

Birmingham and Black Country Local Wildlife Sites - Guidance for Selection (March 2018)

Information Sources (Social Criteria)

1. Historic Maps

UK-wide

Old-maps.co.uk. Link: <https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/>

Useful for maps from 1880s to 1980

Google Earth, historical aerial photographs <https://earth.google.com/web/>

Birmingham

Birmingham Historic Landscape Characterisation.

Link: https://localview.birmingham.gov.uk/Planning/Sites/HLC_Maps/

Useful; for maps predating 1880

Mappa Moseley. Link: <https://andyunderscore.com/maps/>

1770s/1840s maps of South Birmingham

Dudley

DMBC – Historic Maps of the Borough of Dudley. Link: <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/planning/historic-environment/historic-maps-of-dudley/>

Maps ranging from the medieval period to Victorian era.

2. Historic Landscape Characterisation

Another source of information on the historic environment is historic characterisation. Historic characterisation studies describe the present day historic character of the landscape/townscape as well offer information on past uses and the evolution of the landscape over time. The coverage of historic characterisation in the West Midlands is well advanced, and coverage can be checked with the relevant local authority.

Key information sources include:

- The **Black Country** Historic Landscape Characterisation (covering the entirety of Wolverhampton, Dudley, Walsall and Sandwell). This provides a high level description of the Black Country, but also presented on an area basis via Character Area Profiles. http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/blackcountry_hlc_2009/. A number of supporting reports are also available, such as on the historic extent of the canal and tramway network..
- The historic landscape characterisation of **Birmingham** was published in 2015 <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20056/archaeology/50/historic-landscape-characterisation/2>

3. Heritage Assets

The location of heritage assets such as the canal network, historic parks and gardens, or surviving historic landscape features present in the site/surrounding area may also be relevant.

Information on designated and non-designated heritage assets can be sourced from the local authority Historic Environment Record (HER). The local authority can also provide up-to-date information on the location and boundaries of conservation areas, which are designated at the local level, and any available conservation area appraisal and management plan.

For designated heritage assets (e.g. scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields) the National Heritage List is also a source of information

www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england

4. Local History Societies

Local history societies exist for many areas in Birmingham and the Black Country and may be able to provide additional information on the history of a site.