

## Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service

### Guidance on Archaeological Desk Based Assessments

This note provides guidance on the general sources of information that the Archaeology Planning Advisory Service expects to have been consulted as part of any desk-based assessment. Please note that all reports should contain a grid reference and a statement of the size of the study area.

1. Records from the Cheshire Historic Environment Record.  
Details of the content of the HER can be found at <http://www.cheshirearchaeology.org.uk>  
Please note that the information shown online on the Revealing Cheshire's Past database is a selection of the records held by the HER and is not an acceptable substitute for a formal consultation of the HER.
2. Historic maps including:
  - Various seventeenth to nineteenth century county maps of Cheshire and Lancashire.
  - Nineteenth century Ordnance Survey maps and town plans.
  - Tithe maps and their accompanying apportionments. The apportionments should be tabulated where relevant, as the field names will often contain important evidence to past land use and provide indications of areas of archaeological significance. Tithe maps for Cheshire are now available online: <http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps/>).
3. Aerial Photographs.  
The Cheshire HER contains partial and complete vertical surveys from the 1940s up to the present day and these will often demonstrate the radical changes to the landscape which are likely to be directly relevant to any archaeological and historical study.
4. County History  
Reference should be made to the relevant township entry in *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester* by George Ormerod (1819, revised 1882). The 1819 version is available online at the Open Library (<http://openlibrary.org/>).
5. Place-names  
Reference should be made to the English Place-Names Society volumes for Cheshire (J McN Dodgson 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1981). This is available in the HER and is a source of much useful information on names indicative of archaeological significance. Many of these are derived from late eighteenth and nineteenth century cartographic sources; there is however, extensive reference to medieval documentation which may provide the first clear evidence that a site has its origins in this period.

### **Guidance for Assessments in Chester City**

Assessments for sites in Chester City raise different issues. In particular, for the city centre, there is generally no need for a detailed exposition on the origins and history of Chester. Instead, resources should be directed towards identifying the significance of the specific site. In addition to those already mentioned, the following sources should be consulted:

- Trade Directories
- Historic city maps
- Victoria County History
- Chester City Council archaeological monograph series
- The Rows Research Project archive/publication

The following previously mentioned sources would not normally be relevant to Chester City: Ormerod's *History* (see 4), aerial photography and tithe maps.

### **Access to sources**

As indicated a small number of these sources are available online. Others are available for consultation, by prior appointment, at the HER and/or the Cheshire Archives and Local Studies Service.

#### Cheshire Historic Environment Record

📄 The Forum, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 2HS

☎ 01244 973667 / 973997

✉ HBSMRAAdmin@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

#### Cheshire Archive and Local Studies Service

📄 Duke Street, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 1RL

☎ 01244 972574

✉ recordoffice@cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk