Heritage Character Assessment 2019

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1 What is Heritage?

"Heritage is a broad concept and includes the natural as well as the cultural environment. It encompasses landscapes, historic places, sites and built environments, as well as bio-diversity, collections, past and continuing cultural practices, knowledge and living experiences. It records and expresses the long processes of historic development, forming the essence of diverse national, regional, indigenous and local identities and is an integral part of modern life. It is a social dynamic reference point and positive instrument for growth and change. The particular heritage and collective memory of each locality or community is irreplaceable and an important foundation for development, both now and into the future." **International Cultural Tourism Charter, ICOMOS, 2002.**

1.1 Heritage is perhaps most easily understood as a combination of different man-made elements within the landscape that are experienced together. They can be archaeological (hill forts, former mining remains, etc.); architectural (castles, houses, etc.); cultural (schools, churches, etc.); or landscapes (such as farmland, forests, parks, etc.). These elements are all described as 'Heritage Assets', and there is an abundance of them throughout the whole of the Forest of Dean District. Heritage assets give significance to, and gain significance from, their settings within the urban and rural landscape. Some heritage assets are designated (i.e. registered and protected under the relevant governmental legislation), whilst many others may simply be of local significance, but are still worthy of some level of protection.

1.2 The significance placed on each particular asset (or group of assets) will depend highly on the worth or value that people attribute to it. Its significance may derive from several aspects, including, the fabric of a building, the age, type of construction or materials used in the asset, its setting, or an event or collective memory that the asset may be associated with. It may also be associated with the landscape setting or even the local identity and culture of the local people.

1.3 The benefits of heritage are multi-faceted, and continually evolving. Heritage connects people with places; it evokes an emotional response and provides a sense of identity; it can be enjoyed by all generations and promotes and nurtures collective memories. Heritage assets can provide many opportunities within the District, as they contribute strongly to the social, environmental and economic benefits of an area. The Forest of Dean District Council recognises that the unique history of the District and its related heritage assets is vital to the well-being of the people who live and work here. It also attracts numerous visitors and investors to the area who contribute towards the economic vitality of the District.

"The significance of a place embraces all the diverse cultural and natural heritage values that people associate with it, or which prompt them to respond to it. These values tend to grow in strength and complexity over time, as understanding deepens and people's perceptions of a place evolve.' **Conservation Basics, English Heritage, 2013**

2 The purpose of a Heritage Character Assessment

2.1 Heritage assets can often be taken for granted by the people living and working in the area. They are not only important in their own right, but add to the significance and understanding of their rural or urban landscape setting. Consequently, a collective understanding and appreciation of them can provide opportunities to improve economic, social and ecological aspects of the area thus enhancing the overall quality of life, and retaining the unique character and identity of the district.

2.2 This character assessment therefore offers a broad overview of the wide range of heritage assets the whole District enjoys (designated and non-designated), where they are and how they are unique to the area. This assessment should then provide an evidence base for making informed and balanced decisions on whether future development sites will have an impact (negative or positive) on our special historical features and the potential for enhancing/protecting these assets. This assessment does not attempt to cover each and every heritage asset within the District, but seeks to identify and capture a flavour of the general history and characteristics which make this District so special. It forms part of the wider Local Development Plan, which seeks to encourage economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits through high-quality and sustainable development.

3 Appreciating our Heritage

3.1 The Forest of Dean District is very fortunate in that there is a strong passionate local community who have a sound understanding and enthusiasm for their local history. There are many local societies which seek to educate and enthuse by holding talks and events, whilst volunteers work to preserve the fabric and setting of sites and buildings or to promote local people who have made their mark on the world. The Forest of Dean embraces art and culture as a form of commemoration and education whilst also attracting visitors to the area through public artwork. The local libraries are a particularly good resource for those interested in finding out more about life in the District, as they hold vast amounts of books and information leaflets. Authors, both local and from further afield, have long since found an interest in the unique history and culture of the District, in particular capturing memoirs from former and current inhabitants.

3.2 This assessment co-insides with the increase in the 'localism' agenda, in that there is a welcomed increase in the number of Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) emerging and forming part of the Council's range of local planning policies. Local communities are taking the opportunity to carry out character appraisals of the heritage assets in their locality, providing an emphasis on what needs to be preserved and promoted.

3.3 The identification of heritage assets is not a static process. In addition to the heritage assets that have long been identified, many more 'hidden' assets are still to be acknowledged. Both archaeology and written and oral history are invaluable sources of information leading to the identification of the rich history, culture and identity of the Forest of Dean District.

4 Legislation and Planning Policy

4.1 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

4.2 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 changed UK laws relating to the granting of planning permission for building works, in particular for listed buildings and within Conservation Areas. It created special controls for the demolition, alteration or extension of buildings, objects or structures of particular architectural or historic interest, as well as Conservation Areas.

4.3 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

4.4 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 was a law passed to protect the archaeological heritage of England, Wales and Scotland.

4.5 Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953.

4.6 This Act authorizes Historic England to compile a register of 'gardens and other land' situated in England that appear to be of special historic interest. The majority of sites registered are, or were originally, the grounds of private houses, but public parks and cemeteries are also important categories.

4.7 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

4.8 The NPPF seeks to provide a framework for policy making and planning decisions with regards to heritage assets. It recognises (paragraph 184) that ‘these assets are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.’ Paragraph 185 sets out the desirability to provide a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. It recognises that heritage assets should be put to a viable use consistent with their conservation, as they provide wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits and that heritage contributes to the character of a place. The NPPF (paragraph 185) also highlights the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

4.9 National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

4.10 Paragraph 003 of the NPPG (Historic Environment) states that ‘in developing their strategy, plan-making bodies should identify specific opportunities within their area for the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets, including their setting. This could include, where appropriate, the delivery of development that will make a positive contribution to, or better reveal the significance of, the heritage asset, or reflect and enhance local character and distinctiveness with particular regard given to the prevailing styles of design and use of materials in a local area.’

4 . Legislation and Planning Policy

‘Conservation is an active process of maintenance and managing change. It requires a flexible and thoughtful approach to get the best out of assets as diverse as listed buildings in everyday use and as yet undiscovered, undesignated buried remains of archaeological interest.’

NPPG. Para.002 Ref ID 18a-002-20190723

4.11 Core Strategy

4.12 Policy CSP.1 of the Core Strategy is a broad brush policy which seeks to protect and enhance the environment and quality of design. This includes consideration of any potential development impacts on protected sites, such as heritage assets.

4.13 Allocations Plan

4.14 Policy AP.5 of the Allocations Plan is a specific policy to ‘protect and promote the special qualities, historic character and local distinctiveness of the district in order to maintain its cultural identity and sense of place’.

4.15 Residential Design Guide

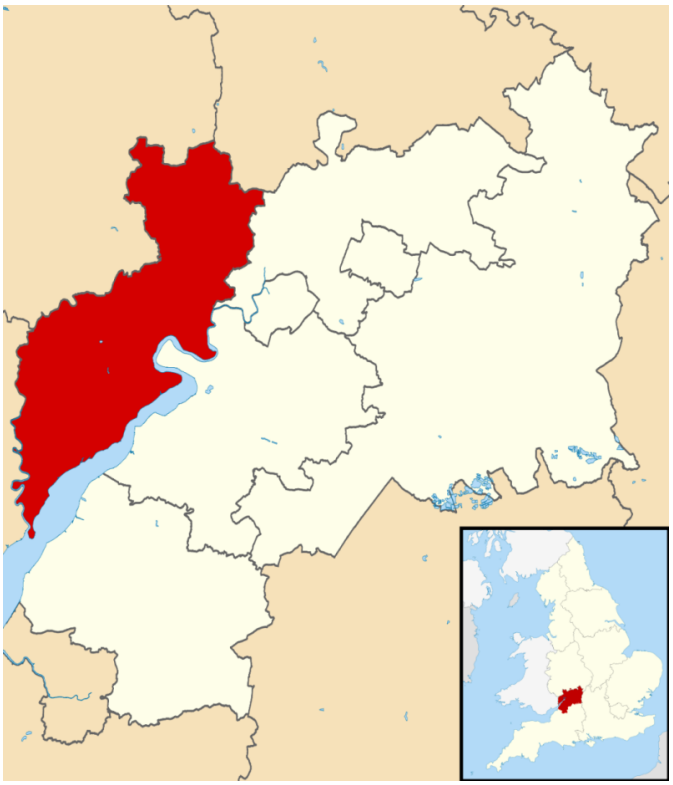
4.16 The current Residential Design Guide is now over 20 years old and whilst it touches on traditional house types and materials, it is not as detailed or specific in relation to dealing with heritage assets as it could be. An update to the Residential Design Guide is being compiled and will run alongside the new emerging Local Plan and it is envisaged that it will include more detail on appropriate design for works to listed buildings whilst also briefly discussing the setting of heritage assets and Conservation Areas.

4.17 Plan 2041

4.18 A review of the Local Plan is presently being undertaken and will contain policies and proposals for the period of 2021-41. This Heritage Character Assessment forms part of the evidence gathering process for the creation of this plan. It is necessary to fully understand and appreciate the historic assets of the District, so that effective planning policies can be introduced to make more informed and better planning decisions which affect the heritage assets and the wider community. This Heritage Character Assessment forms part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan.

5 Geography

5.1 The Forest of Dean District is the most western district of Gloucestershire, bordering the counties of Herefordshire and Monmouthshire (in Wales). It covers a land area of 526.29 km2, representing 20.76% of the county of Gloucestershire. It is geographically defined by the Wye River to the west and the Severn River to the east, with a large protected forest reserve in the centre known as the Royal Forest of Dean.



Forest of Dean District (red) within the context of Gloucestershire County. Inset map demonstrating the location of the Forest of Dean (red) in the context of most of the UK.

Name	Area (sq.km)	Estimated population mid-2018	2018/9 people per sq.km
Forest of Dean	526.29	86,543	162

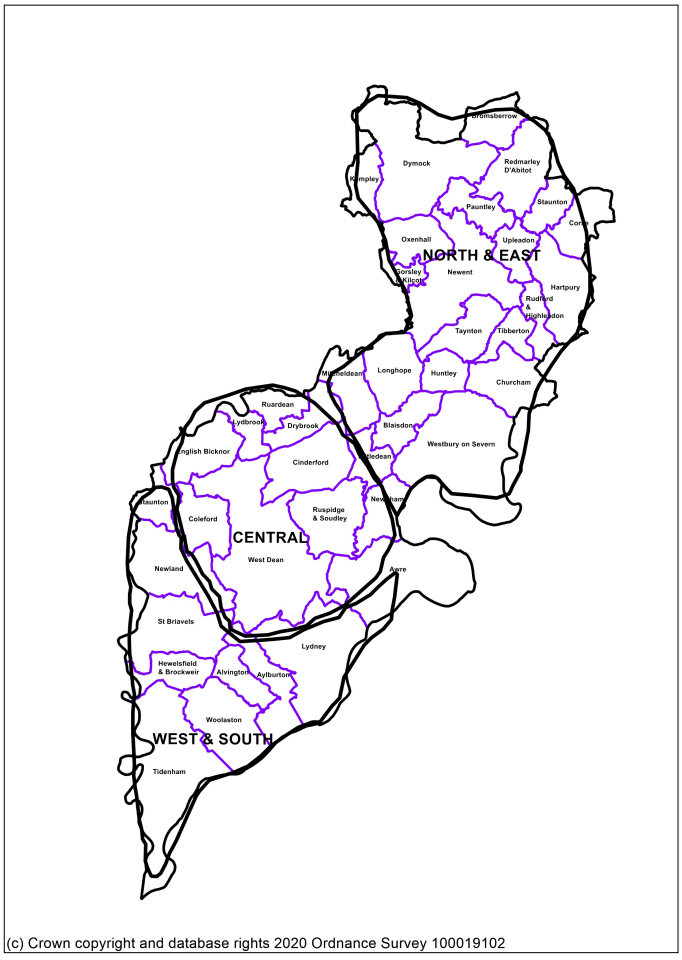
5.2 The Forest of Dean has the lowest population (total number of people) of any district in Gloucestershire [(1)]. Planned growth tends to focus on the larger centres for employment and housing, however it is acknowledged that a significant proportion of the existing population live in rural areas. These areas are typified by a large number of villages orientated towards “market

1 https://inform.gloucestershire.gov.uk/population/population-figures/

5 . Geography

towns" that are the centre of valuable cultural, community and economic activities, and provide necessary services to rural areas. These market towns and the loose networks of surrounding settlements define the fundamental settlement pattern of the Forest of Dean district, much of which has been informed by its industrial past and unique natural history.

5.3 The Forest of Dean can be divided into three; the Forest core and areas to its north and south. Although this treatment initially appears arbitrary, there are some clear differences between the traditional Forest "core" with its more pronounced industrial history and the other two areas. There are contrasting landscape types and the settlements themselves are quite distinct and different. The main reasons for this contrast becomes clear if the nature and origins of the towns and villages, still plainly apparent, are considered.



Forest of Dean District, showing the north, central (core) and south.

5 . Geography

Statement 1

Issues and Implications for Heritage

Planning policy must preserve the diversity of the geographical areas of the District; acknowledging how the built form and industry of the area has evolved over time, often reflecting the benefits and constraints of the natural history and geology of the area.

6 What have we got?

	TOTAL	GRADE I	GRADE II*	GRADE II
Listed Buildings	1480 (ca.11% of the Listed Buildings in Gloucestershire)	26	66	1388
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	92			
Registered Parks and Gardens	3		1	2
Conservation Areas	27			
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	2			
Area of Woodland	13,605 ha^2			
Area of Ancient Woodland	10,839 ha^2			

7 Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)

7.1 The Forest of Dean District contains 1480 listed buildings/structures (which is approximately 11% of listed buildings in the whole of Gloucestershire). By being 'listed', these heritage assets are highly recognised in the national context. 26 of these heritage assets are Grade I, which means that they are of exceptional interest. In this District, these include M48 Severn Bridge, Chepstow Bridge, St. Briavels Castle, Flaxley Abbey and 22 churches.

7.2 There are 66 Grade II* listed buildings/structures in the District, which means that these are important buildings of more than special interest. These include Bigsweir Bridge, Clearwell Castle, Dean Hall, a former blast furnace (Gunn's Mill) and some churches and farmhouses.

7.3 1388 of the listed buildings in the District are Grade II, which means that they are of special interest. These mainly include a wide range of domestic dwellings, agricultural buildings, churches and monuments, etc.

7.4 More information on how buildings are listed can be found at https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/. It is the remit of Historic England to formally assess and then recommend to the Secretary of State that a building should be added to or removed from the statutory list, however, anyone can nominate a building or structure to be assessed.

7.5 There are currently 92 nationally important archaeological sites (known as SAMs) in the Forest of Dean (approximately 19% of the Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Gloucestershire). These include 47 separate sections of Offa's Dyke, Lydney Harbour, a Motte, Scowles, Whitecliff Furnace, the ruins of Ruardean Castle, Ironworks, Steelworks, and the Village Cross at Aylburton. Only the most important archaeological sites are protected in this way (equivalent to Grade I listed buildings), however, many other archaeological remains are important and are recorded on the County Council's Historic Environment Record and are recognised as heritage assets.

7.6 The District Council, working with community groups and other interested parties, hopes to prepare a list of locally important heritage assets. Whilst they may not benefit from statutory listing from Historic England, they will be recognised as having particular local importance and are worthy of being acknowledged and preserved as such.

Statement 2

Issues and Implications for Heritage

Planning policies and future planning applications must ensure that designated and non-designated heritage assets (including their setting) are preserved and not harmed by new development. Potential enhancements for the long-term preservation of all heritage assets must also be sought. Supplementary planning guidance, such as Design Guides can also assist in encouraging appropriate development.

8 Conservation Areas

8.1 Conservation Areas (CAs) are places of special architectural or historic interest, which have a particular character or appearance worthy of preservation or enhancement. Groups of buildings, walls, trees and hedges, open spaces, views and the historic settlement patterns all combine to create an individual sense of place. It is this character, rather than individual buildings, that CA status seeks to protect.

8.2 The CA designation does not mean that no further development will take place, however, it does ensure that special attention is given to the design, scale and use of materials so that the existing character or appearance is not damaged (as laid out in Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation) Act 1990. The CA status also places certain restrictions to the Permitted Development rights enjoyed by homeowners and businesses.

8.3 We are fortunate that the Forest of Dean District contains 27 Conservation Areas. These vary in character between urban centres such as Lydney, Coleford and Newent, to villages such as Westbury on Severn and Alvington that are a blend of historic and rural settlement as well as special rural areas such as Lowbands or Corse, which contain the distinctive landscape of a former chartist settlement.

8.4 Three (out of four) of our historic town centres (Lydney, Coleford and Newent) are Conservation Areas. The surviving historic buildings and plan form make these towns particularly special and this is recognised in their designation, which is an asset in terms of adding character and local distinctiveness to the experience of working, shopping, visiting and living there.

Statement 3

Issues and Implications for Heritage

Planning policies and future planning applications must enable the interpretation and preservation of Conservation Areas and their setting as a whole, whilst also allowing for sensitive development which will preserve and enhance its setting. Potential future enhancements for the Conservation Area should also be sought. Supplementary planning guidance, such as Design Guides can also assist in encouraging appropriate development.

9 Parks and Gardens

9.1 Where parks and gardens are registered, it signifies that they are highly regarded in the national context. The Forest of Dean District benefits from 3 Registered Parks and Gardens. These are Westbury Court (Grade II*), Clearwell Castle (Grade II) and Flaxley Abbey (Grade II). Whilst this represents only 5.4% of the 55 Parks and Gardens in Gloucestershire, these 3 sites are still of local and national importance.

9.2 Westbury Court Garden is one of a very small number of surviving 17th century formal Dutch water gardens in the UK and was originally created between 1696 and 1705. It was purchased by the National Trust in 1967 and was brought back from decay and dereliction. It is open to the public for several months of the year [(2)].

9.3 Clearwell Castle is an early Georgian gothic mansion which is set within a late C17 park and mid to late C19 terrace gardens. It is under private ownership and is used as a hotel and conference/wedding venue[(3)]. Flaxley Abbey (Grade I listed buildings) and Gardens (Grade II) remains under private ownership. The residence was a former Cistercian abbey with formal gardens laid out in the 1960s within a 17th century framework and an adjoining deer park [(4)].

9.4 There are other examples of parks and gardens in the District, such as Lydney Park, Bathurst Park (Lydney) and Hartpury College. Whilst they are not designated, they provide settings for their settings for their Listed buildings as well as being important gardens in their own right. As such, they are still important local heritage assets which need to be recognised and protected from inappropriate development.

Statement 4

Issues and Implications for Heritage

Where there are registered parks and gardens in the District, planning policy must take into account the importance of them and their settings when considering local development, particularly where these assets are in close proximity to existing settlements, such as Clearwell Castle and Westbury Gardens.

2 www.historicengland.org.uk
3 www.historicengland.org.uk
4 www.historicengland.org.uk

10 Non-designated heritage assets of Local Significance

10.1 It is recognised that the majority of heritage assets within the Forest of Dean District are not considered worthy of statutory protection through national designation. However, there will be some which have sufficient local significance to be considered as a non-designated heritage asset. This may be by virtue of their local architectural or historical features of merit, or possibly owing to their association with people or events.

10.2 The Forest of Dean does not currently hold a comprehensive list of heritage assets of local significance. However, it is envisaged that with the collaboration between the Council, local groups and individuals, such a list could begin to emerge within the next 2-3 years by adopting criteria for local list entries and seeking to add heritage assets to the list as and when resources allow. This will include adding assets which have emerged through Neighbourhood Development Plans, character appraisals and through planning applications and enquiries (where developers are expected to assess the significance of the affected heritage asset and their settings).

10.3 Benefits of a 'local heritage list' would be that planning policies would be created with an improved understanding of potential future impacts on those buildings, structures or landscapes. Furthermore, planning decisions would be better informed, thereby affording a greater level of protection and potentially enabling development through the preservation of those heritage assets.

Statement 5

Issues and Implications for Heritage

There are many non-designated heritage assets which have not yet been recorded for their historical or local importance. Planning policies must provide a framework in which heritage assets and their settings, whether designated or not, should be protected and/or enhanced.

11 Buildings at Risk

11.1 A small portion (currently 17) of the Forest of Dean District's designated heritage assets have been identified as being 'at risk' (these are Grade II listed buildings). This list records and highlights which designated heritage assets require more immediate attention to be restored and preserved and this may be through sensitive development opportunities. However, there are clearly gaps in the knowledge of the condition and vulnerability of the wider historic environment in the Forest of Dean District, and in particular the undesignated heritage assets. It is anticipated that this number of listed buildings and structures on the register will increase for the next review. The Buildings at Risk register can be viewed at: www.fdean.gov.uk.

11.2 Historic England also has a monitoring programme, Heritage at Risk (HAR https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/search-register/), which only considers buildings and structures which are at Grade II* and above (and Grade II Places of Worship) . There are currently 19 sites listed on this register, mainly focusing on Churches, Lydney Dock and sections of Offa's Dyke.

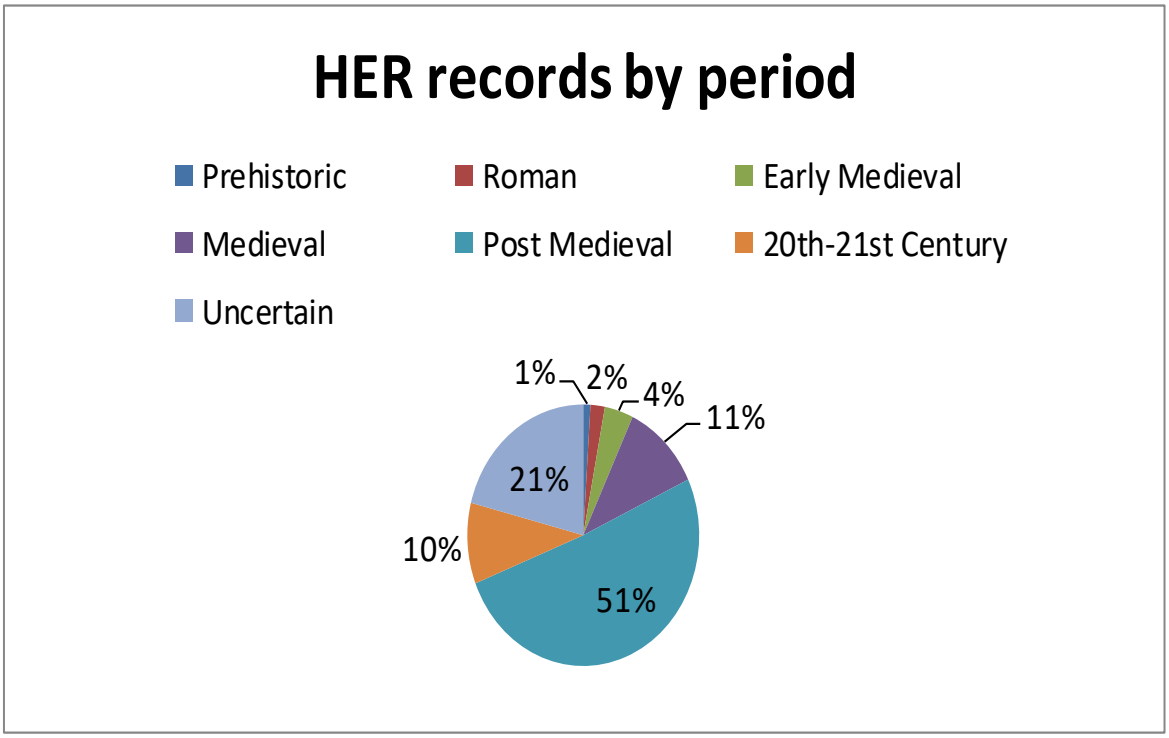
Statement 6

Issues and Implications for Heritage

A mechanism to help protect listed buildings from decay could be provided through planning policies and supplementary guidance. It may be in the form of encouragement, support and guidance on best practices for preserving these types of buildings.

12 Archaeology

12.1 The Archaeological history within the District is varied and ranges across all different periods. The Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey Stage 4 (Gloucestershire County Council) provides a wealth of information on this topic, including a break-down of the HER (Historic Environment Record), which shows that 22% of the whole of the Gloucestershire HER areas are within the Forest of Dean. Furthermore, the following Piechart demonstrates the percentage of historic records from different periods:



12.2 Out of the post-medieval and later HER sites, 43% of these are industrial and transportation and 16% are agricultural and drainage [(5)] This reflects the wealth of post-medieval industrial or related sites known in the Forest of Dean, which had a strong tradition of mineral extraction.

12.3 Many local establishments hold artefacts collected. Dean Heritage Centre has a range of finds from: a Coleford Roman site; a late Iron Age Burial; Littledean Hall Temple; Stock Farm Roman Villa; Park Farm Roman Villas, Aylburton; Whitecross Furnace, Lydney; Whitecliff Furnace, Coleford and some prehistoric material from St Briavels (Willscroft Wood), as well as a hoard of

5 Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey Stage 4: Module 3. Research Framework for Forest of Dean District. Gloucestershire County Council June 2017.

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Roman coins found in Yorkley. Gloucester City museum holds other finds, such as coins, brooches, flint pottery, roman artefacts , neolothic axe heads (found in Longhope, Mitcheldean, Clements End and Newent), bronze age axe heads (Viney Hill, Awre, Newent and St Briavels) amongst many others. Cheltenham Museum, Bristol City Museum and Newport Museum also hold some archaeological finds ranging from the bronze age to the Romans.

12.4 Much additional information can be gained from the Gloucestershire archives, as well as Historic England archives (http:/archive.historicengland.org.uk).

12.5 Within the wide range of archaeological artefacts discovered around the district from different periods, the most notable features are:

Early and late Roman Finds

12.6 Evidence for Roman settlement within the District includes four sites which are believed to contain villas (high status domestic buildings). Three of these are located in the Severn Valley, suggesting the importance of the river Severn as a trading route. These villas are important farming sites located at The Chesters at Woolaston, Boughspring and Park Farm (Aylburton), whilst the fourth villa located to the north of Clearwell, is associated with iron ore mining and smelting.

12.7 Other potential villa sites have been found in Blakeney, Alvington, Pope's Hill, St Briavels and Lydney. In addition to these villa sites there are four possible Roman temples located at High Nash, Coleford, Littledean Hall, Littledean, Blackrock Farm, Lydney and the Lydney Park. The Lydney Park temple has been extensively excavated and these excavations revealed that it was part of an extensive and wealthy complex built upon an earlier Ironage hillfort.

12.8 The only evidence so far found for Roman burial is in Dymock.

Offa's Dyke

12.9 Offa's Dyke is a saxon fortification in the form of the longest linear earthwork in the whole of Great Britain. It traverses the England Welsh border from North Wales to Sedbury in the south of the Forest of Dean District. It was built under the command of King Offa of Mercia in the late 8th century. The earthwork is present and identifiable along the southwestern part of the district between Lydbrook and Sedbury, on the edge of the Wye Valley. Many public footpaths follow portions of Offa's Dyke and the Dyke can have a direct impact on the planning process and the outcome for planned development, particularly around St Briavels Common, Tidenham etc.

12 . Archaeology

Norman Fortifications

12.10 Evidence of Norman mottes (dating from 1066) has been found at English Bicknor, Dymock, Hewelsfield, Taynton Parva and Ayleford, and Norman ringworks have been discovered at Stowe (St. Briavels), Littledean Camp, Huntley and Newnham. There is also an earthwork bailey at Little Camp Hill, Lydney and a fortified manor at Ruardean, thought to be built on the site of an earlier timber tower (12th century) [6].

Recent Historical Finds and Locations

12.11 The FoD Archaeological Survey carried out by GCC also provides information on later artifacts, such as:

- Two prisoner of war camps and a ship yard (WWI) are known to be established at Sedbury.
- A 1914 distillation works (acetone for arms industry) on Speech House Road.
- 18 pill boxes (WWII) are known, 15 of which survive, mostly lining the northern shore of the River Severn and around Lydney Harbour.
- 4 air raid shelter areas (56 shelters) are known at Lydbrook and Tidenham (being close to the Army Apprentices College at Beachley)
- Prisoner of war camps at Sedbury, Lydney (Naas House), Churcham, Coleford and Mile End
- Ammunition supply dump in Cinderford, Lydbrook, Edge End (wooded locations)
- RoC (Royal Observer Corps) posts at St. Briavels, Westbury on Severn and Blakeney (https://www.subbrit.org.uk/locations/gloucestershire/)

Statement 7

Issues and Implications for Heritage

Impacts of future development on heritage assets of all periods include the potential loss of archaeological and historic evidence, particularly where remains have not yet been properly investigated or recorded. However, development can also provide opportunities for a better understanding of heritage assets and can also ensure their long term preservation and enhancement of their settings.

6 Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey Stage 4: Module 3. Research Framework for Forest of Dean District. Gloucestershire County Council June 2017

13 Employment and Industrial Heritage

13.1 It is evident that the geology of the area has shaped the historical and modern formation of the Forest of Dean District, as development and distribution of industry, agriculture, settlements and infrastructure have been formed from the natural resources available. Human influences over time have had a profound effect on the landscape character of the area as well as how the built formation of human settlements has evolved. This is certainly evident with regards to the location and growth of former employment sectors, particularly industry.

Mining

13.2 The geological formation of the region, being a carboniferous strata with fields of coal and iron ore, has led to miners extracting these deposits for over two thousand years. Indeed, the industrial employment within the 'Forest Core' revolved around the mining of iron ore and later coal and the rise and fall of these industries was a huge factor determining the wealth, poverty and human geography of the District.

13.3 The Forest of Dean Local History Society (www.forestofdeanhistory.co.uk) has commissioned a project called the 'Geomap'. This is an educational form of artwork which celebrates the interconnected geological and industrial history to the Forest of Dean. The sculpture demonstrates the complex geology of the area and how this links with the industrial history, such as the quarrying and mining. The map is made from the rocks found in the Forest of Dean and details their geological and local names, as well as their age by millions of years. The map shows the location of 102 collieries (black stone disc), 35 iron mines (steel discs) and 49 stone quarries (grey stone discs) as well as the main railway lines and three tramroads which were essential to the development and growth of these industries during the 19th century.

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Board providing information on the Geomap.

Board providing information on the Mines, Quarries and Railways

The Geomap

13 . Employment and Industrial Heritage

13.4 The Geomap is located at New Fancy Viewpoint, near Speech House and Parkend. This site is a great example of how an old spoil heap for a former Colliery can become a place to enjoy wildlife with access to footpaths and cycle tracks whilst also learning about the industrial past of this area and how it has affected modern day life.

Iron and Steel

13.5 The iron industry was one of the key industries within the Forest of Dean District. The extraction of iron ore as well as the processing of it to create iron and steel were carried out within the district, in particular in the central areas, with smaller iron mines being located in Newent and Oxenhall.

13.6 It is believed that iron ore extraction had been carried out in the District since the Iron Age. Early iron ore exploitation was associated with the surface mining of 'Scowles'. Scowles were originally considered to be the remains of prehistoric and early historic open cast iron extraction, however, the Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey 2003-2004 now suggests that they are predominantly a natural landscape feature formed around 300 million years ago. Between the 12th and 14th centuries, iron-ore mining became an important industry. This continued until the industry started to fall into decline in the 17th and 18th centuries, largely owing to the lack of easily accessible iron ore. Many of the shallow iron ore mines were depleted and the larger cave systems were underwater. However, the introduction of steam power for pumps and winding gear at the end of the 18th century allowed mines to become deeper by keeping the water pumped out. Along with improvements in communications and an increased local demand, there was a re-emergence of the iron mining industry in the District with almost 4 million tons of ore mined between 1861 and 1925[(7)]. Nevertheless, by the end of the Second World War, iron mining in the district had all but ceased.

13.7 It is also worth noting that iron ochre was also mined, and still is on a small commercial scale at Clearwell Caves. Ochre is an earth pigment found in iron oxide and was used for marking, dying and artwork. Today, Clearwell Caves mines the red, yellow, purple and brown ochre in small quantities and sends it across the world for use by artists.

13.8 Steel was originally processed as iron with a carbon content. It is the area of processing where the carbon content is between that of wrought iron (carbon free) and cast iron (3-4% carbon) and also includinging iron alloyed with other metals, eg. chrome, tungsten,etc. The manufacturing of steel using Forest of Dean's iron ore was largely carried out in steelworks outside of the District, although there is one recorded in Huntley in 1585 [(8)]. In 1862, Robert Mushet experimented with steel manufacturing (Bessemer process) and this led to an innovation in bulk steel manufacturing

7 Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey Stage 4: Module 3. Research Framework for Forest of Dean District. Gloucestershire County Council June 2017

8 Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey Stage 4: Module 3. Research Framework for Forest of Dean District. Gloucestershire County Council June 2017

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in the district and the opening of his Titanic Steelworks at Darkhill, Coleford in 1862[9]. Sadly, the steel processing industry only lasted until the end of the 19th century and the final iron works (in Cinderford) closed in 1899[10].

Coal Mining

13.9 It is understood that coal mining has taken place in the District since the Roman period, however, it is the early post-medieval era when surface and shallow shafts began to be mined in earnest.

13.10 The Forest of Dean is well-known for its coal mining past. Whilst there are coal seams which were exploited in the north of the District near Newent and Dymock, these were small-scale operations and the majority of the coal seams lie to the centre and south of the district (in the core forest) and this is where coal mining became a significant industry. Until the later 17th century when pumps and more efficient drainage was introduced, mines were small scale and limited in depth. The 18th century saw the growth of small-scale freemining operations and Cyril Hart (The Industrial History of the Dean 1971) records that by 1788, 121 coal pits were recorded in the southern part of the District. With the development of better transport allowing the export of coal, mining flourished so that by 1874, Hart recorded that there were 5,050 miners employed in the southern part of the district alone, making mining the main source of employment within the Forest, employing about half of the male population.[11]

13.11 After WWII, the industry began to decline and the last deep mine to be closed was Northern United (Cinderford) in 1965. Some open cast mining was carried out during the 1960s and 70s, however, this did not last. Nowadays, there are a handful of small pits which are mined privately by freeminers.

Freeminers

13.12 By Norman times, Forest of Dean iron ore had become vital to England's economy. The Forest of Dean became the most prominent iron producing district in the British Isles, and the Forest miner became privileged. It was during this time that the exclusive and ancient Freemining customs become documented [12]. The Freeminers rights to work the minerals in the Forest of Dean were recorded. Freeminers are allowed to mine coal, iron ore, stone and associated minerals and their mining claim is called a 'gale'. To qualify as a Freeminer, you must be over 21, born within the Hundred of St.Briavels (a 'hundred' was an administrative division of a geographical area) and have worked in a coal mine for a year and a day.

9 Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey Stage 4: Module 3. Research Framework for Forest of Dean District. Gloucestershire County Council June 2017
10 The Industrial History of Dean by Cyril Hart. 1971.
11 www.forestofdeanhistory.org.uk
12 www.forestfreeminers.org

13 . Employment and Industrial Heritage

13.13 Freemining rights are still retained and fought for, however, the number of locally born people who are able to obtain this privilege are sadly rapidly dwindling. Most of the Freeminers left in the Forest are older men who mine as a hobby and a way of keeping the historical right alive.

Image of a Forest of Dean Freeminer from a 15th century brass in Newland Church (courtesy of the Royal Forest of Dean Caving Club website).

Quarrying

Clay

13.14 Clay has been used for brick making and other uses since the Roman and Medieval periods in the Forest of Dean. Clay is a feature of the coal measures within the Carboniferous Sandstones of the southern forest [13] and therefore whilst there is a possible clay pit at Newent (for Roman Pottery), the majority of clay pits and associated brickworks are found in the central areas of the District near the colliery sites.

13.15 19th century brickworks are known at Hawkwell, Nelson, Marions (Staunton south), Taynton, Parkend, Cinderford and Darkhill (Coleford) amongst others. Three tons of clay made about 1,000 bricks and bricks were made by hand.[14] In 1880 there were 5 working kilns at Nailbridge, 3 at Darkhill, 1 at Coleford and 1 at Cinderford [15], although the number of people employed was minimal.

13.16 There is still a brickworks called the Coleford Brick & Tile, which is now 90 years old and now based in Cinderford, having moved from Coleford. Their products are still made by hand.

13 Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey Stage 4: Module 3. Research Framework for Forest of Dean District. Gloucestershire County Council June 2017
14 The Industrial History of Dean by Cyril Hart
15 The Industrial History of Dean by Cyril Hart

13 . Employment and Industrial Heritage

Stone

13.17 The quarrying of stone has been important since the Bronze Age, being used for monuments and hillforts. The Romans quarried sandstone and limestone and used it for construction. During the medieval period, stone extraction continued with limestone being quarried for lime production and sandstone for building stone, or millstones. St. Briavels Castle was constructed from local sandstone as were many local forest churches[16]. Stone markers also denoted the boundary to the Forest .

13.18 Stone quarrying has continued, with an increase in the need for building stone in modern times (19th century onwards). The links with railway networks provided good communications so that the stone extracted could be moved by rail. Quarries in the northern parts of the District have always been few and far between, whilst the majority have been situated near the central and southern parts.

13.19 There are still stone quarries currently in action providing various types of stone ranging from aggregate (including lime) to dimension stone (such as Pennant). Such quarries are found at Birch Hill, Stowe Green, St Briavels and Stowfield Quarry, south of Staunton (Coleford).

Limestone

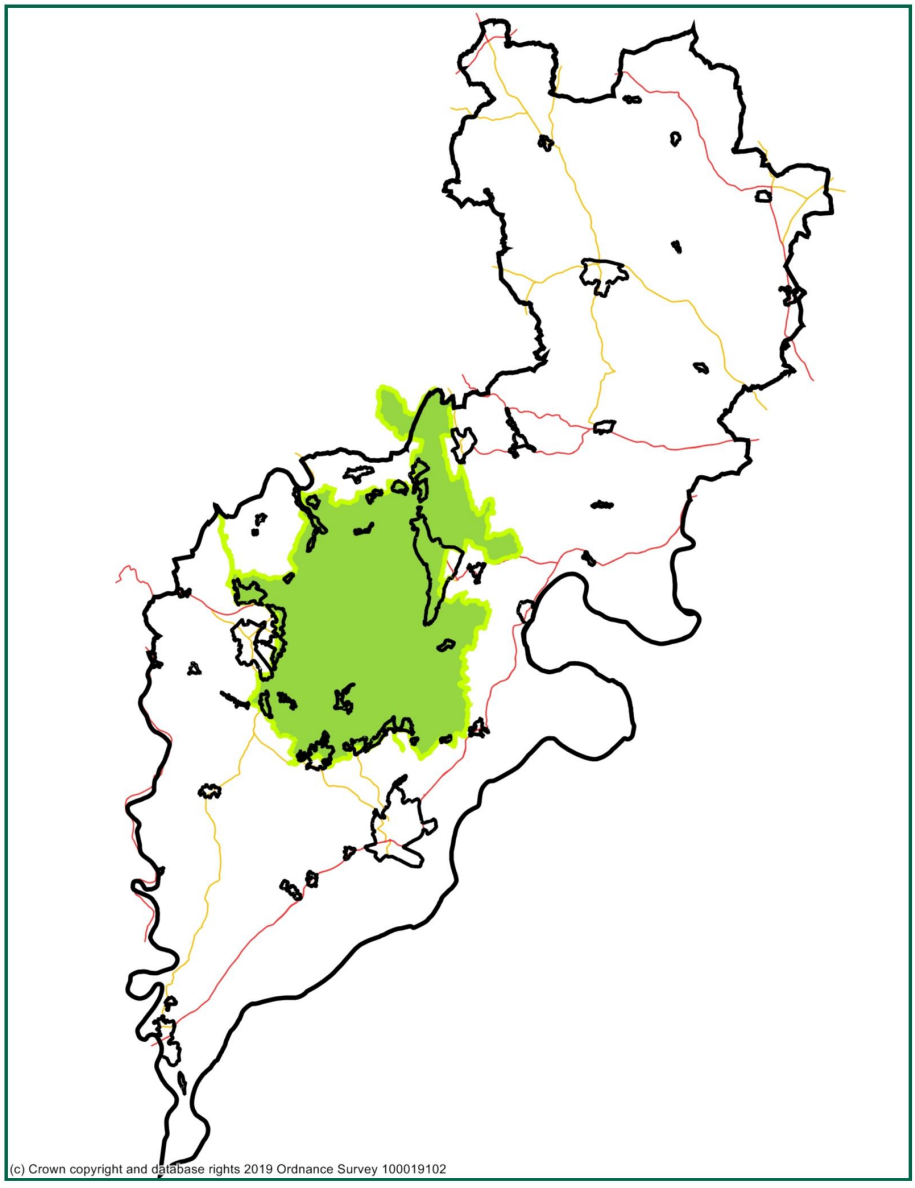
13.20 Limestone has been quarried for centuries in the District, in order to extract the lime for construction and agricultural purposes. There are a handful of lime kilns still surviving, two of which are listed buildings (Green Bottom at Mitcheldean and in Hewelsfield Cliff Wood) and one is part of the Lydney Docks Scheduled Ancient Monument. There are also lime kilns at English Bicknor and Lancaut which have been consolidated or repaired.

16 Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey Stage 4: Module 3. Research Framework for Forest of Dean District. Gloucestershire County Council June 2017

13 . Employment and Industrial Heritage

Statutory Forest

13.21 A large portion of the central area of the Forest of Dean district is Statutory Forest.



13.22 This area of wooded Crown Land was originally in the ownership of the King during Norman times and was used as the King's hunting grounds. The administration of the 'Forest laws' by The Verderers was created in 1338 (mainly to protect the forest habitat and biodiversity, including deer and boar) and this still continues to this day. There are four Verderers for the Forest of Dean, as there have been for seven centuries and they meet four times a year to consider issues of relevance

13 . Employment and Industrial Heritage

to the woodlands and open lands within the Statutory Forest of Dean [17]. Their meeting place is now the Verderer's Court Room at Speech House, Cinderford which was constructed in 1668 (formally the site of Kensley House, where the Verderers met).

13.23 The District is fortunate in that 10,839 ha^2 of the woodland is Ancient Woodland.

13.24 The Statutory Forest provided timber which was used in abundance for ship building (Navy), building trade and fuel. Mines (iron ore and later coal) were established in and around the edges of the forest and therefore the deep mines and tram roads within it placed new pressure on the woodlands as they required more space to operate and expand.

13.25 The Napoleonic Wars highlighted the need for a reserve of timber for the Navy and so a scheme was devised in London to plant 100,000 acres (ca. 40,400 ha) of oak for the Navy, the largest proportion being in the Forest of Dean. Enclosures were laid out and protected by banks, ditches and fences. Each acre was planted with 2,722 acorns and every 100th trees was a sweet chestnut. By 1840 there was nearly 20,000 acres (ca. 8080 ha) of young oak[18].

13.26 Up until the 1950s the Forestry Commission (now Forestry England) continued to plant broadleaves where soils were suitable and many other tree species were introduced. When the government started demanding higher returns from the state forests, large scale planting of coniferous trees began. This continued until the early 1970s when local residents persuaded the Minister for Agriculture to halt the process and a more balanced planting regime began again.

13.27 Human influence within the Statutory Forest has grown over time and has been shaped by the forest itself, the need for survival, the use of the natural resources and later, the infrastructure created by man. Squatters first settled in and around the forested areas of the district during Norman times and were the foundations to modern day development in the so-called Forest Fringe settlements. In more modern times, the forest has been used for storing explosives during WWII, hiding them under the canopy of the trees.

13.28 The forested areas of the District are now vital for the local tourism industry and also the need to preserve the existing ecology. The forest fringes (Forest Waste) which are generally denuded of trees still play a very important role in the landscape and visual amenity of this area. Whilst generally unplanted, these areas which skirt the forest may still contain large high-quality specimen trees which have an important amenity value and also provide an historic background to how the statutory forest has been used in the past. It is necessary to protect the forest waste from erosion and this can be done through planning policies.

13.29 The Forestry Commission carries the responsibility of not only maintaining the forests but to also ensure that the heritage assets within them (Scheduled Ancient Monuments) and the treasured biodiversity is protected. This management role comes with a hefty financial burden and therefore it is necessary that Forestry England makes sufficient funds to pay for this. Forestry England now places great weight on attracting tourists to their sites with the aim of not only providing great outdoor entertainment but to also make funds from parking, cafes, etc. More recently, Forestry

17 http://deanverderers.org.uk
18 Landscape Character Assessment by Gloucestershire and Forest of Dean District Council November 2002

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England has become involved with the Forester's Forest project (http://www.forestersforest.uk). This is a National Lottery Heritage Fund Landscape Partnership programme formed from an association of partner organisations and local community groups within the Forest of Dean. Its aim is to provide funds to attract people (local and tourists) to the area and create a greater understanding of the unique heritage and ongoing projects within the District.

13.30 The Cyril Hart Arboretum based near Speech House, Cinderford also serves as an educational source. It was established in 1915 and contains over 200 species of trees from all over the world, attracting locals, tourists and students alike.

Charcoal

13.31 Iron smelting at the times of the Roman settlements meant that there needed to be a charcoal supply. There is evidence that a range of deciduous trees were used for this purposes, such as oak, hazel, elm, birch and even hawthorn. Because it was difficult to transport large quantities of charcoal, the smelting generally was carried out close to the places where charcoal was produced [19] The Forest of Dean was therefore an ideal place for this type of industry. Early blast furnaces also used charcoal for fuel until the use of coke became more popular in the 19th century. Woodlands were managed and coppiced for this purpose and there is evidence of charcoal production in places such as Blakeney, Dymock, Woolaston/Clearwell Quarry, Littledean amongst others.

13.32 During the 17th century the Forest of Dean had more of these furnaces at work than anywhere else in Britain. Gunns Mill Furnace, Mitcheldean was one of them, built in 1625 and rebuilt in 1682-3. This furnace is one of the most complete of its kind in Britain; rare and important, and the only surviving example in the south of England. After 1740 the site became a paper mill (http://fodbpt.org/gunns-mill---home.html).

13.33 Charcoal production continued in a traditional way until the Second World War when wood chemical works (distilleries) were established at Broadmoor, Tufts, Whitecroft, Lydbrook, Cannop and Oakwood, all within or close to the Statutory Forest[20]. This was a good way of making something profitable out of timber which could not be sold.

Tanneries

13.34 It is known that oak bark was used in the process of tanning from the medieval period and this was available in large quantities in the District, in particular within the Statutory Forest. However, tanning was also an important industry in Newent, as well as Huntley in the 1680s, with bark supplying the tanning industry in woodlands at Dymock and Oxenhall (FoD Archaeological Survey).

19 Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey Stage 4: Module 3. Research Framework for Forest of Dean District. Gloucestershire County Council June 2017.

20 Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey Stage 4: Module 3. Research Framework for Forest of Dean District. Gloucestershire County Council June 2017

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There are known tanneries at Tan House, Woolaston; Tanhouse Farm, Blaisdon; Tanhouse Farmhouse, Newland; Clearwell; Lower Mill and the old Tannery, Blakeney; Tan House, Newent; Tanhouse Farmhouse, Newnham; Collow, Newnham; Tan House Mill near Longhope and Stenders Road, Mitcheldean. Each of these former tannery buildings are occupied (with three being listed)[21].

Other Industries

Tinplate

13.35 Tinplate is the creation of a sheet steel (originally steel iron) with a very thin protective layer of tin. The introduction of making tinplate was based on the ideology that combining the plates of iron made in the Forest of Dean with the tin produced in Cornwall, would improve the impoverished living conditions of workers in these industries[22]. The main tinplate works in the Forest of Dean District were at Redbrook (established by 1774) and Lydbrook (established in 1760). The former tinplate works in Redbrook is now a modern housing estate with the associated ponds being used for recreation (fishing).

Glass

13.36 Glass was made in Glasshouse (hence its name) on Mayhill in the 16th/17th centuries and glass remnants have been recovered from nearby fields and scientifically analysed. There was also a glassworks at Newnham on Severn in the 17th/18th centuries, although no evidence of the furnace survives.

Pins

13.37 Whitecroft is the home of the former internationally renowned pin factory which was formed in 1910 by Maurice and Stanley Jarret. It produced safety pins and was taken over in 1964 by the USA company Scovill. Sadly, the pin factory has now closed down and there is currently a planning application pending (2019) to develop the land for a mixture of residential and employment uses.

Paper

13.38 The paper making industry required a supply of clean water to power the mills. Many former waterwheels used for blast furnaces and forges were put to a new use to make paper[23]. Some of these paper mills are known to be at Gunn's Mill, Mitcheldean, Rodmore Mill at Alvington, Rowley Mill Alvington, Cone Mill at Woolaston, Clanna Weir Mill at Alvington, Longhope Mill at Longhope, Hall Mill at Awre and Redbrook Mill at Redbrook.

21 Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey Stage 4: Module 3. Research Framework for Forest of Dean District. Gloucestershire County Council June 2017
22 The Industrial History of Dean by Cyril Hart
23 The Industrial History of Dean by Cyril Hart

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Fishing

13.39 By virtue of the Wye River and the Severn River, the Forest of Dean District heavily relied on fishing in the 9th to 11th centuries. In fact the Domesday Survey of 1086 records fisheries at Awre, Stroat, Woolaston, Tidenham and St. Briavels. Tidenham is recorded as having 58 fisheries! During the medieval period fishing rights were owned by landowners, religious establishments or the Crown. A range of fishing methods were in use during the medieval and post-medieval periods, including fish traps, weirs, putchers and structures in inter-tidal zones[(24)].

Nails

13.40 The production of nails was a small-scale industry usually carried out in villages. It is a particular industry to Littledean and Mitcheldean, where nail working was carried out from around 1700 until the late nineteenth century. Nailers were also to be found in Coleford and Clearwell[(25)].

Candles

13.41 Newnham on Severn had a candle factory in the 19th century and it is believed that many colliers from the Forest of Dean regularly visited the factory to buy their candles for working down the mines[(26)].

Ropes

13.42 The proximity of places such as Westbury, Newnham on Severn and Lydney led to the growth of the rope making industry in the 19th century. There were also rope makers in Mitcheldean as well as Northwood Green, which also used the raw material of a local limetree for ropes as well as making baskets and putts to catch fish[(27)].

Boat and Ship Building

13.43 From the early medieval period, ship building was taking place along the Severn and Wye. Shipyards are recorded dating back to the 17th – 19th centuries at Gatcombe, Lydney, Stroat, Tidenham, Newnham, Broadoak and Woolaston (along the River Severn) as well as Redbrook, Brockweir and possibly Symonds Yat (along the Wye). Nearing the end of WWI, a shipyard was established at Sedbury, however, no ships were completed (FoD Archaeological Survey GCC).

Recent Employment and Trends

13.44 Employment within the Forest of Dean District no longer depends on timber, mining or industrial works. Though much reduced, manufacturing is however still a significant sector with a few larger companies and many smaller undertakings. Some of the former single occupier

24 Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey Stage 4: Module 3. Research Framework for Forest of Dean District. Gloucestershire County Council June 2017
25 The Industrial History of Dean by Cyril Hart. 1971.
26 The Industrial History of Dean by Cyril Hart. 1971.
27 The Industrial History of Dean by Cyril Hart. 1971.

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premises have found new uses, notably the former Rank Xerox premises at Mitcheldean is now managed as an industrial estate and is continuing to make a very important contribution. Others are seeking or have found new uses such as housing. These changes to manufacturing employment are historically significant in that many of these employers used to provide a much needed workplace for large numbers of local residents, particularly after the coal mining era. The loss, breaking up or moving away of some of these large single employers can also mean the loss of the buildings as well as the loss of large scale employment. However, it must not be forgotten that there is also an historical significance where long-term employers which have been retained in the District. A good example of this is Suntory in Coleford, formerly the Carter's soft drinks factory where Ribena (made by Beechams and now by Suntory) was first produced.

13.45 The timber industry is now on a smaller scale, the cutting and processing being carried out mainly by private companies (regulated by Forestry England) and small scale businesses. The only charcoal currently being made is on an extremely small scale and Dean Heritage Centre carries out a yearly charcoal burn as part of a tourism attraction.

13.46 As discussed in the section about Freemining, coal extraction is only carried out in very small scales. By far the largest mineral extraction sites in the FoDD are the two limestone quarries primarily producing crushed rock for aggregate (Stowe Hill and Stowfield).

13.47 Agriculture, horticulture and equine businesses remain the predominant employer in the northern areas of the District, with large areas under cover of glasshouses and polytunnels at the Scarr and Bromsberrow Heath. Areas around Hartpury are known for equestrian facilities, with the college at Hartpury hosting international equine events. This college now forms part of the University of the West of England, which is a significant pull for younger people to live, study and work in the District and nearby Gloucester City.

13.48 The mainline railway runs through the district, but the only station is Lydney. However, this allows for commuting of workers into South Wales and Gloucester and beyond. The railway has left a large historical legacy throughout the Forest of Dean, including former railway tracks, sidings, bridges, etc. some of which have been given alternative uses, such as footpaths. A living link to the past is the Dean Forest Railway, which is a heritage railway providing a four and a half mile line allowing visitors to experience the countryside on a steam locomotive.

13.49 Tourism is becoming an increasingly important employer within the District with larger companies and individuals making the most of the beautiful countryside, heritage, forestry and the proximity to rivers, public footpaths and cycle networks. The local planning policies acknowledge this and seek to promote tourism in both the town centres, villages and the surrounding countryside. It is clear that its landscape and heritage have extremely important roles to play in pulling visitors to the area. Therefore, the more we understand and sensitively preserve and promote our historical built and natural landscape, the more attractive the District becomes on a national and even international scale.

13.50 Amongst other businesses and governmental bodies, Forestry England is now diversifying its land management strategy to include the promotion of sustainable tourism, providing destinations which visitors can enjoy without damaging the local environment. Income accrued can then be

13 . Employment and Industrial Heritage

ploughed back into the protection of this special landscape and heritage features. In this era of dramatic climate change and economic uncertainty, it is vital to consider that more and more people will choose to spend their vacation within the UK and are also more likely to embark on day or weekend trips. Sustainability is the key aspect of longevity and it has never been more important. In acknowledgement of this, debate and preparations regarding the potential for the Forest of Dean becoming a UNESCO designated Biosphere are currently ongoing.
Some of the local tourist attractions rely on their former historical uses to create an establishment which provides fun and education, such as Clearwell Caves, Dean Forest Railway (Norchard), Hopewell Colliery and Puzzlewood to name a few.

Statement 8

Issues and Implications for Heritage

- Mining legacy has strong implications for both plan making and planning applications, as shafts and former underground workings can lead to instability, thus reducing the site area for potential development.
- Ground formations from local geology and later mining or industrial process are important for the landscape character of the area and should be preserved when considering the location and design of new development. Development must also enable future interpretation of these important local features.
- Many former industrial sites now provide valuable habitat for biodiversity. Planning policy and planning decisions must therefore seek to preserve and encourage such places for habitat creation.
- Active quarry sites can potentially cause noise and air pollution and therefore planning policies and applications must take this into account when considering new development, in particular housing.
- The Statutory Forest is a unique, invaluable and limited resource which must be preserved at all costs. As such, development cannot expand into the forest itself, thus significantly reducing the spaces for future development in the central areas of the District.
- Future planning policies must seek to retain employment sites which are fit for purpose. Tourism is reliant on the unique landscape, biodiversity and the heritage of the District and therefore planning policies must create opportunities to preserve and enhance these features. It is also important to ensure that tourism itself does not cause harm to these features by overdevelopment.

14 Transport

The Two Rivers

14.1 The Forest of Dean District sits within the triangle of land between the Rivers Severn and Wye. The transport role that these rivers has played throughout time has been huge. Before the commencement of the railways in about the mid-19th century, these two rivers were the main routes serving the District. Heavy goods for the industries at the time, such as coal, iron ore, timber amongst others were carried along the rivers.

14.2 Lydney Harbour has particular importance in this regard. A designated Ancient Monument now, although still in use for pleasure boating, the harbour has been the keystone to transportation of goods along the Severn since Roman times and through industrialisation. There were also a smattering of river ports including Bullo, Collow, Newnham and Beachley along the Severn and Brockweir and Redbrook along the Wye.

14.3 The River Severn no longer serves as a main transport link. Instead, the highway network crosses over the River Severn at Beachley (the Old Severn Bridge) leading to the southwest and beyond. The River Severn is now also a tourism destination, having one of the world's highest tidal ranges. The stretch of the River Severn between Awre and Beachley is also designated as a Site of Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation and a Special Protection Area, thus being of national and international importance for its ecological value.

14.4 The River Wye also served as a transport network to the market town of Monmouth, thus providing routes into South Wales or to the Midlands. Again, the Wye now serves as a popular recreational ground for tourists, wishing to experience the picturesque landscape by walking, boating or canoeing. The stretches of the River Wye within the District are also designated as a Site of Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation, thus making it a national and international hotspot for highly valued ecology.

Rail Transport

14.5 The first form of rail transport in the District were Tramroads which consisted of rail tracks on which carts were pulled by horses. These sprang up, in particular around the Statutory Forest connecting mines, quarries and ironworks to each other and to ports (such as Lydney) or places of distribution. With the introduction of steam locomotives Tramways began to appear around the 1860s. These were narrow gauge railways on which wagons were pulled by locomotives. Again,

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these were widely used for connecting industrial sites. Remains of former tramroads and related structures, such as embankments and cuttings, still remain, such as those found at Darkhill furnace near Coleford[28].

14.6 Railways bridge, sidings, crossings, viaducts and tunnels can all still be found around the district. The Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record keeps lists of those which are listed. A great example of a listed railway viaduct can be found at Purton, Awre. However, this structure is sadly at risk from decay and lack of maintenance, which demonstrates how tenuous our link with the historic railway system can be without the means to preserve it.

14.7 In 1851 the South Wales Railway Company opened a railway line from Chepstow to Gloucester following the River Severn and also replaced the Bullo Pill tramroad in 1854 with a broad-gauge railway to link Gloucester and Chepstow line at Newnham[29]. It is noteworthy that commercial carriage was the primary purpose of the railway links, with passengers being a secondary user. It is thought that the Bullo Pill Railway was one of the first to be constructed and furthermore, the Haie tunnel held the record of being the longest railway tunnel in the world when it was created.

14.8 However, as was happening nationally, the railway became a less viable form of transport service and after the second world war, railways began to close, especially those which were not in high usage (such as the railway at Drybrook). Nowadays, the District is fortunate to have a single mainline railway station at Lydney. The heritage railway at Dean Forest Railway (Lydney Junction to Parkend) is run by volunteers providing a place of education, nostalgia and is a popular tourist attraction for locals and those visiting the area.

Canal

14.9 The main canal route in the Forest of Dean District was the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal, which linked their respective cities via a 34-mile canal network. It ran through the northern part of our district between Leddington to Rudford, passing nearby Dymock, Oxenhall, Newent and Tibberton.

28 Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey Stage 4: Module 3. Research Framework for Forest of Dean District. Gloucestershire County Council June 2017

29 Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey Stage 4: Module 3. Research Framework for Forest of Dean District. Gloucestershire County Council June 2017

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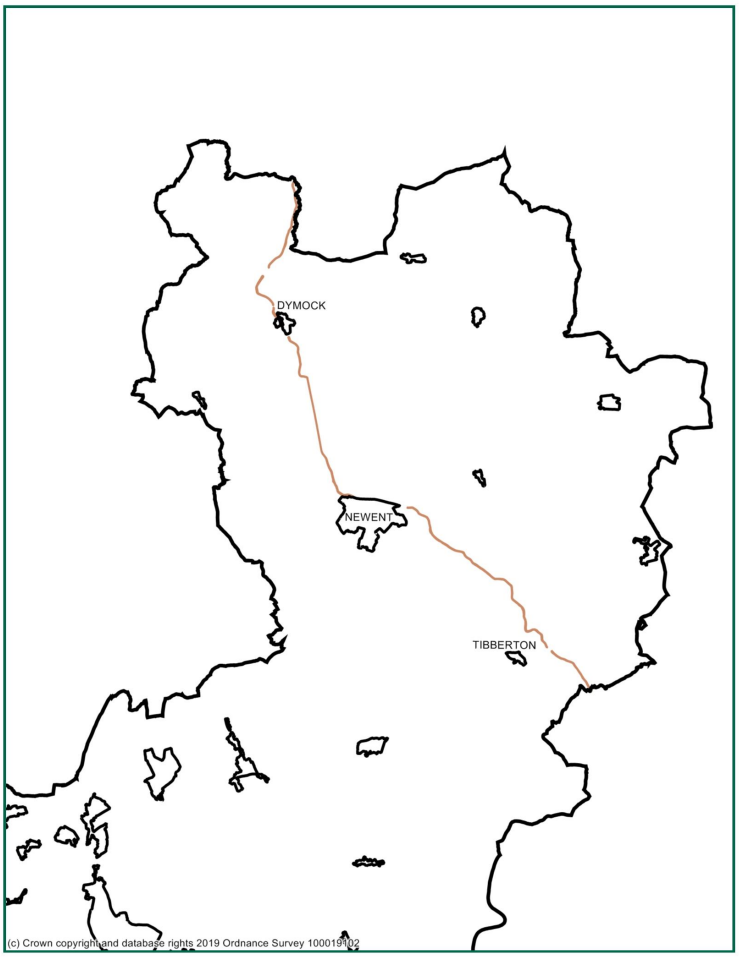

Forest of Dean

The route of the former Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal

Scale: 1:100000

25 September 2019

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14.10 The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal began construction in 1798 and was finally completed in 1845. Below the tunnel at Oxenhall the 'Coal Branch' left the canal to carry cargo to and from the mines at Newent. However, this never became a success, owing to the poor quality of the coal and the 'Coal Branch' fell quickly into disuse. Sadly, the canal's working life carrying heavy goods was not long lived and in 1881 the canal was officially closed. Many parts of the canal were filled in or re-used as later railway network.

14.11 However, much of the earthworks remain visible and several built structures still survive, such as 12 locks, two bridges, a wharf at Newent and a 2km long tunnel to the east of Oxenhall **(30)**. Several of the associated features (bridges and locks) are now designated Listed Buildings.

14.12 The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust work hard to promote the history of the former canal route with the purpose of restoring this former transport network.

30 Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey Stage 4: Module 3. Research Framework for Forest of Dean District. Gloucestershire County Council June 2017

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14.13 It is also noted that there was a private canal in Cinderford which provided coke and water to the Cinderford Ironworks. This canal route now forms the Valley Road and very little evidence of the canal remains. There is also a one-mile canal from Lydney Harbour running towards the town, which was once used for the transportation of goods, but is now used for recreational boating.

Highways

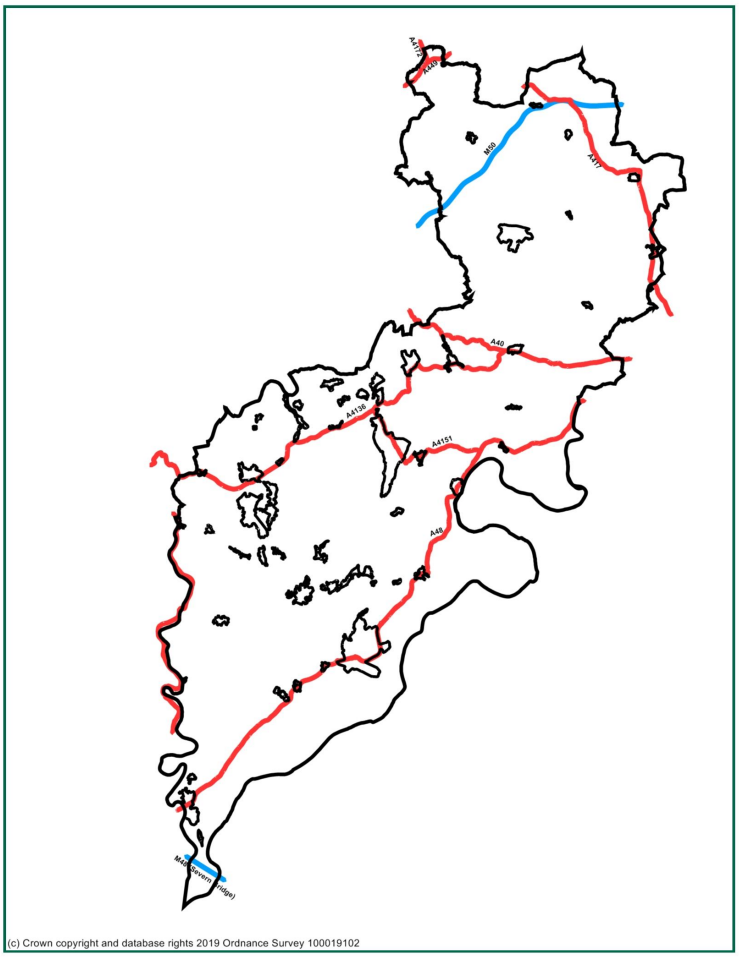
14.14 Owing to the need to transport naval timber in the southern part of the District, the Crown invested in and maintained the roads although they were still of poor quality under the late 19th century[31]. The rest of the District's roads were under the control and maintenance of Turnpike Trusts, which were established in 1745 and introduced tolls to be collected at gates which crossed them. This continued until 1888 when the Dean Forest Turnpike Trusts were abolished and their functions were taken over by the Crown and the County Council[32].

14.15 There remains evidence of the turnpike roads by way of existing toll houses (26) and turnpike road milestones (41). However, Historic England records a total of 116 historic milestones throughout the District. A good example of a toll house is at Bigsweir Bridge in the south of the district which was built in 1827 to replace a former ferry service. The tolls stopped in 1879, but the house remained in occupation until 1917. Now the building remains intact, but empty.

31 Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey Stage 4: Module 3. Research Framework for Forest of Dean District. Gloucestershire County Council June 2017.

32 The Industrial History of Dean by Cyril Hart. 1971.

14 . Transport



Forest of Dean

Motorways and Class 1 Highways

Scale: 1:200000

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14.16 Nowadays, the northern and southern areas of the District are dissected by the A40 highway. This provides an easy link to Gloucester and beyond to the east and Herefordshire to the west. The A40 is heavily used by goods vehicles as well as commuters who live in the District and work in Gloucester and Cheltenham.

14.17 Similarly, the A48 loosely follows the flow of the River Severn providing a north to south route from Gloucester to Chepstow in Monmouthshire and South Wales or the South West (over the Severn Bridge (M4)) and beyond. Again, this direct link is used frequently by commuters as well as goods vehicles.

14.18 Another class 1 highway of notable use for the movement of goods and people is the A4136. This route improves the ability to commute and to enjoy the local tourism attractions and provides a link between Monmouth (and the Wye Valley and South Wales beyond) past the main towns of Coleford and Cinderford, finally reaching the junction with the A40 at Huntley.

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14.19 The M50 motorway runs from west to east at the most northern section of the District. Whilst motorways can create easy access to places beyond the district, access onto the M50 is only available at Junction 3 (near Gorsely in Herefordshire) and at Junction 2 (near Bromsberrow).

14.20 Whilst the highway network has improved over the years, congestion has now become an issue for future development of the District. Local Plans and planning applications must take into account how new development will connect with the major routes through the district without causing further constriction. Newent Town is an example of how an historic centre is often congested by vehicles of all types and sizes. This can sadly have an impact on not just how the centre currently operates, but how the historical importance can be preserved and how future development can be accommodated. Similarly, high levels of congestion can be found on the A48 at Chepstow and on the A40/A48 at Highnam; these are parts of the highway network where vehicles must converge to cross the rivers.

Statement 9

Issues and Implications for Heritage

- Although waterways are no longer a major form of transport route, they must still be protected through planning policies to ensure their vitality for the benefit of the landscape character and biodiversity.
- Modern railway links could be expanded to provide a more sustainable transport network for new and existing development. Former railway tracks have now become a heritage feature and often used for recreation purposes or biodiversity habitats. Planning policies and future developments may use these historic transport links to enable interpretation and preservation, by finding new sustainable and compatible uses for them.
- Planning policies must ensure that the remains of the former canal are preserved so the historic past of the canal can still be read. It is also important that policies ensure that future development does not impede the potential for the canal to be restored.
- Future development can lead to congestion and the overloading of historic road networks and planning policies and infrastructure plans must seek to overcome this.

15 Towns

Cinderford

15.1 There is evidence of Roman activity in the Cinderford area and it is believed that the town's name related to a river crossing (ford) close to an area of slag or 'sinders' left behind by the Romans. The settlements recent history dates to the late 19th century when 'encroachment' cottages were built on the edge of the forest. This would have led to a sprawling settlement pattern and the town grew rapidly as a consequence of local iron working sites, brickworks and coal mines. Workers cottages, shops, inns, schools and churches were all built in a short period of time as the town expanded. Cinderford therefore has a strong 'industrial' character, in particular, where long terraces of stone cottages traverse the hillsides. There remains little evidence of the transport links (tramway, railway and canal) in and around the town, however, much of the housing and chapels related to the industrial expansion of the town remain.

15.2 The landscape character of Cinderford and adjoining Ruspidge defines the eastern limits of the forest core and the western extent of the ridges and valleys landscape type. Therefore panoramic and far reaching views across the forest core and to the River Severn can be gained from the higher points of this settlement. Modern industrial estates are now prominent to the west of the town, built where earlier industrial activity took place. Cinderford Linear Park is an important landscape feature and acts as a 'buffer' between the town, its industrial fringe and the forest core.

Cinderford Town Centre - Clock Tower and Miner

15 . Towns

15.3 Cinderford does not have a Conservation Area and has few designated listed buildings, including the Church of St Stephen and Methodist Chapel on Belle Vue Road and the Baptist Chapel on Commercial Street . However, it does benefit from important industrial heritage, which has sadly not been formally recorded.

Coleford

15.4 Coleford is the most significant settlement in the Limestone hills and was first recorded as 'Colevorde' in 1275. It grew rapidly from a small market town into a thriving industrial centre in line with the expansion of the local mining and industry in the late 17th century and was once the home of the area's leading 19th century industrial pioneers, James Teague and David Mushet. Mushet's stone built coke fired blast furnace at Whitecliffe Ironworks can still be seen today.

15.5 The centre of the town has changed little since the 18th and 19th centuries and is a Conservation Area containing many listed buildings. There are many other non-designated heritage assets in and around the town of Coleford, which have so far been recognized in the Coleford NDP. These include industrial railway viaducts across Newland Street and at Whitecliff, the quarry and furnaces at Whitecliff, tramroads leading from Milkwall toward the colour works, old quarries and pits towards Sling, as well as the colour works building at nearby Milkwall.

15.6 Coleford has strong historical links with the rail transport network, being a terminal point for two railway links, one from Monmouth (outside of the District) to the west and the other from Lydney in the south-east linking to the main Gloucester line[33].

15.7 The Coleford Town Council and the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) fully recognise the importance of protecting and enhancing the town centre's heritage assets as a means to providing a higher quality environment for everyone. It is clear that this is an important means of attracting further tourism and investment to the town as well as benefitting the well-being of the local community. To this end, small yet important reminders of the rich heritage of the town have been located in and around the town over time, such as the memorial plaques (Mushet Place) and gates to Mushet Walk marking the industrial input of Robert and David Forester Mushet. More recently, Coleford has begun to celebrate its rich heritage by commemorating people and places through painting large commemorative murals on prominent walls around the town centre. The artist Tom Cousins has so far captured a visual record of the demolished market hall, the Mushet brothers being 'Men of Iron and Steel' and a combined portrait of the playwright Dennis Potter, poet F.W. Harvey and author Joyce Latham, who were all born and bred in the Forest of Dean.

33 Coleford Neighbourhood Development Plan

15 . Towns

Mural of local authors and playwrights.

Lydney

15.8 Lydney is situated beyond the Statutory Forest but adjoins the outlying woodland owned by Forestry England, on the agricultural clay lowlands of the Severn Vale. Part of the town to the north and east extends up the wooded scarp of Old Red Standstone that signifies the southern fringe of the Forest of Dean. Lydney is unique in that it is dissected by the River Lyd and The Cut which flow north-south through the centre of the town before linking to join the River Severn at Lydney's historic harbour. This maritime link has shaped the economic growth of the town through fishing, water-borne trade, mineral extraction and timber and charcoal production. Archaeological evidence shows that Lydney was populated during the Iron Age and there is evidence of high status roman occupancy (Lydney Park Estate). Early records show that the town had a market from 1268AD.

15.9 The present settlement of Lydney started as two separate but closely adjoining settlements, Lydney and Newerne, which started to merge in the mid 19th century.

15 . Towns

15.10 The main boost to the town's economy was the building of the tramway in c1809, which later converted into the railway in 1868 for the exportation of coal. The rail link combined with the construction of Lydney Harbour between 1810-1821 wholly transformed the town's economy. The railway link is a major advantage to the town, being the only station within the forest and linking with Gloucester to the north and Chepstow and the southwest to the south. Lydney's industry grew with the growth of the iron and tinplate works in the mid 1800s, bringing workers to Lydney from further afield. Later, during WWII saw the origins of the Lydney Industrial estate, including Pine End Works (now a vacant site) which was firstly commissioned and constructed by the government to produce wooden aircraft panels for the Mosquito fighter-bomber and the Horsa assault gliders used in the D Day landings [34]

15.11 Lydney's town centre is sited approximately 1 to 1.5 miles to the north east of the Harbour and the railway station. The town has undergone radical change throughout the years, however, there are some parts of it which retain their special character. The town therefore benefits from a Conservation Area, which comprise two physically separate areas. The Council's Conservation Area Appraisal and the Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan provide more detail on the special character and quality of the Conservation Area and other buildings of note. There are some remarkable buildings and places which are distinctive and of high quality, such as Bathurst Park, some of the larger buildings along Hill Street, Lydney Town Hall and the 14th century market cross and the Church of St Mary's. Outside of the Conservation Area is the Harbour, Little Camp Hill and roman remains at Lydney Park Camp, amongst many other buildings and significant viewpoints.

The Church of St. Mary's

34 https://www.forestofdeanhistory.org.uk/resources/sites-in-the-forest/pine-end-works-lydney/.

15 . Towns

Newent

15.12 Newent is the smallest of the four towns in the district, however, it has recently seen a large growth in housing and is the major centre in the north of the Forest of Dean District situated between Gloucester and Ross-on-Wye.

15.13 The town has an ancient history and is thought to have Roman origins, being a staging post on an ancient route between Wales and Gloucester. In the Domesday Book (1086) it is known as Noent, which is probably a Celtic name meaning ‘new place’.

A Grade II* listed building in the foreground

15.14 The market town of Newent retains much of its historic character. Half-timbered houses, impressive church and medieval patterns of streets are still much in evidence. The town benefits from a Conservation Area which was designated in 1979 and comprises the historic core of the town largely based on a medieval street pattern defined by burgage plots. The majority of the buildings are of 17th to 19th century construction, but some have considerably older fabric embedded within the existing structures, whilst others will have replaced earlier buildings on the same site. Within the Conservation Area are approximately 56 Grade II listed buildings, the parish Church is Grade I listed and No 1 Broad Street is Grade II*, demonstrating how nationally important these buildings are.

15 . Towns

15.15 For some time, Newent had a glass industry (late 16th century) (refer to section 13.36), as well as limited coal mining (Newent Colliery was still operating in 1870). There is also an important Iron Furnace (c.1639-1751), the remains of which survive as a listed building. Other industries in the locality include sandstone and limestone extraction and brickworks. The route of the former Hereford & Gloucester canal and later the railway crosses the northeastern corner of the Conservation Area beyond Newent Lake.

15.16 Whilst Newent is now developing rapidly with residential development, there is little industry in and around the town. Employment estates are settled mostly to the east of the town centre, however, retail and tourism are the main draws to the town centre. Agriculture and horticulture are the main local employment sectors around the town. Many locals now commute to nearby towns, to Gloucester and further afield.

Statement 10

Issues and Implications for Heritage

The historic features of all of our towns in the District are adversely affected to some extent, generally through the lack of investment and reduction in footfall. This often results in long-term vacancies of shops, decay and deterioration of shop fronts and buildings, poor traffic management, and a general run-down appearance of the town. Local groups with the aid of authorities and planning policies can work together to provide more attractive town centres which also preserve and enhance its historic features. Successful stewardship of the buildings, streets and spaces is intertwined with the health of the retail economy. Working towards this may include the reduction of unnecessary signage, street cleaning, renovation of shop frontages, lighting, and traffic management.

16 Villages

16.1 Each settlement within the District has some degree of historical importance, some to a greater degree than others. It would be a major task to discuss the heritage of each village and so it is reasonable to categorise some of the settlements into the following:

Forest Fringe Settlements

16.2 These are the villages which are located around the edges of the Statutory Forest. They originally came about through encroachment in the late 18th and early 19th centuries when cottages were built on the fringes of the forest for the squatters settling in the area to gain employment in the local industries (such as mining). At the time, it was illegal to build in the forest itself, but nevertheless, sprawling settlements were established which have in recent history expanded to form an almost continuous ring of settlement around the edge of the statutory forest which broadly co-incides with the coal outcrop. Some of the general characteristics of these types of settlements include informal and relatively spaced layouts, stone boundaries, irregular areas of greenspace and simple built forms, etc.

16.3 The Forest itself was a Royal Hunting Ground in the Norman period and later became a hive of industrial activity as well as timber production. The ancient forest has seen many changes in its planting regime, often being almost cleared of woodland throughout different ages to then be replaced by coniferous and broadleaved trees. The forested areas remain dense and therefore clearings within the woodland are important landscape features. The extensive woodland is a valuable recreational asset and attracts thousands of visitors every year. The older style buildings within the forest settlements often reflect the areas industrial heritage and display a range of building materials which were available locally, further emphasising the sporadic nature of development in this area.

Forest Core Settlements

16.4 In contrast to the more open and settled areas surrounding it, the central forest core retains a strong sense of wilderness and isolation. Extensive areas of coniferous plantations and deciduous woodland, few roads and little development add to the sense of isolation. However, the screening of the woodlands disguises the fact that there are busy towns nearby. The woodland provides a strong and coherent ‘forest’ identity. Free roaming sheep, wild boar, deer and bluebells are all synonymous with the forest character. The woodlands also hide former industrial sites, quarries and mines, some of which were large in scale, such as the Parkend Ironworks and the Soudley Ironworks. Clearings in the forest now provide recreational points and ponds, such as Cannop and Mallards Pike that have become favourite tourism destinations. Settlements within the forest core are largely absent, although Parkend, Soudley, Ellwood, Edge End and Brierley are notable exceptions, being established to house families working in local industries, such as coal mining, tin plating and iron working.

16 . Villages

Wye Valley Settlements

16.5 Small riverside settlements, such as Brockweir and Redbrook are spread thinly along the Wye Valley and its tributaries. These small settlements often lie close to riverside meadows and are located along communication routes that run along the base of the valleys. These villages tend to be linear clusters and contain houses of various ages and architectural styles. The settlement of Brockweir is of some significance as it contains many whitewashed Tudor houses hugging the banks of the Wye. It also has a crossing point over the Wye (Brockweir Bridge) and the stone structure of what was a busy quay is still visible. Brockweir is close to the tidal limit and was therefore a busy industrial and shipping centre in the 19th century http://overlookingthewye.org.uk/index.php/river-connections/brockweir-quay/

16.6 Fast tributary streams allowed early industries to take advantage of water power, the former copper and tin place works at Redbook being a good example. There is also evidence in Redbrook of former lime kilns and local woodland was coppiced for charcoal production to supply local furnaces. The River Wye was a significant means of transportation and was therefore a busy environment. However, the decline of river traffic and industry in the 20th century meant the river became a more peaceful landscape and with nature taking a firm hold, the area became a place of beauty and inspiration.

16.7 On the higher plateau above the Wye Valley settlements such as St Briavels, Clearwell and Newland can be found. St. Briavels is an historically important village within the District as it is the site of a 12th century castle which was at one time the administrative centre for the Royal Hunting Forest. It has an attractive historic core which centres around the Castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. This part of the settlement is characterised by traditional buildings of stone, slate and render and is the focus of the Conservation Area in the village.

16.8 Clearwell too benefits from a well-kept listed castle and parkland, which is set amongst isolated farms to the south of the village centre. The historical past of the village remains clear to this day, with a linear pattern of built development and stone cottages (some being listed) in abundance.

16.9 The village of Newland is noted for its large parish church founded in the early 1200s, known as the Cathedral of the Forest (see Section 21.2) . The village was the centre for a large parish and in the 15th and 16th centuries, there was an unofficial market where traders took advantage of the large numbers visiting the parish church. The William Jones Almshouses are a notable feature along with the former grammar school in the centre of the village, located around the Church. The historical pattern of development has been well retained and the village has many listed buildings and a Conservation Area.

Severn Vale Settlements

16.10 The River Severn was of great importance in transport terms, providing a method of transporting timber, goods and people. It leads from Chepstow (just outside of the district) to the south, to Gloucester to the north and beyond, providing a direct route to major trading posts and countries beyond the UK. The river was also used by armies to transport troops and invading

forces and it is known that in 1171 Henry II sailed from Newnham with as many as four hundred ships and 5,000 men to invade Ireland. It is therefore not surprising that villages and the town of Lydney sprang up along the riverbanks. The settlement of Awre is a small hamlet which is surrounded by flat farmland heavily prone to flooding. In fact, the land has been significantly eroded and lost to the Severn over time and this process still continues. It is believed that an ancient roman wharf was located here.

16.11 Blakeney, Newnham and Westbury on Severn are larger villages. Newnham is particularly significant as the High Street has remained in tact and enjoys a very high number of listed buildings within the Conservation Area. A market is recorded in the 12th century, which was situated down the centre of the High Street and remained there until the mid 19th century. This village was a hive of commercial activity as its proximity to the River Severn and its port made it an excellent location for ship building and trade. A fee-paying ferry to Arlingham across the Severn carried passengers and livestock until it went out of use after WWII. During a period of economic boom in the 18th century, many of the timber-framed houses were re-fronted in the form that survives today and in 1850 the railway came to the village, resulting in the construction of further housing. The village is set upon a hilltop, thus keeping it out of the floodzone, and also providing excellent views. The church spire can be seen at a long distance.

16.12 Similarly, Westbury on Severn has an impressive church (early 14th century) which can be seen from a distance owing to the flat topography of the land in this area. Older properties are conspicuously clustered around the church at the centre of the village.

16.13 Further to the south along the Severn, the larger villages of Tutshill and Sedbury have become almost conjoined to the larger Monmouthshire town of Chepstow and certainly rely on its services. Beachley on the pensinsula became the home of a National Shipyard in 1917, and later became an Army Apprentices College and is now Beachley Barracks (1st Battalion, The Rifles). However, the MoD have announced that this site is to close in 2027. Remains of the shipyard, including slipways, sheds, railway lines and sidings can still be detected. These villages on the southern tip of the District have expanded over recent times and now exert a strong modern urbanising influence over the landscape to the south east of the District.

Northern Settlements and the Leadon Vale

16.14 To the north of the A40, the landscape becomes significantly agricultural and much flatter in general. Newent, the smallest yet most historic town in the District, is located almost centrally in this area. The villages are sporadic and connected by smaller roads and lanes and it is clear that historically there was little industry in these parts. The villages tend to be small and particularly in the Leadon Vale, the older village properties are typically clustered around the church which are often ancient and imposing stone structures. In the rural landscape between these villages are numerous farmsteads, often built of brick and being closely associated with their barns and outbuildings.

16 . Villages

16.15 The village of Dymock has its origins in the Roman period but is most well-known for its attractive half-timbered and brick buildings and prominent church. In fact, the churches in this otherwise flat rural landscape have a great visual prominence. The villages of Staunton and Corse are well-known for their association with the Chartist Settlement which form the core of the listed buildings in this area, more of which is discussed in a later chapter.

Statement 11

Issues and Implications for Heritage

Each of the villages in the District is distinct and many benefit from heritage assets of varying importance and many of these historic features reveal the origins and development of the settlement over time. However, as the need for more housing increases, these villages are subject to the threat of overdevelopment, leading to the loss of heritage features. It is therefore the scope of planning policies and development management to control the spread of development to avoid such unwanted circumstances.

17 Landscape Character

17.1 Owing to the broad range of geology, topography, soils and minerals found in the District, the landscape characters of the Forest of Dean are wide and varying. This is reflected in the Council's Landscape Character Assessment which identifies 15 landscape character types and areas throughout the whole of the District:

	Landscape Character Types	Landscape Character Areas
1	Wooded Valleys	1a. The Wye Valley –Common Grove to The Slaughter 1b. The Wye Valley – Redbrook to Brockweir 1c. The Wye Valley – Brockweir to Tutshill
2	Limestone Hills	2a. The Bicknor Hills 2b. Highmeadow Woods and Staunton Hills 2c. Coleford and Christchurch Hills 2d. Newland Hills 2e. Ruardean Hills
3	Limestone Plateau	3a. Tidenham Chase 3b. St Briavels Common
4	Wooded Scarp and Lower Scarp Slopes	4a. Lydney Park 4b. Netherend Farmed Slopes 4c. Woolaston Scarp
5	Wooded Syncline and Settled Forest Margin	5a. Forest Core 5b. Lydbrook and Ruardean Woodside 5c. Cinderford and Ruspidge 5d. Soudley Brook 5e. Littledean Ridges 5f. Ellwood 5g. Bream and Yorkley Fringe
6	Unwooded Vale	6a. Severn Vale – Stroat and Sedbury 6b. The Severn Vale 6c. The Leadon Vale
7	Drained Riverine Farmland and Grazed Salt Marsh	7a. Pillhouse Drained Farmland 7b. Aylburton Newgrounds 7c. Awre Drained Farmland 7d. Westbury on Severn Drained Farmland 7e. Upper and Lower Dumball
8	Littoral Sands and Rock Outcrops	8a. The Severn Sands
9	Undulating Farmland	9a. Bledisloe Hundred

17 . Landscape Character

10	Ridges and Valleys	10a. Allaston Ridge 10b. Littledean Ridge 10c. Edge Hill 10d. Breakheart Hill
11	Wooded Hills	11a. May Hill and Outliers 11b. The South Malvern Foothills
12	Floodplain Farmland	12a. Walmore Common
13	Vale Hillocks	13a. Corse Wood Hill 13b. Woolridge
14	Low Hills and Orchards	14a. Bromsberrow Heath 14b. Botloe's Green
15	Undulating Hill Farmland	15a. Kilcot and Gorsley Farmed Slopes

17.2 Most of the landscape characters have been categorised in this way owing to their topography and general appearance of the landscape. However, it should also be noted that heritage can play an important role in the categorisation, such as the effect that former industry has upon the development of settlements and the consequences this has on the landscape. For example, the Wooded Syncline and Settled Forest Margin areas (formed mainly around the Statutory Forest) have a long history of mining, industrial activity and forest management and have resulted in an almost continuous belt of development encircling the central forest. These landscapes are very sensitive to change and expansion into the statutory forest is not possible. Furthermore, particular attention must be paid to any proposed development in these areas, in order to ensure that their character is retained or enhanced. The industrial legacy (such as mining) plays a part in planning applications bringing constraints in terms of land stability but also features to be conserved. More specific information on Landscape Characters and how they have evolved can be found in the Landscape Character Assessment: Gloucestershire and Forest of Dean (November 2002) at www.fdean.gov.uk.

17.3 With regards to biodiversity and habitat, the District is very fortunate to be a very important location for all sorts of species, many of which are protected, such as bats and great crested newts. Many species of bats can be found around the SSSIs and particularly in forested areas. Former mines also provide beneficial habitat and the constraints this brings can often be complementary to the desire to protect the heritage of the area.

18 Land Settlement - The Scarr, Newent

18.1 The Land Settlement Association was a Government Scheme established in 1934 with the aim of re-settling unemployed workers from depressed industrial areas. Over the period between 1934-1939, 1,100 small holdings were established nationwide within 26 settlements. Schemes were set up all around the country and significantly in the area north of Newent, known as The Scarr. Small holdings were established, however, it soon became clear that the success of the scheme was heavily dependent on the quality of the land, the proximity to markets along with the small holding experience and knowledge of the settlers. Whilst philanthropic in its purpose and providing a sustainable model of living, the experiment nevertheless wound up during the 1980s, leaving the land holders forced to either buy their lease or to leave. Some of the small holdings at the Scarr had by then become thriving horticultural businesses and vast swathes of greenhouses and polytunnels had become prominent in the landscape. After the 1980s, small holdings gradually became derelict or diversified and in latter years more and more of the horticultural businesses have begun to wind down or have sought to re-develop.

18.2 What is notable of this Land Settlement at The Scarr is that the residential dwellings have generally retained their Dutch character and appearance, being large family homes, with a distinctive (mansard-style) tiled roof. A number of the properties have been extended over time, but the Planning Authority has consistently sought to retain that unique character.

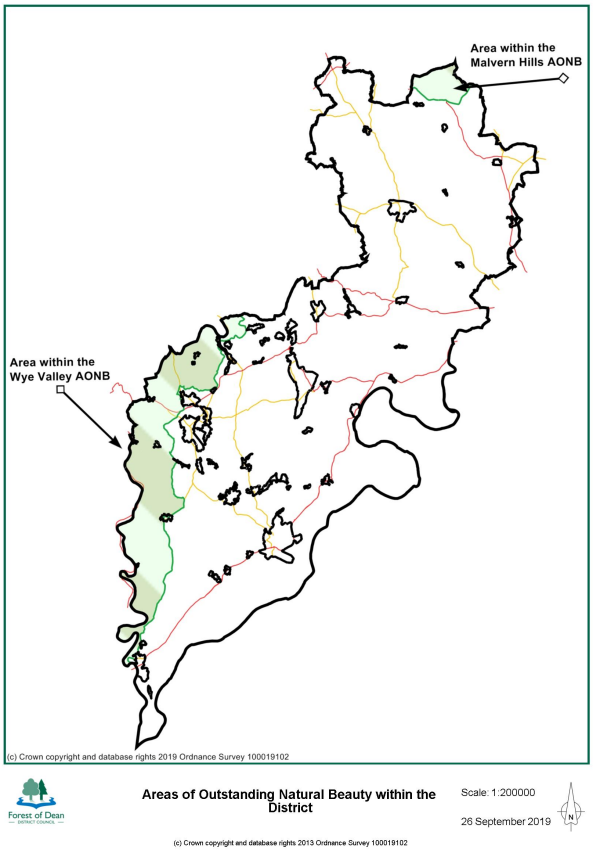
Statement 12

Issues and Implications for Heritage

The Local Plan, alongside the Residential Design Guidance and Landscape Character Assessments have the potential to encourage sustainable development which retains much of the character of this area. For example, extensions and alterations to the distinctively designed dwellings must be sympathetic to the original character and appearance. Other developments must seek to protect the landscape, including views in and out of the area. Without this level of protection, the historic character of this area will slowly be eroded.

19 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

19.1 AONBs are areas which have been nationally designated for their outstanding natural beauty and the purpose of the designation is to conserve and enhance that beauty. The 'AONB Management Plans – A Guide (CA 23)' describes 'natural beauty' as everything that makes an area distinctive and this includes its geology, soils, climate, plants, animals, communities, archaeology, buildings, the people who live in it, past and present, and the perceptions of those who visit it. AONBs are afforded the same level of planning protection as National Parks.



19.2 There are 34 designated AONBs in England (according to data gathered in 2017 by www.gov.uk) and our District is fortunate to have areas which are located within two different AONBs; the Wye Valley AONB to the southwest and the Malvern Hills AONB at the northern tip of the District. At the time of writing the Glover review (which considered how the scope and role of AONBs and National Parks can be improved so they are fit for the future) had reported to government and a response was awaited. The basic recommendation was to consider an expansion of the protected national landscape to cover the Forest of Dean which could provide it with a status similar to that accorded to AONBs.

Wye Valley AONB

19.3 The Wye Valley AONB was designated in 1971 and covers 92 km of the River Wye and an area of 327 km2 of land. It stretches from Mordiford (near the city of Hereford) to the outskirts of Chepstow. It is unique in that it straddles the national borders of England and Wales. The whole of the AONB is renowned for its landscape, topography, views, geology, history and wildlife[(35)].

19.4 The Wye Valley AONB includes a portion of the Forest of Dean District; a long narrow strip of land including the River Wye along the south western edge, the starting point just to the north of Lydbrook leading down to the edges of Tutshill. This part of the Wye Valley is important as it has provided historical and contemporary inspiration for writers, poets and other artists in search of natural beauty. The areas within the Forest of Dean comprise sheep-roamed slopes, such as English Bicknor, Symonds Yat and Brockweir whilst the river meanders in the valley below. The pull of the Wye Valley AONB is strong amongst holiday makers from near and far, making tourism a significant industry in this part of the district.

19 . Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Malvern Hills AONB

19.5 The Malvern Hills AONB was designated in 1959 and covers around 105 square kilometres, including areas within Herefordshire (58% of the AONB), Worcestershire (35.8%) and the Forest of Dean District (5.7%). The part of the AONB within our district is at the northern tip around Bromsberrow. This has a landscape character of being flat, sandy estate lands, which differs from the other 9 landscape character of the AONB which include the high hills and slopes of the Malvern Hills[(36)].

19.6 This AONB comprises 15 sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Chase End Hill SSSI being within our District. It is also the home to a Grade II* Regency building (Bromsberrow Place), which was built in 1768 with associated gardens.

Statement 13

Issues and Implications for Heritage

Whilst the national designation as an AONB provides a degree of protection, heritage assets may still be at risk from unsympathetic development. Therefore, the Local Plan plays a pivotal role in assuring the preservation of AONBS.

36 www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk

20 Chartist Settlements

20.1 As a result of an attempt to bring constitutional reform a series of settlements were established in the 1840's. These included two in the Forest of Dean; Lowbands (Redmarley) and Snigs End (Staunton and Corse). The settlements were of a very distinctive nature, bungalows set in plots of sufficient size to enable food to be supplied from them (2, 3 or 4 acres). The settlements remain, albeit Snigs End is heavily overprinted by modern development, and are important monuments to the Chartist movements. They are of national significance, are Conservation Areas and protection of their form in a manner that enables their setting in the local landscape and purpose to be appreciated is a priority. More information on the background to the Chartist Settlements can be read in Appendix 1.

A reproduction from the Illustrated London News of 1850. The engraving gives an impression of the front and rear elevation of a Chartist Cottage.

Snigs End Chartist Settlement

20.2 The present day settlement of Staunton/Corse is situated about seven miles north of Gloucester on the A417, close to the northern boundary of the District. Staunton/Corse is characterised by generally being a dispersed settlement area fragmented by open areas, fields and orchards, although modern development has provided elements of denser infill. Whilst Staunton and Corse are situated within two separate parishes, they are physically connected through historical built development. An attempt to create the fourth Chartist Community known as Snigs End was established in 1847/1848 and that settlement now straddles the boundary of Staunton and Corse. Snigs End settlement originally covered some 280 acres and was purchased in 1847 for a cost of about £12,000. The 1853 plan shows about 81 houses being built and a school[37].

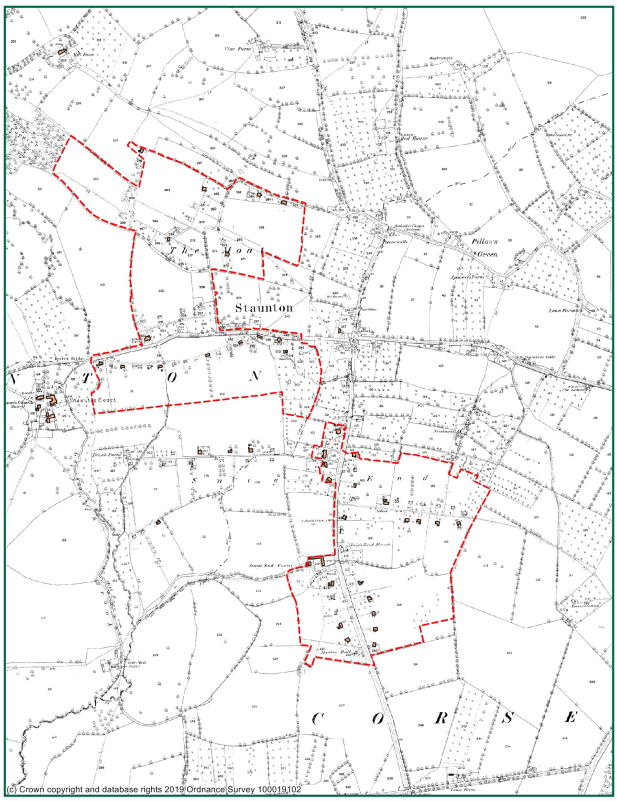
37 Snigs End (Staunton Corse) Conservation Area and Character Appraisal FoDDC Adopted September 2000

20 . Chartist Settlements

20.3 In May 1857, the estate was sold by auction and the Chartist settlement started to blend in with the development of the surrounding countryside. It was then that Corse parish built its school and the former chartist estate school became The Prince of Wales Public House. From then on, the size of the small holdings changed depending on the interest and needs of the owners and between the two world wars, some of the cottages were either pulled down or left empty as the small holdings did not prosper.

20.4 However, many of the houses built as part of this estate survive, although some have since been altered and extended. A good number of the buildings have retained their overall built form and individual features have been listed for their special architectural or historic interest (generally Grade II). On a larger scale, the Chartist Settlement of Snigs End was designated as a Conservation Area in 1976. In fact, the most striking feature of this area is the survival of much of the original layout of the chartist plots themselves, in rows, crescents and blocks.

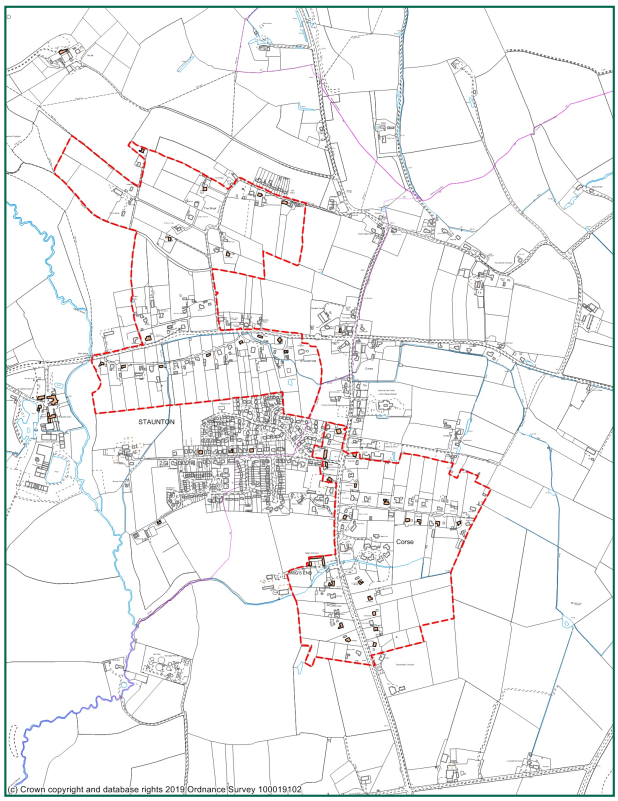
20 . Chartist Settlements



Snigs End Historic Map (1846-1901). The map shows the current Conservation Area and Listed Buildings.

Scale: 1:10000

13 November 2019



Snigs End (showing Conservation Area and Listed Buildings)

Scale: 1:10000

13 November 2019

Lowbands Chartist Settlement

20.5 The Chartist Settlement of Lowbands is located in the open countryside in the parish of Redmarley. It is some 2 miles (as the crow flies) to the northwest of the nearby Chartist Settlement at Staunton/Corse. It was established originally within Worcestershire, but now lies wholly within the Forest of Dean District, albeit on the boundary. The land on which the estate is built was bought by Feargus O'Connor in 1846.

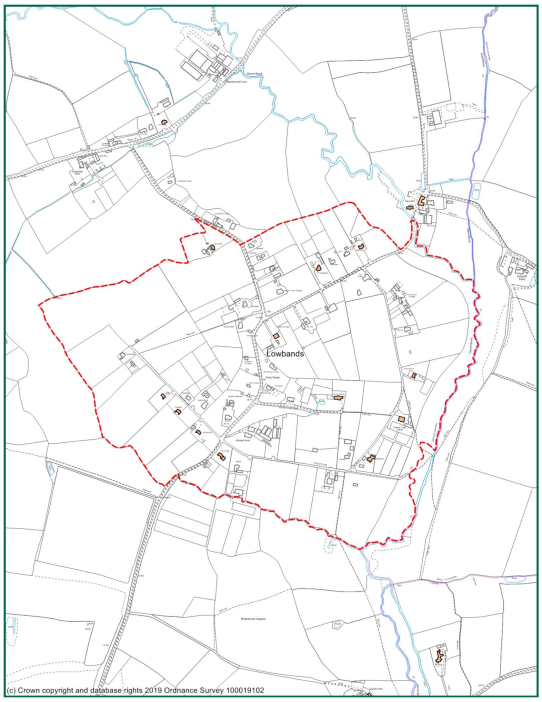
20.6 Set in an almost circular fashion, the estate and its buildings were of the same design as other Chartist estates. The dwellings were 3-roomed and constructed from either brick or stone. Planting of trees and hedges was established and this gave the estate a leafy blossomed effect which it still retains today. It is estimated from plans drawn and the Sale Notice of the Lowbands Estate in 1853 that 45 cottages were built plus the school.

20.7 In 1848 O'Connor asked for the 1st years rent and the occupants declared themselves incapable of paying. From that day to the time of the Winding Up Act in 1852 (when the Company ceased), the history of this estate was a story of rent deadlock. The estate was sold into private ownership in 1858.

20 . Chartist Settlements

20.8 Out of the original 45 cottages, 13 have been demolished and two re-built in style. Thanks to its open countryside location, Lowbands has not been under the same pressure as Snigs End to be developed. It is highly evident that the original plots remain and in some cases have been amalgamated to allow for larger scale farming. Orchards, vegetables and livestock are all very much noticeable and it is clear that the use of the land and the character of the area have changed little since the creation of the estate.

20.9 Lowbands was designated as a Conservation Area in 1977 and 12 of the original chartist cottages are now listed.



Statement 14

Issues and Implications for Heritage

The Local Plan, alongside the Residential Design Guidance, Conservation Appraisal and Landscape Character Assessments have the potential to encourage sustainable development which retains much of the character of this area. For example, extensions and alterations to the chartist cottages (listed or not) must be sympathetic to the original character and appearance. Other developments must seek to protect both the historic and landscape character, including views in and out of the area. Without this level of protection, the historic character of this area will slowly be eroded.

21 Churches and Religion (including non-conformist)

21.1 South-east Wales was heavily influenced by Saint Dyfrig in the 6th century and Christianity thus took a strong foothold which gradually extended into the Wye Valley. It is therefore no surprise that the earliest churches within the Forest of Dean are recorded along the southern borders. Documentary evidence suggests that a Welsh monastery at Lancaut (now within the Forest of Dean District) was in existence by 625AD, and a nearby Welsh Church in Tidenham by 700 AD. The churches at St. Briavels and Hewelsfield, which are Norman, also show indications of being of Welsh origin[38].

Church of All Saints at Newland

21.2 Whilst undoubtedly, larger settlements, such as Lydney and Newent must have had places in which to meet and worship, very little evidence regarding Church of England buildings or ministers in the early centuries exists. The Church of All Saints at Newland is of particular local note, as it was created in the early 1200s and was of such a scale and importance that is was traditionally known as the 'Cathedral of the Forest'. The church is still very much part of the local community today. A Cistercian monastery, Flaxley Abbey was founded in AD1140 by Roger, the Earl of Hereford's eldest son, who named it the Abbey of St. Mary de Dene. There are many other C of E Churches of note around the District, such as those at Upleadon, Dymock, Westbury-on-Severn amongst others.

38 www.forestofdeanhistory.org.uk

21 . Churches and Religion (including non-conformist)

21.3 The 1800s saw a much larger increase in the creation of C of E churches in the towns and villages of the district and missionaries visited the Forest of Dean believing the poor moral character and superstitious beliefs needed to be eradicated. British-history.ac.uk tells us that even in the mid 19th century, the belief in charms and spells still remained widespread and as late as 1865, twenty years after the first marriages were celebrated in the Forest's churches, some couples lived together under fixed-term agreements (legal contracts).

21.4 What remains highly noticeable is the non-conformist groups and chapels that took a stronghold during the late 19th century and became important meeting places. Non-conformist congregations (mostly Baptists) in Cinderford were numbered as being in the several hundreds in the later part of the 19th century[(39)]. Non-conformist buildings are still very much prominent today, although sadly the congregations have dropped, leaving many of them to find an alternative use.

Statement 15

Issues and Implications for Heritage

Many churches of all denominations are having to close and either face the threat of deterioration or the need to find a new alternative use of the building. Strong guidance on conversions and heritage policies to protect these historical buildings are required to ensure that a suitable sustainable re-use is found which does not harm the fabric or the setting of building.

39 www.british-history.ac.uk

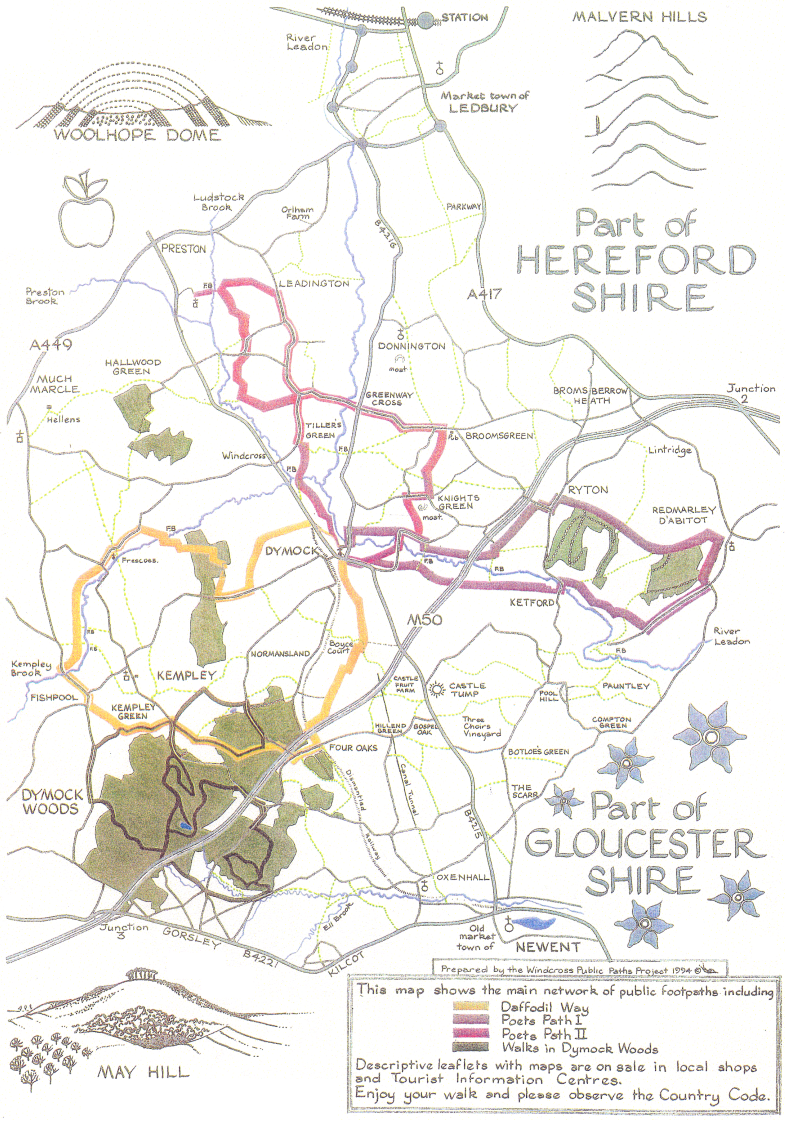
22 Cultural Heritage

22.1 Cultural heritage is not generally a subject which is considered synonymous with policy making or planning decisions, however, cultural associations with the District should not be under played. People and events, whether historical or current, must be acknowledged and understood, particularly as it is often the location of the event or the place a person or group experienced which had an enormous impact on their successes and general celebrity.

Dymock Poets

22.2 One of the most celebrated groups of writers to have been inspired by the District's landscapes are known as the Dymock Poets. In the years leading up to the First World War, the six Dymock poets (Lascelles Abercrombie, Wilfred Gibson, Rupert Brooke, John Drinkwater, Robert Frost and Edward Thomas) made their base at Dymock from where the group explored the countryside between May Hill and the Malverns and indulged their love of nature and the countryside. A number of walks have been established which allow visitors the opportunity to access some of the landscapes that the Dymock poets found to be inspirational. It is therefore vital to safeguard this historical landscape when considering development.

22 . Cultural Heritage



Map of the Poets Path (courtesy of the www.dymockpoets.org.uk website).

22.3 The Friends of the Dymock Poets (www.dymockpoets.org.uk) was founded in 1993 to celebrate, promote and encourage the knowledge and enjoyment of the literary works by the 6 poets, whilst simultaneously increasing public understanding of the special cultural and natural history of the area. The society also regularly becomes involved in planning applications which have an impact on the walks the poets took.

Kempley Daffodils

22.4 Kempley Daffodil Weekend, originally set up by four local ladies in 1975 to make money for the local church has since become a much anticipated weekend event which takes place every March. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the remarkable spectacle of the wild daffodil displays

22 . Cultural Heritage

which appear as yellow carpets in the local fields and woodland, known locally as the 'Golden Triangle'. There is a public footpath called the Daffodil Way which covers approximately 8 miles along which the abundance of these small wild daffodils can be enjoyed. So unique and important are these daffodils, that a number of the fields around the village of Kempley are now designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Authors

22.5 The cultural history and landscape of the Forest of Dean has been the inspiration for a plethora of local authors overtime as well as established writers from further afield. 'Reading the Forest' (www.readingtheforest.co.uk) is a local community project within the Forest of Dean which researches and promotes the rich literary heritage and is a good source to find out more.

Joyce Latham

22.6 The poet and author, Joyce Latham (1932-2007) was born and brought up near Berry Hill. She wrote several books about her upbringing within the forest and the joys and hardships endured. Joyce Latham used the landscape as well as the 'forest life' as her inspiration for her publications.

I know of secret places where the willows bend,
And little whispering streams play hide-and-seek;
Where minnows dart
And dragonflies swoop from the sky,
But no-one else knows - only I.

I know of secret places where the bluebells sway,
And timid deer hide deep within the shade;
Where thrushes sing
And honeysuckle climbs up high,
But no-one else knows – only I.

Verses 1 & 2 from Secret Places, in Whistling in the Dark (1994) by Joyce Latham

Dennis Potter

22.7 The critically acclaimed playwright Dennis Potter was born in the Forest of Dean in Coleford, the eldest son of a Forest coal miner. The landscapes of the Forest of Dean inspired much of Potter's work and indeed he once referred to the Forest as 'this heart shaped land'. Two of his books, 'The Glittering Coffin and 'The Changing Forest: Life in the Forest of Dean Today' provide a detailed account of Forest life, the unique Forest dialect and Forest traditions at that time.

22 . Cultural Heritage

Winifred Foley

22.8 Winifred Mary Foley (1914-2009) wrote short novels, along with stories for the BBC recordings, as well as performing her own works. However, she is most well known for her autobiographical series of stories detailing her childhood in Brierley in the Forest of Dean, leaving her home to work in service and her return to the Forest after WWII to raise her family in her much-missed homeland. Her writing is evocative and provides a firm understanding of the lives of working class families and the joys and trials of living in the rural forest at that time.

Frederick William Harvey

22.9 Frederick William Harvey was born in 1888, the son of a Minsterworth farming family. He was very much inspired in his poetry by the local countryside. After surviving the Somme offensive, Harvey was held in a German Prisoner of War camp for two years, during this time his memories of his homeland helped him endure his ordeal. Whilst ultimately becoming the 'Laureate of Gloucestershire' and 'The Forest Poet', Harvey was a solicitor by profession and was committed to fighting injustice, defending the poor and the victims of both world wars. Harvey resided in Yorkley for the last 30 years of his life and was very much a part of the community.

Bands

22.10 Also not to be forgotten is the importance of music within the Forest of Dean, in particular the local bands which were often associated with local collieries or churches, being a place for workers to come together to play music, socialise and to raise money for local people. Several of the bands still play to this day, including Bream Silver Band, Forest of Dean Brass Band, Parkend Silver Band, Pillowell Silver Band amongst others. More recently, The Scarr Bandstand, a natural amphitheatre in the woodland at Sling has been rediscovered and is being restored. Events are now taking place once more at this site (www.scarrbandstand.co.uk).

Art

22.11 The landscape of the District has long been a great inspiration for artists from near and far. It is known that William Turner visited the Wye Valley to paint Tintern Abbey around 1828, and may have been inspired by the backdrop of the Forest of Dean. More recently, the number of local artists and craftspeople are growing in numbers and confidence, creating works of great merit. The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail at Beechenhurst (Cinderford) demonstrates how the District embraces the beauty of art by placing it within the forest setting.

22.12 In the last few years, home owners have used the form of wall art to make their political ideologies clear, such as the Hands off our Forest (H.O.O.F) campaign to stop the privatisation of the public forest estate.

22.13 Similarly, the artist Tom Cousins has captured a visual record of the important local people, places and events as wall art within the town centres of Coleford and Cinderford.

22 . Cultural Heritage

22.14 Mary Rose Young, is an internationally recognised potter. She is renowned for her vibrant and imaginative style of work. She lives and works within the Forest of Dean, with her gallery being located at Parkend and a shop outlet in the town of Coleford.

Film Industry

22.15 A more recent phenomena has been the increase in the use of the beautiful landscape and heritage of the Forest of Dean District and the nearby Wye Valley for film production. Puzzlewood, a popular tourism destination on the outskirts of Coleford forms part of an ancient woodland network, where the natural environment, biodiversity and local geology all mix to form a fantastic destination attracting visitors from near, far and wide. The rock formations, called 'scowles' are a prominent feature of this ancient woodland. The scowles are unique to this area, being formed millions of years ago as water erosion of carboniferous limestone created natural underground cave systems, which have been exposed to the surface over time. Iron Age settlers started to exploit this area for iron ore and this form of mining continued through to Roman times. Evidence of Roman occupation has been provided through the 'discovery of a hoard of over 3,000 roman coins dating back to 3 BC which were hidden in the scowles'[(40)]. As its own website correctly highlights, 'Puzzlewood is a unique and atmospheric ancient woodland that conjures up thoughts of magic, dragons and unicorns.'

22.16 This environmentally rich landscape has changed very little over the last 200 years and not only do families take enjoyment out of visiting the site, it has attracted film crews from this country as well as Hollywood. Puzzlewood has embraced this opportunity and has hosted the film crews for the following titles; Jack the Giant Slayer, Star Wars: The Force Awakens, The Huntsman: Winter's War, Doctor Who, Merlin, Atlantis, Wizards vs Aliens, Da Vinci's Demons, Tree Fu Tom, Hidden Kingdoms, Secret Supper Club, and so it continues.

22.17 Puzzlewood was also chosen in March 2019 to be one of the six destinations around the world, where the maker of the TV hit series Game of Thrones secretly placed an iron throne for avid fans to find, thus attracting hordes of visitors to the site.

22.18 Nearby filming locations, such as the Wye Valley (including Bigsweir, Brockweir, Tintern and Llandogo) have also recently been used for filming, including the Netflix production of Sex Education (released 2019).

22.19 It is therefore clear that heritage assets have the strong potential to diversify, even through the film industry. This not only benefits the local economy through investment, employment and tourism but the income derived through such means will help to protect, preserve and ensure the longevity of such an important asset.

40 www.puzzlewood.net

22 . Cultural Heritage

Sheep, Boar and Deer

22.20 The Statutory Forest (Crown land) has a long history of unusual laws and privileges, some of which have come down through the generations and are still relevant today. From the 17th century, local people started to graze their animals, such as pigs and sheep, on Crown land. Despite this being an illegal activity, the custom of keeping animals in the woods continued over the centuries. Disputes between the Crown and the Commoners of the Forest raged, as to whether the local people had the 'right' or the 'privilege' to graze their animals. The term 'Commoning' therefore arises from this custom and nowadays, most of the 'Commoners' who keep their flock of sheep in the Statutory Forest are named 'Sheep Badgers'. Many of the 'Sheep Badgers' are not regular farmers, but are local people who wish to continue this unique custom. Sheep roaming through the woods and villages is a common sight throughout this part of the District, however, it is also noticeable that numbers have reduced since the 2001 foot and mouth outbreak. The sheep are 'hefted' to the land, which means that over time the succeeding generations of sheep have learned to stay within a certain area of unfenced land and rarely wander far. Sheep grazing is an important factor in the appearance of many areas keeping the undergrowth down and helping to retain the attractive appearance of many settlements.

Sheep roaming the roads in Milkwall, Coleford.

22.21 Wild boar have also become a more noticeable feature within this area of the District. Once a common sight, wild boar were hunted to extinction some 300 years ago. However, during the late 1990s, wild boar were either deliberately released back into the district or accidentally escaped, and since then their numbers have grown so that they are now very much a topic of community interest.

22.22 'Commoning', the local deer population and the more recently re-introduced wild boar can all cause serious damage and destruction to the local landscape. This can range from trees being denuded and the loss of newly planted trees to the rooting up of verges, gardens, open

areas and recreation grounds. Fencing is a means of trying to keep the damage at bay, however, even today the Forestry Commission is only allowed by law to 'fence a maximum of 11,000 acres of the forest'[41].

22.23 It is estimated by the Forest of Dean District Council that the population of wild boar has rapidly increased, so that there are over 1500 (in 2016) boar roaming throughout the Statutory Forest. It is a contemporary issue which raises public emotion on how it should be dealt with. The boar are feral animals and do not belong to anyone, therefore it is the responsibility of the land owner to protect their land and property. Similarly, the Forestry Commission only has jurisdiction over the land they manage. Forestry Commission Wildlife Rangers and competent private land owners/managers with the relevant firearm and firearms licence are permitted to shoot the feral wild boar.

Dialect

22.24 Whilst not forming built or nature heritage, it is nevertheless considered important to recognise the Forest accent and its local dialect is an important part of local social history and culture. Whilst the smooth broad accent of the area broadly around the Statutory Forest boundaries has generally been retained through the generations, the ability to speak 'forest' has dwindled over recent decades. Nevertheless, a smattering of forest vocabulary still survives in general conversation and many older 'foresters' see it as a way of preserving this uniqueness of belonging to the Forest of Dean and in particular its mining history. Historians, authors, volunteers and local history groups have successfully recorded this dialect through biographies and oral recordings, and the Dean Heritage Centre has received a grant to fund this work.

Public Houses

22.25 The Forest of Dean has an interesting social history with regards to public houses. By 1841, there were 4 inns and 49 beerhouses in the main part of the extraparochial areas of the Forest of Dean[42]. Beer had become the Forester's favourite drink by 1841 and by the 1860s the illegal sale of beer, cider and perry was widespread, leading to even the smallest of settlements having a beerhouse.

22.26 Some beerhouses did not last very long and gradually over the 19th century, licensed establishments took root. In 1891, it is recorded that East and West Dean had 31 alehouses, 53 beerhouses and 47 other licensed establishments. As is generally the trend, the names of the beerhouses reflected the employment industries in the forest. Miners themselves were often drawn to the beerhouses as a way of relaxation after a gruelling day and many became meeting places for local clubs and societies. Miners were often paid at inns and beerhouses, an encouragement to spend their hard earned wages which they could ill afford in those austere times.

41 www.forestofdeanhistory.org.uk
42 A History of the County of Gloucester, Volume 5 (Victoria County History, british-history.ac.uk)

22 . Cultural Heritage

22.27 Throughout the 20th century, the number of public houses started to decline, and this is a trend which continues to this day. Nine public houses were recorded in the 19th century in Cinderford High Street of Cinderford (The Bell, The Fleece, The Globe, The Jovial Colliers, The Lion, The Queens Head, The Royal Union, The Seven Stars and The Swan). Today only two of those are still trading in some form (The Swan (now called the Fern Ticket) and The (Golden) Lion[43].

22.28 In the 1950s and 60s, local breweries started to merge with larger national ones, such as Whitbread, and thus began several decades of beer monopolisation. However, more recently there has been a welcome revival of local breweries, in particular to this area, Freeminer Brewery (Cinderford), May Hill Brewery, Bespoke Brewery of Mitcheldean as well as nearby Wye Valley and Kingstone Breweries.

22.29 In spite of the loss of many public houses over the last several decades, there still remain numerous town and country inns which are popular with local users as well as playing an important part in the tourist economy. Coleford Walking Festival now even includes an 'Ale Trail' around the town.

Statement 16

Issues and Implications for Heritage

It is not the remit of the Local Plan to provide specific policies on cultural matters. Nevertheless, it is pertinent that a strong sense of cultural identity ensures an understanding of the history of the district and the wish to preserve local heritage assets. It could thus be argued that both cultural and physical heritage work hand in hand. Harm to or loss of cultural identity has an adverse impact on physical heritage assets, and the same applies in reverse. As such, by preserving, enhancing or enabling interpretation of heritage assets, the Local Plan thus creates an active desire in the general public to appreciate and care for them for future generations.

43 Forest of Dean Pubs Through Time by Geoff Sandles, 2012

23 Conclusion and the Future

23.1 As set out at the beginning of this document, this Heritage Character Assessment only touches on a small portion of the unique and important heritage assets within the District. It is hoped that it has provided a broad overview of how vital it is to understand the history of an area so that planning policies and future developments do not damage the link to the past. Instead, this knowledge should provide an opportunity to promote sensitive sustainable development, which allows our heritage assets to thrive and have a positive impact on the future of the area.

24 References

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25 Appendix 1 - Chartist Settlements

25.1 Chartist Settlements - Background Information

25.2 The Chartist Movement was an attempt at both a social and political reform. 'The People's Charter' was put forward in 1838 and this called for parliamentary reforms which included six main points; vote by secret ballot, abolition of the property qualification for members of parliament, payment of members of parliament, equal electoral districts, annual parliaments and universal male suffrage. The Charter was presented to the House of Commons on three different occasions and rejected each time.

25.3 At this point, the Chartist Movement stopped being active for a period of time as several of the Chartist leaders were imprisoned. Feargus O'Connor, who was popular with the followers of the Chartist Movement for his charisma and talent for public speaking was one of those leaders. During imprisonment, he promoted the ideals of the Chartist Movement through the newspaper he had founded 'The Northern Star' and after his release he revived the Movement but decided to move it in a different direction.

25.4 O'Connor promoted a new policy of Land Reform and that was to give the working class the chance to buy land and thus qualify for a vote. His belief was eventually the working class voters would be able to influence the government and change the system. His Land Plan was reluctantly agreed to by the other leaders in 1843, however,many of the other Chartist Leaders did not agree with this diversion from their main political aims, thus essentially signaling the end of the movement.

25.5 In 1845, O'Connor pushed for the launch of the 'The Chartist Land Company' (which subsequently changed its name twice). The Company needed to achieve legal status, but met several problems along the way, having difficulties registering with the Friendly Societies and the Joint Stock Companies and was unable to be granted a Royal Charter or be approved by an Act of Parliament. However, despite the Company's inability to gain legal status, O'Connor continued with the scheme and began to purchase land.

25.6 O'Connor's vision was to purchase land and create small holdings of between 2 and 4 acres, each with a small cottage and outbuildings. This was to provide each family with a living. Membership to the Land Company was open to anyone who could afford the subscription and this money was then used to buy up vacant estates which were then sub-divided and laid out as Chartist settlements. On completion of the settlement, a lottery was held to determine which shareholders won a plot. The number of shares each person bought determined the size of the plot they could potentially win! Once a plot had been allocated, the new owners would be given the freehold, thus making them eligible to vote. Unfortunately, the legal instability of the company and the incurring uncertainty over who actually owned the land, made the transfer of the freeholds very difficult. In reality, none of the people allocated plots were actually given the freehold during the life of the Company and instead were to pay rent (5% of the total outlay on the allotment per annum).

25 . Appendix 1 - Chartist Settlements

25.7 Selling the scheme to the working classes was not difficult as ownership of their own cottage with land was seen as the ultimate goal for landless workers for whom property provided status and the right to vote. However, little thought was given as to how factory workers from cities and towns would be able to adapt to making a living from these small holdings which were located on generally poor quality land.