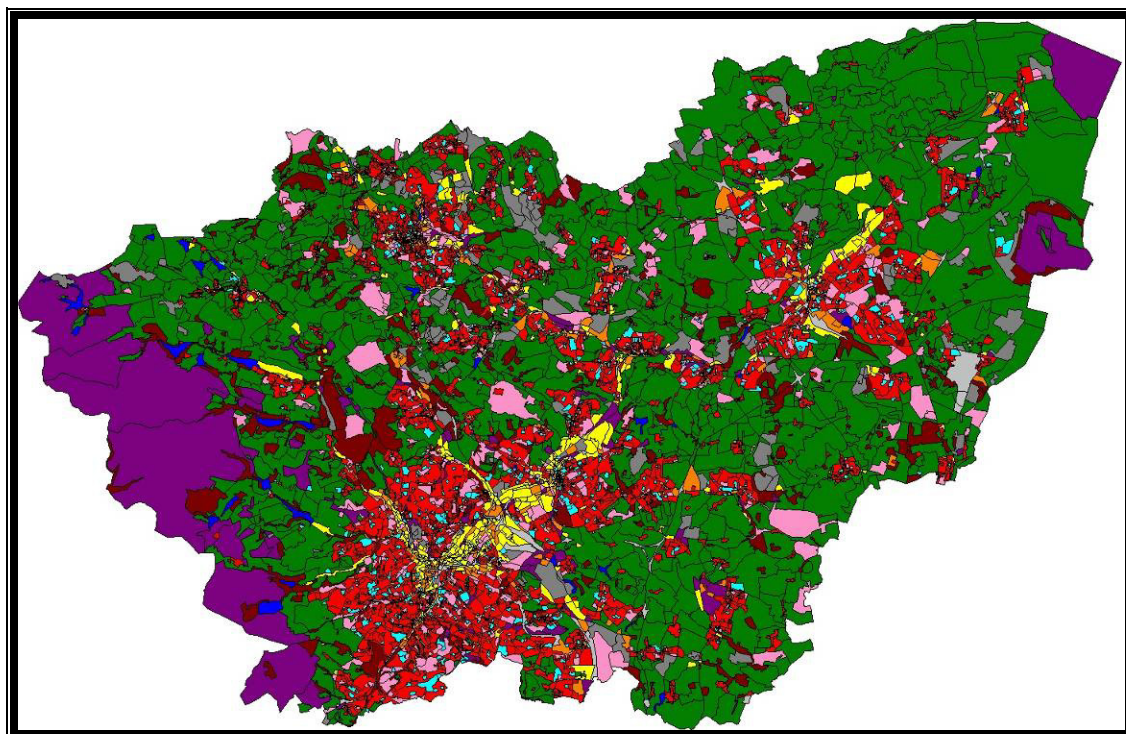
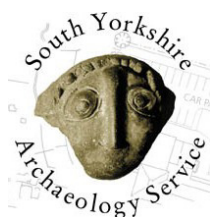


# South Yorkshire Historic Environment Characterisation



Jennifer Marchant, Daniel Ratcliffe, Andrew Lines and Dinah Saich

South Yorkshire Archaeology Service & English Heritage



## South Yorkshire Historic Environment Characterisation

Final Report  
November 2008

South Yorkshire Archaeology Service  
Development Services  
1 Union House  
Sheffield  
S1 2SH  
(0114) 2736428/ 2736354  
[syorks.archservice@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:syorks.archservice@sheffield.gov.uk)

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## Acknowledgements

### **Project Officers**

Andy Lines (2004-2006); Dan Ratcliffe (2004-2008) and Jennifer Marchant (2007-2008)

**Project Manager:** Dinah Saich (SYAS)

**English Heritage Steering and Monitoring Group:** Keith Miller, Inspector of Scheduled Monuments, Yorkshire and Humber Region; Graham Fairclough, Head of Characterisation; Roger M Thomas, Head of Urban Archaeology

**Website Consultants:** Jonathan Porter and Mike Shaw (Countryside); Chris Thomas (ROAM / Rotherham RBT)

Many individuals working on similar projects in other counties have influenced the development and progress of this project. Particular mention should go to our colleagues in other county and city archaeological services including Sarah Jane Farr (Merseyside); Debbie Langley, Mike Shaw and Paul Quigley (Black Country); Steve Toase (North Yorkshire County Council); David Walsh (Lincoln City Council); Duncan Coe (West Berkshire County Council); Leslie Mitchell and Karl Lunn (Greater Manchester).

Steve Dobson (University of Sheffield) and Elli Winterburn (Newcastle University) both provided useful feedback as part of their post-graduate studies into characterisation.

Data and advice has also been provided by Pete Herring, John Schofield and Roger RJ Thomas (English Heritage); Barnsley Archives; Barnsley MBC Renaissance-Design-Conservation; Camlin Lonsdale Landscape Architects; CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire; Doncaster Archives; Doncaster MBC Environmental Planning; Doncaster MBC Conservation; Friends of the Porter Valley; Rotherham Archives and Local Studies; Rotherham MBC Conservation; SCC Urban Design & Conservation; SCC DEL Information Unit; SCC DEL Scanning Team; SCC Environmental Planning; SCC GIS team; SCC Parks and Countryside; Sheffield Archives; and Sheffield Local Studies Library.

Individuals who have freely given their time to advise us and discuss their own research or provided otherwise unpublished material include S. Adams, Christine Ball, Derek Bayliss, Bill Bevan, David Crossley, Barbara English, Neville Flavell, Graham Hague, Ken Hawley, Colin Merrony, Jim Rylatt, Archie Sinclair and Joan Unwin.

We would also like to acknowledge the generosity and skills of the contributors to the wonderful 'Geograph British Isles' website [www.geograph.org.uk](http://www.geograph.org.uk), which was the source of many of the photographs used in the report, licensed by creative commons licenses -

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The project officers would especially like to thank the permanent members of the SYAS team during the life of the project: Louisa Matthews, Jim McNeil, Dinah Saich, Roy Sykes and, latterly, Andy Lines, were an almost endless source of information, inspiration, ideas, good humour and cups of tea over the life of the project.

## Part I: Introduction

### Summary

South Yorkshire has a rich history of settlement, farming, industry, recreation and commerce. These activities have all influenced the way the landscape has developed and the physical evidence of these human actions can be seen across the county. The South Yorkshire Historic Environment Characterisation project was undertaken between 2004 and 2008 to map this evidence, to try to understand the historic processes that had formed it and to develop strategies for the future protection and enhancement of the historic environment identified. This project was undertaken by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service with funding from English Heritage.

As part of the project, a vast amount of data was collected to produce a complete picture of the current landscape of South Yorkshire and an understanding of how these landscapes and townscapes have changed through time. This data was then used to identify trends of historic development across the county. The resulting analysis can be found within this document and also makes up a significant part of the output made easily available to the public through an interactive website ([www.sytimescapes.org.uk](http://www.sytimescapes.org.uk)). This public output was developed alongside a digital resource made available to the four local authorities within South Yorkshire: Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. This should assist with forward planning exercises, the production of Design Guides and numerous other activities that could impact upon the historic environment.

## Background to Characterisation

English Heritage has been funding a nationwide programme of Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) since 1992. These studies have been run alongside a programme of Extensive Urban Surveys (EUS) looking at urban locations.

Characterisation aims to record the modern landscape and show how aspects of the past still exist around us. One of the guiding principles of this process is the need to work on all parts of the landscape not just those areas considered to be 'special'. This is a move away from understanding and protecting specific sites or buildings, to considering the wider historic environment.

Our surroundings are dynamically changing; these changes are part of a long history of human influence on the landscape. In order to manage these changes it is important to have a good understanding of the evolution of the landscape that surrounds us. Characterisation is not about trying to prevent change but about ensuring that decisions are made on an informed basis, ensuring that areas retain their local distinctiveness. It can be used alongside other systems of heritage management, such as Listing and Scheduling of sites and buildings. It gives a background to such sites and buildings, drawing them into a wider landscape perspective.

In 2001 the government acknowledged the value of characterisation for the management of change in the historic environment in its policy statement, *The Historic Environment: a Force for our Future* (DCMS/DTLR 2001).

In South Yorkshire the decision was made to combine HLC and EUS into one unified project known as Historic *Environment* Characterisation (HEC). This combined approach removes the artificial divide between rural and urban landscapes. An advantage of this approach is that it allows rural industrial and agricultural activities to be assessed alongside the development of the towns where the industrial work force lived.

The South Yorkshire Historic Environment Characterisation project aims to be a key resource that is accessible to a wide variety of different users. GIS technologies and databases make the project highly flexible and also make it possible for the project to be further developed after the end of this phase of work in 2008.

## Topography and Geology of Project Area

South Yorkshire (Figure 1) covers four administrative districts (Barnsley MBC, Doncaster MBC, Rotherham MBC and Sheffield CC) and covers approximately 160,000 hectares (roughly 70km east-west by 45 km north-south). The majority of the area was part of the former West Riding of Yorkshire, but includes small areas formerly in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. The western fringe of South Yorkshire lies within the Peak District National Park, which has recently completed its own Historic Landscape Characterisation project (Barnatt, 2003).

Largely rural until the industrial revolution, much of South Yorkshire has in fact remained as such, with several of South Yorkshire's towns continuing as small market towns, e.g. Penistone, Tickhill and Bradfield. However, others, notably Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield, expanded considerably - giving the predominantly urban character of South Yorkshire today.

The topography of South Yorkshire is diverse, ranging from the highlands of the edge of the Peak District National Park, to the low peat-lands of the edge of Lincolnshire/Humberside. The Countryside Commission's Countryside Character volume 3 'Yorkshire and the Humber' (1998) describes five main Character Areas within the study area: the Dark Peak, the Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe, the Notts/Derby/Yorks Coalfield, the Southern Magnesian Limestone and the Humberhead Levels.

The report's treatment of these areas can be summarised as follows, from west to east:

**Dark Peak** - This character area has a '*wild and remote semi-natural character created by blanket bog, dwarf shrub heath and heather moorland with rough grazing and a lack of habitation*'. The area has a '*dramatic character created by sharply defined, elevated and vast plateaux with 'gritstone ridges' and edges and long uninterrupted views*'.

**Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe** - This area lies on the eastern slopes of the Pennines, where character has been determined by '*extensive urban influences from a matrix of large and small towns*', including the development of industry and associated settlement along river valleys. Vernacular building is in the local gritstone.

**Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield** - The characterisation describes a '*complex mix of built-up areas, industrial land, dereliction and farmed open country*' within '*rolling landforms with hills, escarpments and broad valleys*' - heavily influenced by the underlying Coal Measures. The characterisation notes evidence for wealth in earlier times, resulting in the endowment of '*large country houses, parks and estates*' and '*grandiose ...19<sup>th</sup> century Town and Civic Halls, Schools, Museums and Art Galleries*'. This is juxtaposed with the presently '*fragmented and downgraded landscape... a*

*landscape of neglect*' - the result of the decline of traditional heavy industries.

**Southern Magnesian Limestone** - This character area reflects the 'narrow [elevated] ridge... [that] acts as a distinct barrier between the industrial coalfields to the west, and the lowland vales to the east'. Fertile soil combined with the presence of 'a large number of country houses and estates' has created a 'generally large scale, open landscape...' where 'woodlands [combine] with open arable land to create a wooded farmland landscape'. The area contains the 'main transport corridor of the A1'. Vernacular building uses 'creamy white Magnesian Limestone... often combined with red clay pantile roofing'.

**Humberhead Levels** - This character area is similar to the low-lying Somerset Levels and the Fens. 'Field trees and hedgerows are generally few and far between and views are often long and unbroken to distant horizons, with the sky playing an important part'. Drainage has affected the character of this area, but 'around Fishlake and Sykehouse... the traditional pattern of small, thickly hedged fields, hedgerow trees, green lanes, networks of dikes and ditches... still remains'. The area includes the 'remnant raised mire' of Thorne and Hatfield Moors. Industrial and transport influences are seen as playing their part, with influences from the Selby coalfield and accompanying power stations, as well as from railways, major motorways and the canal.

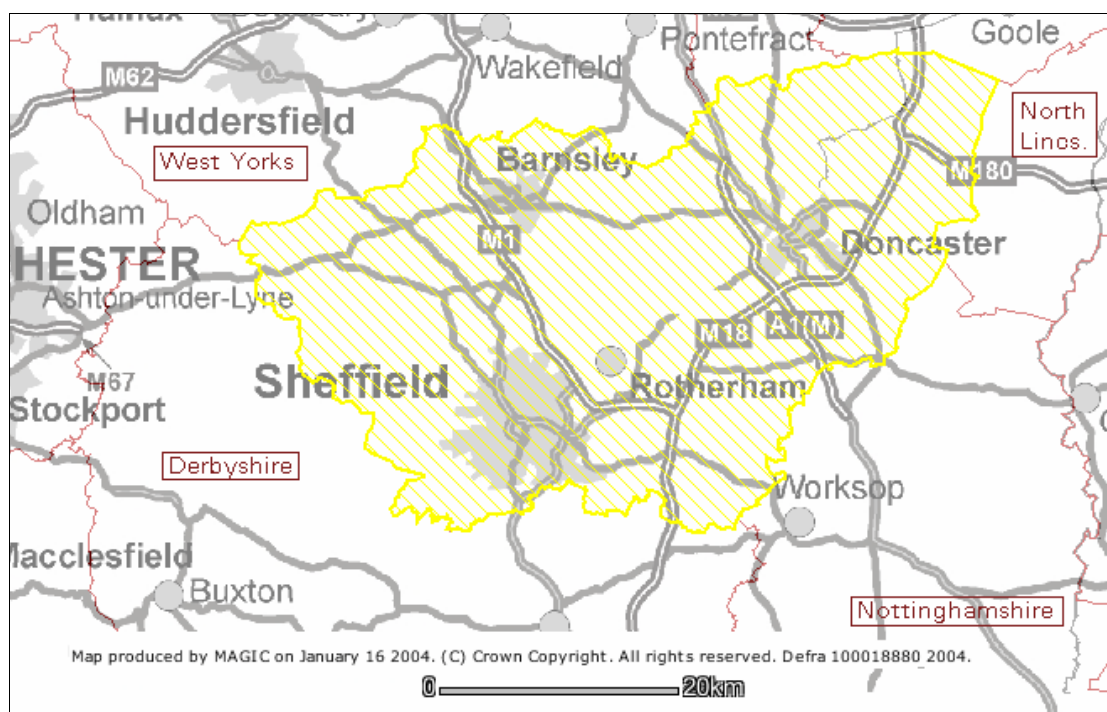


Figure 1: South Yorkshire location map



## Part II: Methodology

### Overview

South Yorkshire is an area of diverse landscape character including open moorlands, agricultural countryside, medieval villages, market towns, and the expanding metropolitan centres of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. The methodology developed for this project allowed the varied scales of these activities to be recorded and set within the context of the surrounding landscape. This methodology was initially based upon the accepted best practice defined by the 2001-2 national HLC Method Review (Aldred & Fairclough 2003) and also through consideration of existing HLC and EUS projects. The methodology was later refined as part of the pilot phase on the project in 2004.

The characterisation and mapping phase of the project used MapInfo Professional v7.5 to create a GIS layer of the historic environment of South Yorkshire. The GIS was supported by a database using the Historic Landscape Character module of HBSMR v3.03 from exeGesIS Spatial Data Management.

This produced a generalised picture of the landscape, taking a 'broad brush' approach. Areas of land with common characteristics were identified and recorded as polygons within the GIS, with associated information on the current and past character of the landscape recorded within the database.

### Sources of information

The project was primarily desk-based, utilising current mapping, historical mapping and vertical aerial photos. Modern digital mapping from the Ordnance Survey was provided by Sheffield City Council. Digital historic mapping from the Landmark Information Group joint historic mapping project was supplied under licence by English Heritage and rectified aerial photography was provided by the four South Yorkshire authorities. These sources were found to be far easier to use than traditional paper mapping as they made it possible to overlay maps of different ages upon one another and upon the aerial photographs.

The key digital historic maps utilised were Ordnance Survey Epochs 1-4 at 1:2500 and 1:10560 scales. Each map tile had different surveying and publication dates; the general date of each map is listed below (more specific dates can be found in the Map Bibliography at the end of this report).

OS 1:10560; Epoch 1 - c.1850  
Epoch 2 - c.1890  
Epoch 3 - c.1915  
Epoch 4 - c.1940

OS 1:2500;   Epoch 1 - c.1880  
                  Epoch 2 - c.1900  
                  Epoch 3 - c.1920  
                  Epoch 4 - c.1940

Many map tiles were actually surveyed across a number of years with minor revisions made right up to the publication date. The project, therefore, mainly referred to the date of publication rather than survey dates. The publication date for each map tile came from metadata supplied by English Heritage.

The time gap between the Landmark digital maps and modern digital OS maps was largely covered by a set of OS paper maps at 1:10,000 published between 1971 and 1990, held by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service. As these maps were undigitised, comparison with other mapping was slower, but they did fill an important gap in the historic mapping. There were no smaller-scale maps, equivalent to the 1:2500 series, available for this date range, so less detail could be recorded for this time period. The more modern maps also tended to include less information about industrial processes, compared with 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century mapping. Industrial sites were more regularly described merely as ‘works’.

Mapping resources predating the Ordnance Survey coverage were largely restricted to occasional paper mapping sourced from archives. These were a mix of estate maps, tithe maps and Enclosure maps. These sources could not be referred to for the whole of South Yorkshire but proved valuable when specific questions needed to be addressed.

Written sources consulted as part of the project included local history books, archive documents, archaeological excavation reports and the South Yorkshire Sites and Monument Record (SMR). The excavation reports and other data held within the Sites and Monument Record were useful for the background historic and archaeological information they contained. These sources were readily available as the Historic Environment Characterisation project was undertaken by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service, who maintain the South Yorkshire SMR.







Where there was little documentary or map evidence for previous landscapes, it was necessary to make decisions based on comparisons with similar, better documented landscapes. When available, Enclosure maps were useful in verifying these interpretations, where enclosure processes had been inferred by the morphological analysis of field patterns.







## Digitisation Methodology

**Broad Types and Historic Environment Types:** As indicated above, the characterisation process begins by identifying physical patterns in the present landscape - from maps, plans and aerial photographs. GIS polygons are then drawn around areas with common characteristics; examples might include a large stand of ancient woodland, or an area of countryside featuring the characteristic straight boundaries of parliamentary enclosure. In urban environments each polygon may record a different type of housing layout, or a phase of industrial expansion. Each unique polygon is then allocated a 'broad' character type, as shown in Table 1. These 12 Broad Types can each then be subdivided into more specific Historic Environment Types, as shown in Table 2. A complete list of Broad Types and their Historic Environment Types, with scope notes, is found in Appendix I at the end of this report. These lists evolved from the types stated in the initial project design, as further categories were found to be necessary in the early stages of the project.

Broad Types	Description
Commercial	Business areas including retail and office units.
Communications	Main communication nodes. Linear features such as roads and canals are not generally marked, but the main features linking these are. Records areas such as train stations, transport interchanges, airports etc.
Enclosed Land	Land that has been demarcated and enclosed, particularly fields.
Extractive	Areas involved with the extraction of commodities and minerals such as fuel or building materials.
Horticulture	Area used for market garden, garden centres, orchards etc.
Industrial	Areas concerned with industrial processes and manufacturing.
Institutional	Areas (with or without buildings) connected to large establishments, associations and organizations.
Ornamental, Parkland and Recreational	Designed landscapes and open spaces used for recreational purposes.
Residential	Areas where people live. Ranges from large individual houses to housing estates.
Unenclosed Land	Unimproved land, open land, moorland, etc.
Water Bodies	Large water bodies including reservoirs and lakes. Does not include millponds.
Woodland	Land with dense concentrations of trees.

**Table 1: Broad Historic Environment Types**

Broad Type	Historic Environment Types		
<p><b>Residential</b></p>  <p>© SYAS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm Complex</li> <li>• Elite Residence</li> <li>• Back-To-Back / Courtyard Houses</li> <li>• Prefabs</li> <li>• Semi-Detached Housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burgage Plots</li> <li>• Estate Village</li> <li>• Villas/ Detached Housing</li> <li>• High Rise Flats</li> <li>• Planned Estate (Social Housing)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vernacular Cottages</li> <li>• Terraced Housing</li> <li>• Private Housing Estate</li> <li>• Low Rise Flats</li> </ul>
<p><b>Enclosed Land</b></p>  <p>© SYAS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Fields</li> <li>• Agglomerated Fields</li> <li>• Piecemeal Enclosure</li> <li>• Surveyed Enclosure (Parliamentary/ Private)</li> <li>• Cropmark Field Systems</li> <li>• Strip Fields</li> <li>• Assarts</li> <li>• Valley Floor Meadows</li> <li>• Crofts</li> <li>• Drained Wetlands</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Unenclosed land</b></p>  <p>© Richard Webb</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moorland</li> <li>• Commons and Greens</li> <li>• Regenerated Scrubland</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Communications</b></p>  <p>© David Hitchborne</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tram Depot</li> <li>• Train Station</li> <li>• Train Depot / Sidings</li> <li>• Transport Interchange</li> <li>• Viaduct/ Aqueduct</li> <li>• Bus Depot</li> <li>• Car Park</li> <li>• Ring Road</li> <li>• Canal Lock Ladder System</li> <li>• Motorway &amp; Trunk Road Junctions</li> <li>• Canal Wharf</li> <li>• Motorway Services</li> <li>• Airport</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Commercial</b></p>  <p>© SYAS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution Centre</li> <li>• Business Park</li> <li>• Retail Park</li> <li>• Commercial Core - Urban</li> <li>• Commercial Core - Suburban</li> <li>• Warehousing</li> <li>• Markets</li> <li>• Entertainment Complex</li> <li>• Shopping Centre</li> <li>• Offices</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Woodland</b></p>  <p>© SYAS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancient Woodland</li> <li>• Wet Wood</li> <li>• Spring Wood</li> <li>• Semi-Natural Woodland</li> <li>• Wood Pasture</li> <li>• Plantation</li> </ul>		

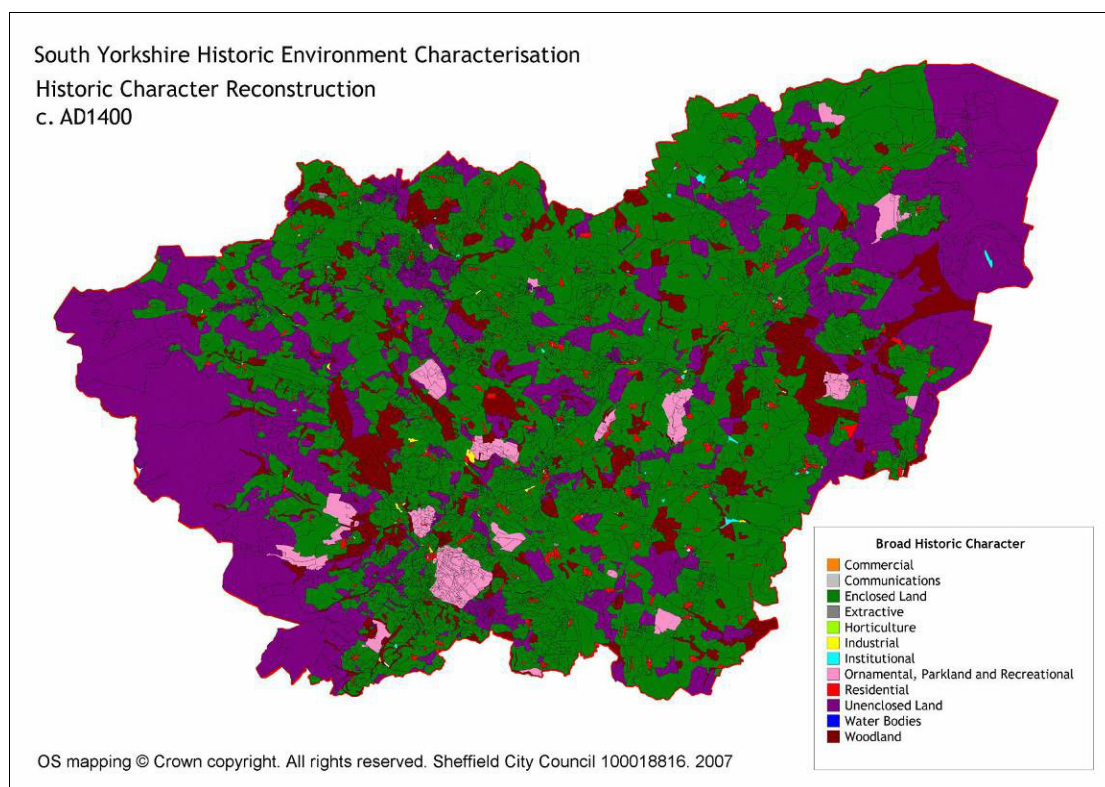
Broad Type	Historic Environment Types		
 <p>© Nigel Cox</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Water Powered Site</li> <li>•Tannery/ Abattoirs</li> <li>•Textile Trade</li> <li>•Metal Trades (Light)</li> <li>•Metal Trades (Heavy)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Craft Industry</li> <li>•Potteries</li> <li>•Glassworks</li> <li>•Metal Trades - Support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Chemical</li> <li>•Utilities</li> <li>•Other Industry</li> </ul>
 <p>© Steve Fareham</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Spoil Heap</li> <li>•Open Cast Coal Mine</li> <li>•Landfill</li> <li>•Refractory Material Mine &amp; Works</li> <li>•Other Mineral Extraction &amp; Processing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Clay Pits/ Brickworks</li> <li>•Deep Shaft Coal Mine</li> <li>•Annular Spoil Heap (Bell Pit earthworks)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Peat Extraction</li> <li>•Quarry</li> </ul>
 <p>© Paul Store</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Private Parkland</li> <li>•Public Park</li> <li>•Leisure Centre</li> <li>•Tourist Attraction</li> <li>•Zoo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Deer Park</li> <li>•Playing Fields</li> <li>•Sports Ground</li> <li>•Golf Course</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Walled Garden</li> <li>•Allotments</li> <li>•Racecourse</li> <li>•Inner City Farm</li> </ul>
 <p>© SYAS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Military Airfield</li> <li>•Hospital Complex</li> <li>•University/ College</li> <li>•Religious (Worship)</li> <li>•Religious (Other)</li> <li>•Military (Other)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Workhouse</li> <li>•Prison</li> <li>•Barracks</li> <li>•School</li> <li>•Civil &amp; Municipal Buildings</li> <li>•Nursing Home/ Almshouse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Asylum</li> <li>•Cemetery</li> <li>•Fortified Site</li> <li>•Municipal Depot</li> </ul>
 <p>© Steve Fareham</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Reservoirs</li> <li>•Lakes</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Orchards</li> <li>•Nurseries</li> </ul>		

**Table 2: Historic Environment Types**

Where a proposed present-day polygon would cover an area with more than one previous historic environment type, two or more polygons were actually drawn, to allow this difference to be highlighted. As the current historic character is the same, these polygons will have the same Broad Type and Historic Environment Type but the database will record the variation in past character. An example of where this might happen is when a large 'private housing estate' covers land that had previously been 'terraced housing' and 'allotments'; in these circumstances two polygons will have been drawn. The first polygon will have a current Historic Environment Type of 'private housing estate' with a previous Historic Environment Type of 'terraced housing'. The second polygon will have a present type of 'private housing estate' and a previous type of 'allotments'.

Throughout the project, the *confidence* of decisions made about the historic character of each area has been recorded using the scale: *certain*, *probable*, *possible*. This has brought a degree of transparency into the characterisation process and allows general interpretations to be assessed on their likelihood.

**Date of Origin:** Each current character type and past character type recorded within the database is allocated a date of origin. With 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century landscapes this will generally correspond to the earliest mapping that that character type is recorded on. Dates prior to the first edition OS mapping (c.1850) will have been given a specific date where this is known but will otherwise have been allocated a general date, depending upon the type of landscape involved. The dates 1066 and 1540 are typically used as the date of origin of medieval and post-medieval landscapes respectively; 1750 is often used for surveyed enclosure landscapes where no enclosure award data is known. These decisions were made based upon the specialist knowledge of the project officers. Where generalised dates are used, a measure of confidence in the dates should have been included; uncertain date ranges are qualified with a '?'. The inclusion of these generalised dates within the database allows 'estimated' pictures of past landscapes to be mapped. See Figure 2, below, for an example of such a map from the medieval period.



**Figure 2: Generalised thematic map of South Yorkshire in AD 1400 (coloured by Broad Character Type)**

**Attribute Data:** By using an integrated database and GIS it has been possible to attach a variety of attribute data to each polygon, allowing a variety of consistent attributes to be recorded quickly. Each Broad Type will have a different selection of attributes, e.g. for ‘Residential’ Broad Types the following attributes are recorded: *Housing Density, Layout Pattern, Private Open Space, Public Spaces, Status, and Legibility*; for ‘Unenclosed’ Broad Types, the attributes recorded are: *Elevation and Legibility*. The attributes recorded for each Broad Type are detailed in Appendix I and a full list of attributes, with scope notes, can be found in Appendix II.

Of the various attributes recorded within the project database, perhaps the most important to discuss in detail is *Legibility*. This attribute was developed specifically for the South Yorkshire project, as a way to describe how much of a former landscape survives, and can be read, within the present landscape. Examples might include former field boundaries preserved as garden boundaries within a housing estate, or industrial features, such as spoil heaps, surviving within an area now dominated by public recreational use. The extent of such legibility is recorded as *Significant, Partial, Fragmentary* or *Invisible*, depending on the ease with which such remains can be read in the modern landscape. Legibility refers to former historic character types recorded within the database for an individual polygon; details on the previous character type referred to should be documented within the database’s description field.



**Working methods:** For most of the project, two characterisation officers worked within the same district of South Yorkshire simultaneously. This was done to facilitate informed discussion on similarities and differences in perceived local character and to allow for the sharing of information. The project officers worked (approximately) in adjacent 10km grid squares. Barnsley, the final district to be characterised, was treated differently - the result of a change in project officers. It was decided that the new project officer should complete the remaining polygonisation of this district, whilst the other project officer went ahead with the analysis phase for areas they were already familiar with.

During the project the results of the ongoing characterisation were verified by making a number of rapid area visits. The aim of these field visits were to check the accuracy of attribute recording and descriptions on the ground.

## Digitisation Rates

Testing during the pilot study showed that the polygon size necessary to define distinct character units varied according to the complexity and frequency of human action within a particular location. The pilot study indicated that in urbanised areas typical polygon sizes would be within the range of 5-10 hectares. In contrast, agricultural areas (typically various types of enclosed land) required polygons of, on average, 90 hectares. The mapping scales needed to record such units also varied. Where polygons are small, i.e. within urban areas, historic 1:2,500 or modern 1:2,500 'Landline' data sources were required. For rural areas, the historic 1:10,560 or modern 1:10,000 series mapping was sufficient. The flexible zooming and overlay capabilities of the GIS allowed these scales to be varied according to individual circumstances.

Working from the available data, South Yorkshire was considered to be subdivided into 128,590 hectares of rural land and 31,410 hectares of urban land. These figures were based upon the urban datasets available (derived from OS data) that included settlements with over 1,000 inhabitants. Following the initial pilot study, it was assumed that in rural areas character units would have an average area of 100 hectares and in urban areas an average of 7 hectares. This would have resulted in 1286 rural polygons and 4487 urban polygons - a total of 5773 polygons for the whole of South Yorkshire.

These early results also indicated that around 11 polygons a working day could be completed by each project officer, allowing for field tests, meetings and administration. This, in turn, suggested a digitisation period of 265 working days. With an allowance made for annual leave, sickness, etc. this meant the characterisation would take just under 15 months.

Part way through the project it was seen that these polygonisation rates were inadequate. On completion of the project (assuming 220 working days per year per project officer, to allow for holiday and weekends) the



polygonisation phase was calculated to have taken approx 1110 working person days. This gives a rate of polygonisation of **7.23** polygons (and an average area covered of 139.42 ha) per project officer per day.

Table 3 shows the actual number of polygons digitised, separating urban and rural units according to the urban dataset used to produce the original rates (in the pilot stage). Table 4 shows the breakdown based upon the types of Broad Type recorded for each polygon. This shows that the original urban dataset underestimated the amount of urban land within South Yorkshire.

	Area (ha)	Polygons	Average area per polygon (ha)
<i>Urban</i>	31,872.61	5104	6.24
<i>Rural</i>	122,878.39	2928	41.97
<i>Total</i>	154,751.8	8032	

**Table 3: Polygonisation rates, where urban = settlement with population above 1000.**

	Area (ha)	Polygons	Average area per polygon (ha)
<i>Urban</i>	37,536.07	5986	6.27
<i>Rural</i>	117,215.73	2046	57.29
<i>Total</i>	154,751.8	8032	

**Table 4: Polygonisation rates, area of urban land based on Broad types.** (Urban area = Residential/Commercial/Communications/Horticulture/Industrial/Institutional and rural Broad Types where they fall within towns)

Polygonisation rates can be further broken down by Broad Type, as shown below (Table 5).

Broad Type	Area (ha)	Polygons	Average area per polygon (Ha)
<i>Commercial</i>	2602.76	507	5.13
<i>Communications</i>	1347.03	136	9.90
<i>Enclosed</i>	78791.72	922	85.46
<i>Extractive</i>	5961.76	178	33.49
<i>Horticulture</i>	64.82	25	2.59
<i>Industrial</i>	4470.88	659	6.78
<i>Institutional</i>	3065.26	1040	2.95
<i>Ornamental, Parkland and Recreation</i>	8984.61	769	11.68
<i>Residential</i>	22886.51	3181	7.19
<i>Unenclosed Land</i>	16348.88	192	85.15
<i>Water bodies</i>	939.29	50	18.79
<i>Woodland</i>	9246.15	373	24.79
	154709.67	8032	

**Table 5: Polygonisation rates by Broad Type**

The key difference between the original polygonisation estimates and the final polygonisation results is in the degree of complexity in rural areas. The average polygon size for rural broad types is nearly half as small as was initially projected.

## Analysis Methodology

In the later stages of the project, individual character units were grouped together into larger areas, so that similar historic developments could be described. The analysis phase of the project was undertaken district by district, so that the individual unitary authorities within South Yorkshire could receive appropriate local information.

Sheffield was the first district to be analysed. This work began with a bottom up approach, grouping individual polygons into Character Areas. These areas drew together associated units, generally of contiguous polygons. As a result, Character Areas will include polygons with different Broad Character Types, e.g. terraced housing will be grouped with contemporary allotments, schools and churches.

The defined Character Areas were then considered for similarities that could be grouped at a higher level. This led to the development of Character Zones that represent broad themes of landscape development.

This bottom up approach was found to be highly time consuming. It was then decided that a better approach would be to use the project officers' specialist knowledge of the landscapes of South Yorkshire - allowing them to develop a list of relevant Character Zones and then define Character Areas to match these (automatically assigning individual character units accordingly). By keeping the initial list of Zones flexible for each district this approach was found to work well. Zones could be added or removed to a district discussion, as themes of landscape development for that district were recognised.

## Critique of the Methodology

The process of characterisation is inevitably one of subjective decisions. The European Landscape Convention, which was ratified by the UK government in 2006, states that “[l]andscape means an area, *as perceived by people*, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors” (*our emphasis*). Human perception provides a very personal view. Throughout this project it has been the intention to characterise the historic environment in terms of how an average person would perceive the character. This is in line with the guiding principals of characterisation (Clark *et al* 2004, 6). However, specialist knowledge may have led to the characterisation of some landscapes that would not be well understood by

members of the public. Where to generalise and where to go into detail, with smaller polygons, was also a subjective choice made by the project officers - using their knowledge and experience.

Such subjective choices can never be entirely removed from the characterisation process. This makes it important to document the decision making processes followed, allowing users or future developers of the database to judge the validity of our decisions, based on future knowledge.

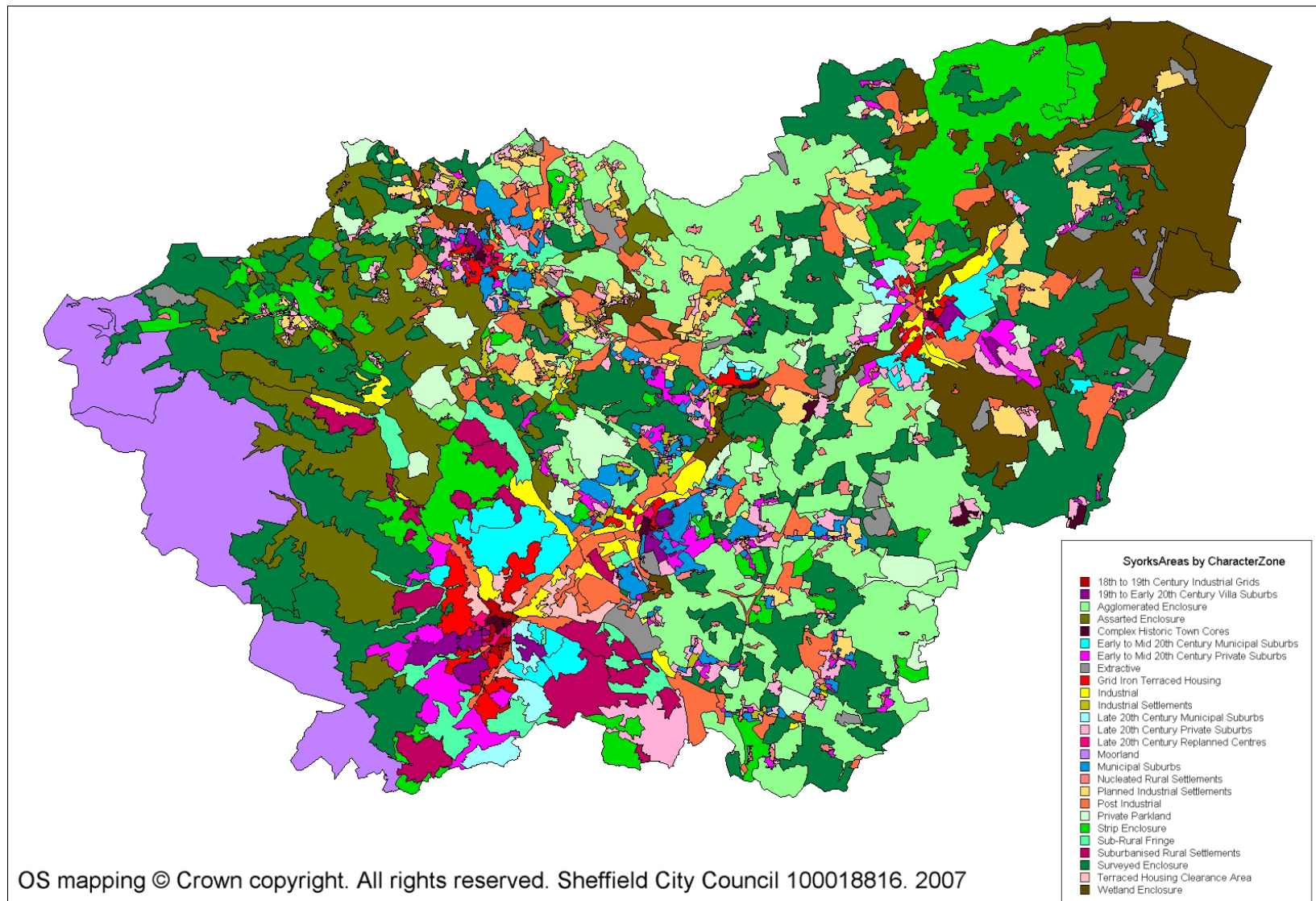
**Historic Environment Types:** Early use of the data from the South Yorkshire Historic Environment Characterisation project has indicated some difficulties with the Historic Environment Types. Some types overlap, making it difficult to pull all the relevant data from the GIS tables in a single query. An example of this is 'low rise flats'; these may either have been privately built or have been built as part of an area of social housing. In retrospect, it would have been more appropriate to make 'high rise flats' or 'low rise flats' an attribute within the *Private Housing* and *Planned Estate (Social Housing)* types, or for private or public to be recorded as attributes for *Low Rise Flats* and *High Rise Flats*. This detail could be added in as part of the future development of the database, if it was found to be useful.

**Software:** The South Yorkshire Historic Environment Characterisation project was one of the first projects to make use of the HLC module of the Exegesis HBSMR database (this database already held the Sites and Monuments Record for South Yorkshire prior to initiation of the project). The structure of the database system was, therefore, relatively untested. Through work on the project and analysis of project data some limitations in the system have become evident. One of the primary difficulties with the database is over the ability to export large amounts of data, for use by people outside of the Archaeology Service. The main difficulty comes with the exportation of attribute data, as the structure of the tables does not allocate a unique column position to each attribute type.

A feature that would be beneficial in future versions of the database would be the ability to score *Legibility* for each former landscape character, rather than having just one overall score. This would enable a user to pick out areas where a particular former character type is legible, e.g. areas of medieval open fields.



Despite the limitations outlined above, there have been benefits in using HBSMR, particularly in the seamless integration of project data with the existing SMR. This enables SYAS to easily put recorded sites into their landscape context.




## **Part III: Themed Results**





## Zones: Historic Developments within South Yorkshire

This project grouped South Yorkshire into 26 different Character Zones, which focus on the key historic developments that have left their mark on the landscape, as outlined within the Analysis Methodology above.



Character Zone	Overview
<p data-bbox="236 633 651 712"><b>Moorland</b></p>  <p data-bbox="236 1014 651 1173">© SYAS</p>	<p data-bbox="651 633 1345 1173">This zone lies on the western edge of South Yorkshire in the <b>Barnsley</b> and <b>Sheffield</b> districts. Much of the zone lies within the Peak District National Park and has a wild and open character of blanket bog and heather moorland. Although seemingly <i>natural</i> in character this landscape is a product of human actions. The low vegetation has been maintained by sheep grazing and burning of the heather. Much of the land was divided up with long, straight, drystone walls in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to indicate ownership. Some areas are still actively managed for grouse shooting.</p>
<p data-bbox="236 1173 651 1252"><b>Assarted Enclosure</b></p>  <p data-bbox="236 1554 651 1839">© Wendy North. Creative Commons License  <a href="http://www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=890154">http://www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=890154</a></p>	<p data-bbox="651 1173 1345 1839">This zone is made up of ancient woodlands and ancient irregular enclosure patterns. The key characteristics of these enclosures are small, sinuous or rounded fields, with mainly hedged boundaries. Fields were often <i>assarted</i> from a wooded landscape at an early date; many fields date to the medieval period. Very little of the land was formerly part of a medieval open field system. The zone mostly lies across the lower and middle coal measures in <b>Sheffield</b> and <b>Barnsley</b> and the northern edge of <b>Rotherham</b> district. Alternating bands of shales, sandstone and coal seams have weathered to produce a rolling hilly landscape with steeper scarps in the west of the zone and where the River Don cuts through the area. Areas of woodland have often survived on these steeper slopes.</p>



Character Zone	Overview
<p data-bbox="236 259 478 297"><b>Strip Enclosure</b></p>  <p data-bbox="236 667 598 763">Aerial Photos Cities Revealed aerial photography © the GeolInformation Group, 2002</p>	<p data-bbox="651 259 1340 741">This zone is located in the west of the districts of <b>Sheffield</b> and <b>Barnsley</b>, with a small scattering near the historic settlements in <b>Rotherham</b>. In <b>Doncaster</b> district the zone is found to the north of the River Don, in the Humberhead Levels Landscape Character Area. The landscape contains long thin curving fields often with reverse ‘s’ shaped boundaries. These fields developed from the gradual enclosure of medieval town fields, from the late medieval period onwards. Field boundaries are a mix of drystone walls and hedges containing mature trees.</p>
<p data-bbox="236 797 518 835"><b>Wetland Enclosure</b></p>  <p data-bbox="236 1144 651 1272">© Ken McCann. Creative commons Licence: <a href="http://www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=673854">www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=673854</a></p>	<p data-bbox="651 797 1340 1099">This zone is predominantly found in the east of <b>Doncaster</b> district, taking in the wetland moors at Thorne and Hatfield and the surrounding drained enclosures. Also included are the river floor valleys in <b>Doncaster</b>, <b>Barnsley</b> and <b>Rotherham</b> districts. The enclosure patterns generally consist of regular, straight boundaries of hedges and ditches.</p>
<p data-bbox="236 1312 486 1350"><b>Private Parkland</b></p>  <p data-bbox="236 1686 327 1720">© SYAS</p>	<p data-bbox="651 1312 1340 1973">This zone is scattered throughout the districts of <b>Barnsley</b>, <b>Doncaster</b> and <b>Rotherham</b>. It is found predominantly in a band running north south through the centre of South Yorkshire. The defining characteristic of this zone is the use of land as ornamental parkland from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These areas of parkland often have clearly defined boundaries, separating them from the surrounding countryside - circuit walls or plantation woodlands that provide screening and enclosure. Most of the larger parks originated as deer parks and some, therefore, date back to the medieval period. The park landscape consists of a variety of permanent grassland maintained as pasture, or land managed for arable cultivation, and there are often plantation woodlands.</p>






Character Zone	Overview
	<p>The focal point of many of these parks is a large elite residence and related home farm complex, sometimes on the fringe of an older village. Design features are generally intended to emphasise the high status of their owners. Such features can include ornate gateways and lodges; tree lined avenues and curving driveways; architectural follies, statuary, fountains and summerhouses; artificial lakes and ponds; formal gardens; and kitchen gardens.</p>
<p><b>Surveyed Enclosure</b></p>  <p>© SYAS</p>	<p>In <b>Sheffield</b> and <b>Barnsley</b> districts this zone is concentrated in the west. The land here was often enclosed from open moorland in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, often under the authority of a Parliamentary Award. Within the districts of <b>Doncaster</b> and <b>Rotherham</b> the zone is more dispersed and takes in former moorland, commons and medieval open town fields. Surveyed enclosure landscapes are characterised by straight sided enclosures with hedged or drystone wall boundaries. There are often contemporary straight roads running through these field systems. The landscape is punctuated by dispersed farmsteads that are often contemporary with the enclosure.</p>
<p><b>Agglomerated Enclosure</b></p>  <p>© Nigel Homer. Creative Commons License:  <a href="http://www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=116884">www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=116884</a></p>	<p>This zone is found in the districts of <b>Barnsley</b>, <b>Rotherham</b> and <b>Doncaster</b> and runs in a strip southeast to northwest across the centre of the county. Fields within the zone are predominantly used for large-scale intensive arable farming. This has been the cause of a significant loss of field boundaries in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, as former divisions were removed to create larger, agglomerated fields. The remaining field boundaries are a mix of hedgerows and fence lines, sometimes with fences supplementing gaps in poorly maintained hedged boundaries.</p> <p>Despite this boundary loss, closer examination of this zone reveals an agricultural landscape largely planned in the medieval period and formerly part of the medieval open field system. Evidence for this earlier history</p>



Character Zone	Overview
	includes field boundaries and road patterns that exhibit the characteristic sinuous curves of former open field systems.
<p data-bbox="236 412 491 450"><b>Sub-Rural Fringe</b></p>  <p data-bbox="236 792 647 920">© Mark Morton. Creative Commons License: <a href="http://www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=41661">www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=41661</a></p>	<p data-bbox="647 412 1345 1155">The historic character of this zone is defined by a landscape with strong rural indicators, such as open space, relict field boundaries, high levels of woodland and a general absence of housing or active industry. Nevertheless, the influence of nearby or surrounding urban settlement has fundamentally altered the character. These landscapes may previously have had an agricultural or industrial character (sometimes both), but their current management is generally concerned with maintaining their amenity value as green spaces, whilst encouraging opportunities for recreation and biodiversity. This zone is found within all four districts of South Yorkshire and is generally located on the edge of the major settlements of <b>Barnsley</b>, <b>Sheffield</b>, <b>Doncaster</b> and <b>Rotherham</b>, but is also found near Chapletown and Stocksbridge.</p>
<p data-bbox="236 1155 483 1227"><b>Nucleated Rural Settlements</b></p>  <p data-bbox="236 1570 328 1608">© SYAS</p>	<p data-bbox="647 1155 1345 1673">This zone is widely distributed across <b>Barnsley</b>, <b>Doncaster</b> and <b>Rotherham</b>. Similar settlements within the Sheffield district have been considered as part of the surrounding countryside or within other urban zones. These settlements often date back to the medieval period and contain many buildings dating back to at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Road and property boundary patterns have altered little since they were first recorded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and in many cases will date back to the medieval period. Some settlements retain a rural setting whilst others have been surrounded by later housing.</p>




Character Zone	Overview
<p data-bbox="237 257 590 331"><b>Complex Historic Town Cores</b></p>  <p data-bbox="237 638 649 965">© Richard Bird. Creative Commons License: <a href="http://www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=639358">www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=639358</a></p>	<p data-bbox="649 257 1348 965">This zone takes in the urban centre of the city of <b>Sheffield</b> and the towns of <b>Barnsley</b>, <b>Rotherham</b> and <b>Doncaster</b>; in Doncaster district this zone also includes the historic cores of Bawtry, Conisbrough, Mexborough, Thorne and Tickhill. These historic settlements are similar in many ways to the Nucleated Rural Settlements, but they have a higher level of complexity. This complexity generally includes the presence of market places, castles and multi-phase planned layouts, all of which constitute evidence for deliberate acts of medieval planning. Buildings within this zone are often early in date, with many examples dating to at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Road and property division patterns tend to have altered little since they were first recorded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p>
<p data-bbox="237 965 574 1003"><b>Industrial Settlements</b></p>  <p data-bbox="237 1344 649 1706">© Steve Fareham. Creative Commons License: <a href="http://www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=785160">www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=785160</a></p>	<p data-bbox="649 965 1348 1706">Industrial settlements are found across the districts of <b>Barnsley</b> and <b>Rotherham</b>. Within the district of Sheffield this type of settlement was considered within the Suburbanised Rural Settlement zone. Industrial Settlements are often irregular in layout and are positioned along a road or on an area of former common. Housing largely consists of terraced housing. This type of settlement is generally associated with early coal mining. However, they are also associated with other industries characteristic of the region, such as iron, steel and brass working, glass making, ceramic production, brick making and the railway trades. These settlements have not been recorded within Doncaster as here many industrial villages were established at a later date, when settlements were more highly planned (see Planned Industrial Settlements Zone).</p>




Character Zone	Overview
<p><b>18th to 19th Century Industrial Grids</b></p>  <p>© SYAS</p>	<p>This zone has been considered separately to other industrial zones within <b>Sheffield</b> because of the significant impact these early industrial developments had on the development of the city and the impact that the layout of their streets still has on the current townscape. Typical early development included both mixed-use light industrial buildings, typically connected with cutlery and tool making - often built as workshop ranges around rectangular central courtyards, and high density residential properties - often built back-to-back around domestic courts. Many of these domestic buildings were cleared in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p>
<p><b>19th to Early 20th Century Villa Suburbs</b></p>  <p>© SYAS</p>	<p>This zone is found in the districts of <b>Sheffield, Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham</b> and generally lies on the edge of the principal urban centres. The housing here developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as middle class suburban developments away from the industrial and commercial city centres, which were becoming increasingly densely developed. These suburbs consist of detached and semi-detached houses, which tend to be fairly well spaced, and roads are often lined with mature trees.</p>
<p><b>Industrial</b></p>  <p>© Alan Murray-Rust. Creative Commons License:  <a href="http://www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=799149">www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=799149</a></p>	<p>Industry formed a very important part of the history of South Yorkshire, focussing on the river valleys of <b>Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield</b> from the medieval period onwards. This zone consists of a mix of late 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century (largely disused) industrial sites and modern factories. The industries range from small water-powered mills to large industrial complexes housed in long metal sheds. Not all current industry is included within this zone as many modern industrial units are sited on mixed business and industrial parks and so have been considered within the Post Industrial zone.</p>


Character Zone	Overview
<p data-bbox="236 255 651 293"><b>Grid Iron Terraced Housing</b></p>  <p data-bbox="236 633 651 672">© SYAS</p>	<p data-bbox="651 255 1343 965">This zone is found extensively in the city of <b>Sheffield</b>. It is also concentrated around the principal urban centres of <b>Doncaster</b>, <b>Barnsley</b>, <b>Rotherham</b> and <b>Mexborough</b>. The rate at which many of these areas of housing were built shows the rapid growth of the industrial populations of South Yorkshire. Terraced housing was being built before the establishment of many of these grids, in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, but generally not on the large scales of these areas or with a grid street pattern. Houses are often very uniform, due to the development of bylaws that controlled housing size. Houses often still have their outside toilets, which were either accessed by a back lane running along the rear of the housing or by alleyways running through the terrace at intervals.</p>
<p data-bbox="236 965 651 1039"><b>Terraced Housing Clearance Areas</b></p>  <p data-bbox="236 1368 651 1406">© SYAS</p>	<p data-bbox="651 965 1343 1525">This zone is located predominantly on the northern edge of <b>Sheffield</b> city centre. The landscape is characterised by large areas cleared of 19<sup>th</sup> century terraced housing during the middle to late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Most of these areas now feature late 20<sup>th</sup> century municipal housing, often system built estates constructed in materials new in the 1950s and 60s; from the mid 1970s onwards more traditional estates of low rise housing have been common developments. However, many 19<sup>th</sup> century elements survive, such as street patterns, institutional buildings, public houses and some housing.</p>
<p data-bbox="236 1525 651 1563"><b>Extractive</b></p>  <p data-bbox="236 1870 651 1989">© Alan Murray-Rust. Creative Commons License:  <a href="http://www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=293145">www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=293145</a></p>	<p data-bbox="651 1525 1343 1989">This zone is predominantly found across the coal measures in the districts of <b>Barnsley</b>, <b>Rotherham</b> and <b>Doncaster</b>, with outlying areas on Doncaster's gravels and sandstones. In the recent past extractive industries dominated many landscapes of South Yorkshire. This zone represents the collieries and large quarries still active in 2003, or former extractive areas as yet unreclaimed. These sites often contain large spoil heaps, winding gear and other surface structures.</p>



Character Zone	Overview
<p data-bbox="236 255 518 331"><b>Planned Industrial Settlements</b></p>  <p data-bbox="236 636 598 730">Aerial Photos Cities Revealed aerial photography © the Geoinformation Group, 2002</p>	<p data-bbox="647 255 1340 1223">Planned industrial settlements are found within <b>Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster</b> districts. Within Sheffield, this settlement type has been considered within the Suburbanised Rural Settlement zone. Like Industrial Settlements, housing within this zone has a highly significant connection with industry, particularly with coal mining. These settlements tend to have a geometric plan with green spaces at the centre of circular road layouts. The houses are generally semi-detached or built in short rows. These types of settlements were originally established in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century although many went on to expand further in the later half of the century. Examples further east often have the most complete planned layout because they were new settlements specifically built for the early 20<sup>th</sup> century exploitation of deep coal seams. Further west many were expansions of existing industrial settlements, developed at an earlier stage to exploit the shallower coal seams that runs through South Yorkshire's coal measures. These developments predate the 'garden suburb' design ideas of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p>
<p data-bbox="236 1223 630 1299"><b>Early to Mid 20th Century Private Suburbs</b></p>  <p data-bbox="236 1644 647 1769">© Mike Fowkes. Creative Commons License: <a href="http://www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=128910">www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=128910</a></p>	<p data-bbox="647 1223 1340 1966">This zone is found within the districts of <b>Barnsley, Doncaster, Sheffield and Rotherham</b>. This zone is characterised chiefly of small areas of housing developed speculatively between 1914 and 1945 in small estates or as areas of ribbon development on the edges of existing settlements. These types of suburbs are often located on the edges of larger settlements and are particularly large on the western limits of Sheffield. Stylistically, developments in South Yorkshire during this period have much in common with areas developed in the Municipal Suburbs and Planned Industrial Settlements zones. Differences are likely to include larger housing units with more variety of housing types along individual streets, and an increased number of status differentiating features such as hung tiles, bay windows, stained glass and street trees.</p>

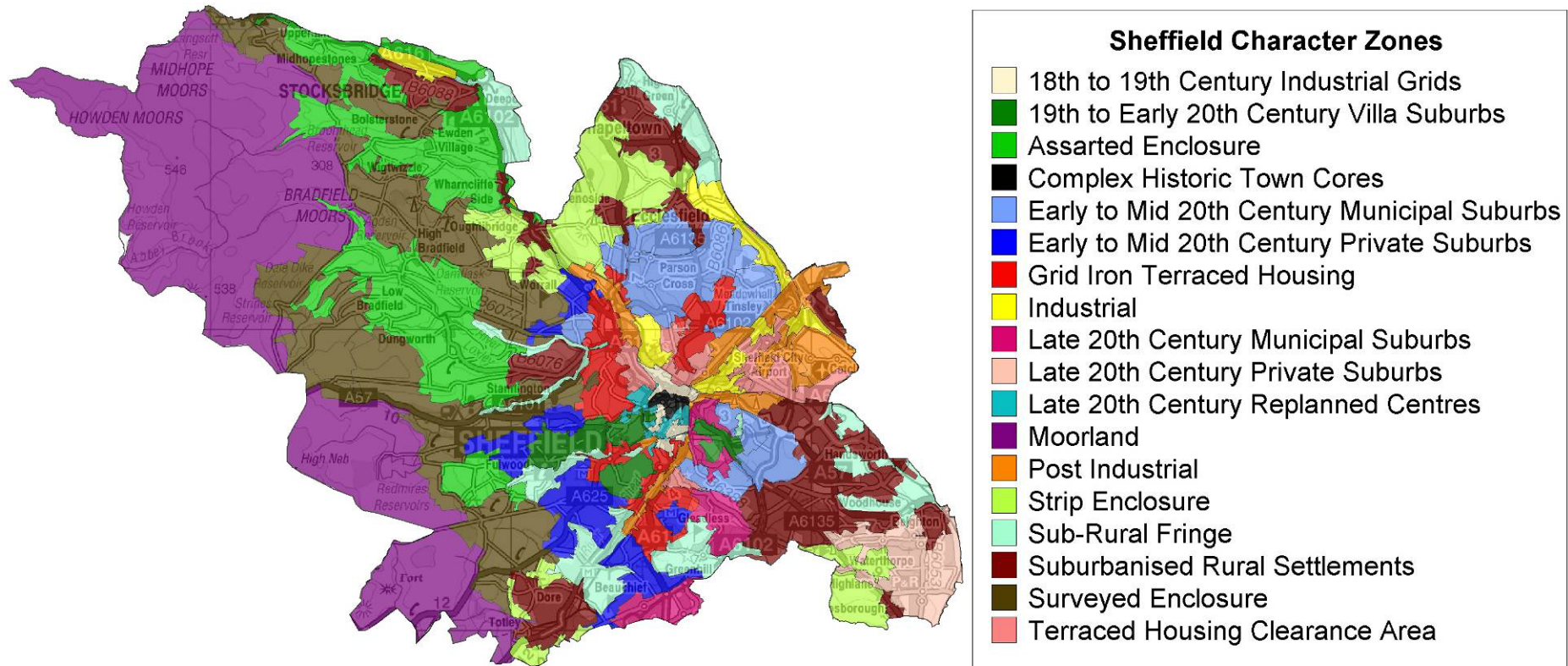
Character Zone	Overview
<p data-bbox="237 257 630 331"><b>Early to Mid 20th Century Municipal Suburbs</b></p>  <p data-bbox="237 663 327 689">© SYAS</p>	<p data-bbox="649 257 1343 925">This zone is found within <b>Sheffield</b> and <b>Doncaster</b> where early municipal housing developments have been considered separately from those established in these districts in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. This differs to the discussion of zones of municipal housing in the rest of South Yorkshire, primarily because of the larger numbers of municipal suburbs built on the edges of Sheffield and the clear differences between the early and later developments in Sheffield and Doncaster. Housing within this zone tends to be built in radial patterns with semi-detached properties or short row terraces, patterns that have much in common with the Planned Industrial Settlements found across South Yorkshire. There are also many similarities with contemporary private housing developments.</p>
<p data-bbox="237 965 512 1003"><b>Municipal Suburbs</b></p>  <p data-bbox="237 1305 649 1429">© Steve Fareham. Creative Commons License: <a href="http://www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=583235">www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=583235</a></p>	<p data-bbox="649 965 1343 1447">This municipal housing zone is found within the districts of <b>Barnsley</b> and <b>Rotherham</b>. Within Sheffield and Doncaster the zone has been separated into early and late municipal suburbs. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century estates tend to be built in radial patterns with housing consisting of semi-detached properties or short row terraces; in Rotherham and Barnsley this pattern of housing tends to continue into the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. There are significantly fewer examples of large system built concrete blocks of flats in these districts, compared with Sheffield and Doncaster.</p>
<p data-bbox="237 1487 515 1561"><b>Late 20th Century Municipal Suburbs</b></p>  <p data-bbox="237 1906 649 1995">© Incurable hippie. <a href="http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/deed.en_GB">http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/deed.en_GB</a></p>	<p data-bbox="649 1487 1343 1968">This zone is located in <b>Sheffield</b> and <b>Doncaster</b> and consists of areas of concrete blocks of flats. Those within Sheffield tend to be built on a larger scale, because of the higher population within the city. There are significant differences between many municipal and private developments built during this period, with municipal housing developments showing a shift in emphasis from enclosed private gardens to unenclosed communal spaces - accompanied by the increasing segregation of pedestrian routes from road systems.</p>

Character Zone	Overview
<p data-bbox="237 264 526 331"><b>Late 20th Century Replanned Centres</b></p>  <p data-bbox="237 689 327 719">© SYAS</p>	<p data-bbox="647 264 1340 667">This zone is found near the urban cores of the towns of <b>Doncaster</b>, <b>Barnsley</b>, <b>Rotherham</b> and the city of <b>Sheffield</b>. The land in this zone generally underwent a fundamental character change in the period 1945-1977. The dominant theme of this change was urban renewal, with areas generally cleared wholesale of earlier buildings and street patterns. Concrete office blocks, underpasses, large dual carriageways and new commercial developments are key features of this zone.</p>
<p data-bbox="237 766 635 833"><b>Late 20th Century Private Suburbs</b></p>  <p data-bbox="237 1160 327 1189">© SYAS</p>	<p data-bbox="647 766 1340 1169">This zone is widely dispersed across the districts of <b>Barnsley</b>, <b>Doncaster</b>, <b>Rotherham</b> and <b>Sheffield</b> and is found within nearly all settlements, often located on their edges. In rural areas these developments are often built for modern commuters, but suburban expansion of larger urban settlements is also found. Houses tend to be semi-detached or detached with most properties having their own drive; road patterns are generally cul-de-sacs. Housing styles are similar across the region.</p>
<p data-bbox="237 1236 534 1303"><b>Suburbanised Rural Settlements</b></p>  <p data-bbox="237 1653 327 1682">© SYAS</p>	<p data-bbox="647 1236 1340 1751">This zone is located in the district of <b>Sheffield</b>. Similar settlement types with Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham have generally been separated into the Industrial Settlements and Planned Industrial Settlements zones. These settlements often began as small rural villages that greatly expanded from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Later developments around the historic core are often built in geometric patterns with green spaces at the centre of circular road layouts. The houses are generally semi-detached or built in short rows. There are, however, quite diverse housing styles with terraces and vernacular cottages.</p>

Character Zone	Overview
<p data-bbox="237 257 459 293"><b>Post Industrial</b></p>  <p data-bbox="237 607 651 777">© Steve Fareham. Creative Commons: <a href="http://www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=523275">www.geograph.org.uk/reuse.php?id=523275</a></p>	<p data-bbox="651 257 1345 777">This zone is located in the districts of <b>Barnsley, Rotherham, Sheffield and Doncaster</b>. The zone is generally found along the river valleys on land that was formerly used by industry or coal extraction. There are also concentrations of this zone near to the main roads and motorway junctions across South Yorkshire. The zone is dominated by late 20<sup>th</sup> century landscapes of retail, distribution, leisure, light industry and transport. This is an expanding zone of very modern character but one that often retains influences of past landscape types.</p>



## Sheffield Character Zone Descriptions



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## Assarted Enclosure

### Summary of Dominant Character

This zone is dominated by agricultural landscapes enclosed in irregular patterns. The enclosures within this zone and those of the 'Strip Enclosure' zone form the bulk of the surviving landscape still characteristic of the nature of rural land division before the development of Parliamentary Enclosure in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Landscapes originally enclosed in a similar piecemeal fashion but later subject to significant influences from adjacent urban / industrial areas are not included in the zone.

Assart, the term used to describe woodland cleared for cultivation, has been used to describe the character of this zone, although the irregular fields of this zone are probably the result of piecemeal enclosure of moorland, as well as of woodland. Most such piecemeal enclosures date to the medieval or early post-medieval period. The boundaries of the small, highly irregular fields seen in the Mayfield valley are species rich hedgerows (Friends of the Porter Valley 2004, 62-75), a classic indicator of land assarted from woodland (Taylor 1975, 95).

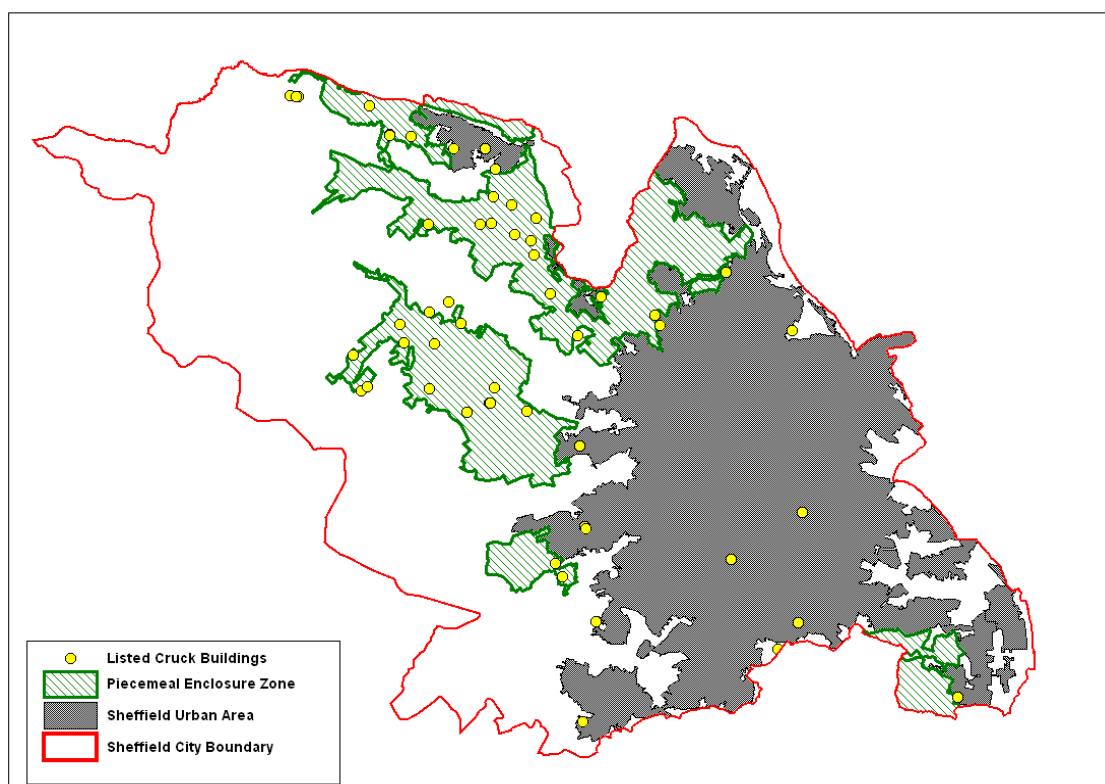
This zone can mostly be found to the west of the modern city of Sheffield, on the lower slopes of the river valleys. The enclosures within this zone vary in their regularity. The most clearly assarted enclosures are irregular ones on the lower slopes, which tend to have hedged boundaries; away from these areas field boundaries are usually of stone. Some enclosures in this zone form strips arranged in furlong blocks that are set at right angles to one another and feature fields with reversed 's' shaped curves. These have been interpreted as examples of small 'town fields' attached to small settlements. These probable former strip fields have been included in this zone as they rarely form systems as large or clear as those to the east of the city, described in the 'Strip Enclosure' zone.

A dispersed settlement pattern is generally seen within this zone, while nucleated settlements are generally related to areas of former common field agriculture (see the 'Strip Enclosure' zone). This relationship has long been recognised in landscape studies (see, for example, the distinction between 'Ancient' and 'Planned' countryside in Rackham (1986, 4-5), or between 'nucleated' and 'dispersed' settlement zones in Roberts and Wrathmell (2000)). Data collected for the urbanised area of Sheffield suggests it is a frontier between these two settlement zones, and here there is significant blurring of the two.

Within this zone, enclosure patterns indicative of assartment of both woodlands and moorland and associated farmsteads intermingle with small villages such as High and Low Bradfield, Dungworth and Onesacre, which appear to have been associated with small common arable systems - generally only one former open field can be identified for each of these

settlements. Characterisation records interpret a similar pattern extending into the present urban area of the city, as far east as Parson Cross and Wincobank, and as far south as the River Sheaf, with a small nucleated settlement associated with an open or town field at Crookes.

A significant correlation can be seen in the distribution of surviving cruck buildings and areas characterised as piecemeal enclosure, and there is a particular correlation with the assarted enclosure zone. Cruck construction in South Yorkshire generally dates to the 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries (see Ryder 1979c), which corresponds well with the expected date of assarted enclosure.



**Figure 337: The distribution of listed ‘Cruck Framed’ timber buildings is closely related to that of land enclosed piecemeal before Parliamentary Enclosure - particularly with assarted enclosure.**

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### *Inherited Character*

Traces of the ancient woodlands from which much of this enclosed landscape was assarted can be seen across this zone (and the ‘Strip Enclosure’ zone, particularly to the north of the city). These woods typically survive on steep slopes where the land was impractical to clear. Where these woodlands have not been replanted during the past 150 years they generally have many legible archaeological features relating to their

management for timber, mineral extraction and charcoal burning (Jones 1989).

### ***Later Characteristics***

Many elements in this zone, such as its placenames, ancient woodlands, cruck buildings and dispersed settlement patterns all point to origins in the medieval period, or possibly earlier. However, there are also significant modern influences. Major landscape change in this zone began in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and continued into the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the enclosure of remaining common land mostly by Parliamentary Enclosure. Whilst many of the settlements here are recorded either in the Domesday Book or in 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century documents, the vast majority of surviving buildings are later in date. Many buildings within historic settlement areas are of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

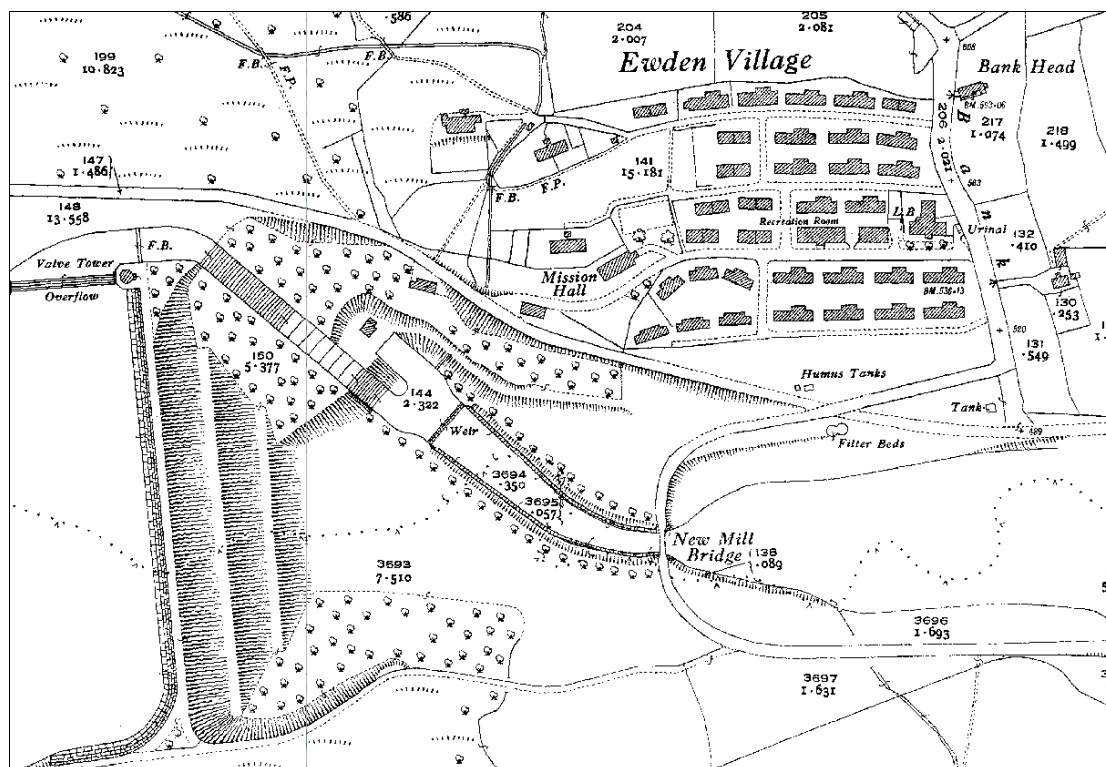
This zone was less attractive than the better connected limestone ridge to the east of Rotherham to developers of ornamental parklands, but small parks dating to the period of parliamentary enclosure survive at Barnes Hall, Chapeltown and Whitely Hall, Ecclesfield.

Further major changes, influenced by the proximity and growth of Sheffield, continued from the later 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards with the construction of Agden (1864), Damflask (1894), Underbank (1907), Broomhead (1929) and More Hall (1929) reservoirs. All these water supply reservoirs were created by the embanking and flooding of steep sided valleys, with historic map evidence showing the loss of irregular enclosure and dispersed farmsteads. Between More Hall and Broomhead reservoirs a prefabricated community created for the labourers on the project is partially legible at Ewden Village.

### ***Character Areas within this Zone***

*'Bradfield Semi-regular Enclosures', 'Ewden Valley Irregular Enclosures', 'Mayfield Valley', 'Midhopestones Piecemeal Enclosures'*





**Figure 338: 'Ewden Village' was created in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century for navy labourers contracted to build the earthworks of Broomhead and Moor Hall Reservoirs (see above); despite much demolition and some redevelopment, a few original prefabricated houses and most of the road network laid out still survive (see below). © and database right Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (All rights reserved 2008) Licence numbers 000394 and TP0024; Cities Revealed aerial photography © the GeolInformation Group, 1999.**



## Surveyed Enclosure

### *Summary of Dominant Character*



**Figure 341:** A typical landscape of Surveyed Enclosure at Loxley Chase to the west of Sheffield. Former moorland was converted to grassland pasture and enclosed by straight dry-stone walls according to plans approved by the Commissioners of the Wadsley and Loxley Chase Parliamentary Act Enclosure awarded in 1789 (date from English 1985)  
© 2006 SYAS

This zone is dominated by land enclosed by straight-sided walls or, less often in Sheffield, by hedgerows laid out to a regular pattern. In the Sheffield district, surveyed enclosure survives on a large scale almost exclusively to the west of the city, on areas of higher ground. Further large tracts of land were enclosed in a similar way elsewhere in the district, but these have since been lost to urbanisation. The majority of the surviving landscapes of this type are found between the city and the moorland zone.

This landscape is largely the result of enclosure by Parliamentary Award in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, when moorlands were converted to grassland pasture. Most roads in this zone are of standard and regular widths and are laid out on straight courses. These characteristics are typical of roads laid out by Parliamentary Enclosure surveyors nationwide (Hindle 1998). Such standardisation was a typical feature of enclosure countryside and can be seen as representative of a shift from vernacular to designed processes of landscape formation. Rational standardisation was also a

feature of contemporary turnpike roads. In this area, Ringinglow Road, dating to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, represents a well-preserved example. The landscape includes a related 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century hamlet at Ringinglow, with an inn and toll house.

Surviving settlement in this zone is mostly contemporary with, or post dates, the surrounding enclosures. Settlement is generally dispersed, with the typical farmstead being built from local stone in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and extended with modern pre-fabricated barns in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. An exception to this is the small, nucleated village of Bolsterstone. This earlier settlement, first mentioned in 1375 (Smith 1961, 257), is included within this zone as a result of the surveyed enclosure of its surrounding former open or town fields.

On the western extremes of this zone enclosures are larger in size and are often reverting to moorland types through abandonment of grazing over the past 20 years. On the eastern fringes of the zone there are influences from the nearby western suburbs of Sheffield.

### *Inherited Character*

The land making up this zone represents a large-scale systematic programme of landscape design and change. The processes involved dramatically altered the character of the area in social as well as physical terms, as the common resource of the heather moors was transformed into managed grasslands, only accessible to their owners and tenants. This land became, in terms of capital, a private commodity rather than a communal resource. The physical transformation of the land involved, for the most part, a complete change from what was already present. In moorland areas the land was often ploughed for the first time in thousands of years (Taylor 1975, 143), this area having been last exploited for agriculture in the Bronze and Iron Ages. As in many other parts of the country, this process may often have included the deliberate levelling of existing (prehistoric) earthworks, which probably accounts for the relative lack of earthwork monuments in this zone, when compared to higher areas to the west, which remained unconverted to grassland.

Evidence for the earlier moorland landscape is generally too subtle to be significantly legible within this zone, although where larger enclosures have not been converted to grassland or where abandoned fields are reverting to moorland flora an impression of the former landscape character can be gained. Surviving features from earlier periods mostly exist on the fringes of this zone, where lower slopes, especially around streams, preserve fragments of earlier land uses. Good examples of this can be found at Copperas Farm (near Ringinglow), where remains of a mid 18<sup>th</sup> century lead-smelting cupola survive, and at Whirlow Hall Farm, which includes fragments of buildings relating to older piecemeal enclosure landscapes to the east (now mostly under suburban development).



### ***Later Characteristics***

It is impossible to separate the landscape history of this zone from that of the city of Sheffield. The most notable effect has been the creation of the large water supply reservoirs, to meet the needs of the rapidly growing urban population: Rivelin Dams (c.1845); Dale Dike Reservoirs (c.1864 re-opened 1874); Langsett Reservoir (c.1905); and Midhope Reservoir (c.1907) are all within this zone. The most remarkable of these historically is Dale Dike, which failed in 1864 causing destructive flooding in the Loxley and Don valleys as far as Brightside and resulted in the loss of 240 lives, 693 animals, 100 buildings and 15 bridges (Walton 1984, 204). The reservoirs are associated with plantation woodlands, which were created to stabilise the valley sides and reduce silting in the reservoirs (Bevan 2003, 54). The construction of the reservoirs also saw the demolition of a number of adjoining farms, which were seen as a pollution threat to the water supply (ibid, 10).

Within this zone, the transition to a suburban landscape becomes blurred as you get closer to Sheffield. The southern slopes of the Rivelin valley near Crosspool are an excellent example of this, where parliamentary enclosure patterns (probably dating to the enclosure of common grazing land by the Hallam Enclosure Award of 1805 (English 1985, 62)) have been superimposed with extensive allotment gardens, cemeteries and a golf course. At Long Line on Dore Moor, limited 'ribbon development' suburbanisation has taken place along a typical enclosure period road, since the 1930s.



**Figure 342: Long Line, laid out by the Dore Moor Enclosure Award of 1822 (Kain et al. 2004)**

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Modern agricultural changes such as the creation of large scale 'prairie' fields, for the efficient mechanised production of cereal crops, have had a less drastic effect on this landscape than on enclosure landscapes elsewhere in South Yorkshire, where arable farming is the main land-use. However, there have been some losses of boundaries in this area as a result of intensification. Most surviving farmsteads have seen significant enlargement in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the erection of large prefabricated sheds (mostly) for the housing of livestock.

***Character Areas within this Zone***

*Bolsterstone and Upper Midhope Surveyed Enclosures', 'Bradfield Surveyed Enclosure', Dore Moor and Ringinglow Surveyed Enclosures', 'Strines Moorland Edge', 'Upper Rivelin Surveyed Enclosures'*

## Suburbanised Rural Settlements

### *Introduction*

The character areas described within this zone are suburban areas where the growth of settlement character relates not to the historic core of the medieval market town of Sheffield, but to historic core areas and industrial activity in other locations. There is substantial variation in the character of this zone, both from one character area to another (dependent on their local geological and industrial heritage) as well as within each character area (which are typically made up of a number of phases of expansion around historic core areas). These variations will be described here in sub-zones, where there are fundamental similarities across the character areas.

### The Industrial Towns

#### *Summary of Dominant Character*



**Figure 395: The oldest part of Stocksbridge works- Samuel Fox's wire mill - with part of the industrial town in the background.**

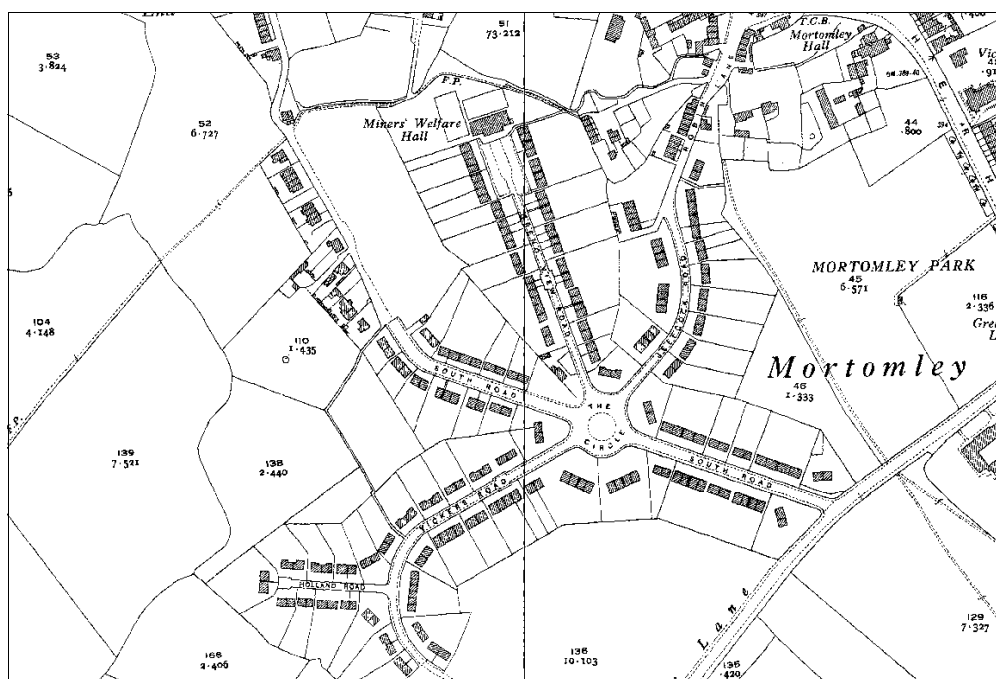
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The historic attributes of this sub-zone are fundamentally linked in each case to the growth of the heavy industries that provided the initial stimulus for their foundation (in the case of High Green, Mortomley and Stocksbridge) or their rapid mid 19<sup>th</sup> century to early 20<sup>th</sup> century growth (in the case of the earlier medieval core settlements of Tinsley and Chapeltown). The heavy metal industries were the basis for the growth of

each settlement. High Green, Mortomley, Chapeltown and Charlton Brook all grew in relation to the large ironworks and the related industry of the processing of coal tar, dominated by the local firm of Newton Chambers and Co (see Elliot c1958). Stocksbridge grew in relation to the works of Samuel Fox and Co., whose works began as a production site for drawn wire before diversifying into bulk production and processing of steel in the later 19<sup>th</sup> and through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At Tinsley, the first phases of suburban development can be related to the contemporary growth of the major steel works of Hadfields (East Hecla Works) and Steel, Peech and Tozer (Templeborough Works), whilst later expansion is contemporary with the growth of the Firth Vickers (later British Steel, Corus, Avesta and Outokumpo) site at Shepcote Lane.

Historic buildings predating the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century are generally rare in this zone, with the earliest urban landscapes generally made up of terraced workers housing and related institutional buildings. In Stocksbridge, Chapeltown and High Green these developments are generally stone rather than brick fronted, although brick is a more common material after the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The terraced housing in Tinsley is generally of early 20<sup>th</sup> century date and usually of brick construction.

Some level of early 20<sup>th</sup> century 'model' housing is evident, particularly in the small cottage estates of Mortomley and at Garden Village, Stocksbridge. These developments are comparable to larger scale examples of 'model villages' built by local mining companies, such as the planned community of Woodlands near Adwick-le-Street in Doncaster, consisting of idealised 'cottages' on geometric street patterns influenced by the 'garden village' movement and typically associated with simple landscaped sporting facilities such as recreation grounds, parks and bowling greens.



**Figure 396: Mortomley village is similar in plan form to the garden villages in the Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster 'Planned Industrial Settlement' Zones**

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The development at Mortomley includes a prominent and listed Miners Welfare Hall. Not far from the Mortomley Estate, at Mortomley Close, stand 8 semi-detached houses built using a system based on prefabricated cast iron components developed after World War I by the castings department of Newton Chambers, to use spare foundry capacity left redundant by the drop in orders for shell casings (Jones and Jones 1993).

### ***Inherited Character***

Whist both Chapeltown and Tinsley have medieval origins and are depicted on 1850s OS mapping as small nucleated villages associated with open field systems, little survives of a pre-industrial character in either settlement. Vernacular buildings in Tinsley appear to have been largely cleared and replaced with late twentieth century municipal housing (probably related to 1960s clearance of supposed 'slum' housing). In Chapeltown the core of the historic centre was probably the triangular area near Market Street in which the 19<sup>th</sup> century Waggon and Horses now stands. The historic pattern of this nucleated settlement has been fundamentally compromised by the railway built through it towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

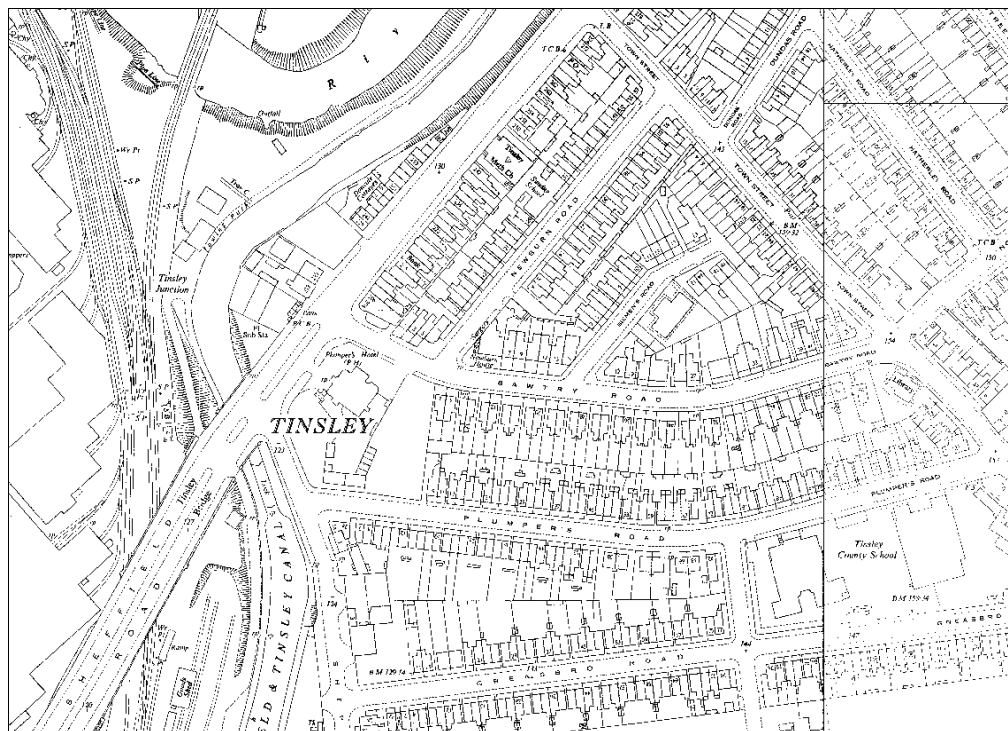
Clearer surviving traces of the hamlets of Charlton Brook Hollowgate, Mortomley and High Green can be located. A number of vernacular buildings survive from these hamlets, as depicted in 1854 by the OS, including a 17<sup>th</sup> century building at Charlton Brook. High Green appears to have been enclosed by parliamentary award. Such newly enclosed land appears to have formed the earliest land developed as the hamlets began to grow into industrial villages and then towns.

Whilst no historic village of Stocksbridge seems to have existed, (the name relates to an earlier bridge across the Don at the site of the oldest part of Stocksbridge Works), the later development of the industrial town has preserved some fragments of the earlier dispersed settlements (within piecemeal enclosure) that it displaced. Most notable amongst these is the small hamlet of Pot House, which includes the scheduled remains of Bolsterstone Glass Furnace.

### ***Later Developments***

The earliest industrial terraces of Tinsley, dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, were dramatically truncated by the construction in 1968 of the massive Tinsley Viaduct (see the 'Post Industrial' zone).





**Figure 397:** Above - 1950s mapping shows an area of terraced housing on the site of the later Tinsley Viaduct. Below - this 1967 aerial shot of the same area shows the severance caused by the construction of the massive southern roundabout for the viaduct.

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In Stocksbridge and Chapeltown / High Green later expansion of these settlements has been less distinctive than the earlier phases of housing, with later municipal housing of less quality and individuality than the earlier. These settlements have seen the construction of substantial areas of late twentieth century detached housing, mostly built in cul-de-sac estates with similarities to the housing built in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century at the Mosborough Townships. High Green features a large, mostly low rise estate around Cottam Road with some character similarities with the 'Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Private Suburbs' zone.

**Industrial Towns character areas - 'Chapeltown and Charlton Brook'; 'High Green and Mortomley'; 'Stocksbridge'; 'Tinsley'**

### **The Colliery Villages**

#### ***Summary of Dominant Character***

This sub-zone occupies much of the south east of Sheffield, between the late twentieth century 'Mosborough Townships' and the municipal estates of Manor and Gleadless. The suburbanisation of this area has steadily increased from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, in part due to the steady growth of coal mining here until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century (when most of the area's mines began to reach economic exhaustion) and, subsequently, due to the steady expansion of Sheffield's urban area.

The sub-zone's character is largely one of settlement, with the majority of the current landscape made up of residential units and related institutional and ornamental land-uses. The zone includes the remains of earlier nucleated villages at Handsworth, Woodhouse, Mosborough, Beighton, Gleadless, and Hackenthorpe, in addition to some smaller dispersed hamlets around the fringes of the historic Birley Moor. However, the majority of housing in the area dates to the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, with large estates of semi-detached housing dating to the 1930s, built both privately and for Sheffield Corporation.

Coal mining in this zone appears to have declined in importance through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with extraction ceasing at Beighton and Birley in the 1930s and 40s and at Handsworth in 1967. However, suburban development continued to be the dominant theme, with much infilling of open space between 1945 and 1975. Much of this development follows the trends established in the 'Early to Mid 20<sup>th</sup> century municipal estates' zone, with layout patterns generally consisting of medium density plots arranged in geometric forms.

### ***Inherited Character***

Field boundary and settlement patterns shown on 19<sup>th</sup> century historic maps of these areas are typical of open field agriculture. On the lower ground are semi-regular strip field patterns associated with nucleated villages, whilst the higher ground is dominated by substantial areas of common grazing land including Gleadless Common, Hollins End Common, Woodthorpe Common and Birley Moor. It is likely that these commons were enclosed as part of the Beighton and Handsworth Enclosure Awards of 1799 and 1805 respectively (dates from English 1985, 63; Kain and Oliver 2004, record EXMID 16913). Fragmentary historic features survive from this enclosure landscape, particularly the road system and some older post enclosure stone built buildings.

At Handsworth, despite substantial demolition at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (and much rebuilding in terraced forms) and again later in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (as part of a scheme to turn Handsworth Road into a dual carriageway), a significant cluster of historic buildings survive around the 12<sup>th</sup> century parish church. These include two pre 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings that have incorporated parts of earlier timber structures.



**Figure 398: Former Rectory, Handsworth - built in the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century, but containing part of a cruck timber.**

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Elements of a street pattern with medieval origins can be traced in Woodhouse, centred on the historic Market Square and the surrounding streets of Church Street, Market Street, Chapel Street and Tannery Street. Around these streets a number of buildings predating the industrial period can be found, although again 20<sup>th</sup> century road and housing redevelopments have compromised the integrity of the historic core. Historic maps predating the suburbanisation of Woodhouse show a network of enclosed strips, clearly taken from earlier open fields. In the modern landscape only a small but important area of these characteristic curving boundaries survive as enclosed land, associated with a relict section of Water Slacks Lane. Elsewhere this pattern has been lost beneath industrial and residential development or has been removed by 20<sup>th</sup> century intensive cultivation methods.

The historic village of Mosborough (described in this zone separately from the surrounding 'Mosborough Townships', which form the 'Late 20<sup>th</sup> century private suburbs' zone) is first recorded in 1002 (Stroud 1996, 43). The original settlement appears to have been based around a curving main street leading from the medieval manor of Mosborough Hall, along the present Duke Street to South Street; historic narrow tenement plots are significantly legible along South Street. The present buildings in this area date mostly to the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century, but there are a number of important 18<sup>th</sup> century survivals including the listed no 31 and 32 (Summer House) South Street and the winnowing barns at Eckington Hall Farm, as well as the non listed 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries buildings at The Pingle, Elmwood Farm (no 27 South St), no 37, The Alma Public House and the terrace of buildings to the north of Eckington Hall Farm. To the north of this area of probable medieval settlement, pre-enclosure survey information names Mosborough Green (see Stroud 1996, fig 19). The enclosure of this former common formed the basis of the current pattern of property divisions here. Street character in this later area of the village is uniform and regular in comparison to the older settlement area.

An area of historic settlement similar in character to those at Handsworth, Mosborough and Woodhouse can be discerned at High Street, Beighton. The pattern of boundaries in this area conforms to the typical layout of medieval nucleated settlements in South Yorkshire, with thin property boundaries perpendicular to a main street. Close by this area lies the church of St Mary the Virgin, which contains 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century architecture in its tower and nave arcades despite a widespread 19<sup>th</sup> century restoration (Richards 1991). To the south of the main area of settlement, the 17<sup>th</sup> century manor farm is also preserved through residential re-use. Like Handsworth and Woodhouse, Beighton was historically related to a substantial open field system, progressively overbuilt to house a mining community from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The earliest streets of this suburbanisation (Queens Road, Manvers Road and Victoria Road) were clearly built within earlier enclosed strip fields.

### ***Later Developments***

The post Second World War period brought major changes to the established patterns of suburbanisation. Whilst large cottage estate type developments continued, on some municipal developments a radical change of design direction was adopted by Sheffield Corporation (see Sheffield City Council 1962) in order to meet the considerable challenges and opportunities of increasing car ownership and large scale housing shortages. New housing projects built by the corporation from the late 1950s onwards generally rejected traditional building methods and architectural forms in favour of flat roofed blocks of multiple occupancy flats in estates featuring large communal green spaces where pedestrian and vehicular space was strictly segregated. The principal area for this type of development in this sub-zone was in Woodhouse, where large estates of system built houses were constructed between 1962 and the early 1980s. Elsewhere large amounts of older housing in the settlements' historic cores were cleared in the 1970s, as part of a long standing programme to remove 'unsanitary' housing. This provided further opportunities for council led rebuilding. Later 20<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century private housing in this zone has tended to match the spatial characteristics of the suburban housing developments described in the 'Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Private Suburbs' character zone.

*Colliery Villages character areas - 'Beighton'; 'Birley Moor'; 'Handsworth'; 'Mosborough'; 'Woodhouse'*

### **The Enlarged Villages**

#### ***Summary of Dominant Character***

This sub-zone of the suburbanised rural settlements represents a group of historically nucleated settlements that have grown larger over the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in a symbiotic relationship with the City of Sheffield. Most of these character areas have significant historic legibility. The historic cores of Dore, Totley and Ecclesfield display classic boundary patterns found in many medieval villages in South Yorkshire, with a clear pattern of one or more main streets off which run narrow plots of semi regular form, with later development clustered around them. Grenoside, Oughtibridge and Worrall were also certainly nucleated before the 1850s, although the pattern of properties in each was much less regular. At Stannington, historic settlement appears to have been of a more dispersed character, with the 1850 OS mapping showing a number of very loosely clustered farmsteads.

Suburban expansion of these settlements is highly mixed. Most have accommodated areas of terraced housing, municipal council housing of early

and later twentieth century date, as well as private speculatively developed housing.

### *Inherited Character*

Historically, the largest and most important of these settlements was Ecclesfield. It is likely to have been the ecclesiastical centre of a pre-Norman unit of Hallamshire, with historical documents claiming Sheffield as well as Bradfield as dependent chapelries as late as 1188 (Hey 1979, 28). The layout of the village, as depicted in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, has largely persisted in the present townscape, with regular plots along Town End Road, High Street and Church Street clearly corresponding to those shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey mapping. Within these plots some important stone built vernacular architecture survives, not least the scheduled 19<sup>th</sup> century former file factory at 11 High Street.

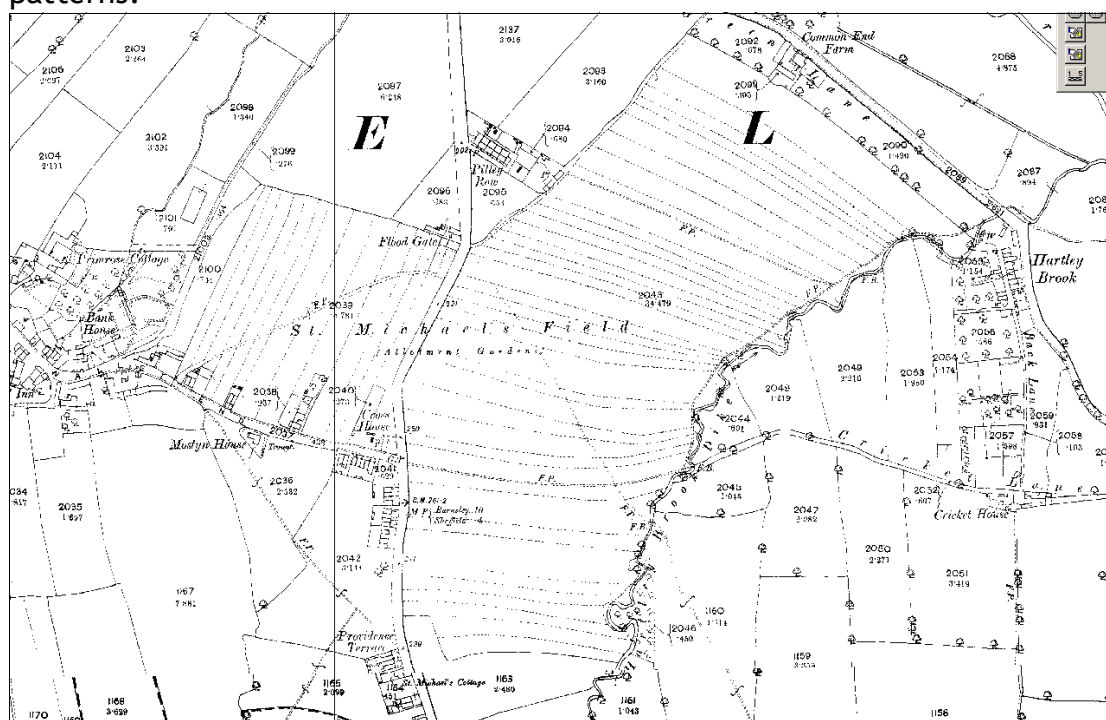
The ecclesiastical importance of the village is represented in the townscape by the fine medieval church of St Mary's, at its centre. This church, at which evidence for a pre-conquest foundation was found in 1892 with the discovery of a Saxon cross shaft, includes Early English (c.1180 -c.1275) and Perpendicular (c.1350-c.1580) architecture (Pevsner and Radcliffe 1967, 185). Behind the church, lie the remains of a Benedictine Priory; the surviving buildings, restored in the 1880s, consist of two ranges, the first housing a chapel and the second interpreted as a refectory and dormitory block. The complex, particularly the chapel range, retains significant 13<sup>th</sup> century architectural elements (Ryder 1980, 453-454).



**Figure 399: Ecclesfield file works**  
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More fragmentary legibility of the medieval landscape continues to the north east. The present vicarage is a modern building, but it stands within the remains of a large 19<sup>th</sup> century garden. At the far end of this plot lies the scheduled Willow Garth, a probable medieval moated site. Beyond the moat lies a large dam, now used as a fishing pond, but formerly associated with a water powered mill - possibly on the site of the medieval corn mill of the priory (Miller 1949, 95).

19<sup>th</sup> century OS mapping shows the historic core of Ecclesfield to have been surrounded by a distinctive network of narrow strip fields to the south and west, with common land to the north. Much of the former open field known as St Michael's Field (to the east of the historic core area) remained unenclosed until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century - the original communal character being retained by the strips' conversion to allotment plots. Those plots not retained as allotments were generally developed as housing between World War I and World War II - fossilising significant legibility of the earlier strip patterns.



**Figure 400: 1894 OS mapping of the unfenced strips of St Michael's Field in Ecclesfield - one of the latest examples of open common field patterns in the South Yorkshire.**

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Ecclesfield Common was enclosed by Parliamentary Award in 1789 (English 1985, 45). Much of the length of Church Street, The Common, Mill Road and the relict boundaries within Ecclesfield Park survive from this award. Housing developed along the enclosure period roads from the later 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries - much of it of 'bylaw terrace' form.

The oldest part of the Grenoside character area provides some striking contrasts to Ecclesfield. The evidence points towards this being a late medieval unplanned nucleated settlement. The characterisation data notes an absence of burgage type plots, church, or manor. The settlement is not associated with a recorded former open field system and (perhaps tellingly) Grenoside is not recorded as a placename until the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries (Smith 1969, 246). The earliest evidence for settlement here is two cruck buildings at Hill Top Farm and Prior Royd Farm (Morley 1984). Cruck construction in South Yorkshire generally dates to the 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries (see Ryder 1979c). The stimulus for Grenoside's growth was probably as much due to the growth of rural metal working as to agricultural activity. Hey (1991, 83) has noted the growth of likely 'squatter settlements' around greens and commons in the post-medieval period, a process he associates with the activities of the emerging class of 'cutler-farmers'. At Grenoside, Morley (1984) highlights a number of residents listed as members of the Cutlers Company in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, in addition to a thriving nail making industry. Unplanned squatter development would be expected to result in a highly irregular plan-form of pre-enclosure settlement, such as that depicted here by Jeffreys in 1775. Houses are shown around the edge of and on small assartments within the historic Greno Moor.

The present road pattern is likely to have been laid out by the 1789 Ecclesfield and Greno Wood Enclosure Award (English 1985, 45). It is typical of new road layouts of this period, being straight edged and of regular character. It was probably drawn to formalise property ownership within this growing township. Building phases predating this enclosure period are unlikely to be aligned with the later roads.

Legible evidence of metalworking in Grenoside can be found throughout the historic core of the settlement. Iron founding was developed by the Walker family on Cupola Lane in the 1740s, before their expansion into ever larger premises (with better communications) in Masborough, Rotherham. The name of this lane probably originates in either the air furnaces built here by Aaron Walker or their later cementation furnace, constructed around 1749 (Morley 1984). The Grenoside steelworks remained in the hands of the Walker family until 1823, when they were taken over by the Aston family. By 1825 three separate crucible steelworks are known to have been in operation - one with twelve melting holes on Cupola Lane, eighteen melting holes at Top Side and twelve melting holes on Stephen Lane. Traces of these furnaces survive at Topside and Stephen Lane, but the site of the works at Cupola Lane has been built over. The SMR records a further eight sites of workshops and a file cutting shed in Grenoside, mostly within surviving vernacular buildings.

The improvement of transport communications to Grenoside are represented by the Sheffield-Halifax turnpike built in 1777 (Smith 1997) [now Main Street]. Buildings along this road are largely 19<sup>th</sup> century in origin and include a Primitive Methodist Church, National School, stone built public houses, inns, and workers housing.

Dore is traditionally thought to be the place where in AD 827 Egbert, King of Wessex, met the Northumbrians and accepted their subjection (Hey 1998, 6); the village lies on the boundary between the former Saxon kingdoms of Mercia and Northumbria (until the 20<sup>th</sup> century the boundary between Yorkshire and Derbyshire). A well off middle class suburb developed around the village's historic core from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

The present village retains the probably ancient street pattern shown on the 1835 Sanderson map. The pattern is irregular with little evidence for burgage plots. A number of older stone built vernacular cottages and farmsteads dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> through to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries are retained, with the majority being listed. The 20<sup>th</sup> century has seen the demolition of some important earlier buildings including the early post-medieval Dore Hall. Important institutional buildings include the listed former village school on Savage Lane (dating to 1821), and Christ Church (dating to 1828), which was built near the site of an ancient chapel of ease. Later suburban expansion outside the historic core preserves little legibility of the former surrounding field patterns, although some ridge and furrow and relict piecemeal enclosure boundaries are preserved in the recreation ground immediately to the west of the village centre.

Like Dore, Mosborough and Beighton, Totley lies within the area of historic Derbyshire rather than Yorkshire. The urban form of the historic core (a typical medieval linear village with a single main street along the present Hillfoot Road and Totley Hall Road) has little changed from its form on the 1877 OS mapping of Derbyshire. Most buildings within this area have survived from this time, with few completely new buildings; most later buildings, (for example 315 -329 Baslow Road, a late Victorian terrace) continue to use vernacular facings and building styles.

The majority of the buildings in this core area date from the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries with much use being made of local building styles, such as the use of sandstone rubble, stone mullions, stone slate roofs and casement windows. The oldest building is probably Cannon Hall, which the English Heritage listing text ascribes in part to the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, with early 17<sup>th</sup> century additions. An adjacent cruck framed barn, with possible medieval origins, is recorded on the SMR.

Other important buildings include an early school house (dated 1827, converted to residential use in mid 20<sup>th</sup> century) and several vernacular farm complexes. Also included in this area is the mansion of Totley Hall, originally built in 1623 in local style and enlarged in a similar style in 1883 and 1894 as an industrialist's residence. The Hall was re-used in the 20<sup>th</sup> century as part of Sheffield Technical College and is associated with a Hall Farm to the north.

In plan form the village suggests unplanned nucleation, with little evidence on Sanderson's 1835 map for burgage plots. This map does, however, show a clear pattern of strip enclosure around the village, a form often ascribed to the piecemeal enclosure of open fields in the early post-medieval period



(Taylor 1975, 120-122). Sanderson's map also shows a small square to the north of the village, a probable green now fossilised by the plot on which stands Ash Cottage.

The centre of the historic village area is crossed by the turnpike road from Sheffield to Baslow, built at the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The village form, however, suggests that the more historically important route was that which runs from Dore to Woodthorpe.

The suburban growth of both Totley and Dore (which form a common character area) was first stimulated by the construction of the Midland Railway in the early 1870s. By the 1877 1<sup>st</sup> edition mapping of Derbyshire, the main line of this railway (London via Chesterfield) had been opened, with a station built at Abbeydale Road. A new road (Dore Road) was built to link the station with the historic village and this had become the focus for the development of large detached villas by the 1890s.

The historic core of Stannington appears to have been dispersed over a wide area; the characterisation records a probable medieval road pattern including at least one village green. The historic settlement core includes a number of listed buildings (including some cruck built structures). Suburbanisation appears in Stannington later than in most of the other villages in this zone. Whilst plots were laid out for villa development in the Liberty Hill area in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was not until the 1920s to 1930s that they are depicted with any number of buildings. The same period, between the wars, appears to have seen development in the Woodland View area of geometric estate housing in the typical municipal cottage estate form - in addition to infilling by privately developed medium density housing around the historic settlement core. Post-war development has seen a continuing mixture of these types with some later large-scale high density municipal housing. Field patterns in Stannington include well preserved early 19<sup>th</sup> century parliamentary enclosures at Greaves Lane still managed as enclosed agricultural land.

Oughtibridge is another settlement that appears to have grown from settlement around a former common or green. Enclosure of this land, probably by the Hallam Enclosure Award of 1805 (English 1985, 62), appears to have defined the current property boundaries and conditioned the later growth of the village. The oldest historic character in this area, on a landscape scale, is around the junctions of Langsett Road and Church Street, characterised as representative of 19<sup>th</sup> century development. Otherwise this character area is made up of medium density 20<sup>th</sup> century suburban extensions to the early core area.

The settlement at Wharncliffe Side probably post-dates the construction of the Wadsley and Langsett Turnpike in 1804-5, as the oldest stone fronted buildings here are generally strung out along this road. Most of the buildings depicted by the OS in 1854 survive, although the vast majority of housing in this area dates to the construction of mid 20<sup>th</sup> century municipal housing estates. These were expanded with private developments in the

late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Estate development has fossilised no evidence for the earlier piecemeal enclosure landscape.

Worrall, a small nucleated settlement still surrounded by farmland to the west of Sheffield, retains much village form in the historic core around Town Head Road, in addition to a number of vernacular buildings depicted on 1850s OS mapping. This early mapping shows a small unplanned nucleation of farmsteads. Analysis of Harrison's 1637 survey (Scurfield 1986) shows the settlement was on the edge of moorland common at that time - a niche occupied by many of the villages of the former Bradfield Township. Suburbanisation began between the wars with construction of semi-detached and detached medium density housing around the historic core and to its north. Post-war development has also tended towards medium density development, fossilising little historic legibility outside of the historic core of the settlement.

***Enlarged Villages character areas - 'Dore and Totley'; 'Ecclesfield'; 'Grenoside'; 'Oughtibridge'; 'Stannington'; 'Wharncliffe Side'; 'Worrall'***