

CHESHIRE HISTORIC TOWNS SURVEY

Macclesfield Borough

Introduction



2003

CHESHIRE HISTORIC TOWNS SURVEY

Macclesfield Borough

Introduction

2003

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

These reports are the copyright of Cheshire County Council and English Heritage. We would like to acknowledge the assistance of Dr Chris Lewis, University of Liverpool; Mr R E Birkett of the Macclesfield Historical Society and Mr J T Bever, G P Walker and Mrs N Morton of the Wilmslow Historical Society, in the preparation of these reports. The archive is held by the Cheshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

The Ordnance Survey mapping within this document is provided by Cheshire County Council under licence from the Ordnance Survey, in order to fulfil its public function to make available Council held public domain information. The mapping is intended to illustrate the spatial changes that have occurred during the historical development of Cheshire towns. Persons viewing this mapping should contact Ordnance Survey copyright for advice where they wish to licence Ordnance Survey mapping/map data for their own use. The OS web site can be found at www.ordsvy.gov.uk

Macclesfield: Area of Archaeological Potential

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Area of Archaeological Potential (AAP) was defined in 1997 and included in the Adopted Macclesfield Borough Local Plan, 1997. This AAP has now been redefined, and three Archaeological Character Zones (ACZs) have been identified within it. Each Zone is identified by its defining archaeological or historical characteristics, or *Primary Characteristics*. For example, in the medieval historic core (Archaeological Character Zone 2), the defining characteristics include the medieval borough, medieval market place, and the site of a medieval parochial chapel and Grammar School.
- 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 2 possibly includes the site of an early medieval estate centre as well as a number of post medieval buildings.
- 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	Three – Three crosses of probable 11th century date in West Park (SAM 25633), a further cross on Prestbury Road (SAM 25712) and a bowl barrow in Tytherington (SAM 22592).
Listed Buildings	Grade II* – Seventeen Grade II – 68
Conservation Areas	Two – Macclesfield town centre and Macclesfield Christ Church area.
Register of Historic Parks and Gardens	One – West Park (Number 3333 Grade II)

3 The Archaeological Character Zones (Figure 2)

Zone 1: Manorial Centre

Primary Characteristics	
Medieval Manor House	The site of the medieval manor house, upon which the estate was focussed is located within this Zone. Also a deer park is known to have been located within close proximity the manor house.
Market Place?	The manorial estate would have attracted trade and Park Green to the east of the manor house may have acted as a market place.

Secondary Characteristics	
Early Medieval Estate Centre?	An early medieval estate is recorded at Domesday, though whether this was located in the vicinity of the medieval manor or to the north in the area of the medieval borough is unknown.
Post Medieval Domestic and Industrial Development	This area underwent development in the post medieval and industrial periods. At least two silk mills are known to have been constructed in this Zone.

Zone 2: Medieval Core

Primary Characteristics	
The Medieval Borough	A borough was created at Macclesfield c 1220 by Ranulph de Blundeville, Earl of Chester. Evidence of the long, narrow tenements or 'burgage plots', which were laid out for the burgesses of the town, partially survives.
Medieval Guildhall	A medieval guildhall is known from the 13th century, and immediately north of this was the bakehouse where the burgesses were required to bake their bread.
Parochial Chapel of All Saints	The church of St Michael (formerly the church of All Saints) was built in 1278 by Queen Eleanor, wife of Edward I. It acted as a chapel of ease to the large parish of Prestbury until 1835, when it became an independent parish church.
The Castle	A large fortified house was built on four burgage plots on the east of Mill Street c 1398. In the 16th century it was ruinous and described as square in plan with two wings and five turrets.
Market Place	Presumably the Market Place in Jordangate was laid out along with the Borough c 1220. In 1357 the Black Prince constructed a market hall in the Market Place, which was demolished in the 19th century when the market place was cleared.
Grammar School	A Grammar School was constructed to the east of St Michael's church in 1503, and here it remained until 1748 when it moved to King Edward Street.
Bridge	The main medieval crossing is believed to be located at the same site as the later crossing at the north end of Waters Green, leading to Buxton Road.

Secondary Characteristics	
Early Medieval Estate Centre?	An early medieval estate is recorded at Domesday, whether this was located in the vicinity of the medieval manor or to the south in the area of the medieval manorial hall is unknown.
Early Medieval Chapel?	Records suggest that there was an early medieval chapel dedicated to St Mary possibly located on Chestergate.
Post Medieval Domestic and Industrial Development	This Zone experienced post medieval development, including domestic residences, the construction of civic buildings such as the Town Hall, as well as industrial sites.

Zone 3: Industrial Zone

Primary Characteristics	
Industrial Development	Industrial development encouraged the rapid expansion of Macclesfield during the late 18th and 19th centuries. It became the most important silk throwing and hand weaving centre in east Cheshire.

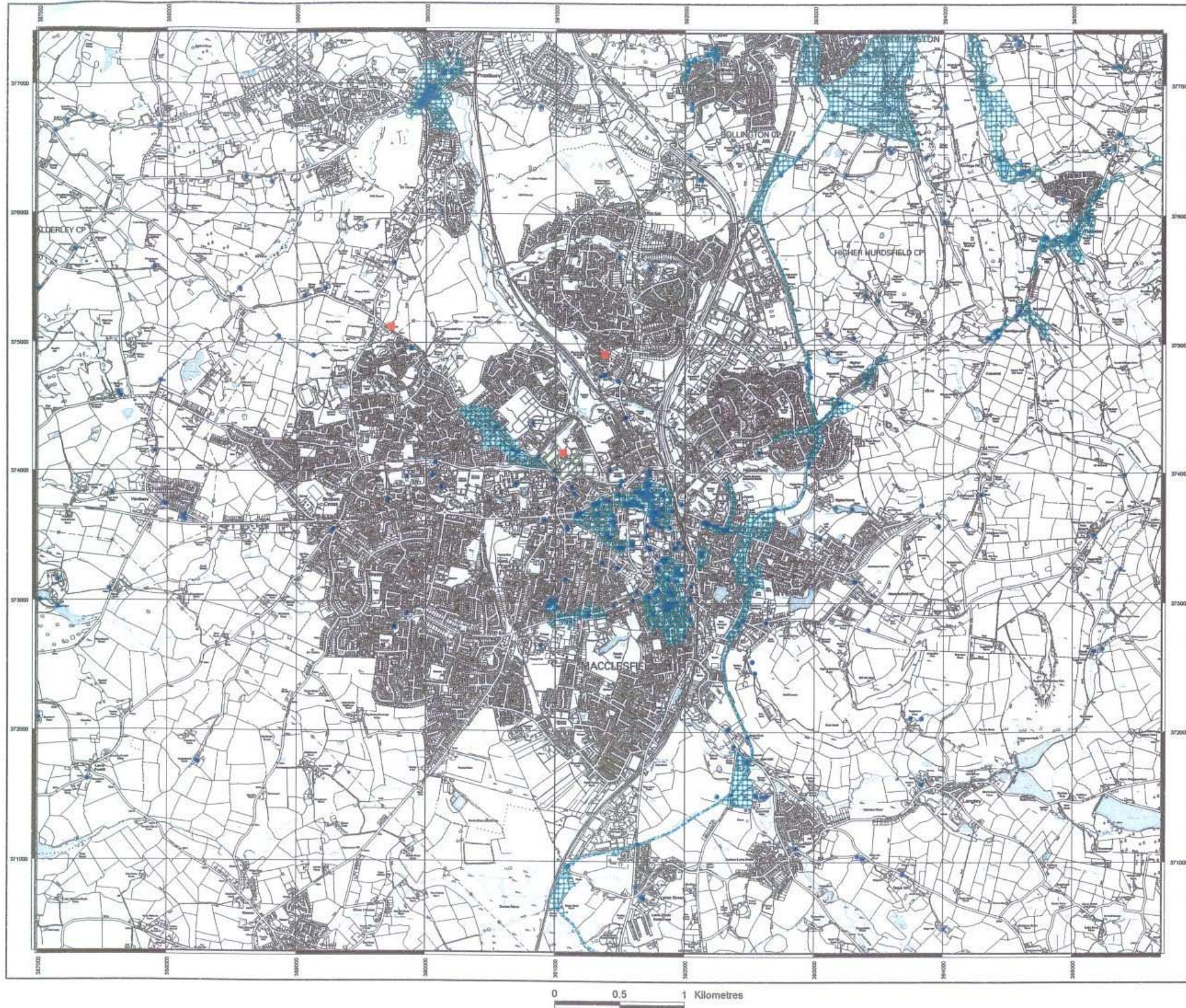


Figure 1: Macclesfield Existing Designations

- Scheduled Ancient Monument
- Listed Building
- ▨ Registered Park and Garden
- Conservation Area

1:28000

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of Her Majesty's Stationer © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Cheshire County Council. Environmental Planning. LA076503. 2002

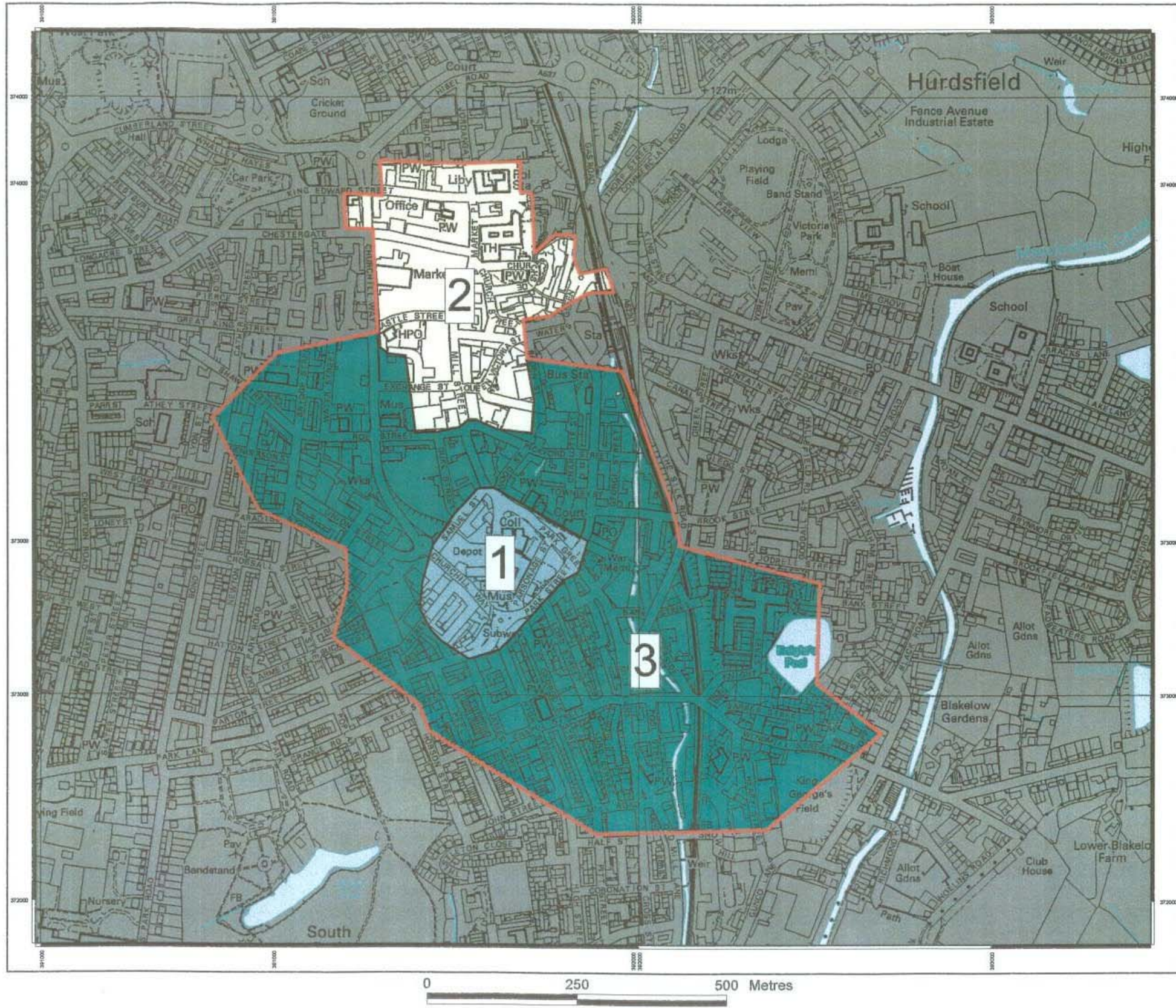


Figure 2: Macclesfield An Area of Archaeological Potential and Archaeological Character Zones

- Area of Archaeological Potential
- ACZ 1: Manorial Centre
- ACZ 2: Medieval Core
- ACZ 3: Industrial Zone
- Area Outside the Historic Core

1:6000

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of Her Majesty's Stationer © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Cheshire County Council, Environmental Planning, LA076503, 2002