

CHESHIRE HISTORIC TOWNS SURVEY

Audlem

Archaeological Strategy



2003

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Audlem: Area of Archaeological Potential

1. Introduction

1.1 An Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP) has been identified in Audlem comprising three 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 medieval church of St James and an area of medieval settlement.

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 potentially includes the archaeological remains of an early medieval church, 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)

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	None
Listed Buildings	Grade I - Moss Hall and the Church of St. James Grade II* - The Old Grammar School Grade II - Fifteen
Conservation Areas	Two - the historic core and canal side of Audlem, and Audlem, Woore Road.

3 Archaeological Character Zones (Figure 2)

Zone 1: Medieval Core

Primary Characteristics	
St James' Church and Churchyard	Architecturally the church can be dated to the late 13th century.
Medieval Settlement	There are a number of property boundaries that run at right angles to the Cheshire Street frontage, which appear to follow the boundaries of typical long, narrow medieval property plots. To the rear of these is a back lane which would have separated the plots from the common fields that lay beyond.
Medieval Agriculture and Industry	The discovery of a pottery kiln in 1948 to the rear of St James' church and a corn drying kiln nearby in 2000 indicates that this was an area of agricultural and industrial activity.
Medieval Market Place	The right to hold a market at Audlem has been in existence since 1296. It is likely that this was held in the same location as the post medieval market to the south of St James' church where Stafford Street, Shropshire Street and Cheshire Street meet.

Secondary Characteristics	
An Early Medieval Church	St James' circular shaped churchyard has been identified as the potential site of an early medieval church.
A semi-circular enclosure to the north of St James' Church	An area to the north of St James' church has been identified as the potential site of an enclosure associated with the early church.

Post Medieval Settlement	This was an area of settlement during the post medieval period. A property boundary potentially dating to the 18th century has been identified from archaeological evidence.
Post Medieval Market Place	The post medieval market was held to the south of St James' church where Stafford Street, Shropshire Street and Cheshire Street meet. The early 18th century Market Hall survives and is a Grade II Listed building.

Zone 2: Medieval Settlement

Primary Characteristic	
Possible Medieval Settlement	Medieval settlement was potentially located along Cheshire Street, Shropshire Street and Stafford Street.

Secondary Characteristics	
Post Medieval Settlement	This was an area of settlement in the post medieval period.

Zone 3: Post Medieval Expansion

Primary Characteristics	
Post Medieval Settlement and Industrial Development	Post medieval expansion saw settlement spread along the town's road network. There are some surviving post medieval buildings, including canal structures e.g. two canal bridges designed by Thomas Telford which are Grade II Listed buildings.

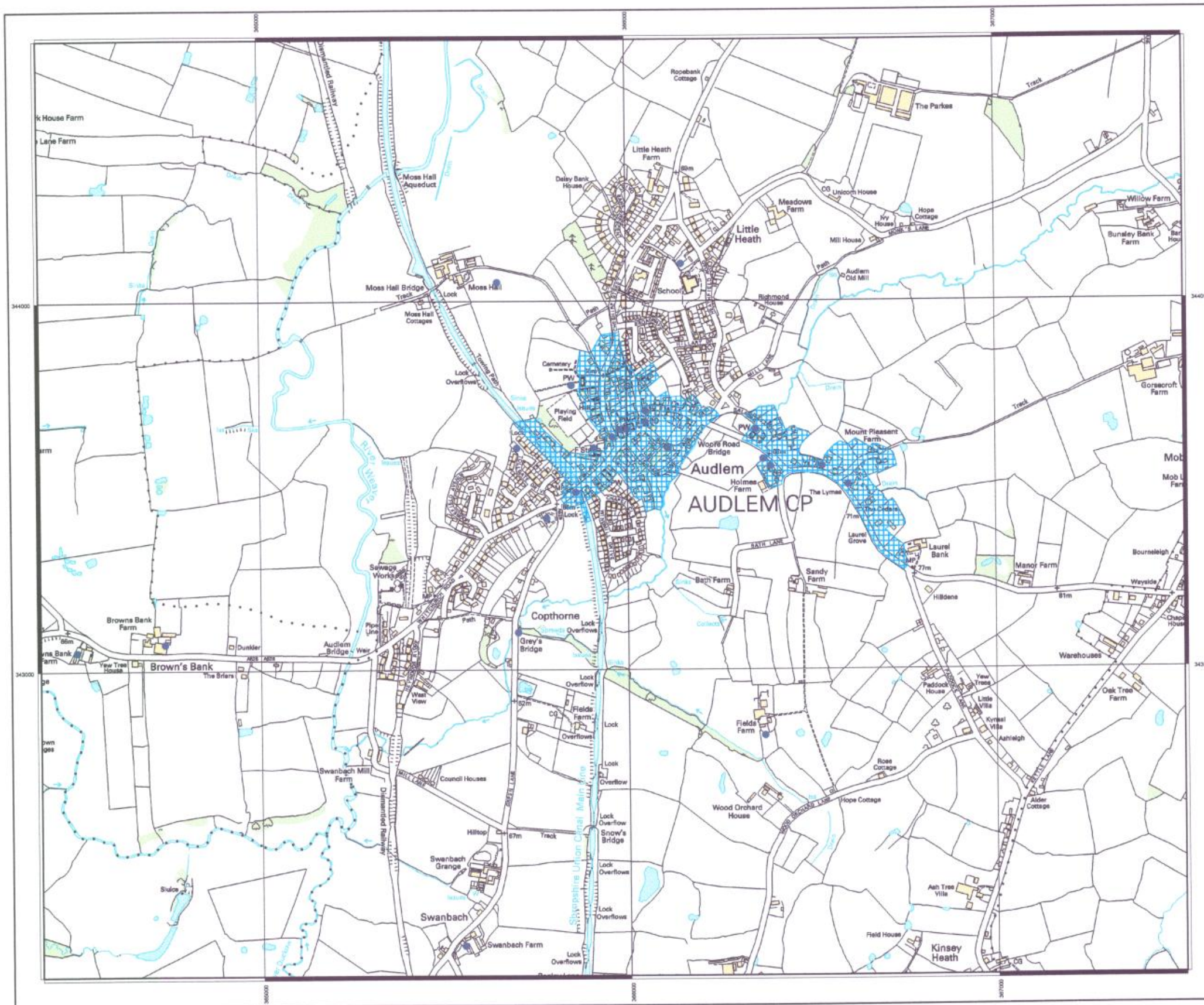




Figure 1: Audlem
Existing Designations

-  Listed Building
-  Conservation Area

1:10000

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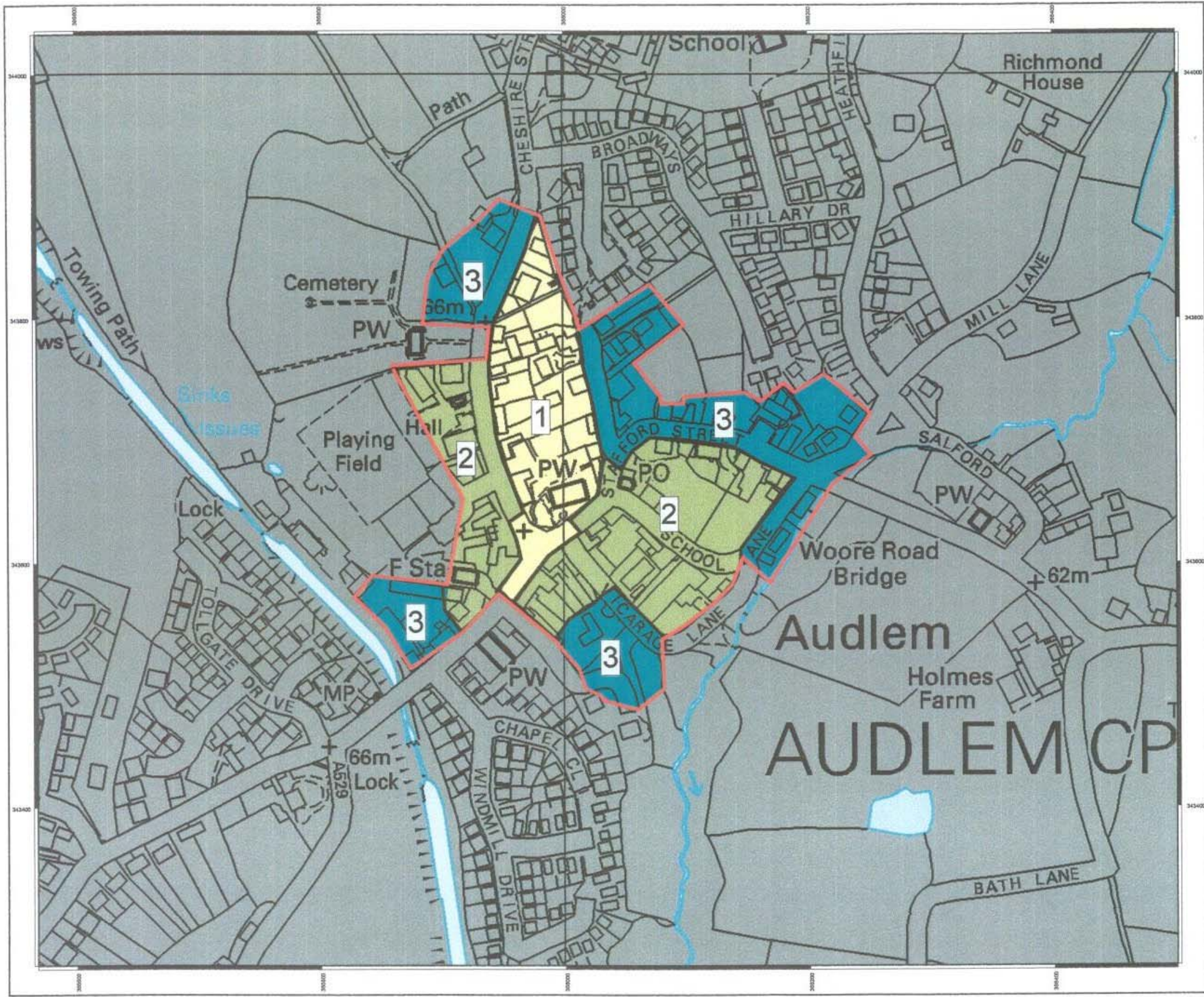







Figure 2: Audlem Area of Archaeological Potential and Archaeological Character Zones

-  Area of Archaeological Potential
-  ACZ 1: Medieval Core
-  ACZ 2: Medieval Settlement
-  ACZ 3: Post Medieval Expansion
-  Area Outside the Historic Core

1:3000

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