

Alton Settlement Description

- Alton village lies south of the River Churnet within the Dissected Sandstone Cloughs and Valleys character area, which extends to the north of the village. Steep sided valleys and woodlands extend into the village.
- Dissected Sandstone Uplands surround the village to the east, south and west which has a more rounded pastoral landscape that reinforces the village setting.
- Alton Towers a designed historic parkland, now in part a theme park, lies to the north of the village. Its influence in terms of architectural form and introduced species, can be seen within Alton. The theme park is a nationally important tourist attraction and as a result traffic movements in the area are particularly high.
- Approaching Alton from the north there are views of The Castle, set on a cliff top called Castle Banks, and of Alton Mill, within the valley. Both act as gateway buildings to Alton village.
- The Flag Tower of Alton Towers can be seen from within the village and from surrounding roads.
- In the centre of the village dwellings are generally set directly onto the road edge with narrow pavements or gardens to their frontages.
- Walled gardens and enclosures feature strongly within the village, particularly within the conservation area.
- The townscape is diverse in character with a variety of building materials such as Hollington Stone, handmade brick, render and painted surfaces.
- The village has expanded south to Gallows Green with modern residential development.
- The village has numerous lanes running through it with a high volume of traffic along Uttoxeter Road, Lime Kiln Lane and New Road taking traffic for Alton Towers.
- Staffordshire Way leads walkers through the village along the section from Oakamoor to Denstone.
- Churnet Valley cycleway from Oakamoor to Denstone runs to the north of the village along the disused Churnet Valley Railway with connecting footpaths leading to The Castle.
- There are important areas of landscape setting to the north, east and west of the village. Back Lane/ Hurstons Lane form a strong edge to the development in the east.

Visual Open Spaces

AL01/ Town Head (Conservation Area):

Suitable

• Small pasture field bounded by dry stone walls gated with stile from community hall

AL02/ High Street (Conservation Area):

Not Suitable

 Sloping woodland from south to north. Dense undergrowth bounded by dry stone wall, fences and gate not easily accessible to the public.
 DOES NOT SATISFY CRITERIA FOR VISUAL OPEN SPACE

AL03 / New Road (Conservation area):

Suitable

Wooded hillside with informal path networks. Dense canopy of trees.

	Alton		
	Regional (Joint) Character Area	64 Potteries and Churnet Valley	
	Landscape Character Types	 Dissected Sandstone Cloughs and Valleys Dissected Sandstone Uplands 	
	Historic Landscape Classification	Alton itself is described mainly as 'Settlement', with a large area of 'Ornamental, Parkland & Recreation' to the north. There is a strip of woodland along the River Churnet ('Water & Valley Floors'), and a small pocket of woodland within the north-western part of the settlement. There are also 2 small areas of 'Industrial and Extractive' approx 3km to the north east of the settlement.	
GENERAL CHARACTER / LANDSCAPE	Geology	Solid Geology: • Sherwood Sandstone to the north along Churnet Valley and Alton Park with Mercia Mudstone also present	
		Drift Geology: Clay, Silt and Sand (Alluvium) from the centre of Alton extending to the NW & E in a band	
	Minerals	 Sandstone deposits. Alton located to the east of Croxden Quarry (sand and gravel). Two disused quarries exist in the village, just north off Battlesteads / Cedarhill 	
	Topography	Deeply incised wooded valleys, undulating upland pasture, steeply sloping with pronounced rounded landform above valley sides.	
	Contour Range	170m-200m in Alton100m W of Alton	
SPECIFIC LANDSCAPE FEATURES	Significant Vegetation (e.g. trees, woodland, heathland, marshes, commons, parkland)	Ancient Woodlands: Threap Wood (SK 050430, 59ha) Crumpwood (SK089425, 3ha) Abbey Wood along northern edge of River Churnet Dimmings Dale Wood (SK 053433, 20ha) Moss's Bank (SK056437, 41ha) Ancient Replanted:	
		Southern edge of Abbey Wood along dismantled railway	

		Registered Commons:
		Hansley Cross
		Parkland
		 Alton Towers and Alton Park
	Historic Parkland	Registered Park and Garden (English Heritage):
	(1 st Edn. OS Map)	Alton Towers (Grade 1)
	(1 Edil. OS Map)	Other Historic Parks or Gardens:
		Abbey Wood
	Water Bodies / Water Courses	River Churnet flows from NW to E, just north of the settlement Various waterbodies in Alton Park
	Floodplains	Floodplain follows the course of the River Churnet. Approximately 150m wide as it passes along the northern edge of Alton.
	Major Routes	B5032 Salterford Lane Farley Lane
	(e.g. roads, railways, canals)	Staffordshire Way
	Significant Visual Features / Landmarks / Viewpoints	Landmarks: St. John's Church and Hospital Round House (Scheduled Ancient
	(e.g. hedgerows, stone walls, significant architectural features)	Monument) Bowl Barrow (Scheduled Ancient
		Monument) • Rainroach Farm (Scheduled Ancient Monument)
		Views: • (S) Uttoxeter Rd/ Saltersford Lane
	Other Significant Landscape Features	Rock outcrops
	(e.g. mineral workings)	
DESIGNATED AREAS	Green Belt / Special Landscape Area	Special Landscape Area The settlement is contained by the Special Landscape Area
	Designated Areas of	SSSIs:
	Ecological Significance	Dimmings Dale & the Ranger (SK044435-
	(e.g. SSSIs / SPAs / Nature Reserves / SBIs / SACs)	SK058433, SK053434, SK060430) • Saltersford Lane Meadows (SK083419)
	(www.magic.gov.uk/Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan)	SBIs: Abbey Wood Castle Wood Saltersford Lane Crump Wood Rakes Dale (SK064425) Rainroach Rock (SK063430) Lord's Bridge (north of) (SK063433) Barbary Gutter (north-west of) (SK063434)

		Barbary Gutter (SK065432)
		Churnet Valley Railway
		, ,
		BAS:
		Toothill Wood
	Nature Conservation Sites	Banks along River Churnet, north of Alton
	(Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan)	
	Scheduled Ancient	Round House SK072421
	Monuments	Castle SK072424
		 Bowl barrow at Rainroach Farm SK061429
	Proposed/recent development	No obvious recent development (local plans-
	(C. # 11. 14 1 1 1 1 1	aerials)
	(Staffordshire Moorlands Local	
	Plan (1998)/ Aerial photos)	
	Conservation Areas	Alton & Farley Conservation Area
BUILT ENVIRONMENT	(Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan (1998))	
	Other	

Date of Reassessment: 18/07/08

Settlement:	Alton	
VOS number / Site:	AL01 / Town Head (Conservation area)	
Brief Description: Topography, vegetation, access etc.	Small pasture field bounded by dry stone walls gated with stile from community hall	
Criteria		Notes
Character Does the site contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood / settlement?	✓	Creates an open feel within the area
Amenity Value Is the site of amenity value to the public while not requiring public access to the site itself?	✓	Visual
External Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant external views across the open area (i.e. views from surrounding area into VOS)?	✓	Yes. From surrounding settlement and from Town Head road.
Internal Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant internal views across the open area (i.e. views within the VOS)?	✓	Doesn't appear to be any public access other than school.
Break Between Development Does the site form a significant break between development within a settlement?	✓	Significant break between development in NE of village. Contrasts with tight development pattern elsewhere in Conservation Area.
Ecological Value Is the site of local ecological value?	×	None. Grassland only.
Cultural or Historical Association Does the site have significant, proven local cultural or historical association?	×	School field.
Recommendation:	Suitable as VOS Important visual amenity and valuable break between development on the edge of the conservation area.	



View to west from Town Head road



View to north from Town Head road

Date of Reassessment: 18/07/08

Settlement:	Alton	
VOS number / Site:	AL02 / High Street (Conservation area)	
Brief Description: Topography, vegetation, access etc.	Sloping woodland from south to north. Dense undergrowth bounded by dry stone wall, fences and gate not easily accessible to the public.	
Criteria		Notes
Character Does the site contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood / settlement?	✓	Dense scrubby hillside and valley feel.
Amenity Value Is the site of amenity value to the public while not requiring public access to the site itself?	×	No access, not readily seen other than from footpaths at side.
External Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant external views across the open area (i.e. views from surrounding area into VOS)?	×	No views.
Internal Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant internal views across the open area (i.e. views within the VOS)?	×	Too dense with no access.
Break Between Development Does the site form a significant break between development within a settlement?	×	None. Doesn't appear to be significant within conservation area.
Ecological Value Is the site of local ecological value?	✓	Woodland
Cultural or Historical Association Does the site have significant, proven local cultural or historical association?	×	None. Doesn't appear to be significant within conservation area.
Recommendation:	Not suitable as VOS There is no access to this enclosed and overgrown site. It is not visible in the adjoining area.	



View from public footpath adjacent to site

Date of Reassessment: 18/07/08

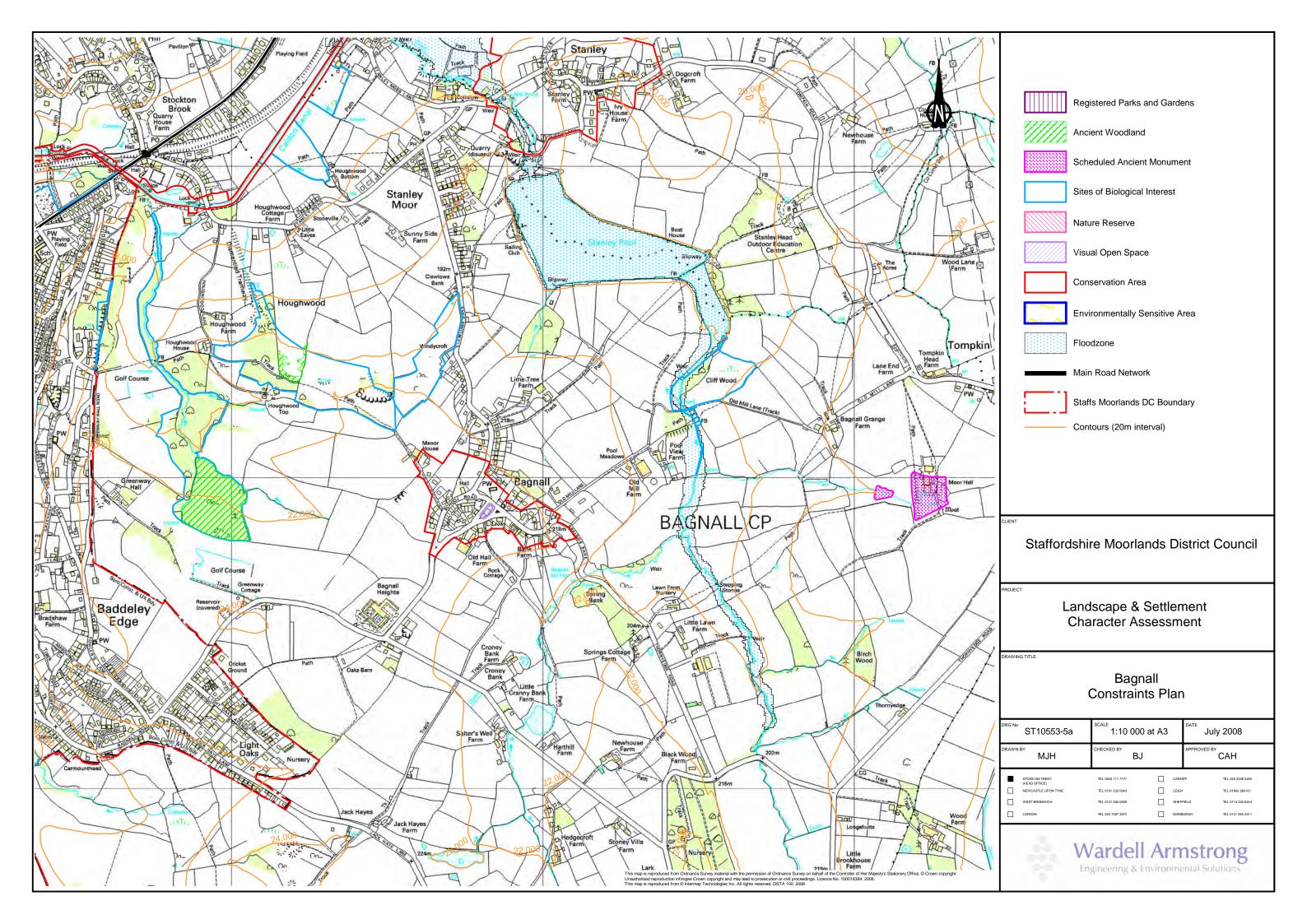
Settlement:	Alton	
VOS number / Site:		ew Road (Conservation area)
Brief Description: Topography, vegetation, access etc.	Wooded hillside with informal path networks. Dense canopy of trees.	
Criteria		Notes
Character Does the site contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood / settlement?	✓	Wooded and craggy with dry stone wall boundaries.
Amenity Value Is the site of amenity value to the public while not requiring public access to the site itself?	✓	Visual impact of woodland in setting of conservation area.
External Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant external views across the open area (i.e. views from surrounding area into VOS)?	×	Not an open area but it is significant in views from local roads due to impact of mature woodland.
Internal Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant internal views across the open area (i.e. views within the VOS)?	✓	Private woodland appears to be network of paths.
Break Between Development Does the site form a significant break between development within a settlement?	✓	The site is on the edge of the village and is important in the conservation area.
Ecological Value Is the site of local ecological value?	✓	Significant mature woodland with undergrowth. Castle Wood SBI partly covers the area along New Road.
Cultural or Historical Association Does the site have significant, proven local cultural or historical association?	✓	Yes. Part of Alton Castle Estate (Scheduled Ancient Monument). Some of the planting is seen on OS 1 ST Edition.
Recommendation:	Suitable as VOS The site significantly contributes to the character of the conservation area while providing amenity value to the public as well as ecological value. It is also a significant development buffer.	

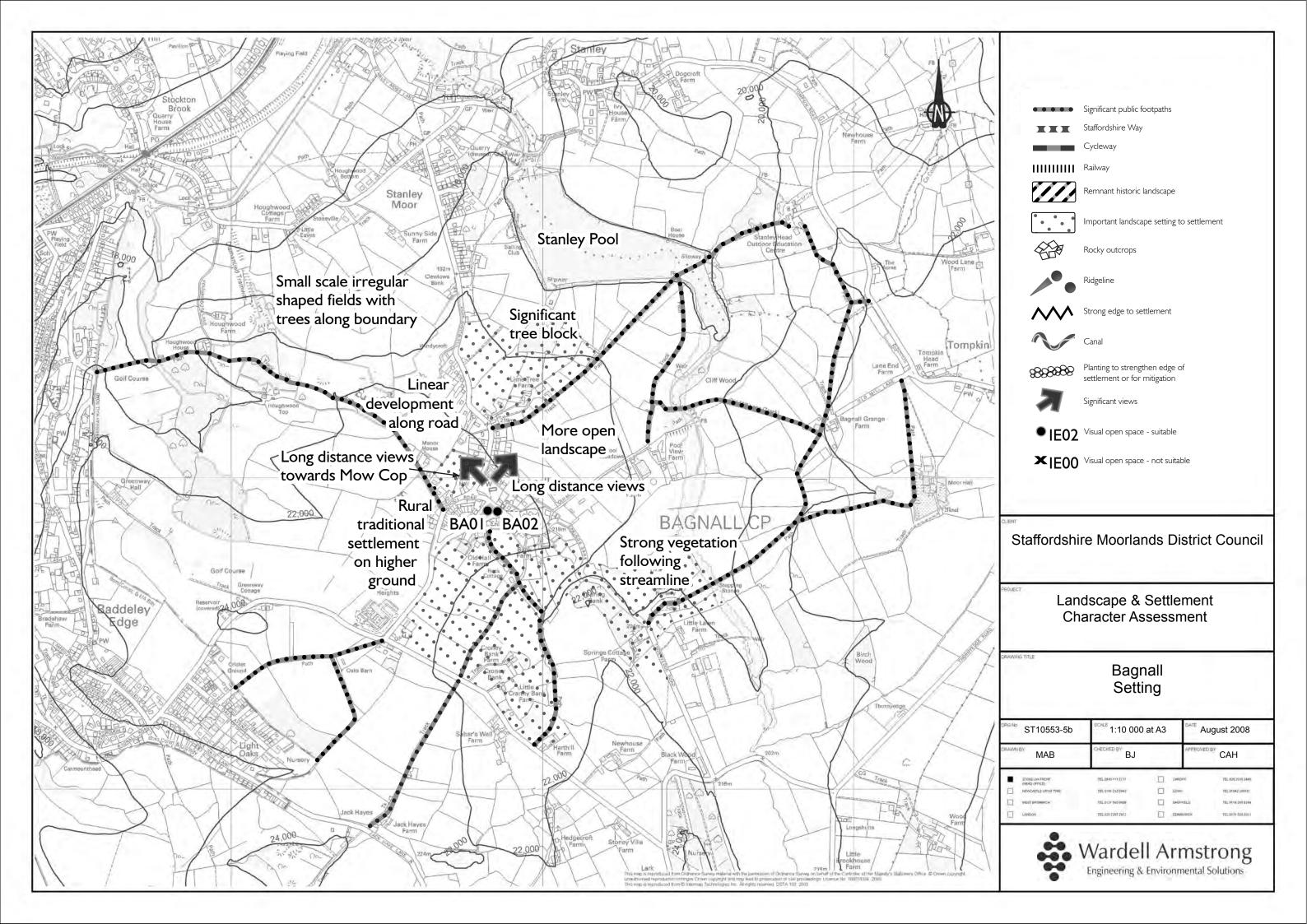


View to north from guesthouse carpark off New Road to the south of site



View to north from guesthouse carpark off New Road to the south of site





Bagnall Settlement Description

- Bagnall village lies within the Ancient Slope and Valley Farmlands character area.
- The village is located on a gritstone ridge in a rural setting, with extensive views out across the landscape.
- A conservation area covers the majority of the village.
- The centre of the village is defined by 17th Century houses with Bagnall Hall which has Ashlar dressing and well-tooled walls that provide a contrast to the local rustic stone cottages.
- Other farmhouses and cottages within the village are enclosed with dry stone walls, as is the central Visual Open Space (BA01).
- Views extend from the churchyard north west across the playing field to Mow Cop, and north east towards the Peak District.
- The village is visible on the high ridge on the approach from the south and from the A53 north of the village.
- The townscape is generally characterized by gritstone which has a pink grey hue. Modern residential development to the north of the village is largely brick built.
- Modern development lines the approach road from the north, whilst other roads are undeveloped lead directly into the traditional village core.
- In the village centre adjacent to Bagnall Hall, a triangular island (BA02) is planted with mature trees creating a heavily shaded setting for the village cross.
- The visual open space (BA01) opposite the Stafford Arms is also densely vegetated.

Visual Open Spaces

BA01/ Village Green (Conservation Area):

Suitable

Long stretch of green on a 2-tier level. The upper level includes a car park and pub garden.
 The lower level does not have a chain fence but has mature trees.

BA02/ Village Green (Conservation Area):

Suitable

 Triangular green with post and chain fence and Celtic cross in the centre. Very shaded site with 5 mature trees (horse chestnut) along edges.

	Bagnall		
	Regional (Joint) Character Area	64 Potteries & Churnet Valley	
	Landscape Character Types	Ancient Slope and Valley Farmlands	
	Historic Landscape Classification	The village itself is described as 'settlement', with 3 small areas of woodland to the N, NE (Cliff Wood) and SE (Spring Bank). There is a water body to N (Stanley Pool) with area of 'ornamental, parkland & recreation' (Stanley Head Outdoor Education Centre) located to the E of Stanley Pool. The settlement is surrounded by 'fieldscapes'.	
	Geology	 Solid Geology: Millstone Grit Group, Argillaceous Rocks (undifferentiated) – Area N of School Road Millstone Grit Group, Sandstone – Area S of School Road 	
GENERAL CHARACTER / LANDSCAPE		 Drift Geology: Alluvium – area north of Bagnall, including Stanley Moor & Houghwood Till – area south of Bagnall, including Spring Bank 	
	Minerals	 Located just outside the Potteries Coalfield, which lies to the west of Bagnall. Old quarries located; SW of Houghwood (shown on 1st Edn. OS) in what was known as Broughton's Wood; just S of Manor House; and nr. Junction of Old Mill Lane and Spring Bank. Several other coal shafts shown west of Bagnall, nr. Greenway Hall. 	
	Topography	Obvious ridge & valley landform with some smaller steeper side valleys – landform tends to be falling off the top of ridge in 3 directions. No significant changes in height across settlement.	
	Contour Range	Height 230m in centre of settlement (next to church). Land slopes gently away to SE of settlement, towards Bagnall Springs (around 200m).	

	Significant Vegetation	Ancient Woodland:
	(e.g. trees, woodland, heathland, marshes, commons, parkland)	 Approx. 600m west of settlement – Greenhay Wood (4 ha) SJ919509 & smaller (un-named) area slightly further north (0.33 ha). Cliff Wood (< 1 ha) SJ936513, 600 m NE of settlement Lowland Heath: Greenway Hall Golf Course, 250m SW of settlement (SJ918511, 5.20 ha) Greenway Wood, SW of village (SJ919508, 1.43 ha)
SPECIFIC LANDSCAPE FEATURES		 Village Greens (SJ928509, 0.57 ha) Quarry, Spring Bank Harthill Quarry, nr. Rock Cottage / Old Hall Farm Salter's Well, nr. Salter's Well Farm (SJ928503, 0.13 ha) Thorney Edge Rd. (SJ942502, 0.16 ha) Other Significant Woodland: Spring Bank, 200m SE of village Nursery located 850 m SE of settlement boundary, S. of Black Wood Farm Woodland located 650m SW of village, NE of Light Oaks Houghwood, 500m W of Bagnall Woodland 150m N of Lime Tree Farm, between Bagnall and Stanley Pool Woodland along perimeter of Stanley Head Outdoor Education Centre and eastern edge of Stanley Pool Cliff Wood, southern end of Stanley Pool Woodland along E boundary of Stanley
		Other Significant Trees: Trees/hedgerows along streams and footpaths/tracks Also some significant trees dispersed along field boundaries
	Historic Parkland	None
	(1 st Edn. OS Map)	
	Water Bodies / Water Courses	Steepish side stream valleys & 2 fairly large open reservoirs (Stanley Pool 450m to NE and Deep Hayes)

	Floodplains Major Routes	 2 small streams flow from S and SE, converging and flowing north into Stanley Pool. Caldon Canal passes NW of Stanley Moor. Narrow flood plain (1 in 100 yr or greater) surrounding small stream which flows from SE, N into Stanley Pool. Stanley Moss (N of Stanley Moor) is also within a floodzone. No major roads through settlement A53 (Leek to SoT) located
	(e.g. roads, railways, canals) Significant Visual Features / Landmarks / Viewpoints (e.g. hedgerows, stone walls, significant architectural features)	Caldon Canal located to NW of Stanley Moor Stanley Pool, NE of village
	Other Significant Landscape Features (e.g. mineral workings)	Setting mainly fieldscape, with some trees and pockets of woodland dispersed throughout (particularly W, NE and SE of settlement)
DESIGNATED AREAS	Green Belt / Special Landscape Area	Green Belt: Settlement located within Green Belt Special Landscape Area: Area to east of settlement is designated Special Landscape Area
	Designated Areas of Ecological Significance (e.g. SSSIs / SPAs / Nature Reserves / SBIs / SACs) (www.magic.gov.uk/Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan)	Ancient Woodland: See 'Significant Vegetation' section above. SBIs: Greenway Hall Golf Course, 600m W of Bagnall Houghwood, 100m NW of Manor House Windy Croft, NW Bagnall Postbridge Farm (west of), W & NW of Stanley Moor (along Caldon Canal), 700m N of Bagnall Cliff Wood, 400m E of Bagnall Cliff Wood, 400m E of Bagnall Moor Hall (west of), 800m E of Bagnall Stanley Pool, NE of Bagnall Stanley Pool, NE of Bagnall Regionally Important Geological & Geomorphological Sites (RIGS): Houghwood (SE of Houghwood House), 600m NE of Bagnall

	Nature Conservation Sites (Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan)	 200m SE of settlement 150m W of settlement, located to NW of Manor House.
	Scheduled Ancient Monuments	Moated site and pond at Moor Hall Farm (SJ943509), 1050 m east of Bagnall
BUILT ENVIRONMENT	Proposed/recent development (Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan (1998)/ Aerial photos) Conservation Areas (Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan (1998))	No proposed / recent development Bagnall Conservation Area
	Other	 Small settlement – mainly residential with a few working farms on outskirts. Likely to have developed around St. Philip's church, fairly nucleated with increasingly linear development along Clewlows Bank, towards Stanley Moor.

Date of Reassessment: 17/07/08

Settlement:	Bagnall	
VOS number / Site:		Ilage Green (Conservation area)
Brief Description: Topography, vegetation, access etc.	Long stretch of green on a 2-tier level. The upper level includes a car park and pub garden. The lower level does not	
Criteria		Notes
Character Does the site contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood / settlement?	✓	Yes, setting for the centre of the village, particularly the pub. Lower triangular green is more like a traditional village green and visually important within the centre of the village.
Amenity Value Is the site of amenity value to the public while not requiring public access to the site itself?	✓	A private play area associated with the pub, small triangular green enclosed by the road and a car park that detracts from the visual amenity of the open space.
External Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant external views across the open area (i.e. views from surrounding area into VOS)?	×	Upper area is visible from the road and lower triangle is visible from the adjoining road.
Internal Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant internal views across the open area (i.e. views within the VOS)?	✓	Views across the open space.
Break Between Development Does the site form a significant break between development within a settlement?	✓	Village green part of the traditional character of the village.
Ecological Value Is the site of local ecological value?	×	Very limited with non-native hedge species.
Cultural or Historical Association Does the site have significant, proven local cultural or historical association?	✓	Possibly. Village green shown on OS 1 ST Edition.
Recommendation:	Suitable as VOS The site significantly contributes to the character of the conservation area while providing a setting to the pub and public access to the upper areas.	



View to south from Clewlows Bank adjacent to the site



View to north from carpark within the site



View to the lower triangular section south from the edge of the car park

Date of Reassessment: 17/07/08

Settlement: VOS number / Site: Brief Description: Topography, vegetation, access etc. Criteria	Bagnall BA02 / Village Green (Conservation area) Triangular green with post and chain fence and Celtic cross in the centre. Very shaded site with 5 mature trees (horse chestnut) along edges. Notes	
Character Does the site contribute to the character of the surrounding	√	Section of village green centred on Celtic Cross. Traditional village character.
neighbourhood / settlement? Amenity Value Is the site of amenity value to the public while not requiring public access to the site itself?	✓	Slight visual amenity value. The site is fully visible with chain and post fencing to restrict vehicles.
External Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant external views across the open area (i.e. views from surrounding area into VOS)?	✓	Partial views from some surrounding properties with full views from the surrounding roads.
Internal Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant internal views across the open area (i.e. views within the VOS)?	✓	Open area- part of village green.
Break Between Development Does the site form a significant break between development within a settlement?	√	Yes- part of village green in the centre of the village.
Ecological Value Is the site of local ecological value?	×	Horse chestnut trees dominate the space; limited value otherwise.
Cultural or Historical Association Does the site have significant, proven local cultural or historical association?	✓	Locally significant site. Contains 16 th century parish cross with celtic style crosshead and 5 trees planted to commemorate Queen Victoria's jubilee. Identifiable on OS 1 ST Edition.
Recommendation:	Suitable as VOS The site has amenity value and historical significance within the conservation area of the village. It complements the adjacent existing VOS.	



View of village green looking to SW