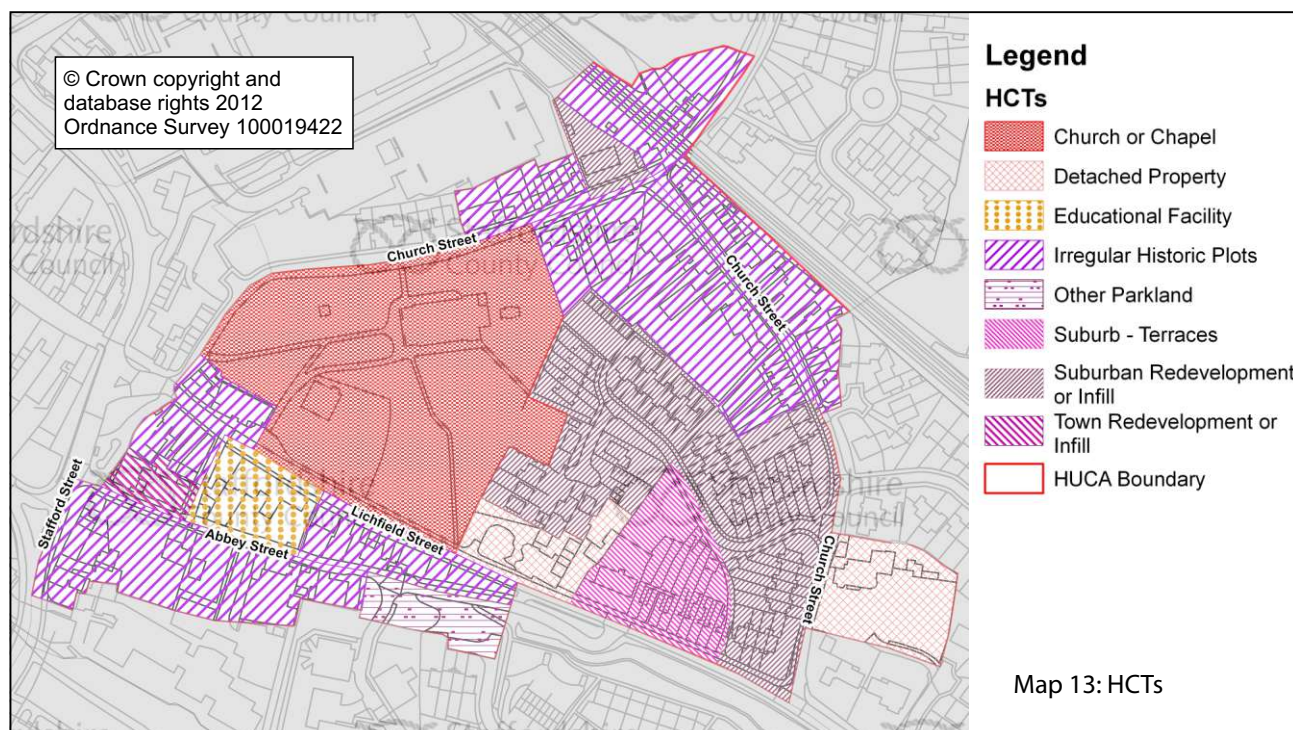
4.1.4 Recommendations

The heritage significance and values elements have recognised the importance of this HUCA to not only in its contribution to an understanding of Stone's history, but also to the sense of place for the community and visitors.

- ◆ A statement of significance will be required to assess the impact of any proposed development upon the historic environment as part of any planning application to be made within this HUCA (cf. para. 128 of NPPF)²⁶¹.
- ◆ The sympathetic restoration or enhancement of the historic buildings, both Listed and unlisted, would strengthen the historic character and the quality of the wider townscape and the Conservation Area for the benefit of this and future generations (Bullet Point 10 of para 17 (Core planning principles) of NPPF)²⁶². The heritage assets also make a positive contribution to the tourist economy of the town. Locally important buildings should be considered for local listing in line with the recent English Heritage guidance document entitled 'Good Practice for Local Listing: Identifying and Managing Significant Local Heritage Assets' (2012)²⁶³.
- ◆ There are numerous designated heritage assets within the HUCA. Where alterations or changes are proposed to historic buildings, whether Listed or not, within the Conservation Area the applicant should consult the Stone Conservation Area Appraisal and the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council in the first instance²⁶⁴. Any works on or within the vicinity of the Grade II* Listed Buildings should consult English Heritage at the pre-planning stage. All of the designated heritage assets and their settings are covered under para. 132 of NPPF²⁶⁵.
- ◆ There is a high potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive across the entire HUCA. There is also a particularly high potential for historic buildings to retain earlier architectural elements which could inform their origins, development and function as has been shown by previous building recording. Where development may result in the loss of these heritage assets (whether wholly or in part) archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to record and advance the understanding of their significance; this is supported in paras. 128 and 141 of NPPF²⁶⁶.
- ◆ Change within the HUCA should be sympathetic to its historic character whether addressing infill development or the restoration of the historic buildings. In particular the promotion of the re-use of historic buildings to contribute to sustainable development is recommended (paras. 126 and 131 of NPPF). High quality design which is sympathetic to the historic built fabric is the key to retaining the local character of the area as identified in Bullet Point 4 of para. 17 (Core planning principles) and Bullet Point 4 of para. 58 in NPPF²⁶⁷.

- ◆ Any appropriate development within this HUCA should look to improve the historic character and sense of place within the nearby public realm. Where this concerns work within a Conservation Area this may be achieved through consultation with the Stafford Borough Conservation Officer. Outside of designated Conservation Areas the SCC Historic Environment Team should be consulted. Reference should also be made to the joint English Heritage and Department of Transport volume entitled 'Streets for All: West Midlands' and where appropriate to the SCC 'Conservation in the Highways' document²⁶⁸.

4.2 HUCA 2: Abbey Street and Church Street



4.2.1 Statement of heritage significance

The precinct of the medieval Stone Priory is believed to be fossilised by Abbey Street, Church Street and Stafford Street and therefore dominates the HUCA (cf. 2.4.5.2). The extant Grade II listed Crompton Tomb (commemorating William Crompton died 1603 and his wife who died in 1626 had apparently been erected within a chapel of the medieval priory church (cf. 2.4.2.1; plate 1 and map 13) when it was being used as the parish church²⁶⁹. Thus the priory church probably lay approximately 60m to the south east of the extant St Michael's. The only other structural remains of the medieval priory is an extant undercroft or crypt, of probably 13th or 14th century date, which is now incorporated into the extant Grade II* listed early to mid 18th century house known as 'The Priory' (plate 4)²⁷⁰. Further fragmentary remains survive within the garden of this property and include the base of a wall and the lower part of a pier (possibly part of the Chapter House)²⁷¹. A drawing of a Norman stone archway was probably made in the 19th century, although its location is not recorded and it is unclear whether this survives²⁷². Further structural stonework was found during a watching brief in 1998; three fragments were of 13th century date which led the excavator to suggest a second phase of construction following the establishment of the priory in the mid 12th century²⁷³. Other than the likely location of the priory church the internal arrangements of the medieval priory are unknown, although it has been suggested that if the plan form followed that of other known Augustinian priories then the cloisters, surrounded by the dormitory, chapter house and refectory would have lain to the south²⁷⁴. Other buildings may have included an infirmary, kitchen, gatehouse, guesthouse, prior's lodging as well as stables and storerooms²⁷⁵. There is consequently a high potential for below ground archaeological remains to survive in the area of the priory.

Plate 9: St Michael's Church



The priory church was demolished in 1749 following a partial collapse²⁷⁶. It was replaced by the extant Grade II* listed St Michael's Church in 1758 which was built in an Early Gothic Revival style to a design by William Robinson of the Board of Works (plate 9)²⁷⁷. Two 13th century effigies were relocated to lie within the church. The churchyard provides an area of open space within the townscape and includes several important memorials within its grounds as well as the Crompton Tomb mentioned above (plate 1).

Further changes to the townscape within the HUCA also occurred during the late 18th century; most notably the construction of Lichfield Street (originally known as New Street) in the 1770s (cf. 2.6.1.2). The construction of the street was followed by development, particularly on its southern side where there is a late 18th century Grade II listed row of houses as well as a pair of Grade II listed early 19th century houses and a mid 19th century former National school²⁷⁸. To the north lies 'The Mansion' also a Grade II listed late 18th century house; to the rear of this property lies a probable early 19th century industrial building whose name suggests it may have been used as a silk mill (cf. 2.6.3.2)²⁷⁹. A pair of Grade II listed houses on Stafford Street may also have formed part of a late 18th century silk industry in the town as suggested by the third storey window arrangement (cf. 2.6.3.2 and plate 6)²⁸⁰.

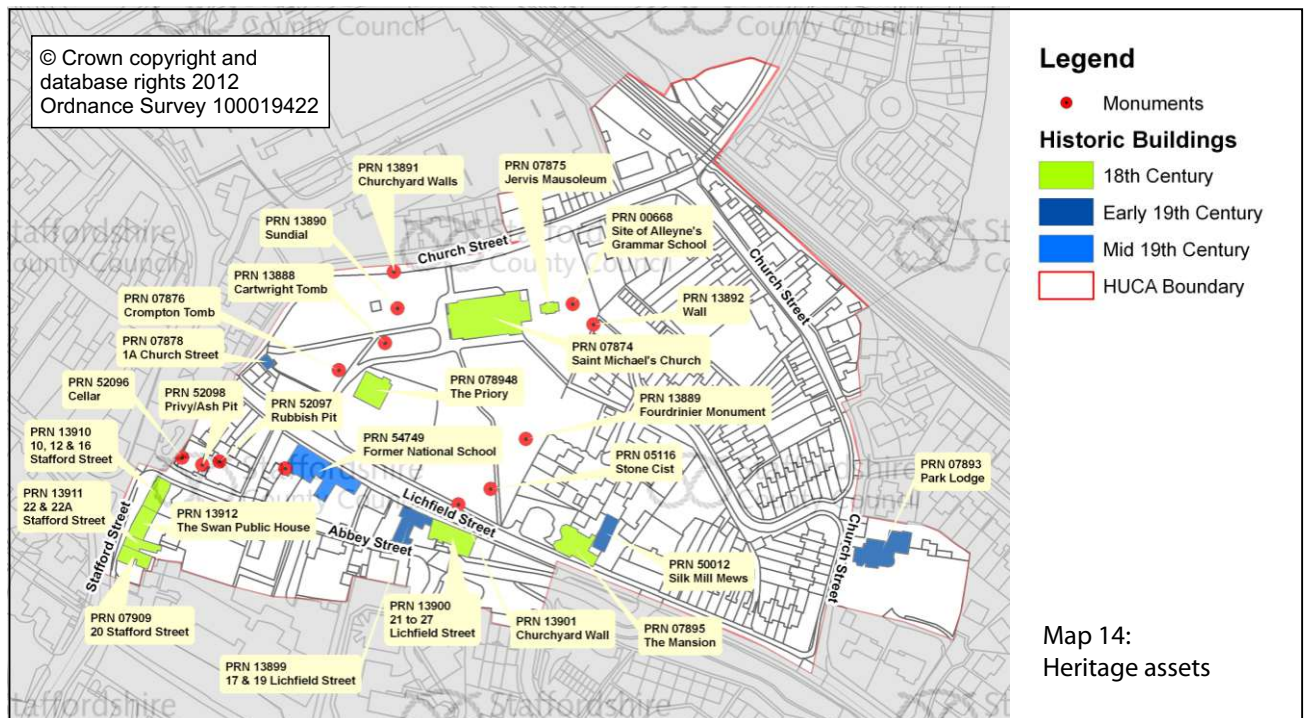
The origin of the settlement along Abbey Street, Stafford Street and Church Street is currently unknown, but may not be earlier than the mid 16th century (HCT 'Irregular Historic Plots' on map

13). Much of the area of the former priory precinct was free of development until a number of terraced houses were built on Lichfield Street in the late 19th century and the construction of houses along cul-de-sacs in the late 20th century (HCT 'Suburban Redevelopment or Infill' on map 13). The majority of the HUCA is dominated by historic buildings; the cul-de-sac along with individual buildings along the main roads are the only examples of later 20th century development.

4.2.2 Built Character

The importance of the historic built character of the HUCA to the wider townscape has been acknowledged in the designation of the Stone Conservation Area (cf. map 10). The HUCA includes ten Listed Buildings; three of these (including St Michael's Church; plate 9) are Grade II* listed²⁸¹. Many other unlisted historic buildings also survive. The built character of the HUCA dominates much of the area, but the churchyard itself forms an important green space within the wider townscape.

The known remains of the priory suggest that sandstone had dominated the built character of the HUCA in the medieval period. Stone no longer dominates, although the extant Grade II* church is built of ashlar as is the adjacent Grade II* listed Jervis Mausoleum (cf. map 14)²⁸². The only other ashlar building within the HUCA is the Grade II listed Park Lodge lying to the east of the HUCA on Church Street²⁸³. This building is one of several large detached houses of late 18th and early 19th century date within the HUCA. The others include the Grade II* 'The Priory' (plate 4) and the Grade II listed 'Mansion House' both lying off Lichfield Street²⁸⁴. The latter two are both principally of brick, although the façade of 'The Priory' is stucco, and are three storied.



The remainder of the historic buildings within the HUCA were intensively built onto the street frontages. Along Lichfield Street these are a mix of two and three storey red brick properties; the earlier buildings lying at the junction with Stafford Street are of red brick, although the majority have been painted. Those listed properties in Stafford Street are also of red brick and three storied; these have all been dated to the late 18th century²⁸⁵. Smaller-scale domestic properties survive along the northern and western extents of Church Street; these properties are all two storeys and of brick, although many have since been painted or rendered. The oldest buildings all stand on the street; houses representing 20th century infill and redevelopment lie off the street within small garden plots (cf. map 13).

Although Abbey Street had probably formed part of the precinct boundary and may therefore be an earlier street it appears to have functioned principally as a back lane since the late 18th century when Lichfield Street was constructed. The buildings standing on the northern side of this street front onto Lichfield Street. To the south only a row of red brick terraces and a former three storey industrial building survive of the numerous small buildings which are depicted as existing here by the late 19th century.

Three buildings within the HUCA have been identified as having industrial origins; the three storey red brick Silk Mill Mews which was converted to domestic use in the late 20th/early 21st century; the Grade II listed Swan Public House originated as a warehouse (also three storied brick building); and a three storey brick building standing gable end onto Abbey Street²⁸⁶.

4.2.3 Heritage values

<p>Evidential value: There is the potential for archaeological remains relating to the medieval priory to survive within the HUCA. The historic settlement areas along Church Street, Abbey Street and Stafford Street also have the potential to retain important deposits relating to settlement, which would make an important contribution to understanding of its origin and nature along these early streets. The historic buildings also have the potential to retain information concerning their origins and function in the form of earlier fabric. Such information could also contribute to our understanding of the development of Stone. The former industrial buildings would also contribute to an understanding of Stone's economic history.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Historical value: The HUCA is dominated by historic buildings and structures, ten of which are Listed. These include the church and its monuments including the Crompton tomb, which had originally stood within the priory church. Abbey Street, Stafford Street and Church Street are believed to fossilise the precinct of the medieval priory.</p>	<p>High</p>

<p>Aesthetic value: The historic environment contributes strongly to the aesthetics of the HUCA, which comprises the green space of the churchyard and the larger detached houses. The remainder of the HUCA is more intensely developed with the historic properties standing directly on the roadsides. The importance of the HUCA to the historic character of Stone has been acknowledged by its incorporation within the Stone Conservation Area. Three of the historic buildings are Grade II* listed and are related to both the medieval priory (the undercroft/crypt within 'The Priory') and the late 18th century church and mausoleum.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Communal value: The church and churchyard are accessible; the remainder of the historic buildings can be appreciated from the street. The experience and understanding of Stone's heritage could be promoted to the community and visitors' through interpretation and to encourage heritage-led sustainable tourism.</p>	<p>Medium</p>

4.2.4 Recommendations

The heritage significance and values elements have recognised the historic importance of this HUCA, particularly its association with the medieval priory. The historic buildings and the street pattern make an important contribution to an understanding of Stone's history and to its sense of place for the community and visitors.

- ◆ A statement of significance will be required to assess the impact of any proposed development upon the historic environment as part of any planning application to be made within this HUCA (cf. para. 128 of NPPF)²⁸⁷.
- ◆ The sympathetic restoration or enhancement of the historic buildings, both Listed and unlisted, would strengthen the historic character and the quality of the wider townscape and the Conservation Area for the benefit of this and future generations (Bullet Point 10 of para 17 (Core planning principles) of NPPF). The heritage assets also make a positive contribution to the tourist economy of the town. Locally important buildings should be considered for local listing in line with the recent English Heritage guidance document entitled 'Good Practice for Local Listing: Identifying and Managing Significant Local Heritage Assets' (2012)²⁸⁹.
- ◆ There are numerous designated heritage assets within the HUCA. Where alterations or changes are proposed to historic buildings, whether Listed or not, within the Conservation Area the applicant should consult the Stone Conservation Area Appraisal and the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council in the first instance²⁹⁰. Any works on or within the vicinity of the Grade II* Listed Buildings should consult English Heritage at the pre-planning stage. All of the designated heritage assets and their settings are covered under para. 132 of NPPF²⁹¹.

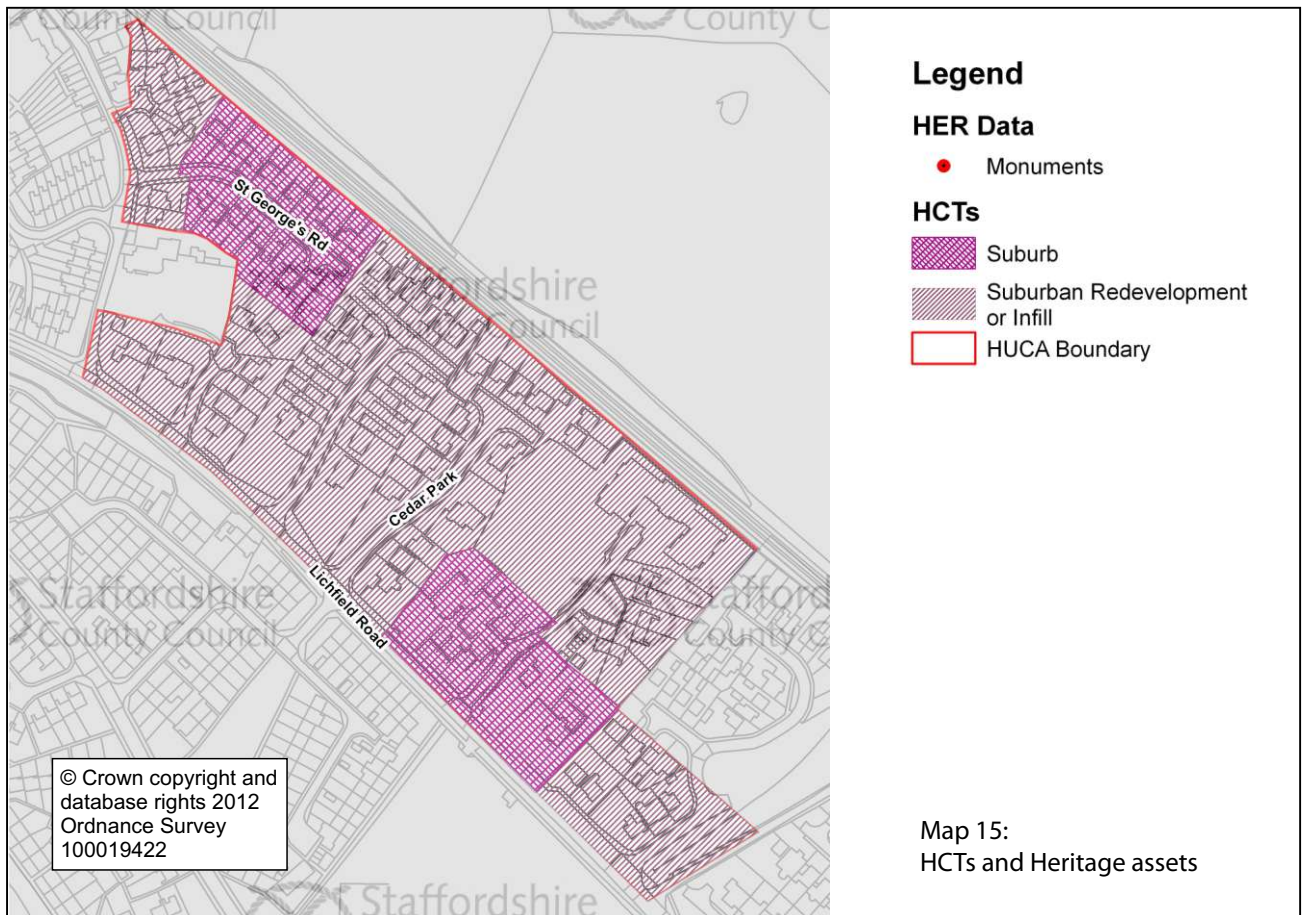
²⁹² Ibid.

²⁹³ Ibid.

²⁹⁴ English Heritage HELM web: <http://www.helm.org.uk/server/show/nav.19643>
Staffordshire County Council. 2011. Web: <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk>

- ◆ There is a high potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive across the entire HUCA. There is also a particularly high potential for historic buildings to retain earlier architectural elements which could inform their origins, development and function as has been shown by previous building recording. Where development may result in the loss of these heritage assets (whether wholly or in part) archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to record and advance the understanding of their significance; this is supported in paras. 128 and 141 of NPPF²⁹².
- ◆ Change within the HUCA should be sympathetic to its historic character whether addressing infill development or the restoration of the historic buildings. In particular the promotion of the re-use of historic buildings to contribute to sustainable development is recommended (paras. 126 and 131 of NPPF). High quality design which is sympathetic to the historic built fabric is the key to retaining the local character of the area as identified in Bullet Point 4 of para. 17 (Core planning principles) and Bullet Point 4 of para. 58 in NPPF²⁹³.
- ◆ Any appropriate development within this HUCA should look to improve the historic character and sense of place within the nearby public realm. Where this concerns work within a Conservation Area this may be achieved through consultation with the Stafford Borough Conservation Officer. Outside of designated Conservation Areas the SCC Historic Environment Team should be consulted. Reference should also be made to the joint English Heritage and Department of Transport volume entitled 'Streets for All: West Midlands' and where appropriate to the SCC 'Conservation in the Highways' document²⁹⁴.

4.3 HUCA 3: North of Lichfield Road



4.3.1 Statement of heritage significance and built character

The HUCA is dominated by late 20th century housing development, the majority of which has been constructed either on the site or within the grounds of earlier large detached houses (cf. HCT 'Suburban Redevelopment or Infill' on map 15). The late 20th century houses are also generally detached and have been constructed along cul-de-sacs off Lichfield Road.

The character of the HUCA by the late 19th century is shown on plate 10 where five large detached houses are shown, all of which were built in the 1880s/90s. The construction of these properties probably reflects the social standing of some of Stone's inhabitants who were seeking a rural idyll on the outskirts of the town (cf. also HUCA 4). Only two of these properties survive within the HUCA; although in both cases the gardens have been infilled with later housing (cf. map 9).

The first edition 25" OS map (1880) reveals that this area had mostly formed part of a field system whose morphology suggests that it had been enclosed by a surveyor in the late 18th/early 19th century; the earlier history of the area is currently unclear, but it had probably been in some form of agricultural use.

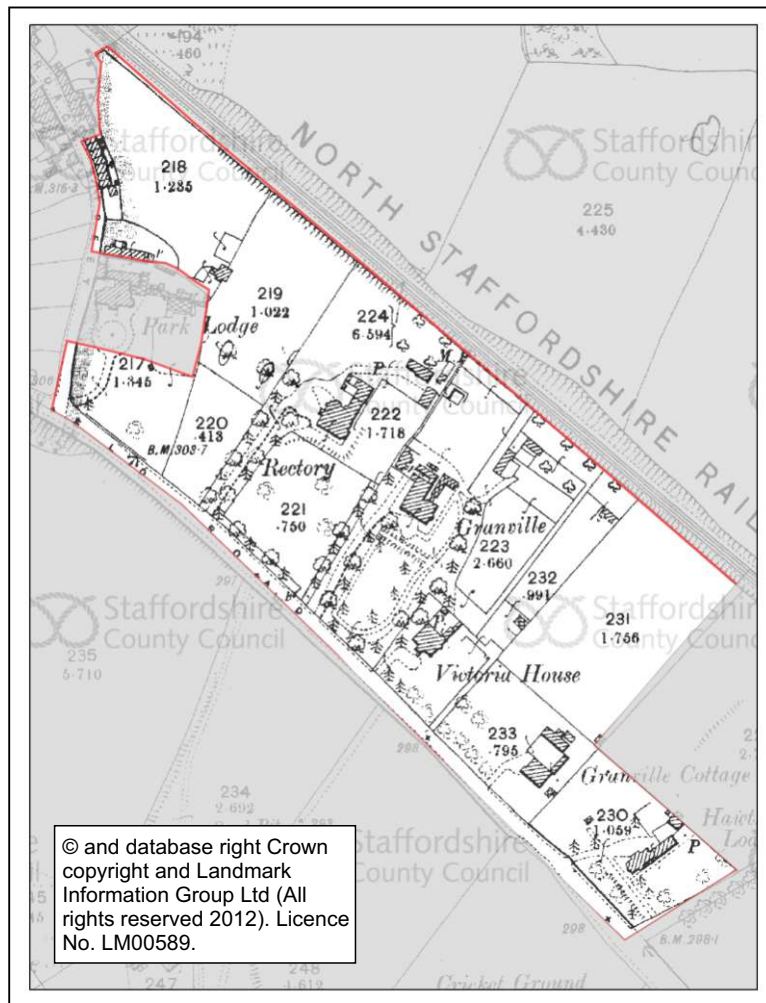


Plate 10: Second Edition 25" Ordnance Survey map

4.3.2 Heritage values:

<p>Evidential value: The earlier history of the HUCA is currently unknown, but it is likely to have been in agricultural use by at least the medieval period. The surviving historic buildings may retain architectural features which could add to our understanding of the creation of suburbs, as well as Stone's social history, during the late 19th century.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Historical value: Two historic buildings survive from the five which had originally been built in the late 19th century.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Aesthetic value: The two historic buildings continue to contribute to an understanding of Stone's development and the character of the townscape. However, the integrity of both properties has been to a degree compromised by the construction of further houses within their original building plots.</p>	<p>Low</p>

Communal value: The HUCA is dominated by private housing whose communal value from a heritage perspective is low.

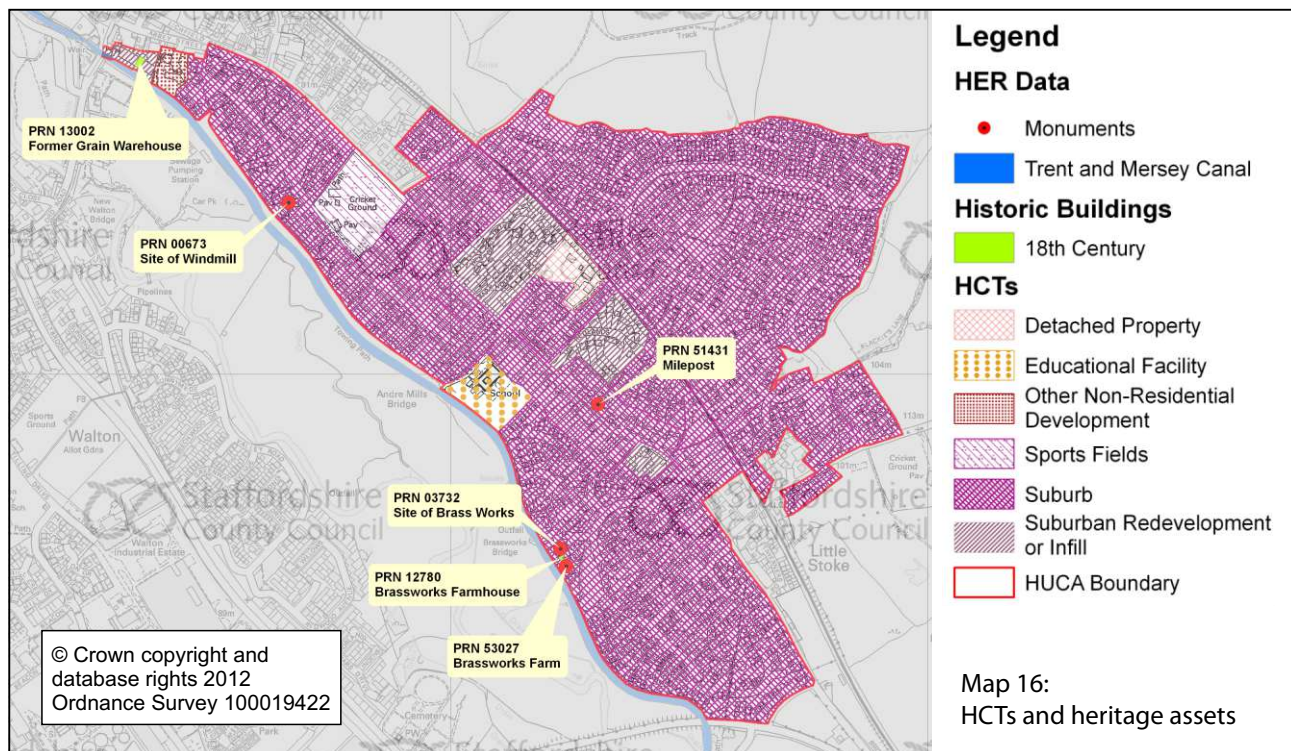
Low

4.3.3 Recommendations

The heritage significance and values have identified that two of the five original late 19th century detached houses survive and contribute to an understanding of Stone's social history.

- ◆ Locally important undesignated historic buildings could be considered for local listing in line with the recent English Heritage guidance document entitled '*Good Practice for Local Listing: Identifying and Managing Significant Local Heritage Assets*' (2012)²⁹⁵.
- ◆ The sympathetic restoration or enhancement of the historic buildings would strengthen the historic character and the quality of the wider townscape for the benefit of this and future generations (Bullet Point 10 of para 17 (Core planning principles) also paras. 126 and 131 of NPPF)²⁹⁶.
- ◆ Overall there is a low potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive within the HUCA. However, further research may alter our understanding of this potential and where development may be deemed to result in the loss of heritage assets (whether wholly or in part) archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to record and advance the understanding of their significance. This is supported in para. 141 of NPPF²⁹⁷.

4.4 HUCA 4: South east of Stone



4.4.1 Statement of heritage significance and built character

The HUCA is dominated by mid to late 20th century housing development whose expansion is charted on map 9. Suburban development had earlier origins with the construction of four large detached houses constructed in the 1880s/1890s lying at the end of long driveways off Lichfield Road. Of these only one survives, Park Hill which lies to the north west of the HUCA adjacent to the railway line. The other three properties were redeveloped in the late 20th and early 21st century (HCT 'Suburban Redevelopment or Infill' on map 16). One other earlier property 'Stone Grange' survives and probably has early 19th century origins (cf. 'Detached Property' on map 16). The Stoke Cricket Ground was also established in the late 19th century (HCT 'Sports Fields' on map 16). Its presence within the HUCA is probably related to the development of the large detached houses in HUCAs 3 and 4 and therefore informs our understanding of Stone's social history during the later 19th century.

Part of the southern boundary of the HUCA follows the Trent and Mersey Canal which was constructed in the late 18th century by the canal engineers James Brindley and Hugh Henshall²⁹⁸. The importance of the canal to the history and historic character of the Staffordshire landscape through which it passes has been acknowledged in its designation as a Conservation Area. A Grade II listed former grain warehouse associated with the canal survives to the far west of the HUCA; it has since been converted and incorporated into a late 20th century development (plate 11; cf. 2.6.5.2 and HCT 'Suburban Redevelopment or Infill' on map 16)²⁹⁹. The canal encouraged the development of industry from the late 18th century onwards; and such a site is located within the HUCA. The Grade II listed Brassworks farmhouse, lying adjacent to the canal, is now

surrounded by late 20th century housing (Telford Close). It is a three storey property built in 1794 as part of the Stone Brass & Copper Works³⁰⁰. Other than the dwelling house (Brassworks farmhouse) the site also included warehouses, a copper refinery, a calamine mill, calcining house, store house, a wire mill and rolling mill, a charcoal house and mill, a counting house, a workman's cottage and a smith's shop³⁰¹. A further historic building, now known as 'Brassworks Cottage' also survives; its relationship to the late 18th century brassworks is currently unknown. By the 1840s the site had apparently been converted to a brewery, but was later used as a farmstead³⁰².



Prior to development the landscape had formed part of a series of field systems of differing origins. The western portion of the HUCA had formed part of a field system whose morphology suggests that it had been created by a surveyor in the late 18th/19th century (cf. HCT 'Planned Enclosure' on map 7). The field system in the eastern portion of the HUCA had probably formed part of an open field system possibly associated with settlement at Little Stoke (cf. HUCA 5) and/or Stone (cf. HCT 'Strip Fields' on map 3). This field system appears to have been enclosed incrementally by the land holders during the post medieval period (cf. HCT 'Piecemeal Enclosure' on map 6).

4.4.2 Heritage values:

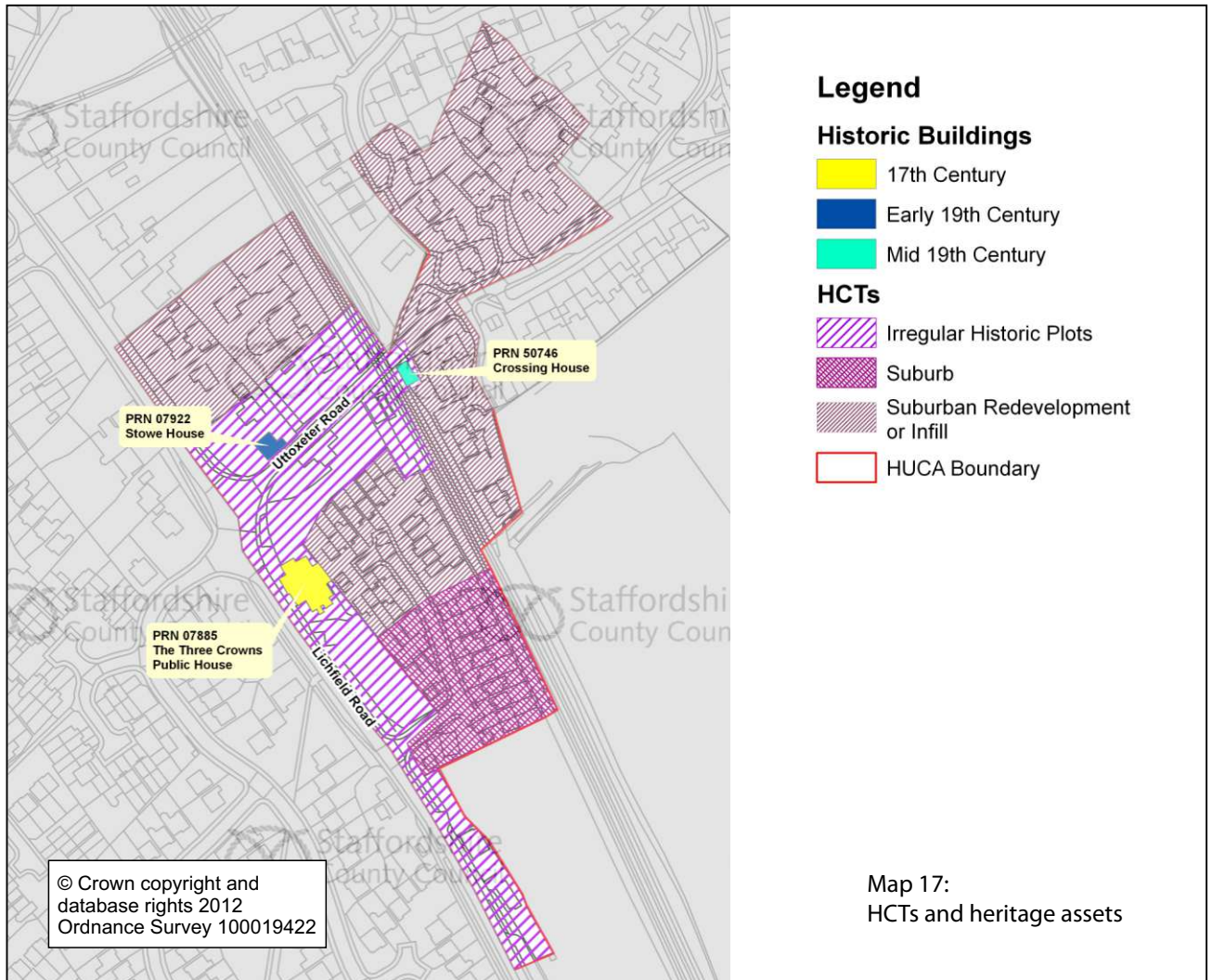
<p>Evidential value: The HUCA lies beyond the historic core of both Stone and Little Stoke. There is the potential for archaeological remains to survive associated with the brassworks adjacent to the canal, although much of this area has subsequently been developed. The historic buildings (both listed and unlisted) associated with this site may retain architectural detailing which could contribute to an understanding of the origin, history and function of this site.</p>	<p>Medium (associated with the Brassworks) Low across the majority of the HUCA</p>
<p>Historical value: A number of historic buildings survive across the HUCA. These include at least two dating to the late 18th century (and Grade II listed) which are closely associated with the Trent & Mersey Canal.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Aesthetic value: The character of the HUCA is dominated by mid and late 20th century suburban development. The surviving historic buildings contribute to the unique sense of place for the benefit of the present and future communities. The importance of the canal to the historic character of the townscape (and more widely) has been acknowledged in its designation as a conservation area.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Communal value: The canal and its associated structures (bridges/locks etc) are important heritage assets which provides and promotes public engagement. It is also an important feature of the tourist economy of the county. Its role in Stone's history could be further promoted through interpretation and/or presentation.</p>	<p>High</p>

4.4.3 Recommendations

The heritage significance and values have highlighted the importance of the canal to the historic character of the landscape and its association with the Grade II listed buildings.

- ◆ Where alterations or changes are proposed to Listed buildings or which may impact upon the setting of the Trent and Mersey Conservation Area the applicant should consult the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council in the first instance³⁰³. All of the designated heritage assets and their settings are covered under para. 132 of NPPF³⁰⁴.
- ◆ There is the potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive within particular areas of the HUCA. There is also the potential for the historic buildings, particularly those associated with the canal, to retain earlier architectural elements which could inform their origins, development and function as has been shown by previous building recording. Where development may result in the loss of these heritage assets (whether wholly or in part) archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to record and advance the understanding of their significance; this is supported in paras. 128 and 141 of NPPF³⁰⁵.

4.5 HUCA 5: Little Stoke



4.5.1 Statement of heritage significance and built character

The integrity of Little Stoke as a distinct settlement survives to a certain degree within the HUCA where historic buildings, within early plots, are extant (cf. HCT 'Irregular Historic Plots' on map 17). The area of 'Irregular Historic Plots' observed on the map 3 indicates the possible extent of settlement, which corresponds with the area of housing by the late 19th century. Little Stoke may be the settlement mentioned in Domesday Book and it certainly existed by the 17th century (cf. 2.4.5.4 and 2.5.1.5).

The earliest known historic building is the 'Three Crowns Public House' standing on the Lichfield Road. This property probably dates to the 17th century and although substantially damaged by fire in the late 20th century, some of the timber framing survives internally³⁰⁶. Two Grade II listed buildings survive both of which have been dated to the 19th century and are built of brick³⁰⁷. Crossing House is closely associated with the railway having been built in 1849 probably as a railway level crossing keeper's cottage. Other historic buildings survive within the area indicated as 'Irregular Historic Plots' on map 17.

The HUCA has also been subject to the redevelopment of historic plots during the late 20th century (cf. map 3 and HCT 'Suburban Redevelopment or Infill' on map 17). This development mostly comprises detached houses. Further re-development occurred during the early 21st century when three apartment blocks were constructed upon the site of the early 20th century Aston by Stone railway station and sidings. The station at Little Stoke was probably prompted by the development of high-status suburbs which were advancing eastwards along Lichfield Road in the late 19th century (cf. HUCAs 3 and 4)

4.5.2 Heritage values

<p>Evidential value: There is the potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive within the HUCA relating to the origins of Little Stoke as a settlement. Subsequent redevelopment of parts of this settlement may have impacted upon the survival of such deposits in parts of the HUCA. The historic buildings may also retain architectural fragments which could contribute to an understanding of the nature of the settlement; the origins of the buildings and their function.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Historical value: Historic buildings survive within the HUCA including two which are Grade II listed. The history of Crossing House is closely associated with the railway.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Aesthetic value: The integrity of Little Stoke as a separate settlement is identifiable within the townscape from the character of the historic built environment and the property plots. This is despite the redevelopment of parts of the settlement in the late 20th and early 21st century.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Communal value: The HUCA is dominated by private housing whose communal value from a heritage perspective is low.</p>	<p>Low</p>

4.5.3 Recommendations

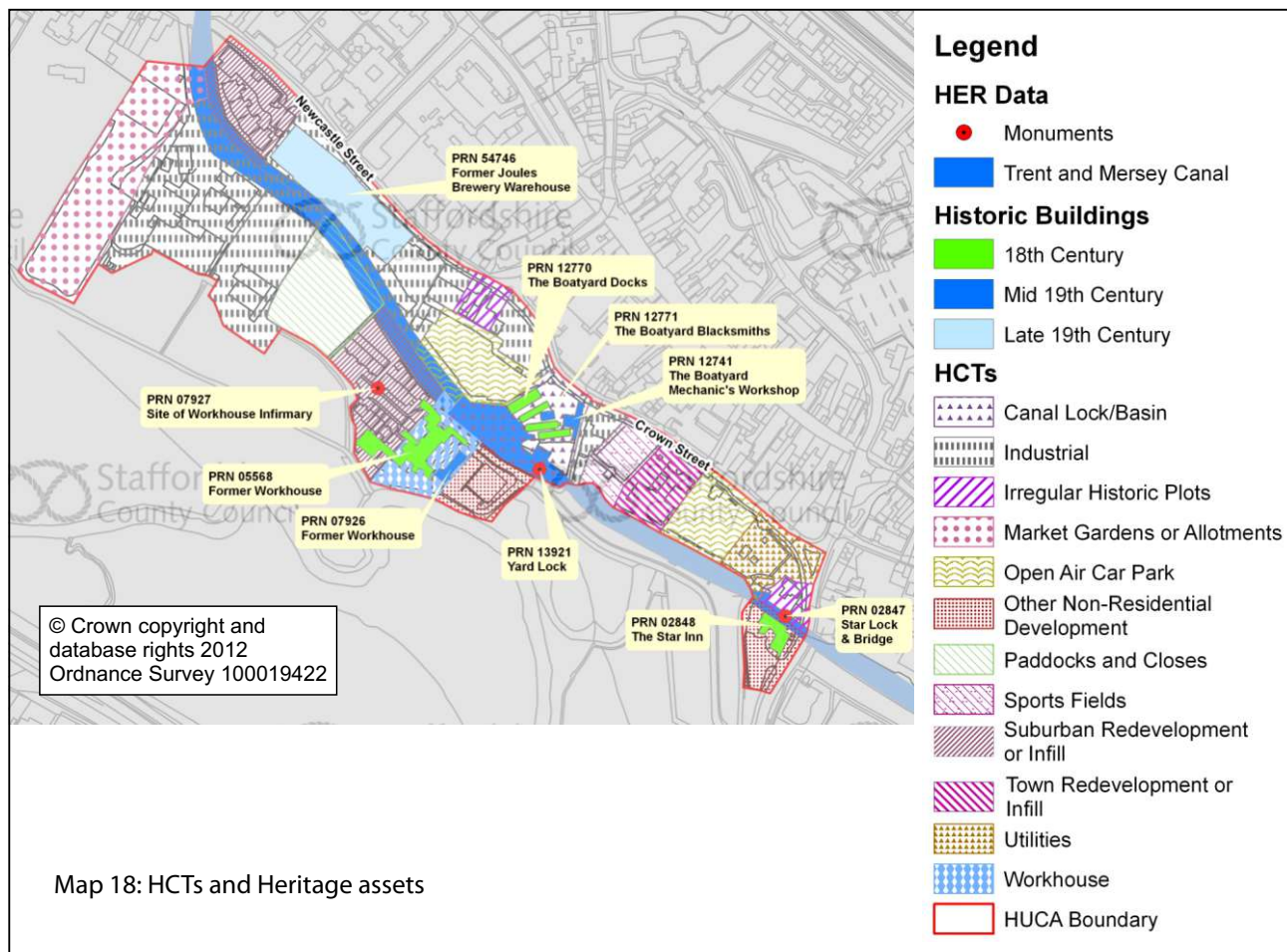
The heritage significance and values have identified that the historic character of Little Stoke largely survives in the form of building plots and historic properties despite some redevelopment of part of the settlement in the late 20th and early 21st century.

- ◆ Where alterations or changes are proposed to Listed buildings the applicant should consult the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council in the first instance³⁰⁸. All of the designated heritage assets and their settings are covered under para. 132 of NPPF³⁰⁹.
- ◆ The retention of and sympathetic restoration/enhancement of the historic buildings, both Listed and unlisted, would strengthen the historic character and the quality of Little Stoke as originating as a separate settlement for the benefit of this and future generations (Bullet Point 10 of para 17 (Core planning principles) also paras. 126 and 131 of NPPF)³¹⁰. Locally important

buildings should be considered for local listing in line with the recent English Heritage guidance document entitled 'Good Practice for Local Listing: Identifying and Managing Significant Local Heritage Assets' (2012)³¹¹.

- ◆ There is the potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive within the HUCA. There is also the potential for the historic buildings to retain earlier architectural elements which could inform their origins, development and function as has been shown by previous building recording. Where development may result in the loss of these heritage assets (whether wholly or in part) archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to record and advance the understanding of their significance; this is supported in paras. 128 and 141 of NPPF³¹².

4.6 HUCA 6: Trent and Mersey Canal



4.6.1 Statement of heritage significance and built character

The HUCA owes much of its historic character to the construction of the Trent and Mersey canal in the late 18th century by the canal engineers James Brindley and Hugh Henshall. The importance of the canal to Staffordshire's history and landscape has been acknowledged in its designation as a Conservation Area. Within the HUCA itself two late 18th century canal locks, one with an accommodation bridge, are Grade II listed³¹³. Part of the HUCA also lies within the Stone Conservation Area (cf. map 10).

Industrial development was attracted to the HUCA following the construction of the canal. The earliest of these buildings are those associated with the canal boatyard which includes two dry-docks and two wet docks dating to between the late 18th and early 19th century; all of which are Grade II listed (plate 7)³¹⁴. This site provides a wider insight into the social and economic history of the canal and the importance of Stone as a point upon the network. Two further Grade II listed buildings are associated with this complex, although they are slightly later in date (mid 19th century). The smaller of the two was the blacksmith's shop and the larger standing on Crown Street was originally the carpenter's workshop³¹⁵. The boatyard buildings are still used to service the boats and boaters who continue to use the canal as a leisure facility (cf. plate 7).

Further industrial sites of at least late 19th century origin exist further north along the canal (HCT 'Industrial' on map 18). The largest of these buildings is the Grade II Listed red brick former Joules' Brewery Ale Stores (plate 12)³¹⁶. It was built circa 1881 and stands adjacent to the canal. Its canal side frontage retains its decorative brickwork and the legend on this facade continues to advertise its origins as part of one of Stone's better known industries.



Plate 12: Joules' Brewery warehouse

To the south of the canal stands the Grade II listed main block of the workhouse (plate 5)³¹⁷. The earliest part of this building was constructed, as the Parish Workhouse, in 1792-3, and became the Union workhouse in 1839³¹⁸. At this date it was enlarged to provide accommodation for greater numbers of inmates with a second storey added to the main block by Boulton and Palmer of Stafford³¹⁹. New blocks included an entrance to the east and an infirmary to the west³²⁰. The infirmary was demolished for housing in the late 20th century (HCT 'Suburban Redevelopment or Infill' on map 18); and the main block and entrance block were converted to apartments as part of the same development.

Other early 20th century redevelopment has also focused upon the canal accessed from Crown Street. Earlier properties also survive along this street, whose construction may be associated with the canal and therefore could be of late 18th century origin (HCT 'Irregular Historic Plots' on map 18).

The greatest development has occurred to the north of the canal; which as well as those sites already mentioned included a 19th century gasworks whose holders were demolished in the late 20th century. The site now forms a modern gas works and a car park. Some open space is provided to the north in the form of the bowling green, which has existed since at least the late 19th century and is thought to have been laid out for residents at the Crown Hotel on the High Street in the early 19th century (HCT 'Sports Field' on map 18)³²¹. The area to the south of the canal (within the HUCA) has seen less development with the exception of the workhouse (and later redevelopment on that site) and the works to the north. Open space is a feature of this part of the HUCA and includes part of a field system and allotment gardens; the latter having been established in the mid 20th century. These open spaces lead into the riverside meadows to the south (beyond the EUS area).

4.6.2 Heritage values

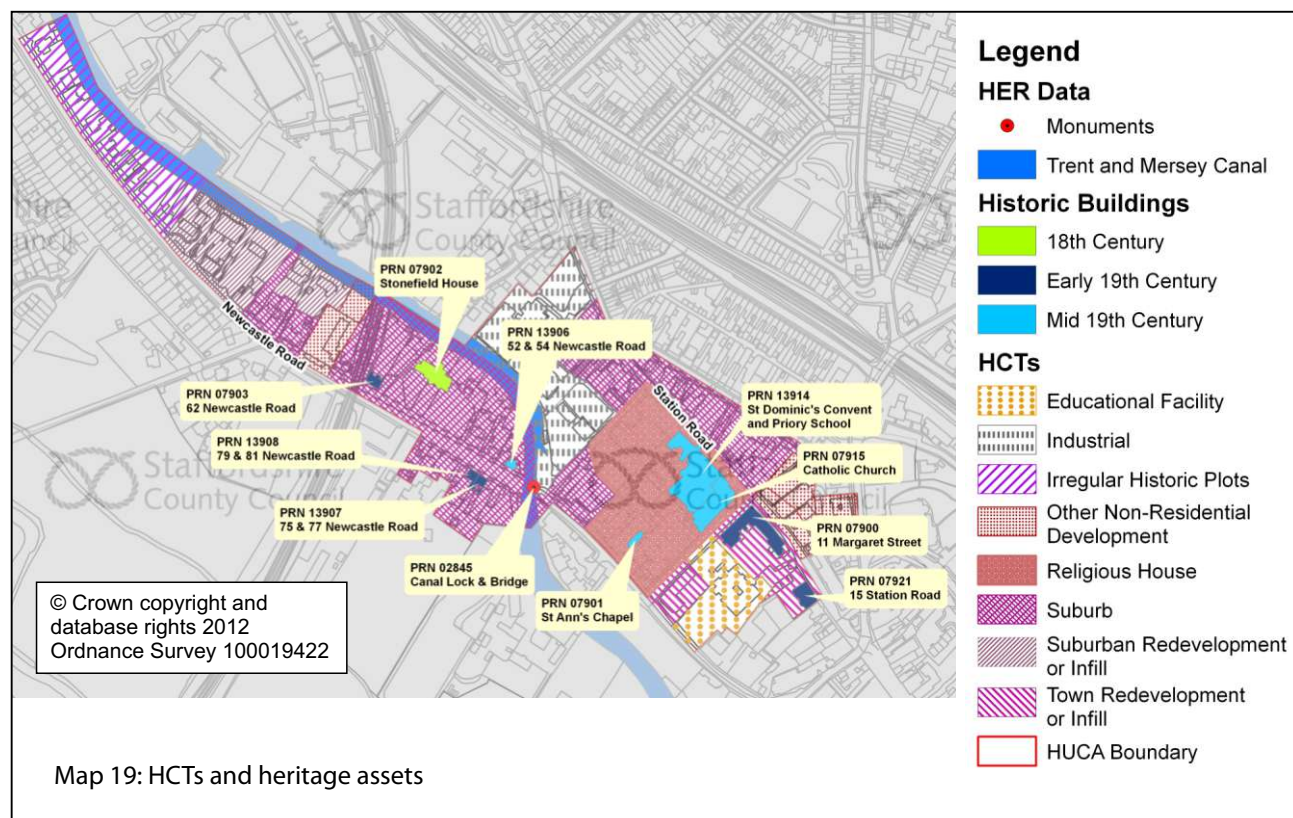
<p>Evidential value: The HUCA lies beyond the historic core of the planned medieval town; although it is currently unclear whether development along Crown Street is purely associated with the construction of the canal. There is the potential for the extant historic buildings to contribute to our understanding of the social and economic history of both Stone and the Trent & Mersey Canal.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Historical value: Legible heritage assets continue to dominate the HUCA in the form of the canal and its associated buildings and structures; the majority of which are Grade II listed. The Joules Brewery Warehouse is an important building, both in terms of its contribution to the townscape, but also to the history of Stone as a 19th century industrial centre.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Aesthetic value: The canal is the key heritage asset which has influenced the historic character of the HUCA. This is reflected in the designation of the canal as a Conservation Area and the listing of key buildings and structures associated with it. The historic industrial character of the HUCA is partially preserved in the surviving buildings most notably the Joules Brewery Warehouse. The importance of this area to Stone's history and townscape has been identified by its inclusion in the Stone Conservation Area. To the south development has been less intense; being a link between the canal, the River Trent and its meadows. There has been some redevelopment in the early 21st century; much of which has sought to keep the canal as the focus of the development.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Communal value: The canal and its associated structures (bridges/locks etc) are important heritage assets which provide and promote public engagement. The Grade II listed buildings of the boatyard for instance continue to serve the boating community. The canal is also an important feature of the tourist economy of the wider county. The role of the canal and its associated buildings in Stone's history could be further promoted through interpretation and/or presentation. The historic bowling green also provides a community facility.</p>	<p>High</p>

4.6.3 Recommendations

The statement of heritage significance and values has identified the importance of the historic environment to the character and history of Stone. This is reflected in the number of designated heritage assets within the HUCA.

- ◆ A statement of significance will be required, due to the concentration of designated heritage assets, to assess the impact of any proposed development upon the historic environment as part of any planning application to be made within this HUCA (cf. para. 128 of NPPF)³²².
- ◆ The sympathetic restoration or enhancement of the historic buildings, both Listed and unlisted, would strengthen the historic character and the quality of the wider townscape and the Conservation Area for the benefit of this and future generations (Bullet Point 10 of para 17 (Core planning principles) of NPPF)³²³. The heritage assets also make a positive contribution to the tourist economy of the town. Locally important buildings should be considered for local listing in line with the recent English Heritage guidance document entitled 'Good Practice for Local Listing: Identifying and Managing Significant Local Heritage Assets' (2012)³²⁴.
- ◆ There are numerous designated heritage assets within the HUCA. Where alterations or changes are proposed to historic buildings, whether Listed or not, within the Conservation Areas the applicant should consult the Stone Conservation Area Appraisal and the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council in the first instance³²⁵. All of the designated heritage assets and their settings are covered under para. 132 of NPPF³²⁶.
- ◆ Change within the HUCA should be sympathetic to its historic character whether addressing infill development or the restoration of the historic buildings. In particular the promotion of the re-use of historic buildings to contribute to sustainable development is recommended (paras. 126 and 131 of NPPF). High quality design which is sympathetic to the historic built fabric is the key to retaining the local character of the area as identified in Bullet Point 4 of para. 17 (Core planning principles) and Bullet Point 4 of para. 58 in NPPF³²⁷.
- ◆ There remains the potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive within the HUCA associated with development along Crown Street. There is also the potential for historic buildings to retain earlier architectural elements which could inform their origins, development and function within Stone's social and economic history. Where development may result in the loss of these heritage assets (whether wholly or in part) archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to record and advance the understanding of their significance; this is supported in paras. 128 and 141 of NPPF³²⁸.

4.7 HUCA 7: Station Road and Newcastle Road



4.7.1 Statement of heritage significance and built character

The south eastern portion of the HUCA lies within the Stone Conservation Area (cf. map 10). This portion has also been identified having likely formed part of the medieval planned town (cf. 2.4.5.2 and HCT 'Burgage Plots' on map 2). Consequently there remains the potential for below ground archaeological remains to survive associated with the development of the town from this period onwards. To the east the HUCA had formed part of Stonefield, one of Stone's open fields from at least the medieval period until its enclosure under an Act of Parliament passed in 1801 (cf. 'Strip Fields' on map 3).

The Newcastle Road probably has medieval, if not earlier, origins (cf. 2.4.5.2). However, the earliest known development along this route within the HUCA occurred in the late 18th century with the construction of the Grade II listed Stonefield House³²⁹. This house was built at a similar time as the nearby Trent and Mersey Canal and reputedly had its own wharf and warehouse. A number of other properties are also located adjacent to the canal although their origins and function are currently unknown. Much of the remaining housing in this portion of the HUCA is focused towards the road (e.g. HCT 'Irregular Historic Plots' on map 19 for example). The earliest of this suburban development occurred along Newcastle Road in the early 19th century as shown by the one detached and two semi-detached Grade II listed houses (cf. map 19) which survive³³⁰.

Plate 13: Church of the Immaculate Conception



Suburban development also occurred along the western portion of Station Road (within the HUCA) where large detached and semi-detached houses of at least late 19th century date survive (HCT 'Suburb' on map 19). Further east along Station Road the historic character is dominated by the Grade II listed mid 19th century buildings belonging to and associated with St Dominic's Convent (cf. 2.6.4.3). The earliest of these buildings is the Catholic Chapel of St Ann which was built in 1844 in an Early English style to a design by A. W. N. Pugin³³¹. The Convent itself along with its school and the Church of the Immaculate Conception (plate 13) were built in the 1850s by the architects J. A. & C. Hansom³³². On the opposite side of Margaret Street stands a Grade II listed two storied house with a stucco frontage built in 1830³³³. The property is earlier than the Catholic churches and convent, but is apparently historically associated with them having been used as the St Mary's Roman Catholic Home.

There has been some redevelopment and infilling of housing during the late 20th and early 21st century. This has included St Mary's Roman Catholic School built in the late 20th century off Station Road. Some housing development has occurred within the gardens and on the site of earlier settlement.

The importance of the canal to the character and history of Staffordshire has been acknowledged in the creation of the Conservation Area. A Grade II listed lock and canal bridge carrying the Newcastle Road over the canal is also located within the HUCA³³⁴.

4.7.2 Heritage values

<p>Evidential value: The eastern portion of the HUCA appears to have formed part of the medieval town and consequently there remains the potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive which could contribute to our understanding of the history and development of Stone. The remainder of the HUCA had formed part of the medieval open fields.</p>	<p>High (to the east)/ Low</p>
<p>Historical value: There are numerous legible heritage assets within the HUCA. There are historical associations between Stonefield House and the canal; as well as between the house on Margaret Street and the Convent. The earliest of the catholic churches was designed by the famous church architect A. W. N. Pugin.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Aesthetic value: Overall the legibility of the historic character of the HUCA is well preserved despite some later redevelopment and infilling. The numerous historic buildings (both listed and unlisted) contribute to the unique sense of place as does the canal which has influenced the development of some of the properties lying adjacent. The importance of the historic environment to the local character has been acknowledged in the number of designated heritage assets including the two Conservation Areas.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Communal value: The canal and its associated structures (bridges/locks etc) are important heritage assets which provides and promotes public engagement. The canal is also an important feature of the tourist economy of the wider county. The role of the canal and its associated buildings in Stone's history could be further promoted through interpretation and/or presentation.</p>	<p>High</p>

4.7.3 Recommendations

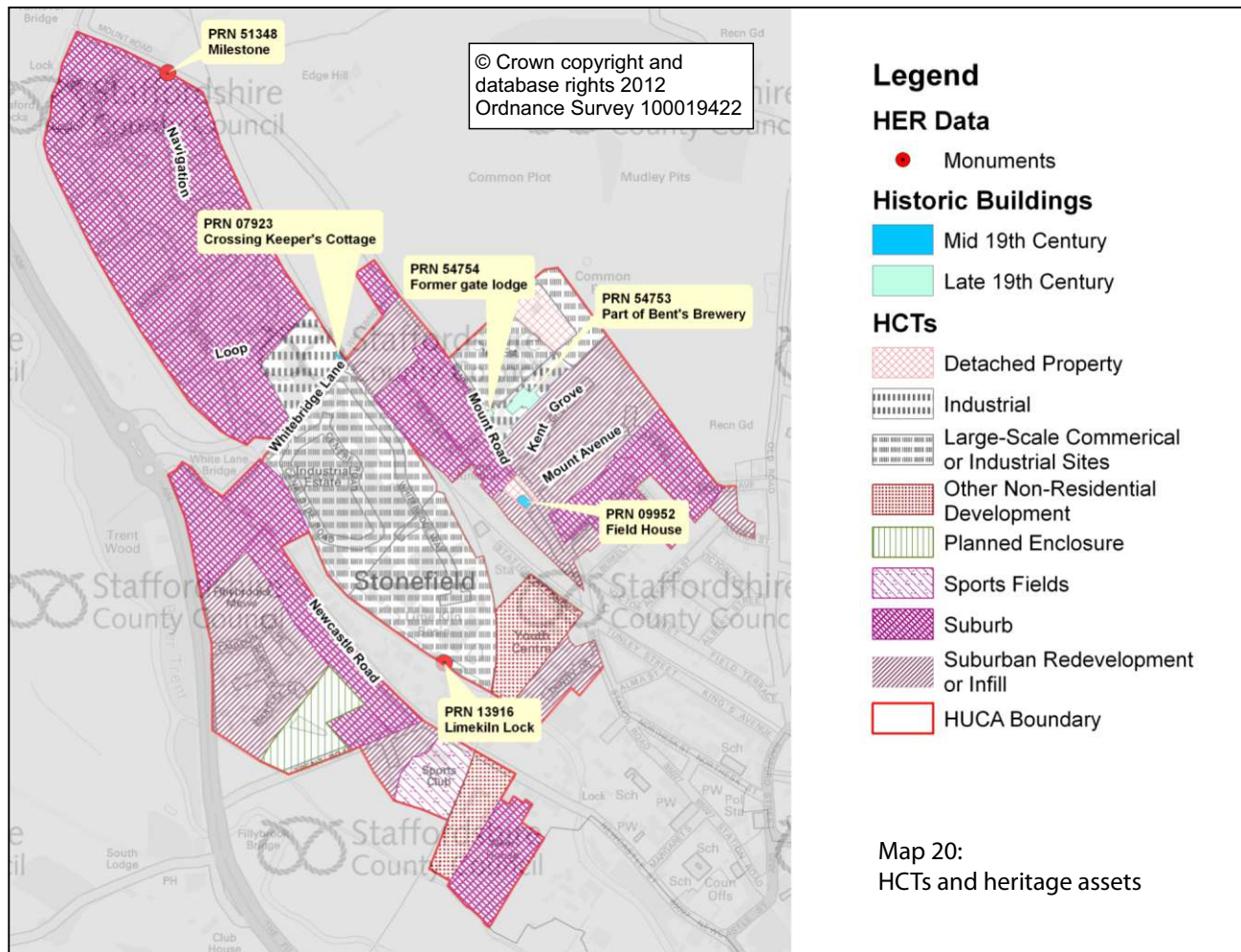
The statement of heritage significance and values has identified the HUCA as an area dominated by early suburban development and the location of the Catholic Convent in the mid 19th century. The importance of these latter buildings has been acknowledged in their designation as listed buildings and the earliest chapel was designed by Pugin

- ◆ A statement of significance will be required, due to the concentration of designated heritage assets, to assess the impact of any proposed development upon the historic environment as part of any planning application to be made within this HUCA (cf. para. 128 of NPPF)³³⁵.
- ◆ The sympathetic restoration or enhancement of the historic buildings, both Listed and unlisted, would strengthen the historic character and the quality of the wider townscape and the Conservation Area for the benefit of this and future generations (Bullet Point 10 of para 17 (Core planning principles) of NPPF)³³⁶. The heritage assets also make a positive contribution to the tourist economy of the town. Locally important buildings should be considered for local listing in line with the recent English Heritage guidance document entitled 'Good Practice for

Local Listing: Identifying and Managing Significant Local Heritage Assets' (2012)³³⁷ .

- ◆ There are numerous designated heritage assets within the HUCA. Where alterations or changes are proposed to historic buildings, whether Listed or not, within the two Conservation Areas the applicant should consult the Stone Conservation Area Appraisal and the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council in the first instance³³⁸ . All of the designated heritage assets and their settings are covered under para. 132 of NPPF³³⁹ .
- ◆ Change within the HUCA should be sympathetic to its historic character whether addressing infill development or the restoration of the historic buildings. In particular the promotion of the re-use of historic buildings to contribute to sustainable development is recommended (paras. 126 and 131 of NPPF). High quality design which is sympathetic to the historic built fabric is the key to retaining the local character of the area as identified in Bullet Point 4 of para. 17 (Core planning principles) and Bullet Point 4 of para. 58 in NPPF³⁴⁰ .
- ◆ There remains the potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive within the eastern portion of the HUCA, along Station Road, which has been identified as potentially forming part of the medieval planned town. Where development may result in the loss of these heritage assets (whether wholly or in part) archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to record and advance the understanding of their significance; this is supported in paras. 128 and 141 of NPPF³⁴¹ .

4.8 HUCA 8: Stonefield



4.8.1 Statement of heritage significance and built character

The HUCA represents the expansion of suburban and to some degree industrial development principally during the mid 20th to early 21st century (cf. map 9). Development within the HUCA began in the 19th century along Mount Road where a number of historic buildings survive. These include the Grade II listed Field House which stands just off Mount Road and is a three-storey red brick detached house dating to circa 1835 (HCT 'Detached Property' on map 20). A further detached house survives to the north west of the HUCA (Hilchurch House) which dates to at least the late 19th century. The remainder of the 19th century development within the HUCA has since been redeveloped. The exception is the former Bents Brewery which stands to the north of Mount Road (HCT 'Industrial' on map 20). The buildings which survive include what appears to be a one storey gate lodge standing adjacent to the road and parts of the main block of the brewery³⁴². The latter had originally been eight storeys, but has since significantly altered and expanded during the 20th century.

The earliest suburban development occurred during the mid 20th century and principally concentrates along Mount Road. It comprises ribbon development and housing within

cul-de-sacs. Kent Grove was built upon the site of an earlier brick works, whilst the adjacent Mount Avenue was built upon the site of a large detached property known as 'The Mount' and its gardens. Mid 20th century ribbon development, of detached houses, dominates the south side of Newcastle Road. There is little late 20th century development within the HUCA (cf. map 9), but what there is has concentrated upon the sites of earlier houses or industrial sites. The greatest expansion of housing has occurred in the early 21st century; the largest estate clusters around a new circular road named 'Navigation Loop'.

The large industrial area towards the centre of the HUCA originated in the early 20th century when Racecourse Works, a large Electrical and Porcelain factory, was constructed, although this site appears to have since been redeveloped. The works was probably attracted to the site due to its proximity to the railway line. The historic mapping shows a siding was provided to link the works to the main line. The North Staffordshire Railway was constructed in 1849 (cf. 2.6.5.3); the railway station stands adjacent to the HUCA (in HUCA 10). A level crossing takes Whitebridge Lane over the railway line; the crossing was manned from the Grade II Listed 'Crossing Keeper's Cottage' which dates to 1849³⁴³. The railway is probably also responsible for the development along Mount Road in the 19th century. It is certainly the reason a cattle market was established on Mount Road (cf. map 7), although the site was redeveloped in the mid 20th century. A level crossing passes over the minor Whitebridge Road where there is a Grade II listed mid 19th century crossing keeper's cottage.

In the medieval period the land had formed part of Stonefield, one of the town's open fields (ridge and furrow survives on Common Plot beyond the EUS area). This landscape was not enclosed until the early 19th century under an Act of Parliament of 1798. The Trent and Mersey Canal, designated as a Conservation Area lies adjacent to and briefly passes into the HUCA.

4.8.2 Heritage values:

<p>Evidential value: The HUCA had formed part of the agricultural economy of the town from at least the medieval period onwards. The surviving historic buildings, particularly the brewery, may retain architectural details and fittings which could contribute to our understanding of the development of this industry.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Historical value: Legible heritage assets survive in the form of historic buildings. The Crossing Keeper's Cottage is closely associated with the railway. The latter was probably initiated development in the HUCA, as shown with the construction of the Racecourse Works, but also the wider housing including the Grade II listed Field House.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Aesthetic value: The character of the HUCA principally composes housing development, with some industrial, in the mid 20th century and the early 21st century. The historic buildings, including the two Grade II listed houses, make a contribution to the unique sense of place.</p>	<p>Low</p>

Communal value: The HUCA is dominated by private housing whose communal value from a heritage perspective is low. The Trent & Mersey Canal forms part of and briefly passes into the HUCA.

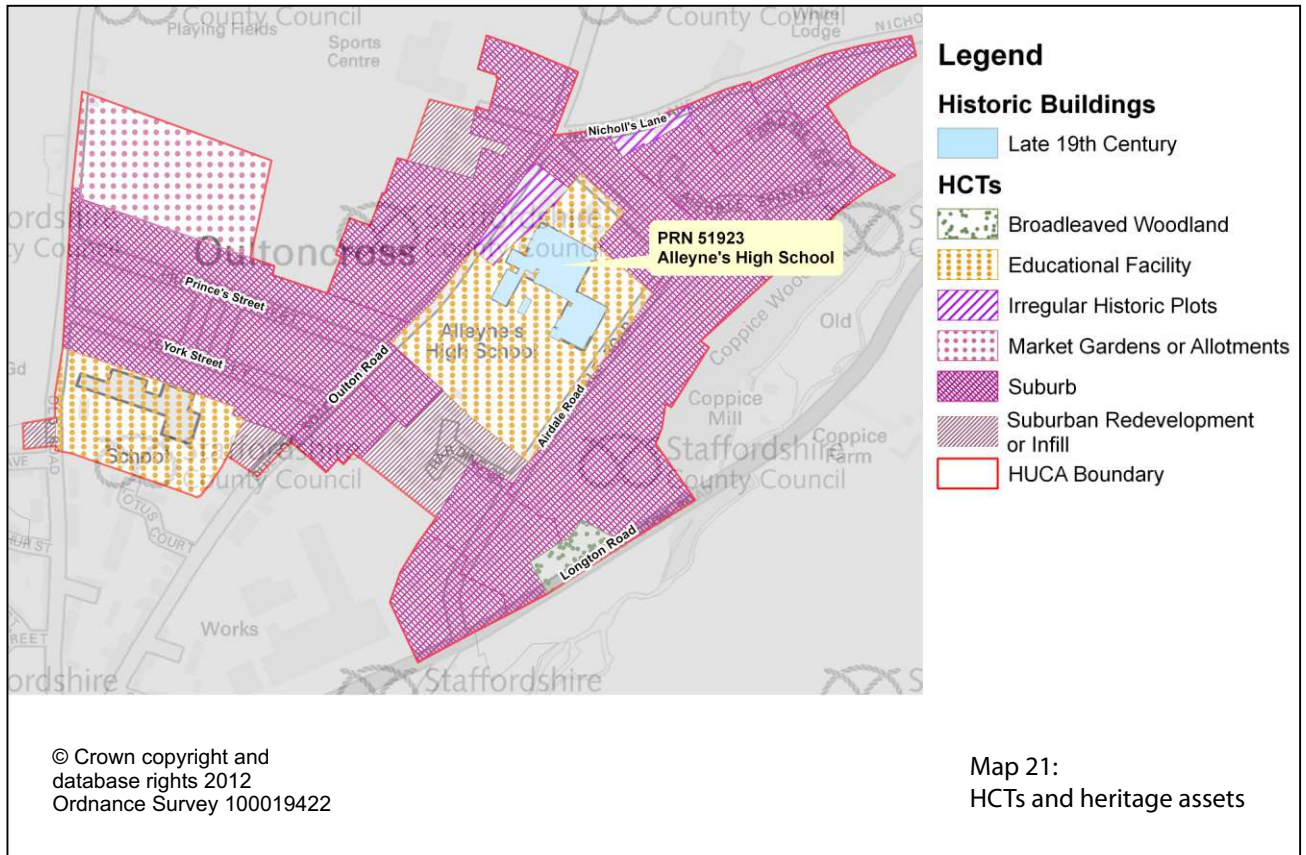
Low

4.10.3 Recommendations

The heritage significance and values identify the railway as having initiated development within the HUCA and is thereby associated with the two Grade II listed building. The HUCA has seen considerable development in the mid 20th to early 21st century including the redevelopment of a number of the earlier detached houses and the Racecourse Works.

- ◆ Where alterations or changes are proposed to the Listed buildings, or in the area adjacent to the Trent & Mersey Canal Conservation Area the applicant should consult the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council in the first instance³⁴⁴. All of the designated heritage assets and their settings are covered under para. 132 of NPPF³⁴⁵.
- ◆ Overall there is a low potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive within the HUCA. However, further research may alter our understanding of this potential and where development may be deemed to result in the loss of heritage assets (whether wholly or in part) archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to record and advance the understanding of their significance. The historic buildings may retain evidence which contributes to our understanding of the function, development and role in the economic history of Stone. This is supported in para. 141 of NPPF³⁴⁶.

4.9 HUCA 9: Oultoncross



4.9.1 Statement of heritage significance and built character

The earliest settlement at Oultoncross was located along the Oulton Road by the early 19th century. It may be associated with the development of industry in the watermills along the Moddershall Valley; in particular Coppice Mill (to the east of the HUCA) and Hayes Mill (to the north west of the HUCA). The former originated as a paper mill in the early 18th century, but had been converted to flint grinding by the mid 19th century. Hayes Mill was built as a flint mill in the mid 18th century³⁴⁷. Small red brick cottages survive in Oulton Road and further detached and semi-detached cottages survive in Nicholls Lane which leads down towards Hayes Mill (HCTs 'Irregular Historic Plots' on map 21). The surviving portion of woodland to the east of the HUCA (HCT 'Broadleaved Woodland' on map 21), also survives in the rear gardens of properties on Airdale Road and formed part of Coppice Wood. The wooded landscape is an integral part of the historic character of the Moddershall Valley, with its associated watermills. The woodland also, therefore, forms part of the Moddershall Valley Conservation Area.

The Alleyne Grammar School was relocated to Oultoncross (from HUCA 10) in 1888; the earliest building survives at the core of the complex which has been expanded on several occasions over the course of the 20th century³⁴⁸. A second school, Christ Church C of E Middle School dates to the mid 20th century and was presumably constructed to service the growing suburbs in both this HUCA and HUCA 8 to the west.

The earliest suburban development within the HUCA originated in the early 20th century with the development of large detached properties along Oulton Road and Nicholls Lane. The first part of Airedale Road, off Longton Road, also dates to this period with further large detached houses. The large mature gardens belonging to these properties form an integral part of the historic character of this part of the HUCA.

Smaller houses dominate the character in the eastern portion of the HUCA which were laid out along two straight roads, Princess Street and York Street, in the mid 20th century.

The western portion of Oulton Road had formed part of Stonefield, one of Stone's medieval open fields. This was not enclosed until the early 19th century under an Act of Parliament passed in 1801. The fieldscape that was created, of straight field boundaries laid down by a surveyor, also appears to have extended across land to the east of Oulton Road, although its earlier history is currently unknown.

4.9.2 Heritage values

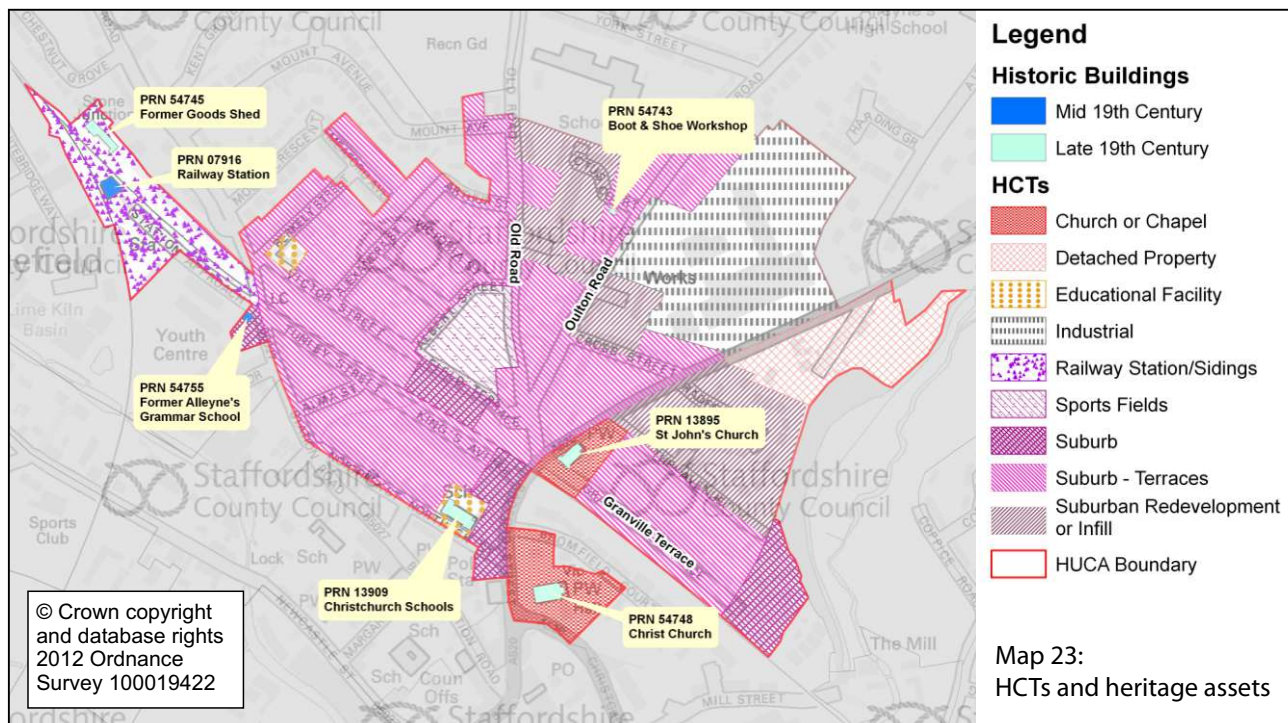
<p>Evidential value: The majority of the HUCA had formed part of the agricultural economy of the town from at least the medieval period onwards. The surviving cottages along Oulton Road and Nicholls Lane may retain architectural detailing which could inform their origins and development.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Historical value: The HUCA is dominated by historic suburban development from the early and mid 19th century. The earliest buildings, however, may be associated with the development of industry in the Moddershall Valley in the late 18th and 19th centuries</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Aesthetic value: The character of the HUCA is influenced by the early suburban development of large houses and gardens particularly along Oulton Road and Airedale Road. The woodland along Longton Road, which also survives in the rear gardens of properties on Airedale Road, is a key feature of the historic landscape of the Moddershall Valley. The importance of the latter has been identified by its inclusion in the Moddershall Valley Conservation Area.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Communal value: The HUCA is dominated by private housing whose communal value from a heritage perspective is low.</p>	<p>Low</p>

4.9.3 Recommendations

The heritage significance and values have identified the historic character of the HUCA as being influenced by the early and mid 20th century suburban development which mostly comprises large houses with mature gardens. Early historic buildings, possibly associated with the watermills of the Moddershall Valley, also survive.

- ◆ Where alterations or changes are within or adjacent to the Moddershall Valley Conservation Area the applicant should consult the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council in the first instance³⁴⁹. All of the designated heritage assets and their settings are covered under para. 132 of NPPF³⁵⁰.
- ◆ The sympathetic restoration or enhancement of the historic buildings would strengthen the historic character and the quality of the wider townscape and the adjacent Conservation Area for the benefit of this and future generations (Bullet Point 10 of para 17 (Core planning principles) of NPPF)³⁵¹. The heritage assets also make a positive contribution to the tourist economy of the town. Locally important buildings should be considered for local listing in line with the recent English Heritage guidance document entitled 'Good Practice for Local Listing: Identifying and Managing Significant Local Heritage Assets' (2012)³⁵².
- ◆ Change within the HUCA should be sympathetic to its historic character whether addressing infill development or the restoration of the historic buildings. In particular the promotion of the re-use of historic buildings to contribute to sustainable development is recommended (paras. 126 and 131 of NPPF). High quality design which is sympathetic to the historic built fabric is the key to retaining the local character of the area as identified in Bullet Point 4 of para. 17 (Core planning principles) and Bullet Point 4 of para. 58 in NPPF³⁵³.
- ◆ Overall there is a low potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive within the HUCA. However, further research may alter our understanding of this potential and where development may be deemed to result in the loss of heritage assets (whether wholly or in part) archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to record and advance the understanding of their significance. The historic buildings may retain evidence which contributes to our understanding of the function, development and role in the social and economic history of Stone. This is supported in para. 141 of NPPF³⁵⁴.

4.12 HUCA 12: The Terrace, Bank Street and Plant Street



4.10.1 Statement of heritage significance and built character

The historic character of the HUCA is dominated by 19th century suburban development. This principally comprises terraced houses; some line the pre-existing road network (Old Road, Oulton Road and Longton Road) and others stand in purpose-built streets (e.g. Cross Street, Berkeley Street, Victor Street etc.). The majority of these properties existed by circa 1880. An extant workshop to the rear of one property in Oulton Road is known to have been used as a boot and shoe manufactory by the 1880s³⁵⁵. Other such buildings may survive in the area and could suggest that the terraced houses originated to provide homes for those engaged in this industry during the 19th century. Also lying in this HUCA is the site of a large factory which had its origins in the mid 19th century (HCT 'Industrial' on map 22).

The HUCA is physically divided by the railway which was opened in 1849 by the North Staffordshire Railway company. The station is another architect designed building, now Grade II listed, which was built in 1848 in a Jacobean-style by the architect H. A. Hunt (plate 14)³⁵⁶. A former railway goods shed, which existed by at least the late 19th century, also survives within the HUCA (cf. map 22). It is possible that the suburban expansion in this area was in part stimulated by the opening of the railway and the station.

To the south of the railway line, within the Stone Conservation Area, grander houses dominate the HUCA. These include the large terraced houses along Granville Terrace on the corner of which the Grade II listed St John's Church (constructed as a congregational chapel) was constructed in 1870 (cf. map 22). It is of stone in a Decorated style by the architect G. Bidlake. Christchurch which lies to the south was built in several phases in the mid and late 19th century

in response to the growing population in this area of Stone³⁵⁷. The church is brick built and is finished in the Gothic-style³⁵⁸. The nearby Grade II listed Christchurch Schools were built in 1887 in a Flemish Gothic style³⁵⁹. Its construction may be associated with one of the phases of Christchurch at a similar date.



Plate 14: Stone Station

The second site of the Alleyne Grammar School also lies within this area, to the east of the station. The small red brick school, with stone mullioned windows, was built in 1844, but had probably been converted to domestic use at the time the school was relocated to Oultoncross in 1888 (cf. HUCA 9).

The earliest development within the HUCA appears to have occurred by the early 19th century on the Longton Road where two early detached houses 'The Radfords' and 'Radford House' (since sub-divided) survive (HCT 'Detached Property' on map 22). Radford Close and The Crescent to the south are two cul-de-sacs lined by detached houses which were built upon the site of another large detached house and garden in the late 20th century (HCT 'Suburban Redevelopment or Infill' on map 22). Other areas of late 20th century redevelopment or infill can also be found to the north of the HUCA. These properties were built upon the site of a late 19th century boot and shoe factory and allotment gardens.

4.10.2 Heritage values:

<p>Evidential value: The HUCA lies beyond the historic core of Stone. It is possible that the historic buildings may retain information concerning their origins, function and contribution to Stone's social and economic history.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Historical value: The HUCA is dominated by legible heritage assets in the form of the early suburbs and the associated street pattern. The development of this area in the 19th century may have been stimulated by the construction of the railway and its Grade II listed station. The suburbs show a mix of housing types which reflect the social and economic history of the town. To the north they include a surviving boot and shoe workshop; a link to the town's principal 19th century industry. The houses were complemented by educational and spiritual buildings (Christchurch Schools and St John's Church being Grade II listed) during this period. The number of architect designed public buildings may also reflect the social development of the HUCA.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Aesthetic value: The integrity of the character of the HUCA as an early suburb of Stone is largely well-preserved, although individual buildings may have been substantially altered from their original form. The importance of the southern portion of the HUCA to the history and character of Stone, including the Grade II listed buildings, has been acknowledged by their incorporation in the Stone Conservation Area. The northern area also contributes to the local historic character of Stone (as well as to its history).</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Aesthetic value: The HUCA is dominated by private housing, although there are two key public buildings in the form of the two churches. The historic character can be appreciated from the street and could be incorporated into any interpretation of Stone's history.</p>	<p>Medium</p>

4.10.3 Recommendations

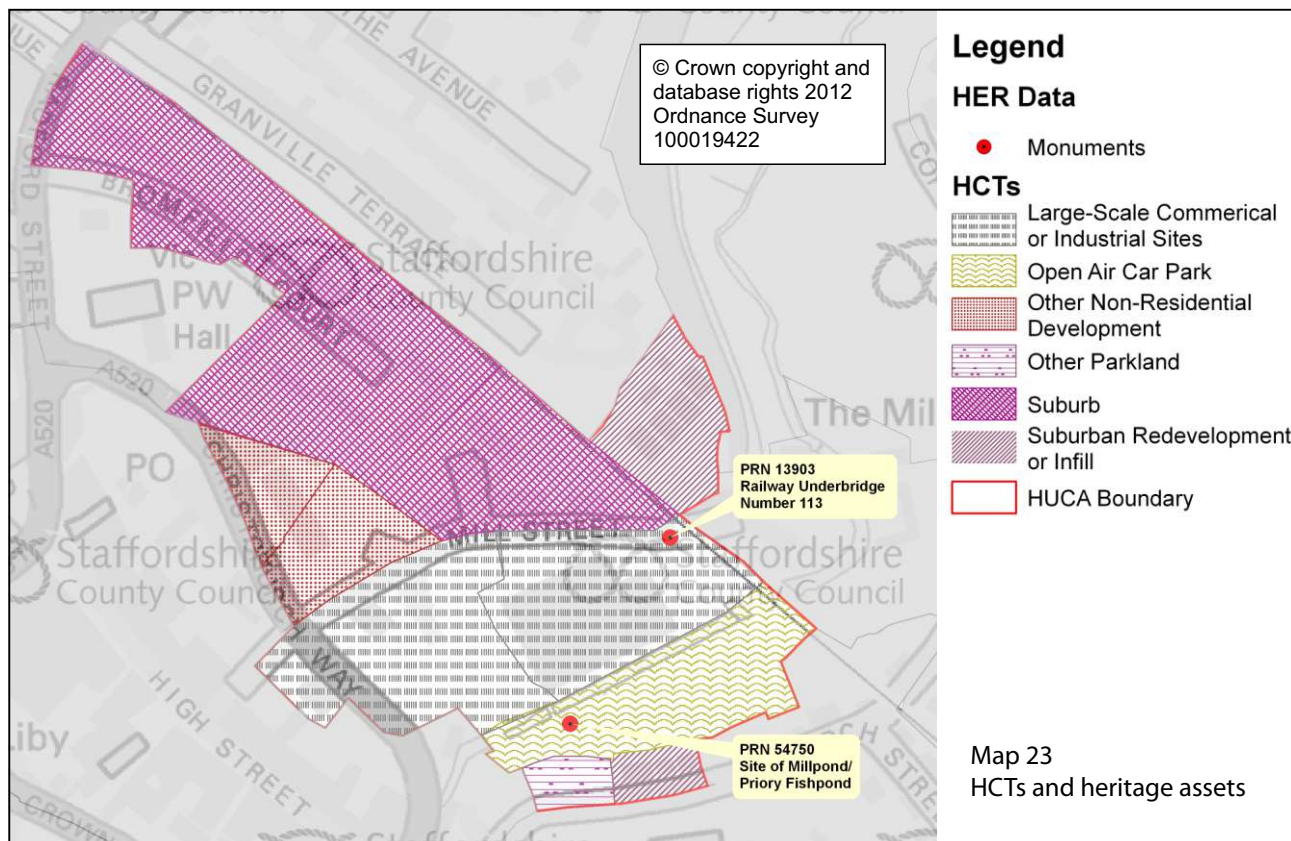
The heritage significance and values identifies the importance of this early suburban development to Stone's historic character and to its social and economic history.

- ◆ Where alterations or changes are proposed to historic buildings, whether Listed or not, within the Conservation Area the applicant should consult the Stone Conservation Area Appraisal and the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council in the first instance³⁶⁰. All of the designated heritage assets and their settings are covered under para. 132 of NPPF³⁶¹.
- ◆ The sympathetic restoration or enhancement of the historic buildings would strengthen the historic character and the quality of the wider townscape and the adjacent Conservation Area for the benefit of this and future generations (Bullet Point 10 of para 17 (Core planning

principles) of NPPF³⁶². The heritage assets also make a positive contribution to the tourist economy of the town. Locally important buildings, for example the surviving boot and shoe workshop, should be considered for local listing in line with the recent English Heritage guidance document entitled 'Good Practice for Local Listing: Identifying and Managing Significant Local Heritage Assets' (2012)³⁶³.

- ◆ Change within the HUCA should be sympathetic to its historic character whether addressing infill development or the restoration of the historic buildings. In particular the promotion of the re-use of historic buildings to contribute to sustainable development is recommended (paras. 126 and 131 of NPPF). High quality design which is sympathetic to the historic built fabric is the key to retaining the local character of the area as identified in Bullet Point 4 of para. 17 (Core planning principles) and Bullet Point 4 of para. 58 in NPPF³⁶⁴.
- ◆ There the potential for historic buildings to retain earlier architectural elements which could inform their development, function and role within the social and economic history of Stone. Where development may result in the loss of these heritage assets, or any currently unknown archaeological deposits, (whether wholly or in part) archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to record and advance the understanding of their significance; this is supported in paras. 128 and 141 of NPPF³⁶⁵.

4.11 HUCA 11: Mill Street



4.11.1 Statement of heritage significance and built character

The historic character of the HUCA was significantly altered following the construction of Christchurch Way in the late 20th century. It effectively cut across part of the backplots of the burgages fronting onto the north side of High Street (cf. map 2). Part of this area had been infilled with industrial development principally associated with the boot and shoe industry during the nineteenth century, but also with the construction of properties fronting onto Mill Street at a currently unknown date. These buildings were cleared during the construction of Christchurch Way; the subsequent development comprised retail including a large supermarket and car park. To the north houses were constructed in the late 20th and early 21st century upon the site of allotment gardens.

The Scotch Brook also passes through the HUCA, having been canalised during the late 20th century, and part of the supermarket car park was constructed upon the site of waterside meadows. According to documentary sources, including historic mapping, this area had formed part of a large pond. This had formed the mill pool for the extant Stubbs Mill (HUCA 1) and may have had medieval origins possibly as the priory's fishponds (cf. 2.4.2.1)³⁶⁶.

The North Staffordshire Railway opened in 1849 and the bridge over Mill Street is Grade II listed³⁶⁷.

4.11.2 Heritage values

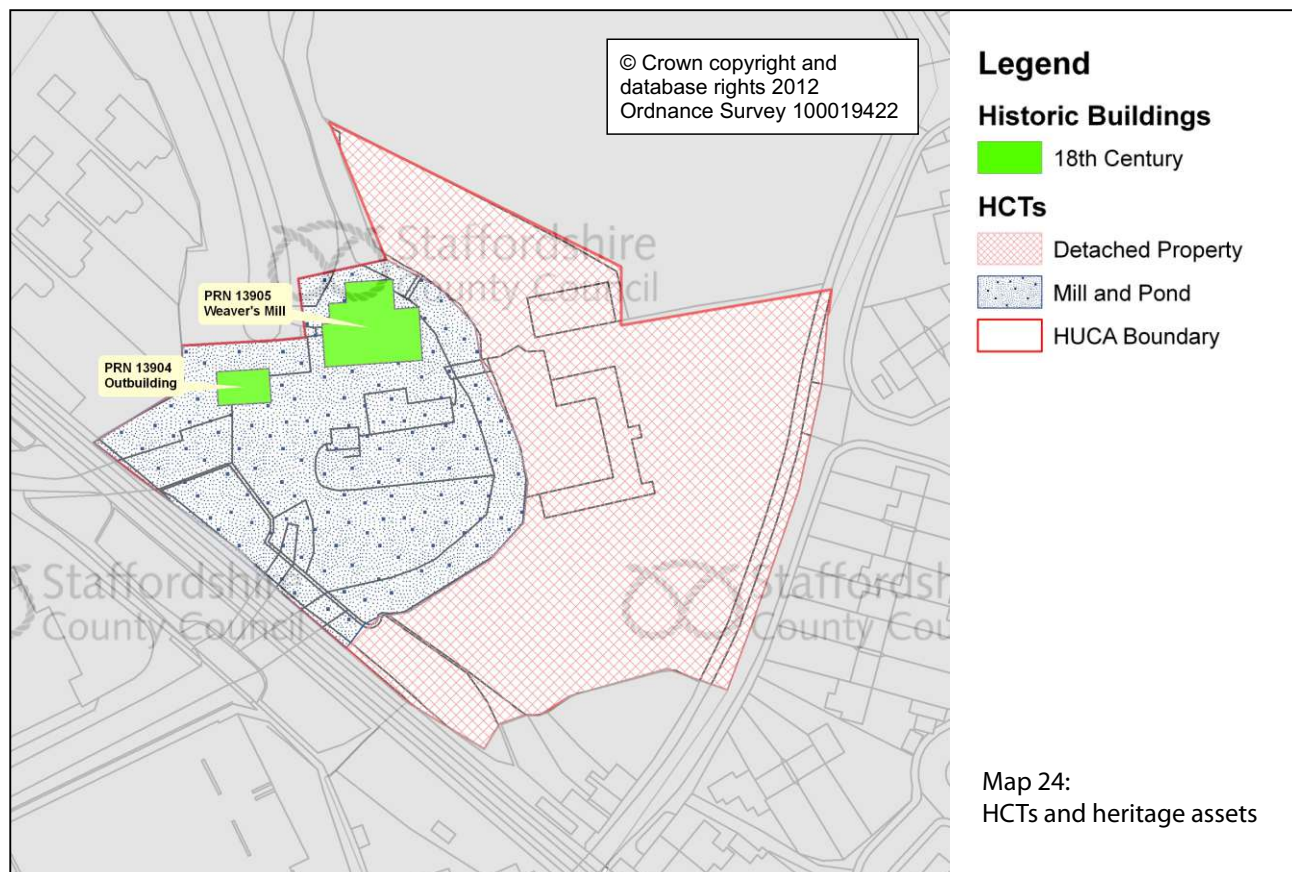
Evidential value: There remains the potential for archaeological deposits, associated with the development of Stone from the medieval period onwards, and potentially palaeoenvironmental remains associated with the fishpond/mill pond.	High
Historical value: The legible heritage assets comprise the Grade II Listed railway bridge.	Low
Aesthetic value: The character of the HUCA was significantly altered following the creation of Christchurch Way in the late 20th century.	Low
Communal value: From a heritage perspective the communal value is low.	Low

4.11.3 Recommendations

The heritage significance and values has identified the potential for surviving below ground archaeological deposits

- ◆ Where alterations or changes are proposed to the Listed railway bridge the applicant should consult with the Stafford Borough Conservation Officer. All of the designated heritage assets and their settings are covered under para. 132 of NPPF³⁶⁸.
- ◆ There is a high potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive across the entire HUCA. Where development may result in the loss of these heritage assets (whether wholly or in part) archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to record and advance the understanding of their significance; this is supported in paras. 128 and 141 of NPPF³⁶⁹.

4.12 HUCA 12: The Mill



4.12.1 Statement of heritage significance and built character

This small HUCA is physically isolated from the remainder of Stone by the mid 19th century railway embankment. A watermill probably existed on this site during the medieval period belonging to the priory (cf. HUCA 2 and 2.4.4.3). The extant mill is a Grade II listed red brick, four storey building with an inscribed date stone of "1795"³⁷⁰. It was converted to a restaurant and hotel in the late 20th century. The mill race also survives.

The mill is complemented by the survival of several associated historic buildings including a Grade II listed outbuilding (18th to early 19th century in date), which is currently thought to be part of a flint mill³⁷¹.

The mill house, where the founder of Hovis flour, Stoney Richard Smith was born, stands opposite the mill. To the east a regular courtyard farmstead was constructed in the late 19th century and forms part of the wider complex.

4.12.2 Heritage values

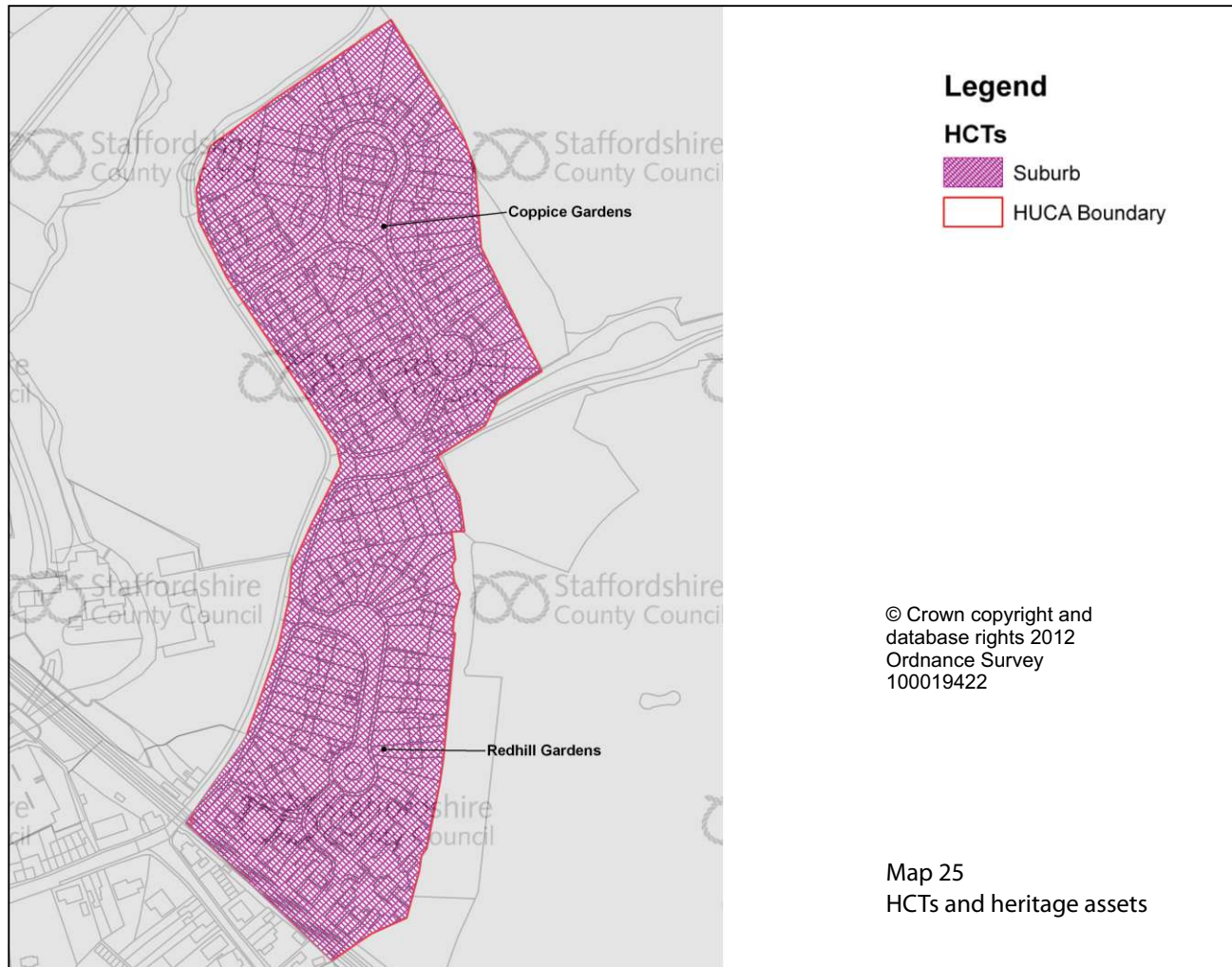
Evidential value: There is the potential for below ground archaeological remains to survive associated with the earlier phases of the site.	High
Historical value: The HUCA is dominated by a range of historic buildings associated with the late 18th century mill.	High
Aesthetic value: The integrity of the historic character of the HUCA, which comprises the mill and its associated outbuildings, are well preserved. The importance of the mill and its buildings to the history and character of Stone has been acknowledged in their inclusion in the Moddershall Valley Conservation Area.	High
Communal value: The mill is open as a restaurant and forms an important part of Stone's history.	Medium

4.12.3 Recommendations

The heritage significance and values highlight the significance of the former corn mill and its associated outbuildings including the mill house and late 19th century farmstead.

- ◆ Where alterations or changes are proposed to historic buildings, whether Listed or not, within the Conservation Area the applicant should consult the Conservation Officer at Stafford Borough Council in the first instance³⁷². All of the designated heritage assets and their settings are covered under para. 132 of NPPF³⁷³.
- ◆ The sympathetic restoration or enhancement of the historic buildings would strengthen the historic character and the quality of the wider townscape and the adjacent Conservation Area for the benefit of this and future generations (Bullet Point 10 of para 17 (Core planning principles) of NPPF)³⁷⁴. The heritage assets also make a positive contribution to the tourist economy of the town. Locally important buildings could be considered for local listing in line with the recent English Heritage guidance document entitled 'Good Practice for Local Listing: Identifying and Managing Significant Local Heritage Assets' (2012)³⁷⁵.
- ◆ Change within the HUCA should be sympathetic to its historic character whether addressing infill development or the restoration of the historic buildings. In particular the promotion of the re-use of historic buildings to contribute to sustainable development is recommended (paras. 126 and 131 of NPPF). High quality design which is sympathetic to the historic built fabric is the key to retaining the local character of the area as identified in Bullet Point 4 of para. 17 (Core planning principles) and Bullet Point 4 of para. 58 in NPPF³⁷⁶.
- ◆ There is a high potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive across the entire HUCA. Where development may result in the loss of these heritage assets (whether wholly or in part) archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to record and advance the understanding of their significance; this is supported in paras. 128 and 141 of NPPF³⁷⁷.

4.13 HUCA 13: Coppice Gardens and Redhill Gardens



4.13.1 Statement of heritage significance and built character

The HUCA comprises two geometrically planned housing estates which date to the mid 20th century (cf. 2.7.7.1). Both estates principally comprise short terraces of four houses set back from the road in their own gardens. The nature of the development was probably influenced by the Garden City Movement principles³⁷⁸.

The estates were built upon the site of a rectilinear field system of uncertain origin.

4.13.2 Heritage values

Evidential value: The HUCA lies beyond the historic core of Stone.	Low
Historical value: There are no known legible heritage assets.	Low
Aesthetic value: The character of the HUCA comprises two mid 20th century geometrical housing estates, whose form is likely to have been influenced by the Garden City Movement.	Low
Communal value: The HUCA is dominated by private housing whose communal value from a heritage perspective is low.	Low

4.13.3 Recommendations

The heritage significance and values has identified that the two mid 20th century housing estates may have been influenced by the Garden City Movement.

- ◆ Overall there is a low potential for below ground archaeological deposits to survive within the HUCA. However, further research may alter our understanding of this potential and where development may be deemed to result in the loss of heritage assets (whether wholly or in part) archaeological evaluation and/or mitigation may be required to record and advance the understanding of their significance. This is supported in para. 141 of NPPF³⁷⁹.

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Stone

Historic Character Assessment



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