

## **Environmental Characteristics**

### **Historic character**

The majority of present-day villages within the plan area date from before the Domesday Survey of 1086. These are:

- Ashley
- Mucklestone
- Knighton
- Winnington
- Oakley
- Tyrley
- Almington

The largest settlement is Loggerheads itself, which has developed mainly in recent decades and has no historic centre.

Other hamlets include Napley, Blore, Hales and Willoughbridge.

The area contains 79 listed buildings (78 grade II and 1 grade II\*), 96 monuments recorded by Staffordshire County Council and 4 scheduled ancient monuments, 4 sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs), two conservation areas and one ancient battle site (Blore Heath 1459).

The area is skirted to the West by Telford's Shropshire Union Canal, built in 1835 and notable for its extensive use of embankments and cuttings. The two natural watercourses comprise the Coal Brook, which rises at a spring near Bishop's Wood in the East of the area and flows under the canal aqueduct to join the River Tern at Market Drayton. The River Tern flows from its source at Maer in the neighbouring parish to the East and extends some 30 miles to join the River Severn near Attingham.

### **Landscape types**

The three maps at ..... show the main landscape types present in the plan area. It will be noted that, of the 4,790 hectares (Ha) total area, around 4,100, or in excess of 85%, comprise agricultural land. The map at ..... shows the grading of agricultural land within the plan area.

The settled areas account for around 220 Ha, or less than 5%, while woodland occupies 420 Ha (9%) of which 280 Ha are ancient or early (6%) and 140 Ha are plantations (3%). Areas affected by mineral extraction account for less than 1%. There is no significant brownfield land in the area outside of the two former extraction areas.

There is a single football pitch in the Burntwood (too small to meet league rules) and no other recreational space apart from a number of small play areas. Taking into account the current

population of 4,500 there is deemed to be a shortfall of at least 25 acres of recreational amenity space.

The area benefits from a number of stunning landscape views across Shropshire to the Wrekin and the Welsh mountains and across Staffordshire to the South and to the Maer Hills to the East.

There are a range of circular walks which take advantage of those views, and further routes are under development. These are actively promoted by the parish council.

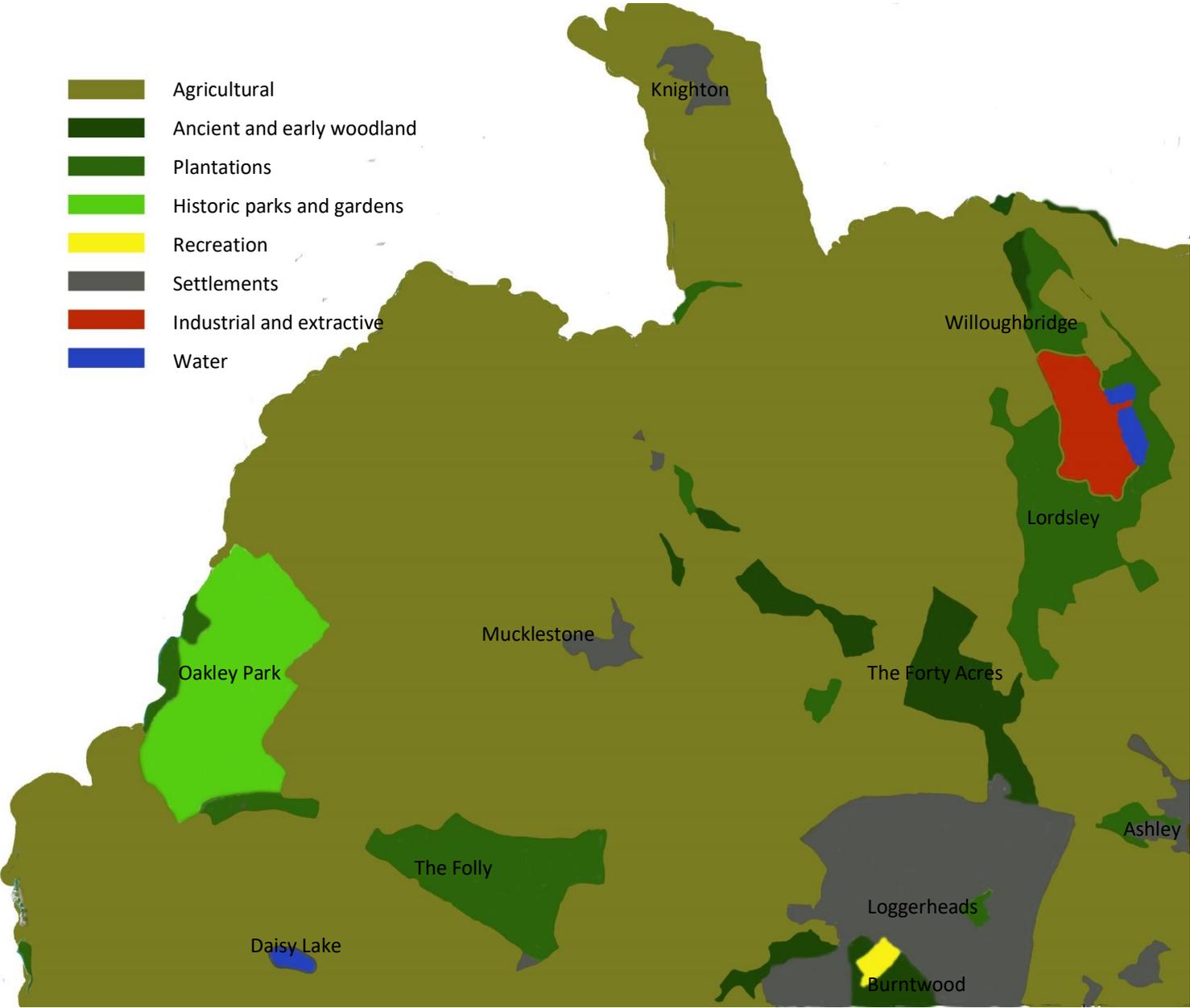
### **Key routes and spaces**

The area is bisected by a major trunk route, the A53, which joins Shrewsbury in the West to Newcastle in the East. This is a major concern to Loggerheads residents due to traffic noise and highway safety, the speed limit being routinely ignored. There is no apparent route for any potential by-pass to be built. It is therefore necessary to consider what traffic calming measures might be employed.

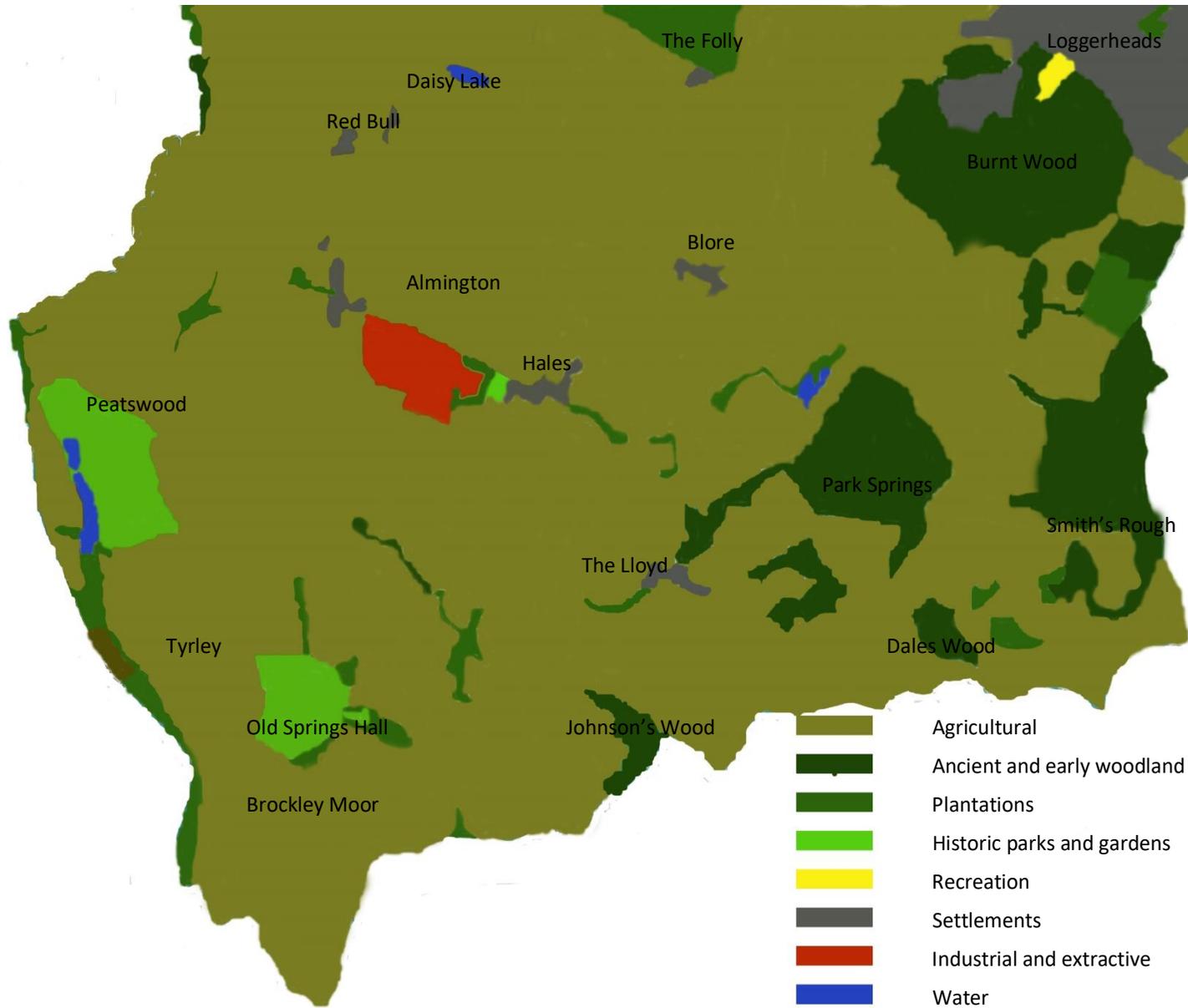
The canal is one of the busiest waterways in the country.

Landscape Character – North West of Parish

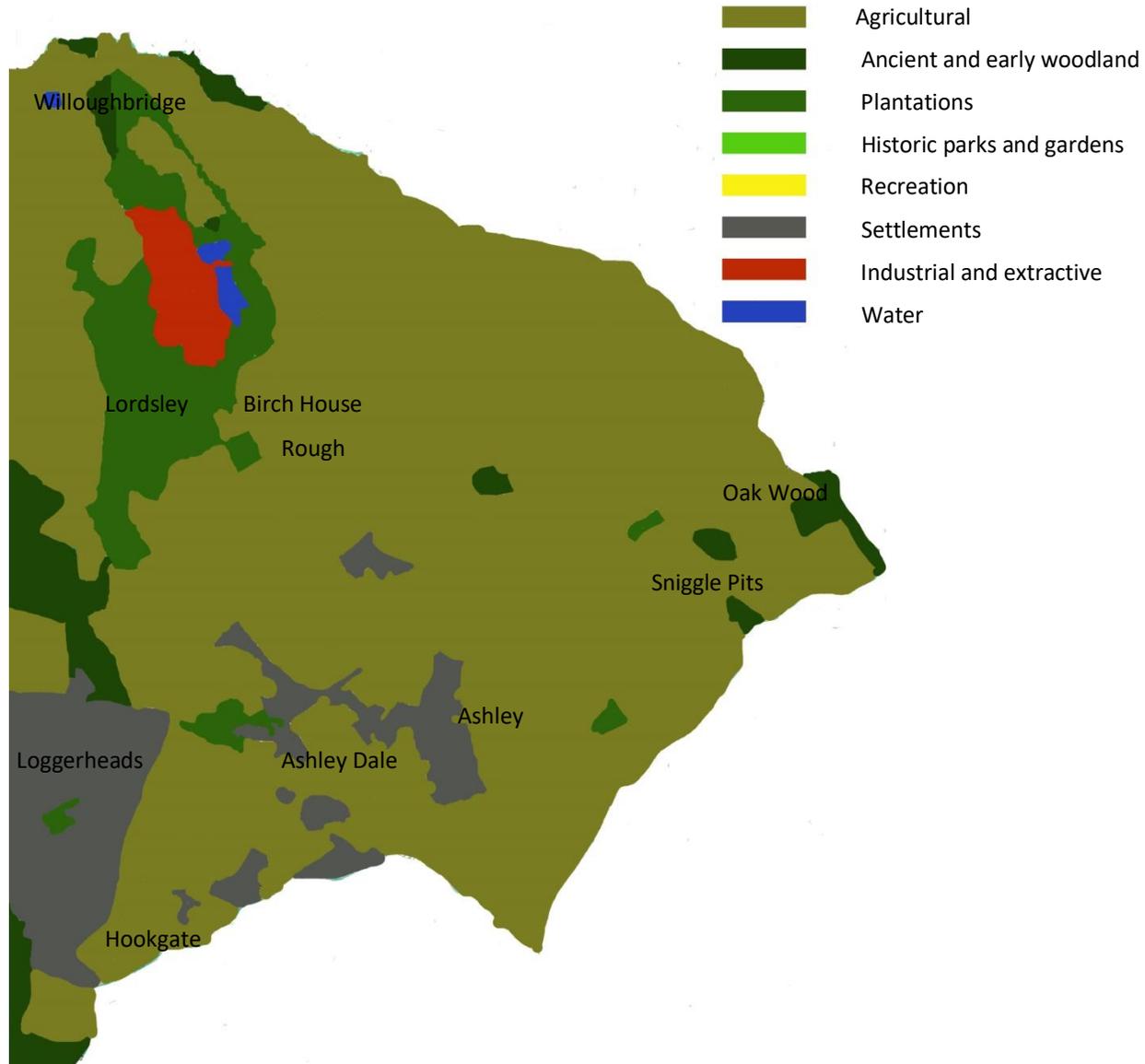
- Agricultural
- Ancient and early woodland
- Plantations
- Historic parks and gardens
- Recreation
- Settlements
- Industrial and extractive
- Water



# Landscape Character – South West of Parish



# Landscape Character – East of Parish



### Agricultural land class – Loggerheads Parish

