9 Wirral Historic Character - Analysis

9.1 Field System Broad Type

The results for Wirral relate to the MHCP Study Area (see section 8.2 maps). This excluded the rural area (essentially the central and mid-west greenbelt) that was characterised by the Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (Cheshire County Council, 2007). The MHCP survey therefore only recorded those extant fields that fell within the urban MHCP Study Area.

Further information regarding Field System can be found in the recent Wirral Landscape Character Assessment undertaken by Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council (2009).

About 0.27% (approximately 23.6 ha) of the Wirral MHCP Study Area has been classified as Field System Broad Type– the majority of extant Field System can be found in the central part of the Wirral Peninsula.

The survey only recorded the shape and size attributes of Field System within the Wirral MHCP Study Area. The MHCP did not further define field types or possible origins. Further and more detailed research is required to match that carried out for the 'greenbelt' area covered in Wirral by the the Cheshire HLC. It must be noted that periods of origin assigned to areas of fields during the course of the MHCP are based on intuition and the interpretation of enclosure patterns shown on 19th century and later mapping and do not constitute a detailed or definitive study. The current agricultural landscape is a product of an often complex evolution. In the 19th century in particular large areas of the landscape were remodelled, fields were enlarged and boundaries straightened.

However, as a general rule:

- The smaller and more irregular the field, the more likely that it has medieval or post-medieval origins (as piecemeal enclosure).
- Conversely, the larger and more regular the field, the likelihood is that it is of more recent origin (as surveyed enclosure).

Because of their relative sizes and shape characteristics, in Wirral the Field System can be grouped to form period subsets:

- Piecemeal Enclosure (1540 to 1750 AD)
- Surveyed Enclosure (1750 to 1900 AD)
- Agglomerated Fields (1900 to 2005 AD)

No evidence for prehistoric enclosure was recognised during the MHCP study; the earliest enclosure identified in Wirral is thought to have originated in the medieval period. Much of the land is made up of surveyed enclosure fields formed in the mid19th and 20th centuries, and agglomerated fields formed in the 20th century.

Field System (Shape and Size)	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Irregular small	2	3.99	16.94
Semi-regular Small	2	9.45	40.13
Semi-regular Medium	1	3.81	16.18
Regular Small	7	6.29	26.71
Total	12	23.55	100%

Table 8 Field System Sub Type in Wirral (Shape and Size Attributes)

Historically, Field System were more visible in the landscape - even as late as 1936 Field System accounted for some 2769 hectares of land (within the Wirral MHCP Survey Area). It is only during the last seventy years or so, that field systems have been consumed by urban expansion (particularly in the form of residential, industrial and commercial development).

Wirral MHCP Field System Sub Type	1876 (hectares)	1899 (hectares)	1936 (hectares)	Current 2003 (hectares)
Irregular / Small	64.17	85.00	24.91	3.99
Irregular /Medium	5.84	0.31	0.46	0.00
Regular / Large	36.87	37.02	17.73	0.00
Regular / Medium	902.46	772.47	550.21	0.00
Regular / Small	1408.33	1227.82	684.16	6.29
Semi Regular / Large	75.82	64.47	15.30	0.00

Semi Regular / Medium	1611.75	1458.13	795.86	3.82
Semi Regular / Small	1594.89	1291.24	680.22	9.45
Total (Hectares)	5700.14	4936.45	2768.85	23.55

Table 9 Wirral MHCP Field System in Sub Type through time

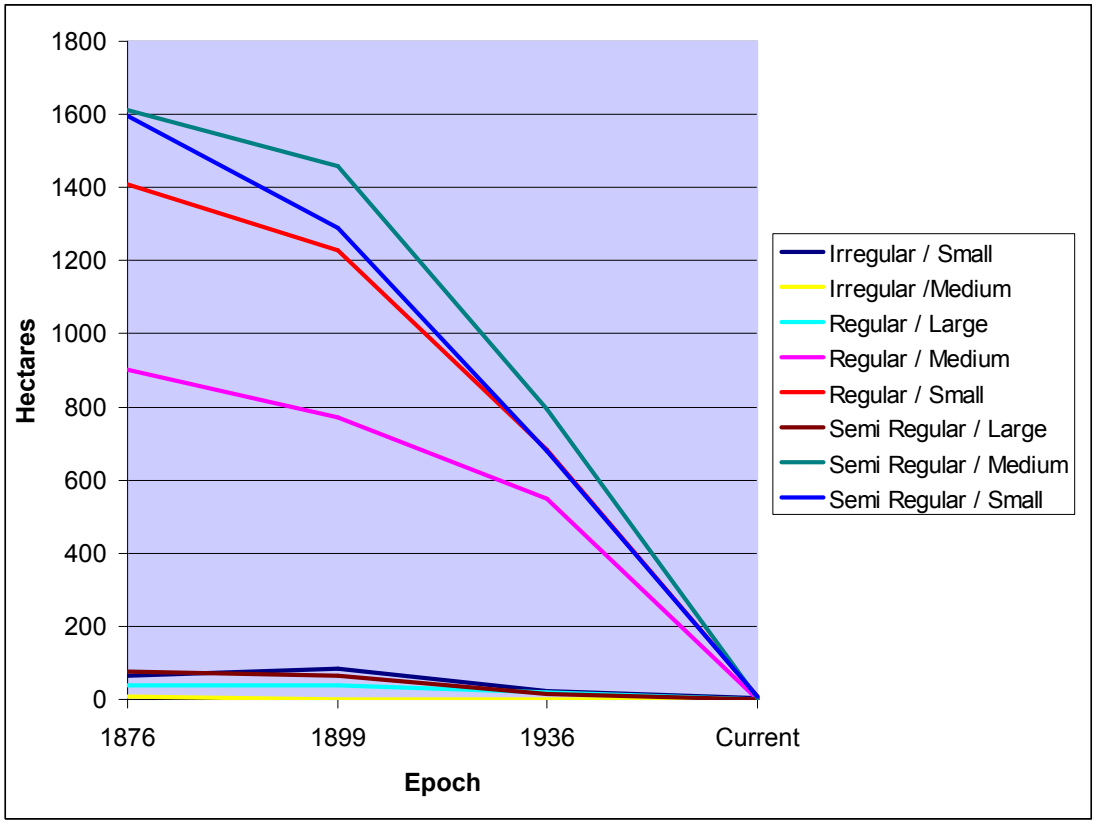

Figure 17 Graphical Representation of Wirral Field System Sub Type through time

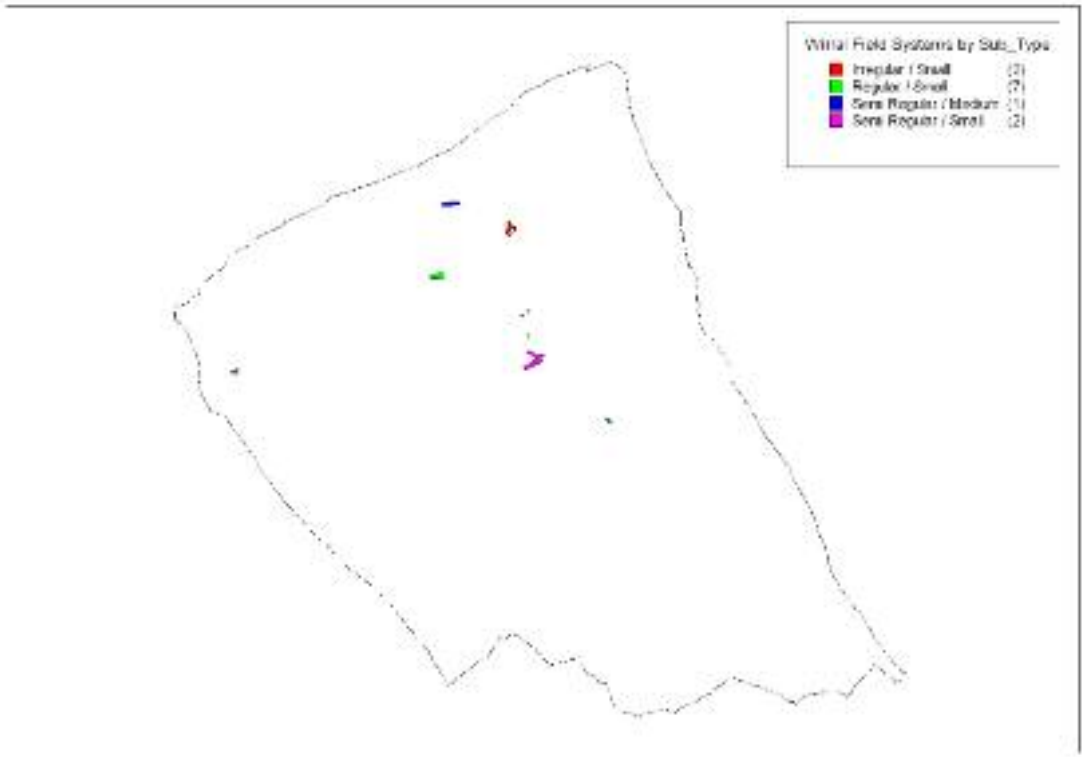

Figure 18 Current (2003) Field System in Wirral MHCP by Sub Type

9.1.1 Small Irregular Fields (Irregular / Small)

9.1.2 Small Semi-Regular Fields (Semi Regular / Small)

9.1.3 Medium Semi-Regular Fields (Semi Regular / Medium)

Piecemeal Enclosure

Because of their irregular to semi-regular shape, these three Field System Sub Types can be grouped to comprise piecemeal enclosure.

Piecemeal enclosure represents about 73.25% (17.26 ha) of the total area of Field System in the current Wirral landscape MHCP Study Area. The Field System Sub Type is dispersed through the Wirral MHCP Study Area - representing nothing more than isolated patches of field (individual or system) survival. The surviving Small Irregular (2) and Small Semi-regular (2) shaped fields all date to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900), with the single Semi-regular Medium sized field dating to the Interwar (1918 to 1939) period. The survival of this field type appears to be linked to the construction of the M53 Motorway corridor - the motorway has fossilised a small part of the surrounding landscape, with little (or no) development occurring immediately adjacent to the motorway route.

Field shape and size	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Average Size Per Polygon (Hectares)
Irregular small	2	3.99	1.99
Semi-regular small	2	9.45	4.73
Semi-regular medium	1	3.82	3.82
Total	5	17.26	3.45

Table 10 MHCP Piecemeal Enclosure in Wirral (Current 2003 Mapping)

The boundaries often respect topography or natural features such as gullies. Generally a default post-medieval origin date of AD1540 was ascribed to these MHCP Sub types during the project (Broad Period default in the database). The exact period of origin of these fields is difficult to determine, however. The fields were formed by an agricultural system which may have been prevalent in the pre-medieval and medieval

periods. Other field types, such as open fields or early surveyed enclosure, are easy to confuse with piecemeal enclosure, especially when boundaries have been altered in recent times. It was not definitively possible to assess the antiquity of areas of piecemeal enclosure within the scope of the project.

Often the farming settlements associated with piecemeal enclosure were isolated in the landscape, or were dispersed along historic routes. Most farms that lie within this landscape type in Wirral were established by the time of the OS 25” First Edition map of 1876.

The hall was at the centre of the land ownership system in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Estates contained dispersed tenement farms and hamlets. Early farms are often surrounded by curvilinear enclosures subdivided into fields, a pattern characteristic of woodland clearance or waste enclosure. As new farms were built, more land became enclosed. 17th and 18th century tithe maps frequently refer to individual tenants possessing fields in a loose block adjacent to their farm. The farmer may have also worked fields scattered through the wider landscape. Communal pasture was also present.

9.1.4 Small Regular Fields (Regular / Small)

Surveyed Enclosure

Surveyed enclosure represents about 27% (6.29 ha) of the Field System Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. As with piecemeal enclosure above, there is no patterning in the distribution of fields - what is recorded is remnant survival. Of the seven polygons recorded, two date to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period (0.78 ha in total) and five date to the Later Twentieth Century (5.51 ha in total).

The regularisation of field shape and size reflects a change in the agricultural system which occurred after *c.*1750. Land that had previously been open or common was enclosed by Parliamentary consent through Enclosure Acts. Such enclosure was carried out by commissioned surveys, principally with the aid of maps, a ruler and surveying equipment. As a result, boundaries are straight and patterns geometric, with ditches and hedges (often with hawthorn) forming a barrier. At the same time, older fields were enlarged and existing boundaries were straightened.

This process of agglomeration and reorganisation persisted throughout the 19th century. The system favoured the wealthy and more influential landowners and resulted in a loss of the common lands which were of economic importance to many smaller farms and crofts.

9.2 Woodland Broad Type

From the MHCP study, Woodland Broad Type comprises just over 1.21% (106.66 ha) of the current Wirral MHCP Study Area. Trees and woodland enhance the quality of the landscape, promote the region by providing an attractive environment for inward investors and visitors, and provide amenity areas for local people. Trees and woodland have many benefits, including providing shelter and shade, soil stabilisation and land reclamation. Woodland can also provide amenity space for recreation and education, and benefits wildlife, as well as having health benefits including noise reduction and pollutant absorption. Woodland can provide economic benefit through providing timber, fuel for power generation, and chemical extracts.

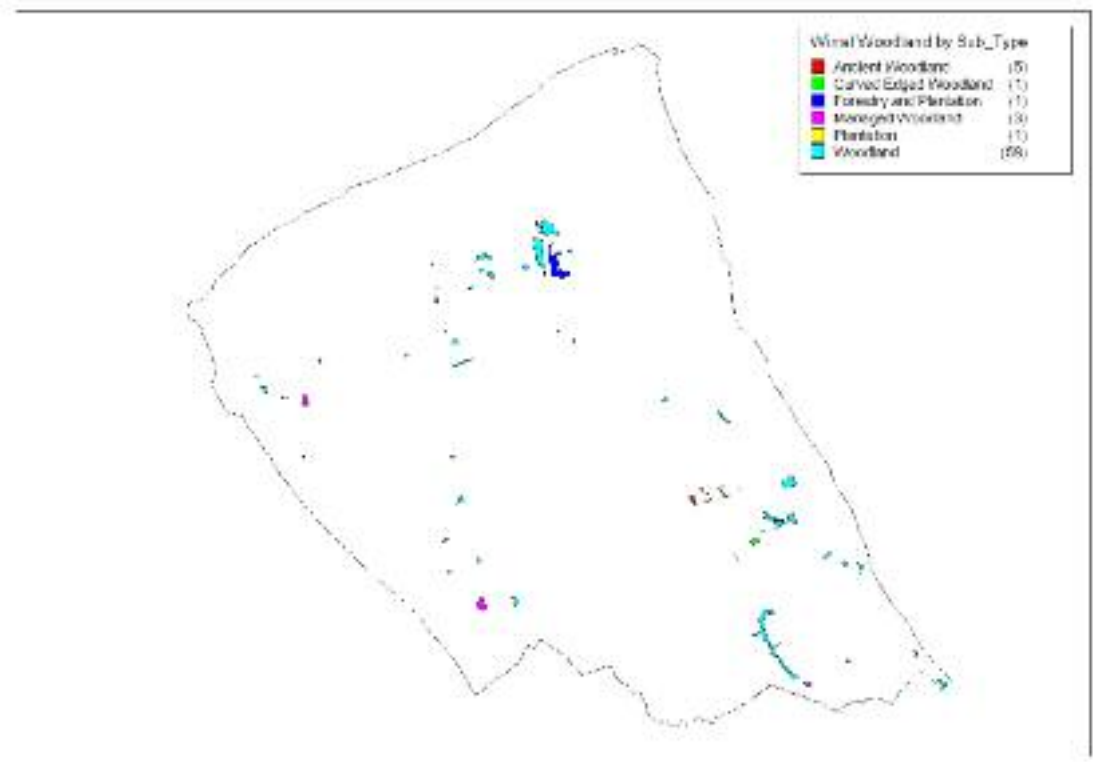

Figure 19 Current (2003) Woodland Sub Type in Wirral Study Area

For the MHCP findings, extant woodland appears to be limited towards the central and western parts of the district, away from the urban expanse of Birkenhead and satellite urban centres to its immediate south. The largest Sub Type is the rather generalist 'Woodland' (which comprises all woodland that could not be assigned a distinct character type - see Section 9.2.5) at 74.05% (78.98 ha), followed by Forestry and Plantations at 13.15% (14.02 ha).

Woodland Sub Type	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Ancient Woodland	5	2.68	2.51
Curved Edged Woodland	1	1.85	1.74
Forestry and Plantation	1	14.02	13.15
Managed Woodland	3	8.31	7.79
Plantation	1	0.81	0.76
Woodland	58	78.98	74.05
Total	69	106.66	100

Table 11 Current (2003) Woodland Sub Type in Wirral Study Area

Most of the Current Woodland has origins before 1876 (i.e. it is depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 25" (Epoch 1) of Cheshire 1876). Pre-1900 woodland constitutes around 73% of all woodland recorded in the Wirral MHCP Study Area.

Wirral Woodland by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	47	77.49	72.65
Inter War 1918 to 1939	3	7.37	6.91
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	19	21.80	20.44
Total	69	106.66	100%

Table 12 Current (2003) Woodland in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

9.2.1 Ancient Woodland

9.2.2 Curved Edged Woodland

The MHCP recorded five 'ancient woodland' sites, four of which can be found to the southeast of the MHCP Study Area, in Lower Bebington and Poulton. The Sub Type constitutes 2.51% (2.68 ha) of the Woodland Broad Type. Some known 'ancient woodland' sites (such as at Dibbinsdale Park) were not recorded as an 'Ancient Woodland' Sub Type, having been recorded using alternative Broad and Sub Type categories. Brotherton Park (Dibbinsdale Nature Reserve) was recorded as a Nature Reserve Sub Type (Recreational and Ornamental Broad Type) because of its SSSI status. Similarly, old woodlands surviving at Caldy Hill and Heswall Dales have been recorded as Nature Reserves. Furthermore, some ancient woodland has been recorded using the generalised 'Woodland' Sub Type (as part of the Woodland Broad Type).

The MHCP found one example of Curved Edged Woodland - a 1.85 ha plot in Poulton. Curved edged woodland can be classified as ancient, since they are often created as a result of assarting larger forested areas for agricultural land during the medieval and post medieval periods.

It has been estimated that at the time of the Domesday Book about 27% of Cheshire was covered by woodland (Rackham 1980). Much of this was concentrated in the eats of the county in an area known as the Forest of Lyme (later called Macclesfield Forest). Most of the rest of the county is thought to have been quite poorly wooded and approximately 60% of the settlements possessed no woodland at all (Rackham 1980).

After Domesday, four main forests can be recognised: Wirral, Macclesfield, Mara (Delamere) and Mondrem. However, these areas were covered by forest law and give little idea of the distribution of woodland. Wirral was made into a Royal Forest later than the other areas apparently as a punishment against the inhabitants. Very little woodland was present at that time (Harrison 1902). Consequently, little has survived to the present day. The current woodland of Wirral is predominantly mixed with a high proportion of mature pines concentrated on sandstone ridges.

Ancient semi-natural woodlands (ASNWs) are woods that have persisted in the landscape since the Middle Ages, from a date of approximately 1600AD, although most ancient woodlands are much older than this; many are fragments of the Wildwood. The date 1600 is used as at this time the first maps showing woodland were made, also few woods were planted before this date[1].

Some ASNWs may have been felled several times, and either re-planted or left to regenerate naturally, so species composition and the size of the trees present does not necessarily prove a site to be ancient. Some ASNWs have been replanted with plantations of conifers and so do not initially appear to be ancient woodland areas.[2]

ASNW usually contain a diverse array of animal and plant species, many of which are unique to such sites and which are our only remaining link to the original Wildwood, which once covered most of England. The woodland usually has a varied structure and can include patches of species rich grassland, heathland or marsh within the wooded area.[3]

Although recorded as a Nature Reserve in the MHCP (Recreational and Ornamental Broad Type), the woodland at Brotherton Park (Dibbinsdale Nature Reserve) forms the largest and one of the finest examples of ancient woodland on Merseyside. The main habitats included are semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, which covers most of the site, reed swamp, fen pasture and neutral grassland. This is the largest block of semi-natural woodland of its type in Merseyside and it contains typical examples of Ash - Wych Elm and valley Alder woodland, each of which supports a rich flora and fauna. Woodland in the valley of Dibbinsdale and Clatter Brook has been recorded since 1818 although it is likely that some parts of the wood are much older.[4]

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[1] & [2] www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/ancient_wood.html. (Cheshire Wildlife Trust. Accessed July 2010)

[3] www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/ancient_wood.html. (Cheshire Wildlife Trust. Accessed July 2010)

[4] www.wirral.gov.uk/. (Wirral Council web. Accessed July 2010)

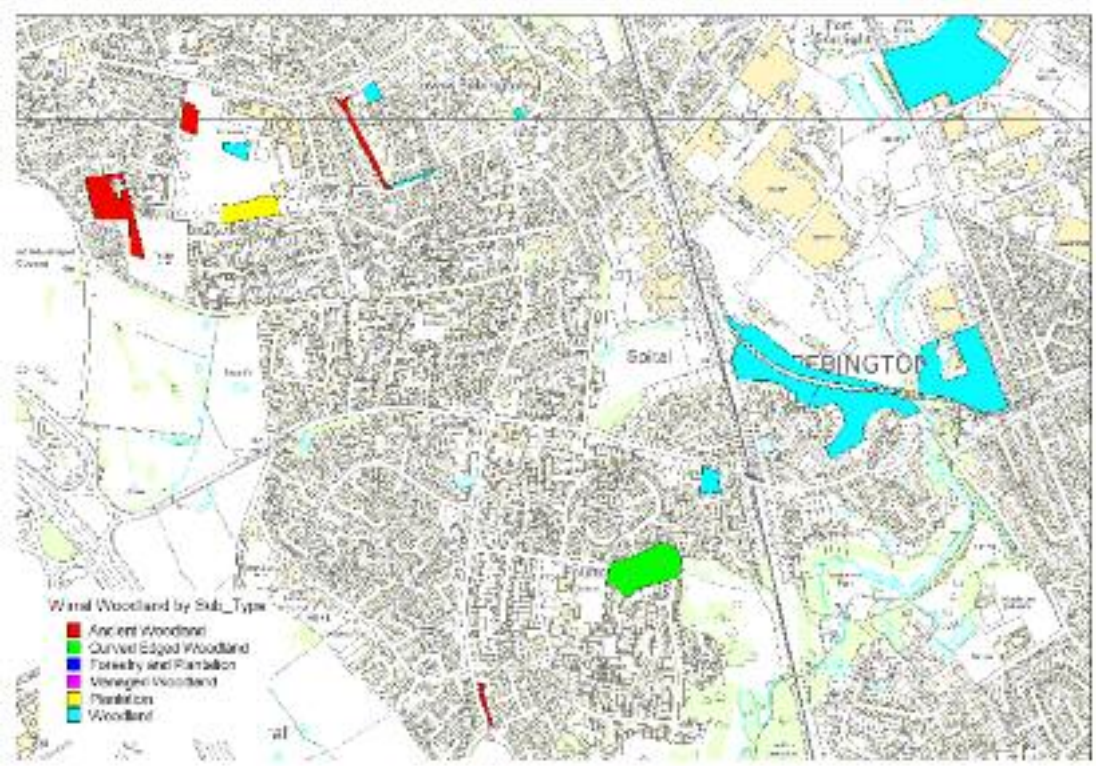

Figure 20 Ancient Woodland (red) in Lower Bebington and Poulton, Wirral.

Also shown are 'Woodland' Sub Type (blue) sites and a section of 'Curved Edged Woodland' (green), both of which can be classified as ancient (i.e. pre-1850). Also shown is Brotherton Park (and part of Dibbinsdale SSSI Nature Reserve) towards the southeast. Dibbinsdale SSSI is the largest stretch of ancient woodland in Merseyside.

9.2.3 Forestry and Plantation

9.2.4 Plantation

These two Sub Types can be combined, as their elements are essentially the same (differing only in size, range of species present and the variety of purpose)

Forestry and Plantations are managed commercial woodlands, usually of single species and generally modern in date (post-1945), Forestry and Plantation woodland comprises 13.15% (14.02 ha) of the Woodland Broad Type in the Wirral MCHP Study Area.

Plantations are a group of planted trees or shrubs, generally of uniform age and of a single species. Plantations comprise just over 0.76% (0.81 ha) of the Woodland Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area.

All of the plantations date to the Industrial Revolution 2 period (1836 to 1900), the largest (14.02 ha) located to the north of the Wirral Peninsula at Bidston Hill. The value of plantation (or secondary) woodland for nature conservation varies a great deal according to the degree of naturalness, the variety and age-structure of tree species populations and the variety and type of the associated flora and fauna, the terrain and other factors. The best examples approach the value of some ancient woodland, but, at the other end of the spectrum, uniform, species-poor plantations are unlikely to acquire much conservation significance for many years. The woodland resource in total is of major importance as wildlife habitat and since the proportional extent of woodland in the Urban Mersey Basin is still modest, an increase in the area occupied by woodland is generally to be welcomed (Tomlinson, 1997).

9.2.5 Managed Woodland

Managed woodlands are areas of cultivated, managed woodland producing wood which is used for a variety of purposes. Mixed woodland of two or more species is common, although single species sites occur. Managed woodland comprises 7.79% (8.31 ha) of the Woodland Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area.

Managed woodland occurs at three sites - two towards the west of the Wirral Peninsula (at Grange and Heswall) and a third in the south east (at Eastham). Managed woodland dates to the post-1900 period; the Beacons Woodland in Heswall dates to the Inter War period (before 1918 the area was heathland), while the Grange and Eastham woodlands date to the Late Twentieth Century.

9.2.6 Woodland

This character type contains all woodland plots that could not be assigned a strict sub-type character. As such, it will contain a range of woodland types - from semi-natural woodland, urban woodland, through to modern plantations and community woodland schemes, all having anthropogenic (i.e. secondary) origins. The Woodland Sub Type comprises 74.05% (78.98 ha) of Woodland Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. The 'Woodland' Sub Type comprises woodland that may have been planted by man, but some have arisen naturally when land was abandoned and left to revert to scrub and thence to woodland.[5]

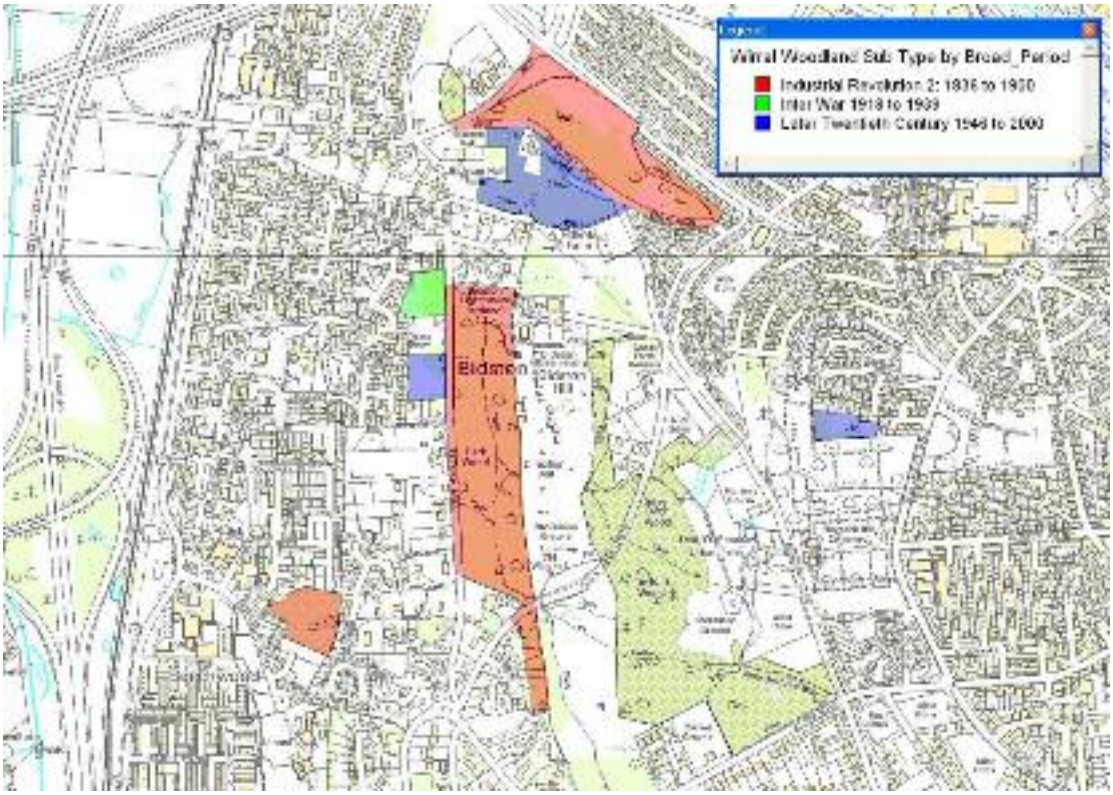

Figure 21 Bidston Hill - Woodland Sub Type by Broad Period (with Ancient Woodland to the southeast)

[5] www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/secondary_wood.html (Cheshire Wildlife Trust. Accessed July 2010)

These woodlands support fewer species than ancient woodland, secondary woodland have a nature conservation value, including coverts, copses, cloughs and shelter beds. [6]

The types of woodland range from Broad-leaved, semi-natural woodland (notably Dibbinsdale SSSI and Eastham Country Park), Mixed woodland (throughout the Wirral Peninsula) and Coniferous woodland (on the sandstone ridges of Bidston Hill, Heswall, Caldy and Thurstaston).

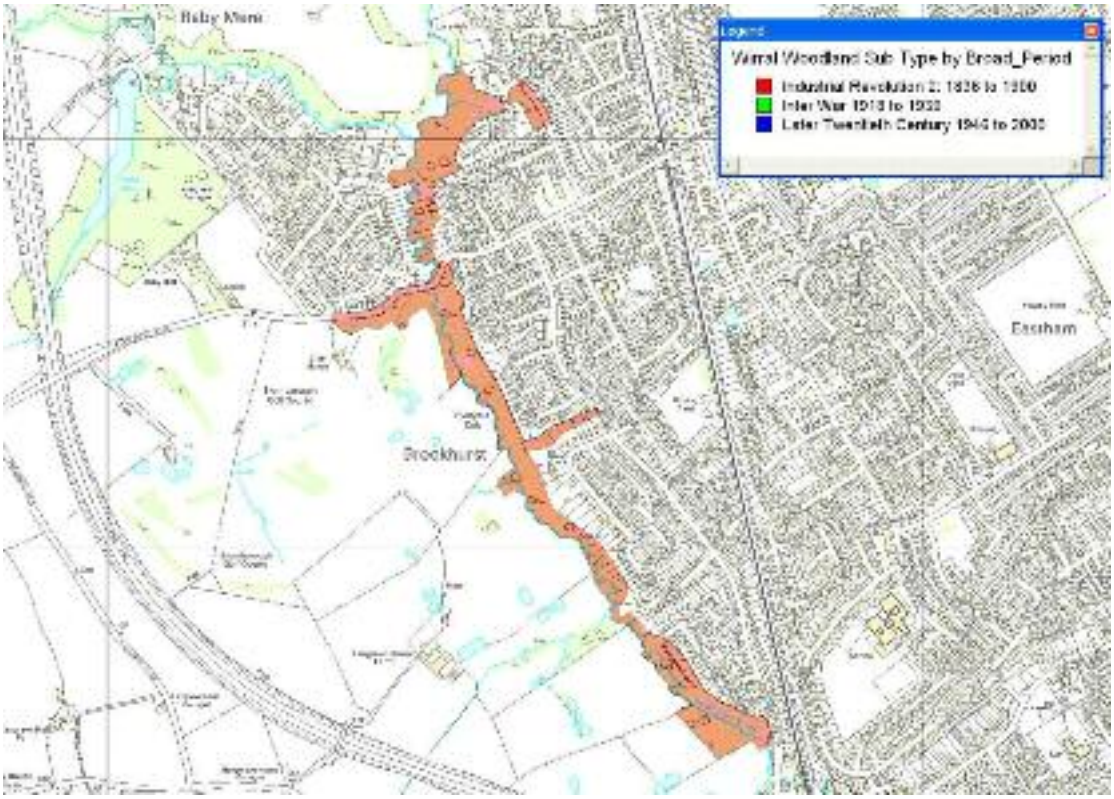

Figure 22 Plymyard Wood, Brotherton - Woodland Sub Type

[6] www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk/secondary_wood.html (Cheshire Wildlife Trust. Accessed July 2010)

The majority of the Woodland Sub Type dates to pre-1900, with the largest stands located at Bidston Hill (approximately 17 ha) and Plymyard Dale (16.5 ha). Located on a sandstone ridge, the woodland at Bidston Hill is predominantly coniferous, with stands of Silver Birch.

Plymyard Dale is an area of Broad-leaved woodland and scrub which has been classified as a Site of Biological Importance by Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council.[7]

[7] www.wirral.gov.uk/ (Wirral Council web. Accessed July 2010)

9.3 Residential Broad Type

Within the Wirral MHCP Study Area there area nearly 5250 ha of land in residential use, representing just over 59% of the current Wirral MHCP Study Area. Ten principal MHCP types were identified for detailed analysis on the basis of their presence in the landscape or historical significance:

- Farmhouse
- Terraced Housing
- Villa Housing
- Detached Housing
- Semi-Detached Housing
- Council Housing
- High-rise Development
- Private Estates Model Villages
- Modern Housing Development

Residential Sub Type	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Farmhouse	20	23.12	0.44
Terraced Housing	793	559.11	10.65
Villa Housing	21	13.74	0.26
Detached Housing	1368	1254.50	23.89
Semi-Detached Housing	1752	2825.13	53.83
Council Housing	3	80.07	1.53
Highrise Development	41	17.92	0.34
Private Estates	2	2.78	0.05
Model Village	5	54.78	1.04
Modern Housing Development	373	418.47	7.97
Totals	4378	5249.62	100%

Table 13 Current (2003) Residential Sub Type in Wirral Study Area

The current Residential Broad Type is dominated by two housing types that constitute around 77% of the current total; Semi Detached Housing at just under 54% (2826.95 ha) and Detached Housing at just under 24% (1254.5 ha). These are followed by Terraced Housing (10.65% - 559.11 ha) and Modern Housing Developments (7.97% - 418.47 ha).

Residential by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Post Medieval 1540 to 1750	3	1.96	0.04
Industrial Revolution 1: 1751 to 1835	1	0.05	0.01
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	1210	640.13	12.19
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	569	386.28	7.36
Inter War 1918 to 1939	918	1441.53	27.45
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	1672	2778.91	52.92
Twenty-first Century 2001 to 2050	5	2.59	0.05
Total	4378	5249.62	100%

Table 14 Residential Character in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

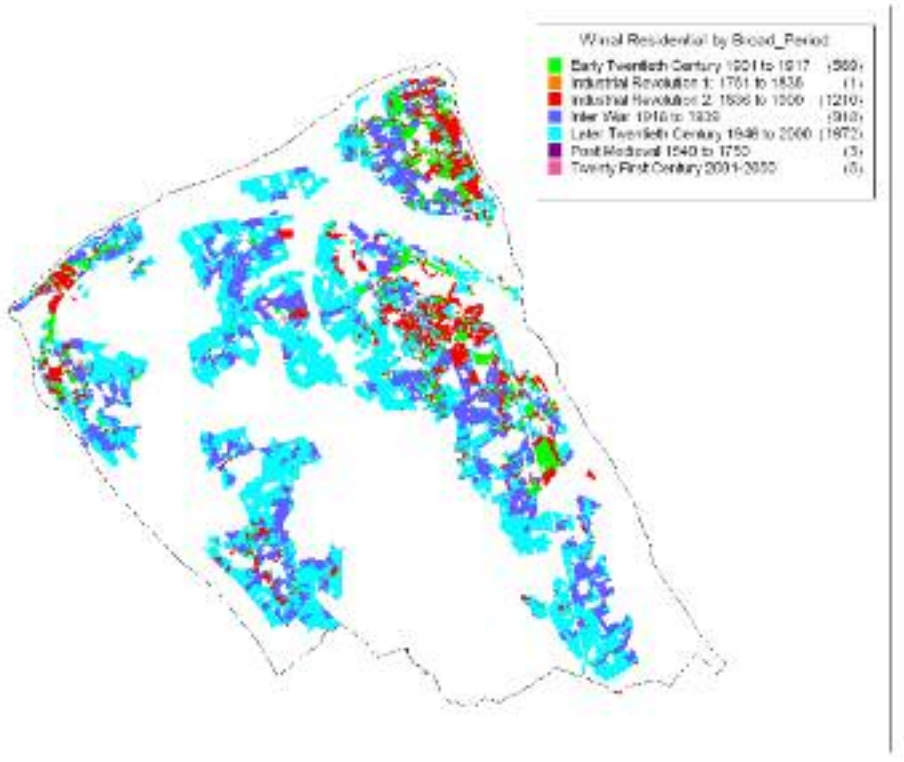

Figure 23 Current (2003) Residential Character in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

The majority of housing stock dates to the post-1945 period at nearly 53% (2778.91 ha), followed by Inter War housing at 27.5% (1441.53) and then Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) at 12.2% (640.13 ha).

Residential Development

The housing stock of Wirral appears as four distinct bands, representing four separate phases of development. The bands appear to emanate westward from the old centre of Birkenhead and, to a lesser extent, from the historic settlements of West Kirby and Heswall. The development of the Residential Broad Type in Wirral can be seen as corollary to that of Liverpool - an expansion away from established or historic foci (i.e. Birkenhead) on the river front, moving in land to consume further settlement sites. Whereas, in Liverpool the consumption of land appears to have been total, urban development in the Wirral appears somewhat piecemeal, with large areas (particularly towards the east of the Peninsula) still largely unaffected.

The first band of residential development (**Band 1**) is bounded by commercial and industrial activity (and the River Mersey) to the east and early 20th century housing to the west. The majority of housing in this band dates to pre-1900, with notable concentrations in New Brighton, Wallasey and central Birkenhead. Much of this in the form of relatively affluent suburbs comprising villa, detached and Semi-Detached housing located towards the north-western, central (around Birkenhead Park) and southern-most parts of the of the Peninsula. Victorian working class gridiron terraced housing is found in the central part of Birkenhead, and larger middle-class Semi-Detached and terraced housing is located towards the south. Further affluent Victorian detached, villa and large Semi-Detached housing is found along the northern coast of the Wirral, particularly in West Kirby and Hoylake.

Moving westward, the next band (**Band 2**) comprises housing stock established in early 20th century - representing westwards growth and expansion of the city. Although fragmentary, the band is composed of almost entirely gridiron terraced housing, the majority of which is located in the north- central (Wallasey and Liscard), central (Birkenhead) and south-central (Tranmere) parts of the Wirral Peninsula.

The third band (**Band 3**) comprises housing built in the Inter War (1918 to 1939) period, representing further post-war westwards expansion. Much of this expansion occurred on previously Greenfield sites, leading to a substantial loss of agricultural, rough land and woodland areas. Although the expansion was predominantly westwards (i.e. away from Birkenhead), it also occurred around existing settlements, such as West Kirby, Heswall, Greasby, Irby, Upton, Bebington and Bromborough.

The final band (**Band 4**) represents further urban expansion in the Post-war period. Nearly 53% of the Residential total belongs to this period, reflecting urban expansion at the time of improved communication routes and the creation of a commuter belt. The band contains a number of pre-existing historic settlement cores that have been consumed by later development (for example Heswall, Greasby, Prenton), a number of post-war planned estates (such as Woodchurch), and a number of modern housing developments.

9.3.1 Farmhouse

Although these MHCP types represent only 0.44% of the total area of the Residential Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area, they are nonetheless significant in terms of historical importance. Farms frequently comprise a cluster of buildings arranged around a yard. They are very often named as farms on mapping, and if not can be identified by interpreting the plans of the buildings. Vernacular cottages can also be named on maps. Cottages usually appear in isolation as a single building with a garden, but are also found in short, sometimes uneven, rows. It is important to note that the MHCP study criteria mean that the Farm house Sub Type does not appear in the Wirral Historic Environment Record.

The distribution of farms and cottages in Wirral tends to fall into one of three patterns. Buildings are either dispersed evenly throughout the landscape, set in nucleated groups (folds), or concentrated into ribbon developments along linear routes. It is not uncommon to find historic farms and cottages engulfed by later development. The majority of small farmhouses are found towards the west of the Peninsula, where they have been left untouched by Inter War and post-1945 urban expansion. A small group of larger farm holdings dating to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period can be found to the central-north of the Peninsula (in the MHCP Study Area) near Bidston.

Farmhouse by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Post medieval 1540 to 1750	2	1.00	4.33
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	16	21.74	94.03
Inter War 1918 to 1939	2	0.37	1.60
Total	20	23.12	100%

Table 15 Current (2003) Farmhouse in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

A significant number of the farm houses in Wirral have historic origins. Around 98.4% appear to pre-date 1900, with two dating to the Post medieval period - located at Irby and Pensby. None appear to post-date 1939. The number of Current (2003) farmhouses (from the MHCP Study Area) stands at 20 polygons (23.12 ha). This represents a massive reduction in the number of farmhouses from 63 (61.18 ha) in 1876, 58 polygons (57.78 ha) in 1899, and 43 polygons (45.55 ha) in 1936. The drop in the number of farmhouses can be explained by extensive clearance of farm land prior to the development of 20th century housing, commercial and industrial estates.

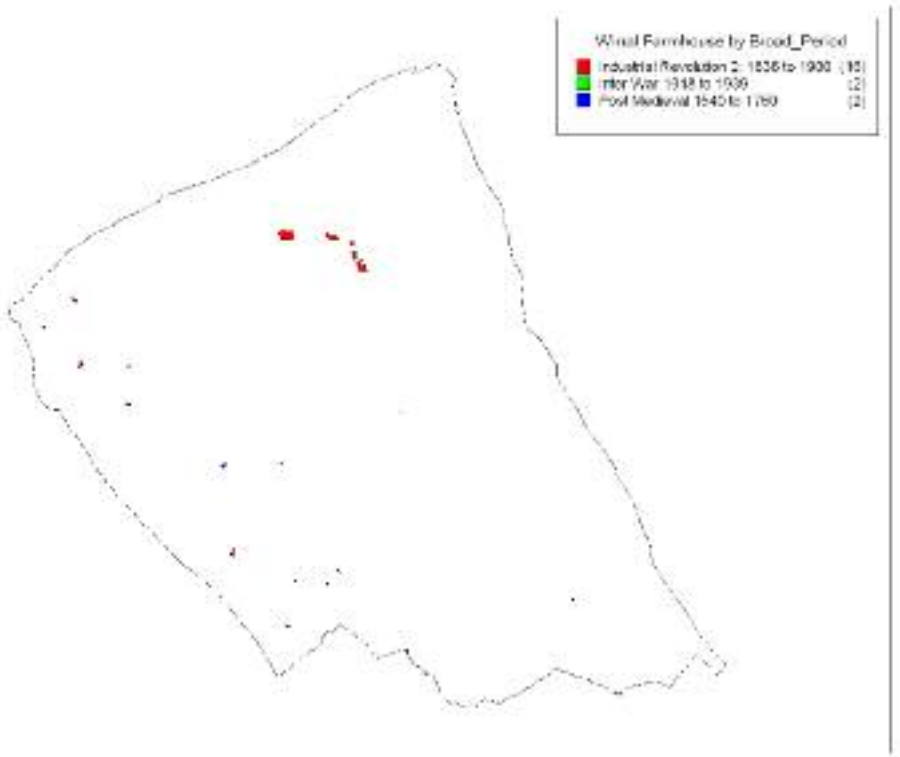

Figure 24 Current (2003) Farmhouse in the Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

9.3.2 Terraced Housing

Terraced Housing represents 10.65% of the total area of the Residential Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area (559.11 ha). The majority of Current Terraced Housing dates to pre-1918, with nearly 35% (195.4 ha) dating to the period 1836 to 1900. Terraced Housing built in the early twentieth century (1901 to 1917) accounts for 24.2% (135.41 ha) of the Sub Type, while terraced housing built in the Inter War and Post-1945 periods account for just over 20.4% each.

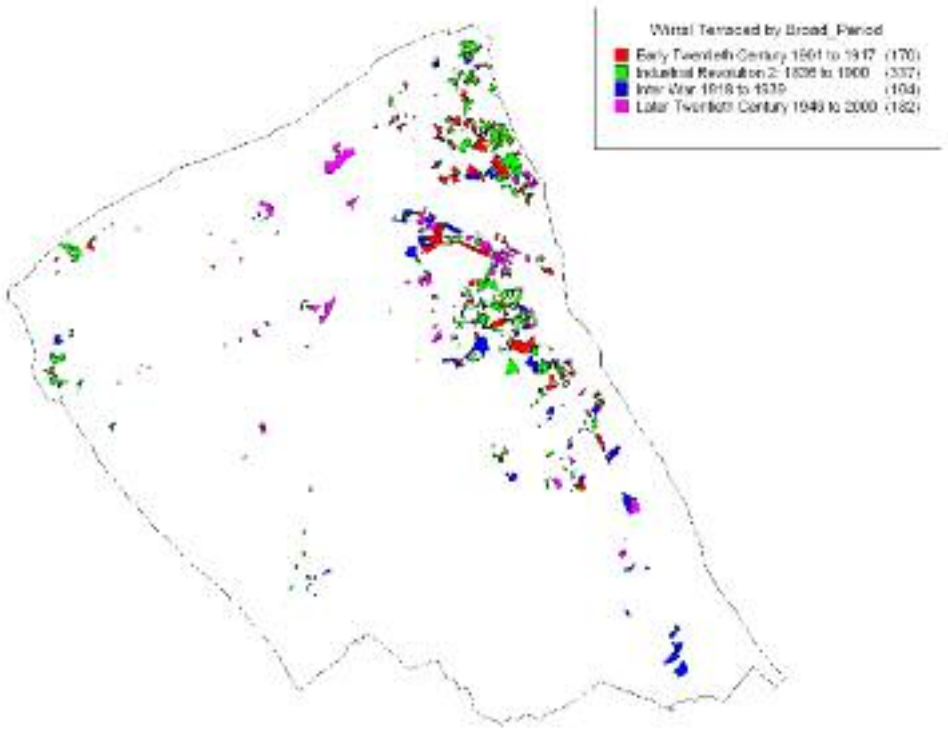

Figure 25 Terraced Housing in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

Terraces are rows of houses with a unified frontage, constructed predominantly in the late 18th to early 20th century. The quality of buildings ranged from tiny back-to-back houses with poor sanitary conditions that were prone to overcrowding to model estate cottages. Thousands of terrace houses were built in Wirral in the second half of the nineteenth century. They were usually small houses, with two or sometimes three bedrooms, a parlour at the front and a kitchen. There was no bathroom just an outside toilet in the yard at the back. The standards of construction of terraces were raised in the late 19th century with the introduction of government by-laws concerning housing. Some terraces fronted directly onto the street, and where front gardens or yards were

present, they were often very small. However, terraces of larger, higher status houses with longer front gardens were also built to house some of the middle classes.

Terraced Housing by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	337	195.40	34.95
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	170	135.41	24.22
Inter War 1918 to 1939	104	114.14	20.42
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	182	114.15	20.42
Total	793	559.11	100%

Table 16 Current (2003) Terraced Housing in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

Terraced housing belonging to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period is concentrated in two areas of the Peninsula - the northern coastal area around New Brighton and the central part of Birkenhead and Tranmere. Much of Wirral's Victorian and Edwardian terraced housing, centred on Birkenhead, was lost to wartime bombing and subsequent post-war redevelopment. However, one of the earliest terraced blocks in Wirral can be found at Cannon Hill, built in the late 1850s or early 1860s. It was deemed by Pevsner and Hubbard (1978) to be almost the only terrace of this date to have any architectural or group value; its symmetrical Italianate façade seen across the Lower Park forms an important feature in the landscape (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

South of Birkenhead Park lies Kenyon Terrace in Devonshire Road, built between 1844 and 1848, a distinguished group of three long terraces, each three storey, in ashlar with rusticated ground storeys, entablatures and brackets to some windows and some Ionic porches (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Aidan's Terrace was built at the same time as St Aidan's College (i.e. mid 1850s), with which it is in axis. Constructed in ashlar, it is along composition of quite large houses, each with five bays (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

19th Century Gridiron Terraced Housing

Birkenhead existence as a town began in 1824, when the Scotsman William Laird established a boiler factory, which soon expanded into a shipbuilding yard, on the shore of Wallasey Pool. In the same year, Laird employed James Gillespie Graham to prepare a scheme for the laying out of a new town. The resulting rectangular street plan, sited south and parallel to Wallasey Pool, is one of the most ambitious instances of 19th century town planning anywhere in Britain (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). At the east end, near the River Mersey, Hamilton Square was begun c.1825. It was intended that the entire town should consist of stone-faced buildings of high architectural quality. Streets were laid out long before there was any chance of their being put up, and little progress has been made by 1833. In the ten years following 1836, Hamilton Square was completed, and some building took place in its neighbourhood, but not to the originally intended high standard. Although the gridiron plan continued through to 1844, many blocks were not developed and lay empty. A plan for constructing docks in Wallasey Pool, initiated by William Laird in 1820 was defeated by the Liverpool Corporation, alarmed by the threat of rival docks. Revival of the idea occurred in 1844, with the construction of the first stages of the Docks and Birkenhead Park. However, by 1847, difficulties had set in, and a depression resulted in the suspension of work on both the town and docks. The population, estimated at c.40,000 in the mid 1840s, had by 1851 dropped to 24,000. With the eventual return of prosperity, architectural aspirations were abandoned, and the streets of the gridiron were for the most part slowly built up in mean and crowded fashion - notably in the form of late 19th and early 20th century workers terraced housing estates.

These estates were constructed to provide inexpensive accommodation for the rapidly rising population of industrial workers, and are often physically associated with former industrial sites. Nineteenth century terraced houses are a distinctive national building type and are often associated with factories, mills, shops, pubs, schools and other public buildings. The majority do not receive any form of statutory protection, but by their very existence they give places a distinctive identity and character. Houses, industrial sites and institutional buildings were thus all elements of a wider social landscape. In central Birkenhead, only a few pockets of pre-1900 terraced housing survives, with many areas of previously terraced housing having been destroyed (through bomb damage) or removed through redevelopment. It is interesting to note

that the post-War replacement housing follows the same street pattern and nature (i.e. terraced housing) as the previous historic character type.

Further gridiron terraced housing developments are present in zones around Tranmere, Liscard, Seacombe and Egremont.

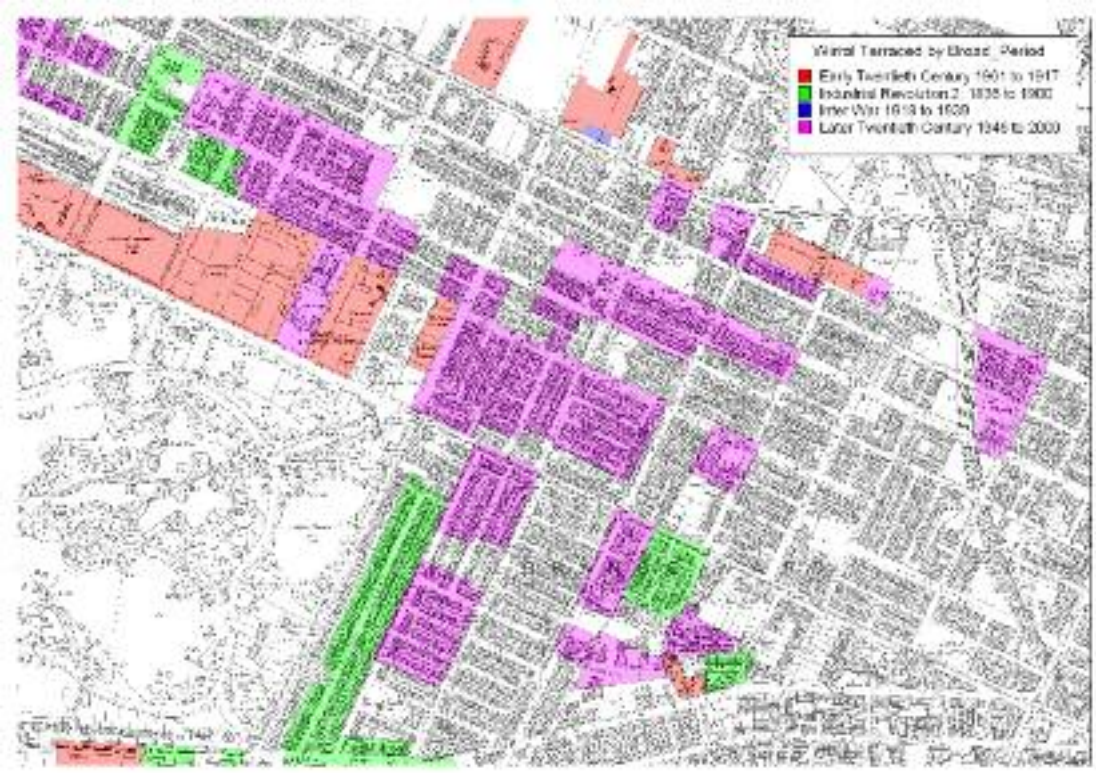

Figure 26 Surviving Gridiron Terraced Housing in central Birkenhead, depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Ches. 1899.
Although a few pockets of pre-1900 housing survive (green), the majority dates to post 1946 (pink) (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

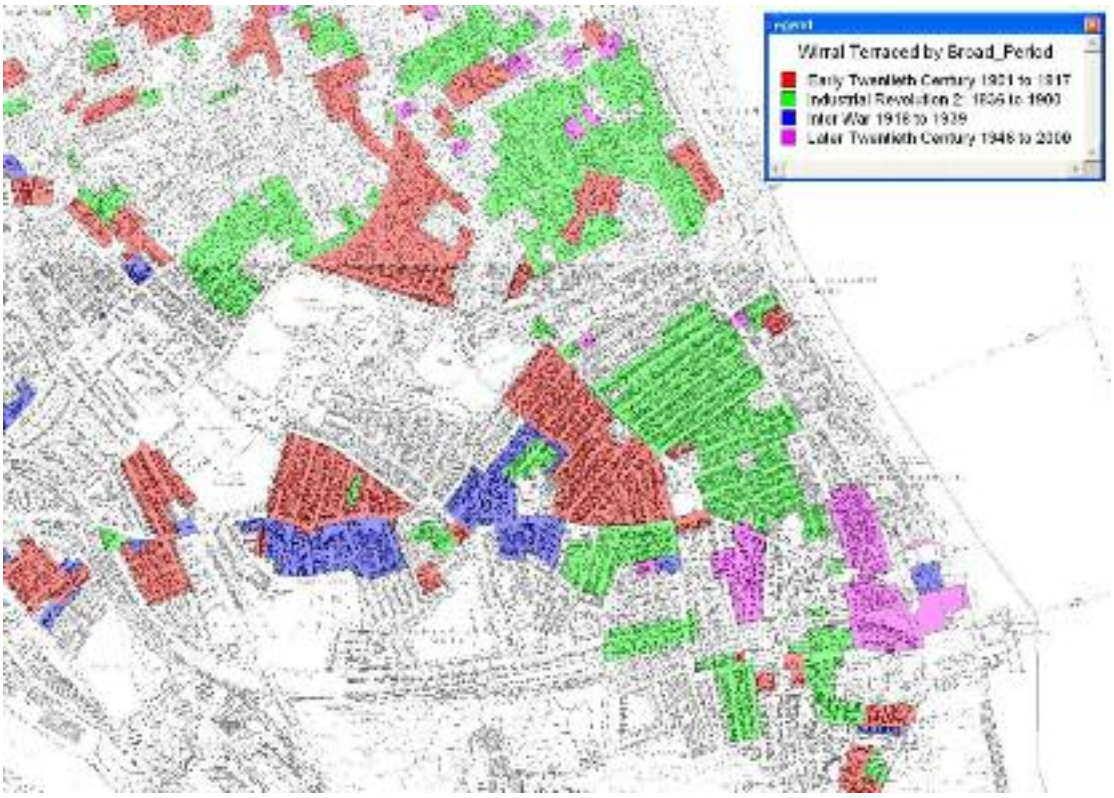

Figure 27 Gridiron Terraced Housing in Seacombe, Liscard and Egremont depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh.1936

9.3.3 Detached Housing

9.3.4 Villa Housing

Detached houses represent around 24% (1254.5 ha) of the total area of the Residential Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. There is a great deal of overlap between this and another character Sub Type - Villa Housing - certainly for large-scale Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian establishments, the characters could be combined. This is particularly true for Victorian housing suburbs that skirt around public parks. Villa Housing represents 0.26% (13.74 ha) of the total area of the Residential Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Areal.

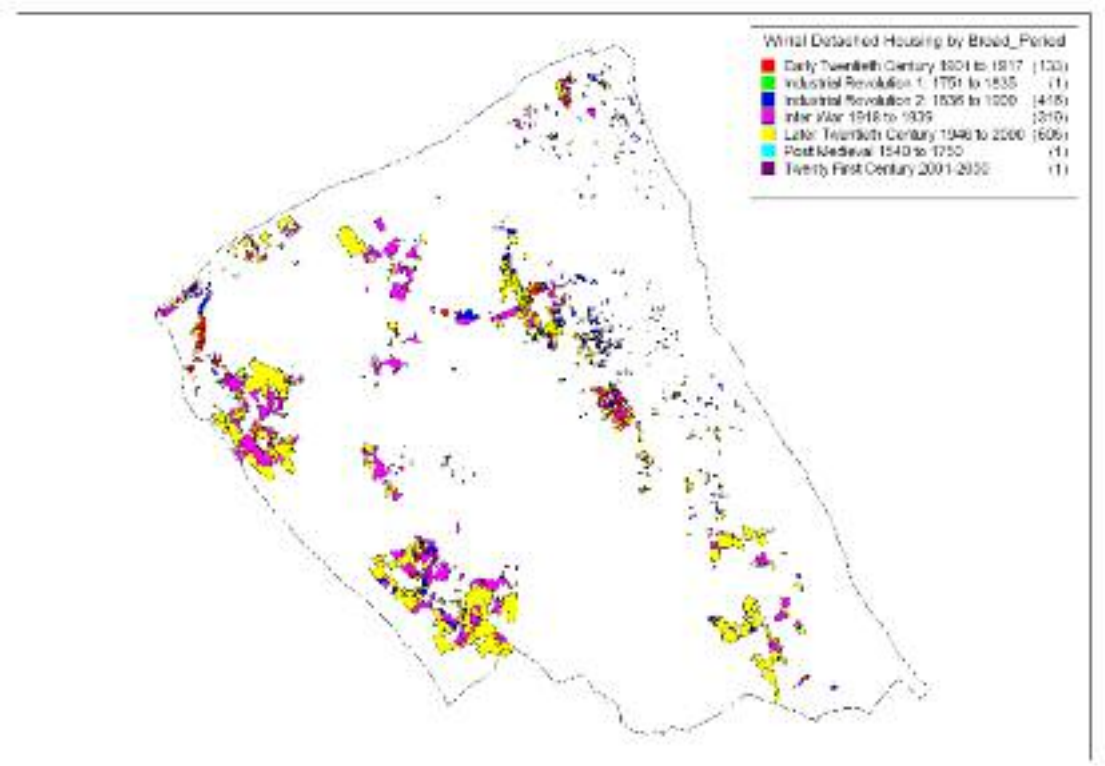

Figure 28 Current (2003) Detached Housing in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage)

There are three main phases of Detached Housing - during Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900), a second in the early twentieth-century (1901 to 1917), and a third in later twentieth century (1946 to 2000). In 1886, the Mersey Railway tunnel was opened, linking Wirral and Liverpool. This led to the further rapid growth of suburbs along its lines in Wirral, particularly in Wallasey, Hoylake and West Kirby, and later Bebington and Heswall. In 1934 the rail tunnel was supplemented by a vehicle tunnel in 1934, the Queensway Tunnel. A third tunnel opened in 1971, the Kingsway Tunnel,

connecting with the M53 motorway which now runs up the centre of the peninsula. These communication links contributed to the massive growth of commuting between Liverpool and Wirral, and the development of new suburban estates around such villages as Moreton, Upton, Greasby, Pensby, and Bromborough.

Detached Housing by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Post Medieval 1540 to 1750	1	0.96	0.08
Industrial Revolution 1: 1751 to 1835	1	0.05	0.004
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	416	126.19	10.06
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	133	67.00	5.34
Inter War 1918 to 1939	310	365.01	29.10
Later twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	506	694.08	55.33
Twenty First Century 2001-2050	1	1.20	0.10
Total	1368	1254.50	100%

Table 17 Current (2003) Detached Housing in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

For **Victorian housing**, the buildings represent the domiciles of the majority of the middle classes of Wirral from about the mid-19th century onwards. Much like villa housing development, the distribution of this MHCP type was influenced at first by the development of Wirral as a seaside resort (particularly in New Brighton, but also in West Kirby and Hoylake), then as an affluent neighbour to Liverpool with the establishment of merchant housing. This was followed by growth along railways and tramways in the later 19th century. Detached housing in Wirral typically form late 19th century ribbon developments along the main transport routes or discrete suburban clusters.

Victorian (and Edwardian) housing is found throughout the Peninsula, but there are noticeable concentrations in the north along the river front (in New Brighton and Wallasey), around large public parks (in tandem with Villa Housing) particularly at Birkenhead Park, and around established historic cores such as Prenton, Bidston and Noctorum.

Noctorum which, along with the western side of Bidston Hill, forms a spacious, leafy district of Late Victorian houses, many very large and very red (Pevsner and Hubbard,

1978). Although a little building has taken place previously, it was from 1880 onwards that Liverpool shipowners and cotton merchants began to invade on a large scale. In Noctorum Lane is Mere Hall, c.1880, the largest of the several houses in Noctorum designed by Edmund Kirby. Now divided up and partly stripped, many features of the rich interior, incorporating Flemish Baroque woodwork, remain (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

The early nineteenth-century villa emerged from two directions. Country houses were becoming smaller and less complex as they became more a retreat from urban rural life than the centre of a working agricultural estate; likewise business and professional men in the cities were eschewing the cramped conditions of high-density living in a terraced house for a detached house with small grounds, set (thanks to transport improvements) within easy reach of town.

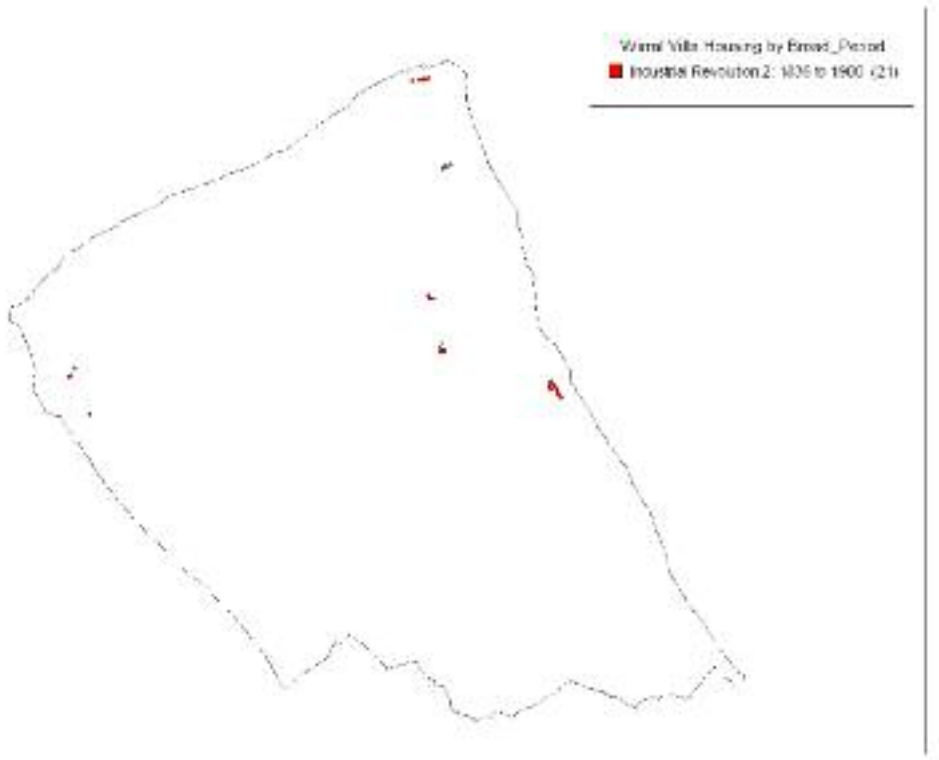

Figure 29 Current (2003) Villa Housing in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

The smaller detached house is a peculiarly English model and was expressed in a variety of styles. Although the Georgian love of Classical styles - Greek and Roman - survived well into the Victorian period (and were the ones best understood by builders), the first half of the nineteenth century saw Italianate or Picturesque Gothic villas and the vernacular cottage style become increasingly popular. The road, houses, gardens, trees and low gardens walls and railings combined to make an informal, rural ensemble on the edge of town, pastoral and romantic in its inspiration, picturesque in effect. From the 1840s onwards, good quality substantial detached villas designed by established local architects proliferated on villa estates located on the edge of flourishing cities; stylistic eclecticism was established for good by this time. From being bespoke one-off commissions, such houses had entered the mainstream of speculative residential building. The suburban house built by speculators after 1840 often emulated the Italianate Renaissance style popularised by architects such as Sir Charles Barry, and exemplified by Queen Victoria's rural palace at Osborne on the Isle of Wight. Suburban villas of this variety typically featured an irregular composition with towers, segmental pediments above windows, cast- iron balconies, rusticated stucco at ground floor level, a shallow pitch roof and stringcourses to delineate floor levels; interiors could be opulent, if standardised, with rich plasterwork, chimney pieces and internal decoration which took advantage of new forms of machine production.

New Brighton was known as Rock Point until 1830 when James Atherton, a retired Liverpool merchant and builder, purchased 170 acres of heathland and sand hills there. This land enjoyed views out to sea and across the Mersey and had a beautiful beach. With the introduction of steam ferries across the river, he intended to develop it as a desirable residential and watering place for the gentry. Wide streets, villas, handsome hotels and theatres sprang up and a pier was built for a steam ferry to Liverpool. Modelled on Brighton, the fantastic creation of the Prince Regent, it became known as the "New Brighton" and it was well established by 1860. Despite an ambitious street plan being laid out and many villas being built, the speculation never really got off the ground. No grand hotels were built, not affluent terraces, and the New Brighton of the last hundred years is a miniature Blackpool chiefly for Liverpool day trippers (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). With the popularity of trains, however, mill workers from Lancashire began to invade New Brighton; it became rowdy and "common", and the gentry moved away.

In New Brighton, some large detached villas in landscaped grounds have vanished, and there has also been demolition in the two chief early streets - Montpellier Crescent and Wellington Road. Some of the nicest houses are gabled and bargeboarded, stuccoed, but the two best remaining detached villas are ashlar faced (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). One is No.33 Montpellier Crescent of c.1841, with a porch of four fluted Ionic Columns and above it a recessed window below a small pediment. The other is Redcliffe in Wellington Road, c.1845. Built in a Tudor style, with a balcony on arcading fronting on to the sea. In St George's Mount is an Italianate house with a tower (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

The mid 19th century saw the establishment of docks at Birkenhead and in the Wallasey Pool, and continuing development for a wide range of industry both there and along the banks of the Mersey. The New Chester Road was opened in 1833. Wirral's first railway was built in 1840, planned by George Stephenson and connecting Birkenhead with Chester. The improved communications also allowed Liverpool merchants to buy up and develop large estates in Wirral. James Atherton and William Rowson developed the resort of New Brighton, and new villa estates for the gentry were also built at Egremont, Oxton, Claughton, Rock Park (Rock Ferry) and Egerton Park.

Rock Park was a private residential estate, enclosed within lodge gates, and laid out in 1836-7 by Jonathan Bennison. This attractive sylvan suburb is picturesquely planned with a serpentine looped driveway, having a frontage onto the esplanade and river. Most of the houses were built before 1843 and all were completed by c.1850. They include Semi-Detached pairs and individual villas, some of ashlar and some stuccoed, in a variety of styles (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). The estate (which includes some houses in Rock Lane East) was remarkably complete until relatively recently. The lodge and nine other houses were demolished in the 1970s to make way for the New Ferry By-Pass (A41), including Hawthorne House (No. 26), the former house of Nathaniel Hawthorne when he was American consul to Liverpool in the 1850s. The property was subsequently owned by astronomer Isaac Roberts, who installed a seven-inch refractor in a revolving dome on the top floor. Immediately after the building of the bypass, the remainder of Rock Park was quickly designated a conservation area in 1979. All of the houses in Rock Park were Listed Grade II on 13 March 1973, the first early Victorian properties to be designated listed buildings. The entrance gate posts and sea wall were listed on 10 August 1992.

Figure 30 Villa Houses in Rock Park (MHCP 2005)

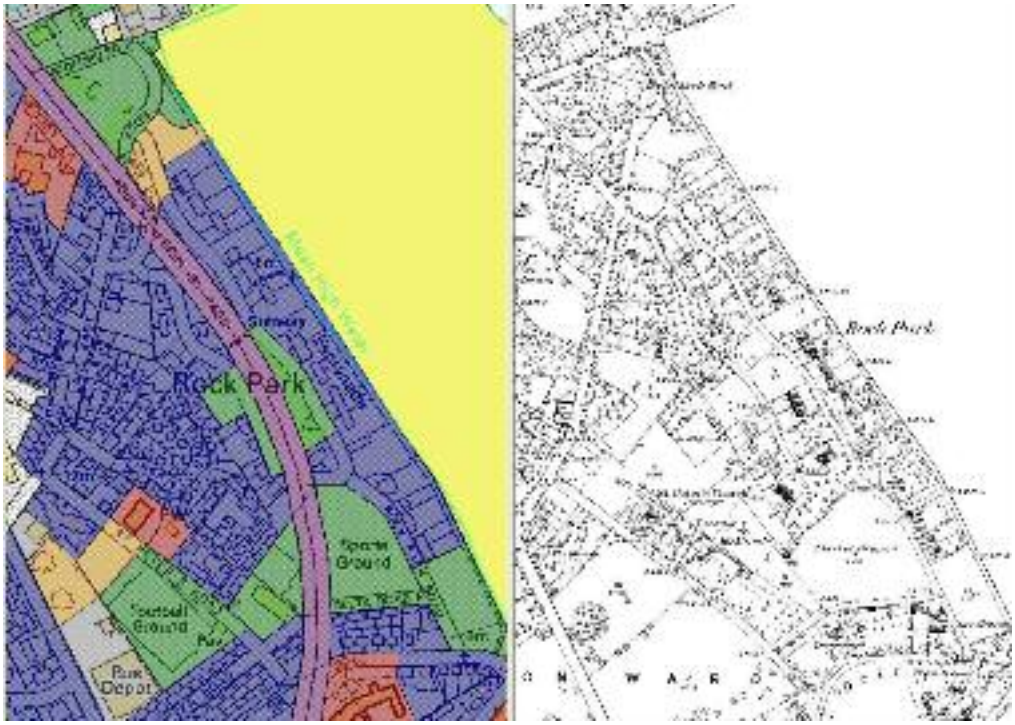

Figure 31 Rock Park in Rock Ferry.
The 2003 mapping shows surviving mid-19th century housing and the 1970s By-pass cutting through. The full extent of the villa estate is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh.1876

Egerton Park is another enclosed estate, though later in date than Rock Park. Egerton Park is an oasis of late nineteenth-century villas in a leafy setting, and the Byrne Avenue Baths, a 1930s swimming pool with plenty of Art Deco features. The row of Semi-Detached houses on Rockville Street, built in 1837, is one of the earliest rows of private houses in Britain to use Gothic detailing on their exteriors.

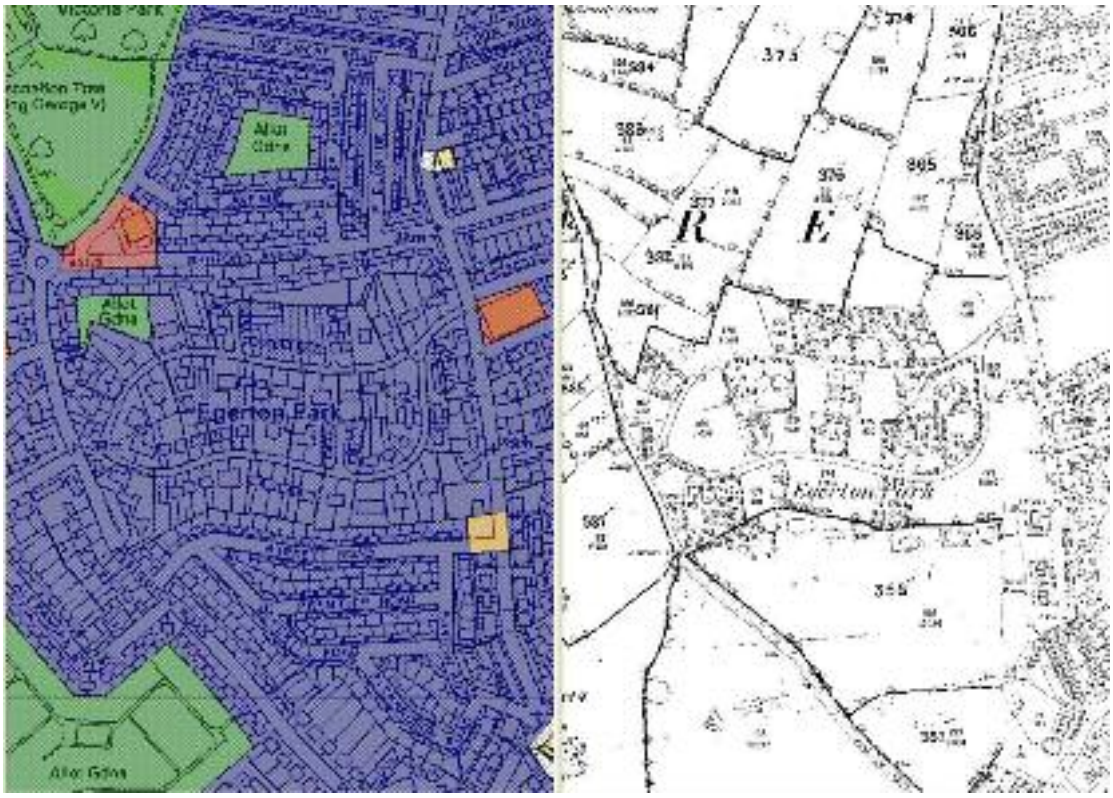

Figure 32 Egerton Park on 2003 mapping, showing the survival of the road layout and housing, with the enclosed estate depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh. 1876 (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

Birkenhead Park was laid out by Sir Joseph Paxton in 1843-7. Paxton's plan for the perimeter housing, consisted of an informal arrangement of villa houses and terraces, ingeniously arranged so as almost everywhere to avoid straight rigid rows. Purchasers of building sites were governed by regulations as to the development and maintenance of their property; designs had to be approved by the Improvement Commissioners, and the only permissible materials were, in effect, Storeton stone and, with stylistic limitations, brick (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). The best of the houses are amongst those built before the mid 1860s - a group of villas in Ashville Road, late 1840s and early 1850s, include a range of Gothic, Jacobethan and Italianate inspired designs (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Villa estate houses are also found surrounding Clifton Park, including designs by Walter Scott c.1843. The Clifton Park estate was originally enclosed within a set of lodge gates - Nos. 17-19 are a brick, Semi-Detached pair in one of which Scott himself lived, but there are a number of later houses, undoubtedly by him, of better quality (e.g. No. 11). Also, Nos. 38-40, a Semi-Detached Italianate pair in the form of end pavilions linked by a lower block. Further Italianate, Gothic and Jacobethan houses can be found in Whetstone Lane, Holybank Road and Lowwood Road (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

South of Birkenhead Park lies a spacious suburb (south of Devonshire Road and as far as Manor Hill). This block contains many Semi-Detached villas built between 1844 and 1848, including the delightful Aston Lodge (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). Large detached villa houses are also found here, including The Gables, c.1865 by Walter Scott and Landour, c.1850 in Palm Grove. Further west was a district of larger houses, including work by both Scott and Reed, the latter designing Jackson's own house, c.1843, which seems to have been a Greco-Italianate villa of exceptional quality and refinement. In Manor Hill there remains Outwood, now St Anselm's College, apparently early 1860s, ashlar and much rustication (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Oxton contains a number of early Victorian villas and earlier cottages. In Mill Hill, Point of Ayr is the house from which Kemp glass was taken to St Saviour. An Italianate villa, probably of c.1850, but with a Gothic interior, at least part of which dates from 1857 (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

At Prenton are some of the best examples on Merseyside of early 20th century domestic architecture, and the summit of Prenton Hill forms an attractive Edwardian suburb. Most of the best houses are by Sir Arnold Thornely of Briggs, Wolstenholme and Thornely. In Pine Walks, Greystoke, 1907 by Ashby Tabb, a Liverpool furnisher and decorator for himself. By Briggs, Wolstenholme and Thornely are Birch Howe, c.1910 and Pine Grove, c.1910. The Homestead, c.1909 and Manor House, 1909, are L-shaped, rendered with some half-timbering and two-storeyed galleried hall (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Prenton also contains a number of early to mid 20th century villa houses, including The White House in Burrell Road. The Quarry, c.1927, has a remarkable garden made in a former quarry. In Prospect Road, No. 8 of 1926 is by Ashby Tabb,

constructed in a curious Home Counties vernacular (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). The houses found within the Mount Wood area represent an eclectic mix of styles, and form the focal point of the recently undertaken Conservation Area Appraisal (Donald Insall Associates Ltd, 2005)

The early houses, dating from 1872 – 1899, are fine examples of the period. Large brick and slate, 3-storey buildings (often with red brick details), they are, however, typical of their age and lack any sense of individuality. It is possible that they were constructed speculatively to satisfy the growing demand for suburban residences. These houses are found in Acrefield Road, Storeton Road and Prenton Lane. The houses which form the core of the Mount Wood area are of a different nature altogether. Dating primarily from the early 1900s, they are individually designed (often by prominent local architects). They may be characterised broadly as 'Arts and Crafts' and display features common to the style, such as steeply pitched roofs with low eaves; small, horizontally grouped windows; tall decorative chimneys; and decorative timberwork. However, each house is distinctive. Later properties, such as those which date from the 1930s and 1950s (predominantly on Stanley Avenue) display similarities but are often smaller and more modestly finished (Ibid).

Outside of Birkenhead, the majority of villa housing appears to have been developed from the late 1870s onwards. The development of West Kirby and Hoylake owe their growth to the arrival of the railways and the development of the villages as seaside resorts.

The existence of Hoylake as a bathing resort dates from around 1792, when Sir John Stanley built a hotel, though little residential development took place prior to the later 19th century and the coming of the railway. Stanley's Royal Hotel survived until recently. Some houses in Hoylake date from around 1835, though most are early 20th century (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

The majority of housing in West Kirby dates without exception from after the coming of a railway link in 1878, when the line was extended from Hoylake. A link was established with Liverpool in 1888. A few pre-1870s villa houses do exist - Hilbre House appears to pre-date the railway, as does Kirby Mount (No. 1 Kirby Mount) which has a pedimented frontage of c.1810 with a block of 1709 at the rear (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

The main characteristic of Inter War townscapes is their spacious environment resulting from the layout. Their housing is low density, which was a deliberate attempt to get away from the Victorian tenements. Most schemes incorporate a garden for each property. Streets are used as a design element, being curved to provide interesting vistas, and contribute to the general ambience with grass verges and trees.

The development of Caldy as a spacious residential district dates from 1906. In Caldy Road, one of the earliest houses is Caldecott, by Hastwell Grayson. The Croft, c.1911, is perhaps by Sir E. Guy Dawber. Further east is Orovales, c.1930, by Gilbert Fraser. Next to each other in Croft Drive are two octagonal houses, the larger one, Newlands, 1914, is of unusual design, with a flat roof (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). They are set in a curving, tree-lined road typical of many suburbs, but on Caldy Hill houses in the King's Drive and Thoresway command glorious views over the Dee estuary to the mountains of Wales.(Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

9.3.5 Semi-Detached Housing

Semi -Detached housing represents 53.83% (2825.13 ha) of the total area of the Residential Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Areal. It is by far the largest housing Sub Type in Wirral - the majority of this is made up by housing stock dating to post-1945 (around 52%). The post-1945 block is concentrated within the central part of the Wirral Peninsula, as part of the urban expanse of the later 1940s to 1970s. These large urban estates were for the most part built on previously open fields or around established historic settlement cores.

Semi-Detached housing is found through the Wirral, except in 'blank' areas near the historic waterfront (predominantly Industrial and Commercial), the Birkenhead Docklands (Industrial) and Birkenhead Town Centre (predominantly Commercial).

The overall distribution pattern corresponds well with that set out in the Residential Development bands, with pre-1900 semi detached housing (including Villa Housing) found in Band 1 (mainly on the river and coast), Early Twentieth century housing in Band 2, Inter War semi detached housing found in Band 3, and the majority of post-1945 housing found in Band 4. Although no houses appear to pre-date 1836, a number of Semi-Detached examples do exist but these were, unfortunately, omitted from the survey. It must also be remembered that Semi-Detached housing is, for the most part, a mid 19th century to later 20th century phenomenon.

There is a certain degree of overlap between Semi-Detached and other residential Sub Types. This is particularly true for Villa Housing (i.e. large Semi-Detached villas may have been recorded as 'Semi-Detached'), Council Housing and Modern Housing Developments. Semi detached is the most common form of house found in social (Council and other housing estates, particularly post-1945 ones. Although every effort was made distinguish between the two housing types (and to accurately define and plot social housing boundaries), unfortunately there will be some degree of blurring between Sub Types, possible misidentification and, subsequently, over and under-representation. Some former social housing estates (such as Woodside) have been characterised as Semi-Detached, as their nature has changed overtime. Through schemes such as Right to Buy, many previously Council owned houses are now in private ownership.

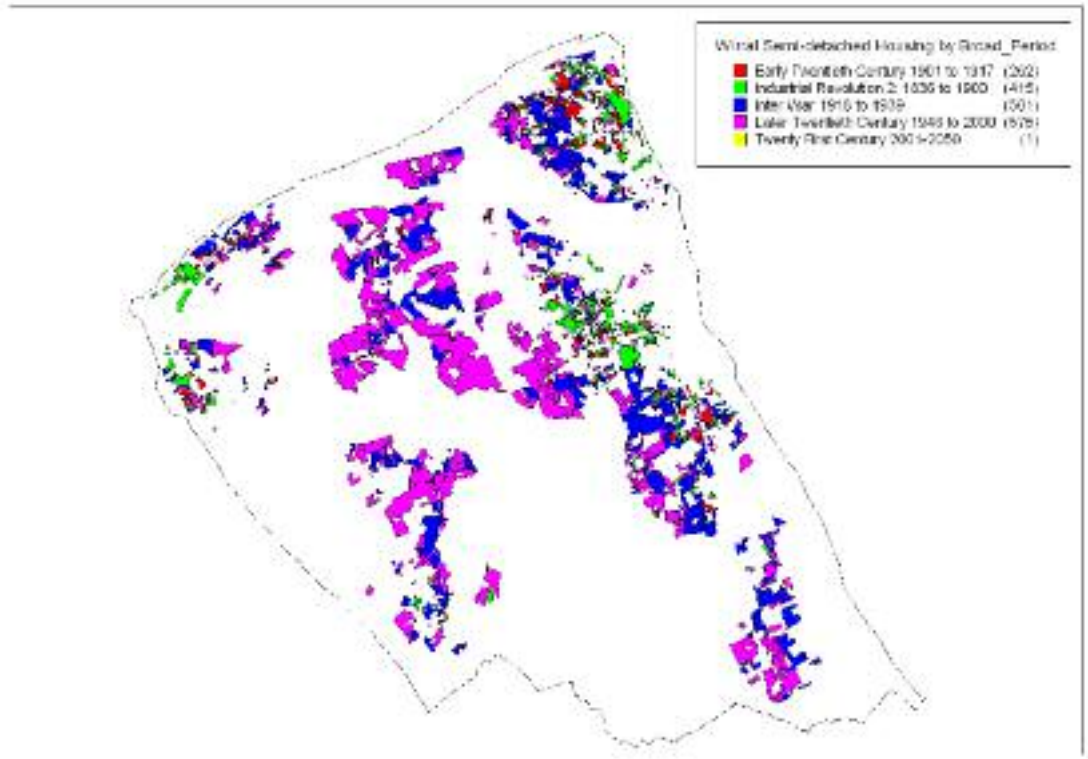

Figure 33 Semi-Detached Housing in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

By 1850 the middle class in England had grown to a third of the population, and used the new trams and suburban railways to escape the smoke. As the English largely declined to invest in tenements, preferring the simpler terrace, our cities sprawled as far as the public transport routes could extend. The Garden City provided a better model, and one of Britain's greatest inventions that was exported round the world. In all, there were 20 garden cities before the First World War. The new arterial roads radiating from the cities provided serviced sites often close to modem new factories. During the Inter War period some 76,000 builders produced three million semis in a variety of styles, the greatest house building boom England ever experienced. The pattern books were the equivalent of today's building codes.

Detached Housing by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	415	259.03	9.17
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	262	150.21	5.32
Inter War 1918 to 1939	501	957.89	33.91
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	575	1457.11	51.58
Twenty First Century	1	0.89	0.03
Total	1754	2825.13	100

Table 18 Current (2003) Semi-Detached Housing in Wirral Study Area by Broad period of origin

The Inter War years saw the emergence of a new style of house that can still be seen today in many parts of Wirral, the Semi-Detached house. People buying the new 'semis' wanted their houses to have some of the architectural features of country cottages. As a result, Semi-Detached houses and their more expensive detached ones were a haphazard combination of architectural details, which could include mock beams, lattice windows, weather-boarding, pebble-dash and fancy brickwork. Tudor and so-called 'Jacobethan' styles were particularly popular. The private suburban house was typically set in a curving tree-lined road or cul-de-sac with plenty of space and privacy.

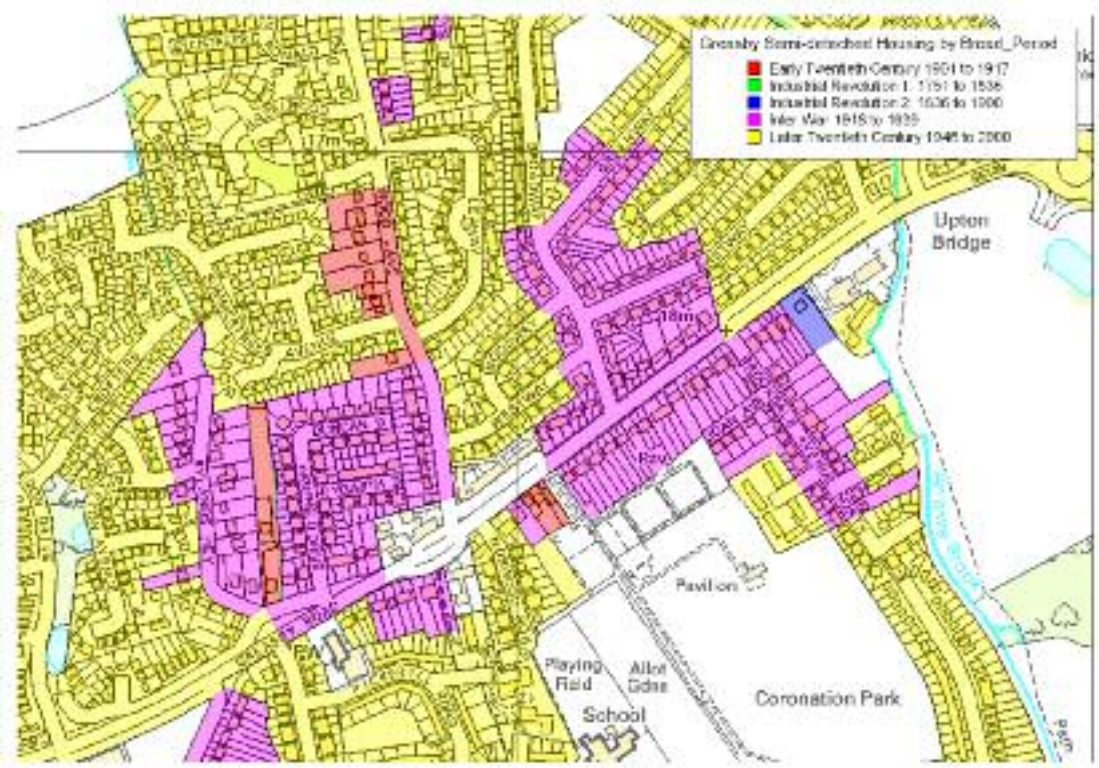

Figure 34 Semi-Detached Housing in Greasby, Wirral.
A mix of Early 20th century detached housing, and Inter War and early post-war Semi-Detached houses (depicted on 2003 mapping). (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

Among the many Semi-Detached houses available in Wirral in the late 1920s and the 1930s there was very little variation in the actual layout of each house. The front door opened on to an entrance hall (rarely more than 6 or 7 ft. wide) with hardly enough space for the storage of a pram or bicycle. The hall led to a small kitchen (later called the kitchenette), which just managed to accommodate a cooker, gas washing boiler, wringer, sink, hot water boiler and storage cabinet.

Alongside the kitchenette were the two main living rooms. The dining room, usually smaller than the sitting room, was at the back of the house, often with a serving hatch to enable food and crockery to be passed through from the kitchen. French doors gave easy access to the back garden.[8]

[8] www.dartfordarchive.org.uk/20th_century/buildings_semi.shtml Accessed 27 January 2010.

Parallel to the side wall of the house were the stairs, leading to a tiny landing serving the two main bedrooms directly above the living rooms. Leading off the landing and sited directly over the kitchen was a small bathroom and w.c. Most houses in the lower price range had a tiled bathroom, with the toilet being placed in the bathroom as an economy measure. At the front of the house (above the hallway) was the third bedroom, usually referred to as the box room.[9]

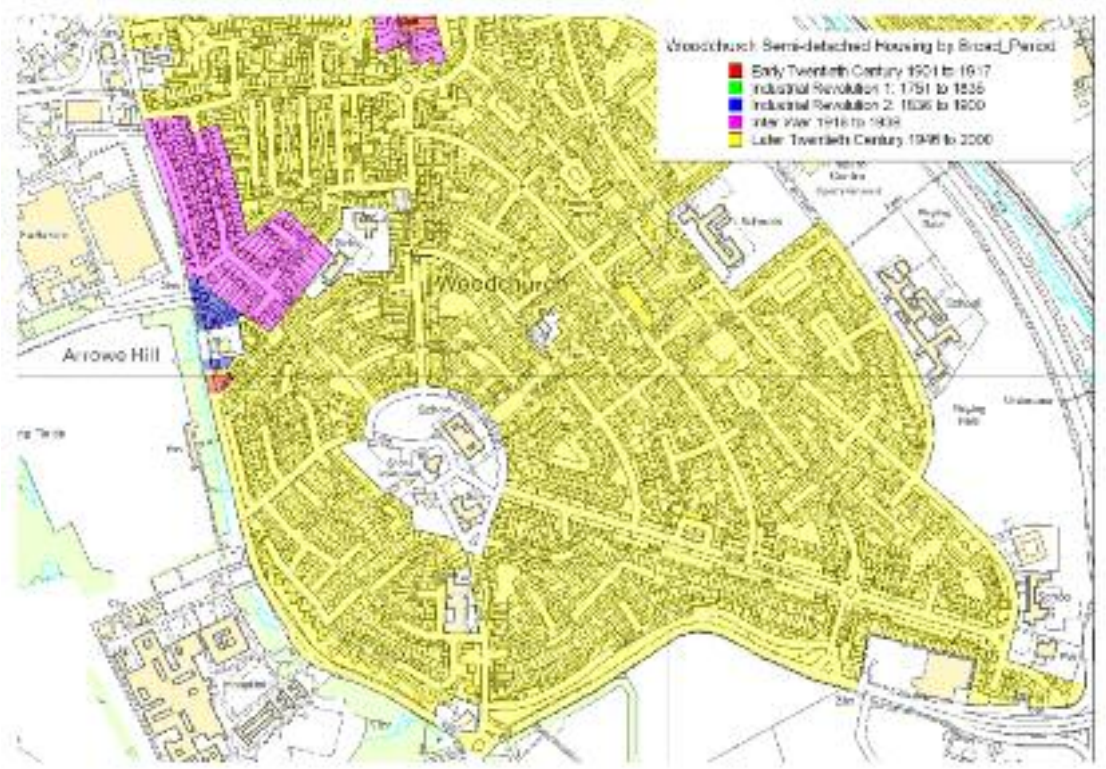

Figure 35 Semi-Detached Housing estate in Woodchurch, Wirral.
Predominantly Semi-Detached housing dating to the early post-war period, although earlier housing dating to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) and Early 20th Century can be found to the northwest (Arrow Park Road). Inter War Council housing by Rouse can be also found to the northwest on Arrowe Park Road. (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

Although some of the very cheap houses had only gas or electric water heaters at kitchen sink and bath, the vast majority were fitted with a hot water system operated by a back boiler in the living-room fireplace, or a stove in the kitchen. Electricity was

[9] www.dartfordarchive.org.uk/20th_century/buildings_semi.shtml Accessed 27 January 2010.

provided in all new houses after 1920, but its use was confined to lighting, irons and small fires.[10]

Nearly all of Wirral's Semi-Detached houses had a modest-sized garden - a narrow strip about 80 ft. long. Many of the new house owners devoted much of their leisure time to gardening, growing flowers, fruit and vegetables. Poor quality fences made of cheap softwood, or chicken wire strung between galvanised stakes, divided the garden plots. Garage space was increasingly available between pairs of Semi-Detached houses from about 1926, and by the 1930s many builders were ready to provide a brick garage as an extra at a cost.[11]

[10] www.dartfordarchive.org.uk/20th_century/buildings_semi.shtml Accessed 27 January 2010.

[11] www.dartfordarchive.org.uk/20th_century/buildings_semi.shtml Accessed 27 January 2010.

9.3.6 Council Housing

Council Housing represents 1.53% (80.07 ha) of the current Residential Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. There is a great deal of overlap between this Sub Type and other MHCP Sub Types (notably Semi-Detached and modern housing developments). In fact, many previously Council Housing plots have been converted into these two Sub Types (through such schemes as Right to Buy). Where this has happened, the latter Sub Types apply.

Built for the working classes, local authority estates were first constructed in the Inter War period on a large scale. A second construction boom occurred in the post-war period. Planned estates were most often built on previously undeveloped agricultural land, but allotment gardens have also been built on, and some estates replaced areas of earlier terraced housing. More recent developments tend to be on a smaller scale than these, and are generally the responsibility of individual housing associations and co-operatives.

Government house-building policies, particularly in the Inter War period, encouraged private speculation through state-aided policies. Uniformity in design and plan of lower status houses means that it was difficult to distinguish between public and private estates, particularly when working purely from mapping. For many Inter War estates identification was made easier by looking at contemporary estate plans. For later estates, identification could be made through an analysis of housing density and garden size. Semi-Detached houses are a very common form in suburban working-class Wirral, on both council and private estates. However, the presence of groups of low-rise flats or short rows of terraced housing is generally diagnostic of a local authority estate.

Institutions such as churches, schools and libraries were often built as an integral part of planned estates, as were public houses and rows of parades of purpose-built shops. Allotment gardens and recreational areas such as small parks or playgrounds were also present. For the purposes of the MHCP such features were included within the character areas of Council Housing unless they were large enough to form significant landscape areas in their own right.

It was not unusual for examples of earlier residential MHCP types, such as the sites of farm houses (and complexes) or elite residences, to be engulfed by the extensive

suburban estates of the 20th century. Such sites have very often been developed rather than retained, either at the time of the creation of estates or as later infill.

From the MHCP study, social housing estates are found in three areas - Pensby, Noctorum and Bromborough. Although not distinct estates in their own right, the MHCP categorised these housing blocks as Council Housing due to their regimented nature and building types. The Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council no longer operates and manages council/social housing - all Council housing was transferred in 2005 to Wirral Partnership Homes and Beechwood and Ballantyne Community Housing Association, who are both Registered Social Landlords. Social housing (as part of these schemes) is found throughout the Wirral - mainly concentrated in the Seacombe, Moreton, Woodchurch, Beechwood, Bidston Rise, Birkenhead and Rock Ferry areas.

Of the current 16,400 homes classed as social housing (in 2001), only 13 (0.10%) date to pre-1919. The majority of the housing stock dates to the Inter War (24.10%) and Post-War ((73.3%) periods. Of the Post-War builds, the majority dates to the period 1965 to 1978 (38.70%). Post-1980 buildings only account for 2.50% (404 buildings) of the total (An Investment Strategy for Council Housing - Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council Draft Report, 2001).

Woodchurch remained rural until after the Second World War, with the village consisting of cottages and a green (all now vanished) grouped around a church, rectory and school. In 1944 Sir Charles Reilly prepared a plan for the Woodchurch Housing Estate, with a 'village green' type of layout to which, in the mood of post-war idealism, considerable social significance was attached. It was rejected in favour of a scheme by H.J. Rowse, building of which began in 1946 and which, if completed, would have been a visual success, even if reactionary in its planning and architecture. Rowse was however succeeded in 1952 by T.A. Brittain, Borough Architect, who continued building to inferior standards of design. The housing by Rowse has steep roofs and used varied materials, for example in Ackers Road, and also in shops in Home Farm Road (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). Following the introduction of the Right to Buy system, and the transference of Council housing in 2005, many of the homes are now in private ownership (and classes as Semi-Detached by the MHCP)

9.3.7 High-rise Development

In Wirral, this character type predominantly comprises flats built after the Second World War. The type also includes developments focused on an earlier house or building that has been converted into several residences, where there are also new build flats or apartments within the grounds. There is some degree of overlap with other Sub Types, as many highrise and lowrise blocks are currently used as Council (or Social) Housing or Sheltered Accommodation.

The Highrise MHCP Sub Type represents for 0.34% (17.92 ha) of the current Residential Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. However, the actual area covered by this housing type will be somewhat higher as low-rise flats are also found as discrete areas within social and private housing estates. Where this is the case, the flats have been included within the character area covering the wider estate. The majority of sites are concentrated in the east of the Wirral Peninsula, particularly in the central part of Birkenhead.

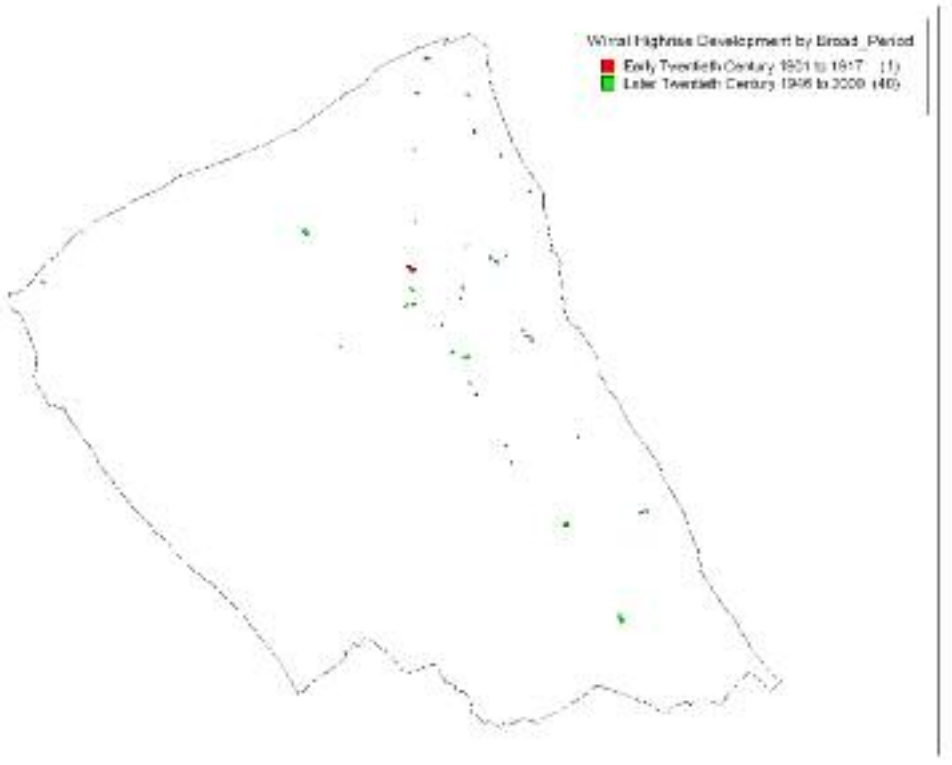

Figure 36 Current (2003) High-rise Development in Wirral Study area by Broad Period of origin (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

Although High-rise covers a relatively small area, buildings in this Sub Type can dominate the local landscape in terms of scale and have a strong visual impact on the setting of historic buildings. Recent flat developments occur as infill within the plots of former 19th century villas. Flats in Wirral have most often replaced earlier terraced housing or other urban character types.

9.3.8 Private Estates

The Private Estate Sub type applies to large detached high-status dwellings, usually in a setting of formal gardens or private parkland and often with one or more driveways, lodges, granges and other associated buildings. There are currently only two Private Estate Houses currently in the Wirral MHCP Study Area, constituting only 0.05% (2.78 ha). Many of the great houses of Wirral still stand, yet many of these have been converted to recreational and ornamental use (as parks), or are in council ownership, converted into schools, hotels or colleges. Where houses do survive, their settings have often suffered as a result of development or neglect.

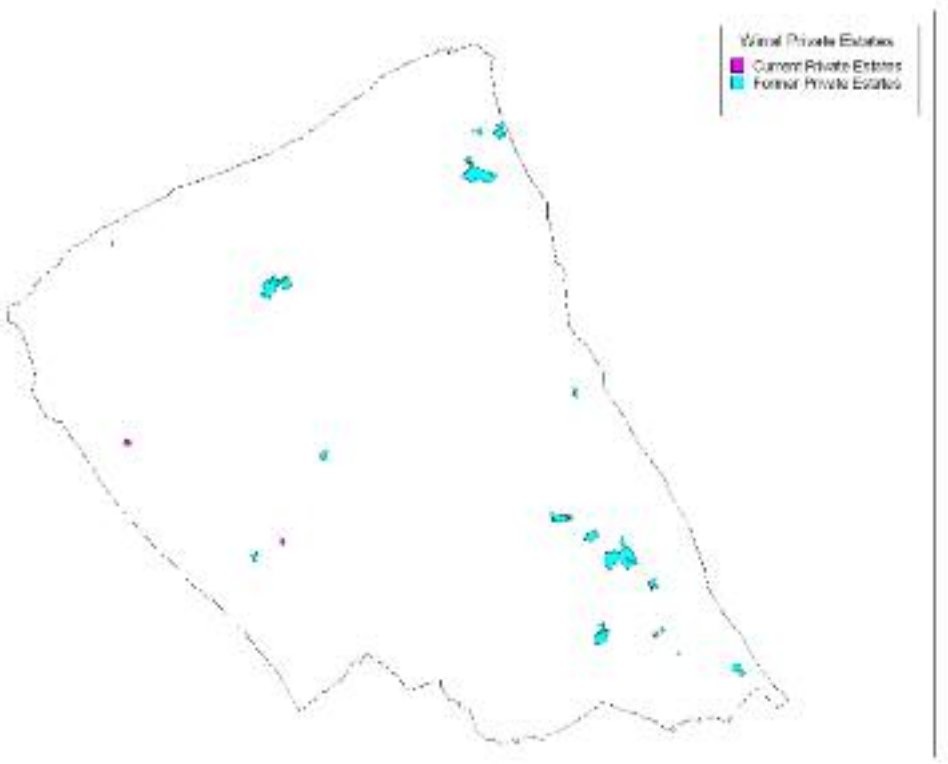

Figure 37 Current (2003) and Former Private Estate House in Wirral Study Area

Examples:

Pensby Hall is a detached family character residence which is Grade II Listed and dates back to 1688 having been originally constructed for the Glegg Family with a major Victorian extension to the main building. The original house is of red sandstone retaining its main beams under a roof featuring magnificent King and Queen post trusses. The Hall stands in extensive mature lawned gardens of approximately one

and a half acres fringed by mature specimen trees and shrubs providing immense seclusion.

The Hall incorporates a wealth of original Architectural features including some superb beams and interesting windows. The accommodation includes a large porch entrance with conservatory passage off leading to the magnificent central beamed living/hall with inglenook fireplace and original front entrance with the 1688 Date Stone.

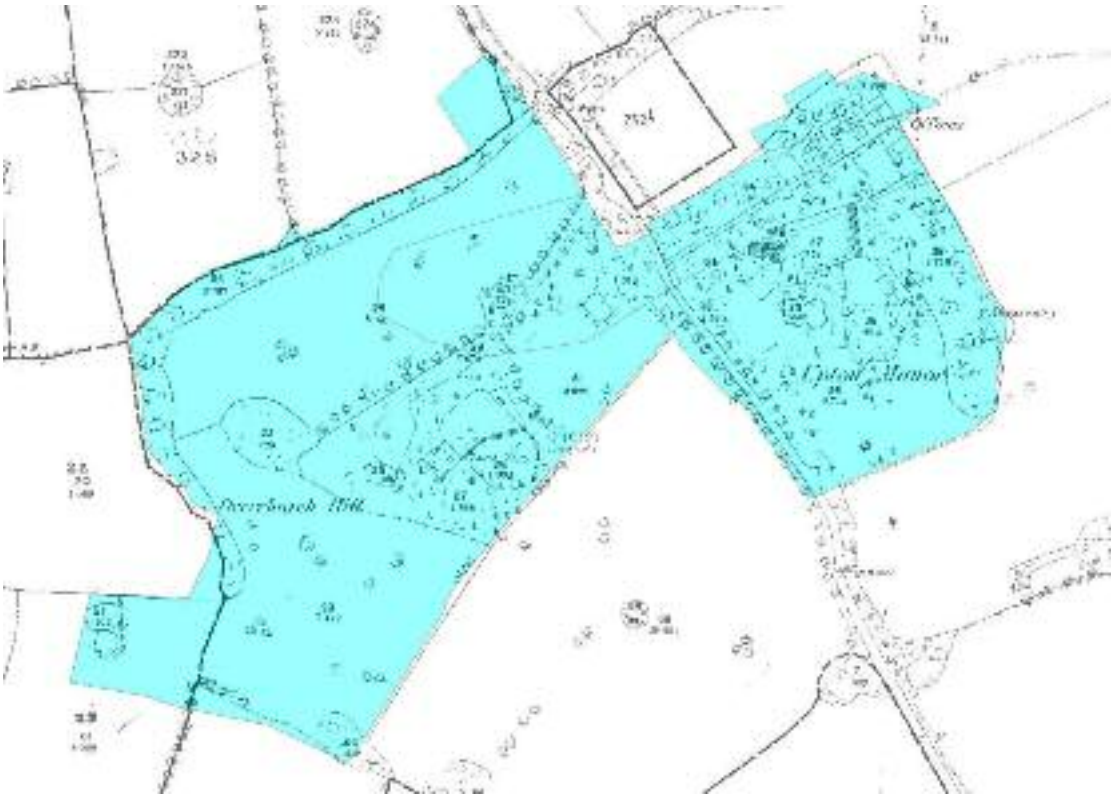

Figure 38 The site of Upton Manor (right) and Overchurch (also former Private Estate) depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh. 1876,
Overchurch Hill area now a Public Park/cut by By-pass, and contains an early medieval church site).

Of the prosperous mid 19th century villas in Wirral, the only one to remain is **Upton Manor** (now Bower House). This is a two storey, Italianate, ashlar house, and was built c.1857 for the ship owner William Inman. The house is almost certainly designed by John Cunningham. A taller extension, with elaborately decorated interiors and a belvedere tower, was added some time before 1875. The original block contains a galleried hall with a splendid domed roof-light and plasterwork (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). The grounds of the house were much affected by the construction of the A5027

Upton By-pass and the construction of adjoining highrise blocks. The house is currently used as a residential nursing home.

Lost Private Estate Houses

Brotherton Park and Dibbinsdale Local Nature Reserve comprises of 32 hectares of semi-natural countryside along the river valley of the Dibbin. The park and nature reserve are located on the site of a former Private Estate House called **Woodslee**.

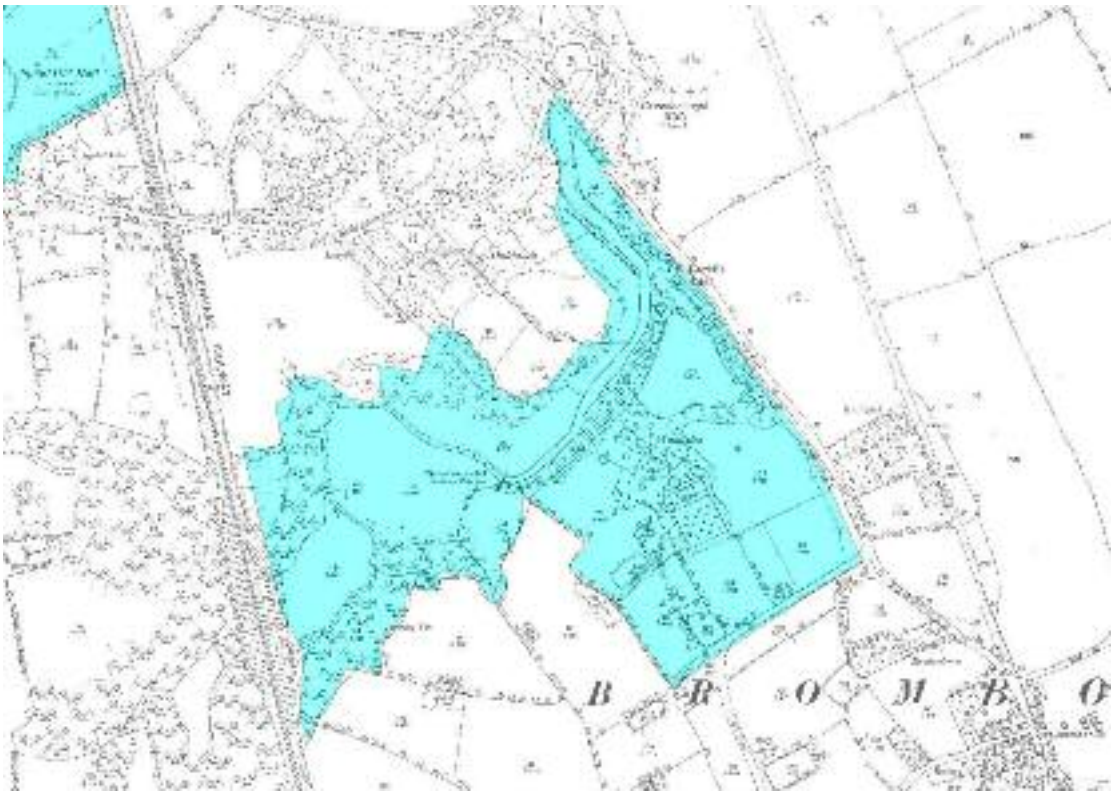

Figure 39 The site of Woodslee House in Bromborough, depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh.1876.
The Current area (blue) is now a Public Park and SSSI nature reserve

In 1866 the Rev S.K. Mainwaring sold the Woodslee Estate to a Mr Robert Rankin, a Liverpool Merchant, who then proceeded to build a large house on the site as a wedding present to his daughter when she married a Mr David McIver, a shipping magnate. The house, which was completed in 1878, stood near the present car park, cottages and the edge of the valley, along with servants' quarters, stables and coach house. There is also a lodge house near the entrance on Spital Road.

Lord Edward Allen Brotherton of Wakefield purchased the Beyer Company dyestuff factory in Magazine Road, Bromborough in 1917. He also bought Woodslee Estate two years later with the plan of setting up a chemical research laboratory under the name ‘Port Rainbow’. However, due to cheap imports of chemicals from Germany after the First World War, he changed his mind and converted the buildings at Woodslee into flats and cottages for his key employees. The facilities of the estate included cricket and bowling areas with pavilions and two tennis courts. Lord Brotherton donated part of the land to the council in the 1930s, and Brotherton Park was created. During the Second World War the house was occupied by the army and Woodslee became a prisoner of war camp. The house was demolished in the early 1950s.[12]

Liscard Hall was built in 1832 and was originally called 'Moors Hey House'. Built by Sir John Tobin, the house stood in some 57 acres of land. Sir John Tobin had been a successful Ship Owner and Merchant in Liverpool and when he retired he came to Wallasey to take up residence. As a younger man, he had been a captain of a slave ship and it was as a slave trader that he made much of his fortune. He was knighted in 1820. In 1822 Cape Tobin in Greenland was named after him.

On his death on 21 January 1851 his son-in-law, Harold Littledale, came to live in the hall. He was a notable merchant in the City of Liverpool. He died on 9 March 1889, and eventually the Local Board purchased the Hall and grounds.

The grounds were turned into Central Park whilst the house was turned into an arts school and renamed 'Liscard Science & Art College'. The college closed in 1982 and in 1988 was renamed 'Liscard Hall' and was leased to 'Serve Wirral Training' where the Youth Training Scheme (government funded programme) had their base but Serve Wirral Training went into voluntary liquidation in 2003. The Grade II listed building then became vacant, was badly damaged in a fire in 2008 and demolished by Wirral Council (Wirral HER).

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[12] www.wirral.gov.uk/ Wirral Council Web site (Accessed 27 January 2010)

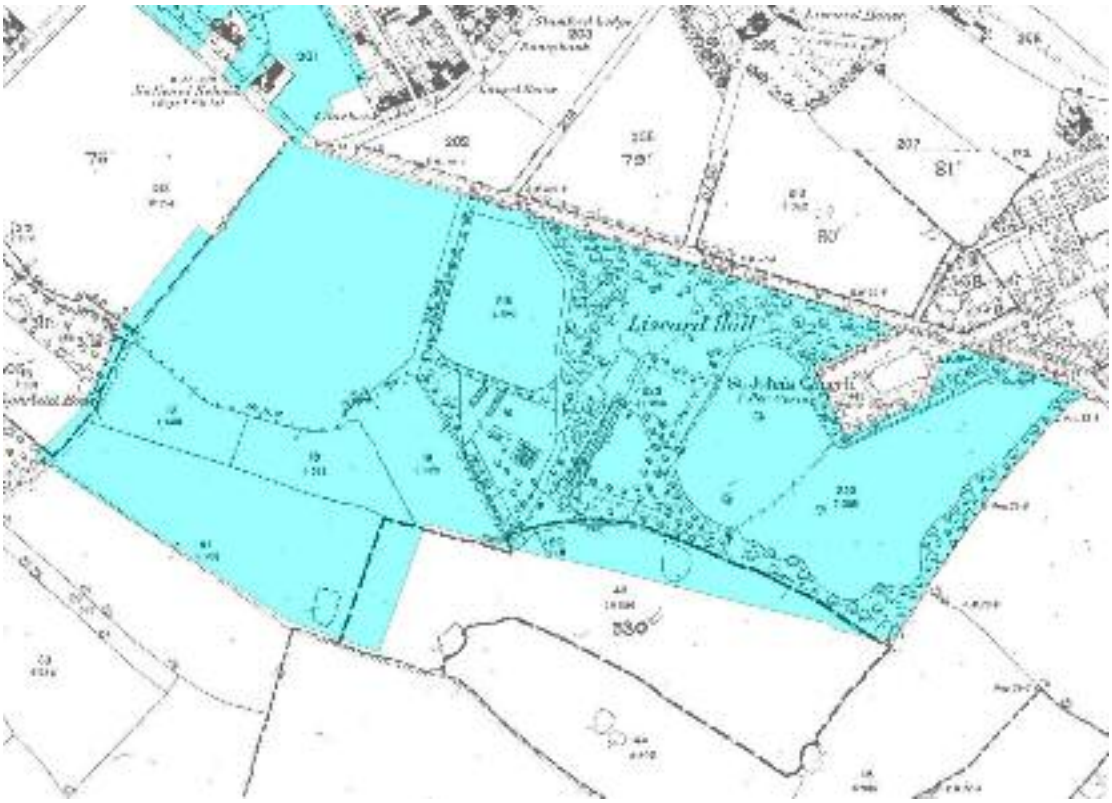

Figure 40 The site of Liscard Hall depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh. 1876.The site is now a Public Park (Central Park, blue area)

9.3.9 Model Village

Model Village represents 1.04% (54.78 ha) of the total area of the Residential Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. Within this area, the Sub Type is limited to two sites - Bromborough Pool Village and Port Sunlight Village.

Bromborough Pool village

The Wilson family, which founded Price's Patent Candle Company and built a village at Bromborough Pool in the Wirral to house the workers at a new factory, wanted to provide facilities for the villagers, many of whom had moved from the company's London works in Battersea, London. The Wilsons were deeply religious and wanted to see their workers living and working in the best conditions possible. Over 1000 boys were employed by the company in its London factory and a Christian Society had been set up there in 1849.

However, the company needed to be nearer the port where the raw materials used for making candles came into the country from overseas. This port was Liverpool and the company decided to build a factory on the Wirral on the opposite banks of the River Mersey. Because the Wilson family which founded the company wanted to make sure that its employees were looked after properly, it also decided to build a village where the factory was to be located, at Bromborough Pool.

The first houses to be built at the Price's Patent Candle Company village at Bromborough Pool on the River Mersey were in York Street. Thirty-two houses were erected and the first resident was a William Cutbill who moved to the village from Price's London works in January 1854. Another street of sixteen houses called Manor Place was built in 1856. Part of Court House Farm at Bromborough was rented and used as a hostel for twenty boys (the land bought to build the village had been part of the farm). By 1858 there were seventy-six houses with a population of 460.

By 1854 it had cost the company £142,000 to build the village (the cost today would be almost £7 million) and a general economic downturn led to cutbacks so building work was stopped for a while. The second phase of building started in 1872 when fifteen extra houses were built.

A new road was built in front of a quarry that had been dug in 1858 for sandstone and six houses were built on this new road (1-6 South View). Six more houses were added

in 1877. By 1878 there were 103 houses but more financial difficulties meant that building work had to stop again.

A third phase of building took place between 1896 -1901 and including a chapel in 1889. In 1896 twenty-four new houses appeared in the village (four in Manor Place and twenty in South View). It has been suggested that the designs for these later houses were influenced by the architecture at Port Sunlight, the village built by Lever Brothers on the other side of the Bromborough Pool in 1888. A further eight houses were added in 1900 (two in Manor Place and six in South View).

Figure 41 Workers' Cottages in Bromborough Pool Village (MHCP, 2005)

Because the factory at Bromborough Pool, which was called "our colony on the Mersey", was a green field site it meant there was room to build houses for the workers. Apart from the houses the village also had a church, institute, shop and library for its workforce of "come downs" (the London families who moved to the new factory).

The village had a strong cricket team and attracted hundreds of spectators in the 1910s. Three of the cricket club members turned professional to make a living from

the game. Another sport played was football and the village club played Everton in the 1870s.

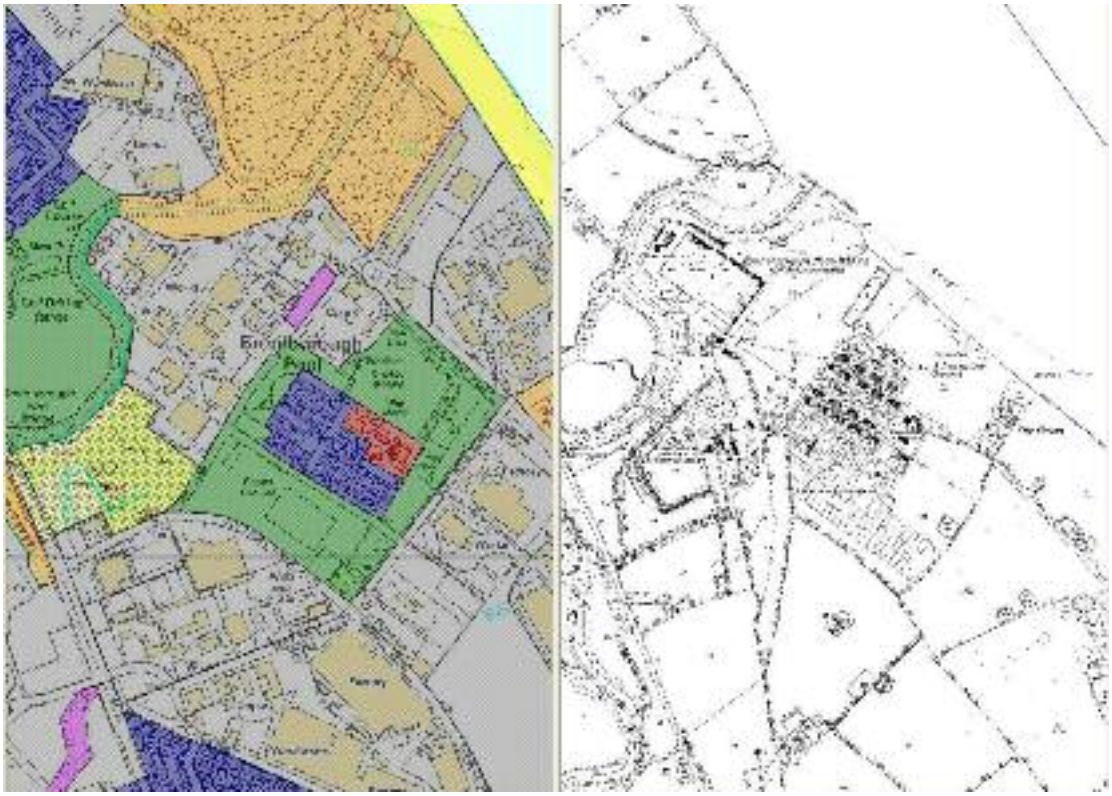

Figure 42 Bromborough Pool Village Conservation Area (2003 mapping) and the village depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh. 1876

In 1884 the football club won the Liverpool Football Association Medal competition. It played in local Liverpool and Wirral leagues and then the Liverpool and District League. In the 1890s the football club played on the village green, then near Eastham Ferry and then at New Ferry.

At the beginning of the 20th century Price's was the world's largest manufacturer of candles. The company employed 2150 people in its London and Liverpool factories and had an annual output of 25,000 tons of candle and other products. The London factory at Battersea covered eleven acres which included a paraffin distillery and buildings for candle, soap and lubricating oil manufacture. It even had its own light railway system for moving goods about within the factory. In 1917 the company was at the height of its powers and had record profits of £300,000 (the equivalent today would be almost £9½ million).

In 1919 Price's was taken over by its neighbour and rivals Lever Brothers. This company now wanted to branch out and make other products using the same raw materials that made soap, so it started to make margarine and other new products. Price's, with its candles, soap and other oil and fat products, was a convenient company to take over to make this move into other products. Three years after the takeover Lever Brothers entered into an agreement with other companies to create a new jointly-owned company, Candles Ltd, to take over Price's and all its subsidiary companies.

In 1936 Lever Brothers pulled out of Candles Ltd, taking the Bromborough works and all the soap manufacturing rights with it. It continued to develop Bromborough for its specialist fatty acid production. The factory operates today as part of Uniqema Ltd, producing a range of specialist fats and glycerides for the manufacture of cosmetics, polishes, ice cream, confectionery, soaps and detergents, printing inks, plastics and pharmaceuticals. These all come from the basic industrial chemistry of separation and distillation that George Wilson (the son of Price's founder William Wilson) was first exploring in the 1840s. Many of Uniqema employees continue to live in the Bromborough Pool village built by Price's. The village was taken over by the Riverside Housing Association in 1989 and like Port Sunlight, it is a conservation area. The village is surrounded by modern industrial units.

Port Sunlight

Port Sunlight was purpose built by William Hesketh Lever (later Lord Leverhulme) starting in 1888 for the employees of Lever Brothers soap factory (now part of Unilever). In 1887, Lever began looking for a new site on which he could expand his soap-making business, at that time based in Warrington. He purchased 56 acres of unused marshy land at the site which became Port Sunlight, which was relatively flat, allowed space for expansion, and had a prime location between the River Mersey and a railway line. The garden village was founded to house his factory workers. Lever personally helped to plan the village, and employed nearly thirty different architects. Between 1899 and 1914, 800 houses with a population of 3,500 were built, together with allotments and public buildings including the Lady Lever Art Gallery, a cottage

hospital, schools, a concert hall, open air swimming pool, church, and a temperance hotel.[13]

(The project acknowledges that the sources of information for Bromborough Village and Price's include: Donald Insall Associates Ltd. 2007 and Prices Candles Web page. http://www.prices-candles.co.uk/history/historydetail.asp Accessed August 2011).

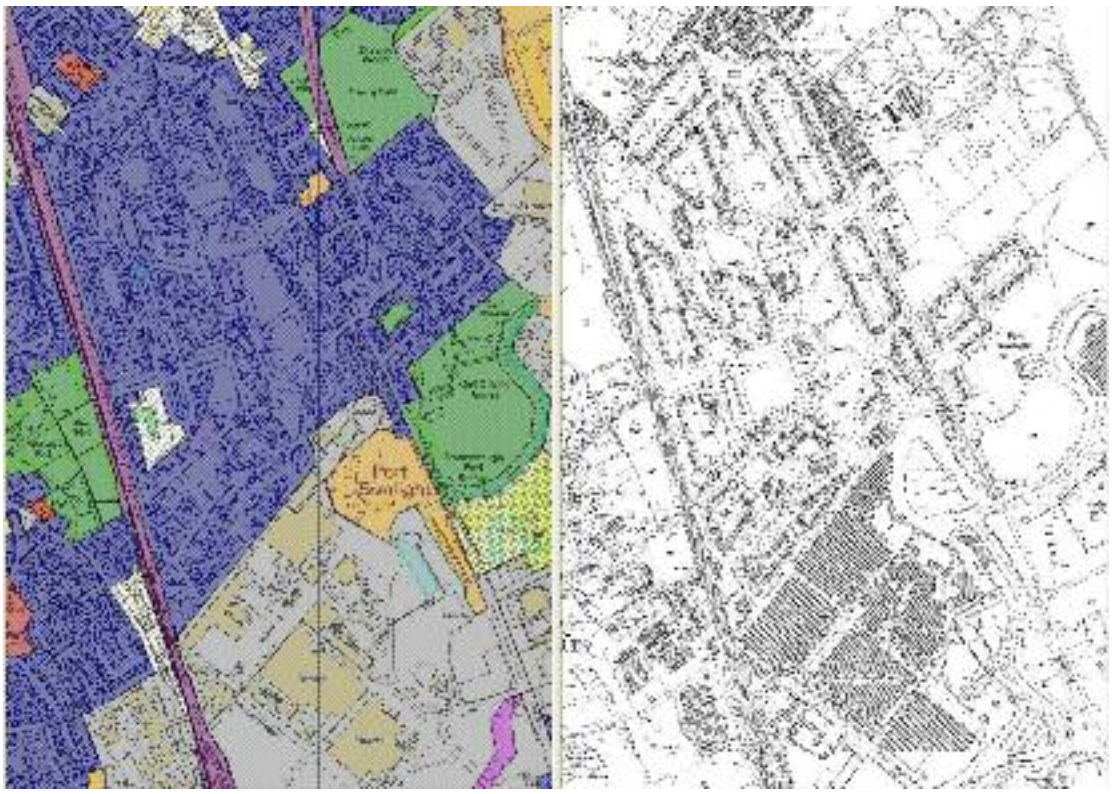

Figure 43 Port Sunlight Model Village and Factory (2003 mapping) and the village and factory depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1912

The public buildings and housing are the work of more than 30 architects employed by William Lever. In less than one square mile, under his overall direction they managed to create a garden village with a sense of space and beauty hitherto only dreamed of. The vernacular idiom as interpreted by Nesfield and Shaw (they called it

[13] www.portsunlight.org.uk/ Port Sunlight Village - Community online web site (Accessed January 2010)

'Old English') was employed throughout together with Victorian interpretations of historical styles. Building materials used ranged from the Ruabon red brick to the softer materials typical of the Arts & Crafts movement in its Edwardian phase. Gothic windows, pargetting (ornamental plasterwork), half-timbering and leaded glazing are commonplace in architecture that integrates yet surprises.[14]

Lord Leverhulme also introduced schemes for welfare, education and the entertainment of his workers, and encouraged recreation and organisations which promoted art, literature, science or music[1]. Port Sunlight contains 900 Grade II listed buildings, and was declared a Conservation Area in 1978.

[14] www.portsunlight.org.uk/ Port Sunlight Village - Community online web site (Accessed January 2010

9.3.10 Modern Housing Development

Modern Housing Development represents 7.97% (418.47 ha) of the total area of the Residential Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. The developments are distributed throughout the Wirral Peninsula, but the majority lie towards the east (located in Birkenhead) and central (around established historic cores) parts. Much of the housing present in Birkenhead, represents housing built after the Second World War on previously terraced and Semi-Detached housing. Many of the larger developments have been built on previously Greenfield, recreational and ornamental or private estate house sites.

The larger development plots include former Council Housing (social) at Beechwood (58.23 ha) and new private housing estates at Poulton (60.19 ha), Eastham (55.12 ha) and Newton and Grange (21.27 ha). The Sub Type is exclusively Later Twentieth Century in origin.

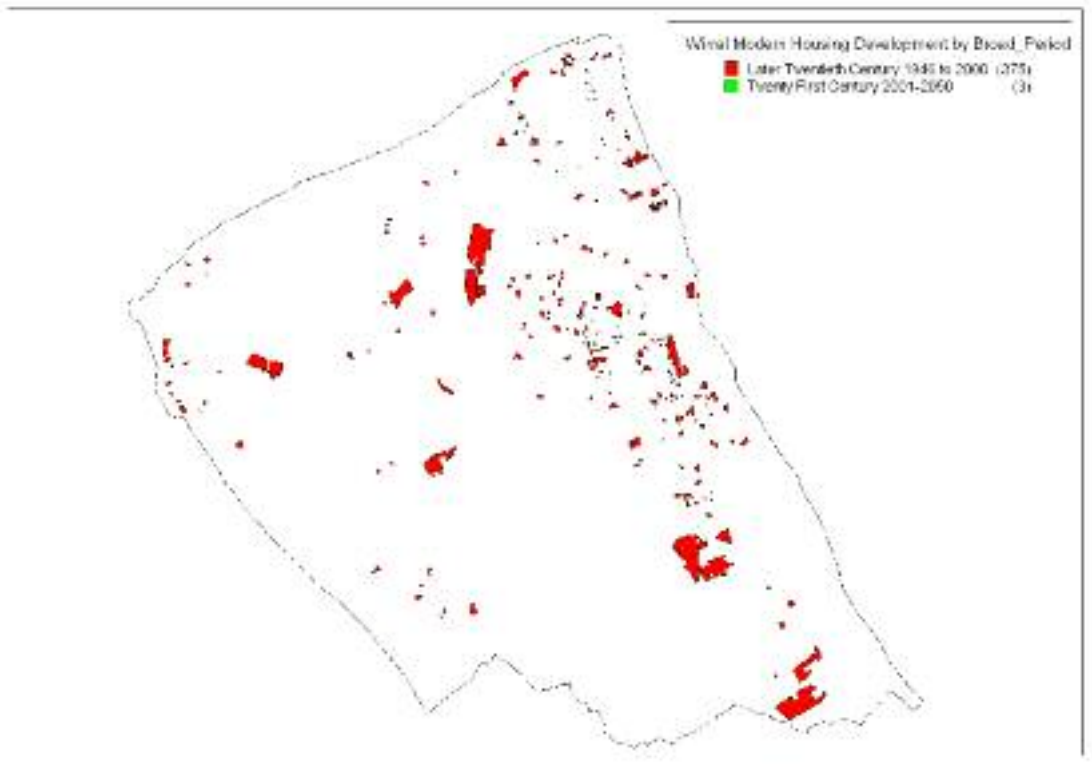

Figure 44 Current (2003) Modern Housing Development in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

Home ownership grew rapidly from 1950 with most speculative housing following the pattern of detached and Semi-Detached houses built to average densities of around ten dwellings per acre.

In 1961 the Parker Morris Committee was commissioned to produce a report on the way housing should address the needs of the modern family. The Commission concluded that there should be more living and circulation space mainly split into an area for quiet and leisure activity, and an area for eating, but the latter could be an enlargement of the kitchen. The room 'saved for best' was no longer considered essential, and the introduction of central heating meant that bedrooms could be used by children for other activities rather than just sleeping (Parker Morris Committee, HMSO 1961).

In 1967 these space standards became mandatory for all housing built in new towns, extended to all council housing in 1969. The mandatory nature of the standards was ended by the Local Government, Planning and Land Act of 1980 as concerns grew over the cost of housing and public spending.

Unfortunately the pressure on producing houses at a very low cost, which also echoed the desires of local councils to produce low cost housing, has resulted in many uniform and 'bland' housing blocks. It is also widely felt that most public and private sector housing being built today fails to meet the Parker Morris standards for floor and storage space.

Today 85% of new homes are covered by a NHBC (National House-Building Council) warranty, with the general design and layouts being far more flexible, but design tends to be a sanitised version of past periods of architecture, a little bit taken from here and there.

9.4 Recreational and Ornamental Broad Type

Recreation and Ornamental Broad Type includes urban parks, formal gardens, country parks, allotment gardens and urban greenspace that provide opportunities for various informal recreation and community events. The MHCP study found that the Ornamental and Recreational Broad Type accounted for 12.48% (1104.78 ha) of the Wirral MHCP Study area. The largest Sub Type are Sports Grounds at just over 50% (555.61 ha), followed by Public Parks at just over 28% (310.26 ha).

Recreational and Ornamental Sub Type	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Allotment Gardens	37	78.51	7.11
Nature Reserve	4	51.36	4.65
Other (Recreational and Ornamental)	168	109.04	9.87
Public Park	126	310.26	28.08
Sports Ground	145	555.61	50.29
Totals	480	1104.78	100%

Table 19 Recreational and Ornamental Sub Type in Wirral Study Area

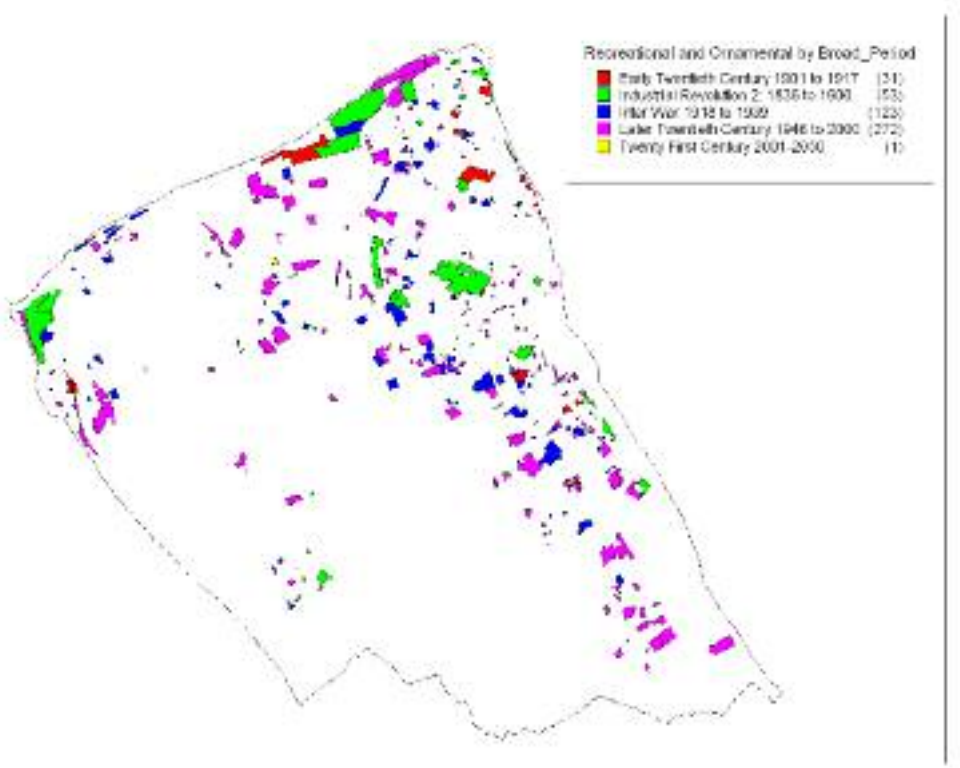

Figure 45 Current (2003) Recreational and Ornamental Broad Type in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

The clear majority of the Recreational and Ornamental Sub Type dates to the post-1945 period, at nearly 45% (491.96 ha). This is followed by sites dating to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period, at nearly 29% (314.74 ha).

Recreational and Ornamental by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	53	314.74	28.49
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	31	87.06	7.88
Inter War 1918 to 1939	123	209.16	18.93
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	272	491.96	44.53
Twenty-First Century 2001 to 2050	1	1.85	0.17
Total	480	1104.78	100%

Table 20 Recreational and Ornamental by in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

9.4.1 Allotment Gardens

This includes all forms of allotments with a primary purpose to provide opportunities for people to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. This type of open space may also include urban farms.

Like other open space types, allotments can provide a number of wider benefits to the community as well as the primary use of growing produce. These include:

- bringing together different cultural backgrounds
- improving physical and mental health
- providing a source of recreation
- wider contribution to green and open space.

The MHCP survey found 78.85 ha of Allotment Gardens present in Wirral, representing 7.14% of the current Recreational and Ornamental Broad Type. However, research undertaken by Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council (WMBC) has estimated the current figure (for the whole of Wirral) stands at 52 ha for allotments, nearly 27 ha lower than the MHCP total[1]. Simply the MHCP Allotment Garden Sub Type includes a number of allotment-like plots (i.e. market gardens and organic farm plots) and other areas in private ownership, areas not included in the WMBC estimate total.

In practice, the viability of allotments is closely related to the level of local demand, ground conditions, the adequacy of on-site facilities and security considerations. Most allotment sites have statutory protection under legislation outside the Town and Country Planning Acts and all but 7 hectares (WMBC total) are classed as statutory or permanent allotments. This effectively ensures that they continue in use. Statutory allotments cannot be lost without the consent of the Secretary of State for the Environment and unless plot holders can be re-accommodated on another statutory allotment site.[15]

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[15] www.wirral.gov.uk/udp/onetheme.asp?cat=GR&tit=Urban+Greenspace. Wirral Council Website (Accessed 12 February 2010).

Four of the MHCP sites pre-date 1900, but make up nearly 47% (37.03 ha) of the total. The majority of Allotment Garden Sub Type was origins in the Inter War period (25.54% - 20.14 ha) and the immediate post-war period (25.86% - 20.39 ha).

Allotment Gardens by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	4	37.03	46.96
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	2	1.30	1.65
Inter War 1918 to 1939	16	20.14	25.54
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	16	20.39	25.86
Total	38	78.85	100%

Table 21 Current (2003) Allotments Gardens in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

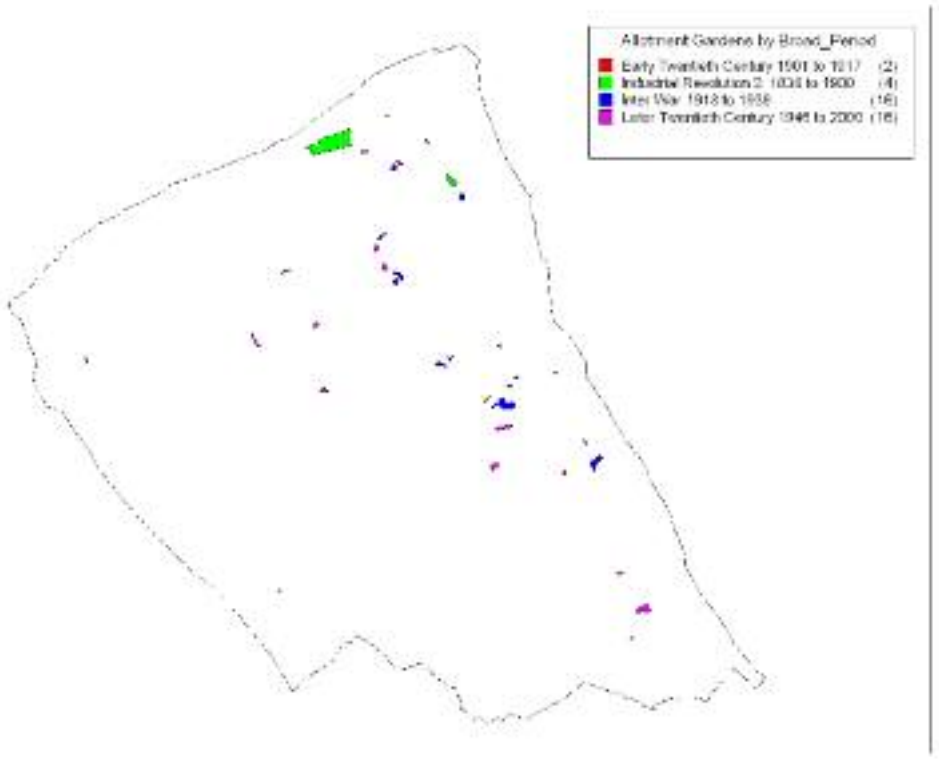

Figure 46 Current (2003) Allotment Gardens in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

Allotments are important as social historic landscape features, physical embodiments of an aspect of English social history. They are also particularly important in the present day as green spaces within suburban and urban areas. In the 19th century, land was provided by an Act of Parliament to poor houses and charitable trustees

(General Enclosure Act of 1801). This land was provided in order to compensate for the loss of common land through enclosure in the 18th and 19th centuries. Land allotment frequently faced hostility from the land-owning classes (Crouch and Ward 1997, 39-63). The passing of the Allotments Act of 1887 marked the end of lengthy struggles and campaigns by reformers. It enabled local sanitary authorities to acquire land by compulsory purchase. The Small Holdings and Allotments Act of 1908 created a responsibility for local councils to provide allotments. Nearly all of the allotments recognised in this study post-date the passing of this act. Later allotments have clear associations with the larger-scale social housing developments of the Inter War and post-war periods. Although there are at least 38 allotment sites in Wirral (MHCP figures), and there could well be some additional small sites within residential areas that were not characterised separately during the project, a significant area of allotment gardens within the district was lost in the 20th century.

Sixty-one areas were recorded as having previously been at least partly in use as Allotment Gardens (previous character type). Some of these represented the re-use of part of a site rather than complete loss. About 62% (38) of the MHCP 'lost' Allotment Garden areas have been covered by Residential Development. Currently, Wirral there are 34 Council owned sites. Each site is managed on behalf of the council by an allotment society.[16]

[16] www.wirralfedallotments.org.uk/index.htm Wirral Federation of Allotment Societies web site (Accessed 12 February 2010).

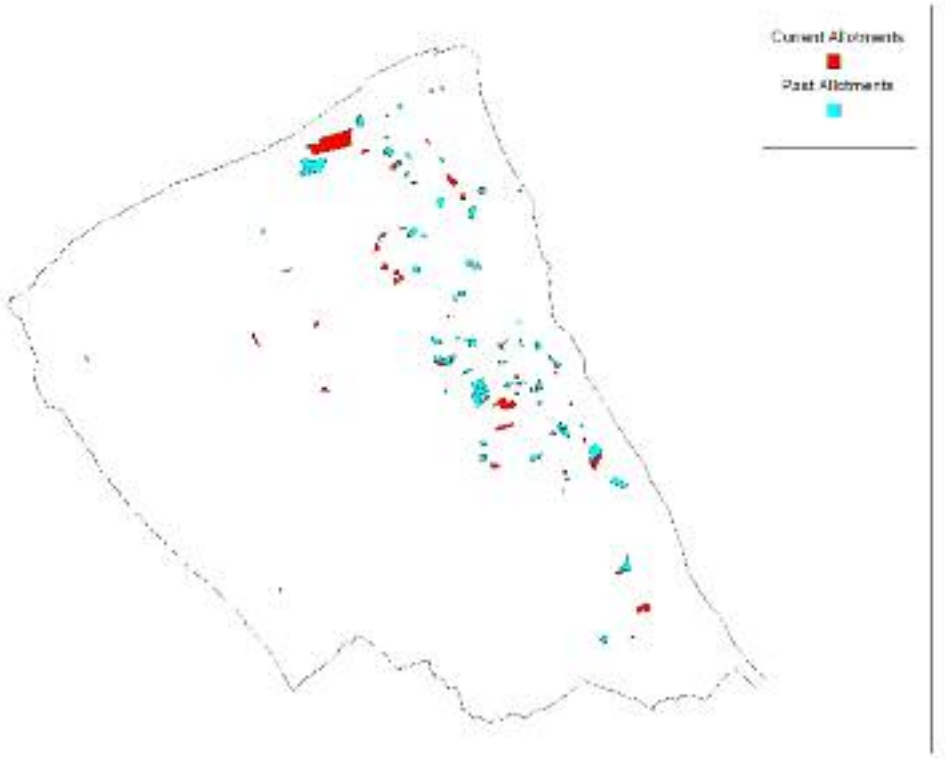

Figure 47 Distribution of Current (2003) and Past Allotment Gardens in Wirral Study Area (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

9.4.2 Nature Reserve

Nature conservation areas in Wirral cover a range of local national and international designations: Local Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Sensitive Marine Area, International Sites (Natura 2000 & Ramsar), Sites of Local Biological Importance, Geological Sites and Biodiversity.

Three Nature Reserve Broad Type areas were recorded within the MHCP Study Area, all of these date to the Later Twentieth century. The survey recorded only those sites that were depicted as 'nature reserves' on the Current (2003) mapping. Some nationally important sites were not recorded as they fall outside of the Study Area. These sites have been recorded as part of the Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (Cheshire County Council 2007) and also the Wirral Landscape Character Assessment (Wirral MBC 2009). Furthermore, many important local or smaller national sites that do fall within the MHCP Study Area were omitted, as they were not distinguishable as such on the Current (2003) mapping. These sites were recorded under other character Sub Types, yet for completeness are included here. Information for Nature Reserves solely within the MHCP Study Area comes from the Natural England Web Site.[17]

Brotherton Park and Dibbinsdale SSSI and Local Nature Reserve (MHCP Nature Reserve) comprises of 32 ha of semi-natural countryside along the river valley of the Dibbin. The valley woodland represents the largest and one of the finest examples of ancient woodland on Merseyside. The rest of the reserve consists of meadows, reed swamps, parkland and amenity grassland. The Nature Reserve provides an attractive and stimulating environment for educational visits. A wide range of activities to suit all age groups can be carried out on the reserve, in which pupils can develop skills in many curricular areas, particularly science and geography.[18]

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[17] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx Natural England web site (Accessed 25 January 2010)

[18] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx Natural England web site (Accessed 25 January 2010)

Dibbinsdale started out as a private estate house - in 1861 Robert Rankin of Bromborough and David McIver of Bromborough Hall purchased much of the open land at Dibbinsdale, east of the railway. Woodslee House was built and a park created. In 1919, the land was sold to Alan Brotherton and Company Ltd. Woodslee House was converted into flats.

By 1930, Brotherton donated part of the park to Bebington Borough Council (now Wirral Council) and in 1950 Brotherton sold the council the rest of the park and Woodslee House. The main house was demolished, but the cottages and stables still remain. In 1963 Bebington Borough Council purchased some land west of the railway, now called Spital Fields. The woodland was cleared and the area used as a municipal waste tip, the extent of which was increased in 1972. The area was then grassed over and some areas were planted with trees. This is now a recreational area with a fitness trail. In 1979 most of Dibbinsdale and some of the areas upstream and the ClatterBrook were designated as a 'Site of Special Scientific Interest' (SSSI) by the Nature Conservancy Council, now English Nature. A Ranger service was established by Wirral Borough Council in 1981 to manage Brotherton Park and Dibbinsdale (which is leased from the Lancelyn-Green family).[19]

In 1983 both Brotherton Park and Dibbinsdale were designated Local Nature Reserves. These have been managed to maintain and enhance wildlife and landscape whilst maintaining public access to date. In 1993 building work began on the Woodslee stables to convert them to a visitor centre and rangers' office and workshops.[20]

[19] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Natural England Web site (Accessed 25 January 2010)

[20] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Natural England Web site (Accessed 25 January 2010)

Figure 48 Dibbinsdale Nature Reserve (Current 2003 mapping).

The main habitats included are semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, which covers most of the site, reed swamp, fen pasture and neutral grassland. This is the largest block of semi-natural woodland of its type in Merseyside and it contains typical examples of Ash - Wych Elm and valley Alder woodland, each of which supports a rich flora and fauna. Woodland in the valley of Dibbinsdale and Clatter Brook has been recorded since 1818 although it is likely that some parts of the wood are much older. Ash-Wych Elm woodland covers the majority of this site and is characterised by an abundance of Ash, Pedunculate Oak and Sycamore. Wych Elm, Holly and Beech are also frequently found with Birch and Rowan occurring on the more acidic soils. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and Horse Chestnut have been planted in certain parts of the wood and some regeneration of these species has taken place. Hazel, Hawthorn and Elder are the predominant shrub species in the understorey with Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*) present on the more base-rich soils.

The ground flora contains abundant Ivy and Bramble with Bracken, Creeping Soft-grass, Foxglove and Bluebell characteristic of the more acidic soils and Dog's Mercury, Giant Fescue, False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*), Enchanter's Nightshade, Primrose, Sanicle and Wood Avens on the mare base-rich soils. More local species include Common Field Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*) and Early-

purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*). Other species include Yellow Iris, Cyprus Sedge, Remote Sedge, Marsh Marigold and Water Forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*). [21]

The reed swamp, which is now an uncommon habitat in Merseyside, is quite extensive in places along the stream and dominated by Common Reed. The fen pasture is characterised by Wood Small-reed (*Calamagrostis epigejos*), Floating Sweet-grass, Creeping Bent, Common Nettle, Meadowsweet, Soft Rush and Indian Balsam. The remainder of this site supports neutral grassland including contains Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla vulparis*) which is characteristic of old pasture.[22]

Dibbinsdale contains a rich invertebrate fauna, especially molluscs which are associated with the calcareous springs. It is important for birds with 61 species breeding regularly including Tawny Owl, Kingfisher, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Tree Creeper, Willow Tit and Grasshopper Warbler.[23]

Red Rocks SSSI Nature Reserve (MHCP Nature Reserve) is situated 9 km west of Birkenhead immediately west of Hoylake (next to the Royal Liverpool Golf Links Course) and adjacent to the Dee Estuary. This site contains a typical example of a sand dune system and includes a brackish dune slack and reedbed. [24]

Although these dunes are much less extensive than those on the Sefton coast the presence of an extensive brackish slack and reedbed, a habitat type not well developed in the Sefton coast dunes, and a highly diverse flora and fauna, which includes a number of local and national rarities, still makes this an important site for nature conservation in Merseyside. [25]

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[21] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Accessed 25 January 2010

[22] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Accessed 25 January 2010

[23] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Accessed 25 January 2010

[24] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Accessed 25 January 2010

[25] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Accessed 25 January 2010

The sand dune exhibits the classical succession from partially vegetated embryo dunes or the foreshore through yellow or mobile dunes to grey or fixed dunes, which are the furthest away from the sea and support a complete vegetation cover. The embryo dunes are colonized by Sand Couch (*Agropyron junceiforme*), Lyme-grass (*Elymus arenarius*) and Sea Couch (Agropyron pungens), with Prickly Saltwort (Salsola kali), Sea Holly (*Eryngium maritimum*), Danish Scurveygrass (*Cochlearia danica*) and Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*) also occasionally found. These fore dunes grade into brackish dune slack and reedbed in the northern part of the site and yellow dunes in the south. [26]

The reedbed is dominated by Common Reed with Bulrush, Sea Aster and Sea Club-rush also commonly occurring. This slack supports an emergent flora dominated by Sea Club-rush with Sea Aster, Yellow Iris and Hemlock Water Dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*). The drier margins of the slack support good numbers of Early Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza incarnata*) and Northern Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza purpurella*).[27]

In the dune slack to the south of the reedbed the ground conditions become drier and the brackish influence decreases. Creeping Bent, Red Fescue, Sea Club-rush, Sand Sedge (*Carex arenaria*), Glaucous Sedge (*Carex flacca*), Common Sedge (*Carex nigra*) and Sea Rush are the species most characteristic of this slack community. The Yellow Dunes are dominated by Marram Grass with Sea Holly, Lyme-grass, Sand Couch, Dewberry (*Rubus caesius*), Sand Sedge and Common Ragwort also important components of the sward. The rarest plant to have been discovered on this site is Mackay's Horsetail (*Equisetum x trachydon*), found growing on both the yellow and grey dunes and for which Red Rocks is the only English locality.[28]

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[26] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Accessed 25 January 2010

[27] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Accessed 25 January 2010

[28] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Accessed 25 January 2010

Figure 49 Red Rocks SSSI Nature Reserve on Current (2003) mapping and the area as depicted on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of Chesh. 1892.

The wet slacks are important breeding sites for Frogs, Common Toads and Natterjack Toads. Red Rocks is an important site for its records of migrant birds with high numbers of Redwing, Fieldfare, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Siskin, Brambling, Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting, Sedge Warbler, Snow Bunting and Willow Warbler. Altogether over 200 species of birds have been recorded with up to 170 species sighted in one year. [29]

Heswall Dales SSSI and Local Nature Reserve (MHCP recorded as Rough Land – Upland Sub Type) is a fine example of dry lowland heathland, of some seventy two acres in extent, and it is situated on the north eastern side of the Dee Estuary of

[29] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Accessed 25 January 2010

which, weather permitting, superb panoramic views may be obtained, together with views of the hills and mountain ranges of North Wales beyond.[30]

The heathland was recognised in 1979 as the second best remaining example of lowland heath in the Merseyside area, (Thurstaston Common being the first) and as such was designated for its heathland value, as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by the Nature Conservancy Council now English Nature. In 1991 Heswall Dales was given the status of Local Nature Reserve (LNR).[31]

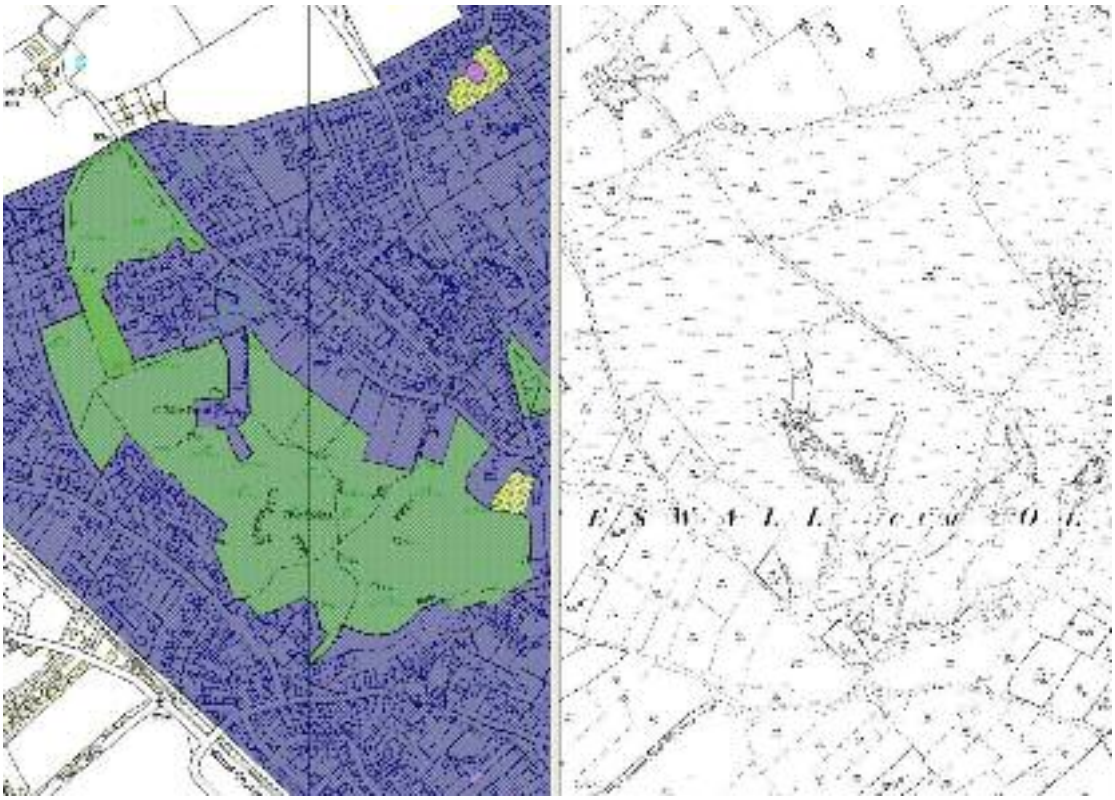

Figure 50 Heswall Dales SSSI and Local Nature Reserve depicted on Current (2003) mapping, and the area of Heswall Dales as depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Cheshire 1876. The 1876 map shows an area of stone quarrying and rough land.

[30] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Accessed 25 January 2010

[31] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Accessed 25 January 2010

The area possesses wet and dry heath, with birch and oak scrub, and some plant species which have a localised distribution; together with its associated wildlife it represents an important refuge in an ever expanding urban environment. During the warm summer months, the heath supports an array of insects including grasshoppers, beetles, butterflies and moths; which in turn are a rich food source for insectivorous birds and mammals. The gorse provides excellent cover for birds such as Wrens, Yellowhammers and Chaffinches.[32]

The dominant plant of the heathland is Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) drier areas of heath contain an assemblage of Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*) and Western Gorse (*Ulex gallii*) this latter species has a distinct western distribution in Britain and is of regional significance. The mosaic of Birch scrub and European Gorse is an important habitat for breeding birds.[33]

The Mersey Narrows SSSI (MHCP recorded as Coastal - Sand and Mudflats Sub Type). The site is notified for its large areas of intertidal sand and mudflats, which support internationally important populations of Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*), Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) and nationally important populations of Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). The site is located at the mouth of the Mersey Estuary and comprises Seaforth on the north bank and Egremont Foreshore on the south. The two areas are separated by approximately 2 km, but considered to be an integral site on the basis of the constant interchange of bird populations. Whilst Egremont Foreshore is particularly important as a feeding site at low tide, Seaforth is particularly important as a high tide roost site, particularly during high spring tides when rocky shores and man-made structures closer to the feeding areas are submerged and not available as roosting sites.

The Mersey Estuary SSSI (recorded as Coastal Sand and Mudflats Sub Type by the MHCP) is an internationally important site for wildfowl and consists of large areas of intertidal sand and mudflats. The site also includes an area of reclaimed marshland,

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[32] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Accessed 25 January 2010

[33] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Accessed 25 January 2010

salt-marshes, brackish marshes and boulder clay cliffs with freshwater seepages. The Manchester Ship Canal forms part of the southern boundary of the site and separates a series of pools from the main estuary. These pools together with the Hale Marsh (Halton, north side of Mersey, out of Merseyside boundaries) are important roosting sites for wildfowl and waders at high tide.

Throughout the winter the estuary supports large numbers of wildfowl and waders and the estuary is also a valuable staging post for migrating birds in spring and autumn. Several areas of salt-marsh are present, which form important feeding and roosting sites for birds i.e. Stanlow Banks (outside Wirral boundary).[34]

On the north side of the estuary, part of the coastline is formed by boulder clay cliffs. Portions of the cliff have become exposed by slumping and in these areas a number of unusual species occur including Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*) and Bristly Oxtongue (*Picris echioides*) both of which are at the northern limits of their distribution.

North Wirral Foreshore SSSI is located between the outer Dee and Mersey Estuaries. The MHCP did not record all of this reserve (with some parts falling within the Cheshire HLC study). The parts falling within the MHCP Study Area has been recorded as both Coastal (Sand and Mudflats Sub type) and Recreational and Ornamental (Sports Ground) Sub types.

This actual reserve site is an area of intertidal sand and mudflats and embryonic saltmarsh which is of considerable importance as a feeding and roosting site for passage and wintering flocks of waders, wildfowl, terns and gulls. Whilst North Wirral Foreshore is not comparable with either the Dee Estuary or the Mersey Estuary in terms of the numbers and diversity of passage and wintering birds it is still of great value for the large populations of Knot, Dunlin and Bar-tailed Godwit it supports. The embryonic mixed saltmarsh is formed principally from Common Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*) and Glasswort (*Salicornia europaea*), together with some Common Cord-grass (*Spartina anglica*).[35]

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[34] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Accessed 25 January 2010

[35] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Accessed 25 January 2010

New Ferry SSSI (MHCP recorded as Coastal - Sand and Mudflats). This area of land has been recorded as sand and mudflats by the MHCP, but is currently undergoing transformation into Saltmarsh. Saltmarshes are a very important habitat for plant species and a resource for wading birds and wildfowl - acting as high tide refuges for waterfowl, breeding sites for terns, gulls, waders and passerines (Skylark and Meadow Pippit) in autumn and winter. In winter, large flocks of swans, geese and ducks rely on saltmarshes. They provide an exhilarating and evocative landscape and seascape. The pioneer saltmarsh at New Ferry is owned by the Crown Estate Commissioners.[36]

Figure 51 New Ferry SSSI Nature Reserve (recorded as Sand and Mudflats by the MHCP). (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

[36] www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx. Accessed 25 January 2010

Ditton Lane Local Nature Reserve (Leasowe) was recorded as a Nature Reserve by the MHCP, although it appears not to have any formal designation. However, it is an important site for local wildflowers and birdlife.

9.4.3 Other (Recreational and Ornamental)

The Other (Recreational and Ornamental) character Sub Type recorded many open, very small-scale urban green spaces, green corridors and derelict land. As such, there is a great deal of overlap between this Sub Type and another Sub Type - Rough Land (Other) - and the two should probably be combined to form an overall 'open space' character.

By itself, this MHCP Sub Type constitutes 9.87% (109.04 ha) of the Recreational and Ornamental Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. The majority of sites are found to the east of the Wirral Peninsular, located within the urban cores of Birkenhead, Wallasey and New Brighton. The largest block of Other (Recreational and Ornamental) land lies to the extreme north of the Wirral, adjacent to Warren Park Municipal Golf Course. The tract of land, covering some 34.94 ha, is currently used as rough amenity parkland.

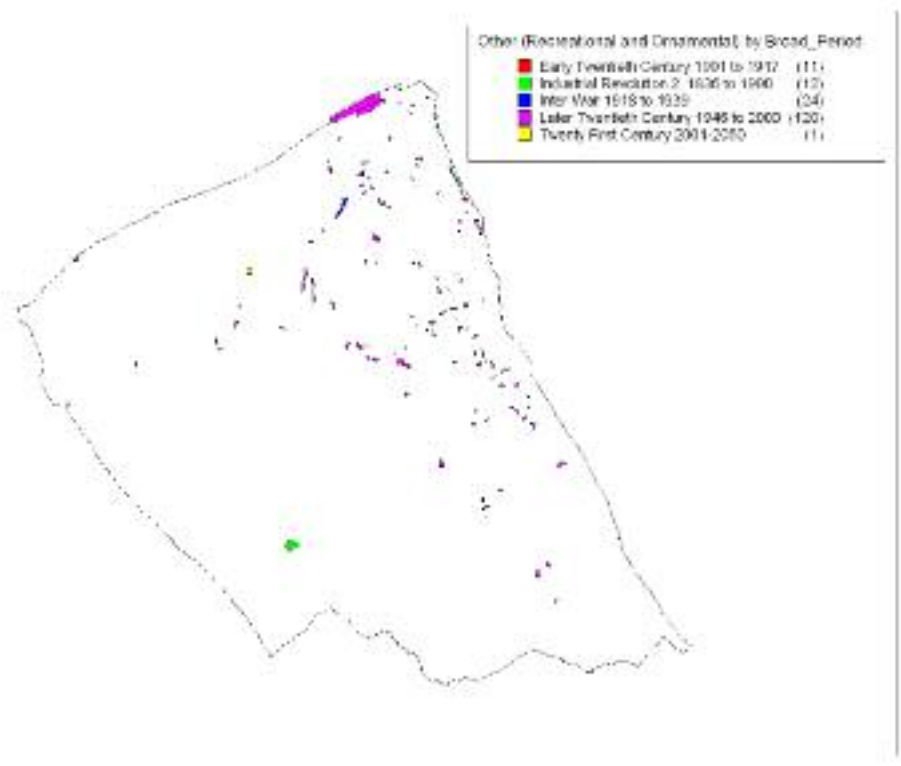

Figure 52 Current (2003) Other (Recreational and Ornamental) Land in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin.

Urban greenspace can include parks, play areas, playing fields, woodlands, as well as individual trees, hedges, private gardens and other features such as river corridors, road verges, and other smaller amenity areas. Such areas can be of great significance

to the character and environment of a neighbourhood, irrespective of their ownership or formal designation as public open space. Many may be the result of reclaimed sites, formerly industrial or housing sites now informal leisure to a wider range of people than some sport and leisure facilities. Furthermore, there is an aesthetic value of small amenity green space sites within housing areas.

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9.4.4 Public Park

The Public Park Sub Type comprises 37.65% (310.26 ha) of the Ornamental and Recreational Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area.

From the MHCP study area, the majority of Wirral's Parks originated in the post-1945 period, at just over 42% (131.25 ha). The majority of parks from this period can be found on the urban fringes (often is association with Council (social) and Semi-Detached Housing), and include a number of conversions (from previously residential plots) and new parks (on previously Greenfield sites). This is followed by parks belonging to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period, at just over 34% (107.13 ha). These include both conversions and new parks (for the period). This period also includes the first publically funded park in Britain (Birkenhead Park - 60.58 ha).

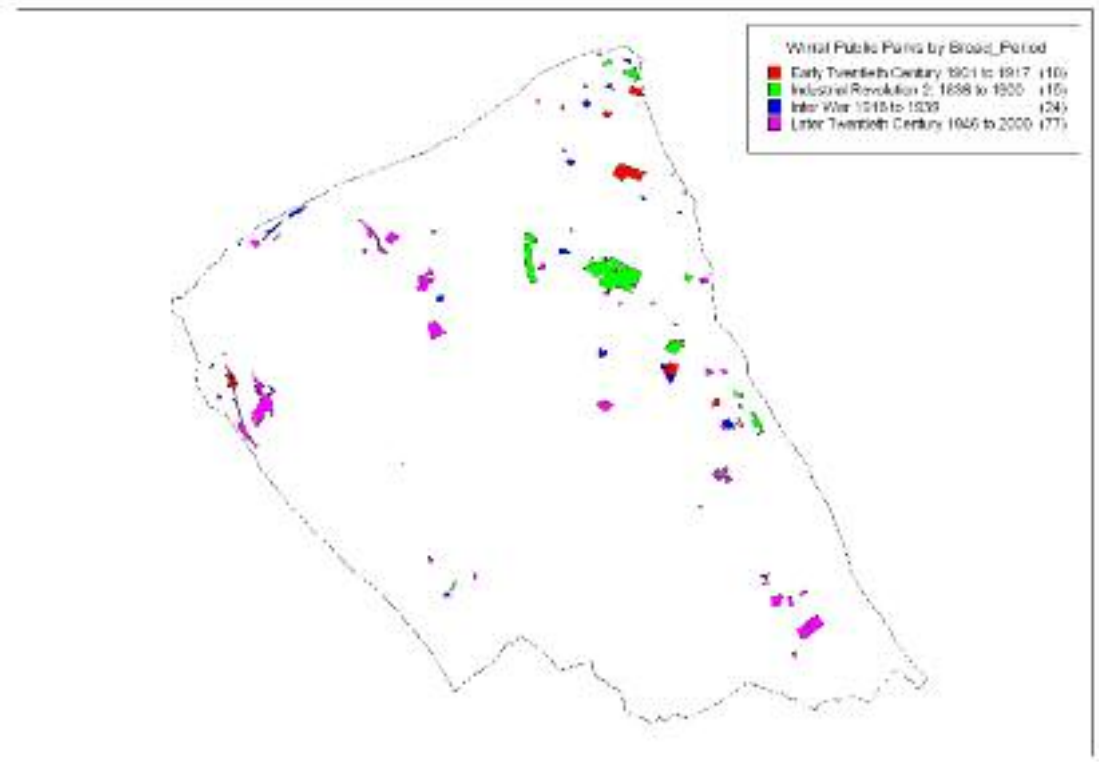

Figure 53 Current (2003) Public Park in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

Public Park by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	15	107.13	34.53
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	10	40.51	13.06
Inter War 1918 to 1939	24	31.37	10.11
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	77	131.25	42.30
Total	126	310.26	100

Table 22 Current (2003) Public Park in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

Merseyside has an important place in the history of urban parks, with both Liverpool and Birkenhead taking pioneering steps in the first half of the nineteenth century. The motivations of park-builders varied, from the classic Victorian desire to create 'lungs' for the polluted cities, to the hope that building plots surrounding parks could be sold at a premium. In the first half of the twentieth century, parks remained an important element of civic pride, but they suffered badly from reductions in local government funding and rising fear of crime in the 1970s and 1980s. Most recently, community groups have successfully reclaimed and renovated some parks, often with the help of Heritage Lottery funding, and there is a renewed interest in their history and social role.

Some of the parks have been designated for their historic and landscape value. Ornamental parks not only contain structures and features specifically designed to enhance and highlight particular aspects of the landscape, but have the potential to preserve a variety of features relating to the previous use of the land, including deer park boundaries, field systems, transport and settlement remains. Examples:

Ashton Park occupies approximately 5 hectares lying between Westbourne Road, Church Road and Carpenters Lane (West Wirral). It is separated into the Upper and Lower Park by the Wirral Way (part of the Wirral Country Park) that was formed out of the redundant West Kirby to Hooton railway line in 1974 with walking, cycling and bridleway facilities. The Wirral Way, while not part of the park, combines with Ashton

Park to enable an eleven-mile trail through the Wirral countryside paralleling the foreshore of the River Dee. [37]

The park was first mentioned in the minutes of Hoylake and West Kirby Urban District Council in 1896 and was laid out between 1899 and 1901. The land was owned by a Miss Ashton of London with the addition of a section of church Glebeland along the Church Road boundary. Initially both areas of land were rented but eventually on the death of Miss Emma Mary Ashton in 1935 the council purchased the bulk of the land. The Upper Park was still being laid out in October 1901, the Lodge was constructed and the first gardener appointed. A number of sports were introduced including quoits, tennis, bowling and croquet. The park was used for various events and entertainments such as Coronation celebrations, bands, carnivals, flower shows and children's sports.[38]

Birkenhead Park is situated about 1.5 kilometres from Birkenhead town centre. The roughly 90 ha site is situated on undulating land in a residential area. The park was laid out within an area bounded by Park Road North, Park Road East, Park Road South and Park Road West. A belt of land around the park between these roads and a curving perimeter carriage drive called Park Drive was designated for private houses and villas and divided into plots, as shown on Paxton's plan of 1844 and in a revised form on a sale plan of 1850. Where these were built and survive they form an integral part of the park's setting and the private gardens backing on to the park form the park boundary along Park Drive. Most of the plots on the south and west sides of the site were built on, not all of them however in accordance with the sale plan. In those areas which were not built on, on the north and east sides of the site, the park boundary is formed by Park Road North and Park Road East. Most of the original railings have been removed, but sections remain on the north side of Ashville Road, on those parts of Park Road North fronting the Birkenhead Park Rugby Union Football ground and

[37] http://www.ashtonpark.btck.co.uk Friends of Ashton Park web site (Accessed January 2010)

[38] http://www.ashtonpark.btck.co.uk Friends of Ashton Park web site (Accessed January 2010)

Park High Lower School, fronting 76 Park Road West, the playing fields on Park Road East and Park High School on Park Road South.[39]

Birkenhead Park was created between 1843 and 1847. It was the first park in the world to be created by a municipality. The land was acquired through Act of Parliament and the project was financed from the profit of the houses which surrounded the park. [40]

Joseph Paxton designed the park with the help of Edward Kemp who came to supervise the construction in 1843. Paxton was appointed by Sir William Jackson, and Edward Kemp, who had worked with Paxton at Chatsworth, Derbyshire, was recruited to supervise the construction of the park. Another contact from Chatsworth, John Robertson, designed the lodges around the park with Liverpool architect Lewis Hornblower. Belts of housing around the park boundaries were intended to subsidise the expense of the park. In 1845 Kemp was awarded the position of Park Superintendent following recommendation from Paxton. Paxton withdrew from further involvement with the park after being asked by asked by the Commissioners to alter the plans of unsold building plots, leaving Edward Kemp in charge of completion. Kemp had a salary of £150 a year and lived onsite in the Italian Lodge. He was given a budget of £1,000 per year and it was Kemp who was largely responsible for the planting and general development of Birkenhead. The park was opened in 1847.[41]

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[39] www.lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk English Heritage Listed Buildings on line (Accessed February 2010)

[40] www.lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk . English Heritage Listed Buildings on line (Accessed February 2010)

[41] www.lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk . English Heritage Listed Buildings on line (Accessed February 2010)

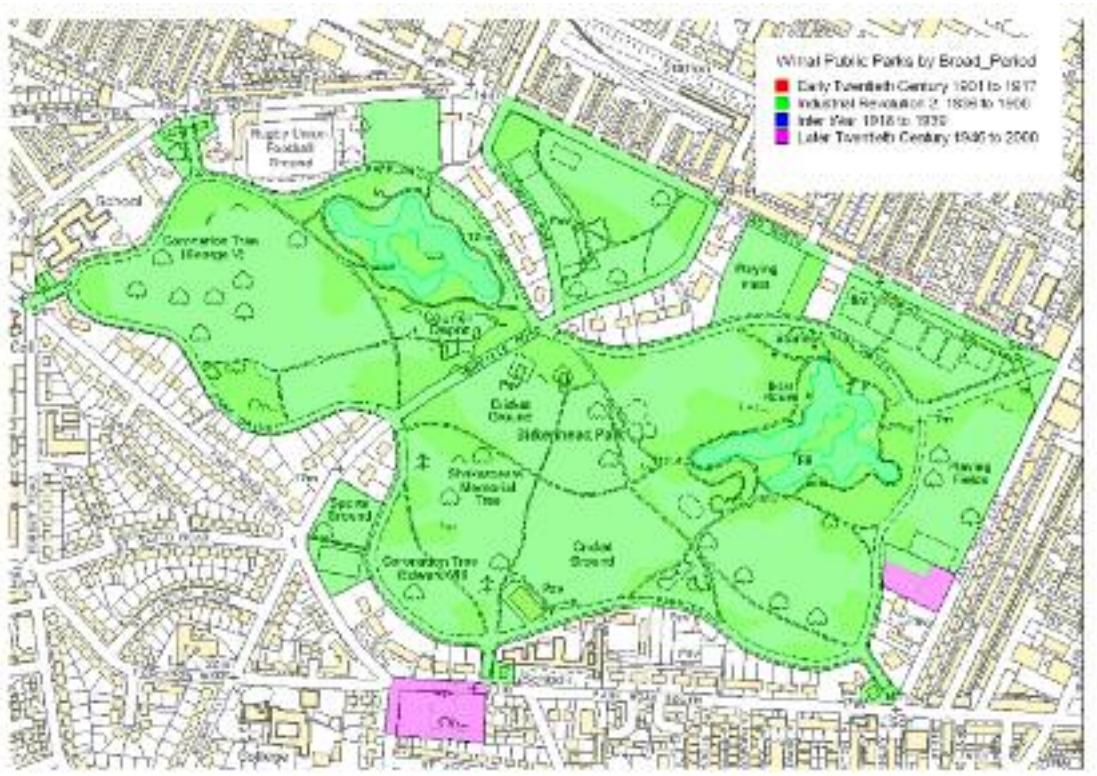

Figure 54 Birkenhead Park, Wirral by Broad Period (2003 mapping)
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Frederick Law Olmsted visited the park on a tour of Europe in 1850. He was an American who later went on to incorporate many of the features at Birkenhead in his design at Central Park, New York, which opened in 1858. [42]

Central Park, Liscard - Liscard Hall was built in 1835 by a Liverpool merchant, Sir John Tobin, ship owner, merchant, African trader and one-time Mayor of Liverpool. On the death of his successor in 1889, Wallasey Local Board bought the estate and opened it to the public in 1891. The grounds to the house became Central Park, and the building itself later became an art college. A "model farm" was also developed nearby by his family. The former Grade II listed arts building within the grounds of Central Park was destroyed by fire on 7 July 2008, and has been completely demolished. To this day Central Park continues to be an important and much used

[42] www.lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk . English Heritage Listed Buildings on line (Accessed February 2010)

spot, something that is helped by a combination of the efforts of the Department of Education and Cultural Services and contributions from the local community. The park has three formal gardens; two rose gardens behind Liscard Hall and the Walled garden beside the Ranger's Office. [43]

Vale Park, New Brighton - is situated adjacent to the promenade on the western bank of the River Mersey. The Park has achieved the Green Flag Award on consecutive years since 2002 and park celebrated its centenary year in 1999. 'Vale House' the community centre situated in the Park provides a comprehensive programme of adult learning, together with activities for a range of age groups.

In 1830 the area of land now occupied by Vale Park was formerly an estate called Liscard Vale this being the origin of the park's name. Vale House built c. 1830 was originally a family home possibly belonging to a Cotton broker and was later extended. The family of Charles Holland, a Liverpool businessman and Wirral JP, lived here for over 50 years. Charles Holland travelled widely, returning with Botanical specimens and his gardeners planted many of the trees now gracing the park. The estate was later divided, with the second estate being named The Woodlands, now recalled by Woodland Drive, the Road situated at the park's Western boundary.

In 1898, at a cost of £7,750, Wallasey Urban District Council purchased both estates, with the intention of providing a 'lung' or breathing space for an increasing population. The combined grounds opened as Vale Park on 20th May 1899. Following Local Government re-organisation in 1974 responsibility for the park transferred from Wallasey Corporation to Wirral Council. [44]

The New Brighton Tower was designed by Architects Maxwell and Turk of Manchester and patterned on the Eiffel Tower in Paris, construction commenced in 1896 and was

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[43] www.lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk . English Heritage Listed Buildings on line (Accessed February 2010)

[44] www.lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk . English Heritage Listed Buildings on line (Accessed February 2010)

completed in approximately 1900. Standing 621ft high the tower was taller than Blackpool Tower (548ft). The Tower was dismantled in 1921.

For much of the 20th century Vale House accommodated the park staff, though it lay disused for some years The Friends of Vale Park encouraged the council to restore it. The building opened as a community centre in 1993 (Wirral MBC 2006).

9.4.5 Sports Ground

Sports Ground Sub Type includes playing fields, recreational land and sports grounds, ranging in size from small-scale playing fields and bowling greens, through to large-scale sports facilities (and associated buildings) and golf courses. There is a certain degree of overlap between this Sub Type and the public park Sub Type, and the results should, perhaps, be combined. Many public parks appear to be 'sports' orientated - with large-scale provision for sporting activities such as cricket, tennis and athletics. Where this is evident, the park has been classified as a sports ground. Sports Ground Sub Type also includes large professional sports facilities (for example football stadiums) and therefore contains commercial characteristics.

Found throughout the district, Sports Ground make up approximately 50% (555.61 ha) of the Ornamental and Recreational Sub Type in the Wirral (MHCP Study Area).

Sports Grounds by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	22	160.53	28.89
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	8	41.92	7.55
Inter War 1918 to 1939	59	146.16	26.31
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	56	206.99	37.26
Total	145	555.61	100%

Table 23 Current (2003) Sports Ground in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

Different sporting activities have been popular at different times in the past, and some evidence of these trends can be seen by looking at the periods in which facilities were founded. Bowling greens, cricket grounds and tennis courts were popular in the late 19th to early 20th century. Larger-scale open playing fields, public pitches and recreation grounds became more common in the Inter War and post-war periods. Post-war playing fields are generally associated with contemporary housing developments, frequently large planned estates. This implies local authority involvement in their original creation. In the post-war period there was a fall-off in the **c**reation of new bowling greens and cricket grounds. However, substantial areas of new open-area recreational facilities, including football and rugby grounds, continued to be founded in the later 20th and early 21st Centuries .The perimeters of larger-

scale playing fields often respected early boundaries relating to settlements or field systems.

The majority of sports grounds (just under 64%) date to the Inter War and Post-1945 periods. Twenty-two records pre-date 1900 - the largest area representing the Royal Liverpool Golf Course (63.30 ha), followed by Leasowe Golf Course at 58.07 ha (although this was extended in the Inter War period to 73.12 ha). The majority of pre-1900 sites are relatively small and limited to cricket, rugby and bowling grounds.

Perhaps the earliest cricket ground is Wallasey Cricket Club**, f**ounded in 1864. This was followed by Upton Cricket Club, founded in 1901 **Irby Cricket Club** was formed by a small band of enthusiasts in 1948 and played their first fixtures on a ground at Seaview Lane.

Figure 55 The Oval (Port Sunlight Recreation Ground) depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh.1912.

The Oval (Port Sunlight Recreation Ground) in Bebington offers an extensive range of sporting activities in the sports centre and also outdoor facilities ,such as the athletics stadium, an artificial grass pitch, grass pitches, porous play areas, an artificial ski slope and tennis courts. The athletic track (established between 1899 and 1912) was used in the film ‘Chariots of Fire’ to act as the location for the Olympic Games.

Hoylake Sailing Club was founded in 1887 starting racing Opera Class boats in 1902. There are 15 Operas listed in the Club Programme and regular racing with them still takes place.

The Royal Mersey Yacht Club in Rock Ferry was founded over 150 years ago, with Queen Victoria as its first patron. For almost 160 years the club has promoted yacht racing on the River Mersey and adjoining waters. The club focuses on one design keel-boat racing and enjoys what is virtually the only stretch of sheltered deep water between Scotland and North Wales. There is an intensive programme of racing from May to October.

The promenade at West Kirby is flanked by the **West Kirby Marine Lake** that permits sailing even at low tide. Windsurfing, sailing and kayaking are all popular local sports. In October 1991, the World Windsurfing Speed Record was set on the West Kirby Marine Lake. It was held for two years until it was beaten in Australia.

There are six golf courses in the Wirral MHCP Study Area, representing 39.12% (217.36 ha) of the Sports Grounds Sub Type in the borough, and 19.68% of the total Recreational and Ornamental Broad Type. They range in area from about 73.12 ha (Leasowe Links) to 10 ha (Bromborough Pool Golf Driving Range).

Elsewhere in Wirral (outside the MHCP Study Area, but within that covered by the Wirral land of Cheshire HLC project, 2007) Wirral MBC operates courses located at: Arrowe, Brackenwood, Hoylake and Warren.[45]

The Royal Liverpool Golf Links Course - Built in 1869, on what was then the racecourse of the Liverpool Hunt Club, Hoylake is the oldest of all the English seaside courses with the exception of Westward Ho! in Devon, which was established just a few years earlier. Robert Chambers and George Morris were commissioned to lay out the original Hoylake course, which was extended to 18 holes in 1871. This was also

[45] http://www.wirral.gov.uk/ Wirral Council web page (Accessed12 February 2010).

the year in which the Club was granted its Royal designation thanks to the patronage of His Royal Highness The Duke of Connaught.[46]

For the first seven years of its life the land doubled as a golf course and a horse racing track, this heritage reflected in the names of the first and eighteenth holes, Course and Stand. [47]

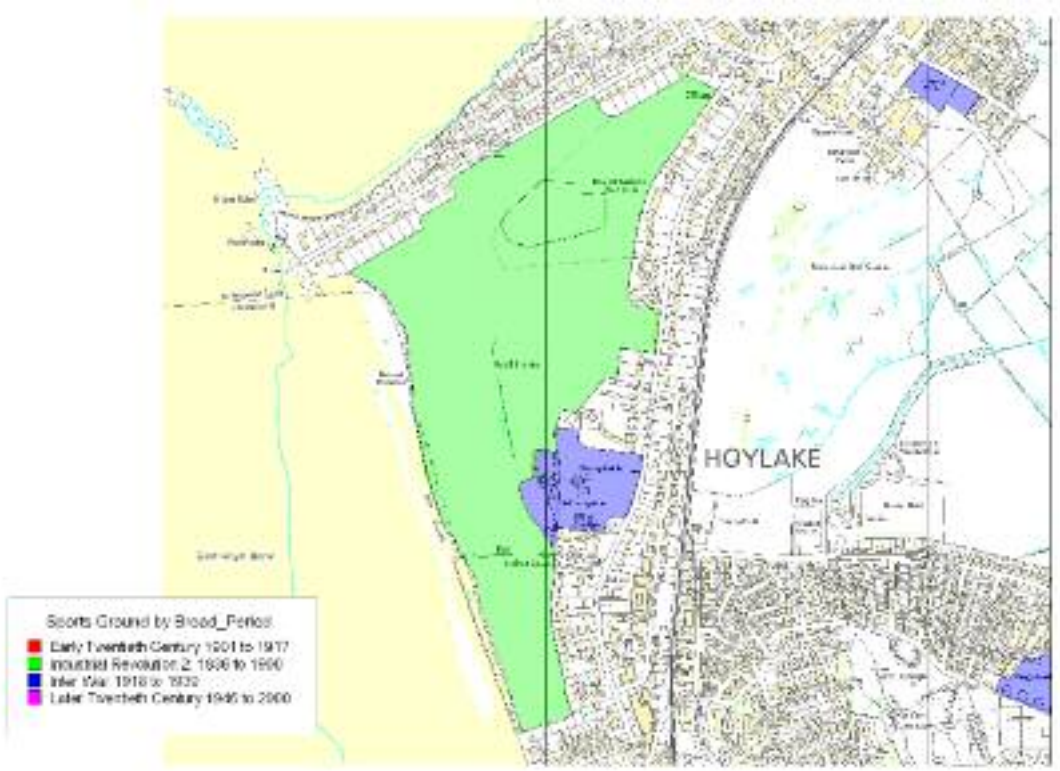

Figure 56 The Royal Liverpool Golf Links Course on 2003 mapping
(© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

In 1885 the links hosted the first Amateur Championship; in 1902 the first international match between England and Scotland, later to become the Home Internationals; and,

[46] http://www.royal-liverpool-golf.com/old_heritage/ Royal; Liverpool Golf Club (Accessed 12 February 2010).

[47] http://www.royal-liverpool-golf.com/old_heritage/ Royal; Liverpool Golf Club (Accessed 12 February 2010).

in 1921, the first international match between Great Britain and the United States of America, now known as The Walker Cup. It is Royal Liverpool Golf Club's contribution to the amateur game that has set it apart from all other clubs in England. Although, at the end of the nineteenth century, it was the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews that took on the role of the governing body in golf as the game developed, it was at Hoylake that the rules of amateur status were laid down. [48]

Wirral Ladies' Golf Club, Birkenhead. By the end of the 19th century, golf was becoming a popular pastime for gentlemen, but ladies were forbidden to join clubs. The Golf Magazine of 1891, however, thought the game desirable for women, 'combining a sufficient amount of exercise with the gracefulness of deportment which every true woman is properly proud of possessing'. In 1894 the female family members of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, persuaded the gentlemen members into putting up the money to lease a piece of common land on Oxton Heath. This was the beginning of Wirral Ladies' Golf Club, one of several to be founded at this time and yet one of few to have survived.[49]

The Birkenhead Advertiser of February 1894 reported that 'no longer were the sterner sex going to have it all their own way at the putting game, for Wirral Ladies' Golf Club now have their own links prepared for their own special behoof'. By 1907 the original 9-hole course had become a full 18 holes, thanks to the purchase of more land on the Heath. [50]

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[48] http://www.royal-liverpool-golf.com/old_heritage/ Royal; Liverpool Golf Club (Accessed12 February 2010).

[49] www.wirral-ladies-golf-club.co.uk/history.php Wirral Ladies Golf Club (Accessed 12 February 2010).

[50] www.wirral-ladies-golf-club.co.uk/history.php Wirral Ladies Golf Club (Accessed 12 February 2010).

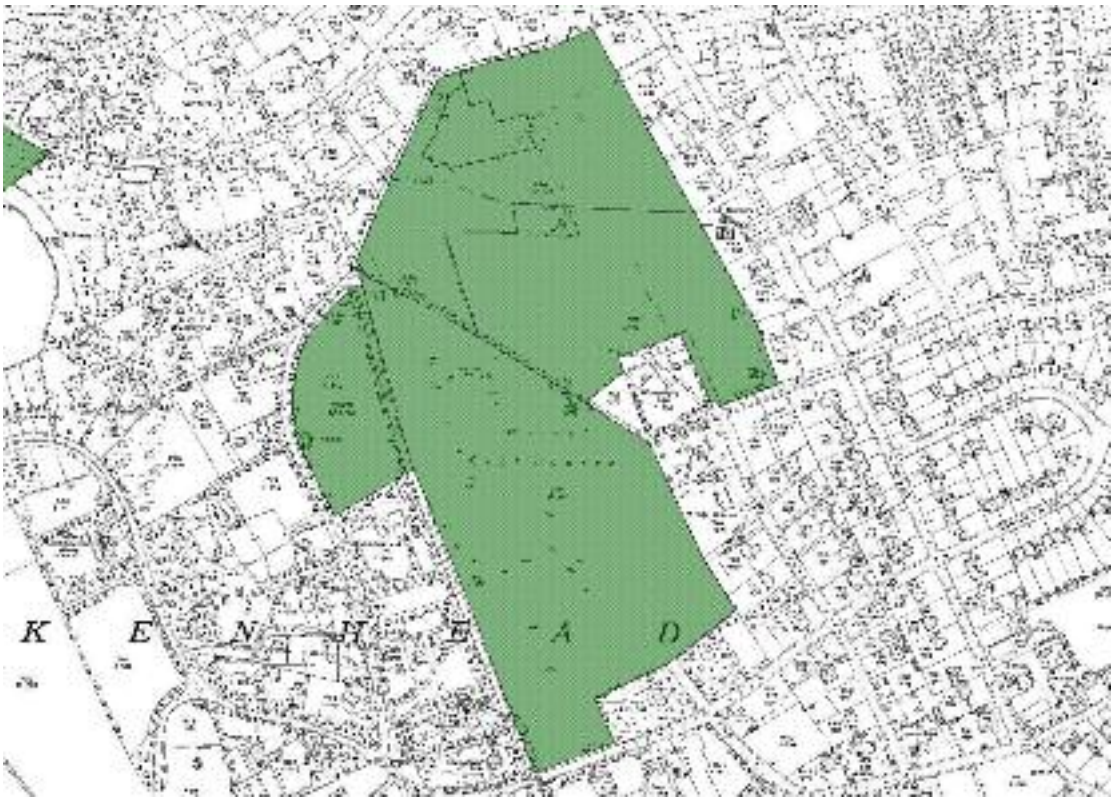

Figure 57 Wirral Ladies' Golf Club depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh. 1936. (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

Wirral Ladies' is special, the only course to be designed especially for women, and the only club whose executive are largely female. In the original constitution, gentlemen were always permitted 'as associate members', a situation which continued until 1952 when they were granted equal standing by a change in the Articles of Association. The Captain of the club, however, is always a lady member, as decreed by the constitution of 1894. [51]

[51] www.wirral-ladies-golf-club.co.uk/history.php Wirral Ladies Golf Club (Accessed 12 February 2010).

9.5 Industrial Broad Type

The Industrial Broad Type consists of 849.61 ha of land, representing about 9.6% of the Wirral MHCP Study Area total. Industrial sites were identified on Current (2003) mapping largely by their labels of 'Works' or 'Industrial Estate'. Trade directories and the internet were consulted when identifying the 'Industrial Sub Types. As the nature of the industry carried out could not be identified for a great many sites, a very high proportion of sites have been recorded simply as 'Industrial Works', making it difficult to make a meaningful analysis of the distribution of different types of industry without more detailed research beyond the scope of this project. However, the proliferation of industrial estates and sites labelled 'Works' rather than with a specific industry infers areas of mixed industry that are more characteristic of modern times than of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Many sites are now occupied by a mix of industrial and commercial companies.

Industrial Sub Type	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Chemical Industry	16	139.62	16.43
Disused Industry	3	10.03	1.18
Dock and Port Related Industry	38	232.79	27.40
Extraction Industry	1	2.87	0.34
Industrial	53	16.66	1.96
Manufacturing Industry	215	344.33	40.53
Maritime Commercial Area	1	4.73	0.56
Municipal Depot	12	14.67	1.73
Municipal Works	25	66.63	7.84
Nursery	1	0.36	0.04
Warehousing	19	16.92	1.99
Totals	384	849.61 ha	100%

Table 24 Current (2003) Industrial Sub Type in Wirral

Eleven principal Current Sub Types were identified for detailed analysis on the basis of their presence in the landscape or their historical significance. Two further historical types were also identified (Glass and Iron Foundries) but these do not form part of the

Current Wirral character. In the past, these industries would have played an important part in the development of Wirral.

The majority of Wirral's industrial sites are of a Manufacturing nature (40.53%), followed by Dock and Port Related Industry (27.40%), Chemical Industry (16.43%) and Municipal Works (7.84%).

Older, more established industrial sites are concentrated on the eastern coast, facing on to the River Mersey. The largest (by size) is Port and Dock Related Industry - this is concentrated in the dockland areas of Birkenhead and Wallasey and to the south near Eastham Dock. Chemical Industries are concentrated towards the southeast of the Wirral, particularly near the border with Cheshire.

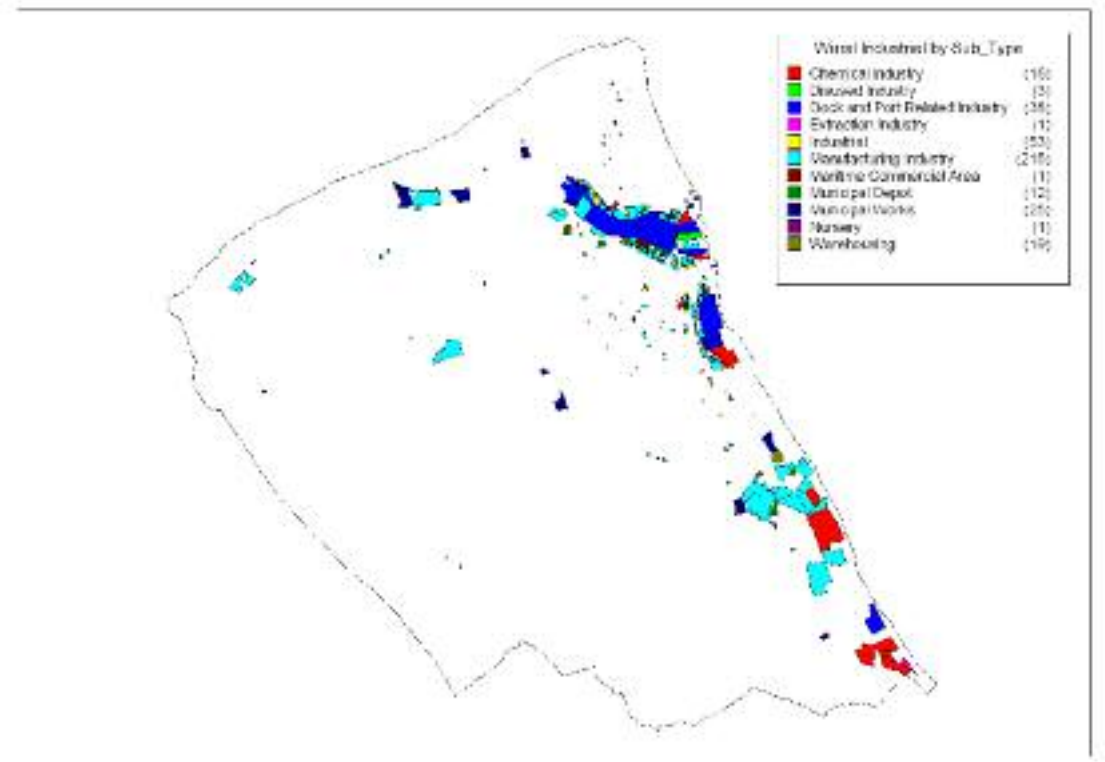

Figure 58 Current (2003) Industrial Sub Type in Wirral Study Area

Of the current 849.61 ha of industrial land, 56.71% (481.75 ha) dates to the Later Twentieth century. The next largest industrial block dates to pre-1900, forming 26.28% (just over 233 ha) of the current total. Pre-1900 industrial sites are concentrated along the river-front at three distinct locations - within the central docklands part of Birkenhead, the Outer Docks near Tranmere and to the south at the Port Sunlight

complex. Outside of these three locations, a few pre-1900 sites occur, but they are generally small and often isolated. Early Twentieth century and Inter War sites are found near pre-1900 sites, as extensions to already existing industrial areas. Some isolated Inter War sites occur near social housing estates. Later Twentieth Century sites are distributed throughout the Wirral, with noticeable concentrations along the riverfront (and immediate hinterland). Very few sites occur in the western half of the Wirral, and the majority of these appear to be small-scale manufacturing sites. No large-scale heavy industry sites occur in the western half of the Wirral.

The surviving historic industrial buildings in Wirral display a wide variety of architectural types and dates, yet many of these have been altered in both form and function. Commerce and industry appear to be the most common reuses of industrial sites. Many disused sites have been converted to ornamental and recreational use, or left as rough land.

Industrial by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	50	223.31	26.28
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	15	12.10	1.42
Inter War 1918 to 1939	54	130.75	15.39
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	264	481.75	56.71
Twenty-First Century 2001 to 2050	1	1.70	0.20
Totals	384	849.61 ha	100%

Table 25 Current (2003) Industrial in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

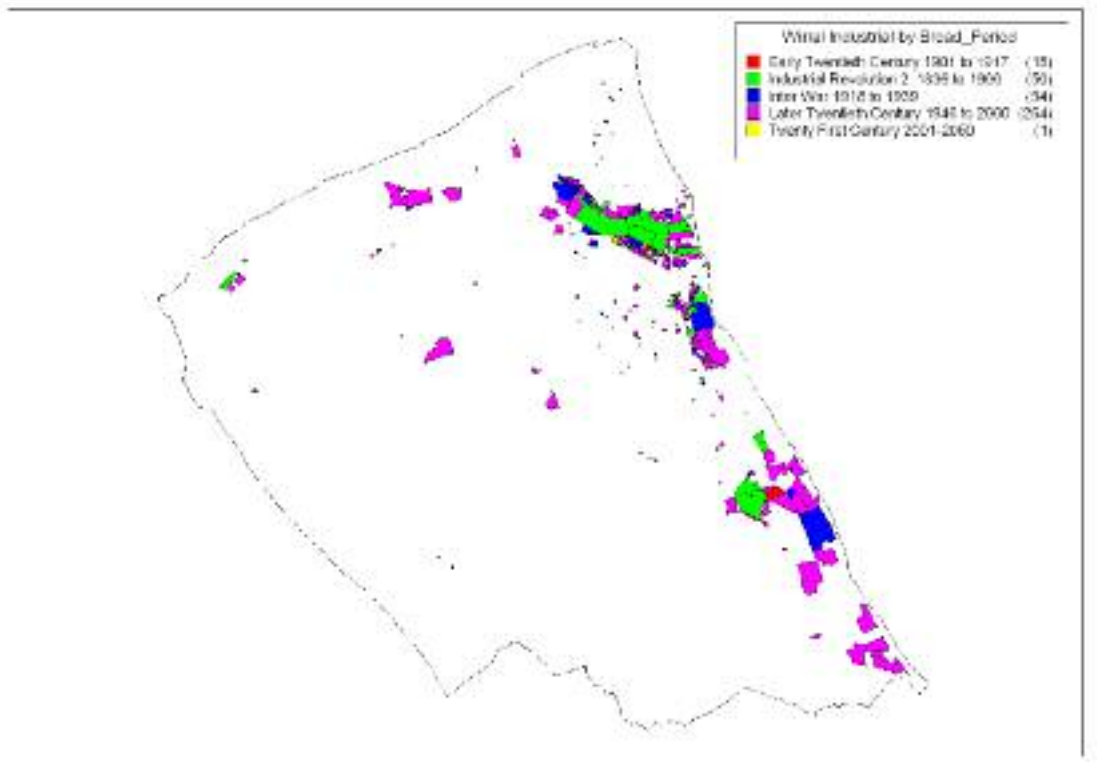

Figure 59 Current (2003) Industrial in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

The MHCP study has been relatively successful in identifying the extent of historic industrial character in the district; it was beyond the scope of the project to assess the condition of structures. Historic origins were established by comparing the footprints of buildings depicted on historic map sequences with those on modern mapping. Often the detailing of early mapping is vague and the true extent of the survival of historic buildings and their contexts is difficult to ascertain. Modern buildings may have footprints the same as or similar to those of their predecessors, and it may not be obvious from mapping that they are different structures.

9.5.1 Chemical Industry

The Chemical Industry Sub Type is located solely on the eastern foreshore of the Wirral. The Sub Type represents 16.43% of the Industrial Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area (139.62 ha). Nearly 61% of the Sub Type was constructed in the post-1945 period, although the single largest site (a Chemical Works near Slack Wood, Bromborough) was constructed in the Inter War period (1918 to 1939). Two small chemical industry sites pre-date 1900, although both of these are gas storage depots and, perhaps, should have been recorded as Municipal Works. Modern (post-1945) chemical industries are associated with petrochemical/oil storage and processing, particularly those located towards the southeast of the Wirral Peninsula (at Eastham Dock).

Chemical Industry by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	3	4.00	2.87
Inter War 1918 to 1939	2	50.90	36.46
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	11	84.72	60.68
Total	16	139.62	100%

Table 26 current (2003) Chemical Industry in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

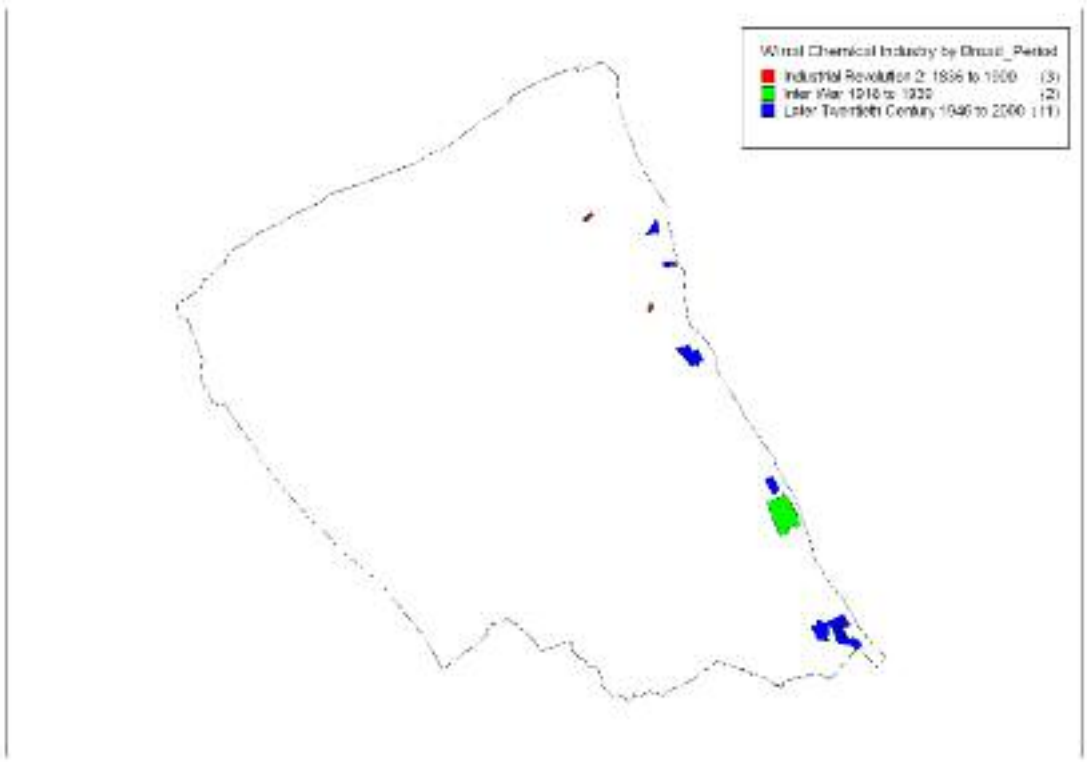

Figure 60 Current (2003) Chemical Industry in Wirral Study area by Broad Period of origin (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage)

9.5.2 Disused Industry

This character type represents just over 1% (10.03 ha) of the current Industrial Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. The term was applied to any former site of industrial activity which was in advanced state of dereliction, and that could be easily identified from mapping or aerial photography. Further disused industries will occur, but these have been incorporated into other Sub Types, notably Other Land (Rough Land).

Two disused sites were identified by the MHCP:

The first was a large (9.91 ha) plot of derelict land, the site of the former Wallasey Dock in Birkenhead. From the aerial photography layer, the dock appears to have been left derelict - although the site is earmarked for regeneration and is currently undergoing redevelopment. The Disused Industry polygon for this site also incorporates former cranes and lifting-gear.

The other site is a small (0.12 ha) former industrial site located on the junction of Cleveland Street and Duke Street in Birkenhead.

9.5.3 Dock and Port Related Industry

The Dock and Port Related Industrial Sub Type represents 27.4% of the Industrial Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area (232.79 ha). The Sub Type is closely associated with two other industrial Sub Types - Warehousing and Maritime Commercial Industry. The Sub Type comprises all forms of dock and port related activities - from container/cargo shipping, storage, ship and shipping-related heavy industry, through to international and local passenger ferries. The industry is found solely on the western Mersey foreshore, with concentrations in the north-centre (the Birkenhead Dock complex in Birkenhead Town), centre (Cammell Laird's Shipbuilding and Engineering Works near Tranmere) and in the southeast of the district (Eastham Dock). Just over 64% of the Sub Type dates to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period, with the remainder dating to the Inter War period (20.84%) and Later Twentieth century (14.86%).

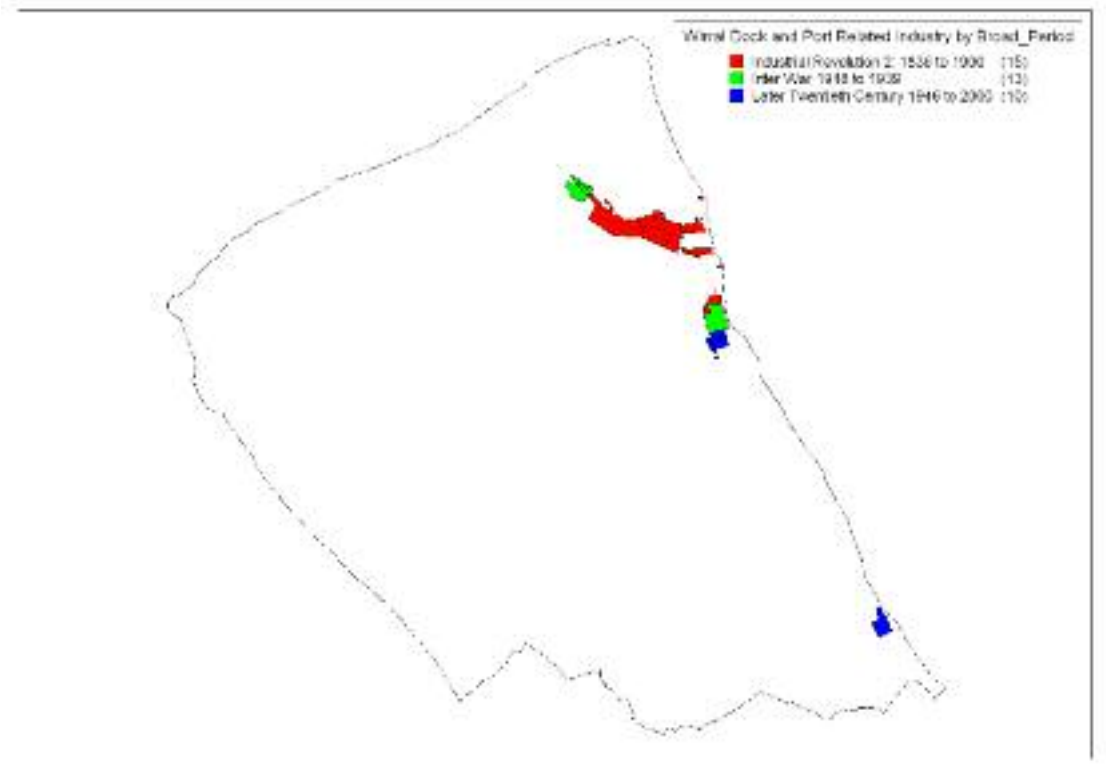

Figure 61 Current (2003) Dock and Port Related Industry in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

Dock and Port Related Industry by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	15	149.68	64.30
Inter War 1918 to 1939	13	48.52	20.84
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	10	34.59	14.86
Total	38	232.79	100%

Table 27 Dock and Port Related Industry in Wirral by Broad Period

The history of Wirral Docks begins in the early Nineteenth century - in 1827 the Scotsman William Laird established a boiler factory, soon expanded into a shipbuilding yard, on the shore of Wallasey Pool (a tidal creek extending some two miles inland). In the same year Laird employed James Gillespie Graham to prepare a scheme for the laying out of a new town (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). A deep-water dock was planned by Laird at this time. There were five main reasons for this:

- there was plenty of room for growth
- the surrounding hills sheltered Birkenhead from the westerly winds. Liverpool was not so protected
- it had deeper water than Liverpool, so larger ships could use the docks
- it was only a mile from Liverpool town centre. A new dock at the far end of Liverpool docks would have been several miles away
- land was cheaper than on the Liverpool-side of the river

The 1820s plan was defeated by Liverpool Corporation, alarmed by the threat of rival docks. The Liverpool Corporation bought up the require land on the margin of the pool, thus preventing construction (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). Liverpool Corporation parted with the land in 1843, and the following year Parliament revived proposals for docks at Birkenhead. With J.M. Rendel as engineer, construction began in 1844 and the first stage was opened in 1847. Rendel's plan was to enclose the upper part of Wallasey Pool (to be called the Great Float) and to form a low-water basin at the river entrance. By 1847, only the small Morpeth and Egerton Docks were completed. Economic difficulties caused a slow-down in construction, further hampered by over-ambitious plans, lack of money and incompetence. Incomplete and in hopeless financial straits, Birkenhead Docks were taken over by Liverpool Corporation in 1855 and transferred to the newly formed Mersey Docks and Harbour Board in 1857. Under John Bernard Hartley, construction continued to revised plans

and much of Rendel's work was replaced. The Great Float was split into the East (1851) and West (1860) Floats (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

The Mid Nineteenth Century

By the mid Nineteenth century, emigrants were leaving East Float on ships bound for Australia. In 1866, the Alfred Dock was constructed. With its large river locks it provided good access to the Great Float.

In 1868, following the repeal (withdrawal) of the Corn Laws, more grain was imported through Birkenhead and by 1870 Corn warehouses were built on the Great Float.

In the 1870s developing countries like North and South America had large areas of land ideal for rearing sheep and cattle. They exported huge quantities to the growing industrial towns of Britain on fast steamships. At Birkenhead they were sold to farmers or slaughterhouses. In 1871 a large railway network had developed around the Birkenhead docks with stations for goods and rail connections to all the quays. Coal for steamships was brought by rail from South Wales and loaded onto ships at the Great Float. In 1873 large concrete casements (containers with thick walls) were built at the far end of the West Float, to contain inflammable oil and petrol.

In 1877 Wallasey Dock opened, constructed from the unsuccessful Great Low Water Basin. In 1878 a disease, imported with foreign animals, destroyed a significant amount of Britain's sheep and cattle and it became illegal to import animals unless they were slaughtered or quarantined in licensed quays (called Foreign Animal Wharves). Lairages, slaughterhouses, chill rooms and meat-stores were built at Morpeth and Wallasey Docks.

By the 1880s docks and railways were built in South Wales, and Birkenhead lost the export trade. However, Birkenhead's prosperity in oil and petrol trade grew and storage tanks were built with pipes that directly connected them to berths on the West Float.

By 1893 Dockside mills were built enabling the processing of imported grain before it was transported inland. In 1894 The Manchester Ship Canal opened, joining the Mersey at Eastham (up river from Birkenhead) it was built to avoid Liverpool.

In 1897 the imported animal trade was booming, with 40-50% of Britain's trade in American sheep and cattle passing through Birkenhead. At the turn of the century, the

development of goods refrigeration meant that frozen meat could be imported rather than live animals. This was cheaper, easier and more humane. As a result the live animal trade declined.

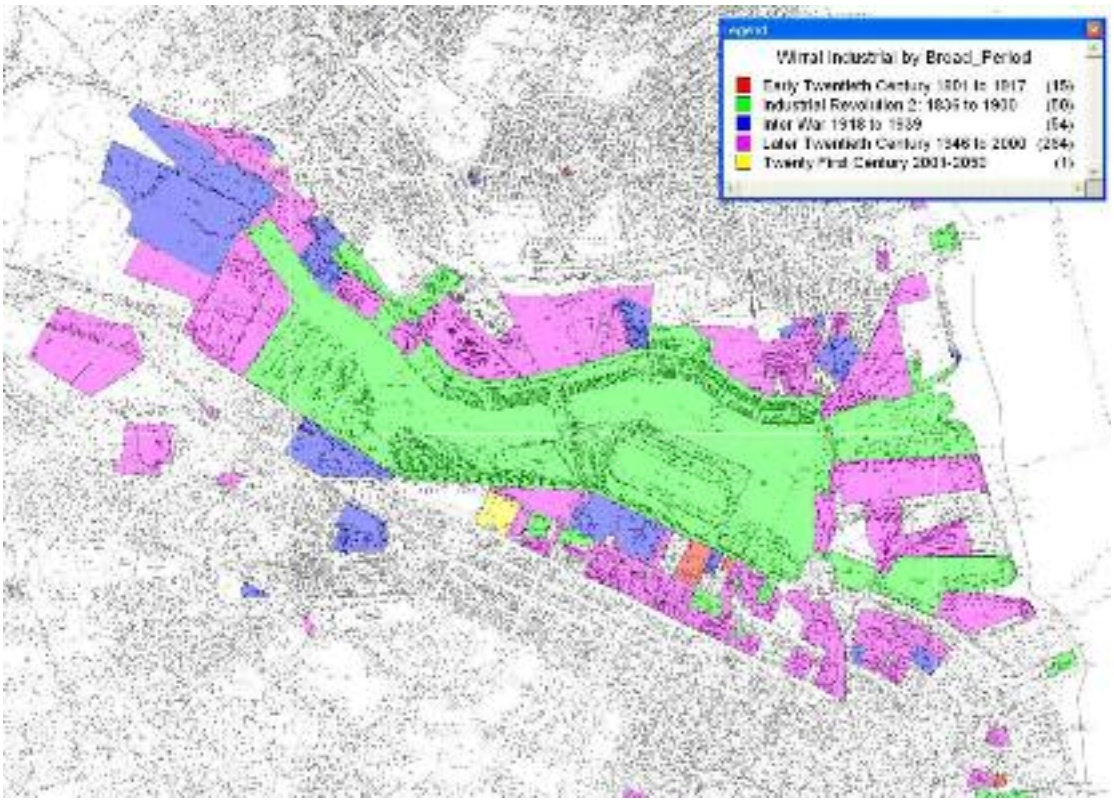

Figure 62 Birkenhead Docks and associated industries by Broad Period of origin, as depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh. 1936

Early Twentieth Century

Vittoria Dock was built between 1905 and 1909. It was used by East Asian traders who wanted an accessible, organised dock. In 1912, when Foot and Mouth Disease broke out in Ireland, it was necessary to quarantine live Irish cattle so Birkenhead's lairages were saved. In the 1920s miners' strikes led to more coal being imported through Birkenhead. During the Inter War period Merseyside was the largest flour-milling centre in Europe. In 1933 Bidston Dock opened at the end of West Float.

By 1939 Birkenhead Docks reached their peak of activity and were handling about 13% of Liverpool's trade.

Mid Twentieth Century Decline

In 1950 Vittoria Dock was expanded to take larger ships, especially those from East Asia. Iron ore (for John Summers' steelworks at Shotton) is handled in large quantities at Bidston Dock.

Decline began to set in during the 1960s and the developing countries (e.g. India) which once imported goods from Birkenhead, became competitors along with European ports. By the 1970s many of Birkenhead's docks were no longer in use.

Later Twentieth Century Regeneration

In the 1980s the Merseyside Development Corporation was created. It brought in new European funds to regenerate Birkenhead. The land at the east end of the Great Float has been developed into The Twelve Quays transporting cargo and people between Merseyside and Ireland. The Wallasey and Bidston Docks have been filled in, while the Morpeth and Egerton Docks have been environmentally improved and their quaysides developed industry, offices and museums.

Cammell Laird, one of the most famous names in British shipbuilding during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, came about following the merger of Laird, Son & Co. of Birkenhead and Johnson Cammell & Co. of Sheffield at the turn of the twentieth century. The Company was founded by William Laird, who had established the Birkenhead Iron Works in 1824, when he was joined by his son, John Laird in 1828: their first ship was an iron barge. John Laird realised that the techniques of making boilers could be applied to making ships - the company soon became pre-eminent in the manufacture of iron ships and made major advances in propulsion.

In 1852 the Laird Company took over the lease of a south Liverpool shipyard, whose main work was building small gun boats for the Crimean war between 1854 and 1856. This yard was eventually handed back to its owners when Laird opened a huge new

yard at Birkenhead in 1857. Covering 20 acres with five dry docks, this site still forms the core of the current yard. In 1858, an engine building works was added.[52]

In 1903 the businesses of Messrs. Cammell and Laird merged to create a company at the forefront of shipbuilding. Johnson Cammell & Co. had been founded by Charles Cammell and Henry and Thomas Johnson: it made, amongst many other metal products, iron wheels and rails for Britain's railways and was based in Sheffield.[53]

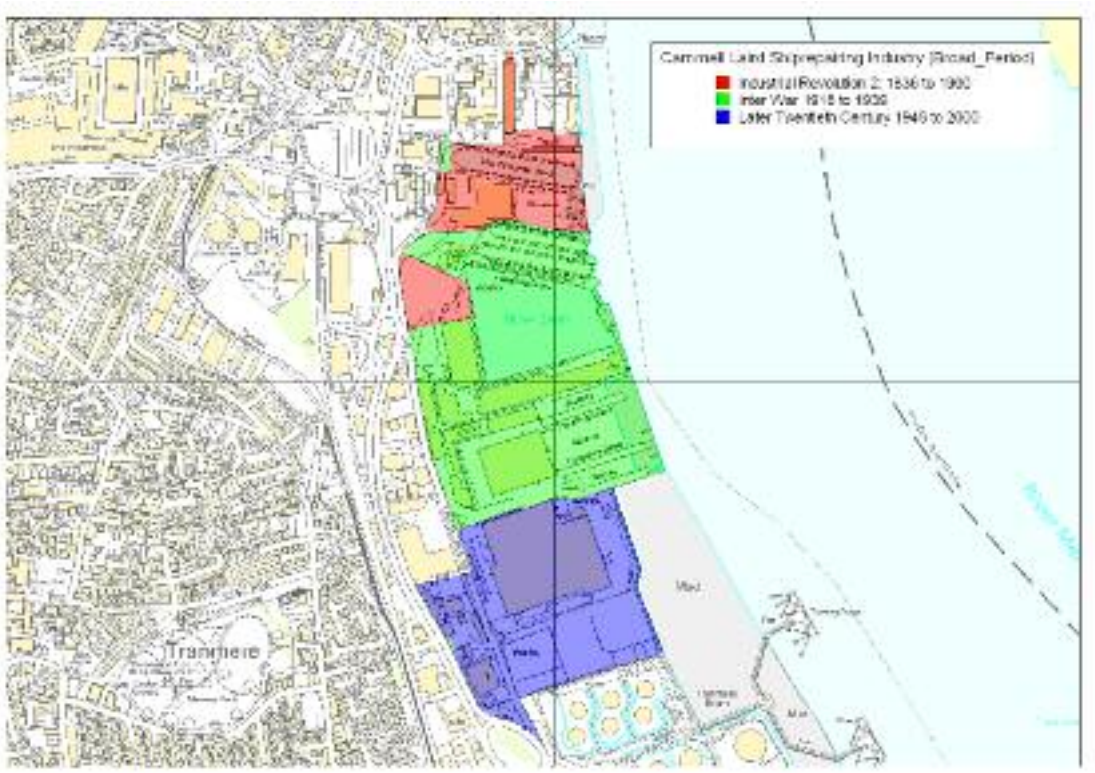

Figure 63 The Cammell Laird Ship-repairing Yard and Docks on Current (2003) mapping (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

52 www.oceanlinermuseum.co.uk/Cammell%20Laird%20Shipbuilders%20to%20the%20World.htm

53 www.oceanlinermuseum.co.uk/Cammell%20Laird%20Shipbuilders%20to%20the%20World.htm

Between 1829 and 1947, over 1,100 vessels of all kinds were launched from the Cammell Laird slipways into the River Mersey. Among the many famous ships made by the companies were the world's first steel ship, the Ma Roberts, built in 1858 for Dr. Livingstone's Zambezi expedition, HMS Caroline (1914) that holds the record fastest build time of any significant warship (nine months from her keel being laid till her launch), the first all-welded ship, the Fullagar built in 1920, Cunard's second Mauretania of 1939, the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal (1937) and the largest vessel, so far, to have been built for the Royal Navy HMS Ark Royal (1950).[54]

The Company was nationalised along with the rest of the British shipbuilding industry as British Shipbuilders in 1977. In 1986, it returned to the private sector as part of VSEL another of the nationalised companies. VSEL and Cammell Laird were the only British shipyards capable of production of nuclear submarines. In 1993, it completed HMS Unicorn (S43) - now HMCS Windsor (SSK 877) - that to this day that is the last ship completed at the yard.[55]

The company was forced to enter receivership in April 2001, and the Birkenhead, Teesside and Tyneside shipyards were subsequently acquired by the A&P Ship repair Group during 2001. A&P Group sold its Birkenhead subsidiary (A&P Birkenhead) to Northwestern Ship repairers & Shipbuilders in 2005, but continue to operate the other three yards as an integral part of their ship repair and conversion operations.

The Cammell Laird brand continued in use through Cammell Laird Gibraltar, the Royal Dockyard facility in Gibraltar, which was acquired through a management buy-out in 2001, before being re-launched in late 2008 when Northwestern Ship repairers took the name. Peel Holdings purchased the Cammell Laird shipyard, in January 2007 and in 2008 Northwestern Ship repairers & Shipbuilders officially renamed itself Cammell Laird Ship repairers & Shipbuilders Limited.[56]

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[54] www.oceanlinermuseum.co.uk/Cammell%20Laird%20Shipbuilders%20to%20the%20World.htm

[55] http://www.oceanlinermuseum.co.uk/Cammell%20Laird%20Shipbuilders%20to%20the%20World.htm

[56] http://www.oceanlinermuseum.co.uk/Cammell%20Laird%20Shipbuilders%20to%20the%20World.htm Ocean Liner Museum site (Accessed January 2010)

Eastham Dock

The opening of the Manchester Ship Canal in 1894, with its outfall at Eastham, led to further port-side and industrial development beside the Mersey at Ellesmere Port. Construction of The Queen Elizabeth II Dock at Eastham began in 1949 and was completed in 1954. This dock is adjacent to Eastham Locks and is approached from the River Mersey to its own entrance lock.

Eastham's two locks are at the entrance of the Manchester Ship Canal. The dock is currently used for handling petrochemicals and edible oils, servicing the adjacent petrochemical plant at Eastham.[57]

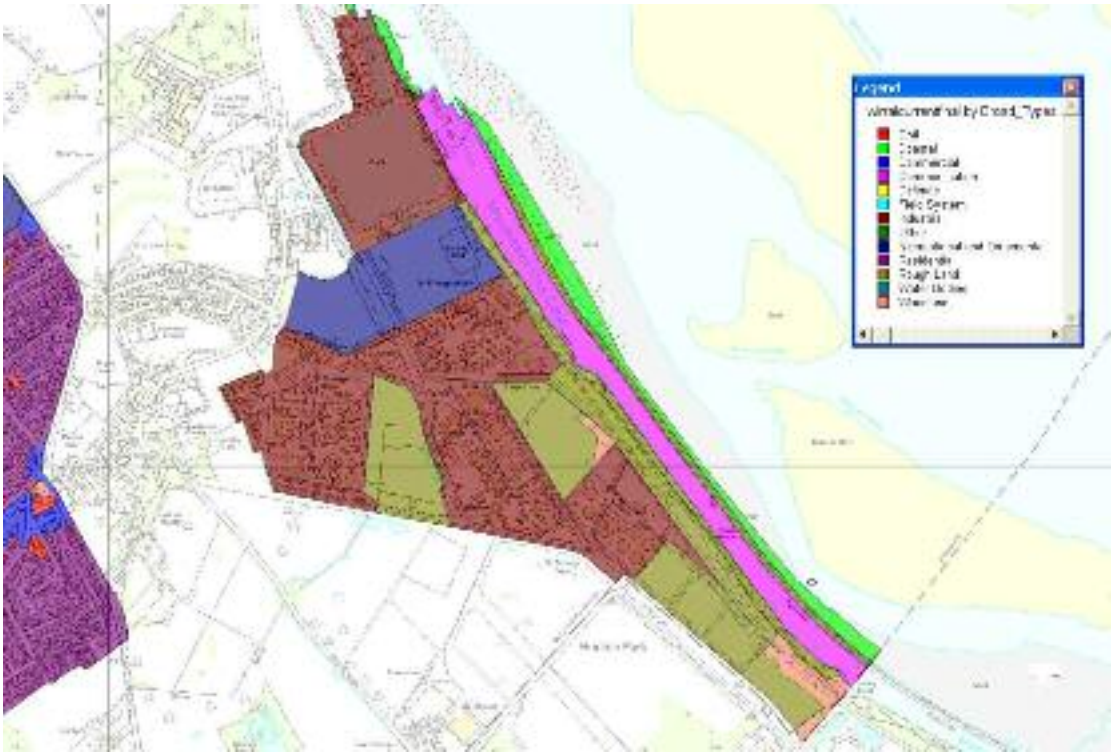

Figure 64 Eastham Dock on Current (2003) mapping

[57] www.mersey-gateway.org/chambrehardman/ . From Mersey Gateway Port Cities web (Accessed 28 August 2011)

Filled-in Docks

William Lever, the founder of Lever Brothers, had been planning a dock for his factories at Port Sunlight to the north of Bromborough since 1912 and a site was chosen at the mouth of Bromborough Pool as it was far enough up the River Mersey to avoid paying Liverpool dock and harbour dues. It was also deep enough for sea going vessels. The Bromborough Dock Act of 1923 enabled the dock to be built and it was officially opened on 17 April 1931 by the President of the Board of Trade when the White Star Line ship Magnetic arrived. In the first four years of its operation the dock handled over one million tons of cargo and over 1600 vessels either loaded or unloaded. Bromborough Dock was the biggest private dock in the world at the time and stretched for one and a quarter miles (2 km) along the water front. Despite reconstruction work in 1971, Bromborough Dock had a limited future as goods were being transferred by road or rail rather than by sea. It was decided to close the docks and an Act of Parliament allowing this to happen was passed in September 1986. The site of the closed dock was used as a landfill site from 1991 onwards and after landscaping the site is due to be part of a country park.[58]

[58] www.mersey-gateway.org/chambrehardman/ . From Mersey Gateway Port Cities web (Accessed 28 August 2011)

9.5.4 Extraction Industry

There are currently not any extractive sites in the Wirral Peninsula although numerous existed in the past. Some small-scale coal extraction in the Wirral is recorded from the 1600s, although the first commercial mining began in the 18th century, when the colliery at Ness (outside of the MHCP Study Area) was the largest in Cheshire. Further mining activity occurred at Little Neston and in the vicinity of Neston village. The mines at Ness were last worked in 1927.

Evidence for quarrying (for stone, clays and gravels) can be found throughout the Wirral, in the form of marl pits and numerous ponds. A single site was recorded (near Eastham) by the MHCP, but this was recorded erroneously. The site should have been recorded in the Rough Land Broad Type.

9.5.5 Industrial

The Industrial Sub Type represents 1.96% (16.66 ha) of the Industrial Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. The sites, although somewhat scattered and generally small-scale, appear to cluster around Birkenhead Town. No industrial sites were recorded in the western half of the Wirral Peninsula.

The majority of sites date to the Later Twentieth century (54.61% - 9.10 ha), followed by Inter War sites (28.99% - 4.83 ha) and pre-1900 sites (15.79% - 2.63 ha).

Industrial (Sub Type) by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	10	2.63	15.79
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	2	0.10	0.60
Inter War 1918 to 1939	14	4.83	28.99
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	27	9.10	54.61
Total	53	16.66	10%

Table 28 Current (2003) Industrial Sub Type in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

The type encompass a number of different kinds of sites, including those labelled as 'Industrial Estates' or 'Works' on Current (2003) mapping. Sites were also characterised as these types where they could be recognised as industrial but where a more specific use was not recorded on mapping and could not be otherwise ascertained. This accounts for the high representation of general industrial works in the Wirral Peninsula. Industrial works sites can consist of a single building, whilst estates tend to represent larger areas with groups of buildings that appear to encompass several separate businesses.

Other Industrial MHCP types in Wirral include food manufactories, sawmills and brickworks. Typical of the district, the number of records with the above industries recorded as historic previous sub Types is significantly higher than for those present as Current (2003). This is partly a reflection of the level of information about the nature of industrial sites that is available on current mapping but also reflects a decline in these industries.

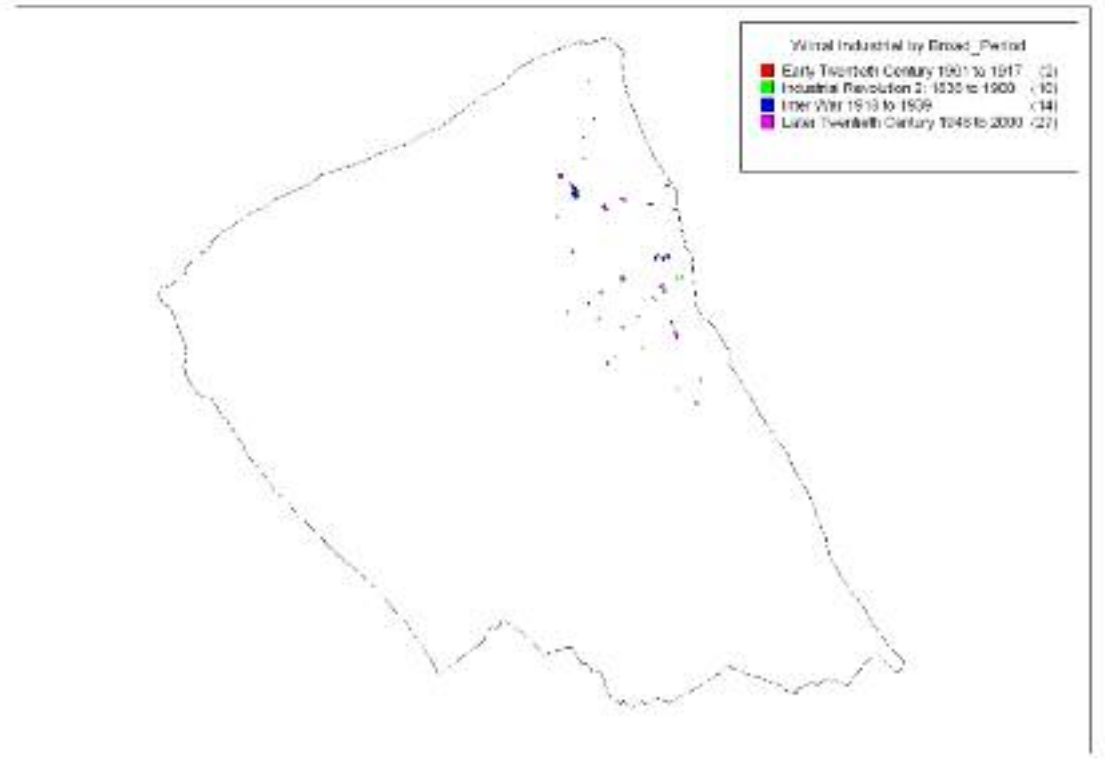

Figure 65 Current (2003) Industrial (Sub Type) in Wirral by Broad Period of origin

Not recorded by the MHCP project were the many small-scale industrial works established as Wirral developed in the later 18th to the later 19th centuries. Although integral parts of the historic urban landscape, these were often not identified on contemporary mapping and were generally too small to warrant individual records in the MHCP database. However, where buildings of a likely industrial character were observed on 19th century mapping, this was noted in the summary sections of records for those areas so that they can be added to the Wirral Historic Environment Record.

There is a firm association between industrial works, commercial business parks and distribution centres, and these often have a similar impact on the landscape – many of these sites include purpose-built medium to large sheds which often form large estates. These are concentrated into several distinct industrial and commercial zones in Wirral, particularly in the area surrounding Birkenhead Town.

Other smaller estates were dispersed throughout the Wirral district, particularly on the fringes of urban centres.

9.5.6 Manufacturing Industry

The Manufacturing Industry Sub Type accounts for nearly 41% (344.33 ha) of the Industrial Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. Current (2003) manufacturing industry is concentrated in seven areas.

The first comprises small-scale manufactories; located immediately south of Birkenhead docks, within Birkenhead Town centre and stretching south in the vicinity of the Cammell Laird docks. The second grouping occurs immediately north of the Birkenhead dock area, comprising larger-scale factories and industrial units. The third area, the largest and perhaps the oldest, is located in Bromborough - a complex of industrial units and manufactories located at Port Sunlight and Bromborough Pool. Further, later twentieth century manufacturing plants are located immediately south of the Port Sunlight complex, near Eastham Country Park. Three separate manufacturing blocks can be found in Arrowe Hill, Moreton and Hoylake. Smaller manufacturing industries are dotted throughout the Wirral Peninsula.

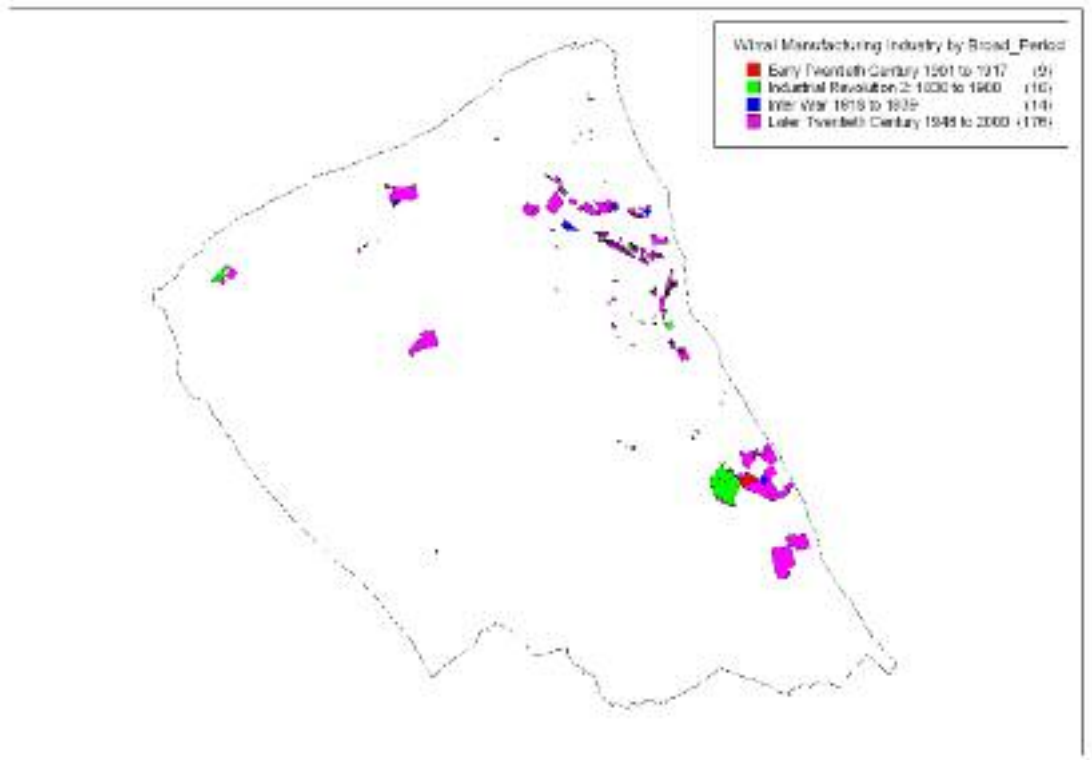

Figure 66 Current (2003) Manufacturing Industry in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

The character type is predominantly late 20th century in origin (76.05%). Typical of the district, the number of records with the above industries recorded as historic previous sub Types is significantly higher than for those present as Current (2003). This is partly a reflection of the level of information about the nature of industrial sites that is available on current mapping but also reflects a decline in these industries.

The next largest group (by date) belongs to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period, at 16.75% (57.66 ha). Much of this is made up by the Port Sunlight and Bromborough Pool Industrial complex - of the total manufacturing area (119.72 ha), just over 37% (44.81 ha) was established prior to 1900. Further important early manufactories can be found in Hoylake and in central Birkenhead.

Manufacturing Industry by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	16	57.66	16.75
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	9	9.61	2.79
Inter War 1918 to 1939	14	15.19	4.41
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	176	261.88	76.05
Total	215	344.33	100%

Table 29 Current (2003) Manufacturing Industry in Wirral Study Area Type by Broad Period of origin

Not recorded by the MHCP project were the many small-scale industrial works established as Wirral developed in the 18th and 19th centuries. Although integral parts of the historic urban landscape, these were often not identified on contemporary mapping and were generally too small to warrant individual records in the MHCP database. However, where buildings of a likely industrial character were observed on 19th century mapping, this was noted in the summary sections of records for those areas so that they can be added to the Wirral Historic Environment Record.

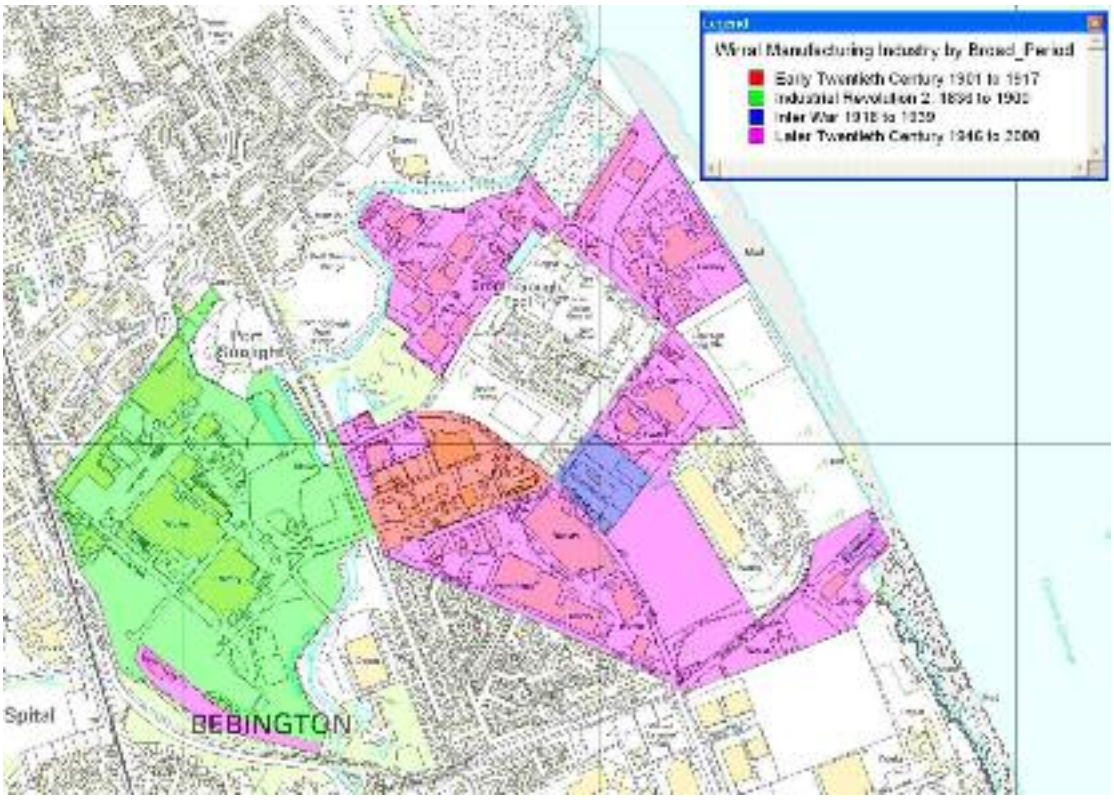

Figure 67 Port Sunlight / Bromborough Pool Manufacturing Industry on Current (2003) mapping

9.5.7 Maritime Commercial Area

The Maritime Commercial Area is limited to a single site, immediately south of the Vittoria Dock in Birkenhead. It constitutes 0.56% (4.73 ha) of the current Industrial Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. The area contains buildings and structures associated with commercial industrial activity, and appear to have been founded in the Inter war (1918 to 1939) period. The Sub Type is closely related to dock and port and warehousing industries.

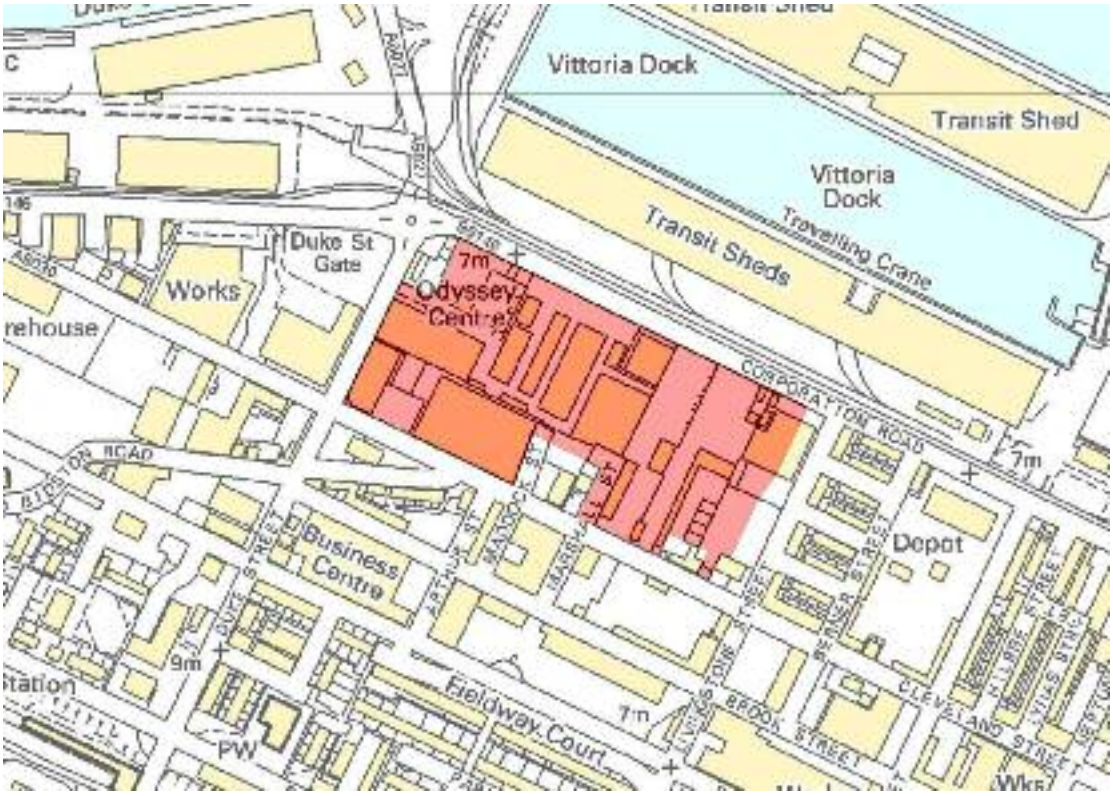

Figure 68 Maritime Commercial Area in Birkenhead, Wirral on Current (2003) mapping (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage)

9.5.8 Municipal Depot

Municipal Depot Sub Type represents 1.73% (14.67 ha) of the Industrial Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. The majority date to the Later Twentieth Century (62.7% - 9.2 ha). Two sites pre-date 1917 - a small depot dating to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period located on Palm Grove in Oxton, and a larger (1.54 ha), Early Twentieth Century depot site located on Cleveland Street, immediately south of Birkenhead Docks. A large (2.78 ha) Inter War bus depot (2.78 ha) can be found on Upper Brassey Street in Birkenhead. The largest sites are Later Twentieth Century in date, including modern depots in Bebington (4.43 ha) and Bromborough Pool (1.79 ha). Many 'depot' sites depicted on the modern mapping have been included within the 'Industrial' Sub Type. Furthermore, it was difficult to ascertain if many of the depot sites depicted here, and elsewhere in the district, were truly 'municipal' in nature or function.

Municipal Depot by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	1	0.19	1.30
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	1	1.54	10.50
Inter War 1918 to 1939	3	3.74	25.49
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	7	9.20	62.71
Total	12	14.67	100%

Table 30 Current (2003) Municipal Depot in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

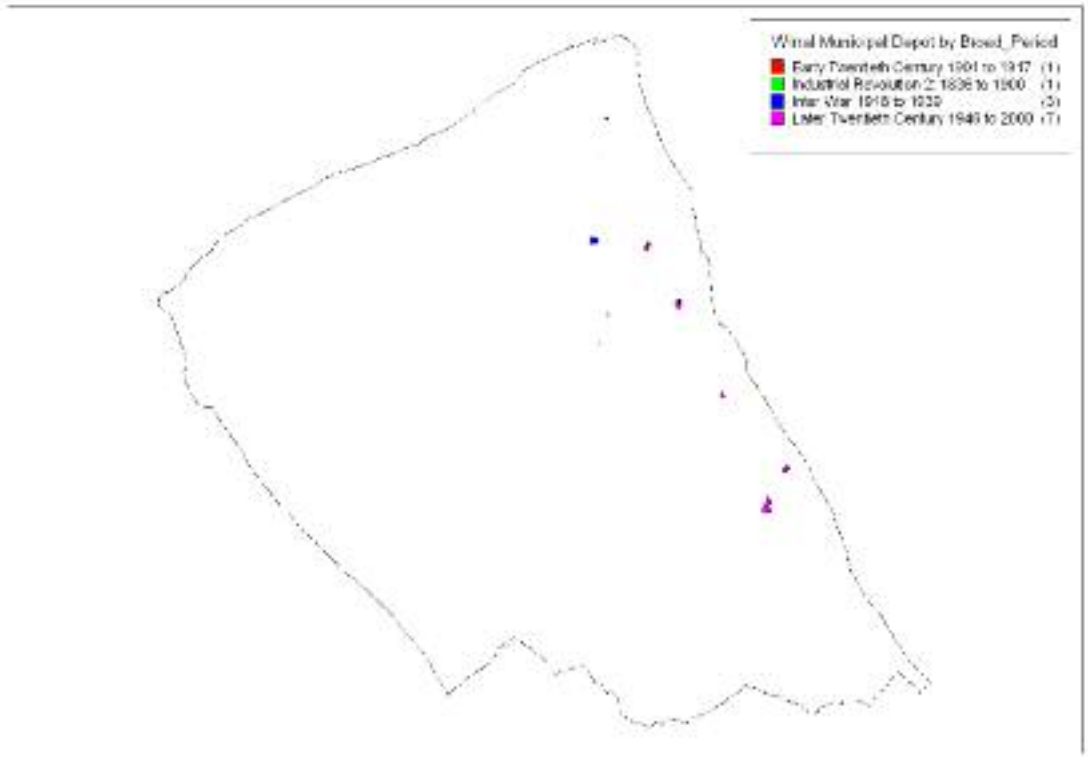

Figure 69 Current (2003) Municipal Depot in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

9.5.9 Municipal Works

Municipal Works represent almost 7.84% (66.63 ha) of the Industrial Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area, and includes features such as electricity substations, telephone exchanges, gas works, refuse processing plants and sewage or water treatment works. The large majority (85.13% - 56.72 ha) municipal works date to the Later Twentieth Century, followed by sites dating to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period (13.16% - 8.77 ha). Municipal works are found throughout the Wirral Peninsula. The earliest sites are concentrated towards the north of the Peninsula, in the historic cores of Liscard and New Brighton. One of the largest (8.35 ha) municipal depots is located in New Ferry, dating to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period.

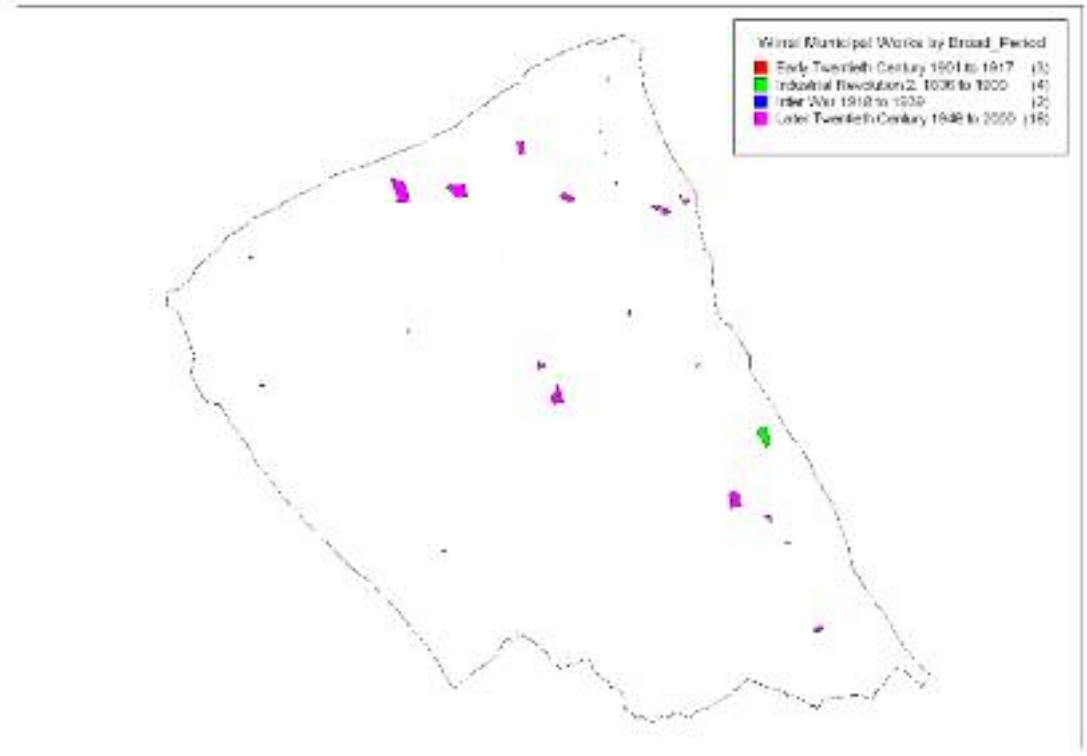

Figure 70 Current (2003) Municipal Works in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

Historically the first industrial utilities were the gas and sewage works. These were developed in the 19th century by the corporation, boards or private firms. Late 19th century gas holder stations are characteristic features of well-preserved Victorian urban and industrial landscapes. Sewage works were contributing factors to the health and sanitation reforms of the late 19th century. Other industrial utility types such as

gas holders and telephone exchanges tend to be on a smaller scale and have a more urban distribution. No large power stations were identified.

Municipal Works by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	4	8.77	13.16
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	3	0.85	1.28
Inter War 1918 to 1939	2	0.30	0.45
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	16	56.72	85.13
Total	25	66.63	100%

Table 31 Current (2003) Municipal Works in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

9.5.10 Nursery

Within the Wirral MHCP Study Area, 0.36 ha of land are covered by the Nursery Sub Type, representing around 0.04% of the current Industrial Broad Type. Nursery has been included within the industrial category as the Sub Type is predominantly industrial (horticultural) in nature. However, the Sub Type also contains both Ornamental and Recreational (forming green spaces alongside allotments) and Commercial elements. The Sub Type also incorporates a range of horticultural activities, including industrial and market vegetable plots, garden centres, some orchards and commercial tree growing.

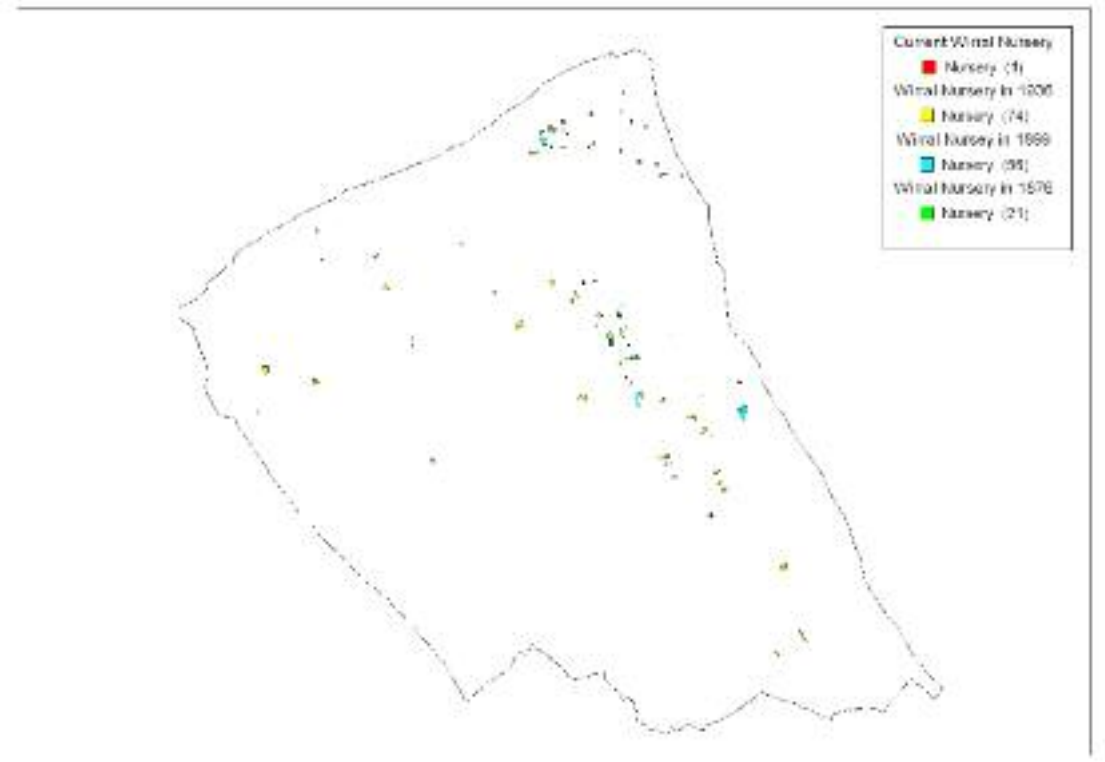

Figure 71 Past and Present Nursery in Wirral Study Area

The MHCP identified a single Current (2003) nursery site, dating to the Inter War (1918 to 1939) period and located immediately west of the M53 Motorway in Upton. Historically, nurseries were much more common, found throughout the Wirral Peninsula. In 1876 there were eight separate sites totalling some 10.95 ha. By 1899, there were thirty-five sites (25.53 ha) and by 1936 this had increased to seventy-four sites (33.92 ha). The reduction in nursery sites from 1936 to the current total (0.36 ha) is probably due to encroachment and absorption by urban development (particularly

by residential, industrial and commercial activities) and a general decrease in the need for nurseries and their products.

9.5.11 Warehousing

Industrial Warehousing accounts for nearly 2% (16.92 ha) of the Current Industrial Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. Warehousing is primarily located towards the east of the Wirral Peninsula, particularly near the riverfront (immediately behind dock and port related industry) and alongside major transport routes. The oldest surviving block of warehousing lies in Rock Ferry, immediately east of the main Chester to Birkenhead railway line. The majority of Inter War and Later Twentieth Century sites are found south of the Birkenhead Docks. Away from the Town centre, the large majority of warehousing date to the post-1945 period.

Warehousing by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	1	0.38	2.26
Inter War 1918 to 1939	4	2.19	12.94
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	13	12.65	74.76
Twenty-First Century 2001 to 2050	1	1.70	10.04
Total	19	16.92	100%

Table 32 current (2003) Warehousing in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

At first, warehousing was directly associated with dock and port activities - all dock systems need buildings where goods can be stored. This material can either have arrived by sea and needs to be moved to its final destination or it is waiting to be shipped out to somewhere else. The expansion of the Merseyside docks system meant that even more warehouses were required because the increase in dock traffic led to more goods coming in and out of the port.

Warehousing was also established near large industrial complexes, such as that at Port Sunlight. During the later 19th and early 20th centuries, warehousing was established alongside arterial transport routes leading away from the town centre. Large-scale Later Twentieth Century warehouses have been established to the south of the Wirral Peninsula, notably in the vicinity of Bromborough Pool (adjacent to the New Chester Road).

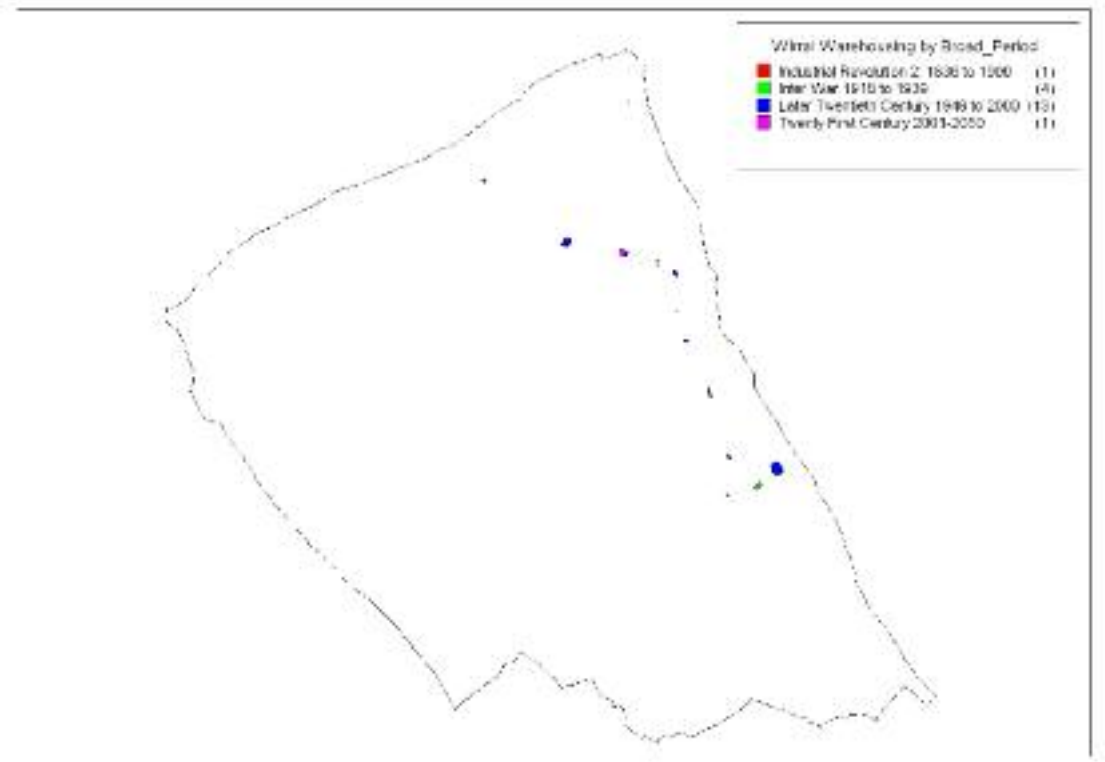

Figure 72 Current (2003) Warehousing in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

An example of former warehousing (in function) exists in two important grain warehouses found near the East Float in Birkenhead Docks. The Grade II listed Grain Warehouses (East Float Mills) are thought to have been designed by G.F. Lyster (architect of Liverpool's Waterloo Warehouse) and were built in 1850. The buildings were formerly used as a departure point for emigrants leaving the Country for Australia and later as a destination for cargo ships bringing in grain for the flour mill industry. The buildings continued to be used throughout the decline of the flour milling industry until 1999. The Warehouses have now been converted into new homes providing 168 contemporary loft style apartments (recorded as a 'Residential' Broad Type by the MHCP).

9.6 Civil Broad Type

Within Wirral there are 455.17 ha of land which contains the Civil Broad Type. This represents around 5% of the total Wirral MHCP Study Area. Eight principal MHCP Sub Types were identified for detailed analysis on the basis of their presence in the landscape or their historical significance:

- Cemetery
- College/University Area
- Cultural
- Hospital
- Institution
- Place of Worship
- Police Station
- School

Civil establishments are evenly dispersed throughout the district, with the largest ones tending to be educational institutions and cemeteries. Although comprising over 34% of the total number of polygons, Places of Worship only make up 13.37% of the Broad Type total. Places of Worship are usually single entities and, generally, occupy small plots (on average 0.33 ha). Schools are the largest Sub Type (in both number of polygons and area covered), comprising nearly 56% of the Civil Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area.

Civil Sub Type	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Cemetery	9	57.47	12.63
College/University Area	29	13.50	2.97
Cultural	72	18.48	4.06
Hospital	44	38.31	8.42
Institution	21	9.92	2.18
Place of Worship	183	60.86	13.37
Police Station	11	3.34	0.73
School	167	253.29	55.65
Total	536	455.17	100%

Table 33 Current (2003) Civil Sub Type in Wirral

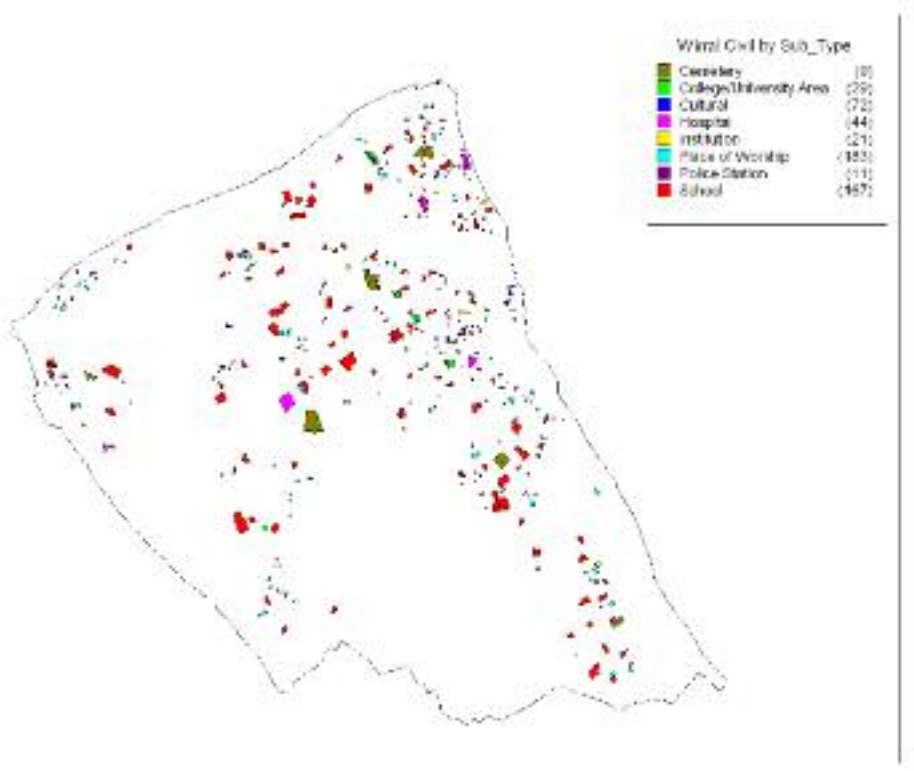

Figure 73 Current (2003) Civil Sub Type in Wirral Study Area

The majority of records date to the Later Twentieth century (1946 to 2000) at just over 56% - 255.9 ha, followed by Inter War (1918 to 1939) at 18.4% - 83.9 ha, and then Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) at 16.3% - 74.03 ha. Pre-1900 sites make up around 18% of the total, comprising places of worship, schools, cultural buildings, cemeteries and hospitals (NB the non-standard use of Medieval & Post Medieval periods is due to the recorder noting known dates of particular buildings, not consistently used within the MHCP).

Civil by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Medieval 1066 to 1539	3	5.36	1.18
Post Medieval 1540 to 1750	1	2.16	0.48
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	107	74.03	16.26
Early Twentieth Century: 1901 to 1917	62	28.98	6.37
Inter War 1918 to 1939	95	83.87	18.43
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	264	255.88	56.22
Twenty First Century 2001-2050	4	4.89	1.07
Total	536	455.17	100%

Table 34 Current (2003) Civil in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

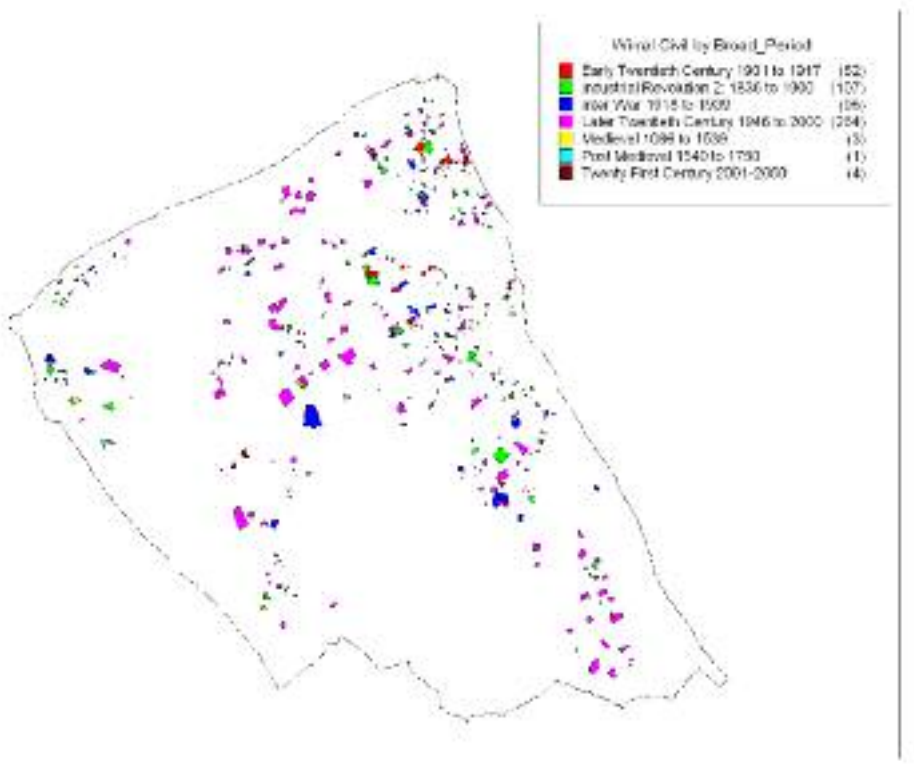

Figure 74 Current (2003) in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

The project acknowledges that the following information has been sourced and reproduced here, from Pevsner & Hubbard (1978) and from the English Heritage online databases (as accessed in 2010 - www.lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk) which has been superseded by The National Heritage List for England (English Heritage, 2011).

9.6.1 Cemetery

The Cemetery Sub Type is defined as burial grounds that are not associated with an established church or chapel. Thus, burial grounds and graveyards associated with churches, chapels or other places of worship were included in the MHCP records relating to these buildings rather than recorded as separate character areas. Sites may, however, include extensions and or additions to ecclesiastical burial grounds and contemporary mortuary chapels. Cemeteries represent 12.63% (57.47 ha) of the total area of the Civil Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area.

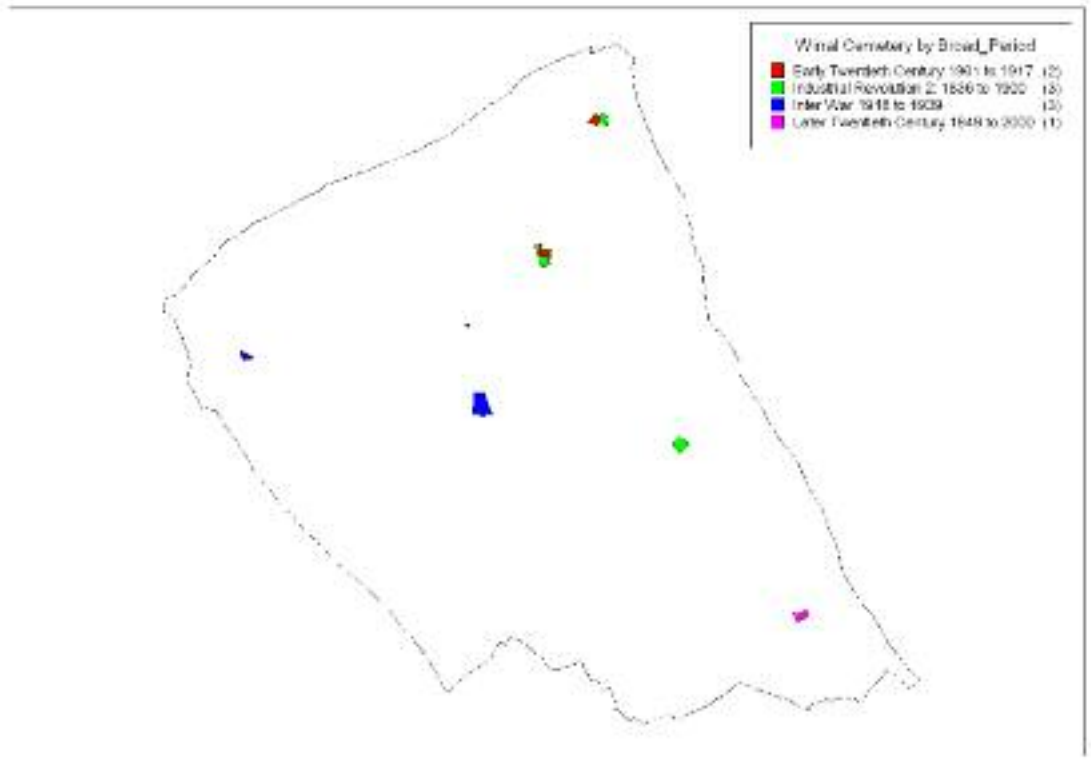

Figure 75 Current (2003) Cemetery in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

No cemeteries before 1836 were recorded. Nearly 39% (22.31 ha) of the cemeteries date to Inter war period (1918 to 1939), followed by just over 37% dating to the Industrial revolution 2 (1836 to 1900).

Cemeteries by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	3	21.27	37.01
Early Twentieth Century: 1901 to 1917	2	8.68	15.10
Inter War 1918 to 1939	3	22.31	38.81
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	1	5.22	9.08
Total	9	57.47	100%

Table 35 Current (2003) Cemetery in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

There are currently nine cemeteries managed by the Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council.[59] The MHCP survey area found seven distinct cemeteries - six of these comprising large, municipal burial grounds, and a single very small burial plot in Upton (established between 1912 and 1936).

The six municipal cemeteries identified in the MHCP Study Area are highlighted in bold:

- **Landican Cemetery and Crematorium**, Arrowe Park Road, Woodchurch
- Heswall Cemetery, Irby Road, Heswall
- Frankby Cemetery, Frankby Road, Frankby
- **Grange Cemetery**, Blackhorse Hill, West Kirby
- **Plymyard Cemetery**, Bridle Road, Bromborough
- **Bebington Cemetery**, Town Lane, Bebington
- **Wallasey Cemetery**, Rake Lane, Wallasey
- **Flaybrick Cemetery**, Tollemache Road
- St Mary's Churchyard, Eastham

[59] www.wirral.gov.uk/ . Wirral Council web page for information (Accessed 27 August 2011)

Until the population growth of the nineteenth century all burials in England took place in parish churchyards, and were recorded in church burial registers (parish registers for Wirral are held at Cheshire Record Office). From the 1820s public cemeteries began to be established, originally as commercial ventures. The first in England was the Necropolis in Liverpool, which opened in 1825. The growth in the population of Birkenhead led to the opening of the first municipal cemetery in Wirral, Flaybrick Cemetery (originally Birkenhead Cemetery), in 1864. Other municipal cemeteries followed: Bebington Cemetery (or Town Lane Cemetery) in 1868, Wallasey Cemetery (or Rake Lane Cemetery) in 1883, and Grange Cemetery in 1923. Landican Cemetery and Crematorium opened in 1934. Frankby Cemetery and Plymyard Cemetery both opened in 1940.

Flaybrick Memorial Gardens was originally known as **Flaybrick Cemetery**. The site chosen was Flaybrick Hill and consisted of 16.5 acres (6.6 ha). The cemetery was opened on the 30th May 1864. During the 1890s the site was extended to 26 acres (10.4 ha).

The following is from the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

The Birkenhead Improvement Commissioners were granted powers to establish a cemetery by order of Parliament in 1843. Joseph Paxton (1803-65) was approached for a design but a recession and subsequent decrease in the population of Birkenhead resulted in no action being taken. With the return of prosperity in the 1860s the proposal was revived and a competition held for the design of a cemetery on a c 6.7ha site adjacent to a sandstone quarry at Flaybrick Hill.

The competition was won by Edward Kemp (1817-91) who was assisted by the surveyor Edward Mills of Birkenhead. The buildings were designed by Liverpool architects Lucy & Littler and comprised three mortuary chapels, a Registrar's office, and a Sexton's lodge. The cemetery at Flaybrick was the first municipal public cemetery on the Wirral.

Kemp was responsible for the laying out of Birkenhead Park to designs by Joseph Paxton, was appointed superintendent there in 1845 and, in 1847 also set up in private practice. In addition to designs for a number of public parks in the north-west of England, Kemp also designed the layout of the City of Liverpool Cemetery at Anfield, opened in 1863.

Work on the Birkenhead cemetery commenced in 1862. The general contractor was William Rimmer of Bidston Hall, and John Middlehurst of St Helens was the contractor for the buildings. Kemp's formal layout for the southern area of the cemetery set the linked Anglican and Nonconformist chapels, together with their main approach and two entrances, on an east/west axis aligned with Bidston Avenue (formerly Bailey Street) leading up from Birkenhead town centre to the east (1864 plan). In the north-west area of the site, the Roman Catholic chapel was set within a formal path layout (1864 plan). Some 2 ha was allocated for Anglican burials, c 2.4 ha for Nonconformists, and c 2.2 ha for Roman Catholics. The cemetery, at first named Birkenhead Cemetery, and from c. 1956 known as Flaybrick Hill, was opened on 30 May 1864.

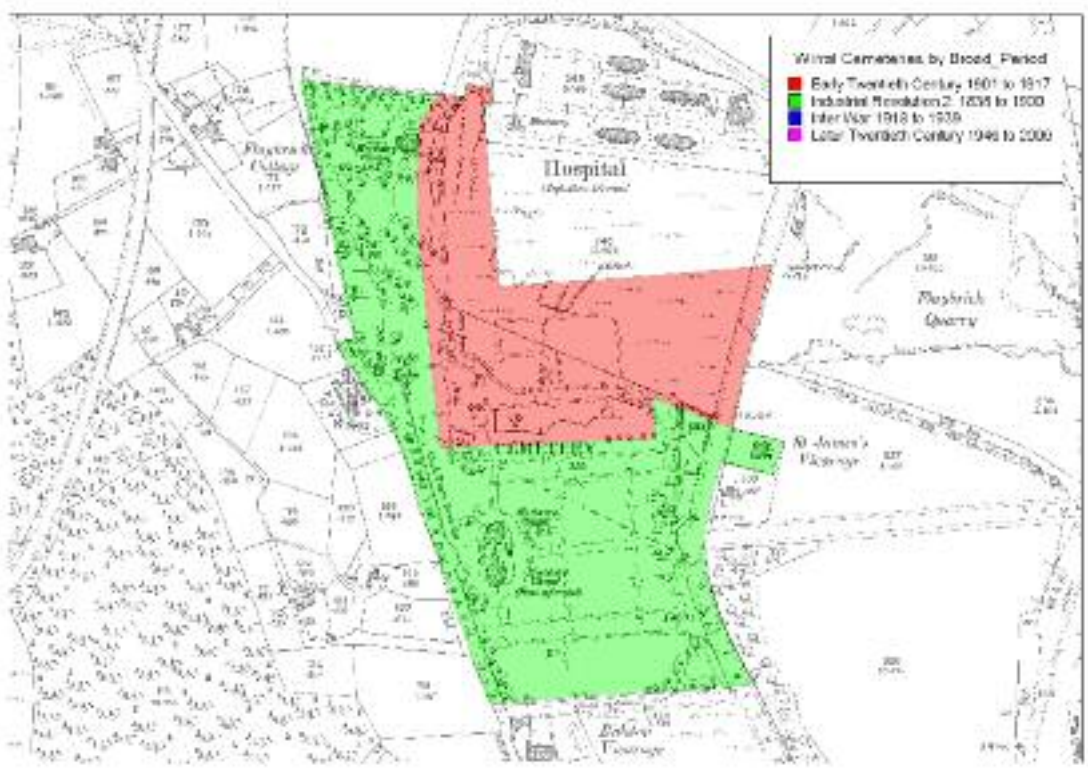

Figure 76 Flaybrick Cemetery (Current 2003 area) Wirral on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh. 1899. The original 1860 cemetery is depicted in green, with the 1890s extension to the north in red.

To the north-east of the 1864 cemetery, the Birkenhead Improvement Commissioners had acquired c 1.7 ha of land together with the adjoining Flaybrick Quarry of c 5.3 ha for future expansion. The cemetery was extended into these areas in the late 19th century and early 20th century (Ordnance Survey maps of 1899, 1912, 1927) although only a part of the former quarry site was utilised.

The Roman Catholic chapel was demolished in 1971 and a Memorial Wall erected on the site. The Anglican and Nonconformist chapels were last used in 1975. The Registrar's office and Sexton's lodge are now in private ownership. In 1994 the cemetery was renamed Flaybrick Memorial Gardens.

Bebington Cemetery on Town lane opened in 1868, originally set out in a basic grid-pattern with two northern mortuary chapels (Roman Catholic and Non-Conformist - both demolished) fronting on to Town Lane, leading to a southern Episcopalian mortuary chapel (replaced).

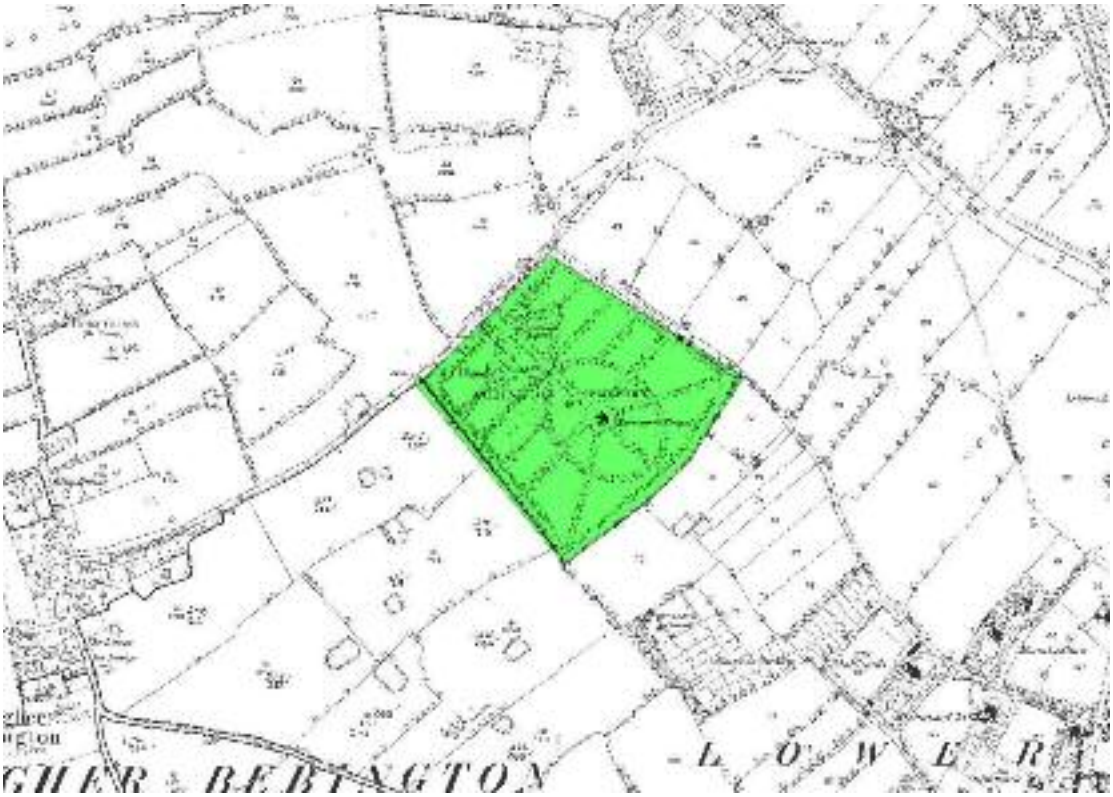

Figure 77 Bebington Cemetery, Wirral depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh.1899

Wallasey Cemetery - In December, 1876 a committee was formed to select a site for a municipal cemetery in Wallasey. The decision depended upon the suitability of the soil and fifteen sites were surveyed, including Mill Lane, Grove Road and Seabank Road. Nearly two years later three sites, at Manor House, Earlston and the land at the Grammar School, were still in the running. They ranged in value from ten to eleven

thousand pounds. Eventually, the Earlston site was chosen and the cemetery officially opened in 1883, after completion in 1882.[60]

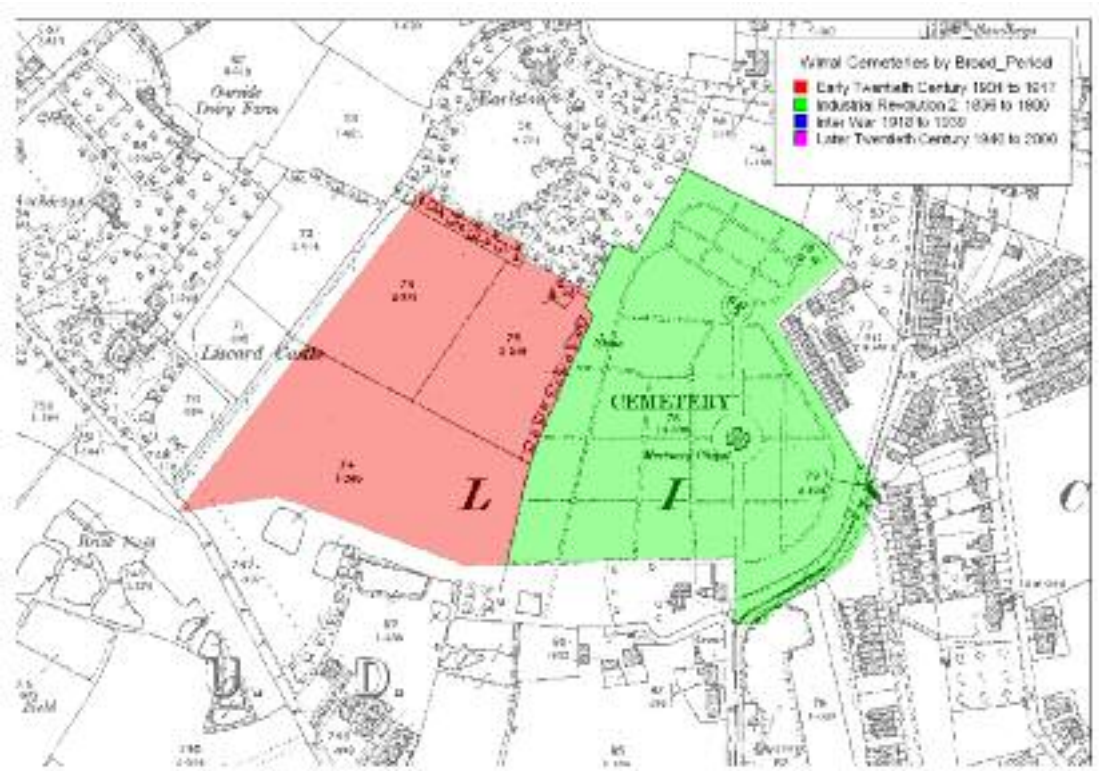

Figure 78 Wallasey Cemetery, Wirral on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh. 1899. The original 1880s cemetery is depicted in green, with a later extension (1900s) depicted in red. (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

A special feature of this cemetery is that many of its monuments are connected with major maritime disasters of the early twentieth century, including *Titanic*, *Lusitania* and the *Empress of Ireland*. But, among other associations with the sea are the Liverpool pilot boat disasters of 1917 and 1939 and the tragic loss of the submarine *Thetis*. Notable grave headstones include New Brighton lighthouse to commemorate one of its keepers. Soldiers are buried here who fought in the Crimean War, the Boer War and another who fought with Garibaldi in Italy. There is also a memorial to 'One of The Few', a hero of the Battle of Britain.

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[60] http://www.wallaseycemetery.co.uk/history.htm Rake Lane Cemetery web site (Accessed (28 August 2011)

Grange Cemetery is a designated cemetery for the interment of the dead, lying between Black Horse Hill and Lang Lane. It was opened in 1923, and is constructed on a sloping site with outstanding views over Wirral to Liverpool Bay. The site is bounded by sandstone walling to Grange Hill but is open to its east boundary where it adjoins Grange Community Park.

Landican Cemetery was opened in 1934. This was also the first crematorium for Wirral and, at the present time, is the main cemetery for Wirral. The chapels and crematorium were designed by Richard Furniss (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

{The project acknowledges that the previous description and text on Flaybrick Cemetery was sourced, and reproduced here, almost entirely from the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks & Gardens of Special Historic Online database as accessed in 2010 (www.lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk) which has been superseded by The National Heritage List for England (English Heritage, 2011)}.

9.6.2 College / University Area

There are eight college sites in the Wirral MHCP Study Area, covering a total of 13.5 ha and representing nearly 3% of the current Civil Broad Type. No university buildings were identified within the study area (apart from those associated with the Wirral University Teaching Hospital); all of the sites being either sixth form colleges or Catholic Colleges (schools). The majority of sites date to the Later Twentieth century (82.15% - 11.09 ha), with only two having been founded before 1939. None of the Current college sites were founded before 1900.

College / University Area by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Early Twentieth Century: 1901 to 1917	1	0.62	4.59
Inter War 1918 to 1939	1	1.79	13.26
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	27	11.09	82.15
Total	29	13.50	100%

Table 36 Current (2003) College / University Area in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

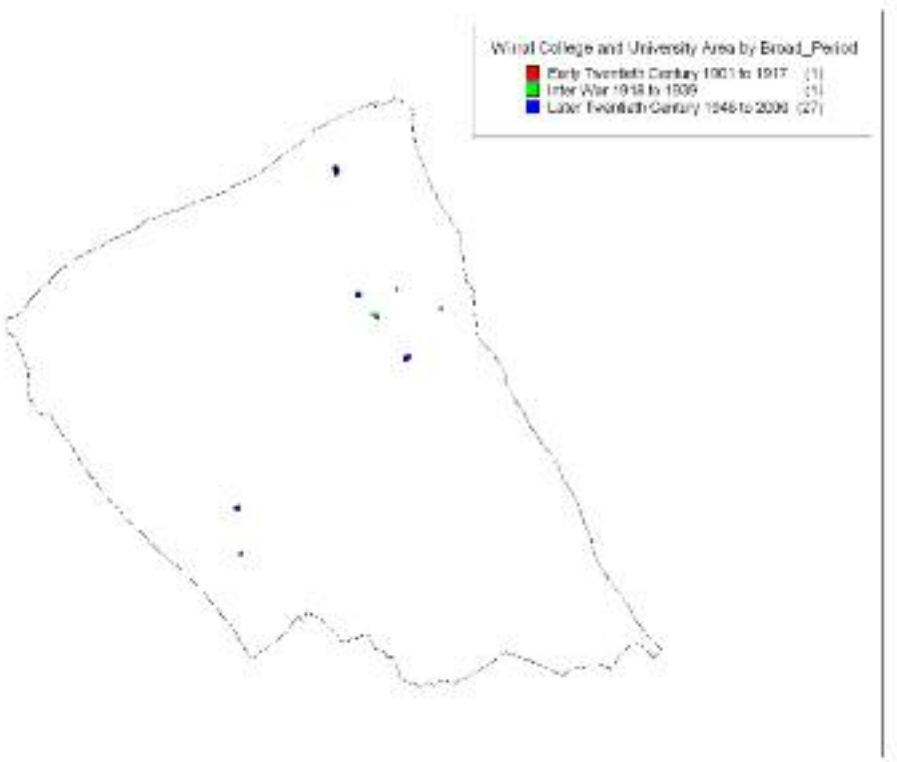

Figure 79 Current (2003) College / University Area in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

The earliest identified college building is the **Wirral Education Centre**, located on Conway Street in the centre of Birkenhead Town. The building was originally constructed as a school for boys and girls in 1903 by T.W. Cubbon. It is a Grade II Listed Building, constructed in brick with gold terracotta dressings and Westmorland slate roof (The National Heritage List for England, English Heritage, 2011)

St Anselm's College is a Boys' Voluntary Aided Grammar School, serving the Catholic community of Wirral and North Cheshire. The College was established in 1933, at the invitation of the Bishop of Shrewsbury, by the Congregation of Christian Brothers' Trustees, a lay religious order founded in Ireland by Blessed Edmund Rice in 1802. The college was built on Egerton Road, with an extension to the south (incorporating a large villa house called Oakhurst) in the later twentieth century. In 1946 it became a Direct Grant Grammar School and operated as such until 1975, when the Trustees opted for Independence to continue to provide single sex selective education.

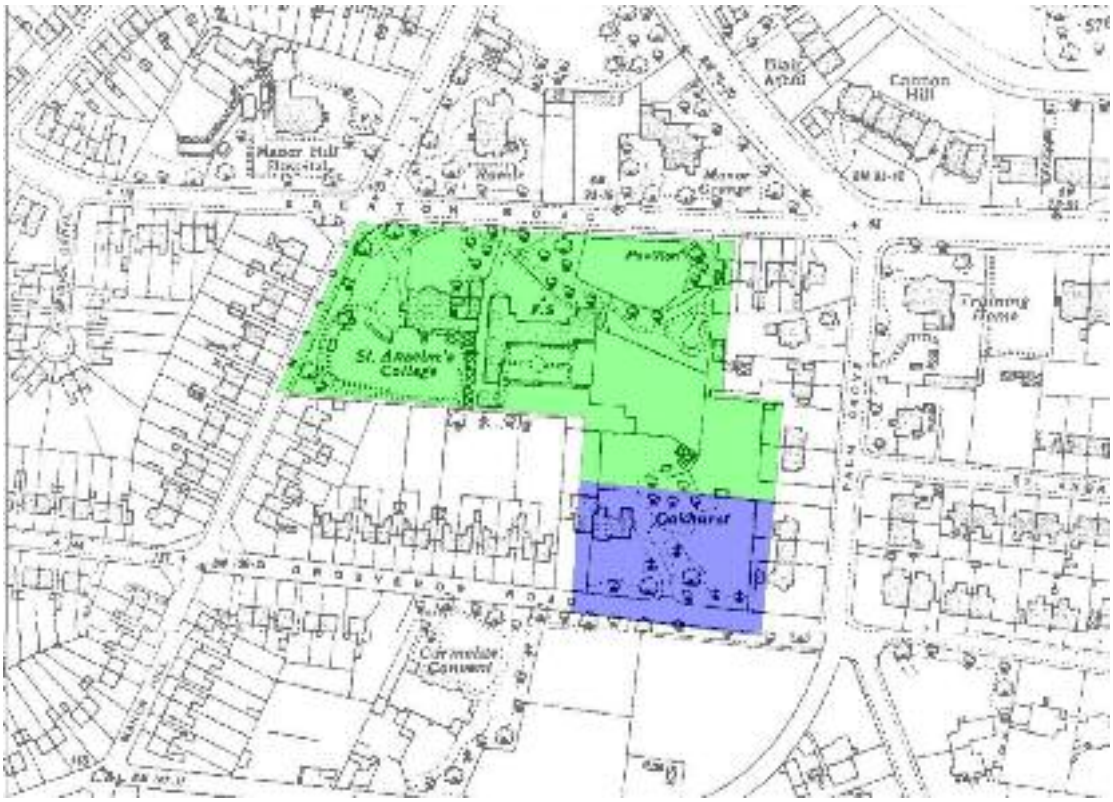

Figure 80 St Anselm's College (School) as depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh.1936.

The 1993 Education Act gave the Trustees the opportunity to re-enter the Maintained Sector and so, once again, offer parents the choice of a Catholic Grammar School education for their sons, irrespective of their means to pay. In 1995, the school became one of the first Independent schools to re-enter the Maintained Sector. In September 1999, the school has become Voluntary Aided in line with the statutes of the 1998 Education Act. [61]

Other modern examples:

Birkenhead Sixth Form College was established in 1988 on land formerly Allotment Gardens and a Nursery (1936) and, before that, open space (through to 1876).

Although depicted as a 'college' on modern mapping, St Mary's Catholic College is a large 11-18 mixed Catholic comprehensive school. The site was recorded as a college by the MHCP. One of the largest schools on Wirral, it is a very recent build, with many of the buildings dating to the twenty-first century. Prior to construction, the site was occupied by terraced housing, commercial buildings and nurseries (in 1936).

[61] http://www.st-anselms.com/Information/history.shtml St Anselm College web site (Accessed (28 August 2011)

9.6.3 Cultural

The Cultural Sub Type contains all buildings of cultural, municipal or civic nature, including; council offices (unless included in the commercial office Sub Type), community centres, public halls, libraries, museums, theatres and public baths.

By the nature of their functions, cultural buildings are predominantly to be found in urban or commercial centres. The higher-status types of civic buildings such as town halls are often grand and ornate buildings of architectural significance. Civic institutions of less high status such as libraries may also be representative of the design movements of their time. Civic and municipal institutions may form complexes of contemporary buildings set in formal grounds or gardens.

Cultural buildings account for about 4% (44.26 ha) of the Civil Broad Type in Wirral. The majority of Wirral's Cultural sites are found towards the east of the Peninsula, notably within Birkenhead and Wallasey. Many of the buildings in the Birkenhead commercial core date to pre-1900, occupying areas within, and directly associated with, commercial activity (all Commercial Sub Types). The overall total for this period equates to nearly 19% (3.45 ha). They are generally large public buildings covering the arts (museums, concert halls, theatres and monumental sculptures) and civic duties (halls and council offices).

Cultural by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	15	3.45	18.67
Early Twentieth Century: 1901 to 1917	11	1.50	8.17
Inter War 1918 to 1939	16	3.58	19.37
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	29	9.19	49.73
Twenty First Century 2001-2050	1	0.76	4.11
Total	72	18.48	100%

Table 37 Current (2003) Cultural in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

The largest group (by date) are post-1945 buildings, occupying nearly 50% (9.19 ha) of the Civil total. Buildings of this period are found evenly dispersed throughout the district. These dispersed buildings are generally small in size and have a wide range of functions, including local libraries, community halls and local establishments. There

is a great deal of overlap between this Sub Type and another Civil Sub Type – Institution.

Examples of cultural buildings:

Birkenhead Priory and St Mary's Tower - This Benedictine Monastery established in around 1150, is the oldest standing building on Merseyside

Birkenhead Tramway and Wirral Transport Museum - Birkenhead is the historic home of the first street tramway in Europe. It was here on August 29 1860 that Europe's first tramway was established, running from Woodside to Birkenhead Park. This early system was horse-drawn and was the brainchild of flamboyant American, George Francis Train

Williamson Art Gallery and Museum - This purpose built Art Gallery was opened in December 1928 and houses the vast majority of Birkenhead's collection of artistic masterpieces in a series of varied and well proportioned galleries. On permanent display are Victorian oil paintings, English watercolours, Liverpool Porcelain, DellaBir Robbia Pottery. A range of collections from local history and ship models to fine decorative arts. The building was designed by Leonard G. Hannaford and Herbert G. Thearle, and is constructed in a fresh and sensitive Neo-Georgian style (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Wirral Museum - formerly Birkenhead Town Hall 1883-7. One hundred and thirty eight architects competed for the design of Birkenhead Town Hall. The elevations of the building were required to be “in harmony” with the surrounding Georgian architecture of Hamilton Square. The building is in the classical style designed by C.O. Ellison & Son. It has two storeys of nine bays above a rusticated granite base. Ten Corinthian columns thirty foot high stand on a spacious platform twelve feet above street level and approached on both sides by a flight of steps. The clock tower rises to a height of 200 feet, it is built of stone. The lower portion of the tower has carved angles representing the prow of an ‘ancient canoe’.

The interior consists of, amongst other rooms, a large Mayor’s parlour and council room and a public hall or theatre capable of seating 600 to 700 persons. The principal entrance and grand staircase are impressive, the latter being lined with marble of various colours with immense shafts of marble carrying the lower walls, marble balustrades and jambs, the jambs of the principal opening are of Aberdeen granite. The stairways have elegant hammered iron scroll balustrades and wrought brass

candelabra and terminals on the newels. The floors of the corridors are laid with attractive tiling. The stained glass windows of the grand staircase contain an heroic window representing “commerce”. The windows on each side have medallions and figures representing “Peace and Plenty”. The ceiling light of the Council Chamber has a motto “The Earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof”.

The Wirral Museum is now closed to the public (2010). Public access to the museum is by appointment only.

Figure 81 Wirral Cultural Buildings as depicted on the 2003 mapping and Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh. 1899. Shown are the Town Hall and two museums (former industrial buildings). (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

There are 24 libraries in Wirral - the older libraries are located within established urban centres such as Birkenhead, Wallasey, New Brighton and Tranmere.

The Multicultural Centre, Birkenhead, was built in 1991-2. It was designed by the architectural section of Wirral Borough Council. It was built as a community centre to develop and celebrate the education, leisure and cultural diversity of the Chinese and Vietnamese communities living in the environs of Birkenhead. It is a focal point for multicultural education activities for local schools, for example celebrating the Chinese

New Year. Behind the centre is Pinecourt, a Housing Association development built originally to house a number of Vietnamese refugees coming to live in Birkenhead.

9.6.4 Hospital

The Hospital Sub Type represents around 8.42% (38.31 ha) of the total area of the Civil type in the MHCP Wirral Study Area. The category includes sheltered housing and retirement homes, hospitals, and larger scale clinics and surgeries.

In the second half of the 19th century, it was recognised that increasing urbanisation was bringing new health risks associated with poor living conditions. Social reforms to counteract this were put in place, and this led to the establishment of numerous hospitals and medical facilities. Three different kinds of hospitals existed in the past. Some of the earliest hospitals were run as charities and were known as voluntary hospitals. Hospitals were also set up by Poor Law authorities. In the 20th century public health authorities began to run hospitals.

In 1948 both the voluntary and public hospitals came into the ownership of the National Health Service and were put under the management of local hospital management committees. A reorganisation of the National Health Service in 1974 saw Wirral hospitals come under district health authorities as part of the Wirral Area Health Authority. Wirral Hospital National Health Service Trust was created in June 1992, later to become the Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in July 2008.

Wirral University Teaching Hospital manages two main hospitals: Arrowe Park Hospital in Upton and Clatterbridge Hospital in Bebington, and two outpatient and day-hospitals at Victoria Central Hospital and St Catherine's Hospital.

Hospital by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Post medieval 1540 to 1750	1	2.16	5.64
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	4	6.86	17.91
Early Twentieth Century: 1901 to 1917	2	1.64	4.28
Inter War 1918 to 1939	10	6.34	16.55
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	25	19.55	51.03
Twenty First Century 2001-2050	2	1.76	4.59
Total	44	38.31	100%

Table 38 Current (2003) Hospital in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

The majority of extant hospitals date to the Later Twentieth century (51.03% - 19.55 ha), followed by Industrial Revolution 2 Century (1836 to 1900) builds (17.91% - 6.86 ha) and then Inter War building stock (16.55% - 6.34 ha). Hardly any buildings date to the Early Twentieth century (1901 to 1917) period, which appears surprising. Perhaps the survival of this phase of building is particularly low; many hospitals of this date were located within the city centre and were lost due to bomb-damage or post-war redevelopment. Furthermore, many Victorian and Edwardian hospitals have been substantially altered, or even rebuilt, on the same site.

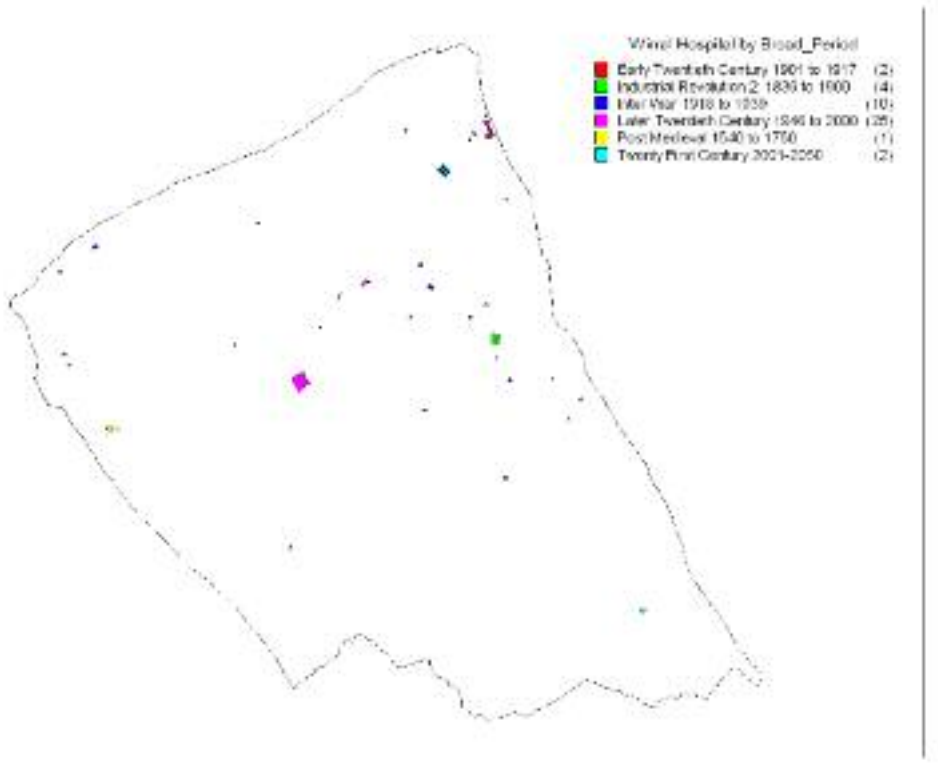

Figure 82 Current (2003) Hospital in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

Some examples:

Clatterbridge Hospital started out as a Union Workhouse - a new Wirral Union workhouse was erected in 1836-7 at Clatterbridge on the road from Birkenhead to Chester. It was designed by William Cole who was also the architect of the Winchester Union workhouse. In 1837, the Poor Law Commissioners authorised an expenditure of £2,500 on the building which was to accommodate 130 inmates. The building was financed by a loan from a clergyman, the Rev RM Feilden.

In 1861, parishes at the north of the Wirral separated to form the new Birkenhead Poor Law Union. After the ending of the workhouse system in 1930, Wirral workhouse

was renamed Clatterbridge (County) General Hospital; under the National Health Service, Clatterbridge Hospital. The original workhouse buildings were demolished in 1997.

Figure 83 The Modern Clatterbridge Hospital, on the site of Birkenhead Union Workhouse (Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh. 1899).

Arrowe Park Hospital - The present site occupies land formerly part of a private estate (elite residence). In 1807, Liverpool shipowner and slave trader John Shaw bought Arrowe House Farm and the surrounding land. On his death in 1829 it came into the ownership of his nephew, John Ralph Nicholson Shaw, who built Arrowe Hall in 1835 and had the grounds landscaped to form a country estate, with parkland, a lake and workers' cottages. The Hall was extended on several occasions in the later 19th century. Arrowe Hall and Park were acquired by Lord Leverhulme in 1908, who subsequently sold the estate to Birkenhead Corporation in 1926. On 1 April 1974, ownership was transferred from Birkenhead Corporation to the nascent Metropolitan Borough of Wirral local authority. Arrowe Park Hospital was built on 6.1 ha of parkland, and officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1982 (Wirral HER).

Victoria Central Hospital, Mill Lane in Wallasey. A hospital was built on this site in the period 1876 to 1899; it is first depicted as Mill Lane Hospital on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Cheshire, 1899. By 1936, the hospital had been enlarged, with an

outlying maternity ward and works depot. Although none of the late 19th century buildings remain, some of the early Twentieth century buildings are still in use.

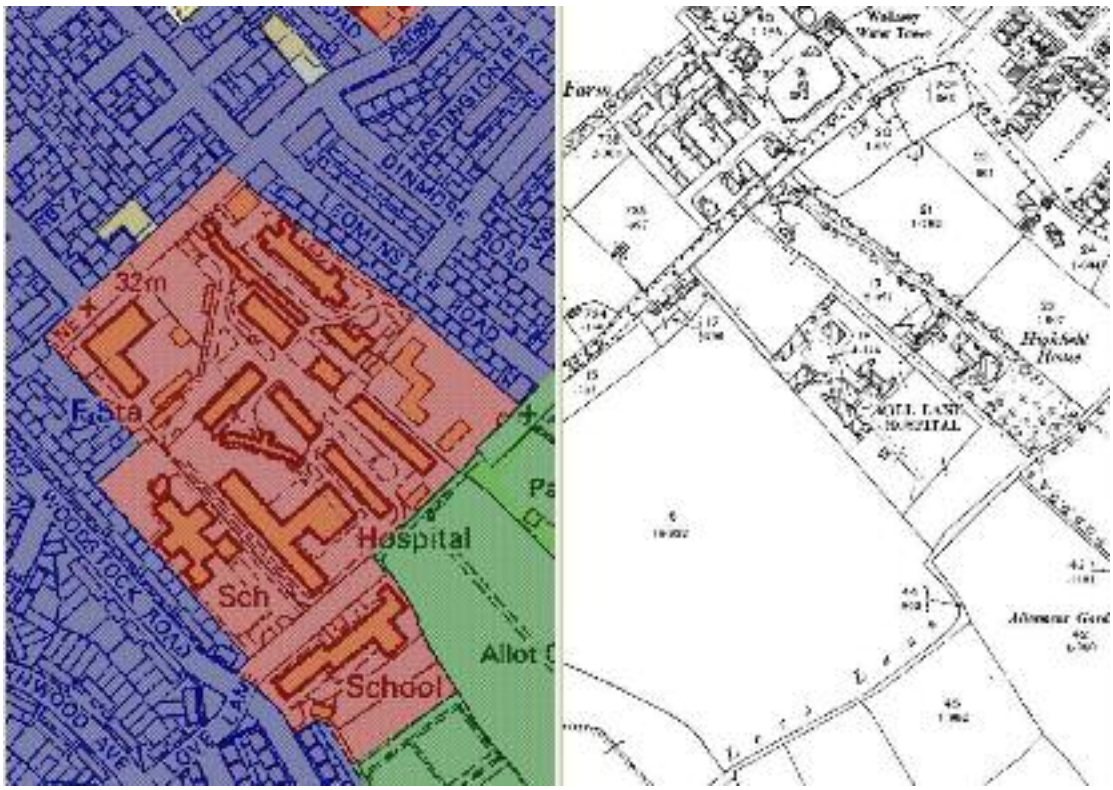

Figure 84 The Current (2003) site of Victoria Central Hospital, depicted as Mill Lane Hospital on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh.1899

9.6.5 Institution

Institution contains buildings that could not be assigned a definitive category. As such, it contains a range of buildings of differing origins and usage including; ambulance and fire stations, courts and some civic buildings and local government offices not attributed to Cultural or Commercial (Office) Sub Types.

The Institution Sub Type accounts for around 2.18% (9.92 ha) of the current Civil Broad Type in the MHCP Wirral Study Area. Many very small institutional buildings were not recorded as they were included within a Commercial (Office or Core) area, that being the predominant character type. There is a great deal of overlap between the Institutional Sub Type and other Civil (notably Cultural) buildings. Furthermore, there is a degree of overlap between the Institution Sub Type and the Commercial (Core) and Commercial (Office) Sub Types.

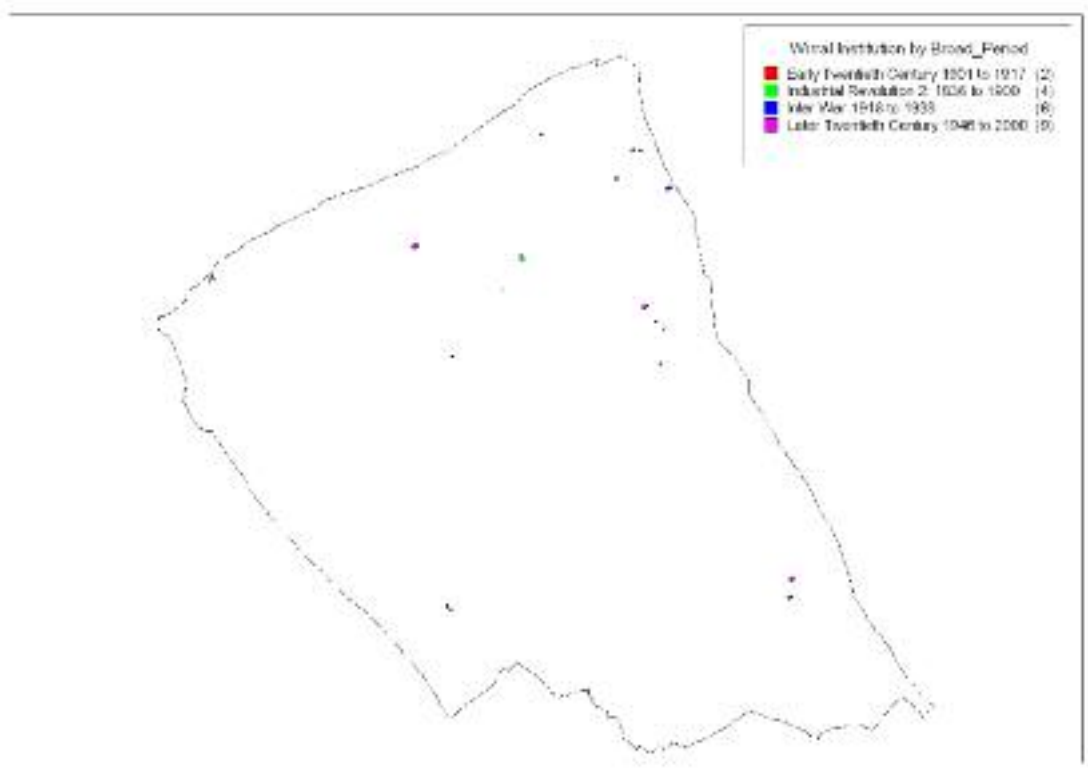

Figure 85 Current (2003) Institution in Wirral Study area by Broad Period of origin

Institutional buildings are found throughout the Wirral Peninsula, but the majority appear to be located towards the east - located on the coast and in the central part of Birkenhead. The Sub Type is closely associated with the Mersey riverfront and the

Birkenhead Commercial Core. The majority (58.5% - 5.80 ha) of the buildings date to the post-1945 period.

Institution by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	4	1.75	17.64
Early Twentieth Century: 1901 to 1917	2	0.73	7.36
Inter War 1918 to 1939	6	1.65	16.63
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	9	5.80	58.47
Total	21	9.92	100%

Table 39 Current (2003) Institution in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

Bidston Hill is a good example of historical Institutional activity - the area contains a number of institutional buildings, including a lighthouse, observatory and a former oceanographic institute (the Proudman Oceanographic Building).

A lighthouse has been in place on Bidston Hill since 1771, as an aid to entering the Mersey. The current lighthouse and cottages were built in 1873 and the light continued until 1913. The Bidston Observatory was originally built in 1866, with its distinctive white domes each housing a telescope (these can now be seen in World Museum Liverpool). For many years the observatory was connected by telegraphic line to the "One o'clock Gun", situated at Morpeth Dock in Birkenhead, which fired every day at 1:00pm to indicate the exact time to the citizens of Liverpool and Wirral. As well as astronomical observation, equipment was installed to measure seismic activity as early as 1897, when seismology was a relatively new science, followed by the arrival in the 1920s of the Liverpool Tidal Institute. The Institute grew to receive worldwide acclaim for its expertise in analysing and predicting tides.[62]

[62] http://www.pol.ac.uk/home/history/ National Oceanography Centre web page (Accessed 28 August 2011)

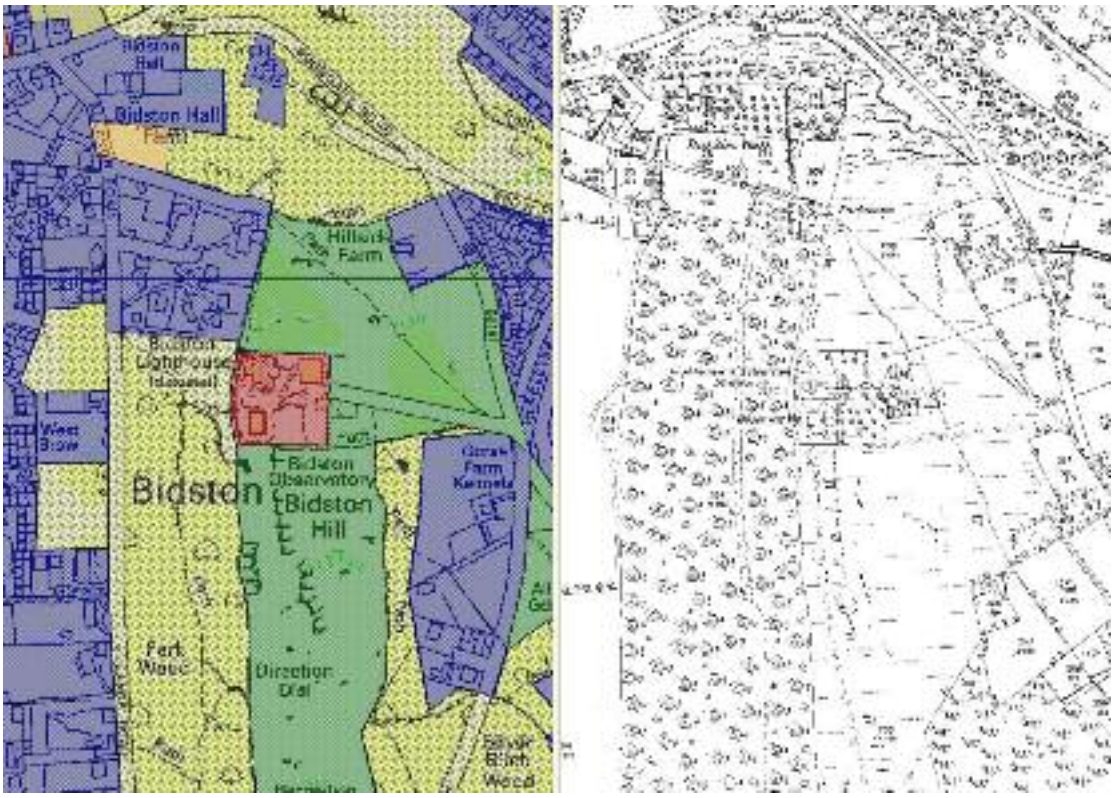

Figure 86 Bidston Hill Observatory and Lighthouse depicted on the Current (2003) mapping and on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh.1876. The 2003 mapping also shows the Proudman Oceanographic Building, built in the 1980s.

9.6.6 Places of Worship

Places of worship and other religious buildings represent 13.4% (60.86 ha) of the Civil Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. The first category represents churches and chapels of all denominations, as well as meeting houses, Kingdom Halls, mosques and synagogues. Small religious houses, including Non-conformist chapels of the 19th century, were either recorded individually (where they were visible) or as attributes of residential areas. Examples of the Religious (non-worship) type included Salvation Army Halls, convents (sometimes with attached nursing homes) and church halls. Sunday Schools were more-often-than-not, recorded as educational rather than religious institutions.

The overwhelming majority of sites of worship in the City are Christian churches and chapels. The majority of these date to the Industrial Revolution 2 Period (1836 to 1900) at just over 39% (23.9 ha), followed by sites dating to the Later Twentieth Century (1946 to 2000) at 30% (18.3 ha). A single Mosque (Shahjalal Islamic Mosque and Cultural Centre, Borough Road, Birkenhead) was also recorded. Although no current Jewish Places of Worship were identified in the Wirral MHCP Study Area, the district has a long tradition of Judaism. Shopkeepers operating in Birkenhead inaugurated their first minyan in 1889 in a room in Argyle Street, while business and professional people who could afford to commute from across the Mersey opened their first synagogue in a former chapel in Egremont, Wallasey, in 1911.[63]

Many of the borough's medium to large sized churches were built in the 19th century as part of urban and suburban expansion, forming an integral part of the built and social environment. Many of these were high status, ornate buildings of architectural significance. Within the immediate environment of many churches and chapels were associated features such as lych gates, graveyards, halls and presbyteries, all of which may themselves be of historical interest or architectural merit. Graveyards may contain unusual grave markers or fine sculpture. However, some chapels, particularly those built in the second half of the 19th and the early 20th century, occupied relatively small plots and did not have associated burial grounds or buildings.

[63] www.liverpooljewish.com/community/history-of-merseyside-jewry.php Merseyside Jewish Community web page (Accessed 10 February 2010)

Churches continued to be built in the 20th century, with about sixty between the 1900 and 1939, and a further fifty-seven dating to the second half of the 20th century, including both those recorded as Place of Worship Sub Type areas and the smaller sites noted in the database as existing within Residential areas (as attributes). Many of the churches built in the post-war period are associated with the development of large-scale housing estates and social housing.

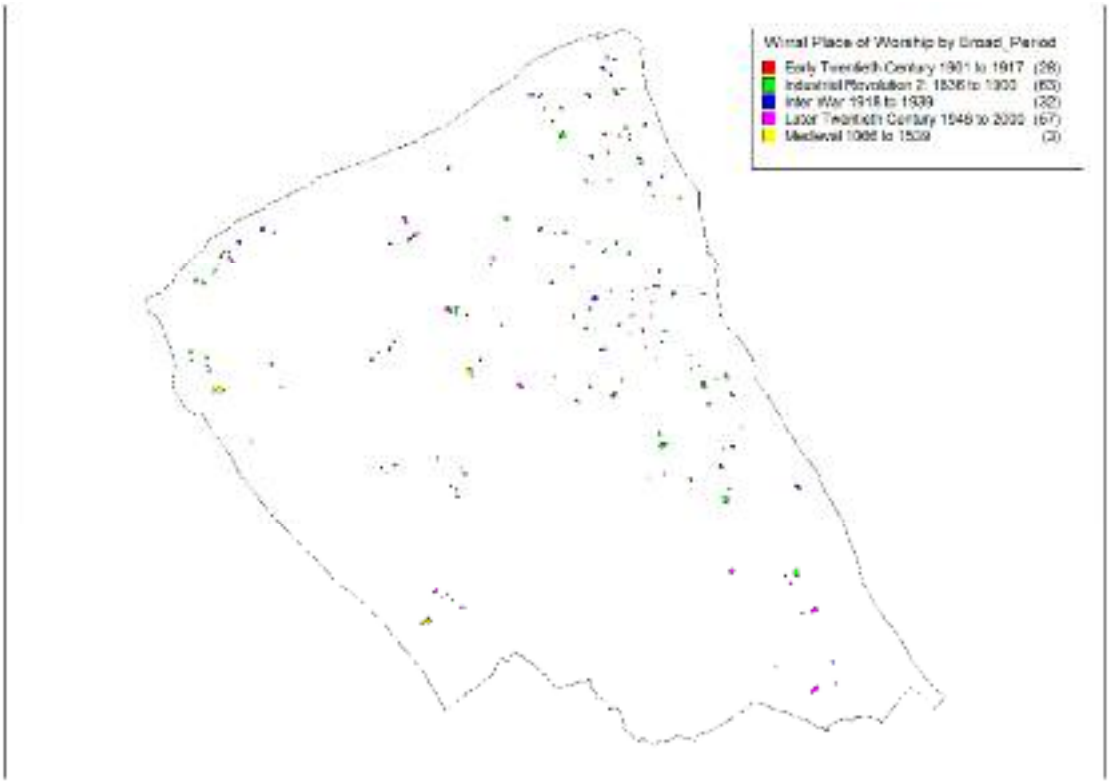

Figure 87 Current (2003) Place of Worship in Wirral Study area by Broad Period of origin (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

Whilst many religious buildings are afforded some protection as Listed Buildings, others are vulnerable to demolition but still form an important element of the urban landscape and should be sympathetically reused where they are no longer used for their original purpose. It is not unusual for urban chapels or churches to be reused as warehouses or for other commercial purposes or, more recently, as apartments; those in more rural settings may be particularly suitable for residential conversion.

The project acknowledges that the following information has been sourced and reproduced here, from Pevsner & Hubbard (1978) and from the English Heritage online databases (as accessed in 2010 - www.lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk) which

has been superseded by The National Heritage List for England (English Heritage, 2011).

Places of Worship by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Medieval Period 1066 to 1539	3	5.36	8.81
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	63	23.88	39.24
Early Twentieth Century: 1901 to 1917	28	4.29	7.05
Inter War 1918 to 1939	32	9.03	14.84
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	57	18.30	30.07
Total	183	60.86	100%

Table 40 Current (2003) Place of Worship in Wirral Study area by Broad Period of origin

Examples:

Medieval Churches

St Andrew's Church in Lower Bebington originates in the Norman period, but has later Victorian alterations and additions. Two bays of the south arcade date c.1200, the windows to c.1300, and the tower and blunt-broach spire to the early to mid 14th century. The north and south chapels date to the Perpendicular period (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

The Benedictine priory of St James in Priory Street, Birkenhead is the oldest standing building in Merseyside. The remains of the priory are a Grade I listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It was originally isolated on a headland overlooking the River Mersey, but is now hemmed in by shipyard graving docks. Although said to have been founded c.1150 by Hamon de Masci, the third Baron of Dunham Massey, the date of this foundation may have been a little later in the 12th century (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

The Priory was visited twice by Edward I due to its strategic importance being close to the borders of Wales, and also the Irish Sea. In 1318 the monks from Birkenhead Priory were granted ferry rights by Edward III. This allowed them to build a house in what is now Water Street to store their corn. The house was also used by travellers for shelter if the weather was too bad for the ferry to cross the River Mersey. The priory continued in use until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536, when the site

was bought by Ralph Worsley for £568. After the death of Ralph Worsley in 1572 all rights were passed on to Thomas Powell of Denbigh after he married Ralph Worsley's eldest daughter. In 1600 a manor house was built on the site of the old hostel, called 'The Priory'. During the English Civil War, the priory was occupied by Royalists and fortified - it was later lost to Parliamentary forces under the command of Sir William Brereton. They destroyed the one time Lodging House of the Benedictine monks.

The wealthy Liverpool merchant John Cleaveland bought the Priory in 1709, on his death Francis Price of Flintshire was now the owner having married Cleaveland's daughter. The Price family ownership lasted for 150 years. The foundation stone of St Mary's Church is laid by the Rt. Hon. Lord Kenyor. The Church was built in the grounds of the Old Priory and completed in 1822. The manor house was demolished in 1842-3. In 1896 it was bought by the Birkenhead Borough Council. In 1980 Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council commenced restoration work.

The priory's chapter house is consecrated as an Anglican church, and is still used for services. There is a chapel dedicated to the training ship HMS *Conway*. There is also a museum detailing the history of the site. The chapter house is a Grade II* listed building and contains items of Norman architecture. In 2005 the chapter house was restored.

St Peter, Lower Village, Heswall. Red sandstone. The lower stage of the tower is 14th century, with the bell-openings in a Late Perpendicular style. The remainder of the church was rebuilt in 1879 by J. Francis Doyle in a late 13th century style. In 1893 Doyle extended the chancel and added the Brocklebank Memorial Chapel (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Bridget, Church Road, West Kirby. Some 14th century masonry survives, particularly in the south and east walls of the chancel, north chancel aisle and adjoining vestry. Late 15th or early 16th century tower with pairs of two-light bell openings. The church was almost completely rebuilt and the south aisle added in 1869-70 by Kelly and Edwards of Chester. Further restored and a north porch added in 1876 (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Holy Cross, Church Lane, Woodchurch. To a 12th century nave was added a 14th century southern aisle. Its four-bay arcade has double chamfered arches and octagonal piers with broad capitals. The present aisle itself and the porch are 16th century, possibly post-Reformation. The western tower is 14th century, though the

massive buttresses were added in 1675 and the tower was later refaced. 12th century work remained *in situ* in the north wall of the nave until a north aisle was added in 1964-5 (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978)

Post medieval Churches

St Oswald, Hoylake Road, Bidston. The tower of this church dates to the early 16th century, with heraldic evidence of shields over the western door dating to between 1504 and 1521. The remainder of the church was rebuilt in 1855-6 by W. &. J. Hay, with a chancel extension in 1882 by G.E. Grayson (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). The MHCP has characterised this church as belonging to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period, although parts of the church pre-date this.

Early 19th Century Churches

St Mary, Priory Street, Birkenhead was built in 1819-21 by Thomas Rickman. Built adjoining the Priory ruins, at the expense of F.R. Price as part of his plan to develop Birkenhead as a resort. Like the prior, it commanded a view of the river until the shipyards came. Built in red ashlar, with pinnacles and battlements. The church originally had a five bay, aisleless nave, polygonal altar recess and western tower with slender octagonal spire. Transepts were added in 1832-5 (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). Redevelopment of the area from 1925 resulted in a large amount of residential housing within the parish being cleared to make way for the construction of the first Mersey Tunnel. An expansion of the Number 5 dry dock at the adjacent Cammell Laird shipyard in the 1960s resulted in the church losing a significant portion of its graveyard. Subsequent redevelopment of the approach roads to the Mersey Tunnel effectively cut off the church from most of what remained of its parish, further dwindling the congregation. St. Mary's Church closed in 1974 and was partly demolished a year later, for reasons of safety. Only the former church tower and parts of the outer walls were retained in site. The tower has since been refurbished and is dedicated to those who died on HMS *Thetis*.

St John, Liscard Road, Egremont. 1832-3 by H. Edwards. Externally, this is without doubt the finest church in the Wallasey area. Ashlar-faced, with a five-bay front to which is attached a portico of Greek Doric Columns with pediment. The interior suffers from being deprived of it galleries and from remodelling in 1892. The church is aligned on the wide Church Street, which at the time had many excellent buildings (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Holy Trinity, Trinity Road, Hoylake. 1833 by Sir James Picton of Liverpool. An early work of his – red sandstone, aisleless nave of Norman style and an Early English chancel (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978)

St Catherine, Church Road, Tranmere. A brick church of 1831 altered and enlarged in 1875-6 by J. Francis Doyle. Doyle removed a western gallery from the box-like 1831 nave, replaced a flat ceiling with an open roof, and added a chancel and transepts in rock-faced sandstone (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Mid to late 19th Century Churches

Christ Church in Barnston is dated to 1870-1, designed by G.E. Street. It is aisleless, with a simple, Streetish exterior. Rock-faced, with a red-tiled roof (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Christ Church on King's Road, Higher Bebington dates to 1857-9, designed by Walter Scott. The church has a northwestern steeple added in 1885. The style is late 13th century (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Anne, Beckwith Street, Birkenhead was built c.1846-50 by William Cole. Constructed in red ashlar in the Gothic style (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St James, Laird Street, Birkenhead. Begun in 1845 by C.E. Lang, and intended to serve the now demolished blocks of workers' flats near by (the Dock Cottages) also by Lang. The Church and flats stood isolated at the extremity of the longest street in the rectangular layout of Birkenhead, far beyond the point at which any building has taken place. The church now occupies an island site, closing the view along the river. The church stood unfinished until completed in 1858 by Walter Scott (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St John Evangelist, Grange Road, Birkenhead was built in 1845-7 by Charles Reed (later Charles Verelst). Red ashlar, with aisles, transepts, shallow sanctuary, thin western tower and spire. It is a well-proportioned and consistent work, and the interior is impressive (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception (Roman Catholic), Cavendish Street built in 1860-2 by E.W. Pugin, with a chancel added in 1876-7 by Pugin and Pugin to a simplified design. Rock-faced, polygonal apse, clerestory and western rose window. The intended northeastern tower was never built (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Laurence Roman Catholic Church, Beckwith Street, Birkenhead was built in 1889-90 by Edward Kirby to replace an earlier church rendered unsafe by railway tunnelling (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Peter, Cathcart Street. 1886-8 by David Walter was completed in 1882-3. Brick with some stone dressing (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Holy Trinity, Price Street, Birkenhead was built in 1837-40 by Cunningham & Holme. Built in ashlar, it is a lively and bizarre adaptation of the Norman style. The exterior is indescribable in the profusion and oddity of its detail, including grotesque masks, heads and statues (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Werburgh Roman Catholic Church, Grange Road, Birkenhead was built 1835-7. A competent classical design, rectangular and aisleless (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Oxton Road Congregational Church, Woodchurch Road, Birkenhead. 1857-8 by William Cole. Thin, incorrect Decorated Gothic style. The intended spire was never built and the tower has lost all its pinnacles (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Barnabas, Bromborough. 1862-4 by Sir George Gilbert Scott. A large church of the village-gone-prosperous. Nave and aisles, chancel and semi-circular apse, northeast steeple with broach spire and geometrical tracery (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Bromborough Pool Village Chapel, Bromborough Pool Village. 1889-90 by Leach of London. Built as part of the Bromborough Pool Model Village, founded in

Resurrection and All Saints, Caldy. Built originally as a school in 1868 by G.E. Street, at the expense of Elizabeth Barton. Converted and a chancel and saddleback tower added in 1906-7 by Douglass and Minshull (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Christ Church, Christchurch Road, Claughton Road. Built in 1844-9 by William Jearrad. One of the decidedly un-Camdenian churches of early Birkenhead and an interesting example of the breed, with an odd mixture of Gothic elements. Constructed in red ashlar, with a tall and narrow nave without aisles (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Mark, Devonshire Road, Claughton. 1890-1 by C.W. Harvey and Pennington & Bridgen. Rock-faced, with a clerestory and polygonal baptistery. The tower was built in 1913 and stands clear of the south aisle (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Hildeburgh, Stanley Road, Hoylake. 1897-9 by Edmund Kirby. Exterior of pressed brick and terracotta, with an unusually good brick interior, warm and mellow. Five-bay nave with arcaded columns of polished granite (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Mary, Withens lane, Liscard. 1876-7 by E.W. Nobbs, with Grayson as a consultant (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Memorial Unitarian Church, Manor Road, Liscard. 1898-9 by Waring and Rathbone. A low, asymmetrical, secular-looking building with a large mullioned and transomed window, a turret, and a porch or loggia set at an angle (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Christ Church, Upton Road, Moreton. 1862-3 by Cunningham and Audsley (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Mark, New Chester Road, New Ferry. 1865-6 by the younger Edward Haycock. Rock-faced sandstone, with a five-bay nave, clerestory and western bellcote. The chancel (ashlar lined) was added in 1910 by Deacon and Horsburgh (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Saviour, Bidston Road, Oxton. 1889-92 by C.W. Harvey and Pennington & Bridgen, replacing a church of 1846 rendered inadequate by the growth of Oxton as a Victorian suburb. Built in rock-face red sandstone, Decorated Gothic, cruciform plan with a broad central tower, clerestory and narrow passage aisles (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

All Saints, Shrewsbury Road, Oxton. 1879, with side-lights of 1900 (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Holy Name of Jesus Roman Catholic Church, Beresford Road, Oxton. 1899 by Edmund Kirby, in the grounds of his own house, Overdale. Small aisleless church of intimate scale with a brick interior (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Village Road, Oxton. Built as Oxton Public Offices in 1874 by Joseph Brattan (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Emmanuel, Seabank Road, New Brighton. 1899-1909 by C.E. deacon. Very red brick, no tower (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St James, Victoria Road, New Brighton. 1854-6 by Sir George Gilbert Scott. Northeast steeple with thin broach-spire. Polygonal apse (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Luke, Breck Road, Poulton. 1899-1900 by Harry May. Norman style, drum-shaped with blank arcading (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Stephen, Prenton Lane, Prenton. Started in 1897 by C.E. Deacon and completed in 1909 by Deacon & Horsburgh. Deacon's masterpiece, though somewhat flawed. Basically Gothic, but with fresh and underivative detailing (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Peter, St Peter's Road, Rock Ferry. 1841-2 by Hurst and Moffat. Built in red ashlar, in a thin sort of Norman, with a western tower and recessed spire (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Anne Roman Catholic Church, Highfield Road, Rock Ferry. 1875-7. Designed by E.W. Pugin but completed after his death by Pugin and Pugin. Later additions and enrichments, with the aisles added in 1934. The intended spire was not built (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Highfield Congregational Church, Rock Lane West, Rock Ferry. 1870-1 by Davis Walter (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Presbyterian Church, New Chester Road, Rock Ferry. 1857-8 by W. & J. Hay (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). Currently derelict.

Convent of the Holy Family (Roman Catholic), Highfield Road, Rock Ferry. Central block 1862-4 by E.W. Pugin. Later extensions include the enormous chapel block of 1931 (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Our Lady of the Sea Roman Catholic Church, Wheatland Lane, Seacombe. 1888-9 by Edmund Kirby. No tower; apse with geometrical tracery (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Paul, St Paul's Road, Seacombe. 1846-7 by the Hay Brothers, enlarged in 1859 and 1891 (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Joseph Roman Catholic Church, North Road, Tranmere. 1899-1900 by Edmund Kirby. Red pressed brick (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Luke, Old Chester Road, Tranmere. 1881 by G.E. Grayson (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Paul, Old Chester Road, Tranmere. 1854-5 by W. & J. Hay. Decorated Gothic style, with transepts but no aisles (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Paul Presbyterian Church, North Road, Tranmere. 1899-1900 by R.G. Sykes (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Mary, Ford Road, Upton. 1868 by John Cunningham, at the expense of William Inman of Upton Manor. Aisleless, with polygonal apse, southwestern tower, and diagonally placed organ chamber (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Hilary, Claremont Road, Wallasey Village. The church was rebuilt in 1858-9 by W. & J. Hay. Of the old church the tower remains, 13th century below, with blocked arches to west and north, and Henry VIII bell-openings. Money was given for the tower in 1527. The present Victorian church is big and has a crossing tower with stair turret and fussy tracery (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). Although containing medieval and post-medieval elements, the MHCP has characterised this church as belonging to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period.

St Alban Roman Catholic Church, Mill Lane, Wallasey. 1852-3 by Stephen R. Eyre and J.A. Hansom (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Andrew, Meols Drive, West Kirby. Begun in 1889-91 by Douglas & Fordham and completed in 1907-9 by Douglas and Minshull. Sandstone, ashlar interior. Neo-Perpendicular style, cruciform plan, with clerestory (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Early 20th Century Churches

St Columba, Seabank Road, Egremont. 1902-23 by C.E. Deacon. Hard red brick, no tower. In the details some influence of the Arts and Crafts, especially in the interior (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Presbyterian Church, Seabank Road, Egremont. 1907-8 by Briggs, Wolstenholme and Thornley. Large, Arts and Crafts Gothic with a big northwestern tower. Excellently composed, with the hall at right angles and in a Tudor style with mullioned and transformed windows (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Congregational Church, Station Road, Meols. 1906 by Douglas & Minshull. Brick and stone in a Perpendicular style (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978)

St John Baptist, Birkenhead Road, Meols. 1911-13 by Edmund Kirby. Chancel incomplete, tall with a high clerestory. Ambitious west front with two turrets. Brick interior, with stone columns and dressings (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Christ Church, Church Drive, Port Sunlight. 1902-4 by William & Segar Owen. Built at the expense, not of the Lever Brothers Company, but of Lord Leverhulme himself. Undenominational, but in the trustee-ship of the Congregational Union of England and Wales. Red sandstone, ashlar outside and in. Stone-flagged roof. Neo-Perpendicular style with Arts and Crafts touches. Cruciform in plan, with double northern transepts and a tower in the angle between chancel and south transept (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Barnabas, Bedford Place, Rock Ferry. 1903 by Grayson and Ould. The roof is continuous over the aisles, with a timber nave arcade (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Nicholas, Groveland Road, Wallasey. 1910-11 by J. Francis Doyle. Large, rock-faced, with a central tower and Perpendicular details (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978)..

Inter War Churches

Egremont Baptist Church, Liscard Road, Egremont. 1924-6 by J.E. Bladon. Light brick. Romanesque, with a campanile (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Catherine and St Martina Roman Catholic Church, Birkenhead Road, Hoylake. 1926-8 by the firm of Edmund Kirby & Son. Unexciting exterior in rustic brick with dormer windows. The interior is a surprise with narrow passage aisles, with bays spanned by a barrel roof (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

All Saints, Hose Side Road, New Brighton. 1927-39 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. Incomplete. Light brick, with a broad west tower with a very tall window with flowing tracery (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Peter and St Paul Roman Catholic Church, Atherton Street, New Brighton. 1932-5 by E. Bower Norris. Very large a fine landmark. Light brick and much stone, with a dome on a drum and two short western towers (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Post-1945 Churches

Holy Cross on Hoylake Road, Bidston was built in 1959 by F.X. Verlarde. The interior is not without merit (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Our Lady of Pity Roman Catholic Church, Greasby. 1952 by F.X. Verlarde. Tower at the southwestern corner, with a brick interior with low transverse arches (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Friends' Meeting House, Telegraph Road, Heswall. 1961-2 by Dewi Prys Thomas and Gerald R. Beech. Grey brick, some vertical boarding (Pevsner & Hubbard, 1978).

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Moreton. 1957 by Reynolds and Scott (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Alban, Northwood Road, Prenton. 1961 by Gerald R. Beech. Grey brick and much glazing in small panes. Slender bell-tower and triangular apse (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

Methodist Church, Church Road, Tranmere. 1966 by Paterson, Macaulay and Owens; replaced a huge octagonal church of 1861-2 by Walter Scott (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Moreton Road, Upton. 1953-4 by Adrian Gilbert Scott. The exterior is tasteful and consistent (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

English Martyrs Roman Catholic Church, St George's Road, Wallasey. By F.X. Verlarde, 1952-3. Light brick, with a southeastern campanile. Much decoration with sculptured figures (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978).

St Michael and All Angels Roman Catholic Church, New Hey Road, Woodchurch. 1965 by Richard O'Mahony & Partners. T-shape in plan, nave and transepts focused on the sanctuary, and a small eastern chapel (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978)

9.6.7 Police Station

The MHCP identified eleven separate Police Stations on the Current (2003) mapping, representing around 0.7% (3.34 ha) of the Civil Broad Type in the MHCP Wirral Study Area. They are found throughout the district, the older buildings located near the city centre or within historic settlement cores. More recent police stations are located within post-1945 housing estates. The majority of police stations (68.6% - 2.30 ha) date to the later twentieth century (1946 to 2000).

Police Stations by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	1	0.26	7.78
Inter War 1918 to 1939	3	0.79	23.65
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	7	2.29	68.56
Total	11	3.34	100%

Table 41 Current (2003) Police Station in Wirral Study area by Broad Period of origin

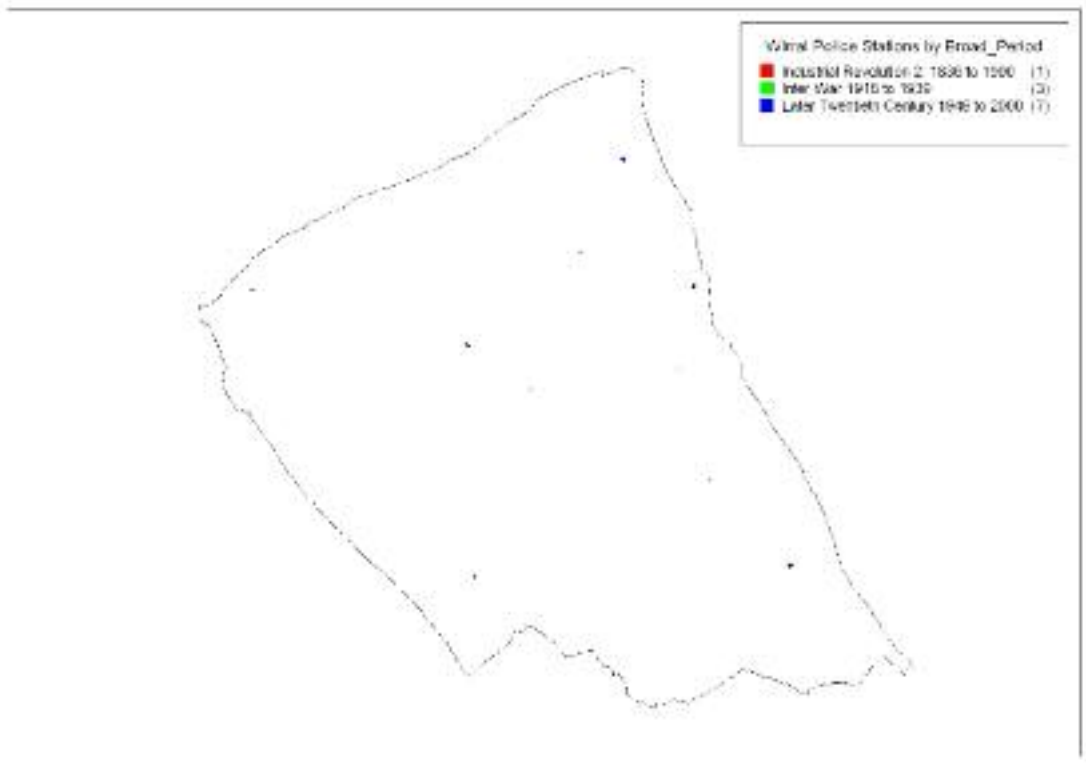

Figure 88 Current (2003) Police Station in Wirral Study area by Broad Period of origin

9.6.8 Schools

Schools cover approximately 253.29 ha, nearly 56% of the total area of Civil Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. Schools can easily be identified on current and historic mapping as they are usually named. In total 167 polygons were recorded for the MHCP Schools Sub Type.

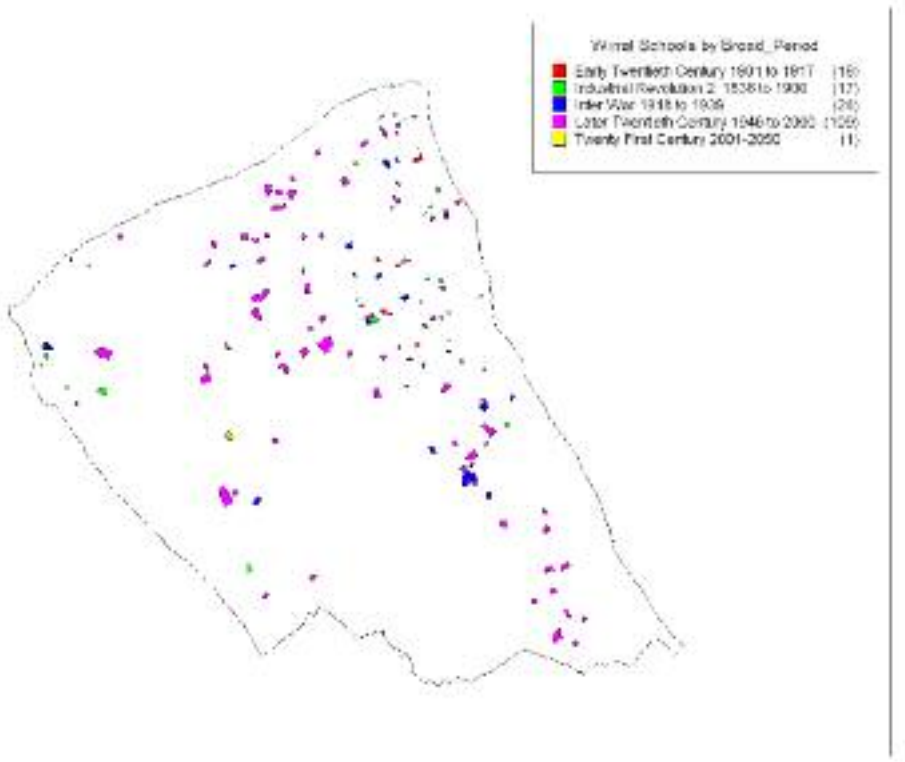

Figure 89 Current (2003) School in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

Schools by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	17	16.55	6.53
Early Twentieth Century: 1901 to 1917	16	11.53	4.55
Inter War 1918 to 1939	24	38.39	15.16
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	109	184.45	72.82
Twenty First Century 2001 to 2050	1	2.37	0.94
Total	167	253.29	100%

Table 42 Current (2003) School in Wirral Study area by Broad Period of origin

Educational houses are an integral part of many historic urban landscapes, and schools represent the greatest area of Civil land use in Wirral. This is a product both of the large amounts of land taken up by outside space associated with some schools, and the large number of individual sites.

Until the middle of the 19th century most schools were set up and maintained by churches and charitable organisations, providing a primary education. Secondary education was the responsibility of private or grammar schools. However despite the expansion of educational facilities, the rapid growth of the population meant that by the 1860s half the children of Britain did not attend day-school. The Education Act of 1870 sought to remedy this situation. It required that the locally elected school boards provide elemental schools. In 1880 all children were compelled to attend school up to the age of 10. In 1899 this was raised to 12. In 1902 responsibility for elementary, secondary and technical education was given to local education authorities under a central Board of Education, and thus board schools became council schools. The local education authorities began to provide school meals and school medical services. In 1918 the school leaving age was raised to 14. The Education Act of 1944 replaced the Board with a Ministry of Education and established a tripartite system of secondary education, with grammar, technical and secondary modern schools. The school leaving age was raised to 15 in 1947 and to 16 in 1965. Also in 1965 the comprehensive school system was adopted as official national policy.

Schools associated with later 19th and early 20th century terraced houses tend to be small. Larger schools, often with extensive playing fields, were built in the 20th century. Extensive phases of school and college building activity occurred in both the Inter war and post-war periods; many were built in association with suburban housing developments.

Grammar Schools, with their origins in medieval times, expanded in the 16th and 17th centuries when many owed their foundation to rich benefactors and generous endowments. Many of these older grammar schools have declined into obscurity; others have become large, prestigious, independent schools.

The majority of pre-1900 schools are associated with established urban centres (notably Birkenhead, Wallasey, Bebington, Caldy and West Kirby). Inter war and post-1945 schools are found in association with residential housing developments. Seventeen schools (polygons) were identified with pre-1900 origins, making up nearly

7% of the total. Just over 15% of the schools date to the Inter war period (1918 to 1939), with many of these located towards the central urban fringes within social housing estates. Around 73% (approximately 187 ha) of the schools in Wirral district date to the second half of the 20th century or the early 21st century.

Examples:

Post-Medieval origins

Calday Grange Grammar School is a non-denominational selective state grammar school, founded in 1636, situated on Caldy Hill above the town of West Kirby. It is the oldest surviving grammar school on the Wirral Peninsula. William Glegg, a gentleman of considerable local standing, founded the school in 1636. He gave fifteen acres of land to provide an annual income of £12 per year for a schoolmaster. In the declaration he made when founding the school he wrote: ". . . how very Godly, necessary and virtuous it is to provide that youth should be and may be brought up in virtue, learning, and good order and obedience, whereby they may better know and serve God, and profit their country a free grammar school be by me founded and erected within the township of Calday Grange, near unto Hinderton, within mine own native country, to have continuance and endure for evermore ."

The school was further endowed in 1676 through a legacy from Thomas Bennett, a yeoman of Frankby. He had been one of the original feoffees in 1636. The income from his legacy was later used to found the Bennett Trust, a charity which still operates today, helping the present and former pupils of the school.

The school continued throughout the eighteenth century normally with just one schoolmaster, although under Joseph Barnes (Master 1792-1811) the school prospered so greatly that the number of pupils is said to have exceeded 160, some of whom were boarders, and an assistant master was employed. Under Thomas Bolland (Master 1829-1861), however, the school deteriorated rapidly in all respects. A report on the school stated that "... the boys are not kept under proper control and there is no systematic plan either of giving instruction or of carrying into effect the general government of the school no pretence of teaching much more than the most elementary subjects."

Numbers of pupils had reached an all-time low of 29 when, in 1891, William Hollowell, a young schoolmaster from Warrington, took over responsibility for the school. Numbers rose steadily each year and when he retired in 1920 the school had reached

what was then a phenomenal size with 283 pupils, many of whom were boarders from as far away as Spain and Brazil. Since 1920 much has changed - the boarding house closed in 1934. Rugby was introduced in 1921. Staff and pupils built a swimming pool in 1922. New buildings have appeared regularly. Following the 1944 Education Act the school became a County Grammar School. In 1946 came a Parents' Association. There have been many changes in the last few decades as Calday Grange Grammar School is now a Trust School and a designated Technology College and Language College.

19th Century origins

Upton Hall School FCJ, is a single sex girls' Roman Catholic voluntary aided grammar school. It is one of four Catholic schools in the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral. The school was founded as a girls' convent school by Nuns of the Society of the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) in 1849, at the invitation of the Bishop of Shrewsbury. The twelve FCJ Sisters and 24 pupils moved from a boarding school in the centre of Liverpool - Great George Square - to Lingdale House in Birkenhead. The curriculum was designed to produce accomplished young ladies. Languages were very important and native speakers taught French, English, Italian and German. Other subjects included music, dancing, drawing geography, history, botany, writing and arithmetic. The present site was bought in 1862, the FCJ Society taking possession of the building on 8 December, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, celebrated as the School Feast day ever since. The school grew steadily and through a series of building programmes. Pupils enjoy a beautiful campus with excellent sporting facilities, leisure space and a peace garden. The school is designated a Technology College, Language College and Training School.

Birkenhead School was opened in Park Road North, Birkenhead in 1860, and moved to its present site in Oxton in 1871. The main building is by Lucy and /or Walter Scott, in a Tudor Gothic style. Built of brick with stone dressings, it is a large two storey hall, later subdivided horizontally. The Chapel was opened in 1883, built by F.W. Hornblower and H. Townsend (Pevsner and Hubbard, 1978). The Preparatory Department was established in 1889 and moved to Beresford Road in 1893. During 1899 the ground alongside Beresford Road was levelled to create the school’s playing field.

In 1905 the Noctorum ground, approximately 2.3 ha (5.5 acres), was rented and subsequently bought in 1910. Buildings on Bidston Road were acquired in 1920 for

use as a science block and in 1921 the Lodge in Beresford Road was purchased for the use of the school. The Fender Ground, 9.3 ha, was acquired in 1922 and part was used by the newly formed Old Birkonian Football Club, prior to moving to an adjacent ground in 1926. Matches were played here until 1976, when the club merged with Birkenhead Park Rugby Club. As playing fields nearer the school were developed, Fender Field was later sold.

In 1931, "Junior School" was started in Overdale at the top of Beresford Road. The junior and senior schools became a direct grant grammar school in 1935 and became then fully independent in 1976.

In 1948 the L.C. McAllester Memorial Ground, 4.7 ha, was presented to the school. It was officially opened in 1952. A purpose-built science block on Bidston Road was built in 1958, and has since been expanded. In 1982 the Bushell Hall was opened for use by the main school, and the Preparatory School moved into the vacated Shrewsbury Road buildings. These included the original "big school" dating back to 1871, and the recently closed boarding house which at its peak had catered for over forty boarders. The vacated Preparatory School building in Beresford Road was then adapted to provide an extensive Music School, although this has subsequently moved onto the main School campus and the Beresford Road property sold and redeveloped as apartments.

What was the headmaster's house on Shrewsbury Road was acquired in 1988 so that by then the school owned all the properties in the block apart from the Holy Name Church on Beresford Road. In 1992, the Sports Hall was completed. In conjunction with Oxton Sports Club, an all-weather pitch was completed on the McAllester Field site, and also in 1992 the Preparatory Department's purpose built Little School was opened in Kingsmead Road South. In 2000 the sixth form became co-educational. This was followed by the Pre-Prep Department (kindergarten) in 2006.

Birkenhead High School Academy, formerly Birkenhead High School for Girls, opened in 1884 by the High Schools Company in a building on Village Road, Oxton. In 1901 it was purchased by the Girls' Public Day School Company. The school moved into 86 Devonshire Place in September 1905. In 1918 the school acquired 31 Devonshire Place to be the home of the junior school. The school is now a part of the Girls' Day School Trust. In 2008 it converted to Academy status and abandoned academic selection.

Early 20th Century origins

Kingsmead School is a Co-educational Independent Day and Boarding School for Boys and Girls aged 2 - 16 located in Hoylake. The school was founded in 1904 by Arthur Watts, a Baptist minister and mathematician. His dream was to establish a Christian school in which 'the environment would be ideal for learning well, for playing good games and keeping physically fit'. All but one of the brothers became involved in the school's early years; three of them were Cambridge scholars.

The Inter War years were ones of economy and survival. It would take until 1944 for numbers to return to their 1921 levels. After the Second World War the school continued to expand, becoming co-educational in the mid-1960s. New facilities followed each other rapidly: an indoor pool, woodland plantation, the Memorial Hall and new science labs. In 1966 an Educational Trust was set up to secure the school for the future.

The 1990s saw more expansion, firstly to include children from the age of two in a new Kindergarten. This was followed shortly afterwards by the extension of the leaving age; the school now educates children up to the age of 16, offering a wide range of GCSEs.

The school still occupies the original site. The long awaited Music Block opened in 1984 and the Centenary Building, which is the flagship of the Senior Department, was opened in 2004, rapidly becoming the centre-piece of the newly-extended 11-16 Kingsmead campus.

Early 20th Century origins

New Brighton Primary, Vaughan Road (primary, junior, senior formerly Secondary Modern School) - The original school was built in 1908 and housed a separate infant, junior, senior boys and senior girls schools. The school formed part of the Tripartite System of education. The 1944 Butler Education Act created a system in which children were tested and streamed at the age of eleven. Pupils were allocated to their respective types of school according to their performance in the eleven plus, a pass resulted in a grammar school or technical school education and a failure in a secondary modern school education. In the 1950s and 60s, the school consisted of Infants School & Vaughan Road Junior School, both located on the ground floor. The upper floor housed New Brighton Secondary Modern. Two other buildings were used by the school for practical education woodwork, metalwork and domestic science

(ocated in Field Road and Laburnum Road). In 1971 the junior and infant children were brought together as a single school with one head teacher, and re-named New Brighton Primary School

West Kirby Grammar School For Girls was founded in 1913.The school expanded with new teaching blocks in place by 2008. The school is in many ways associated with the nearby grammar school for boys, Calday Grange Grammar School. There is a large Combined Cadet Force contingent shared between the two schools, which girls from Year 9 upwards can join. As well as this, various dramatic and musical events and a German Exchange programme which has been running jointly in recent years (but in its 30th year for West Kirby Grammar), bring the two schools even closer.

Inter War schools

Wirral Grammar School for Boys is situated on Cross Lane, Bebington. The site chosen for our school amounted initially to just over five acres and was set aside to be used "for the purpose of Higher Education" and on 23 March 1925, Cheshire County Council passed a resolution proposing that a new secondary school, to be known as Bebington Secondary School, would indeed be built. The school was designed by the county's Architect Mr F. Anstead Browne. The original buildings featured textured red sandstone brick, capped with a distinctive green slate roof set off by an imposing main entrance of white Portland stone.

By September 1931, the Governing Body, Headmaster and staff had been appointed, and pupils selected and, on Thursday 17 September, the gates of the school were opened to 105 boys. On Saturday 26 September 1931, the school was declared officially open by the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Brigadier-General Sir William Bromley-Davenport. In October 1931, the School name changed to "Wirral County Grammar School for Boys''.

Rock Ferry High School is a high school opened in the 1920s and was a boy's school until girls started to join in the 1980s. It has been a boy's and girls school since.

Park High School is a co-educational secondary school in Birkenhead, located near Birkenhead Park. Previously existing across two sites, following the amalgamation of two separate schools, it consists of an Upper School and a Lower School (although only one site is currently used), and is a specialist Sports College. Park High School for Girls opened in Park Road South in 1926 and Park High School for Boys was

established in 1925 at a site on Park Road North (which is now the Joseph Paxton Building). Both schools were amalgamated in 1972, with Park High School becoming an 11-18 co-educational comprehensive school. In June 2001, work began to bring the school onto one site. An extensive building programme involved demolishing the boys gym, the caretakers house, the old canteen and fourteen mobile classrooms. This allowed for the construction of a new circular canteen, large sports hall and dance studio, as well as building extensions to older parts of the main building. When the new school year began in September 2003, Park High School was opened on one site for the first time.

Wirral Grammar School for Girls was founded in 1931. It is situated on Heath Road, Bebington, next door to Wirral Grammar School for Boys. The school consists of lower school (ages 11-16) and Sixth Form (ages 17-18), and entrance is by the "eleven plus" examination.

St. Anselm's College is a Roman Catholic voluntary aided grammar school. The school was founded in 1933 by the trustees of the Congregation of Christian Brothers, at the invitation of the Rt. Rvd. Hugh Singleton, Bishop of Shrewsbury. In 1946 it became a direct grant grammar school and continued as such until 1975, when the trustees opted for the school to be independent in order to continue as a single-sex Selective school. The Education Act 1993 gave the trustees the chance to re-enter the maintained sector and so, once again, offer parents the choice of a Catholic Grammar School education for their sons, irrespective of their ability to pay. In 1995, the school became one of the first Independent schools to re-enter the maintained sector. In September 1999, the school became voluntary aided in line with the Education Act 1998.

Woodchurch High School - The first house on the Woodchurch estate was officially opened on May 6 1949 and it was in the mid 1950s that pupils began attending the Woodchurch Secondary School for Boys and the Woodchurch Secondary School for Girls. It was during the 1970s that the Boys and Girls Secondary Schools were combined to form the mixed comprehensive school. In the early 1980s Birkenhead abandoned the use of middle schools, and in 1983 Woodchurch became an 11 to 18 mixed comprehensive and carried out extensive building work to accommodate the increased number of pupils.

Later 20th Century schools

Hilbre High School started life as an all girls secondary school in 1966 called 'Newton Secondary School For Girls'. The school then became coeducational in 1973 when 'Hoylake Parade Boys School' joined with the girls to form 'Hilbre High School'. The site has had several new buildings in the late 1970s including a new science and technology block, and then in 2000 the main school buildings were demolished and rebuilt.

Ridgeway High School is a co-educational, community use, comprehensive school in Noctorum, near Birkenhead. The school was established in 1974, and caters for 830 pupils between the ages of 11 to 16. The school is situated in its own extensive playing fields and the Discovery City Learning Centre, containing the Ridgeway Community Library, adjoins the site.

Formerly **Pensby High School for Boys**, its full name is "Pensby High School for Boys - A Specialist Sports College" after gaining Specialist Sports College status in 2005. The school was built in the later 20th century. During the day, the school is a Sports College providing increased sports learning for students of both the Sports College and Pensby High School for Girls (next door). After school hours it is a community sports centre for the public.

Bebington High Sports College is a secondary school in Bebington. The school has been a specialist College since 2001.

Prenton High School for Girls is a Comprehensive school for girls between the ages of 11 and 16 in Rock Ferry. It was established in the later 20th century. This school is smaller than average and serves approximately 750 female students in an area of significant social and economic disadvantage. The school became a specialist college for science, maths and the visual arts in July 2007.

(The project acknowledges that much of the previous information has been sourced from the individual school web sites).

9.7 Commercial Broad Type

Commercial buildings range from small corner shops to huge department stores, from simple offices to huge speculative office blocks. Warehouses are dealt with in the Industrial Broad Type.

There are currently 318.38 ha of land assigned to the Commercial Broad Type, representing around 3.6% of the Wirral MHCP Study Area total. Many of the commercial MHCP types share characteristics such as the scale of buildings and sites and the types of locations in which they are generally to be found, and can be grouped together. Commercial activity is dominated by the Commercial Retail (33.33% - 106.10 ha) and Business Park (20.75% - 66.05 ha) sectors. If the Commercial Office and Office Sub Types are combined, they make up 22.61% of the Wirral MHCP Study Area. A large part of these Sub Types are contained within the central business district (the old commercial core). The commercial core (as a separate entity) constitutes just over 6% of the overall Commercial Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area, and is concentrated within or near historic cores.

Commercial Offices are also concentrated in the historic cores, alongside many retail outlets. Many office blocks, including civic offices, can be found in the central (Birkenhead) and south-western (Heswall) parts of the Wirral Peninsula. The oldest offices and retail buildings are concentrated in the Birkenhead central business district and in the historic cores - the earliest commercial centre (from the MHCP) is at located at New Ferry, followed by historic cores at Liscard, Wallasey, Birkenhead, Bebington and Heswall.

Many building types - offices, pubs, shopping arcades, department stores, and hotels - are largely nineteenth-century creations. Victorian and Edwardian commercial buildings have transformed our townscapes and gave many English town centres their distinctive character. Shops and pubs can also play a particular role in enlivening residential districts too.

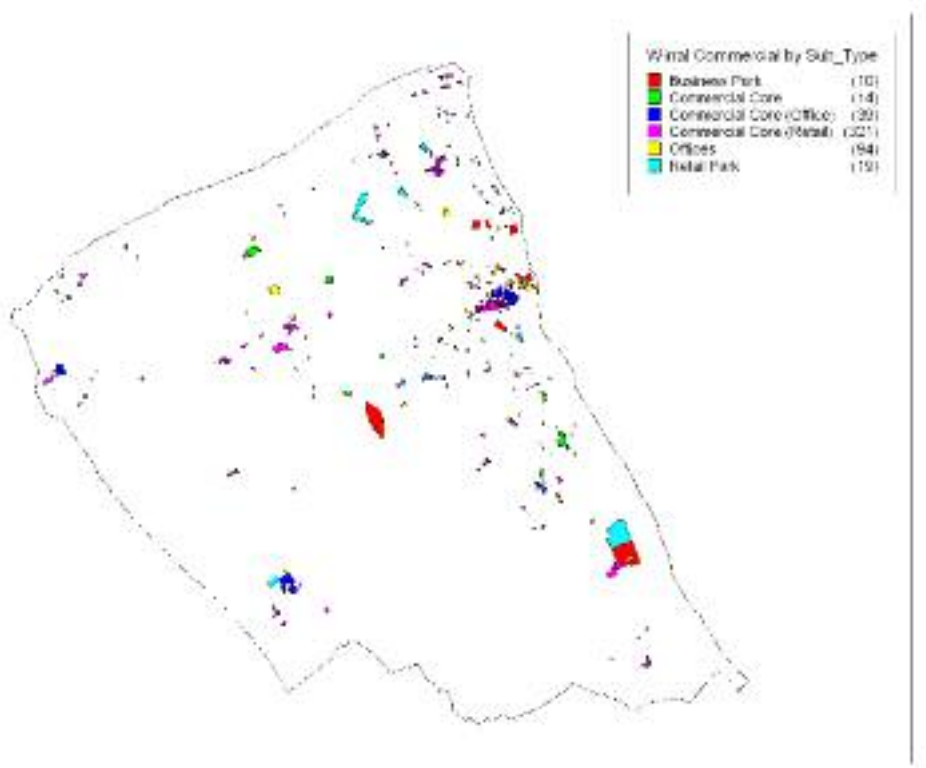

Figure 90 Current (2003) Commercial by Sub Type in Wirral Study Area

Modern (post-1945) commercial buildings are found throughout the Wirral Peninsula, but there is a noticeable concentration of smaller retail units and shops in Birkenhead Town centre. Here, modern commercial premises have replaced former commercial and residential plots. Business Parks and Retail Parks tend to be found on the outskirts of urban areas, located along current communication routes.

Commercial Sub Type	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Business Park	10	66.05	20.75
Commercial Core	14	19.32	6.07
Commercial Core (Office)	39	36.00	11.31
Commercial Core (Retail)	321	106.10	33.33
Office	94	35.99	11.30
Retail Park	19	54.92	17.25
Totals	497	318.38	100%

Table 43 Current (2003) Commercial by Sub Type in Wirral Study Area

The vast majority of the Commercial Broad Type dates to the Later Twentieth century - approximately 91% (259.04 ha) belonging to this period. Later 20th century developments tend to be medium to large in size (on average 0.81 ha). Earlier, pre-1900, commercial sites are comparatively small (0.78 ha).

Commercial by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 1: 1751 to 1835	1	4.42	1.39
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	120	31.58	9.92
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	8	1.73	0.54
Inter War 1918 to 1939	47	21.02	6.60
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	318	259.04	90.79
Twenty-First Century 2001 to 2050	3	0.58	0.18
Totals	497	318.38	100%

Table 44 Current (2003) Commercial in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

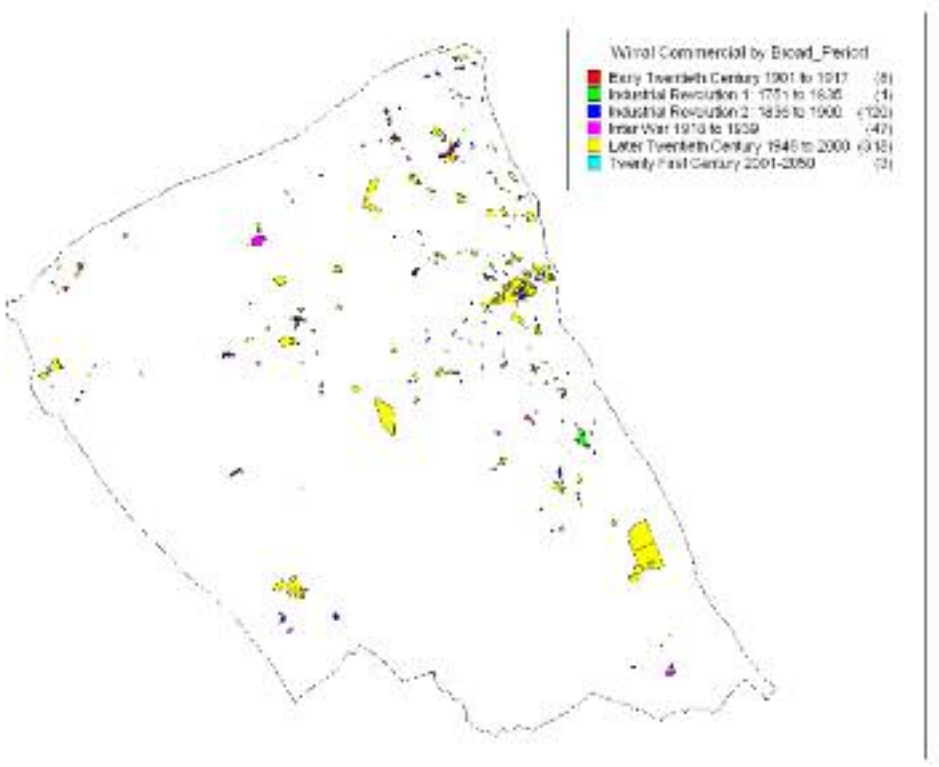

Figure 91 Current (2003) Commercial in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

9.7.1 Business Park

Business Parks and distribution centres represent 8.41% (53.71 ha) of the Commercial Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. Physically they are closely linked with industrial areas, and are purely a later twentieth century creation. Business Parks generally comprise medium to large-scale buildings, sheds or warehouses with associated yards, bays and car parks. It was possible to identify distribution centres, warehousing and other storage facilities by noticing the presence of lorry bays and cargo container yards on aerial photographs.

One of the largest (26.71 ha) is the Croft Business Park in Bromborough, on land formerly small, semi-regular fields and copse woodland. The modern site is closely associated with a nearby retail park, and is sited on a major communications route (the A41 New Chester Road, running between Chester and Birkenhead).

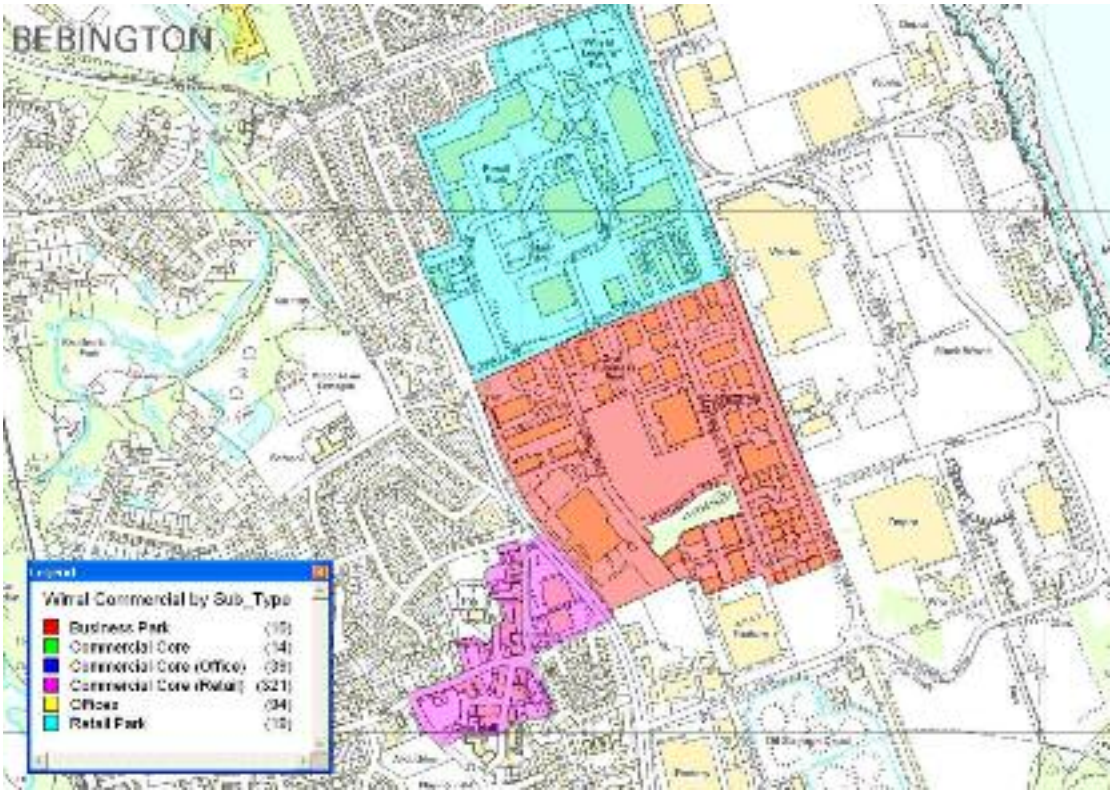

Figure 92 Croft Business Park, Bromborough on Current (2003) mapping

9.7.2 Commercial Core

The Commercial Core Sub Type represents just over 6% (19.32 ha) of the Commercial Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. The category comprises commercial establishments at the heart of the social landscape, forming the commercial core of urban centres, and is synonymous with settlement cores. There is also a great deal of overlap with two other Commercial Sub Types - Commercial Core (Retail) and Commercial Core (Office). The three Commercial Core Sub Types could be combined, to provide a 'general' view of commercial activity within urban cores.

Typically such areas comprise streets containing a mix of buildings originating in different periods (dating from at least the mid-19th century onwards), with markets, shopping precincts, a variety of retail outlets, and businesses including banks, post offices and public houses.

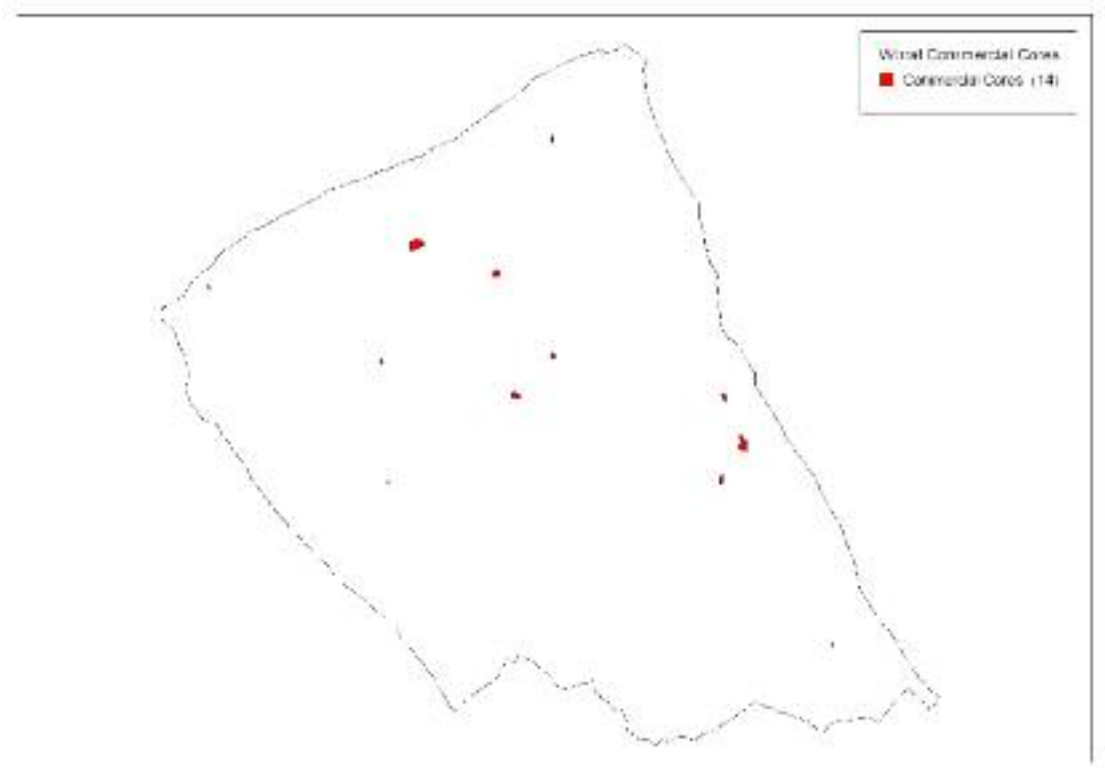

Figure 93 Current 92003) Commercial Core in Wirral Study Area

Twelve separate (fourteen polygons) Commercial Cores were identified, corresponding to the established historic settlement cores - Wallasey, Hoylake, Greasby, Moreton, Oxton, Irby, Bidston, Bebington, Bromborough, New Ferry and Rock Ferry. Birkenhead has been omitted from this list, possibly the result of the loss or absorption of the commercial (historic) core over time, to be replaced by other commercial Sub Types such as Commercial Core (Retail) and Commercial Core

(Office). Also omitted are the Commercial Cores of West Kirby and Heswall - these having been recorded, once more, using other Commercial Sub Types.

The oldest, separately identified Commercial Core was New Ferry, dating to the Industrial Revolution 1 (1751 to 1835) period. Expansion of Birkenhead throughout the 19th and 20th centuries has consumed many of these smaller cores, although many of them retain a distinct (and separate) identify.

The most recent commercial cores are located adjacent to well established historic / commercial cores, as expansions (as with Rock Ferry) or new developments near recent housing estates (such as Bidston, Woodchurch and Noctorum. Many of the sites were established on or near well-established communication routes (particularly railway lines and roadways).

Figure 94 New Ferry Commercial Core depicted on Current (2003) mapping and the Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1876

Many commercial urban cores still retain substantial elements of the Georgian and Victorian high street, which contribute greatly to historic character. Buildings of the 19th and early 20th centuries were often ornately decorated (the surviving Georgian and Victorian buildings in central Liverpool are a good example).

9.7.3 Commercial Core (Office)

9.7.4 Offices

The Commercial Core (Office) and Office Sub Types, when combined, make up just over 22.6% (71.99 ha) of the Commercial Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area.

The Commercial Core (Office) and Offices Sub Types include buildings of a civil, commercial or privately owned / operated nature (no distinction between office use could be made). The Commercial Core (Offices) Sub Type comprises buildings within the urban core Birkenhead, and the historic cores of West Kirby, Hoylake, Heswall, Bebington and New Ferry. A number of scattered office blocks and buildings were also recorded in the northeast of the Wirral Peninsula, notably around New Brighton and Liscard. The Sub Type contains a range of public and private offices, with the largest block (50.53 ha) dating to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900). Although the form of these buildings may have changed over time, their function remains essentially the same.

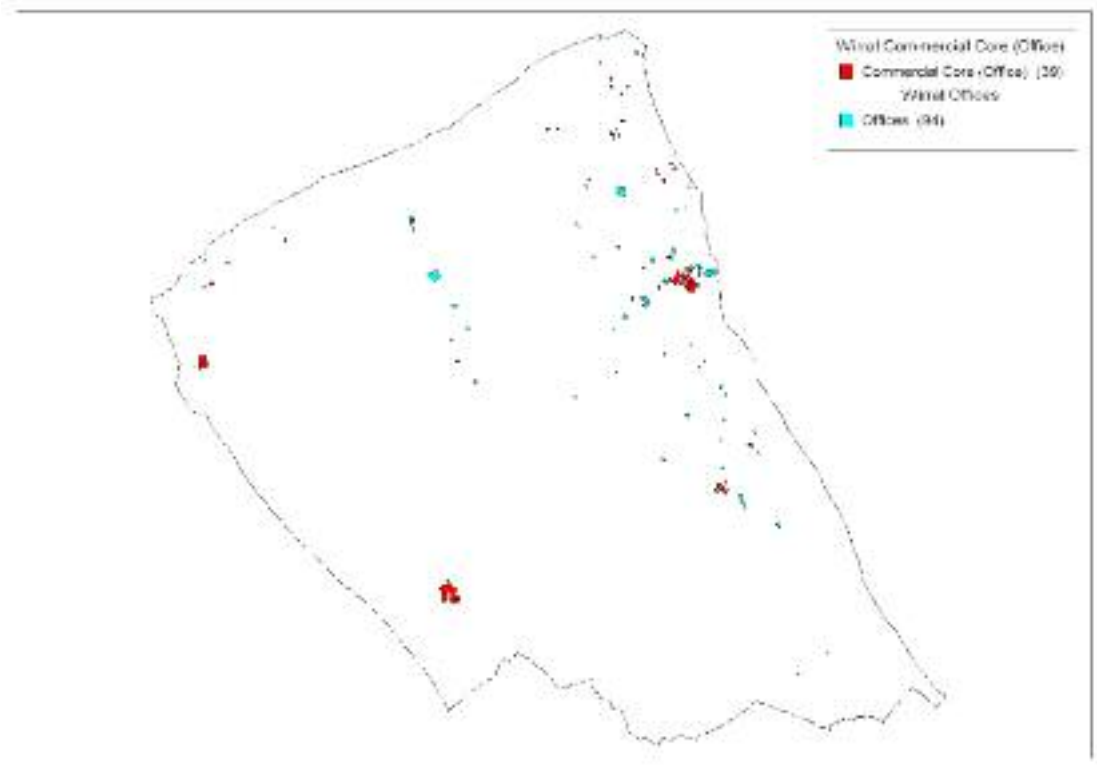

Figure 95 Current (2003) Commercial Core (Office) & Office Sub Types in Wirral Study area (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100019088. English Heritage)

The Office Sub Type is more general, comprising modern twentieth century developments with few earlier buildings. The Sub Type is found throughout the district, concentrated around the outskirts (urban fringe) of Birkenhead, New Brighton and Bebington. A separate cluster of Office buildings occurs in the central part of the Wirral, located amongst Inter War and post-1945 housing. A few Offices (as a Sub Type) were recorded in the north west of the Wirral Peninsula, and very few for the southwest region.

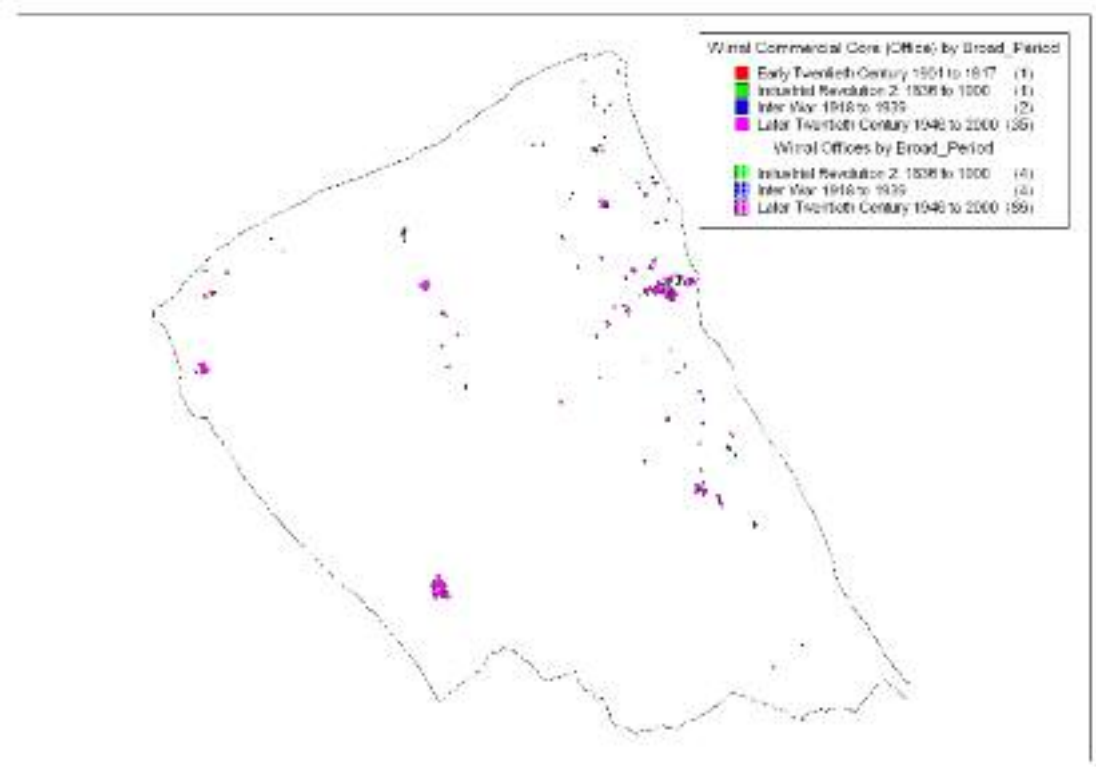

Figure 96 Current Commercial Core (Office) & Office in Wirral study Area by Broad Period of origin

9.7.5 Commercial Core (Retail)

The Commercial Core (Retail) Sub Type comprises 33.33% (106.10 ha) of the Commercial Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. Retail activity is evenly distributed through the district, yet there is some clustering of retail outlets within urban cores or on the immediate urban fringes.

Just over 60% (63.67 ha) of all Commercial Core (Retail) sites date to the late 20th, with the majority of polygons located in the commercial centres of Birkenhead and Liscard.

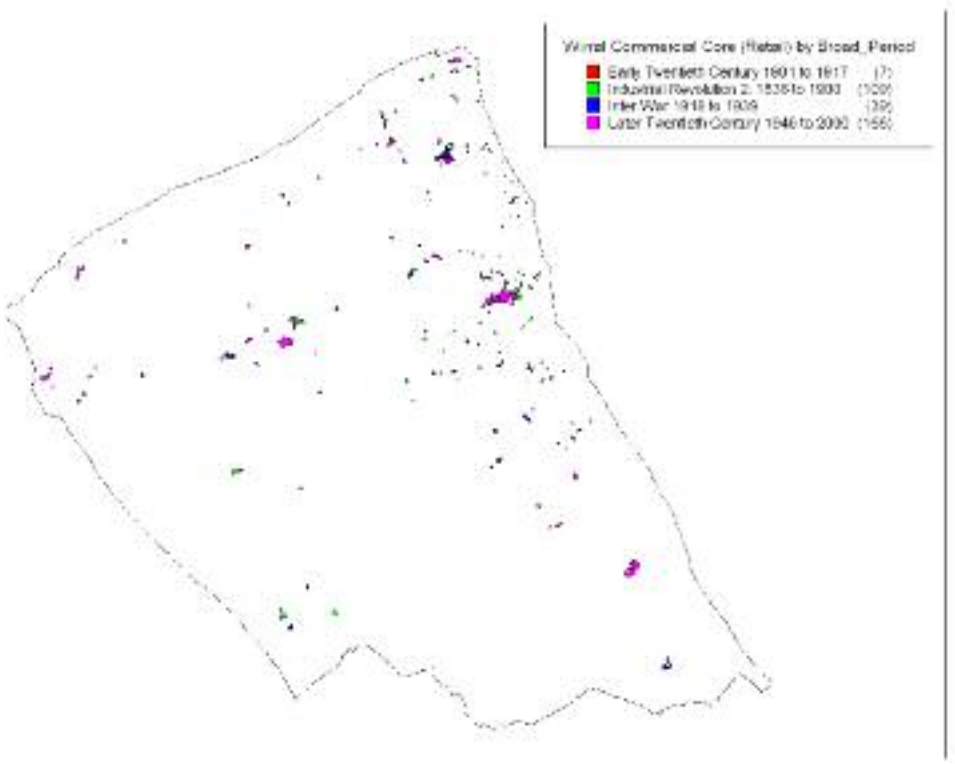

Figure 97 Current (2003) Commercial Core (Retail) in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

Pre-1900 sites comprise nearly 26% of the Commercial Core (Retail) Sub Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. They are generally small sites (often single buildings, such as shops and public houses) and are evenly distributed throughout the Wirral Peninsula, located within urban and historic cores. Many of the Pre-1900 sites are located near, and often adjacent to, established communication routes. Many Inter

War sites are found within 1930s to 40s housing estates, such as Greasby and Eastham.

Commercial Core (Retail) by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	109	27.46	25.88
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	7	0.78	0.74
Inter War 1918 to 1939	39	14.19	13.37
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	166	63.67	60.01
Total	321	106.10	100%

Table 45 Current (2003) Commercial Core (Retail) in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

In Birkenhead, the largest retail outlet is the Grange and Pyramids Shopping Centre. The shopping centre covers around 14 hectares, comprising new builds (1980s onwards) surrounding shops and public houses dating to the late 19th century. Work began on the foundations for the complex in 1986 and it eventually opened to the public three years later. The shopping centre replaced former 1950s and 60s retail outlets (and some back-to-back terraced housing). Prior to 1936, the area was home to a range of commercial, civil and small industrial buildings, interspersed amongst rows of back-to-back terraced housing.

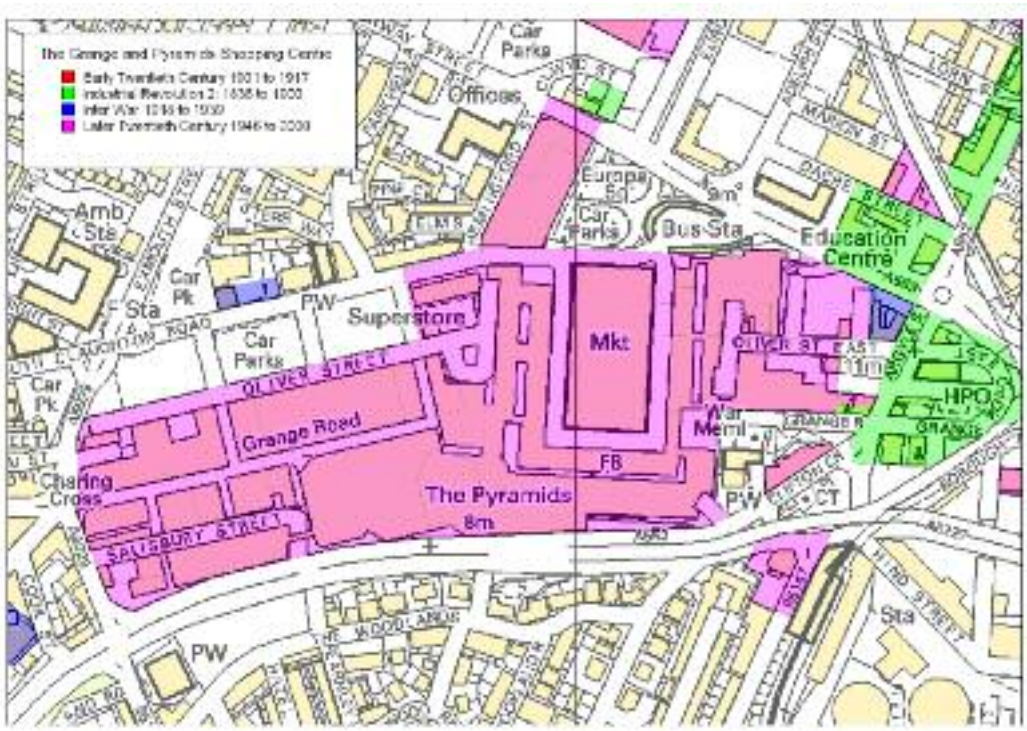

Figure 98 Grange and Pyramids Shopping Centre, Birkenhead (on 2003 mapping)

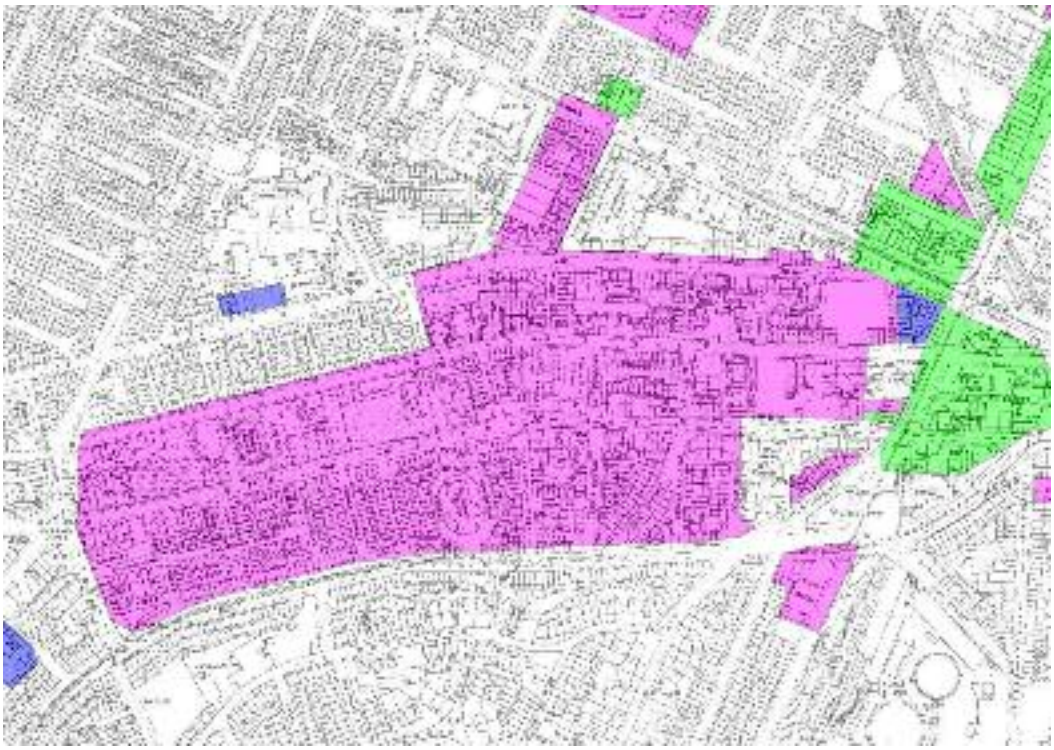

Figure 99 The site of the Current (2003) Grange and Pyramids Shopping Centre (as a polygon underlay) depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh.1936.
The 1936 map shows the mixed nature of the area, comprising a range of commercial, civil, industrial and residential (grid-iron and back-to-back terraced housing) Sub Types. Much of this pre-1936 housing stock was lost to wartime bomb damage and post-war redevelopment.

9.7.6 Retail Park

Retail Park makes up nearly 17.25% (54.92 ha) of the current Commercial Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. Fourteen sites were identified, all of them being post-1945 constructions. The majority of large-scale Retail Parks are located along modern communication lines.

The largest (27.26 ha) is the Croft Retail Park in Bromborough, immediately to the north of the New Chester Road and closely associated with an adjacent Business Park.

A group of retail parks can be found to the immediate east of the M53 Motorway corridor.

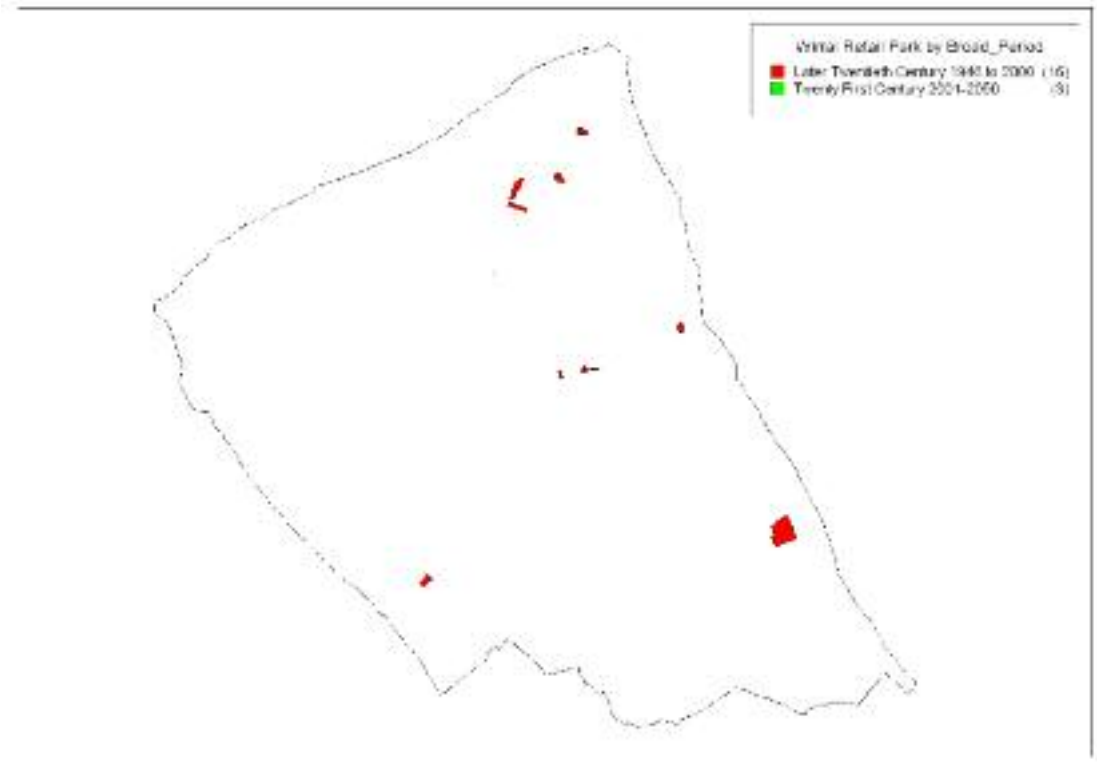

Figure 100 Current (2003) Retail Park in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

9.8 Communication Broad Type

The Communication Broad Type covers 163.87 ha of land, representing 1.85% of the Wirral MHCP Study Area. Four principal groups of MCHP types relating to different aspects of the transport network were identified for detailed analysis on the basis of their presence in the landscape or their historic significance:

- Canal - actual waterway, associated furniture, basins and locks
- Historic Routes
- Rail - railway line, train station, freight terminal, train depot
- Roads - communication system including historic routes, modern arterial and major roads, motorways.

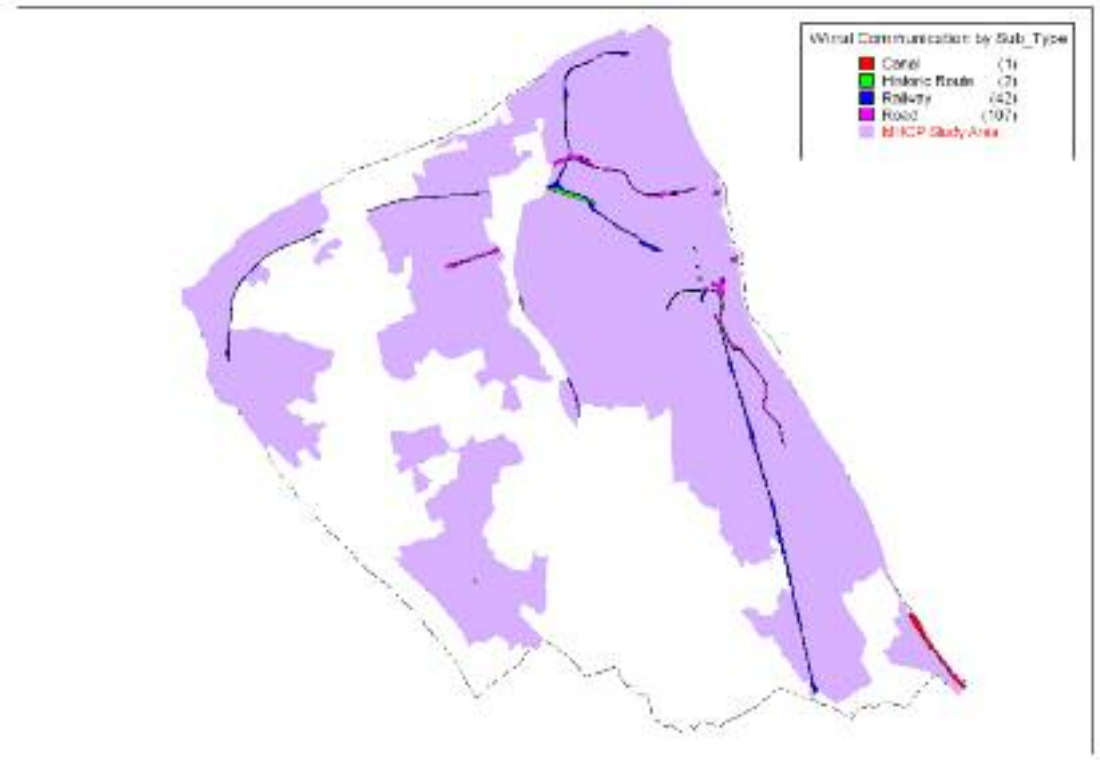

Figure 101 Current (2003) Communication by Sub Type in Wirral Study Area

Wirral contains a number of communication features that were established before 1850. These include important turnpike roads that have lead to urban and industrial development. The main 19th century railways have generally survived as linear features although the nature of their usage has changed in the 20th century. Disused

lines have tended to survive as footpaths, cycle paths or walkways within public parks, with only minimal redevelopment taking place. A small section of the Manchester Ship Canal can be found to the extreme southeast of the district. The most prominent communications features are large, Later Twentieth Century dual-carriageways and motorways. Only a small, northern section of the M53 Motorway was recorded, as the majority fell outside of the Wirral MHCP Study Area.

Communication Sub Type	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Canal	1	16.10	9.83
Historic Routes	2	7.37	4.50
Railway	42	84.32	51.46
Roads	106	56.08	34.21
Totals	151	163.87 ha	100%

Table 46 Current (2003) Communication Sub Type in Wirral Study Area

The majority of the Communication Broad Type dates to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period, comprising around 68% (111.11 ha) of the Wirral MHCP Study Area total. The sites dating to this period are predominantly 19th Century railways (81.95 ha), the Manchester Ship Canal (16.10 ha) and roads (5.68 ha). Later Twentieth Century accounts for around 30% of the Wirral MHCP Study Area total, as is strictly limited to roads and motorways.

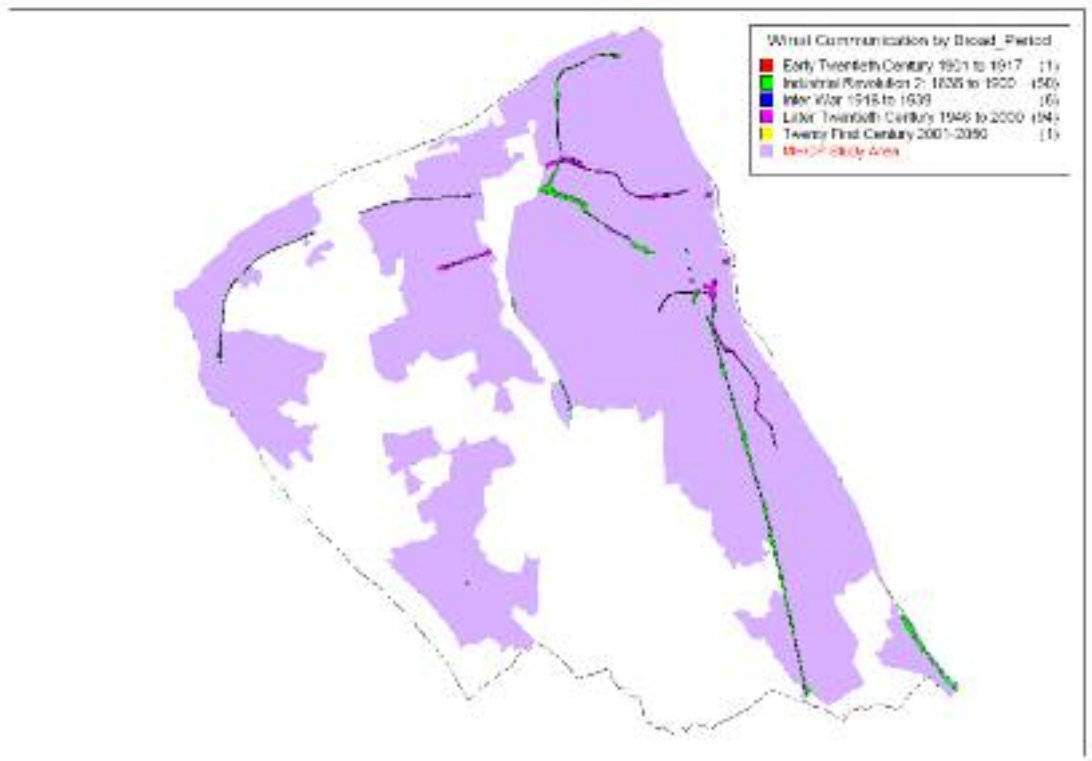

Figure 102 Current (2003) Communication in Wirral Study Area by Broad period of origin (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

Communications by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	50	111.11	67.80
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	1	0.37	0.23
Inter War 1918 to 1939	6	2.83	1.73
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	93	49.37	30.13
Twenty First Century 2001 to 2050	1	0.19	0.11
Totals	151	163.87 ha	100%

Table 47 Current (2003) Communication in Wirral Study Area by Broad period of origin

9.8.1 Canal

Canal represent 9.83% of the Communications Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. The Sub Type is limited to a small 2.13 km section of the Manchester Ship Canal, located towards the extreme southeast of the Wirral Peninsula (at Eastham).

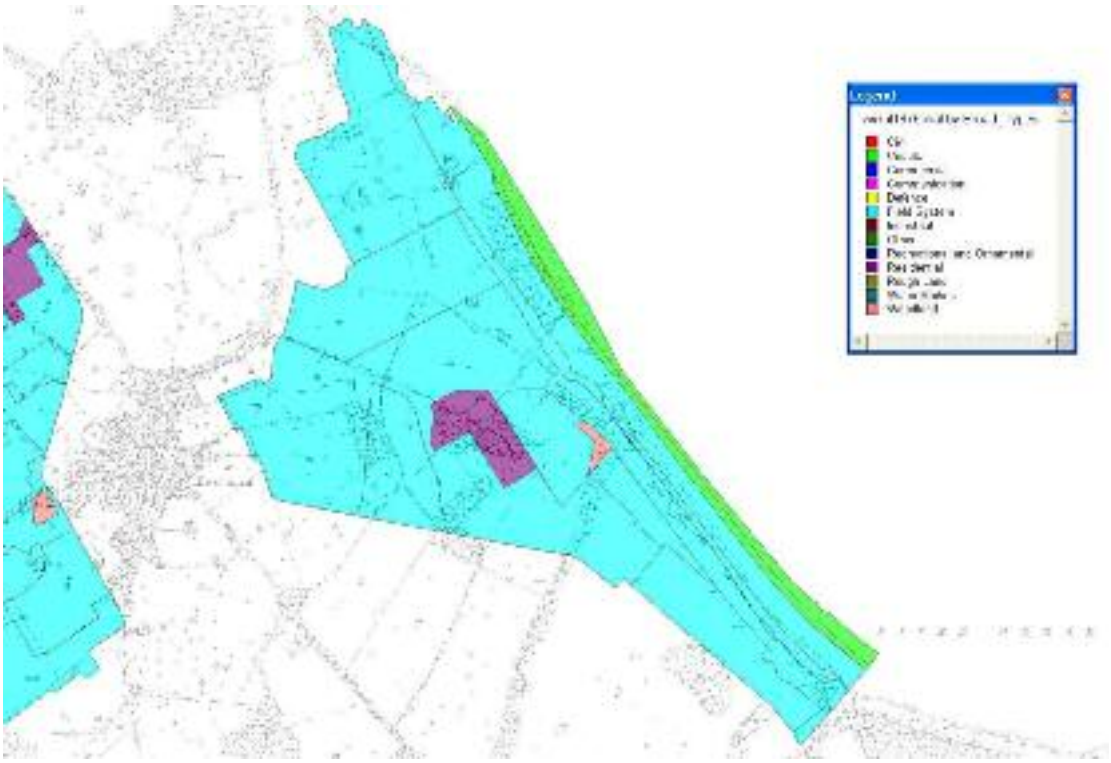

Figure 103 The Eastham area in 1876, prior to the construction of the Manchester Ship Canal. Also shown is Bankfields House (villa house) which remained here until industrial development in the later Twentieth Century

The Manchester Ship Canal was the last and greatest of the Cheshire waterways, resulting from the desire of Manchester's civic and business leaders to break the Liverpool shipping monopoly and make Manchester an international port. Authorised in 1885 and opened in 1894, the canal was an impressive feat of engineering - having huge width and depth, great swing-bridges and major diversions of existing roads, railways and waterways (Crosby, 1996). Prior to its construction, the area around Eastham was generally open, small sized regular and semi-regular fields, woodland copses and estuarine mudflats. A large villa house called Bankfields was located immediately southwest of the canal, remaining here until being demolished in the Later Twentieth Century to make way for a petrochemical refinery and storage depot.

The canal ran along two major rivers - the Irwell and Mersey - which were incorporated into the new waterway. However, between Warburton and its entry into the Mersey at Eastham it was an artificial channel on the Cheshire side of the valley (Crosby, 1996). The canal was further enhanced by the building of a dock (the Queen Elizabeth II Dock) in 1954.

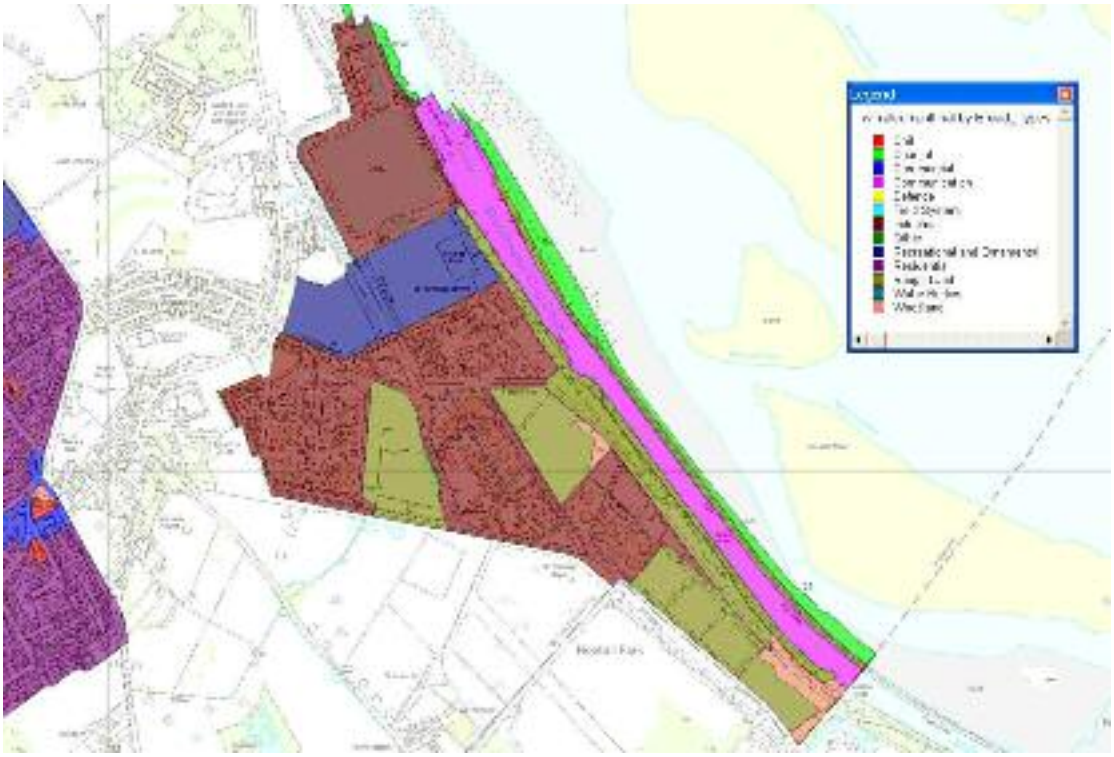

Figure 104 The Manchester Ship Canal, Queen Elizabeth II Dock and Petrochemical Industry in Eastham (on 2003 mapping)

The canal succeeded in making Manchester a recognised international port - in the 1930s the port of Manchester was the fourth busiest in Britain (Crosby, 1996). However, the long term prospects for the canal were destroyed by a declining industrial base, the trend towards ever-larger ships, and the changing technology of freight transport (Crosby, 1996).

The canal is still used as a freight route, and the waterway is also a tourist attraction, commercial ferryboats travelling the length of the canal, and a waterways and boating museum is based in nearby Ellesmere Port.

9.8.2 Historic Route

The MHCP recorded a small section (1.14km - 7.37 ha) of waterway towards the north of the Wirral Peninsula. The watercourse represents a 'canalisation' and reroute of the course of the River Birket before 1876 (it is first depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Cheshire, 1876), and does not represent a historic route per se.

The Historic Route Sub Type was originally intended to document the Current (2003) survival of those routes existing at the time of the relevant County Ordnance Survey 6" First Edition map, in this instance Cheshire, 1881-2 (Epoch 1). However this exercise was not completed across Merseyside and not documented within the MHCP project. Such linear data is more appropriately captured from overlaying modern and historic maps and generating separate database queries for display as a consistent GIS layer

.

9.8.3 Railway

The Railway Sub Type represents 51.46% (84.32 ha) of the Communications Broad Type in the Wirral Peninsula. Most of this is made up of railway lines, some dismantled but still visible as landscape features, and some still in use, albeit no longer as part of the national rail network. The great majority of railways (97.19% - 81.95 ha) date to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period. However, what remains is but a small part of what was once an extensive railway system in Wirral.

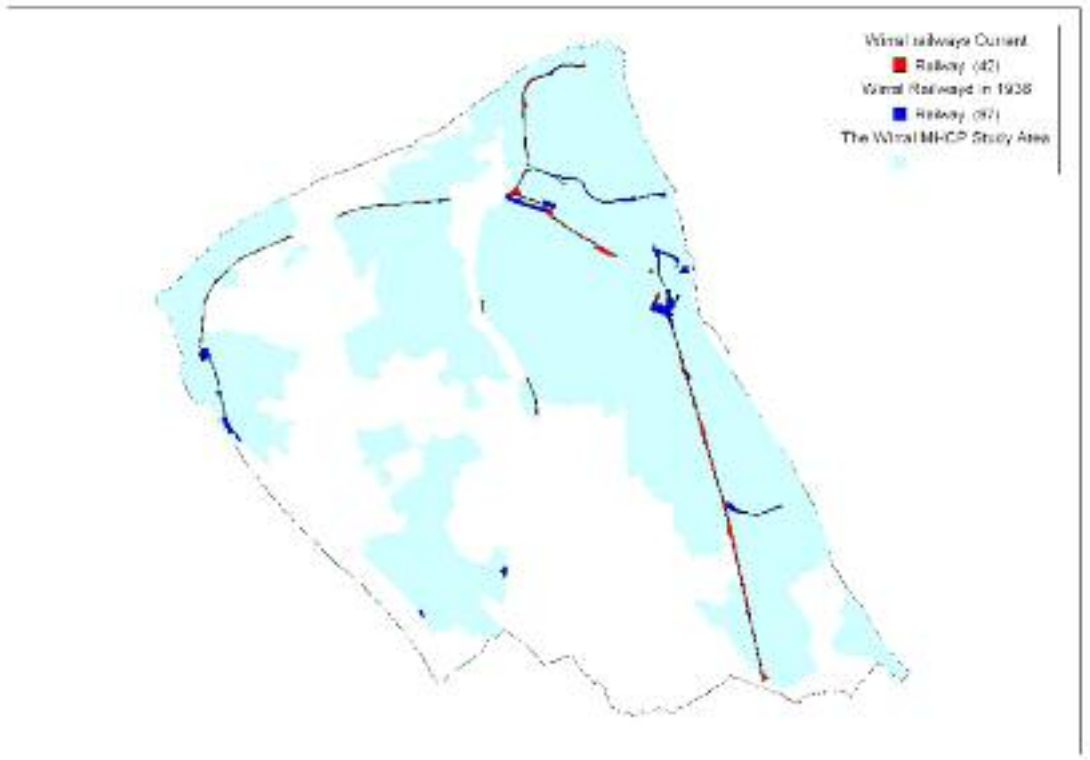

Figure 105 Current (2003 in-use) railway lines in red, and defunct railway lines (taken from the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh.1936) in blue.

In the 20th century about a third of the national rail network was lost following the proposals of Dr Beeching in 1963. In the Wirral, this is shown by closure of a number of lines, stations and infrastructure. Railway line losses include the Seacombe Branch of the LMSR, the Hooton to Parkgate Line, and industrial lines linking the main Chester to Birkenhead railway with former industrial works in Bebington. Further losses include linkages to Egerton and Morpeth Docks in Birkenhead. Much railway infrastructure has also disappeared, including goods yards at Bidston and near the Princess Dock in Tranmere.

Cheshire's first railways were tram roads serving mines and quarries in the Neston area, although these were generally small scale and short lived. The Wirral Peninsula was, until the mid 19th Century, poorly served by railway routes. With the exception of salt, and the Birkenhead dock traffic, Cheshire offered little to early railway promoters, and one of the striking features of railway map of the county at its height (early to mid 19th Century) is the dearth of branch lines - most Cheshire towns of any significance were directly served by one or more of the main through routes (Crosby, 1996).

Railways by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	39	81.95	97.19
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	1	0.37	0.44
Inter War 1918 to 1939	1	1.55	1.84
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	1	0.45	0.53
Totals	42	84.32 ha	100%

Table 48 Current (2003) Railway in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

Chester to Birkenhead Line

The Chester and Birkenhead Railway ran from Birkenhead to Chester. It opened on 23 September 1838. On 22 July 1847 it merged with the Birkenhead, Lancaster and Cheshire Junction Railway to become the Birkenhead Railway. The Birkenhead Railway was formed on 1 August 1859 as a result of the Birkenhead, Lancashire and Cheshire Railway merging with the Chester and Birkenhead Railway. The new company was originally called the Birkenhead, Lancashire and Cheshire Junction Railway, but in 1859 shortened its name to the Birkenhead Railway. It was taken over, on 1 January 1860, by the London and North Western Railway (LNWR) and the Great Western Railway (GWR), becoming a joint railway. It remained a Joint Railway until Nationalisation of the railways in 1948. It is now the known as the Wirral Line, one of the two commuter lines operated by Merseyrail on Merseyside.

The original main routes were those created by the Birkenhead, Lancashire and Cheshire Railway's Chester Loop and the main line from Chester to a junction with the London and North Western Railway at Walton Junction, near Warrington; and the Chester and Birkenhead Railway's main line from Chester to Birkenhead (Merseyside Railway History Group, 1994).

The Hoylake Line

The Hoylake Railway, opened from Birkenhead in 1866 and had so little traffic that in 1870 it went bankrupt. However, in 1883 the Wirral Railway Co. was formed and, after taking over the Hoylake line, operated a short network linking the seaside towns of West Kirby, Hoylake, New Brighton and Seacombe, to eventually terminate in Birkenhead Park). A successful service, its value was greatly increased after 1886 when the Mersey Railway opened the first tunnel between Liverpool Central, Tranmere and Birkenhead Park. Later electrification of the tunnel in 1900 gave a boosted business and heavy commuter traffic. The linking of Wirral and Liverpool contributed to the rapid growth of suburbs along its lines in Wirral, particularly in Wallasey, Hoylake and West Kirby, and later Bebington and Heswall. The population of Wallasey (including New Brighton) rose from 15,000 in 1871 to 53,700 in 1901, but there after commuting led to a huge increase to 78,000 in 1911, 46 percent in just 10 years (Crosby, 1996).

Hooton to Parkgate & West Kirkby Line

A single, twelve mile line branch from Hooton to Parkgate opened on 1 October 1866. On 19 April 1886 the line was extended to West Kirby where it connected to the Wirral Railway. The line had a number of stations - its principal traffic was those travelling from stations along the route to the secondary schools in West Kirby. Closed in 1968, in its final years the line was employed for the training of diesel multiple unit crews operating from Birkenhead and Chester via Hooton. The route is now a footpath running all the way from West Kirby to Hooton and known as The Wirral Way, which forms part of the Wirral Country Park.

The station for the Hooton line at West Kirby lay to the east of the current station, along the alignment of what is now Orrysdale Road between Bridge Road and Grange Road, and was effectively a separate facility to the main station on the electric lines. There was a junction between the two underneath the Bridge Road overbridge. The branch from Hooton to West Kirby was closed to passengers in 1956 and to freight traffic in 1962; the track bed of this route is now the Wirral Way, a footpath forming part of the Wirral Country Park.

9.8.4 Road

The Road Sub Type represents 34.21% of the Communications Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. The majority of roads recorded by the MHCP (87.26% - 48.92 ha) were constructed in the Later Twentieth Century, much of this being taken up by the M53 corridor in the north of the Wirral Peninsula. Not all of the M53 was recorded by the MHCP as it fell outside of the survey area. The remainder dated to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period - a small section of the A41 New Chester Road was recorded towards the north of the Wirral Peninsula - and small roads constructed during the Inter War period and Twenty-First Century.

Road by Broad Period	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	8	5.68	10.12
Inter War 1918 to 1939	5	1.28	2.28
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	92	48.92	87.26
Twenty First Century 2001 to 2050	1	0.19	0.34
Totals	106	56.06 ha	100%

Table 49 Current (2003) Road in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

Roadways were established during the Roman period, notably between Chester and the Wirral north coastal settlement at Meols. The Gough Map of the early 14th century, the earliest English road map, shows routes from Shrewsbury through Ellesmere to Chester and then on to Liverpool via the Wirral ferries (Crosby, 1996).

Transport improvements in the post-medieval period were a key to the growing pace of economic development, both a cause and a consequence of industrial and commercial growth. Turnpike roads were being developed by the early 18th century on the principle of 'pay by use'. They were approved by act of parliament and administered by trustees (Crosby, 1996). Between 1750 and 1800, important Turnpike roads were established between Birkenhead, Hooton (then on to Chester) and Parkgate. The main A41 New Chester Road (part recorded by the MHCP) was established as a Turnpike road between 1750 and 1800. Further Turnpike roads were added in the early 19th century, including those from the Mersey ferries at Birkenhead across the north Wirral to Hoylake and West Kirby, with early commuters and holiday makers the main intended traffic (Crosby, 1996).

Transport route improvements during the 19th century led to suburban development - the improvement of existing turnpike roads and the construction of branch roads across the peninsula, to provide faster road links to the ferries, increased the appeal of the area and by the 1830s significant numbers of Liverpudlians were living across the water. Major improvements to Wirral's roads began in the early 1920s, with the construction of a number of linking routes and early town bypasses (Crosby, 1996).

The 1886 rail tunnel under the Mersey was supplemented by a road tunnel in 1934, the Queensway Tunnel, jointly opened by the corporations of Liverpool, Birkenhead and Wallasey (Crosby, 1996). A third tunnel opened in 1972, the Kingsway Tunnel, connecting with the M53 motorway which now runs up the centre of the peninsula.

The M53 Motorway was planned in the early 1960s, when the then Ministry of Transport carried out a location study for a new route serving the Wirral Peninsula. It was to commence from the southern end of the second Mersey Tunnel (Wallasey-Liverpool), at Bidston, and terminate in the Hooton-Sutton area. Parliamentary Powers for the construction of the second Mersey Tunnel had been granted in 1964 and work on a pilot tunnel had commenced early in 1966. In their Report submitted in the August of that year, the motorway consultants recommended that the new route should be a dual three-lane motorway from the new Tunnel approach road in Wallasey to connect with the 'Hooton Industrial Road', which was then under construction.[64]

The proposed road was then designated the M53. Following a Public Inquiry, a contract for its construction was awarded, and this included provision for a future interchange at Hooton. The works commenced in July 1969 and included the construction of four interchanges at Moreton, Woodchurch, Clatterbrige and Hooton.[65]

The Wirral Metropolitan Borough section of the motorway runs from the boundary with Cheshire County (at Hooton Park Farm) to its junction with the Kingsway Tunnel in

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[64] www.ukmotorwayarchive.org The Motorway Archive Trust web site (Accessed 28 August 2011

[65] www.ukmotorwayarchive.org The Motorway Archive Trust web site (Accessed 28 August 2011

Birkenhead (21.53 km in total). The section contained within the Wirral MHCP Study Area is quite sinuous, aligned east to west and running for some 3.66 km.

The M53 and the road tunnels contributed to the massive growth of commuting by car between Liverpool and Wirral, and to the development of new suburban estates around such villages as Moreton, Leasowe, Upton, Greasby, Pensby, and Bromborough.

9.9 Rough Land Broad Type

The Rough Land Broad Type comprises natural and semi-natural land types, including mosslands, grassland/scrub, moorland, unimproved land and other land (rough land). Much of the Other Land (rough land) Sub Type is composed of green space, modern scrub, urban commons and derelict land created from both residential and industrial clearance. In general, rough land as open space can be any area that has no actual building on it but not necessarily vegetated.

Rough Land Sub Type	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Moss (Wetlands)	2	16.92	5.46
Other Land (Rough Land)	146	209.06	67.49
Scrub	12	41.93	13.54
Upland	3	41.86	13.51
Total	163	309.76	100%

Table 50 Current (2003) Rough Land Sub Type in Wirral Study Area

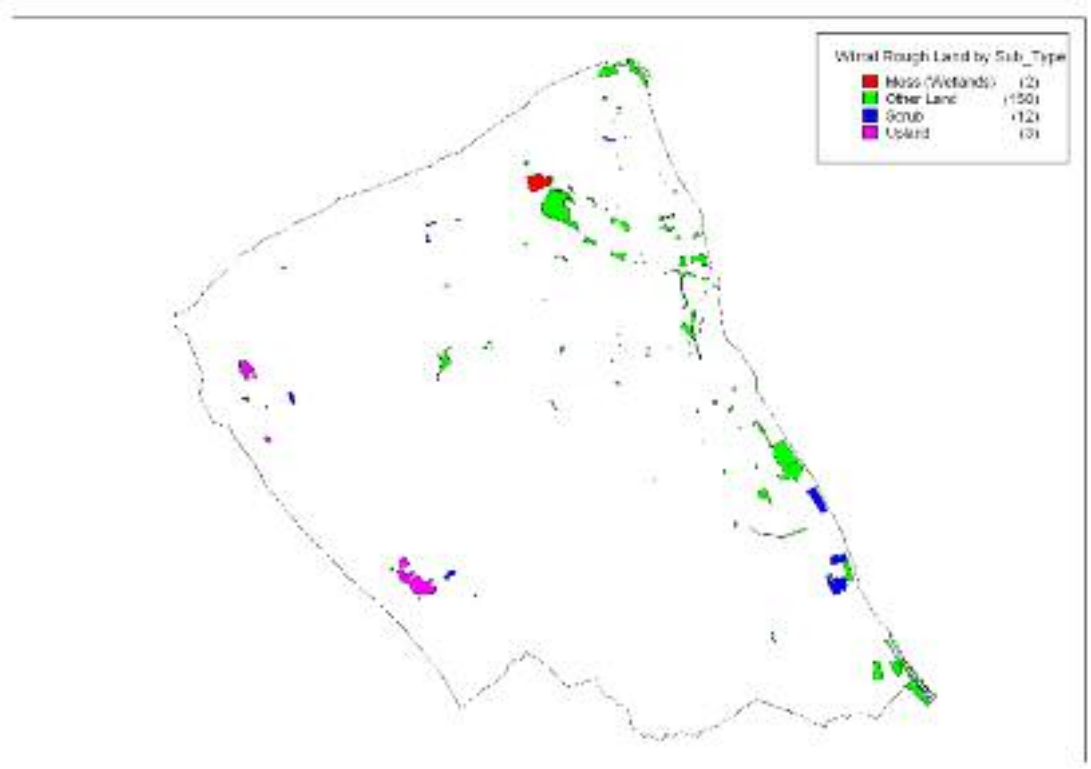

Figure 106 Current (2003) Rough Land Sub Type in Wirral Study Area

Rough Land constitutes around 309.76 ha of land, approximately 3.5% of the land in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. The majority of the Rough Land Broad Type is made up by Other Land (Rough Land) at around 67.5% (209.06 ha).

The majority of the Broad Type was created in the post-1945 period (68.7% - 212.65 ha) as the result of demolition and clearance, particularly of past industrial, communications (railway) and residential sites. The nest largest block (26.23% - 81.25 ha) dates to pre-1900, and comprises upland scrub and mosslands (many of which are protected as local and national nature reserves). Rough Land has gradually increased during the period 1850 to 2001 as more-and-more sites have become either derelict or considered open space.

Rough Land by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 1: 1751 to 1835	1	2.01	0.65
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	22	79.24	25.58
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	2	1.34	0.43
Inter War 1918 to 1939	17	13.35	4.31
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	117	212.65	68.65
Twenty-First Century 2001 to 2050	4	1.19	0.38
Total	163	309.76	100%

Table 51 Current (2003) Rough Land in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

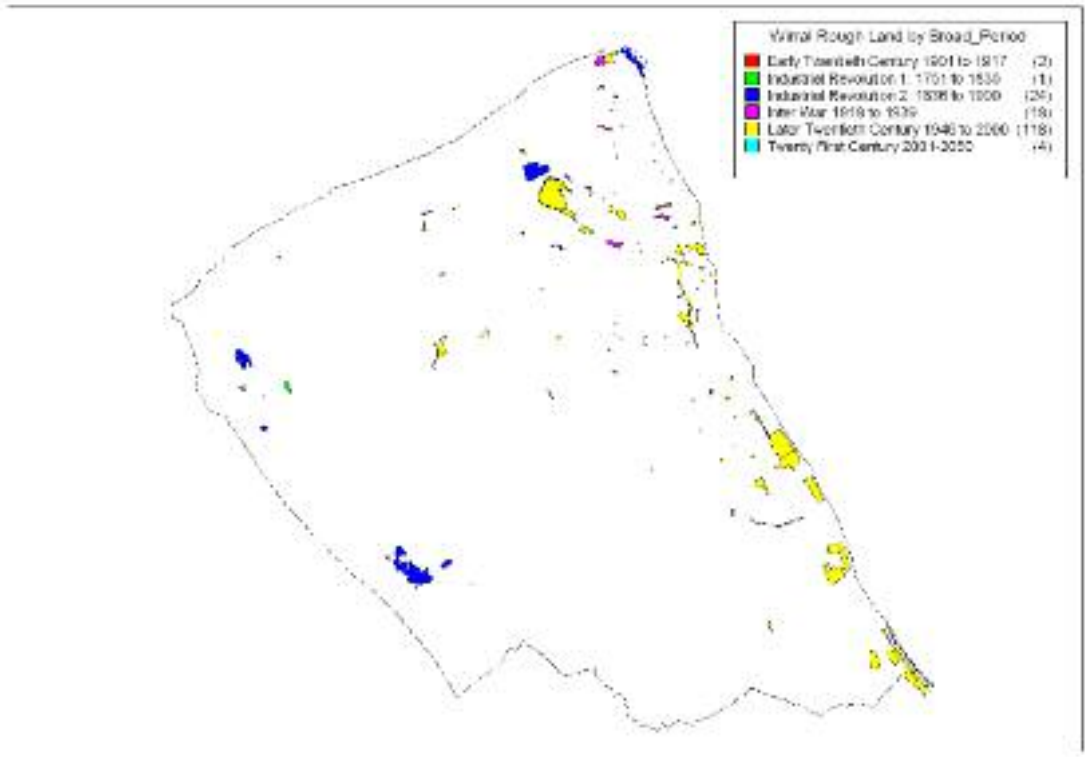

Figure 107 Current (2003) Rough Land in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

9.9.1 Moss (Wetlands)

Moss lands form 5.46% (16.92 ha) of the Current Rough Land Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. The MHCP recorded two areas of mossland (wetland), located at Bidston Moss. However, mosslands and buried peats extend much further along the northern coast of the Wirral, but were not recorded as such by the MHCP.

The North Wirral Mosslands are found within a narrow northern strip of the Wirral and includes c.1880 ha of peat with associated silts, clays and sands deriving from successive changes in sea-level (Cowell and Innes, 1994). The main peat lies in a large embayment on the north-eastern side of the Wirral at Bidston Moss. The large urban areas of Wallasey to the north, Bidston and Birkenhead to the south, have grown up on the surrounding sandstone ridges from historic village cores (Cowell and Innes, 1994). Running westwards from Bidston is a coastal strip approximately 1-2km wide. At each end of the plain lie modern built-up areas; Leasowe to the east and Meols to the west. The latter forms the eastern edge of a large urban area on the north-eastern corner of the Wirral, centred on Hoylake and West Kirby. To the south and east of this conurbation lies the second former wetland embayment of Newton Carr, lying at the foot of a ridge on which lies the historic hamlet of Grange. The wetland in this embayment amounts to c.100 ha (Cowell and Innes, 1994). The majority of the Newton Carr wetland embayment lies outside of the MHCP Study Area.

Bidston Moss

During the post-medieval period this area of the Wirral was largely given over to marginal land, with the main landuse being grazing. The wetlands had little direct impact from settlement or enclosed farming, with many areas remained as common land. The construction of a sea wall in 1847 along the eastern limit of Wallasey Pool effectively destroyed the salt marsh at Bidston. Land drainage and the canalisation of the River Birket allowed the construction of roads and buildings. However, it was not until the Late Nineteenth Century, when new areas of housing grew up across North Wirral, and the development of the Birkenhead and Seacombe docks, that the first real impact was felt on the Mosslands. One key development was the construction of a railway line to the north of Birket Drain in 1863. This linked the dock areas of Seacombe with the northwest corner of the Wirral, and led to the growth of Hoylake and Meols. The railway line also served to attract industry to the area of Bidston Moss, with an extension to the passenger line to New Brighton and a goods station

and engine sheds by 1911. The surface of Bidston Moss started to be extensively developed in the period beginning c1935. Industrial buildings, including a steelworks, arose along its southern edge, while the major impact came with housing, landfill, transport and light industrial developments from the 1960s to the present day. More recently, waste management developments designed to serve the growing population are taking place on the remaining areas of wetland at Bidston Moss (Cowell and Innes, 1994).

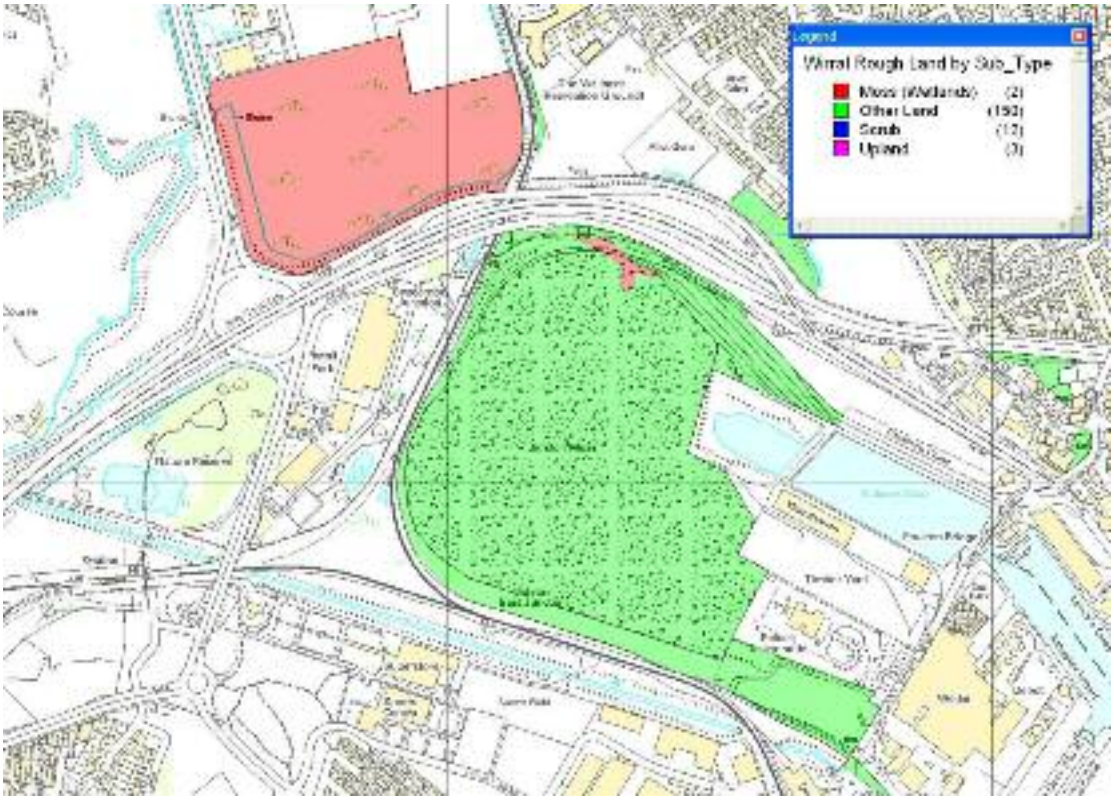

Figure 108 Bidston Moss (in red) survival on Current (2003) mapping

Today much of the area is grassland and has been recorded as Rough Land (Other Land) by the MHCP, with the largest part recently used as a refuse dump. Only a small part of the original moss wetlands remain, including a small triangle of land (bounded by the M53 Motorway and the Birket) that has been designated a Local Nature Reserve (this LNR falls outside of the MHCP Study Area). The Bidston Moss LNR was declared a Site of Biological Interest in 1980 and improved in 1984 by the construction of ponds, paths and boardwalks together with tree and wildflower planting. Since then it has been managed by the Wirral Ranger Service.

The main aims in managing the site are: to conserve and enhance the wetland as a rich wildlife habitat, to allow natural succession from rough grassland to scrub on the drier areas; to encourage the use of the area by local schools; to raise public awareness of the Reserve and to protect and maintain a safe site suitable for informal recreation.[66]

[66] www.wirral.gov.uk/ Wirral Council web site (Accessed February 2010)

9.9.2 Other Land (Rough Land)

The Other Land (Rough Land) Sub Type comprises all land that could not be given a distinct Sub Type, derelict land, urban and semi-rural grasslands, urban commons and small areas of urban green space (the majority of which has been created from former industrial or residential clearance). As such, the Sub Type is generally confined to urban or urban fringes. The MHCP Sub Type constitutes 67.49% (209.06 ha) of the Rough Land Broad Type.

The Sub Type is predominantly a 20th century creation, with 94.57% (139.28 ha) being created post-1945. The Sub Type occurs throughout the Wirral Peninsula, with notable concentrations towards the east, on the River Mersey foreshore. The sites are, for the most part, open grassland and scrub sites, created through the partitioning of fields and former industrial sites by communications routes (notably roads). Although many of the town centre sites are post-1945 open and green space, a few could be remnant post-War bomb damage sites. The largest sites include the 34.72 ha former Port Sunlight Docks in Bromborough Pool (in the recent past the docks have been filled-in with domestic refuse), and a large tract of Bidston Moss (at 43.94 ha) which also has been used for domestic refuse.

Other Land (Rough Land) by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	1	0.63	0.45
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	1	1.04	0.74
Inter War 1918 to 1939	6	4.84	3.45
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	89	139.28	94.57
Total	96	147.28	100%

Table 52 Other Land (Rough Land) in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

In some cases, open urban land has remained unused for long enough to have been colonised by vegetation. These 'urban commons' are often used (and sometimes abused) as informal recreational space. The time scale and process of vegetation development on such sites varies with substrate and locality and may produce distinctive local or regional variants of grassland communities, tall herb assemblages,

scrub and woodland. A growing number of ecological investigations have revealed that there exists a complementary and distinctive fauna (Tomlinson, 1997).

The deposition of calcareous wastes from alkali industries, glass making, and blast furnace slag in an area which lacks calcareous soils has provided a habitat for a range of species which would not otherwise occur in the natural area (for example Canadian fleabane, Purging flax, Harts-tongue Fern, Common Centaury and Yellow Wort). These usually occur in conjunction with a range of widespread ruderal and grassland species. Railway land and colliery spoil are typically acidic and, on these, characteristic assemblages of heathland and ruderal plants occur, often with non-natives such as Lupin and Yellow Toadflax (Tomlinson, 1997).

9.9.3 Scrub

Much like Other Land (Rough Land), much of the scrubland within the Wirral MHCP Study Area is of Later Twentieth Century origin. The MHCP Sub Type constitutes 13.54% (41.93 ha) of the current Rough Land Broad Type, comprising small semi-natural stands of rough woodland, brushwood and rough grassland plots. The majority were created in the Later Twentieth Century through the partitioning of former fields and woodland plots by industrial activity and communications routes. Scrubland is found throughout the Wirral Peninsula, the largest found in Bebington, on the River Mersey foreshore.

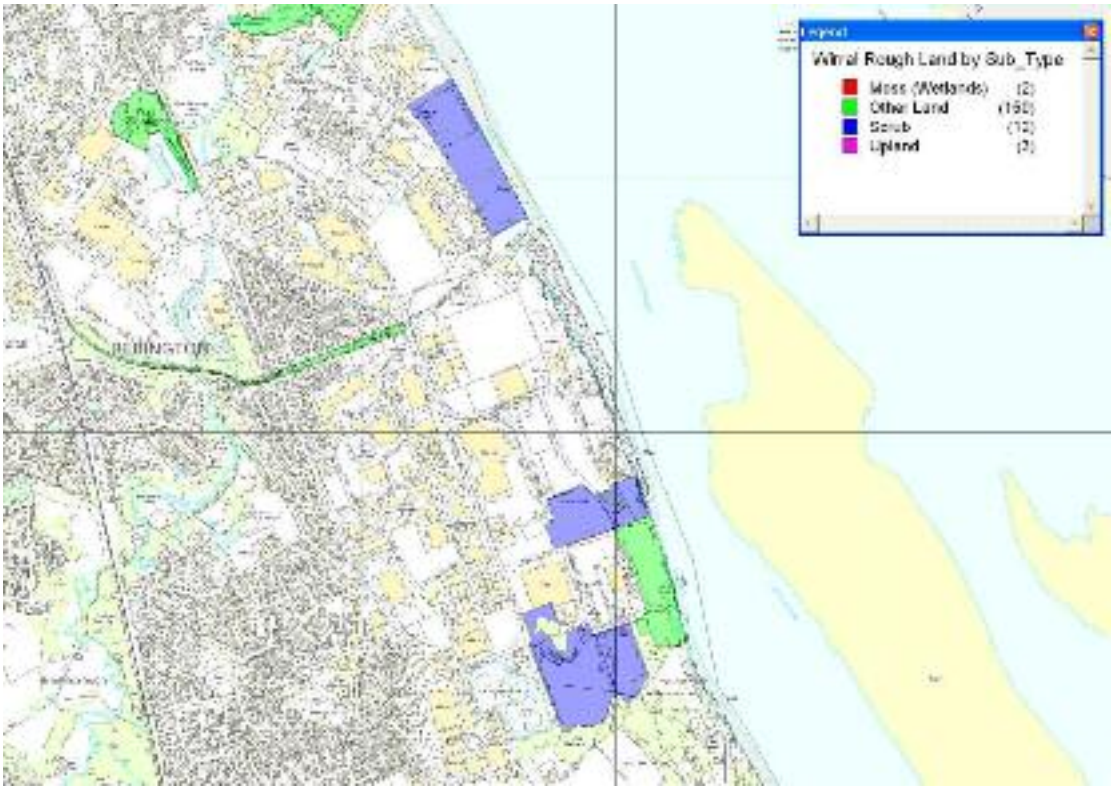

Figure 109 Scrub land sites (blue) in Bebington, Wirral on Current (2003) mapping

Scrub is also found to the west of the Wirral Peninsula, on sites formerly upland heath in Caldy Hill, West Kirby and Heswall Dales, Heswall.

9.9.4 Upland

Upland (as Lowland Heath) forms just over 13.5% (41.86 ha) of the current Rough Land Broad Type in the Wirral MHCP Study Area. Upland habitats are found at three sites in the Wirral MHCP Study Area:

- Caldy Hill and Stapledon Wood (1.64 ha - a small part of the overall total)
- Grange Hill (9.53 ha)
- Heswall Dales (30.72 ha)

Further upland or heathland sites occur throughout the Wirral (such as Thurstaston Common), but these are outside the Wirral MHCP Study Area and are included in the Cheshire HLC (Cheshire .County Council, 2007).

Caldy Hill is an area of lowland heath and mixed deciduous woodland, located on a sandstone outcrop overlooking the Dee estuary. The area includes Stapledon Woods and lies to the south west side of Column Road (A540). Newton Common lies on the north side of Column Road and is a small, mainly oak, woodland. Grange Hill is located off Lang Lane, West Kirby and is an area of gorse and bracken scrub. The whole area covers 250 acres of which 13 acres are owned by the National Trust. The hill and woodland can be reached by bus or train via West Kirby.[67]

Caldy rises to 260 ft. at its highest point where a view-finder stands. The sandstone outcrop, on which the hill is located, is part of a ridge which extends from Heswall through Thurstaston and onto the Hilbre Islands[1].

Caldy Hill land was acquired piecemeal by Hoylake District Council over the years between 1897 and 1974. Originally the hill was split up into small sections all privately owned by local landowners, and then given or sold with the understanding that the land was to be made open to the public and managed as countryside.[68]

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[67] www.wirral.gov.uk/ Wirral Council web site (Accessed February 2010)

[68] www.wirral.gov.uk/ Wirral Council web site (Accessed February 2010)

Evidence of old enclosures can be seen on the hill in the form of old sandstone walls. Many of the older houses in the area are built from the stone taken from the quarries at Caldy and on Grange Hill. Some of these houses also have the original oak fences which were hand built by the carpenter of the Caldy Manor Estate, which previously owned much of the land in this area.

The heathland is of regional significance with a variety of heathers including Ling, Cross-leaved and Bell Heather.[69]

Grange Hill commands prominent views of the River Dee and has long been used by mariners as a navigation aid, notably via the existing beacon (Grange Beacon). This had originally been the site of a large windmill, also used as a land mark by mariners, which blew down in 1839. Grange Hill has been designated a local site of Special Biological Importance and as a Site of Local Importance for Earth Science. [70]

Heswall Dales is an example of dry lowland heathland, with developing birch-oak woodland and areas of acidic marshy grassland along the natural valleys. Trees and bracken are invading the heathland in places. The dry areas are dominated by Heather with other heathland species such as Bilberry and Western Gorse. The heathland was recognised in 1979 as the second best remaining example of lowland heath in the Merseyside area, (Thurstaston Common being the first) and as such was designated for its heathland value, as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). In 1991 Heswall Dales was given the status of Local Nature Reserve (LNR). [71]

[69] www.wirral.gov.uk/ Wirral Council web site (Accessed February 2010)

[70] www.wirral.gov.uk/ Wirral Council web site (Accessed February 2010)

[71] www.wirral.gov.uk/ Wirral Council web site (Accessed February 2010)

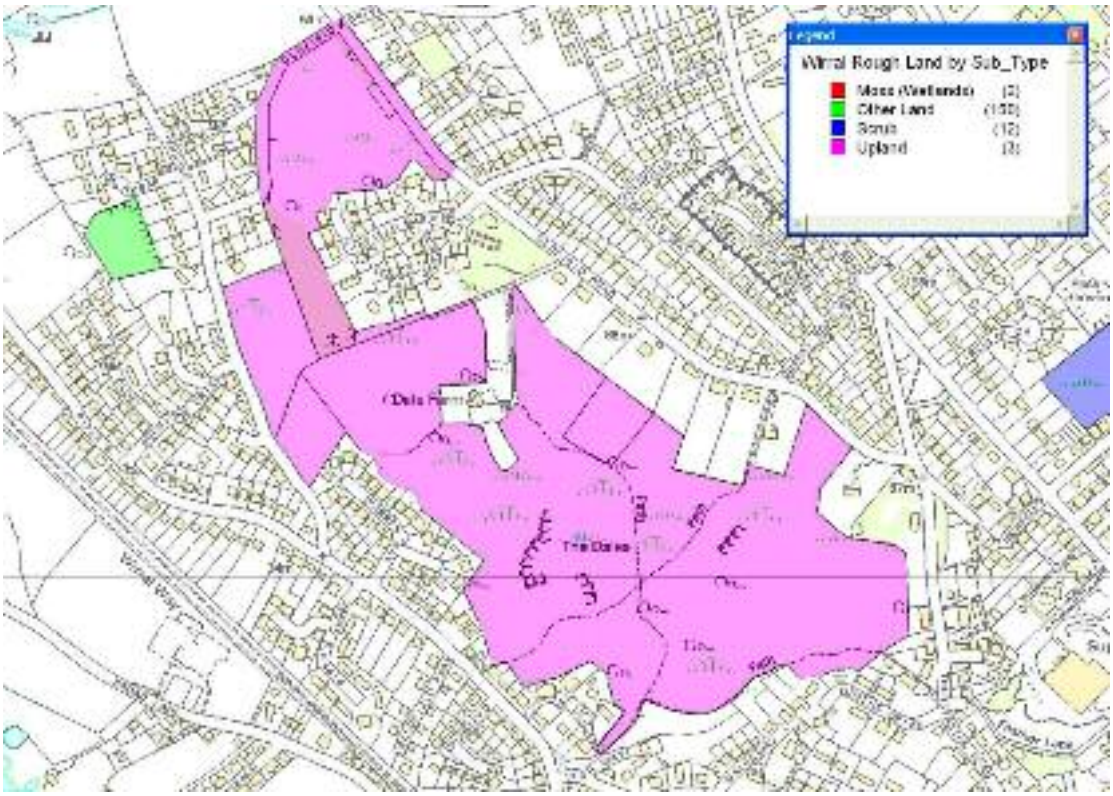

Figure 110 Heswall Dales heath land on Current (2003) mapping amidst residential areas (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100019088. English Heritage)

The area possesses wet and dry heath, with birch and oak scrub, and some plant species which have a localised distribution; together with its associated wildlife it represents an important refuge in an ever expanding urban environment.[72]

[72] www.wirral.gov.uk/ Wirral Council web site (Accessed February 2010)

9.10 Other Land Broad Type

The Other Land Broad Type forms 0.12% (10.77 ha) of the Wirral MHCP Study Area total. The Broad Type contains land that could not be given a distinct classification, but on the whole comprise many derelict spaces - as Disused Industrial, Demolished Residential / Civil or Rough Land (Other Land) sites, and perhaps could be combined with these Sub Types. Many of the sites now function as urban car parking spaces.

The sites are distributed through the Wirral Peninsula, although there is a noticeable concentration within the urban centre and immediate urban fringe of Birkenhead town. A few outlying parcels of land can be found in West Kirby and New Brighton. The sites are predominantly Late Twentieth Century in date (87.56% - 9.43 ha).

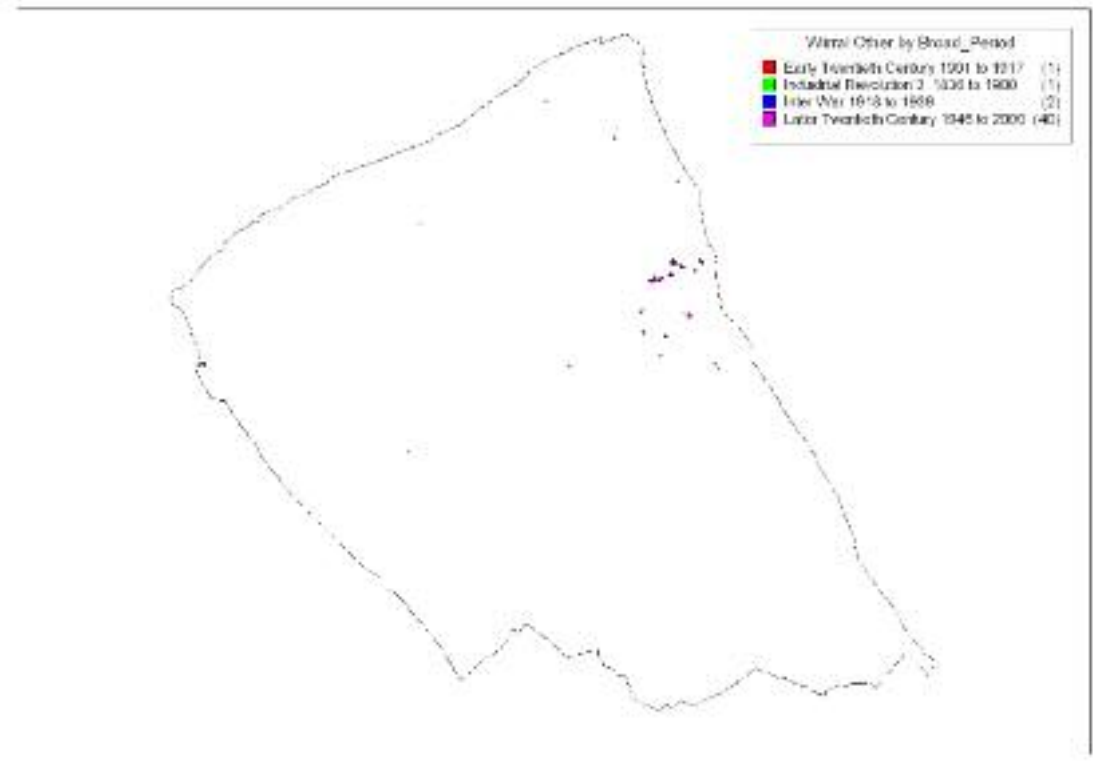

Figure 111 Current (2003) Other Land in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

9.11 Coastal Broad Type

9.11.1 Sand and Mud Flats

9.11.2 Dunes

The Wirral coastline contains a range of habitat types, including regional, national and internationally important sites - Ramsar (Convention) SPA (Special Protection area) and SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest). Many of these are dealt with in Nature Reserve Sub Type.

The MHCP recorded two Sub Types of coastal character - Sand and Mud flats and Dunes. The majority of the Coastal Broad Type is made up by Sand and Mud Flats (94.91% - 202.60 ha) followed by Sand Dunes (5.09% - 10.86 ha). Salt marshes do occur in the Wirral, but these are often very small (not obvious within the mapping) or recent creation. Other characteristics of the coast are classed within other types i.e. Rough Land.

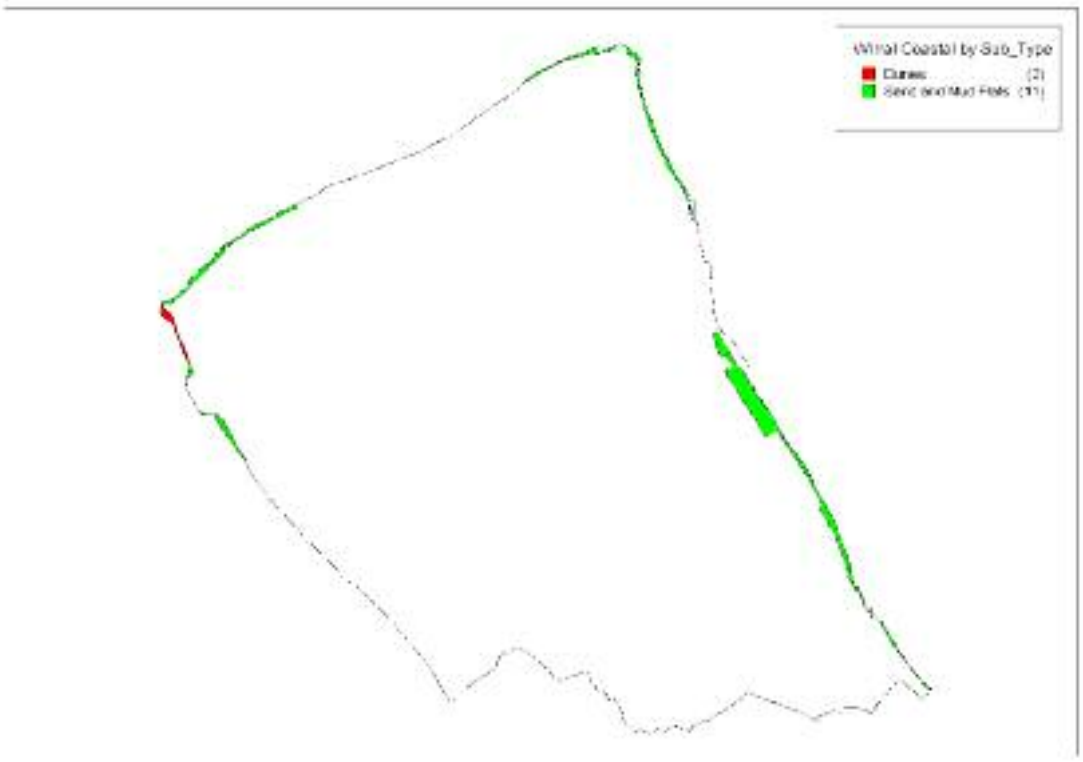

Figure 112 Current (2003) Coastal Sub Types in Wirral Study Area

The mouth of the Dee estuary is characterised by several channels and sandbanks, the small rounded spit of the Point of Ayr near Talacre, and Hilbre Island at West Kirby. Much of the Welsh bank of estuary has industrial and commercial activities at the shoreline. A number of urban areas, including West Kirby, Parkgate, Connah's Quay and the city of Chester are also located around the estuary. The Dee estuary is internationally designated as a Special Protection Area, Ramsar site and Marine Protection Area to protect the extensive inter-tidal flats, extensive salt marshes, the small rocky islands of Hilbre and the numerous waterfowl that use the habitat. Mud and sand flats which are exposed at low tide are listed as priority habitats for conservation under the EC Habitats Directive. In order to mitigate the impacts of coastal defences on the evolution of the estuary (in combination with expected future sea level rise) it is proposed to create areas of new habitat by moving coastal defences inland where opportunities exist (North West & North Wales Coastal Group July 2010).

The northern Wirral coastline is significantly influenced by the Dee and Mersey Estuaries. Sand dunes and the environmentally designated wide sandy foreshore have formed, providing natural protection and areas of recreation to the settlements of Hoylake, Moreton and Birkenhead. Coastal defence works spread along all the northern coastal frontage, the continued plan being to provide flood and erosion protection to the residential areas, infrastructure and low lying land along the frontage (Ibid).

Many important salt marsh sites are found in Wirral. Salt marshes develop on soft substrates which are exposed between tides for sufficient time to permit establishment of specialised salt-tolerant plants. The growth of these plants traps more sediment, thus raising the substrate level and gradually reducing salinity. This in turn enables other plants to colonise until a more or less continuous cover of salt marsh develops. In natural conditions the vegetation succession may culminate in freshwater marsh, grassland or scrub, depending on local conditions. More usually agricultural practices control the nature of the vegetation adjacent to a saltmarsh. A number of smaller saltmarsh sites in Wirral - Red Rocks SSSI and North Wirral Foreshore SSSI - have local as well as national protection (Ibid).

Further inland, a number of important sand dune systems can be found, lying to the extreme north and northwest of the Wirral. Sand dunes are terrestrial habitats which depend on maritime conditions to provide the substrate for their formation. Three conditions must be met if sand dunes are to occur: (i) a supply of sand, (ii) a gently-

shelving beach, exposed between tides long enough for the sand to dry and (iii) the wind to move it. Dune building then depends on the ability of specific plants (mostly grass species) to colonise bare sand and to grow up through it as it accumulates around them. The shelter provided by a line of dunes ameliorates the local climate sufficiently to allow a range of other plants to establish and to stabilise the sand surface. New dunes form in front of the older ones and eventually a complex system is formed, including dunes with varying extent and type of plant cover separated by hollows ("slacks") which may be dry, damp or even inundated. This complex topography is matched by a variety of plant communities which support a considerable range of animal life. Protected sites include Red Rocks SSSI (Ibid).

Coastal parts of north and northwest Wirral. also contain lowland dune heath of particular conservation importance, vegetation usually including Sand Sedge and a variety of other typical dune plants in association with Heather, Gorse and heathland grasses. Protected sites include Heswall Dales SSSI and Thurstaston Common SSSI (Ibid).

The Mersey estuary is quite different from most other estuaries in the North West, having a deep narrow mouth, with rocky shores that have been extensively modified in the past. Consequently, the shoreline is now almost entirely industrialised with extensive port facilities (Liverpool), power stations and oil refineries (South Wirral Peninsula) and onshore wind farms. There are also substantial urban areas, with associated recreational and amenity facilities (Ibid).

9.12 Water Bodies Broad Type

Thirty-eight water bodies were recorded as Current (2003) character areas in the Wirral MHCP Study Area, of which twenty-two were Natural Water Body (ponds and water courses) and sixteen were Artificial (reservoirs, lakes and marinas). Ornamental lakes or ponds cut for Public Parks (such as those in Birkenhead Park), were incorporated within the overall Recreational and Ornamental Broad Type. Similarly, a number of Artificial Water body areas were associated with Industrial sites (such as Docks) have been incorporated into that particular MHCP type. The MHCP only recorded those water bodies over a certain size or those which had a historical dimension.

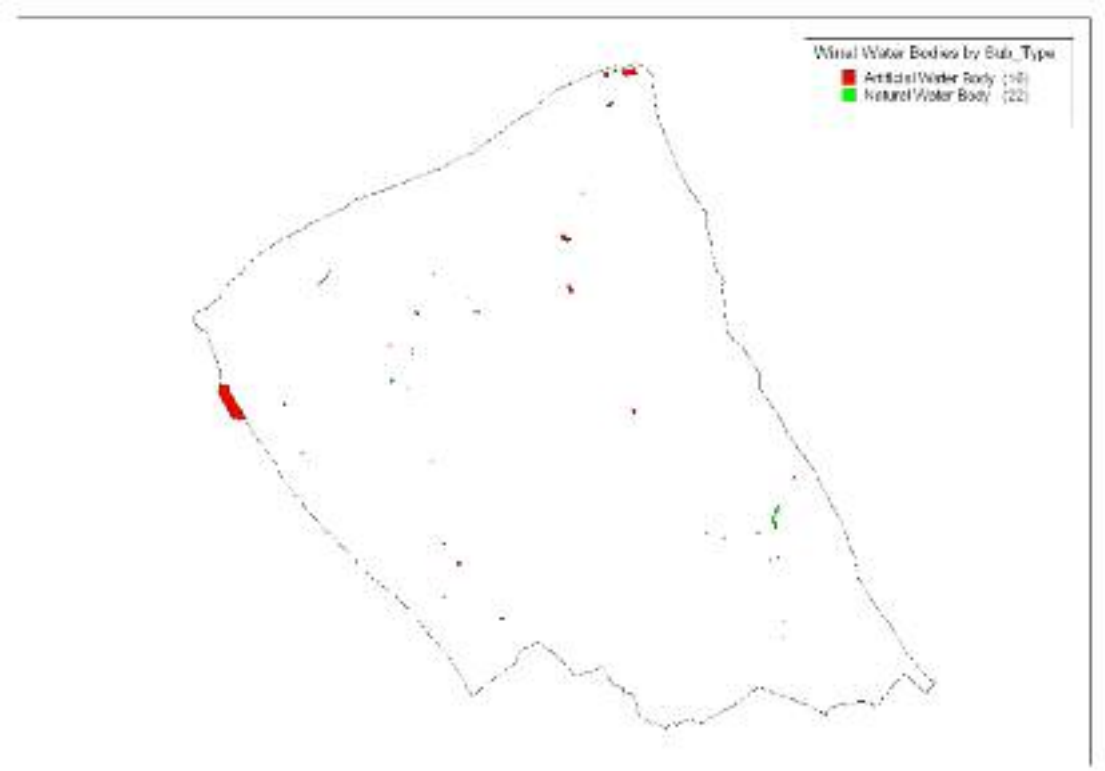

Figure 113 Current (2003) Water Bodies Sub Type in Wirral Study Area

Water Bodies constituted 0.47 (41.58 ha) of the Wirral MHCP Study Area. Natural Water Body formed 13.32% (5.54 ha) and Artificial Water Body 86.68% (36.04 ha) of the Water Bodies Sub Type.

Water Bodies Sub Type	Number of Polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Natural Water Body	22	5.54	13.32
Artificial Water Body	16	36.04	86.68
Total	38	41.58	100

Table 53 Current (2003) Water Bodies Sub Type in Wirral Study Area

Natural Water Body account for 5.54% of the Wirral MHCP Study Area total, the majority of these can be found towards the west and southeast of the Wirral Peninsula. Only one site can de dated to the medieval period - the course of The Birket (steam) in Meols. The majority were attributed to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period, with many of these having being created through the extraction of marl, sand and gravel.

Artificial Water Body accounts for around 87% of the MHCP total. The largest water bodies (both in geographical size) are the coastal lakes at West Kirby and New Brighton. This is followed by reservoirs, the majority of these created as drinking water provision for the region during the Industrial Period (1836 to 1900). Many of these mid to late 19th century sites were expanded in the 20th century.

Water Bodies by Broad Period	Number of polygons	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Medieval 1066 to 1539	1	0.38	0.91
Industrial Revolution 2: 1836 to 1900	25	5.89	14.17
Early Twentieth Century 1901 to 1917	1	0.48	1.15
Inter War 1918 to 1939	7	26.87	64.62
Later Twentieth Century 1946 to 2000	4	7.96	19.14
Total	38	41.58	100%

Table 54 Current (2003) Water Bodies in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

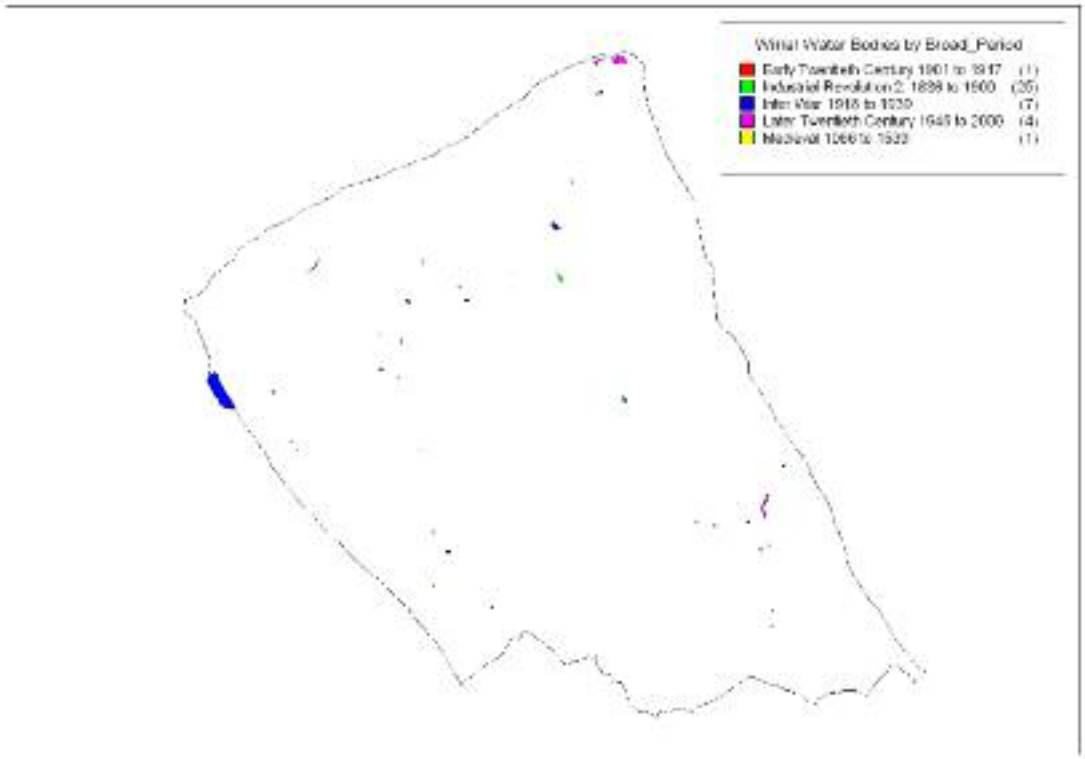

Figure 114 Current (2003) Water Bodies in Wirral Study Area by Broad Period of origin

9.12.1 Natural Water Body

The lowlands of north-west England are rich in field ponds. Two particularly dense pond concentrations occur in Wirral and in the western part of Greater Manchester. The majority of these ponds are former marl pits, excavated to provide material to improve soil fertility. In other places ponds now occur in clay and gravel pits and close to mills where they were created as reservoirs for industrial purposes[1].

Many ponds have a fringe of swamp, rough grassland, scrub or trees to supplement the aquatic habitat. These marginal and terrestrial habitats are of particular importance in providing cover for birds and amphibia, especially where surrounding land is not congenial to wildlife. In such circumstances ponds may serve as habitat "stepping stones" assisting local wildlife migrations and increasing the variety of species on farmland and in urban areas. The urban expansion of the Wirral has lead to the creation of "isolated countryside" - semi-natural habitats which have become surrounded by urban development. Where such "islands" retain habitats of significance it is important that these should retain their value and one way to assist this is through maintaining, or re-establishing, habitat connections with other sites (Tomlinson 1978).

9.12.2 Artificial Water Body

One of the earliest artificial water bodies in Wirral is Flaybrick Reservoir, a Grade II Listed Building constructed in the 1860s. The Victorian water tower remains in its original use, and it has a wealth of fine ashlar and carved stone details. The listed Pump House to the south displays similar architectural details. The historic setting of Flaybrick Water Tower comprises the listed Pump House next door, the two covered reservoirs and the octagonal Chlorine Building at the entrance. Included in the wider area are the Waterworks Cottages and the stone walls around the perimeter of the reservoirs.

Figure 115 Flaybrick Reservoir depicted on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh. 1899 (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100019088. English Heritage)

Another mid to late Victorian reservoir is located in the Mount Wood area of Prenton. At that time the land was owned by a group of men - John Winder, Lyon Winder, Edmund Henry Lyon and Uvedale Corbett. By far their largest plot, however, was the Mount Pleasant Wood which they retained un-let, together with the approaching hill roads.

By 1872 a portion of the woodland had been given over to the Reservoir and Reservoir Road was constructed by this time, though it remained undeveloped (Donald Insall Associates Ltd. 2005).

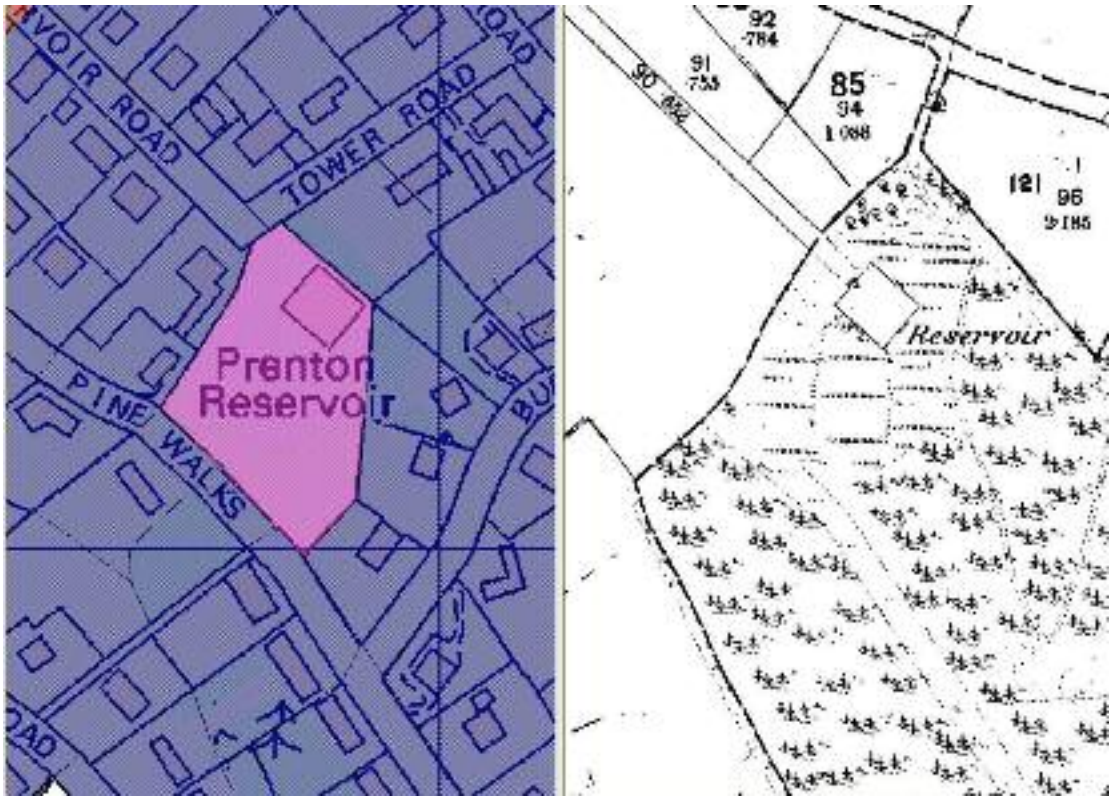

Figure 116 Prenton Reservoir as it survives on Current (2003) mapping and on the Ordnance Survey 25" map of Chesh. 1876

West Kirby contains a large artificial coastal lake, the 'Marine Lake'. The structure is large enough to hold sailing events, windsurfing and many more water related activities including: canoeing; kayaking; and power-boating.

The original wall was built to create the lake in 1899 but suffered a catastrophic leak in 1985. In 1987 the new marine lake opened, with new pontoons and new slipways.

Figure 117 West Kirby Marine Lake on Current (2003) mapping

9.13 Defence Broad Type

The Wirral MHCP Study Area currently contains only two sites of Defence (Military) Broad Type - a Territorial Army Centre in Oxton (the largest at 3.19 ha) and another Territorial Army Centre in Tranmere (0.52 ha). Together, they total 3.71 ha, representing 0.04% of the Wirral total.

The Territorial Army Centre in Tranmere was established as a Drill Hall and miniature rifle range in the Early Twentieth century (1901 to 1917). The Tranmere complex has been recorded as a Barracks Sub Type, although it is more likely to be a combination of this and a training camp i.e. Defence (Other) installation.

The complex in Oxton appears to have been established after the Second World War, and has been recorded as Defence (Other) by the MHCP.

Second World War defensive installations are found throughout the Wirral Peninsula - notably defensive traps, pill-boxes and Anti-Aircraft gun emplacements along the north Wirral coast (around Leasowe) and pill-boxes along the New Chester Road and are recorded in the Historic Environment Record.