

# CHESHIRE HISTORIC TOWNS SURVEY

## Aldford

### Archaeological Strategy



2003

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### *Archaeological Strategy*

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# Aldford: Area of Archaeological Potential

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP) has been identified in Aldford comprising two Archaeological Character Zones (ACZs). Each Zone is identified by its defining archaeological or historical characteristics, or *Primary Characteristics*. For example, in the Medieval Core (Archaeological Character Zone 1), the defining characteristics include the motte and bailey castle and the site of the medieval church of St John the Baptist.
- 1.2 Each Archaeological Character Zone may also include sites and features, which are not characteristic of the Zone but are nonetheless of archaeological and historical importance, and these are identified as *Secondary Characteristics*. For example, Archaeological Character Zone 1 includes the 19th century rebuilding of the village, which has been identified as a Secondary Characteristic.
- 1.3 The list of characteristics is not exhaustive, and it is possible that other types of important archaeological remains and features exist within each Archaeological Character Zone. The boundaries of the AAP and the Archaeological Character Zones, and the list of Primary and Secondary Characteristics are intended as a guide for planners and developers. They are based on current knowledge, and are therefore subject to change as new information is revealed.

## 2. Existing Designations (Figure 1)

<b>Scheduled Ancient Monuments</b>	Aldford motte and bailey and shell keep castle (SAM 22486).
<b>Listed Buildings</b>	Grade I – the Iron Bridge which crosses the River Dee into the Eaton estate Grade II – 26
<b>Conservation Areas</b>	One - the village of Aldford is a designated Conservation Area.
<b>Registered Parks and Gardens</b>	One- Eaton Hall Park and Gardens are listed Grade II*

### 3 Archaeological Character Zones (Figure 2)

#### Zone 1: Medieval Core

Primary Characteristics	
<b>Motte and Bailey Castle</b>	The earthworks of the castle are well preserved and have been the subject of a number of archaeological excavations.
<b>Church of St John the Baptist</b>	The medieval church, which can be traced back to the early 14th century, was demolished in 1866. It lay immediately to the south of the existing church.
<b>Settlement and Green</b>	Settlement appears to have been arranged around a triangular green, along School Lane, Middle Lane and Rushmere Lane. Tenements survive most clearly along the west of School Lane where boundaries run at right angles to the street frontage.
<b>Market Place</b>	Aldford was granted the right to hold a market in the 13th century; this may have been held in the area of the churchyard, to the south of the castle.

Secondary Characteristics	
Early Medieval Settlement	An early medieval settlement is recorded at Alford. It has been suggested that this may also be the site of the royal palace where Edward the Elder died in AD 924.
Post Medieval Development and 19th Century Remodelling	Settlement along School Lane, Rushmere Lane and Middle Lane underwent remodelling; this included the straightening of Rushmere Lane and the bottom end of Middle Lane.

## Zone 2: Medieval Expansion

Primary Characteristic	
<b>Later Medieval Settlement</b>	Late medieval settlement is located along Church Lane and the present B5130.
<b>Aldford Bridge</b>	A bridge over Aldford Brook is known from the late 12th century. The present bridge is 19th century in date and Listed Grade II.

Secondary Characteristic	
Post Medieval Development and 19th Century Remodelling	Remodelling and slight expansion occurred along Church Lane in the post medieval period.



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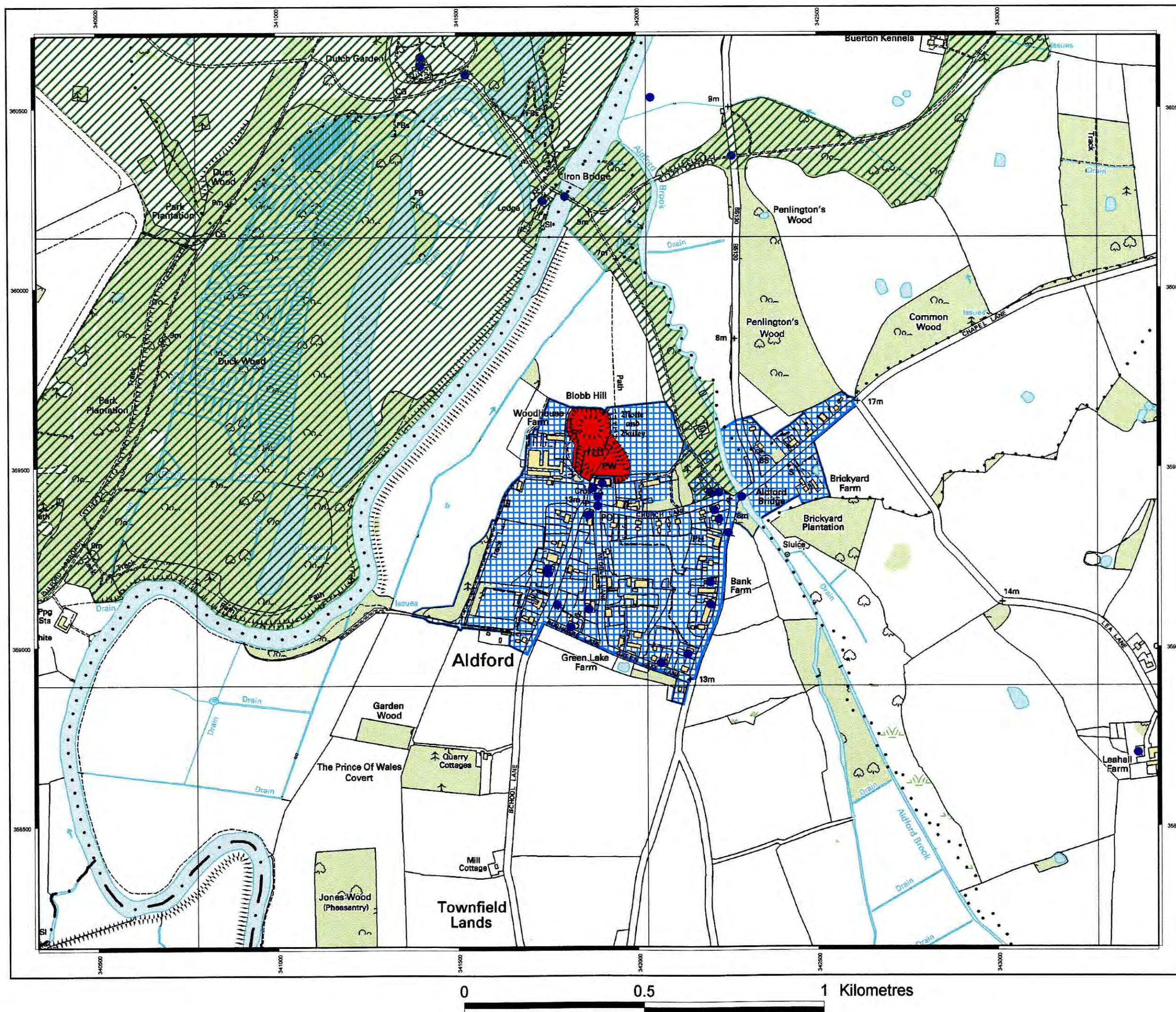


**Figure 1: Aldford  
Existing Designations**

- Registered Park and Garden
- Listed Buildings
- Scheduled Ancient Monument
- Conservation Areas

1:8000

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Figure 2: Aldford Area of Archaeological Potential and Archaeological Character Zones

-  Area of Archaeological Potential
-  ACZ 1: Medieval Core
-  ACZ 2: Medieval Expansion
-  Area Outside the Historic Core

1:4000

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