

**Local Plan 2043: Issues and
Options Spatial Portrait**

Policy and Strategy Team

October 2024



Lichfield
District Council

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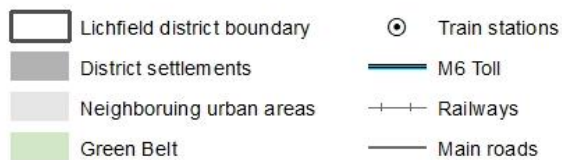
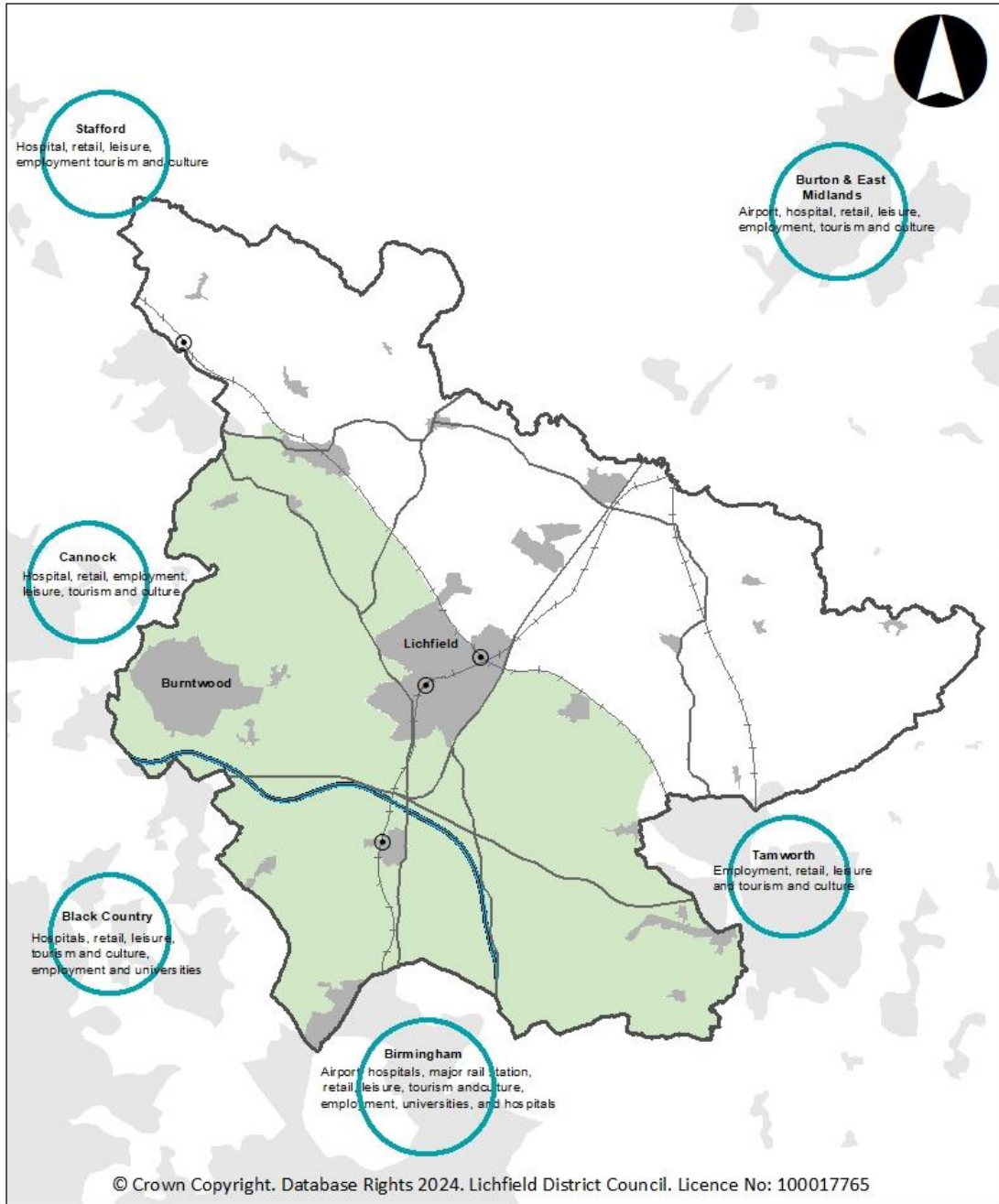
Local Plan 2043: Issues and Options spatial portrait

1. To help us plan for the future of the district, we need to understand the characteristics of the district today and the issues and opportunities these present. This document presents a detailed spatial portrait of Lichfield district in the past, present and the future. It describes where we are now; gives an overview of the district's characteristics and the opportunities and challenges that arise from those characteristics. This portrait has been prepared alongside the [Local Plan 2043: Issues and Options](#) document which will be consulted upon between **30 October and 11 December 2024**. A summary of this portrait is included within the issues and options document.

Geography

2. Lichfield district is located in south-east Staffordshire abutting the west midlands conurbation and covers an area of 33,130 hectares. The district has two main settlements Lichfield and Burntwood, as well as many villages set within a varied and attractive rural landscape. Parts of the district also abut larger settlements in neighbouring areas including Little Aston which adjoins Sutton Coldfield and Streetly, Fazeley which adjoins Tamworth. The town of Rugeley, which lies within Cannock Chase district, sits on the north-western boundary of Lichfield district.

Figure 1: Lichfield district regional context



Population

- Lichfield district is home to 106,436 residents¹. Of this total, approximately 27,900 people live in Burntwood and 32,600 live in Lichfield city. There is a higher proportion of people over

¹ [2021 Census: Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#).

the age of 65 in comparison to the regional and national average, with those over the age of 65 accounting for 24% of all residents.

4. Between the 2011 census and 2021 census, the district’s population increased by 5.7%, with the number of people aged 75 to 84 years rising by 3,500 (an increase of 57.2%). Additionally, the district saw largest percentage point fall in the proportion of households including a couple with no children (2.9% decrease) in the west midlands.
5. The population of the district is projected to increase by 8.17% between 2018 and 2043². By 2043, the ageing population over 65 is projected to account for 27.63% of all residents. This is higher than the national estimate of 23.85%. Such growth in the ageing population means that the working population is getting smaller. Residents aged between 16 and 64 currently represent 59.3% of the total population. By 2043, this share is expected to fall to 57%.

Table 1: Population and age structure

Population	Lichfield district	West midlands	England
Total population	106,436	5,950,758	56,490,047
Children (0-15)	16.7%	19.3 %	18.5%
Working age (16 – 64)	59.3%	61.9%	63%
Older people (65+)	24%	18.8%	18.3%

6. In comparison with the west midlands and England as a whole, there is a significantly higher percentage of people of white ethnicity rather than those of other ethnicities.

Table 2: Ethnic composition

Ethnicity	Lichfield district (%)	West midlands (%)	England (%)
White, White Irish or White other	94.8	77	81
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	1.9	3	3
Asian or Asian British	2.3	13.3	9.6
Black or Black British	0.6	4.5	4.2
Other ethnic group	0.4	2.1	2.2

Housing

7. Lichfield district is a desirable place to live and a popular commuter area for Birmingham and the wider west midlands. However, housing affordability remains a challenge. In June 2024³, the average house price in the district was £313,000, compared to the west midlands average of £253,000. House prices in the district have risen sharply over the past decade, with the average property costing £229,560 in 2014.
8. A majority of 74% of homes in the district are owned by their occupied either outright or with a mortgage. This is above the national average for owner occupation of 62%. At a ward level with the district home ownership is highest in Little Aston and Stonnall and lowest in Chadsmead.

² [2018 Mid-year population estimates](#) (ONS)

³ [Housing process in Lichfield 2024](#) (ONS)

Table 3: Households that own their own property

Lichfield district ward	Households that own their own property (%)
Little Aston and Stonnall	89.3
Highfield	86.9
Hammerwich with Wall	85.7
Boley Park	85.6
Longdon	83
Shenstone	82.9
Colton and the Ridwares	79.7
Chase Terrace	79.6
Alrewas and Fradley	79.1
St John's	75.3
Armitage With Handsacre	75
Boney Hay and Central	74.9
Whittington and Streethay	74.6
Bourne Vale	74.1
Summerfield and All Saints	72
Mease Valley	70.9
Leomansley	67.4
Fazeley	64.8
Stowe	64.3
Chasetown	58.2
Curborough	55
Chadsmead	54.9

9. Affordability is also an issue, especially for first-time buyers, in Lichfield district, with the average house price for first time buyers being £248,000 in June 2024, compared to £211,899 in the west midlands and £255,868 in England.
10. Data from the council's [Social Progress Index](#) illustrate that Shenstone, Longdon, and Little Aston are the least affordable wards for housing in the district, while Summerfield and All Saints, Chasetown, and Armitage with Handsacre are the most affordable.

Table 4: Average property prices

Year	Lichfield district	West midlands
2014	£229,560	£191,000
2015	£239,949	£202,397
2016	£253,790	£212,887
2017	£275,023	£214,877
2018	£274,535	£225,658
2019	£283,249	£231,121
2020	£304,197	£236,798
2021	£316,853	£263,000
2022	£341,106	£265,000
2023	£331,792	£281,321
2024	£328,036	£268,000

11. 13% of households in Lichfield district are either privately rented or rent free⁴. This is lower than the national average of 20%. The average monthly private rent in Lichfield was £981 in July 2024 which is higher than the west midlands average of £884, but lower than the England average of £1,319.
12. Lichfield district has an imbalance of housing types with high concentrations of larger, detached homes, particularly in the rural areas and a lack of smaller two- and three-bedroom homes. There is a notable desire for smaller properties particularly for first time buyers and those looking to downsize.
13. There is significant demand for affordable housing in the district. As of September 2023, around 412 households were listed on the council's social housing register, up from 304 in 2021. In 2021, 13% of residents in Lichfield district lived in socially rented housing, a figure comparable to the 13.2% recorded in 2011⁵.
14. Lichfield district has an aging population which will result in increasing requirements for specialist older persons accommodation with varying levels of care, as well as adaptable and accessible homes that enable residents to stay in their own homes.
15. In 2022/23 there were a total of 864 care home residents in Lichfield district. The number of people aged 65 and over living in a care home per 1000 population aged 65 and over in Lichfield was 23, rising to 116 for people aged over 85.

Health and Inequalities

16. Lichfield district is a prosperous area in a regional and national context, ranking as low as 250 out of 317 local authorities for overall levels of deprivation in 2019⁶. Whilst it is generally true that this is an indication of overall prosperity and the health of communities, there are pockets of deprivation within the district and evidence that levels have increased. Notably, Chadsmead ward falls within 20% of most deprived areas nationally.
17. Our [social progress index](#) data tells us that Fazeley and Chasetown wards scored lowest for overall health and wellbeing, whilst Boley Park and St Johns wards in Lichfield scored highest.

Life expectancy

18. Overall life expectancy at birth continues to rise both locally and nationally. Lichfield district has a higher healthy life expectancy than the national average and in 2022 this was within the top 31%⁷ nationally, although this conceals pockets where healthy life expectancy is lower than the national average.
19. Data from our [social progress index](#) shows that in 2023, life expectancy for females was lowest in Armitage with Handsacre and Chasetown and highest in St Johns in Lichfield and Shenstone. For males, life expectancy was lowest in Chasetown and Curborough and highest in Colton and the Ridwares and St Johns, Lichfield.

Table 5: Life expectancy in 2023

Lichfield district ward	Female life expectancy	Male life expectancy
Alrewas and Fradley	85.9	82.4

⁴ [Census 2021 \(ONS\)](#)

⁵ Census 2021 (ONS)

⁶ [Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019](#) (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government)

⁷ [ONS - Life expectancy at birth 2022](#)

Lichfield district ward	Female life expectancy	Male life expectancy
Armitage With Handsacre	79.6	78.4
Boley Park	86.7	83.9
Boney Hay and Central	83	79.2
Bourne Vale	83.8	79.3
Chadsmead	86.2	79.4
Chase Terrace	80.9	79.4
Chasetown	80.2	78
Colton and the Ridwares	82.3	84.3
Curborough	83	78.2
Fazeley	81.1	79.2
Hammerwich with Wall	84.6	81.3
Highfield	84.5	80.7
Leomansley	85.3	80.5
Little Aston and Stonnall	84.5	83.4
Longdon	84.8	80.7
Mease Valley	84.5	80.7
Shenstone	87.2	83.6
St John's	88.6	84.1
Stowe	83	78.5
Summerfield and All Saints	82	79.2
Whittington and Streethay	84.1	80.6

20. Overall, life expectancy in Lichfield district in 2022 was 83.9 for females and 80.4 for males, which is above the west midlands and similar to the England averages.

Table 6: Life expectancy at birth in 2022

	Female life expectancy	Male life expectancy
Lichfield district	83.96	80.49
West midlands	82.63	78.70
England	83.15	79.3

Obesity

21. Within the district there is a high rate of obesity, which can be seen from an early age through to adulthood with 62.5% of adults overweight or obese in 2022. In addition, 20.3% of children in Year 6 within the district were obese, which is just under the national average of 22.7% and under the West Midlands average of 25.2%.
22. The [Better Health Staffordshire](#) initiative aims to encourage residents to maintain a healthy weight by promoting physical activity and healthier eating habits. A detailed overview of health insights, including statistics on excess weight and healthy eating habits for Lichfield district is [available here](#).
23. Data from the [social progress index](#) shows childhood obesity in Year 6 children in 2023 was highest in Fazeley and Chadsmead and lowest in St John's and Boley Park.

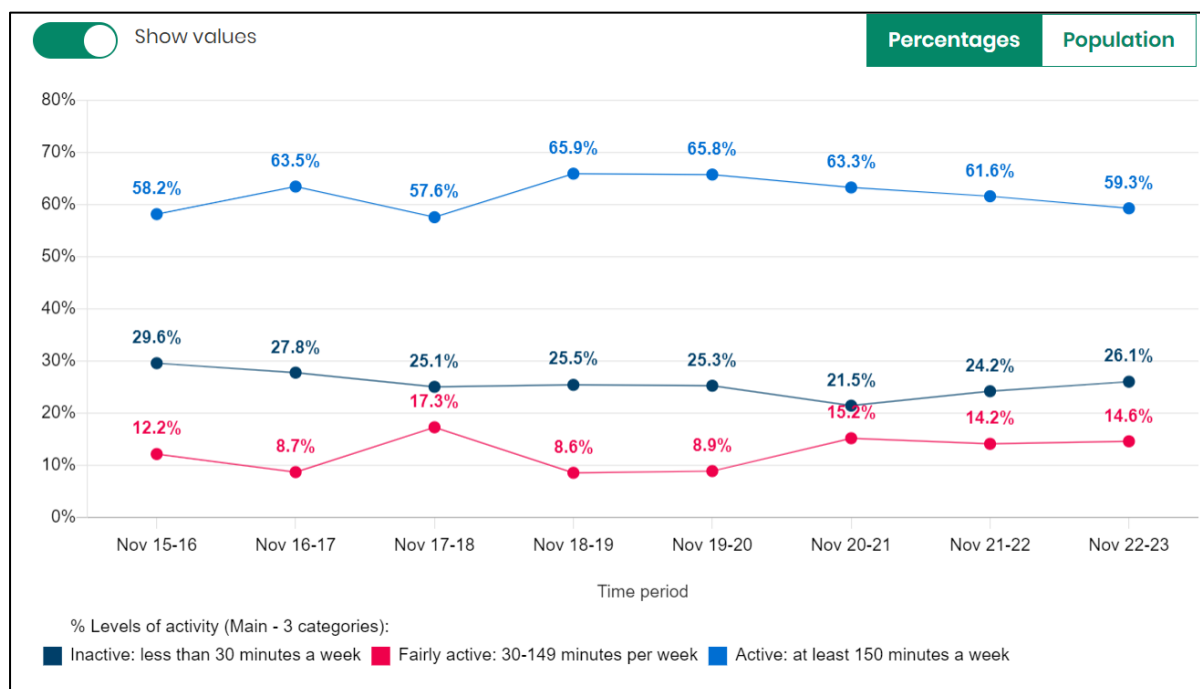
Table 7: Obesity among children in Year 6

Lichfield district ward	Obesity among children in Year 6 (%)
Fazeley	32
Chadsmead	29
Chasetown	28.6
Summerfield and All Saints	27.3
Chase Terrace	26.1
Boney Hay and Central	25.9
Curborough	23.1
Little Aston and Stonnall	22.7
Stowe	22.6
Bourne Vale	21.4
Shenstone	18.2
Hammerwich with Wall	17.6
Colton and the Ridwares	17.5
Longdon	17.5
Mease Valley	17.5
Highfield	17.4
Armitage With Handsacre	17.1
Whittington and Streethay	15.9
Leomansley	15.6
Alrewas and Fradley	14.9
St John's	14.9
Boley Park	10

Physical activity

24. Just over 64.3% of adults in the district are physically active, which is lower than the national average of 67.1%.
25. Sport England's ['Active Lives Survey'](#) measures the number of adults (16+ years) who participate in sport and physical activity. The Active Lives Survey measures the level of physical activity in three categories:
- Active: 150+ minutes a week
 - Fairly Active: 30-149 minutes a week
 - Inactive: less than 30 minutes a week
26. In 2022/23, just over 26% of adults in Lichfield District were recorded as being 'inactive' which is just over the England average of 25.7%.

Figure 2: Activity levels of adults in Lichfield district



27. In an [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) and Sport England analysis](#) of amenity access to sports and leisure facilities (March 2024), Lichfield district was ranked 194 out of all 309 local authorities in England, with 225 public and private facilities. The district was also ranked 127 out of the 309 authorities for the number of facilities per 10,000 head of population.

Access to open spaces

28. Our [Open Space Assessment](#) assesses the quantity and quality of public open spaces and play facilities in the district and identifies gaps in provision.
29. The assessment identifies that within the district, there are 2,882.71 ha of natural and semi natural greenspaces, giving a provision of 27.1 ha per 1,000 head. These include sites of European, national, county and local significance for wildlife and biodiversity.
30. Amenity greenspace refers to areas that provide space for informal activities near homes or workplaces or help improve the appearance of residential or other areas. This includes informal recreation areas, village greens, residential green spaces and other small green spots. The Open Spaces Assessment identifies 278 amenity greenspace sites across the district, covering a total of 213.58 hectares. This means there is an average of 2.0 hectares per 1,000 people. However, Hamstall Ridware and Wigginton, as well as parts of Shenstone, Little Aston, Armitage with Handsacre, Burntwood and some smaller rural settlements, have no amenity greenspace.
31. Lichfield currently falls short of the recommended amount of children’s play space, providing only about half of the space suggested by the [National Playing Fields Association](#). Some settlements, such as Hamstall Ridware, Longdon, Upper Longdon, Hints, Canwell, Chorley and Wall have no play areas at all. Many of the larger service villages also lack enough equipped play areas.
32. The Open Spaces Assessment revealed a high demand for allotments, with waiting lists for plots in Lichfield and the surrounding district exceeding 18 months.

General Health

33. In 2021, the number of people reporting that they were in 'very good health' was 47.1% which is above the west midlands average of 46.4% but lower than the England average of 48.5%⁸.
34. The [social progress index](#) shows that in 2019, cancer mortality rates were higher in Curborough, Fazeley and Chase Terrace, whilst they were lowest in Shenstone, Boley Park and Alrewas & Fradley.

Table 8: Cancer mortality rates in 2019

Lichfield district ward	Cancer mortality rate (standardised mortality ratio)
Curborough	117.4
Fazeley	116.2
Chase Terrace	115.9
Chasetown	111.6
Boney Hay and Central	109.3
Chadsmead	108.9
Summerfield and All Saints	104.3
Armitage With Handsacre	104.2
Hammerwich with Wall	95.9
Stowe	95.1
Highfield	94.1
Colton and the Ridwares	90.8
Leomansley	90.8
Longdon	89
Whittington and Streethay	85.9
Little Aston and Stonnall	85.8
Mease Valley	83.3
St John's	76.9
Bourne Vale	74.3
Alrewas and Fradley	69.7
Boley Park	69.1
Shenstone	68.3

35. In 2019, the coronary heart disease mortality rate was highest in Fazeley and Chasetown and lowest in St Johns and Boley Park, both in Lichfield.

⁸ Source: [Census 2021](#)

Table 9: Coronary heart disease mortality rates in 2019

Ward	Coronary heart disease mortality rate (standardised mortality ratio)
Fazeley	138.6
Chasetown	130.6
Boney Hay and Central	129.3
Curborough	128.5
Mease Valley	124.8
Summerfield and All Saints	112.7
Armitage With Handsacre	112.2
Whittington and Streethay	107.1
Bourne Vale	100.3
Chadsmead	98.2
Hammerwich with Wall	96.3
Alrewas and Fradley	93.2
Longdon	92.5
Chase Terrace	89.1
Highfield	89.1
Leomansley	83.6
Stowe	78.8
Little Aston and Stonnall	75.2
Shenstone	64.9
Colton and the Ridwares	59.3
Boley Park	54
St John's	45.3

Disabilities

36. In 2021, the number of people registered as disabled under the equality act was 17.8% which is under the west midlands average of 18.1% and just slightly over the England average of 17.3%.

Mental Health

37. According to the most recent [data](#) from 2017, the estimated prevalence of common mental disorders among people aged 16 and over in Lichfield district was 13.9%. This rate is lower than the west midlands average of 17.7% and the national average for England, which was 16.9%.

Crime

38. Lichfield district is perceived to be a safe place to live with rates of crime being lower than the countywide average. In 2023/24, the average crime rate for headline offences in the district was 54 crimes per 1,000 population which is lower than the average for Staffordshire at 75.3 per 1,000 population⁹.

⁹ ONS – [Recorded crime figures for Community Safety Partnership Areas, 2023-24](#)

39. At the ward level, the areas with the highest crime rate are Chasetown, Stowe and Bourne Vale. The areas with the lowest crime rate are the Mease Valley, Boley Park and Little Aston & Stonnall.

Table 10: Crime rates in 2022

Lichfield district ward	Crime rate (per 1,000 population)
Chasetown	165.2
Stowe	157.4
Bourne Vale	99.2
Leomansley	94.0
Chadsmead	93.9
Shenstone	88.6
Summerfield and All Saints	77.4
Curborough	76.1
Chase Terrace	75.3
Alrewas and Fradley	68.4
Boney Hay and Central	66.6
Fazeley	58.7
St John's	58.1
Longdon	54.0
Hammerwich with Wall	51.1
Whittington and Streethay	43.1
Highfield	39.4
Colton and the Ridwares	38.5
Armitage With Handsacre	33.7
Little Aston and Stonnall	33.6
Boley Park	31.9
Mease Valley	29.3

Transport

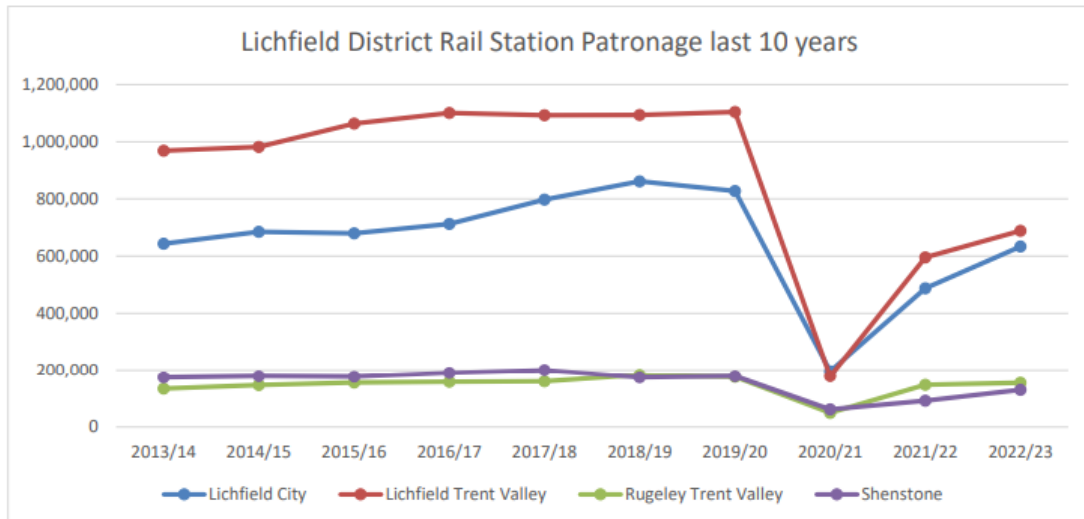
40. Lichfield district is well connected to the national transport network and is served by the A5, A38, A5148 and M6 Toll; all of which are part of the strategic road network (SRN). These routes are important nationally making our district attractive to employers and supporting economic growth our key employment areas.
41. In addition, the A5192 and A51 run through the district and are part of the major road network. The A5192 runs along the northern edge of Lichfield and connects the A51 with the A38. The A51 links Lichfield to the north, including connections with Rugeley and Stone, as well as connecting to the A34 which links to Stoke on Trent, the M6 and A50. It is recognised that there are some traffic and congestion issues at key hot spots in the district during the peak periods.

Figure 3: Lichfield district road network



42. There are four railway stations within the district: Lichfield City, Lichfield Trent Valley, Shenstone and Rugeley Trent Valley providing access to London via the West Coast Mainline and Birmingham via the Cross-City line or Walsall via the Chase Line. Burntwood with its population of over 30,000 does not have direct access to the rail network along with many of the larger rural settlements including Armitage with Handsacre, Fradley, Alrewas and Kings Bromley.
43. [Data from Staffordshire County Council](#) shows that while rail passenger numbers are steadily increasing, they are still significantly below their 2019 peak. This is likely due to the rise in home working following the COVID-19 pandemic.

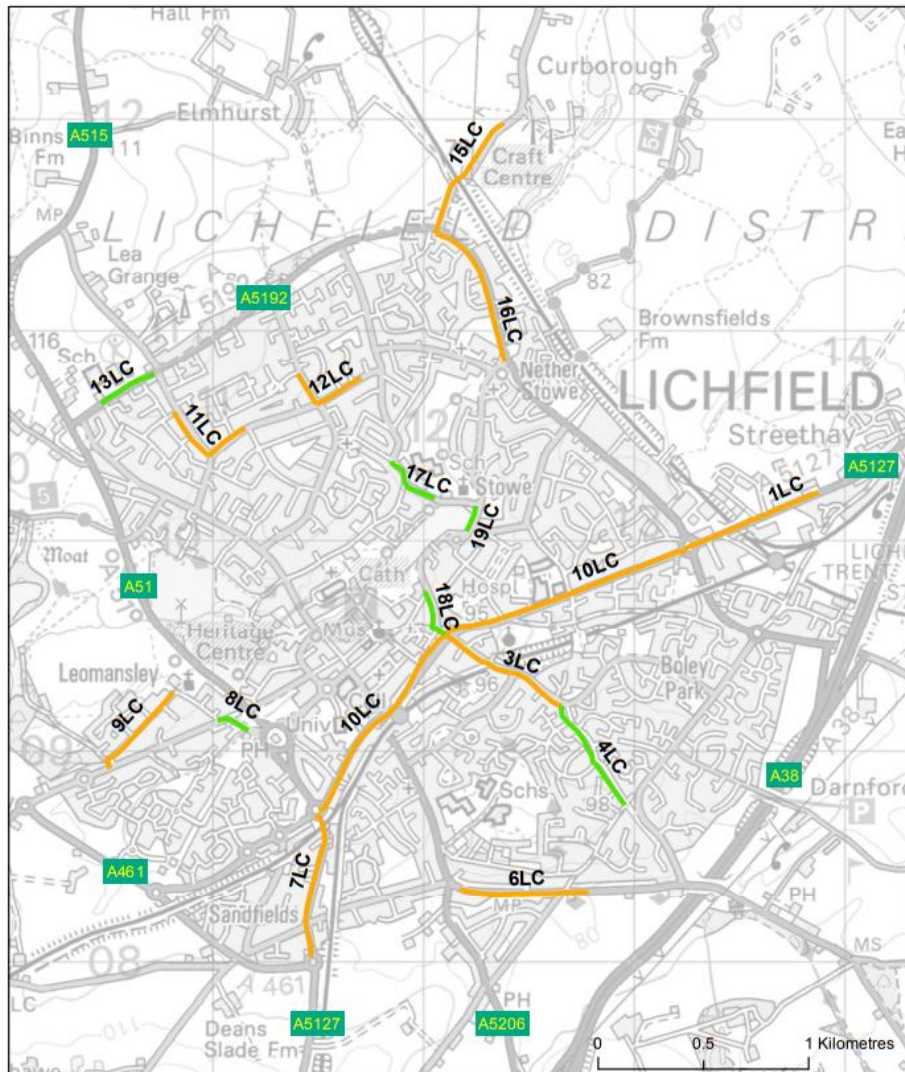
Figure 4: Lichfield district rail station patronage



44. Settlements with poor or no public transport provision include Drayton Bassett, Colton, Longdon, Wigginton, Upper Longdon, Hammerwich, Harlaston and Hamstall Ridware.
45. In 2021, the number of residents using a car or van to travel to work was 54.9% which is significantly higher than the England average of 44.5%¹⁰.
46. The proportion of people working from home has increased to 32%, a significant increase from 4.4% in 2011, though this data was collected during the COVID-19 pandemic when many workers were advised to stay at home. An increase in the number of people working from home and flexible working may change both existing transport patterns and peak commuting times. The extent of the long-term impact of current trends remains to be seen.
47. In 2021, only 1% of residents used a bicycle to travel to work and 5.4% of residents walked to work, both lower than the national and regional averages. Cycling and walking are recognised as important components to reducing congestion, improving air quality and supporting better physical and mental health. There is clear evidence on the links between walking and the physical environment suggesting that people walk more in places with mixed land use (such as retail and housing), higher population densities and highly connected street layouts.
48. In 2021, Staffordshire County Council published their [Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan](#), concentrating on the main urban areas of the county, including Lichfield city. As part of this initiative a detailed [cycling audit](#) of Lichfield city in 2019, revealing that sections of National Cycle Route 54 near the Watery Lane development were in "very poor" condition. The audit identified up to 11 km of cycling routes that will be prioritised for improvements, as shown in Figure 5 below.

¹⁰ Source: [Census 2021](#)

Figure 5: Cycle route scheme prioritisation in Lichfield city



Location of Cycle Schemes and Prioritisation
Lichfield

- Short Term
- Medium Term
- Long Term

49. In addition, Staffordshire County Council carried out a [walking audit](#) of Lichfield city in 2019. Bore Street, Dam Street and Tamworth Street received the maximum score in terms of level of provision for pedestrians. Other routes, such as The Close, Greenhill and Lombard Street, would benefit from footway widening and footway maintenance is an issue on The Friary, Sandford Street, St John's Street and Swan Road. Recommendations are made to reduce pedestrian waiting times on the more heavily trafficked routes such as Birmingham Road. The route with the lowest overall score is St John's Street.
50. Staffordshire County Council is currently developing a new [Local Transport Plan](#). This will play a key role in shaping the transport strategy for the local plan. As part of this effort, a [Lichfield District Transport Data Report](#) was published in 2024, providing extensive data on transport issues within the district. Figure 6 below illustrates the sustainability of settlements across the district in relation to transport provision.

Figure 6: Transport provision across Lichfield district



Type

- 1. Settlements with all travel options available and close proximity to facilities
- 2. Settlements adjacent to those with all travel options and facilities
- 3. Settlements on key transport corridors with some facilities
- 4. Settlements with bus services and limited proximity to facilities
- 5. Settlements with very limited transport infrastructure and remote from facilities

Scale: 1:140000

Staffordshire County Council
Capability to Achieve Sustainable Travel

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Education

51. There are 55 schools in the district, comprising 41 state primary schools, 5 state secondary schools, 8 special schools and 1 private through school. Staffordshire University and South Staffordshire College also offer a range of courses from their shared campus in Lichfield city.
52. There are primary schools located in most of the district’s larger settlements and villages except for Upper Longdon, Harlaston, Hammerwich and Hamstall Ridware.

53. In 2021, 16.6% of Lichfield district's population were school children or full-time students. This is significantly lower than the west midlands average of 21.3% and the England average of 20.4%¹¹.
54. The [Settlement Sustainability Study](#) identified that there are several schools in the district which have been consistently oversubscribed over the last 5 years, indicating that demand is outstripping supply in these locations. These are:
- Streethay Primary Academy, Streethay.
 - King Edward VI Secondary School, Lichfield.
 - The Friary School, Lichfield.
 - Erasmus Darwin Secondary School, Burntwood.
 - Thomas Barnes Primary School, Hopwas.
55. Within the next ten years, new schools are due to be delivered at the following locations in the district:
- St. Johns Grange, Lichfield – primary school – 420 places.
 - Fradley Park Academy – expansion of existing primary school to 420 places.
 - Rugeley Power Station – all through school providing 420 primary school places and 750 secondary school places.
 - Watery Lane, Lichfield – primary school – 210 places.
 - Arkall Farm, Tamworth – primary school – 210 places.
56. The Attainment 8 score is a new measure introduced by the government to measure secondary school students' academic performance based on their results in eight GCSE subjects. In the 2022/23 academic year, the average Attainment 8 score of key stage 4 pupils in Lichfield District was 48.5% which is higher than the results for both the West Midlands (44.9%) and England (46.4%)¹².

Economy and Employment

57. The district has a large portfolio of employment sites primarily within Lichfield city, Fradley, Burntwood, Fazeley, Mile Oak & Bonehill, Armitage with Handsacre and Shenstone. The district also has significantly fewer residents out of work and claiming benefits than the national average. Currently, approximately 2.4% of the economically active population is unemployed, which is less than the west midlands (3.9%) and England (3.5%) ^[OB].
58. The proportion of people not in employment, education, or training (NEET) in Lichfield district is low, averaging at just 1.2%. However, NEET levels are highest in the wards of Chadsmead, Fazeley, and Curborough.

Table 11: NEET levels in 2023

Lichfield district ward	NEET levels (%)
Chadsmead	4.7
Fazeley	3.0

¹¹ ONS – Census 2021

¹² Source: [Department for Education](#)

Lichfield district ward	NEET levels (%)
Curborough	2.7
Longdon	2.5
Colton and the Ridwares	2.3
Stowe	2.0
Boney Hay and Central	2.0
Chasetown	1.9
Armitage With Handsacre	1.4
Little Aston and Stonnall	0.9
Highfield	0.8
St John's	0.8
Summerfield and All Saints	0.7
Leomansley	0.6
Alrewas and Fradley	0.6
Boley Park	0.0
Bourne Vale	0.0
Chase Terrace	0.0
Hammerwich with Wall	0.0
Mease Valley	0.0
Shenstone	0.0
Whittington and Streethay	0.0

59. The district's primary employment sectors according to the Census 2021 were wholesale and retail (16.4%) followed by health and social work (12.6%) and construction (10.4%). Except for health and social work, these figures exceed the regional and national averages for these sectors.

Table 12: Employment by sector in 2021

Employment by sector	Number of employees	Percentage (%)
Wholesale and retail	8,278	16.4
Human health and social work	6,353	12.6
Construction	5,241	10.4
Education	5,242	10.4
Manufacturing	4,685	9.3
Professional, scientific and technical activities	3,282	6.5
Public administration and defence	2,849	5.6
Transport and storage	2,470	4.9
Administrative and support services	2,462	4.9
Other	2,311	4.6
Accommodation and food service	2,156	4.3
Information and communication	1,742	3.5
Financial and insurance activities	1,380	2.7
Real estate activities	767	1.5
Agriculture	493	1
Water supply	512	1
Electricity, gas and air conditioning	217	0.4
Mining and quarrying	32	0.1

60. In 2021, 71% of employees in Lichfield district worked full time (more than 31 hours) and 29% worked part time (up to 30 hours). This is broadly similar to the regional and national averages¹³.
61. In 2021, just over 20% of the district's residents were employed in professional occupations, with 16.7% employed as managers, directors or senior officials, which is above both the regional and national averages for these occupation types¹⁴.

Table 13: Employee occupations

Occupation	Lichfield (%)	West midlands (%)	England (%)
Professional occupations	20.8	18.4	20.3
Managers, directors and senior officials	16.7	11.5	12.9
Associate professional and technical occupations	13.3	11.8	13.3
Skilled trades occupations	10.7	10.7	10.2
Administrative and secretarial occupations	9.5	9.4	9.3
Elementary occupations	9.2	12.3	10.5
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	7.5	9.6	9.3
Sales and customer service occupations	6.5	7.8	7.5
Process, plant and machine operatives	5.9	8.6	6.9

62. Whilst the service sector is the largest employer in the district most of the district's residents are employed in the professional, scientific or technical industrial sector and travel beyond the district to access higher salaried jobs elsewhere. This is reflected in the weekly earnings for our residents which are higher than both the regional and national figures. However weekly earnings by workplace within the district are lower than the national figures.

Table 14: Average weekly earnings

	Lichfield district	West midlands	England
Average pay of person living within area	£739.80	£630.60	£673.30
Average pay of person working within area	£616.60	£624.4	£673.60

63. In 2023, just under 16% of all VAT-registered businesses in the district were in the construction industry, with just under 15% of firms related to either professional, scientific or technical services.

Telecommunications

64. Staffordshire County Council launched its [Gigafast Staffordshire](#) project in 2022. This aims to ensure most properties in Staffordshire can access gigabit speeds by 2030. As of 2023, 57% of properties across Staffordshire can access gigabit speeds.
65. At the ward level, broadband coverage is strong across the district, though there are areas with limited speeds. Notably, Drayton Bassett is the only settlement without access to superfast broadband.

¹³ ONS – [Census 2021](#)

¹⁴ ONS – [Census 2021](#)

Table 15: Broadband speeds available

Settlement	Fastest broadband available: Ultrafast, superfast, standard, no broadband ¹⁵
Lichfield	Ultrafast
Little Aston	Ultrafast
Burntwood	Ultrafast
Armitage with Handsacre	Ultrafast
Whittington	Ultrafast
Hammerwich	Ultrafast
Fazeley, Mile Oak, Bonehill	Ultrafast
Stonnall	Ultrafast
Kings Bromley	Ultrafast
Longdon	Ultrafast
Wigginton	Ultrafast
Upper Longdon	Ultrafast
Shenstone	Superfast
Fradley	Superfast
Hopwas	Superfast
Alrewas	Superfast
Hill Ridware	Superfast
Elford	Superfast
Clifton Campville	Superfast
Edingale	Superfast
Colton	Superfast
Harlaston	Superfast
Hamstall Ridware	Superfast
Drayton Bassett	Standard

66. Mobile phone connectivity is strong in the urban areas of Lichfield, Burntwood, and larger villages, but it becomes increasingly unreliable in smaller settlements and rural parts of the district, with indoor coverage nearly non-existent in the Mease Valley ward.

Table 16: Mobile phone connectivity

Lichfield district ward	Mobile phone connectivity - % of properties with indoor mobile rated 3 or 4 (good or enhanced) ¹⁶
Fazeley	83.0
Stowe	81.8
Chadsmead	76.0
Boley Park	74.3
Summerfield and All Saints	74.0

¹⁵ [Ofcom, September 2024](#)

¹⁶ Source: Social Progress Index, 2023

Lichfield district ward	Mobile phone connectivity - % of properties with indoor mobile rated 3 or 4 (good or enhanced) ¹⁶
Whittington and Streethay	64.3
St John's	62.7
Chasetown	56.9
Armitage With Handsacre	56.3
Chase Terrace	50.0
Curborough	49.1
Alrewas and Fradley	39.9
Boney Hay and Central	28.5
Bourne Vale	28.4
Little Aston and Stonnall	28.4
Colton and the Ridwares	27.0
Leomansley	25.3
Shenstone	23.0
Highfield	19.5
Longdon	15.7
Hammerwich with Wall	10.6
Mease Valley	1.9

Tourism

67. Tourism is a significant part of the local economy particularly based on the heritage, character and environment of the area, with Lichfield city being a particular focal point. There are several important attractions within the district, including Lichfield Cathedral, Chasewater Country Park, Drayton Manor Theme Park and the National Memorial Arboretum. The tourism sector within the district is forecast to grow between 2018 and 2040, as set out in the [Economic Impact of Tourism 2019](#) study.

Retail and centres

68. Lichfield city centre serves as the administrative sector for the district and has the greatest shopping provision, which serves a wider catchment beyond the city. As with all centres both Lichfield and Burntwood face challenges in attracting investment and reducing their vacancy rates this is a result of several factors including the impact of the recession, the growth of internet shopping and the recent COVID-19 pandemic.
69. The council is currently progressing a number of regeneration initiatives in Lichfield and Burntwood centres, which will create jobs, revitalise the public realm and provide sustainable residential development.
70. In addition to our larger centres, there is a network of smaller centres across the district which are vital in providing for the day to day needs of our residents. Our current local plan identifies a range of key rural centres in Alrewas, Armitage with Handsacre, Fazeley, Fradley, Little Aston and Shenstone and neighbourhood centres in Burntwood and Lichfield (Boley Park, Curborough, Darwin Park, Netherstowe, Dimbles Lane, Morley Road, Parkhill Road, Chasetown and Swan Island). Additionally, new developments such as that at Streethay have also delivered new local centres which provide a vital role in ensuring everyone has access to the things they need.
71. A few settlements in the rural areas of the district lack access to basic retail services, requiring residents to travel outside their communities to meet their essential needs. Further

detail on the availability of services and facilities in each settlement can be found in the [Settlement Sustainability Study](#).

Climate and Energy

72. The council declared a climate and a nature recovery emergency in 2019. In addition to this, our [Lichfield District 2050 strategy](#) pledges to reduce all council carbon emissions to net zero by 2035 and has committed to supporting Lichfield District to become carbon neutral by 2050.
73. The council has made significant strides toward becoming a net zero organization, with carbon emissions decreasing in all areas except for the depot fleet and the council's car parks. Additionally, there was a 19% reduction in CO2 emissions from all council buildings between 2021 and 2022. The council is also developing a [Carbon Reduction Plan](#) to further decrease emissions throughout the organization.
74. Energy consumption in the district has dropped significantly over the past nine years, from 10.1 tCO2e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) per capita in 2005 to 6.3 tCO2e in 2022¹⁷. Lichfield District's current emissions rate is slightly below the Staffordshire average of 7.1 but higher than the England average of 5.1.
75. In 2021, approximately 12.7% of households in Lichfield district were in fuel poverty, just below the England average of 13.4% and much lower than the West Midlands average of 17.5%. At the ward level, fuel poverty was highest in Chadsmead, Chasetown and Fazeley and lowest in Little Aston & Stonnall, Boley Park and Highfield¹⁸.

Table 17: Fuel poverty across the district

Lichfield district ward	Fuel poverty (per 1,000 households)
Chadsmead	19.8
Chasetown	17.8
Fazeley	16.8
Longdon	16.7
Curborough	16.6
Bourne Vale	15.1
Colton and the Ridwares	14.3
Summerfield and All Saints	13.9
Boney Hay and Central	13.7
Armitage With Handsacre	13.5
Stowe	13.4
Whittington and Streethay	12.5
Chase Terrace	12.4
Shenstone	12
Hammerwich with Wall	11.9
Mease Valley	11.7
Leomansley	11.4
St John's	11

¹⁷ Source: [Department for Energy Security & Net Zero](#)

¹⁸ [Lichfield Social Progress Index](#)

Lichfield district ward	Fuel poverty (per 1,000 households)
Alrewas and Fradley	10.1
Little Aston and Stonnall	9.1
Highfield	7.4
Boley Park	5.7

76. There are two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in the district, one located at Muckley Corner on the route of the A5 and the other on the A38 between Wall Island and Alrewas. Both AQMA's have been identified because of the poor air quality related to the high volumes of traffic on these roads. Air quality issues have an impact upon the Special Areas of Conservation within and close to the district, appropriate mitigation measures are being put in place through partnership working between the council and other competent authorities.
77. Detailed information on air quality in the district and on the AQMA's can be found in the [Annual Status Reports](#) (ASR) which are produced each year by the Environmental Health Department and submitted as required to DEFRA. An [Air Quality Action Plan](#) was adopted by the council in 2019 in pursuit of the objectives and to tackle the air quality issues within the AQMAs.
78. The draft [Air Quality Status Report](#), submitted to DEFRA in June 2024 using data from 2023 and earlier years, shows that NO₂ levels in the AQMAs and across the district have steadily improved. There has been a noticeable and ongoing decrease since the pandemic in 2020/21.
79. At the A38 AQMA, NO₂ levels have consistently been 10% or more below DEFRA's target for five years, therefore it is expected that DEFRA will approve removing this area from the AQMA list. The AQMA at the A5 Muckley Corner junction has also seen levels drop by 10% or more below the target, but only for the last three years, so DEFRA will need more evidence of sustained reductions before agreeing to its removal.
80. The [Air Quality Strategy for England](#) published in April 2023 puts far greater focus on the effect on health by fine particulate pollutants which are known as PM_{2.5}, and in due course Lichfield's air quality strategy will need to reflect this.

Historic Environment

81. The district has over 766 listed buildings, twelve of which are grade I listed and a further sixty-three are grade II*. In addition to the many listed and locally listed structures and buildings there are other assets including scheduled monuments, the former Roman settlement at Wall and the National Memorial Arboretum. Hammerwich parish is also the location where the Anglo-Saxon Staffordshire Hoard was discovered in 2009. These heritage assets are of great importance as they contribute to the distinctive character of Lichfield and its visitor economy.
82. There are twenty-two designated conservation areas across the district. A large part of Lichfield city is designated as a conservation area with Lichfield Cathedral at its centre. The cathedral spires are visible from many points in the wider rural landscape and the city centre's medieval street pattern and many listed buildings provide an attractive built environment.
83. Burntwood is the second largest settlement within the district and formed because of the growth of smaller individual settlements from significant residential growth between the 1960s and 1990s. Its history and development are linked to coal mining and other industries,

providing coal and water from the reservoir at Chasewater to the canal network which helped support the industrial revolution in Birmingham.

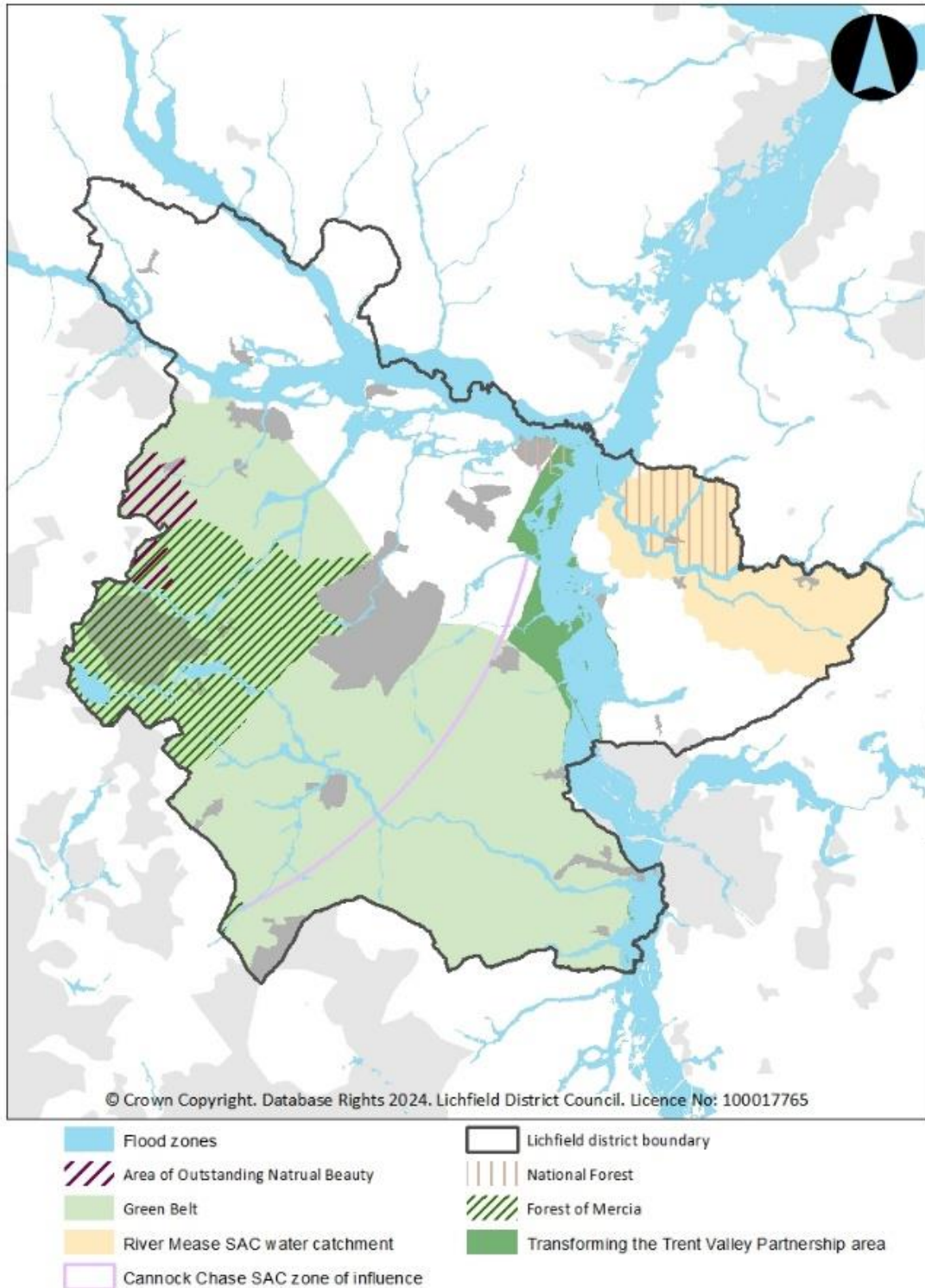
84. The canal network throughout Lichfield is extensive, with the Trent and Mersey Canal passing through Armitage, Kings Bromley, Alrewas, Fradley, Lichfield and the Coventry Canal joining the Trent and Mersey Canal at Fazeley all of which now provide opportunities for recreation. The canal network incorporates both designated and non-designated heritage assets. A longstanding project to reopen a further section of the Lichfield canal which will link Lichfield to Burntwood is being undertaken by the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust.

Landscape and ecology

85. The landscape of the district provides a rich tapestry complementing its settlement pattern. The landscape reflects the human activity of the area throughout the Bronze Age, Roman occupations, and the Anglo-Saxon period with many sites recorded in the Domesday Book. The evolution of settlements, ecclesiastical and cultural expansion along with agricultural and industrial development has continued from the 11th Century to today.
86. Mineral deposits continue to shape the landscape with extraction sites being worked across the district and further sites being safeguarded to the west of Alrewas within the adopted county minerals plan. The deposits follow the two main rivers that flow through the district, the River Trent and the River Tame. Both rivers carry large volumes of water and have wide floodplains. Most of the floodplains comprise agricultural land however the built-up area of Fazeley is particularly prone to flood events. Large scale restoration of the mineral sites provides opportunities for recreation and landscape enhancement through the Central Rivers Initiative, National Forest and the expansion of the National Memorial Arboretum which itself is built upon a former mineral site.
87. The River Mease flows into the River Trent and supports a variety of species and habitats of European significance. The River Mease has national and European level protection, designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Parts of Cannock Chase also have the same level of protection. A part of Cannock Chase which lies within Lichfield district, around Gentleshaw Common, is designated for its landscape quality and is recognised as of national importance as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Elsewhere in the district there are a variety of wildlife rich habitats which are protected including further Sites of Special Scientific Interest, ancient woodlands, veteran trees and locally recognised sites of biological importance.
88. The council is an active partner of the Staffordshire Wildlife Sites Partnership which monitor these sites (over a five-year period). There are currently 78 sites being monitored within the district.
89. The council is a partner organisation of the Staffordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and a key stakeholder in the 'Purple Horizons' project – one of the 5 national nature recovery projects launched by Natural England. This work aims to re-establish habitat links within the project zone of Cannock Chase and Sutton Park, by enhancing, restoring and creating heathland and associated habitats.
90. The south-eastern part of the district falls within the green belt and is therefore subject to planning policy which restricts development. The district partially lies within Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation zone of influence, River Mease Special Area of Conservation water catchment area and the National Forest.

91. There are several areas within the district which are at risk of flooding, due to the rivers (River Mease, River Trent, River Tame and River Blithe) which flow through it.
92. [Data from the Environment Agency](#) indicates that many watercourses in the district are experiencing low water quality, with overall water body quality declining in 2019 and all chemical quality standards failing that year. According to the Water Framework Directive, water quality must not deteriorate and should strive to reach at least 'good' quality.

Figure 7: Lichfield District environment and key designations



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