

CHESHIRE HISTORIC TOWNS SURVEY

Ellesmere Port

Archaeological Strategy



2003

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Environmental Planning
Cheshire County Council
Backford Hall
Backford
Chester
CH1 6PZ

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Ellesmere Port: Area of Archaeological Potential

1. Introduction

1.1 An Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP) has been identified in Ellesmere Port comprising one Archaeological Character Zone (ACZ). The Archaeological Character Zone is identified by its defining archaeological or historical characteristics, or *Primary Characteristics*. For example, within the Canal Port (Archaeological Character Zone 1) are basins, the sites of specialised warehouses, and numerous industrial manufactories.

1.2 The Archaeological Character Zone may also include sites and features which are not defining characteristics but are nonetheless of archaeological and historical importance, and these are identified as *Secondary Characteristics*. For example, Archaeological Character Zone 1 also includes areas of domestic settlement, which have 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 - None Grade II* - None Grade II - 24
Conservation Areas	One – Docks Basin.

3. The Archaeological Character Zones (Figure 2)

Zone 1: Canal Port

Primary Characteristics	
Shropshire Union Canal	The first section of the canal from Chester to the Mersey was opened in 1796 to the design of Thomas Telford. The southern section from Frankton, Shropshire into Montgomeryshire was opened in 1797. The rest of the canal was finished on a piecemeal basis and when completed formed the Shropshire Union Canal. It was at the intersection of the Shropshire Union Canal and the River Mersey that the canal port initially known as Whitby Locks and later as Ellesmere Port, developed.
Manchester Ship Canal	The Manchester Ship Canal, which was opened in 1894, attracted numerous industries to Ellesmere Port and the surrounding area.
Canal Port	Initially the port comprised a series of locks, a small wharf, a tidal basin and two other basins, a lock keepers house, a tonnage clerk's house and a canal lighthouse.
Warehouses	Telford was commissioned to design warehousing, a covered transshipment centre and company housing. The freight passing through Ellesmere Port comprised coal, grain, iron ore and ceramics from the Potteries.
Industrial Manufactories	The canal port provided an attractive location for industry, including soap works, iron works, chemical works and flour mills.
Secondary Characteristic	
Domestic Settlement	Interspersed with the industrial sites are domestic and civic buildings; in particular there are a large number terraced houses, which housed the employees of the local industries.

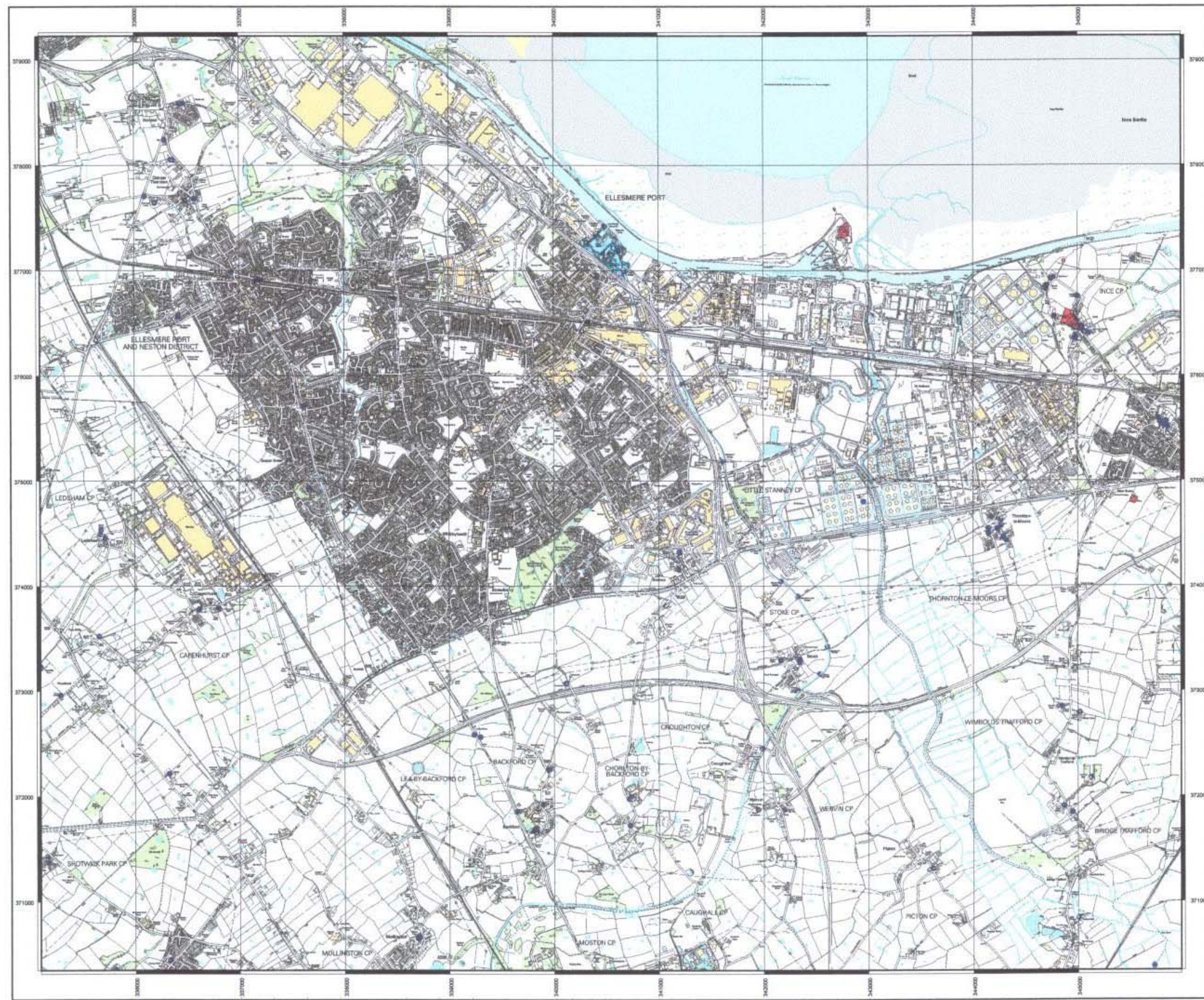


Figure 1: Ellesmere Port
Existing Designations

-  Scheduled Ancient Monument
-  Listed Building
-  Conservation Area




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0 0.5 1 Kilometres



Figure 2: Ellesmere Port Area of Archaeological Potential and One Archaeological Character Zone

 Area of Archaeological Potential
 ACZ 1: Canal Port
 Area Outside the Historic Core

1:10000

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