

## Purpose of the Study

The Black Country contains various areas of historic and archaeological interest, in the form of buildings, townscapes, landscapes and land uses and the legacy of former industrial activities. Dudley Council previously undertook a detailed assessment of their historic landscape; to ensure continuity and a comprehensive approach, it was decided to undertake a similar exercise across the whole of the Black Country. The purpose of the study was to carry out a strategic assessment of locally distinctive places, landscapes, buildings and structures of historic quality and character in the Black Country, covering both urban and non-urban areas.

It was considered vital to assess fully the capacity of the urban area to accommodate additional housing growth. In some cases, areas with historic value (both urban and rural) might be considered as sources of land for housing.

## Scope of the Study

**The outcome of the work is the identification of several specific historic landscape typologies, including:**

- Archaeological Priority Areas: areas likely to have high archaeological and historic interest.
- Areas of High Historic Townscape Value: areas where built heritage makes a significant contribution to local character and distinctiveness.
- Designed Landscapes of High Historic Value: landscape areas that make an important contribution to local historic character but do not meet the criteria for inclusion on the national Register for Parks and Gardens.
- Areas of High Historic Landscape Value: The significance of these areas is likely to be derived from their archaeological and historic interests.

**The results of this assessment will:**

- a) Enable the Black Country Authorities (BCA) to ascertain whether the strategic policies in the existing Black Country Core Strategy (specifically ENV2) are fit for purpose
- b) Help the BCA to identify and assess the sensitivity of areas of historic value to proposed sites that are being considered for allocation as development sites.
- c) Contribute towards a robust and up-to date evidence base on the various aspects of the historic environment within the Black Country

## What the Study does

**Assess areas within the Black Country based on their specific historic characteristics and merit and identify them within one of four specific typologies**

**Assesses the existing Core Strategy policies on their continued fitness for purpose**

**Identify priorities for future historic environment assessment and work, including areas in need of conservation area appraisals.**

## What the Study does not do

**Recommend which sites could be developed based on a perceived lack of historic merit**

**Suggest specific wording for replacement or amended policies**

**Set out the form that additional work should take**



HOUSING



ENVIRONMENT



EMPLOYMENT



TRANSPORT

[blackcountryplan.dudley.gov.uk](http://blackcountryplan.dudley.gov.uk)