

Area 2

Upon entering area 2, under bridge no.63, you pass a cast iron rubbing plate which was originally placed on the canal bridge to stop tow-ropes cutting into the stonework. The tranquil setting and quiet activities of the canal are disturbed only by cars on the road which the bridge carries. East of the canal presides the large brick Betton Mill that was built in the early 20th century as a warehouse for corn, and latterly became a mill. Attached to Betton Mill is a corrugated iron building, which dates from the nineteenth century, and was for several decades the Shropshire Union Canal Carrying Company's depot. West of the canal is a negative new brick constructed toilet block, which sits uncomfortably in its surroundings in particular against the sandstone bridge. Heading south, east of the canal are smaller canal buildings, which are in poor condition. They are constructed of corrugated iron, timber and brick and still used by a small boat fitting and boat hire company. Towards the centre of area 2 the space opens out, and is more tranquil, as you head south and pass under the next bridge you have noise from the road above.

Area 3

The bridge here is also listed and of the same construction and material as no.63. Heading south, west of the canal is a second World War Pill Box, one of many placed along Britain's canals during the war to form defensive lines. Here the space is more open and less enclosed with panoramic views through mature pine trees over school playing fields and farm land. The dwellings to the east are sufficiently set back and sympathetic to the open tranquility of canal. The vista south heading out of the conservation area is more enclosed by a line of tall mature trees.

Market Drayton Canal Basin Conservation Area Appraisal



January 2007

North Shropshire District Council

Market Drayton Canal Basin Conservation Area

Conservation Area Boundary 

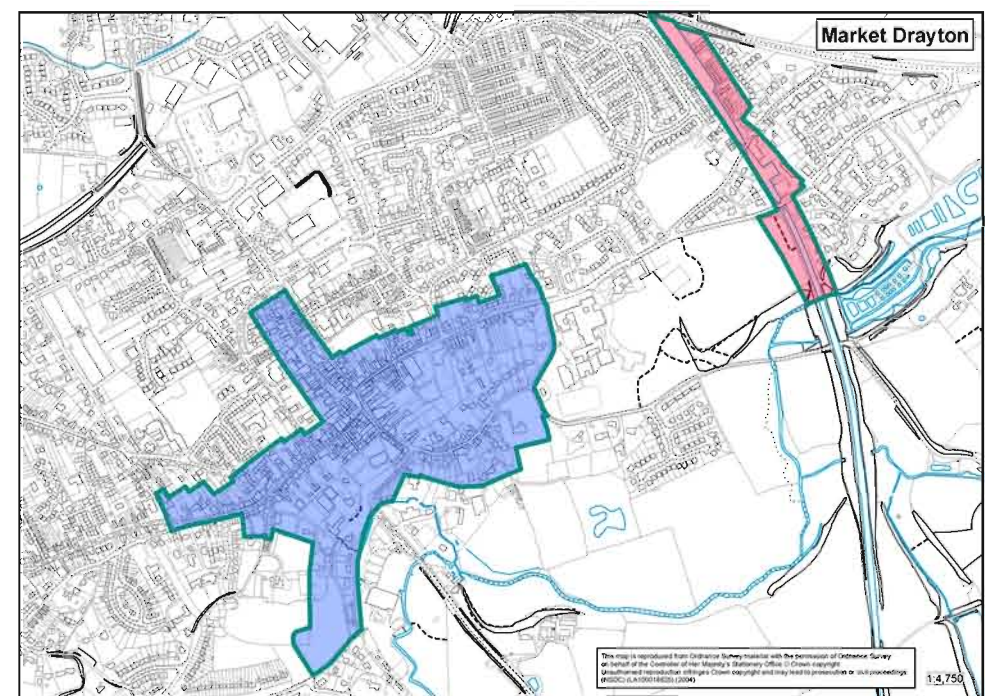
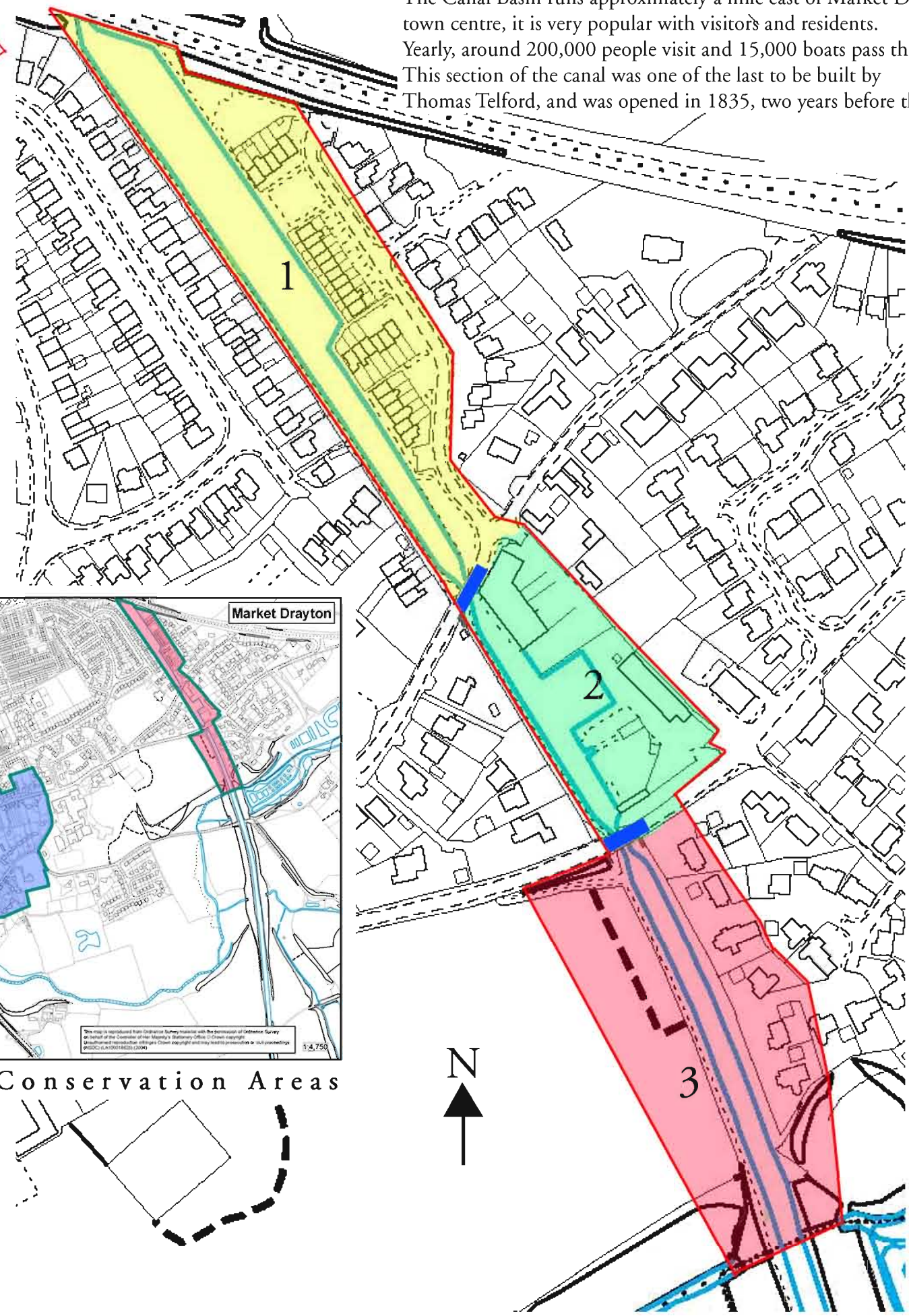
Character Area  2

Listed Bridge 

This leaflet has been specially produced to outline the conservation area at the Canal Basin in Market Drayton.

It defines the special architectural and historic characteristics of the area.

The Canal Basin runs approximately a mile east of Market Drayton town centre, it is very popular with visitors and residents. Yearly, around 200,000 people visit and 15,000 boats pass through. This section of the canal was one of the last to be built by Thomas Telford, and was opened in 1835, two years before the railway.



Market Drayton Conservation Areas

Area 1

The vista north, before entering the Canal Basin under the modern bridge, is a panorama of open farmland. The traffic travelling over the concrete constructed bridge of the dual carriageway creates a lot of noise, which contradicts the tranquil setting of the stretch of the canal, south of the bridge.

Permanent boats are moored to the east of the canal, which creates a foreground to the modern brick dwellings that line the canal path. West of the canal tall hedging follows the towpath, which conceals semi-detached dwellings.

Further south Betton Mill is visible and the first of two listed sandstone Telford bridges built between 1827-1830 on this stretch of the canal.

