

CHESHIRE HISTORIC TOWNS SURVEY

Neston and Parkgate

Archaeological Strategy



2003

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Neston & Parkgate: Area of Archaeological Potential

1 Introduction

- 1.1 An area of Archaeological Potential (AAP) has been identified in Neston comprising one Archaeological Character Zone (ACZ). This Zone (the Medieval Core), is identified by its defining archaeological or historical characteristics, or *Primary Characteristics*, which includes the medieval church of St Mary and St Helen, and medieval settlement.
- 1.2 The Archaeological Character Zone also includes 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 therefore 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 II* - St Mary and St Helen's Church (Neston), Moorside House (Neston), the chapel of Mostyn School (Parkgate). Grade II – 45
Conservation Areas	Two – Neston and Parkgate.

3 The Archaeological Character Zones (Figure 2)

Zone 1: Medieval Core

Primary Characteristics	
St Mary and Helen's Church and Churchyard	The medieval church was founded c 1170 by Ralph de Monalt. The church was re-modelled in the 14th century when the tower was constructed but much of the church was rebuilt in the 19th century. Located within the churchyard are four medieval grave covers and a head stone.
Medieval Settlement	Boundaries outlining long, narrow medieval tenements running at right angles to the street frontage of the High Street have been identified from the OS First Edition map (1872).
Market Place	A medieval market place was potentially located at The Cross, where Parkgate Road and the High Street intersect.

Secondary Characteristics	
Early Medieval Church	The survival of early medieval cross fragments and the reference at Domesday to a Priest indicates that Neston was a centre for ecclesiastical activity and potentially the site of a church. This is likely to have been located in the vicinity of the present church of St Mary and St Helen's.
Early Medieval Settlement	Neston was a large and successful manor during the early medieval period, which was divided into two at the time of Domesday.
Post Medieval Settlement	This Zone underwent re-development during the post medieval period and there are a number of buildings of 18th and 19th century date.

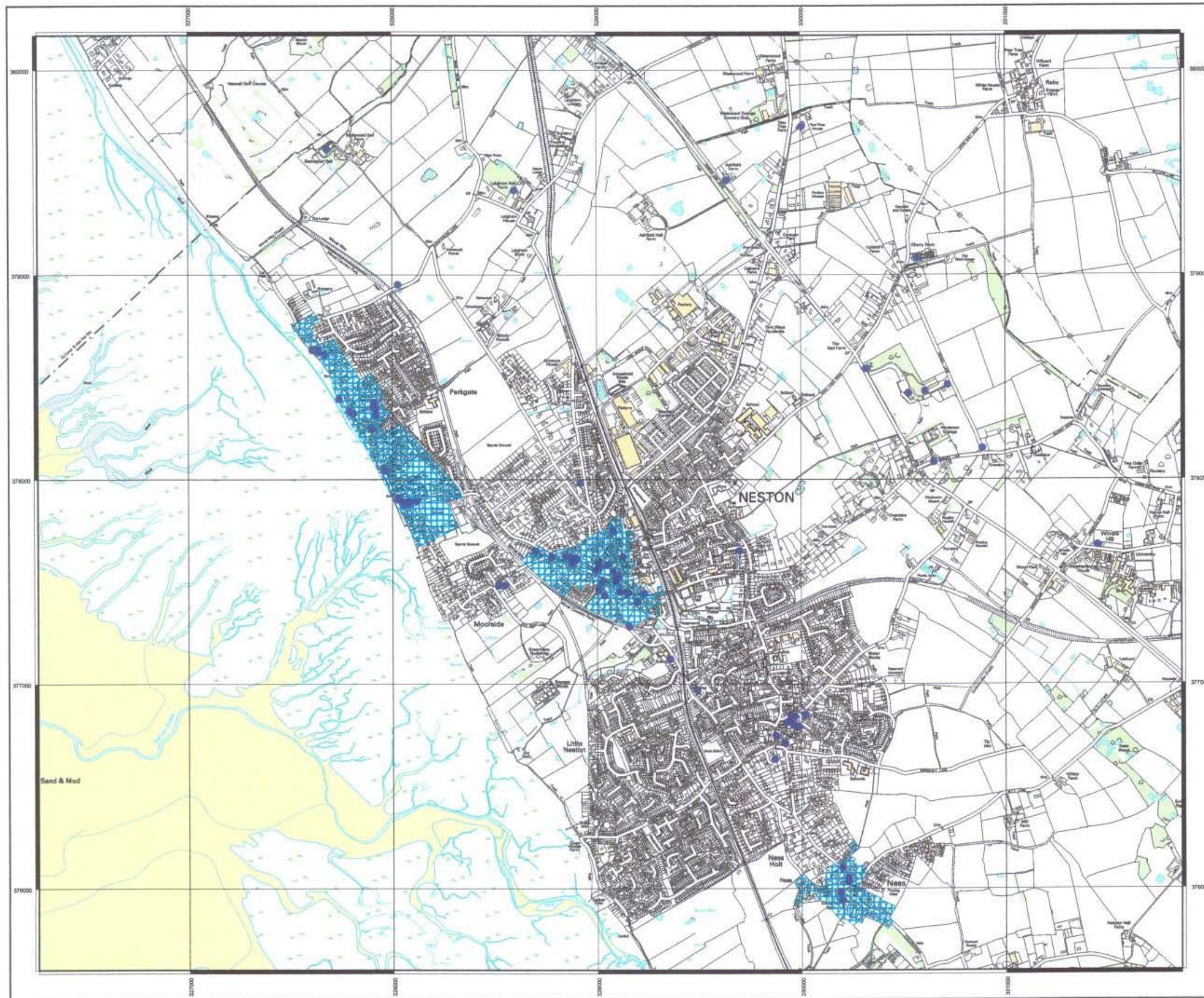




Figure 1: Neston and Parkgate Existing Designations

-  Listed Building
-  Conservation Area

1:18000

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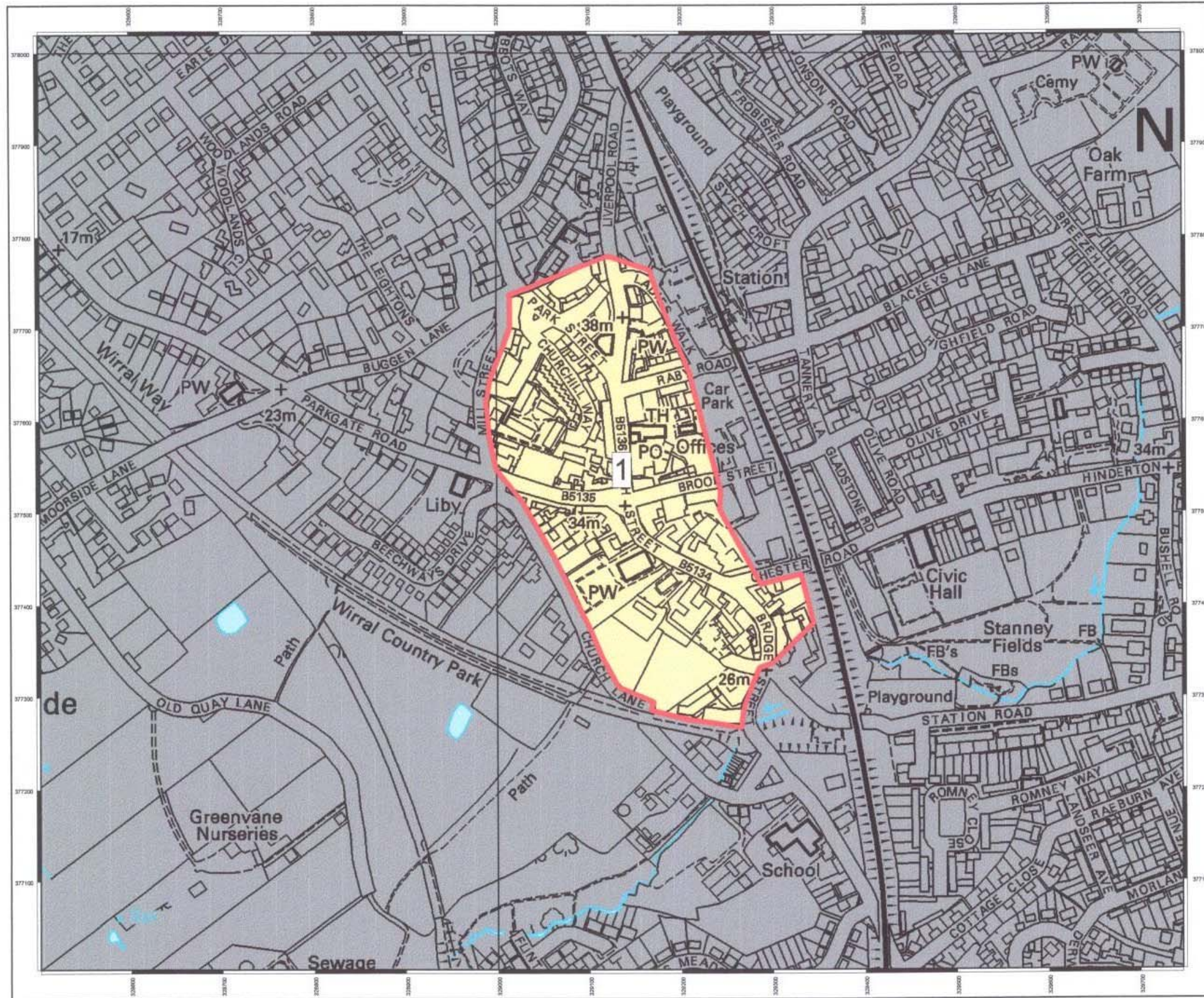





Figure 2: Neston Area of Archaeological Potential and One Archaeological Character Zone

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

1:4000

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